

# Stochastic Simulation

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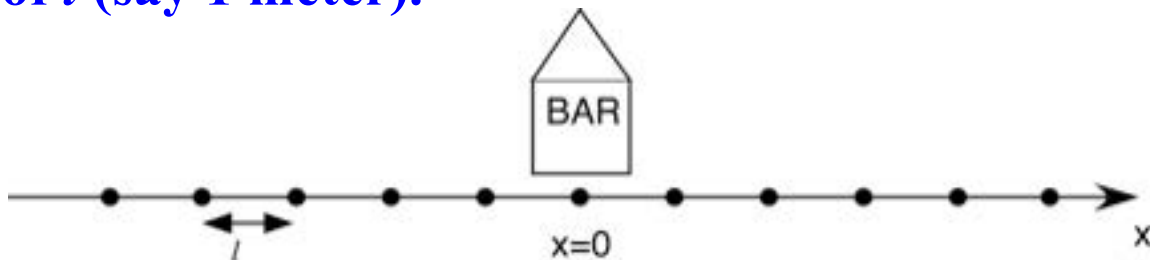
**Email: [anakano@usc.edu](mailto:anakano@usc.edu)**

**Goal: Random walk,  
central limit theorem,  
diffusion equation**



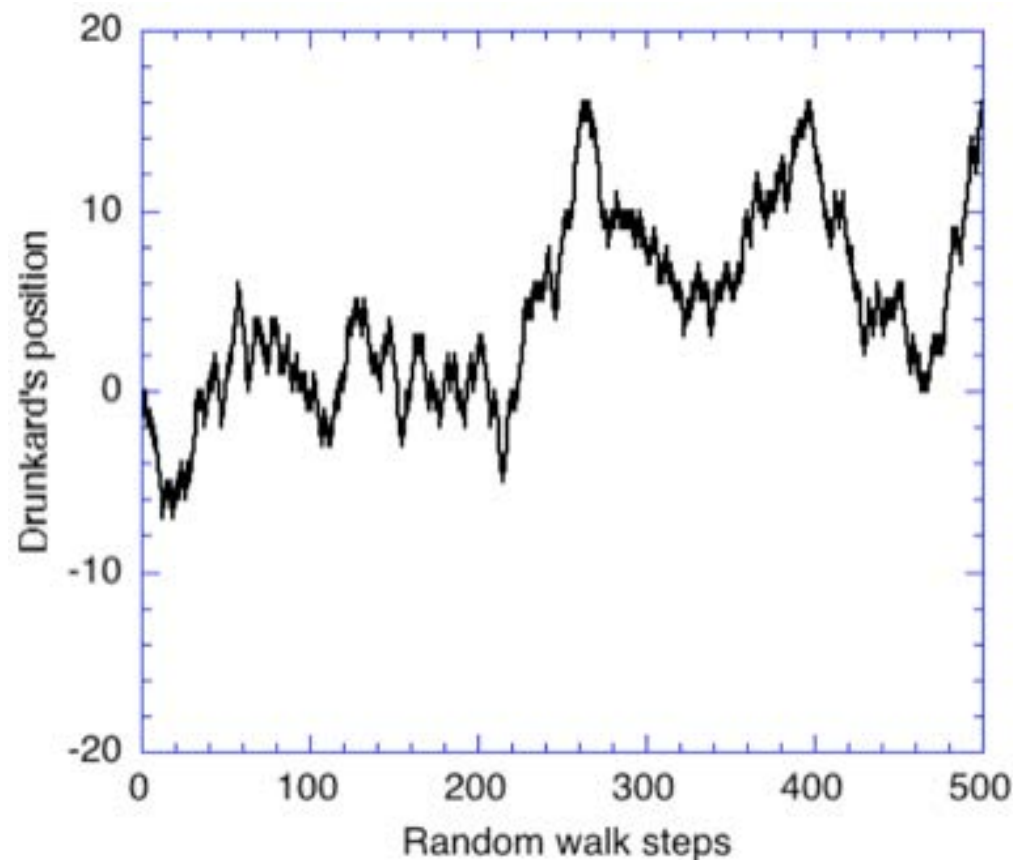
# Random Walk

- **Drunkard's walk problem:** A drunkard starts from a bar ( $x = 0$ ) & at every time interval  $\tau$  (say 1 second) moves randomly either to the right or to the left by a step of  $l$  (say 1 meter).



- **Program diffuse.c**

```
initialize a random number sequence
for walker = 1 to N_walker
  position = 0
  for step = 1 to Max_step
    if rand() > RAND_MAX/2 then
      increment position by l
    else
      decrement position by l
    endif
  endfor step
endfor walker
```



# Applications of Random Walk

## Applications in Phys 516

- $x$  = stock price: Stochastic simulation of a stock
- $x$  = 1D coordinate, histogram of the walkers = probability to find a quantum particle: Quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) simulation

## What to learn

- Probability: Central limit theorem
- Partial differential equation (PDE): Diffusion equation

## Historical origin

- Einstein's theory of Brownian motion (1905)

5. Über die von der molekularkinetischen Theorie der Wärme geforderte Bewegung von in ruhenden Flüssigkeiten suspendierten Teilchen;  
von A. Einstein.

In dieser Arbeit soll gezeigt werden, daß nach der molekularkinetischen Theorie der Wärme in Flüssigkeiten suspendierte Körper von mikroskopisch sichtbarer Größe infolge der Molekularbewegung der Wärme Bewegungen von solcher Größe ausführen müssen, daß diese Bewegungen leicht mit dem Mikroskop nachgewiesen werden können. Es ist möglich, daß die hier zu behandelnden Bewegungen mit der sogenannten „Brownschen Molekularbewegung“ identisch sind; die mir erreichbaren Angaben über letztere sind jedoch so ungenau, daß ich mir hierüber kein Urteil bilden konnte.

Wenn sich die hier zu behandelnde Bewegung samt den für sie zu erwartenden Gesetzmäßigkeiten wirklich beobachten läßt, so ist die klassische Thermodynamik schon für mikroskopisch unterscheidbare Räume nicht mehr als genau gültig anzusehen und es ist dann eine exakte Bestimmung der wahren Atomgröße möglich. Erwies sich umgekehrt die Voraussage dieser Bewegung als unzutreffend, so wäre damit ein schwerwiegendes Argument gegen die molekularkinetische Auffassung



from Prof. Paul Newton's homepage



# Diffusion Equation

558

*A. Einstein.*

und indem wir

$$\frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\Delta^2}{2} \varphi(\Delta) d\Delta = D$$

Diffusion constant

$$D = \left\langle \frac{\Delta^2}{2\tau} \right\rangle_{\text{avg}}$$

setzen und nur das erste und dritte Glied der rechten Seite berücksichtigen:

(1)

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}.$$

Histogram,  $f(x,t)$ , of random walkers follows a partial differential equation

Dies ist die bekannte Differentialgleichung der Diffusion, und man erkennt, daß  $D$  der Diffusionskoeffizient ist.

# Stochastic Model of Stock Prices

Market Summary > Apple Inc

## Fluctuation in stock price

122.54 USD

-0.85 (0.68%) ↓

Mar 23, 3:30 PM EDT · Disclaimer

NASDAQ: AAPL

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1 day | 5 days | 1 month | 6 months | ytd | 1 year | 5 years | max



Market Summary > GameStop Corp.

