

Markovian Queues and Stochastic Networks

Lecture 1 Richard J. Boucherie Stochastic Operations Research





- Background on Markov chains
- Reversibility, output theorem, tandem networks, feedforward networks
- Partial balance, Markovian routing, Kelly-Whittle networks
- Kelly's lemma, time-reversed process, networks with fixed routes
- Advanced topics

Literature

- R.D. Nelson, Probability, Stochastic Processes, and Queueing Theory, 1995, chapter 10
- F.P. Kelly, Reversibility and stochastic networks, 1979, chapters 1–4 www.statslab.cam.ac.uk/~frank/BOOKS/kelly_book.html
- R.W. Wolff, Stochastic Modeling and the Theory of Queues, Prentice Hall, 1989
- R.J. Boucherie, N.M. van Dijk (editors), Queueing Networks - A Fundamental Approach, International Series in Operations Research and Management Science Vol 154, Springer, 2011
- Reader: R.J. Boucherie, Markovian queueing networks, 2018 (work in progress)

Internet of Things: optimal route in Jackson network



- Jobs arrive at outside nodes with given destination
- Each node single server queue minimize sojourn time
- Optimal route selection
- Inform jobs in neighbouring node
- alternative route



Internet of Things: optimal route in Jackson network



- ► Tandem of *M*|*M*|1 queues
- Sojourn time
- Average sojourn time queue *i*: $\mathbb{E}S_i = (\mu_i - \lambda_i)^{-1}$

On route
$$\mathbb{E}S = \sum_{i} (\mu_i - \lambda_i)^{-1}$$



Internet of Things: optimal route in Jackson network





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Challenge

- Grid $N \times N$
- On each side k flows arrive from sources at randomly selected (but fixed) nodes with destination a randomly selected (but fixed) node on one of the 4 sides
- At each gridpoint a single server queue handles and forwards packets
- Packets select their route from source to destination to minimize their travelling time (no travelling time on link)
- Packets may communicate with neighbours to avoid congestions and change their route accordingly
- Poisson arrivals of packets; general processing time at nodes; one destination on each side
- Develop decentralized routing algorithm to minimize mean travelling times and demonstrate that it outperforms shortest (and fixed) route selection



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- Recap Markov chains (chapter 1)
- ▶ Birth-death process, Detailed balance (Sec 2.1, 2.2)

- Stochastic process {N(t), t ∈ T} records evolution of random variable, T = ℝ
- State space $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}_0^J$, state $\mathbf{s} = (n_1, \dots, n_J)$
- Stationary process if (N(t₁), N(t₂),..., N(t_k)) has the same distribution as (N(t₁ + τ), N(t₂ + τ), ..., N(t_k + τ)) for all k ∈ N, t₁, t₂,..., t_k ∈ T, τ ∈ T
- ► Markov proces satisfies the Markov property: for every $k \ge 1, 0 \le t_1 < \cdots < t_k < t_{k+1}$, and any $\mathbf{s}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{k+1}$ in *S*, the joint distribution of $(N(t_1), \ldots, N(t_{k+1}))$ is such that

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{N(t_{k+1}) = \mathbf{s}_{k+1} | N(t_1) = \mathbf{s}_1, \dots, N(t_k) = \mathbf{s}_k\right\}$$
$$= \mathbb{P}\left\{N(t_{k+1}) = \mathbf{s}_{k+1} | N(t_k) = \mathbf{s}_k\right\},\$$

whenever the conditioning event $(N(t_1) = \mathbf{s}_1, \dots, N(t_k) = \mathbf{s}_k)$ has positive probability.

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- A Markov process is time-homogeneous if the conditional probability P {N(s + t) = s' | N(s) = s} is independent of t for all s, t > 0, s, s' ∈ S.
- For a time-homogeneous Markov process the transition probability from state s to state s' in time t is defined as

$${\mathcal P}({\mathbf s},{\mathbf s}';t) = \mathbb{P}\left\{ {\mathcal N}({\mathbf s}+t) = {\mathbf s}' | {\mathcal N}({\mathbf s}) = {\mathbf s}
ight\}, \hspace{1em} t > 0.$$

- ► The transition matrix P(t) = (P(s, s'; t), s, s' ∈ S) has non-negative entries (1) and row sums equal to one (2).
- ► The Markov property implies that the transition probabilities satisfy the Chapman-Kolmogorov equations (3). Assume that the transition matrix is standard (4). For all s, s' ∈ S, s, t ∈ T, a standard transition matrix satisfies:

$$P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) \ge 0; \tag{1}$$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{s}'\in S} P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) = 1;$$
(2)

$$P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}''; t+s) = \sum_{\mathbf{s}' \in S} P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) P(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}''; s); \quad (3)$$

