

An interacting system in population genetics, II

By

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1. Introduction

In the previous paper [10] we studied an interacting system in population genetics, which is called a continuous time stepping stone model. Let us review our model. Let S be a countable set. Each element i of S is called a colony. Assuming that there are two alleles A and B at each colony, we denote by x_i ($1-x_i$) the gene frequency of the A -allele (resp. the B -allele) for the colony $i \in S$. We consider a time evolution of gene frequencies, which is caused by migration among colonies and random sampling drift.

Let $X=[0, 1]^S$ be the space of systems of gene frequencies, which is equipped with the product topology. Let $C(X)$ be the Banach space of all continuous functions equipped with the supremum norm and $C_c^2(X)$ be the set of all C^2 -functions depending only on finite number of coordinates of X .

Let us consider the following infinite dimensional differential operator A ,

$$(1.1) \quad Af(x) = \sum_{i \in S} \frac{1}{4N} x_i(1-x_i) \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i^2} + \sum_{i \in S} \left(\sum_{j \in S} q_{ij} x_j \right) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i},$$

where $N > 0$ and q_{ij} ($i, j \in S$) are constants such that $q_{ij} \geq 0$ for $i \neq j$ and $\sum_{j \in S} q_{ij} = 0$ for each $i \in S$.

Let $\{T_t\}$ be a strongly continuous semi-group on $C(X)$ such that

$$(1.2) \quad T_t 1 = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad T_t f \geq 0 \quad \text{for every } f \in C(X) \text{ satisfying } f \geq 0,$$

and

$$(1.3) \quad T_t f - f = \int_0^t T_s A f ds \quad \text{for every } f \in C_c^2(X).$$

Such a semi-group $\{T_t\}$ is uniquely determined under the following assumption,

$$(1.4) \quad \sup_{i \in S} |q_{ii}| < +\infty. \quad (\text{cf. [10], [11]}).$$

Here N means the effective population size of each colony and q_{ij} ($i \neq j$) means the migration rate from $j \in S$ to $i \in S$.

Then $\{T_t\}$ defines a diffusion process on X , which we call a *continuous time stepping stone model without mutation and selection*.

Discrete time stepping stone models were first proposed by M. Kimura and

they have been investigated by many biologists. cf. [1], [3], [7], [8], [9], etc.. However the problems of stationary states and ergodic behaviors seems to be difficult for discrete time models with infinite colonies.

On the other hand the stepping stone models can be regarded as interesting examples of infinitely interacting systems, which have been studied extensively for the last decade. (see e. g. [5]).

In particular dual processes, which are often used in the theory of infinitely interacting systems, are powerful tools also in our model.

In the previous paper [10] we introduced the following classification by the migration rates $Q = \{q_{ij}\}$. Let $P_t = \exp tQ$ for any $t \geq 0$, and $P_t \otimes P_t$ is defined by

$$(1.5) \quad P_t \otimes P_t(\vec{i}, \vec{j}) = P_t(i_1, j_1)P_t(i_2, j_2) \quad \text{for each } \vec{i} = (i_1, i_2) \in S \times S \\ \text{and } \vec{j} = (j_1, j_2) \in S \times S.$$

We denote by $(X_t = (X_t^1, X_t^2), P_t^{(2)})_{\vec{i} \in S \times S}$ the continuous time Markov chain on $S \times S$, associated with $P_t \otimes P_t$. We assume that $Q = \{q_{ij}\}$ is irreducible.

$$\text{Case I.} \quad P_{\vec{i}}^{(2)} \left[\int_0^{\infty} I_{A_2}(X_t) dt = +\infty \right] = 1 \quad \text{for all } \vec{i} \in S \times S,$$

$$\text{Case II.} \quad P_{\vec{i}}^{(2)} \left[\int_0^{\infty} I_{A_2}(X_t) dt = +\infty \right] = 0 \quad \text{for all } \vec{i} \in S \times S,$$

$$\text{Case III.} \quad 0 < P_{\vec{i}}^{(2)} \left[\int_0^{\infty} I_{A_2}(X_t) dt = +\infty \right] < 1 \quad \text{for all } \vec{i} \in S \times S,$$

where $A_2 = \{(i_1, i_2) \in S \times S \mid i_1 = i_2\}$ and I_{A_2} denotes the indicator function of A_2 . Since Q is irreducible, *Case I*, *Case II*, and *Case III* exhaust all possibilities.

