

# STK2130 – Lecture 11

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# Discrete-time Markov Chains

We recall from Chapter 4:

Let  $\{X_n : n \geq 0\}$  be a discrete-time stochastic process with discrete state space  $\mathcal{X}$ .

The process is a **Markov chain** if for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} P(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i, X_u = x_u, 0 \leq u < n) \\ = P(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i), \quad i, j, x_u \in \mathcal{X} \end{aligned}$$

If we also have that  $P(X_{n+1} = j | X_n = i)$  is independent of  $n$ , then the Markov chain is said to have **stationary** (or **homogeneous**) transition probabilities.

## 6.2 Continuous-Time Markov Chains

Let  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  be a continuous-time stochastic process with discrete state space  $\mathcal{X}$ .

The process is a **Markov chain** if for  $s, t > 0$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} P(X(t+s) = j | X(s) = i, X(u) = x(u), 0 \leq u < s) \\ = P(X(t+s) = j | X(s) = i), \quad i, j, x(u) \in \mathcal{X} \end{aligned}$$

If we also have that  $P(X(t+s) = j | X(s) = i)$  is independent of  $s$ , then the Markov chain is said to have **stationary** (or **homogeneous**) transition probabilities.

## 6.2 Continuous-Time Markov Chains (cont.)

EXAMPLE: Let  $\{N(t) : t \geq 0\}$  be a homogeneous Poisson process with rate  $\lambda$ . This process has **independent** and **stationary increments**.

Hence, for  $j \geq i$  and  $s, t > 0$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned}P(N(t+s) = j | N(s) = i, N(u) = n(u), 0 \leq u < s) \\&= P(N(t+s) = j | N(s) = i) = P(N(t+s) - N(s) = j - i) \\&= \frac{(\lambda t)^{j-i}}{(j-i)!} e^{-\lambda t}, \quad \text{independent of } s\end{aligned}$$

For  $j < i$  the corresponding probabilities are zero.

Hence,  $\{N(t) : t \geq 0\}$  is a Markov chain.

## 6.2 Continuous-Time Markov Chains (cont.)

Assume that  $X(0) = i$ , and define:

$$T_i = \inf\{u \geq 0 : X(u) \neq i\}$$

Thus,  $T_i$  is the point of time when the process leaves state  $i$ .

We then let  $s, t > 0$ , and consider:

$$\begin{aligned} &P(T_i > s + t | T_i > s) \\ &= P(X(u) = i, 0 \leq u \leq s + t | X(u) = i, 0 \leq u \leq s) \\ &= P(X(u) = i, s \leq u \leq s + t | X(s) = i), \quad \text{by the Markov property} \\ &= P(X(u) = i, 0 \leq u \leq t | X(0) = i), \quad \text{by the stationary property} \\ &= P(T_i > t). \end{aligned}$$

This implies that  $T_i$  is memoryless, and hence  $T_i$  is exponentially distributed.

## 6.2 Continuous-Time Markov Chains (cont.)

Assume more generally that  $X(r) = i$ , and define:

$$T_i = \inf\{u \geq 0 : X(r + u) \neq i\}$$

Thus,  $T_i + r$  is the point of time when the process leaves state  $i$ .

We then let  $s, t > 0$ , and consider:

$$\begin{aligned} P(T_i > s + t | T_i > s) &= P(X(u) = i, r \leq u \leq r + s + t | X(u) = i, r \leq u \leq r + s) \\ &= P(X(u) = i, r + s \leq u \leq r + s + t | X(r + s) = i), \quad \text{by Markov} \\ &= P(X(u) = i, r \leq u \leq r + t | X(r) = i), \quad \text{by stationarity} \\ &= P(T_i > t). \end{aligned}$$

This implies that  $T_i$  is memoryless, and hence  $T_i$  is exponentially distributed.