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) = \delta_{\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'}.$$
 (4)

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For a standard transition matrix the transition rate from state s to state s' can be defined as

$$q(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s}') = \lim_{h \downarrow 0} rac{P(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s}';h) - \delta_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s}'}}{h}.$$

- For all $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}' \in S$ this limit exists.
- Markov process is called continuous-time Markov chain if for all s, s' ∈ S the limit exists and is finite (5).
- ► Assume that the rate matrix Q = (q(s, s'), s, s' ∈ S) is stable (6), and conservative (7)

$$0 \leq q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}') < \infty, \quad \mathbf{s}' \neq \mathbf{s};$$
 (5)

$$0\leq q(\mathbf{s}):=-q(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s})<\infty;$$
 (6)

$$\sum_{\mathbf{s}' \in S} q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}') = 0. \tag{7}$$
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If the rate matrix is stable the transition probabilities can be expressed in the transition rates: for s, s' ∈ S,

 $P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; h) = \delta_{\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'} + q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}')h + o(h) \text{ for } h \downarrow 0, \quad (8)$

where o(h) denotes a function g(h) with the property that $g(h)/h \rightarrow 0$ as $h \rightarrow 0$.

For small positive values of *h*, for s' ≠ s, q(s, s')h may be interpreted as the conditional probability that the Markov chain {*N*(*t*)} makes a transition to state s' during (*t*, *t* + *h*) given that the process is in state s at time *t*.

- For every initial state N(0) = s, {N(t), t ∈ T} is a pure-jump process: the process jumps from state to state and remains in each state a *strictly positive* sojourn-time with probability 1.
- ► Markov chain remains in state s for an exponential sojourn-time with mean q(s)⁻¹.
- ► Conditional on the process departing from state s it jumps to state s' with probability p(s, s') = q(s, s')/q(s).
- The Markov chain represented via the holding times q(s) and transition probabilities p(s, s'), s, s' ∈ S, is referred to as the Markov jump chain.
- ► The Markov chain with transition rates q(s, s') is obtained from the Markov jump chain with holding times with mean q(s)⁻¹ and transition probabilities p(s, s') as q(s, s') = q(s)p(s, s'), s, s' ∈ S.

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From the Chapman-Kolmogorov equations

$$P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}''; t+s) = \sum_{\mathbf{s}' \in S} P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) P(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}''; s)$$

two systems of differential equations for the transition probabilities can be obtained:

Conditioning on the first jump of the Markov chain in (0, *t*] yields the so-called Kolmogorov backward equations (9), whereas conditioning on the last jump in (0, *t*] gives the Kolmogorov forward equations (10), for s, s' ∈ S, t ≥ 0,

$$\frac{dP(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t)}{dt} = \sum_{\mathbf{s}'' \in S} q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'') P(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{s}'; t), \quad (9)$$
$$\frac{dP(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t)}{dt} = \sum_{\mathbf{s}'' \in S} P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}''; t) q(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{s}'). \quad (10)$$

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Derivation Kolmogorov forward equations (regular)

$$P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t+h) = \sum_{\mathbf{s}''} P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}''; t) P(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{s}'; h) \text{ [condition on last step]}$$

$$P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t+h) - P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) = \sum_{\mathbf{s}'' \neq \mathbf{s}'} P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}''; t) P(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{s}'; h) + P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) [P(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}'; h) - 1]$$

$$= \sum_{\mathbf{s}'' \neq \mathbf{s}'} \{P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}''; t) P(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{s}'; h) - P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) P(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}''; h)\}$$

$$\frac{dP(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t)}{dt} = \sum_{\mathbf{s}'' \neq \mathbf{s}'} \{P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}''; t) q(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{s}') - P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t) q(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}'')\}$$

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Explosion in a pure birth process

► Consider the Markov chain at state space S = N₀ with transition rates

$$q(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s}') = egin{cases} q(\mathbf{s}), & ext{if } \mathbf{s}' = \mathbf{s} + 1, \ -q(\mathbf{s}), & ext{if } \mathbf{s}' = \mathbf{s}, \ 0, & ext{otherwise}, \end{cases}$$

with initial distribution $\mathbb{P}(N(0) = \mathbf{s}) = \delta(\mathbf{s}, 0)$.

