

Modern Statistics

Xiangyu Chang

March 21, 2026

Abstract

To be undated.

1 Lecture 6: Expectation and Variance

1.1 Recall

1.1.1 Definition of Expectation

Definition 1.1 (Expectation). The expected value, or mean, or first moment, of X is defined to be

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \int x dF(x) = \begin{cases} \sum_x x f(x) & \text{if } X \text{ is discrete} \\ \int x f(x) dx & \text{if } X \text{ is continuous} \end{cases}$$

- **The sufficient conditions for the existence of $\mathbb{E}(X)$.**

$$\begin{cases} |\mathbb{E}(X)| < +\infty, & \text{if } X \text{ is discrete} \\ \int |x| f_X(x) dx < +\infty, & \text{if } X \text{ is continuous} \end{cases}$$

1.2 The k^{th} moment of X

Definition 1.2 (k^{th} moment). The k^{th} moment of X is defined to be $\mathbb{E}(X^k)$, assuming that $\mathbb{E}(|X|^k) < \infty$.

Theorem 1.3. *If $\mathbb{E}(X^k) < \infty$ (exist), $k \geq 1$, $i \leq k$, then $\mathbb{E}(X^i) < \infty$ (exist)*

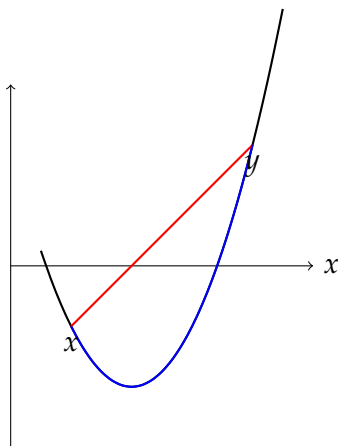
Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{E}(X^i) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} |x|^i dF_X(x) \\
 &= \int_{|x|>1} |x|^i dF_X(x) + \int_{|x|\leq 1} |x|^i dF_X(x) \\
 &\leq 1 + \int_{|x|>1} |x|^i dF_X(x) \\
 &\leq 1 + \int_{|x|>1} |x|^k dF_X(x) \\
 &\leq 1 + \int_{\mathbb{R}} |x|^k dF_X(x) \\
 &= 1 + \mathbb{E}(|X|^k) < \infty
 \end{aligned}$$

1.3 Properties of Expectation

1. $\mathbb{E}(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \mathbb{E}(X_i)$
2. If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k are mutually independent, then $\mathbb{E}(\prod_{i=1}^k X_i) = \prod_{i=1}^k \mathbb{E}(X_i)$
3. Convex Function: For all $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$, $g(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \leq \lambda g(x) + (1 - \lambda)g(y)$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}[g(X)] \geq g(\mathbb{E}[X]) \text{ (Jensen's Inequality)}$$



Red: $\lambda g(x) + (1 - \lambda)g(y)$

Blue: $g(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y)$

The red - line is always above the blue - line.

Example 1.4. $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$, $\mathbb{P}(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$

Method 1:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(X) &= \sum_{k=0}^n k \cdot \mathbb{P}(X = k) \\
&= \sum_{k=0}^n k \cdot C_n^k \cdot p^k \cdot (1-p)^{n-k} \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^n n \cdot \binom{n-1}{k-1} \cdot p^k \cdot (1-p)^{n-k} \\
&= np \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n-1}{k-1} p^{k-1} (1-p)^{n-k} \\
&= np \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k-1} \\
&= np
\end{aligned}$$

Method 2: $X = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$, $X_i \sim B(p)$ (The binomial distribution is the sum of n Bernoulli trials)

(Using property 1) $\mathbb{E}(X_i) = p$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \mathbb{E}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}(X_i) = np$$

1.4 Variance

Definition 1.5 (Variance). The variance of a random variable X is defined as

$$\text{Var}(X) \stackrel{\text{Def}}{=} \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2]$$

If $\mathbb{E}(X) = 0$, then $\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}[X^2]$.

The variance is a measure of how much a random variable deviates from its mean.

Definition 1.6 (Standard Deviation). The standard deviation is defined as $\text{sd}(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$.

1.5 Properties of Variance

1. $\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - [\mathbb{E}(X)]^2$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}(X) &= \mathbb{E}[X^2 - 2X\mathbb{E}(X) + (\mathbb{E}(X))^2] \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] - 2\mathbb{E}[X \cdot \mathbb{E}(X)] + \mathbb{E}[(\mathbb{E}(X))^2] \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] - 2(\mathbb{E}(X))^2 + (\mathbb{E}(X))^2 \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] - (\mathbb{E}(X))^2
\end{aligned}$$

2. $\text{Var}(X) \geq 0 \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}[X^2] \geq (\mathbb{E}(X))^2$

Proof:

Using Jensen's Inequality: Let $g(x) = x^2$.

Then $\mathbb{E}[g(x)] \geq g(\mathbb{E}(X))$, so $\mathbb{E}[X^2] \geq (\mathbb{E}(X))^2$.

3. $\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2\text{Var}(X)$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(aX + b) &= \mathbb{E}[(aX + b) - \mathbb{E}(aX + b)]^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}[aX + b - a\mathbb{E}(X) - b]^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}[aX - a\mathbb{E}(X)]^2 \\ &= a^2\mathbb{E}[X - \mathbb{E}(X)]^2 \\ &= a^2\text{Var}(X) \end{aligned}$$

4. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be independent random variables.

