

# *N*ormal numbers, Logic and *A*utomata

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Universidad de Buenos Aires & CONICET, Argentina

Logic Colloquium 2017, Stockholm University  
August 14-20, 2017

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Special **highlight session** LC-CSL

# Normal numbers

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I will present some results obtained with tools of Logic and Automata theory .

# Representation of real numbers

A **base** is an integer  $b$  greater than or equal to 2.

The **expansion** of a real number  $x$  in base  $b$  is a sequence  $a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$  of integers from  $\{0, \dots, b - 1\}$  such that

$$x = \lfloor x \rfloor + \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{a_k}{b^k} = \lfloor x \rfloor + 0.a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$$

and the sequence  $a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$  does not end with a tail of  $b - 1$ .

# Normal numbers

Definition (Borel, 1909)

A real  $x$  is **simply normal to base  $b$**  if in the expansion of  $x$  in base  $b$ , each digit  $0, \dots, b - 1$  occurs with limiting frequency equal to  $1/b$ .

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A real  $x$  is **normal to base  $b$**  if  $x$  is simply normal to bases  $b^1, b^2, b^3, \dots$

A real  $x$  is **absolutely normal** if  $x$  is normal to every base.



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A real  $x$  is **absolutely normal** if  $x$  is normal to every base.

Hence, a real  $x$  is absolutely normal if it is simply normal to all bases  $b$ .

## Examples and counterexamples

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Each number that is simply normal to  $b^k$  **is simply normal** to base  $b$ .

$0.123456789101112131415\dots$  **is normal** to base 10 (Champernowne, 1933).

It is **unknown** if it is simply normal to bases that are not powers of 10.

# Absolutely normal numbers

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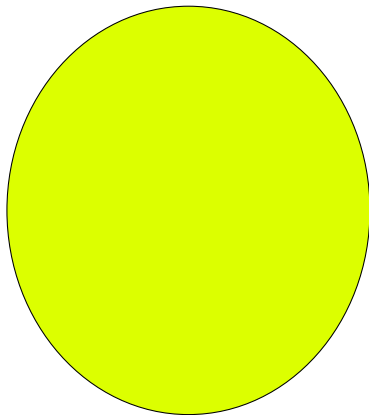
Borel asked for an explicit example .

# 1

Exhibit an absolutely normal number

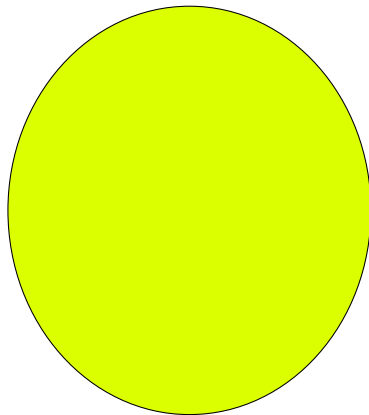
# 1. Exhibit an absolutely normal number

Absolutely normal



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$\pi?$   $\sqrt{2}?$

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Becher, Heiber and Slaman 2013:

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Other properties (Liouville, fast convergence to normality).

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A real number  $x$  is **computable** if there is a program that produces the expansion of  $x$  in some base.

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Turing inductively defines a set that contains all non normal numbers, and at the same time he inductively defines a number  $x$  outside this set.

To produce the  $n$ -th binary digit of  $x$ , Turing's algorithm performs a number of operations that is exponential in  $n$ .

# 1. Exhibit an absolutely normal number

Conjecture (Borel 1951)

*Irrational algebraic numbers are absolutely normal.*



Normality to different bases

## 2. Normality to different bases

Two positive integers are **multiplicatively dependent** if one is a rational power of the other. For example 2 and 8 are multiplicatively dependent, but 2 and 6 are not.

**Theorem (Maxfield 1953)**

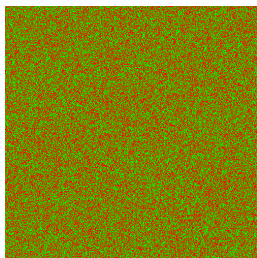
*Let  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  multiplicatively dependent. For any real number  $x$ ,  $x$  is normal to base  $b_1$  if and only if  $x$  is normal to base  $b_2$ .*

## 2. Normality to different bases

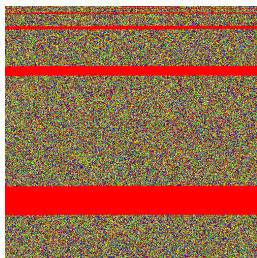
Bailey and Borwein (2012) proved that the Stoneham number  $\alpha_{2,3}$ ,

$$\alpha_{2,3} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{3^k 2^{3^k}}$$

