TD: Martingales and Markov Chains

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Exercise 1

We toss twice a coin and record the successive sides that appear. Let $\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$ (where $H \equiv$ HEAD and $T \equiv$ TAIL) be the sample sample space. Let X_k be the random variable which counts the number of Heads that appears after the k first tosses and let $\mathcal{G}_1$ and $\mathcal{G}_2$ be the σ-algebras on Ω defined by

$$\mathcal{G}_1 = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{HT, HH\}, \{TH, TT\}\} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \mathcal{G}_2 = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{TH, HH\}, \{HT, TT\}\}$$

1. What is the information contained in $\mathcal{G}_1$ and $\mathcal{G}_2$?

2. Are the random variable X_1 and X_2 is $\mathcal{G}_1$-measurable ?

3. Are the random variable X_1 and X_2 is $\mathcal{G}_2$-measurable ?

4. Determine the σ-algebra $\varepsilon = \mathcal{G}_1 \cap \mathcal{G}_2$ and $\mathcal{H} = \sigma(\mathcal{G}_1 \cup \mathcal{G}_2)$. What is the informations they contain?

   (a). Are the random variable X_1 and X_2 is $\mathcal{H}$-measurable?

   (b). Are the random variable X_1 and X_2 is ε-measurable?

5. Determine $\sigma(X_1), \sigma(X_2)$ and $\sigma(X_1, X_2)$.

Solution

1. Information contained in $\mathcal{G}_1$ and $\mathcal{G}_2$.
   We have

   $$\mathcal{G}_1 = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{HT, HH\}, \{TH, TT\}\}, \qquad \mathcal{G}_2 = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{TH, HH\}, \{HT, TT\}\}.$$

   - For $\mathcal{G}_1$:

     $$\{HT, HH\} = \{\omega : \text{first toss is } H\}, \qquad \{TH, TT\} = \{\omega : \text{first toss is } T\}.$$

     Thus, $\mathcal{G}_1$ contains *exactly* the information of the **first toss**: we know whether the first toss is Head or Tail, but nothing about the second toss.

   - For $\mathcal{G}_2$:

     $$\{TH, HH\} = \{\omega : \text{second toss is } H\}, \qquad \{HT, TT\} = \{\omega : \text{second toss is } T\}.$$

     Thus, $\mathcal{G}_2$ contains *exactly* the information of the **second toss**: we know whether the second toss is Head or Tail, but not the first.

2. Are X_1 and X_2 $\mathcal{G}_1$-measurable?
   Recall: a random variable X is $\mathcal{G}_1$-measurable iff for every Borel set $B \subset \mathbb{R}$,

   $$X^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{G}_1.$$

- For X_1:

$$X_1^{-1}(\{0\}) = \{\omega \in \Omega, X_1(\omega) = 0\} = \{TH, TT\} \in \mathcal{G}_1$$
$$X_1^{-1}(\{1\}) = \{\omega \in \Omega, X_1(\omega) = 1\} = \{HT, HH\} \in \mathcal{G}_1$$

Thus all level sets of X_1 belong to $\mathcal{G}_1$, so X_1 is $\mathcal{G}_1$-measurable.

- For X_2:

$$X_2^{-1}(\{0\}) = \{\omega \in \Omega, X_1(\omega) = 0\} = \{TT\}$$
$$X_2^{-1}(\{1\}) = \{\omega \in \Omega, X_1(\omega) = 1\} = \{HT, TH\}$$
$$X_2^{-1}(\{2\}) = \{\omega \in \Omega, X_1(\omega) = 1\} = \{HH\}$$

But $\{HH\} \notin \mathcal{G}_1$ (the only nontrivial sets are $\{HH, HT\}$ and $\{TH, TT\}$). Hence X_2 is *not* $\mathcal{G}_1$-measurable.

