

# STAT 333 Course Note

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## Table of Contents

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- [STAT 333 Course Note](#)
- [Table of Contents](#)
- [1. Fundamental of Probability](#)
  - [1.1 What's Probability](#)
    - [1.1.1 Examples](#)
      - [Example 1](#)
  - [1.2 Probability Models](#)
    - [1.2.1 Examples](#)
      - [1.2.1.1 Example 2](#)
    - [1.2.2 Remark: why do we need the notion of event?](#)
  - [1.3 Conditional Probability](#)
  - [1.4 Independence](#)
  - [1.5 Bayes' rule and law of total probability](#)
    - [1.5.1 Bayes' rule](#)
- [2 Random variables and distributions](#)
  - [2.1 Random variables](#)
  - [2.2 Discrete random variables and distributions](#)
    - [2.2.1 Examples of discrete distributions](#)
      - [1. Bemoulli distribution](#)
      - [2.Binomial distribution](#)
      - [3.Geometric distribution](#)
      - [4. Poisson distribution](#)
  - [2.3 Continuous random variables and distributions](#)
    - [2.3.1 Example of continuous distribution](#)
  - [2.4 Joint distribution of r.v's](#)
  - [2.5 Expectation](#)
    - [2.5.1 Properties of expectation](#)
    - [2.5.2 Definitions](#)
  - [2.6 Indicator](#)
    - [2.6.1 Example](#)
    - [2.6.1 Example 3](#)
  - [2.7 Moment generating function](#)
    - [2.7.1 Properties of mgf](#)
    - [2.7.2 Joint mgf](#)
      - [2.7.2.1 Properties of the joint mgf](#)
- [3. Conditional distribution and conditional expectation](#)
  - [3.1 Conditional distribution](#)
    - [3.1.1 Discrete case](#)
      - [3.1.1.1 Example](#)
    - [3.1.2 Continuous case](#)
      - [3.1.2.1 Example](#)
      - [3.1.2.1. Example 2](#)
  - [3.2 Conditional expectation](#)
    - [3.2.1 What is  \$\mathbb{E}\(X|Y\)\$  ?](#)
    - [3.2.2 Properties of conditional expectation](#)
  - [3.3 Decomposition of variance \(EVVE's low\)](#)
- [4. Stochastic Processes](#)
  - [4.1 Markov Chain](#)
    - [4.1.1 Simple Random Walk](#)
    - [4.1.2 Markov Chain](#)
      - [4.1.2.1 Discrete-time Markov Chain](#)
        - [Definition and Examples](#)
        - [Example: simple random walk](#)

- 4.1.3 One-step transition probability matrix
  - Example 1 : simple random walk
  - Example 2: Ehrenfest's urn
  - Example 3: Gambler's ruin
  - Example 4: Bonus-Malus system
- 4.2 Chapman-Kolmogorov equations
  - 4.2.1 Conditional Law of total probability
  - 4.2.2 Distribution of  $X_n$
- 4.3 Stationary distribution (invariant distribution)
  - Example 4.3.1
- 4.4. Classification of States
  - 4.4.1. Transience and recurrence
    - Definition 4.4.1
    - Example 4.4.1

# 1. Fundamental of Probability

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## 1.1 What's Probability

### 1.1.1 Examples

1. Coin toss
  - "H" - head
  - "T" - tail
2. Roll a dice
  - every number in the set:  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
3. Tomorrow weather
  - $\{\text{sunny, rainy, cloudy, ...}\}$
4. Randomly pick a number in  $[0, 1]$

Although things are random, they are not haphazard/arbitrary. There are "patterns"

#### Example 1

If we repeat tossing a coin, then the fraction of times that we get a "H" goes to  $\frac{1}{2}$  as the number of toss goes to infinity.

$$\frac{\# \text{ of "H" }}{\text{total \# of toss}} = \frac{1}{2}$$

This number  $1/2$  reflects how "likely" a "H" will appear in one toss (if the experiment is not repeated)

## 1.2 Probability Models

The *Sample space*  $\Omega$  is the set consisting of all the possible outcomes of a random experiment.

### 1.2.1 Examples

1.  $\{H, T\}$
2.  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
3.  $\{\text{sunny, rainy, cloudy, ...}\}$
4.  $[0, 1]$

An *event*  $E \in \Omega$  is a subset of  $\Omega$

for which we can talk about "likelihood of happening"; for example

- in 2:
  - $\{\text{getting an even number}\} = \{2, 4, 6\}$
- in 4:
  - $\{\text{the point is between } 0 \text{ and } 1/3\} = [0, \frac{1}{3}]$  is an event
  - $\{\text{the point is rational}\} = \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, 1]$

We say an event  $E$  "happens", if the result of the experiment turns out to belong to  $E$  (a subset of  $\Omega$ )

A probability  $P$  is a set function ( a mapping from events to real numbers)

$$P : \xi \rightarrow R$$

$$E \rightarrow P(E)$$

which satisfies the following 3 properties:

1.  $\forall E \in \xi, 0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$
2.  $P(\Omega) = 1$
3. For
  - countably many disjoint events  $E_1, E_2, \dots$ , we have  $P(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(E_i)$
  - countable:  $\exists$  1-1 mapping to natural numbers  $1, 2, 3, \dots$

Intuitively, one can think the probability of an event as the "likelihood/chance" for the event happens. If we repeat the experiment for a large number of events, the probability is the fraction of time that the event happens

$$P(E) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\# \text{ of times the E happens in n trials}}{n}$$

### 1.2.1.1 Example 2

$$P(\{1\}) = P(\{2\}) = \dots = P(\{6\}) = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$E = \{\text{even number}\} = \{2, 4, 6\}$$

$$\Rightarrow P(E) = P(\{2\} \cup P(\{4\}) \cup P(\{6\})) = \frac{1}{2}$$

Properties of probability:

1.  $P(E) + P(E^c) = 1$
2.  $P(\emptyset) = 0$
3.  $E_1 \subseteq E_2 \Rightarrow P(E_1) \leq P(E_2)$
4.  $P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) - P(E_1 \cap E_2)$ :  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  happen

### 1.2.2 Remark: why do we need the notion of event?

If the sample space  $\Omega$  is **discrete**, then everything can has at most countable elements be built from the "atoms"

$$\Omega = \{w_1, w_2, \dots\}$$

$$P(w_i) = P_i$$

$$P_i \in [0, 1], \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P_i = 1$$

Then for any event  $E = \{w_i, i \in I\}$ ,  $P(E) = \sum_{i \in I} P_i$

However, if the sample space  $\Omega$  is continuous; e.g.  $[0, 1]$  in Example 4, then such a construction can not be done for any  $x \in [0, 1]$  we get  $P(\{x\}) = 0$  ( $x$ : the point is exactly  $x$ )

We can not get  $P([0, \frac{1}{3}])$  by adding  $P(\{x\})$  for  $x \leq \frac{1}{3}$ .

This is why we need the notion of event; and we define  $P$  as a set function from  $\xi$  to  $R$  rather than a function from  $\Omega$  to  $R$

To summarize: A **Probability Space** consists of a triplet  $(\Omega, \xi, P)$ :

- $\Omega$ : sample space,
- $\xi$ : collection of events
- $P$ : probability

## 1.3 Conditional Probability

If we know some information, the probability of an event can be updated

Let  $E, F$  be two events  $P(F) > 0$

The conditional probability of  $E$ , given  $F$  is

$$P(E | F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)}$$

Again, think probability as the long-run frequency:

$$\begin{aligned} P(E \cap F) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{\#of times } E \text{ and } F \text{ happen in } n \text{ trails}}{n} \\ P(F) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{\#of times } F \text{ happen in } n \text{ trails}}{n} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{\#of times } E \text{ and } F \text{ happen}}{\text{\#of times } F \text{ happens}} \end{aligned}$$

By definition

$$P(E \cap F) = P(E | F) \cdot P(F)$$

## 1.4 Independence

**Def:** Two events  $E$  and  $F$  are said to be independent, if  $P(E \cap F) = P(E) \cdot P(F)$ ; denoted as  $E \perp\!\!\!\perp F$ . **This is different from disjoint.**

Assume  $P(F) > 0$ , then  $E \perp\!\!\!\perp F \Leftrightarrow P(E|F) = P(E)$ ; intuitively, knowing  $F$  does not change the probability of  $E$ .

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} E \perp\!\!\!\perp F &\Leftrightarrow P(E \cap F) = P(E) \cdot P(F) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)} = P(E) \\ &\Leftrightarrow P(E|F) = P(E) \end{aligned}$$

More generally, a sequence of events  $E_1, E_2, \dots$  are called independent if for **any** finite index set  $I$ ,

$$P\left(\bigcap_{i \in I} E_i\right) = \prod_{i \in I} P(E_i)$$

## 1.5 Bayes' rule and law of total probability

**Theorem:** Let  $F_1, F_2, \dots$  be disjoint events, and  $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i = \Omega$ , we say  $\{F_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  forms a "partition" of the sample space  $\Omega$

Then  $P(E) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(E|F_i) \cdot P(F_i)$

**Proof:** Exercise

Intuition: Decompose the total probability into different cases.

$$P(E \cap F_2) = P(E|F_2) \cdot P(F_2)$$

### 1.5.1 Bayes' rule

$$P(F_i|E) = \frac{P(E|F_i) \cdot P(F_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P(E|F_j) \cdot P(F_j)}$$

**Bayes' rule** tells us how to find conditional probability by switching the role of the event and the condition.

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} P(F_i|E) &= \frac{P(F_i \cap E)}{P(E)} && \text{definition of condition probability} \\ &= \frac{P(E|F_i)P(F_i)}{P(E)} \\ &= \frac{P(E|F_i)P(F_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P(E|F_j)P(F_j)} && \text{law of total probability} \end{aligned}$$

## 2 Random variables and distributions

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## 2.1 Random variables

$(\Omega, \xi, P)$ : Probability space.

