

# Applied Stochastic Processes Notes

Trevor Winstrol

Spring Semester 2021



# Contents

<b>0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Markov Chains and Generalities</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1	Transition Probabilities . . . . .	8
1.2	Existence . . . . .	10
1.3	Simple Markov Property . . . . .	11
1.4	n-Step Transition Probabilities . . . . .	12
1.5	Stationary Distributions . . . . .	12
1.6	Reversibility . . . . .	13
1.7	Communication Classes . . . . .	14
1.8	Strong Markov Property . . . . .	15
<b>2</b>	<b>Markov Chains: Long Time Behavior</b>	<b>17</b>
2.1	Recurrence/Transience . . . . .	17
2.2	Recurrence/Transience for the SRW on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ . . . . .	19
2.3	Classification of States . . . . .	20
2.4	Positive/Null Recurrence . . . . .	22
2.5	Stationary Distributions for Irreducible Chains . . . . .	24
2.6	Periodicity . . . . .	26
2.7	Coupling Method . . . . .	26
2.8	Convergence for Irreducible Aperiodic Chains . . . . .	30
<b>3</b>	<b>Renewal Processes</b>	<b>33</b>
3.1	Definition and First Properties . . . . .	33
3.2	Renewal Function . . . . .	34
3.3	Blackwell's Renewal Theorem . . . . .	34
3.4	Renewal Equation . . . . .	34
3.5	Asymptotic Behavior . . . . .	36

<b>4</b>	<b>General Poisson Point Processes</b>	<b>39</b>
4.1	Introduction . . . . .	39
4.2	Point Processes . . . . .	40
4.3	Poisson Point Processes . . . . .	40
4.4	Existence and Uniqueness . . . . .	40
4.5	Laplace Functional . . . . .	41
4.6	Simple Processes . . . . .	41
4.7	Mapping and Restriction . . . . .	42
4.8	Marking . . . . .	42
4.9	Standard Poisson Process . . . . .	43
4.10	Exponential Random Variables . . . . .	43
4.11	Definition of Poisson Processes . . . . .	44
4.12	Markov Property . . . . .	44
4.13	Stationary and Independent Increments . . . . .	44
4.14	Finite Marginals Characterization . . . . .	45
4.15	Microscopic Characterization . . . . .	45
4.16	Properties of Poisson Process . . . . .	46
<b>5</b>	<b>Continuous Time Markov Chains</b>	<b>47</b>
5.1	Definition via Generator . . . . .	48
5.2	Non-Rigorous Section: The Constructive Approach . . . . .	49
5.3	Definition by Skeleton and Holding Time . . . . .	49
5.4	Markov Properties . . . . .	51
5.5	Transition Probabilities . . . . .	51

# Chapter 0

## Introduction

**Mathematical Definition of Stochastic Processes** We want to describe a process evolving in time. The most relevant for us will be: Discrete time ( $I = \mathbb{N}$ ) and Continuous time ( $I = \mathbb{R}$ ).

**Definition 0.1.** Let  $(E, \xi)$  be a measurable space. A discrete stochastic process with state space  $E$  is a collection  $X = (X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of RVs with values in  $E$ .

**Definition 0.2.** A continuous stochastic process is a collection  $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+}$  of RVs with values in  $E$ .

In this class we will work with jump processes, ie when  $E$  is finite or countable. We will work with:

- (i) Discrete time Markov Chains  $I = \mathbb{N}$  and  $E$  finite or countable
- (ii) Poisson renewal processes  $I = \mathbb{R}_+$  and  $E = \mathbb{N}$
- (iii) Continuous Markov Chains  $I = \mathbb{R}_+$  and  $E$  finite or countable

We will not work with Brownian Motion.

*Example 0.1* (Simple Random Walk). State Space  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ ,  $x, y$  are neighbors  $\Leftrightarrow \|x - y\|_1 = 1$ . An electron is starting at 0, and each step it jumps uniformly to one of the neighbors. How should we define this?

**Definition 0.3** (SRW). Let  $(Z_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  iid,  $\mathbb{P}[Z_n = \pm e_i] = \frac{1}{2d}$  where  $e_i$  is 1 in the  $i$ 'th slot.  $X_n := \sum_{k=1}^n Z_k = X_n + Z_{n+1}$ ,  $X_0 = 1$ .  $\forall m, n$   $X_m$  and  $X_n$  are dependent. The  $X_n$  do satisfy the Markov property: Conditional on  $X_n = x$  then  $(X_{m+n})_{n \geq 0}$  is a SRW starting at  $x$  independent of  $(X_1, \dots, X_m)$ .

Will the SRW return to 0?

**Theorem 0.1** (Polya).

If  $d = 1, 2$  then  $\mathbb{P}[(X_n) \text{ visits } x \text{ infinitely many times}] = 1$

If  $d \geq 3$  then  $\mathbb{P}[(X_n) \text{ visits } x \text{ only finitely many times}] = 1$

*Example 0.2* (Poisson Process). We want to define and study  $N_t$  the number of cars passing a point during  $[0, t]$ .

**Definition 0.4.**  $T_1$  = passage of time of the first car,  $T_2$  = time between car 1 and car 2, etc.

- $(T_i)$  are iid
- $(T_i)$  are memoryless:  $\mathbb{P}[T_1 \geq t + s | T_1 \geq s] = \mathbb{P}[T_1 \geq t]$
- Regularity:  $\mathbb{P}[T_1 \geq s]$  is 'nice'

This implies that  $\mathbb{P}[T_1 \geq s] = e^{-\lambda s}$ ,  $\lambda > 0$

Let  $(T_i)_{i \geq 1}$  iid  $\exp(\lambda)$  RV.  $N_t = \sum_{i \geq 1} \chi_{T_1 + \dots + T_i \leq t}$

Dependencies:

- $N_{t+s} - N_t \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda s)$
- Markov Property

LLN:  $\frac{N_t}{t} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\lambda}$

# Chapter 1

## Markov Chains and Generalities

**Framework:**  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$  Probability Space,  $E$  finite or countable set with the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $2^E$

**Outset** We would like to define a class of processes such that the evolution of the process is memoryless, but still location dependent. This means that the way a process continues past this point in time, does not depend on how it got to where it is now, but only on where it is at this point in time.

**Definition 1.1.** A sequence  $X_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$  of random variables with values in  $E$  is a (time homogeneous) Markov Chain (MC) if:

(i) For all  $n \geq 0$  and  $x_1, \dots, x_{n+1} \in E$

$$\boxed{\mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n] = \mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_n = x_n]}.$$

(ii) For all  $m, n \geq 0$  and  $x, y \in E$

$$\boxed{\mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = y | X_n = x] = \mathbb{P}[X_{n+1=y} | X_n = x]}.$$

By convention when we write  $\mathbb{P}[A|B]$  we assume  $\mathbb{P}[B] > 0$ .

*Remark 1.1.* The first condition is equivalent to for all  $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  bounded,  $\mathbb{E}[f(X_{n+1}) | X_0, \dots, X_n] = \mathbb{E}[f(X_{n+1}) | X_n]$

*Example 1.1.* If  $X_n$  are i.i.d. in  $E$  then  $X_n$  is a Markov Chain

*Example 1.2.* SRW on  $\mathbb{Z}^d$

## 1.1 Transition Probabilities

**Motivation** In a finite state space  $E = \{1, 2, 3\}$ , then we write the probability to go from 1 to 2 as  $p_{12}$ . We would like to write these probabilities in a matrix.

**Definition 1.2.** A transition probability is a collection  $p = (p_{x,y})_{x,y \in E}$  such that:

- For any  $x, y \in E$ :  $p_{x,y} \in [0, 1]$
- $\sum_{y \in E} p_{x,y} = 1$

We could also represent this as a weighted directional graph with vertices  $E$  and weighted oriented edges:  $\{(x, y) \in E : p_{x,y} > 0\}$ . We know there is a 1 to 1 correspondence between directional graphs and matrices.

**Matrix** So say  $E = \{1, \dots, N\}$  and  $p = (p_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq N}$  with  $p_{ij} \geq 0$  and  $\sum_j p_{ij} = 1$ . We call this a stochastic matrix.

**Operator** If  $E$  is finite or infinite then  $\forall f \in L^\infty(E)$  define  $Pf \in L^\infty(E)$  by  $Pf(x) = \sum_{y \in E} p_{x,y} f(y)$  with  $P \geq 0$  ( $\forall f \geq 0 : Pf \geq 0$ ) and satisfies  $P1 = 1$ .

**Definition 1.3.** Let  $p$  be a transition probability,  $\psi$  distribution on  $E$ , a sequence  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  of random variables with values in  $E$  is a Markov Chain with initial distribution  $\mu$  and transition probability  $p$  (written  $MC(\psi, p)$ ) if for  $x_0, \dots, x_n \in E$

$$\mathbb{P}[X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n] = \mu(x_0) p_{x_0, x_1} \cdots p_{x_{n-1}, x_n}.$$

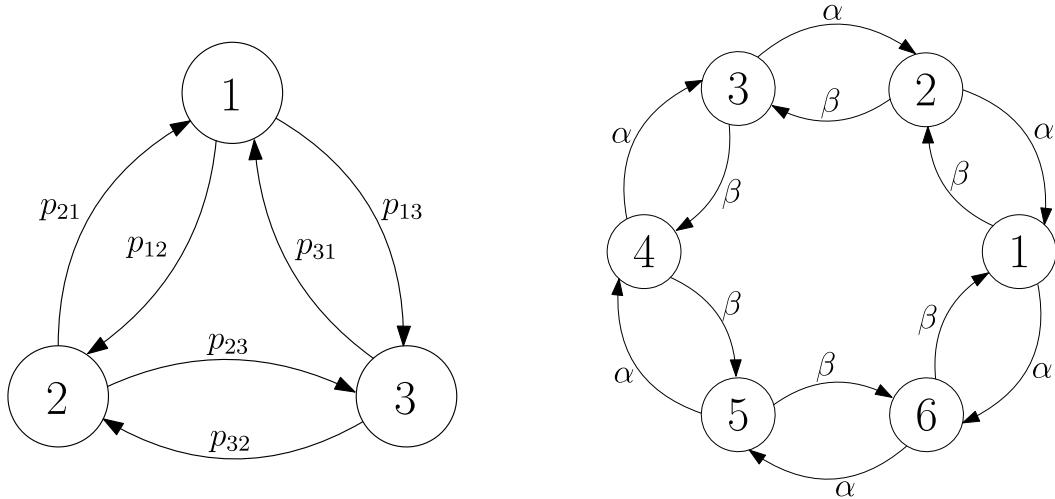


Figure 1.1: 3-State Markov Chain and 6-State (asymmetric) Markov Chain



**Proposition 1.2.** *Let  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  sequence of random variables with values in  $E$ :*

$$(X_n)_{n \geq 1} \text{ is a Markov Chain} \Leftrightarrow \exists \mu, p \text{ such that } (X_n)_n \text{ is a MC}(\mu, p).$$

*Proof.*  $\Rightarrow$  : If  $X_n$  is a Markov Chain, then set  $p_{xy} = \mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = y | X_n = x]$ .  $\sum_{y \in E} p_{xy} = 1$ , as the conditional probability is a probability measure itself, and  $p_{xy} \geq 0, \forall x, y \in E$  for the same reason. Thus we have that the collection of  $(p_{xy})_{x, y \in E}$  form a transition probability. Setting  $\mu(x) = \mathbb{P}[X_0 = x]$ , which is also clearly a probability measure on  $E$ . Now we only have to show that  $X_n$  is a MC( $\mu, p$ ). For every  $x_0, \dots, x_n \in E$ , and every  $n \geq 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n] &= \mathbb{P}[X_n = x_n | X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_{n-1} = x_{n-1}] \mathbb{P}[X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_{n-1} = x_{n-1}] \\ &= \mathbb{P}[X_0 = x_0] \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}[X_i = x_i | X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_{i-1} = x_{i-1}] \\ &= \mu(x_0) \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}[X_i = x_i | X_{i-1} = x_{i-1}] = \mu(x_0) \prod_{i=1}^n p_{x_{i-1}x_i}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have proven this implication, by using the Markov Property of Markov Chains.

$\Leftarrow$  : Here we have to show the two aspects of a Markov chain, the Markov Property and homogeneity. For homogeneity we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = y | X_n = x] &= \sum_{(u_0, \dots, u_{n-1}) \in E^n} \mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = y | X_0 = u_0, \dots, X_{n-1} = u_{n-1}, X_n = x] * \\ &\quad \mathbb{P}[X_0 = u_0, \dots, X_{n-1} = u_{n-1} | X_n = x] \\ &= p_{xy} \sum_{(u_0, \dots, u_{n-1}) \in E^n} \mathbb{P}[X_0 = u_0, \dots, X_{n-1} = u_{n-1} | X_n = x] = p_{xy}. \end{aligned}$$

here we have implicitly (sneakily) assumed that  $\mathbb{P}[X_n = x] > 0$ , as without this the conditional probability we are taking is not well-defined.

For the Markov Property we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n] &= \frac{\mathbb{P}[X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_{n+1} = x_{n+1}]}{\mathbb{P}[X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n]} \\ &= \frac{\mu(x_0) p_{x_0 x_1} \cdots p_{x_n x_{n+1}}}{\mu(x_0) p_{x_0 x_1} \cdots p_{x_{n-1} x_n}} \\ &= p_{x_n x_{n+1}} = \mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_n = x_n]. \end{aligned}$$

Where it is important to note that, again, we have implicitly assumed that  $\mu(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{n-1}x_n} > 0$ .

□

**Question** Given  $\mu, p$  does  $\text{MC}(\mu, p)$  always exist (as a Markov Chain)?

## 1.2 Existence

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $p$  be a transition probability on  $E$ . Then there exists:*

- (i) *a measurable space  $(\Omega, F)$*
- (ii) *a collection of probability measures  $(P_x)_x$  on  $(\Omega, F)$*
- (iii) *a sequence of random variables  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  on  $(\Omega, F)$  such that for all  $x \in E$ , under  $P_x$ ,  $(X_n)$  is  $\text{MC}(\delta_x, p)$*

There are 2 approaches to prove this.

One could set  $\Omega = E^{\mathbb{N}}$ ,  $\mathbb{P}[(x_0, \dots, x_n) | x \in E^n] = \delta_x(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{n-1}x_n}$ . Instead we will work as follows:

*Proof.* We consider a measure  $\mu$  on  $E$  such that  $\forall x \in E : \mu(x) > 0$  on some abstract probability space (this part is of technical relevance)  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ . Now we look at a random variable  $X_0$  with distribution  $\mu$ , and  $U_1, U_2, \dots$  independent, uniformly distributed, random variables on  $[0, 1]$  (we know these exist from previous probability lectures). Our goal is to use these uniform random variables to produce the probabilities given by the transition probabilities, in a way similar to Sklar's Theorem (knowledge of Sklar's is not needed here). To do this we enumerate  $E = \{x_i, i \in I\}$  where  $I$  is our index set (eg.  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  or  $\mathbb{N}$ ) and set  $s_{ij} = \sum_{k < j} p_{x_i x_k}$ . Note here that  $s_{i,j+1} - s_{i,j} = p_{x_i x_j}$ . Finally, set  $\Phi : E \times [0, 1] \rightarrow E; (x_i, u) \mapsto x_j$  if  $u \in (s_{i,j}, s_{i,j+1}]$ , a measurable function. Now we have  $X_0$  as needed and the tools to construct the sequence of random variables, along with the collection of probability measures we want.