182.71 USD

-11.78 (6.06%) ↓

Mar 23, 3:32 PM EDT · Disclaimer

NYSE: GME

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# Stochastic Model of Stock Prices

## Basis of Black-Scholes analysis of option prices

$$dS = \mu S dt + \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt}$$



The Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 1997

"for a new method to determine the value of derivatives"

cf. [The Einsteins of Wall Street](#), J. Bernstein



**Robert C. Merton**

1/2 of the prize

USA

Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA, USA

b. 1944



**Myron S. Scholes**

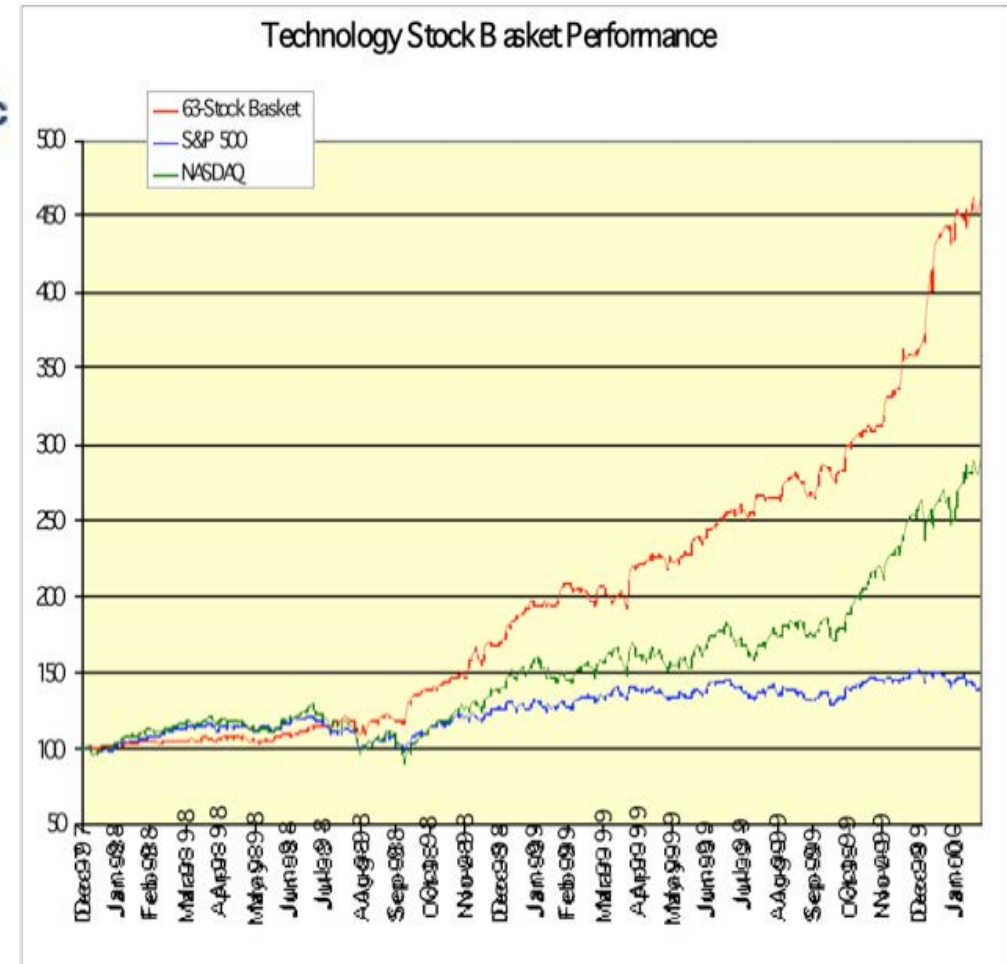
1/2 of the prize

USA

Long Term Capital Management  
Greenwich, CT, USA

b. 1941  
(in Timmins, ON, Canada)

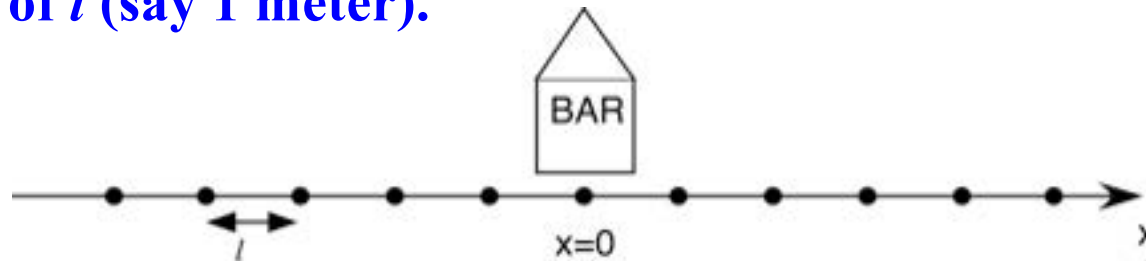
## Computational stock portfolio trading



Andrey Omeltchenko ([Quantlab](#))

# Random Walk

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- **Program** [diffuse.c](#)

initialize a random number sequence

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for walker = 1 to N_walker
```

```
    position = 0
```

```
    for step = 1 to Max_step
```

```
        if rand() > RAND_MAX/2 then
```

```
            increment position by l
```

```
        else
```

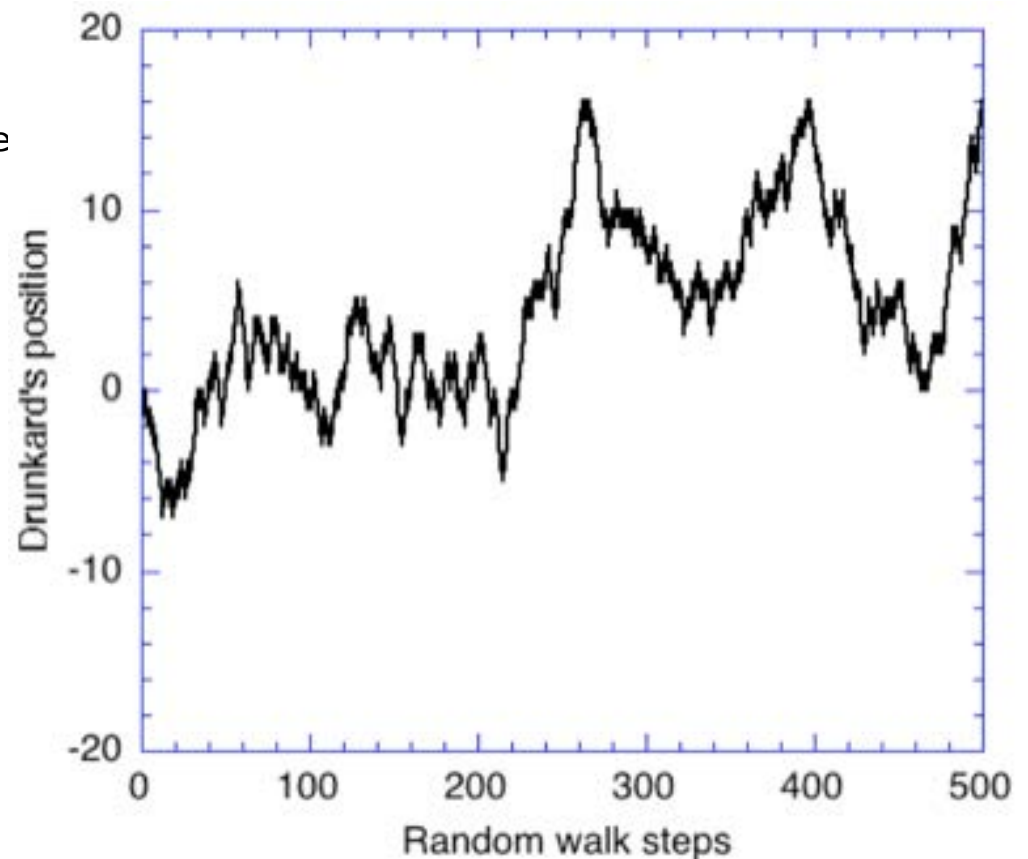
```
            decrement position by l
```

