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# The number of distinct part sizes of some multiplicity in compositions of an Integer. A probabilistic Analysis

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Random compositions of integers are used as theoretical models for many applications. The degree of distinctness of a composition is a natural and important parameter. A possible measure of distinctness is the number  $X$  of distinct parts (or components). This parameter has been analyzed in several papers. In this article we consider a variant of the distinctness: the number  $X(m)$  of distinct parts of multiplicity  $m$  that we call the  $m$ -distinctness. A first motivation is a question asked by Wilf for random compositions: what is the asymptotic value of the probability that a randomly chosen part size in a random composition of an integer  $v$  has multiplicity  $m$ . This is related to  $\mathbb{E}(X(m))$ , which has been analyzed by Hitczenko, Rousseau and Savage. Here, we investigate, from a probabilistic point of view, the first full part, the maximum part size and the distribution of  $X(m)$ . We obtain asymptotically, as  $v \rightarrow \infty$ , the moments and an expression for a continuous distribution  $\phi$ , the (discrete) distribution of  $X(m, v)$  being computable from  $\phi$ .

**Keywords:** Mellin transforms, urns models, Poissonization, saddle point method, generating functions

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## 1 Introduction

Let us first recall some well-known results. Let us consider the composition of an integer  $v$ , i.e.  $v = \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$ ,  $x_i : \text{integer} > 0$ . Considering all compositions as equiprobable, we know (see [HL01]) that the number of parts  $N$  is asymptotically Gaussian,  $v \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$N \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{v}{2}, \frac{v}{4}\right), \quad (1)$$

and that the part sizes are asymptotically iid  $\text{GEOM}(1/2)$  and *independent*. Consider now  $n$  random variables (R.V.),  $\text{GEOM}(1/2)$  and define the indicator R.V.<sup>†</sup>

$$Y_i := \llbracket \text{value } i \text{ appears among these } n \text{ R.V.} \rrbracket$$

Then, asymptotically,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , the  $Y_i$  are independent. The first empty part value, i.e. the first  $k$  such that  $Y_k = 0$ , is of order  $O(\log n)$ . Here and in the sequel,  $\log := \log_2, L := \ln 2$ . Similarly, the maximum part

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<sup>†</sup> Here we use the indicator function notation proposed by Knuth et al. [GKP89].

size is also of order  $O(\log n)$ , as well as the number  $Y$  of distinct values (part sizes):  $Y = \sum_1^\infty Y_i$ . The asymptotic distributions and moments of these R.V. are also given in [HL01]. We know (see Hwang and Yeh [HY97]) that

$$\mathbb{E}(Y) \sim \log n + \gamma/L - 1/2 + \beta(\log n) + O(1/n)$$

where  $\beta$  is a small periodic function of  $\log n$ , and the distribution of  $Y$  is highly concentrated around its mean, with a  $O(1)$  range. All these distributions depend on  $\log n$ . Hence, with (1), the same R.V. related to  $v$  are asymptotically equivalent by replacing  $\log n$  by  $\log v - 1$  (see [HL01]).

In this article we consider a variant of the distinctness: the number  $X(m)$  of distinct parts of multiplicity  $m$  that we call the  $m$ -distinctness. A first motivation is a question asked by Wilf for random compositions: what is the asymptotic value of the probability  $P(m, v)$  that a randomly chosen part size in a random composition of an integer  $v$  has multiplicity  $m$ . (The corresponding problem for random partitions has been analyzed in Corteel et al. [CPSW99]). Of course, here,

$$P(m, v) = \mathbb{E}(X(m, v)/Y(v)),$$

where we explicitly show the dependence on  $v$ . But, as already mentioned,  $Y(v)$  has asymptotically the same distribution as  $Y$  (with  $\log n$  replaced by  $\log v - 1$ ). On the other side,  $Y$  is highly concentrated around its mean. Hence, asymptotically, as shown in Hitczenko, Savage [HS99] and Hitczenko et al [HRS02], for  $m = O(1)$ ,

$$P(m, v) \sim \mathbb{E}(X(m, v))/\mathbb{E}(Y(v)).$$

Here, we investigate, from a probabilistic point of view, the first full part, the maximum part size and the distribution of  $X(m, v)$ . We obtain asymptotically, as  $v \rightarrow \infty$ , the moments and an expression for a continuous distribution  $\phi$ , the (discrete) distribution of  $X(m, v)$  being computable from  $\phi$ . We will see that, again, all asymptotic distributions for some multiplicity  $m$  depend only on  $\log n$ . Hence, the same R.V. related to  $v$  are again simply obtained by replacing  $\log n$  by  $\log v - 1$ . The paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, we consider a fixed multiplicity  $m = O(1)$ . We analyze the moments, the first full part, the maximum part size, and the distribution of  $X(m)$ . Section 3 is devoted to large multiplicity  $m$ . Section 4 concludes the paper. Due to length constraints, some proofs have been briefly presented.

In this section, we are interested in the properties of the R.V.:

$X_i(m) := \llbracket \text{value } i \text{ appears among the } n \text{ GEOM}(1/2) \text{ R.V. with multiplicity } m, \text{ for fixed } m = O(1) \rrbracket$ .

Of course,

$$\Pr[X_i(m) = 1] = \binom{n}{m} (1/2^i)^m (1 - 1/2^i)^{n-m}. \quad (2)$$

We immediately see that the dominant range is given by  $i = \log n + O(1)$ . To the left and the right of this range,  $\Pr[X_i(m) = 1] \sim 0$ . Within the range,  $\Pr[X_i(m) = 1]$  is asymptotically equivalent to a Poisson distribution:

$$\Pr[X_i(m) = 1] \sim \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^i)^m \exp(-n/2^i),$$

and, with  $X(m) := \sum_1^\infty X_i(m)$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}(X(m)) \sim G(n, m),$$

where, using the "sum splitting technique" as described in Knuth [Knu73], p.131,

$$G(n, m) := \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{i=1}^\infty (n/2^i)^m \exp(-n/2^i),$$

which, for large  $n$ , can be analyzed using Mellin transforms: see Flajolet et al. [FGD95]. It is well known that the dominant value is given by some constant. The oscillatory part has a very small amplitude, usually of order  $10^{-5}$ . Indeed, set  $f(y) := y^m e^{-y}$ . We obtain

$$G(n, m) = \frac{1}{m!} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} f(n/2^i),$$

the Mellin transform of which is

$$G^*(s) = \frac{\Gamma(m+s)}{m!} \frac{2^s}{1-2^s},$$

defined in the fundamental strip  $\langle -m, 0 \rangle$ . To the right of this strip, the poles of  $G^*(s)$  are a simple pole at  $s = 0$ , and simple poles at  $s = \chi_k := 2k\pi i/L$  ( $k \neq 0$ ). The singular expansion of  $G^*(s)$  is given by  $\ddagger$

$$G^*(s) \asymp \left[ \frac{\Gamma(m)}{Lm!s} \right] + \sum_{k \neq 0} \frac{\Gamma(m + \chi_k)}{Lm!(s - \chi_k)}.$$

