

Computational demonstration of Ito's lemma

Let $f(t, w)$ be a smooth function of (t, w) . Replacing w with $W(t)$ yields $f(t, W(t))$, a non-smooth random function of t . We select a numerical grid on t .

$$\Delta t = \frac{t_f}{N}, \quad t_j = j\Delta t, \quad W_j = W(t_j), \quad dW_j = W_{j+1} - W_j$$

Let Δf_j denote the increment of f . We consider 3 different versions of Δf_j .

- The exact increment

$$(\Delta f_{\text{exact}})_j = f(t_{j+1}, W(t_{j+1})) - f(t_j, W(t_j))$$

- Approximate increment based on Taylor expansion

$$(\Delta f_{\text{Taylor}})_j = (f_t)_j \Delta t + (f_w)_j \Delta W_j + \frac{1}{2} (f_{ww})_j (\Delta W_j)^2$$

- Approximate increment based on Ito's lemma

$$(\Delta f_{\text{Ito}})_j = (f_t)_j \Delta t + (f_w)_j \Delta W_j + \frac{1}{2} (f_{ww})_j \Delta t$$

With the 3 versions of increment Δf_j and the initial value $f(0, 0)$, we construct 3 versions of approximation for random function $f(t_f, W(t_f))$.

- The exact

$$(f_{\text{exact}})_{t_f} = f(0, 0) + \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} (\Delta f_{\text{exact}})_j = f(t_f, W(t_f))$$

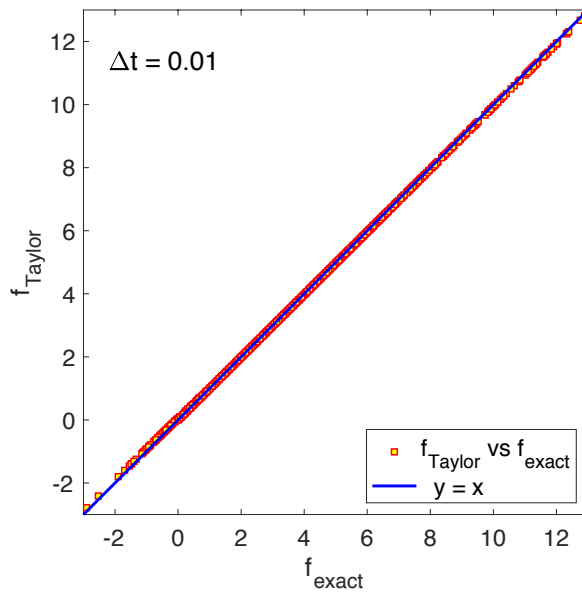
- Approximation based on Taylor expansion

$$(f_{\text{Taylor}})_{t_f} = f(0, 0) + \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} (\Delta f_{\text{Taylor}})_j$$

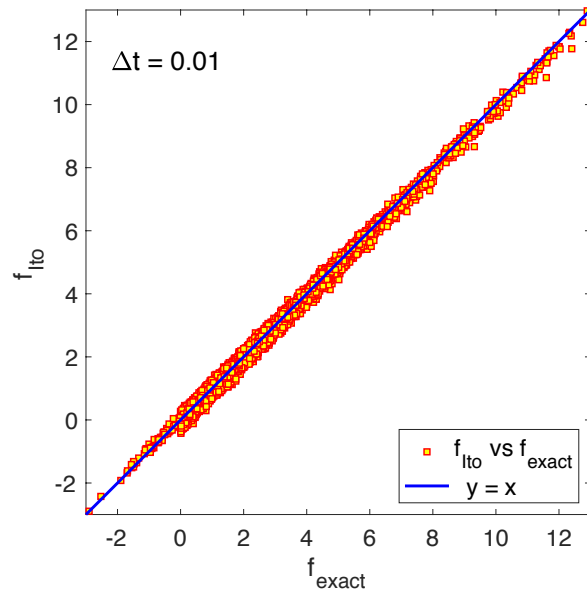
- Approximation based on Ito's lemma

$$(f_{\text{Ito}})_{t_f} = f(0, 0) + \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} (\Delta f_{\text{Ito}})_j$$

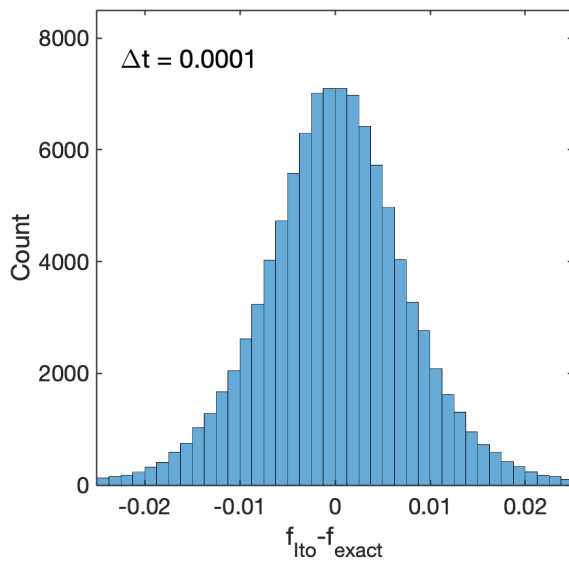
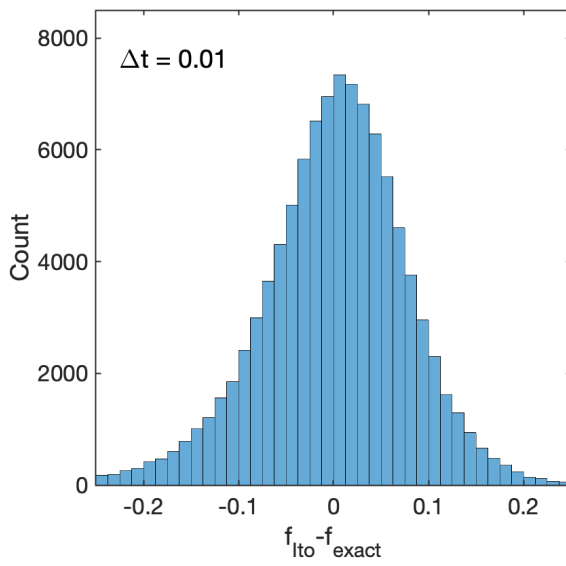
For $f(t, w) = \frac{1}{2} w^2 + \frac{t}{6} w^3$, we compute the 3 versions of approximations. We use $t_f = 1$ and $\Delta t = 0.01$, and we generate 100,000 samples of $(f_{\text{exact}}, f_{\text{Taylor}}, f_{\text{Ito}})$.



f_{Taylor} VS f_{exact}



f_{Ito} VS f_{exact}



Histogram of $(f_{\text{Ito}} - f_{\text{exact}})$