

probability measure theory ash Study Guide

probability measure theory ash is an intriguing area of mathematical study that combines the principles of probability with measure theory to provide a rigorous foundation for understanding randomness and uncertainty. This field is fundamental in various disciplines such as statistics, economics, physics, and engineering, enabling researchers and practitioners to analyze stochastic processes with precision and clarity. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the core concepts of probability measure theory ash, its significance, and its applications.

Understanding Probability Measure Theory Ash

What is Probability Measure Theory?

Probability measure theory is a branch of measure theory that formalizes the mathematical framework for probability. It provides a structured way to assign a numerical value, called a measure, to subsets of a sample space, which represents all possible outcomes of a random experiment.

Key elements include:

- **Sample Space (Ω):** The set of all possible outcomes.
- **σ -Algebra ($\mathcal{F}$):** A collection of subsets of Ω , called measurable sets, closed under countable unions, intersections, and complements.
- **Probability Measure (P):** A function assigning a probability to each measurable set, satisfying axioms such as non-negativity, normalization, and countable additivity.

This framework ensures that probability assignments are consistent and mathematically rigorous, enabling advanced analysis of random phenomena.

The Role of Measure Theory in Probability

Measure theory extends the intuitive notion of length, area, and volume to more complex sets, allowing for the handling of irregular or infinite collections. When applied to probability:

- It guarantees that probabilities are assigned coherently across complex event structures.
- It facilitates the development of limit theorems, such as the Law of Large Numbers and Central Limit Theorem.

- It underpins the rigorous definition of random variables, expectations, and conditional probabilities.

Core Concepts in Probability Measure Theory Ash

Measurable Spaces and σ -Algebras

A measurable space is a pair $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$, where:

- Ω is the sample space.
- $\mathcal{F}$ is a σ -algebra over Ω , ensuring that the collection of measurable sets is well-behaved under operations.

This structure is essential because it defines what subsets of the sample space can be assigned probabilities.

Probability Measures and Their Properties

A probability measure P on a measurable space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ must satisfy:

- **Non-negativity:** $P(A) \geq 0$ for all A in $\mathcal{F}$.
- **Normalization:** $P(\Omega) = 1$.
- **Countable Additivity:** For any countable collection of disjoint sets $A_1, A_2, \dots$, in $\mathcal{F}$, $P(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$.

These axioms form the foundation for analyzing the probability of complex events.

Random Variables and Distributions

A random variable is a measurable function $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Its distribution is given by the probability measure induced on the real line:

- The distribution function $F_X(x) = P(\{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) \leq x\})$.
- Understanding distributions allows for modeling uncertainties and predicting outcomes.

Applications of Probability Measure Theory Ash

Statistical Modeling and Inference

Probability measure theory provides the mathematical basis for statistical inference:

- Designing experiments and surveys.
- Estimating parameters using methods like Maximum Likelihood Estimation.
- Developing hypothesis testing frameworks.

Stochastic Processes

Stochastic processes, such as Brownian motion or Markov chains, are collections of random variables indexed over time or space. Measure theory ensures:

- Proper definitions of process distributions.
- Analysis of convergence and stability properties.
- Modeling of complex systems in finance, physics, and biology.

Quantum Mechanics and Physics

In quantum physics, probability measures are used to interpret the likelihood of measurement outcomes. Measure theory underpins the formal structure of quantum states and operators.

Machine Learning and Data Science

Modern algorithms often rely on probability measures to:

- Model data distributions.
- Train probabilistic models like Bayesian networks.
- Quantify uncertainty in predictions.

Advanced Topics in Probability Measure Theory Ash

Conditional Probability and Expectation

Conditional probability $P(A|B)$ and expectation $E[X|B]$ are defined within the measure-theoretic framework, allowing for:

- Precise handling of conditional events.
- Recursive analysis of stochastic processes.

Measure-Theoretic Limit Theorems

Fundamental results such as:

- The Law of Large Numbers.
- The Central Limit Theorem.
- Martingale convergence theorems.

are proven within the measure-theoretic context, providing robustness to statistical and probabilistic analyses.

