

Series 2 - September 25, 2024

Exercise 1.

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0})$ be a stochastic basis. Consider two stochastic processes $X, Y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^T$, with T an interval of $\mathbb{R}^+$ or the whole $\mathbb{R}^+$, both adapted to $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$. Show that if X, Y are a modification of each other and they are a.s. continuous, then they are indistinguishable

Solution

As the paths of the two processes are a.s. continuous except eventually for a negligible event, if they coincide at the times of a dense subset $D \subset T$, they necessarily coincide on the whole T . Let $D = \{t_1, t_2, \dots\}$ be a sequence of times which is dense in T (e.g. $T \cap \mathbb{Q}$). Then

$$\{X_t = Y_t \text{ for every } t\} = \bigcap_{t \in T} \{X_t = Y_t\} = \bigcap_{t_i \in D} \{X_{t_i} = Y_{t_i}\}$$

As $P(X_{t_i} = Y_{t_i}) = 1$ for every i , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & P(X_{t_i} \neq Y_{t_i}) \neq 0 \\ \Rightarrow & P(\cup \{X_{t_i} \neq Y_{t_i}\}) = 0 \quad (\text{countable union of zero probability events}) \\ \Rightarrow & P\left(\bigcap_{t_i \in D} \{X_{t_i} = Y_{t_i}\}\right) = 1 - P(\cup \{X_{t_i} \neq Y_{t_i}\}) = 1. \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

so that also $P(X_t = Y_t \text{ for every } t) = 1$ and the two processes are indistinguishable.

Exercise 2.

Let $(X(t), 0 \leq t \leq T)$ and $(Y(t), 0 \leq t \leq T)$ be two stochastic processes. By providing counterexamples, show that:

- i) $P(X(t) = Y(t) \forall t \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, T]) = 1 \not\Rightarrow P(X(t) = Y(t) \forall t \in [0, T]) = 1.$
- ii) $P(X(t) = Y(t)) = 1 \forall t \in [0, T] \not\Rightarrow P(X(t) = Y(t) \forall t \in [0, T]) = 1.$

(In view of the previous exercise, X, Y cannot be both a.s. continuous).

Solution

- i) Consider $X(t)$ a stochastic process defined on $[0, T]$ and define

$$Y(t) = \begin{cases} X(t) & t \in [0, T] \cap \mathbb{Q}, \\ X(t) + 1 & t \in [0, T] \setminus \mathbb{Q}. \end{cases}$$

Then we have $P(X(t) = Y(t) \forall t \in \mathbb{Q} \cap [0, T]) = 1$ but $P(X(t) = Y(t) \forall t \in [0, T]) = 0.$

- ii) Consider a uniform random variable $U \sim \mathcal{U}(0, T)$ on $[0, T]$. Then, define $X(t, \omega) = 0$ for all $t \in [0, T]$ and $\omega \in \Omega$ and $Y(t, \omega)$ as

$$Y(t, \omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t = U(\omega), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then we have for all $t \in [0, T]$

$$P(X(t) = Y(t)) = P(Y(t) = 0) = P(U \neq t) = 1,$$

hence the left hand side of the implication is verified. Nonetheless, for all $\omega \in \Omega$ the paths $t \mapsto X(t, \omega)$ and $t \mapsto Y(t, \omega)$ are not equal as

$$Y(U(\omega), \omega) = 1 \neq 0 = X(U(\omega), \omega),$$

hence $P(X(t) = Y(t) \forall t \in [0, T]) = 0$.

Exercise 3.

Let B be a real Brownian motion and $\pi = \{t_0, \dots, t_m\}$ with $0 \leq s = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_m = t$ be a partition of the interval $[s, t]$, with $|\pi| = \max_{0 \leq k \leq m-1} |t_{k+1} - t_k|$.

1) Show that

$$V_\pi^2 = \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} |B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k}|^2$$

satisfies

$$\lim_{|\pi| \rightarrow 0^+} V_\pi^2 = t - s \quad \text{in } L^2.$$

2) Show that $\lim_{|\pi| \rightarrow 0^+} V_\pi^1 = \infty$ a.s. $\forall t > s$, i.e. the paths of a Brownian motion do not have finite variation in any time interval a.s.

