

# HW 10

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## Problem 1

Consider a forward SDE

$$dx_t = f(x_t, t) dt + g(x_t, t) dW_t$$

show that the corresponding probability flow ODE is written as

$$dx_t = \left[ f(x_t, t) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} g^2(x_t, t) - \frac{g^2(x_t, t)}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \log p(x_t, t) \right] dt.$$

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## Solution

The evolution of the probability density  $p(x, t)$  for the SDE is given by the Fokker-Planck equation:

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [f(x, t)p] + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} [g^2(x, t)p]$$

The probability flow ODE,  $dx_t = v(x_t, t)dt$ , describes a deterministic velocity field  $v(x, t)$  that transports the probability density according to the continuity equation:

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [v(x, t)p]$$

We need to find the velocity  $v$ . Note that the right-hand sides of the two equations above are equal. So we get

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (vp) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (fp) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} (g^2 p)$$

We can write the right side under a single derivative:

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (vp) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ fp - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (g^2 p) \right]$$

Comparing the terms inside the derivatives, we get:

$$vp = fp - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (g^2 p)$$

Solving for  $v$  by dividing by  $p$ :

$$v = f - \frac{1}{2p} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (g^2 p)$$

Using the product rule,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (g^2 p) = p \frac{\partial g^2}{\partial x} + g^2 \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} v &= f - \frac{1}{2p} \left( p \frac{\partial g^2}{\partial x} + g^2 \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \right) \\ &= f - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial g^2}{\partial x} - \frac{g^2}{2} \frac{1}{p} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \end{aligned}$$

Using the identity  $\frac{1}{p} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \log p$ :

$$v = f - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial g^2}{\partial x} - \frac{g^2}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \log p$$

Therefore, the probability flow ODE is:

$$dx_t = \left[ f - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial g^2}{\partial x} - \frac{g^2}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \log p \right] dt$$