

## Mean and Correlation Functions

If  $X(t)$  is a random process, then for every value of  $t$ ,  $X(t)$  is a random variable, which has a mean  $E[X_t]$ . We call

$$\mu_X(t) \text{ or } m_X(t) = E[X(t)]$$

as the mean function of the random process.

The mean function reflects the average behavior of the process with time.

Example: In a communication system, the carrier signal at the receiver is modeled as

$$X(t) = \cos(2\pi f t + \theta), \text{ where } \theta \sim \text{unif}[-\pi, \pi]$$

$$\begin{aligned} m_X(t) &= E[X(t)] = E[\cos(2\pi f t + \theta)] \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(2\pi f t + \theta) f_{\theta}(\theta) d\theta \\ &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(2\pi f t + \theta) \frac{1}{2\pi} d\theta = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow m_X(t) = 0 \text{ for all } \underline{t}.$$

If  $X(t_1)$ ,  $X(t_2)$  are two random variables of a process  $X(t)$ , their correlation is denoted by

$$R_X(t_1, t_2) = E[X(t_1)X(t_2)]$$



Auto-correlation function of the random process  $X(t)$ .

The value of  $R(t_1, t_2)$  on the "diagonal"  $t_1 = t_2 = t$  is the average power of  $X(t)$

$$R_X(t, t) = E[X^2(t)]$$

Autocovariance function  $C_X(t_1, t_2)$  of  $X(t)$

$$C_X(t_1, t_2) = \text{Cov}(X(t_1), X(t_2))$$

$$= E[X(t_1)X(t_2)] - \mu_X(t_1)\mu_X(t_2)$$

$$C_X(t_1, t_2) = R_X(t_1, t_2) - \mu_X(t_1)\mu_X(t_2)$$

$$C_X(t, t) = E[X^2(t)] - \mu_X^2(t) = \text{Var}(X(t))$$

## Properties of auto-correlation and auto-covariance functions.

- ①  $R_X(t_1, t_2) = R_X(t_2, t_1)$ , i.e.  $R_X(\cdot, \cdot)$  is a symmetric function of  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ .

Recall that we had the problem in Mid-Term 2,  $(E[AB])^2 \leq E(A^2)E(B^2)$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{E[X(t_1)X(t_2)]^2}_{\Downarrow} \leq E[X^2(t_1)]E[X^2(t_2)]$$

$$\Rightarrow (R_X(t_1, t_2))^2 \leq E[X^2(t_1)]E[X^2(t_2)]$$

$$\boxed{|R_X(t_1, t_2)| \leq \sqrt{E(X^2(t_1))E(X^2(t_2))}}$$

- ②  $C_X(t_1, t_2) = C_X(t_2, t_1)$ , i.e. the auto-covariance function is also symmetric.
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Let  $X(t)$  and  $Y(t)$  be two random processes. Their cross-correlation function is

$$R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = E[X(t_1)Y(t_2)]$$

Their cross-covariance function is

$$\begin{aligned} C_{XY}(t_1, t_2) &= E[(X(t_1) - \mu_X(t_1))(Y(t_2) - \mu_Y(t_2))] \\ &= R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) - \mu_X(t_1)\mu_Y(t_2). \end{aligned}$$

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$\alpha$

~~SS~~:

(5)

Eg.:  $X(t) = \cos(2\pi f t + \theta)$ ,  
 where  $\theta \sim \text{unif}[-\pi, \pi]$

Auto correlation function

$$R_X(t_1, t_2) = E[X(t_1) X(t_2)]$$

$$= E[\cos(2\pi f t_1 + \theta) \cos(2\pi f t_2 + \theta)]$$

(using)

$$\left\{ \cos A \cos B = \frac{\cos(A+B) + \cos(A-B)}{2} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} E[\cos(2\pi f(t_1+t_2) + \theta) + \cos(2\pi f(t_1-t_2))]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} E[\cos(2\pi f(t_1+t_2) + \theta)] + \frac{1}{2} \cos(2\pi f(t_1-t_2))$$

auto-correlation

$$\Rightarrow R_X(t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{2} \cos(2\pi f(t_1-t_2))$$

Eg.:  $X(t) = \cos(2\pi f t + \theta_1)$   
 $Y(t) = \cos(2\pi f t + \theta_2)$ ,  $\theta_1, \theta_2$  are independent  
 $\text{unif}[-\pi, \pi]$  random variables.

