

# ICEF master program. Maths for economists. Exam collection.

Joint author

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## 1 2008-2009

### 1.1 Exam, 12.01.2009

Final exam consists of the two parts: A and B. Part A lasts for 110 minutes. Upon completion of that part the papers will be collected and the students will have 10 minutes break. Part B lasts for 70 minutes. Students should answer eight of the following nine questions: six from Part A and two from Part B. Points will be deducted for the insufficient explanation within your answers.

Part A. Answer all SIX questions of this section. Each question is worth 10 points.

1. The joint distribution of vector  $(X, Y)$  is given by  $\mathbb{P}(X = i, Y = j) = 0.1$  for  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq 4$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y | X)$ .
2. The random variable  $X$  is exponentially distributed with parameter  $\lambda$ . The random variable  $Y$  is exponentially distributed with parameter  $1/X$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X)$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(Y)$  and  $\text{Var}(Y)$ .
3. Let  $Y_t = W_t^3 - 3tW_t$ .
  - (a) Using Ito's lemma find  $dY_t$
  - (b) Using your previous result find  $\mathbb{E}(Y_t)$  and  $\text{Var}(Y_t)$
4. Using a current value Hamiltonian maximize the integral

$$\int_0^2 e^{-t} \left( x - \frac{5}{2}x^2 - 2y^2 \right) dt$$

subject to the conditions  $\dot{x} = y - x/2$ ,  $x(0) = 0$ ,  $x(2)$  is free. Find  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $\mu$ .

5. Solve the bounded control problem

$$\int_0^T e^{-rt}(1 - u)x dt \rightarrow \max$$

, subject to  $\dot{x} = xu$ ,  $x(0) = 1$ ,  $0 \leq u \leq 1$ , where  $0 < r < 1$ .

6. Consider the following optimization problem

$$\sum_0^\infty u(a_t) \rightarrow \max$$

, subject to  $\sum_0^\infty a_t \leq s$ ,  $s > 0$ ,  $a_t \geq 0$ .

- (a) Show that if  $u(a)$  is increasing and strictly concave this problem has no solution
- (b) What happens if the sum in the maximization problem is changed to  $\sum_0^\infty \delta^t u(a_t)$ , where  $0 < \delta < 1$ ?

Part B. Answer two questions out of the three from this section. Each question is worth 20 points. Part B lasts for 70 minutes.

7. In the framework of the Black and Scholes model find the price at  $t = 0$  of an asset that pays  $\max\{0, \ln S_T\}$  at time  $T$ , where  $S_T$  denotes the price of one share at time  $T$ .
8. Let's consider the following system of stochastic differential equations

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = aX_t dt - Y_t dW_t \\ dY_t = aY_t dt + X_t dW_t \end{cases}$$

with initial conditions  $X_0 = x_0$  and  $Y_0 = 0$

- (a) Find the solution of the form  $X_t = f(t) \cos W_t$  and  $Y_t = g(t) \sin W_t$
  - (b) Prove that for any solution  $D_t = X_t^2 + Y_t^2$  is nonstochastic
9. Consider the profit-maximizing problem for a representative competitive firm

$$\int_0^\infty (p - wn(t))q(t)e^{-rt} dt \rightarrow \max$$

, subject to (\*)  $\dot{x} = x(1 - x) - q$ , where the state variable  $x(t)$  represents a renewable stock resource (fish) that evolves according to the equation (\*) and  $q(t) = 2\sqrt{x(t)n(t)}$  is the extraction rate. Here  $n(y)$  is a labor effort with a constant wage rate  $w$ . The price of fish is assumed to be constant and equal  $p$ . The optimization problem is to choose  $n(t)$  to maximize the discounted profits,  $0 < r < 1$ .

- (a) Derive necessary conditions
- (b) Draw the phase diagram for this problem with the fish stock and the multiplier labeled on the axes
- (c) Show that if  $p/w$  is sufficiently large the fish stock will be driven to zero, while  $p/w$  is low there is a steady-state with a positive stock

## 1.2 Exam, 12.01.2009, solutions

1. Density table of the joint distribution of  $X$  and  $Y$

$X/Y$	1	2	3	4
1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
2	0	0.1	0.1	0.1
3	0	0	0.1	0.1
4	0	0	0	0.1

Fixing a certain value of  $X$  we find the conditional expectation of  $Y$ :

$$\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \begin{cases} \frac{1+2+3+4}{4} = 2.5, & \text{if } x = 1 \\ \frac{2+3+4}{3} = 3, & \text{if } x = 2 \\ \frac{3+4}{2} = 3.5, & \text{if } x = 3 \\ \frac{4}{1} = 4, & \text{if } x = 4 \end{cases}$$

Or, simply,  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = 2 + X/2$ .

2. Variable  $X$  has exponential distribution, so

$$f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$$

And we know conditional distribution of  $Y$ :

$$f_{Y|X}(x, y) = \frac{1}{x} e^{-\frac{1}{x}y}$$

So,

$$\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} y f_{Y|X}(X, y) dy = \int_0^{+\infty} y \frac{1}{X} e^{-\frac{1}{X}y} dy = \left(\frac{1}{X}\right)^{-1} = X$$

Expected value:

$$\mathbb{E}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)) = \mathbb{E}(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f_X(x) dx = \int_0^{+\infty} x \lambda e^{-\lambda x} dx = \lambda^{-1}$$

Variance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(Y) &= \text{Var}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)) + \mathbb{E}(\text{Var}(Y|X)) = \\ &= \text{Var}(X) + \mathbb{E}\left(\left(\frac{1}{X}\right)^{-2}\right) = \lambda^{-2} + \mathbb{E}(X^2) \end{aligned}$$

We know that  $\mathbb{E}(X^2) = \text{Var}(X) + (\mathbb{E}(X))^2$ , so:

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \lambda^{-2} + \lambda^{-2} + \lambda^{-2} = 3\lambda^{-2}$$

3. Using Ito's lemma  $dY_t = (3W_t^2 - 3t) dW_t + (-3W_t + \frac{1}{2}6W_t) dt = (3W_t^2 - 3t) dW_t$ . Hence,  $Y_t$  is a martingale.  $Y_0 = W_0^3 - 3 \cdot 0W_0 = 0$ .

Now  $\mathbb{E}(Y_t) = \mathbb{E}(Y_0) = 0$  and using Ito's isometry:

$$\text{Var}(Y_t) = \int_0^t \mathbb{E}((3W_s^2 - 3s)^2) ds = \int_0^t 27s^2 + 9s^2 - 18s^2 ds = \int_0^t 18s^2 ds = 6t^3$$

Here we have used the facts that  $\mathbb{E}(W_s^2) = s$  and  $\mathbb{E}(W_s^4) = 3s^2$ .

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

8. Using Ito's lemma we find  $dX_t$  and  $dY_t$

$$\begin{aligned} dX_t &= f'_t(t) \cos W_t dt - f(t) \sin W_t dW_t - 0.5f(t) \cos W_t dt = \\ &= (f'_t(t) - 0.5f(t)) \cos W_t dt - f(t) \sin W_t dW_t \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} dY_t &= g'_t(t) \sin W_t dt + g(t) \cos W_t dW_t - 0.5g(t) \sin W_t dt = \\ &= (g'_t(t) - 0.5g(t)) \sin W_t dt + g(t) \cos W_t dW_t \end{aligned}$$

Comparing these expressions with the system we receive:

$$\begin{aligned} f'_t(t) - 0.5f(t) &= af(t) \\ f(t) &= g(t) \\ g'_t(t) - 0.5g(t) &= ag(t) \\ g(t) &= f(t) \end{aligned}$$

The general solution has the form

$$f(t) = g(t) = Ae^{(a+0.5)t}, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}$$

From initial condition we get  $A = x_0$  and

$$f(t) = g(t) = x_0 e^{(a+0.5)t}$$

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} X_t &= x_0 + x_0 \int_0^t ae^{(a+0.5)u} \cos W_u du - x_0 \int_0^t e^{(a+0.5)t} \sin W_u dW_u \\ Y_t &= x_0 \int_0^t ae^{(a+0.5)u} \sin W_u du + x_0 \int_0^t e^{(a+0.5)t} \cos W_u dW_u \end{aligned}$$

Now we use Ito's lemma once again:

$$\begin{aligned} dD_t &= 2X_t dX_t + 2Y_t dY_t = 2X_t((f'_t(t) - 0.5f(t)) \cos W_t dt - f(t) \sin W_t dW_t) + \\ &\quad + 2Y_t((g'_t(t) - 0.5g(t)) \sin W_t dt + g(t) \cos W_t dW_t) = \\ &= 2f(t)(f'_t(t) - 0.5f(t)) \cos^2 W_t dt - f^2(t) \cos W_t \sin W_t dW_t + \\ &\quad + 2f(t)(f'_t(t) - 0.5f(t)) \sin^2 W_t dt + f^2(t) \cos W_t \sin W_t dW_t = \\ &= 2f(t)(f'_t(t) - 0.5f(t)) dt = 2af^2(t) dt \end{aligned}$$

$$D_t = D_0 + \int_0^t 2ax_0 e^{(2a+1)u} du = x_0^2 + \frac{2ax_0}{2a+1} (e^{(2a+1)t} - 1)$$

### 1.3 Retake, ???.???.2009

Final exam consists of the two parts: A and B. Part A lasts for 110 minutes. Upon completion of that part the papers will be collected and the students will have 10 minutes break. Part B lasts for 70 minutes. Students should answer eight of the following nine questions: six from Part A and two from Part B. Points will be deducted for the insufficient explanation within your answers.

Part A. Answer all SIX questions of this section. Each question is worth 10 points.

1. In the first bag there balls numbered from 0 to 9, in the second bag there are balls numbered from 1 to 10. Two balls were selected. You know that one ball was selected from the first bag and one from the second one. You will select at random one ball from these two and you will know only its number. Let's denote its number by  $X$  and the number of the other of the two balls by  $Y$ .

Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y | X)$

2. The random variable  $X$  is uniformly distributed on  $[0; a]$ . The random variable  $Y$  is uniformly distributed on  $[0; X]$ .

Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y | X)$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(Y)$  and  $\text{Var}(Y)$ .

3. Let  $Y_t = \exp\left(-aW_t - \frac{a^2}{2}t\right)$ .

(a) Using Ito's lemma find  $dY_t$

(b) Using your previous result find  $\mathbb{E}(Y_t)$  and  $\text{Var}(Y_t)$

4. Find extremals for the integral  $\int_0^1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\dot{x}^2 + x\dot{x} + x\right) dt$  when  $x(0) = 0$  and  $x(1)$  is chosen freely.

5. Solve the bounded control problem  $\int_0^2 (2x - 3u) dt \rightarrow \max$ , subject to  $\dot{x} = x + u$ ,  $x(0) = 5$ ,  $0 \leq u \leq 2$ , where  $x(2)$  is free.

6. Consider the following optimization problem: maximize  $\sum_0^\infty \beta^t u(c_t)$ , subject to  $c_t + k_{t+1} = f(k_t)$ ,  $0 < \beta < 1$ , where both the utility function  $u(t)$  and the production function  $f(k)$  have the standard properties of monotonicity and strict concavity. Let the state variable be  $k$  and denote the next period value of  $k$  as  $k'$ . Substitute  $c = f(k) - k'$  into utility function and write down the Bellman equation.

Using the formal differentiation of the Bellman equation with respect to  $k$  under the sign of max, and drawing FOC from Bellman equation, exclude the value function and find the equation which combines the values of  $u'$  and  $f'$  at the adjacent time periods.

Part B. Answer two questions out of the three from this section. Each question is worth 20 points. Part B lasts for 70 minutes.

7. In the framework of the Black and Scholes model find the price at  $t = 0$  of an asset that pays  $\min\{M, \ln S_t\}$  at time  $T$ , where  $S_T$  denotes the price of one share at time  $T$ ,  $M$  — arbitrary constant, specified at the moment of the issue.
8. The price of a share in euros is driven by the equation  $dS = \sigma S dW + \alpha S dt$ , the dollar/euro exchange rate is driven by the equation  $dU = bU dW + cU dt$ . Find the current price in dollars of a European call option with maturity date  $T$ , strike price  $K$ .
9. Consider the profit-maximizing problem for a representative competitive firm  $\int_0^\infty (p - c(x(t)))q(t)e^{-rt} dt \rightarrow \max$ , subject to (\*)  $\dot{x} = 1 - x - q$ , where the state variable  $x(t) < 1$  represents a nonrenewable stock resource (oil) that depletes according to the equation (\*) and  $q(t)$  is the extraction rate. Here  $c(x)$  is a cost function of the extraction that is defined by  $c(x) = e^{-x}$ . The price of oil is assumed to be constant and equal  $p$  where  $1/e < p < 1$ . The optimization problem is to choose  $q(t)$  to maximize the discounted profits,  $0 < r < 1$ .

(a) Derive necessary conditions.

(b) Prove that the steady-state exists and is unique.

## 1.4 Retake, ???.2010-solutions

1. If  $X = 0$  we know that that the chosen ball was in the first basket, consequently  $Y$  was in the second one.

$$\mathbb{E}(Y|X = 0) = \mathbb{E}(Y| \text{ second basket } ) = \frac{1 + 2 + \dots + 10}{10} = 5.5$$

Similarly

$$\mathbb{E}(Y|X = 10) = \mathbb{E}(Y| \text{ first basket } ) = \frac{0 + 1 + \dots + 9}{10} = 4.5$$

Finally,

$$\mathbb{E}(Y|0 < X < 10) = \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}(Y| \text{ first basket } ) + \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}(Y| \text{ second basket } ) = 0.5(5.5 + 4.5) = 5$$

Answer:

$$\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \begin{cases} 5.5, & \text{if } X = 0 \\ 5, & \text{if } 0 < X < 10 \\ 4.5, & \text{if } X = 10 \end{cases}$$

2.  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = X/2$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(X/2) = a/4$ ,

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(\text{Var}(Y|X)) + \text{Var}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)) = \mathbb{E}(X^2/12) + \text{Var}(X/2) = \frac{7a^2}{12^2}$$

3.  $dY_t = -aY_t dW_t$ , so  $Y_t$  is a martingale, and  $\mathbb{E}(Y_t) = Y_0 = 1$ . To find variance one may use Ito's isometry.

## 2 2009-2010

### 2.1 Exam, 14.01.2010

Final exam consists of the two parts: A and B. Part A lasts for 120 minutes. Upon completion of that part the papers will be collected and the students will have 10 minutes break. Part B lasts for 60 minutes. Students should answer eight of the following eight questions: six from Part A and two from Part B. Points will be deducted for the insufficient explanation within your answers.

Part A. Answer all SIX questions of this section. Each question is worth 10 points.

1. The joint distribution of the random vector  $(X, Y)$  is given by its p.d.f

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} ce^{x-y}, & \text{for } 0 \leq x, y \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $c$  is a normalization constant. Find  $\mathbb{E}(X | Y)$ .

2. Let  $Y_t = W_t^3 - tW_t^4$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y_t)$  and  $\text{Var}(Y_t)$ . You don't have to use Ito Lemma here.
3. Let  $X_n$  be a discrete time stochastic process that converges in probability to a random number  $X$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Does this condition imply that  $X_n$  converges to  $X$  in mean? Almost surely? In distribution? Support at least one of your answers with a proof or counterexample. Give a definition for each type of convergence.

