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1   Course: Statistical_Inference
2   Lesson: Expectations
3
4   - Class: text
5   Output: "Expectations. (Slides for this and other Data Science courses may be found
6   at github https://github.com/DataScienceSpecialization/courses/. If you care to use
7   them, they must be downloaded as a zip file and viewed locally. This lesson
8   corresponds to 06_Statistical_Inference/04_Expectations.)"
9
10  - Class: text
11  Output: In this lesson, as you might expect, we'll discuss expected values. Expected
12  values of what, exactly?
13
14  - Class: text
15  Output: The expected value of a random variable  $X$ ,  $E(X)$ , is a measure of its central
16  tendency. For a discrete random variable  $X$  with PMF  $p(x)$ ,  $E(X)$  is defined as a sum,
17  over all possible values  $x$ , of the quantity  $x \cdot p(x)$ .  $E(X)$  represents the center of
18  mass of a collection of locations and weights,  $\{x, p(x)\}$ .
19
20  - Class: text
21  Output: Another term for expected value is mean. Recall your high school definition
22  of arithmetic mean (or average) as the sum of a bunch of numbers divided by the
23  number of numbers you added together. This is consistent with the formal definition
24  of  $E(X)$  if all the numbers are equally weighted.
25
26  - Class: cmd_question
27  Output: Consider the random variable  $X$  representing a roll of a fair dice. By 'fair'
28  we mean all the sides are equally likely to appear. What is the expected value of  $X$ ?
29  CorrectAnswer: 3.5
30  AnswerTests: equiv_val(3.5)
31  Hint: Add the numbers from 1 to 6 and divide by 6.
32
33  - Class: cmd_question
34  Output: We've defined a function for you, expect_dice, which takes a PMF as an input.
35  For our purposes, the PMF is a 6-long array of fractions. The  $i$ -th entry in the array
36  represents the probability of  $i$  being the outcome of a dice roll. Look at the
37  function expect_dice now.
38  CorrectAnswer: expect_dice
39  AnswerTests: omnittest(correctExpr='expect_dice')
40  Hint: Type 'expect_dice' at the command prompt.
41
42  - Class: cmd_question
43  Output: We've also defined PMFs for three dice, dice_fair, dice_high and dice_low.
44  The last two are loaded, that is, not fair. Look at dice_high now.
45  CorrectAnswer: dice_high
46  AnswerTests: omnittest(correctExpr='dice_high')
47  Hint: Type 'dice_high' at the command prompt.
48
49  - Class: cmd_question
50  Output: Using the function expect_dice with dice_high as its argument, calculate the
51  expected value of a roll of dice_high.
52  CorrectAnswer: expect_dice(dice_high)
53  AnswerTests: omnittest(correctExpr='expect_dice(dice_high)')
54  Hint: Type 'expect_dice(dice_high)' at the command prompt.
55
56  - Class: cmd_question
57  Output: See how the expected value of dice_high is higher than that of the fair dice.
58  Now calculate the expected value of a roll of dice_low.
59  CorrectAnswer: expect_dice(dice_low)
60  AnswerTests: omnittest(correctExpr='expect_dice(dice_low)')
61  Hint: Type 'expect_dice(dice_low)' at the command prompt.
62
63  - Class: text
64  Output: You can see the effect of loading the dice on the expectations of the rolls.
65  For high-loaded dice the expected value of a roll (on average) is 4.33 and for
66  low-loaded dice 2.67. We've stored these off for you in two variables, edh and edl.
67  We'll need them later.
68
69  - Class: text

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50 Output: One of the nice properties of the expected value operation is that it's
linear. This means that, if  $c$  is a constant, then  $E(cX) = c \cdot E(X)$ . Also, if  $X$  and  $Y$ 
are two random variables then  $E(X+Y) = E(X) + E(Y)$ . It follows that  $E(aX+bY) = aE(X) + bE(Y)$ .

51
52 - Class: cmd_question
53 Output: Suppose you were rolling our two loaded dice, dice_high and dice_low. You can
use this linearity property of expectation to compute the expected value of their
average. Let  $X_{hi}$  and  $X_{lo}$  represent the respective outcomes of the dice roll. The
expected value of the average is  $E((X_{hi} + X_{lo})/2)$  or  $.5 * (E(X_{hi}) + E(X_{lo}))$ .
Compute this now. Remember we stored the expected values in edh and edl.

