

Unit 3 Continuous Time Finance

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1 Exam questions

1.1 Explain the steps for defining the Ito-integral

The Ito-integral is defined as follows: $X_t = \int_0^t H_s dW_s := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t H_{ns} dW_s$. The following steps show how to arrive to this definition.

1. let $H_s = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_{i-1} * 1_{(t_{i-1}, t_i]}(s)$ be an adapted, left-continuous step-process.
 $\Rightarrow X_t = \int_0^t H_s dW_s = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_{i-1} * (W_{t_i \cap t} - W_{t_{i-1} \cap t})$ is well-defined integral, which is a random variable at the same time.
2. let $A_t = \int_0^t H_s^2 ds = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_{i-1}^2 * (t_i \cap t - t_{i-1} \cap t)$.
3. Now we want to show a kind of continuity:
We use the Lemma 3.1: Let (H_t) be an adapted cadlag step process. If A_t is integrable, then X_t is a square integrable martingale and $X_t^2 - A_t$ is martingale, as well.
So, we can use the "Isometric equality" and show
 $E \left[\left(\int_0^t H_s dW_s \right)^2 \right] = E \left[\int_0^t H_s^2 ds \right]$ which implies following:
 $H_{ns} \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \int_0^t H_s dW_s \rightarrow 0$ which is the desired continuity.
4. Now, if $E \left[\int_0^t H_s^2 ds \right] < \infty$ then for any Riemannian sequence of subdivisions of $[0, t]$ the following holds:
 $H_{ns} := \sum_{i=1}^n H_{t_n, i-1} * 1_{(t_{n, i-1}, t_{n, i}]}(s) \rightarrow H_s$
5. So, now we arrive at the desired definition shown at the beginning:
 $X_t = \int_0^t H_s dW_s := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t H_{ns} dW_s$

1.2 When is an Ito-integral a (square integrable) martingale?

Here we can use the Theorem 3.5, which specifies this property (it tells even more).

Theorem 3.5: The Ito-integral $X_t = \int_0^t H_s dW_s$ is defined for every adapted cadlag process (H_s) and is a local (square integrable) martingale. It is a square integrable martingale iff $E \left[\int_0^t H_s^2 ds \right] < \infty$. In this case the assertion of Lemma 3.1 is valid and the isometric equality holds.

1.3 Compare the properties of the Ito-integral and the integral w.r.t. a Poisson process

Ito-integral: $X_t = \int_0^t H_s dN_s$ is:



- X_t is square integrable local martingale and if $E \left[\int_0^t H_s^2 ds \right] < \infty$, then even a martingale
- $X_t^2 - t$ is martingale

Stieltjes-Integrals w.r.t. a Poisson process

- $\int_0^t H_s dN_s$ is not a martingale
- $\int_0^t H_s d(N_s - \lambda_s)$ is a local martingale

1.4 When is the Wiener-integral a Levy-process?

Here, we have to check two properties, namely independency of the increments and stationarity of the increments.

- independent increments: see Proof 3
- stationary increments: the increments are stationary if their variance is proportional to t-s. Let's check it:

$$V \left(\int_0^t h dW \right) = \int_0^t h^2 ds = a \cdot t = \int_0^t a ds.$$
This is true only if $\int_0^t (h^2 - a) ds = 0 \Leftrightarrow h^2(s) = a \Rightarrow$ constant (under the assumption that h is positive or continuous).

1.5 What can we say about the increments of Ito-integral?

For Ito-integral: $X_t = \int_0^t H_s dW_s$, we can define the increment as follows:
if $t_1 < t_2 \Rightarrow$ the increment is $\int_{t_1}^{t_2} H_s dW_s$.

