

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 ω : Throw dice/coin toss

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

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

■ Stochastic Process: $X(t, \omega)$

Outcome ω : Results of all trials

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

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

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

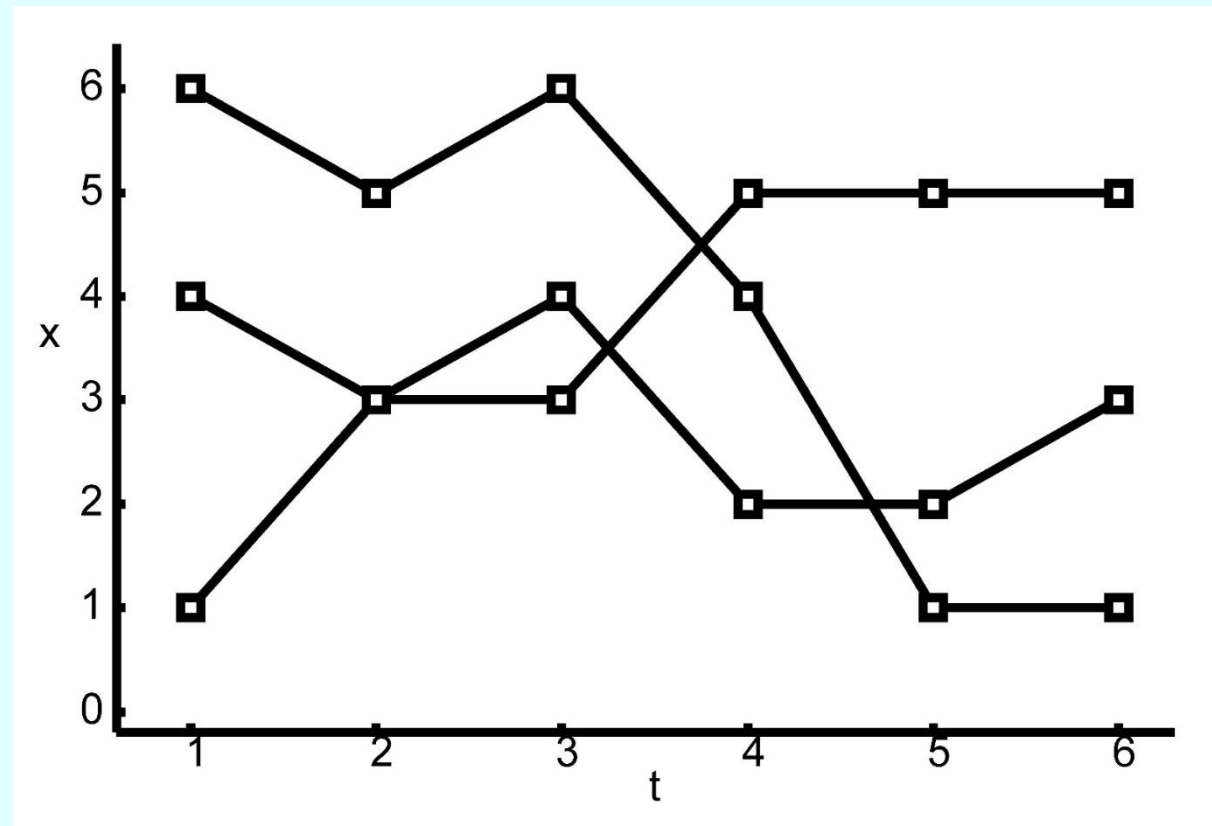
- For a fixed value t

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

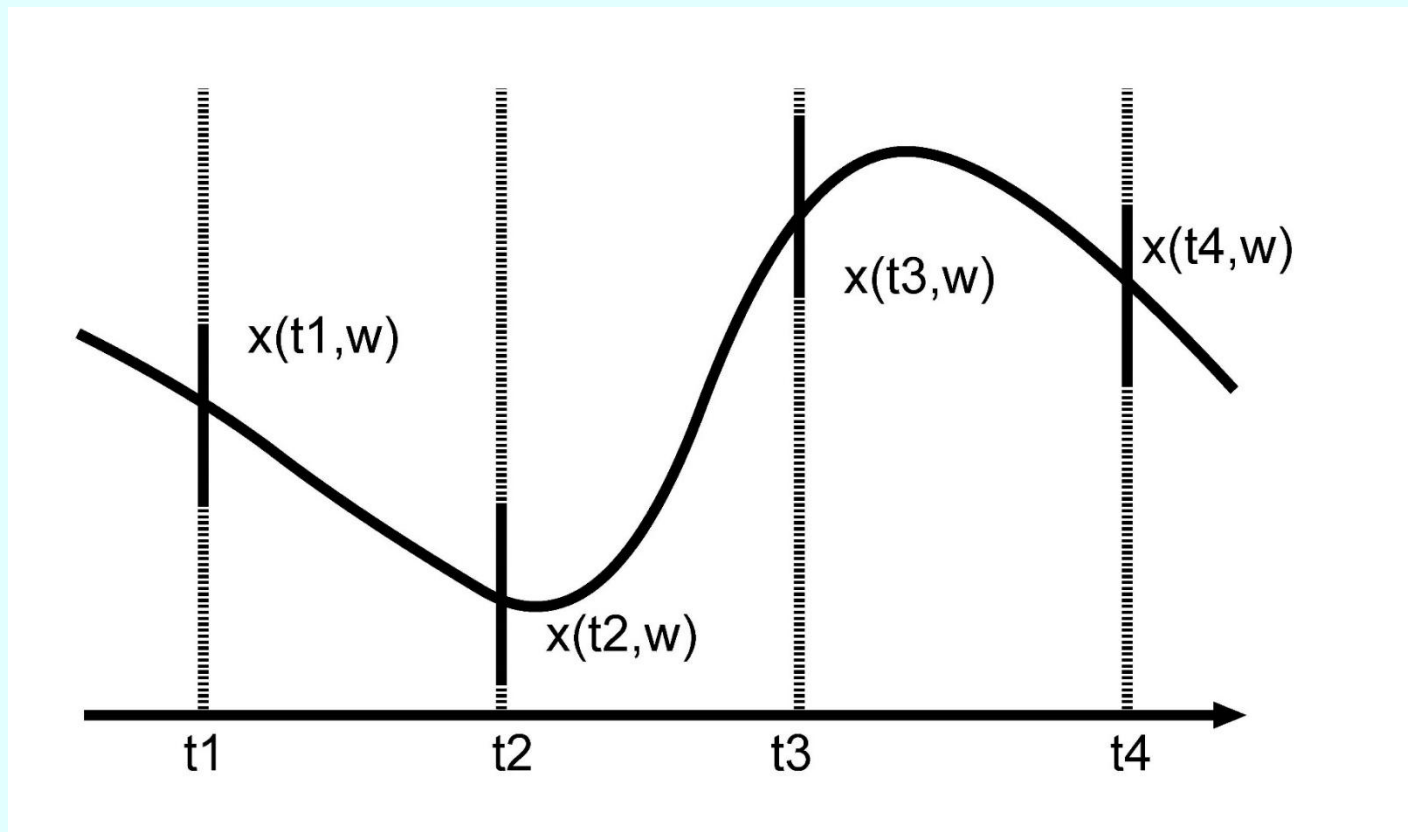
- Discrete-type vs. Continuous-type

- 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.



[Exercise]

Let Z_1, Z_2, \dots be independent identically distributed random variables with $P(Z_n = 1) = p$ and $P(Z_n = -1) = q = 1 - p$ for all n . Let

$$X_n = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

and $X_0 = 0$. The collection of random variables $\{X_n, n \geq 0\}$ is a stochastic process, and it is called the simple random walk $X(n)$ in one dimension.

- (a) Describe the simple random walk $X(n)$.
- (b) Construct a typical sample sequence (or realization) of $X(n)$.

