

# Stochastic Processes: Homework 2

Chris Hayduk

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## Problem 1. Durrett, Exercise 1.2

Observe that if  $0 < X_n < 5$ , then there are 3 possibilities for the transition:

1.  $X_{n+1} = X_n$ . This can occur if two white balls are exchanged or if two black balls are exchanged
2.  $X_{n+1} = X_n + 1$ . This occurs if a black ball from the left urn is exchanged for a white ball from the right urn
3.  $X_{n+1} = X_n - 1$ . This occurs if a white ball from the left urn is exchanged for a black ball from the right urn

If  $X_n = 0$ , then there is only one possible transition:  $X_{n+1} = X_n + 1$ .

If  $X_n = 5$ , then there is only one possible transition:  $X_{n+1} = X_n - 1$ .

From these facts, we can derive the transition probability matrix:

$$\begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{matrix} & \left( \begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.04 & 0.32 & 0.64 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.16 & 0.48 & 0.36 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.36 & 0.48 & 0.16 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.64 & 0.32 & 0.04 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) \end{matrix}$$

Let  $x$  = number of white balls in left urn and  $y$  = number of white balls in right urn. Hence  $5 - x$  = number of black balls in left urn and  $5 - y$  = number of black balls in right urn.

Then for  $0 < i < 5$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} p(i, i-1) &= \frac{x}{5} \cdot \frac{5-y}{5} \\ p(i, i) &= \frac{x}{5} \cdot \frac{y}{5} + \frac{5-x}{5} \cdot \frac{5-y}{5} \\ p(i, i+1) &= \frac{5-x}{5} \cdot \frac{y}{5} \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 2.** Durrett, Exercise 1.3

Note that  $X_n$  can be any integer from 0 to 5. Hence, the state space is  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ .

For each individual roll  $Y_k$ , the possible sums are as follows, along with possible combinations to get that sum:

2 : (1, 1)  
3 : (2, 1), (1, 2)  
4 : (2, 2), (1, 3), (3, 1)  
5 : (1, 4), (4, 1), (3, 2), (2, 3)  
6 : (3, 3), (4, 2), (2, 4)  
7 : (4, 3), (3, 4)  
8 : (4, 4)

We see that there are 16 possible rolls with this pair of dice. Using the possible outcomes listed above, we can derive probabilities for each sum:

$$\begin{aligned}P(Y_k = 2) &= 0.0625 \\P(Y_k = 3) &= 0.125 \\P(Y_k = 4) &= 0.1875 \\P(Y_k = 5) &= 0.25 \\P(Y_k = 6) &= 0.1875 \\P(Y_k = 7) &= 0.125 \\P(Y_k = 8) &= 0.0625\end{aligned}$$

Now we can show which congruence classes these sums to modulo 6:

$$\begin{aligned}2 &= \bar{2} \\3 &= \bar{3} \\4 &= \bar{4} \\5 &= \bar{5} \\6 &= \bar{0} \\7 &= \bar{1} \\8 &= \bar{2}\end{aligned}$$

Now we can convert the probabilities for  $Y_k$  using these congruence classes,

$$\begin{aligned}
P(Y_k = \bar{0}) &= 0.1875 \\
P(Y_k = \bar{1}) &= 0.125 + 0.125 = 0.25 \\
P(Y_k = \bar{2}) &= 0.0625 + 0.0625 = 0.125 \\
P(Y_k = \bar{3}) &= 0.125 \\
P(Y_k = \bar{4}) &= 0.1875 \\
P(Y_k = \bar{5}) &= 0.25
\end{aligned}$$

Now using these probabilities and the properties of modular arithmetic, we will derive a transition probability matrix for  $X_n$ :

$$\begin{array}{c}
\bar{0} \quad \bar{1} \quad \bar{2} \quad \bar{3} \quad \bar{4} \quad \bar{5} \\
\begin{array}{c} \bar{0} \\ \bar{1} \\ \bar{2} \\ \bar{3} \\ \bar{4} \\ \bar{5} \end{array} \left( \begin{array}{cccccc}
0.1875 & 0.25 & 0.125 & 0.125 & 0.1875 & 0.25 \\
0.25 & 0.1875 & 0.25 & 0.125 & 0.125 & 0.1875 \\
0.1875 & 0.25 & 0.1875 & 0.25 & 0.125 & 0.125 \\
0.125 & 0.1875 & 0.25 & 0.1875 & 0.25 & 0.125 \\
0.125 & 0.125 & 0.1875 & 0.25 & 0.1875 & 0.25 \\
0.25 & 0.125 & 0.125 & 0.1875 & 0.25 & 0.1875
\end{array} \right)
\end{array}$$

