

A GLOBAL APPROACH TO FIRST PASSAGE TIMES

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Abstract: First passage times for discrete-time stochastic processes are studied from a global point of view, in terms of a mapping that takes a numerical sequence to its first passage time function. The continuity properties of this mapping with respect to Skorohod's J_1 and M_1 topologies are examined. One typically has continuity in M_1 , but in J_1 only under extra assumptions. The results are applied to random walks and renewal theory.

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