

We've seen several versions of the Markov property.  
The most powerful form, for time-homogeneous processes, was in [Lec 38.2]

If  $X$  is a time homogeneous Markov process  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \in T}) \rightarrow (S, \mathcal{B})$   
and  $\{\mathbb{P}^\nu : \nu \in \text{Prob}(S, \mathcal{B})\}$  are the associated probability measures  
on  $(S^T, \mathcal{B}^{\otimes T})$  with  $\mathbb{P}^\nu(X_0 \in B) = \nu(B)$ , then  $\forall F \in \mathcal{B}(S^T, \mathcal{B}^{\otimes T})$ ,  
$$\mathbb{E}^\nu[F(X_{t+ \cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_t] = \mathbb{E}^\nu[F(X)] |_{x=X_t}.$$

**Theorem:** Let  $T = \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $\tau : (\Omega, \{\mathcal{F}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}) \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  be a stopping time.  
Then

$$\mathbb{E}^\nu[F(X_{\tau+ \cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_\tau] = \mathbb{E}^\nu[F(X)] |_{x=X_\tau} \quad \mathbb{P}^\nu\text{-a.s.}$$

on  $\{\tau < \infty\}$ .

I.e. conditioned on the value at the **random**  
time  $\tau$ , the process restarts fresh.

Pf. We know how to condition on  $\mathcal{F}_\tau$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_\tau] \mathbb{1}_{\tau < \infty} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_n] \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau=n\}} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau=n\}} | \mathcal{F}_n] \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[F(X_{n+\cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_n] \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau=n\}}}_{\mathbb{E}^x[F(X)] | x=X_n} \end{aligned}$$

I.e. if  $g(x) = \mathbb{E}^x[F(X)]$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_\tau] \mathbb{1}_{\tau < \infty} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g(X_n) \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau=n\}} \\ &= g(X_\tau) \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau < \infty\}} \\ &= \mathbb{E}^x[F(X)] | x=X_\tau \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau < \infty\}} \end{aligned}$$

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To be clear, we can rephrase this (in the discrete space+time context) as:

**Cor:** Let  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a Markov chain in the discrete state space  $S$ .  
Let  $\tau$  be a stopping time (adapted to the same filtration as  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ ).  
For any  $x \in S$ , conditioned on  $\{\tau < \infty, X_\tau = x\}$ ,

$\mathcal{F}_\tau$  and  $\{X_{\tau+n}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  are independent, and

$(X_{\tau+n})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  have the same distribution under  $\mathbb{P}^x$ .

**Pf.** Let  $Y \in \mathcal{B}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_\tau)$ ,  $F \in \mathcal{B}(S^{\mathbb{N}}, \mathcal{B}^{\otimes \mathbb{N}})$ . Then for any initial distribution  $\nu$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}^\nu \left[ \underbrace{F(X_{\tau+\cdot})}_{\mathcal{F}_\tau\text{-meas.}} Y \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau < \infty, X_\tau = x\}} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}^\nu \left[ \mathbb{E}[F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_\tau] Y \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau < \infty, X_\tau = x\}} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}^\nu \left[ \mathbb{E}^x[F(X)] Y \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau < \infty, X_\tau = x\}} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}^\nu[F(X)] \mathbb{E}^\nu[Y \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau < \infty, X_0 = x\}}]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\mathbb{E}^\nu [F(X_{\tau+\cdot})Y : \tau < \infty, X_\tau = x] = \mathbb{E}^\nu [F(X)] \mathbb{E}^\nu [Y : \tau < \infty, X_\tau = x]$ .

In other words:  $\mathbb{E}^\nu [F(X_{\tau+\cdot})Y \mid \tau < \infty, X_\tau = x]$   
 $= \mathbb{E}^\nu [F(X)] \mathbb{E}^\nu [Y \mid \tau < \infty, X_\tau = x]$ . ★

In particular, taking  $Y \equiv 1$  shows

$$\mathbb{E}^\nu [F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) \mid \tau < \infty, X_\tau = x] = \mathbb{E}^\nu [F(X)].$$
 ★★

I.e. conditioned on  $\{\tau < \infty, X_\tau = x\}$ ,  $(X_{\tau+\cdot}) \stackrel{d}{=} (X_\cdot)$  under  $\mathbb{P}^\nu$ .

Moreover, ★ + ★★  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}' = \mathbb{E}^\nu [- \mid \tau < \infty, X_\tau = x]$

$$\mathbb{E}' [F(X_{\tau+\cdot})Y] = \mathbb{E}' [F(X_{\tau+\cdot})] \mathbb{E}' [Y].$$

This holds  $\forall Y \in \mathcal{B}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_\tau)$ , and

$\therefore (X_{\tau+\cdot})$  is independent from  $\mathcal{F}_\tau$ . ///

conditioned on  $\{\tau < \infty, X_\tau = x\}$  →

In particular:  $(X_0, \dots, X_\tau), (X_\tau, X_{\tau+1}, X_{\tau+2}, \dots)$  are independent.