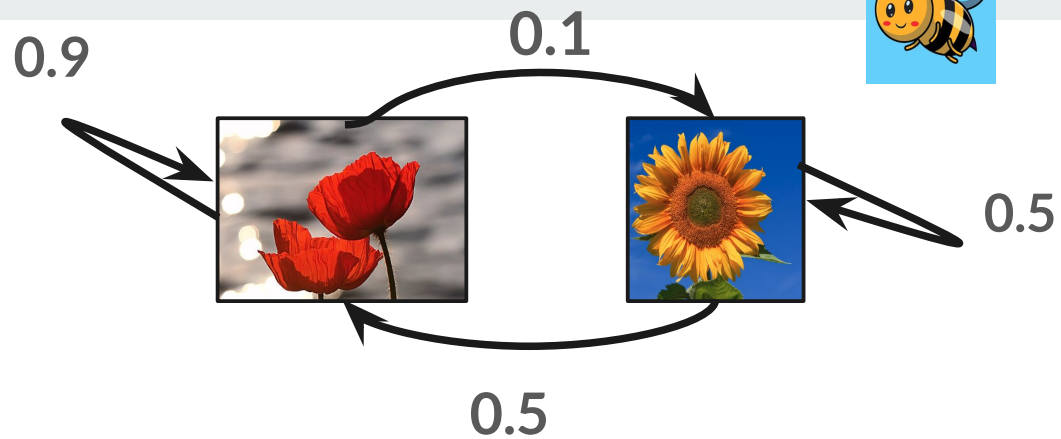




CS365

Foundations of Data Science
Markov Chains

Charalampos E. Tsourakakis
ctsourak@bu.edu



