

Excited Brownian Motions

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Abstract. We study a natural continuous time version of excited random walks, introduced by Norris, Rogers and Williams about twenty years ago. We obtain a necessary and sufficient condition for recurrence and for positive speed. Condition under which a central limit theorem holds is also given. These results are analogous to the ones obtained for excited (or cookie) random walks.

1. Introduction

Random processes that interact with their past trajectory have been studied a lot these past years. Reinforced random walks were introduced by Coppersmith and Diaconis, and then studied by Pemantle, Davis and many other authors (see the recent survey [Pemantle, 2007](#)). Some examples of time and space-continuous processes defined by a stochastic differential equation have also been studied. For example the self-interacting (or attracting) diffusions studied by Benaïm, Ledoux and Raimond (see [Benaïm et al., 2002](#); [Benaïm and Raimond, 2003, 2005](#)) and also by Cranston, Le Jan, Herrmann, Kurtzmann and Roynette (see [Cranston and Le Jan, 1995](#); [Herrmann and Roynette, 2003](#); [Kurtzmann, 2007](#)), are processes defined by a stochastic differential equation for which the drift term is a function of the present position and of the occupation measure of the past process. Another example which is not solution of a stochastic differential equation was studied by [Tóth and Werner \(1998\)](#). This process is a continuous version of some self-interacting random walks studied by Tóth (see for instance the survey [Tóth, 2001](#)).

[Carmona et al. \(1998\)](#), [Davis \(1996\)](#), and [Perman and Werner \(1997\)](#) (see also other references therein) studied what they called a perturbed Brownian motion,

Received by the editors December 18, 2009; accepted November 23, 2010.

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification. 60F15; 60F20; 60K35.

Key words and phrases. Reinforced process; Excited process; Self-interacting process; Recurrence; Law of large numbers.

which is the real valued process X defined by

$$X_t = B_t + \alpha \max_{s \leq t} X_s + \beta \min_{s \leq t} X_s,$$

where B is a Brownian motion. This process can be viewed as a weak limit of once edge-reinforced random walks on \mathbb{Z} (see in particular [Davis, 1990, 1996](#); [Werner, 1995](#)).

More recently, excited (or cookie) random walks were introduced by [Benjamini and Wilson \(2003\)](#), and then further studied first on \mathbb{Z} [Basdevant and Singh \(2008a,b\)](#); [Dolgopyat \(2008\)](#); [Kosygina and Mountford \(2010\)](#); [Kosygina and Zerner \(2008\)](#); [Mountford et al. \(2006\)](#); [Zerner \(2005\)](#), but also in higher dimension and on trees (see in particular [Amir et al., 2008](#); [Bérard and Ramírez, 2007](#); [Basdevant and Singh, 2009](#); [Kozma, 2003, 2005](#); [Volkov, 2003](#); [Zerner, 2006](#)). In this class of walks, the transition probabilities depend on the number of times the walk has visited the present site. In particular [Zerner \(2005\)](#) and later [Kosygina and Zerner \(2008\)](#) showed that on \mathbb{Z} , if p_i is the probability to go from x to $x+1$ after the i -th visit to x and if either $p_i \geq 1/2$ for all i or $p_i = 1/2$ for i large enough, then the walk is a.s. recurrent if, and only if,

$$\delta := \sum_i (2p_i - 1) \in [-1, 1],$$

and it is a.s. transient otherwise. Next [Basdevant and Singh \(2008a\)](#) and [Kosygina and Zerner \(2008\)](#) proved that the random walk has positive speed if and only if

$$\sum_i (2p_i - 1) \notin [-2, 2]$$

and that it satisfies a central limit theorem (see [Kosygina and Zerner, 2008](#)) if

$$\sum_i (2p_i - 1) \notin [-4, 4].$$

Recently [Dolgopyat \(2008\)](#) proved a functional central limit theorem in the recurrent case (more precisely when $\delta < 1$ and $p_i \geq 1/2$ for all i), identifying the limiting process as a perturbed Brownian motion (with $0 \leq \alpha = -\beta < 1$).

We study what could be another continuous time version of cookie random walks. Excited Brownian motions considered here are defined by the stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = dB_t + \varphi(X_t, L_t^{X_t}) dt,$$

for some bounded and measurable φ , where B is a Brownian motion and L_t^x is the local time in x at time t of X . These processes were introduced by [Norris et al. \(1987\)](#), in connection with the volume excluded problem (see [Norris et al., 1985](#)). In fact they considered the case when φ is only supposed to be locally bounded. Then under the assumption that φ only depends on the second coordinate, that it is continuous, nonnegative and that its integral is strictly larger than 1, they proved that the process X is well defined, transient and when φ is nondecreasing they proved a law of large numbers. Along the proof they obtained also a Ray–Knight type theorem. Later Hu and Yor proved a central limit theorem [Hu and Yor \(1999\)](#), assuming also that φ is nonnegative, continuous and nondecreasing. Here we mainly concentrate on the case when φ is bounded, but we also discuss the case when φ is possibly unbounded at the end of the paper. Our main result (see Theorem [6.3](#) and [6.4](#) below) is the

Theorem 1.1. *Assume that φ is constant in the first variable, Borel-measurable and bounded. Set*

$$C_1^\pm := \int_0^\infty \exp \left[\mp \int_0^x \frac{dl}{l} \int_0^l \varphi(0, u) du \right] dx.$$

Then

- (1) *the process X is almost surely recurrent if, and only if, $C_1^+ = C_1^- = +\infty$,*
- (2) *we have $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} X_t = +\infty$ (resp. $-\infty$) almost surely if, and only if, $C_1^+ < +\infty$ (resp. $C_1^- < \infty$),*
- (3) *we have $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} X_t/t = v > 0$ (resp. < 0) almost surely if, and only if, $C_2^+ < \infty$ (resp. $C_2^- < \infty$), where*

$$C_2^\pm := \int_0^\infty x \exp \left[\mp \int_0^x \frac{dl}{l} \int_0^l \varphi(0, u) du \right] dx,$$

and in this case $v = C_1^+/C_2^+$ (resp. $v = -C_1^-/C_2^-$).

An immediate consequence is the following

Corollary 1.2. *Assume moreover that φ is nonnegative or compactly supported. Then*

- (1) *recurrence of X is equivalent to*

$$\int_0^\infty \varphi(0, l) dl \in [-1, 1],$$

- (2) *and nonzero speed is equivalent to*

$$\int_0^\infty \varphi(0, l) dl \notin [-2, 2].$$

In section 7, we give a sufficient condition ensuring that X satisfies a central limit theorem (see Theorem 7.1). In particular (see Proposition 7.2) it implies the

Corollary 1.3. *Under the hypotheses of Corollary 1.2*

- (3) *the process X satisfies a central limit theorem if*

$$\int_0^\infty \varphi(0, l) dl \notin [-4, 4].$$

Note that in these results we assume that φ is constant in the first variable. We will also consider the case of non-homogeneous φ (i.e. non necessarily constant in the first variable) in Section 5, for which we obtain some partial results. In particular if we make the additional hypothesis that φ is nonnegative, then we give a sufficient condition for recurrence (see Corollary 5.6).