Radon-Nikodym Theorem

This theorem allows the derivation of derivatives between measures, enabling the transformation of probability measures and the development of likelihood functions in statistical models.

Conclusion

Probability measure theory ash represents a sophisticated and essential component of modern mathematics, offering a rigorous foundation for understanding and analyzing uncertainty. Its principles underpin a vast array of scientific and practical applications, from statistical inference to quantum physics. By formalizing the way probabilities are assigned, manipulated, and interpreted, measure theory enhances our capacity to model complex systems and make informed decisions under uncertainty.

Whether you are a student delving into advanced probability, a researcher developing new statistical methods, or a practitioner applying probabilistic models, mastering the concepts of probability measure theory ash is invaluable. As the field continues to evolve, its relevance and importance in scientific discovery and technological innovation are bound to grow, making it a cornerstone of modern analytical thinking.

Probability Measure Theory Ash: A Comprehensive Exploration

Probability measure theory forms the backbone of modern probability and statistical analysis, providing a rigorous framework that underpins everything from theoretical research to practical applications. It combines measure theory's abstract mathematical foundations with the intuitive concepts of chance and uncertainty, creating a powerful language to describe and analyze

probabilistic phenomena. In this review, we delve deeply into the core principles, advanced concepts, and nuanced applications of probability measure theory, offering a detailed perspective suitable for students, researchers, and practitioners alike.

Foundations of Probability Measure Theory

Measure Theory Basics

At its core, probability measure theory extends the ideas of measure theory—a branch of mathematics concerned with assigning sizes or measures to sets—to probabilistic contexts. The fundamental concepts include:

- **Sigma-Algebras ($\mathcal{F}$ -Algebras):** Collections of subsets of a sample space (Ω) , closed under countable unions, countable intersections, and complements. They form the domain over which measures are defined.
- **Measure:** A function $(\mu: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, \infty])$ satisfying:
 - **Non-negativity:** $(\mu(A) \geq 0)$
 - **Null empty set:** $(\mu(\emptyset) = 0)$
 - **Countable Additivity:** For disjoint sets (A_i) , $(\mu(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu(A_i))$
- **Probability Measure:** A measure (P) with total measure 1, i.e., $(P(\Omega) = 1)$.

The combination of these elements yields a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, where:

- (Ω) is the sample space,
- $(\mathcal{F})$ is the sigma-algebra of events,
- (P) is the probability measure assigning probabilities to events.

Key Properties of Probability Measures

Understanding the properties that follow from measure axioms helps in manipulating probabilistic statements:

- **Countable Subadditivity:** For any sequence (A_i) ,

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i).$$

- Continuity of Measures:
- Monotone Continuity: If $(A_n \uparrow A)$, then $(P(A_n) \rightarrow P(A))$.
- Continuity from Below and Above: Used to handle limits of sequences of sets and their measures.
- Null Sets: Sets with measure zero; important in defining almost sure properties and negligible events.

Constructing Probability Measures

Kolmogorov Extension Theorem

One of the foundational results in probability measure theory is the Kolmogorov Extension Theorem, which ensures the existence of a probability measure on an infinite product space given consistent finite-dimensional distributions. This theorem underpins the construction of stochastic processes and random fields.

Key points:

- Given a consistent family of finite-dimensional distributions, there exists a unique probability measure on the infinite product space.
- This measure describes the joint distribution of an infinite sequence of random variables.

Measures on Common Spaces

- Lebesgue Measure: The standard measure on $(\mathbb{R})$, fundamental for continuous probability distributions.
- Counting Measure: Suitable for discrete spaces, where the measure of a set is simply the number of elements.
- Product Measures: Built from measures on individual spaces, important for multivariate distributions.

Measurable Functions and Random Variables

Measurability

A function $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called a random variable if it is measurable; that is, for every Borel set $B \subseteq \mathbb{R}$,

$$X^{-1}(B) = \{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) \in B\} \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Measurability ensures that probabilities involving X are well-defined, enabling us to assign probabilities to events like $\{X \leq x\}$.

Distribution of a Random Variable

- The distribution μ_X of X is a probability measure on $\mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$\mu_X(B) = P(X \in B).$$

- The distribution encapsulates all probabilistic information about X .

