## Random Process Background

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Jun 02, 2023



### Measurable Space Stochatic Process

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Based on

Probability, Random Variables and Random Signal Principles,

P.Z. Peebles, Jr. and B. Shi

## Outline

- Measurable Space
  - Measurable Space
  - Sigma Alebra
  - Topological Space
  - Open Set
- 2 Stochatic Process

## Outline

- Measurable Space
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- Stochatic Process

## Space (1)

- A space consists of selected mathematical objects that are treated as points, and selected relationships between these points.
  - the nature of the points can vary widely: for example, the points can be
    - elements of a set
    - functions on another space
    - subspaces of another space
  - It is the relationships that define the nature of the space.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space (mathematics)



# Space (2)

- While modern mathematics uses many types of spaces, such as
  - Euclidean spaces
  - linear spaces
  - topological spaces
  - Hilbert spaces
  - probability spaces
- it does not define the notion of space itself.

 $https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space\_(mathematics)$ 



## Space (3)

- a space is
   a set (or a universe) with some added structure
- It is <u>not</u> always clear whether a given <u>mathematical</u> object should be considered as a geometric <u>space</u>, or an algebraic <u>structure</u>
- A general definition of structure embraces all common types of space

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space (mathematics)



## Mathematical objects (1)

- A mathematical object is an abstract concept arising in mathematics.
- an mathematical object is anything that has been (or could be) formally defined, and with which one may do
  - deductive reasoning
  - mathematical proofs

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical object



## Mathematical objects (2)

- Typically, a mathematical object
  - can be a value that can be assigned to a variable
  - therefore can be involved in formulas

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical object

## Mathematical objects (3)

- Commonly encountered mathematical objects include
  - numbers
  - sets
  - functions
  - expressions
  - geometric objects
  - transformations of other mathematical objects
  - spaces

 $https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical\_object$ 



## Mathematical objects (4)

- Mathematical objects can be very complex;
  - for example, the followings are considered as mathematical objects in proof theory.
    - theorems
    - proofs
    - theories

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical\_object

Measurable Space

Topological Space Open Set

- a structure is a set endowed with some additional features on the set
  - e.g. an operation
  - relation
  - metric
  - topology
- Often, the additional features are attached or related to the set, so as to provide it with some additional meaning or significance.



# Structure (2)

- A partial list of possible structures are
  - measures
  - algebraic structures (groups, fields, etc.)
  - topologies
  - metric structures (geometries)
  - orders
  - events
  - equivalence relations
  - differential structures
  - categories.



## Mathematical space (1)

- A mathematical space is, informally, a collection of mathematical objects under consideration.
- The universe of mathematical objects within a space are precisely defined entities whose rules of interaction come baked into the rules of the space.



## Mathematical space (2)

- A space differs from a mathematical set in several important ways:
  - A mathematical set is also a collection of objects
  - but these objects are being pulled from a space (or universe) of objects where the rules and definitions have already been agreed upon



Measurable Space

Topological Space Open Set

## Mathematical space (3)

- A space differs from a mathematical set in several important ways:
  - A mathematical set has no internal structure,
  - whereas a **space** usually has some internal structure.

https://www.localmaxradio.com/questions/what-is-a-mathematical-space and the space of the spac

### Sigma Alebra Topological Space Open Set

Measurable Space

## Mathematical space (4)

- having some internal structure could mean a variety of things, but typically it involves
  - *interactions* and *relationships* between elements of the **space**
  - rules on how to create and define new elements of the space

## Measurable space (1)

- A measurable space is any space with a sigma-algebra which can then be equipped with a measure
  - collection of subsets of the space following certain rules with a way to assign sizes to those sets.

https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-measurable-space-and-probability-spaceintuitively-What-differences-do-they-have

## Measurable space (2)

 Intuitively, certain sets belonging to a measurable space can be given a size in a consistent way.

consistent way means that certain axioms are met:

- the empty set is given a size of zero
- if a measurable set is contained inside another one, then its size is less than or equal to the size of the containing set
- the size of a disjoint union of sets is the sum of the individual sets' sizes

https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-measurable-space-and-probability-space-

intuitively-What-differences-do-they-have



## Probability space

- A probability space is simply
   a measurable space equipped with a probability measure.
- A probability measure has the special property of giving the entire space a size of 1.
  - this then implies that the size
     of any <u>disjoint union</u> of sets
     (the <u>sum</u> of the sizes of the sets)
     in the **probability space** is less than or equal to 1

https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-measurable-space-and-probability-space-

intuitively-What-differences-do-they-have



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## Sigma algebra (1)

