

The Asymptotic Behavior of the Height for a Birth-Death Process

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- Introduction

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Let $\{X_t, t \geq 0\}$ be the birth-and-death process with state space $E = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, N\}$ and the following conservative Q -matrix:

$$Q = (q_{ij})$$

$$q_{ij} = \begin{cases} -b_i, & j = i + 1, & 0 \leq i \leq N - 1, \\ -(a_i + b_i), & j = i, & 0 \leq i, \\ a_i, & j = i - 1, & 1 \leq i \leq N, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Where $a_0 = 0, a_i > 0, 1 \leq i \leq N, b_i > 0, 0 \leq i \leq N - 1, b_N = 0$.

Introduction

$\{t : X_t > 0\} = \cup_{i=1}^{\infty} [\tau_i, \eta_i)$, where $\{[\tau_i, \eta_i), i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is the family of maximal disjoint random time intervals such that $X_t > 0$ on every interval $[\tau_i, \eta_i)$.

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$\{H_N^{(i)}, i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ i.i.d. $H_N^{(i)}$ is reduced to H_N .

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Suppose $b_i = (N - i)\nu$, $a_i = i\mu$, $\rho = \frac{\nu}{\mu}$, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}(H_N)}{N} = f(\rho). \quad (2)$$

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$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}(H_N)}{N} = f(\rho). \quad (2)$$

Where $\alpha := \alpha(\rho)$ be the unique solution of the equation $x^x(1-x)^{1-x} = \rho^x$ for $\rho \in (0, 1)$.

$$f(\rho) = \begin{cases} \alpha, & 0 < \rho < 1, \\ 1, & \rho \geq 1. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

The main results

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Theorem 1

Let $f(\rho)$ is given by (3), then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_N}{N} = f(\rho) \text{ in } L^2. \quad (4)$$

and

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Var}(H_N)}{N} = \frac{f^2(\rho)}{\rho}, \quad (5)$$

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Theorem 2

Suppose $\varphi(x)$ satisfies that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log x}{\varphi(x)} = 0$, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P} \left(\frac{H_N - \mathbb{E}(H_N)}{\varphi(N)} \leq x \right) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0, \\ 1, & x > 0. \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

The main results

Theorem 3

Suppose $b_i = \nu(N - i)^\beta$, $a_i = \mu i^\beta$, $\rho = \frac{\nu}{\mu}$, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_N}{N} = f(\rho, \beta) \text{ in } L^2. \quad (7)$$

Further, when $\beta > 1$, so that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_N}{N} = f(\rho, \beta) \text{ a.s.} \quad (8)$$

Where $\alpha := \alpha(\rho, \beta)$ is the unique solution of the equation $x^\alpha(1 - x)^{1-x} = \rho^{x/\beta}$ for $\rho \in (0, 1)$.

$$f(\rho, \beta) = \begin{cases} \alpha, & 0 < \rho < 1, \\ 1, & \rho \geq 1. \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

The main results

Theorem 4

(1) If $0 < \beta < 2$, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Var}(H_N)}{N^{2-\beta}} = \frac{f^2(\rho, \beta)}{\rho}. \quad (10)$$

(2) If $\beta \geq 2$, then

$$\text{Var}(H_N) \leq C \log^2 N. \quad (11)$$

Where C is independent of N , depend on β, ρ .

The main results

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Theorem 5

The finite queue $M/M/s/N$, $a_i = i\mu, i = 1, 2, \dots, s, a_i = s\mu, i > s, b_i = \lambda$. Let $\rho = \lambda/(s\mu)$,

(1) If $0 < \rho < 1$, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}(H_N) = \psi(\rho), \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \text{Var}(H_N) = \varphi(\rho). \quad (12)$$

(2) If $\rho = 1$, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}(H_N)}{\log N} = \frac{s^{(s-1)}}{(s-1)!}, \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Var}(H_N)}{N} = \frac{2s^{(s-1)}}{(s-1)!}. \quad (13)$$

(3) If $\rho > 1$, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}(H_N)}{N} = \zeta(\rho), \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Var}(H_N)}{N^2} = \eta(\rho). \quad (14)$$

Where $\psi(\rho), \varphi(\rho), \zeta(\rho), \eta(\rho)$ is finite, depend on s, ρ .

Lemma 1

The birth-death process X_t with Q -matrix (1), distribution of H_N for X_t follows:

$$\mathbb{P}(H_N \geq k) = \frac{1}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{a_i \cdots a_1}{b_i \cdots b_1}}, k = 2, 3, \dots, N. \quad (15)$$

