

3.1 Sequences of Random Variables

When the index set $T = \mathbb{N}$, the stochastic process ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is also called a *stochastic sequence*, or a *sequence of random variables*.

Definition 3.1. Let ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots be a stochastic sequence defined on probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$. The sequence of numbers $\xi_1(\omega), \xi_2(\omega), \dots$ for any fixed $\omega \in \Omega$ is called a *sample path* of stochastic sequence ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots

A sample path for a sequence of coin tosses is presented in Figure 3.1 (+1 for heads and -1 for tails). Figure 3.2 shows the sample path of the FTSE All-Share Index up to 1997. Strictly speaking the pictures should consist of dots, representing the values $\xi_1(\omega), \xi_2(\omega), \dots$, but it is customary to connect them by a broken line for illustration purposes.

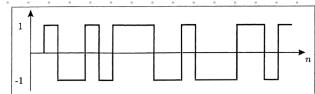


Figure 3.1. Sample path for a sequence of coin tosses (ω)

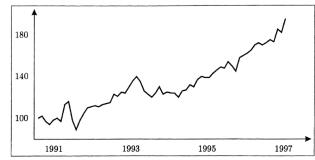


Figure 3.2. Sample path representing the FTSE All-Share Index up to 1997 (ω)

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Martingales in Discrete Time

3.2 Filtrations

Definition 3.2. A sequence of sub- σ -fields $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$ (or, $\{\mathcal{F}_n\}$) on Ω such that

$$\mathcal{F}_1 \subset \mathcal{F}_2 \subset \dots$$

is called a *filtration*.

We recall (Definition 1.1) that a collection \mathcal{F} of subsets of a non-empty set Ω is called a σ -field (or, σ -algebra) if it satisfies:

- the empty set $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$;
- If $A \in \mathcal{F}$, then its complement $A^c = \Omega \setminus A \in \mathcal{F}$, where $A^c = \Omega \setminus A$;
- If $A_n \in \mathcal{F}$ for every $n = 1, 2, \dots$, then

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n = A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \in \mathcal{F}.$$

\Rightarrow

若在 discrete time point n
知 $A_1 \dots A_n$ 分别是否发生，
则知 $A_1 \dots A_n$ 中至少 1 个是否发生

Example 3.1. For a sequence ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots of coin tosses we take \mathcal{F}_n to be the a σ -field generated by ξ_1, \dots, ξ_n .

$$\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n\}.$$

Let

$A = \{\text{the first 5 tosses produce at least 2 heads}\}$.

At discrete time $n = 5$, i.e. once the coin has been tossed five times, it will be possible to decide whether A has occurred or not. This means that $A \in \mathcal{F}_5$. However, at $n = 4$ it is not always possible to tell if A has occurred or not. If the outcomes of the first four tosses are, say,

tails, tails, heads, tails,

then the event A remains undecided. We will have to toss the coin once more to see what happens. Therefore $A \notin \mathcal{F}_4$.

This example illustrates another relevant issue. Suppose that the outcomes of the first four coin tosses are

tails, heads, tails, heads.

In this case it is possible to tell that A has occurred already at $n = 4$, whatever the outcome of the fifth toss will be. It does not mean, however, that A belongs to \mathcal{F}_4 . The point is that for A to belong to \mathcal{F}_4 it must be possible to tell whether A has occurred or not after the first four tosses, *no matter what the first four outcomes are*. This is clearly not so in the example in hand.

No matter what actually happened in the first 5 times,

If $A \in \mathcal{F}_n$ then at the time point n , no matter what happened in the last $n-1$ time points, we are able to know whether A has occurred or not.

The condition in the definition below means that \mathcal{F}_n contains everything that can be learned from the values of ξ_1, \dots, ξ_n . In general, it may and often does contain more information.

Definition 3.3. We say that a stochastic sequence ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is *adapted* to a filtration $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$ if ξ_n is \mathcal{F}_n -measurable for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$

Exercise 3.1
Let ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots be a sequence of coin tosses and let \mathcal{F}_n be the σ -field generated by ξ_1, \dots, ξ_n . For each of the following events find the smallest n such that the event belongs to \mathcal{F}_n .

$A = \{\text{the first occurrence of heads is preceded by no more than 10 tails}\}$,

$B = \{\text{there is at least 1 head in the sequence } \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots\}$,

$C = \{\text{the first 100 tosses produce the same outcome}\}$,

$D = \{\text{there are no more than 2 heads and 2 tails among the first 100 tosses}\}$.

Hint: To find the smallest element in a set of numbers you need to make sure that the set is non-empty in the first place.

Soln: ① $n = \min\{1, 2, 3, \dots, 100\} = 1$ $\rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1$ but $A \notin \mathcal{F}_1$.

② $n = \min\{1, 2, 3, \dots\} = 1$

B doesn't belong to \mathcal{F}_n for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ as N is an infinite sequence. So there's no smallest n st. $B \in \mathcal{F}_n$.

③ $n = \min\{100, 101, \dots, 100\} = 100 \rightarrow C \in \mathcal{F}_{100}$ but $C \notin \mathcal{F}_1$.

④ $n = \min\{1, 2, 3, \dots\} = 1$ $\rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1$ but $\emptyset \notin \mathcal{F}_1$.

