

DEMI ALGORITHM

Total Effect Calculation

Step 2 of the DEMI Pipeline — Odds Ratio Estimation & Edge Cases



This video covers Step 2 only



2 The 2×2 Table: Reading from the Knowledgebase

Contingency table

	Y = 1	Y = 0
Z _k = 1	a	b
Z _k = 0	c	d

$$a = C(Z_k=1, Y=1)$$

$$c = C(Z_k=0, Y=1)$$

$$b = C(Z_k=1, Y=0)$$

$$d = C(Z_k=0, Y=0)$$

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Raw odds ratio formula

$$OR_{\text{raw}} = a \cdot d / b \cdot c$$

$$T_{kY} = \log(OR)$$

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Normal Case: Large Samples, No Zero Cells

Worked example: Hypertension → Sertraline response

	Y = 1	Y = 0
Z _k = 1	a = 420	b = 210
Z _k = 0	c = 580	d = 1,140

Step-by-step calculation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{OR} &= a \cdot d / b \cdot c \\ &= 420 \times 1,140 / 210 \times 580 \\ &= 478,800 / 121,800 \\ &= 3.93 \end{aligned}$$

$$T_{kY} = \log(3.93) = 1.37$$

a+b = 630 ≥ 30 ✓ a+c = 1,000 ≥ 30 ✓ No zero cells ✓

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Edge Case 1: Cell a = 0

Feature never co-occurs with the outcome. Rule applies regardless of sample size.

$a = 0, b > 0, c > 0$

0	b
c	d

$OR = 1 / \min(b, c)$

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$a = 0, c = 0$ ⚠

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0	d

→ EXCLUDE ROW

5 Edge Case 2: $b = 0$ or $c = 0$ (Large Samples)

$a > 0$, but b or c is zero and both samples are large (≥ 30).

$b = 0, c > 0$ (large)

a	0
c	d

$$\begin{aligned} \text{OR} &= (a+c) / (b+1) \\ &= (a+c) / 1 \end{aligned}$$

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0	d

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$b = 0$ AND $c = 0$ (large)

a	0
0	d

$$\text{OR} = a + 1$$

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Edge Case 3: Small Sample Instability

The problem: d inflates the raw OR

Two d^* estimates from binomial samples

	$Y = 1$	$Y = 0$
$Z_k = 1$	$a = 3$	$b = 7$
$Z_k = 0$	$c = 5$	$d = 50,000$

Exposed sample: $a/(a+b) = b/(b+d^*)$

$$d1^* = b(a+b)/a = 7 \times 10 / 3 = 23.3$$

$$OR1 = (a+b)/c = 10/5 = 2.0$$

$a+b = 10 < 30$ (small!)

Raw OR = $3 \times 50,000 / 35 = 4,286$ ← Inflated!

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Case sample: $a/(a+c) = c/(c+d^*)$

$$d2^* = c(a+c)/a = 5 \times 8/3 = 13.3$$

$$OR2 = (a+c)/b = 8/7 = \mathbf{1.14}$$

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Raw OR $\geq 1 \rightarrow$ use $\max(OR1, OR2) =$

2.0 (vs. 4,286)

7 Edge Case 4: Small Samples + Zero Cells

Zero-cell rules always take priority over the sample-size path. Check for zeros first, then check sample size.

Small + a = 0

$$\text{OR} = 1 / \min(b, c)$$

Same as large-sample rule. a=0 overrides the sample-size path in all cases.

Small + b = 0, c > 0

$$\text{OR} = (a+c) / (b+1)$$

Laplace +1 still applied. Sample size does not change zero-marginal handling.

Small + b > 0, c = 0

$$\text{OR} = (a+b) / (c+1)$$

Same logic as large sample. Direction and sign are preserved.

Small + b = 0 AND c = 0

$$\text{OR} = a + 1$$

Perfect association in sparse data. Consistent with the large-sample rule.

8 Putting It Together: Full Decision Tree

$a=0, c=0$

→ Exclude row entirely

$a=0, b>0$

→ $OR = 1 / \min(b, c)$

$b=0, c>0$

→ $OR = (a+c) / (b+1)$

All > 0 , large

→ $OR = a \text{ times } d / (b \text{ times } c)$

$a=0, b=0$

→ $OR = 1 / (c+1)$

$b=0, c=0$

→ $OR = a + 1$

$b>0, c=0$

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→ $OR = \max \text{ or } \min \text{ of } (a+b)/c \ \& \ (a+c)/b$

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→ $OR = a d / (b c)$

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All > 0 , small

→ $OR = \max/\min [(a+b)/c, (a+c)/b]$