54 CorrectAnswer: 3.5
55 AnswerTests: equiv_val(3.5)
56 Hint: Type '.5*(edh+edl)' at the command prompt.
57
58 - Class: mult_question
59 Output: Did you expect that?
60 AnswerChoices: Yes; No
61 CorrectAnswer: Yes
62 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctVal='Yes')
63 Hint: The dice were loaded in opposite ways so their average should be fair. No?
64
65 - Class: text
66 Output: For a continuous random variable  $X$ , the expected value is defined analogously
as it was for the discrete case. Instead of summing over discrete values, however,
the expectation integrates over a continuous function.
67
68 - Class: text
69 Output: It follows that for continuous random variables,  $E(X)$  is the area under the
function  $t \cdot f(t)$ , where  $f(t)$  is the PDF (probability density function) of  $X$ . This
definition borrows from the definition of center of mass of a continuous body.
70
71 - Class: figure
72 Output: Here's a figure from the slides. It shows the constant (1) PDF on the left
and the graph of  $t \cdot f(t)$  on the right.
73 Figure: plot1.R
74 FigureType: new
75
76 - Class: mult_question
77 Output: Knowing that the expected value is the area under the triangle,  $t \cdot f(t)$ , what
is the expected value of the random variable with this PDF?
78 AnswerChoices: 1.0; 2.0; .5; .25
79 CorrectAnswer: .5
80 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctVal='.5')
81 Hint: The area of the triangle is  $\text{base} \cdot \text{height} / 2$ .
82
83 - Class: figure
84 Output: For the purposes of illustration, here's another figure using a PDF from our
previous probability lesson. It shows the triangular PDF  $f(t)$  on the left and the
parabolic  $t \cdot f(t)$  on the right. The area under the parabola between 0 and 2 represents
the expected value of the random variable with this PDF.
85 Figure: plot2.R
86 FigureType: new
87
88 - Class: cmd_question
89 Output: To find the expected value of this random variable you need to integrate the
function  $t \cdot f(t)$ . Here  $f(t) = t/2$ , the diagonal line. (You might recall this from the
last probability lesson.) The function you're integrating over is therefore  $t^2/2$ .
We've defined a function myfunc for you representing this. You can use the R function
'integrate' with parameters myfunc, 0 (the lower bound), and 2 (the upper bound) to
find the expected value. Do this now.
90 CorrectAnswer: integrate(myfunc,0,2)
91 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctExpr='integrate(myfunc,0,2)')
92 Hint: Type 'integrate(myfunc,0,2)' at the command prompt.
93
94
95 - Class: text
96 Output: As all the examples have shown, expected values of distributions are useful
in characterizing them. The mean characterizes the central tendency of the
distribution. However, often populations are too big to measure, so we have to sample

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them and then we have to use sample means. That's okay because sample expected values estimate the population versions. We'll show this first with a very simple toy and then with some simple equations.