t=0

t=1

t=2

t=3

t=4

t=5

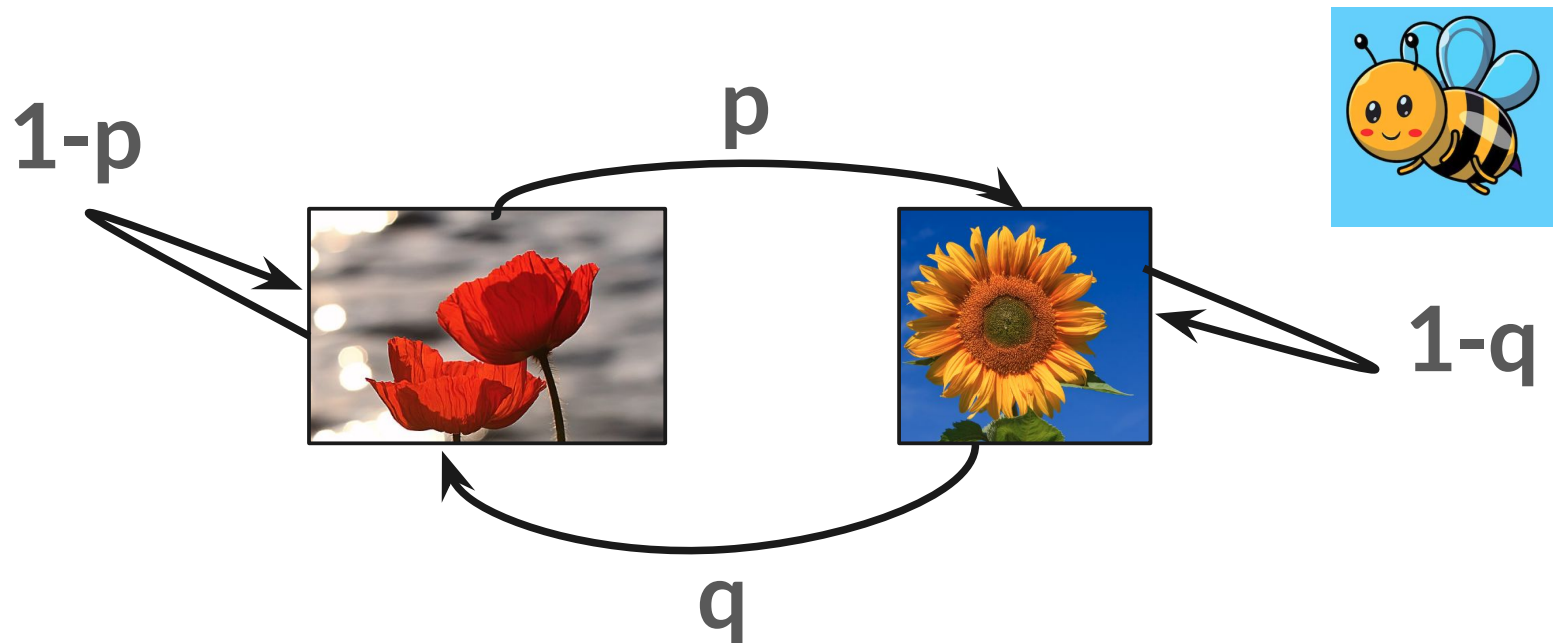
t=6

t=7

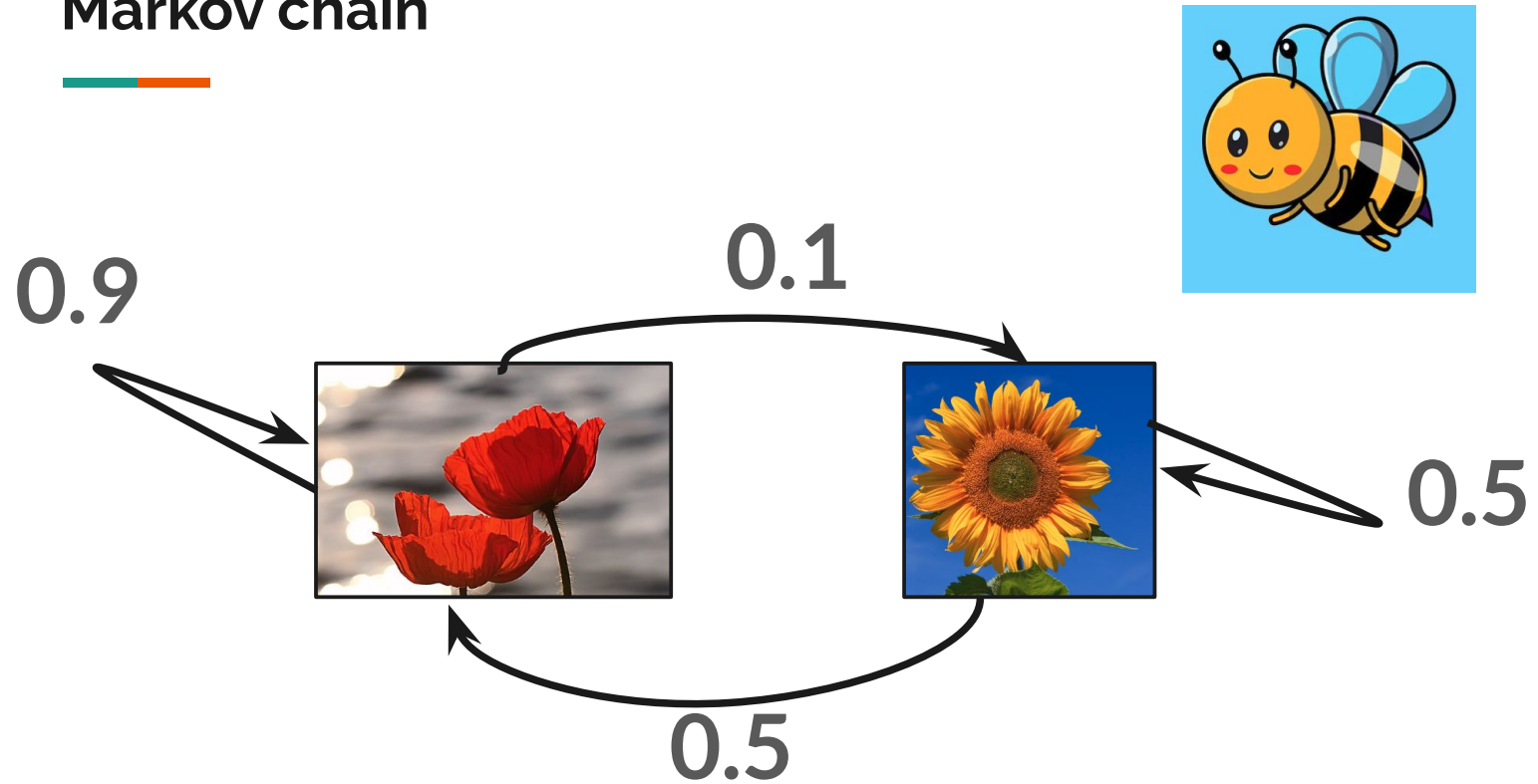
...