* $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}_1$ As $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}_1$ Vacuously true so $n_{\min} = 1$.

Example 3.2. If $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n\}$ is the σ -field generated by ξ_1, \dots, ξ_n for each n , then the stochastic sequence ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is adapted to $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$

3.3 Martingales

Definition 3.4. A stochastic sequence ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is called a *martingale* with respect to a filtration $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$ if

- 1) ξ_n is integrable for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$; i.e. $E(\xi_n) < \infty$.
- 2) ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is adapted to $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$;
- 3) $\mathbb{E}[\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n] = \xi_n$ a.s. for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$
i.e. $\forall s \in \mathbb{N}, E[\xi_t | \mathcal{F}_s] = \xi_s$ for all $t \geq n$.

i.e., Whatever we are, if we conditioning on whatever we have at the time n (now), we don't expect to be any better or any worse off, we expect to be exactly the place we are now; in any place of the future.
i.e., fair game \Leftrightarrow shouldn't expect to win or loose

Example 3.3

Let η_1, η_2, \dots be a sequence of independent integrable random variables such that $E(\eta_n) = 0$ for all $n = 1, 2, \dots$. We put

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_n &= \eta_1 + \dots + \eta_n, \\ \mathcal{F}_n &= \sigma(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_n) = \sigma(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n) \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \xi_n \text{ is } \mathcal{F}_n\text{-integrable}$$

Then ξ_n is adapted to the filtration \mathcal{F}_n , and it is integrable because

$$\begin{aligned} E(|\xi_n|) &= E(|\eta_1 + \dots + \eta_n|) \\ &\leq E(|\eta_1|) + \dots + E(|\eta_n|) \\ &< \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n) &= E(\eta_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n) + E(\xi_n | \mathcal{F}_n) \\ &= E(\eta_{n+1}) + \xi_n \\ &= \xi_n, \quad \text{Independence } \not\perp \!\!\! \perp E. \end{aligned}$$

since η_{n+1} is independent of \mathcal{F}_n ('and independent condition drop since ξ_n is \mathcal{F}_n -measurable ("taking out what is known"). η_{n+1} is independent of \mathcal{F}_n ('and independent condition drops out')'. This means $E[\eta_{n+1}] = 0$. This means that ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is a martingale with respect to $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$ □

$$\varphi(E[X]) \leq E[\varphi(X)].$$

Exercise 3.3

Show that if ξ_n is a martingale with respect to \mathcal{F}_n , then

$$E(\xi_1) = E(\xi_2) = \dots$$

Hint What is the expectation of $E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n)$?

Solution 3.3

Taking the expectation on both sides of the equality

$$\xi_n = E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n),$$

we obtain

$$E(\xi_n) = E(E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n)) = E(\xi_{n+1})$$

for each n . This proves the claim.

Exercise 3.4

Suppose that ξ_n is a martingale with respect to a filtration \mathcal{F}_n . Show that ξ_n is a martingale with respect to the filtration

$$\mathcal{G}_n = \sigma(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n).$$

Hint Observe that $\mathcal{G}_n \subset \mathcal{F}_n$ and use the tower property of conditional expectation.

Initial Observations:

Let $F_n = \sigma(\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n)$ and \mathcal{G}_n are F_n -MG
then $\mathcal{G}_n = E[\xi_n | F_n] = E[\xi_n | \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n]$ (3)

by (4) for any $k \geq 1 \Rightarrow k \geq 0 \Rightarrow n+k \geq n$:

$$\begin{aligned} E[\xi_{n+k} | F_n] &= E[E[\xi_{n+k} | F_{n+k}]] | F_n \text{ by } F_n \subseteq F_{n+k}, \\ &= E[\xi_{n+k} | F_n] \quad \text{and the tower property,} \\ &= E[E[\xi_{n+k-1} | F_{n+k-1}] | F_n] \\ &\vdots \\ &= E[\xi_n | F_n] \\ &= \xi_n \end{aligned}$$

Example 3.4. Let ξ be an integrable random variable and let $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$ be a filtration. We put

$$\xi_n = \mathbb{E}[\xi | \mathcal{F}_n], \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Then ξ_n is \mathcal{F}_n -measurable according to Definition 3.4. \Rightarrow (3) ξ_n is adapted to \mathcal{F}_n .

$$|\xi_n| = |\mathbb{E}[\xi | \mathcal{F}_n]| \leq \mathbb{E}[|\xi| | \mathcal{F}_n]$$

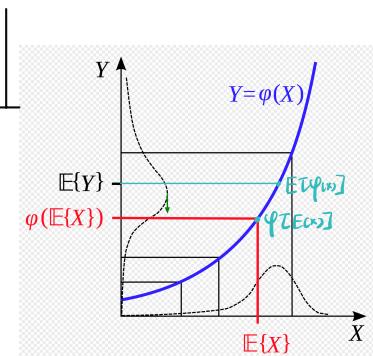
(1) by Jensen's Inequality, which implies that

$$E[|\xi_n|] = E[\mathbb{E}[|\xi| | \mathcal{F}_n]] = E[\mathbb{E}[\xi | \mathcal{F}_n]] < \infty.$$

(2) Since $\mathcal{F}_n \subset \mathcal{F}_{n+1}$, we have

$$E[\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\xi | \mathcal{F}_{n+1}] | \mathcal{F}_n] = \mathbb{E}[\xi | \mathcal{F}_n] = \xi_n.$$