This leads, by converse mapping, to

$$G(n, m) \sim \frac{1}{mL} + \beta_0(\log n) + O(1/n), \quad (3)$$

where  $\beta_0$  is a small periodic function of  $\log n$ :

$$\beta_0(\log_2 n) := \sum_{k \neq 0} \frac{\Gamma(m + \chi_k)}{Lm!} n^{-\chi_k} = \sum_{k \neq 0} \frac{\Gamma(m + \chi_k)}{Lm!} e^{-2\pi i k \log n}.$$

In the sequel,  $\beta_0(\log n)$  will always denote (small) periodic functions. As  $n \sim \mathcal{N}(\frac{v}{2}, \frac{v}{4})$ , we just have to replace  $\log n$  by  $\log v - 1$ . So we recover the mean already computed in Hitczenko and Savage, [HS99] and Hitczenko, Rousseau and Savage, [HRS02]. To compute all moments, we must check that the  $X_i$  are asymptotically independent. We could proceed as was done in [HL01] for the  $Y_i$ , but we follow here another route. Let us consider  $\Pi_n = \mathbb{E}(z^X)$ . We obtain

**Theorem 1.1.**

$$\Pi_n \sim \prod_{l=1}^{\infty} \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^l)^m e^{-n/2^l} \right) + z \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^l)^m e^{-n/2^l} \right], n \rightarrow \infty.$$

*Proof.* We use an urn model, as in Sevastyanov and Chistyakov, [SČ64] and Chistyakov, [Chi67], and the Poissonization method (see, for instance Jacquet and Szpankowski [JS98] for a general survey). If we Poissonize, with parameter  $\tau$ , the number of balls (i.e the number  $n$  of R.V. here), the generating function of  $X_l$  is given from (2), by

$$\left( 1 - \frac{1}{m!} (\tau/2^l)^m e^{-\tau/2^l} \right) + z \frac{1}{m!} (\tau/2^l)^m e^{-\tau/2^l},$$

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$\ddagger$  The symbol  $\asymp$  is used to denote the fact that two functions are of the same asymptotic order.

and we have independency of cells occupation. This leads to

$$e^{-\tau} \sum_n \frac{\tau^n}{n!} \Pi_n = \prod_{l=1}^{\infty} \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{1}{m!} (\tau/2^l)^m e^{-\tau/2^l} \right) + z \frac{1}{m!} (\tau/2^l)^m e^{-\tau/2^l} \right].$$

Hence, by Cauchy, we obtain  $\Pi_n = \frac{n!}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \exp\{nf(\tau)\} d\tau/\tau$ , where  $\Gamma$  is inside the analyticity domain of the integrand and encircles the origin, and

$$f(\tau) := -\log \tau + \tau/n + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \ln \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{1}{m!} (\tau/2^l)^m e^{-\tau/2^l} \right) + z \frac{1}{m!} (\tau/2^l)^m e^{-\tau/2^l} \right].$$

By standard saddle-point method (see, for instance, Flajolet and Sedgewick, [FS94]), we look for  $\tau^*$  such that  $f'(\tau^*) = 0$ , with

$$f'(\tau) = -1/\tau + 1/n - \frac{z-1}{n\tau} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\tau/2^l)^{m+1} - m(\tau/2^l)^m}{m! \exp(\tau/2^l) - (\tau/2^l)^m + z(\tau/2^l)^m}.$$

But, again by Mellin, for fixed  $z > 0$ ,

$$\sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\tau/2^l)^{m+1} - m(\tau/2^l)^m}{m! \exp(\tau/2^l) - (\tau/2^l)^m + z(\tau/2^l)^m} \sim C + \beta \cdot (\log \tau).$$

with

$$C := \int_0^{\infty} \frac{y^{m+1} - my^m}{m! \exp(y) - y^m + zy^m} dy/L.$$

Hence  $\tau^* \sim n + C$ . It is easily checked that  $C = 0$ . Finally,  $\Pi_n \sim \frac{n! e^{nf(\tau^*)}}{\sqrt{2\pi\tau^*} \sqrt{nf''(\tau^*)}}$ , and, by Stirling, we easily derive the theorem.  $\square$

Theorem 1.1 confirms the asymptotic independence assumption.

### 1.1 The moments of $X(m)$

We now have all necessary ingredients to compute the moments. The variance of  $X(m)$  is now easily derived: we obtain, by Mellin,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{VAR}(X(m)) &\sim \frac{1}{m!} \sum_1^{\infty} (n/2^i)^m \exp(-n/2^i) \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^i)^m \exp(-n/2^i) \right] \\ &\sim \int_0^{\infty} e^{-y} \frac{y^m}{m!} (1 - e^{-y} \frac{y^m}{m!}) \frac{dy}{Ly} + \beta_1(\log_2 n) \\ &= \frac{1}{mL} - \frac{(2m-1)!}{Lm!^2 2^{2m}} + \beta_1(\log_2 n). \end{aligned}$$

The other moments can be derived as follows. We obtain, setting  $z = e^s$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(\Pi_n) \sim S_2 &= \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \ln \left[ 1 + (e^s - 1) \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^l)^m \exp(-n/2^l) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{i+1} (e^s - 1)^i V_i}{i}, \text{ with} \\ V_i &:= \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \left[ \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^l)^m \right]^i \exp(-in/2^l). \end{aligned}$$

The centered moments of  $X(m)$  can be obtained by analyzing

$$S_3 := \exp[S_2 - sV_1].$$

Again, by Mellin, we obtain

$$V_i \sim B_i + \beta_i(\log n),$$

with

$$B_i = \int_0^{\infty} \left[ \frac{y^m}{m!} \right]^i e^{-iy} \frac{dy}{Ly} = \frac{(im-1)!}{m^i L i^m},$$

and finally, the centered moments are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\sigma}^2 := \text{VAR}(X(m)) &\sim \frac{1}{mL} - \frac{(2m)!}{2Lm!^2 2^{2m} m}, \\ \tilde{\mu}_3 := \mu_3(X(m)) &\sim \frac{1}{mL} - \frac{3(2m)!}{2Lm!^2 2^{2m} m} + \frac{2(3m)!}{3Lm!^3 3^{3m} m}, \\ \tilde{\mu}_4 := \mu_4(X(m)) &\sim \frac{1}{mL} + \frac{3}{m^2 L^2} - \frac{3(4m)!}{2Lm!^4 4^{4m} m} + \frac{4(3m)!}{Lm!^3 3^{3m} m} \\ &\quad - \frac{7(2m)!}{2Lm!^2 2^{2m} m} - \frac{3(2m)!}{3L^2 m!^2 2^{2m} m^2} + \frac{3(2m)!^2}{4L^2 m!^4 2^{4m} m^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The neglected terms are made of periodic functions  $\beta_i(\log n)$  and of  $O(\frac{1}{n})$  contributions.

