

ECE 203

Probability Theory and Statistics I

Tutorial 9

July 2025

Problem 1

Let X_1, X_2, \dots be iid with $E[X_1] = 2$ and $E[X_1^2] = 5$. Let $N \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ and independent of X_1, X_2, \dots

Find $E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N]$.

Find $\text{Var}[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N]$.

Problem 1 - Solution

We use conditional probability:

Law of Total Expectation

$$E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N] = E[E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N | N]]$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N | N = n] &= E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_n | N = n] \\ &= E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_n] \\ &= E[X_1] E[X_2] \cdots E[X_n] \\ &= 2 \times 2 \times \cdots \times 2 \\ &= 2^n \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N | N] = 2^N$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N] &= E[2^N] \\ &= e^\lambda \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[a^N] &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a^n P[N = n] \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a^n \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} e^{-\lambda} \\ &= e^{-\lambda} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a\lambda)^n}{n!} \\ &= e^{-\lambda} e^{a\lambda} \\ &= e^{(a-1)\lambda} \end{aligned}$$

Problem 1 - Solution

Approach 1: We use the Conditional Variance Formula (also called Law of Total Variance)

$$\text{Var}[X] = E[\text{Var}[X|Y]] + \text{Var}[E[X|Y]] \quad \text{with} \quad X = X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N$$
$$Y = N$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}[E[X|Y]] &= \text{Var}[2^N] \\ &= E[(2^N)^2] - (E[2^N])^2 \\ &= E[4^N] - (E[2^N])^2 \\ &= e^{3\lambda} - (e^\lambda)^2 \\ &= e^{3\lambda} - e^{2\lambda}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}[X|Y] &= E[X^2|Y] - (E[X|Y])^2 \\ &= E[X_1^2 X_2^2 \cdots X_N^2 | N] - (E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N | N])^2 \\ &= E[X_1^2 X_2^2 \cdots X_N^2 | N] - (2^N)^2\end{aligned}$$

Problem 1 - Solution

$$\begin{aligned} E[X_1^2 X_2^2 \cdots X_N^2 | N = n] &= E[X_1^2 X_2^2 \cdots X_n^2 | N = n] \\ &= E[X_1^2 X_2^2 \cdots X_n^2] \\ &= E[X_1^2] E[X_2^2] \cdots E[X_n^2] \\ &= 5^n \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow E[X_1^2 X_2^2 \cdots X_N^2 | N] = 5^N$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow E[Var[X|Y]] &= E[5^N - 4^N] \\ &= e^{4\lambda} - e^{3\lambda} \end{aligned}$$

Combining

$$Var[X] = e^{4\lambda} - e^{3\lambda} + (e^{3\lambda} - e^{2\lambda}) = e^{4\lambda} - e^{2\lambda}$$

Problem 1 - Solution

Approach 2: More direct calculation

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

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= E[E[X|Y]] \\ &= E[E[X_1 X_2 \cdots X_N | N]] \\ &= E[2^N] \\ &= e^\lambda \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X^2] &= E[E[X^2|Y]] \\ &= E[E[X_1^2 X_2^2 \cdots X_N^2 | N]] \\ &= E[5^N] \\ &= e^{4\lambda} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Var}[X] = e^{4\lambda} - (e^\lambda)^2$$

Problem 2

Let (X, Y) be jointly Gaussian with mean vector $\boldsymbol{\mu} = 0$ and covariance matrix

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_X^2 & \rho\sigma_X\sigma_Y \\ \rho\sigma_X\sigma_Y & \sigma_Y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let

$$U = X + 2Y$$

$$V = 2X + Y$$

- a) What are $Cov[X, Y]$ and $E[XY]$?
- b) What is the correlation $\rho(U, V)$?

