

Chapter 2: Markov Chains

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for all $j \in E$.

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Example 2.19

Let the transition matrix of a Markov chain \mathcal{X} be given by

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.2 & 0.8 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.4 & 0.6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.6 & 0.4 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Then $\pi = (0.5, 0.5, 0, 0)$, $\pi' = (0, 0, 0.5, 0.5)$ as well as any linear combination of them are stationary distributions for \mathcal{X} . This shows that a stationary distribution does not need to be unique.

Example 2.20: Bernoulli process

The transition matrix of a Bernoulli process has the structure

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1-p & p & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 1-p & p & 0 & \ddots \\ 0 & 0 & 1-p & p & \ddots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\pi_n \cdot p + \pi_{n+1} \cdot (1-p) = \pi_{n+1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \pi_{n+1} = 0$$

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which completes an induction argument proving $\pi_n = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Hence the Bernoulli process does not have a stationary distribution.

Example 2.21

The solution of $\pi P = \pi$ and $\sum_{j \in E} \pi_j = 1$ is unique for

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with $0 < p < 1$. Thus there are transition matrices which have exactly one stationary distribution.

Theorem 2.22

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$$\begin{aligned}\pi_m &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \pi_i P^N(i, m) = \sum_{i=1}^{M-1} \pi_i P^N(i, m) + \sum_{i=M}^{\infty} \pi_i P^N(i, m) \\ &< \varepsilon + \sum_{i=M}^{\infty} \pi_i = \pi_m\end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

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By definition $m_i > 0$ for all $i \in E$. A recurrent state $i \in E$ with $m_i < \infty$ will be called **positive recurrent**, otherwise i is called **null recurrent**.

Elementary renewal theorem

The elementary renewal theorem (which will be proven in chapter 4) states that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}(N_i(n) | X_0 = j)}{n} = \frac{1}{m_j}$$

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for all recurrent $i \in E$ and independently of $j \in E$ provided $j \leftrightarrow i$, with the convention of $1/\infty := 0$. Thus the asymptotic rate of visits to a recurrent state is determined by the mean recurrence time of this state.

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Assume that $i \leftrightarrow j$ for two states $i, j \in E$ and i is null recurrent. Thus there are numbers $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $P^n(i, j) > 0$ and $P^m(j, i) > 0$.

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Thus there are numbers $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $P^n(i, j) > 0$ and

$P^m(j, i) > 0$. Because of the representation

$\mathbb{E}(N_i(k) | X_0 = i) = \sum_{l=0}^k P^l(i, i)$, we obtain

Proof of theorem 2.23 (contd.)

$$0 = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{l=0}^k P^l(i, i)}{k}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{l=0}^k P^l(i, i)}{k} \\ &\geq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{l=0}^{k-m-n} P^l(j, j)}{k} \cdot P^n(i, j) P^m(j, i) \end{aligned}$$

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and thus $m_j = \infty$, which signifies the null recurrence of j .

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for all $j \in E$. In particular, $\pi_i = m_i^{-1}$ and $\pi_k = 0$ for all states k outside of the communication class belonging to i .

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The particular statements in the theorem are obvious from the definition of π and the fact that a recurrent communication class is closed.

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since $X_0 = X_{\tau_i} = i$ in the conditioning set $\{X_0 = i\}$.

Proof of theorem 2.24 (contd.)

The stationarity of π is shown as follows. First we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_j &= m_i^{-1} \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(X_n = j, \tau_i > n | X_0 = i) \\ &= m_i^{-1} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(X_n = j, \tau_i \geq n | X_0 = i) \\ &= m_i^{-1} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(X_n = j, \tau_i > n - 1 | X_0 = i)\end{aligned}$$

since $X_0 = X_{\tau_i} = i$ in the conditioning set $\{X_0 = i\}$. Further,

Proof of theorem 2.24 (contd.)

$$\mathbb{P}(X_n = j, \tau_i > n - 1 | X_0 = i) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_n = j, \tau_i > n - 1, X_0 = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_0 = i)}$$

Proof of theorem 2.24 (contd.)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(X_n = j, \tau_i > n - 1 | X_0 = i) &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_n = j, \tau_i > n - 1, X_0 = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_0 = i)} \\ &= \sum_{k \in E} \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_n = j, X_{n-1} = k, \tau_i > n - 1, X_0 = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_0 = i)}\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(X_n = j, \tau_i > n - 1 | X_0 = i) &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_n = j, \tau_i > n - 1, X_0 = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_0 = i)} \\ &= \sum_{k \in E} \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_n = j, X_{n-1} = k, \tau_i > n - 1, X_0 = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_0 = i)} \\ &= \sum_{k \neq i} \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_n = j, X_{n-1} = k, \tau_i > n - 1, X_0 = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_{n-1} = k, \tau_i > n - 1, X_0 = i)} \\ &\quad \times \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_{n-1} = k, \tau_i > n - 1, X_0 = i)}{\mathbb{P}(X_0 = i)}\end{aligned}$$

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Hence we obtain

$$\pi_j = m_i^{-1} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k \in E} p_{kj} \mathbb{P}(X_{n-1} = k, \tau_i > n - 1 | X_0 = i)$$

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which completes the proof.

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Proof of theorem 2.25 (contd.)

Consequently we obtain

$$\nu_i = \sum_{k \in E} \nu_k P^m(k, i) \geq \nu_j P^m(j, i) > 0$$

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$$\tilde{p}_{hk} = \begin{cases} p_{hk}, & k \neq i \\ 0, & k = i \end{cases}$$

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Denote further the Dirac measure on i by δ^i , i.e.

$$\delta_k^i = \begin{cases} 1, & k = i \\ 0, & k \neq i \end{cases}$$

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Then the stationary distribution π can be represented by

$$\pi = m_i^{-1} \cdot \delta^i \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{P}^n$$

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This is clear for the entry $\tilde{\nu}_i$ and easily seen for $\tilde{\nu}_k$ with $k \neq i$ because in this case

$$(\tilde{\nu} \tilde{P})_k = c \cdot (\nu P)_k = c \cdot \nu_k = \tilde{\nu}_k$$

Proof of theorem 2.25 (contd.)

Now we can proceed with the same argument to see that

$$m_i \tilde{\nu} = \delta^i + (\delta^i + m_i \tilde{\nu} \tilde{P}) \tilde{P} = \delta^i + \delta^i \tilde{P} + m_i \tilde{\nu} \tilde{P}^2 = \dots$$

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Since all states in E are positive recurrent, the construction in theorem 2.24 can be pursued for any initial state j . This yields $\pi_j = m_j^{-1}$ for all $j \in E$. The statement now follows from the uniqueness of the stationary distribution.

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Example

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

for $i \geq 1$.

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Abbreviate $p' := p(1-q)$ and $q' := q(1-p)$.

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for all $n \geq 2$.

Stationary distribution - 1

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$$\pi_1 = \pi_0 \frac{p}{q'} = \pi_0 \frac{\rho}{1 - \rho}$$

with $\rho := p/q$,

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Normalisation of π yields

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Verify this as an exercise!