- Since the Ito-integral is martingale (if $E \left[\int_0^t H_s^2 ds \right] < \infty$) then the expected value of the increments has to be zero: $E \left[\int_{t_1}^{t_2} H_s dW_s | \mathcal{F}_s \right] = 0$
- Covariance for two increments where $s < t < u < v$ can be defined as $E \left[\int_s^t H_s dW_s * \int_u^v H_s dW_s \right]$ (recall that the expected value of Ito-integral is zero since Ito-integral is martingale (under some assumptions)). Therefore,

$$E \left[\int_s^t H_s dW_s * \int_u^v H_s dW_s \right] = E \left[\int 1_{(s,t]} * 1_{(s,t]} * H_s^2 dW_s \right] = 0 \Rightarrow$$
the increments are uncorrelated, BUT not necessarily independent. Based on the covariance, we cannot make any statement on independence, since Ito-integral is not Gaussian.

1.6 Explain why a square integrable Levy-process is a semimartingale.

Recall the definition of a semimartingale: A Semimartingale is an adapted cad-lag process which is the sum of an FV-process and a local martingale.”
 Levy-process X_t can be rewritten in the following way: $X_t = \mu * t + M_t$, where M_t is a martingale and $\mu * t$ is a finite variation function.

2 Exam proofs

2.1 Prove Lemma 3.1

We have to prove three things:

1. $X_t = \int_0^t H_u dW_u$ is a martingale,
2. $X_t^2 - A_t$ is a martingale, and
3. X_t is square integrable

1. $X_t = \int_0^t H_u dW_u$ is a martingale ?

We have to show $[X_t - X_s | \mathcal{F}_s] = 0$

We can write the increment in the following way: $X_t - X_s = \sum_{i=1}^t Z_{i-1} (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}) - \sum_{j=1}^s Z_{j-1} (W_{t_j} - W_{t_{j-1}}) = \sum_{i=s+1}^t Z_{i-1} (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}})$

plugging in the conditional expectation: $E[X_t - X_s | \mathcal{F}_s] = E \left[\sum_{i=k+1}^t Z_{i-1} (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}) | \mathcal{F}_s \right] = \sum_{i=k+1}^t E[Z_{i-1} (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}) | \mathcal{F}_{t_{i-1}}] = \sum_{i=k+1}^t E[0 | \mathcal{F}_{t_k}] = 0$

Therefore X_t is a martingale.

2. $X_t^2 - A_t$ a martingale?

$E[X_t^2 - A_t | \mathcal{F}_s] = X_s^2 - A_s$??? We will show it in the following way:

$$(X_t - X_s)^2 = X_t^2 - X_s^2 - 2X_s(X_t - X_s)$$

$$E[(X_t - X_s)^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] = E[X_t^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] - E[X_s^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] - 2X_s E[X_t - X_s | \mathcal{F}_s] = E[X_t^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] - X_s^2$$

If we can show that $E[(X_t - X_s)^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] = E[A_t - A_s | \mathcal{F}_s]$ then $X_t^2 - A_t$ is martingale.

$$(X_t - X_s)^2 = \sum_{i=k+1}^n (Z_{i-1}(W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}))^2 = \sum_{i=k+1}^n Z_{i-1}^2 (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}})^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} Z_{i-1}(W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}) * Z_{j-1}(W_{t_j} - W_{t_{j-1}})$$

Now we show that the last term is zero (assume $i < j$):

$$\begin{aligned} E[Z_{i-1}(W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}) * Z_{j-1}(W_{t_j} - W_{t_{j-1}}) | \mathcal{F}_{t_k}] &= \\ E[E[Z_{i-1}(W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}) * Z_{j-1}(W_{t_j} - W_{t_{j-1}}) | \mathcal{F}_{t_{j-1}}] | \mathcal{F}_{t_k}] &= \\ E[Z_{i-1}(W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}}) * E[Z_{j-1}(W_{t_j} - W_{t_{j-1}}) | \mathcal{F}_{t_k}]] &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore: } E[(X_t - X_s)^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] &= E\left[\sum_{i=k+1}^n Z_{i-1}^2 (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}})^2 | \mathcal{F}_{t_k}\right] = \\ \sum_{i=k+1}^n E\left[E\left[Z_{i-1}^2 (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}})^2 | \mathcal{F}_{t_{i-1}}\right] | \mathcal{F}_{t_k}\right] &= \sum_{i=k+1}^n E[Z_{i-1}^2 (t_i - t_{i-1}) | \mathcal{F}_{t_k}] = \\ E\left[\sum_{i=k+1}^n (Z_{i-1}^2 (t_i - t_{i-1})) | \mathcal{F}_{t_k}\right] &= E\left[\int_s^t Z_u^2 du | \mathcal{F}_s\right] = E[A_t - A_s | \mathcal{F}_s] \end{aligned}$$

