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Dear Dr Goulden,

I take it the consistency of the values of $\frac{3}{5}$ is due to the later values including the same arrangements as those which have gone before, so the values obtained are not independent as they would be if the whole lot had been re-shuffled.

On the contingency problem the entire data should consist of two 4 x 4 tables one with 40 and the other with 43 entries. In the example you send $M \times O$ is given in a single 3 x 3 table in which it appears the $M$ and $O$ has been reclassified.

It looks as though both $M$ and $O$ were closely associated with $N$, but possibly not with each other if $N$ could really be held constant. An approach to this will be to consider the two tables separately, but this is only an approach, since I suppose $N$ will really vary somewhat within the two broad categories used.

Yours sincerely,