4. Seek to optimize the integral  $\int_0^{\frac{\ln 2}{2}} (4u - u^2 - x - 3x^2) dt$  subject to the conditions  $\dot{x} = u + x$ ,  $x(0) = 5/8$ ,  $x(\frac{\ln 2}{2})$  is free. Find  $x$ ,  $u$ ,  $\lambda$ . What kind of optimum did you find?
5. Solve the bounded control problem  $\int_0^1 (2 - 5t)u dt$ , subject to  $\dot{x} = 2x + 4te^{2t}u$ ,  $x(0) = 0$ ,  $x(1) = e^2$ ,  $-1 \leq u \leq 1$ .
6. Consider the following optimization problem: maximize  $\sum_0^\infty (\frac{3}{4})^t \ln c_t$ , subject to  $c_t + k_{t+1} = \sqrt{k_t}$ ,  $k_0 > 0$ . Let the state variable be  $k$  and denote the next period value of  $k$  as  $k'$ .
  - (a) Write down the Bellman equation for the value function  $V(k)$
  - (b) Using method of undetermined coefficients find  $V(k)$
  - (c) Find the optimal policy function  $k' = h(k)$

Part B. Answer both questions from this section. Each question is worth 20 points. Part B lasts for 60 minutes.

7. Let  $X_t$  be a stochastic process such that  $dX_t = \frac{X_\infty - X_t}{\tau} dt + \sigma dW_t$ , where  $X_\infty$  and  $\tau$  are non-random constants,  $W_t$  is a Wiener process, and let  $Y_t = X_t e^{t/\tau}$ .
  - (a) Use Ito Lemma to find both differential and integral expressions for  $Y_t$  and use them to express  $X_t$  (a.s.) in terms of  $X_\infty$ ,  $X_0$ ,  $\tau$ ,  $\sigma$  and  $t$ . Here  $X_0$  is the value of  $X_t$  at time  $t = 0$ .
  - (b) Find  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$  and  $\text{Var}(X_t)$ . Sketch the graph of  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$  as a function of  $t$  for  $X_\infty = 1$ ,  $\tau = 1$ , and  $X_0 = 0, 1$ , and  $2$ . Plot a possible trajectory of  $X_t$  in each case. Is there any name or names associated with  $X_t$ ?
8. Utility  $U(C, P) = U_1(C) + U_2(P)$  increases with the consumption  $C$  and decreases with the level of pollution  $P$ . For  $C > 0$ ,  $P > 0$  it is known that  $U'_1 > 0$ ,  $U''_1 < 0$ ,  $U'_2 < 0$  and  $U''_2 < 0$ . It is known that  $\lim_{C \rightarrow 0} U'_1(C) = \infty$  and  $\lim_{P \rightarrow 0} U'_2(C) = 0$ . Consumption lies within the range  $0 \leq C \leq \bar{C}$ . Consumption contributes to pollution, while pollution control reduces it; moreover environment absorbs pollution at a constant rate  $b > 0$ . Pollution dynamics is governed by equation  $\dot{P} = C^2 - (C^*)^2 - bP$  in which the first two terms represent the net contribution to the pollution flow, where  $0 < C^* < \bar{C}$ . Consider the problem of maximizing the discounted ( $r > 0$ ) utility stream  $\int_0^\infty e^{-rt} U(C, P) dt \rightarrow \max$  subject to  $\dot{P} = C^2 - (C^*)^2 - bP$ ,  $P(0) = P_0 > 0$ ,  $P \geq 0$ ,  $0 \leq C \leq \bar{C}$ .
  - (a) Derive necessary conditions, using the current value Hamiltonian.
  - (b) Sketch the phase diagram for this problem with the pollution and the consumption labeled on the axes.
  - (c) Find the condition under which the steady state solution  $(P_s, C_s)$  exists and  $0 < C_s < \bar{C}$ .
  - (d) Explore the stability of the steady state. Hint. You may find the return to the variables  $(P, m)$  easier for solving that part.

## 2.2 Exam-solutions

1. The probability density should integrate to one, so from  $\int_0^1 \int_0^1 f(x, y) dx dy = 1$  we infer the value of  $c$ ,  $c = e/(e - 1)^2$ .  
 Using the formula  $f(x|y) = f(x, y)/f(y)$  we obtain  $f(x|y) = e^x/(e - 1)$ .  
 We obtain marginal density,  $f(y) = \int_0^1 f(x, y) dx = e^{1-y}/(e - 1)$  and hence the conditional density  $f(x|y) = e^x/(e - 1)$ . As one may notice it does not depend on  $y$ . The reason is



that the random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent and  $f(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$ . So we may expect that  $\mathbb{E}(X|Y) = \mathbb{E}(X)$ .

And *coup de grâce*

$$\mathbb{E}(X|Y) = \int_0^1 xf(x|Y) dx = 1/(e-1)$$

2.  $\mathbb{E}(Y_t) = \mathbb{E}(W_t^3 - tW_t^4) = \mathbb{E}(W_t^3) - \mathbb{E}(tW_t^4) = \mathbb{E}(W_t^3) - t\mathbb{E}(W_t^4) = 0 - 3t^3 = -3t^3$ , as  
 $\mathbb{E}(W_t^3) = \frac{3(3-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{3-2}) ds = 0$   
 $\mathbb{E}(W_t^4) = \frac{4(4-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{4-2}) ds = 6 \int_0^t s ds = 3t^2$   
 $\text{Var}(Y_t) = \mathbb{E}(Y_t^2) - (\mathbb{E}(Y_t))^2$   
 $\mathbb{E}(Y_t^2) = \mathbb{E}(W_t^3 - tW_t^4)^2 = \mathbb{E}(W_t^6 - 2tW_t^7 + t^2W_t^8) = \mathbb{E}(W_t^6) - 2t\mathbb{E}(W_t^7) + t^2\mathbb{E}(W_t^8) =$   
 $15t^3 + 105t^6$ ,  
as  $\mathbb{E}(W_t^5) = \frac{5(5-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{5-2}) ds = 0$   
 $\mathbb{E}(W_t^6) = \frac{6(6-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{6-2}) ds = 15 \int_0^t 3s^2 ds = 15t^3$   
 $\mathbb{E}(W_t^7) = \frac{7(7-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{7-2}) ds = 0$   
 $\mathbb{E}(W_t^8) = \frac{8(8-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{8-2}) ds = 105t^4$   
 $\text{Var}(Y_t) = \mathbb{E}(Y_t^2) - (\mathbb{E}(Y_t))^2 = 15t^3 + 105t^6 - (-3t^3)^2 = 15t^3 + 96t^6$
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

$$\begin{aligned} dY_t &= \frac{1}{\tau} X_t e^{\frac{t}{\tau}} dt + e^{\frac{t}{\tau}} dX_t = \frac{1}{\tau} X_t e^{\frac{t}{\tau}} dt + \frac{X_\infty - X_t}{\tau} e^{\frac{t}{\tau}} dt + \sigma e^{\frac{t}{\tau}} dW_t = \\ &= \frac{X_\infty}{\tau} e^{\frac{t}{\tau}} dt + \sigma e^{\frac{t}{\tau}} dW_t \end{aligned}$$

$$Y_t = Y_0 + \int_0^t \frac{X_\infty}{\tau} e^{\frac{u}{\tau}} du + \int_0^t \sigma e^{\frac{u}{\tau}} dW_u = X_0 + X_\infty(e^{\frac{t}{\tau}} - 1) + \int_0^t \sigma e^{\frac{u}{\tau}} dW_u$$

$$X_t = e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} Y_t = e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} (X_0 + X_\infty(e^{\frac{t}{\tau}} - 1) + \int_0^t \sigma e^{\frac{u}{\tau}} dW_u) = X_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} + X_\infty(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}) + \int_0^t \sigma e^{\frac{u-t}{\tau}} dW_u$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X_t) = X_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} + X_\infty(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}})$$

$$\text{Var}(X_t) = \text{Var}\left(\int_0^t \sigma e^{\frac{u-t}{\tau}} dW_u\right) = \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(\sigma e^{\frac{u-t}{\tau}})^2 du = \int_0^t \sigma^2 e^{\frac{2u-2t}{\tau}} du = \frac{\tau \sigma^2}{2} (1 - e^{-\frac{2t}{\tau}})$$

### 3 2010-2011

#### 3.1 Exam, 12.01.2011

Notation:  $W_t$  is the standard Wiener process.

Part A (10 points each problem). Time allowed: 120 minutes.

1. The joint probability density function of  $X$  and  $Y$  is given by

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} x + y, & x \in [0; 1], y \in [0; 1] \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X)$  in terms of  $X$ , find the probability density function of  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X)$

2. Consider the process  $X_t = \int_0^t s W_s dW_s$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$ ,  $\text{Var}(X_t)$ ,  $\text{Cov}(X_t, W_t)$
3. The process  $Y_t$  is given by  $Y_t = 2W_t + 5t$ . The stopping time  $\tau$  is given by  $\tau = \min\{t | Y_t^2 = 100\}$ . Find the distribution of the random variable  $Y_\tau$  and the expected value  $\mathbb{E}(\tau)$ .  
Hint: you may find the martingales  $a^{Y_t}$  and  $Y_t - f(t)$  useful
4. Find  $\mathbb{P}(W_2 - W_1 > 2)$
5. In the framework of Black and Scholes model find the price of an asset which gives you the payoff of 1 rubble only if the final price  $S_t$  is at least two times bigger than the initial price  $S_0$  of the asset.
6. Consider the free end problem, where  $T > 0$  is not given

$$\int_0^T (\dot{x}^2 - x + 1) dt \rightarrow \text{extr}$$

At the left end  $x(0) = 0$  Find the optimal  $T$  value and the extremal. Check that you solved the optimality problem or show the opposite.

Part B (20 points each problem). Time allowed: 60 minutes.

7. Consider the stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = (\sqrt{1 + X_t^2} + 0.5X_t)dt + \sqrt{1 + X_t^2}dW_t, \quad X_0 = 0$$

- (a) Suppose that  $Y_t$  is another process that depends only on  $X_t$ , i.e.  $Y_t = f(X_t)$ . Find  $dY$  using the Ito's lemma.
  - (b) Find such function  $f$  that the term before  $dW$  in  $dY$  is constant.
  - (c) Find  $X_t$
  - (d) Sketch  $\mathbb{P}(X_t > 0)$  as the function of  $t$ .
8. Consider the neoclassical optimal growth model

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-rt} \left( \bar{U} - \frac{1}{c(t)} \right) dt \rightarrow \max$$

subject to  $\dot{k} = A \ln(1 + k) - c - \delta k$ , where  $A > r > \delta > 0$ ,  $k(0) = k_0$ ,  $\bar{U} > 0$ .

- (a) Derive necessary conditions, using the current value Hamiltonian
- (b) Sketch the phase diagram for this problem with the capital intensity and consumption labeled on the horizontal and vertical axes, respectively
- (c) Check that the steady state solution exists. Provide explanation.
- (d) Explore the stability of the steady state, using the Jacobian
- (e) Why are you sure the found growth path maximizes the discounted stream of utility?

### 3.2 Exam-solutions

- Let's start,  $f(x) = \int_0^1 f(x, y) dy = x + 1/2$  for  $x \in [0; 1]$ . The conditional density,  $f(y|x) = f(x, y)/f(x) = (x + y)/(x + 1/2)$  for  $x$  and  $y$  in  $[0; 1]$ .  
The conditional expected value:

$$\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \int_0^1 y f(y|X) dy = \frac{3X + 2}{6X + 3} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{12X + 6}$$

We also need to find the density of  $\hat{Y} = \frac{3X+2}{6X+3}$ .

Let's first find the probability distribution function:

$$F_{\hat{Y}}(t) = \mathbb{P}(\hat{Y} \leq t) = \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{12X + 6} \leq t\right) = \mathbb{P}\left(X \geq \frac{2 - 3t}{6t - 3}\right) = F_X(1) - F_X(a),$$

where  $a = \frac{2-3t}{6t-3}$ .

Take the derivative with respect to  $t$  to obtain:

$$f_{\hat{Y}}(t) = -f_X(a) \frac{da}{dt} = -\left(\frac{2 - 3t}{6t - 3} + \frac{1}{2}\right) \frac{-3}{(6t - 3)^2}$$

- First,  $\mathbb{E}(X_t) = 0$ . Using Ito's isometry:

$$\text{Var}(X_t) = \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(s^2 W_s^2) ds = \int_0^t s^3 ds = t^4/4$$

Again using Ito's isometry:

$$\text{Cov}(X_t, W_t) = \text{Cov}\left(\int_0^t s W_s dW_s, \int_0^t 1 dW_s\right) = \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(s W_s \cdot 1) ds = 0$$

- ...
- We know that  $W_2 - W_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(0; 1)$ , therefore  
 $\mathbb{P}(W_2 - W_1 > 2) = 1 - \Phi(2) = 1 - 0.9772 = 0.0228$
- 

$$X_T = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \frac{S_T}{S_0} > 2, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

So,

$$X_0 = e^{-rT} E_{\tilde{\mathbb{P}}}(X_T | \mathcal{F}_0) = e^{-rT} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}\left(\frac{S_T}{S_0} > 2 | \mathcal{F}_0\right) = e^{-rT} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}\left(\left(\exp\left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right) T + \sigma \tilde{W}_T\right) > 2 | \mathcal{F}_0\right)$$

$$\sigma \tilde{W}_T > \ln 2 - \left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right) T \Rightarrow \tilde{W}_T > \frac{\ln 2 - \left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right) T}{\sigma}$$

We want standard normal distribution of  $\tilde{W}_T$ , so we standardize by  $\sqrt{T}$ :

$$\frac{\tilde{W}_T}{\sqrt{T}} > \frac{\ln 2 - \left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right) T}{\sigma \sqrt{T}}$$

So,

$$X_0 = e^{-rT} \tilde{\mathbb{P}} \left( \frac{\tilde{W}_T}{\sqrt{T}} > \frac{\ln 2 - \left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right) T}{\sigma \sqrt{T}} \right) = e^{-rT} \left( 1 - \Phi \left( \frac{\ln 2 - \left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right) T}{\sigma \sqrt{T}} \right) \right)$$

### 3.3 Retake, ?? .01.2011

Answer all SIX questions of this section. Each question is worth 10 points.

1. The joint distribution of the random vector  $(X, Y)$  is given by its p.d.f

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} ce^{x-y}, & \text{for } 0 \leq x, y \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $c$  is a normalization constant. Find  $\mathbb{E}(X | Y)$ .

2. Let  $Y_t = W_t^3 - tW_t^4$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y_t)$  and  $\text{Var}(Y_t)$ . You don't have to use Ito Lemma here.
3. Let  $X_n$  be a discrete time stochastic process that converges in probability to a random number  $X$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Does this condition imply that  $X_n$  converges to  $X$  in mean? Almost surely? In distribution? Support at least one of your answers with a proof or counterexample. Give a definition for each type of convergence.
4. Solve the calculus of variations problem to optimize the integral  $\int_{1/2}^1 \sqrt{1 + \dot{x}^2}/x dt \rightarrow \max$  subject to the conditions  $x(1/2) = \sqrt{3}/2$ ,  $x(1) = 1$ . Justify your answer referring to the sufficiency conditions. What kind of extremum did you find?
5. Let  $x(t)$  represent the revenue of a firm. The fraction of it, namely  $xu(t)$ , where  $0 \leq u \leq 1$ , is spent on investments allowing the revenue to grow according to the rule  $\dot{x} = \alpha xu$  with  $\alpha = \text{const} > 0$ .

Another fraction of the revenue  $\beta x$ ,  $\beta = \text{const} > 0$  serves to reimburse the costs. Maximize the profit of the firm over the finite time horizon

$$\int_0^T (1 - \beta - u)x dt \rightarrow \max$$

subject to  $\dot{x} = \alpha xu$ ,  $x(0) = x_0$ ,  $0 \leq u \leq 1$ .

