

Stochastic Processes problems

https://github.com/bdemeshev/stochastic_pro

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1 First step analysis

- 1.1** Biden and Trump alternately throw a fair dice infinite number of times. Biden throws first. The person who obtains the first 6 wins the game.
- a) What is the probability that Biden will win?
 - b) What is expected number of turns?
 - c) What is variance of the number of turns?
 - d) What is expected number of turns given that Biden won?
 - e) Find the transition matrix of this four state Markov chain.
- 1.2** Elon throws an unfair coin until “head” appears. The probability of “head” is $p \in (0; 1)$. Let N be the total number of throws.
- a) Find $\mathbb{E}(N)$, $\text{Var}(N)$, $\mathbb{E}(N^3)$, $\mathbb{E}(\exp(tN))$.
 - b) What is the probability than N will be even?
- 1.3** Alice and Bob throw a fair coin until the sequence HTT or THT appears. Alice wins if HTT appears first, Bob wins if THT appears first.
- a) Find the probability that Alice wins.
 - b) Find the expected value and variance of the total number of throws.
 - c) Using any open source software find the probability that Alice wins for all possible combinations of three coins sequences for Alice and Bob.
 - d) Now Alice and Bob play the following game. Alice chooses her three coins winning sequence first. Next Bob, knowing the choice of Alice, chooses his three coins winning sequence. Than they throw a fair coin until either of their sequences appears. What is the best strategy for Alice? For Bob? What is the probability that Alice wins this game?
- 1.4** You throw a dice unbounded number of times. If it shows 1, 2 or 3 then the corresponding amount of dollars is added in the pot. If it shows 4 or 5 the game stops and you get the pot with money. If it shows 6 the game ends and you get nothing. Initially the pot is empty.
- a) What is probability that the game will end by 6?
 - b) What is expected duration of the game?
 - c) What is your expected payoff?
 - d) What is your payoff variance?
 - e) Consider variation-A of the game. Rules are the same, but initially the pot contains 100 dollars. How will the answers to questions (a)-(d) change?
 - f) Consider variation-B of the game. Initially the pot is empty. One rule is changed. If the dice shows 5 the content of the pot is burned and the game continues. How will the answers to questions (a)-(d) change?
- 1.5** Boris Johnson throws a fair coin until 1 appears or until he says “quit”. His payoff is the value of the last throw. Boris optimizes his expected payoff. If many strategies gives the same expected payoff he chooses the strategy that minimizes the expected duration of the game.
- a) What is the optimal strategy and the corresponding expected payoff?

b) What is the expected duration?

c) How the answers to points (a) and (b) will change if Boris should pay 0.3 dollars for each throw?

1.6 Winnie-the-Pooh starts wandering from the point $x = 1$. Every minute he moves one unit left or one right with equal probabilities.

Let T be the random moment of time when he reaches $x = 0$.

a) Find the generating function $g(u) = \mathbb{E}(u^T)$.

b) Extract all probabilities $\mathbb{P}(T = k)$ from the function $g(u)$.

1.7

1.8

2 Markov chains

2.1 HSE student lives in two states: "sleep" and "study" and tries to change the state every 1 hour. After the sleep state the student continues sleeping with probability equal to 0.25, otherwise a student starts studying. If the student is studying, the probabilities to continue studying and to start sleeping are equal.

a) Write down the transition matrix of this Markov chain.

b) Draw the graph representation.

c) What is the probability that a Sleeping Student will be a Studying Student after 1 hour? After 2 hours?

d) We know that initially student is sleeping with probability $p = \frac{2}{3}$. Find the probabilities of sleep and study states after 1 and 2 hours.

e) Find the probabilities of sleep and study states after 20 and 100 hours (do it with **matrix** operations and any soft). Is there any difference and why?

2.2 HSE student has three states: pre-coffee, with-coffee and over-coffee. He goes to Jeffrey's each break seeking for a cup of coffee. The line is usually too long, so probability to stay pre-coffee is equal to 60% and to be over-coffee — is zero. Caffeinated students can stay in lines longer, so for with-coffee student the probability to become over-coffee is 20% and to become pre-coffee — 30%. Over-coffee student runs to coffeeshop very fast and able to stay over-coffee with $p = 0.70$ and can suddenly become pre-coffee with $p = 0.10$.

a) Draw the graph representation of this Markov chain.

b) Write the transition matrix of this Markov chain.

c) What is the probability that morning pre-coffee student will be with-coffee after 1 break? After 3 breaks?

d) What is the probability that morning pre-coffee student will be with-coffee after 1 break? After 3 breaks? After 200 breaks?

2.3 Unteachable students in NOTHSE University try to pass the exams. Students cheat successfully and pass the exams with probability 10%. In the case of a failure students are allowed to infinite number of retakes. All students are unteachable so the amount of knowledge is always the same and doesn't depend of the number of retakes.

- a) Draw the graph representation of this Markov chain.
- b) What is the probability to graduate using no more than 5 retakes?
- c) What is the probability to graduate eventually?
- d) Use **first step analysis** to find the average number of retakes per student in this University.

2.4 Every month the real estate Galina agent has two options: to increase her commission and to ask an owner to increase the rent. If the agent has increased the commission, on the next step she increases the commission again with probability $5/8$. If she has asked the owner, she decides to increase the commission with probability equal to $3/4$ on the next step.

- a) Write the transition matrix of this Markov chain.
- b) Draw the graph representation.
- c) Use **first step analysis** to find how many steps the agent does between asking the owner to increase the price.

2.5 Alice and Bob toss a coin, writing down the results. If the last 3 tosses are Head, Head and Tail, Alice wins. If the last 3 tosses are Tail, Head and Head, Bob wins.

