

→ Markov's Inequality

Let X be a random variable that assumes only non-negative values. Then for all $a > 0$

$$\Pr(X \geq a) \leq \frac{E[X]}{a}$$

Ex: n coin flips (fair)

What is the probability of obtaining more than $\frac{3n}{4}$ heads?

→ Def:- k^{th} moment of a random variable is defined as $E[X^k]$

→ Def:- $\text{Var}[X] =$

$$E[(X - E(X))^2] \\ = E[X^2] - [E(X)]^2$$

→ For 2 random variables X & Y

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

$$\text{Var}[X+Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y] + 2\text{Cov}(X, Y)$$

→ Chebyshev's Inequality:-

For any $a > 0$

$$\Pr(|X - E[X]| \geq a) \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{a^2}$$

Another form:-

For any $t > 1$

$$\Pr(|X - E[X]| \geq t \cdot \sigma[X]) \leq \frac{1}{t^2}$$

Ex:- What happens now to the $\frac{3n}{4}$ heads example?

Chernoff Bounds:-

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be independent 0-1 random variables such that $\Pr(X_i = 1) = p_i$

$$\text{Let } X = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \quad \& \quad \mu = E[X]$$

Following Chernoff bounds hold:

1. For any $\delta > 0$

$$\Pr(X \geq (1+\delta)\mu) \leq \left(\frac{e^\delta}{(1+\delta)^{(1+\delta)}} \right)^\mu$$

2. For $0 < \delta \leq 1$

$$\Pr(X \geq (1+\delta)\mu) \leq e^{-\mu\delta^2/3}$$

THE OTHER SIDE :- For $0 < \delta < 1$

$$1. \Pr(X \leq (1-\delta)\mu) \leq \left(\frac{e^{-\delta}}{(1-\delta)^{(1-\delta)}} \right)^\mu$$

$$2. \Pr(X \leq (1-\delta)\mu) \leq e^{-\mu\delta^2/2}$$

The Two Sided Result

For $0 < \delta < 1$

$$\Pr(|X - \mu| \geq \delta\mu) \leq 2e^{-\mu\delta^2/3}$$

For the coin example

No more than $n/4$ heads or no fewer than $3n/4$ heads in seq. of n independent coin flips

$$\Pr\left(|X - \frac{n}{2}| \geq \frac{n}{4}\right) \leq 2 \exp\left(-\frac{1}{3} \frac{n}{4}\right)$$

$$\leq 2e^{-n/24}$$