Pushforward Measures

- The distribution of X is the pushforward of P via X :

$$\mu_X = P \circ X^{-1}.$$

- This concept links measures on the sample space to measures on the real line or other target spaces.

Advanced Topics in Probability Measure Theory

Conditional Probability and Conditional Measures

- Conditional Probability: For events A, B with $P(B) > 0$,

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}.$$

- Conditional Expectation: For a random variable X and σ -algebra $\mathcal{G}$,

$$\mathbb{E}[X \mid \mathcal{G}]$$

is a $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable random variable representing the best $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable approximation of X .

- Regular Conditional Probability: A family of probability measures $\{P_\omega\}$ such that for almost every ω ,

$$P_\omega(A) = P(A \mid \mathcal{G})(\omega).$$

It formalizes the idea of conditioning on a σ -algebra.

Radon-Nikodym Theorem and Absolute Continuity

- Radon-Nikodym Derivative: If $\nu \ll \mu$ (i.e., ν is absolutely continuous w.r.t. μ), then there exists a measurable function f such that for any measurable A ,

$$\nu(A) = \int_A f \, d\mu.$$

- In probability, this enables defining likelihood ratios and density functions, critical for Bayesian inference and likelihood-based statistics.

Convergence Theorems

- Monotone Convergence Theorem (MCT): For an increasing sequence $f_n \uparrow f$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int f_n \, d\mu = \int f \, d\mu.$$

- Dominated Convergence Theorem (DCT): For $f_n \rightarrow f$ pointwise and a dominating integrable function g ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int f_n \, d\mu = \int f \, d\mu.$$

- These theorems are crucial for justifying limit operations under the integral sign.

Measure-Theoretic Foundations in Probability

Null Sets and Almost Sure Properties

- Events of measure zero are considered negligible.
- Almost Sure (a.s.) statements hold outside null sets, e.g., "X converges a.s. to (X_∞) ."

Independence and Product Measures

- Independent random variables are modeled via product measures.
- If (X) and (Y) are independent,

$$P_{\{X,Y\}} = P_X \times P_Y.$$

- Multiple independence notions extend naturally, including exchangeability and conditional independence.

Measure-Theoretic Notions of Convergence

- Almost Sure Convergence: $(X_n \rightarrow X)$ a.s.
- Convergence in Probability: For every $(\epsilon > 0)$,

$$P(|X_n - X| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0.$$

- Convergence in Distribution: Distribution functions converge at all continuity points.

Applications and Advanced Topics

Stochastic Processes

- A collection of random variables $(\{X_t\}_{t \in T})$ indexed by a set (T) forms a stochastic process.
- Constructed via projective systems and Kolmogorov's extension theorem.
- Measure-theoretic properties such as tightness, weak convergence, and Skorokhod representations are central.

Ergodic Theory and Invariant Measures

- Studies long-term average behavior of dynamical systems.
- Invariant measures remain unchanged under system dynamics, serving as equilibrium distributions.

Martingales and Measure-Theoretic Characterizations

- Martingales are sequences of integrable random variables with conditional expectation properties.
- Measure-theoretic tools are essential for proving convergence theorems like

Question What is the significance of probability measure theory in Ash's work? Probability measure theory in Ash's work provides a rigorous mathematical foundation for understanding random processes, enabling precise analysis of stochastic behaviors in complex systems. How does Ash's measure theory contribute to the study of infinite-dimensional probability spaces? Ash's measure theory extends traditional concepts to infinite-dimensional spaces, allowing for the analysis of measures on function spaces and Hilbert spaces, which are crucial in fields like quantum mechanics and statistical mechanics. What are the key challenges addressed by Ash in probability measure theory? Ash addresses challenges such as defining measures on complex spaces, handling non-measurable sets, and ensuring the existence and uniqueness of measures in high-dimensional contexts. In what ways does Ash's probability measure theory influence modern statistical mechanics? Ash's approach provides tools to rigorously define and analyze probability measures over state spaces, facilitating the study of thermodynamic limits and phase transitions in statistical mechanics. How does Ash's measure theory relate to ergodic theory and dynamical systems? Ash's measure theory offers a framework for analyzing invariant measures and ergodic properties of dynamical systems, helping to understand long-term statistical behavior of such systems. Are there recent applications of Ash's probability measure theory in machine learning? Yes, Ash's measure theoretic principles underpin the mathematical foundations of probabilistic models in machine learning, such as Bayesian inference and stochastic processes, improving their rigor and robustness. What are the latest trends in research related to probability measure theory in Ash's context? Current trends include extending measure theory to non-commutative spaces, developing measures on infinite-dimensional manifolds, and applying these concepts to quantum probability and information theory.

