

4.4.1 Limiting probabilities

If $P = \begin{pmatrix} 0.7 & 0.3 \\ 0.4 & 0.6 \end{pmatrix}$, $P^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.574 & 0.426 \\ 0.568 & 0.432 \end{pmatrix}$

$P = \pi$

$$P^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.572 & 0.428 \\ 0.570 & 0.430 \end{pmatrix}; \pi_1 = \frac{4}{7} = 0.571$$

$$\pi_2 = \frac{3}{7} = 0.429$$

so will $P^n \rightarrow$ matrix with equal rows
and with stationary probabilities
rows given by stationary probabilities

That is not always true.

If $P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, X_n alternates between 0 and 1
and the long run proportions are $\pi_0 = 1/2, \pi_1 = 1/2$

Hence $P_{00}^n = \begin{cases} 1 & n \text{ even} \\ 0 & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$

Definition A chain that can only return to a state
in multiple of $d > 1$ is called periodic
and does not have limiting probabilities
If the chain is not periodic it is aperiodic

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For aperiodic chains the limiting probabilities
when they exist are equal to the long run
proportions and are independent of initial states.

Let $d_j = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(X_n = j)$

But $P(X_{n+1} = j) = \sum_{i=0}^2 P(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i) \cdot P(X_n = i)$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^2 P_{ij} \cdot P(X_n = i)$$

and also $d_j = \sum_{i=0}^2 P(X_{n+1} = i)$

Let $n \rightarrow \infty$, then $d_j = \sum_{i=0}^2 d_i P_{ij}$
so $\{d_j\}$ solves the equations for $\{\pi_j\}$.
where they are unique solution for $\pi = \pi P$

Hence $d_j = \pi_j$. A sufficient condition
for uniqueness is that the chain is
irreducible and positive recurrent

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