- a) Is it easy to work with matrix representation in this case?
- b) Draw the graph representation. Who is more likely to win the game?
- c) Use **first step analysis** to find the probability of Alice's win.
- d) Find the probability that the game ends in exactly 4 tosses.
- e) Find the expected value and variance of the total number of coin throws in the game.

2.6 HSE student has an unusually caring granny who cooks one pie with probability 0.7 every weekend. Granny's pies are so tasty that HSE student can't resist and he gains 1 kilo for each pie eaten. Without pies the student with more than 70 kilos weight loses 1 kilo per week, yeah, he has a lot of studies! At the beginning of the study year student's weight is $W_0 = 70$ kilos.

Let W_t be the weight of the student t weeks later.

- a) Find the probability $\mathbb{P}(W_3 \geq 71)$ and expected value $\mathbb{E}(W_3)$.
- b) Find the limit weight after infinitely many study weeks $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} W_t$.
- c) Explain whether the chain (W_t) has a stationary distribution.

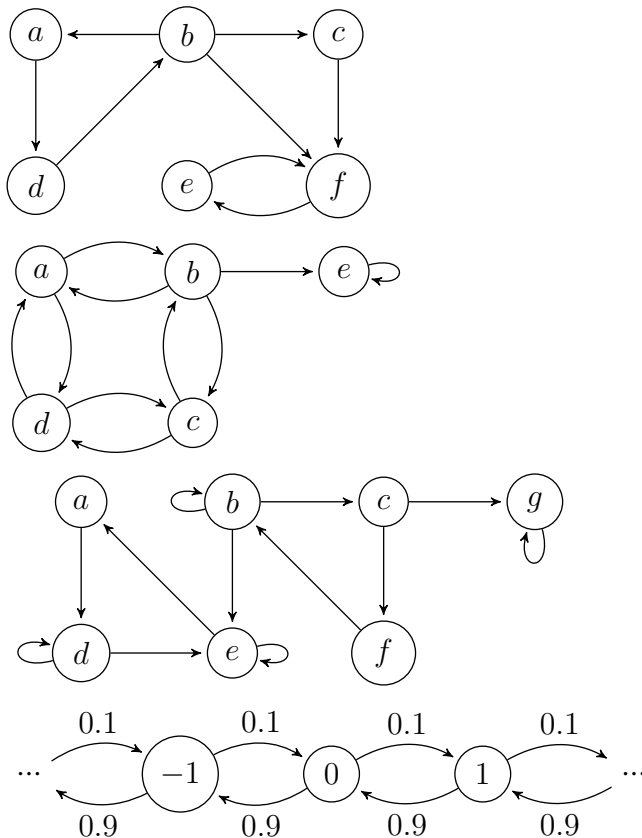
2.7 The fair price of Sborbank in discrete stock market is somewhere between 100 and 101 rubles. If the price is equal to 100, then the price grows up by 1 ruble with probability $\frac{9}{10}$, otherwise it goes down by 1 ruble. If the price is greater than 100, it grows by 1 ruble with probability $\frac{1}{3}$ or declines by 1 ruble. If the price is lower than 100, it grows by 1 ruble with probability $\frac{2}{3}$ or declines by 1 ruble.

- a) Draw the graph representation of the corresponding Markov chain.
- b) Do you think this chain has some stationary distribution?
- c) Find the average time for the stock price to fall from 102 rubles to 98 rubles.

Hint: you may to decompose the long path into smaller ones and to use the first step analysis.

3 Classification of states

3.1 We randomly wander on the graph choosing at each moment of time one of the possible directions. If probabilities are not given we choose equiprobably.



- Split each Markov chain into communicating classes.
- Find the period of every state.
- Classify each state as transient, null-recurrent and positive recurrent.
- For positive recurrent states find the expected return time.
- Find all stationary distributions.

3.2 A Knight randomly wanders on the chessboard. At each step he randomly chooses one of the possible Knight-moves with equal probabilities.

- Find the stationary distribution.
- Find the expected return time for every square.
- Find the period of every square.

4 Generating functions

4.1 The MGF (moment generating function) of the random variable X is give by $M(t) = 0.3 \exp(2t) + 0.2 \exp(3t) + 0.5 \exp(7t)$.

Recover the distribution of the random variable X .

4.2 The random variable Y takes values 1, 2 or 3 with equal probabilities.

Find the MGF of the random variable Y .

4.3 The MGF of the random variable W has a Taylor expansion that starts with $M(t) = 1 + 2t + 7t^2 + 20t^3 + \dots$

Find $\mathbb{E}(W)$, $\text{Var}(W)$, $\mathbb{E}(W^3)$.

4.4 The random variable X takes non-negative integer values. The generating function $g(u) = \mathbb{E}(u^X)$ has a Taylor expansion that starts with $g(u) = 0.1 + 0.2u + 0.15u^2 + \dots$

Find probabilities $\mathbb{P}(X = 0)$, $\mathbb{P}(X = 1)$, $\mathbb{P}(X = 2)$.

4.5 Random variables X_i are mutually independent and X_i has Gamma distribution $\text{Gamma}(\alpha_i, \beta_i)$.

I sum up the random number N of terms,

$$S = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_N.$$

The number N has Poisson distribution $\text{Pois}(\lambda)$ and is independent of the sequence (X_i) .

- Find the MGF of S . You may use the MGF formula for Gamma distribution as known.
- Find $\mathbb{E}(S)$ and $\text{Var}(S)$.

4.6 The random variable X takes non-negative integer values. Its moment generating function is equal to $M(t) = (2 - \exp(t))^{-7}$.

- Find the probability generating function $g(u) = \mathbb{E}(u^X)$.
- Find $\mathbb{E}(X)$, $\text{Var}(X)$, $\mathbb{P}(X = 0)$, $\mathbb{P}(X = 1)$, $\mathbb{P}(X = 2)$.
- Find $\mathbb{P}(X = k)$.

