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Université de La Rochelle
Avenue Michel Crépeau
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Laure Coutin, David Nualart et Ciprian A. Tudor

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Tanaka formula for the fractional Brownian motion

Laure Coutin*

Laboratoire de Statistique et de Probabilités
Universite Paul Sabatier
118 route de Narbonne
31062, Toulouse, France

David Nualart*,†

Facultat de Matemàtiques
Universitat de Barcelona
Gran Via 585, 08007, Barcelona
Spain

Ciprian A. Tudor

Départament de Matemàtiques
Université de La Rochelle
Avenue Michel Crépeau
17042 La Rochelle Cedex 1
France

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1 Introduction

The fractional Brownian motion (fBm) of Hurst parameter $H \in (0, 1)$ is a centered Gaussian process $B = \{B_t, t \geq 0\}$ with the covariance function (see [13])

$$E(B_t B_s) = \frac{1}{2} (s^{2H} + t^{2H} - |t - s|^{2H}). \quad (1)$$

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There has been a recent development in the stochastic calculus with respect to this process. Different approaches have been used to define stochastic integrals and to establish change-of-variable formulas (see, among others, [1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 19]). The purpose of this paper is to establish the following version of Tanaka's formula for the fractional Brownian motion, assuming $H > \frac{1}{3}$:

$$|B_t - a| = |a| + \int_0^t \text{sign}(B_s - a) dB_s + L_t^a. \quad (2)$$

The stochastic integral appearing in this formula coincides the divergence operator with respect to the fBm, and L_t^a is the density of the occupation measure $\Gamma \mapsto 2H \int_0^t 1_\Gamma(B_s) s^{2H-1} ds$. This result extends the classical Tanaka's formula for the Wiener process ($H = \frac{1}{2}$), where L_t^a is the local time of the Brownian motion, and the stochastic integral is an Itô integral.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 contains some preliminaries about the stochastic calculus with respect to the fractional Brownian motion. In Section 3 we show that the local time, defined formally as

$$L_t^a = 2H \int_0^t \delta_a(B_s) s^{2H-1} ds,$$

exists in $L^2(\Omega)$, and we compute its Wiener chaos expansion. Section 4 is devoted to establish Tanaka's formula and its application to a generalization of Itô's formula to convex functions.

2 Preliminaries

Let $B = \{B_t, t \in [0, T]\}$ be the fractional Brownian motion (fBm) with Hurst parameter $H \in (0, 1)$, that is, B is a zero mean Gaussian process with the covariance function

$$R(t, s) = \frac{1}{2} \left(s^{2H} + t^{2H} - |t - s|^{2H} \right).$$

We know that B admits an integral representation of the form

$$B_t = \int_0^t K(t, s) dW_s,$$

where $W = \{W_t, t \in [0, T]\}$ is a Wiener process, and $K(t, s)$ is the kernel (see [2, 6])

$$K(t, s) = c_H (t - s)^{H-\frac{1}{2}} + s^{H-\frac{1}{2}} F_1 \left(\frac{t}{s} \right), \quad (3)$$

c_H being a constant and

$$F_1(z) = c_H \left(\frac{1}{2} - H \right) \int_0^{z-1} \theta^{H-\frac{3}{2}} \left(1 - (\theta + 1)^{H-\frac{1}{2}} \right) d\theta.$$

This kernel satisfies the condition (see [13]):

$$\frac{\partial K}{\partial t}(t, s) = c_H \left(H - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{s}{t} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}-H} (t - s)^{H-\frac{3}{2}}. \quad (4)$$

It is possible to construct a stochastic calculus of variations with respect to the Gaussian process B , which will be related to the Malliavin calculus with respect to the Wiener process W . We refer to [2] for a complete exposition of this subject. We recall here the basic definitions and results of this calculus.

Let $I_n(f_n)$ denote the multiple stochastic integral of a symmetric kernel $f_n \in L^2([0, T]^n)$ with respect to the Wiener process W . Given a square integrable random variable $F \in L^2(\Omega)$ with the Wiener chaos expansion $F = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} I_n(f_n)$, we consider the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck operator

$$LF = - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n I_n(f_n).$$

If $p \in (1, \infty)$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ we define the Sobolev spaces $\mathbb{D}^{\alpha, p}$ as the closure of the set of polynomial random variables with respect to the norm

$$\|F\|_{\alpha, p} = \|(I - L)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} F\|_{L^p(\Omega)}.$$

