

# Stochastic Processes

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# 1 Review of Martingales

- $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is  $L^2$ -bounded martingale  $\Rightarrow X_n$  converges in  $L^2$ .
- $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is  $L^1$ -bounded martingale  $\Rightarrow X_n$  converges a.s.
- (1) + (2): If  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is  $L^p$ -bounded martingale for  $p > 1$ , then  $X_n$  converges in  $L^{p'}$  for  $p' \in [1, p)$ .
- Statement is false when  $p = 1$ . Example:  $\Omega = [0, 1)$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma\{\frac{i}{2^n}, \frac{i+1}{2^n}\}_{i=0}^{2^n-1}$ ,  $X_n(\omega) := \begin{cases} 2^n & \omega \in [0, \frac{1}{2^n}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ .
- Let  $p > 1$  and  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be  $L^p$  bounded martingale w.r.t.  $\mathcal{F}_n$ . Then  $\exists X \in L^p(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_\infty, P)$  s.t.  $X_n \rightarrow X$  in  $L^p$  and a.s. and  $X_n = \mathbb{E}(X | \mathcal{F}_n)$ .
- Doob's maximal inequality: Let  $p > 1, \exists C = C_p$  s.t.  $\forall$  martingale  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ , we have  $\mathbb{E}|X_n^*|^p \leq C_p \mathbb{E}|X_n|^p$  where  $|X_n^*| = \sup_{0 \leq k \leq n} |X_k|$ .
- Let  $(Z_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a nonnegative sub-martingale and  $Z_n^* = \sup_{0 \leq k \leq n} Z_k$ , then  $P(Z_n^* > \lambda) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathbb{E}(Z_n 1_{\{Z_n^* > \lambda\}}) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathbb{E}Z_n$ . Corollary:  $P(Z_n^* > \lambda) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^p} \mathbb{E}(Z_n^p 1_{\{Z_n^* > \lambda\}}) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^p} \mathbb{E}(Z_n^p)$ .
- If  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is a martingale with  $\sup_n \mathbb{E}(|X_n| \log(1 + |X_n|)) < +\infty$ , then  $X_n$  converges in  $L^1$ .
- Two probability measures  $P$  and  $Q$  on  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ ,  $Q \ll P$  on  $\mathcal{F}_n$  for every  $n$  and  $M_n = \frac{dQ|_{\mathcal{F}_n}}{dP|_{\mathcal{F}_n}}$ .  $(M_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is a  $P$ -martingale w.r.t.  $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \geq 0}$ .  $Q \ll P$  on  $\mathcal{F}_\infty$  if and only if  $M_n \rightarrow M$  in  $L^1$ .  $Q(A) = \int_A M dP + Q(A \cap \{M = +\infty\})$ .
- Statement is false if  $M_n \not\rightarrow M$  in  $L^1$ . Example:  $\Omega = \{\omega = (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n, \dots) \in \{\pm 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}\}$ ,  $X_n(\omega) = \omega_n$ .  $X_n$ 's are i.i.d. under  $P$  and  $Q$ , but  $P(X_n = 1) = \frac{1}{2}, P(X_n = -1) = \frac{1}{2}, Q(X_n = 1) = \frac{1}{3}, Q(X_n = -1) = \frac{2}{3}$ .  $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ .  $P(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n X_k = 0) = 1, Q(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n X_k = -\frac{1}{3}) = 1$ .
- Monotone class theorem for functions: Suppose  $\mathcal{A}$  as a  $\pi$ -system and  $\mathcal{H}$  be a class of functions from  $\Omega$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  s.t. (1)  $1_A \in \mathcal{H}$  for every  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ , (2) if  $f, g \in \mathcal{H}$  then  $af + bg \in \mathcal{H}$ , (3) if  $f_n \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $f_n \uparrow f$  then  $f \in \mathcal{H}$ . Then all nonnegative  $\sigma(\mathcal{A})$ -measurable functions are in  $\mathcal{H}$ .
- Let  $(Y_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be i.i.d., nonnegative r.v.'s with  $\mathbb{E}Y_k = 1$ . Then  $M_n = \prod_{k=1}^n Y_k$  converges in  $L^1$  iff  $Y_n \equiv 1$ . Otherwise  $M_n \rightarrow 0$  a.s.
- Kakutani's theorem:  $M_n = \prod_{k=1}^n Y_k$ ,  $Y_k \geq 0$  are independent,  $\mathbb{E}Y_k = 1$ ,  $\lambda_k = \mathbb{E}\sqrt{Y_k}$ . (1) If  $\prod_k \lambda_k > 0$ , then  $M_n \rightarrow M$  in  $L^1$ ; (2) If  $\prod_k \lambda_k = 0$ , then  $M_n \rightarrow 0$  a.s.