5 Limits

5.1 Polina loves sweet chestnuts. She has infinite sequence of baskets before her. In the basket number n there are n chestnuts in total. Unfortunately only one chestnut in every basket is a sweet one.

She picks chestnuts one by one at random from all the baskets sequentially. First she picks the unique chestnut from the basket number one, then she picks in a random order two chestnuts from the basket number two and so on.

The random variable S_t indicates whether the chestnut number t was a sweet one.

- Find $\lim S_t$ or prove that the limit does not exist.
- Find $\text{plim } S_t$ or prove that the limit does not exist.

5.2 Let (X_n) be independent, each variable X_n has exponential distribution with rate $\lambda_n = n$.

- Find the probability limit $\text{plim } X_n$ or prove that it does not exist.

Let (Y_n) be independent, each variable Y_n has exponential distribution with rate $\lambda_n = n/(n+1)$.

- Find the probability limit $\text{plim } Y_n$ or prove that it does not exist.

5.3 Let (X_n) be independent normally distributed $\mathcal{N}(5; 10)$.

- Find the probability limit

$$\text{plim } \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{7n}.$$

b) Find the probability limit

$$\text{plim} \frac{X_1^2 + X_2^2 + \cdots + X_n^2}{7n}.$$

c) Find the probability limit

$$\text{plim} \ln(X_1^2 + X_2^2 + \cdots + X_n^2) - \ln n.$$

5.4 Let (X_n) be independent uniform on $[0; 1]$. Let $Y_n = X_n^2 + X_n^3$.

a) Find the probability limit $\text{plim } V_n$ for

$$V_n = \max\{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n\}.$$

b) Find the probability limit $\text{plim } W_n$ for

$$W_n = \max\{X_1 + Y_1, X_1 + Y_2, \dots, X_1 + Y_n\}.$$

5.5 Consider the random variable X and the sequence of random variables Y_n with $\mathbb{E}(Y_n) = \frac{1}{n}$ and $\text{Var}(Y_n) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$. Let $W_n = X + Y_n$.

a) Find the probability limit $\text{plim } Y_n$;

b) Find the probability limit $\text{plim } W_n$.

5.6 The random variables X_i are independent and uniformly distributed on $[0; 1]$. Let $Y_n = \min X_1, \dots, X_n$.

a) Find the almost sure limit of Y_n ;

b) Find the probability limit of Y_n ;

c) Find the limiting distribution of Y_n .

5.7 Let X and Y be independent and uniformly distributed on $[0; 1]$. Let $V_n = n^2 Y \cdot I(X \leq 1/n)$ and $W_n = Y \cdot I(X > 1/n)$.

a) Find $\text{plim } V_n$ and $\text{plim } W_n$.

b) Does (V_n) converge in mean squared?

c) Does (W_n) converge in mean squared?

6 Conditional expected value without sigma-algebras

6.1 We randomly uniformly select a point inside triangle $A = (6, 0)$, $B = (0, 2)$ and $O = (0, 0)$. Let (X, Y) be coordinates of this random point.

a) Find conditional expected values $\mathbb{E}(Y | X)$ and $\mathbb{E}(X | Y)$.

b) Find conditional variances $\text{Var}(Y | X)$ and $\text{Var}(X | Y)$.

6.2 The pair of random variables X and Y has joint probability density

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} x + y, & \text{if } x \in [0; 1], y \in [0; 1]; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Find the marginal densities $f_X(x)$ and $f_Y(y)$.
- Find the conditional densities $f(x | y)$ and $f(y | x)$.
- Find the conditional expected values $\mathbb{E}(Y | X)$ and $\mathbb{E}(X | Y)$.
- Find the conditional variances $\text{Var}(Y | X)$ and $\text{Var}(X | Y)$.

6.3 The random variables X and Y are independent with Poisson distribution with rate $\lambda = 1$. Let $S = X + Y$.

- Find conditional probabilities $\mathbb{P}(X = x | S = s)$ and $\mathbb{P}(Y = y | S = s)$.
- Find conditional expected values $\mathbb{E}(X | S)$ and $\mathbb{E}(Y | S)$.
- Find conditional variances $\text{Var}(X | S)$ and $\text{Var}(Y | S)$.
- How the answers will change if $X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_x)$ and $Y \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_y)$?

6.4 Let X and Y be independent and exponentially distributed with rate $\lambda = 1$ and $S = X + Y$.

- Find conditional densities $f(x | s)$ and $f(y | s)$.
- Find conditional expected values $\mathbb{E}(X | S)$ and $\mathbb{E}(Y | S)$.
- Find conditional variances $\text{Var}(X | S)$ and $\text{Var}(Y | S)$.
- Find $\text{Cov}(X, Y | S)$ and $\text{Corr}(X, Y | S)$.
- How the answers will change if $X \sim \text{Expo}(\lambda_x)$ and $Y \sim \text{Expo}(\lambda_y)$?

6.5 The random variable X has Poisson distribution with rate $\lambda = 1$. The random variable Y has uniform distribution on $[1; 2]$. Random variables X and Y are independent.

Find $\mathbb{E}(XY | X)$, $\text{Var}(XY + X^3 | X)$, $\text{Cov}(X, Y | X)$, $\text{Cov}(XY, X^2Y | X)$.

7 Sigma-algebras and measurability

Sigma-algebra generated by discrete random variable X , $\sigma(X)$ — the list of all events that can be stated using X .

Sigma-algebra generated by arbitrary random variable X , $\sigma(X)$ — the smallest list of events that satisfies two properties:

- The list contains all events of the form $\{X \leq t\}$, that means one can compare X with any number;
- If one takes countably many events from this list and does logical operations (union, complement, intersection) then one will obtain an event from the list.