So if  $j \geq i$ , we have

$$p(i, j) = P(Y_k = \overline{j - i})$$

**Problem 3.** Durrett, Exercise 1.58

We have,

$$\begin{aligned}
P(X_{n+1} = 1) - \frac{b}{a+b} &= P(X_{n+1} = 1|X_n = 1) \cdot P(X_n = 1) + P(X_{n+1} = 1|X_n = 2) \cdot P(X_n = 2) - \frac{b}{a+b} \\
&= (1-a)P(X_n = 1) + bP(X_n = 2) - \frac{b}{a+b} \\
&= (1-a)P(X_n = 1) + b(1 - P(X_n = 1)) - \frac{b}{a+b} \\
&= (1-a-b)P(X_n = 1) + b - \frac{b}{a+b} \\
&= (1-a-b)P(X_n = 1) + \frac{b(a+b)}{a+b} - \frac{b}{a+b} \\
&= (1-a-b)P(X_n = 1) + \frac{b(a+b) - b}{a+b} \\
&= (1-a-b)P(X_n = 1) + \frac{b(a+b-1)}{a+b} \\
&= (1-a-b)P(X_n = 1) - \frac{b(1-a-b)}{a+b} \\
&= (1-a-b) \left[ P(X_n = 1) - \frac{b}{a+b} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Note that,

$$\begin{aligned}
P(X_n = 1) - \frac{b}{a+b} &= (1-a-b) \left[ P(X_{n-1} = 1) - \frac{b}{a+b} \right] \\
&= (1-a-b) \left[ (1-a-b) \left( P(X_{n-2} = 1) - \frac{b}{a+b} \right) \right] \\
&= (1-a-b)^2 \left[ P(X_{n-2} = 1) - \frac{b}{a+b} \right] \\
&= (1-a-b)^3 \left[ P(X_{n-3} = 1) - \frac{b}{a+b} \right] \\
&\vdots \\
&= (1-a-b)^n \left[ P(X_0 = 1) - \frac{b}{a+b} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

So this gives us,

$$P(X_n = 1) = \frac{b}{a+b} + (1-a-b)^n \left[ P(X_0 = 1) - \frac{b}{a+b} \right]$$

**Problem 4.**

(A) We consider the following matrix,

$$p = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Now we take  $p - \lambda I$

$$\begin{aligned} p - \lambda I &= \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} - \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \\ &= \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 - \lambda & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix} \end{aligned}$$

Now we need to find  $\det(p - \lambda I)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \det(p - \lambda I) &= -\lambda \begin{vmatrix} 1/2 - \lambda & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1/2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} - 1 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} + 0 \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1/2 - \lambda \\ 1/2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= -\lambda \begin{vmatrix} 1/2 - \lambda & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1/2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} - \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} \\ &= -\lambda[(1/2 - \lambda)^2 - 0] - (0 - 1/4) \\ &= -\lambda(\lambda^2 - \lambda + 1/4) + 1/4 \\ &= -\lambda^3 + \lambda^2 - \lambda/4 + 1/4 \end{aligned}$$

Lastly, we need to solve

$$-\lambda^3 + \lambda^2 - \lambda/4 + 1/4 = 0$$

The solutions to this equation are:

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 &= 1 \\ \lambda_2 &= -i/2 \\ \lambda_3 &= i/2 \end{aligned}$$

(B) By diagonalization, we have that,

$$\begin{aligned} p &= X\Lambda X^{-1} \\ p^2 &= X\Lambda X^{-1}X\Lambda X^{-1} = X\Lambda^2 X^{-1} \\ &\vdots \\ p^n &= X\Lambda^n X^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

where  $X$  is the matrix whose columns are the eigenvectors of  $p$  and  $\Lambda$  is the matrix with the eigenvalues of  $p$  on the diagonal and 0s everywhere else.

Now to find the three eigenvectors:

$$\begin{aligned} (p - \lambda_1 I)x_1 &= 0 \\ (p - \lambda_2 I)x_2 &= 0 \\ (p - \lambda_3 I)x_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The solutions to these equations are:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= (1, 1, 1) \\ x_2 &= (-1 - i, -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{i}{2}, 1) \\ x_3 &= (-1 + i, -\frac{1}{2} - \frac{i}{2}, 1) \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 - i & -1 + i \\ 1 & -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{i}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} - \frac{i}{2} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and the inverse is,

$$X^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ -\frac{1}{10} + \frac{3i}{10} & -\frac{1}{5} - \frac{2i}{5} & \frac{3}{10} + \frac{i}{10} \\ -\frac{1}{10} - \frac{3i}{10} & -\frac{1}{5} + \frac{2i}{5} & \frac{3}{10} - \frac{i}{10} \end{bmatrix}$$

