

## 18. REPRESENTATION THEOREMS

Here we present our first applications of stochastic calculus and Itô formula. All of these related to discovering a standard Brownian motion in the structure of a continuous local martingale. It is here where we find it beneficial that the stochastic integral has been extended to continuous local martingales.

**18.1 Lévy characterization.**

We start with the following cute observation going back to P. Lévy:

**Theorem 18.1** (Lévy's characterization of Brownian motion) *Let  $M \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{loc}}^{\text{cont}}$  be such that  $M_0 = 0$  and  $\forall t \geq 0: \langle M \rangle_t = t$ . Then  $M$  is a standard Brownian motion.*

*Proof.* Given  $M \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{loc}}^{\text{cont}}$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , let  $\{Z_t : t \geq 0\}$  be the  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued process defined by

$$Z_t := e^{i\lambda M_t + \frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 \langle M \rangle_t}. \quad (18.1)$$

The Itô formula then shows

$$dZ_t = Z_t \left( i\lambda dM_t + \frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 d\langle M \rangle_t \right) + \frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 Z_t d\langle M \rangle_t = i\lambda Z_t dM_t. \quad (18.2)$$

As the right-hand side has no “drift term,” we conclude  $Z \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{loc}}^{\text{cont}}$ . Under the assumption that  $\langle M \rangle_t$  the random variable  $|Z_t|$  is bounded by  $e^{\frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 t}$ . As bounded local martingales are martingales, we get that  $Z \in \mathcal{M}^{\text{cont}}$ .

The fact that  $Z$  is a martingale means that  $E(Z_t | \mathcal{F}_s) = Z_s$  for all  $0 \leq s \leq t$ . For the case at hand this reads

$$E\left(e^{i\lambda M_t + \frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 t} \mid \mathcal{F}_s\right) = e^{i\lambda M_s + \frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 s}. \quad (18.3)$$

Rearranging with the help of the  $\mathcal{F}_s$ -measurability then gives

$$E\left(e^{i\lambda(M_t - M_s)} \mid \mathcal{F}_s\right) = e^{-\frac{1}{2}\lambda^2(t-s)}. \quad (18.4)$$

Using this iteratively along the sequence  $0 = t_0 < \dots < t_n$  shows that

$$E\left(\exp\left\{i \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j (M_{t_j} - M_{t_{j-1}})\right\}\right) = \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j^2 (t_j - t_{j-1})\right\} \quad (18.5)$$

holds for all  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{R}$ . Using the Cramér-Wold device, it follows that  $M$  has the same finite-dimensional distributions as the standard Brownian motion. Since  $M$  is continuous with  $M_0$ , it is a standard Brownian motion.  $\square$

We also remark that the result extends seamlessly to  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -valued local martingales  $M$ . The condition we then need is that the Cartesian components  $M^{(1)}, \dots, M^{(d)}$  of  $M$  obey

$$\forall t \geq 0 \forall i, j = 1, \dots, d: \langle M^{(i)}, M^{(j)} \rangle_t = t\delta_{ij} \quad (18.6)$$

The argument is identical modulo introduction of a dot product in relevant places.

A natural question arises what happens when  $\langle M \rangle_t = t$  is not assumed. Here is one type of a result that one can hope to get in such a case:

**Theorem 18.2** (Time change to Brownian motion) *Let  $M \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{loc}}^{\text{cont}}$  be such that  $M_0 = 0$  and every path of  $t \mapsto \langle M \rangle_t$  is strictly increasing with  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \langle M \rangle_t = \infty$ . For each  $t \geq 0$ , set*

$$T(t) := \inf\{u \geq 0: \langle M \rangle_u \geq t\}. \quad (18.7)$$

*Then  $T(t)$  is a stopping time for each  $t \geq 0$ , every path of  $t \mapsto T(t)$  is continuous and the process  $\{B_t: t \geq 0\}$ , defined by  $B_t := M_{T(t)}$ , is a standard Brownian motion. Moreover, we have*

$$\forall t \geq 0: M_t = B_{\langle M \rangle_t}. \quad (18.8)$$

*(The processes  $B$  and  $\langle M \rangle$  on the right are correlated in general.)*

For the proof we need the following standard tool:

**Theorem 18.3** (Optional Stopping/Sampling Theorem) *Let  $M$  be a right-continuous martingale and  $S$  and  $T$  stopping times for a filtration  $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ . Assume  $S \leq T$  pointwise. Then*

$$M_T \in L^1 \quad \wedge \quad E(M_T | \mathcal{F}_S) = M_S \text{ a.s.} \quad (18.9)$$

