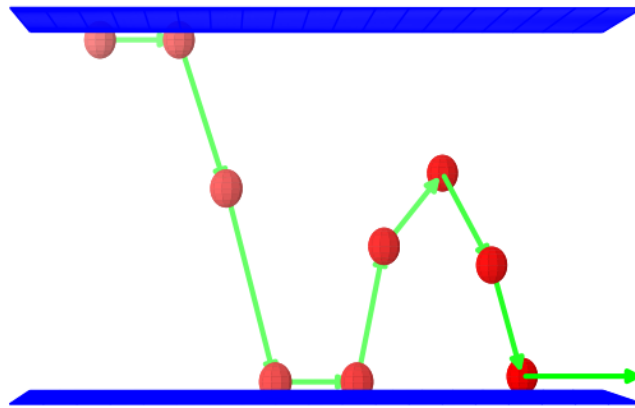


# Proton Dynamics in Cavities

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October 27, 2014



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# 1 Introduction

Recent research on low-frequency ionic currents in nanocavities show fluctuations with  $1/f$ -power spectrums which is also known as pinknoise<sup>1</sup>. Smeets et al. made the hypothesis of a link between low-frequency noise and surface charge fluctuations<sup>2</sup>. The assumption in the **absorption-desorption**-model is that charge carriers such as protons can adsorb on surfaces and therefore change the surface's potential. In this thesis, a **Langevin-Simulation** for a proton combined with the absorption-desorption-model is used to demonstrate the probable origin of the widely observed  $1/f$ -fluctuations of ionic-currents.

Investigations of the cause of the ionic-current fluctuations could bring hints to extract physical, chemical or even geometrical information concerning the system, they are part of current investigations. Just now some of these fluctuations are the topic of current research<sup>3</sup>.

The title image shows one visualized particle on a random walk between two plates in 2-d for different times. The time increases from left to right.

The simulations continues previous analytic calculations by ROLAND NETZ which obtain correlation functions of the absorption-desorption-state for infinite cylindrical and infinite planar geometries<sup>4</sup>. To determine the correctness of the Langevin-Simulation it is tested for these limiting cases as well as simple simulations for a free particle.

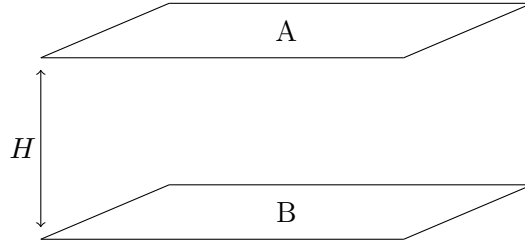


Figure 1: Schematic structure of the system

## 1.1 Analytic calculations

The analytic calculations are mostly inherited from [3] and [2]. To understand the used properties in the simulation later on, the key principles should be explained briefly.

Considered should be  $N$  charges carriers such as ions or protons. For every particle  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$  the binary function  $n_j^i(t)$  should stand for the absorption state of the

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<sup>1</sup>[6] Simon Gravelle and Bocquet “Pink noise of ionic current, theory and modelisation” 2014

<sup>2</sup>[5] R M M Smeets and Dekker “Noise in solid-state nanopores.” 2008

<sup>3</sup>[paper2] paper2 paper2 paper2

<sup>4</sup>[3] Netz and Bocquet “Conductivity Fluctuations in Cylindrical Pores” 2014

particle on the surface  $j$ .  $n_A^i(t) = 1$  if the particle is adsorbed on Plate  $A$  and  $n_A^i(t) = 0$  if it is not.

Of course the number of particles adsorbed on plate  $A$  is given by:

$$N_A(t) = \sum_{i=1}^N n_A^i(t) \quad (1)$$

Since experimental investigation measure fluctuations in the potential of nano-structures, especially the auto-correlation function of  $N_A(t)$ , is of essential importance.

$$\langle N_A(0)N_A(t) \rangle = \sum_{i,j=1}^N \langle n_A^i(0)n_A^j(t) \rangle \quad (2)$$

$$= \sum_{i \neq j}^N \langle n_A^i(0)n_A^j(t) \rangle + \sum_{i=1}^N \langle n_A^i(0)n_A^i(t) \rangle \quad (3)$$

The particles are usually uncorrelated among each other

$$\langle n_A^i(0)n_A^j(t) \rangle = \langle n_A(0) \rangle \langle n_A(t) \rangle \quad (4)$$

so let the expectation value of the absorption state for an single particle be:

$$\langle n_A^i(t) \rangle = \langle n_A^i(0) \rangle = p_A \quad (5)$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle N_A(0)N_A(t) \rangle = N(N-1)p_A^2 + N\langle n_A(0)n_A(t) \rangle \quad (6)$$

The only non-trivial quantity to calculate can be defined via the single-ion correlation function  $C_{AA}(t)$  which is the probability that a particle is adsorbed at time  $t$  given it is adsorbed at time  $t = 0$ .

$$C_{AA}(t) = \langle n_A(0)n_A(t) \rangle / \langle n_A(0) \rangle \quad (7)$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle N_A(0)N_A(t) \rangle = N^2 p_A^2 + N p_A C_{AA}(t) - N p_A^2 \quad (8)$$

### 1.1.1 Constructing the single-ion correlation function for a single surface

For a single surface  $A$ , one particle that is adsorbed at time  $t = 0$  can basically keep adsorbed until time  $t$  or desorb  $n$ -times before it is adsorbed again, if it should be adsorbed at time  $t$ .

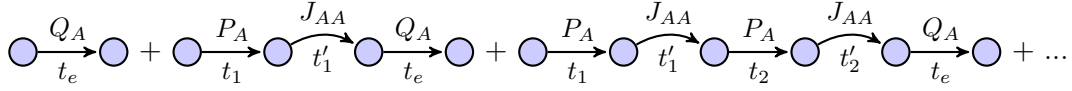


Figure 2: Illustrated construction of  $C_{AA}(t)$

As illustrated in the figure above  $C_{AA}(t)$  as the sum of different paths. The distribution  $P(t)$  is the Probability for an adsorbed ion to desorb at time  $t$  for the first time.  $Q_A(t)$  is the survival distribution for an ion to be adsorbed on the surface  $A$  over the time span  $t = 0$  to  $t$ . Note that this equals the probability that ion desorbes at some time  $> t$ . It is given by:

$$Q_A(t) = \int_t^\infty P(t') dt' \quad (9)$$

$J_{AA}(t)$  is the probability for an ion to desorb at time  $t = 0$  and to return to the surface  $A$  at time  $t$ .

The probability that a particle is adsorbed at time  $t$  given it is adsorbed at time  $t = 0$  is the sum over the probabilities of all ways on which a particle is adsorbed at time  $t = 0$  and on time  $t$ . The probability of one way on the other hand is the product of the probabilities of its parts  $Q_A$ ,  $P_A$ , and  $J_{AA}$ .

