

# 1 Markov Chains

Definition of Markov Chain  $P(X_{n+1} = j | \{X_i = k_i\}) = P(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i) = p_{ij}$   
 $P(X_1 = i_1, \dots, X_n = i_n | X_0 = i_0) = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} p_{k, k+1}$   
 $\exists \{Z_n\}$  iid taking values in  $E$  and  $h : S \times E \rightarrow S$ ,  $X_n = h(X_{n-1}, Z_n)$   $p_{ij} = P(h(i, Z_1) = j)$   
Higher order transition probabilities

Distribution  $\mu_0$  on  $S$ , distribution of  $X_n \sim \mu_n = \mu_0 P^n$ . Entries in  $P^n$  are  $P_i(X_n = j) = p_{ij}^{(n)}$

$P_\mu(X_n = j) = \sum \mu_i p_{ij}^{(n)}$   
 $P^{n+m} = P^n P^m \Rightarrow p_{ij}^{n+m} = \sum p_{ik}^{(n)} p_{kj}^{(m)} \Rightarrow p_{ij}^{(n+m)} \geq p_{ik}^{(n)} p_{kj}^{(m)} \forall k$

Hitting times and return times

$\tau_A = \inf\{n \geq 0 | X_n \in A\}$   $\eta_j = \inf\{n \geq 1 | X_n = j\}$  If  $i \neq j$   $P_i(\tau_j \in B) = P_i(\eta_j \in B)$   
 Successive returns to  $j$   $\tau_j(0) = 0$ ,  $\tau_j(1) = \eta_j$ ,  $\tau_j(n) = \inf\{k > \tau_j(n-1) | X_k = i\}$  given  $\tau_j(n-1) < \infty$

Dissection principle principle says  $P_i(\cap\{\tau_j(k) - \tau_j(k-1) = m_k, (X_{\tau_j(k-1)+1}, \dots, X_{\tau_j(k)}) \in A_k\}) = P_i(\tau_j(1) = m_1, (X_1, \dots, X_n) \in A_i) \prod P_j(\tau_j(1) = m_k, (X_1, \dots, X_{m_k}) \in A_k)$

Implications:  
 WRT  $P_j(\cdot | \{\tau_j(i) < \infty\}_i)$  the collection  $\{\tau_j(k) - \tau_j(k-1) | k = 1 : n\}$  are iid  
 $\forall n, m \in \mathbb{N}, i, j, k, \{r_l\} \in S$   $P_i(X_{\tau_j(n)+m} = k | X_i = r_l, 1 \leq l \leq \tau_j(n), X_{\tau_j(n)} = j) =$

$P_i(X_{\tau_j(n)+m} = k | X_{\tau_j(n)} = j) = p_{jk}^{(m)}$   
 $\forall i, j, \{k_n\} \in S, n, m \in \mathbb{N}, P_i(\tau_j(1) = m, \{X_{\tau_j(1)+l} = k_l\}_l) = P_i(\tau_j(1) = m) P_j(\{X_l = k_l\}) = P_i(\tau_j(1) = m) p_{jk_1} \prod p_{k_l k_{l+1}}$

Communicating classes of states

$j$  accessible from  $i$  ( $i \rightarrow j$ ) if  $P_i(\tau_j < \infty) > 0$ ,  $\exists n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \ni p_{ij}^{(n)} > 0$ .  $C_i = \{j | i \leftrightarrow j\}$

$C$  is closed if:  $P_i(\tau_C = \infty) = 1$ ,  $P_i(X_n \in C) = 1$ ,  $p_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \in C, j \notin C$

# 2 Poisson Processes

Definitions

A counting/point process on  $[0, \infty)$  is a continuous-time stochastic process.  $\{N(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  with (monotonically increasing  $T_0 = 0$ ) points  $\{T_n\}_{n \geq 0}$  where  $N(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} 1\{T_n \leq t\} = \#$  of points in  $[0, t]$ . The increments  $N(s, t) = N(t) - N(s) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} 1\{s < T_n \leq t\} = \#$  of points in  $(s, t]$ .

$N(t) = \max\{n \geq 0 | T_n \leq t\}$ ,  $T_n = \min\{t \geq 0 | N(t) = n\}$ ,  $\{T_n \leq t\} = \{N(t) \geq n\}$

A counting process has independent increments if  $\{N(s_i, t_i)\}$  are independent rvs when  $\cap(s_i, t_i) = \emptyset$ . It has stationary increments if

$N(s, t) \stackrel{d}{=} N(0, t-s) \forall s < t$ .