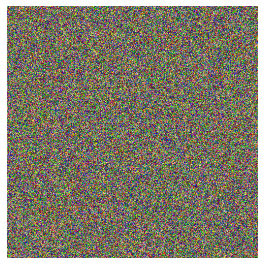
is normal to base 2 but **not** simply normal to base 6.



base 2



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## 2. Normality to different bases

Theorem (Cassels, 1959)

*On the Cantor middle third set, almost every real number is normal to 2.*

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**Theorem (Schmidt 1961/1962)**

*For any given set  $S$  of bases closed under multiplicative dependence, there are real numbers normal to every base in  $S$  and not normal to any base in its complement. Furthermore, there is a real  $x$  computable from  $S$ .*

Improved by Becher and Slaman 2014 to obtain lack of simple normality.

Becher, Bugeaud and Slaman, 2016, proved the analog of this theorem for simple normality.

## 2. Normality to different bases

Asked first by Kechris 1994,

What is the descriptive complexity of the set of normal numbers?



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What is the descriptive complexity of the set of normal numbers?

Recall that the **Borel hierarchy** for subsets of the real numbers is the stratification of the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by the open sets with the usual interval topology.

When we restrict to intervals with rational endpoints and computable countable unions and intersections, we obtain the **effective Borel hierarchy**.

## 2. Normality to different bases (Kechris's question)

A real  $x$  is simply normal to base  $b$  if

$$\forall d \in \{0, \dots, b-1\} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{|a_1 \dots a_n|_d}{n} - \frac{1}{b} \right| = 0$$

where  $a_1 a_2 \dots$  is the expansion of  $x$  in base  $b$ .

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Equivalently,

$$\forall d \in \{0, \dots, b-1\} \forall \varepsilon \exists n_0 \forall n \geq n_0 \left| \frac{|a_1 \dots a_n|_d}{n} - \frac{1}{b} \right| < \varepsilon.$$

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**$\forall \exists \forall$**  yields a  $\Pi_3^0$  formula over the reals.

Simple normality, normality and absolute normality are defined by  $\Pi_3^0$  formula.

## 2. Normality to different (Kechris's question)

Theorem (Ki and Linton 1994)

For a fixed base  $b$ , the set of reals that are normal to base  $b$  is  $\Pi_3^0$ -complete and  $\Sigma_3^0$ -complete.

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*The set **absolutely normal** reals is  $\Pi_3^0$ -complete and  $\Pi_3^0$ -complete.*

**Corollary**

*Since the set of Martin-Löf random reals is  $\Sigma_2^0$ -complete, it is different from the set of normal reals.*

## 2. Normality to different bases

We confirmed a conjecture by Achim Ditzen, 1994:

**Theorem** (Becher and Slaman 2014)

*The set of real numbers that are normal to at least one base is  $\Sigma_4^0$ -complete and  $\Sigma_4^0$ -complete.*



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**Theorem** (Becher and Slaman 2014)

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Given a  $\Sigma_4^0$  sentence we produce a real  $x$ .

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**Theorem** (Becher and Slaman 2014)

*For each  $\Pi_3^0$  formula  $\varphi$  in second order arithmetic there is a computable real number  $x$  such that, for any non-perfect power  $b$ ,  $x$  is normal to base  $b$  if and only if  $\varphi(x, b)$  is true.*

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There is no logical dependence between normality between different bases, other than multiplicatively dependence.

## 2. Another result on descriptive complexity

Theorem (Airey, Jackson and Mance, 2016 )

Let  $N_b$  be the set of real numbers which are normal to a given base  $b$ .  
The set of real numbers that are normal to base  $b$  and  
preserve normality to base  $b$  under addition ,

$$\{x : x \in N_b \text{ and } \forall y \in N_b (x + y \in N_b)\} ,$$

is  $\Pi_3^0$ -complete.



