

CS70: Lecture 28.

Variance; Inequalities; WLLN

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1. Review: Independence
2. Variance
3. Inequalities
 - ▶ Markov
 - ▶ Chebyshev
4. Weak Law of Large Numbers

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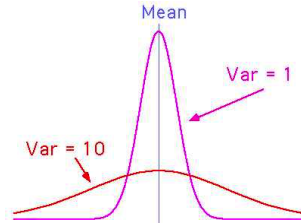
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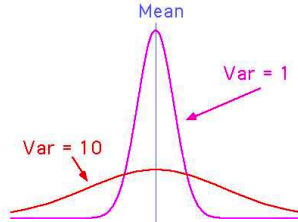
$$\Rightarrow E[XY] = E[X]E[Y].$$

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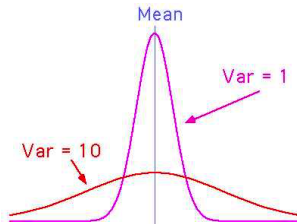


Variance



The variance measures the deviation from the mean value.

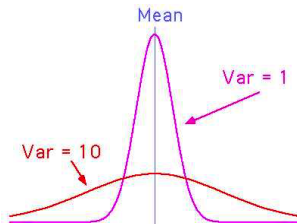
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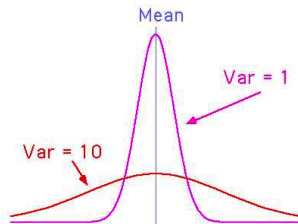


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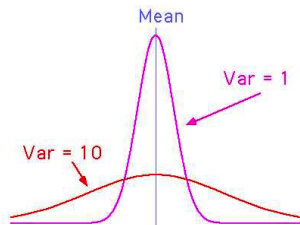
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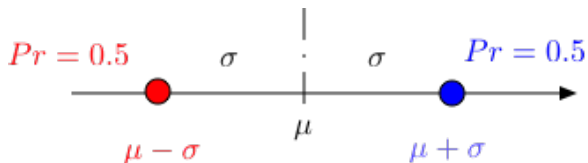
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A simple example

This example illustrates the term 'standard deviation.'

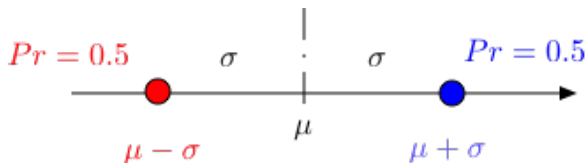
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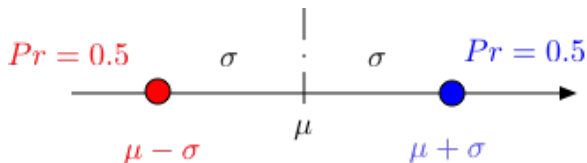


Consider the random variable X such that

$$X = \begin{cases} \mu - \sigma, & \text{w.p. } 1/2 \\ \mu + \sigma, & \text{w.p. } 1/2. \end{cases}$$

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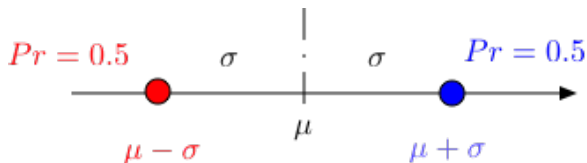
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$$\text{var}(X) = \sigma^2 \text{ and } \sigma(X) = \sigma.$$

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Exercise: How big can you make $\frac{\sigma(X)}{E[|X - E[X]|]}$?

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This gives

$$\text{var}(X) = \frac{1 + 3n + 2n^2}{6} - \frac{(n+1)^2}{4} = \frac{n^2 - 1}{12}.$$

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

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$$\begin{aligned} E[X^2] &= p + 4p(1-p) + 9p(1-p)^2 + \dots \\ -(1-p)E[X^2] &= -[p(1-p) + 4p(1-p)^2 + \dots] \\ pE[X^2] &= p + 3p(1-p) + 5p(1-p)^2 + \dots \\ &= 2(p + 2p(1-p) + 3p(1-p)^2 + \dots) \quad E[X]! \\ &\quad -(p + p(1-p) + p(1-p)^2 + \dots) \quad \text{Distribution.} \\ pE[X^2] &= 2E[X] - 1 \\ &= 2\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) - 1 = \frac{2-p}{p} \end{aligned}$$

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Theorem:

If X, Y, Z, \dots are pairwise independent, then

$$\text{var}(X + Y + Z + \dots) = \text{var}(X) + \text{var}(Y) + \text{var}(Z) + \dots .$$

Proof:

Since shifting the random variables does not change their variance, let us subtract their means.

