

This Week:

- Markov Chains
 - Markov Property
 - Definition: Markov Chains (MCs)
 - Examples
 - Visualizing Markov Chains
- Long-run behavior of MCs
 - Fixed-point vs steady-state distributions
 - Convergence for Ergodic MCs
 - Transience vs Recurrence

H/W:

L-Gr : 6.71, 6.72

Gr : 12.5, 12.6, 12.7

I Markov Chains :

Recall: for events $\{A_k\}_{k=1}^n$

$\{A_k\}_{k=1}^n$ independent

$$(a) \Leftrightarrow P\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k\right) = \prod_{k=1}^n P(A_k)$$

In the general dependent case, multiplication theorem applies:

$$(b) P\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k\right) = P(A_1) \cdot P(A_2|A_1) \cdot P(A_3|A_1 \cap A_2) \cdots P(A_n|\{A_k\}_{k=1}^{n-1})$$

We can identify a case between complete independence (a)

and complete dependence (b):

$$P\left(\bigcap_{k=1}^n A_k\right) = P(A_1) \cdot P(A_2|A_1) \cdot P(A_3|A_2) \cdots P(A_n|A_{n-1})$$

This is the Markov Property on the events $\{A_k\}_{k=1}^n$

This property only allows for dependence between

events that are local in the index k . i.e. the

immediate future A_{k+1} depends only on the present A_k .

Or the present A_k depends only on the immediate

past A_{k-1} . This is also called the memoryless property.

We can extend this to random variables $\{X_k\}_{k=1}^n$

Definition : Markov Chain

Given:

i) an index set: I ii) a state space (or phase space) Δ

iii) a sequence of random variables

$$X_n : \Omega \rightarrow \Delta$$

indexed by $n \in I$ $\{X_n\}_{n \in I}$ is a Markov Chain (MC)

$$\Leftrightarrow P(X_{n+1} | \{X_k\}_{k=1}^n) = P(X_{n+1} | X_n)$$

(DTFS)

If Δ is finite and I is countable then the MC is a Discrete time Finite State MC.

Ex: $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n X_k$, $\{X_k\}$ iid

Claim: The random walk S_n is a MC

Proof: $P(S_{n+1} = s_{n+1} | S_1 = s_1, \dots, S_n = s_n) = P(S_n + X_{n+1} = s_{n+1} | \{S_k = s_k\}_{k=1}^n)$

$$\stackrel{\text{Sub}}{=} P(X_{n+1} + S_n = s_{n+1} | \{S_k = s_k\}_{k=1}^n)$$

$$= P(X_{n+1} = s_{n+1} - S_n | \{S_k = s_k\}_{k=1}^n)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{ind}}{=} P(X_{n+1} = s_{n+1} - S_n)$$

$$= P(X_{n+1} + S_n = s_{n+1})$$

$$\stackrel{\text{Sub}}{=} P(X_{n+1} + S_n = s_{n+1} | S_n = s_n)$$

$$= P(S_{n+1} = s_{n+1} | S_n = s_n)$$

$\therefore \{S_n\}$ is a MC

QED

$$\Delta = \mathbb{Z}$$

$$I = \mathbb{N}$$

Ex: LA weather MC: (DTFS)

$$\Delta = \{r = \text{"rain"}, s = \text{"sunshine"}\}$$

$I = \mathbb{N}$; $X_n = \text{LA weather on } n^{\text{th}} \text{ day.}$

Assuming: Tomorrow's weather depends only on today's weather. i.e. $P(X_{n+1} = t | \{X_k\}_{k=1}^n) = P(X_{n+1} = t | X_n)$

$$P(X_{n+1} = r | X_n = s) = P_{s \rightarrow r} = P_{sr}$$

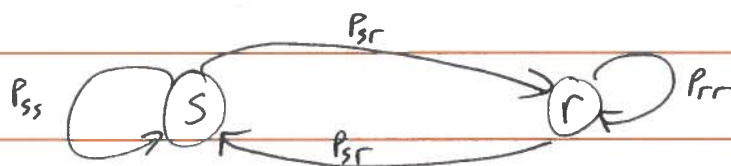
$$P(X_{n+1} = s | X_n = r) = P_{r \rightarrow s} = P_{rs}$$

