

4. Expectation and variance

4.1. Expectation in general

For a discrete random variable we defined

$$E(X) = \sum_{x_k} x_k P(X = x_k)$$

$$E[f(X)] = \sum_{x_k} f(x_k) P(X = x_k)$$

For a discrete random vector we have

$$E[f(\underline{X})] = \sum_{\underline{x}_k} f(\underline{x}_k) P(\underline{X} = \underline{x}_k)$$

We need to extend the notion of expectation to continuous random variables and vectors.

Definitions:

(i) Let X have density $f_X(x)$.

We define

$$E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx$$

$$E[f(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) f_X(x) dx$$

Technical note: we say

that $E(X)$ exists if the integral $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| f_X(x) dx$ converges and similarly for $E[f(X)]$.

(ii) Let the random vector \underline{X} have density $f_{\underline{X}}(\underline{x})$. We define

$$E[f(\underline{X})] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(\underline{x}) f_{\underline{X}}(\underline{x}) d\underline{x}$$

Examples :

(i) $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot f_X(x) dx$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma} \cdot e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx$$

= (*) New variable: $\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma} = u$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\sigma u + \mu) e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}} du$$

$$= \mu \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}} du$$

$$= \mu$$

because $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u \cdot e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}} du = 0$

(odd function) .

We continue

$$E(x^2) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot f_X(x) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\sigma u + \mu)^2 e^{-u^2/2} du$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\sigma^2 u^2 + \mu^2) \cdot e^{-u^2/2} du$$

(the middle term = 0)

$$= \sigma^2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u^2 \cdot e^{-u^2/2} du + \mu^2 = (*)$$

We integrate by parts

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u^2 \cdot e^{-u^2/2} du =$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u \cdot u \cdot e^{-u^2/2} du$$

$$= -u \cdot e^{-u^2/2} \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-u^2/2} du$$

$$= \sqrt{2\pi}$$

$$(*) = \sigma^2 + \mu^2$$

Definition : Let X be a random variable. Let $\mu = E(X)$.

We call $E(X^m)$ the m -th moment of X and $E[(X-\mu)^m]$ the m -th central moment of X .

Example : Let $X \sim \Gamma(a, \lambda)$.

We compute the m -th moment of X as

$$\begin{aligned} E(X^m) &= \int_0^{\infty} x^m \cdot f_X(x) dx \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^a}{\Gamma(a)} \cdot x^m \cdot x^{a-1} \cdot e^{-\lambda x} dx \\ &= \frac{\lambda^a}{\Gamma(a)} \int_0^{\infty} x^{m+a-1} e^{-\lambda x} dx \\ &= \frac{\lambda^a}{\Gamma(a)} \cdot \frac{\Gamma(m+a)}{\lambda^{m+a}} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{P(m+a)}{P(a) \lambda^m}$$

$$= \frac{(a)_m}{\lambda^m}$$

where $(a)_m = a(a+1) \cdots (a+m-1)$.

Example: Let (X, Y) have

the density $f_{X,Y}(x, y) =$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} e^{-\frac{x^2 - 2\rho xy + y^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}}$$

with $|\rho| < 1$. We have

$$E(XY) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} xy \cdot f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} xy \cdot e^{-\frac{x^2 - 2\rho xy + y^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}} dx dy$$

Fubini

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot e^{-x^2/2} dx \times$$

$$\times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y \cdot e^{-\frac{(y-\rho x)^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}} dy$$

The last integral is ρx .

We computed it in the first example. We have

$$E(x^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \rho x^2 \cdot e^{-x^2/2} dx$$

$$= \rho \cdot E(x^2)$$

$$= \rho$$

If $X \sim N(0, 1)$ then $E(x^2) = \sigma^2 + \mu^2 = \sigma^2$.

Theorem 4.1: Let (X, Y) have

density $f_{X,Y}(x,y)$. We have

$$E[\alpha X + \beta Y] = \alpha E(X) + \beta E(Y)$$

Proof: We have

$$E[\alpha X + \beta Y]$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (\alpha x + \beta y) f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy$$

$$= \alpha \cdot \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} x f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy$$

$$+ \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} y f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy$$

$$= \alpha \cdot E(X) + \beta E(Y)$$

Remarks:

(i) The same proof works

with $\alpha f(x,y) + \beta g(x,y)$ i.e.

$$E[\alpha f(x,y) + \beta g(x,y)]$$

$$= \alpha E[f(x,y)] + \beta E[g(x,y)].$$

(ii) The theorem has a vector version:

$$E \left[\sum_{k=1}^r \alpha_k X_k \right] = \sum_{k=1}^r \alpha_k E(X_k).$$

The expectation is always linear.

