

STK2130 – Lecture 1

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Chapter 4 – Markov Chains

Section 4.1 – Introduction

Discrete Time Stochastic Processes

- A *discrete time stochastic process* is a sequence $\{X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots\}$ of random variables with values in some set \mathcal{S} .
- The process is sometimes denoted by $\{X_n : n \geq 0\}$, or by $\{X_n\}$.
- The index n is interpreted as *time*, and is a non-negative integer.
- If \mathcal{S} is finite or countable, the process has a *discrete* (state) space.
- The elements of \mathcal{S} are referred to as *states*. Thus, X_n is the state of the process at time n , $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

In simple cases X_0, X_1, \dots are independent. However, in this course we will focus on cases where X_0, X_1, \dots are **dependent**.

Markov Chains

A discrete time, discrete space stochastic process $\{X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots\}$ is called a **time homogenous Markov chain** if the **transition probabilities** satisfy the following:

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

for all states $i_0, i_1, \dots, i_{n-1}, i, j$ and all $n \geq 0$.

NOTE: The **Markov assumption** implies that given X_n , the next state, X_{n+1} , is **independent** of all previous states X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{n-1} . The process is **time homogenous** since P_{ij} is **independent** of n .

One-step transition probability matrix:

$$P = [P_{ij}]_{i,j \in S}$$

where $P_{ij} \geq 0$ for all $i, j \in S$, and $\sum_{j \in S} P_{ij} = 1$ for all $i \in S$.

Example 4.1 - Forecasting the Weather

Consider a Markov chain with state space $\mathcal{S} = \{0, 1\}$, where 0 represents **rain** and 1 represents **no rain**.

We assume that:

- If it rains today, then it will rain tomorrow with probability α
- If it does not rain today, then it will rain tomorrow with probability β .

Mathematically, this can be expressed as follows:

$$P_{0,0} = P(X_{n+1} = 0 | X_n = 0) = \alpha, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$P_{1,0} = P(X_{n+1} = 0 | X_n = 1) = \beta, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

This implies that we also have:

$$P_{0,1} = P(X_{n+1} = 1 | X_n = 0) = 1 - \alpha, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$P_{1,1} = P(X_{n+1} = 1 | X_n = 1) = 1 - \beta, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Example 4.1 - Forecasting the Weather (cont.)

NOTE 1: We implicitly assume that the transition probabilities **do not change over time**, i.e., that the process is **time-homogenous**.

NOTE 2: Since we have assumed that $\{X_n\}$ is a **Markov chain**, this implies that given the weather today, the weather tomorrow is **independent** of the weather in past days.

The one-step transition probability matrix for $\{X_n\}$ is given by:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} P_{0,0} & P_{0,1} \\ P_{1,0} & P_{1,1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & (1 - \alpha) \\ \beta & (1 - \beta) \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 4.2 - A Communications System

A communications system transmits the digits 0 and 1. Each digit transmitted must pass through several stages, at each of which there is a probability p that the digit entered will be unchanged when it leaves.

We let X_n denote the digit entering the n th stage.

Then $\{X_n : n \geq 0\}$ is a Markov chain with state space $\mathcal{S} = \{0, 1\}$, and with a transition probability matrix:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} P_{0,0} & P_{0,1} \\ P_{1,0} & P_{1,1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} p & (1-p) \\ (1-p) & p \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 4.3 - Mood swings

A person (Gary) has three mood states: **cheerful**, **co-so** and **glum**. The “mood” state space is denoted by $\mathcal{S} = \{0, 1, 2\}$, where 0 represents **cheerful**, 1 represents **so-so** and 2 represents **glum**.

We let X_n denote Gary’s mood state at day n , $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, and assume that $\{X_n\}$ is a Markov chain.

Thus, Gary’s mood state tomorrow depends only on his mood state today, not on previous days.

The one-step transition probability matrix for $\{X_n\}$ is assumed to be:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} P_{0,0} & P_{0,1} & P_{0,2} \\ P_{1,0} & P_{1,1} & P_{1,2} \\ P_{2,0} & P_{2,1} & P_{2,2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.4 & 0.1 \\ 0.3 & 0.4 & 0.3 \\ 0.2 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 4.3 - Mood swings (cont.)