$$P(X_{n+1} = s | X_n = s) = P_{s \rightarrow s} = P_{ss}$$

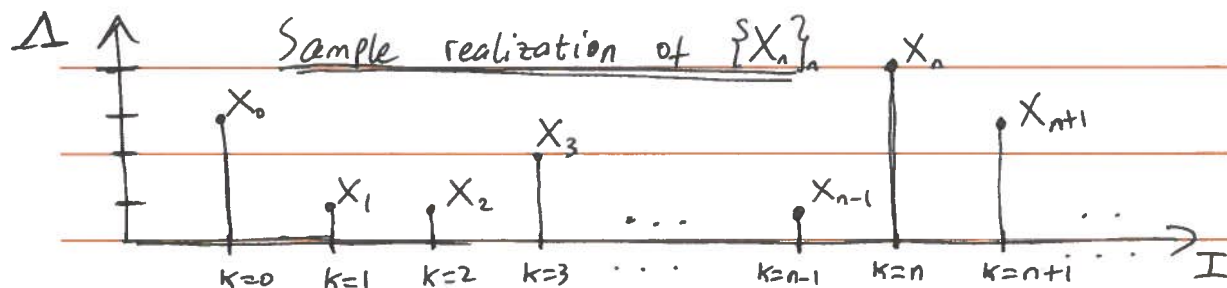
$$P(X_{n+1} = r | X_n = r) = P_{r \rightarrow r} = P_{rr}$$

Visualizing Markov Chains:

Transition graph for previous example



Note that MCs are random sequences too:



Transition Probability matrix (\underline{P})

e.g. $\underline{P} = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} s & r \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} s \\ r \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} P_{ss} & P_{sr} \\ P_{rs} & P_{rr} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \leftarrow \text{each row sums to 1}$
 [i.e. Stochastic Matrix]

$\underline{P} = ((P_{ij}))_{i,j}$ where $P_{ij} = P(X_{n+1}=j | X_n=i)$

If P_{ij} is independent of $n \in I \forall n \in I$

\Leftrightarrow the MC is homogeneous

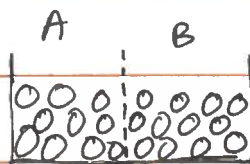
i.e. $P(X_{n+1}=j | X_n=i) \equiv P_{ij} \leftarrow \text{constant} \forall n \in I$

If $P_{ij} = P(X_{n+1}=j | X_n=i)$ changes with n

\Leftrightarrow the MC is inhomogeneous.

EX: [Ehrenfest's Urn model]:

$$N = |A| + |B|$$



@ step n , pick 1 out of N balls in A and B and transfer it to the other urn @ step $n+1$.

$X_n = \#$ of balls in urn A @ step n

$$\Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{aligned} P(X_{n+1}=m+1 | X_n=m) &= \frac{(N-m)}{N} = 1-p \\ P(X_{n+1}=m-1 | X_n=m) &= \frac{m}{N} = p \end{aligned} \right.$$

i.e. \underline{P} changes at each step n . \therefore Inhomogeneous MC.

- This is a small-scale model of diffusion across a barrier.

- The distribution of balls tends to the Max entropy distribution.

Can also write

$$X_{n+1} = X_n + Z_{n+1}$$

$$Z_{n+1} = \begin{cases} +1 & p = (N-m)/N \\ -1 & p = (m/N) \end{cases}$$

Theorem:

Suppose $X_{n+1} = f(X_n, Z_{n+1})$

$\{Z_n\}$ iid $\Rightarrow \{X_n\}$ is a homogeneous MC

$\{Z_n\}$ independent $\Rightarrow \{X_n\}$ is a MC (maybe inhomogeneous)