## 6.2 Continuous-Time Markov Chains (cont.)

### ALTERNATIVE DEFINITION:

A continuous-time Markov chain with stationary transition probabilities and state space  $\mathcal{X}$  is a stochastic process such that:

- The times spent in the different states are **independent** random variables (because of the **Markov property**).
- The amount of time spent in state  $i \in \mathcal{X}$  is **exponentially** distributed with some mean  $v_i^{-1}$  (because of the **Markov property** and **stationarity**).
- When the process leaves state  $i$ , it enters state  $j$  with some **transition probability**  $Q_{ij}$  where:

$$Q_{ii} = 0, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{X}$$

$$\sum_{j \in \mathcal{X}} Q_{ij} = 1, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{X}$$

- The transitions follow a **discrete-time** Markov chain.

## Example 6.1 – A Shoe Shine Shop

A Markov chain  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  with state space  $\mathcal{X} = \{0, 1, 2\}$  where:

- State 0. No customer
- State 1. Customer in chair 1 (clean and polish)
- State 2. Customer in chair 2 (polish is buffed)

$X(s) = 0$ : In this state customers arrive in accordance to a Poisson process with rate  $\lambda$ . The time spent in this state is  $T_0 \sim \text{exp}(\lambda)$ . Then the process transits to state 1 with probability  $Q_{01} = 1$ .

$X(t) = 1$ : The time spent in this state is  $T_1 \sim \text{exp}(\mu_1)$ . Then the process transits to state 2 with probability  $Q_{12} = 1$ .

$X(u) = 2$ : The time spent in this state is  $T_2 \sim \text{exp}(\mu_2)$ . Then the process transits to state 0 with probability  $Q_{20} = 1$ , and then the process repeats the same cycle.



## Example 6.1 (cont.)

Thus, the transition probability matrix of the **built-in discrete time Markov chain** is:

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0 & 1.0 & 0.0 \\ 0.0 & 0.0 & 1.0 \\ 1.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, the built-in discrete time Markov chain is **periodic** with a period length of 3.

NOTE: Even though the built-in discrete time Markov chain is periodic, the continuous-time Markov chain  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  will have a well-defined limiting distribution.

## Example: A multistate component

A Markov chain  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  with state space  $\mathcal{X} = \{0, 1, 2\}$  where:

- State 0. The component is failed
- State 1. The component is functioning but not perfectly
- State 2. The component is functioning perfectly

$X(s) = 2$ : The time spent in this state is  $T_2 \sim \exp(\mu_2)$ . Then the process transits to state 1 with probability  $Q_{21} = 0.5$  or to state 0 with probability  $Q_{20} = 0.5$ .

$X(t) = 1$ : The time spent in this state is  $T_1 \sim \exp(\mu_1)$ . Then the process transits to state 0 with probability  $Q_{10} = 1$ .

$X(u) = 0$ : The time spent in this state is  $T_0 \sim \exp(\mu_0)$ . Then the component is repaired and the process transits to state 2 with probability  $Q_{02} = 1$ , and then the process repeats the same cycle.

## Example: A multistate component (cont.)

Thus, the transition probability matrix of the **built-in discrete time Markov chain** is:

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0 & 0.0 & 1.0 \\ 1.0 & 0.0 & 0.0 \\ 0.5 & 0.5 & 0.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

In this case the built-in discrete time Markov chain is **aperiodic**, and the limiting distribution,  $\boldsymbol{\pi} = (\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2)$ , found by solving:

$$\boldsymbol{\pi} \mathbf{Q} = \boldsymbol{\pi}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\pi} \mathbf{1} = 1$$

is given by:

$$\pi_0 = 0.4, \quad \pi_1 = 0.2, \quad \pi_2 = 0.4$$

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes

A Birth and Death Process  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  has state space  $\mathcal{X} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ .

Assume that  $X(t) = n > 0$ . Then the next transition is determined as follows:

- Sample  $V \sim \exp(\lambda_n)$  and  $W \sim \exp(\mu_n)$  independent of each other with respective outcomes  $v$  and  $w$ .
- If  $v < w$  then the process transits to state  $n + 1$  at time  $t + v$ , i.e.,  $X(t + v) = n + 1$ . This called a **birth**.
- If  $w < v$  then the process transits to state  $n - 1$  at time  $t + w$ , i.e.,  $X(t + w) = n - 1$ . This called a **death**.

