

9.14. Condition on $W(a)$ and use the Markov property to find that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \left\{ \inf_{[a,b]} W > 0 \right\} &= \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P} \left\{ \inf_{a \leq t \leq b} [W(t) - W(a)] > -x \right\} \mathbb{P}\{W(a) \in dx\} \\ &= \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P} \left\{ \inf_{0 \leq t \leq b-a} W(t) > -x \right\} \frac{\exp(-x^2/(2a))}{\sqrt{2\pi a}} dx. \end{aligned}$$

By symmetry, $\inf_{[0,b-a]} W > -x$ for $x > 0$ iff $\sup_{[0,b-a]} W < x$ iff $T_x > b - a$. Therefore, by the reflection principle,

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ \inf_{[a,b]} W > 0 \right\} = \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P} \{|W(b-a)| < x\} \frac{\exp(-x^2/(2a))}{\sqrt{2\pi a}} dx = \frac{1}{\pi \sqrt{a(b-a)}} \int_0^\infty \int_0^x \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{2(b-a)} - \frac{x^2}{2a}\right) dy dx.$$

Change variables: $u := y/\sqrt{b-a}$, $v := x/\sqrt{a}$, and $\rho := \sqrt{a/(b-a)}$ to find that

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ \inf_{[a,b]} W > 0 \right\} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \int_0^{\rho v} e^{-(u^2+v^2)/2} du dv = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\kappa \int_0^\infty e^{-r^2/2} r dr d\theta = \frac{\kappa}{\pi},$$

where $\kappa := \arctan \rho$. By symmetry, $\mathbb{P}\{\sup_{[a,b]} W < 0\} = \kappa/\pi$ too. Therefore, the probability that W avoids zero during (a, b) is

$$\frac{2\kappa}{\pi} = \frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin \sqrt{\frac{a}{b}}.$$

The relation to L is that $\{L < t\}$ is the event that there is no zero in $[t, 1]$. Thus,

$$F_L(t) := \mathbb{P}\{L < t\} = \frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin \sqrt{t} \quad \forall t \in (0, 1).$$

This is one of Paul Lévy's *arc sine laws*.