# Brownian Motion and Kolmogorov Complexity 

Bjørn Kjos-Hanssen<br>University of Hawaii at Manoa<br>Logic Colloquium 2007

## The Church-Turing thesis (1930s)

## The Church-Turing thesis (1930s)

- A function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is computable by an algorithm $\Leftrightarrow f$ is computable by a Turing machine.


## The Church-Turing thesis (1930s)

- A function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is computable by an algorithm $\Leftrightarrow f$ is computable by a Turing machine.
- "Algorithm": an informal, intuitive concept.


## The Church-Turing thesis (1930s)

- A function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is computable by an algorithm $\Leftrightarrow f$ is computable by a Turing machine.
- "Algorithm": an informal, intuitive concept.
- "Turing machine": a precise mathematical concept.

Random real numbers

## Random real numbers

- A number is random if it belongs to no set of measure zero. (?)


## Random real numbers

- A number is random if it belongs to no set of measure zero. (?)
- But for any number $x$, the singleton set $\{x\}$ has measure zero.


## Random real numbers

- A number is random if it belongs to no set of measure zero. (?)
- But for any number $x$, the singleton set $\{x\}$ has measure zero.
- Must restrict attention to a countable collection of measure zero sets.


## Random real numbers

- A number is random if it belongs to no set of measure zero. (?)
- But for any number $x$, the singleton set $\{x\}$ has measure zero.
- Must restrict attention to a countable collection of measure zero sets.
- The "computable" measure zero sets. Various definitions.


## Random real numbers

- A number is random if it belongs to no set of measure zero. (?)
- But for any number $x$, the singleton set $\{x\}$ has measure zero.
- Must restrict attention to a countable collection of measure zero sets.
- The "computable" measure zero sets. Various definitions.
- Definition of random real numbers motivated by the Church-Turing thesis.


## Mathematical Brownian Motion



- The basic process in modeling of the stock market in Mathematical Finance, and important in physics and biology.


## Brownian Motion



Figure: Botanist Robert Brown (1773-1858)

## Brownian Motion



Figure: Botanist Robert Brown (1773-1858)

Pollen grains suspended in water perform a continued swarming motion.

## Brownian Motion?



Figure: The fluctuations of the CAC40 index

## Mathematical Brownian Motion



A path of Brownian motion is a function $f \in C[0,1]$ or $f \in C(\mathbb{R})$ that is typical with respect to Wiener measure.

## Mathematical Brownian Motion



The Wiener measure is characterized by the following properties.

## Mathematical Brownian Motion



The Wiener measure is characterized by the following properties.

- Independent increments. $f(1999)-f(1996)$ and $f(2005)-f(2003)$ are independent random variables. But $f(1999)$ and $f(2005)$ are not independent.


## Mathematical Brownian Motion



The Wiener measure is characterized by the following properties.

- Independent increments. $f(1999)-f(1996)$ and $f(2005)-f(2003)$ are independent random variables. But $f(1999)$ and $f(2005)$ are not independent.
- $f(t)$ is a normally distributed random variable with variance $t$ and mean 0 .


## Mathematical Brownian Motion



The Wiener measure is characterized by the following properties.

- Independent increments. $f(1999)-f(1996)$ and $f(2005)-f(2003)$ are independent random variables. But $f(1999)$ and $f(2005)$ are not independent.
- $f(t)$ is a normally distributed random variable with variance $t$ and mean 0 .
- Stationarity. $f(1)$ and $f(2006)-f(2005)$ have the same probability distribution.


## Brownian Motion and Random Real Numbers

## Brownian Motion and Random Real Numbers

- Definition of Martin-Löf random continuous functions with respect to Wiener measure: Asarin (1986).


## Brownian Motion and Random Real Numbers

- Definition of Martin-Löf random continuous functions with respect to Wiener measure: Asarin (1986).
- Work by Asarin, Pokrovskii, Fouché.


