

Diffusion of euro currency.

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Abstract: European currency has been distributed in the various european countries in different, economically equivalent, forms.

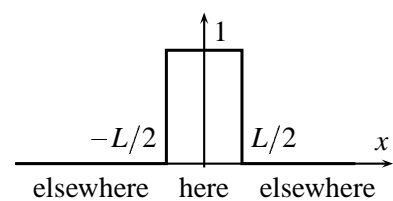
1. Introduction

People of Euroland now use coins with a distinctive feature of the country where they come from. It may be the head of a king, queen, or grand duke, or a famous building, or the face of a great human being of the past (Dante, Mozart, Cervantes), or some other symbol, see <http://www.geocities.com/eurocoin2003/revers/>
One takes a big interest in understanding how fast foreign coins travel.

2. Diffusion equation for euro coins

2.1. A very simple model. People a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N regularly spread on the real line look how the proportion of their own currency decreases with time.

Let $y_i(t)$ be the proportion of local currency owned by a_i at time t . Let t_0 be the average time needed for a full exchange of the coins of a_i with the ones of its two neighbours, so



$$y_i(t + t_0) = \frac{y_{i-1}(t) + y_{i+1}(t)}{2} \quad (1)$$

starting with $y_i(0) = 1$ on an interval of length L and $y_i(0) = 0$ elsewhere (il ne sagit que de la proportion de monnaie du pays considéré, la quantité d'argent détenue par les gens ne change pas¹).

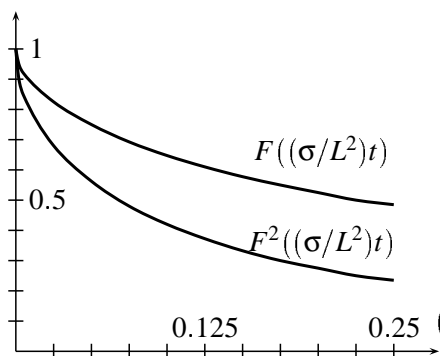
¹Mais alors, à quoi sert l'argent???

où $\operatorname{erf}(X) := \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^X e^{-u^2} du$. Remarquons que

$$\frac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial x} = \sqrt{\frac{t_0}{2d_0^2\pi t}} \left[\exp\left(-\frac{t_0(L/2+x)^2}{2td_0^2}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{t_0(L/2-x)^2}{2td_0^2}\right) \right]$$

Au temps $t > 0$, la distribution uniforme confinée au pays d'origine s'est affaïcée et a quelque peu envahi les pays voisins. La proportion encore disponible dans le pays d'origine (c'est la valeur la plus facile à mesurer) est donnée par la partie hachurée

$$Y(t) = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} y(x,t) dx$$



Par (2), on a aussi

$$\frac{dY(t)}{dt} = 2 \frac{d_0^2}{2Lt_0} \frac{\partial y(L/2,t)}{\partial x} = \sqrt{\frac{d_0^2}{2L^2t_0\pi t}} \left(\exp\left(-\frac{t_0L^2}{2td_0^2}\right) - 1 \right)$$

Cette moyenne nationale décroît avec t selon une fonction universelle F de $(\sigma/L^2)t$.

$$Y(t) = F((\sigma/L^2)t); \quad F(X) = \sqrt{\frac{4X}{\pi}} \left(\exp\left(-\frac{1}{4X}\right) - 1 \right) + \operatorname{erf}\left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{4X}}\right).$$

$(\sigma/L^2)t$	0.025	0.05	0.075	0.1	0.125	0.15	0.175	0.2	0.225	0.25
$F((\sigma/L^2)t)$	0.822	0.748	0.692	0.647	0.610	0.578	0.550	0.526	0.505	0.486
$F^2((\sigma/L^2)t)$	0.676	0.560	0.479	0.419	0.372	0.334	0.303	0.277	0.255	0.236

(Au fait, en appliquant directement (1), on obtient $Y = 1 - \frac{3}{2} \frac{5}{4} \dots \frac{2k-1}{2k-2} \frac{d_0}{L}$ après $2k$ pas de temps, si $d_0 \ll L$. Cela donne $\approx 1 - \sqrt{\frac{4k}{\pi}} \frac{d_0}{L} = 1 - \sqrt{\frac{2t}{t_0\pi}} \frac{d_0}{L} = 1 - \sqrt{\frac{4\sigma t}{L^2\pi}}$ pour $(\sigma/L^2)t$ petit.

For a **two-dimensional** problem, the equation is $\partial u(x,y,t)/\partial t = (\sigma/2)[\partial^2 u(x,y,t)/\partial x^2 + \partial^2 u(x,y,t)/\partial y^2]$. Pour un **rectangle**, on obtient $Y_1(t)Y_2(t) = F((\sigma/L_1^2)t)F((\sigma/L_2^2)t)$, avec les longueurs L_1 et L_2 des deux côtés. Avec un rectangle, on peut déjà respecter le rapport superficie/longueur de frontière d'un pays (N.B.: frontière commune avec l'Euroland!). Et tenir compte du nombre moyen de connexions (monétaires) entre les agents et leurs voisins.

