

AGNIESZKA PLUCIŃSKA and WOJCIECH SZYMAŃSKI (Warszawa)

QUASI-DIFFUSION SOLUTION OF A STOCHASTIC DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION

Abstract. We consider the stochastic differential equation

$$(0.1) \quad X_t = X_0 + \int_0^t (A_s + B_s X_s) ds + \int_0^t C_s dY_s,$$

where A_t, B_t, C_t are nonrandom continuous functions of t , X_0 is an initial random variable, $Y = (Y_t, t \geq 0)$ is a Gaussian process and X_0, Y are independent. We give the form of the solution (X_t) to (0.1) and then basing on the results of Plucińska [Teor. Veroyatnost. i Primenen. 25 (1980)] we prove that (X_t) is a quasi-diffusion proces.

1. Stochastic integral. In this section, we define stochastic integrals

$$\int_a^b g(t) d_t Y(t, \omega)$$

following [2] (see also [1] and [6]) in a way that will be useful in Section 2. Here $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a deterministic continuous function and Y is a Gaussian process with an absolutely continuous covariance function. For abbreviation, we write the above integral in the form

$$\int_a^b g(t) dY_t.$$

Let $Y = (Y_t, t \geq 0)$ be a zero mean process with an absolutely continuous covariance function. We assume that there exists a function $\kappa : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

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$$(1.1) \quad E[(Y_{t_r} - Y_{t_{r-1}})(Y_{t_s} - Y_{t_{s-1}})] = \int_{t_{r-1}}^{t_r} \int_{t_{s-1}}^{t_s} \kappa(u, v) \, du \, dv$$

for all $r \leq s$, $t_r \leq t_s$, $r, s = 1, \dots, n$ and fixed n . The function κ may also be a Dirac delta function. We call κ a *quasi spectral density*.

To define the integral $\int_a^b g(t) \, dY_t$ consider first the case when g is piecewise constant, i.e. there exist $t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n$ such that

$$g(t) = g_k \quad \text{for } t_{k-1} \leq t < t_k, \, k = 1, \dots, n,$$

where the g_k are constants, $t_0 = a$, $t_n = b$. Let

$$\Delta_k Y = Y_{t_k} - Y_{t_{k-1}}.$$

Then

$$\int_a^b g(t) \, dY_t = \sum_{k=1}^n g_k \Delta_k Y.$$

LEMMA 1.1. *If g_1 and g_2 are piecewise constant functions, then*

$$E \left[\int_a^b g_1(t) \, dY_t \int_a^b g_2(t) \, dY_t \right] = \iint_{S_1} g_1(u) g_2(v) \kappa(u, v) \, du \, dv + \iint_{S_2} g_1(v) g_2(u) \kappa(u, v) \, du \, dv,$$

where $S_1 = \{(u, v) : a < u < b, u \leq v < b\}$ and $S_2 = \{(u, v) : a < v < b, v < u < b\}$.

Proof. Assume that $a = t_0 \leq t_1 < \dots < t_n = b$ are such that the functions g_1 and g_2 are constant in every (t_{k-1}, t_k) for $k = 1, \dots, n$ and equal respectively to g_{1k} , g_{2k} . Then

$$\begin{aligned} E \left[\int_a^b g_1(t) \, dY_t \int_a^b g_2(t) \, dY_t \right] &= E \left[\sum_{k=1}^n g_{1k} \Delta_k Y \sum_{k=1}^n g_{2k} \Delta_k Y \right] \\ &= E \left[\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sum_{i \leq j \leq n} g_{1i} g_{2j} (Y_{t_i} - Y_{t_{i-1}})(Y_{t_j} - Y_{t_{j-1}}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{1 < i \leq n} \sum_{1 \leq j < i} g_{1i} g_{2j} (Y_{t_i} - Y_{t_{i-1}})(Y_{t_j} - Y_{t_{j-1}}) \right] \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sum_{i \leq j \leq n} g_{1i} g_{2j} E[(Y_{t_i} - Y_{t_{i-1}})(Y_{t_j} - Y_{t_{j-1}})] \\ &\quad + \sum_{1 < i \leq n} \sum_{1 \leq j < i} g_{1i} g_{2j} E[(Y_{t_i} - Y_{t_{i-1}})(Y_{t_j} - Y_{t_{j-1}})] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sum_{i \leq j \leq n} g_{1i} g_{2j} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \int_{t_{j-1}}^{t_j} \kappa(u, v) \, du \, dv \\
 &\quad + \sum_{1 \leq j < n} \sum_{j < i \leq n} g_{1i} g_{2j} \int_{t_{j-1}}^{t_j} \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \kappa(u, v) \, dv \, du \\
 &= \iint_{S_1} g_1(u) g_2(v) \kappa(u, v) \, du \, dv + \iint_{S_2} g_1(v) g_2(u) \kappa(u, v) \, du \, dv. \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 1.2. *If $(Y_t, t \geq 0)$ is a Gaussian process and $I_t = \int_0^t g(s) \, dY_s$ with g piecewise constant, then $(I_t, t \geq 0)$ is also Gaussian.*

