

3.4 Itô-lemma

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first version: consider (nice) fct. $h(W(t), t)$.

Goal: find a stochastic version of the chain rule

first, look at $h = h(W(t))$ (meaning $\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = 0$)

$$\text{write } h(W(t)) - h(W(0)) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (h(W(t_{j+1})) - h(W(t_j)))$$

Taylor expansion:

$$\begin{aligned} h(W(t)) - h(W(0)) &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} h'(W(t_j)) (W(t_{j+1}) - W(t_j)) \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2} h''(m_j) (W(t_{j+1}) - W(t_j))^2 \end{aligned}$$

for some $m_j = W_{s_j}$ with $s_j \in [t_j, t_{j+1}]$

now: recall $W(t_{j+1}) - W(t_j) \sim \sqrt{\Delta t} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

and as before $(W(t_{j+1}) - W(t_j))^2 \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} dt$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{take lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} : h(W(t)) - h(W(0)) &= \int_0^t \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right) (W(s)) dW(s) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \left(\frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} \right) (W(s)) ds \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow in general case where $h(w(t), t)$ we have the Itô formula:

$$h(w(t), t) - h(w(0), 0) = \int_0^t \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right) (w(s), s) dW(s) + \int_0^t \left[\left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial s} \right) (w(s), s) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} \right) (w(s), s) \right] ds$$

short-hand notation: $dh = h' dW + \dot{h} dt + \frac{1}{2} h'' dt$

$$\left(\text{here: } h' = \frac{\partial h}{\partial x}, \dot{h} = \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} \right)$$

Ex.:

• $h(w(t), t) = w(t)^2$

$$\text{Itô: } dh = 2w dW + 0 + \frac{1}{2} 2 dt = 2w dW + dt$$

is the SDE with solution $h = w^2$

$$\Rightarrow h(w(t)) - \underbrace{h(w(0))}_{=0} = \int_0^t 2w(s) dW(s) + \int_0^t ds$$

$$\text{e.g., } \mathbb{E}(h(w(t))) = \mathbb{E}(w(t)^2) = \int_0^t 2 \mathbb{E}(w(s)) \underbrace{\mathbb{E}(dW(s))}_{=0} + t$$

• $h(w(t), t) = w(t)^4$

$$\Rightarrow dh = 4w^3 dW + 6w^2 dt$$

$$\text{e.g., } \mathbb{E}(w(t)^4) = 4 \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(w(s)^3) \mathbb{E}(dW(s)) + 6 \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(w(s)^2) ds$$

$$= 0 + 6 \int_0^t s ds$$

$$= 3t^2$$

Ex.: solve $dX = X^3 dt - X^2 dW$, $X(0) = 1$

write $X = h(w(t), t)$ and compare $dX = dh$

$$\text{Ito: } dh = h' dW + \dot{h} dt + \frac{1}{2} h'' dt$$

\Rightarrow need to solve $\dot{h} + \frac{1}{2} h'' = h^3$ and $h' = -h^2$

$$\frac{dh}{dx} = -h^2 \xrightarrow{\text{separation of variables}} \frac{dh}{-h^2} = dx \Rightarrow \int \frac{dh}{-h^2} = \int dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{h} = x + C$$

$$\Rightarrow h(x, t) = \frac{1}{x+C} \quad \text{with } h(w(0), 0) = h(0, 0) = 1 \text{ (initial condition)}$$

$$\Rightarrow h(x, t) = \frac{1}{x+1} \quad \text{(independent of } t \text{)}$$

$$\left(\text{check: } \dot{h} + \frac{1}{2} h'' = 0 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{2}{(x+1)^3} = \frac{1}{(x+1)^3} = h^3 \quad \checkmark \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{solution } X(t) = \frac{1}{w(t)+1} \quad \text{(note: actually blows up in finite time)}$$

second version: consider $dX(t) = f(X(t), t) dt + g(X(t), t) dW(t)$

this is called an Ito process

now consider (nice) fct. $F(x(t), t)$

informally: Taylor expansion:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta F(x, t) &= \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} \Delta t + \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \Delta x + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x^2} \Delta x^2 + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial t^2} \Delta t^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x \partial t} \Delta x \Delta t}_{\text{neglect, lower order}} \\ &= f \Delta t + g \Delta w\end{aligned}$$

$$(\Delta x)^2 = (f \Delta t + g \Delta w)^2 = \underbrace{f^2 \Delta t^2 + 2fg \Delta t \Delta w}_{\text{neglect, lower order}} + \underbrace{g^2 \Delta w^2}_{\sim \Delta t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta F = \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} \Delta t + f \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \Delta t + g \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \Delta w + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x^2} g^2 \Delta t$$

Ito's lemma:

$$dF = \left[\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + f \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x^2} g^2 \right] dt + g \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} dw$$

note: for $X(t) = w(t)$ i.e., $f=0, g=1$, we get

$$dF = \left[\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x^2} \right] dt + \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} dw$$

(i.e., reduces to Ito's formula from above in this special case)

Ex: geometric Brownian motion $S(w(t), t) = e^{(\mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2})t + \sigma w(t)}$

$$\Rightarrow \text{corresponding SDE is } dS = \left[\left(\mu - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) S + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S \right] dt + \sigma S dW$$

$$\Rightarrow dS = \mu S dt + \sigma S dW$$

What is $\mathbb{E}(S(t)^n)$?

$$\text{Write } F(S(t), t) = S(t)^n$$

$$\begin{aligned} dS^n &= \left[\mu S^n + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 n(n-1) S^{n-2} \right] dt + \sigma n S^{n-1} dW \\ &= S^n \left(\mu n + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 n(n-1) \right) dt + n \sigma S^{n-1} dW \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(S(t)^n) - \mathbb{E}(S_0^n) &= \left(n\mu + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 n(n-1) \right) \int_0^t \mathbb{E}(S(t)^n) dt + n\sigma \int_0^t \underbrace{\mathbb{E}(S(t)^n) \mathbb{E}(dW(s))}_{=0} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(S(t)^n) = S_0^n e^{\left(n\mu + \frac{1}{2} n(n-1) \sigma^2 \right) t}$$

in particular: $\mathbb{E}(S(t)) = S_0 e^{\mu t}$

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \text{Var}(S(t)) &= \mathbb{E}(S(t)^2) - \mathbb{E}(S(t))^2 \\ &= S_0^2 e^{(2\mu + \sigma^2)t} - S_0^2 e^{2\mu t} \\ &= S_0^2 e^{2\mu t} (e^{\sigma^2 t} - 1) \end{aligned}$$

HW: $X = \text{geom. BM}$, $F(x, t) = (1 + t)\sqrt{x}$

Verify Itô's lemma numerically

— find SDE for F

— solve it numerically with Euler-Maruyama

— compare with given exact solution