NOTE: When  $X(t) = 0$ , only births are possible, so in this case we assume that  $W = \infty$ , which corresponds to the rate  $\mu_0$  being zero, and  $P_{01} = 1$ .

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

The transition (either a **birth** or a **death**) happens at time  $U = \min(V, W)$ . Hence, the distribution of  $U$  can be derived as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}P(U > u) &= P(V > u \cap W > u) \\&= P(V > u) \cdot P(W > u) \quad \text{since } V \text{ and } W \text{ are independent} \\&= e^{-(\lambda_n)u} \cdot e^{-(\mu_n)u} \quad \text{since } V \sim \text{exp}(\lambda_n) \text{ and } W \sim \text{exp}(\mu_n) \\&= e^{-(\lambda_n + \mu_n)u}\end{aligned}$$

Hence, it follows that  $U \sim \text{exp}(\lambda_n + \mu_n)$ .

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

The transition probabilities for the built-in discrete-time Markov chain can be derived as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}P_{n,n+1} &= P(V < W) = \int_0^\infty P(V < W | V = v) \lambda_n e^{-\lambda_n v} dv \\&= \int_0^\infty e^{-\mu_n v} \lambda_n e^{-\lambda_n v} dv \\&= \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_n + \mu_n} \int_0^\infty (\lambda_n + \mu_n) e^{-(\lambda_n + \mu_n)v} dv \\&= \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_n + \mu_n}\end{aligned}$$

Hence, we also get that:

$$P_{n,n-1} = P(V > W) = 1 - P(V < W) = 1 - \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_n + \mu_n} = \frac{\mu_n}{\lambda_n + \mu_n}$$

## Example 6.2 – A Pure Birth Process

Assume that  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  is a birth and death process with:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_n &= 0, & \text{for all } n \geq 0 \\ \lambda_n &= \lambda, & \text{for all } n \geq 0\end{aligned}$$

Since the death rate is zero, this is a pure birth process with constant birth rate  $\lambda$ .

This implies that the time between transitions is exponentially distributed with rate  $\lambda$ .

Hence,  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  is a Poisson process with rate  $\lambda$ .

## Example 6.3 – The Yule Process

Assume that  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  is a birth and death process with:

$$\mu_n = 0, \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0$$

$$\lambda_n = \lambda n, \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0$$

Since the death rate is zero, this is a pure birth process. The birth rate  $\lambda n$  is proportional to the state, i.e., number of individuals in the population.

This implies that the time the process stays in state  $n$  is exponentially distributed with rate  $\lambda n$ . Thus, the expected time between transitions becomes smaller and smaller as  $n$  grows.



## Example 6.5 – An $M/M/1$ -queue

An  $M/M/1$ -queue is a queue where:

- **M**arkov arrival process: The times between arrivals are independent and exponentially distributed with rate  $\lambda$ .
- **M**arkov service process: The service times are independent and exponentially distributed with rate  $\mu$ .
- **1** server: The maximal number of customers that can be served at a time is 1
- $X(t)$  be the number of customers in the queue at time  $t$ .

Then  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  is a birth and death process with:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_n &= \mu \cdot \min(n, 1), \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0 \\ \lambda_n &= \lambda, \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0\end{aligned}$$

## Example 6.6 – An $M/M/s$ -queue

An  $M/M/s$ -queue is a queue where:

- **M**arkov arrival process: The times between arrivals are independent and exponentially distributed with rate  $\lambda$ .
- **M**arkov service process: The service times are independent and exponentially distributed with rate  $\mu$ .
- **s** server: The maximal number of customers that can be served at a time is  $s$
- $X(t)$  be the number of customers in the queue at time  $t$ .

