

# A model of random walk with varying transition probabilities

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# Random walk

## Definition

A man starts from a point  $O$  and walks  $l$  yards in a straight line; he then turns through any angle whatever and walks another  $l$  yards in a second straight line. He repeats this process  $n$  times. I require the probability that after these  $n$  stretches he is at a distance between  $r$  and  $r + \delta r$  from his starting point,  $O$ .

*[Karl Pearson: The problem of the random walk. (1905)]*

Where is the *drunken sailor*?

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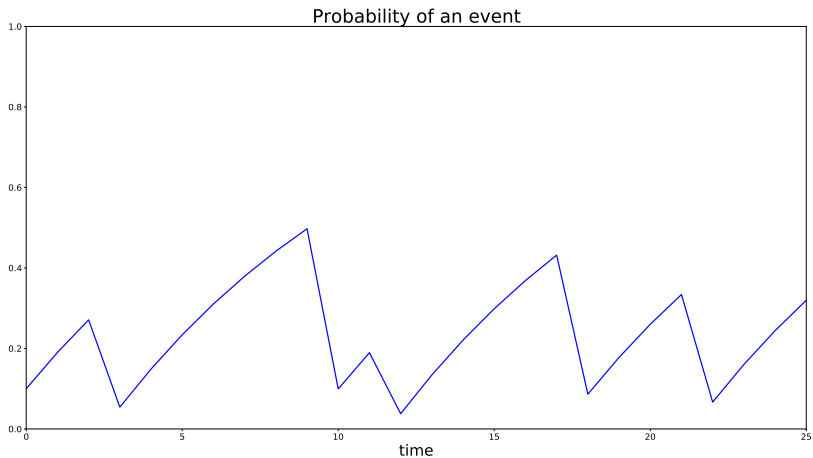
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## Motivation - Random process with varying probability



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- Failure of a machine
  - repair after failure
  - preventive maintenance
- Occurrence of a disease
  - cure of the disease
  - prevention (i.e. lifestyle change)
- Development of sports match
  - goal scored, point achieved
  - period won

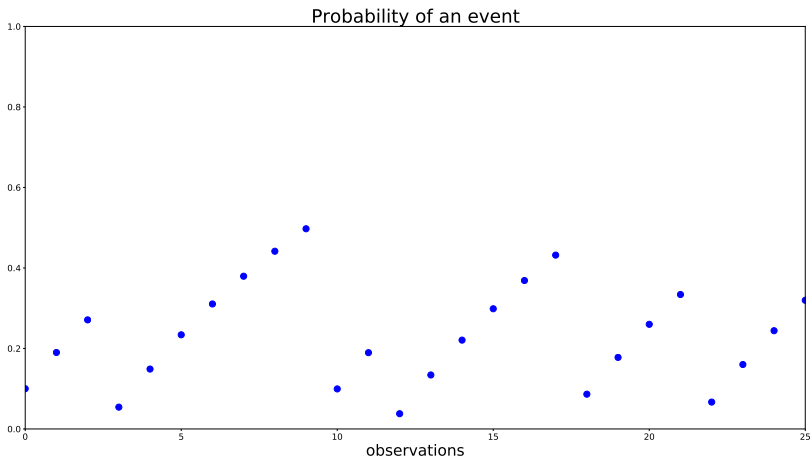
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# Random walk with varying probabilities

- Random walk with memory based the on standard Bernoulli random walk
- Given starting probability  $p_0$
- $X_t \in \{-1, 1\}$  with  $X_t \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p_{t-1})$
- Memory coefficient  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$  affecting the development of probabilities  $p_t$  as

$$X_t = 1 \rightarrow p_t = \lambda p_{t-1} \quad X_t = -1 \rightarrow p_t = 1 - \lambda(1 - p_{t-1})$$

→ “Success punished”