6. Consider the following «cake-eating» problem: maximize

$$\sum_0^\infty \beta^t \ln c_t$$

subject to  $W_{t+1} = W_t - c_t$ ,  $W_t \leq W$ ,  $W > 0$ ,  $0 < \beta < 1$ . Let the state variable be  $W$  and denote the next period value of  $W$  as  $W'$ .

- (a) Write down the Bellman equation for the value function  $V(W)$
- (b) Using method of undetermined coefficients find  $V(W)$
- (c) Find the optimal policy function  $c = h(W)$

Part B. Answer both questions from this section. Each question is worth 20 points. Part B lasts for 60 minutes.

7. Let  $X_t$  be a stochastic process such that  $dX_t = \frac{X_\infty - X_t}{\tau} dt + \sigma dW_t$ , where  $X_\infty$  and  $\tau$  are non-random constants,  $W_t$  is a Wiener process, and let  $Y_t = X_t e^{t/\tau}$ .

- (a) Use Ito Lemma to find both differential and integral expressions for  $Y_t$  and use them to express  $X_t$  (a.s.) in terms of  $X_\infty$ ,  $X_0$ ,  $\tau$ ,  $\sigma$  and  $t$ . Here  $X_0$  is the value of  $X_t$  at time  $t = 0$ .
- (b) Find  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$  and  $\text{Var}(X_t)$ . Sketch the graph of  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$  as a function of  $t$  for  $X_\infty = 1$ ,  $\tau = 1$ , and  $X_0 = 0, 1$ , and  $2$ . Plot a possible trajectory of  $X_t$  in each case. Is there any name or names associated with  $X_t$ ?
8. Consider the profit maximizing problem over the infinite time horizon

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-rt}(2\sqrt{K} - cI) dt \rightarrow \max$$

where  $K$  is capital,  $I$  is investment,  $c = \text{const}$  is the unit cost of investment,  $r$  is discount rate. Let  $K(0) = K_0 > 0$ . The capital changes under the investment equation  $\dot{K} = I - bK$ , where  $b > 0$  is the depreciation rate. Investment is bounded  $0 \leq I \leq \bar{I}$ . Suppose the parameters of the problem satisfy conditions

$$K_0 < \frac{1}{c^2(r+b)^2} < \frac{\bar{I}}{b}$$

- (a) Derive necessary conditions, using the current value Hamiltonian
- (b) Does the steady-state solution(s)  $(K_s, I_s)$  exist? Explain. If your answer is positive explore its stability.

### 3.4 Retake-solutions

1. Let's go:

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} ce^{(x-y)}, & 0 \leq x, y \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

First, we need to find constant  $c$ .

$$1 = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (ce^{x-y}) dx dy = \int_0^1 (-ce^{x-y}) \Big|_0^1 dx = \int_0^1 (-ce^{x-1} + ce^x) dx = -ce^{x-1} + ce^x \Big|_0^1 = -c + ce + \frac{c}{e} - c = 1$$

From this simple equation we get  $c = \frac{e}{(e-1)^2}$

So the problem now looks like:

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{e}{(e-1)^2} e^{(x-y)}, & 0 \leq x, y \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$E(X|Y) = \int_0^1 x f(x|y) dx, \text{ where } f(x|y) = \frac{f(x,y)}{f(y)}$$

$$f(y) = \int_0^1 f(x, y) dx = \frac{e}{(e-1)^2} (e^{1-y} - e^{-y})$$

$$f(x|y) = \frac{e^x}{e-1}$$

$$E(X|Y) = \int_0^1 \frac{xe^x}{e-1} dx = \frac{1}{e-1} \int_0^1 x de^x = \frac{1}{e-1} (xe^x - e^x) \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{e-1}$$

So the final answer will be  $E(X|Y) = \frac{1}{e-1}$

2.  $\mathbb{E}(Y_t) = \mathbb{E}(W_t^3 - tW_t^4) = \mathbb{E}(W_t^3) - \mathbb{E}(tW_t^4) = \mathbb{E}(W_t^3) - t\mathbb{E}(W_t^4) = 0 - 3t^3 = -3t^3$ , as  
 $\mathbb{E}(W_t^3) = \frac{3(3-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{3-2}) ds = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(W_t^4) &= \frac{4(4-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{4-2}) ds = 6 \int_0^t s ds = 3t^2 \\
\text{Var}(Y_t) &= \mathbb{E}(Y_t^2) - (\mathbb{E}(Y_t))^2 \\
\mathbb{E}(Y_t^2) &= \mathbb{E}(W_t^3 - tW_t^4)^2 = \mathbb{E}(W_t^6 - 2tW_t^7 + t^2W_t^8) = \mathbb{E}(W_t^6) - 2t\mathbb{E}(W_t^7) + t^2\mathbb{E}(W_t^8) = \\
&= 15t^3 + 105t^6, \\
\text{as } \mathbb{E}(W_t^5) &= \frac{5(5-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{5-2}) ds = 0 \\
\mathbb{E}(W_t^6) &= \frac{6(6-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{6-2}) ds = 15 \int_0^t 3s^2 ds = 15t^3 \\
\mathbb{E}(W_t^7) &= \frac{7(7-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{7-2}) ds = 0 \\
\mathbb{E}(W_t^8) &= \frac{8(8-1)}{2} \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(W_s^{8-2}) ds = 105t^4 \\
\text{Var}(Y_t) &= \mathbb{E}(Y_t^2) - (\mathbb{E}(Y_t))^2 = 15t^3 + 105t^6 - (-3t^3)^2 = 15t^3 + 96t^6
\end{aligned}$$

3.

### 3.5 Reretake, 08.02.2011

#### Stochastic calculus part

- (10 pts) The joint density of random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  is given by  $f(x, y) = x + y$  for  $x \in [0; 1]$  and  $y \in [0; 1]$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X)$  and  $\text{Var}(Y|X)$
- (10 pts) The random variables  $X_i$  are independent and uniformly distributed on  $[0; 2011]$ . We define  $Y_n = (X_1 \cdot X_2 \cdot \dots \cdot X_n)^{1/n}$ . In what sense does the sequence  $Y_n$  converge? What is the limit? Find the expected value and the variance of the limit.
- (10 pts) Let  $W_1(t)$  and  $W_2(t)$  be two independent Wiener processes. Consider  $Y_t = aW_1(t) + \sqrt{1-a^2}W_2(t)$ . Is  $Y_t$  a Wiener process?
- (20 pts) Consider the Vasicek interest rate model,  $dR_t = a(b - R)dt + s dW_t$ , where  $a, b$  and  $s$  are positive constants.
  - Using the substitution  $Y_t = e^{-at}R_t$  find the solution of the stochastic differential equation
  - Find  $\mathbb{E}(R_t)$  and  $\text{Var}(R_t)$

## 4 2011-2012

### 4.1 Retake, 03.02.2012

Section A. 10 points for each problem.

- Solve the bounded control problem with the free end value where  $T > 1$  is specified in advance but  $x(T)$  is not.

$$\int_0^T (x - u) dt \rightarrow \max, x(0) = 1$$

$x' = u, 0 \leq u \leq x$ . What guarantees that a maximizer would be found?

- Two stochastic processes are defined by the system of SDE with the Brownian motions  $W_{1t}, W_{2t}$  independent of each other

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = (2 + 5t + X_t)dt + 3dW_{1t} \\ dY_t = 4Y_t dt + 8Y_t dW_{1t} + 6dW_{2t} \end{cases}$$

Calculate  $d(X_t Y_t)$

3. Find the value of the constant  $a$  such that the process  $X_t = W_t^3 - a \int_0^t W_s ds$  is a martingale.
4. The process  $Y_t$  is given by  $Y_t = 2W_t + 5t$ . The stopping time  $\tau$  is given by  $\tau = \min\{t | Y_t^2 = 100\}$ . Find the distribution of the random variable  $Y_\tau$  and the expected value  $\mathbb{E}(\tau)$ .  
Hint: you may find the martingales  $a^{Y_t}$  and  $Y_t - f(t)$  useful
5. What is the expected value and variance of  $W_t^2$  for  $t > s$  given that  $W_s = x$ ?
6. In the framework of Black and Scholes model find the price at the time 0 of an asset which gives you the payoff  $\max\{\ln(S_t), 0\}$  at the time  $t$ . Here  $S_t$  is the price of the underlying asset.

Section B. 20 points for each problem.

7. The goal of this exercise is to solve the SDE

$$dX_t = \frac{1}{X_t} dt + X_t dW_t$$

with initial condition  $X_0 = 1$ .

- (a) Apply the Ito's lemma to the process  $Y_t = \exp(f(t) + g(W_t))X_t^2$
  - (b) Find non-constant functions  $f$  and  $g$  such that the coefficient before  $dW_t$  in the expression for  $dY_t$  is zero.
  - (c) Find  $X_t$ . The final expression may contain a Riemann integral of some stochastic process.
8. A typical firm with the production function  $x = f(l)$  in an economy employs 1 unit of the capital paying for it  $\bar{r}$ . There are  $n$  identical firms in this economy where  $n(t)$  is a function of time. Let the output of a firm be  $x(t)$ . Then the aggregate supply equals  $nx$ . Assuming that the market is in the equilibrium we use the inverse demand function  $p(nx)$ , where  $p'(y) < 0$ . Equation defining the dynamics of labor is given by  $\frac{dl}{dt} = a(w - \bar{w})$ , where  $a > 0$  and  $\bar{w}$  is some equilibrium wage rate. The growth (or fall) in number of firms is governed by the equation  $\frac{dn}{dt} = b(px - \bar{w}l - \bar{r})$ , where  $b > 0$ . Write down the system of ODE for the unknowns  $l(t)$ ,  $n(t)$ , using the first-order condition for the profit-maximizing firm, find and classify the steady-state solutions (if any exist). Production function is twice differentiable and concave everywhere.

## 4.2 Retake-solutions

- 1.
- 2.

$$d(X_t Y_t) = 0 dt + X_t dY_t + Y_t dX_t + \frac{1}{2} dX_t dY_t$$

Here  $W_{1t}$  and  $W_{2t}$  are independent and  $dW_{1t} dW_{2t} = 0$ .

3. Using Ito-Doebelin lemma,  $dW_t^3 = 3W_t^2 dW_t + \frac{1}{2} 6W_t dt$ . Hence,

$$dX_t = 3W_t^2 dW_t + (3 - a)W_t dt$$

Ito's integral is always a martingale, so  $a = 3$ .

4. The distribution of  $Y_\tau$  is given by the table

$y$	-10	10
$\mathbb{P}(Y_\tau = y)$	$1 - p$	$p$

First we find two martingales,  $Z_t = Y_t - 5t$ , and  $X_t = \exp(-2.5Y_t)$ . Here Ito's lemma is useful.

According to Doob's theorem  $\mathbb{E}(X_t) = X_0 = 1$  and we have an equation for  $p$ :

$$p \cdot \exp(-25) + (1 - p) \cdot \exp(25) = 1$$

We use once again Doob's theorem,  $\mathbb{E}(Z_t) = Z_0 = 0$ , so

$$\mathbb{E}(Y_\tau - 5\tau) = 0$$

The value of  $\mathbb{E}(\tau)$  may be calculated as  $\mathbb{E}(\tau) = \mathbb{E}(Y_\tau)/5 = \frac{10p-10(1-p)}{5}$ .

5. Let's first consider the unconditional version of the problem.

$$E(W_t^2) = E((W_t - W_0)^2) = \text{Var}(W_t - W_0) + E(W_t - W_0)^2 = t - 0 = t$$

$$\text{Var}(W_t^2) = E(W_t^4) - E(W_t^2)^2 = E(W_t^4) - t^2$$

In order to compute  $E(W_t^4)$  we use the following formula:

$$E(W_t^k) = \frac{k(k-1)}{2} \int_0^t E(W_s^{k-2}) ds$$

So,

$$E(W_t^4) = 6 \int_0^t E(W_s^2) ds = 6 \int_0^t s ds = 3t^2 \Rightarrow \text{Var}(W_t^2) = 3t^2 - t^2 = 2t^2$$

However we know that  $W_s = x$ . Using the properties of Wiener process we may assume that the timer is started again from 0. So we define  $W'_{t'} = W_{t'+s} - x$ .

So,

$$\mathbb{E}(W_t^2 | W_s = x) = \mathbb{E}((W'_{t'} + x)^2) = \mathbb{E}(W'^2_{t'} + 2xW'_{t'} + x^2) = t' + x^2 = (t - s) + x^2$$

And

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(W_t^2 | W_s = x) &= \text{Var}((W'_{t'} + x)^2) = \text{Var}(W'^2_{t'} + 2xW'_{t'} + x^2) = \\ &= \text{Var}(W'^2_{t'}) + 4x^2 \text{Var}(W'_{t'}) + 0 = 2(t - s)^2 + 4x^2(t - s) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

## 5 2012-2013

### 5.1 Midterm, 13.11.2012

1. (25 points) Solve the calculus of variations problem (use necessary conditions)

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} (x^2 + \dot{x}^2 - x\dot{x} + 4x \cos^2 t) dt \rightarrow \text{extr},$$

where  $x(0) = -6/5$ ,  $x(\pi/2) = -4/5$ .

What kind of a sufficient condition is applicable to this problem and why?

2. (25 points) Solve the control problem with the free end value

$$\int_0^T (-u^2/2 - x) dt \rightarrow \max,$$



where  $x(0) = x_0 > 0$ ,  $x(T)$  is unknown,  $\dot{x} = u^2 x$ .

Can you apply any of the sufficiency theorems to prove that the maximizer has been found? Why are we sure in the validity of the solution?

3. (20 points) Consider an optimal growth problem  $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{5^t} \ln c_t \rightarrow \max$ , subject to  $k_{t+1} = k_t^{7/8} - c_t$ ,  $k(0) = k_0 > 0$ .
  - (a) State the Bellman equation
  - (b) Use the iteration method to find the first two iterations of the value function. Set  $V_0(k) = 0$ .
  - (c) Use the guess-and-verify method to find the value function.
4. (30 points) Consider a profit-maximizing firm over the infinite horizon planning period

$$\int_0^{\infty} (pf(K, I) - cK - gI)e^{-rt} dt \rightarrow \max,$$

subject to  $\dot{K} = I - \delta K$ ,  $K(0) = K_0 > 0$ .

The production function  $f(K, I) = (1 - \alpha I^2) \ln K$ , where parameter  $\alpha$  is so small that  $f$  takes only positive values within the reasonable values of the gross investment rate  $I$  which can take any sign (investment/disinvestment). Moreover, the production function is concave everywhere. Using the current value Hamiltonian derive the system of differential equations in  $K(t)$  and  $I(t)$ . Prove that the steady-state solution exists. By calculating the Jacobian at the equilibrium prove that  $(K_s, I_s)$  is the saddle point. All exogenous parameters in this model are positive.

