

Recall: Let X be CTMC in stat. dist.
 Z be reverse time CTMC.

Then • Z leaves state i at rate v_i
 (same as X)

• Z has trans matrix $Q_{ij} = \frac{\pi_j P_{ji}}{P_{ij}}$

It is time reversible if

$$P_{ij} = Q_{ij}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \pi_i v_i = \pi_j P_{ji}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow P_i v_i P_{ij} = P_j v_j P_{ji} \quad \text{since } P_i = \frac{1}{Z} \pi_i$$

Def (Detailed balance eqns)

$$P_i \underbrace{q_{ij}}_{\substack{\text{rate of jumps} \\ \text{from } i \text{ to } j}} = P_j \underbrace{q_{ji}}_{\substack{\text{rate of jumps} \\ \text{from } j \text{ to } i}}$$

As in the case of discrete time MC's, this yields a way to find stat dist.

Prop Suppose there is a prob. dist. $w = (w_i)$ satisfying the detailed balance eqns, i.e.

$$w_i q_{ij} = w_j q_{ji}, \quad \sum_i w_i = 1, \quad w_i \geq 0.$$

Then the CTMC is reversible and $P_j = w_j$

Prop An ergodic birth death process is time reversible.

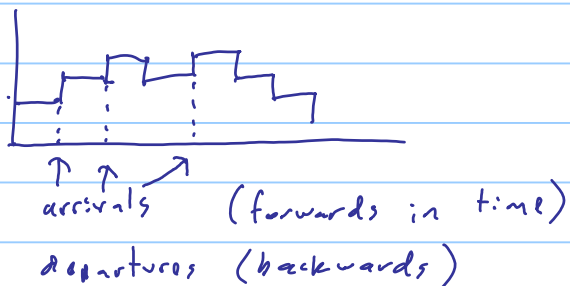
Why? Analog to 1-d random walk.

Q: Consider an M/M/s queue w/ $\lambda \leq s\mu$.
This is a birth death process w/

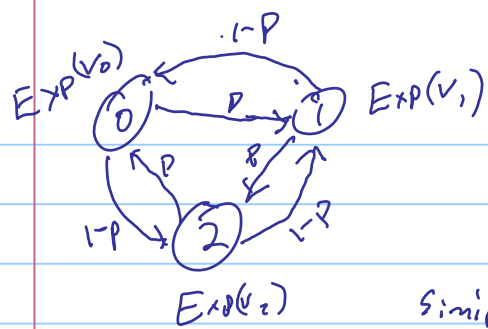
$$\lambda_n \quad \mu_n = \begin{cases} \mu_n & n \leq s \\ \mu s & n > s \end{cases}$$

Suppose it has been running a long time and has achieved equilibrium. Let $\{N(t): t \geq T\}$ count the number of departures from a certain time $T \gg 0$. What is dist of this counting proc?

Soln: Arrivals occur according to rate- λ Poisson process. M/M/s queue is reversible, i.e., is the same process going backwards in time (arrivals switch w/ departures). Thus, departures are a rate λ Poisson proc.



Q: Reversibility for 3-state MC?



$$w_0 \cdot q_{01} = w_1 \cdot q_{10}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow w_0 \cdot p \cdot V_0 = w_1 \cdot (1-p) \cdot V_1$$

Similarly

$$w_1 \cdot p \cdot V_1 = w_2 \cdot (1-p) \cdot V_2$$

$$w_2 \cdot p \cdot V_2 = w_0 \cdot (1-p) \cdot V_0$$

Soln?

Take product of the 3 eqns to give

$$(w_1 \cdot w_2 \cdot w_3) (V_1 \cdot V_2 \cdot V_3) \cdot p^3$$

$$= (\quad) (\quad) \cdot (1-p)^3$$

Soln only if $p = 1-p = \frac{1}{2}$.