

Spring School “Finance and Insurance – Stochastic Analysis and Practical Methods”  
March 2–13, 2009, Jena

# Variational inequalities driven by Lévy processes

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# Lévy processes

Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  be a complete probability space. A  $d$ -dimensional stochastic process  $(L_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is called a *Lévy process* if:

1. it is *càdlàg*, *i.e.*  $t \mapsto L_t$  is right continuous and has finite left limits a.s.;
2. it is *stochastically continuous*, *i.e.*  $t \mapsto L_t$  is continuous in probability;
3. the random variables  $L_{t_0}, L_{t_1} - L_{t_0}, \dots, L_{t_n} - L_{t_{n-1}}$  are independent, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$  and  $0 \leq t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n$ ;
4.  $L_{t+s} - L_t$  has the same law as  $L_s$ , for every  $t, s \geq 0$ ; in particular,  $L_0 = 0$  a.s.

The law of a Lévy process  $(L_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is determined by the *characteristic exponent* of  $L$ , i.e. the unique continuous function  $\Psi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\Psi(0) = 0$  and

$$\mathbb{E} \exp(i \langle \lambda, L_t \rangle) = \exp(-t \Psi(\lambda)), \quad t \geq 0, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

By the Lévy-Khintchine formula for infinitely divisible distributions,  $\Psi$  has the following form:

$$(1) \quad \Psi(\lambda) = i \langle a, \lambda \rangle + \frac{1}{2} Q(\lambda) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \left( 1 - e^{i \langle \lambda, x \rangle} + i \langle \lambda, x \rangle \mathbf{1}_{\{|x| < 1\}} \right) \nu(dx),$$

where  $a \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $Q$  is a positive semi-definite quadratic form on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $\nu$  is a measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}$  such that

$$\int \left( 1 \wedge |x|^2 \right) \nu(dx) < +\infty.$$

The measure  $\nu$  is called the *Lévy measure* associated to  $L$ .

For every function  $\Psi$  given by the formula (1), there exists a Lévy process with characteristic exponent  $\Psi$ .

## Examples:

- if  $\Psi(\lambda) := \frac{1}{2} |\lambda|^2$ , then  $L$  is a **Brownian motion**;
- if  $\Psi(\lambda) := c(1 - e^{i\lambda})$ , then  $L$  is a **Poisson process** of intensity  $c > 0$ ;
- A generalization of a Poisson process is the following:

Let  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n, \dots$  be independent random variables with the same distribution  $\nu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}$ , and

$$S(n) := \xi_1 + \dots + \xi_n$$

the corresponding **random walk**. If  $(N_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is a Poisson process of intensity  $c > 0$ , then the process

$$S \circ N_t = \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} \xi_i$$

is a Lévy process, called a **compound Poisson process** with Lévy measure  $c\nu$ .

The characteristic exponent of  $S \circ N_t$  is

$$\psi(\lambda) = c \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(1 - e^{i\langle \lambda, x \rangle}\right) \nu(dx);$$

so, every Lévy process with a finite Lévy measure can be represented as the sum of a Brownian motion and an independent compound Poisson process.

**Definition.** Let  $\nu$  be a  $\sigma$ -finite measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . A random measure  $N(\omega, dt, dz)$  is a *homogeneous Poisson random measure* with intensity  $\nu$ , if:

- i) for each  $\omega \in \Omega$ ,  $N(\omega, \cdot, \cdot)$  is a measure on  $\mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d$ ;
- ii) for each set  $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d)$  with  $(dt \otimes \nu)(B) < +\infty$ , the random variable  $N(\cdot, B)$  is Poisson with parameter  $(dt \otimes \nu)(B)$ ;
- iii) if  $B_1, \dots, B_n$  are disjoint Borel sets of  $\mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d$ , then  $N(\cdot, B_1), \dots, N(\cdot, B_n)$  are independent.

The *compensated random measure* of  $N$

$$\tilde{N}(dt, dz) := N(dt, dz) - dt \otimes \nu(dz)$$

has the property that  $t \mapsto \tilde{N}([0, t], A)$  is a martingale for every  $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with  $\nu(A) < +\infty$ .