Proof. This is obvious. \blacksquare

We now approximate g by piecewise constant functions. Let g be a function such that

$$\int_a^b \int_a^b g(u) g(v) \kappa(u, v) \, du \, dv < \infty.$$

There exists a sequence $\{g_n\}$ of piecewise constant functions [2] such that

$$\lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b \int_a^b (g(u) - g_n(u))(g(v) - g_m(v)) \kappa(u, v) \, du \, dv = 0, \quad n, m = 0, 1, \dots$$

Then we define the integral $\int_a^b g(t) \, dY_t$ as

$$(1.2) \quad \int_a^b g(t) \, dY_t = \text{l.i.m.}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b g_n(t) \, dY_t,$$

the mean square limit of the integrals $\int_a^b g_n(t) \, dY_t$.

One can prove [2] that this limit does not depend on the approximating sequence g_n . Furthermore, the properties of the integral (1.2) are analogous to the properties of integrals of piecewise constant functions. In particular, $\int_a^b g(t) \, dY_t$ is a Gaussian process as a limit of Gaussian processes [4].

2. Quasi-diffusion solution of the stochastic differential equation. Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space. Let $Y = (Y_t, t \geq 0)$ be a Gaussian process which satisfies (1.1). Let X_0 be a random variable, independent of Y , whose distribution is absolutely continuous.

LEMMA 2.1. *Consider the stochastic differential equation*

$$(2.1) \quad X_t = X_0 + \int_0^t (A_s + B_s X_s) \, ds + \int_0^t C_s \, dY_s,$$

where $A_t, B_t, C_t : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are nonrandom continuous functions of t and X_0 is an initial random variable. Then

(a) there is a unique solution to (2.1) given by the formula

$$(2.2) \quad X_t = e^{\int_0^t B_s ds} \left[X_0 + \int_0^t e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} A_s ds + \int_0^t e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} C_s dY_s \right],$$

(b) the covariance of the solution is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(X_{t_1}, X_{t_2}) &= e^{\int_0^{t_1} B_s ds + \int_0^{t_2} B_s ds} \left(E[X_0 - EX_0]^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_0^{t_1} \int_0^{t_2} e^{-\int_0^u B_s ds - \int_0^v B_s ds} C_u C_v \kappa(u, v) du dv \right). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. (a) We use the method of successive approximations from [3]. Let $X_t^0 = X_0$ for all t and

$$X_t^n = X_0 + \int_0^t (A_s + B_s X_s^{n-1}) ds + \int_0^t C_s dY_s \quad (n \geq 1).$$

Define

$$\alpha_t = \int_0^t A_s ds, \quad \beta_t = \int_0^t B_s ds, \quad J_t = \int_0^t C_s dY_s.$$

Let

$$(Lh)(t) = \int_0^t B_s h_s ds.$$

This is a Volterra operator on $L^2[0, T]$. Then

$$X_t^1 = X_0(1 + \beta_t) + \alpha_t + J_t$$

and for any $n \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} X_t^{n+1} &= X_0[1 + \beta_t + \dots + L^n \beta_t] + [\alpha_t + L\alpha_t + \dots + L^n \alpha_t] \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \left[1 + (\beta_t - \beta_s) + \frac{1}{2!} (\beta_t - \beta_s)^2 + \dots + \frac{1}{n!} (\beta_t - \beta_s)^n \right] C_s dY_s. \end{aligned}$$