## Khintchine's Law of the Iterated Logarithm

The Law of the Iterated Logarithm holds for $f \in C[0,1]$ at $t \in[0,1]$ if

$$
\limsup _{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|f(t+h)-f(t)|}{\sqrt{2|h| \log \log (1 /|h|)}}=1
$$

Theorem (Khintchine)
Fix $t$. Then almost surely, the LIL holds at $t$.

Theorem (Khintchine)
Fix $t$. Then almost surely, the LIL holds at $t$.
Corollary (by Fubini's Theorem)
Almost surely, the LIL holds almost everywhere.

Theorem (Khintchine)
Fix $t$. Then almost surely, the LIL holds at $t$.
Corollary (by Fubini's Theorem)
Almost surely, the LIL holds almost everywhere.
Theorem (K and Nerode, 2006)
For each Schnorr random Brownian motion, the LIL holds almost everywhere.
This answered a question of Fouché.

Theorem (Khintchine)
Fix $t$. Then almost surely, the LIL holds at $t$.

## Corollary (by Fubini's Theorem)

Almost surely, the LIL holds almost everywhere.
Theorem (K and Nerode, 2006)
For each Schnorr random Brownian motion, the LIL holds almost everywhere.
This answered a question of Fouché.

- Method: use Wiener-Carathéodory measure algebra isomorphism theorem to translate the problem from $C[0,1]$ into more familiar terrain: $[0,1]$.





$$
f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)<5 \quad f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \geq 5
$$



Kolmogorov complexity

## Kolmogorov complexity

- The complexity $K(\sigma)$ of a binary string $\sigma$ is the length of the shortest description of $\sigma$ by a fixed universal Turing machine having prefix-free domain.


## Kolmogorov complexity

- The complexity $K(\sigma)$ of a binary string $\sigma$ is the length of the shortest description of $\sigma$ by a fixed universal Turing machine having prefix-free domain.
- For a real number $x=0 . x_{1} x_{2} \cdots$ we can look at the complexity of the prefixes $x_{0} \cdots x_{n}$.


## Definition

Let $f \in C[0,1], t \in[0,1]$, and $c \in \mathbb{R}$.
$t$ is a $c$-fast time of $f$ if

$$
\limsup _{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|f(t+h)-f(t)|}{\sqrt{2|h| \log 1 /|h|}} \geq c
$$

$t$ is a c-slow time of $f$ if

$$
\limsup _{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|f(t+h)-f(t)|}{\sqrt{h}} \leq c
$$

## Definition

Let $f \in C[0,1], t \in[0,1]$, and $c \in \mathbb{R}$.
$t$ is a $c$-fast time of $f$ if

$$
\limsup _{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|f(t+h)-f(t)|}{\sqrt{2|h| \log 1 /|h|}} \geq c
$$

$t$ is a c-slow time of $f$ if

$$
\limsup _{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|f(t+h)-f(t)|}{\sqrt{h}} \leq c
$$

- Both slow and fast times almost surely exist (and form dense sets) [Orey and Taylor 1974, Davis, Greenwood and Perkins 1983].


## Slow times

- No time given in advance is slow, but the set of slow times has positive Hausdorff dimension.


## Slow times

- No time given in advance is slow, but the set of slow times has positive Hausdorff dimension.
- Any set of positive Hausdorff dimension contains some times of high Kolmogorov complexity.


## Slow times

- No time given in advance is slow, but the set of slow times has positive Hausdorff dimension.
- Any set of positive Hausdorff dimension contains some times of high Kolmogorov complexity.
- But actually, all slow points have high Kolmogorov complexity.


## Slow times

- No time given in advance is slow, but the set of slow times has positive Hausdorff dimension.
- Any set of positive Hausdorff dimension contains some times of high Kolmogorov complexity.
- But actually, all slow points have high Kolmogorov complexity.
- Can prove this using either computability theory or probability theory.