Generally all that stages in  $C_{AA}(t)$  of particles could have every time  $< t$ . Therefore it is necessary to vary all these times.

The construct of  $C_{AA}$  below sums up all variations illustrated in *Figure 2* with general times  $t_e$  for  $Q(t)$ ,  $t_j$  for  $P_A(t)$  and  $t'_j$  for  $J_{AA}(t)$ . In order to obtain the probability at time  $t$  the **Dirac-Delta-Function** picks out variants with  $\sum_j(t_j + t'_j) + t_e = t$ .

$$C_{AA}(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \int_0^\infty dt_e Q_A(t_e) \prod_{j=1}^i \left[ \int_0^\infty dt_j P_A(t_j) \int_0^\infty dt'_j J_{AA}(t'_j) \right] \delta \left( \sum_{k=1}^i (t_k + t'_k) + t_e - t \right) \right\} \quad (10)$$

This construct itself is very though to analyze. But there is common trick to derive the **Laplace-transform**  $\tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega)$  of  $C_{AA}(t)$ .

$$\tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\omega t'} \cdot C_{AA}(t') dt' \quad (11)$$

Remember that the integrand in *Equation 10* has only non-zero values for  $\sum_j(t_j + t'_j) + t_e = t$ . Therefore it is possible to split the  $e^{-\omega t'}$ -term.

$$e^{-\omega t'} = e^{-\omega t_e} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^i e^{-\omega t_j} \cdot e^{-\omega t'_j} \quad (12)$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \int_0^{\infty} dt_e e^{-\omega t_e} Q_A(t_e) \prod_{j=1}^i \left[ \int_0^{\infty} dt_j e^{-\omega t_j} P_A(t_j) \int_0^{\infty} dt'_j e^{-\omega t'_j} J_{AA}(t'_j) \right] \right. \\ \left. \delta \left( \sum_{k=1}^i (t_k + t'_k) + t_e - t \right) \right\} \quad (13)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \tilde{Q}_A(\omega) \prod_{j=1}^i [\tilde{P}_A(\omega) \cdot \tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega)] \right\} \quad (14)$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \tilde{Q}_A(\omega) [\tilde{P}_A(\omega) \cdot \tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega)]^i \quad (15)$$

With the formula for geometric series

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} q^i = \frac{1 - q^n}{1 - q} \quad (16)$$

this becomes the following expression:

$$\tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega) = \frac{\tilde{Q}_A(\omega)}{1 - \tilde{P}_A(\omega) \cdot \tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega)} \quad (17)$$

### 1.1.2 Constructing the single-ion correlation function for two surfaces

The calculation of  $\tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega)$  for one surface should give a general idea how the laplace-transform of The correlation functions look like.

For instance  $\overline{C}_{AA}(\omega)$ ,  $\overline{C}_{BB}(\omega)$  which omit the  $\tilde{Q}_{A/B}(\omega)$  terms, represent ways where the particle is adsorbed at time  $t = 0$  and exactly adsorbs at time  $t$ .

$$\overline{C}_{AA}(\omega) = \frac{1}{1 - \tilde{P}_A(\omega) \cdot \tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega)} \quad (18)$$

$$\overline{C}_{BB}(\omega) = \frac{1}{1 - \tilde{P}_B(\omega) \cdot \tilde{J}_{BB}(\omega)} \quad (19)$$

Parts which are performed one time are in the nominator, parts which are performed  $n$ -times are in the denominator. Parts which are performed equal times can be just multiplied in the laplace-transform.

$\tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega)$  can be constructed as:

$$\tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega) = \frac{\bar{C}_{AA}(\omega) \tilde{Q}_A(\omega)}{1 - \bar{C}_{AA}(\omega) \tilde{P}_A(\omega) \tilde{J}_{AB}(\omega) \bar{C}_{BB}(\omega) \tilde{P}_B(\omega) \tilde{J}_{BA}(\omega)} \quad (20)$$

$$= \frac{\tilde{Q}_A(\omega) \left(1 - \tilde{P}_A(\omega) \tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega)\right)}{\left(1 - \tilde{P}_A(\omega) \tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega)\right) \left(1 - \tilde{P}_B(\omega) \tilde{J}_{BB}(\omega)\right) - \tilde{P}_A(\omega) \tilde{J}_{AB}(\omega) \tilde{P}_B(\omega) \tilde{J}_{BA}(\omega)} \quad (21)$$

$$\tilde{P}_A(\omega) = \frac{1}{1 + \tau_A \omega} \quad (22)$$

$$\tilde{P}_B(\omega) = \frac{1}{1 + \tau_B \omega} \quad (23)$$

$$\tilde{Q}_A(\omega) = \frac{\tau_A}{1 + \tau_A \omega} \quad (24)$$

$$\tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega) = \frac{\tilde{k}_A \left(1 - \tilde{k}_B + e^{2\tilde{H}}(1 + \tilde{k}_B)\right)}{e^{2\tilde{H}}(1 + \tilde{k}_B)(1 + \tilde{k}_A) - (1 - \tilde{k}_B)(1 - \tilde{k}_A)} \quad (25)$$

$$\tilde{J}_{AB}(\omega) = \frac{2e^{\tilde{H}}\tilde{k}_A}{e^{2\tilde{H}}(1 + \tilde{k}_B)(1 + \tilde{k}_A) - (1 - \tilde{k}_B)(1 - \tilde{k}_A)} \quad (26)$$

$$\tilde{J}_{BB}(\omega) = \frac{\tilde{k}_B \left(1 - \tilde{k}_A + e^{2\tilde{H}}(1 + \tilde{k}_A)\right)}{e^{2\tilde{H}}(1 + \tilde{k}_A)(1 + \tilde{k}_B) - (1 - \tilde{k}_A)(1 - \tilde{k}_B)} \quad (27)$$

### 1.1.3 Limiting case

The limiting case for  $k_A = k_B = k \rightarrow \infty$  is of special interest. This case descriptively means that an ion adsorbs in every time if it reaches the boundary condition. To simplify the situation even more, the desorption probability on both surfaces should be the same  $\tau_A = \tau_B = \tau$ .

$$\tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega) = \frac{\tilde{k}^2 \left(e^{2\tilde{H}} - 1\right) + \tilde{k}(\dots)}{\tilde{k}^2 \left(e^{2\tilde{H}} - 1\right) + \tilde{k}(\dots) + (\dots)} \rightarrow 1 \quad (28)$$

$$\tilde{J}_{AB}(\omega) = \frac{\tilde{k}(\dots) + (\dots)}{\tilde{k}^2(\dots) + \tilde{k}(\dots) + (\dots)} \rightarrow 0 \quad (29)$$

$$(30)$$

If the limits of factors exist, the limit of products is the product of the limits. Therefore the limits of  $\tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega)/\tilde{J}_{AB}(\omega)$  can be used in *Equation 21*:

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega) = \frac{\tilde{Q}_A(\omega) \left(1 - \tilde{P}_A(\omega) \tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega)\right)}{\left(1 - \tilde{P}_A(\omega) \tilde{J}_{AA}(\omega)\right) \left(1 - \tilde{P}_B(\omega) \tilde{J}_{BB}(\omega)\right) - 0(\dots)} \quad (31)$$

$$= \frac{\tilde{Q}_A(\omega)}{\left(1 - \tilde{P}_B(\omega) \tilde{J}_{BB}(\omega)\right)} \quad (32)$$

$$= \frac{\frac{\tau}{1+\tau\omega}}{1 - \frac{1}{1+\tau\omega}} = \frac{\tau}{1 + \tau\omega - 1} \quad (33)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\omega} \quad (34)$$



## 1.2 Brownian Dynamics

The motion of a particle such as a proton in a fluid is primarily caused by collisions with other particles. This motion firstly was described by ROBERT BROWN who observed the motion of minute particles of pollen in water and is widely known as **brownian motion**.

### 1.2.1 Langevin Equation

The principle of a Langevin simulation generally is to consider collisions with other particles as a random force. And propagate the position of a particle over small time steps  $\delta t$ .

### 1.2.2 Physical background

Although ions and especially protons, which should be described in the simulation, are not necessarily smaller than the fluid molecules which is the reason why the diffusion constant does not fulfill EINSTEIN'S formula<sup>5</sup>, the general assumption that the motion is caused by random strokes is fulfilled for smaller particles as well. In this document a **Langevin-Simulation** of a particle is used to determine correlations of the adsorption-desorption processes, which can be indirectly measured as conductivity and potential.

An approach to describe situations with brownian motion was suggested by PAUL LANGEVIN who added the random force  $\mathbf{Z}(t)$  in newton's equation of motion. This stochastic term represents the collision driven force. His equation, the Langevin equation reads:

$$m\ddot{\mathbf{r}} = -\lambda\dot{\mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{Z}(t) \quad (35)$$

where  $m$  is the mass of the particle,  $\mathbf{r}$  the position of the particle and  $\lambda$  The friction constant.

Brownian dynamics can be represented with the so called **overdamped langevin equation** where the  $m\ddot{\mathbf{r}}$  term is neglected. The equation for the prevailing situation therefore is:

$$\lambda\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{Z}(t) \quad (36)$$

In order to get an iterable expression this expression is discretized in time intervals  $\Delta t$ :

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<sup>5</sup>[4] "Notes on Brownian Motion" 2011

$$\int_t^{t+\delta t} \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t') dt' = \int_t^{t+\Delta t} \frac{\mathbf{Z}(t')}{\lambda} dt' \quad (37)$$

$$\mathbf{r}(t + \delta t) - \mathbf{r}(t) = \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_t^{t+\Delta t} \mathbf{Z}(t') dt' \quad (38)$$

$$\mathbf{r}(t + \delta t) - \mathbf{r}(t) \cong \boldsymbol{\zeta}(t, \varepsilon) \quad (39)$$

In the discussed 1-dimensional case  $\varepsilon$  is the mean step size and  $\boldsymbol{\zeta}(t, \varepsilon)$  is one random vector. For a simple random walk with unique step size this will be  $\varepsilon$  or  $-\varepsilon$  with a chance of 50% each. For a gaussian random walk this will be some value  $s$  with a probability:

$$P(s) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-s^2/2\varepsilon^2} \quad (40)$$

The position of a particle at time  $t + \Delta t$  can easily derived from its position at time  $t$ .

$$\mathbf{r}(t + \delta t) = \mathbf{r}(t) + \boldsymbol{\zeta}(t, \varepsilon) \quad (41)$$

### 1.2.3 Connection to diffusion

The probability density function for both mentioned types of **random walks** fulfill the diffusion equation (*Note:  $n = t/\delta t$* ):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho(x, t) = D \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \rho(x, t) \quad (\text{Calculation In Annex}) \quad (42)$$

$$\text{with } D = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2\delta t} \quad (43)$$

What means that a random walk can also be seen as a diffusion process. The exact form of the probability density functions is discussed below.

### 1.2.4 Fixed step size

The motion which is performed in the langevin simulation is widely known as a **random walk**. The simplest variant is as mentioned before to choose  $\varepsilon$  or  $-\varepsilon$  with a chance of 50% each. The probability  $p(x, n)$  that a random walk with discrete steps of length  $\varepsilon$  comes to a position  $x$  after  $n$  steps. Is given by:

$$p(x, n) = \frac{\text{Number of ways to position } x}{\text{Total number of ways}} = \frac{N_x}{N} \quad (44)$$

Since there are 2 possible successors for every position the total number of ways doubles every step.

$$N = 2^n \quad (45)$$

The number of ways to the position  $x$  after  $n$  steps can be obtained by **Pascal's triangle**.

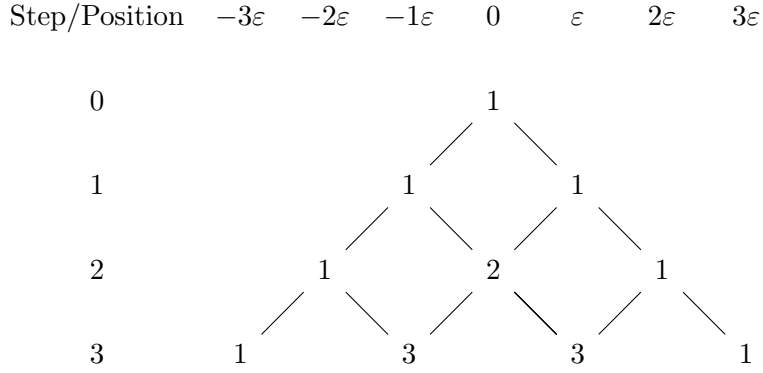


Figure 3: Number of ways to different distances

$$N_x = \binom{n}{k} \quad (46)$$

$$\text{with } k = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x}{\varepsilon} + n \right) \quad (47)$$

Therefore  $p(x, n)$  follows as:

$$p(x, n) = \binom{n}{k} \cdot 2^{-n} \quad (48)$$

A consequence of the **de Moivre–Laplace theorem** is that for large numbers of steps ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ ) this expression can be approximated with the following gaussian curve:

$$p(x, n) \cong \sqrt{\frac{2}{n\pi}} e^{-x^2/2\varepsilon^2 n} \quad (\text{Calculation In Annex}) \quad (49)$$

The probability function  $p(x, n)$  has valid values only for values

$$x \in \{x \mid x = z \cdot 2\varepsilon + \varepsilon (n \bmod 2), z \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge |x| \leq n\varepsilon\} \quad (50)$$

For other values  $x$  the probability is 0. This means that there is only one value per  $2\varepsilon$  interval, therefore the probability density function  $\rho(x, n)$  is:

$$\rho(x, n) = \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} p(x, n) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi n}} e^{-x^2/2\varepsilon^2 n} \quad (51)$$

Which is the normal distribution with  $\mu = 0$ ;  $\sigma = \varepsilon\sqrt{n}$ .