The paper is organized as follows. In the next section we define excited Brownian motions and give some elementary properties. In section 3 we describe the law of the excursions of these processes above or below some level. In section 4 we study the property of recurrence and prove a general 0-1 law. In section 5 we study the particular case of nonnegative φ and obtain a necessary and sufficient criterion for recurrence or transience. The tools used there are elementary martingale techniques, very similar to the techniques in Zerner (2005), and partly apply for non-homogeneous φ , as we mentioned above. However they do not apply well for general φ . In section 6 we give a criterion for recurrence and transience without

any condition on the sign of φ , but assuming that it is constant in the first variable. For this we use the tools developed in sections 3 and 4 and arguments similar to those in [Norris et al. \(1987\)](#), in particular a Ray–Knight theorem. We also obtain a law of large numbers with an explicit expression for the speed. Here again, the proof follows the arguments given in [Norris et al. \(1987\)](#), but we partly extend and simplify them. In section 7 we give a central limit theorem, following [Hu and Yor \(1999\)](#).

Acknowledgments: We would like to thank Itai Benjamini for his suggestion to consider the processes studied in this paper. We thank also Martin Zerner and Arvind Singh for bringing to our attention the papers [Norris et al. \(1987\)](#) and [Hu and Yor \(1999\)](#).

2. Definitions and first properties

Denote by $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{Q}_x)$ the Wiener space, where \mathbb{Q}_x is the law of a real Brownian motion started at x . Define $X_t(\omega) = \omega(t)$ for all $t \geq 0$ and $(\mathcal{F}_t, t \geq 0)$ the filtration associated to X . In the following, L_t^y denotes the local time process of X at level y and at time t .

Let Λ be the set of measurable bounded functions $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. The subset of Λ of nonnegative functions will be denoted by Λ^+ . We will denote by Λ_c and Λ_c^+ the sets of functions φ in Λ (resp. in Λ^+) such that $\varphi(x, l)$ is a constant function of x .

For $\varphi \in \Lambda$, set

$$M_t^\varphi := \exp \left(\int_0^t \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) dX_s - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \varphi^2(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) ds \right).$$

Then $(M_t^\varphi, t \geq 0)$ is an $(\mathcal{F}_t, t \geq 0)$ martingale of mean one w.r.t. \mathbb{Q}_x (see Corollary (1.16) p.333 in [Revuz and Yor, 1999](#)). So we can define $\mathbb{P}_{x,t}^\varphi$ as the probability measure on (Ω, \mathcal{F}_t) having a density M_t^φ with respect to \mathbb{Q}_x restricted to \mathcal{F}_t . By consistency, it is possible to construct a (unique) probability measure \mathbb{P}_x^φ on Ω , such that \mathbb{P}_x^φ restricted to \mathcal{F}_t is $\mathbb{P}_{x,t}^\varphi$. By the transformation of drift formula (Girsanov Theorem), one proves that under \mathbb{P}_x^φ ,

$$B_t = X_t - x - \int_0^t \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) ds,$$

is a Brownian motion started at 0.

This proves (the uniqueness follows by a similar argument: start with \mathbb{P}_x^φ the law of a solution and then construct $\mathbb{P}_{x,t}^\varphi$) the following

Proposition 2.1. *Let $(x, \varphi) \in \mathbb{R} \times \Lambda$. Then there is a unique solution (X, B) to the equation*

$$X_t = x + B_t + \int_0^t \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) ds, \quad (2.1)$$

with L_t^y the local time of X at level y and at time t , and such that B is a Brownian motion started at 0.

For clarity, we will sometimes write \mathbb{Q} for \mathbb{Q}_0 and \mathbb{P} for \mathbb{P}_0^φ , if there is no ambiguity on φ . We will use the notation \mathbb{E} and \mathbb{E}_x^φ for the expectations with respect to \mathbb{P} and \mathbb{P}_x^φ . For other probability measures μ , the expectation of a random variable Z will simply be denoted by $\mu(Z)$.

Let $(x, \varphi) \in \mathbb{R} \times \Lambda$. Under \mathbf{P}_x^φ , for all stopping times T , on the event $\{T < \infty\}$,
the law of $(X_{t+T}, t \geq 0)$ given \mathcal{F}_T is $\mathbf{P}_{X_T}^{\varphi_T}$, (2.2)

where $\varphi_T \in \Lambda$ is defined by

$$\varphi_T(y, l) = \varphi(y, L_T^y + l).$$

Note that (X_t, φ_t) is a Markov process and that (2.2) is just the strong Markov property for this process.

We denote by D_t the drift accumulated at time t :

$$D_t = \int_0^t \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) ds.$$

Lemma 2.2. *Set $h(x, l) = \int_0^l \varphi(x, u) du$. The drift term D_t is also equal to*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} h(x, L_t^x) dx.$$

Proof: This follows from the occupation times formula given in exercise (1.15) in the chapter VI of Revuz–Yor [Revuz and Yor \(1999\)](#). \square

In the following, we set for any Borel set A of \mathbb{R} ,

$$D_t^A = \int_A h(x, L_t^x) dx.$$

We will use also the notation D_t^+ , D_t^- and D_t^k , $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, respectively for $D_t^{\mathbb{R}^+}$, $D_t^{\mathbb{R}^-}$ and $D_t^{(k, k+1)}$. Note that (this is still a consequence of Exercise (1.15) Chapter VI in [Revuz and Yor, 1999](#))

$$D_t^A = \int_0^t \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) 1_A(X_s) ds.$$

Lemma 2.3. *Let $(\varphi_n)_{n \geq 0} \in \Lambda$ be a sequence of functions. Assume that for a.e. x and l , $\varphi_n(x, l)$ converges toward $\varphi(x, l)$ when $n \rightarrow +\infty$. Assume also that*

$$\sup_{x, n, u} |\varphi_n(x, u)| < +\infty.$$

Then $\mathbf{P}_x^{\varphi_n}$ converges weakly on Ω toward \mathbf{P}_x^φ for all x .

Proof: Let Z be a bounded continuous \mathcal{F}_t -measurable random variable. We have to prove that $\mathbf{E}_x^{\varphi_n}(Z)$ converges towards $\mathbf{E}_x^\varphi(Z)$. Since $\mathbf{E}_x^{\varphi_n}(Z)$ and $\mathbf{E}_x^\varphi(Z)$ are respectively equal to $\mathbf{Q}_x(Z M_t^{\varphi_n})$ and to $\mathbf{Q}_x(Z M_t^\varphi)$ it suffices to prove that $M_t^{\varphi_n}$ converges in $L^2(\mathbf{Q}_x)$ towards M_t^φ . By using Itô calculus, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Q}_x[(M_t^{\varphi_n} - M_t^\varphi)^2] &= \mathbf{Q}_x \left[\int_0^t d \langle M^{\varphi_n} - M^\varphi \rangle_s \right] \\ &= \mathbf{Q}_x \left[\int_0^t (M_s^{\varphi_n} \varphi_n(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) - M_s^\varphi \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}))^2 ds \right]. \end{aligned}$$

By using next the basic inequality $(a + b)^2 \leq 2(a^2 + b^2)$ we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{Q}_x[(M_t^{\varphi_n} - M_t^\varphi)^2] \leq 2\mathbf{Q}_x[(\varphi_n - \varphi)^2(X_t, L_t^{X_t})(M_t^\varphi)^2] + C\mathbf{Q}_x[(M_t^{\varphi_n} - M_t^\varphi)^2],$$

for some constant $C > 0$. By dominated convergence, the first term of the right hand side converges to 0. We conclude by using Gronwall's lemma. \square

