

# Convergence Rates of Random Walk Approximations of Forward-Backward SDEs

Christel Geiss (University of Jyväskylä)

joint work with

Philippe Briand, Céline Labart (Université Savoie Mont-Blanc)  
Stefan Geiss (University of Jyväskylä)

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## Forward Backward Stochastic Differential Equations (FBSDEs)

$$X_t = x + \int_0^t b(s, X_s) ds + \int_0^t \sigma(s, X_s) dB_s, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T$$

$$Y_t = g(X_T) + \int_t^T f(s, X_s, Y_s, Z_s) ds - \int_t^T Z_s dB_s$$

Replacing  $(B_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$  by a random walk  $(B_t^n)_{t \in [0, T]}$  what kind of convergence one can expect:

$$((Y_t^n)_{t \in [0, T]}, (Z_t^n)_{t \in [0, T]}) \rightarrow ((Y_t)_{t \in [0, T]}, (Z_t)_{t \in [0, T]})?$$

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Briand, Delyon and Mémin (2001)

If  $b, \sigma, f$  and  $g$  are Lipschitz and  $(B_t^n)_{t \in [0, T]}$  such that

$\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} |B_t^n - B_t| \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty,$  in probability, then

$$\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} |Y_t^n - Y_t|^2 + \int_0^T |Z_s^n - Z_s|^2 ds \rightarrow 0 \text{ when } n \rightarrow \infty \text{ in probability.}$$

## Random walk approximation of the Brownian motion

Let  $t_k := kh$ ,  $k = 0, \dots, n$  be a regular grid of  $[0, T]$ , where  $h = \frac{T}{n}$  and define

$$B_t^n := \sqrt{h} \sum_{j=1}^{[t/h]} \varepsilon_j, \quad (\varepsilon_j)_{j=1}^n \text{ i.i.d. Rademacher r.v.: } \mathbb{P}(\varepsilon_j = \pm 1) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$[B^n]_t = h \sum_{j=1}^n j \mathbf{1}_{(t_{j-1}, t_j]}(t) \quad \text{quadratic variation.}$$

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- **Donsker's Theorem:**

Convergence of the processes in the Skorokhod space  $D[0, T]$  :

$$(B_t^n)_{t \in [0, T]} \rightarrow (B_t)_{t \in [0, T]} \quad \text{in distribution.}$$

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- We get the **FBSΔE** (Forward-backward stochastic difference equation)

$$X_t^n = x + \int_{(0,t]} b(s, X_{s-}^n) d[B^n]_s + \int_{(0,t]} \sigma(s, X_{s-}^n) dB_s^n,$$

$$Y_t^n = g(X_T^n) + \int_{(t,T]} f(s, X_{s-}^n, Y_{s-}^n, Z_s^n) d[B^n]_s - \int_{(t,T]} Z_s^n dB_s^n, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T.$$

## BSDEs and BS $\Delta$ Es

$$Y_t = g(B_{s_1}, \dots, B_{s_K}) + \int_t^T f(s, Y_s, Z_s) ds - \int_t^T Z_s dB_s$$

*B d-dimensional  $d \geq 2$ ,  $\Rightarrow (B_t^n)$  does not possess the representation property.  
 $(M_t^n)$  is a martingale orthogonal to  $(B_t^n)$ :*

$$Y_t^n = g(B_{s_1}^n, \dots, B_{s_K}^n) + \int_{(t,T]} f(s, Y_{s^-}^n, Z_s^n) d[B^n]_s - \int_{(t,T]} Z_s^n dB_s^n - (M_T^n - M_t^n)$$

Cheridito and Stadje (2013): BSDEs and BS $\Delta$ Es

*f sub-quadratic growth in z, Lipschitz in y, g bounded and Lipschitz and  $(B_t^n)_{t \in [0,T]}$  such that*

$\mathbb{E}[\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} |B_t^n - B_t|^2] \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty$ , then

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left( |Y_t^n - Y_t| + \left| \int_0^t Z_s^n dB_s^n - \int_0^t Z_s dB_s \right| + |M_t^n| \right)^2 \right] \rightarrow 0 \text{ when } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

## Other results

Random walk schemes: convergence in probability or weak convergence:

- Nakayama (2002) (multidimensional), Toldo (2005) (with random terminal time), Numerical schemes: Ma, Protter, San Martín and Torres (2002) (path-dependent terminal condition), Peng, Xu (2008) (Implicit and explicit schemes for BSDEs) Mémin, Peng and Xu (2008), Martinez, San Martín and Torres (2011) (reflected BSDEs), Jańczak (2008, 2009) (generalized reflected BSDEs with random terminal time),...