*hold true provided that*

- (1) *either  $T$  is bounded,*
- (2) *or  $T < \infty$  and  $M$  is uniformly dominated as in  $\sup_{t \geq 0} |M_t| \in L^1$ ,*
- (3) *or  $T < \infty$  and any other condition implying that  $\{M_{T \wedge t}: t \geq 0\}$  is uniformly integrable.*

*Under these conditions we also have  $E(M_T) = E(M_S) = E(M_0)$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is based on the fact that, for any stopping time  $T$ ,

$$\forall s \leq t: E(M_t | \mathcal{F}_{T \wedge s}) = M_{T \wedge s} \text{ a.s.} \quad (18.10)$$

To prove this, assume  $s < t$  and discretize  $T_n := 2^{-n} \lceil 2^n T \rceil$ . For  $A \in \mathcal{F}_{T_n \wedge s}$  we then have

$$\begin{aligned} E(M_t 1_A) &= \sum_{k \geq 0} E(M_t 1_{A \cap \{T_n \wedge s = k 2^{-n}\}}) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} E(M_{k 2^{-n}} 1_{A \cap \{T_n \wedge s = k 2^{-n}\}}) = E(M_{T_n \wedge s} 1_A) \end{aligned} \quad (18.11)$$

where we used that  $T_n \wedge s = k 2^{-n}$  forces  $k 2^{-n} \leq s \leq t$  and noted that, for a stopping time  $\tilde{T}$  taking values in  $2^{-n} \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$A \cap \{\tilde{T} = k 2^{-n}\} = (A \cap \{\tilde{T} \leq k 2^{-n}\}) \setminus (A \cap \{\tilde{T} \leq (k-1) 2^{-n}\}) \in \mathcal{F}_{k 2^{-n}} \quad (18.12)$$

relying on the discrete nature of  $\tilde{T}$ . Since  $|M|$  is a submartingale, completely analogously we get  $E(|M_{T_n \wedge s}| 1_A) \leq E(|M_t| 1_A)$ . As this holds for all  $A \in \mathcal{F}_{T_n \wedge s}$ , hereby we get

$$|M_{T_n \wedge s}| \leq E(|M_t| | \mathcal{F}_{T_n \wedge s}) \text{ a.s.} \quad (18.13)$$

which implies that  $\{M_{T_n \wedge s}: n \geq 1\}$  is uniformly integrable. This permits us to take  $n \rightarrow \infty$  on the right of (18.12) with any  $A \in \mathcal{F}_{T \wedge s} \subseteq \bigcap_{n \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_{T_n \wedge s}$  to get

$$\forall A \in \mathcal{F}_{T \wedge s}: E(M_t 1_A) = E(M_{T \wedge s} 1_A) \quad (18.14)$$

The definition of conditional expectation then gives (18.10).

The condition (18.10) implies uniform integrability of  $\{M_{T \wedge s} : s \leq t\}$ , for any  $t \geq 0$ . The role of the condition (1) and (2) is to ensure that we in fact have

$$\{M_{T \wedge t} : t \geq 0\} \text{ is uniformly integrable} \quad (18.15)$$

and that  $M_T \in L^1$  in all cases (1-3) above. From (18.10) we then also get that

$$\{M_{T \wedge t} : t \geq 0\} \text{ is a martingale} \quad (18.16)$$

In the rest of the proof, we will only work with stopping times  $T$  satisfying (18.15–18.16).

Let now  $S$  be a stopping time with  $S \leq T$  and let  $A \in \mathcal{F}_S$ . Discretizing  $T_n := 2^{-n} \lceil 2^n T \rceil$  and  $S_n := 2^{-n} \lceil 2^n S \rceil$ , which entails  $S_n \leq T_n$ , we again get

$$\begin{aligned} E(M_{T_n \wedge t} 1_A) &= \sum_{k \geq 0} E(M_{T_n \wedge t} 1_{A \cap \{S_n = k 2^{-n}\}}) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} E(E(M_{T_n \wedge t} | \mathcal{F}_{k 2^{-n}}) 1_{A \cap \{S_n = k 2^{-n}\}}) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} E(M_{k 2^{-n} \wedge t} 1_{A \cap \{S_n = k 2^{-n}\}}) = E(M_{S_n \wedge t} 1_A) \end{aligned} \quad (18.17)$$

where we used  $A \in \mathcal{F}_S \subseteq \mathcal{F}_{S_n}$ . Invoking the right-continuity of  $M$  along with  $T_n \downarrow T$  and  $S_n \downarrow S$  and (18.15) allows us to take  $n \rightarrow \infty$  followed by  $t \rightarrow \infty$  with the result

$$\forall A \in \mathcal{F}_S : E(M_T 1_A) = E(M_S 1_A) \quad (18.18)$$

which then readily gives  $E(M_T | \mathcal{F}_S) = M_S$  a.s.  $\square$

With this in hand, we can now complete:

*Proof of Theorem 18.2.* That  $T(t)$  is a stopping time follows from

$$\{T(t) \leq u\} = \{\langle M \rangle_u \leq t\} \quad (18.19)$$

as implied by continuity of  $\langle M \rangle$ . The continuity of  $T$  is then inherited from the continuity and strict monotonicity of  $\langle M \rangle$ . In order to prove the main part of the claim, note that

$$\forall t \geq 0 : \langle M \rangle_{T(t)} = t \quad (18.20)$$

which also entails  $T(t) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Since the process  $\{Z_t : t \geq 0\}$  from (18.1) continues to be a local martingale, the explicit form

$$Z_{T(t) \wedge u} = e^{i\lambda M_{T(t) \wedge u} + \frac{1}{2} \langle M \rangle_{T(t) \wedge u}} \quad (18.21)$$

reveals that  $\{Z_{T(t) \wedge u} : u \geq 0\}$  is a locally bounded martingale. For  $s \leq t$ , the Optional Stopping Theorem applied to the stopping times  $T(s) \leq T(t)$  under the filtration  $\{\mathcal{F}_{T(t)} : t \geq 0\}$  then gives

$$E(Z_{T(t)} | \mathcal{F}_{T(s)}) = Z_{T(s)} \quad (18.22)$$

Using (18.20), this now readily translates into

$$E(e^{i\lambda(M_{T(t)} - M_{T(s)})} | \mathcal{F}_{T(s)}) = e^{-\frac{1}{2} \lambda^2 (t-s)}. \quad (18.23)$$

Proceeding as in the proof of Lévy characterization, we then readily conclude that the process  $\{M_{T(t)} : t \geq 0\}$  is a standard Brownian motion. The identity (18.8) is a direct consequence of  $T$  being the inverse of  $\langle M \rangle$ .  $\square$

Theorem 18.2 makes a number of convenient assumptions that can be further relaxed. First, we do not need to assume that the various assumed properties occur for all paths, but rather only almost surely. Here we need to impose the assumption that  $\mathcal{F}_0$  contains all  $P$ -null sets and modify the definitions of  $B$  on a null set.

Another assumption that is easy to drop is  $\langle M \rangle_t \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , which ensures that the intrinsic time of  $\{M_{T(t)}: t \geq 0\}$  varies throughout all the positive reals. If this is not assumed, we only get a standard Brownian motion up to a stopping time; the standard trick is then to enhance the probability space and append another path of standard Brownian motion after that stopping time.

A somewhat more difficult assumption is that of strict monotonicity of  $t \mapsto \langle M \rangle_t$  which ensures the uniqueness of the inversion. Since the Optional Stopping Theorem for continuous martingales allows us to work with right-continuous filtrations, here one modifies the definition of  $T(t)$  to make it right-continuous (which is achieved by replacing " $\leq t$ " in (18.7) by " $> t$ "). The general time-change result of above type can be found as Theorem 4.6 in Karatzas and Shreve.

As a final remark concerning the above results, we welcome the reader to compare them with the so called *Skorokhod embedding* which says that every discrete time martingale can be embedded into a path of standard Brownian motion using a sequence of stopping times. Besides elegance, this fact is very useful in proving the so called Martingale Functional Central Limit Theorem.

## 18.2 Representation via a stochastic integral.

While time change to Brownian motion is definitely a very useful tool, at times it suffices to represent the continuous martingale only as a stochastic integral with respect to Brownian motion. Here is a result in this vein:

**Theorem 18.4** *Given a probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  and a filtration  $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$  with  $\mathcal{F}_0$  containing all  $P$ -null sets, let  $M \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{loc}}^{\text{cont}}$  be adapted to  $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$  and such that  $t \mapsto \langle M \rangle_t$  is absolutely continuous a.s. Unless  $\langle M \rangle$  is strictly increasing a.s., suppose in addition that the probability space supports a standard Brownian motion  $\{\tilde{B}_t: t \geq 0\}$  which is adapted to  $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$  and independent of  $M$ . Then there exists a standard Brownian motion  $\{B_t: t \geq 0\}$  and a version of the Lebesgue derivative of  $s \mapsto \langle M \rangle_s$  that lies in  $\mathcal{V}_B^{\text{loc}}$  such that*

$$\forall t \geq 0: \quad M_t = M_0 + \int_0^t \sqrt{\frac{d\langle M \rangle_s}{ds}} dB_s \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (18.24)$$