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} P_{0,0} & P_{0,1} & P_{0,2} \\ P_{1,0} & P_{1,1} & P_{1,2} \\ P_{2,0} & P_{2,1} & P_{2,2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.4 & 0.1 \\ 0.3 & 0.4 & 0.3 \\ 0.2 & 0.3 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

NOTE 1: The highest numbers in this transition probability matrix are $P_{0,0}$ and $P_{2,2}$. Thus, if Gary is **cheerful** or **glum** one day, the most likely mood state the next day will be the same mood state.

NOTE 2: The lowest numbers in this transition probability matrix are $P_{2,0}$ and $P_{0,2}$. Thus, a change in mood state directly from **cheerful** to **glum** or the other way around are the least likely changes to occur.

Example 4.4 - Making a Process into a Markov chain

In this example consider a case where the weather conditions tomorrow depends on previous weather conditions through the **last two days**:

- If it rained today and yesterday, then the probability of rain tomorrow is 0.7.
- If it rained today but not yesterday, then the probability of rain tomorrow is 0.5.
- If it did not rain today but it rained yesterday, then the probability of rain tomorrow is 0.4.
- If it did not rain today and yesterday, then the probability of rain tomorrow is 0.2.

To make this into a Markov chain, we modify the state space so that each state describes the weather conditions in **two consecutive days**.

Making a Process into a Markov chain (cont.)

State space $\mathcal{S} = \{RR, \bar{R}R, R\bar{R}, \bar{R}\bar{R}\}$ where:

RR = Rain yesterday, Rain today,

$\bar{R}R$ = No rain yesterday, Rain today,

$R\bar{R}$ = Rain yesterday, No rain today,

$\bar{R}\bar{R}$ = No rain yesterday, No rain today.

NOTE: Assume that we e.g., are in state RR today, i.e., that it rained today and yesterday. Then for tomorrow's state, there are only two possibilities:

RR if it rains tomorrow

$R\bar{R}$ if it does not rain tomorrow

By the above assumptions, the probabilities of **rain** or **not rain** tomorrow given that we are in state RR today, are:

$$P(RR|RR) = 0.70, \quad P(R\bar{R}|RR) = 1 - 0.70 = 0.3$$

Making a Process into a Markov chain (cont.)

Following similar arguments, we get the following transition probabilities:

$$P\{RR|RR\} = 0.70 \quad P\{R\bar{R}|RR\} = 1 - 0.70 = 0.30$$

$$P\{RR|\bar{R}R\} = 0.50 \quad P\{R\bar{R}|\bar{R}R\} = 1 - 0.50 = 0.50$$

$$P\{\bar{R}R|R\bar{R}\} = 0.40 \quad P\{\bar{R}\bar{R}|R\bar{R}\} = 1 - 0.40 = 0.60$$

$$P\{\bar{R}R|\bar{R}\bar{R}\} = 0.20 \quad P\{\bar{R}\bar{R}|\bar{R}\bar{R}\} = 1 - 0.20 = 0.80$$

Thus, we have the following transition probability matrix:

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0.70 & 0.00 & 0.30 & 0.00 \\ 0.50 & 0.00 & 0.50 & 0.00 \\ 0.00 & 0.40 & 0.00 & 0.60 \\ 0.00 & 0.20 & 0.00 & 0.80 \end{bmatrix}$$

where the row and column order is: $RR, \bar{R}R, R\bar{R}, \bar{R}\bar{R}$.

Example 4.5 - A Random Walk

A Markov chain $\{X_n\}$ with state space $\mathcal{S} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ is said to be a **random walk** if, for some number $p \in (0, 1)$ we have:

$$P_{i,i+1} = p = 1 - P_{i,i-1}, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{S}$$

A **random walk** is a stochastic model for the position of an individual walking on a straight line who at each point of time either takes one step to the right with probability p or one step to the left with probability $1 - p$.

NOTE: Assume that the initial state of the process, X_0 is **zero**. Then we have:

X_n is **odd** if n is **odd**

X_n is **even** if n is **even**

Example 4.6 - A Gambling Model

A **random walk model with absorbing states** is a Markov chain $\{X_n\}$ with state space $\mathcal{S} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, N\}$ where for some $p \in (0, 1)$:

$$P_{i,i+1} = p = 1 - P_{i,i-1}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N-1$$
$$P_{0,0} = P_{N,N} = 1$$

This process behaves like an ordinary random walk, except that the states 0 and N are **absorbing**. If the process reaches one of these states, the process stays in the same state indefinitely.