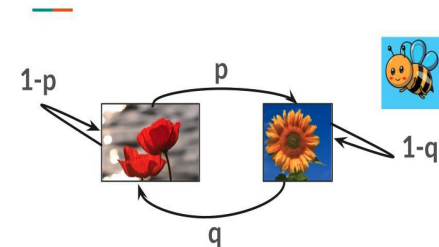
Markov chain



Markov chain



Transition matrix and starting probability distribution



$$P = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \text{Red Flowers} & \text{Sunflowers} \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} \text{Red Flowers} \\ \text{Sunflowers} \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 1-p & p \\ q & 1-q \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$\mu_0 = [Pr(X_0 = \text{Red Flowers}), Pr(X_0 = \text{Sunflowers})]$$

initial state

1 0
or
0 1

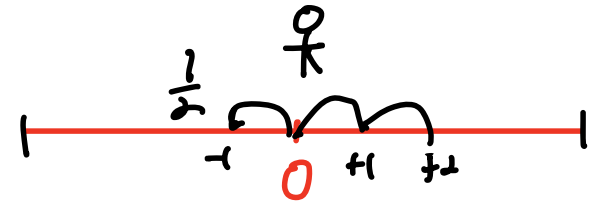
Drunkard's walk

Finite (Discrete Time) Markov Chain

— state space is infinite

- Finite space Ω . Some examples:

- In our toy example



Definition

A sequence of random variables (X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots) is a Markov chain with state space Ω and transition matrix P if for all $x, y \in \Omega, t \geq 1$ and all events $H_{t-1} = \cap_{s=0}^{t-1} \{X_s = x_s\}$

Satisfying $Pr(H_{t-1} \cap X_t = x) > 0$ we have

$$Pr(X_{t+1} = y | H_{t-1} \cap \{X_t = x\}) = Pr(X_{t+1} = y | \{X_t = x\}) = P(x, y)$$

History

Finite Markov Chain

- Finite space Ω . Some examples:

- In our toy example

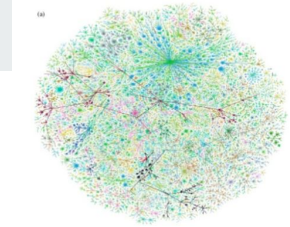
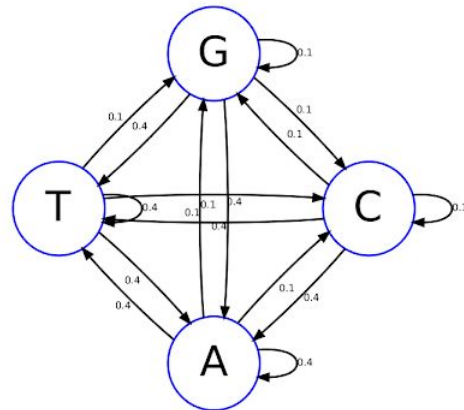
$\Omega = \{$



