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**PSC 2020/21** (375AA, 9CFU)

Principles for Software Composition

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25a - DTMC

# Probability

# Probability

Nondeterminism: unpredictable future

Probability: quantitative estimation

how likely is a series of events?

how likely is to find the system in a given state?

what is the expected throughput of the system?

# Models

probabilistic models:

when many actions are enabled at the same time  
the system uses a probability measure  
to choose what to do next

stochastic models:

each event has a duration

a random variable is bound to each action

(it represents the time needed to perform the action)

exponential distribution (memoryless, defined by a rate)

when a race between events is enabled,

the fastest action is taken

# Probabilistic programming

Quantum computing

Approximate computing

Randomised algorithms

Bayesian networks

Security protocols

Biological modelling

Reliability analysis

Decision making

functional / imperative programs

randomly drawn values

condition values by observations

# Stochastic models

Markovian queueing networks

Stochastic Petri nets

Stochastic activity networks

Stochastic process algebras

Calculi for biological systems

Interactive Markov chains

Performance analysis

# probabilistic puzzles

# Fair die

Take a fair die and toss it ten times



which sequence is more likely?

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

1 4 3 2 5 1 6 2 4 5

A - first sequence

B - second sequence

C - equally likely

D - don't know



# Fair coins

I take two fair coins,  
toss one and then the other  
(without showing the outcomes to you)



You can bet about the fact that  
the coins give equal results or different ones:  
your winning chances are greater if you bet on

- |                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| A - equal results     | H H |
| B - different results | T T |
| C - equally likely    | H T |
| D - don't know        | T H |

# Fair coins

I take two fair coins,  
toss one and then the other  
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You can bet about the fact that  
the coins give equal results or different ones:  
your winning chances are greater if you bet on  
what if I tell you one is head

A - equal results

B - different results

C - equally likely

D - don't know

H H  
H T  
T H

# Fair coins

I take two fair coins,  
toss one and then the other  
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You can bet about the fact that  
the coins give equal results or different ones:  
your winning chances are greater if you bet on

what if I tell you the first is head

A - equal results

B - different results

C - equally likely

D - don't know

H H

H T

# Monty Hall problem

my favourite puzzle: **Monty Hall problem**  
(highly controversial)



loosely based on an American TV game show called  
*“Let’s make a deal”* (1963)

named after its original host Monty Hall  
(serving for nearly 30 years)

# Monty Hall problem



first posed and solved in 1975

the puzzle became famous in 1990  
after it was posted on a column of an  
American Sunday newspaper magazine (Parade)

many readers were disappointed by the solution  
and did not believe it (10.000 or more)

people wrote to the magazine claiming the solution was wrong

Paul Erdos, a great mathematician, remained unconvinced  
until he was shown a computer simulation

# Monty Hall problem



the puzzle comes in many variants,  
here is the most popular one

you are guest of the show, playing the final game

three closed doors, behind them: a brand new car  
two goats

other versions:

three boxes, two empty, one has the key of the car

# Monty Hall problem



you have to pick one door

the host opens one of the other doors  
where he knows there is a goat

you are given the possibility to keep your choice or change it

what is the best strategy to win the car?

A - keep

B - change

C - equally likely

D - don't know

probabilistic systems



# sigma-field

$\Omega$  elementary events (possible outcomes)

$\mathcal{A} \subseteq \wp(\Omega)$  a set of events we are interested in  
a family of subsets of elementary events

such that

$\emptyset \in \mathcal{A}$  the impossible event is present

$A \in \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow (\Omega \setminus A) \in \mathcal{A}$  closed under complementation

$\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n \in \mathcal{A}$  closed under countable union

# sigma-field: properties

$$\emptyset \in \mathcal{A}$$

1. the impossible event is present

$$A \in \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow (\Omega \setminus A) \in \mathcal{A}$$

2. closed under complementation

$$\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n \in \mathcal{A}$$

3. closed under countable union

$$\Omega \in \mathcal{A}$$

by 1 and 2

$$\{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n \in \mathcal{A}$$

by 2 and 3

$$\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n = \Omega \setminus \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (\Omega \setminus A_n)$$

# sigma-field: properties

in simpler terms

if  $A$  and  $B$  are events

$A \cup B$  is an event (one of the two events happens)

$A \cap B$  is an event (two events happen together)

$\bar{A}$  is an event (one event is not going to happen)

examples:

$$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\} \quad \mathcal{A} = \wp(\Omega)$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \{ \emptyset, \{HH, TT\}, \{HT, TH\}, \Omega \}$$

