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Performance Evaluation of Computer Systems

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Performance Modeling and Design of Computer Systems

5- SAMPLE PATHS, CONVERGENCE, AND AVERAGES

1- Convergence

Definition 5.1 A sequence $\{a_n : n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ converges to b as $n \rightarrow \infty$, written

$$a_n \longrightarrow b, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

or equivalently,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = b$$

if $\forall \epsilon > 0$, $\exists n_0(\epsilon)$, such that $\forall n > n_0(\epsilon)$, we have $|a_n - b| < \epsilon$.

1- Convergence

Definition 5.2 The sequence of random variables $\{Y_n : n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ *converges almost surely* to μ , written

$$Y_n \xrightarrow{a.s.} \mu, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

or equivalently, the sequence *converges with probability 1*, written

$$Y_n \longrightarrow \mu, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \text{ w.p. } 1$$

if

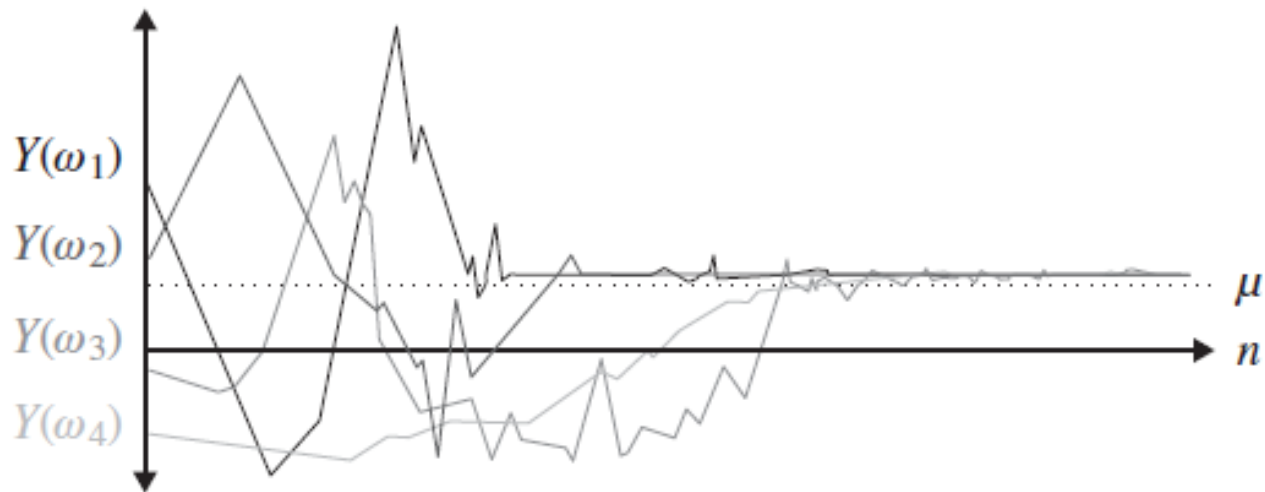
$$\forall k > 0, \mathbf{P} \left\{ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |Y_n - \mu| > k \right\} = 0.$$

1- Convergence

- Example
 - Sequence of $\{Y_n: n = 1, 2, \dots\}$
 - Y_n denotes the average of the first n coin flips
 - ω , sample path of coin flips
 - $\omega = 0110100101011 \dots$
 - $\{Y_n(\omega): n = 1, 2, \dots\} = \left\{0, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}, \dots\right\}$

1- Convergence

- The mass probability of bad sample paths is zero
- For each such bad sample path, ω , the limit is not μ or does not exist
 - $\omega = 1111 \dots$



1- Convergence

Definition 5.3 The sequence of random variables $\{Y_n : n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ *converges in probability* to μ , written