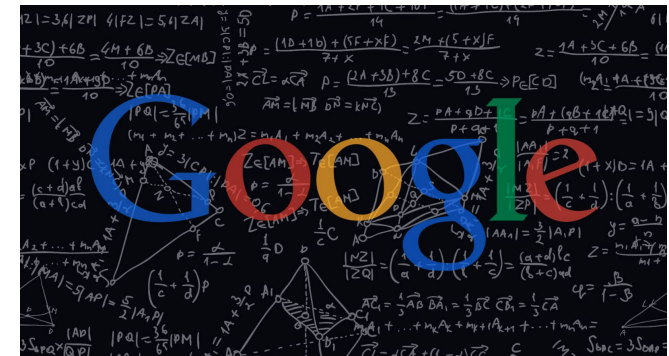
$\}$

- $\Omega = \{\text{set of all web pages}\}$

- $\Omega = \{A, T, G, C\}$



Web structure



Article [Talk](#)

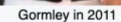
Sir Antony Mark David Gormley **OBE RA** (born 30 August 1950) is a British sculptor.^[1] His works include the *Angel of the North*, a public sculpture in Gateshead in the north of England, commissioned in 1994 and erected in February 1998; *Another Place* on Crosby Beach near Liverpool; and *Event Horizon*, a multi-part site installation which premiered in London in 2007, then subsequently in Madison Square in New York City (2010), São Paulo, Brazil (2012), and Hong Kong (2015–16).

Gormley was born in **Hampstead**, London, the youngest of seven children, to a German mother (maiden name Brauner) and a father of Irish descent.^{[2][3][4]} His paternal grandfather was an **Irish Catholic** from **Derry** who settled in **Walsall** in Staffordshire.^[5] The ancestral homeland of the **Gormley** Clan (Irish: *Ó Goirmleadhaigh*) in **Ulster** was east **County Donegal** and west **County Tyrone**,^[6] with most people in both **Derry** and **Strabane** being of County Donegal origin. Gormley has stated that his parents chose his initials, "AMDG", to have the inference **Ad maiorem Dei gloriam** – "to the greater glory of God".^[7]

After attending [Saint Martin's School of Art](#) and [Goldsmiths](#) in London from 1974, he completed his studies with a postgraduate course in sculpture at the [Slade School of Fine Art](#), between 1977 and 1979.

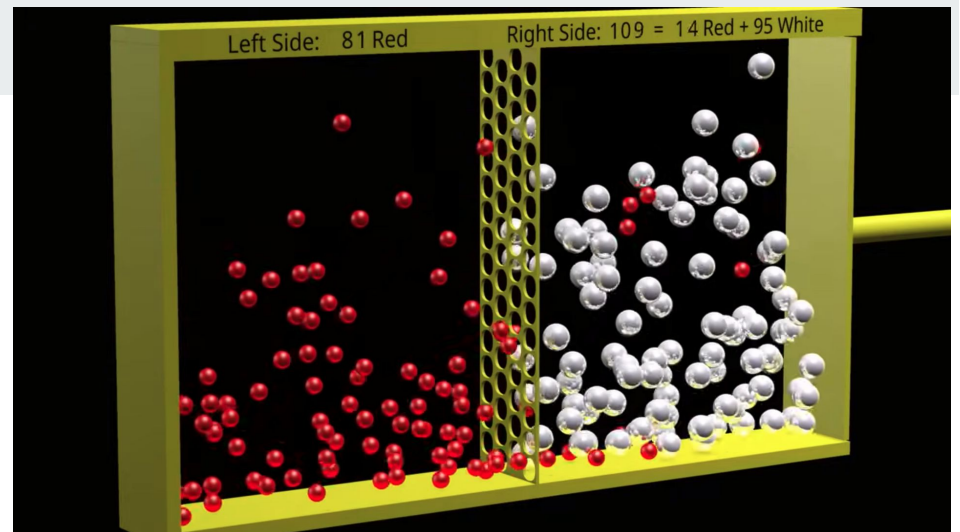
^[*citation needed*]

Read Edit View history Tools ▾



Education Trinity College, Cambridge
Saint Martin's School of Art
Goldsmiths, University of London
Slade School of Fine Art

Bernoulli model for osmosis



Two adjacent containers A and B each contain m particles; n are of type I and $m-n$ are of type II. A particle is selected at random in each container. If they are of opposite types they are exchanged with probability α if the type I is in A, or with probability β if the type I is in B.