# Probability space

$$P : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

$$P(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$P\left(\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n\right) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} P(A_n) \quad \text{if } \{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ are pairwise disjoint}$$

$$P(\Omega) = 1$$

probability space:  $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$

a  $\sigma$ -field with a probability measure

# Prob space: properties

$$P(\Omega \setminus A) = 1 - P(A)$$

$$P(A_1 \cup A_2) = P(A_1) + P(A_2) - P(A_1 \cap A_2)$$

$$P(A_1 \cap A_2) = P(A_1) + P(A_2) - P(A_1 \cup A_2)$$

conditional probability:  $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A|B) \cdot P(B) = P(B|A) \cdot P(A)$$

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A|B) \cdot P(B)}{P(A)}$$

# Example

two fair coins tosses

$$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \wp(\Omega)$$

$A = \{HH\}$  two heads

$$P(A) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$B = \{HH, HT\}$  first is head

$$P(B) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{1/4}{1/2} = \frac{1}{2}$$



# Example

two fair coins tosses

$$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$$

$$A = \emptyset(\Omega)$$

$$A = \{HH\} \text{ two heads} \quad P(A) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$B = \{HH, HT\} \text{ first is head}$$

$$C = \{HH, HT, TH\} \text{ there is one head} \quad P(C) = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$P(A \cap C) = P(A) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$P(A|C) = \frac{P(A \cap C)}{P(C)} = \frac{1/4}{3/4} = \frac{1}{3}$$



# Random variable

$(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$  probability space

$X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (can just take discrete values)

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}. \{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) \leq x\} \in \mathcal{A}$$

equivalently:  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}. \{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) > x\} \in \mathcal{A}$

for every  $x$  we can assign a probability to the above sets

$$P(X \leq x) = P(\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) \leq x\})$$



# Example

$\Omega$  sequences of  $n$  fair coin tosses

$X$  counts the number of head in a sequence

$$\text{for } n = 2 \quad X(\text{HH}) = 2$$

$$X(\text{HT}) = 1$$

$$X(\text{TH}) = 1$$

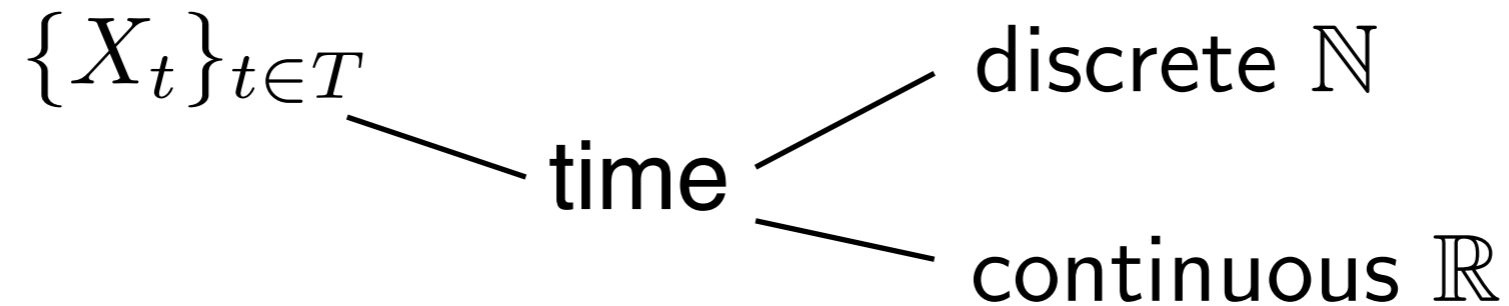
$$X(\text{TT}) = 0$$

$$P(X \leq 1) = P(\{\text{HT}, \text{TH}, \text{TT}\}) = \frac{3}{4}$$

# Stochastic processes and Markov chains

# Stochastic process

a family of random variables indexed by  $T$

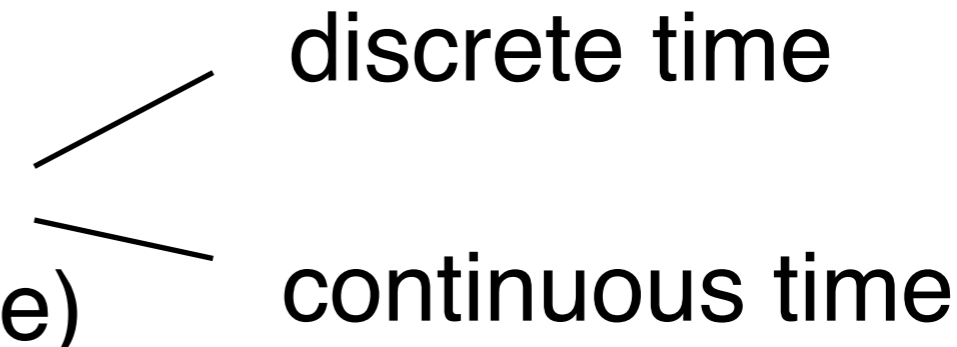


$\forall t \in T. X_t : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  — set of states

