

Topic 2: Review of Probability and Statistics

1 Review of Probability and Statistics

- 1.1 The summation operator
- 1.2 The laws of probability
- 1.3 Discrete random variables
- 1.4 Continuous random variables
- 1.5 The mean of a random variable and its properties
- 1.6 Measures of dispersion
- 1.7 Measures of covariation between two random variables
- 1.8 Properties of the variance
- 1.9 Population parameters versus sample statistics
- 1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

1 Review of Probability and Statistics I

1.1 The summation operator

- In the discussion below we make use of the **summation operator** and its properties.
- Suppose that x is a variable that can assume the values x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n . We define

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n.$$

- The summation operator can be shown to have the following properties:

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1.1 The summation operator

P1 If c is a constant then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c = nc.$$

For example,

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 c = c + c + c = 3c.$$

P2

$$\sum_{i=1}^n cx_i = c \sum_{i=1}^n x_i.$$

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1.1 The summation operator

For example,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n 4x_i &= 4x_1 + 4x_2 + \dots + 4x_n \\ &= 4(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n) \\ &= 4 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i.\end{aligned}$$

P3 If x is a variable that can assume the values x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and y is a variable that can assume the values y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n and c and c_2 are constants then

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n (c_1 x_i + c_2 y_i) &= \sum_{i=1}^n c_1 x_i + \sum_{i=1}^n c_2 y_i \\ &= c_1 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + c_2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_i.\end{aligned}$$

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1.1 The summation operator

P4

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n (c_1 x_i + c_2 y_i)^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n [c_1^2 x_i^2 + c_2^2 y_i^2 + 2c_1 c_2 x_i y_i] \\&= \sum_{i=1}^n c_1^2 x_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n c_2^2 y_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n 2c_1 c_2 x_i y_i \\&= c_1^2 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + c_2^2 \sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2 + 2c_1 c_2 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i.\end{aligned}$$

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1.1 The summation operator

- We can use the properties of the summation operator to show that the sum of the deviations from the sample mean is always equal to zero. That is,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) = 0,$$

where

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i.$$

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1.1 The summation operator

- Using the properties of the summation operator we have

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x}) &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{x} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - n\bar{x} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - n \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} x_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - \frac{n}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

1 Review of Probability and Statistics I

1.2 The laws of probability

- A **random experiment** is a chance mechanism with the following properties:
 - All possible outcomes are known in advance.
 - In a particular trial the outcome is not known in advance.
 - In principle, the experiment can be repeated under identical conditions.
- Consider the experiment of tossing a fair coin twice. The set of possible outcomes of the experiment, which is called the **sample space** for the experiment, and which we will denote by S , is:

$$S = \{(h, h), (h, t), (t, t), (t, h)\}. \quad (1)$$

- Notice that S is known in advance, but in a particular trial, we don't know which of these four possible outcomes will occur.

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1.2 The laws of probability

- An **event** is any subset of S . For example, the event of obtaining two heads in two tosses of a fair coin is the subset of S given by the set

$$E_1 = \{(h, h)\}.$$

- The event of obtaining one head and one tail in two tosses of a fair coin is the subset of S given by

$$E_2 = \{(h, t), (t, h)\}.$$

- An event is said to occur when any of the elements outcomes that define the event occur.
- For example, the event E_2 is said to occur if the outcome of the experiment is either

$$(h, t) \text{ or } (t, h).$$

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1.2 The laws of probability

- Given a random experiment and its associated sample space, we can attach numbers called probabilities to the elements of the sample space and to events defined on the sample space.
- These numbers must satisfy the five laws stated below.
- Suppose that a random experiment has m possible outcomes and let p_i denote the probability of the i th outcome. Then:

-

$$0 \leq p_i \leq 1. \quad \text{L1}$$

-

$$\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_m = 1. \quad \text{L2}$$

- If A and B are two events then

$$P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \text{ and } B). \quad \text{L3}$$

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1.2 The laws of probability

- If A and B are mutually exclusively events (cannot both occur) then

$$P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B). \quad \text{L4}$$

- If A and B are two events than

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \text{ and } B)}{P(B)}. \quad (\text{L5})$$

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1.3 Discrete random variables

