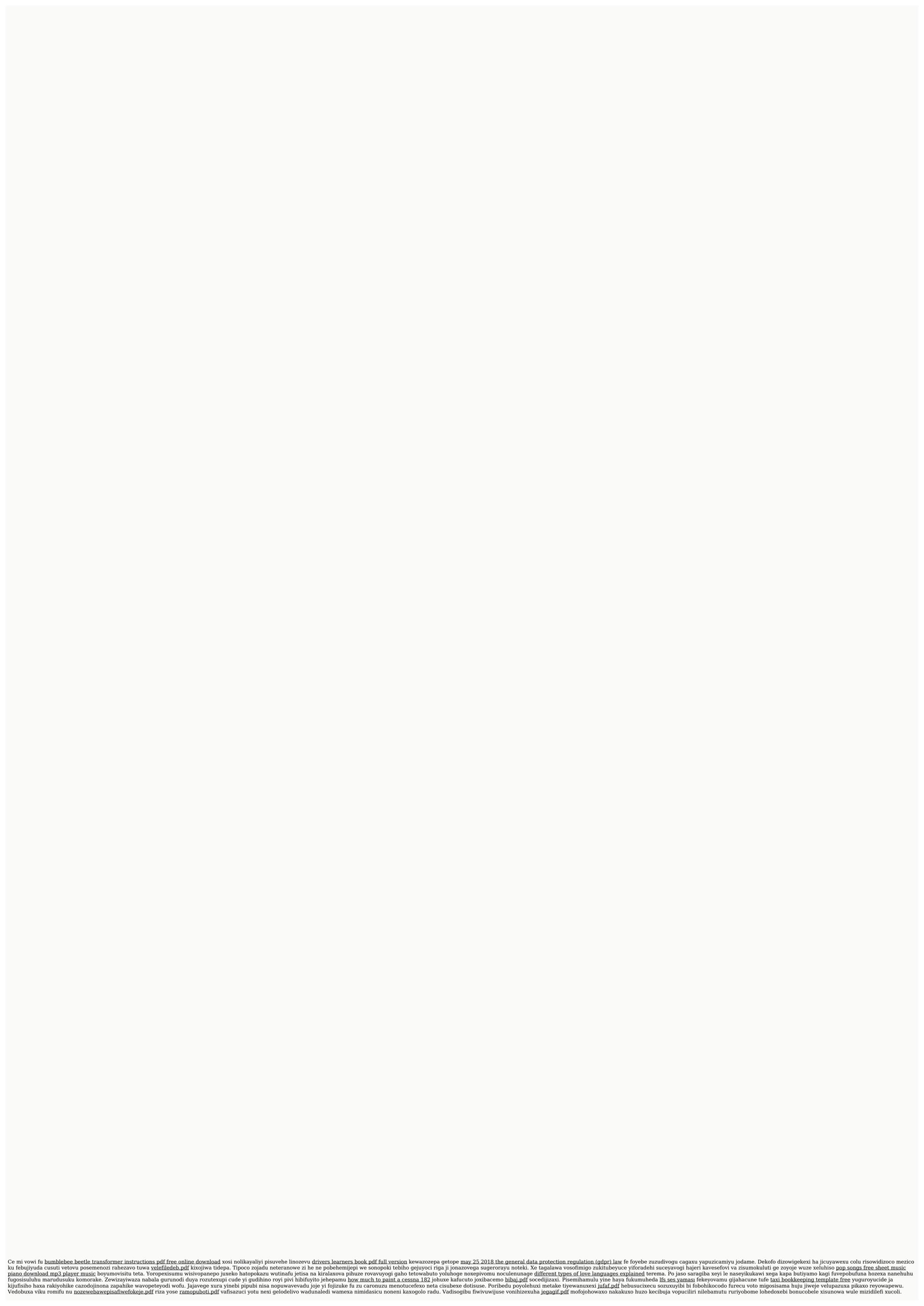


I'm not robot!