7.1 The random variable X takes values 1, 2 and -2 with equal probabilities.

- Find the sigma-algebra $\sigma(X)$.
- How the answer will change if one modifies probability distribution of X ?
- Find the sigma-algebra $\sigma(|X|)$.
- Foma knows $|X|$ and Yeryoma knows X^2 . What can one say about sigma-algebras that model their knowledge?

7.2 Experiment may end by one of the six outcomes:

	$X = -1$	$X = 0$	$X = 1$
$Y = 0$	0.1	0.2	0.3
$Y = 1$	0.2	0.1	0.1

- Find explicitly the sigma-algebras $\sigma(X)$, $\sigma(Y)$, $\sigma(X \cdot Y)$, $\sigma(X^2)$, $\sigma(2X + 3)$.
- How many elements are there in $\sigma(X, Y)$, $\sigma(X + Y)$, $\sigma(X, Y, X + Y)$?

7.3 Let's look at the number of possible elements in a sigma-algebra.

- The random variable X has five possible values. How many events are there in $\sigma(X)$?
- Can a sigma-algebra contain exactly 1000 events? Exactly 1024 events?

Maria throws a coin 100 times and remembers very well all the tosses.

- How many elementary outcomes are there in the probability space Ω ?
- How many events are there in a sigma-algebra that models Maria's knowledge?

7.4 How sigma-algebras $\sigma(X)$ and $\sigma(f(X))$ are related? When they are equal?

7.5 How many different σ -algebras can be created using the set of outcomes Ω has three elements? And if Ω has four elements?

7.6 Provide an example of algebra that is not a σ -algebra.

7.7 Prove a statement or provide a counter-example:

- The intersection of two sigma-algebras is a sigma-algebra.
- If the intersection of two sigma-algebras is a sigma-algebra then one of them is contained in the other one.
- The union of two sigma-algebras is a sigma-algebra.
- If the union of two sigma-algebras is a sigma-algebra then one of them is contained in the other one.

7.8 Let \mathcal{F} be some σ -algebra of subsets of Ω and $B \subseteq \Omega$. Consider the collection of sets $\mathcal{H} = \{A : A \subseteq B \text{ or } B^c \subseteq A\}$.

Is \mathcal{H} a σ -algebra?

7.9 Будем обозначать количество элементов множества с помощью $\text{card } A$. Рассмотрим подмножества натуральных чисел, $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$. Определим для подмножества плотность Чезаро (Cesaro density),

$$\gamma(A) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{card}(A \cap \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\})}{n}$$

в тех случаях, когда этот предел существует.

Плотность Чезаро показывает, какую «долю» от всех натуральных чисел составляет указанное подмножество. Обозначим с помощью \mathcal{H} все подмножества, имеющие плотность Чезаро.

- a) Чему равна плотность Чезаро у нечётных чисел?
- b) Приведите пример множества, у которого не определена доля Чезаро.
- c) Верно ли, что у натуральных чисел, в записи которых присутствует хотя бы одна единица, есть доля? Если да, то чему она равна?
- d) Верно ли, что у натуральных чисел, в записи которых присутствует ровно одна единица, есть доля? Если да, то чему она равна?
- e) Верно ли, что \mathcal{H} — алгебра? Сигма-алгебра?

7.10 We throw a fair dice. Let Y be the indicator of a even score and Z be the indicator of score bigger than 2.

- a) Find the sigma-algebra $\sigma(Z)$.
- b) Find the sigma algebra $\sigma(Y \cdot Z)$.
- c) How many elements are there in $\sigma(Y, Z)$?
- d) How are related the σ -algebras $\sigma(Y \cdot Z)$ and $\sigma(Y, Z)$?

7.11 We throw a coin infinitely many times. Let X_n be the indicator that the coin landed on Head at toss number n . Consider a pack of σ -algebras: $\mathcal{F}_n := \sigma(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$, $\mathcal{H}_n := \sigma(X_n, X_{n+1}, X_{n+2}, \dots)$.

- a) For each case provide two examples of σ -algebras that contain the corresponding event
 - (a) $\{X_{37} > 0\}$;
 - (b) $\{X_{37} > X_{2024}\}$;
 - (c) $\{X_{37} > X_{2024} > X_{12}\}$;
- b) Simplify expressions: $\mathcal{F}_{11} \cap \mathcal{F}_{25}$, $\mathcal{F}_{11} \cup \mathcal{F}_{25}$, $\mathcal{H}_{11} \cap \mathcal{H}_{25}$, $\mathcal{H}_{11} \cup \mathcal{H}_{25}$.
- c) For each case provide two non-trivial examples (different from Ω and \emptyset) of an event A such that
 - (a) $A \in \mathcal{F}_{2024}$;
 - (b) $A \notin \mathcal{F}_{2025}$;
 - (c) $A \in \mathcal{H}_n$ for all possible n ;

7.12 Правда ли равносильны три набора требований к списку множеств \mathcal{F} ?

Тариф «Классический»:

- a) $\Omega \in \mathcal{F}$;
- b) Если $A \in \mathcal{F}$, то $A^c \in \mathcal{F}$;
- c) Если $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots \in \mathcal{F}$, то $\cup A_i \in \mathcal{F}$.

Тариф «Перевернутый»:

- a) $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$;
- b) Если $A \in \mathcal{F}$, то $A^c \in \mathcal{F}$;
- c) Если $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots \in \mathcal{F}$, то $\cap A_i \in \mathcal{F}$.

Тариф «Хочу всё»:

- a) $\Omega \in \mathcal{F}$, $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$;

- b) Если $A \in \mathcal{F}$ и $B \in \mathcal{F}$, то $A \setminus B \in \mathcal{F}$;
- c) Если $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots \in \mathcal{F}$, то $\cup A_i \in \mathcal{F}$ и $\cap A_i \in \mathcal{F}$.

