

# Convex Hull of $n$ Planar Brownian Motions

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## *Collaborators:*

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J. Randon-Furling (Saarbrücken, GERMANY)

Thanks to: D. Dhar (Tata Institute, Bombay, INDIA)

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Extended Review: [arXiv: 0912:0631](https://arxiv.org/abs/0912.0631) (to appear in *J. Stat. Phys.* (2010))

# Plan

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- Random Convex Hull  $\Rightarrow$  definition

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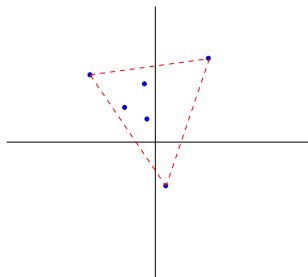
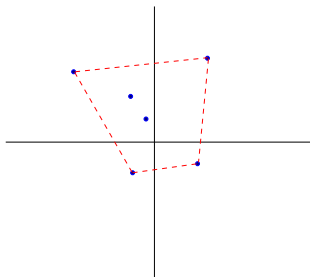
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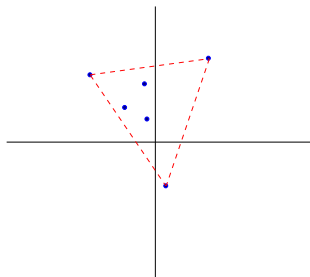
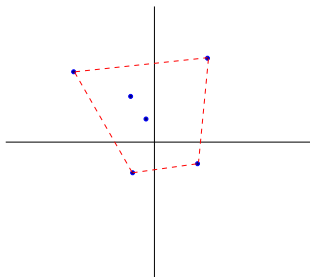
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- Summary and Conclusions

# Random Convex Hull in a Plane



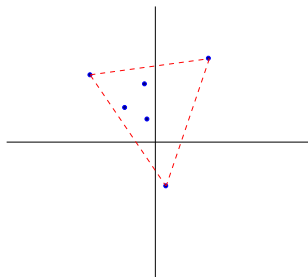
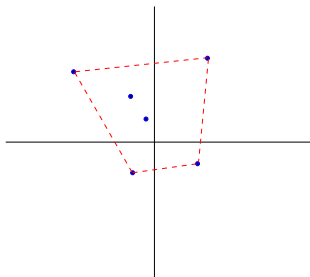
- Convex Hull  $\implies$  Minimal convex polygon enclosing the set

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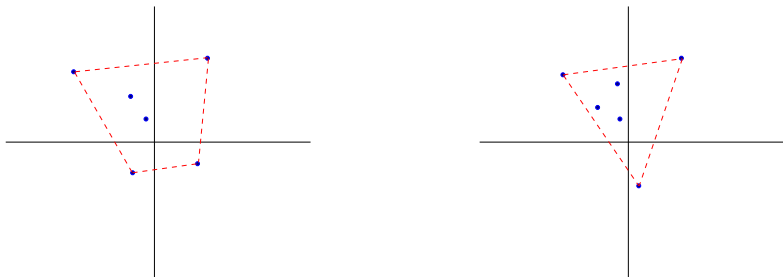
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- The shape of the convex hull  $\rightarrow$  different for each sample

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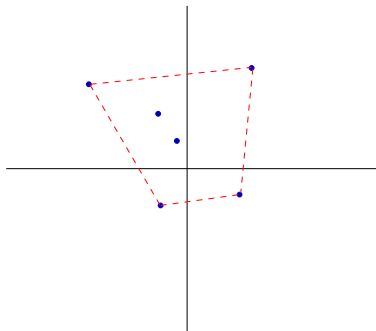
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- Points drawn from a distribution  $\rightarrow$  Independent or Correlated

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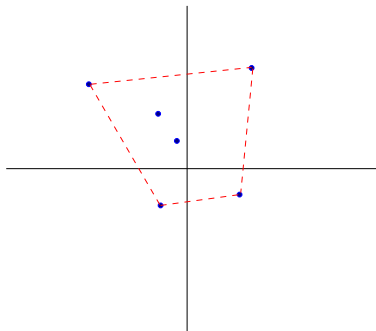
- Convex Hull  $\implies$  Minimal convex polygon enclosing the set
- The shape of the convex hull  $\rightarrow$  different for each sample
- Points drawn from a distribution  $\rightarrow$  Independent or Correlated
- Question: Statistics of observables: perimeter, area and no. of vertices

# Independent Points in a Plane



Each point chosen **independently** from the same distribution

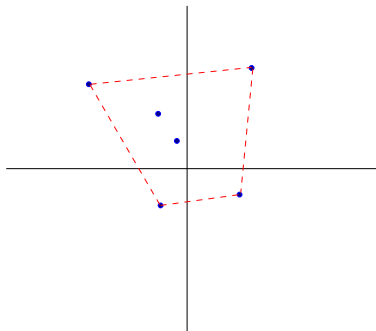
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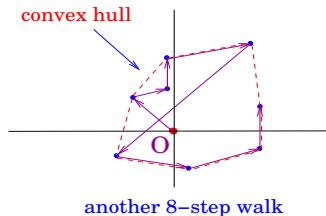
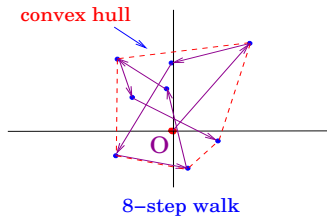
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P. Lévy ('48), J. Geffroy ('59), Spitzer & Widom ('59), Baxter ('59)..