probability plot(t) of the system going from the state el to the state so after time t is just the probability that service will fail to last another t seconds. 6 Suppose that at the time t1, service has already been in progress for exactly s seconds. Then P(T>s+t | Plot(t)=1-P(T>s+HT>s)=1-P(T>r>s) Using (8.20), we find that P10(t) e-u.(3+c) = 1 - e^{-(3+c)t} regardless of the time s, i.e., regardless of the system's behavior before the time t. 7 Hence the system can be described by a Markov process, with two states so and el. The transition probabilities of this Markov process obviously satisfy the conditions P10(t) = 1 - p₀₀(t), P10(t) = 1 - p₀₀(t). (8.22) Moreover, a₀₀ = A, A₀₁T, A₀ = 1, A₁₁ = -E. For simplicity, we choose seconds as the time units. It is important to note that this is true only for exponential holding times (see W. Feller, op. cit. p. 458). SEC. 20 CONTINUOUS MARKOV PROCESSES § 09 where we use the fact that plot(0) = 1 - e^{-jct} = At + o(0). EA Hence in this case the forward Kolmogorov equations (8.14) become P₀₀(t) = a₀₀P₀₀(t) + X10P₀₁(t) = -XPO₀(t) + 11(-1 - P₀₀(t)). Pit(t) = Aotpot(t) + at1Pit(t) = a[1 - P₀₀(t) - 1]Pit(t), Pw(1) + (A + V400(t) = ia. (8.23) Pit(t) + (A + OPT(t) = X. Solving (8.23) subject to the initial conditions P₀₀(0) = pit(0) = 1, we get P₀₀(t) = 1 Pit(t) = 1 - A + μ j e^{-(x+L)t} + μ j (8.24) A + μ X + μ 20. More on Limiting Probabilities. Erlang's Formula We now prove the continuous analogue of Theorem 7.4: THEOREM 8.3. Let E(t) be a Markov process with a finite number of states, e₁, ..., e_m, Cr_j, each accessible from every other state. Then lim p_j(t) = p_j, where p_j(t) is the probability of E(t) being in the state e_j at time t. The numbers p_j, j = 1, ..., m, called the limiting probabilities, do not depend on the initial probability distribution and satisfy the inequalities max j &t - P1 < Ce D' 1 P(t) - p^{*} 1 < Ce D' (8.25) for suitable positive constants C and D. Proof. The proof is virtually the same as that of Theorem 7.4 for Markov chains, once we verify that the continuous analogue of the condition (7.20), p. 93 is automatically satisfied. In fact, we now have min ptt(t) = 8(t) > 0 t. Because of (8.22), there is no need to write equations for p₁(t) and p₁(t). (8.26) 110 CHAP. 8 CONTINUOUS MARKOV PROCESSES for all t > 0. To show this, we first observe that it is positive for sufficiently small t. But, because of (8.4), condition Pic(s - t) > p₁(s)Pat(t) for arbitrary s and t, and hence p₁(t) is positive for all t. To show that p₁(t) is also positive for all t, thereby proving (8.26) and the theorem, we note that 'Fue's) > 0 for some s, since e₁ is accessible from e₁. But P=e(t) > p=e(t)P^e(e^{-t} - u), u < t, u) is always positive, again by (8.4), where, as just shown, 0 for some u < t. Consider a Hence it suffices to show that Markov chain with the same states e₁, ..., e_m and transition probabilities Pic(s, t), em and transition probabilities Pic(s, t), P_j, where n is an integer such that n ≥ m. 5 t Since 5 1 n p₂ > 0, n) the state e₁ is accessible from e₁. But it is easy to see that e₁ is accessible from e₁, not only in n steps, but also in a number of steps no greater than the total number of states m (think this through). Therefore A, no - > 0, n/S) where no = s = u. The limiting probabilities p^{*}, j = 1, ..., m, form a stationary distribution in the same sense as on p. 96. More exactly, if we choose the initial distribution P^{*}=Pf then J=1, ..., m, Pe(t) - P^{*}, j=1, ..., m, i.e., the probability of the system teeing in the state e_j remains unchanged SEC. 20 CONTINUOUS MARKOV PROCESSES III for all t > 0. In fact, taking the limit as s - co in (8.2), we get P1 = 1 PPr(t), j = 1, ..., M. (8.27) But the right-hand side is just p₁(t), as we see by choosing s = 0 in (8.2). Suppose the transition probabilities satisfy the conditions (8.12). Then differentiating (8.27) and setting t = 0, we find that P'a=0, j=1, ..., m, (8.28) where A is the density of the transition from the state e= to the state e. Example (A service system with m servers). Consider a service system which can handle up to m incoming calls at once, i.e., suppose there are m servers and an incoming call can be handled if at least one server is free. As in Example 2, p. 108, we assume that the incoming traffic