

Week 10 notes

Expectation for two variables

01 Theory

Expectation for a function on two variables

Discrete case: $W = g(X, Y)$ $E[W] = \sum_w w f_w$ $f_w = ??$

$$E[g(X, Y)] = \sum_{k, \ell} g(k, \ell) P_{X, Y}(k, \ell) \quad (\text{sum over possible values})$$

Continuous case:

$$E[g(X, Y)] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(x, y) f_{X, Y}(x, y) dx dy$$

These formulas are *not trivial to prove*, and we omit the proofs. (Recall the technical nature of the proof we gave for $E[g(X)]$ in the discrete case.)

Expectation sum rule

Suppose X and Y are *any* two random variables on the same probability model.

Then:

$$E[X + Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$$

We already know that expectation is linear in a single variable: $E[aX + b] = aE[X] + b$.

Therefore this two-variable formula implies:

$$E[aX + bY + c] = aE[X] + bE[Y] + c$$

Expectation product rule: independence

Suppose that X and Y are *independent*.

Then we have:

$$E[XY] = E[X]E[Y]$$

Extra - Proof: Expectation sum rule, continuous case

Suppose f_X and f_Y give marginal PDFs for X and Y , and $f_{X, Y}$ gives their joint PDF.

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} X, Y &, g(X, Y) \\ R &= \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2} \\ \leadsto F_R &\leadsto f_R = \frac{d}{dr} F_R(r) \\ E[g(X)] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f_X(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[X+Y] &\gg \gg \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (x+y) f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy && x \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{x,y} dy = x f_x \\
 &\gg \gg \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f_{X,Y} dx dy + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} y f_{X,Y} dx dy \\
 &\gg \gg \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f_X(x) dx + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} y f_Y(y) dy \\
 &\gg \gg E[X] + E[Y]
 \end{aligned}$$

Observe that this calculation relies on the formula for $E[g(X, Y)]$, specifically with $g(x, y) = x + y$.

Extra - Proof: Expectation product rule

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[XY] &= E[X]E[Y] \\
 E[Y^2] - E[Y]^2 &= \text{Var}[Y]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[XY] &\gg \gg \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (xy) f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy \\
 &\gg \gg \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (xy) f_X(x) f_Y(y) dx dy \\
 &\gg \gg \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f_X(x) dx \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} y f_Y(y) dy \\
 &\gg \gg E[X]E[Y]
 \end{aligned}$$

02 Illustration

$E[X^2 + Y]$ from joint PMF chart

Suppose the joint PMF of X and Y is given by this chart:

$Y \downarrow X \rightarrow$	1	2
-1	0.2	0.2
0	0.35	0.1
1	0.05	0.1

@ $(x, y) = (2, 0)$
 $\rightarrow W = 4$

Define $W = X^2 + Y$. Find the expectation $E[W]$.

Solution

First compute the values of W for each pair (X, Y) in the chart:

$Y \downarrow X \rightarrow$	1	2
-1	0	3
0	1	4
1	2	5

Now take the sum, weighted by probabilities:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &0 \cdot (0.2) + 3 \cdot (0.2) + 1 \cdot (0.35) \\
 &+ 4 \cdot (0.1) + 2 \cdot (0.05) + 5 \cdot (0.1) \gg \gg 1.95 = E[W]
 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise - Understanding expectation for two variables

Suppose you know *only* that $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$ and $Y \sim \text{Bin}(n, q)$.

Which of the following can you calculate?

$$E[X \oplus Y], \quad E[XY], \quad E[X^2 + Y^2], \quad E[(X + Y)^2] = E[X^2 + 2XY + Y^2]$$

✓
9/20
3/20
2/20

$g(x) = x^2$

$E[X^2]$ by:

- $\sum k^2 P_x(k)$
- $P_{X^2}(k) = \sum_{x: x^2=k} P_X(x) \Rightarrow P_X(\sqrt{k})$ for $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$

$P[X^2 = k] = P[X = \sqrt{k}] = P_X(\sqrt{k})$ (or $\sum$ if there multiple)

$E[X^2] + 2E[XY] + E[Y^2]$

$E[Y]$ two ways, and $E[XY]$, from joint density

Suppose X and Y are random variables with the following joint density:

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{16}xy^2 & x, y \in [0, 2] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(a) Compute $E[Y]$ using two methods.

$$f_X = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{16}x & x \in [0, 2] \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad f_Y = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{8}y^2 & y \in [0, 2] \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

(still need a, b)

(b) Compute $E[XY]$.