Lastly, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda^n &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{i}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{2} \end{bmatrix}^n \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{i}{2}^n & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{2}^n \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

So we have,

$$p^n = X\Lambda^n X^{-1}$$

which yields

$$\frac{1}{10} \begin{pmatrix} -2i\left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} + i^{n+1} 2^{1-n} + i & (2+2i)\left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - i\left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} - i^n 2^{1-n} + (1-i) & -2\left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} - i i^n 2^{1-n} - 2 \\ -\left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} + i i^n 2^{1-n} + 2 & (1-i)\left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} + i^n 2^{1-n} + i^{n+1} 2^{-n} + (2+2i) & i\left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} + i^{n+1} 2^{1-n} + -4i \\ (1+i)\left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - i\left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} - i^n 2^{1-n} + (1-i) & -2\left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} - i i^n 2^{1-n} - 2 & (1-i)\left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} + i^n 2^{1-n} + i^{n+1} 2^{-n} + (2+2i) \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} p^n(1, 1) &= -\frac{2i}{10} \left( \left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + i(-i)^n 2^{1-n} + i^{n+1} 2^{1-n} + i \right) \\ &= -\frac{2i}{10} \left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - \frac{2i}{10} \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + \frac{2^{1-n+1}(-i)^n}{10} - \frac{2^{1-n+1}i^{n+2}}{10} + i \\ &= -\frac{2i}{10} \left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - \frac{2i}{10} \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + \frac{2^{1-n+1}((-i)^n - i^{n+2})}{10} + i \\ &= -\frac{2i}{10} \left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - \frac{2i}{10} \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + 1^n \left( \frac{2^{1-n+1}((-i)^n - i^{n+2})}{10} + i \right) \\ &= -\frac{2i}{10} \left(-\frac{i}{2}\right)^n - \frac{2i}{10} \left(\frac{i}{2}\right)^n + 1^n \left( \frac{2^{1-n+1}((-i)^n - i^{n+2})}{10} + i \right) \\ &= \left( \frac{2^{1-n+1}((-i)^n - i^{n+2})}{10} + i \right) \lambda_1^n - \frac{2i}{10} \lambda_2^n - \frac{2i}{10} \lambda_3^n \end{aligned}$$

as required.

(C) We have the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} p^0(1, 1) &= 1 = a + b + c \\ p^1(1, 1) &= 0 = a\lambda_1 + b\lambda_2 + c\lambda_3 = a + \frac{-i}{2}b + \frac{i}{2}c \\ p^2(1, 1) &= 0 = a\lambda_1^2 + b\lambda_2^2 + c\lambda_3^2 = a + \frac{-1}{4}b + \frac{-1}{4}c \end{aligned}$$

We can set up an augmented matrix for this system of equations:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \frac{-i}{2} & \frac{i}{2} & 0 \\ 1 & \frac{-1}{4} & \frac{-1}{4} & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

Row reduction yields:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{5} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{2}{5} - \frac{i}{5} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \frac{2}{5} + \frac{i}{5} \end{array} \right)$$

Hence we have,

$$p^n(1, 1) = \frac{1}{5} + \left( \frac{2}{5} - \frac{i}{5} \right) \cdot \frac{-i^n}{2} + \left( \frac{2}{5} + \frac{i}{5} \right) \cdot \frac{i^n}{2}$$

(D) If  $n$  even:

$$\begin{aligned} p^n(1, 1) &= \frac{1}{5} + \left( \frac{2}{5} - \frac{i}{5} \right) \cdot \frac{-1}{2^n} + \left( \frac{2}{5} + \frac{i}{5} \right) \cdot \frac{-1}{2^n} \\ &= \frac{1}{5} + \frac{-2}{5 \cdot 2^n} - \frac{-i}{5 \cdot 2^n} + \frac{-2}{5 \cdot 2^n} + \frac{-i}{5 \cdot 2^n} \\ &= \frac{1}{5} + \frac{-4}{5 \cdot 2^n} \end{aligned}$$

If  $n$  odd:

$$\begin{aligned} p^n(1, 1) &= \frac{1}{5} + \left( \frac{2}{5} - \frac{i}{5} \right) \cdot \frac{-i}{2^n} + \left( \frac{2}{5} + \frac{i}{5} \right) \cdot \frac{i}{2^n} \\ &= \frac{1}{5} + \frac{-2i}{5 \cdot 2^n} - \frac{1}{5 \cdot 2^n} + \frac{2i}{5 \cdot 2^n} + \frac{-1}{5 \cdot 2^n} \\ &= \frac{1}{5} + \frac{-2}{5 \cdot 2^n} \end{aligned}$$

In either case, we see that as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , the second term goes to 0. Hence, we have that,

$$p^n(1, 1) \rightarrow \frac{1}{5} \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$