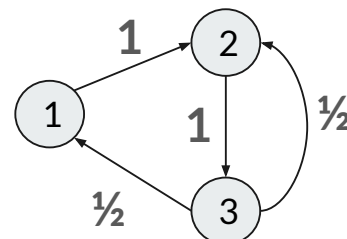
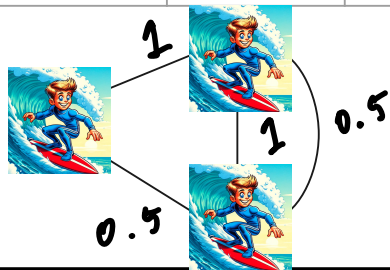
- State space: $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$
- Let X_n be the number of type I particles in A at time n .

Transition matrix (P)

0	1	0
0	0	1
1/2	1/2	0

Hint: degree matrix D

1	0	0
0	1	0
0	0	2



How can we obtain P from A in an *algebraic way*? (or vice versa)

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & & \\ & d_2 & \\ & & d_3 \end{bmatrix} A^{-1}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad A$$

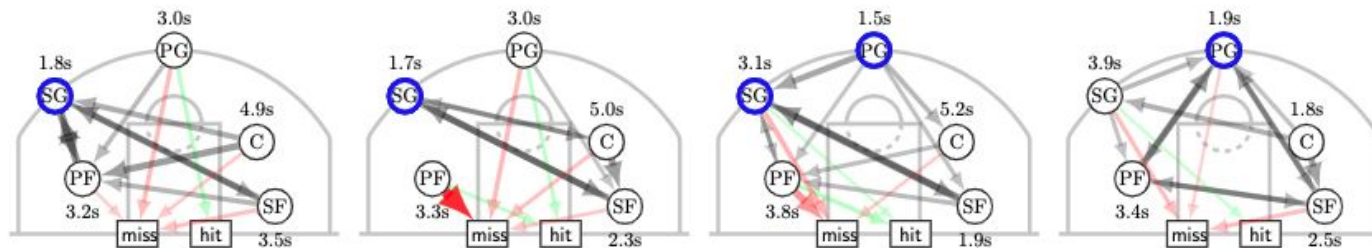
$P = D^{-1}A$
 $A = DP$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & d_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & d_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} & \alpha_{13} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} & \alpha_{23} \\ \alpha_{31} & \alpha_{32} & \alpha_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} d_1 \alpha_{11} & d_1 \alpha_{12} & d_1 \alpha_{13} \\ d_2 \alpha_{21} & d_2 \alpha_{22} & d_2 \alpha_{23} \\ d_3 \alpha_{31} & d_3 \alpha_{32} & d_3 \alpha_{33} \end{bmatrix}$$

