

Hoeffding inequality for 2d random walk

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In the plane, consider the sum of n 2-dimensional vectors. Let θ_i be a phase chosen uniformly at random from $[0, 2\pi)$, and let $r_i = 1 \forall i$. The position of the random walk after n steps will be:

$$z = \sum_{j=1}^n e^{i\theta_j} \quad (0.0.1)$$

The absolute value of this distance is:

$$\begin{aligned} |z|^2 &= \sum_k^n e^{i\theta_k} \sum_{j=1}^n e^{-i\theta_j} \\ &= N + \sum_{j,k=1, j \neq k}^n e^{i(\theta_k - \theta_j)} \end{aligned}$$

note that the successive differences $|z_{j=1} - z_j| \leq 1$ a.s. as the most the walk can differ by is 1. Then we can apply Hoeffding's inequality:

$$\mathbb{P}(|X_n - X_0| \geq t) \leq \exp - \frac{t^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^n c_i} \quad (0.0.2)$$

where X_i is a martingale and $|X_{k+1} - X_k| \leq c_k \forall k$. So we have:

$$\mathbb{P}(|z_n|^2 \geq t) \leq \exp - \frac{t^2}{2n} \quad (0.0.3)$$

by defining the martingale $X_n = |z_n|^2$