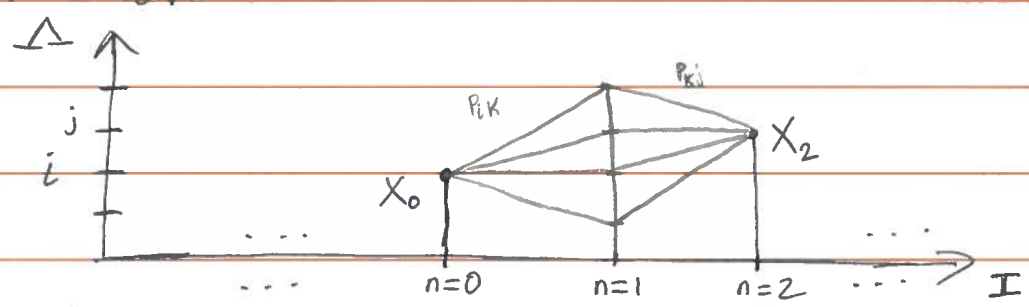
Chapman-Kolmogorov Equations:

Assume Homogeneity and a MC with transition matrix P.

The probability

$$P_{ij}(n=2) = P(X_2=j | X_0=i)$$

should be expressible in terms of $\underline{P} = ((P_{ij}(n=1)))_{ij}$ since $\{X_n\}$ is a MC. The idea is to sum up the ^{product} probabilities along all paths/evolutions that lead from $X_0=i$ to $X_2=j$ in 2 steps. i.e



$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow P(X_2=j|X_0=i) &\stackrel{\text{Marg.}}{=} \sum_{k \in A} P(X_2=j, X_1=k | X_0=i) \\ &\stackrel{\text{Bayes}}{=} \sum_{k \in A} P(X_2=j | X_1=k, X_0=i) \cdot P(X_1=k | X_0=i) \\ &\stackrel{\text{Markov}}{=} \sum_{k \in A} P(X_2=j | X_1=k) \cdot P(X_1=k | X_0=i) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{i.e. } P(X_2=j|X_0=i) = \sum_{k \in A} P_{ik} \cdot P_{kj} = P_{ij} \quad (2)$$

Recall that

$$((\underline{A} \cdot \underline{B}))_{ij} = \sum_k a_{ik} \cdot b_{kj}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{P}(2) = \underline{P}(1) \cdot \underline{P}(1) = P^2$$

In general:

$$\underline{P}(n+m) = \underline{P}^n \cdot \underline{P}^m \quad \boxed{\text{Chapman-Kolmogorov}}$$

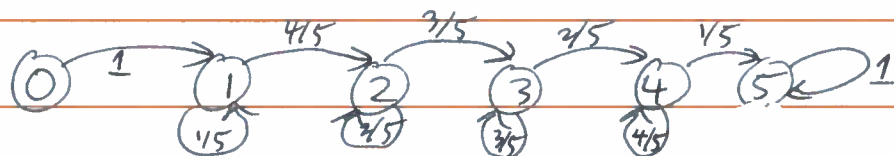
Ex: ∞ # of Balls distributed among 5 urns at random in discrete time.

$$X_n \in \{0, 1, \dots, 5\}$$

X_n = # of non-empty urns at step n

Qu: find $P_{03}(3)$?

Ans:



$$P(X=3|X_0=0) = P_{03}(3) = \overset{1}{P_{01}(1)} \cdot P_{13}(2)$$

$$= \sum_k P_{1k} \cdot P_{k3} = \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)(0) + \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)\left(\frac{3}{5}\right) = \frac{12}{25}$$

Classification of states and chains:

State j is accessible from state i [$i \rightarrow j$]

$$\Leftrightarrow \exists n : P_{ij}^{(n)} > 0$$

States i and j communicate [$i \leftrightarrow j$]

$$\Leftrightarrow (i \rightarrow j) \text{ and } (j \rightarrow i)$$

The communication relation " \leftrightarrow " is an equivalence relation on the state space Λ . So we can partition Λ into classes of communicating states.

We can also talk about the period of state i , $d(i)$:

$$d(i) = \gcd \{n : P_{ii}^{(n)} > 0\}$$

This is, intuitively, the period of all the # of steps it takes to return to state i .

If $d(i) = 1 \Leftrightarrow$ state i is aperiodic.

If $d(i) = 1 \forall i \in \Lambda \Leftrightarrow$ the whole MC is aperiodic [A]

If all states $i, j \in \Lambda$ communicate [i.e. $i \leftrightarrow j \forall i \neq j$]

\Leftrightarrow the whole MC is irreducible [I].