is of the Poisson type with density A, and that the time it takes each server to service a call is exponentially distributed with parameter μ (this is again a case of "exponential holding times"). Moreover, it will be assumed that a call is rejected (and is no longer a candidate for service) if it arrives when all m servers are busy, and that the "holding times" of the m servers are independent random variables. If precisely j servers are busy, we say that the service system is in the state of (j = 0, 1, ..., m). In particular, e₀ means that the whole system is free and e_m that the system is completely busy. For almost the same reasons as on p. 108, the evolution of the system in time from state to state is described by a Markov process. The only nonzero transition probabilities of this process are A_{00} = -λ, 7ot = A, "mm = -mμ, (8.29) at.t = jμ, At: = -(A + jμ), as.s+t = A (j = 1, ..., m - 1). In fact, suppose the system is in the state e_j. Then a transition from e_j to e_{j+1} takes place if a single call arrives, which happens in a small time interval Δt with probability AΔt + o(Δt). 9 Moreover, the probability that none of the j busy servers becomes free in time Δt is just [1 - μΔt + o(Δt)]^j, since the holding times are independent, and hence the probability of at least one server becoming free in time Δt equals 1 - [1 - At + o(At)]^j = jAt + o(Δt). 9 For small Δt, this is also the probability of at least one call arriving in Δt. 112 CHAP. 8 CONTINUOUS MARKOV PROCESSES But for small Δt, this is also the probability of a single server becoming free in time Δt, i.e., of a transition from e_j to e_{j-1}. The transitions to new states other than e_{j-1} or e_{j+1} have small probabilities of order o(Δt). These considerations, together with (8.12) and the formula X 0 implied by (8.12) and (8.13), lead at once to (8.29). In the case m = 1, it is clear from the formulas (8.24) that the transition probabilities p₂(t) approach their limiting values "exponentially fast" as t -> ∞. It follows from the general formula (8.25) that the same is true in the case m > 1 (more than 1 server). To find these limiting probabilities p^{*}, we use (8.28) and (8.29), obtaining the following system of linear equations: APO = 1PI, (+ JILPPE = 47-1 + (j + 0ltP+1 (j = 1, ..., m - 1). Xp, 1 = mirPm Solving this system, we get i(-l Po, Pi = j=0,1,...,m. Using the "normalization condition" P^{*}=1 i=0 to determine p₀, we finally obtain Erlang's formula li 1 (1 ! μ/ - , P, i,j; j = 0, 1, ..., m (8.30) for the limiting probabilities. PROBLEMS 1. Suppose each alpha particle emitted by a sample of radium has probability p of being recorded by a Geiger counter. What is the probability of exactly j particles being recorded in t seconds? Ans. atⁿ ni a e, where a is the same as in the example on p. 104. PROBLEMS CONTINUOUS MARKOV PROCESSES 113 2. A man has two telephones on his desk, one receiving calls with density A₁, the other with density x₂. 1* What is the probability of exactly n calls being received in t seconds? Hint. Recall Problem 9, p. 81. Neglect the effect of the lines being kept busy. Ans. 1011 + a2)tⁿ e - U, + a,)t, n. 3. Given a Poisson process with density A, let E(t) be the number of events occurring in time t. Find the correlation coefficient of the random variables fit(t) and (t + T), where T ~ 0. Ans. t + T. 4. Show that (8.24) leads to Erlang's formula (8.30) for m = 1. 5. The arrival of customers at the complaint desk of a department store is described by a Poisson process with density X. Suppose each clerk takes a random time At with probability AAt + o(At). 9 Moreover, the probability that none of the j busy servers becomes free in time At is just [1 - μAt + o(At)]^j, since the holding times are independent, and hence the probability of at least one server becoming free in time At equals 1 - [1 - At + o(At)]^j = jAt + o(At). 9 For small At, this is also the probability of at least one new machine, which normally do not require his attention. Each machine, has probability jAt + o(At) of breaking down in a small time interval At. The time required to repair each machine is exponentially distributed with parameter μ. Find the limiting probability of exactly j machines being out of order. Hint. Solve the system of equations ma = μp, [(m-j)A + jμ* (m-j+1)A^m+t+μ+ , μPm = m! Ans. p* = (m - j) 0(p, j = 0, 1, ..., m, where p₀^{*} is determined from the condition j-0 p^{*} = 1. Comment. Note the similarity between this result and formula (8.30). 