Again, the centered moments (of order  $\geq 2$ ) of  $X$  related to a composition of  $v$  are given by the same expressions.

For  $n = 20000, m = 2$ , we have done a simulation (of  $T = 4000$  sets). We obtain the results of Table 1 (the probability related moments are explained later on). For an easy comparison, we give here only four significant digits.

## 1.2 The maximum part size of multiplicity $m$

The maximum part size  $\mathcal{M}_n(m)$  of multiplicity  $m$  is such that

$$\Pr(\mathcal{M}_n(m) < k) \sim \prod_{i=k}^{\infty} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^i)^m \exp(-n/2^i) \right].$$

	Theoretical asymptotic value	Observed value	Probability related value
mean	.7213 ...	.7345...	.7214...
variance	.5861 ...	.5945...	.5863...
$\mu_3$	.3750...	.3752 ...	.3752...
$\mu_4$	1.1197...	1.1341...	1.1198...

**Tab. 1:** Moments,  $n = 20000, m = 2$ .

Set  $\eta := Lk - \ln n$ . This leads, with  $\eta = O(1)$ , to

$$\Pr(\mathcal{M}_n(m) < k) \sim \varphi_1(m, \eta),$$

with

$$\varphi_1(m, \eta) = \prod_{j=0}^{\infty} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{m!} e^{-m(\eta+Lj)} e^{-e^{-(\eta+Lj)}} \right].$$

Figure 1 gives  $\varphi_1(m, \eta)$  for  $m = 1, \dots, 4$ , bottom to top. It appears that for  $\eta \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $\varphi_1(m, \eta)$  seems to converge to some value, which of course corresponds to

$$P(m, 0) := \Pr(X(m) = 0),$$

but a closer view reveals the usual fluctuations, shown in Figure 2, for  $m = 2$ . Set  $\psi(n) := \log n - \lfloor \log n \rfloor$  (fractional part). With  $\eta = L(-6 - \psi(20000))$ , we obtain  $P(2, 0) = .4489079864\dots$ , which will be compared later on with a direct expression.

Similarly, we derive

$$\Pr(\mathcal{M}_n(m) = k - 1) \sim \varphi_2(m, \eta) = \varphi_1(m, \eta) e^{-m(\eta-L)} e^{-e^{-(\eta-L)}} / m!.$$

Figure 3 gives  $\varphi_2(m, \eta)$  for  $m = 1, \dots, 4$ , (more and more concentrated as  $m$  increases).

Our simulation for  $n = 20000, m = 2$  of  $T = 4000$  sets leads to Figure 4 ( $\varphi_1$ , observed = circle, asymptotic = line) and Figure 5 ( $\varphi_2$ , observed = circle, asymptotic = line). Again, for compositions, we replace  $\log n$  by  $\log v - 1$ .

### 1.3 First full part value of multiplicity $m$

Another variable of interest is the first  $k$  such that  $X_k = 1$ , i.e we are interested in the probability

$$\Pr[X_i = 0, i = 1 \dots k - 1, X_k = 1].$$

Note that this is the opposite situation of the  $Y_k$  case (see [HL01]), where we looked for the first  $k$  such that  $Y_k = 0$ . The probability is asymptotically given by

$$\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^i)^m \exp(-n/2^i) \right] \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^k)^m \exp(-n/2^k).$$

Again, we set  $\eta := Lk - \ln n$ . This leads asymptotically, with  $\eta = O(1)$  to

$$\Pr[X_i = 0, i = 1 \cdots k-1, X_k = 1] \sim \varphi_3(m, \eta),$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_3(m, \eta) &= \varphi_4(m, \eta) \frac{1}{m!} e^{-m\eta} e^{-e^{-\eta}}, \\ \varphi_4(m, \eta) &= \prod_{j=1}^{\infty} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{m!} e^{-m(\eta-Lj)} e^{-e^{-(\eta-Lj)}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Again, for compositions, we replace  $\log n$  by  $\log v - 1$ . Figure 6 gives  $\varphi_4(2, \eta)$  and Figure 7 gives  $\varphi_4(2, \eta)$  for large values of  $\eta$ . Again, this is oscillating and corresponds to  $P(2, 0)$ .

#### 1.4 Asymptotic distribution of $X(m)$

The analysis is rather similar to the one we used in [Lou87] and [HL01]. First of all we have, for any fixed  $k = O(\log n)$ ,

$$P(m, 0) \sim \varphi_4(\eta) \varphi_1(\eta).$$

Let us choose  $k = \lfloor \log n \rfloor$ . This leads to  $\eta = -L\psi(n)$  and we obtain a periodic function of  $\psi$ :

$$P(m, 0) \sim \varphi_4[-L\psi(n)] \varphi_1[-L\psi(n)],$$

shown in Figure 10 for  $m = 2$ . For  $n = 20000, m = 2$ , the numerical value of  $P(2, 0)$  is exactly the same as before. Now we turn to  $P(m, j) := \Pr(X(m) = j)$ . We take advantage of the fact that all urns are empty before the first occupied urn,  $k - 1$  say. Then, again with  $\eta := Lk - \ln n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} P(m, 1) &\sim \sum_k \varphi_3(\eta - L) \varphi_1(\eta), \\ P(m, 2) &\sim \sum_k \varphi_3(\eta - L) \varphi_1(\eta) \sum_{r_1 \geq k} \left\{ \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^{r_1})^m \exp(-n/2^{r_1}) \left/ \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^{r_1})^m \exp(-n/2^{r_1}) \right] \right. \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

and more generally,

$$\begin{aligned} P(m, u+1) &\sim \sum_k \varphi_3(\eta - L) \varphi_1(\eta) \\ &\cdot \sum_{\lfloor r_1 > r_2 > \dots > r_u, r_j \geq k \rfloor} \prod_{i=1}^u \left\{ \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^{r_i})^m \exp(-n/2^{r_i}) \left/ \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{m!} (n/2^{r_i})^m \exp(-n/2^{r_i}) \right] \right. \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Now we set  $r_i = k + w_i, l = k - \lfloor \log n \rfloor$  and we finally derive the following theorem