**Definition:** A random variable  $X$  (or r.v.) is a mapping from  $\Omega$  to  $\mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} X : \Omega &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \omega &\rightarrow X(\omega) \end{aligned}$$

A random variable transforms arbitrary "outcomes" into numbers.

$X$  introduces a probability on  $R$ . For  $A \subseteq R$ , define

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \in A) &:= P(\{X(\omega) \in A\}) \\ &= P(\{\omega : X(\omega) \in A\}) \\ &= P(X^{-1}(A)) \end{aligned}$$

From now on, we can often "forget" the original probability space and focus on the random variables and their distributions.

**Definition:** let  $X$  be a random variable. The **CDF**(cumulative distribution function)  $F$  of  $X$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= P(X \leq x) = P(X \in (-\infty, x]) \\ X : \text{random variable}, x : \text{number} \end{aligned}$$

Properties of cdf:

1.  $F$  is non-decreasing.  $F(x_1) \leq F(x_2), x_1 < x_2$
2. limits
  - $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F(x) = 0$
  - $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F(x) = 1$
3.  $F(x)$  is right continuous
  - $\lim_{x \downarrow a} F(x) = F(a) : x \text{ decreases to } a (\text{approaching from the right})$
  - Hint:  $\{x \leq a\} = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} \{X \leq a_i\}$  for  $a_i \downarrow a$

## 2.2 Discrete random variables and distributions

A random variable  $X$  is called **discrete** if it only takes values in an **at most countable** set  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  (finite or countable).

The distribution of a discrete random variable is fully characterized by its **probability mass function**(p.m.f)

$$p(x) := P(X = x); x = x_1, x_2, \dots$$

Properties of pmf:

1.  $p(x) \geq 0, \forall x$
2.  $\sum_i p(x_i) = 1$

Q: what does the cdf of a discrete random variable look like?

### 2.2.1 Examples of discrete distributions

#### 1. Bernoulli distribution

$$\begin{aligned} p(1) &= P(X = 1) = p \\ p(c) &= P(X = c) = 1 - p \\ p(x) &= 0 \quad \text{otherwise} \end{aligned}$$

Denote  $X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$

#### 2. Binomial distribution

$$p(k) = P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

- $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$  to choose  $k$  successes.
- Binomial distribution is the distribution of number of successes in  $n$  independent trials; each having probability  $p$  of success.

### 3. Geometric distribution

$$p(k) = P(X = k) = (1 - p)^{k-1}p$$

$(1 - p)^{k-1}$  : the first  $k-1$  trials are all failures,  $p$  : success in  $k^{th}$  trial

- $X \sim Geo(p)$
- $X$  is the number of trials needed to get the first success in  $n$  independent trials with probability  $p$  of success each
- $X$  has the memoryless property  $P(X > n + m | X > m) = P(X > n)$   $n, m = 0, 1, \dots$

**Memoryless property:**

$$p(X > n + m | X > m) = P(X > n)$$

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} P(X > k) &= \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} P(X = j) \\ &= \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} (1 - p)^{j-1}p \\ &= (1 - p)^k p \cdot \frac{1}{1 - (1 - p)} \\ &= (1 - p)^k \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X > n + m | X > m) &= \frac{P(X > n + m \cap X > m)}{P(X > m)} \\ &= \frac{P(X > n + m)}{P(X > m)} = \frac{(1 - p)^{n+m}}{(1 - p)^m} = (1 - p)^n = P(X > n) \end{aligned}$$

**Intuition:** The failures in the past have no influence on how long we still need to wait to get the first success in the future

### 4. Poisson distribution

$$p(k) = P(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \lambda > 0$$

Other discrete distributions:

- negative binomial
- discrete uniform

## 2.3 Continuous random variables and distributions

**Definition:** A random variable  $X$  is called **continuous** if there exists a non-negative function  $f$ , such that for any interval  $[a, b]$ ,  $(a, b)$  or  $[a, b)$ :

$$P(X \in [a, b]) = \int_a^b f(x)dx$$

The function  $f$  is called the *probability density function(pdf)* of  $X$

**Remark:** probability density function(pdf) is not probability.  $P(X = x) = 0$  if  $X$  is continuous. The probability density function  $f$  only gives probability when it is integrated.

If  $X$  is continuous, then we can get cdf by:

$$F(a) = P(X \in (-\infty, a]) = \int_{-\infty}^a f(x)dx$$

hence,  $F(x)$  is continuous, and differentiable "almost everywhere".

We can take  $f(x) = F'(x)$  when the derivative exists, and  $f(x)$  = arbitrary number otherwise often to choose a value to make  $f$  have some continuity.

Property of pdf:

$$1. f(x) \geq 0, x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$2. \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)dx = 1$$

$$3. \text{ For } A \subseteq R, P(X \in A) = \int_A f(x)dx$$

### 2.3.1 Example of continuous distribution

#### Exponential distribution

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & , x \geq 0 \\ 0 & , x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$X \sim \text{Exp}(x)$$

Other continuous distributions:

- Normal distribution
- Uniform distribution

Exercises:

1. Find the cdf of  $X \sim \text{Exp}(x)$

$$\begin{aligned} F(k) = P(X \leq k) &= \int_{-\infty}^k f(x)dx \\ &= \int_0^k \lambda e^{-\lambda x} dx \\ &= -e^{-\lambda x} \Big|_0^k \\ &= -e^{-\lambda k} - (-e^0) \\ &= 1 - e^{-\lambda k} \end{aligned}$$

2. Show that the exponential distribution has the memoryless property:

$$P(X > t + s | X > t) = P(X > s)$$

### 2.4 Joint distribution of r.v's

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two r.v's. defined on the same probability space  $(\Omega, \xi, P)$

For each  $\omega \in \Omega$ , we have at the same time  $X(\omega)$  and  $Y(\omega)$ . Then we can talk about the joint behavior of  $X$  and  $Y$

Two joint distribution of r.v's is characterized by joint cdf, joint pmf(discrete case) or joint pdf(continuous case).

- Joint cdf:
  - $F(x, y) = P(X < x, Y < y)$
- Joint pmf:
  - $f(x, y) = P(X = x, Y = y)$
- joint pdf  $f(x, y)$  such that for  $a < b, c < d$ 
  - $P(X, Y) \in (a, b] \times (c, d] = P(X \in (a, b], Y \in (c, d]) = \int_a^b \int_c^d f(x, y) dy dx$
  - Equivalently:
    1.  $F(x, y) = \int_{-\infty}^x \int_{-\infty}^y f(s, t) dt ds$
    - and
    - $f(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} F(x, y)$
    2.  $P((X, Y) \in A) = \int \int_A f(x, y) dx dy$  for  $A \subseteq R^2$

**Definition:** Two r.v's  $X$  and  $Y$  are called independent, if for all sets  $A, B \subseteq R$ ,

$$P(X < A, Y < B) = P(X \in A) \cdot P(Y \in B)$$

( $\{X \in A\}$  and  $\{Y \in B\}$  are independent events)

**Theorem:** Two r.v's  $X$  and  $Y$  are

1. independent, if and only if
2.  $F(x, y) = F_x(x)F_y(y); x, y \in R$ ; where  $F_x$ : cdf of  $x$ ;  $F_y$ : cdf of  $y$
3.  $f(x, y) = f_x(x)f_y(y); x, y \in R$ ; where  $f$  is the joint pmf/pdf of  $X$  and  $Y$ ;  $f_x, f_y$  are marginal pmf/pdf of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively

**Proof:**

1.  $\Rightarrow$  2.

If  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ , then by definition,

$$F(x, y) = P(X \in (-\infty, x], Y \in (-\infty, y]) = P(X \in (-\infty, x]) \cdot P(Y \in (-\infty, y]) = F_x(x)F_y(y)$$

2.  $\Rightarrow$  3.

Assume  $F(x, y) = F_x(x) \cdot F_y(y)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y) &= \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} F(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} F_x(x)F_y(y) \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F_x(x) \right) \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial y} F_y(y) \right) \\ &= f_x(x)f_y(y) \end{aligned}$$

3.  $\Rightarrow$  1.

