

MVE172 Basic Stochastic Processes and Financial Applications

Written exam Monday 3 April 2023 8.30-11.30 AM

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AIDS: Either two A4-sheets (4 pages) of hand-written notes (xerox-copies and/or computer print-outs are not allowed) or Beta (but not both these aids).

GRADES: 8, 12 and 16 points for grades 3, 4 and 5, respectively.

MOTIVATIONS: All answers/solutions must be motivated. GOOD LUCK!

Task 1. Calculate $\mathbf{P}\{X(1) = 1 | X(0) = 0, X(2) = 2\}$ for a Poisson process $\{X(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$.
(5 points)

Task 2. Calculate $\mathbf{P}\{X(1) \geq 1 | X(0) = 0\}$ for a zero-mean WSS Gaussian process $\{X(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ with autocorrelation function $R_X(\tau) = e^{-|\tau|}$. [HINT: Use either that $X(t) - R_X(t-s)X(s)$ and $X(s)$ are uncorrelated or that $(X(s), X(t))$ has PDF $f_{X(s), X(t)}(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-R_X(t-s)^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{x^2+y^2-2R_X(t-s)xy}{2(1-R_X(t-s)^2)}\right\}$.]
(5 points)

Task 3. Find the probability mass function for the time T it takes for a discrete time Markov chain with state space $\{0, 1, 2\}$, starting at state 0 and with all transition probabilities equal $1/3$ to reach the state 2.
(5 points)

Task 4. Find a discrete time process $\{X_n\}_{n=0}^{+\infty}$ that is neither a martingale, a submartingale or a supermartingale wrt. $F_n = \sigma(X_1, \dots, X_n)$.
(5 points)

MVE172 Solutions to exam 3 April 2023

$$\begin{aligned}
 \textbf{Task 1. } \mathbf{P}\{X(1) = 1 | X(0) = 0, X(2) = 2\} &= \frac{\mathbf{P}\{X(0)=0, X(1)=1, X(2)=2\}}{\mathbf{P}\{X(0)=0, X(2)=2\}} \\
 &= \frac{\mathbf{P}\{X(0)=0, X(1)-X(0)=1, X(2)-X(1)=1\}}{\mathbf{P}\{X(0)=0, X(2)-X(0)=2\}} = \frac{\mathbf{P}\{X(0)=0\} \mathbf{P}\{X(1)-X(0)=1\} \mathbf{P}\{X(2)-X(1)=1\}}{\mathbf{P}\{X(0)=0\} \mathbf{P}\{X(2)-X(0)=2\}} \\
 &= \frac{\mathbf{P}\{X(0)=0\} \mathbf{P}\{X(1)=1\} \mathbf{P}\{X(1)=1\}}{\mathbf{P}\{X(0)=0\} \mathbf{P}\{X(2)=2\}} = \frac{1 \cdot ((1 \cdot \lambda)^1 e^{-1 \cdot \lambda} / (1!))^2}{1 \cdot ((2 \cdot \lambda)^2 e^{-2 \cdot \lambda} / (2!))} = \frac{1}{2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Task 2. First solution: As $X(1) - e^{-1}X(0)$ and $X(0)$ are uncorrelated we have $\mathbf{P}\{X(1) \geq 1 | X(0) = 0\} = \mathbf{P}\{X(1) - e^{-1}X(0) \geq 1 - e^{-1} \cdot 0 | X(0) = 0\} = \mathbf{P}\{X(1) - e^{-1}X(0) \geq 1\} = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{1-0}{\sqrt{\text{Var}\{X(1) - e^{-1}X(0)\}}}\right) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-e^{-2}}}\right).$

Second solution: $\mathbf{P}\{X(1) \geq 1 | X(0) = 0\} = \int_1^\infty f_{X(1)|X(0)}(y|0) dy = \int_1^\infty \frac{f_{X(0), X(1)}(0, y)}{f_{X(0)}(0)} dy = \int_1^\infty \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-R_X(1)^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{y^2}{2(1-R_X(1)^2)}\right\} / \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} dy = \mathbf{P}\{N(0, 1-R_X(1)^2) \geq 1\} = \text{as above}.$

Task 3. When the chain is in state 0 or 1 the probability that next state is still 0 or 1 is $2/3$ while the probability that next state is 2 is $1/3$. Hence the probability mass function is that of a waiting time distribution with $p = 1/3$, i.e., $\mathbf{P}\{T = k\} = (1/3)(2/3)^{k-1}.$

Task 4. Let $X_0 = 0$ and $X_n = \sum_{k=1}^n Y_k$ for $n \geq 1$, where $\{Y_k\}_{k=1}^{+\infty}$ are independent random variables with $\mathbf{E}\{Y_k\} = 1$ for k odd and $\mathbf{E}\{Y_k\} = -1$ for k even. Then $\mathbf{E}\{X_k | F_{k-1}\} = X_{k-1} + \mathbf{E}\{X_k\}$ which is bigger than X_{k-1} for k odd and smaller than X_{k-1} for k even.