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Time discretization schemes with  $L_2$  or  $L_p$ -rate ( $p \geq 2$ )

- Zhang (2004) Bouchard & Touzi (2004) ,..., Richou (2011), Lionnet & dos Reis & Szpruch (2016), S. Geiss & Ylinen (2018) (regularity of  $Y$ ), Han & Jentzen (2017), Chassagneux, Richou (2019), Sun et al. (2022),...

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Random walk schemes: with  $L_2$ -rate

- C.G., Labart, Luoto (2020, 2021)  
 $f$  Lipschitz,  $g$   $\varepsilon$ -Hölder continuous:

$$\sup_{0 \leq t < T} (\mathbb{E}|Y_t - Y_t^n|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq Cn^{-\frac{\varepsilon}{4}}, \left( \mathbb{E} \int_0^T |Z_t - Z_t^n|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq C_2 n^{-\beta} \text{ for } \beta \in (0, \frac{\varepsilon}{4})$$

# Why only $n^{-\frac{\varepsilon}{4}}$ ?

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- $B^n$  is constructed from  $B$  by Skorohod embedding:

$$(\mathbb{E}|B_T^n - B_T|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq Cn^{-\frac{1}{4}}$$

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- Changing the metric to improve the rate?

## Wasserstein distances

For  $r > 0$  put  $\psi_r(x) := e^{|x|^r} - 1$ . For a real random variable  $X$  we define the Orlicz norm

$$\|X\|_{\psi_r} := \inf\{a > 0 : \mathbb{E}[\psi_r(X/a)] \leq 1\}, \quad \inf \emptyset := +\infty.$$

Then for any  $p > 0$ ,

$$\|X\|_{L^p} \leq \left( \sup_{x>0} \left\{ \frac{x^{p \vee r}}{\psi_r(x)} \right\} \right)^{1/(p \vee r)} \|X\|_{\psi_r}.$$

For  $X, X'$  random variables with  $\text{law}(X) = \mu, \text{law}(X') = \nu$  and  $r \geq 1$ ,

$$W_{\psi_r}(\mu, \nu) = W_{\psi_r}(X, X') := \inf \{ \|Y - Y'\|_{\psi_r} : \text{law}(Y) = \mu, \text{law}(Y') = \nu \}.$$

is a metric, the **Wasserstein distance** associated to  $\psi_r$ .

## Wasserstein convergence rates for $B^n \rightarrow B$

Theorem 1 (Rio (2009))

$(X_k)_{k \geq 1}$  i.i.d. with

$$\mathbb{E}[X_1] = 0,$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X_1^2] = 1, \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{c|X_1|}] < +\infty \text{ for some } c > 0.$$

Let  $\mathcal{G} \sim N(0, 1)$ .

Then  $\exists C > 0$  such that, for  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$W_{\psi_1} \left( \frac{X_1 + \dots + X_n}{n^{1/2}}, \mathcal{G} \right) \leq C n^{-1/2}.$$

For  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $0 \leq t \leq s \leq T$  we put

$$B_s^{t,x} := x + B_s - B_t \quad B_s^{n,t,x} := x + B_s^n - B_t^n.$$

**Lemma 2** (Briand, C.G., S.Geiss, Labart (2021))

- ①  $\exists C > 0$  such that  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $0 \leq t \leq s \leq T$ ,

$$W_{\psi_1} (B_s^{n,t,x}, B_s^{t,x}) \leq C \sqrt{T} n^{-1/2}.$$

- ② If  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $\varepsilon$ -Hölder continuous ( $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$ ), then  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $0 \leq t \leq s \leq T$ ,

$$|\mathbb{E}[g(B_s^{n,t,x})] - \mathbb{E}[g(B_s^{t,x})]| \leq C \|g\|_\varepsilon n^{-\varepsilon/2},$$

for some  $C = C(T)$ .

