

How to perform a Chi-Square Test of Independence on a TI-84 Calculator?

Authored by
stats writer

December 27, 2025

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2025). *How to perform a Chi-Square Test of Independence on a TI-84 Calculator?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=109234>

The Chi-Square Test of Independence is a fundamental statistical procedure used widely in research and data analysis. This test provides a powerful method for determining whether there is a statistically significant association between two factors, generally represented as two categorical variables. When performing this test, analysts compare the observed frequencies in a dataset against the frequencies that would be expected if the two variables were completely independent. The result of this comparison is the Chi-Square statistic, which, when coupled with its corresponding p-value, allows us to make informed decisions regarding the relationship between the measured characteristics.

Although complex statistical software is often used for advanced analysis, the reliable TI-84 Calculator remains an invaluable tool for students and professionals alike, offering efficient functionality for hypothesis testing. This detailed guide will walk you through the precise steps required to perform a Chi-Square Test of Independence directly using the TI-84. Understanding this process ensures that you can rapidly assess relationships between variables, such as comparing demographics against preferences or analyzing experimental outcomes, using a readily available and dependable device.

Understanding the Chi-Square Test of Independence

The primary goal of the Chi-Square Test of Independence is to evaluate the relationship between two non-numerical, or categorical, variables. For instance, if we wanted to know if a person's level of education (one categorical variable) impacts their preference for a certain brand (the second categorical variable), this test would be appropriate. The structure required for this test is a contingency table, where the rows represent the categories of one variable and the columns represent the categories of the second variable, and the cells contain the **observed values** or frequencies.

At the core of the test lies the comparison of observed counts versus expected counts. The expected counts are calculated under the assumption that the two variables are, in fact, independent--this is known as the null hypothesis (H_0). If the observed counts deviate significantly from these expected counts, the resulting Chi-Square statistic will be large, leading to a small p-value, which ultimately suggests that we should reject the null hypothesis in favor of the alternative hypothesis (H_a): that the variables are associated.

A key concept involved in calculating the critical values and the p-value is the concept of degrees of freedom (df). For a contingency table with R rows and C columns, the degrees of freedom are calculated as $(R-1)(C-1)$. The TI-84 automates this calculation, but understanding its role is essential for proper statistical interpretation. The greater the degrees of freedom, the more spread out the Chi-Square distribution becomes, influencing the critical threshold for rejecting the null hypothesis.

Prerequisites: Why Use a TI-84 for Hypothesis Testing?

The TI-84 Calculator is highly effective for statistical analysis because it simplifies the complex calculations required for hypothesis testing, such as finding the expected values and determining the p-value. Unlike performing these calculations manually, which is time-consuming and prone to error, the calculator uses built-in algorithms to process matrix data swiftly. This allows users to focus their attention on data collection and the critical interpretation of the results, rather than the mechanical derivation of the test statistic.

Before beginning the test, it is crucial to ensure your data meets the fundamental assumptions of the Chi-Square test. These assumptions include having data composed of frequencies, ensuring the categories are mutually exclusive, and perhaps most importantly, having sufficient sample size such that the expected frequencies for each cell are generally five or greater. The TI-84 will automatically calculate and store these expected frequencies, allowing for quick verification after the test is run.

The utility of the TI-84 lies in its streamlined interface for managing and testing two-way frequency tables. The calculator treats the observed data as a matrix, which provides a structured and familiar environment for data entry. By navigating to the STAT TEST menu, the user can execute the χ^2 -Test (Chi-Square Test) function, providing input pointers to the observed matrix and designating an output matrix for the system-generated expected values. This seamless integration of matrix operations and statistical functions makes the TI-84 a powerful, portable tool for statistical decision-making.

Example: Chi-Square Test of Independence on a TI-84 Calculator

To illustrate the procedure, consider a classic scenario where we want to investigate whether gender influences political party preference. This requires a study design that captures two categorical variables: Gender (Male/Female) and Political Party Preference (Republican/Democrat/Independent). Our goal is to determine if these variables are associated, meaning knowing a person's gender gives us information about their likely party preference.

We begin by collecting a simple random sample of 500 eligible voters and recording their gender and self-identified political affiliation. The resulting frequencies, or **observed values**, are organized into the following contingency table. This table summarizes the raw survey data, providing the foundational input necessary for the statistical evaluation on the TI-84.

