

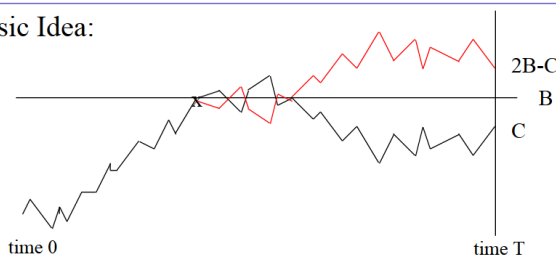
week7b: Probabilities Involving the Minimum and the Maximum of a Brownian Motion, Teil2

Wir müssen uns zunächst mit Stopzeiten befassen. Hier schonmal ein Bild:

The Reflection Principle

The key trick here is the “reflection principle”.

Basic Idea:



For every path that crosses the barrier but ends up below the barrier, there is a reflected path that ends up above the barrier.

Der wesentliche Nutzen des Bildes besteht darin, das Lemma 7.2 weiter unten zu illustrieren. Es dient aber auch zur Illustration des Beispiels 7.1, wobei das kleine b aus dem Beispiel dem grossen B in dem Bild entspricht.

Eine Stopzeit ordnet jedem Brownschen Pfad eine Zeit, oder rein mathematisch gesehen, eine reelle Zahl zu. Dabei soll gelten, dass, wenn etwa dem Brownschen Pfad $\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ die Zahl $\tilde{t}$ zugeordnet wurde, dann wird auch allen anderen Brownschen Pfaden $\{y_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T}$, die bis zur Zeit $\tilde{t}$ mit dem Pfad $\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ übereinstimmen, dieselbe Zeit $\tilde{t}$ zugeordnet. Das ist in der folgenden Definition formalisiert:

Definition 7.1: A function

$$\tau : \{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T} \rightarrow \tau(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T}) \in \mathbb{R} \quad (1)$$

is called a stopping time, if the value of τ depends only on $\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau}$,

$$\tau(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau}, \{y_t\}_{\tau < t \leq T}) = \tau(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau}, \{y'_t\}_{\tau < t \leq T}) \quad \forall y_t, y'_t \quad (2)$$

or in a more compact notation $\tau = \tau(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau})$.

Example 7.1: Let $b \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the assignment

$$\tau_b(\{x_t\}) := \inf_{0 \leq s \leq T} \{s \mid x_s = b\} \quad (3)$$

defines a stopping time, but $\sigma_b(\{x_t\}) := \sup_{0 \leq s \leq T} \{s \mid x_s = b\}$ is not a stopping time.

Das folgende Lemma 7.2 ist das wesentliche Hilfsmittel für den Beweis des Theorems 7.1. Dieses Theorem ist das Hauptresultat dieses Kapitels. Das Lemma 7.2 sagt im wesentlichen, dass der schwarze und der rote Pfad in dem Bild ganz am Anfang dieselbe Wahrscheinlichkeit haben. Es gibt dann auch einen Beweis zum Lemma 7.2, der aber vielleicht doch etwas formal daherkommt. Also im wesentlichen ist es folgendes: Eine Brownsche Bewegung ist ja gegeben durch

$$x_{t_\ell} = \sqrt{\Delta t} \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \phi_j$$

mit standard-normalverteilten Zufallszahlen ϕ_j . Da die W'keitsdichte der ϕ_j , die Gauss'sche Glockenkurve $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\phi_j^2/2}$, symmetrisch ist bezüglich $\phi_j \rightarrow -\phi_j$, oder anders gesagt, da die Zufallszahlen ϕ_j und $-\phi_j$ dieselbe Wahrscheinlichkeit haben, haben auch die Brownschen Pfade

$$x_{t_\ell} = \sqrt{\Delta t} \sum_{j=1}^k \phi_j + \sqrt{\Delta t} \sum_{j=k+1}^{\ell} \phi_j \quad (4)$$

$$y_{t_\ell} := \sqrt{\Delta t} \sum_{j=1}^k \phi_j - \sqrt{\Delta t} \sum_{j=k+1}^{\ell} \phi_j \quad (5)$$

die gleiche Wahrscheinlichkeit. Der Zeitpunkt t_k entspricht dann in dem Bild der Stelle, wo der rote Pfad beginnt, und y_t ist der rote Pfad.