2.2 Wiener integral has normal distribution

Wiener integral is defined as follows: $\int_0^t h_s dW_s$.

For h being a step function $h = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i * 1_{(t_{i-1}, t_i]}$ we can define the Wiener integral X_t as follows: $X_t = \int_0^t h_s dW_s = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i * (W_{t_i} - W_{t_{i-1}})$ which is a linear combination of normally distributed independent random variables and hence normal distributed.

Now, we will show it for any function h :

let $h_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i * 1_{(t_{i-1}, t_i]}$ $\Rightarrow \int_0^h h_n dW = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i * (W_{t_{i-1}}, W_{t_i})$ is linear combination of normally distributed random variables \Rightarrow normally distributed.

Now we define function h as a limit of functions h_n : $h = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h_n$

$X_t = \int_0^t h dW = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^h h_n dW$ and X_t is normally distributed as well.

2.3 Covariance of two Wiener integrals

$$V\left(\int_0^t h_1 dW + \int_0^t h_2 dW\right) = V\left(\int_0^t (h_1 + h_2) dW\right) = \int_0^t (h_1 + h_2)^2 ds = \int_0^t h_1^2 ds + \int_0^t h_2^2 ds + 2 \int_0^t h_1 h_2 ds$$

We can write the first expression as:

$$V\left(\int_0^t h_1 dW\right) + V\left(\int_0^t h_2 dW\right) + 2Cov\left(\int_0^t h_1 dW, \int_0^t h_2 dW\right)$$

If we compare these two "results" we can show that:

$$2Cov\left(\int_0^t h_1 dW, \int_0^t h_2 dW\right) = 2 \int_0^t h_1 h_2 ds$$

Therefore, $Cov\left(\int_0^t h_1 dW, \int_0^t h_2 dW\right) = \int_0^t h_1 h_2 ds$

2.4 Wiener integrals have independent increments

$X_t \int_0^t h dW$ Let's define two increments (where $s < t < u < v$)

$X_t - X_s = \int_s^t h dW = \int 1_{(s,t]} h dW$ and

$X_v - X_u = \int_u^v h dW = \int 1_{(u,v]} h dW$.

$cov(X_t - X_s, X_v - X_u) = \int 1_{(s,t]} * 1_{(u,v]} h^2 ds = 0$ (It is so, because $(s,t]$ and $(u,v]$ are disjoint intervals)

since X_t is normal distributed (see proof 2), we can conclude that the covariance of zero implies independence of the increments.

2.5 Find the covariance of two Ito-integrals

$$V\left(\int_0^t H dW + \int_0^t G dW\right) = E\left[\left(\int_0^t H + G dW\right)^2\right] - \left(E\left[\int_0^t H + G dW\right]\right)^2 = E\left[\left(\int_0^t H + G dW\right)^2\right]$$

Let us define $I_1(t)$ and $I_2(t)$

$$I_1(t) = \int_0^t H dW \quad I_2(t) = \int_0^t G dW$$

Now we can write the covariance of $\int_0^t H dW$ and $\int_0^t G dW$ as

$$cov(I_1(t), I_2(t)) = E[I_1(t) * I_2(t)] - E[I_1(t)] * E[I_2(t)].$$

Since $I_1(t)$ and $I_2(t)$ are martingales, the last term in the previous equation cancels out and we get: $cov(I_1(t), I_2(t)) = E[I_1(t) * I_2(t)]$

