

An Introduction to Ergodicity

Rareș Cristian

Big O Theory Club

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1 Dynamical Systems

- Definitions
- Attractor States

2 Chaos

- Lyapunov Exponents
- Hyperbolicity
- Shadowing

3 Ergodic Theory

- Orbit Distribution
- Transfer Operator
- Mixing

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- 2 The notion of Time, either discrete or continuous.
- 3 The time evolution law, $\phi : X \rightarrow X$

What are we Studying?

- The *orbit* of a point $x \in X$ is the sequence

$$x, \phi(x), \phi^2(x), \dots, \phi^k(x), \dots$$

The theory of dynamical systems focuses on *asymptotic* behavior of orbits.

- An *attractor* is a subset $A \subset X$ invariant under X (i.e. $\phi(A) \subset A$) such that for a neighborhood A' of A , $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi^n(A') \subset A$.

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Trivial Examples of Invariant Sets:

- A point $x \in X$ is called a *fixed point* if $\phi(x) = x$.
- $x \in X$ is *periodic* if there exists $n > 0$ such that $\phi^n(x) = x$. The minimal such n is the *period* of x .

Example of Attractors: Logistic Family of Maps

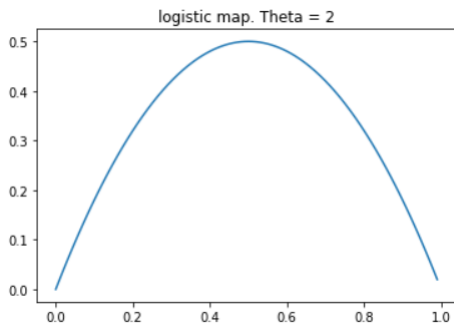
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$$\phi_{\theta}(x) = \theta x(1 - x)$$

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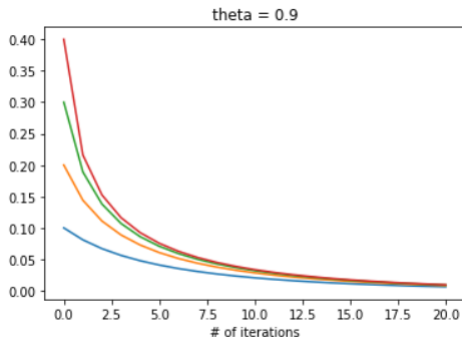
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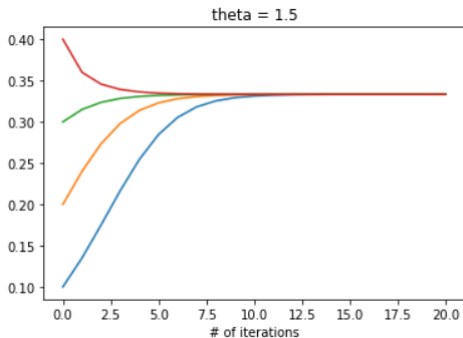
Attractors $\theta \leq 1$

For $0 < \theta \leq 1$, every $x \in [0, 1)$ converges to 0 under the map ϕ_θ .



Attractors $1 < \theta \leq 2$

For $1 < \theta \leq 2$, every $x \in [0, 1)$ converges to $\frac{\theta-1}{\theta}$ under the map ϕ_θ .

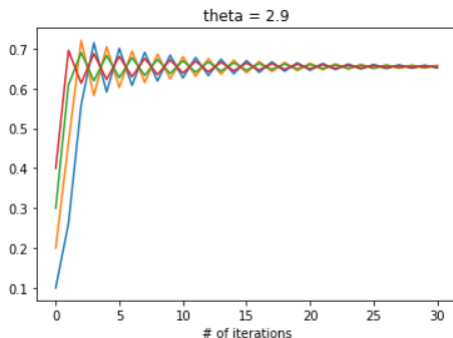


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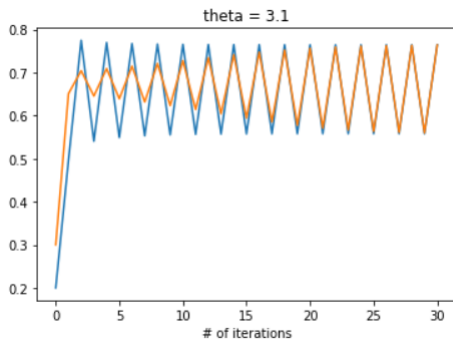


