

Lecture 4: Proofs for Expectation, Variance, and Covariance Formula

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Discrete Random Variables: X and Y

- Let X and Y be two discrete random variables.
- X takes n possible values: $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$
- Y takes m possible values: $\{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$.

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Notations:

The **joint probability mass function** is given by

$$p_{ij}^{X,Y} = P(X = x_i, Y = y_j), \quad i = 1, \dots, n; j = 1, \dots, m.$$

The **marginal probability mass function of X** is

$$p_i^X = P(X = x_i) = \sum_{j=1}^m p_{ij}^{X,Y}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n,$$

and the **marginal probability mass function of Y** is

$$p_j^Y = P(Y = y_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_{ij}^{X,Y}, \quad j = 1, \dots, m.$$

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Notations:

Table: Example of Joint Distribution of X and Y

	$Y = y_1$	$Y = y_2$	$Y = y_3$	Marg. prob. of X
$X = x_1$	$p_{11}^{X,Y}$	$p_{12}^{X,Y}$	$p_{13}^{X,Y}$	p_1^X
$X = x_2$	$p_{21}^{X,Y}$	$p_{22}^{X,Y}$	$p_{23}^{X,Y}$	p_2^X
Marg. prob. of Y	p_1^Y	p_2^Y	p_3^Y	1.00

$$P(X = x_1) = \sum_{j=1}^3 p_{1j}^{X,Y} = p_{11}^{X,Y} + p_{12}^{X,Y} + p_{13}^{X,Y} = p_1^X.$$

Notations:

Table: Example of Joint Distribution of X and Y

	Y = 30	Y = 60	Y = 100	Marg. Prob. of X
X = 0	0.24	0.12	0.04	0.40
X = 1	0.12	0.36	0.12	0.60
Marg. Prob. of Y	0.36	0.48	0.16	1.00

$$P(X = 0) = 0.24 + 0.12 + 0.04 = 0.40.$$

Notations:

By definition,

$$E_X[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i p_i^X, \quad E_Y[Y] = \sum_{i=1}^m y_i p_i^Y,$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - E_X[X])^2 p_i^X,$$

$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m (x_i - E_X[X])(y_j - E_Y[Y]) p_{ij}^{X,Y}.$$

Proposition

If a and b are constants, then $E(a + bX) = a + bE(X)$.

Proof:

$$E(a + bX)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^n (a + bx_i)p_i^X$$

$$= (a + bx_1)p_1^X + \dots + (a + bx_n)p_n^X$$

$$= (ap_1^X + \dots + ap_n^X) + (bx_1p_1^X + \dots + bx_np_n^X)$$

$$= a \times (p_1^X + \dots + p_n^X) + b \times (x_1p_1^X + \dots + x_np_n^X)$$

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Clicker Question 4-1

For any constant a , b , and for any function $g(x)$, which of the following is true?

A). $E[a + b \times g(X)] = a + b \times g(E[X])$.

B). $E[a + b \times g(X)] = a + b \times E[g(X)]$.

C). $E[a + b \times g(X)] = a + b \times g(E[X]) = a + b \times E[g(X)]$.

Question 1 in Worksheet

Prove that, for any constant a , b , and for any function $g(x)$,

$$E[a + b \times g(X)] = a + b \times E[g(X)].$$

Proposition

$Cov(a_1 + b_1X, a_2 + b_2Y) = b_1b_2Cov(X, Y)$, where a_1, a_2, b_1 , and b_2 are some constants.

Proof:

$$Cov(a_1 + b_1X, a_2 + b_2Y)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} E[(a_1 + b_1X - E(a_1 + b_1X))(a_2 + b_2Y - E(a_2 + b_2Y))]$$

$$= E[(a_1 - a_1 + b_1X - b_1E(X))(a_2 - a_2 + b_2Y - b_2E(Y))]$$

$$= E[b_1b_2(X - E(X))(Y - E(Y))]$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m b_1b_2(x_i - E(X))(y_j - E(Y)) \cdot p_{ij}^{X,Y}$$

$$= b_1b_2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m [x_i - E(X)][y_j - E(Y)] \cdot p_{ij}^{X,Y}$$

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Proof:

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Clicker Question 4-2

For any constant a and b , which of the following is true?

