

# 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  $X_n = \mathbb{E}(X|\mathcal{F}_n)$ .
- Let  $(Z_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a nonnegative sub-martingale and  $Z_n^* = \sup_{0 \leq k \leq n} Z_k$ , then  $\mathbb{P}(Z_n^* > \lambda) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathbb{E}(Z_n 1_{\{Z_n^* > \lambda\}}) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathbb{E}Z_n$ . Corollary:  $\mathbb{P}(Z_n^* > \lambda) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^p} \mathbb{E}(Z_n^p 1_{\{Z_n^* > \lambda\}}) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^p} \mathbb{E}(Z_n^p)$ .
- 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  $|X_n^*| = \sup_{0 \leq k \leq n} |X_k|$ .
- 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  $L^1$ .

*Proof*  $\mathbb{E}|X_n^*| = \int_0^{+\infty} \mathbb{P}(X_n^* > \lambda) d\lambda \leq 1 + \int_1^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda} (\int_{|X_n^*| > \lambda} |X_n| d\mathbb{P}) d\lambda = 1 + \int |X_n| 1_{X_n^* > 1} (\int_1^{X_n^*} \frac{1}{\lambda} d\lambda) d\mathbb{P} \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}|X_n^*| \leq 1 + \mathbb{E}(|X_n| \log(X_n^* \vee 1)) \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X_n^* \vee 1) \leq 2 + \mathbb{E}(|X_n| \log(X_n^* \vee 1))$ . Since  $x \log y \leq 10^{10}(2+x) \log(2+x) + \frac{y}{2}$  when  $x, y$  are large enough (insight: if  $y \gg x^2$  then  $x \log y \leq \frac{y}{2}$ ; else  $x \log y \leq 10^{10}(2+x) \log(2+x)$ ),  $\mathbb{E}X_n^* \leq 10^{100}[1 + \mathbb{E}(|X_n| + 2) \log(|X_n| + 2)]$ . Then use dominated convergence theorem.  $\square$

- Two probability measures  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $\mathbb{Q}$  on  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ ,  $\mathbb{Q} \ll \mathbb{P}$  on  $\mathcal{F}_n$  for every  $n$  and  $M_n = \frac{d\mathbb{Q}|_{\mathcal{F}_n}}{d\mathbb{P}|_{\mathcal{F}_n}}$ .  $(M_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is a  $\mathbb{P}$ -martingale w.r.t.  $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \geq 0}$ .  $\mathbb{Q} \ll \mathbb{P}$  on  $\mathcal{F}_\infty$  if and only if  $M_n \rightarrow M$  in  $L^1$ .  $\mathbb{Q}(A) = \int_A M d\mathbb{P} + \mathbb{Q}(A \cap \{M = +\infty\})$ .

*Proof* Sufficiency.  $\mathbb{Q} \ll \mathbb{P}$  on  $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_\infty$ , thus let  $Z = \frac{d\mathbb{Q}|_{\mathcal{F}}}{d\mathbb{P}|_{\mathcal{F}}}$ , we need to show  $M_n$  converges to  $Z$  in  $L^1$ .  $\forall A \in \mathcal{F}_n$ ,  $\int_A M_n d\mathbb{P} = \mathbb{Q}(A) = \int_A Z d\mathbb{P} \Rightarrow M_n = \mathbb{E}(Z|\mathcal{F}_n)$ . Thus  $M_n$  is uniformly integrable, thus converges in  $L^1$ .

Necessity. Suppose  $M_n \rightarrow M$  a.s. and in  $L^1$ . We need to show  $M_n = \mathbb{E}(M|\mathcal{F}_n)$  and  $M = \frac{d\mathbb{Q}}{d\mathbb{P}}$ . It suffices to show  $\mathbb{Q}(A) = \int_A M d\mathbb{P}$  for all  $A \in \cup_n \mathcal{F}_n$ . Suppose  $A \in \mathcal{F}_N$ . Then  $\mathbb{Q}(A) = \int_A M_N d\mathbb{P} = \int_A M_{N+k} d\mathbb{P} \rightarrow \int_A M d\mathbb{P}$ . By  $\pi - \lambda$  theorem we can get the desired result.