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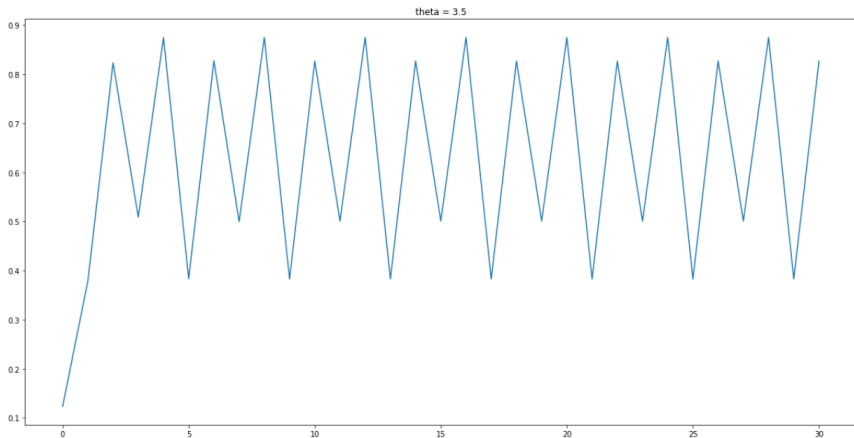
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Almost all initial conditions will approach oscillations among 4 values, then 8, 16, etc.

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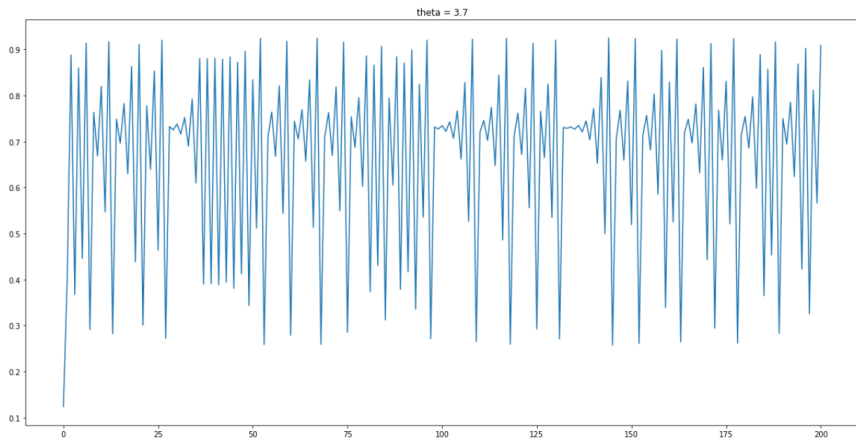
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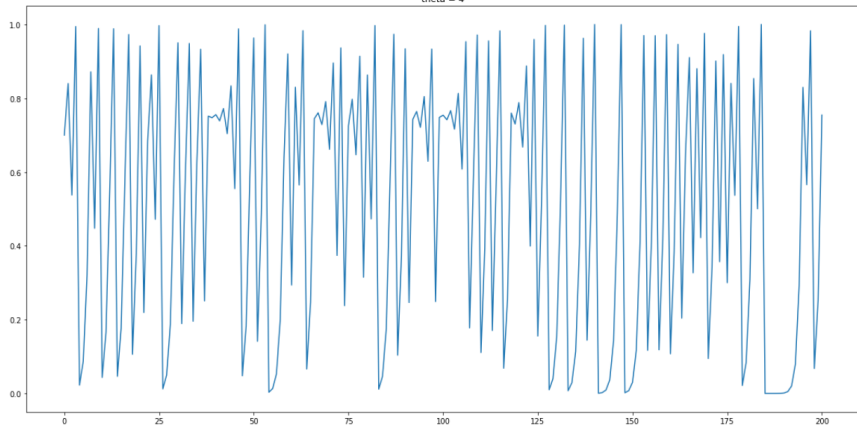
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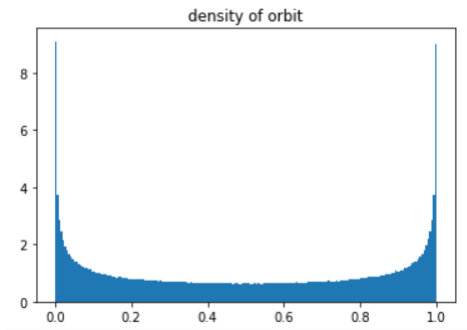
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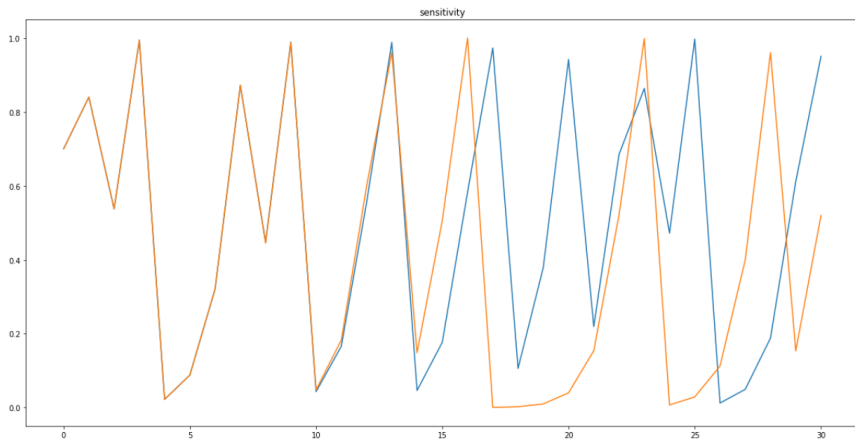
Asymptotic Distribution