- A **random variable**, X , is a variable associated with a random experiment which assumes a set of countable values, each with a specified probability.
- For example, X denote the number of heads obtained when a fair coin is tossed twice.
- The set of values that X can assume, which we denote by S_X is given by

$$S_X = \{0, 1, 2\}.$$

- Let

$$p_0 \equiv P(X = 0), p_1 \equiv P(X = 1), p_2 \equiv P(X = 2).$$

Intuitively, it is clear that

$$p_0 = \frac{1}{4}, p_1 = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}, p_2 = \frac{1}{4}. \quad (2)$$

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1.3 Discrete random variables

- Note that L1 and L2 above are satisfied since

$$0 \leq p_i \leq 1, i = 1, 2, 3$$

and

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 p_i = 1.$$

- Because

$$S_X = \{0, 1, 2\}.$$

is a countable set (you can count the elements in the set), we call X a **discrete random variable**.

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1.3 Discrete random variables

- More generally, a random variable X which can assume the countable set of values,

$$S_X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m\},$$

with respective probabilities p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m , is a discrete random variable.

- Note that we use X to denote the random variable and we use x_i to denote the i th value of the random variable X .
- The **probability density function** (pdf) of a discrete random variable X is a function

$$f : S_X \rightarrow [0, 1] \quad (3)$$

with the following properties:

$$f(x_i) = P(X = x_i) = p_i \in [0, 1], i = 1, 2, \dots, m \quad (4)$$

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1.3 Discrete random variables

and

$$\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1. \quad (5)$$

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1.4 Continuous random variables

- In some experiments the set of values that a random variable can take on is not a countable set.
- Let X denote the height of a randomly selected male from the population of males in Australia.
- Since there is an infinite number of values that X could assume, the set of possible outcomes is no longer countable and we can no longer assign a probability to X assuming a specific value.
- Because the set of possible outcomes for X is no longer countable, we call X a **continuous random variable**.
- When X is a continuous random variable, we partition the (uncountable) set of possible outcomes into intervals of real numbers and we assign probabilities to X falling in these intervals.

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1.4 Continuous random variables

- If X is a continuous random variable, the pdf of X is defined to be a function $f(x)$ with the following properties:

$$\int_{-\infty}^a f(x) dx = P(X \leq a), \quad (6)$$

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = P(a \leq X \leq b), \quad (7)$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1 \quad (8)$$

- If X can only assume values in the interval $[a,b]$, then (8) reduces to

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx = 1. \quad (9)$$

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1.4 Continuous random variables

- The probability density function of men's heights is shown in Figure 1 below.

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1.4 Continuous random variables

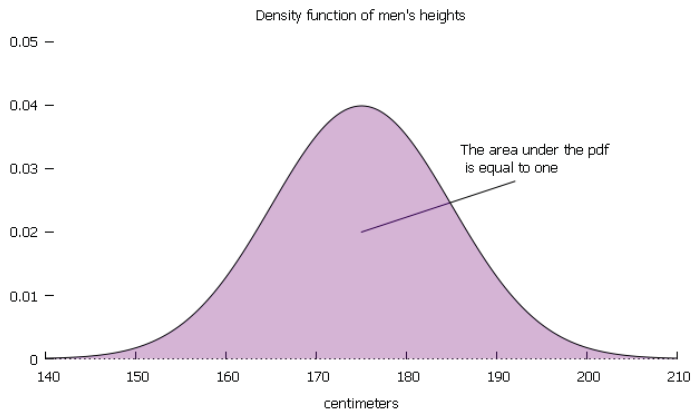


Figure: 1

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1.4 Continuous random variables

- Note that in the case of a discrete random variable we assign probabilities to specific real numbers and in the case of continuous random variables we assign probabilities to intervals of real numbers.
- This fact is illustrated in Figure 2 below.

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1.4 Continuous random variables

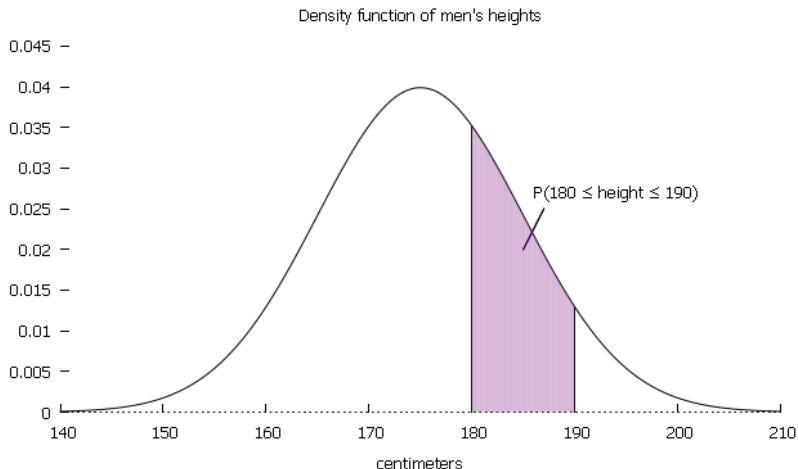


Figure: 2

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1.5 The mean of a random variable and its properties

