

Infinitely small & large

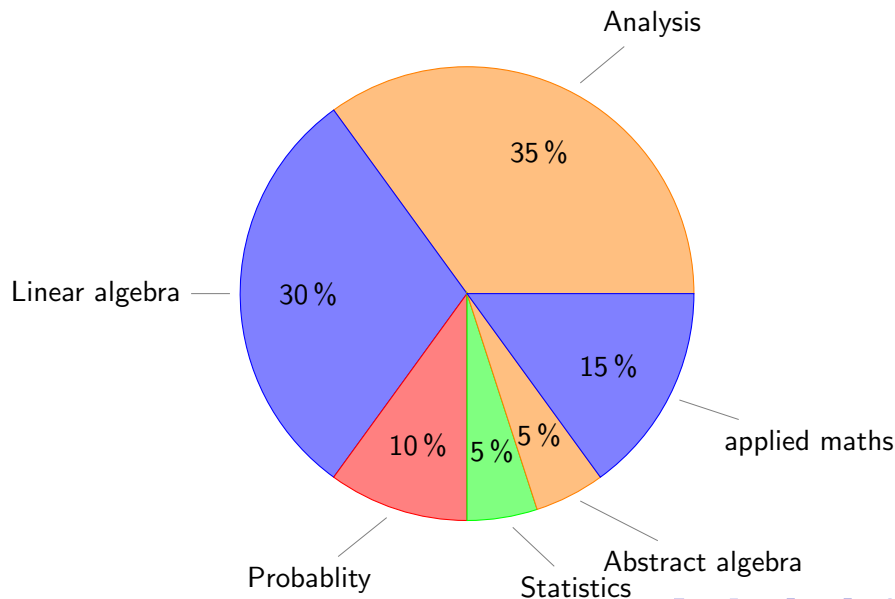
Bernhard Haak

University of Bordeaux

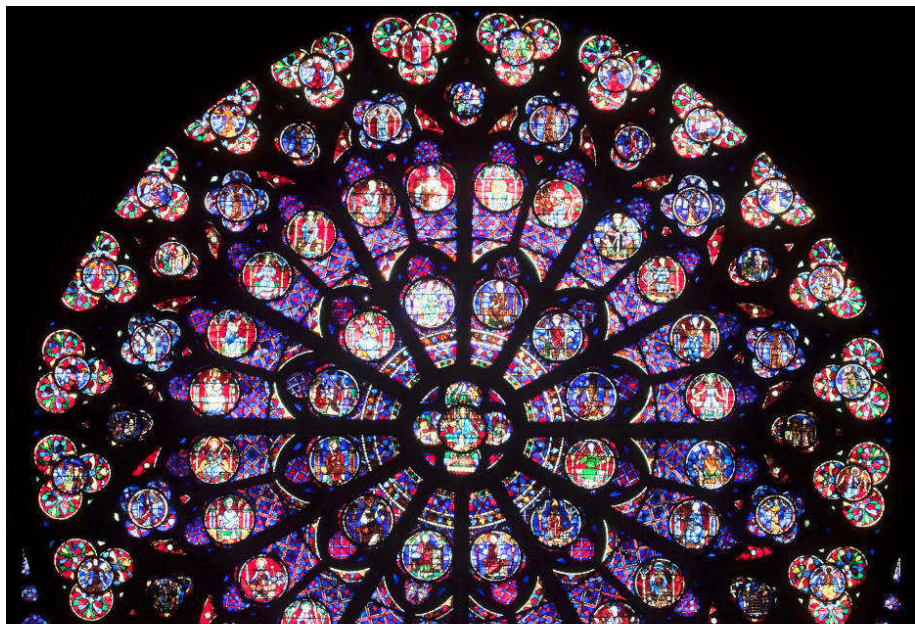
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February 8, 2021

Your Conception of mathematics ??

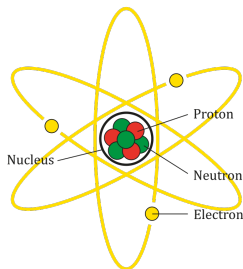


Mathematics ? It's rather like this!



Schrödinger's Question

Question: Is random behaviour at atomic scale consistent with deterministic mechanics?



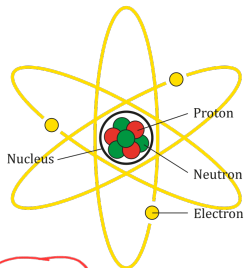
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random



