

SÉMINAIRE DE PROBABILITÉS (STRASBOURG)

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Séminaire de probabilités (Strasbourg), tome 19 (1985), p. 275-277

http://www.numdam.org/item?id=SPS_1985__19__275_0

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A COUNTEREXAMPLE RELATED TO A_p -WEIGHTS
IN MARTINGALE THEORY

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Given a continuous local martingale M , set $Z = \exp(M - \langle M, M \rangle / 2)$. Let $a(M)$ be the infimum of the set of $p > 1$ for which the condition

$$(A_p) \quad E\left[\left(\frac{Z_t}{Z_\infty}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \middle| \mathcal{F}_t\right] \leq K$$

holds for every $t \geq 0$, with a constant K depending only on p . We note that the condition (A_p) plays an important role in various weighted norm inequalities for martingales (see [6] for example) and that $BMO = \{M : a(M) < \infty\}$ (see [3]). Recall that on the space BMO a norm can be defined by $\|M\|_{BMO} = \sup_t \|E[|M_\infty - M_t| | \mathcal{F}_t]\|_\infty$. The class L^∞ of all bounded martingales is obviously contained in BMO , but BMO is not just L^∞ . Quite recently, it is proved in [4] that, if $p > \max\{a(M), a(-M)\}$, then $d(M, L^\infty) < 8(\sqrt{p} - 1)$ where $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ denotes the distance on BMO deduced from the norm by the usual process. Now, is it true that $a(M) = a(-M)$ in general? Unfortunately the author did not know the answer. As is noted above, it turns out that $a(M) = a(-M) = \infty$ for $M \notin BMO$. And so, in order to consider the question, we may assume that $M \in BMO$. The aim of this short note is to exemplify that the answer is negative.

For that purpose, let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, Q) be a probability space which carries a one dimensional Brownian motion $B = (B_t, \mathcal{F}_t)$ with $B_0 = 0$, and we use the stopping time $\tau = \min\{t : |B_t| = 1\}$. Then B^τ is a bounded martingale with respect to Q , so that $E_Q[\exp(B_\tau - \tau/2)] = 1$ where $E_Q[\cdot]$ denotes expectation with respect to Q . That is to say, $dP = \exp(B_\tau - \tau/2) dQ$ is a probability measure on Ω . By Girsanov's theorem on such a change of law, the process $M = \langle B^\tau, B^\tau \rangle - B^\tau$ is a

continuous martingale with respect to P and further $\langle M, M \rangle = \langle B^\tau, B^\tau \rangle$ under either probability measure. Let now $1 < p < \infty$ and $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$. Noticing $|B^\tau| \leq 1$, we find that

$$E\left[\left(\frac{Z_t}{Z_\infty}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \middle| F_t\right] = E_Q\left[\exp\{q(B_\tau - B_{t \wedge \tau}) - \frac{q}{2}(\tau - t \wedge \tau)\} \middle| F_t\right] \leq \exp(2q).$$

This implies $a(M) = 1$, since $p > 1$ is arbitrary.

Next, to estimate $a(-M)$, let $Z^{(-1)} = \exp(-M - \langle M, M \rangle / 2)$. If $1 < p \leq 2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} E\left[\left\{\frac{Z_t^{(-1)}}{Z_\infty^{(-1)}}\right\}^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \middle| F_t\right] &= E_Q\left[\exp\left\{\frac{p-2}{p-1}(B_\tau - B_{t \wedge \tau}) + \frac{4-p}{2(p-1)}(\tau - t \wedge \tau)\right\} \middle| F_t\right] \\ &\geq \exp\left\{-\frac{2(2-p)}{p-1}\right\} E_Q\left[\exp\left\{\frac{4-p}{2(p-1)}(\tau - t \wedge \tau)\right\} \middle| F_t\right]. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we know that $E_Q[\exp(\lambda\tau)] = \infty$ for $\lambda > \pi^2/8$ (see Proposition 8.4 in [5]). Let now $1 < p < (16 + \pi^2)/(4 + \pi^2)$. Then, noticing $p < 2$ and $(4-p)/\{2(p-1)\} > \pi^2/8$, we can find that $a(-M) \geq (16 + \pi^2)/(4 + \pi^2)$. Thus $a(-M) \neq a(M)$.

Now, when is it true that $a(-M) = a(M)$? In the following, we assume that any martingale adapted to the underlying filtration (F_t) is continuous.

PROPOSITION. If $M \in \overline{L^\infty}$, then $a(-M) = a(M)$.

PROOF. It suffices to show that $p \geq a(-M)$ whenever $p > a(M)$. First let $\alpha(M)$ be the supremum of the set of α for which

$$\sup_t \|E[\exp\{\alpha | M_\infty - M_t | \} \middle| F_t]\|_\infty < \infty.$$

In [2] Emery proved the following :

$$\frac{1}{4d(M, L^\infty)} \leq \alpha(M) \leq \frac{4}{d(M, L^\infty)}.$$

Observe that $M \in \overline{L^\infty}$ if and only if $\alpha(M) = \infty$. Now, let $p > a(M)$. Then, letting $0 < \epsilon < p - a(M)$ and using Hölder's inequality with exponents $(p-1)/\epsilon$ and $(p-1)/(p-\epsilon-1)$, we find

$$\begin{aligned}
 E\left[\left\{\frac{Z_t^{(-1)}}{Z_\infty^{(-1)}}\right\}^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \middle| F_t\right] &= E\left[\exp\left\{\frac{2}{p-1}(M_\infty - M_t)\right\} \left(\frac{Z_t}{Z_\infty}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \middle| F_t\right] \\
 &\leq E\left[\exp\left\{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}(M_\infty - M_t)\right\} \middle| F_t\right]^{\frac{\varepsilon}{p-1}} E\left[\left(\frac{Z_t}{Z_\infty}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-\varepsilon-1}} \middle| F_t\right]^{\frac{p-\varepsilon-1}{p-1}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

So, noticing $\alpha(M)=\infty$, it turns out that the first conditional expectation on the right hand side is bounded by some constant. Furthermore, the second one is also bounded by some constant, since Z satisfies $(A_{p-\varepsilon})$. Thus we have $p \geq a(-M)$.

From this result it follows that the example given at the beginning of this paper does not belong to $\overline{L^\infty}$. More generally, it is proved in [1] that $BMO \neq \overline{L^\infty}$ if $BMO \neq L^\infty$.

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