

MTH 9831. LECTURE 8

ELENA KOSYGINA

ABSTRACT. Connections with PDEs

1. SDEs: definition, Markov property of solutions, associated differential operators.
2. Feynman-Kac formula.
3. Kolmogorov's backward and forward equations.

1. SDEs: DEFINITION, MARKOV PROPERTY OF SOLUTIONS, ASSOCIATED DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS

Definition 1.1. Let $b(t, x)$ be a deterministic d -dimensional vector-valued function on $[0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\sigma(t, x)$ be a deterministic $d \times r$ matrix for all $(t, x) \in [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d$. Denote by $B(t)$ the r -dimensional standard BM. A stochastic differential equation with drift $b(t, x)$ and volatility $\sigma(t, x)$ is an equation of the form

$$(\mathcal{E}) \quad dX(t) = b(t, X(t))dt + \sigma(t, X(t))dB(t).$$

A strong solution to (\mathcal{E}) with the initial condition $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is a stochastic process $(X(t))_{t \geq 0}$ with continuous sample paths such that

- (i) $X(0) = x$ a.s.;
- (ii) $(X(t))_{t \geq 0}$ is adapted to the filtration $(\mathcal{F}(t))_{t \geq 0}$ generated by $(B(t))_{t \geq 0}$;
- (iii) $\int_0^t |b_i(s, X(s))| + \sigma_{ij}^2(s, X(s))ds < \infty$ a.s. for $1 \leq i \leq d$, $1 \leq j \leq r$, $0 \leq t < \infty$;
- (iv) for $t \in [0, \infty)$,

$$X(t) = X(0) + \int_0^t b(u, X(u))du + \int_0^t \sigma(u, X(u))dB(u) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Remark 1.2. Often in applications we want to start the process at time t from a given point $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and find $X = (X(u))_{u \geq t}$ such that $X(t) = x$ and for $u \geq t$

$$X(u) = X(t) + \int_t^u b(s, X(s))ds + \int_t^u \sigma(s, X(s))dB(s) \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Some conditions on $b(t, x)$ and $\sigma(t, x)$ are needed to ensure the existence and uniqueness of solutions to (\mathcal{E}) .

Example 1.3. Find a solution to

$$dX(t) = X^3(t)dt - X^2(t)dB(t), \quad X(0) = 1.$$

Let us try to find $X(t)$ in the form $X(t) = f(t, B(t))$ for some deterministic function $f(t, x)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} dX(t) &= df(t, B(t)) = f_t dt + f_x dB(t) + \frac{1}{2} f_{xx} dt \\ &= (f_t + \frac{1}{2} f_{xx}) dt + f_x dB(t). \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that f has to satisfy: $f_x = -f^2$ and $f_t + \frac{1}{2} f_{xx} = f^3$. Solving the first equation we get that

$$f(t, x) = \frac{1}{x + C(t)}$$

for some $C(t)$. Substituting f in the second equation gives

$$-\frac{-C'(t)}{(x+C(t))^2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{2}{(x+C(t))^3} = \frac{1}{(x+C(t))^3}$$

We conclude that $C'(t) = 0$, and $C(t) \equiv C$. Therefore, $f(t, x) = (x+C)^{-1}$. Using the initial condition $X(0) = 0$ we find

$$X(0) = f(0, 0) = \frac{1}{C} = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad C = 1,$$

and $X(t) = f(t, B(t)) = (B(t) + 1)^{-1}$. The problem is that with probability 1, $B(t)$ hits -1 , i.e. $P(T_{-1} < \infty) = 1$. Thus, the solution exists only up to the "explosion time" T_{-1} .

To prevent explosion and guarantee the existence and uniqueness of (\mathcal{E}) it is sufficient that there is a constant K such that for all $t \in [0, \infty)$, $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} |b(t, x)|, \|\sigma(t, x)\| &\leq K(1 + |x|) \quad \text{and} \\ |b(t, x) - b(t, y)| + \|\sigma(t, x) - \sigma(t, y)\| &\leq K|x - y|, \end{aligned}$$

where for any $d \times r$ matrix A we set $\|A\| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=1}^r a_{ij}^2}$. In fact, for $d = 1$ the conditions can be significantly weakened. (For example, CIR can be included.)