Bon, avec $d_0 \approx 1$ km (distance moyenne au supermarché ou à la pompe la plus proche²), $L \approx$ une centaine de km, et $t_0 \approx 1$ mois, on devrait être tout au plus à un millième dans la figure ci-dessus.

²oui, mais si on paie par carte?

date	BEL.	NED.	LUX
1 fév. 2002	0.888	0.910	0.750
1 mar. 2002	0.812	0.869	0.810
1 avr. 2002	0.814	0.822	0.660
1 mai 2002	0.788	0.826	0.660
1 juin 2002	0.766	0.780	0.510
1 juil. 2002	0.802	0.789	0.570
1 août. 2002	0.734	0.749	0.590
1 sep. 2002	0.722	0.755	0.510
1 Oct. 2002	0.753	0.759	
1 Nov. 2002	0.751	0.757	
1 Dec. 2003	0.743	0.772	
1 Jan. 2003	0.737	0.770	
1 Feb. 2003	0.748	0.757	

On voit que la théorie précède l'observation. Eh bien, observons. Une énorme documentation portant sur des mesures effectuées par des centaines de gens aux Pays-Bas et en Belgique (du nord...) est rassemblée à

<http://www.wiskgenoot.nl/eurodiffusie>)

On y voit³, parmi d'autres informations disponibles (voir leur section "download"), la répartition des monnaies en Belgique, aux Pays-Bas et au Luxembourg⁴ en fonction du temps.

On en estime très approximativement le σ/L^2 de la Belgique et des Pays-Bas à ≈ 0.0022 et 0.0018 mois⁻¹, et à ≈ 0.01 mois⁻¹ pour le Luxembourg.

```
c: eurofit .m          1636 19.02.103 12:02  \calc\matlab4

% eurofit.m          local euros in Belgium and Netherlands
%
% data from          http://www.wiskgenoot.nl/eurodiffusie
%
%
%      U(t) = proportion of local euros at time t, averaged on a
%              whole country.
%
x=0:13;      % 1 Jan 2002 , 1 Feb 2002 , ... , 1 Feb 2003.
%BE
y=[1 0.888 0.812 0.814 0.788 0.766 0.802 0.734 0.722 0.753 0.751 0.743 0.737 0.748];
plot(x,y);
title(' Local euros in Belgium');
hold on;
%ys=(1-y).^2;
%[p,S]=polyfit(x,ys,3);
%p,
%xp=0:0.1:10;
%p(4)=0;
%[yp,delta]=polyval(p,xp,S);
%plot(xp,1-sqrt(0.00000000001+yp),'r');
%
%      model solution is: U(t)=mean value on a square of the solution
%              of the diffusion equation
%
%              du(x,y,t)/dt = sigma Laplacian u(x,y,t)
%
%      with initial u= 1 on the square , and u=0 elsewhere.
%
% Solution: U(t)= square of one-dimensional solution
%              (see below)
xe=0.2:0.2:13;
sig=0.0022;s4=1/(4*sig);ye=sqrt(4*sig*xe/pi).*(exp(-s4./xe)-1)+ ...
      erf(sqrt(s4./xe));      ye=ye.*ye;
      xe(1:5),ye(1:5),
for ix=12:12:96,  xx=ix;
      yy=sqrt(4*sig*xx/pi).*(exp(-s4/xx)-1)+ erf(sqrt(s4/xx));yy=yy^2;[xx,yy],
```

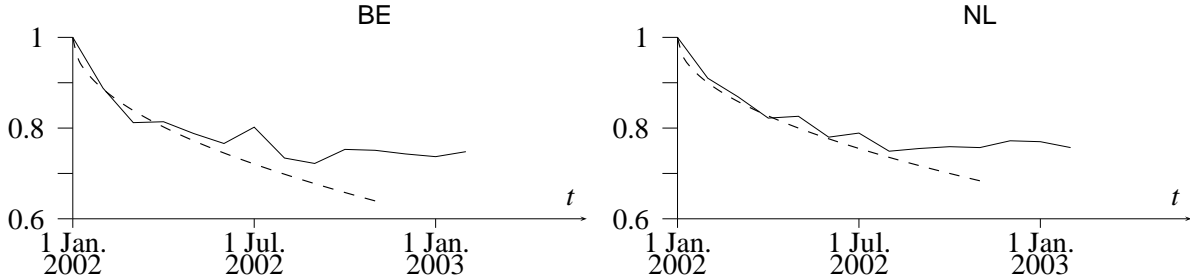
³New site is now <http://www.eurodiffusie.nl>

⁴For Luxemburg, data furnished by family of T. Hitzky.

```

end;
plot([0,xel],[1,ye],'g');
print -dps eurofb.ps
pause;
hold off;
%NL
y=[1 0.910 0.869 0.822 0.826 0.780 0.789 0.749 0.755 0.759 0.757 0.772 0.770 0.757];
plot(x,y);
title(' Local euros in Netherlands');
hold on;
sig=0.0018;s4=1/(4*sig);ye=sqrt(4*sig*xel/pi).*(exp(-s4./xel)-1)+ ...
    erf(sqrt(s4./xel)); ye=ye.*ye;
plot([0,xel],[1,ye],'g');
print -dps eurofn.ps
%LUX
%y=[1 0.750 0.810 0.660 0.660 0.510 0.570 0.590 0.510 ];

```



3. Effect of adding fresh coins.

After about 6 months, the decreasing trend seems to have died.