```
        endif
```

```
    endfor step
```

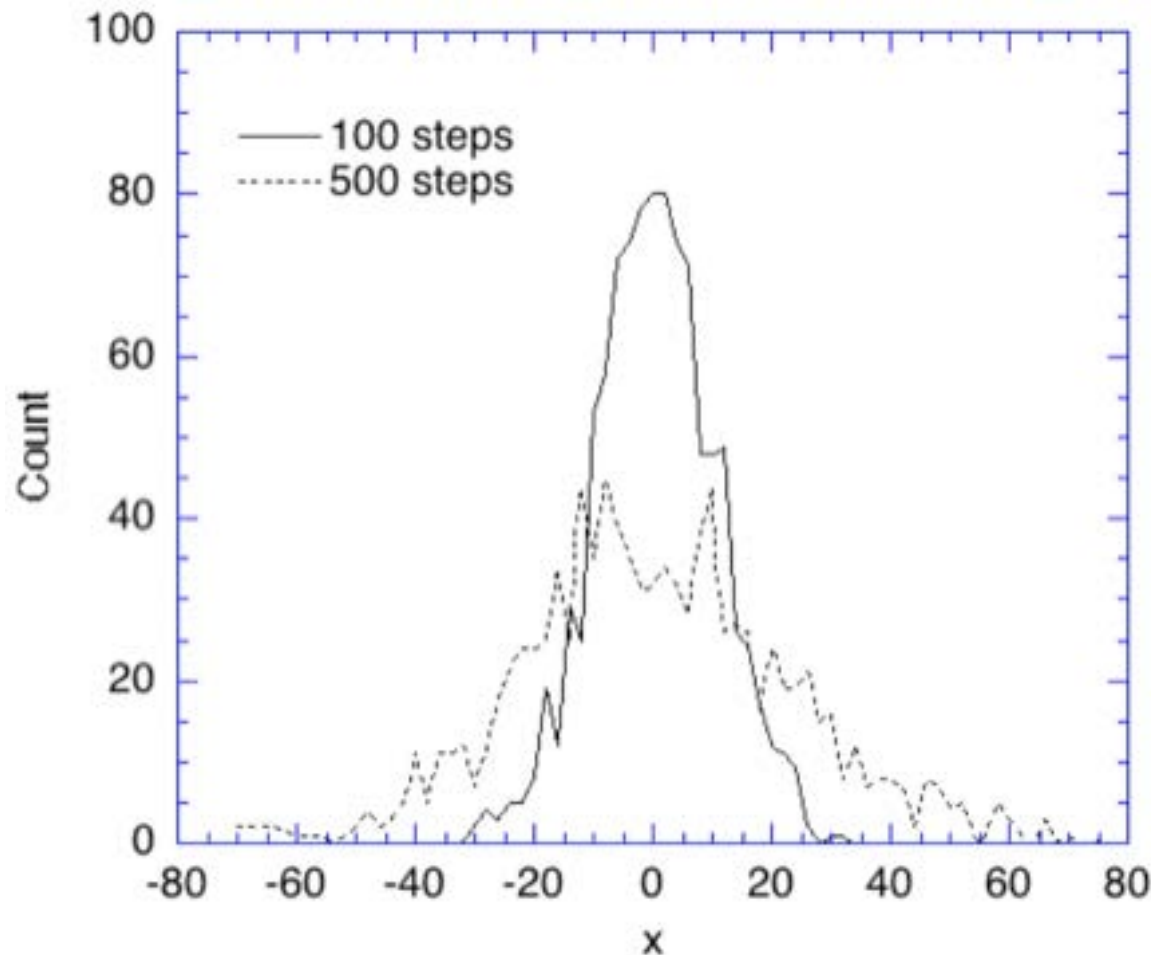
```
endfor walker
```

Outer loop over walkers  
to take statistics



# Probability Distribution

- **Probability distribution,  $P(x, t)$ :** Histogram of the positions of many drunkards (with different random-number seeds)



See `hist[]` in [diffuse.c](#)



# Binomial Distribution

$$P_n(x = (n_{\rightarrow} - n_{\leftarrow})l) = \frac{n!}{n_{\rightarrow}!n_{\leftarrow}!} p^{n_{\rightarrow}} (1-p)^{n_{\leftarrow}}$$

- **Generating function**

$$\sum_{n_{\rightarrow}=0}^n \frac{n!}{n_{\rightarrow}!n_{\leftarrow}!} p^{n_{\rightarrow}} q^{n_{\leftarrow}} = (p+q)^n$$

$n_{\rightarrow} + n_{\leftarrow} = n$   
 $\rightarrow \quad \rightarrow \quad \leftarrow \quad \rightarrow \quad \leftarrow \quad \dots$   
 $p \quad p \quad q \quad p \quad q \quad \dots$   
 $p + q = 1$

- **Differentiate w.r.t.  $p$  & multiply by  $p$  (then w.r.t.  $q$ ),**

$$\langle x_n \rangle = \sum_{n_{\rightarrow}=0}^n \frac{n!}{n_{\rightarrow}!n_{\leftarrow}!} p^{n_{\rightarrow}} (1-p)^{n_{\leftarrow}} (n_{\rightarrow} - n_{\leftarrow})l = n(p-q)l$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x_n^2 \rangle - \langle x_n \rangle^2 &= [n(n-1)(p-q)^2 + n]l^2 - [n(p-q)l]^2 \\ &= [1 - (p-q)^2]nl^2 \\ &= [(p+q)^2 - (p-q)^2]nl^2 \\ &= 4pqnl^2. \end{aligned}$$

- **For  $p = q = 1/2$ ,  $Var[x_n] = nl^2$**

See [lecture note \(p. 3\)](#) for proof

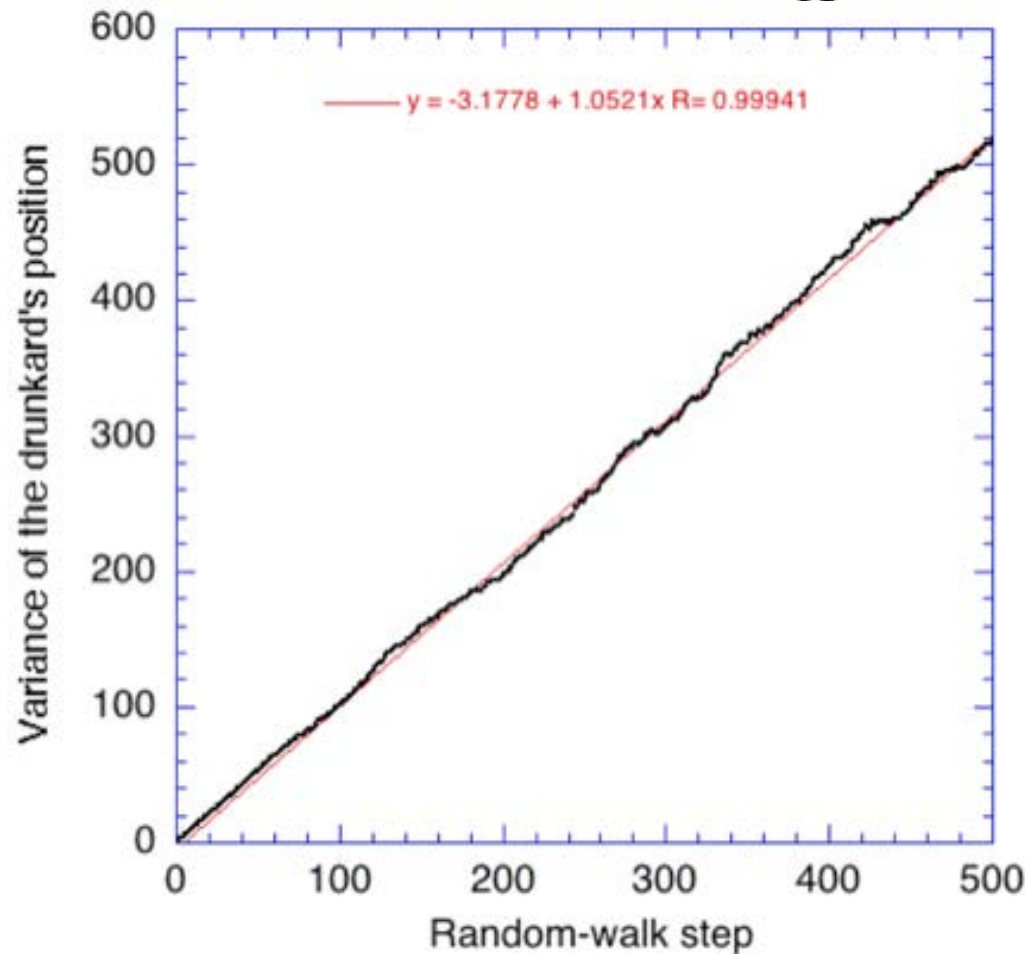
# Diffusion Law

$$\langle x(t = n\tau)^2 \rangle = nl^2 = 2 \left( \frac{l^2}{2\tau} \right) t$$

$$\langle \Delta R(t)^2 \rangle = 2Dt$$

**D**

$$\frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\Delta^2}{2} \varphi(\Delta) d\Delta = D$$



# Continuous Limit: Diffusion Equation

- Recursive relation

$$P(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} P(x-l, t-\tau) + \frac{1}{2} P(x+l, t-\tau)$$

$$\frac{P(x,t) - P(x,t-\tau)}{\tau} = \frac{l^2}{2\tau} \frac{P(x-l, t-\tau) - 2P(x,t-\tau) + P(x+l, t-\tau)}{l^2}$$

- $\tau \rightarrow 0, l \rightarrow 0, l^2/2\tau = D = \text{constant}$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} P(x,t) = D \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} P(x,t)$$

- Schrödinger equation in imaginary time  $it \equiv \tau \rightarrow$  basis of Quantum Monte Carlo simulation

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}.$$

# Analytic Solution of Diffusion Equation

- Formal solution

$$P(x, t) = \exp\left(tD \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}\right) P(x, 0) \longleftarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t} P = \boxed{D \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} P}$$