What these tools have given us is that  $\mathbb{P}[\Phi(x, U_1) = y] = p_{xy}$ . So if we set  $X_{n+1} = \Phi(X_n, U_{n+1})$  for every  $n > 0$  (by induction), we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n] &= \mathbb{P}[X_0 = x_0, \Phi(x_0, U_1) = x_1, \dots, \Phi(x_{n-1}, U_n) = x_n] \\ &= \mu(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{n-1}x_n}, \end{aligned}$$

by independence.

Now if we define  $\mathbb{P}_x$  as  $\mathbb{P}[\cdot | X_0 = x]$ , then we have  $\forall x \in E \mathbb{P}_x[X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n] = \delta_x(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{n-1}x_n}$ .

□

**Framework for the rest of the chapter**  $E$  is finite or countable,  $p$  transition probability,  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (P_x)_{x \in E})$  Prob. Spaces,  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  random variables such that it is a MC( $\delta_x, p$ ) under  $P_x$ .

For  $\mu$  Prob measure on  $E$  we write  $P_\mu = \sum_x \mu(x) P_x$

## 1.3 Simple Markov Property

Under  $P_\mu$   $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is MC( $\mu, p$ ).  $P_\mu[X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n] = P_\mu[X_{n+1} = x_{n+1} | X_n = x_n] = P_{x_n}[X_1 = x_{n+1}]$  i.e. Conditional on  $X_n = x$ ,  $x_{n+1}$  is sampled like the first step of a MC( $\delta_x, p$ ) independent of the past.

**Notation**  $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(X_0, \dots, X_n)$

**Theorem 1.4** (Simple Markov Property (SiMP)). *Let  $\mu$  be a distribution on  $E$ . Let  $x \in E, k \in \mathbb{N}$ . For every  $f : E^\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  measurable and bounded, for every  $Z$  bounded which is  $\mathcal{F}_k$  measurable random variable:*

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}_\mu[f((X_{k+n})_{n \geq 0})Z | X_k = x_k] = \mathbb{E}_{x_k}[f((X_n)_{n \geq 0})] \mathbb{E}_\mu[Z | X_k = x_k].}$$

*Proof.* First note that using  $Z = \mathbb{1}_{X_0=x_0, \dots, X_{k-1}=x_{k-1}}$  we only have to prove that  $\mathbb{E}_\mu[f((X_{k+n})_{n \geq 0}) | X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_k = x_k] = \mathbb{E}_{x_k}[f((X_n)_{n \geq 0})]$ . We will proceed using measure theoretic induction (see any book on measure theory). Approximate  $f$  by step functions  $f_k$ , using linearity, we only have to show our claim for the function  $\mathbb{1}_A$  with  $A \subset E^\mathbb{N}$ , i.e.

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu[(X_{k+n})_{n \geq 0} \in A | X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_k = x_k] = \mathbb{P}_{x_k}[(X_n)_{n \geq 0} \in A].$$

The collection of sets of the form  $A = \{w \in E^\mathbb{N} : w_0 = y_0, \dots, w_N = y_N\}$  for  $N \geq 0$  and  $y_0, \dots, y_N \in E$  form a  $\pi$  system generating our  $\sigma$ -algebra. Furthermore, on such sets

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_\mu[(X_{k+n})_{n \geq 0} \in A | X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_k = x_k] &= \mathbb{P}_\mu[X_k = y_0, \dots, X_{k+N} = y_N | X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_k = x_k] \\ &= \frac{\mu(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{k-1}x_k} \delta_{x_k}(y_0)p_{y_0y_1} \cdots p_{y_{N-1}y_N}}{\mu(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{k-1}x_k}} \\ &= \delta_{x_k}(y_0)p_{y_0y_1} \cdots p_{y_{N-1}y_N} \\ &= \mathbb{P}_{x_k}[(X_n)_{n \geq 0} \in A]. \end{aligned}$$

Dynkin's Lemma then allows us to extend this property to the entire  $\sigma$ -algebra. □

**Corollary 1.5.** *Let  $\mu$  be a distribution on  $E$ ,  $x \in E, k \in \mathbb{N}, \forall f : E^\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  measurable and bounded:*

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}_\mu[f((X_{k+n})_{n \geq 0}) | X_k = x] = \mathbb{E}_x[f((X_n)_{n \geq 0})].}$$

## 1.4 n-Step Transition Probabilities

**Definition 1.4.** For every  $n \geq 0$ ,  $x, y \in E$ , define  $p_{xy}^{(n)} = P_x[X_n = y]$

**Proposition 1.6** (Chapman Kolmogorov (CK)).

$$\forall m, n \geq 0 \forall x, y \in E \quad \boxed{p_{xy}^{(m+n)} = \sum_{z \in E} p_{xz}^{(m)} p_{zy}^{(n)}}.$$

*Proof.* Fix  $m, n$  and  $x, y \in E$ .

$$\begin{aligned} p_{xy}^{(m+n)} &= \mathbb{P}_x[X_{m+n} = y] = \sum_{z \in E} \mathbb{P}_x[X_{m+n} | X_m = z] \mathbb{P}_x[X_m = z] \\ &\stackrel{(\text{SiMP})}{=} \sum_{z \in E} \mathbb{P}_z[X_n = y] \mathbb{P}_x[X_m = z] = \sum_{z \in E} p_{xz}^{(m)} p_{zy}^{(n)}. \end{aligned}$$

□

*Remark 1.7.* If  $E$  is finite:

- The matrix  $(p_{ij}^{(n)})_{ij \leq 0} = P^n$
- For  $\mu$  a distribution on  $E$  the following holds for any  $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathbb{E}_\mu[f(X_n)] = \mu P^n f,$$

for any  $n \geq 0$ , with  $f = [f(1), \dots, f(n)]^T$ .

## 1.5 Stationary Distributions

**Motivation:** write  $\mu_n$  as the law of  $X_n$  under  $P_\mu$ ,  $\mu_0 = \mu$  and  $\mu_{n+1} = \mu_n P$ . For  $n$  large  $\mu_n$  is a fixed point of the map  $\lambda \rightarrow \lambda P = (\sum_{x \in E} \lambda(z) p_{xy})_{y \in E}$

**Definition 1.5.** Let  $\pi$  be a distribution on  $E$ , we say that  $\pi$  is stationary (for  $p$ ) if for  $y \in E$

$$\boxed{\pi(y) = \sum_{x \in E} \pi(x) p_{xy}}.$$

**Linear Algebra interpretation** If  $E$  is finite and we write  $\pi = [\pi(1), \dots, \pi(n)]^T$ , then

$$\boxed{\pi \text{ is stationary} \Leftrightarrow \pi P = \pi},$$

i.e.  $\pi$  is a left eigenvector of  $P$  for the eigenvalue 1.

**Probabilistic interpretation** If  $\pi$  is a stationary distribution, then  $\forall n \geq 0$   $P_\pi[X_n = x] = \pi(x)$

Basically, no matter how far along you are in the chain, the probability that you land on a value  $x$  is equal to the probability that you start at  $x$ .

## 1.6 Reversibility

**Definition 1.6.** A distribution  $\pi$  on  $E$  is said to be reversible (for  $p$ ) if for any  $x, y \in E$

$$\boxed{\pi(x)p_{xy} = \pi(y)p_{yx}}.$$

The probability of starting at  $y$  and going to  $x$  is equal to the probability of starting at  $x$  and going to  $y$ . More generally, one can prove by induction that  $\pi$  is reversible  $\Leftrightarrow \forall n; \forall x_0, \dots, x_n : \mathbb{P}_\pi[X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n] = \mathbb{P}_\pi[X_0 = x_n, \dots, X_n = x_0]$ .

**Motivation** We want an easy criterion for invariance, such reversible systems appear often in physics.

**Proposition 1.8.** Let  $\pi$  be a distribution on  $E$ , if  $\pi$  is reversible, then  $\pi$  is stationary.

*Proof.*

$$\sum_{x \in E} \pi(x)p_{xy} = \sum_{x \in E} \pi(y)p_{yx} = \pi(y) \sum_{x \in E} p_{yx} = \pi(y).$$

□

*Example 1.3* (Gas in Containers (Ehrenfest Model)). Imagine there are two containers  $A$  and  $B$  with gas particles, between them is a small hole through which the particles can pass through. At every step a single particle is selected uniformly at random and passes through this hole. To represent this mathematically, let  $X_n$  be the number of particles in  $A$  at time  $n$ , and let there be  $N$  total particles. We assume that the system in time homogeneous (time plays no role in its evolution, only its current state) and is memoryless (again only the current state of the system plays a role). This gives us the inspiration to model  $X_n$  as a Markov Chain. The transition probabilities are given by  $p_{x,x+1} = 1 - \frac{x}{N}$ , as in order for  $X_n$  to grow by 1, the randomly selected particle must be from container  $B$ ; this occurs with probability  $\frac{\# \text{ of particles in } B}{\# \text{ of total particles}} = \frac{N-x}{N}$ . The only other option is for the amount of particles in  $A$  to decrease by 1, by the fact that the transition probabilities must sum to 1 we find:  $p_{x,x-1} = \frac{x}{N}$ . Now we wonder if it is possible to find a stationary distribution, this would represent the equilibrium distribution of particles (see the different interpretations above). To find this distribution, we instead simplify and see if we can find a reversible distribution, i.e.  $\pi(x)p_{x,x+1} = \pi(x+1)p_{x+1,x}$ . We then use this to calculate  $\pi(x)$  explicitly and see if this defines a proper distribution.

$$\pi(x+1) = \frac{\pi(x)(1 - \frac{x}{N})}{\frac{x+1}{N}} = \pi(x) \frac{N-x}{x+1} \stackrel{\text{(Induction)}}{=} \pi(0) \frac{N \cdots (N-x)}{(x+1)!}.$$

Thus we find that  $\pi(x) = \binom{N}{x}\pi(0)$ ,  $\pi$  should define a distribution. This entails that the total mass of  $\pi$  be 1, i.e.  $\sum_{x \in E} \pi(x) = 1$ . Hence we find

$$\pi(0) = \left( \sum_{x \in E} \binom{N}{x} \right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{2^N}.$$

Hence,  $\pi(x) = \binom{N}{x} \frac{1}{2^N}$ , the binomial distribution; which is (as we have shown) reversible. When  $X_{n+1}$  is distributed like  $X_n$  (equilibrium) then the number of particles in  $A$  is distributed as  $\text{Bin}(N, \frac{1}{2})$ .

## 1.7 Communication Classes

Here we will see  $p$  as a weighted oriented graph.

**Definition 1.7.** Let  $x, y \in E$ . We say that " $y$  can be reached from  $x$ " if there exists an  $n \geq 0$  such that  $p_{xy}^{(n)} > 0$  and we write  $x \rightarrow y$ . Furthermore, we say that " $x$  and  $y$  communicate" if  $y$  can be reached from  $x$  and  $x$  can be reached from  $y$ , we write  $x \leftrightarrow y$ .

**Proposition 1.9.**  $\leftrightarrow$  is an equivalence class on  $E$

*Proof.* Let  $x, y, z \in E$  and  $m, n \geq 0$  such that  $p_{xy}^{(m)} > 0$  and  $p_{yz}^{(n)} > 0$ .

- (i) Transitivity:  $p_{xz}^{(m+n)} \geq p_{xy}^{(m)} p_{yz}^{(n)} > 0$  thus we know that  $x \rightarrow z$ , we can apply the same argument in the other direction as well.
- (ii) Reflexivity:  $p_{xx}^{(0)} = \mathbb{P}_x[X_0 = x] = 1 > 0$ , hence  $x \leftrightarrow x$ .
- (iii) Symmetry: Trivial.

□

**Definition 1.8.** The equivalence classes of  $\leftrightarrow$  are called communication classes, and if there is a single unique communication class for a chain  $p$ , we say that  $p$  is irreducible.

**Motivation** We will see that  $p$  irreducible implies that  $p$  has at most one stationary distribution.

**Definition 1.9.** A communication class  $C$  is closed if for any  $x, y \in E$

$$x \in C, x \rightarrow y \implies y \in C.$$

"If you start in  $C$  you never leave."

## 1.8 Strong Markov Property

**Definition 1.10.** Let  $T : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{+\infty\}$  random variable with values in  $\mathbb{N} \cup \{+\infty\}$ . We say that  $T$  is an  $(\mathcal{F}_n)$ -stopping time if for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$\{T = n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n.$$

*Example 1.4* (Stopping Times).  $H_A = \min\{n \geq 0 : X_n \in A\}$  (for  $A$  measurable) and  $H_x = \min\{n \geq 0 : X_n = x\}$  are stopping times.

**Definition 1.11.** Let  $T$  be a stopping time.  $\mathcal{F}_T = \{A \in \mathcal{F} : \forall n \in \mathbb{N} : \{T = n\} \cap A \in \mathcal{F}_n\}$

**Theorem 1.10** (Strong Markov Property (SMP)). *Let  $\mu$  be a distribution on  $E$ ,  $T$  an  $\mathcal{F}_n$ -stopping time. Let  $x \in E$ , then for all  $f : E^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  measurable and bounded, and  $Z$  which are  $\mathcal{F}_T$  measurable and bounded, we have:*

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}_\mu [f((X_{T+n})_{n \geq 0}) \cdot Z | T < \infty, X_T = x] = \mathbb{E}_x [f((X_n)_{n \geq 0})] \mathbb{E}_\mu [Z | T < \infty, X_T = x].}$$

"Conditioned on  $\{T < \infty, X_T = x\}$ ,  $(X_{T+n})_{n \geq 0}$  is a  $\text{MC}(\delta_x, p)$  independent of  $F_T$  "

*Proof.* We will multiply each side of the equation by  $\mathbb{P}[T < \infty, X_T = x]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_\mu [f((X_{T+n})_{n \geq 0}) Z \mathbb{1}_{T < \infty, X_T = x}] &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \mathbb{E}_\mu [f((X_{k+n})_{n \geq 0}) Z \mathbb{1}_{T=k, X_T=k}] \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \mathbb{E}_\mu [f((X_{k+n})_{n \geq 0}) Z \mathbb{1}_{T=k} | X_k = x] \mathbb{P}_\mu [X_k = x] \\ &\stackrel{(\text{SiMP})}{=} \sum_{k \geq 0} \mathbb{E}_x [f((X_n)_{n \geq 0})] \mathbb{E}_\mu [Z \mathbb{1}_{T=k, X_k=x}] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_x [f((X_n)_{n \geq 0})] \sum_{k \geq 0} \mathbb{E}_\mu [Z \mathbb{1}_{T=k, X_k=x}] = \mathbb{E}_x [f((X_n)_{n \geq 0})] \mathbb{E}_\mu [Z \mathbb{1}_{T < \infty, X_T=x}]. \end{aligned}$$

□

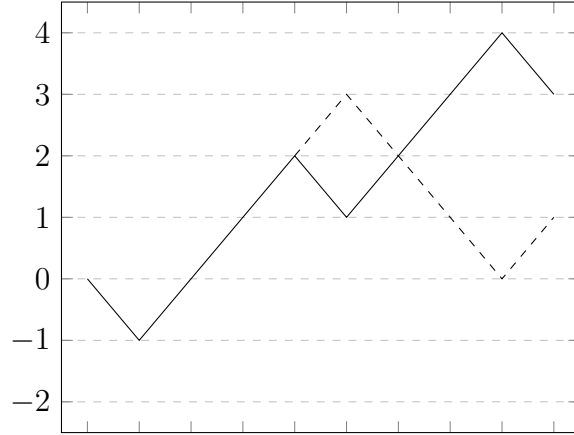
**Application** Reflection Principle for the SRW.

