

Stochastic Processes - 1
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Lecture - 54
Limiting and Stationary Distributions

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Example 2

$$Q = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Eigenvalues of Q are $0, -2, -4$
Hence, $P_{11}(t) = k_1 + k_2 e^{-2t} + k_3 e^{-4t}$
Use, $P_{11}(0) = 1; P'_{11}(0) = q_{11} = -2$
 $P''_{11}(0) = q_{11}^{(2)} = 7$
We get

$$P_{11}(t) = \frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{4} e^{-2t} + \frac{3}{8} e^{-4t}$$

I am going to give one more example this has a 3 states and this is a state transition diagram and the values are nothing, but the rates in which the system is moving from one state to other states. So that is the difference between the state transition diagram of a DTMC and a CTMC. So this is a rate in which the system is moving from one state to another state and some arcs are not there that means there is a no way the system is moving from the state 2 to 3 a small interval of time.

Whereas all the other possibilities I have given. So the corresponding Q matrix it is a three cross three matrix and you can make out all the row sum are going to be 0 and the diagonal elements are minus of some of other values the same rows and other than the diagonal elements the values are greater than or equal to 0. My interest is to find out the time dependent solution for this example also.

I can make a forward Kolmogorov equation P dash of T is equal to P of T times Q it is a 3 cross 3 matrix therefore I will have a 3 equations and I have one equation I can have summation of probabilities equal to 1 and I can start with the initial condition the system

being in the state 1 or time 0 the probability is 1 I can start with that and I can solve those three equations with the initial condition and I can get the solution that is a one way.

Since it is a finite state CTMC there are many ways to get the time dependent solution basically you have to solve the system of difference differential equations with the initial conditions. Here I am using the Eigen value method that means find the Eigen values for the Q matrix. Therefore, use the Eigen value and Eigen vector concept and you get the P_{11} of T with the unknown K_1, K_2, K_3 and to find the unknown to K_1, K_2, K_3 use the initial condition.

Here I am using the initial condition as well as the Q matrix values the Q_{11} that means the element corresponding to the 1, 1 that is nothing but the P dash of 1, 1 of 0. Similarly, if I go for Q square matrix and Q_{11} of 2. The element in the 1, 1 in the Q square matrix that is nothing but P double dash of 1, 10. Therefore now I can use these three initial conditions to get the unknown values K_1, K_2 and K_3 . So once I know the K_1, K_2, K_3 I can substitute that for the P_{11} of T is equal to this much.

Similarly, I can go for finding the $P_{1,2}$ of T and $P_{1,3}$ of T. I do not want $P_{1,3}$ in the same way because once I know the $P_{1,1}$ of T and $P_{1,2}$ of T. So $P_{1,3}$ of T is nothing but 1 minus of that those two probabilities because there is summation of probabilities is equal to 1. So this is the other way of getting the time dependent solution the transition probability of system being in the state J given that it was in the state I at time 0.

Suppose the CTMC has the finite state space then I can use the exponential matrix also to get the time dependent solution that what I have given this way.

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Transient Solution of Finite State CTMC

Consider

$$P'(t) = P(t)Q$$

$$P(t) = P(0) e^{Qt}$$

where

$$e^{Qt} = I + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{Q^n t^n}{n!}$$


So start with the forward equation. Therefore, the solution is going to be P of T is equal to P of 0 E power Q of T . P of T is a matrix P of 0 is the matrix E power QT that is also again going to be a matrix exponential matrix therefore I am writing it E power Q T is nothing but Q is the matrix and T is the real value. So if greater than or equal to 0 therefore E power Q , T is going to be I matrix.

I matrix is nothing but the identical matrix of order whatever the state number plus the summation N is equal to 1 to infinity of Q power N times T power N divided by N factorial. So the whole thing is going to be exponential matrix and using that you can get the P of T . I am not going detailed for how to compute this E power QT and so on, but whenever you have CTMC the finite space through this method also one can get the time dependent solution.

So with this I have completed the examples for the CTMC to find out the time dependent or transient probabilities.

