

# Hardy–Weinberg law

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Pardon my ignorance, but I have only just discovered this law.

Applying it to evolution looks a little to me like applying a rate of interest to your bank balance – is there an equivalent to compound interest, without getting too much into specifics.

It's fairly evident I think that it is unlike extending Newton's laws to – say – rigid bodies (where a summation is sufficient) and more like at minimum a noisy system with many degrees of freedom.

The problem I was having with genetic drift was the description of it as 'random' when random changes are intermixed with less than random changes and selection applying to the overall (but not just summed) genome – every generation.

Maybe there is some magical method by which the random part can be extracted after the fact, but that seems unlikely – only a part of the result that meets tests for randomness which is likely to be a different matter altogether.

Beginner