

# I225E Statistical Signal Processing

## 3. Basics of Stochastic Process

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# Stochastic processes

- Definitions

Covariance, (auto- and cross-) correlations, correlation coefficients

- Stationarity (strict sense and wide sense)

Normal processes

- Random walk

(De Moivre-Laplace theorem, Stirling's formula)

- Wiener process

- Ergodicity

# 1. Introduction

## ■ Random variable: $X$

Trial  $S$ : Throw dice/coin toss

Outcome  $\omega$ : Throw dice/coin toss

Random Variable:  $X(\omega) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ ;

$X(\omega) = \{0, 1\} \rightarrow X(\omega)$  corresponds to  $\omega$

## ■ Stochastic Process: $X(t, \omega)$

Outcome  $\omega$ : Results of all trials

Time  $t$ ;  $(-\infty, \infty)$

$\rightarrow$  Function of time  $X(t, \omega)$  corresponds to  $\omega$ .

Stochastic process  $X(t, \omega)$  represents an  $\omega$ -parameter family of functions of time.

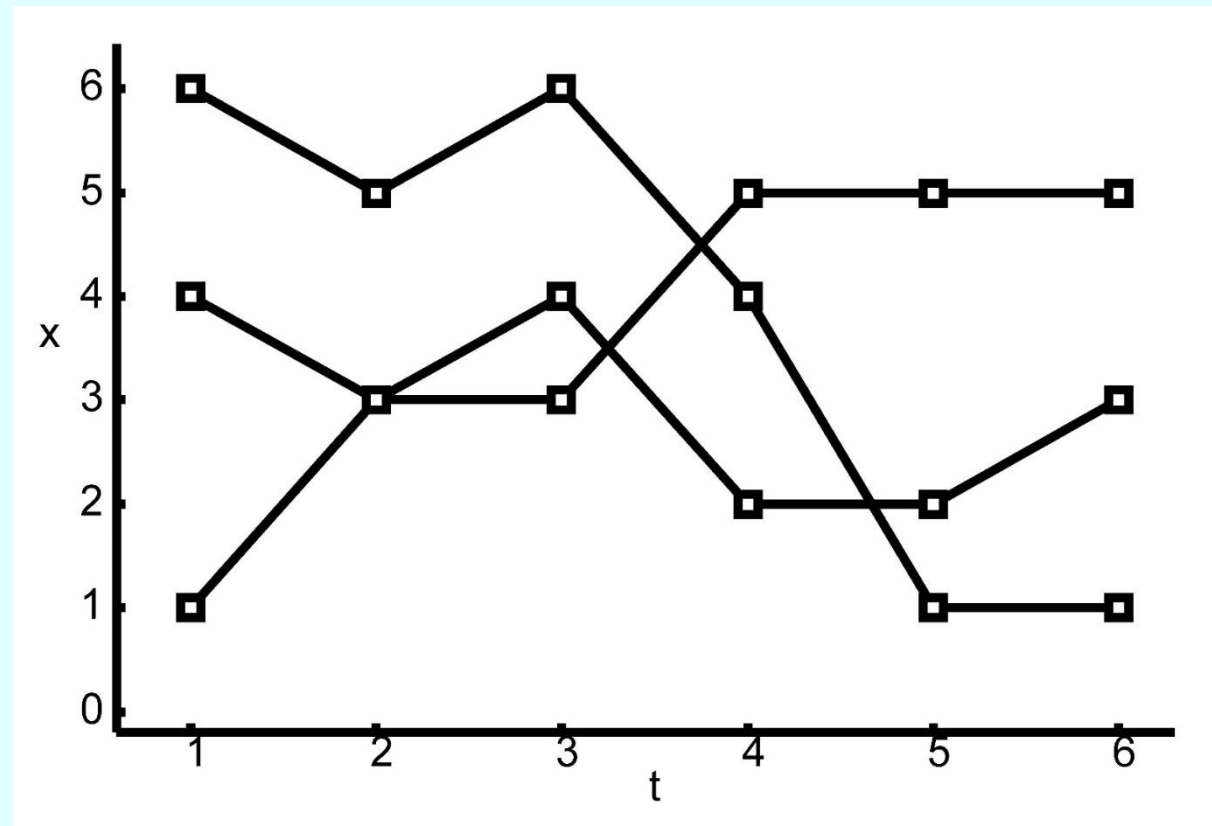
- For a fixed value  $t$

$X(t)$  is a random variable that corresponds to  $\omega$

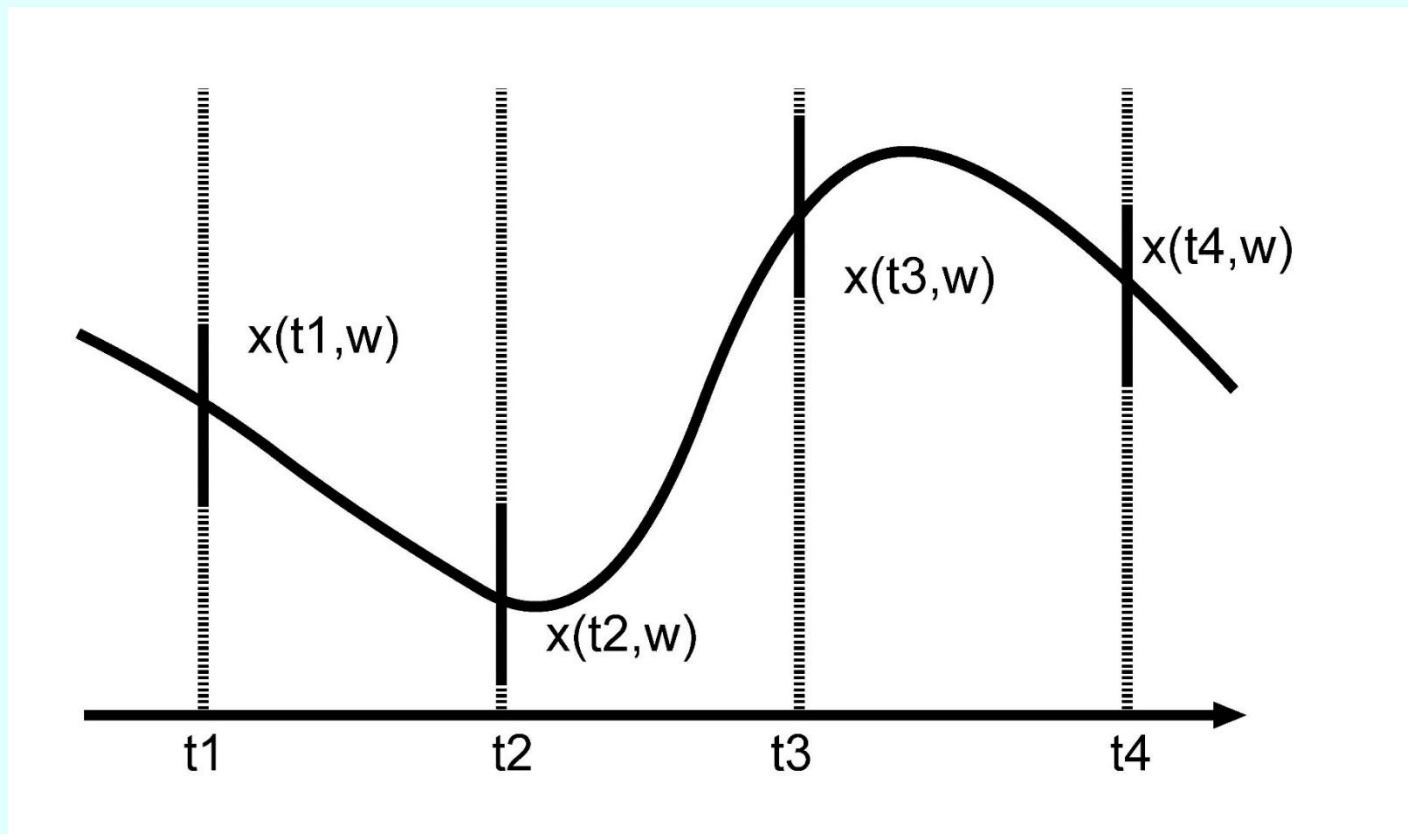
- Discrete-type vs. Continuous-type

- Discrete time:  $t \in N$  (Integer number)
- Continuous time:  $t \in R$  (Real number)
- Discrete state:  $X \in$  Countable number of state
- Continuous state:  $X \in$  Uncountable number of state

- Example of discrete-time discrete-state process:  
Series of numbers obtained by throwing a dice for six times.



