



# Stochastic Network Modeling (SNM)

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Markov Chains  
(DTMC)

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## Stochastic Network Modeling (SNM)

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### Parts

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## Part II

# Discrete Time Markov Chains (DTMC)

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- Definition of a DTMC
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- Finite Absorbing Chains

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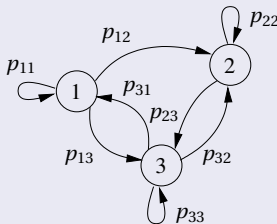
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# Definition of a DTMC

## State Transition Diagram

- We are interested in a **process that evolve in stages**.
- For the model to be tractable, it is convenient to represent the SP by giving all **possible states** (there may be  $\infty$ ), and the **possible transitions** between them:



For the model to be consistent:

$$\sum_j p_{ij} = 1$$

- Mathematically:

$$p_{ij} = P(X(n) = j \mid X(n-1) = i)$$



# Definition of a DTMC

## Properties of a DTMC

- The event  $X(n) = i$  (at step  $n$  the system is in state  $i$ ) must satisfy (**memoryless property**):

$$P(X(n) = j \mid X(n-1) = i, X(n-2) = k, \dots) = P(X(n) = j \mid X(n-1) = i)$$

- If  $P(X(n) = j \mid X(n-1) = i) = P(X(1) = j \mid X(0) = i)$  for any  $n$  we have an **homogeneous** DTMC. We shall only consider homogeneous DTMC.
- We call **one-step transition probabilities** to:

$$p_{ij} = P(X(n) = j \mid X(n-1) = i)$$

- The SP is called a Markov Process (MP) or Markov Chain (MC) depending on the state being continuous or discrete.



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## Transition Matrix

- Transition probabilities:

$$p_{ij} = P(X(n) = j \mid X(n-1) = i)$$

- In matrix form:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} & \cdots \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{bmatrix}$$



## Definition of a DTMC

## Transition Matrix

- We have

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} & \cdots \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } p_{ij} = P(X(n) = j \mid X(n-1) = i)$$

- For the model to be consistent, the probability to move from  $i$  to any state must be 1. Mathematically:

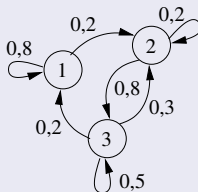
$$\sum_j p_{ij} = \sum_j P(X(n) = j \mid X(n-1) = i) = \sum_j \frac{P(X(n-1) = i \mid X(n) = j) P(X(n) = j)}{P(X(n-1) = i)} = \frac{P(X(n-1) = i)}{P(X(n-1) = i)} = 1$$

- $\mathbf{P}$  is a **stochastic matrix**, i.e. a matrix which rows sum 1.

## Definition of a DTMC

## Example

- Assume a terminal can be in **3 states**:
  - State 1: Idle.
  - State 2: Active without sending data.
  - State 3: Active and sending data at a rate  $\nu$  bps.



$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{to state} \\
 \mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 0,8 & 0,2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0,2 & 0,8 \\ 0,2 & 0,3 & 0,5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \text{from} \\ \text{state} \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

- The **average transmission rate** (throughput),  $\nu_a$ , is:

$$\nu_a = P(\text{the terminal is in state 3}) \times \nu$$

# Definition of a DTMC

## Discrete Time Markov Chains (DTMC)

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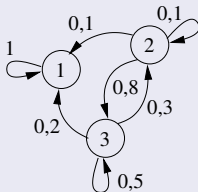
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## Absorbing Chains

- It is possible to have chains with **absorbing states**.
- A state  $i$  is absorbing if  $p_{ii} = 1$ .
- Example: State 1 is absorbing.



$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \text{to state} \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} \text{from state} \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0,1 & 0,1 & 0,8 \\ 0,2 & 0,3 & 0,5 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$





## Definition of a DTMC

## n-step transition probabilities

- Transition probabilities:  $p_{ij} = P(X(n) = j \mid X(n-1) = i)$
- In matrix form:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} & \cdots \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{bmatrix}$$

- We define the **n-step** transition probabilities:

$$p_{ij}(n) = P(X(n) = j \mid X(0) = i)$$

$$\mathbf{P}(n) = \begin{bmatrix} p_{11}(n) & p_{12}(n) & \cdots \\ p_{21}(n) & p_{22}(n) & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{bmatrix}$$

- $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{P}(n)$  are **stochastic matrices**: Their rows sum 1.