- X_n represents the gambler's fortune at time n
- In each game the gambler either wins one unit or loses one unit
- If $X_n = 0$, the gambler has spent his entire fortune, and cannot participate in the game.
- If $X_n = N$, the opponent has spent his entire fortune, and cannot participate in the game.

Example 4.7 - Automobile Insurance

The annual automobile insurance premium depends on the claim history of the client.

The client state in year n is modelled as a Markov chain $\{X_n\}$. This process can be in four different states $\mathcal{S} = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

The state in a given year depends on the state in the previous year as well as the number of claims in the previous year.

State	Annual Premium	Next state if			
		<i>0 claims</i>	<i>1 claim</i>	<i>2 claims</i>	≥ 3 claims
1	200	1	2	3	4
2	250	1	3	4	4
3	400	2	4	4	4
4	600	3	4	4	4

Figure: Annual premium given number of claims

Example 4.7 - Automobile Insurance (cont.)

Let Y_n denote the number of claims in year n . We assume that Y_1, Y_2, \dots are independent and identically distributed variables with:

$$P(Y_n = k) = a_k, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

- If $X_n = 1$ and $Y_n = 0$, then $X_{n+1} = 1$.
Thus, $P(X_{n+1} = 1 | X_n = 1) = a_0$
- If $X_n = 2$ and $Y_n = 0$, then $X_{n+1} = 1$.
Thus, $P(X_{n+1} = 1 | X_n = 2) = a_0$
- If $X_n = 2$ and $Y_n = 1$, then $X_{n+1} = 3$.
Thus, $P(X_{n+1} = 3 | X_n = 2) = a_1$
- ...

Example 4.7 - Automobile Insurance (cont.)

By similar arguments we find that the transition probability matrix of the process is:

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & a_2 & 1 - a_0 - a_1 - a_2 \\ a_0 & 0 & a_1 & 1 - a_0 - a_1 \\ 0 & a_0 & 0 & 1 - a_0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_0 & 1 - a_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Chapter 4 – Markov Chains

Section 4.2 – Chapman-Kolmogorov Equations

Chapman-Kolmogorov Equations

n -step transition probabilities:

$$P_{ij}^n = P\{X_{n+k} = j | X_k = i\}, \quad n \geq 1$$

n -step transition probability matrix:

$$\mathbf{P}^{(n)} = [P_{ij}^n]_{i,j \in S}$$

Chapman-Kolmogorov Equations: By **conditioning on X_n** we get:

$$P_{ij}^{n+m} = \sum_{k \in S} P_{ik}^n \cdot P_{kj}^m$$

By using the definition of **matrix products** it follows that:

$$\mathbf{P}^{(n+m)} = \mathbf{P}^{(n)} \cdot \mathbf{P}^{(m)}$$

$$\mathbf{P}^{(n)} = \mathbf{P}^{(n-1)} \cdot \mathbf{P}^{(1)}$$

$$\mathbf{P}^{(n)} = \mathbf{P}^n$$

Example 4.8

$$P\{\text{Rain tomorrow}|\text{Rain today}\} = 0.75$$

$$P\{\text{Rain tomorrow}|\text{No rain today}\} = 0.35$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.75 & 0.25 \\ 0.35 & 0.65 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{P}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.65 & 0.35 \\ 0.49 & 0.51 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{P}^{(4)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5940 & 0.4060 \\ 0.5684 & 0.4316 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{P}^{(8)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5836 & 0.4164 \\ 0.5830 & 0.4170 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 4.9

RR = Rain yesterday, Rain today,

$\bar{R}R$ = No rain yesterday, Rain today,

$R\bar{R}$ = Rain yesterday, No rain today,

$\bar{R}\bar{R}$ = No rain yesterday, No rain today.

$$P\{RR|RR\} = 0.70 \quad P\{R\bar{R}|RR\} = 0.30$$

$$P\{RR|\bar{R}R\} = 0.50 \quad P\{R\bar{R}|\bar{R}R\} = 0.50$$

$$P\{\bar{R}R|R\bar{R}\} = 0.40 \quad P\{\bar{R}\bar{R}|R\bar{R}\} = 0.60$$

$$P\{\bar{R}R|\bar{R}\bar{R}\} = 0.20 \quad P\{\bar{R}\bar{R}|\bar{R}\bar{R}\} = 0.80$$

Example 4.9 (cont.)