**Theorem 1.2.** Set  $\psi(n) := \log n - \lfloor \log n \rfloor$ , then

$$P(m, u+1) \sim \sum_{l=-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi_5[L(l - \psi(n))],$$



with

$$\varphi_5(\eta) = \varphi_3(\eta - L)\varphi_1(\eta).$$

$$\cdot \sum \llbracket w_1 > w_2 > \dots > w_u, w_j \geq 0 \rrbracket \prod_{i=1}^u \left\{ \frac{1}{m!} e^{-m(\eta+Lw_i)} e^{-e^{-(\eta+Lw_i)}} \right\} / \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{m!} e^{-m(\eta+Lw_i)} e^{-e^{-(\eta+Lw_i)}} \right]$$

Note that, for compositions, we obtain asymptotically  $\psi(n) = \psi(v)$ . We get again periodic function of  $\psi(n)$ . We give in Figure 11 and Figure 12 the sums  $\sum_{i=0}^3 P(2, i), \sum_{i=0}^4 P(2, i)$ . The effect of computing  $P(2, i)$  with bounded indices (we limit the values of  $w_u$  to 16) becomes apparent at the  $10^{-7}$  precision.

Figure 13 gives  $P(m, i), m = 1, \dots, 4$ , (from top to bottom to the right of  $i = 2$ ). The distributions become more concentrated as  $m$  increases.

Finally, we compare the observed distribution of  $X(2)$  with the asymptotic one in Figure 14 (observed = circle, asymptotic = line). Apart from  $i = 0$  the fit is quite good. The "Probability related values" moments given in Table 1 are computed with the distribution  $P(2, i)$ .

## 2 Large multiplicity $m$

### 2.1 Fixed number of parts $n$

It is now clear that large  $m$  are related to small integer values  $i$ . More precisely, the number  $M_i$  of integers equal to  $i$  is asymptotically given by a Gaussian:

$$\Pr(M_i = m) \sim \exp\left\{-\frac{(m - n/2^i)^2}{[2n/2^i(1 - 1/2^i)]}\right\} / \sqrt{2\pi n/2^i(1 - 1/2^i)}. \quad (4)$$

The means  $n/2^i, i = 1, 2, \dots$  are given by  $n/2, n/4, \dots$ , separated by  $n/4, n/8, \dots$  which shows that the Gaussians (4) are asymptotically exponentially distinct in the sense that some common intervals, for instance  $m \in [3n/2^{i+2} - n/2^{i+3}, 3n/2^{i+2} + n/2^{i+3}]$  have asymptotically small probability measures. So for any large value  $m$ , only one value

$$i = \text{round}[\log(n/m)] \quad (5)$$

is related to  $m$  and  $X(m)$  has only two possible values:  $\{0, 1\}$ . The following events are equivalent:  $\llbracket X_i(m) = 1 \rrbracket \equiv \llbracket M_i = m \rrbracket$ . The probability (4) is small, of order at most  $O(1/\sqrt{m})$ . Figure 15 gives  $\Pr(X_i(m) = 1)$  for  $n = 2000$  (first three ranges,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) and Figure 16 gives the corresponding distribution functions, together with the observed values provided by a simulation of  $T = 2000$  sets (observed = circle, asymptotic = line).

An interesting check would be to recover the dominant term of the mean of  $Y$ :  $\mathbb{E}(Y) \sim \log n$ . Choose  $\tilde{j} := \alpha \log n, 0 < \alpha < 1$  which corresponds, by (5), to  $\tilde{m} = n^{1-\alpha}$ . For each  $i \leq \tilde{j}$ , by Euler-McLaurin,

$$\sum_{m=\lfloor 3n/2^{i+2} \rfloor}^{\lfloor 3n/2^{i+1} \rfloor} \exp\left\{-\frac{(m - n/2^i)^2}{[2n/2^i(1 - 1/2^i)]}\right\} / \sqrt{2\pi n/2^i(1 - 1/2^i)} \sim 1,$$

and this contributes to  $\mathbb{E}(Y)$  by  $S_1 = \tilde{j}$ . On the other side, each  $m < \tilde{m}$  contributes, by (3), with  $\frac{1}{mL}$ , with a total contribution

$$S_2 = \frac{1}{L} \sum_1^{\tilde{m}} 1/m \sim \frac{1}{L} \ln \tilde{m}.$$

The quantity  $S_1 + S_2 \sim \log n$  as expected.

## 2.2 Composition of $v$ .

Now the number of parts  $N$  is such that (see(1))

$$N \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{v}{2}, \frac{v}{4}\right).$$

We obtain

$$\mathbb{E}(M_k) = \frac{v}{2} \frac{1}{2^k}. \tag{6}$$

The asymptotic distribution of  $M_k$  is obtained as follows. We derive, setting  $\tilde{M}_k := (M_k - n/2^k)/\sqrt{v}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} [\exp[iM_k\theta/\sqrt{v}]] &= \mathbb{E} [\exp[in\theta/(\sqrt{v}2^k) + i\tilde{M}_k\theta]] \\ &\sim \mathbb{E} [\exp[in\theta/(\sqrt{v}2^k) - \theta^2 n/(2v2^k)(1 - 1/2^k)]] \\ &\sim \exp \left[ i v \theta / (2\sqrt{v}2^k) - v \theta^2 / (2v2^k)(1 - 1/2^k) + v/8 [i\theta/(\sqrt{v}2^k) - \theta^2/(2v2^k)(1 - 1/2^k)]^2 \right] \\ &\sim \exp \left[ i \theta \sqrt{v} / (2 \cdot 2^k) - \theta^2 / 2 [1/(4 \cdot 4^k) + 1/(2 \cdot 2^k)(1 - 1/2^k)] \right], v \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