# Definition of a DTMC

### State Probabilities

- Define the probability of being in state  $i$  at step  $n$ :

$$\pi_i(n) = P(X(n) = i)$$

- In vector form (row vector)

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) = (\pi_1(n), \pi_2(n), \dots) = (P(X(n) = 1), P(X(n) = 2), \dots).$$

- Thus, the vector  $\boldsymbol{\pi}(n)$  is the distribution of the random variable  $X(n)$ , and it is called the **state probability at step  $n$** .



# Definition of a DTMC

## State Probabilities

- State probability:

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) = (\pi_1(n), \pi_2(n), \dots) = (P(X(n) = 1), P(X(n) = 2), \dots).$$

- Law of total prob.  $P(A) = \sum_n P(A \cap B_n) = \sum_n P(A|B_n)P(B_n)$ :

$$\pi_i(n) = \sum_k P(X(n-1) = k) P(X(n) = i \mid X(n-1) = k) = \sum_k \pi_k(n-1) p_{ki}$$

$$\pi_i(n) = \sum_k P(X(0) = k) P(X(n) = i \mid X(0) = k) = \sum_k \pi_k(0) p_{ki}(n)$$

- In matrix form:

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) = \boldsymbol{\pi}(n-1) \mathbf{P}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) = \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}(n)$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\pi}(0)$  is the **initial distribution**.



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## State Probabilities

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) = \boldsymbol{\pi}(n-1) \mathbf{P}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) = \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}^n$$

- Iterating

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) = \boldsymbol{\pi}(n-1) \mathbf{P} = \boldsymbol{\pi}(n-2) \mathbf{P} \mathbf{P} = \boldsymbol{\pi}(n-3) \mathbf{P} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{P} = \cdots = \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}^n$$

- Thus:

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) = \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}^n = \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}^n$$



## Definition of a DTMC

## Chapman-Kolmogorov Equations

$$p_{ij}(n) = \sum_k p_{ik}(r) p_{kj}(n-r)$$

• **Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} p_{ij}(n) &= P(X(n) = j \mid X(0) = i) = \sum_k P(X(n) = j, X(r) = k \mid X(0) = i) \\ &= \sum_k \frac{P(X(n) = j, X(r) = k, X(0) = i)}{P(X(0) = i)} \times \frac{P(X(r) = k, X(0) = i)}{P(X(r) = k, X(0) = i)} \\ &= \sum_k P(X(n) = j \mid X(r) = k, X(0) = i) P(X(r) = k \mid X(0) = i) \\ &= \sum_k P(X(n) = j \mid X(r) = k) P(X(r) = k \mid X(0) = i) \\ &= \sum_k p_{ik}(r) p_{kj}(n-r) \end{aligned}$$

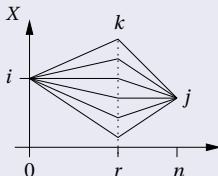


# Definition of a DTMC

## Chapman-Kolmogorov Equations

$$p_{ij}(n) = \sum_k p_{ik}(r) p_{kj}(n-r)$$

- Graphical interpretation:



- In matrix form:

$$\mathbf{P}(n) = \mathbf{P}(r) \mathbf{P}(n-r)$$



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## Chapman-Kolmogorov Equations

$$\mathbf{P}(n) = \mathbf{P}(r) \mathbf{P}(n-r)$$

- Particularly:

$$\mathbf{P}(n) = \mathbf{P}(1) \mathbf{P}(n-1) = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{P}(n-1) = \mathbf{P}(n-1) \mathbf{P}$$

- Iterating:

$$\mathbf{P}(n) = \mathbf{P}^n$$

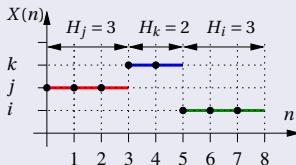
- Thus:

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) = \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}(n) = \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}^n$$

# Definition of a DTMC

## Sojourn or Holding Time

- Sojourn** or **holding time** in state  $k$ : Is the RV  $H_k$  equal to the number of steps that the chain remains in state  $k$  before leaving to a different state:



- The Markov property implies:

$$H_i(n) = P(H_i = n) = p_{ii}^{n-1} (1 - p_{ii}), n \geq 1$$

- Which is a **geometric** distribution with mean:

$$E[H_i] = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n P(H_i = n) = \frac{1}{1 - p_{ii}}.$$