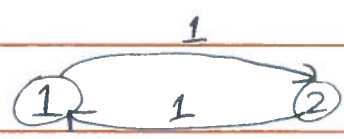
If a ^{finite state} MC is both aperiodic and irreducible \Leftrightarrow MC is Ergodic (AI)

Example Cases for 2-state Markov Chains:

i/ [PI]: Periodic, Irrreducible

$\forall i, d(i) > 1$ no "absorbing" states.

e.g



$P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, d(i) = 2$

ii/ [AR]: Aperiodic, Reducible

$\forall i, d(i) = 1$ \exists absorbing states



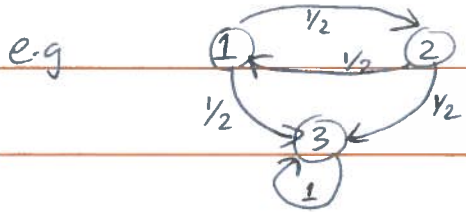
$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$



$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

iii/ [PR]: Periodic, Reducible

need ≥ 3 states...

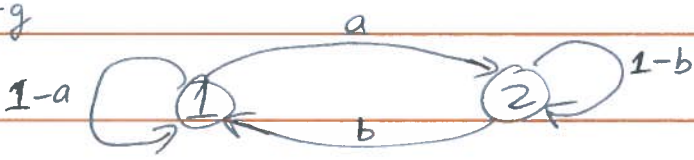


$P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

iv/ [AI]: Aperiodic, Irrreducible (aka. Ergodic)

e.g

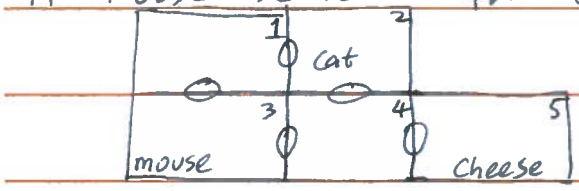
\uparrow for DTFS MC



$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1-a & a \\ b & 1-b \end{pmatrix}$

EX [Cat-mouse-cheese]

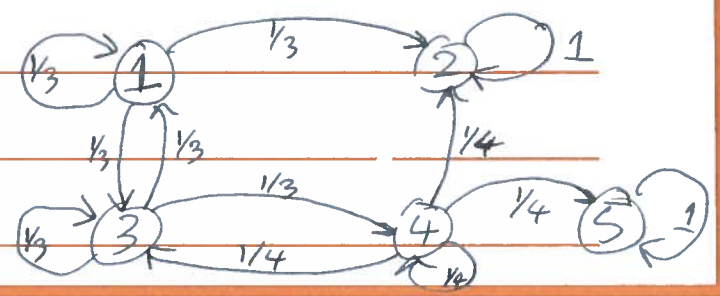
A mouse searches for cheese in a 5-room house laid out as:



The mouse moves at integer time n . It chooses to

stay in the same room or use any doors available, All with equal probability. The cat kills the mouse if the mouse enters room 2. In room 5, the mouse eats the cheese and sleeps there.

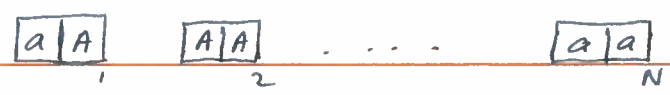
$X_n =$ mouse location at n^{th} step
 $\Rightarrow \Lambda = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$



EX Wright-Fisher Model for "genotype drift"

- Population (N) constant in each generation
- Diploid genotype i.e. individual genotypes made up of 2 alleles, one from each parent. alleles $\in \{a, A\}$
- Random mating + non-overlapping generations.

Population:



$X_n =$ # of "a" alleles in population at the n^{th} generation.

$X_n \sim \text{bin}(n=2N, p=(X_{n-1}/2N))$ [approximately]

$\Rightarrow \{X_n\}_n$ is a Markov chain.