Markov Property. Intuition for $d = 1$. How can one try to simulate $X(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq T$? Suppose that $X(0) = x$ is given. Consider a small increment of time δ . Then according to (\mathcal{E}) ,

$$\begin{aligned} X(\delta) &\approx x + b(0, x)\delta + \sigma(0, x) \underbrace{B(\delta)}_{\sim N(0, \delta)} \\ &= x + b(0, x)\delta + \sigma(0, x)\sqrt{\delta}Z_1, \quad Z_1 \sim N(0, 1). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \bullet & \bullet & & \bullet & \bullet & & \bullet \\ 0 & \delta & & k\delta & (k+1)\delta & & T = n\delta \end{array}$$

Continuing for $k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} X((k+1)\delta) &= X(k\delta) + b(k\delta, X(k\delta))\delta + \sigma(k\delta, X(k\delta))(B((k+1)\delta) - B(k\delta)) \\ &= X(k\delta) + b(k\delta, X(k\delta))\delta + \sigma(k\delta, X(k\delta))\sqrt{\delta}Z_{k+1}; \end{aligned}$$

and Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n are i.i.d. $N(0, 1)$. Then $X(n\delta) = X(T)$ gives us a simulated value at time T . If we could justify passing to the limit (in some sense) as $\delta \rightarrow 0$, then the limiting process would give us a solution to (\mathcal{E}) . Moreover, our procedure suggests that the limiting process would be memory-less (\equiv Markov process), since given $X(k\delta)$ we can simulate $X((k+1)\delta), \dots, X(n\delta)$ without knowing $X(0), X(\delta), \dots, X((k-1)\delta)$. More rigorously, the following theorem holds.

Theorem 1.4. *Let $0 \leq t \leq T$ and h be a Borel measurable function such that the expectations below are well-defined. Set*

$$g(t, x) = \mathbb{E}^{t, x} h(X(T)).^1$$

Then for $t \in [0, T]$,

$$\mathbb{E}(h(X(T)) | \mathcal{F}(t)) = g(t, X(t)),$$

i.e. solutions to SDEs are Markov process.

¹Take $X(t) = x$, solve (\mathcal{E}) for $u \in [t, T]$, get $X(T)$, and compute the expectation of $h(X(T))$, repeat for all $t \in [0, T]$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Get a deterministic function $g(t, x)$.

The proof is omitted.

Interpretation of the drift and diffusion coefficients. Here is a heuristic approach (for $d = 1$).

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(X(t+\delta) - X(t) \mid X(t) = x) &\approx \\
\mathbb{E}(b(t, X(t))\delta + \sigma(t, X(t))\sqrt{\delta}Z \mid X(t) = x) &= b(t, x)\delta; \\
\Rightarrow \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}(X(t+\delta) - X(t) \mid X(t) = x)}{\delta} &= b(t, x). \\
\mathbb{E}((X(t+\delta) - X(t))^2 \mid X(t) = x) &\approx \\
\mathbb{E}((b(t, X(t))\delta + \sigma(t, X(t))\sqrt{\delta}Z)^2 \mid X(t) = x) &= b^2(t, x)\delta^2 + \delta\sigma^2(t, x); \\
\Rightarrow \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}((X(t+\delta) - X(t))^2 \mid X(t) = x)}{\delta} &= \sigma^2(t, x) =: a(t, x)
\end{aligned}$$

From the above, it is natural that $b(t, x)$ is called the drift coefficient and $a(t, x)$ is called the diffusion coefficient.

