

Estimates for the diameter of planar Brownian motion

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Abstract. Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space. If X is a random variable, then the expectation of X will be denoted by $\mathbb{E}X$ with respect to the given probability \mathbb{P} . Let $B(t)$, where $t \in [0, 1]$, be a standard planar Brownian motion. For $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ we introduce the parametrized range function r given by

$$r(\theta) = \sup_{t \in [0, 1]} (B(t) \cdot e_\theta) - \inf_{t \in [0, 1]} (B(t) \cdot e_\theta),$$

with e_θ being the unit vector $(\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$. We find the common distribution function F of the random variables $r(\theta)$. Namely, we prove that

$$F(x) = 8 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2 \pi^2} \right) \exp \left(-\frac{(2n-1)^2 \pi^2}{2x^2} \right),$$

for every $x > 0$.

Let d be the diameter of the set $B[0, 1]$, that is $d = \text{diam } B[0, 1] = \sup \{ \|B(t) - B(s)\| : t, s \in [0, 1] \}$, where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the two-dimensional Euclidean norm. It is known that

$$1.601 \leq \mathbb{E}d \leq 2.355.$$

We provide better lower bound for the expected diameter of the set $B[0, 1]$. Namely, we have the following result

$$\mathbb{E}d \geq 1.856.$$

Keywords: Brownian motion; Diameter; Distribution.

References

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