Let ξ(s) denote the time spent in state s; ξ = ∑_{s=0}[∞] ξ(s)
 Let q(s) = 2^s, then

$$\mathbb{E}\{\xi\} = \sum_{\mathbf{s}=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}\{\xi(\mathbf{s})\} = \sum_{\mathbf{s}=0}^{\infty} 2^{-\mathbf{s}} = 2$$

As $\mathbb{E}\{\xi\} < \infty$ it must be that $\mathbb{P}(\xi < \infty) = 1$ and therefore $\{N(t)\}$ is explosive (diverges to infinity in finite time).

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Theorem (1.1.2)

For a conservative, stable, regular, continuous-time Markov chain the forward equations (10) and the backward equations (9) have the same unique solution $\{P(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; t), \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}' \in S, t \ge 0\}$. Moreover, this unique solution is the transition matrix of the Markov chain.

The transient distribution p(s, t) = P {N(t) = s} can be obtained from the Kolmogorov forward equations for s ∈ S, t ≥ 0,

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dp(\mathbf{s},t)}{dt} = \sum_{\mathbf{s}' \neq \mathbf{s}} \left\{ p(\mathbf{s}',t)q(\mathbf{s}',\mathbf{s}) - p(\mathbf{s},t)q(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s}') \right\},\\ p(\mathbf{s},0) = p_{(0)}(\mathbf{s}). \end{cases}$$

A measure m = (m(s), s ∈ S) such that 0 ≤ m(s) < ∞ for all s ∈ S and m(s) > 0 for some s ∈ S is called a stationary measure if for all s ∈ S, t ≥ 0,

$$m(\mathbf{s}) = \sum_{\mathbf{s}' \in S} m(\mathbf{s}') P(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}; t),$$

and is called an invariant measure if for all $s \in S$,

$$\sum_{\mathbf{s}'\neq\mathbf{s}}\left\{m(\mathbf{s})q(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s}')-m(\mathbf{s}')q(\mathbf{s}',\mathbf{s})\right\}=0.$$

- {N(t)} is ergodic if it is positive-recurrent with stationary measure having finite mass
- ► Global balance; interpretation

Theorem (1.1.4 Equilibrium distribution) Let $\{N(t), t \ge 0\}$ be a conservative, stable, regular, irreducible continuous-time Markov chain.

 (i) If a positive finite mass invariant measure m exists then the Markov chain is positive-recurrent (ergodic). In this case π(s) = m(s) [∑_{s∈S} m(s)]⁻¹, s ∈ S, is the unique stationary distribution and π is the equilibrium distribution, *i.e.*, for all s, s' ∈ S,

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} P(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s}';t) = \pi(\mathbf{s}').$$

 (ii) If a positive finite mass invariant measure does not exist then for all s, s' ∈ S,

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} P(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s}';t) = 0.$$

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The birth-death process – 1

▶ A birth-death process is a Markov chain $\{N(t), t \in T\}$, $T = [0, \infty)$, or $T = \mathbb{R}$, with state space $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}_0$ and transition rates for $\lambda, \mu : S \rightarrow [0, \infty)$

$$q(\mathbf{n},\mathbf{n}') = \begin{cases} \lambda(\mathbf{n}) & \text{if } \mathbf{n}' = \mathbf{n} + 1, \quad \text{(birth rate)} \\ \mu(\mathbf{n})\mathbbm{1}(\mathbf{n} > 0), & \text{if } \mathbf{n}' = \mathbf{n} - 1, \quad \text{(death rate)} \\ -\lambda(\mathbf{n}) - \mu(\mathbf{n}), & \text{if } \mathbf{n}' = \mathbf{n}, \ \mathbf{n} > 0, \\ -\lambda(\mathbf{n}), & \text{if } \mathbf{n} = 0. \end{cases}$$

Kolmogorov forward equations

$$\frac{dP(\mathbf{n},t)}{dt} = P(\mathbf{n}-1,t)\lambda(\mathbf{n}-1) - P(\mathbf{n},t)[\lambda(\mathbf{n}) + \mu(\mathbf{n})] + P(\mathbf{n}+1,t)\mu(\mathbf{n}+1),$$

$$\mathbf{n} > 0,$$

$$\frac{dP(\mathbf{n},t)}{dt} = -P(\mathbf{n},t)\lambda(\mathbf{n}) + P(\mathbf{n}+1,t)\mu(\mathbf{n}+1), \quad \mathbf{n}=0.$$