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97
98 - Class: cmd_question
99 Output: We've defined a small population of 5 numbers for you, spop. Look at it now.
100 CorrectAnswer: spop
101 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctExpr='spop')
102 Hint: Type 'spop' at the command prompt.
103
104 - Class: cmd_question
105 Output: The R function mean will give us the mean of spop. Do this now.
106 CorrectAnswer: mean(spop)
107 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctExpr='mean(spop)')
108 Hint: Type 'mean(spop)' at the command prompt.
109
110 - Class: cmd_question
111 Output: Suppose spop were much bigger and we couldn't measure its mean directly and
instead had to sample it with samples of size 2. There are 10 such samples, right?
We've stored this for you in a 10 x 2 matrix, allsam. Look at it now.
112 CorrectAnswer: allsam
113 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctExpr='allsam')
114 Hint: Type 'allsam' at the command prompt.
115
116 - Class: cmd_question
117 Output: Each of these 10 samples will have a mean, right? We can use the R function
apply to calculate the mean of each row of the matrix allsam. We simply call apply
with the arguments allsam, 1, and mean. The second argument, 1, tells 'apply' to
apply the third argument 'mean' to the rows of the matrix. Try this now.
118 CorrectAnswer: apply(allsam,1,mean)
119 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctExpr='apply(allsam,1,mean)')
120 Hint: Type 'apply(allsam,1,mean)' at the command prompt.
121
122 - Class: text
123 Output: You can see from the resulting vector that the sample means vary a lot, from
2.5 to 11.5, right? Not unexpectedly, the sample mean depends on the sample. However...
124
125 - Class: cmd_question
126 Output: ... if we take the expected value of these sample means we'll see something
amazing. We've stored the sample means in the array smean for you. Use the R
function mean on the array smean now.
127 CorrectAnswer: mean(smean)
128 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctExpr='mean(smean)')
129 Hint: Type 'mean(smean)' at the command prompt.
130
131 - Class: text
132 Output: Look familiar? The result is the same as the mean of the original population
spop. This is not because the example was specially cooked. It would work on any
population. The expected value or mean of the sample mean is the population mean.
What this means is that the sample mean is an unbiased estimator of the population
mean.
133
134 - Class: text
135 Output: Formally, an estimator  $e$  of some parameter  $v$  is unbiased if its expected
value equals  $v$ , i.e.,  $E(e)=v$ . We can show that the expected value of a sample mean
equals the population mean with some simple algebra.
136
137 - Class: text
138 Output: Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  be a collection of  $n$  samples from a population with
mean  $\mu$ . The mean of these is  $(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n)/n$ .
139
140 - Class: text
141 Output: What's the expected value of the mean? Recall that  $E(aX)=aE(X)$ , so  $E($ 
 $(X_1 + \dots + X_n)/n ) =$ 
142
143 - Class: text
144 Output:  $1/n * (E(X_1) + E(X_2) + \dots + E(X_n)) = (1/n)*n*\mu = \mu$ . Each  $E(X_i)$  equals
 $\mu$  since  $X_i$  is drawn from the population with mean  $\mu$ . We expect, on average, a
random  $X_i$  will equal  $\mu$ .
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145
146 - Class: text
147 Output: Now that was theory. We can also show this empirically with more simulations.
148
149
150 - Class: figure
151 Output: Here's another figure from the slides. It shows how a sample mean and the
mean of averages spike together. The two shaded distributions come from the same
data. The blue portion represents the density function of randomly generated standard
normal data, 100000 samples. The pink portion represents the density function of
10000 averages, each of 10 random normals. (The original data was stored in a 10000 x
10 array and the average of each row was taken to generate the pink data.)
152 Figure: normalMeans.R
153 FigureType: new
154
155 - Class: figure
156 Output: Here's another figure from the slides. Rolling a single die 10000 times
yields the first figure. Each of the 6 possible outcomes appears with about the same
frequency. The second figure is the histogram of outcomes of the average of rolling
two dice. Similarly, the third figure is the histogram of averages of rolling three
dice, and the fourth four dice. As we showed previously, the center or mean of the
original distribution is 3.5 and that's exactly where all the panels are centered.
157 Figure: diceRolls.R
158 FigureType: new
159
160 - Class: text
161 Output: Let's recap. Expected values are properties of distributions. The average, or
mean, of random variables is itself a random variable and its associated distribution
itself has an expected value. The center of this distribution is the same as that of
the original distribution.
162
163 - Class: text
164 Output: Now let's review!
165
166 - Class: mult_question
167 Output: Expected values are properties of what?
168 AnswerChoices: demanding parents; distributions; fulcrums; variances
169 CorrectAnswer: distributions
170 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctVal='distributions')
171 Hint: What would you expect to have a center?
172
173 - Class: mult_question
174 Output: A population mean is a center of mass of what?
175 AnswerChoices: a family; a distribution; a population; a sample
176 CorrectAnswer: a population
177 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctVal='a population')
178 Hint: What word appears in the question?
179
180 - Class: mult_question
181 Output: A sample mean is a center of mass of what?
182 AnswerChoices: a family; a distribution; a population; observed data
183 CorrectAnswer: observed data
184 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctVal='observed data')
185 Hint: If you're sampling you need to observe data, right?
186
187 - Class: mult_question
188 Output: True or False? A population mean estimates a sample mean.
189 AnswerChoices: True; False
190 CorrectAnswer: False
191 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctVal='False')
192 Hint: We can only sample a population and calculate the sample mean.
193
194 - Class: mult_question
195 Output: True or False? A sample mean is unbiased.
196 AnswerChoices: True; False
197 CorrectAnswer: True
198 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctVal='True')
199 Hint: The sample mean is the population mean, so by definition it's unbiased.
200

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201 - Class: mult_question
202 Output: True or False? The more data that goes into the sample mean, the more
      concentrated its density / mass function is around the population mean.
203 AnswerChoices: True; False
204 CorrectAnswer: True
205 AnswerTests: omnitest(correctVal='True')
206 Hint: It's better to have more data than less, right?
207
208 - Class: text
209 Output: Congrats! You've concluded this lesson on expectations. We hope it met yours.
210
211 - Class: mult_question
212 Output: "Would you like to receive credit for completing this course on
213           Coursera.org?"
214 CorrectAnswer: NULL
215 AnswerChoices: Yes;No
216 AnswerTests: coursera_on_demand()
217 Hint: ""
218
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