Chapter 2: Markov Chains

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Definition-1

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Let X_n with $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ denote random variables on a discrete space E.

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Let X_n with $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ denote random variables on a discrete space *E*. The sequence $\mathcal{X} = (X_n : n \in \mathbb{N}_0)$ is called a **stochastic chain**.

$$\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j | X_0 = i_0, \dots, X_n = i_n) = \mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i_n) \quad (1)$$

for all $i_0, \ldots, i_n, j \in E$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$,

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for all $i_0, \ldots, i_n, j \in E$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$, then the sequence \mathcal{X} shall be called a **Markov chain** on E. The probability measure \mathbb{P} is called the distribution of \mathcal{X} , and E is called the **state space** of \mathcal{X} .

If the conditional probabilities $\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i_n)$ are independent of the time index $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$,

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$$p_{ij} := \mathbb{P}\left(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i\right)$$

for all $i, j \in E$.

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Example 2.1

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If $(X_n : n \in \mathbb{N}_0)$ are random variables on a discrete space E, which are stochastically independent and identically distributed (shortly: iid),

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If $(X_n : n \in \mathbb{N}_0)$ are random variables on a discrete space E, which are stochastically independent and identically distributed (shortly: iid), then the chain $\mathcal{X} = (X_n : n \in \mathbb{N}_0)$ is a homogeneous Markov chain.

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Set $E := \mathbb{Z}$

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Set $E := \mathbb{Z}$ and let $(S_n : n \in \mathbb{N})$ be a sequence of iid random variables with values in \mathbb{Z} and distribution π .

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Set $E := \mathbb{N}_0$ and choose any parameter 0 .

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$$p_{ij} := \begin{cases} p, & j = i+1\\ 1-p, & j = i \end{cases}$$

for $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$

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for $i \in \mathbb{N}_0$ determine a homogeneous Markov chain $\mathcal{X} = (X_n : n \in \mathbb{N}_0)$. It is called **Bernoulli process** with parameter p.

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Let *P* denote the transition matrix of a Markov chain on *E*. Then as an immediate consequence of its definition we obtain $p_{ij} \in [0, 1]$ for all $i, j \in E$ and $\sum_{j \in E} p_{ij} = 1$ for all $i \in E$. A matrix *P* with these properties is called a **stochastic matrix** on *E*.

Let ${\mathcal X}$ denote a homogeneous Markov chain on E with transition matrix P.

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Let \mathcal{X} denote a homogeneous Markov chain on E with transition matrix P. Then the relation

$$\mathbb{P}\left(X_{n+1}=j_1,\ldots,X_{n+m}=j_m|X_n=i\right)=p_{i,j_1}\cdot\ldots\cdot p_{j_{m-1},j_m}$$

holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, and $i, j_1, \ldots, j_m \in E$.

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holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, and $i, j_1, \ldots, j_m \in E$. Proof:

This follows by induction on *m*.

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This follows by induction on m. For m = 1 the statement holds by definition of P.

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$$\mathbb{P}\left(X_{n+1}=j_1,\ldots,X_{n+m}=j_m|X_n=i\right)=p_{i,j_1}\cdot\ldots\cdot p_{j_{m-1},j_m}$$

holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, and $i, j_1, \ldots, j_m \in E$. Proof:

This follows by induction on m. For m = 1 the statement holds by definition of P. For m > 1 we can write

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$$\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m} = j_m | X_n = i)$$

= $\frac{\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m} = j_m, X_n = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_n = i)}$

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$$= \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m-1} = j_m, X_n = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m-1} = j_{m-1}, X_n = i)} \times \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m-1} = j_{m-1}, X_n = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_n = i)}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m} = j_m | X_n = i)$$

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$$\times \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m-1} = j_{m-1}, X_n = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_n = i)}$$

$$= \mathbb{P} (X_{n+m} = j_m | X_n = i, X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m-1} = j_{m-1}) \\ \times p_{i,j_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{j_{m-2},j_{m-1}}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m} = j_m | X_n = i)$$

$$= \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m} = j_m, X_n = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_n = i)}$$

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$$= \mathbb{P} (X_{n+m} = j_m | X_n = i, X_{n+1} = j_1, \dots, X_{n+m-1} = j_{m-1}) \times p_{i,j_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{j_{m-2},j_{m-1}}$$

$$= p_{j_{m-1},j_m} \cdot p_{i,j_1} \cdot \ldots \cdot p_{j_{m-2},j_{m-1}}$$

because of the induction hypothesis and the Markov property.

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