Solution

(a) Method One: via marginal PDF $f_Y(y)$:

$$f_Y(y) = \int_0^2 \frac{3}{16}xy^2 dx \gg \gg \begin{cases} \frac{3}{8}y^2 & y \in [0, 2] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then expectation:

$$E[Y] = \int_0^2 y f_Y(y) dy \gg \gg \int_0^2 \frac{3}{8}y^3 dy \gg \gg 3/2$$

(a) Method Two: directly, via two-variable formula:

$$E[Y] = \int_0^2 \int_0^2 y \cdot \frac{3}{16}xy^2 dy dx \gg \gg \int_0^2 \frac{3}{4}x dx \gg \gg 3/2$$

(b) Directly, via two-variable formula:

$$E[XY] = \int_0^2 \int_0^2 xy \cdot \frac{3}{16}xy^2 dy dx$$

$$\gg \gg \int_0^2 \frac{3}{4}x^2 dx \gg \gg 2$$

Covariance and correlation

03 Theory

Write $\mu_X = E[X]$ and $\mu_Y = E[Y]$.

Observe that the random variables $X - \mu_X$ and $Y - \mu_Y$ are “centered at zero,” meaning that

$$E[X - \mu_X] = 0 = E[Y - \mu_Y].$$

Covariance

Suppose X and Y are any two random variables on a probability model. The **covariance** of X and Y measures the *typical synchronous deviation* of X and Y from their respective means.

$$x + y = 10$$

find max $x \cdot y$

Then the *defining formula* for covariance of X and Y is:

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

There is also a *shorter formula*:

$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = E[XY] - \mu_X \mu_Y = E[xy] - E[x]E[y]$$

To derive the shorter formula, first expand the product $(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)$ and then apply linearity.

Notice that covariance is always *symmetric*:

$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = \text{Cov}[Y, X]$$

The *self* covariance equals the variance:

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

$$\text{Cov}[X, X] = \text{Var}[X]$$

The *sign* of $\text{Cov}[X, Y]$ reveals the *correlation type* between X and Y :

Correlation	Sign
Positively correlated	$\text{Cov}(X, Y) > 0$
Negatively correlated	$\text{Cov}(X, Y) < 0$
Uncorrelated	$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$



Correlation coefficient

Suppose X and Y are any two random variables on a probability model.

Their **correlation coefficient** is a rescaled version of covariance that measures the *synchronicity of deviations*:

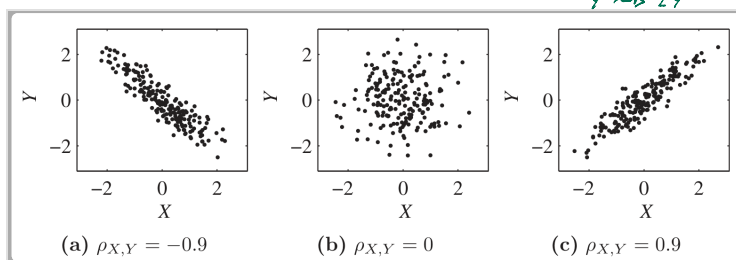
$$\rho[X, Y] = \frac{\text{Cov}[X, Y]}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y}$$

The rescaling ensures:

$$-1 \leq \rho_{X,Y} \leq +1$$



$$\begin{aligned} X &\leadsto X \\ Y &\leadsto 2Y \end{aligned} \quad \rho[X, 2Y] = \rho[X, Y]$$



Covariance depends on the *separate variances* of X and Y as well as their relationship.

Correlation coefficient, because we have divided out $\sigma_X \sigma_Y$, depends only on their *relationship*.

04 Illustration

Covariance from PMF chart

Two Methods: 1. $\sum x P_X(x)$

Suppose the joint PMF of X and Y is given by this chart:

$Y \downarrow X \rightarrow$	1	2
-1	0.2	0.2
0	0.35	0.1
1	0.05	0.1

0.4
0.45
0.15

0.6 0.4

Find $\text{Cov}[X, Y]$.