The first term confirms (6). The second term shows that

$$M_k \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{v}{2} \frac{1}{2^k}, v\sigma_m^2\right),$$

with

$$\sigma_m^2 = 1/(4 \cdot 4^k) + 1/(2 \cdot 2^k)(1 - 1/2^k).$$

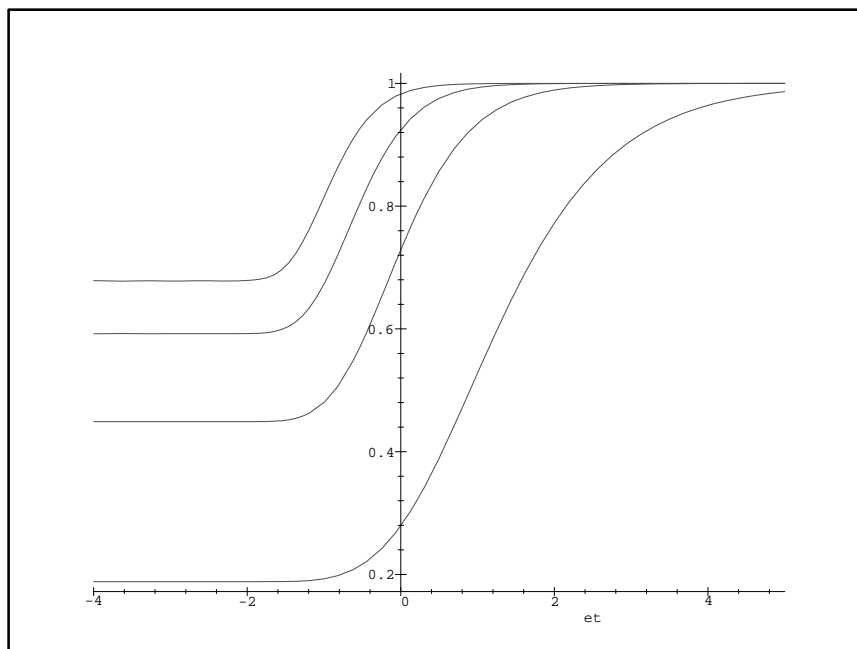
The conclusions of Sec. 2.2 are still valid.

## 3 Conclusion

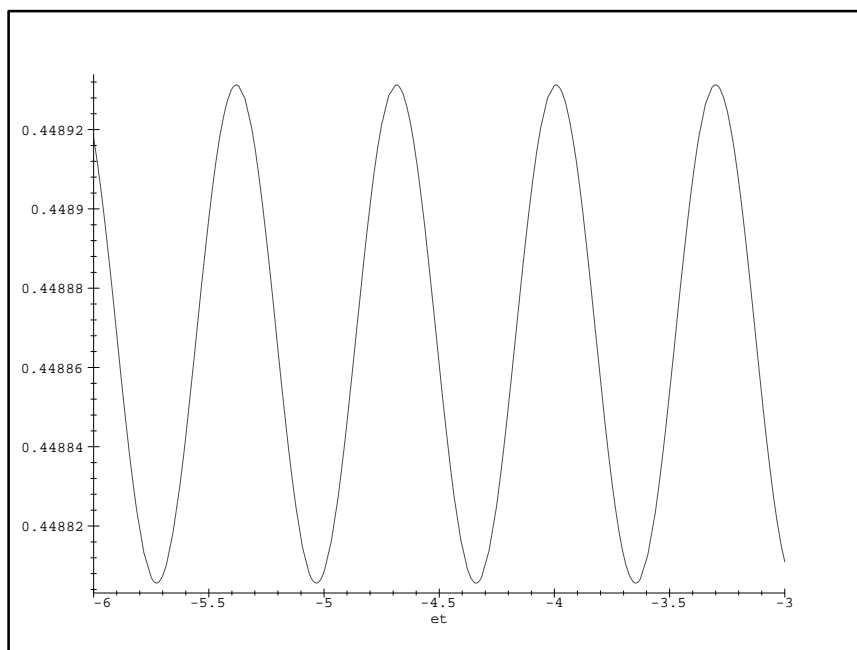
Using various techniques from analysis and probability theory, we have analyzed the stochastic properties of the  $m$ -distinctness of random compositions. An interesting open problem would be to extend our results to the Carlitz compositions, where two successive parts are different (see [LP02]).

## Acknowledgements

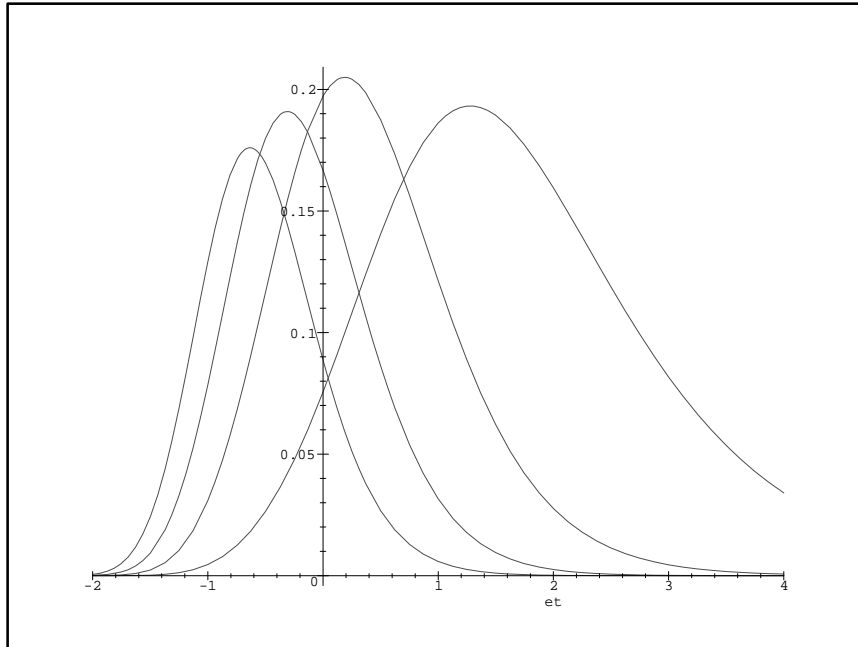
The pertinent comments of the referees led to substantial improvements in the presentation.