## 5.2 Exam, 10.01.2013

### Optimal control part.

1. [10 points] Solve the optimal control problem  $\int_0^1 (x+u) dt \rightarrow \max$  subject to  $\dot{x} = -x+u+t$ ,  $x(0) = 0$ ,  $x(1)$  is free, and  $0 \leq u \leq 1$ .
2. [10 points] Consider an intertemporal utility maximization problem over the finite horizon in discrete time  $t = 1, \dots, T$ . The utility is  $u(c) = \ln c$ , the initial wealth is  $w$  and if the remaining wealth at time  $t$  was  $w_t$ , then by the beginning of the next period it becomes  $w_{t+1} = (1+r)(w_t - c_t)$ , where  $r$  is the discount rate and  $c_t$  is the consumption. To find the maximum value of the utility stream one can use the finite version of the Bellman equation written in the form  $V_t(w) = \max\{u(c) + V_{t+1}((1+r)(w - c))\}$  where the function within the braces is maximized over the values of  $0 \leq c \leq w$ . It is important to note that the value function  $V_t$  is the maximum value of the utility stream from time  $t$  onwards.
  - (a) [3 points] Let  $V_T = \ln w$ . Find  $V_{T-1}$ .
  - (b) [7 points] Try to verify the conjecture that  $V_t = \gamma_t \ln(1+r) + (T-t+1) \ln \frac{w}{T-t+1}$  where  $\gamma_t$  is some (unknown) function of time.
3. [20 points] A spill of toxic substance should be cleaned up by a company. If a cleanup rate is  $u(t)$ , then the area of the spill shrinks by the law  $\dot{x}(t) = x_0 - \int_0^t u(s) ds$ , where  $x_0$  is the initial area. According to the government contract by the time  $T$  (and not earlier) the area of the spill should be reduced to  $x_T$ , where  $x_T < x_0$ . Clearly  $u(t) \geq 0$ , and by technology requirement  $u(t) \leq \bar{u}$ , where  $\bar{u} > (x_0 - x_T)/T$ . Costs of cleaning are directly

proportional to  $u(t)$ . Let the unit costs equal  $c > 0$  and the costs are discounted with the discount rate  $r > 0$ .

- (a) [5 points] Formulate the minimization problem with the bounded control. Hint: this is a fixed endpoints problem.
- (b) [15 points] By using the current value Hamiltonian set the system of equations and solve it.

**Stochastic calculus part.** Here  $W_t$  always denotes the standard Wiener process.

4. [10 points] Waves are arriving on the seashore. The sizes of the waves are independent uniform on  $[0; 1]$  random variables  $X_i$ . If the size of  $i$ -th wave is greater than the size of its neighboring waves,  $X_i > \max\{X_{i-1}, X_{i+1}\}$ , then we call it a «high» wave. Let  $H_i$  be the indicator of the «high» waves:  $H_i = 1$  if  $X_i > \max\{X_{i-1}, X_{i+1}\}$  and  $H_i = 0$  otherwise. Find  $\mathbb{E}(X_i | H_i)$  and  $\mathbb{E}(H_i | X_i)$
5. [10 points] Find  $\mathbb{E}(W_s \cdot W_t)$  and  $\mathbb{E}(W_r \cdot W_s \cdot W_t)$  where  $r < s < t$ .
6. [10 points] Consider the process  $X_t = \int_0^t s^2 W_s dW_s$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$ ,  $\text{Var}(X_t)$ ,  $\text{Cov}(X_t, W_t)$
7. [10 points] In the framework of Black and Scholes model find the price at the time 0 of an asset which gives you the payoff  $\ln(S_T)$  at the time  $T$ . Here  $S_t$  is the price of the underlying asset at time  $t$ .
8. [20 points] The goal of this exercise is to solve the SDE

$$dX_t = -9X_t^2(1 - X_t)dt + 3X_t(1 - X_t)dW_t, \quad X_0 = 1/2$$

- (a) Using Ito's lemma find  $dY_t$  for the process  $Y_t = f(X_t)$
- (b) Find such a function  $f()$  that the term before  $dt$  in  $dY_t$  is zero
- (c) Obtain a simple differential equation for  $Y_t$ . It should not contain  $X_t$ .
- (d) Solve the stochastic differential equation for  $Y_t$
- (e) Express  $X_t$  as a function of  $W_t$  and  $t$ .

### 5.3 exam 10.01.2013-hints

1.  $\mathbb{E}(H_i | X_i) = X_i^2$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(X_i | H_i = 1) = 3/4$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(X_i | H_i = 0) = 3/8$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(X_i | H_i) = (3 + 3H_i)/8$
2.  $\mathbb{E}(W_s \cdot W_t) = s$  and  $\mathbb{E}(W_r \cdot W_s \cdot W_t) = 0$
3.  $\mathbb{E}(X_t) = 0$ ,  $\text{Var}(X_t) = t^6/6$ ,  $\text{Cov}(X_t, W_t) = 0$
4.  $C_0 = e^{-rT}(\ln S_0 + (r - \sigma^2/2)T)$
5. Equation for  $f$  has the form  $f''(x)(1 - x) - 2f'(x) = 0$ . Use the substitution  $f'(x) = h(x)$ . This ordinary differential equation has many solutions, one of them is  $f(x) = 1/(1 - x)$ . We may take any function  $f$  that makes initial stochastic differential equation less difficult, so we take  $f(x) = 1/(1 - x)$ , and  $Y_t = 1/(1 - X_t)$ .  
And

$$dY_t = 3X_t/(1 - X_t) dW_t$$

We may notice that  $X_t/(1 - X_t) = 1/(1 - X_t) - 1 = Y_t - 1$ , so

$$dY_t = 3(Y_t - 1) dW_t$$

We use the substitution  $Z_t = Y_t - 1$ , so  $dZ_t = 3Z_t dW_t$  and then the substitution  $Q_t = \ln Z_t$ .

## 5.4 Retake, 08.02.2013

**Stochastic calculus part.** Here  $W_t$  denotes standard Wiener process

1. (10 points) Random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are jointly normal with zero expected values, unit variances and correlation  $\rho$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y | X)$  and  $\mathbb{E}(Y^2 | X)$
2. (10 points) Consider the processes  $X_t = \int_0^t s^3 W_s dW_s$  and  $Y_t = \int_0^t W_s dW_s$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$ ,  $\text{Var}(X_t)$ ,  $\text{Cov}(X_t, Y_t)$
3. (10 points) The stochastic process  $Y_t$  is given by equation  $Y_t = W_t^4 - 6tW_t^2 + 3t^2$ . Find  $dY_t$  and  $\mathbb{E}(Y_7 | Y_2)$
4. (20 points) Consider the stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = X_t dt + X_t dW_t, \quad X_0 = 1$$

- (a) Solve this stochastic differential equation
- (b) Let  $\tau = \inf_{t \geq 0} \{t : X_t \geq R\}$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(\tau)$  applying the optional stopping theorem to the process  $W_t$ .

**Optimal control part.**

5. (10 points) Solve the optimal control problem:  $\int_0^1 u^2 dt \rightarrow \min$ , subject to  $\dot{x} = x + u$ ,  $x(0) = 1$ .
6. (10 points) Consider a maximization problem over the finite horizon in discrete time  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :

$$\sum_{t=1}^T \left( \frac{t^3}{3} + \frac{t^2}{2} \right) a_t^2 \rightarrow \max$$

subject to constraint  $\sum_{t=1}^T a_t = c$ ,  $a_t \geq 0$ .

By introducing  $w_t = \sum_{i=1}^t a_i$  reduce that problem to dynamic programming (3 points) and solve it (7 points).

7. (20 points) Consider the profit-maximizing problem for a representative competitive firm

$$\int_0^\infty (p - c(x(t)))q(t)e^{-rt} dt \rightarrow \max$$

subject to (\*)  $\dot{x} = 1 - x - q$ , where the state variable  $x(t) < 1$  represents a nonrenewable stock resource (oil) that depletes according to the equation (\*) and  $q(t)$  is the extraction rate. Here  $c(x)$  is a cost function of the extraction that is defined by  $c(x) = e^{-x}$ . The price of oil is assumed to be constant and equal  $p$  where  $1/e < p < 1$ . The optimization problem is to choose  $q(t)$  to maximize the discounted profits,  $0 < r < 1$ .

- (a) (10 points) Derive necessary conditions.
- (b) (10 points) Prove that the steady-state exists.

## 5.5 retake — short hints

1. First we decompose  $Y$  as  $Y = aX + bZ$ , where  $Z$  is independent from  $X$  and has unit variance. To obtain  $a$  and  $b$  we make system:

$$\begin{cases} \text{Var}(Y) = a^2 \text{Var}(X) + b^2 \text{Var}(Z) = 1 \\ \text{Cov}(Y, X) = a \text{Cov}(X, X) = \rho \end{cases}$$

So,  $a = \rho$  and  $b = \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}$ . The variable  $Y$  is decomposed as  $Y = \rho X + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}Z$ . Then

$$\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \mathbb{E}(\rho X + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}Z|X) = \rho X + 0$$

And

$$\mathbb{E}(Y^2|X) = \mathbb{E}(\rho^2 X^2 + (1 - \rho^2)Z^2 + 2\rho\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}XZ|X) = \rho^2 X^2 + (1 - \rho^2) \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 0$$

2.  $\mathbb{E}(X_t) = \mathbb{E}(Y_t) = 0$ , for variance and covariance we use isometry property

$$\text{Var}(X_t) = \text{Var}\left(\int_0^t s^3 W_s dW_s\right) = \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(s^3 W_s)^2 ds = \int_0^t s^7 ds = \frac{t^8}{8}$$

$$\text{Cov}(X_t, Y_t) = \text{Cov}\left(\int_0^t s^3 W_s dW_s, \int_0^t W_s dW_s\right) = \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(s^3 W_s^2) ds = \int_0^t s^4 ds = \frac{t^5}{5}$$

3. Calculate  $dY_t$ . We observe that  $dY_t = (4W_t^3 - 12tW_t) dW_t$ , so  $Y_t$  is a martingale and  $\mathbb{E}(Y_7 | Y_2) = Y_2$ .
4. Use the substitution  $Y_t = \ln X_t$ . Then, using Ito's lemma we obtain:

$$dY_t = \frac{1}{X_t} dX_t - \frac{1}{2X_t^2} (dX_t)^2$$

Initial SDE gives us  $dX_t = X_t dt + X_t dW_t$ , so we can compute also  $(dX_t)^2$  and plug it in the  $dY_t$ .

$$dX_t^2 = (X_t dt + X_t dW_t)^2 = X_t^2 dt$$

Recall that  $dW_t \cdot dW_t = dt$ ,  $dW_t \cdot dt = 0$  and  $dt \cdot dt = 0$

Plugging in we get:

$$dY_t = \frac{X_t dt + X_t dW_t}{X_t} - \frac{X_t^2 dt}{2X_t^2} = dt + dW_t - \frac{dt}{2} = dW_t + \frac{dt}{2}$$

The full form for  $Y_t$ :

$$Y_t = Y_0 + \int_0^t dW_s + \int_0^t \frac{ds}{2} = Y_0 + W_t + \frac{t}{2} = \ln X_t$$

Now we are ready to write the solution:

$$X_t = e^{Y_0} e^{W_t} e^{\frac{t}{2}} = X_0 e^{W_t + \frac{t}{2}}$$

## 6 2013-2014

### 6.1 Stochastic calculus hometask

1. Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be independent exponentially distributed with parameter  $\lambda$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(X + Y \mid X - Y)$ .
2. Let  $S_n$  be symmetric random walk with  $S_0 = 2013$ . The stopping time  $\tau$  is the first moment when  $|S_n|$  reaches the value 2014 or the value 2000. Find  $\mathbb{E}(\tau S_\tau)$ .  
Hint: You may construct a martingale of the form  $M_n = S_n^3 - f(n)S_n$  for some function  $f$ .
3. Conditional variance is defined as  $\text{Var}(Y \mid X) = \mathbb{E}(Y^2 \mid X) - (\mathbb{E}(Y \mid X))^2$ . Find  $\text{Var}(W_s \mid W_t)$ .  
Hint: do not forget two cases,  $t > s$  and  $s < t$ . You may find inversion property of the Wiener process useful.
4. Let  $f$  be a real function such that  $f''$  is continuous. Find all such functions  $f$  that  $X_t = \exp(\alpha t)f(W_t)$  is a martingale.
5. Solve the stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = (X_t/t + t)dt + 2\sqrt{tX_t}dW_t$$

Hint: You may suppose without a proof that the solution has the form  $X_t = f(t)g(W_t)$ .

6. In the framework of Black and Scholes model find the price of the asset, which pays you  $S_T$  at the fixed moment of time  $T > 1$  if  $S_{T-1} > 1$  and 0 otherwise.

### 6.2 Solution for stochastic calculus hometask

Author: Vladimir Shmarov

#### Problem 1.

Denote  $\xi = X + Y$  and  $\eta = X - Y$ .

Then we are gonna find  $E(\xi \mid \eta)$ .

Since  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ , it has a nice density:  $p_X(u) = \lambda e^{-\lambda u} \cdot I_{\{u \geq 0\}}$ .

Similarly,  $p_Y(v) = \lambda e^{-\lambda v} \cdot I_{\{v \geq 0\}}$ .

Since  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, the vector  $(X, Y)$  has a two-dimensional density, which equals to the product of densities of  $X$  and  $Y$ , i.e.

$$p_{(X,Y)}(u, v) = I_{\{u \geq 0, v \geq 0\}} \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda(u+v)}$$

We have  $X = X(\xi, \eta) = \frac{\xi + \eta}{2}$  and  $Y = Y(\xi, \eta) = \frac{\xi - \eta}{2}$ .

$$\text{Then } J = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial X}{\partial \xi} & \frac{\partial X}{\partial \eta} \\ \frac{\partial Y}{\partial \xi} & \frac{\partial Y}{\partial \eta} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{vmatrix} = -\frac{1}{2}.$$

Therefore

$$p_{(\xi, \eta)}(s, t) = p_{(X,Y)}\left(\frac{s+t}{2}, \frac{s-t}{2}\right) \cdot |J| = \frac{\lambda^2}{2} I_{\{s+t \geq 0\}} I_{\{s-t \geq 0\}} e^{-\lambda s} = \frac{\lambda^2}{2} I_{\{s \geq |t|\}} e^{-\lambda s}$$

is a density of a vector  $(\xi, \eta)$ .

Further,

$$p_\eta(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} p_{(\xi, \eta)}(s, t) ds = \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda|t|}}{2}$$

Then the conditional density is

$$p_{(\xi|\eta)}(s|t) = \frac{p_{(\xi, \eta)}(s, t)}{p_\eta(t)} = \lambda e^{-\lambda(s-|t|)} \cdot I_{\{s-|t| \geq 0\}}$$

And finally, denoting  $z = s - |t|$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} E(\xi|\eta) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} s \cdot p_{(\xi|\eta)}(s|t) ds \Big|_{t=\eta} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} (z + |t|) \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda z} \cdot I_{\{z \geq 0\}} dz \Big|_{t=\eta} = \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} z \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda z} \cdot I_{\{z \geq 0\}} dz \Big|_{t=\eta} + |t| \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lambda e^{-\lambda z} \cdot I_{\{z \geq 0\}} dz \Big|_{t=\eta} = \left( \frac{1}{\lambda} + |t| \right) \Big|_{t=\eta} = \frac{1}{\lambda} + |\eta| \end{aligned}$$

(the first integral is just the expectation of exponential distribution with parameter  $\lambda$ , and the second is  $|t|$  times the integral of the density, which equals 1)

**Answer:**  $E(X + Y|X - Y) = \frac{1}{\lambda} + |X - Y|$

**Problem 2 — part 1 of 2.**

At first,  $S_n = S_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i$ , where  $\{\varepsilon_i\}$  is the sequence of independent random variables with

$P(\varepsilon_i = -1) = P(\varepsilon_i = 1) = \frac{1}{2}$ . Also denote  $\mathcal{F}_n = \sigma(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n)$ .

Observe that  $\tau$  is really a stopping time, because at each moment of time we precisely know, are we in one of the points  $\{2000, 2014\}$  or not.