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Total
Male	120	90	40	250
Female	110	95	45	250

Total	230	185	85	500
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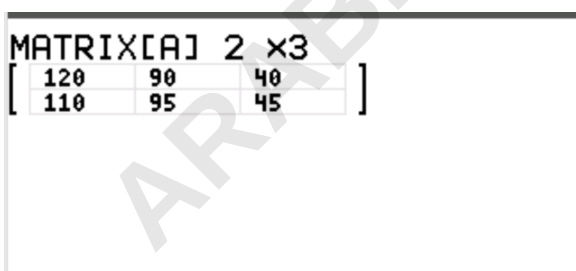
The statistical hypothesis framework for this example is set up as follows: The null hypothesis (H_0) states that gender and political party preference are independent (i.e., there is no association). The alternative hypothesis (H_a) states that gender and political party preference are dependent (i.e., there is an association). We will use the TI-84 to calculate the test statistic and the associated p-value to rigorously test H_0 against H_a at a standard significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Step 1: Inputting the Observed Data into a Matrix

The initial and most critical step is accurately entering the observed frequency data into the calculator's matrix editor. On the TI-84 Calculator, matrices are accessed via the dedicated matrix menu. Begin by pressing the sequence 2nd and then x-1 (which typically accesses).

Once in the matrix menu, navigate using the arrow keys to the **EDIT** subheading. Select an appropriate matrix, typically , and press Enter. Since our contingency table has two rows (Male, Female) and three columns (Republican, Democrat, Independent), we must define the dimensions of the matrix as 2x3. After setting the dimensions, carefully input the raw **observed values** from the table cell by cell, ensuring accuracy as errors here will invalidate the entire statistical test.

After inputting the data, your screen should display the completed matrix representation of the observed frequencies, corresponding exactly to the internal cells of the contingency table (excluding the total rows and columns, as these are not entered into the matrix). Always double-check the entered values against your source table to prevent calculation errors:



MATRIX[A] 2 x3			
[	120	90	40
	110	95	45
]			

Step 2: Performing the Chi-Square Test of Independence

With the observed data accurately stored in Matrix , the next phase involves instructing the TI-84 to execute the Chi-Square Test of Independence. Access the statistical testing functions by pressing the stat key and scrolling over to the **TESTS** menu. Scroll down the list of available tests until you locate **X2-Test** (Chi-Square Test) and press Enter to select it.

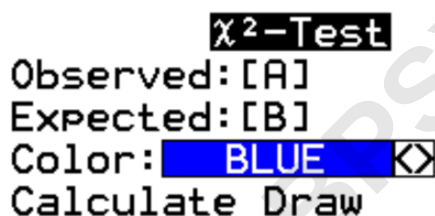
The calculator screen will prompt you for input concerning the observed and expected matrices. For the **Observed** input, ensure that the matrix you just entered your data into--in our case, --is selected. For the **Expected** input, you can select any empty matrix, such as . This matrix is where the calculator will automatically store the calculated expected frequencies, which is helpful for verifying the assumption that all expected counts are large enough (typically >5).



```

EDIT CALC TESTS
6↑2-PropZTest...
7:ZInterval...
8:TInterval...
9:2-SampZInt...
0:2-SampTInt...
A:1-PropZInt...
B:2-PropZInt...
C:χ²-Test...
  
```

After confirming both the Observed and Expected matrix selections, scroll down to highlight **Calculate** and press Enter. The TI-84 will instantaneously perform the necessary calculations, including summing the squared differences between observed and expected values, dividing by the expected values, and calculating the final Chi-Square statistic and corresponding probability.

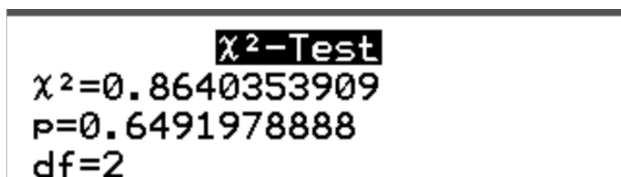


```

χ²-Test
Observed: [A]
Expected: [B]
Color: BLUE
Calculate Draw
  
```

Interpreting the Output and Drawing Conclusions

Upon execution, the calculator will immediately display the results of the Chi-Square Test of Independence. The output provides several key statistics necessary for making a decision regarding the association between the variables. Specifically, the display will show the Chi-Square test statistic (χ^2), the p-value (P), and the degrees of freedom (df) used in the calculation.



For our example concerning gender and political preference, the output yields a Chi-Square test statistic (χ^2) of **0.8640** and a corresponding p-value (P) of **0.6492**. The degrees of freedom are $df=2$, calculated automatically as $(2-1)(3-1) = 2$. The test statistic quantifies the overall discrepancy between the observed data and what would be expected under the assumption of independence.

The critical element for decision-making is the p-value. This value represents the probability of observing data as extreme as, or more extreme than, the data collected, assuming that the null hypothesis (H_0) is true (i.e., the variables are independent). We compare the calculated p-value to our predetermined significance level (α). If $P \leq \alpha$, we reject H_0 . If $P > \alpha$, we fail to reject H_0 . Using the standard $\alpha=0.05$:

Our calculated p-value is 0.6492.

$0.6492 > 0.05$.

Since the p-value (0.6492) is significantly greater than the typical significance level (0.05), we **fail to reject the null hypothesis**. This crucial statistical outcome means that based on the sample data, we do not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that there is a significant association or dependence between gender and political party preference among the surveyed voters. In simple terms, the observed differences in preference between males and females are likely due to random sampling variation and not a genuine underlying association.