Then  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  is a birth and death process with:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_n &= \mu \cdot \min(n, s), \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0 \\ \lambda_n &= \lambda, \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0\end{aligned}$$

## Example 6.4 – Linear Growth with Immigration

Assume that  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$  is a birth and death process with:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_n &= \mu n, & \text{for all } n \geq 1 \\ \lambda_n &= \lambda n + \theta, & \text{for all } n \geq 0\end{aligned}$$

Each member of the population gives birth with a rate  $\lambda$ .

In addition the population also increases due to immigration (independent of the births in the population) at a rate of  $\theta$ .

Deaths occur at a rate of  $\mu$  for each member of the population.

## Example 6.4 – Linear Growth with Immigration (cont.)

We assume that  $X(0) = i$  and introduce:

$$M(t) = E[X(t)]$$

We will determine  $M(t)$  by solving a differential equation, and start by establishing the following:

$$M(t+h) = E[X(t+h)] = E[E[X(t+h)|X(t)]]$$

Since the time between transitions is exponentially distributed, the probability of more than one transition in an interval of length  $h$  is  $o(h)$ . Hence, we have:

$$P(X(t+h) = X(t) + 1 | X(t)) = [X(t)\lambda + \theta]h + o(h)$$

$$P(X(t+h) = X(t) - 1 | X(t)) = X(t)\mu h + o(h)$$

$$P(X(t+h) = X(t) | X(t)) = 1 - [X(t)\lambda + \theta + X(t)\mu]h + o(h)$$

## Example 6.4 – Linear Growth with Immigration (cont.)

From this it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned}E[X(t+h)|X(t)] &= X(t) + [X(t)\lambda + \theta]h - X(t)\mu h + o(h) \\ &= X(t) + (\lambda - \mu)X(t)h + \theta h + o(h)\end{aligned}$$

Hence, by taking expectations on both sides, we get:

$$M(t+h) = M(t) + (\lambda - \mu)M(t)h + \theta h + o(h)$$

and thus:

$$\frac{M(t+h) - M(t)}{h} = (\lambda - \mu)M(t) + \theta + \frac{o(h)}{h}$$

By taking the limit as  $h \rightarrow 0$ , we obtain the following differential equation:

$$M'(t) = (\lambda - \mu)M(t) + \theta$$

## Example 6.4 – Linear Growth with Immigration (cont.)

We rewrite the equation as:

$$M'(t) - (\lambda - \mu)M(t) = \theta$$

Assuming that  $\lambda \neq \mu$ , we can solve this by multiplying both sides by the integrating factor  $e^{-(\lambda-\mu)t}$ :

$$M'(t)e^{-(\lambda-\mu)t} - (\lambda - \mu)e^{-(\lambda-\mu)t}M(t) = \theta e^{-(\lambda-\mu)t}$$

This equation can be expressed as:

$$[M(t) \cdot e^{-(\lambda-\mu)t}]' = \theta e^{-(\lambda-\mu)t}$$

Integrating both sides yields:

$$M(t) \cdot e^{-(\lambda-\mu)t} = -\frac{\theta}{\lambda - \mu} e^{-(\lambda-\mu)t} + C$$

## Example 6.4 – Linear Growth with Immigration (cont.)

Hence, by multiplying both sides by  $e^{(\lambda-\mu)t}$  we get:

$$M(t) = -\frac{\theta}{\lambda - \mu} + Ce^{(\lambda-\mu)t}$$

In order to determine the constant  $C$ , we use the boundary condition that  $X(0) = i$ , which also implies that  $M(0) = E[X(0)] = i$ . By inserting this we get:

$$i = -\frac{\theta}{\lambda - \mu} + C,$$

which implies that:

$$C = \frac{\theta}{\lambda - \mu} + i$$

## Example 6.4 – Linear Growth with Immigration (cont.)

By inserting this into the expression for  $M(t)$ , we get:

$$\begin{aligned}M(t) &= -\frac{\theta}{\lambda - \mu} + \left[\frac{\theta}{\lambda - \mu} + i\right]e^{(\lambda - \mu)t} \\ &= \frac{\theta}{\lambda - \mu}[e^{(\lambda - \mu)t} - 1] + ie^{(\lambda - \mu)t}\end{aligned}$$

For the case where  $\lambda = \mu$  the differential equation:

$$M'(t) - (\lambda - \mu)M(t) = \theta$$

simplifies to  $M'(t) = \theta$ , which have the solution:

$$M(t) = \theta t + i$$



## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

We consider a general birth and death process,  $\{X(t) : t \geq 0\}$ , with birth rates  $\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \dots$  and death rates  $\mu_0, \mu_1, \dots$ , where  $\mu_0 = 0$ .