- Example of continuous-time continuous-state process: If  $t$  is fixed,  $X(t)$  represents stochastic variable.



## 2. Definition

### ■ Statistical quantities of stochastic process

Stochastic process is a set of uncountable number of random variables. For each  $t$ ,  $X(t)$  represents a random variable.

For a fixed  $t$ ,

Probability distribution of  $X(t)$ :

$$F_X(x, t) = P\{X(t) \leq x\}$$

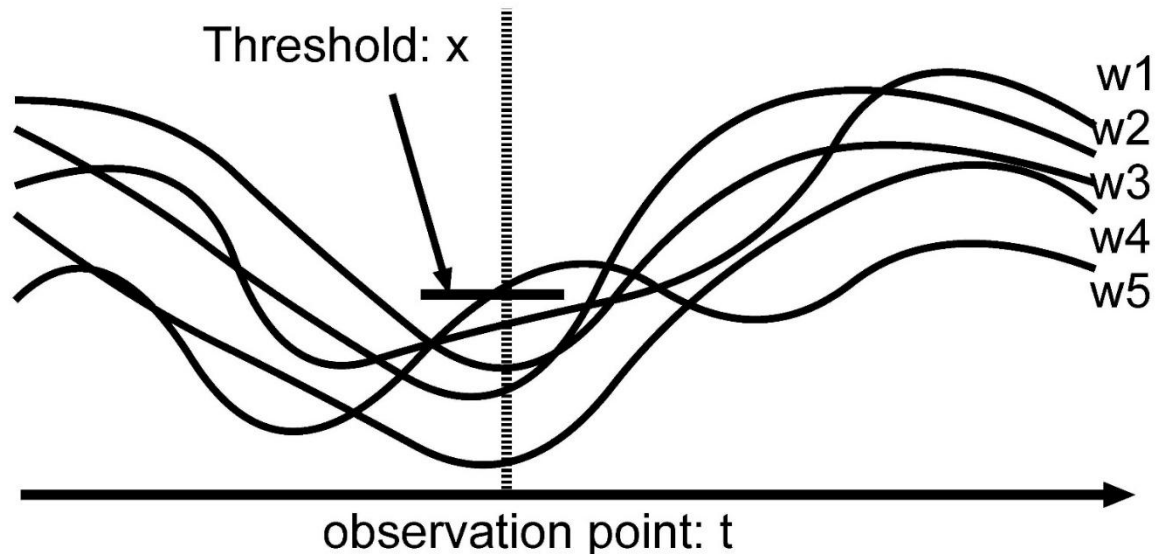
Probability density of  $X(t)$ :

$$f_X(x, t) = \frac{\partial F_X(x, t)}{\partial x}$$

## ■ Frequency

For  $n$  samples,  $n$  functions  $X(t, \omega_i)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) are observed. Denote the number of samples that does not exceed a threshold value  $x$  by

$$n_t(x) (X(t, \omega_i) \leq x), F_X(x, t) \approx \frac{n_t(x)}{n}$$





# *n*th-order distribution and *n*th-order probability density

## ■ Joint distribution of random variable

$X(t_i)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ )

$$F_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) = \\ P\{X(t_1) \leq x_1, X(t_2) \leq x_2, \dots, X(t_n) \leq x_n\}$$

$$f_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) = \\ \frac{\partial F_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2 \dots \partial x_n}$$

## ■ Marginal distribution:

$$F_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{n-1}) = \\ F_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}, \infty; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) \\ f_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{n-1}) = \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) dx_n$$

## ■ Mean value of random variable $X$ at $t$

$$\eta_X(t) = E\{X(t)\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x, t) dx$$

where **sample mean** is  $\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n X(t)$ .

