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## Expectation of Random Variable

- a numerical measure for the center of a probability distribution
- Motivation (of the def)

E.g. dataset 4, 3, 4, 2, 5, 1, 6, 6, 5, 2.

$$\text{mean of the dataset} = \frac{\text{sum}}{\# \text{ variables}} = 3.8.$$

$$\text{Alternatively: mean} = \sum_{i=1}^k x_i p(x_i) + \dots$$

$$\text{mean of probability distribution} = \sum \text{value} \times \text{probability}$$

Def: The expectation (expected value, or mean) of a random variable  $X$ , is the mean of the probability distribution of  $X$ , denoted by  $E(X)$  or  $\mu$ .

$$E(X) = \mu = \sum_{\text{all } x} x p(x)$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^k x_i p(x_i)$$

$E(X)$  is the weighted average of values of  $X$   
(probability)

E.g.  $X$ : # produced by rolling a dice

$X \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5 \quad 6$

Find  $E(X)$

$$p(x) \quad \frac{1}{6} \quad \frac{1}{6} \quad \frac{1}{6} \quad \frac{1}{6} \quad \frac{1}{6} \quad \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\text{Sol: } E(X) = \sum_{\text{all } x} x p(x)$$

$$= 1 \times \frac{1}{6} + 2 \times \frac{1}{6} + \dots + 6 \times \frac{1}{6} = 3.5$$

E.g. 2 X - sum of points in 2 tosses of a dice

X 2 3 4 - - - 12

P(X)  $\frac{1}{36}$   $\frac{2}{36}$  - - -  $\frac{1}{36}$

$$E(X) = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{36} + 3 \cdot \frac{2}{36} + \dots + 12 \cdot \frac{1}{36} = 7 \leftarrow \text{coincidence? No.}$$

### Additional Rule of Expectation.

For any 2 random variables X, Y (not necessarily independent)

$$E(X+Y) = E(X) + E(Y)$$

In general:  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$

$$E(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n) = E(X_1) + E(X_2) + \dots + E(X_n)$$

E.g.  $X = X_1 + X_2$ . (2 tosses)

$\begin{matrix} \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \text{1st toss} & \text{2nd toss} \end{matrix}$

$$E(X) = E(X_1) + E(X_2) = 3.5 + 3.5 = 7.$$

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Practice Exam 21c  $\frac{48}{52} \times \frac{47}{51}$ .

Recall  $E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^k x_i p(x_i)$

### Interpretation of $E(X)$

i) Long-Run Average.  $E(X)$  is approximately the long-run average of  $x$ , if probabilities are approximate long-run relative frequencies.

E.g.  $X$  - # produced by rolling a dice.

$$E(X) = 3.5.$$



meaning · roll the dice  $n=2$  times

$$\underline{2} \quad \underline{6} \rightarrow \text{mean } \frac{2+6}{2} = 4.$$

· roll the dice  $n=10$  times.

$$1 \ 5 \ 4 \ 2 \ 3 \ 6 \ 1 \ 2 \ 5 \ 2 \rightarrow \text{mean } \frac{1+5+\dots+2}{10} = 3.1$$

· roll the dice  $n=1000$  times.

$$\begin{array}{c} \swarrow \\ \overbrace{\hspace{1cm}}^{1000 \text{ numbers}} \end{array} \Rightarrow = 3.4.$$

the average number of  $n$  rolls will be close to  $E(X)$  as  $n$  increases.

## 2) Gambling interpretation

If  $\#x$  denote the return, then  $\$E(x)$  is the fair price to pay.

E.g. Consider the game of roulette. Each of 38 numbers.

00, 0, 1, ..., 36 are equally likely. Suppose we bet \$1 on black.

Let  $x$  denote the return

$$x = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if black} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Find the expected return:

$$\text{Sol: } E(x) = 2 \cdot P(X=2) + 0 \cdot P(X=0)$$

$$= 2 \times \frac{18}{38} + 0 \cdot \frac{20}{38} = \$0.947 \rightarrow \text{expected return.}$$

$$P(X=2) = P(\# \text{is black}) = \frac{18}{38}$$

$$P(X=0) = \frac{20}{38}$$

What does this mean?