Related keywords: probability, measure theory, Ash, probability spaces, sigma-algebra, random variables, distribution, expectation, Lebesgue measure, stochastic processes

An Introduction To Ergodic Theory Graduate Texts I

An introduction to ergodic theory graduate texts i serves as a foundational guide for graduate students venturing into this fascinating branch of mathematics. Ergodic theory, at its core, explores the long-term average behavior of dynamical systems and their statistical properties. It has profound applications across mathematics, physics, and even in fields like economics and computer science. For students beginning their journey, selecting the right graduate texts is crucial for building a solid understanding, developing intuition, and engaging with current research directions. This article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of essential ergodic theory texts, their key features, and how they can serve as effective learning tools.

Understanding the Foundations of Ergodic Theory

Before diving into specific texts, it's important to understand what ergodic theory encompasses and why it's a vital area of study. This section offers a brief overview of the fundamental concepts and the scope of graduate-level texts.

What is Ergodic Theory?

Ergodic theory studies the behavior of measure-preserving transformations on probability spaces. Essentially, it addresses questions like: How do points in a dynamical system distribute over time? Do the time averages of functions along trajectories converge to space averages? These questions are rooted in the ergodic hypothesis, which originated from statistical mechanics.

Key concepts include:

- Measure-preserving transformations
- Ergodicity and mixing
- Invariant measures
- Birkhoff's Ergodic Theorem
- Unique ergodicity

Understanding these ideas lays the groundwork for exploring more advanced topics covered in graduate texts.

Essential Graduate Texts in Ergodic Theory

Choosing the right textbooks is essential for mastering ergodic theory. The following sections highlight some of the most influential and widely recommended graduate-level texts, discussing their

strengths and targeted audiences.

1. "An Introduction to Ergodic Theory" by Peter Walters

Walters' book is often considered a classic starting point for graduate students.

Key features:

- Clear and rigorous presentation
- Focuses on measure-theoretic foundations
- Covers fundamental theorems such as Birkhoff's and von Neumann's
- Includes numerous exercises for practice

This text is ideal for students new to the field, providing a solid theoretical foundation before moving to more specialized topics.

2. "Ergodic Theory" by Karl Petersen

Petersen's work is comprehensive and slightly more advanced.

Key features:

- Emphasizes both measure-theoretic and topological dynamics
- Discusses entropy, mixing, and applications
- Contains detailed proofs and examples
- Suitable for students with some background in measure theory and topology

This book bridges foundational concepts with more recent developments, making it a good next step after Walters.

3. "Introduction to Ergodic Theory" by Ya. G. Sinai

Sinai's text offers a blend of intuition and formalism.

Key features:

- Focuses on the intuition behind the theorems
- Connects ergodic theory with statistical mechanics

- Includes historical notes and motivations
- Suitable for students who prefer a conceptual approach

Additional Resources and Advanced Texts

Graduate students aiming to deepen their understanding should explore more specialized and advanced texts. Here are some noteworthy options:

1. "Ergodic Theory and Differentiable Dynamics" by Anatole Katok and Boris Hasselblatt

This comprehensive volume covers a broad spectrum of topics.

Highlights:

- Smooth ergodic theory
- Hyperbolic systems and Anosov diffeomorphisms
- Structural stability
- It is suitable for students interested in the interface between ergodic theory and differential dynamics.

2. "Measure Theory and Probability" by Malcolm Adams and Victor Guillemin

While broader in scope, this book provides valuable measure-theoretic background essential for advanced ergodic theory.

