

9.5 Doob's inequality

[Theorem 9.6] (X_n) : submartingale. Then, for $\forall a > 0$,

$$(1) \quad aP\left(\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} X_k \geq a\right) \leq E\left[X_n, \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} X_k \geq a\right] \leq E[X_n^+]$$

$$(2) \quad aP\left(\min_{1 \leq k \leq n} X_k \leq -a\right) \leq E[X_n - X_1] - E\left[X_n, \min_{1 \leq k \leq n} X_k \leq -a\right] \\ \leq E[X_n^+] - E[X_1],$$

where X_n^+ stands for the positive part of X_n . □

[Remark] When $n = 1$, by Chebyshev's inequality,

$$aP(X_1 \geq a) \leq E[X_1^+], \forall a > 0$$

$$\odot \text{ (LHS)} = E[a1_{\{X_1 \geq a\}}] \leq E[X_1^+] \quad \square$$

[Proof]

proof of (1): Using a Markov time $\sigma = \min\{k; X_k \geq a\}$, we can write $\{\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} X_k \geq a\} = \{\sigma \leq n\}$ so that

$$P\left(\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} X_k \geq a\right) = P(\sigma \leq n) \leq \frac{1}{a} E[X_\sigma, \sigma \leq n].$$

($\sigma = \infty$ may happen, but on the event $\{\sigma \leq n\}$, X_σ is well-defined.)

However, the expectation in RHS is estimated as

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_{k=1}^n E[X_\sigma, \sigma = k] = \sum_{k=1}^n E[X_k, \sigma = k] \\ &\leq \sum_{k=1}^n E[X_n, \sigma = k] = E[X_n, \sigma \leq n]. \end{aligned}$$

Here the inequality in the 2nd line is shown by using the submartingale property of (X_n) : $X_k \leq E[X_n | \mathcal{F}_k]$ and noting that σ is Markov time which implies $\{\sigma = k\} \in \mathcal{F}_k$. \therefore 1st inequality in (1) is shown. 2nd inequality in (1) is easy from

$$E[X_n, \sigma \leq n] \leq E[X_n^+, \sigma \leq n] \leq E[X_n^+].$$

proof of (2): Set $\sigma = \min\{k; X_k \leq -a\}$. Then, since $\sigma \wedge n$ ($= \min\{\sigma, n\}$) is a bounded Markov time, we have

$$E[X_1] \stackrel{\text{Theorem 9.4}}{\leq} E[X_{\sigma \wedge n}] = E[X_{\sigma \wedge n}, \sigma \leq n] + E[X_{\sigma \wedge n}, \sigma > n].$$

Noting that $X_{\sigma \wedge n} = X_\sigma \leq -a$ for the 1st term when $\sigma \leq n$ and $X_{\sigma \wedge n} = X_n$ for the 2nd term when $\sigma > n$, the above is further bounded by

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq -aP(\sigma \leq n) + E[X_n, \sigma > n] \\ &= -aP(\sigma \leq n) + E[X_n] - E[X_n, \sigma \leq n] \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we obtain

$$aP(\sigma \leq n) \leq E[X_n - X_1] - E[X_n, \sigma \leq n]$$

This is the 1st inequality in (2). The 2nd inequality in (2) follows from

$$E[X_n] - E[X_n, \sigma \leq n] = E[X_n, \sigma > n] \leq E[X_n^+, \sigma > n] \leq E[X_n^+].$$

□

[Corollary] (M_n): p -th power integrable (i.e., $E[|M_n|^p] < \infty$, $p \geq 1$) martingale. Then,

$$P\left(\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} |M_k| \geq a\right) \leq \frac{1}{a^p} E[|M_n|^p], \quad \forall a > 0. \quad \square$$

☺ We can apply Theorem 9.6-(1) for $(|M_n|^p)$, which is submartingale by Jensen's inequality. Take a^p instead of a . \square

• We used Kolmogorov's inequality to show the strong law of large numbers:

[Lemma 7.2] $\{X_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$: $\perp\!\!\!\perp$, $E[X_n] = 0$, $V_n = \text{Var}(X_n) < \infty$

$$\implies P\left(\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} \left|\sum_{i=1}^k X_i\right| \geq a\right) \leq \frac{1}{a^2} \sum_{i=1}^n V_i, \quad \forall a > 0 \quad \square$$

However, this is a special case of the above Corollary taking $p = 2$ and $M_k = \sum_{i=1}^k X_i$.

9.6 Submartingale convergence theorem

As before, a probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) and a filtration $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n=1,2,\dots}$ are given.

① Martingale transform

For

$H = (H_n)_{n=2,3,\dots}$: predictable, i.e., H_n is \mathcal{F}_{n-1} -measurable,

$X = (X_n)_{n=1,2,\dots}$: (\mathcal{F}_n) -adapted,

we define **martingale transform** $H \cdot X = ((H \cdot X)_n)_{n=1,2,\dots}$ as

$$(H \cdot X)_n = \begin{cases} \sum_{k=2}^n H_k (X_k - X_{k-1}), & n \geq 2 \\ 0, & n = 1 \end{cases}$$

[Remark] This is a prototype of a stochastic integral.

[Theorem 9.7] Assume each H_n is bounded: $\sup_{\omega} |H_n(\omega)| < \infty$.

(1) $X = (X_n)$: martingale $\implies H \cdot X$ is also martingale.

(2) $X = (X_n)$: submartingale and $H_n \geq 0$

$\implies H \cdot X$ is also submartingale. □

☺ We easily see that $(H \cdot X)_n$ is \mathcal{F}_n -measurable and integrable (note the boundedness of H). Moreover, for $n \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} E[(H \cdot X)_{n+1} - (H \cdot X)_n | \mathcal{F}_n] &= E[H_{n+1}(X_{n+1} - X_n) | \mathcal{F}_n] \\ &= H_{n+1} E[X_{n+1} - X_n | \mathcal{F}_n]. \end{aligned}$$

This shows (1), (2). □