CS 4780/6780: Fundamentals of Data Science

Homework 3: Review of Probability

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Problem 3.1. Consider a 6-faced fair die.

- (a) What is the probability of obtaining an even number?
- (b) Given that the die rolled an odd number, what is the probability that it was a 3?

Problem 3.2. Let *x* be a random variable with the following distribution:

$$\mathbb{P}(x = \mathbf{k}) = \begin{cases} 1/2^{\mathbf{k}} & \text{if } 1 \le \mathbf{k} \le 3\\ 1/8 & \text{if } \mathbf{k} = 4\\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(a) Compute $\mathbb{E}[x]$.

- (b) Compute $\mathbb{E}[x^2]$.
- (c) Compute var(x).

Problem 3.3. Recall that the Normal distribution (also known as gaussian) with mean μ and variance σ^2 is given by:

$$\mathsf{p}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\mathbf{x}-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2}$$

The following figure shows this density when $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma^2 = 1$. In this same figure, sketch the gaussian distribution with mean $\mu = 1$ and $\sigma^2 = 4$.



Problem 3.4. Consider the following samples from an i.i.d. random variable:

Variable	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5
x	-0.5	-1.6	-1.5	-2.4	2.1
y	0.8	-0.6	-2.1	-0.5	2.1

Compute the sample covariance of x and y.

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