- Initial condition: delta function

$$P(x, 0) = \delta(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \exp(ikx)$$

$$P(x, t) = \exp\left(tD \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}\right) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \exp(ikx) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \exp(-Dtk^2 + ikx)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \exp\left(-Dt \left[ \left(k - \frac{ix}{2Dt}\right)^2 + \frac{x^2}{4D^2t^2} \right]\right)$$

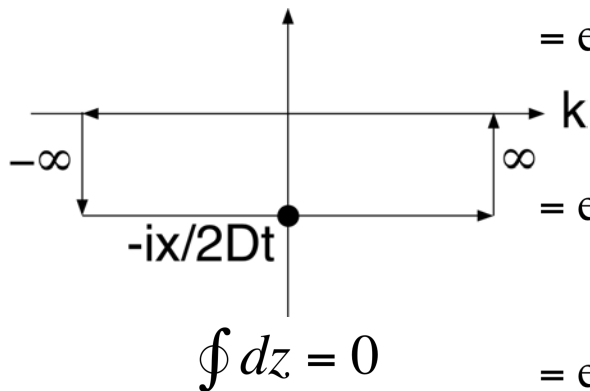
$$= \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{4Dt}\right) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \exp\left(-Dt \left(k - \frac{ix}{2Dt}\right)^2\right)$$

$$s^2 = Dtk^2$$

$$= \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{4Dt}\right) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{ds}{2\pi\sqrt{Dt}} \exp(-s^2)$$

$$ds = \sqrt{Dt} dk$$

$$= \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{4Dt}\right) \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\pi\sqrt{Dt}} = \boxed{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)} \quad \sigma^2 = 2Dt$$



# Delta Function

- **Orthonormal basis set: Plane waves**

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \exp(ik_m x) \mid k_m = \frac{2\pi m}{L} \quad (m = 0, \dots, N-1) \right\}$$

- **Completeness**

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} |m\rangle \langle m|\psi\rangle = \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} e^{ik_m x_j} \sum_{l=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} e^{-ik_m x_l} \psi_l$$

$$\psi_j = \sum_{l=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \exp(ik_m (x_j - x_l)) \psi_l \quad \psi_j = \psi(x_j); \quad x_j = j\Delta x = j \frac{L}{N}$$

- **$\Delta x \rightarrow 0$**

$$\psi(x_j) = \int_0^L \frac{dx}{\Delta x} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \exp(ik_m (x_j - x)) \psi(x) = \int_0^L \frac{dx}{L} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \exp(ik_m (x_j - x)) \psi(x)$$

$$\Delta x \sum_l f(x_l) \xrightarrow{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \int dx f(x)$$

$$\therefore \delta(x_j - x) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \exp(ik_m (x_j - x)) \quad \int dx f(x) \delta(x - x_j) = f(x_j)$$

$$\delta(x_j - x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \exp(ik_m (x_j - x))$$

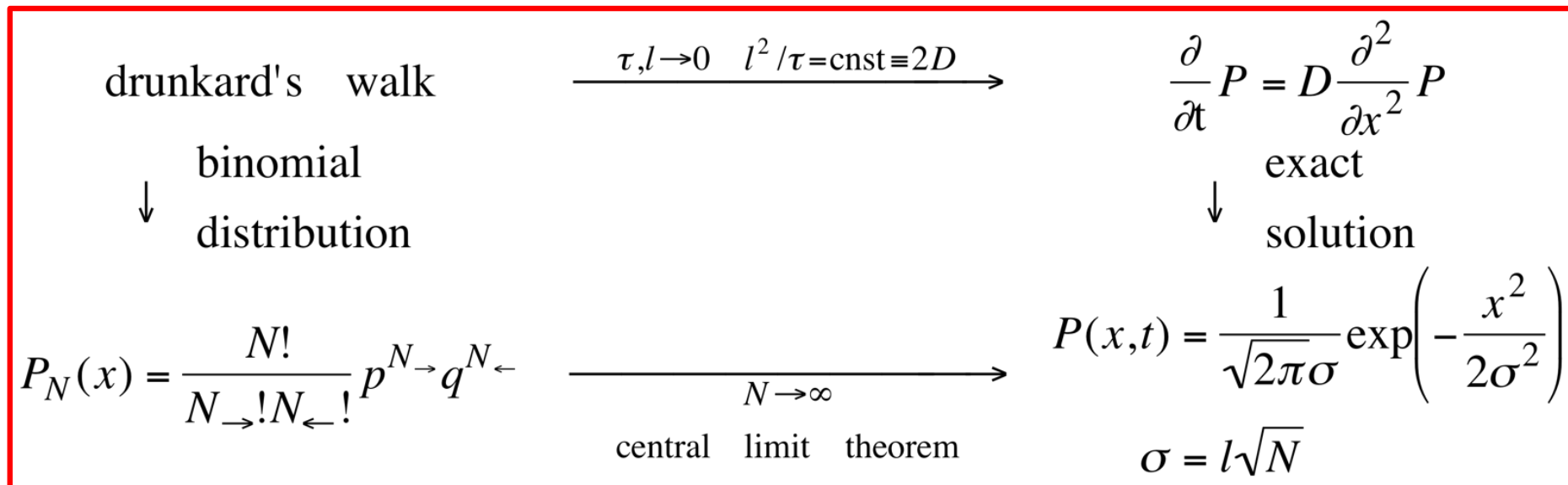