- Let X be a discrete random variable which can take on the values (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) with probabilities $f(x_1), f(x_2), \dots, f(x_n)$ respectively. The **mean** or **expected value** of X , which we denote by $E(X)$, is defined as

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i f(x_i). \quad (10)$$

- The expected value of a discrete random variable is a measure of the "average value" of the random variable.
- If X is a continuous random variable with probability density function (pdf) $f(x)$, then

$$E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x)dx. \quad (11)$$

- Strictly speaking, we should denote the pdf of X as $f_X(x)$. However, to economize on notation we shall denote it as $f(x)$.

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1.5 The mean of a random variable and its properties

- Notice that $E(X)$ is a constant, not a random variable.
- For any set of random variables X , Y and Z , the following rules can be shown to apply to the expectations operator:

R1 The expectation of a sum of random variables is the sum of their expectations (provided that these expectations exist). That is,

$$E(X + Y + Z) = E(X) + E(Y) + E(Z).$$

R2 For any constant k

$$E(k) = k.$$

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1.5 The mean of a random variable and its properties

R3 For any constants a and b ,

$$\begin{aligned} E(a + bX) &= E(a) + bE(X) \\ &= a + bE(X). \end{aligned}$$

For example,

$$E(4 + 10X) = 4 + 10E(X).$$

- Because it satisfies R1 and R3, the expectations operator is called a **linear operator**. That is, the expectations operator "goes through" linear transformations of a random variable and linear combinations of several random variables.
- However, it does not go through **non-linear transformations** of a random variable or non-linear combinations of several random variables.

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1.5 The mean of a random variable and its properties

- For example

$$E(X^2) \neq [E(X)]^2,$$

$$E[\log(X)] \neq \log[E(X)],$$

$$\text{In general, } E(XY) \neq E(X)E(Y).$$

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1.6 Measures of dispersion

- The **variance** of the random variable X , which we denote by $Var(X)$, is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}Var(X) &= E\{[X - E(X)]^2\} \\&= E[X^2 - 2XE(X) + E(X)^2] \\&= E(X^2) - E[2XE(X)] + E[E(X)^2] \\&= E(X^2) - 2E(X)E(X) + E(X)^2 \\&= E(X^2) - 2E(X)^2 + E(X)^2 \\&= E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2.\end{aligned}\tag{12}$$

- Equation (12) states that $Var(X)$ "is equal to the expectation of X squared minus the square of the expectation of X ".
- The notation σ_X^2 is also used to denote the variance of the random variable X .

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1.6 Measures of dispersion

- Loosely speaking, $Var(X)$ measures how tightly clustered the values of X are around the mean of X .
- A disadvantage of $Var(X)$ as a measure of the dispersion of X is that it is difficult to interpret.
- An alternative measure of the dispersion of the random variable X , called the standard deviation of X , which we denote by σ_x or $sd(X)$, is defined as

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{Var(X)}.$$

- Note: We should really use the notation σ_X , since we are referring to the standard deviation of the random variable X . However, it is common in econometrics to use the notation σ_x .
- An advantage of σ_x as a measure of dispersion is that, unlike $Var(X)$, it always has the same units as X .

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1.6 Measures of dispersion

- For example, if X is measured in dollars, then σ_x will also be measured in dollars.

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1.7 Measures of covariation between two random variables

- We are often interested in whether or not two random variables "move together" and, if they do move together, how strong is the covariation.
- One measure of covariation between two random variables, X and Y , is called the **covariance** between X and Y , which we denote by $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$ and which is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(X, Y) &= E\{[X - E(X)][Y - E(Y)]\} \\ &= E[XY - E(X)Y - XE(Y) + E(X)E(Y)] \\ &= E(XY) - E(X)E(Y) - E(X)E(Y) + E(X)E(Y) \\ &= E(XY) - E(X)E(Y).\end{aligned}\tag{13}$$

- The symbol σ_{xy} is often used to denote $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$.

