

MARKOV CHAINS I

- basic definitions
- hitting probabilities
- hitting time
- ERGODIC thm (stationary distributions)

Next week

- Walks on a line
- 2-SAT
- Fair 2-colorability of 3-colorable graphs

Definitions

Markov Chain (MC) is an infinite collection of r.v. $\{X_i\}_{i=0}^{\infty}$ with n outcomes, such that:

$$\forall i: \Pr(X_i = x_i \mid X_{i-1} = x_{i-1}, X_{i-2} = x_{i-2}, \dots, X_0 = x_0)$$

$$\Pr(X_i = x_i \mid X_{i-1} = x_{i-1})$$

generally $\Pr(X_3 = 3 \mid X_2 = 2, X_1 = 1) \neq \Pr(X_3 = 3 \mid X_2 = 2, X_1 = 2)$

INTERPRETATION:

MC's are the simplest non-trivial stochastic processes. Each X_i is a state of the process in time step i . The process can have

n states. Markov property says that the state of the process in step $i+1$ depends only on state in time i and the whole past.

This leads to simplification:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(X_3=3 | X_2=2) &= \Pr(X_7=3 | X_6=2) = \Pr(X_{i+1}=3 | X_i=2) \\ &= P_{23} \quad (\text{probability of moving from state 2 to state 3.}) \\ &\quad \uparrow \downarrow \end{aligned}$$

How many probabilities describe MC? $n \times n$

Matrix representation

Transition matrix P

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} P_{11} & P_{12} & P_{13} & \dots & P_{1n} \\ P_{21} & P_{22} & P_{23} & \dots & P_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ P_{in} & \dots & \dots & \dots & P_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \leftarrow$$

This matrix is stochastic

$$\forall i \quad \sum_j P_{ij} = 1$$

If $X_0 = e$ (if I start the process in state e)

$$\Pr(X_1 = 1) = ? \leftarrow$$

$$1.) (0, 0, \dots, \overset{l\text{-th position}}{1}, \dots, 0, 0) \cdot P = (p_{l1}, p_{l2}, \dots, p_{ln})$$

$$2.) (p_{l1}, \dots, p_{ln}) \cdot P = (0, 0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0) P^2$$

in l -steps

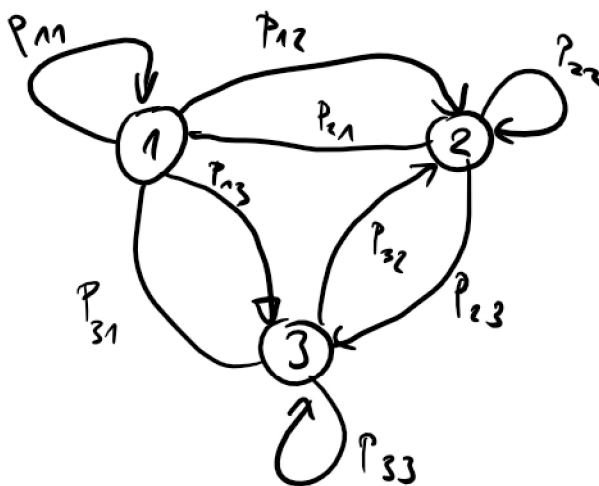
$$k.) (0, 0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0) \cdot P^k$$

P^k - k -step transition matrix

GRAPH REPRESENTATION

Graph with n vertices (each vertex corresponds to a state) and directed edges labelled by transition probabilities

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} & p_{13} \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & p_{23} \\ p_{31} & p_{32} & p_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$



Basic properties

$r_{ij}^{(t)}$ is the probability to reach j from i in exactly t -steps

hitting probability - the over all probability to reach j from i

$$f_{ij} = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} r_{ij}^{(t)} \quad \&$$

