

UNIT - III

RANDOM PROCESSES

Introduction

In chapter 1, we discussed about random variables. Random variable is a function of the possible outcomes of a experiment. But, it does not include the concept of time. In the real situations, we come across so many time varying functions which are random in nature. In electrical and electronics engineering, we studied about signals.

Generally, signals are classified into two types.

- (i) Deterministic
- (ii) Random

Here both deterministic and random signals are functions of time. Hence it is possible for us to determine the value of a signal at any given time. But this is not possible in the case of a random signal, since uncertainty of some element is always associated with it. The probability model used for characterizing a random signal is called a random process or stochastic process.

RANDOM PROCESS CONCEPT

A random process is a collection (ensemble) of real variable $\{X(s, t)\}$ that are functions of a real variable t where $s \in S$, S is the sample space and $t \in T$. (T is an index set).

REMARK

- i) If t is fixed, then $\{X(s, t)\}$ is a random variable.
- ii) If S and t are fixed $\{X(s, t)\}$ is a number.
- iii) If S is fixed, $\{X(s, t)\}$ is a signal time function.

NOTATION

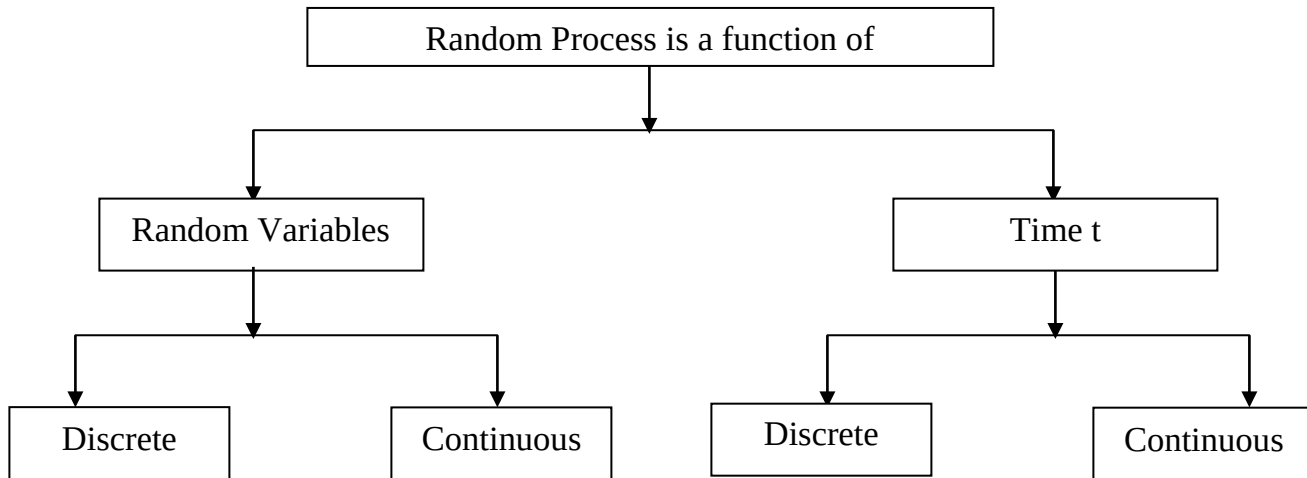
Here after we denote the random process $\{X(s, t)\}$ by $\{X(t)\}$ where the index set T is assumed to be continuous process is denoted by $\{X(n)\}$ or $\{X_n\}$.

A comparison between random variable and random process

Random Variable	Random Process
A function of the possible outcomes of an experiment is $X(s)$	A function of the possible outcomes of an experiment and also time i.e, $X(s, t)$
Outcome is mapped into a number x .	Outcomes are mapped into wave from which is a fun of time ' t '.

CLASSIFICATION OF RANDOM PROCESSES

We can classify the random process according to the characteristics of time t and the random variable $X = X(t)$ & x have values in the ranges $-\infty < t < \infty$ and $-\infty < x < \infty$.



CONTINUOUS RANDOM PROCESS

If 'S' is continuous and t takes any value, then $X(t)$ is a continuous random variable.

Example

Let $X(t)$ = Maximum temperature of a particular place in $(0, t)$. Here 'S' is a continuous set and $t \geq 0$ (takes all values), $\{X(t)\}$ is a continuous random process.

DISCRETE RANDOM PROCESS

If 'S' assumes only discrete values and t is continuous then we call such random process $\{X(t)\}$ as Discrete Random Process.

Example

Let $X(t)$ be the number of telephone calls received in the interval $(0, t)$.

Here, $S = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

$T = \{t, t \geq 0\}$

$\therefore \{X(t)\}$ is a discrete random process.

CONTINUOUS RANDOM SEQUENCE

If 'S' is a continuous but time 't' takes only discrete is called discrete random sequence.

Example: Let X_n denote the outcome of the n^{th} toss of a fair die.

Here $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

$T = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

$\therefore (X_n, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots)$ is a discrete random sequence.

CLASSIFICATION OF RANDOM PROCESSES BASED ON ITS SAMPLE FUNCTIONS

Non-Deterministic Process

A Process is called non-deterministic process if the future values of any sample function cannot be predicted exactly from observed values.

Deterministic Process

A process is called deterministic if future value of any sample function can be predicted from past values.

STATIONARY PROCESS

A random process is said to be stationary if its mean, variance, moments etc are constant. Other processes are called non stationary.

1. 1st Order Distribution Function of {X(t)}

For a specific t, X(t) is a random variable as it was observed earlier.

$F(x, t) = P\{X(t) \leq x\}$ is called the first order distribution of the process {X(t)}.