3. Construction with excursions

Define the processes A^+ and A^- as follows:

$$A_t^+ = \int_0^t 1_{\{X_s > 0\}} ds \quad \text{and} \quad A_t^- = \int_0^t 1_{\{X_s < 0\}} ds.$$

Define the right-continuous inverses of A^+ and A^- as

$$\kappa^+(t) = \inf\{u > 0 \mid A_u^+ > t\} \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa^-(t) = \inf\{u > 0 \mid A_u^- > t\}. \quad (3.1)$$

Define the two processes X^+ and X^- by

$$X_t^+ = X_{\kappa^+(t)} \quad \text{and} \quad X_t^- = X_{\kappa^-(t)}.$$

Denote by \mathbf{Q}^+ and \mathbf{Q}^- the laws respectively of X^+ and X^- under \mathbf{Q} , and let \mathbf{Q}_t^+ and \mathbf{Q}_t^- respectively be their restrictions to \mathcal{F}_t (then \mathbf{Q}_t^\pm is the law of $(X_s^\pm; s \leq t)$). It is known (see section 8.5 in [Yor, 1992](#), with $\mu = 1$) that \mathbf{Q}^+ (resp. \mathbf{Q}^-) is the law of a Brownian motion reflected above 0 (resp. below 0) and started at 0. The process β , defined by

$$\beta_t := X_t - L_t^0 \quad (\text{resp. } \beta_t := X_t + L_t^0),$$

(recall that L^0 is the local time process in 0 of X) is a Brownian motion under \mathbf{Q}^+ (resp. under \mathbf{Q}^-). Denote by N_t^φ the martingale on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbf{Q}^\pm)$ defined by

$$N_t^\varphi := \exp \left(\int_0^t \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) d\beta_s - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \varphi^2(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) ds \right).$$

Let $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi, \pm}$ be the measures whose restrictions $\mathbf{P}_t^{\varphi, \pm}$ to \mathcal{F}_t are defined by

$$\mathbf{P}_t^{\varphi, \pm} := N_t^\varphi \cdot \mathbf{Q}_t^\pm \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0.$$

Note that, by using Girsanov Theorem, on the space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbf{P}^{\varphi, \pm})$,

$$X_t = \beta_t^\pm \pm L_t^0 + \int_0^t \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) ds, \quad (3.2)$$

with β_t^\pm a Brownian motion.

Set $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}^\varphi := \mathbf{P}^{\varphi, +} \otimes \mathbf{P}^{\varphi, -}$ and let (X^1, X^2) be the canonical process of law $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}^\varphi$. Then X^1 and X^2 are independent and respectively distributed like $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi, +}$ and $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi, -}$. Denote by $L^{(1)}$ and $L^{(2)}$ the local time processes in 0 of X^1 and X^2 , and define their right continuous inverses τ_1 and τ_2 by

$$\tau_i(s) = \inf\{t \mid L_t^{(i)} > s\} \quad \text{for all } s \geq 0 \text{ and } i \in \{1, 2\}.$$

Note that this definition extends to random times s . Denote by e^1 and e^2 their excursion processes out of 0: for $s \leq L_\infty^{(i)}$,

$$e_s^i(u) = X_{\tau_i(s-) + u}^i \quad \text{for all } u \in (0, \tau_i(s) - \tau_i(s-)) \text{ and } i \in \{1, 2\},$$

if $\tau_i(s) - \tau_i(s-) > 0$, and $e_s^i = 0$ otherwise. Let now e be the excursion process obtained by adding e^1 and e^2 : for all $s \geq 0$, $e_s := e_s^1 + e_s^2$ (note that with probability 1, for all $s \geq 0$, e_s^1 or e_s^2 equals zero).

Denote by Ξ the measurable transformation that reconstructs a process out of its excursion process (see [Revuz and Yor, 1999](#) Proposition (2.5) p.482). Note that Ξ is not a one to one map, it is only surjective (think of processes having an infinite

excursion out of 0, in which case $L_\infty^0 < \infty$). In particular, if \tilde{e}^1 and \tilde{e}^2 are defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{e}_s^1 &= e_s^1 1_{\{s \leq L_\infty^{(1)} \wedge L_\infty^{(2)}\}} \\ \text{and } \tilde{e}_s^2 &= e_s^2 1_{\{s \leq L_\infty^{(1)} \wedge L_\infty^{(2)}\}},\end{aligned}$$

then $\Xi(\tilde{e}^1 + \tilde{e}^2) = \Xi(e)$. Recall now that $P = P_0^\varphi$ and that $(\Xi e)_t^+$ and $(\Xi e)_t^-$ have been defined at the beginning of this section.

Proposition 3.1. *Denote by L the local time in 0 of Ξe . Then the following holds*

- (i) *The law of the process Ξe is P .*
- (ii) *For all $t \in \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{\infty\}$, $L_t = L_t^{(1)} \wedge L_t^{(2)}$.*
- (iii) *$((\Xi e)_t^+, t \leq \tau_1(L_\infty)) = (X_t^1, t \leq \tau_1(L_\infty))$.*
- (iv) *$((\Xi e)_t^-, t \leq \tau_2(L_\infty)) = (X_t^2, t \leq \tau_2(L_\infty))$.*

Note that $t \leq \tau_1(L_\infty)$ (resp. $t \leq \tau_2(L_\infty)$) is equivalent to say that $L_t^{(1)} \leq L_\infty^{(2)}$ (resp. $L_t^{(2)} \leq L_\infty^{(1)}$).

Proof: Assume first that $\varphi(x, l) = 0$ if $x \in (-c, c)$, for some constant $c > 0$. For any $\epsilon \in (-c, c)$, define a process X^ϵ as follows: set $T_0^\epsilon = 0$ and for $n \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}S_n^\epsilon &= \inf\{t \geq T_{n-1}^\epsilon \mid X_t \in \{-\epsilon, \epsilon\}\}, \\ T_n^\epsilon &= \inf\{t \geq S_n^\epsilon \mid X_t = 0\}.\end{aligned}$$

Define also

$$A_\epsilon(t) = \sum_{n \geq 1} (T_n^\epsilon \wedge t - S_n^\epsilon \wedge t),$$

and let $\kappa_\epsilon(t)$ be the right-continuous inverse of A_ϵ . Then set

$$X_t^\epsilon := X_{\kappa_\epsilon(t)}.$$

Now observe that during each time-interval $(S_n^\epsilon, T_n^\epsilon)$, the local time in 0 of X cannot increase, and that, for $t \in (A_\epsilon(S_n^\epsilon), A_\epsilon(T_n^\epsilon))$, $\kappa_\epsilon(t) = S_n^\epsilon + (t - A_\epsilon(S_n^\epsilon))$. So by (3.2), during the intervals $(A_\epsilon(S_n^\epsilon), A_\epsilon(T_n^\epsilon))$, if X follows the law of Ξe , then X^ϵ is solution of the SDE

$$dX_t^\epsilon = dR_t^\epsilon + \varphi(X_t^\epsilon, L_{\kappa_\epsilon(t)}^{X_t^\epsilon}) dt,$$

where L is the local time of X , and R^ϵ is the Brownian motion defined by

$$R_t^\epsilon = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (B_{T_k^\epsilon} - B_{S_k^\epsilon}) + (B_{\kappa_\epsilon(t)} - B_{S_n^\epsilon}),$$

for $t \in (A_\epsilon(S_n^\epsilon), A_\epsilon(T_n^\epsilon))$.