Solution

We need $E[X]$ and $E[Y]$ and $E[XY]$.

$$E[X] = 1 \cdot (0.2 + 0.35 + 0.05) + 2 \cdot (0.2 + 0.1 + 0.1) \gg \gg 1.4$$

$$E[Y] = -1 \cdot (0.2 + 0.2) + 0 \cdot (0.35 + 0.1) + 1 \cdot (0.05 + 0.1)$$

$$\gg \gg -0.25$$

$$E[XY] = -1 \cdot (0.2) - 2 \cdot (0.2) + 0 + 1 \cdot (0.05) + 2 \cdot (0.1) \gg \gg -0.35$$

Therefore:

$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y]$$

$$\gg \gg -0.35 - (1.4)(-0.25) \gg \gg 0$$

Indep $\Rightarrow E[XY] - E[X]E[Y] = 0 \checkmark$

BUT $\text{Cov}[X, Y] \neq 0 \Rightarrow$ Indep.

05 Theory

$$X \star Y = Y \star X$$

Covariance bilinearity

$$(X+Y) \star Z = X \star Z + Y \star Z$$

Given any three random variables X , Y , and Z , we have:

$$\text{Cov}[X+Y, Z] = \text{Cov}[X, Z] + \text{Cov}[Y, Z]$$

$$\text{Cov}[Z, X+Y] = \text{Cov}[Z, X] + \text{Cov}[Z, Y]$$

$$\text{So: } \text{Cov}[X+Y, X+Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y] + 2 \text{Cov}[X, Y]$$

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

Covariance and correlation: shift and scale

Covariance *scales with each input, and ignores shifts*:

$$\text{Cov}[aX+b, Y] = a \text{Cov}[X, Y] = \text{Cov}[X, aY+b]$$

Whereas shift or scale in correlation *only affects the sign*:

$$\rho[aX+b, Y] = \text{sign}(a) \rho[X, Y] = \rho[X, aY+b]$$

$$\text{Cov}[-X, 2Y-3] = -2 \text{Cov}[X, Y]$$

$$\rho[-X, 2Y-3] = -\rho[X, Y]$$

$$\rho[-X, +X] = -1$$

$$\rho[-X, -X] = +1$$

Extra - Proof of covariance bilinearity

$$\text{Cov}[X+Y, Z] \gg \gg E[(X+Y - (\mu_X + \mu_Y))(Z - \mu_Z)]$$

$$\gg \gg E[(X - \mu_X + Y - \mu_Y)(Z - \mu_Z)]$$

$$\gg \gg E[(X - \mu_X)(Z - \mu_Z)] + E[(Y - \mu_Y)(Z - \mu_Z)]$$

$$\gg \gg \text{Cov}[X, Z] + \text{Cov}[Y, Z]$$

Extra - Proof of covariance shift and scale rule

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Cov}[aX + b, Y] &\gg \gg E[(aX + b)Y] - E[aX + b]E[Y] \\
 &\gg \gg E[aXY + bY] - aE[X]E[Y] - E[b]E[Y] \\
 &\gg \gg aE[XY] + bE[Y] - aE[X]E[Y] - bE[Y] \\
 &\gg \gg a(E[XY] - E[X]E[Y])
 \end{aligned}$$

Independence implies zero covariance

Suppose that X and Y are any two random variables on a probability model.

If X and Y are independent, then:

$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = 0$$

Sum rule for variance

Suppose that X and Y are any two random variables on a probability space. $(X+Y) \star (X+Y)$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Var}[X+Y] &= \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y] + 2\text{Cov}[X, Y] \\
 &= \text{Cov}[X, X] + \text{Cov}[X, Y] + \text{Cov}[Y, X] + \text{Cov}[Y, Y] \\
 &= \text{Var}[X] + 2\text{Cov}[X, Y] + \text{Var}[Y]
 \end{aligned}$$

Handwritten notes: Var[X+Y] = Cov[X+Y, X+Y]

When X and Y are *independent*, the formula simplifies to:

$$\text{Var}[X+Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y]$$

Proof: Independence implies zero covariance

The product rule for expectation, since X and Y are independent:

$$E[XY] = E[X]E[Y]$$

The shorter formula for covariance:

$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = E[XY] - \mu_X \mu_Y$$

But $E[XY] = E[X]E[Y] = \mu_X \mu_Y$, so those terms cancel and $\text{Cov}[X, Y] = 0$.