Assume  $f(x, y) = f_x(x)f_y(y)$ ; For  $A, B \subseteq R$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \in A, Y \in B) &= \int_{y \in B} \int_{x \in A} f(x, y) dx dy \\ &= \int_{y \in B} \int_{x \in A} f_x(x)f_y(y) dx dy \\ &= \left( \int_{x \in A} f_x(x) dx \right) \left( \int_{y \in B} f_y(y) dy \right) \\ &= P(X \in A)P(Y \in B) \end{aligned}$$

## 2.5 Expectation

**Definition:** For a r.v  $X$ , the expectation of  $g(x)$  is defined as

$$\mathbb{E}(g(X)) = \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} g(x_i)P(X = x_i) & \text{for discrete } X \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)f(x)dx & \text{for continuous } X \end{cases}$$

Let  $X, Y$  be two r.v's; then the expectation of  $g(X, Y)$  is defined in a similar way.

$$\mathbb{E}(g(X, Y)) = \begin{cases} \sum_i \sum_j g(x_i, y_j)P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) \\ \int \int g(x, y)f(x, y)dx dy \end{cases}$$

### 2.5.1 Properties of expectation

1. Linearity: expectation of  $X$ :  $\mathbb{E}(X) = \begin{cases} \sum x_i P(X = x_i) \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx \end{cases}$ ,  $g(X) = x$ 
  - $\mathbb{E}(ax + b) = a\mathbb{E}(x) + b$
  - $\mathbb{E}(X + Y) = \mathbb{E}(X) + \mathbb{E}(Y)$
2. If  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ , then  $\mathbb{E}(g(X)h(Y)) = \mathbb{E}(g(X)) \cdot \mathbb{E}(h(Y))$ 
  - **proof:** (continuous case)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(g(X)h(Y)) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)h(y)f(x, y)dx dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)h(y)f_X(x)f_Y(y)dx dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)f_X(x) \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(y)f_Y(y)dy \end{aligned}$$

- In particular,  $\mathbb{E}(XY) = \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$  if  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$



## 2.5.2 Definitions

**Definition:** The expectation  $\mathbb{E}(X^n)$  is called the n-th moment of  $X$ :

- 1st moment:  $\mathbb{E}(X)$
- 2nd moment:  $\mathbb{E}(X^2)$

**Definition:** The variance of a r.v  $X$  is defined as:

$$Var(x) = \mathbb{E}((X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2) \text{ also denoted as } \sigma^2, \sigma_x^2$$

**Definition:** the covariance of the r.v's  $X$  and  $Y$  is defined as:

$$Cov(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y))]$$

Thus  $Var(X) = Cov(X, X)$

**Definition:** the correlation between  $X$  and  $Y$  is defined as:

$$Cor(X, Y) = \frac{Cov(X, Y)}{\sqrt{Var(X)Var(Y)}}$$

**Fact:**  $Var(X) = \mathbb{E}(X^2) - (\mathbb{E}(X))^2$

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} Var(X) &= \mathbb{E}((X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2 - 2X\mathbb{E}(X) + (\mathbb{E}(X))^2) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - 2\mathbb{E}(X\mathbb{E}(X)) + (\mathbb{E}(X))^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - 2(\mathbb{E}(X))^2 + (\mathbb{E}(X))^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - (\mathbb{E}(X))^2 \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

**Fact:**  $Cov(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} Cov(X, Y) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y])] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[XY - X\mathbb{E}[Y] - Y\mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X\mathbb{E}[Y]] - \mathbb{E}[Y\mathbb{E}[X]] + \mathbb{E}[E]X\mathbb{E}[Y] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y] - \mathbb{E}[Y]\mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y] \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

Variance and covariance are **translation invariant**. Variance is quadratic, covariance is bilinear.

$$Var(aX + b) = a^2 \cdot Var(X)$$

$$Cov(aX + b, cY + d) = ac \cdot Cov(X, Y)$$

**Proof:**  $Var(aX + b) = a^2 \cdot Var(X)$

$$\begin{aligned} Var(aX + b) &= \mathbb{E}((aX + b)^2) - (\mathbb{E}(aX + b))^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(a^2X^2 + 2abX + b^2) - (a\mathbb{E}(X) + b)^2 \\ &= a^2\mathbb{E}(X^2) + 2ab\mathbb{E}(X) + b^2 - a^2\mathbb{E}^2(X) - ab\mathbb{E}(X) - b^2 \\ &= a^2\mathbb{E}(X^2) - a^2\mathbb{E}^2(X) \\ &= a^2Var(X) \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

**Proof:**  $Var(X + Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y) + 2Cov(X, Y)$

$$\begin{aligned} Var(X + Y) &= \mathbb{E}[(X + Y)^2] - E^2[X + Y] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2 + XY + Y^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y])^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + \mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - E^2[X] - 2\mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y] - E^2[Y] \\ &= (\mathbb{E}[X^2] - E^2[X]) + (\mathbb{E}[Y^2] - E^2[Y]) + (\mathbb{E}[XY] - 2\mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]) \\ &= Var(X) + Var(Y) + 2Cov(X, Y) \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

If  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ , then  $Cov(X, Y) = 0$  and  $Var(X + Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y)$

**Proof:**

$$Cov(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$$

we know:

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(XY) = \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$$

$$\text{Thus, } Cov(X, Y) = 0 \Rightarrow Var(X + Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y) + 2Cov(X, Y)$$

So we see independence  $\Rightarrow$  Covariance is 0: "uncorrelated"

the converse is not true.

$$Cov(X, Y) = 0 \Rightarrow \text{independence}$$

### Remarks

We have  $\mathbb{E}(X + Y) = \mathbb{E}(X) + \mathbb{E}(Y)$ .

If  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ , we also have:

- $\mathbb{E}(XY) = \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$ , and
- $Var(X + Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y)$

It's important to remember that the first result and the other two results are of very different nature. While  $\mathbb{E}(X + Y) = \mathbb{E}(X) + \mathbb{E}(Y)$  is a property of expectation and holds unconditionally;

the other two,  $\mathbb{E}(XY) = \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$  and  $Var(X + Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y)$ , only hold if  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ .

It is more appropriate to consider them as **properties of independence** rather than properties of expectation and variance

## 2.6 Indicator

A random variable  $I$  is called an indicator, if

$$I(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \omega \in A \\ 0 & \omega \notin A \end{cases}$$
$$E(I_A) = P(A)$$

for some event  $A$

For  $A$  given,  $I$  is also elevated as  $I_A$

The most important property of indicator is its expectation gives the probability of the event  $\mathbb{E}(I_A) = \mathbb{P}(A)$

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(I_A = 1) &= \mathbb{P}(\omega : I_A(\omega) = 1) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(\omega : \omega \in A) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(A) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(I_A = 0) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(A) \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(I_A) = 1 \cdot \mathbb{P}(A) + 0 \cdot (1 - \mathbb{P}(A)) = \mathbb{P}(A)$$

### 2.6.1 Example

we see  $I_A \sim Ber(\mathbb{P}(A))$

Let  $X \sim Bin(n, p)$ ,  $X$  is number of successes in  $n$  Bernoulli trials, each with probability  $p$  of success

$$\Rightarrow X = I_1 + \dots + I_n$$

where  $I_1, \dots, I_n$  are indicators for independent events.  $I_i = 1$  if the  $i$ th trial is a success.  $I_i = 0$  if the  $i$ th trial is a failure.

Hence  $I_i$  are **idd**(independent and identically distributed) r.v's

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X) &= \mathbb{E}(I_1 + \dots + I_n) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(I_1) + \dots + \mathbb{E}(I_n) \\ &= p + \dots + p = n \cdot p \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}(X) &= \text{Var}(I_1 + \dots + I_n) \\
&= \text{Var}(I_1) + \dots + \text{Var}(I_n) \\
&= n \cdot \text{Var}(I_i) \\
&= n \cdot p(1-p)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Var}(I_1) = \mathbb{E}(I_1^2) - (\mathbb{E}(I_1))^2 = \mathbb{E}(I_1) - (\mathbb{E}(I_1))^2 = p - p^2 = p(1-p)$$

### 2.6.1 Example 3

Let  $X$  be a r.v. taking values in non-negative integers, then

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(X > n)$$

**Proof:**

Note that  $X = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} I_n$  where  $I_n = I_{x>n}$ . ( $x > n$  is an event)

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(X) &= \mathbb{E}\left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} I_n\right) \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}(I_n) \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(X > n)
\end{aligned}$$

In particular, let  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$ . As we have seen,  $P(X > n) = (1-p)^n \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(X) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(X > n) \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1-p)^n \\
&= \frac{1}{1-(1-p)} = \frac{1}{p}
\end{aligned}$$

## 2.7 Moment generating function

**Definition:** Let  $X$  be a r.v. Then the function  $M(t) = \mathbb{E}(e^{tX})$  is called the *moment generating function(mgf)* of  $X$ , if the expectation exists for all  $t \in (-h, h)$  for some  $h > 0$ .

**Remark:** The mgf is not always well-defined. It is important to check the existence of the expectation.

### 2.7.1 Properties of mgf

#### 1. Moment Generating Function generates moments

◦ **Theorem:**

- $M(0) = 1$
- $M^{(k)}(0) = \mathbb{E}(X^k), k = 1, 2, \dots$  ( $M^{(k)} = \frac{d^k}{dt^k} M(t)|_{t=0}$ )

▪ **Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned}
M(0) &= \mathbb{E}(e^{0 \cdot X}) = \mathbb{E}(1) = 1 \\
M^{(k)}(0) &= \frac{d^k}{dt^k} \mathbb{E}(e^{t \cdot X})|_{t=0} \\
&= \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{d^k}{dt^k} e^{tX}|_{t=0}\right) \\
&= \mathbb{E}(X^k)
\end{aligned}$$

- As a result, we have:  $M(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^{(k)}(0)}{k!} t^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}(X^k)}{k!} t^k$  (a method to get moment of a r.v)

2.  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ , with mgf's  $M_x, M_y$ . Let  $M_{X+Y}$  be the mgf of  $X + Y$ . then

$$M_{X+Y}(t) = M_X(t)M_Y(t)$$

◦ **Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{X+Y}(t) &= \mathbb{E}(e^{t(X+Y)}) \\
 &= \mathbb{E}(e^{tx} e^{ty}) \\
 &= \mathbb{E}(e^{tx}) \mathbb{E}(e^{ty}) \\
 &= M_X(t) M_Y(t)
 \end{aligned}$$

3. The mgf completely determines the distribution of a r.v.

- $M_X(t) = M_Y(t)$  for all  $t \in (-h, h)$  for some  $h > 0$ , then  $X \stackrel{d}{=} Y$ . ( $\stackrel{d}{=}$ : have the same distribution)
- Example: Let  $X \sim Poi(\lambda_1)$ ,  $Y \sim Poi(\lambda_2)$ .  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ . Find the distribution of  $X + Y$ 
  - First, derive the mgf of a Poisson distribution.