Markovletics

- Mixtures of Markov chains

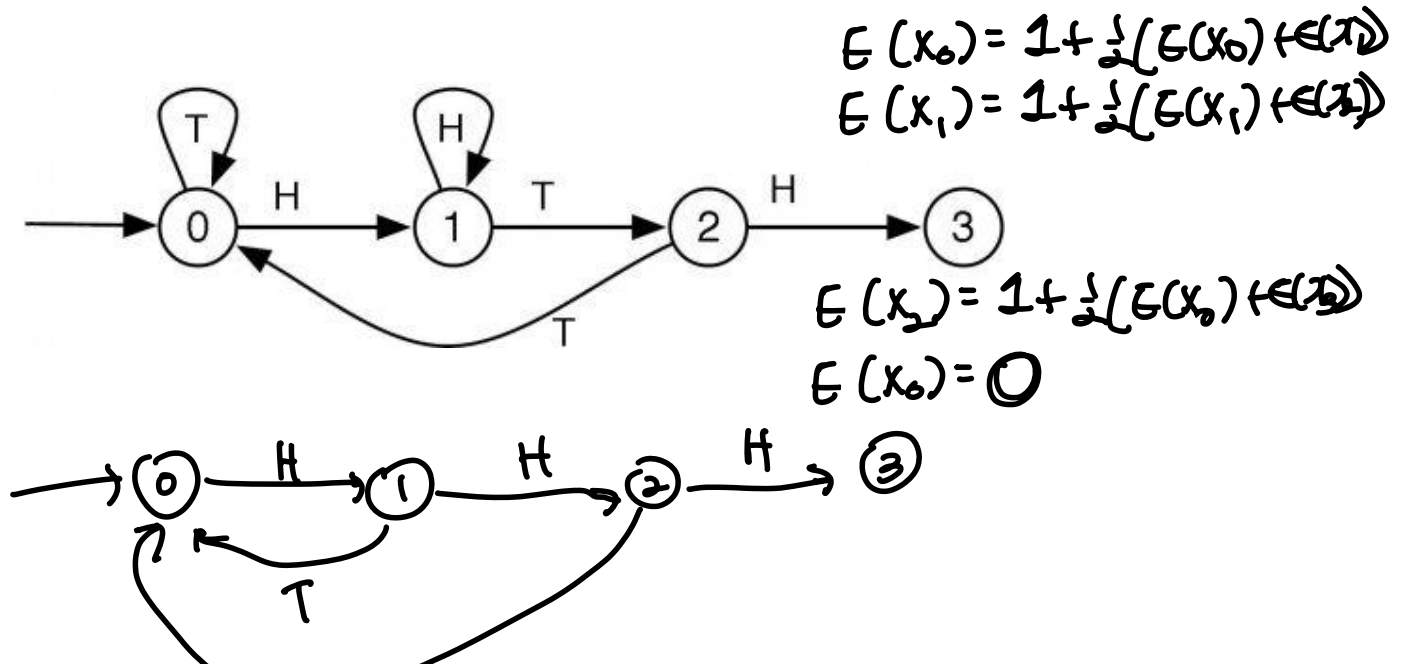


- Learning offensive strategies of teams in NBA from passing game.

Spaeh and T. (Webconf 2024)

Waiting for HEADS-TAILS-HEADS (HTH) in a row

- Suppose we toss a coin consecutively until we observe the sequence of HEADS-TAILS-HEADS.
- Intuition: is the expected number of tosses for HTH equal to the expected number of tosses to observe HHH?



Comprehension questions

- Suppose on Monday, the bee is in the poppy (i.e., $X_0 = 0$)

- $\Pr(X_1 = 0 \mid X_0 = 0) = ?$ $1-p$

- $\Pr(X_1 = 1 \mid X_0 = 0) = ?$ p

- $\Pr(X_2 = 0 \mid X_0 = 0) = ?$

- More generally, what is the probability $\Pr(X_t = 0 \mid X_0 = 0)$?

start: $\begin{matrix} & \text{dest:} \\ & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \begin{bmatrix} 1-p & p \\ q & 1-q \end{bmatrix} \\ 1 & \end{bmatrix}$

$$p \times \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \quad (1-p)^2 \\ 0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 0 \quad p \times q \end{array} \right. + (1-p)^2$$

Probability Distribution after t steps

- Let μ_t be the probability distribution of the Markov chain after t steps.
- Theorem: $\mu_t = \mu_0 P^t$

Proof on whiteboard.

(tomorrow) = (today) * transition matrix P

$$\mu_{t+1} = \begin{bmatrix} \Pr(X_{t+1}=1) \\ \Pr(X_{t+1}=2) \\ \vdots \\ \Pr(X_{t+1}=n) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mu_{t+1} = \mu_t P, \mu_{t+1} = P^T \mu_t$$

$$\mu_{t+1} = [\Pr(X_{t+1} = 0), \Pr(X_{t+1} = 1)]$$

$$\Pr(X_{t+1} = 0) = \Pr(X_{t+1} = 0 | X_t = 0) \Pr(X_t = 0) = (1-p) \Pr(X_t = 0)$$

$$\Pr(X_{t+1} = 0 | X_t = 1) \Pr(X_t = 1) = (q) \Pr(X_t = 1)$$

Stationary distribution

- From the proof, we saw that $\mu_{t+1} = \mu_t P$.
- What happens when $t \rightarrow \infty$?