In [10], we solved the problems of stationary states and ergodic behaviors in *Case I* and *Case II*. In this paper we shall investigate the general case, including *Case III*. The dual process of our model is similar to that in a voter model of Holley & Liggett [2] and also the stationary states of our model can be described in the same fashion as the voter model.

Let us introduce the space of P_t -harmonic functions \mathcal{H} and a sub-class \mathcal{H}^* of \mathcal{H} .

$$\mathcal{H} = \{h; \text{ defined on } S, 0 \leq h \leq 1, \text{ and } P_t h = h \text{ for all } t > 0\},$$

and

$$\mathcal{H}^* = \{h \in \mathcal{H}; \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h(X_t^1) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h(X_t^2) = 0 \text{ or } 1, (P_{\vec{i}}^{(2)})\text{-almost surely on } \Omega^{(1)},$$

$$\text{for each } i \in S \times S\}, \text{ where } \Omega^{(1)} = \left[\int_0^{\infty} I_{A_2}(X_t) dt = +\infty \right].$$

If we endow \mathcal{H} with the topology of point-wise convergence, \mathcal{H} is a compact convex set. So, let us denote by \mathcal{H}_{ex} the set of all extremal elements of \mathcal{H} . Then, it holds generally that $\mathcal{H}_{ex} \subseteq \mathcal{H}^* \subseteq \mathcal{H}$. In particular $\mathcal{H}^* = \mathcal{H}$ holds in *Case II*, because of $P_{\vec{i}}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}] = 0$ for each $\vec{i} \in S \times S$.

Let $\mathcal{P}(X)$ be the set of all probability measures on X equipped with the topology of weak convergence. Let us denote by $\{T_t^*\}$ the adjoint semi-group on

$\mathcal{P}(X)$ induced by $\{T_t\}$ and \mathcal{S} denotes the set of all stationary states, i.e. $\mathcal{S} = \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(X); T_t^* \mu = \mu \text{ for all } t \geq 0\}$. Since \mathcal{S} is a compact convex set, we shall investigate the structure of \mathcal{S}_{ex} , the set of all extremal elements of \mathcal{S} .

Then the following theorems hold.

Theorem 1.1.

(1) For each $h \in \mathcal{H}$, there exists a $\nu_h \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ such that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T_t^* \delta_h = \nu_h$, where δ_h stands for the point mass at h ,

$$(2) \int_X x_i \nu_h(dx) = h(i) \quad \text{for each } h \in \mathcal{H} \text{ and } i \in S,$$

and

$$(3) \mathcal{S}_{ex} = \{\nu_h; h \in \mathcal{H}^*\}.$$

Theorem 1.2. Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ and $h \in \mathcal{H}^*$. Then, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T_t^* \mu = \nu_h$ if and only if

$$(1.6) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{j \in S} P_t(i, j) \int_X x_j \mu(dx) = h(i) \quad \text{for each } i \in S,$$

and

$$(1.7) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{j \in S} \sum_{k \in S} P_t(i, j) P_t(i, k) \int_X x_j x_k \mu(dx) = h(i)^2 \quad \text{for each } i \in S.$$

Remark.

- (i) In Case I it holds that $\mathcal{H}^* = \mathcal{H}_{ex} = \{0, 1\}$.
- (ii) In Case II it holds that $\mathcal{H}^* = \mathcal{H} \supseteq \{c; 0 \leq c \leq 1\}$.
- (iii) In Case III it holds that $\mathcal{H}_{ex} \subseteq \mathcal{H}^* \subsetneq \mathcal{H}$.

In fact, we have examples of Case III, for which $\mathcal{H}_{ex} \subsetneq \mathcal{H}^*$ holds.

In § 2 we shall introduce a dual process of our model and discuss some properties on it. § 3 will be devoted to the proof of the above theorems, and in the final section some examples will be given.

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2. Dual processes

Let I be the set of all non-negative integer-valued functions α defined on S , satisfying $|\alpha| = \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i < +\infty$. α is denoted by ϵ^i if $\alpha_i = 1$ and $\alpha_j = 0$ for $j \neq i$. For $\alpha \in I$ and $\beta \in I$, $\alpha + \beta$ and $\alpha - \beta$ are defined component-wise.