Let's prove that  $E(\tau) < \infty$  (which will also imply that  $P(\tau = +\infty) = 0$ ).

We shall obviously reach  $\tau$  after any 14 consecutive steps in one direction. Then

$$\begin{aligned} P(\tau \geq 14n) &\leq P(\text{At least one of } \varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_{14} \text{ equals } -1) \times \dots \times P(\text{At least one of } \varepsilon_{14(n-1)+1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{14n} \text{ equals } -1) \\ &= (1 - 2^{-14})^n = q^n \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

where  $q < 1$ .

Then

$$E(\tau) = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} P(\tau \geq n) \leq 14 \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} P(\tau \geq 14n + 1) \leq 14 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^n = 14 \cdot 2^{14} < \infty$$

as required.

The sequence  $\{S_t\}$  is a martingale w.r.t. filtration  $\{\mathcal{F}_n\}$ , because it is obviously  $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}$ -adapted, has a finite (zero) expectation and

$$E(S_{t+1}|\mathcal{F}_t) = E(S_t + \varepsilon_{t+1}|\mathcal{F}_t) = S_t + E(\varepsilon_{t+1}|\mathcal{F}_t) = S_t$$

Further,  $S_{\min\{t, \tau\}}$  is bounded in  $t$ : it always lies between 2000 and 2014. The Doob's theorem

conditions are satisfied, which means that

$$E(S_\tau) = S_0 = 2013$$

But  $E(S_\tau) = 2000 \cdot P(S_\tau = 2000) + 2014 \cdot P(S_\tau = 2014)$ , which after the substitution  $E(S_\tau) = 2013$  gives us

$$\boxed{P(S_\tau = 2000) = \frac{1}{14}} \text{ and } \boxed{P(S_\tau = 2014) = \frac{13}{14}}$$

Further, let's prove that  $\boxed{\text{the sequence } \{S_t^3 - 3tS_t\} \text{ is a } \{\mathcal{F}_t\}\text{-martingale}}$ . At first, it is obviously adapted and  $|E(S_t^3 - 3tS_t)| < \infty$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} E(S_{t+1}^3 - 3(t+1)S_{t+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_t) &= E((S_t + \varepsilon_{t+1})^3 - 3(t+1)(S_t + \varepsilon_{t+1}) \mid \mathcal{F}_t) = \\ &= E\left(S_t^3 + 3S_t^2\underline{\varepsilon_{t+1}} + 3(\underline{\varepsilon_{t+1}^2} - 1)S_t - 3tS_t + \underline{\varepsilon_{t+1}^3} - 3(t+1)\underline{\varepsilon_{t+1}} \mid \mathcal{F}_t\right) = S_t^3 - 3tS_t \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

(the underlined terms are going out after taking conditional expectation;  $(\varepsilon_{t+1}^2 - 1)$  goes out even without it)

Denote  $X_t = S_t^3 - 3tS_t$ .

For  $t \geq \tau$  we have  $|X_{\min\{t+1, \tau\}} - X_{\min\{t, \tau\}}| = 0$ , and for  $t < \tau$  we have

$|X_{\min\{t+1, \tau\}} - X_{\min\{t, \tau\}}| = |X_{t+1} - X_t| = |3S_t^2\varepsilon_{t+1} - (3t+2)\varepsilon_{t+1}| \leq 3 \times 2014^2 + 3\tau + 2$ , which expectation is bounded by the finite number  $3 \times 2014^2 + 2 + 3E(\tau)$ .

Then, the overall expectation  $E(|X_{\min\{t+1, \tau\}} - X_{\min\{t, \tau\}}|) \leq 3 \times 2014^2 + 2 + 3E(\tau)$  for every  $t$ , i.e. is bounded in  $t$ .

**Problem 2 — part 2 of 2.**

Then again, the conditions of the Doob's theorem are satisfied, i.e.

$$E(X_\tau) = X_0 = 2013^3$$

But also  $E(X_\tau) = E(S_\tau^3) - 3E(\tau S_\tau)$ , i.e.

$$E(\tau S_\tau) = \frac{1}{3} (E(S_\tau^3) - 2013^3) = \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{1}{14} 2000^3 + \frac{13}{14} 2014^3 - 2013^3 \right) = 13 \times 2009 = 26117$$

**Answer:**  $E(\tau S_\tau) = 26117$ .

**Problem 3.**

*Case 1.* Let  $s \geq t$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} E(W_s^2 \mid W_t) &= E(W_t^2 + 2W_t(W_s - W_t) + (W_s - W_t)^2 \mid W_t) = \\ &= W_t^2 + 2W_t E(W_s - W_t) + E((W_s - W_t)^2) = W_t^2 + (s - t) \end{aligned}$$

Further,

$$E(W_s \mid W_t) = W_t + E(W_s - W_t \mid W_t) = W_t$$

Then we have  $Var(W_s|W_t) = E(W_s^2|W_t) - E(W_s|W_t)^2 = (s - t)$

*Case 2.* Let  $s < t$ .

By the inverse property,  $V_t = tW_{\frac{1}{t}}$  is also a standard Wiener process.

From the case 1 we have

$$\frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{t} = Var\left(V_{\frac{1}{s}} \middle| V_{\frac{1}{t}}\right) = Var\left(\frac{1}{s}W_s \middle| \frac{1}{t}W_t\right) = \frac{1}{s^2}Var\left(W_s \middle| \frac{1}{t}W_t\right) = \frac{1}{s^2}Var(W_s|W_t)$$

the last equation is because obviously  $\sigma(W_t) = \sigma\left(\frac{1}{t}W_t\right)$ .

Then  $Var(W_s|W_t) = s - \frac{s^2}{t}$ .

Summing up these two cases, we get the

**Answer:**  $Var(W_s|W_t) = \max\left\{s - t, s - \frac{s^2}{t}\right\}$

**Problem 4.**

Let  $g(t, W_t) = X_t = e^{\alpha t}f(W_t)$ , then  $g_t = \alpha g$ ,  $g_{W_t} = e^{\alpha t}f'(W_t)$  and  $g_{W_t W_t} = e^{\alpha t}f''(W_t)$ .

By the Itô's lemma we have

$$\begin{aligned} dX_t &= \alpha X_t \delta + e^{\alpha t} f'(W_t) dW_t + \frac{1}{2} e^{\alpha t} f''(W_t) \delta = \\ &= e^{\alpha t} \left( \alpha f(W_t) + \frac{1}{2} f''(W_t) \right) \delta + e^{\alpha t} f'(W_t) dW_t \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$X_t = f(0) + \int_0^t e^{\alpha u} \left( \alpha f(W_u) + \frac{1}{2} f''(W_u) \right) du + \int_0^t e^{\alpha u} f'(W_u) dW_u$$

The last term in the right-hand side is a martingale, so  $X_t$  is a martingale if and only if the coefficient near  $\delta$  equals zero for all  $t$ , i.e.

$$\alpha f(W_t) + \frac{1}{2} f''(W_t) = 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

which (together with continuity of  $f''$ ) implies

$$\alpha f(x) + \frac{1}{2} f''(x) = 0 \quad \forall x$$

We know how to solve the linear differential equations, so I will not go into details and I'll just write the answer.

**Answer:** If  $\alpha < 0$ , then  $f(x) = C_1 e^{t\sqrt{-2\alpha}} + C_2 e^{-t\sqrt{-2\alpha}}$ , where  $C_1, C_2$  are any real constants;

if  $\alpha = 0$ , then  $f(x) = C_1 x + C_2$ ;

if  $\alpha > 0$ , then  $f(x) = C_1 \cos(t\sqrt{2\alpha}) + C_2 \sin(t\sqrt{2\alpha})$

**Problem 5 — part 1 of 2.**



Assume for simplicity that  $X_t = f(t)g(W_t)$ , where  $f$  and  $g$  are kinda nice functions (defined on  $[0, +\infty)$  and continuously differentiable the required number of times on this interval; right-differentiable at zero, of course).

By the Itô's lemma we have

$$dX_t = \left( f'(t)g(W_t) + \frac{1}{2}f(t)g''(W_t) \right) \delta + f(t)g'(W_t)dW_t$$

Substituting this into the condition of the problem and separating the parts with  $\delta$  and  $dW_t$  we get

$$\begin{cases} f'(t)g(W_t) + \frac{1}{2}f(t)g''(W_t) = \frac{f(t)}{t}g(W_t) + t & (1) \\ f(t)g'(W_t) = 2\sqrt{tf(t)g(W_t)} & (2) \end{cases}$$

Both equations are satisfied for every  $t > 0$  almost surely.

*Step 1.* Let's prove that  $f(t) \neq 0$  if  $t > 0$ . Indeed, if  $f(t_0) = 0$ , (1) gives us

$$f'(t_0)g(W_{t_0}) = t_0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

so

$$g(W_{t_0}) = \frac{t_0}{f'(t_0)} \quad \text{a.s.}$$

But  $g$  is continuous, so this gives us

$$g(x) \equiv C = \text{Const}$$

But then (2) gives

$$X_t \equiv 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

which does not satisfy the condition of the problem.

Therefore,  $f(t) \neq 0$ , when  $t \neq 0$ .

Now (2) can be transformed into

$$\frac{f(t)}{4t}g'(W_t)^2 = g(W_t) \quad (3)$$

*Step 2.*  $g'(x)$  cannot be zero in any interval.

Suppose that  $g'(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in (a, b)$ . From (3) we have  $g(x) = 0$  almost everywhere at  $(a, b)$  (because  $P(W_t \in (a, b)) \neq 0$  for  $t > 0$ ), and also  $g'(x) = 0$  at  $(a, b)$ . But substituting these values to (1) provides us contradiction.

Let  $A = \{x \in \mathbb{R} | g'(x) \neq 0\}$ . Since  $g'$  is continuous and is not identical zero (from the step 2), the set  $A$  has a positive Lebesgue measure; therefore  $P(W_t \in A) \neq 0$  for all  $t > 0$ .

**Problem 5 — pat 2 of 2.**

Now fix some  $t_0 > 0$ . From (3) we have that almost everywhere in the event  $\{W_{t_0} \in A\}$  the equality

$$\frac{g(W_{t_0})}{g'(W_{t_0})^2} = \frac{f(t_0)}{4t_0}$$

holds. Then for almost all  $x \in A$  we have  $\frac{g(x)}{g'(x)^2} = \frac{f(t_0)}{4t_0}$ . Now fix any other  $t_1 > 0$ .

We have that almost everywhere in  $A$  the equality  $\frac{g(x)}{g'(x)^2} = \frac{f(t_1)}{4t_1}$  holds. Since  $A$  has a positive measure, we have

$$\frac{f(t_0)}{4t_0} = \frac{f(t_1)}{4t_1}$$

i.e.  $f(t) = Ct$  for all  $t > 0$  and some  $C = \text{Const}$ . From the continuity  $\boxed{f(t) = Ct \text{ for all } t \geq 0}$

Substitute this to (1):

$$Cg(W_t) + \frac{1}{2}Ctg''(W_t) = Cg(W_t) + t$$

$$g''(W_t) = \frac{2}{C} \quad (4)$$

(4) holds almost everywhere, but since  $g''$  is continuous, we have  $\boxed{g''(x) \equiv \frac{2}{C}}$

Then  $g'(x) = \frac{2x}{C} + D$  and  $g(x) = \frac{x^2}{C} + Dx + E$  for some constants  $D, E$ .

From (3) we have

$$g(x) = \frac{f(t)}{4t}g'(x)^2 = \frac{C}{4}g'(x)^2$$

Substitute the values of  $g'(x)$  and  $g(x)$ :

$$\frac{x^2}{C} + Dx + E = \frac{C}{4} \left( \frac{2x}{C} + D \right)^2$$

$$\frac{x^2}{C} + Dx + E = \frac{x^2}{C} + Dx + \frac{CD^2}{4}$$

which gives us  $E = \frac{CD^2}{4}$  and  $g(x) = (Ax + B)^2$ , where  $A^2 = \frac{1}{C}$  and  $2AB = D$ .

**Answer:**  $X_t = t(W_t + C)^2$  for some constant  $C$ .

(in our notation this constant equals  $\frac{B}{A}$ )

**REMARK.** Precisely speaking, this is not a correct answer, because  $\sqrt{tX_t}$  is always positive, so (2) does not always hold, because the left side of (2), which is  $2t(W_t + C)$ , can be negative with nonzero probability. In other words, we solved similar, but different equation

$$dX_t = \left( \frac{X_t}{t} + t \right) \delta \pm 2\sqrt{tX_t}dW_t$$

and the original problem has no solutions of the type  $f(t)g(W_t)$ .

**Problem 6 — part 1 of 4.**

The risky asset  $S_t$  satisfies the stochastic differential equation

$$dS_t = \mu S_t \delta + \sigma S_t dW_t$$

which implies

$$S_t = S_0 \exp \left( t \left( \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) + \sigma W_t \right)$$

The risk-free asset satisfies the equation

$$dB_t = r B_t \delta$$

which implies

$$B_t = B_0 e^{rt}$$

Let  $X_t$  be our self-financing portfolio at time  $t$ , which contains  $\Delta_t$  shares of the risky asset.

The total amount of money in the risky asset is  $\Delta_t$ , in the risk-free asset —  $(X_t - \Delta_t S_t)$ .

Therefore

$$dX_t = \Delta_t dS_t + r(X_t - \Delta_t S_t) \delta$$

Let  $\tilde{W}_t = \frac{\mu - r}{\sigma} t + W_t$ , and  $\tilde{P}$  is the probability measure, w.r.t. which  $\tilde{W}_t$  is a standard Wiener process (the existence of such measure is the statement of Girsanov's theorem).

In class we explicitly derived that

$$e^{-rt} X_t = X_0 + \int_0^t \Delta_u e^{-ru} \sigma S_u d\tilde{W}_u$$

The last term is a  $\tilde{P}$ -martingale, which means that

$$E_{\tilde{P}}(e^{-rT} X_T | \mathcal{F}_0) = X_0 \quad (1)$$

Now remember that

$$X_T = S_T I_{\{S_{T-1} > 1\}}$$

so we need to calculate

$$E_{\tilde{P}}(S_T I_{\{S_{T-1} > 1\}}) = \iint_{u>0, v>1} u \cdot \tilde{p}_{(S_T, S_{T-1})}(u, v) du dv$$

where  $\tilde{p}_{(S_T, S_{T-1})}$  is a two-dimensional density of a corresponding vector w.r.t. measure  $\tilde{P}$ .

**Problem 6 — part 2 of 4.**

But

$$\iint_{u>0, v>1} u \cdot \tilde{p}_{(S_T, S_{T-1})}(u, v) du dv = \int_1^{+\infty} \left( \int_0^{+\infty} u \cdot \tilde{p}_{(S_T, S_{T-1})}(u, v) du \right) dv = \int_1^{+\infty} \tilde{p}_{S_{T-1}}(v) \cdot E_{\tilde{P}}(S_T | S_{T-1} = v) dv$$

Further,

$$S_{T-1} = S_0 \exp \left( (T-1) \left( \mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) + \sigma W_{T-1} \right) = S_0 \exp \left( (T-1) \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) + \sigma \tilde{W}_{T-1} \right)$$

which means that with notation  $A(x) = S_0 \exp \left( (T-1) \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) + \sigma x \right)$  we have

$$\tilde{p}_{\tilde{W}_{T-1}}(x) = \tilde{p}_{S_{T-1}}(A(x)) \cdot \sigma A(x)$$

We have  $x = \sigma^{-1} \left( \ln \left( \frac{A(x)}{S_0} \right) - (T-1) \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) \right)$ . Therefore

$$\tilde{p}_{S_{T-1}}(v) = \frac{1}{\sigma v} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi(T-1)}} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2(T-1)} \left( \ln(v) - \left( \ln(S_0) + (T-1) \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) \right) \right)^2 \right) \quad (2)$$

Very ugly expression! Let's believe most of those terms will cancel out.

