

The extinction probability of a continuous state branching process with population dependent branching rate

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Outline of the Talk

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Continuous state branching process

- A continuous state branching process arises as a scaling limit of Galton-Watson processes.
- It is a nonnegative Markov process X satisfying the branching property, i.e. for any $\lambda, x, y > 0$

$$\mathbb{E}_{x+y} e^{-\theta X_t} = \mathbb{E}_x e^{-\theta X_t} \mathbb{E}_y e^{-\theta X_t}.$$

- Its Laplace transform is determined by

$$\mathbb{E}_x e^{-\theta X_t} = e^{-x u_t(\theta)}$$

where function $u_t(\theta)$ satisfies the differential equation

$$\frac{\partial u_t(\theta)}{\partial t} + \psi(u_t(\theta)) = 0$$

with $u_0(\theta) = \theta$ and

$$\psi(\lambda) = -q - a\lambda + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\lambda^2 + \int_0^\infty (e^{-\lambda x} - 1 + \lambda x)\pi(dx)$$

for $q, \sigma \geq 0$, $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and for σ -finite measure π on $(0, \infty)$ satisfying $\int_0^\infty (z \wedge z^2)\pi(dz) < \infty$.

X is critical if $q = a = 0$.

Continuous state branching process as solution of SDE

- By Dawson and Li (2006, 2012), a critical continuous state branching process solves the following SDE.
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$$X_t = \sigma \int_0^t \sqrt{X_{s-}} dB_s + \int_0^t \int_0^\infty \int_0^{X_{s-}} x \tilde{N}(ds, dx, du),$$

where $\tilde{N}(ds, dx, du)$ is a compensated Poisson random measure on $[0, \infty) \times (0, \infty) \times [0, \infty)$ with compensator $ds\pi(dx)du$ with $\int_0^\infty x \wedge x^2 \pi(dx) < \infty$ and B is an independent Brownian motion.

Branching process with population dependent branching rate

- We want to consider a more sophisticated branching process whose branching rate depends on the population size.
- For simplicity we only consider the critical branching process.
- For Feller branching processes, an example of such a process is a solution to the following sde

$$dX_t = \sqrt{\gamma(X_t)X_t}dB_t,$$

where γ is a nonnegative function on $[0, \infty)$.

- To introduce the population dependent branching rate, we can use a representation of Dawson and Li.
- An critical continuous state branching process with population dependent branching rate is the solution to the following sde.
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$$X_t = \sigma \int_0^t \sqrt{\gamma_1(X_{s-})} dB_s + \int_0^t \int_0^\infty \int_0^{\gamma_2(X_{s-})} x \tilde{N}(ds, dx, du), \quad (1)$$

where γ_1, γ_2 are nonnegative functions.

- Such a process is also called a nonlinear branching process.

If X is a weak solution to (1) with α -stable random measure \tilde{N} , then on an enlarged probability space, X is a weak solution to

$$X_t = \sigma \int_0^t \sqrt{\gamma_1(X_{s-})} dB_s + \int_0^t \gamma_2(X_{s-})^{1/\alpha} \int_0^\infty x \tilde{N}(ds, dx). \quad (2)$$

By [Li and Mytnik \(2012\)](#), give that $\gamma_1(x) = x^{r_1}$ and $\gamma_2(x) = x^{r_2}$ for small $x \geq 0$ and $\gamma_i(x), i = 1, 2$ satisfy regularity conditions for other $x > 0$, equation (2) has a pathwise unique nonnegative strong solution for $r_1 \geq 1$ and $r_2 \geq \alpha - 1$.

- It is well known that a critical continuous state branching process dies out within a finite time; i.e. with probability one, $X_t = 0$ for t large enough.
- The branching causes the population to die out.
- For a nonlinear branching process whose branching rate goes to 0 as the population size goes to 0, a natural question is whether the process still dies out within a finite time.

A nonlinear branching process that survives forever

- We consider a nonlinear Feller branching process with branching rate $\gamma(x) = x^r$ for $r \geq 0$.
- The corresponding sde is

$$dX_t = \sqrt{X_t^r X_t} dB_t = X_t^{(r+1)/2} dB_t. \quad (3)$$

- It is well known that for $r = 0$, $X_t = 0$ for t large enough.
- On the other hand, sde (3) is solvable if $r = 1$.

$$X_t = X_0 e^{B_t - \frac{1}{2}t}.$$

Clearly, $X_t \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, but $X_t > 0$ for all t .