- We <u>term</u> the <u>structures</u> which allow us to use <u>measure</u> to be <u>sigma</u> algebras
- the only requirements for sigma algebras (on a set X) are:
  - the {} and X are in the **set**.
  - if A is in the **set**, complement(A) is in the **set**.
  - for any **sets**  $E_i$  in the set,  $\bigcup_i E_i$  is in the **set** (for countable i).

https://medium.com/intuition/measure-theory-for-beginners-an-intuitive-approach-

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## Sigma algebra (2)

- The most intuitive way to think about a **sigma algebra** is that it is the kind of **structure** we can do **probability** on.
  - for example, we can assign <u>ratios</u> of <u>areas</u> and <u>length</u>, so the <u>measure</u> on such a set X tells something about the <u>probability</u> of its <u>subsets</u>.
  - we can find the probability of subsets A and B because we know their ratios with respect to a set X;
  - we also know that
    - (the measure of) their complements are defined, and
    - their unions and intersections are defined,
    - so we know how to find the probability of things in this set X.

https://medium.com/intuition/measure-theory-for-beginners-an-intuitive-approach-

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# Sigma algebra (3)

- The sigma algebra which contains the standard topology on R (that is, all open sets on R) is called the Borel Sigma Algebra, and the elements of this set are called Borel sets.
- What this gives us, is the set of sets
   on which outer measure gives our list of dreams.
   That is, if we take a Borel set and
   we check that length follows
   translation, additivity, and interval length,
   it will always hold.

https://medium.com/intuition/measure-theory-for-beginners-an-intuitive-approach-

# Sigma algebra (4)

- The set of Lebesgue measurable sets is the set of Borel sets, along with (union) all the sets which differ from a Borel set by a set of measure 0.
- More intuitively, it is all the sets
  we can normally measure,
  plus a bunch of stuff
  that doesn't affect our ideas of area or volume
  (think about the border of the circle above).

https://medium.com/intuition/measure-theory-for-beginners-an-intuitive-approach-

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## Borel Sets (1-1)

- a Borel set is any set in a topological space that can be formed from open sets (or, equivalently, from closed sets) through the operations of
  - countable union,
  - countable intersection, and
  - relative complement.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel set

## Borel Sets (1-2)

- For a topological space X, the collection of all Borel sets on X forms a σ-algebra, known as the Borel algebra or Borel σ-algebra.
- The Borel algebra on X is the smallest σ-algebra containing all open sets (or, equivalently, all closed sets).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel\_set



## Borel Sets (1-3)

- Borel sets are important in measure theory, since any measure defined on the open sets of a space, or on the closed sets of a space, must also be defined on all Borel sets of that space.
- Any measure defined on the Borel sets is called a Borel measure.
- Borel sets and the associated Borel hierarchy also play a fundamental role in descriptive set theory.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel set



## Borel Sets (2)

- Borel sets are those obtained from intervals by means of the operations allowed in a σ-algebra. So we may construct them in a (transfinite) "sequence" of steps:
- ... And again and again.

## Borel Sets (3-1)

- Start with finite unions of closed-open intervals.
   These sets are completely elementary, and they form an algebra.
- Adjoin countable unions and intersections of elementary sets.
   What you get already includes open sets and closed sets,
   intersections of an open set and a closed set, and so on.
   Thus you obtain an algebra, that is still not a σ-algebra.



## Borel Sets (3)

- 3. Again, adjoin countable unions and intersections to 2. Observe that you get a strictly larger class, since a countable intersection of countable unions of intervals is <u>not necessarily</u> included in 2.
  - Explicit examples of sets in 3 but not in 2 include  $F_{\sigma}$  sets, like, say, the set of *rational numbers*.
- 4. And do the same again.



## Borel Sets (4-1)

• And even after a sequence of steps we are not yet finished. Take, say, a countable union of a set constructed at step 1, a set constructed at step 2, and so on. This union may very well not have been constructed at any step yet. By axioms of  $\sigma$ -algebra, you should include it as well - if you want, as step  $\infty$ 

## Borel Sets (4-2)

- (or, technically, the first infinite ordinal, if you know what that means).
- And then continue in the same way until you reach the first uncountable ordinal. And only then will you finally obtain the generated  $\sigma$ -algebra.