Now

$$S_T = S_0 \exp \left( T \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) + \sigma \tilde{W}_T \right) = S_{T-1} \cdot \exp \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} + \sigma \left( \tilde{W}_T - \tilde{W}_{T-1} \right) \right)$$

and  $\left( \tilde{W}_T - \tilde{W}_{T-1} \right)$  is independent of the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\sigma(S_{T-1}) \subseteq \mathcal{F}_{T-1}$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\tilde{P}}(S_T | S_{T-1} = v) &= E_{\tilde{P}} \left( S_{T-1} \cdot \exp \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} + \sigma \left( \tilde{W}_T - \tilde{W}_{T-1} \right) \right) \middle| S_{T-1} = v \right) = \\ &= v \cdot \exp \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) E_{\tilde{P}} \left( \exp \left( \sigma \left( \tilde{W}_T - \tilde{W}_{T-1} \right) \right) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3) \quad (4)$$

Further, if  $\xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ , then

$$E(e^{\sigma \xi}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2} + \sigma x} dx = e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-\frac{(x-\sigma)^2}{2}} dx = e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{2}}$$

which gives us

$$E_{\tilde{P}}(S_T | S_{T-1} = v) = v \cdot \exp \left( r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) \exp \left( \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) = v e^r \quad (4)$$

which, I think, is a very nice formula (especially if we compare it with (2)).

**Problem 6 — part 3 of 4.**

Taking (2) and (4), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_1^{+\infty} \tilde{p}_{S_{T-1}}(v) \cdot E_{\tilde{P}}(S_T | S_{T-1} = v) dv = \\
& = e^r \int_1^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\sigma} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi(T-1)}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2(T-1)} \left(\ln(v) - \left(\ln(S_0) + (T-1)\left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)\right)\right)^2\right) dv = \\
& = e^r \int_0^{+\infty} e^s \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2(T-1)}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2(T-1)} \left(s - \left(\ln(S_0) + (T-1)\left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)\right)\right)^2\right) ds
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

We substituted  $s = \ln(v)$ . Of course,  $dv = e^s ds$ .

Denote also  $B = \ln(S_0) + (T-1)\left(r - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)$ .

Then our integral equals

$$\begin{aligned}
& e^r \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2(T-1)}} \exp\left(-\frac{s^2 - 2Bs - 2\sigma^2(T-1)s + B^2}{2\sigma^2(T-1)}\right) ds = \\
& = \exp\left(r - \frac{B^2}{2\sigma^2(T-1)} + \frac{(B + \sigma^2(T-1))^2}{2\sigma^2(T-1)}\right) \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2(T-1)}} \exp\left(-\frac{(s - B - \sigma^2(T-1))^2}{2\sigma^2(T-1)}\right) ds = \\
& = \exp\left(r - \frac{B^2}{2\sigma^2(T-1)} + \frac{(B + \sigma^2(T-1))^2}{2\sigma^2(T-1)}\right) \cdot \tilde{P}(\eta > -(B + \sigma^2(T-1))) \tag{6}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2(T-1))$ . The integral magically turns into the probability, because under the integral there is a well-known density.

Therefore our integral finally equals

$$\begin{aligned}
& \exp\left(r + \frac{(B + \sigma^2(T-1))^2 - B^2}{2\sigma^2(T-1)}\right) \cdot \tilde{P}\left(\frac{\eta}{\sigma\sqrt{T-1}} > -\frac{B + \sigma^2(T-1)}{\sigma\sqrt{T-1}}\right) = \\
& = \exp\left(r + B + \frac{\sigma^2(T-1)}{2}\right) \Phi\left(\frac{B + \sigma^2(T-1)}{\sigma\sqrt{T-1}}\right) = e^{\ln(S_0) + rT} \cdot \Phi\left(\frac{\ln(S_0) + (T-1)\left(r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)}{\sigma\sqrt{T-1}}\right)
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where  $\Phi(x)$  is a distribution function of a standard normal random value,  $\Phi(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{2}\right) dt$ .

**Problem 6 — part 4 of 4.**

And now I'll finish this huge problem.

We had

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_0 &= e^{-rT} E_{\tilde{P}} \left( S_T I_{\{S_{T-1} > 1\}} \right) = e^{-rT} \cdot e^{\ln(S_0) + rT} \Phi \left( \frac{\ln(S_0) + (T-1) \left( r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right)}{\sigma \sqrt{T-1}} \right) = \\
 &= S_0 \Phi \left( \frac{\ln(S_0) + (T-1) \left( r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right)}{\sigma \sqrt{T-1}} \right) \quad (8)
 \end{aligned}$$

This is our answer.

**Answer:** The price of our asset equals

$$S_0 \cdot \Phi \left( \frac{\ln(S_0) + (T-1) \left( r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right)}{\sigma \sqrt{T-1}} \right)$$

where  $\Phi(x)$  is a distribution function of a standard normal random value,  $\Phi(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{2}\right) dt$

### 6.3 Exam, 17.01.2014

#### Optimal control part

1. [10 points] A collector of wine is told by a doctor that he is going to die in  $T$  years and he develops a consumption plan that maximizes the utility of consumption of wine over remaining lifetime. At present the stock of wine equals  $w(0) = w_0 > 0$ . It will be consumed fully by time  $T$ , that is  $w(T) = 0$ . The utility function is  $U(c) = c$ , where  $c$  is consumption of wine. The stock of wine follows the rule  $w(t) = w_0 - \int_0^t c(s) ds$ . Consumption is bounded  $0 \leq c \leq \bar{c}$ , where  $\bar{c} > w_0/T$ . State the dynamic optimization problem, if the discount rate is  $r > 0$ . Introduce the current value Hamiltonian for that problem. Write down the first-order conditions. Solve the system of equations.
2. [10 points] Consider the following optimization problem: maximize  $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} 0.75^t \ln c_t$ , subject to  $c_t + k_{t+1} = \sqrt{k_t}$ , where  $k_0 > 0$ . Let the state variable be  $k$  and denote the next period value of  $k$  as  $k'$ .
  - (a) Write down the Bellman equation for the value function  $V(k)$
  - (b) Using the method of undetermined coefficients find  $V(k)$
  - (c) Find the optimal policy function  $k' = h(k)$
3. [20 points] Consider the nonlinear system of differential equations

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = -y + ax(x^2 + y^2) \\ \dot{y} = x + ay(x^2 + y^2) \end{cases}$$

where  $a$  is a parameter.

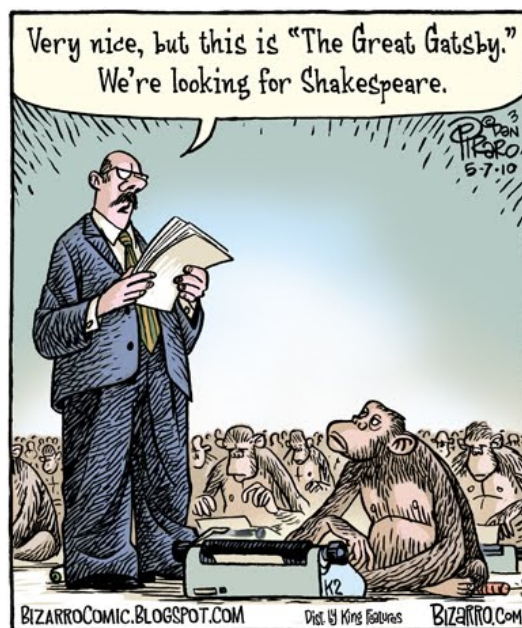
- (a) [5 points] Linearize the system and classify the steady-state solution
- (b) [10 points] Restore the nonlinear system and by changing the Cartesian into the polar coordinates show that the system becomes

$$\begin{cases} \dot{r} = ar^3 \\ \dot{\theta} = 1 \end{cases}$$

- (c) [5 points] Solve this system and draw the phase diagram for  $a < 0$ ,  $a = 0$ ,  $a > 0$ .

### Stochastic calculus part

Here  $W_t$  always denotes the standard Wiener process.



1. [10 points] It is known that  $\text{Var}(X) = 16$ ,  $\text{Var}(Y) = 9$ ,  $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = -1$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(X) = \mathbb{E}(Y) = 0$ . Let's denote  $\hat{Y} = \mathbb{E}(Y|X)$  and  $\hat{X} = \mathbb{E}(X|Y)$ . It is also known that  $\mathbb{E}(\hat{X}^2) = 4$  and  $\mathbb{E}(\hat{Y}^2) = 1$ . Find  $\text{Var}(\hat{Y})$ ,  $\text{Cov}(\hat{X}, Y)$ ,  $\text{Cov}(\hat{Y}, Y)$ .
2. [10 points] Let's consider a Wiener process with drift,  $X_t = W_t + \mu t$ .
  - (a) Find a non-trivial martingale of the form  $M_t = e^{\beta X_t}$
  - (b) Let  $\tau$  be a stopping time, the first moment when  $X_t$  hits 2 or  $-1$ . Find the probability  $\mathbb{P}(X_\tau = 2)$

You may assume without proof that some version of Doob's theorem may be applied here.

3. [10 points] Is  $X_t = \cos W_t$  a martingale? If not, find any non-zero function  $f(t)$  such that  $Y_t = f(t)X_t$  is a martingale. Find the variance of  $Y_t$ .  
Hint: You may use the fact that  $\mathbb{E}(\cos W_t) = e^{-t/2}$ .
4. [10 points] In the framework of Black and Scholes model find the price at the time 0 of an asset which gives you the payoff  $S_T^2$  at the time  $T$ . Here  $S_t$  is the price of the underlying asset at time  $t$ .

5. [20 points] Consider the following stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = -0.5e^{-2X_t}dt + e^{-X_t}dW_t,$$

with deterministic initial value  $X_0$ .

- (a) Is  $X_t$  a martingale?
- (b) Using the substitution  $Y_t = f(X_t)$  solve this differential equation. Hint: try to find a function  $f$  such that the term before  $dt$  cancels out.
- (c) Sketch the possible path of the process  $X_t$
- (d) Using basic facts about Wiener process find the limit  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(X_t \geq a)$  for all values of the parameter  $a$ .

## 6.4 marking scheme

1. 3 pts:

$$\text{Var}(\hat{Y}) = \mathbb{E}(\hat{Y}^2) - (\mathbb{E}(\hat{Y}))^2 = 1 - 0^2 = 1$$

3 pts:

$$\text{Cov}(\hat{X}, Y) = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(X|Y)Y) - \mathbb{E}(\hat{X})\mathbb{E}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(YX|Y)) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y) = \text{Cov}(X, Y)$$

4 pts:

$$\text{Cov}(\hat{Y}, Y) = \dots = \text{Cov}(\hat{Y}, \hat{Y})$$

2.  $M_t = e^{-2\mu X_t}$  5 pts, probability — 5 pts,  $p = \frac{1 - \exp(2\mu)}{\exp(-4\mu) - \exp(2\mu)}$
3.  $X_t$  is not a martingale — 1 pt,  $Y_t = e^{t/2}X_t$  or proportional — 4 pts, variance — 5 pts  
 $\text{Var}(Y_t) = (e^t + e^{-t} - 2)/2$
4. Pricing formula — 2 pts, risk-neutral substitution — 2 pts, calculations — 6 pts.  
 Using the pricing formula  $X_0 = \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mathbb{P}}} [e^{-rT} X_T]$ :

$$X_0 = \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mathbb{P}}} [\exp(-rT) X_T] = \exp(-rT) \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mathbb{P}}} [S_T^2]$$

We substitute  $S_T = S_0 \exp((r - \sigma^2/2)T + \sigma \tilde{W}_T)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} X_0 &= \exp(-rT) \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mathbb{P}}} \left[ S_0^2 \exp(2(r - \sigma^2/2)T + 2\sigma \tilde{W}_T) \right] = \\ &= S_0^2 \exp(-rT) \exp(2(r - \sigma^2/2)T) \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mathbb{P}}} \left[ e^{2\sigma \tilde{W}_T} \right] \quad (9) \end{aligned}$$

We use the fact that  $\mathbb{E}[\exp(aW_t)] = \exp(a^2t/2)$ , so:

$$X_0 = S_0^2 e^{-rT} \exp(2(r - \sigma^2/2)T) \exp(4\sigma^2/2) = S_0^2 \exp((r + \sigma^2)T)$$

5. (a)  $X_t$  is not a martingale — 1 pt
- (b) use of Ito's formula — 5 pts, equation  $f' = f$  — 5 pts, solution  $X_t = \ln(W_t + e^{X_0})$ . — 5 pts
- (c) Key features: “jiggly” — 1 pt, blows down to minus infinity in finite time — 2 pts
- (d) The limit is zero.



## 6.5 Retake, 08.02.2014

### Stochastic calculus part

1. [10 points] Is  $X_t = \sin W_t$  a martingale? If not, find any non-zero function  $f(t)$  such that  $Y_t = f(t)X_t$  is a martingale. Find the expected value  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$
2. [10 points] In the framework of Black and Scholes model find the price of the asset, which pays you  $S_2/S_1$  at the fixed moment of time  $T = 2$
3. [10 points] Let  $\tau$  be a stopping time, the first moment when  $W_t$  hits 2 or  $-1$ .
  - (a) Find the probability  $\mathbb{P}(W_\tau = 2)$
  - (b) Find a martingale of the form  $X_t = W_t^2 + f(t)$ .
  - (c) Find  $\mathbb{E}(\tau)$

4. [10 points] The joint distribution of the random vector  $(X, Y)$  is given by its probability density function

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} ce^{x-y}, & \text{for } 0 \leq x, y \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $c$  is a normalization constant. Find  $\mathbb{E}(X | Y)$ .

5. [20 points] Let's consider the following system of stochastic differential equations

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = aX_t dt - Y_t dW_t \\ dY_t = aY_t dt + X_t dW_t \end{cases}$$

with initial conditions  $X_0 = x_0$  and  $Y_0 = 0$

- (a) Ignoring the initial conditions find solution of the form  $X_t = f(t) \cos W_t$  and  $Y_t = g(t) \sin W_t$
- (b) Modify your solution to take into account the initial conditions
- (c) Prove that for any solution  $D_t = X_t^2 + Y_t^2$  is nonstochastic

## 6.6 Answers and hints

1.  $f(t) = e^{t/2}$  or proportional,  $\mathbb{E}(X_t) = 0$ .
2. Using the pricing formula  $X_0 = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [e^{-rT} X_T]$ :

$$X_0 = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [\exp(-rT) X_T] = \exp(-2r) \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} [S_2/S_1]$$

We substitute  $S_T = S_0 \exp((r - \sigma^2/2)T + \sigma \tilde{W}_T)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} X_0 &= \exp(-2r) \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \exp(r - \sigma^2/2 + \sigma \tilde{W}_2 - \sigma \tilde{W}_1) \right] = \\ &= \exp(-2r) \exp(r - \sigma^2/2) \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \exp(\sigma \tilde{W}_2 - \sigma \tilde{W}_1) \right] \quad (10) \end{aligned}$$

The distribution of  $\tilde{W}_2 - \tilde{W}_1$  is similar to the distribution of  $\tilde{W}_1$  and is  $N(0; 1)$ . So, we simplify:

$$X_0 = \exp(-2r) \exp(r - \sigma^2/2) \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \exp(\sigma \tilde{W}_1) \right]$$

We use the fact that  $\mathbb{E}[\exp(aW_t)] = \exp(a^2t/2)$ , so:

$$X_0 = \exp(-2r) \exp(r - \sigma^2/2) \exp(\sigma^2/2) = \exp(-r)$$

3. Using Doob's theorem,  $\mathbb{E}(W_\tau) = 0$ , so  $\mathbb{P}(W_\tau = 2) = 1/3$ . Using Ito's lemma or otherwise  $X_t = W_t^2 - t$  is a martingale, so  $\mathbb{E}(X_\tau) = 0$  and  $\mathbb{E}(\tau) = 2$ .
4.  $\mathbb{E}(X | Y) = \int_0^1 xf(x | Y) dx$ . Here  $f(x, y)$  maybe factored, so  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, and  $\mathbb{E}(X | Y) = \text{const.}$
5. See the solution of problem 8 from exam of 2008-2009 [on page 5](#)

## 7 2014-2015

### 7.1 Practice problems

These problems were not graded.