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_X(t) &= \mathbb{E}(e^{tX}) \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{tn} \cdot P(X = n) \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{tn} \cdot \frac{\lambda_1^n}{n!} e^{-\lambda_1} \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(e^t \cdot \lambda_1)^n}{n!} \cdot e^{-\lambda_1}
 \end{aligned}$$

we know that  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(e^t \lambda_1)^n}{n!} = e^{e^t \cdot \lambda_1}$ . (Since  $\frac{(e^t \lambda_1)^n}{n!} e^{-\lambda_1}$  is the pmf of  $Poi(e^t \lambda_1)$ )

$$\Rightarrow M_X(t) = e^{e^t \lambda_1} e^{-\lambda_1} = e^{\lambda_1(e^t - 1)}, t \in \mathbb{R}. (e^{\lambda_1(e^t - 1)} \text{ is mgf of } Poi(\lambda_1))$$

Similarly,  $M_Y(t) = e^{\lambda_2(e^t - 1)}$ .

We know that

$$\begin{aligned}
 M_{X+Y}(t) &= M_X(t) M_Y(t) \\
 &= e^{\lambda_1(e^t - 1)} e^{\lambda_2(e^t - 1)} \\
 &= e^{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)(e^t - 1)}
 \end{aligned}$$

This is the mgf of  $Poi(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$ !

Since the mgf uniquely determines the distribution  $X + Y \sim Poi(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$

In general, if  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  independent,  $X_i \sim Poi(\lambda_i)$ , then  $\sum X_i \sim Poi(\sum \lambda_i)$

## 2.7.2 Joint mgf

**Definition:** Let  $X, Y$  be r.v's. Then  $M(t_1, t_2) := \mathbb{E}(e^{t_1 X + t_2 Y})$  is called the joint mgf of  $X$  and  $Y$ , if the expectation exists for all  $t_1 \in (-h_1, h_1)$ ,  $t_2 \in (-h_2, h_2)$  for some  $h_1, h_2 > 0$ .

More generally, we can define  $M(t_1, \dots, t_n) = \mathbb{E}(\exp(\sum_{i=1}^n t_i X_i))$  for r.v's  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ , if the expectation exists for  $\{(t_1, \dots, t_n) : t_i \in (-h_i, h_i), i = 1, \dots, n\}$  for some  $\{h_i > 0\}, i = 1, \dots, n$

### 2.7.2.1 Properties of the joint mgf

$$\begin{aligned}
 1. \quad M_X(t) &= \mathbb{E}(e^{tX}) \\
 &= \mathbb{E}(e^{tX+0Y}) \\
 &= M(t, 0) \\
 M_Y(t) &= M(0, t)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$2. \quad \frac{\partial^{m+n}}{\partial t_1^m \partial t_2^n} M(t_1, t_2)|_{(0,0)} = \mathbb{E}(X^m Y^n)$$

the proof is similar to the single r.v. case

3. If  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ , then  $M(t_1, t_2) = M_X(t_1) M_Y(t_2)$

◦ **Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned}
M(t_1, t_2) &= \mathbb{E}(e^{t_1 X + t_2 Y}) \\
(X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y) &= \mathbb{E}(e^{t_1 X} e^{t_2 Y}) \\
&= \mathbb{E}(e^{t_1 X}) \cdot \mathbb{E}(e^{t_2 Y}) \\
&= M_X(t_1) \cdot M_Y(t_2)
\end{aligned}$$

- **Remark:** Don't confuse this with the result  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \Rightarrow M_{X+Y}(t) = M_X(t)M_Y(t)$ .
  - $M_{X+Y}(t) \rightarrow$  mgf of  $X + Y$ ; single argument function  $t$
  - $M(t_1, t_2) \rightarrow$  joint mgf of  $(X, Y)$ ; two arguments  $t_1, t_2$

## 3. Conditional distribution and conditional expectation

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### 3.1 Conditional distribution

#### 3.1.1 Discrete case

**Definition** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be discrete r.v's. The conditional distribution of  $X$  given  $Y$  is given by:

$$P(X = x|Y = y) = \frac{P(X = x, Y = y)}{P(Y = y)}$$

$$P(X = x|Y = y) : f_{X|Y=y}(x). \quad f_{X|Y}(x|y) \leftarrow \text{conditional probability mass function}$$

Conditional pmf is a legitimate pmf: given any  $y$ ,  $f_{X|Y=y}(x) \geq 0, \forall x$

$$\sum_x f_{X|Y=y}(x) = 1$$

Note that given  $Y = y$ , as  $x$  changes, the value of the function  $f_{X|Y=y}(x)$  is proportional to the joint probability.

$$f_{X|Y=y}(x) \propto P(X = x, Y = y)$$

This is useful for solving problems where the denominator  $P(Y = y)$  is hard to find.

#### 3.1.1.1 Example

$$X_1 \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda_1), X_2 \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda_2). X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_2, Y = X_1 + X_2$$

$$Q: P(X_1 = k|Y = n) ?$$

$$\text{Note } P(X_1 = k|Y = n) = f_{X_1|Y=n}(k)$$

A:  $P(X_1 = k|Y = n)$  can only be non-zero for  $k = 0, \dots, n$  in this case,

$$\begin{aligned}
P(X_1 = k|Y = n) &= \frac{P(X_1 = k, Y = n)}{P(Y = n)} \\
&\propto P(X_1 = k, Y = n) \\
&= P(X_1 = k, X_2 = n - k) \\
&= e^{-\lambda_1} \frac{\lambda_1^k}{k!} \cdot e^{-\lambda_2} \frac{\lambda_2^{n-k}}{(n-k)!} \\
&\propto \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}\right)^k / k!(n-k)!
\end{aligned}$$

we can get  $P(X = k|Y = n)$  by normalizing the above expression.

$$P(X_1 = k, Y = n) = \frac{\left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}\right)^k / k!(n-k)!}{\sum_{k=0}^n \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}\right)^k / k!(n-k)!}$$

but then we will need to find  $\sum_{k=0}^n \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}\right)^k / k!(n-k)!$

An easier way is to compare  $\sum_{k=0}^n \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}\right)^k / k!(n-k)!$  with the known results for common distribution. In particular, if  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

$$\begin{aligned}
P(X = k) &= \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \\
&\propto \left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right)^k / k!(n-k)!
\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow P(X_1 = k | Y = n)$  follows a binomial distributions with parameters  $n$  and  $p$  given by  $\frac{p}{1-p} = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} \Rightarrow p = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$

Thus, given  $Y = X_1 + X_2 = n$ , the conditional distribution of  $X_1$  is binomial with parameter  $n$  and  $\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$

### 3.1.2 Continuous case

**Definition:** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be continuous r.v's. The conditional distribution of  $X$  given  $Y$  is given by

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = f_{X|Y=y}(x) = \frac{f(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}$$

A conditional pdf is a legitimate pdf

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X|Y}(x|y) &\geq 0 & x, y \in \mathbb{R} \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx &= 1, & y \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

#### 3.1.2.1 Example

Suppose  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ ,  $Y|X = x \sim \text{Exp}(x) = f_{Y|X}(y|x) = xe^{-xy}$ ,  $y = e \leftarrow$  conditional distribution of  $Y$  given  $X = x$

Q: Find the condition pdf  $f_{X|Y}(x|y)$

A:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X|Y}(x|y) &= \frac{f(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} \\ &\propto f(x, y) \\ &= f_{Y|X}(y|x) \cdot f_X(x) \\ &= xe^{-xy} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} \\ &\propto xe^{-x(y+\lambda)}, & x > 0, y > 0 \end{aligned}$$

Normalization ( make the total probability 1)

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X|Y}(x|y) &= \frac{xe^{-x(y+\lambda)}}{\int_0^{\infty} xe^{-x(y+\lambda)} dx} \\ \int_0^{\infty} xe^{-x(y+\lambda)} dx &= \left(\frac{1}{\lambda + y}\right)^2 \leftarrow \text{integration by parts} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $f_{X|Y}(x|y) = (\lambda + y)^2 xe^{-x(y+\lambda)}$ ,  $x > 0$ .

This is a gamma distribution with parameters  $\gamma$  and  $\lambda + y$

#### 3.1.2.1. Example 2

Find the distribution of  $Z = XY$ .

