

Q. An upper bound for $P\{X-\mu \geq a\}$?

One answer: $P\{X-\mu \geq a\} \leq P\{|X-\mu| \geq a\} \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{a^2}$ ($a > 0$)

↑
Chebyshev.

But we can do better!

Prop [One-sided Chebyshev Inequality]

X : a rv with mean 0, finite variance σ^2 .

Then for any $a > 0$,

$$P\{X \geq a\} \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + a^2}.$$

Pf Let $b > 0$, then $X \geq a \Leftrightarrow X+b \geq a+b$.

$$\therefore P\{X \geq a\} = P\{X+b \geq a+b\}$$

$$\leq P\{(X+b)^2 \geq (a+b)^2\}$$

$$\leq \frac{E[(X+b)^2]}{(a+b)^2} = \frac{\sigma^2 + b^2}{(a+b)^2} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} \text{Markov}$$

Let $b = \frac{\sigma^2}{a}$. (the value of b that minimizes $\frac{\sigma^2 + b^2}{(a+b)^2}$)

Cor If $E[X] = \mu$, $\text{Var}[X] = \sigma^2$, then for $a > 0$,

$$P\{X \geq \mu + a\} \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + a^2}$$

$$P\{X \leq \mu - a\} \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma^2 + a^2}.$$

Pf $X-\mu$ & $\mu-X$: mean 0, variance σ^2 .

Apply one-sided Chebyshev.

Ex 200 people (100 M & 100 W)

→ randomly divided into 100 pairs of 2 each.

Upper bound for

$P\{\text{at most 30 pairs will consist of a M & a W}\}?$

sol

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if man } i \text{ is paired with a W} \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Then $X = \sum_{i=1}^{100} X_i$: # of M-W pairs.

$$E[X_i] = P\{X_i=1\} = \frac{100 \leftarrow \text{women}}{199 \leftarrow \text{the other people}}$$

for $i \neq j$,

$$E[X_i X_j] = P\{X_i=1, X_j=1\}$$

$$= P\{X_i=1\} P\{X_j=1 | X_i=1\} = \frac{100}{199} \frac{99 \leftarrow \text{the other women remaining}}{197 \leftarrow \text{the other people remaining}}$$

$$\therefore E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^{100} E[X_i] = 100 \times \frac{100}{199} \approx 50.25$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{100} \text{Var}(X_i) + 2 \sum_{i < j} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$$

$$= 100 \times \left(\frac{100}{199} \times \frac{99}{199} \right) + 2 \binom{100}{2} \left[\frac{100}{199} \frac{99}{197} - \left(\frac{100}{199} \right)^2 \right]$$

$$\approx 25.126$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X_i) &= E[X_i^2] - E[X_i]^2 \\ &= P\{X_i=1\} - \left(\frac{100}{199} \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{100}{199} - \left(\frac{100}{199} \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Chebyshev: $P\{X \leq 30\} \leq P\{|X - 50.25| \geq 20.25\} \leq \frac{25.126}{(20.25)^2}$

one-sided Chebyshev: $P\{X \leq 30\} = P\{X \leq 50.25 - 20.25\} \leq \frac{25.126}{25.126 + (20.25)^2}$ ↪ improved.

- More effective bounds when the moment gen fn is known?

$$\text{Let } M(t) = E[e^{tx}]$$

Then for $t > 0$,

$$P\{X \geq a\} = P\{e^{tX} \geq e^{ta}\} \leq E[e^{tX}] e^{-ta}$$

↑
Markov.

For $t < 0$,

$$P\{X \leq a\} = P\{e^{tX} \geq e^{ta}\} \leq \quad "$$

Prop [Chernoff bounds]

$$\begin{cases} P\{X \geq a\} \leq e^{-ta} M(t) & \text{for all } t > 0 \\ P\{X \leq a\} \leq e^{-ta} M(t) & \text{" } t < 0 \end{cases}$$

Rmk Obtain the best bound by using t that minimizes $e^{-ta} M(t)$.

Ex Z : a standard normal r.v.

$$\Rightarrow M(t) = e^{t^2/2}$$

$$P\{Z \geq a\} \leq e^{-ta} e^{\frac{t^2}{2}} \quad \text{for all } t > 0$$

$$\text{minimize } \frac{t^2}{2} - ta \Rightarrow t = a.$$

$$\therefore P\{Z \geq a\} \leq e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}}$$

similarly,

$$P\{Z \leq a\} \leq e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}} \quad //$$

Def A twice-differentiable real-valued fn $f(x)$ is convex if $f''(x) \geq 0$ for all x ;
concave if $f''(x) \leq 0$

Ex $f(x) = x^2, e^{ax}, x^n$ for $x \geq 0$: convex
 $g(x) = -f(x)$ (f convex) : concave.

Prop [Jensen's inequality]

$f(x)$: convex. then

$$E[f(x)] \geq f(E[x]),$$

provided that E 's exist and finite.

Pf Taylor's series expansion

$$f(x) = f(\mu) + f'(\mu)(x-\mu) + \frac{f''(\xi)(x-\mu)^2}{2}$$

ξ : some value btwn x & μ .

$$\Rightarrow f(x) \geq f(\mu) + f'(\mu)(x-\mu)$$

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$$\Rightarrow E[f(x)] \geq f(\mu) + f'(\mu) E[x-\mu] = f(\mu). \quad //$$

Ex Investment choice : invest all the money in
 (A) a risky proposition \rightarrow random variable X , mean m
 (B) a risk-free venture \rightarrow return of m with prob 1.

Make a decision to maximize $E[u(R)]$
 utility fn \uparrow return.

• If u is convex, then

$$E[u(x)] \geq u(m) \quad : \text{risky option is better.}$$

• If u is concave, then

$$E[u(x)] \leq u(m) \quad : \text{risk-free option is better.}$$