3. Are X_1 and X_2 $\mathcal{G}_3$-measurable?

We do the same with G_2

- For X_1:
$$X_1^{-1}(\{1\}) = \{HH, HT\}$$

Exercise 2

We throw a coin three times (the tosses are independent) and record the faces that appear. We denote $\Omega = \{HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, TTH, THT, HTT, TTT\}$ (where $H \equiv$ HEAD and $T \equiv$ TAIL) all possible outcomes of the random experiment. Let

- X_k denotes the random variables that counts the number of Heads obtained at the k first tosses.

- Y_k denotes the random variables that counts the number of Heads obtained only at the k-th toss and let $\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2,$ and $\mathcal{G}_3$ be the σ-algebras defined by

$$\mathcal{G}_1 = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{HHT, HHH, HTH, HTT\}, \{TTH, TTT, THT, THH\}\}$$
$$\mathcal{G}_2 = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{THH, HHT, THT, HHH\}, \{HTT, HHH, HTH, HTT\}\}$$
$$\mathcal{G}_3 = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{HTH, THH, THH, HHH\}, \{THT, HTT, TTT, HHT\}\}$$

Set $\mathcal{F}_1 = \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{F}_2 = \sigma(\mathcal{G}_1 \cup \mathcal{G}_2)$ and $\mathcal{F}_3 = \sigma(\mathcal{G}_1 \cup \mathcal{G}_2 \cup \mathcal{G}_3)$

1. What is the informations contained on the sigma-algebra $\mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2, \mathcal{G}_3$.

2. Are the random variables $Y_k, \mathcal{G}_k$-measurable

3. Are the random variables $X_k, \mathcal{G}_k$-measurable

4. Are the random variables $Y_k, \mathcal{F}_k$-measurable

5. Determine explicitly $\sigma(Y_1), \sigma(Y_2), \sigma(Y_3)$.

6. Are the random variables $X_k, \mathcal{F}_k$-measurable

7. Let p be the probability of having Heads at every toss of the coin.

   (a) Compute $\mathbb{E}(X_3|X_1)$

   (b) Deduce the value of $\mathbb{E}(X_3)$

   (c) Compute the $\mathbb{E}(X_1|X_2)$

Exercise 3

(Application of the course)

1. Let X be a random variable defined on Ω and taking value in $(E, \mathcal{E})$ and let f be a measurable function from $(E, \mathcal{E})$ to $\mathbb{R}$. Do you have $\sigma(f(X)) \subset \sigma(X)$ or $\sigma(X) \subset \sigma(f(X))$?

2. Let $\mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{G}$ be two σ-algebra, Is $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{G}$ always σ-algebra? Is $\mathcal{F} \cup \mathcal{G}$ always σ-algebra ?

3. Let X be a integrable random variable defined on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$.

   (a) What is $\mathbb{E}(X|\mathcal{F})$ if $\mathcal{F} = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$? if $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$?

   (b) What is $\mathbb{E}(X|\mathcal{F})$? if X is independent from $\mathcal{F}$.

Exercise 4

We flip three times a coin which probability of having Heads is $p \in]0, 1[$ and we record the successive sides that appear.

1. Determine the sample space Ω.

2. We denote $X_k(\omega)$ for $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ the random variable that counts the number of Tails appeared after the k first toss when we observe $\omega \in \Omega$.

3. Determine the σ-algebra $\mathscr{P}_1 = \sigma(X_1)$ and $\mathscr{P}_2 = \sigma(X_2)$ and then $\mathscr{P}_{1,2} = \sigma(X_1, X_2)$.

4. Are the following inclusions true ? $\mathscr{P}_1 \subset \mathscr{P}_2$; $\mathscr{P}_1 \subset \mathscr{P}_{1,2}$.

5. Determine $\mathbb{E}[X_3|\mathscr{F}_1]$ and $\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X_3|\mathscr{P}_2]|\mathscr{P}_1]$?