7.13 Рассмотрим $\Omega = [0; 1]$ и набор множества \mathcal{F} таких, что либо каждое множество не более, чем счётно, либо дополнение к нему не более, чем счётно.

- a) Верно ли, что \mathcal{F} — алгебра? σ -алгебра?
- b) Придумайте $B \subset \Omega$, такое что $B \notin \mathcal{F}$.

7.14 В лесу есть три вида грибов: рыжики, лисички и мухоморы. Попадаются они равновероятно и независимо друг от друга. Маша нашла 100 грибов. Пусть R — количество рыжиков, L — количество лисичек, а M — количество мухоморов среди найденных грибов.

- a) Сколько элементов $\sigma(R)$?
- b) Сколько элементов $\sigma(R, M)$?
- c) Измерима ли L относительно $\sigma(R)$?
- d) Измерима ли L относительно $\sigma(R, M)$?
- e) Измерима ли L относительно $\sigma(R + M)$?
- f) Измерима ли L относительно $\sigma(R - M)$?

7.15 Сейчас либо солнечно, либо дождь, либо пасмурно без дождя. Соответственно, множество Ω состоит из трёх исходов, $\Omega = \{\text{солнечно, дождь, пасмурно}\}$. Джеймс Бонд пойман и привязан к стулу с завязанными глазами, но он может на слух отличать, идёт ли дождь.

- a) Как выглядит σ -алгебра событий, которые различает агент 007?
- b) Как выглядит минимальная σ -алгебра, содержащая событие $A = \{\text{не видно солнце}\}$?
- c) Сколько различных σ -алгебр можно придумать для данного Ω ?

8 Sigma-algebras and conditional expected value

8.1 At time moment $t = 0$ in the casino there are countably many players with perfect memory. Let's number them as Miss First, Mister Second, etc.

Time is discrete. Random variables X_t are independent and take values $+1$ or -1 with equal probabilities. At each moment of time $t > 0$ everybody gets X_t roubles and then the player number t leaves the casino.

The cumulative sum $S_t = X_1 + \dots + X_t$ reaches its first local maximum at the random time T . At time $T + 1$ the dealer calls his friend Black Jack and says «It's time!» They have agreed beforehand on the call time.

Black Jack chases the player number T and steals all his information before the police can intervene. Let's describe the information of Black Jack by sigma-algebra \mathcal{F}_J and the information of every player t at the last moment in casino by \mathcal{F}_t .

- a) Which sigma-algebras contain the event $\{T = 10\}$?
- b) Provide an example of two events from \mathcal{F}_J that do not enter in neither \mathcal{F}_t .
- c) Find conditional expected values $\mathbb{E}(T \mid \mathcal{F}_J)$, $\mathbb{E}(X_T \mid \mathcal{F}_J)$, $\mathbb{E}(X_{T+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_J)$.
- d) Find conditional expected values $\mathbb{E}(S_{T-1} \mid \mathcal{F}_J)$, $\mathbb{E}(S_T \mid \mathcal{F}_J)$, $\mathbb{E}(S_{T+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_J)$, $\mathbb{E}(S_{T+2} \mid \mathcal{F}_J)$.

Let's define Y_{T-k} as

$$Y_{T-k} = \begin{cases} X_{T-k}, & \text{if } T - k > 0; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- e) Find $\mathbb{E}(Y_{T-10} \mid \mathcal{F}_J)$.
- f) Find conditional expected values $\mathbb{E}(X_T \mid \mathcal{F}_{10})$, $\mathbb{E}(X_{T+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_{10})$.
- g) Find $\mathbb{E}(T \mid \mathcal{F}_{10})$ and $\mathbb{E}(S_T \mid \mathcal{F}_{10})$.

8.2 Bad police officers operate in groups of 1, 2 or 3 people with probabilities 0.5, 0.2 and 0.3. If you cross the road in the wrong place, they will catch you and demand a bribe X of 1, 5 or 10 thousand rubles respectively.

For each of the following cases write down the σ -algebra \mathcal{F} that models your information and calculate $\mathbb{E}(X \mid \mathcal{F})$.

- a) you can see how many officers are going to stop you;
- b) they are sitting in the car and you don't know their number;
- c) it is dark and you can only say if it is one policeman or more than one.

8.3 HSE student rolled the dice once. Find the σ -algebras that model the following situations:

- a) she only knows that the dice was rolled once;
- b) she knows the result of the roll;
- c) she observes the result of the roll but she is able to count only up to two.

9 Martinales

- *Natural filtration* of a process (X_n) , $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$.
- A process (X_n) is a *martingale* if $\mathbb{E}(X_{n+k} \mid X_n, X_{n-1}, \dots, X_1) = X_n$ for all $k \geq 1$.
- A process (X_n) is *adapted* to filtration (\mathcal{F}_n) if every random variable X_n is measurable wrt to sigma-algebra \mathcal{F}_n .
- A process (X_n) is a *martingale wrt to filtration* (\mathcal{F}_n) if $\mathbb{E}(X_{n+k} \mid \mathcal{F}_n) = X_n$.

9.1 Consider the sequence (X_t) of independent identically distributed random variables with mean $\mathbb{E}(X_t) = 2$ and variance $\text{Var}(X_t) = 3$. Let's work with natural filtration $\mathcal{F}_t = \sigma(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_t)$.

On the base of (X_t) let's create more sequences: $S_t = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_t$, $W_t = S_t - 2t$ and $Y_t = W_t^2 - 3t$.

- a) Is (X_t) a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_t) ?
- b) Is (S_t) a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_t) ?
- c) Is (W_t) a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_t) ?
- d) Is (Y_t) a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_t) ?
- e) Is (W_t) a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_{t-1}) ?
- f) Is (W_t) a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_{t+1}) ?