Denote by $L^{\epsilon, \cdot}$ the local time process of X^ϵ . Then

$$L_{\kappa_\epsilon(t)}^{x, X^\epsilon} = L_t^{\epsilon, x} \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0 \quad \text{and all } x \notin (-c, c).$$

Since $\varphi(x, l) = 0$ when $x \in (-c, c)$,

$$\varphi(x, L_{\kappa_\epsilon(t)}^{x, X^\epsilon}) = \varphi(x, L_t^{\epsilon, x}) \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0 \quad \text{and all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Thus X^ϵ satisfies in fact the SDE:

$$dX_t^\epsilon = dR_t^\epsilon + \varphi(X_t^\epsilon, L_t^{\epsilon, X_t^\epsilon}) dt, \tag{3.3}$$

up to the first time it hits 0. Moreover when it hits 0, it jumps instantaneously to ϵ or to $-\epsilon$ with probability $1/2$, independently of its past trajectory. Note that this determines the law of X^ϵ .

But it follows also from (2.1), that if X has law P , then X^ϵ solves as well the SDE (3.3) up to the first time it hits 0, and then jump to ϵ or $-\epsilon$ with probability $1/2$ (since there is no drift in $(-c, c)$). Since moreover X^ϵ converges to X , when ϵ goes to 0, we conclude that the law of Ξe is P .

To finish the proof of (i), for $c > 0$, define φ_c by

$$\varphi_c(x, l) = \varphi(x, l)1(x \notin [-c, c]).$$

By Lemma 2.3 we know that $P_0^{\varphi_c}$ converges toward P_0^φ , when $c \rightarrow 0$. It can be also seen that $P^{\varphi_c, +}$ and $P^{\varphi_c, -}$ converge respectively towards $P^{\varphi, +}$ and $P^{\varphi, -}$. Since Ξe is a measurable transformation of (X^1, X^2) , we can conclude.

Assertions (ii), (iii) and (iv) are immediate: in the construction of Ξe , one needs only to know e_s for $s \leq L_\infty = L_\infty^{(1)} \wedge L_\infty^{(2)}$. So $(\Xi e)^+$ and $(\Xi e)^-$ can be respectively reconstructed with the positive and negative excursions of $(e_s, s \leq L_\infty^{(1)} \wedge L_\infty^{(2)})$. \square

4. A 0 – 1 law for recurrence and transience

Let $\varphi \in \Lambda$. Consider the events $R_a := \{L_\infty^a = +\infty\}$, $a \in \mathbb{R}$. Using conditional Borel-Cantelli lemma, one can prove that for all x, y, z , and all $\varphi \in \Lambda$, P_x^φ -a.s., $R_y = R_z$. In the following, we will denote by R the event of recurrence ($= R_a$ for all a).

We will first study the question of recurrence and transience for the processes X^1 and X^2 separately, where X^1 and X^2 are independent respectively of law $P^{\varphi, +}$ and $P^{\varphi, -}$. Note that we still have for all $x \geq 0$ (resp. $x \leq 0$), and all $\varphi \in \Lambda$, $P_x^{\varphi, +}$ -a.s. (resp. $P_x^{\varphi, -}$ -a.s.), $R_x = R_0 (= R)$. So in all cases, R is the event $\{L_\infty^0 = \infty\}$.

Fix $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and denote by φ_x the function in Λ such that for all $(y, l) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^+$,

$$\varphi_x(y, l) = \varphi(x + y, l).$$

In the following, $P_x^{\varphi, \pm}$ will denote $P^{\varphi_x, \pm}$. We also set

$$T_a := \inf\{t > 0 \mid X_t = a\} \quad \text{for all } a \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Proposition 4.1. *For all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and all $\varphi \in \Lambda$, the following holds*

$$P_x^\varphi(R) = P_x^{\varphi, +}(R) \times P_x^{\varphi, -}(R). \quad (4.1)$$

Proof: This is a straightforward application of Proposition 3.1. Recall that \tilde{P}^{φ_x} has been defined in the previous section and that L_∞ refers to the process $\Xi(e)$. Now since

$$\begin{aligned} P_x^\varphi(R) &= \tilde{P}^{\varphi_x}(L_\infty = \infty) \\ &= \tilde{P}^{\varphi_x}(L_\infty^{(1)} = L_\infty^{(2)} = \infty), \end{aligned}$$

and we conclude since $L_\infty^{(1)}$ and $L_\infty^{(2)}$ are independent. \square

For $t > 0$ and $a \in \mathbb{R}$, set $\sigma_t^a = \inf\{s > 0 \mid \int_0^s 1_{\{X_u \geq a\}} du > t\}$. Then we have

Lemma 4.2. *Let $a \in \mathbb{R}$, $x, y \leq a$ and $\varphi, \psi \in \Lambda$ be such that $\varphi(z, l) = \psi(z, l)$ for all $z \geq a$ and all $l \geq 0$. Then $(X_{\sigma_t^a} - a, t \geq 0)$ has the same distribution under $P_x^{\varphi, +}$ and under $P_y^{\psi, +}$. In particular,*

$$P_x^{\varphi, +}(L_\infty^a = \infty) = P_y^{\psi, +}(L_\infty^a = \infty).$$

Proof: Just observe that an analogue of Proposition 3.1 can be proved (exactly in the same way) for the set of excursions above or below any level $a \in \mathbb{R}$. In particular this shows that the law of the excursions of X above level a only depends on $\varphi(z, l)$ or $\psi(z, l)$ for $z \geq a$. The first assertion follows. The second assertion is immediate since the local time in a is a measurable function of $(X_{\sigma_t^a} - a, t \geq 0)$. \square

Note that a similar proposition holds for $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, -}$. A direct consequence of this lemma is that

Proposition 4.3. *For all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{P}_x^{\varphi, \pm}(R) = \mathbb{P}^{\varphi, \pm}(R)$.*

With this in hands, we can prove the

Proposition 4.4 (Zero-one law). *Let $\varphi \in \Lambda$. Then $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R)$ and $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, -}(R)$ both belong to $\{0, 1\}$.*

Proof: Assume that $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R) > 0$. By martingale convergence theorem, $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}$ -a.s.

$$\begin{aligned} 1_R &= \lim_{z \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R \mid \mathcal{F}_{T_z}) \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{P}_z^{\varphi_{T_z}, +}(R) \\ &= \mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R), \end{aligned}$$

by application of Lemma 4.2 and Proposition 4.3. Thus $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R) = 1$, which proves the proposition. \square

Denote by T the event of transience. Then $T = R^c = \{L_\infty^0 < \infty\}$. Note that $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, \pm}$ -a.s., $T = \{X \rightarrow \pm\infty\}$, and that \mathbb{P}_x^φ -a.s., $T = \{X \rightarrow +\infty\} \cup \{X \rightarrow -\infty\}$ and that $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^\varphi$ -a.s., $\{\Xi e \text{ is transient}\} = \{X^1 \rightarrow \infty\} \cup \{X^2 \rightarrow -\infty\}$. Then we have the criterion

Proposition 4.5. *Let $\varphi \in \Lambda$.*

- (i) $\mathbb{P}_x^\varphi(R) = 1$ for all x if, and only if, $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R) = \mathbb{P}^{\varphi, -}(R) = 1$.
- (ii) $\mathbb{P}_x^\varphi(R) = 0$ for all x if, and only if, $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R) = 0$ or $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, -}(R) = 0$.