6. Does one have the equality

$$\mathbb{E}[X_3|\mathscr{P}_1] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X_3|\mathscr{P}_2]|\mathscr{P}_1]$$

7. Does one have the equality

$$\mathbb{E}[X_3|\mathscr{P}_1] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X_3|\mathscr{P}_{1,2}]|\mathscr{P}_1]$$

Exercise 5

Let X be a random variable defined on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ and let $\mathbb{P}$ be a probability on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ such that $\mathbb{E}(X^2) < +\infty$. Let $\mathscr{P}$ be a sub σ-algebra of $\mathscr{P}$. Set

$$Var(X|\mathscr{P}) = \mathbb{E}\left[(X - \mathbb{E}(X|\mathscr{P}))^2|\mathscr{P}\right]$$

Starting from

$$X - \mathbb{E} = X - \mathbb{E}(X|\mathscr{P}) + \mathbb{E}(X|\mathscr{P}) - \mathbb{E}(X)$$

Show that

$$Var(X) = \mathbb{E}\left(Var(X|\mathscr{P})\right) + Var(X\mathbb{E}(X|\mathscr{P})).$$

Exercise 6

We toss n times a coin and consider a gambling which consists on scoring 1 point when Heads appears or losing 2 points otherwise. The probability of having Heads with the coin is p. Let Y_i be the random variable representing the scored point on the i-th toss only and let X_n be the cumulated scored point after the n first tosses with X_0 Let $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \geq 0}$ with $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(Y_1, \cdots, Y_n)$ be the natural filtration of the process $(Y_n)_{n \geq 1}$.

1. Write X_n as a function of $Y_1, \cdots, Y_n$.

2. Determine the value of p which makes the process $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ a $\mathcal{F}_n$ martingale.

3. Determine the value of p which makes the process $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ a $\mathcal{F}_n$ sur-martingale.

4. Determine the value of p which makes the process $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ a $\mathcal{F}_n$ sub-martingale.

Exercise 7

Let $(Y_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of independent random variables with the same distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ where $\sigma > 0$. Set $\mathscr{F}_n = \sigma(Y_1, \cdots, Y_n)$ and $X_n = Y_1 + \cdots + Y_n$.

1. Show that
$$\mathbb{E}\left[e^{uY_1}\right] = e^{\frac{u^2\sigma^2}{2}}$$

2. Let $Z_n^u = \exp\left(uX_n - n\frac{u^2\sigma^2}{2}\right)$. Show that , for any $u \in \mathbb{R}, (Z_n^u)_{n \geq 1}$ is an $\mathscr{F}$-martingale.

3. Show that for any $u \in \mathbb{R}, (Z_n^u)_{n \geq 1}$ converges almost surely toward a random variable Z_∞^u which is finite.

Exercise 8

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space and let $(X_k)_{k=0,\ldots,n}$ be a sequence of random variables. Let $(\mathcal{G}_k)_{k=0,\ldots,n}$ be the filtration generated by the process $(Y_k)_{k=1,\ldots,n}$ with $\mathcal{G}_0 = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$ and let $\bar{\mathbb{P}}$ be the new probability defined as

$$d\bar{\mathbb{P}} = Z_n d\mathbb{P}, \qquad \text{with} \qquad Z_n = \exp\left(\sigma(Y_1 + \cdots + Y_n) - \frac{n\sigma^2}{2}\right)$$

1. Show that the process $(Z_k)_{k=0,\ldots,n}$ defined for every $k \in 0,\ldots,n$ by $Z_k = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}(Z_n|\mathcal{G}_k)$ is a martingale.

2. Determine $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}(X_{k+1}|\mathcal{G}_k)$ for all $k \in \{0,\ldots,n-1\}$. Deduce the value oof μ such that $(X_k)_{k=0,\ldots,n}$ is a martingale.

3. Show that
$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} = x_0 e^{\mu}$$

4. We consider the process $(\bar{X}_k)_{k=0,\ldots,n}$ defined for every $k \in \{0,\ldots,n\}$ by $\bar{X}_k = e^{-\mu k/n}X_k$. Show that $(\bar{X}_k)_{k=0,\ldots,n}$ is $\mathbb{P}$-martingale.