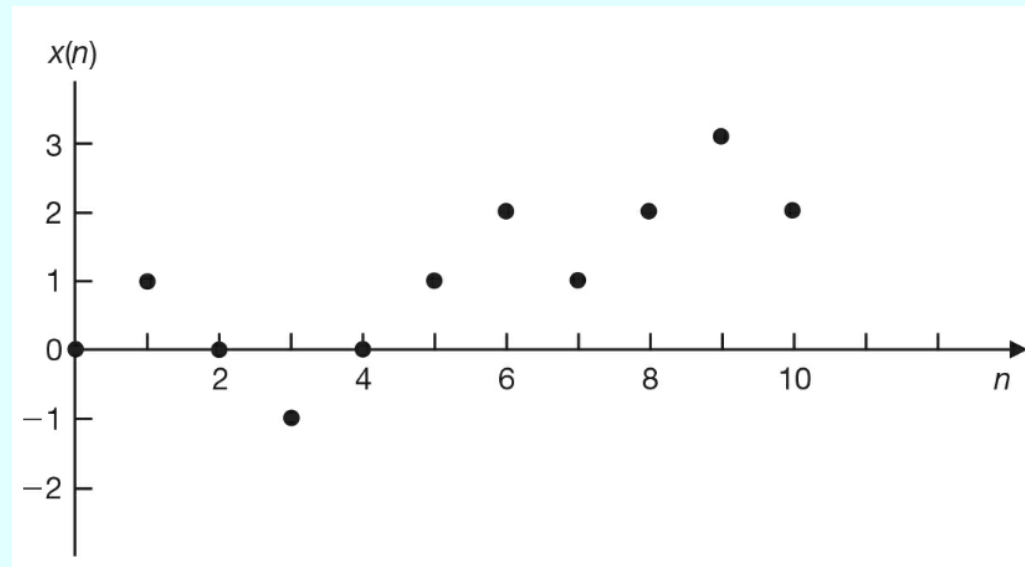


[Answer]

(a) The simple random walk $X(n)$ is a discrete-parameter (or time), discrete-state random process. The state space is $E = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$, and the index parameter set is $T = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.

[Answer]

(b) A sample sequence $x(n)$ of a simple random walk $X(n)$ can be produced by tossing a coin every second and letting $x(n)$ increase by unity if a head appears and decrease by unity if a tail appears. For instance, the following figure shows a sample function of a random walk of this $X(n)$.



[Exercise]

Consider a random process $X(t)$ defined by

$$X(t) = Y \cos \omega t \quad t \geq 0$$

where ω is a constant and Y is a uniform random variable over $(0, 1)$.

- (a) Describe the random process $X(t)$
- (b) Sketch a few typical sample functions of $X(t)$

