

Problem 1

Osama K Mahmood

May 2016

Problem 1 (1.1): Let $X_n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ be a sequence of independent random variables, each of which assumed non-negative integer values. Define a sequence of partial sums:

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \quad (1)$$

Show that $S_n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ is a Markov Chain.

By Definition, we have:

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i = X_n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} X_i \quad (2)$$

$$X_n = S_n - S_{n-1} \quad (3)$$

We know that:

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} \quad (4)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} P(S_{n+1} = s_{n+1} | S_n = s_n, S_{n-1} = s_{n-1}, S_{n-2} = s_{n-2}, \dots, S_1 = s_1) &= \\ \frac{P(S_{n+1}=s_{n+1}, S_n=s_n, S_{n-1}=s_{n-1}, S_{n-2}=s_{n-2}, \dots, S_1=s_1)}{P(S_n=s_n, S_{n-1}=s_{n-1}, S_{n-2}=s_{n-2}, \dots, S_1=s_1)} &= \\ \frac{P(S_n+X_{n+1}=s_{n+1}, S_{n-1}+X_n=s_n, S_{n-2}+X_{n-1}=s_{n-1}, \dots, S_1+X_2=s_2, S_1=X_1=s_1)}{P(S_{n-1}+X_n=s_n, S_{n-2}+X_{n-1}=s_{n-1}, \dots, S_1+X_2=s_2, S_1=X_1=s_1)} &= \\ \frac{P(X_{n+1}=s_{n+1}-s_n, X_n=s_n-s_{n-1}, X_{n-1}=s_{n-1}-s_{n-2}, \dots, X_2=s_2-s_1, X_1=s_1)}{P(X_n=s_n-s_{n-1}, X_{n-1}=s_{n-1}-s_{n-2}, \dots, X_2=s_2-s_1, X_1=s_1)} &= \\ \frac{P(X_{n+1}=s_{n+1}-s_n)P(X_n=s_n-s_{n-1})P(X_{n-1}=s_{n-1}-s_{n-2})\dots P(X_2=s_2-s_1)P(X_1=s_1)}{P(X_n=s_n-s_{n-1})P(X_{n-1}=s_{n-1}-s_{n-2})\dots P(X_2=s_2-s_1)P(X_1=s_1)} &= \\ P(X_{n+1} = s_{n+1} - s_n) & \end{aligned}$$

Replacing n by $n + 1$ in Equation (3) we get:

$$X_{n+1} = S_{n+1} - S_n$$

Hence X_{n+1} is the incremental value between S_n and S_{n+1} . Therefore:

$$P(X_{n+1} = s_{n+1} - s_n) = P(S_{n+1} = s_{n+1} | S_n = s_n)$$

Therefore, we get:

$$P(S_{n+1} = s_{n+1} | S_n = s_n) = P(S_{n+1} = s_{n+1} | S_n = s_n, S_{n-1} = s_{n-1}, S_{n-2} = s_{n-2}, \dots, S_1 = s_1)$$

Hence, S_n is a Markov Chain.