A counting process  $\{N(t)\}$  is a (homogeneous) PP with rate  $\lambda > 0$  if  $N(0) = 0$ ,  $\{N(t)\}$  has independent increments, and  $N(t) \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda t) \forall t \geq 0$ . The last part can be replaced with  $P(N(t, t+h) = 1) = \lambda h + o(h)$ ,  $P(N(t, t+h) \geq 2) = o(h)$ ,  $h \downarrow 0, \forall t \geq 0$ .

Properties

$\{N(t)\}$   $\lambda$  rate HPP with points  $\{T_n\}$

$N(s, t) \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda(t-s)) \forall s < t, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$   $T_n \sim \Gamma(n, \lambda)$ , the inter-arrival times  $\{T_{i+1} - T_i\} \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$  iid rvs,  $s < t(N(s) | N(t) = n) \sim \text{Bin}(n, \frac{s}{t})$ ,  $\{T_n\}$  satisfies the order statistic property ( $\{T_i\}_1^n | N(t) = n) \stackrel{d}{=}$

When  $p_{jj} = 1$ ,  $C_j = \{j\}$  is closed and absorbing Chain irreducible when (equivalently):  $S$  has a single communicating class,  $i \leftrightarrow j \forall i, j \in S$ ,  $\forall i, j \in S \exists n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \ni p_{ij}^{(n)} > 0$

Transience and recurrence

Notation:  $f_{ij}^{(n)} = P_i(\eta_j = n)$ ,  $f_{ij} = P_i(\eta_j < \infty)$ ,  $N_j = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} 1\{X_n = j\}$

$i \in S$  is recurrent when (equivalently):  $f_{ii} = 1$ ,  $E_i[N_i] = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} p_{ii}^{(n)} = \infty$ ,  $P_i(N_i = \infty) = 1$  State is positive recurrent if  $E_i[\eta_i] < \infty$  and null recurrent when  $E_i[\eta_i] = \infty$ . If  $|S| < \infty$  recurrence  $\Rightarrow$  positive recurrence.

$i \in S$  is transient when (equivalently):  $f_{ii} < 1$ ,  $E_i[N_i] = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} p_{ii}^{(n)} < \infty$ ,  $P_i(N_i < \infty) = 1$ ,  $E_j[N_i] = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} p_{ji}^{(n)} < \infty \forall j \in S$ .

Properties: If  $i$  is recurrent and  $i \rightarrow j$  then  $j$  is recurrent,  $i \leftrightarrow j$ ,  $f_{ij} = f_{ji} = 1$ , and  $C_i = C_j$  is closed. Moreover  $k \notin C_i$ ,  $f_{ik} = f_{ki} = 0$ ,  $i$  transient and  $i \leftrightarrow j$  then  $j$  transient, all states in an irreducible, finite state space MC are positive recurrent

$N_j$  has a geometric distribution.  $\forall i, j \in S$ ,  $P_i(N_j = 0) = 1 - f_{ij}$ ,  $P_i(N_j = k) = f_{ij} f_{jj}^{k-1} (1 - f_{jj})$   $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P_i(N_j = \infty) = f_{ij}$  if recurrent else 0. If  $j$  is transient  $E_i[N_j] = \frac{f_{ij}}{1 - f_{jj}}$

Periodicity

Period of state  $i$   $d(i) = \gcd\{n \geq 1 | p_{ii}^{(n)} > 0\}$  (If  $\{n \geq 1 | p_{ii}^{(n)} > 0\} = \emptyset$ , then  $d(i) = 1$ ) If  $d(i) = 1$   $i$  is aperiodic, else periodic.

Properties: If  $p_{ii} > 0$ ,  $d(i) = 1$ , if  $i \leftrightarrow j$ , then  $d(i) = d(j)$

Canonical Decomposition

$S$  can be decomposed as disjoint union  $S = T \cup (\cup C_\alpha)$ .  $C_\alpha$  closed.  $\forall \alpha$ ,  $p_{ij}^{(n)} = 0 \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, i \in C_\alpha, j \notin C_\alpha$  The transition matrix can be written in block form  $P = \begin{matrix} & \underbrace{T} & \underbrace{T^c} \\ \begin{matrix} T^c \\ C \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} Q & R \\ 0 & \tilde{P} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$   $Q$  is the