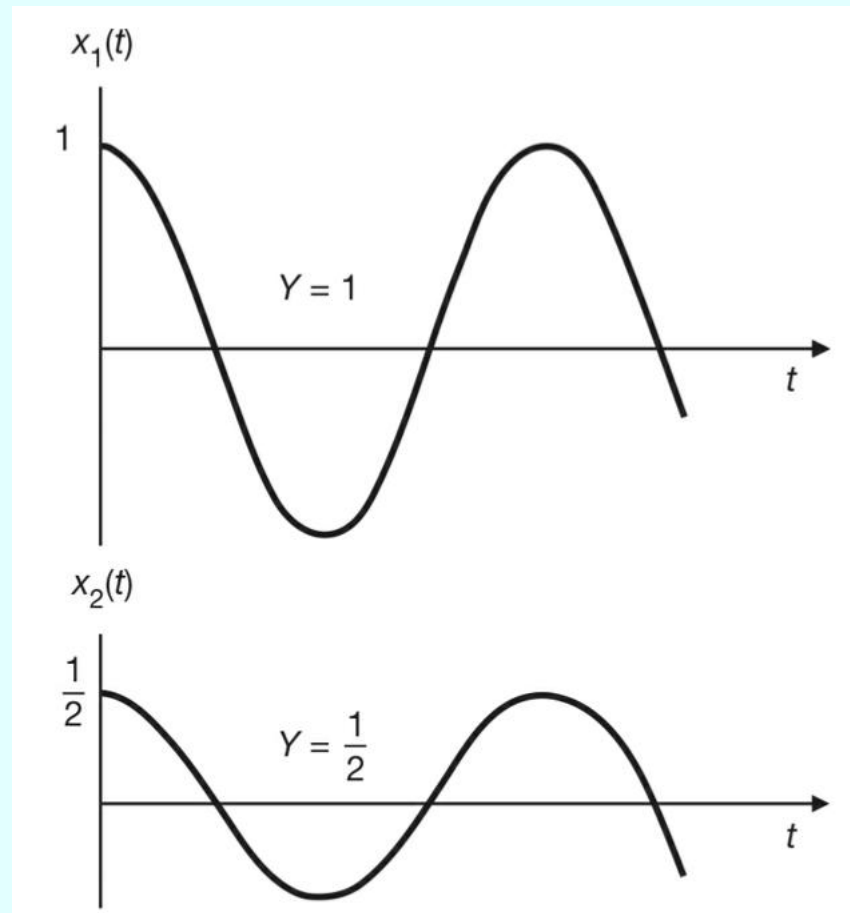


[Answer]

(a) The random process $X(t)$ is a continuous-parameter (or time), continuous-state random process. The state space is $E = \{x: -1 < x < 1\}$ and the index parameter set is $T = \{t: t \geq 0\}$.

[Answer]

(b) Two sample functions of $X(t)$ are sketched as follows:



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 $X(t)$:

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

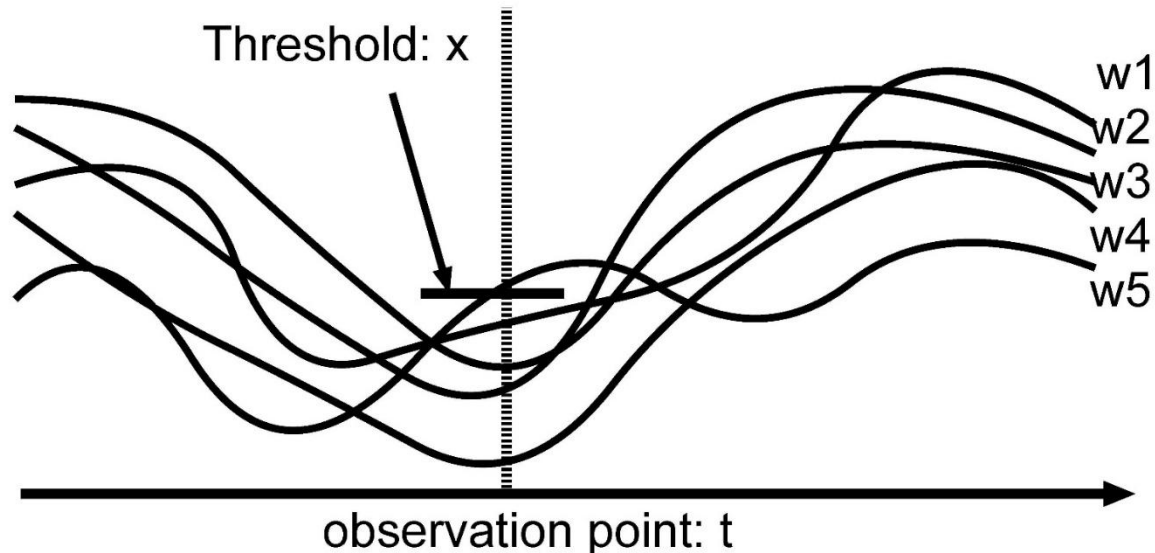
Probability density of $X(t)$:

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

■ 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:

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

[Exercise]

Consider two discrete random variables, X and Y .
Their joint probability mass function (PMF) is given by:

$$f(x, y) = c \times (x + y), \text{ for } x = 1, 2, 3 \text{ and } y = 1, 2$$

- (a)** Find the value of the constant 'c' that makes this a valid joint PMF.
- (b)** Find the marginal PMFs of X and Y .

