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Covariance  
Video

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- Hello again everyone.  
Today we're going to talk about covariance,  
and the reason we're interested in  
covariance  
is because we ended the last presentation  
asking  
whether expectation multiply.  
So the expected value of X times Y is the  
summation  
of all possible values of X and Y of the  
product

▶ 9:13 / 0:00

▶ 1.0x

🔊

🔗

CC

🗣️

[7.9 Covariance](#)

POLL  
Which of the following holds for all random variables?

RESULTS

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| <input type="radio"/> Independent implies uncorrelated            | 44% |
| <input type="radio"/> Both  | 23% |
| <input type="radio"/> Neither                                     | 19% |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Uncorrelated implies independent | 14% |

Submit

Results gathered from 192 respondents.

FEEDBACK  
Independent implies uncorrelated.

1  
0 points possible (ungraded)  
Which of the following hold for all random variables?

☒ Uncorrelated  $\Rightarrow$  independent

☒ Independent  $\Rightarrow$  uncorrelated ✓



### Explanation

- False. Let random variable  $X$  have the distribution  $P(X = -1) = P(X = 1) = \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $P(X = 0) = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $Y = X^2$ . We can solve that  $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y) = 0$  while  $X$  and  $Y$  are not independent.

- True. If two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then

$$E(XY) = \sum_x \sum_y xy P(X = x, Y = y) = \sum_x \sum_y xy P(X = x) P(Y = y) = \sum_x x P(X = x) \sum_y y P(Y = y) = E(X) E(Y)$$

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You have used 2 of 2 attempts

**i** Answers are displayed within the problem

2

0 points possible (ungraded)

Which of the following hold for all uncorrelated random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ ?

☒  $E[XY] = E[X]E[Y]$

☒  $V(X + Y) = V(X) + V(Y)$

☒  $\rho_{X,Y} = 0$



Submit

You have used 2 of 3 attempts

✓ Correct

3

0 points possible (ungraded)

Which of the following hold for all random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ ?

☐  $\text{Var}(2X) = 4\text{Var}(X)$  ✓

☐  $\text{Var}(X + 10) = \text{Var}(X)$  ✓

☒  $\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y)$

☐  $\text{Var}(3X + 3Y) = 9\text{Var}(X + Y)$  ✓



### Answer

Incorrect:

Video: Variance

Video: Variance

Video: Variance

Video: Variance

### Explanation

- True.
- True.
- False. It only holds when  $X$  and  $Y$  are uncorrelated.
- True.



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You have used 4 of 4 attempts

**i** Answers are displayed within the problem

4

0 points possible (ungraded)

The correlation coefficient between  $X$  and  $-X$  is 0.☒ True ☐ False **Answer**

Incorrect: Video: Covariance

**Explanation**

$$\rho_{X,-X} = -1.$$

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You have used 1 of 1 attempt

**i** Answers are displayed within the problem

5

0 points possible (ungraded)

The correlation coefficient  $\rho_{XY}$  of two random variables:☐ always lies between 0 and 1,☒ always lies between -1 and 1. 

Submit

You have used 1 of 2 attempts

**i** Answers are displayed within the problem

6

2.0/3.0 points (graded)

For the outcomes  $X$  and  $Y$  of two fair die rolls, find:

- $E(X + Y)$ ,

- $E(X \cdot Y)$ ,

12.25



12.25

- $\text{Var}(X + Y)$ .

5.82



5.82

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You have used 3 of 4 attempts

7

0 points possible (ungraded)

Find  $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$  when  $X$  is distributed uniformly over  $\{-1, 1\}$  and  $Y = \begin{cases} X \text{ w.p. } 3/4, \\ -X \text{ w.p. } 1/4. \end{cases}$

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You have used 0 of 4 attempts

8

0 points possible (ungraded)

Let  $N$  be the number of heads, and  $L$  the length of the longest consecutive string of heads, in three coin flips. For example, if the three coins turn  $h, t, h$ , then  $N = 2$  and  $L = 1$ , while if the coins turn  $t, h, h$ , then  $N = L = 2$ . Find:

- $\text{Cov}(N, L)$ .

1

✗ Answer: 11/16

1

**Explanation**

Since  $N$  is the number of flips in 3 coin flips,  $E(N) = 1.5$ . For the rest, we can create a table:

$$P(N = n, L = l) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{8} & n = 3, l = 3, \\ \frac{2}{8} & n = 2, l = 2, \\ \frac{1}{8} & n = 2, l = 1, \\ \frac{3}{8} & n = 1, l = 1, \\ \frac{1}{8} & n = 0, l = 0. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Hence } E(L) = 3 \cdot \frac{1}{8} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{4} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{11}{8}$$

$$\text{Also, } E(NL) = 9 \cdot \frac{1}{8} + 4 \cdot \frac{2}{8} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{8} + 1 \cdot \frac{3}{8} = \frac{22}{8}$$

$$\text{It follows that } \text{Cov}(N, L) = E(NL) - E(N) \cdot E(L) = \frac{22}{8} - \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{11}{8} = \frac{11}{16}$$

- $\rho_{N,L}$ .

5

✗ Answer: 0.92

5

**Explanation**

$$V(N) = \frac{3}{4}, V(L) = \frac{47}{64}, \rho_{N,L} = \frac{\text{Cov}(N,L)}{\sqrt{V(N)V(L)}} = 0.92$$

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You have used 4 of 4 attempts

**i** Answers are displayed within the problem

9

2.0/4.0 points (graded)

Flip a coin thrice (3 times), and let  $X$  and  $Y$  denote the number of heads in the first two flips, and in the last two flips, respectively. For example, if the coins turn up h,h,t then  $X = 2$  and  $Y = 1$ , while if they turn up t,t,h then  $X = 0$  and  $Y = 1$ . Find:

- $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$ ,

0.25

✓ Answer: 1/4

0.25

**Explanation**

$X$  and  $Y$  are the number of heads in two coin flips, hence  $E(X) = E(Y) = 1$ .  $XY$  is 0 for ttt, tth, and htt; is 1 for hth and tht; is 2 for hht and thh; and 4 for hhh. Hence  $E(XY) = \frac{3}{8} \cdot 0 + \frac{2}{8} \cdot 1 + \frac{2}{8} \cdot 2 + \frac{1}{8} \cdot 4 = \frac{5}{4}$  and

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E(XY) - E(X) \cdot E(Y) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- $\rho_{X,Y}$ .

0.71

✗ Answer: 1/2

0.71

**Explanation**

Since  $X$  is the number of heads in two coin flips,  $E(X) = 1$ , and  $E(X^2) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot 0^2 + \frac{2}{4} \cdot 1^2 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 2^2 = 1.5$ . Hence

$$V(X) = 1.5 - 1 = 0.5 \text{ and similarly } V(Y) = 0.5. \text{ It follows that } \rho_{X,Y} = \frac{\text{Cov}(X,Y)}{\sigma_X \cdot \sigma_Y} = \frac{1/4}{1/2} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

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You have used 4 of 4 attempts

**i** Answers are displayed within the problem

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