

Homework 2 Solutions (Stationary Stochastic Processes)

1. We define $X_0 = Y_0$ and $X_n = \lambda X_{n-1} + Y_n$ for $n \geq 1$. Suppose Y_0, Y_1, \dots , are uncorrelated random variables with $E[Y_n] = 0$ and

$$\text{var}(Y_n) = \begin{cases} \sigma^2/(1 - \lambda^2), & n = 0 \\ \sigma^2, & n \geq 1 \end{cases} \text{ where } \lambda^2 < 1.$$

Find $Cov(X_n, X_{n+m})$. Is this process WSS? why?

Solution:

The process $X_n, n \geq 0$ is called a first-order autoregressive process. It says that the state at time n (that is, X_n) is a constant multiple of the state at time $n - 1$ plus a random error term Y_n

$$\begin{aligned} X_N &= \lambda(\lambda X_{n-2} + Y_{n-1}) + Y_n \\ &= \lambda^2 X_{n-2} + \lambda Y_{n-1} + Y_n \end{aligned}$$

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$$= \sum_{i=0}^n \lambda^{n-i} Y_i$$

$$Cov(X_n, X_{n+m}) = Cov\left(\sum_{i=0}^n \lambda^{n-i} Y_i, \sum_{i=0}^{n+m} \lambda^{n+m-i} Y_i\right)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^n \lambda^{n-i} \lambda^{n+m-i} Cov(Y_i, Y_i) = \frac{\sigma^2 \lambda^m}{1 - \lambda^2}$$

where the preceding uses the fact that Y_i and Y_j are uncorrelated when $i \neq j$. As $E[X_n] = 0$, we see that $X_n, n \geq 0$ is weakly stationary (the definition for a discrete time process is the obvious analog of that given for continuous time processes).

2. Prove that $Var(X(t+s) - X(t)) = 2R_X(0) - 2R_X(s)$. let $X(t)$ be a WSS.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} &Var(X(t+s) - X(t)) \\ &= Cov(X(t+s) - X(t), X(t+s) - X(t)) \\ &= R(0) - R(s) - R(s) + R(0) \\ &= 2R(0) - 2R(s). \end{aligned}$$

3. let X_i ($i \in Z$) be a process in which the X_i 's are i.i.d. supposing CDF $F_{X_i}(x) = F(x)$, prove that this process is SSS.

Solution:

Intuitively, since $X(n)$'s are i.i.d., we expect that as time evolves the probabilistic behavior of the process does not change. Therefore, this must be a stationary process. To show this rigorously, we can argue as follows. For all real numbers x_1, x_2, \dots, x_r and all distinct integers n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & F_{X(n_1)X(n_2)\dots X(n_r)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_r) \\ &= F_{X(n_1)}(x_1)F_{X(n_2)}(x_2)\dots F_{X(n_r)}(x_r) \text{ (since the } X(n_i)\text{'s are independent)} \\ &= F(x_1)F(x_2)\dots F(x_r) \text{ (since } F_{X(n_i)}(x) = F(x)\text{)}. \end{aligned}$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} & F_{X(n_1+D)X(n_2+D)\dots X(n_r+D)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_r) \\ &= F_{X(n_1+D)}(x_1)F_{X(n_2+D)}(x_2)\dots F_{X(n_r+D)}(x_r) \text{ (since the } X(n_i + D)\text{'s are independent)} \\ &= F(x_1)F(x_2)\dots F(x_r) \text{ (since } F_{X(n_i+D)}(x) = F(x)\text{)}. \end{aligned}$$

4. Consider the process $X(t) = Y(t + T)$ in which $T \sim U(0, T_0)$ and $Y(t)$ is a periodic function with period T_0 . Is this process SSS? Give reasons for your answer.

Solution:

It is SSS. Since this process is periodic the statics of the joint distribution remains the same and so the process is SSS.

5. Consider the process $X(t) = Y + Zt$ in which Y and Z are normal $N(1,1)$ and independent random variables. For this process find the correlation function and covariance function.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} R_{X(t_1, t_2)} &= E[X(t_1)X(t_2)] \\ &= E[(Y + Zt_1)(Y + Zt_2)] \\ &= E[Y^2] + E[YZ](t_1 + t_2) + E[Z^2]t_1t_2 \\ &= 2 + E[Y]E[Z](t_1 + t_2) + 2t_1t_2 \text{ (since } Y \text{ and } Z \text{ are independent)} \\ &= 2 + t_1 + t_2 + 2t_1t_2, \text{ for all } t_1, t_2 \in [0, \infty). \end{aligned}$$

And for the covariance we have:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{X(t_1, t_2)} &= R_{X(t_1, t_2)} - E[X(t_1)]E[X(t_2)] \\ &= 2 + t_1 + t_2 + 2t_1t_2 - (1 + t_1)(1 + t_2) \\ &= 1 + t_1t_2, \text{ for all } t_1, t_2 \in [0, \infty). \end{aligned}$$

6. Define $X(t) = A \cos(wt) + B \sin(wt)$, where A and B are independent unit normal random variables and w is constant. Show that $X(t)$ is a WSS.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} & Cov(X(t), X(t + s)) \\ &= Cov(A \cos(wt) + B \sin(wt), A \cos(w(t + s)) + B \sin(w(t + s))) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \cos(wt)\cos(w(t+s)) + \sin(wt)\sin(w(t+s)) \\
&= \cos(w(t+s)wt) \\
&= \cos(ws).
\end{aligned}$$

and also since the mean is cte the process is WSS.

7. Suppose X_1, X_2, \dots are i.i.d with $E[X_i] = 0$ and $\text{var}(X_i) = 4$. For the process $Y(n) = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n (n \in N)$ find the mean and covariance.

Solution:

$$E[Y(n)] = E[X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n] = E[X_1] + E[X_2] + \dots + E[X_n] = 0$$

let $m \leq n$, then:

$$\begin{aligned}
R_{Y(m,n)} &= E[Y(m)Y(n)] \\
&= E[Y(m)(Y(m) + X_{m+1} + X_{m+2} + \dots + X_n)] \\
&= E[Y(m)^2] + E[Y(m)]E[X_{m+1} + X_{m+2} + \dots + X_n] \\
&= E[Y(m)^2] + 0 = \text{Var}(Y(m)) \\
&= \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2) + \dots + \text{Var}(X_m) \\
&= 4m.
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, for $m \geq n$, we have $R_{Y(m,n)} = E[Y(m)Y(n)] = 4n$

We conclude $R_{Y(m,n)} = 4\min(m, n)$.