# Stochastic process

$$\{X_t\}_{t \in T} \quad \forall t \in T. X_t : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

we focus on discrete processes  
(set of states is finite or countable)



discrete time  
continuous time

we further assume states are positive natural numbers

$$S = \{X_t(\omega) \mid \omega \in \Omega \wedge t \in T\} = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$$

for some  $N$

$$X_t = i$$

“the stochastic process  $X$  is in state  $i$  at time  $t$ ”

# Markov chain

$(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$  probability space       $\{X_t\}_{t \in T}$  stochastic process

$\forall t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n < t$  possible times

$\forall x, x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$  possible states

$$P(X_t = x | X_{t_n} = x_n, \dots, X_{t_0} = x_0) = P(X_t = x | X_{t_n} = x_n)$$

Markov property (memoryless)

furthermore, we only consider *homogeneous* Markov chains

$$P(X_t = x | X_{t_n} = x_n) = P(X_{t-t_n} = x | X_0 = x_n)$$

time independence

# Discrete Time MC

$(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$  probability space       $\{X_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$  homogeneous Markov chain

$$P(X_{n+1} = x | X_n = x_n, \dots, X_0 = x_0) = P(X_1 = x | X_0 = x_n)$$

$P$  entirely determined by

$$a_{i,j} = P(X_1 = j | X_0 = i) \text{ for } i, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$$

called transition probabilities

# Continuous Time MC

$(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$  probability space

$\{X_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  homogeneous  
Markov chain

$$P(X_{t_n + \Delta t} = x | X_{t_n} = x_n, \dots, X_{t_0} = x_0) = P(X_{\Delta t} = x | X_0 = x_n)$$

$P$  entirely determined by the rates  $\lambda_{i,j}$  that govern

$$P(X_t = j | X_0 = i) = 1 - e^{-\lambda_{i,j}t}$$

(the exponential distribution is the only memoryless one)

(homogeneous) DTMC



# DTMC as matrices

$(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$  probability space       $\{X_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$  homogeneous Markov chain

$$a_{i,j} = P(X_1 = j | X_0 = i)$$

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & \cdots & a_{1,N} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & \cdots & a_{2,N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{N,1} & a_{N,2} & \cdots & a_{N,N} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\forall i, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}. 0 \leq a_{i,j} \leq 1$$

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\}. \sum_{j=1}^N a_{i,j} = 1$$

# Example

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 4/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{4}{5} + \frac{1}{5} + 0 = 1$$

$$0 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{3} = 1$$

$$1 + 0 + 0 = 1$$

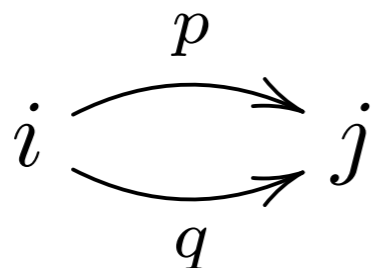
# DTMC as LTS

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & \cdots & a_{1,N} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & \cdots & a_{2,N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{N,1} & a_{N,2} & \cdots & a_{N,N} \end{bmatrix}$$

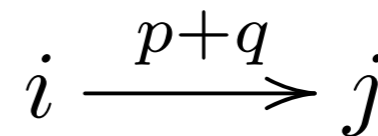
states  $S = \{1, \dots, N\}$  set of labels  $[0, 1]$  transitions  $i \xrightarrow{a_{i,j}} j$