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## Topology

topology

```
from the Greek words \tau \delta \pi o \varsigma, 'place, location', and \lambda \delta \gamma o \varsigma, 'study'
```

is concerned with the properties of a geometric object

- that are preserved under continuous deformations, such as stretching, twisting, crumpling, and bending;
- that is, without closing holes, opening holes, tearing, gluing, or passing through itself.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topology



## Topological space (1)

 a topological space is, roughly speaking, a geometrical space in which closeness is defined but <u>cannot</u> <u>necessarily</u> be <u>measured</u> by a <u>numeric distance</u>.

 $https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borel\_set$ 

#### Topological space (2)

- More specifically, a topological space is
- a set whose elements are called points,
- along with an additional structure called a topology,
  - which can be defined as
  - a set of neighbourhoods for each point
  - that satisfy some axioms
  - formalizing the concept of closeness.

#### Topological space (3)

 There are several equivalent definitions of a topology, the most commonly used of which is the definition through open sets, which is easier than the others to manipulate.

### Topological space (4)

- A topological space is the most general type of a mathematical space that allows for the definition of
  - limits,
  - continuity, and
  - connectedness.
- Common types of topological spaces include
  - Euclidean spaces,
  - metric spaces and
  - manifolds.



#### Topological space (5)

- Although very general,
   the concept of topological spaces is fundamental,
   and used in virtually every branch of modern mathematics.
- The study of topological spaces in their own right is called point-set topology or general topology.

#### Open set (1)

- an open set is a generalization of an open interval in the real line.
- a metric space is a set along with a distance defined between any two points
- in a metric space,
   an open set is a set that, along with every point P,
   contains all points that are sufficiently near to P
  - all points whose distance to P is less than some value depending on P



### Open set (2)

- More generally, an open set is

   a member of a given collection of subsets of a given set,
   a collection that has the property of containing
  - every union of its members
  - every finite intersection of its members
  - the empty set
  - the whole set itself

#### Open set (2)

- A set in which such a collection is given is called a topological space, and the collection is called a topology.
- These conditions are very <u>loose</u>, and allow enormous flexibility in the choice of open sets.
- For example,
  - every subset can be open (the discrete topology), or
  - no subset can be open (the indiscrete topology) except
    - the space itself and
    - the empty set .



#### Open set (3)

#### Example:

- The *circle* represents the set of points (x, y) satisfying  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ .
- The *disk* represents the set of points (x,y) satisfying  $x^2 + y^2 < r^2$ .
- The circle set is an open set,
- the disk set is its boundary set, and
- the union of the circle and disk sets is a closed set.



# Open set (4)

- A set is a collection of distinct objects.
- Given a set A, we say that a is an element of A
  if a is one of the distinct objects in A,
  and we write a ∈ A to denote this
- Given two sets A and B, we say that A is a subset of B
  if every element of A is also an element of B
  write A ⊂ B to denote this.

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### Open set (5) Open Balls

- We give these definitions in general, for when one is working in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  since they are really not all that different to define in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  than in  $\mathbb{R}^2$
- An open ball  $B_r(a)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ <u>centered</u> at  $a = (a_1, \dots a_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with <u>radius</u> ris the set of all points  $x = (x_1, \dots x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that the distance between x and a is less than r
- In  $\mathbb{R}^2$  an **open ball** is often called an **open disk**

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### Open set (6) Interior points

- Suppose that  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .
- A point  $p \in S$  is an interior point of Sif there exists an open ball  $B_r(\mathbf{p}) \subseteq S$ .
- Intuitively, **p** is an **interior point** of S if we can squeeze an entire open ball centered at **p** within S

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#### Open set (7) Boundary points

- A point  $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a boundary point of S if <u>all</u> open balls centered at p contain both points in S and points not in S.
- The boundary of S is the set ∂S that consists of all of the boundary points of S.

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#### Open set (8) Open and Closed Sets

- A set  $O \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is **open** if every point in O is an interior point.
- A set C⊆ R<sup>n</sup> is closed
   if it contains all of its boundary points.

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#### Open set (8) Bounded and Unbounded

• A set S is **bounded** if there is an open ball  $B_M(0)$  such that

$$S \subseteq B$$
.

- intuitively, this means that we can enclose all of the set S within a large enough ball centered at the origin.
- A set that is not bounded is called unbounded

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#### Topologically distinguishable points (1)

- Intuitively, an open set provides a *method* to *distinguish* two points.
- two points in a topological space, there exists an open set
  - containing one point but
  - not containing the other (distinct) point
  - the two points are topologically distinguishable.