- What happens for $0 < r < 1$?

The main results

Recall that

$$X_t = \sigma \int_0^t \sqrt{\gamma_1(X_{s-})} dB_s + \int_0^t \int_0^\infty \int_0^{\gamma_2(X_{s-})} x \tilde{N}(ds, dx, du). \quad (4)$$

We assume that the above sde allows a unique weak solution.

Let

$$\tau_a^- = \inf\{t : X_t = 0\}.$$

We first find a mild condition under which the process goes to 0.

Theorem

Given any solution X of SDE (4), if there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\inf_{y \geq x} \gamma_1(y) > 0 \text{ for all } x \in (0, \delta) \text{ when } \sigma > 0 \quad (5)$$

or

$$\inf_{y \geq x} \gamma_2(y) > 0 \text{ for all } x \in (0, \delta) \text{ when } \pi \neq 0, \quad (6)$$

then $\tau_a^- < \infty$ \mathbb{P}^x -a.s. for all x, a with $x > a > 0$. Further, \mathbb{P}^x -a.s. $X_t \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Given $X_t \rightarrow 0$, we need further conditions on $\gamma_1(x)$ and $\gamma_2(x)$ for small x to distinguish between survival and extinction.

The next theorem says if at least one of $\gamma_1(x)$ and $\gamma_2(x)$ do not decrease too fast near 0, then the process dies out with probability one.

Theorem

Let X be the unique weak solution to sde (4). Suppose there exist $\delta > 0$, $0 < \alpha < 2$, $r_1 < 2$, $r_2 < \alpha$ and $b_i > 0$, $i = 1, 2, 3$ such that either

$$\inf_{x \in (0, \delta)} \gamma_1(x)x^{-r_1} \geq b_1 \text{ for } \sigma > 0,$$

or

$$\inf_{x \in (0, \delta)} x^{\alpha-2} \int_0^x y^2 \pi(dy) \geq b_3 \text{ and } \inf_{x \in (0, \delta)} \gamma_2(x)x^{-r_2} \geq b_2 \text{ for } \pi \neq 0,$$

then $\mathbb{P}_x\{\tau_0^- < \infty\} = 1$ for all $x > 0$.

The next result says that if both $\gamma_1(x)$ and $\gamma_2(x)$ decreases fast enough, then the process survives with probability one.

Theorem

Suppose that there exist constants $\delta > 0, 0 < \alpha < 2, r_2 > \alpha,$ and $b_i > 0, i = 1, 2, 3$ such that

$$\sup_{x \in (0, \delta)} \gamma_1(x)x^{-2} \leq b_1 \text{ if } \sigma > 0$$

and

$$\sup_{x \in (0, \delta)} x^{\alpha-2} \int_0^x y^2 \pi(dy) \leq b_3, \quad \sup_{x \in (0, \delta)} \gamma_2(x)x^{-r_2} \leq b_2 \text{ if } \pi \neq 0,$$

then $\mathbb{P}_x\{\tau_0^- = \infty\} = 1$ for all $x > 0$.

To handle the critical case of $r_2 = \alpha$ for $\alpha \in (1, 2)$, we adopt a different approach under additional assumption on π .

Theorem

Suppose there are constants $C, \delta > 0$ and $\alpha \in (1, 2)$ so that $\pi(dz)$ is absolutely continuous with respect to Lebesgue measure when restricted to interval $(0, \delta)$ and

$$\pi(dz) \leq Cz^{-1-\alpha}dz, \quad z \in (0, \delta).$$

Further,

$$\sup_{x \in (0, \delta)} \gamma_1(x)x^{-2} < \infty, \quad \sup_{x \in (0, \delta)} \gamma_2(x)x^{-\alpha} < \infty.$$

Then $\mathbb{P}\{\tau_0^- = \infty\} = 1$.

Remark

For $\pi = 0$ and $\gamma_1(x) = x^{r_1}$, then combining the above Theorems, for any $x > 0$ we have $\mathbb{P}_x\{\tau_0^- < \infty\} = 1$ for $0 \leq r_1 < 2$ and $\mathbb{P}_x\{\tau_0^- < \infty\} = 0$ but $X_t \rightarrow 0$ \mathbb{P}_x -a.s. for $r_1 \geq 2$.