Hitting time - average time to reach j from i

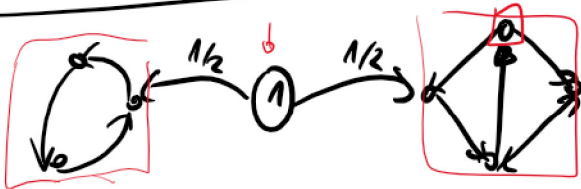
$$h_{ij} = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} t \cdot r_{ij}^{(t)} \quad \&$$

Ergodic theorem (Stationary distribution)

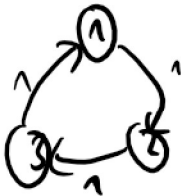
For an ERGODIC MC (all states can reach all other states w.p. 1 and MC is not periodic), there exists a unique probability vector $\pi = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n)$, such that

$$\pi = \pi P$$

and for all j and P : $\pi_j = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} P^k_{ij}$

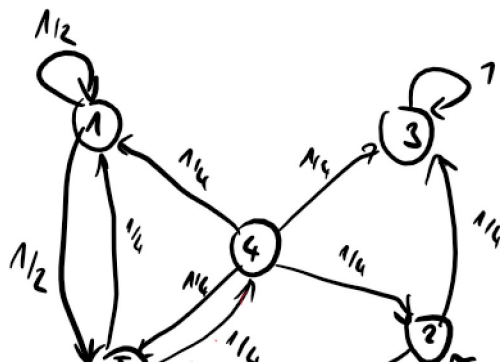


Periodic MC:



EXERCISES:

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\ 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 & \cdot \\ 0 & 1/2 & 1/4 & 0 & 1/4 & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdot \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$



$$T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/4 & 1/4 & 1/4 & 0 & 1/4 \\ 1/4 & 0 & 0 & 1/4 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$



TASK: Calculate f_{i4} for each i

$$\rightarrow f_{44} = 1$$

$$f_{14} = 1/2 f_{14} + 1/2 f_{54} \Rightarrow f_{14} = f_{54}$$

$$f_{24} = 1/4 f_{34} + 1/2 f_{24} + 1/4 f_{54}$$

$$\rightarrow f_{34} = f_{34} \quad f_{34} = 0$$

$$f_{54} = 1/4 f_{14} + 1/4 f_{24} + 1/2 f_{54}$$

$$f_{54} = 1/4 f_{54} + 1/4 + 1/2 f_{54}$$

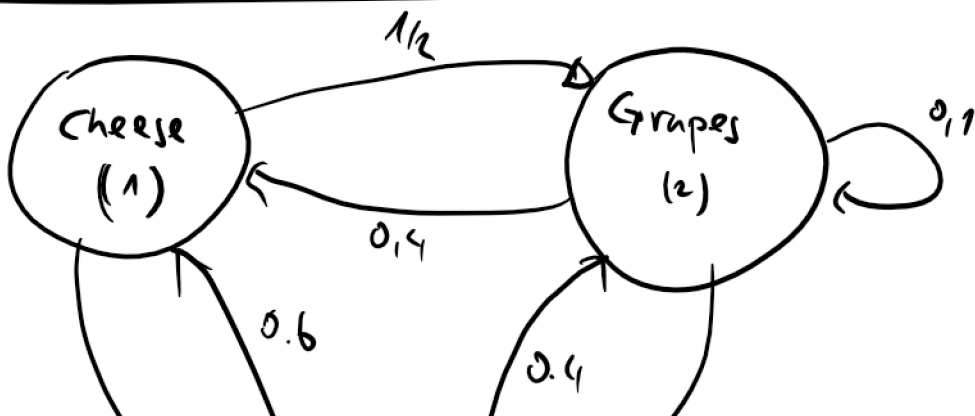
$$1/4 f_{54} = 1/4 \Rightarrow f_{54} = 1 \text{ and } f_{14} = 1$$