## ■ Autocorrelation of $X(t)$

$$R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = E\{X(t_1)X(t_2)\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_1 x_2 f_X(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) dx_1 dx_2$$

where **sample autocorrelation** is

$$\bar{R}_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n X(t + t_1)X(t + t_2)$$

## ■ Covariance

$$C_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) - \eta_X(t_1)\eta_X(t_2)$$

In the case of  $t_1 = t_2 = t$ ,  $C_{XX}(t_1, t_2)$  is equal to variance of  $X(t) \rightarrow C_{XX}(t, t) = E\{X(t)X(t)\} - \eta_X^2(t) = Var(X(t))$

## ■ Complex process

$X(t) = Y(t) + jZ(t)$ : complex variable  $X(t)$  is composed of real part  $Y(t)$  and imaginary part  $Z(t)$ .

$$R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = E\{X(t_1)X^*(t_2)\}$$

$$R_{XX}(t_2, t_1) = R_{XX}^*(t_1, t_2)$$

$$R_{XX}(t, t) = E\{|X(t)|^2\} \geq 0$$

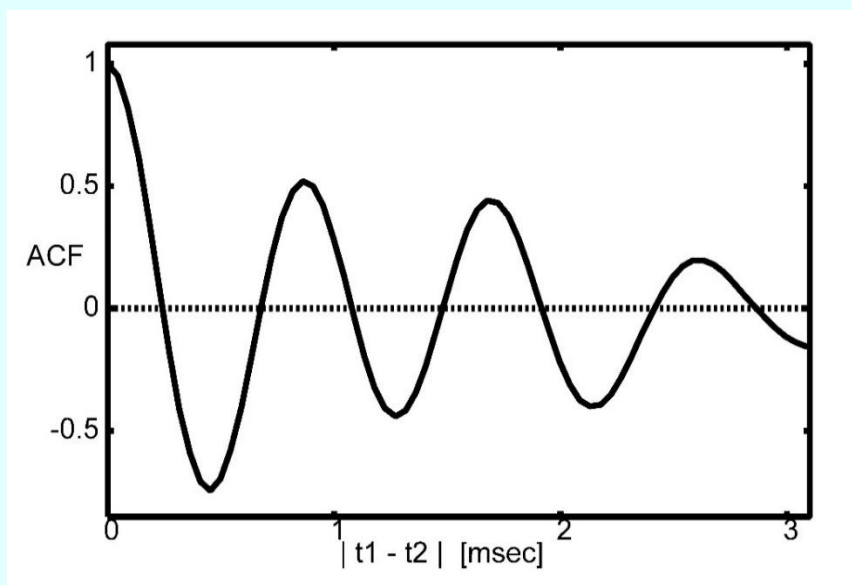
$$C_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) - \eta_X(t_1)\eta_X^*(t_2)$$

## ■ Correlation coefficient

$$r(t_1, t_2) = \frac{C_{XX}(t_1, t_2)}{\sqrt{C_{XX}(t_1, t_1)C_{XX}(t_2, t_2)}}$$

## ■ Example

Correlation coefficient  $\bar{R}(|t_1 - t_2|) = \bar{R}(t_1, t_2)$  computed for vowel /a/.



- **Cross-correlation** of 2 stochastic processes  
 $X(t), Y(t)$

$$R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = E\{X(t_1)Y^*(t_2)\} = R_{YX}^*(t_2, t_1)$$

- **Cross-covariance** of 2 stochastic processes  
 $X(t), Y(t)$

$$C_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) - \eta_X(t_1)\eta_Y^*(t_2)$$

- 2 stochastic processes  $X(t), Y(t)$  are (mutually) **orthogonal**.

$$\text{For any } t_1, t_2, R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = 0$$

- 2 stochastic processes  $X(t), Y(t)$  are **uncorrelated**.

$$\text{For any } t_1, t_2, C_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = 0$$

## ■ **$a$ -dependent**

$$C_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = 0 \text{ for } |t_2 - t_1| > a$$

## ■ **White noise $W(t)$**

For  $t_1 \neq t_2$ ,  $C_{WW}(t_1, t_2) = 0$ .

In other words,  $C_{WW}(t_1, t_2) = q(t_1)\delta(t_1 - t_2)$

## ■ **Uncorrelated increments**

For  $t_1 < t_2 \leq t_3 < t_4$ ,  $X(t_2) - X(t_1)$  and  $X(t_4) - X(t_3)$  are not correlated.

Example: Integral of white noise, Brownian motion

## ■ Independent increments

For  $t_1 < t_2 \leq t_3 < t_4$ ,

$X(t_2) - X(t_1)$  and  $X(t_4) - X(t_3)$  are independent.

