



Bookmarks

- ▶ Unit 0: Overview
- ▶ Entrance Survey
- ▶ Unit 1: Probability models and axioms
- ▶ Unit 2: Conditioning and independence
- ▶ Unit 3: Counting
- ▶ Unit 4: Discrete random variables
- ▶ Exam 1
- ▶ Unit 5: Continuous random variables

Unit 10: Markov chains > Problem Set 10 > Problem 2 Vertical: Oscar's running shoes

Bookmark

Problem 2: Oscar's running shoes

(6/6 points)

Oscar goes for a run each morning. When he leaves his house for his run, he is equally likely to use either the front or the back door; and similarly, when he returns, he is equally likely to use either the front or the back door. Assume that his choice of the door through which he leaves is independent of his choice of the door through which he returns, and also assume that these choices are independent across days.

Oscar owns only five pairs of running shoes, each pair placed at one of the two doors. If there is at least one pair of shoes at the door through which he leaves, he wears a pair for his run; otherwise, he runs barefoot. When he returns from his run, if he wore shoes for that run, he takes off the shoes after the run and leaves them at the door through which he returns.


We wish to determine the long-term proportion of time that Oscar runs barefoot.

1. We consider a Markov chain with states $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$, where state i indicates that there are i pairs of shoes available at the front door in the morning, before Oscar leaves for his run. Specify the numerical values of the following transition probabilities.
 - For $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$,


- ▶ Unit 6: Further topics on random variables
- ▶ Unit 7: Bayesian inference
- ▶ Exam 2
- ▶ Unit 8: Limit theorems and classical statistics
- ▶ Unit 9: Bernoulli and Poisson processes
- ▼ **Unit 10: Markov chains**

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 

$$p_{i,i+1} =$$



- For $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$,

$$p_{i,i-1} =$$



- For $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$,

$$p_{ii} =$$



-

$$p_{00} =$$



-

$$p_{55} =$$




2. Determine the steady-state probability that Oscar runs barefoot.




You have used 1 of 2 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

DISCUSSION

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