1st Order Density Function of {X(t)}

$f(x, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} F(x, t)$ is called the first order density of {X, t}

2nd Order distribution function of {X(t)}

$F(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) = P\{X(t_1) \leq x_1; X(t_2) \leq x_2\}$ is the point distribution of the random variables X(t₁) and X(t₂) and is called the second order distribution of the process {X(t)}.

2nd order density function of {X(T)}

$f(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) = \frac{\partial^2 F(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2)}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}$ is called the second order density of {X(t)}.

First - Order Stationary Process

Definition

A random process is called stationary to order, one or first order stationary if its 1st order density function does not change with a shift in time origin.

In other words,

$f_x(x_1, t_1) = f_x(x_1, t_1 + C)$ must be true for any t₁ and any real number C if {X(t₁)} is to be a first order stationary process.

Example :1

Show that a first order stationary process has a constant mean.

Solution

Let us consider a random process {X(t₁)} at two different times t₁ and t₂.

$$\therefore E[X(t_1)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x, t_1) dx$$

[f(x, t₁) is the density form of the random process X(t₁)]

$$\therefore E[X(t_2)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x, t_2) dx$$

[f(x, t₂) is the density form of the random process X(t₂)]

Let $t_2 = t_1 + C$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore E[X(t_2)] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x, t_1 + C) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x, t_1) dx \\ &= E[X(t_1)] \end{aligned}$$

Thus $E[X(t_2)] = E[X(t_1)]$

Mean process $\{X(t_1)\}$ = mean of the random process $\{X(t_2)\}$.

Definition 2:

If the process is first order stationary, then

Mean = $E(X(t))$ = constant

Second Order Stationary Process

A random process is said to be second order stationary, if the second order density function stationary.

$$f(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) = f(x_1, x_2; t_1 + C, t_2 + C) \quad \forall x_1, x_2 \text{ and } C.$$

$E X_1, E X_2, E X_1, X_2$ denote change with time, where

$X = X(t_1); X_2 = X(t_2).$

Strongly Stationary Process

A random process is called a strongly stationary process or Strict Sense Stationary Process (SSS Process) if all its finite dimensional distribution are invariance under translation of time 't'.

$$f_X(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) = f_X(x_1, x_2; t_1 + C, t_2 + C)$$

$$f_X(x_1, x_2, x_3; t_1, t_2, t_3) = f_X(x_1, x_2, x_3; t_1 + C, t_2 + C, t_3 + C)$$

In general

$$f_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) = f_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; t_1 + C, t_2 + C, \dots, t_n + C) \text{ for any } t_1 \text{ and any real number } C.$$

C.

Jointly - Stationary in the Strict Sense

$\{X(t)\}$ and $Y\{t\}$ are said to be jointly stationary in the strict sense, if the joint distribution of $X(t)$ and $Y(t)$ are invariant under translation of time.

Definition Mean:

$$\mu_X(t) = E[X(t)], \quad -\infty < t < \infty$$

$\mu[X(t)]$ is also called mean function or ensemble average of the random process.

Auto Correlation of a Random Process

Let $X(t_1)$ and $X(t_2)$ be the two given numbers of the random process $\{X(t)\}$. The auto correlation is

$$R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = E\{X(t_1)X(t_2)\}$$

Mean Square Value

Putting $t_1 = t_2 = t$ in (1), we get

$$R_{XX}(t, t) = E[X(t)X(t)]$$

$\Rightarrow R_{XX}(t, t) = E[X^2(t)]$ is the mean square value of the random process.

Auto Covariance of A Random Process

$$\begin{aligned} C_{XX}(t_1, t_2) &= E\{[X(t_1) - E(X(t_1))][X(t_2) - E(X(t_2))]\} \\ &= R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) - E[X(t_1)]E[X(t_2)] \end{aligned}$$

Correlation Coefficient

The correlation coefficient of the random process $\{X(t)\}$ is defined as

$$\rho_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{C_{XX}(t_1, t_2)}{\sqrt{\text{Var } X(t_1) \text{Var } X(t_2)}}$$

Where $C_{XX}(t_1, t_2)$ denotes the auto covariance.

CROSS CORRELATION

The cross correlation of the two random process $\{X(t)\}$ and $\{Y(t)\}$ is defined by

$$R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = E[X(t_1)Y(t_2)]$$

WIDE - SENSE STATIONARY (WSS)

A random process $\{X(t)\}$ is called a weakly stationary process or covariance stationary process or wide-sense stationary process if

- i) $E\{X(t)\} = \text{Constant}$
- ii) $E[X(t)X(t+\tau)] = R_{XX}(\tau)$ depend only on τ when $\tau = t_2 - t_1$.

REMARKS :

SSS Process of order two is a WSS Process and not conversely.

EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS

A random process that is not stationary in any sense is called as evolutionary process.

SOLVED PROBLEMS ON WIDE SENSE STATIONARY PROCESS

Example:1

Given an example of stationary random process and justify your claim.

Solution:

Let us consider a random process $X(t) = A \cos(\omega t + \theta)$ where A & ω are constant and ' θ ' is uniformly distributed random Variable in the interval $(0, 2\pi)$.

Since ' θ ' is uniformly distributed in $(0, 2\pi)$, we have

$$f(\theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\pi} & 0 < \theta < 2\pi \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore E[X(t)] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} X(t) f(\theta) d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} A \cos(\omega t + \theta) \frac{1}{2\pi} d\theta \\ &= \frac{A}{2\pi} \left[\sin(\omega t + \theta) \right]_0^{2\pi} \\ &= \frac{A}{2\pi} [\sin(2\pi + \omega t) - \sin(\omega t + 0)] \\ &= \frac{A}{2\pi} [\sin \omega t - \sin \omega t] \\ &= 0 \text{ constant} \end{aligned}$$

Since $E[X(t)]$ is a constant, the process $X(t)$ is a stationary random process.