*In short, every continuous local martingale with absolutely continuous quadratic variation is an Itô integral with respect to standard Brownian motion.*

For the proof, we need:

**Lemma 18.5** (Substitution rule for Itô integrals) *Assume the filtration  $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$  is such that  $\{P\text{-null sets}\} \subseteq \mathcal{F}_0$ . Given  $M \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{loc}}^{\text{cont}}$  and  $X \in \mathcal{V}_M^{\text{loc}}$ , let  $N \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{loc}}^{\text{cont}}$  be such that*

$$\forall t \geq 0: \quad N_t = \int_0^t X_s dM_s \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (18.25)$$

Then for all  $Y \in \mathcal{V}_N^{\text{loc}}$  we have  $XY \in \mathcal{V}_M^{\text{loc}}$  and

$$\forall t \geq 0: \int_0^t X_s Y_s dM_s = \int_0^t Y_s dN_s \quad \text{a.s.} \quad (18.26)$$

In short, the substitution rule  $dN_t = X_s dM_s$  applies.

*Proof.* Suppose first that  $Y_s := Y_u 1_{(u,v]}(s)$  with  $Y_u$  bounded. Then for  $X \in \mathcal{V}_0$  such that (without loss of generality)  $u$  and  $v$  belong among the partition points, we readily check

$$\int_0^t X_s Y_s dM_s = Y_u \int_u^v X_s dM_s = Y_u (N_{t \wedge v} - N_{t \wedge u}) \quad (18.27)$$

using the explicit formula for the integral.

Next take a sequence  $\{X^{(n)}\} \in \mathcal{V}_0^{\mathbb{N}}$  with  $\int_0^t (X_s^{(n)} - X_s)^2 d\langle M \rangle_s \rightarrow 0$  in probability for all  $t \geq 0$ . Lemma 16.10 then gives

$$\forall r \geq 0: \int_0^r X_s^{(n)} dM_s \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{P} \int_0^r X_s dM_s = N_r \quad (18.28)$$

and, since also  $\int_0^t Y_s^2 (X_s^{(n)} - X_s)^2 d\langle M \rangle_s \rightarrow 0$  in probability, we similarly get

$$\forall t \geq 0: \int_0^t X_s^{(n)} Y_s dM_s \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{P} \int_0^t X_s Y_s dM_s \quad (18.29)$$

It follows (18.27) holds a.s. for each  $X \in \mathcal{V}_M^{\text{loc}}$ .

Combining (18.27) with

$$Y_u (N_{t \wedge v} - N_{t \wedge u}) = \int_0^t Y_s dN_s \quad (18.30)$$

proves (18.26) for  $Y$  as above. Additivity then extends this to all  $Y \in \mathcal{V}_0$ . We now perform another extension by picking up  $\{Y^{(n)}\} \in \mathcal{V}_0$  such that  $\int_0^t (Y_s^{(n)} - Y_s)^2 d\langle N \rangle_s \rightarrow 0$  in probability for each  $t \geq 0$ . (This is possible because  $Y \in \mathcal{V}_N^{\text{loc}}$ .) By the substitution rule

$$d\langle N \rangle_s = X_s^2 d\langle M \rangle_s \quad (18.31)$$

for ordinary Lebesgue-Stieltjes integrals, this gives  $\int_0^t X_s^2 (Y_s^{(n)} - Y_s)^2 d\langle M \rangle_s \rightarrow 0$  in probability for each  $t \geq 0$  showing that  $XY \in \mathcal{V}_M$ . The equality  $\int_0^t X_s Y_s^{(n)} dM_s = \int_0^t Y_s^{(n)} dN_s$  proved earlier, then yields (18.26) for all  $Y \in \mathcal{V}_N^{\text{loc}}$  as desired.  $\square$

We are now ready to give:

*Proof of Theorem 18.4.* Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  be a probability space supporting a continuous local martingale  $\{M_t : t \geq 0\}$  and a standard Brownian motion  $\{\tilde{B}_t : t \geq 0\}$  with both of these adapted to a filtration  $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$  such that  $\mathcal{F}_0$  contains all  $P$ -null sets. Let

$$\Omega_0 := \{t \mapsto \langle M \rangle_t \text{ is AC}\} \quad (18.32)$$

and note that, since absolute continuity of  $\langle M \rangle$  amounts to a countable number of conditions involving differences of  $\langle M \rangle$  over intervals of time with rational endpoints, we have  $\Omega_0 \in \mathcal{F}$ . By our assumptions,  $\Omega_0 \in \mathcal{F}_0$ .