Therefore, ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is a martingale with respect to $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$ □



Solution 3.4

The random variables ξ_n are integrable because ξ_n is a martingale with respect to \mathcal{F}_n . Since \mathcal{G}_n is the σ -field generated by ξ_1, \dots, ξ_n , it follows that ξ_n is adapted to \mathcal{G}_n . Finally, since $\mathcal{G}_n \subset \mathcal{F}_n$,

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_n &= E(\xi_n | \mathcal{G}_n) \\ &= E(E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n) | \mathcal{G}_n) \\ &= E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{G}_n) \end{aligned}$$

by the tower property of conditional expectation (Proposition 2.4). This proves that ξ_n is a martingale with respect to \mathcal{G}_n .

Exercise 3.5

Let ξ_n be a symmetric random walk, that is,

$$\xi_n = \eta_1 + \dots + \eta_n,$$

where η_1, η_2, \dots is a sequence of independent identically distributed random variables such that

$$P\{\eta_n = 1\} = P\{\eta_n = -1\} = \frac{1}{2}$$

(a sequence of coin tosses, for example). Show that $\xi_n^2 - n$ is a martingale with respect to the filtration

$$\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_n).$$

Solution 3.5

Because

$$\xi_n^2 - n = (\eta_1 + \dots + \eta_n)^2 - n$$

is a function of η_1, \dots, η_n , it is measurable with respect to the σ -field \mathcal{F}_n generated by η_1, \dots, η_n , i.e. $\xi_n^2 - n$ is adapted to \mathcal{F}_n . Since

$$|\xi_n| = |\eta_1 + \dots + \eta_n| \leq |\eta_1| + \dots + |\eta_n| = n,$$

it follows that

$$E(|\xi_n^2 - n|) \leq E(\xi_n^2) + n \leq n^2 + n < \infty,$$

so $\xi_n^2 - n$ is integrable for each n . Because

$$\xi_{n+1}^2 = \eta_{n+1}^2 + 2\eta_{n+1}\xi_n + \xi_n^2,$$

where ξ_n and ξ_{n+1}^2 are \mathcal{F}_n -measurable and η_{n+1} is independent of \mathcal{F}_n , we can use Proposition 2.4 ('taking out what is known' and 'independent condition drops out') to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} E(\xi_{n+1}^2 | \mathcal{F}_n) &= E(\eta_{n+1}^2 | \mathcal{F}_n) + 2E(\eta_{n+1}\xi_n | \mathcal{F}_n) + E(\xi_n^2 | \mathcal{F}_n) \\ &= E(\eta_{n+1}^2) + 2\xi_n E(\eta_{n+1}) + \xi_n^2 \\ &= 1 + \xi_n^2. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that

$$E(\xi_{n+1}^2 - n - 1 | \mathcal{F}_n) = \xi_n^2 - n,$$

so $\xi_n^2 - n$ is a martingale.

Exercise 3.6

Let ξ_n be a symmetric random walk and \mathcal{F}_n the filtration defined in Exercise 3.5. Show that

$$\zeta_n = (-1)^n \cos(\pi \xi_n)$$

is a martingale with respect to \mathcal{F}_n .

Hint You want to transform $E((-1)^{n+1} \cos(\pi \xi_{n+1}) | \mathcal{F}_n)$ to obtain $(-1)^n \cos(\pi \xi_n)$. Use a similar argument as in Exercise 3.5 to achieve this. But, first of all, make sure that ζ_n is integrable and adapted to \mathcal{F}_n .

Solution 3.6

Being a function of ξ_n , the random variable ζ_n is \mathcal{F}_n -measurable for each n ,

since ξ_n is. Because $|\zeta_n| \leq 1$, it is clear that ζ_n is integrable. Because η_{n+1} is independent of \mathcal{F}_n and ξ_n is \mathcal{F}_n -measurable, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} E(\zeta_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n) &= E((-1)^{n+1} \cos(\pi(\xi_n + \eta_{n+1})) | \mathcal{F}_n) \\ &= (-1)^{n+1} E(\cos(\pi \xi_n) \cos(\pi \eta_{n+1}) | \mathcal{F}_n) \\ &\quad - (-1)^{n+1} E(\sin(\pi \xi_n) \sin(\pi \eta_{n+1}) | \mathcal{F}_n) \\ &= (-1)^{n+1} \cos(\pi \xi_n) E(\cos(\pi \eta_{n+1})) \\ &\quad - (-1)^{n+1} \sin(\pi \xi_n) E(\sin(\pi \eta_{n+1})) \\ &= (-1)^n \cos(\pi \xi_n) \\ &= \zeta_n, \end{aligned}$$

using the formula

$$\cos(\alpha + \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta - \sin \alpha \sin \beta.$$

To compute $E(\cos(\pi \eta_{n+1}))$ and $E(\sin(\pi \eta_{n+1}))$ observe that $\eta_{n+1} = 1$ or -1 and

$$\begin{aligned} \cos \pi &= \cos(-\pi) = -1, \\ \sin \pi &= \sin(-\pi) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that ζ_n is a martingale with respect to the filtration \mathcal{F}_n .