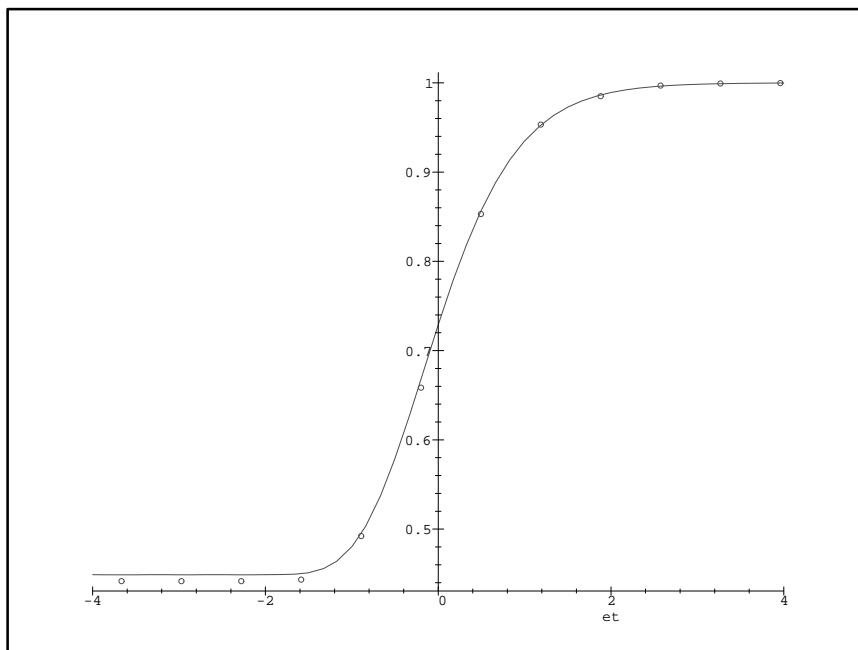
**Fig. 1:**  $\varphi_1(m, \eta)$  for  $m = 1, \dots, 4$ , bottom to top



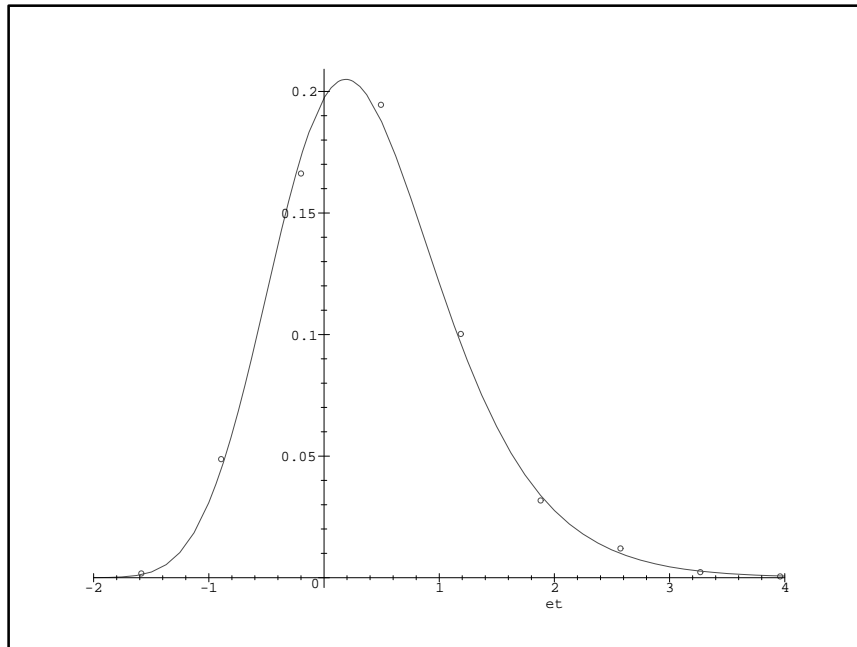
**Fig. 2:**  $\varphi_1(2, \eta)$  for large negative values of  $\eta$



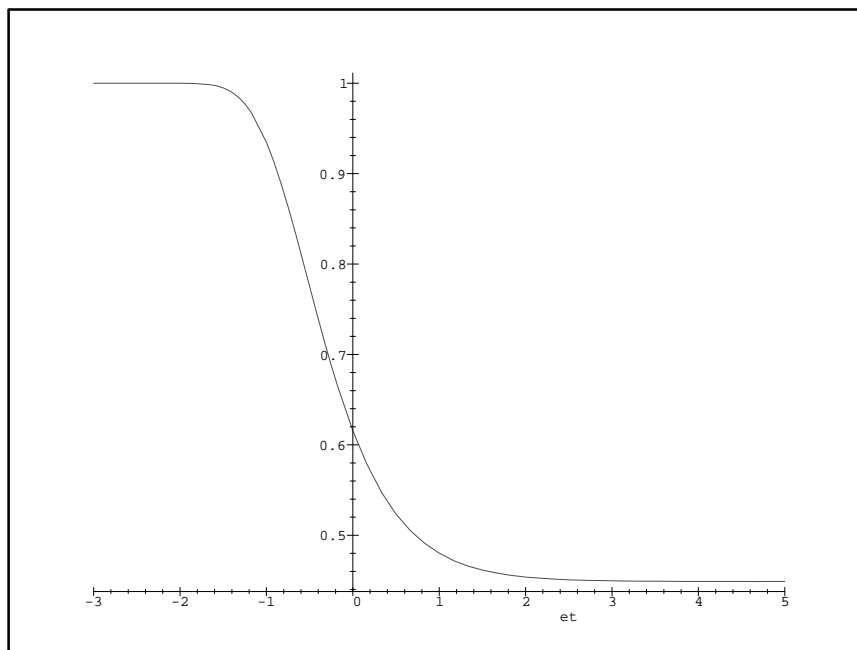
**Fig. 3:**  $\varphi_2(m, \eta)$  for  $m = 1, \dots, 4$



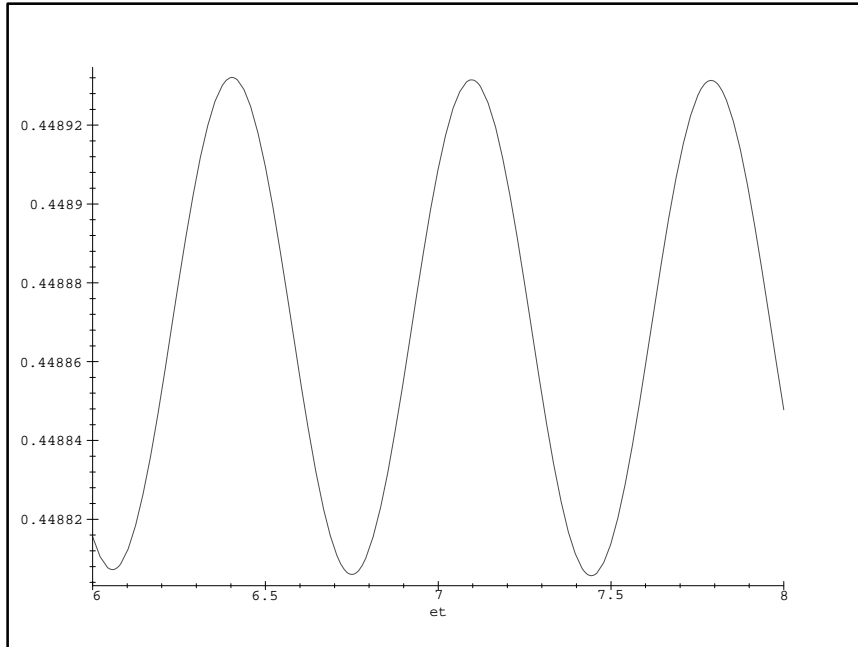
**Fig. 4:** Maximum part size distribution function ( $m = 2$ , observed = circle, asymptotic = line)



