

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

MA215 Probability Theory

Tutorial 12 Solutions

1. The covariance between X and Y , denoted by $Cov(X, Y)$, is defined by

$$Cov(X, Y) = E[(X - E(X))(Y - E(Y))].$$

Show that

$$Cov(X, Y) = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y].$$

Proof:

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

2. Let X be a discrete random variable with p.m.f as

$$P\{X = 0\} = P\{X = 1\} = P\{X = -1\} = \frac{1}{3}.$$

Define

$$Y = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } X \neq 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } X = 0. \end{cases}$$

- (i) Show that $Cov(X, Y) = 0$.
(ii) Write down the joint p.m.f of X and Y , and show that X and Y are not independent.

Solution:

- (i) Firstly, notice that $XY \equiv 0$.

In fact, if $X(\omega) = 0$, then $Y(\omega) = 1$, hence

$$XY(\omega) = X(\omega) \cdot Y(\omega) = 0 \times 1 = 0;$$

If $X(\omega) \neq 0$, then $Y(\omega) = 0$, hence

$$XY(\omega) = X(\omega) \cdot Y(\omega) = X(\omega) \times 0 = 0;$$

In sum up, we get $XY \equiv 0$. So, $E[XY] = E[0] = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= -1 \times P(X = -1) + -0 \times P(X = 0) + 1 \times P(X = 1) \\ &= -1 \times \frac{1}{3} + 0 \times \frac{1}{3} + 1 \times \frac{1}{3} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$P(Y = 0) = P(X \neq 0) = P(\{X = 1\} \cup \{X = -1\}) = P(X = 1) + P(X = -1) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{3}.$$

$$P(Y = 1) = P(X = 0) = \frac{1}{3}.$$

so,

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y) &= 0 \times P(Y = 0) + 1 \times P(Y = 1) \\ &= 0 \times \frac{2}{3} + 1 \times \frac{1}{3} \\ &= \frac{1}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $Cov(X, Y) = E[XY] - E[X] \cdot E[Y] = 0 - 0 \times \frac{1}{3} = 0$.

(ii)

$$P(X = -1, Y = 0) = P(X = -1, X \neq 0) = P(X = -1) = \frac{1}{3};$$

$$P(X = -1, Y = 1) = P(X = -1, X = 0) = P(\emptyset) = 0;$$

$$P(X = 0, Y = 0) = P(X = 0, X \neq 0) = P(\emptyset) = 0;$$

$$P(X = 0, Y = 1) = P(X = 0, X = 0) = P(X = 0) = \frac{1}{3};$$

$$P(X = 1, Y = 0) = P(X = 1, X \neq 0) = P(X = 1) = \frac{1}{3};$$

$$P(X = 1, Y = 1) = P(X = 1, X = 0) = P(\emptyset) = 0.$$

i.e., the joint p.m.f of (X, Y) is:

| $X \backslash Y$ | $Y = 0$ | $Y = 1$ |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| $X = -1$ | $\frac{1}{3}$ | 0 |
| $X = 0$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| $X = 1$ | $\frac{1}{3}$ | 0 |

Observed that

$$P(X = 0, Y = 0) = 0 \neq \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{2}{3} = P(X = 0) \cdot P(Y = 0).$$

Hence X and Y are not independent.

3. Show that the following conclusions are true:

(i) $Cov(X, Y) = Cov(Y, X)$;

(ii) $Cov(X, X) = Var(X)$;

(iii) $Cov(aX, Y) = aCov(X, Y)$, where a is a constant;

$$(iv) \text{ Cov}(\sum_{i=1}^m X_i, \sum_{j=1}^n Y_j) = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, Y_j);$$

(v) If X is a random variable and C is a constant, then $\text{Cov}(X, C) = 0$.

(vi) Show that the following statements are true:

$$\text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j),$$

or, equivalently,

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

Further show that if X_1, \dots, X_n are pairwise independent (i.e. X_i and X_j are independent for $1 \leq i \neq j \leq n$), then we have

$$\text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i).$$

Proof:

$$(i) \text{ Cov}(X, Y) = E[(X - E(X))(Y - E(Y))] = E[(Y - E(Y))(X - E(X))] = \text{Cov}(Y, X).$$

$$(ii) \text{ Cov}(X, X) = E[(X - E(X))(X - E(X))] = E[(X - E(X))^2] = \text{Var}(X).$$

(iii)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(aX, Y) &= E[(aX - E(aX))(X - E(X))] = E[(aX - aE(X))(X - E(X))] \\ &= E[a(X - E(X))(X - E(X))] = aE[(X - E(X))(X - E(X))] \\ &= a\text{Cov}(X, Y). \end{aligned}$$

