

Normal Distribution $E(Y)$, $Var(Y)$

We find the expected value of a function by finding the sum of the products for each possible outcome and its chance of occurring.

Step 1: For continuous variables, this means using an integral going from negative infinity to infinity. The chance of each outcome occurring is given by the PDF, $f(y)$, so $E(Y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y f(y) dy$.

Step 2: The PDF for a Normal Distribution is the following expression: $f(y) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$

Step 3: Thus, the expected value equals: $E(Y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dy$

Step 4: Since sigma and pi are constant numbers, we can take them out of the integral:

$$E(Y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dy = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y e^{\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dy$$

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Step 5: We will substitute t in for $\frac{y-\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}$ to make the integral more manageable. To do so, we need to transform y and dy . If $t = \frac{y-\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}$, then clearly $y = \mu + \sqrt{2}\sigma t$. Knowing this, $\frac{dy}{dt} = \sqrt{2}\sigma$, so $dy = \sqrt{2}\sigma dt$. Therefore, we can substitute and take the constant out of the integral, before simplifying:

$$\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y e^{-\frac{(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dy = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\mu + \sqrt{2}\sigma t) e^{-t^2} \sqrt{2}\sigma dt = \frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\mu + \sqrt{2}\sigma t) e^{-t^2} dt = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\mu + \sqrt{2}\sigma t) e^{-t^2} dt$$

Step 6: We expand the expression within parenthesis and split the integral:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\mu + \sqrt{2}\sigma t) e^{-t^2} dt = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[\mu \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt + \sqrt{2}\sigma \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t e^{-t^2} dt \right]$$

Step 7: We solve the two simpler integrals:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[\mu \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt + \sqrt{2}\sigma \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t e^{-t^2} dt \right] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[\mu\sqrt{\pi} + \sqrt{2}\sigma \left(-\frac{1}{2} e^{-t^2} \right)_{-\infty}^{\infty} \right]$$

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Step 8: Since the exponential tends to 0, we get the following:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[\mu\sqrt{\pi} + \sqrt{2}\sigma \left(-\frac{1}{2} e^{-t^2} \right)_{-\infty}^{\infty} \right] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} [\mu\sqrt{\pi} + \mathbf{0}] = \frac{\mu\sqrt{\pi}}{\sqrt{\pi}} = \mu$$

Step 9: Using Calculus we just showed that for a variable y which follows a Normal Distribution and has a PDF of $f(y) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$, the expected value equals μ .

To find the Variance of the distribution, we need to use the relationship between Expected Value and Variance we already know, namely:

$$Var(Y) = E(Y^2) - [E(Y)]^2$$

Step 1: We already know the expected value, so we can plug in μ^2 for $[E(Y)]^2$, hence:

$$Var(Y) = E(Y^2) - \mu^2$$

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Step 2: To compute the expected value for Y^2 , we need to go over the same process we did when calculating the expected value for Y , so let's quickly go over the obvious simplifications.

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y^2) - \mu^2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y^2 \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dy - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y^2 e^{\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dy - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\sqrt{2}\sigma t + \mu)^2 e^{-t^2} \sqrt{2}\sigma dt - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\sqrt{2}\sigma t + \mu)^2 e^{-t^2} dt - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\sqrt{2}\sigma t + \mu)^2 e^{-t^2} dt - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (2\sigma^2 t^2 + 2\sqrt{2}\sigma\mu t + \mu^2) e^{-t^2} dt \right] - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[2\sigma^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t^2} dt + 2\sqrt{2}\sigma\mu \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t e^{-t^2} dt + \mu^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt \right] - \mu^2 \end{aligned}$$

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Step 3: We already evaluated two of the integrals when finding the expected value, so let's just use the results and simplify.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[2\sigma^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t^2} dt + 2\sqrt{2}\sigma\mu \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t e^{-t^2} dt + \mu^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt \right] - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[2\sigma^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t^2} dt + 2\sqrt{2}\sigma\mu \times \mathbf{0} + \mu^2 \sqrt{\pi} \right] - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[2\sigma^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t^2} dt \right] + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \mu^2 \sqrt{\pi} - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[2\sigma^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t^2} dt \right] + \mu^2 - \mu^2 = \\ &= \frac{2\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t^2} dt \end{aligned}$$

Step 4: We need to integrate by parts next:

$$\frac{2\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t^2} dt = \frac{2\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\left[-\frac{t}{2} e^{-t^2} \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt \right)$$

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Step 5: The exponential tends to 0 once again, so we get the following:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{2\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\left[-\frac{t}{2} e^{-t^2} \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt \right) &= \\ &= \frac{2\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\mathbf{0} + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt \right) = \\ &= \frac{2\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt = \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt\end{aligned}$$

Step 6: As we computed earlier, $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt = \sqrt{\pi}$, which means:

$$\frac{\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt = \frac{\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sqrt{\pi} = \sigma^2$$

Thus, the variance for a Variable, whose PDF looks like: $f(y) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$, equals σ^2 .