

STAT 547E: LECTURE 2

FUNDAMENTALS OF MCMC

Saifuddin Syed

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- ▶ E.g. when $\mathbb{X} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ is discrete we can represent μ as a n -dimensional row vectors with i -th entry $\mu(x_i)$

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- ▶ E.g. when $\mathbb{X} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ is discrete:
 - ▶ We can represent K the a $n \times n$ -dimensional square matrix with entries $K(x_i, x_j)$
 - ▶ Satisfies $K(x, x') \geq 0$ the rows sum to 1

$$\sum_{x'} K(x, x') = 1$$

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 - ▶ Instructions (i.e. pseudo-code) provide implementation details and analyse algorithmic complexity.
- ▶ Define $\mu \otimes K \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X} \times \mathbb{X})$ as the joint law $X \sim \mu$ and $X' \sim K(X, dx')$

$$\mu \otimes K(dx, dx') = \mu(dx)K(x, dx')$$

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► **Random Walk:** If $\mathbb{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$

$$K(x, dx') = N(\mu(x), \Sigma(x), dx') \iff \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ Input } X \\ 2. \text{ Return } X' \sim N(\mu(X), \Sigma(X)) \end{array}$$

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- ▶ Algorithmically corresponds to composition of algorithms
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 2. $Y \sim K_1(X, dy)$
 3. Return $X' = K_2(Y, dx')$

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- ▶ Algorithmically corresponds to stochastically choosing algorithm

1. Input X
2. Generate $U \sim \text{Uniform}([0,1])$
3. If $U < \alpha(X)$ return $X' \sim K_1(X, dx')$
4. Else return $X' = K_2(X, dx')$

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- We see they are equivalent if and only if detailed balance holds

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- ▶ Exercise: what the interpretations of orthogonality, eigenvalues, eigenvectors, normality, etc

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- ▶ Example: if $K(x, dx') = \delta_x(dx')$ is the identity kernel, then $\mu K = \mu$ and hence,

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 - ▶ E.g. multi-modal distribution...

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- ▶ How long does it take to forget the initial distribution $X_0 \sim \mu$ and enter the stationary regime approximating the target π ?

MIXING-TIME

- ▶ For $\epsilon > 0$, we define the **mixing time** for a π -invariant kernel K equals

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 - ▶ ESS of a Markov chain doesn't mean anything, it depends on the statistics of interest