Let's take the next step. Take an arbitrary smooth function $u(t, x)$. Then looking at the first few terms in the Taylor expansion we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(u(t+\delta, X(t+\delta)) - u(t, X(t)) \mid X(t) = x) &\approx \\
\mathbb{E}(u_t(t, X(t))\delta + u_x(t, X(t))(X(t+\delta) - X(t)) + \frac{1}{2}u_{xx}(t, X(t))(X(t+\delta) - X(t))^2 \mid X(t) = x) & \\
= \delta(u_t(t, x) + b(t, x)u_x(t, x) + \frac{1}{2}u_{xx}(t, x)a(t, x)) &\Rightarrow \\
\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} \mathbb{E}(u(t+\delta, X(t+\delta)) - u(t, X(t)) \mid X(t) = x) &= u_t(t, x) + b(t, x)u_x(t, x) + \frac{1}{2}a(t, x)u_{xx}(t, x) \\
=: u_t(t, x) + (\mathcal{A}_t u)(t, x), &
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$(1) \quad \mathcal{A}_t := b(t, x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2}a(t, x) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}, \quad (t \geq 0)$$

Similarly, for $d \geq 1$, we set

$$(2) \quad \mathcal{A}_t := \sum_{i=1}^d b_i(t, x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^d a_{ij}(t, x) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}, \quad (t \geq 0),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
b^T(t, x) &= \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \delta^{-1} \mathbb{E}((X(t+\delta) - X(t))^T \mid X(t) = x); \\
a(t, x) &= \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \delta^{-1} \mathbb{E}((X(t+\delta) - X(t))(X(t+\delta) - X(t))^T \mid X(t) = x) \\
&= (\sigma \sigma^T)(t, x);
\end{aligned}$$

Remark 1.5. When b and σ do not depend on t , i.e. $b = b(x)$, $\sigma = \sigma(x)$, X is called a (time homogeneous, or Itô) diffusion process and \mathcal{A} (now it does not depend on t) is called the generator of X .

2. FEYNMAN-KAC FORMULA.

This formula gives a stochastic representation of a solution to a terminal problem for a linear PDE.

Theorem 2.1 (Feynman-Kac formula). *Let $g(t, x)$ be the solution of the following terminal value problem*

$$\begin{aligned} g_t + b(t, x)g_x + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(t, x)g_{xx} &= r(t, x)g, \quad (t, x) \in [0, T) \times \mathbb{R} \\ g(T, x) &= h(x). \end{aligned}$$

Let $(X(u))_{t \leq u \leq T}$ solve (\mathcal{E}) with $X(t) = x$. Then,

$$g(t, x) = \mathbb{E}^{t, x} \left(e^{-\int_t^T r(s, X(s))ds} h(X(T)) \right).$$

(We assume that some mild integrability conditions are satisfied so that all integrals make sense.)

The idea of the proof. For $0 \leq t \leq u \leq T$, we compute (t is fixed and u is changing)

$$\begin{aligned} & d \left(e^{-\int_t^u r(s, X(s))ds} g(u, X(u)) \right) \\ &= -r(u, X(u))e^{-\int_t^u r(s, X(s))ds} g(u, X(u))du + e^{-\int_t^u r(s, X(s))ds} dg(u, X(u)) \\ &= e^{-\int_t^u r(s, X(s))ds} [(-r(u, X(u))g(u, X(u)) + g_t(u, X(u)) \\ &\quad + b(u, X(u))g_x(u, X(u)) + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(u, X(u))g_{xx}(u, X(u)))du + g_x(u, X(u))\sigma(u, X(u))dB(u)]. \end{aligned}$$

Since g solves the PDE, the drift term is 0. Integrating from $u = t$ to $u = T$ we get

$$e^{-\int_t^T r(s, X(s))ds} g(T, X(T)) - g(t, X(t)) = \int_t^T e^{-\int_t^u r(s, X(s))ds} g_x(u, X(u))\sigma(u, X(u))dB(u).$$

Taking conditional expectation (given $X(t) = x$), we get

$$\mathbb{E}^{t, x} \left(e^{-\int_t^T r(s, X(s))ds} h(X(T)) \right) = g(t, x). \quad \square$$