For $\theta = 4$, all patterns seem to have disappeared. Where does the orbit spend its time?



Chaotic Dynamical Systems: Small perturbations in initial conditions yield widely diverging outcomes:

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Expanding Maps

A map ϕ is *expanding* if there exists $\epsilon > 0, L > 1$ such that for all $x, y \in X$ with $d(x, y) < \epsilon$,

$$d(\phi(x), \phi(y)) \geq L \cdot d(x, y)$$

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We say ϕ is a *contraction* if there exists a constant $0 \leq \tau < 1$ such that

$$d(\phi(x), \phi(y)) \leq \tau d(x, y), \quad \forall x, y \in X$$

Banach Fixed Point Theorem

Let (X, d) be a complete metric space with contraction mapping $\phi : X \rightarrow X$ with contraction constant τ . Then, ϕ admits a unique fixed point $x^* \in X$. Moreover, for any $x_0 \in X$, the sequence $\{x_n\}$ defined by $x_n = \phi(x_{n-1})$ converges to x^* at the following rate:

$$d(x^*, x_n) \leq \frac{\tau^n}{1 - \tau} d(x_1, x_0)$$

Stability of Fixed Points

From now on, let ϕ be a diffeomorphism, and $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ an open set.

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If $v_i \in E_i$, $D_p\phi^n v_i = a_i^n v_i$, hence $\log |D_p\phi^n v_i| = n \log |a_i| + \log |v_i|$. If $v_i \neq 0$ and $|a_i| > 1$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log |D_p\phi^n v_i| = \log |a_i|$$

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log |D_p\phi^n v_i| = \log |a_i|$$

Hence, for $|a_i| > 1$, the vector $D_p\phi^n$ grows exponentially fast, and if $|a_i| < 1$ it shrinks exponentially fast.

Lyapunov Exponents

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Let $E^s = \bigoplus_{\lambda_i < 0} E_i$ and $E^u = \bigoplus_{\lambda_i > 0} E_i$. Vectors in E^s are contracted by forward iterations of $D_p f$ while vectors in E^u are expanded.

If no Lyapunov exponents are equal to 0, or equivalently, $E^s \oplus E^u = \mathbb{R}^d$, then we say p is a *hyperbolic* fixed point.

(Un)Stable Manifolds

Notice E^s, E^u are in the tangent space.

