

Analytical solutions for stochastic differential equations via Martingale processes

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Abstract In this paper, we propose some analytical solutions of stochastic differential equations related to Martingale processes. In the first resolution, the answers of some stochastic differential equations are connected to other stochastic equations just with diffusion part (or drift free). The second suitable method is to convert stochastic differential equations into ordinary ones that it is tried to omit diffusion part of stochastic equation by applying Martingale processes. Finally, solution focuses on change of variable method that can be utilized about stochastic differential equations which are as function of Martingale processes like Wiener process, exponential Martingale process and differentiable processes.

Keywords Martingale process · Itô formula · Change of variable · Differentiable process · Analytical solution

Introduction

The purpose of this article is to put forward some analytical and numerical solutions to solve the Itô stochastic differential equation (SDE):

$$\begin{cases} dX(t) = \mathcal{A}(X(t), t)dt + \mathcal{B}(X(t), t)dW_t, \\ X(0) = X_0, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $W(t)$ is a Wiener process and triple $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is a probability space under some conditions and special relations between drift and volatility.

Both the drift vector $\mathcal{A} : \mathbb{R} \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and the diffusion matrix $a := \mathcal{B}\mathcal{B}^T : \mathbb{R} \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are considered Borel measurable and locally bounded functions. It is assumed that X_0 is a non-random vector. As usual, \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are globally Lipschitz in \mathbb{R} that is:

$$|\mathcal{A}(X, t) - \mathcal{A}(Y, t)| + |\mathcal{B}(X, t) - \mathcal{B}(Y, t)| \leq D|X - Y|, \\ X, Y \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{and} \quad t \in [0, T],$$

and result in the linear growth condition:

$$|\mathcal{A}(X, t)| + |\mathcal{B}(X, t)| \leq C(1 + |X|).$$

These conditions guarantee (see [1, 2]) the Eq. (1) has a unique t -continuous solution adapted to the filtration $\mathcal{F}_t, t \geq 0$ generated by $W(t)$ and

$$E \left[\int_0^T |X(s)|^2 ds \right] < \infty. \quad (2)$$

It is generally accepted that, analytical solutions of partial and ordinary differential equations are so important particularly in physics and engineering, whereas most of them do not have an exact solution and even a limited number of these equations, (e.g., in classical form), have implicit solutions. Analytical methods and solutions, especially in

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stochastic differential equations, could be excessive fundamental in some cases therefore we draw to take a comparison and analyze computation error between them and different numerical methods. Numerous numerical methods can be applied to solve stochastic differential equations like Monte Carlo simulation method, finite elements and finite differences [2, 3]. On the other hand, due to the importance of Martingale processes and finding their representation according to Martingale representation theorem, it is struggled to express arbitrary stochastic processes as a function of Martingale processes and found numerical methods so as to solve drift-free SDEs [4].

In this paper, we resolve to represent analytical methods for stochastic differential equations, specially reputed and famous equations in pricing and investment rate models, based on Martingale processes with various examples about them which we have found in a couple of papers like [2, 5–7]. There are two main reasons for this approach. Firstly, the each solutions of these kind of equations are Martingale processes or analytic function of Martingale Processes. Thus, due to drift-free property, it will be caused computational error less than numerical computations with existing classic methods. Secondly, for each Martingale process (especially differentiable process), there exists a spectral expansion of two-dimensional Hermite polynomials with constant coefficients [8]. Therefore, it could be made higher the strong order of convergence with increasing the number of polynomials in this expansion. Equations are just obtained with diffusion part or drift free, by making Martingale process from other process. This method can be done by Itô product formula on initial process and an appropriate Martingale process. Another suitable method to convert SDEs into ODEs that we try is to omit the diffusion part of the stochastic equation.

This article is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, it is verified the making of Martingales processes by exponential Martingale process. In Sect. 3, we solve equations as a function of Martingales with prominent analytical solution, by applying change of appropriate variables method on drift-free SDEs. In Sect. 5, some analytical and numerical examples of expressed methods are demonstrated. Finally, the conclusions and remarks are brought in last section.