Lemma 7.2 (Reflection Principle): Let $dW(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T})$ be the Wiener measure and let τ be a stopping time. For a path x_t , define the at the level x_τ reflected path y_t by

$$y_t := \begin{cases} x_t & \text{if } t \leq \tau(\{x_t\}) \\ 2x_\tau - x_t & \text{if } t > \tau(\{x_t\}) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

Then

$$dW(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T}) = dW(\{y_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T}) \quad (7)$$

Proof: Observe first that the transformation (6) is invertible, the inverse transformation being identical to the original one. Geometrically, this is quite obvious. More formally, since $\tau(\{x_t\}) = \tau(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau})$ and because of $y_t = x_t$ for $t \leq \tau$, $\tau = \tau(\{y_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau})$. For $t > \tau$, $x_t = 2x_\tau - y_t = 2y_\tau - y_t$ which is identical to the transformation in (6).

We approximate the Wiener measure by its finite dimensional distributions. For simplicity, consider only those Δt such that $N_\tau = \tau/\Delta t \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
dW(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T}) &= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \prod_{k=1}^{N_T} p_{\Delta t}(x_{(k-1)\Delta t}, x_{k\Delta t}) dx_{k\Delta t} \\
&= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \prod_{k=1}^{N_\tau} p_{\Delta t}(x_{(k-1)\Delta t}, x_{k\Delta t}) \prod_{k=N_\tau+1}^{N_T} p_{\Delta t}(x_{(k-1)\Delta t}, x_{k\Delta t}) \prod_{k=1}^{N_T} dx_{k\Delta t} \\
&= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \prod_{k=1}^{N_\tau} p_{\Delta t}(y_{(k-1)\Delta t}, y_{k\Delta t}) p_{\Delta t}(y_{N_\tau\Delta t}, 2y_\tau - y_{N_\tau\Delta t + \Delta t}) \times \\
&\quad \prod_{k=N_\tau+2}^{N_T} p_{\Delta t}(2y_\tau - y_{(k-1)\Delta t}, 2y_\tau - y_{k\Delta t}) \left| \det\left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial y}\right) \right| \prod_{k=1}^{N_T} dy_{k\Delta t} \\
&= \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \prod_{k=1}^{N_\tau} p_{\Delta t}(y_{(k-1)\Delta t}, y_{k\Delta t}) p_{\Delta t}(y_{N_\tau\Delta t}, y_{N_\tau\Delta t + \Delta t}) \prod_{k=N_\tau+2}^{N_T} p_{\Delta t}(y_{(k-1)\Delta t}, y_{k\Delta t}) \prod_{k=1}^{N_T} dy_{k\Delta t} \\
&= dW(\{y_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T})
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

since $[y_\tau - (2y_\tau - y_{\tau+\Delta t})]^2 = [y_\tau - y_{\tau+\Delta t}]^2$, $[2y_\tau - y_{(k-1)\Delta t} - (2y_\tau - y_{k\Delta t})]^2 = [y_{(k-1)\Delta t} - y_{k\Delta t}]^2$ and

$$\det\left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial y}\right) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & 1 & & \\ & & 2 & -1 & \\ & & \vdots & & \ddots \\ & & 2 & & & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \pm 1 \tag{9}$$

In the matrix above, the column with the 2's is column number N_τ . ■

Das Hauptresultat dieses Kapitels ist jetzt also das folgende

Theorem 7.1: Let dW be the Wiener measure, let $\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ be a Brownian motion and recall

$$N(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \varphi(y) dy, \quad \varphi(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} \tag{10}$$

Let a, b be positive real numbers. Then we have the following probabilities:

a)

$$P_W\left(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \geq a, x_T < a - b\right) = P_W(x_T > a + b) \tag{11}$$

$$P_W\left(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \geq a\right) = 2 P_W(x_T \geq a) \tag{12}$$

b)

$$P_W\left(x_T \leq a, \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \leq b\right) = \begin{cases} N(a/\sqrt{T}) + N((2b - a)/\sqrt{T}) - 1 & \text{if } a \leq b \\ 2N(b/\sqrt{T}) - 1 & \text{if } a > b \end{cases} \tag{13}$$

c) In particular, there is the density

$$\mathbb{P}_W\left(x_T \in [a, a + da), \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \in [b, b + db)\right) = -\frac{2}{T} \varphi'\left(\frac{2b-a}{\sqrt{T}}\right) \chi(a < b) da db. \quad (14)$$

