



Exercise Solution

Here's the probability distribution of a random variable X :

x	1	2	3	4	5
$P(X = x)$	0.1	0.25	0.35	0.2	0.1

1. What's the value of $E(X)$?

$$E(X) = \sum xP(X=x)$$

$$= 1 \times 0.1 + 2 \times 0.25 + 3 \times 0.35 + 4 \times 0.2 + 5 \times 0.1$$

$$= 0.1 + 0.5 + 1.05 + 0.8 + 0.5$$

$$= 2.95$$

Multiply each value by the probability of it occurring, and take the sum of all the results.

2. What's the value of $\text{Var}(X)$?

$$\text{Var}(X)^2 = E(X - \mu)^2$$

$$= \sum (x - \mu)^2 P(X=x)$$

$$= (1-2.95)^2 \times 0.1 + (2-2.95)^2 \times 0.25 + (3-2.95)^2 \times 0.35 + (4-2.95)^2 \times 0.2 + (5-2.95)^2 \times 0.1$$

$$= (-1.95)^2 \times 0.1 + (-0.95)^2 \times 0.25 + (0.05)^2 \times 0.35 + (1.05)^2 \times 0.2 + (2.05)^2 \times 0.1$$

$$= 3.8025 \times 0.1 + 0.9025 \times 0.25 + 0.0025 \times 0.35 + 1.1025 \times 0.2 + 4.2025 \times 0.1$$

$$= 0.38025 + 0.225625 + 0.000875 + 0.2205 + 0.42025$$

$$= 1.2475$$

Go through each value x and work out what $(x - \mu)^2$ is. Then multiply it by the probability of getting x . Once you've done that, add the whole lot up together.