### STAT253/317 Lecture 7

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- Using the Iterative Relationship
- 4.5.3 Random Walk w/ Reflective Boundary at 0
- 4.7 Branching Processes

## Using the Iterative Relationship

Many Markov chains  $\{X_n\}$  have some iterative relationships between consecutive terms, e.g.,

$$X_{n+1} = g(X_n, \xi_{n+1})$$
 for all  $n$ 

where  $\{\xi_n, n=0,1,2,\ldots\}$  are some i.i.d. random variables and  $X_n$  is independent of  $\{\xi_k: k>n\}$ .

In many cases, we can use the iterative relationship to find  $\mathbb{E}[X_n]$  and  $\operatorname{Var}[X_n]$  without knowing the distribution of  $X_n$ .

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}] &= \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}|X_n]] \\ \mathrm{Var}(X_{n+1}) &= \mathbb{E}[\mathrm{Var}(X_{n+1}|X_n)] + \mathrm{Var}(\mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}|X_n]) \end{split}$$

## Example 1: Simple Random Walk

$$X_{n+1} = egin{cases} X_n + 1 & ext{with prob } p \ X_n - 1 & ext{with prob } q = 1 - p \end{cases}$$

So

$$\mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}|X_n] = p(X_n+1) + q(X_n-1) = X_n + p - q$$

$$\operatorname{Var}[X_{n+1}|X_n] = 4pq$$

$$= \operatorname{Var}(X_{n+1}|X_n] = 4pq$$

$$= 1 \text{ with prob. p}$$

$$= -1 \text{ with prob q}$$

Then

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}] &= \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}|X_n]] = \mathbb{E}[X_n] + p - q \\ \operatorname{Var}(X_{n+1}) &= \mathbb{E}[\operatorname{Var}(X_{n+1}|X_n)] + \operatorname{Var}(\mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}|X_n]) \\ &= \mathbb{E}[4pq] + \operatorname{Var}(X_n + p - q) = 4pq + \operatorname{Var}(X_n) \end{split}$$

So

$$\mathbb{E}[X_n] = n(p-q) + \mathbb{E}[X_0], \qquad \operatorname{Var}(X_n) = 4npq + \operatorname{Var}(X_0)$$

## Example 2: Ehrenfest Urn Model with M Balls

Recall that

$$X_{n+1} = egin{cases} X_n + 1 & ext{with probability } rac{M - X_n}{M} \ X_n - 1 & ext{with probability } rac{X_n}{M} \end{cases}$$

We have

$$\mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}|X_n] = (X_n+1) \times \frac{M-X_n}{M} + (X_n-1) \times \frac{X_n}{M} = 1 + \left(1 - \frac{2}{M}\right)X_n.$$

Thus

$$\mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}|X_n]] = 1 + \left(1 - \frac{2}{M}\right)\mathbb{E}[X_n]$$

Subtracting M/2 from both sided of the equation above, we get

$$\mathbb{E}[X_{n+1}] - \frac{M}{2} = \left(1 - \frac{2}{M}\right) \left(\mathbb{E}[X_n] - \frac{M}{2}\right)$$

The

Thus 
$$\mathbb{E}[X_n] - \frac{M}{2} = \left(1 - \frac{2}{M}\right)^n (\mathbb{E}[X_0] - \frac{M}{2})$$
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# Example 3: Branching Processes (Section 4.7)

Consider a population of individuals.

- ► All individuals have the same lifetime
- ► Each individual will produce a random number of offsprings at the end of its life

Let  $X_n =$  size of the n-th generation,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$ If  $X_{n-1} = k$ , the k individuals in the (n-1)-th generation will independently produce  $Z_{n,1}, Z_{n,2}, \ldots, Z_{n,k}$  new offsprings, and  $Z_{n,1}, Z_{n,2}, \ldots, Z_{n,X_{n-1}}$  are i.i.d such that

$$P(Z_{n,j} = j) = P_i, j \ge 0.$$

We suppose that  $P_j < 1$  for all  $j \ge 0$ . If  $P_0 > 0$ , all states > 0 are transient

transient
$$X_n = \sum_{i=1}^{X_{n-1}} Z_{n,i}$$
0 is a closed absorbing state.