Definition 3.5

We say that ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is a *supermartingale* (*submartingale*) with respect to a filtration $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$ if

- 1) ξ_n is integrable for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$;
- 2) ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is adapted to $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$;
- 3) $E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n) \leq \xi_n$ (respectively, $E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n) \geq \xi_n$) a.s. for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$

Exercise 3.7

Let ξ_n be a sequence of square integrable random variables. Show that if ξ_n is a martingale with respect to a filtration \mathcal{F}_n , then ξ_n^2 is a submartingale with respect to the same filtration.

Hint Use Jensen's inequality with convex function $\varphi(x) = x^2$.

\Rightarrow Remark: 若 ξ_n 为 MG, ξ_n^2 不一定为 MG.

Solution 3.7

If ξ_n is adapted to \mathcal{F}_n , then so is ξ_n^2 . Since $\xi_n = E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n)$ for each n and $\varphi(x) = x^2$ is a convex function, we can apply Jensen's inequality (Theorem 2.2) to obtain

$$\xi_n^2 = [E(\xi_{n+1} | \mathcal{F}_n)]^2 \leq E(\xi_{n+1}^2 | \mathcal{F}_n)$$

for each n . This means that ξ_n^2 is a submartingale with respect to \mathcal{F}_n .

看到证不等关系
想几个不等式

$$\begin{cases} 2ab \leq a^2 + b^2 \\ |a+b| \leq |a| + |b| \end{cases}$$

For convex φ :

$$\varphi(E[x]) \leq E[\varphi(x)]$$

If $F_n = \sigma(\eta_1, \dots, \eta_n)$, ξ_n is a function of η_1, \dots, η_n

for example $\xi_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i + \text{常数}$ or $\xi_n = \prod_{i=1}^n \eta_i + \text{常数}$.

then ξ_n and any function of ξ_n : $f(\xi_n)$ e.g. ξ_n^2

is F_n -measurable. Because they are all functions of η_1, \dots, η_n .

- (A symmetric random walk) Let η_1, η_2, \dots be a sequence of independent identically distributed random variables with $\mathbb{P}(\eta_1 = 1) = \frac{1}{2}$ and $\mathbb{P}(\eta_1 = -1) = \frac{1}{2}$. Define

$$\xi_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \eta_k = \eta_1 + \dots + \eta_n, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

and denote $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma\{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_n\}$ for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Then, ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is called a *symmetric random walk*. Example 3.3 implies that the symmetric random walk ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots is a martingale with respect to the filtration $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$, and Exercise 3.5 shows that $\xi_1^2 - 1, \xi_2^2 - 2, \dots$ is also a martingale with respect to the filtration $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$,

3.4 Games of Chance

α_n : Stake in game n .

Suppose that you can vary the stake to be α_n in game n . Here, α_n may be zero if you refrain from playing the n th game; it may even be negative if you own the casino and can accept other people's bets.

When the time comes to decide your stake α_n , you will know the outcomes of the first $n-1$ games. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that α_n is \mathcal{F}_{n-1} -measurable, where \mathcal{F}_{n-1} represents your knowledge accumulated up to and including game $n-1$. In particular, since nothing is known before the first game, we take $\mathcal{F}_0 = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$.

Definition 3.6

A *gambling strategy* $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$ (with respect to a filtration $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots$) is a sequence of random variables such that α_n is \mathcal{F}_{n-1} -measurable for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$, where $\mathcal{F}_0 = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$. (Outside the context of gambling such a sequence of random variables α_n is called *previsible*.)

第 $n-1$ 轮结束后已经可决定第 n 轮要下注多少了。

If you follow a strategy $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$, then your *total winnings* after n games will be

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \zeta_n = \alpha_1 \xi_1 + \dots + \alpha_n \xi_n \\ \quad = \alpha_1 (\xi_1 - \xi_0) + \dots + \alpha_n (\xi_n - \xi_{n-1}). \end{array} \right. \quad \zeta_0 = \text{初始本金}$$

We also put $\zeta_0 = 0$ for convenience.

The following proposition has important consequences for gamblers. It means that a fair game will always turn into a fair one, no matter which gambling strategy is used. If one is not in a position to wager negative sums of money (e.g. to run a casino), it will be impossible to turn an unfavourable game into a favourable one or vice versa. You cannot beat the system! The boundedness of the sequence α_n means that your available capital is bounded and so is your credit limit.

α_n is a bounded sequence.

在本金、时间都有限的前提下，玩家永不可能赢过庄家。

Proposition 3.1

Let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$ be a gambling strategy.

- 1) If $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$ is a bounded sequence and $\xi_0, \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots$ is a martingale, then $\zeta_0, \zeta_1, \zeta_2, \dots$ is a martingale (a fair game turns into a fair one no matter what you do);
- 2) If $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$ is a non-negative bounded sequence and $\xi_0, \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots$ is a supermartingale, then $\zeta_0, \zeta_1, \zeta_2, \dots$ is a supermartingale (an unfavourable game turns into an unfavourable one).
- 3) If $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$ is a non-negative bounded sequence and $\xi_0, \xi_1, \xi_2, \dots$ is a submartingale, then $\zeta_0, \zeta_1, \zeta_2, \dots$ is a submartingale (a favourable game turns into a favourable one).