Rényi & Sulanke ('63), Efron ('65), ....many others

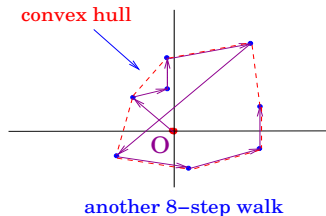
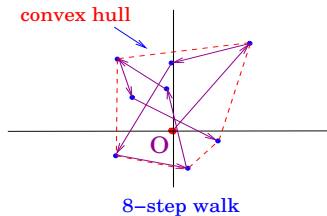


# Correlated Points: Vertices of an Open Random Walk



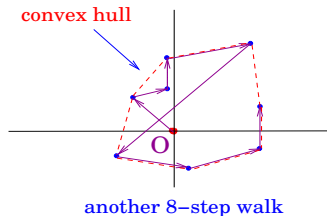
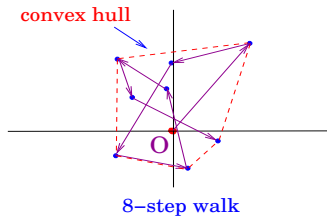
- Continuous-time limit: **Brownian path** of duration  $T$

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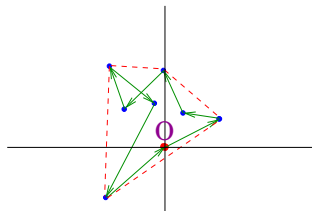
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# Correlated Points: Vertices of an Open Random Walk

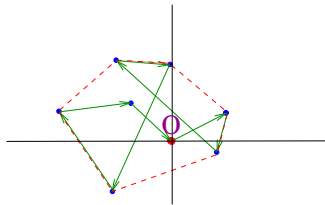


- Continuous-time limit: **Brownian path** of duration  $T$
- **mean perimeter** and **mean area** of the associated **Convex hull**?
- **mean perimeter**:  $\langle L_1 \rangle = \sqrt{8\pi T}$  (Takács, '80)
- **mean area**:  $\langle A_1 \rangle = \frac{\pi}{2} T$  (El Bachir, '83, Letac '93)

# Correlated Points: Vertices of a Closed Random Walk



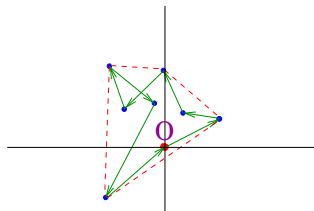
8 step random bridge



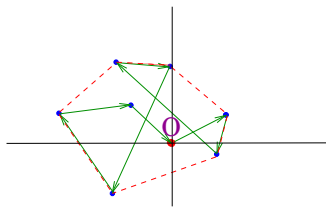
another 8 step bridge

- Continuous-time limit: **Brownian bridge** of duration  $T$  : starting at  $O$  and returning to it after time  $T$

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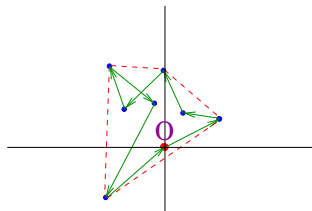


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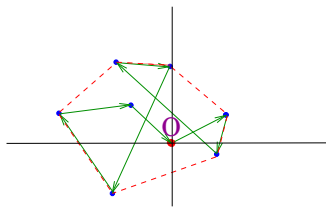
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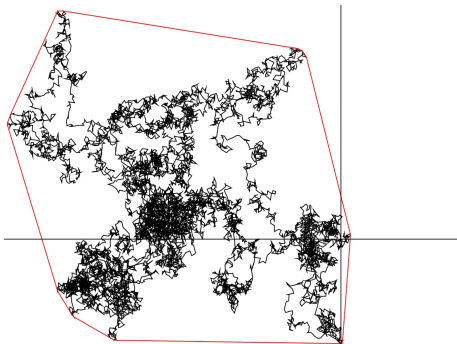
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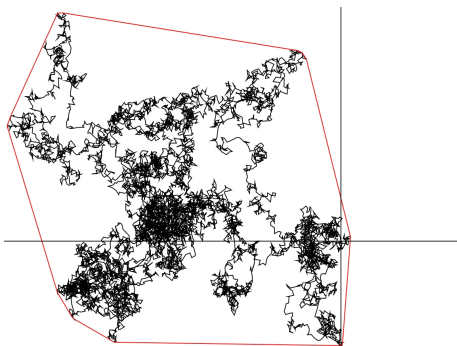
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# Home Range Estimate via Convex Hull



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*Models of home range for animal movement, Worton (1987)*

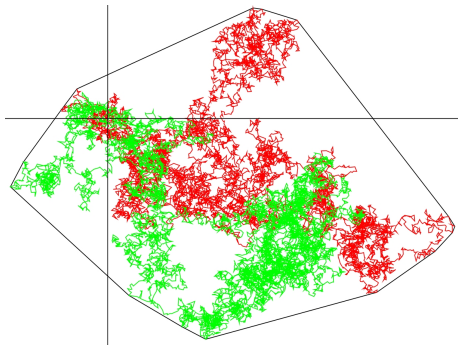
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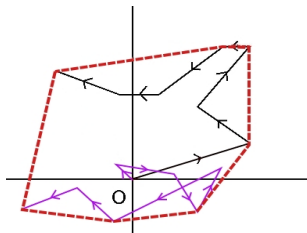
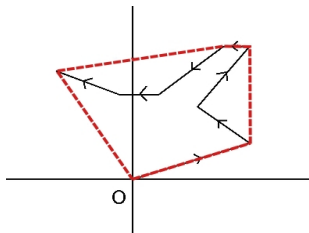
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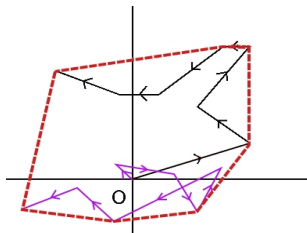
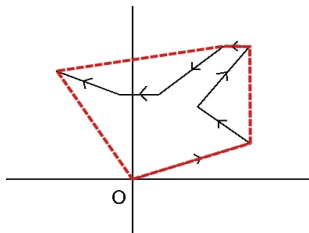
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# Global Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Brownian Paths

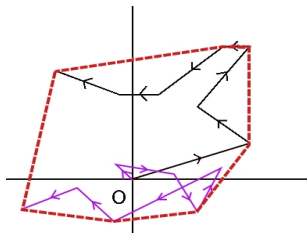
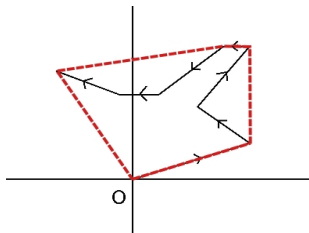


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- Mean **perimeter**  $\langle L_n \rangle$  and mean **area**  $\langle A_n \rangle$  of  $n$  independent Brownian paths (bridges) each of duration  $T$ ?