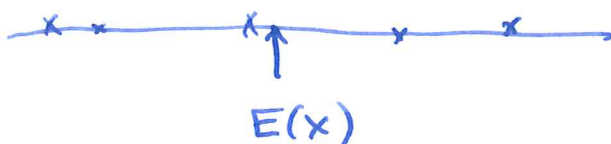
4.2 Variance and covariance

We motivated the expectation as a "long term average".

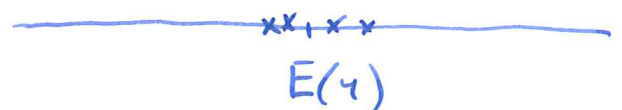
We would like to devise a measure of dispersion of a random variable X .

Figure :

(i)



(ii)



In the figure we have "repeated" values of X and Y . The values of X are more "dispersed". Why do we say this? On average the values of X are further

- away from $E(X)$. Repetitions to the right and to the left contribute an equal amount to dispersion so we take absolute distances. However,
- Gauss chose the square.

His choice was motivated by mathematical considerations.

Denote v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n the repetitions of X .

The dispersion according to Gauss is

$$\frac{(v_1 - E(x))^2 + \dots + (v_n - E(x_n))^2}{n}$$

If we take $f(x) = (x - E(x))^2$
we see that the above average
 $\approx E[(x - E(x))^2]$.

Definition: The variance of the random variable X is given by

$$\text{var}(X) = E[(X - E(X))^2]$$

We compute

$$\begin{aligned} E[(X - E(X))^2] &= \\ &= E[X^2 - 2E(X) \cdot X + E(X)^2] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var.} &= E(x^2) - 2E(x) \cdot E(x) + E(x)^2 \\ &= E(x^2) - [E(x)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

Alternative form:

$$\text{var}(x) = E(x^2) - [E(x)]^2$$

Examples:

(i) $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

We know

$$E(x^2) = npq + n^2 p^2 \text{ and}$$

$$E(x) = n \cdot p$$

$$\text{var}(x) = E(x^2) - E(x)^2$$

$$= npq$$

(ii) $X \sim \text{Neg Bin}(m, p)$

We know

$$E(X) = \frac{m}{p}$$

$$E(X^2) = \frac{m \cdot q}{p^2} + \frac{m^2}{p^2}$$

$$\text{var}(X) = \frac{m \cdot q}{p^2}$$

(iii) $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

We know

$$E(X) = \mu$$

$$E(X^2) = \sigma^2 + \mu^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(X) &= E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 \\ &= \sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

Comment: If $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ the two parameters have a nice

interpretation. They are the expectation and the variance.

What about the variance of sums? We compute

$$\text{var}(x+y) = E[(x+y)^2] - [E(x+y)]^2$$

$$= E(x^2 + 2xy + y^2) - (E(x) + E(y))^2$$

l.u.

$$= \underbrace{E(x^2)} + 2E(xy) + \underbrace{E(y^2)} - \underbrace{E(x)^2} - 2E(x)E(y) - \underbrace{E(y)^2}$$

$$= \text{var}(x) + \text{var}(y)$$

$$+ 2[E(xy) - E(x)E(y)]$$

There is no reason for the term in square brackets to be 0.

Definition : Let X, Y be random variables. The quantity

$$E(XY) - E(X) \cdot E(Y)$$

is called the covariance of X and Y and denoted by

○ $\text{cov}(X, Y)$.