Let us introduce two kind of continuous time Markov chains $(\alpha_t, P_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$ and $(\alpha_t, \tilde{P}_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$, which are generated by the following infinitesimal matrices $\{R_{\alpha, \beta}\}$ and $\{\tilde{R}_{\alpha, \beta}\}$ on $I \times I$, respectively.

$$(2.1) \quad R_{\alpha, \beta} = \begin{cases} \alpha_i q_{ij} & \text{if } \beta = \alpha - \varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j \in I \quad (i \neq j), \\ \frac{1}{4N} \alpha_i (\alpha_i - 1) & \text{if } \beta = \alpha - \varepsilon^i \in I, \\ \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i q_{ii} - \frac{1}{4N} \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i (\alpha_i - 1) & \text{if } \beta = \alpha, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$(2.2) \quad \tilde{R}_{\alpha, \beta} = \begin{cases} \alpha_i q_{ij} & \text{if } \beta = \alpha - \varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j \in I \quad (i \neq j), \\ \sum_{i \in S} \alpha_i q_{ii} & \text{if } \beta = \alpha, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Here we note that $(\alpha_t, \tilde{P}_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$ can be regarded as an independent system of P_t -Markov chains and $(\alpha_t, P_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$ has the same probability law as $(\alpha_t, \tilde{P}_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$ up to the hitting time for \mathcal{A} , where $\mathcal{A} = \{\alpha \in I; \alpha_i \geq 2 \text{ for some } i \in S\}$.

Also, $(\alpha_t, P_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$ is a dual process of $\{T_t\}$ in the following sense. Let us define a family of functions $\{f_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ on X by $f_\alpha(x) = \prod_{i \in S} x_i^{\alpha_i}$. Then we have by Lemma 2.3 in [10] the following

Lemma 2.1. *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ and $f(\alpha) = \langle \mu, f_\alpha \rangle$. Then it holds that*

$$(2.3) \quad \langle T_t^* \mu, f_\alpha \rangle = E_\alpha[f(\alpha_t)] \quad \text{for each } \alpha \in I.$$

Let us introduce some kind of Markov times.

$$\zeta = \inf\{t \geq 0; |\alpha_t| < |\alpha_0|\}, \quad \zeta_k = \inf\{t \geq 0; |\alpha_t| \leq k\} \quad \text{for } k \geq 0,$$

$$\tau = \inf\{t \geq 0; \alpha_t \in I \setminus \mathcal{A} \text{ and } |\alpha_t| = |\alpha_0|\}, \quad \sigma = \inf\{t \geq 0; \alpha_t \in \mathcal{A}\},$$

and τ_n and σ_n are defined inductively by

$$\tau_n = \sigma_{n-1} + \tau(\mathcal{G}_{\tau_{n-1}}) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_n = \tau_n + \sigma(\mathcal{G}_{\tau_n}), \quad \text{where } \sigma_0 = 0.$$

Let us denote $\Omega_1 = \left[\int_0^\infty I_{\mathcal{A}}(\alpha_t) dt = +\infty \right]$ and $\Omega_0 = \left[\int_0^\infty I_{\mathcal{A}}(\alpha_t) dt < +\infty \right]$. Then the following lemma holds.

Lemma 2.2. *Let g be any bounded function on I . Then,*

- (1) $E_\alpha[g(\alpha_t); t < \sigma_1] = \tilde{E}_\alpha[g(\alpha_t); t < \sigma_1]$ if $\alpha \in I \setminus \mathcal{A}$,
- (2) $[\tau_n < +\infty, \sigma_n = +\infty \text{ for some } n \geq 1] = \Omega_0$ a. s. (\tilde{P}_α) ,
- (3) $[\zeta = +\infty] = [\tau_n < +\infty, \sigma_n = +\infty \text{ for some } n \geq 1]$ a. s. (P_α) ,
- (4) $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_t}[\Omega_1]] = 0$,

$$\langle \mu, f \rangle = \int_X \mu(dx) f(x)$$

E_α denotes the expectation by P_α .

$$(5) \quad |E_\alpha[g(\alpha_t)] - \tilde{E}_\alpha[g(\alpha_t)]| \leq \|g\| P_\alpha[\zeta < +\infty] \leq \|g\| \tilde{P}_\alpha[\sigma_1 < +\infty],$$

and

$$(6) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |E_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[g(\alpha_t)] - E_{\varepsilon^i}[g(\alpha_t)]| \leq \|g\| P_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\zeta = +\infty] \leq \|g\| \tilde{P}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\Omega_0].$$

Proof. We shall show only (4), since (1)~(3) are trivial and (5) and (6) can be shown by constructing coupling processes. (cf. Lemma 4.9 in [10]).