We denote by D the derivative operator, defined on multiple integrals as $D_t(I_n(f_n)) = n I_{n-1}(f_n(\cdot, t))$. The operator D is continuous from $\mathbb{D}^{\alpha, p}$ into $\mathbb{D}^{\alpha-1, p}(L^2([0, T]))$. The adjoint of D is called the divergence operator, denoted by δ , and it is continuous from $\mathbb{D}^{\alpha, p}(L^2([0, T]))$ into $\mathbb{D}^{\alpha-1, p}$. We denote by $\text{Dom}\delta$ the domain of the divergence in $L^2(\Omega)$. The operator δ defined in $\text{Dom}\delta$ coincides with an extension of the Itô stochastic integral to

anticipating processes introduced by Skorohod in [18]. For this reason, the operator δ is also called the Skorohod integral, and denoted by

$$\delta(u) = \int_0^T u_s dW_s.$$

We can also develop a stochastic calculus for the fBm B . Now the basic Hilbert space $L^2([0, T])$ will be replaced by the Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space (RKHS) \mathcal{H} of the fBm, defined as the closure of the linear span of the indicator functions $\{1_{[0,t]}, t \in [0, T]\}$ with respect to the scalar product $\langle 1_{[0,t]}, 1_{[0,s]} \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} = R(t, s)$.

We denote by \mathcal{E} the set of step functions on $[0, T]$. Consider the linear operator K_T^* from \mathcal{E} to $L^2([0, T])$ defined by

$$(K_T^* \varphi)(s) = \varphi(s)K(T, s) + \int_s^T [\varphi(t) - \varphi(s)] \frac{\partial K}{\partial t}(t, s) dt.$$

In the case $H > \frac{1}{2}$, this operator can be simply written as

$$(K_T^* \varphi)(s) = \int_s^T \varphi(t) \frac{\partial K}{\partial t}(t, s) dt.$$

This operator satisfies the duality relationship (see Lemma 1 in [2])

$$\int_0^T (K_T^* \varphi)(t) h(t) dt = \int_0^T \varphi(t) (Kh)(dt),$$

for all $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}$ and $h \in L^2([0, T])$, where $(Kh)(t) = \int_0^t K(t, s) h(s) ds$.

As a consequence, the RKHS \mathcal{H} can be represented as the closure of \mathcal{E} with respect to the norm $\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{H}} = \|K_T^* \varphi\|_{L^2([0, T])}$, and the operator K_T^* is an isometry between \mathcal{H} and a closed subspace of $L^2([0, T])$, that is,

$$\mathcal{H} = (K_T^*)^{-1}(L^2([0, T])). \quad (5)$$

This isometry allows us to establish relationships among the derivative and divergence operators with respect to the processes W and B . We will add a superindex (or subindex) B to denote the spaces and operators for the process B . More precisely, we have:

- (i) $\mathbb{D}^{\alpha, p} = \mathbb{D}_B^{\alpha, p}$, and $K_T^* D^B F = DF$, for any $F \in \mathbb{D}^{\alpha, p}$.
- (ii) $\text{Dom} \delta^B = (K_T^*)^{-1}(\text{Dom} \delta)$, and $\delta^B(u) = \delta(K_T^* u)$ for any \mathcal{H} -valued random variable u in $\text{Dom} \delta^B$.

We will make use of the notation $\delta^B(v) = \int_0^T v_s dB_s$ for any $v \in \text{Dom } \delta^B$. Hence, if $u \in \text{Dom } \delta^B$, then

$$\int_0^T u_s dB_s = \int_0^T (K_T^* u)_s dW_s. \quad (6)$$

The random variable $\delta^B(v)$ can be interpreted as a stochastic integral defined as the limit of Riemann sums constructed using Wick products (see [2, 10]).

We recall the following basic lemma on the divergence operator:

Lemma 1 *Let u_n be a sequence of elements in $\text{Dom } \delta^B$ which converges to u in $L^2(\Omega; \mathcal{H})$. Suppose that $\delta^B(u_n)$ converges in $L^2(\Omega)$ to some square integrable random variable G . Then u belongs to the domain of δ^B and $\delta^B(u) = G$.*

We will denote by c a generic constant that may be different from one formula to another one. Moreover, by convention $K(t, s) = 0$ if $s > t$.

3 The local time of the fBm

Let $B = \{B_t, t \in [0, T]\}$ be the fBm with Hurst parameter $H \in (0, 1)$. We define the local time L_t^a of the process B as the density of the occupation measure

$$m_t(\Gamma) = 2H \int_0^t 1_\Gamma(B_s) s^{2H-1} ds.$$

It is well-known (see Berman [3] and Geman and Horowitz [9]) that the occupation measure $\Gamma \mapsto \int_0^t 1_\Gamma(B_s^H) ds$ has a density λ_t^a which has a continuous version in the variables a and t . More precisely (see Table 2 in [9]), λ_t^a has Hölder continuous paths of order $\delta < 1 - H$ in time, and of order $\gamma < \frac{1-H}{2H}$ in the space variable, provided $H \geq \frac{1}{3}$. Moreover, λ_t^a is absolutely continuous in a if $H < \frac{1}{3}$, it is continuously differentiable if $H < \frac{1}{5}$, and its smoothness in the space variable increase when H decreases. The local time L_t^a appearing in formula (2) is related with λ_t^a by the equality $L_t^a = 2H \int_0^t s^{2H-1} \lambda_s^a(ds)$, and the Hölder continuity properties of λ_t^a can be transferred to L_t^a . In fact, integrating by parts we can write

$$L_t^a = 2H t^{2H-1} \lambda_t^a - 2H(2H-1) \int_0^t s^{2H-2} \lambda_s^a ds.$$

Moreover, being the density of the occupation measure, L_t^a is a nondecreasing function of t , and the measure $L^a(dt)$ is concentrated on the level set $\{s : B_s = a\}$.