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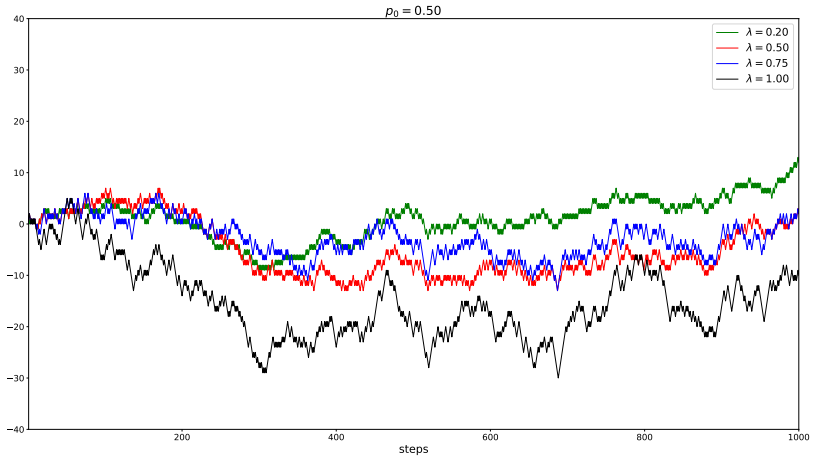
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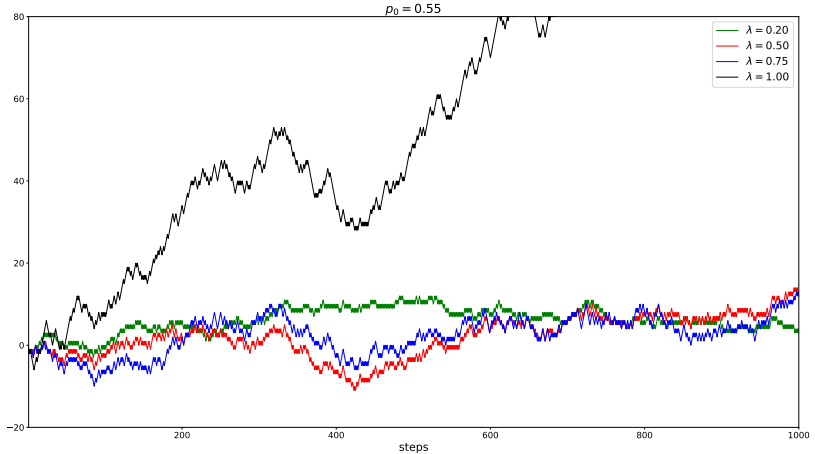
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## Example - RW development



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## Walk steps properties

$$EX_t = (2\lambda - 1)^{t-1}(2p_0 - 1)$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} EX_t = 0$$

$$\text{Var } X_t = 1 - (2\lambda - 1)^{2(t-1)}(2p_0 - 1)^2$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \text{Var } X_t = 1$$

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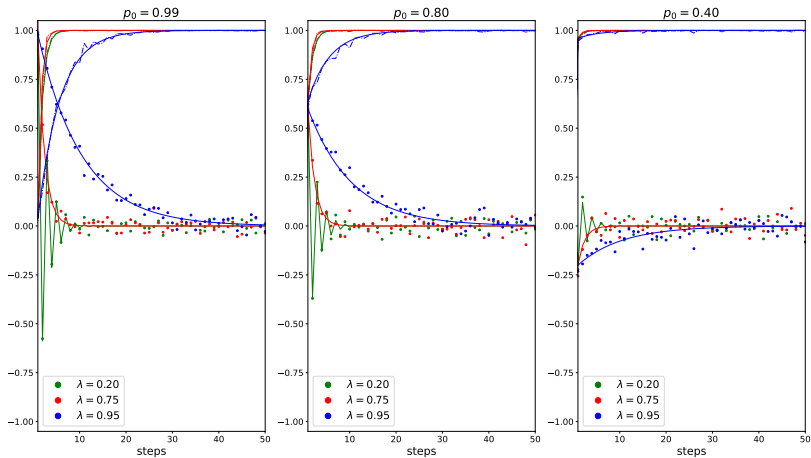
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## Example - RW steps



## Walk probabilities properties

$$EP_t = (2\lambda - 1)^t p_0 + \frac{1 - (2\lambda - 1)^t}{2}$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} EP_t = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$Var P_t = (3\lambda^2 - 2\lambda)^t p_0^2 + \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} K(i; p_0, \lambda) (3\lambda^2 - 2\lambda)^{t-1-i} - k(t; p_0, \lambda)^2$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} Var P_t = \frac{\frac{1}{2}(1 - \lambda^2)}{-3\lambda^2 + 2\lambda + 1} - \frac{1}{4}$$

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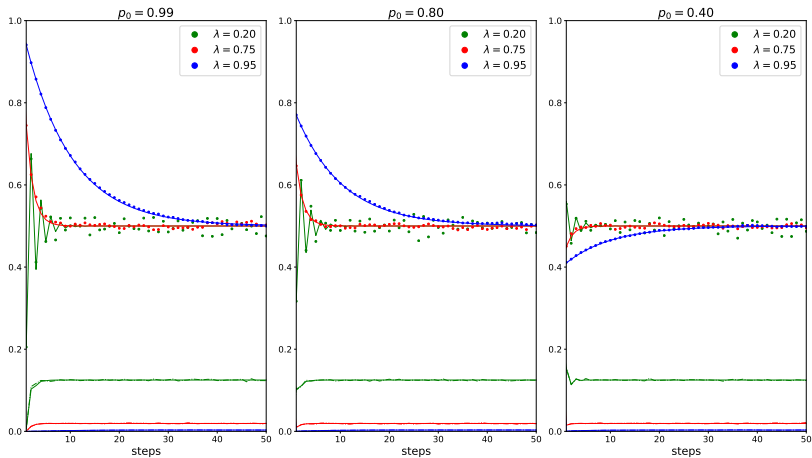
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## Walk position properties

$$ES_t = S_0 + (2p_0 - 1) \frac{1 - (2\lambda - 1)^t}{2(1 - \lambda)}$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} ES_t = S_0 + \frac{(2p_0 - 1)}{2(1 - \lambda)}$$

$$\text{Var } S_t = t + 4 \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} \sigma(i; p_0, 0, \lambda) - a(t; p_0, \lambda)$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \text{Var } S_t = c_1(p_0, \lambda)t + c_2(p_0, \lambda)$$