Consider the SRW on  $\mathbb{Z}$ :

**Proposition 1.11.** *Let  $k \geq 0$  even,  $a \geq 1$  odd:  $\mathbb{P}_0 [\max_{0 \leq m \leq k} X_m \geq a] = \mathbb{P}_0 [|X_k| \geq a]$*

*Proof.* Define  $H_a = \min\{n \geq 1 : X_n = a\}$ , this is a stopping time.

$$\mathbb{P}_0 \left[ \max_{0 \leq m \leq k} X_m \geq a \right] = \mathbb{P}_0 [H_a \leq k] = \mathbb{P}_0 [X_k > a] + \mathbb{P}_0 [H_a \leq k, X_k < a].$$

Figure 1.2: Example of a reflected simple random walk for  $a = 2$ 

Now our goal is to show the term on the right is equal to  $\mathbb{P}_0[X_k > a]$ , as  $2\mathbb{P}_0[X_k > a] = \mathbb{P}_0[|X_k| > a]$  by symmetry. We can go from  $>$  to  $\geq$  because  $a$  is even and  $k$  is odd. At this point we note that  $X_{H_a+n}$  is distributed as  $a + (a - X_{H_a+n}) = 2a - X_{H_a+n}$ . Geometrically, this means that if we only look at the walk after hitting  $a$ , the walk has the same distribution if we inverse the direction of each step: 'looking at the path after hitting  $a$ , we cannot tell if it is the normal or the inverted step walk'.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{P}_0[H_a \leq k, X_k < a] &= \sum_{m=0}^k \mathbb{P}_0[X_k < a, H_a = m] = \sum_{m=0}^k \mathbb{P}_a[X_{k-m} < a] \mathbb{P}_0[H_a = m] \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^k \mathbb{P}_a[X_{k-m} > a] \mathbb{P}_0[H_a = m] = \sum_{m=0}^k \mathbb{P}_0[X_{k-m} > a, H_a = m] \\
 &= \mathbb{P}_0[X_k > a, H_a \leq k] = \mathbb{P}_0[X_k > a].
 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Conclusion** Now we have properly defined a Markov Chain, shown its existence, and introduced some concepts to help classify different types of chains. Importantly, we have also introduced the transition probability framework.



# Chapter 2

## Markov Chains: Long Time Behavior

**Outset** With the tools and classification concepts introduced previously, we would like to expand upon these to rigorously classify chains.

**Framework:**  $E$  finite or countable,  $p = (p_{xy})_{x,y \in E}$  transition probabilities,  $(\Omega, F, (\mathbb{P}_x)_{x \in E})$ ,  $X = (X_n)_{n \geq 0} \sim MC(\delta_x, p)$  under  $\mathbb{P}_x$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_\mu = \sum \mu(x) \mathbb{P}_x$ .

**Questions:**

- When does there exist a stationary distribution?
- What is the behavior of  $X_n$  for  $n$  large?
- If we fix  $x \in E$ , will the chain visit  $x$  infinitely many times?

### 2.1 Recurrence/Transience

**Notation**  $H_x = \min\{n \geq 1 : X_n = x\}$

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $x \in E$ , we say that:

- $x$  is recurrent if  $\boxed{\mathbb{P}_x[H_x < \infty] = 1}$ .
- $x$  is transient if  $\boxed{\mathbb{P}_x[H_x < \infty] < 1}$ .

**Notation:** For  $x \in E$  write  $V_x = \sum_{n \geq 0} \mathbb{1}_{X_n = x}$ , ie the total number of visits.

**Theorem 2.1** (Dichotomy Theorem).  $x \in E$ :

- if  $x$  is recurrent, then  $\boxed{V_x = +\infty}$   $P_x$ -a.s..
- if  $x$  is transient, then  $\boxed{\mathbb{E}_x[V_x] < \infty}$ .

*Remark 2.2.* It is impossible that  $\mathbb{P}_x[V_x < \infty] > 0$  and  $\mathbb{E}_x[V_x] = +\infty$ .

**Definition 2.2.**  $\rho_x = \mathbb{P}_x[H_x < \infty]$ , if  $x$  is recurrent then  $\rho_x = 1$ , otherwise if  $x$  is transient  $\rho_x < 1$ . Thus the number of visits is a geometric RV with parameter  $\rho_x < 1$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** For every  $i \geq 0, x \in E$ , we have  $\mathbb{P}_x[V_x \geq i] = \rho_x^i$ .

*Proof (Lemma).* We will proceed by induction over  $i$ . Define  $H_x^{(i)}$  to be the  $i$ -th hit time of  $x$ . For  $i = 0$  the claim is clear.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_x[V_x \geq i+1] &= \mathbb{P}_x[V_x \geq i+1, V_x \geq i] = \mathbb{P}_x[H_x^{(i+1)} < \infty, H_x^{(i)} < \infty] \\ &= \mathbb{P}_x[H_x^{(i+1)} < \infty | H_x^{(i)} < \infty, X_{H_x^{(i)}} = x] \mathbb{P}_x[H_x^{(i)} < \infty] \\ &\stackrel{(\text{SMP})}{=} \mathbb{P}_x[H_x^{(1)} < \infty] \rho_x^i = \rho_x^{i+1}. \end{aligned}$$

□

*Proof (Theorem).* For  $x$  recurrent:

$$\mathbb{P}_x[V_x = \infty] = \mathbb{P}_x\left[\bigcap_{i=0}^{\infty} \{V_x \geq i\}\right] = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_x[V_x \geq i] = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \rho_x^i = 1.$$

For  $x$  transient:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_x[V_x] &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k \mathbb{P}_x[V_x = k] = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^k \mathbb{P}_x[V_x = k] = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=j}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}_x[V_x = k] \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}_x[V_x \geq j] = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \rho_x^j = \frac{\rho_x}{1 - \rho_x} < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

□

**Proposition 2.4.** If  $E$  is finite, then there exists a recurrent state  $x \in E$ .

*Proof.* Fix some  $y \in E$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{x \in E} V_x &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{x \in E} \mathbb{1}_{X_n = x} = \sum_{n \geq 0} 1 = \infty \\ \sum_{x \in E} \mathbb{E}_y[V_x] &= \mathbb{E}_y\left[\sum_{x \in E} V_x\right] = \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we know there exists  $x \in E$  such that  $\mathbb{E}_y[V_x] = \infty$  since the sum on the left is over a finite index set ( $E$  finite). Since we can write  $V_x = V_x \mathbb{1}_{H_x < \infty}$ , we find that (using the Strong Markov Property)

$$\infty = \mathbb{E}_y[V_x] = \mathbb{E}_y[V_x \mathbb{1}_{H_x < \infty}] = \mathbb{E}_x[V_x] \mathbb{P}_y[H_x < \infty],$$

because a walk started from  $y$  is the same (in the distribution sense) after hitting  $x$  as a walk started from  $x$ .  $\mathbb{P}_y[H_x < \infty]$  must be  $\leq 1$ , thus the term of the left must be equal to  $\infty$ , implying that  $\mathbb{E}_x[V_x] = \infty$ .  $\square$

## 2.2 Recurrence/Transience for the SRW on $\mathbb{Z}^d$

**SRW on  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ :**  $E = \mathbb{Z}^d$ ,  $p_{xy} = \frac{1}{2d}$  if  $\|x - y\|_1 = 1$ , 0 else

**Theorem 2.5** (Polya). *For the SRW, every state is recurrent if  $d = 1, 2$ , otherwise they are transient.*

*Proof.* Let  $(Z_k)_{k>0}$  be i.i.d. random variables on some probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$  with  $\mathbb{P}[Z_i = \pm e_i] = \frac{1}{2d}$  for  $i = 1 \dots d$  and  $e_i$  being the unit vectors in  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ . Next, define  $X_n = \sum_{k=1}^n Z_k$ , which is a  $MC(\delta_0, p)$ . Then we find the following

$$\mathbb{E}[V_i] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{n>0} \mathbb{1}_{X_n=0}\right] = \sum_{n>0} \mathbb{P}[X_n = 0].$$

**Idea:**  $\mathbb{P}[X_n = x] = \mathbb{P}[Z_1 + \dots + Z_n = x] = \sum_{\delta_1 + \dots + \delta_n = x} \mathbb{P}[Z_1 = \delta_1] \dots \mathbb{P}[Z_n = \delta_n]$  is not easy to calculate. Instead, we could use the Fourier Transform to link  $\mathbb{E}[e^{iX_n}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{iZ_1}]^n$  to  $(\mathbb{P}[X_n = x])_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$ . Define  $\phi(\xi) = \mathbb{E}[e^{i\xi \cdot Z_1}]$  for  $\xi$  in  $\Pi^d = [-\pi, \pi)^d$ . Then we have

$$\phi(\xi) = \frac{1}{2d} \sum_{i=1}^d (e^{i\xi \cdot e_1} + e^{i\xi \cdot (-e_1)}) = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{i=1}^d \cos(\xi_i).$$

Fixing  $n \geq 0$ , we have (by independence) that the characteristic function of  $X_n$  is

$$\varphi_{X_n}(\xi) = \mathbb{E}[e^{i\xi \cdot X_n}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{i(\xi \cdot Z_1 + \dots + \xi \cdot Z_n)}] = \phi(\xi)^n.$$

We can now take advantage of the Fourier Transform by using the Fourier inversion, giving

$$\mathbb{P}[X_n = 0] = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int_{\Pi^d} \phi(\xi)^n d\xi.$$

Check this by directly computing

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[0,2\pi)^d} \phi(\xi)^n d\xi &= \int_{[-\pi,\pi)^d} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \mathbb{P}[X_n = x] = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \mathbb{P}[X_n = x] \int_{[0,2\pi)^d} e^{i\xi \cdot x} d\xi \\ &= \begin{cases} (2\pi)^d & \text{if } x = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x \neq 0 \end{cases}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} (2\pi)^d \sum_{n \geq 0} \mathbb{P}[X_n = 0] &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \int_{\Pi^d} \phi(\xi)^n d\xi \stackrel{(\text{MCT})}{=} \lim_{\alpha \uparrow 1} \sum_{n \geq 0} \int_{\Pi^d} (\alpha \phi(\xi))^n d\xi \\ &\stackrel{(\text{Fub})}{=} \lim_{\alpha \uparrow 1} \int_{\Pi^d} \frac{1}{1 - \alpha \phi(\xi)} d\xi \stackrel{(\text{MCT})}{=} \int_{\Pi^d} \frac{1}{1 - \phi(\xi)} d\xi. \end{aligned}$$

We can see that for any  $\xi_i \in [-\pi, \pi)$  we have the inequality  $\frac{\xi_i^2}{6} \leq 1 - \cos(\xi_i) \leq \frac{\xi_i^2}{2}$ .

With this, we find that  $\frac{1}{6d} \|\xi\|_2^2 \leq 1 - \phi(\xi) \leq \frac{1}{2d} \|\xi\|_2^2$ , finally giving us

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \mathbb{P}[X_n = 0] < \infty \Leftrightarrow \int_{B_1(0)} \frac{d\xi}{\|\xi\|_2^2} < \infty \Leftrightarrow d > 2.$$

The final equivalence can be justified by using a change of variables and homogeneity. Define  $A_i = B_0(2^{-i}) \setminus B_0(2^{-(i+1)})$  for every  $i$ . Next use the change of variable  $\psi = 2^i \xi$ , we find that

$$\int_{A_i} \frac{d\xi}{\|\xi\|^2} = \int_{A_0} \frac{2^{2i}}{\|\psi\|^2} (2^i)^{-d} d\psi = (2^i)^{2-d} \underbrace{\int_{A_0} \frac{d\psi}{\|\psi\|^2}}_{=: I_0}.$$

Therefore

$$\int_{B_0(1)} \frac{d\xi}{\|\xi\|^2} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \int_{A_i} \frac{d\xi}{\|\xi\|^2} = I_0 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (2^i)^{2-d}.$$

Which is finite if and only if  $d > 2$ . □

## 2.3 Classification of States

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $x, y \in E$  such that  $x \rightarrow y$ . If  $x$  is recurrent then  $y$  is recurrent and  $\mathbb{P}_x[H_y < \infty] = \mathbb{P}_y[H_x < \infty] = 1$ . In particular  $x \leftrightarrow y$ .*

*Proof.* We want to use that every time the chain visits  $x$ , it has a non-zero probability to visit  $y$  after that, visiting  $x$  infinitely often should ensure that  $y$  is also visited infinitely often. Assume  $y \neq x$  and  $x$  recurrent. Let  $z_1, \dots, z_{k-1}$  be distinct elements of  $E$ , not equal to  $x$  or  $y$  such that  $p_{xz_1} \cdots p_{z_{k-1}y} > 0$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \mathbb{P}_x[H_x = \infty] > \mathbb{P}_x[X_1 = z_1, \dots, X_k = 1, \forall n > 0 X_{k+n} \neq x] \\ &\stackrel{(\text{SiMP})}{=} \underbrace{\mathbb{P}_x[X_1 = z_1, \dots, X_k = y]}_{>0} \underbrace{\mathbb{P}_y[\forall n > 0 X_n \neq x]}_{\mathbb{P}_y[H_x = \infty]}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\mathbb{P}_y[H_x < \infty] = 1$ . Next, we have to show that  $y$  is recurrent. Choose  $m, n$  such that  $p_{xy}^{(n)}, p_{yx}^{(m)} > 0$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}_y[V_y] = \sum_{k>0} p_{yy}^{(k)} \geq \sum_{k>0} p_{yy}^{(m+k+n)} \stackrel{(\text{CK})}{\geq} \underbrace{p_{yx}^{(m)}}_{>0} \underbrace{\left( \sum_{k>0} p_{xx}^{(k)} \right)}_{=\infty} \underbrace{p_{xy}^{(n)}}_{>0}.$$

Hence,  $y$  is recurrent. To show that  $\mathbb{P}_x[H_y < \infty] = 1$ , use the same argument as above, but with the roles of  $x$  and  $y$  swapped ( $y \rightarrow x$ ,  $y$  recurrent).  $\square$

*Remark 2.7.*  $x \neq y : x \rightarrow y$  if and only if  $\mathbb{P}_x[\exists n : X_n = y] > 0$  if and only if  $\mathbb{P}_x[H_y < \infty] = 1$

**Corollary 2.8.** *Let  $C$  communication class for  $p$ . Either  $x$  is recurrent for every  $x \in E$ , or every  $x \in E$  is transient.*

*Proof.* If  $x \leftrightarrow y$ , we have that  $x$  recurrent if and only if  $y$  is recurrent.  $\square$

*Remark 2.9.* We call a class which is comprised of recurrent states a recurrent class, and one comprised of transient states a transient class.

