

Why the sample variance has
division by $n-1$

$$(x_i - \bar{x})^2 = x_i^2 - 2\bar{x}x_i + \bar{x}^2$$

$$= x_i^2 - 2 \frac{\left(\sum_{j=1}^n x_j\right)}{n} x_i + \frac{\left(\sum_{j=1}^n x_j\right)^2}{n^2}$$

$$= x_i^2 - 2 \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n x_j x_i}{n} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + 2 \sum_{i < j} x_i x_j}{n^2}$$

$$= x_i^2 - 2 \left[\frac{x_i^2 + \sum_{j \neq i} x_i x_j}{n} \right] + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + 2 \sum_{i < j} x_i x_j}{n^2}$$

take it's expectation

$$\begin{aligned} E(x^2) &= 2 \left(\frac{E(x^2) + (n-1) E(x)^2}{n} \right) \\ &+ \frac{n E(x^2) + n(n-1) E(x)^2}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \frac{n \mu^2}{n^2}$$

$$\text{so } E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2\right) = n E(x^2) - 2E(x^2) - (n-1) E(x)^2 \\ + E(x^2) + (n-1) E(x)^2$$

$$= (n-1) E(x^2) - (n-1) E(x)^2$$

$$\text{so } E\left(\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2\right) = E(x^2) - E(x)^2$$

$$= \text{Var}(x).$$