A). $Var[a + bX] = a + bVar[X]$.

B). $Var[a + bX] = bVar[X]$.

C). $Var[a + bX] = b^2 Var[X]$.

Question 2 in Worksheet

Prove that, for any any constant a , b ,

$$\text{Var}[a + bX] = b^2 \text{Var}[X].$$

Proposition

If X and Y are independent, then $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$.

Proof:

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} E[(X - E(X))(Y - E(Y))]$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m [x_i - E(X)][y_j - E(Y)] \cdot P(X = x_i, Y = y_j)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m [x_i - E(X)][y_j - E(Y)] p_i^X p_j^Y \quad (\text{by independence})$$

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Proof continued

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \{ [x_i - E(X)] p_i^X \} \{ [y_j - E(Y)] p_j^Y \} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n [x_i - E(X)] p_i^X \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^m [y_j - E(Y)] p_j^Y \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i p_i^X - \sum_{i=1}^n E(X) p_i^X \right\} \cdot \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^m y_j p_j^Y - \sum_{j=1}^m E(Y) p_j^Y \right\} \\ &= \left\{ E(X) - E(X) \sum_{i=1}^n p_i^X \right\} \cdot \left\{ E(Y) - E(Y) \sum_{j=1}^m p_j^Y \right\} \\ &\quad \text{(by definition of } E(X) \text{ and } E(Y)) \end{aligned}$$

Proof continued

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \{ [x_i - E(X)] p_i^X \} \{ [y_j - E(Y)] p_j^Y \} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n [x_i - E(X)] p_i^X \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^m [y_j - E(Y)] p_j^Y \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i p_i^X - \sum_{i=1}^n E(X) p_i^X \right\} \cdot \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^m y_j p_j^Y - \sum_{j=1}^m E(Y) p_j^Y \right\} \\ &= \left\{ E(X) - E(X) \sum_{i=1}^n p_i^X \right\} \cdot \left\{ E(Y) - E(Y) \sum_{j=1}^m p_j^Y \right\} \\ &\quad \text{(by definition of } E(X) \text{ and } E(Y)) \end{aligned}$$

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Proof continued

$$\begin{aligned} &= \left\{ E(X) - E(X) \sum_{i=1}^n p_i^X \right\} \cdot \left\{ E(Y) - E(Y) \sum_{j=1}^m p_j^Y \right\} \\ &= \{ E(X) - E(X) \cdot \mathbf{1} \} \cdot \{ E(Y) - E(Y) \cdot \mathbf{1} \} \\ &= 0 \cdot 0 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

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Clicker Question 4-3

Suppose that X and Y are independent. For any function $g(x)$ and $h(y)$, which of the following is true?

- A). $Cov(g(X), h(Y)) = 0$ always holds.
- B). $Cov(g(X), h(Y)) = 0$ does not hold in some cases.

Question 4 in Worksheet

Prove that, when X and Y are independent,

$$\text{Cov}(g(X), h(Y)) = 0$$

for any function $g(x)$ and $h(y)$.

Proposition

$$\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2\text{Cov}(X, Y).$$

Proof: Let $\tilde{X} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} X - E(X)$ and $\tilde{Y} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Y - E(Y)$.

$$\text{Var}(X + Y)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} E[(X + Y - E(X + Y))^2]$$

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$$= E[(\tilde{X} + \tilde{Y})^2]$$

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by definition of variance and covariance

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by definition of variance and covariance

Clicker Question 4-4

For any function $g(x)$ and $h(y)$, which of the following is true?