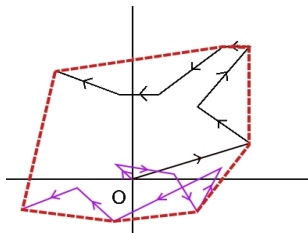
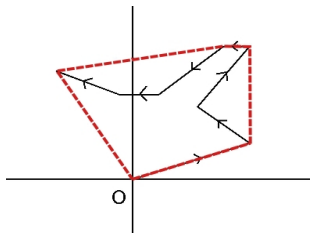
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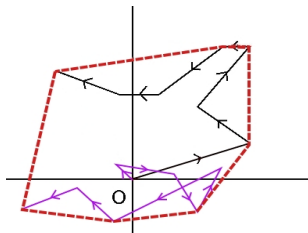
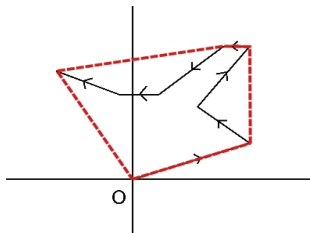
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- Recall  $\alpha_1 = \sqrt{8\pi}$ ,  $\beta_1 = \pi/2$  (open path)

$$\alpha_1 = \sqrt{\pi^3/2}, \beta_1 = ? \text{ (closed path)}$$

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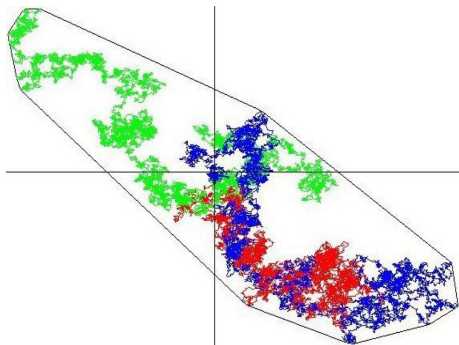
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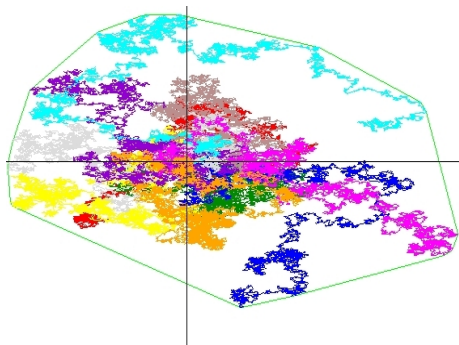
$$\alpha_1 = \sqrt{\pi^3/2}, \quad \beta_1 = ? \quad (\text{closed path})$$

- $\alpha_n, \beta_n = ?$   $\rightarrow$  both for **open** and **closed** paths  $\rightarrow n$ -dependence?

# Global Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Brownian Paths

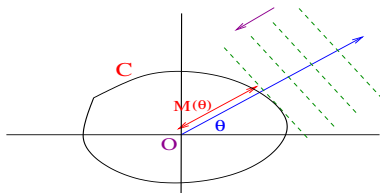


$n = 3$  closed paths



$n = 10$  open paths

# Cauchy's Formulae for a Closed Convex Curve



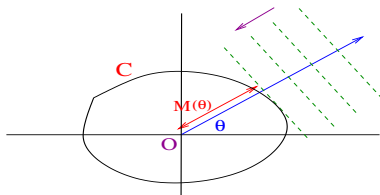
$C$  : CLOSED CONVEX CURVE

- For any point  $[X(s), Y(s)]$  on  $C$  define:

Support function:  $M(\theta) = \max_{s \in C} [X(s) \cos(\theta) + Y(s) \sin(\theta)]$



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- Perimeter:

$$L = \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta M(\theta)$$

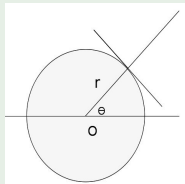
- Area:

$$A = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta [M^2(\theta) - [M'(\theta)]^2]$$

## Examples

a circle centered at the origin:

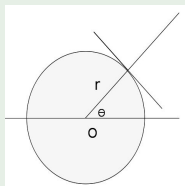
$$M(\theta) = r$$



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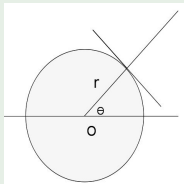
$$L = \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta M(\theta) = 2\pi r$$

$$A = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \left[ M^2(\theta) - [M'(\theta)]^2 \right] = \pi r^2$$

## Examples

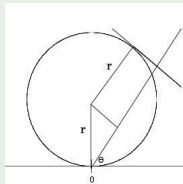
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a circle touching the origin:

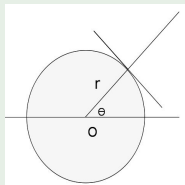
$$M(\theta) = r(1 + \sin \theta)$$



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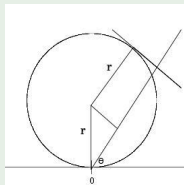
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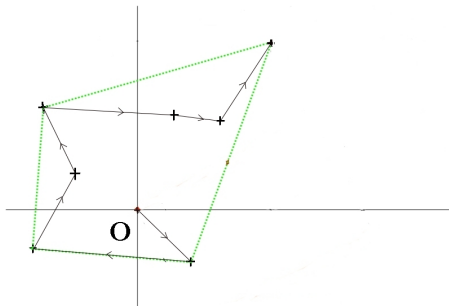
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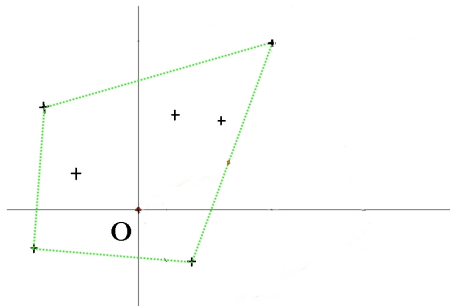
# Cauchy's formulae Applied to Convex Polygon



Let  $(x_k, y_k) \in I \implies$  vertices of an  $N$ -step random walk starting at  $O$

Let  $C$  (green) be the associated **Convex Hull**

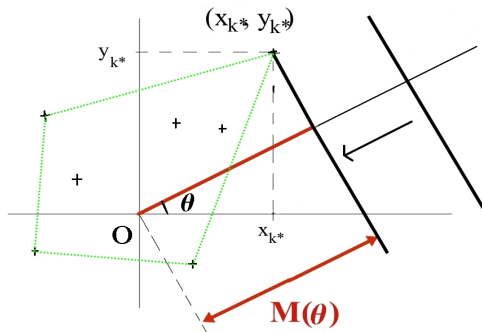
# Cauchy's formulae Applied to Convex Polygon