Example:2 which are not stationary

Examine whether the Poisson process $\{X(t)\}$ given by the probability law $P\{X(t)=n\} = \frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^n}{n!}$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Solution

We know that the mean is given by

$$\begin{aligned} E[X(t)] &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n(t) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n \frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^n}{n!} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^n}{(n-1)!} \\ &= e^{-\lambda t} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda t)^n}{(n-1)!} \\ &= e^{-\lambda t} \left[\lambda t + \frac{(\lambda t)^2}{1!} + \dots \right] \\ &= e^{-\lambda t} \left[\lambda t + \lambda t + \dots \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (\lambda t) e^{-\lambda t} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda t}{1!} + \frac{(\lambda t)^2}{2!} + \dots \right) \\
&= (\lambda t) e^{-\lambda t} e^{\lambda t} \\
&= \lambda t, \text{ depends on } t
\end{aligned}$$

Hence Poisson process is not a stationary process.

ERGODIC RANDOM PROCESS

Time Average

The time average of a random process $\{X(t)\}$ is defined as

$$\overline{X_T} = \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T X(t) dt$$

Ensemble Average

The ensemble average of a random process $\{X(t)\}$ is the expected value of the random variable X at time t

$$\text{Ensemble Average} = E[X(t)]$$

Ergodic Random Process

$\{X(t)\}$ is said to be mean Ergodic

$$\text{If } \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \overline{X_T} = \mu$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T X(t) dt = \mu$$

Mean Ergodic Theorem

Let $\{X(t)\}$ be a random process with constant mean μ and let $\overline{X_T}$ be its time average. Then $\{X(t)\}$ is mean ergodic if

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \text{Var } \overline{X_T} = 0$$

Correlation Ergodic Process

The stationary process $\{X(t)\}$ is said to be correlation ergodic if the process $\{Y(t)\}$ is mean ergodic where

$$Y(t) = X(t) X(t+\lambda)$$

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1.. The t.p.m of a Marko cain with three states 0,1,2 is $P=$

and the initial state distribution is

Find (i) $P[X_2=3]$ ii) $P[X_3=2, X_2=3, X_1=3, X_0=2]$

2. Three boys A, B, C are throwing a ball each other. A always throws the ball to B and B always throws the ball to C, but C is just as likely to throw the ball to B as to A. S.T. the process is Markovian. Find the transition matrix and classify the states

3. A housewife buys 3 kinds of cereals A, B, C. She never buys the same cereal in successive weeks. If she buys cereal A, the next week she buys cereal B. However if she buys P or C the next week she is 3 times as likely to buy A as the other cereal. How often she buys each of the cereals?

4. A man either drives a car or catches a train to go to office each day. He never goes 2 days in a row by train but if he drives one day, then the next day he is just as likely to drive again as he is to travel by train. Now suppose that on the first day of week, the man tossed a fair die and drove to work if a 6 appeared. Find 1) the probability that he takes a train on the 3rd day. 2). The probability that he drives to work in the long run.

WORKED OUT EXAMPLES

Example:1. Let X_n denote the outcome of the n^{th} toss of a fair die.

Here $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

$T = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

$\therefore (X_n, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots)$ is a discrete random sequence.

Example:2 Given an example of stationary random process and justify your claim.

Solution:

Let us consider a random process $X(t) = A \cos(\omega t + \theta)$ where A & ω are custom and ' θ ' is uniformly distribution random Variable in the interval $(0, 2\pi)$.

Since ' θ ' is uniformly distributed in $(0, 2\pi)$, we have

$$f(\theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\pi} & 0 < \theta < 2\pi \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore E[X(t)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} X(t) f(\theta) d\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} A \cos(\omega t + \theta) \frac{1}{2\pi} d\theta \\
&= \frac{A}{2\pi} \left[\sin(\omega t + \theta) \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\
&= \frac{A}{2\pi} [\sin(2\pi + \omega t) - \sin(\omega t + 0)] \\
&= \frac{A}{2\pi} [\sin \omega t - \sin \omega t] \\
&= 0 \text{ constant}
\end{aligned}$$

Since $E[X(t)]$ is a constant, the process $X(t)$ is a stationary random process.

Example:3. which are not stationary. Examine whether the Poisson process $\{X(t)\}$ given by the probability law $P\{X(t)=n\} = \frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^n}{n!}$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Solution

We know that the mean is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X(t)] &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n P_n(t) \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n \frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^n}{n!} \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^n}{(n-1)!} \\
&= e^{-\lambda t} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda t)^n}{(n-1)!} \\
&= e^{-\lambda t} \left[\lambda t + \frac{(\lambda t)^2}{1!} + \dots \right] \\
&= (\lambda t) e^{-\lambda t} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda t}{1!} + \frac{(\lambda t)^2}{2!} + \dots \right) \\
&= (\lambda t) e^{-\lambda t} e^{\lambda t} \\
&= \lambda t, \text{ depends on } t
\end{aligned}$$

Hence Poisson process is not a stationary process.

CORRELATION AND SPECTRAL DENSITY

Introduction

The power spectrum of a time series $x(t)$ describes how the variance of the data $x(t)$ is distributed over the frequency components into which $x(t)$ may be decomposed. This distribution of the variance may be described either by a measure μ or by a statistical cumulative distribution function $S(f)$ = the power contributed by frequencies from 0 upto f . Given a band of frequencies $[a, b)$ the amount of variance contributed to $x(t)$ by frequencies lying within the interval $[a, b)$ is given by $S(b) - S(a)$. Then S is called the spectral distribution function of x .