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There correspond ϕ -invariant stable and unstable submanifolds $W^s(p), W^u(p) \subset X$ such that

- ① $T_p W^s(p) = E^s, T_p W^u(p) = E^u$
- ② $\text{dist}(\phi^n(y), p) \leq Ce^{-\lambda n}$ for all $y \in W^s(p)$
- ③ $\text{dist}(\phi^{-n}(y), p) \leq Ce^{-\lambda n}$ for all $y \in W^u(p)$

where $\lambda = \min_i |\lambda_i|$.

Aperiodic Orbits

- Lyapunov Exponents: $\lambda_i = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log |D_p \phi^n v_i|$ for $v_i \neq 0$.
- (un)stable manifolds still exist for almost every point $p \in X$, with

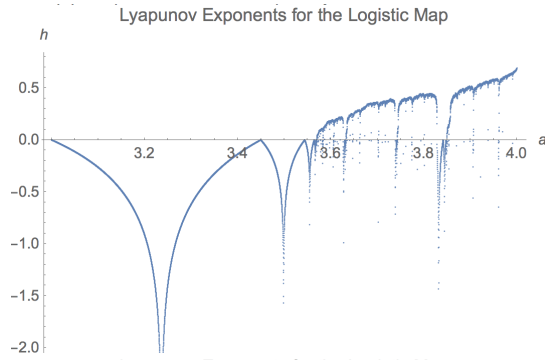
$$\text{dist}(\phi^n(y), \phi^n(p)) \leq Ce^{-\lambda n} \quad y \in W^s(p)$$

and

$$\text{dist}(\phi^{-n}(y), \phi^{-n}(p)) \leq Ce^{-\lambda n} \quad y \in W^u(p)$$

For any point $p' \in X$ near p but not on either $W^s(p)$ or $W^u(p)$, the trajectory of p' separates from that of p both in the future and the past.

Lyapunov Exponents for Logistic Map



Chaos: Hyperbolicity

How can we formalize this view point of chaos? For expanding maps, $\|D\phi^n v\| \geq CL^n \|v\|$ for all tangent vectors v . While for contractions, $\|D\phi^n v\| \leq C\tau^n \|v\|$.

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ϕ is *uniformly hyperbolic* if for all $p \in X$, there is a splitting of the tangent space $T_p M = E^s(x) \oplus E^u(x)$ and constants $C > 0, \lambda \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\|D_p \phi^n v\| &\leq C\lambda^n \|v\|, \quad \forall v \in E^s(p) \\ \|D_p \phi^{-n} v\| &\leq C\lambda^n \|v\|, \quad \forall v \in E^u(p)\end{aligned}$$

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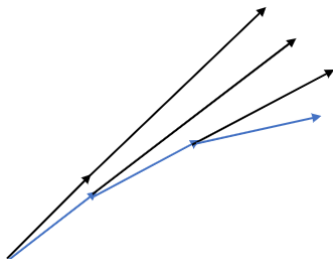
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Shadowing

Any pseudo-orbit approximately follows some orbit! That is, a pseudo-orbit is *shadowed* by a true orbit.

A sequence \mathbf{x} is δ -shadowed by the orbit of p if $d(x_n, \phi^n(p)) \leq \delta$.

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Shadowing Lemma: Suppose ϕ is hyperbolic. Then, for any $\delta > 0$ there is an $\epsilon > 0$ so that every ϵ -pseudo-orbit is δ -shadowed by a unique orbit of ϕ .

Shadowing Lemma Proof (for Contractions)

Suppose ϕ is a contraction with constant τ .

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Consider the set of sequences which are point-wise within δ of \mathbf{x} . Define the metric space (\mathbf{E}, D) by

$$\mathbf{E} = \{\mathbf{y} : \mathbf{y} = \{y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}, d(x_n, y_n) \leq \delta\}$$

and

$$D(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sup\{d(x_n, y_n)\}$$

Shadowing Lemma Proof continued...

If there is a true orbit $\mathbf{y}^* \in \mathbf{E}$, then \mathbf{x} is δ -shadowed by \mathbf{y}^* .

Let $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{E}$. Consider applying the map ϕ to each element. This produces a new sequence. Define

$$\theta(\mathbf{z})_n = \phi(z_{n-1})$$

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Also need to show that \mathbf{E} is θ -invariant.