$(x_k, y_k) \in I \implies$  vertices of the walk

$C \rightarrow$  Convex Hull with coordinates  $\{X(s), Y(s)\}$  on  $C$

# Cauchy's formulae Applied to Convex Polygon

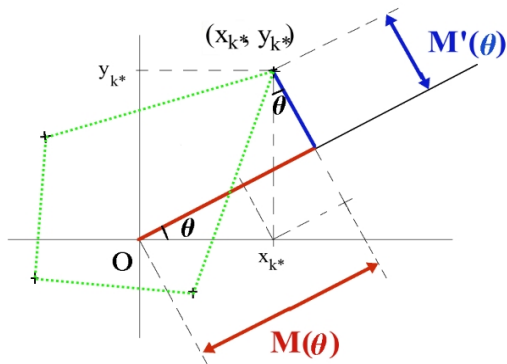


$$\begin{aligned}M(\theta) &= \max_{s \in C} [X(s) \cos \theta + Y(s) \sin \theta] \\ &= \max_{k \in I} [x_k \cos \theta + y_k \sin \theta] \\ &= x_{k^*} \cos \theta + y_{k^*} \sin \theta\end{aligned}$$

$k^* \rightarrow$  label of the point with largest projection along  $\theta$



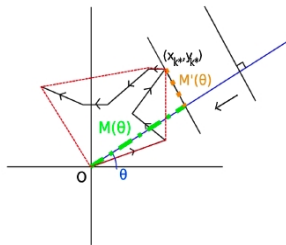
# Support Function of a Convex Hull



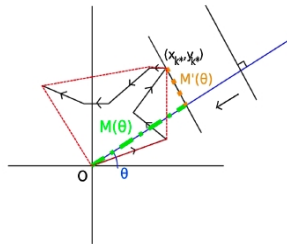
$$M(\theta) = x_{k^*} \cos \theta + y_{k^*} \sin \theta$$

$$M'(\theta) = -x_{k^*} \sin \theta + y_{k^*} \cos \theta$$

# Cauchy's Formulae Applied to Random Convex Hull



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Mean perimeter of a random convex polygon

$$\langle L \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \langle M(\theta) \rangle$$

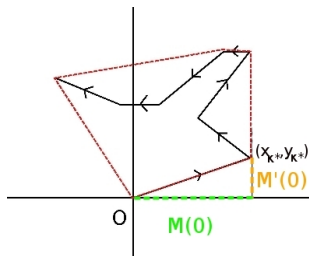
$$\text{with } M(\theta) = x_k^* \cos \theta + y_k^* \sin \theta$$

Mean area of a random convex polygon

$$\langle A \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \left[ \langle M^2(\theta) \rangle - \langle [M'(\theta)]^2 \rangle \right]$$

$$\text{with } M'(\theta) = -x_k^* \sin \theta + y_k^* \cos \theta$$

# Isotropically Distributed Points

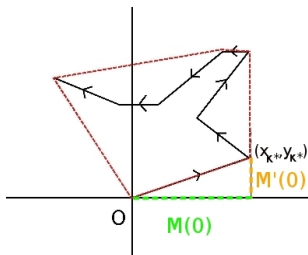


## Mean Perimeter

$$\langle L \rangle = 2\pi \langle M(0) \rangle$$

$$\text{with } M(\theta = 0) = \max_{k \in I} \{x_k\} = x_{k^*}$$

# Isotropically Distributed Points



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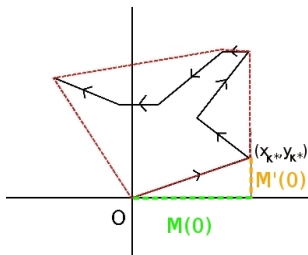
$$\text{with } M(\theta = 0) = \max_{k \in I} \{x_k\} = x_{k^*}$$

## Mean Area

$$\langle A \rangle = \pi \left[ \langle M^2(0) \rangle - \langle [M'(0)]^2 \rangle \right]$$

$$\text{with } M'(\theta = 0) = y_{k^*}$$

# Isotropically Distributed Points



## Mean Perimeter

$$\langle L \rangle = 2\pi \langle M(0) \rangle$$

$$\text{with } M(\theta = 0) = \max_{k \in I} \{x_k\} = x_{k^*}$$

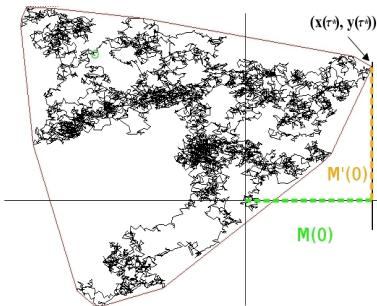
## Mean Area

$$\langle A \rangle = \pi \left[ \langle M^2(0) \rangle - \langle [M'(0)]^2 \rangle \right]$$

$$\text{with } M'(\theta = 0) = y_{k^*}$$

⇒ Link to **Extreme Value Statistics**

# Cauchy's Formulae Applied to the Convex Hull of a Brownian Path (n=1)



$x(\tau), y(\tau) \rightarrow$  a pair of independent **one-dimensional** Brownian motions:  $0 \leq \tau \leq T$

$$\frac{dx}{d\tau} = \eta_x(\tau)$$

$$\frac{dy}{d\tau} = \eta_y(\tau)$$

## Mean Perimeter

$$\langle L \rangle = 2\pi \langle M(0) \rangle$$

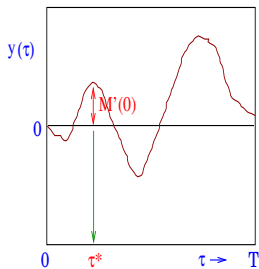
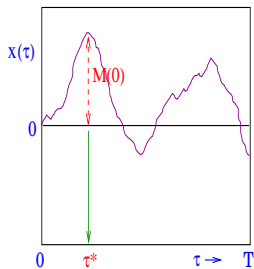
$$\text{with } M(0) = \max_{0 \leq \tau \leq T} \{x(\tau)\} \equiv x(\tau^*)$$