1. An enemy submarine is somewhere on the number line. The initial coordinate of the submarine is some unknown integer number. It is moving at some constant integer speed (units per minute).  
You can launch a torpedo each minute at any integer on the number line. If the submarine is there, you hit it and it sinks. You have infinite number of torpedoes. You must sink this enemy sub.

(a) Draw a picture of number line and the submarine. Just for fun!

(b) Devise a strategy that is guaranteed to eventually hit the enemy submarine

2. Compare the power of two sets:  $A = \mathbb{Q}$  — the set of all rational numbers,  $B = \mathbb{Q}^2$  — the set of all possible pairs of rational numbers.
3. Using the fact that the Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\mathcal{B}$  is the smallest  $\sigma$ -algebra containing all subsets of the form  $(-\infty; t]$  show that  $\mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{B}$ .
4. Let  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$ . Find explicitly the smallest  $\sigma$ -algebra which contains the sets  $A = [0; 1]$  and  $B = [10; 100]$ .
5. Let  $X$  be uniform on  $[0; 1]$  and  $Y = 1_{X < 0.7} + 1_{X > 0.1}$ . Describe the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\sigma(Y)$ . How many events  $\sigma(Y)$  contains? Is the set  $\sigma(X)$  countable?
6. How many different  $\sigma$ -algebras one may construct if  $\Omega$  contains three elements? Four?
7. We throw a coin infinite number of times. Let's define the sequence of random variables  $X_n$  such that  $X_n$  is equal to 1, if the result of  $n$ -th throw is tail, and 0 otherwise. We also define a bunch of  $\sigma$ -algebras:  $\mathcal{F}_n := \sigma(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_n := \sigma(X_n, X_{n+1}, X_{n+2}, \dots)$ .  
Give two non-trivial (other than  $\Omega$  and  $\emptyset$ ) examples of event  $A$ , such that:

- $A \in \mathcal{F}_{2014}$
- $A \notin \mathcal{F}_{2014}$
- $A$  belongs to every  $\mathcal{H}_n$

Which  $\sigma$ -algebras contains the events:

- $A = \{X_{37} > 0\}$
- $B = \{X_{37} > X_{2014}\}$
- $C = \{X_{37} > X_{2014} > X_{12}\}$

Simplify where possible:  $\mathcal{F}_{11} \cap \mathcal{F}_{25}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{11} \cup \mathcal{F}_{25}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_{11} \cap \mathcal{H}_{25}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_{11} \cup \mathcal{H}_{25}$

8. Veniamin throws a coin until three consecutive tails appear. Let the random variable  $T$  be the number of throws. Let  $\mathcal{F}_T$  be the  $\sigma$ -algebra of all events distinguishable by Veniamin.

- (a) Provide two non-trivial (not equal to  $\Omega$  or  $\emptyset$ ) examples of event  $A$  such that  $A \in \mathcal{F}_T$  but  $A \notin \sigma(T)$
- (b) Provide two non-trivial (not equal to  $\Omega$  or  $\emptyset$ ) examples of event  $A$  such that  $A \in \sigma(T)$
- (c) Is it true, that  $\sigma(T) \subset \mathcal{F}_T$ ?

## 7.2 Practice-solutions

- 1.
2. The set  $A$  and  $B$  have the same power.
- 3.
- 4.
5.  $\sigma(Y) = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{Y = 1\}, \{Y = 2\}\}$ ,  $\sigma(X)$  is not countable

## 7.3 Hometask

1. Researcher Veniamin throws a fair dice until 6 appears. Let denote by  $T$  the total number of throws and by  $N$  the number of throws when 5 appeared. Find  $\mathbb{E}(N|T)$ ,  $\text{Var}(N|T)$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(N)$ ,  $\text{Var}(N)$  and  $\mathbb{E}(T|N)$ .
2. It is  $25^\circ\text{C}$  in Australia today. Each day the temperature goes one degree up or down with equal probability. Each day I will put the sum equal to the temperature in my piggy bank. So today I will put 25 roubles. I will stop my investment strategy when the temperature will reach  $15^\circ\text{C}$  or  $30^\circ\text{C}$  for the first time.



What will be the expected value of my account in my piggy bank?

3. Veniamin and Varvara are managers of two gladiators-vampires teams. Veniamin has 4 gladiators-vampires with initial strengths 1, 2, 3 and 4. Varvara has 3 gladiators-vampires with initial strengths 1, 3 and 5.  
The competition between two teams is organised as a sequence of rounds. In each round two gladiators-vampires (one from each team) will meet and fight to the death. Varvara always selects the best gladiator from her team to fight in the next round.  
When the gladiators of strengths  $a$  and  $b$  meet the first will win with probability  $a/(a+b)$ , the second — with probability  $b/(a+b)$ . The gladiators are vampires, so the strength of the winner will become  $a+b$ .
  - (a) Let's denote by  $\tau$  the number of the final round. What is the maximum value of  $\tau$ ?
  - (b) Let's denote by  $X_t$  the total strength of the Veniamin's team. Is  $X_t$  a martingale?
  - (c) What is best strategy for Veniamin? What is the probability that Veniamin's team will win?
4. Consider the processes  $X_t = \int_0^t (sW_s)^3 dW_s$  and  $Y_t = \int_0^t W_s dW_s$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$ ,  $\text{Var}(X_t)$ ,  $\text{Cov}(X_t, Y_t)$
5. The process  $X_t$  is given by

$$dX_t = tW_t e^{W_t} dt + \sin(tW_t) dW_t, \quad X_0 = 1$$

Using Ito-Doeblin lemma find  $Z_0$  and  $dZ_t$  if  $Z_t = X_t^2 + t \cos(X_t)$

6. Solve the stochastic differential equation:

$$dX_t = X_t(1 - X_t) dt + X_t dW_t, \quad X_0 = 1$$

Some hints: you may find the substitution  $Y_t = \ln X_t$  useful.

7. In the framework of Black and Scholes model find the price at  $t = 0$  of the asset, which pays you 1\$ if  $S_{T-1} > 1$  and 0 otherwise. Here  $S_t$  denotes the price of a share at time  $t$ . The payment is made at the fixed moment of time  $T > 1$ .

## 7.4 Hometask-solution

1. If the total number of throws is  $T$  then the last throw has value 6. Each of the preceding  $(T - 1)$  throws may have a value from 1 to 5. So if  $T$  is considered fixed, then  $N$  has binomial distribution with  $n = T - 1$  and  $p = 1/5$ . It follows that  $\mathbb{E}(N|T) = \frac{T-1}{5}$  and  $\text{Var}(N|T) = \frac{4(T-1)}{25}$ .

Using tower property of conditional expectation

$$\mathbb{E}(N) = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(N|T)) = \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{T-1}{5}\right) = \frac{\mathbb{E}(T) - 1}{5}$$

Here  $T$  is geometric with  $p = 1/6$ , so  $\mathbb{E}(T) = 6$  and  $\mathbb{E}(N) = 1$ .

We use the following decomposition of variance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(N) &= \mathbb{E}(\text{Var}(N|T)) + \text{Var}(\mathbb{E}(N|T)) = \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{4(T-1)}{25}\right) + \text{Var}\left(\frac{T-1}{5}\right) = (\text{Var}(T-1) + 4\mathbb{E}(T-1))/25 \quad (11) \end{aligned}$$

As  $T$  is geometric  $\text{Var}(T) = (1-p)/p^2 = 30$ . And, hence,  $\text{Var}(N) = 2$ .

If  $N$  is fixed, then the total time  $T$  is equal to the following sum: from start to first five, from first five to second five, ..., from  $N$ -th five to six, so  $\mathbb{E}(T|N) = aN + b$ . From the properties of geometric distribution,  $b = 5$  (no five) and  $a = 5$  (no six).

2.  $X_0 = 25$ ,  $X_{t+1} = X_t + D_{t+1}$  — is a martingale. The random variable  $X_\tau$  can take only the values 30 and 15. Applying the Doob's theorem we get  $\mathbb{E}(X_\tau) = 25$  and, hence,  $\mathbb{P}(X_\tau = 15) = 1/3$ .

Using the second martingale,  $X_t^2 - t$  and again Doob's theorem,  $\mathbb{E}(X_\tau^2) - \mathbb{E}(\tau) = X_0^2 = 625$ , and  $\mathbb{E}(\tau) = 50$ .

Using the third martingale,  $M_t = \sum_{i=0}^t X_i - 25(t+1)$ . Here we have  $(t+1)$  as there are  $(t+1)$  terms in  $\sum_{i=0}^t X_i$ . Using Doob's theorem,  $\mathbb{E}(M_\tau) = M_0 = 0$ , and, finally,  $\mathbb{E}(\sum_{i=0}^\tau X_i) = 25 \cdot 51 = 1275$ .

3.  $\tau \in \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ ,  $X_t$  is a martingale. The random variable  $X_\tau$  can take only two values, 0 or  $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 3 + 5 = 19$ . According to the Doob's theorem,  $\mathbb{E}(X_\tau) = X_0 = 10$ . And hence  $\mathbb{P}(\text{Veniamin wins}) = \mathbb{P}(X_\tau = 19) = 10/19$ . The strategy does not matter.
4.  $\mathbb{E}(X_t) = 0$ ,  $\text{Var}(X_t) = 3t^{10}/2$ , and  $\text{Cov}(X_t, Y_t) = t^6/2$ .

The expected value

$$\mathbb{E}(W_t^{2k}) = t^k \cdot 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot \dots \cdot (2k-1)$$

may be useful with Ito's isometry.

5.

$$dZ_t = [\cos X_t + 2X_t t W_t e^{W_t} - t^2 W_t e^{W_t} \sin X_t + \sin^2(t W_t) - 0.5t \cos X_t \sin^2(t W_t)] dt + [\sin(t W_t)(2X_t - t \sin(X_t))] dW_t \quad (12)$$

6. Using the substitution  $Y_t = \ln X_t$  we obtain equation  $dY_t = (0.5 - X_t) dt + dW_t$ . And  $\ln X_t + \int_0^t X_s ds = 0.5t + W_t$ .

We exponentiate and then take integral

$$\int_0^t X_s ds = \ln \left( 1 + \int_0^t \exp(0.5s + W_s) ds \right)$$

Differentiate to obtain

$$X_t = \frac{\exp(0.5t + W_t)}{1 + \int_0^t \exp(0.5s + W_s) ds}$$

7.

$$X_0 = e^{-rT} F \left( \frac{\ln S_0 - (\sigma^2/2 - r)(T - 1)}{\sigma \sqrt{T - 1}} \right),$$

where  $F()$  is the cumulative probability function for standard normal distribution.

## 7.5 Exam, 27.12.2014

### Optimal control part

1. (10 points) Consider the nonlinear system of DE

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = e^{x_1+x_2} - x_2 \\ \dot{x}_2 = -x_1 + x_1 x_2 \end{cases}$$

Determine the points of rest of the system, classify their type and stability and draw the local phase diagram at each of them with the found eigenvectors.

2. (10 points) Solve the optimal control problem

$$\int_0^T [pK(t) - wK(t) - cI^2(t)] dt \rightarrow \max$$

subject to  $\dot{K}(t) = I(t)$ ,  $K(0) = K_0 > 0$ ,  $K(T)$  not given,  $p > w > 0$ ,  $c > 0$ .

Also show that  $K(t) > 0$  for  $t \in [0; T]$  and  $\dot{K}(T) = 0$  (4 points for that part).

3. (20 points) Consider the optimal problem for the infinite horizon

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-rt} \left[ -\frac{1}{2}u^2 + xu - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \right] dt \rightarrow \max$$

subject to  $\dot{x} = u$ ,  $x(0) = x_0 > 0$  and  $1 < r < 2$ .

- (5 points) Write down the system of equations based on the current value Hamiltonian
- (3 points) Is the integrand a concave or a strictly concave function?
- (5 points) Reduce the necessary conditions down to a pair of linear DE involving only  $x$  and  $\lambda$

- (d) (3 points) Find all steady-states of the system
- (e) (4 points) Classify them

### Stochastic calculus part

Here  $W_t$  always denotes the standard Wiener process.

1. [10 points] Let  $\tau$  denote the first moment of time when  $|W_t| = 100$ .
  - (a) What is the distribution of  $W_\tau$ ?
  - (b) Are  $W_\tau$  and  $\tau$  independent?
  - (c) Assuming that some version of Doob's theorem may be applied find  $\mathbb{E}(e^{-2\tau})$ .

Hint: maybe  $\exp(2W_t - 2t)$  will help?

2. [10 points] The random variables  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, \dots$  are independent uniformly distributed on  $[0; 1]$ . I am summing them until the first  $X_i$  greater than 0.5 is added. After this term I stop. Let's denote by  $S$  the total sum and by  $N$  — the number of terms added. Find  $\mathbb{E}(S|N)$ ,  $\text{Var}(S|N)$ ,  $E(S)$

Hints: If  $U$  is uniform on  $[a; b]$  then  $\text{Var}(U) = (b - a)^2/12$ . If  $G$  has geometric distribution (the number of throws to get the first success) then  $\mathbb{E}(G) = 1/p$  where  $p$  is the probability of success.

3. [10 points] Find  $\text{Var} \left( \int_0^t W_s ds \right)$ .

