

Expected Value

Suppose you have the following test scores:

72, 98, 88

Find the average if the tests are equally weighted.

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$$\frac{72 + 98 + 88}{3} = 86$$

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Find the average if the tests are equally weighted.

$$\frac{72}{3} + \frac{98}{3} + \frac{88}{3} = 86$$

Expected Value

Suppose you have the following test scores:

72, 98, 88

Find the average if the tests are equally weighted.

$$\frac{1}{3}72 + \frac{1}{3}98 + \frac{1}{3}88 = 86$$

Expected Value

Suppose you have the following test scores:

72, 98, 88

Find the average if the tests are equally weighted.

$$\frac{1}{3}72 + \frac{1}{3}98 + \frac{1}{3}88 = 86$$

What if test 1 is worth 50% of the final grade and tests 2 and 3 are 25% each?

Expected Value

Suppose you have the following test scores:

72, 98, 88

Find the average if the tests are equally weighted.

$$\frac{1}{2}72 + \frac{1}{4}98 + \frac{1}{4}88 = 82.5$$

What if test 1 is worth 50% of the final grade and tests 2 and 3 are 25% each?

Expected Value

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72, 98, 88

Find the average if the tests are equally weighted.

$$\frac{1}{2} 72 + \frac{1}{4} 98 + \frac{1}{4} 88 = 82.5$$

Idea behind **Expected Value / Mean / Average**:
Multiply each value by its **appropriate weight**.

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Multiply each value by its **appropriate weight**.

Weights must add up to 1

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Idea behind **Expected Value / Mean / Average**:
Multiply each value by its **appropriate weight**.

Weights must add up to 1 ⇒ Analogous to probabilities

Expected Value

Expectation of a random variable

Idea:

- Multiply each possible value of the random variable X by its respective probability.
- Add 'em together.

Expected Value

Example

Let X = the number on a die toss.



Expected Value

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Let X = the number on a die toss. $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$



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$$E[X] =$$



Expected Value

Example

Let X = the number on a die toss. $S = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$

$$E[X] = \frac{1}{6} \cdot 1 + \frac{1}{6} \cdot 2 + \dots + \frac{1}{6} \cdot 6$$



Expected Value

Example

Let X = the number on a die toss. $S = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$

$$E[X] = \frac{1}{6} (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6)$$



Expected Value

Example

Let X = the number on a die toss. $S = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$

$$E[X] = \frac{1}{6} (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6) = 3.5$$



Expected Value

Example

Let X = the number on a die toss. $S = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$

$$E[X] = \frac{1}{6} (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6) = 3.5$$

Expected value does not have to be a possible value! (think "averages")

Expected Value

In general:

If the random variable X takes on values
 x_1 with probability p_1
 x_2 with probability p_2
... etc.

Then

$$E[X] = x_1 p_1 + x_2 p_2 + \dots + x_n p_n + \dots$$

Expected Value

In general:

If the random variable X takes on values
 x_1 with probability p_1
 x_2 with probability p_2
... etc.

Then

$$E[X] = \sum_i x_i p_i$$

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Recall: $p_i = P(X = x_i) = f(x_i)$

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Toss two fair coins, and let X be the number of heads observed. Find the pmf and expected value for X .



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$E[X] =$



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x	0	1	2
$f(x)$	1/4	1/2	1/4

$$E[X] = \frac{1}{4} \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 2 = 1$$

Expected Value



Example

In a lottery conducted to benefit the local fire company, 8000 tickets are to be sold at \$5 each. The prize is \$12,000. If you purchase two tickets, what is your expected net gain?

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Expected Value



Example

In a lottery conducted to benefit the local fire company, 8000 tickets are to be sold at \$5 each. The prize is \$12,000. If you purchase two tickets, what is your expected net gain?

x	win	don't win
$f(x)$		

Expected Value



Example

In a lottery conducted to benefit the local fire company, 8000 tickets are to be sold at \$5 each. The prize is \$12,000. If you purchase two tickets, what is your expected net gain?

x	\$11,990	-\$10
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In a lottery conducted to benefit the local fire company, 8000 tickets are to be sold at \$5 each. The prize is \$12,000. If you purchase two tickets, what is your expected net gain?

x	\$11,990	-\$10
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x	\$11,990	-\$10
$f(x)$	$2/8000$	$7998/8000$

$$E[X] = \frac{2}{8000} \cdot 11990 + \frac{7998}{8000} \cdot (-10) = -\$7$$

Expected Value

✓ Discrete

$$E[X] = \sum_i x_i f(x_i)$$

Expected Value

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$$E[X] = \sum_i x_i f(x_i)$$

Continuous

Expected Value

✓ Discrete

$$E[X] = \sum_i x_i f(x_i)$$

Continuous

$$E[X] = \int_a^b x f(x) dx$$

Expected Value

Example

For a given manufacturer, the fraction of customers that file a complaint can be modeled using the following pdf:

$$f(x) = \frac{3}{2}(1-x^2) \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1$$

Calculate the expected fraction of customers that will file a complaint.

Expected Value

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For a given manufacturer, the fraction of customers that file a complaint can be modeled using the following pdf:

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For a given manufacturer, the fraction of customers that file a complaint can be modeled using the following pdf:

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$$E[X] = \int_0^1 x f(x) dx =$$

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

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