Let

$$p_\varepsilon(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\varepsilon}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2\varepsilon}} \quad (7)$$

be the heat kernel with variance $\varepsilon > 0$. We denote by H_n the n th Hermite polynomial defined for $n \geq 1$ by

$$H_n(x) = \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} e^{\frac{x^2}{2}} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}),$$

and $H_0(x) = 1$. Following the arguments of [16], in this section we will show the following result:

Proposition 2 *For each $a \in \mathbb{R}$, and $t \in [0, T]$, the random variables*

$$2H \int_0^t p_\varepsilon(B_s - a) s^{2H-1} ds$$

converge to L_t^a in $L^2(\Omega)$ as ε tends to zero. Furthermore the local time L_t^a has the following Wiener chaos expansion

$$L_t^a = 2H \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_0^t s^{(2-n)H-1} p_{s^{2H}}(a) H_n\left(\frac{a}{s^H}\right) I_n(K(s, \cdot)^{\otimes n}) ds. \quad (8)$$

Proof: Let us first compute the Wiener chaos expansion of $p_\varepsilon(B_s - a)$, for any $s > 0$. Stroock's formula (see [15]) says that any random variable F belonging to the space $\bigcap_{k \geq 1} \mathbb{D}^{k,2}$ has the chaos expansion

$$F = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} I_n[E(D^n F)], \quad (9)$$

where D^n denotes the n th iteration of the derivative operator D . We have

$$D^n [p_\varepsilon(B_s - a)] = p_\varepsilon^{(n)}(B_s - a) K(s, \cdot)^{\otimes n}. \quad (10)$$

By the semigroup property of the heat kernel,

$$E(p_\varepsilon(B_s - a)) = p_{s^{2H} + \varepsilon}(a). \quad (11)$$

As a consequence, using the recurrence formula for the Gaussian kernel

$$p_\epsilon^{(n)}(x) = (-1)^n n! \epsilon^{-\frac{n}{2}} p_\epsilon(x) H_n\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}\right),$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} E\left(p_\epsilon^{(n)}(B_s - a)\right) &= (-1)^n \frac{\partial^n}{\partial a^n} E(p_\epsilon(B_s - a)) \\ &= (-1)^n p_{s^{2H} + \epsilon}^{(n)}(a) \\ &= n! (s^{2H} + \epsilon)^{-\frac{n}{2}} p_{s^{2H} + \epsilon}(a) H_n\left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{s^{2H} + \epsilon}}\right). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Hence, applying (9) to $F = p_\epsilon(B_s - a)$ and using (10) and (12) yields

$$p_\epsilon(B_s - a) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_{n,\epsilon}(s) I_n(K(s, \cdot)^{\otimes n}), \quad (13)$$

where

$$\beta_{n,\epsilon}(s) = (s^{2H} + \epsilon)^{-\frac{n}{2}} p_{s^{2H} + \epsilon}(a) H_n\left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{s^{2H} + \epsilon}}\right). \quad (14)$$

From (13) we deduce the Wiener chaos expansion

$$\int_0^t p_\epsilon(B_s - a) s^{2H-1} ds = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_0^t \beta_{n,\epsilon}(s) I_n(K(s, \cdot)^{\otimes n}) s^{2H-1} ds.$$

We will prove that this expression multiplied by the factor $2H$ converges in $L^2(\Omega)$, as ϵ tends to zero to the right-hand side of (8). It is clear that for any $n \geq 0$, the multiple stochastic integral in the above expression converges in $L^2(\Omega)$, as ϵ tends to zero, to

$$\int_0^t s^{-nH} p_{s^{2H}}(a) H_n\left(\frac{a}{s^H}\right) I_n(K(s, \cdot)^{\otimes n}) s^{2H-1} ds.$$

Set

$$\alpha_{n,\epsilon} = E\left(\int_0^t \beta_{n,\epsilon}(s) I_n(K(s, \cdot)^{\otimes n}) s^{2H-1} ds\right)^2.$$

