

Expected Value

Tech Lead Data Science

Master en Data Science
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Expected value

A computer is programmed to produce a sequence of integers, X , from 0 to 3 inclusive, with probabilities as shown below:



$X=x_i$	0	1	2	3
$P(X=x_i)$	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1

What is the mean you would expect for a sequence of 90 integers?

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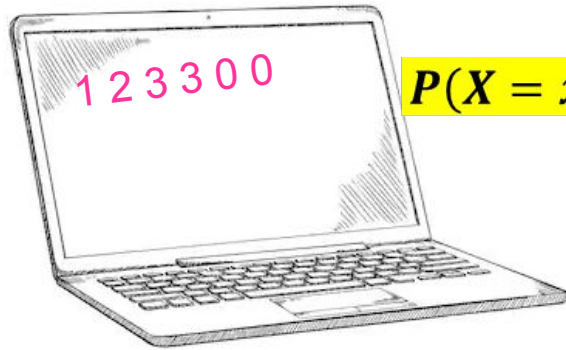
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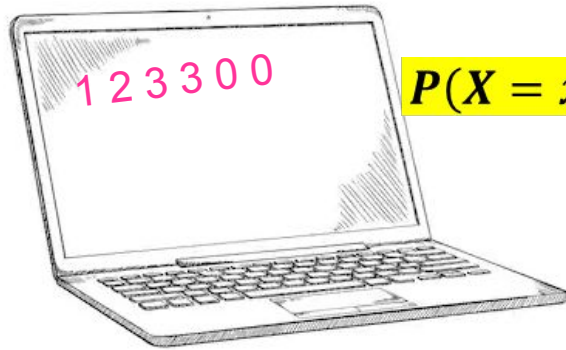
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$$\begin{aligned}\mu = E(X) &= p_1 \times x_1 + p_2 \times x_2 + p_3 \times x_3 + p_4 \times x_4 = \\ &= 0.4 \times 0 + 0.3 \times 1 + 0.2 \times 2 + 0.1 \times 3 = 1\end{aligned}$$

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**Expectation or
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$$E(X) = \sum p_i x_i$$

Expected value

- In probability theory, **the expected value** is a generalization of the weighted average. Informally, the expected value is the arithmetic mean of a large number of independently selected outcomes of a random variable.
- The expected value of a random variable with a **finite number of outcomes** is a weighted average of all possible outcomes.

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} x_i p_i,$$

- In the case of a **continuum of possible outcomes**, the expectation is defined by integration. In the axiomatic foundation for probability provided by measure theory, the expectation is given by Lebesgue integration.

$$E[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx.$$

Properties

PROPERTIES

- **Non-negativity:** If $X \geq 0$ (a.s.), then $E[X] \geq 0$.
- **Linearity of expectation:** The expected value operator (or **expectation operator**) $E[\cdot]$ is linear in the sense that, for any random variables X and Y , and a constant a :
 - $E[X + Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$
 - $E[aX] = aE[X]$
- **Monotonicity:** If $X \leq Y$, and both $E[X]$ and $E[Y]$ exist, then $E[X] \leq E[Y]$
- **Constant:** If X is a random variable and $P(X=c)=1$, then $E[X]=c$