Mathematical Expectation of a Random Variable

Idea: mean value of a random variable

- Definition: Weighted mean of the values of the random variable

$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in X} xP(X = x)$$

- Condition for the existence:

$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in X} |x| P(X = x) < \infty$$

  – Note: Infinite sets can yield paradoxes

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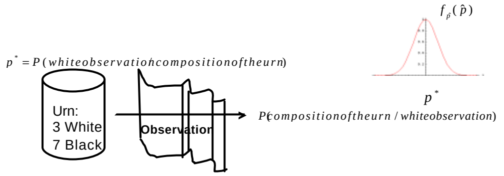
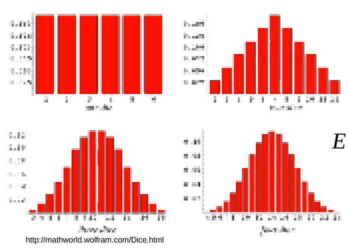


Sum of random variables

- Example: sum of points of *n* dice

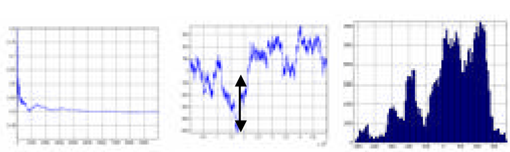


http://mathworld.wolfram.com/Dice.html

$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in X} xP(X = x)$$

Mistakes of intuition

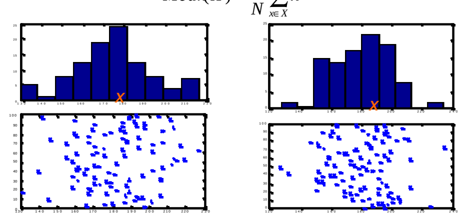
- Intuition corresponds to ratio.
  – Convergence on ratio. $\dfrac{favorable}{(favorable + unfavorable)} \to \dfrac{1}{2}$
  – Difference gets as bigger ! $|favorable - unfavorable| \to \infty$



Idea: mean value of a random variable

- Note that it is ***probabilistic interpretation*** of the common sense concept of ***mean***.
- Two samples of the height of a population with a real mean of 180 cm.

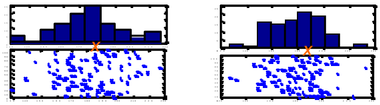
$$Mean(X) = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{x \in X} x$$



Idea: mean value of a random variable

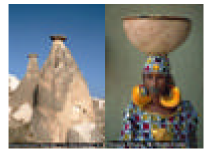
- Note that it is ***probabilistic interpretation*** of the common sense concept of ***mean***.
- Note that if all possible samples are equally probable, they are equivalent.

$$E(X)=\sum_{x\in X} xP(X=x) \qquad P(X=x)=\frac{1}{N} \qquad Mean(X)=\frac{1}{N}\sum_{x\in X} x$$

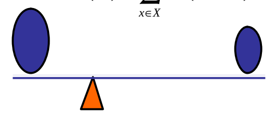


Idea: center of mass/equilibrium

- If the probability P(*X*=x) is interpreted as mass, and the random variable X as distance, the mathematical expectation is the center of mass of the object.



$$E(X)=\sum_{x\in X} xP(X=x)$$



Example: Roulette

- What is the payoff given by the casino?
- Roulette selects at random a number between 1 and 36 (0).
- Players can bet on 18,12,9,6,4,3,2,1 number.
  - A Bet over k numbers has a probability of success of k/36 and of getting a payment x from the casino or lossing a.
  - Expected value is

$$E(X)=\sum_{x\in\{Win,Loss\}} xP(X=x)=\frac{k}{36}x+\left(1-\frac{k}{36}\right)(-a)$$

  - A fair game would imply

$$E(X)=0$$

$$x=\left(\frac{36}{k}-1\right)a$$

Example: Roulette

- What is the payoff given by the casino?
- The roulette has 37 slots (1 to 36+ the 0 slot)
  - In a Real game the casino the odds are
    - 35:1 17:2 11:3

$$E(X)=\sum_{x\in\{Win,Loss\}} xP(X=x)=\left(\frac{36}{k}-1\right)a\frac{k}{37}+(-a)\left(1-\frac{k}{37}\right)=-\frac{a}{37}$$

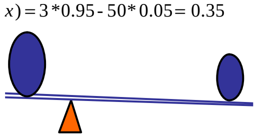
$$E(X)<0$$

We need to model the variability

Example: Parking ticket

- Which is the expected value of not paying the parking ticket?
  - Parking ticket → 3 euros
  - Parking fine → 50 euros
  - Prob. of getting caught → 0.05

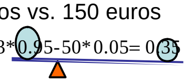
$$E(X)=\sum_{x\in\{Win,Loss\}} xP(X=x)=3*0.95-50*0.05=0.35$$



Example: Parking ticket

- Which is the expected value of not paying the parking ticket?
- Important issues:
  - Subjective value: 3 euros vs. 150 euros

$$E(X)=\sum_{x\in\{Win,Loss\}} xP(X=x)=3*0.95-50*0.05=0.35$$



  - Variability of the savings
  - Possible ‘runs’ of fines

Expected value of a geometric random variable

- Random Varible X={Number of trials until a success}

$$P(X=i)=p^{i-1}(1-p)\quad \text{for } i=1,2,3,\cdots$$

$$E(X)=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} np^{n-1}(1-p)=(1-p)\left(1+2p+3p^2+4p^3+\cdots\right)$$

- How do we sum this series?

