

If  $\pi(x)$ ,  $x \in S$ , are nonnegative numbers summing to one, and if

$$\sum_{x \in S} \pi(x) \times P(x, y) = \pi(y), \quad y \in S,$$

then  $\pi$  is called a **stationary distribution**. That is, a stationary distribution is a probability vector  $\pi$  such that

$$\pi P = \pi.$$

If a stationary distribution  $\pi$  exists and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P^n(x, y) = \pi(y)$ ,  $y \in S$ ,

then regardless of the initial distribution of the Markov chain, the distribution of  $X_n$  approaches  $\pi$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . In such cases,  $\pi$  is sometimes called **steady state** distribution.

### 1. Winter weather in Central Illinois.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{N} \quad \text{R} \quad \text{S} \\ \text{N} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/4 & 1/2 & 1/4 \\ 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \end{array} \right) \\ \text{R} \\ \text{S} \end{array}$$

Find a stationary distribution  $\pi$ .

$$\pi P = \pi.$$

$$\pi(\text{N}) = \frac{1}{4} \pi(\text{R}) + \frac{1}{3} \pi(\text{S})$$

$$\pi(\text{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \pi(\text{N}) + \frac{1}{2} \pi(\text{R}) + \frac{1}{3} \pi(\text{S})$$

$$\pi(\text{S}) = \frac{1}{2} \pi(\text{N}) + \frac{1}{4} \pi(\text{R}) + \frac{1}{3} \pi(\text{S})$$

$$1 = \pi(\text{N}) + \pi(\text{R}) + \pi(\text{S})$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi(\text{N}) = \frac{2}{9}, \quad \pi(\text{R}) = \frac{4}{9}, \quad \pi(\text{S}) = \frac{3}{9}.$$

```

> P = rbind( c(0,1/2,1/2), c(1/4,1/2,1/4), c(1/3,1/3,1/3) )
>
> P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P%%P
      [,1]      [,2]      [,3]
[1,] 0.2222222 0.4444444 0.3333333
[2,] 0.2222222 0.4444444 0.3333333
[3,] 0.2222222 0.4444444 0.3333333
>
> pi00 = c( 2/9, 4/9, 3/9 )
> t(pi00) %% P
      [,1]      [,2]      [,3]
[1,] 0.2222222 0.4444444 0.3333333

```

### **eigen(A)**

finds  $\lambda$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  such that  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}$ .

We need  $\boldsymbol{\pi} = \boldsymbol{\pi} \mathbf{P}$ .  $\Rightarrow \mathbf{P}^T \boldsymbol{\pi}^T = 1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\pi}^T$ .

$\Rightarrow$  we need **eigen(t(P))** and  $\lambda = 1$ .

```

> eigen(t(P))
$values
[1] 1.0000000 -0.3038126 0.1371459

$vectors
      [,1]      [,2]      [,3]
[1,] -0.3713907 -0.8051731 0.1355099
[2,] -0.7427814 0.2852315 -0.7650553
[3,] -0.5570860 0.5199416 0.6295454

```

We need a probability vector.

```

> eigen(t(P))$vectors[,1]
[1] -0.3713907 -0.7427814 -0.5570860

```

is NOT a probability vector.

```

> eigen(t(P))$vectors[,1]/sum(eigen(t(P))$vectors[,1])
[1] 0.2222222 0.4444444 0.3333333

```