The spectral density at a frequency f gives the rate of variance contributed by frequencies in the immediate neighbourhood of f to the variance of x per unit frequency.

Auto Correlation of a Random Process

Let $X(t_1)$ and $X(t_2)$ be the two given random variables. Then auto correlation is

$$R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = E[X(t_1) X(t_2)]$$

Mean Square Value

Putting $t_1 = t_2 = t$ in (1)

$$R_{XX}(t, t) = E[X(t) X(t)]$$

$$\Rightarrow R_{XX}(t, t) = E[X^2(t)]$$

Which is called the mean square value of the random process.

Auto Correlation Function

Definition: Auto Correlation Function of the random process $\{X(t)\}$ is

$$R_{XX}(\tau) = E\{X(t) X(t+\tau)\}$$

Note: $R_{XX}(\tau) = R(\tau) = R_X(\tau)$

PROPERTY: 1

The mean square value of the Random process may be obtained from the auto correlation function.

$R_{XX}(\tau)$, by putting $\tau = 0$.

is known as Average power of the random process $\{X(t)\}$.

PROPERTY: 2

$R_{XX}(\tau)$ is an even function of τ .

$$R_{XX}(\tau) = R_{XX}(-\tau)$$

PROPERTY: 3

If the process $X(t)$ contains a periodic component of the same period.

PROPERTY: 4

If a random process $\{X(t)\}$ has no periodic components, and $E[X(t)] = \bar{X}$ then

$$\lim_{|\tau| \rightarrow \infty} R_{xx}(\tau) = \bar{X}^2 \quad (\text{or}) \bar{X} = \sqrt{\lim_{|\tau| \rightarrow \infty} R_{xx}(\tau)}$$

i.e., when $\tau \rightarrow \infty$, the auto correlation function represents the square of the mean of the random process.

PROPERTY: 5

The auto correlation function of a random process cannot have an arbitrary shape.

SOLVED PROBLEMS ON AUTO CORRELATION

Example : 1

Check whether the following function are valid auto correlation function (i) $5 \sin n\pi$ (ii)

$$\frac{1}{1 + 9\tau^2}$$

Solution:

(i) Given $R_{xx}(\tau) = 5 \sin n\pi$

$$R_{xx}(-\tau) = 5 \sin n(-\pi) = -5 \sin n\pi$$

$R_{xx}(\tau) \neq R_{xx}(-\tau)$, the given function is not an auto correlation function.

(ii) Given $R_{xx}(\tau) = \frac{1}{1 + 9\tau^2}$

$$R_{xx}(-\tau) = \frac{1}{1 + 9(-\tau)^2} = R_{xx}(\tau)$$

$\therefore$ The given function is an auto correlation function.

Example : 2

Find the mean and variance of a stationary random process whose auto correlation function is given by

$$R_{xx}(\tau) = 18 + \frac{2}{6 + \tau^2}$$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Given } R_{xx}(\tau) &= 18 + \frac{2}{6 + \tau^2} \\ \bar{X}^2 &= \lim_{|\tau| \rightarrow \infty} R_{xx}(\tau) \\ &= \lim_{|\tau| \rightarrow \infty} \left[18 + \frac{2}{6 + \tau^2} \right] \\ &= 18 + \lim_{|\tau| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{6 + \tau^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= 18 + \frac{2}{6+0} \\
&= 18 + 0 \\
&= 18 \\
\bar{X} &= \sqrt{18} \\
E[X(t)] &= \sqrt{18} \\
\text{Var } \{X(t)\} &= E[X^2(t)] - \{E[X(t)]\}^2 \\
\text{We know that}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X^2(t)] &= R_{XX}(0) \\
&= 18 + \frac{2}{6+0} = \frac{55}{3} \\
&= \frac{1}{3}
\end{aligned}$$

Example : 3

Express the autocorrelation function of the process $\{X'(t)\}$ in terms of the auto correlation function of process $\{X(t)\}$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Consider, } R_{XX'}(t_1, t_2) &= E\{X(t_1)X'(t_2)\} \\
&= E\left\{X(t_1) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \frac{X(t_2+h) - X(t_2)}{h} \right\} \right\} \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} E\left\{ \frac{X(t_1)X(t_2+h) - X(t_1)X(t_2)}{h} \right\} \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \frac{R_{XX}(t_1, t_2+h) - R_{XX}(t_1, t_2)}{h} \right\} \\
\Rightarrow R_{XX'}(t_1, t_2) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t_2} R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) \quad (1)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Similarly } R_{XX'}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t_1} R_{XX}(t_1, t_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow R_{X'X}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t_1, \partial t_2} R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) \quad \text{by (1)}$$

Auto Covariance

The auto covariance of the process $\{X(t)\}$ denoted by $C_{XX}(t_1, t_2)$ or $C(t_1, t_2)$ is defined as

$$C_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = E\left\{\left[X(t_1) - E(X(t_1))\right]\left[X(t_2) - E(X(t_2))\right]\right\}$$

CORRELATION COEFFICIENT

$$\rho_{XX}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{C_{XX}(t_1, t_2)}{\sqrt{\text{Var } X(t_1) \times \text{Var } X(t_2)}}$$

Where $C_{XX}(t_1, t_2)$ denotes the auto covariance.

CROSS CORRELATION

Cross correlation between the two random process $\{X(t)\}$ and $\{Y(t)\}$ is defined as

$R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = E[X(t_1) Y(t_2)]$ where $X(t_1)$ $Y(t_2)$ are random variables.