5. Determine the valuer of σ such that $(\bar{X}_k)_{k=0,\ldots,n}$ is $\bar{\mathbb{P}}$-martingale.

Exercise 9

A stochastic process $(M_n)_{n\geq 0}$ to said to be with independent increments if for any n, the random variable $M_{n+1} - M_n$ is independent from $\mathscr{F} = \sigma(M_0, ..., M_n)$. A real random variable M is square integrable if $\mathbb{E}(M^2)$ is this $\mathbb{E}(M^2) < +\infty$.

1. Let $(M_n)_{n\geq 0}$ be a square integrable with independent increments.

    (a) Show that $\mathbb{E}[M_n] = \mathbb{E}[M_k]$ for every $n \leq k$ and verify that $cov(M_n, M_k) = Var(M_n)$. We recall that for a given random variables X and Y $cov(X,Y) = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y]$.

    (b) We set $\sigma_0^2 = Var(M_0)$ and for $n \geq 0, \sigma_k^2 = Var(M_k - M_{k-1})$. Show that for every $n \geq 0$ $Var(M_n) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \sigma_k^2$.

2. Let $(\langle M_n \rangle)_{n\geq 0}$ be the compensator of the sub-martingale $(M_n^2)_{n\geq 0}$, defined by $\langle M \rangle_0 = 0$ and for any $n \geq 1$ by $\langle M \rangle_n = \langle M_n \rangle = \langle M_{n-1} \rangle + \mathbb{E}[M_n^2 - M_{n-1}^2 | \mathscr{F}_{n-1}]$

    a Show that
    $$\mathbb{E}[M_n^2 - M_{n-1}^2 | \mathscr{F}_{n-1}] = \mathbb{E}[(M_n - M_{n-1})^2 | \mathscr{F}_{n-1}]$$

    b Determine $\langle M \rangle_n$.

    c Deduce that the process defined for every $n \geq 1$ by $M_n^2 - \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sigma_k^2$ is an $\mathscr{F}_n$-martingale.

3. Now, let $(M_n)_{n\geq 0}$ be a gaussian process, means: for any $n \geq 0$ the vector $(M_0, \cdots, M_n)$ is a gaussian vector. Suppose that $(M_n)_{n\geq 0}$ is a martingale.

    (a) Show that for any $k = 0, \ldots, n$, we have $\mathbb{E}(M_k(M_{n+1} - M_n)) = 0$.

    (b) Deduce that $(M_n)_{n\geq 0}$ is with independent increments.

    (c) Show that for any fixed $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ the process
    $$Z_n^\theta = e^{\theta M_n - \theta^2 \langle M_n \rangle /2}$$

    is martingale. Is this process converge almost surely ?

Exercise 10

Let $(S_n)_{n\geq 0}$ be a random walk on $\mathbb{Z} : S_0 = 0, S_n = U_1 + \cdots + U_n$ where the $U_i \in \{x, y\}$ are independent with the same distribution means, $0 < \mathbb{P}(U_i = x) = p < 1, \mathbb{P}(U_i = -y) = 1 - p$, for any $i \in \{1, \cdots, n\}$. We define $(\mathscr{F}_n)_{n\geq 0}$ as the filtration generated by $(S_n)_{n\geq 0}$: $\mathscr{F}_n = \sigma(S_0, \cdots, S_n)$ for every $n \geq 1$, with $\mathcal{F}_0 = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$.

I We set $x = 1, y = 2$. Determine the value of p such that $(S_n)_{n\geq 1}$ is sub-martingale.