Cross-correlation between  $X(t)$  and  $Y(t)$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) &= E[X(t_1) Y(t_2)] = E[\cos(2\pi f t_1 + \theta_1) \cos(2\pi f t_2 + \theta_2)] \\ &= E[\cos(2\pi f t_1 + \theta_1)] E[\cos(2\pi f t_2 + \theta_2)] \quad \leftarrow \text{since } \theta_1, \theta_2 \text{ are independent} \\ &= 0 \times 0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Strict-Sense Stationary and Wide-Sense Stationary Processes

A random process is  $n^{\text{th}}$  order strictly stationary if for any collection of  $n$  times,  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n$ , the joint distribution of  $(X(t_1), X(t_2), \dots, X(t_n))$  is the same as the joint distribution of  $X(t_1 + \Delta), X(t_2 + \Delta), \dots, X(t_n + \Delta)$  for any  $\Delta$ .

A random process is strictly stationary if it is  $n^{\text{th}}$  order strictly stationary for every positive, finite integer  $n$ .

1<sup>st</sup> order S.S.  $f_{X(t)}(x) = f_{X(t+\Delta)}(x)$  for all  $\Delta$

2<sup>nd</sup> order S.S.  $f_{X(t_1)X(t_2)}(x_1, x_2) = f_{X(t_1+\Delta)X(t_2+\Delta)}(x_1, x_2)$  for all  $\Delta$

⋮

Eg.  $X_n$  be a sequence of iid r.v.'s with a common density  $f(\cdot)$

$\Rightarrow X_n$  is  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{1st order ss} \\ \text{2nd " " } \\ \text{nth " " } \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow X_n \text{ is strictly stationary.}$



## Wide-Sense Stationary (WSS)

A random process is WSS if the following two properties (both) hold:

- (i) The mean function  $\mu_X(t)$  does not depend on time  $t$ , i.e.

$$E[X(t)] = \mu_X$$

- (ii) The auto-correlation function  $R_X(t_1, t_2)$  depends on  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  only through the time difference  $t_1 - t_2$ .

~~$$R_X(t_1, t_2) = R_X(t, t + \tau), \text{ where } t_1 - t_2 = \tau$$~~
~~$$= R_X(\tau)$$~~

$$R_X(t_1, t_2) = R_X(t_1, t_1 - \tau)$$

$$= R_X(\tau)$$

$$\begin{cases} t_2 = t_1 - \tau \\ t_1 - t_2 = \tau \end{cases}$$

Fact: Every <sup>Strictly</sup> Stationary process is WSS.  
However WSS does NOT imply S.S.

$$R_x(t_1, t_2) = R_x(\tau) ; \tau = t_1 - t_2 \quad (3)$$

For a **WSS** random process,

the following properties always hold:

$$P1: R_x(0) \geq 0$$

$$P2: R_x(\tau) = R_x(-\tau)$$

$$P3: R_x(0) \geq |R_x(\tau)|$$

Proof of  $P_1, P_2$ , and  $P_3$ :

$$[P_1] \quad R_x(0) = R_x(t, t) = E[X^2(t)] \geq 0$$

$$[P_2] \quad R_x(\tau) = R_x(t, t-\tau) = E[X(t)X(t-\tau)]$$

$$R_x(-\tau) = R_x(t-\tau, t) = E[X(t-\tau)X(t)]$$

$$\Rightarrow R_x(\tau) = R_x(-\tau) \text{ ie for a WSS,}$$

$R_x(\cdot)$  is symmetric around  $\tau=0$

~~or  $R_x(\cdot)$  is an even function~~  
(Symmetric)