(iv)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(\sum_{i=1}^m X_i, \sum_{j=1}^n Y_j) &= E \left\{ \left[\sum_{i=1}^m X_i - E(\sum_{i=1}^m X_i) \right] \left[\sum_{j=1}^n Y_j - E(\sum_{j=1}^n Y_j) \right] \right\} \\ &= E \left\{ \left[\sum_{i=1}^m X_i - \sum_{i=1}^m E(X_i) \right] \left[\sum_{j=1}^n Y_j - \sum_{j=1}^n E(Y_j) \right] \right\} \\ &= E \left\{ \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (X_i - E(X_i)) \right] \left[\sum_{j=1}^n (Y_j - E(Y_j)) \right] \right\} \\ &= E \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n [(X_i - E(X_i))(Y_j - E(Y_j))] \right\} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n E[(X_i - E(X_i))(Y_j - E(Y_j))] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, Y_j). \end{aligned}$$

$$(v) \text{ Cov}(X, C) = E[(X - E(X))(C - E(C))] = E[(X - E(X))(C - C)] = E[0] = 0.$$

(vi)

$$\text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i) = \text{Cov}(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \sum_{i=1}^n X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \sum_{j=1}^n X_j \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$$

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

If X_1, \dots, X_n are pairwise independent, then for $1 \leq i \neq j \leq n$,

$$\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = 0.$$

$$\text{so, } \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + 0 = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i).$$

4. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be independent and identically distributed random variables having common (mean) expectation μ and common variance σ^2 . Let \bar{X} and S^2 be defined as follows.

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i.$$

$$S^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2.$$

The two random variables \bar{X} and $\frac{S^2}{n-1}$ are called the sample mean and sample variance, respectively. Find

- (i) $E[\bar{X}]$;
- (ii) $\text{Var}(\bar{X})$;
- (iii) $E[\frac{S^2}{n-1}]$.

Solution:

- (i) $E[\bar{X}] = E\left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (E[X_i]) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu = \frac{n \cdot \mu}{n} = \mu$;
- (ii)

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}[\bar{X}] &= \text{Var}\left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \frac{1}{n^2} \text{Var}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] \\
&= \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (\text{Var}[X_i]) = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma^2 \\
&= \frac{n\sigma^2}{n^2} = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}.
\end{aligned}$$

- (iii) **Method 1 :**

$$\begin{aligned}
S^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu + \mu - \bar{X})^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n [(X_i - \mu)^2 + 2(X_i - \mu)(\mu - \bar{X}) + (\mu - \bar{X})^2] \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 + 2 \sum_{i=1}^n [(X_i - \mu)(\mu - \bar{X})] + \sum_{i=1}^n (\mu - \bar{X})^2
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 + 2\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)\right](\mu - \bar{X}) + \sum_{i=1}^n (\mu - \bar{X})^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 + 2\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \mu\right](\mu - \bar{X}) + \sum_{i=1}^n (\mu - \bar{X})^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 + 2[n\bar{X} - n\mu](\mu - \bar{X}) + \sum_{i=1}^n (\mu - \bar{X})^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - 2n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n (\mu - \bar{X})^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - 2n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 + n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - E[X_i])^2 - n(\bar{X} - E[\bar{X}])^2.
\end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned}
E\left[\frac{S^2}{n-1}\right] &= \frac{1}{n-1} E[S^2] = \frac{1}{n-1} E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - E[X_i])^2 - n(\bar{X} - E[\bar{X}])^2\right] \\
&= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n E[(X_i - E[X_i])^2]}{n-1} - \frac{n}{n-1} E[(\bar{X} - E[\bar{X}])^2] \\
&= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}[X_i]}{n-1} - \frac{n}{n-1} \text{Var}[\bar{X}] \\
&= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sigma^2}{n-1} - \frac{n}{n-1} \cdot \frac{\sigma^2}{n} \\
&= \frac{n\sigma^2}{n-1} - \frac{\sigma^2}{n-1} = \sigma^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Method 2 :

$$\begin{aligned}
S^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n [X_i^2 - 2X_i\bar{X} + (\bar{X})^2] \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - 2\sum_{i=1}^n [X_i\bar{X}] + \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{X})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - 2\sum_{i=1}^n [X_i]\bar{X} + \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{X})^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - 2(n\bar{X})\bar{X} + \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{X})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - 2n(\bar{X})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{X})^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - 2n(\bar{X})^2 + n(\bar{X})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - n(\bar{X})^2
\end{aligned}$$