## Mean Area

$$\langle A \rangle = \pi \left[ \langle M^2(0) \rangle - \langle [M'(0)]^2 \rangle \right]$$

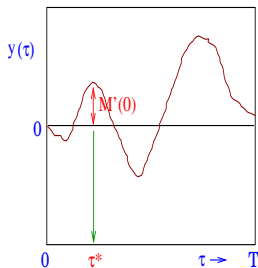
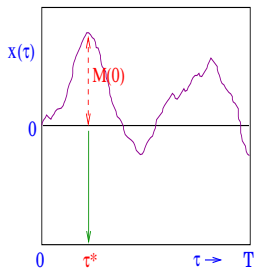
$$\text{with } M'(0) = y(\tau^*)$$

$M'(0) \rightarrow$  value of  $y$  at the special time  $\tau^*$  when  $x(\tau)$  is maximal



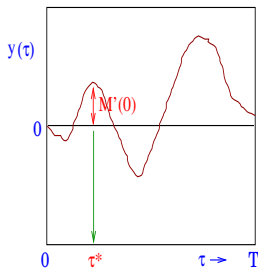
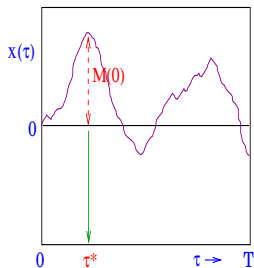


$M'(0) \rightarrow$  value of  $y$  at the special time  $\tau^*$  when  $x(\tau)$  is maximal



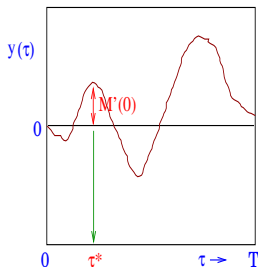
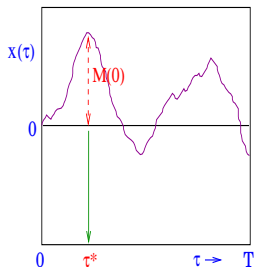
- $\langle M(0) \rangle = \int_0^\infty dM M \sigma_1(M|T)$ ;  $\langle M^2(0) \rangle = \int_0^\infty dM M^2 \sigma_1(M|T)$

$M'(0)$  → value of  $y$  at the special time  $\tau^*$  when  $x(\tau)$  is maximal



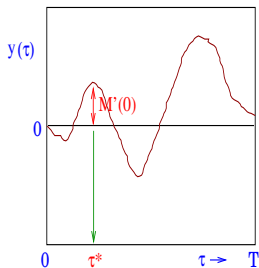
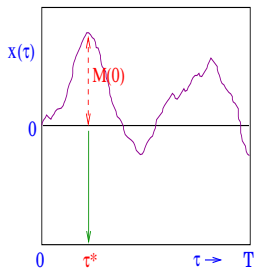
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- $\sigma_1(M|T)$  → prob. density of maximum  $M(0)$  of  $x(\tau)$  in  $[0, T]$

$M'(0) \rightarrow$  value of  $y$  at the special time  $\tau^*$  when  $x(\tau)$  is maximal



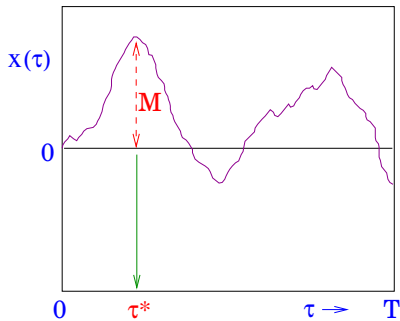
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$M'(0) \rightarrow$  value of  $y$  at the special time  $\tau^*$  when  $x(\tau)$  is maximal

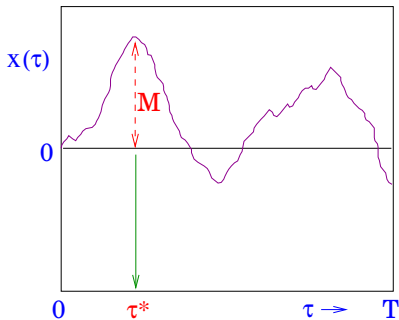


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- $\langle [M'(0)]^2 \rangle = \int_0^T d\tau^* \rho_1(\tau^*|T) \langle y^2(\tau^*) \rangle = \langle \tau^* \rangle$

# Distribution of $M$ and $\tau^*$ for a single Brownian Path

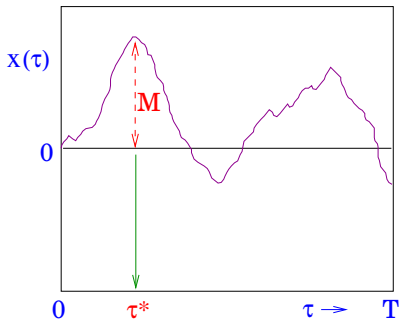


# Distribution of $M$ and $\tau^*$ for a single Brownian Path



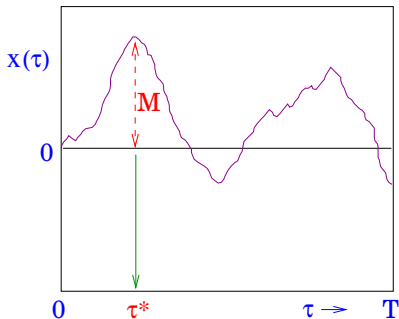
- Joint Distribution:  $P_1(M, \tau^* | T) = \frac{M}{\pi \tau^{*3/2} \sqrt{T - \tau^*}} e^{-M^2/2\tau^*}$

# Distribution of $M$ and $\tau^*$ for a single Brownian Path



- Joint Distribution:  $P_1(M, \tau^* | T) = \frac{M}{\pi \tau^{*3/2} \sqrt{T - \tau^*}} e^{-M^2/2\tau^*}$
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# Distribution of $M$ and $\tau^*$ for a single Brownian Path



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- Marginals:  $\sigma_1(M | T) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi T}} e^{-M^2/2T}$

$$\rho_1(\tau^* | T) = \frac{1}{\pi \sqrt{\tau^*(T - \tau^*)}} \rightarrow \text{Lévy's arcsine law}$$