On  $\Omega_0$ , for each  $t > 0$  abbreviate

$$\tilde{Y}_t := \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\langle M \rangle_t - \langle M \rangle_{t-1/n})n \quad (18.33)$$

and for all  $t \geq 0$  set

$$Y_t := \begin{cases} \tilde{Y}_t, & \text{if } t > 0 \wedge \tilde{Y}_t < \infty, \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (18.34)$$

We put  $Y_t := 0$  for all  $t \geq 0$  on  $\Omega_0$ . Clearly,  $Y$  is non-negative, jointly measurable and, thanks to the use of a left limit, adapted to  $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ . Moreover,  $Y_t$  is the left derivative of  $\langle M \rangle$  at  $t$  whenever this derivative exists. The absolute continuity along with the Lebesgue differentiation theorem then give

$$\forall t \geq 0: \int_0^t Y_s ds = \langle M \rangle_t \quad \text{on } \Omega_0. \quad (18.35)$$

In particular,  $Y$  is an adapted, jointly measurable version of  $\frac{d\langle M \rangle_t}{dt}$ .

Next define  $\{B_t : t \geq 0\}$  by

$$B_t := \int_0^t \frac{1}{\sqrt{Y_s}} 1_{\{Y_s > 0\}} dM_s + \int_0^t 1_{\{Y_s = 0\}} d\tilde{B}_s, \quad (18.36)$$

where we assumed the use of continuous versions of the stochastic integrals. The properties of the stochastic integral imply  $B \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{loc}}^{\text{cont}}$  with

$$\langle B \rangle_t = \int_0^t \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{Y_s}} \right)^2 1_{\{Y_s > 0\}} d\langle M \rangle_s + \int_0^t 1_{\{Y_s = 0\}} ds \quad (18.37)$$

It is here that we use that  $\tilde{B}$  is independent of  $M$  and thus  $\langle M, \tilde{B} \rangle_t = 0$  for all  $t \geq 0$ . On  $\Omega_0$  we have  $Y_s = \frac{d\langle M \rangle_s}{ds}$  at Lebesgue a.e.  $s \geq 0$ , which allows to perform the substitution  $d\langle M \rangle_s = Y_s ds$  showing that the first integral equals  $\int_0^t 1_{\{Y_s > 0\}} ds$ . Combining this with the second integral, we conclude  $\langle B \rangle_t = t$  a.s. (The null set does not depend on  $t$  by continuity of both sides.) By Theorem 18.1,  $B$  is a standard Brownian motion.

To conclude the proof, we now observe that, by a mild extension of the substitution rule from Lemma 18.5,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^t \sqrt{Y_s} dB_s &= \int_0^t \sqrt{Y_s} \frac{1}{\sqrt{Y_s}} 1_{\{Y_s > 0\}} dM_s + \int_0^t \sqrt{Y_s} 1_{\{Y_s = 0\}} d\tilde{B}_s \\ &= \int_0^t \sqrt{Y_s} \frac{1}{\sqrt{Y_s}} 1_{\{Y_s > 0\}} dM_s = \int_0^t 1_{\{Y_s > 0\}} dM_s, \end{aligned} \quad (18.38)$$

where we dropped the second integral on the right of the first line because the integrand vanishes and then simplified the integrand in the first integral. In light of the fact that

$$\int_0^t (1 - 1_{\{Y_s > 0\}})^2 d\langle M \rangle_s = \int_0^t 1_{\{Y_s = 0\}} Y_s ds = 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega_0 \quad (18.39)$$

the very last integral in (18.38) equals  $\int_0^t dM_s = M_t - M_0$  a.s. This proves (18.24) and thus the whole claim.  $\square$

Note that the role of the auxiliary Brownian motion  $\tilde{B}$  is to make the variance grow even on intervals where  $\langle M \rangle$ , and thus also  $M$  are constant. No such intervals exist when  $\langle M \rangle$  is strictly increasing throughout, in which case  $\tilde{B}$  is not needed.

We also note that the above theorem extends to  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -valued martingales. An additional difficulty is that the quadratic variation  $\langle M, M \rangle$  is matrix valued and so is thus its adapted, jointly-measurable time derivative  $Y$ . We then strive to write  $dM_t = U_t D_t dB_t$  where  $D_t$  is a diagonal matrix and  $U_t$  is an orthogonal matrix such that  $Y_t = U_t (D_t)^2 U_t^+$ . This is done by polar decomposition with a pesky detail is that we need also  $D$  and  $U$  to be adapted and jointly measurable. We refer the reader to Theorem 4.2 in Section 3.4A of Karatzas-Shreve.

Further reading: Section 3.3B and 3.4A of Karatzas-Shreve