Stochastic Finance (FIN 519)
Homework Solutions

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1. **HW 1-1** Consider the gambler's fortune with an unfair coin:

$$S_n = X_1 + X_2 + \cdots X_n \quad \text{where} \quad X_n = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{(probability } p\text{)} \\ -1 & \text{(probability } q\text{)} \end{cases}.$$

   (a) Prove that $M_n = (q/p)^{S_n}$ is a martingale.

   (b) If τ is the first time n that S_n hits A or $-B$, find $\text{Prob}(S_\tau = A)$ using the martingale property,

$$1 = M_0 = E(M_{n\wedge\tau}) \text{ for all } n = E(M_\tau).$$

Solution:

(a)

$$E(M_{n+1}|\mathcal{F}_n) = M_n E\left((q/p)^{X_{n+1}}\right) = \left(\frac{q}{p}p + \frac{p}{q}q\right) M_n = M_n$$

(b)

$$1 = E(M_\tau) = \text{Prob}(S_\tau = A)(q/p)^A + (1 - \text{Prob}(S_\tau = A))(q/p)^{-B}$$

$$\text{Prob}(S_\tau = A) = \frac{1 - (q/p)^{-B}}{(q/p)^A - (q/p)^{-B}} = \frac{(q/p)^B - 1}{(q/p)^{A+B} - 1}$$

2. **HW 1-2** Prove that, if B_t is a standard BM, the inverted process,

$$Y_0 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad Y_t = t\, B_{1/t} \quad \text{for} \quad t > 0,$$

is also a standard BM.

Solution: Y_t satisfy the following requirements to be a standard BM:

(i) $Y_0 = 0$ by definition.

(ii) The increments of Y_t are independent because they are the (negative) increments of B_t. For example, $Y_{t_2} - Y_{t_1} = B_{1/t_2} - B_{1/t_1} = B_{t'_2} - B_{t'_1}$ with $t'_1 = 1/t_1$ and $t'_2 = 1/t_2$.

(iii) For $s \le t$,

$$Y_t - Y_s = tB_{1/t} - sB_{1/s} = (t-s)B_{1/t} + s(B_{1/t} - B_{1/s}).$$

Since

$$(t-s)B_{1/t} \sim N(0, (t-s)^2/t) \quad \text{and} \quad s(B_{1/t} - B_{1/s}) \sim N(0, s - s^2/t),$$

and $B_{1/t}$ and $B_{1/t} - B_{1/s}$ are independent from (iii), $Y_t - Y_s$ are normally distribute with variance

$$\mathrm{Var}(Y_t - Y_s) = (t-s)^2/t + s - s^2/t = t - s.$$

(iv) Y_t is continuous for $t > 0$. Y_t is also continuous at $t = 0$. $\lim_{t\to 0} Y_t \to Y_0 = 0$ because $E(Y_t) \to 0$ and $\mathrm{Var}(Y_t) = t^2/t = t \to 0$ as $t \to 0$.