Then, it suffices to show that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{\epsilon > 0} \sum_{n \geq N} \alpha_{n,\epsilon} = 0. \quad (15)$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_{n,\varepsilon} &= n! \int_0^t \int_0^t E (I_n(K(u, \cdot)^{\otimes n}) I_n(K(v, \cdot)^{\otimes n})) \\
&\quad \times \beta_{n,\varepsilon}(u) \beta_{n,\varepsilon}(v) (uv)^{2H-1} dv du \\
&= 2n! \int_0^t \int_0^u R(u, v)^n \beta_{n,\varepsilon}(u) \beta_{n,\varepsilon}(v) (uv)^{2H-1} dv du. \quad (16)
\end{aligned}$$

We recall that

$$H_n(y) e^{-y^2/2} = (-1)^{[\frac{n}{2}]} 2^{n/2} \frac{2}{n! \sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^\infty s^n e^{-s^2} g(ys\sqrt{2}) ds,$$

where $g(r) = \cos r$ for n even, and $g(r) = \sin r$ for n odd. Majorizing $|g|$ by 1, we obtain the estimate

$$\begin{aligned}
|H_n(y) e^{-y^2/2}| &\leq \frac{2^{\frac{n}{2}+1}}{n! \sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^\infty s^n e^{-s^2} ds \\
&\leq \frac{c}{n(n-2)(n-4)\dots} \\
&\leq \frac{c}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} [\frac{n}{2}]!}.
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting this estimate in (14) yields

$$|\beta_{n,\varepsilon}(s)| \leq \frac{c}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} [\frac{n}{2}]!} s^{-(n+1)H},$$

and from (16) we can estimate the term $\alpha_{n,\varepsilon}$ as follows

$$\alpha_{n,\varepsilon} \leq c_n \int_0^t \int_0^u R(u, v)^n (uv)^{(1-n)H-1} dv du,$$

where $c_n = \frac{cn!}{2^n ([\frac{n}{2}]!)^2}$.

By the scaling property of the fBm we have $R(u, v) = R(1, \frac{v}{u}) u^{2H}$. Hence, making the change of variables $\frac{v}{u} = z$ yields

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^t \int_0^u R(u, v)^n (uv)^{(1-n)H-1} dv du &= \int_0^t \int_0^1 R(1, z)^n u^{2H-1} z^{(1-n)H-1} dz du \\
&= \frac{t^{2H}}{2H} \int_0^1 R(1, z)^n z^{(1-n)H-1} dz.
\end{aligned}$$

Suppose $H < \frac{1}{2}$. We claim that

$$\frac{R(1, z)}{z^H} = \left(\frac{1 + z^{2H} - (1 - z)^{2H}}{2z^H} \right) \leq z^H.$$

Indeed, the function $f(z) = 1 - z^{2H} - (1 - z)^{2H}$ is nonpositive in $[0, 1]$, because $f(1) = f(0) = 0$ and f is increasing in $[1/2, 1]$ and decreasing in $[0, 1/2]$. Hence,

$$\alpha_{n,\varepsilon} \leq \frac{c_n}{2(n+1)H},$$

and (15) holds because, by the Stirling formula, c_n behaves as $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$.

Suppose now $H > 1/2$. In order to show (15) it suffices to check that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \int_0^1 R(1, z)^n z^{(1-n)H-1} dz < \infty. \quad (17)$$

Notice that for any positive numbers $a < 1$ and $1 < p < 2$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} a^n \leq c_p \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a^{np} \right)^{1/p} \leq c_p \frac{1}{(1 - a^p)^{1/p}}.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \int_0^1 R(1, z)^n z^{(1-n)H-1} dz \\ & \leq c_p \int_0^1 \left[1 - (R(1, z)z^{-H})^p \right]^{-1/p} z^{H-1} dz < \infty, \end{aligned}$$

provided $p > 2H$, because in a neighbourhood of 1 the function

$$\left[1 - (R(1, z)z^{-H})^p \right]^{-1/p}$$

behaves as $p(1 - z)^{-2H/p}$, and (17) holds.

Finally we have to show that the limit of $2H \int_0^t p_\varepsilon(B_s - a) s^{2H-1} ds$, denoted by Λ_t^a is the local time L_t^a . The above estimates are uniform in $a \in \mathbb{R}$. Therefore, we can conclude that the convergence of $2H \int_0^t p_\varepsilon(B_s - a) s^{2H-1} ds$ to Λ_t^a holds in $L^2(\Omega \times \mathbb{R}, P \times \mu)$, for any finite measure μ . As a consequence, for any continuous function g in \mathbb{R} with compact support we have that

$$2H \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(\int_0^t p_\varepsilon(B_s - a) s^{2H-1} ds \right) g(a) da$$

converges in $L^2(\Omega)$ to $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \Lambda_t^a g(a) da$. But, this expression also converges to

$$2H \int_0^t g(B_s) s^{2H-1} ds.$$

Hence,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \Lambda_t^a g(a) da = 2H \int_0^t g(B_s) s^{2H-1} ds,$$

which implies that $\Lambda_t^a = L_t^a$. \square

Remark 1

In the particular case $a = 0$, we obtain the Wiener chaos expansion

$$L_t^0 = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int_0^t s^{(1-2k)H-1} \frac{\sqrt{2H}(-1)^k}{\sqrt{\pi 2^k k!}} I_{2k} \left(K(s, \cdot)^{\otimes 2k} \right) ds.$$