 $\{X_n\}$  is a Markov chain with state space  $=\{0,1,2,\ldots\}$  .

## Mean of a Branching Process

mu = mean number of offsprings produced by a single individual

Let 
$$\mu = \mathbb{E}[Z_{n,i}] = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} jP_j$$
. Since  $X_n = \sum_{i=1}^{X_{n-1}} Z_{n,i}$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[X_n|X_{n-1}] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{X_{n-1}} Z_{n,i} | X_{n-1}\right] = X_{n-1}\mathbb{E}[Z_{n,i}] = X_{n-1}\mu$$

So

$$\mathbb{E}[X_n] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X_n|X_{n-1}]] = \mathbb{E}[X_{n-1}\mu] = \mu \mathbb{E}[X_{n-1}]$$

If then

$$\mathbb{E}[X_n] = \mu \mathbb{E}[X_{n-1}] = \mu^2 \mathbb{E}[X_{n-2}] = \dots = \mu^n \mathbb{E}[X_0]$$

- E[X\_n]>=0P(X\_n=0) + 1P(X\_n>=1)=P(X\_n>=1)

  ▶ If  $\mu < 1 \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}[X_n] \to 0$  as  $n \to \infty \Rightarrow \lim_{n \to \infty} P(X_n \ge 1) = 0$  the branching processes will eventually die out.
- What if  $\mu = 1$  or  $\mu > 1$ ? See Lecture 8.

## Variance of a Branching Process

Let  $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}[Z_{n,i}] = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (j - \mu)^2 P_j$ .  $\text{Var}(X_n)$  may be obtained using the conditional variance formula

$$\operatorname{Var}(X_n) = \mathbb{E}[\operatorname{Var}(X_n|X_{n-1})] + \operatorname{Var}(\mathbb{E}[X_n|X_{n-1}]).$$

Again from that  $X_n = \sum_{i=1}^{X_{n-1}} Z_{n,i}$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[X_n|X_{n-1}] = X_{n-1}\mu, \quad Var(X_n|X_{n-1}) = X_{n-1}\sigma^2$$

and hence

$$\operatorname{Var}(\mathbb{E}[X_n|X_{n-1}]) = \operatorname{Var}(X_{n-1}\mu) = \mu^2 \operatorname{Var}(X_{n-1})$$
  
$$\mathbb{E}[\operatorname{Var}(X_n|X_{n-1})] = \sigma^2 \mathbb{E}[X_{n-1}] = \sigma^2 \mu^{n-1} \mathbb{E}[X_0].$$

# Variance of a Branching Process

So

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Var}(X_{n}) &= \sigma^{2} \mu^{n-1} \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \mu^{2} \operatorname{Var}(X_{n-1}) \\ &= \sigma^{2} \mu^{n-1} \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \mu^{2} (\sigma^{2} \mu^{n-2} \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \mu^{2} \operatorname{Var}(X_{n-2})) \\ &= \sigma^{2} (\mu^{n-1} + \mu^{n}) \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \mu^{4} \operatorname{Var}(X_{n-2}) \\ &= \sigma^{2} (\mu^{n-1} + \mu^{n}) \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \mu^{4} (\sigma^{2} \mu^{n-3} \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \mu^{2} \operatorname{Var}(X_{n-3})) \\ &= \sigma^{2} (\mu^{n-1} + \mu^{n} + \mu^{n+1}) \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \mu^{6} \operatorname{Var}(X_{n-3}) \\ &\vdots \\ &= \sigma^{2} (\mu^{n-1} + \mu^{n} + \dots + \mu^{2n-2}) \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \mu^{2n} \operatorname{Var}(X_{0}) \\ &= \begin{cases} \sigma^{2} \mu^{n-1} \left(\frac{1-\mu^{n}}{1-\mu}\right) \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \mu^{2n} \operatorname{Var}(X_{0}) & \text{if } \mu \neq 1 \\ n\sigma^{2} \mathbb{E}[X_{0}] + \operatorname{Var}(X_{0}) & \text{if } \mu = 1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