For $\alpha \in I \setminus \mathcal{A}$

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_t}[\Omega_1]; \sigma_1 = +\infty] &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_t}[\Omega_1]; \sigma_1 > t] \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{P}_\alpha[\Omega_1 \cap \{\sigma_1 > t\}] = \tilde{P}_\alpha[\Omega_1 \cap \{\sigma_1 = +\infty\}] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_t}[\Omega_1]; \zeta = +\infty] &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_\alpha[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_t}[\Omega_1]; \tau_n < t, \sigma_n = +\infty] \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_\alpha[E_{\alpha_{\tau_n}}[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_{u-t}}[\Omega_1]; \sigma_1 = +\infty] |_{u=\tau_n}; \tau_n < +\infty] \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E_\alpha[\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_{\alpha_{\tau_n}}[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_t}[\Omega_1]; \sigma_1 = +\infty]; \tau_n < +\infty] = 0, \quad \text{by (2.4)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_t}[\Omega_1]] &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=2}^{|\alpha|} E_\alpha[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_t}[\Omega_1]; \zeta_k < t, \zeta_{k-1} = +\infty] \\ &= \sum_{k=2}^{|\alpha|} E_\alpha[\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} E_{\alpha_{\zeta_k}}[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_s}[\Omega_1]; \zeta = +\infty]; \zeta_k < +\infty] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Let us define the spaces of harmonic functions of $(\alpha_t, \tilde{P}_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$, and $(\alpha_t, P_\alpha)_{\alpha \in I}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{H}} = \{ \tilde{h}; \text{ defined on } I, 0 \leq \tilde{h} \leq 1, \text{ and } \tilde{E}_\alpha[\tilde{h}(\alpha_t)] &= \tilde{h}(\alpha) \\ &\text{for each } \alpha \in I \text{ and } t \geq 0 \}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G} = \{ g; \text{ defined on } I, 0 \leq g \leq 1, \text{ and } E_\alpha[g(\alpha_t)] &= g(\alpha) \\ &\text{for each } \alpha \in I \text{ and } t \geq 0 \}. \end{aligned}$$

Then we can obtain the following lemma by a similar argument to Lemma 4.2, Lemma 4.3, and Lemma 4.4 in [10].

Lemma 2.3.

- (1) For each $\tilde{h} \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[\tilde{h}(\alpha_t)]$ exists for each $\alpha \in I$, and
- (2) for each $g \in \mathcal{G}$ $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[g(\alpha_t); \Omega_0]$ exists for each $\alpha \in I$.

So, denoting $\Phi \tilde{h}(\alpha) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[\tilde{h}(\alpha_t)]$ and $\Psi_1 g(\alpha) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[g(\alpha_t); \Omega_0]$, Φ is a map from $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ into \mathcal{G} , and Ψ_1 is a map from \mathcal{G} into $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$. Moreover, it holds that

- (3) $\Phi\Psi_1g=g$ for each $g\in\mathcal{G}$, and
- (4) $\Psi_1\Phi\tilde{h}(\alpha)=\lim_{t\rightarrow\infty}\tilde{E}_\alpha[\tilde{h}(\alpha_t); \Omega_0]$ for each $\tilde{h}\in\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ and $\alpha\in I$.

Lemma 2.4 (Lemma 4.8 in [10]). Let $f_{i,j}^*=\tilde{P}_{\varepsilon i+\varepsilon j}[\Omega_0\cap[\sigma_1<+\infty]]$. Then,

$$(2.6) \quad \lim_{t\rightarrow\infty}\sum_{k\in S}P_t(i,k)f_{k,j}^*=0 \quad \text{for each } (i,j)\in S\times S.$$

Lemma 2.5. Let $f_{i,j}=\tilde{P}_{\varepsilon i+\varepsilon j}[\sigma_1<+\infty]$, $\bar{f}_{i,j}=\tilde{P}_{\varepsilon i+\varepsilon j}[\Omega_1]$, and $F_{i,j}=f_{i,j}\wedge(1-\bar{f}_{i,j})$. Then,

$$(2.7) \quad \lim_{t\rightarrow\infty}\overline{\lim}_{s\rightarrow\infty}\sum_{k\in S}\sum_{m\in S}P_t(i,k)P_s(j,m)F_{k,m}=0.$$

Proof. Noting $f_{i,j}=f_{i,j}^*+\bar{f}_{i,j}$, $F_{i,j}\leq f_{i,j}^*+\bar{f}_{i,j}\wedge(1-\bar{f}_{i,j})$ and Lemma 2.4, it suffice to show

$$(2.8) \quad \lim_{t,s\rightarrow\infty}\sum_{k\in S}\sum_{m\in S}P_t(i,k)P_s(j,m)\bar{f}_{k,m}\wedge(1-\bar{f}_{k,m})=0.$$