If  $L$  is a Lévy process on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with Lévy measure  $\nu$ , then its *jump counting measure*, defined by

$$N(t, A) := \sum_{0 < s \leq t} \mathbf{1}_A(\Delta L_s), \quad t > 0, \quad A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ with } 0 \notin \bar{A},$$

is a homogeneous Poisson random measure with intensity  $\nu$ , and the following holds:

$$(2) \quad L_t = bt + \sigma W_t + \int_{\{|z| < 1\}} z \tilde{N}_t(dz) + \int_{\{|z| \geq 1\}} z N_t(dz),$$

where  $b \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ , and  $W$  is a Brownian motion independent of  $N$ .

# Jump-diffusions

Jump-diffusions are generalizations of SDEs driven by Lévy processes. Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  be a complete probability space endowed with a right-continuous, complete filtration  $\mathbb{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ ,  $W$  a  $d'$ -dimensional  $\mathbb{F}$ -Brownian motion, and  $N$  a Poisson random measure with intensity  $\nu$ ,  $\mathbb{F}$ -adapted and independent of  $W$ . Let us consider  $b : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times d'}$ ,  $\gamma : \mathbb{R}^n \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  satisfying the following assumptions:

**(H1)**  $b$  and  $\sigma$  are Lipschitz functions;

**(H2)**  $\gamma$  is a measurable function with

$$\int |\gamma(0, z)|^2 \nu(dz) < +\infty \text{ and } \int |\gamma(x, z) - \gamma(x', z)|^2 \nu(dz) \leq L |x - x'|^2.$$

**Theorem** (Gihman, Skorohod, 1972). Under the above assumptions, equation

$$dX_t = b(X_t) dt + \sigma(X_t) dW_t + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \gamma(X_{t-}, z) d\tilde{N}_t(dz)$$

has a unique solution starting at  $\xi \in L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_0, P)$ .



# Reflected jump-diffusions

Let  $O$  be an open, convex and bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Under assumptions (H1),

(H2)' for every  $p \geq 2$ , we have

$$\int |\gamma(0, z)|^p \nu(dz) \leq C_p \text{ and } \int |\gamma(x, z) - \gamma(x', z)|^p \nu(dz) \leq C_p |x - x'|^p.$$

and

(H3)  $x + \gamma(x, z) \in \bar{O}$ ,  $\forall x \in \bar{O}$ ,

Menaldi, Robin (1985) proved that equation

$$dX_t = b(X_t) dt + \sigma(X_t) dW_t + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \gamma(X_{t-}, z) d\tilde{N}_t(dz) - dK_t,$$

where  $K$  is the reflecting process of  $X$  on the boundary of  $O$ , admits a unique solution with given initial starting point  $x \in \bar{O}$ .

# Variational inequalities

Let  $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  be a proper, l.s.c., convex function with  $\text{int}(\text{Dom } \varphi) \neq \emptyset$ .  
The subdifferential of  $\varphi$  is defined by

$$\partial\varphi(x) := \{x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \langle x^*, y - x \rangle + \varphi(x) \leq \varphi(y), \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^n\}.$$

In the case  $\varphi \equiv I_{\overline{O}} : x \mapsto \begin{cases} 0, & x \in \overline{O}; \\ +\infty, & x \notin \overline{O}, \end{cases}$  the subdifferential is given by

$$\partial I_{\overline{O}}(x) = \begin{cases} \{0\}, & x \in O; \\ N_{\overline{O}}(x), & x \in \text{bd } O; \\ \emptyset, & x \notin \overline{O}. \end{cases}$$

We consider the following equation

$$(3) \quad dX_t + \partial\varphi(X_t) dt \ni b(X_t) dt + \sigma(X_t) dW_t + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \gamma(X_{t-}, z) d\tilde{N}_t(dz),$$

We denote by  $D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^n)$  the class of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ -valued, càdlàg functions on  $[0, T]$ , endowed with the uniform convergence topology. We say that  $(X, K) \in L^2_{\text{ad}}(\Omega; D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^n)) \times L^2_{\text{ad}}(\Omega; C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^n))$  is a solution of (3) if:

- $\varphi(X) \in L^1(\Omega \times [0, T])$ ;
- $K \in L^1(\Omega; BV_0([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^n))$ ;
- $X_t + K_t = \int_0^t b(X_s) ds + \int_0^t \sigma(X_s) dW_s + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \gamma(X_{s-}, z) d\tilde{N}_s(dz)$ ;
- $\int_0^T \langle y(r) - X_r, dK_r \rangle + \int_0^T \varphi(X_r) dr \leq \int_0^T \varphi(y(r)) dr, \forall y \in D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^n)$ .

Asiminoaei, Răşcanu (1997): case  $\gamma \equiv 0$ .

**Theorem (Uniqueness).** Under assumptions (H1), (H2), equation (3) has at most one solution starting from  $x \in \text{Dom } \varphi$ .

For the proof, we consider two solutions  $(X, K)$  and  $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{K})$ , and a well chosen  $C^2$ -function  $\beta : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $\beta(x) = |x|^2$  for  $|x| \leq 1$  and  $\beta(x) = O(|x|)$  as  $|x| \rightarrow +\infty$ . We also denote

$$\mathcal{D}_\beta^0(x; a) := \beta(x + a) - \beta(x); \quad \mathcal{D}_\beta^1(x; a) := \beta(x + a) - \beta(x) - \langle \nabla \beta(x), a \rangle.$$

We apply Itô's formula to  $\beta(X_t - \tilde{X}_t)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \beta(X_t - \tilde{X}_t) + \int_0^t \langle \nabla \beta(X_s - \tilde{X}_s), dK_s - d\tilde{K}_s \rangle \\ & \leq \int_0^t \langle \nabla \beta(X_s - \tilde{X}_s), b(X_s) - b(\tilde{X}_s) \rangle ds + \int_0^t \langle \nabla \beta(X_s - \tilde{X}_s), \sigma(X_s) - \sigma(\tilde{X}_s) dW_s \rangle \\ & + \int_0^t |\sigma(X_s) - \sigma(\tilde{X}_s)|^2 ds \\ & + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \mathcal{D}_\beta^0 \left( X_{s-} - \tilde{X}_{s-}; \gamma(X_{s-}, z) - \gamma(\tilde{X}_{s-}, z) \right) d\tilde{N}_s(dz) \\ & + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \mathcal{D}_\beta^1 \left( X_s - \tilde{X}_s; \gamma(X_s, z) - \gamma(\tilde{X}_s, z) \right) \nu(dz) ds. \end{aligned}$$

For the existence result, we impose the condition ( $q \geq 1$ )

$$\text{(H3)'} \quad \varphi(x + \gamma(x, z)) \leq \varphi(x) + C_\gamma (1 + |\gamma(x, z)|^q), \quad \forall (x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}).$$

**Theorem** (Existence). Under assumptions (H1), (H2)', (H3)', equation (3) has a unique solution starting from  $x_0 \in \text{Dom } \varphi$ .

The proof of this result uses the penalization method. We consider the Yosida regularization of  $\varphi$

$$\varphi_\varepsilon(x) := \inf \left\{ \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} |x - y|^2 + \varphi(y) \mid y \in \mathbb{R}^n \right\}, \quad \varepsilon > 0,$$

which is a  $C^1$ , convex function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , with  $\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon$  a Lipschitz function with Lipschitz constant equal to  $1/\varepsilon$ . Moreover, by (H3)',

$$\varphi_\varepsilon(x + \gamma(x, z)) \leq \varphi_\varepsilon(x) + C_\gamma (1 + |\gamma(x, z)|^q);$$

also, for simplicity, we can assume that  $\varphi(x) \geq \varphi(0) = 0$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $0 \in \text{int}(\text{Dom } \varphi)$ .