deterministic

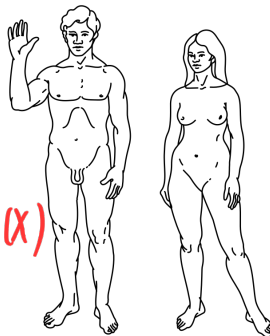


scale 1

X_i random

$\oplus \dots$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} E(X)$$

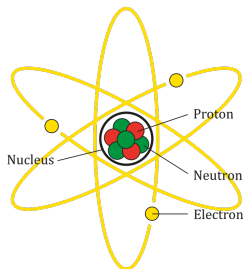


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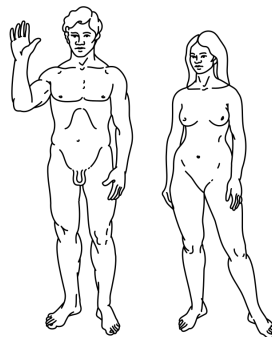
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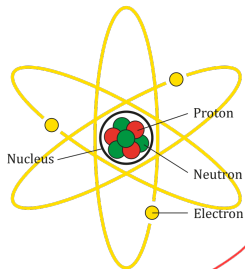
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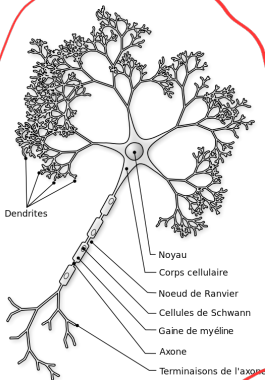
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Schrödinger's Question

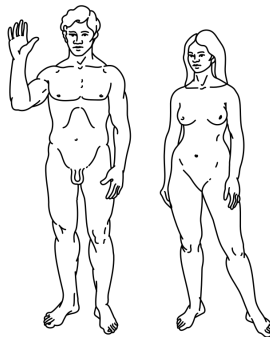
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scale 1



scale 100.000.000.000.000



scale 100.000.000.000.000.000.000.000

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Probabilists have strange vocabulary: most important examples

Ω	=	probability space
Random variable	=	function
Expectation	=	integral
Event	=	subset of \mathcal{E}

Probabilists have strange vocabulary: most important examples

Ω	=	probability space
Random variable	=	function
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& Probabilists have strange way of thinking: a “random variable”

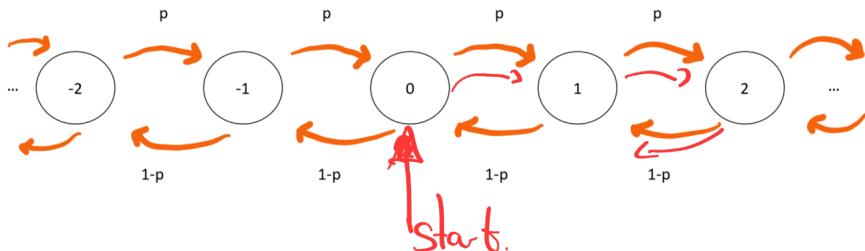
$$X : \underline{\Omega} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

is actually a **deterministic** function. The “random” comes from the fact that we don’t know which $\omega \in \Omega$ is “selected”, so we don’t know $X(\omega)$. That sounds strange, but turns out very helpful.

$\omega \in \Omega$

Random variables and their sums

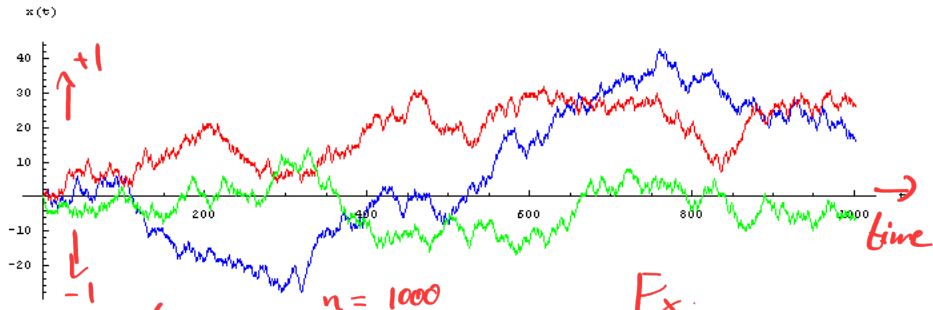
Let (X_n) be a sequence of **independent** random variables, taking only two values ± 1 . So $\mathbb{P}(X_n = 1) = p$ and $\mathbb{P}(X_n = -1) = 1 - p$.



Let $S_0 = 0$ and $S_n = X_1 + \dots + X_n$. It is the position of a “random walk” (starting at 0), at time n (recall: all functions depending on ω !)

Random walk

3 different random walks – meaning: 3 different ω 's. Each is 1000 “steps”.



$$\left(X_n(\omega) \right)_{n \geq 0}$$

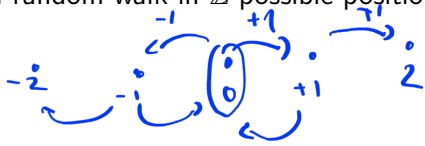
↑
3 diff. ω 's.

Ex.:

$$X_n = \text{sign} \left(\sin \left(2^n \pi \omega \right) \right)$$
$$\omega \in [0, 1] =: \Omega$$

Bionomial coefficients

Consider a random walk in \mathbb{Z} possible positions at time $2n$??

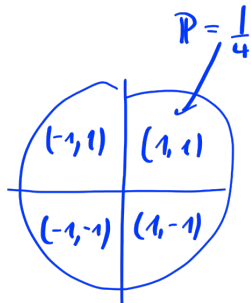


First $2n$ must be even!

