

5.11. (The Brownian bridge).

For fixed $a, b \in \mathbf{R}$ consider the following 1-dimensional equation

$$dY_t = \frac{b - Y_t}{1 - t} dt + dB_t; \quad 0 \leq t < 1, \quad Y_0 = a. \quad (5.3.3)$$

Verify that

$$Y_t = a(1 - t) + bt + (1 - t) \int_0^t \frac{dB_s}{1 - s}; \quad 0 \leq t < 1 \quad (5.3.4)$$

solves the equation and prove that $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} Y_t = b$ a.s. The process Y_t is called the *Brownian bridge* (from a to b). For other characterizations of Y_t see Rogers and Williams (1987, pp. 86–89).

$$\text{Let } g(t, x) = a(1 - t) + bt + (1 - t) \int_0^t \frac{dx}{1 - s}$$

By Itô's formula,

$$dY_t = \left(-a + b - \int_0^t \frac{dB_s}{1 - s} \right) dt + (1 - t) \cdot \frac{1}{1 - t} dB_t = \left(\frac{b - Y_t}{1 - t} \right) dt + dB_t$$

Hence Y_t solves the equation.

To show that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} Y_t = \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \left[a(1 - t) + bt + (1 - t) \int_0^t \frac{dB_s}{1 - s} \right] = b$$

notice that the deterministic part $a(1 - t) + bt$ is immediate.

Now, using Itô's isometry,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\left((1 - t) \int_0^t \frac{dB_s}{1 - s} \right)^2 \right] &= \mathbb{E} \left[(1 - t)^2 \int_0^t \frac{ds}{(1 - s)^2} \right] \\ &= (1 - t)^2 \int_0^t \frac{ds}{(1 - s)^2} = (1 - t)^2 \cdot \left[\frac{1}{1 - s} \right]_0^t = (1 - t)^2 \left[\frac{1}{1 - t} - 1 \right] \\ &= (1 - t) - (1 - t)^2 \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow 1 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} Y_t = b$ a.s.