Strategies for Studying Ergodic Theory Graduate Texts

Mastering ergodic theory requires more than just reading; active engagement is key. Here are some tips for making the most of these texts:

- **Start with the basics:** Ensure a solid understanding of measure theory, topology, and functional analysis.
- **Work through exercises:** Practice problems reinforce concepts and develop problem-solving skills.
- **Supplement with lectures and seminars:** Engage with online courses or university seminars for different perspectives.
- **Form study groups:** Discussing complex topics with peers enhances understanding.
- **Connect theory to applications:** Explore how ergodic theory applies to physics, information

theory, and other fields.

Conclusion

An introduction to ergodic theory graduate texts provides a roadmap for students embarking on this mathematical journey. Starting with foundational books like Walters' "An Introduction to Ergodic Theory" offers an accessible entry point, while advanced texts like Katok and Hasselblatt's work open doors to current research areas. By selecting appropriate resources, actively engaging with the material, and connecting theory with applications, students can develop a deep and lasting understanding of ergodic theory. Whether your interest lies in pure mathematics, statistical mechanics, or dynamical systems, the right graduate texts are invaluable tools for your academic and research pursuits in ergodic theory.

An Introduction to Ergodic Theory Graduate Texts: A Comprehensive Guide for Students and Enthusiasts

Embarking on the study of ergodic theory graduate texts opens a gateway to a rich and profound branch of mathematics that intersects dynamical systems, measure theory, probability, and statistical mechanics. For graduate students venturing into this field, selecting the right textbooks can significantly influence their understanding and appreciation of the subject. This guide aims to shed light on the foundational texts, their structure, strengths, and how they serve as stepping stones into the depths of ergodic theory.

Understanding the Foundations of Ergodic Theory

Before diving into specific texts, it's crucial to grasp what ergodic theory entails. At its core, ergodic theory studies the long-term average behavior of dynamical systems with an invariant measure. Its applications range from statistical physics and information theory to number theory and chaos theory.

Key concepts include:

- Measure-preserving transformations
- Invariant measures
- Ergodicity and mixing
- Birkhoff's Ergodic Theorem
- Ornstein's theory of Bernoulli flows

Graduate texts in ergodic theory typically assume familiarity with measure theory, topology, and basic dynamical systems, making it a challenging yet rewarding subject for advanced students.

The Landscape of Graduate Texts in Ergodic Theory

Choosing a graduate-level textbook involves understanding its approach, prerequisites, and depth. The major texts in the field can generally be categorized based on their focus: foundational theory, applications, or a blend of both.

Classic and Seminal Texts

- "Ergodic Theory" by Peter Walters

- Overview: Widely regarded as a definitive introductory textbook, Walters' "Ergodic Theory" is praised for clarity, rigorous proofs, and comprehensive coverage.
- Scope: It covers measure-preserving transformations, ergodic decomposition, mixing properties, and entropy.
- Strengths:
 - Well-structured for graduate courses
 - Emphasizes the connection between measure theory and dynamics
 - Includes numerous examples and exercises
- Prerequisites: Measure theory, basic topology, and some familiarity with dynamical systems.

- "An Introduction to Ergodic Theory" by Peter Walters

- Often considered the go-to text for graduate students or advanced undergraduates beginning the subject.
- Focuses on core concepts with detailed proofs.
- Suitable as a primary textbook or supplementary resource.

Advanced and Specialized Texts

- "Ergodic Theory via Joinings" by Eli Glasner

- Overview: Focuses on joinings, a sophisticated tool in ergodic theory, providing a modern perspective.
- Audience: More suitable for students who have already mastered the basics and want to explore advanced topics.

- Features: Incorporates recent developments, emphasizing the structural and classification aspects of ergodic systems.

- "Entropy, Large Deviations, and Statistical Mechanics" by David Ruelle

- While broader in scope, this text delves into the thermodynamic formalism?a key area in ergodic theory.

- Ideal for students interested in the applications of ergodic theory in statistical physics.

Textbooks with a Focus on Applications or Interdisciplinary Approaches

- "Ergodic Theory: with a view towards Number Theory" by Manfred Einsiedler and Thomas Ward

- Overview: Connects ergodic theory with number theory, providing applications to problems like equidistribution and primes.