    1 Let $\mu = \mathbb{E}(U_1)$ and let $X_n = S_n - n\mu$ for every $n \geq 0$.
        (a) Show that $(X_n)_{n\geq 0}$ is a martingale.
        (b) Let $a > 0$ and let τ be a stopping time defined by
        $$\tau = \inf \{n \geq 0, |X_n| > a\}$$
        Show that for all $n \geq 0, \mathbb{E}(S_{n\wedge\tau})$
        (c) Deduce that $\mathbb{E}(S_\tau) = \mu\mathbb{E}(\tau)$
    2 We set $\sigma^2 = Var(U_1)$ and $Y_n = (S_n - n\mu)^2 - n\sigma^2$ for all $n \geq 0$. Show that $(Y_n)_{n\geq 0}$ is an $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n\geq 0}$-martingale.

II Suppose now $x = y = 1$.

(a) Let $Z_n = (q/p)^{S_n}$. Show that $(Z_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is a positive martingale.

(b) Show that

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{n \geq 0} Z_n \geq (q/p)^k\right) \leq \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)^k.$$

(c) Deduce that

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{n \geq 0} S_n \geq k\right) \leq \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)^k.$$

Exercise 11

We consider a binomial model with N period on an underlying asset S with initial value $S_0 = s_0 > 0$ a constant value. We suppose that any time $n \in \{1, \cdots, N\}$, the value S_n of the asset may go up or go down and the asset take upward value uS_{n-1} and the downward value dS_{n-1}, with $0 < d < r + 1 < u$, where r is the interest and where S_{n-1} is the value asset at time $n - 1$. We suppose we may write down for every $n \geq 1$.

$$S_n = S_{n-1}Y_n$$

where $(Y_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is independent and identical distributed sequence of random variable with

$$Y_n = \begin{cases} u, & \text{with probability } \tilde{p}, \\ d, & \text{with probability } \tilde{q} = 1 - \tilde{p}, \end{cases}$$

with $\tilde{p} = \frac{1+r-d}{u-d}$. We define the updated value $(\tilde{(S_n)}_{n \geq 0})$ of the asset process $(S_n)_{n \geq 0}$ by

$$\bar{S}_n = \frac{1}{(1+r)^n}S_n, \qquad \forall n \geq 0$$

and denote by $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \geq 0}$ the filtration generated by $(Y_n)_{n \geq 1}$ with $\mathcal{F}_0 = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$

1. Show that $(\bar{S}_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is a martingale will response to $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \geq 0}$.

2. We define the process $(V_n)_{n \geq 0}$ by

$$V_n = \Delta_n S_n + (1+r)(V_{n+1} - \Delta_n S_{n-1})$$

where $(\Delta_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is predictable with respect to $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \geq 0}$. Let

$$\bar{V}_n = \frac{1}{(1+r)^n}V_n, \qquad \forall n \geq 0$$

a Show that $(\bar{V})_{n \geq 0}$ is an $\mathcal{F}_n$-martingale.

b We suppose that $V_N = \max(K - S_N, 0)$ for $K > 0$ and $N \geq 1$. Show that

$$V_0 = \frac{1}{(1+r)^N}\mathbb{E}[\max(K - S_N, 0)]$$

c Compute explicitly V_0 when $N = 1$ and $dS_0 < K < uS_0$.

Exercise 12

We consider a gambling where we toss a coin and gain 2 points if Heads appears and loss 2 points when Tails appears. We denote by p the probability that Head appears. Let's X_n denotes our score at the n-th toss of the coin and let $(Y_i)_{i \geq 1}$ be independent and identical distributed sequence of random variables such that

$$Y_i = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{with probability } p, \\ -2, & \text{with probability } 1 - p \end{cases}$$

1. Show that $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is a Markov chain and determine its transition matrix.

2. Compute the following quantities: $\mathbb{P}(X_0 = 0, X_1 = 2, X_2 = 4, X_3 = 6)$ and $\mathbb{P}(X_0 = 0, X_1 = -2, X_2 = 0)$.