Change of measure and Martingale process

In this section under some conditions, we intend to make a Martingale process from a random one in $\mathbb{L}^2(\mathbb{R} \times [0, T])$, where T is called maturity time. The ex-

ponential Martingale process associated with $\lambda(t)$ is defined as follows:

$$\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda = \exp\left(\int_0^t \lambda(s) dW_s - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \lambda^2(s) ds\right). \quad (3)$$

It can be indicated by Itô formula that \mathcal{Z}_t^λ is a Martingale due to the drift-free property:

$$d\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda = \lambda \mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda dW_t, \quad \mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda(0) = 1. \quad (4)$$

Theorem 1 Suppose that stochastic processes X_t verify in differential equation:

$$dX_t = \mu(X_t, t)dt + \sigma(X_t, t)dW_t, \quad (5)$$

and let $\lambda(t) := -\mu(X_t, t)/\sigma(X_t, t)$. Therefore, $X\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda$ is a Martingale process.

Proof With attention to real function $\lambda(t)$, we have:

$$\begin{cases} dX = \mu(X, t)dt + \sigma(X, t)dW_t = -\lambda(t)\sigma(X, t)dt + \sigma(X, t)dW_t, \\ d\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda = \mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda \lambda dW_t. \end{cases}$$

By utilizing Itô product formula, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} d(X\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda) &= Xd(\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda) + \mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda dX + dXd(\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda) \\ &= \lambda X\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda dW_t + \mu(X, t)\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda dt + \sigma(X, t)\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda dW_t \\ &\quad + \lambda\sigma(X, t)\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda dt. \end{aligned}$$

According to theorem assumption, we obtain:

$$d(X\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda) = \mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda(X\lambda + \sigma(X, t))dW_t. \quad (6)$$

It emphasizes that $X\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda$ is a P -Martingale. \square

Therefore, $\lambda(t) = \frac{-\mu(X, t)}{\sigma(X, t)}$ is the sufficient condition for following SDEs equivalence:

$$dX = \mu(X, t)dt + \sigma(X, t)dW_t \Leftrightarrow d(X\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda) = \mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda(X\lambda(t) + \sigma(X, t))dW_t. \quad (7)$$

Consequently, by solving the obtained equation in Eq. (6), we obtain the following result when $\mathcal{Z}_0^\lambda = 1$:

$$X\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda = \int_0^t \mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda(X\lambda(s) + \sigma(X, t))dW_t + X_0. \quad (8)$$

By taking mathematical expectation from both sides of Eq. (8):

$$E^P[X\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda] = X_0 \Rightarrow E^P[X] = X_0(\mathcal{Z}_t^\lambda)^{-1}. \quad (9)$$

In addition, to compute the variance of this stochastic process:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E^P[(XZ_t^\lambda)^2] &= X_0^2 + E\left[\int_0^t (Z_s^\lambda)^2 (X\lambda(s) + \sigma(X, t))^2 ds\right] \\
 &\quad (\text{by It\^o isometry}) \\
 &= X_0^2 + \int_0^t (Z_s^\lambda)^2 E\left[\left[(X\lambda(s) + \sigma(X, t))^2\right]\right] ds. \\
 \text{var}(XZ_t^\lambda) &= (Z_t^\lambda)^2 \text{var}(X) \\
 &= \int_0^t (Z_s^\lambda)^2 E\left[\left[(X\lambda(s) + \sigma(X, t))^2\right]\right] ds. \quad (10)
 \end{aligned}$$

Applying (6) and using numerical approximation by EM method, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta X_i Z_{t_i}^\lambda &= Z_{t_i}^\lambda (X_i \lambda(t_i) + \sigma_i) \Delta W_i. \\
 X_{t_{i+1}} Z_{t_{i+1}}^\lambda &= X_{t_i} Z_{t_i}^\lambda + Z_{t_i}^\lambda (X_{t_i} \lambda(t_i) + \sigma_i) \Delta W_i. \\
 X_{t_{i+1}} &= (Z_{t_{i+1}}^\lambda)^{-1} Z_{t_i}^\lambda (X_{t_i} + (X_{t_i} \lambda(t_i) + \sigma_i) \Delta W_i).
 \end{aligned}$$

