

## On the Existence and Unicity of Solutions of Stochastic Integral Equations

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Let  $M$  be a local martingale,  $A$  be an adapted process with finite variation on each finite interval and  $H$  be an adapted cadlag process (i.e.  $H$  is continuous on the right and has finite left limits). We shall prove that the equation

$$X_t = H_t + \int_0^t f(s, X_{s-}) dM_s + \int_0^t g(s, X_{s-}) dA_s \quad (1)$$

has one and only one solution, provided the random functions  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the properties (L) given below, i.e. a Lipschitz condition

$$|g(s, \omega, x) - g(s, \omega, y)| + |f(s, \omega, x) - f(s, \omega, y)| \leq K |x - y|,$$

and two less stringent properties.

Results of this kind were proved recently by Kazamaki (3) and Protter (7) under much more restrictive continuity conditions on  $M$  and  $A$ .<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Notations

Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  be a complete probability space and  $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$  an increasing family of sub- $\sigma$ -fields of  $\mathcal{F}$ . We shall assume, as usual, that  $\mathcal{F}_0$  contains all the null sets of  $\mathcal{F}$ , and that the family  $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is continuous on the right.

We shall say that a process  $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is *cadlag* (or *l* if one wants to stick to English) if, for almost all  $\omega$ , the function  $t \rightarrow X_t(\omega)$  is finite, right continuous and has finite left limits for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the set of all local martingales  $(M_t)_{t \geq 0}$  with respect to the family  $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ . We assume, as usual, that  $M$  is cadlag and that  $M_0 = 0$ . For each  $M \in \mathcal{L}$ , let  $[M, M]$  be the increasing process defined in [2]. Let  $T$  be a finite stopping time. And let  $(T_n)$  be an increasing sequence of stopping times such that  $\lim T_n = +\infty$  a.e., and each  $T_n$  reduces the local martingales  $M$  and  $M^2 - [M, M]$ . We recall that  $T_n$  reduces  $M$  if and only if  $M_{t \wedge T_n}$  is a uniformly integrable martingale. We

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<sup>1</sup> Professor Protter has told us that he has independently proved the same result

have, using Doob's inequality

$$\mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_{t \leq T \wedge T_n} |M_t|^2 \right] \leq 4 \mathbf{E} [M_{T \wedge T_n}^2] = 4 \mathbf{E} ([M, M]_{T \wedge T_n}) \leq 4 \mathbf{E} ([M, M]_T),$$

and by Fatou's lemma

$$\mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_{t \leq T} |M_t|^2 \right] \leq 4 \mathbf{E} ([M, M]_T).$$

Let  $\mathcal{V}^+$  be the set of all increasing, adapted, cadlag processes  $(A_t)_{t \geq 0}$  such that  $A_0 = 0$ . And let  $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{V}^+ - \mathcal{V}^+$ . For any process  $B$  in  $\mathcal{V}$ , let us denote by  $|B|_t = \int_0^t |dB_s|$  the variation of  $B$  on  $[0, t]$ . The process  $|B|$  belongs to  $\mathcal{V}^+$ .

We shall talk later on of the unique solution of a stochastic integral equation. By "unique" we mean that, if  $X$  and  $Y$  are both solutions, they are indistinguishable ( $P[\exists t; X_t \neq Y_t] = 0$ ). All our equalities of processes should also be understood in that sense.

If  $X$  is a process and  $T$  a stopping time, we shall denote by  $X^T$  the process  $X$  stopped at time  $T$ :  $X_t^T = X_{t \wedge T}$ .

## 2. Existence and Unicity of the Solution of the Stochastic Integral Equation (1)

Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two functions mapping  $\mathbb{R}_+ \times \Omega \times \mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ . We shall assume that  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the following three properties, which we shall refer to, collectively, as the  $L$ -properties.

(L1) For all  $\omega, s, x, y$

$$|g(s, \omega, x) - g(s, \omega, y)| + |f(s, \omega, x) - f(s, \omega, y)| \leq K |x - y|,$$

(L2) For all  $\omega$ , and all  $x$ , the functions  $f$  and  $g$  are *left* continuous and have finite right limits in  $t$ .

(L3) For all  $(t, x)$  fixed the functions  $f(t, \cdot, x)$  and  $g(t, \cdot, x)$  are  $\mathcal{F}_t$  measurable.