Notice that for $1 \leq i \leq n$,

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X_i^2] &= \text{Var}(X_i) + (E[X_i])^2 = \sigma^2 + \mu^2; \\
E[(\bar{X})^2] &= \text{Var}(\bar{X}) + (E[\bar{X}])^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \mu^2.
\end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned}
E\left[\frac{S^2}{n-1}\right] &= \frac{1}{n-1} E[S^2] = \frac{1}{n-1} E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - n(\bar{X})^2\right] \\
&= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i^2]}{n-1} - \frac{n}{n-1} E[(\bar{X})^2] \\
&= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\sigma^2 + \mu^2)}{n-1} - \frac{n}{n-1} \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \mu^2\right) \\
&= \frac{n(\sigma^2 + \mu^2)}{n-1} - \frac{n}{n-1} \cdot \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \mu^2\right) \\
&= \frac{n\sigma^2}{n-1} - \frac{\sigma^2}{n-1} = \sigma^2.
\end{aligned}$$

5. Let I_A and I_B be the indicator variables for the events A and B . That is,

$$\begin{aligned}
I_A(\omega) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \omega \in A, \\ 0 & \omega \notin A. \end{cases} \\
I_B(\omega) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \omega \in B, \\ 0 & \omega \notin B. \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

Show that

(i)

$$\begin{aligned}
E[I_A] &= P(A); \\
E[I_B] &= P(B); \\
E[I_A I_B] &= P(AB).
\end{aligned}$$

(ii)

$$Cov(I_A, I_B) = P(AB) - P(A)P(B).$$

Proof:

(i) Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
\{I_A = 1\} &\triangleq \{\omega \in \Omega: I_A(\omega) = 1\} = A, & \{I_B = 1\} &\triangleq \{\omega \in \Omega: I_B(\omega) = 1\} = B; \\
\{I_A = 0\} &\triangleq \{\omega \in \Omega: I_A(\omega) = 0\} = A^c, & \{I_B = 0\} &\triangleq \{\omega \in \Omega: I_B(\omega) = 0\} = B^c.
\end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned}
P(I_A = 0) &= P(A^c), & P(I_A = 1) &= P(A); \\
P(I_B = 0) &= P(B^c), & P(I_B = 1) &= P(B);
\end{aligned}$$

i.e., the p.m.f of random variable I_A is:

| | | |
|-------|----------|--------|
| I_A | 0 | 1 |
| P | $P(A^c)$ | $P(A)$ |

the p.m.f of random variable I_B is:

| | | |
|-------|----------|--------|
| I_B | 0 | 1 |
| P | $P(B^c)$ | $P(B)$ |

Hence, take the expectation, then we have

$$E(I_A) = 0 \times P(A^c) + 1 \times P(A) = P(A);$$

$$E(I_B) = 0 \times P(B^c) + 1 \times P(B) = P(B).$$

Method 1: We first show that for any $\omega \in \Omega$,

$$I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = I_{A \cap B}(\omega) \quad (\star)$$

In fact, we only discuss four cases:

- 1° If $\omega \in A$ and $\omega \in B$;
- 2° If $\omega \in A$ and $\omega \notin B$, i.e. $\omega \in A$ and $\omega \in B^c$;
- 3° If $\omega \notin A$ and $\omega \in B$, i.e. $\omega \in A^c$ and $\omega \in B$;
- 4° If $\omega \notin A$ and $\omega \notin B$, i.e. $\omega \in A^c$ and $\omega \in B^c$;

Proof:

- 1° If $\omega \in A$ and $\omega \in B$, then $\omega \in A \cap B$, yields

$$I_A(\omega) = 1, \quad I_B(\omega) = 1, \quad I_{A \cap B}(\omega) = 1.$$

Hence,

the left hand side of (\star) is $I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = 1 \times 1 = 1$;

the right hand side of (\star) is $I_{A \cap B}(\omega) = 1$.

So, $I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = 1 \times 1 = 1 = I_{A \cap B}(\omega)$, i.e., (\star) is true.

- 2° If $\omega \in A$ and $\omega \notin B$, then $\omega \notin A \cap B$, yields

$$I_A(\omega) = 1, \quad I_B(\omega) = 0, \quad I_{A \cap B}(\omega) = 0.$$

Hence,

the left hand side of (\star) is $I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = 1 \times 0 = 0$;

the right hand side of (\star) is $I_{A \cap B}(\omega) = 0$.

So, $I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = 1 \times 0 = 0 = I_{A \cap B}(\omega)$, i.e., (\star) is true.