**Attention:** the following method is wrong:

$$f_Z(z) = \int_0^{\infty} f_{Y|X}\left(\frac{z}{x}|x\right) \cdot f_X(x) dx$$

If we want to directly work with pdf's, we will need to use the change of variable formula for multi-variables. The right formula have turns out to be

$$\begin{aligned} f_Z(z) &= \int_0^{\infty} f_{X,Z}(x, z) dx = \int_0^{\infty} f_{Z|X}(z|x) f_X(x) dx \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} f\left(x, \frac{z}{x}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{x} dx \\ &= f_{Y|X}\left(\frac{z}{x}|x\right) f_X(x) \cdot \frac{1}{x} dx \end{aligned}$$

As an **easier way** is to use cdf, which gives probability rather than density:

$$\begin{aligned}
P(Z < z) &= P(XY \leq z) \\
&= \int_0^\infty P(XY \leq z | X = x) f_X(x) dx \quad (\text{law of total probability}) \\
&= \int_0^\infty P(Y \leq \frac{z}{x} | X = x) \cdot f_X(x) dx \\
Y|X = x &\sim \text{Exp}(x) \\
&= \int_0^\infty (1 - e^{-x \cdot \frac{z}{x}}) \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda x} dx \\
&= 1 - e^{-z} \int_0^\infty \lambda e^{-\lambda x} dx \\
&= 1 - e^{-z} \Rightarrow Z \sim \text{Exp}(1)
\end{aligned}$$

Notation  $X, Y | \{Z = k\} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \dots$  means that given  $Z = k$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  are *conditionally independent*, and they follow certain distribution.

(the conditional joint cdf/pmf/pdf equals the product of the conditional cdf's/pmf's/pdf's)

## 3.2 Conditional expectation

We have seen that conditional pmf/pdf are legitimate pmf/pdf. Correspondingly, a conditional distribution is nothing else but a probability distributions. It is simply a (potentially) different distribution, since it takes more information into consideration.

As a result, we can define everything which are previously defined for unconditional distributions also for conditional distributions.

In particular, it is natural to define the conditional expectation.

**Definition.** The conditional expectation of  $g(X)$  given  $Y = y$  is defined as

$$\mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y = y) = \begin{cases} \sum_{i_1}^\infty g(x_i) P(X = x_u | Y = y) & \text{if } X|Y = y \text{ is discrete} \\ \int_{-\infty}^\infty g(x) f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx & \text{if } X|Y = y \text{ is continuous} \end{cases}$$

Fix  $y$ , the conditional expectation is nothing but the expectation taken under the conditional distribution.

### 3.2.1 What is $\mathbb{E}(X|Y)$ ?

Different ways to understand *conditional expectation*

1. Fix a value  $y$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y = y)$  is a number
2. As  $y$  changes  $\mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y = y)$  becomes a function of  $y$  (that each  $y$  gives a value):  $h(y) =: \mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y = y)$
3. since  $y$  is actually random, we can define  $\mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y) = h(Y)$ . This is a random variable

$$\mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y)_{(\omega)} = \mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y = Y(\omega))$$

$\omega \in \Omega$  this random variable takes value  $\mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y = y)$  When  $Y = y$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Omega &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\
h(Y)_{(\omega)} &= h(Y(\omega))
\end{aligned}$$

### 3.2.2 Properties of conditional expectation

1. Linearity (inherited from expectation)

$$\mathbb{E}(aX + b|Y = y) = a\mathbb{E}(X|Y = y) + b$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X + Z|Y = y) = \mathbb{E}(X|Y = y) + \mathbb{E}(Z|Y = y)$$

2.  $\mathbb{E}(g(X, Y)|Y = y) = \mathbb{E}(g(X, y)|Y = y) = \mathbb{E}(g(X, y))$  when  $X$  and  $Y$  are not independent

**Proof** (Discrete):

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(g(X, Y)|Y = y) &= \sum_{x_i} \sum_{y_j} g(x_i, y_j) \cdot P(X = x_i, Y = y_j | Y = y) \\
P(X = x_i, Y = y_j | Y = y) &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } y_j \neq y \\ P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) / P(Y = y) = P(X = x_i | Y = y) & \text{if } y_j = y \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(g(X, Y)|Y = y) &= \sum_{x_i} g(x_i, y) \cdot P(X = x_i|Y = y) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(g(X, y)|Y = y) \quad g(X, y) \text{ regarded as a function of } x\end{aligned}$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(g(X) \cdot h(Y)|Y = y) &= h(y)\mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y = y) \\ \mathbb{E}(g(X) \cdot h(Y)|Y) &= h(Y)\mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y)\end{aligned}$$

3. If  $X \perp Y$ , then  $\mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y = y) = \mathbb{E}(g(X))$

**Fact:** If  $X \perp Y$ , then conditional distribution of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is the same as the unconditional distribution of  $X$

**Proof**(Discrete):

$$\begin{aligned}\text{if } X \perp Y \\ P(X = x_i|Y = y_j) \\ &= P(X = x_i|Y = y_j)/P(Y = y_j) \\ &= P(X = x_i)P(Y = y_j)/P(Y = y_j) \\ &= P(X = x_i)\end{aligned}$$

4. Law of iterated expectation (or double expectation): Expectation of conditionally expectation is its unconditional expectation

$$\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(X|Y)) = \mathbb{E}(X)$$

$\mathbb{E}(X|Y)$  is a r.v, a function of  $Y$ .

**Proof**(Discrete):

When  $Y = y_j$ , the r.v.  $\mathbb{E}(X|Y) = \mathbb{E}(X|Y = y_j) = \sum_{x_i} x_i P(X = x_i|Y = y_j)$ . This happens with probability  $P(Y = y_j)$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(X|Y)) &= \sum_{y_j} \left( \sum_{x_i} x_i P(X = x_i|Y = y_j) \right) P(Y = y_j) \\ &= \sum_{x_i} \sum_{y_j} x_i P(X = x_i|Y = y_j) P(Y = y_j) \\ \Rightarrow &= \sum_{x_i} x_i \sum_{y_j} P(X = x_i|Y = y_j) P(Y = y_j) \quad \text{law of total probability} \\ &= \sum_{x_i} x_i P(X = x_i) = \mathbb{E}(X)\end{aligned}$$

Alternatively,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{x_i} \sum_{y_j} x_i P(X = x_i|Y = y_j) P(Y = y_j) \\ &= \sum_{x_i} \sum_{y_j} x_i P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) \quad g(X, Y) = X \text{ at } (x_i, y_j) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X)\end{aligned}$$

**Example:**

$Y$ : # of claims received by insurance company

$X$ : some random parameter

$$Y|X \sim Poi(X), X \sim Exp(\lambda)$$

a)  $\mathbb{E}(Y)$  ?

b)  $P(Y = n)$  ?

a)

$$Y|X \sim Poi(X) \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(Y|X = x) = x \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(Y|X) = X$$



$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \mathbb{E}(Y) &= \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda}\end{aligned}$$

b)

$$\begin{aligned}P(Y = n) &= \int_0^\infty P(Y = n|X = x) f_X(x) dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-x} x^n}{n!} \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda x} dx \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{n!} \int_0^\infty x^n e^{-(\lambda+1)x} dx \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{(\lambda+1)^{n+1} n!} \int_0^\infty ((\lambda+1)x)^n e^{-(\lambda+1)x} d(\lambda+1)x \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{(\lambda+1)^{n+1} n!} \Gamma(n+1) & \Gamma(n+1) = n! ; \text{formula for gamma function or integration by parts} \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{(\lambda+1)^{n+1}} = \left(\frac{1}{\lambda+1}\right)^n \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda+1} \\ &\Rightarrow Y+1 \sim \text{Geo}(\lambda/(\lambda+1))\end{aligned}$$

We verify that  $\mathbb{E}(Y) = \frac{\lambda+1}{\lambda} - 1 = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

### 3.3 Decomposition of variance (EVVE's law)

**Definition:** The conditional variance of  $Y$  given  $X = x$  is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(Y|X = x) &= \mathbb{E}((Y - \mathbb{E}(Y|X = x))^2 | X = x) \\ \text{Var}(Y|X)_{(\omega)} &= \text{Var}(Y|X = X_{(\omega)}) \quad \text{Var}(Y|X)_{(\omega)} : \text{a r.v, a function of } X\end{aligned}$$

The conditional variance is simply the variance taken under the conditional distribution

$$\Rightarrow \text{Var}(Y|X = x) = \mathbb{E}(Y^2|X = x) - (\mathbb{E}(Y|X = x))^2$$

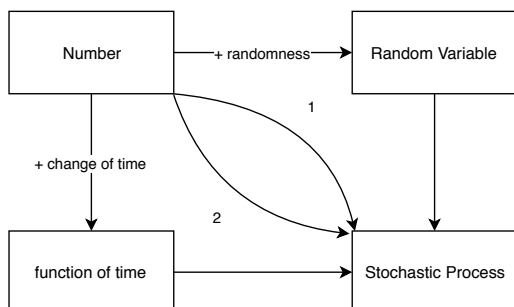
Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(Y) &= \mathbb{E}(\text{Var}(Y|X)) + \text{Var}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)) \\ \mathbb{E}(\text{Var}(Y|X)) &: \text{"intra-group variance"} \quad \text{Var}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)) : \text{"inter-group variance"}\end{aligned}$$

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned}\text{RHS} &= \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y^2|X) - (\mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2) + \mathbb{E}((\mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2) - (\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)))^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y^2|X)) - \cancel{\mathbb{E}((\mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2)} + \cancel{\mathbb{E}((\mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2)} - (\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)))^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(Y^2) - (\mathbb{E}(Y))^2 \\ &= \text{Var}(Y)\end{aligned}$$

## 4. Stochastic Processes



1. sequence / family of random variables
2. a random function (hard to formulate)

**Definition:** A **stochastic process**  $\{X_t\}_{t \in T}$  is a collection of random variables, defined on a common probability space.

