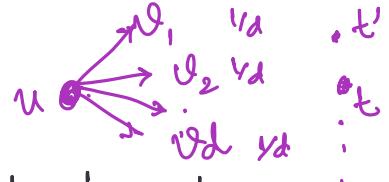


# Random Walks and Markov chains.



Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a random walk starts at a node and at each step moves to a uniformly random neighbour.

- Qn: 1. What is the limiting distribution? (stationary distr.)
- 2. How many steps before reaching limiting distribution (mixing time)
- 3. Starting from node  $s$ , how long does it take to reach  $t$ ? (hitting time)
- 4. How long does it take to visit each node at least once? (cover time)

## Markov chain

↳ More generalized random walk on a directed graph.

- $G = (V, E)$   $|V| = n$  and  $|E| = m$ .
- Transition probability matrix  $P_{n \times n}$

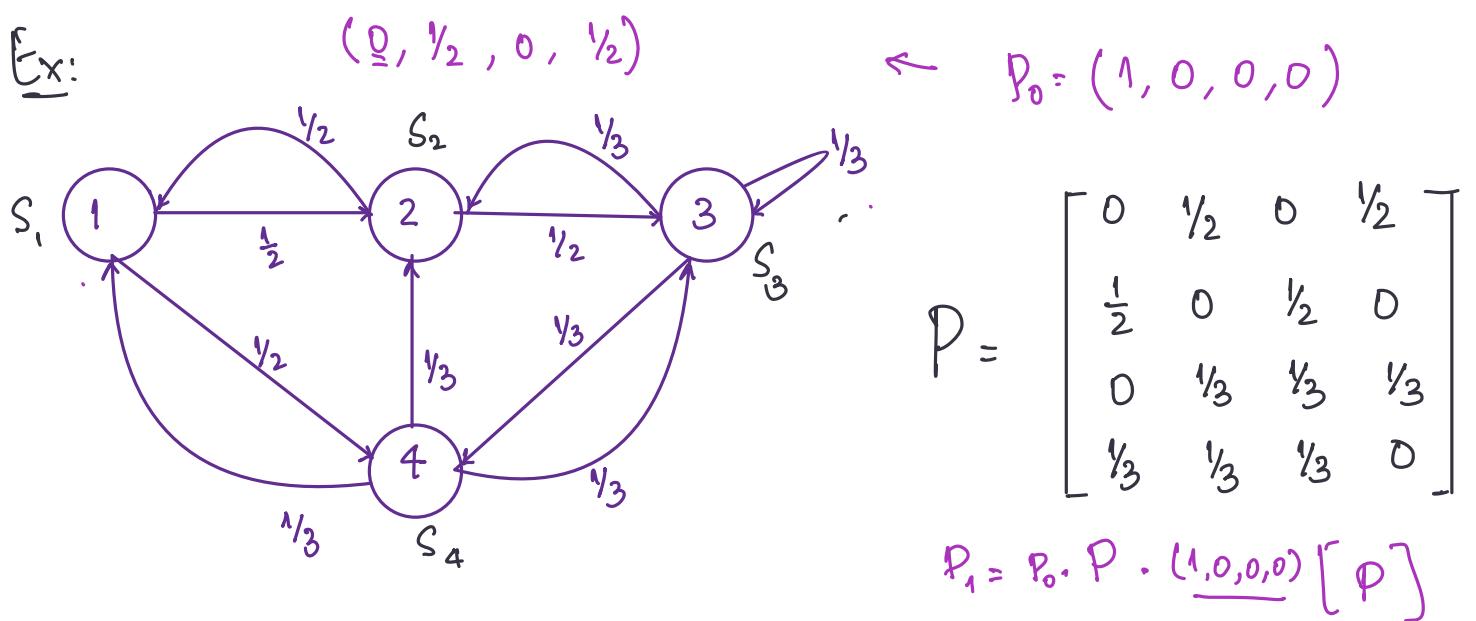
$P_{ij} = \text{prob that } j \text{ is the next state given } i \text{ is the current state.}$

- $X_t$ : State of the Markov chain at time  $t$ .

$$\Pr[X_t = a_t | X_{t-1} = a_{t-1}, \dots, X_0 = a_0] = \Pr[X_t = a_t | X_{t-1} = a_{t-1}] = P_{a_{t-1}, a_t}$$

"Future behaviour of Markov chain depends only on its current state".

Ex:



Let  $P_i(t)$  be the prob of being at state  $s_i$  at time  $t$ .

$$P_t = (P_1(t), P_2(t), \dots, P_n(t)) \quad // \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{If we start randomly,} \\ P_0 = (\frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{n}, \dots, \frac{1}{n}). \end{array}$$

Observation:  $P_{t+1} = P_t \cdot P$ .