Remark 2

As in the paper [16] we can introduce the composition $\delta_a(B_s)$, which is a distribution on the Wiener space in the sense of Watanabe. Actually it belongs to the negative Sobolev space $\mathbb{D}^{-1,2}$, and it has the Wiener chaos expansion

$$\delta_a(B_s) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s^{-nH} p_{s^{2H}}(a) H_n \left(\frac{a}{s^H} \right) I_n \left(K(s, \cdot)^{\otimes n} \right).$$

Then, the local time can be formally written as

$$L_t^a = 2H \int_0^t \delta_a(B_s) s^{2H-1} ds.$$

Remark 3

If $H < \frac{1}{2}$, the proof of Proposition 1.1 shows that $\int_0^t \delta_a(B_s) s^{2H-1} ds$ belongs to the space $\mathbb{D}^{\alpha,2}$, for any $\alpha < 1/2$.

4 Tanaka formula for the fractional Brownian motion

Using the stochastic calculus for the fractional Brownian motion developed in the paper [2] we are able to deduce a Tanaka formula. We will consider first the case where the Hurst parameter is larger than $\frac{1}{2}$.

4.1 Case $H > \frac{1}{2}$

Theorem 3 Let $B = \{B_t, t \in [0, T]\}$ a fBm with parameter $H > \frac{1}{2}$. Then

$$|B_t - a| = |a| + \int_0^t \text{sign}(B_s - a) dB_s + L_t^a. \quad (18)$$

Proof: Consider the heat kernel $p_\varepsilon(x)$ introduced in (7) and define

$$F'_\varepsilon(x) = 2 \int_{-\infty}^x p_\varepsilon(y) dy - 1,$$

and

$$F_\varepsilon(x) = \int_0^x F'_\varepsilon(y) dy.$$

Notice that

$$F'_\varepsilon(x) = \left(1 - 2 \int_{|x|/\sqrt{\varepsilon}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \right) \text{sign} x. \quad (19)$$

Then $F'_\varepsilon(x)$ converges to $\text{sign}(x)$, and $F_\varepsilon(x)$ converges to $|x|$ as ε tends to zero. By Itô's formula of [2] we can write, for any fixed $a \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} F_\varepsilon(B_t - a) &= F_\varepsilon(-a) + \int_0^t K_t^* [F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a)] dW_s \\ &\quad + 2H \int_0^t p_\varepsilon(B_s - a) s^{2H-1} ds, \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where

$$K_t^* [F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a)] = \int_s^t F'_\varepsilon(B_r - a) \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s) dr.$$

Clearly $F_\varepsilon(B_t - a)$ converges to $|B_t - a|$ as ε tends to zero in $L^2(\Omega)$. We claim that

$$\{K_t^* [F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a)], s \in [0, t]\}$$

converges in $L^2([0, t] \times \Omega)$ to $\{K_t^* [\text{sign}(B_s - a)], s \in [0, t]\}$. In fact, for all $a \in \mathbb{R}$, and for all $t \geq s$ we have, by Jensen's inequality and the estimate (4)

$$\begin{aligned}
& E \int_0^t \left(\int_s^t |F'_\varepsilon(B_r - a) - \text{sign}(B_r - a)| \left| \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s) \right| dr \right)^2 ds \\
& \leq cE \int_0^t \left(\int_s^t |F'_\varepsilon(B_r - a) - \text{sign}(B_r - a)|^2 (r - s)^{H - \frac{3}{2}} dr \right) ds \\
& \leq cE \int_0^t |F'_\varepsilon(B_r - a) - \text{sign}(B_r - a)|^2 dr,
\end{aligned}$$

which clearly converges to zero as ε tends to zero.

The proof follows taking the limit in $L^2(\Omega)$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ in the equation (20), and using Lemma 1 and Proposition 2. \square

In the same way we can prove the following additional versions of Tanaka's formula:

$$(B_t - a)^+ = (-a)^+ + \int_0^t 1_{(a, \infty)}(B_s) dB_s + \frac{1}{2} L_t^a, \quad (21)$$

$$(B_t - a)^- = (-a)^- - \int_0^t 1_{(-\infty, a)}(B_s) dB_s + \frac{1}{2} L_t^a. \quad (22)$$

4.2 Case $\frac{1}{3} < H < \frac{1}{2}$

We begin with the following technical estimation.