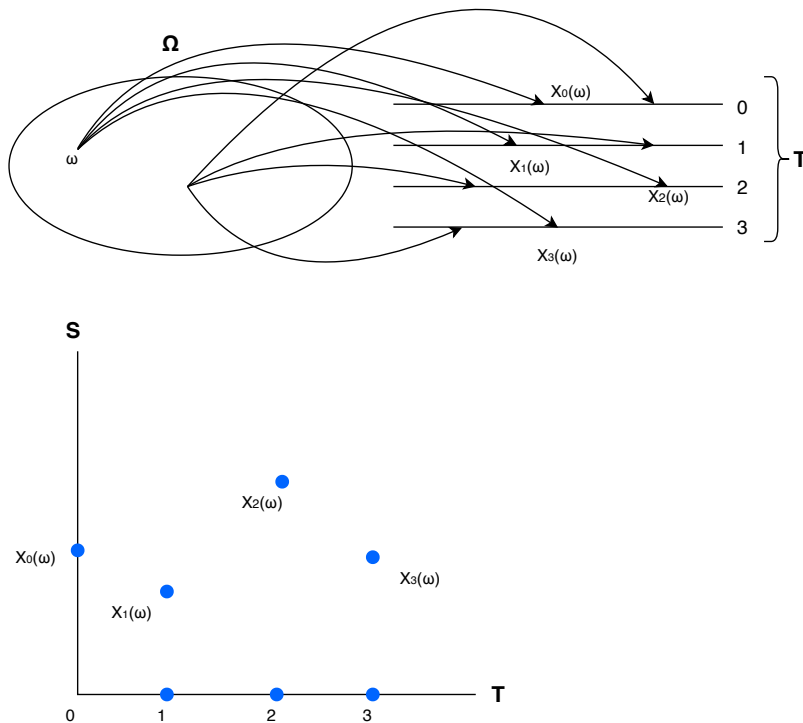
$T$ : index set. In most cases,  $T$  corresponds to time, and is either discrete  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  or continuous  $[0, \infty)$

In discrete case, we write  $\{X_n\}_{n=0,1,2,\dots}$

This **state space**  $S$  of a stochastic process is the set of all possible values of  $X_t, t \in T$

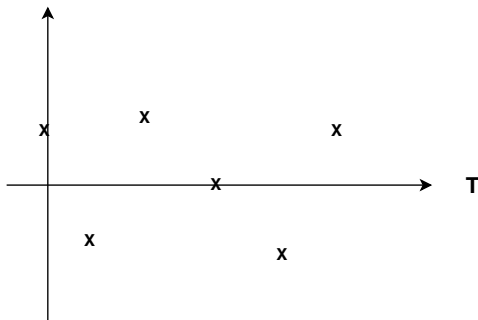
$S$  can also be either discrete or continuous. In this course, we typically deal with **discrete** state space. Then we relabel the states so that  $S = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  (countable state space) or  $S = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, M\}$  (finite state space)

**Remark:** As in the case of the joint distribution, we need the r.v.'s in a stochastic process to be defined on a common probability space, because we want to discuss their joint behaviours, i.e., how things change over time.



Thus, we can identify each point  $\omega$  in the sample space  $\Omega$  with a function defined on  $T$  and taking values in  $S$ . Each function is called a **path** of this stochastic process

**Example** Let  $X_0, X_1, \dots$  be independent and identical r.v.'s following some distribution. Then  $\{X_n\}_{n=0,1,2,\dots}$  is a stochastic process

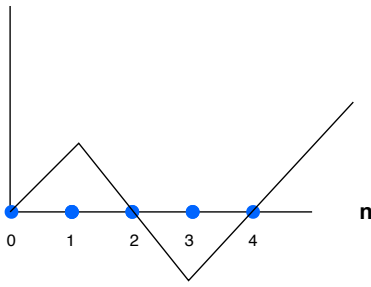


**Example** Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  be independent and identical r.v.'s.  $P(X_1 = 1) = p$ , and  $P(X_1 = -1) = 1 - p$ . Define  $S_0 = 0, S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i, n \geq 1$ , e.g.

- $S_0 = 0$
- $S_1 = X_1$
- $S_2 = X_1 + X_2$
- $\dots$

Then  $\{S_n\}_{n=0,1,\dots}$  is a stochastic process, with state space  $S = \mathbb{Z}$  (integer)

$S_n$



## 4.1 Markov Chain

### 4.1.1 Simple Random Walk

$\{S_n\}_{n=0,1,\dots}$  is called a "**simple random walk**". ( $S_n = S_{n-1} + X_n$ )

$$S_n = \begin{cases} S_{n-1} + 1 \\ S_{n-1} - 1 \end{cases}$$

**Remark:** Why we need the concept of "stochastic process"? Why don't we just look at the joint distribution of  $(X_0, X_1, \dots, X_n)$ ?

**Answer:** The joint distribution of a large number of r.v.'s is very complicated, because it does not take advantage of the special structure of  $T(\text{time})$ .

For example, simple random walk. The full distribution of  $(S_0, S_1, \dots, S_n)$  is complicated for  $n$  large. However, the structure is actually simple if we focus on the adjacent times:

$$S_{n+1} = S_n + X_{n+1}$$

$S_n$  : last value.  $X_{n+1}$  : related to  $Ber(p)$ . They are independent

By introducing time into the framework, we can greatly simplify many things.

More precisely, we find that for simple random walk,  $\{S_n\}_{n=0,1,\dots}$ , if we know  $S_n$  the distribution of  $S_{n+1}$  will not depend on the history  $(S_0, \dots, S_{n-1})$ . This is a very useful property

In general for a stochastic process  $\{X_n\}_{n=0,1,\dots}$ , at time  $n$ , we already know  $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_n, S_0$ ; our best estimate of the distribution of  $X_{n+1}$  should be the conditional distribution:

$$X_{n+1} | X_n, \dots, X_n$$

given by:

$$P(X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_n = x_n, \dots, X_0 = x_0)$$

As time passes, the expression becomes more and more complicated  $\rightarrow$  impossible to handle.

However, if we know that this conditional distribution is actually the same as the conditional distribution only given  $X_n$ , then the structure will remain simple for any time. This motivates the notion of *Markov chain*.

### 4.1.2 Markov Chain

#### 4.1.2.1 Discrete-time Markov Chain

##### Definition and Examples

**Definition:** A discrete-time Stochastic process  $\{X_n\}_{n=0,1,\dots}$  is called a **discrete-time Markov Chain (DTMC)**, if its state space  $S$  is discrete, and it has the Markov property:

$$\begin{aligned} &P(X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_n = x_n, \dots, X_0 = x_0) \\ &= P(X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_n = x_n) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $n, x_0, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1} \in S$

If  $X_{n+1}|\{x_n = i\}$  does not change over time,  $P(X_{n+1} = j|N_n = i) = P(X_1 = j|X_0 = i)$ , then we call this Markov chain **time-homogeneous** (default setting for this course).

$$\begin{aligned} P(X_{n+1} = x_{n+1}|X_n = x_n, \dots, X_0 = x_0) & \quad X_{n+1} = x_{n+1}: \text{future}; X_n = x_n: \text{present(state)} \\ = P(X_{n+1} = x_{n+1}|X_n = x_n) & \quad X_{n-1} = x_{n-1}, \dots, X_0 = x_0: \text{past(history)} \end{aligned}$$

**Intuition:** Given the present state, the past and the future are independent. In other words, the future depends on the previous results only through the current state.

**Example: simple random walk**

The simple random walk  $\{S_n\}_{n=0,1,\dots}$  is a Markov chain

**Proof:**

Recall that  $S_{n+1} = S_n + X_{n+1}$

$$\begin{aligned} P(S_{n+1} = s_{n+1}|S_n = s_n, \dots, S_0 = s_0) \\ = 0 \\ = P(S_{n+1} = s_{n+1}|S_n = s_n) \end{aligned}$$

if  $s_{n+1} \neq s_n \pm 1$

$$\begin{aligned} P(S_{n+1} = s_n + 1|S_n = s_n, \dots, S_0 = 0) \\ = P(X_{n+1} = 1|S_n = s_n, \dots, S_0 = 0) \\ = P(X_{n+1} = 1) \quad X_{n+1} \perp (X_1, \dots, X_n) \text{ hence also } (S_0, \dots, S_n) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} P(S_{n+1} = s_n + 1|S_n = s_n) \\ = P(X_{n+1} = 1|S_n = s_n) \\ = P(X_{n+1} = 1) \\ \Rightarrow P(S_{n+1}|S_n = s_n, \dots, S_0 = s_0) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} P(S_{n+1} = s_n - 1|S_n = s_n, \dots, S_0 = 0) \\ = P(S_{n+1} = s_n - 1|S_n = s_n) \\ = P(X_{n+1} = -1) \\ \Rightarrow \{S_n\}_{n=0,1,\dots} \text{ is a DTMC} \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

#### 4.1.3 One-step transition probability matrix

For a time-homogeneous DTMC, define

$$\begin{aligned} P_{ij} &= P(X_1 = j|X_0 = i) \\ &= P(X_{n+1} = j|X_n = i) \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \end{aligned}$$