- Features: Combines rigorous theory with motivating applications, making it accessible and engaging.

How to Choose the Right Graduate Text in Ergodic Theory

When selecting a textbook, consider the following factors:

- Prerequisites: Ensure you have a solid background in measure theory and topology.

- Focus Area: Decide whether you want a foundational understanding or a focus on particular applications.

- Depth: Some texts offer a broad overview, while others delve into specialized topics.

- Teaching Style: Supplementary materials, exercises, and clarity of exposition can greatly impact your learning.

Recommended approach:

- Start with Walters? "Ergodic Theory" for a comprehensive foundation.

- Use other texts, like Glasner?s "Ergodic Theory via Joinings," for advanced topics.

- Supplement with research papers and lecture notes for recent developments.

Structuring Your Study of Ergodic Theory

To maximize your understanding, consider a structured approach:

- Build a Strong Measure Theory Foundation
 - Review measure spaces, sigma-algebras, and integration.
 - Study probability theory basics, as ergodic theory often involves probabilistic concepts.
- Understand Dynamical Systems
 - Familiarize yourself with topological and measurable dynamics.
 - Explore examples like rotations, shifts, and hyperbolic systems.
- Dive into Core Ergodic Concepts
 - Invariant measures and ergodicity
 - Birkhoff's Ergodic Theorem
 - Mixing properties and their implications
- Explore Advanced Topics
 - Entropy theory
 - Ornstein's isomorphism theorem
 - Joinings and structural classification
 - Connections with number theory and statistical mechanics

Supplementary Resources and Learning Strategies

- Lecture series: Many universities offer free lecture notes; for example, the lecture series by Peter Walters or others available online.
- Problem sets: Practice through exercises in textbooks or problem books.

- Research papers: Engage with current developments by reading papers in journals like Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems.
- Discussion groups: Join seminars or study groups focused on ergodic theory.

Conclusion

An introduction to ergodic theory graduate texts is essential for anyone aiming to master the subject at an advanced level. The journey begins with foundational texts like Peter Walters' "Ergodic Theory," which offers clarity and depth, and then progresses into more specialized or application-driven materials. By understanding the structure, prerequisites, and scope of these texts, students can tailor their learning path effectively. With dedication, rigorous study, and engagement with supplementary materials, mastering ergodic theory becomes an achievable and intellectually rewarding pursuit.

Final Tips

- Be patient: The subject is challenging but immensely rewarding.
- Connect theory with examples: Visualize systems like rotations or shifts.
- Engage actively: Solve problems and participate in discussions.
- Keep abreast of current research: This enriches your understanding and opens new avenues.

Embark on this mathematical voyage with confidence?ergodic theory offers profound insights into the behavior of complex systems and the nature of randomness and order in mathematics.

Question What is the primary focus of 'An Introduction to Ergodic Theory' by Peter Walters? The book provides a rigorous introduction to ergodic theory, focusing on measure-preserving transformations, ergodic theorems, and their applications in dynamical systems and statistical mechanics. Which prerequisites are recommended before studying this text? A solid background in measure theory, real analysis, and basic topology is recommended to fully grasp the concepts presented in the book. How does the book approach the topic of ergodic theorems? It systematically introduces the mean and pointwise ergodic theorems, providing proofs and discussing their implications in the context of dynamical systems. Are there applications of ergodic theory discussed in this graduate text? Yes, the book explores applications such as statistical properties of dynamical systems, mixing, and entropy, illustrating how ergodic theory connects to various fields. Is this book suitable for self-study or primarily for classroom use? While designed as a graduate textbook, it is also suitable for self-study due to its clear explanations, though some background in measure theory is helpful. What makes 'An Introduction to Ergodic Theory' by Walters a trending choice among graduate texts? Its comprehensive coverage, clear exposition, and balance between theory and applications have made it a popular and influential resource in the field of ergodic theory.

Related keywords: ergodic theory, measure theory, dynamical systems, invariant measures, ergodicity, mixing, entropy, Birkhoff's theorem, stationary processes, ergodic decomposition

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