CROSS COVARIANCE

Let $\{X(t)\}$ and $\{Y(t)\}$ be any two random process. Then the cross covariance is defined as

$$C_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = E\left\{\left[X(t_1) - E(X(t_1))\right]\left[Y(t_2) - E(Y(t_2))\right]\right\}$$

The relation between Mean Cross Correlation and cross covariance is as follows:

$$C_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) - E[X(t_1)]E[Y(t_2)]$$

Definition

Two random process $\{X(t)\}$ and $\{Y(t)\}$ are said to be uncorrelated if

$$C_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = 0, \forall t_1, t_2$$

Hence from the above remark we have,

$$R_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = E[X(t_1) Y(t_2)]$$

CROSS CORRELATION COEFFICIENT

$$\rho_{XY}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{C_{XY}(t_1, t_2)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X(t_1)) \text{Var}(X(t_2))}}$$

CROSS CORRELATION AND ITS PROPERTIES

Let $\{X(t)\}$ and $\{Y(t)\}$ be two random. Then the cross correlation between them is also defined as

$$\begin{aligned} R_{XY}(t, t+\tau) &= E[X(t) Y(t+\tau)] \\ &= R_{XY}(\tau) \end{aligned}$$

PROPERTY : 1

$$R_{XY}(\tau) = R_{YX}(-\tau)$$

PROPERTY : 2

If $\{X(t)\}$ and $\{Y(t)\}$ are two random process then $|R_{XY}(\tau)| \leq \sqrt{R_{XX}(0)R_{YY}(0)}$, where $R_{XX}(\tau)$ and $R_{YY}(\tau)$ are their respective auto correlation functions.

PROPERTY : 3

If $\{X(t)\}$ and $\{Y(t)\}$ are two random process then,

$$|R_{XY}(\tau)| \leq \frac{1}{2} [R_{XX}(0) + R_{YY}(0)]$$

SOLVED PROBLEMS ON CROSS CORRELATION**Example:**

Two random process $\{X(t)\}$ and $\{Y(t)\}$ are given by $X(t) = A \cos(\omega t + \theta)$, $Y(t) = A \sin(\omega t + \theta)$ where A and ω are constants and ' θ ' is a uniform random variable over 0 to 2π . Find the cross correlation function.

Solution

By def. we have

$$R_{XY}(\tau) = R_{XY}(t, t+\tau)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now, } R_{XY}(t, t+\tau) &= E[X(t) \cdot Y(t+\tau)] \\ &= E[A \cos(\omega t + \theta) \cdot A \sin(\omega(t+\tau) + \theta)] \\ &= A^2 E[\sin\{\omega(t+\tau) + \theta\} \cos(\omega t + \theta)] \end{aligned}$$

Since ' θ ' is a uniformly distributed random variable we have

$$f(\theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi}, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } E[\sin\{\omega(t+\tau) + \theta\} \cos(\omega t + \theta)] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sin(\omega t + \omega\tau + \theta) \cdot \cos(\omega t + \theta) f(\theta) d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \sin(\omega t + \omega\tau + \theta) \cdot \cos(\omega t + \theta) \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\right) d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin(\omega t + \omega\tau + \theta) \cos(\omega t + \theta) d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} \{ \sin(\omega t + \omega\tau + \theta + \omega t + \theta) \\ &\quad + \sin[\omega t + \omega\tau + \theta - \omega t - \theta] \} d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\sin[2\omega t + \omega\tau + 2\theta] + \sin(\omega\tau)}{2} d\theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[-\frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega\tau + 2\theta)}{2} + \sin \omega\tau(\theta) \right]^{2\pi} \\
&= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[-\frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega\tau)}{2} + \frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega\tau + 0)}{2} + \sin \omega\tau(2\pi - 0) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[-\frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega\tau)}{2} + \frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega\tau)}{2} + 2\pi \sin \omega\tau \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{4\pi} [0 + 2\pi \sin \omega\tau] \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \sin \omega\tau \quad (3)
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting (3) in (1) we get

$$R_{xy}(t, t_\tau) = \frac{A^2}{2} \sin \omega\tau$$

SPECTRAL DENSITIES (POWER SPECTRAL DENSITY)

INTRODUCTION

- (i) Fourier Transformation
- (ii) Inverse Fourier Transform
- (iii) Properties of Auto Correlation Function
- (iv) Basic Trigonometric Formula
- (v) Basic Integration

SPECIAL REPRESENTATION

Let $x(t)$ be a deterministic signal. The Fourier transform of $x(t)$ is defined as

$$F[x(t)] = x(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

Here $X(\omega)$ is called "spectrum of $x(t)$ ".

Hence $x(t) = \text{Inverse Fourier Transform of } X(\omega)$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} X(\omega) e^{i\omega t} d\omega.$$

Definition

The average power $P(T)$ of $x(t)$ over the interval $(-T, T)$ is given by

$$P(T) = \frac{1}{2T} \int_{-T}^T x^2(t) dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{|X_T(\omega)|^2}{2T} d\omega \quad (1)$$

Definition

The average power P_{XX} for the random process $\{X(t)\}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} P_{XX} &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-T}^T E[|X^2(t)|] dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{E[|X_T(\omega)|^2]}{2T} d\omega \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

POWER SPECTRAL DENSITY FUNCTION

Definition

If $\{X(t)\}$ is a stationary process (either in the strict sense or wide sense) with auto correlation function $R_{XX}(\tau)$, then the Fourier transform of $R_{XX}(\tau)$ is called the power spectral density function of $\{X(t)\}$ and is denoted by $S_{XX}(\omega)$ or $S(\omega)$ or $S_X(\omega)$.

