

- ▶ ALAN R. WOODS, *On the probability of absolute truth for And/Or Boolean formulas*. School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Western Australia, Crawley W.A. 6009, Australia.

E-mail: woods@maths.uwa.edu.au.

An *And/Or formula* such as $((X_1 \vee \overline{X_2}) \wedge X_3) \vee (\overline{X_1} \wedge X_3)$ is a Boolean formula formed from literals using binary \wedge and \vee connectives (and brackets). Its *size* m is the number of occurrences of literals. ($m = 5$ in the example.) Suppose the variables are drawn from among X_1, \dots, X_n . Let T_m denote the total number of And/Or formulas of size m in these n variables, and $T_m(\text{True})$ be the number of these which are *tautologies*. A natural definition of the probability of a tautology is

$$P_n(\text{True}) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{T_m(\text{True})}{T_m}.$$

A second natural notion of probability is defined by generating a formula by means of a *Galton–Watson random branching process*. Throw a fair coin. If it is *heads*, throw a fair $2n$ -sided die to choose a literal and then stop. If it is *tails*, throw the coin again to choose \wedge or \vee as the principal connective; then repeat the process to construct the left and right subformulas. Let $\pi_n(\text{True})$ be the probability that the formula generated is a tautology.

THEOREM 1. (With Danièle Gardy [1].) $\pi_n(\text{True}) < P_n(\text{True})$ for all n .

THEOREM 2. $\pi_n(\text{True}) \sim \frac{1}{4n}$ and $P_n(\text{True}) \sim \frac{3}{4n}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

The probability that a random formula defines other simple Boolean functions such as a literal (as in the example above) can also be analysed.

[1] DANIELÈ GARDY AND ALAN R. WOODS, *And/or tree probabilities of Boolean functions*, In: *2005 International Conference on Analysis of Algorithms* (Conrado Martínez editor), *Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science Proceedings*, vol. AD (2005) pp. 139–146.