### 1.2.5 Gaussian random walk

The probability density function for a gaussian random walk with mean step size  $\varepsilon$  has exactly the same form as the for fixed step size  $\varepsilon$ .

$$\rho(x, n) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi n}} e^{-x^2/2\varepsilon^2 n} \quad (52)$$

This can easily be shown with a mathematical induction for  $p(x, n)$ . Note that because every position is possible the probability

$$p(x, n) = 0 \quad (53)$$

because that means that the number of possible positions is infinite.

**Base case** ( $n = 1$ ):

$$\rho(x, 1) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2\varepsilon^2} \quad (54)$$

Which is exactly the expression of a gaussian distributed 1-dimensional random vector with  $\varepsilon$  variance. ✓

**Inductive step** ( $n + 1$ ):

$$\rho(x, n + 1) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2n\pi}} e^{-x'^2/2n\varepsilon^2} \cdot \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x - x')^2/2\varepsilon^2} dx' \quad (55)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2(n + 1)\pi}} e^{-x^2/2(n + 1)\varepsilon^2} \quad (\text{Calculation In Annex}) \quad (56)$$

and since the calculated  $\rho(x, n + 1)$  is the same as  $\rho(x, n)$  in *Equation 52* the expression is proofed. ✓

### 1.3 Mean square distance

Obviously the expectation value for  $x$  after  $n$  steps  $\langle x_n \rangle = 0$ . What can be derived from:

$$\langle x_n \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot \rho(x, t) dx = 0 \quad (57)$$

But the **Mean Square Distance**  $\langle x_n^2 \rangle$  (MSD) fulfills the following expression:

$$\langle x_n^2 \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \rho(x, t) dx = 2Dt \quad (\text{Calculation In Annex}) \quad (58)$$

## 2 Investigations

### 2.1 Simple random walk vs. Gaussian random walk

For all relevant simulations a gaussian random walk was used. Even if the distribution becomes equivalent for large numbers of steps the gauss distribution represents a much more natural motion of the particle. Moreover much smaller step sizes what means more steps in the simulation are necessary to allow small motions of the particle. And since performance of the simulation is not an issue the gaussian random walk is just superior the simple random walk. Below figures show example random walks between two plates at  $x = \pm 1$ .

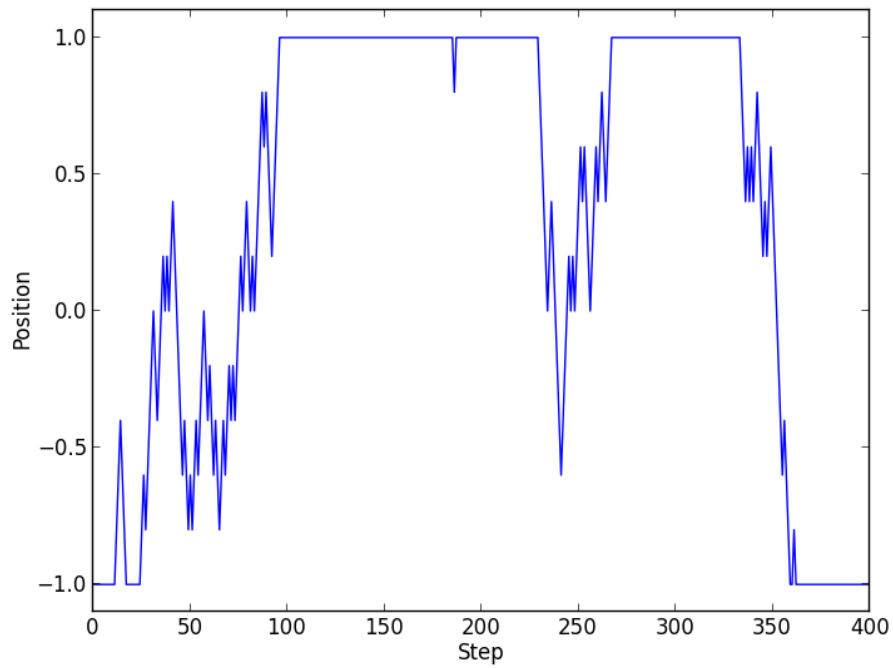


Figure 4: Position of a particle on a simple random walk

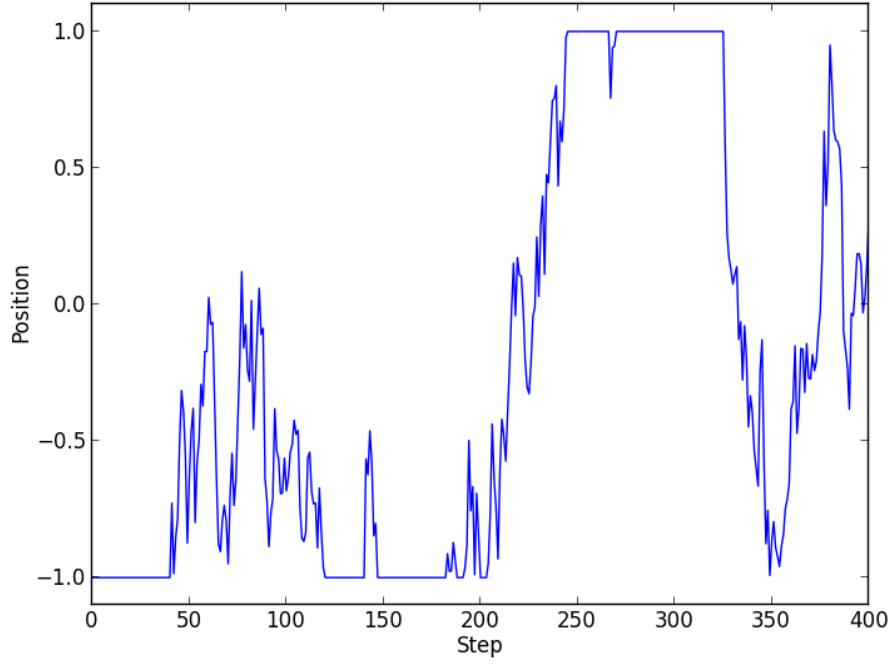


Figure 5: Position of a particle on a gaussian random walk

## 2.2 Tests of the simulation

A very simple test is to check if the simulation of a particle without any barriers has a linear growing MSD in time steps. *Figure 6* shows the average squared distance  $x_n^2$  for different numbers of runs compared to the analytic expression. The parameters were:

Parameter	Value
$D$	0.1
$\delta t$	20
$x(n=0)$	0
$n_{\max}$	400

Note that  $\varepsilon$  is determined by *Equation 43*.