Row/Column order: $RR, \bar{R}R, R\bar{R}, \bar{R}\bar{R}$.

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0.70 & 0.00 & 0.30 & 0.00 \\ 0.50 & 0.00 & 0.50 & 0.00 \\ 0.00 & 0.40 & 0.00 & 0.60 \\ 0.00 & 0.20 & 0.00 & 0.80 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.49 & 0.12 & 0.21 & 0.18 \\ 0.35 & 0.20 & 0.15 & 0.30 \\ 0.20 & 0.12 & 0.20 & 0.48 \\ 0.10 & 0.16 & 0.10 & 0.64 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P\{\text{Rain Thursday} | \text{Rain Monday} \& \text{Rain Tuesday}\} = 0.49 + 0.12 = 0.61$$

Example 4.9 (cont.)

Row/Column order: $RR, \bar{R}R, R\bar{R}, \bar{R}\bar{R}$.

$$P^{(7)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.2723 & 0.1465 & 0.1580 & 0.4233 \\ 0.2633 & 0.1477 & 0.1549 & 0.4340 \\ 0.2441 & 0.1511 & 0.1477 & 0.4571 \\ 0.2352 & 0.1524 & 0.1447 & 0.4678 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P\{\text{Rain next Tuesday} | \text{Rain Monday \& Rain Tuesday}\} \\ = 0.2723 + 0.1465 = 0.4188 \end{aligned}$$

Example 4.9 (cont.)

Row/Column order: $RR, \bar{R}R, R\bar{R}, \bar{R}\bar{R}$.

$$\mathbf{P}^{(20)} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.25 & 0.15 & 0.15 & 0.50 \\ 0.25 & 0.15 & 0.15 & 0.50 \\ 0.25 & 0.15 & 0.15 & 0.50 \\ 0.25 & 0.15 & 0.15 & 0.50 \end{bmatrix}$$

$P\{\text{Rain "some day" in the future}\}$

$\approx P\{\text{Rain "some day" in the future} | \text{Rain Monday \& Rain Tuesday}\}$

$\approx 0.25 + 0.15 = 0.40$

Example 4.10

An urn always contains 2 balls. Ball colors are **red** and **blue**.

At each stage a ball is randomly chosen and then replaced by a new ball, which with probability 0.8 is the *same color*, and with probability 0.2 is the *opposite color*, as the ball it replaces.

If initially both balls are **red**, find the probability that the fifth ball selected is **red**.

$X_n =$ The number of **red** balls after the n th experiment. $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Example 4.10 (cont.)

NOTE: $X_n \in \{0, 1, 2\}$, for all $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

We then have:

$$P_{00} = 0.8, \quad P_{01} = 0.2, \quad P_{02} = 0.0$$

$$P_{10} = P\{\text{Red ball selected and replaced}\} = 0.5 \cdot 0.2 = 0.1$$

$$P_{11} = P\{\text{Any ball selected and not replaced}\} = 0.8$$

$$P_{12} = P\{\text{Blue ball selected and replaced}\} = 0.5 \cdot 0.2 = 0.1$$

$$P_{20} = 0.0, \quad P_{21} = 0.2, \quad P_{22} = 0.8$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 & 0.2 & 0.0 \\ 0.1 & 0.8 & 0.1 \\ 0.0 & 0.2 & 0.8 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 4.10 (cont.)

$$\mathbf{P}^{(4)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.4872 & 0.4352 & 0.0776 \\ 0.2176 & 0.5648 & 0.2176 \\ 0.0776 & \mathbf{0.4352} & \mathbf{0.4872} \end{bmatrix}$$

$P(\text{Selection 5 is red})$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_{i=0}^2 P(\text{Selection 5 is red} | X_4 = i) \cdot P(X_4 = i | X_0 = 2) \\ &= 0.00 \cdot P_{2,0}^4 + 0.50 \cdot P_{2,1}^4 + 1.00 \cdot P_{2,2}^4 \\ &= 0.50 \cdot \mathbf{0.4352} + \mathbf{0.4872} = 0.7048 \end{aligned}$$

Example 4.10 (cont.)