$P_{ij}$ : one step transition probability

The collection of  $P_{ij}$ ,  $i, j \in S$  governs all the one-step transitions of the DTMC. Since it has two indices  $i$  and  $j$ ; it naturally forms a matrix  $P = \{P_{ij}\}_{i,j \in S}$ , called the **(one-setp) transition (probability) matrix** or **transition matrix**

**Property of a transition matrix**  $P = \{P_{ij}\}_{i,j \in S}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} P_{ij} &\geq 0 \quad \forall i, j \in S \\ \sum_{j \in S} P_{ij} &= 1 \quad \forall i \in S \quad \rightarrow \text{the row sums of } P \text{ are all 1} \end{aligned}$$

**Reason:**

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j \in S} P_{ij} &= \sum_{j \in S} P(X_1 = j | X_0 = i) \\
&= P(X_1 \in S | X_0 = i) \\
&= 1
\end{aligned}$$

#### Example 1 : simple random walk

There will be 3 cases:

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{i,i+1} &= P(S_1 = i+1 | S_0 = i) = P(X_1 = 1) = p \\
P_{i,i-1} &= P(S_1 = i-1 | S_0 = i) = P(X_1 = -1) = 1 - p =: q \\
P_{i,j} &= 0 \quad \text{for } j \neq i \pm 1
\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\text{infinite dimension})p = \begin{pmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & 0 & p & 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & q & 0 & p & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & q & 0 & p & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & q & 0 & p & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

#### Example 2: Ehrenfest's urn

Two urns  $A, B$ , total  $M$  balls. Each time, pick one ball randomly (uniformly), and move it to the opposite urn.

$X_n$  : # of balls in  $A$  after step  $n$

$$S = \{0, 1, \dots, M\}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{ij} &= P(X_1 = j | X_0 = i) \quad (i \text{ balls in } A, M-i \text{ balls in } B) \\
&= \begin{cases} i/M & j = i-1 \\ (M-i)/M & j = i+1 \\ 0 & j \neq i \pm 1 \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & & \\ 1/M & 0 & (M-1)/M & & & \\ & 1/M & 0 & (M-1)/M & & \\ & & 2/M & 0 & (M-2)/M & \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ & & & (M-1)/M & 0 & 1/M \\ & & & & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

#### Example 3: Gambler's ruin

A gambler, each time wins 1 with probability  $p$ , losses 1 with probability  $1 - p = q$ . Initial wealth  $S_0 = a$ ; wealth at time  $n$ :  $S_n$ . The gambler leaves if  $S_n = 0$  (loses all money) or  $S_n = M > a$  (wins certain amount of money and gets satisfied)

This is a variant of the simple random walk, where we have absorbing barriers ( $P_{ii} = 1$ ) at 0 and  $M$

$$S = \{0, \dots, M\}$$

$$P_{ij} = \begin{cases} p & j = i+1, i = 1, \dots, M-1 \\ q & j = i-1, i = 1, \dots, M-1 \\ 1 & i = j = 0 \text{ or } i = j = M \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & & & \\ q & 0 & p & \dots & & \\ \dots & q & 0 & p & \dots & \\ & \dots & q & 0 & p & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ & & & q & 0 & p \\ & & & \dots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

#### Example 4: Bonus-Malus system

Insurance company has 4 premium levels: 1, 2, 3, 4

Let  $X_n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  be the premium level for a customer at year  $n$

$$Y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} Poi(\lambda) : \# \text{ of claims at year } n$$

- If  $Y_n = 0$  (no claims)
  - $X_{n+1} = \max(X_n, 1)$
- If  $Y_n > 0$ 
  - $X_{n+1} = \min(X_n + Y_n, 4)$

Denote  $a_k = P(Y_n = k), k = 0, 1, \dots$

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & a_2 & (1 - a_0 - a_1 - a_2) \\ a_0 & 0 & a_1 & (1 - a_0 - a_1) \\ 0 & a_0 & 0 & (1 - a_0) \\ 0 & 0 & a_0 & (1 - a_0) \end{pmatrix}$$

## 4.2 Chapman-Kolmogorov equations

**Q:** Given the (one-step) transition matrix,  $P = \{P_{ij}\}_{i,j \in S}$ , how can we decide the n-step transition probability

$$\begin{aligned} P_{ij}^{(n)} &:= P(X_n = j | X_0 = i) \\ &= P(X_{n+m} = j | X_m = i), \quad m = 0, 1, \dots \end{aligned}$$

As a special case, let us start with  $P_{ij}^{(2)}$  and their collection  $p^{(2)} = \{P_{ij}^{(2)}\}_{i,j \in S}$  (also a square matrix, same dimension as  $P$ )

Condition on what happens at time 1:

$$\begin{aligned} P_{ij}^{(2)} &= P(X_2 = j | X_0 = i) \\ &= \sum_{j \in S} P(X_2 = j | X_0 = i, X_1 = k) \cdot P(X_1 = k | X_0 = i) \quad \text{conditional law of total probability} \end{aligned}$$

### 4.2.1 Conditional Law of total probability

$$\begin{aligned} &P(X_2 = j | X_0 = i) \\ &= \sum_{k \in S} P(X_2 = j, X_1 = k | X_0 = i) \\ &= \sum_{k \in S} \frac{P(X_2 = j, X_1 = k, X_0 = i)}{P(X_0 = i)} \\ &= \sum_{k \in S} \frac{P(X_2 = j, X_1 = k, X_0 = i)}{P(X_1 = k, X_0 = i)} \cdot \frac{P(X_1 = k, X_0 = i)}{P(X_0 = i)} \\ &= \sum_{k \in S} P(X_2 = j | X_0 = i, X_1 = k) \cdot P(X_1 = k | X_0 = i) \end{aligned}$$

continue on  $P_{ij}^{(2)}$

$$\begin{aligned} P_{ij}^{(2)} &= P(X_2 = j | X_0 = i) \\ &= \sum_{j \in S} P(X_2 = j | X_0 = i, X_1 = k) \cdot P(X_1 = k | X_0 = i) \quad \text{conditional law of total probability} \\ &= \sum_{k \in S} P(X_2 = j | X_1 = k) \cdot P(X_1 = k | X_0 = i) \\ &= \sum_{k \in S} P(X_1 = j | X_0 = k) \cdot P(X_1 = k | X_0 = i) \\ &= \sum_{k \in S} P_{ik} \cdot P_{kj} \\ &= (P \cdot P)_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $p^{(2)} = P \cdot P = p^2$

Using the same idea, for  $n, m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{ij}^{(n+m)} &= P(X_{n+m} = j | X_0 = i) \\
&= \sum_{k \in S} P(X_{n+m} = j | X_0 = i, X_m = k) \cdot P(X_m = k | X_0 = i) \\
&= \sum_{k \in S} P(X_{n+m} = j | X_m = k) \cdot P(X_m = k | X_0 = i) \quad \text{Markov property} \\
&= \sum_{k \in S} P(X_n = j | X_0 = k) \cdot P(X_m = k | X_0 = i) \\
&= \sum_{k \in S} P_{ik}^{(m)} \cdot P_{kj}^{(n)} \\
&= (p^{(m)} \cdot p^{(n)})_{ij} \\
\Rightarrow p^{(n+m)} &= p^{(m)} \cdot p^{(n)} \quad (*)
\end{aligned}$$

By definition,  $p^{(1)} = p$

- $\Rightarrow p^{(2)} = p^{(1)} \cdot p^{(1)} = p^2$
- $\Rightarrow p^{(3)} = p^{(2)} \cdot p^{(1)} = p^3$
- $\dots\dots\dots$
- $\Rightarrow p^{(n)} = p^n$

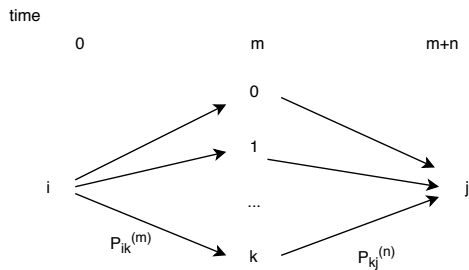
Note:

- $n$  from  $p^{(n)}$ :  $n$ -step transition probability matrix
  - $p^{(n)} = \{p_{ij}^{(n)}\}_{i,j \in S}$
  - $p_{ij}^{(n)} = P(X_n = j | X_0 = i)$
- $n$  from  $p^n$ :  $n$ -th power of the (one-step) transition matrix
  - $p^n = p \cdot \dots \cdot p$
  - $p = \{P_{ij}\}_{i,j \in S}$
  - $p_{ij} = P(X_1 = j | X_0 = i)$

(\*) is called the **Chapman-Kolmogorov equations** (c-k equation). Entry-wise:

$$P_{ij}^{n+m} = \sum_{k \in S} P_{ik}^{(m)} P_{kj}^{(n)}$$

**Intuition:**



"Condition at time  $m$  (on  $X_m$ ) and sum p all the possibilities"

#### 4.2.2 Distribution of $X_n$

So far, we have seen transition probability  $P_{ij}^{(m)} = P(X_m = j | X_0 = i)$ . This is not the probability  $P(X_n = j)$ . In order to get this distribution, we need the information about which state the Markov chain starts with.