$$[P_3] \quad (R_x(t_1, t_2))^2 \leq E[X^2(t_1)] E[X^2(t_2)]$$

$$(R_x(\tau))^2 \leq R_x(0) R_x(0)$$

$$\Rightarrow |R_x(\tau)| \leq R_x(0).$$



Eg: Input to a digital filter is an iid random sequence  $\dots X_{-2} X_{-1} X_0 X_1 X_2 \dots$  with  $E[X_i] = 0$ ,  $\text{Var}[X_i] = 1$  for all  $i$ . The output of the filter is a random sequence  $\dots Y_{-2} Y_{-1} Y_0 Y_1 Y_2 \dots$

$$Y_n = X_n + X_{n-1} \text{ for all integers } n.$$

Find  $\mu_Y(n)$ , and  $C_Y(m, n)$  of  $Y_n$ .

mean  
function

auto-correlation  
function

$$E[Y_n] = E[X_n + X_{n-1}] = \underbrace{E[X_n]}_0 + \underbrace{E[X_{n-1}]}_0$$

$$\Rightarrow E[Y_n] = 0 \text{ for all } n.$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\mu_Y(n) = E[Y_n] = 0}$$

$$C_Y(m, n) = E[Y(m) Y(n)] - \underbrace{\mu_Y(m)}_0 \underbrace{\mu_Y(n)}_0$$

$$= E[Y_m Y_n]$$

$$= E[(X_m + X_{m-1})(X_n + X_{n-1})]$$

$$= E[X_m X_n + X_m X_{n-1} + X_{m-1} X_n + X_{m-1} X_{n-1}]$$

$$= C_X(m, n) + C_X(m, n-1) + C_X(m-1, n) + C_X(m-1, n-1)$$

To find this, we note that

$$C_X(m, n) = E[X_m X_n] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m \neq n \\ 1 & \text{if } m = n. \end{cases}$$

$$C_Y(m, n) = C_X(m, n) + C_X(m, n-1) + C_X(m-1, n) + C_X(m-1, n-1).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{If } m=n \Rightarrow C_Y(m, n) &= C_X(m, m) + C_X(m-1, m-1) \\ (\text{or } |m-n|=0) &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{cases} \text{If } m=n-1 \Rightarrow C_Y(m, n) = C_X(m, m) = 1 \\ \text{If } m-1=n \Rightarrow C_Y(m, n) = C_X(n, n) = 1 \end{cases}$$

or  $|m-n|=1$ .

$$\text{For } |m-n| > 1 \quad C_Y(m, n) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow C_Y(m, n) = \begin{cases} 2 & |m-n|=0 \\ 1 & |m-n|=1 \\ 0 & |m-n| > 1. \end{cases}$$

## Jointly Wide-Sense Stationary Processes

$X(t)$  and  $Y(t)$  are jointly WSS if

(a) both  $X(t)$  and  $Y(t)$  are WSS, and

(b) cross-correlation depends only on time difference

$$R_{XY}(t, t-\tau) = R_{XY}(\tau)$$

Eg Let  $X_n$  be a WSS discrete-time random process, with auto-correlation function  $R_X[k]$ ,  
Let  $Y_n$  be a random process as: and zero-mean

$$Y_n = (-1)^n X_n$$

(i) Is  $Y_n$  WSS?

$$E[Y_n] = (-1)^n E[X_n] = 0 \quad (\text{does not depend on time})$$

$$R_Y(n, n+k) = E[Y_n Y_{n+k}]$$

$$= E[(-1)^n X_n (-1)^{n+k} X_{n+k}]$$

$$= \underbrace{(-1)^{2n+k}}_{\downarrow} E[X_n X_{n+k}]$$

$$= (-1)^k R_X[k] \quad (\text{auto-correlation depends only on time-difference } k)$$



(ii) Cross-correlation

$$R_{XY}(n, n+k) = E[X_n Y_{n+k}]$$

$$= E[X_n (-1)^{n+k} X_{n+k}]$$

$$= (-1)^{n+k} \underbrace{E[X_n X_{n+k}]}_{\downarrow}$$

$$= (-1)^{n+k} R_X[k]$$

depends on  $n$  and  $k$  both

$\Rightarrow X_n, Y_n$  are NOT jointly WSS.

even though  $X_n$  is WSS  
and  $Y_n$  is WSS.