II Long-run Behavior of Markov Chains

P completely specifies the dynamics of a homogeneous MC. But we need an initial ^(unconditional) pdf vector

$$\vec{\pi}_0 = (P(X_0=1), P(X_0=2), \dots, P(X_0=N))$$

on $\Lambda = \{1, \dots, N\}$ to talk about unconditional

probabilities at step n e.g. $P(X_n=i) = ?$

We can get the pdf for $X_n, \vec{\pi}_n$, via:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\pi}_n &= \vec{\pi}_0 \cdot \underline{P}(n) \\ \vec{\pi}_n &= \vec{\pi}_0 \cdot \underline{P}^n \end{aligned}$$

(1st order, const coefficient)

We can make an analogy to differential equations:

P is like the diff. eqn., $\vec{\pi}_0$ is the initial condition.

Qu:

How does the distribution of $X_n, \vec{\pi}_n$, behave as

$n \rightarrow \infty$?

Ans: Any long-term distribution vector $\vec{\pi}_{\infty}$ will need to have the property:

$$\vec{\pi}_{\infty} \underline{P} = \vec{\pi}_{\infty}$$

i/ This is the eigenvector with eigenvalue 1 for P.

ii/ This is also a fixed-point of the vector transformation

$$P(\vec{\pi}) = \vec{\pi} \cdot \underline{P}$$

$P(\vec{\pi}) = \vec{\pi} \cdot P$ is a linear (\therefore continuous) function.

$P: S \rightarrow S$ where (if $m = |A|$)

$$S = \{ \vec{\pi} \in \mathbb{R}^m : \pi(i) \in [0, 1], \text{ and } \sum_i \pi(i) = 1 \}$$

(also called the simplex on \mathbb{R}^m).

S is convex and compact (i.e. closed + bounded).

Brouwer's Fixed Point Theorem

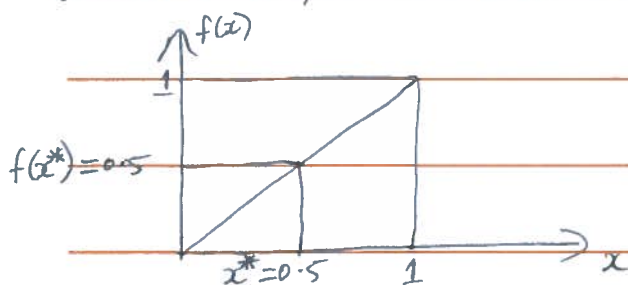
If $f: S \rightarrow S$ is continuous and $S \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is

compact and convex

$\Rightarrow \exists$ (possibly non-unique) $x^* \in S : f(x^*) = x^*$

$[x^*$ is called a fixed point of $f].$

e.g. (a) $f(x) = x, S = [0, 1]$



(b) $f(x) = x^2 - 2, S = [-1, 2]$

$$f(x^*) = x^* \Rightarrow x^{*2} - 2 = x^*$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{*2} - x^* - 2 = 0$$

$$(x^* - 2)(x^* + 1) = 0$$

$x^* \in \{-1, 2\} \leftarrow$ Non-unique fixed points.

$P(\vec{\pi}) = \vec{\pi} \cdot P$ is continuous, S convex + compact

$\Rightarrow P(\vec{\pi})$ has a fixed point $\vec{\pi}^*$.

i.e. Every Markov chain has a stationary (or equilibrium) distribution $\vec{\pi}^*$ such that:

$$\vec{\pi}^* \cdot P = \vec{\pi}^*$$

eg: [PI]



$$\Rightarrow P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{\pi}^* = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$$

$$\vec{\pi}^* \cdot P = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) = \vec{\pi}^*$$

(unique)

[AR]



$$\Rightarrow P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = I$$

$$\Rightarrow \forall \vec{\pi} \in S, \vec{\pi} \cdot P = \vec{\pi}$$

$$\text{since } (a, b) \cdot I = (a, b)$$

(non-unique)

But (i) there is no guarantee that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{\pi}_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\vec{\pi}_0 P^n) = \vec{\pi}^*$ for all MC P .

e.g. if $P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\vec{\pi}_0 = (a, b)$ [say $a, b \neq \frac{1}{2}$]

then $\vec{\pi}_n$ alternates between $\{\vec{\pi}_{\text{ev}} = (a, b), \vec{\pi}_{\text{odd}} = (b, a)\}$

indefinitely. $\therefore \vec{\pi}_n \not\rightarrow \pi^* = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$

(ii) If $\vec{\pi}^*$ is not unique then $\vec{\pi}_n$ may converge to different $\vec{\pi}_t^* \in \{\vec{\pi}_t^*\}$ [set of stationary $\vec{\pi}$]

depending on initial condition $\vec{\pi}_0$.