Lemma 4 Fix $0 < s < t \leq T$ and $a \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$P(B_t < a, B_s > a) \leq C_{T,a} (t - s)^H s^{-2H}, \quad (23)$$

where $C_{T,a} = \left(\frac{T^H}{\sqrt{2\pi}} + \frac{\sqrt{2}|a|}{\sqrt{\pi}} \right)$.

Proof: We will make use of the decomposition

$$B_t = \frac{R(t, s)}{\sqrt{R(s, s)}} X + \sigma Y,$$

where $X = \frac{B_s}{\sqrt{R(s, s)}}$ and

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{R(t, t)R(s, s) - R(t, s)^2}{R(s, s)}.$$

Notice that X and Y are independent $N(0, 1)$ random variables. As a consequence,

$$P(B_t < a, B_s > a) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} 1_{\{\sqrt{R(s,s)}x > a\}} 1_{\{\sigma y + \frac{R(t,s)}{\sqrt{R(s,s)}}x < a\}} e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2}} dx dy.$$

We make the change of variables

$$x = r \cos \theta + \frac{a}{\sqrt{R(s,s)}},$$

$$y = r \sin \theta + \frac{a}{\sigma} \left(1 - \frac{R(s,t)}{R(s,s)} \right)$$

and we obtain

$$P(B_t < a, B_s > a) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty r dr \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\arg \tan -\frac{R(s,t)}{\sigma\sqrt{R(s,s)}}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}P(r,\theta)} d\theta, \quad (24)$$

where

$$P(r, \theta) = \left(r \cos \theta + \frac{a}{\sqrt{R(s,s)}} \right)^2 + \left(r \sin \theta + \frac{a}{\sigma} \left(1 - \frac{R(s,t)}{R(s,s)} \right) \right)^2.$$

Let

$$\rho^2 = \frac{1}{R(s,s)} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \left(1 - \frac{R(s,t)}{R(s,s)} \right)^2,$$

and consider a $\psi \in (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \rho \cos \psi &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{R(s,s)}}, \\ \rho \sin \psi &= \frac{1}{\sigma} \left(1 - \frac{R(s,t)}{R(s,s)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

With this notation we can write

$$\begin{aligned} P(r, \theta) &= r^2 + a^2 \rho^2 + 2ar\rho \cos(\theta - \psi) \\ &\geq (r - |a|\rho)^2, \end{aligned}$$

and we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty r e^{-\frac{1}{2}P(r,\theta)} dr &\leq \int_0^\infty r e^{-\frac{1}{2}(r-|a|\rho)^2} dr \\ &\leq e^{-\frac{1}{2}(|a|\rho)^2} + |a|\rho\sqrt{2\pi} =: c_\rho. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Substituting (25) into (24) yields

$$\begin{aligned} P(B_t < a, B_s > a) &\leq \frac{c_\rho}{2\pi} \left(\arg \tan -\frac{R(s,t)}{\sigma\sqrt{R(s,s)}} + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \\ &= \frac{c_\rho}{2\pi} \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \arg \tan \frac{R(s,t)}{\sigma\sqrt{R(s,s)}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Taking into account that for any $x > 0$ we have

$$\frac{\pi}{2} - \arg \tan \frac{1}{x} \leq x,$$

we can deduce the following estimate:

$$\begin{aligned} P(B_t < a, B_s > a) &\leq \frac{c_\rho\sigma\sqrt{R(s,s)}}{2\pi R(s,t)} \\ &= \frac{c_\rho}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{R(t,t)R(s,s)}{R(s,t)^2} - 1}. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

We have, using the decomposition $B_t = B_s + B_t - B_s$

$$\begin{aligned} R(t,t)R(s,s) - R(s,t)^2 &= E(B_t^2)E(B_s^2) - (E(B_t B_s))^2 \\ &= E((B_t - B_s)^2)E(B_s^2) - (E((B_t - B_s)B_s))^2 \\ &\leq E((B_t - B_s)^2)E(B_s^2), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$R(s,t) \geq \frac{1}{2}s^{2H}.$$

Hence,

$$\sqrt{\frac{R(t,t)R(s,s)}{R(s,t)^2} - 1} \leq \sqrt{2}(t-s)^H s^{-H}. \quad (27)$$

On the other hand, a simple computation yields

$$\rho^2 = \frac{E((B_t - B_s)^2)}{R(t, t)R(s, s) - R(s, t)^2},$$

and, consequently,

$$\rho \sqrt{\frac{R(t, t)R(s, s)}{R(s, t)^2} - 1} = \frac{\sqrt{E((B_t - B_s)^2)}}{R(s, t)} \leq 2(t - s)^H s^{-2H} \quad (28)$$