**Corollary 2.10.** *A recurrent class is always closed.*

*Proof.*  $C$  recurrent,  $x \in C$ , if  $x \rightarrow y$  then we must have  $y \rightarrow x$  (otherwise  $x$  wouldn't be recurrent), therefore  $y \in C$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.11.** *Thus we have an intuitive criterion for transience: if  $x \rightarrow y$  but  $y \nrightarrow x$ , then  $x$  is transient. 'If we start at  $x$  and can get to a state, from which we cannot return to  $x$ , then  $x$  is transient'.*

*Remark 2.12.* In general it is possible to find disjoint subsets of  $E$   $T$  and  $R_k$  such that  $T$  is the class of transient states, and  $R_k$  are recurrent classes, with  $E = T \cup \bigcup_{k \geq 0} R_k$ . Then we can broadly classify the behavior of the chain by differentiating if  $X_n$  starts in some  $R_k$ , in which case the chain remains in  $R_k$  forever, and if  $X_n$  starts in  $T$ . If  $X_n$  starts in  $T$ , either it remains in  $T$  forever, or at some point it moves into an  $R_k$  and remains there forever.

## 2.4 Positive/Null Recurrence

**Notation** For  $x \in E$  write  $m_x = \mathbb{E}_x [H_x]$ .

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $x \in E$  be a recurrent state. We say that  $x$  is:

- positive recurrent if  $m_x < \infty$
- null recurrent if  $m_x = +\infty$ .

**Theorem 2.13.** Let  $x, y \in E, x \leftrightarrow y$ . Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n p_{xy}^{(k)} = \frac{1}{m_y}.$$

*Remark 2.14.* Write  $V_y^{(n)} = \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{X_k=y}$ , "The number of visits to  $y$  up to time  $n$ ". Thus the sum in the theorem is "Expected proportion of time spent at  $y$ ".

If  $y$  is transient, or null recurrent ( $m_y = \infty$ ), the theorem tells us that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_x \left[ \frac{V_y^{(n)}}{n} \right] = 0$ : "null density of visits". Otherwise,  $y$  is positive recurrent and the expected density of visits is strictly positive.

**Definition 2.4** (inter-visit times). Let  $y \in E$ . Define  $H_y^0 = H_y$  and for all  $i \geq 1$  :  $H_y^i = \min\{n \geq 1 : X_{H_y^0 + \dots + H_y^{i-1} + n} = y\}$  if  $H_y^{i-1} < \infty$ , else  $+\infty$

TODO: Figure would be good here

**Lemma 2.15.** Let  $x, y$  with  $x \leftrightarrow y$ , assume  $y$  is recurrent. Then for every  $j \geq 1$  and  $t_0, \dots, t_j \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$\mathbb{P}_x [H_y^0 = t_0 \dots H_y^j = t_j] = \mathbb{P}_x [H_y = t_0] \mathbb{P}_y [H_y = t_1] \dots \mathbb{P}_y [H_y = t_j]$$

Under  $P_x$ ,  $H_y^1, H_y^2, \dots$  are i.i.d. with law  $\mathbb{P}_x [H_y^i = t] = \mathbb{P}_y [H_y = t]$ .

*Proof.* Write  $H^i = H_y^i$ , we will prove via induction over  $j$ . We have  $\mathbb{P}_x [H^0 = t] = \mathbb{P}_x [H_y = t]$  for all  $t$ , showing for  $j = 0$ .  $j \rightarrow j + 1$ : First note that

$$\mathbb{P}_x [H^0 < \infty, \dots, H^j < \infty] = \sum_{t_0, \dots, t_j} \mathbb{P}_x [H^0 = t_0, \dots, H^j = t_j] = \mathbb{P}_x [H_y < \infty] \mathbb{P}_y [H_y < \infty]^j = 1.$$

Therefore  $T = H^0 + \dots + H^j$  is finite  $\mathbb{P}_x$ -a.s. and  $X_T = y$ . Hence, we have that for every  $t_0, \dots, t_{j+1} \in \mathbb{N}$  that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_x [H^0 = t_0, \dots, H^{j+1} = t_{j+1}] &= \mathbb{P}_x [H^0 = t_0, \dots, H^{j+1} = t_{j+1} | T < \infty, X_T = y] \\ &\stackrel{(\text{SMP})}{=} \mathbb{P}_x [H^0 = t_0, \dots, H^j = t_j] \mathbb{P}_y [\min\{n > 0 : X_n = y\} = t_{j+1}] \\ &= \mathbb{P}_x [X_y = t_0] \mathbb{P}_y [H_y = t_1] \cdots \mathbb{P}_y [H_y = t_{j+1}]. \end{aligned}$$

□

*Proof (Theorem).* **Case 1:**  $y$  transient: we know that  $\mathbb{E}_y [V_y] < \infty$ , thus (Strong Markov Property)  $\mathbb{E}_x [V_y] < \infty$ . Hence,

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}_x [V_y^{(n)}]}{n} \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}_x [V_x]}{n} \rightarrow 0.$$

**Case 2:**  $y$  recurrent: using the lemma, we know that the random variables  $H^j$  are i.i.d. under  $\mathbb{P}_x$  and fulfill  $\mathbb{E}_x [H^1] = \mathbb{E}_y [H_y] = m_y$ . Then we can use the Law of Large Numbers and  $\mathbb{P}_x [H^0 < \infty] = 1$  we find  $\mathbb{P}_x$ -a.s.,

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H^0 + \dots + H^i}{i} = m_y.$$

It should be noted that this includes the case of  $m_y = \infty$  by truncation. Now we write  $N_n = V_y^{(n)}$  (the number of visits to  $y$  at time  $n$ ).

TODO: Figure

Following directly from the definition of  $N_n$  we have that for any  $n > 0$  that

$$H^0 + \dots + H^{N_n-1} \leq n < H^0 + \dots + H^{N_n}.$$

Hence, for every  $n > 0$

$$\frac{N_n}{H^0 + \dots + H^{N_n}} < \frac{V_y^{(n)}}{n} \leq \frac{N_n}{H^0 + \dots + H^{N_n-1}}.$$

The upper and lower bounds each converge to  $\frac{1}{m_y}$  almost surely. Hence, we can conclude that  $\mathbb{E}_x \left[ \frac{V_y^{(n)}}{n} \right] \rightarrow \frac{1}{m_y}$  by the Dominated Convergence Theorem. □

**Proposition 2.16** (Classification of recurrent classes). *Let  $R$  be a recurrent class. Then either:*

- For all  $x \in R$ ,  $x$  is positive recurrent
- For all  $x \in R$ ,  $x$  is null recurrent.

*Proof.* Fix  $x, y \in E$  with  $x \leftrightarrow y$  and  $x$  recurrent. Fix  $k \geq 0$  with  $p_{xy}^{(k)} > 0$ . By Chapman-Kolmogorov, we have for all  $j > 0$

$$p_{xy}^{(k+j)} \geq p_{xx}^{(j)} p_{xy}^{(k)}.$$

Thus

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n p_{xy}^{(i)}}_{\rightarrow \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_y[H_y]}} \geq \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n-k} p_{xx}^{(j)} \right)}_{\rightarrow \mathbb{E}_x[H_x]} \underbrace{p_{xy}^{(k)}}_{>0}.$$

Therefore,  $\frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_y[H_y]} > 0$  and  $y$  is recurrent. □

**Proposition 2.17.** *Let  $R$  be a recurrent class, if  $R$  is finite, then  $R$  is positive recurrent.*

*Proof.* Fix  $x \in R$ , since  $R$  is closed we have for every  $n > 0$

$$1 = \mathbb{P}_x[X_n \in R] = \sum_{y \in R} p_{xy}^{(n)}.$$

Hence,

$$1 = \sum_{y \in R} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n p_{xy}^{(k)} \rightarrow \sum_{y \in R} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_y[H_y]}.$$

Thus, there must be a  $y \in R$  such that  $\mathbb{E}_y[H_y] < \infty$ , implying that the entire class is positive recurrent. □

## 2.5 Stationary Distributions for Irreducible Chains

**Theorem 2.18.** *Assume that  $p$  is irreducible.*

- If the chain is transient or null recurrent, then there is no stationary distribution;
- if the chain is positive recurrent, then there exists a unique stationary distribution given by

$$\boxed{\pi(x) = \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x[H_x]}}.$$



*Proof.* We will begin by assuming a stationary distribution  $\pi$  exists. Then for every  $x \in E$  we have for all  $n > 0$

$$\pi(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{P}_\pi [X_k = x] = \sum_{y \in E} \pi(y) \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{P}_y [X_k = x] \rightarrow \sum_{y \in E} \pi(y) \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x [H_x]}.$$

Note that this also shows uniqueness of the stationary distribution.

Now if we assume that the chain is transient or null recurrent, then using Dominated Convergence Theorem, we have that  $\pi(x) = \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x [H_x]} = 0$ . This is a contradiction to  $\sum_{x \in E} \pi(x) = 1$ , therefore no stationary distribution can exist. If, instead, we assume that the chain is positive recurrent, we have the same formula as before for  $\pi(x)$  as the only possible candidate for the stationary distribution. So if we can show that  $\pi$  indeed defines a stationary distribution (unlike in the previous case), then we will be done. First, we fix  $x > 0$  and find the inequality for all  $y \in E$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_y [H_y]} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=k}^n p_{yy}^{(j)} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{x \in E} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=k}^n p_{yx}^{(j-k)} \right) p_{xy}^{(k)} \\ &\stackrel{(\text{Fatou})}{\geq} \sum_{x \in E} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=k}^n p_{yx}^{(j-k)} \right) p_{xy}^{(k)} \\ &= \sum_{x \in E} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x [H_x]} p_{xy}^{(k)}. \end{aligned}$$

Analogously for fixed  $x$

$$1 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{P}_x [X_j \in E] = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{y \in E} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{P}_x [X_j = y] \stackrel{(\text{Fatou})}{\geq} \sum_{y \in E} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_y [H_y]}.$$

So we would like to prove that these two inequalities are actually equalities. First we sum the second inequality over  $y$  and get

$$\sum_{y \in E} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_y [H_y]} \geq \sum_{y \in E} \left( \sum_{x \in E} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x [H_x]} p_{xy}^{(k)} \right) = \sum_{x \in E} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x [H_x]}.$$

Thus the inequality must be an equality. Also note that if we can show that  $\pi$  is a distribution, this also shows that it is stationary. We can use this to show that the first inequality is actually

an equality. Fix  $y \in E$  and note that  $\frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_y[H_y]} > 0$  by positive recurrence. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_y[H_y]} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \left( \sum_{x \in E} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x[H_x]} p_{xy}^{(k)} \right) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{x \in E} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x[H_x]} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n p_{xy}^{(k)} \right) \\ &\stackrel{\text{(DCT)}}{=} \sum_{x \in E} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x[H_x]} \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_y[H_y]}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\pi(x) = \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}_x[H_x]}$  defines a distribution, which is stationary. □

TODO: Applications

## 2.6 Periodicity

**Definition 2.5.** Let  $x \in E$ . The period of  $x$  is defined by

$$d_x = \gcd\{n \geq 0 : p_{xx}^{(n)} > 0\}.$$

**Proposition 2.19.** Let  $x, y$  be arbitrary elements of  $E$  then  $x \leftrightarrow y$  implies that  $d_x = d_y$ .

**Consequence** If  $p$  is irreducible we have for arbitrary  $x, y \in E$  that  $d_x = d_y$ .

**Definition 2.6.** We say that the chain  $p$  is aperiodic if for every  $x \in E$

$$d_x = 1.$$

**Proposition 2.20.** Let  $x$  be in  $E$ . We have  $d_x = 1$  if and only if there is an  $n_0 \geq 1$  such that for every  $n \geq n_0$  we have that  $p_{xx}^{(n)} > 0$ .

TODO: Proof, possibly include number theory lemma in appendix, in my opinion the idea can be explained in a hand wavy fashion intuitively and the algebra distracts from the concept here.

## 2.7 Coupling Method

TODO: This needs some work with how we phrase it

**What is coupling?** Define probability measures  $\mu_1, \mu_2$  on the same space  $F_1, F_2$ . A coupling between  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  is a probability measure  $\bar{\mu}$  on  $F_1 \times F_2$ ,  $\bar{\mu}(A \times F_2) = \mu_1(A)$  and vice versa.

$X_1, X_2$  two random variables on  $(\Omega, F, \mathbb{P})$ ,  $X_1 \sim \mu_1, X_2 \sim \mu_2$ , the law of  $(X_1, X_2)$  is a coupling!

**Goal** Define two MCs:  $X_n \sim MC(\mu, p)$ ,  $\tilde{X}_n \sim MC(\nu, p)$  on the same probability space such that  $X_n = \tilde{X}_n$  for  $n$  large.

TODO: Figure

To achieve that we first consider two independent chains  $X$  and  $Y$ . We then show that the chains meet almost surely (using some assumptions on  $p$ ) at some random time  $T$ . Then we ask that the chains follow the same trajectory for  $t > T$ . In order to introduce a suitable probability space, we consider the product chain.

**Definition 2.7** (Product Chain). Define for every  $\omega = (x, y)$ ,  $\omega' = (x', y') \in E^2$

$$\bar{p}_{\omega, \omega'} = p_{xx'} p_{yy'}.$$

*Remark 2.21.* To see that  $\bar{p}$  is a transition probability, calculate

$$\sum_{\omega' \in E} \bar{p}_{\omega \omega'} = \sum_{x', y' \in E} p_{xx'} p_{yy'} = 1.$$

**Notation** Consider:

- $(\Omega, F, (P_\omega)_{\omega \in E^2})$  Probability Spaces,
- $(W_n)_{n \geq 0} = ((X_n, Y_n))_{n \geq 0}$  a random variable on  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$  such that for all  $\omega \in E^2$   $W_n$  is a  $MC(\delta_\omega, \bar{p})$  under  $P_\omega$ .

*Remark 2.22.* If  $\mu, \nu$  are distributions on  $E$ , then  $\mu \otimes \nu$  is a distribution on  $E^2$ .

$$P_{\mu \otimes \nu} = \sum_{(x, y) \in E^2} \mu(x) \nu(y) P_{(x, y)}.$$

**Proposition 2.23.** Let  $\mu, \nu$  be distributions on  $E$ . Under  $P_{\mu \otimes \nu}$ :

- $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is a  $MC(\mu, p)$ ;
- $(Y_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is a  $MC(\nu, p)$ .

*Proof.* For every  $k \geq 0$  and  $x_0, \dots, x_k, y_0, \dots, y_k \in E$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \nu} [X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_k = x_k, Y_0 = y_0, \dots, Y_k = y_k] \\ &= \mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \nu} [W_0 = (x_0, y_0), \dots, W_k = (x_k, y_k)] \\ &= \mu(x_0) p_{x_0 x_1} \cdots p_{x_{k-1} x_k} \nu(y_0) p_{y_0 y_1} \cdots p_{y_{k-1} y_k}. \end{aligned}$$

Summing over all possible  $y_0, \dots, y_k$  in  $E$ , implies that  $(X_n)_n$  is a  $\text{MC}(\mu, p)$ , and equivalently that  $(Y_n)_n$  is a  $\text{MC}(\nu, p)$ .