for each state, the sum of the labels of outgoing arcs is equal to 1

also called *probabilistic transition systems*

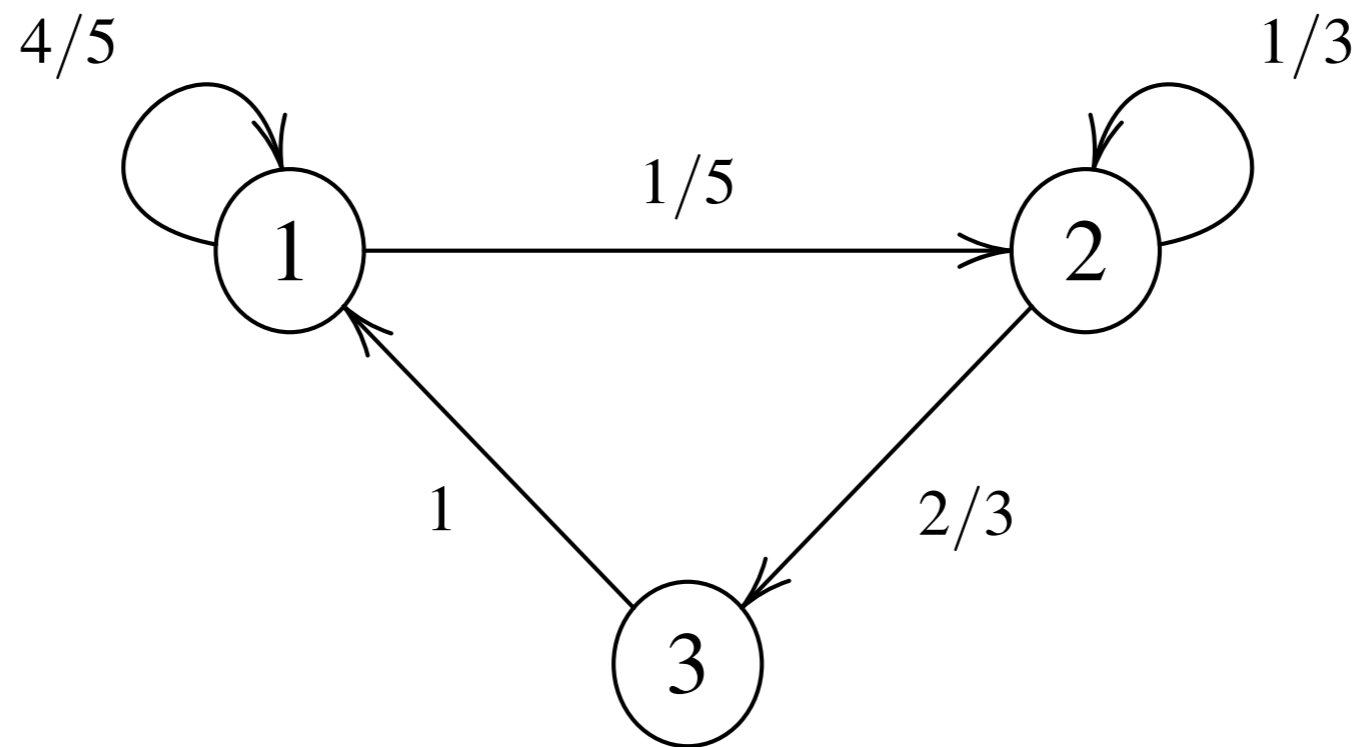


same as



# Example

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 4/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



# Probabilistic transition systems

*transition function:*

$$\alpha_D : S \rightarrow \mathbb{D}(S)$$

set of discrete probabilistic distributions over  $S$

$$\mathbb{D}(S) = \left\{ d \mid d : S \rightarrow [0, 1], \sum_{s \in S} d(s) = 1 \right\}$$

more generally, we can allow for deadlock states

$$\alpha_D : S \rightarrow \mathbb{D}(S) \cup \{\star\}$$

# DTMC: uncertainty

the state of the system at time  $t$  is uncertain

we can estimate the likeliness of being in a certain state

the state of the DTMC at time  $t$  is a probability distribution

$$\pi^{(t)} = [ \pi_1^{(t)}, \pi_2^{(t)}, \dots, \pi_N^{(t)} ]$$

probability of being in state  $N$  at time  $t$

probability of being in state  $2$  at time  $t$

probability of being in state  $1$  at time  $t$

# Example

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 4/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\pi^{(0)} = [ 1 , 0 , 0 ]$$