If we instead started out with one blue and one red ball, i.e., if $X_0 = 1$, we would get the following:

$$\mathbf{P}^{(4)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.4872 & 0.4352 & 0.0776 \\ 0.2176 & \mathbf{0.5648} & \mathbf{0.2176} \\ 0.0776 & 0.4352 & 0.4872 \end{bmatrix}$$

$P(\text{Selection 5 is red})$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_{i=0}^2 P(\text{Selection 5 is red} | X_4 = i) \cdot P(X_4 = i | X_0 = 1) \\ &= 0.00 \cdot P_{1,0}^4 + 0.50 \cdot P_{1,1}^4 + 1.00 \cdot P_{1,2}^4 \\ &= 0.50 \cdot \mathbf{0.5648} + \mathbf{0.2176} = 0.5 \end{aligned}$$

Example 4.10 (cont.)

$$\mathbf{P}^{(30)} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.25 & 0.50 & 0.25 \\ 0.25 & 0.50 & 0.25 \\ 0.25 & 0.50 & 0.25 \end{bmatrix}$$

$P(\text{Selection 31 is red})$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_{i=0}^2 P(\text{Selection 31 is red} | X_{30} = i) \cdot P(X_{30} = i | X_0 = 2) \\ &= 0.00 \cdot P_{2,0}^{30} + 0.50 \cdot P_{2,1}^{30} + 1.00 \cdot P_{2,2}^{30} \\ &\approx 0.50 \cdot 0.50 + 0.25 = 0.50 \end{aligned}$$

Example 4.11

Suppose that balls are successively distributed among 8 urns, with each ball being equally likely to be put in any of these urns.

PROBLEM: What is the probability that there will be exactly 3 nonempty urns after 9 balls have been distributed?

To solve this problem we introduce a Markov chain $\{X_n\}$, where:

$$X_n = \text{Number of nonempty urns after } n \text{ distributions} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

In particular, we have that $X_0 = 0$.

Moreover, we have the following transition probabilities:

$$P_{i,i} = \frac{i}{8}, \quad P_{i,i+1} = \frac{8-i}{8}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, 8.$$

Example 4.11 (cont.)

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/8 & 7/8 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2/8 & 6/8 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3/8 & 5/8 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4/8 & 4/8 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5/8 & 3/8 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 6/8 & 2/8 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 7/8 & 1/8 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

By calculating $P^{(9)}$ we find the solution to the problem:

$$P(X_9 = 3 | X_0 = 0) = P_{03}^9 = 0.00756.$$

However, there are some significant shortcuts here.

Example 4.11 (cont.)

The first transition of $\{X_n\}$ is deterministic (from state 0 to 1). Thus, we may instead consider the Markov chain $\{Y_n\}$ instead:

$$Y_n = X_{n+1}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

with state space $\{1, 2, \dots, 8\}$ and use that:

$$P(X_9 = 3 | X_0 = 0) = P(Y_8 = 3 | Y_0 = 1)$$

We can simplify the problem even further by letting:

$$Z_n = \min\{Y_n, 4\}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

and use that:

$$P(X_9 = 3 | X_0 = 0) = P(Y_8 = 3 | Y_0 = 1) = P(Z_8 = 3 | Z_0 = 1)$$

Example 4.11 (cont.)

The state space of the Markov chain $\{Z_n\}$ is $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and its transition matrix is:

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/8 & 7/8 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2/8 & 6/8 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3/8 & 5/8 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example 4.11 (cont.)

We first calculate:

$$\mathbf{Q}^{(4)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0002 & 0.0256 & 0.2563 & 0.7178 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0039 & 0.0952 & 0.9009 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.0198 & 0.9802 \\ 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 0.0000 & 1.0000 \end{bmatrix}$$

In order to find $\mathbf{Q}^{(8)}$, we may use that:

$$\mathbf{Q}^{(8)} = \mathbf{Q}^{(4)} \cdot \mathbf{Q}^{(4)}$$

However, since we only need to find $P(X_9 = 3 | X_0 = 0)$, we only need to calculate:

$$\begin{aligned} P(X_9 = 3 | X_0 = 0) &= P(Z_8 = 3 | Z_0 = 1) = Q_{1,3}^8 = \sum_{k=1}^4 Q_{1,k}^4 \cdot Q_{k,3}^4 \\ &= 0.0002 \cdot 0.2563 + 0.0256 \cdot 0.0952 + 0.2563 \cdot 0.0198 = 0.00756. \end{aligned}$$