

(4) Conditional variance

(a) Show that for any two random variables X and Y the conditional variance identity holds

$$\text{Var } Y = \mathbb{E}(\text{Var}(Y|X)) + \text{Var}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)),$$

provided that the expectations exist. The law of total expectation (the tower property) $\mathbb{E}X = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(X|Y))$ should be applied.

(b) Suppose that the distribution of Y conditional on $X = x$ is $\mathcal{N}(x, x^2)$ and that the marginal distribution of X is uniform on $(0, 1)$. Compute $\mathbb{E}Y$, $\text{Var } Y$ and $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$.

$$\begin{aligned} a) \quad \mathbb{E}(\text{Var}(Y|X)) + \text{Var}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)) &= \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y^2|X) - (\mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2) + \mathbb{E}((\mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2) - (\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)))^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y^2|X)) - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}((\mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2)}_{=0} + \mathbb{E}((\mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2) - (\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)))^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(Y^2) - (\mathbb{E}(Y))^2 = \text{Var}(Y) \end{aligned}$$

$$b) \quad f(y|x) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{f_X(x)} \Leftrightarrow f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_X(x) f(y|x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}x} \exp\left(-\frac{(y-x)^2}{2x^2}\right) & \text{if } 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq x \end{cases}$$

$$f_Y(y) = \int_0^1 f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx$$

$$Z \sim \mathcal{N}(x, x^2)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(Y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} y f_Y(y) dy \stackrel{\text{Fubini}}{=} \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}} y f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy dx = \int_0^1 \mathbb{E}(Z_x) dx \stackrel{\text{Fubini}}{=} \int_0^1 x dx = \frac{1}{2}$$

$f_{X,Y}(x,y)$ is normal distribution with expectation x

$$\mathbb{E}(Y^2) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} y^2 f_Y(y) dy = \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}} y^2 f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy dx \stackrel{\text{Fubini}}{=} \int_0^1 \mathbb{E}(Z_x^2) dx = \int_0^1 2x^2 dx = \frac{2}{3}$$

$\mathbb{E}(Z^2) = \text{Var}(Z) + (\mathbb{E}(Z))^2 = x^2$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(Y^2) - (\mathbb{E}(Y))^2 = \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{8-3}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(XY) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} xy f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy = \int_0^1 x \int_{\mathbb{R}} y f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy dx = \int_0^1 x \mathbb{E}(Z_x) dx = \int_0^1 x^2 dx = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y) = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{4-3}{12} = \frac{1}{12}$$