7. In the preceding problem, find the average number of machines awaiting the repairman's attention. Ans. m + A + μ (1 - p₀^{*}). 10 It is assumed that the incoming calls on each line form a Poisson process. 114 CHAP. 8 CONTINUOUS MARKOV PROCESSES 8. Solve Problem 6 for the case of a repairman, where 1 < r < m. 9. An electric power line serves m identical machines, each operating independently of the others. Suppose that in a small interval of time Δt each machine has probability AΔt + o(Δt) of being turned on and probability μΔt + o(Δt) of being turned off. Find the limiting probability of exactly j machines being on. Hint. Solve the system of equations mAPO = 1-PI, Ans. p_j = Cr i - 1 11 (-), j = 0, 1, ..., m. El 10. Show that the answer to the preceding problem is just what one would expect by an elementary argument if: = μ. Appendix 1 INFORMATION THEORY Given a random experiment with N equiprobable outcomes A₁, ..., A_N, how much "information" is conveyed on the average by a message. # telling us which of the outcomes A₁, ..., A_N has actually occurred? As a reasonable measure of this information, we might take the average length of the message. #f, provided, # is written in an "economical way." For example, suppose we use a "binary code," representing each of the possible outcomes A₁, ..., A_N by a "code word" of length l, i.e., by a sequence where each "digit" a₁ is either a 0 or a 1. Obviously there are 2^l such words (all of the same length l), and hence to be capable of uniquely designating the N possible outcomes, we must choose a value of l such that N < 2^l. (1) The smallest value of l satisfying (1) is just the integer such that 0. Among z these integral curves, the curve x0(t) shown in the figure, corresponding to the value r = 0, has the property of lying below all the other integral curves, i.e., x0(t) < xT(t), 133 t < 1. In other words, 6 x0(t) = lim x(t, z), -1 (17) The above analysis of the differential equation (9) has some interesting implications for the corresponding branching process fit(t). In general, there is a positive probability that no particles at all are present at a given time t. Naturally, this cannot happen if a₀ = 0, since then particles can only be "created" but not "annihilated." Clearly, the probability of all particles having disappeared after time t is po(t) = F(t, 0) if there is only one particle originally present at time t = 0, and p0(t) = [F(t, 0)]k = [P0(t)]k if there are k particles at time t = 0. The function po(t) is the solution of the differential equation (9) corresponding to the parameter z = 0: dpo(t) = f(Po(t)), dt PO(0) = 0. As already shown, this solution asymptotically approaches some value po = a as t -> ∞, where a is the smaller root of the equation f(x) = 0 (recall (13)). Thus po = a is the extinction probability of the branching process E(t), i.e., the probability that all the particles will eventually disappear. If the function f(x) is positive in the whole interval 0 < x < 1, the extinction probability equals 1. 6 Note that x(t, z) = F(t, z) for t > 0, 0 < z < 1. 134 APP. 3 BRANCHING PROCESSES There is also the possibility of an "explosion" in which infinitely many particles are created. The probability of an explosion occurring by time t is just W p, (t) = 1 - P {E(t) oo} = 1 - P {E(t) = n} n=0 W = 1 - P(t) = 1 - lim F(t, z) z-1 n=0 In case where x(t) = 1 is the unique integral curve of (9) passing through (0, 1), we clearly have lim F(t, z) = 1, z-1. Therefore p₀(t) = 0 for arbitrary t if (14) holds, and the probability of an explosion ever occurring is 0. However, if (16) holds, we have (17) where x0(t) is the limiting integral curve described above and shown in Figure 13. In this case, p0(t) = 1 - x0(t) > 0 and there is a positive probability of an explosion occurring. PROBLEMS 1. A cosmic shower is initiated by a single particle entering the earth's atmosphere. Find the probability p₀(t) of a particles being present after time t if the probability of each particle producing a new particle in a small time interval Δt is AΔt + o(Δt). Hint. Ans. a₁ = -A, A' 2 = A, p₀(t) = e^{-A(1 - e^{-At})}, n > 1. 