

QUESTION

Let  $W_t$  and  $\tilde{W}_t$  be two independent Brownian motions and  $p$  a constant between  $-1$  and  $1$ . Is the process  $X_t = pW_t + \tilde{W}_t\sqrt{1-p^2}$  continuous? What is its distribution? Is  $X_t$  a Brownian motion?

ANSWER

$$X_t = PW_t + \tilde{W}_t(1-p^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

The process is continuous since  $W_t$ ,  $\tilde{W}_t$  and  $\rho$  are.

Mean:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle X_t \rangle &= \langle PW_t + \tilde{W}_t(1-p^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \rangle \\ &= \rho \langle W_t \rangle + (1-p^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \langle \tilde{W}_t \rangle \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

since  $W_t \sim N(0, t)$  and  $\tilde{W}_t \sim N(0, t)$  by definition.

Variance:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle (X_t - 0)^2 \rangle &= \langle (PW_t + \tilde{W}_t(1-p^2)^{\frac{1}{2}})^2 \rangle \\ &= \langle \rho^2 W_t^2 + \tilde{W}_t^2(1-p^2) + 2PW_t\tilde{W}_t(1-p^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \rangle \\ &= \rho^2 \langle W_t^2 \rangle + (1-p^2) \langle \tilde{W}_t^2 \rangle + 2\rho\sqrt{1-p^2} \langle W_t\tilde{W}_t \rangle\end{aligned}$$

Now if  $W_t$  and  $\tilde{W}_t$  are independent they are uncorrelated, thus  $\langle W_t\tilde{W}_t \rangle = 0$ .

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\langle (X_t - 0)^2 \rangle &= \rho^2\sigma_t^2 + (1-p^2)\tilde{\sigma}_t^2 \\ &= \rho^2t + (1-p^2)t \\ &= t\end{aligned}$$

Where  $\sigma_t^2$  is the variance of  $W_t^2$  (mean is zero) and  $\tilde{\sigma}_t^2$  is the variance of  $\tilde{W}_t^2$  (mean is zero).

Thus since  $W_T$  and  $\tilde{W}_t$  are normal,  $X_t \in N(0, t)$

Is it Brownian? Check conditions:

(i)  $X_t$  is continuous and  $X_0 = 0$ : It is continuous and by definition  $W_0$  and  $\tilde{W}_0$  are zero so condition is satisfied.

(ii)  $X_t \in N(0, t)$

(iii)  $X_{s+t} - X_t \in N(0, t)$  and independent of time  $< s$ :

$$X_{s+t} - X_s \in \rho \underbrace{(W_{t+s} - W_s)}_{\in N(0,t)} + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \underbrace{(\tilde{W}_{t+s} - \tilde{W}_s)}_{\in N(0,t)}$$

by definition if  $W_t, \tilde{W}_t$  are brownian

Thus from the above calculations we have

$$X_{s+t} - X_s \in N(0, t)$$

The  $W_S$  and  $\tilde{W}_s$  are independent of  $S$  by definition too, so  $X_{s+t} - X_s$  must be independent of  $S$ . So (iii) is satisfied.

Thus  $X_t$  is Brownian.