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1.7 Measures of covariation between two random variables

- Equation (13) states that the $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$ is equal to "the expectation of their product minus the product of their expectations".
- Note that it follows from (13) that in the special case in which

$$E(X) = 0 \text{ and/or } E(Y) = 0,$$

the formula for the covariance reduces to

$$\text{Cov}(XY) = E(XY). \quad (14)$$

- Since

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E\{[X - E(X)][Y - E(Y)]\}, \quad (15)$$

it follows that:

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1.7 Measures of covariation between two random variables

- If

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) > 0$$

then, **on average**,

$$X > E(X) \Rightarrow Y > E(Y)$$

and

$$X < E(X) \Rightarrow Y < E(Y).$$

- If

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) < 0$$

then, **on average**,

$$X > E(X) \Rightarrow Y < E(Y)$$

and

$$X < E(X) \Rightarrow Y > E(Y).$$

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1.7 Measures of covariation between two random variables

- It can be shown that In the special case in which X and Y are independently distributed random variables,

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0.$$

- Note that while

$$\text{independence of } X \text{ and } Y \Rightarrow \text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0,$$

the converse of this proposition is not true. That is,

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0 \nRightarrow \text{independence of } X \text{ and } Y.$$

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1.7 Measures of covariation between two random variables

- A major limitation of the covariance as a measure of association is that its magnitude is sensitive to the units in which X and Y are measured. For example,

$$\text{Cov}(aX, bY) = ab\text{Cov}(X, Y).$$

That is, if we scale both X and Y by a , the covariance is scaled by a^2 .

- For example,

$$\text{Cov}(100X, 100Y) = (100)^2 \text{Cov}(X, Y).$$

- Consequently, only the sign of $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$ is informative (can be interpreted).

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1.7 Measures of covariation between two random variables

- A superior measure of association between X and Y is the **correlation** between X and Y , which we denote by $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$, and which is defined as

$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{sd(X)sd(Y)}.$$

- The symbol ρ_{xy} is often used to denote $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$.
- As a measure of association $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$ has two attractive properties:
 - P1 It can be proved that

$$-1 \leq \text{Corr}(X, Y) \leq 1.$$

This property makes the correlation coefficient ρ_{xy} easy to interpret.

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1.7 Measures of covariation between two random variables

- If

$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = 1$$

there is an exact positive linear relationship between X and Y . That is, if we plot the values of X and Y they will form a positively sloped straight line in (X, Y) space.

- The closer the $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$ is to 1, the stronger the positive linear association between X and Y .
- If

$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = -1$$

there is an exact negative linear relationship between X and Y . That is, if we plot the values of X and Y they will form a negatively sloped straight line in (X, Y) space.

- The closer the $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$ is to -1, the stronger the negative linear association between X and Y .

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1.7 Measures of covariation between two random variables

- P2 The magnitude of the $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$ is independent of the units in which X and Y are measured. That is,

$$\text{Corr}(aX, bY) = \text{Corr}(X, Y).$$

For example,

$$\text{Corr}(100X, 100Y) = \text{Corr}(X, Y).$$

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1.8 Properties of the variance

- Now that we have defined $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$, we are in a position to discuss the properties of the variance of a random variable and of sums of random variables.

P1

$$\text{Var}(k) = 0.$$

P2

$$\text{Var}(kX) = k^2 \text{Var}(X).$$

P3

$$\text{Var}(aX + bY) = a^2 \text{Var}(X) + b^2 \text{Var}(Y) + 2ab \text{Cov}(X, Y).$$

P4

$$\text{Var}(aX - bY) = a^2 \text{Var}(X) + b^2 \text{Var}(Y) - 2ab \text{Cov}(X, Y).$$

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1.8 Properties of the variance

P5 In the special case in which X and Y are independently distributed random variables,

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$$

and P3 and P4 respectively reduce to

$$\text{Var}(aX + bY) = a^2 \text{Var}(X) + b^2 \text{Var}(Y),$$

$$\text{Var}(aX - bY) = a^2 \text{Var}(X) + b^2 \text{Var}(Y).$$

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1.9 Population parameters versus sample statistics