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The birth-death process - 2

Global balance equations

$$0 = \pi(\mathbf{n} - 1)\lambda(\mathbf{n} - 1) - \pi(\mathbf{n})[\lambda(\mathbf{n}) + \mu(\mathbf{n})] + \pi(\mathbf{n} + 1)\mu(\mathbf{n} + 1), \quad \mathbf{n} > 0, \\ 0 = -\pi(0)\lambda(0) + \pi(1)\mu(1).$$

• π satisfies the detailed balance equations

$$\pi(\mathbf{n})\lambda(\mathbf{n}) = \pi(\mathbf{n}+1)\mu(\mathbf{n}+1), \quad \mathbf{n} \in \mathcal{S}.$$

Theorem (2.1.1)

Let {*N*(*t*)} be a birth-death process with state space $S = \mathbb{N}_0$, birth rates $\lambda(\mathbf{n})$ and death rates $\mu(\mathbf{n})$. If

 $\pi(\mathbf{0}) := \left[\sum_{\mathbf{n}=0}^{\infty} \prod_{\mathbf{r}=0}^{\mathbf{n}-1} \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{r})}{\mu(\mathbf{r}+1)}\right]^{-1} > \mathbf{0},$ then the equilibrium distribution is

$$\pi(\mathbf{n}) = \pi(\mathbf{0}) \prod_{\mathbf{r}=\mathbf{0}}^{\mathbf{n}-1} \frac{q(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}+1)}{q(\mathbf{r}+1,\mathbf{r})} = \pi(\mathbf{0}) \prod_{\mathbf{r}=\mathbf{0}}^{\mathbf{n}-1} \frac{\lambda(\mathbf{r})}{\mu(\mathbf{r}+1)}, \quad \mathbf{n} \in \mathcal{S}.$$

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Example: The M|M|1 queue

- Customers arrive to a queue according to a Poisson process (the arrival process) with rate λ.
- ► A single server serves the customers in order of arrival.
- ► Customers' service times have an exponential distribution with mean µ⁻¹ and are independent of each other and of the arrival process.
- ► {N(t), $t \in T$ }, $T = [0, \infty)$ recording number of customers in the queue is a birth-death process at $S = \mathbb{N}_0$ with

$$q(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{n}') = \begin{cases} \lambda(\mathbf{n}) = \lambda & \text{if } \mathbf{n}' = \mathbf{n} + 1, & \text{(birth rate)} \\ \mu(\mathbf{n}) = \mu \mathbb{1}(\mathbf{n} > 0), & \text{if } \mathbf{n}' = \mathbf{n} - 1, & \text{(death rate)} \end{cases}$$

and equilibrium distribution

$$\pi(\mathbf{n}) = (1 - \rho)\rho^{\mathbf{n}}, \quad \mathbf{n} \in S,$$

provided that the queue is *stable*: $\rho := \frac{\lambda}{\mu} < 1$.

Example: The M|M|1|c queue

- ► M|M|1 queue, but now with finite waiting room that may contain at most c 1 customers.
- {*N*(*t*), *t* ∈ *T*}, *T* = [0, ∞) recording the number of customers in the queue is a birth-death process at S = {0, 1, 2, ..., c} with

$$q(\mathbf{n},\mathbf{n}') = egin{cases} \lambda(\mathbf{n}) = \lambda \mathbbm{1}(\mathbf{n} < m{c}) & ext{if } \mathbf{n}' = \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{1}, \quad ext{(birth rate)} \ \mu(\mathbf{n}) = \mu \mathbbm{1}(\mathbf{n} > \mathbf{0}), & ext{if } \mathbf{n}' = \mathbf{n} - \mathbf{1}, \quad ext{(death rate)}. \end{cases}$$

- Detailed balance equations are truncated at state c
- The equilibrium distribution is truncated to *S*:

$$\pi(\mathbf{n}) = \pi(\mathbf{0})\rho^{\mathbf{n}}, \quad \mathbf{n} \in \{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}, \dots, \mathbf{c}\},$$

with

$$\pi(\mathbf{0}) = \left[\sum_{\mathbf{n}=\mathbf{0}}^{c} \rho^{\mathbf{n}}\right]^{-1} = \frac{1-\rho}{1-\rho^{c+1}}.$$

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Detailed balance - 1

Definition (2.2.1 Detailed balance)

A Markov chain {N(t)} at state space S with transition rates $q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'), \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}' \in S$, satisfies detailed balance if a distribution $\pi = (\pi(\mathbf{s}), \mathbf{s} \in S)$ exists that satisfies for all $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}' \in S$ the detailed balance equations:

$$\pi(\mathbf{s})q(\mathbf{s},\mathbf{s}')-\pi(\mathbf{s}')q(\mathbf{s}',\mathbf{s})=0.$$

Theorem (2.2.2)

If the distribution π satisfies the detailed balance equations then π is the equilibrium distribution.