## Definition

A set is c.e. if it is computably enumerable.

## Definition

A set is c.e. if it is computably enumerable.
A set $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ is infinitely often c.e. traceable if there is a computable function $p(n)$ such that for all $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, if $f$ is computable in $A$ then there is a uniformly c.e. sequence of finite sets $E_{n}$ of size $\leq p(n)$ such that

$$
\exists^{\infty} n f(n) \in E_{n} .
$$

Definition
An infinite binary sequence $x$ is autocomplex if there is a function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ with $\lim _{n} f(n)=\infty, f$ computable from $x$, and

$$
K(x \upharpoonright n) \geq f(n)
$$

## Definition

An infinite binary sequence $x$ is autocomplex if there is a function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ with $\lim _{n} f(n)=\infty, f$ computable from $x$, and

$$
K(x \upharpoonright n) \geq f(n)
$$

A sequence $x$ is Martin-Löf random if $x \notin \cap_{n} U_{n}$ for any uniformly $\Sigma_{1}^{0}$ sequence of open sets $U_{n}$ with $\mu U_{n} \leq 2^{-n}$.

## Definition

An infinite binary sequence $x$ is autocomplex if there is a function $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ with $\lim _{n} f(n)=\infty, f$ computable from $x$, and

$$
K(x \upharpoonright n) \geq f(n)
$$

A sequence $x$ is Martin-Löf random if $x \notin \cap_{n} U_{n}$ for any uniformly $\Sigma_{1}^{0}$ sequence of open sets $U_{n}$ with $\mu U_{n} \leq 2^{-n}$.
A sequence $x$ is Kurtz random if $x \notin C$ for any $\Pi_{1}^{0}$ class $C$ of measure 0 .

Theorem (K, Merkle, Stephan)
$x$ is infinitely often c.e. traceable iff $x$ is not autocomplex.

Theorem (K, Merkle, Stephan)
$x$ is infinitely often c.e. traceable iff $x$ is not autocomplex.
Lemma
If $x$ is not autocomplex then every Martin-Löf random real is Kurtz-random relative to $x$.

Theorem (K, Merkle, Stephan)
$x$ is infinitely often c.e. traceable iff $x$ is not autocomplex.

## Lemma

If $x$ is not autocomplex then every Martin-Löf random real is Kurtz-random relative to $x$.
This translates to:

- If $t \in[0,1]$ is not of high Kolmogorov complexity then each sufficiently random $f \in C[0,1]$ is such that $t$ is not a slow point of $f$.
Thus we have a computability-theoretic proof that all slow points are almost surely of high Kolmogorov complexity.

Theorem (K, Merkle, Stephan)
$x$ is infinitely often c.e. traceable iff $x$ is not autocomplex.

## Lemma

If $x$ is not autocomplex then every Martin-Löf random real is Kurtz-random relative to $x$.
This translates to:

- If $t \in[0,1]$ is not of high Kolmogorov complexity then each sufficiently random $f \in C[0,1]$ is such that $t$ is not a slow point of $f$.
Thus we have a computability-theoretic proof that all slow points are almost surely of high Kolmogorov complexity.
There are also probability-theoretic methods for proving such things, that can even yield stronger results.

Theorem (K, Merkle, Stephan)
$x$ is infinitely often c.e. traceable iff $x$ is not autocomplex.

## Lemma

If $x$ is not autocomplex then every Martin-Löf random real is Kurtz-random relative to $x$.
This translates to:

- If $t \in[0,1]$ is not of high Kolmogorov complexity then each sufficiently random $f \in C[0,1]$ is such that $t$ is not a slow point of $f$.
Thus we have a computability-theoretic proof that all slow points are almost surely of high Kolmogorov complexity.
There are also probability-theoretic methods for proving such things, that can even yield stronger results.
On the other hand, these methods can be applied to computability-theoretic problems.


## Two notions of random closed set

Two probability distributions on closed subsets of Cantor space.