Let $((X_t^1, X_t^2), P_{(i,j)}^{(2)})$ be a continuous time Markov chain corresponding to the transition probability $P_t\otimes P_t$. Let us denote by $\mathcal{B}_{t,s}$ the σ -field generated by $\{(X_u^1, X_u^2); 0\leq u\leq t, 0\leq v\leq s\}$ and

$$\Omega^{(1)}=\left[\int_0^\infty I_{A_2}(X_t^1, X_t^2)dt=+\infty\right].$$

First we claim that

$$(2.9) \quad \bar{f}_{X_t^1, X_s^2}=P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}|\mathcal{B}_{t,s}] \quad \text{a.s. } (P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}) \quad \text{for all } t, s\geq 0.$$

Since $\Omega^{(1)}$ is a tail event, by the Markov property we have

$$P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}|\mathcal{B}_{t,t}]=P_{(X_t^1, X_t^2)}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}]=\bar{f}_{X_t^1, X_t^2} \quad \text{for each } t\geq 0.$$

Also, we may assume $t\geq s$, and then it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}|\mathcal{B}_{t,s}] &= E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}|\mathcal{B}_{t,t}]|\mathcal{B}_{t,s}] \\ &= E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\bar{f}_{X_t^1, X_t^2}|\mathcal{B}_{t,s}] = \sum_{j\in S}P_{t-s}(X_s^2, j)\bar{f}_{X_t^1, j} = \bar{f}_{X_t^1, X_s^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we used a fact that $\bar{f}_{i,j}$ is P_t -harmonic function of each variable by Lemma 4.7 in [10], since $\bar{f}_{i,j}$ is $P_t\otimes P_t$ -harmonic. For any $\varepsilon>0$, there exist $t_0>0, s_0>0$ and an event Ω_1^* such that

$$\Omega_1^*\in\mathcal{B}_{t_0, s_0} \quad \text{and} \quad P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}\ominus\Omega_1^*]<\varepsilon.$$

Then for $t>t_0$ and $s>s_0$,

$$\begin{aligned} E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[|\bar{f}_{X_t^1, X_s^2}-I_{\Omega^{(1)}}|] &= E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[|P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}|\mathcal{B}_{t,s}]-I_{\Omega^{(1)}}|] \\ &\leq E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}\ominus\Omega_1^*|\mathcal{B}_{t,s}]]+P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\Omega^{(1)}\ominus\Omega_1^*]<2\varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

$$a\wedge b=\min\{a,b\}.$$

because of $P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\Omega_1^* | \mathcal{B}_{i,s}] = I_{\Omega_1^*}$.

$$\begin{aligned} E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\bar{f}_{x_t^1, x_s^2} \wedge (1 - \bar{f}_{x_t^1, x_s^2})] &= E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\bar{f}_{x_t^1, x_s^2} \wedge (1 - \bar{f}_{x_t^1, x_s^2}) - I_{\Omega^{(1)}} \wedge (1 - I_{\Omega^{(1)}})] \\ &\leq 2E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[|\bar{f}_{x_t^1, x_s^2} - I_{\Omega^{(1)}}|] < 4\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

for all $t > t_0$ and $s > s_0$. Thus, we get (2.8).

The following lemma holds in the same way as the voter model.

Lemma 2.6. *Let $\mu \in \mathcal{S}_{ex}$, $g(\alpha) = \langle \mu, f_\alpha \rangle$ and $h(i) = g(\varepsilon^i)$. Then,*

- (1) $|g(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j) - h(i)h(j)| \leq 2F_{i,j}$, and
- (2) $h \in \mathcal{A}^*$.

Proof. First, we claim that

$$(2.10) \quad |\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[g(\alpha_t)] - g(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j)| \leq 2F_{i,j}.$$

By Lemma 2.2 (6), we have

$$(2.11) \quad |g(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j) - h(i)| = |\mathbf{E}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[g(\alpha_t)] - \mathbf{E}_{\varepsilon^i}[g(\alpha_t)]| \leq \tilde{\mathbf{P}}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[\Omega_0] = 1 - \bar{f}_{i,j}.$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[g(\alpha_t)] - h(i)| &\leq \left| \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}} P_t(i, k) P_t(j, m) (g(\varepsilon^k + \varepsilon^m) - h(k)) \right| \\ &\leq \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}} P_t(i, k) P_t(j, m) (1 - \bar{f}_{k,m}) = 1 - \bar{f}_{i,j}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$(2.12) \quad |\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[g(\alpha_t)] - g(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j)| \leq 2(1 - \bar{f}_{i,j}).$$