$$Y_t = g(B_T) + \int_t^T f(s, B_s, Y_s, Z_s) ds - \int_t^T Z_s dB_s$$

## Assumption 1

$\exists \varepsilon, \alpha \in (0, 1]$ :

- ①  $g : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $\varepsilon$ -Hölder continuous:  $\forall x, x' \in \mathbb{R}$

$$|g(x) - g(x')| \leq \|g\|_\varepsilon |x - x'|^\varepsilon.$$

- ②  $f : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$   $\forall (t, x, y, z)$  and  $(t', x', y', z')$

$$\begin{aligned} & |f(t, x, y, z) - f(t', x', y', z')| \\ & \leq \|f_t\|_\alpha |t - t'|^\alpha + \|f_x\|_\varepsilon |x - x'|^\varepsilon + \|f\|_{\text{Lip}} (|y - y'| + |z - z'|). \end{aligned}$$

### Theorem 3 (Briand, C.G., S.Geiss, Labart (2021))

Assume that Assumption 1 holds. Then there exists a constant  $C_\varepsilon > 0$ , depending at most on  $(T, \alpha, \varepsilon, f, g)$  such that for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

- i)  $W_{\psi_{1/\varepsilon}}(Y_s^{n,t,x}, Y_s^{t,x}) \leq C_\varepsilon (1 + |x|)^\varepsilon n^{-(\alpha \wedge \frac{\varepsilon}{2})} \quad \text{for all } 0 \leq t \leq s \leq T,$
- ii)  $W_{\psi_{1/\varepsilon}}(Z_s^{n,t,x}, Z_s^{t,x}) \leq C_\varepsilon \frac{(1+|x|)^\varepsilon}{\sqrt{T-s}} n^{-(\alpha \wedge \frac{\varepsilon}{2})} \quad \text{for all } s \in [t, T[.$

In particular, for any  $p \in [1, \infty[,$  there exists a constant  $C_p > 0$ , depending at most on  $(T, \alpha, \varepsilon, f, g, p)$  such that for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

- i)  $W_p(Y_s^{n,t,x}, Y_s^{t,x}) \leq C_p (1 + |x|)^\varepsilon n^{-(\alpha \wedge \frac{\varepsilon}{2})} \quad \text{for all } 0 \leq t \leq s \leq T,$
- ii)  $W_p(Z_s^{n,t,x}, Z_s^{t,x}) \leq C_p \frac{(1+|x|)^\varepsilon}{\sqrt{T-s}} n^{-(\alpha \wedge \frac{\varepsilon}{2})} \quad \text{for all } s \in [t, T[.$

The rate is optimal: If  $g(x) = x$  and  $f = 0$  we have  $Y_T^{n,0,0} = B_T^n$  and  $Y_T^{0,0} = B_T$ , and it holds

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{\frac{1}{2}} W_1(Y_T^{n,0,0}, Y_T^{0,0}) \geq \frac{1}{2} T^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Idea of the proof: using the connection

$$\text{FBSDE} \iff \text{semilinear heat equation}$$

$$\text{FBS}\Delta\text{E} \iff \text{finite difference equation}$$

Idea of the proof: using the connection

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{FBSDE} & \iff & \text{semilinear heat equation} \\ \text{convergence} & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \text{FBS}\Delta\text{E} & \iff & \text{finite difference equation} \end{array}$$

FBSDE  $\iff$  semilinear heat equation

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u(t, x) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta u(t, x) + f(t, x, u(t, x), \nabla u(t, x)) = 0, \\ u(T, \cdot) = g, \end{cases} \quad (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}$$

is associated to the FBSDE

$$Y_t = g(B_T) + \int_t^T f(B_s, Y_s, Z_s) ds - \int_t^T Z_s dB_s, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T.$$

$$\Leftarrow: \quad Y_s = u(s, B_s) \text{ and } Z_s = \nabla u(s, B_s).$$

$\Rightarrow:$

$$\begin{aligned} u(t, x) &= \mathbb{E} \left[ g(B_T^{t,x}) + \int_t^T f(r, B_r^{t,x}, Y_r^{t,x}, Z_r^{t,x}) dr \right] \\ \nabla u(t, x) &= \mathbb{E} \left[ g(B_T^{t,x}) \frac{B_T - B_t}{T - t} + \int_t^T f(r, B_r^{t,x}, Y_r^{t,x}, Z_r^{t,x}) \frac{B_r - B_t}{r - t} dr \right], \\ &\quad (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$