1. "Random closed set" (Barmpalias, Brodhead, Cenzer, Dashti, and Weber (2007)). 1/3 probability each of: keeping only left branch, keeping only right branch, keeping both branches.
2. Percolation limit set (Hawkes, R. Lyons (1990)). 2/3 probability of keeping the left branch, and independently $2 / 3$ probability of keeping the right branch.

## Bits:



## Bits: 1



## Bits: 12



## Bits: 120



## Bits: 1201



## Bits: 12011



## Bits: 120112



## Bits: 1201121



Bits: 12011212


## Bits: 120112120



Let $\gamma=\log _{2}(3 / 2)$ and $\alpha=1-\gamma=\log _{2}(4 / 3)$.
Barmpalias, Brodhead, Cenzer, Dashti, and Weber define (Martin-Löf-)random closed sets and show that they all have dimension $\alpha$.
We denote Hausdorff dimension by dim and effective Hausdorff dimension by $\mathrm{dim}^{\emptyset}$. Then

$$
\begin{gathered}
\operatorname{dim}^{\emptyset}(x)=\operatorname{limininf}_{n} \frac{K(x \upharpoonright n)}{n} \\
=\sup \{s: x \text { is } s \text {-Martin-Löf-random }\} .
\end{gathered}
$$

We define a strengthening of Reimann and Stephan's strong $\gamma$-randomness, vehement $\gamma$-randomness. Both notions coincide with Martin-Löf $\gamma$-randomness for $\gamma=1$.

## Definition

Let $\rho: 2^{<\omega} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \rho(\sigma)=2^{-|\sigma| \gamma}$ for some fixed $\gamma \in[0,1]$. For a set of strings $V$,

$$
\rho(V):=\sum_{\sigma \in V} \rho(\sigma)
$$

and

$$
[V]:=\bigcup\{[\sigma]: \sigma \in V\}
$$

## Definition

A ML- $\gamma$-test is a uniformly c.e. sequence $\left(U_{n}\right)_{n<\omega}$ of sets of strings such that for all $n$,

$$
\rho\left(U_{n}\right) \leq 2^{-n}
$$

A strong ML- $\gamma$-test is a uniformly c.e. sequence $\left(U_{n}\right)_{n<\omega}$ of sets of strings such that

$$
(\forall n)\left(\forall V \subseteq U_{n}\right)\left[V \text { prefix-free } \Rightarrow \rho(V) \leq 2^{-n}\right]
$$

A vehement ML- $\gamma$-test is a uniformly c.e. sequence $\left(U_{n}\right)_{n<\omega}$ such that for each $n$ there is a set of strings $V_{n}$ with $\left[V_{n}\right]=\left[U_{n}\right]$ and $\rho(V) \leq 2^{-n}$.

Lemma
Vehemently $\gamma$-random $\Rightarrow$ strongly $\gamma$-random $\Rightarrow \gamma$-random.

Theorem
Let $\gamma=\log _{2}(3 / 2)$ and let $x$ be a real. We have $(1) \Leftrightarrow(2) \Rightarrow(3) \Rightarrow(4) \Rightarrow(5)$.

1. $x$ is 1-random;
2. $x$ is vehemently 1-random;
3. $x$ is vehemently $\gamma+\frac{1-\gamma}{2} \approx 0.8$-random;
4. $x$ belongs to some random closed set;
5. $x$ is vehemently $\gamma \approx 0.6$-random.

## Corollary (J. Miller and A. Montálban)

The implication from (1) to (4).