Assume that  $X(0) = i$ , where  $i \geq 0$ , and define  $T_i$  to be the time until the process enters state  $i + 1$  for the first time.

GOAL: Calculate  $E[T_i]$ .

Since  $T_0 \sim \text{exp}(\lambda_0)$ , we know that:

$$E[T_0] = \frac{1}{\lambda_0}.$$

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

We then introduce:

$$I_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the first transition from } i \text{ is to } i + 1 \\ 0 & \text{if the first transition from } i \text{ is to } i - 1 \end{cases}$$

By conditioning on  $I_i$  being either 1 or 0, and using that the expected time until the first transition is  $(\lambda_i + \mu_i)^{-1}$ , we get:

$$E[T_i | I_i = 1] = \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i},$$

$$E[T_i | I_i = 0] = \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} + E[T_{i-1}] + E[T_i].$$

The unconditional expectation then becomes:

$$E[T_i] = \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} \cdot P(I_i = 1) + \left( \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} + E[T_{i-1}] + E[T_i] \right) \cdot P(I_i = 0)$$

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

Furthermore, we have that:

$$P(I_i = 1) = \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_i + \mu_i}$$

$$P(I_i = 0) = \frac{\mu_i}{\lambda_i + \mu_i}$$

Hence, we get that:

$$\begin{aligned} E[T_i] &= \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} \cdot P(I_i = 1) + \left( \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} + E[T_{i-1}] + E[T_i] \right) \cdot P(I_i = 0) \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} [P(I_i = 1) + P(I_i = 0)] + P(I_i = 0) [E[T_{i-1}] + E[T_i]] \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} + \frac{\mu_i}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} [E[T_{i-1}] + E[T_i]] \end{aligned}$$

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

This equation:

$$E[T_i] = \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} + \frac{\mu_i}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} [E[T_{i-1}] + E[T_i]]$$

can alternatively be written as:

$$E[T_i] \left(1 - \frac{\mu_i}{\lambda_i + \mu_i}\right) = E[T_i] \left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_i + \mu_i}\right) = \frac{1}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} + \frac{\mu_i}{\lambda_i + \mu_i} E[T_{i-1}]$$

We then multiply both sides of the equation by  $(\lambda_i + \mu_i)$ , and get:

$$E[T_i] \lambda_i = 1 + \mu_i E[T_{i-1}]$$

Finally, we divide both sides by  $\lambda_i$  and get:

$$E[T_i] = \frac{1}{\lambda_i} + \frac{\mu_i}{\lambda_i} E[T_{i-1}]$$

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

By using this recursive relation, and that  $E[T_0] = \lambda_0^{-1}$ , we get:

$$E[T_0] = \frac{1}{\lambda_0}$$

$$E[T_1] = \frac{1}{\lambda_1} + \frac{\mu_1}{\lambda_1} \frac{1}{\lambda_0}$$

$$E[T_2] = \frac{1}{\lambda_2} + \frac{\mu_2}{\lambda_2} \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda_1} + \frac{\mu_1}{\lambda_1} \frac{1}{\lambda_0} \right]$$

...