A). $Var(g(X) + h(Y)) = Var(g(X)) + Var(h(Y))$

B). $Var(g(X) + h(Y))$
 $= Var(g(X)) + Var(h(Y)) + 2Cov(g(X), h(Y))$

C). $Var(g(X) + h(Y)) = g(Var(X)) + h(Var(Y))$

Question 5 in Worksheet

Prove that, for any constant a and b ,

$$\text{Var}[aX + bY] = a^2 \text{Var}[X] + b^2 \text{Var}[Y] + 2ab\text{Cov}[X, Y].$$

Bernoulli random variable

- The probability mass function:

$$X = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{with probability } 1 - p \\ 1 & \text{with probability } p \end{cases}$$

- What is $E[X]$ and $Var[X]$?

Proposition

If X is a Bernoulli random variable with $P(X = 1) = p$, then $E[X] = p$.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{x=0,1} xp^x(1-p)^{1-x} \\ &= (0)(1-p) + (1)(p) \\ &= p \end{aligned}$$

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Clicker Question 4-6

Suppose that X_1 and X_2 are two Bernoulli random variables that are stochastically independent with $P(X_1 = 1) = P(X_2 = 1) = p$. Which of the following is true?

A). $E[X_1 + X_2] = p$.

B). $E[X_1 + X_2] = 2p$.

C). $E[X_1 + X_2] = p/2$.

Question 7 in Worksheet

Prove that, if X and Y are two Bernoulli random variables that are stochastically independent with $P(X = 1) = P(Y = 1) = p$, then

$$E[X + Y] = 2p.$$

Proposition

If X is a Bernoulli random variable with $P(X = 1) = p$, then $V[X] = p(1 - p)$.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{x=0,1} (x - p)^2 p^x (1 - p)^{1-x} \\ &= (0 - p)^2 (1 - p) + (1 - p)^2 p \\ &= p^2 (1 - p) + (1 - p)^2 p \\ &= (p + (1 - p)) \times p(1 - p) \\ &= p(1 - p).\end{aligned}$$

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Clicker Question 4-7

Suppose that X_1 and X_2 are two Bernoulli random variables that are stochastically independent with $P(X_i = 1) = p$ for $i = 1, 2$. Which of the following is true?

- A). $\text{Var}[(X_1 + X_2)/2] = p(1 - p)$.
- B). $\text{Var}[(X_1 + X_2)/2] = p(1 - p)/2$.
- C). $\text{Var}[(X_1 + X_2)/2] = p(1 - p)/4$.

Question 9 in Worksheet

Prove that, if X and Y are two Bernoulli random variables that are stochastically independent with $P(X = 1) = P(Y = 1) = p$, then

$$\text{Var} \left[\frac{X + Y}{2} \right] = \frac{p(1 - p)}{2}.$$

Proposition

Suppose that X_i for $i = 1, \dots, n$ are n Bernoulli random variables that are stochastically independent to each other with $P(X_i = 1) = p$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Let $\bar{X} := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$. Then, (1) $E[\bar{X}] = p$ and (2) $\text{Var}[\bar{X}] = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$.

Proof for (1):

$$\begin{aligned} E[\bar{X}] &= \frac{1}{n} E[X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n] \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \{E[X_1] + E[X_2] + \dots + E[X_n]\} \\ &= \frac{p + p + \dots + p}{n} \\ &= \frac{n \times p}{n} = p. \end{aligned}$$

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Proof for (2) $\text{Var}[\bar{X}] = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}[\bar{X}] &= \text{Var}\left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^2 \text{Var}[X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n] \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} \{ \text{Var}[X_1] + \text{Var}[X_2] + \dots + \text{Var}[X_n] \\ &\quad + 2\text{Cov}(X_1, X_2) + 2\text{Cov}(X_1, X_3) + \dots + 2\text{Cov}(X_{n-1}, X_n) \} \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} \{ p(1-p) + p(1-p) + \dots + p(1-p) + 0 \} \\ &= \frac{n \times p(1-p)}{n^2} \\ &= \frac{p(1-p)}{n}.\end{aligned}$$

Proof for (2) $Var[\bar{X}] = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$:

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