We consider that during each exchange period t_0 , the national bank makes available a fraction c of fresh national coins. As the number of various coins in each pocket is still supposed constant, the same fraction c of owned coins is removed, so that (1) is now

$$y_i(t+t_0) = (1-c) \frac{y_{i-1}(t) + y_{i+1}(t)}{2} + c, \quad -L/2 \leq x \leq L/2, \quad (3)$$

whereas fresh coins brought abroad are of course of THEIR own kind, and our own brand decreases even faster:

$$y_i(t+t_0) = (1-c) \frac{y_{i-1}(t) + y_{i+1}(t)}{2}, \quad |x| > L/2, \quad (4)$$

In the continuous limit:

$$\frac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial t} = \sigma \frac{\partial^2 y(x,t)}{\partial x^2} - \gamma y(x,t) + \gamma \chi_{(-L/2, L/2)}(x), \quad (5)$$

with $\gamma = c/t_0$, and where $\chi_{(a,b)}(x) = 1$ when $a < x < b$ and vanishes elsewhere.

Limit solution when $t \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 y(x, \infty) &= 1 - \exp\left(-\sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{\sigma}} \frac{L}{2}\right) \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{\sigma}} x\right), \quad -L/2 \leq x \leq L/2, \\
 &= \sinh\left(\sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{\sigma}} \frac{L}{2}\right) \exp\left(-\sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{\sigma}} |x|\right), \quad |x| \geq L/2.
 \end{aligned}$$

Average on $(-L/2, L/2)$:

$$\frac{1}{L} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} y(x, \infty) dx = 1 - \frac{1 - \exp\left(-\sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{\sigma}} L\right)}{\sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{\sigma}} L} \quad (6)$$

In <http://www.senat.fr/rap/101-087-344/101-087-34429.html>, it is stated that the French bank intended to release about $6.5 \cdot 10^9$ coins on January 2002, followed by a regular flow of about $3 \cdot 10^8$ coins each month. This means γ about 0.05 month^{-1} . Assuming the same value here, and with σ/L^2 near to 0.002, we have $\gamma L^2/\sigma \approx 25$. The value of γ may decrease with time...

It figures: if $G(t) = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} y(x, \infty) dx$, we must consider G^2 for a two-dimensional problem, and here are some limit values, from (6):

$(\gamma L^2/\sigma)$	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	30	50
$G(\infty)$	0.368	0.465	0.525	0.568	0.601	0.697	0.747	0.779	0.801	0.818	0.859
$G^2(\infty)$	0.135	0.216	0.275	0.322	0.361	0.486	0.558	0.607	0.642	0.669	0.737

Simple discretization of (5):

$$y_i(t + \Delta t) = y_i(t) + \sigma \Delta t \frac{y_{i-1} - 2y_i + y_{i+1}}{h^2} - \gamma \frac{y_{i-1} + y_{i+1}}{2} + \gamma \Delta t \chi_i$$

```

10 ' eurodi2.ub
20 N=500:point 2:emaword 2:dim ema(0;2*N,2)
30 ' screen 21:color:console 0,*,0
50 Lh=100
60 for I=N-Lh to N+Lh:ema(0;I,0)=1:next I
68 ' Gls = gamma L^2/sigma , Delta t=t0 h^2/d0^2 = h^2/(2 sigma)
70 Gls=25.0:Gdt=Gls/(8*Lh^2):Limp=1-(1-exp(-sqrt(Gls)))/sqrt(Gls)
72 print "gamma L^2/sigma=" ;Gls;" , limit=" ;Limp;" square=" ;Limp^2
100 for It=1 to 50000:Som=0:for I=N-Lh to N+Lh:Som=Som+ema(0;I,0):next I
105 ' if It@25=0 then print It*Gdt/Gls;" ";ema(0;N,0);" ";0.5*Som/Lh
106 if It@25=0 then print "(" ;10*It*Gdt/Gls;" , " ;5*(Som/Lh)^2;" )"
107 ' if It@25=0 then for I=1 to 2*N-1:line (I,420-400*ema(0;I,0))-(I+1,420-400*ema(0;I+1,0)):next I:line (I
110 for I=1 to N-Lh:ema(0;I,1)=0.5*(1-Gdt)*(ema(0;I-1,0)+ema(0;I+1,0)):next I
120 for I=N-Lh to N+Lh:ema(0;I,1)=0.5*(1-Gdt)*(ema(0;I-1,0)+ema(0;I+1,0))+Gdt:next I
130 for I=N+Lh to 2*N-1:ema(0;I,1)=0.5*(1-Gdt)*(ema(0;I-1,0)+ema(0;I+1,0)):next I
150 for I=0 to 2*N:ema(0;I,0)=ema(0;I,1):next I
175 next It

```