Else if we start from node 1,

$$P_0 = (1, 0, \dots, 0).$$

$$(P_t \cdot P)_j = \sum_{i=1}^n P_t(i) \cdot P_{ij}.$$

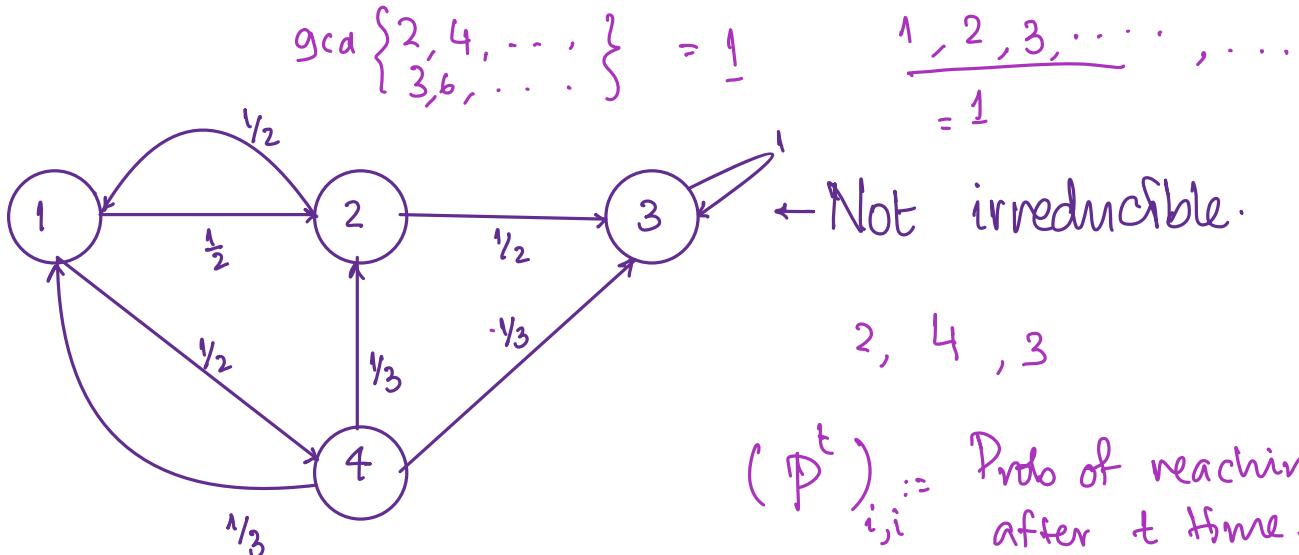
$$\Rightarrow P_{t+m} = P_t \cdot P^m.$$

$$\overbrace{P_t}^{\tilde{P}_t} = P_0 \cdot \underbrace{P^t}_{\tilde{P}}$$

We call the vertices/nodes in a Markov Chain as states.

Defn: A MC is irreducible if G is strongly connected.  
(That is  $\forall s_i \neq s_j$ ,  $\exists$  a directed path from  $s_i \rightarrow s_j$ ).

$$\forall i \neq j, \Pr [\exists m > 0, X_{t+m} = s_j | X_t = s_i] > 0.$$



$(P^t)_{i,i}$  := Prob of reaching  $i$  after  $t$  time steps  $> 0$  starting from  $i$

Defn: Period of a state  $s_i$  in MC is defined as

$$d(s_i) = \text{gcd} \left( \{ t \in \mathbb{N} \mid (P^t)_{ii} > 0, t > 0 \} \right).$$

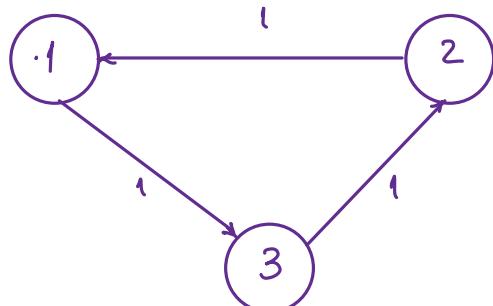
In other words,  $d(s_i) = T$  then if at time  $t$ ,  $P_t(i) > 0$   
 Then  $t$  belongs to an arithmetic progression

$$\{ a + i \cdot T \mid i \geq 0 \}$$

MC is said to  
be aperiodic if

$$d(s_i) = 1 \text{ for all states } s_i \in \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}.$$

positive int that depends on initial distr.



Periodic w/ period 3 for all states.

- Let  $P_t(i,j) = \Pr [X_t = s_j \mid X_0 = s_i]$ .

- Let  $r_t(i,j) = \Pr [X_t = s_j \text{ and } \forall 1 \leq u \leq t-1, X_u \neq s_j \mid X_0 = s_i]$

First visit to  $s_j$  starting from  $s_i$

- Starting from  $s_i$ , prob of a transition into state  $s_j$  is given by  $f_{ij} = \sum_{t>0} \gamma_t(i,j)$ .
- Expected no. of time steps to reach  $s_j$  starting from  $s_i$ :

$$h_{ij} = \sum_{t>0} t \cdot \gamma_t(i,j)$$

Theorem: If a MC is finite, irreducible and aperiodic

Then  $\exists T < \infty$  s.t  $(P^t)_{ij} > 0 \quad \forall t \geq T, \forall i, j \in V$ .

$$P_{t+1} = P_t$$

Defn: A stationary distribution for MC w/ transition matrix  $P$  is a probability distribution  $\pi$  s.t

$$\pi = \pi P.$$

$$\exists T \text{ s.t } \forall t \geq T$$

$$P_{t+1} = P_t.$$

Fundamental theorem of Markov chains:

For any finite, irreducible and aperiodic MC,

- There exists a unique stationary distribution  $\pi$  s.t for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $\pi_i > 0$ .
- For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $f_{ii} = 1$  and  $h_{ii} = 1/\pi_i$ .
- Let  $N(i,t)$  be the no. of times MC visits state  $i$  in  $t$  steps. Then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N(i,t)}{t} = \pi_i$ .

