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(a) Find the $\mathbb{E}[\bar{X}(N)]$ analytically. Does it really estimate the mean of X ?

We have that

$$\bar{X}(N) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i, \quad X_i \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1) .$$

We first compute the expectation of X_i . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[X_i] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot p(X = x) \, dx \\ &= \int_0^1 x \cdot p(X = x) \, dx \\ &= \int_0^1 x \cdot \frac{1}{1-0} \, dx \\ &= \int_0^1 x \, dx \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{2} x^2 \right]_0^1 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (1^2 - 0^2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Therefore, we can compute the expectation of $\bar{X}(N)$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\bar{X}(N)] &= \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X_i] \\ &\stackrel{(1)}{=} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \cdot n \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the expected value of $\mathbb{E}[\bar{X}(N)]$ estimates the true mean of X .

(b) Find the $\text{Var}(\bar{X}(N))$ analytically. Hint: find the variance of a single X_i first.

Let us first compute the expectation of $\mathbb{E}[X_i^2]$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{E}[X_i^2] &= \int_0^1 x^2 \cdot p(X=x) \, dx \\
 &= \int_0^1 x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{1-0} \, dx \\
 &= \int_0^1 x^2 \, dx \\
 &= \left[\frac{1}{3} \cdot x^3 \right]_0^1 \\
 &= \frac{1}{3}(1-0) \\
 &= \frac{1}{3}
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

We can now compute the variance of a X_i as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Var}(X_i) &= \mathbb{E}[(X_i - \mathbb{E}[X_i])^2] \\
 &= \mathbb{E}\left[\left(X_i - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2\right] \\
 &= \mathbb{E}\left[X_i^2 + \frac{1^2}{2^2} - 2 \cdot X_i \cdot \frac{1}{2}\right] \\
 &= \mathbb{E}\left[X_i^2 + \frac{1^2}{2^2} - X_i\right] \\
 &= \mathbb{E}[X_i^2] + \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{4}\right] - \mathbb{E}[X_i] \\
 &= \mathbb{E}[X_i^2] + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \\
 &\stackrel{(2)}{=} \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \\
 &= \frac{4}{12} + \frac{3}{12} - \frac{6}{12} \\
 &= \frac{1}{12} .
 \end{aligned}$$

We can now compute the variance of $\bar{X}(N)$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Var}(\bar{X}(N)) &= \text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N X_i\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \text{Var}(X_i) \\
 &= \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{12} \\
 &= \frac{1}{N^2} \cdot N \cdot \frac{1}{12} \\
 &= \frac{1}{N} \cdot \frac{1}{12}
 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

where Equation 3 holds as each drawing X_i is independent of each other drawing X_j ($\Pr(X_i | X_j) = \Pr(X_i)$), and we can therefore use the property of the variance for i.i.d. variables $\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y)$.

Therefore, in the limit, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Var}(\bar{X}(N)) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \cdot \frac{1}{12} = 0$$

with a linear convergence rate.

(c) The probability density function of $\hat{X}(N)$ is given as

$$f_{\hat{X}(N)}(x) = \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot x^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot (1-x)^{\frac{N-1}{2}}.$$