Proof

Because α_n and ζ_{n-1} are \mathcal{F}_{n-1} -measurable, we can take them out of the expectation conditioned on \mathcal{F}_{n-1} ('taking out what is known', Proposition 2.4). Thus, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} E(\zeta_n | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}) &= E(\zeta_{n-1} + \alpha_n (\xi_n - \xi_{n-1}) | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}) \\ &= \zeta_{n-1} + \alpha_n (E(\xi_n | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}) - \xi_{n-1}). \end{aligned}$$

If ξ_n is a martingale, then

$$\alpha_n (E(\xi_n | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}) - \xi_{n-1}) = 0,$$

which proves assertion 1). If ξ_n is a supermartingale and $\alpha_n \geq 0$, then

$$\alpha_n (E(\xi_n | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}) - \xi_{n-1}) \leq 0,$$

proving assertion 2). Finally, assertion 3) follows because

$$\alpha_n (E(\xi_n | \mathcal{F}_{n-1}) - \xi_{n-1}) \geq 0$$

if ξ_n is a submartingale and $\alpha_n \geq 0$. \square

$\alpha_n - F_{n-1}$ Predictable

$\zeta_n - F_n - MG$

$$\zeta_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (\xi_i - \xi_{i-1})$$

$F_n - MG$.

3.5 Stopping Times

to stop playing after 10 rounds, no matter what happens. But in general the decision whether to quit or not will be made after each round depending on the knowledge accumulated so far. Therefore τ is assumed to be a random variable with values in the set $\{1, 2, \dots\} \cup \{\infty\}$. Infinity is included to cover the theoretical possibility (and a dream scenario of some casinos) that the game never stops. At each step n one should be able to decide whether to stop playing or not, i.e. whether or not $\tau = n$. Therefore the event that $\tau = n$ should be in the σ -field \mathcal{F}_n representing our knowledge at time n . This gives rise to the following definition.

第n次已经到了才知道结果了，⇒可判断是否停止。

Definition 3.7

τ is a function of $\omega: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

即非 $\{(-\infty, \infty)\}$

A random variable τ with values in the set $\{1, 2, \dots\} \cup \{\infty\}$ is called a *stopping time* (with respect to a filtration \mathcal{F}_n) if for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$

The event of stopping after n^{th} round = $\{\tau = n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$. # 每一步

At each step n one is able to decide whether to stop playing or not.

Exercise 3.8

Show that the following conditions are equivalent:

- 1) $\{\tau \leq n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$ for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$;
- 2) $\{\tau = n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$ for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$.

由 Axioms

Hint Can you express $\{\tau \leq n\}$ in terms of the events $\{\tau = k\}$, where $k = 1, \dots, n$?
Can you express $\{\tau = n\}$ in terms of the events $\{\tau \leq k\}$, where $k = 1, \dots, n$?

Solution 3.8

1) \Rightarrow 2). If τ has property 1), then

$$\{\tau \leq n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$$

and

$$\{\tau \leq n-1\} \in \mathcal{F}_{n-1} \subset \mathcal{F}_n,$$

so

$$\{\tau = n\} = \{\tau \leq n\} \setminus \{\tau \leq n-1\} \in \mathcal{F}_n.$$

2) \Rightarrow 1). If τ has property 2), then

$$\{\tau = k\} \in \mathcal{F}_k \subset \mathcal{F}_n$$

for each $k = 1, \dots, n$. Therefore

$$\{\tau \leq n\} = \{\tau = 1\} \cup \dots \cup \{\tau = n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n.$$

Example 3.5 (First hitting time)

Suppose that a coin is tossed repeatedly and you win or lose £1, depending on which way it lands. Suppose that you start the game with, say, £5 in your pocket and decide to play until you have £10 or you lose everything. If ξ_n is the amount you have at step n , then the time when you stop the game is

$$\tau = \min \{n : \xi_n = 10 \text{ or } 0\},$$

and is called the *first hitting time* (of 10 or 0 by the random sequence ξ_n). It is denoted by τ with respect to the filtration

$\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$. This is because

$$\{\tau = n\} = \{0 < \xi_1 < 10\} \cap \dots \cap \{0 < \xi_{n-1} < 10\} \cap \{\xi_n = 10 \text{ or } 0\}.$$

Now each of the sets on the right-hand side belongs to \mathcal{F}_n , so their intersection does too. This proves that

$$\{\tau = n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$$

for each n , so τ is a stopping time.

Let ξ_n be a sequence of random variables adapted to a filtration \mathcal{F}_n and let τ be a stopping time (with respect to the same filtration). Suppose that ξ_n represents your winnings (or losses) after n rounds of a game. If you decide to quit after τ rounds, then your total winnings will be ξ_τ . In this case your winnings after n rounds will in fact be $\xi_{\tau \wedge n}$. Here $a \wedge b$ denotes the smaller of two numbers a and b ,

$$a \wedge b = \min(a, b).$$

$\xi_{\tau \wedge n}$ 为

random variable

(\Rightarrow 可有 τ 会有自己的 field,

ξ_n be measurable by certain fields)

Exercise 3.9

Let ξ_n be a sequence of random variables adapted to a filtration \mathcal{F}_n and let $B \subset \mathbb{R}$ be a Borel set. Show that the time of first entry of ξ_n into B ,

$$\tau = \min \{n : \xi_n \in B\}$$

is a stopping time.

