

The Derivation of Sample Variance's unbiasedness

An article in *ECF2e*

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January 23, 2013

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Chapter 1

Question

1.1 Variance

Well, and here begins my first article (actually a book, that's not a joke...) ¹ written in L^AT_EX2e.

It's defined as follows:

$$p_i = P(X = x_i) \quad (1.1)$$

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i p_i \quad (1.2)$$

$$D(X) = E\left(\left(X - E(X)\right)^2\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(x_i - E(X)\right)^2 p_i \quad (1.3)$$

1.2 Sample Variance

We introduce a new variable \bar{X} as equation(1.4) on page 1 shows:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \quad (1.4)$$

Then

$$E(\bar{X}) = \frac{1}{n} E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n E(X_i) = \mu \quad (1.5)$$

$$D(\bar{X}) = \frac{1}{n^2} D\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n D(X_i) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n} \quad (1.6)$$

¹ 这是我的第一个注脚。

Sample Variance is defined as equation(1.7):

$$S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \quad (1.7)$$

1.3 Unbiasedness

The unbiasedness of Sample Mean and Sample Variance is as follows:

$$\begin{cases} E(\bar{X}) = E(X) \\ E(S^2) = D(X) \end{cases} \quad (1.8)$$

Now we get to solve it.

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Chapter 2

Answer

2.1 Derivation

Firstly, we all know:

$$\begin{aligned}D(X) &= E(X^2) - (E(X))^2 \\E(X^2) &= D(X) + (E(X))^2\end{aligned}$$

And the means and variances:

$$\begin{aligned}E(X_i) &= E(\bar{X}) = \mu \\D(X_i) &= \sigma^2, D(\bar{X}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\end{aligned}$$

So we get

$$\begin{aligned}E(X_i^2) &= D(X_i) + \mu^2 = \sigma^2 + \mu^2 \\E(\bar{X}^2) &= D(\bar{X}) + \mu^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \mu^2 \\E(\bar{X}X_i) &= E\left(\frac{X_1X_i + X_2X_i + \cdots + X_i^2 + \cdots + X_nX_i}{n}\right) \\&= \frac{1}{n}\left(\sum_{\substack{k=0 \\ k \neq i}}^n E(X_kX_i) + E(X_i^2)\right) \\&= \frac{1}{n}((n-1)\mu^2 + (\sigma^2 + \mu^2)) \\&= \frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \mu^2 \\&= E(\bar{X}^2)\end{aligned}$$

Now let's begin the derivation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(S^2) &= \frac{1}{n-1} E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{n-1} E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i^2 - 2\bar{X}X_i + \bar{X}^2)\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(E(X_i^2 - 2\bar{X}X_i + \bar{X}^2)\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left(2n\mu^2 + (n+1)\sigma^2 - 2\sum_{i=1}^n (E(\bar{X}X_i))\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left(2n\mu^2 + (n+1)\sigma^2 - 2n\left(\frac{\sigma^2}{n} + \mu^2\right)\right) \\
 &= \sigma^2 \\
 &= D(X)
 \end{aligned}$$

That's all.

Hope you enjoy it.

2.2 Tips

What's the difference between x_i and X_i ??

Think about it, when you get an answer, you can go back to click **the blank page 3** and comment on my article ... and here it ends.