

TABLE 1  
*Exact and Approximate Tail Areas for the t-distribution with  
 n Degrees of Freedom*

Exact <sup>(*)</sup> Tail Area	Approximation		
	n = 7	n = 15	n = 40
.001	.000 816	.001 06	.001 02
.000 05	.000 042 8	.000 051 5	.000 050 3
.000 01	.000 008 66	.000 010 2	.000 010 05
.000 001	.000 000 873	.000 001 02	.000 001 003
.000 000 1	.000 000 087 7	.000 000 102	.000 000 100 1

(\*) These tail areas are exact to the extent that Federighi's [1] tabled quantiles are exact.

REFERENCES

[1] FEDERIGHI, ENRICH T. (1959). Extended tables of the percentage points of Student's *t*-distribution. *J. Amer. Statist. Assoc.* **54** 683-688.  
 [2] MILLS, JOHN P. (1926). Table of the ratio: area to bounding ordinate for any portion of normal curve. *Biometrika* **18** 395-400.

A FINITE CRITERION FOR INDECOMPOSABLE CHANNELS<sup>1</sup>

By A. J. THOMASIAN

*University of California, Berkeley*

Let  $M$  be the class of all  $n \times n$  Markov matrices,  $n \geq 2$ , and let  $I \subset M$  be the set of all indecomposable matrices. A Markov matrix is indecomposable if, [3] p. 179, it contains only one ergodic class; or equivalently, if, [4] p. 355, it contains only one irreducible set. Let  $A(1)$  be a non-empty subset of  $M$ , and for  $k \geq 1$  let  $A(k)$  be the set of all  $m \in M$  such that  $m$  can be expressed as a product of at most  $k$ , not necessarily distinct, elements of  $A(1)$ . Also let  $A = \bigcup_1^\infty A(k)$ . The following theorem clears up a point concerning indecomposable channels [1], [2], [5] p. 74.

**THEOREM.** *If  $A(2^{n^2}) \subset I$  then  $A \subset I$ .*

**PROOF.** For  $m \in M$  let  $m'$  be the  $n \times n$  matrix of zeroes and ones obtained by replacing every positive entry of  $m$  by a one; and for  $B \subset M$  let  $B' = \{m' \mid m \in B\}$ . Now if  $a_i, b_i \in M; a'_i = b'_i; i = 1, 2, \dots, k$  then  $(a_1 a_2 \dots a_k)' = (b_1 b_2 \dots b_k)'$  because the  $(i, j)$ th entry  $(a_1 a_2 \dots a_k)_{ij}$  of  $(a_1 a_2 \dots a_k)$  is positive if and only if there exists a sequence of states  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{k-1}$  such that  $(a_1)_{i_1 i_1} (a_2)_{i_1 i_2} \dots (a_k)_{i_{k-1} j} > 0$ . Also, clearly,  $B \subset I$  if and only if  $B' \subset I'$ ; i.e., the locations of the

Received May 3, 1962.

<sup>1</sup> This research was supported in part by the Information Systems Branch of the Office of Naval Research under Contract Nonr-222(53).



zero entries in  $m \varepsilon M$  determines whether or not  $m \varepsilon I$ . Now  $A'(1), A'(2), \dots$  is an increasing sequence of subsets of  $M'$ , which has less than  $2^{n^2}$  elements, so there must be a smallest  $r$ ,  $1 \leq r \leq 2^{n^2}$ , such that  $A'(r) = A'(r+1)$ . To complete the proof we need only show that  $A'(r) = A'$  since if  $A(r) \subset A(2^{n^2}) \subset I$  then  $A' = A'(r) \subset I'$  so  $A \subset I$ . Thus we need only prove that if  $k \geq 1$  and  $A'(k) = A'(k+1)$  then  $A'(k+1) = A'(k+2)$ . Now if  $m \varepsilon A(k+2)$  then  $m = bc$ , where  $b \varepsilon A(k+1)$  and  $c \varepsilon A(1)$  so there exists a  $d \varepsilon A(k)$  with  $b' = d'$  so  $m' = (dc)' \varepsilon A'(k+1)$  and the proof is complete.

We conclude with three comments. Clearly  $A'(1)$  determines whether or not  $A \subset I$  so that if  $A(1)$  is an infinite set, which is not the case for indecomposable channels, then  $A(1)$  may, for the purpose of determining whether or not  $A \subset I$ , be replaced by any finite  $B \subset M$  with  $B' = A'(1)$ . If  $m \varepsilon A$  has a state which is periodic with period  $d > 1$  then  $m^d \notin I$  and  $m^d \varepsilon A$  so  $A \not\subset I$ . For any  $A(1)$ ,  $(A(2^{n^2}))' = A'$ .

#### REFERENCES

- [1] BLACKWELL, D. (1961). Exponential error bounds for finite state channels. *Proc. Fourth Berkeley Symp. Math. Statist. Prob.* 1 57-63. Univ. of California Press, Berkeley.
- [2] BLACKWELL, D., BREIMAN, L., and THOMASIAN, A. J. (1958). Proof of Shannon's transmission theorem for finite-state indecomposable channels. *Ann. Math. Statist.* 18 1209-1220.
- [3] DOOB, J. L. (1953). *Stochastic Processes*. Wiley, New York.
- [4] FELLER, WILLIAM (1957). *An Introduction to Probability Theory and its Applications* 1 (2nd ed.). Wiley, New York.
- [5] WOLFOWITZ, J. (1961). *Coding Theorems of Information Theory*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin; and Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J.

---

### NOTE ON QUEUES IN TANDEM<sup>1</sup>

BY EDGAR REICH

*University of Minnesota*

**1. Introduction.** Assume that  $Q_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , is a single server queue where customers are served with an exponential service time distribution of mean  $1/\mu_k$ . We shall assume that the  $j$ th customer,  $C_j$ , arrives at  $Q_1$  at time  $t_j$ , where  $\{t_j\}$  are the events of a Poisson process, and  $\lambda$  the number of arrivals per unit time. The queues  $Q_k$  are arranged in tandem; that is, after  $C_j$ 's service at  $Q_k$  is completed he proceeds to  $Q_{k+1}$  and joins the queue there. We shall extend a result of our previous paper [1] for the foregoing situation.

Let  $T_{jk}$  denote  $C_j$ 's waiting time at  $Q_k$ , including the duration of  $C_j$ 's service at  $Q_k$ . The purpose of the present note is to show, using the results of [1], that under "equilibrium" conditions the probabilistic description of the random

---

Received March 26, 1962.

<sup>1</sup> This work was done with support under Contract Nonr-710(16).