Mathematics and numerics for data assimilation and state estimation – Lecture 4

UQ Mathematics for Uncertainty Quantification | RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY

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Summary of lecture 3

- Probability of G given H for events $G, H \in \mathcal{F}$:

$$\mathbb{P}(G \mid H) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(G \cap H)}{\mathbb{P}(H)}$$

  where we use the division-by-zero convention $c/0 := 0$ whenever $\mathbb{P}(H) = 0$

- Probability of $X = a$ given Y for rv X, Y:

$$\mathbb{P}(X = a \mid Y)(\omega) = \mathbb{P}(X = a \mid \{Y = Y(\omega)\})$$

Summary of lecture 3

- Expectation of discrete rv $X : \Omega \to A$ given $H \in \mathcal{F}$:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[X \mid H\right] = \sum_{a \in A} a\mathbb{P}(X = a \mid H) = \frac{\mathbb{E}\left[X \mathbb{1}_H\right]}{\mathbb{P}(H)}$$

- Expectation of X given the rv Y:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[X \mid Y\right](\omega) = \mathbb{E}\left[X \mid \{Y = Y(\omega)\}\right]$$

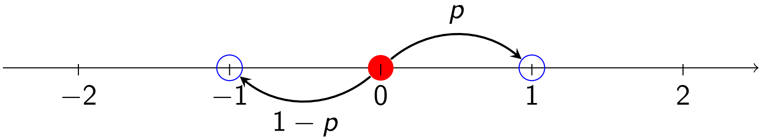
- Optimal approximation property: Interesting property

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\,|X - \mathbb{E}\left[X \mid Y\right]|^2\right] = \mathbb{E}\left[\,|X - f(Y)|^2\right]$$

for any mapping $f(Y) \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Plan for this lecture

- Properties of Random walks (steps, symmetry, recurrence)



- Convergence of random variables

Random walks

- Are sequences of rv $\{X_n\}$ taking values on the lattice $\mathbb{Z}^d$ for some $d \geq 1$.
- The subindex n can be associated to discrete time, and $\mathbb{Z}^d$ to discrete space (really discrete state-space).

Definition 1 (Random walk (RW))

$X_n : \Omega \to \mathbb{Z}^d$ for $n = 0, 1, \ldots$ is an RW if the sequence of steps $\Delta X_n := X_{n+1} - X_n$ is identically distributed and

$$X_0, \Delta X_1, \Delta X_2, \ldots \text{are independent.}$$

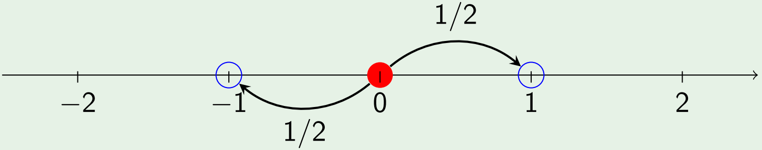
Random walk 2

Since $\{\Delta X_n\}$ are iid, an RW is defined by the two distributions:

- the initial state $\mathbb{P}_{X_0}(z) = \mathbb{P}(X_0 = z)$
- the step $\mathbb{P}_{\Delta X_0}(z) = \mathbb{P}(\Delta X_0 = z)$

Example 2 (Simple and symmetric RW on $\mathbb{Z}^1$)

Let $X_0 = 0$ and $\mathbb{P}(\Delta X_0 = \pm 1) = 1/2$, and **let us compute** $\mathbb{P}(X_n = k)$.



Solution:

Observe that the sequence $Y_k := \mathbb{1}_{\{\Delta X_k = 1\}} \sim \mathit{Bernoulli}(1/2)$ is iid and satisfies

$$\Delta X_k = 2Y_k - 1$$

Consequently,

$$X_n = X_0 + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \Delta X_k =$$

Symmetric random walks

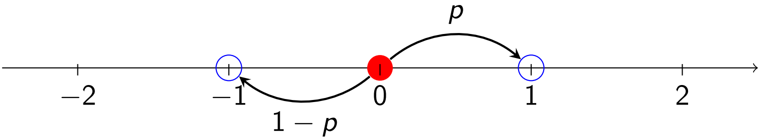
For rv X and Y, we introduce notation $X \overset{D}{=} Y$ to say that X and Y are identically distributed.

Definition 3 (Symmetric RW)

An RW on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ is called symmetric if the step and the "reverse step" are identically distributed, meaning

$$X_1 - X_0 \overset{D}{=} X_0 - X_1.$$

Intuition: Equally likely to step in opposite directions.



The above RW symmetric if and only if $p = 1/2$.