Proof: Sum rule for variance

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Var}[X+Y] &\gg \gg E[(X+Y - (\mu_X + \mu_Y))^2] \\
 &\gg \gg E[((X - \mu_X) + (Y - \mu_Y))^2] \\
 &\gg \gg E[(X - \mu_X)^2 + (Y - \mu_Y)^2 + 2(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)] \\
 &\gg \gg \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y] + 2\text{Cov}[X, Y]
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof that $-1 \leq \rho \leq +1$

1. Create standardizations:

$$\tilde{X} = \frac{X - \mu_X}{\sigma_X}, \quad \tilde{Y} = \frac{Y - \mu_Y}{\sigma_Y}$$

2. Now $\tilde{X}$ and $\tilde{Y}$ satisfy $E[\tilde{X}] = 0 = E[\tilde{Y}]$ and $\text{Var}[\tilde{X}] = 1 = \text{Var}[\tilde{Y}]$.

3. Observe that $\text{Var}[W] \geq 0$ for any W . *Variance can't be negative.*

4. Apply the variance sum rule.

- Apply to $\tilde{X}$ and $\tilde{Y}$:

$$0 \leq \text{Var}[\tilde{X} + \tilde{Y}] = \text{Var}[\tilde{X}] + \text{Var}[\tilde{Y}] + 2\text{Cov}[\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}]$$

- Simplify:

$$\gg \gg 1 + 1 + 2\text{Cov}[\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}] \geq 0$$

$$\gg \gg 1 + \text{Cov}[\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}] \geq 0$$

- Notice effect of standardization:

$$\text{Cov}[\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}] = \rho[X, Y]$$

D.e. correlation is covariance of standardized variables

- Therefore $\rho[X, Y] \geq -1$.

5. Modify and reapply variance sum rule.

- Change to $\tilde{X} - \tilde{Y}$:

$$0 \leq \text{Var}[\tilde{X} - \tilde{Y}] = \text{Var}[\tilde{X}] + \text{Var}[-\tilde{Y}] + 2\text{Cov}[\tilde{X}, -\tilde{Y}]$$

- Simplify:

$$\gg \gg 1 + 1 - 2\text{Cov}[\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}] \geq 0$$

$$\gg \gg 1 - \text{Cov}[\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}] \geq 0$$

$$1 - \rho[X, Y] \geq 0$$

$$1 \geq \rho[X, Y]$$

06 Illustration

Exercise - Covariance rules

Simplify:

$$\text{Cov}[2X + 5Y + 1, Z + 8W + X + 9]$$

Exercise - Independent variables are uncorrelated

Let X be given with possible values $\{-1, 0, +1\}$ and PMF given uniformly by $P_X(k) = 1/3$ for all three possible k . Let $Y = X^2$.

Show that X and Y are dependent but uncorrelated.

Hint: To speed the calculation, notice that $X^3 = X$.

Variance of sum of indicators

An urn contains 3 red balls and 2 yellow balls.

Suppose 2 balls are drawn without replacement, and X counts the number of red balls drawn.

Find $\text{Var}(X)$.

Solution

Let X_1 indicate (one or zero) whether the first ball is red, and X_2 indicate whether the second ball is red, so $X = X_1 + X_2$.

Then X_1X_2 indicates whether both drawn balls are red; so it is Bernoulli with success probability $\frac{3}{5} \cdot \frac{2}{4} = \frac{3}{10}$. Therefore $E[X_1X_2] = \frac{3}{10}$.

We also have $E[X_1] = E[X_2] = \frac{3}{5}$.

The variance sum rule gives:

$$\text{Var}[X] \stackrel{= \text{Var}[X_1 + X_2]}{=} \text{Var}[X_1] + \text{Var}[X_2] + 2\text{Cov}[X_1, X_2]$$

$$\gg \gg E[X_1^2] - E[X_1]^2 + E[X_2^2] - E[X_2]^2 + 2(E[X_1X_2] - E[X_1]E[X_2])$$

$$\gg \gg \frac{3}{5} - \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{5} - \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2 + 2\left(\frac{3}{10} - \frac{3}{5} \cdot \frac{3}{5}\right) \gg \gg \frac{9}{25}$$