

## Convergence rate of a particular martingale

Consider the following process  $X$ , with values in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ :  $X_0 = 0$  and then  $X_{n+1}$  is chosen uniformly in the disc of center  $X_n$  and radius  $1 - |X_n|$ . The process  $X$  is known to be a *martingale*, i.e.

$$\mathbb{E}(X_{n+1}|X_n, \dots, X_0) = X_n, \quad n \geq 0.$$

Moreover, one can see that  $X_n$  stays in the disc of center 0 and radius 1 for all values of  $n$ . Therefore,  $|X_{n+1} - X_n| \leq 2$  for all  $n$ ;  $X$  is called a martingale “with bounded differences”. By a general theorem in probability, such a process always converges to a limiting random variable  $X_\infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  (in the present case, it actually converges to the random variable which is uniformly distributed on the circle of center 0 and radius 1).

The open question is: at what speed does the process converge towards its limit?

This problem was suggested by Erdal Arikan.