The expectation is that for large numbers of runs the mean square converges against the following analytic expression derived from *Equation 58*:

$$\langle x_n^2 \rangle(t) = 2Dt \quad (59)$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle x_n^2 \rangle(n) = 2D\delta t \cdot n \quad (60)$$

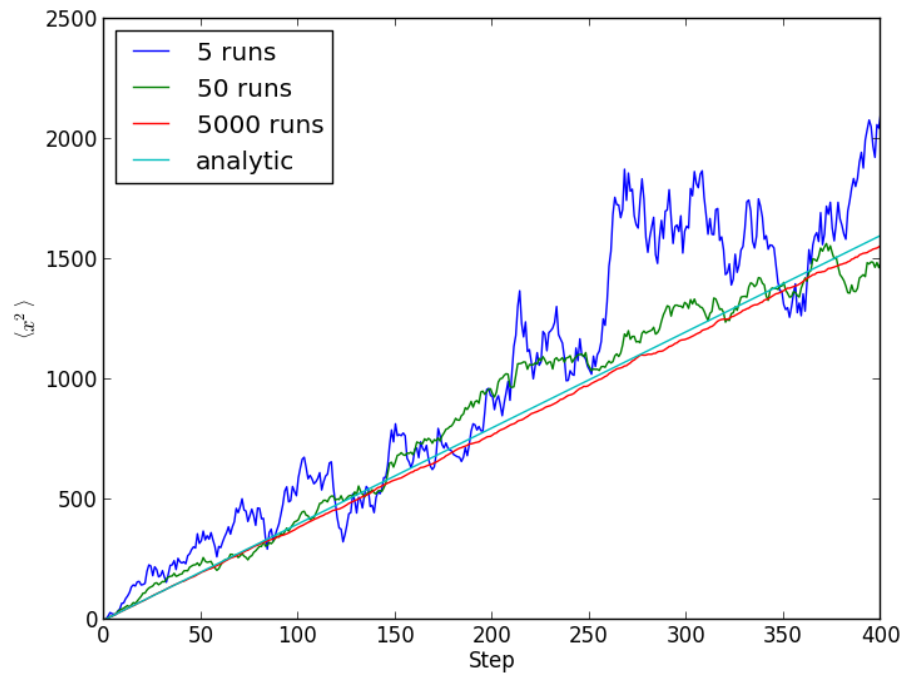


Figure 6: MSD over time for different numbers of runs



### 2.2.1 Infinite plates

The system which is simulated consists of two infinite plates A and B with distance  $H$ . Between the two plates is some fluid which surrounds the simulated ion. The ion adsorbs at the surface of the two plates with the probability  $p$  and desorbs with an exponential decaying probability  $P(t)$  given by:

$$P(t) = \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-t/\tau} \quad (61)$$

### 2.2.2 Probability density

The probability density for two infinite plates where the particle can adsorb looks for  $t \rightarrow \infty$  is shown in the figure below. The plates are again at  $x = \pm 1$ .

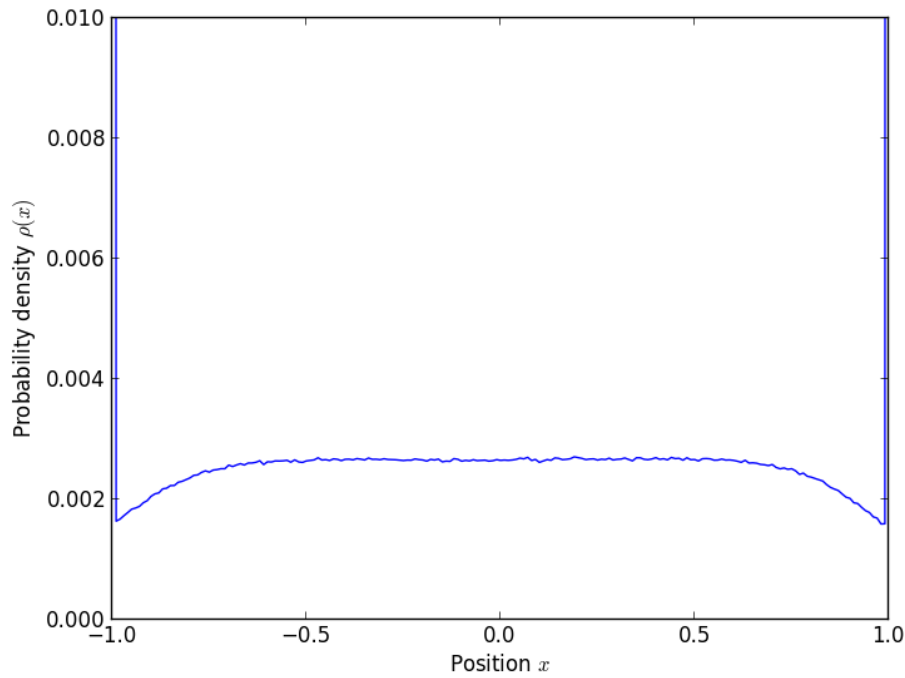


Figure 7: Probability density for two plates

The exception for a reflecting plate would be a constant probability density function. The given probability density function shows some important differences which may be due to the implementation of the surface reaction boundary condition.

It was implemented that the particle adsorbs when it crosses one plate with the probability  $p$  which was chosen as 0.3 here. If the particle adsorbs it keeps adsorbed for an exponential distributed time as *Equation 61*. After the time the particle keeps adsorbed the langevin simulation continues from the point on the plate. If the first step goes through the plate again the particle adsorbs again in the next step.

This directly implies that there will be significant probability that the particle is at the position of a plate what causes the very high values at  $x = \pm 1$ . On the other hand the probability that the particle is next to a plate but not adsorbed is significant smaller than that it is somewhere else between the plates. This may due to the implementation of the boundary condition as well because all movements that would crosses a plate end up on the position of the plate here. So ways that would include a reflection process at the boundaries drop out for adsorbing plates.

### 2.2.3 Correlation functions

For a geometry with two plates there is a an analytic expression for the Correlation functions  $C_{AA}(t)$  and  $C_{AB}(t)$  which represent the probability for an ion to be adsorbed at time  $t$  on plate A/B given that it is adsorbed on plate A at time  $t = 0$ .