Suppose  $\mathbb{P} \perp \mathbb{Q}$  on  $\mathcal{F}$  (i.e.  $\exists E$  s.t.  $\mathbb{P}(E) = 1, \mathbb{Q}(E^c) = 1$ ) and  $\mathbb{P} \ll \mathbb{Q}$  on  $\mathcal{F}_n$ . Then  $\frac{1}{M_n}$  converges  $\mathbb{Q}$ -a.s. Let  $\mathbb{R} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{P} + \mathbb{Q})$ ,  $\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q} \ll \mathbb{R}$  on  $\mathcal{F}$ ,  $\frac{d\mathbb{P}|_{\mathcal{F}_n}}{d\mathbb{R}|_{\mathcal{F}_n}} = \frac{2}{1+M_n} \rightarrow \frac{2M}{1+M}$  in  $L^1(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $\frac{d\mathbb{Q}}{d\mathbb{R}} = \frac{2M_n}{1+M_n} \rightarrow \frac{2}{1+M}$  in  $L^1(\mathbb{R})$ . Then  $\mathbb{Q}(A) = \mathbb{Q}(A \cap E^c) = \int_{A \cap E^c} \frac{2M}{1+M} d\mathbb{R} = \int_A \frac{2M}{1+M} 1_{E^c} d\mathbb{R} \stackrel{\mathbb{P}(E^c)=0}{=} 2\mathbb{R}(A \cap E^c) = 2 \int_A 1_{E^c} d\mathbb{R} \Rightarrow M = +\infty$  on  $E^c \Rightarrow \mathbb{Q}(M = +\infty) = 1$ . Similarly  $\mathbb{P}(M = 0) = \mathbb{Q}(M = +\infty) = 1$ .

General situation:  $\mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{Q}_1 + \mathbb{Q}_2, \mathbb{Q}_1 \ll \mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q}_2 \perp \mathbb{P}$  on  $\mathcal{F}$ . Therefore we can decompose  $M_n$  as  $M_n = Y_n + Z_n$  where  $Y_n \rightarrow Y$  in  $L^1(\mathbb{P})$  and  $Z_n \rightarrow 0$   $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s.  $\mathbb{Q}_1(A) = \int_A Y d\mathbb{P} = \int_A M d\mathbb{P}$ .  $\mathbb{Q}_2(A) = \mathbb{Q}_2(A \cap \{Z = +\infty\})$ . Since  $Z = 0$   $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s.,  $M < +\infty$   $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s. and  $\mathbb{Q}_2(M = +\infty) = 1$ , we have  $\mathbb{Q}_2(A) = \mathbb{Q}(A \cap \{Z = +\infty\}) = \mathbb{Q}_2(A \cap \{M = +\infty\}) = \mathbb{Q}(A \cap \{M = +\infty\})$ . To sum up,  $\mathbb{Q}(A) = \int_A M d\mathbb{P} + \mathbb{Q}(A \cap \{M = +\infty\})$ .  $\square$

- 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  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $\mathbb{Q}$ , but  $\mathbb{P}(X_n = 1) = \frac{1}{2}, \mathbb{P}(X_n = -1) = \frac{1}{2}, \mathbb{Q}(X_n = 1) = \frac{1}{3}, \mathbb{Q}(X_n = -1) = \frac{2}{3}$ .  $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ .  $\mathbb{P}(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n X_k = 0) = 1, \mathbb{Q}(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n X_k = -\frac{1}{3}) = 1$ .

- 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.

*Proof* Note that  $\frac{1}{n} \log M_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \log Y_k \rightarrow \mathbb{E} \log Y$  a.s. If  $\mathbb{E} \log Y = 0$  then by Jensen's inequality we have  $Y_n \equiv 1$  which means  $M_n$  converges in  $L^1$ . If  $\mathbb{E} \log Y < 0$  then  $M_n \rightarrow 0$  a.s.  $\square$

- 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.

*Proof* Let  $Z_n = \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\sqrt{Y_k}}{\lambda_k}$ . Then  $Z_n$  is a martingale and has an a.s. limit  $Z$ , and  $M_n = (\prod_{k=1}^n \lambda_k)^2 Z_n^2$ . If  $\prod_k \lambda_k > 0$ , then  $Z_n$  is  $L^2$  bounded and then convergence in  $L^2$ , which implies  $M_n \rightarrow M$  in  $L^1$ . If  $\prod_k \lambda_k = 0$ , it is obvious that  $M_n \rightarrow 0$  a.s.  $\square$

- Martingale LLN: Let  $(M_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a martingale s.t.  $\sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}(M_k - M_{k-1})^2}{k^2} < +\infty$ . Then  $\frac{M_n}{n} \rightarrow 0$  a.s.