### Topologically distinguishable points (2)

- In this manner, one may speak of whether two points, or more generally two subsets, of a topological space are "near" without concretely defining a distance.
- Therefore, topological spaces may be seen as a generalization of spaces equipped with a notion of distance, which are called metric spaces.

#### Topologically distinguishable points (3)

- In the set of all real numbers, one has the natural Euclidean metric; that is, a function which measures the distance between two real numbers: d(x,y) = |x-y|.
- Therefore, given a real number x, one can speak of the set of all points close to that real number x; that is, within  $\varepsilon$  of x.
- In essence, points within  $\varepsilon$  of x approximate x to an accuracy of degree  $\varepsilon$ .
- Note that  $\varepsilon > 0$  always, but as  $\varepsilon$  becomes *smaller* and *smaller*, one obtains points that <u>approximate</u> x to a *higher* and *higher* degree of accuracy.

### Topologically distinguishable points (4)

- For example, if x = 0 and  $\varepsilon = 1$ . the points within  $\varepsilon$  of x are precisely the points of the interval (-1,1); that is, the set of all real numbers between -1 and 1.
- However, with  $\varepsilon = 0.5$ . the points within  $\varepsilon$  of x are precisely the points of (-0.5, 0.5).
- Clearly, these points approximate x to a greater degree of accuracy than when  $\varepsilon = 1$ .



#### Topologically distinguishable points (5)

- The previous discussion shows, for the case x=0, that one may approximate x to higher and higher degrees of accuracy by defining  $\varepsilon$  to be smaller and smaller.
- In particular, sets of the form  $(-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$  give us a lot of information about points close to x = 0.
- Thus, rather than speaking of a <u>concrete</u> <u>Euclidean metric</u>, one may use <u>sets</u> to describe points close to *x*.



#### Topologically distinguishable points (6)

- This innovative idea has far-reaching consequences; in particular, by defining different collections of sets containing 0 (distinct from the sets  $(-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ ), one may find different results regarding the distance between 0 and other real numbers.
- For example, if we were to define R as the only such set for "measuring distance", all points are close to 0 since there is only one possible degree of accuracy one may achieve in approximating 0: being a member of R.



#### Topologically distinguishable points (7)

- Thus, we find that in some sense, every real number is distance 0 away from 0.
- It may help in this case to think of the measure
  as being a binary condition:
  all things in R are equally close to 0,
  while any item that is not in R is not close to 0.

#### Topologically distinguishable points (8)

- In general, one refers to the family of sets containing 0, used to approximate 0, as a neighborhood basis; a member of this neighborhood basis is referred to as an **open set**.
- In fact, one may generalize these notions to an arbitrary set (X); rather than just the real numbers.
- In this case, given a point (x) of that set, one may define a collection of sets "around" (that is, containing) x, used to approximate x.



#### Topologically distinguishable points (9)

- Of course, this collection would have to satisfy certain properties (known as axioms) for otherwise we may <u>not</u> have a well-defined method to measure distance.
- For example, every point in X should approximate x to some degree of accuracy.
- Thus X should be in this family.
- Once we begin to define "smaller" sets containing x, we tend to approximate x to a greater degree of accuracy.
- Bearing this in mind, one may <u>define</u> the remaining axioms that the family of sets about x is required to satisfy.



#### Definitions (1) Euclidean space

- A subset U of the Euclidean n-space  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is open if, for every point x in U, there exists a positive real number  $\varepsilon$ (depending on x) such that any point in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ whose Euclidean distance from x is smaller than  $\varepsilon$  belongs to U
- Equivalently, a subset U of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is open if every point in U is the center of an open ball contained in U
- An example of a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  that is not **open** is the closed interval [0,1], since neither  $0 - \varepsilon$  nor  $1 + \varepsilon$  belongs to [0,1]for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , no matter how small.



Measurable Space

Topological Space Open Set

#### Definitions (2) Metric space

- A subset U of a **metric space** (M,d) is called **open** if, for any point x in U, there exists a real number  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that any point  $y \in M$  satisfying  $d(x,y) < \varepsilon$  belongs to U.
- Equivalently, U is open if every point in U
  has a neighborhood contained in U.
- This generalizes the Euclidean space example, since Euclidean space with the Euclidean distance is a metric space.



#### Definitions (3) Topological space

- A topology τ on a set X is
   a set of subsets of X with the properties below.
   Each member of τ is called an open set.[3]
  - $X \in \tau$  and  $\varnothing \in \tau$
  - Any union of sets in  $\tau$  belong to  $\tau$ : if  $\{U_i : i \in I\} \subseteq \tau$  then

$$\bigcup_{i\in I}U_i\in\tau$$

• Any finite intersection of sets in  $\tau$  belong to  $\tau$ : if  $U_1, \dots, U_n \in \tau$  then

$$U_1 \cap \cdots \cap U_n \in \tau$$

• X together with  $\tau$  is called a **topological space**.