Hint Example 3.5 covers the case when $B = (-\infty, 0] \cup [10, \infty)$. Extend the argument to an arbitrary Borel set B .

Solution 3.9

If

$$\tau = \min \{n : \xi_n \in B\},$$

then for any n

$$\{\tau = n\} = \{\xi_1 \notin B\} \cap \dots \cap \{\xi_{n-1} \notin B\} \cap \{\xi_n \in B\}.$$

Because B is a Borel set, each of the sets on the right-hand side belongs to the σ -field $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$, and their intersection does too. This proves that $\{\tau = n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$ for each n , so τ is a stopping time.

Definition 3.8. We call $\xi_{\tau \wedge 1}, \xi_{\tau \wedge 2}, \dots$ the sequence stopped at τ .

It is often denoted by $\xi_1^\tau, \xi_2^\tau, \dots$. That is, for each $\omega \in \Omega$

$$\xi_n^\tau(\omega) = \xi_{\tau(\omega) \wedge n}(\omega) = \begin{cases} \xi_n(\omega), & \text{if } n < \tau(\omega), \\ \xi_{\tau(\omega)}(\omega), & \text{if } n \geq \tau(\omega). \end{cases}$$

Exercise 3.10

Show that if ξ_n is a sequence of random variables adapted to a filtration \mathcal{F}_n , then so is the sequence $\xi_{\tau \wedge n}$.

Hint For any Borel set B express $\{\xi_{\tau \wedge n} \in B\}$ in terms of the events $\{\xi_k \in B\}$ and $\{\tau = k\}$, where $k = 1, \dots, n$.

Proof Let $B \subset \mathbb{R}$ be any Borel set,

$$\text{as } \{\xi_{\tau \wedge n} \in B\} = (\{\xi_n \in B\} \cap \{\tau > n\}) \cup (\{\xi_{\tau \wedge n} \in B\} \cap \{\tau \leq n\}) \quad \#$$

$$= (\{\xi_n \in B\} \cap \{\tau > n\}) \cup (\{\xi_{\tau \wedge n} \in B\} \cap (\{\tau = n\} \cup \{\tau > n\} \cup \dots \cup \{\tau = 1\}))$$

$$= (\{\xi_n \in B\} \cap \{\tau > n\}) \cup \left[\{\xi_{\tau \wedge n} \in B\} \cap \left(\bigcup_{k=1}^n \{\tau = k\} \right) \right]$$

$$= (\{\xi_n \in B\} \cap \{\tau > n\}) \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^n [\{\xi_{\tau \wedge n} \in B\} \cap \{\tau = k\}]$$

and $\{\xi_n \in B\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$, $\{\tau > n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$, $\{\tau = k\} \in \mathcal{F}_k \subset \mathcal{F}_n$ for $k = 1, \dots, n$.

Thus, $\{\xi_{\tau \wedge n} \in B\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$. $\xi_{\tau \wedge n}$ is adapted to \mathcal{F}_n .

□

Solution 3.10

Let $B \subset \mathbb{R}$ be a Borel set. We can write

$$\{\xi_{\tau \wedge n} \in B\} = \{\xi_n \in B, \tau > n\} \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^n \{\xi_k \in B, \tau = k\},$$

where

$$\{\xi_n \in B, \tau > n\} = \{\xi_n \in B\} \cap \{\tau > n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$$

and for each $k = 1, \dots, n$

$$\{\xi_k \in B, \tau = k\} = \{\xi_k \in B\} \cap \{\tau = k\} \in \mathcal{F}_k \subset \mathcal{F}_n.$$

It follows that for each n

$\{\xi_{\tau \wedge n} \in B\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$,

as required.

⇒ Remark: If ξ_n is \mathcal{F}_n -measurable then so is $\xi_{\tau \wedge n}$

↓ Extends from Measurability to Martingale.

Proposition 3.2

Let τ be a stopping time.

- 1) If ξ_n is a martingale, then so is $\xi_{\tau \wedge n}$.
- 2) If ξ_n is a supermartingale, then so is $\xi_{\tau \wedge n}$.
- 3) If ξ_n is a submartingale, then so is $\xi_{\tau \wedge n}$.

Proof

This is in fact a consequence of Proposition 3.1. Given a stopping time τ , we put

$$\alpha_n = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \tau \geq n, \text{ 若 } \tau \leq \text{stopping time, 下注} \\ 0 & \text{if } \tau < n, \text{ stopping time } \in \mathcal{F}_n \text{ 不下注} \end{cases}$$

We claim that α_n is a gambling strategy (that is, α_n is \mathcal{F}_{n-1} -measurable). This is because the inverse image $\{\alpha_n \in B\}$ of any Borel set $B \subset \mathbb{R}$ is equal to

$$\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}_{n-1}$$

if $0, 1 \notin B$, or to

$$\Omega \in \mathcal{F}_{n-1}$$

if $0, 1 \in B$, or to

$$\{\alpha_n = 1\} = \{\tau \geq n\} = \{\tau > n-1\} \in \mathcal{F}_{n-1} \quad \text{as } \exists \tau \in \mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{F}_n$$

if $1 \in B$ and $0 \notin B$, or to

$$\{\alpha_n = 0\} = \{\tau < n\} = \{\tau \leq n-1\} \in \mathcal{F}_{n-1}$$

if $1 \notin B$ and $0 \in B$, For this gambling strategy



$$\xi_{\tau \wedge n} = \alpha_1 (\xi_1 - \xi_0) + \cdots + \alpha_n (\xi_n - \xi_{n-1}). \quad \text{Winnings after the game ends}$$

Therefore Proposition 3.1 implies assertions 1), 2) and 3) above. \square

As ① α_n is a bounded Gambling Strategy.