- 3° If $\omega \notin A$ and $\omega \in B$, then $\omega \notin A \cap B$, yields

$$I_A(\omega) = 0, \quad I_B(\omega) = 1, \quad I_{A \cap B}(\omega) = 0.$$

Hence,

the left hand side of (\star) is $I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = 0 \times 1 = 0$;

the right hand side of (\star) is $I_{A \cap B}(\omega) = 0$.

So, $I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = 0 \times 1 = 0 = I_{A \cap B}(\omega)$, i.e., (\star) is true.

4° If $\omega \notin A$ and $\omega \notin B$, then $\omega \notin A \cap B$, yields

$$I_A(\omega) = 0, \quad I_B(\omega) = 0, \quad I_{A \cap B}(\omega) = 0.$$

Hence,

the left hand side of (\star) is $I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = 0 \times 0 = 0$;

the right hand side of (\star) is $I_{A \cap B}(\omega) = 0$.

So, $I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = 0 \times 0 = 0 = I_{A \cap B}(\omega)$, i.e., (\star) is true.

In short, we have show that for any $\omega \in \Omega$,

$$I_A(\omega) \cdot I_B(\omega) = I_{A \cap B}(\omega).$$

Therefore

$$E[I_A \cdot I_B] = E[I_{A \cap B}] = P(A \cap B).$$

Method 2: Try to find the joint p.m.f of I_A and I_B and then use the definition.

$$P(I_A = 0, I_B = 0) = P(\{I_A = 0\} \cap \{I_B = 0\}) = P(A^c \cap B^c) = P(A^c B^c);$$

$$P(I_A = 0, I_B = 1) = P(\{I_A = 0\} \cap \{I_B = 1\}) = P(A^c \cap B) = P(A^c B);$$

$$P(I_A = 1, I_B = 0) = P(\{I_A = 1\} \cap \{I_B = 0\}) = P(A \cap B^c) = P(AB^c);$$

$$P(I_A = 1, I_B = 1) = P(\{I_A = 1\} \cap \{I_B = 1\}) = P(A \cap B) = P(AB).$$

i.e.,

| $I_A \backslash I_B$ | $I_B = 0$ | $I_B = 1$ |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| $I_A = 0$ | $P(A^c B^c)$ | $P(A^c B)$ |
| $I_A = 1$ | $P(AB^c)$ | $P(AB)$ |

Therefore, take the expectation, then

$$\begin{aligned}
E[I_A I_B] &= \sum_{y=0}^{y=1} \sum_{x=0}^{x=1} xy P((I_A, I_B) = (x, y)) = \sum_{y=0}^{y=1} \sum_{x=0}^{x=1} xy P(I_A = x, I_B = y) \\
&= 0 \times 0 \times P(I_A = 0, I_B = 0) + 0 \times 1 \times P(I_A = 0, I_B = 1) \\
&\quad + 1 \times 0 \times P(I_A = 1, I_B = 0) + 1 \times 1 \times P(I_A = 1, I_B = 1) \\
&= 0 \times 0 \times P(A^c B^c) + 0 \times 1 \times P(A^c B) + 1 \times 0 \times P(AB^c) + 1 \times 1 \times P(AB) \\
&= P(AB).
\end{aligned}$$

(ii)

$$Cov(I_A, I_B) \stackrel{\text{see Tutorial12-01}}{=} E(I_A I_B) - E[I_A]E[I_B] = P(AB) - P(A)P(B).$$

6. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be independent and identically distributed random variables having common variance σ^2 . Show that for any fixed i ($1 \leq i \leq n$),

$$\text{Cov}(X_i - \bar{X}, \bar{X}) = 0,$$

where \bar{X} is the sample mean (i.e. $\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n X_j$).

Proof: Note that $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ are independent, then for $1 \leq i \neq j \leq n$,

$$\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = 0.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(X_i - \bar{X}, \bar{X}) &= \text{Cov}(X_i, \bar{X}) - \text{Cov}(\bar{X}, \bar{X}) = \text{Cov}(X_i, \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n X_j) - \text{Cov}(\bar{X}, \bar{X}) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) - \text{Cov}(\bar{X}, \bar{X}) = \frac{1}{n} [\text{Cov}(X_i, X_i) + \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)] - \text{Cov}(\bar{X}, \bar{X}) \\ &\quad \underline{\underline{\text{Since } \{X_i\}_{i=1}^n \text{ are independent}}} \frac{1}{n} [\text{Cov}(X_i, X_i) + 0] - \text{Cov}(\bar{X}, \bar{X}) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \text{Var}(X_i) - \text{Var}(\bar{X}) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \cdot \sigma^2 - \frac{\sigma^2}{n} = 0. \end{aligned}$$