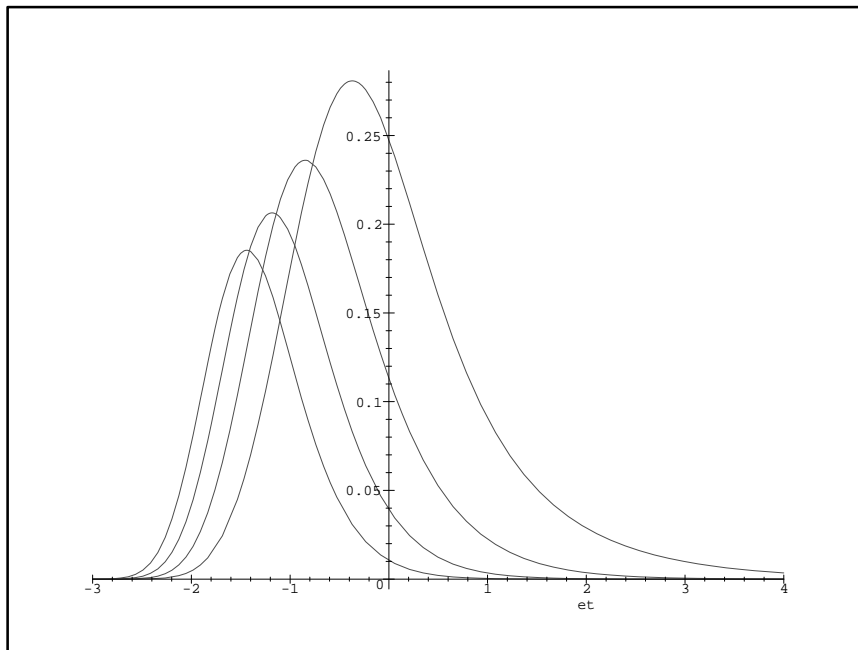
**Fig. 5:** Maximum part size distribution ( $m = 2$ , observed = circle, asymptotic = line)



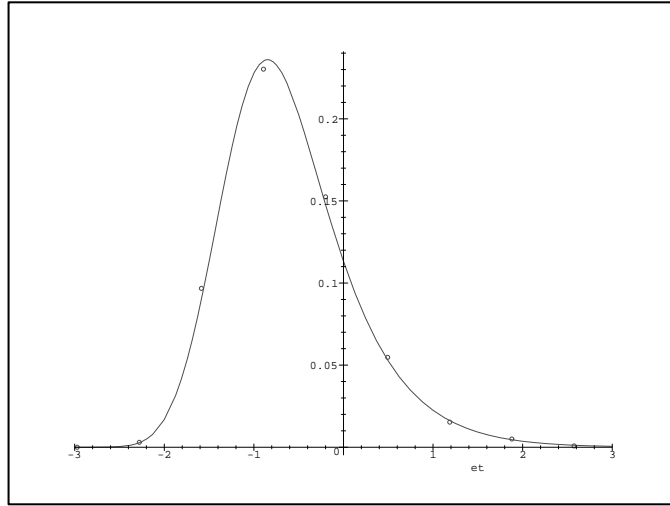
**Fig. 6:**  $\varphi_4(2, \eta)$



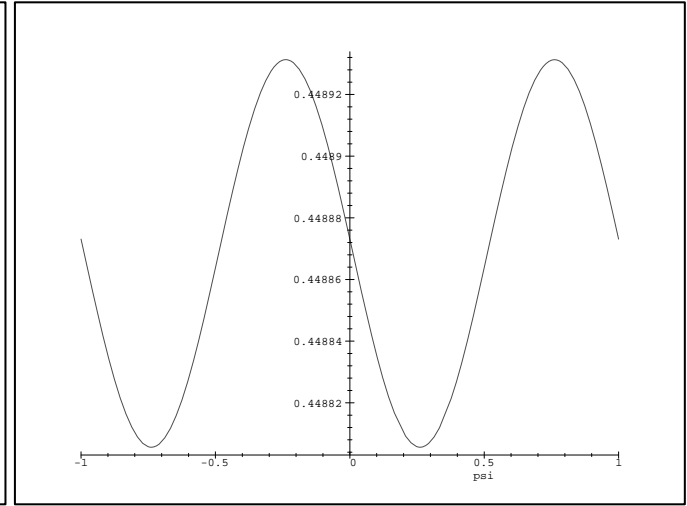
**Fig. 7:**  $\varphi_4(2, \eta)$  for large values of  $\eta$



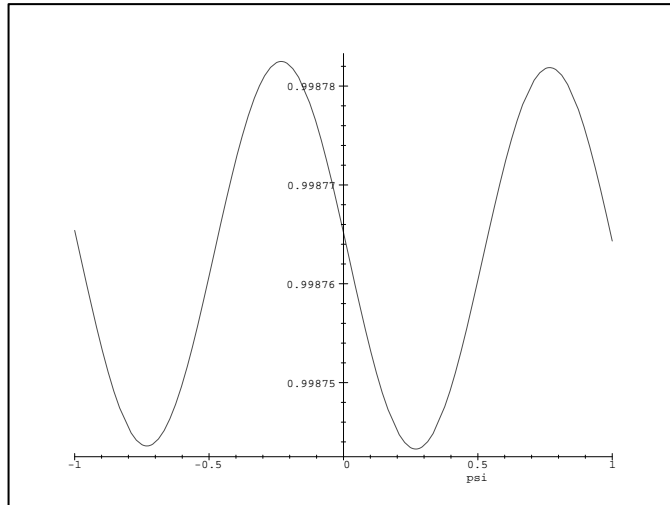
**Fig. 8:**  $\varphi_3(2, \eta)$  for  $m = 1, \dots, 4$ .