Proof: a) Define the stopping time

$$\tau_a(\{x_t\}) = \inf_{t \in (0, \infty)} \{t \mid x_t = a\} \quad (15)$$

Then

$$\{x_t \mid \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \geq a\} = \{x_t \mid \tau_a(\{x_t\}) \leq T\} \quad (16)$$

For given x_t , define the at the level $x_{\tau_a} = a$ reflected path as $y_t = x_t$ for $t \leq \tau_a$ and $y_t = 2x_{\tau_a} - x_t = 2a - x_t$ for $t > \tau_a$. In particular, $\tau_a = \tau_a(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau_a}) = \tau_a(\{y_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau_a})$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_W\left(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \geq a, x_T < a - b\right) &= \mathbb{P}_W\left(\tau_a \leq T, x_T < a - b\right) \\ &= \int \chi(\tau_a(\{x_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau_a}) \leq T, x_T < a - b) dW(\{x_t\}) \\ &= \int \chi(\tau_a(\{y_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau_a}) \leq T, 2a - y_T < a - b) dW(\{y_t\}) \\ &= \int \chi(\tau_a(\{y_t\}_{0 \leq t \leq \tau_a}) \leq T, y_T > a + b) dW(\{y_t\}) \\ &= \int \chi(y_T > a + b) dW(\{y_t\}) \\ &= \mathbb{P}_W(x_T > a + b) \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

In the third line of (17) we used the reflection principle Lemma 3.4 whereas in the last line we simply renamed the integration variables from y_t to x_t . In particular, for $b = 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}_W\left(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \geq a, x_T < a\right) = \mathbb{P}_W(x_T > a) \quad (18)$$

Using this, (12) follows from

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_W\left(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \geq a\right) &= \mathbb{P}_W\left(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \geq a, x_T < a\right) + \mathbb{P}_W\left(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \geq a, x_T \geq a\right) \\ &\stackrel{(18)}{=} \mathbb{P}_W(x_T > a) + \mathbb{P}_W(x_T \geq a) \\ &= 2\mathbb{P}_W(x_T \geq a) \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

b) For $b < a$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_W\left(x_T \leq a, \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \leq b\right) &= \mathbb{P}_W\left(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \leq b\right) \\ &= 1 - \mathbb{P}_W\left(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t > b\right) \\ &\stackrel{(a)}{=} 1 - 2\mathbb{P}_W(x_T > b) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= 2 \mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq b) - 1 \\
&= 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \chi(x_T \leq b) p_T(0, x_T) dx_T - 1 \\
&= 2 \int_{-\infty}^{b/\sqrt{T}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy - 1 \\
&= 2N(b/\sqrt{T}) - 1
\end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

For $a \leq b$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq a, \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \leq b) &= \mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq a) - \mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq a, \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t > b) \\
&= \mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq a) - \mathbf{P}_W(\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t > b, x_T \leq b - (b - a)) \\
&\stackrel{(a)}{=} \mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq a) - \mathbf{P}_W(x_T > b + (b - a)) \\
&= \mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq a) + \mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq 2b - a) - 1 \\
&= N(a/\sqrt{T}) + N((2b - a)/\sqrt{T}) - 1
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

This proves (13). The density in (14) in part (c), say $\rho(a, b)$, is obtained by differentiation,

$$\rho(a, b) = \frac{\partial}{\partial a} \frac{\partial}{\partial b} \mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq a, \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \leq b) \tag{22}$$

One computes

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho(a, b) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial b} \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}} \left(\varphi\left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{T}}\right) - \varphi\left(\frac{2b-a}{\sqrt{T}}\right) \right) & \text{if } a < b \\ 0 & \text{if } a > b \end{cases} \\
&= -\frac{2}{T} \varphi'\left(\frac{2b-a}{\sqrt{T}}\right) \chi(a < b)
\end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

Since the first line of (23) is continuous at $a = b$, there is no δ -function at $a = b$. Finally observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{P}_W(x_T \geq -a, \min_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \geq -b) &= \mathbf{P}_W(-x_T \leq a, -\min_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \leq b) \\
&= \mathbf{P}_W(-x_T \leq a, \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} \{-x_t\} \leq b) \\
&= \mathbf{P}_W(x_T \leq a, \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} x_t \leq b)
\end{aligned}$$

since $dW(\{-x_t\}) = dW(\{x_t\})$. ■