Now we show that $I_1(t) * I_2(t) = \frac{(I_1(t) + I_2(t))^2 - I_1(t)^2 - I_2(t)^2}{2}$. Taking the expectation of this (since $cov(I_1(t), I_2(t)) = E[I_1(t) * I_2(t)]$) leads to:

$$E[I_1(t) * I_2(t)] = \frac{E[(I_1(t) + I_2(t))^2] - E[I_1(t)^2] - E[I_2(t)^2]}{2}$$

Now we can plug in following expressions (using isometric equality):

$$E[I_1(t)^2] = E\left[\left(\int_0^t H dW\right)^2\right] = E\left[\int_0^t H^2 ds\right] = \int_0^t E[H^2] ds$$

$$E[I_2(t)^2] = E\left[\left(\int_0^t G dW\right)^2\right] = E\left[\int_0^t G^2 ds\right] = \int_0^t E[G^2] ds$$

$$E[(I_1(t) + I_2(t))^2] = E\left[\left(\int_0^t H + G dW\right)^2\right] = E\left[\int_0^t (H + G)^2 ds\right] = \int_0^t E[(H + G)^2] ds$$

Plugging in the expression for covariance gives:

$$cov(I_1(t), I_2(t)) = \frac{\int_0^t E[(H+G)^2] ds - E\left[\int_0^t H^2 ds\right] - E\left[\int_0^t G^2 ds\right]}{2} = \frac{\int_0^t E[G^2] ds - E\left[\int_0^t H^2 ds\right]}{2} = \int_0^t E[H_s G_s] ds.$$

2.6 Show that a square integrable martingale which is continuous and FV must be constant

Let's define M_t as a continuous square integrable martingale.

Moreover, let us assume (w.l.o.g) $M_0 = 0$.

Since M_t is a finite variation process, we can use the integration by parts formula to write $M_t^2 - M_0^2 = \int_0^t M_s dM_s + \int_0^t M_s dM_s \Rightarrow M_t^2 = 2 \int_0^t M_s dM_s$

There exists following theorem:

Theorem: Suppose M is continuous FV square integrable martingale $\Rightarrow Y_t = \int_0^t M_s dM_s$ is a continuous martingale.

By the theorem we know that $M_t^2 = \int_0^t M_s dM_s$ is a continuous martingale.

$$\Rightarrow E[M_t^2] = E[M_0^2] = 0.$$

So, we also know that if $x \geq 0$ a.s. and $E[X] = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0$ a.s..

Therefore, M_t is constant.

2.7 Show that the representation of an Ito-process is uniquely determined

Suppose we have two representation for the Ito-process. We will show that they are identical.

$$x_t = x_0 + \int_0^t a_s ds + \int_0^t b_s dW_s$$

$$x_t = x_0 + \int_0^t \bar{a}_s ds + \int_0^t \bar{b}_s dW_s$$

Subtracting these two expressions gives:

$$0 = \int_0^t (a_s - \bar{a}_s) ds + \int_0^t (b_s - \bar{b}_s) dW_s$$

$$\int_0^t (a_s - \bar{a}_s) ds = \int_0^t (\bar{b}_s - b_s) dW_s$$

Now, the argumentation is following: the left-hand side is a FV-process. Therefore, the right-hand side is FV, continuous (because of the jump rule - W_s is continuous), square integrable martingale).