Since L is a Volterra operator,

$$\alpha_t + L\alpha_t + \dots + L^n \alpha_t \rightarrow (I - L)^{-1} \alpha_t,$$

$$(I - L)^{-1} \alpha_t = e^{\beta_t} \int_0^t e^{-\beta_s} A_s ds,$$

$$[1 + \beta_t + \dots + L^n \beta_t] \rightarrow 1 + (I - L)^{-1} \beta_t = 1 + e^{\beta_t} \int_0^t e^{-\beta_s} B_s ds = e^{\beta_t}.$$

Let

$$f_n(t, s) = 1 + (\beta_t - \beta_s) + \frac{1}{2!} (\beta_t - \beta_s)^2 + \dots + \frac{1}{n!} (\beta_t - \beta_s)^n.$$

Then

$$E \left[\int_0^t f_n(t, s) C_s dY_s - \int_0^t e^{\beta_t - \beta_s} C_s dY_s \right]^2 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Hence a solution X_t is given by

$$X_t = e^{\int_0^t B_s ds} \left[X_0 + \int_0^t e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} A_s ds + \int_0^t e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} C_s dY_s \right].$$

Now we prove uniqueness. Let X_t^1 and X_t^2 be two solutions of (2.1). Then

$$X_t^1 - X_t^2 = \int_0^t B_s (X_s^1 - X_s^2) ds.$$

Because B_s is bounded by a constant b on any finite interval, we have

$$|X_t^1 - X_t^2| \leq b \int_0^t |X_s^1 - X_s^2| ds,$$

and by Gronwall's lemma ([4, pp. 287–288])

$$|X_t^1 - X_t^2| = 0,$$

which completes the proof of uniqueness.

(b) Now we calculate the covariance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(X_{t_1}, X_{t_2}) &= E(X_{t_1} - EX_{t_1})(X_{t_2} - EX_{t_2}) \\ &= e^{\int_0^{t_1} B_s ds + \int_0^{t_2} B_s ds} \left(E[X_0 - EX_0]^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + E \left[\int_0^{t_1} e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} C_s dY_s \int_0^{t_2} e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} C_s dY_s \right] \right) \\ &= e^{\int_0^{t_1} B_s ds + \int_0^{t_2} B_s ds} \left(E[X_0 - EX_0]^2 + E \left[\int_0^{t_1} e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} C_s dY_s \right]^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + E \left[\int_0^{t_1} e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} C_s dY_s \int_{t_1}^{t_2} e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} C_s dY_s \right] \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= e^{\int_0^{t_1} B_s ds + \int_0^{t_2} B_s ds} \left(E[X_0 - EX_0]^2 \right. \\
 &\quad + \int_0^{t_1} \int_0^{t_1} e^{-\int_0^u B_s ds - \int_0^v B_s ds} C_u C_v \kappa(u, v) du dv \\
 &\quad + \iint_{S_1} e^{-\int_0^u B_s ds - \int_0^v B_s ds} C_u C_v \kappa(u, v) du dv \\
 &\quad \left. + \iint_{S_2} e^{-\int_0^u B_s ds - \int_0^v B_s ds} C_u C_v \kappa(u, v) du dv \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

where $S_1 = \{(u, v) : 0 < u < t_1, u + t_1 \leq v < t_2\}$, $S_2 = \{(u, v) : t_1 < v < t_2, v - t_1 < u < t_1\}$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Cov}(X_{t_1}, X_{t_2}) &= e^{\int_0^{t_1} B_s ds + \int_0^{t_2} B_s ds} \left(E[X_0 - EX_0]^2 \right. \\
 &\quad + \int_0^{t_1} \int_0^{t_1} e^{-\int_0^u B_s ds - \int_0^v B_s ds} C_u C_v \kappa(u, v) du dv \\
 &\quad \left. + \int_0^{t_1} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} e^{-\int_0^u B_s ds - \int_0^v B_s ds} C_u C_v \kappa(u, v) du dv \right) \\
 &= e^{\int_0^{t_1} B_s ds + \int_0^{t_2} B_s ds} \left(E[X_0 - EX_0]^2 \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \int_0^{t_1} \int_0^{t_2} e^{-\int_0^u B_s ds - \int_0^v B_s ds} C_u C_v \kappa(u, v) du dv \right). \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $Z = (Z_t, t \geq 0)$ be a Gaussian process, and X_0 be a random variable with density $f(t_0, x_0)$, expected value $m_{X_0} = EX_0$ and variance $\sigma_{X_0}^2 = \text{Var } X_0$. Moreover, let X_0 and Z be independent.