Normality of infinite words:  
unpredictability/incompressibility  
by finite automata



### 3. Normality and finite automata

#### Theorem

*normality*

*iff no finite-state martingale success*  
*(Schnorr and Stimm 1971)*





### 3. Normality and finite automata

#### Theorem

<i>normality</i>	<i>iff</i>	<i>no finite-state martingale success</i> <i>(Schnorr and Stimm 1971)</i>
<i>no finite-state martingale success</i>	<i>iff</i>	<i>incompressibility</i> <i>(Dai, Lathrop, Lutz and Mayordomo 2004)</i> <i>(Bourke, Hitchcock and Vinodchandran 2005)</i>
<i>normality</i>	<i>iff</i>	<i>incompressibility (direct proof)</i> <i>(Becher and Heiber 2013)</i>
	<i>iff</i>	<i>incompressibility by non-deterministic</i>
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	<i>iff</i>	<i>incompressibility two-way transducers</i> <i>(Carton and Heiber 2015)</i>

### 3. Normality as incompressibility by finite automata

#### Definition

A **deterministic finite transducer** is a tuple  $\mathcal{A} = \langle Q, A, \delta, q_0 \rangle$ , where

- ▶  $Q$  is a finite set of *states*,
- ▶  $A$  is the input and output alphabet
- ▶  $\delta : Q \times A \rightarrow A^* \times Q$  is a transition function, where a transition is written  $p \xrightarrow{a|v} q$ .
- ▶  $q_0$  is *initial* state.

A *run* with input  $x = a_1 a_2 \dots$  is a sequence of consecutive transitions,

$$q_0 \xrightarrow{a_1|v_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{a_2|v_2} q_2 \cdots q_{n-1} \xrightarrow{a_n|v_n} q_n \cdots$$

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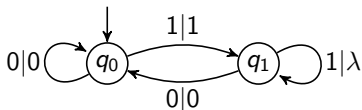
A transducer  $\mathcal{A}$  is **one-to-one** if the function  $x \mapsto \mathcal{A}(x)$  is one to one.



### 3. Normality as incompressibility by finite automata

#### Example

A finite transducer that transforms blocks of 1s into a single 1.



If  $x = 010011000111\dots$ , then  $\mathcal{A}(x) = 01001000100\dots$

Beware! It is not one-to-one.

### 3. Normality as incompressibility by finite automata

Suppose the run in  $\mathcal{A}$  with input  $x = a_1 a_2 \dots$  is

$$q_0 \xrightarrow{a_1|v_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{a_2|v_2} q_2 \xrightarrow{a_3|v_3} q_3 \dots$$

Then, the compression ratio of  $x = a_1 a_2 \dots$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  is

$$\rho_{\mathcal{A}}(x) = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|v_1 v_2 \dots v_n|}{n}$$

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The compression ratio of  $x = a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$  is

$$\rho(x) = \inf \{ \rho_{\mathcal{A}}(x) : \mathcal{A} \text{ is one-to-one} \}$$

We say  $x$  is compressible if only if  $\rho(x) < 1$ .

### 3. Normality as incompressibility by finite automata

#### Problem

*Is there a **deterministic push-down** one-to-one transducer and a normal word which is compressed by it?*

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#### Theorem (Boasson 2014)

There is a **non-deterministic push-down** one-to-one transducer and a normal word which is compressed by it.

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Is there a **deterministic push-down** one-to-one transducer and a normal word which is compressed by it?

#### Theorem (Boasson 2014)

There is a **non-deterministic push-down** one-to-one transducer and a normal word which is compressed by it.

#### Proof.

0123456789 9876543210 00010203 ... 979899 999897...03020100...  $\square$

A large, bold, yellow number '4' is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the text.

Independence of normal words

## 4. Independence of normal words

When are two normal words independent?



## 4. Independence of normal words

First attempt of a definition of independence:

Two normal words are independent exactly when their join is normal.

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Theorem (Becher, Carton and Heiber 2016)

*There are two normal words  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $x \text{ join } y = x$ .*

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Two normal words are independent exactly when their join is normal.

**Theorem** (Becher, Carton and Heiber 2016)

*There are two normal words  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $x$  join  $y = x$ .*

Here  $x = \text{even}(x)$  and  $y = \text{odd}(x)$ , hence they are obviously dependent.

**Theorem** (Shen 2016)

*Let  $x_1, x_3, x_5, \dots$  be uniformly distributed independent symbols and for every odd  $n$ , let  $x_n = x_{2n} = x_{4n} = \dots$ . Then, with probability 1 the resulting word  $x_1x_2x_3 \dots$  is normal.*

## 4. Independence of normal numbers

Two normal words are independent exactly when one does not help to compress the other.

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### Definition

A deterministic finite transducer 2 input tapes and 1 output tape is a tuple  $\mathcal{A} = \langle Q, A, \delta, q_0 \rangle$ , where

- ▶  $Q$  is the finite state set,
- ▶  $A$  is the alphabet,
- ▶  $\delta : Q \times (A \cup \{\lambda\}) \times (A \cup \{\lambda\}) \rightarrow A^* \times Q$  is the transition function where a transition is written  $p \xrightarrow{\alpha, \beta | \gamma} q$ ,
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A *run* with inputs  $x$  and  $y$  is a sequence of consecutive transitions

$$q_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1, \beta_1 | \gamma_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2, \beta_2 | \gamma_2} q_2 \cdots$$

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We write  $\mathcal{A}(x, y) = \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \gamma_3 \cdots$ .