Since  $\mathcal{F}_0$  contains all the null sets of  $\mathcal{F}$ , we might allow an exceptional subset of  $\Omega$  on which (L1) and (L2) would fail to hold. However, it is more convenient to assume they hold every where.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $M \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $A \in \mathcal{V}$ , and let  $H$  be an adapted cadlag process. Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two functions satisfying the  $L$ -properties. Then there exists one and only one adapted cadlag process satisfying the stochastic integral equation*

$$X_t = H_t + \int_0^t f(s, X_{s-}) dM_s + \int_0^t g(s, X_{s-}) dA_s. \tag{1}$$

*Note 1.* Throughout this paper  $\int_0^t$  means  $\int_{]0, t]}$ .

Theorem 1 will follow from the following three lemmas. Before stating them, let us point out a few measurability properties which will be needed. Because of the uniform Lipschitz condition in  $x$ , the functions  $(\omega, x) \rightarrow f(t, \omega, x)$  and  $(\omega, x) \rightarrow g(t, \omega, x)$  are  $\mathcal{F}_t \times \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ -measurable. This implies that, if  $X$  is an adapted cadlag

process, the functions  $\omega \rightarrow f(t, \omega, X_{t-})$  and  $\omega \rightarrow g(t, \omega, X_{t-})$  are  $\mathcal{F}_t$ -measurable. The processes  $f(t, \omega, X_{t-})$  and  $g(t, \omega, X_{t-})$  are adapted, left continuous, and have finite right limits. Therefore they are predictable and locally bounded in the sense of [2] p. 98. For any adapted cadlag process  $X$ , the stochastic integrals  $\int_0^t f(s, X_{s-}) dM_s$  and  $\int_0^t g(s, X_{s-}) dA_s$  exist, and we can always write the right term of equality (1).

Using the left continuity of  $f$  and  $g$  with respect to  $t$ , one sees that the processes  $(t, \omega) \rightarrow f(t, \omega, x)$  and  $(t, \omega) \rightarrow g(t, \omega, x)$  are progressively measurable; this implies that the functions  $\omega \rightarrow f(t+T(\omega), \omega, x)$  and  $\omega \rightarrow g(t+T(\omega), \omega, x)$  are  $\mathcal{F}_{t+T}$ -measurable for any finite stopping time  $T$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $\delta$  be such that  $\alpha = 3K^2 \delta(4 + \delta) < 1$ . Assume that the local martingale  $M$  can be decomposed into*

$$M = N + B$$

where  $N \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{V}$  and  $[N, N]_\infty + |B|_\infty + |A|_\infty \leq \delta$ . Then the Equation (1) has a unique solution on  $[0, \infty)$ .

*Proof. Step 1.* Let  $Z_t = X_t - H_t$ , where  $X_t$  is a solution of (1). The process  $Z$  verifies

$$Z_t = \int_0^t f'(s, Z_{s-}) dM_s + \int_0^t g'(s, Z_{s-}) dA_s \tag{2}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f'(s, \omega, x) &= f(s, \omega, x + H_{s-}(\omega)), \\ g'(s, \omega, x) &= g(s, \omega, x + H_{s-}(\omega)). \end{aligned}$$

The functions  $f'$  and  $g'$  verify the  $L$ -properties. And the Equation (1) has a unique solution if and only if the Equation (2) has one. We can therefore assume that  $H = 0$ .

*Step 2.* Let  $T_p(\omega) = \inf\{t; |f(t, \omega, 0)| \geq p \text{ or } |g(t, \omega, 0)| \geq p\} \wedge p$ .

These stopping times  $T_p$  are finite and go to  $+\infty$  a.e. as  $p$  goes to infinity. Suppose we can show that for each  $p$  the equation

$$X_t^p = \int_0^t f(s, X_{s-}^p) dM_s^{T_p} + \int_0^t g(s, X_{s-}^p) dA_s^{T_p}$$

has a unique solution on  $[0, \infty)$ . The processes  $X_t^p$  and  $X_t^{p+1}$  will be indistinguishable on  $[0, T_p]$ . The process  $X_t = \sum_p X_t^p I_{(T_{p-1} \leq t < T_p)}$  will then be, obviously, the unique adapted, cadlag solution of (1).