Problem 2 - Solution

a)

$$\rho = \rho(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}[X, Y]}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y} = \frac{E[XY] - \overbrace{E[X]}^{=0} \overbrace{E[Y]}^{=0}}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y}$$

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

$$E[XY] = \rho \sigma_X \sigma_Y$$

b) We want

$$\rho(U, V) = \frac{\text{Cov}[U, V]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[U] \text{Var}[V]}}$$

Problem 2 - Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}[U, V] &= E[UV] - E[U]E[V] \\ &= E[(X + 2Y)(2X + Y)] - E[X + 2Y]E[Y + 2X] \\ &= E[2X^2 + 5XY + 2Y^2] - 0 \times 0 \\ &= 2E[X^2] + 5E[XY] + 2E[Y^2] \\ &= 2\sigma_X^2 + 5\rho\sigma_X\sigma_Y + 2\sigma_Y^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[U] &= E[U^2] - (E[U])^2 \\ &= E[(X + 2Y)^2] - (E[X + 2Y])^2 \\ &= E[X^2 + 4XY + 4Y^2] - 0^2 \\ &= \sigma_X^2 + 4\rho\sigma_X\sigma_Y + 4\sigma_Y^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[V] &= E[V^2] - (E[V])^2 \\ &= E[(2X + Y)^2] - (E[2X + Y])^2 \\ &= E[4X^2 + 4XY + Y^2] - 0^2 \\ &= 4\sigma_X^2 + 4\rho\sigma_X\sigma_Y + \sigma_Y^2 \end{aligned}$$



Problem 3

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be independent and $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Let

$$Y = a_1X_1 + a_2X_2 + \dots + a_nX_n$$

$$Z = b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + \dots + b_nX_n$$

Find $Cov[Y, Z]$.

Problem 3 - Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}[Y, Z] &= \text{Cov} \left[\sum_{k=1}^n a_k X_k, \sum_{m=1}^n b_m X_m \right] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{m=1}^n \text{Cov}[a_k X_k, b_m X_m] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{m=1}^n a_k b_m \text{Cov}[X_k, X_m] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{m=1}^n a_k b_m \text{Cov}[X_k, X_m] \end{aligned}$$

Since X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent, $\text{Cov}[X_k, X_m] = 0$ when $k \neq m$:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}[Y, Z] &= \sum_{k=1}^n \left[\sum_{m=1}^n a_k b_m \text{Cov}[X_k, X_m] \right] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \left[\sum_{m=k}^n a_k b_m \text{Cov}[X_k, X_m] \right] \end{aligned}$$



Problem 3 - Solution

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_{k=1}^n a_k b_k \text{Cov}[X_k, X_k] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n a_k b_k \text{Var}[X_k] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n a_k b_k \end{aligned}$$

Problem 4

Two particles are positioned on a line with random and independent positions

$$X_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

$$X_2 \sim U(-1, 1)$$

Find $E[(X_1 + X_2)^3]$.

Problem 4 - Solution

$$\begin{aligned}E[(X_1 + X_2)^3] &= E[X_1^3 + 3X_1^2X_2 + 3X_1X_2^2 + X_2^3] \\&= E[X_1^3] + 3E[X_1^2X_2] + 3E[X_1X_2^2] + E[X_2^3] \\&= E[X_1^3] + 3E[X_1^2]E[X_2] + 3E[X_1]E[X_2^2] + E[X_2^3] \quad (\text{a}) \\&= E[X_1^3] + 3E[X_1^2] \times 0 + 3 \times 0 \times E[X_2^2] + E[X_2^3] \\&= E[X_1^3] + E[X_2^3] \\&= 0 \quad (\text{b})\end{aligned}$$

(a) follows because if X_1 and X_2 are independent, then $E[f(X_1)g(X_2)] = E[f(X_1)]E[g(X_2)]$

(b) follows from

$$\begin{aligned}E[X_2^3] &= \int_{-1}^1 x^3 \times \frac{1}{2} dx \\&= 0\end{aligned}$$

since integrand is an odd function

Problem 4 - Solution

$$\begin{aligned} E[X_1^3] &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^3 e^{-x^2/2} dx \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

since integrand is an odd function