On the other hand by Lemma 2.2 (5),

$$(2.13) \quad |\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[g(\alpha_t)] - g(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j)| = |\tilde{\mathbf{E}}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[g(\alpha_t) - \mathbf{E}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[g(\alpha_t)]]| \leq \mathbf{P}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[\sigma_1 < +\infty] = f_{i,j}.$$

Hence (2.10) follows from (2.12) and (2.13).

Next, it is easy to see that $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}} P_s(i, k) P_s(j, m) f_{k,m}^* = 0$, so we have by (2.8)

$$(2.14) \quad \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}} P_s(i, k) P_s(j, m) F_{k,m} = 0.$$

Accordingly, it follows from (2.10) and (2.14) that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbf{E}}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[g(\alpha_t)]$ exists, which is denoted by $h(i, j)$.

Thus, we have

$$(2.15) \quad |g(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j) - h(i, j)| \leq 2F_{i,j}.$$

Finally we claim that $h(i, j) = h(i)h(j)$ for all i and j . Since $\mu \in \mathcal{S}_{ex}$, it follows from (4.16) in [10] that

$$(2.16) \quad \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \sum_{k \in S} P_t(i, k) g(\varepsilon^k + \varepsilon^j) dt = g(\varepsilon^i) g(\varepsilon^j) = h(i) h(j).$$

Noting that $h(i, j)$ is P_t -harmonic in each variable, and combining (2.12), (2.16) and Lemma 2.5, we can see that $h(i, j) = h(i)h(j)$ for all i and j .

Next, we shall show $h \in \mathcal{A}^*$. By (2.11),

$$(2.17) \quad |h(i)h(j) - h(i)| \leq 1 - \bar{f}_{i,j} \quad (i, j \in S).$$

Then it is easy to see that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h(X_t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h(X_t^?) = 0 \text{ or } 1 \quad \text{a. s. } (P_{(i,j)}^{(2)}) \text{ on } \left[\int_0^\infty I_{\Delta_2}(X_t) dt = +\infty \right].$$

Thus, we complete the proof of Lemma 2.6.

3. Proof of Theorems

We shall begin with the proof of Theorem 1.2. Assume that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T_t^* \mu = \nu_h$ for some $h \in \mathcal{A}^*$.

Let $\langle \mu, f_\alpha \rangle = g(\alpha)$ and $\langle \nu_h, f_\alpha \rangle = g^h(\alpha)$. Then it holds that

$$(3.1) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[g(\alpha_t)] = g^h(\alpha) \quad \text{for each } \alpha \in I,$$

and particularly

$$(3.2) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{j \in S} P_t(i, j) g(\varepsilon^j) = h(i) \quad \text{for each } i \in S.$$

First, we claim that

$$(3.3) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_{\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j}[g(\alpha_t)] = h(i)h(j) \quad \text{for each } (i, j) \in S \times S.$$

For this it is sufficient to show that if for a sequence $\{t_n\}$ tending to $+\infty$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[g(\alpha_{t_n})]$ exists (which is denoted by $\bar{h}(\alpha)$) for each $\alpha \in I$, then $\bar{h}(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j) = h(i)h(j)$ holds for each $i, j \in S$. Evidently it holds that

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \bar{h}(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k \in S} \sum_{m \in S} P_{t_n}(i, k) P_{t_n}(j, m) g(\varepsilon^k + \varepsilon^m) \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k \in S} P_{t_n}(i, k) g(\varepsilon^k) = h(i), \quad \text{and} \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \bar{h}(2\varepsilon^i) - h(i)^2 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k \in S} \sum_{m \in S} P_{t_n}(i, k) P_{t_n}(i, m) g(\varepsilon^k + \varepsilon^m) - h(i)^2 \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \left(\sum_{k \in S} P_{t_n}(i, k) x_k - h(i) \right)^2 \mu(dx) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Also, it follows that for any $\alpha \in I$,

$$(3.6) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[\bar{h}(\alpha_t); \sigma_1 = +\infty] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[\bar{h}(\alpha_t); \sigma_1 = +\infty],$$