*Proof* Let  $Y_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{X_k}{k}$ . Then  $(Y_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is an  $L^2$  bounded martingale, thus  $Y_n \rightarrow Y$  a.s. Then by Kronecker's lemma,  $M_n = \frac{X_1 + \dots + X_n}{n} \rightarrow 0$  a.s.  $\square$

- Martingale CLT: Let  $(M_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a martingale with  $M_0 = 0$  and  $\sigma_n^2 = \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{E}X_k^2 = \mathbb{E}\langle M \rangle_n$ . Assume that  $\frac{1}{\sigma_n^2} \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} (\mathbb{E}X_k^2) \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\frac{1}{\sigma_n^2} \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{E}(X_k^2 1_{\{|X_k| > \epsilon \sigma_n\}} | \mathcal{F}_{k-1}) \xrightarrow{P} 0$  for all  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\frac{1}{\sigma_n^2} \langle M \rangle_n \xrightarrow{P} 1$ . Then  $\frac{M_n}{\sigma_n} \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .

## 2 Markov Chains

- Let  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a homogeneous Markov chain on a discrete space  $S$ .  $\mathbb{P}^x$  : law of  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  conditioned on  $X_0 = x$ .  $\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} \in A | \mathcal{F}_n) = \mathbb{P}^{X_n}(X_1 \in A) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 \in A | X_0 = X_n)$ .  $\mathbb{E}^x$  : expectation under  $\mathbb{P}^x$ .  $\mathbb{P}^x(X_1 = y) = p(x, y)$ .
- For every  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  bounded, define  $(\mathcal{P}f)(x) = \sum_{y \in S} p(x, y)f(y) = \mathbb{E}^x(f(X_1))$ ,  $(\mathcal{L}f)(x) = \sum_{y \in S} p(x, y)f(y) - f(x)$ .  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{P} - \text{id}$ , the generator.
- Let  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a homogeneous Markov chain with generator  $\mathcal{L}$ . Then for every bounded  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $M_n = f(X_n) - f(X_0) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (\mathcal{L}f)(X_k)$  is a martingale. Conversely, let  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  be a process and  $\mathcal{L}$  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  $\mathcal{L}$ .
- Given operator  $\mathcal{L}$  on  $\mathcal{B}(S)$ , we say  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is (1) harmonic for  $\mathcal{L}$  if  $\mathcal{L}f = 0$ ; (2) sub-harmonic for  $\mathcal{L}$  if  $\mathcal{L}f \geq 0$ ; (3) super-harmonic for  $\mathcal{L}$  if  $\mathcal{L}f \leq 0$ .
- 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  $\mathcal{L}f \geq / \leq / = 0$  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  $\sup_{x \in D} f(x) \leq \sup_{x \in D^c} f(x)$ .

*Proof*  $f$  is sub-harmonic implies  $(f(X_{n \wedge \tau}))$  is a sub-martingale, hence for  $x \in D$  we have  $f(x) \leq \mathbb{E}^x f(X_{n \wedge \tau}) \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^x(f(X_\tau)) \leq \sup_{x \in D^c} f(x)$ .  $\square$

- $A \subset S, \tau_A = \sup\{k \geq 0 : X_k \in A\}$ . (1)  $u(x) = \mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A < +\infty) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}u = 0 & \text{on } A^c \\ u = 1 & \text{on } A \end{cases}$ . (2)  $u(x) = \mathbb{P}(\tau_A < \tau_B) \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}u = 0 & \text{on } (A \cup B)^c \\ u = 1 & \text{on } A \\ u = 0 & \text{on } B. \end{cases} \quad (3) \quad u(x) = \mathbb{E}^x[\tau_A] \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}u = -1 & \text{on } A^c \\ u = 0 & \text{on } A \end{cases}.$$

- Any nonnegative solution  $v$  to  $\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}v = 0 & \text{on } A^c \\ v = 1 & \text{on } A \end{cases}$  satisfies  $v \geq u$ . Furthermore, if  $u \equiv 1$ , then  $\exists 1$  bounded solution

$$\text{to } \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}v = 0 & \text{on } A^c \\ v = f & \text{on } A \end{cases} \quad \text{with } v(x) = \mathbb{E}^x(f(X_{\tau_A})).$$

