

**Definition.** The  $r^{\text{th}}$  **moment about the origin** of a random variable  $X$  is  $\mu'_r = E(X^r)$ .

**Definition.** The first moment about the origin of a random variable is called the **mean** and is denoted by  $\mu$ .

**Example.** For a random variable  $X$  with a uniform continuous distribution on the interval  $(1, 5)$ , the mean is

$$\mu = E(X) = \int_1^5 x \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) dx = 3$$

and the second moment about the origin is

$$\mu'_2 = E(X^2) = \int_1^5 x^2 \left(\frac{1}{4}\right) dx = \frac{31}{3}$$

**Proposition.** If  $a$  and  $b$  are constants, then  $E(aX + b) = aE(X) + b$ .

**Definition.** The  $r^{\text{th}}$  **moment about the mean** of a random variable  $X$  is  $\mu_r = E[(X - \mu)^r]$ .

**Definition.** The second moment about the mean of a random variable is called the **variance** and is denoted by  $\sigma^2$ . The **standard deviation** of a random variable is  $\sigma = \sqrt{\sigma^2}$ .

**Proposition** (A calculating formula for the variance).  $\sigma^2 = \mu'_2 - \mu^2 = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$

**Example.** The variance of a random variable  $X$  with a uniform continuous distribution on the interval  $(1, 5)$  is  $\sigma^2 = \frac{31}{3} - 3^2 = \frac{2}{3}$ . The standard deviation of  $X$  is  $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

**Proposition.** If  $a$  and  $b$  are constants, then  $V(aX + b) = a^2V(X)$ .

**Proposition** (A calculating formula for  $\mu_3$ ).  $\mu_3 = \mu'_3 - 3\mu'_2\mu + 2\mu^3$

**Definition.** The **moment-generating function** of a random variable  $X$  is  $M_X(t) = E(e^{tX})$ .

**Proposition.** If  $M_X(t)$  is the moment-generating function of a random variable  $X$ , then  $M_X^{(r)}(0) = \mu'_r = E(X^r)$

**Proposition.** If  $a$  and  $b$  are constants, then  $M_{aX+b}(t) = e^{bt}M_X(at)$ .

**Definition.** If  $X$  and  $Y$  are jointly distributed random variables with means  $\mu_X$  and  $\mu_Y$ , respectively, then  $E[(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)]$  is called the **covariance** of  $X$  and  $Y$  and is denoted  $\sigma_{XY}$ ,  $\text{cov}(X, Y)$ , or  $C(X, Y)$ . If  $\sigma_X$  and  $\sigma_Y$  are the standard deviations of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively, then  $\text{cor}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X\sigma_Y}$  is the **correlation** of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

See <http://www.randomservices.org/random/expect/Covariance.html>

**Proposition** (A calculating formula for the covariance).  $\text{cov}(X, Y) = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)$

1. Calculate the expected value and variance of a Match 4 lottery ticket (rules are available at <http://www.walottery.com/JackpotGames/Match4.aspx>). Start by finding the exact probabilities of winning each amount.

2. Calculate the mean, variance, and moment-generating function of a random variable with a uniform continuous distribution on the interval  $(a, b)$ .

3. Calculate  $\text{cor}(X, Y)$  for  $X$  and  $Y$  with joint probability density  $f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3}(x + y) & \text{if } 0 < x < 1, 0 < y < 2 \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$