Econ 432 Homework 2

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1 Part I: Review Questions

1.1 Problem 1

Suppose X is a uniform random variable over [0,1] (i.e., $X \sim U[0,1]$) and Y is a Bernoulli random variable with success probability Pr(Y=1)=0.5. Compute the following:

- Pr(X < 0.1) and Pr(Y < 0.1)
- E(X), Var(X), E(Y), and Var(Y)
- E(0.3X + 0.7Y) and E(0.5X + 0.5Y)
- $E(\alpha X + (1 \alpha)Y) \quad \forall \alpha \in [0, 1]$
- Now suppose X and Y represent (statistically independent) outcomes of two lotteries, and you would like to invest your \$100 to these lotteries. Assume you only care about the mean (preferably high) and variance (preferably low) of your investment. How do you want to distribute your \$100, i.e., how do you choose your $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ for $\alpha X + (1 \alpha)Y$? Justify your answer.

Solution

$$Pr(X < 0.1) = \frac{x - a}{b - a} = \frac{0.1}{1 - 0} = 0.1$$

$$Pr(Y < 0.1) = 0.5$$

Since Y is a Bernouli with a one-half probability of being 1 or 0. Hence, the probability of it being less than 1 is just the probability of it being 0 which is one-half.

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{2}(b+a) = \frac{1}{2}(1-0) = 0.5$$

$$E(X^2) = \frac{1}{b-a} \int_{[a,b]} X^2 dX = \frac{b^3 - a^3}{3(b-a)} = \frac{a^2 + ab + b^2}{3}$$

$$Var(X) = E(X^2) - E(X)^2 = \frac{a^2 + ab + b^2}{3} + \frac{a+b}{2} = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12} = \frac{1}{12}$$

$$E(Y) = \frac{1}{2}(1) + \frac{1}{2}(0) = 0.5$$

$$Var(Y) = E(Y^2) - E(Y)^2 = \left(\frac{1}{2}(1)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(0)^2\right) - 0.5^2 = 0.25$$

By linearity of expectation, we say

$$E(0.3X + 0.7Y) = 0.3E(X) + 0.7E(Y) = 0.3(0.5) + 0.7(0.5) = 0.5$$

$$E(0.5X + 0.5Y) = 0.5E(X) + 0.5E(Y) = 0.5(0.5) + 0.5(0.5) = 0.5$$

For all $\alpha \in [0,1]$ we say

$$E(\alpha X+(1-\alpha)Y)=\alpha E(X)+(1-\alpha)E(Y)=0.5(\alpha+1-\alpha)=0.5$$

Now we consider the two lotteries. In particular, we notice that both X and Y have the same expected value. This means that on average both lotteries will yield the same result; however, we notice that X has a much lower variance at just $\frac{1}{12}$ compared to Y which has a variance of 0.5. Hence, it is optimally preferable to put our entire \$100, i.e., $\alpha = 1$, into X. X has the same expected value (mean) as Y but a much lower variance.

1.2 Problem 2

Suppose X is a normally distributed random variable with mean 0 and variance 1 (i.e., standard normal). Compute the following:

- Pr(X < -1.96)
- Pr(X > 1.64)
- Pr(-0.5 < X < 0.5)
- 1% quantile, $q_{.01}$ and 99% quantile, $q_{.99}$
- 5% quantile, $q_{.05}$ and 95% quantile, $q_{.95}$

