

1. Let $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be a simple symmetric random walk starting at $X_0 = 0$, so $X_n = \xi_1 + \dots + \xi_n$ where $(\xi_n)_{n \geq 1}$ are independent copies of ξ with $\mathbb{P}(\xi = \pm 1) = \frac{1}{2}$. For $\delta > 0$, let

$$W_{(n+p)\delta}^{(\delta)} = \sqrt{\delta}(X_n + p\xi_{n+1})$$

for integer $n \geq 0$ and $0 \leq p < 1$. Confirm that

- (a) $t \mapsto W_t^{(\delta)}$ is continuous,
- (b) $W_t^{(\delta)} - W_s^{(\delta)}$ is independent of $(W_u^{(\delta)})_{0 \leq u \leq s-\delta}$ where $\delta \leq s \leq t$
- (c) $W_t^{(\delta)} - W_s^{(\delta)}$ converges in distribution to $N(0, t-s)$ as $\delta \downarrow 0$. [It is a fact that if $Y_\delta \rightarrow Y$ in distribution and $Z_\delta \rightarrow 0$ in distribution, then $Y_\delta + Z_\delta \rightarrow Y$ in distribution.]

2. If $(W_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is a Brownian motion, show that the following processes are martingales:

- (i) $W_t^2 - t$.
- (ii) $W_t^3 - 3tW_t$.
- (iii) $e^{\theta W_t - \theta^2 t/2}$ for any $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

3. Let $T_a = \inf\{t \geq 0 : W_t = a\}$ be the first time that a Brownian motion hit level $a > 0$. Using a suitable martingale and the optional stopping theorem, show that the Laplace transform of T_a is given by $\mathbb{E}[e^{-\lambda T_a}] = e^{-a\sqrt{2\lambda}}$. [It is a fact that the optional stopping theorem holds for continuous martingales.]

For the brave of heart: confirm this by integrating the density of T_a as derived from the reflection principle.

4. Let $(W_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a Brownian motion. Show that the random variable $\sup_{u \geq 1} \frac{W_u}{u}$ has the same distribution as $|W_1|$. [Hint: Recall the time inversion of Brownian motion.]

5. Let $M_t = \max_{0 \leq s \leq t} W_s$. For suitable g and $a \neq -\frac{1}{2}$ show that

$$\mathbb{E}[g(aW_t + M_t)] = \frac{a+1}{2a+1} \mathbb{E}[g((a+1)|W_t|)] + \frac{a}{2a+1} \mathbb{E}[g(-a|W_t|)]$$

for all $t > 0$.

6. Find the moment generating function $\mathbb{E}[e^{\theta Y}]$ of $Y = \max_{0 \leq s \leq t} (W_s + cs)$ for a constant c , in the case where $\theta \neq -2c$.

7. Let $v^{(\delta)}(t, x) = \mathbb{E}[g(x + W_t^{(\delta)})]$ where $W_t^{(\delta)}$ is defined in Problem 1. Show that

$$\frac{v^{(\delta)}(t + \delta, x) - v^{(\delta)}(t, x)}{\delta} = \frac{v^{(\delta)}(t, x + \sqrt{\delta}) - 2v^{(\delta)}(t, x) + v^{(\delta)}(t, x - \sqrt{\delta})}{2\delta}$$

Comment.

8. Show that the following functions satisfy the backward heat equation $\partial_t u + \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} u = 0$.

- (i) $u(t, x) = x^2 - t$.
- (ii) $u(t, x) = x^3 - 3tx$.
- (iii) $u(t, x) = e^{\theta x - \theta^2 t/2}$ for any $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

Comment.

9. Let v solve the heat equation

$$\partial_\tau v = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} v$$

and let $V(t, s) = e^{-r(T-t)} v(\sigma^2(T-t), \log s + (r - \sigma^2/2)(T-t))$. Verify that V solves the Black–Scholes PDE

$$\partial_t V + rs \partial_s V + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 s^2 \partial_{ss} V = rV$$

10. In the Black–Scholes model, find the time- t prices of European contingent claims which pay at time T the amounts: (a) $\sqrt{S_T}$, (b) $\log S_T$, (c) $\int_0^T S_u du$

In each case, how many shares should be held at time t to replicate the payout?

11. Let $EC(S_0, K, \sigma, r, T)$ denote the initial price in of a European call option with strike K , expiry T on an asset with initial price S_0 , in the Black–Scholes model volatility with σ and interest rate is r . Let $EP(S_0, K, \sigma, r, T)$ be the price of the European put with the same parameters. Verify the *put-call symmetry* formula

$$EP(S_0, K, \sigma, r, T) = EC(Ke^{-rT}, S_0 e^{rT}, \sigma, r, T)$$

12. Show that $EC(S_0, K, \sigma, r, T)$ is strictly decreasing in the strike price K , and is strictly increasing in the initial stock price S_0 , in the volatility σ , in the interest rate r and in the expiry T . Furthermore, show that is strictly convex in both S_0 and K .

What are the corresponding statements for the Black–Scholes price of a European put option?

13. A European *lookback* call option entitles the holder to buy one share of stock at the expiry time T at the lowest price reached by the stock during the life of the option. Thus, if it is purchased at time 0, at time T it pays off the amount $S_T - \inf_{0 \leq u \leq T} S_u$. In the Black-Scholes model show that the initial price of such an option is

$$\frac{S_0}{a} \left[(a+1) \Phi \left(\frac{1}{2}(a+1)\sigma\sqrt{T} \right) - e^{-rT} (a-1) \Phi \left(\frac{1}{2}(a-1)\sigma\sqrt{T} \right) - 1 \right],$$

assuming $r > 0$, where $a = 2r/\sigma^2$.

14. Using the notation of Problem 11, show that the initial Black–Scholes price of a down-and-out call with strike K and a barrier at B , where $B < \min\{S_0, K\}$, can be expressed as

$$EC(S_0, K, \sigma, r, T) - (B/S_0)^{2r/\sigma^2 - 1} EC(B^2/S_0, K, \sigma, r, T).$$