Solution

1) We have $\sum_{k=0}^{m-1} (t_{k+1} - t_k) = (t_1 - s) + (t_2 - t_1) + \dots + (t_m - t_{m-1}) = t - s$ so we can write

$$V_\pi^2 - (t - s) = \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \left[(B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k})^2 - (t_{k+1} - t_k) \right].$$

We must prove that $\mathbb{E}[(V_\pi^2 - (t - s))^2] \rightarrow 0$ as $|\pi| \rightarrow 0$. Note that the random variable $v_k = (B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k})^2 - (t_{k+1} - t_k)$, $k = 0, \dots, m-1$ are independent (the increments of a Brownian motion over disjoint intervals are independent) and centered; therefore, if $h \neq k$ we have

$$\mathbb{E} \left(\left[(B_{t_{h+1}} - B_{t_h})^2 - (t_{h+1} - t_h) \right] \left[(B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k})^2 - (t_{k+1} - t_k) \right] \right) = 0,$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(V_\pi^2 - (t - s))^2] &= \mathbb{E} \left(\sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \left[(B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k})^2 - (t_{k+1} - t_k) \right] \times \sum_{h=0}^{m-1} \left[(B_{t_{h+1}} - B_{t_h})^2 - (t_{h+1} - t_h) \right] \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \mathbb{E} \left(\left[(B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k})^2 - (t_{k+1} - t_k) \right]^2 \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} (t_{k+1} - t_k)^2 \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{(B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k})^2}{t_{k+1} - t_k} - 1 \right)^2 \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

But for every k the r.v. $\frac{B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k}}{\sqrt{t_{k+1} - t_k}}$ is $N(0, 1)$ -distributed and the quantities

$$c = \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{(B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k})^2}{t_{k+1} - t_k} - 1 \right)^2 \right]$$

are finite and do not depend on k ($c = 2$, if you really want to compute it...). Therefore, as $|\pi| \rightarrow 0^+$,

$$\mathbb{E}[(V_\pi^2 - (t-s))^2] = c \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} (t_{k+1} - t_k)^2 \leq c|\pi| \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} |t_{k+1} - t_k| = c|\pi|(t-s) \rightarrow 0,$$

which yields the thesis.

2) Observe that

$$V_\pi^2 = \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} |B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k}|^2 \leq \max_{0 \leq i \leq m-1} |B_{t_{i+1}} - B_{t_i}| \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} |B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k}|$$

As the paths are a.s. continuous, $\max_{0 \leq i \leq m-1} |B_{t_{i+1}} - B_{t_i}| \rightarrow 0$ as $|\pi| \rightarrow 0^+$ and therefore if the paths had finite variation on $[s, t]$ for ω in some event A of positive probability, then on A we would have

$$\lim_{|\pi| \rightarrow 0^+} \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} |B_{t_{k+1}} - B_{t_k}| < +\infty$$

and therefore, taking the limit, we would have $\lim_{|\pi| \rightarrow 0^+} V_\pi^2(\omega) = 0$ on A , in contradiction with point 1).

Exercise 4.

Consider a Brownian motion B on a filtered probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0})$. Show that

- 1) for every $0 \leq s < t$ the r.v. $B_t - B_s$ is independent of B_u , $\forall u \leq s$;
- 2) B is a Gaussian process.

Hint. To show that a stochastic processes $\{X_t\}_{t \in [0, \infty)}$ is a Gaussian it is enough to show that for any $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and any $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m \in \mathbb{R}$ the random variable $Z = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i X_{t_i}$ is Gaussian.

Solution

- 1) From the definition of Brownian motion we know that B_u is $\mathcal{F}_u$ measurable, hence $\mathcal{F}_s$ measurable since $F_u \subset F_s$. This implies that $\sigma(B_u) \subset \mathcal{F}_s$. Again, by definition of Brownian motion $B_t - B_s$ is independent of $\mathcal{F}_s$, hence it is also independent of $\sigma(B_u)$, for all $u \leq s$, which is equivalent to say that $B_t - B_s$ is independent of B_u for all $u \leq s$.
- 2) One has to prove that the joint distributions of $B_{t_1}, \dots, B_{t_m}$ is Gaussian. The proof follows by induction. This is obvious if $m = 1$, with $s = 0$ one has $B_t \sim N(0, t)$ via definition of Brownian motion. Let us assume that $\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i B_{s_i}$, for any $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m \in \mathbb{R}$ and any $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_m \in \mathbb{R}^+$, is Gaussian and consider $Y = \sum_{i=1}^{m+1} \alpha_i B_{t_i}$ with w.l.o.g. $0 \leq t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_{m+1}$. Then, we can write