*Proof* Let  $v(x)$  be a non-negative solution, then  $v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A})_{n \geq 0}$  is a martingale.  $v(x) = \mathbb{E}^x v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) = \mathbb{E}^x v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) 1_{\tau_A < \infty} + \mathbb{E}^x v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) 1_{\tau_A = \infty} \geq \mathbb{E} v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) 1_{\tau_A < \infty}$ . Let  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and by Fatou's lemma, we have  $v(x) \geq \mathbb{E}^x v(X_{\tau_A}) 1_{\tau_A < \infty} = \mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A < \infty) = u(x)$ . If  $u(x) \equiv 1$  and  $v(x)$  is bounded, then by bounded convergence theorem,  $v(x) = \mathbb{E}^x v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^x v(X_{\tau_A}) = \mathbb{E}^x f(X_{\tau_A}) = \mathbb{E}^x f(X_{\tau_A})$ .  $\square$

- Doob's  $h$ -transform: Let  $h$  be nonnegative, harmonic with  $h(x_0) = 1$  for some  $x_0 \in S$ . Then  $(h(X_n))_{n \geq 0}$  is a martingale with  $\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^{x_0}}(h(X_n)) = 1$ . Then  $\exists$ ! measure  $\mathbb{Q}^h$  on  $\mathcal{F}_\infty$  s.t.  $\frac{d\mathbb{Q}^h}{d\mathbb{P}^{x_0}}|_{\mathcal{F}_n} = h(X_n), \forall n \geq 0$ .  $\mathbb{Q}^h(X_0 = x_0) = 1$ ,  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  never visits the set  $D = \{x : h(x) = 0\}$ . Under  $\mathbb{Q}^h$ ,  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  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,  $(\mathcal{L}^h f)(x) = \frac{1}{h(x)}(\mathcal{L}(hf))(x)$ ).

*Proof* The first two props are trivial.  $\mathbb{Q}(X_{n+1} = y | \mathcal{F}_n) = \frac{\mathbb{Q}(X_{n+1}=y, X_n=x_n, \dots, X_0=x_0)}{\mathbb{Q}(X_n=x_n, \dots, X_0=x_0)} = \frac{\int_{\{X_{n+1}=y, X_n=x_n, \dots, X_0=x_0\}} h(X_{n+1}) d\mathbb{P}^{x_0}}{\int_{\{X_n=x_n, \dots, X_0=x_0\}} h(X_n) d\mathbb{P}^{x_0}} = \frac{h(y) \mathbb{P}^{x_0}(X_{n+1}=y, X_n=x_n, \dots, X_0=x_0)}{h(x_n) \mathbb{P}^{x_0}(X_n=x_n, \dots, X_0=x_0)} = \frac{h(y)p(x_n, y)}{h(x_n)}$ . Next we show  $M_n^f := f(X_n) - f(X_0) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (\mathcal{L}^h f)(X_k)$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -martingale for any bounded  $f$ . Let  $Z_n = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{Q}} f(X_{n+1}) | \mathcal{F}_n$ .  $\forall A \in \mathcal{F}_n$ ,  $\int_A Z_n h(X_n) d\mathbb{P}^{x_0} = \int_A Z_n d\mathbb{Q} = \int_A f(X_{n+1}) d\mathbb{Q} = \int_A f(X_{n+1}) h(X_{n+1}) d\mathbb{P}^{x_0} = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^{x_0}} [\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^{x_0}}(f(X_{n+1})h(X_{n+1})1_A | \mathcal{F}_n)] = \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^{x_0}} [1_A \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^{x_0}}(f(X_{n+1})h(X_{n+1}) | \mathcal{F}_n)] = \int_A \mathcal{P}(hf)(X_n) d\mathbb{P}^{x_0}$ . Thus  $Z_n = \frac{\mathcal{P}(hf)(X_n)}{h(X_n)}$  only depends on  $X_n$ , i.e.  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is a MC on  $\mathbb{Q}$  with generator  $\mathcal{L}^h$ .  $\square$