Theorem 2.2 (Multidimensional Feynman-Kac formula). *Let $a(t, x) = (\sigma\sigma^T)(t, x)$ and assume that $g(t, x)$ satisfies on $[0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ the equation*

$$\partial_t g + \sum_{j=1}^d \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} g + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=1}^d a_{ij}(t, x) \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x_i^2} = r(t, x)g$$

with the terminal condition $g(T, x) = h(x)$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Then (under integrability conditions)

$$g(t, x) = \mathbb{E}^{t, x} \left(e^{-\int_t^T r(s, X(s))ds} h(X(T)) \right),$$

where $(X(u))_{t \leq u \leq T}$ solves (\mathcal{E}) with $X(t) = x$; i.e. $\forall j = 1, 2, \dots, d$,

$$\begin{aligned} dX_j(u) &= b_j(u, X(u))du + \sum_{k=1}^d \sigma_{jk}(u, X(u))dB_k(u); \\ X_j(t) &= x, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, d; \quad t \leq u \leq T. \end{aligned}$$

Example 2.3 (Heston's stochastic volatility model; $d = 2$). Suppose that under $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$ the stock price follows

$$dS(t) = rS(t)dt + \sqrt{V(t)}S(t)d\tilde{B}_1(t),$$

where $V(t)$ is a stochastic process and

$$dV(t) = (a - bV(t))dt + \sigma\sqrt{V(t)}d\tilde{B}_2(t),$$

$a, b, \sigma > 0$ and $d[B_1, B_2]_t = \rho dt$, $-1 < \rho < 1$.

- Find the corresponding generator \mathcal{A} .

- What does the FK formula say about the solution of

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial t} + \mathcal{A}g = rg; \quad g(T, x, v) = h(x, v)?$$

It is easy to find the drift $b(t, x, v) = \begin{bmatrix} rx \\ a - bv \end{bmatrix}$.

There are 2 ways to find $\|a_{ij}(t, x, v)\|$.

- I. Find $\sigma(t, x, v)$ and compute $\sigma\sigma^T(t, x, v)$.
For this, we have to "decorrelate" our BM:

$$\begin{aligned} d\widetilde{B}_1(t) &= d\widetilde{W}_1(t), \\ d\widetilde{B}_2(t) &= \rho d\widetilde{W}_1(t) + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} d\widetilde{W}_2(t), \end{aligned}$$

where $(\widetilde{W}_1(t), \widetilde{W}_2(t))$ is a standard 2-dimensional BM.

$$\begin{aligned} dS(t) &= rS(t)dt + \sqrt{V(t)}S(t)d\widetilde{W}_1(t); \\ dV(t) &= (a - bV(t))dt + \sigma\sqrt{V(t)}(\rho d\widetilde{W}_1(t) + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}d\widetilde{W}_2(t)); \\ \sigma(t, x, v) &= \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{v}x & 0 \\ \rho\sigma\sqrt{v} & \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}\sigma\sqrt{v} \end{bmatrix}; \\ \sigma\sigma^T(t, x, v) &= \begin{bmatrix} vx^2 & \sigma xv\rho \\ \sigma xv\rho & \sigma^2 v \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

- II. Compute directly $\|a_{ij}(t, x, v)\|$.

$$\begin{aligned} d[S, S](t) &= V(t)S^2(t)dt \Rightarrow a_{11}(t, x, v) = vx^2; \\ d[S, V](t) &= \sigma V(t)S(t)\rho dt \Rightarrow a_{12}(t, x, v) = a_{21}(t, x, v) = \sigma\rho vx; \\ d[V, V](t) &= \sigma^2 V(t)dt \Rightarrow a_{22}(t, x, v) = \sigma^2 v. \end{aligned}$$

Why does this work? Recall our heuristics:

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E}((S(t + \delta) - S(t))^2 | S(t) = x, V(t) = v); \\ &\approx \mathbb{E}((rS(t)\delta + \sqrt{V(t)}S(t)\sqrt{\delta}Z)^2 | S(t) = x, V(t) = v); \\ &\approx vx^2\delta + o(\delta) \Rightarrow a_{11}(t, x, v) = vx^2; \\ &\mathbb{E}((S(t + \delta) - S(t))(V(t + \delta) - V(t)) | S(t) = x, V(t) = v); \\ &\approx \mathbb{E}((rS(t)\delta + \sqrt{V(t)}S(t)\sqrt{\delta}Z_1)((a - bV(t)\delta + \sigma\sqrt{V(t)}\sqrt{\delta}Z_2)\delta) | S(t) = x, V(t) = v); \\ &= \sigma vx\delta \underbrace{\mathbb{E}(Z_1 Z_2)}_{\rho} + o(\delta) \Rightarrow a_{12}(t, x, v) = \sigma vx\rho. \end{aligned}$$

$a_{22}(t, x, v)$ is determined similarly.