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Since $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{E}$, $d(z_{n-1}, x_{n-1}) \leq \delta$. Let $\epsilon = (1 - \tau)\delta$. Then,

$$d(\phi(z_{n-1}), x_n) \leq \tau\delta + (1 - \tau)\delta = \delta$$

Shadowing Lemma Proof - θ is a Contraction

Take $\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{E}$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} D(\theta(\mathbf{y}), \theta(\mathbf{z})) &= \sup\{d(\phi(y_{n-1}), \phi(z_{n-1})) : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &\leq \tau \cdot \sup\{d(y_{n-1}, z_{n-1}) : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &\leq \tau D(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) \end{aligned}$$

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We say ϕ is measure-preserving.

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Ergodicity

Let ϕ be a measure-preserving map on a probability space. ϕ is ergodic if every ϕ -invariant set has measure 0 or 1.

If a measurable function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is invariant under an ergodic map T , then f is constant almost everywhere.

Proof: Define the level sets $A_c = \{x \in X : f(x) \leq c\}$. We first show that A_c is T -invariant. Suppose $x \in A_c$. Then $f(x) \leq c$, and by invariance, $f(T(x)) \leq c$. Finally $T(x) \in A_c$ and so $A_c \subset T^{-1}(A_c)$. We can similarly show $T^{-1}(A_c) \subset A_c$ and hence $T^{-1}(A_c) = A_c$. By the ergodicity of T , $\mu(A_c) = 0$ or $\mu(A_c) = 1$. Let $p = \inf\{c : \mu(A_c) = 1\}$. Then, since $\mu(A_{p-1/n}) = 0$, $f(x) \geq p$ a.e. and since $\mu(A_p) = 1$, $f(x) \leq p$ a.e. The claim follows.

Orbit Distribution

Let $A \subset X$, $x \in X$. The limit

$$\tau(x, A) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \text{card}\{0 \leq m < n : T^m(x) \in A\}$$

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is defined as the *frequency of returns* of the point x to the set A . Equivalently,

$$\tau(x, A) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \chi_A(T^j(x))$$

where χ_A denotes the indicator function of A . $\chi_A(x) = 1$ if $x \in A$ and 0 otherwise.

Birkhoff Ergodic Theorem

Let (X, \mathcal{A}, μ) be a probability space, and $T : X \rightarrow X$ a measure-preserving map. If $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is an integrable function, the limit

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} f(T^j(x))$$

exists for almost everywhere $x \in X$, and the function \tilde{f} is T -invariant, integrable, and

$$\int_X \tilde{f} d\mu = \int_X f d\mu$$

The function \tilde{f} is called the *time average* of f .

Letting $f(x) = \chi_A(x)$, we find that $\tilde{f} = \tau(x, A)$. By the Birkhoff Ergodic Theorem,

$$\begin{aligned}\int_X \tau(x, A) d\mu(x) &= \int_X \tilde{f}(x) d\mu(x) \\ &= \int_X \chi_A(x) d\mu(x) \\ &= \mu(A)\end{aligned}$$

Distribution of Ergodic Orbits

Now, suppose that ϕ is ergodic. Note that $\tau(x, A)$ is clearly ϕ -invariant. So, using the above "cute" lemma,

$$\begin{aligned}\mu(A) &= \int_X \tau(x, A) d\mu(x) \\ &= \tau(x, A) \int_X d\mu(x) \\ &= \tau(x, A) \mu(X) \\ &= \tau(x, A)\end{aligned}$$

The fraction of time that an orbit spends in a subset is equal to the measure of the set!

Hunting for Invariant Measure

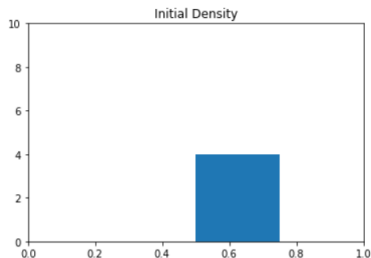
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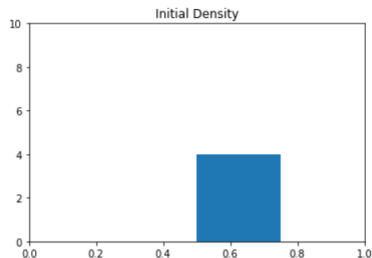
Let's start with some density ρ_0