Remark : An application of linearity gives that

$$\text{cov}(X, Y) = E[(X - E(X))(Y - E(Y))].$$

○ Theorem 4.2 : Let X_1, \dots, X_r and Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_s be random variables.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cov}\left(\sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_k X_k, \sum_{l=1}^s \beta_l Y_l\right) \\ = \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^s \alpha_k \beta_l \text{cov}(X_k, Y_l) \end{aligned}$$

Proof: We compute

$$E \left[\left(\sum_{k=1}^r \alpha_k X_k \right) \left(\sum_{e=1}^1 \beta_e Y_e \right) \right]$$

$$= E \left[\sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{e=1}^1 \alpha_k \beta_e X_k Y_e \right]$$

$$\stackrel{\text{lin.}}{=} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{e=1}^1 \alpha_k \beta_e E(X_k Y_e)$$

On the other hand

$$E \left(\sum_{k=1}^r \alpha_k X_k \right) \cdot E \left(\sum_{e=1}^1 \beta_e Y_e \right)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{lin.}}{=} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{e=1}^1 \alpha_k \beta_e E(X_k) E(Y_e)$$

We subtract and get the result.

Remark: The property is called bilinearity.

The definitions give us further properties of covariances that follow from definitions:

- (i) $\text{var}(aX) = a^2 \text{var}(X)$
- (ii) $\text{cov}(X, X) = \text{var}(X)$
- (iii) $\text{cov}(X, Y) = \text{cov}(Y, X)$
- (iv) $\text{cov}(\alpha X, \beta Y) = \alpha\beta \text{cov}(X, Y)$.

Theorem 4.3 : Let X_1, \dots, X_r

be random variables. We have

$$\text{var}\left(\sum_{k=1}^r \alpha_k X_k\right)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^r \alpha_k^2 \text{var}(X_k)$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{k, l=1 \\ k \neq l}}^r \alpha_k \alpha_l \text{cov}(X_k, X_l).$$

Proof : Follows directly from Theorem 4.2.

Special case: Let X, Y be discrete and independent.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} E(X \cdot Y) &= \sum_{x,y} x \cdot y P(X=x, Y=y) \\ &= \sum_{x,y} x \cdot y P(X=x) P(Y=y) \\ &= \left(\sum_x x P(X=x) \right) \cdot \left(\sum_y y P(Y=y) \right) \\ &= E(X) E(Y). \end{aligned}$$

This means $\text{cov}(X, Y) = 0$.

A similar calculation is valid for continuous X, Y .

Remark: For independent X, Y and functions f, g we have

$$E[f(X)g(Y)] = E(f(X))E(g(Y)).$$

with the same proof.

As a consequence for independent
 X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n we have

$$\text{var}(X_1 + \dots + X_n) = \text{var}(X_1) + \dots + \text{var}(X_n)$$

Examples : (i) If $\underline{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_r)$
is multinomial we have

$$E(X_k X_l) = -np_k p_l + n^2 p_k p_l$$

and $E(X_k) = np_k$ and $E(X_l) = np_l$.

We have

$$\text{cov}(X_k, X_l) = -np_k p_l$$

(ii) If

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} e^{-\frac{x^2 - 2\rho xy + y^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}}$$

we have

$$E(X) = \rho \quad \text{and}$$

$$E(Y) = \rho$$

so

$$\text{cov}(X, Y) = \rho$$

Method of indicators :

If we can write a random variable X as a sum of indicators we can in many cases compute variances by Theorem 4.3.

○ If $I \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ then

$$E(I^2) = E(I) = p \quad \text{so}$$

$$\text{var}(I) = E(I^2) - E(I)^2$$

$$= p - p^2$$

$$= p(1-p)$$

○ If I, J are indicators then

$$\text{cov}(I, J) = E(I \cdot J) - E(I)E(J)$$

$$= P(I=1, J=1)$$

$$- P(I=1)P(J=1)$$

Example: Let $X \sim \text{HyperGeom}(n, B, N)$.

We wrote

$$X = I_1 + \dots + I_n.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(X) &= \sum_{k=1}^n \text{var}(I_k) \\ &\quad + \sum_{\substack{k, l=1 \\ k \neq l}}^n \text{cov}(I_k, I_l) \end{aligned}$$

We know: $I_k \sim \text{Bernoulli}\left(\frac{B}{N}\right)$

$$\text{so } \text{var}(I_k) = \frac{B}{N} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{B}{N}\right).$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} P(I_1 = 1, I_2 = 1) &= P(\text{1st \& 2nd ball} \\ &\quad \text{black}) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{B}{N} \cdot \frac{B-1}{N-1}.$$

It follows

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(I_1, I_2) &= \frac{B}{N} \cdot \frac{B-1}{N-1} - \left(\frac{B}{N}\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{B}{N} \left[\frac{(B-1)N - B(N-1)}{N(N-1)} \right] \\ &= \frac{B}{N} \left[\frac{-N + B}{N(N-1)} \right] \\ &= -\frac{B}{N} \left(1 - \frac{B}{N}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{N-1}\end{aligned}$$

But by symmetry (I_k, I_l) has the same distribution as (I_1, I_2) .