Now to show independence, we need to show that for all measurable sets  $A, B \subset E^\mathbb{N}$

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \nu} [X \in A, Y \in B] = \mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \nu} [X \in A] \mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \nu} [Y \in B].$$

Our calculation from before shows that this equality holds for all sets of the form  $A = \{(x_0, \dots, x_n)\} \times E^\mathbb{N}$ ,  $B = E^\mathbb{N} \times \{(y_0, \dots, y_n)\}$ . Therefore, it holds for all cylindrical sets, and thus, by Dynkin's Lemma, for all measurable sets.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.24.** *If  $p$  is irreducible and aperiodic, then  $\bar{p}$  is irreducible and aperiodic.*

*Remark 2.25.* Aperiodic is important!  $p$  irreducible does not imply that  $\bar{p}$  irreducible!

*Proof.* Let  $w = (x, y)$  and  $w' = (x', y') \in E^2$ . By irreducibility we can choose  $k, l \geq 0$  such that  $p_{xx'}^{(k)}, p_{yy'}^{(l)} > 0$ . Then for every  $n \gg \max(k, l)$  we have

$$\bar{p}_{ww'}^{(n)} = p_{xx'}^{(n)} p_{yy'}^{(n)} \geq p_{xx'}^{(k)} p_{x'x'}^{(n-k)} p_{yy'}^{(l)} p_{y'y'}^{(n-l)} > 0.$$

This holds as the two terms  $p_{x'x'}^{(n-k)}$  and  $p_{y'y'}^{(n-l)}$  are strictly positive for  $n$  large enough.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.26.** *If  $p$  is irreducible, aperiodic, and positive recurrent, then  $\bar{p}$  is irreducible, aperiodic, and positive recurrent.*

*Proof.* We only have to show that the product chain is positive recurrent, as the other properties follow from the previous proposition. Since  $p$  is irreducible and positive recurrent, it must admit a stationary distribution  $\pi$ . For every  $(y, y') \in E^2$  we then have

$$\pi(y)\pi(y') = \sum_{x \in E} \pi(x) p_{xy} \sum_{x' \in E} p_{x'y'} = \sum_{(x, x') \in E^2} p_{xy} p_{x'y'}.$$

Showing that  $\pi \otimes \pi$  is stationary for  $\bar{p}$ , implying that  $\bar{p}$  is positive recurrent.  $\square$

**Definition 2.8.**  $T = \min\{n \geq 0 : X_n = Y_n\}$  is a stopping time.

*Remark 2.27.* In fact for  $A = \{(x, y) \in E^2 : x = y\}$  (which is measurable)  $T = H_A$ , so  $T$  is a stopping time.

**Proposition 2.28.** *For  $\mu, \nu$  distributions on  $E$ ,  $n \geq 0$ :*

$$\sum_{x \in E} |\mathbb{P}_\mu [X_n = x] - \mathbb{P}_\nu [Y_n = x]| \leq 2\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \nu} [T > n].$$

**Lemma 2.29.**  $\tilde{X}_n = Y_n \mathbb{1}_{\{T < n\}} + X_n \mathbb{1}_{\{T \geq n\}}$  is a MC( $\nu, p$ ).

*Proof.* We consider the product Markov Chain  $W_n = (X_n, Y_n)$  under  $\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \nu}$ . We then define, for every  $n$

$$\tilde{X}_n = \begin{cases} Y_n & \text{for } n < T \\ X_n & \text{for } n \geq T \end{cases}.$$

TODO: Figure

We now show that  $(\tilde{X}_n)$  is a MC( $\nu, p$ ) under  $\mathbb{P} = \mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \nu}$ . Let  $n \geq 0$  and  $x_0, \dots, x_n \in E$ . Now we distinguish between possible values for  $T$  and find

$$\mathbb{P} [\tilde{X}_0 = x_0, \dots, \tilde{X}_n = x_n] = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}} \mathbb{P} [\tilde{X}_0 = x_0, \dots, \tilde{X}_n, T = k].$$

If  $k > n$ , the summand is equal to

$$\nu(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{n-1}x_n} \cdot \mathbb{P} [T = k | Y_0 = x_0, \dots, Y_n = x_n].$$

If  $k \leq n$ , the summand is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P} \left[ \underbrace{Y_0 = x_0, \dots, Y_k = x_k, T = k}_{\in \mathcal{F}_T}, X_{T+1} = x_{k+1}, \dots, X_{T+n-k} = x_n \right] \\ & \stackrel{(\text{SMP})}{=} \mathbb{P} [Y_0 = x_0, \dots, Y_k = x_k, T = k] \mathbb{P}_{(x_k, x_k)} [X_1 = x_{k+1}, \dots, X_{n-k} = x_n] \\ & = \nu(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{k-1}x_k} \mathbb{P} [T = k | Y_0 = x_0, \dots, Y_k = x_k] p_{x_kx_{k+1}} \cdots p_{x_{n-1}x_n} \\ & = \nu(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{n-1}x_n} \mathbb{P} [T = k | Y_0 = x_0, \dots, Y_n = x_n]. \end{aligned}$$

To justify the last equality, we used the independence between  $(X_n)$  and  $(Y_n)$  to write

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} [T = k | Y_0 = x_0, \dots, Y_k = x_k] &= \mathbb{P} [\forall i < k \ X_i \neq x_i, X_k = x_k] \\ &= \mathbb{P} [T = k | Y_0 = x_0, \dots, Y_n = x_n]. \end{aligned}$$

Finally using that  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}} \mathbb{P} [T = k | Y_0 = x_0, \dots, Y_n = x_n] = 1$  we obtain

$$\mathbb{P} [\tilde{X}_0 = x_0, \dots, \tilde{X}_n = x_n] = \nu(x_0)p_{x_0x_1} \cdots p_{x_{n-1}x_n}.$$

□

*Proof (Theorem).* We can now take advantage of the coupling between  $X$  and  $\tilde{X}$  to conclude that for every  $n \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{x \in E} |\mathbb{P}_\mu[X_n = x] - \mathbb{P}_\nu[X_n = x]| &= \sum_{x \in E} \left| \mathbb{P}[X_n = x] - \mathbb{P}[\tilde{X}_n = x] \right| \\
&= \sum_{x \in E} \left| \mathbb{P}[X_n = x, T \leq n] + \mathbb{P}[X_n = x, T > n] \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \mathbb{P}[\tilde{X}_n = x, T \leq n] + \mathbb{P}[\tilde{X}_n = x, T > n] \right| \\
&\leq \sum_{x \in E} \mathbb{P}[X_n = x, T > n] + \mathbb{P}[\tilde{X}_n = x, T > n] \\
&= 2\mathbb{P}[T > n]
\end{aligned}$$

□

## 2.8 Convergence for Irreducible Aperiodic Chains

**Theorem 2.30.** *Assume  $p$  is irreducible and aperiodic, and admits a stationary distribution  $\pi$ . Then for every distribution  $\mu$  on  $E$  and  $x \in E$*

$$\boxed{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_\mu[X_n = x] = \pi(x)}.$$

*Equivalently: Under  $P_\mu : X_n \xrightarrow{(law)} X_\infty$  where  $X_\infty \sim \pi$ .*

*Equivalently:  $\forall f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  bounded:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_\mu[f(X_n)] = \int_E f d\pi$ .*

**Note** This theorem is important!!

*Proof.* Consider the product chain  $(X_n, Y_n)_{n \geq 0}$  as before. We know that  $\bar{p}$  is irreducible and positive recurrent, furthermore the stopping time  $T = \min\{n \geq 0 : X_n = Y_n\}$  is  $\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \pi}$ -a.s. finite. To check this last claim, simply note that  $T \leq H_{(a,a)}$  for any  $a$  fixed. Then we have that for every  $x \in E$

$$|\mathbb{P}_\mu[X_n = x] - \pi(x)| = |\mathbb{P}_\mu[X_n = x] - \mathbb{P}_\pi[X_n = x]| \leq 2\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \pi}[T > n] \rightarrow 0.$$

□

**Theorem 2.31.** *Assume that  $p$  is irreducible, aperiodic, and null recurrent or transient. Then for every distribution  $\mu$  and every  $x \in E$*

$$\boxed{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_\mu[X_n = x] = 0}.$$

**Lemma 2.32.**  $\bar{p}$  irreducible and recurrent, then  $\forall \mu$  distribution on  $E : \forall i \geq 0, \forall x \in E : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\mathbb{P}_\mu [X_n = x] - \mathbb{P}_\mu [X_{n+i} = x]| = 0$

*Proof.* Define the distribution  $\mu_i(y) = \mathbb{P}_\mu [X_i = y]$ , 'the  $i$ -step initial distribution'. Next, observe that

$$\mathbb{P}_{\mu_i} [X_n = x] = \sum_{y \in E} \mu_i \mathbb{P}_y [X_n = x] \stackrel{(\text{SiMP})}{=} \sum_{y \in E} \mathbb{P}_\mu [X_i = y] \mathbb{P}_\mu [X_{n+i} | X_i = y] = \mathbb{P}_\mu [X_{n+i} = x]$$

Now, if we consider the product chain  $(X_n, Y_n)_{n \geq 0}$  under  $\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \mu_i}$  and define the stopping time  $T = \min\{n \geq 0 : X_n = Y_n\}$ . Here, we have that  $T < \infty$  almost surely as  $\bar{p}$  is recurrent. Hence we find that

$$|\mathbb{P}_\mu [X_n = x] - \mathbb{P}_\mu [X_{n+i} = x]| = |\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \mu_i} [X_n = x, Y_n = x] - \mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \mu_i} [X_n = x, Y_{n+i} = x]| \leq 2\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \mu_i} [T > n] \rightarrow 0.$$

□

*Proof (Theorem).* **Case 1:** Assume  $\bar{p}$  transient. If we look at the product chain  $(X_n, Y_n)$  under  $\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \mu}$ , we can see that  $(x, x)$  is a transient state. Thus the time of the last visit  $L = \max\{n \geq 0 : (X_n, Y_n) = (x, x)\}$  is finite  $\mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \mu}$ -a.s. (if this was not almost sure, then we would have a non-zero probability that  $(x, x)$  is revisited infinitely often, thus by the Dichotomy Theorem  $(x, x)$  would be recurrent). Thus

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu [X_n = x]^2 = \mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \mu} [X_n = x, Y_n = x] \leq \mathbb{P}_{\mu \otimes \mu} [L \geq n] \rightarrow 0.$$

**Case 2:** Assume  $\bar{p}$  is null recurrent, fix  $y \in E$ . We would like to prove that  $p_{yx}^{(n)} \rightarrow 0$ . To do this fix  $\epsilon > 0$  and choose  $k$  such that

$$\frac{1}{k+1} \sum_{i \leq k} p_{xx}^{(i)} < \epsilon.$$

We can choose such a  $k$  using the density of visits theorem and that  $(x, x)$  is null recurrent. Now define the stopping time  $H = \min\{j \geq n : X_j = x\}$ , 'the first hit time of  $x$  after time  $n$ '. So for every  $n \geq 0$  we have

$$\frac{1}{k+1} \sum_{i=0}^k \mathbb{P}_\mu [X_{n+i} = x] \leq \frac{1}{k+1} \sum_{i=0}^k \mathbb{P}_\mu [X_{H+i} = x] \stackrel{(\text{SMP})}{=} \frac{1}{k+1} \sum_{i=0}^k \mathbb{P}_x [X_i = x] \leq \epsilon.$$

The first inequality can be justified by noticing that the probability of the chain hitting  $x$  after  $n$  and before  $H$  is 0. Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}_\mu[X_n = x] &= \frac{1}{k+1} \sum_{i=0}^k \mathbb{P}_\mu[X_n = x] \\ &\leq \underbrace{\frac{1}{k+1} \sum_{i=0}^k |\mathbb{P}_\mu[X_n = x] - \mathbb{P}_\mu[X_{n+i} = x]|}_{\rightarrow 0} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{k+1} \sum_{i=0}^k \mathbb{P}_\mu[X_{n+i} = x]}_{\leq \epsilon}.\end{aligned}$$

Using the lemma ( $\bar{p}$  is irreducible and recurrent) we find that

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_\mu[X_n = x] \leq \epsilon.$$

□

**Conclusion** We previously asked the following questions:

- If we fix  $x \in E$ , will the chain visit  $x$  infinitely many times?
- What is the behavior of  $X_n$  for  $n$  large?

Now we are equipped to answer them using our ideas of recurrence/transience and the theorem for existence (and uniqueness) of stationary distributions for an irreducible chain. We were also found that using coupling we find that if we let the chain evolve for a long time, then the distribution of  $X_n$  actually converges to the stationary distribution (where this distribution is 0 everywhere if a stationary distribution does not exist).



# Chapter 3

## Renewal Processes

**Outset** We want to model replacement times of a machine. First we wait  $T_1$  until we replace it, then we wait  $T_2$  until replacing the replacement, and so on.

**Questions:** After time  $t$ , how many replacements did we have to make ( $N_t$ )? What about the expected number  $m(t) = \mathbb{E}[N_t]$ ? What about the 'excess time', ie if we are at time  $t$ , how long until the next replacement ( $E_t$ ,  $e(t) = \mathbb{E}[E_t]$ )? Or the age of the machine ( $A_t$ ,  $a(t) = \mathbb{E}[A_t]$ ).

Case 1:  $T_1 \dots \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ :  $m(t) = t\lambda$ ,  $E_t \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ ,  $e(t) = \frac{1}{\lambda}$ ,  $A_t \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ .

Case 2: More complicated.

### 3.1 Definition and First Properties

**Framework**  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$  Probability space,  $T_1, T_2, \dots$  iid RVs on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  'inter-arrival times', st  $\mathbb{P}[T_i = 0] < 1$ ,  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[T_1] \in (0, \infty]$ .  $F(t) = \mathbb{P}[T_1 \leq t]$ ,  $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n T_i$ ,  $S_0 = 0$  'renewal times'.

**Definition 3.1.** The continuous stochastic process  $(N_t)_{t \geq 0}$  defined by:

$$\forall t \geq 0 : N_t = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{1}_{S_k \leq t}$$

is called the renewal process with arrival distribution  $F$ .

*Example 3.1.* (i)  $pp(\lambda)$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $T_i \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$

(ii)  $(T_i)_{i \geq 1}$  iid  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$ ,  $(X_i)_{i \geq 1}$  iid  $\text{Ber}(\frac{1}{2})$ ,  $T'_i = X_i T_i$ , where  $(T_i)$  and  $(X_i)$  are indep.

(iii) 'Fat Tailed'  $\mathbb{P}[T_i \geq t] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+t}} \mathbb{1}_{t \geq 0}$

**Proposition 3.1.**  $N = (N_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is a counting process with jump times  $S_1, S_2, \dots$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} N_t = +\infty$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** *There exists  $c > 0$  st  $\forall t \geq 0 : \mathbb{E} [e^{cN_t}] \leq e^{\frac{1+t}{c}}$ , thus the expectation is finite  $\forall t$ .*

**Theorem 3.3** (Law of Large Numbers). *We have  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_t}{t} = \frac{1}{\mu}$ .*

## 3.2 Renewal Function

**Definition 3.2.** The renewal function is defined by  $\forall t \geq 0 : m(t) = \mathbb{E} [N_t]$ .

*Remark 3.4.*  $m(t) < \infty$  because  $N_t$  has exponential moment (you can use Jensen).