Exercise 13

Let $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be a Markov chain defined on $E = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with transition matrix

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/4 & 1/4 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

1. Show that P^2 is a transition matrix

2. Let $j \in E$ and define the number of passage of the Markov Chain at the state j by

$$N_j = \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \mathbf{1}_{\{X_k = j\}}$$

   Compute $E_i(N_1)$ for all $i \in E$

3. Let τ_3 be the shopping time (the first passage time at state 3) defined by $\tau_3 = \inf\{n \geq 0 : X_n = 3\}$. Compute $\mathbb{P}_i(\tau_3 < +\infty)$ for any $i \in E$

4. Show that the Markov Chain is irreducible and recurrent.

5. Determine the invariante probability of the Markov Chain.

6. Deduce for any $i \in E$, the almost sure limit of $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \mathbb{1}_{\{X_k = i\}}$.

7. Compute the almost sure limit of $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} X_k^2$.

Exercise 14

A mobile moves randomly on $\mathbb{Z}$ following Markov Chain with transition matrix P with components

$$P(i, j) = \begin{cases} p, & \text{if } j = i + 1 \\ 1 - p, & \text{if } j = i - 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

with $0 < p < 1$.

1. Let $(Z_n)_{\geq 1}$ be an independent and identical distributed sequence of random variables such that $\mathbb{P}(Z_n = 1) = p, \mathbb{P}(Z_n = -1) = 1 - p$. We set $X_0 = 0$ and $X_n = Z_1 + \cdots + Z_n$. Show that $(X_n)_{n \geq 0})$ is a Markov Chain starting at 0 with transition matrix P.

2. What is the limit of $\lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{n} X_n$? If $p \neq 1/2$, the chain is recurrent or transient ?

3. Set $Y_i = \frac{1}{2}(Z_i + 1)$. What is the distributions of Y_i and $T_n = \frac{1}{2}(X_n + n)$. Compute $P^{(n)}(0, 0) = \mathbb{P}(X_n = 0)$ when n is even and when it is odd.

4. If $p = \frac{1}{2}$, show that the Markov Chain is recurrent. Is it positive recurrent ?

5. We suppose that $p = \frac{1}{2}$, and for $a, b > 0$ we define the stopping times τ_{-a} and τ_b by

$$\tau_{-a} = \inf \{n \geq 0, X_n = -a\} \quad \text{and} \quad \tau_b = \inf \{\tau_b \geq 0, X_n = b\}$$

and set $\tau = \tau_{-a} \wedge \tau_b$.

  a Show that the process defined by $S_n = X_n^2 - n$, for all $n \geq 0$ is martingale.

  b Show that $\mathbb{E}(S_\tau) = 0$ and deduce the values of $\mathbb{P}(\tau_{-a} < \tau_b$ and $\mathbb{P}(\tau_{-a} > \tau_b$.

Exercise 15

Let $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be a Markov Chain with state space $E = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and transition matrix

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/4 & 1/4 & 1/4 & 1/4 \\ 0 & 1/4 & 1/2 & 1/4 \\ 1/4 & 1/2 & 1/4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

1. Calculate the probability that, starting from $i \in E$, the hitting time of $A = \{2, 3\}$ is finite: $\mathbb{P}_i(\tau_A < +\infty)$ for all $i \in E$ where

$$\tau_A = \inf \{= n \geq 0, X_n \in A\}$$

2. Calculate the expectation of the time until reaching A starting from $i \in E : \mathbb{E}_i(\tau_A)$

3. Compute $\mathbb{P}_i(\tau_1 < \tau_2)$ for $i \in E$.

Exercise 16

Consider the total growth process $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ defined by $X_0 = 0$ and for every $n \geq 1$ by

$$X_n = Y_1 + \cdots + X_n$$

where $(Y_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is independent and identical distributed sequence of the random variable valued in $\{-d, e\}, d, e > 0$ satisfying for any $n \geq 1, \mathbb{P}(Y_n = -d) = q$ and $\mathbb{P}(Y_n = e) = p$ with $q = 1 - p$. Let $(\bar{X}_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be a stochastic process define by $\bar{X}_0 = 0$ and for any $n \geq 1$, by

$$\bar{X}_n = \bar{Y}_1 + \cdots + \bar{Y}_n \quad \text{with} \quad \bar{Y}_k = \frac{1}{e + d}(2Y_k + d - e), \quad k \geq n$$