Solution

We will compute the above probabilities and quantiles using python's norm.cdf and norm.pdf functions.

```
from scipy.stats import norm, chi2, t, binom
# Pr(X<-1.96)
print('Pr(X<-1.96): ', norm.cdf(-1.96))
# Pr(X>1.64)
print('Pr(X>1.64): ', 1-norm.cdf(1.64))
# Pr(-0.5<X<0.5)
print('Pr(-0.5<X<0.5): ', norm.cdf(0.5)-norm.cdf(-0.5))
# q.01 and q.99
print('1% quantile: ', norm.ppf(0.01))
print('99% quantile: ', norm.ppf(0.99))
# q.05 and q.95</pre>
```

```
print('5% quantile: ', norm.ppf(0.05))
print('95% quantile: ', norm.ppf(0.95))

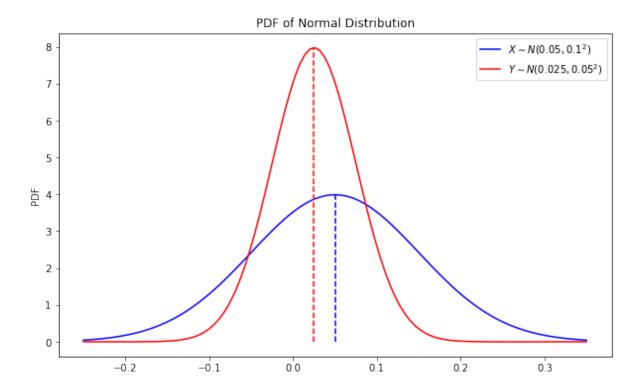
Pr(X<-1.96): 0.024997895148220435
Pr(X>1.64): 0.050502583474103746
Pr(-0.5<X<0.5): 0.38292492254802624
1% quantile: -2.3263478740408408
99% quantile: 2.3263478740408408
5% quantile: -1.6448536269514729
95% quantile: 1.6448536269514722</pre>
```

1.3 Problem 3

Let X denote the monthly return on Microsoft Stock and let Y denote the monthly return on starbucks stock. Assume that $X \sim N(0.05, (0.10)^2)$ and $Y \sim N(0.025, (0.05)^2)$.

1.3.1 Part (a)

Using a grid of values between -0.25 and 0.35, plot the normal curves for X and Y. Make sure that both normal curves are on the same plot.



1.3.2 Part (b)

Comment on the risk-return trade-offs for the two stocks. Which one do you want to invest?

Solution

The mean is a measure of the expected return of that particular stock. The variance acts as a measure of the risk of that stock. We want a stock that has a high expected return and a relatively low risk. From the above figure (as well as the values for mean and variance) we see that X has the higher return but it also is more risky. Whereas, Y has a lower expected return but is also less risky. Between these two stocks, I would prefer Y since it has smaller risk and my goal would be to minimze risk.

1.4 Problem 4

Let R denote the simple monthly return on Microsoft stock and let W_0 denote initial wealth to be invested over the month. Assume $R \sim N(0.05, (0.12)^2)$ and that $W_0 = \$100, 000$.

1.4.1 Part (a)

Determine the 1% and 5% value-at-risk (VaR) over the month on the investment. That is, determine the loss in investment value that may occur over the next month with 1% probability and with 5% probability.

Solution

 VaR_{α} can be thought of as the α quantile of the profit function. Namely, it is the value below which we expect our profit to be with probability α . In other words, the probability that the loss of the investment is larger than $-VaR_{\alpha}$ is at most α .

```
# Parameters
W0 = 100000
mu_R = 0.05
sigma_R = 0.12
alpha = [0.01, 0.05]
print('VaR (1% & 5%): ', np.round(norm.ppf(alpha, mu_R, sigma_R)*W0,2))
```

```
VaR (1% & 5%): [-22916.17 -14738.24]
```

Hemce, the loss in investment value that may occur over the next month is \$22,916.17 and \$14,738.24 with probabilities 1\$ and 5% respectively.

1.4.2 Part (b)

Determine the 1% and 5% expected shortfall (ES) over the month on the investment.

Solution

Expected Shortfall at some α can be computed as

$$\mathrm{ES}_{\alpha} = \alpha^{-1} \int_{0}^{\alpha} \mathrm{VaR}_{u} du$$

```
import scipy.integrate as integrate
# Parameters
alpha_4b1 = 0.01
alpha_4b2 = 0.05
# Functional Form
VaR = lambda x: norm.ppf(x,mu_R, sigma_R) * W0
# Integrals
es4b1 = integrate.quad(VaR, 0, alpha_4b1)[0] / alpha_4b1
es4b2 = integrate.quad(VaR, 0, alpha_4b2)[0] / alpha_4b2
print('Expected Shortfall (1%): ', np.round(es4b1,2))
print('Expected Shortfall (5%): ', np.round(es4b2,2))
Expected Shortfall (1%): -26982.57
Expected Shortfall (5%): -19752.55
```

As expected, the expecter shortfall values are larger (in absolute terms) than their VaR counterparts.