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Let $a_i = i^\beta \mu$, $b_i = (N - i)^\beta \nu$, then

$$\mathbb{P}(H_N \geq k) = \frac{1}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \rho^{-i} \binom{N-1}{i}^{-\beta}}, k = 2, 3, \dots, N. \quad (16)$$

$$r_{\rho, \beta, n}(i) = \rho^{-i} \binom{n-1}{i}^{-\beta}$$

Lemma 2

Let $\alpha := \alpha(\rho, \beta)$ be the unique solution of the equation $x^x(1-x)^{1-x} = \rho^{x/\beta}$ for $\rho \in (0, 1)$, $h_n = \lceil \alpha(n-1) \rceil$, then

$$r_{\rho, \beta, n}(h_n) = O\left(n^{\beta/2}\right). \quad (17)$$

Lemma 3

Suppose $\rho \in (0, 1)$, there exists some constants C_1, C_2 , such that

$$r_{\rho, \beta, n}(h_n + [C_1 \log n]) \geq r_{\rho, n}(h_n) n^2, \quad (18)$$

$$r_{\rho, \beta, n}(h_n - [C_2 \log n]) \leq r_{\rho, n}(h_n) n^{-3} \quad (19)$$

for large enough n .

Lemma 4

- (1) If $0 < \rho < 1$, there exists some constants C_3, C_4 , for N large enough, we have

$$[\alpha N] - C_3 N^{1-\beta} - C_4 \log N \leq \mathbb{E}(H_N) \leq [\alpha N] + 1. \quad (20)$$

- (2) If $\rho \geq 1$, there exists some constants C_5 , for N large enough, so that

$$N - C_5 N^{1-\beta} \leq \mathbb{E}(H_N) \leq N. \quad (21)$$

Estimate of $\text{Var}(H_N)$

Lemma 5

(1) If $0 < \rho < 1$, for N large enough, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{([\alpha N] - [C_2 \log N] - C_3 N^{1-\beta})^2}{1 + \rho(N-1)^\beta} &\leq \text{Var}(H_N) \\ &\leq \frac{\alpha^2}{\rho} N^{2-\beta} + O(N^{2-2\beta}) + C \log^2 N. \end{aligned}$$

(2) If $\rho \geq 1$, for N large enough, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(N - 2\rho^{-1}(N-1)^{1-\beta} - 1)^2}{1 + \rho(N-1)^\beta} &\leq \text{Var}(H_N) \\ &\leq \rho^{-1} N^2 (N-1)^{-\beta} + O(N^{2-2\beta}) + C \log^2 N. \end{aligned}$$

Estimate of $\text{Var}(H_N)$

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By lemma 5, we proof Theorem 4.

Proof of Theorem 3

$$\mathbb{E} \left| \frac{H_N}{N} - f(\rho) \right|^2 = \text{Var} \left(\frac{H_N}{N} \right) + \left| \frac{\mathbb{E}(H_N)}{N} - f(\rho) \right|^2 = O(N^{-\beta}).$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_N}{N} = f(\rho) \quad \text{in } L^2.$$

When $\beta > 1$, $\forall \varepsilon > 0$, $\mathbb{P} \left(\left| \frac{H_N}{N} - f(\rho) \right| > \varepsilon \right) = O \left(\frac{1}{N^{\beta} \varepsilon^2} \right)$, then

$$\sum_{N=1}^{+\infty} \mathbb{P} \left(\left| \frac{H_N}{N} - f(\rho) \right| > \varepsilon \right) < +\infty.$$

by Borel-Cantelli lemma, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_N}{N} = f(\rho) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Proof of Theorem 5

The finite queue $M/M/s/N$, $a_i = i\mu$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, s$, $a_i = s\mu$, $i > s$, $b_i = \lambda$. Let $\rho = \lambda/(s\mu)$, $r_0 = 1$, $r_i = \frac{a_i a_{i-1} \cdots a_1}{b_i b_{i-1} \cdots b_1}$, then

$$r_i = \begin{cases} \frac{i!}{s^i} \rho^{-i}, & i < s, \\ \frac{(s-1)!}{s^{s-1}} \rho^{-i}, & i \geq s. \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

by lemma 1, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(H_N \geq k) = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} r_i}. \quad (23)$$

$$\mathbb{E}(H_N) = \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{1}{\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} r_i}. \quad (24)$$

Proof of Theorem 5

$\forall k \in \{1, 2, \dots, N-1\}$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(H_N = k) = \mathbb{P}(H_N \geq k) - \mathbb{P}(H_N \geq k+1) \quad (25)$$

$$= \frac{r_k}{\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} r_i \cdot \sum_{j=0}^k r_j}. \quad (26)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(H_N^2) &= \sum_{k=1}^N k^2 \cdot \mathbb{P}(H_N = k) = \sum_{k=1}^s k^2 \cdot \frac{r_k}{\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} r_i \cdot \sum_{j=0}^k r_j} \\ &+ \sum_{k=s+1}^{N-1} k^2 \cdot \frac{r_s}{\left(\sum_{i=0}^{s-1} r_i + (k-s)r_s\right) \left(\sum_{i=0}^{s-1} r_i + (k-s+1)r_s\right)} \\ &+ N^2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sum_{i=0}^{s-1} r_i + (N-s)r_s}. \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$



Videla, L. A. (2020). On the expected maximum of a birth-and-death process. *Statistics & Probability Letters* 158.<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spl.2019.108665>.



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THANK YOU!