Example: Random walk, Wiener process, Poisson process

## ■ Independent process

For 2 process  $X(t), Y(t)$ , random variables  $X(t_i), Y(t_j)$  are independent from each other.

Namely, for any  $t_1, t_2$ ,

$$E\{X(t_i)Y(t_j)\} = E\{X(t_i)\}E\{Y(t_j)\}$$

## ■ Normal process

For any  $n, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n$ , joint distribution of random variables  $X(t_i)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) becomes  $n$ th-order normal distribution.

■ In case of  $n = 1$ ,

setting  $\eta_X(t) = E\{X(t)\}$ ,  $\sigma_X^2(t) = C_{XX}(t, t)$

$$f_X(x; t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_X(t)} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x - \eta_X(t)}{\sigma_X(t)} \right)^2 \right]$$



- In case of  $n = 2$ , setting  $\eta_X(t_i) = E\{X(t_i)\}$ ,

$$\sigma_X^2(t_i) = C_{XX}(t_i t_i), \rho = \frac{C_{XX}(t_1, t_2)}{\sigma_X(t_1)\sigma_X(t_2)},$$

$$f_X(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_X(t_1)\sigma_X(t_2)\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}Q(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2)\right]$$

where

$$Q(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{1-\rho^2} \left\{ \left( \frac{x_1 - \eta_X(t_1)}{\sigma_X(t_1)} \right)^2 - 2\rho \left( \frac{x_1 - \eta_X(t_1)}{\sigma_X(t_1)} \right) \left( \frac{x_2 - \eta_X(t_2)}{\sigma_X(t_2)} \right) + \left( \frac{x_2 - \eta_X(t_2)}{\sigma_X(t_2)} \right)^2 \right\}$$

# 3. Stationary process

## ■ Strict sense stationary (SSS) process

Statistical property is invariant under time shift. Namely, for any constant  $c$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) &= \\ F_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1 + c, t_2 + c, \dots, t_n + c) \\ f_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) &= \\ f_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1 + c, t_2 + c, \dots, t_n + c) \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$f_X(x; t) = f_X(x) \rightarrow 1^{\text{st}}$ -order density is independent of  $t$ .

$f_X(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) = f_X(x_1, x_2; \tau) \rightarrow 2^{\text{nd}}$ -order density is a function of time lag  $\tau$

## ■ Wide sense stationary (WSS) process

- Statistical quantities up to 2<sup>nd</sup>-order are independent of time. Namely,

$$E\{X(t)\} = \eta x \rightarrow \text{Mean is independent of } t.$$

$$E\{X(t + \tau)X^*(t)\} = R_{XX}(\tau) \rightarrow \text{Autocorrelation is a function of time lag } \tau.$$

## ■ Hence

(a)  $R(0) = E\{X(t)X^*(t)\} \rightarrow$  Mean square is independent of  $t$ .

(b) Variance  $C_{XX}(\tau) = R_{XX}(\tau) - |\eta_X|^2$

(c) Correlation coefficient  $r(\tau) = C_{XX}(\tau)/C_{XX}(0)$

(d) Joint wide sense stationary

Each of two processes  $X(t)$  and  $Y(t)$  is wide sense stationary, and their cross-correlation depends only on  $\tau = t_1 - t_2$ .

$$R_{XY}(\tau) = E\{(\mathbf{X}(t + \tau)\mathbf{Y}^*(t))\}$$

$$C_{XY}(\tau) = R_{XY}(\tau) - \eta_X \eta_Y^*$$

(e) If white noise  $\mathbf{W}(t)$  is weakly stationary,

$$E\{\mathbf{W}(t)\} = \eta_W, C_{WW} = q\delta(\tau)$$

(where  $\eta_W$  and  $q$  are constants)

In this lecture, we suppose  $\eta_W = 0$ .



(f) If  $X(t)$  is an  $a$ -dependent process,

$$C(\tau) = 0 \text{ for } |\tau| > a$$

$a$  is called **correlation time**.

(g) If  $X(t)$  is static sense stationary, then it is wide sense stationary. However, the inverse is not necessarily true.