Thus,

$$\mathcal{A} := rx \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + (a - bv) \frac{\partial}{\partial v} + \frac{1}{2} vx^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \sigma\rho vx \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial v} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 v \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v^2}.$$

- By the FK formula, $g(t, x, v) = \mathbb{E}^{t, x, v} h(S(T), V(T))$ represents the solution to

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial t} + \mathcal{A}g = 0,$$

with the terminal condition

$$g(T, x, v) = h(x, v).$$

3. KOLMOGOROV'S BACKWARD AND FORWARD EQUATIONS.

Main point: We have a SDE (\mathcal{E}) and its solution X such that $X(t) = x$. For a given T , $X(T)$ is a random variable, whose distribution depends on parameters of (\mathcal{E}) and also on t, x .

- $X(T)$ has a density denoted by $p(t, x; T, y)$. Here t, x, T are fixed parameters, and to get the density of $X(T)$, you have to consider it as a function of y .
- Variables (x, t) are called "backward variables" as they corresponds to the starting point of the process $X : X(t) = x$.
- Variables (T, y) are called "forward variables" as y is the "location" of the process at the future time T .

Question: how to find $p(t, x; T, y)$?

- $(X(u))_{t \leq u \leq T}$ is a Markov process, and $p(t, x; T, y)$ is its transition probability density, that is

$$P(X(T) \in B | X(t) = x) = \int_B p(t, x; T, y) dy, \quad \forall B \in \mathcal{B}.$$

Remark 3.1. When the coefficients b and σ do not depend on t , that is when $b = b(x)$ and $\sigma = \sigma(x)$, then P is a function of $(T - t)$, x , y (as for BM).

- All in all, $p(t, x; T, y)$ has 2 pairs of variables: (t, x) -backward and (T, y) -forward.
- Kolmogorov's backward equation is the PDE to which $p(t, x; T, y)$ is a solution (with some special terminal data) when T, y are treated as fixed parameters and t, x as variables.
- Kolmogorov's forward equation is the PDE to which $p(t, x; T, y)$ is a solution (with some special initial data) when x, t are treated as fixed parameters and T, y as variables. In particular, the density of $X(T)$ (when $X(t) = x$ and (t, x) are fixed) satisfies the forward equation in variables T, y .

We shall start with the backward heat equation.

Example 3.2 (Backward heat equation).

$$(3) \quad \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} = 0; \quad g(x, T) = h(x)$$

($d = 1$) $b \equiv 0$; $a \equiv 1 \Rightarrow$ the corresponding SDE is

$$dX(u) = dB(u); \quad X(t) = x.$$

Thus

$$X(u) = x + B(u) - B(t), \quad t \leq u \leq T.$$

Generator $\mathcal{A} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}$, $g(t, x) = \mathbb{E}^{t, x} h(X(T))$ is the solution to (3).

$$g(t, x) = \mathbb{E}^{t, x} h(x + B(T) - B(t)).$$

Since $B(T) - B(t) \sim N(0, T - t)$, we can compute $B(T) - B(t) \stackrel{d}{=} \sqrt{T - t} Z$.

$$(4) \quad g(t, x) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h(x + \sqrt{T - t} z) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2} dz.$$

Look at it now from the perspective of $p(t, x; T, y)$,

$$(5) \quad g(t, x) = \mathbb{E}^{t, x} h(X(T)) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h(y) p(t, x; T, y) dy.$$

- If $h(x) = 1_B(x)$ for some set B , then

$$\begin{aligned} g(t, x) &= \int_B p(t, x; T, y) dy = P(X(T) \in B | X(t) = x) \\ &= \mathbb{E}^{t, x}(1_B(X(T))) \text{ (FK formula).} \end{aligned}$$

- Comparing (4) and (5) (setting $y = x + \sqrt{T-t}z$ in (4)), we get that

$$p(t, x; T, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)(T-t)}} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{2(T-t)}},$$

the transition probability density of BM. Informally, $p(t, x; T, y)dy$ is "the probability that the BM that started at x at time t will be in $(y, y + dy)$ at time T ".

