

Solution for exercise 3.7.1 in Karlin and Pinsky

The transition probability matrix P partitions as

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \vec{0} \\ \vec{q} & Q \end{pmatrix}$$

where the elements q_i of \vec{q} are $q_i = 1/i$ and the elements Q_{ij} of Q are $Q_{ij} = 1/i$ for $j < i$ and 0 otherwise. To calculate $W = (I - Q)^{-1}$ we first state $W^{-1} = I - Q = \{w_{ij}^{-1}\}$ ($1 \leq j, i$)

$$w_{ij}^{-1} = \begin{cases} 0 & j > i \\ 1 & j = i \\ -\frac{1}{i} & j < i \end{cases}$$

Now we have to calculate $(W^{-1})^{-1} = W$ with elements w_{ij} .

$$w_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & j > i \\ 1 & j = i \\ \frac{1}{j+1} & j < i \end{cases}$$

We derive the inverse recursively due to the simple structure of W .