On the set  $\{T_p > 0\}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{s \leq T_p} |f(s, \omega, x)| &\leq p + K|x| \leq (1 + |x|)(p + K), \\ \sup_{s \leq T_p} |f(s, \omega, x)|^2 &\leq (1 + |x|^2) 2(p + K)^2. \end{aligned}$$

The same growth conditions hold for  $g$ .

*Step 3.* With Step 1 and Step 2 we have reduced the problem to the study of the equation

$$X_t = \int_0^t f(s, X_{s-}) dM_s^T + \int_0^t g(s, X_{s-}) dA_s^T \quad (3)$$

where  $T$  is a finite stopping time, and the following inequalities hold on  $\{T > 0\}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{s \leq T} |f(s, \omega, x)| &\leq D(1 + |x|), \\ \sup_{s \leq T} |g(s, \omega, x)| &\leq D(1 + |x|), \\ \sup_{s \leq T} |f(s, \omega, x)|^2 &\leq C(1 + |x|^2), \\ \sup_{s \leq T} |g(s, \omega, x)|^2 &\leq C(1 + |x|^2). \end{aligned}$$

*Step 3a. Existence of the solution of (3).* Let us recall that we have assumed:  $M = N + B$ ,  $N \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{V}$ ,  $[N, N]_\infty + |B|_\infty + |A|_\infty \leq \delta$ . Define by recurrence the following processes

$$\begin{aligned} Y_t^0 &= 0, \\ Y_t^n &= \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dN_s^T + \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dB_s^T + \int_0^t g(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dA_s^T. \end{aligned}$$

We easily see by induction that the processes  $Y_t^n$  are semimartingales (therefore cadlag). The processes  $f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1})$  being predictable and locally bounded, this is enough to build the  $Y_t^n$  by recurrence. Moreover we can prove by induction that  $\mathbf{E}[\sup |Y_t^k|^2] < +\infty$  for all  $k$ . It is true for  $k=0$ . If it is true for  $k \leq n-1$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[\sup_t |Y_t^n|^2] &\leq 3 \mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_t \left| \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dN_s^T \right|^2 \right] \\ &\quad + 3 \mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_t \left| \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dB_s^T \right|^2 \right] \\ &\quad + 3 \mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_t \left| \int_0^t g(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dA_s^T \right|^2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Look at the first term. The process  $K_t = \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dN_s^T$  is a local martingale, and  $[K, K]_t = \int_0^t |f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1})|^2 d[N^T, N^T]_s$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[\sup_t |K_t|^2] &= \mathbf{E}[\sup_{s \leq T} |K_s|^2] \leq 4 \mathbf{E} \left[ \int_0^T |f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1})|^2 d[N, N]_s \right] \\ &\leq 4 \mathbf{E} \left[ \int_0^T C(1 + |Y_{s-}^{n-1}|^2) d[N, N]_s \right] \\ &\leq 4 C \delta \mathbf{E}[1 + \sup_s |Y_s^{n-1}|^2] < +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Consider now the second term  $\mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_t \left| \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dB_s^T \right|^2 \right]$ . We have using the Schwartz inequality.

$$\sup_t \left| \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dB_s^T \right|^2 \leq \left| \int_0^T |f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1})| |dB_s^T| \right|^2 \leq |B|_T \int_0^T |f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1})|^2 |dB_s^T|.$$

And therefore

$$\mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_t \left| \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dB_s^T \right|^2 \right] \leq C \delta^2 \mathbf{E} [1 + \sup_s |Y_s^{n-1}|^2] < +\infty.$$

One shows similarly that  $\mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_t \left| \int_0^t g(s, Y_{s-}^{n-1}) dA_s^T \right|^2 \right] < +\infty$ . Hence we have  $\mathbf{E} [\sup_t |Y_t^n|^2] < +\infty$ .