Over the long run, this price makes wins and losses tend to cancel out over the long run.

play 1 times, \$2.

\$0.947 / game.

we know, pay \$1 to play the game

expected return - \$ = 0.947 - 1 = -0.053.

over the long run, player lose a little bit more than 5 cents per game.

For every 2 random variables  $X, Y$ ,

$$E(X+Y) = E(X) + E(Y) \quad (\text{Not necessarily independent})$$

In general,  $E(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n E(X_i)$

E.g. Let  $Y$  be the sum of points in  $n$  tosses of a die. Find  $E(Y)$

Sol:  $E(Y) = ?$

Let  $X_i$  - the #produced in  $i^{th}$  roll,  $i=1, 2, \dots, n$

$$Y = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$$

$$E(Y) = E(X_1) + E(X_2) + \dots + E(X_n) = 3.5n$$

E.g. A construction company submits bids for 2 projects. Listed have are the profit and the probability of winning each project.

Assume that the outcomes of the 2 bids are independent.

Project	Profit	Probability of bid
A	\$175,000	.5
B	\$220,000	.65

Let  $x$  denote the company's total profit out of the 2 contracts. Find  $E(x)$ , the expected total profit.

Sol:  $x_1$ : the profit out of project A

$x_2$ : ----- B.

$$x = x_1 + x_2$$

$$E(x) = E(x_1) + E(x_2)$$

$$= 175000 \times 0.5 + 220000 \times 0.65 = 220,500$$

Method II. (obtain prob distribution of  $x$ )

4 outcomes of bidding 2 projects.

Probability:

$$W_A W_B \quad 175000 + 222000 = \$395000 \quad P(x=395000) = 0.5 \times 0.65 = 0.325$$

$$W_A^C W_B^B \quad 175000 \quad 0 \quad 175000 \quad 0.5 \times 0.35 = 0.175$$

$$W_A^C W_B \quad 0 \quad 222000 \quad 222000 \quad 0.5 \times 0.65 = 0.325$$

$$W_A^B W_B^C \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0.5 \times 0.35 = 0.175$$

$$E(x) = 0.325 \times 395000 + 0.175 \times 175000 + 0.325 \times 222000 + 0.175 \times 0$$

$$= 220,500$$

Condition to use addition rule:

If  $x$  is possible to be written as sum of random variables and the expectations of these random variables are easy to calculate.

E.g. A trip insurance policy pay \$3000 to the customer in case of a loss due to theft or damage on a five-day trip. If the risk of such a loss is 1 in 200, what is the expected cost, per customer, to cover?

Sol:  $x$  - cost / payment of the insurance company to customers

$$x \quad p(x)$$

$$x \rightarrow \$3000 \quad \frac{1}{200}$$

$$0 \quad \frac{199}{200}$$

$$E(x) = 3000 \times \frac{1}{200} + 0 \times \frac{199}{200} = 15$$

This is the fair premium the insurance company choose.

↳ over the long run, the insurance company neither make a profit nor lose money.

In practice, the insurance company will set a premium higher than \$E(x)

### Indicator of an event.

For any events  $A$ , the indicator of  $A$ ,

$$I_A = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A \text{ occurs} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Properties:

①  $I_A$  is a random variable

$$P(I_A = 1) = P(A), \quad P(I_A = 0) = 1 - P(A).$$

② The expectation of  $I_A$ ,  $E(I_A) = P(A)$ .

$$\hookrightarrow = 1 \cdot P(A) + 0 \cdot (1 - P(A))$$

If  $x$  is the number of events that occur among some collection of events  $A_1, A_2, \dots$ .  
And the possible value of  $x$  are  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ .

The random variable  $X$  is called a countary variable.

The expectation of  $X$   $E(X) = P(A_1) + \dots + P(A_n)$ .