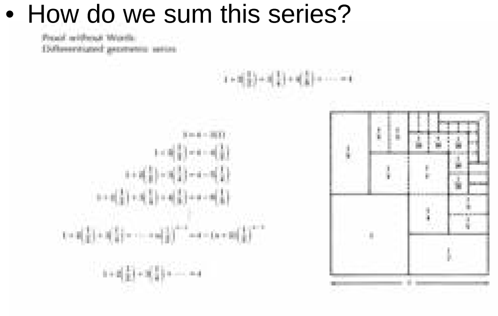
Proof without Words: Differentiated Geometric Series

Roger B. Nelsen

Mathematics Magazine, Vol. 62, No. 5 (Dec., 1989), pp. 332-333.

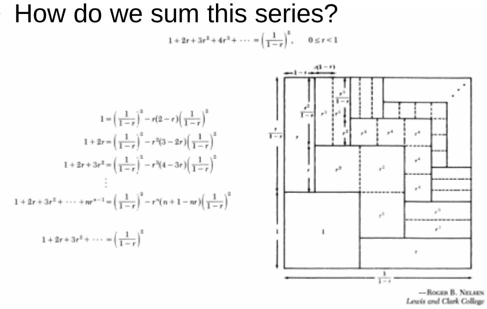
Expected value of a geometric random variable

- How do we sum this series?



Expected value of a geometric random variable

- How do we sum this series?



Expected value of a geometric random variable

- How do we sum this series?

$$E(X)=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} np^{n-1}(1-p)=(1-p)\left(1+2p+3p^2+4p^3+\cdots\right)$$

$$pE(X)=\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} np^{n}(1-p)=(1-p)\left(p+2p^2+3p^3+4p^4+\cdots\right)$$

$$E(X)-pE(X)=(1-p)\left(1+p+p^2+p^3+p^4+\cdots\right)=$$

$$=(1-p)\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p^k \underset{\substack{\text{Geometric}\\ \text{Series}}}{=} (1-p)\frac{1}{(1-p)}=1$$

$$E(X)=\frac{1}{(1-p)}$$

Expected value of a geometric random variable

- How do we sum this series? *Another way*

$$S(p)=\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} p^k \underset{\substack{\text{Geometric}\\ \text{Series}}}{=} \frac{p}{(1-p)}$$

$$\frac{d}{dp}S(p)=\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kp^{k-1}=\frac{d}{dp}\left(\frac{p}{(1-p)}\right)=\frac{1}{(1-p)^2}$$

$$E(X)=(1-p)\frac{1}{(1-p)^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{a(x)}{b(x)}\right)=\frac{b(x)\frac{d}{dx}a(x)-a(x)\frac{d}{dx}b(x)}{b(x)^2}$$

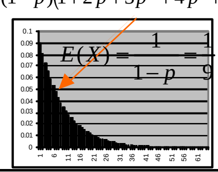
Expected value of a geometric random variable

- Random Varible X={Number of trials until a success}

$$P(X=i)=p^{i-1}(1-p)\quad \text{for } i=1,2,3,\cdots$$

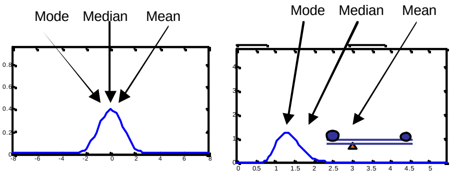
$$E(X)=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} np^{n-1}(1-p)=(1-p)\left(1+2p+3p^2+4p^3+\cdots\right)$$

$$E(X)=\frac{1}{1-p}$$



Relation of expectaition and other statistical measures

- Skew distribution vs. symetric distribution



Full House: The Spread of Excellence fron
Plato to Darwin by Stephen Jay Gould

Property of lineality

- The expectation of a linear combination of random variables is the linear combination of expectations.

$$E(aX + bY) = aE(X) + bE(Y)$$

$$E(aX + bY) = \sum_{w\in\Omega} \left(aX(w) + bY(w)\right)P(w)$$

$$= a\sum_{w\in\Omega} X(w)P(w) + b\sum_{w\in\Omega} Y(w)P(w) =$$

$$= aE(X) + bE(Y)$$

Finding the maximum

- Suppose that *n* children of differing heights are placed in line at random. You select the first child from the line and walk with her/him along the line until you encounter a child who is taller or until you have reached the end of the line. If you do encounter a taller child, you repeat the process.
- What is the expected value of the number of children selected from the line?