$$Y = \alpha_1 B_{t_1} + \dots + \alpha_{m+1} B_{t_{m+1}} = \underbrace{[\alpha_1 B_{t_1} + \dots + (\alpha_m + \alpha_{m+1}) B_{t_m}]}_{\tilde{Y}} + \alpha_{m+1} (B_{t_{m+1}} - B_{t_m})$$

By induction assumption $\tilde{Y}$ is Gaussian and $B_{t_{m+1}} - B_{t_m}$ is Gaussian by definition and independent of $\tilde{Y}$ via point 1). This yields the thesis.

Exercise 5.

The family of Haar functions $\{h_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ is defined for $0 \leq t \leq 1$ as

$$h_0(t) = 1, \quad h_1(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq 1/2, \\ -1 & \text{if } 1/2 < t \leq 1, \end{cases}$$

and for $2^n \leq k < 2^{n+1}$ with $n = 1, 2, \dots$ as

$$h_k(t) = \begin{cases} 2^{n/2} & \text{if } \frac{k-2^n}{2^n} \leq t \leq \frac{k-2^n+1/2}{2^n}, \\ -2^{n/2} & \text{if } \frac{k-2^n+1/2}{2^n} < t \leq \frac{k-2^{n+1}}{2^n}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad n = \lfloor \log_2 k \rfloor$$

i) Show that $\{h_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ is orthonormal in $L^2(0, 1)$.

ii) Show that $\{h_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ is complete in $L^2(0, 1)$, i.e., $f = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle f, h_k \rangle h_k$ in $L^2(0, 1)$ for any $f \in L^2(0, 1)$.

Hint. First prove that if $\langle g, h_k \rangle = 0$ for all $k \geq 0$ then $g = 0$ a.s. by showing that $\int_s^t g = 0$ for all $0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1$.

Solution

(See Evans chapter 3 for more details.)

i) First, for any $k \geq 0$ it holds $\langle h_k, h_k \rangle = 2^{-n}(2^{n/2})^2 = 1$. Then, note that if $2^n \leq k < l < 2^{n+1}$ for a $n \geq 1$, the support of h_k and h_l are disjoint and hence $\langle h_k, h_l \rangle = 0$. Finally, if $2^{n_1} \leq k < 2^{n_1+1} \leq 2^{n_2} \leq l < 2^{n_2+1}$ for $1 \leq n_1 < n_2$, then the support of h_l is included in the half-support of h_k , hence $h_k h_l = \pm 2^{n_2/2} h_k$ and hence $\langle h_k, h_l \rangle = 0$.

ii) Assume that $\langle f, h_k \rangle = 0$ for all $k \geq 0$. First, it holds $\langle f, h_0 \rangle = \int_0^1 f = 0$. Then, we have $\langle f, h_1 \rangle = \int_0^{1/2} f - \int_{1/2}^1 f = 0$ and that implies $\int_0^{1/2} f = \int_{1/2}^1 f$ which due to the previous step gives $2 \int_0^{1/2} f = \int_0^1 f = 0$ and we conclude that $\int_0^{1/2} f = \int_{1/2}^1 f = 0$. Continuing with the same reasoning we can show that for any $n \geq 1$ and for all $0 \leq k < 2^n + 1$ we have $\int_{k/2^{n+1}}^{(k+1)/2^{n+1}} f = 0$. Hence, by density of the extrema in $[0, 1]$ we deduce that for any $0 \leq t, s \leq 1$ it holds $\int_s^t f = 0$, which implies that $f = 0$ a.e. in $[0, 1]$. Now let $f \in L^2(0, 1)$. Note that $g = f - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle f, h_k \rangle h_k$ satisfies $\langle g, h_j \rangle = 0$ for all $j \geq 0$, and therefore $g = 0$ a.e. and $f = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle f, h_k \rangle h_k$ in $L^2(0, 1)$.