② ξ_n is \mathcal{F}_n -MG

③ $Z_n = \alpha_1 (\xi_1 - \xi_0) + \cdots + \alpha_n (\xi_n - \xi_{n-1})$.

Stopping Time (essentially a Gambling Strategy)

不可改变.

重点:

DON'T FORGET

Let $\alpha_n := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n \leq \tau \\ 0, & \text{if } n > \tau \end{cases}$

则 α_n is \mathcal{F}_{n-1} -measurable.

then $Z_n = \alpha_1 (\xi_1 - \xi_0) + \cdots + \alpha_n (\xi_n - \xi_{n-1})$

因为仅 $n > \tau$ 时的

$\alpha_n = 0$, 故 Z_n 为放心

为 $(\tau \wedge n) = \min\{\tau, n\}$

轮后正确的 winnings.

If time & capital are unlimited : $\xi_{\tau \wedge n} = \xi_\tau$.

As $P(\tau < \infty) = 1$ i.e. 一定会在有限次内 抽中 head.

而 $2^n > 2^n - 1 = \frac{1-2^n}{1-2} = 1+2^1+2^2+\cdots+2^{n-1}$

故一定能赢 (+)!

Theorem 3.1 (Optional Stopping Theorem)

Let ξ_n be a martingale and τ a stopping time with respect to a filtration \mathcal{F}_n such that the following conditions hold:

- 1) $\tau < \infty$ a.s., 只能玩有限次
- 2) ξ_τ is integrable, 预期累积资本有限
- 3) $E(\xi_n 1_{\{\tau>n\}}) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. 当 $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\tau \leq n$.

Then

$$E(\xi_\tau) = E(\xi_1). \text{ 财富与预期第1轮结束财富一样}$$

Proof

Because

$$\xi_\tau = \xi_{\tau \wedge n} + (\xi_\tau - \xi_{\tau \wedge n}) 1_{\{\tau > n\}}, \quad \begin{cases} \xi_n + \xi_\tau - \xi_n = \xi_\tau, & \tau > n \\ \xi_\tau, & \tau \leq n \end{cases}$$

it follows that

$$E(\xi_\tau) = E(\xi_{\tau \wedge n}) + E(\xi_\tau 1_{\{\tau > n\}}) - E(\xi_n 1_{\{\tau > n\}}).$$

Since $\xi_{\tau \wedge n}$ is a martingale by Proposition 3.2, the first term on the right-hand side is equal to

$$E(\xi_{\tau \wedge n}) = E(\xi_1).$$

The last term tends to zero by assumption 3). The middle term

$$E(\xi_\tau 1_{\{\tau > n\}}) = \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} E(\xi_k 1_{\{\tau=k\}})$$

tends to zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$ because the series

$$E(\xi_\tau) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} E(\xi_k 1_{\{\tau=k\}})$$

is convergent by 2). It follows that $E(\xi_\tau) = E(\xi_1)$, as required. \square

Example 3.7 (Expectation of the first hitting time for a random walk)

Let ξ_n be a symmetric random walk as in Exercise 3.5 and let K be a positive integer. We define the first hitting time (of $\pm K$ by ξ_n) to be

$$\tau = \min \{n : |\xi_n| = K\}.$$

By Exercise 3.9 τ is a stopping time. By Exercise 3.5 we know that $\xi_n^2 - n$ is a martingale. If the Optional Stopping Theorem can be applied, then

$$E(\xi_\tau^2 - \tau) = E(\xi_1^2 - 1) = 0.$$

This allows us to find the expectation

$$E(\tau) = E(\xi_\tau^2) = K^2,$$

since $|\xi_\tau| = K$.

Let us verify conditions 1)-3) of the Optional Stopping Theorem.

1) We shall show that $P\{\tau = \infty\} = 0$. To this end we shall estimate $P\{\tau > 2Kn\}$. We can think of $2Kn$ tosses of a coin as n sequences of $2K$ tosses. A necessary condition for $\tau > 2Kn$ is that no one of these n sequences contains heads only. Therefore

$$P\{\tau > 2Kn\} \leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{2K}}\right)^n \rightarrow 0$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Because $\{\tau > 2Kn\}$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$ is a contracting sequence of sets (i.e. $\{\tau > 2Kn\} \supset \{\tau > 2K(n+1)\}$), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} P\{\tau = \infty\} &= P\left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \{\tau > 2Kn\}\right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P\{\tau > 2Kn\} = 0, \end{aligned}$$

completing the argument.