We say  $\mathcal{A}$  is **one-to-one** if for each  $y$  fixed,  $x \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(x, y)$  is one-to-one.

## 4. Independence of normal numbers

### Definition

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a finite transducer with two input tapes, deterministic and one-to-one. Suppose inputs  $x$  and  $y$  and the run in  $\mathcal{A}$

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where  $x = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots$  and  $y = \beta_1 \beta_2 \dots$



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where  $x = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots$  and  $y = \beta_1 \beta_2 \dots$

The conditional compression ratio of  $x$  with respect to  $y$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  is

$$\rho_{\mathcal{A}}(x/y) = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\gamma_1 \dots \gamma_n|}{|\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n|}.$$

Notice that the number of symbols read from  $y$ , namely  $|\beta_1 \dots \beta_n|$ , is not taken into account in the value of  $\rho_{\mathcal{A}}(x/y)$ .

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The conditional compression ratio of  $x$  given  $y$ ,  $\rho(x/y)$ , is the infimum of  $\rho_{\mathcal{A}}(x/y)$  for all  $\mathcal{A}$  deterministic one-to-one.

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### Definition

Two words  $x$  and  $y$  are **independent** if their compression ratios are not 0 and  $y$  does not help to compress  $x$  and  $x$  does not help to compress  $y$ ,

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$$\rho(x) = \rho(x/y) > 0 \text{ and } \rho(y) = \rho(y/x) > 0.$$

## 4. Independence of normal numbers

Theorem (Becher and Carton 2016)

*The set  $\{(x, y) : x \text{ and } y \text{ are independent}\}$  has Lebesgue measure 1.*

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*The set  $\{(x, y) : x \text{ and } y \text{ are independent}\}$  has Lebesgue measure 1.*

**Lemma**

*The set of words that are compressible with the help of a given normal word has Lebesgue measure 0.*

## 4. Independence of normal numbers

### Definition

A **shuffler**  $\mathcal{S} = \langle Q, A, \delta, q_0 \rangle$  is a finite transducer with two input tapes and one output tape. The transition function is  $\delta : Q \times A \cup \{\lambda\} \times A \cup \{\lambda\} \rightarrow Q \times A$ , transitions have the form

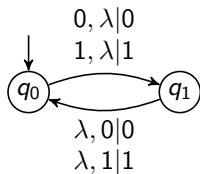
$$p \xrightarrow{a, \lambda | a} q \quad \text{or} \quad p \xrightarrow{\lambda, a | a} q.$$

For each state  $q$ , all incoming transitions have the same type.

Whether the next digit is taken from the first or the second input word only depends the current state.

## 4. Independence of normal numbers

Example of a Shuffler that computes the join



$x = 0011010001\dots$

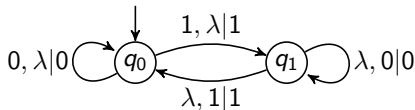
$y = 0100011000\dots$

$x \text{ join } y = 00011010001101000010\dots$



## 4. Independence of normal numbers

**Example of another shuffler.** It alternates (possibly empty) blocks of 0s followed by a 1, from each input word.



$$\text{Input words } \begin{cases} x = 0011010001\dots \\ y = 01000110001\dots \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Output word } z = 001011000101100010001\dots$$

## 4. Independence of normal numbers

Theorem (Alvarez, Becher and Carton 2016)

*Two normal words are independent if and only if every shuffling is normal.*

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*Two normal words are independent if and only if every shuffling is normal.*

**Theorem** (Alvarez, Becher and Carton 2016)

*There is an algorithm that computes two normal independent words.*

## 4. Independence of normal numbers

### Problem

*Give combinatorial characterization of finite-state independence.*

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### Problem

*Construct  $x = a_1a_2\dots$  normal such that for all  $n$ ,  $a_{2n} = a_n$  and  $a_{3n} = a_n$ .*

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*Give combinatorial characterization of finite-state independence.*

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### Problem

*Construct a normal word that is independent of Champernowne.*

## Concluding remark

Little is known about the interplay between combinatorial, computational and number theoretic properties of real numbers.

These investigations on normal numbers aim to make progress in this direction.

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The End



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