Direct calculations would lead to the conclusion that:

$$R_{t_i} = (Z_{t_{i+1}}^\lambda)^{-1} Z_{t_i}^\lambda = \exp\left(-\int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} \lambda(s) dW_s + \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} |\lambda^2(s)| ds\right).$$

So the following Milstein recursive method is inferred as a good numerical method to find $X(t_{i+1})$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{t_{i+1}} &= R_{t_i} (X_{t_i} + (X_{t_i} \lambda(t_i) + \sigma_i) \Delta W_i) \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2} R_{t_i}^2 \lambda(t_i) (X_{t_i} \lambda(t_i) + \sigma_i) (\Delta^2 W_i - \Delta t_i). \quad (11)
 \end{aligned}$$

In example 1, we compare this method with usual Milstein method in the case that a stochastic differential equation contains drift and volatility both parts and indicate that this method could be better in some cases.

Change of variable method

This section intends to analyze the change of variable method like [9], to get explicitly the solution of arbitrary SDE:

$$dX = \mathcal{A}(X, t)dt + \mathcal{B}(X, t)dW_t, \quad X(0) = x.$$

By finding appropriate variables $u(Y) = X$ and their conditions so that Y is the answer of a well-known SDEs related to Martingale processes.

$$dY = f(X, t)dt + g(X, t)dW_t, \quad y(0) = y.$$

For more explanation and different conditions under which they are possible, we could see [5, 10]. Now we consider following various cases.

Case 1 Consider the following SDE:

$$dY = a(t)dt + b(t)dW_t. \quad (12)$$

Applying It\^o formula for $u(Y) = X$, to (12), we get:

$$\begin{cases} u'(a(t)) + \frac{1}{2}u''b^2(t) = \mathcal{A}(u(Y), t), \\ u'b(t) = \mathcal{B}(u(Y), t). \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Thus, it concludes that:

$$\frac{a(t)}{b(t)}\mathcal{B} + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{B}\mathcal{B}' = \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \frac{\mathcal{A}}{\mathcal{B}} - \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{B}' = \frac{a(t)}{b(t)}. \quad (14)$$

Finally, the equation $\frac{\partial}{\partial Y}(\frac{\mathcal{A}}{\mathcal{B}} - \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{B}') = 0$ is necessary condition to solve an equation via change of variable in (12) ($\mathcal{B}' = \frac{\partial \mathcal{B}}{\partial X}$).

Case 2 Consider the exponential Martingale process SDE (3):

$$\begin{cases} dY = \lambda(t)YdW_t, \\ Y(0) = Y_0. \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

Applying It\^o formula for $u(Y) = X$, to (15), we acquire:

$$\begin{cases} u'\lambda Y = \mathcal{B}(u, t) = \lambda(t)Y\hat{\mathcal{B}}(u) \quad \text{or} \quad u' = \hat{\mathcal{B}}(u), \\ \frac{1}{2}u''\lambda^2 Y^2 = \mathcal{A}(u, t). \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

So from the last equality, we have $\frac{\mathcal{B}'}{\lambda(t)} - \frac{2\mathcal{A}}{\mathcal{B}} = \lambda(t)$. Therefore, $\frac{\partial}{\partial u}(\mathcal{B}'_u - \frac{2\lambda(t)\mathcal{A}}{\mathcal{B}}) = 0$ is necessary condition to solve SDE, with this change of variable.

