

Graphing contingency tables*Songklanakarin Journal of Science &**Technology* **30**, pages 137-150 (December 1998)

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We consider categorical data comprising three variables X , Y and Z , each of which is nominal. Y is an outcome, X is a determinant, and Z is a stratification variable. Such data may be listed in a three-way contingency table. We suggest a method for graphing the data that highlights the association between X and Y after adjusting for the possibly confounding effect of Z , assuming that this association is the same within each stratum. The method is based on appropriately defined 'Mantel- Haenszel' odds ratios, and is illustrated with examples of increasing complexity, starting with a simple 2×2 table and ending with a general $r \times c \times s$ table. P-values are obtained using asymptotically valid chi-squared tests for independence.