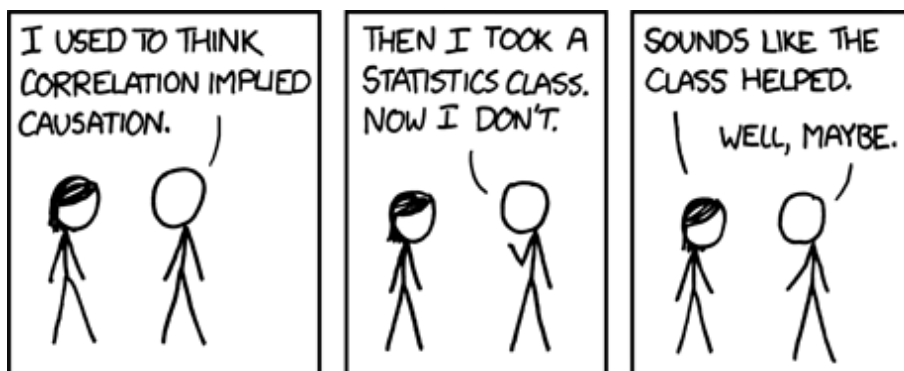
You may use the following guiding steps:

- (a) Find  $d(tW_t)$  in short and full form
  - (b) Find  $\mathbb{E} \left( 2tW_t \int_0^t s dW_s \right)$
  - (c) Find  $\mathbb{E} \left( \left( \int_0^t s dW_s \right)^2 \right)$
  - (d) Find  $\mathbb{E} \left( \int_0^t W_s ds \right)$
  - (e)  $(a - b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2$  :)
4. [10 points] The risk-free interest rate is equal to 0.1. The volatility of the share is equal to  $\sigma = 1$ . You have an option to receive 1\$ two years later if the percentage change of price of the share,  $S_t$ , during the first year is less than during the second year. Assume the framework of the Black and Scholes model. What is the fair price of this option?
  5. [20 points] Solve the stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = t dt + X_t dW_t, \quad X_0 = 1$$

You may use the following guiding steps:

- (a) Solve a less difficult stochastic differential equation,  $dY_t = -Y_t dW_t$ ,  $Y_0 = 1$
- (b) Find  $dA_t$ , where  $A_t = X_t Y_t$
- (c) Find any deterministic function  $f(t)$  such that  $d(f(t)A_t)$  contains neither  $X_t$  nor  $A_t$
- (d) Using full form of  $d(f(t)A_t)$  find  $X_t$ . It may depend on some integrals :)



## 7.6 Exam, 27.12.2014 - solution

1.  $W_\tau$  takes values 100 and  $-100$  with equal probabilities. Yes, independent.  $\mathbb{E}(e^{-2\tau}) = \frac{2}{e^{200} + e^{-200}}$
2.  $\mathbb{E}(S|N) = 0.25N + 0.5$ ,  $\text{Var}(S|N) = 0.25N/12$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(N) = 1/p = 2$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(S) = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(S|N)) = 1$ . One may also find the variance,  $\text{Var}(S) = 1/8 + 1/24 = 1/6$ .
3. By hints:

(a)  $d(tW_t) = t dW_t + W_t dt$

(b)  $\mathbb{E}\left(2tW_t \int_0^t s dW_s\right) = t^3$  using Ito's isometry

(c)  $\mathbb{E}\left(\left(\int_0^t s dW_s\right)^2\right) = t^3/3$  using Ito's isometry

(d)  $\mathbb{E}\left(\int_0^t W_s ds\right) = 0$

(e)  $\text{Var}\left(\int_0^t W_s ds\right) = t^3/3$

4. Event  $\left\{\frac{S_1 - S_0}{S_0} < \frac{S_2 - S_1}{S_1}\right\}$  simplifies to  $S_1^2 < S_0 S_2$  and further simplifies to  $2\tilde{W}_1 - \tilde{W}_2 < 0$ . And

$$X_0 = e^{-0.2} \tilde{P}(2\tilde{W}_1 - \tilde{W}_2 < 0) = e^{-0.2}/2$$

5. By steps:

(a) Using the substitution  $U_t = \ln Y_t$ , one obtains the solution  $Y_t = \exp(-W_t - t/2)$

(b)  $dA_t = Y_t(t - X_t)dt$

(c)  $f(t) = e^t$  for example

(d)

$$X_t = \frac{1 + \int_0^t s \exp(-W_s + s/2) ds}{\exp(-W_t + t/2)}$$

## 8 2015-2016

### 8.1 Stochastic calculus hometask

1. Find the expected value of  $\mathbb{E}(\exp(aW_t))$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(1_{W_t \leq b})$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(\exp(aW_t) \cdot 1_{W_t \leq b})$  and  $\mathbb{E}(W_t 1_{W_t \leq b})$ . Naturally, you may use the standard normal cumulative distribution function  $F$  in your answer

2. It is known that  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = 0$ . Which of the following quantities must be zero:  $\mathbb{E}(Y)$ ?  $\mathbb{E}(X)$ ?  $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$ ?  $\text{Cov}(X^2, Y)$ ?  $\text{Cov}(X, Y^2)$ ? Prove or provide a counter-example.
3. Alisa and Bob throw a fair coin until either the sequence THTH or the sequence HTHH appears. Alisa wins if the sequence THTH appears first and Bob wins if the sequence HTHH appears first.

(a) What is the probability that Alisa will win?

(b) What is the expected duration of the game in tosses?

Hint: you may introduce a martingale from lecture or solve this problem without martingales at all

4. Consider the process  $Y_t = \exp(2W_t - 2t)$ .

(a) Find  $dY_t$

(b) Find  $\int_0^t Y_u dW_u$

(c) Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y_t)$  and  $\text{Var}(Y_t)$

5. Consider stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = (a - bX_t)dt + c dW_t, \quad X_0 = x_0$$

(a) Solve this differential equation<sup>1</sup>.

(b) Find  $\mathbb{E}(X_t)$  and  $\text{Var}(X_t)$

6. In the framework of Black and Scholes model find the price at  $t = 0$  of the classic European call option by calculating corresponding expected value.

European call option with strike price  $K$  is the right to buy at time  $t$  one share at price  $K$ . So, at time  $t$  it pays you  $S_t - K$  if  $S_t > K$  and zero otherwise.

## 8.2 Stochastic calculus homework — Solution

1. xx

2. Short answers:

(a)  $\mathbb{E}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y|X)) = 0$ .

(b) The value  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  can be non-zero, counterexample:  $X \sim N(42; 42)$ ,  $Y = 0 = \text{const.}$

(c)  $\text{Cov}(Y, f(X)) = \mathbb{E}(f(X)Y) - \mathbb{E}(Y)\mathbb{E}(f(X)) = \mathbb{E}(f(X)Y)$ .

$$\mathbb{E}(f(X)Y) = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(f(X)Y|X)) = \mathbb{E}(f(X)\mathbb{E}(Y|X)) = \mathbb{E}(0) = 0$$

So,  $\text{Cov}(Y, X) = \text{Cov}(Y, X^2) = 0$

(d)  $\text{Cov}(X, Y^2)$  may be non-zero. Let  $Y$  take the values  $-1, 1, -2$  and  $2$  with equal probability. And  $X = Y^2$ . In this case  $\text{Cov}(X, Y^2) = \text{Var}(X) > 0$ .

3. Let's denote the moment of time when the sequences  $A$  and  $B$  appear by  $N_A$  and  $N_B$  correspondingly. The game ends at moment  $N = \min\{N_A, N_B\}$ .

We need to find  $p_A = \mathbb{P}(N = N_A)$ ,  $p_B = \mathbb{P}(N = N_B)$  and  $\mathbb{E}(N)$ . We have one equation,  $p_A + p_B = 1$  so we need two more equations:

---

<sup>1</sup>The answer may contain an Ito integral that cannot be simplified.



We build them from nothing :)

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{E}(N_A) = \mathbb{E}(N) + \mathbb{E}(N_A - N) \\ \mathbb{E}(N_B) = \mathbb{E}(N) + \mathbb{E}(N_B - N) \end{cases}$$

Or

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{E}(N_A) = \mathbb{E}(N) + p_A \mathbb{E}(N_A - N | N = N_A) + p_B \mathbb{E}(N_A - N | N = N_B) \\ \mathbb{E}(N_B) = \mathbb{E}(N) + p_A \mathbb{E}(N_B - N | N = N_A) + p_B \mathbb{E}(N_B - N | N = N_B) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{E}(N_A) = \mathbb{E}(N) + p_B \mathbb{E}(N_A - N | N = N_B) \\ \mathbb{E}(N_B) = \mathbb{E}(N) + p_A \mathbb{E}(N_B - N | N = N_A) \end{cases}$$

...

Based on [http://projecteuclid.org/download/pdf\\_1/euclid.aop/1176994578](http://projecteuclid.org/download/pdf_1/euclid.aop/1176994578)

There is also a solution using Markov chains.

### 8.3 Exam, 12.01.2016

#### Stochastic calculus part

Here  $W_t$  always denotes the standard Wiener process.

- [10 points] You throw a fair coin until «head» appears. Let's denote the result of the first toss by  $Y_1$  (0 for tail and 1 for head) and the total number of throws by  $N$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y_1|N)$ ,  $\text{Var}(Y_1|N)$  and  $\mathbb{E}(N|Y_1)$
- [10 points] Consider  $\tau$ , the first moment of time when the standard Wiener process will touch the barrier  $4y^2 = x + 1$ , or formally,  $\tau = \inf\{t \mid t \geq 0, |W_t| = 0.5\sqrt{t+1}\}$ . Find  $\mathbb{E}(\tau)$ .  
Hint: you may find the process  $M_t = W_t^2 - t$  useful, you may also suppose that technical conditions of Doob's theorem are satisfied
- [10 points] Let

$$Y_t = \exp\left(-6t^3 + \int_0^t f(s) dW_s\right),$$

where  $f$  is some deterministic function.

- Using Ito's lemma find  $dY_t$
  - Find at least one function  $f$  such that  $Y_t$  is a martingale
- [10 points] The risk-free interest rate is equal to 0.1. The volatility of the share is equal to  $\sigma = 1$ . You have an option to receive 1\$ two years later if the price growth during the second year is higher than 5%. Assume the framework of the Black and Scholes model. What is the fair price of this option?
  - [20 points] Consider the stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = X_t^3 dt + X_t^2 dW_t,$$

- Apply Ito's lemma to  $Y_t = f(X_t)$
- Find all the functions  $f$  that makes  $Y_t$  a martingale
- Find all the solutions of the stochastic differential equation
- Find the solution such that  $X_0 = 2$ .

- (e) Find the probability that the sample path of  $X_t$  will be continuous for  $t \in [0; \infty)$

### Optimal control part

6. (10 points) Given the system of differential equations

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = \sin(x + y) \\ \dot{y} = \sin(x - y) \end{cases}$$

explore the behavior of its solutions in the neighborhood of the 2 points:  $A(\pi, \pi)$  and  $B(3\pi/2, 3\pi/2)$ . Draw the phase portraits near  $A$  and  $B$  based on the knowledge of their eigenvalues, eigenvectors where possible.

7. (10 points) Solve the bounded control problem: maximize

$$\int_0^1 (2x - u^2/2) dt$$

subject to constraints  $\dot{x} = u - x + t^2$ ,  $x(0) = 0$ ,  $-1 \leq u \leq 0$ . Verify that the maximizer has been found by applying one of the sufficient conditions.

8. (20 points) Solve so-called “limit pricing problem”. A homogeneous product is produced by a dominant firm along with the “competitive fringe” consisting of the  $x(t)$  identical firms ( $x$  is a continuous variable). Demand on good is given by  $f(p) \in C^2$ , where  $p(t)$  is the price,  $f'(p) < 0$  for  $p > 0$ . Let the dominant firm has a constant returns to scale technology with the marginal costs  $c = \text{const} > 0$ . Then  $(p - c)f(p)$  is a strictly concave function. The problem of the firm is to maximize the discounted stream of profits

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-rt}(p - c)(f(p) - x) dt$$

(each fringe firm produces only one unit of good) subject to constraint  $\dot{x} = k(p - \bar{p})$  where  $k$  is some number,  $\bar{p}$  is the equilibrium price and  $r > 0$ . Also  $x(0) = x_0$ .

- Application of the current value Hamiltonian is required here. Derive the system of the first-order conditions.
- By eliminating the Lagrange multiplier reduce the system to 2 equations with respect to  $(x, p)$ . Check that  $H_{pp} < 0$ .
- Show that if the dominant firm operates at the price level  $\bar{p} = c$  then the fringe firms supply the entire market in the equilibrium.
- Let the equilibrium price  $\bar{p}$  be slightly above  $c$ . By evaluating the derivative  $\frac{\partial x^s}{\partial \bar{p}}$  at  $\bar{p} = c$  show that the dominant firm's market share becomes positive if  $\bar{p}$  is slightly above  $c$  ( $x^s$  is the equilibrium number of the fringe firms).

## 8.4 Solution, exam 12.01.2016

1. If we know the value  $N$  then we know the value of  $Y_1$ , so  $\text{Var}(Y_1|N) = 0$  and

$$\mathbb{E}(Y_1|N) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } N > 1; \\ 1, & \text{if } N = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(N|Y_1) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } Y_1 = 1; \\ 1 + 2, & \text{if } Y_1 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Or, simply,  $\mathbb{E}(N|Y_1) = 3 - 2Y_1$

2. We check that  $M_t$  is a martingale:  $dM_t = -dt + 2W_t dW_t + \frac{1}{2}2 dt = 2W_t dW_t$ . And we apply Doob's theorem:

$$\mathbb{E}(W_\tau^2 - \tau) = \mathbb{E}(M_\tau) = \mathbb{E}(M_0) = 0$$

So,  $\mathbb{E}(W_\tau^2) = \mathbb{E}(\tau)$

From the definition of  $\tau$ ,  $W_\tau^2 = (\tau + 1)/4$ . We get the equation

$$\mathbb{E}(\tau) = \mathbb{E}(\tau + 1)/4$$

And  $\mathbb{E}(\tau) = 1/3$

Based on <http://www-stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~shepp/publications/14.pdf>.

3. Let's write the process  $Y_t$  as  $Y_t = \exp(Z_t)$  where  $Z_t = -6t^3 + \int_0^t f(s) dW_s$ . So,  $dY_t = \exp(Z_t) dZ_t + \frac{1}{2} \exp(Z_t) (dZ_t)^2$ .

We find  $dZ_t$ :

$$dZ_t = -18t^2 dt + f(t) dW_t$$

So,  $(dZ_t)^2 = f^2(t) dt$  and

$$dY_t = \exp(Z_t)(-18t^2 dt + f(t) dW_t) + \frac{1}{2} \exp(Z_t) f^2(t) dt$$

To cancel the term before  $dt$  one should have

$$-18t^2 + \frac{1}{2}f^2(t) = 0$$

Possible solutions are  $f(t) = 6t$  and  $f(t) = -6t$

4. We should find the discounted expected price:

$$X_0 = e^{-2r} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}(S_2/S_1 > 1.05) = e^{-2r} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}(\exp((r - \sigma^2/2) + \sigma(\tilde{W}_2 - \tilde{W}_1)) > 1.05)$$

We remark that  $\tilde{W}_2 - \tilde{W}_1 \sim N(0; 1)$  under  $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$ . So

$$X_0 = e^{-2r} \tilde{P}(N(0; 1) > (\ln 1.05 - r + \sigma^2/2)/\sigma) = e^{-2r} F((r - \sigma^2/2 - \ln 1.05)/\sigma) = e^{-0.2} F(-0.45)$$

5. Step by step

(a) Apply Ito's lemma:

$$dY_t = f'(X_t) dX_t + \frac{1}{2} f''(X_t) (dX_t)^2 = f' \cdot (X_t^3 dt + X_t^2 dW_t) + \frac{1}{2} f'' \cdot X_t^4 dt$$

(b) To cancel the term before  $dt$  the following condition must be satisfied

$$f' \cdot X_t^3 + \frac{1}{2} f'' \cdot X_t^4 = 0$$

Let's denote  $f'$  by  $g$ , so  $g + g' \cdot x/2 = 0$ . This equation may be solved by separation of variables:

$$-2\frac{dx}{x} = \frac{dg}{g}$$

The general solution is  $g(x) = cx^{-2}$ , so the general solution for  $f$  is

$$f(x) = c_1x^{-1} + c_2$$

- (c) To find all the solutions we use the simplest possible  $f$ ,  $f(x) = x^{-1}$ . In this case

$$dY_t = 0 dt + f' \cdot X_t^2 dW_t = -dW_t$$

So,  $Y_t = Y_0 - W_t$  and

$$X_t = \frac{1}{c - W_t}$$

- (d) If  $X_0 = 2$  then  $X_t = 1/(0.5 - W_t)$   
(e) The probability that  $W_t$  will forever stay below 0.5 is zero, so the probability that  $X_t$  will have continuous sample path for all  $t$  is also zero.