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Variance of Binomial Distribution.

Flip coin with heads probability p .

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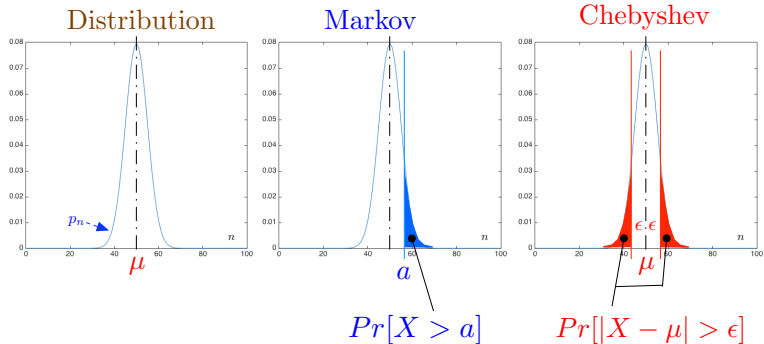
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Inequalities: An Overview



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Markov**



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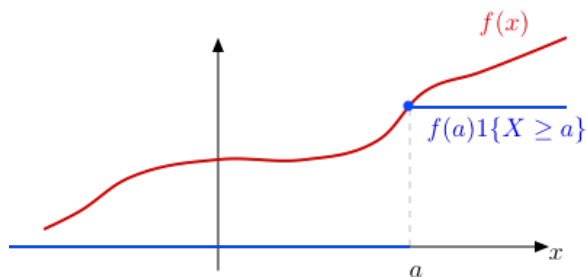
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A picture



$$f(a)1\{X \geq a\} \leq f(x) \Rightarrow 1\{X \geq a\} \leq \frac{f(X)}{f(a)}$$

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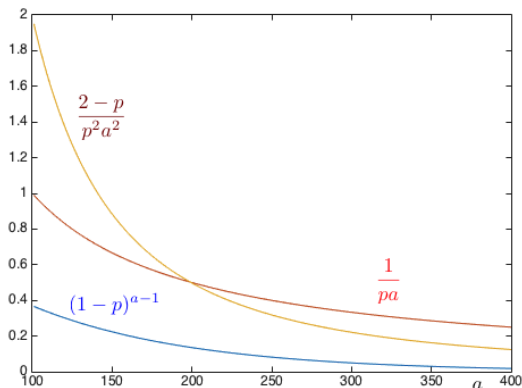
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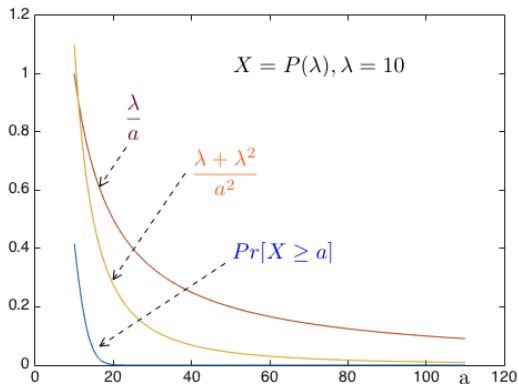
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This result confirms that the variance measures the “deviations from the mean.”

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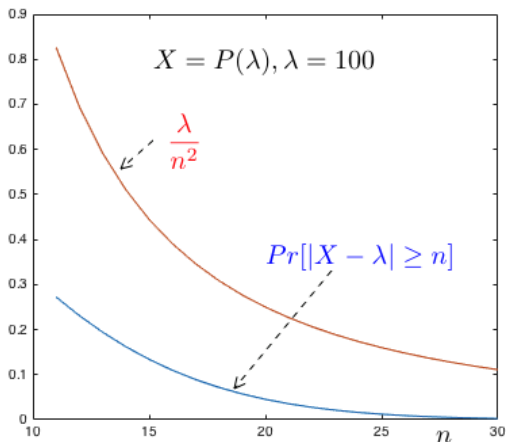
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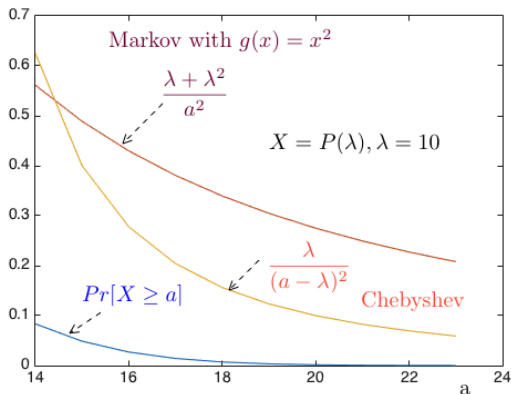
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We look at a general case next.

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