# Distribution of the time $\tau^*$ at which a Brownian Motion is maximal over $[0, T]$

Lévy's Arcsine Law:  $\rho_1(\tau^* | T) = \frac{1}{T} f_1\left(\frac{\tau^*}{T}\right)$

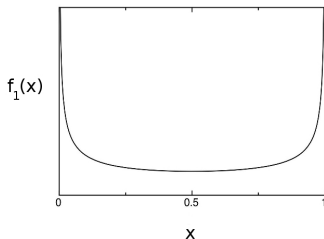
$$f_1(x) = \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{x(1-x)}}$$

# Distribution of the time $\tau^*$ at which a Brownian Motion is maximal over $[0, T]$

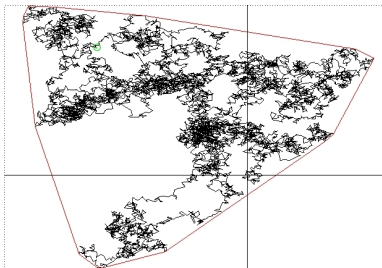
Lévy's Arcsine Law:  $\rho_1(\tau^* | T) = \frac{1}{T} f_1\left(\frac{\tau^*}{T}\right)$

$$f_1(x) = \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{x(1-x)}}$$

Cumulative distribution:  $\text{Prob}(\tau^* \leq t | T) = \frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin(\sqrt{t})$



# Results for $n=1$ Open Brownian Path



$x(\tau), y(\tau) \rightarrow$  a pair of independent one-dimensional Brownian motions over  $0 \leq \tau \leq T$

## Mean Perimeter

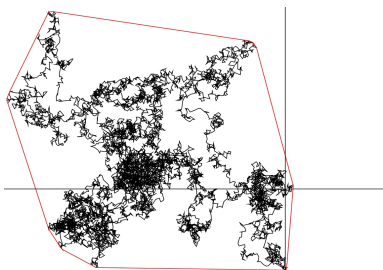
$$\langle L \rangle = \sqrt{8\pi T}$$

## Mean Area

$$\langle A \rangle = \frac{\pi T}{2}$$

Takács, *Expected perimeter length*, Amer. Math. Month., **87** (1980)  
El Bachir, (1983)

# Results for $n=1$ Closed Brownian Path



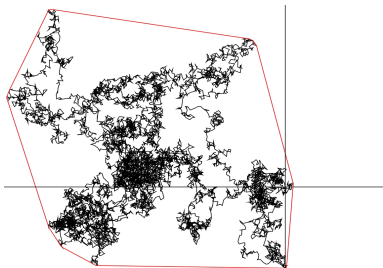
## Mean Perimeter

$$\langle L \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\pi^3 T}{2}}$$

Goldman, '96

$x(\tau), y(\tau) \rightarrow$  a pair of independent one-dimensional Brownian bridges over  $0 \leq \tau \leq T$

# Results for $n=1$ Closed Brownian Path



$x(\tau), y(\tau) \rightarrow$  a pair of independent one-dimensional Brownian bridges over  $0 \leq \tau \leq T$

## Mean Perimeter

$$\langle L \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\pi^3 T}{2}}$$

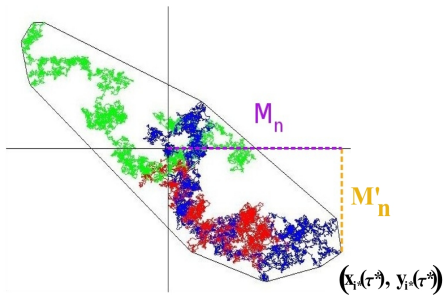
Goldman, '96

## Mean Area

$$\langle A \rangle = \frac{\pi T}{3}$$

$\rightarrow$  New Result

# Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Brownian Paths



$x_i(\tau), y_i(\tau) \rightarrow 2n$  independent one-dimensional Brownian paths each of duration  $T$

## Mean Perimeter

$$\langle L_n \rangle = 2\pi \langle M_n \rangle$$

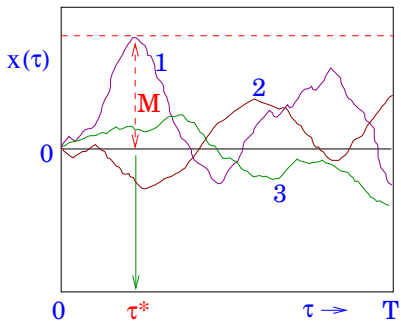
$$\text{with } M_n = \max_{\tau, i} \{x_i(\tau)\} \equiv x_{i^*}(\tau^*)$$

## Mean Area

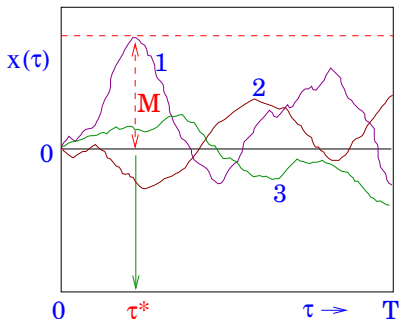
$$\langle A_n \rangle = \pi \left[ \langle M_n^2 \rangle - \langle [M'_n]^2 \rangle \right]$$

$$\text{with } M'_n = y_{i^*}(\tau^*)$$

# Distribution of the global maximum $M$ and $\tau^*$ for $n$ paths



# Distribution of the global maximum $M$ and $\tau^*$ for $n$ paths



- Joint Distribution:  $P_n(M, \tau^* | T) = n P_1(M, \tau^* | T) \left[ \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{M}{\sqrt{2T}} \right) \right]^{n-1}$

$$\operatorname{erf}(z) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^z du e^{-u^2}$$



# Marginals of $M$ and $\tau^*$ for arbitrary $n$

- Marginals:  $\sigma_n(M|T) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi T}} n e^{-M^2/2T} \left[ \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{M}{\sqrt{2T}} \right) \right]^{n-1}$

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 $\rho_n(\tau^*|T) = \frac{1}{T} f_n(\tau^*/T)$