These correlation functions can easily be obtained from the langevin simulation by noting if and where the particle is adsorbed over the time.

Afterwards the values of the correlation function  $C_{AA}(t)$  can be calculated as the number of time intervals with length  $t$  where the ion is adsorbed on plate A at the beginning and at the end over the total number of intervals.

Similarly the values of the correlation function  $C_{AB}(t)$  can be calculated as the number of time intervals with length  $t$  where the ion is adsorbed on plate A at the beginning and on plate B at the end over the total number of intervals.

The correlation functions were obtained out of 1 simulation. For all correlation functions the values of the correlation function  $C(t)$  for different times  $t$  were calculated as:

$$C_{ij}(t) = \frac{\int_0^{t_{max}-t} S_i(t') \cdot S_j(t' + t) dt'}{\int_0^{t_{max}-t} S_i(t') dt'} \quad (62)$$

Where  $S_{i/j}(t) = 1$  if the particle has the state of interest at the beginning/end of an interval and  $S_{i/j}(t) = 0$  otherwise.

### 2.2.4 Parameters of the simulation

The run for the comparison was performed with the following parameters:

Parameter	Value
$D$	0.1
$\delta t$	0.1
$\tau$	1.0
$p$	1.0
$H$	1.0

where  $D$  the diffusion constant,  $\delta t$  the step size,  $\tau$  the exponential decay constant for the desorption probability,  $p$  the probability that a particle at the boundary adsorbs and  $s$  is the plate distance. The start position for this langevin-simulation is not relevant for the correlation functions.

### 2.2.5 Interpretation

Also the behavior of the correlation functions in *Figure 8* is easily explainable. Obviously  $C_{AA}(t)$  starts from 1 because after its definition it is definitely adsorbed at time  $t = 0$  on Plate  $A$ .  $C_{AB}(t)$  and  $C_{AD}(t)$  start from 0 because if a particle is adsorbed on plate  $A$  it is neither possible that it is adsorbed on plate  $B$  nor it is desorbed. For  $t \rightarrow \infty$  the adsorbed-desorption-state won't depend on the state at time  $t = 0$  therefore the correlation functions  $C_{AA}(t)$  and  $C_{AB}(t)$  become stationary on some finite probability. Also the relation  $C_{AD}(t) = 1 - C_{AA}(t) - C_{AB}(t)$  is fulfilled what implies that  $C_{AD}(t)$  becomes stationary for  $t \rightarrow \infty$  as well.

### 2.2.6 Comparison

In order to compare these correlation functions with its analytic equivalents they need to be Laplace transformed. To obtain easy expressions for the Laplace transformed functions they are fitted with the functions of the following type:

$$C(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n c_i \cdot e^{b_i \cdot t} \quad (63)$$

To determine the constants  $c_i$  and  $b_i$  the `scipy.optimize.curve_fit` in Python was used which uses non-linear least squares to fit a function<sup>6</sup>. For  $C_{AA}$  4 terms of the and for  $C_{AB}$  2 terms of *Equation 63* function were used.

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<sup>6</sup>[1] Doc: `scipy.optimize.curve_fit` 2014

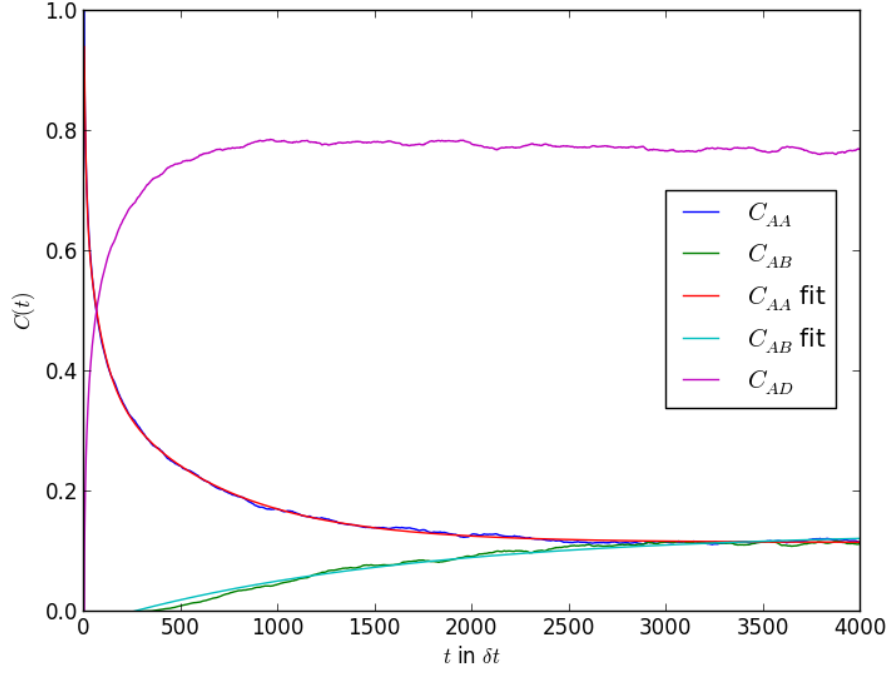


Figure 8: Correlation Functions and its fits

For the simple exponential expression in *Equation 63* the Laplace transformed can be obtained via:

$$F(t) = c_i \cdot e^{b_i \cdot t} \quad (64)$$

$$\tilde{F}(\omega) = \int_0^\infty c_i \cdot e^{b_i \cdot x} \cdot e^{-\omega \cdot t} dt \quad (65)$$

$$= \frac{c_i}{\omega - b_i} \quad (\text{only for } b_i > \omega) \quad (66)$$

The Laplace transform correlation functions follow as:

$$\tilde{C}(\omega) = \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{c_i}{\omega - b_i} \quad (67)$$

To get an idea of the accuracy of the Laplace transform of the fitted correlation functions also the error of the determined parameters  $c_i$  and  $b_i$  should be considered here.

$$\Delta \tilde{C}(\omega) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=0}^n \left( \frac{\Delta c_i}{c_i} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\Delta b_i}{(\omega - b_i)^2} \right)^2} \cdot \tilde{C}(\omega) \quad (68)$$

The comparison between that and the analytic result for  $\tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega)$  is shown on the log-log-plot below. The analytic laplace transform correlation function is given by *Equation 34*:

$$\Delta\tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega) = \frac{1}{\omega} \quad (69)$$