1.5 Problem 5

Let r denote the continuously compounded monthly return on Microsoft stock and let W_0 denote the initial wealth to be invested over the month. Assume that $r \sim iid\ N(0.05, (0.12)^2)$ and that $W_0 = \$100,000$.

1.5.1 Part (a)

Determine the 1% and 5% value-at-risk (VaR) over the month on the investment. That is, determine the loss in investment value that may occur over the next month with 1% probability and with 5% probability.

Solution

For cc returns, VaR at α is

$$\operatorname{VaR}_{\alpha} = W_0 \cdot (e^{q_{\alpha}^r} - 1)$$

where q_{α}^{r} is the α quantile function of the Normal Distribution for r.

```
# Parameters
W0 = 100000
mu_r = 0.05
sigma_r = 0.12
```

```
alpha = [0.01, 0.05]
print('VaR (1% & 5%): ', np.round(W0 * (np.exp(norm.ppf(alpha, mu_R, sigma_R))-1), 2))
VaR (1% & 5%): [-20480.01 -13703.61]
```

Hemce, the loss in investment value that may occur over the next month is \$20,480.01 and \$13,703.61 with probabilities 1\$ and 5% respectively.

1.5.2 Part (b)

Determine the 1% and 5% expected shortfall (ES) over the month on the investment.

Solution

Very similar to before but now with the new VaR function:

```
# Parameters
alpha_5b1 = 0.01
alpha_5b2 = 0.05
# Functional Form
VaR = lambda x: W0 * (np.exp(norm.ppf(x, mu_r, sigma_r)) - 1)
# Integrals
es5b1 = integrate.quad(VaR, 0, alpha_5b1)[0] / alpha_5b1
es5b2 = integrate.quad(VaR, 0, alpha_5b2)[0] / alpha_5b2
print('Expected Shortfall (1%): ', np.round(es5b1,2))
print('Expected Shortfall (5%): ', np.round(es5b2,2))
Expected Shortfall (1%): -23596.52
Expected Shortfall (5%): -17844.19
```

As expected, the expecter shortfall values are larger (in absolute terms) than their VaR counterparts.

1.5.3 Part (c)

Determine the 1% and 5% value-at-risk (VaR) over the year on the ivnestment.

Solution

In order to answer this queation, we must determine the normal distribution that applies to the 12 month period. Namely, we take advantage of the fact that E[12X] = 12E[X] and $\sigma' = \sqrt{12var(X)} = \sqrt{12}\sigma$.

```
# Yearly VaR
alpha = [0.01, 0.05]
VaR_yearly = W0 * (np.exp(norm.ppf(alpha, 12 * mu_r, np.sqrt(12) * sigma_r)) - 1)
print('Annual VaR (1% and 5%): ', np.round(VaR_yearly, 2))
```

Hemce, the loss in investment value that may occur over the next month is \$30,722.13 and \$8,034.14

1.5.4 Part (d)

Determine the 1% and 5% expected shortfall (ES) over the year on the investment.

Annual VaR (1% and 5%): [-30722.13 -8034.14]

with probabilities 1\$ and 5% respectively.

Solution

Same concept applies:

```
# Parameters
alpha_5d1 = 0.01
alpha_5d2 = 0.05
# Functional Form
VaR = lambda x: W0 * (np.exp(norm.ppf(x, 12*mu_r, np.sqrt(12)*sigma_r)) - 1)
# Integrals
es5d1 = integrate.quad(VaR, 0, alpha_5d1)[0] / alpha_5d1
es5d2 = integrate.quad(VaR, 0, alpha_5d2)[0] / alpha_5d2
print('Annual Expected Shortfall (1%): ', np.round(es5d1,2))
print('Annual Expected Shortfall (5%): ', np.round(es5d2,2))

Annual Expected Shortfall (5%): -39351.7
Annual Expected Shortfall (5%): -21836.39
```

As expected, the expecter shortfall values are larger (in absolute terms) than their VaR counterparts.