So all covariances are the same.

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{var}(\underline{X}) &= n \frac{B}{N} \left(1 - \frac{B}{N}\right) + n(n-1) \times (-1) \times \\ &\quad \times \frac{B}{N} \left(1 - \frac{B}{N}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{N-1} \\ &= n \frac{B}{N} \left(1 - \frac{B}{N}\right) \left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}\right) \\ &= n \cdot \frac{B}{N} \left(1 - \frac{B}{N}\right) \frac{N-n}{N-1}\end{aligned}$$

4.3. Conditional expectation

Idea: If X is a discrete random variable then

$$E[f(X)] = \sum_{x_k} f(x_k) P(X=x_k).$$

The expectation is computed using the distribution. We can use the same idea with the conditional

distribution $P(X=x_k | B)$ for $P(B) > 0$.

Definition: Let X be a discrete random variable. The conditional expectation of X given B is given by

$$E(X | B) = \sum_{x_k} x_k \cdot P(X=x_k | B)$$

and

$$E(f(X) | B) = \sum_{x_k} f(x_k) P(X=x_k | B).$$

Technical note: We understand the existence of $E(X | B)$ the same way

as for usual expectations.

In most cases B will be of the form $B = \{Y = ye\}$ for some random variable Y .

Example: Players A and B get 5 cards each from a well shuffled deck of cards. Let X be the number of aces of A and Y the number of aces of B. We have

$Y|X=k \sim \text{HyperGeom}(5, 4-k, 47)$. It

follows that

$$E(Y|X=k) = 5 \cdot \frac{4-k}{47}$$

We know that for $Z \sim \text{HyperGeom}(n, B, N)$

we have $\text{var}(Z) = n \cdot \frac{B}{N} \left(1 - \frac{B}{N}\right) \frac{N-n}{N-1}$.

so

$$E(Z^2) = \text{var}(Z) + n^2 \cdot \frac{B^2}{N^2}$$

We have

$$E(Y^2 | X=k)$$

$$= 5 \cdot \frac{4-k}{47} \left(1 - \frac{4-k}{47}\right) \cdot \frac{47-5}{47-1} \\ + 5^2 \cdot \frac{(4-k)^2}{47^2}$$

There is an alternative way to write the conditional expectation.

If X is discrete and B is an event we compute

$$E[\underbrace{X \cdot \mathbb{1}_B}_{\uparrow}] = \sum_{x_k} x_k \cdot P(\{X=x_k\} \cap B) \\ = (*)$$

This random variable has value x_k with probability $P(\{X=x_k\} \cap B)$

and possibly 0 with probability

$$P(B \cup \{X=0\})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (*) &= \sum_{x_k} x_k \frac{P(\{X = x_k\} \cap B)}{P(B)} \cdot P(B) \\
 &= P(B) \cdot E(X|B)
 \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$E(X|B) = \frac{E(X \cdot 1_B)}{P(B)}$$

$$E[f(X)|B] = \frac{E[f(X) \cdot 1_B]}{P(B)}.$$

Theorem 4.4: Let $\{H_1, H_2, \dots\}$ be a partition of $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$. Let X be a discrete random variable with $E(|X|) < \infty$. We have

$$E(X) = \sum_k E(X|H_k) \cdot P(H_k)$$

Proof: We compute

$$\sum_k E(X | H_k) \cdot P(H_k)$$

$$= \sum_k \left(\sum_{x_e} x_e P(X=x_e | H_k) \right) P(H_k)$$

$$= \sum_{x_e} x_e \underbrace{\sum_k P(X=x_e | H_k) P(H_k)}_{= P(X=x_e)}$$

$$= \sum_{x_e} x_e P(X=x_e)$$

$$= E(X)$$

We used the law of total probabilities.

The statement is the law of

total expectations.

Example: We toss a coin until we get r consecutive heads.

Tosses are independent and the

probability of heads is p . Let

X be the number of tosses needed.

Example: if $r = 4$ and we get

H T T H H T H T T H T H H H H

$$X = 15$$

We want $E(X)$. Let

$H_k = \{\text{the first T appears in position } k\}$.