Exercise 6.

The family of Schauder functions $\{s_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ is defined for $0 \leq t \leq 1$ as $s_k(t) = \langle \chi_{[0,t]}, h_k \rangle$, where $\{h_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ are the Haar functions and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the inner product in $L^2(0, 1)$. Then let $W(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \xi_k s_k(t)$, where $\{\xi_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ is a sequence of independent standard Gaussian random variables $\xi_k \sim N(0, 1)$.

i) Show that $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} s_k(r) s_k(t) = \min\{r, t\}$ for all $0 \leq r, t \leq 1$.

ii) Show that there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that for all $k \geq 2$ it holds

$$P(|\xi_k| > 4\sqrt{\log k}) \leq Ck^{-4},$$

and deduce that almost surely there exists a positive integer $\bar{k}$ such that for all $k > \bar{k}$ it holds $|\xi_k| \leq 4\sqrt{\log k}$.

Hint. Apply Borel–Cantelli lemma.

iii) Prove that the series $W(t)$ converges uniformly for $t \in [0, 1]$.

Hint. You can follow these steps where $C > 0$ is a positive constant.

- a) Show that almost surely for n big enough $\max_{2^n \leq k < 2^{n+1}} |\xi_k| \leq C 2^{\frac{n+1}{4}}$.
- b) Show that $\sum_{k=2^n}^{2^{n+1}-1} |s_k(t)| \leq 2^{-\frac{n+2}{2}}$.
- c) Show that for m big enough $\sum_{k=2^m}^{\infty} |\xi_k| |s_k(t)| \leq C \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} 2^{-\frac{n+3}{4}}$.

Solution

i) For $0 \leq s, t \leq 1$, using Exercise 5 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} s_k(t) s_k(s) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle \chi_{[0,t]}, h_k \rangle \langle \chi_{[0,s]}, h_k \rangle = \langle \chi_{[0,t]}, \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle \chi_{[0,s]}, h_k \rangle h_k \rangle = \langle \chi_{[0,t]}, \chi_{[0,s]} \rangle \\ &= \min\{s, t\}. \end{aligned}$$

ii) For any $x > 0$ and $k \geq 2$ we have

$$P(|\xi_k| > x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_x^{\infty} e^{-\frac{s^2}{2}} \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{4}} \int_x^{\infty} e^{-\frac{s^2}{4}} \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{4}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\frac{s^2}{4}}.$$

Hence, setting $x = 4\sqrt{\log k}$ and $C = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\frac{s^2}{4}}$, we obtain

$$P(|\xi_k| > 4\sqrt{\log k}) \leq C e^{-4 \log k} \leq C k^{-4}.$$

Since $\sum k^{-4} < \infty$, Borel–Cantelli lemma implies that $P(|\xi_k| > 4\sqrt{\log k} \text{ i.o.}) = 0$. Consequently, $P(|\xi_k| \leq 4\sqrt{\log k} \text{ eventually}) = 1$ and almost surely for any sufficiently large k it holds $|\xi_k| \leq 4\sqrt{\log k}$.

iii) First, note that $\sqrt{\log k} \leq \sqrt{2} k^{1/4}$ (for all $x, \alpha > 0$ we have $\alpha \log x = \log(x^\alpha) \leq x^\alpha$), hence from the previous point we have

$$\max_{2^n \leq k < 2^{n+1}} |\xi_k| \leq \max_k 4\sqrt{2} k^{1/4} \leq C 2^{\frac{n+1}{4}},$$

where $C = 4\sqrt{2}$. Furthermore, note that for any $2^n \leq k < 2^{n+1}$ with $n \geq 2$ and for all $0 \leq t \leq 1$, $|s_k(t)| \leq 2^{-(n+2)/2}$ (hat functions) and therefore

$$\sum_{k=2^n}^{2^{n+1}-1} |s_k(t)| \leq 2^{-\frac{n+2}{2}},$$

as the hat functions have non-overlapping supports. Consequently, for any $0 \leq t \leq 1$, we bound the remainder by

$$\sum_{k=2^m}^{\infty} |\xi_k| |s_k(t)| = \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} \sum_{k=2^n}^{2^{n+1}-1} |\xi_k| |s_k(t)| \leq C \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} 2^{\frac{n+1}{4}} 2^{-\frac{n+2}{2}} \leq C \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} 2^{-\frac{n+3}{4}}.$$

Since the geometric series $\sum (2^{-1/4})^n$ converges, the remainder is smaller than ϵ for sufficiently large m . As this holds for all $0 \leq t \leq 1$, the series converges uniformly on $[0, 1]$.