Proof: This is a straightforward consequence of Propositions 4.1 and 4.3. Note moreover that Proposition 4.4 shows that cases (i) and (ii) cover all possibilities. \square

Let us remark that when X is transient under law \mathbb{P} , it is possible to have $\mathbb{P}(X \rightarrow +\infty) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(X \rightarrow -\infty) \in (0, 1)$. For instance take $\varphi \in \Lambda$ such that $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R) = 0$, i.e. one has $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}$ -a.s. $X \rightarrow +\infty$. Then define $\psi \in \Lambda$ by $\psi(x, u) = \varphi(x, u)$ if $x \geq 0$ and $\psi(x, u) = -\varphi(x, u)$ if $x < 0$. Then by symmetry we have

$$\mathbb{P}_0^\psi(X \rightarrow +\infty) = \mathbb{P}_0^\psi(X \rightarrow -\infty) = 1/2.$$

More generally,

$$\mathbb{P}_0^\varphi(X \rightarrow +\infty) = \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^\varphi(L_\infty^{(1)} < L_\infty^{(2)}),$$

and

$$\mathbb{P}_0^\varphi(X \rightarrow -\infty) = \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^\varphi(L_\infty^{(1)} > L_\infty^{(2)}).$$

So, if $L_\infty^{(1)}$ and $L_\infty^{(2)}$ are finite random variables (i.e. if X^1 and X^2 are transient), since they are independent, these two probabilities are positive (see Lemma 5.8 below).

5. Case when $\varphi \geq 0$

In this section, we will consider functions belonging to Λ^+ . In this case, it is obvious that $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,-}(R) = 1$. Thus the recurrence property only depends on $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,+}(R)$. We recall also that D_t, D_t^+, D_t^- and D_t^k have been defined in Section 2 (in particular we stress out that D_t^k has not to be thought as the k -th power of D_t).

Lemma 5.1. *Let $\varphi \in \Lambda^+$, for which there exists x_0 such that for all $x \leq x_0$ and all $l \geq 0$, $\varphi(x, l) = \varphi(x_0, l)$, and where $\varphi(x_0, l)$ is a nonzero function of l . Then, for all $a \geq x$,*

$$\mathbf{E}_x^\varphi(D_{T_a}) = a - x.$$

Proof: Without losing generality, we prove this result for $x = 0$. Take $a > 0$. We have for all n ,

$$0 = \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi(B_{T_a \wedge n}) = \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi(X_{T_a \wedge n}) - \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi(D_{T_a \wedge n}). \quad (5.1)$$

By monotone convergence,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi(D_{T_a \wedge n}) = \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi(D_{T_a}). \quad (5.2)$$

Thus, if we can prove that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi(X_{T_a \wedge n}) = a$, the lemma will follow. Since \mathbf{P}_0^φ -a.s., $X_{T_a} = a$ and $T_a < \infty$, this is equivalent to proving that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi[X_n 1_{\{n < T_a\}}] = 0.$$

For all n ,

$$\min_{t < T_a} X_t \leq X_n 1_{\{n < T_a\}} \leq a \quad \mathbf{P}_0^\varphi - a.s.$$

If one proves that $\min_{t < T_a} X_t$ is integrable, we can conclude by dominated convergence. One has for all $c > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi \left[-\min_{t < T_a} X_t \right] &= \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi \left[\left(-\min_{t < T_a} X_t \right) 1_{\{-\min_{t < T_a} X_t \leq D_{T_a}/c\}} \right] \\ &+ \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi \left[\left(-\min_{t < T_a} X_t \right) 1_{\{-\min_{t < T_a} X_t \geq D_{T_a}/c\}} \right] \\ &\leq \mathbf{E}_0^\varphi[D_{T_a}/c] + \sum_{i \geq 1} i \times \mathbf{P}_0^\varphi \left[-\min_{t < T_a} X_t \in [i-1, i), D_{T_a} < ci \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Now (5.1) and (5.2) show that $\mathbf{E}_0^\varphi[D_{T_a}/c] \leq a/c < +\infty$. Moreover for all $i \geq 1$,

$$\mathbf{P}_0^\varphi \left[-\min_{t < T_a} X_t \in [i-1, i), D_{T_a} < ci \right] \leq \mathbf{P}_0^\varphi [T_{-i+1} < T_a, D_{T_a} < ci]. \quad (5.3)$$

Now on the event $\{T_{-i+1} < T_a\}$,

$$D_{T_a} \geq \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} \left(\int_{-k}^{-k+1} h(y, L_{T_{-k}}^y) dy \right) 1_{\{T_{-k} < \infty\}}.$$

Set

$$\alpha_k := \left(1 \wedge \left(\int_{-k}^{-k+1} h(y, L_{T_{-k}}^y) dy \right) \right) 1_{\{T_{-k} < \infty\}}.$$

We will prove that there exist positive constants α and C , such that for all integer k greater than $|x_0|$,

$$\mathbf{E}_0^\varphi[\alpha_{k+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_{T_{-k}}] \geq \alpha 1_{\{T_{-k} < +\infty\}}. \quad (5.4)$$

By (2.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi[\alpha_{k+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_{T_{-k}}] &= \mathbb{E}_{-k}^{\varphi_{T_{-k}}}[\alpha_{k+1}] 1_{\{T_{-k} < \infty\}} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_0^{\psi_k}[\alpha_1] 1_{\{T_{-k} < \infty\}}, \end{aligned}$$

with $\psi_k(y, l) = \varphi(x_0, l)$ for $y < 0$ and $\psi_k(y, l) = \varphi(y - k, L_{T_{-k}}^{y-k} + l)$ for $y \geq 0$. Note that by Proposition 3.1, Ξe will reach level -1 in finite time if, and only if,

$$L_\infty^{(1)} \geq L_{T_{-1}}^{(2)},$$

where T_{-1} denotes also the hitting time of -1 for X^2 . Thus

$$\mathbb{E}_0^{\psi_k}[\alpha_1] = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^{\psi_k} \left[F(X_t^2, t \leq T_{-1}) 1_{\{L_\infty^{(1)} \geq L_{T_{-1}}^{(2)}\}} \right],$$

with

$$F(X_t^2, t \leq T_{-1}) = 1 \wedge \int_{-1}^0 h(y, L_{T_{-1}}^{(2), y}) dy,$$

where $L^{(2), y}$ is the local time in y of X^2 . It is possible to couple X^1 with a Brownian motion Y^+ reflected at 0, started at 0, with drift $\|\varphi\|_\infty$, and such that $X_t^1 \leq Y_t^+$ for all $t \geq 0$. Note that the law of Y^+ is $\mathbb{P}^{\psi, +}$, where $\psi(x, l) = \|\varphi\|_\infty$ if $x \geq 0$ and $\psi(x, l) = \varphi(x_0, l)$ if $x < 0$. Moreover,

$$L_\infty^{(1)} \geq L_\infty^+,$$

with L^+ the local time in 0 of Y^+ . These properties imply that

$$\mathbb{E}_0^{\psi_k}[\alpha_1] \geq \alpha := \mathbb{E}_0^\psi[\alpha_1].$$

It remains to see that α is positive. For any $t > 0$, it is larger than

$$\mathbb{E}_0^\psi[(\alpha_1) 1_{\{T_{-1} \leq t\}}].$$

By using Girsanov's transform it suffices to prove that for some positive t ,

$$\mathbb{Q}[\alpha_1 1_{\{T_{-1} \leq t\}}] > 0.$$

If not, $\mathbb{Q}[\alpha_1 1_{\{T_{-1} \leq t\}}] = 0$ for all t . Since $\mathbb{Q}[T_{-1} \leq t] > 0$ for all $t > 0$, this implies

$$\int_{-1}^0 \mathbb{Q}[h(y, L_{T_{-1}}^y) 1_{\{T_{-1} \leq t\}}] dy = 0.$$

By continuity of h and L it suffices to prove that for some $y \in (-1, 0)$ and $t > 0$,

$$\mathbb{Q}[h(y, L_{T_{-1}}^y) 1_{\{T_{-1} \leq t\}}] > 0.$$

But this is clear for $y = 1/2$ for instance, since for any $M > 0$, $\mathbb{Q}[L_{T_{-1}}^{1/2} > M] > 0$. This proves (5.4).