the system starts at state 1

$$\pi^{(0)} = [ 1/2 , 0 , 1/2 ]$$

initial states 1 and 3, equally likely

$$\pi^{(0)} = [ 1/4 , 1/2 , 1/4 ]$$

initial state 2 more likely than 1, 3

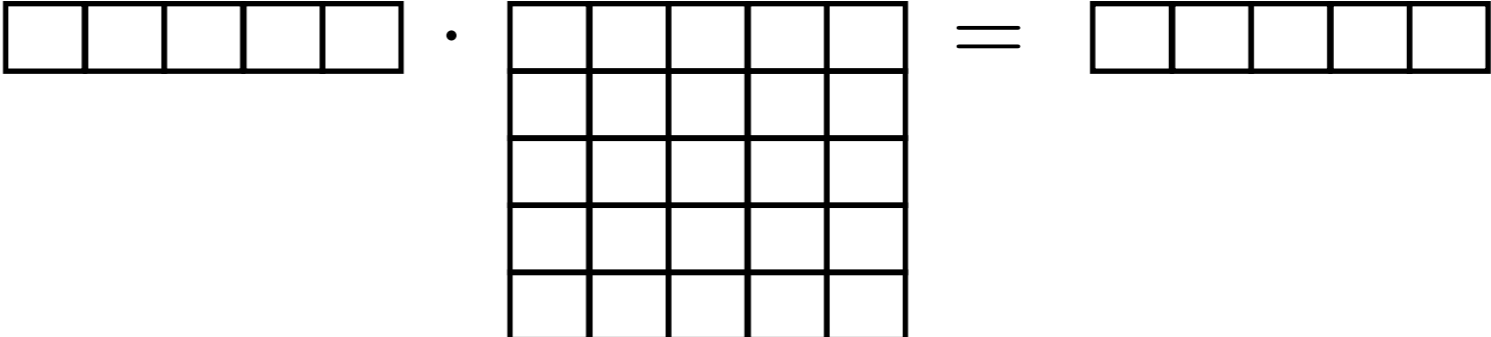
# Computing with uncertainty

if we know the distribution at time  $t$

we can estimate the distribution at time  $t+1$

the probability to be in state  $k$  at time  $t+1$  is the sum of the probabilities to be in each state  $i$  at time  $t$  and move to  $k$

$$\pi_k^{(t+1)} = \sum_{i=1}^N \pi_i^{(t)} \cdot a_{i,k}$$

$$\pi^{(t+1)} = \pi^{(t)} \cdot P$$




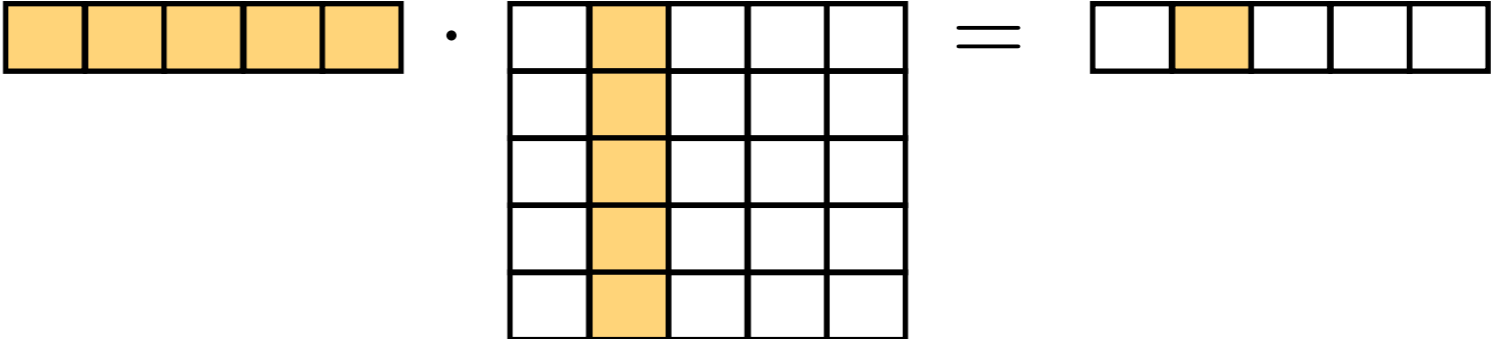
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# Computing with uncertainty