Reason:  $X = \# \text{ events occur}$ .

$$I_{A_1}, I_{A_2}, \dots, I_{A_n}$$

If  $A_1, A_3$  occur, the others do not occur.

$$X=2 \quad I_{A_1} \quad I_{A_3}$$

$$1+0+1+\dots+0=2.$$

$$E(X) = E(A_n) + E(I_{A_2}) + \dots + E(I_{A_n}) = P(A_1) + \dots + P(A_n).$$

E.g. Two bags and three girls meet in a row, when a boy is next to a girl, we will call this a meeting point. When 5 kids are seated there may be only one meeting point. (e.g. BBGGBG), or maybe as many as 4 meeting points. (GBGBGB). Suppose the 5 kids are randomly seated, what is the expected number of meeting points?

Sol.  $X$  - denotes the # meeting points.

$E(X) = ?$  find the prob distribution of  $X$ .

5 kids: possible # arrangement of 5 kids (2 boys)  $= \binom{5}{2} = \frac{5!}{2!3!} = 10$ .

1 meeting point: BBGGG, GGGBB.  $\times 2$

2 : BGGGB, BBBGG, GGBBG.  $\times 3$

3 : BGBGG, BGGBG, GBGGB, GGBGB.  $\times 4$

4 : GBGBG  $\times 1$

$$E(X) = E(X_1) + E(X_2) + E(X_3) + E(X_4)$$

$$= 1 \times \frac{1}{10} + 2 \times \frac{3}{10} + 3 \times \frac{4}{10} + 4 \times \frac{1}{10} = \frac{24}{10} = \boxed{2.4}$$

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Recall:  $E(x) = P(A_1) + P(A_2) + \dots + P(A_n)$

if  $x$  - the # events occur among  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ .

E.g. 5 kids in a row. 2 boy 3 girls.

$X$  - # of meeting points.

of 200 boys, 300 girls, what is  $E(x)$ .

$\binom{500}{200}$  # possible outcomes.  $\rightarrow$  hard to find probability distribution.

Use method of indicator.

In general, suppose  $b$  boys and  $g$  girls are seated in a row.  $E(x) = ?$

1 2  $\dots$   $g+b$ .

Define  $A_1$ : the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> are of different genders.

$A_2$ : the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  $\dots$

$A_i$ : the  $i^{\text{th}}$  and  $(i+1)^{\text{th}}$   $\dots$   $i=1, 2, \dots, g+b-1$

# meeting points = # event occur among  $\{A_1, \dots, A_{g+b-1}\}$ .

$$X = I_{A_1} + I_{A_2} + \dots + I_{A_{g+b-1}}$$

$$E(x) = P(A_1) + P(A_2) + \dots + P(A_{g+b-1})$$

$$\text{How to find } P(A_i) = \frac{\binom{2}{1} \binom{g+b-2}{b-1}}{\binom{g+b}{b}}$$

$$= \frac{2 \times (g+b-2)(g+b-3) \dots (g) \times (b)(b-1) \dots (1)}{(g+b)(g+b-1) \dots ((g+1) \times (b-1)(b-2) \dots 1)}$$

$$E(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{g+b-1} P(A_i) = (g+b-1) \frac{2bg}{(g+b)(g+b-1)}$$

$$= \frac{2bg}{g+b}$$

$$200 \text{ boys}, 300 \text{ girls} \quad E(X) = \frac{200 \times 300 \times 2}{200+300} = 240.$$

Condition to use methods of indicators to find  $E(x)$

- $P(x=x)$  are known but it makes  $E(x) = \sum x p(x)$  too complex to simplify or  $p(x=x)$  is hard to find
- $x$  can be represented by a "sum of indicators"
- or  $x$  is easy to be interpreted as # events occur among  $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$

E.g. Suppose in the DNA sequence of length  $N$ , each position is randomly selected as T, C, G, A. Let  $x$  be the number of matches with these consecutive T's or three consecutive G's. Find  $E(x)$ .

Sol.  $X$ : # of TT's or GG's.

  
N

possible three consecutive position :  $N-2$ .