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

Assume more specifically that  $\lambda_i = \lambda$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , and  $\mu_i = \mu$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . Then we have:

$$E[T_0] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$E[T_1] = \frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{\mu}{\lambda} \frac{1}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ 1 + \frac{\mu}{\lambda} \right]$$

$$E[T_2] = \frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{\mu}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{\mu}{\lambda} \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] = \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ 1 + \frac{\mu}{\lambda} + \left( \frac{\mu}{\lambda} \right)^2 \right]$$

...

$$E[T_i] = \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ 1 + \frac{\mu}{\lambda} + \left( \frac{\mu}{\lambda} \right)^2 + \dots + \left( \frac{\mu}{\lambda} \right)^i \right]$$

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

In the case where  $\lambda \neq \mu$ , we can use the formula for the sum of a geometric series and obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} E[T_i] &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ 1 + \frac{\mu}{\lambda} + \left(\frac{\mu}{\lambda}\right)^2 + \cdots + \left(\frac{\mu}{\lambda}\right)^i \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \cdot \frac{(\mu/\lambda)^{i+1} - 1}{(\mu/\lambda) - 1} = \frac{1 - (\mu/\lambda)^{i+1}}{\lambda - \mu}, \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned}$$

NOTE: If  $i = 0$ , we get  $E[T_i] = \frac{1 - \mu/\lambda}{\lambda - \mu} = \frac{\lambda - \mu}{\lambda(\lambda - \mu)} = \frac{1}{\lambda} = E[T_0]$  as before.

In the case where  $\lambda = \mu$ , the formula can be simplified as follows:

$$E[T_i] = \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ 1 + \frac{\mu}{\lambda} + \left(\frac{\mu}{\lambda}\right)^2 + \cdots + \left(\frac{\mu}{\lambda}\right)^i \right] = \frac{i+1}{\lambda}$$

NOTE: If  $i = 0$ , we get  $E[T_i] = \frac{1}{\lambda} = E[T_0]$  as before.

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

More generally, assuming that  $X(0) = i$ , we let  $T_{ij}$  be the time until the process enters state  $j$  for the first time, where  $j > i$ . Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} E[T_{ij}] &= E[T_{i,i+1}] + E[T_{i+1,i+2}] + \cdots + E[T_{j-1,j}] \\ &= \sum_{k=i}^{j-1} E[T_k] \end{aligned}$$

If  $\lambda \neq \mu$  it can be shown that:

$$E[T_{ij}] = \frac{j-i}{\lambda-\mu} - \frac{(\mu/\lambda)^{i+1}}{\lambda-\mu} \frac{1-(\mu/\lambda)^{j-i}}{1-\mu/\lambda}$$

If  $\lambda = \mu$  it can be shown that:

$$E[T_{ij}] = \frac{j(j+1) - i(i+1)}{2\lambda}.$$



## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

We close this by verifying that these last expressions simplifies to the previous expressions when  $j = i + 1$ :

In the case where  $\lambda \neq \mu$  we insert  $j = i + 1$  and get:

$$\begin{aligned} E[T_{i,i+1}] &= \frac{j-i}{\lambda-\mu} - \frac{(\mu/\lambda)^{i+1}}{\lambda-\mu} \cdot \frac{1-(\mu/\lambda)^{j-i}}{1-\mu/\lambda} \\ &= \frac{i+1-i}{\lambda-\mu} - \frac{(\mu/\lambda)^{i+1}}{\lambda-\mu} \cdot \frac{1-(\mu/\lambda)^{i+1-i}}{1-\mu/\lambda} \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda-\mu} - \frac{(\mu/\lambda)^{i+1}}{\lambda-\mu} \cdot \frac{1-\mu/\lambda}{1-\mu/\lambda} \\ &= \frac{1-(\mu/\lambda)^{i+1}}{\lambda-\mu} = E[T_i] \end{aligned}$$

## 6.3 Birth and Death Processes (cont.)

In the case where  $\lambda = \mu$  we again insert  $j = i + 1$  and get:

$$\begin{aligned} E[T_{i,i+1}] &= \frac{j(j+1) - i(i+1)}{2\lambda} \\ &= \frac{(i+1)(i+2) - i(i+1)}{2\lambda} \\ &= \frac{(i+1)(i+2-i)}{2\lambda} \\ &= \frac{i+1}{\lambda} = E[T_i] \end{aligned}$$