

A1110 Assignment 3

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Question: Consider the experiment of throwing a die.

- If a multiple of 3 comes up, throw the die again
- If any other number comes, toss a coin.

Find the conditional probability of the event ‘the coin shows a tail’, given that ‘at least one die shows a 3’.

Solution:

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I. MARKOV CHAIN STATES

- Let us construct a Markov chain X_n with discrete time n .
- The states e_0 and e_1 describe the outcomes from the latest dice throw.
- The states e_2 and e_3 describe the outcomes of the latest coin toss.

II. STATES

Let $Y \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ denote the number obtained from a die throw.

i	State (e_i)
0	$Y = 3$ OR $Y = 6$
1	$\sum (Y = k); k \in \{1, 2, 4, 5\}$
2	Obtaining heads from coin toss
3	Obtaining tails from coin toss

TABLE 1: States in Markov Chain

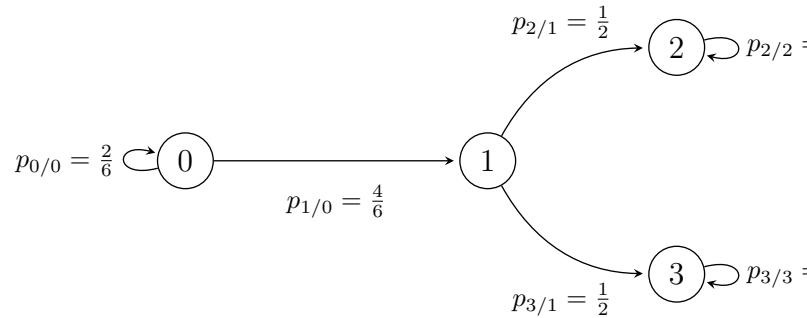


Fig. 1: Graph of Markov Chain

III. MARKOV GRAPH

IV. DESCRIPTION OF GRAPHS AND STATES

$p_{j/i}$ is the probability of moving from state e_i to e_j .

$$p_{j/i} = \Pr \left(\frac{X_{n+1} = j}{X_n = i} \right) \quad (1)$$

Absorbing States States e_2 and e_3 are absorbing states because $p_{2/2} = 1$ and $p_{3/3} = 1$. Once entered, they cannot be left.

Transient States States e_0 and e_1 are transient states, because they lead to other states which have no return path, For example, $p_{2/1} = \frac{1}{2}$ but $p_{1/2} = 0$. Their probability will reduce to 0 eventually.

V. TRANSITION PROBABILITY

State Probabilities in Next Step: State Probabilities in Next Step Let $P_i^{(n)}$ be the probability of

state i at time n . Then the state vector is,

$$\mathbf{Q}_n = \begin{pmatrix} P_0^{(n)} \\ P_1^{(n)} \\ P_2^{(n)} \\ P_3^{(n)} \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

The probabilities after one step in time are

$$P_0^{(n+1)} = \frac{2}{6} \times P_0^{(n)} \quad (3)$$

$$P_1^{(n+1)} = \frac{4}{6} \times P_0^{(n)} \quad (4)$$

$$P_2^{(n+1)} = \frac{1}{2} \times P_1^{(n)} + 1 \times P_2^{(n)} \quad (5)$$

$$P_3^{(n+1)} = \frac{1}{2} \times P_1^{(n)} + 1 \times P_3^{(n)} \quad (6)$$

VI. TRANSITION PROBABILITY MATRIX

The previous equations can be summarized as

$$\mathbf{Q}_{n+1} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{Q}_n \quad (7)$$

Where \mathbf{P} is the transition probability matrix. Its elements are values of $p_{i/j}$

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 2/6 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 4/6 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

VII. INITIAL CONDITION AND LIMITING STATE

Initial Condition The given condition is that '3 occurs at least once'. Let the first occurrence of 3 be the initial state \mathbf{Q}_0 .

$$\mathbf{Q}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (9)$$

Using equation (7), further states can be generated.

$$\mathbf{Q}_1 = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{Q}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{6} \\ \frac{4}{6} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbf{Q}_2 = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{Q}_1 = \mathbf{P}^2\mathbf{Q}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{4}{9} \\ \frac{8}{9} \\ \frac{5}{24} \\ \frac{5}{12} \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

$$\vdots \quad (12)$$

$$\mathbf{Q}_n = \mathbf{P}^n\mathbf{Q}_0 \quad (13)$$

Limiting Probabilities of States These can be approximately calculated by taking large value of n ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{Q}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1/2 \\ 1/2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (14)$$

Required Conditional Probability Probability of the coin showing tails, given that at least one die shows a 3,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_3^{(n)} = 0.5 \quad (15)$$