

Main motivation:  $\max(X_t, Y_t)$ . We want to know if it is semimartingale.

Claim: This Q is related to the following Q: Take a brownian motion  $B$ . We know that  $\int_0^t 1_{B(s)=0} ds = 0$  for all  $t$  with probability 1. What is the right way of measuring the time spent at 0 by a BM.

Relation between the two questions: Suppose  $B_1, B_2$  are independent standard BMs and we want to study  $\max(B_1, B_2)$

Note:  $\max(x, y) = \frac{x+y+|x-y|}{2}$ , so we only need to analyse  $|B_1 - B_2|$ .  $f(x) = |x|$ ,  $f''(x) = 2\delta_0(x)$  Try to apply Ito:  
 $|B(t)| = \int_0^t \text{sgn}(B_s) dB_s + \int_0^t \delta_0(B_s) ds$

Three natural ways of measuring time spent at 0 by BM:

- Take  $\varepsilon > 0$ , consider  $\int_0^t 1_{|B_s| < \varepsilon} ds$ , take the limit  $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$  in some way.
- Define time spent at 0 as:  $2(|B(t)| - \int_0^t \text{sign}(B_s) dB_s)$
- Recall that a BM is a limit of random walks,  $B(t) = \lim_{\text{distribution}} \frac{S_{\lfloor Kt \rfloor}}{\sqrt{K}}$  Take  $\lim_K \frac{1}{\sqrt{K}} \#\{i, S_i = 0, i \leq \lfloor Kt \rfloor\}$

Luckily  $1 \iff 2 \iff 3$

**Definition 1** (Local time, def1). For a BM  $B$  and a point  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , call the almost sure limit  $\lim_{\epsilon \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{2\epsilon} \int_0^t 1_{|B_s - a| < \epsilon} ds$  the local time of  $B$  at  $a$  and write  $L_t^a$ . With probability 1  $(a, t) \rightarrow L_t^a$  is continuous. (Trotter '57)

Remarks:

1. Need to justify the a.s limit and continuity.
2.  $t \rightarrow L_t^a$  is non decreasing wp 1.
3.  $B(R) \ni A \rightarrow \int_0^t 1_{B_s \in A} ds$  has  $a \rightarrow L_t^a$  as its density.

**Definition 2** (Local Time, def2). Define the local time  $L_t^a$  by  $|B_t - a| - \int_0^t \text{sgn}(B_s - a) ds =: \frac{1}{2} L_t^a$

*Proof.* Bump function  $\rho(x) = c e^{\frac{1}{x^2-1}} 1_{|x| < 1}$ ,  $\int \rho = 1$ ,  $\rho_n(x) = n \rho(n(x-a))$   $h_n(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \rho_n(y) dy$ ,  $h_n(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \rho_n(y) dy$   
Easy to check:  $h_n(x) \rightarrow \text{sgn}(x-a)$ ,  $H_n(x) \rightarrow |x-a|$  Clear:  $\rho_n \in C^\infty \Rightarrow$  Ito:  $H_n(B_t) = H_n(B_0) + \int_0^t h_n(B_s) dB_s + \int_0^t \frac{1}{2} \rho_n(B_s) ds$   
 $n \rightarrow \infty$ :

- $H_n(B_t) \rightarrow |B_t - a|$ , as
- $\int h_n(B_s) dB_s \rightarrow \int_0^t \text{sgn}(B_s - a) dB_s$ , in  $L_2$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} E\left[\left(\int_0^t (h_n(B_s) - \text{sgn}(B_s - a)) dB_s\right)^2\right] &= E\left[\int_0^t (h_n(B_s) - \text{sgn}(B_s - a))^2 ds\right] \\ &\leq E\left[\int_0^t 1_{|B_s - a| < \frac{1}{n}} ds\right] = \int_0^t \mathbb{P}(|B_s - a| < \frac{1}{n}) ds \\ &\stackrel{\text{DCT}}{\rightarrow} 0 \end{aligned}$$

- $\frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \frac{1}{2} \rho_n(B_s) ds = \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{1}{2} \rho_n(y) L_t^y dy$  (because  $L_t^a$  is a density)  $\rightarrow L_t^a$  as

$H_n(B_t) = H_n(B_0) + \int_0^t h_n(B_s) dB_s + \int_0^t \frac{1}{2} \rho_n(B_s) ds$  Taking the limit in probability:  $|B(t) - a| = |B(0) - a| + \int_0^t \text{sgn}(B_s - a) dB_s + L_t^a$  (Ito-Tanaka Formula)  $\square$

**Theorem 1** (Def2 imply Def1). If we define  $L_t^a$  through Tanak's formula, it will be the density of the occupation time measure and joint continuity in  $(a, t)$

*Proof.*  $\square$