

Expectation of function of Random Variable

Let X be a random variable with PMF p_x & let $g(x)$ be the function of X . Then

$$E[g(x)] = \sum_x g(x) p_x(x)$$

Eg: Consider the previous example:

$$p_x(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{9} & x \in \{-4, -3, \dots, 3, 4\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= E[(X - E[X])^2] = E[g(x)] \\ &= \sum_x g(x) p_x(x) \\ &= \sum_x (x-0)^2 p_x(x) = \sum_x x^2 p_x(x) \\ &= \frac{2}{9} [1+4+9+16] = \frac{2}{9} \times 30 \\ &= 6.66 \end{aligned}$$

Properties of Mean & Variance:

Let X be a random variable & let $Y = ax + b = g(x)$

$$\begin{aligned} E[Y] &= E[g(x)] = \sum (ax+b) p_x(x) \\ &= a \sum x p_x(x) + b \sum p_x(x) \\ &= a E[X] + b \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow E[Y] = a E[X] + b$$

Prove that $\text{Var}(Y) = a^2 \text{Var}(X)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(Y) &= E[(Y - E[Y])^2] = E[(Y - aE[X] + b)^2] \\ &= E[(ax - aE[X])^2] = E[a^2 (X - E[X])^2] \\ \Rightarrow Z &= a^2 (X - E[X])^2 \quad (X - E[X])^2 = V \\ \text{so, } E[Z] &= a^2 E[V] \\ \Rightarrow E[a^2 (X - E[X])^2] &= a^2 E[(X - E[X])^2] \\ \Rightarrow \text{Var}(Y) &= a^2 \text{Var}(X) \end{aligned}$$

Alternative formula for Variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= \sum_x (x - E[X])^2 p_x(x) \\ &= \sum_x (x^2 - 2xE[X] + (E[X])^2) p_x(x) \\ &= \sum_x x^2 p_x(x) - 2E[X] \sum_x x p_x(x) + (E[X])^2 \sum_x p_x(x) \\ &= \sum_x x^2 p_x(x) - 2(E[X])^2 + (E[X])^2 \\ \Rightarrow E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$