

MITx: 6.041x Introduction to Probability - The Science of Uncertainty

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Exercise: Steady-state behavior

(1/2 points)

In the previous video, we have seen that for a homogeneous discrete-time Markov chain with m states and one aperiodic recurrent class, the steady-state probabilities π_1, \ldots, π_m can be found as the unique solution to the balance equations

$$\pi_j = \sum_k \pi_k p_{kj} \qquad j = 1, \dots, m,$$

together with the normalization equation $\sum_{i=1}^m \pi_j = 1$.

In order to derive this system of equations, we have used one type of recursion for $r_{ij}(n)$. Inspired by the fact that there are many ways to write such recursions, let us see if similar other balance equations can be obtained. For each of the following systems of equations, decide whether, when combined with the normalization equation, it also has the steady-state probabilities as the unique solution.

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Unit overview

Lec. 24: Finite-state Markov chains

Exercises 24 due May 18, 2016 at 23:59 UTC

Lec. 25: Steady-state behavior of Markov chains

Exercises 25 due May 18, 2016 at 23:59 UTC

1.
$$\pi_j = \sum_k p_{ik} \pi_j \qquad j = 1, \dots, m_j$$

Yes ▼

X Answer: No

2.
$$\pi_j = \sum_k \pi_k r_{kj}(2) \qquad j=1,\ldots,m$$

✓ Answer: Yes

Answer:

- 1. No. Since $\sum_k p_{ik} = 1$ for all i, each of these m equations simply say that $\pi_j = \pi_j$, which does not even have a unique solution, not to mention a unique solution that also gives the correct steady-state probabilities.
- 2. Yes. We obtain the given system of equations by taking the limit as n goes to infinity on both sides of $r_{ij}(n) = \sum_k r_{ik}(n-2)r_{kj}(2)$.

You have used 1 of 1 submissions

Lec. 26: Absorption probabilities and expected time to absorption
Exercises 26 due May 18, 2016 at 23:59 UTC

Solved problems

Problem Set 10

Problem Set 10 due May 18, 2016 at 23:59 UTC

Exit Survey

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