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Limiting Distribution

Ergodic theorem

For an irreducible, +ve recurrent
CTMC, the limiting distribution
 $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P_{ij}(t)$ exist.
When it is independent of initial state 'i'

$\pi_j = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P_{ij}(t)$

$\bar{\pi} = (\pi_0, \pi_1, \dots) ; \pi_i \geq 0 ; \sum_j \pi_j = 1$



Now, I am moving into the limiting distribution the way we discuss the limiting distribution for the CTMC the same concept can be used for the CTMC also. The change is instead of one step transition probability matrix here we have to use the Infinitesimal Generator Matrix in a different way. So I am first giving the Ergodic Theorem, whenever the CTMC is irreducible that means all the states are communicating with all other states.

Since all the states are communicating with all other states. So if one is of the particular type it is a positive recurrent then all the other states are going to be a positive recurrent. If one is going to be a null recurrent then all the other states also going to be a null recurrent. So here I am making the assumption the CTMC is irreducible as well as all the states are positive recurrent then the limiting distribution always exist.

Suppose, it is independent of the initial state it need not be a independent of initial states suppose the same thing is independent of initial state then I can write that limiting probability is P_{ij} of T . Since it is independent of I . I can write it as the π_j . Then I can form a vector and since it is a limiting distribution it is a probability distribution. Therefore, the probabilities are these probabilities are always greater than or equal to 0.

And the summation of probability is going to be 1. It wold not be less than 1 that is the Ergodic theorem series. Whenever you have a irreducible CTMC with all the states are positive recurrent then as T tends to infinity the system as the distribution limiting distribution. If it is independent of initial states, then you can label with the π_j as the probabilities.

And this probability distribution satisfies it is a probability mass function therefore it satisfies the probability mass function conditions. That means whenever you have a dynamical system in which it is irreducible model and all the states are positive recurrent that means the mean recurrence time is going to be finite value. Then that system is call it as a Ergodic system or the Ergodic concept can be used therefore as T times to infinity you can get the limiting distribution.


If it is independent of initial state means, whatever be the C, you are going to do it for the decretive and stimulation for the dynamical system that is for a Ergodic system then the initial condition C does not matter to get the limiting distribution. Later we are going to give some few examples how to find out the limiting distribution.

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Stationary Distribution

A vector π is called the stationary distribution of the CTMC if $\pi = (\pi_0, \pi_1, \dots)$ satisfies:

- (i) $\pi_j \geq 0, \forall j$
- (ii) $\sum_j \pi_j = 1$
- (iii) $\pi Q = 0$



I am explaining the stationary distribution also. The stationary distribution the way I have discuss the DTMC the CTMC also same. So I have a vector if the vector satisfies these three conditions probabilities therefore greater than or equal to zero, summation is equal to 1 and you should be able to solve the solution and get the pi. It is a homogenous situation. So you need a second condition to have the 0 probabilities.

So if you solve pi Q equal to 0 along with the summation of pi J is equal to 1 and if this pi J exist then the CTMC has the stationary distribution. The similar way I have discussed the stationary distribution for the DTMC model also instead of pi Q is equal to 0 we had a pi P is equal to pi. So if any vector satisfies that pi P is equal to pi and summation of pi I is equal to

1 and all the π_i are greater than or equal to 0.

Then that is going to be a stationary distribution for DTMC. The same way if π_Q is equal to 0 and summation of π_J is equal to 1, π_J are greater than or equal to 0. If this is satisfied by any vector, then that is going to be the stationary distribution for a Time Homogenous CTMC every time we are discussing the default CTMC that is the time homogenous CTMC.

The main result for the stationary distribution whenever you have an irreducible positive recurrent CTMC the stationary distribution exists and that is going to be unique. Whenever the CTMC is a positive recurrent as well as irreducible there is no need of periodicity in the CTMC whereas the same stationary distribution for the DTMC we have included one more condition that is a periodic, but for the CTMC there is no periodicity for the state.

Therefore, as long as the system is irreducible and the positive recurrent 1 then the stationary distribution exist and it is unique and by solving these equations you can get the unique stationary distribution.