Then $\text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \text{Var}(X_i)$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i\right) &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i - \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i\right]\right]^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n a_i (X_i - \mathbb{E}(X_i))\right]^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 (X_i - \mathbb{E}(X_i))^2 + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} a_i a_j (X_i - \mathbb{E}(X_i))(X_j - \mathbb{E}(X_j))\right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \mathbb{E}(X_i - \mathbb{E}(X_i))^2 + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} a_i a_j \mathbb{E}[(X_i - \mathbb{E}(X_i))(X_j - \mathbb{E}(X_j))] \end{aligned}$$

Since $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \mathbb{E}(X_i - \mathbb{E}(X_i))^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \text{Var}(X_i)$.

Next, we prove that $2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} a_i a_j \mathbb{E}[(X_i - \mathbb{E}(X_i))(X_j - \mathbb{E}(X_j))] = 0$:

Since any X_i and X_j are independent of each other, we have $\mathbb{E}[(X_i - \mathbb{E}(X_i))(X_j - \mathbb{E}(X_j))] = \mathbb{E}[X_i - \mathbb{E}(X_i)] \cdot \mathbb{E}[X_j - \mathbb{E}(X_j)] = 0 \times 0 = 0$.

1.6 Sample Mean and Sample Variance

Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be the observed values.

Definition 1.7 (Sample Mean). The sample mean is defined as $\bar{x}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$.

Definition 1.8 (Sample Variance). The sample variance is defined as $S_n^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}_n)^2$.

Theorem 1.9. Suppose that $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ are independent and identically - distributed random variables with $\mathbb{E}(x_i) = \mu$ and $\text{Var}(x_i) = \sigma^2$. Let \bar{x}_n be the sample mean and S_n^2 be the sample variance.

1. $\mathbb{E}(\bar{x}_n) = \mu$

Proof:

$$\mathbb{E}(\bar{x}_n) = \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}(x_i) = \frac{1}{n} \cdot n\mu = \mu.$$

Note that this result does not require the random variables to be independent and identically - distributed. It only requires that $\mathbb{E}(x_i)$ are equal for all i .

2. $\text{Var}(\bar{x}_n) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$

Proof:

$$\text{Var}(\bar{x}_n) = \text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(x_i) = \frac{1}{n^2} \cdot n\sigma^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}.$$

As $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\text{Var}(\bar{x}_n) \rightarrow 0$.

This implies that when the sample size is large enough, the sample mean is close to the true mean.

3. $\mathbb{E}(S_n^2) = \sigma^2$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(S_n^2) \cdot (n-1) &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}_n)^2\right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i^2 - 2\bar{x}_n x_i) + n \cdot \bar{x}_n^2\right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - 2\bar{x}_n \cdot n\bar{x}_n + n \cdot \bar{x}_n^2\right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - n \cdot \bar{x}_n^2\right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}(x_i^2) - n \cdot \mathbb{E}(\bar{x}_n^2) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n [\mathbb{E}(x_i)^2 + \text{Var}(x_i)] - n \cdot [\mathbb{E}(\bar{x}_n)^2 + \text{Var}(\bar{x}_n)] \\ &= n(\mu^2 + \sigma^2) - n\left(\mu^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right) \\ &= (n-1)\sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

So, $\mathbb{E}(S_n^2) = \sigma^2$.

1.7 Covariance and Correlation

Definition 1.10 (Covariance). Covariance measures joint variability — the extent of variation between two random variables:

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) \triangleq \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y))]. \tag{1}$$

Definition 1.11 (Correlation). Correlation is a measure of the degree of linear relationship between two variables:

$$\rho(X, Y) \triangleq \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X \cdot \sigma_Y} \quad \text{where } \sigma_X^2 = \text{Var}(X), \sigma_Y^2 = \text{Var}(Y). \quad (2)$$

1.7.1 Properties of Covariance

1. $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(X, Y) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y))], \\ &= \mathbb{E}[XY - X\mathbb{E}(Y) - Y\mathbb{E}(X) + \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)], \\ &= \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y). \end{aligned}$$

Special case $X = Y$: $\text{Cov}(X, X) = \text{Var}(X)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(X, X) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2], \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - [\mathbb{E}(X)]^2, \\ &= \text{Var}(X). \end{aligned}$$

■

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

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(X, Y + Z) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))(Y + Z - \mathbb{E}(Y + Z))], \\ &= \text{Cov}(X, Y) + \text{Cov}(X, Z). \end{aligned}$$

■

3. $\text{Cov}(aX, bY) = ab \cdot \text{Cov}(X, Y)$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(aX, bY) &= ab \cdot \mathbb{E}(XY) - ab \cdot \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y), \\ &= ab \cdot \text{Cov}(X, Y). \end{aligned}$$

■

4. Symmetry: $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \text{Cov}(Y, X)$.

5. If $Y = aX + b$, then $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = a \cdot \text{Var}(X)$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(X, Y) &= \text{Cov}(X, aX) + \text{Cov}(X, b), \\ &= a \cdot \text{Var}(X). \end{aligned}$$

■

$$6. \text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2 \text{Cov}(X, Y).$$

Proof.

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

■

$$7. \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \text{Var}(X_i) + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} a_i a_j \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j).$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i\right) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_i a_j \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j), \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \text{Var}(X_i) + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} a_i a_j \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j). \end{aligned}$$

■