

Abstract Submitted  
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**A Random Walk Picture of Basketball** ALAN GABEL, SIDNEY REDNER, Boston University — We analyze NBA basketball play-by-play data and found that scoring is well described by a weakly-biased, anti-persistent, continuous-time random walk. The time between successive scoring events follows an exponential distribution, with little memory between events. We account for a wide variety of statistical properties of scoring, such as the distribution of the score difference between opponents and the fraction of game time that one team is in the lead.

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