We have

$$E(X | H_k) = r \quad \text{if } k = r+1, \dots$$

and

$$E(X | H_k) = k + E(X) \quad \text{if } k = 1, \dots, r;$$

The law of total expectation gives

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} E(X | H_k) P(H_k) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^r (k + E(X)) P(H_k) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=r+1}^{\infty} r \cdot P(H_k) \end{aligned}$$

This last expression is a linear equation for $E(x)$. We compute

$$(i) \sum_{k=r+1}^{\infty} r P(H_k) =$$

$$= r \cdot \sum_{k=r+1}^{\infty} p^{k-1} \cdot q$$

$$= r \cdot p^r \cdot q \cdot \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p^k$$

$$= r \cdot p^r \cdot q \cdot \frac{1}{1-p}$$

$$= r \cdot p^r$$

$$(ii) \sum_{k=1}^r P(H_k) = q \cdot \sum_{k=1}^r p^{k-1}$$

$$= q \cdot \frac{1-p^r}{1-p}$$

$$= 1-p^r$$

$$(iii) \sum_{k=1}^r k \cdot P(H_k) = \sum_{k=1}^r k \cdot p^{k-1} \cdot q$$

$$= \frac{d}{dp} (p + p^2 + \dots + p^r) \cdot q$$

$$= (*)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (*) &= \frac{d}{dp} \left(\frac{p(1-p^n)}{1-p} \right) \cdot 2 \\
 &= \frac{[(1-p^n) - r p p^{n-1}](1-p) + p(1-p^n)}{(1-p)^2} \cdot 2 \\
 &= \frac{1-p^n - r p^n + r p^{n+1}}{(1-p)^2} \cdot 2 \\
 &= \frac{1-p^n - r p^n + r p^{n+1}}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Rewrite

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(x) &= \frac{1-p^n - r p^n + r p^{n+1}}{2} \\
 &\quad + E(x) \cdot (1-p^n) \\
 &\quad + r \cdot p^n
 \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(x) &= r + \frac{1-p^n - r p^n + r \cdot p^{n+1}}{2 \cdot p^n} \\
 &= r + \frac{1-p^n + r p^n (p-1)}{2 \cdot p^n} \\
 &= \frac{1-p^n}{2 \cdot p^n}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$E[f(\underline{x})] = \sum_k E[f(\underline{x}) | H_k] P(H_k)$$

The proof is identical to the proof we had before.

Definition: We define

$$\text{var}(x | B) = E(x^2 | B) - [E(x | B)]^2$$

and

$$\text{cov}(x, y | B) = E(xy | B) - E(x | B)E(y | B).$$

For continuous random variables we use conditional densities

to compute conditional expectations.

We have:

Definition: Let X have

conditional density $f_{Y|X=x}(y)$

given $X=x$.

We define

$$E(Y | X = x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y f_{Y|X=x}(y) dy$$

$$E[f(Y) | X=x] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(y) f_{Y|X=x}(y) dy.$$

Technical note: We define

existence the way existence is defined for usual expectations.

Comment: The same definition holds for vectors. We define

$$E[f(\underline{Y}) | \underline{X} = \underline{x}]$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\underline{y}) f_{\underline{Y}|\underline{X}=\underline{x}}(\underline{y}) d\underline{y}.$$

Definition: We define

$$\text{var}(Y | \underline{X} = \underline{x}) = E(Y^2 | \underline{X} = \underline{x}) - [E(Y | \underline{X} = \underline{x})]^2$$

and

$$\text{cov}(Y_1, Y_2 | \underline{x} = \underline{x})$$

$$= E(Y_1 \cdot Y_2 | \underline{x} = \underline{x})$$

$$- E(Y_1 | \underline{x} = \underline{x}) E(Y_2 | \underline{x} = \underline{x})$$

Example: let

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} e^{-\frac{x^2 - 2\rho xy + y^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}}$$

We have computed that

$$f_{Y|X=x}(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi(1-\rho^2)}} e^{-\frac{(y-\rho x)^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}}$$

or $Y|X=x \sim N(\rho x, 1-\rho^2)$. From this

we have

$$E(Y|X=x) = \rho x \quad \text{and}$$

$$\text{var}(Y|X=x) = 1-\rho^2.$$