Using the same method we obtain

$$\mathbf{E} [\sup_t |Y_t^{n+1} - Y_t^n|^2] \leq 3K^2(4+\delta)\delta \mathbf{E} [\sup_t |Y_t^n - Y_t^{n-1}|^2].$$

Taking  $\alpha = 3K^2(4+\delta)\delta$ , we get by recurrence

$$\mathbf{E} [\sup_t |Y_t^{n+1} - Y_t^n|^2] \leq \alpha^n \mathbf{E} [\sup_t |Y_t^1 - Y_t^0|^2] = K_1 \alpha^n.$$

For almost all  $\omega$  the  $Y_t^n$  converge uniformly on  $[0, \infty)$  to a finite process  $Y_t$  (use the fact that  $\sum_n P \left( \sup_t |Y_t^{n+1} - Y_t^n| > \frac{1}{n^2} \right) \leq \sum_n K_1 n^4 \alpha^n < +\infty$ ). Let us take  $Y_t = 0$  on the set  $\{\omega; Y_t^n(\omega) \text{ does not converge uniformly}\}$ . The process  $Y$  is cadlag and adapted. We still have to show

$$Y_t = \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}) dN_s^T + \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}) dB_s^T + \int_0^t g(s, Y_{s-}) dA_s^T.$$

Using the same method again, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_t \left| Y_t - \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}) dN_s^T - \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}) dB_s^T - \int_0^t g(s, Y_{s-}) dA_s^T \right|^2 \right] \\ \leq 2\mathbf{E} [\sup_t |Y_t - Y_t^n|^2] + 6K^2(4+\delta)\delta \mathbf{E} [\sup_t |Y_t - Y_t^{n-1}|^2]. \end{aligned}$$

And everything will be finished if we show that

$$\lim_n \mathbf{E} [\sup_t |Y_t - Y_t^n|^2] = 0.$$

Just note that  $\sup_t |Y_t - Y_t^n|^2 \leq \liminf_k \sup_t |Y_t^n - Y_t^{n+k}|^2$ , and use Fatou's lemma to get

$$\left\| \sup_t |Y_t^n - Y_t| \right\|_{L^2} \leq \liminf_k \left\| \sup_t |Y_t^n - Y_t^{n+k}| \right\|_{L^2} \leq \sqrt{K_1} \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} (\sqrt{\alpha})^k.$$

That finishes the proof of the existence of a solution of (3).

*Step 3b. Unicity of the solution of Equation (3).* Let  $Z_t$  be another adapted, cadlag solution of (3). For  $m > 0$ , take  $S_m = \inf\{t; |Y_t| \geq m \text{ or } |Z_t| \geq m\}$ . We have

$S_m > 0$  and  $\lim_m S_m = +\infty$  a.e. The processes  $Y$  and  $Z$  are bounded on  $[0, S_m]$  as the jumps at time  $S_m$  verify

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta Y_{S_m}| &= |f(s, Y_{S_m}) \Delta N_{S_m}^T + f(s, Y_{S_m}) \Delta B_{S_m}^T + g(s, Y_{S_m}) \Delta A_{S_m}^T| \\ &\leq D(1+m)(\sqrt{\delta} + 2\delta) \end{aligned}$$

and similarly  $|\Delta Z_{S_m}| \leq D(1+m)(\sqrt{\delta} + 2\delta)$ .

Using again the same method, one obtains

$$\mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_{t \leq S_m} |Y_t - Z_t|^2 \right] \leq \alpha^n \mathbf{E} \left[ \sup_{t \leq S_m} |Y_t - Z_t|^2 \right] \rightarrow 0$$

and Lemma 1 is proved!

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $\delta$  satisfy  $\alpha = 3K^2\delta(4+\delta) < 1$ . Suppose that the local martingale  $M$  can be decomposed into*

$$M = N + B,$$

where  $N \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{V}$  and, for almost all  $\omega$ ,  $|\Delta N_s|^2 \leq \frac{\delta}{2}$ , for all  $s \in \mathbb{R}_+$ . Then the Equation (1) has a unique solution on  $[0, \infty)$ .

*Proof. Step 1.* Let  $|B|_t$  and  $|A|_t$  be the variations of  $B$  and  $A$  on  $[0, t]$ , and set

$$D_s = [N, N]_s + |B|_s + |A|_s.$$

The time  $T_1 = \inf \left( t; D_t \geq \frac{\delta}{2} \right)$  is a strictly positive stopping time, and  $D_{T_1-} \leq \frac{\delta}{2}$ .