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### Sojourn or Holding Time

- NOTE: We allow that:

$$p_{ii} = 0 \Rightarrow H_i(n) = I(n = 1) = \begin{cases} 1, & n = 1, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}, \text{ and}$$

$$p_{ii} = 1 \Rightarrow E[H_i] = \infty \text{ (absorbing state)}.$$



# Definition of a DTMC

## Theorem

*A stochastic process is a DTMC if and only if the sojourn times are geometrically distributed.*

## Proof.

- We have seen that a DTMC has a sojourn time

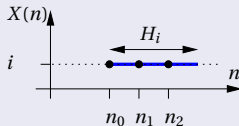
$$H_i(n) = P(H_i = n) = p_{ii}^{n-1} (1 - p_{ii}), n \geq 1$$

- Which is **geometrically** distributed.
- We need to prove that the geometric distribution satisfies the memoryless property (aka Markov property).



# Definition of a DTMC

## The geometric distribution satisfies the Markov property (1)



### Proof

- Markov property:

$$P(X(n_2) = i \mid X(n_1) = i, X(n_0) = i) = P(X(n_2) = i \mid X(n_1) = i)$$

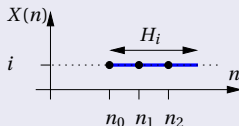
- Thus, the Markov property **in terms of the sojourn time** can be written as:

$$P(H_i > n_2 - n_0 \mid H_i > n_1 - n_0) = P(H_i > n_2 - n_1)$$



## Definition of a DTMC

## The geometric distribution satisfies the Markov property (2)



$$P(H_i > n_2 - n_0 \mid H_i > n_1 - n_0) = P(H_i > n_2 - n_1)$$

- Since

$$P(H_i > k) = 1 - P(H_i \leq k) = 1 - \sum_{n=1}^k p^{n-1}(1-p) = 1 - (1-p) \frac{1-p^k}{1-p} = p^k$$

- We have:

$$P(H_i > n_2 - n_0 \mid H_i > n_1 - n_0) = \frac{P(H_i > n_2 - n_0, H_i > n_1 - n_0)}{P(H_i > n_1 - n_0)} =$$

$$\frac{P(H_i > n_2 - n_0)}{P(H_i > n_1 - n_0)} = \frac{p^{n_2 - n_0}}{p^{n_1 - n_0}} = p^{n_2 - n_1} = P(H_i > n_2 - n_1) \quad \square$$



Master in Innovation and Research in Informatics (MIRI)  
Computer Networks and Distributed Systems  
**Stochastic Network Modeling (SNM)**

## Part II

# Discrete Time Markov Chains (DTMC)

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- Transient Solution
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- Research Example: Aloha
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# Transient Solution

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## Transient Solution

- If we are interested in the **transient evolution** we shall study  $\pi(n) = \pi(0) \mathbf{P}^n$ .
- If we can **diagonalize  $\mathbf{P}$** , we can obtain the transient evolution in **close form**.
- $\mathbf{P}$  can be **diagonalized** if  $\mathbf{P}$  can be decomposed as:

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{L}^{-1} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{L}$$

where  $\mathbf{L}$  is some invertible matrix and  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  is the diagonal matrix

$$\mathbf{\Lambda} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_N \end{bmatrix}$$

with  $\lambda_l$ ,  $l = 1, \dots, N$  the **eigenvalues** of  $\mathbf{P}$ .



# Transient Solution

## Eigenvalues

- The **eigenvalues**  $\lambda_l$  of a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  are scalars that satisfy:  $\mathbf{l}\mathbf{A} = \lambda_l \mathbf{l}$  (or  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{r} = \lambda_l \mathbf{r}$ ) for some row vectors  $\mathbf{l}$  (column vectors  $\mathbf{r}$ ), referred to as **left and right eigenvectors**, respectively.

$$\mathbf{l}\mathbf{A} = \lambda_l \mathbf{l} \Rightarrow \mathbf{l}(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{I}\lambda_l) = 0 \Rightarrow \det(\lambda_l \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{r} = \lambda_l \mathbf{r} \Rightarrow (\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{I}\lambda_l)\mathbf{r} = 0 \Rightarrow \det(\lambda_l \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) = 0$$

- Thus,  $\lambda_l$  solve the **characteristic polynomial**  $\det(\lambda \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) = 0$ .
- Note that, in general, **left and right eigenvectors** are different, but eigenvalues are the same (they solve the same **characteristic polynomial**).
- A matrix can be **diagonalized** if all eigenvalues are single (multiplicity = 1). If a matrix cannot be diagonalized it is called **defective**.