Substituting (27) and (28) into (26) we get

$$P(B_t < a, B_s > a) \leq \left(\frac{T^H}{\sqrt{2\pi}} + \frac{\sqrt{2}|a|}{\sqrt{\pi}} \right) (t - s)^H s^{-2H},$$

which completes the proof of the lemma. \square

Remark 4

In the case $a = 0$ the proof of the above lemma yields the explicit expression

$$P(B_t < 0, B_s > 0) = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2\pi} \arg \tan \frac{R(s, t)}{\sqrt{R(t, t)R(s, s) - R(t, s)^2}}.$$

Proposition 5 *Suppose that $\frac{1}{3} < H < \frac{1}{2}$. Then, the process*

$$\left\{ \int_s^t [F'_\varepsilon(B_r - a) - F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a)] \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s) dr, 0 \leq s \leq t \right\}$$

converges in $L^2([0, t] \times \Omega)$ to the process

$$\left\{ \int_s^t [\text{sign}(B_r - a) - \text{sign}(B_s - a)] \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s) dr, 0 \leq s \leq t \right\}$$

as ε tends to zero.

Proof: Notice first that

$$E \int_0^t \left(\int_s^t |\text{sign}(B_r - a) - \text{sign}(B_s - a)| \left| \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s) \right| dr \right)^2 ds < \infty. \quad (29)$$

Indeed, using the relationship

$$\text{sign}(B_r - a) - \text{sign}(B_s - a) = 2 \left(1_{\{B_r > a, B_s < a\}} - 1_{\{B_r < a, B_s > a\}} \right),$$

we obtain that the expectation in (29) is bounded by

$$4 \int_0^t \left(\int_s^t P(B_r < a, B_s > a)^{1/2} \left| \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s) \right| dr \right)^2 ds \\ + 4 \int_0^t \left(\int_s^t P(B_r > a, B_s < a)^{1/2} \left| \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s) \right| dr \right)^2 ds, \quad (30)$$

and applying the estimates (23) and (4), and using that $-B$ has the same distribution than B , we get that (30) is bounded by

$$c_{T,a} \int_0^t \left(\int_s^t (r-s)^{\frac{3H}{2}-\frac{3}{2}} s^{-H} dr \right)^2 ds,$$

which is finite because $H > \frac{1}{3}$. Thus (29) holds.

Using equation (19) we can write on the set $\{B_r < a, B_s > a\}$

$$[F'_\varepsilon(B_r - a) - \text{sign}(B_r - a)] = 2 \int_{|B_r - a|/\sqrt{\varepsilon}}^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz, \\ [F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a) - \text{sign}(B_s - a)] = -2 \int_{|B_s - a|/\sqrt{\varepsilon}}^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz$$

Similarly, on the set $\{B_r > a, B_s < a\}$ we have

$$[F'_\varepsilon(B_r - a) - \text{sign}(B_r - a)] = -2 \int_{|B_r - a|/\sqrt{\varepsilon}}^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz, \\ [F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a) - \text{sign}(B_s - a)] = 2 \int_{|B_s - a|/\sqrt{\varepsilon}}^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz .$$

Finally, on the set $\{B_r < a, B_s < a\} \cup \{B_r > a, B_s > a\}$ the difference $\text{sign}(B_r - a) - \text{sign}(B_s - a)$ cancels and we have by equation (19)

$$|F'_\varepsilon(B_r - a) - F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a)| \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left| \int_{\frac{(B_s - a)}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}}^{\frac{(B_r - a)}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \right|.$$

Notice that in the set $\{B_r < a, B_s < a\} \cup \{B_r > a, B_s > a\}$ the quantities $B_r - a$ and $B_s - a$ have the same sign. As a consequence, to complete the proof of the proposition it suffices to show that the following expressions

converge to zero as ε tends to zero:

$$\int_0^t \left(\int_s^t \left\| 1_{\{B_r < a, B_s > a\}} \int_{\min(|B_r - a|, |B_s - a|)/\sqrt{\varepsilon}}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \right\|_2 \right. \\ \left. \times \left| \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s) \right| dr \right)^2 ds, \quad (31)$$

$$\int_0^t \left(\int_s^t \left\| 1_{\{B_r > a, B_s > a\}} \int_{\frac{(B_s - a)}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}}^{\frac{(B_r - a)}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \right\|_2 \left| \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s) \right| dr \right)^2 ds. \quad (32)$$

The convergence to zero of (31) follows from the dominated convergence theorem. In order to show the convergence to zero of the term (32), we can write

$$\int_s^t \left\| 1_{\{B_r > a, B_s > a\}} \int_{\frac{(B_s - a)}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}}^{\frac{(B_r - a)}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \right\|_2 (r - s)^{H - \frac{3}{2}} dr \\ \leq \int_s^t \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}} P(a < B_r < z\sqrt{\varepsilon} + a, B_s > \max(z\sqrt{\varepsilon} + a, a))^{1/2} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \right) \\ \times (r - s)^{H - \frac{3}{2}} dr.$$