For the semilinear heat equation

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u(t, x) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta u(t, x) + f(t, x, u(t, x), \nabla u(t, x)) = 0, \\ u(T, \cdot) = g, \end{cases} \quad (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}$$

we define the **finite difference scheme** letting

$$\begin{aligned} L^h u(x) &:= \frac{1}{2h} \left( u(x + \sqrt{h}) + u(x - \sqrt{h}) - 2u(x) \right) \\ \nabla^h u(x) &:= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{h}} \left( u(x + \sqrt{h}) - u(x - \sqrt{h}) \right) \\ \partial_t^h u(t) &:= \frac{1}{h} (u(t + h) - u(t)) \end{aligned}$$

and  $t_k = kh$ . Then

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^h U^n(t_k, x) + L^h U^n(t_{k+1}, x) + f(t_{k+1}, x, U^n(t_k, x), \nabla^h U^n(t_{k+1}, x)) = 0, \\ k = 0, \dots, n-1 \\ U^n(t_n, x) = g(x). \end{cases}$$

FBSΔE  $\iff$  finite difference equation

finite difference equation

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FBSΔE

$$\begin{cases} Y_{t_k}^n = Y_{t_{k+1}}^n + h f\left(t_{k+1}, B_{t_k}^n, Y_{t_k}^n, Z_{t_{k+1}}^n\right) - \sqrt{h} Z_{t_{k+1}}^n \varepsilon_{k+1} \\ Y_T^n = g(B_T^n), \quad k = 0, \dots, n-1 \end{cases}$$

$\Leftarrow:$   $Y_{t_k}^n = U^n(t_k, B_{t_k}^n), \quad Z_{t_k}^n = \nabla^h U^n(t_k, B_{t_{k-1}}^n),$

$\Rightarrow:$

$$U^n(t, x) = \mathbb{E}g(B_T^{n,t,x}) + \mathbb{E} \int_{(t,T]} f(s, B_{s-}^{n,t,x}, Y_{s-}^{n,t,x}, Z_s^{n,t,x}) d[B^n]_s \quad 0 \leq t \leq T.$$

$$\nabla^h U^n(\underline{t} + h, x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ g(B_T^{n,t,x}) \frac{B_T^{n,t,x} - x}{T - \underline{t}} + \int_{(\underline{t}, T]} f(\dots) \frac{B_s^{n,t,x} - x}{s - \underline{t}} d[B^n]_s \right]$$

## Theorem 4

Under Assumption 1 there exists a constant  $C > 0$  depending at most on  $(T, \alpha, \varepsilon, f, g)$  such that for  $k = 0, \dots, n - 1$

- ①  $|u(t, x) - U^n(t_k, x)| \leq C (1 + |x|)^\varepsilon n^{-(\alpha \wedge \frac{\varepsilon}{2})}$  for all  $(t, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times [t_k, t_{k+1}]$ ,
  
- ②  $|\nabla u(t, x) - \nabla^h U^n(t_{k+1}, x)| \leq C \frac{(1 + |x|)^\varepsilon}{\sqrt{T-t}} n^{-(\alpha \wedge \frac{\varepsilon}{2})}$   
for all  $(t, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times [t_k, t_{k+1}]$ .

**Open question:** the path dependent case (How to construct Malliavin weights?)

First answer: approximation of the Brownian motion by random walk without Skorohod embedding.

**Theorem 5** (Briand, C.G., S.Geiss, Labart)

$(B_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$  on  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ . Then one can construct

- ① an extension  $(\Omega', \mathcal{F}', \mathbb{P}')$
- ②  $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n$  independent Rademacher rv such that for  $p \in (0, \infty)$

$$\left( \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}'} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |B_t - B_t^n|^p \right)^{1/p} \leq C \frac{\log n}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

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