$(\{T_i\}_{T_{n+1}} = t) \stackrel{d}{=} (U_{(i)})$  where  $\{U_i\}$  are iid  $\text{Unif}[0, t]$  rvs. In practice this means when  $f$  is a symmetric function so that  $f(\{U_i\}) = f(\{T_i\})$  then  $E[f(\{T_i\}_1^{N(t)})]$  can be computed by conditioning on the value of  $N(t)$ . For example,  $E[\sum_{n=1}^{N(t)} g(T_n)] = E[N(t)] E[g(U_1)] = \lambda \int_0^t g(u) du$  and  $E[\prod_{n=1}^{N(t)} h(T_n)] = E[(E[h(U_1)])^{N(t)}] = e^{\lambda \int_0^t h(u) du - t}$

Thinning

iid Thinning: Sps  $\{L_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  are iid natural valued rvs with pmf  $\{p_j\}$  independent of  $\{N(t)\}$  and  $\{T_n\}$  then the thinned process  $N_j(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} 1\{T_n \leq t, L_n = j\} = \sum_{n=1}^{N(t)} 1\{L_n = j\}$  are independent PP with rates  $\lambda p_j$  respectively.

Time-dependent thinning: Sps  $\forall t \geq 0$ ,  $\{p_j(t)\}$  is a pmf and that the distribution of labels  $\{L_n\}$  is determined by  $P(\{L_i = j_i\} | \{T_i\}) = \prod p_{j_k}(T_k)$ . Then for each  $t \geq 0$   $N_j(t)$  are independent with  $N_j(t) \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda \int_0^t p_j(s) ds)$ . (In fact,  $\{N_j(t)\}$  are independent nonhomogeneous PP with local intensities  $\lambda p_j(t)$ )

Nonhomogeneous Poisson Processes

Definition: A counting process  $\{N(t)\}$  is a non-homogeneous Poisson process with (local) intensity  $\alpha : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  if  $N(0) = 0$  w.p.1,  $\{N(t)\}$  has independent increments,  $\forall t \geq 0$ ,  $N(t) \sim \text{Poisson}(\int_0^t \alpha(s) ds)$ . Equivalently, the last one

“fundamental matrix” with properties:  $\forall i, j \in T$   $n \in \mathbb{N}$   $P_i(X_n = j) = [Q^n]_{ij}$ ,  $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^+} Q^n = (I - Q)^{-1}$ .

$\tau$  hitting time of  $T^c$ , then  $[E_i N_j]_{i, j \in T} = (I - Q)^{-1} - I$ ,  $[P_i(X_\tau = j)]_{i \in T, j \in T^c} = (I - Q)^{-1} R$ ,  $[E_i \tau]_{i \in T} = (I - Q)^{-1} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} e_n$

Invariant measures and stationary distributions

An invariant measure is  $\{\nu_j\} \geq 0$ ,  $\nu_j = \sum_{k \in S} \nu_k p_{kj} \forall j \in S$ . An invariant distribution  $\{\pi_j\}$  is an invariant measure and  $\sum_{j \in S} \pi_j = 1$ .

Properties:  $\{X_n\}$  is stationary WRT  $P_\pi$   $P_\pi((X_n, \dots, X_{n+k}) \in A) = P_\pi((X_0, \dots, X_k) \in A) \Rightarrow P_\pi(X_n = j) = \pi_j$ ,  $i \in S$  recurrent,  $\nu_j = E_i[\sum_{n=0}^{\eta_i-1} 1\{X_n = j\}]$  is an invariant measure,  $i$  is positive recurrent then  $\sum_{j \in S} E_i[\sum_{n=0}^{\eta_i-1} 1\{X_n = j\}] = E_i \eta_i < \infty \Rightarrow$

$\pi_j = \frac{E_i[\sum_{n=0}^{\eta_i-1} 1\{X_n = j\}]}{E_i \eta_i}$  is a stationary distribution,  $\{X_n\}$  irreducible, recurrent, and  $\mu, \nu$  are invariant measures then  $\exists c > 0 \ni \mu = c\nu$ ,  $\{X_n\}$  is irreducible positive recurrent then  $\exists!$  stationary distribution given by  $\pi_j = \frac{1}{E_j[\eta_j]}$ ,  $\{X_n\}$  irreducible then TFAE  $\exists!$  stationary distribution  $\{X_n\}$  is positive recurrent.

Limits in Markov chains

Independence from dissection principle implies SLLN for Markov chains:  $\{X_n\}$  irreducible and positive recurrent,  $f : S \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ , and  $\mu$  is a distribution on  $S$ , then  $\lim \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^N E_\mu[f(X_n)] = \sum_{j \in S} f(j) \pi_j$ .