Let E be the set of values taken by $(\bar{X}_n)_{n \geq 0}$ and let $-b, a \in E$ with $a, b > 0$. Define the stopping time τ by

$$\tau = \tau_{-b} \wedge \tau_a \quad \text{with} \quad \tau_l = \inf \{k \geq 0, \bar{X}_k = l\}, \quad \text{for} l \in \{-b, a\}$$

1. Is the process $(\bar{X})_{n \geq 0}$ a martingale with respect to its natural filtration ? Justify your answer.

2. We set $A_n = \left\{ -b < \bar{X}_n < a \right\}$ for any $n \geq 0$. Prove that

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau = +\infty) = \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{n \geq 0} A_n \right) \leq \lim_{n \to +\infty} \mathbb{P}(A_n).$$

3. Use the Central Limit Theorem 1 and the result 2 to show that τ is finite almost surely.

4. We define the process $(Z_n)_{n \geq 0}$ by $Z_n = (q/p)^{\bar{X}_n}$, for every $n \geq 0$. Show that there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that $\sup_{n \geq 0} \mathbb{E}(|Z_{n \wedge \tau}|) < C$

5. Show that the process $(Z_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is a martingale with respect to the natural filtration of the process $(\bar{X}_n)_{n \geq 0}$ and that $\mathbb{E}(Z_\tau) = 1$

6. Show that

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau_{-b} < \tau_a) = \frac{1 - (q/p)^a}{(q/p)^{-b} - (q/p)^a} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P}(\tau_a < \tau_{-b}) = \frac{(q/p)^{-b} - 1}{(q/p)^{-b} - (q/p)^a}$$

Exercise 17

Let $(Z_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of independent random variables such that $\mathbb{P}(Z_n = 1) = p, \mathbb{P}(Z_n = -1) = 1 - p$. Define the random walk $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ by $X_0 = x \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $X_n = Z_1 + \cdots + Z_n$. Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ be such that $a < x < b$ and let τ_y be the stopping time defined by $\tau_y = \inf \{n \geq 0, X_n \geq y\}$, for $y \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$\mathbb{P}_x(\tau_b < \tau_a) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^{x-a} - 1}{\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^{b-a} - 1}, & \text{if } p \neq q, \\ \dfrac{x - a}{b - a}, & \text{if } p = q. \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

1. We define $\phi(x, l) = \mathbb{P}_x(\tau_l < \tau_0)$, for $0 < x < l \in \mathbb{Z}$. Show that $\mathbb{P}_x(\tau_b < \tau_a) = \phi(x-a, b-a)$, for $a < x < b$. What are the values of $\phi(0, l)$ and $\phi(l, l)$?

2. Suppose that $a = 0$ and $b = l$ and define $\delta(x) = \phi(x+1, l) - \phi(x, l)$ for $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$.

   (a) Show that for all $x \in \mathbb{N}^*, p\delta(x) = q\delta(x-1)$.

   (b) Deduce that $\delta(x) = \left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^x \delta(0)$.

   (c) We suppose that $q \neq p$

      i. Show that $\delta(0) = \dfrac{\frac{q}{p} - 1}{\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^l - 1}$

      ii. Using the previous parts show that $\phi(x, l) = \dfrac{\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^x - 1}{\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^l - 1}$

   (d) We suppose that $p = q$. Show that in this case $\delta(0) = 1/l$ and that $\phi(x, l) = x/l$.

3. Deduce the equation (1).

4. Let $x > 0$. Observing that $\mathbb{P}_x(\tau_0 < +\infty) = \lim_{l \to +\infty} \mathbb{P}_x(\tau_0 < \tau_l)$, show that

$$\mathbb{P}_x(\tau_0 < +\infty) = \begin{cases} (q/p)x, & \text{if } p > 1/2, \\ 1, & \text{if } p \leq 1/2. \end{cases} \tag{2}$$