# Transient Solution

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## Determinants

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} = a_{11} a_{22} - a_{12} a_{21}$$

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{aligned} &+ a_{11} a_{22} a_{33} + a_{12} a_{23} a_{31} + a_{21} a_{32} a_{13} \\ &- a_{31} a_{22} a_{13} - a_{12} a_{21} a_{33} - a_{23} a_{32} a_{11} \end{aligned}$$

- **Cofactor Formula**: expanding along a row  $i$ :

$$\det \mathbf{A} = \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} (-1)^{i+j} \det M_{ij},$$

where the **minor matrices**  $M_{ij}$  are obtained removing the row  $i$  and column  $j$  from  $\mathbf{A}$ .  $(-1)^{i+j} \det M_{ij}$  is called the **cofactor** of  $a_{ij}$ .





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## Properties of the determinants

$$\det \mathbf{A} = \prod \text{eigenvalues of } \mathbf{A}$$

$$\text{trace } \mathbf{A} = \sum \text{eigenvalues of } \mathbf{A}$$

where  $\text{trace } \mathbf{A} = \sum \text{elements of the diagonal of } \mathbf{A}$ .



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## Transient Solution

- Assume a **finite DTMC** with  $N$  states. Then  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P}^{N \times N}$ .
- Assume that  $\mathbf{P}$  can be **diagonalized**:  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{L}^{-1} \Lambda \mathbf{L}$ , where  $\Lambda$  is the diagonal matrix  $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N)$ , with  $\lambda_l, l = 1, \dots, N$  the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{P}$ .
- Since  $\Lambda^n = \text{diag}(\lambda_1^n, \dots, \lambda_N^n)$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\pi}(n) &= \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}^n = \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}^n = \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) (\mathbf{L}^{-1} \Lambda^n \mathbf{L}) = \\ &\quad \boldsymbol{\pi}(0) (\mathbf{L}^{-1} \text{diag}(\lambda_1^n, \dots, \lambda_N^n) \mathbf{L})\end{aligned}$$



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## Transient Solution

- But  $\mathbf{L}^{-1} \text{diag}(\lambda_1^n, \dots, \lambda_N^n) \mathbf{L}$  are linear combinations of  $\lambda_1^n, \dots, \lambda_N^n$ . Thus, the probability of being in state  $i$  is given by:

$$\pi_i(n) = (\boldsymbol{\pi}(n))_i = \sum_{l=1}^N a_i^{(l)} \lambda_l^n$$

where the **unknown coefficients**  $a_i^{(l)}$  can be obtained solving the system of equations:

$$\sum_{l=1}^N a_i^{(l)} \lambda_l^n = (\boldsymbol{\pi}(n))_i = (\boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}^n)_i, n = 0, \dots, N-1$$



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## Example

- Assume a DTMC with

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 4/5 & 1/5 \\ 2/5 & 3/5 \end{bmatrix}$$

- We want the probability of being in state 2 in  $n$  steps starting from state 1:  $\pi_2(n)$  with  $\boldsymbol{\pi}(0) = [1 \quad 0]$ .



## Transient Solution

## Solution

- It can be easily found that the **eigenvalues** of  $\mathbf{P}$  are  $\lambda_1 = 1$  and  $\lambda_2 = 2/5$ .

$$\pi_2(n) = \lambda_1^n a + b \lambda_2^n = a + b(2/5)^n$$

- Imposing the **boundary conditions**  $\pi_i(n) = (\boldsymbol{\pi}(0) \mathbf{P}^n)_i$ :

$$\pi_2(0) = a + b = ([1 \quad 0] \mathbf{P}^0)_2 = (\mathbf{P}^0)_{12} = 0$$

$$\pi_2(1) = a + b(2/5) = ([1 \quad 0] \mathbf{P}^1)_2 = (\mathbf{P})_{12} = 1/5$$

we have that  $a = 1/3$ ,  $b = -1/3$ , thus:

$$\pi_2(n) = 1/3 - 1/3 (2/5)^n, \quad n \geq 0$$

$$\pi_1(n) = 1 - \pi_2(n) = 2/3 + 1/3 (2/5)^n, \quad n \geq 0$$

# Transient Solution

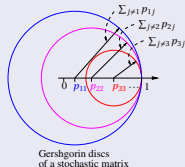
## Eigenvalues of a Stochastic Matrix

- $\mathbf{P}$  has **an eigenvalue equal to 1** ( $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ , for  $\lambda = 1$ ).