Remark

If $\sigma = 0$ and $\gamma_2(x) = x^{r_2}$, $\pi(dx) = x^{1+\alpha}dx$ with $1 < \alpha < 2$ in sde (4), combining the Theorems we have for any $x > 0$, $\mathbb{P}_x\{\tau_0^- < \infty\} = 1$ for $0 \leq r_2 < \alpha$ and $\mathbb{P}_x\{\tau_0^- < \infty\} = 0$ but $X_t \rightarrow 0$ \mathbb{P}_x -a.s. for $r_2 \geq \alpha$.

Let

$$\tau_a^- := \inf\{t : X_t = a\}$$

and

$$\tau_b^+ := \inf\{t : X_t > b\}$$

with the convention $\inf \emptyset = \infty$.

Proof of survival:

Method 1

For $0 < x < \delta$, we can apply Ito's formula to have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & e^{-\lambda X_{t \wedge \tau_\delta^+ \wedge \tau_0^-}} \\
 &= e^{-\lambda x} + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_\delta^+ \wedge \tau_0^-} \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda X_s} \gamma_1(X_s) ds \\
 & \quad + \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_\delta^+ \wedge \tau_0^-} e^{-\lambda X_{s-}} \gamma_2(X_{s-}) ds \int_0^{\delta - X_{s-}} [e^{-\lambda z} - 1 + \lambda z] \pi(dz) + \text{mart.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_0^\delta [e^{-\lambda z} - 1 + \lambda z] \pi(dz) \leq C \int_0^\delta [(\lambda z) \wedge (\lambda z)^2] z^{-1-\alpha} dz \\
 &= C \lambda^\alpha \int_0^{\lambda \delta} [z \wedge z^2] z^{-1-\alpha} dz = C(\alpha) \lambda^\alpha,
 \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbb{E}_x e^{-\lambda X_{t \wedge \tau_\delta^+ \wedge \tau_0^-}} \\
 &= e^{-\lambda x} + \mathbb{E}_x \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_\delta^+ \wedge \tau_0^-} \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda X_s} \gamma_1(X_s) ds \\
 & \quad + \mathbb{E}_x \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_\delta^+ \wedge \tau_0^-} e^{-\lambda X_{s-}} \gamma_2(X_{s-}) ds \int_0^{\delta - X_{s-}} [e^{-\lambda z} - 1 + \lambda z] \pi(dz) \\
 & \leq e^{-\lambda x} + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} C \mathbb{E}_x \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_\delta^+ \wedge \tau_0^-} (\lambda X_s)^2 e^{-\lambda X_s} ds \\
 & \quad + C \mathbb{E}_x \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_\delta^+ \wedge \tau_0^-} (\lambda X_s)^\alpha e^{-\lambda X_s} ds.
 \end{aligned}$$

Letting $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}_x\{X_{t \wedge \tau_\delta^+ \wedge \tau_0^-} = 0\} = 0.$$

Letting $t \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\mathbb{P}_x\{\tau_0^- < \tau_\delta^+\} = 0.$$

We can show that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \mathbb{P}_x\{\tau_\delta^+ = \infty\} = 1.$$

Then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \mathbb{P}_x\{\tau_0^- < \infty\} = 0.$$

Given any $x_0 > 0$, $\mathbb{P}_{x_0}\{\tau_0^- < \infty\} = 0$.

Method 2:

Alternatively, we can prove the survival using a martingale argument with martingale

$$\frac{1}{X_t} \exp \left\{ - \int_0^t \frac{\gamma(X_{s-})}{X_{s-}^2} ds - \int_0^t \gamma_2(X_{s-}) X_{s-} ds \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{X_{s-} + x} - \frac{1}{X_{s-}} + \frac{x}{X_{s-}^2} \right) \pi(dx) \right\}$$

together with Borel-Cantelli arguments.

Proof of extinction:

We consider martingale

$$\exp \left\{ -\lambda X_t - \frac{\lambda^2 \sigma^2}{2} \int_0^t \gamma(X_{s-}) ds - \int_0^t \gamma_2(X_{s-}) ds \int_0^\infty \left[e^{-\lambda(X_{s-}+y)} - e^{-\lambda X_{s-}} + \lambda y e^{-\lambda X_{s-}} \right] \pi(dy) \right\}$$

and use Borel-Cantelli arguments.

Thank you for your attention!