#### Definitions (4) Topological space

- Infinite intersections of open sets need not be open.
- For example, the intersection of all intervals of the form (-1/n, 1/n), where n is a positive integer, is the set  $\{0\}$  which is not open in the real line.
- A metric space is a topological space, whose topology consists of the collection of all subsets that are unions of open balls.
- There are, however, topological spaces that are <u>not</u> metric spaces.



### Topological space via neighborhoods (1)

- This axiomatization is due to Felix Hausdorff.
- Let X be a set;
- the elements of X are usually called points, though they can be any mathematical object.
- We allow X to be empty.
- Let  $\mathcal{N}$  be a function assigning to each x (point) in X a non-empty collection  $\mathcal{N}(x)$  of subsets of X.
- The elements of  $\mathcal{N}(x)$  will be called neighbourhoods of x with respect to  $\mathcal{N}$  (or, simply, neighbourhoods of x).
- The function  $\mathcal N$  is called a neighbourhood topology if the axioms below[8] are satisfied; and
- then X with  $\mathcal N$  is called a topological space.



### Topological space via neighborhoods (2)

- If N is a neighbourhood of x (i.e.,  $N \in \mathcal{N}(x)$ ), then  $x \in N$ . In other words, each point belongs to every one of its neighbourhoods.
- If N is a subset of X and includes a neighbourhood of x, then N is a neighbourhood of x. I.e., every superset of a neighbourhood of a point  $x \in X$  is again a neighbourhood of x.
- The intersection of two neighbourhoods of x x is a neighbourhood of x.
- Any neighbourhood  $\mathcal N$  of x includes a neighbourhood  $\mathcal M$  of x such that  $\mathcal N$  is a neighbourhood of each point of M.



# Topological space via neighborhoods (3)

- The first three axioms for neighbourhoods have a clear meaning.
   The fourth axiom has a very important use in the structure of the theory, that of linking together the neighbourhoods of different points of X . X.
- A standard example of such a system of neighbourhoods is for the real line R , {\displaystyle \mathbb {R} ,} where a subset N N of R \mathbb {R} is defined to be a neighbourhood of a real number x x if it includes an open interval containing x . x.



Measurable Space

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# Topological space via open sets (1)

- A topology on a set X may be defined as a collection  $\tau \setminus tau$  of subsets of X, called open sets and satisfying the following axioms:[10]
- The empty set and X X itself belong to τ . \tau . Any arbitrary (finite or infinite) union of members of  $\tau$  \tau belongs to  $\tau$ . \tau. The intersection of any finite number of members of  $\tau$  \tau belongs to τ . \tau .



# Topological space via open sets (2)

- As this definition of a topology is the most commonly used, the set  $\tau$  \tau of the open sets is commonly called a topology on X . X.
- A subset  $C \subseteq X$  C\subseteq X is said to be closed in ( X ,  $\tau$  ) (X, \tau) if its complement X \ C {\displaystyle X\setminus C} is an open set.

### Topological space via neighborhoods (4)

• Given such a structure, a subset U U of X X is defined to be open if U U is a neighbourhood of all points in U . U. The open sets then satisfy the axioms given below. Conversely, when given the open sets of a topological space, the neighbourhoods satisfying the above axioms can be recovered by defining N N to be a neighbourhood of x x if N N includes an open set U U such that x ∈ U . x\in U.

# Open)

(Open and Closed Sets)

#### Stochastic Process (1)

In probability theory and related fields,

- a **stochastic** (/stoʊˈkæstɪk/) or **random** process is
- a mathematical object usually defined as
- a family of random variables.

The word stochastic in English was originally used as an adjective with the definition "pertaining to **conjecturing**", and stemming from a Greek word meaning "to <u>aim</u> at a mark, <u>guess</u>", and the Oxford English Dictionary gives the year 1662 as its earliest occurrence.

From Ancient Greek στοχαστικός (stokhastikós), from στοχάζομαι (stokházomai, "aim at a target, guess"), from στόχος (stókhos, "an aim, a guess").

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stochastic https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/stochastic



### Stochastic Process (2)

The definition of a **stochastic process** varies, but a **stochastic process** is *traditionally* defined as a collection of **random variables** indexed by some set.