These difficulties disappear in the case of Ergodic MCs...

Theorem :

(DTFS)

If a Discrete Time Finite State MC is Ergodic

(i.e the DTFS MC is Aperiodic + Irreducible [AI])

⇒ i/ $\vec{\pi}^*$ is unique

ii/ $\vec{\pi}_n \rightarrow \vec{\pi}^* \quad \forall \vec{\pi}_0 \in S$

Condition i/ can fail for reducible MCs

" ii/ can fail for periodic MCs

ii/ ⇒ $X_n \xrightarrow{d} X^*$

where X^* has pdf $\vec{\pi}^*$

Qu : How fast does $\vec{\pi}_n \rightarrow \vec{\pi}^*$ in the Ergodic case?

Ans : MC convergence speed is related to the

Second Largest Eigenvalue Modulus (SLEM). Recall that the

$\vec{\pi}^*$ is the eigenvector with $\lambda^* = 1$. Perron-Frobenius's

Theorem ⇒ $|\lambda_i| \leq |\lambda^*| = 1$. Denote λ_2 as the

eigenvalue with the 2nd largest modulus $|\lambda_2|$ after $|\lambda^*|$.

⇒ MC convergence $\propto 1/|\lambda_2| = 1/\text{SLEM}$.

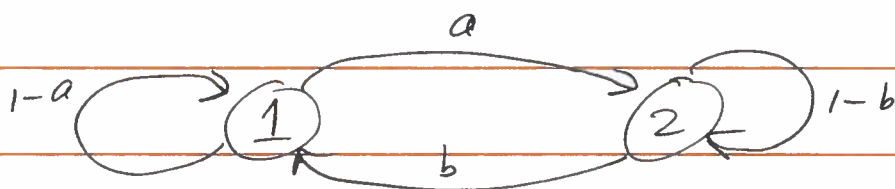
Smaller SLEM ⇒ faster convergence.

In the Periodic (PI) Irreducible case, $\{\lambda_i\}_i^d$ are the ^{dth} roots of unity

⇒ $|\lambda_2| = 1 \Rightarrow$ no MC convergence.

[d = period of the MC]

Steady State distribution for 2-state MC (AI) :



$$\underline{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 1-a & a \\ b & 1-b \end{pmatrix} \quad a, b \in (0, 1)$$

find $\vec{\pi} = (x, y) : \vec{\pi} \underline{P} = \vec{\pi}$

Soln:

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\pi} (\underline{P} - \underline{I}) = 0$$

$$\underline{P} - \underline{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1-a & a \\ b & 1-b \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -a & a \\ b & -b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\pi} (\underline{P} - \underline{I}) = (x \ y) \begin{pmatrix} -a & a \\ b & -b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (-ax + by, ax - by) = (0, 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow ax = by \quad \dots \text{i}$$

$$x + y = 1 \quad \dots \text{ii}$$

$$\Rightarrow ax = b(1-x) \Rightarrow ax + bx = b \Rightarrow x = \frac{b}{a+b}$$

$$y = 1 - x = \frac{a}{a+b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{\pi}^* = \frac{1}{a+b} (b, a)}$$

Transience vs Recurrence :

We can formalize the idea of a transient state vs a recurrent state. A state is transient if there is a non-zero probability of never returning to that state. It is recurrent if we must revisit that state infinitely often.

More formally:

$$i \text{ is transient} \Leftrightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^n < \infty$$

$$i \text{ is recurrent} \Leftrightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^n = \infty$$

We can also use first passage time $T_1(i)$ to define this.

$$T_1(i) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \min\{k \geq 1 : X_k = i\} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{[first time } k \\ \text{when } X_k = i \end{array}$$

Now define the probability of returning to i in finite time:

$$f_i = P(T_1(i) < \infty \mid X_0 = i)$$

Then

$$i \text{ is transient} \Leftrightarrow f_i < 1 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{[non-zero probability} \\ \text{of no return} \end{array}$$

$$i \text{ is recurrent} \Leftrightarrow f_i = 1 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{[100\% probability} \\ \text{of no return} \end{array}$$

Theorem:

$$[i \leftrightarrow j] \Leftrightarrow [(i, j \text{ recurrent}) \text{ OR } (i, j \text{ transient})]$$

EX 1-D Random Walk :

$$\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}; S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i; X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p=1/2) \text{ iid}$$

$\{S_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ is a MC [proven earlier]

Qu: $\forall i \in \Lambda$, is i transient or recurrent?