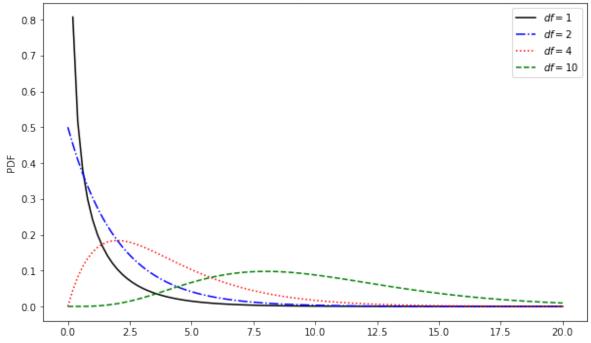
1.6 Problem 6

In this question, you will examine the chi-square and Student's t distributions.

1.6.1 Part (a)

On the same graph, plot the probability density functions of the chi squared distributed random variables with 1, 2, 4, and 10 degrees of freedom. Use different colors and line styles for each curve.

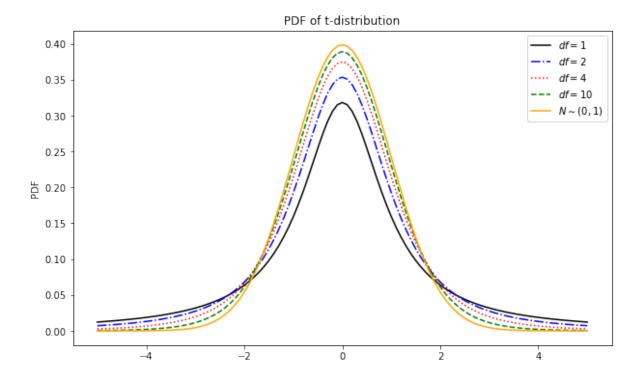




1.6.2 Part (b)

On the same graph, plot the probability density functions of Student's t distributed random variables with 1, 2, 4, and 10 degrees of freedom (d.f). Also include the probability density function for the standard normal distribution. Use different colors and line styles for each curve.

```
label = '$N \sim (0,1)$', color = 'orange')
plt.ylabel('PDF')
plt.legend()
plt.title('PDF of t-distribution')
plt.show()
```



1.6.3 Part (c)

Without doing any calculation, which one do you expect is greater (in absolute value) among the followings: - 5% VaR standard normal distribution - 5% VaR of t distribution with d.f. 2

Solution

I expect the VaR of the t distribution with 2 degrees of freedom to be larger in abolute terms since it has much thicker tails. Thus, the distribution is more likely to take on values at the extreme ends (namely for our purposes, the low end). Hence, the VaR will have to be greater to account for the higher probability of experiencing these tail events.

1.7 Problem 7

Consider the following joint distribution of X and Y:

		Y	
		-1	1
	- 1	1/8	0
X	0	1/8	1/8
	1	1/8	3/8
	2	0	1/8

1.7.1 Part (a)

Find the marginal distributions of X and Y. Using these distributions, compute E[X], Var(X), SD(X), E[Y], Var(Y), and SD(Y).

Solution

The marginal distributions are as follows:

$$\begin{split} f_X(X) &= Pr(X=x) = \sum_{y \in S_Y} f(x,y) \\ f_Y(Y) &= Pr(Y=y) = \sum_{x \in S_X} f(x,y) \end{split}$$

Hence, pulling the values from our table we get:

$$f_Y(Y = -1) = 1/8 + 1/8 + 1/8 + 0 = 3/8$$
$$f_Y(Y = 1) = 0 + 1/8 + 3/8 + 1/8 = 5/8$$

and for X

$$f_X(X = -1) = 1/8 + 0 = 1/8$$

$$f_X(X = 0) = 1/8 + 1/8 = 2/8$$

$$f_X(X = 1) = 1/8 + 3/8 = 4/8$$

$$f_X(X = 2) = 0 + 1/8 = 1/8$$

Therefore, we can now compute the above values. Namely,

$$E[X] = -1(1/8) + 0(2/8) + 1(4/8) + 2(1/8) = 5/8$$

$$Var(X) = 1/8(-1 - 5/8)^2 + 2/8(-5/8)^2 + 4/8(1 - 5/8)^2 + 1/8(2 - 5/8)^2 = \frac{47}{64}$$

$$SD(X) = \sqrt{Var(X)} = \sqrt{\frac{47}{64}}$$

Now for Y we have

$$E[Y] = -1(3/8) + 1(5/8) = 2/8 = 1/4$$

$$Var(Y) = 3/8(-1 - 1/4)^2 + 5/8(1 - 1/4)^2 = \frac{120}{128}$$

$$SD(Y) = \sqrt{Var(Y)} = \sqrt{\frac{120}{128}}$$

1.7.2 Part (b)

Compute Cov(X, Y) and Corr(X, Y).