Clearly, for every $z \in \mathbb{R}$ and every $s < r$, the probability

$$P(a < B_r < z\sqrt{\varepsilon} + a, B_s > \max(z\sqrt{\varepsilon} + a, a))^{1/2} \quad (33)$$

converges to zero as ε tends to zero. By the dominated convergence theorem the integral of this probability with respect to the measure $e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} (r - s)^{H - \frac{3}{2}} dr dz$ tends to zero as ε tends to zero. Indeed, from the estimate (23) we obtain that (33) is bounded by

$$c_T (1 + |a| + |z|\sqrt{\varepsilon})^{1/2} (r - s)^{\frac{H}{2}} s^{-H}.$$

A further application of the dominated convergence theorem yields the convergence to zero of (32) as ε tends to zero. The proof of the proposition is complete. \square

The next theorem provides a Tanaka formula in the case for $1/3 < H < 1/2$.

Theorem 6 *Let $B = \{B_t, 0 \leq t \leq T\}$ be a fBm with parameter $\frac{1}{3} < H < \frac{1}{2}$. Then*

$$|B_t - a| = |a| + \int_0^t \text{sign}(B_s - a) dB_s + L_t^a \quad (34)$$

Proof: By the Itô formula established in [2] when $H > \frac{1}{4}$, we deduce that (20) holds for each $\varepsilon > 0$, where here

$$\begin{aligned} K_t^* [F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a)] &= K(t, s)F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a) \\ &+ \int_s^t [F'_\varepsilon(B_r - a) - F'_\varepsilon(B_s - a)] \frac{\partial K}{\partial r}(r, s)dr. \end{aligned}$$

Then the result follows by taking the limit as ε tends to zero in $L^2(\Omega)$, using Lemma 1 and Proposition 2. \square

As in the case $H > \frac{1}{2}$, we can also establish the formulas (21) and (22).

4.3 Itô formula for convex functions

We will assume in this section that $\frac{1}{3} < H < 1$. We recall that if a function f is convex, its second derivative f'' in the sense of distributions is a positive measure. Tanaka's formula for the fBm can be applied to derive a generalization of Itô's formula to a convex function f .

Proposition 7 *Suppose that f is a convex function such that the right derivative f'_+ is uniformly bounded. Then,*

$$f(B_t) = f(0) + \int_0^t f'_-(B_s)dB_s + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} L_t^a f''(da). \quad (35)$$

Proof: By our assumption on the derivative, the measure f'' has support contained in a compact interval J . We will use the following decomposition

$$f(x) = \alpha x + \beta + \frac{1}{2} \int_J |x - a| f''(da), \quad (36)$$

where α and β are real numbers. This implies, for all x out of a countable set in \mathbb{R}

$$f'_-(x) = \alpha + \frac{1}{2} \int_J \text{sign}(x - a) f''(da). \quad (37)$$

Applying formula (36) to the fractional Brownian motion yields

$$f(B_t) = \alpha B_t + \beta + \frac{1}{2} \int_J |B_t - a| f''(da).$$

Then we apply now the Tanaka formula, obtaining

$$\begin{aligned}
f(B_t) &= \alpha B_t + \beta \\
&+ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(|a| + \int_0^t \text{sign}(B_s - a) dB_s + L_t^a \right) f''(da) \\
&= \alpha B_t + f(0) \\
&+ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(\int_0^t \text{sign}(B_s - a) dB_s \right) f''(da) \\
&+ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} L_t^a f''(da)
\end{aligned}$$

Using Fubini's theorem for the Skorohod integral (see exercise 3.2.8 of [15]) and the relation (37), the equation becomes

$$f(B_t) = f(0) + \int_0^t f'_-(B_s) dB_s + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} L_t^a f''(da).$$

□

It is possible to extend formula (35) to any convex function by means of a localization argument. In fact, for any $k > 0$ define $G_k = \{\sup_{0 \leq s \leq T} |B_s| < k\}$ and let $f^{(k)}$ be a convex function such that $f^{(k)} = f$ on $[-k, k]$, and such that $f^{(k)''}$ vanishes outside $[-k, k]$. By the above proposition we know that

$$f^{(k)}(B_t) = f(0) + \int_0^t f^{(k)'}_-(B_s) dB_s + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} L_t^a f^{(k)''}(da),$$

which gives the desired formula on the set G_k , provided we define the stochastic integral $\int_0^t f'_-(B_s) dB_s$ on this set as $\int_0^t f^{(k)'}_-(B_s) dB_s$. Letting k tend to infinity we deduce the Itô formula for a general convex function f . However, notice that the stochastic integral $\int_0^t f'_-(B_s) dB_s$ may change if we use a different localization procedure, because we only know that the processes $f^{(k)'}_-(B_s)$ belong to the domain of the divergence operator δ^B , and the local property for this operator is known only on $\mathbb{D}_B^{1,2}$.

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