Case 3 Consider the well-known equation:

$$\begin{cases} dY = a(t)Ydt + b(t)YdW_t, \\ Y(0) = Y_0. \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

Which is Black–Scholes equation with exact solution

$$Y_0 = \exp\left(\int_0^t b(s)dW_s + \int_0^t \left(a(s) - \frac{1}{2}b^2(s)\right) ds\right).$$

Applying It\^o formula for $u(Y) = X$, to (17), we get:

$$\begin{cases} u'a(t)Y + \frac{1}{2}u''b^2(t)Y^2 = \mathcal{A}(u, t), \\ u'Yb(t) = \mathcal{B}(u, t) = b(t)Y\hat{\mathcal{B}}(u). \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

For this reason, $u' = \hat{\mathcal{B}}(u)$ and we have:

$$\frac{a(t)}{b(t)} = \frac{\mathcal{A}}{\mathcal{B}} - \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{B}'_u - b(t)) = \gamma(u, t). \quad (19)$$

It means that $\frac{\partial}{\partial u}\gamma(u, t) = 0$, is a necessary condition to solve the initial stochastic differential equation by this change of variable.

Case 4 Another appropriate and prominent case is as follows:

$$\begin{cases} dY_t = f(Y_t, t)dt + c(t)Y_t dW_t, \\ Y(0) = Y_0. \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

This kind of equations, applying Itô formula on $X_t = Y_t Z_t^c(t)^{-1}$, is converted to a ordinary differential equations.

Theorem 2 *The stochastic differential equations in (20) given by continuous functions $f : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $C : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ can be written as:*

$$d(Y_t(Z_t^c(t))^{-1}) = (Z_t^c(t))^{-1}f(Y_t, t)dt, \tag{21}$$

where $Z_t^c(t)$ is an exponential Martingale process.

(See Oksendal [1], Chapter 5, Exercise 17). To be more precise, using change of variable $V = X(Z_t^c(t))^{-1}$, it is enough to solve

$$\begin{cases} X_t' = (Z_t^c(t))^{-1}f(X_t Z_t^c(t)), \\ X(0) = X_0. \end{cases} \tag{22}$$

Applying Itô formula for $u(Y) = M_t$, in (20) we get:

$$dM_t = M_t' dY + \frac{1}{2} M_t'' (dY)^2. \tag{23}$$

$$\begin{cases} f(Y, t)M_t' + \frac{1}{2} M_t'' c^2(t)Y^2 = \mathcal{A}(M_t, t), & (1) \\ c(t)YM_t' = \mathcal{B}(M_t, t), \quad u(Y_0) = M_0. & (2) \end{cases}$$

According to (23), we have $\mathcal{B}(M_t, t) = c(t)\hat{\mathcal{B}}(M_t)$. Besides, if the new stochastic differential equation is related to a Martingale process, we have $\mathcal{A}(M_t, t) = 0$ and:

$$f(Y, t) = -\frac{c^2(t)Y}{2}(\hat{\mathcal{B}}(M_t)' - 1). \tag{24}$$

Again, applying Itô formula for $\phi(M_t) = V_t$ to Martingale equation contributes to

$$dM_t = \mathcal{B}(M_t, t)dW_t = c(t)\hat{\mathcal{B}}(M_t)dW_t,$$

we can achieve to a novel group of stochastic differential equation that its solution is as a function of a Martingale process.

Examples

Example 1 Consider the following SDE

$$\begin{cases} dX = (a(t)\sqrt{X})dt + (b(t)\sqrt{X})dW_t, \\ X(0) = X_0. \end{cases} \tag{25}$$

from (9), we can get immediately $E[X] = X_0(Z_t^\lambda)^{-1}$ such that $\lambda = \frac{a(t)}{b(t)}$. The graphs of various numerical solutions of this example by Milstein method, proposed formula (11) that is drift free and Taylor method of order 2 introduced as exact solution.

Example 2 Consider the following SDE that is named Black–Scholes equation.

$$dX = \mu(t)Xd_t + \sigma(t)XdW_t.$$

Using (6), we have:

$$\begin{aligned} d(XZ_t^\lambda) &= Z_t^\lambda(X\lambda + \sigma(t))dW_t = Z_t^\lambda(X\lambda + X\sigma(t))dW_t \\ &= XZ_t^\lambda(\lambda + \sigma(t))dW_t. \end{aligned}$$

From this equality we could conclude that XZ_t^λ , is the exponential Martingale $Z_t^{\lambda+\sigma}$. Finally, $X = (Z_t^\lambda)^{-1}Z_t^{\lambda+\sigma} = \exp(\int_0^t \sigma(s) dW_s + \int_0^t (\mu(s) - \sigma^2) ds)$. This is the exact solution of Black–Scholes equation.