where $\bar{h}(\alpha) = \prod_{i \in S} h(i)^{\alpha_i}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{For } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[\bar{h}(\alpha_t); \sigma_1 = +\infty] &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[\tilde{E}_{\alpha_t}[g(\alpha_{t_n})]; \sigma_1 = +\infty] \\
 &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[\tilde{E}_{\alpha_t}[g(\alpha_{t_n})]; \sigma_1 > t] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[g(\alpha_{t_{n+t}}); \sigma_1 > t] \\
 &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[g(\alpha_t); \sigma_1 = +\infty] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[g(\alpha_t)] - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[g(\alpha_t); \sigma_1 < \infty] \\
 &= g^h(\alpha) - E_\alpha[g^h(\alpha_{\sigma_1}); \sigma_1 < +\infty] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[\tilde{h}(\alpha_t); \sigma_1 = +\infty].
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, using (3.6) we can see easily that

$$(3.7) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[\bar{h}(\alpha_t); \Omega_0] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[\tilde{h}(\alpha_t); \Omega_0] \quad \text{for } \alpha \in I.$$

Next we shall show

$$(3.8) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\bar{h}(\alpha_t); \Omega_1] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\tilde{h}(\alpha_t); \Omega_1] \quad \alpha \in I.$$

Since $\Omega_1 = [\sigma_n < +\infty \text{ for all } n]$ a. s. (\tilde{P}_α), it follows from (3.5),

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\bar{h}(\alpha_t); \Omega_1] &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\bar{h}(\alpha_{\sigma_n}); \Omega_1] \\
 &\geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\tilde{h}(\alpha_{\sigma_n}); \Omega_1] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\tilde{h}(\alpha_t); \Omega_1].
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand if we identify $(\alpha_t, \tilde{P}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}})$ with $((X_t^1, X_t^2), P_{(i,j)}^{(2)})$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\bar{h}(\alpha_t); \Omega_1] &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[\bar{h}(\varepsilon_{X_t^1} + \varepsilon_{X_t^2}); \Omega^{(1)}] \\
 &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[h(X_t^1); \Omega^{(1)}] \quad (\text{by (3.4)}) \\
 &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_{(i,j)}^{(2)}[h(X_t^1)h(X_t^2); \Omega^{(1)}] \\
 &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_{\varepsilon^{i+\varepsilon j}}[\tilde{h}(\alpha_t); \Omega_1] \quad \text{holds.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus we get (3.8).

Moreover we note that $\bar{h} \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ by Lemma 4.5 in [10]. Hence we can conclude by (3.7) and (3.8) that

$$\bar{h}(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j) = \tilde{h}(\varepsilon^i + \varepsilon^j) = h(i)h(j) \quad \text{holds for all } i \text{ and } j.$$

By (3.2) and (3.3), it follows obviously that

$$(3.9) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_X \left(\sum_{j \in S} P_t(i, j) x_j - h(i) \right)^2 \mu(dx) = 0,$$

and this implies (1.7).

The proof of the converse is easy and it is found in § 5 of [10].

Next, we shall prove Theorem 1.1.

By Lemma 2.3, it is immediate that for each $h \in \mathcal{H}$ $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T_t^* \delta_h = \nu_h$ exists and $\int_X x_i \nu_h(dx) = h(i)$ holds for each $i \in S$.

First we shall show that $\{\nu_h; h \in \mathcal{H}^*\} \subset S_{e,x}$ holds.

Let $h \in \mathcal{H}^*$, and assume $\nu_h = (1/2)(\mu' + \mu'')$ with μ' and $\mu'' \in \mathcal{S}$. Theorem 1.2 implies that $\sum_{j \in S} P_t(i, j)x_j$ converges to $h(i)$ in probability with respect to ν_h , and also it is true for μ' and μ'' . Again by Theorem 1.2 we have $\mu'' = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T_t^* \mu' = \nu_h$. Hence ν_h is extremal.

Conversely let $\mu \in \mathcal{S}_{ex}$, $g(\alpha) = \langle \mu, f_\alpha \rangle$ and $h(i) = g(\varepsilon^i)$. Then Lemma 2.6 and (2.14) imply that (3.9) holds. Hence,

$$(3.10) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{E}_\alpha[g(\alpha_t)] = \tilde{h}(\alpha) \quad \text{for each } \alpha \in I.$$

By Lemma 2.3, (3.10) and Lemma 2.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle \nu_h, f_\alpha \rangle - g(\alpha)| &= |\Phi \tilde{h}(\alpha) - g(\alpha)| \\ &= |\Phi \Psi_1 g(\alpha) + \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[\tilde{E}_{\alpha_t}[g(\alpha_s); \Omega_1]] - g(\alpha)| \\ &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\alpha[\tilde{P}_{\alpha_t}[\Omega_1]] = 0 \quad \text{for each } \alpha \in I. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $\mu = \nu_h$ holds, and $h \in \mathcal{H}^*$ follows from Lemma 2.6.