We put

$$(2.3) \quad X_t = X_0 g(t) + Z_t,$$

where $g \in C^1$, $g(t_0) = 1$.

Let $t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n$, $m(t) = EZ_t$, $K_{ij} = K(t_i, t_j) = \text{Cov}(Z_{t_i}, Z_{t_j})$, where $i, j = 0, \dots, n$ and $Z_{t_0} = 0$.

Notice that the equation (2.2) can also be written in the form (2.3).

LEMMA 2.2. *For every $n > 1$ the conditional distribution*

$$X_{t_n} | X_{t_{n-1}}, \dots, X_{t_0}$$

is Gaussian.

Proof. It is easy to verify that the $(n + 1)$ -dimensional distribution of $(X_{t_0}, \dots, X_{t_n})$ has the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 & f_{n+1}(t_0, \dots, t_n, x_0, \dots, x_n) \\
 &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2} \sqrt{\mathcal{K}^{(n)}}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sigma_k^2} \left[x_k - x_0 g_k - m(t_k) \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. - \frac{1}{\mathcal{K}_{kk}^{(k)}} \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \mathcal{K}_{ik}^{(k)} (x_i - x_0 g_i - m(t_i)) \right]^2 \right\} f(t_0, x_0),
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{K}^{(n)} = \det [k_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$, $\mathcal{K}_{ij}^{(n)}$ is the cofactor of k_{ij} in the matrix $[k_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$, and $\sigma_k^2 = \mathcal{K}_{kk}^{(k)} / \mathcal{K}_{k-1,k-1}^{(k)}$.

The conditional density of $X_{t_n} | X_{t_{n-1}}, \dots, X_{t_0}$ is

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(t_n, x_n | t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}, x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}) &= \frac{f_{n+1}(t_0, \dots, t_n, x_0, \dots, x_n)}{f_n(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}, x_0, \dots, x_{n-1})} \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt{\mathcal{K}^{(n-1)}}}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sqrt{\mathcal{K}^{(n)}}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma_n^2} \left[x_n - x_0 g_n - m(t_n) \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. - \frac{1}{\mathcal{K}_{nn}^{(n)}} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathcal{K}_{in}^{(n)} (x_i - x_0 g_i - m(t_i)) \right]^2 \right\}. \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_{n+k}$, $\mathbf{t}_n = (t_1, \dots, t_n)$, $\Delta t_n = t_{n+1} - t_n$, $\mathbf{x}_n = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and let A_1, \dots, A_k be Borel sets in \mathbb{R} . We will use the following notations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbb{P}(X_{t_{n+1}} \in A_1, \dots, X_{t_{n+k}} \in A_k | X_{t_1}, \dots, X_{t_n}) \\
 &=: \mathbb{P}^{(n)}(\mathbf{t}_n, X_{t_1}, \dots, X_{t_n}, t_{n+1}, \dots, t_{n+k}, A_1, \dots, A_k), \\
 & \frac{1}{\Delta \mathbf{t}_n} \int_A (x - x_n)^i \mathbb{P}^{(n)}(\mathbf{t}_n, \mathbf{x}_n; t_{n+1}, dx) =: Q_i(\mathbf{t}_{n+1}, \mathbf{x}_n, A), \quad i = 0, 1, 2.
 \end{aligned}$$