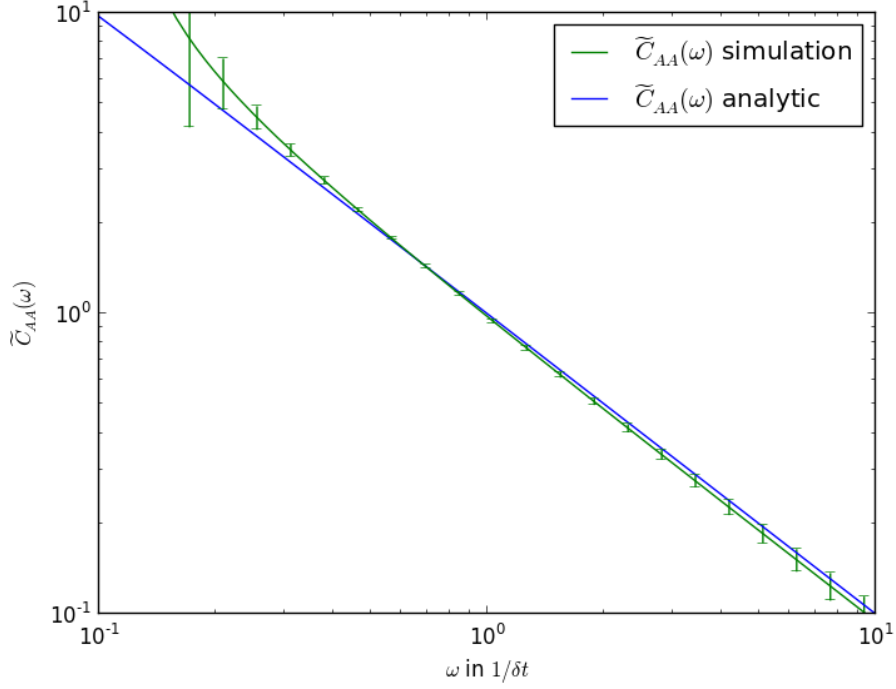


Figure 9: Comparison of the laplace transform correlation function  $\tilde{C}_{AA}(\omega)$

The errorbars in the figure above are obtained from the variance of the fitting parameters  $c_i$  and  $b_i$  which are defined for every time  $t$  so there generally has to be an error bar for every time  $t$ . The ones which are considered here, stand only exemplary for these other errorbars. The positions of the errorbars is just chosen to get a nice plot they are not the only data points.

The figure above makes clear that in the uncertainty of the fitting curve the results are identical. Note that for  $\omega \rightarrow b_i$  The fitting function is not properly defined (See *Equation 66*). That means that the divergence at these values may only be caused by the fitting method.

### 2.3 Finite plates

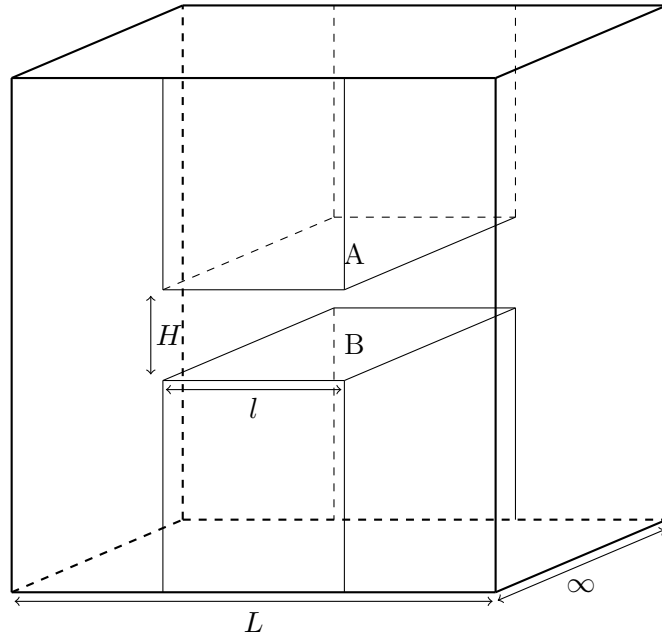


Figure 10: Schematic structure of the finite plate system

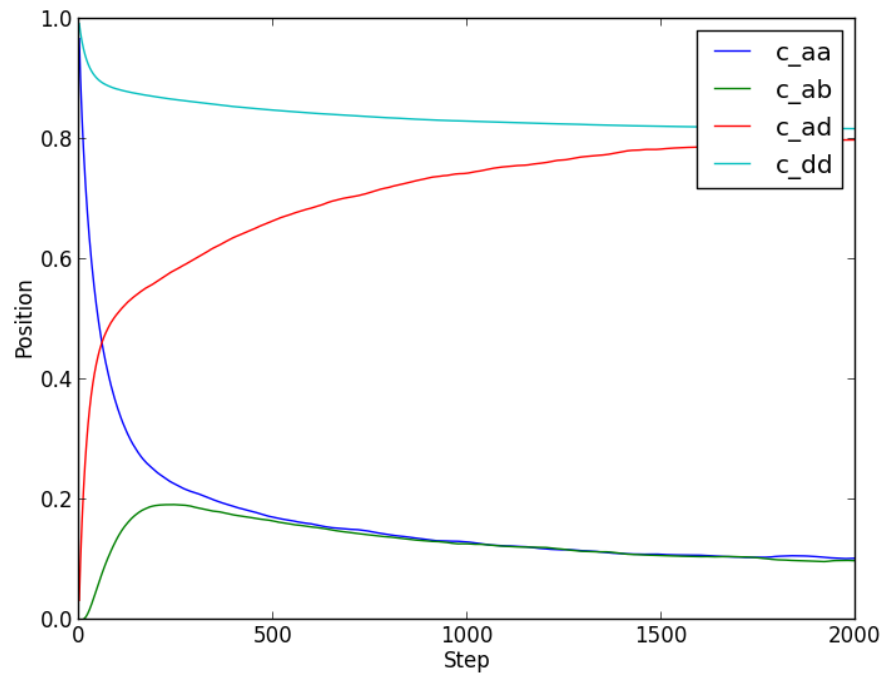


Figure 11: Correlation functions for a finite plate system

### 3 Conclusion



## 4 Annex

Equation 42

$$\rho(x, t) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon \sqrt{2\pi t / \delta t}} e^{-\frac{x^2 \delta t}{2\varepsilon^2 t}} \quad (70)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho(x, t) = -\frac{1}{2t} \rho(x, t) + \frac{x^2 \delta t}{\varepsilon^2 t^2} \rho(x, t) \quad (71)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x^2 \delta t}{\varepsilon^2 t^2} - \frac{1}{t} \right) \rho(x, t) \quad (72)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \rho(x, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( -\frac{x \delta t}{\varepsilon^2 t} \right) \rho(x, t) \quad (73)$$

$$= -\frac{\delta t}{\varepsilon^2 t} \rho(x, t) + \frac{x^2 \delta t^2}{\varepsilon^4 t^2} \rho(x, t) \quad (74)$$

$$= \frac{\delta t}{\varepsilon^2} \left( \frac{x^2 \delta t}{\varepsilon^2 t^2} - \frac{1}{t} \right) \rho(x, t) \quad (75)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho(x, t) = D \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \rho(x, t) \quad (76)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} = D \cdot \frac{\delta t}{\varepsilon^2} \quad (77)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow D = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2\delta t} \quad (78)$$