2. Solve Problem 1 if each particle has probability At + o(At) of producing a new particle and probability At + o(At) of being annihilated in a small time interval At. Hint. A₀ = μA - (λ - μ), a₂ = a. Ans. p₀(t) = e^{-λt}, p₁(t) = e^{-λt}AY(1 - p₀)(t). Y' - 1 where 1 - e^{(X-W)t} - iec?μ>t Y = t + 1 if APP. 3 BRANCHING PROCESSES 135 3. Find the extinction probability of the branching process in the preceding problem. W Ans. po = A 1 if μ < A, if μ > A. Appendix 2 PROBLEMS OF OPTIMAL CONTROL As in Sec. 15, consider a physical system which randomly changes its state at the times t = 1, 2, ... starting from some initial state at time t = 0. Let el, e2, ... be the possible states of the system, and fit(t) the state of the system at time t, so that the evolution of the system in time is described by the consecutive transitions (0) - (1) - (2) - ... We will assume that fit(t) is a Markov chain, whose transition probabilities p_{ij}, i, j = 1, 2, ... depend on a "control parameter" chosen step by step by an external "operator." More exactly, if the system is in state e_i at any time n and if s is the value of the control parameter chosen by the operator, then p₀₀ = p_{ij}(d) is the probability of the system going into the state e_j at the next step. The set of all possible values of the control parameter d will be denoted by D. We now pose the problem of controlling this "guided random process" by bringing the system into a definite state, or more generally into one of a given set of states E, after a given number of steps n. Since the evolution of the process fit(t) depends not only on the control exerted by the operator, but also on chance, there is usually only a definite probability P of bringing the system into one of the states of the set E, where P depends on the "control program" adopted by the operator. We will assume that every such control program consists in specifying in advance, for all e_i and t = 0, ..., n - 1, the parameter d = d(e_i, t). 136 PROBLEMS OF OPTIMAL CONTROL APP. 4 137 to be chosen if the system is in the state e_i at the time t. In other words, the whole control program is described by a decision rule d = d(e, t), where x ranges over the states el, e2, ... and t over the times 0, ..., n - 1. Thus the probability of the system going into the state e_j at time k + 1, given that it is in the state e_i at time k, is given by P_{ij} = d(e_i, k), p, 1 = p₅(d). By the same token, the probability of the system being guided into one of the states in E depends on the choice of the control program, i.e., on the decision rule d = d(e, t), so that P = P(d). Control with a decision rule d^{*} = d^{*}(e, t) will be called optimal if P(d^{*}) = max P(d), where the maximum is taken with respect to all possible control programs, i.e., all possible decision rules d = d(e, t). Our problem will be to find this optimal decision rule d^{*}, thereby maximizing the probability P(d) = P (fit(n) ∈ E) of the system ending up in one of the states of E after n steps. We now describe a multistage procedure for finding d^{*}. Let P(k, i, d) = P {E(n) ∈ E | E(k) = e_i} be the probability that after occupying the state e_i at the kth step, the system will end up in one of the states of the set E after the remaining n - k steps (it is assumed that some original choice of the decision rule d = d(e, t) has been made). Then clearly P(k, i, d) = p₂₃(d)P(k + 1, j, d). (1) This is a simple consequence of the total probability formula, since at the (k + 1)st step the system goes into the state of with probability pt(d), d = d(e_i, t), whence with probability P(k + 1, j, d) it moves on to one of the states in the set E. For k = n - 1, formula (1) involves the probability P(n, j, d) = 1 if e_j ∈ E, 0 otherwise, (2) and hence P(n - 1, i, d) = EEE p₂₁(d), (3) 138 PROBLEMS OF OPTIMAL CONTROL APP. 4 where the summation is over all j such that the state e_j belongs to the given set E. Obviously, P(n - 1, i, d) does not depend on values of the control parameter other than the values d_i = d(e_i, n - 1) chosen at the time n - 1. Letting d^{*} denote the value of the control parameter at which the function (3) takes its maximum, we have P^{*}(n - 1, i) = P(n - 1, i, d^{*}) = max P(n - 1, i, d) d ∈ D. Clearly, there is a value d^{*} = d^{*}(e_i, n - 