$$\frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_m f(k_m) = \Delta k \sum_m f(k_m) \xrightarrow{L \rightarrow \infty} \int dk f(k)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \Delta k \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \exp(ik_m (x_j - x)) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2\pi} \int dk \exp(ik(x_j - x))$$

$$L \rightarrow \infty$$

$$\Delta k = \frac{2\pi}{L} \rightarrow 0$$

# Big Picture: Closing the Loop



$$\sigma^2 = 2Dt = 2 \frac{l^2}{2\tau} t = Nl^2$$



# Central Limit Theorem

$$P_N(x) = \frac{N!}{\left(\frac{N+x}{2}\right)! \left(\frac{N-x}{2}\right)!} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^N \quad x = (n_{\rightarrow} - n_{\leftarrow})$$

Here, we set  $l = 1$

- For  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} P_N(x) = P(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \quad \sigma = \sqrt{N}$$

where we have used Stirling's formula

$$N! = \sqrt{2\pi} N^{N+1/2} e^{-N} \left(1 + \frac{1}{12N} + \dots\right)$$

- **Central limit theorem:** Sum of any random variables,  $Y = (y_1 + \dots + y_N)$ , itself is a random variable that follows the normal (Gaussian) distribution for large  $N$

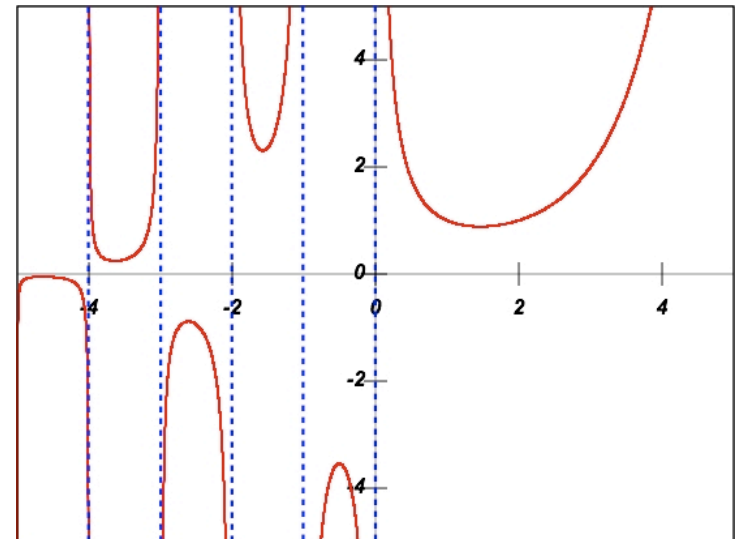
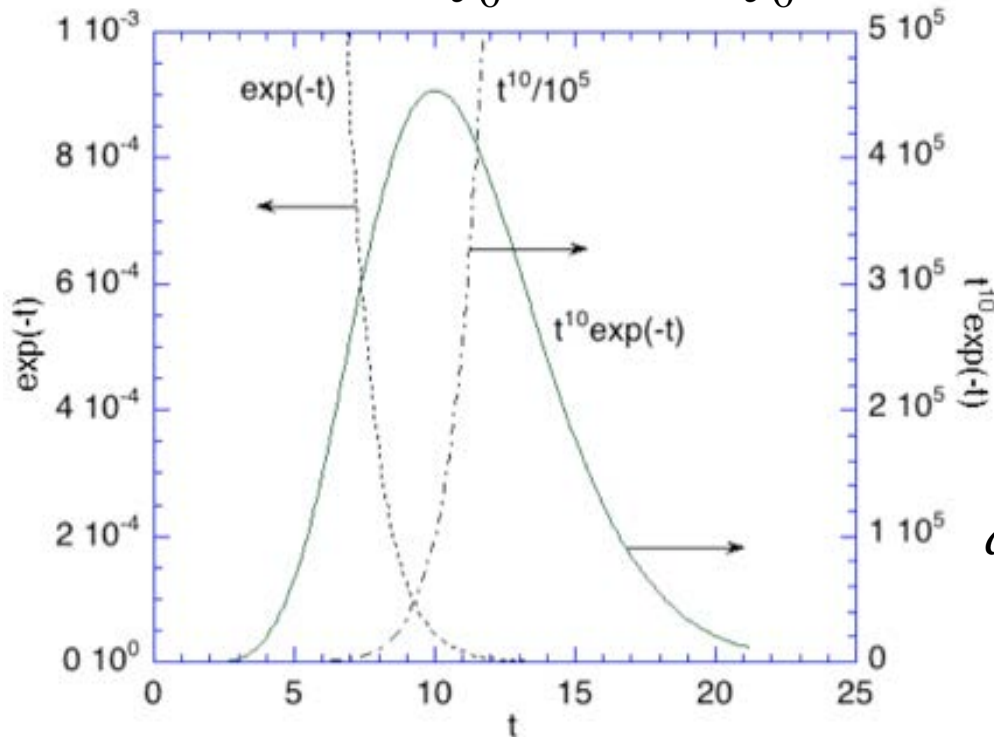
# Stirling's Formula

- **Gamma function:**  $\Gamma(z) \equiv \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{z-1} dt \quad (z \in \mathbb{C}; \operatorname{Re} z > 0)$ 
  1.  $\Gamma(z+1) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^z dt = \left[ -e^{-t} t^z \right]_0^\infty - \int_0^\infty (-e^{-t}) z t^{z-1} dt = z\Gamma(z)$
  2.  $\Gamma(0) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} dt = \left[ -e^{-t} \right]_0^\infty = 1$  Integration by parts

$\therefore \Gamma(N+1) = N\Gamma(N) = N(N-1)\Gamma(N-1) = \dots = N!$

- **Asymptotic expansion strategy**

$$\Gamma(z+1) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^z dt = \int_0^\infty f(t) dt$$



$$df/dt = e^{-t} t^{z-1} (-t + z) = 0$$

$\Downarrow$

$$t = z$$

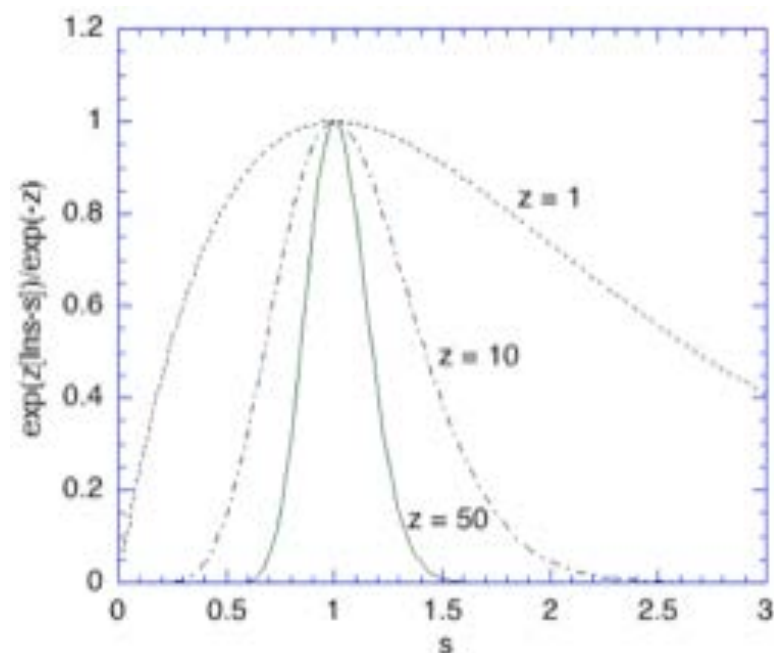
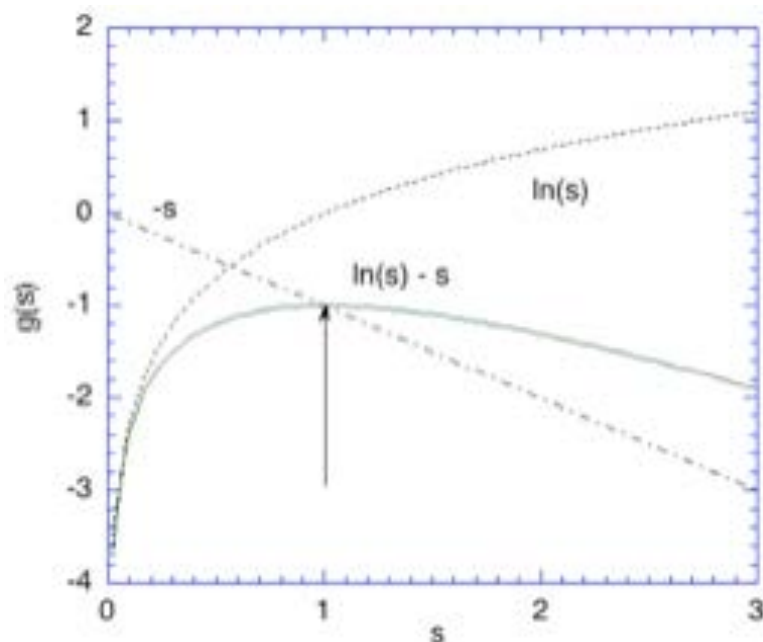
# Saddle-Point Method

- $t \equiv sz$  — factor out explicit  $z$  dependence:

$$\ln(s^z) = z \ln s \Rightarrow s^z = \exp(z \ln s)$$

$$\Gamma(z+1) = \int_0^\infty e^{-zs} (zs)^z z ds = z^{z+1} \int_0^\infty e^{-zs} \exp(z \ln s) ds = z^{z+1} \int_0^\infty \exp(z(\ln s - s)) ds$$

- $g(s) = \ln s - s$ , is peaked at  $s = 1$  ( $dg/ds = 1/s - 1 = 0$  at  $s = 1$ )



- Taylor expansion at the maximum**

$$\begin{aligned} g(s) &= g(1) + g'(1)(s-1) + \frac{1}{2} g''(1)(s-1)^2 + \dots \\ &= -1 - \frac{1}{2} (s-1)^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