## Revisiting random walks on graphs:

$$P_{u,v} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\deg(u)} & \text{if } (u,v) \in E, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$|V|=n$  and  $|E|=m$ .

Claim:  $G$  is aperiodic.

- $G = (V, E)$

- non-bipartite

- undirected

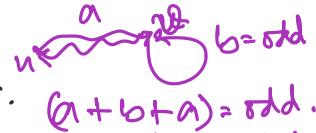
- connected

$\Rightarrow$  directed version of  $G$   
 $\vec{G}$ : it is irreducible, finite.

Pf: Every vertex has a closed walk of even lengths given by traversing the same edge twice in succession.

$G$  is non-bipartite  $\Rightarrow$  odd cycles  $\Rightarrow$  GCD of closed walks = 1.

$\Rightarrow$  GCDs of closed walks = 1 for every vertex.



$$(a+b+a) = \text{odd.}$$

If  $G$  is non-bipartite

Lemma: For all  $v \in V$ ,  $\pi_v = \frac{\deg(v)}{2m}$ .  $\Rightarrow \exists$  a closed walk of odd length for every vertex.

Pf:  $\pi$  is stationary if  $\pi = \pi P$ . That is for all

$$v \in V, |V|=n$$

$$\pi_v = (\pi P)_v = \sum_u \pi_u \cdot P_{uv}.$$

$$\pi = (\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_n)$$

System of  $n$  linear equations in  $n$  vars.

Claim:  $\pi_u = \frac{\deg(u)}{2m}$  is a solution.

$$\left( \sum_u \pi_u = 1 \right)$$

$$\sum_u \pi_u \cdot P_{uv} = \sum_u \frac{\deg(u)}{2m} \times \frac{1}{\deg(u)} = \frac{\deg(v)}{2m} = \pi_v$$

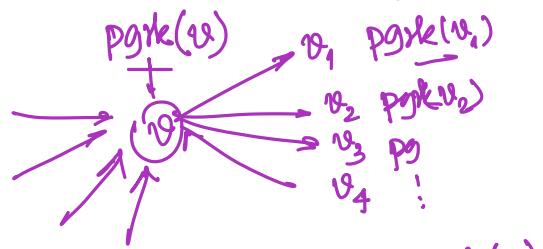
$\nwarrow \sum \frac{\deg(u)}{2m}$

$\uparrow$  Given by no. of non zero entries in  $v$ th col of  $P$ .

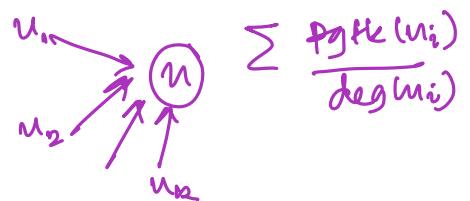
From Fundamental Theorem, there is a unique solution to  $\pi = \pi P$ . Thus,  $\pi_{ij} = \frac{\deg(v)}{2m}$  is a stationary distr.

### (Simple) Page rank algorithm:

- Assign a page rank of  $\frac{1}{n}$  to each node.
- For each node, divide the current page rank value by the out degree of the node and send to each "neighbour", out-link equally.
- Page rank of each node is updated to sum of all values received.



Can be modeled as a MC.



$$P_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{d_{\text{out}}(i)} & \text{if page } i \text{ links to } j. \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{pagerank}^{(t)}(j) = \sum_{i:(i,j) \in E} \frac{\text{pagerank}^{(t-1)}(i)}{d_{\text{out}}(i)}.$$

// Apply the fundamental theorem if the web is finite, irreducible and aperiodic.

$$(P_1^{(0)}, \dots, P_m^{(0)}) \cdot P$$

$$(P_1^{(0)}, \dots, P_m^{(0)})$$

$$P_i^{(1)} = \sum_i P_i^{(0)} \cdot P_{ij} = \sum_i P_i^{(0)} \cdot \frac{1}{d_{\text{out}}(i)} = \sum_i \frac{\text{pagerank}^{(0)}(i)}{d_{\text{out}}(i)}$$

$$\pi_{1 \times n} = \pi_{1 \times n} P_{n \times n}$$

$$(\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n) = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n) \begin{bmatrix} & \\ & P_{ij} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i \cdot P_{i1}, \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i \cdot P_{i2}, \dots \right)$$

$$\pi_j = \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i \cdot P_{ij} \quad \forall j \in [n] \quad \underbrace{\qquad}_{S}$$

Stationary distr. is a solution to the system of equations S.