It is easy to check by differentiation that

- for a fixed $(T, y) \in [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}$ the function $p(t, x; T, y)$ satisfies the backward heat equation in variables (t, x) for all $t < T$ and $x \neq y$;
- for a fixed $(t, x) \in [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}$ the function $p(t, x; T, y)$ satisfies the forward heat equation in variables (T, y) for all $T > t$ and $y \neq x$.

It is natural to ask whether there are initial conditions which correspond to $p(t, x; T, y)$ in each of these cases. This is the content of the next two statements. In them we denoted by $p(t, x; T, y)$ the transition probability density of a general diffusion process.

Theorem 3.3 ($d = 1$). *Let X solve (\mathcal{E}) on $[t, T]$ and $X(t) = x$. Let*

$$p(t, x; T, y) = \lim_{|B| \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{|B|} P(X(T) \in B | X(t) = x).$$

($|B|$ is the Lebesgue measure of set $B \in \mathcal{B}$). Then for $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $0 \leq t < T$,

$$(6) \quad \frac{\partial P}{\partial t} + \mathcal{A}_t P = 0 \quad (\text{in variables } t, x) \text{ with the terminal condition } p(T, x; T, y) = \delta_y(x)$$

The latter means that $\forall f \in \mathcal{C}_B(\mathbb{R})$,

$$\lim_{t \uparrow T} \int f(x) p(t, x; T, y) dx = f(y), \text{ or}$$

equivalently, that for every $B \in \mathcal{B}$,

$$\lim_{t \uparrow T} \int_B p(t, x; T, y) dx = 1_B(y).$$

((6) is Kolmogorov's backward equation, \mathcal{A}_t is given by (2))

Theorem 3.4 (Kolmogorov's forward equation). *Define*

$$\mathcal{A}_T^* f(T, y) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(b(T, y)f(T, y)) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}(\sigma^2(T, y)f(T, y)) \quad (\text{adjoint operator}).$$

Then $p(t, x; T, y)$ satisfies for $T > t$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial T} = \mathcal{A}_T^* P, \text{ with the initial condition } p(t, x; t, y) = \delta_x(y) \text{ (in variables } T, y)$$

meaning that $\forall f \in \mathcal{C}_B(\mathbb{R})$,

$$\lim_{T \downarrow t} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(y) p(t, x; T, y) dy = f(x), \text{ or}$$

equivalently, that $\forall B \in \mathcal{B}$,

$$\lim_{T \downarrow t} \int_B p(t, x; T, y) dy = 1_B(x).$$

An example to have in mind: $X(t)$ is a standard Brownian motion (d -dimensional),

$$\mathcal{A}_t = \frac{1}{2} \Delta_x = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2};$$

$$p(t, x; T, y) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2}(T-t)^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2(T-t)} \sum_{i=1}^d (y_i - x_i)^2\right).$$

Then the backward equation:

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta_x P = 0, \quad 0 \leq t < T, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\lim_{t \uparrow T} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x) p(t, x; T, y) dx \underset{\text{set } z_i = \frac{x_i - y_i}{\sqrt{T-t}}}{=} \lim_{t \uparrow T} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(y + \sqrt{2(T-t)}z) \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2}} e^{-\frac{\|z\|^2}{2}} dz = f(y),$$

for all continuous bounded functions f .

Computing the adjoint operator, we get that in this case $\mathcal{A}_T^* = \frac{1}{2}\Delta_y = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y_i^2}$ and the forward equation is

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial T} = \frac{1}{2}\Delta_y P; \quad t < T, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

and

$$\lim_{T \downarrow t} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(y) p(t, x; T, y) dy \underset{\text{set } z_i = \frac{x_i - y_i}{\sqrt{T-t}}}{=} \lim_{T \downarrow t} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x + \sqrt{T-t}z) \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2}} e^{-\frac{\|z\|^2}{2}} dz = f(x)$$

for all $f \in \mathcal{C}_B(\mathbb{R}^d)$.