

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

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

I.e. conditioned on the value at the **random**
time τ , the process restarts fresh.

Pf. We know how to condition on \mathcal{F}_τ :

$$\mathbb{E}[F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_\tau] \mathbb{1}_{\tau < \infty} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_n] \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau=n\}}$$

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

$$\mathbb{E}[F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) | \mathcal{F}_\tau] \mathbb{1}_{\tau < \infty} =$$

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 τ 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}_τ 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 ν ,

$$\mathbb{E}^\nu [F(X_{\tau+\cdot}) Y \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau < \infty, X_\tau = x\}}]$$

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

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

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In particular, taking $Y \equiv 1$ shows

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

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

Moreover,

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

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

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

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