1) corresponding to every pair (E, n-1), i=1, 2, ... For k = n - 2, formula (1) becomes P(n - 2, i, d) = p₅(d)P(n - 1, j, d). Here the probabilities p₅(d) depend only on the values d_i = d(e_i, n - 2) of the decision rule d = d(e, t) chosen at time n - 2, while the probabilities P(n - 1, j, d) depend only on the values d = d(e_i, n - 1) chosen at time n - 1. Suppose we "correct" the decision rule d = d(e, t) by replacing the original values d_i = d_i(e_i, n - 1) by the values d^{*}(e_i, n - 1) just found. Then the corresponding probabilities P(n - 1, j, d) increase to their maximum values P^{*}(n - 1, j), thereby increasing the probability P(n - 2, i, d) to the value P(n - 2, i, d) p₅(d)P^{*}(n - 1, j). (5) Clearly, (5) depends on the decision rule d = d(e, t) only through the dependence of the transition probabilities p₅(d) on the values d = d(e_i, n - 2) of the control parameter at time n - 2. Again letting d^{*} denote the value of the control parameter at which the function (5) takes its maximum, we have P^{*}(n-2,i)=P(n-2,i,d*) = max P(n - 2, i, d) d ∈ D n-2 corresponding to every pair As before, there is a value d^{*} = (e_i, n - 2), i = 1, 2, ... Suppose we "correct" the decision rule d(x, t) by setting d(x, t) = d^{*}(x, t) (6) for t = n - 2, n - 1 and all x = e₁, e₂, ... Then clearly the probabilities P(k, i, d) take their maximum values p^{*}(k, i, d) for i = 1, 2, ..., and k = n - 2, n - 1. Correspondingly, formula (1) becomes P(n - 3, i, d) = p₁₂(d)P(n - 2, j, d) p₃(d)P^{*}(n - 2, j), and this function of the control parameter d takes its maximum for some d^{*} = d^{*}(e_i, n - 3). We can then, once again, "correct" the decision rule " It will be assumed that this maximum and the others considered below exist. PROBLEMS OF OPTIMAL CONTROL APP. 4 139 d = d(x, t) by requiring (6) to hold for t = n - 3 and all x = e₁, e₂, ... as well as for t = n - 2, n - 1 and all x = e₁, e₂, ... such that the probability P(d) = P(0, i, d) satisfying the initial condition (0) = e_i achieves its maximum value. At the (n - k)th step of this procedure of "successive corrections," we find the value d^{*} = d^{*}(e_i, k) maximizing the function P(k, i, d), p₂₁(d)P^{*}(k + 1, j), where P^{*}(k + 1, j) is the maximum value of the probability P(k + 1, j, d). Carrying out this maximization, we get Bellman's equation 2 P^{*}(k, i) = max d ∈ D 1 p₅(d)P^{*}(k + 1, j), which summarizes the whole procedure just described. Example 1. Suppose there are just two states e₁ and e₂, and suppose the transition probabilities are continuous functions of the control parameter in the intervals a₂ < p₂(d) < P_{2a} < P₁₁(d) < P₁. What is the optimal decision rule maximizing the probability of the system, initially in the state e₁, going into the state e₁ two steps later? Solution. In this case, P^{*}(1, 2) = (32, P^{*}(1, 1) = P^{*}(0, 1) = max [p₁₁(d)P₁ + p₁₂(d)P₂] = max [p₁₁(d)P₁ + P₂] a d if the system is initially in the state e₁, then clearly we should maximize the transition probability p₁₁ (by choosing p₁₁ = P) if P > P₂ while maximizing the transition probability P₂ = 1 - p' (by choosing p₁₁ = a) if P < P₂. There is an analogous optimal decision rule for the case where the initial state of the system is e₂. Example 2 (The optimal choice problem). Once again we consider the optimal choice problem studied on pp. 28-29 and 86-87, corresponding to "k keeping with (2)-(4), we have P^{*}(n, j) = 1 if EEE, 0 otherwise. " Clearly, any choice of p₁ in the interval a₁ ma which is better than all previously inspected objects. According to (12), mo is the largest positive integer such that 1 + ma 1 + e^{-μ} + ma+1 m-1 > 1. 1. (13) PROBLEMS 1. In Example 2, prove that m, mo Ps e (14) if m is large, where e = 2.718... is the base of the natural logarithms. Hint. Use an integral to estimate the left-hand side of (13). 2. Find the exact value of mo for m = 50. Compare the result with (14). 3. Consider a Markov chain with two states e₁ and e₂ and transition probabilities pt(d) depending on a control parameter d taking only two values 0 and 1. Suppose 1, P₁₁(0) = xs, P₂₁(0) = a, p₁₁(0) P₂₁(0) What is the optimal decision rule maximizing the probability of the system initially in the state e₁, going into the state e₂ three steps later? 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