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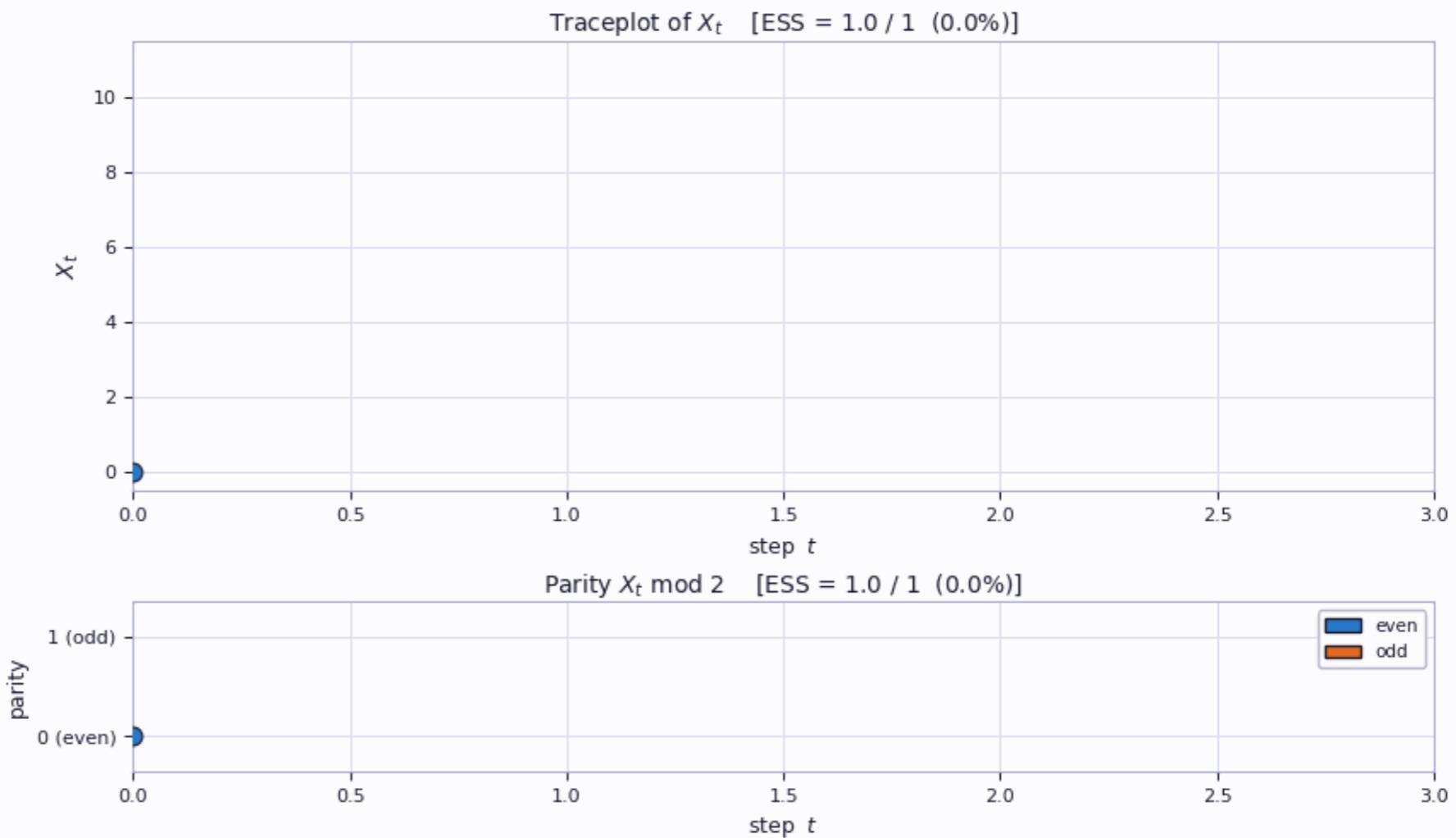
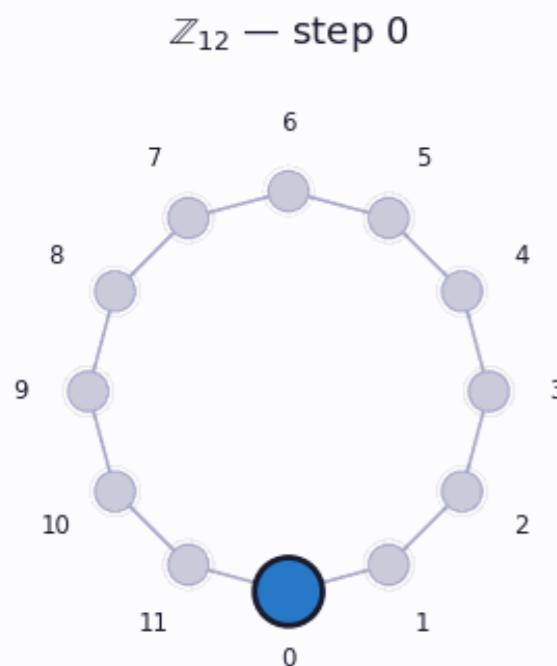
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- ▶ For all $t > 0$ we have $f(X_t)$ are iid and ESS is $T_{\text{ESS}}[f] = T$

$$\mathbb{P}[f(X_t) = 1] = \frac{1}{2} = \pi[f]$$

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MCMC IN PRACTICE

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 - ▶ Run long enough to achieve a target ESS or until estimates stabilise

$$T_{\text{ESS}}[f] = \frac{T_{\text{sample}}}{\tau_{\text{corr}}[f]}$$