

Lecture 4.1, MATH-57091 Probability and Statistics for High-School Teachers.

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Jointly Distributed Random Variables

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It is usually a quite tricky to find $p_{X,Y}(x,y)$ even if we know p_X and p_Y . The point is that we must know how X and Y are "related" to each other and if events $X = x$ and $Y = y$ are not independent then

$$P(X = x, Y = y) \neq P(X = x)P(Y = y).$$

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Then

$$\sum_j p_{X,Y}(x, y_j) = \sum_j P(X = x, Y = y_j) = P(X = x \cap (\bigcup_j (Y = y_j))) = P(X = x) = p_X(x)$$

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Note that the above formula does not require independence assumption.

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NOTICE: WE DO NOT NEED X AND Y TO BE INDEPENDENT!

Example.

Problem: The table below represents the annual incomes (in \$ 1000) of 8 men and 8 women who are residents of Kent

Women	Men
43.6	51.3
55.8	44.2
62.2	56.9
77.3	83.2
64.6	85.3
95.8	84.2
74.6	55.3
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Suppose that a woman and a man are randomly chosen. Find the expected value of the sum of their incomes.

Solution: Let X be the man's income and Y the woman's income. Since X is equally likely to be any of the 8 values in the women's column, we see that:

$$\mathbb{E}Y = \frac{1}{8}(43.6 + 55.8 + 62.2 + 77.3 + 64.6 + 95.8 + 74.6 + 85.8) = 69.9625,$$

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The Binomial Random Variable

Suppose that n independent trial, each of which results in a "success" with probability p and "failure" with probability $1 - p$ are to be performed. If X represents the number of successes that occur in the n trials, then X is said to be a **Binomial Random Variable** with parameters (n, p) . We note that

$$p_X(i) = P(X = i) = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{n-i}, \text{ for } i = 0, 1, \dots, n,$$

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$$\mathbb{E}X = \mathbb{E}X_1 + \mathbb{E}X_2 + \dots + \mathbb{E}X_n = np.$$

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We remark that it is clear that random variables X_i are **"very dependent!"** but we do not care about this when calculating the expected value of the sum!

Problem: At a party N men throw their hats into the center of a room. The hats are mixed up and each man randomly selects one. Find the expected number of men who selected their own hats.

Solution: Let X denote the number of men that selected their own hats. You may try to find Probability Mass Function of X , this will be quite non-trivial!!! The only reason to try it, is to really appreciate the solution we will present! The idea is to compute $\mathbb{E}X$ by representing X as

$$X = X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_N,$$

where

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if the } i\text{th man selected his own hat} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Now, because the i th man is equally likely to select any of the N hats, it follows that

$$P(X_i = 1) = P(\textit{ith man selected his own hat}) = \frac{1}{N},$$

moreover

$$\mathbb{E}X_i = 1P(X_i = 1) + 0P(X_i = 0) = \frac{1}{N},$$

finally

$$\mathbb{E}X = \mathbb{E}X_1 + \mathbb{E}X_2 + \cdots + \mathbb{E}X_N = N * \frac{1}{N} = 1.$$

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We also remark that the answer to the problem is really cool: it does not matter how many people are at the party, on the average exactly one of the men will select his own hat!

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Thus

$$\mathbb{E}X = \mathbb{E}X_1 + \mathbb{E}X_2 + \cdots + \mathbb{E}X_{25} = 25 * \left[1 - \left(\frac{24}{25}\right)^{10}\right].$$

BE CAREFUL!

Note the sum works perfect with expectation of random variables (i.e. the sum works perfect with the average). This is not long true for the product!!!!

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and $\mathbb{E}X^2 = .5$ but $(\mathbb{E}X)^2 = .25$ so $\mathbb{E}X^2 \neq (\mathbb{E}X)^2$.