We deduce now from (5.4) that the process $(M_i, i \geq 0)$ defined by

$$M_i := \sum_{k=1}^i (\alpha_k - \alpha 1_{\{T_{-k} < +\infty\}}),$$

is a sub-martingale with respect to the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_{T_{-i}})_{i \geq 1}$. Moreover on the event $\{T_{-i} < T_a\}$, one has

$$M_i = \sum_{k=1}^i (\alpha_k - \alpha).$$

So by taking $c = \alpha/2$ in (5.3) we get

$$\mathbb{P}[T_{-i} < T_a, D_{T_a} < c(i+1)] \leq \mathbb{P}[M_i \leq -\alpha i/2],$$

for all $i \geq 0$. We conclude now that $\mathbb{E}[-\min_{t < T_a} X_t]$ is finite by using concentration results for martingales with bounded increments (see Theorem 3.10 p.221 in [McDiarmid, 1998](#)). \square

Remark 5.2. As noticed also by Zerner in [Zerner \(2005\)](#), the condition $\varphi(x_0, \cdot) \neq 0$ is necessary (the result being obviously false if $\varphi = 0$).

Remark 5.3. This lemma can be extended to the case when φ is random and stationary in the sense that for all z , φ^z and φ have the same law, where φ^z is defined by $\varphi^z(x, l) = \varphi(x + z, l)$.

Lemma 5.4. Let $\varphi \in \Lambda_c^+$. Then

$$\mathbb{E}_0^\varphi(D_\infty^k) \leq 1,$$

for all $k \geq 0$.

Proof: It is the same proof than for Lemma 11 in [Zerner \(2005\)](#). We reproduce it here for completeness. Note first that $\mathbb{E}_0^\varphi[D_\infty^k] = \mathbb{P}_k^{\varphi, +}(D_\infty^0)$, which does not depend on k since $\varphi \in \Lambda_c$. For $K \geq 1$ and $i \leq K-1$,

$$D_{T_K} \geq D_{T_K}^+ = \sum_{j=0}^{K-1} D_{T_K}^j \geq \sum_{j=0}^{K-1-i} D_{T_K}^j \geq \sum_{j=0}^{K-1-i} D_{T_{j+i}}^j.$$

By using Lemma 5.1,

$$K = \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi[D_{T_K}] \geq \sum_{j=0}^{K-1-i} \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi[D_{T_{j+i}}^j] \geq (K-i) \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi[D_{T_i}^0].$$

Dividing by K , letting $K \rightarrow \infty$ and then $i \rightarrow \infty$, we conclude. \square

Lemma 5.5. Let $\varphi \in \Lambda^+$ be such that $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R) = 0$. Then

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi(D_{T_z}^+)/z = 1.$$

If moreover $\varphi \in \Lambda_c^+$, then

$$\mathbb{E}_0^\varphi(D_\infty^0) = 1.$$

Proof: The proof of the first part follows the proof of Lemma 6 in [Zerner \(2005\)](#). We write it here for completeness. First, since $\mathbb{E}_0^\varphi(D_{T_z}^+) = \mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(D_{T_z})$ and $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(R)$ is a function of $(\varphi(x, \cdot))_{x \geq 0}$, we can assume that $\varphi(x, l) = 1$ for all $x \leq 0$ and all $l \geq 0$. Thus Lemma 5.1 can be applied: $\mathbb{E}_0^\varphi(D_{T_z}) = z$. So, it suffices to prove that $\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi(D_{T_z}^-)/z = 0$. For $i \geq 1$, let $\sigma_i = \inf\{j \geq T_i \mid X_j = 0\}$. We have, for z an integer,

$$\mathbb{E}_0^\varphi[D_{T_z}^-] = \sum_{i=0}^{z-1} \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi[D_{T_{i+1}}^- - D_{T_i}^-].$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi[D_{T_{i+1}}^- - D_{T_i}^-] &= \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi \left[1_{\{\sigma_i < T_{i+1}\}} (D_{T_{i+1}}^- - D_{T_i}^-) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_0^\varphi \left[1_{\{\sigma_i < T_{i+1}\}} \mathbb{E}_0^{\varphi^{\sigma_i}}(D_{T_{i+1}}^-) \right] \\ &\leq (i+1) \mathbb{P}_0^\varphi(\sigma_i < T_{i+1}), \end{aligned}$$

by using again Lemma 5.1. Thus it remains to prove that

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{z} \sum_{i=1}^{z-1} i P_0^\varphi(\sigma_i < T_{i+1}) = 0.$$

Let $Y_i = P_0^\varphi[\sigma_i < T_{i+1} \mid \mathcal{F}_{T_i}]$. Since $P_0^\varphi(R) = 0$, the conditional Borel-Cantelli lemma implies that P_0^φ -a.s., $\sum_i Y_i < +\infty$. Since $Y_i \leq 1/i$ (X being greater than a Brownian motion), for all positive ϵ ,

$$i \times P_0^\varphi(\sigma_i < T_{i+1}) \leq \epsilon + P_0^\varphi(Y_i \geq \epsilon/i).$$

This implies that

$$\frac{1}{z} \sum_{i=1}^{z-1} i P_0^\varphi(\sigma_i < T_{i+1}) \leq \epsilon + \frac{1}{z} E_0^\varphi \left[\sum_{i=1}^{z-1} 1_{\{Y_i \geq \epsilon/i\}} \right].$$

But since $\sum_i Y_i < \infty$ a.s., the density of the $i \leq z$ such that $Y_i \geq \epsilon/i$ tends to 0 when z tends to ∞ . Thus the preceding sum converges to 0 by dominated convergence. This concludes the proof of the first part.

The second part is immediate (see Zerner, 2005 Theorem 12). Since $\varphi \in \Lambda_c^+$, for all $K \geq 0$,

$$E_0^\varphi[D_\infty^0] = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} E_0^\varphi[D_\infty^k] \geq \frac{1}{K} E_0^\varphi[D_{T_K}^+].$$

We conclude by using the first part of the lemma. \square

The next result gives a sufficient condition for recurrence, when we only know that $\varphi \in \Lambda^+$. For $\varphi \in \Lambda_c^+$, we will obtain a necessary and sufficient condition in Theorem 5.9 below.

Corollary 5.6. *Let $\varphi \in \Lambda^+$. For $x \in \mathbb{R}$, set $\delta^x(\varphi) = \int_0^\infty \varphi(x, u) du$. If*

$$\liminf_{z \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{z} \int_0^z \delta^x(\varphi) dx < 1,$$

then $P^{\varphi,+}(R) = 1$.