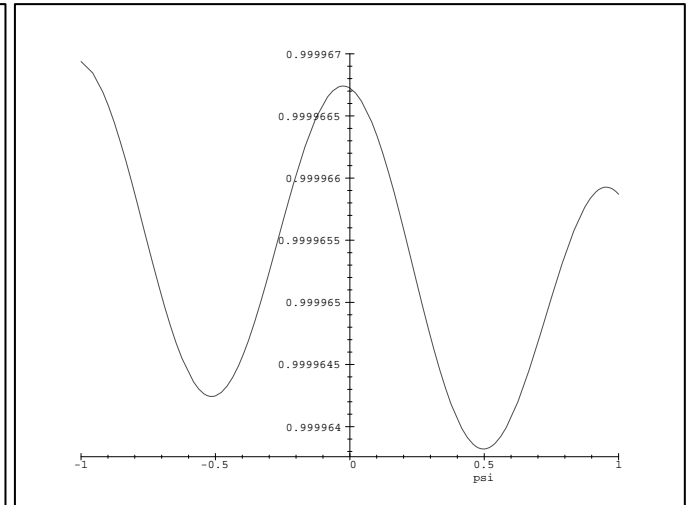
**Fig. 9:** First full part distribution ( $m = 2$ , observed = circle, asymptotic = line)



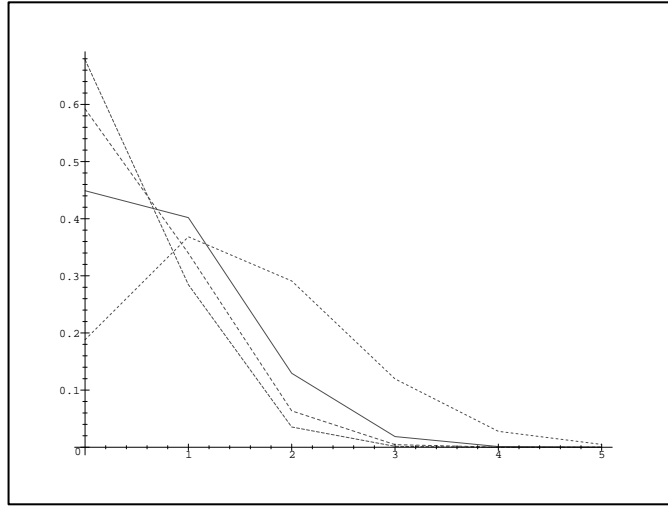
**Fig. 10:**  $P(2,0)$  as a function of  $\psi$



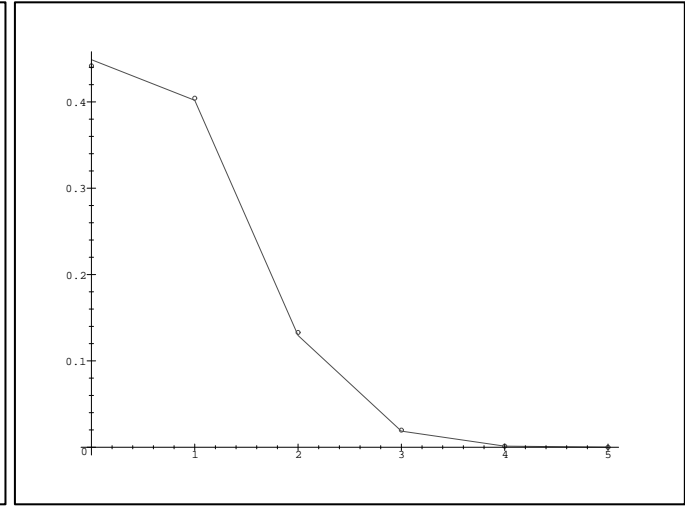
**Fig. 11:**  $\sum_{i=0}^3 P(2,i)$



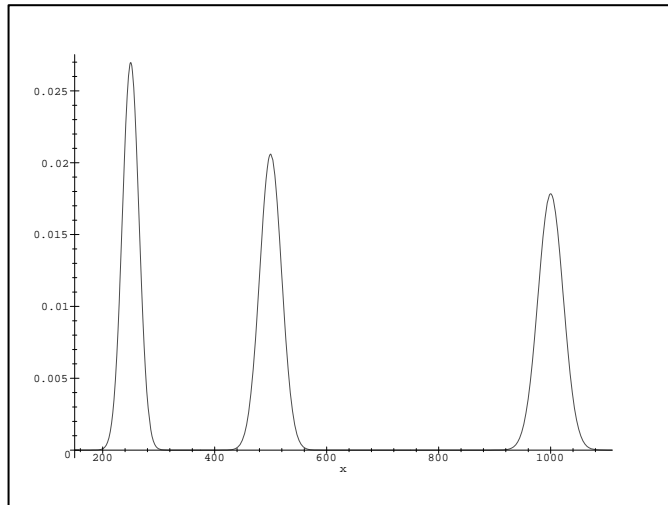
**Fig. 12:**  $\sum_{i=0}^4 P(2,i)$



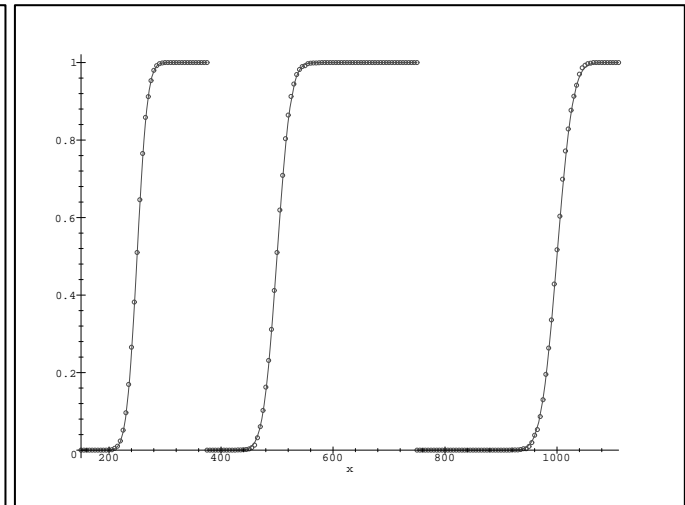
**Fig. 13:**  $P(m, i), m = 1, \dots, 4$



**Fig. 14:** Distribution of  $X(2)$  (observed = circle, asymptotic = line)



**Fig. 15:**  $\Pr(X_i(m) = 1), i = 1, \dots, 3$



**Fig. 16:** Distribution function of  $M_i, i = 1, \dots, 3$  (observed = circle, asymptotic = line)



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