$$Y_n \xrightarrow{P} \mu, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

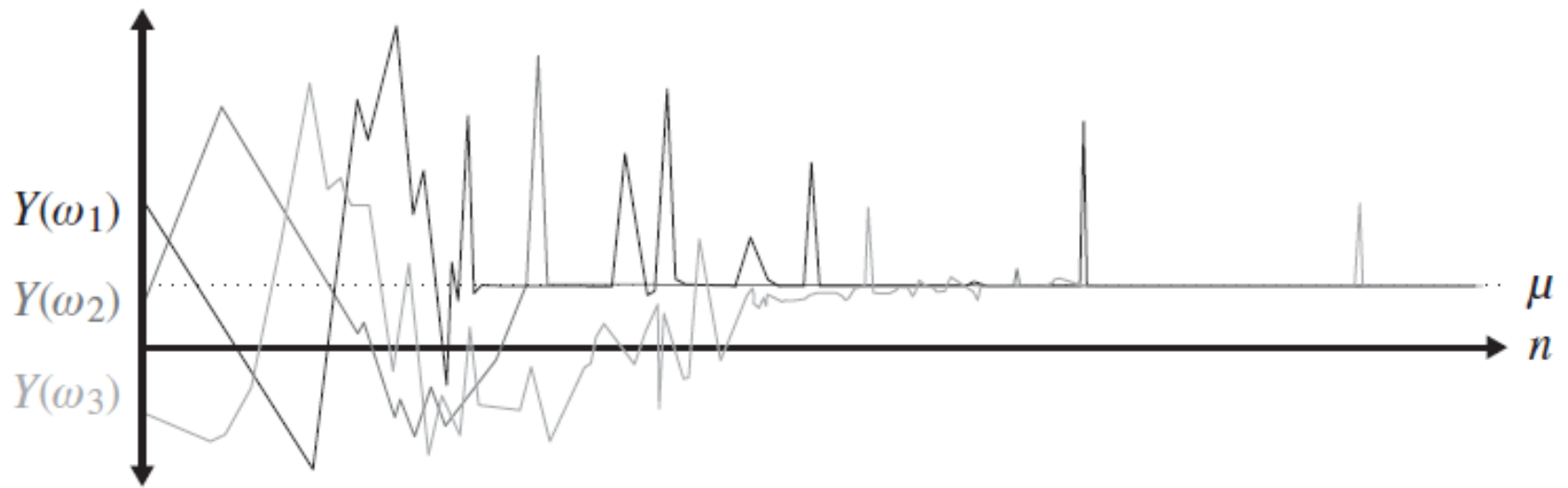
if

$$\forall k > 0, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{P} \{|Y_n - \mu| > k\} = 0.$$

1- Convergence

- Almost sure convergence implies convergence in probability
- $\{Y_n\}$ might converge in probability but not almost surely
 - For example, each sample path may have occasional spikes
 - Thus, for no sample path does $\{Y_n(\omega): n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ converge
 - Spikes get further and further apart for large n
 - For any fixed n the fraction of sample paths ω under which $Y_n(\omega)$ is far from μ is small and gets smaller as we increase n

1- Convergence



2- Strong and weak laws of large numbers

Theorem 5.4 (Weak Law of Large Numbers) *Let X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots be i.i.d. random variables with mean $\mathbf{E}[X]$. Let*

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \quad \text{and} \quad Y_n = \frac{S_n}{n}.$$

Then

$$Y_n \xrightarrow{P} \mathbf{E}[X], \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

This is read as “ Y_n converges in probability to $\mathbf{E}[X]$,” which is shorthand for the following:

$$\forall k > 0, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{P}\{|Y_n - \mathbf{E}[X]| > k\} = 0.$$

2- Strong and weak laws of large numbers

Theorem 5.5 (Strong Law of Large Numbers) *Let X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots be i.i.d. random variables with mean $\mathbf{E}[X]$. Let*

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \quad \text{and} \quad Y_n = \frac{S_n}{n}.$$

Then

$$Y_n \xrightarrow{a.s.} \mathbf{E}[X], \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

This is read as “ Y_n converges almost surely to $\mathbf{E}[X]$ ” or “ Y_n converges to $\mathbf{E}[X]$ with probability 1,” which is shorthand for the following:

$$\forall k > 0, \mathbf{P} \left\{ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |Y_n - \mathbf{E}[X]| \geq k \right\} = 0.$$

3- Time average versus ensemble average

- Example
 - FCFS Queue
 - Job is added to queue in every second with probability p
 - Job in service is completed at every second with probability q
 - $q > p$
 - $N(t)$, number of jobs in the system at time t

3- Time average versus ensemble average

Definition 5.6

$$\overline{N}^{\text{Time Avg}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_0^t N(v) dv}{t}.$$

- Observing a single sample path over a long period of time

3- Time average versus ensemble average

Definition 5.7

$$\overline{N}^{\text{Ensemble}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E} [N(t)] = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} i p_i$$

where

$$p_i = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{P} \{N(t) = i\}$$

= mass of sample paths with value i at time t .

- Observing all possible paths over a long period of time

3- Time average versus ensemble average

- Another example
 - Average time a job spends in system

$$\overline{T}^{\text{Time Avg}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{A(t)} T_i}{A(t)}$$

$$\overline{T}^{\text{Ensemble}} = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E} [T_i]$$

3- Time average versus ensemble average

Theorem 5.9 *For an “ergodic” system (see Definition 5.10), the ensemble average exists and, with probability 1,*

$$\overline{N}^{\text{Time Avg}} = \overline{N}^{\text{Ensemble}}.$$

That is, for (almost) all sample paths, the time average along that sample path converges to the ensemble average.