Define for all $t \geq 0$ $\Delta_t = \mu_t(0) - \frac{q}{p+q}$

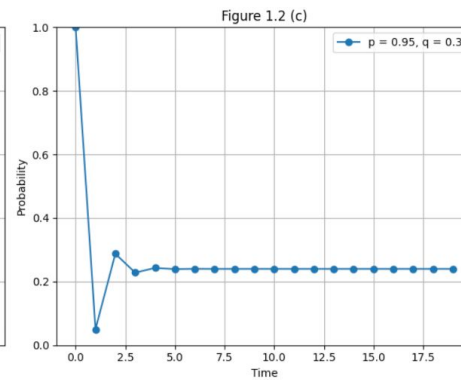
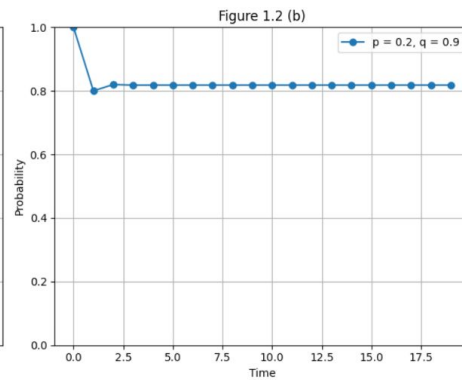
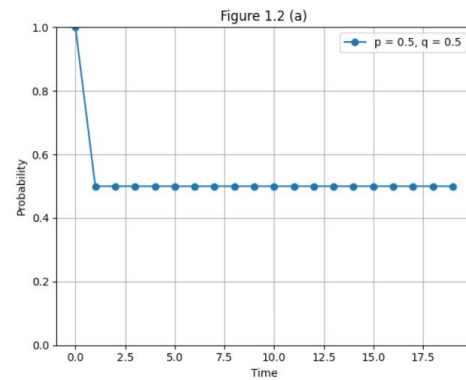
We obtain:

$$\Delta_{t+1} = \mu_t(0)(1-p) + (1-\mu_t(0))q - \frac{q}{p+q} = (1-p-q)\Delta_t.$$

Stationary Distribution

Colab notebook [here](#)

↳



Stationary distribution

$$\Delta_{t+1} = \mu_t(0)(1-p) + (1-\mu_t(0))(q) - \frac{q}{p+q} = (1-p-q)\Delta_t.$$

Notice that independently of Δ_0

$$\Delta_t = (1-p-q)^t \Delta_0$$

We conclude that when $0 < p, q < 1$ then $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mu_t(0) = \frac{q}{p+q}$

$$\text{Similarly } \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mu_t(1) = \frac{p}{p+q}$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mu_t = \mu$$

$$\mu = \mu p$$

$$(\mu_0, \mu_1) = (\mu_0, \mu_1) \begin{pmatrix} 1-p & p \\ q & 1-q \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mu_0 = \mu_0(1-p) + q\mu_1$$

$$\mu_0 p = q\mu_1$$

$$\left(\mu_0 = 1 \text{ then } \mu_1 = \frac{p}{q} \right)$$

because they have to be add up to 1
(μ_0, μ_1)

Stationary distribution

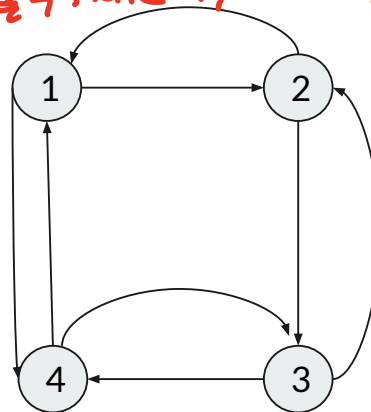
- Assuming the Markov chain in “well-behaving” for some large enough t , $\mu_t = \mu_{t+1}$
- Therefore, $\mu P = \mu$
 - μ is called the stationary distribution of the Markov chain.
 - Google’s Pagerank intuition:
The stationary distribution at a state/node corresponds to the proportion of time a random surfer spends at that state/node. Thus it is related to the importance of that state/node.