[Answer]

(a) To find 'c', we use the property that the sum of all probabilities in a joint PMF must equal 1:

$$\sum_x \sum_y f(x, y) = 1$$

$$\sum_{x=1}^3 \sum_{y=1}^2 (c(x + y)) = 1$$

$$c[(1 + 1) + (1 + 2) + (2 + 1) + (2 + 2) + (3 + 1) + (3 + 2)] = 1$$

$$c[2 + 3 + 3 + 4 + 4 + 5] = 1$$

$$21c = 1, \quad c = 1/21$$

[Answer]

(b) Marginal PMFs:

Marginal PMF of X , $f_X(x)$:

$$f_X(x) = \sum_{y=1}^2 f(x, y)$$

$$f_X(1) = f(1,1) + f(1,2) = 5/21$$

$$f_X(2) = f(2,1) + f(2,2) = 7/21$$

$$f_X(3) = f(3,1) + f(3,2) = 9/21$$

With the same way find also PMF of Y , $f_Y(y)$.

■ 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 $Z(t)$.

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

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

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

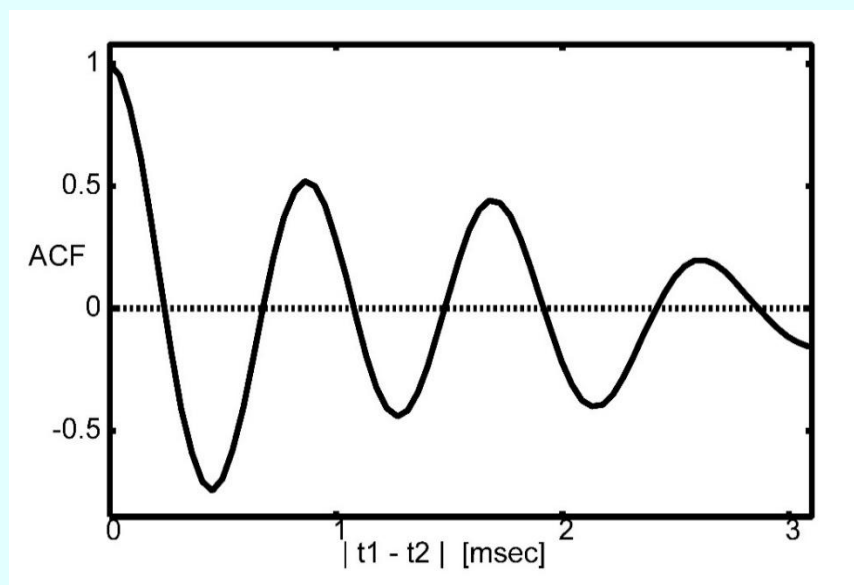
$$C_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) - \eta_X(t_1)\eta_X^*(t_2)$$

■ 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

[Exercise]

A complex stochastic process $Z(t)$ is given by:

$$Z(t) = X(t) + iY(t)$$

Where:

$X(t)$ and $Y(t)$ are real-valued random processes.

i is the imaginary unit.

$$E[X(t)] = 1, E[Y(t)] = 2, \text{ for all } t.$$

$$\text{Var}[X(t)] = 4, \text{Var}[Y(t)] = 9, \text{ for all } t.$$

$$\text{Cov}(X(t), Y(t)) = 0, \text{ for all } t.$$

The autocorrelation function of $X(t)$ is $R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = 4 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{|t_1 - t_2|}{2}\right)$.

The autocorrelation function of $Y(t)$ is $R_{YY}(t_1, t_2) = 9 \cdot \cos(\pi * (t_1 - t_2))$.

[Exercise]

- a) Calculate the mean function of the complex process $Z(t)$.
- b) Calculate the autocovariance function of the complex process $Z(t)$.
- c) Calculate the autocorrelation function of the complex process $Z(t)$.
- d) Calculate the correlation coefficient between $Z(t_1)$ and $Z(t_2)$.

■ 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 τ

■ Wide sense stationary (WSS) process

- Statistical quantities up to 2nd-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 η_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 2nd-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.