Equation 49

$$p(x, n) = \binom{n}{k} \cdot 2^{-n} \quad \text{with} \quad k = \frac{1}{2} \left( n + \frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) \quad (79)$$

$$= \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \cdot 2^{-n} \quad (80)$$

$$\text{with } n! \cong \sqrt{2\pi n} n^n e^{-n} \quad (\text{Stirling's formula})$$

$$\Rightarrow p(x, n) \cong \frac{\sqrt{2\pi n} n^n e^{-n}}{\sqrt{2\pi k} k^k e^{-k} \sqrt{2\pi(n-k)} (n-k)^{n-k} e^{k-n}} \cdot 2^{-n} \quad (81)$$

$$= \left( \frac{\sqrt{2\pi n}}{\sqrt{2\pi k} \sqrt{2\pi(n-k)}} \right) \underbrace{\left( \frac{e^{-n}}{e^{-k} e^{k-n}} \right)}_{=1} \left( \frac{n^n}{k^k (n-k)^{n-k}} \right) \cdot 2^{-n} \quad (82)$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{2n}{\pi(n+x/\varepsilon)(n-x/\varepsilon)}} \cdot \left( \frac{n}{2} \right)^k \cdot \left( \frac{n}{2} \right)^{n-k} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} (n+x/\varepsilon) \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}(n+x/\varepsilon)} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} (n-x/\varepsilon) \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}(n-x/\varepsilon)} \quad (83)$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{2n}{\pi(n^2 - (x/\varepsilon)^2)}} \cdot \left( \frac{n}{n+x/\varepsilon} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}(n+x/\varepsilon)} \cdot \left( \frac{n}{n-x/\varepsilon} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}(n-x/\varepsilon)} \quad (84)$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{2n}{\pi(n^2 - (x/\varepsilon)^2)}} \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{x}{\varepsilon n} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}(n+x/\varepsilon)} \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{x}{\varepsilon n} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}(n-x/\varepsilon)} \quad (85)$$

$$\text{use } x = e^{\ln(x)} \quad (86)$$

$$\Rightarrow p(x, n) \cong \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi n \left( 1 - \left( \frac{x/\varepsilon}{n} \right)^2 \right)}} \cdot \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{x/\varepsilon}{n} \right) \ln \left( 1 + \frac{x/\varepsilon}{n} \right) - \frac{1}{2} (n - x/\varepsilon) \ln \left( 1 - \frac{x/\varepsilon}{n} \right) \right\} \quad (87)$$

$$\text{for } n \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow 0 \quad \alpha := \frac{x/\varepsilon}{n} \quad (88)$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 - \alpha^2 \rightarrow 1 + \dots \quad (89)$$

$$\text{and } \ln(1 + \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha - \frac{1}{2}\alpha^2 + \dots \quad (90)$$

$$\Rightarrow p(x, n) \cong \sqrt{\frac{2}{n\pi}} \cdot \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2} \left[ (1 + \alpha) \left( \alpha - \frac{1}{2}\alpha^2 \right) + (1 - \alpha) \left( -\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\alpha^2 \right) \right] \right\} \quad (91)$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{2}{n\pi}} \cdot \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2} \left[ \alpha - \frac{1}{2}\alpha^2 + \alpha^2 - \alpha - \frac{1}{2}\alpha^2 + \alpha^2 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^3) \right] \right\} \quad (92)$$

$$\cong \sqrt{\frac{2}{n\pi}} \cdot \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2} [\alpha^2] \right\} \quad (93)$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{2}{n\pi}} \cdot e^{-x^2/2\varepsilon^2 n} \quad (94)$$

Equation 56

$$p(x, n+1) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2n\pi}} e^{-x'^2/2n\varepsilon^2} \cdot \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x-x')^2/2\varepsilon^2} dx' \quad (95)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2\sqrt{4\pi^2n}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{x'^2+x^2n-2xx'n+x'^2n}{2n\varepsilon^2}} dx' \quad (96)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2\sqrt{4\pi^2n}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(n+1)x'^2-2xx'n+x^2n^2/(n+1)+x^2n-x^2n^2/(n+1)}{2n\varepsilon^2}} dx' \quad (97)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2\sqrt{4\pi^2n}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(\sqrt{n+1}x-xn/\sqrt{n+1})^2}{2n\varepsilon^2}} \cdot e^{-\frac{x^2-x^2n/(n+1)}{2\varepsilon^2}} dx' \quad (98)$$

$$\text{let } \alpha = \frac{\sqrt{n+1}x' - xn/\sqrt{n+1}}{\sqrt{2n\varepsilon}} \Rightarrow d\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{n+1}{2n\varepsilon^2}} dx'$$

$$\begin{aligned} p(x, n+1) &= \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2\sqrt{4\pi^2n}} \sqrt{\frac{2n\varepsilon^2}{n+1}} \cdot e^{-\frac{(n+1)x^2-x^2n}{2(n+1)\varepsilon^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\alpha^2} d\alpha \\ &= \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2(n+1)\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{x^2}{2(n+1)\varepsilon^2}} \end{aligned}$$

Equation 58

$$\langle x_n^2 \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi n}} e^{-x^2/2\varepsilon^2n} dx \quad (99)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi n}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot e^{-x^2/2\varepsilon^2n} dx \quad (100)$$

$$\text{let } \alpha = \frac{x}{\sqrt{2\varepsilon^2n}} \Rightarrow dx = \sqrt{2\varepsilon^2n} d\alpha \quad (101)$$

$$\langle x_n^2 \rangle = \frac{\sqrt{2\varepsilon^2n}}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi n}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 2\varepsilon^2n\alpha^2 e^{-\alpha^2} d\alpha \quad (102)$$

$$= \frac{2\varepsilon^2n}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \alpha^2 e^{-\alpha^2} d\alpha \quad (103)$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon^2n}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \alpha \cdot 2\alpha e^{-\alpha^2} d\alpha \quad (104)$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon^2n}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( -\alpha e^{-\alpha^2} \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 1 \cdot (-e^{-\alpha^2}) d\alpha \right) \quad (105)$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon^2n}{\sqrt{\pi}} (0 + \sqrt{\pi}) \quad (106)$$

$$= \varepsilon^2n \quad (107)$$

$$= 2D\delta tn \quad (108)$$

$$= 2Dt \quad (109)$$

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