Solution

The covariance of X and Y is

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Cov}(X,Y) &= (-1-5/8)(-1-2/8)1/8 + (0-5/8)(-1-2/8)1/8 + \cdots \\ &+ (1-5/8)(1-2/8)3/8 + (2-5/8)(1-2/8)1/8 = 0.46875 \end{aligned}$$

And the Correlation is

$$\mathrm{Cor}(X,Y) = \frac{\mathrm{Cov}(X,Y)}{SD(X) \cdot SD(Y)} = 0.2568$$

1.7.3 Part (c)

Are X and Y independent? Justify your answer.

Solution

No, X and Y are not independent.

X and Y are independent if and only if

$$f(x,y) = f(x)f(y)$$

We will show that our two variables are not independent by counter-example. Let us evaluate the distributions at (X = 1, Y = 1). Hence, we should get

$$f(1,1) = f(x=1)f(y=1)$$

where

$$f(x=1)f(y=1) = \frac{4}{8} \cdot \frac{5}{8} = 5/16$$

And by referencing the table, we see that f(1,1) = 3/8. Hence,

$$f(1,1) = \frac{3}{8} \neq \frac{5}{16} = f(x=1)f(y=1)$$

Therefore, the two are not independent.

1.7.4 Part (d)

Compute the conditional distributions f(X|Y=1) and f(Y|X=2).

Solution

By definition,

$$f(x|y) = \frac{Pr(X = x, Y = y)}{Pr(Y = y)}$$

Therefore,

$$f(X = -1|Y = 1) = \frac{0}{5/8} = 0$$

$$f(X=0|Y=1) = \frac{1/8}{5/8} = 1/5$$

$$f(X=1|Y=1) = \frac{3/8}{5/8} = 3/5$$

$$f(X=2|Y=1)=\frac{1/8}{5/8}=1/5$$

And for the other

$$f(Y=-1|X=2)=\frac{0}{1/8}=0$$

$$f(Y=1|X=2) = \frac{1/8}{1/8} = 1$$

1.7.5 Part (e)

Compute E[X|Y=1] and E[Y|X=2].

Solution

By definition,

$$E[X|Y=y] = \sum_{x \in S_X} x \cdot f(X=x|Y=y)$$

And similarly for Y. Therefore,

$$E[X|Y=1] = -1(0) + 0(1/5) + 1(3/5) + 2(1/5) = 5/5 = 1$$

and for the other

$$E[Y|X=2] = -1(0) + 1(1) = 1$$

1.7.6 Part (f)

Compute Var[X|Y=1] and Var[Y|X=2].

Solution

By definition

$$Var(X|Y=y) = \sum_{x \in S_X} (x - E[X|Y=y])^2 \cdot f(X=x|Y=y)$$

and similarly for Y. Therefore,

$$Var(X|Y=1) = (-1-1)^2(0) + (0-1)^2(1/5) + (1-1)^2(3/5) + (2-1)^2(1/5) = 2/5$$

and for the other

$$Var[Y|X=2] = (-1-1)^2(0) + (1-1)^1(1) = 0$$

2 Part II: Python Exercises

Probability of a random variable and its mean and variance can be approximated by simulation. The justification for the accuracy of approximation via simulation is based on the law of large numbers. We will explore the main idea of the simulation approximation in this session.