**Proof:**  $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{e}$ , where  $\mathbf{e} = [1 \ 1 \ \dots]^T$  is a column vector of 1 (all rows of  $\mathbf{P}$  add to 1). □

- All eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{P}$  are  $|\lambda_i| \leq 1$ .

**Proof:** Using Gerschgorin's theorem *The eigenvalues of a matrix  $\mathbf{P}_{n \times n}$  lie within the union of the  $n$  circular disks with center  $p_{ii}$  and radius  $\sum_{j \neq i} |p_{ij}|$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Since  $\sum_j p_{ij} = 1$ , the property is proved.* □

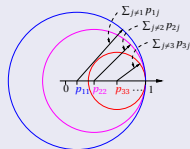


- The eigenvalue  **$\lambda = 1$**  is **single** if  **$\mathbf{P}$  is irreducible** (Perron-Frobenius theorem).  $\mathbf{P}$  is irreducible if all states communicate: for some  $n$ ,  $p_{ij}(n) = (\mathbf{P}^n)_{ij} > 0$ ,  $\forall i, j$ .

# Transient Solution

## Proof of Gerschgorin's theorem

**Gerschgorin's theorem:** *The eigenvalues of a matrix  $\mathbf{P}_{n \times n}$  lie within the union of the  $n$  circular disks with center  $p_{ii}$  and radius  $\sum_{j \neq i} |p_{ij}|$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ .*



Gerschgorin discs  
of a stochastic matrix

**Proof:** From  $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$  we have

$$\sum_j p_{ij} x_j = \lambda x_i \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}.$$

We choose  $i$  such that  $|x_i| = \max_j |x_j|$ . Thus,

$\sum_{j \neq i} p_{ij} x_j = \lambda x_i - p_{ii} x_i$ , and

$$|\lambda - p_{ii}| = \left| \sum_{j \neq i} p_{ij} \frac{x_j}{x_i} \right| \leq \sum_{j \neq i} \left| p_{ij} \frac{x_j}{x_i} \right| \leq \sum_{j \neq i} |p_{ij}|$$

and the equation  $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}| \leq r$ ,  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{R}$  is a disk of center  $\mathbf{c}$  and radius  $r$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ . □



# Transient Solution

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Markov Chains  
(DTMC)

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## Chain with a Defective Matrix

- What if  $\mathbf{P}$  cannot be diagonalized? (**defective** matrix).
- Let  $\lambda_l$ ,  $l = 1, \dots, L$  be the eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{P}^{N \times N}$ , each with multiplicity  $k_l$  ( $k_l \geq 1$ ,  $\sum_l k_l = N$ ), and a possible eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = 0$  with multiplicity  $k_1$ . Then [1]:

$$\pi_j(n) = \sum_{m=0}^{k_1-1} a_j^{(1,m)} I(n=m) + \sum_{l=2}^L \lambda_l^n \sum_{m=0}^{k_l-1} a_j^{(l,m)} n^m, \\ 1 \leq j \leq N, n \geq 0$$

$I(n=m)$  is the indicator func.:  $I(n) = 1$  if  $n = m$ ,  $I(n) = 0$  if  $n \neq m$ .

- [1] Llorenç Cerdà-Alabern. *Transient Solution of Markov Chains Using the Uniformized Vandermonde Method*. Tech. rep. UPC-DAC-RR-XCSD-2010-2. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Dec. 2010. URL: [https://www.ac.upc.edu/app/research-reports/html/research\\_center\\_index-XCSD-2010,en.html](https://www.ac.upc.edu/app/research-reports/html/research_center_index-XCSD-2010,en.html).





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## Example

- Assume a DTMC with

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 3/4 & 1/4 & 0 \\ 0 & 3/4 & 1/4 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- We want the probability of being in state 1 in  $n$  steps starting from state 1:  $\pi_1(n)$  with  $\pi_1(0) = 1$ .
- It can be easily found that the **eigenvalues** of  $\mathbf{P}$  are  $\lambda_1 = 1$  and  $\lambda_2 = 1/4$  with multiplicity 2. We guess:

$$\pi_1(n) = a + 1/4^n(b + cn)$$

- Imposing  $\pi_1(0) = 1$ ,  $\pi_1(1) = 3/4$ ,  $\pi_1(2) = (3/4)^2$ , we have:

$$\pi_1(n) = \frac{4}{9} + \frac{1}{4^n} \left( \frac{5}{9} + \frac{2}{3} n \right)$$