Let  $X_n$  converge in distribution ( $p_{ij}^{(n)} \rightarrow \pi_j \forall i \in S$ ), then  $\pi$  is stationary. If  $\{X_n\}$  is irreducible, three cases, transient  $\Rightarrow \lim p_{ij}^{(n)} = 0 \forall i, j \in S$ , null recurrent and aperiodic  $\Rightarrow \lim p_{ij}^{(n)} = 0 \forall i, j \in S$ , ergodic (irreducible, positive recurrent, and aperiodic)  $\Rightarrow \lim p_{ij}^{(n)} = \pi_j \forall i, j \in S$ .

can be replaced by  $P(N(t, t+h) = 1) = \alpha(t)h + o(h)$ ,  $P(N(t, t+h) \geq 2) = o(h)$ ,  $h \downarrow 0, \forall t \geq 0$ . Time Changes: HPP and NHPP are related by a transformation on  $[0, \infty)$ . Let  $\{N(t)\}$  be a NHPP with intensity  $\alpha(t)$  and  $\{M(t)\}$  be a HPP with rate 1. Let  $\mu(t) = \int_0^t \alpha(s) ds$  and  $\mu^{-1}(t) = \inf\{s \geq 0 | \mu(s) \geq t\}$  Then  $\{M(\mu(t))\} \stackrel{d}{=} \{N(t)\}$  and  $\{N(\mu^{-1}(t))\} \stackrel{d}{=} \{M(t)\}$

Related Processes

Compound Poisson with parameter  $\lambda$  and component  $F$  is the law of  $W = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$  where  $N \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  independent of  $\{X_i\} \sim iid F$ . Compound Poisson distributions arise in the Poisson processes context by the order statistic property: If  $\{N(t)\}$  is a  $\lambda$  rate HPP with points  $\{T_n\}$   $W = \sum_{n=1}^{N(t)} f(T_n)$  has a compound Poisson distribution with parameter  $\lambda t$  and component distribution  $f(\text{Unif}[0, t])$ . If  $f(x) = 1_A(x)$  for some  $A \subseteq [0, t]$  then  $W \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda |A|)$ . A compound PP  $\{X(t)\}$  can be represented as  $X(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N(t)} \zeta_i$  where  $\{N(t)\}$  is a PP independent of the iid rvs  $\{\zeta_i\}$

Doubly-stochastic PP: If  $\{N(t)\}$  is a PP and  $\{\Lambda(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$  is another independent continuous-time non-decreasing process then  $\{N(\Lambda(t))\}$  is called a doubly-stochastic PP. A simple type is a conditional PP  $\{N(t)\}$  “driven” by a random variable  $\Lambda$

$(\{N(t)\} | \Lambda = \lambda) \sim \lambda$  rate HPP

Distribution	PMF/PDF	CDF	Mean	Variance	MGF
Poisson ( $\lambda$ )	$\frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!}$	$\sum_{i=0}^k \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^i}{i!}$	$\lambda$	$\lambda$	$e^{\lambda(e^t-1)}$
Exponential ( $\lambda$ )	$\lambda e^{-\lambda x}$	$1 - e^{-\lambda x}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$	$\frac{\lambda}{\lambda-t} \ (t < \lambda)$
Gamma ( $k, \lambda$ )	$\frac{\lambda^k x^{k-1} e^{-\lambda x}}{\Gamma(k)}$	$\int_0^x \frac{\lambda^k t^{k-1} e^{-\lambda t}}{\Gamma(k)} dt$	$\frac{k}{\lambda}$	$\frac{k}{\lambda^2}$	$\left(\frac{\lambda}{\lambda-t}\right)^k \ (t < \lambda)$
Geometric ( $p$ )	$(1-p)^{k-1} p$	$1 - (1-p)^k$	$\frac{1}{p}$	$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$	$\frac{pe^t}{1-(1-p)e^t} \ (t < -\ln(1-p))$
Uniform ( $a, b$ )	$\frac{1}{b-a}$	$\frac{x-a}{b-a}$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$	$\frac{e^{tb}-e^{ta}}{t(b-a)}$
Bernoulli ( $p$ )	$p^k(1-p)^{1-k}$	$\begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1-p & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 1 & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$	$p$	$p(1-p)$	$1-p+pe^t$
Binomial ( $n, p$ )	$\binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$	$\sum_{i=0}^k \binom{n}{i} p^i (1-p)^{n-i}$	$np$	$np(1-p)$	$(1-p+pe^t)^n$
Normal ( $\mu, \sigma^2$ )	$\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$	$\int_{-\infty}^x \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(t-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dt$	$\mu$	$\sigma^2$	$e^{\mu t + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t^2}$