Let us now compute the expectation of $\hat{X}(N)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[\hat{X}(N)] &= \int_0^1 x \cdot f_{\hat{X}(N)}(x) \, dx \\
&= \int_0^1 x \cdot \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot x^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot (1-x)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \, dx \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \int_0^1 x \cdot x^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot (1-x)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \, dx \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \int_0^1 x^{\frac{N-1}{2}+1} \cdot (1-x)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \, dx \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \int_0^1 x^{\frac{N+1}{2}} \cdot (1-x)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \, dx \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+1}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{\left(\frac{N+1}{2} + \frac{N-1}{2} + 1\right)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+1}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{\left(\frac{N-1}{2} + \frac{N-1}{2} + 1 + 1\right)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+1}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{\left(2 \cdot \frac{N-1}{2} + 2\right)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+1}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{(N-1+2)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+1}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{(N+1)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\left(\frac{N+1}{2}\right)! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{N!} \\
&= \frac{N!}{\left(\frac{N-1}{2}\right)! \left(N - \frac{N-1}{2}\right)!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\left(\frac{N+1}{2}\right)! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{N!} \\
&= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{N-1}{2}\right)! \left(N - \frac{N-1}{2}\right)!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\left(\frac{N+1}{2}\right)! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{1} \\
&= \frac{1}{\left(N - \frac{N-1}{2}\right)!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\left(\frac{N+1}{2}\right)!}{1} \\
&= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{N+1}{2}\right)!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\left(\frac{N+1}{2}\right)!}{1} \\
&= \frac{1}{2}
\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where we used the given known integral rule to obtain Equation 4, and Equation 5 results from

$$\begin{aligned}
N - \frac{N-1}{2} &= \frac{2N}{2} - \frac{N-1}{2} \\
&= \frac{N + N - (N-1)}{2} \\
&= \frac{N+1}{2} .
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the expectation of the of $\hat{X}(N)$ is $\frac{1}{2}$, i.e., the true mean of X .

(d) Find the $\text{Var}(\hat{X}(N))$ analytically. Which distribution has the better variance $\bar{X}(N)$ or $\hat{X}(N)$?

We compute the expectation of $\hat{X}(N)^2$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[\hat{X}(N)^2] &= \int_0^1 x^2 \cdot f_{\hat{X}(N)}(x) \, dx \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \int_0^1 x^2 \cdot x^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot (1-x)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \, dx \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \int_0^1 x^{\frac{N-1}{2}+2} \cdot (1-x)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \, dx \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \int_0^1 x^{\frac{N+3}{2}} \cdot (1-x)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} \, dx \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{\left(\frac{N+3}{2} + \frac{N-1}{2} + 1\right)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{\left(\frac{N-1}{2} + \frac{N-1}{2} + 1 + 2\right)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{\left(2 \cdot \frac{N-1}{2} + 3\right)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{(N-1+3)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{(N+2)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{N+1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{(N+2) \cdot (N+1)!} \\
&= \binom{N}{\frac{N-1}{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{(N+2) \cdot N!} \\
&= \frac{N!}{\left(\frac{N-1}{2}\right)! \left(N - \frac{N-1}{2}\right)!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{(N+2) \cdot N!} \\
&= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{N-1}{2}\right)! \left(N - \frac{N-1}{2}\right)!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}! \frac{N-1}{2}!}{(N+2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\left(N - \frac{N-1}{2}\right)!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}!}{(N+2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\frac{N+1}{2}!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}!}{(N+2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{\frac{N+1}{2}!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{N+1}{2}\right)!}{(N+2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2}}{(N+2)} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\frac{N+3}{2} \cdot 2}{(N+2) \cdot 2} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{N+3}{(N+2) \cdot 2} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{N+2+1}{(N+2) \cdot 2} \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{N+2}{(N+2) \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{(N+2) \cdot 2} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2N+4} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4N+8}
 \end{aligned}$$

We can finally compute the variance of $\hat{X}(N)$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Var}(\hat{X}(N)) &= \mathbb{E}[\hat{X}(N)^2] - \mathbb{E}[\hat{X}(N)]^2 \\
 &= \mathbb{E}[\hat{X}(N)^2] - \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^2 \\
 &= \mathbb{E}[\hat{X}(N)^2] - \frac{1}{4} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4N+8} - \frac{1}{4} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4N+8}
 \end{aligned}$$

which, in the limit, converges to zero:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \text{Var}(\hat{X}(N)) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4N+8} = 0$$

As the convergence rate of $\text{Var}(\hat{X}(N))$ is faster than $\text{Var}(\bar{X}(N))$, and that both have the same (correct) expectation, we can conclude that $\hat{X}(N)$ has the better variance.