Exercise 7.

The family of Schauder functions $\{s_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ is defined for $0 \leq t \leq 1$ as $s_k(t) = \langle \chi_{[0,t]}, h_k \rangle$, where $\{h_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ are the Haar functions and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the inner product in $L^2(0, 1)$. Then let

$$W(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \xi_k s_k(t), \tag{7.1}$$

where $\{\xi_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ is a sequence of independent standard Gaussian random variables $\xi_k \sim N(0, 1)$.

Show that $W(t)$ is actually a Brownian motion. Equation (7.1) is the Lévy-Ciesielski construction of the Brownian motion.

Solution

To prove $W(\cdot)$ is a Brownian motion, we first note that clearly $W(0) = 0$ a.s. We assert as well that $W(t) - W(s)$ is $N(0, t - s)$ for all $0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1$. To prove this, let us compute

$$\begin{aligned}
E(e^{i\lambda(W(t)-W(s))}) &= E(e^{i\lambda \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \xi_k(s_k(t)-s_k(s))}) \\
&= \prod_{k=0}^{\infty} E(e^{i\lambda \xi_k(s_k(t)-s_k(s))}) \quad \text{by independence} \\
&= \prod_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{\lambda^2}{2}(s_k(t)-s_k(s))^2} \quad \text{since } \xi_k \text{ is } N(0, 1) \\
&= e^{-\frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (s_k(t)-s_k(s))^2} \\
&= e^{-\frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} s_k^2(t) - 2s_k(t)s_k(s) + s_k^2(s)} \\
&= e^{-\frac{\lambda^2}{2}(t-2s+s)} \quad \text{by Exercise 6} \\
&= e^{-\frac{\lambda^2}{2}(t-s)}
\end{aligned} \tag{7.2}$$

By uniqueness of characteristic functions, the increment $W(t) - W(s)$ is $N(0, t - s)$, as asserted. Next we claim for all $m = 1, 2, \dots$ and for all $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_m \leq 1$, that

$$E(e^{i \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j (W(t_j) - W(t_{j-1}))}) = \prod_{j=1}^m e^{-\frac{\lambda_j^2}{2}(t_j - t_{j-1})} \tag{7.3}$$

Once this is proved, we will know from uniqueness of characteristic functions that

$$F_{W(t_1), \dots, W(t_m) - W(t_{m-1})}(x_1, \dots, x_m) = F_{W(t_1)}(x_1) \cdots F_{W(t_m) - W(t_{m-1})}(x_m)$$

for all $x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}$. This proves that

$$W(t_1), \dots, W(t_m) - W(t_{m-1}) \quad \text{are independent.}$$

Thus (7.3) will establish the thesis. Now in the case $m = 2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
E(e^{i[\lambda_1 W(t_1) + \lambda_2 (W(t_2) - W(t_1))]})) &= E(e^{i[(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)W(t_1) + \lambda_2 W(t_2)]}) \\
&= E(e^{i(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \xi_k s_k(t_1) + i\lambda_2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \xi_k s_k(t_2)}) \\
&= \prod_{k=0}^{\infty} E(e^{i\xi_k[(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)s_k(t_1) + \lambda_2 s_k(t_2)]}) \\
&= \prod_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{1}{2}((\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)s_k(t_1) + \lambda_2 s_k(t_2))^2} \\
&= e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 s_k^2(t_1) + 2(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)\lambda_2 s_k(t_1)s_k(t_2) + \lambda_2^2 s_k^2(t_2)} \\
&= e^{-\frac{1}{2}[(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 t_1 + 2(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)\lambda_2 t_1 + \lambda_2^2 t_2]} \quad \text{by Ex. 6} \\
&= e^{-\frac{1}{2}[\lambda_1^2 t_1 + \lambda_2^2 (t_2 - t_1)]}
\end{aligned} \tag{7.4}$$

This is (7.3) for $m = 2$, and the general case follows similarly.