Questions

1. Can a random walk on the following graph have a stationary distribution?

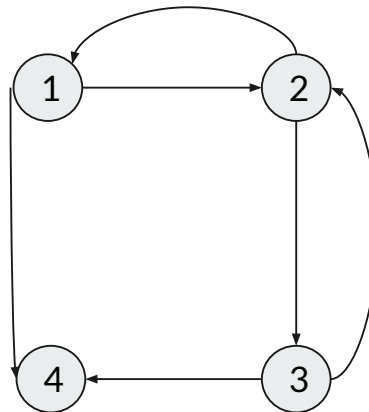
is it a periodic graph?

odd state 1, 3 even state 2, 4 이기 때문



Questions

2. Can a random walk on the following graph have a stationary distribution?



“Well-behaving” Markov chain

Can a random walk on the following graph have a stationary distribution?

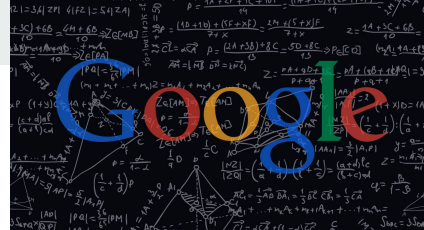
1. **Irreducible:** There is a path from every node to every other node
2. **Aperiodic:** Define $T(x) = \{t \geq 1: P^t(x, x) > 0\}$, i.e., the set of times when it is possible for the chain to return to starting position x . The period of state x is the gcd of $T(x)$. If all states have period 1, then the chain is aperiodic.

Lazy random walk

A common trick to avoid the periodicity problem is to create a lazy version of the random walk.

- Let P be the transition matrix.
- Define the lazy random walk as $P' = (P + I)/2$.
- In simple words the modified random walk defined by P' :
 - The surfer stays at the current vertex with probability $\frac{1}{2}$
 - The surfer takes a step of the original random walk with probability $\frac{1}{2}$

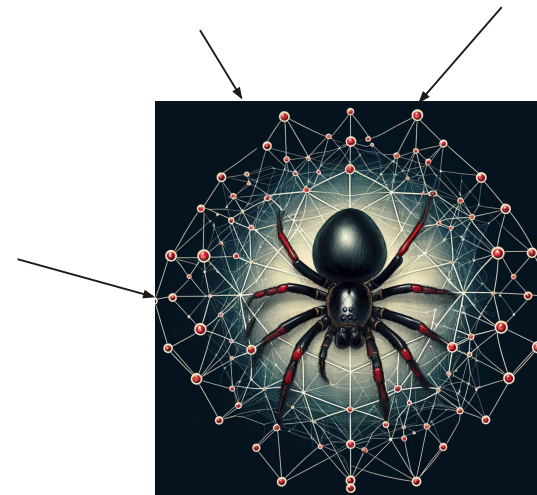
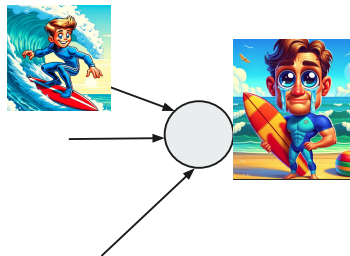
Pagerank



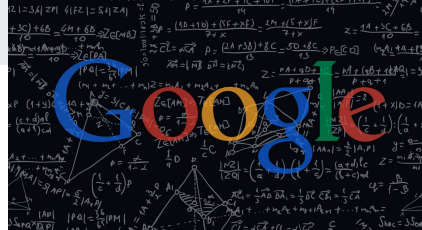
Is the web graph is irreducible?

- Absolutely not!

Dead-ends and spider traps



Pagerank



Key idea:

- At any time-step the random surfer jumps (teleport) to any other node with probability c (e.g., $c=0.05$)
- Or jumps to its direct neighbors with total probability $1-c$ (e.g., 0.95).

$$\tilde{P} = (1 - c)P + c \cdot \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T$$

- The pagerank vector v is the solution to where r is the uniform distribution vector over all web page

$$\vec{p}r = (1 - c)\vec{p}rP + c\vec{r}$$