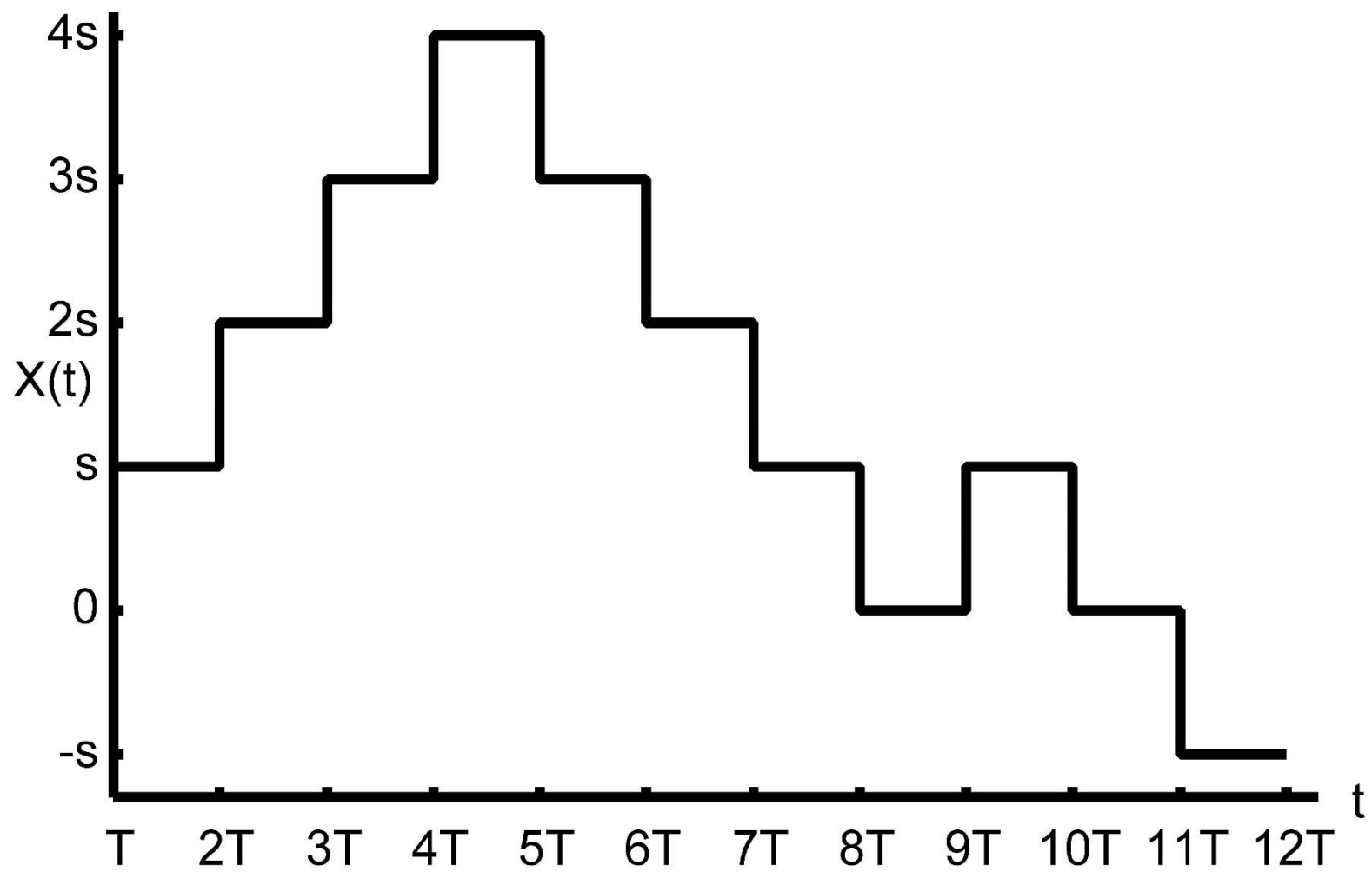
4. Example of stochastic process

■ 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

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 η_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 $t \rightarrow \infty$, $C(\tau) \rightarrow 0$

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