

$$E\left[\frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n}\right] = \frac{1}{n}E\left[\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2\right] = \frac{1}{n}E\left[\sum (\bar{X}_i - \mu)^2 - n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2\right] \\ = \frac{1}{n}\left[\sum E[(X - \mu)^2] - nE[(\bar{X} - \mu)^2]\right]$$

Since the expected values of a sum of random variables is the sum of the expected values of the variables.

Note that the first term expected value is just the expression for the variance of  $x$  and the second term expected value is just the expression for the variance of  $\bar{X}$  (recalling that  $E(\bar{X}) = \mu$ ). So

$$E\left[\frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n}\right] = \frac{1}{n}\left(\sum \sigma_x^2 - n\sigma_{\bar{x}}^2\right) = \frac{1}{n}\left(n\sigma_x^2 - \frac{n\sigma_x^2}{n}\right) = \sigma_x^2 \frac{n-1}{n}$$

Thus  $\frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n}$  is a biased estimator by the amount  $\frac{n-1}{n}$ . If however we multiply  $\frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n}$  by  $\frac{n}{n-1}$  and take the expected value, we get

$$E\left[\frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n} * \frac{n}{n-1}\right] = \frac{n}{n-1}E\left[\frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n}\right] = \left(\frac{n}{n-1}\right)\sigma_x^2\left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right) = \sigma_x^2$$

So  $S_x^2 = \frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n} * \frac{n}{n-1} = \frac{\sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n-1}$   
is an unbiased estimator of the population variance.  
 $E(S_x^2) = \sigma^2$