

# Estimating a population size (4 methods)

Stat 576

11-16-17

①

## Method 1: Direct sampling (capture/recapture)

Collect and tag  $t$  items

Release and allow to remix

Collect a new sample of size  $n$ .

Count the # of tagged items in the sample,  
+ call it  $s$ .

$s$  has a hypergeometric distribution

Provided that  $N$  is large, the hypergeometric distribution can be approximated by the binomial distribution.

②

Assume that  $s \sim \text{Bino}(n, \frac{t}{N})$

So  $E(s) = \frac{nt}{N}$ . We want to estimate  $N$ .

Try  $\hat{N} = \frac{nt}{s}$ . This is a ratio estimator.

So  $\hat{N}$  will be biased, but asymptotically unbiased.

Recall  $V[\bar{y}] = \frac{1}{X^2} \frac{S_e^2}{n} (1 - \frac{1}{N})$ , where (3)

$$S_e^2 = S_y^2 + \left(\frac{\bar{y}}{\bar{x}}\right)^2 S_x^2 - 2\left(\frac{\bar{y}}{\bar{x}}\right) S_{xy}$$

Write  $\hat{N} = \frac{nt}{s}$  as  $\frac{t}{s/n} = \frac{t}{\hat{p}}$   $t$  plays the role of  $\bar{y}$   
 $\hat{p}$  " " " "  $\bar{x}$

$S_y^2 = 0, S_{xy} = 0$  since  $t$  is a constant

$$S_x^2 = V[\hat{p}] = \frac{Npq}{N-1}$$

$$S_e^2 = \left(\frac{t}{t/N}\right)^2 \frac{Npq}{N-1}$$

Now  $V[\hat{N}] = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{t}{N}\right)^2} \left(\frac{t}{t/N}\right)^2 \frac{Npq}{N-1} \frac{1}{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)$  (4)

$$= \frac{1}{t/N} \left(\frac{t}{t/N}\right)^2 \frac{N}{N-1} \left(1 - \frac{t}{N}\right) \frac{1}{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

$$= \frac{N^4}{N-1} \frac{\left(1 - \frac{t}{N}\right)}{t} \frac{1}{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

Assume negligible

$$\hat{V}[\hat{N}] = \frac{\hat{N}^3 \left(1 - \frac{t}{\hat{N}}\right)}{t} \frac{1}{n}$$

$$= \left(\frac{nt}{s}\right)^3 \frac{1}{t} \left(1 - \frac{t}{nt/s}\right) \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\hat{V}[\hat{N}] = \frac{n^2 t^2}{s^3} \left(1 - \frac{s}{n}\right)$$

$$= \frac{n t^2 (n-s)}{s^3}$$

(5)

Method 2: Inverse sampling (capture/recapture)

Collect and tag  $t$  items

Release & allow to remix

Resample until  $s$  tags are found

Now  $n$  is the random variable

$n$  has a negative hypergeometric distribution

$n$  will have, approximately, a negative binomial (Pascal) distribution (6)

$$n \sim NB(s, t/N) \quad E(n) = \frac{s}{t/N}$$

$$V(n) = \frac{s(1 - \frac{t}{N})}{(\frac{t}{N})^2}$$

$$E(n) = \frac{sN}{t}$$

Try  $\hat{N} = \frac{nt}{s} \quad E[\hat{N}] = \frac{t}{s} E(n) = N$   
unbiased!!

$$V[\hat{N}] = V\left[\frac{nt}{s}\right] = \frac{t^2}{s^3} V[n] = \frac{t^2}{s^2} \frac{s(1 - \frac{t}{N})}{(\frac{t}{N})^2} \quad (7)$$

$$= \frac{N^2}{s} \left(1 - \frac{t}{N}\right)$$

$$\hat{V}[\hat{N}] = \frac{\hat{N}^2}{s} \left(1 - \frac{t}{\hat{N}}\right) = \frac{\left(\frac{nt}{s}\right)^2}{s} \left(1 - \frac{t}{nt/s}\right)$$

$$= \frac{n^2 t^2}{s^3} \left(1 - \frac{s}{n}\right)$$

$$= \frac{n t^2 (n-s)}{s^3} \quad (\text{same as for direct sampling})$$

Method 3: Quadrat sampling (8)

Divide the total area into  $N$  equal-sized sections, call quadrats

Select  $n$  of the quadrats using SRSWOR

Let  $\lambda$  = true density =  $\frac{M}{A}$    
← pop. size   
← total area

Count the # of item in each of the

sampled quadrats. Let  $X_i$  = count in quadrat  $i$

$X_i$  has a Poisson distribution  
with parameter  $\frac{M}{N}$

(9)

$$E[X_i] = \frac{M}{N}, \quad V[X_i] = \frac{M}{N}$$

$$\text{So } E[\bar{x}] = \frac{M}{N}, \quad V[\bar{x}] = \frac{M/N}{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

$$\text{Let } \hat{M} = N\bar{x}$$

$$\text{Then } E[\hat{M}] = N E(\bar{x}) = M \quad \underline{\text{unbiased}}$$

$$V[\hat{M}] = N^2 V[\bar{x}] = \frac{N^2 \frac{M}{N}}{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

(10)

$$= \frac{NM}{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

$$\hat{V}[\hat{M}] = \frac{N \hat{M}}{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

$$= \frac{N(N\bar{x})}{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

$$= \frac{N^2 \bar{x}}{n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

No new  
HW