$S_{XX}(\omega)$ = Fourier Transform of $R_{XX}(\tau)$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_{XX}(\tau) e^{-i\omega\tau} d\tau$$

Thus,

$$S_{XX}(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_{XX}(\tau) e^{-i2\pi f\tau} d\tau$$

WIENER KHINCHINE RELATION

$$S_{XX}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_{XX}(\tau) e^{-i\omega\tau} d\tau$$

$$S_{XX}(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_{XX}(\tau) e^{-i2\pi f\tau} d\tau$$

To find $R_{XX}(\tau)$ if $S_{XX}(\omega)$ or $S_{XX}(f)$ is given

$$R_{XX}(\tau) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{XX}(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau} d\omega \quad [\text{inverse Fourier transform of } S_{XX}(\omega)]$$

$$(\text{or}) R_{XX}(\tau) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{XX}(f) e^{-i2\pi f\tau} d\tau$$

[inverse Fourier transform of $S_{XX}(f)$]

PROPERTIES OF POWER SPECTRAL DENSITY FUNCTION

Property 1:

The value of the spectral density function at zero frequency is equal to the total area under the graph of the auto correlation function.

$$S_{xx}(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_{xx}(\tau) e^{-i 2\pi f \tau} d\tau$$

Taking $f = 0$, we get

$$S_{xx}(0) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_{xx}(\tau) d\tau$$

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1. Find the ACF of $\{Y(t)\} = AX(t)\cos(\omega_0 t + \theta)$ where $X(t)$ is a zero mean stationary random process with ACF $R_{xx}(\tau)$. A and ω_0 are constants and θ is uniformly distributed over $(0, 2\pi)$ and independent of $X(t)$.
2. Find the ACF of the periodic time function $X(t) = A \sin \omega t$
3. If $X(t)$ is a WSS process and if $Y(t) = X(t + a) - X(t - a)$, prove that $R_{yy}(\tau) = 4R_{xx}(\tau) \cos^2 a$.
4. If $X(t) = A \sin(\omega t + \theta)$, where A and ω are constants and θ is a random variable, uniformly distributed over $(-\pi, \pi)$, Find the A.C.F of $\{Y(t)\}$ where $Y(t) = X^2(t)$.
- 5.. Let $X(t)$ and $Y(t)$ be defined by $X(t) = A \cos \omega t + B \sin \omega t$ and $Y(t) = B \cos \omega t - A \sin \omega t$ Where ω is a constant and A and B are independent random variables both having zero mean and variance σ^2 . Find the cross correlation of $X(t)$ and $Y(t)$. Are $X(t)$ and $Y(t)$ jointly W.S.S processes?
6. Two random processes $X(t)$ and $Y(t)$ are given by $X(t) = A \cos(\omega t + \theta)$, $Y(t) = A \sin(\omega t + \theta)$, where A and ω are constants and θ is uniformly distributed over $(0, 2\pi)$. Find the cross correlation of $X(t)$ and $Y(t)$ and verify that $R_{xy}(\tau) = 0$.
- 7..If $U(t) = X \cos t + Y \sin t$ and $V(t) = Y \cos t + X \sin t$ where X and Y are independent random variables such that $E(X) = 0 = E(Y)$, $E[X^2] = E[Y^2] = 1$, show that $U(t)$ and $V(t)$ are not jointly W.S.S but they are individually stationary in the wide sense.
8. Random Processes $X(t)$ and $Y(t)$ are defined by $X(t) = A \cos(\omega t + \theta)$, $Y(t) = B \cos(\omega t + \theta)$ where A , B and θ are constants and θ is uniformly distributed over $(0, 2\pi)$. Find the cross correlation and show that $X(t)$ and $Y(t)$ are jointly W.S.S

WORKEDOUT EXAMPLES

Example 1. Check whether the following function are valid auto correlation function (i) $5 \sin \pi \tau$

(ii) $\frac{1}{1 + 9\tau^2}$

Solution:

- (i) Given $R_{xx}(\tau) = 5 \sin \pi \tau$
 $R_{xx}(-\tau) = 5 \sin \pi(-\tau) = -5 \sin \pi \tau$

$R_{XX}(\tau) \neq R_{XX}(-\tau)$, the given function is not an auto correlation function.

(ii) Given $R_{XX}(\tau) = \frac{1}{1+9\tau^2}$

$$R_{XX}(-\tau) = \frac{1}{1+9(-\tau)^2} = R_{XX}(\tau)$$

$\therefore$ The given function is an auto correlation function.

Example : 2

Find the mean and variance of a stationary random process whose auto correlation function is given by

$$R_{XX}(\tau) = 18 + \frac{2}{6+\tau^2}$$

Solution

Given $R_{XX}(\tau) = 18 + \frac{2}{6+\tau^2}$

$$\begin{aligned} X^2 &= \lim_{|\tau| \rightarrow \infty} R_{XX}(\tau) \\ &= \lim_{|\tau| \rightarrow \infty} \left[18 + \frac{2}{6+\tau^2} \right] \\ &= 18 + \lim_{|\tau| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{6+\tau^2} \\ &= 18 + \frac{2}{6+0} \\ &= 18 + 0 \\ &= 18 \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{X} = \sqrt{18}$$

$$E[X(t)] = \sqrt{18}$$

$$\text{Var}\{X(t)\} = E[X^2(t)] - \{E[X(t)]\}^2$$

We know that

$$\begin{aligned} E[X^2(t)] &= R_{XX}(0) \\ &= 18 + \frac{2}{6+0} = \frac{55}{3} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Example : 3

Express the autocorrelation function of the process $\{X'(t)\}$ in terms of the auto correlation function of process $\{X(t)\}$

Solution

Consider, $R_{XX'}(t_1, t_2) = E\{X(t_1)X'(t_2)\}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= E\left\{X(t_1) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \frac{X(t_2 + h) - X(t_2)}{h} \right\}\right\} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} E\left\{ \frac{X(t_1)X(t_2 + h) - X(t_1)X(t_2)}{h} \right\} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \frac{R_{XX}(t_1, t_2 + h) - R_{XX}(t_1, t_2)}{h} \right\} \\
 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t_2} R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) \quad (1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly $R_{XX'}(t_1, t_2)$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial t_1} R_{XX}(t_1, t_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow R_{X'X}(t_1, t_2) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t_1, \partial t_2} R_{XX}(t_1, t_2) \quad \text{by (1)}$$

Example :4

Two random process $\{X(t)\}$ and $\{Y(t)\}$ are given by $X(t) = A \cos(\omega t + \theta)$, $Y(t) = A \sin(\omega t + \theta)$ where A and ω are constants and ' θ ' is a uniform random variable over 0 to 2π . Find the cross correlation function.