### 4.5.1 The Gambler's Ruin Problem

- ► A gambler repeatedly plays a game until he goes bankrupt or his fortune reaches *N*.
- In each game, he can win \$1 with probability p or lose \$1 with probability q=1-p.
- Outcomes of different games are independent
- ▶ Define  $X_n$  = the gambler's fortune after the nth game.
- ▶  $\{X_n\}$  is a simple random walk w/ absorbing boundaries at 0 and N.

$$P_{00} = P_{NN} = 1, P_{i,i+1} = p, P_{i,i-1} = q, i = 1, 2, ..., N-1$$

- ► Two recurrent classes:  $\{0\}$  and  $\{N\}$  one transient class  $\{1, 2, ..., N-1\}$
- ▶ Regardless of the initial fortune  $X_0$ , eventually  $\lim_{n\to\infty} X_n = 0$  or N as all states are transient except 0 or N.

### 4.5.1 The Gambler's Ruin Problem

Denote A as the event that the gambler's fortune reaches N before reaches 0. Then

$$P_i = P(A|X_0 = i).$$

Conditioning on the outcome of the first game,

$$P_i = P(A|X_0 = i, \text{he wins the 1st game}) \underbrace{P(\text{he wins the 1st game})}_{=p} + P(A|X_0 = i, \text{he loses the 1st game}) \underbrace{P(\text{he loses the 1st game})}_{=q} + P(A|X_0 = i, X_1 = i+1)p + P(A|X_0 = i, X_1 = i-1)q$$

$$= \underbrace{P(A|X_1 = i+1)p}_{=P_{i+1}} + \underbrace{P(A|X_1 = i-1)q}_{=P_{i+1}} + \underbrace{P(A|$$

We get a set of equations

$$P_i = pP_{i+1} + qP_{i-1}$$
 for  $i = 1, 2, ..., N-1$ .  
 $P_0 = 0, P_N = 1$ 

# Solving the equations $P_i = pP_{i+1} + qP_{i-1}$

$$(p+q)P_i = pP_{i+1} + qP_{i-1}$$
 since  $p+q=1$   
 $\Leftrightarrow q(P_i - P_{i-1}) = p(P_{i+1} - P_i)$   
 $\Leftrightarrow P_{i+1} - P_i = (q/p)(P_i - P_{i-1})$   
As  $P_0 = 0$ ,  
 $P_2 - P_1 = (q/p)(P_1 - P_0) = (q/p)P_1$ 

$$P_3 - P_2 = (q/p)(P_2 - P_1) = (q/p)^2 P_1$$
:

•

$$P_i - P_{i-1} = (q/p)(P_{i-1} - P_{i-2}) = (q/p)(q/p)^{i-2}P_1 = (q/p)^{i-1}P_1$$

Adding up the equations above we get

$$P_i - P_1 = [q/p + (q/p)^2 + \cdots + (q/p)^{i-1}] P_1$$

# Solving the equations $P_i = pP_{i+1} + qP_{i-1}$

$$(p+q)P_{i} = pP_{i+1} + qP_{i-1}$$
 since  $p+q=1$ 

$$\Leftrightarrow q(P_{i} - P_{i-1}) = p(P_{i+1} - P_{i})$$

$$\Leftrightarrow P_{i+1} - P_{i} = (q/p)(P_{i} - P_{i-1})$$
As  $P_{0} = 0$ ,
$$P_{2} - P_{1} = (q/p)(P_{1} - P_{0}) = (q/p)P_{1}$$

$$P_{3} - P_{2} = (q/p)(P_{2} - P_{1}) = (q/p)^{2}P_{1}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$P_{i} - P_{i-1} = (q/p)(P_{i-1} - P_{i-2}) = (q/p)(q/p)^{i-2}P_{1} = (q/p)^{i-1}P_{1}$$

Adding up the equations above we get

$$P_i - P_1 = [q/p + (q/p)^2 + \cdots + (q/p)^{i-1}] P_1$$

From

we get

$$P_i = egin{cases} rac{1-(q/p)^i}{1-(q/p)}P_1 & ext{if } p 
eq q \ iP_1 & ext{if } p = q \end{cases}$$

 $P_i - P_1 = [q/p + (q/p)^2 + \cdots + (q/p)^{i-1}] P_1$ 

As  $P_N = 1$ , we get

So

 $P_1 = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - (q/p)}{1 - (q/p)^N} & \text{if } p \neq 0.5\\ \frac{1}{N} & \text{if } p = 0.5 \end{cases}$ 

