

Population mean and expected value = μ ?

Asked 7 years, 6 months ago Modified 4 years, 11 months ago Viewed 17k times


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What is the difference between μ when being the population mean, and μ when being the mean or the expected value?

What confuses me is that the same letter is being used to describe two different metrics- or are they? I am solely basing this question on their equation which isn't the same, so where am I missing the point?


[statistics](#) [means](#)



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edited Dec 27, 2014 at 19:35

 **daOnlyBG**
2,657 ● 7 ■ 20 ▲ 36

asked Dec 27, 2014 at 19:15

 **sas**
77 ● 1 ■ 1 ▲ 6

 Population mean: μ . Sample mean: \bar{x} . Expected value can be μ but it's usually $E(X)$. – [Shahar](#) Dec 27, 2014 at 19:17  *• 모평균은 '모집단의 평균'이고, 기댓값은 '확률분포의 1차 모멘트'이다. 모평균은 '현실세계의 영역'이고, 기댓값은 '이상적 세계의 영역'이다.*

Don't let the fact that it's the same letter confuse you. If an observation is from a population with mean μ then its expected value is μ and they are the same thing. – [j. kookalinski](#) Dec 27, 2014 at 19:17

Ah.. ok, makes sense The expected value you would expect is the population mean. – [sas](#) Dec 27, 2014 at 19:22