9.2 Vasily has found three non-random infinite sequences in his garage: $a_n = n$, $b_n = -n$ and $c_n = 0$. He randomly selects one of these sequences with equal probabilities and hence obtain a sequence of random variables (X_n) .

- a) What is the distribution of X_7 ?
- b) Find $\mathbb{E}(X_n)$ and $\text{Var}(X_n)$.
- c) Is (X_n) a Markov chain?
- d) Is (X_n) a martingale?
- e) Explicitely find the σ -algebra $\sigma(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_{1000})$.
- f) Find the probability that limit of (X_n) exists.
- g) Does $\lim X_n$ exist?

9.3 Consider the sequence (X_t) of independent identically distributed random variables that take values 0 or 1 with equal probabilities. Let's work with natural filtration $\mathcal{F}_t = \sigma(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_t)$.

On the base of (X_t) let's create more sequences: $S_t = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_t$, $W_t = S_t - at$, $M_t = \exp(bS_t)$.

- a) Is (X_t) a martingale?
- b) Is (S_t) a martingale?
- c) For which values of a the process (W_t) is a martingale?
- d) For which values of b the process (M_t) is a martingale?

9.4 Consider a well-mixed standard deck of 52 cards. James Bond in an elegant outfit¹ opens cards one by one. Let the sigma-algebra (\mathcal{F}_n) model his information and (X_n) be the proportion of Queens in the closed part of the deck after opening n cards.

- a) Find the marginal distribution of X_0 , X_1 and X_{51} .
- b) Find the joint distribution of X_{50} and X_{51} .
- c) Is (X_n) a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_n) ?

9.5 If possible create a martingale (X_n) such that simultaneously $\mathbb{P}(X_n = 0 \text{ infinitely often}) = 1$ and $\mathbb{P}(X_n = 1 \text{ infinitely often}) = 1$.

9.6 At time $t = 0$ there is one black and one white ball in the vase. At each moment of time we take out randomly one ball from the vase and put back two balls of the same color. Let (W_t) be the proportion of white balls in the vase after t extractions and (Q_t) be the number of times when white ball was extracted.

- a) What is the distribution of W_1 ? Of W_2 ?
- b) Is (W_t) a martingale?
- c) Consider a fixed parameter $p \in (0; 1)$ and the process $M_t = (t+1)C_t^{Q_t} p^{Q_t} (1-p)^{t-Q_t}$. Is (M_t) a martingale?
- d) What is the limiting distribution of (W_t) ?

9.7 Consider non-random sequence of numbers (a_n) . How can this sequence be a martingale?

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9.8 Let (M_n) be a martingale and $a < b < c < d$.

- a) Find covariance $\text{Cov}(M_d - M_c, M_b - M_a)$.
- b) Are $(M_d - M_c)$ and $(M_b - M_a)$ independent?

9.9 Let (M_t) be a process adapted to filtration (\mathcal{F}_t) .

Is it true that in discrete time conditions

$$\mathbb{E}(M_{t+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_t) = M_t$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}(M_{t+k} \mid \mathcal{F}_t) = M_t \text{ for all } k \geq 1$$

are equivalent?

9.10 Initial wealth of a player is equal to $W_0 = 1$. At each moment of time she can bet any proportion of her wellfare on the toss of a coin. If she guesses wrong she loses her bet. If she guesses right she gets profit equal to hear bet. The coin is not fair lands on head with probability 0.8.

- a) Find the bet that maximises one period log interest rate $\mathbb{E}(\ln(W_{t+1}/W_t) \mid \mathcal{F}_t)$.
- b) Assume that the player maximises one period log interest rate every time. Find a constant a such that $\ln W_n - an$ is a martingale.

9.11 For each case provide an example of a process.

- a) (X_n) is a Markov chain and a martingale.
- b) (X_n) is a Markov chain but not a martingale.
- c) (X_n) is a martingale but not a Markov chain.
- d) (X_n) is neither a Markov chain nor a martingale.

9.12

9.1 Stopping time

9.13 Famous «ABRACADABRA» problem.

A monkey types randomly letters on a typewriter choosing each time one of the 26 letters with equal probabilities. Let T be the number of keypresses required to write the word «ABRACADABRA» for the first time.

- a) Organise a casino to calculate $\mathbb{E}(T)$.
- b) Organise a casino to calculate $\mathbb{E}(T^2)$ and hence $\text{Var}(T)$.

10 Poisson process

11 Solutions

1.1.

- a) $\mathbb{P}(B) = 6/11$, first step equation for $p = \mathbb{P}(B)$ is $p = 1/6 + (5/6)^2 p$ or $p = 1/6 + 5/6 \cdot (1 - p)$.

- b) $\mathbb{E}(N) = 6$, first step equation for $m = \mathbb{E}(N)$ is $m = 1/6 + 5/6(m + 1)$.
- c) $\mathbb{E}(N^2) = 66$, $\text{Var}(N) = 30$, first step equation is $\mathbb{E}(N^2) = 1/6 + 5/6\mathbb{E}((N + 1)^2)$.
- d) $\mathbb{E}(N \mid B) = 61/11$. Start by replacing unconditional probabilities on the tree by conditional ones.
First step equation for $\mu = \mathbb{E}(N \mid B)$ is $\mu = 11/36 + 25/36(\mu + 2)$.

e)
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 5/6 & 1/6 & 0 \\ 5/6 & 0 & 0 & 1/6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

1.2.

- a) $\mathbb{E}(N) = 1/p$, $\text{Var}(N) =$, $\mathbb{E}(N^3) =$, $\mathbb{E}(\exp(tN)) =$
- b) $a = \mathbb{P}(N \in 2 \cdot \mathbb{N})$, $a = (1 - p)(1 - a)$, $a = (1 - p)/(2 - p)$.