# Asymptotic Expansion

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$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(z+1) &= z^{z+1} \int_0^\infty ds \exp\left(z\left[-1 - \frac{1}{2}(s-1)^2 + \dots\right]\right) \\ &= z^{z+1} e^{-z} \int_0^\infty ds \exp\left(-\frac{z}{2}(s-1)^2 + \dots\right) \\ &\approx z^{z+1} e^{-z} \int_{-\infty}^\infty ds \exp\left(-\frac{z}{2}(s-1)^2\right) \\ &= z^{z+1} e^{-z} \underbrace{\sqrt{\frac{2}{z}} \int_{-\infty}^\infty du \exp(-u^2)}_{\sqrt{\pi}} \quad u = \sqrt{z/2}(s-1) \\ &= \sqrt{2\pi} z^{z+1/2} e^{-z}\end{aligned}$$

# Gaussian Integral

$$I^2 \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \exp(-x^2) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \exp(-y^2)$$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} dr \int_0^{2\pi} r d\theta e^{-\underbrace{(x^2+y^2)}_{r^2}}$$

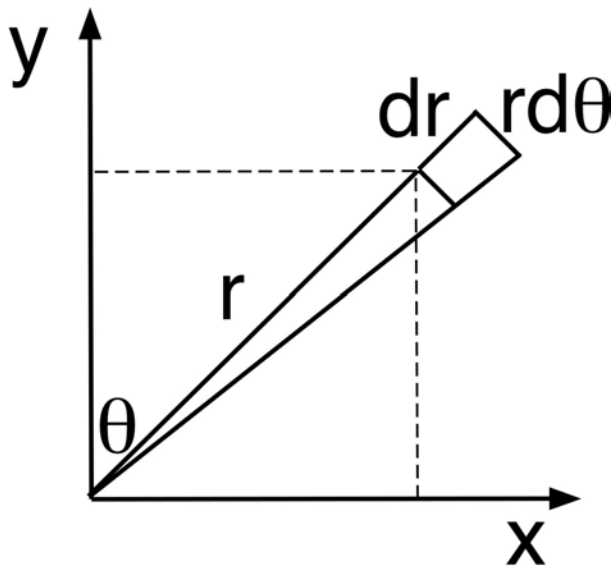
$$= 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} dr r e^{-r^2}$$

$$= \pi \int_0^{\infty} dx e^{-x}$$

$$= \pi \left[ -e^{-x} \right]_0^{\infty} = \pi$$

$$r^2 = x$$

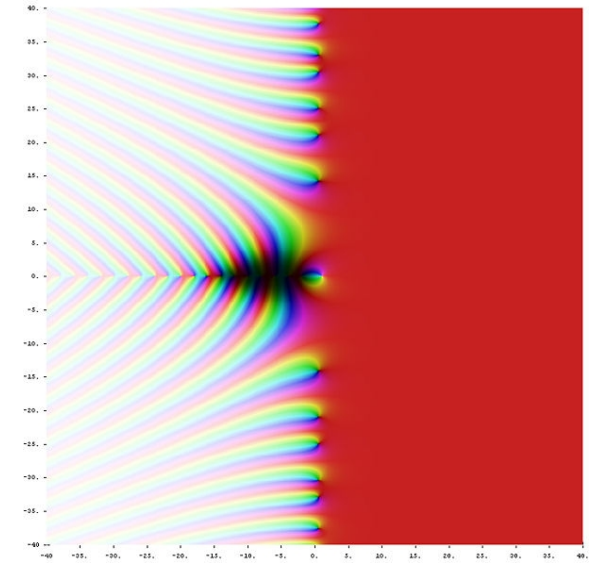
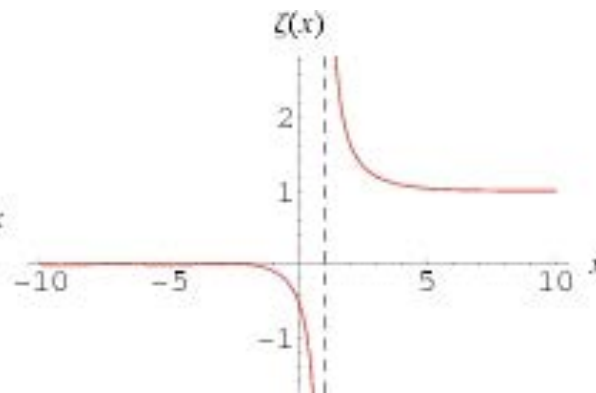
$$2r dr = dx$$



$$\therefore I \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \exp(-x^2) = \sqrt{\pi}$$

# Digression: Riemann Zeta Function

$$\zeta(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^z}$$



- Renormalization in quantum field theory & string theory
  - > Infinite zero-point energy
  - > Regularization by analytical continuation



$$\zeta(-1) = 1 + 2 + \dots = -\frac{1}{12}$$



Bernhard Riemann  
(1826-1866)



# Random Walk in Finance

- **Geometric Brownian motion:**  $\mu$ : drift;  $\sigma$ : volatility;  $\varepsilon$ : random variable following normal distribution with unit variance

$$dS = \mu S dt + \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt}$$

- Let the 2nd term be 0,

$$S(t) = S_0 \exp(\mu t)$$

- Let the 1st term be 0, then for  $U = \ln S$  ( $dU = dS/S$ )

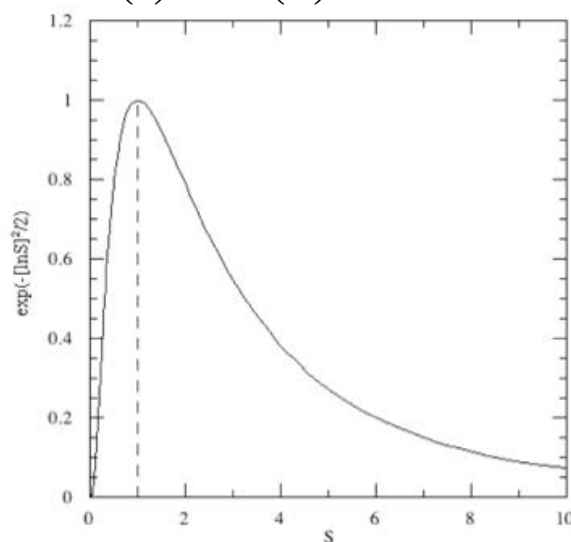
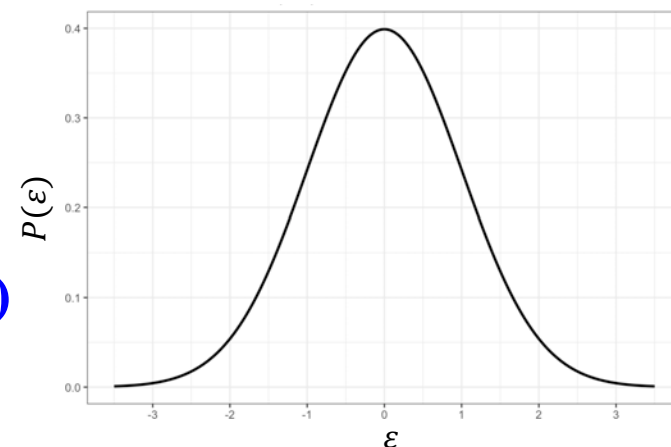
$$dU = \sigma \varepsilon \sqrt{dt}$$

$$U(t) - U(0) = \sigma \sqrt{\Delta t} \sum_{i=1}^N \varepsilon_i$$

- Central-limit theorem states that  $\sum_i \varepsilon_i$  is normal distribution with variance  $N$ ; let  $t = N\Delta t$

$$U(t) - U(0) = \sigma \sqrt{t} \varepsilon$$

- **Log-normal distribution**

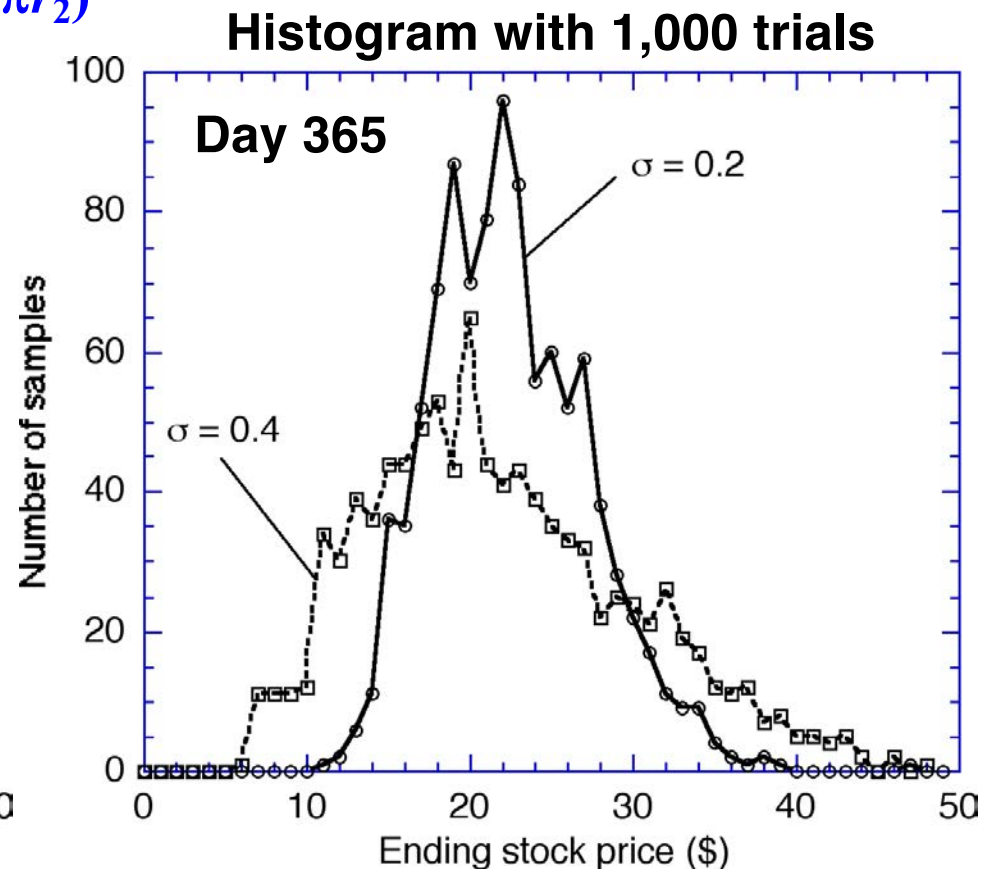
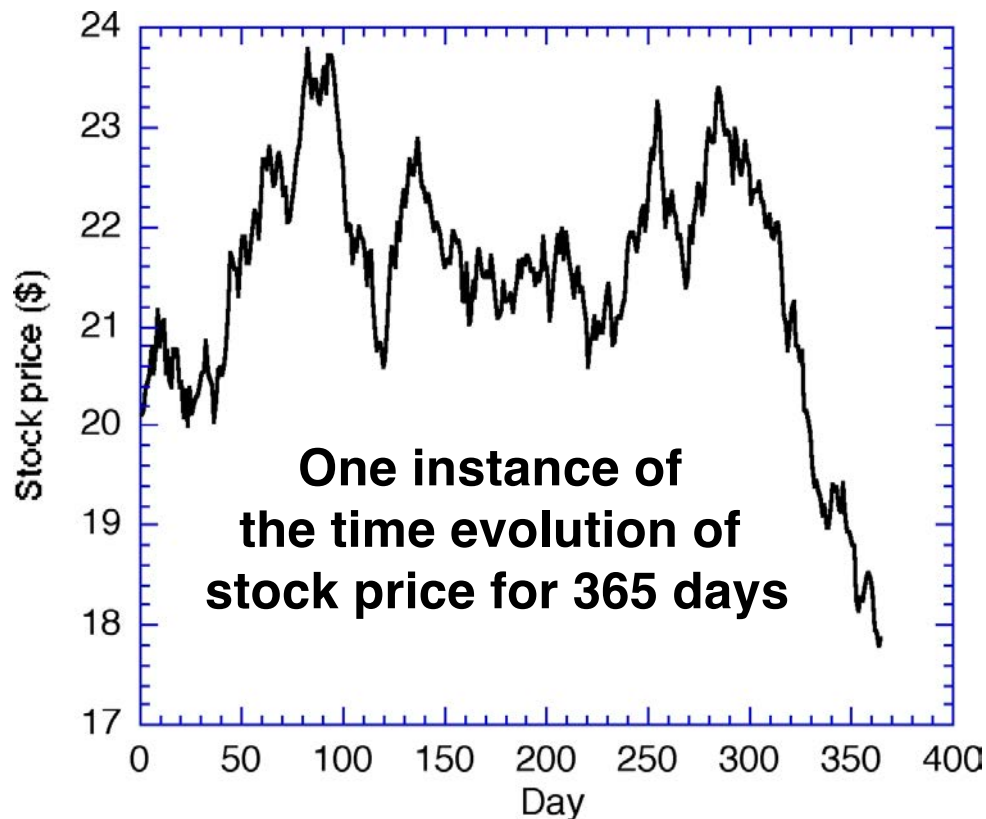


# MC Simulation of Stock Price

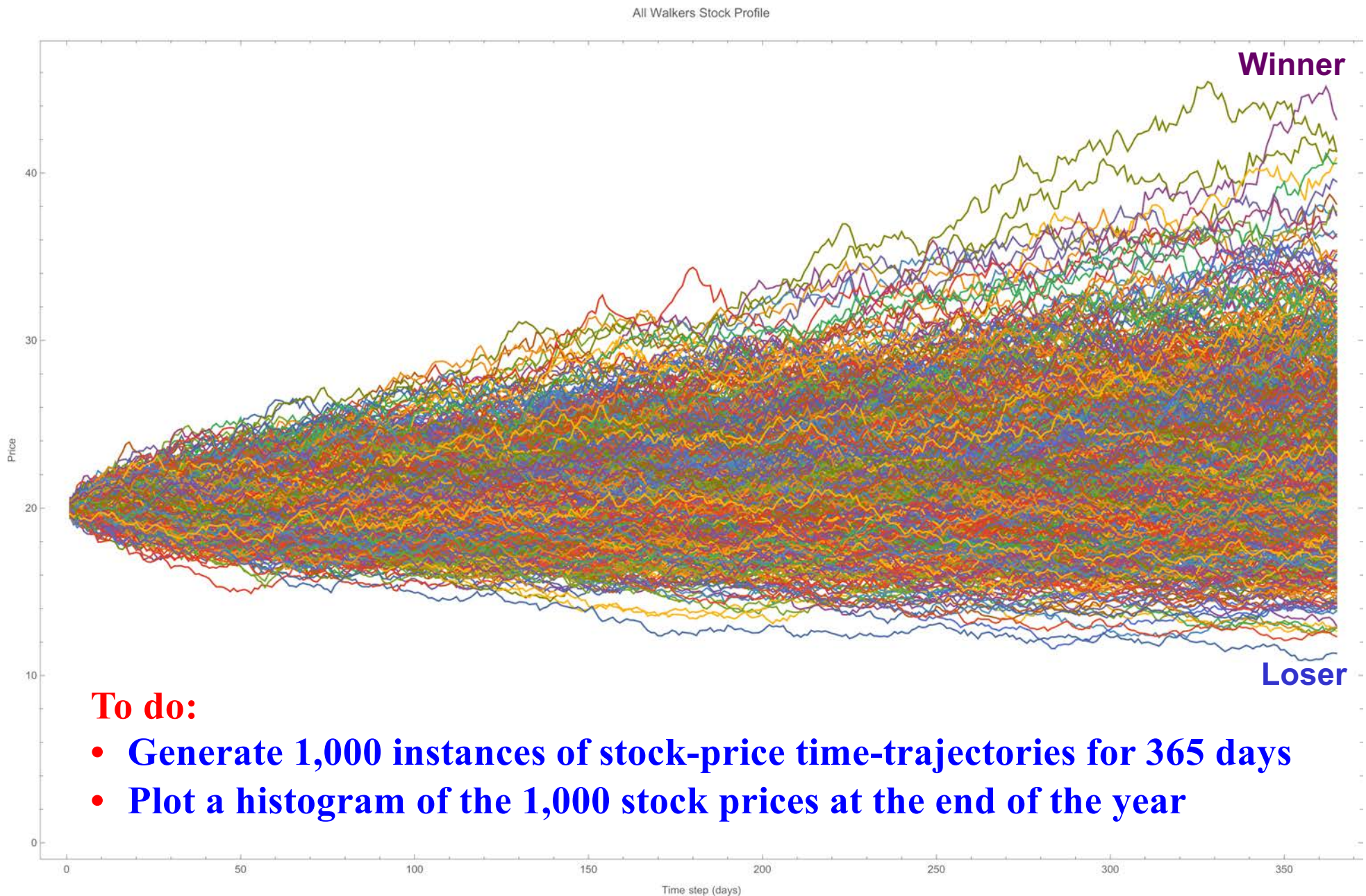
- Let:  $dt = 0.00274$  year (= 1 day); the expected return from the stock be 14% per annum ( $\mu = 0.14$ ); the standard deviation of the return be 20% per annum ( $\sigma = 0.20$ ); & the starting stock price be \$20.0