Define the following processes

$$N'_t = N_{t \wedge T_1}$$

$$A'_t = A_{t \wedge T_1} - \Delta A_{T_1} I_{\{t \geq T_1\}},$$

$$B'_t = B_{t \wedge T_1} - \Delta B_{T_1} I_{\{t \geq T_1\}}.$$

The processes  $N'$ ,  $B'$  and  $A'$  verify the conditions of Lemma 1, since

$$[N', N']_\infty + |A'|_\infty + |B'|_\infty = D_{T_1-} + (\Delta N_{T_1})^2 \leq \delta.$$

So there exists a unique cadlag solution for the equation

$$Y_t = H_t^{T_1} + \int_0^t f(s, Y_{s-}) (dN'_s + dB'_s) + \int_0^t g(s, Y_{s-}) dA'_s. \quad (4)$$

The process  $X_t^1 = Y_t + [f(s, Y_{T_1-}) \Delta B_{T_1} + g(s, Y_{T_1-}) \Delta A_{T_1}] I_{\{t \geq T_1\}}$  is a solution of

$$X_t^1 = H_t^{T_1} + \int_0^t f(s, X_{s-}^1) dM_s^{T_1} + \int_0^t g(s, X_{s-}^1) dA_s^{T_1}.$$

It is the unique solution. For, if  $Z_t$  is another solution, then

$$Z_t - [f(s, Z_{T_1-}) \Delta B_{T_1} + g(s, Z_{T_1-}) \Delta A_{T_1}] I_{\{t \geq T_1\}}$$

is the solution of (4) and  $Z_t = Y_t$  on  $[0, T_1[$ .

*Step 2. How to go beyond the time  $T_1$ .* Let  $\mathcal{G}_t = \mathcal{F}_{t+T_1}$ . If  $K \in \mathcal{L}$  or  $\mathcal{V}$ , we define

$$K_t^1 = (K_{t+T_1} - K_{T_1}) I_{(T_1 < +\infty)}.$$

If  $K \in \mathcal{L}$ , and if an  $(\mathcal{F}_t)$ -stopping time  $S$  reduces  $K$ , it is easy to show that  $R = (S - T_1)^+$  is a  $(\mathcal{G}_t)$ -stopping time, and that  $K_{t \wedge R}^1$  is a uniformly integrable  $(\mathcal{G}_t)$ -martingale. This implies that  $N^1$  is a  $(\mathcal{G}_t)$ -local martingale, and that  $[N^1, N^1]_t = ([N, N]_{t+T_1} - N_{T_1}) I_{(T_1 < +\infty)}$ . Define the functions  $f^1$  and  $g^1$  as follows

$$f^1(t, \omega, x) = f(t + T_1(\omega), \omega, x) I_{(T_1 < +\infty)},$$

$$g^1(t, \omega, x) = g(t + T_1(\omega), \omega, x) I_{(T_1 < +\infty)}.$$

These functions verify the  $L$ -properties with respect to  $(\mathcal{G}_t)$ .

We can apply Step 1 again, with respect to the family  $(\mathcal{G}_t)$ . Let

$$D_t^1 = |A^1|_t + |B^1|_t + [N^1, N^1]_t = (D_{t+T_1} - D_{T_1}) I_{(T_1 < +\infty)},$$

and  $S_2 = \inf \left( t; D_t^1 \geq \frac{\delta}{2} \right)$ . There exists a unique solution of the equation

$$X_t^2 = H_{t+T_1}^{T_1+S_2} + X_{T_1} - H_{T_1} + \int_0^t f^1(s, X_{s-}^2) d(M^1)_s^{S_2} + \int_0^t g^1(s, X_{s-}^2) d(A^1)_s^{S_2}.$$

The time  $U_2 = T_1 + S_2$  is an  $(\mathcal{F}_t)$ -stopping time. Using the fact that  $(t - T_1)^+$  is a  $(\mathcal{G}_t)$ -stopping time, one sees easily that the process defined by

$$\begin{aligned} X_t &= X_t^1 && \text{on } [0, T_1] \\ &X_{t-T_1}^2 && \text{on } ]T_1, T_1 + S_2] \\ &X_{S_2}^2 && \text{on } [T_1 + S_2, +\infty) \end{aligned}$$

is the unique adapted cadlag solution of

$$X_t = H_t^{U_2} + \int_0^t f(s, X_{s-}) dM_s^{U_2} + \int_0^t g(s, X_{s-}) dA_s^{U_2}$$