Example 3 Consider the following stochastic model

$$\begin{cases} dX = \frac{3}{4}t^2X^2dt + tX^{3/2}dW_t, \\ X(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

It can be checked that for this equation the necessary condition holds for this equation. According to (13), we have $u'b(t) = tu^{3/2}$. Since u is just a function of Y , we should get $b(t) = t, u = \frac{4}{Y^2}$ and $\frac{a(t)}{b(t)} = 0$ (or $a(t) = 0$). Thus, $dY = tdW_t$ and $Y = \int_0^t sdW_s + Y(0)$, and ultimately $X = u(Y) = 4(\int_0^t sdW_s + Y(0))^{-2}$, is the exact solution (Fig. 1).

Example 4 Consider the following SDE model

$$\begin{cases} dX = \frac{1}{2}(c^2(t)rX^{2r-1} - c^2(t)X^r)dt + c(t)X^r dW_t, \quad (r \neq -1) \\ X(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

First of all, we check the necessary condition in case 2:

$$\mathcal{B}'_u - \frac{2\mathcal{A}}{\mathcal{B}} = c(t)ru^{r-1} - \frac{c^2(t)ru^{2r-1} - c^2(t)u^r}{c(t)u^r} = c(t) = \lambda(t).$$

Utilizing the first equation in Eq. (16), $u'\lambda(t)Y = c(t)u^r$. Hence, $\ln Y = \frac{u^{-r+1}}{-r+1}$, that $r \neq -1, Y(0) = 1$ and $u(1) = 0$. Therefore, the exact solution is as follows:

$$X = u(Y) = \left((1-r) \left(\int_0^t c(s) dW_s - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t c^2(s) ds \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{1-r}}.$$

In a particular case, if $r = \frac{1}{2}$, we reach the following model:

$$\begin{aligned} dX &= \left(\frac{c^2(t)}{4} - c^2(t)\sqrt{X} \right) dt + (c(t)\sqrt{X}) dW_t, \\ X &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\int_0^t c(t) dW_t - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t c^2(s) ds \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Example 5 Consider the following SDE model:

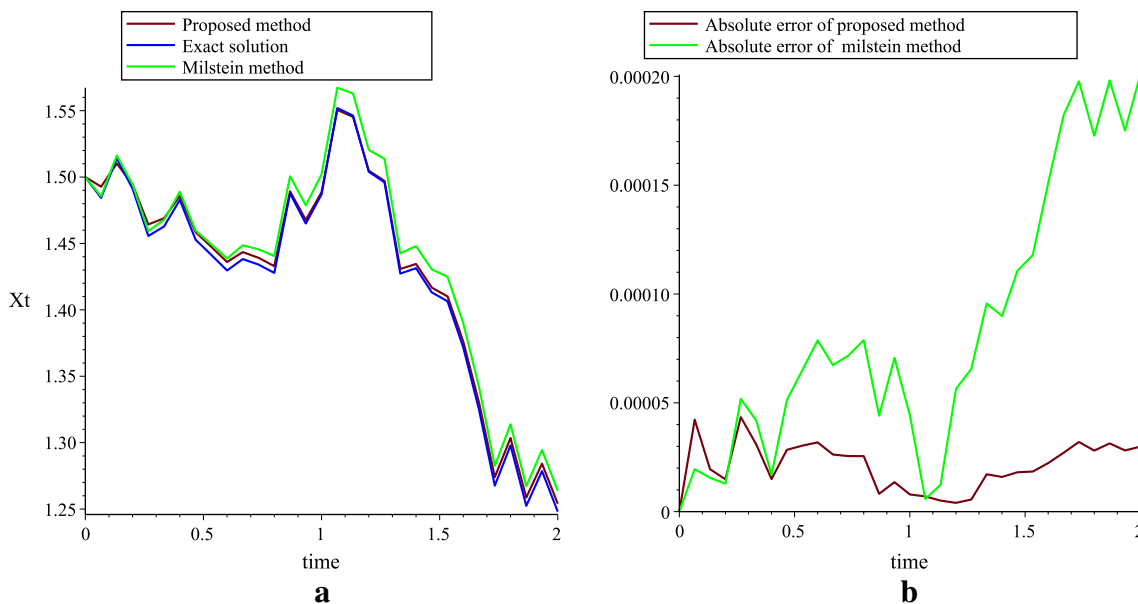


Fig. 1 a The graphs of the numerical solutions of Example 1 by Milstein method, proposed formula (11) and Taylor method of order 2 introduced as exact solution. In this example, it is considered that