 $P_{i} = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - (q/p)'}{1 - (q/p)^{N}} & \text{if } p \neq 0.5\\ \frac{1}{N} & \text{if } p = 0.5 \end{cases}$ 

If the gambler will never quit with whatever fortune he has  $(N=\infty)$ , then

$$\lim_{N o\infty}P_i=egin{cases} 1-(q/p)^i & ext{if } p>0.5 \ 0 & ext{if } p\leq0.5 \end{cases}$$

## 4.5.3 Random Walk w/ Reflective Boundary at 0

- ► State Space = {0, 1, 2, . . .}
- $P_{01} = 1, P_{i,i+1} = p, P_{i,i-1} = 1 p = q, \text{ for } i = 1, 2, 3...$
- ► Only one class, irreducible
- For i < j, define

$$N_{ij} = \min\{m > 0 : X_m = j | X_0 = i\}$$
  
= first time to reach state  $j$  when starting from state  $i$ 

- Observe that  $N_{0n} = N_{01} + N_{12} + \ldots + N_{n-1,n}$ By the Markov property,  $N_{01}, N_{12}, \ldots, N_{n-1,n}$  are indep.
- ▶ Given  $X_0 = i$

$$N_{i,i+1} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } X_1 = i+1\\ 1 + N_{i-1,i}^* + N_{i,i+1}^* & \text{if } X_1 = i-1 \end{cases}$$
 (2)

Observe that  $N^*_{i,i+1} \sim N_{i,i+1}$ , and  $N^*_{i,i+1}$  is indep of  $N^*_{i-1,i}$ . Lecture 7 - 13

# 4.5.3 Random Walk w/ Reflective Boundary at 0 (Cont'd)

Let  $m_i = \mathbb{E}(N_{i,i+1})$ . Taking expected value on Equation (2), we get

$$m_i = \mathbb{E}[N_{i,i+1}] = 1 + q\mathbb{E}[N_{i-1,i}^*] + q\mathbb{E}[N_{i,i+1}^*] = 1 + q(m_{i-1} + m_i)$$

Rearrange terms we get  $pm_i = 1 + qm_{i-1}$  or

$$m_{i} = \frac{1}{p} + \frac{q}{p} m_{i-1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{p} + \frac{q}{p} (\frac{1}{p} + \frac{q}{p} m_{i-2})$$

$$= \frac{1}{p} \left[ 1 + \frac{q}{p} + (\frac{q}{p})^{2} + \dots + (\frac{q}{p})^{i-1} \right] + (\frac{q}{p})^{i} m_{0}$$

Since  $N_{01} = 1$ , which implies  $m_0 = 1$ .

$$m_i = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - (q/p)^i}{p - q} + (\frac{q}{p})^i & \text{if } p \neq 0.5\\ 2i + 1 & \text{if } p = 0.5 \end{cases}$$

# Mean of $N_{0,n}$

Recall that 
$$N_{0n} = N_{01} + N_{12} + \ldots + N_{n-1,n}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[N_{0n}] = m_0 + m_1 + \ldots + m_{n-1}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{n}{p-q} - \frac{2pq}{(p-q)^2} [1 - (\frac{q}{p})^n] & \text{if } p \neq 0.5 \\ n^2 & \text{if } p = 0.5 \end{cases}$$

When

$$p > 0.5$$
  $\mathbb{E}[N_{0n}] \approx \frac{n}{p-q} - \frac{2pq}{(p-q)^2}$  linear in  $n$   
 $p = 0.5$   $\mathbb{E}[N_{0n}] = n^2$  quadratic in  $n$   
 $p < 0.5$   $\mathbb{E}[N_{0n}] = O(\frac{2pq}{(p-q)^2}(\frac{q}{p})^n)$  exponential in  $n$ 

### Exercise 4.50 on p.284

A Markov chain has transition probability matrix

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 0.2 & 0.4 & 0 & 0.3 & 0 & 0.1 \\ 2 & 0.1 & 0.3 & 0 & 0.4 & 0 & 0.2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.3 & 0.7 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.6 & 0.4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2 & 0.8 \end{bmatrix}$$

Communicating classes:

Find  $\lim_{n\to\infty} P^{(n)}$ .

