### Introduction to Markov Chains

#### What is a Markov **Chain**?

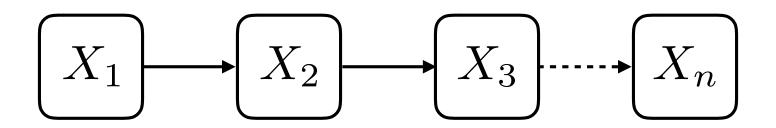
 $egin{bmatrix} X_1 \ X_2 \ \end{bmatrix}$   $egin{bmatrix} X_2 \ \end{bmatrix}$   $egin{bmatrix} X_3 \ \end{bmatrix}$ 

Random Variables

Could model as i.i.d. (independent and identically distributed)

Realistic? What if index is time?

#### What is a Markov **Chain**?



Let's add a dash of dependence (but not too much!)

# **The Markov Property**

$$P(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i, X_{n-1} = i_{n-1}, \dots, X_0 = i_0) = P(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i)$$

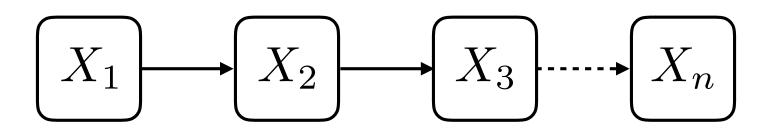
### **The Markov Property**

**Everything Before** 

Next Now Previous First Next Now  $P(X_{n+1}=j|X_n=i,X_{n-1}=i_{n-1},\ldots,X_0=i_0)=P(X_{n+1}=j|X_n=i)$ 

Memoryless!

### **State Space**



$$X_i \in \{Rainy, Sunny\}$$

http://setosa.io/ev/markov-chains/

### **State Spaces**

$$X_1 \longrightarrow X_2 \longrightarrow X_3 \longrightarrow X_n$$

$$X_i \in \{Rainy, Sunny\}$$

$$X_i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$X_i \in \{AAAA, AAC, AAG, \dots, TTG, TTT\}$$

 $X_i \in \{A, C, G, T\}$ 

### **State Spaces (Discrete)**

$$X_1 \longrightarrow X_2 \longrightarrow X_3 \longrightarrow X_n$$

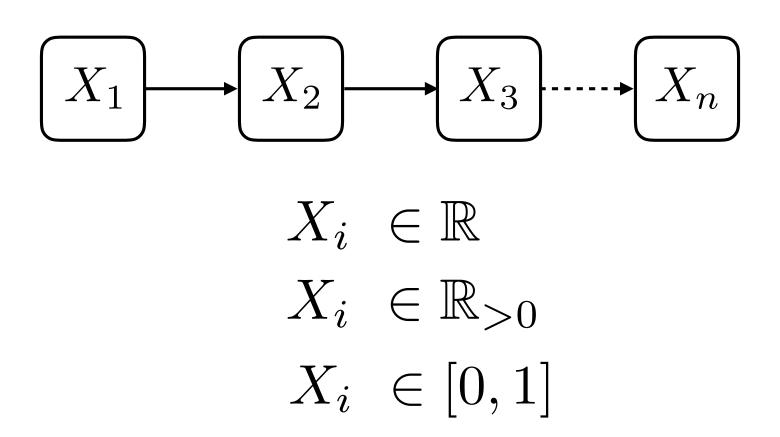
$$X_i \in \{Rainy, Sunny\}$$

$$X_i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$X_i \in \{A, C, G, T\}$$

$$X_i \in \{AAAA, AAC, AAG, \dots, TTG, TTT\}$$

# **State Spaces (Continuous)**



What sorts of continuous state spaces might we have in phylogenetics?

#### **Transition Matrix**

$$egin{array}{ccc} R & S \ R & \left(0.7 & 0.3 \ S & \left(0.3 & 0.7 
ight) \end{array}$$

#### **Transition Matrix**

 $\begin{array}{ccc} & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ R & & & S & & & & & \\ From & R & \left(0.7 & 0.3 \\ S & \left(0.3 & 0.7\right) & & & & & \end{array}$ 

#### To

From 
$$egin{array}{cccc} R & S \ \hline R & \left(0.7 & 0.3 
ight) \ S & \left(0.3 & 0.7 
ight) \end{array}$$

$$P(X_{n+1} = R | X_n = R) = 0.7$$
  
 $P(X_{n+1} = S | X_n = R) = 0.3$ 

#### To

$$R = S$$
 $R = \{0.7, 0.3\}$ 
 $S = \{0.3, 0.7\}$ 

$$P(X_{n+1} = R | X_n = R) = 0.7$$
  
 $P(X_{n+1} = S | X_n = R) = 0.3$   
 $P(X_{n+1} = R | X_n = S) = 0.3$   
 $P(X_{n+1} = S | X_n = S) = 0.7$ 

# **In-Class Exercise (pairs)**

- (1) Create a Markov chain class with these values:
  - Number of steps (positive integer)
  - State space (list)
  - Transition matrix (list of lists of floats or own class!)
  - Sampled states (list)

#### and these methods:

- run (sample states for each step)
- clear (remove any sampled states)
- (2) Create a list (or lists) to hold frequencies of states for different runs. For the {Rainy,Sunny} example, start each run in *S*. Now run 100 chains for 1 step. Record state frequencies across chains. Then run 100 chains for 2 steps. Record state frequencies. Then 5, then 10.