

Lecture 32.

Recall from last time that for variables X, Y ,

$$\text{cov}(X, Y) := E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y])]$$

and that $\text{cov}(X, Y) = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y]$.

Prop: $\text{cov}(X, Y) = \text{cov}(Y, X)$.

Pf: obvious since $XY = YX$, so
 $E[XY] - E[X]E[Y] = E[YX] - E[Y]E[X]$
□

Prop: $\text{cov}(X, X) = \text{Var}(X)$.

Pf: $\text{cov}(X, X) = E[(X - E[X])(X - E[X])] = E[(X - E[X])^2] = \text{Var}(X)$. □

Prop: $\text{cov}(aX, Y) = a \text{cov}(X, Y)$

Pf: $\text{cov}(aX, Y) = E[aXY] - E[aX]E[Y]$
 $= aE[XY] - aE[X]E[Y]$
 $= a(E[XY] - E[X]E[Y]) = a \text{cov}(X, Y)$.
□

Prop: $\text{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \sum_{j=1}^m Y_j\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \text{Cov}(X_i, Y_j)$

Pf: Observe that it suffices to prove that

$$\text{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, Y\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, Y). \quad (*)$$

Then substituting $Y = Y_1 + \dots + Y_n$ and the fact that

$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \text{Cov}(Y, X)$ gives the desired result.

Let $\mu_i = E[X_i]$, $E[Y] = \nu$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \text{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, Y\right) &= E\left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right)Y\right] - E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right]E[Y]. \\ &= E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i Y)\right] - E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right]E[Y] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i Y] - \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i]E[Y] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \left(E[X_i Y] - E[X_i]E[Y]\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, Y) \text{ as required.} \end{aligned}$$

□

Corollary (Variance of a sum of RVs).

$$\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + 2 \sum_{i < j} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j).$$

Proof: $\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \text{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right)$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\underbrace{\text{Cov}(X_i, X_i)}_{=\text{Var}(X_i)} + \sum_{\{j: j \neq i\}} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) \right) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + \sum_{i \neq j} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + 2 \sum_{i < j} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j).
\end{aligned}$$

□

Corollary: Let $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$ be independent.
Then $\text{Var}(X_1 + \dots + X_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i)$.

Pf: By independence, $\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = 0$ for $i \neq j$.
The result follows.

Correlation:

For random variables X and Y , the correlation of X and Y is defined to be

$$\rho(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y)}}.$$

Proposition: $\forall X, Y, \quad -1 \leq \rho(X, Y) \leq 1.$

Pf: Let $\text{Var}(X) = \sigma_x^2$ $\text{Var}(Y) = \sigma_y^2.$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \forall n, \quad 0 &\leq \text{Var}\left(\frac{X}{\sigma_x} + (-1)^n \frac{Y}{\sigma_y}\right) \\ &= \frac{\text{Var}(X)}{\sigma_x^2} + \frac{\text{Var}(Y)}{((-1)^n \sigma_y)^2} + (-1)^n 2 \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_x \sigma_y} \\ &= 1 + 1 + (-1)^n 2 \rho(X, Y) \\ &= 2(1 + (-1)^n \rho(X, Y)). \end{aligned}$$

So for all n ,

$$0 \leq 1 + (-1)^n \rho(X, Y).$$

$$-1 \leq (-1)^n \rho(X, Y).$$

For n even, we get $-1 \leq \rho(X, Y).$

For n odd, we get $-1 \leq -\rho(X, Y)$, so $1 \geq \rho(X, Y).$

Hence $-1 \leq \rho(X, Y) \leq 1.$



Proposition: $\rho(X, Y) = \pm 1$ iff $Y = a \pm bX.$

Pf: Left as an exercise.

— The idea is that $\rho(X, Y)$ "measures" how

linearly related ~~X~~ and Y are.

Moment Generating Functions.

Let X be a random variable.

Then we define the moment generating function of X as

$$m_X(t) = E[e^{tx}] \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

So

$$m_X(t) = \sum_x e^{tx} p(x) \quad \text{if } X \text{ is discrete}$$

and

$$m_X(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} f(x) dx \quad \text{if } X \text{ is continuous.}$$

Let's study the continuous case. By Leibniz's rule

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^n}{dt^n} m_X(t) &= m_X^{(n)}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^n}{dt^n} e^{tx} f(x) dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^n e^{tx} f(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and so } m_X^{(n)}(0) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^n f(x) dx = E[X^n], \quad \text{the } n^{\text{th}} \text{ moment.}$$

The proof is identical in the discrete case.

Ex: Let $X = \text{Bm}(n, p)$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} m_X(t) &= E[e^{tX}] \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n e^{tk} \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n (e^t)^k \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (pe^t)^k (1-p)^{n-k} \\ &= (pe^t + 1 - p)^n \quad (\text{by the Binomial theorem}) \end{aligned}$$