2.1 Problem 1

Suppose that X is a normal random variable with mean 0.1 and variance 1. Using Monte Carlo simulation to find the probability that $X \ge 0.5$.

```
N_sim = 50000
X = norm.rvs(loc = 0.1, scale = 1, size = N_sim, random_state=1)
# set the seed 1 for reproducible randomness
Y_v = (X >= 0.5) * 1
print('Pr(X >= 0.5): ', np.mean(Y_v))
```

 $Pr(X \ge 0.5): 0.34644$

2.2 Problem 2

Consider the following game that you play with your friend. There is a referee who will flip a coin. You and your friend will guess the outcome (Head or Tail) of this random experiment. If your guess is the same as your friend, you lose \$3 if the guess is Head and you lose \$1 if your guess is Tail. If your guess is different from your friend, you win \$2. Suppose that both you and your friend think that the probability of observing Head is 1/2. What is the expectation of the money you will win from this game?

Solution

```
N_sim = 50000
X = binom.rvs(n = 1, p = 0.5, size = N_sim, random_state = 1)
Y = binom.rvs(n = 1, p = 0.5, size = N_sim, random_state = 10)

def profit(x, y):
    ans = 0
    if x == 1 and y == 1:
        ans = -3
    elif x == 0 and y == 0:
        ans = -1
    else:
        ans = 2
    return ans

profit_func = np.vectorize(profit) # handle vector inputs

Z_v = profit_func(X, Y) # record the money you get from each experiment print('Expected Profit: ', np.mean(Z_v))
```

Expected Profit: 0.00234

2.3 Problem 3

Consider the game described in Problem 2. But now, you play a different strategy. Instead of guessing Head or Tail with probability 1/2, you guess Head with probability 0.36, and Tail with probability 0.64. Suppose that your friend still guess Head and Tail with probability 1/2. What is the expectation of the money you will win from this game?

Solution

```
N_sim = 50000
X = binom.rvs(n = 1, p = 0.36, size = N_sim, random_state = 1)
Y = binom.rvs(n = 1, p = 0.5, size = N_sim, random_state = 10)
Z_v = profit_func(X, Y) # record the money you get from each experiment
print('Expected Profit: ', np.mean(Z_v))
```

Expected Profit: 0.14194

2.4 Problem 4

Consider the game described in Problem 2. Mathematically, we can show that your strategy in Problem 3 guarantees that you will win money from your friend regardless the guess of your friend if you play the game many times with your friend. That is we can show that the expectation of the money you get from the game is positive regardless of you friend's guess. Check this by simulation!

```
N_sim = 50000
p = np.linspace(0, 1, 101) # probs that your friend guesses head
np.random.seed(10)
X = binom.rvs(n = 1, p = 0.36, size = N_sim)
Y = np.zeros((N_sim, 101))
Z_v = np.zeros((N_sim, 101)) # record the money you get from each experiment

for i in range(101):
    Y[:, i] = binom.rvs(n = 1, p = p[i], size = N_sim)
    Z_v[:, i] = profit_func(X, Y[:, i])

print('Expected Profits:')
```

```
print(Z_v.mean(0)) # note that all the values are postive
```

Expected Profits:

```
[0.07568 0.07692 0.0779 0.08252 0.08088 0.0881 0.08608 0.08092 0.08604 0.08654 0.07976 0.08048 0.0865 0.0878 0.0828 0.09966 0.10038 0.09754 0.09264 0.09964 0.09892 0.09678 0.10716 0.1001 0.10836 0.11574 0.10892 0.1167 0.11178 0.11872 0.12756 0.12002 0.1141 0.11654 0.1299 0.1192 0.13954 0.12296 0.13088 0.13094 0.1291 0.11108 0.1314 0.12722 0.1283 0.13556 0.12418 0.12986 0.13968 0.14028 0.15914 0.136 0.14826 0.13716 0.15452 0.14318 0.14976 0.15138 0.16576 0.15398 0.139 0.14276 0.16414 0.16048 0.14772 0.1601 0.17004 0.16956 0.17302 0.15244 0.15982 0.16982 0.15604 0.17482 0.16486 0.16844 0.16764 0.1664 0.15844 0.18932 0.16636 0.1749 0.1768 0.18638 0.17554 0.18484 0.19058 0.18788 0.1954 0.18704 0.19606 0.1964 0.19098 0.1971 0.20728 0.1955 0.20482 0.20784 0.2054 0.2066 0.2072 ]
```

In this case, the simulation shows that all the profit values are positive. Hence, we show that with the strategy in Problem 3, we are guaranteed to have a positive expected profit if we play the game many times.