$$\frac{dS}{S} = \mu dt + \sigma \sqrt{dt} \xi$$

- Box-Muller algorithm:** Generate uniform random numbers  $r_1$  &  $r_2$  in the range (0, 1), then  $\xi = (-2\ln r_1)^{1/2} \cos(2\pi r_2)$

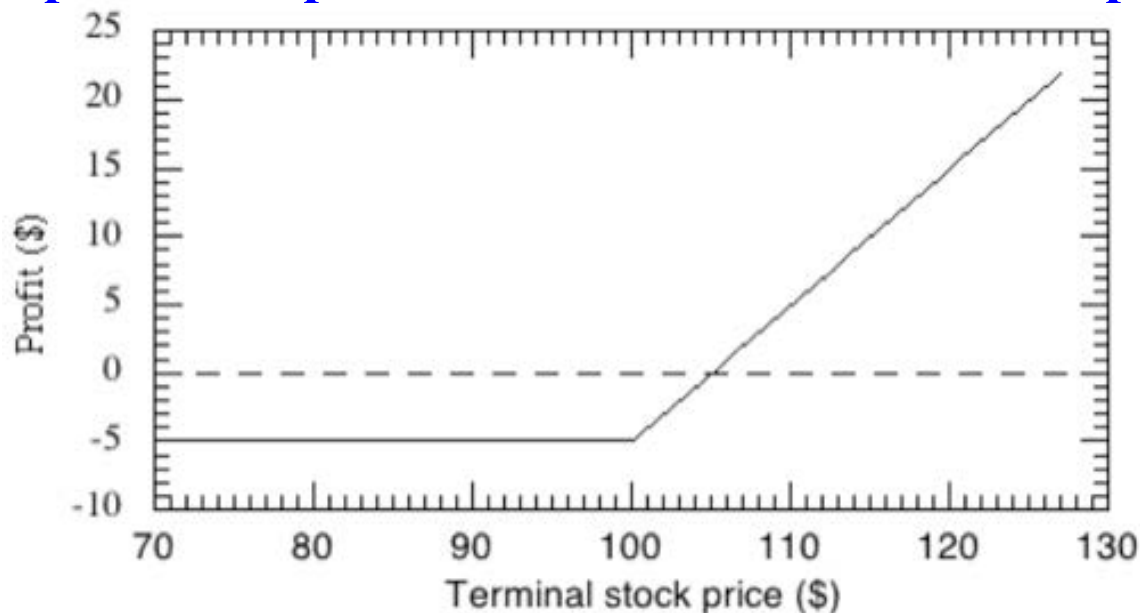


# Fate of a Thousand Investors



# Option Price

- A (European) **call option** gives its holder the right to buy the underlying asset at a certain date (**expiration date**) for a certain price (**strike price**)
- **Example:** European call option on IBM stock with a strike price of \$100 bought at \$5



- Assumptions in Black-Scholes analysis of the price of an option:
  - 1) The underlying stock price follows the geometric diffusive equation
  - 2) In a competitive market, there are no risk-less arbitrage opportunities (buying/selling portfolios of financial assets in such a way as to make a profit in a risk-free manner)
  - 3) The risk-free rate of interest,  $r$ , is constant & the same for all risk-free investments

# Ito's Lemma

$$dS = \mu S dt + \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt}$$

- For option price  $f$  contingent on  $S$

$$df = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \mu S + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} \sigma^2 S^2 \right) dt + \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt}$$

$$f(S + dS, t + dt) - f(S, t)$$

$$= \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} dt + \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} dS + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} (dS)^2 + \dots$$

$$= \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} dt + \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} (\mu S dt + \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt}) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} (\mu S dt + \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt})^2 + \dots$$

$$= \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} dt + \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} (\mu S dt + \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt}) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} (\mu^2 S^2 dt^2 + 2\mu\sigma S^2 \varepsilon dt \sqrt{dt} + \sigma^2 S^2 \varepsilon^2 dt) + \dots$$

$$= \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \sigma S \varepsilon \right) (dt)^{1/2} + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \mu S + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} \sigma^2 S^2 \varepsilon^2 \right) dt + O((dt)^{3/2})$$