The terms random process and stochastic process are considered <u>synonyms</u> and are used <u>interchangeably</u>, without the **index set** being precisely specified.

Both "collection", or "family" are used while instead of "index set", sometimes the terms "parameter set" or "parameter space" are used.



### Stochastic Process (3)

The term **random function** is also used to refer to a **stochastic** or **random process**, though sometimes it is only used when the stochastic process takes <u>real values</u>.

This term is also used when the **index sets** are **mathematical spaces** other than the **real line**,

while the terms **stochastic process** and **random process** are usually used when the **index set** is interpreted as <u>time</u>,

and other terms are used such as **random field** when the **index set** is *n*-dimensional **Euclidean space**  $\mathbb{R}^n$  or a manifold



### Stochastic Process (4)

A **stochastic process** can be denoted, by  $\{X(t)\}_{t\in\mathcal{T}}$ ,  $\{X_t\}_{t\in\mathcal{T}}$ ,  $\{X(t)\}$ ,  $\{X_t\}$  or simply as X or X(t), although X(t) is regarded as an <u>abuse</u> of <u>function notation</u>.

For example, X(t) or  $X_t$  are used to refer to the **random variable** with the **index** t, and not the entire **stochastic process**.

If the **index set** is  $T = [0, \infty)$ , then one can write, for example,  $(X_t, t \ge 0)$  to denote the **stochastic process**.

## Stochastic Process Definition (1)

A stochastic process is defined as a <u>collection</u> of **random variables** defined on a common **probability space**  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ ,

- $\Omega$  is a sample space,
- $\mathscr{F}$  is a  $\sigma$  -algebra,
- P is a probability measure;
- the random variables, <u>indexed</u> by some set T,
- all take values in the same **mathematical space** S, which must be **measurable** with respect to some  $\sigma$  -algebra  $\Sigma$



# Stochastic Process Definition (2)

In other words, for a given **probability space**  $(\Omega, \mathscr{F}, P)$  and a **measurable space**  $(S, \Sigma)$ , a **stochastic process** is a **collection** of S-valued **random variables**, which can be written as:

$${X(t): t \in T}.$$

# Stochastic Process Definition (3)

Historically, in many problems from the natural sciences a point  $t \in \mathcal{T}$  had the meaning of time, so X(t) is a **random variable** representing a value observed at time t.

A **stochastic process** can also be written as  $\{X(t,\omega): t \in T\}$  to reflect that it is actually a <u>function</u> of <u>two variables</u>,  $t \in T$  and  $\omega \in \Omega$ .

#### Stochastic Process Definition (4)

There are other ways to consider a stochastic process, with the above definition being considered the traditional one.

For example, a stochastic process can be interpreted or defined as a  $S^T$ -valued **random variable**, where  $S^T$  is the space of all the possible functions from the set T into the space S.

However this alternative definition as a "function-valued random variable" in general requires additional regularity assumptions to be well-defined.



### Index set (1)

The set T is called the **index set** or **parameter set** of the **stochastic process**.

Often this set is some <u>subset</u> of the <u>real line</u>, such as the natural numbers or an interval, giving the set T the <u>interpretation</u> of time.

### Index set (2)

In addition to these sets, the index set T can be another set with a **total order** or a more general set, such as the Cartesian plane  $R^2$  or n-dimensional **Euclidean space**, where an element  $t \in T$  can represent a point in space.

That said, many results and theorems are only possible for **stochastic processes** with a **totally ordered index set**.

#### State space

The mathematical space S of a stochastic process is called its state space.

This mathematical space can be defined using integers, real lines, *n*-dimensional Euclidean spaces, complex planes, or more abstract mathematical spaces.

The **state space** is defined using elements that reflect the <u>different values</u> that the **stochastic process** can <u>take</u>.



## Sample function (1)

A sample function is a <u>single</u> outcome of a stochastic process, so it is formed by taking a <u>single</u> <u>possible value</u> of each <u>random variable</u> of the stochastic process.

```
More precisely, if \{X(t,\omega):t\in T\} is a stochastic process, then for any point \omega\in\Omega, the mapping X(\cdot,\omega):T\to S, is called a sample function, a realization, or, particularly when T is interpreted as \underline{\operatorname{time}}, a sample path of the stochastic process \{X(t,\omega):t\in T\}.
```

## Sample function (2)

This means that for a fixed  $\omega \in \Omega$ , there exists a sample function that maps the index set T to the state space S.

Other names for a **sample function** of a **stochastic process** include **trajectory**, **path function** or **path**