

Theorem 1. *Let N be a random variable defined on the non-negative integers, and let X_i be a sequence of random variables independent of N and $E[X_i] = E[X]$ for all i . Then,*

$$E \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right] = E[N]E[X].$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} E \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right] &= E \left[E \left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \mid N = n \right] \right] \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E \left[\sum_{j=1}^n X_j \right] \cdot \Pr[N = n] \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nE[X] \cdot \Pr[N = n] \\ &= E[X] \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n\Pr[N = n] \\ &= E[N]E[X] \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 2. *Let N be a random variable defined on the non-negative integers, and let X_i be a sequence of random variables independent of N and $\text{Var}[X_i]$ same for all i . Then,*

$$\text{Var} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right] = E[N]\text{Var}[X] + E[X]^2\text{Var}[N]$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right] &= \text{E} \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right)^2 \right] - \text{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right]^2 \\
&= \text{E} \left[\text{E} \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right)^2 \mid N = n \right] \right] - \text{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right]^2 \\
&= \text{E} \left[\text{E} \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right)^2 \right] \right] - \text{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right]^2 \\
&= \text{E} \left[\text{Var} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right] + \text{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right]^2 \right] - \text{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right]^2 \\
&= \text{E} \left[n \text{Var}[X_i] + (n \text{E}[X])^2 \right] - \text{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right]^2 \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (n \text{Var}[X_i] + (n \text{E}[X])^2) \text{Pr}[N = n] - \text{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right]^2 \\
&= \text{E}[N] \text{Var}[X] + \text{E}[N^2] \text{E}[X]^2 - \text{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right]^2 \\
&= \text{E}[N] \text{Var}[X] + \text{E}[N^2] \text{E}[X]^2 - (\text{E}[N] \text{E}[X])^2 \\
&= \text{E}[N] \text{Var}[X] + \text{E}[X]^2 (\text{E}[N^2] - \text{E}[N]^2) \\
&= \text{E}[N] \text{Var}[X] + \text{E}[X]^2 \text{Var}[N]
\end{aligned}$$

□