Proof: Since P -a.s. $D_{T_z}^+ \leq \int_0^z \delta^x(\varphi) dx$, if $\liminf \frac{1}{z} \int_0^z \delta^x(\varphi) dx < 1$, then

$$\liminf E_0^\varphi(D_{T_z}^+)/z < 1.$$

We conclude by using Lemma 5.5. \square

Lemma 5.7. *Let $\varphi \in \Lambda$ be such that $P^{\varphi,+}(R) = 0$. Then*

$$P_0^\varphi(T_{-1} = +\infty) > 0.$$

Proof: By using Proposition 3.1,

$$P_0^\varphi(T_{-1} = +\infty) = \tilde{P}^\varphi(L_\infty^{(1)} < L_{T_{-1}}^{(2)}),$$

where T_{-1} denotes also the hitting time of -1 for X^2 . Since X^1 and X^2 are independent and since $P^{\varphi,+}(R) = 0$ implies that \tilde{P}^φ -a.s., $L_\infty^{(1)} < +\infty$, it suffices to prove that for any $l > 0$,

$$P^{\varphi,-}(L_{T_{-1}}^0 > l) > 0.$$

Equivalently it suffices to prove that for any $l > 0$, there exists $t > 0$ such that

$$P^{\varphi,-}(L_{T_{-1}}^0 > l \text{ and } T_{-1} \leq t) > 0.$$

By absolute continuity of $P_{|\mathcal{F}_t}^{\varphi, -}$ and $Q_{|\mathcal{F}_t}^-$ this is equivalent to

$$Q^-(L_{T_{-1}} > l \text{ and } T_{-1} \leq t) > 0.$$

But this is clear, since L_s and T_{-1} have positive densities with respect to Lebesgue measure, for any $s > 0$ (see [Revuz and Yor, 1999](#)). This concludes the proof of the lemma. \square

Lemma 5.8. *Let $\varphi \in \Lambda$ be such that $P_0^\varphi(R) = 0$. Then for any $M > 0$,*

$$P_0^\varphi[L_\infty^0 < M] > 0.$$

Proof: Since $P_0^\varphi(R) = 0$, Proposition 4.1 shows that $P^{\varphi, +}(R) = 0$ or $P^{\varphi, -}(R) = 0$. Assume for instance that $P^{\varphi, +}(R) = 0$, the other case being similar. We have

$$\begin{aligned} P_0^\varphi[L_\infty^0 < M] &\geq P_0^\varphi[T_1 < +\infty, L_{T_1}^0 < M \text{ and } X_t > 0 \quad \forall t > T_1] \\ &\geq E_0^\varphi \left[1_{\{T_1 < +\infty, L_{T_1}^0 < M\}} P_1^{\varphi T_1}(T_0 = \infty) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

But Lemma 5.7 implies that a.s., $P_1^{\varphi T_1}(T_0 = \infty) > 0$. So it remains to prove that $P_0^\varphi(T_1 < +\infty, L_{T_1}^0 < M) > 0$. Like in the previous lemma, by absolute continuity, it suffices to prove that

$$Q(L_{T_1}^0 < M) > 0.$$

But as in the previous lemma, this claim is clear. This concludes the proof of the lemma. \square

Finally we obtain the

Theorem 5.9. *Let $\varphi \in \Lambda_c^+$. Then*

$$P^{\varphi, +}(R) = 1 \iff \int_0^\infty \varphi(0, u) \, du \leq 1.$$

Proof: We prove this for φ such that $\varphi(x, l) = \varphi(0, l)$ for all x . By Lemma 5.4, $E_0^\varphi(D_\infty^0) \leq 1$. But if $P^{\varphi, +}(R) = 1$, then P_0^φ -a.s. $L_\infty^x = +\infty$, for all x . So, by using the occupation time formula (see Lemma 2.2) we have $E_0^\varphi(D_\infty^0) = \int_0^\infty \varphi(0, u) \, du$. This gives the necessary condition. Reciprocally, if $P^{\varphi, +}(R) = 0$, we saw in Lemma 5.5 that $E_0^\varphi(D_\infty^0) = 1$. But by Lemma 5.8, we have $E_0^\varphi(D_\infty^0) = E_0^\varphi(h(0, L_\infty^0)) < \int_0^\infty \varphi(0, u) \, du$, which gives the sufficient condition and concludes the proof of the theorem. \square

Note that if $\varphi \in \Lambda$ is such that for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$, $\varphi(x, l) = \varphi(a, l) \geq 0$ for all $x \geq a$ and all $l \geq 0$, then

$$P^{\varphi, +}(R) = 1 \iff \int_0^\infty \varphi(a, u) \, du \leq 1.$$

This can be proved using the fact that $P^{\varphi, +}(R) = P^{\varphi_a, +}(R)$ which does not depend on $\varphi(x, \cdot)$, for $x < a$.

Remark 5.10. *With the technique used in this section one could prove as well that for any $\varphi \in \Lambda_c$, such that $\int_0^{+\infty} |\varphi(0, u)| \, du < +\infty$, recurrence implies $\int_0^\infty \varphi(0, u) \, du \in [-1, 1]$. But as we will see, this last condition is not sufficient for recurrence. In fact the necessary and sufficient condition we will obtain in the next section requires more sophisticated tools. In particular we will use a Ray–Knight theorem.*

6. General criterion for recurrence and law of large numbers

6.1. *A Ray–Knight theorem.* By following the proof of the usual Ray–Knight theorem for Brownian motion given for instance in [Revuz and Yor \(1999\)](#) Theorem (2.2) p.455, a Ray–Knight theorem can be obtained. Such a theorem is proved in [Norris et al. \(1987\)](#) (Theorem 2). For $a \geq 0$ and $0 \leq x \leq a$, let

$$Z_x^{(a)} := L_{T_a}^{(1), a-x},$$

where we recall that $L^{(1), \cdot}$ is the local time process of X^1 and T_a is the first time X^1 hits a . Recall also that the law of X^1 is $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}$ and that the function h has been defined in Lemma 2.2.

Theorem 6.1 (Ray–Knight). *The process $(Z_x^{(a)}, x \in [0, a])$ is a non-homogeneous Markov process started at 0 solution of the following SDE:*

$$dZ_x^{(a)} = 2\sqrt{Z_x^{(a)}} d\beta_x + 2(1 - h(a - x, Z_x^{(a)})) dx, \quad (6.1)$$

with β a Brownian motion.

Proof: We just sketch the proof. It is actually proved in [NRW2]. Applying Tanaka’s formula at time T_a :

$$(X_{T_a} - (a - x))^+ = \int_0^{T_a} 1_{\{X_s > a-x\}} dB_s + \int_0^{T_a} 1_{\{X_s > a-x\}} \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) ds + \frac{1}{2} Z_x^{(a)}.$$

Now one has $(X_{T_a} - (a - x))^+ = x$, $M_x = \int_0^{T_a} 1_{\{X_s > a-x\}} dB_s$ is a martingale (in the spatial variable x) and the extended occupation formula gives

$$\int_0^{T_a} 1_{\{X_s > a-x\}} \varphi(X_s, L_s^{X_s}) ds = \int_0^x h(a - z, Z_z^{(a)}) dz.$$

Thus $Z_x^{(a)}$ is a semimartingale, whose quadratic variation is $4 \int_0^x Z_z^{(a)} dz$ (see Theorem (2.2) p.455 in [RY]). This proves the proposition. \square

6.2. *Criterion for recurrence.* In the rest of this section, we assume that $\varphi \in \Lambda_c$. We will note $h(x, l) \equiv h(l)$ for all x and l . Note that Theorem 6.1 (Ray–Knight) implies that for $a > 0$, we have

Proposition 6.2 (Ray–Knight bis). *The process $(Z_x^{(a)}, x \in [0, a])$ is a diffusion started at 0 with generator $\mathcal{L} = 2z d^2/dz^2 + 2(1 - h(z))d/dz$. Thus $Z^{(a)}$ solves the following SDE:*

$$dZ_x^{(a)} = 2\sqrt{Z_x^{(a)}} d\beta_x + 2(1 - h(Z_x^{(a)})) dx, \quad (6.2)$$

with β a Brownian motion.