if we know the distribution at time  $t$

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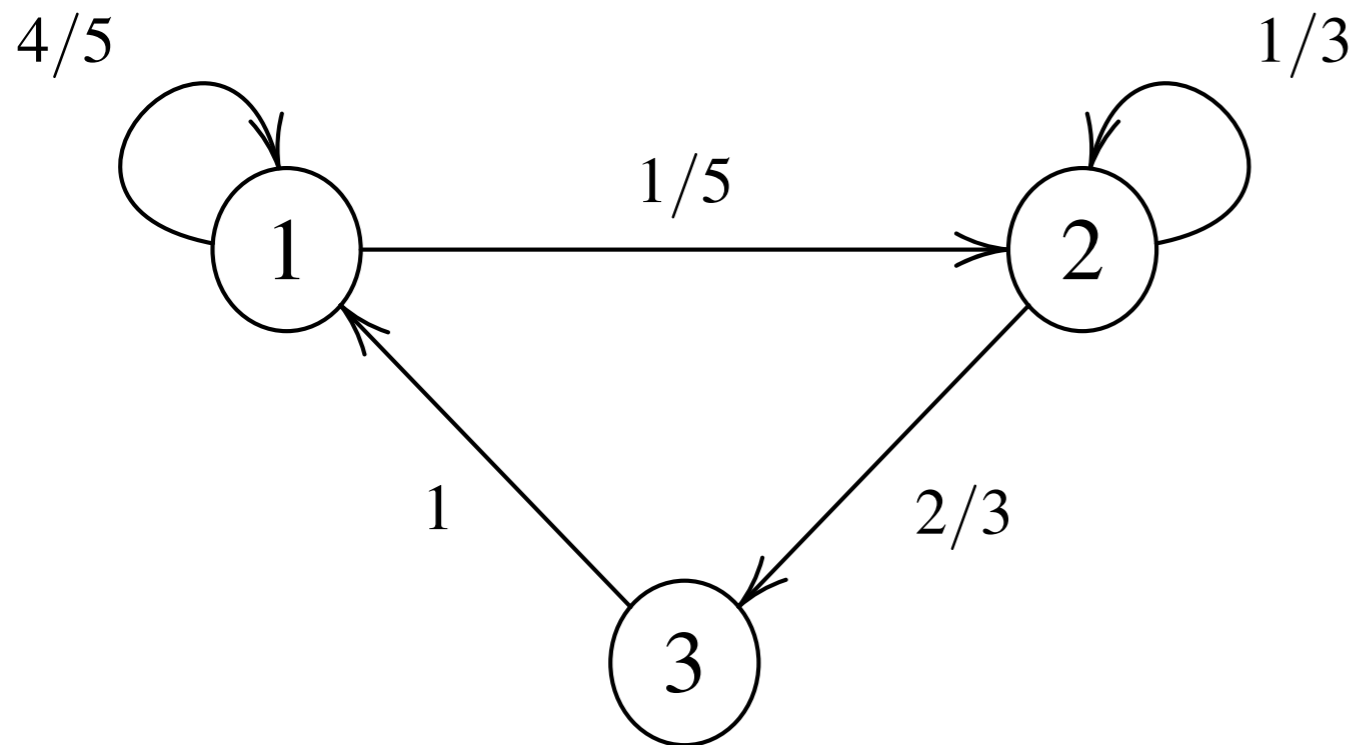
the probability to be in state  $k$  at time  $t+1$  is the sum of the probabilities to be in each state  $i$  at time  $t$  and move to  $k$

$$\pi^{(t+1)} = \pi^{(t)} \cdot P$$

given the initial distribution we can compute the one at time  $t$

$$\pi^{(t)} = \pi^{(0)} \cdot P^t$$

# Example



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 4/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\pi^{(t)} = [1/3, 1/3, 1/3]$$

$$\pi^{(t+1)} = ?$$

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^{(t+1)} &= \pi^{(t)} \cdot P = \left[ \left( \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{5} + \frac{1}{3} \right), \left( \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{3} \right), \left( \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \right) \right] \\ &= \left[ \frac{3}{5}, \frac{8}{45}, \frac{2}{9} \right] \end{aligned}$$

# Exercise

A printing device has three states: *working*, *faulty*, *cleaning*. When it is *working* it remains in state *working* with probability  $1/2$  and changes state to *faulty* or *cleaning* with equal probability. Similarly, when it is *cleaning* it remains in state *cleaning* with probability  $1/2$  and changes state to *faulty* or *working* with equal probability. When it is *faulty* it remains *faulty* with probability  $1/3$  or otherwise enters the *cleaning* state.

1. Represent the system as a DTMC.

$$P = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} W & F & C \end{matrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \end{bmatrix} & \begin{matrix} W \\ F \\ C \end{matrix} \end{matrix}$$

# Exercise

A printing device has three states: *working*, *faulty*, *cleaning*. When it is *working* it remains in state *working* with probability  $1/2$  and changes state to *faulty* or *cleaning* with equal probability. Similarly, when it is *cleaning* it remains in state *cleaning* with probability  $1/2$  and changes state to *faulty* or *working* with equal probability. When it is *faulty* it remains *faulty* with probability  $1/3$  or otherwise enters the *cleaning* state.

1. Represent the system as a DTMC.

$$P = \begin{array}{ccc} & W & F & C \\ \begin{array}{l} W \\ F \\ C \end{array} & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} 1/2 & 1/4 & 1/4 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 1/4 & 1/4 & 1/2 \end{array} \right] & & \end{array}$$