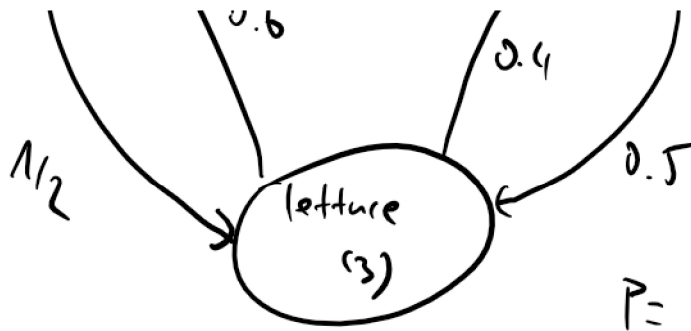
Equation with 5 variables

$$f_{24} = 0 + 1/2 f_{24} + 1/4$$

$$f_{24} = 1/2$$

$$f_{i4} = (1, 1/2, 0, 1, 1)$$





$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 0.4 & 0.1 & 0.5 \\ 0.6 & 0.4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Calculate f_{i3}

$$f_{33} = 1$$

$$f_{23} = 0.5 f_{33} + 0.1 f_{23} + 0.4 f_{13}$$

$$f_{13} = 0.5 f_{33} + 0.5 f_{23} \Rightarrow f_{13} = 1/2 f_{23} + 1/2$$

$$f_{23} = 0.5 + 0.1(f_{23}) + 0.4(1/2 f_{23} + 1/2)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} + 0.3 f_{23}$$

$$0.2 f_{23} = \frac{7}{10}$$

$$f_{23} = 1 \Rightarrow f_{13} = 1 \quad f_{i3} = 1$$

$$\boxed{f_{ij} f_{ji} = 1} \Rightarrow \text{Ergodic}$$

Calculate h_{i3}

$$h_{33} = 0$$

$$h_{23} = \frac{1}{2} h_{33} + \frac{1}{10} h_{23} + \frac{4}{10} h_{13} + 1$$

$$h_{13} = \frac{1}{2} h_{33} + \frac{1}{2} h_{23} + 1 \Rightarrow h_{13} = \frac{1}{2} h_{23} + 1$$

$$h_{23} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{10} h_{23} + \frac{4}{10} \left(\frac{1}{2} h_{23} + 1 \right) + 1$$

$$= 0 + 0.3 h_{23} + 0.4 + 1$$

$$0.7 h_{23} = 1.4$$

$$h_{23} = 2$$

$$h_{13} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 2$$

$$\pi \cdot P = \pi$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \pi_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0.4 & 0.1 & 0.5 \\ 0.6 & 0.4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \pi_1 & \pi_2 & \pi_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$1. \pi_1 \cdot 0 + \pi_2 \cdot \frac{2}{5} + \pi_3 \cdot \frac{3}{5} = \pi_1$$

$$2. \pi_1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \pi_2 \cdot \frac{1}{10} + \pi_3 \cdot \frac{2}{5} = \pi_2$$

$$3. \pi_1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \pi_2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \pi_3 \cdot 0 = \pi_3$$

$$4. \pi_1 + \pi_2 + \pi_3 = 1$$

1 → 3

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2}{5} \pi_2 + \frac{3}{5} \pi_3 \right) + \frac{1}{2} \pi_1 = \pi_3$$

$$\frac{1}{5} \pi_2 + \frac{3}{10} \pi_3 + \frac{1}{2} \pi_1 = \pi_3$$

$$\frac{2+5}{10} \pi_2 = \frac{7}{10} \pi_3$$

$$\pi_2 = \pi_3 \rightarrow ?$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \pi_1 + \frac{1}{10} \pi_2 + \frac{2}{5} \pi_2 = \pi_2$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \pi_1 = \frac{5}{10} \pi_2$$

$$\pi_2 = \pi_1$$

$$4: \Rightarrow \pi_1 = \pi_2 = \pi_3 = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right) \cdot P = \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right)$$