- Given two random variables X and Y , it is important to distinguish between the **population parameters** associated with these random variables and the **sample statistics** associated with a sample of n observations drawn from the probability distributions of these random variables.
- Given a sample of n observations on the random variable X , we define the following sample statistics:

$$\text{sample mean} : \bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i,$$

$$\text{sample variance} : \hat{\sigma}_x^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2,$$

$$\text{sample standard deviation: } \hat{\sigma}_x = \sqrt{\hat{\sigma}_x^2} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}.$$

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1.9 Population parameters versus sample statistics

- Given a sample of n observations on the random variables X and Y we define the following sample statistics:

$$\text{sample covariance} : \hat{\sigma}_{xy} = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}),$$

$$\text{sample correlation} : \hat{\rho}_{xy} = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_{xy}}{\hat{\sigma}_x \hat{\sigma}_y}.$$

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1.9 Population parameters versus sample statistics

- The most important population parameters associated with two random variables, X and Y , and their sample analogues are summarized in the following table.

pop mean: $E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i f(x_i)$ or $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x)dx$
sample mean: $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$
pop var: $\sigma_x^2 = E\{[X - E(X)]^2\}$
sample var: $\hat{\sigma}_x^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2$
pop sd: $\sigma_x = \sqrt{\sigma_x^2}$
sample sd: $\hat{\sigma}_x = \sqrt{\hat{\sigma}_x^2}$
pop cov: $\sigma_{xy} = E\{[X - E(X)][Y - E(Y)]\}$
sample cov: $\hat{\sigma}_{xy} = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})$
pop corr: $\rho_{xy} = \frac{\sigma_{xy}}{\sigma_x \sigma_y}$
sample corr: $\hat{\rho}_{xy} = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_{xy}}{\hat{\sigma}_x \hat{\sigma}_y}$

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1.9 Population parameters versus sample statistics

- Population parameters cannot be observed, so their values are unknown.
- Once we have collected a sample of observations on the variables of interest, their sample statistics can be computed.
- It is important to realize that populations parameters are not random variables. They are fixed numbers the values of which are usually known.
- Sample statistics on the other hand are random variables in the sense that their values vary from sample to sample and are not known before we collect our sample.
- Sample statistics are often used as estimators of their populations analogues.
- For example, the sample mean is often used as an estimator of the population mean.

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1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- The **joint probability density function** of two random variables X and Y is a function

$$f : S \rightarrow [0, 1],$$

where S is a set consisting of all possible combinations of values that X and Y can take on.

- For example, let the random variable Y denote the number bathrooms and the random variable X denote the the number of bedrooms in a randomly selected apartment in Melbourne.
- Assume that Y can assume the values 1 and 2, and X can assume the values 1,2,3.

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1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- The joint probability density function (strictly speaking the joint **probability mass function**, since X and Y are both discrete random variables) is reported in Table 1 below.

Table 1			
$Y \downarrow, X \rightarrow$	1	2	3
1	0.40	0.24	0.04
2	0.00	0.16	0.16

- For example, it follows from Table 1 that

$$P(X = 1, Y = 1) = 0.40,$$

$$P(X = 2, Y = 1) = 0.24.$$

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1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- Notice that

$$0 \leq P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) \leq 1 \text{ for all } i \text{ and } j,$$

and that the joint probabilities sum to 1.

- We can use the joint pdf in Table 1 to derive both the **marginal pdf** of X and the marginal pdf of Y .
- Since

$$P(X = x_i) = \sum_{j=1}^2 P(X = x_i, Y = y_j),$$

summing the elements in

Table 1			
$Y \downarrow, X \rightarrow$	1	2	3
1	0.40	0.24	0.04
2	0.00	0.16	0.16

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1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

by column we obtain

$$f_X(x) =$$

Table 2	
X	$P(X = x)$
1	0.40
2	0.40
3	0.20

- Since

$$P(Y = y_j) = \sum_{i=1}^3 P(X = x_i, Y = y_j),$$

summing the elements in

Table 1			
$Y \downarrow, X \rightarrow$	1	2	3
1	0.40	0.24	0.04
2	0.00	0.16	0.16

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1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

by row we obtain

$$f_Y(y) =$$

Table 3	
Y	$P(Y = y)$
1	0.68
2	0.32

- Note that for each marginal pdf each probability lies between zero and one, and the marginal probabilities sum to 1.
- Given the joint pdf of X and Y and the marginal pdf of X , we can derive the **conditional pdf** of Y .
- Recall that