Simple RW

Definition 4 (Simple RW)

An RW on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ is called **simple** if the values of the step ΔX_0 belong to the set $\{e_k\}_{k=1}^d$ of canonical basis vectors in $\mathbb{R}^d$. In other words,

$$\{X_n\} \text{ is simple} \iff \mathbb{P}(|\Delta X_0| > 1) = 1.$$

Furthermore, an RW is called **simple symmetric** if

$$\mathbb{P}(\Delta X_0 = e_k) = \mathbb{P}(\Delta X_0 = -e_k) = \frac{1}{2d}, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots, d.$$

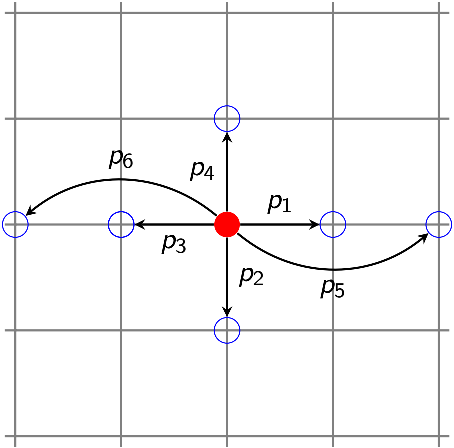
Example

Consider RW with steps satisfying

$$\sum_{i=1}^{6} p_i = 1.$$

Constraints for the RW being

- symmetric?
- simple?
- simple symmetric?



Matlab implementation of simple symmetric RW on $\mathbb{Z}^2$

Core idea $X_{n+1} = X_n + \Delta X_n$ where

$$\mathbb{P}(\Delta X_n = \pm e_1) = \mathbb{P}(\Delta X_n = \pm e_2) = 1/4.$$

Use **randi(4)** in matlab to draw random integer in $[1, 4]$, all integers with same probability, and assign walk direction from drawn integer.

```
% Four step directions
Step = [-1 0;1 0;0 1;0 -1];

for n =1:200
    direction = randi(4);
    dX = Step(direction,:);
    plot([X(1) X(1)+dX(1)], [X(2), X(2)+dX(2)])
    X = X+dX;
end
```

See **randWalk2d.m** for more details.

Recurrence and transience

Definition 5

An RW on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ with is **recurrent** if it (over its whole path $\{X_n\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$) visits its initial state infinitely often $\mathbb{P}-$almost surely, and **transient** otherwise (i.e., if it visits its initial state only a finite number of times $\mathbb{P}-$almost surely).

- Description of a quasi-stable property: assume you are gambling, you win with probability $\mathbb{P}(\Delta X_n = 1) = p$ lose with $\mathbb{P}(\Delta X_n = -1) = 1 - p$. Unless $p = 1/2$, $\{X_n\}$ is transient.
- Recurrence is a form of quasi-periodic behavior. In some settings (but not for RW) it connects spatial distribution of limit processes and time-averages over path realizations

$$\mathbb{P}(X_\infty = y) = \lim_{N\to\infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N} \mathbb{1}_{X_n=y}.$$

Theorem 6

Consider an RW on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ *with* $X_0 = 0$ *and let*

$$T := \inf\{n \geq 1 \mid X_n = 0\}$$

with the convention that $\inf \emptyset := \infty$ *and*

$$N := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{1}_{X_n = 0} \qquad \textit{(total visits of origin)}$$

Then $\{X_n\}$ *is recurrent if and only if* $\lambda := \mathbb{P}(T < \infty) = 1$ *and for* $j \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$,

$$\mathbb{P}(N = j) = \begin{cases} (1-\lambda)\lambda^{j-1} & \textit{if } \lambda < 1 \\ \mathbb{1}_{j=\infty} & \textit{if } \lambda = 1 \end{cases}$$

Note that $N : \Omega \to \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$.

Proof of Theorem 6

Define $\tau_0 = 0$, and

$$\tau_{k+1} = \{n > \tau_k \mid X_n = 0\} \quad \text{for} \quad k = 0, 1, \dots$$

Note that $\Delta\tau_k = \tau_{k+1} - \tau_k$ is a sequence of independent and T-distributed rv.

Introducing the rv

$$\bar{k} = \sup\{k \geq 0 \mid \tau_k < \infty\},$$

we can write

$$N = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{1}_{X_n = 0} = \sum_{k=0}^{\bar{k}} \mathbb{1}_{X_{\tau_k} = 0} = \bar{k} + 1.$$

Observe that

$$\mathbb{P}(\bar{k} = j) =$$

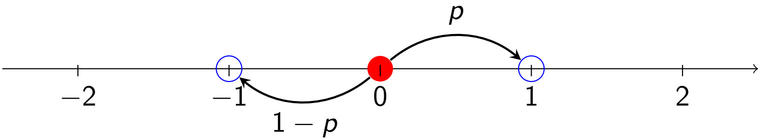
Which RW are recurrent?

- **(Related to FJK 2.1.13)** Symmetric and simple RW on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ are recurrent if $d \leq 2$ and transient otherwise.

A drunk man will eventually find his way home, but a drunk bird may get lost forever

Shizuo Kakutani

- **(Related to FJK 2.1.14)** Non-symmetric RW are always transient.



Always transient when $p \neq 1/2$.