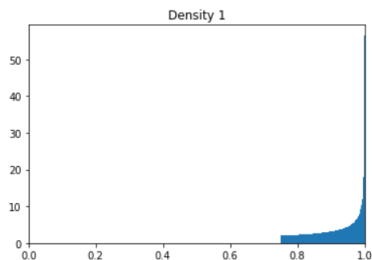
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Let's start with some density ρ_0



Apply ϕ to transform ρ_0 to ρ_1

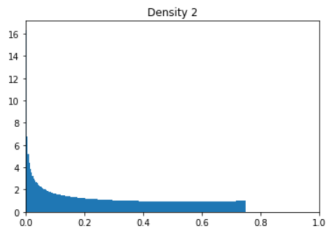


Hunting for Invariant Measure

And Keep Applying ϕ .

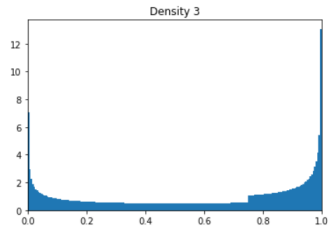
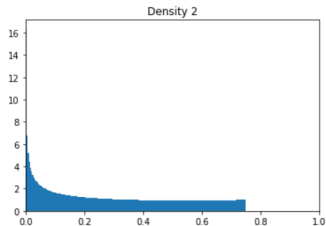
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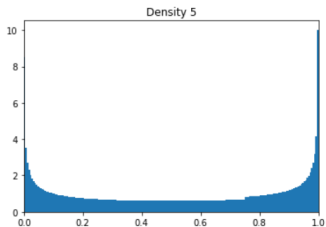
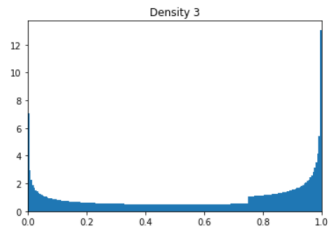
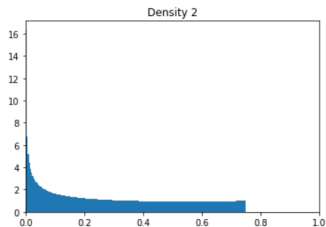
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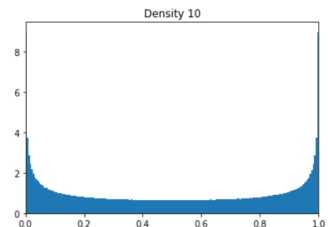
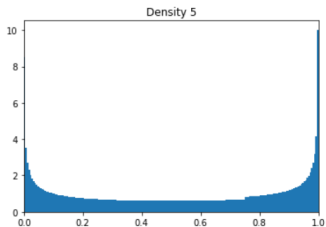
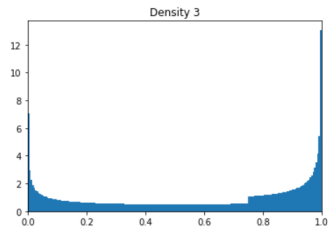
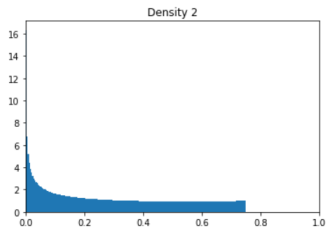
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Transferring Densities

Let ρ_0 be some initial density, and ρ_n the resulting density after applying ϕ^n . For any $A \subset X$,

$$\int_A \rho_n(x) dx = \int_{\phi^{-n}(A)} \rho_0(x_0) dx_0$$

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Change of coordinates: $x = \phi^n(y)$ (suppose ϕ invertible)

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So,

$$\rho_n(\phi^n(y)) |\det J^n(y)| = \rho_0(y)$$

Perron-Frobenius Operator

The *Transfer Operator*, \mathcal{L} , takes ρ_0 to ρ_n . So, $\mathcal{L} \circ \rho_0 = \rho_n$ where

$$(\mathcal{L} \circ \rho_0)(x) = \frac{\rho_0(y)}{|\det J^n(y)|}, \quad y = \phi^{-n}(x)$$

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If ϕ not invertible?

$$(\mathcal{L} \circ \rho_0)(x) = \sum_{y \in \phi^{-n}(x)} \frac{\rho_0(y)}{|\det J^n(y)|}$$

Fixed Points of \mathcal{L}

What is a fixed point of the transfer operator?

$$\mathcal{L}\rho = \rho$$

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An Invariant Measure!