4. Examples

In this section we shall present two examples of Case III.

1° Consider the example in §6 of [10] with $k = +\infty$.

Let $S = \{s = (i, n); i \in \mathbf{N}, n \in \mathbf{N}\} \cup \{0\}$, and $Q = \{q_{s, s'}\}$ be given by $q_{0, (i, 1)} = a_i > 0$, $q_{0, 0} = -\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i$, $q_{(i, n), (i, n+1)} = \lambda_n > 0$, $q_{(i, n), (i, n-1)} = \mu_n > 0$ ($n \geq 1$), $q_{(i, n), (i, n)} = -(\lambda_n + \mu_n)$, and $q_{s, s'} = 0$ for all other (s, s') .

Assume that $\sup_n (\lambda_n + \mu_n) < +\infty$, $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i < +\infty$, and that the continuous time Markov chain $(X_t, P_s)_{s \in S}$, generated by $Q = \{q_{s, s'}\}$, is transient. Then, Q satisfies the condition of Case III. Denote by $\{i^\infty; i \in \mathbf{N}\}$ the set of infinity points of S , and for each subset $\beta \subset \mathbf{N}$, define $h_\beta(s) = P_s[\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} X_t \in \beta^\infty]$, where $\beta^\infty = \{i^\infty; i \in \beta\}$. Then it is easy to check that $\Omega^{(1)} = [\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} X_t = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} X_t^\infty = i^\infty \text{ for some } i]$ holds. So, we have $\mathcal{H}_{ex} = \mathcal{H}^* = \{h_\beta; \beta \subset \mathbf{N}\}$.

2° Next, we shall consider an example such that $\mathcal{H}_{ex} \not\subseteq \mathcal{H}^*$ holds.

Let $S = \mathbf{Z}^3 \cup \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. $Q = \{q_{i, j}\}$ is given as follows.

Let $i = (i_1, i_2, i_3) \in \mathbf{Z}^3$.

$$q_{i, j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i_3 = 0 \text{ and } j = (i_1, i_2, \pm 1), \text{ or } j = (j_1, j_2, i_3) \text{ with } |j - i| = 1. \\ p & \text{if } j = (i_1, i_2, i_3 + 1) \text{ with } i_3 > 0, \text{ or } j = (i_1, i_2, i_3 - 1) \text{ with } i_3 < 0, \\ q & \text{if } j = (i_1, i_2, i_3 - 1) \text{ with } i_3 > 0, \text{ or } j = (i_1, i_2, i_3 + 1) \text{ with } i_3 < 0, \end{cases}$$

$q_{(0, 0, 0), 0} = q_{0, (0, 0, 0)} = 1$, $q_{n, n+1} = p$, $q_{n, n-1} = q$ ($n \geq 1$) and $q_{i, j} = 0$ for all other $(i, j) \in$

$\underline{\hspace{10em}}$
 \mathbf{N} denotes the set of natural numbers.

$S \times S$ with $i \neq j$. We assume $p > q > 0$. Then $Q = \{q_{i,j}\}$ satisfies the condition of Case III. Let $L^+ = \{i = (i_1, i_2, i_3) \in \mathbb{Z}^3; i_3 > 0\}$, $L^- = \{i = (i_1, i_2, i_3) \in \mathbb{Z}^3; i_3 < 0\}$, and $L_0 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. Let us define $h^+(i) = P_i \left[\int_0^\infty I_{L^+}(X_t) dt = +\infty \right]$, $h^-(i) = P_i \left[\int_0^\infty I_{L^-}(X_t) dt = +\infty \right]$ and $h_0(i) = P_i \left[\int_0^\infty I_{L_0}(X_t) dt = +\infty \right]$. Then we have

$$\mathcal{A}^* = \{h_0 + ah^+ + bh^-, ah^+ + bh^-; 0 \leq a, b \leq 1\}.$$

On the other hand it holds that

$$\mathcal{A}_{ex} = \{0, h_0, h^+, h^-, h_0 + h^+, h_0 + h^-, h^+ + h^-, 1\}.$$

Thus, for this example we see $\mathcal{A}_{ex} \equiv \mathcal{A}^*$.

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