Def.  $A_i$  : the  $i^{th}$  position and next two position are three T's or G's.

for  $i=1, 2, \dots, N-2$ .

$$P(A_i) = 2 \times \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{32}.$$

$X$  : # of events that occur among  $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{N-2}\}$ .

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{N-2} P(A_i) = \frac{N-2}{32}$$

Expectation of Binomial  $(n, p) = np$ .  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$

$$\text{Proof: i)} E(X) = \sum_{x=0}^n x p(x) = \sum_{x=0}^n x \cdot \binom{n}{x} p^x \cdot q^{n-x} = np.$$

ii) (using methods of indicators).

$n$  trials.

$X$  - # successes among  $n$  trials

Define:  $(A_i)$   $i^{\text{th}}$  trial is a success.  $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ .

$$P(A_i) = p.$$

$X$  - # events occur among  $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ .

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i) = np.$$

Tail-Sum formula for expectation of a counting random variables  
 $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ .

For a r.v.  $X$  with possible values  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

$$E(X) = \sum_{j=1}^n P(X \geq j)$$

$$\text{Proof: i) } E(X) = \sum_{j=0}^n j \cdot P(X=j)$$

$$= 0 \cdot P(X=0) + 1 \cdot P(X=1) + \dots + n \cdot P(X=n).$$

$$= p_1 + 2p_2 + \dots + np_n.$$

$$= p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n \rightarrow = P(X \geq 1).$$

$$+ p_2 + p_3 + \dots + p_n$$

$$+ \dots + p_n$$

$$= P(X \geq 1) + \dots + P(X \geq n) = \sum_{j=1}^n P(X \geq j).$$

ii)  $X$  - counting variable  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ .

Define:  $A_j = \{X \geq j\}, j \geq 1, \dots, n$ .

$X$  - # events occur among  $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ .

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n P(X \geq j)$$

E.g. Suppose 4 dice are rolled, Let  $m$  be the minimum of 4 numbers rolled.

Find  $E(m)$

Sol.  $= b^4$  possible outcome.

$P(m=1)$  possible value : 1 to 6.

$$P(m=1) = \frac{4}{b^4}$$

Tail prob  $P(M \geq j) = ?$

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$$E(M) = \sum_{j=1}^b P(M \geq j)$$

tail sum formula.

$$\begin{aligned} P(M \geq j) &= P(X_1 \geq j) P(X_2 \geq j) P(X_3 \geq j) P(X_4 \geq j) \\ &= \left(\frac{b-j+1}{b}\right)^4, \quad j=1, \dots, b \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(M) &= \sum_{j=1}^b \left(\frac{b-j+1}{b}\right)^4 = \left(\frac{b}{b}\right)^4 + \left(\frac{5}{b}\right)^4 + \left(\frac{4}{b}\right)^4 + \dots + \left(\frac{1}{b}\right)^4 \\ &\approx 1.755. \end{aligned}$$

E.g. Let  $s$  be the sum of the largest three numbers among the four numbers in above example, Find  $E(s)$ .

Sol:  $E(T) = 4 \times E(X) = 4 \times 3.5 = 14.$

$$E(s) = 14 - 1 \cdot 755 = 12.245.$$

E.g. if  $x$  be # of heads in 3 tosses a coin.  
Find  $E(x^2)$

Sol: Is  $x^2$  a random variable?

value of $x$	0	1	2	3
$x^2$	0	1	4	9
possibility	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$

$$E(x^2) = 0 \times \frac{1}{8} + 1 \times \frac{3}{8} + 4 \times \frac{3}{8} + 9 \times \frac{1}{8} = 3.$$