(h) Since normal process can be described in terms of 2<sup>nd</sup>-order statistics, inverse of (g) also holds. Namely, if normal process is weakly stationary, it is also strongly stationary.

## ■ Sampling

If we set  $X[n] = X(n\Delta t)$ , statistical quantity of  $X[n]$  can be determined by statistical quantity of  $X(t)$ . Namely,

$$\eta_X[n] = \eta_X(n\Delta t),$$

$$R_{XX}[n_1, n_2] = R_{XX}(n_1\Delta t, n_2\Delta t).$$

Furthermore, if  $X(t)$  is stationary,  $X[n]$  is also stationary. Opposite is not necessarily true.

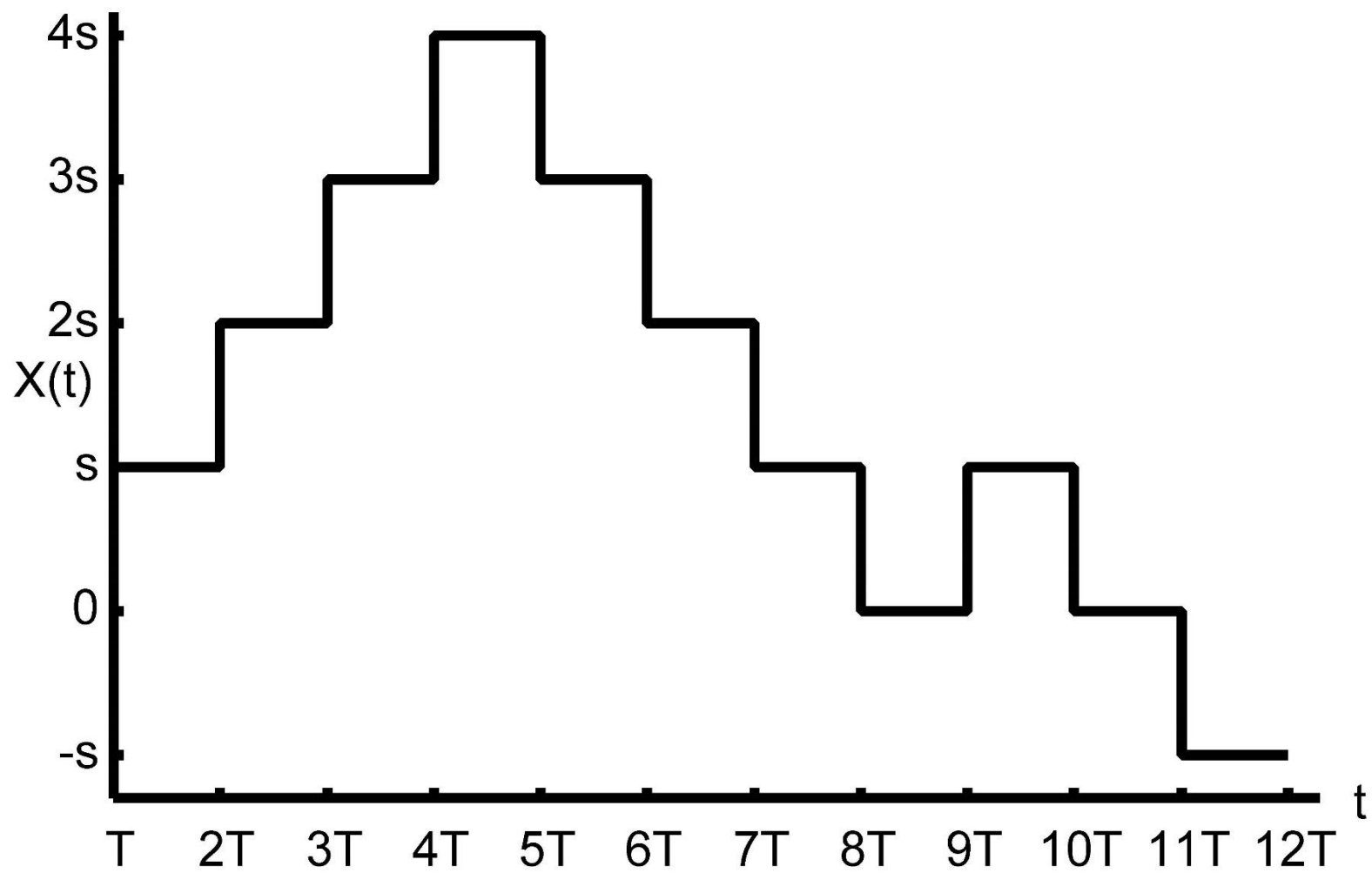
# 4. Example of stochastic process

## ■ Random walk

[Problem]