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An Invariant Measure!

The limit of the first n density functions converges to a density function $\rho^*(x)$,

$$\rho^*(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \rho_k(x)$$

More on the Transfer Operator

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Sinai, Ruelle, Bowen proved that for hyperbolic maps, \mathcal{L} admits 1 as a simple eigenvalue, and the rest of the spectrum is contained in a disk of radius < 1 .

So, in the limit, the behavior is dominated by "eigenvector" corresponding to an eigenvalue of 1. This is precisely the invariant measure.

A measure-preserving map ϕ on a probability space (X, \mathcal{A}, μ) is said to be *mixing* if for any $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(\phi^{-n}(A) \cap B) = \mu(A)\mu(B)$$

Mixing implies Ergodic

Proposition Any mixing map is ergodic.

Suppose $A \subset X$ is a ϕ -invariant set. Since $\phi^{-n}(A) = A$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu(\phi^{-n}(A) \cap B) = \mu(A \cap B)$. Since ϕ is mixing, $\mu(A \cap B) = \mu(A)\mu(B)$. Take $A = B$. Then, $\mu(A) = \mu(A)^2$ and hence $\mu(A) = 0$ or $\mu(A) = 1$.

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Take the map

$$\phi(x) = x + \theta \pmod{1}$$

with θ irrational. Note that ϕ is indeed ergodic. Suppose that $A \subset X$ is invariant. Consider the fourier transform of the indicator of A , say f . Note that the map on the unit circle is represented by multiplication with $e^{2\pi i\theta}$. So,

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{2\pi i \cdot nx} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{2\pi i \cdot n(x+\theta)}$$

Since fourier series are unique, $a_n = a_n e^{2\pi i n\theta}$. Since θ irrational, we must have $a_n = 0$ for $n \neq 0$. Hence, f constant. So, ϕ is ergodic.

Decay of Correlations

Intuitively, the Birkhoff Ergodic Theorem can be thought of as the law of large numbers in a dynamical systems setting: time average converges to space average.

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Are there any other relations to probability theory? For instance, does $f(T^n(x))$ effectively become independent of $f(x)$?

We denote by C_f the time correlation function of dynamical system T where

$$C_{f,g}(n) = \int_X g(T^n(x))f(x)d\mu - \int_X g(x)d\mu \int_X f(x)d\mu$$

Decay of Correlations and Mixing

A map is mixing if and only if $C_{f,g}$ converges to 0.

We say that correlations decay exponentially if

$$|C_{f,g}(n)| \leq Ce^{-an}$$

A Generalized Operator

$$\int (g \circ T) \cdot f \, dx = \int g \cdot (\mathcal{L}_T f) dx$$

with

$$(\mathcal{L}_T f)(x) = \sum_{y \in T^{-1}(x)} \frac{f(y)}{|T'(y)|}$$

Example: Doubling Map

Let's show that the map

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Back to the transfer operator,

$$(\mathcal{L} \circ f)(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{x+1}{2}\right) \right]$$

Note that Lebesgue measure μ is invariant under \mathcal{L} . Let's restrict ourselves to $\mathcal{L} : \text{Lip} \rightarrow \text{Lip}$ (subspace of Lipschitz continuous functions on the interval $[0,1]$).

Example: Doubling Map

Consider the semi-norm (which only fails since it vanishes for constant functions)

$$|f|_{\text{Lip}} = \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|}$$

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The key property is that $|\cdot|_{\text{Lip}}$ is contracted by the operator \mathcal{L} :

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where $x_1 = \frac{x}{2}, x_2 = \frac{x+1}{2}$. Note that $|x_i - y_i| = \frac{1}{2}|x - y|$.

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$$|\mathcal{L}f|_{\text{Lip}} \leq \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{|f(x_1) - f(y_1)|}{|x_1 - y_1|} + \frac{|f(x_2) - f(y_2)|}{|x_2 - y_2|} \right] \leq \frac{1}{2}|f|_{\text{Lip}}$$

The End