2) We need to show that

$$E(|\xi_\tau^2 - \tau|) < \infty.$$

Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} E(\tau) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n P\{\tau = n\} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{2K} (2Kn + k) P\{\tau = 2Kn + k\} \\ &\leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{2K} 2K(n+1) P\{\tau > 2Kn\} \\ &\leq 4K^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{2K}}\right)^n \\ &< \infty, \end{aligned}$$

since the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+1) q^n$ is convergent for any $q \in (-1, 1)$. Here we have recycled the estimate for $P\{\tau > 2Kn\}$ used in 2). Moreover, $\xi_\tau^2 = K^2$, so

$$\begin{aligned} E(|\xi_\tau^2 - \tau|) &\leq E(\xi_\tau^2) + E(\tau) \\ &= K^2 + E(\tau) \\ &< \infty. \end{aligned}$$

3) Since $\xi_n^2 \leq K^2$ on $\{\tau > n\}$,

$$E(\xi_n^2 1_{\{\tau > n\}}) \leq K^2 P\{\tau > n\} \rightarrow 0$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Moreover,

$$E(n 1_{\{\tau > n\}}) \leq E(\tau 1_{\{\tau > n\}}) \rightarrow 0$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Convergence to 0 holds because $E(\tau) < \infty$ by 2) and $\{\tau > n\}$ is a contracting sequence of sets with intersection $\{\tau = \infty\}$ of measure zero. It follows that

$$E((\xi_n^2 - n) 1_{\{\tau > n\}}) \rightarrow 0,$$

as required.

T 的 criteria 已知，则 T 的取值， $n < T$ 时 ξ_n 的取值可知。

i) WTS: $\tau < \infty$ i.e. $P(\tau = \infty) = 0$

Proof: We shall know $P(\tau = \infty) = 0$, to this end we shall estimate $P\{\tau > 2kn\}$. We can think of $2kn$ tosses of coin as n sequences of $2k$ tosses.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{P}(\tau > 2kn) = P(\text{heads only}) = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k} \\ \text{P}(\tau > 2kn) = P(\text{heads only}) = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k} \\ \vdots \\ \text{P}(\tau > 2kn) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{2k}}\right)^n \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{array} \right.$$

Because $\{\tau > 2kn\}$ for $n=1, 2, \dots$ is a contracting sequence of sets (i.e. $\{\tau > 2kn\} \supset \{\tau > 2k(n+1)\}$), so

$$\begin{aligned} P(\{\tau = \infty\}) &= P\left(\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \{\tau > 2kn\}\right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P\{\tau > 2kn\} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{2k}}\right)^n = 0 \end{aligned}$$

so $P(\{\tau = \infty\}) = 0$ i.e. $\tau < \infty$. \square

2) WTS: $\varepsilon_\tau^2 - \tau$ is integrable, i.e. $E[\varepsilon_\tau^2 - \tau] < \infty$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since } E[\varepsilon_\tau] &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n P(\tau = n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{2k} (2kn+k) P(\tau = 2kn+k) \\ &\leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{2k} (2kn+2k) P(\tau = 2kn+k) \\ &\leq 4k^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+1) P(\tau > 2kn) \\ &= 4k^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+1) \left[1 - \left(\frac{1}{2^{2k}}\right)^n\right] < \infty \end{aligned}$$

as $1 - \frac{1}{2^{2k}} \in (1, 1)$, and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+1) q^n$ is convergent if $q \in (0, 1)$.

As stop when $|\varepsilon_\tau| = k$ then $\varepsilon_\tau^2 = k^2$.

$$\text{so } E[\varepsilon_\tau^2 - \tau] \leq E[\varepsilon_\tau^2] + E[\tau] = k^2 + E[\tau] < \infty.$$

\square

3) WTS: $E[(\varepsilon_n^2 - n) 1_{\{\tau \geq n\}}] \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof: Since when $\tau > n$, i.e. within n times, the criteria $|\varepsilon_n| = k$ hasn't been met, so $\varepsilon_n^2 \leq k^2$ on $\{\tau > n\}$.

$$\Rightarrow E[\varepsilon_n^2 1_{\{\tau \geq n\}}] \leq k^2 E[1_{\{\tau \geq n\}}] = k^2 P(\tau > n) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

and $E[n 1_{\{\tau \geq n\}}] \leq E[\tau 1_{\{\tau \geq n\}}] \rightarrow 0$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$ as $E[\tau] < \infty$.
 and $\{\tau \geq n\}$ is a contracting sequence of sets with intersection $\{\tau = \infty\}$ of measure zero.

It follows that $E[(\varepsilon_n^2 - n) 1_{\{\tau \geq n\}}] \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. \square

□ $\varepsilon_n, \varepsilon_\tau, \varepsilon_{\tau \wedge n}$ 是三个不同的 Sequence

- $E[\cdot]$ If ε_n is Fn-MG then $E[\varepsilon_n] = E[\varepsilon_1]$.

- $\varepsilon_{\tau \wedge n}$ 被证为 Fn-MG, 故 $E[\varepsilon_{\tau \wedge n}] = E[\varepsilon_{\tau \wedge 1}] = E[\varepsilon_1]$

- 由 Optimal Stopping Theorem .

$\varepsilon_\tau = \varepsilon_{\tau \wedge n} + (\varepsilon_\tau - \varepsilon_n) 1_{\{\tau > n\}}$ 在 ① $\tau < \infty$. ② ε_τ integrable

③ $E[\varepsilon_n 1_{\{\tau > n\}}] \rightarrow 0$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$ 的情况下可充分推出

$$E[\varepsilon_\tau] = E[\varepsilon_1].$$