**Proposition 3.5.**  $m(t)$  is non-decreasing, non-negative, and right continuous.

**Theorem 3.6** (Elementary Renewal Theorem).  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m(t)}{t} = \frac{1}{\mu}$

## 3.3 Blackwell's Renewal Theorem

**Definition 3.3.** We say the law of  $T_1$  is arithmetic if  $\exists a > 0 : \mathbb{P} [T_1 \in a\mathbb{Z}] = 1$ . It is non-arithmetic if this probability is  $< 1$ .

**Theorem 3.7** (Blackwell). *Assume that the law of  $T_1$  is non-arithmetic, then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} m(t+h) - m(t) = \frac{h}{\mu}$ .*

*Remark 3.8.*  $\frac{m(t)}{t} \approx \frac{m(\lfloor t \rfloor)}{\lfloor t \rfloor} = \frac{1}{\lfloor t \rfloor} \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor t \rfloor} m(k) - m(k-1) \xrightarrow{\text{Blackwell}} \frac{1}{\mu}$ . "Blackwell is stronger than elementary renewal."

## 3.4 Renewal Equation

### Lebesgue-Stieltjes Integral

**Notation**  $\mathcal{M} = \{f : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+, \text{right continuous, non-decreasing}\}$  'measures on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ '.  $\nu((a, b]) = f(b) - f(a)$

For all  $h \in L^1(df)$  or  $h \geq 0$  meas, we can define  $\int h df$ .

*Example 3.2.* •  $m \in \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \int h dm$  can be defined

- If  $T$  is a RV on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  the  $F_T(t) = \mathbb{P} [T \leq t]$

**Definition 3.4.** Let  $G \in \mathcal{M}$ . Let  $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  st either  $\forall t : \int_0^t |h(t-s)| dG(s) < \infty$  or  $h \geq 0$  a.e. we define:

$$h * G = \int_0^t h(t-s) dG(s)$$

*Remark 3.9.* Let  $X, Y$  be two indep RV on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ . Then with  $F_X, F_Y$  their respective cdf's:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}[X + Y \leq t] &= \int_{s=0}^t \mathbb{P}[X + s \leq t] dF_Y(s) \\ &= \int_0^t F_X(t - s) dF_Y(s)\end{aligned}$$

So  $F_{X+Y} = F_X * F_Y$ .

Why is this useful?

$$\begin{aligned}m(t) &= \mathbb{E}[N_t] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_n \mathbb{1}_{T_1 + \dots + T_n \leq t}\right] \\ &= \sum_n F_{T_1 + \dots + T_n}(t) = F^{*n}(t).\end{aligned}$$

### Renewal Equation

**Definition 3.5.** Let  $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  meas. loc. bdd,  $g : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  st  $\forall t \geq 0 : \int_0^t |g(t-s)| dF(s) < \infty$ . We say that  $g$  is a solution of the  $(h, F)$  renewal equation if:

$$\forall t \geq 0 : g(t) = h(t) + \int_0^t g(t-s) dF(s)$$

**Proposition 3.10** (First Example).  $m$  is a solution of the  $(F, F)$  renewal equation, ie  $m = F + m * F$ .

*Example 3.3* (Excess Time, 2nd Example).  $E_t = S_{N_{t+1}} - t$ , the time left to wait until next renewal. Define for  $x \geq 0$ ,  $e_x(t) = \mathbb{P}[E_t \leq x]$ . We can separate  $e_x$  into 2 parts, one for the probability if there has already been a renewal before time  $t$ , and one if that hasn't occurred:  $e_x(t) = \mathbb{P}[T_1 > t, E_t \leq x] + \mathbb{P}[T_1 \leq t, E_t \leq x] = A + B$ .

$A = \mathbb{P}[T_1 > t, T_1 \leq t + x] = F(t + x) - F(t)$ . Observe that  $E_t$  is meas wrt  $T_1, T_2, \dots$ .  $E_t = \phi_t(T_1, T_2, \dots)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}[T_1 \leq t, E_t \leq x] &= \mathbb{P}[T_1 \leq t, \phi_t(T_1, T_2, \dots) \leq x] \\ &= \int_0^t \mathbb{P}[\phi_t(s, T_2, \dots) \leq x] dF(s) = \int_0^t \mathbb{P}[E_{t-s} \leq x] dF(s) \\ &= \int_0^t e_x(t-s) dF(s) = (e_x * F)(t)\end{aligned}$$

Thus  $e_x(t) = h_x(t) + (e_x * F)(t)$  with  $h_x(t) = F(t + x) - F(t)$ . So  $e_x$  is a solution of the  $(h_x, F)$  renewal equation.

**Exercise** Show that the age  $a_x(t) = \mathbb{P}[A_t \leq x]$  is the solution to some  $(h, F)$  renewal equation.

### Well-Posedness of the Renewal Equation

**Theorem 3.11.** *Let  $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  meas, loc bdd. Then there exists a unique  $g : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  meas, loc bdd, solution of  $g = h + g * F$  given by  $g = h + h * m$ .*

*Intuitive Proof.* Assume  $g$  is a solution.

$$\begin{aligned} g &= h + g * F \\ &= h + (h + g * F) * F \\ &\dots \\ &\stackrel{(*)}{=} h + h * F + h * F^{*2} + h * F^{*3} + \dots \\ &= h + h * m \end{aligned}$$

We must only show that  $(*)$  can be made rigorous. Otherwise this is just an intuitive proof, we can use this as a way to find a candidate for  $g$ , and then prov that it is actually a legitimate solution as follows.  $\square$

*Rigorous Proof.*  $g = h + h * m$  is meas. loc. bdd., because  $h$  is. We have  $h + g * F = h + (h + h * m) * F = h + h * F + h * m * F = h + h * (F + m * F) = h + h * m = g$

**Uniqueness**  $g_1, g_2$  are 2 solutions, then  $g_1 - g_2 = (g_1 - g_2) * F = (g_1 - g_2) * F^{*n}$ . We have for every  $t \geq 0$  :  $|g_1(t) - g_2(t)| = \left| \int_0^t (g_1 - g_2)(t-s) dF^{*n}(s) \right| \leq \sup_{[0,t]} |g_1 - g_2| \int_0^t dF^{*n}(s)$ . Where we can see the integral term is equal to  $\mathbb{P}[T_1 + \dots + T_n \leq t]$  which converges to 0.  $\square$

## 3.5 Asymptotic Behavior

**Motivation** We want to study the behavior of  $g(t)$  when  $t$  is large and when  $g$  is a solution to the  $(h, F)$  renewal equation.

**Case 1**  $h = \mathbb{1}_{[a,b]}$ , and  $g$  a solution.  $g(t) = h(t) + \int_0^t h(t-s) dm(s)$ .  $h(t-s) = \mathbb{1}_{[a,b]}(t-s) = \mathbb{1}_{s \in [t-b, t-a]}$ . So  $g(t) = h(t) + m(t-a) - m(t-b)$  and with Blackwell's Theorem we find that this tends towards  $0 + \frac{b-a}{\mu}$ . Now we need to figure out how this generalizes.

**Idea** Extend to simple functions  $\sum \lambda_i \mathbb{1}_{I_i}$  (this is easy), then try to extend to directly integrable Riemann functions.

**Definition 3.6.**  $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  meas.,  $h$  is directly Riemann Integrable (dRi) if  $\forall \Delta > 0$  :  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \Delta \sup_{[k\Delta, (k+1)\Delta]} h < \infty$  and  $\lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \Delta \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sup_{[k\Delta, (k+1)\Delta]} h = \lim_{\Delta \rightarrow \infty} \Delta \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \inf_{[k\Delta, (k+1)\Delta]} h$ .  $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  is dRi iff  $h_+$  and  $h_-$  are dRi. See notes for example for integrable but not dRi function.

**Proposition 3.12.** *Let  $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Assume that  $h$  is continuous at a.e.  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\exists H$  non-decreasing st  $0 \leq |h| \leq H$  and  $\int_0^\infty H < \infty$ , then  $h$  is dRi.*

**Theorem 3.13** (Smith Key Renewall Theorem). *Let  $h$  be dRi,  $F$  non-arithmetic. Then  $g = h + h * m$  satisfies  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} g(t) = \frac{1}{\mu} \int_0^\infty h(u) du$ .*

*Remark 3.14.* The case  $h = \mathbb{1}_{[0,b]}$  corresponds to the Blackwell Theorem.

The idea of the proof is to use an approximation of  $h$  by functions of the form  $h_{c,\Delta} = \sum_{k \geq 0} c_k \mathbb{1}_{[k\Delta, (k+1)\Delta)}$ .

**Application** Let  $\mu < \infty$ . Let  $E_t$  be the excess time (time until next renewal) and  $e_x(t) = \mathbb{P}[E_t \leq x]$ . What is  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e_x(t)$ ? We know that  $e_x = h_x + e_x * F$ , where  $h_x(t) = F(t+x) - F(t)$ .

*Remark 3.15.*  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[T_1] = \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P}[T_1 > t] dt$

With this we have that  $h_x(t) \leq 1 - F(t) = \mathbb{P}[T_1 > t]$ , and  $1 - F(t)$  is non-increasing in  $t$  and continuous ae (because it is the difference of two monotone functions).  $\int_0^\infty \mathbb{P}[T_1 > t] dt = \mathbb{E}[T_1] = \mu < \infty$ . So (by the proposition)  $h_x$  is dRi. Now we can apply the theorem and get that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}[E_t \leq x] = \frac{1}{\mu} \int_0^\infty h_x(t) dt = \frac{1}{\mu} \int_0^\infty F(t+x) - F(t) dt$ , with  $F(t+x) - F(t) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}_{T_1 \in (t, t+x)}]$ , we find that the limit is equal to  $\frac{1}{\mu} \int_0^\infty \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}_{T_1 \in (t, t+x)}] dt = \frac{1}{\mu} \mathbb{E}[\int_0^\infty \mathbb{1}_{t \in [T_1-x, T_1)} dt] = \frac{1}{\mu} \mathbb{E}[\int_{\max\{T_1-x, 0\}}^{T_1} dt] = T_1$  if  $T_1 \leq x$  and  $x$  if  $T_1 > x$ . Thus we get for  $t$  large:  $\mathbb{P}[E_t \leq x] \approx \frac{1}{\mu} \mathbb{E}[\min\{T_1, x\}]$ .

*Remark 3.16.*  $G(x) = \frac{1}{\mu} \mathbb{E}[\min\{T_1, x\}]$  is the delay distribution in the proof of Blackwell's Theorem.

**Conclusion** We have now used renewal processes to define a general structure to model a real life process mathematically. Using this object enabled us to implement the LLN and make statements about the asymptotic behavior of such processes over large periods of time.



# Chapter 4

## General Poisson Point Processes

**Reference** Lectures on the Poisson Process (Penrose), Poisson Processes (Kingman)

### 4.1 Introduction

**Question** How can we represent points on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  mathematically?

- (i) A set of points  $\mathcal{S} = \{S_1, S_2, \dots\}$
- (ii) 'Time point of view', ie  $T_1, T_2, \dots$  where  $T_i$  = time between the  $(i-1)$ 'th and  $i$ 'th point.
- (iii) Cadlag formulation with values in  $\mathbb{N}$ .  $N_t$  = number of points in  $[0, t]$ .
- (iv) Measure  $N : \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}_+) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  with  $N(A)$  = number of points in  $A$ .

**Goal** Define  $\Omega \rightarrow$  'set of points'. For a general state space  $\mathbb{R}^2, [0, 1]^2$ , a manifold, etc. (ii) and (iii) are specific to  $\mathbb{R}_+$ , so they do not generalize. (i) is not very easy to describe. (iv) is actually nice, so we will use this point of view.

**Framework**  $(E, d)$  a Polish space (separable, complete, metric space).  $\mathcal{E}$  Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra.  $\mu : \sigma$  finite measure on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$ , ie  $\exists B_i \uparrow E : \mu(B_i) < \infty$  where  $B_i \uparrow E \Leftrightarrow B_1 \subset B_2 \subset \dots : \bigcup_{i \geq 1} B_i = E$ .

*Example 4.1.* Of such spaces:

- (i)  $E = \{0\}, \mu = \delta_0$
- (ii)  $E = \mathbb{R}_+, \mu = \lambda \mathcal{L}$
- (iii)  $E = \mathbb{R}^2, \mu(dx) = \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-|x|^2} dx$  'Gaussian'

**Goal** We wish to define a point process on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$  where the 'number of points around  $x$ '  $\approx \mu(dx)$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+$ .

## 4.2 Point Processes

**Notation**  $\mathcal{N} = \{\nu : \nu = \sigma\text{-finite measure st } \forall B \in \mathcal{E} : \nu(B) \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{+\infty\}\}$ . **Measure Structure** Let  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{N})$  be the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by the sets  $\{\nu \in \mathcal{N} : \nu(B) = k\} = \mathcal{N}_k$  for  $B \subset E$  meas and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $\rightarrow (\mathcal{N}, \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{N}))$  measured space.

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{N}_{<\infty} = \{\nu \in \mathcal{N} : \nu(E) < \infty\}$ , there exists meas maps  $\tau : \mathcal{N}_{<\infty} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}, X_i : \mathcal{N}_{<\infty} \rightarrow E$  st  $\forall \nu \in \mathcal{N}_{<\infty} : \nu = \sum_{i=0}^{\tau(\nu)} \delta_{X_i(\nu)}$ .*

**Definition 4.1.** A point process on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$  is a RV  $N$  with values in  $\mathcal{N}$ . 'N is a random  $\sigma$ -finite measure',  $N \leftrightarrow$  'random set of points'.

This means  $N : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  meas, for any fixed  $B \subset E : N(B) : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is measurable. Thus a stochastic process corresponds to  $(N(B))_{B \in \mathcal{E}}$ . 'N(B) = number of points in B'.

*Example 4.2.* Point Processes:

- $N = 0$  a.s.  $\rightarrow$  empty set
- $E = [0, 1], X$  RV on  $[0, 1]$ .  $N = \delta_X$  is a point process.
- $X_1, \dots, X_n$  iid RV on  $[0, 1]$ ,  $N = \delta_{X_1} + \dots + \delta_{X_n}$  is a point process.

## 4.3 Poisson Point Processes

**Setup**  $(E, \mathcal{E})$  Polish,  $\mu$  fixed  $\sigma$ -finite measure (think of  $\lambda_{\mathcal{L}}$ ),  $\mathcal{N} = \{\sigma \text{ finite counting measure}\}$ ,  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$  abstract prob space.

**Definition 4.2.** A Poisson process with intensity  $\mu$  on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$  ( $ppp(\mu)$ ) is a point process st:

- (i)  $\forall B_1 \dots B_k \subset E$  meas and disjoint:  $N(B_1) \dots N(B_k)$  are indep.
- (ii)  $\forall B \subset E$  meas  $N(B) \sim \text{Pois}(\mu(B))$ .

