

Mathematical Statistics 1

Chapter 1. Introduction to Probability

1.9. Some Special Expectations—Proofs of Theorems

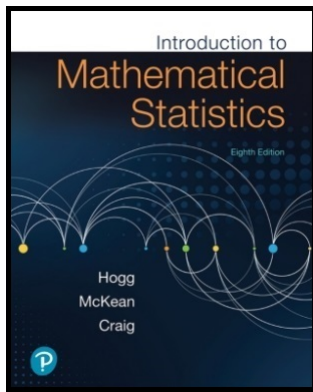


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Theorem 1.9.1

Theorem 1.9.1. Let X be a random variable with finite mean μ and finite variance σ^2 . Then for all constants a and b we have $\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2\text{Var}(X)$.

Proof. Since E is linear by Theorem 1.8.2, then $E[aX + b] = aE[X] + b = a\mu + b$. So

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(aX + b) &= E[((aX + b) - (a\mu + b))^2] = E[a^2(X - \mu)^2] \\ &= a^2E[(X - \mu)^2] = a^2\text{Var}(X),\end{aligned}$$

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Exercise 1.9.3(a)

Exercise 1.9.3(a). Let X have distribution $f(x) = 6x(1 - x) = 6x - 6x^2$, $0 < x < 1$, zero elsewhere. Compute $P(\mu - 2\sigma < X < \mu + s\sigma)$.

Solution. First,

$$\begin{aligned}\mu = E[X] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x) dx = \int_0^1 x(6x - 6x^2) dx \\ &= \int_0^1 (6x^2 - 6x^3) dx = \left(2x^3 - \frac{3}{2}x^4\right) \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

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Next, for σ^2 we first find $E[X^2]$:

$$\begin{aligned}E[X^2] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2f(x) dx = \int_0^1 x^2(6x - 6x^2) dx = \int_0^1 (6x^3 - 6x^4) dx \\ &= \left(\frac{3}{2}x^4 - \frac{6}{5}x^5\right)\Big|_0^1 = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{6}{5} = \frac{3}{10}.\end{aligned}$$

So $\sigma^2 = E[X^2] - \mu^2 = 3/10 - (1/2)^2 = 1/20$ and then $\sigma = 1/\sqrt{20}$.

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Exercise 1.9.3(a) (continued)

Solution (continued). Hence (since $2\sigma = 2/\sqrt{20} = 1/\sqrt{5}$)

$$P(\mu - 2\sigma < X < \mu + 2\sigma) = P\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} < X < \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\right)$$

$$= P\left(\frac{\sqrt{5}-2}{2\sqrt{5}} < X < \frac{\sqrt{5}+2}{2\sqrt{5}}\right)$$

$$= \int_{(\sqrt{5}-2)/(2\sqrt{5})}^{(\sqrt{5}+2)/(2\sqrt{5})} (6x - 6x^2) dx = (3x^2 - 2x^3) \Big|_{(\sqrt{5}-2)/(2\sqrt{5})}^{(\sqrt{5}+2)/(2\sqrt{5})}$$

$$= \left(3 \left(\frac{\sqrt{5}+2}{2\sqrt{5}}\right)^2 - 2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{5}+2}{2\sqrt{5}}\right)^3\right) - \left(3 \left(\frac{\sqrt{5}-2}{2\sqrt{5}}\right)^2 - 2 \left(\frac{\sqrt{5}-2}{2\sqrt{5}}\right)^3\right)$$

$$\approx 0.98387.$$

□

Exercise 1.9.7.

Exercise 1.9.7. Show that the moment generating function of the random variable X having the probability density function $f(x) = 1/3$, $-1 < x < 2$, zero elsewhere, is

$$M(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{e^{2t} - e^{-t}}{3t} & \text{for } t \neq 0 \\ 1 & \text{for } t = 0. \end{cases}$$

Solution. By definition,

$$\begin{aligned} M(t) &= E[e^{tX}] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tX} f(x) dx = \int_{-1}^2 \frac{1}{3} e^{tx} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{3t} e^{tx} \Big|_{-1}^2 = \frac{e^{2t} - e^{-t}}{3t} \text{ for } t \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

As commented above, $M(0) = 1$ when a moment generating function exists and so the result follows. □

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