$$= \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \sigma S \varepsilon \right) (dt)^{1/2} + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \mu S + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} \sigma^2 S^2 \langle \varepsilon^2 \rangle \right) dt + O((dt)^{3/2})$$

$$= \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \sigma S \varepsilon \right) (dt)^{1/2} + \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \mu S + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} \sigma^2 S^2 \right) dt + O((dt)^{3/2})$$



# First Gauss Prize

The International Mathematical Union (IMU) and the Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung (DMV) jointly award the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize for Applications of Mathematics to **Professor Dr. Kiyoshi Itô**



for laying the foundations of the Theory of Stochastic Differential Equations and Stochastic Analysis. Itô's work has emerged as one of the major mathematical innovations of the 20th century and has found a wide range of applications outside of mathematics. Itô calculus has become a key tool in areas such as engineering (e.g., filtering, stability, and control in the presence of noise), physics (e.g., turbulence and conformal field theory), and biology (e.g., population dynamics). It is at present of particular importance in economics and finance with option pricing as a prime example.



Martin  
Grötschel

Madrid, August 22, 2006

Sir John Ball  
President of IMU

$$dS = \mu S dt + \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt}$$

Günter M. Ziegler  
President of DMV



# Black-Scholes Analysis

- Construct a risk-free portfolio:  $\Pi = -f + \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} S$

$$\begin{aligned} d\Pi &= -df + \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} dS \\ &= -\left(\cancel{\frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \mu S} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} \sigma^2 S^2\right) dt - \cancel{\frac{\partial f}{\partial S} \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt}} + \cancel{\frac{\partial f}{\partial S} (\mu S dt + \sigma S \varepsilon \sqrt{dt})} \\ &= -\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} \sigma^2 S^2\right) dt \end{aligned}$$

- From assumption, the growth rate of any risk-free portfolio is  $r$

$$d\Pi = -\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} \sigma^2 S^2\right) dt = r\Pi dt = r\left(f - \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} S\right) dt$$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + r \frac{\partial f}{\partial S} S + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial S^2} \sigma^2 S^2 = rf$$