

# Basic Stochastic Control Question

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## 1 Are $J$ and $\tilde{J}$ the same thing?

Suppose we have a controlled SDE

$$dX = U(x, \alpha(x, t);) dt + \sqrt{2D}dW \quad (1)$$

where  $\alpha(x, t)$  is the feedback control, and are trying to optimize some criterion:

$$J(x_0, t_0; \alpha) = \mathbb{E}_X \left[ \int_0^T r(X_t) dt \right] \quad (2)$$

Is eq. (2) the same as: as  $\tilde{J}$  is that the same as optimizing

$$\tilde{J}(x_0, t_0; \alpha) = \int_0^T \int_{\Omega_X} r(x) \cdot f(x, t|x_0, t_0) dx dt \quad (3)$$

where  $f(x, t|x_0, t_0)$  is the transition density associated with the SDE, eq. (1)?

I.e. are  $J$  and  $\tilde{J}$  the same thing?

Recall that  $f$  satisfies a Fokker-Planck PDE with delta initial conditions.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t f(x, t) &= -\partial_x [U(x; \alpha) \cdot f(x, t)] + D \partial_x^2 f(x, t) \\ \{ f(x, t_0) &= \delta(x - x_0) \quad \text{delta function at } x_0 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$