Let  $\alpha_{0,i} = P(X_0 = i)$ . The row vector  $\alpha_0 = (\alpha_0, 0, \alpha_0, 1, \dots)$  is called the **initial distribution** of the Markov chain. This is the distribution of the initial state  $X_0$

Similarly, we define distribution of  $X_n$ :  $\alpha_n = (\alpha_n, 0, \alpha_n, 1, \dots)$  where  $\alpha_{n,i} = P(X_n = i)$

**Fact:**  $\alpha_n = \alpha_0 \cdot p^n$

**Proof:**

$$\forall j \in S$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_{n,j} &= P(X_n = j) \\
&= \sum_{i \in S} P(X_n = j | X_0 = i) \cdot P(X_0 = i) \\
&= \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_{0,i} \cdot P_{ij}^{(n)} \\
&= (\alpha_0 \cdot P^{(n)})_j = (\alpha_0 \cdot p^n)_j \\
&\Rightarrow \alpha_n = \alpha_0 \cdot p^n
\end{aligned}$$

- $\alpha_n$ : distribution of  $X_n$
- $\alpha_0$ : initial distribution
- $p^n$ : transition matrix

**Remark:** The distribution of a DTMC is completely determined by two things:

- the initial distribution  $\alpha_0$  (row vector), and
- the transition matrix  $p$  (square matrix)

### 4.3 Stationary distribution (invariant distribution)

**Definition:** A probability distribution  $\pi = (\pi_0, \pi_1, \dots)$  is called a **stationary distribution** (invariant distribution) of the DTMC  $\{X_n\}_{n=0,1,\dots}$  with transition matrix  $P$ , if :

1.  $\underline{\pi} = \pi \cdot P$
2.  $\sum_{i \in S} \pi_i = 1 (\Leftrightarrow \underline{\pi} \cdot \underline{1})$ . ( $\underline{1}$ : a column of all 1's)

Why such  $\underline{\pi}$  is called stationary/invariant distribution?

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i \in S} \pi_i &= 1, \pi_i \geq 0, i = 0, 1, \dots \Rightarrow \text{distribution} \\
\underline{\pi} &= \pi \cdot P \Rightarrow \text{invariant/stationary.}
\end{aligned}$$

Assume the MC starts from the initial distribution  $\alpha_0 = \underline{\pi}$ . Then the distribution of  $X_1$  is

$$\alpha_1 = \alpha_0 \cdot P = \underline{\pi} \cdot P = \underline{\pi} = \alpha_0$$

The distribution of  $X_2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_2 &= \alpha_0 \cdot P^2 = \underline{\pi} \cdot P \cdot P = \underline{\pi} \cdot P = \underline{\pi} = \alpha_0 \\
&\dots\dots\dots \\
\alpha_n &= \alpha_0
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, if the MC starts from a stationary distribution, then its distribution will not change over time.

#### Example 4.3.1

An electron has two states: *ground*(0), *excited*(1). Let  $X_n \in \{0, 1\}$  be the state at time  $n$ .

At each step, changes state with probability:

- $\alpha$  if it is in state 0.
- $\beta$  if it is in state 1.

Then  $\{X_n\}$  is a DTMC. Its transitional matrix is:

$$P = \begin{Bmatrix} 1-\alpha & \alpha \\ \beta & 1-\beta \end{Bmatrix}$$

Now let us solve for the stationary distribution  $\underline{\pi} = \underline{\pi} \cdot P$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
(\pi_0, \pi_1) \begin{pmatrix} 1-\alpha & \alpha \\ \beta & 1-\beta \end{pmatrix} &= (\pi_0, \pi_1) \\
\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \pi_0(1-\alpha) + \pi_1\beta = \pi_0 & (1) \\ \pi_0\alpha + \pi_1(1-\beta) = \pi_1 & (2) \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$



We have two equations and two unknowns. However, note that they are not linearly independent:

sum of LHS =  $\pi_0 + \pi_1$  = sum of RHS. Hence (2) can be derived from (1). By (1), we have:

$$\alpha\pi_0 = \beta\pi_1 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\pi_0}{\pi_1} = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}$$

This where we need  $\underline{\pi} \cdot \underline{1}$ :

$$\pi_0 + \pi_1 = 1 \Rightarrow \pi_0 = \frac{\beta}{\alpha + \beta}, \quad \pi_1 = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta}$$

Thus, we conclude that there exists a unique stationary distribution  $(\frac{\beta}{\alpha + \beta}, \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta}) = \underline{\pi}$

The above procedure for solving for stationary distribution is typical:

1. Use  $\underline{\pi} = \underline{\pi}P$  to get the properties between different components of  $\underline{\pi}$
2. Use  $\underline{\pi} \cdot \underline{1} = 1$  to normalize (get exact values)

## 4.4. Classification of States

### 4.4.1. Transience and recurrence

Let  $T_i$  be the waiting for a MC to visit/revisit state  $i$  for the first time

$$T_i := \min\{n > 0 : X_n = i\} \quad T_i \text{ is a r.v.}$$

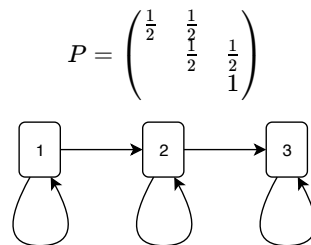
$T_i = \infty$  if the MC never (re)visits state  $i$ .

#### Definition 4.4.1

A state  $i$  is called:

- transient, if  $P(T_1 < \infty | X_0 = i) < 1$  (never goes back to  $i$  positive probability)
- recurrence, if  $P(T_i < \infty | X_0 = i) = 1$  (always goes back to state  $i$ )
  - positive recurrent, if  $E(T_i | X_0 = i) < \infty$
  - null recurrent, if  $E(T_i | X_0 = i) = \infty$
  - (note: a r.v. is finite with probability  $\Rightarrow$  its expectation is finite)
    - Example:  $T = 2, 4, \dots, 2^n, p = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots, 2^{-n}$
    - $E(T) = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 4 \cdot \frac{1}{4} + \dots + 2^n \cdot 2^{-n} = \infty$

#### Example 4.4.1



Given  $X_0 = 0$ ,

$$P(\underbrace{X_1 = 0}_{T_0=1} | X_0 = 0) = P(\underbrace{X_1 = 1}_{T_0=\infty \text{ since state 1 and 2 do not go to 0}} | X_0 = 0) = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow P(T_0 < \infty | X_0 = 0) = \frac{1}{2} < 1$$

Thus, state 0 is transient

Similarly, state 1 is transient.

Given  $X_0 = 2$ ,

$$P(X_1 = 2 | X_0 = 2) \Rightarrow P(T_2 < \infty | X_0 = 2) = 1$$

As  $E(T_2 | X_0 = 2) = 1$  Thus, state 2 is a positive recurrence.

In general, the distribution of  $T_i$  is very hard to determine  $\Rightarrow$  need better criteria for recurrence/transience.

**Criteria (1):** Define  $f_{ii} = P(T_i < \infty | X_0 = i)$ , and

$$V_i = \# \text{ of times that the MC (revisits) state } i = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{1}_{\{X_n=i\}}$$

If state  $i$  is transient

$$P(V_i = k | X_0 = i) = \underbrace{f_{ii}^k}_{\substack{\text{goes back to} \\ i \text{ for } k \text{ times}}} \underbrace{(1 - f_{ii})}_{\substack{\text{never visits} \\ i \text{ again}}} \\ \Rightarrow V_i + 1 \sim \text{Geo}(1 - f_{ii})$$

In particular,  $P(V_i < \infty | X_0 = i) = 1 \Rightarrow$  If state  $i$  is transient, it is visited away finitely many times with probability 1. The MC will leave state  $i$  forever sooner or later.

On the other hand, if state  $i$  is recurrent, then  $f_{ii} = 1$

$$P(V_i = k) = 0 \quad k = 0, 1, \dots \Rightarrow P(V_i = \infty) = 1$$

If the MC starts at a recurrent state  $i$ , it will visit that state infinitely many times.

**Criteria (2):** In terms of  $E(V_i | X_0 = i)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} E(V_i | X_0 = i) &= \frac{1}{1 - f_{ii}} - 1 = \frac{f_{ii}}{1 - f_{ii}} < \infty && \text{if } f_{ii} < 1, (i \text{ transient}) \\ E(V_i | X_0 = i) &= \infty, && \text{if } f_{ii} = 1, (i \text{ recurrent}) \end{aligned}$$

**Criteria (3):** Note that

$$\begin{aligned} E(V_i | X_0 = i) &= E\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{1}_{\{X_n=i\}} \mid X_0 = i\right) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E(\mathbb{1}_{\{X_n=i\}} \mid X_0 = i) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(X_n = i | X_0 = i) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^{(n)} \\ &\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^{(n)} < \infty && \text{if } i \text{ transient} \\ &\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^{(n)} = \infty && \text{if } i \text{ recurrent} \end{aligned}$$

To conclude,

	$i$	<i>recurrent</i>	<i>transient</i>
		$P(T_i < \infty   X_0 = i) = 1$	$P(T_i < \infty   X_0 = i) < 1$
		$P(V_i = \infty   X_0 = i) = 1$	$P(V_i < \infty   X_0 = i) = 1$
<i>define :</i>		$E(V_i   X_0 = i) = \infty$	$E(V_i   X_0 = i) < \infty$
easiest to use:		$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^{(n)} = \infty$	$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P_{ii}^{(n)} < \infty$