Markov Chain

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Markov Chain

2.1 Difinition

Definition 2.1.1 (Markov Chain)**.** A discrete time stochastic process $\{X_n, n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots\}$ is defined to be *Discrete Time Markov Chain* or simply *Markov Chain* if it takes value in the state space **S**, and for every $n \geq 0$ it satisfy the property

$$\mathbf{P}(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i, X_{n-1} = i_{n-1}, \ldots, X_0 = i_0) = \mathbf{P}(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i) \tag{2.1}$$

Unless otherwise mentioned we take the state space **S** to be $\{1, 2, 3, \ldots \}$. If $X_n = i$ we say that the process is in ith state at time n. In the definition eq. (2.1) may be interpreted as for Markov Chain, the conditional distribution of any future state X_{n+1}, given the past states $X_0, X_1, \ldots, X_{n-1}$ and the present state X_n, is independent of the past and only depend on the present state. This property is called *Markovian Property*. In other word for markov chain predicting the future we only need information about the present state.

2.2 Homogeneous Markov Chain

Definition 2.2.1 (Homogeneous Markov Chain)**.** We say a markov chain $\{X_n, n \geq 0\}$ is homogeneous if $\mathbf{P}(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i) = \mathbf{P}(X_2 = j | X_1 = i) \ \forall n > 0$.