Observe that  $\lim_{n\to\infty} P_{ii}^{(n)} = 0$  if j is transient, hence,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} P^{(n)} = \begin{cases} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 5 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? & ? \end{cases}$$

Observe that  $\lim_{n\to\infty} P_{ij}^{(n)} = 0$  if j is NOT accessible from i

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} P^{(n)} = \begin{cases} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 0 & 0 & ? & ? & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & ? & ? & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? \end{cases}$$

The two classes  $\{3,4\}$  and  $\{5,6\}$  do not communicate and hence the transition probabilities in between are all 0.

Since the Markov chain restricted to the closed class  $\{3,4\}$  is also 3 4

a Markov chain with the transition matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0.3 & 0.7 \\ 4 & 0.6 & 0.4 \end{pmatrix}$  and the limiting distribution of a two-state Markov chain with the transition matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} 1-\alpha & \alpha \\ \beta & 1-\beta \end{pmatrix}$  is  $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\beta}{\alpha+\beta}, \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta} \end{pmatrix}$ , we get

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} P^{(n)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 0 & 0 & 6/13 & 7/13 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6/13 & 7/13 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? \\ 6 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 0.2 & 0.4 & 0 & 0.3 & 0 & 0.1 \\ 2 & 0.1 & 0.3 & 0 & 0.4 & 0 & 0.2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.3 & 0.7 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.6 & 0.4 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ 6 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0.2 & 0.8 \end{bmatrix}$$

For the same reason,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} P^{(n)} = \begin{cases} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 0 & 0 & 6/13 & 7/13 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6/13 & 7/13 & 0 & 0 \\ 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2/7 & 5/7 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2/7 & 5/7 \end{cases}$$
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It remains to find

$$\pi_{ij} = \lim_{n \to \infty} P_{ij}^{(n)}$$

$$\text{from a transient state } i = 1, 2$$
to a recurrent state  $j = 3, 4, 5$ 
5, or 6.

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5 \quad 6$$

$$2 \quad 0.2 \quad 0.4 \quad 0 \quad 0.3 \quad 0 \quad 0.1 \\ 0.1 \quad 0.3 \quad 0 \quad 0.4 \quad 0 \quad 0.2 \\ 0 \quad 0 \quad 0.3 \quad 0.7 \quad 0 \quad 0 \\ 0 \quad 0 \quad 0.6 \quad 0.4 \quad 0 \quad 0 \\ 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0.5 \quad 0.5 \\ 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 0.2 \quad 0.8$$

By the Chapman-Kolmogorov Equation,

$$P_{13}^{(n+1)} = P_{11}P_{13}^{(n)} + P_{12}P_{23}^{(n)} + P_{13}P_{33}^{(n)} + P_{14}P_{43}^{(n)} + P_{15}P_{53}^{(n)} + P_{16}P_{63}^{(n)}$$

$$= 0.2P_{13}^{(n)} + 0.4P_{23}^{(n)} + 0 + 0.3P_{43}^{(n)} + 0 + 0.1\underbrace{P_{63}^{(n)}}_{-0}$$

where  $P_{63}^{(n)} = 0$  since state 3 and 6 do not communicate.

Let  $n \to \infty$  and recall we've shown earlier that  $\lim_{n \to \infty} P_{43}^{(n)} = 6/13$ . We get the equation

$$\pi_{13} = 0.2\pi_{13} + 0.4\pi_{23} + 0.3 \times \frac{6}{13}$$
.

Similarly,

$$P_{23}^{(n+1)} = P_{21}P_{13}^{(n)} + P_{22}P_{23}^{(n)} + P_{23}P_{33}^{(n)} + P_{24}P_{43}^{(n)} + P_{25}P_{53}^{(n)} + P_{26}P_{63}^{(n)}$$

$$= 0.2P_{13}^{(n)} + 0.4P_{23}^{(n)} + 0 + 0.3P_{43}^{(n)} + 0 + 0.1\underbrace{P_{63}^{(n)}}_{0}$$

where  $P_{63}^{(n)} = 0$  since state 3 and 6 do not communicate.