

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS**

**MA215 Probability Theory**

1. The covariance between  $X$  and  $Y$ , denoted by  $Cov(X, Y)$ , is defined by

$$Cov(X, Y) = E[(X - E(X))(Y - E(Y))].$$

Show that

$$Cov(X, Y) = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y].$$

2. Let  $X$  be a discrete random variable with p.m.f as

$$P\{X = 0\} = P\{X = 1\} = P\{X = -1\} = \frac{1}{3}.$$

Define

$$Y = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } X \neq 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } X = 0. \end{cases}$$

- (i) Show that  $Cov(X, Y) = 0$ .
  - (ii) Write down the joint p.m.f of  $X$  and  $Y$ , and show that  $X$  and  $Y$  are not independent.
3. Show that the following conclusions are true:
- (i)  $Cov(X, Y) = Cov(Y, X)$ ;
  - (ii)  $Cov(X, X) = Var(X)$ ;
  - (iii)  $Cov(aX, Y) = aCov(X, Y)$ , where  $a$  is a constant;
  - (iv)  $Cov(\sum_{i=1}^m X_i, \sum_{j=1}^n Y_j) = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n Cov(X_i, Y_j)$ ;
  - (v) If  $X$  is a random variable and  $C$  is a constant, then  $Cov(X, C) = 0$ .
  - (vi) Show that the following statements are true:

$$Var(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n Var(X_i) + \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} Cov(X_i, X_j),$$

or, equivalently,

$$Var(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n Var(X_i) + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} Cov(X_i, X_j).$$

Further show that if  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are pairwise independent (i.e.  $X_i$  and  $X_j$  are independent for  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq n$ ), then we have

$$Var(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n Var(X_i).$$

4. Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  be independent and identically distributed random variables having common (mean) expectation  $\mu$  and common variance  $\sigma^2$ . Let  $\bar{X}$  and  $S^2$  be defined as follows.

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i.$$

$$S^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2.$$

The two random variables  $\bar{X}$  and  $\frac{S^2}{n-1}$  are called the sample mean and sample variance, respectively. Find

- (i)  $E[\bar{X}]$ ;
- (ii)  $Var(\bar{X})$ ;
- (iii)  $E[\frac{S^2}{n-1}]$ .

5. Let  $I_A$  and  $I_B$  be the indicator variables for the events  $A$  and  $B$ . That is,

$$I_A(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \omega \in A, \\ 0 & \omega \notin A. \end{cases}$$

$$I_B(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \omega \in B, \\ 0 & \omega \notin B. \end{cases}$$

Show that

- (i)

$$\begin{aligned} E[I_A] &= P(A); \\ E[I_B] &= P(B); \\ E[I_A I_B] &= P(AB). \end{aligned}$$

- (ii)

$$Cov(I_A, I_B) = P(AB) - P(A)P(B).$$

6. Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  be independent and identically distributed random variables having common variance  $\sigma^2$ . Show that for any fixed  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ),

$$Cov(X_i - \bar{X}, \bar{X}) = 0,$$

where  $\bar{X}$  is the sample mean (i.e.  $\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ ).

1. 设 $X, Y$ 是互相独立的随机变量, 且有 $E(X) = 3, E(Y) = 1, D(X) = 4, D(Y) = 9$ . 令 $Z = 5X - 2Y + 15$ , 求 $E(Z)$ 和 $D(Z)$ .

2. 设随机变量 $X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4$ 互相独立, 且有 $E(X_i) = 2i, D(X_i) = 5 - i$ , 其中 $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ . 令 $Z = 2X_1 - X_2 + 3X_3 - \frac{1}{2}X_4$ , 求 $E(Z)$ 和 $D(Z)$ .

设随机变量 $X$ 的概率密度为 $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-|x|}, -\infty < x < +\infty$ ,

(1) 求出 $E(X), D(X)$ .

(2)  $X$ 与 $|X|$ 是否独立? 说明理由.

(3)  $X$ 与 $|X|$ 是否相关? 说明理由.

1. 设随机变量 $(X, Y)$ 的概率密度为

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{8}(x + y), & 0 \leq x \leq 2, 0 \leq y \leq 2, \\ 0, & \text{其他.} \end{cases}$$

求 $E(X), E(Y), Cov(X, Y), \rho_{XY}, D(X + Y)$ .

2. 设随机变量 $X$ 和 $Y$ 独立同分布于 $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . 令 $Z = \alpha X + \beta Y, W = \alpha X - \beta Y$ , 求 $Cov(Z, W), \rho_{ZW}$ .