Solution

By def. we have

$$R_{XY}(\tau) = R_{XY}(t, t + \tau)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Now, } R_{XY}(t, t + \tau) &= E[X(t) \cdot Y(t + \tau)] \\
 &= E[A \cos(\omega t + \theta) \cdot A \sin(\omega(t + \tau) + \theta)] \\
 &= A^2 E[\sin\{\omega(t + \tau) + \theta\} \cos(\omega t + \theta)]
 \end{aligned}$$

Since ' θ ' is a uniformly distributed random variable we have

$$f(\theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi}, \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$$

$$\text{Now } E[\sin\{\omega(t + \tau) + \theta\} \cos(\omega t + \theta)]$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sin(\omega t + \omega \tau + \theta) \cdot \cos(\omega t + \theta) f(\theta) d\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int_0^{2\pi} \sin(\omega t + \omega \tau + \theta) \cos(\omega t + \theta) \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \right) d\theta \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin(\omega t + \omega \tau + \theta) \cos(\omega t + \theta) d\theta \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \sin(\omega t + \omega \tau + \theta + \omega t + \theta) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sin[\omega t + \omega \tau + \theta - \omega t - \theta] \right\} d\theta \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\sin[2\omega t + \omega \tau + 2\theta] + \sin(\omega \tau)}{2} d\theta \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[-\frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega \tau + 2\theta)}{2} + \sin \omega \tau (\theta) \right]_0^{2\pi} \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[-\frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega \tau)}{2} + \frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega \tau + 0)}{2} + \sin \omega \tau (2\pi - 0) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[-\frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega \tau)}{2} + \frac{\cos(2\omega t + \omega \tau)}{2} + 2\pi \sin \omega \tau \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} [0 + 2\pi \sin \omega \tau] \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \sin \omega \tau \tag{3}
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting (3) in (1) we get

$$R_{XY}(t, t_\tau) = \frac{A^2}{2} \sin \omega \tau$$

COVARIANCE

Definition . Let X and Y be jointly distributed random variable. The *covariance* of X and Y is defined by

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]$$

This is equivalent to

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)]$$

where $\mu_X = \mathbb{E}[X]$ and $\mu_Y = \mathbb{E}[Y]$.

Properties . Let X , Y , and Z be jointly distributed random variables. From the definition of covariance, we derive the following:

- (1) The covariance generalizes variance: $\text{Cov}(X, X) = \text{Var}(X)$.
- (2) The covariance is symmetric: $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \text{Cov}(Y, X)$.
- (3) For any fixed scalars $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, $\text{Cov}(aX + b, Y) = a \text{Cov}(X, Y)$.
- (4) The covariance is bilinear: $\text{Cov}(X + aY, Z) = \text{Cov}(X, Z) + a \text{Cov}(Y, Z)$ for any fixed $a \in \mathbb{R}$.
- (5) If X and Y are independent, then $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$.

It is true that if X and Y are independent, then $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$. If $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$ then immediately X and Y cannot be concluded that they are independent. Graphically it can be written as

$X \& Y$ independent $\Rightarrow \text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$

$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0 \neq X \& Y$ independent

Example 1. Let $Z \stackrel{d}{=} N(0, 1)$ and define $X = Z^2$. It is clear that X and Z are not independent (clearly X depends on Z). Show that $\text{Cov}(X, Z) = 0$ even though X and Z are dependent.

Proof :

With $X=Z^2$

$$\text{Cov}(X, Z) = \mathbb{E}[XZ] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Z] = \mathbb{E}[Z^3] - \mathbb{E}[Z^2]\mathbb{E}[Z].$$

$\mathbb{E}[Z] = 0$ (since $Z \stackrel{d}{=} N(0, 1)$, so the mean is 0). Also,

$$\mathbb{E}[Z^3] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^3 e^{-x^2/2} dx.$$

perform an integration by parts with $u = x^2$ and $dv = xe^{-x^2/2}$. Then $du = 2xdx$ and $v = e^{-x^2/2}$. So,

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^3 e^{-x^2/2} dx &= x^2 e^{-x^2/2} \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} - 2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x e^{-x^2/2} dx \\ &= 0 - 2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x e^{-x^2/2} dx\end{aligned}$$

Recognize that this last integral is (up to a scalar constant) the same integral is calculated to find $E[Z]$, which is 0. Therefore $E[Z^3] = 0$. Hence $\text{Cov}(X, Z) = 0 - 0 = 0$. Another way to find $E[Z^3] = 0$ is by noticing that x^3 is an odd function, and $e^{-x^2/2}$ is an even function. Hence, $x^3 e^{-x^2/2}$ is an odd function. We know that the integral of an odd function from $-\infty$ to ∞ is zero. Thus,

$$E[Z^3] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^3 e^{-x^2/2} dx = 0$$

Exercise 2. Let X and Y be jointly continuous random variables with joint density

$$f_{X,Y}(s, t) = \begin{cases} c(s^2 e^{-2t} + e^{-t}) & 0 < s < 1, 0 < t < \infty \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Find $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$.