- (a) Start at  $t = 0$ . Every time of  $T$ , throw a coin.
- (b) If front face is up, proceed to right with  $s$ -step.
- (c) If back face is up, proceed to left with  $s$ -step.
- (d) Position at  $t = nT$ :  $X(t)$

Study the statistical quantities (mean, variance, and distribution function) of random variable  $X(t)$ .





- If we suppose that, for the first  $n$  steps, front face was up for  $k$  times, and back face was up for  $n - k$  times,

$$X(nT) = ks - (n - k)s = ms$$

where  $m = 2k - n, m = -n, n - 2, \dots, n$

- Probability of obtaining front for  $k$  times among  $n$  trials is

$$P\{X(nT) = ms\} = \binom{n}{k} \frac{1}{2^n} \quad \text{where } k = \frac{m+n}{2}$$

- Denoting the  $i$ th step by  $X(nT)$  can be described as  $X(nT) = \Delta X_1 + \Delta X_2 + \dots + \Delta X_n$ .  $\Delta X_i (= \pm s)$  is an independent random variable with  $E\{\Delta X_i\} = 0$  and  $E\{\Delta X_i^2\} = s^2$

$$E\{X(nT)\} = nE\{\Delta X_i\} = 0$$

$$E\{X^2(nT)\} = nE\{\Delta X_i^2\} = ns^2$$

■ According to De Moivre-Laplace theorem,

“If  $npq \gg 1$ , in  $\sqrt{npq}$  neighborhood of  $k = np$ ,

$$\binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k} \cong \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi npq}} e^{-\frac{(k-np)^2}{2npq}},$$

Hence substituting  $p = q = 0.5$ ,  $m = 2k - n$ ,

$$P\{X(nT) = ms\} \cong \frac{1}{\sqrt{n\pi/2}} e^{-\frac{m^2}{2n}} \text{ holds for } |m| \sim \sqrt{n}.$$

Therefore,  $P\{X(nT) \leq ms\} = \Phi\left(\frac{m}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$  for  $nT - T < t \leq T$

where  $\Phi(\cdot)$  represents distribution function of standard normal distribution  $N(0,1)$ . In addition, if  $n_1 < n_2 \leq n_3 < n_4$ , increments  $X(n_4T) - X(n_3T)$  and  $X(n_2T) - X(n_1T)$  are independent.

# De Moivre-Laplace theorem: a derivation

$$\boxed{\binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k} \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi npq}} e^{-\frac{(k-np)^2}{2npq}}, \quad p+q=1}$$

[Outline of derivation] Using Stirling's formula for factorial,  $n! \approx \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n$ ,

$$\binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k} \approx \sqrt{\frac{n}{2\pi k(n-k)}} \left(\frac{np}{k}\right)^k \left(\frac{nq}{n-k}\right)^{n-k}.$$

Setting  $k = npq + x\sqrt{npq}$  and expanding using a Taylor series  $\ln(1+x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \dots$ ,

$$\binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k} \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi npq}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}.$$

# Wiener process

## ■ Wiener process

Consider a random walk in the limit of  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . We consider a limit  $T \rightarrow 0$  under the condition of  $s^2 = \alpha T$ . Then  $X(t)$  becomes continuous-time continuous-state stochastic process

$$Y(t) = \lim_{T \rightarrow 0} X(t).$$

$Y(t)$  is called **Wiener process**.