Let us write the right-hand side as $y_t = \int_0^t (\bar{b}_s - b_s) dW_s$ is continuous FV square-integrable martingale. Then by Theorem 3.12 $y_t = y_0 = 0$ for all t . Therefore, the left-hand side $(\int_0^t (a_s - \bar{a}_s) ds)$ is constant as well and $a = \bar{a}$

Now, we have to show that $b = \bar{b}$

$$var\left(\int_0^t (\bar{b}_s b_s) dW_s\right) = E\left[\left(\int_0^t (\bar{b}_s - b_s) dW_s\right)^2\right] = \int_0^t E\left[(\bar{b}_s - b_s)^2\right] ds \quad (\text{by isometric equality}).$$

$$\text{Since } y_t = 0 \Rightarrow Var(y_t) = 0$$

$$0 = \int_0^t E\left[(\bar{b}_s - b_s)^2\right] ds = 0.$$

Therefore, $b_s = \bar{b}_s$.

2.8 Let M_t be a square integrable martingale. Show that there is at most one continuous FV process such that $M_t^2 - C_t$ is a square integrable martingale.

Suppose C_t and A_t are continuous FV processes s.t. $M_t^2 - C_t$ $M_t^2 - A_t$ are square integrable martingales.

$$C_t = M_t^2 - \text{mart.}$$

$$A_t = M_t^2 - \text{mart.}$$

Subtracting these two expressions gives: $C_t - A_t = \text{square integrable martingale}$

Since the left-hand side is FV, the right-hand side is FV as well.

$\Rightarrow C_t - A_t$ is a continuous square integrable FV-martingale.

By theorem 3.12 $\Rightarrow C_t - A_t$ is constant.

Assume (w.l.o.g) that $A_0 = C_0 = 0$ then $C_t - A_t = C_0 - A_0 = 0 \Rightarrow C_t = A_t$.

3 Exam problems

3.1 Find expectation and variance and check the martingale property

1. $\int_0^t e^{2W_s} dW_s$

First, we will check whether $A_t = \int_0^t (e^{2W_s})^2 ds$ is integrable:

$$E \left[\int_0^t (e^{2W_s})^2 ds \right] = \text{using Fubini-Theorem} = \int_0^t E \left[(e^{2W_s})^2 \right] ds = \int_0^t E [e^{4W_s}] ds =$$

$$\int_0^t e^{\frac{16s}{2}} = \frac{1}{8} * (e^{8t} - 1)$$

$\Rightarrow A_t$ is integrable $\Rightarrow X_t$ square integrable martingale

$$\Rightarrow E[X_t] = 0$$

$$\text{variance of } X_t: V(X_t) = E \left[\left(\int_0^t e^{2W_s} dW_s \right)^2 \right] = \text{by isometric equality}$$

$$= E \left[\int_0^t e^{4W_s} ds \right] = \frac{1}{8} * (e^{8t} - 1)$$

2. $X_t = \int_0^t 2^{W_s} dW_s$ First, we will check whether $A_t = \int_0^t (2^{W_s})^2 ds$ is integrable:

$$E \left[\int_0^t (2^{W_s})^2 ds \right] = \text{using Fubini} = \int_0^t E [(2^{W_s})^2] ds$$

In order to get e^{\dots} expression in our expected value, we conduct following steps: $2 = e^{\ln 2^{W_s}} = e^{W_s \ln 2}$ plugging in the expression above, we get:

$$= \int_0^t E [(e^{W_s \ln 2})^2] ds = \int_0^t e^{\frac{4(\ln 2)^2 s}{2}} ds = \int_0^t e^{2(\ln 2)^2 s} ds$$

$$\text{Let } c = 2(\ln 2)^2, \text{ then } \int_0^t e^{2(\ln 2)^2 s} ds = \int_0^t e^{cs} ds = \frac{1}{c} (e^{ct} - 1)$$

$\Rightarrow X_t$ is a square integrable martingale.