*Step 3.* One can go on, and define by recurrence

$$S_1 = T_1, S_2, \dots, S_n, \dots, U_1 = S_1, U_2 = S_1 + S_2, \dots, U_n = S_1 + \dots + S_n, \dots$$

where  $S_n = \inf \left( t; D_{t+U_{n-1}} - D_{U_{n-1}} \geq \frac{\delta}{2} \right)$ . For each  $n$  we shall have a unique solution of the stochastic integral equation

$$X_t = H_t^{U_n} + \int_0^t f(s, X_{s-}) dM_s^{U_n} + \int_0^t g(s, X_{s-}) dA_s^{U_n}.$$

Now we have  $D_{U_n} \geq \frac{n\delta}{2}$ . So the time  $U_n$  is bigger than  $T_n = \inf \left( t; D_t \geq \frac{n\delta}{2} \right)$ . As  $\lim T_n = +\infty$ , we have finished the proof of Lemma 2.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $M$  be a local martingale, and  $\beta$  be an arbitrary number such that  $\beta > 0$ . Then  $M$  can be decomposed into*

$$M = N + B$$

where  $N \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $B \in \mathcal{V}$  and, for almost all  $\omega$ ,  $|AM_s| \leq 2\beta$  for all  $s \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

*Proof.* Let  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n \dots$  be the following stopping times

$$S_1 = \inf(t; |\Delta M_t| \geq \beta)$$

$$S_n = \inf(t; t > S_{n-1}, |\Delta M_t| \geq \beta)$$

and set

$$C_t = \sum_n \Delta M_{S_n} I_{(t \geq S_n)}.$$

The process  $C_t$  belongs to  $\mathcal{V}$ , its variation is locally integrable. Let  $\tilde{C}$  be the predictable process belonging to  $\mathcal{V}$  such that  $C - \tilde{C}$  is a local martingale. The martingale  $H = M - C + \tilde{C}$  satisfies

$$|\Delta H_s| \leq |\Delta M_s - \Delta C_s| + |\Delta \tilde{C}_s| \leq \beta + |\Delta \tilde{C}_s|.$$

So we cannot have  $|\Delta H_s| \geq 2\beta$  unless  $|\Delta \tilde{C}_s| \geq \beta$ . Look at the stopping times  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n, \dots$

$$U_1 = \inf\{t; |\Delta \tilde{C}_s| \geq \beta\}$$

$$U_n = \inf\{t; t > U_{n-1}, |\Delta \tilde{C}_s| \geq \beta\}.$$

These stopping times are predictable. The process  $D_t^p = \Delta H_{U_p} I_{(t \geq U_p)}$  is a local martingale. The process  $D_t = \sum_p D_t^p$  is in  $\mathcal{V}$ , and  $D_t^{U_p}$  is a local martingale for each  $p$ .

Therefore  $D_t$  is a local martingale (see [2]). Taking  $N = H - D$  and  $B = C - \tilde{C} + D$ , we have the desired decomposition.

*Note 2.* We have, as a particular case of Theorem 1 (take  $f = g$ ), the following result. Let  $Z$  be a semimartingale and  $H$  be an adapted cadlag process. If the random function  $f$  satisfies the  $L$ -properties, then the equation

$$X_t = H_t + \int_0^t f(s, X_{s-}) dZ_s$$

has one and only one cadlag adapted solution.

This might even be a better way of stating Theorem 1: for, let  $Q$  be a probability equivalent to  $P$ ; a  $P$ -local martingale is not in general a  $Q$ -local martingale. But a  $P$ -semimartingale  $Z$  is a  $Q$ -semimartingale and the stochastic integrals  $\int Y_s dZ_s$  of locally bounded, predictable processes  $Y$  are the same for the two probabilities  $P$  and  $Q$ .

Theorem 1 extends trivially to systems of equations.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $F_j(t, \omega, \underline{x}) = (F_j^1(t, \omega, \underline{x}), \dots, F_j^d(t, \omega, \underline{x}))$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq p$ , be  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -valued functions mapping  $\mathbb{R}_+ \times \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^d$  to  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . We suppose that the  $F_j^h$  verify the  $L$ -properties. Let  $M^1, \dots, M^p$  be  $p$  semimartingales and let  $H^1, \dots, H^d$  be some adapted cadlag processes. Then there exist one and only one  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -valued, adapted, cadlag process  $\underline{X} = (X^1, \dots, X^d)$  such that

$$X_t^i = H_t^i + \sum_{j=1}^p \int_0^t F_j^i(s, \underline{X}_{s-}) dM_s^j.$$



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