Solution. Let's first find c .

$$c \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^1 (s^2 e^{-2t} + e^{-t}) ds dt = c \int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{3} e^{-2t} + e^{-t} \right) dt = c \left(\frac{1}{6} + 1 \right) = \frac{7c}{6}.$$

Therefore, $c = \frac{6}{7}$. For $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y]$,

$$\begin{aligned}E[XY] &= \frac{6}{7} \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^1 st(s^2 e^{-2t} + e^{-t}) ds dt \\ &= \frac{6}{7} \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^1 (s^3 t e^{-2t} + s t e^{-t}) ds dt \\ &= \frac{6}{7} \int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{t}{4} e^{-2t} + \frac{t}{2} e^{-t} \right) dt \\ &= \frac{6}{7} \left(\frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 \right) \\ &= \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{9}{16}.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[X] &= \frac{6}{7} \int_0^\infty \int_0^1 s(s^2 e^{-2t} + e^{-t}) ds dt \\
&= \frac{6}{7} \int_0^\infty \int_0^1 (s^3 e^{-2t} + s e^{-t}) ds dt \\
&= \frac{6}{7} \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{4} e^{-2t} + \frac{1}{2} e^{-t} \right) dt \\
&= \frac{6}{7} \left(\frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 \right) \\
&= \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{5}{8}
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[Y] &= \frac{6}{7} \int_0^\infty \int_0^1 t(s^2 e^{-2t} + e^{-t}) ds dt \\
&= \frac{6}{7} \int_0^\infty \int_0^1 (s^2 t e^{-2t} + t e^{-t}) ds dt \\
&= \frac{6}{7} \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{t}{3} e^{-2t} + t e^{-t} \right) dt \\
&= \frac{6}{7} \left(\frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{4} + 1 \right) \\
&= \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{13}{12}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y] = \frac{6}{7} \left(\frac{9}{16} - \frac{5}{8} \cdot \frac{13}{12} \cdot \frac{6}{7} \right) = -\frac{3}{196}.$$

Discrete time processes and sequences

A discrete-time random process $x(n)$ is a collection, or ensemble, of discrete-time signals, $x_k(n)$ where k is an integer. A discrete-time random process $x(n)$ is an indexed sequence of random variables if we look at the process at a certain 'fixed' time instant n (e.g., $n = n_0$). The term 'discrete-time signal' is different from 'discrete-time random signal' in the present case. A discrete-time random signal $x(n)$ is associated with an ensemble of discrete-time signals $x_k(n)$.

Example 1. A random process is of the form of sinusoid $x(n) = A \cos(n\omega_0) = A n\omega$ where $A \in \Omega = \{1, 2, \dots, 6\}$ the amplitude is a random variable that assumes any integer number between one and six, each with equal probability $\Pr(A=k)=1/6$ ($k=1, 2, \dots, 6$). This random process consists of an ensemble of six different discrete-time signals $x_k(n)$, $\cos(n\omega_0)$, $x_6(n) = 6\cos(n\omega_0)$, each of which shows up with equal probability.

$x_1(n) = \cos(n\omega_0)$, $x_2(n) = 2\cos(n\omega_0)$, ..., $x_6(n) = 6\cos(n\omega_0)$, each of which shows up with equal probability.

The discrete-time version of a continuous-time signal $x(t)$ is here denoted by $x[n]$, which corresponds to $x(t)$ sampled at the time instant $t = nT$. The sampling rate is $F_s = 1/T$ in Hz, and T is the sampling interval in seconds. The index n can be interpreted as normalized (to the sampling rate) time. Similar to the deterministic case, it is in principle possible to reconstruct bandlimited continuous-time stochastic process $x(t)$ from its samples $\{x[n]\}_{n=-\infty}^{\infty}$. In the random case, the reconstruction must be given a more precise statistical meaning, like convergence in the mean square sense. To simplify matters, it will throughout be assumed that all processes are (wide-sense) stationary, real valued and zero mean, i.e. $E\{x[n]\} = 0$. The autocorrelation function is defined as

$$r_x[k] = E\{x[n]x[n-k]\}$$

In principle, this coincides with a sampled version of the continuous-time autocorrelation $r_x(t)$, but one should keep in mind that $x(t)$ needs to be (essentially) bandlimited to make the analogy meaningful. Note that $r_x[k]$ does not depend on absolute time n due to the stationarity assumption. Also note that the autocorrelation is symmetric, $r_x[k] = r_x[-k]$ (conjugate symmetric in the complex case), and that $|r_x[k]| \leq r_x[0] = \sigma_x^2$ for all k (by Cauchy-Schwartz' inequality).

For two stationary processes $x[n]$ and $y[n]$, we define the cross-correlation function as

$$r_{xy}[k] = E\{x[n]y[n-k]\}.$$

The cross-correlation measures how related the two processes are. This is useful, for example for determining how well one can predict a desired but unmeasurable signal $y[n]$ from the observed $x[n]$. If $r_{xy}[k] = 0$ for all k , we say that $x[n]$ and $y[n]$ are uncorrelated. It should be noted that the cross-correlation function is not necessarily symmetric, and it does not necessarily have its maximum at $k = 0$. For example, if $y[n]$ is a time-delayed version of $x[n]$, $y[n] = x[n-l]$, then $r_{xy}[k]$ peaks at lag $k = l$. Thus, the cross-correlation can be used to estimate the time-delay between two measurements of the same signal, perhaps taken at different spatial locations. This can be used, for example for synchronization in a communication system.