

1 Random Walk

1.1 Symmetric Random Walk

1.1.1 Definition

Starting from coin toss,
def:

$$\begin{aligned} X_j &= 1 & \text{if } w_j = H \\ &= -1 & \text{if } w_j = T \end{aligned}$$

Let $M_k = \sum_{j=1}^k X_j$, M_k is symmetric random walk, and its distribution is binomial.

1.1.2 Expectation and Variance

$$\begin{aligned} E(X_j) &= 0, \text{Var}(X_j) = 1, \\ \text{Var}(M_k - M_l) &= \sum_{i=l}^k \text{Var}(X_i) = k - l; \end{aligned}$$

1.1.3 Martingale Property

$$\begin{aligned} E(M_l | F_k) &= E((M_l - M_k + M_k) | F_k) \\ &= E((M_l - M_k) | F_k) + E(M_k | F_k) \\ &= 0 + M_k = M_k \end{aligned}$$

1.2 Scaled Random Walk

1.2.1 Scaled Symmetric Random Walk Definition

$$\begin{aligned} W^{(n)}(t) &= 1/\sqrt{n} M_{nt} \\ &= 1/\sqrt{n} \sum_{i=1}^{nt} X^{(n)}(t) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{nt} 1/\sqrt{n} X^{(n)}(t) \end{aligned}$$

1.2.2 Expectation and Variance

$$\begin{aligned} E(W^{(n)}(t) - W^{(n)}(s)) &= 0 \\ \text{Var}(W^{(n)}(t) - W^{(n)}(s)) &= n(t - s) \text{Var}(1/\sqrt{n} X^{(n)}(t - s)) = t - s \end{aligned}$$

1.3 Brownian Motion

1.3.1 Limit of Scaled Symmetric Random Walk: Brownian Motion

When $n \rightarrow \infty$, based on Central Limit Theorem

$W^{(n)}(t)$ starting from 0 follows a normal distribution $N(0, t)$

We view $W^{(n)}(t)$ as a Brownian motion

1.3.2 Quadratic variation of Brownian motion

Given a Brownian motion W_{t_j} Define

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (W_{t_{j+1}} - W_{t_j})^2 \\ E(Q) &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} E((W_{t_{j+1}} - W_{t_j})^2) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (t_{j+1} - t_j) \\ &= T \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(Q) &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} 2(t_{j+1} - t_j)^2 \\ &\leq 2|C|T \text{ (where } |C| = \max |t_{j+1} - t_j|) \\ &\quad \text{When } |C| = 0, \\ &\quad \text{Var}(Q) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

This is simply written in differential form $dWdW = dt$

1.3.3 From Scaled Asymmetric Random Walk to Geometric Brownian motion

Consider a scaled asymmetric random walk with factor of σ and drift α

$$W^{(n)}(t) = \sigma \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} M_{nt} \right) + \alpha t$$

Construct new random variable which satisfies $\delta S/S = W^{(n)}(t)$, which is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} S_+ &= S(1 + \alpha/n + \sigma/\sqrt{n}) \\ S_- &= S(1 + \alpha/n - \sigma/\sqrt{n}) \end{aligned}$$

Assuming number of heads is H_{nt} , number of tails is T_{nt} Then

$$S_n(t) = S_n(0)(1 + \alpha/n + \sigma/\sqrt{n})^{(H_{nt})}(1 + \alpha/n - \sigma/\sqrt{n})^{(T_{nt})}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log(S_n(t)) &= \log(S_n(0)) + (H_{nt})\log(1 + \alpha/n + \sigma/\sqrt{n}) + (T_{nt})\log(1 + \alpha/n - \sigma/\sqrt{n}) \\ &= \log(S_n(0)) + (H_{nt})(\alpha/n + \sigma/\sqrt{n} - 1/2(\alpha/n + \sigma/\sqrt{n})^2) \\ &\quad + (T_{nt})(\alpha/n - \sigma/\sqrt{n} - 1/2(\alpha/n - \sigma/\sqrt{n})^2) \\ &= \log(S_n(0)) + (H_{nt} + T_{nt})(\alpha/n - \sigma^2/n + O(n^{-3/2})) + (H_{nt} - T_{nt})(\sigma/\sqrt{n}) \\ &= \log(S_n(0)) + nt(\alpha/n - 1/2\sigma^2/n) + M_{nt}\sigma/\sqrt{n} \\ &= \log(S_n(0)) + (\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)t + W^n(t)\sigma \end{aligned}$$

Then we can prove when $n \rightarrow \infty$ The distribution of $S_n(t)$ converges to the distribution of

$$S(t) = S(0)\exp((\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)t + \sigma W(t))$$

Where $W(t)$ is a normal random variable with mean 0 and variance t .