drift, volatility and initial condition respectively are: $a(t) = -0.2, b(t) = -1.0, X_0 = 1.5$, maturity time $T = 2$ and number of points $N = 30$. **b** The graphs of absolute error

$$\begin{cases} dX = X^3 dt + X^2 dW_t, \\ X(0) = 1. \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

First of all, we check the necessary condition in Case 3:

$$\gamma(u, t) = u - \frac{1}{2}(2u - b(t)) = \frac{a(t)}{b(t)} = \frac{b(t)}{2}.$$

From (18), we should have $u'b(t)Y = u^2$. Therefore, if $b(t) = 1$, we can get immediately $u = \frac{-1}{\ln Y}$ and $a(t) = \frac{b^2(t)}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$, so that Y is the solution of following equation.

$$\begin{cases} dY = \frac{1}{2}Y dt + Y dW_t, \\ Y(0) = \frac{1}{e}. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, according to geometric Brownian motion process, the exact solution is determined $Y = \frac{1}{e} \exp(\int_0^t dW_t) = e^{W(t)-1}$, and finally exact solution is equal to $X = \frac{1}{1-W(t)}$.

Example 6 Consider the stochastic model as follows:

$$\begin{cases} dZ_t = \frac{-Z_t^2}{2} - (\ln 2)Z_t dt + (\ln 2 + Z_t)dW_t, \\ Z_t(0) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

First, by applying Girsanov theorem so that $W_t^Q = W_t + \frac{(\ln 2)^2}{2}t$, we reach the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} dZ_t = -\frac{(\ln 2)^2}{2} + \frac{-Z_t^2}{2} - (\ln 2)Z_t dt + (\ln 2 + Z_t)dW_t^Q, \\ Z_t(0) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

Applying Itô formula for $X_t = e^{Z_t}$, to the last equation, we obtain the following drift-free stochastic equation:

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = X_t \ln(2X_t)dW_t^Q, \\ X_t(0) = 1. \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

according to (23), we have $Yu' = u \ln(2u)$. Consequently, $Y = \frac{\ln(2X)}{2}$, $X = u(Y) = \frac{1}{2}e^{2Y}$.

From (24), we have $f = -Y^2$ and consequently, the exact solution of corresponding SDE is $X = \frac{1}{2}e^{2Y}$ such that its related stochastic equation is:

$$\begin{cases} dY = -Y_t dt + Y_t dW_t^Q, \\ Y(0) = \frac{\ln(2)}{2}. \end{cases}$$

As we know, the exact solution of this linear stochastic differential equation is as follows:

$$Y_t = \frac{\ln(2)}{2} \exp\left(W_t^Q - \frac{3t}{2}\right). \quad (30)$$

Finally, the exact solution of this example is:

$$\begin{aligned} Z_t &= \ln(X_t) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{2}e^{2Y_t}\right) \\ &= 2Y_t - \ln 2 = \ln 2 \left(\exp\left(W_t^Q - \frac{3t}{2}\right) - 1 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Conclusions and remarks

In this paper, a couple of analytical solutions of some determined set of stochastic differential equations was indicated via making the Martingale process from a stochastic process. Converting stochastic differential equations to ordinary ones as another suitable method was posed. Indeed, it is tried to omit diffusion part of stochastic equation by applying Martingale processes. In addition, change of variable method on SDEs related to Martingale processes was discussed. Last of all with some examples, we analyzed and obtained its exact solutions and in some cases their solutions compared with other numerical methods.

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