# 2 Markov Chains

- Let  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a time-homogeneous Markov chain on a discrete space  $S$ .  $P^x$ : probability measure of  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  conditioned on  $X_0 = x$ .  $P(X_{n+1} \in A | \mathcal{F}_n) = P^{X_n}(X_1 \in A) = P(X_1 \in A | X_0 = X_n)$ .  $\mathbb{E}^x$ : expectation under  $P^x$ .  $P^x(X_1 = y) = p(x, y)$ .
- For every  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  bounded, define  $(Pf)(x) = \sum_{y \in S} p(x, y)f(y) = \mathbb{E}^x(f(X_1))$ ,  $(Lf)(x) = \sum_{y \in S} p(x, y)f(y) - f(x)$ .  $L = P - \text{id}$ , the generator.
- Let  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a homogeneous Markov chain with generator  $L$ . Then for every bounded  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $M_n = f(X_n) - f(X_0) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (Lf)(X_k)$  is a martingale. Conversely, let  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a process and  $L$  be an operator on  $\mathcal{B}(S)$  s.t.  $M_n^f$  is a martingale for every  $f$ , then  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is a Markov chain with generator  $L$ .

- Given operator  $L$  on  $\mathcal{B}(S)$ , we say  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is (1) harmonic for  $L$  if  $Lf = 0$ ; (2) sub-harmonic for  $L$  if  $Lf \leq 0$ ; (3) super-harmonic for  $L$  if  $Lf \geq 0$ .
- Let  $f$  be the generator of a Markov chain  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ . Then  $f$  is (sub-/super-)harmonic  $\Leftrightarrow f(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is a (sub-/super-) martingale.
- $f$  is (sub-/super-)harmonic on  $D \subset S$  if  $Lf \leq / \geq / = 0$  on  $D$ . Let  $\tau = \inf\{k \geq 0 : X_k \in D^c\}$ , then  $(f(X_{n \wedge \tau}))_{n \geq 0}$  is a (sub-/super-)martingale.
- Maximum principle: Let  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a Markov chain and  $D \subset S$  s.t. the stopping time  $\tau = \inf\{k \geq 0, X_k \in D^c\}$  is a.s. finite. If  $f$  is bounded and sub-harmonic on  $D$ , then  $\sup_{x \in D} f(x) \leq \sup_{x \in D^c} f(x)$ .
- $A \subset S, \tau_A = \sup\{k \geq 0 : X_k \in A\}, u(x) = P^x(\tau_A < +\infty)$ . Then  $u(x) = 1$  for  $x \in A$ ,  $u(x) = \sum_{y \in S} p(x, y)u(y) = (Pu)(x)$ ,  $\Rightarrow \begin{cases} Lu = 0 & \text{on } A^c \\ u = 1 & \text{on } A \end{cases}$ .
- Any nonnegative solution  $v$  to  $\begin{cases} Lv = 0 & \text{on } A^c \\ v = 1 & \text{on } A \end{cases}$  satisfies  $v \geq u$ . Furthermore, if  $u \equiv 1$ , then  $\exists$  1 bounded solution to  $\begin{cases} Lv = 0 & \text{on } A^c \\ v = f & \text{on } A \end{cases}$  with  $v(x) = \mathbb{E}^x(f(X_{\tau_A}))$ .
- Doob's h-transform: Let  $h$  be positive, harmonic with  $h(x_0) = 1$  for some  $x_0 \in S \Rightarrow (h(X_n))_{n \geq 0}$  is a martingale with  $\mathbb{E}^{P^{x_0}}(h(X_n)) = 1$ . Then  $\exists$  1 measure  $Q^h$  on  $\mathcal{F}_\infty$  s.t.  $\frac{dQ^h}{dP^{x_0}|_{\mathcal{F}_n}} = h(X_n), \forall n \geq 0$ .  $Q^h(X_0 = x_0) = 1, (X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  never visits the set  $D = \{x : h(x) = 0\}$ . Under  $Q^h$ ,  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is again a Markov chain on  $S \setminus D$  with transition probability  $q(x, y) = \frac{p(x, y)h(y)}{h(x)}$  (or equivalently,  $(L^h f)(x) = \frac{1}{h(x)}(L(hf))(x)$ ).