

Lecture 9: Steady State Behavior

Related Reading

Bertsekas and Tsitsiklis Sections 7.2 and 7.3

Classification of States

If $r_{ij}(n) > 0$ for some n , then we say j is accessible from i .

Let $A(i)$ be the set of states that are accessible from i . If for any $j \in A(i)$, we have $i \in A(j)$, then i is recurrent.

A state is called transient if it is not recurrent.

If i is a recurrent state, then $A(i)$ is a recurrent class.

Markov Chain decomposition: one or more recurrent states plus possibly some transient states

A recurrent state is periodic if its states can be grouped in $d > 1$ disjoint subsets S_1, \dots, S_d so that all transitions from one subset lead to the next subset.

A recurrent class is aperiodic if and only if there exists a time $n > 0$, such that for any i and j in the class, we have $r_{ij}(n) > 0$.

Steady State Balance Equation

Consider a Markov Chain with a single aperiodic recurrent class, then the steady-state probabilities π_j satisfy the following balance equations and the renormalization equation.

$$\pi_j = \sum_{k=1}^m \pi_k p_{kj} \quad (1)$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m \pi_k = 1 \quad (2)$$