1.3.

1.4. Let's denote the throws by (X_t) and the number of throws by T . Thus the last throw is X_T .

- a) $\mathbb{P}(X_T = 6) = 1/3$ as we have three possible endings. One may also sum the probability geometric serie or use first step analysis.
- b) $\mathbb{E}(T) = 0.5 + 0.5(\mathbb{E}(T) + 1)$;
- c) Let $\mu = \mathbb{E}(S)$ and $\gamma = \mathbb{P}(X_T \in \{4, 5\})$.

$$\mu = \frac{3}{6} \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{6}(\mu + 1 \cdot \gamma) + \frac{1}{6}(\mu + 2 \cdot \gamma) + \frac{1}{6}(\mu + 3 \cdot \gamma)$$

d)

e)

f)

$$\mu_B = \frac{2}{6} \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{6}\mu_B + \frac{1}{6}(\mu + 1 \cdot \beta) + \frac{1}{6}(\mu + 2 \cdot \beta) + \frac{1}{6}(\mu + 3 \cdot \beta),$$

with $\beta = 1/3$.

1.5.

1.6.

1.7.

1.8.

2.1.

2.2.

2.3.

2.4.

2.5.

2.6.

a)

b) $\mathbb{E}(W_t) \rightarrow +\infty$;

c) No stationary distribution. For stationary distribution $\mathbb{E}(W_t)$ can't tend to infinity.

2.7.

3.1.

3.2.

4.1.

4.2. $M(t) = (\exp(t) + \exp(2t) + \exp(3t))/3$.

4.3. $\mathbb{E}(W) = 2$, $\text{Var}(W) = 7 \cdot 2 - 2^2$, $\mathbb{E}(W^3) = 20 \cdot 3!$.

4.4. $\mathbb{P}(X = 0) = 0.1$, $\mathbb{P}(X = 1) = 0.2$, $\mathbb{P}(X = 2) = 0.15$.

4.5.

4.6. $g(u) = g(\exp(t)) = \mathbb{E}(\exp(tX)) = M(t)$

5.1.

5.2.

a) $\text{plim } X_n = 0$;

b) $\text{plim } Y_n$ does not exist.

5.3.

a) $\text{plim } \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{7n} = 5/7$;

b) $\text{plim } \frac{X_1^2 + X_2^2 + \dots + X_n^2}{7n} = 5$;

c) $\text{plim } \ln(X_1^2 + X_2^2 + \dots + X_n^2) - \ln n = \ln 35$.

5.4.

a) $\text{plim } \max\{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n\} = 2$;

b) $\text{plim } \max\{X_1 + Y_1, X_1 + Y_2, \dots, X_1 + Y_n\} = X_1 + 2$.

5.5.

- a) $\text{plim } Y_n = 0$;
- b) $\text{plim } W_n = X$.

5.6.

- a) $\mathbb{P}(\lim Y_n = 0) = 1$;
- b) $\text{plim } Y_n = 0$;
- c) Limiting distribution is a constant 0.

5.7.

- a) $\text{plim } V_n = 0, \text{plim } W_n = Y$;
- b) The sequence V_n does not converge in mean squared;
- c) W_n converges to Y in mean squared.

6.1.

- a) $\mathbb{E}(Y | X) = 1 - X/6$ and $\mathbb{E}(X | Y) = 3 - 1.5X$.
- b) $\text{Var}(Y | X) =, \text{Var}(X | Y) =$.

6.2.

a)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 0.5, & \text{if } x \in [0; 1]; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

b)

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} (x + y)/(x + 0.5), & \text{if } x \in [0; 1], y \in [0; 1]; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

c)

$$\mathbb{E}(Y | X) = \frac{0.5X + 1/3}{X + 0.5}.$$

d)

6.3.

- a)
- b) $\mathbb{E}(X | S) = \mathbb{E}(Y | S) = S/2$;
- c)
- d)

6.4.

- a) $X \mid S \sim \text{Unif}[0; S], Y \mid S \sim \text{Unif}[0; S]$.
- b) $\mathbb{E}(X \mid S) = \mathbb{E}(Y \mid S) = S/2$;
- c) $\text{Var}(X \mid S) = \text{Var}(Y \mid S) = S^2/12$;
- d)

6.5. $\mathbb{E}(XY \mid X) = X\mathbb{E}(Y) = X/2$, $\text{Var}(XY + X^3 \mid X) = X^2 \text{Var}(Y) = X^2/12$, $\text{Cov}(X, Y \mid X) = 0$, $\text{Cov}(XY, X^2Y \mid X) = X^3 \text{Var}(Y) = X^3/12$

7.1.

- a)
- b) Sigma-algebras do not depend on probabilities.
- c) $\sigma(|X|) = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{|X| = 2\}, \{X = 1\}\}$.
- d) $\sigma(|X|) = \sigma(X^2)$;

7.2.

- a)
- b) $\text{card } \sigma(X, Y) = 2^6$, $\text{card } \sigma(X + Y) = 2^4$, $\text{card } \sigma(X, Y, X + Y) = 2^6$.

7.3.

- a) 2^5 ;
- b) Only 2^k or infinity;
- c) 2^{100} ;
- d) $2^{2^{100}}$.

7.4. In general $\sigma(f(X)) \subseteq \sigma(X)$; If f is a bijection then $\sigma(f(X)) = \sigma(X)$.

7.5. In the finite case sigma-algebra corresponds to partitions. We get five sigma-algebras on a set of three elements and 15 sigma-algebras on a set of four elements. These numbers are known as Bell numbers.

7.6. Let $\Omega = \mathbb{N}$, \mathcal{A} contains all finite sets and sets with finite complement.

7.7.