## ■ Mean and Variance

According to the results of random walk,

$$E\{Y(t)\} = 0$$

$$E\{Y^2(t)\} = ns^2 = \frac{ts^2}{T} = \alpha t.$$

- **Distribution function:** Substituting  $y = ms$ ,  $t = nT$  into distribution function of random walk,

$$P\{Y(t) \leq y\} = \Phi\left(\frac{m}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = \Phi\left(\frac{y/s}{\sqrt{t/T}}\right) = \Phi\left(\frac{y}{\sqrt{\alpha t}}\right)$$

Hence, probability density of  $Y(t)$  is distributed normally as  $N(0, \alpha t)$ .

$$f_Y(y, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\alpha t}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2\alpha t}}$$

- **Autocorrelation:**

$$R_{YY}(t_1, t_2) = \alpha \min(t_1, t_2)$$

- **Increment:** if  $t_1 < t_2 \leq t_3 < t_4$ , increments  $Y(t_4) - Y(t_3)$  and  $Y(t_2) - Y(t_1)$  are intendant.

# Generalized random walk

- In random walk, we suppose that probability of obtaining front face is  $p$ , whereas probability of obtaining back is  $q = 1 - p$ . Then,

$$X(t) = \sum_{k=1}^n c_k U(t - kT) \quad \text{for} \quad (n - 1)T < t \leq T$$

where  $c_k$  is a random number, which takes value of  $s$  with probability  $p$  and takes a value of  $-s$  with probability  $q$  and

$$U(t) = 0 \quad (t < 0) \quad \text{and} \quad U(t) = 1 \quad (t \geq 0).$$

$X(t)$  is called **generalized random walk**.

# Generalized random walk

Using the following properties of binominal distribution:

$$E\{c_k\} = (p - q)s$$

$$E\{c_k^2\} = s^2, \quad \text{Var}(c_k^2) = 4pqs^2$$

## ■ Mean and Variance:

$$E\{X(t)\} = n(p - q)s$$

$$\text{Var}(X(t)) = 4npqs^2$$

## ■ Distribution function:

For large  $n$ ,  $X(t)$  is normally distributed with

$$E\{X(t)\} \cong \frac{t}{T} (p - q)s$$

$$\text{Var}(X(t)) \cong \frac{4t}{T} 4pqs^2$$

# 5. Ergodic property

## ■ Problem:

Consider an estimation of statistical quantity of  $\mathbf{X}(t)$  such as its mean.

$$\eta(t) = E\{\mathbf{X}(t)\}, \text{ from real data.}$$

## ■ Method:

Given  $n$  samples  $\mathbf{X}(t, \omega_i)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ), average is obtained as follows.

$$\hat{\eta}(t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{X}(t, \omega_i)$$

## ■ Practical Problem:

It is rare to have some many samples. In most cases, only a single time series  $\mathbf{X}(t)$  is given.



## ■ Non-stationary:

If  $X(t)$  is non-stationary and mean  $E\{X(t)\}$  is a function of  $t$ , estimation is impossible.

However, if  $X(t)$  is stationary, time-average, computed as

$$\eta_T = \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T X(t) dt$$

becomes

$$\eta_T \rightarrow E\{X\} \text{ as } T \rightarrow \infty$$

- Ergodic property implies **time-average equals to ensemble average.**

# Mean-ergodic process

## ■ Problem:

Given a stationary real process  $X(t)$ , compute its average  $\eta = E\{X(t)\}$ . Define a time average over a duration of  $2T$

$$\eta_T = \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T X(t) dt$$

as a new random variable, average of  $\eta_T$  is

$$E\{\eta_T\} = \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T E\{X(t)\} dt = \eta$$

If the variance has a property of  $\sigma_T^2 \rightarrow 0$  in the limit of  $T \rightarrow \infty$  time average converges to the true average.

Namely,

$$P(\eta_T = \eta) \rightarrow 1$$

$X(t)$  is called **Mean-ergodic process**.

## ■ Slutsky theorem:

- If  $\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T C(\tau) d\tau \rightarrow 0$  as  $T \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $X(t)$  is a mean-ergodic process.
- Sufficient condition (a):  $\int_0^\infty C(\tau) d\tau < \infty$
- Sufficient condition (b): For  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $C(\tau) \rightarrow 0$

$$\begin{aligned} E[(\eta_T - \eta)^2] &= \frac{1}{(2T)^2} \int_{-T}^T dt \int_{-T}^T dt' E[(x(t) - \eta)(x(t') - \eta)] \\ &= \frac{2}{(2T)^2} \int_{-2T}^{2T} du \int_{-2T}^{2T} d\tau C(\tau) \\ &= \frac{2}{T} \int_{-2T}^{2T} d\tau C(\tau) \end{aligned}$$