$n=0$ of course $S_0 = 0$

$n=2$

P: $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ 0 $\frac{1}{4}$

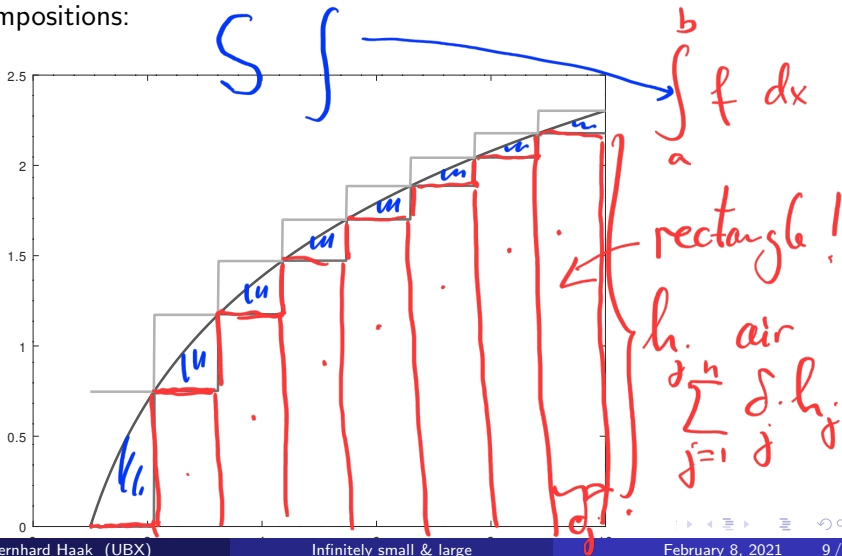


If we follow this logic, $\frac{1}{4} (1, \cancel{0}, 2, \cancel{0}, 1)$

if $n=4$: $\frac{1}{8} (1, \cancel{0}, 3, \cancel{0}, 3, \cancel{0}, 1)$

sums and integrals

let $[a, b]$ be an interval, f a positive function. In order to estimate the “air under the curve” we use lower and upper estimates by rectangle decompositions:



Dyadic Riemann sums

have a look at

[https://www.math.u-bordeaux.fr/~bhaak/enseignement/
riemann_sums.gif](https://www.math.u-bordeaux.fr/~bhaak/enseignement/riemann_sums.gif)

Question: Probability to get back to your origin in time $2n$?

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in \mathbb{Z} we need a walk

$$(+1, +1, -1, +1, -1, -1, \dots, -1)$$

with $2n$ steps, exactly n steps $+1$ and n steps -1 ! i.e.

$$\mathbb{P}(S_{2n} = 0) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2n} \binom{2n}{n} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2n} \frac{(2n)!}{n!.n!}$$

What can be said about this formula?

$$n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot n$$

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estimate.

What can be said about this formula?

Generalise it! In \mathbb{Z}^2 we need $4n$ steps, exactly n steps “up”, “down”, “left” and “right”. And in \mathbb{Z}^3 we need $6n$ steps ...

Here, a small student project starts!

Stirling formula

Question: estimate $n!$.

Stirling formula

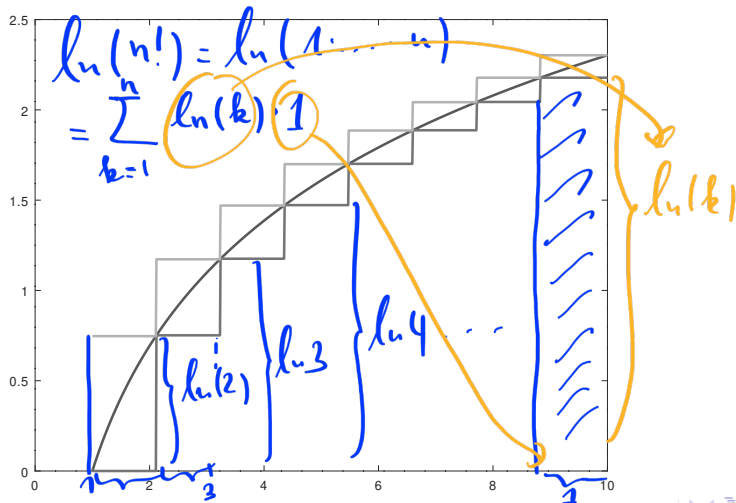
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similar question: estimate $\ln(n!)$: this leads to “Baby-Stirling”:

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Stirling formula 2

$$\int_1^n \ln(t) dt \leq \ln(n!) \leq \int_1^n \ln(1+t) dt$$

$$\int \ln(t) = t \cdot \ln(t) - t$$

$$\int_1^n \ln(t) dt \leq \ln(n!) \leq \int_1^n \ln(1+t) dt$$

Knowing the anti-derivative $t \ln(t) - t$ we get

$$n \ln(n) - n \leq \ln(n!) \leq (n+1) \ln(n+1) - (n-1) - 2 \ln(2)$$

or, writing $1 = \ln(e)$ to get only logarithms,