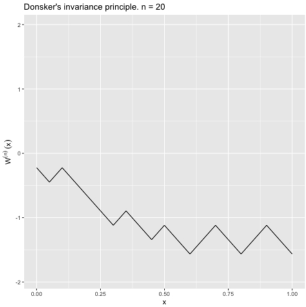
Scaling property of RW

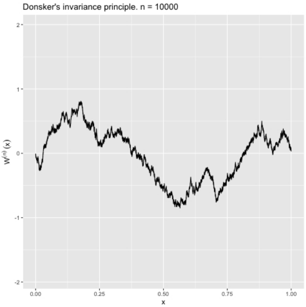
Theorem 7 (Random walk case of Donsker's theorem)

Let $\{X_n\}$ be a simple symmetric RW on $\mathbb{Z}$ with $X_0 = 0$ and consider

$$W^{(n)}(t) := \frac{X_{\lfloor nt \rfloor}}{\sqrt{n}} \quad t \in [0,1],$$

where $\lfloor x \rfloor := \max\{k \in \mathbb{Z} \mid k \leq x\}$. Then $\{W^{(n)}(t)\}_{t\in[0,1]}$ converges in distribution to a standard Brownian motion $\{W(t)\}_{t\in[0,1]}$.





Convergence of random variables

Assume you can draw iid samples $X_k \sim \mathbb{P}_X$ and that you approximate $\mu = \mathbb{E}\left[X \right]$ by the sample average

$$\bar{X}_M := \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k=1}^{M} X_k. \tag{1}$$

Questions:

- Will $\bar{X}_M \to \mu$ as $M \to \infty$, and, if so, in what sense?
- Is there a convergence rate of the form

  $$\|\bar{X}_M - \mu\| \leq \frac{C}{M^{\beta}}$$

  for some norm $\| \cdot \|$ and some rate $\beta > 0$?

Mean-square convergence

- For rv $Y, Z : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}^d$ we introduce the scalar product

$$\langle Y, Z \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)} := \mathbb{E}[\, Y \cdot Z]$$

- the function space

$$L^2(\Omega) := \{\mathcal{F} - \text{measurable mappings } Y : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}^d \mid \mathbb{E}\left[\,|Y|^2\right] < \infty\}$$

  with norm

$$\|Y\|_{L^2(\Omega)} := \sqrt{\mathbb{E}[\,|Y|^2]},$$

  is a Hilbert space.

- The notation is shorthand for $L^2(\Omega) = L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

Returning to the approximation

$$\bar{X}_M = \frac{1}{M}\sum_{k=1}^{M} X_k$$

- Since $\mathbb{E}\left[X_k\right] = \mu$, it holds that

$$\bar{X}_M - \mu = \sum_{k=1}^{M} \frac{X_k - \mu}{M}$$

- Since $\{X_k - \mu\}$ is a mean-zero and independent sequence of rv, it holds for $j \neq k$ that

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle X_k - \mu, X_j - \mu \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)} &= \mathbb{E}\left[(X_k - \mu)\cdot(X_j - \mu)\right] \\
&= \sum_{(x_k, x_j)\in A\times A} (x_k - \mu)\cdot(x_j - \mu)\,\underbrace{\mathbb{P}(X_k = x_k, X_j = x_j)}_{=\mathbb{P}(X_k = x_k)\mathbb{P}(X_j = x_j)} \\
&= \mathbb{E}\left[(X_k - \mu)\right]\cdot\mathbb{E}\left[(X_j - \mu)\right] = 0
\end{aligned}$$

(Here we assumed discrete rv $X_k : \Omega \to A$, but it also holds for continuous rv.)

This yields

$$\|\bar{X}_M - \mu\|^2_{L^2(\Omega)} = \left\langle \sum_{k=1}^{M} \frac{X_k - \mu}{M}, \sum_{k=1}^{M} \frac{X_k - \mu}{M} \right\rangle$$

$$=$$

Conclusion: For a sequence of d-dimensional discrete independent rv $X_i \sim \mathbb{P}_X$,

$$\|\bar{X}_M - \mu\|_{L^2(\Omega)} = \frac{\|X - \mu\|_{L^2(\Omega)}}{\sqrt{M}}, \tag{2}$$

i.e., the mean-square convergence rate is $1/2$.

Weaker form of convergence

Definition 8 (Convergence in probability)

A sequence of rv $\{\bar{Y}_k\}$ converges in probability towards the rv Y if for all $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\lim_{k\to\infty} \mathbb{P}(|Y_k - Y| > \epsilon) = 0.$$

Theorem 9 (Weak law of large numbers (Durrett 2.2.14))

For a sequence of d-dimensional independent rv $X_i \sim \mathbb{P}_X$ with $\mathbb{E}\left[|X_i|\right] < \infty$ it holds that

$$\bar{X}_M \to \mu \quad \textit{in probability.}$$

Chebychev's inequality

To prove the theorem, we will apply **Chebychev's inequality**: for any rv Y with $\bar{\mu} = \mathbb{E}[Y]$

$$\mathbb{P}(|Y - \bar{\mu}| > \epsilon) \leq \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{|Y - \bar{\mu}|^2}{\epsilon^2}\right]$$

Verification:

Proof of Theorem 9

$$\mathbb{P}(|\bar{X}_M - \mu| > \epsilon) \leq$$

Next time

Discrete time and space Markov Chains

Caption: Quantum Cloud, designed by Antony Gormley. Random walk algorithm starting from points on the surface of an enlarged figure based on Gormley's body.