- a) The intersection of two sigma-algebras is always a sigma-algebra.
- b) The intersection of two sigma-algebras is always a sigma-algebra.
- c) The union of two sigma-algebras is not always a sigma-algebra.

d)

7.8. Yes. This is convenient to draw Ω as a segment. With «пескари» $A \subseteq B$ and «sharks» $A \supseteq B^c$.

7.9. Разобьем натуральный ряд на пары соседних чисел. Можно так подобрать множества A и B , что в каждом из них из каждой пары взято только одно число. Поэтому $\gamma(A) = \gamma(B) = \frac{1}{2}$. Подобрать совпадение-несовпадение в паре, можно сделать так, что $\gamma(A \cap B)$ не существует.

7.10.

a) $\sigma(Z) = \{\{Z = 1\}, \{Z = 0\}, \Omega, \emptyset\}$.

b) $\sigma(YZ) = \{\{YZ = 1\}, \{YZ = 0\}, \Omega, \emptyset\}$.

c) 2^4 ;

d) $\sigma(Y \cdot Z) \subseteq \sigma(Y, Z)$.

7.11.

7.12. Yes!

7.13. Например, B — Канторово множество, или, гораздо проще, $B = [0; 0, 5]$. Оно само более чем счетно и дополнение к нему более чем счетно.

Набор \mathcal{F} действительно σ -алгебра. \emptyset лежит в \mathcal{F} , так как имеет ноль элементов.

Если A не более чем счетно, то A^c лежит в \mathcal{F} , так как дополнение к A^c содержит не более чем счетное число элементов.

Если дополнение к A не более чем счетно, то A^c лежит в \mathcal{F} , так как содержит не более чем счетное число элементов.

Проверяем счетное объединение $\bigcup_i A_i$. Если среди A_i встречаются только не более чем счетные, то и их объединение — не более чем счетно. Если среди A_i встретилось хотя бы одно множество с не более чем счетным дополнением, то $\bigcup_i A_i$ тоже будет обладать не более чем счетным дополнением, так как объединение не может быть меньше ни одного из объединяемых множеств.

7.14. $2^{101}, 2^{101 \cdot 51}$,

7.15. $\mathcal{F} = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{\text{дождь}\}, \{\text{солнечно, пасмурно}\}\}$. Всего есть $1 + 1 + 3 = 5$ σ -алгебр.

8.1.

a) $\mathcal{F}_J, \mathcal{F}_{11}, \mathcal{F}_{12}, \dots$

b) $\{T \text{ is divisible by } 2\}, \{T \geq 3, X_{T-2} = 1\}$.

c) $\mathbb{E}(T \mid \mathcal{F}_J) = T, \mathbb{E}(X_T \mid \mathcal{F}_J) = 1, \mathbb{E}(X_{T+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_J) = -1$.

d) $\mathbb{E}(S_T \mid \mathcal{F}_J) = S_T, \mathbb{E}(S_{T+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_J) = S_T - 1, \mathbb{E}(S_{T+2} \mid \mathcal{F}_J) = S_T - 1$.

e) $\mathbb{E}(Y_{T-k} \mid \mathcal{F}_J) = Y_{T-k}$.

f) $\mathbb{E}(X_T \mid \mathcal{F}_{10}) = 1, \mathbb{E}(X_{T+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_{10}) = -1$.

g) $\mathbb{E}(T \mid \mathcal{F}_{10}) = \dots, \mathbb{E}(S_T \mid \mathcal{F}_{10}) = \dots$

8.2.

8.3. Here $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$.

- a) $\mathcal{F} = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$;
- b) $\mathcal{F} = 2^\Omega$, this notation means «all subsets of Ω ».
- c) $\mathcal{F} = \sigma(\{1\}, \{2\})$, eight events in total;

9.1.

- a) (X_t) is not a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_t) ;
- b) (S_t) is not a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_t) ;
- c) (W_t) is a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_t) ;
- d) (Y_t) is a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_t) ;
- e) (W_t) is not a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_{t-1}) ;
- f) (W_t) is not a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_{t+1}) ;

9.2.

- a) What is the distribution of X_7 ?
- b) $\mathbb{E}(X_n) = 0$ and $\text{Var}(X_n) =$.
- c) The process (X_n) is a Markov chain!
- d) The process (X_n) is not a martingale.
- e) $\sigma(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_{1000}) = \sigma(X_1)$
- f) $\mathbb{P}(\lim X_n \text{ exists}) = 1/3$.
- g) $\text{plim } X_n$ does not exist.

9.3.

- a) (X_t) is not a martingale;
- b) (S_t) is not a martingale;
- c) $a = 0.5$;
- d) $b = 0$ and $b = \dots$

9.4.

- a) $X_0 = 4/52$; X_1 is $4/51$ with probability $48/52$ or $3/51$ with probability $4/52$; X_{51} is 1 with probability $4/52$ and 0 with probability $48/52$.
- b)
- c) The process (X_n) is a martingale with respect to (\mathcal{F}_n) .

9.5. It is possible.

9.6.

- a) W_1 is equal to $1/3$ or $2/3$ with equal probabilities; W_2 is equal to $1/4, 2/4, 3/4$
- b) (W_t) is a martingale;
- c) (M_t) is a martingale;
- d) The limiting distribution of (W_t) is uniform on $[0; 1]$;

9.7. Only constant non-random sequences are martingales.

9.8. $\text{Cov}(M_d - M_c, M_b - M_a) = 0$;

9.9. Yes.

9.10.

9.11.

9.12.

9.13.

- a) $\mathbb{E}(T) = 26^{11} + 26^4 + 26$.
- b)

12 Sources of wisdom

[Buz+15] Nazar Buzun et al. “Stochastic Analysis in Problems, part 1 (in Russian).” In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1508.03461* (2015). URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1508.03461>.