

Solution for exercise 6.5.2 in Karlin and Pinsky

Using the definition on page 317 we can calculate ρ_i

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_0 &= 1 & \rho_1 &= 4 & \rho_2 &= 6 \\ \rho_3 &= 4 & \rho_4 &= \frac{24}{24} = 1\end{aligned}$$

0.1 a)

and with equation (6.43) we get for $u_i = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(X_t = 0 | X_0 = i)$ and $u_5 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}u_5 - u_1 &= (u_1 - 1) \sum_{i=1}^4 \rho_i \\ \Leftrightarrow -u_1 &= (u_1 - 1) \cdot 15 \\ \Leftrightarrow 16 \cdot u_1 &= 15 \\ \Leftrightarrow u_1 &= \frac{15}{16}\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}u_2 - u_1 &= (u_1 - 1)\rho_1 \\ \Leftrightarrow u_2 - \frac{15}{16} &= -\frac{1}{16} \cdot 4 \\ \Leftrightarrow u_2 &= \frac{15}{16} - \frac{4}{16} = \frac{11}{16}\end{aligned}$$

0.2 b)

Let w_i be the mean absorption time starting from state i . Due to the symmetry of the system, we know $w_1 = w_4$, $w_2 = w_3$ and $w_0 = w_5 = 0$. Equation 6.47

page 319 is valide and we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\rho_4}(w_4 - w_5) &= \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{1}{\lambda_i \rho_i} - w_1 \\ \Leftrightarrow w_4 &= \frac{2}{3} - w_1 \\ \Leftrightarrow w_1 + w_4 &= \frac{2}{3} \\ \Rightarrow w_1 &= \frac{1}{3} \text{ and } w_4 = \frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\rho_3}(w_3 - w_4) &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \frac{1}{\lambda_i \rho_i} - w_1 \\ \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{4}(w_3 - \frac{1}{3}) &= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{12} - \frac{1}{3} \\ \Leftrightarrow w_3 &= 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} - 1 \\ \Leftrightarrow w_3 &= \frac{2}{3} \\ \Rightarrow w_2 &= \frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$