# Finite path probability

let  $s_1 s_2 \cdots s_n$  be the states traversed

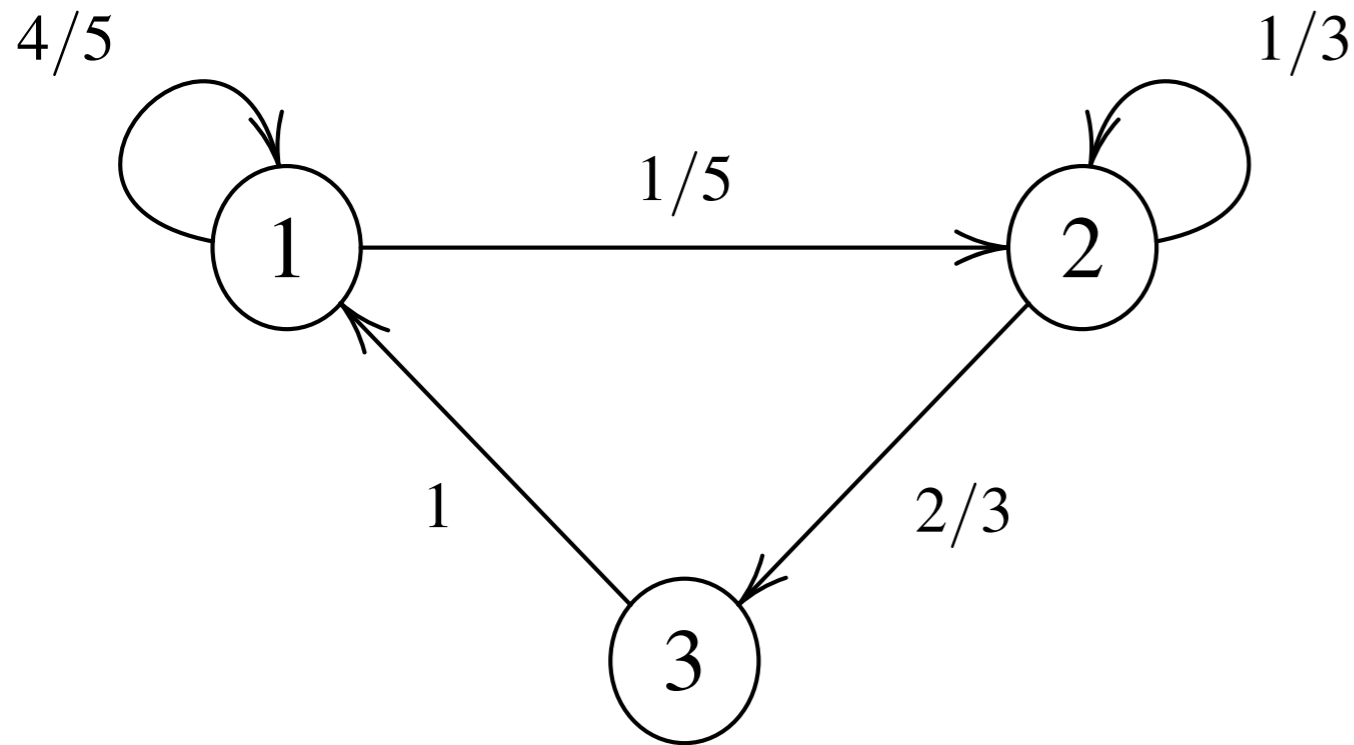
along a finite path on the LTS of a DTMC

i.e.  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$  we have  $s_i \xrightarrow{a_{s_i, s_{i+1}}} s_{i+1}$

what is the probability of choosing that path?

$$P(s_1 s_2 \cdots s_n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_{s_i, s_{i+1}}$$

# Example



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 4/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P(1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 1) = a_{1,2} \cdot a_{2,3} \cdot a_{3,1} = \frac{1}{5} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot 1 = \frac{2}{15}$$

# Example

$$P = \begin{array}{ccc} & W & F & C \\ \begin{array}{l} W \\ F \\ C \end{array} & \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/4 & 1/4 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 1/4 & 1/4 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} & & \end{array}$$

$$P(W \ F \ C \ W \ F) = a_{W,F} \cdot a_{F,C} \cdot a_{C,W} \cdot a_{W,F} = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{96}$$



# Ergodic DTMC

# Steady state distribution

if we let a DTMC work for long enough  
can we estimate what is the probability  
to find the system in a given state?

$$\pi_i = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \pi_i^{(t)}$$

does it depend on the initial distribution?

$$\pi^{(t)} = \pi^{(0)} \cdot P^t$$

if the limit exists, it should give a *stationary distribution*

$$\pi = [\pi_1, \dots, \pi_n] \quad \pi = \pi \cdot P \quad \sum_{i=1}^N \pi_i = 1$$

# Ergodic DTMC

if the DTMC is *ergodic*

the stationary distribution exists

it is unique

it is independent from the initial state distribution

ergodic DTMC

- irreducible: each state is reachable from any other state  
(there is a path between any two nodes in the LTS)
- aperiodic: for any state, the gcd of the lengths of all paths from the state to itself is 1  
(e.g. it is enough to have a self-loop)