## 4.4 Existence and Uniqueness

**Question** Does there always exist a  $ppp(\mu)$  on  $E$ ?

**Spaces with finite measure**

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $Z \sim \text{Pois}(\mu(E))$ ,  $(X_i)_{i \geq 1}$  iid where  $X_i \sim \frac{\mu(\cdot)}{\mu(E)}$ . Then  $N = \sum_{i=1}^Z \delta_{X_i}$  is a  $ppp(\mu)$  on  $E$ .*



### Superposition

**Lemma 4.3.** *Let  $\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda_i, \lambda_i \geq 0$ .  $X_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_i), i \geq 1$  indep, then  $X = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ .*

**Theorem 4.4.** *Let  $N_i, i \geq 1$  be a sequence of indep ppp( $\mu_i$ ) where  $\mu_i$  and  $\mu = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu_i$  are  $\sigma$ -finite measures. Then  $N = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} N_i$  is a ppp( $\mu$ ).*

**Corollary 4.5.**  *$\mu$   $\sigma$ -finite measure on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$ , then  $\exists$  ppp( $\mu$ ) on  $E$ .*

### Uniqueness

Let  $N$  be a ppp( $\mu$ ) on  $E$ , define  $P_N = \text{law of } N$  ( $\rightarrow$  a probability meas on  $\mathcal{N}$ ).

**Proposition 4.6.** *Let  $N, N'$  be two ppp( $\mu$ ) on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$  then  $P_N = P_{N'}$ .*

**Theorem 4.7** (Representation of ppp as Proper Processes). *Let  $N$  be a ppp( $\mu$ ) on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$ , there exists some RV  $\tau \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{+\infty\}$  st:  $X_n \in E, n \geq 1 : N = \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} \delta_{X_i}$*

## 4.5 Laplace Functional

$N$  a random meas on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$  for  $u : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  what should we interpret  $\int_E u dN$  as?

**Lemma 4.8.**  *$X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda), \lambda > 0$ , then  $\forall u \geq 0 : \mathbb{E} [e^{-uX}] = \exp(-\lambda(1 - e^{-u}))$ .*

**Definition 4.3.** Let  $N$  be a point process on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$ , for every  $u : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  define  $L_N(u) = \mathbb{E} [\exp(-\int u(x)N(dx))]$

*Remark 4.9.*  $\int_E u(x)N(dx) = \int_E u dN$  is a RV.

**Theorem 4.10** (Characterization via Laplace Functional). *Let  $\mu$   $\sigma$ -finite meas on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$ . Let  $N$  be a point process on  $E$ . TFAE:*

- (i)  $N$  is a ppp( $\mu$ )
- (ii)  $\forall u : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  meas:  $L_N(u) = \exp(-\int_E 1 - e^{-u(x)} \mu(dx))$

## 4.6 Simple Processes

*Remark 4.11.* For  $x \in E$ ,  $\{x\}$  is meas. because  $E$  is Polish.

**Definition 4.4.** A measure  $\eta \in \mathcal{N}$  is said to be simple if  $\forall x \in E : \eta(\{x\}) \leq 1$ .

**Proposition 4.12.**  $\{\eta : \eta \text{ is simple}\}$  is measurable in  $\mathcal{N}$ .

**Theorem 4.13.** Assume that  $\mu$  is a diffuse ( $\forall x : \mu(\{x\}) = 0$ )  $\sigma$  finite measure. Then every  $ppp(\mu)$  is simple a.s.

**Consequence**  $\exists \tau, X_i$  RV,  $X_i \neq X_j$  if  $i \neq j$  a.s.:  $N = \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} \delta_{x_i}$  a.s.

## 4.7 Mapping and Restriction

$(E, \mathcal{E}), (F, \mathcal{F})$  Polish spaces,  $\mu$   $\sigma$ -finite measure on  $E$ ,  $T : E \rightarrow F$  meas,  $T\#\mu$  push forward measure of  $\mu$  under  $T$  [ $T\#\mu(B) = \mu(T^{-1}(B))$ ].

**Theorem 4.14.** Assume that  $T\#\mu$  is  $\sigma$ -finite. Let  $N$  be a  $ppp(\mu)$  on  $E$ , then  $T\#N$  is a  $ppp(T\#\mu)$  on  $F$ .

*Example 4.3.*  $E = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $F = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $T : E \rightarrow F; x \rightarrow \lfloor x \rfloor$ ,  $\mu = \mathcal{L}$ ,  $T\#\mu = |\cdot|$ .

**Notation** If  $\nu$  is a measure on  $E$ ,  $C \subset E$  meas.  $\nu_C : \nu(\cdot \cap C)$

**Theorem 4.15** (Restriction). Let  $C_1, C_2, \dots \subset E$  meas. and disjoint. If  $N$  is a  $ppp(\mu)$  on  $E$ , then  $N_{C_1}, N_{C_2}, \dots$  are indep  $ppp$  with resp. intensities  $\mu_{C_1}, \mu_{C_2}, \dots$

## 4.8 Marking

**Motivation** Cars on a highway, at time 0 the position of the cars is a  $ppp(1)$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  (that means on average 1 car per kilometer of highway). We put an observer (Olga) at 0 on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Case 1: All of the cars have speed 50km/h, we want to study  $X$  = number of cars seen by Olga in 1 hour. What is the law of  $X$ ?  $X \sim Pois(50)$ .

Case 2: The cars have a random speed  $\sim \mathcal{U}([50, 100])$ . What is the law of  $X$ ? It may at first seem complicated, but it is not!

**Framework**  $(E, \mathcal{E})$  Polish,  $\mu = \sigma$ -finite.  $(F, \mathcal{F}, \nu)$  Polish, Probability space.

**Definition 4.5.** Let  $N = \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} \delta_{X_i}$  a  $ppp(\mu)$  on  $E$ .  $Y_i$  iid RV with law  $\nu$  indep of  $N$ . The marked point process is the PP on  $E \times F$  defined by  $M = \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} \delta_{(X_i, Y_i)}$ .

*Remark 4.16.*  $X_i$  corresponds to the position of the cars in Case 2, and  $Y_i$  to their speeds.

**Theorem 4.17.** The marked process is a  $ppp(\mu \otimes \nu)$ .

**Conclusion** The General PPP we have defined gives us a very general way to talk about a random processes on a large class of spaces (Polish), which fulfill a Markov-like property. This tool will allow us to make much stronger statements in more specific cases.

## 4.9 Standard Poisson Process

In discrete time processes  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , the law is characterised by the law of  $(X_{n_1}, \dots, X_{n_k}; n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{N})$ . In continuous time processes we have  $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ , we need to define  $X_t : \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$  which is not countable.

**Outset** We would like to define a renewal process which also fulfills the Markov property, enabling us to not have. Furthermore we would like a simple continuous time process which is in some way a 'universal' stationary process on  $\mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  with independent increments and jumps of size 1. We would also like to see if any of the ideas from the previous chapter can be specified to this context.

**Applications** Queuing processes, insurance claims, compound Poisson process.

**Framework**  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$  probability space, time space:  $\mathbb{R}_+ = [0, \infty)$

There are 2 points of view: random points on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  (reminiscent of PPP) or continuous time stochastic process (renewal process).

## 4.10 Exponential Random Variables

**Note** We will use the 2nd point of view here.

**Definition 4.6.** Let  $\lambda > 0$ , a real RV  $T$  is exponential with parameter  $\lambda$  (we write  $T \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ ) if it has density  $f(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \chi_{\{t \geq 0\}}$ .  $\Leftrightarrow \forall t \geq 0 \mathbb{P}[T > t] = e^{-\lambda t}$

**Proposition 4.18** (Memoryless Property). Let  $\lambda > 0$  and  $T \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ . Then  $\forall s, t \geq 0$  :  $\mathbb{P}[T > s + t | T > t] = \mathbb{P}[T > s]$

**Proposition 4.19** (Minimum of indep Exponentials). Let  $n \geq 0, T_1 \dots T_n$  indep with  $T_i \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda_i), \lambda_i > 0$ :

- $\min\{T_1 \dots T_n\} \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_n)$
- $\mathbb{P}[T_1 = \min\{T_1 \dots T_n\}] = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_n}$

**Reminder**  $X$  a real RV with density  $f$ ,  $Y$  a RV with values in some measurable space  $E$  indep of  $X$ . Then  $\forall \phi : \mathbb{R} \times E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  meas + bdd we have:  $\mathbb{E}[\phi(X, Y)] = \int_0^\infty \mathbb{E}[\phi(x, Y)] f(x) dx$

**Proposition 4.20** (Sum of Exponentials). Let  $\lambda > 0, n \geq 1$ . Let  $T_1 \dots T_n$  be iid  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$  RVs. Then  $S_n = T_1 + \dots + T_n$  is  $\Gamma(n, \lambda)$  distributed. ie  $S_n$  is continuous with density  $f_{S_n}(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}$

We can check that  $\Gamma(1, t) = \text{Exp}(\lambda)$

## 4.11 Definition of Poisson Processes

**Setup**  $\lambda > 0, (T_i)_{i \geq 0}$  iid  $Exp(\lambda), S_n = T_1 + \dots + T_n$

**Definition 4.7.** The stochastic process  $N = (N_t)_{t \geq 0}, N_t = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \chi_{S_i \leq t}$  is called the Poisson process with intensity  $\lambda$  ( $pp(\lambda)$ ). The RVs  $T_1, T_2, \dots$  are the inter-arrival times and  $S_1, S_2, \dots$  the arrival times/jump times.

### Elementary Properties

- The mapping  $t \rightarrow N_t$  is a.s. right continuous, with values in  $\mathbb{N}$
- For fixed  $t \geq 0$   $N_t \sim Pois(\lambda t)$  ie  $\mathbb{P}[N_t = n] = \frac{(\lambda t)^n}{n!} e^{-\lambda t}$

**Comment** "A property hold a.s."  $\Leftrightarrow \exists$  meas set  $A : \mathbb{P}[A] = 1$  and  $\forall \omega \in A$  the property holds.

## 4.12 Markov Property

**Theorem 4.21** (Markov Property of N). *Fix  $t \geq 0$ , the stochastic process  $N^{(t)} = (N_s^{(t)})_{s \geq 0}$  defined by  $N_s^{(t)} = N_{t+s} - N_t$  is a Poisson process, independent of  $(N_u)_{0 \leq u \leq t}$ .*

## 4.13 Stationary and Independent Increments

**Motivation** We want to describe the law of  $(N_{t_0}, \dots, N_{t_k})$ , the key here is that they are not totally independent. If we have 5 points at time  $t_0$  then we know at time  $t_1$  there will be at least 5 points. So we look at the law of  $(N_{t_1} - N_{t_0}, \dots, N_{t_k} - N_{t_{k-1}})$  ie the increments.

**Definition 4.8.** A stochastic process  $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is said to have indep and stationary increments if

- $\forall k \geq 1, \forall 0 = t_0 < \dots < t_k : X_{t_1} - X_{t_0}, \dots, X_{t_k} - X_{t_{k-1}}$  are indep
- $\forall s < t, \forall n \geq 0 : X_t - X_s \stackrel{law}{=} X_{t+h} - X_{s+h}$

**Theorem 4.22** (Marginals of Poisson Process). *We have the following:*

- (i)  $\forall k \geq 1, \forall 0 = t_0 < \dots < t_k : N_{t_1} - N_{t_0}, \dots, N_{t_k} - N_{t_{k-1}}$  are indep
- (ii)  $\forall s \leq t : N_t - N_s \sim Pois(\lambda(t-s))$

*In particular  $N = (N_t)_{t \geq 0}$  has indep and stationary increments.*

We know the law of  $(N_{t_1}, \dots, N_{t_k})$  for every fixed  $t_1 \dots t_k$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[N_{t_1} = m_1 \dots N_{t_k} = m_k] &= \mathbb{P}[N_{t_1} = m_1, N_{t_2} - N_{t_1} = m_2 - m_1, \dots, N_{t_k} - N_{t_{k-1}} = m_k - m_{k-1}] \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{(\lambda(t_i - t_{i-1}))^{m_i - m_{i-1}}}{m_i - m_{i-1}} e^{-\lambda(t_i - t_{i-1})} \end{aligned}$$

## 4.14 Finite Marginals Characterization

**Motivation** Let  $(N_t)_{t \geq 0}$  a stochastic process. Does the last formula from above ensure that the process is  $pp(\lambda)$ ? No, we can define  $\tilde{N}_t = \sum_{i \geq 1} \chi_{S_i < t}$ , we could also just change the value of the process as some random points, thus when we fix  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  we have 0 probability to see these.

In order to get a characterization we need to add some regularity assumptions.

**Definition 4.9.** Let  $N = (N_t)_{t \geq 0}$  be a continuous stoch process with values in  $\mathbb{R}$ . We say that  $N$  is a counting process if the following holds a.s.:

- (i)  $N_0 = 0$  a.s.
- (ii)  $t \rightarrow N_t$  is non decreasing, right continuous, with values in  $\mathbb{N}$

In this case, we can define the jump times by setting  $S_1 = \min\{t : N_t > 0\}$  and by induction  $S_{i+1} = \min\{t \geq S_i : N_t > N_{S_i}\}$ .

*Example 4.4.*  $pp(\lambda)$  is a counting process.

*Remark 4.23.* The condition (ii) is almost sure in the following manner:  $\exists A$  meas. with  $\mathbb{P}[A] = 1$  st  $\forall \omega \in A : t \rightarrow N_t(\omega)$  is non decreasing, right continuous, with values in  $\mathbb{N}$ .

**Theorem 4.24.** Let  $\lambda > 0$  : Let  $N$  be a counting process, the following are equivalent:

- (i)  $N$  is  $pp(\lambda)$
- (ii)  $\forall k \geq 1, \forall t_0 = 0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k, \forall n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{N} :$   

$$\mathbb{P}[N_{t_1} - N_{t_0} = n_1, \dots, N_{t_k} - N_{t_{k-1}} = n_k] = \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{(\lambda(t_i - t_{i-1}))^{n_i}}{n_i!} e^{-\lambda(t_i - t_{i-1})}$$

*Remark 4.25.* By def  $N$  is a  $pp(\lambda) \Leftrightarrow N$  is a counting process with jumps of size 1 a.s. and  $S_1, S_2 - S_1, \dots$  are iid  $exp(\lambda)$ .

## 4.15 Microscopic Characterization

**Theorem 4.26.** Let  $N$  be a counting process, let  $\lambda > 0$ . TFAE:

- (i)  $N$  is  $pp(\lambda)$
- (ii)  $N$  has indep and stationary increments and  $\mathbb{P}[N_t = 1] = \lambda t + o(t)$  and  $\mathbb{P}[N_t \geq 2] = o(t)$

## 4.16 Properties of Poisson Process

**Theorem 4.27** (Law of Large Numbers). *Let  $N$  be a  $pp(\lambda)$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ , then:  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_t}{t} = \lambda$ .*

**Motivation** If we want to specify (and remove) certain points, for instance if the PP is describing arrival times at a bakery then say we want to differentiate between customers who are younger than 45 and those who are older. If we just look at one of these groups, what type of process are they?

**Theorem 4.28** (Thinning). *Let  $(N_t)_{t \geq 0} \sim pp(\lambda)$  with jump times  $(S_i)_{i \geq 0}$ . Let  $(X_i)_{i \geq 0}$  iid  $Ber(p)$  indep of  $N$  (this is the differentiation, called the marking of  $N$ ). Define  $N_t^1 = \sum_{i \geq 1} \chi_{S_i \leq t, X_i = 1}$  and  $N_t^0 = \sum_{i \geq 1} \chi_{S_i \leq t, X_i = 0}$ .  $(N_t^0)$  and  $(N_t^1)$  are indep Poisson processes with respective rates  $\lambda_0 = (1 - p)\lambda$ ,  $\lambda_1 = p\lambda$ .*

Let  $(N_t^0)$  and  $(N_t^1)$  be indep Poisson processes with respective rates  $\lambda_0 > 0$ ,  $\lambda_1 > 0$ . Let  $N_t = N_t^0 + N_t^1$ .