Taken fromTijms, Understanding probability

Finding the maximum

- We define the variable *X* as the number of children selected from the line.
- We will define the indicator variable:

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if the } i\text{-}th \text{ child is selected from the line} \\ 0 \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Now the number of selected children will be:

$$X = X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_n$$

Finding the maximum

- The probability that the ith child is the tallest among the first i children is 1/i
- Therefore:

$$E(X_i) = 0\cdot\left(1-\frac{1}{i}\right) + 1\cdot\frac{1}{i} = \frac{1}{i} \qquad \text{for } i = 1,2,\cdots n$$

$$E(X) = E(X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_n)$$

$$E(X) = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}\cdots + \frac{1}{n} \approx \ln(n) + \frac{1}{2n} + 0.57722$$

Expected number of distinct birthdays

- What is the expected number of distinct birthdays within a randomly formed group of 100 persons.
  - We define the random variable

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if the birthday is on day } i \\ 0 \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

  - The number of birthdays is $X = X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_{365}$

Taken fromTijms, Understanding probability

Expected number of distinct birthdays

- What is the expected number of distinct birthdays within a randomly formed group of 100 persons.
  - For each day we have:

$$P(X_i = 0) = \left(\frac{364}{365}\right)^{100}$$

$$P(X_i = 1) = 1 - P(X_i = 0)$$

  - The expected number of distinct birthdays is

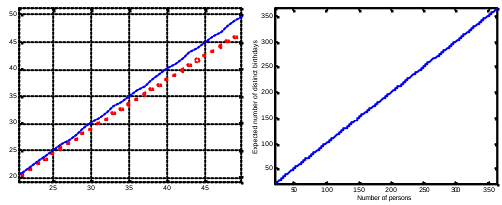
$$E(X) = E(X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_{365}) = 365\left(1 - \left(\frac{364}{365}\right)^{100}\right) = 87.6$$

Taken fromTijms, Understanding probability

Expected number of distinct birthdays

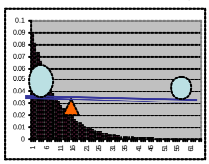
- For an arbitrary number of persons.

$$E(X) = 365\left(1 - \left(\frac{364}{365}\right)^{n}\right)$$



Other Properties

- If X is a non negative random variable, then $E(X) \geq 0$



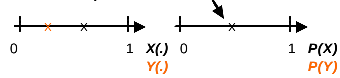
- Also $X \geq Y$ then $E(X) \geq E(Y)$

Other Properties

- What do we mean by

$X \geq Y$ then $E(X) \geq E(Y)$?

$Y : \Omega \rightarrow \Re \quad X : \Omega \rightarrow \Re$



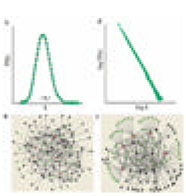
$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in X} xP(X = x)$$

Caveats of intuition

- Does the expectation always exist?

$$Mean(X) = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{x \in X} x$$

Sample mean always exists



$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in X} xP(X = x)$$

Expectation perhaps gives an infinite value !!!!

$$P(X = x) = \frac{l^x}{x!}e^{-l}$$

$$P(X = x) = \frac{1}{x^a}$$

http://physicsweb.org/articles/world/14/7/9/1#pw1407091
The physics of the Web
July 2001

Caveats of intuition

- Does the expectation always exist?
- Example: A Cauchy random variable

$$Mean(X) = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{x \in X} x$$

$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in X} xP(X = x)$$

$$P(X = x) = \frac{1}{p(1 + x^2)} \qquad (-\infty < x < +\infty)$$

$$P(X = x) = \frac{1}{x^a} \qquad E(X) \rightarrow \infty$$

http://physicsweb.org/articles/world/14/7/9/1#pw1407091
The physics of the Web
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Caveats of intuition

- Why is infinite?
- Divergent series $E(X)=\sum_{x\in X} xP(X=x)=\sum_{x=1}^{\infty}\frac{x}{p\left(1+x^2\right)}$
- Note that for high values of x

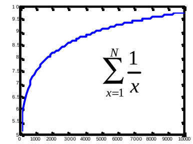
$$E(X)=\sum_{x=1}^{\infty}\frac{x}{p\left(1+x^2\right)}\cong\sum_{x=1}^{x^2>>1}\frac{x}{p\left(1+x^2\right)}+\sum_{x^2>>1}^{\infty}\frac{1}{p}\frac{1}{x}$$

$$E(X)\propto\sum_{x=1}^{\infty}\frac{1}{x}$$

$$P(X=x)=\frac{1}{x^a}$$

Caveats of intuition

- Why is infinite?
- Value of the harmonic series



$$\sum_{x=1}^{\infty}\frac{1}{x}=1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{3}+\frac{1}{4}+\frac{1}{5}+\frac{1}{6}+\frac{1}{7}+\frac{1}{8}+\frac{1}{9}\cdots$$

REPASSAR

$$\sum_{x=1}^{\infty}\frac{1}{x}>1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{4}+\frac{1}{4}+\frac{1}{4}+\frac{1}{4}+\frac{1}{8}+\frac{1}{8}\cdots$$

$$\sum_{x=1}^{\infty}\frac{1}{x}>1+\quad 1\quad+\quad 1\quad+\quad 1\cdots=\infty$$

Expected waiting times

- Geometric
- Pareto
- gausian

Expected value of a Binomial