We consider the jump-diffusion  $X^\varepsilon$  given by

$$dX_t^\varepsilon + \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(X_t^\varepsilon) dt = b(X_t^\varepsilon) dt + \sigma(X_t^\varepsilon) dW_t + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \gamma(X_{t-}^\varepsilon, z) d\tilde{N}_t(dz).$$

We will show that  $X^\varepsilon$  and  $K_t^\varepsilon := \int_0^t \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(X_s^\varepsilon) ds$  converge to  $X$  and  $K$ .

## I. Boundedness of $(X^\varepsilon)$ and $(K^\varepsilon)$

Itô's formula for  $|X_t^\varepsilon|^2$

$$\begin{aligned} |X_t^\varepsilon|^2 + 2 \int_0^t \langle X_s^\varepsilon, \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(X_s^\varepsilon) \rangle ds &= |x_0|^2 + \int_0^t [2\langle X_s^\varepsilon, b(X_s^\varepsilon) \rangle + |\sigma(X_s^\varepsilon)|^2] ds \\ &+ \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} |\gamma(X_s^\varepsilon, z)|^2 \nu(dz) ds + 2 \int_0^t \langle X_s^\varepsilon, \sigma(X_s^\varepsilon) dW_s \rangle \\ &+ \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \left[ |X_{s-}^\varepsilon + \gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)|^2 - |X_{s-}^\varepsilon|^2 \right] d\tilde{N}_s(dz). \end{aligned}$$

We obtain, since  $\varphi_\varepsilon(x) \leq \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(x), x \rangle$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |X_t^\varepsilon|^4 \vee \mathbb{E} \left( \int_0^T \varphi_\varepsilon(X_s^\varepsilon) ds \right)^2 \leq C \left( 1 + |x_0|^4 \right).$$

Also,  $\exists r_0 > 0$ ,  $\exists M_0 > 0$  :  $r_0 |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(x)| \leq \langle x, \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(x) \rangle + M_0$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ; it follows that

$$\mathbb{E} \|K^\varepsilon\|_{BV([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^n)}^2 = \mathbb{E} \left( \int_0^T |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(X_s^\varepsilon)| ds \right)^2 \leq C \left( 1 + |x_0|^4 \right).$$

## II. Estimate for $\mathbb{E} [\sup_{t \in [0, T]} |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon (X_t^\varepsilon)|^4]$

Itô's formula for  $\varphi_\varepsilon^2 (X_t^\varepsilon)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\varphi_\varepsilon^2 (X_t^\varepsilon) &+ \int_0^t \varphi_\varepsilon (X_s^\varepsilon) |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon (X_s^\varepsilon)|^2 ds \leq \varphi_\varepsilon (x_0)^2 + 2 \int_0^t \varphi_\varepsilon (X_s^\varepsilon) \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon (X_s^\varepsilon), b (X_s^\varepsilon) \rangle ds \\
&+ \int_0^t |\nabla \varphi_\varepsilon (X_s^\varepsilon)|^2 |\sigma (X_s^\varepsilon)|^2 ds + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_0^t \varphi_\varepsilon (X_s^\varepsilon) |\sigma (X_s^\varepsilon)|^2 ds \\
&+ \int_0^t \varphi_\varepsilon (X_s^\varepsilon) \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon (X_s^\varepsilon), \sigma (X_s^\varepsilon) dW_s \rangle \\
&+ \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \mathcal{D}_{\varphi_\varepsilon^2}^0 (X_{s-}^\varepsilon; \gamma (X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)) d\tilde{N}_s (dz) \\
&+ \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \mathcal{D}_{\varphi_\varepsilon^2}^1 (X_s^\varepsilon; \gamma (X_s^\varepsilon, z)) \nu (dz) ds.
\end{aligned}$$