## Theorem

Suppose $x$ is a member of a random closed set. Then $x$ is vehemently $\gamma$-random.
Proof: Random closed sets are denoted by $\Gamma$, whereas $\mathfrak{S}$ is the set of strings in the tree corresponding to $\Gamma$.
Let $i<2$ and $\sigma \in 2^{<\omega}$. The probability that the concatenation $\sigma i \in \mathfrak{S}$ given that $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}$ is, by definition of the BBCDW model,

$$
\mathbb{P}\{\sigma i \in \mathfrak{S} \mid \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}\}=\frac{2}{3}
$$

Hence the absolute probability that $\sigma$ survives is

$$
\mathbb{P}\{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}\}=\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{|\sigma|}=\left(2^{-\gamma}\right)^{|\sigma|}=\left(2^{-|\sigma|}\right)^{\gamma}
$$

Suppose $x$ is not vehemently $\gamma$-random. So there is some uniformly c.e. sequence $U_{n}=\left\{\sigma_{n, i}: i<\omega\right\}$, such that $x \in \cap_{n}\left[U_{n}\right]$, and for some $U_{n}^{\prime}=\left\{\sigma_{n, i}^{\prime}: i<\omega\right\}$ with $\left[U_{n}^{\prime}\right]=\left[U_{n}\right]$,

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} 2^{-\left|\sigma_{n, i}^{\prime}\right| \gamma} \leq 2^{-n}
$$

Let

$$
V_{n}:=\left\{\Gamma: \exists i \sigma_{n, i} \in \mathfrak{S}\right\}=\left\{\Gamma: \exists i \sigma_{n, i}^{\prime} \in \mathfrak{S}\right\}
$$

The first expression shows $V_{n}$ is uniformly $\Sigma_{1}^{0}$. The equality is proved using the fact that $\mathfrak{S}$ is a tree without dead ends.

Now

$$
\mathbb{P} V_{n} \leq \sum_{i \in \omega} \mathbb{P}\left\{\sigma_{n, i}^{\prime} \in \mathfrak{S}\right\}=\sum_{i \in \omega} 2^{-\left|\sigma_{n, i}^{\prime}\right| \gamma} \leq 2^{-n}
$$

That is, if $x \in \Gamma$ then $x$ belongs to the effective null set $\cap_{n \in \omega} V_{n}$. As $\Gamma$ is ML-random, this is not the case. End of proof.

## Corollary

If $x$ belongs to a random closed set, then

$$
\operatorname{dim}^{\varnothing}(x) \geq \log _{2}(3 / 2)
$$

## Corollary (BBCDW)

No member of a random closed set is 1-generic.
Theorem
For each $\varepsilon>0$, each random closed set contains a real $x$ with

$$
\operatorname{dim}^{\varnothing}(x) \leq \log _{2}(3 / 2)+\varepsilon .
$$

Corollary (BBCDW)
Not every member of a random closed set is Martin-Löf random.

## Open problems

We have seen that the members of random closed sets do not coincide with the reals of effective dimension $\geq \gamma$, although (1) they all have dimension $\geq \gamma$ and (2) they do not all have dimension $\geq \gamma+\varepsilon$ for any fixed $\epsilon>0$.
There are (at least) two possible conjectures, and the answer may help determine whether vehement or ordinary $\gamma$-randomness is the most natural generalization of 1-randomness.

## Conjecture (1)

The members of random closed sets are exactly the reals $x$ such that for some $\varepsilon>0, x$ is $\gamma+\varepsilon$-random. (That is, $x$ has effective dimension $>\gamma$.)

## Conjecture (2)

The members of random closed sets are exactly the reals $x$ such that for some $\varepsilon>0, x$ is vehemently $\gamma+\varepsilon$-random.

Conjecture 1 would imply that $\gamma+\varepsilon$-random $\Rightarrow$ vehemently $\gamma$-random.

This seems unlikely, but J. Reimann has shown that
$\gamma+\varepsilon$-random $\Rightarrow$ strongly $\gamma$-random.

Conjecture 1 would imply that $\gamma+\varepsilon$-random $\Rightarrow$ vehemently $\gamma$-random.

This seems unlikely, but J. Reimann has shown that
$\gamma+\varepsilon$-random $\Rightarrow$ strongly $\gamma$-random.

Thank You