Ans: $P_{ii}^n = ?$

n odd $\Rightarrow P_{ii}^n = 0$ [\because need even # of steps to return to i]

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^{2n}$$

$P_{ii}^{2n} = 0 \Rightarrow$ # successes = # failures

$\Rightarrow P_{ii}^{2n} = P(n \text{ successes in } 2n \text{ iid trials})$

$$P_{ii}^{2n} = \binom{2n}{n} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \frac{(2n)!}{n!n!} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{2n}}$$

Use Stirling's Approximation:

$$n! \approx n^{n+1/2} \cdot e^{-n} \cdot \sqrt{2\pi}$$

$$\Rightarrow \binom{2n}{n} \approx \frac{(2n)^{2n+1/2} \cdot e^{-2n} \cdot \sqrt{2\pi}}{n^{n+1/2} \cdot e^{-n} \cdot 2\pi \cdot n^{n+1/2} \cdot e^{-n}} = \frac{2^{2n+1/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi n}}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_{ii}^{2n} \approx \frac{2^{2n+1/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi n}} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{2n}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2\pi n}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi n}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^{2n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \stackrel{\substack{p\text{-series with } p=0.5 \leq 1 \\ \therefore \text{diverges}}}{=} \infty$$

$\Rightarrow \forall i \in \Lambda$, i is recurrent.

[transient if $p \neq 1/2$].

S_n in 2-D $\Rightarrow P_{ii}^{2n} \approx \frac{1}{\pi n} \Rightarrow$ recurrent | S_n in d -Dim $\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^{2n} < \infty \Rightarrow$ Transient ($d \geq 3$)

Ex: [Fitting Markov framework]

- Today's weather depends on previous 2-days.

X_n = today's weather

$Y_n = (X_n, X_{n-1})$

$$P(X_{n+1}=1 | Y_n=(00)) = 0.2$$

$$P(X_{n+1}=1 | Y_n=(01)) = 0.4$$

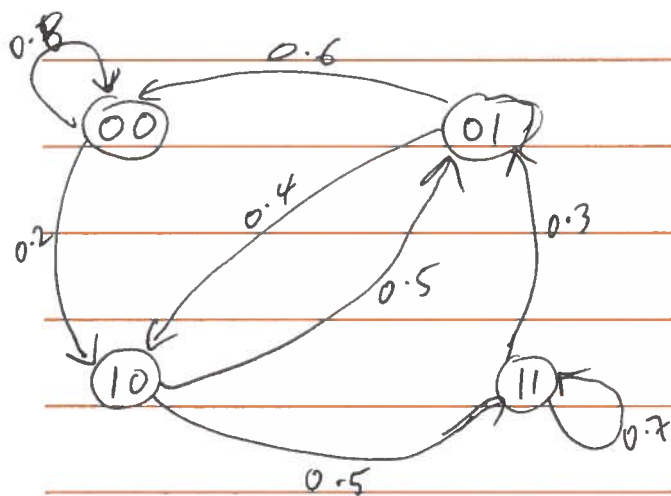
$$P(X_{n+1}=1 | Y_n=(10)) = 0.5$$

$$P(X_{n+1}=1 | Y_n=(11)) = 0.7$$

$$P(X_{n+1}=1 | X_n=0) = 0.4 \quad Y_n=(0,1)$$

$$X_n \text{ not MC} \quad \therefore P(X_{n+1}=1 | X_n=0) = 0.2 \quad Y_n=(0,0)$$

Y_n is an MC $\in \Omega = \{00, 01, 10, 11\}$



$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 00 & 01 & 10 & 11 \\ 0.8 & 0 & 0.2 & 0 \\ 0.6 & 0 & 0.4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 & 0 & 0.5 \\ 0 & 0.3 & 0 & 0.7 \end{pmatrix}$$