The detailed balance equations state that the probability flow between each pair of states is balanced.

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Detailed balance - 2

Theorem (2.2.5 Truncation) Consider {N(t)} at state space S with transition rates $q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}')$, $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}' \in S$, and equilibrium distribution π . Let $V \subset S$. Let r > 0. If the transition rates are altered from $q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}')$ to $rq(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}')$ for $\mathbf{s} \in V$, $\mathbf{s}' \in S \setminus V$, then the resulting Markov chain { $N_r(t)$ } satisfies detailed balance and has equilibrium distribution (G is the normalizing constant)

$$\pi_r(\mathbf{s}) = egin{cases} G\pi(\mathbf{s}), & \mathbf{s} \in V, \ Gr\pi(\mathbf{s}), & \mathbf{s} \in S \setminus V, \end{cases}$$

If r = 0 then the Markov chain is truncated to V and

$$\pi_0(\mathbf{s}) = \pi(\mathbf{s}) \left[\sum_{\mathbf{s}\in V} \pi(\mathbf{s})\right]^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{s}\in V.$$

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Example: Network of parallel M|M|1 queues – 1

- Network of two M|M|1 queues in parallel.
- Queue *j* has arrival rate λ_j and service rate μ_j , j = 1, 2.
- $\{N_j(t)\}, j = 1, 2$, are assumed independent.
- { $N(t) = (N_1(t), N_2(t))$ }, state space $S = \mathbb{N}_0^2$, $\mathbf{n} = (n_1, n_2)$,
- ▶ Transition rates, for $\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{n}' \in S$, $\mathbf{n}' \neq \mathbf{n}$,

$$q(\mathbf{n},\mathbf{n}') = \begin{cases} \lambda_j & \text{if } \mathbf{n}' = \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{e}_j, \quad j = 1, 2, \\ \mu_j, & \text{if } \mathbf{n}' = \mathbf{n} - \mathbf{e}_j, \quad j = 1, 2. \end{cases}$$

► Random variables N_j := N_j(∞) recording the equilibrium number of customers in queue j are independent.

$$\pi(\mathbf{n}) = \prod_{j=1}^{2} \pi_j(n_j), \quad \mathbf{n} \in \mathcal{S},$$

$$\pi_j(n_j) = (1 - \rho_j)\rho_j^{n_j}, \ n_j \in \mathbb{N}_0, \text{ provided } \rho_j := \frac{\lambda_j}{\mu_j} < 1.$$

Example: Network of parallel M|M|1 queues – 2

- Common capacity restriction $n_1 + n_2 \le c$.
- Customers arriving to the network with c customers present are discarded.
- ► The Markov chain $\{N(t) = (N_1(t), N_2(t))\}$ has state space $S_c = \{(n_1, n_2) : n_j \ge 0, j = 1, 2, n_1 + n_2 \le c\}$ and transition rates truncated to S_c .
- ► Invoking Truncation Theorem:

$$\pi(\mathbf{n}) = G \prod_{j=1}^{2} \rho_{j}^{n_{j}}, \quad \mathbf{n} \in \mathcal{S}_{c},$$

with normalising constant

$$G = \left[\sum_{n_1=0}^{c} \sum_{n_2=0}^{c-n_1} \prod_{i=1}^{2} \rho_i^{n_i}\right]^{-1}$$

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- ► Tandem network of two *M*|*M*|1 queues
- Poisson λ arrival process to queue 1, service rates μ_i .
- Provided $\rho_i = \lambda/\mu_i < 1$, marginal distributions $\pi_i(n_i) = (1 \rho_i)\rho_i^{n_i}, n_i \in \mathbb{N}_0.$
- ► In equilibrium:

$$\pi(\mathbf{n}) = \prod_{i=1}^2 \pi_i(n_i), \quad \mathbf{n} \in S = \mathbb{N}_0^2.$$

- Exercise set 1: ex 1
- Deadline: October 7, 2024, 11:00
 Hand in via email
 Only emails received before 11:00 will be considered
- Next time: Chapter 2, and Section 3.1 (read those sections)



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