We have, since  $|\nabla\varphi_\varepsilon(x)|^2 \leq \frac{2}{\varepsilon}\varphi_\varepsilon(x)$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
|\mathcal{D}_{\varphi_\varepsilon^2}^0(X_{s-}^\varepsilon; \gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z))| &\leq \sup_{\mu \in [0,1]} 2|\nabla\varphi_\varepsilon(X_{s-}^\varepsilon + \mu\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z))| |\varphi_\varepsilon(X_{s-}^\varepsilon + \mu\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z))| |\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)| \\
&\leq \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\varepsilon^{1/2}} \sup_{\mu \in [0,1]} |\varphi_\varepsilon(X_{s-}^\varepsilon + \mu\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z))|^{3/2} |\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)| \\
&\leq \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\varepsilon^{1/2}} [\varphi_\varepsilon(X_{s-}^\varepsilon) + C(1 + |\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)|^q)]^{3/2} |\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)|; \\
|\mathcal{D}_{\varphi_\varepsilon^2}^1(X_s^\varepsilon; \gamma(X_s^\varepsilon, z))| &\leq \left( \sup_{\mu \in [0,1]} [|\nabla\varphi_\varepsilon(X_s^\varepsilon + \mu\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z))|^2] + \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\varphi_\varepsilon(X_s^\varepsilon) \right) |\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)|^2 \\
&\leq \frac{2}{\varepsilon} \sup_{\mu \in [0,1]} [\varphi_\varepsilon(X_s^\varepsilon + \mu\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z))] |\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)|^2 \\
&\leq \frac{2}{\varepsilon} [\varphi_\varepsilon(X_s^\varepsilon) + C(1 + |\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)|^q)] |\gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z)|^2.
\end{aligned}$$

This will give the following estimate:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |\nabla\varphi_\varepsilon(X_t^\varepsilon)|^4 \right] \leq \frac{C}{\varepsilon^{7/2}} \left( 1 + |x_0|^{q'} + \varphi(x_0)^2 \right).$$



### III. Cauchy sequences argument

Itô's formula for  $|X^\varepsilon - X^\delta|^2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
& |X_t^\varepsilon - X_t^\delta|^2 + 2 \int_0^t \langle X_s^\varepsilon - X_s^\delta, \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(X_s^\varepsilon) - \nabla \varphi_\delta(X_s^\delta) \rangle ds \\
&= \int_0^t [2 \langle X_s^\varepsilon - X_s^\delta, b(X_s^\varepsilon) - b(X_s^\delta) \rangle + |\sigma(X_s^\varepsilon) - \sigma(X_s^\delta)|^2] ds \\
&+ \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} |\gamma(X_s^\varepsilon, z) - \gamma(X_s^\delta, z)|^2 \nu(dz) ds \\
&+ 2 \int_0^t \langle X_s^\varepsilon - X_s^\delta, (\sigma(X_s^\varepsilon) - \sigma(X_s^\delta)) dW_s \rangle \\
&+ \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}} \left[ |X_{s-}^\varepsilon - X_{s-}^\delta + \gamma(X_{s-}^\varepsilon, z) - \gamma(X_{s-}^\delta, z)|^2 - |X_{s-}^\varepsilon - X_{s-}^\delta|^2 \right] d\tilde{N}_s(dz).
\end{aligned}$$

We use the fact that

$$\langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(x) - \nabla \varphi_\delta(y), x - y \rangle \geq -(\varepsilon + \delta) \langle \nabla \varphi_\varepsilon(x), \nabla \varphi_\delta(y) \rangle$$

to obtain that  $\mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |X_t^\varepsilon - X_t^\delta|^4 \rightarrow 0$  as  $\delta, \varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  and  $\mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |K_t^\varepsilon - K_t^\delta|^2 \rightarrow 0$ .

## IV. Passing to the limit

There exist  $X \in L^4_{\text{ad}}(\Omega; D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^n))$  and  $K \in L^2_{\text{ad}}(\Omega; C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^n))$  such that

$$\mathbb{E} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left[ |X_t^\varepsilon - X_t|^4 + |K_t^\varepsilon - K_t|^2 \right] \rightarrow 0$$

Since  $(K^\varepsilon)$  is also bounded in  $L^2(\Omega; BV_0([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^n))$ , it converges weakly to  $K$ . It is now a standard argument to show that  $(X, K)$  is a solution of equation (3).

# Perspectives

- relaxing the conditions on  $\gamma$ ;
- replacing  $\partial\varphi$  by a general maximal monotone operator;
- backward variational inequations;
- link with integro-differential variational inequations via optimal control or via Feynman-Kac formula.

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Thank you for your attention!