$$E[X_t] = 0$$

$$\text{variance: } V(X_t) = E \left[\left(\int_0^t 2^{W_s} dW_s \right)^2 \right] = \text{by isometric equality} = E \left[\int_0^t (2^{W_s})^2 ds \right] =$$

$$\frac{1}{c} (e^{ct} - 1)$$

plugging c gives: $\frac{1}{2(\ln 2)^2} \left(e^{2(\ln 2)^2} - 1 \right)$

3. $X_t = \int_0^t W_s^2 dW_s$
 $X_t = \int_0^t W_s^4 ds$ integrable?
 $E \left[\int_0^t W_s^4 ds \right] = \int_0^t E \left[W_s^4 \right] ds = \int_0^t 3s^2 ds = (t^3)$
 $\Rightarrow X_t$ is square integrable martingale
 $\Rightarrow E[X_t] = 0$
 variance: $V(X_t) = E \left[\left(\int_0^t W_s^4 ds \right)^2 \right] =$ by isometric equality $= E \left[\int_0^t W_s^4 ds \right] = t^3$

3.2 Find the covariance of

1. W_t and $\int_0^t s dW_s$
 we can define $W_t = \int_0^t 1 dW_s$. Therefore, the covariance is $cov \left(\int_0^t 1 dW_s, \int_0^t s dW_s \right) = E \left[\int_0^t 1 * s ds \right] = \frac{t^2}{2}$
2. W_t and $\int_0^t w_s dW_s$
 $cov \left(\int_0^t 1 dW_s, \int_0^t W_s dW_s \right) = E \left[\int_0^t 1 * W_s ds \right] =$ using Fubini-Theorem $= \int_0^t E[W_s] ds = 0$
 (compare with exam question 5. (What can we say about the increments of Ito-integral): the covariance is zero, BUT we cannot claim that there is no independence)

3.3 let $X_t = \int_0^t s dW_s$. Find expectation and variance and check the martingale property of:

1. $\int_0^t X_s dW_s$
 First, we will check the integrability of $\int_0^t X_s^2 ds$. $\Rightarrow E \left[\int_0^t X_s^2 ds \right] < \infty$
 Using Fubini-Theorem, we get $E \left[\int_0^t X_s^2 ds \right] = \int_0^t E[X_s^2] ds$
 for $E[X_s^2]$ we can show: $E[X_s^2] = E \left[\left(\int_0^s W_s dW_s \right)^2 \right] =$ by isometric equality (under the assumption that $\left(\int_0^t s^2 ds \right)$ integrable) $= E \left[\int_0^t s^2 dW_s \right] = E \left[\frac{s^3}{3} \right] = \frac{s^3}{3}$
 Now, we plug in this result for $E[X_s^2]$ and get:
 $\int_0^t E[X_s^2] ds = \int_0^t \frac{s^3}{3} ds = \frac{s^4}{12}$
 $\Rightarrow \int_0^t X_s^2 ds$ is integrable
 $\int_0^t X_s dW_s$ is square integrable martingale

$$\Rightarrow E \left[\int_0^t X_s dW_s \right] = 0$$

variance $V \left(\int_0^t X_s dW_s \right) = E \left[\left(\int_0^t X_s dW_s \right)^2 \right] = E \left[\int_0^t X_s^2 ds \right]$ and we have already seen that this equals to $\frac{s^4}{12}$

2. $\int_0^t W_s dX_s$ = here we apply the associativity rule $= \int_0^t W_s * s dW_s$

Now, we will check the integrability of $A_t = \int_0^t (W_s * s)^2$:

$$E \left[\int_0^t (W_s * s)^2 ds \right] = \text{by Fubini } \int_0^t E \left[(W_s * s)^2 \right] ds = \int_0^t s^2 E \left[(W_s)^2 \right] ds = \int_0^t s^3 ds = \frac{t^4}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow A_t = \int_0^t (W_s * s)^2 \text{ is integrable}$$

$\int_0^t W_s dX_s$ is a square integrable martingale.

$$E \left[\int_0^t W_s dX_s \right] = 0$$

variance: $V \left(\int_0^t W_s dX_s \right) = E \left[\left(\int_0^t W_s dX_s \right)^2 \right] = \frac{t^4}{4}$ (We have already showed it when we checked the integrability of A_t).