

Sums of independent variables

Independent random variables with a common density
(repeated independent trials)

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$$S_3 = X_1 + X_2 + X_3$$

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$$S_{n-1} = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_{n-1}$$

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Partial sum	Expectation	Variance
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$S_1 = X_1$	$E(S_1) = E(X_1) = \mu$	$\text{Var}(S_1) = \text{Var}(X_1) = \sigma^2$

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$S_n = S_{n-1} + X_n$	$E(S_n) = E(S_{n-1}) + E(X_n) = n\mu$	$\text{Var}(S_n) = \text{Var}(S_{n-1}) + \text{Var}(X_n) = n\sigma^2$

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Based on our experience with the binomial, we may anticipate that S_n/n concentrates near μ