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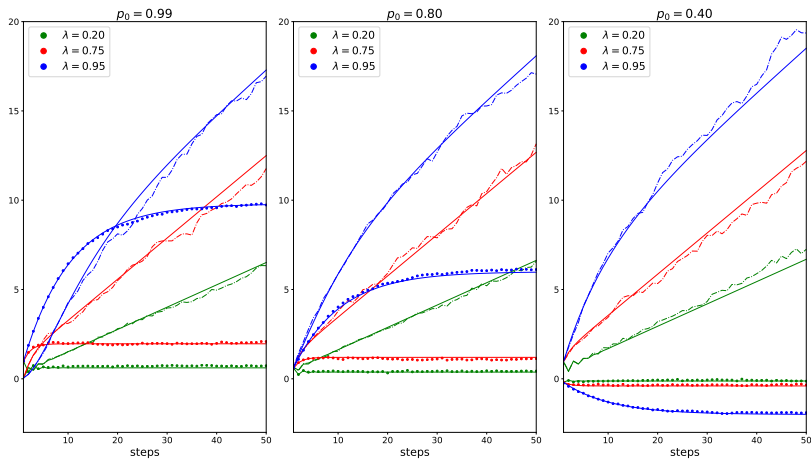
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## Example - RW position



# Success rewarding model

$$EX_t = 2p_0 - 1$$

$$\text{Var } X_t = 4p_0(1 - p_0)$$

$$EP_t = p_0$$

$$\text{Var } P_t = (2\lambda - \lambda^2)^t p_0^2 + p_0(1 - \lambda)^2 \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} (2\lambda - \lambda^2)^i - p_0^2$$

$$ES_t = S_0 + t(2p_0 - 1)$$

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## More complex models

- Two  $\lambda$  parameters each affecting one direction of the walk
- Again two variants – success punishing and success rewarding

$$X_{t-1} = 1 \rightarrow p_t = \lambda_0 p_{t-1} \quad X_{t-1} = -1 \rightarrow p_t = 1 - \lambda_1(1 - p_{t-1})$$

→ “Two-parameter success punishing model”

$$X_{t-1} = 1 \rightarrow p_t = 1 - \lambda_0(1 - p_{t-1}) \quad X_{t-1} = -1 \rightarrow p_t = \lambda_1 p_{t-1}$$

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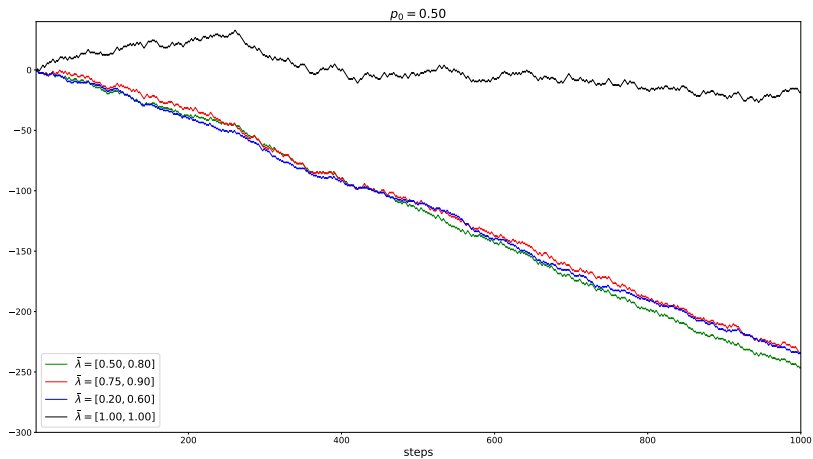
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## Example - two-parameter success punishing model





# Model fitting

1. Find  $\lambda$  with known  $p_0$ , model type
2. Find  $p_0$  with known  $\lambda$ , model type
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  - (4) Akaike information criterion & numerical optimization

# Real life application

- Success rewarding model well suited for modelling tennis matches
- Model trained on 2009–2018 men Grand Slam tournaments
- Model applied on 2019 US Open
  - Live betting against bookmaker
  - Bankroll: 0.52 units
  - Profit: 2.24 units → 430% ROI
  - Only 128 bets placed

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# Summary

- A specific model of a random walk with memory
- Model properties derived
- Possible applications in a set of real life scenarios
- Initial results show big potential of the model

*Thank you.*

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