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \text{ and } B)}{P(B)}. \quad (\text{L5})$$

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1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- Using L5 and the information in

Table 1			
$Y \downarrow, X \rightarrow$	1	2	3
1	0.40	0.24	0.04
2	0.00	0.16	0.16

$$f_X(x) =$$

Table 2	
X	$P(X = x)$
1	0.40
2	0.40
3	0.20

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}P(y = 1|x = 1) &= \frac{P(y = 1, x = 1)}{P(x = 1)} = \frac{0.40}{0.40} = 1, \\P(y = 2|x = 1) &= \frac{P(y = 2, x = 1)}{P(x = 1)} = \frac{0.00}{0.40} = 0.\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

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1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- The **conditional density** of Y is summarized in Table 4 below.

$$f_Y(y|x=1) =$$

Table 4	
$y x=1$	$P(Y=y x=1)$
1	1.00
2	0.00

- The conditional pdf in Table 4 specifies the probability with which Y assumes each value in its domain, given that the random variable X has taken on the value 1.

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1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- It is left as an exercise to use the information in Table 1 and Table 2 together with L5 to show that the pdf of X conditional on $Y = 2$ is given by Table 5 below

$$f_Y(y|x=2) =$$

Table 5	
$y x=2$	$P(Y=y x=2)$
1	0.60
2	0.40

and the pdf of X conditional on $Y = 3$ is given by Table 6 below

$$f_Y(y|x=3) =$$

Table 6	
$y x=3$	$P(Y=y x=3)$
1	0.20
2	0.80

1 Review of Probability and Statistics IX

1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- Notice that each of the conditional pdfs in Table 4, Table 5 and Table 6 satisfies the laws of probability. In particular, for each conditional pdf, all probabilities are between zero and one and they sum to one.
- From Table 6 we can deduce that if we randomly select an apartment in Melbourne from the population of apartments which have 3 bedrooms, the probability that the apartment we randomly select will have 1 bathroom is 0.20 and the probability that it will have 2 bathrooms is 0.80.
- Note that both of the above statements are **conditional probability statements**. They respectively tell us the probability that a randomly selected apartment will have 1 bathroom, conditional on the selected apartment having 3 bedrooms, and the probability that a randomly selected apartment will have 2 bathrooms, conditional on the selected apartment having 3 bedrooms.

1 Review of Probability and Statistics X

1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- For each of the conditional pdfs in Table 4, Table 5 and Table 6 there is an associated **conditional mean**.
- From

Table 4: $f_Y(y x = 1)$	
$y x = 1$	$P(Y = y x = 1)$
1	1.00
2	0.00

we obtain

$$E(Y|x = 1) = 1 \times 1.00 + 2 \times 0 = 1.00 \quad (2)$$

1 Review of Probability and Statistics XI

1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- From

Table 5: $f_Y(y x=2)$	
$y x=2$	$P(Y=y x=2)$
1	0.60
2	0.40

we obtain

$$E(Y|x=2) = 1 \times 0.60 + 2 \times 0.40 = 1.40. \quad (3)$$

- From

Table 6: $f_Y(y x=3)$	
$y x=3$	$P(Y=y x=3)$
1	0.20
2	0.80

we obtain

$$E(Y|x=3) = 1 \times 0.2 + 2 \times 0.8 = 1.80. \quad (4)$$

1 Review of Probability and Statistics XII

1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

- Equation (4) states that the average number of bathrooms in the population of apartments which have 3 bedrooms is 1.8.
- From the previous example, we note that the conditional mean of Y need not be a value that Y can actually assume. It is not possible for an apartment to have 1.8 bathrooms!
- Notice that while

$$E(Y|X = x)$$

is a fixed number, its magnitude changes as the value of X changes. Combining (2), (3) and (4) we can see from Table 7 below that $E(Y|X = x)$ is a function of X .

Table 7	
X	$E(Y X = x)$
1	1.00
2	1.40
3	1.80

1 Review of Probability and Statistics XIII

1.10 Joint, marginal and conditional probability density functions

As the value of X changes, so does the conditional mean of Y .

- From Table 7 we can deduce that:
 - In the population of apartments which have 1 bedroom, the average number of bathrooms is 1.
 - In the population of apartments which have 2 bedrooms, the average number of bathrooms is 1.4.
 - In the population of apartments which have 3 bedrooms, the average number of bathrooms is 1.8.