- An irreducible Markov chain  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  (1) is transient if  $\exists x$  and  $A \subset S$  s.t.  $\mathbb{P}(\tau_A < \infty | X_0 = x) < 1$ ; (2) is recurrent if  $\exists$  a finite set  $A \subset S$  s.t.  $\mathbb{P}(\tau_A < \infty) = 1$  for all  $x \in S$ . (3) is positive recurrent if  $\exists$  a finite set  $A \subset S$  s.t.  $\mathbb{E}(\tau_A) < \infty$  for all  $x \in S$ .
- Foster-Lyapunov criterion: An irreducible MC on a countable state space  $S$  (1) is transient iff  $\exists v : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  and  $A \subset S$  non-empty s.t.  $\mathcal{L}v \leq 0$  on  $A^c$  and  $v(x) < \inf_{y \in A} v(y)$  for some  $x \in A^c$ ; (2) is recurrent iff  $\exists v : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  s.t.  $\mathcal{L}v \leq 0$  on  $A^c$  where  $A$  is a finite set and  $\{x : v(x) \leq N\}$  is finite for every  $N$ ; (3) is positive recurrent iff  $\exists v : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ ,  $A \subset S$  finite,  $\exists \epsilon > 0$  s.t.  $\mathcal{L}v \leq -\epsilon$  on  $A^c$  and  $\sum_{y \in S} p(x, y)V(y) < +\infty$  for all  $x \in A$ .

*Proof* (1)  $v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A})_{n \geq 0}$  is a super-martingale, hence  $v(x) \geq \mathbb{E}v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) \geq \mathbb{E}v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A})1_{\tau_A < \infty}$ . Let  $n \rightarrow \infty$  we know  $v(x) \geq \mathbb{E}v(X_{\tau_A}1_{\tau_A < \infty}) \geq (\inf_{y \in A} v(y))\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A < \infty) \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A < \infty) < \frac{v(x)}{\inf_{y \in A} v(y)} < 1$ . (2) On  $\{\tau_A = \infty\}$ ,  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) = +\infty$  a.s. Since  $(v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}))_{n \geq 0}$  is a nonnegative super-martingale, hence converges a.s., therefore  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) = +\infty$  a.s. Note that  $v(x) \geq \mathbb{E}v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A})1_{\tau_A = \infty}$ . Since LHS is a finite number, we have  $\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A = \infty) = 0$ . (3)  $\mathbb{E}v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) | \mathcal{F}_{n-1} \leq v(X_{(n-1) \wedge \tau_A}) - \epsilon 1_{\tau_A \geq n}$ . Taking expectation on the both sides,  $\mathbb{E}v(X_{n \wedge \tau_A}) \leq \mathbb{E}v(X_{(n-1) \wedge \tau_A}) - \epsilon \mathbb{E}1_{\tau_A \geq n} \leq \dots \leq v(x) - \epsilon \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A \geq k) \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}^x \tau_A = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A \geq k) \leq \frac{v(x)}{\epsilon} < \infty$ .  $\square$

- e.g.  $h(x) = \frac{\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A < \tau_B)}{\mathbb{P}^{x_0}(\tau_A < \tau_B)}$  is harmonic on  $(A \cup B)^c$  with  $h(x_0) = 1$  ( $x_0 \in (A \cup B)^c$ ). Then  $\forall x, y \in (A \cup B)^c, q(x, y) = \frac{h(y)p(x, y)}{h(x)} = \frac{\mathbb{P}^y(\tau_A < \tau_B)p(x, y)}{\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A < \tau_B)} = \frac{\mathbb{P}^x(X_1=y, \tau_A < \tau_B)}{\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_A < \tau_B)} = \mathbb{P}^x(X_1 = y | \tau_A < \tau_B)$ .
- e.g.  $\mathbb{P}$  is simple symmetric random walk on  $\mathbb{Z}$  starting from  $X_0 = 0$ . Question: what is the law of  $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$  conditioned on  $X_n \geq 0$  for all  $n$ ? Let  $\tau_k = \inf\{n \geq 0, X_n = k\}$ . On  $\{\tau_N < \tau_{-1}\}$ ,  $\frac{h(y)}{h(x)} = \frac{\mathbb{P}^y(\tau_N < \tau_{-1})}{\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_N < \tau_{-1})} = \frac{y+1}{x+1}$ . Thus  $q_N(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{y+1}{x+1}, |x - y| = 1, x \in \{0, \dots, N-1\} \Rightarrow q(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{y+1}{x+1}, x \geq 0, |x - y| = 1$ .

### 3 Ergodic Theorem

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