DEFINITION 2.1. We say that $X = (X_t, t \geq 0)$ is a *quasi-diffusion process* [7] if for all $n \geq 1$, $\varepsilon > 0$, $\mathbf{t}_n, \mathbf{x}_n$,

$$(2.4) \quad \lim_{\Delta t_n \rightarrow 0^+} Q_0(\mathbf{t}_{n+1}, \mathbf{x}_n, V_\varepsilon(x_n)) = 0$$

and the following limits exist:

$$(2.5) \quad \lim_{\Delta t_n \rightarrow 0^+} Q_i(\mathbf{t}_{n+1}, \mathbf{x}_n, U_\varepsilon(x_n)) = a_i(\mathbf{t}_n, \mathbf{x}_n), \quad i = 1, 2,$$

where

$$U_\varepsilon(x_n) = \{x : |x - x_n| < \varepsilon\}, \quad V_\varepsilon(x_n) = \mathbb{R} \setminus U_\varepsilon(x_n).$$

THEOREM 2.1. *The process (X_t) defined by (2.2) is a quasi-diffusion process.*

Proof. Condition (2.4) is proved in [7] for Gaussian processes. An analysis of the paper [7] shows that it is also true for conditional Gaussian processes considered in [5].

Now we calculate the drift coefficient $a_1(\mathbf{t}_n, \mathbf{x}_n)$ and the diffusion coefficient $a_2(\mathbf{t}_n, \mathbf{x}_n)$. We shall write $m(t) = E(X_t)$ and $k_{ij} = K(t_i, t_j) = \text{Cov}(X_{t_i}, X_{t_j})$. The expected value of the process X is equal to

$$m(t_i) = e^{\int_0^{t_i} B_s ds} \left[EX_0 + \int_0^{t_i} e^{-\int_0^s B_u du} A_s ds \right].$$

Notice that by continuity of the functions A_s, B_s, C_s the following limits exist:

$$\lim_{\Delta t_n \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta t_n} [K(t_i, t_{n+1}) - K(t_i, t_n)] := h(t_i, t_n),$$

$$\lim_{\Delta t_n \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta t_n} [K(t_{n+1}, t_{n+1}) - K(t_n, t_{n+1})] := h(t_n).$$

We shall denote by $K_{ij}^{(n)}$ the cofactor of the corresponding element of the matrix $[k_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$, $K^{(n)}$ the determinant of that matrix, $h_{ij} = h(t_i, t_j)$, $h_n = h(t_n)$,

$$L^{(n+1)} = \begin{vmatrix} k_{11} & \dots & k_{1n} & h_{1n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ k_{n1} & \dots & k_{nn} & h_{nn} \\ k_{n+1,1} & \dots & k_{n+1,n} & 1 \end{vmatrix},$$

and $L_{ij}^{(n+1)}$ the cofactor of the corresponding element of $L^{(n+1)}$.

Following [7] we can show that

$$(2.6) \quad a_1(\mathbf{t}_n, \mathbf{x}_n) = m(t_n) + \frac{1}{K^{(n)}} \sum_{i=1}^n L_{n+1,i}^{(n+1)} (x_i - m(t_i)),$$

$$(2.7) \quad a_2(\mathbf{t}_n, \mathbf{x}_n) = \lim_{\Delta t_n \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta t_n} (k_{n+1,n+1} - 2k_{n,n+1} + k_{nn}) = h_n - h_{nn}.$$

This completes the proof. ■

EXAMPLE 1. If Y is the Wiener process then $\kappa(u, v) = \delta(u - v)$ is the Dirac delta function. The functions $h(t_i, t_n)$ and $h(t_n)$ for the process X have the form

$$h(t_i, t_n) = e^{\int_0^{t_i} B_s ds + \int_0^{t_n} B_s ds} B_{t_n} \left([E(X_0 - EX_0)]^2 + \int_0^{t_i} e^{-2\int_0^v B_s ds} C_v^2 dv \right),$$

$$h(t_n) = 1 + e^{2\int_0^{t_n} B_s ds} B_{t_n} \left([E(X_0 - EX_0)]^2 + \int_0^{t_n} e^{-2\int_0^v B_s ds} C_v^2 dv \right).$$

Therefore $a_1(\mathbf{t}_n, \mathbf{x}_n)$ is of the form (2.6) and $a_2(\mathbf{t}_n, \mathbf{x}_n) = 1$.

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Faculty of Mathematics and Information Science
Warsaw University of Technology
Pl. Politechniki 1, room 228
00-661 Warszawa, Poland
E-mail: amp@mini.pw.edu.pl
w.szymanski@mini.pw.edu.pl

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