

Solution for exercise 6.4.4 in Karlin and Pinsky

0.1 a)

The birth and death parameter depend on the number of couples at time t .

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_k &= (6 - k)\alpha \\ \mu_k &= k\beta\end{aligned}$$

0.2 b)

We can calculate:

$$\theta_i = \begin{cases} 1 & i = 0 \\ \binom{6}{i} \cdot \left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}\right)^i & 1 \leq i \leq 6 \end{cases}$$

Using the binomial formula we get

$$\sum_{i=0}^6 \binom{6}{i} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}\right)^i = \left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{\beta}\right)^6$$

and therefore $\pi_0 = 1/\left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{\beta}\right)^6 = \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha + \beta}\right)^6$. Applying this to equation 6.37 in KP we finally get

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_i &= \binom{6}{i} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}\right)^i \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha + \beta}\right)^6 \\ &= \binom{6}{i} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}\right)^i \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha + \beta} \frac{\alpha + \beta}{\beta}\right)^i \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha + \beta}\right)^6 \\ &= \binom{6}{i} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta}\right)^i \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha + \beta}\right)^{6-i}\end{aligned}$$

the binomial distribution.