

- ▶ 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.

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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.