

Øksendal 3.5

Prove that

$$M_t = B_t^2 - t$$

is an  $\mathcal{F}_t$ -martingale.

What we need to show is:

1.  $M_t$  is  $\mathcal{F}_t$ -measurable

2.  $\mathbb{E}[|M_t|] < \infty$

3.  $\mathbb{E}[M_t | \mathcal{F}_s] = M_s, \quad s \leq t$

The first is immediate. Since  $B_t^2$  and  $t$  are  $\mathcal{F}_t$ -measurable,  $M_t$  also is.

Now notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[|M_t|] &= \mathbb{E}[|B_t^2 - t|] \leq \mathbb{E}[B_t^2] + \mathbb{E}[|t|] \\ &< \infty \end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[M_t | \mathcal{F}_s] &= \mathbb{E}[B_t^2 - t | \mathcal{F}_s] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(B_t - B_s + B_s)^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] - \mathbb{E}[t | \mathcal{F}_s] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(B_t - B_s)^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] + 2\mathbb{E}[(B_t - B_s)B_s | \mathcal{F}_s] + \mathbb{E}[B_s^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] - \mathbb{E}[t | \mathcal{F}_s] \\ &= t - s + B_s^2 - t = B_s^2 - s = M_s \end{aligned}$$

for  $s \leq t$  as desired.