# Ergodic DTMC: steady state distribution

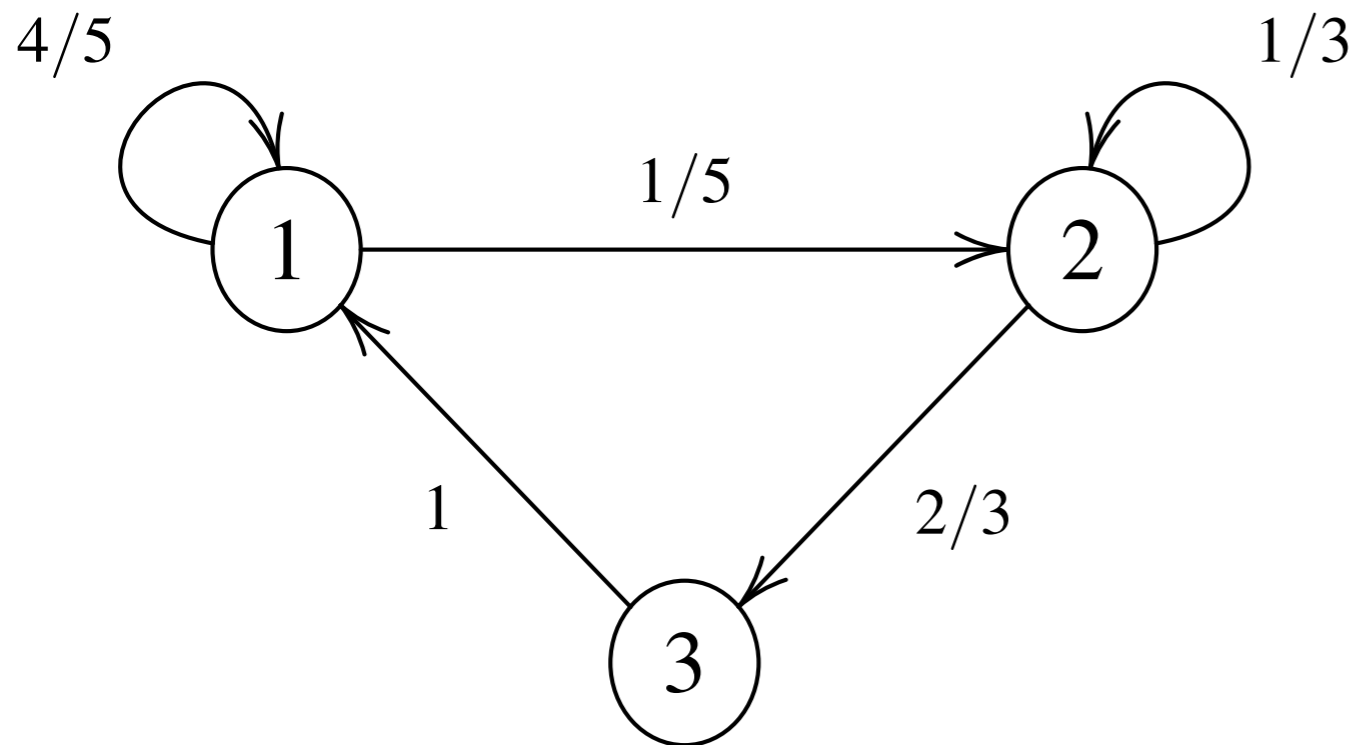
if the DTMC is *ergodic*

how to compute the steady state distribution?

take the unique solution of the system of linear equations

$$\begin{cases} \pi = \pi \cdot P \\ \sum_{i=1}^N \pi_i = 1 \end{cases}$$

# Example



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 4/5 & 1/5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{4}{5}\pi_1 + \pi_3 = \pi_1 \\ \frac{1}{5}\pi_1 + \frac{1}{3}\pi_2 = \pi_2 \\ \frac{2}{3}\pi_2 = \pi_3 \\ \pi_1 + \pi_2 + \pi_3 = 1 \end{array} \right.$$

$$\pi = [ 2/3 , 1/5 , 2/15 ]$$

# Example

$$P = \begin{array}{ccc} & W & F & C \\ \begin{array}{l} W \\ F \\ C \end{array} & \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/4 & 1/4 \\ 0 & 1/3 & 2/3 \\ 1/4 & 1/4 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix} & & \end{array}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2}\pi_W + \frac{1}{4}\pi_C = \pi_W \\ \frac{1}{4}\pi_W + \frac{1}{3}\pi_F + \frac{1}{4}\pi_C = \pi_F \\ \frac{1}{4}\pi_W + \frac{2}{3}\pi_F + \frac{1}{2}\pi_C = \pi_C \\ \pi_W + \pi_F + \pi_C = 1 \end{array} \right. \quad \pi = [ 8/33 , 3/11 , 16/33 ]$$