**Theorem 4.29.**  *$N_t$  is a counting process and we define for every  $i$ :  $X_i = \mathbb{1}_{\{i\text{'th jump of } N_t \text{ is a jumping time of } N_t^1\}}$ . Then  $N_t$  is a  $pp(\lambda_0 + \lambda_1)$  and  $(X_i)$  is a marking of  $N$  with  $\forall i : \mathbb{P}[X_i = 1] = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_0 + \lambda_1}$ .*

**Conclusion** We successfully defined a renewal process with the Markov property, we also found that this object is also a PPP, thus giving us a process which has the asymptotic behavior (LLN, etc) from the renewal process perspective and getting the Strong and Weak Markov Property from the Poisson Point Process perspective.

# Chapter 5

## Continuous Time Markov Chains

**Framework**  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$  Probability space,  $E$  finite or countable.

**Outset** We will now be extending the theory of Discrete Markov Chains developed in Chapters 1 and 2 and generalizing the theory of Poisson Processes in Chapter 5. Instead of jumping at every step (studying  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ ), we will now make jumps at random times on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  with the continuous

	Discrete Time MC	Continuous Time MC
	Time $\mathbb{N}$	$\mathbb{R}_+$
	Initial Distribution $X_0 \sim \mu$	$X_0 \sim \mu$
time MC $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ using times on $\mathbb{R}_+$ .	Memoryless Property  $\mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = x_{n+1}   X_0 = x_0, \dots, X_n = x_n] = \mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = x_{n+1}   X_n = x_n]$	$\forall t \geq 0$ $\mathbb{P}[X_{t_{n+1}} = x_{n+1}   X_t = x_t] = \mathbb{P}[X_{t+h} = x_{n+1}   X_t = x_t]$
	Transition Probabilities $\mathbb{P}[X_{n+1} = y   X_n = x] = p_{x,y}$	$\mu$ -scopic      generalization $\mathbb{P}[X_{t+h} = y   X_t = x] = p_{x,y}$ for $h$ small the probability is equal to 1.

## 5.1 Definition via Generator

**Definition 5.1.** Let  $X = (X_t)_{t \geq 0}$  be a cont. time stochastic process with values in  $E$ . We say that  $X$  is a jump process without explosion if a.s.

- (i)  $t \mapsto X_t$  is right continuous
- (ii)  $\forall t > 0$  the number of discontinuity points of  $s \mapsto X_s$  on  $[0, t]$  is finite.

**Definition 5.2.** Jump times:  $S_0 = 0, S_{i+1} = \inf\{t > S_i, X_t = X_{S_i}\}$ , with condition (ii) implying that  $S_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  a.s.

**Definition 5.3.** Skeleton:  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} : \bar{X}_n := X_{S_n}$  if  $S_n < \infty$ , if  $\exists n_0 : S_n = \infty \forall n \geq n_0$  then  $\forall n \geq n_0 : X_n = X_{n_0-1}$ .

**Definition 5.4.** A generator (Q-matrix) is a family  $q = (q_{xy})_{x,y \in E}$  where:

- (i)  $q_{xy} \geq 0 \forall x \neq y$
- (ii)  $\forall x : \sum_{y \neq x} q_{xy} < \infty$
- (iii)  $q_{xx} = -q(x) = -\sum_{y \neq x} q_{xy}$

**Definition 5.5.** Let  $\mu$  be a distribution on  $E$ ,  $q$  a generator, let  $X$  be a jump process without explosion. We say that  $X$  is a  $CTMC(\mu, q)$  (Continuous Time Markov Chain without explosion with initial distribution  $\mu$  and generator  $q$ ) if:

- (i)  $X_0 \sim \mu$
- (ii)  $\forall t_1 < \dots < t_{n+1} : \forall x_1, \dots, x_{n+1} \in E : \mathbb{P}[X_{t_{n+1}} = x_{n+1} | X_{t_1} = x_1, \dots, X_{t_n} = x_n] = \mathbb{P}[X_{t_{n+1}} = x_{n+1} | X_n = x_n]$
- (iii)  $\forall x, y \in E : \forall t > 0 : \text{as } h \rightarrow 0^+ : \mathbb{P}[X_{t+h} = y | X_t = x] = \delta_{xy} + q_{xy}h + o(h)$  uniformly in  $t \geq 0, y \in E$ .

*Remark 5.1.* In (iii):  $\forall x, \exists \varphi_x : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  st  $\varphi_x(h) \xrightarrow{h \rightarrow 0^+} 0$  and  $\forall h > 0, \forall y \in E : \mathbb{P}[X_{t+h} = y | X_t = x] = \begin{cases} 1 - q(x)h + h\varphi_{x,x,t}(h) \\ q_{xy}h + h\varphi_{x,y,t}(h) \end{cases}$  where  $0 \leq \varphi_{x,z,t}(h) \leq \varphi_x(h)$ .

*Example 5.1* (Poisson Process). Let  $(N_t)_{t \geq 0}$  be a  $pp(\lambda)$ . Then  $N$  is a  $CTMC(\mu, q)$  with  $\mu = \delta_0$  and  $q = (q_{xy})_{x,y \in \mathbb{N}} = \lambda$  if  $y = x + 1$ ,  $-\lambda$  if  $y = x$ , and 0 otherwise.

**Question** Does  $CTMC(\mu, q)$  exist for arbitrary  $\mu$  and  $q$ ?



## 5.2 Non-Rigorous Section: The Constructive Approach

*Example 5.2* (2 State Markov Chain).  $E = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $q = \begin{pmatrix} -\alpha & \alpha \\ \beta & -\beta \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\alpha, \beta > 0$ .  $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ ,  $X_t \sim CTMC(\delta_1, q)$ ?  $X_0 = 1$ ,  $T_1 \sim Exp(\alpha)$ ,  $T_2 \sim Exp(\beta)$  (see notes for reasoning). This gives us the candidate  $X_t = \begin{cases} 1, t \in [S_i, S_{i+1}) \\ 2, t \in [S_{i+1}, S_{i+2}) \end{cases}$ .

**Idea**  $q_{xy}$  should represent the parameter for the time taken to jump from  $x$  to  $y$ . Since we want our process to have the Markov property, it is natural to see  $q_{xy}$  as the parameter in the exponential RV representing the waiting time to jump from  $x$  to  $y$ .

*Example 5.3* (3 State Markov Chain). We start at  $X_0 = 1$ , we have probability  $\alpha$  to jump to 2, and probability  $\beta$  to jump to 3. Thus we have  $T_{12} \sim Exp(\alpha)$ ,  $T_{13} \sim Exp(\beta)$ , then we shall actually jump at  $T_1 = \min\{T_{12}, T_{13}\} \sim Exp(\alpha + \beta)$ .  $\mathbb{P}[\text{jump from } 1 \rightarrow 2] = \mathbb{P}[T_1 = T_{12}] = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta} = \frac{q_{12}}{q(1)}$ . The skeleton  $(\bar{X}_n)$  is a Discrete time MC with transition probabilities  $\kappa_{xy} = \frac{q_{xy}}{q(x)}$ .

## 5.3 Definition by Skeleton and Holding Time

**Note**  $q$  is a fixed generator.

### Discrete Chain Associated to 2

**Definition 5.6.** Let  $x, y \in E$ , if  $q(x) > 0$  we define  $\kappa_{xy} = \frac{q_{xy}}{q(x)}$  and  $\kappa_{xx} = 0$ , if  $q(x) = 0$  then

$$\kappa_{xy} = \begin{cases} 0, x \neq y \\ 1, x = y \end{cases}.$$

*Remark 5.2.*  $\kappa$  is transition probability (check for the cases where  $q(x) = 0$  and  $q(x) \neq 0$ ).

*Example 5.4.* (i) The  $pp(\lambda)$ , with  $\kappa_{i,i+1} = 1$ .

(ii) The 2-State MC, with  $\kappa_{1,2} = \kappa_{2,1} = 1$

(iii) The 3-State MC, more complicated (see notes).

### Something can go wrong

Let  $\mu$  probability measure on  $E$ ,  $q$  generator. Our goal is to define  $(X_t)$  a  $CTMC(\mu, q)$ . Let  $Y = (Y_n)$  be a discrete  $MC(\mu, \kappa)$ ,  $H_1, H_2, \dots$  iid  $Exp(1)$  RVs, set  $T_i = \frac{1}{q(Y_i)} H_i$ , conditional on  $Y$   $T_i \sim Exp(q(Y_i))$  and they are independent.

We define  $S_i = T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_i$  for  $i > 1$ , and  $X_t = Y_n$  if  $t \in [S_n, S_{n+1})$ . Now have we defined  $X_t$  for all  $t \geq 0$ ? No, as  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n$  could be finite.

**Definition 5.7.** We say that  $q$  has no explosion if  $\forall$  choice of  $\mu : S_\infty = +\infty$  a.s.

*Remark 5.3.* This is only a condition on  $q$ .

**Question** Does there exist  $q$  with explosion? (Answer later)

**Question** If  $q$  has no explosion, is  $(X_t)$  a  $CTMC(\mu, q)$ ? (Also later)

### Birth Chain

$E = \mathbb{N}$ , fix  $(\lambda_i)_{i \geq 1}$ , and  $q_{i,i+1} = \lambda_i$ ,  $q_{i,i} = -\lambda_i$ , and otherwise  $q_{i,j} = 0$ . We get that  $\kappa_{i,j} = \delta_{i,i-1}$ ,  $Y_n = n$ , and  $T_i \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda_i)$ . Now we set  $S_\infty = \sum_{i=1}^\infty T_i$  and we ask, is  $S_\infty < \infty$  or  $S_\infty = \infty$  a.s.

*Remark 5.4.*  $pp(\lambda)$  is a birth chain with  $\lambda_i = \lambda$ .

**Theorem 5.5.** The birth chain  $q$  has no explosion  $\Leftrightarrow \sum_{i \geq 1} \frac{1}{\lambda_i} = \infty$ .

### Non-Explosion Characterization

Fix  $q$  a generator on  $E$  ( $\kappa_{xy} = \frac{q_{xy}}{q(x)}$ ).

**Theorem 5.6.** For  $x \in E$ , let  $Y = (Y_n^{(x)})_{n \geq 0}$  be a  $MC(\mu, \kappa)$ . Then  $q$  has no explosion  $\Leftrightarrow \forall x \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{q(Y_n^{(x)})} < \infty$  a.s.

*Remark 5.7.*  $\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{q(Y_n)}$  is a RV.

**Application** Sufficient Condition:  $q$  is non-explosive if

- $E$  is finite (2 and 3 State MC)
- $\inf_{x \in E: q(x) \neq 0} q(x) > 0$  (Poisson, 2 and 3 State MC)
- The chain  $\kappa$  is irreducible and recurrent.

### Key Theorem

**Theorem 5.8** (Characterization of CTMC). Let  $X = (X_t)_{t \geq 0}$  be a jump process without explosion. Let  $q$  be a non-explosive generator. Then TFAE:

- (i)  $X$  is a  $CTMC(\mu, q)$
- (ii) The skeleton of  $X$  ( $Y = \overline{X_n}$ ) is a discrete time  $MC(\mu, \kappa)$  and conditioned on  $Y$ , the holding times satisfy  $S_i - S_{i-1} \sim \text{Exp}(q(Y_i))$  are indep.

### Consequences

- Existence of CTMC for non-explosive  $q$
- Uniqueness of the law of a  $CTMC(\mu, q)$  (if  $X, Y$  are  $CTMC(\mu, q)$  then  $\forall t_1 < \dots < t_n : (X_{t_1}, \dots, X_{t_n}) \sim (Y_{t_1}, \dots, Y_{t_n})$ )
- There exist constructive algorithms (see Morris)

## 5.4 Markov Properties

**Framework**  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathbb{P}_x)_{x \in E})$ ,  $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$  st under  $\mathbb{P}_x$ ,  $X$  is  $CTMC(\mu, q)$  with  $q$  non-explosive. (Such probability measures exist, take  $\mu$  with  $\mu(x) > 0 \forall x \in E$ , consider  $(X_t)_{t \geq 0} = CTMC(\mu, q)$  then let  $\mathbb{P}_x = \mathbb{P}[\cdot | X_0 = x]$ .)

**Simple Markov Property** Fix  $t \geq 0, x \in E$ ; Conditionally on  $X_t = x$  we have that  $(X_{t+s})_{s \geq 0}$  is a  $CTMC(\delta_x, q)$  indep of  $(X_n)_{n \leq t}$

**Strong Markov Property** The same applies if we replace  $t$  by a random stopping time  $T$ .

## 5.5 Transition Probabilities

$X = (X_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is a  $CTMC(\delta_x, q)$  under  $\mathbb{P}_x$ , then we define for  $t \geq 0$  and  $x, y \in E$ :  $p_{xy}(t) = \mathbb{P}_x[X_t = y]$ . In the discrete case this corresponds to  $p_{xy}^{(n)} = p_{xy}(t)$ .

*Remark 5.9.* We have

- $\forall t \geq 0 : (p_{xy}(t))_{x, y \in E}$  is a transition probability  $\sum_y p_{xy}(t) = \sum_y \mathbb{P}_x[X_t = y] = 1$ .
- $\forall x : p_{xx}(t) \geq e^{-q(x)t} \forall t$
- $\forall x, y \in E : p_{xx}(h) = 1 - q(x)h + o(h)$  and  $p_{xy}(h) = q_{xy}h + o(h)$  for  $x \neq y$ .

**Proposition 5.10** (Chapman Kolmogorov (CK) Equations).  $\forall t, s \geq 0 : p_{xy}(t+s) = \sum_z p_{xz}(t)p_{zy}(s)$

**Question** Knowing  $q$ , what is  $p_{xy}(t)$ ?

**Theorem 5.11** (Backward/Forward equations).  $\forall x, y \in E : p_{xy}$  is  $C^1$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+$  and  $\forall t \geq 0$  we have the backward equation:

$$p'_{xy}(t) = \left( \sum_{z \neq x} q_{xz} p_{zy}(t) \right) - q(x) p_{xy}(t)$$

And the forward equation:

$$p'_{xy}(t) = \left( \sum_{z \neq y} p_{xz}(t) q_{zy} \right) - p_{xy}(t) q(y)$$

**Application** Let us look at what happens when  $E$  is finite ( $E = \{1 \dots k\}$ ). Then  $P(t) = \begin{pmatrix} p_{11}(t) & \dots & p_{1k}(t) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ p_{k1}(t) & \dots & p_{kk}(t) \end{pmatrix}$  and  $Q = \begin{pmatrix} q_{11} & \dots & q_{1k} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ q_{k1} & \dots & q_{kk} \end{pmatrix}$  So we get that  $p'_{xy}(t) = \sum_{z \in E} q_{xz} p_{zy}(t) \implies P'(t) = QP(t)$  (from backward equation) we also get  $P'(t) = P(t)Q$  (from forwards equation).

**Theorem 5.12.** If  $E$  is finite, we have  $\forall t \geq 0 : P(t) = \exp(tQ)$ .