# Marginals of $M$ and $\tau^*$ for arbitrary $n$

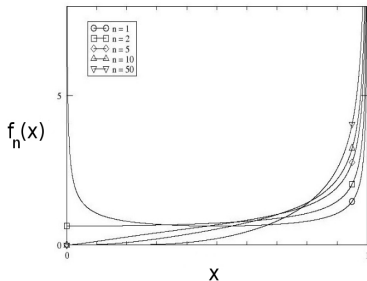
- Marginals:  $\sigma_n(M|T) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi T}} n e^{-M^2/2T} \left[ \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{M}{\sqrt{2T}} \right) \right]^{n-1}$   
 $\rho_n(\tau^*|T) = \frac{1}{T} f_n(\tau^*/T)$

$$f_n(x) = \frac{2n}{\pi \sqrt{x(1-x)}} \int_0^\infty u e^{-u^2} [\operatorname{erf}(u\sqrt{x})]^{n-1} du$$

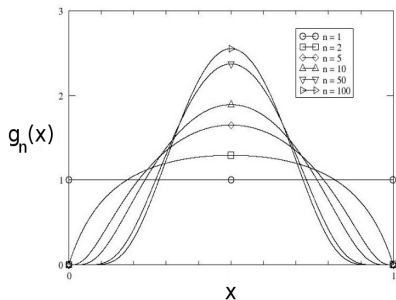
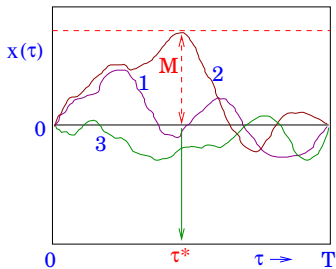
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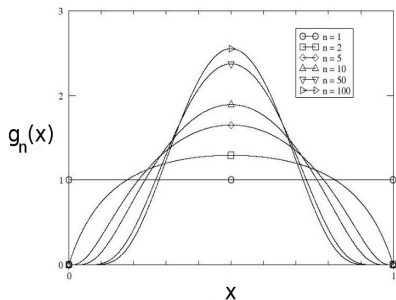
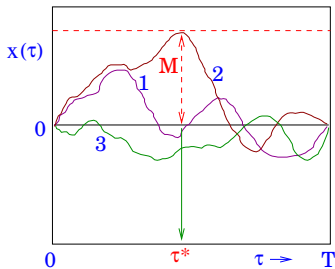
$$f_n(x) = \frac{2n}{\pi \sqrt{x(1-x)}} \int_0^\infty u e^{-u^2} [\operatorname{erf}(u\sqrt{x})]^{n-1} du$$



# Marginals for $n$ Independent Brownian Bridges

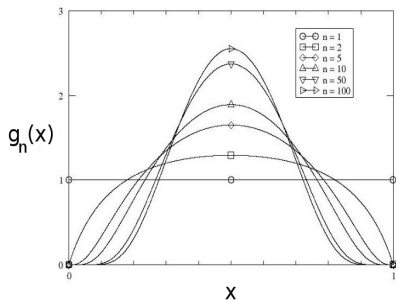
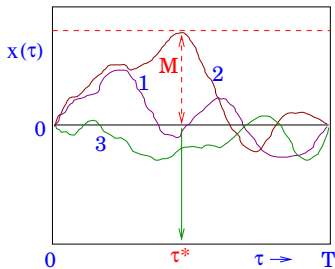


# Marginals for $n$ Independent Brownian Bridges



- Marginals:  $\sigma_n(M|T) = \frac{4n}{T} M \left(1 - e^{-2M^2/T}\right)^{n-1}$

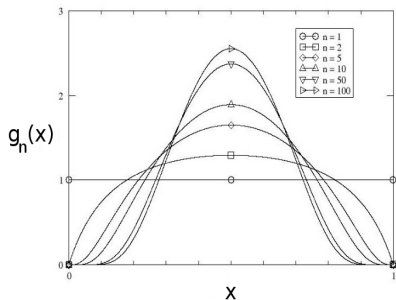
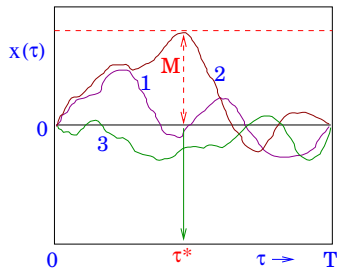
# Marginals for $n$ Independent Brownian Bridges



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$$\rho_n(\tau^*|T) = \frac{1}{T} g_n(\tau^*/T)$$

# Marginals for n Independent Brownian Bridges



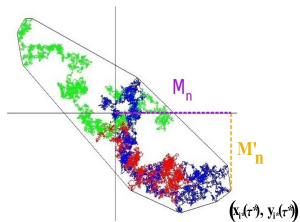
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$$\rho_n(\tau^*|T) = \frac{1}{T} g_n(\tau^*/T)$$

$$g_n(x) = n \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{k} \frac{(-1)^k}{[1 + 4kx(1-x)]^{3/2}}$$



# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Open Brownian Paths



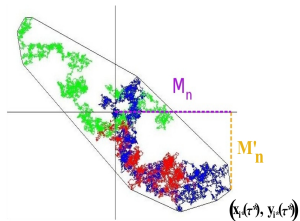
$x_i(\tau), y_i(\tau) \rightarrow 2n$   
independent  
one-dimensional Brownian  
paths over  $0 \leq \tau \leq T$

## Mean Perimeter (open paths)

$$\langle L_n \rangle = 2\pi \langle M_n \rangle$$

$$\text{with } M_n = \max_{\tau, i} \{x_i(\tau)\} \equiv x_{i^*}(\tau^*)$$

# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Open Brownian Paths



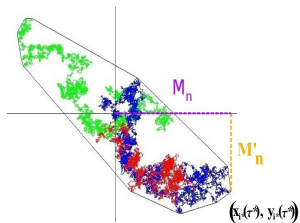
$x_i(\tau), y_i(\tau) \rightarrow 2n$   
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## Mean Perimeter (open paths)

$$\langle L_n \rangle = \alpha_n \sqrt{T}$$

$$\alpha_n = 4n\sqrt{2\pi} \int_0^\infty du u e^{-u^2} [\operatorname{erf}(u)]^{n-1}$$

# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Open Brownian Paths



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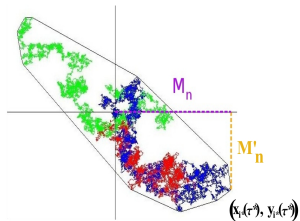
$$\alpha_n = 4n\sqrt{2\pi} \int_0^\infty du u e^{-u^2} [\text{erf}(u)]^{n-1}$$

$$\alpha_1 = \sqrt{8\pi} = 5,013..$$

$$\alpha_2 = 4\sqrt{\pi} = 7,089..$$

$$\alpha_3 = 24 \frac{\tan^{-1}(1/\sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{\pi}} = 8,333..$$

# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Open Brownian Paths



$x_i(\tau), y_i(\tau) \rightarrow 2n$

independent

one-dimensional Brownian

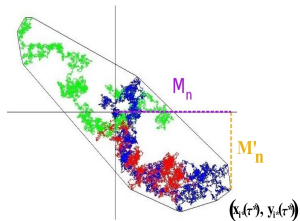
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## Mean Area (open paths)

$$\langle A_n \rangle = \pi \left[ \langle M_n^2 \rangle - \langle [M'_n]^2 \rangle \right]$$

with  $M'_n = y_{i^*}(\tau^*)$

# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Open Brownian Paths



$x_i(\tau), y_i(\tau) \rightarrow 2n$   
independent  
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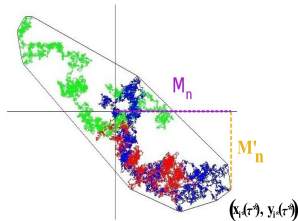
## Mean Area (open paths)

$$\langle A_n \rangle = \beta_n T$$

$$\beta_n = 4n\sqrt{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} du u [\operatorname{erf}(u)]^{n-1} (ue^{-u^2} - h(u))$$

$$h(u) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-u^2/t} dt}{\sqrt{t(1-t)}}$$

# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Open Brownian Paths



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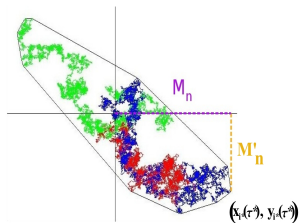
$$h(u) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-u^2/t} dt}{\sqrt{t(1-t)}}$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\pi}{2} = 1,570..$$

$$\beta_2 = \pi = 3,141..$$

$$\beta_3 = \pi + 3 - \sqrt{3} = 4,409..$$

# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Closed Brownian Paths



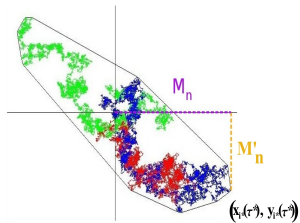
$x_i(\tau), y_i(\tau) \rightarrow 2n$   
independent  
one-dimensional Brownian  
bridges over  $0 \leq \tau \leq T$

## Mean Perimeter (Closed Paths)

$$\langle L_n^c \rangle = \alpha_n^c \sqrt{T}$$

$$\alpha_n^c = \frac{\pi^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n}{k} \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{\sqrt{k}}$$

# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Closed Brownian Paths



$x_i(\tau), y_i(\tau) \rightarrow 2n$   
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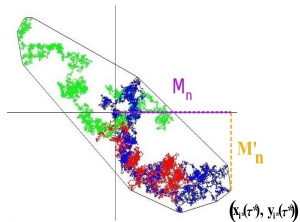
$$\alpha_1^c = \sqrt{\pi^3/2} = 3,937.$$

$$\alpha_2^c = \sqrt{\pi^3}(\sqrt{2} - 1/2) = 5,090..$$

$$\alpha_3^c = \sqrt{\pi^3} \left( \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \right) = 5,732..$$



# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Closed Brownian Paths



$x_i(\tau), y_i(\tau) \rightarrow 2n$   
 independent  
 one-dimensional Brownian  
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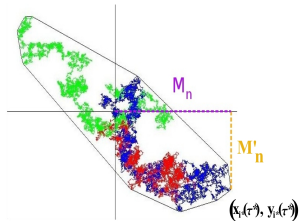
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$$\beta_n^c = \frac{\pi}{2} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} - \frac{n}{3} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=2}^n (-1)^k w(k) \right]$$

$$w(k) = \binom{n}{k} (k-1)^{-3/2} (k \tan^{-1}(\sqrt{k-1}) - \sqrt{k-1})$$

# Mean Perimeter and Mean Area of the Convex Hull of $n$ Independent Closed Brownian Paths



$x_i(\tau), y_i(\tau) \rightarrow 2n$   
 independent  
 one-dimensional Brownian  
 bridges over  $0 \leq \tau \leq T$

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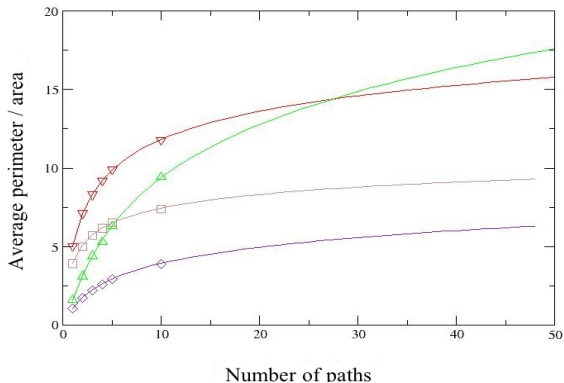
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$$\beta_1^c = \frac{\pi}{3} = 1,047..$$

$$\beta_2^c = \frac{\pi(4 + 3\pi)}{24} = 1,757..$$

$$\beta_3^c = 2,250..$$

# Numerical Check



The coefficients  $\alpha_n$  (mean perimeter) (lower triangle),  $\beta_n$  (mean area) (upper triangle) of  $n$  open paths and similarly  $\alpha_n^c$  (square) and  $\beta_n^c$  (diamond) for  $n$  closed paths, plotted against  $n$ . The symbols denote numerical simulations (up to  $n = 10$ , with  $10^3$  realisations for each point)

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- Unified approach adapting Cauchy's formulae

⇒ Mean Perimeter and Area of Random Convex Hull

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    - ⇒ Ecological Implication: Home Range Estimate
- Very slow (logarithmic) growth of Home Range with population size  $n$

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- **3 dimensions**: **Random Convex Polytopes** ?