

Last time:
 b.1-b.2 Variance
 b.3 Markov's inequality

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}X \quad \text{first moment}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}(X - \mu)^2 = \mathbb{E}X^2 - \mu^2 \quad \text{second moment}$$

$$\Pr(X \geq c) \leq \frac{\mu}{c} \quad \text{for } X \geq 0$$

"one-sided tail"

Today:

See 6.4 Chebyshev's inequality: $\sigma = \text{SD}(X)$

"Can we do better if we also know $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X)$?"

$$\rightarrow \Pr(|X - \mu| \geq c) = \Pr((X - \mu)^2 \geq c^2) \quad (\text{for } c > 0)$$

Reason why we do not work on $|X - \mu|$: $\mathbb{E}|X - \mu|$
 (Treat $(X - \mu)^2$ as the non-negative R.V. in Markov's)

"Chebyshev's inequality."

The chance that the absolute value of the deviation is large is small.

Restatement:

$$\Pr(|X - \mu| \geq c) \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{c^2}$$

"Normalise the dev":
 ① Remove mean / Treat mean as origin
 ② Measure distance in units of $\text{SD}(X) = \sigma$

i.e. say something is $+/- k\sigma$'s away.

$$\Pr(|X - \mu| \geq k\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{k^2}$$

Example:

$$X: \mu = 60, \sigma = 5.$$

X is outside of $(50, 70)$

$$\Pr(X \notin (50, 70)) = \Pr(|X - 60| \geq 10) \leq \frac{5^2}{10^2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$(-2\sigma, +2\sigma)$

$$\Pr(|X - \mu| \geq 2\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{4}$$

Chebyshev's inequality tells us that no matter how the dist. looks like, the chance that X is $k\sigma$'s away from its mean is very small (two-sided tail).

Recall: Markov's inequality tells us that the chance a non-negative R.V. is larger than k times its mean is no larger than $\frac{1}{k}$ (one-sided tail).

Question: Can we do one-sided tail using Chebyshev's inequality?

Yes, just discard the other half!

Example $X: \mu = 60, \sigma = 5$ non-negative

$$\Pr(X > 70) \quad \text{try } \mu = 15, \sigma = 60$$

$$\textcircled{1} \text{ Markov's: } \Pr(X > 70) \leq \frac{60}{70} = \frac{6}{7}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \text{ Chebyshev's: } \Pr(X > 70) \leq \Pr(X \geq 50 \text{ or } X > 70) \leq \frac{1}{4} \quad (\text{better/tighter})$$

Not always

(Usually) even if the R.V. is non-negative and we are considering a one-sided tail, we prefer to use Chebyshev's inequality as long as we know $\sigma = \text{SD}$.

See 7.1 (Var/SD of sums of indep. R.V.s)

• Binom(n, p)

• Additivity/linearity of expectation

$$\mathbb{E} \sum_i X_i = \sum_i \mathbb{E} X_i \quad \text{indep or not}$$

Not true for variance!

What is the variance of an indep. / dependent sum?

Example. Consider a fair coin toss it twice

$$I_1 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the } i^{\text{th}} \text{ toss is H} \\ 0 & \text{o/w} \end{cases} \quad j=1, 2$$

$I_1 + I_2$ twice vs double.

$$\mathbb{E}(I_1 + I_2) = \mathbb{E}(I_1) + \mathbb{E}(I_2) = 1$$

$$\text{Var}(I_1 + I_2) \leq \text{Var}(I_1 + I_2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \cdot 1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 1 = \frac{1}{2}$$

Conclusion: Variance of the sum is dependent on whether they are indep or not.

It can be shown that $\text{Var}(X_1 + X_2) = \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2)$

for X_1, X_2 indep.

$$\text{Note: } \begin{cases} \mathbb{E}(-X) = -\mathbb{E}X \\ \mathbb{E}(kX) = k\mathbb{E}X \end{cases} \quad \text{vs. } \begin{cases} \text{Var}(-X) = \text{Var}(X) \\ \text{Var}(kX) = k^2 \text{Var}(X) \end{cases}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \text{ } \text{Var}(X_1 + X_2) = \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \text{ } \text{Var}(X_1 + X_2) = \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2) \neq \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2) \quad X_1, X_2 \text{ indep.}$$

Generally for indep R.V.'s $X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n$

$$\text{Var}(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i)$$

As an instance, for i.i.d. R.V.'s X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n

$$\text{Var}(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n) = n \text{Var}(X_1)$$

$$\text{SD}(\dots) = \sqrt{n} \text{SD}(X_1)$$

Example.

1. Binomial

$$X \sim \text{Binom}(n, p), \quad \mu = \mathbb{E}X = np$$

$$X = I_1 + I_2 + \dots + I_n$$

n i.i.d. Bern(p)

$$\text{Var}(I_k) = \mathbb{E}I_k^2 - (\mathbb{E}I_k)^2$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = n \text{Var}(I_1) = n(p - p^2)$$

$$= n(p(1-p)) = nppq \quad (q = 1-p)$$

When varying p , npp reaches its maximum at $p = \frac{1}{2}$.

$$npp = \frac{1}{4}n$$

This means the coin is most variable if it is fair.

2. Poisson

$$X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$$

$$Y \sim \text{Binom}(n, p), \quad np = \lambda, \quad n \text{ large}, \quad p \text{ small} \quad (q \approx 1)$$

By law of small numbers, $X \approx Y$

$$\text{Var}(X) \approx \text{Var}(Y) = npq = np - np^2$$

= $\mu \cdot q$ higher order term.

$$\approx \mu$$

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}X = \text{Var}(X)$$

3. Geometric / Negative Binomial

$$\begin{cases} I_1 \sim \text{Geom}(p) \text{ on } 1, 2, 3, \dots & \mathbb{E}I_1 = \frac{1}{p} \\ I_2 \sim \text{NegBinom}(r, p) & \mathbb{E}I_r = \frac{r}{p} \end{cases}$$

is the sum of r i.i.d. Geom(p).

$$\text{Var}(I_r) = \frac{r}{p^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)$$

$$\text{Var}(I_r) = \frac{r}{p^2} \cdot \frac{r-1}{p-1}$$

$$I_r = I_1$$

Since

I_1 can only be 0 or 1.

Generally for indep R.V.'s $X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n$

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