The expectation of a function of r.r.  $x$   $g(x)$  is

$$E(g(x)) = \mu g(x) = \sum_{all x} g(x) P(x=x)$$

Typically  $E(g(x)) \neq g(E(x))$

In particular, for  $g(x) = x^k$ ,  $k=1, 2, \dots$  then

$$E(x^k) = \sum_{all x} x^k p(x=x)$$

$E(x^k) \neq (E(x))^k$  for  $k=2, 3, \dots$

If  $g(x) = ax+b$ , where  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ , then

$$E(ax+b) = a(E(x)) + b.$$

$$E(g(x)) = g(E(x)).$$

$$\text{if } b=0 \quad E(ax) = a E(x).$$

E.g. A contestant on a quiz show is presented with 2 questions

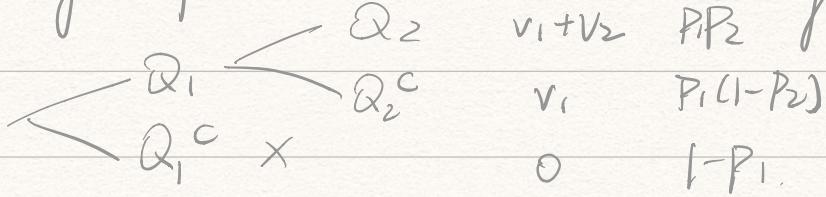
$Q_1$  and  $Q_2$ . The probability that he answers  $Q_i$  correctly is  $p_i$ .

and he will receive  $\$V_i$  if answer is correct.

If he decides to try  $Q_1$  first. He will be allowed to go on to the other question only if he answers  $Q_1$  correctly, otherwise the game is over.

Which game should he answer first to max his  $E(x)$ .

Sol. try Q<sub>1</sub> first. Let  $x_i$  be the winnings.



$$E(X_1) = (V_L + V_S) P_1 P_2 + V_S P_1 (1 - P_2) = V_S P_1 P_2 + V_S P_1$$

$$T(x_2) = (V_{12} + V_1) P_2 P_1 + V_2 P_2 (1 - P_1) = V_1 P_1 P_2 + V_2 P_2.$$

If  $f(x_1) \geq f(x_2)$  try  $\mathcal{Q}_1$  first, otherwise try  $\mathcal{Q}_2$ .

Eg. A and B play the following game: A writes down either number 1 or number 2 and B must guess which one. If B guesses correctly, B will receive \$1. Otherwise B will pay  $\$ \frac{3}{4}$  to A.

Suppose B randomizes his decision by guessing 1 with probability  $P$  and 2 with probability  $(1-P)$ .

a) Determine B's expected gain if A has written down #1.

b) - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - #2.

c) what value of  $p$  maximize the minimum possible value of B's expected gain? what is the value.

Sol. a) Let  $x_i$ : the gain of  $\beta$  if  $A$  write down # $i$ .

if B guesses #1:  $x_1 = \$1$  (P)

$$\#2 : x_1 = \frac{3}{4} - p \quad (1-p),$$

$$E(X_1) = P - \frac{3}{4} + \frac{2}{4}P = \frac{7}{4}P - \frac{3}{4}$$

$$b). E(x_2) = 1(-p) + (-\frac{3}{4}p) = -\frac{7}{4}p.$$

c) when  $E(X_1) = E(X_2)$

$$\frac{3}{4}P - \frac{3}{4} = 1 - \frac{3}{4}P \quad P = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$E(X_1) = E(X_2) = \frac{1}{8}$$

### Independent random variables.

$X, Y$  are independent, intuitively  $P(X=x)$  for some values of  $X$  is not affected by  $P(X=x|Y=y)$ .

Def. Random Variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent if.

$$P(X=x, Y=y) = P(X=x) P(Y=y) \quad \forall x, y.$$

$$P(X \in A, Y \in B) = P(X \in A) P(Y \in B) \quad \forall A, B.$$

Multiplication rule for expectation.

If  $X, Y$  are independent, then

$$E(XY) = E(X) E(Y).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof: } E(XY) &= \sum_x \sum_y (xy) P(X=x, Y=y) \\ &= \sum_x x P(X=x) \sum_y y P(Y=y) \\ &= E(X) E(Y). \end{aligned}$$

E.g. Roll 2 dice, what is the expectation of product of 2 points.

$$E(X) = E(X_1 X_2)$$

$$= 3.5^2$$