

Hat problem: Suppose 10 people attend a party, each checks their hat at the door, they pick up a random hat when they leave, all choices equally likely.

Let X indicate whether Alice get her back, i.e. $X=1$ if she does, $X=0$ otherwise.

Let Y indicate whether Bob gets his hat back: $Y=1$ if so, $Y=0$ otherwise.

Find $\text{Var}(X+Y)$

$$\text{Var}(X+Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2\text{Cov}(X, Y)$$

$$= \binom{1}{10} \binom{9}{10} + \binom{1}{10} \binom{9}{10} + 2 \left(\binom{1}{10} \binom{1}{9} - \binom{1}{10} \binom{1}{10} \right)$$

$$= \frac{41}{225}$$

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \binom{1}{10} \binom{1}{9} - \binom{1}{10} \binom{1}{10}$$

$$= E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)$$

$$= P(XY=1) - \frac{1}{10} \cdot \frac{1}{10}$$

$$= P(X=1 \text{ and } Y=1)$$

$$= P(X=1)P(Y=1|X=1) = \binom{1}{10} \binom{1}{9}$$

Extend: Let $X_j = 1$ if j th person gets her/his hat back, $X_j = 0$ otherwise
 So $X_1 + \dots + X_{10}$ is the total # of people who get their own hat back.

$$E(X_1 + \dots + X_{10}) = E(X_1) + \dots + E(X_{10}) = \frac{1}{10} + \dots + \frac{1}{10} = 1.$$

$$\text{Var}(X_1 + \dots + X_{10}) = \sum_{i=1}^{10} \text{Var}(X_i) + 2 \sum_{i < j} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$$

$$= (10) \left(\frac{1}{10} \right) \left(\frac{9}{10} \right) + \binom{90}{2} \left(\binom{1}{10} \binom{1}{9} - \binom{1}{10} \binom{1}{10} \right)$$

$$= 1$$

all 100 pairs except those 10 on the diagonal handled here