In the following, Z will denote a diffusion started at 0 with generator \mathcal{L} . Then $(Z_x^{(a)}, 0 \leq x \leq a)$ and $(Z_x, 0 \leq x \leq a)$ have the same law. As noticed in [Norris et al. \(1987\)](#) Theorem 3, the diffusion Z admits an invariant measure π given by

$$\pi(x) = c \cdot \exp \left[- \int_0^x h(l) \frac{dl}{l} \right], \quad (6.3)$$

with c some positive constant. When π is a finite measure, c is chosen such that π is a probability measure. This implies the following generalization of Theorem 5.9 :

Theorem 6.3. *Let $\varphi \in \Lambda_c$. Then*

$$\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,+}(R) = 1 \iff \int_0^\infty \exp \left[- \int_0^x h(l) \frac{dl}{l} \right] dx = +\infty.$$

Proof: Assume that $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,+}(R) = 1$. Then $Z_a^{(a)} = L_{T_a}^{(1),0}$ converges a.s. towards ∞ as $a \rightarrow \infty$. Thus Z_a (which is equal in law to $Z_a^{(a)}$) converges in probability towards ∞ . Thus Z is not positive recurrent, i.e. π is not a finite measure.

Assume now that $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,+}(R) = 0$. Then $Z_a^{(a)} = L_{T_a}^{(1),0}$ converges a.s. towards $L_\infty^{(1),0} < \infty$ as $a \rightarrow \infty$. Thus Z_a converges in law towards $L_\infty^{(1),0}$. The law of $L_\infty^{(1),0}$ is then an invariant probability measure. Since Z is irreducible it admits at most one invariant measure. Thus π is a probability measure. \square

Of course an analogue result holds as well for X^2 . The criterion becomes:

$$\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,-}(R) = 1 \iff \int_0^\infty \exp \left[\int_0^x h(l) \frac{dl}{l} \right] dx = +\infty.$$

In particular, X^1 and X^2 cannot be both transient.

Observe now that if $\lim_{l \rightarrow +\infty} h(l)$ exists, and equals let say h_∞ , then

$$\mathbf{P}_0^\varphi(R) = 1 \implies h_\infty \in [-1, 1],$$

and

$$\mathbf{P}_0^\varphi(R) = 0 \implies h_\infty \notin (-1, 1).$$

But in the critical case $|h_\infty| = 1$ both recurrence and transience regimes may hold. For instance if $h(l) - 1 \sim \alpha / \ln l$ in $+\infty$, then $\mathbf{P}_0^\varphi(R) = 1$ if $\alpha < 1$, whereas $\mathbf{P}_0^\varphi(R) = 0$ if $\alpha > 1$.

Let us finish this subsection with this last remark: Let $\zeta_x := L_\infty^{(1),x}$, with $x \geq 0$. Assume Z is positive recurrent (then X^1 is transient). Using the fact that Z is reversible, it can be seen that ζ is a diffusion with generator \mathcal{L} and initial distribution π (see Theorem 3 in [Norris et al., 1987](#)).

6.3. Law of large numbers. Our next result is a strong law of large numbers with an explicit expression for the speed.

Theorem 6.4. *Let $\varphi \in \Lambda_c$.*

- (i) *Assume π is a probability measure and denote by v the mean of π (i.e. $v = \int_0^\infty x\pi(x)dx \in [0, \infty]$). Then $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}^\varphi$ -a.s.*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{X_t^1}{t} = \frac{1}{v}.$$

- (ii) *Assume π is an infinite measure. Then, $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}^\varphi$ -a.s.*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{X_t^1}{t} = 0.$$

Proof: We take $v = \infty$ when π is an infinite measure. We first prove that (in all cases) $\tilde{\mathbf{P}}^\varphi$ -a.s.

$$\frac{T_K}{K} \rightarrow v, \tag{6.4}$$

when $K \rightarrow +\infty$. Fix $N \geq 1$. Since $\varphi \in \Lambda_c$,

$$\frac{1}{K}T_K \geq \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^{[K/N]-1} (T_{N(i+1)} - T_{Ni}) \geq \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^{[K/N]-1} U_i, \quad (6.5)$$

where the U_i are i.i.d. random variables distributed like T_N (U_i is the time spent in $[Ni, N(i+1)]$ between times T_{Ni} and $T_{N(i+1)}$). Now (in the following \mathbb{E} denotes the expectation with respect to $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^\varphi$)

$$\mathbb{E}[Z_a] = \mathbb{E}[Z_a^{(a)}] = \mathbb{E}[L_{T_a}^{(1),0}]$$

is an increasing function of a . By monotone convergence $\mathbb{E}[Z_a]$ converges towards $\mathbb{E}[Z_\infty] \equiv v$. It is standard to see by using (6.2) that $\mathbb{E}[Z_a] < \infty$ for all a (φ being bounded, $2(1 - h(z))$ is dominated by $c(1 + z)$ for some positive c). Thus for all $N \geq 1$,

$$\mathbb{E}[T_N] = \int_0^N \mathbb{E}[L_{T_N}^{(1),a}] da = \int_0^N \mathbb{E}[Z_a] da \leq N\mathbb{E}[Z_N] < +\infty.$$

Therefore (6.5) shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{K}T_K &\geq \frac{1}{N}\mathbb{E}[T_N] \\ &\geq \frac{1}{N} \int_0^N \mathbb{E}[Z_a] da. \end{aligned}$$

By taking the limit as $N \rightarrow \infty$, we get

$$\liminf_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{K}T_K \geq v. \quad (6.6)$$

So we can conclude when $v = \infty$. Assume now that $v < \infty$. Then $\zeta_a = L_\infty^{(1),a}$ is a diffusion with generator \mathcal{L} and initial distribution π . Now

$$T_K = \int_0^K L_{T_K}^{(1),a} da \leq \int_0^K \zeta_a da,$$

so that

$$\limsup_{K \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{K}T_K \leq v,$$

by the well known ergodic theorem for positive recurrent diffusions (see, for instance, [Itô and McKean, 1965](#) §6.8). Together with (6.6) this proves (6.4).

Note that for all $t \in (T_N, T_{N+1})$.

$$\frac{X_t^1}{t} \leq \frac{N+1}{T_N}. \quad (6.7)$$

The law of large numbers follows immediately when $v = \infty$. Assume now that $v < +\infty$. Since φ is bounded, for all N , $(X_t^1, t \geq T_N)$ dominates a Brownian motion with drift $-\|\varphi\|_\infty$ started at N and absorbed at 0. So for all $\epsilon > 0$, there exist constants $c > 0$ and $C > 0$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}^{\varphi,+} \left[\inf_{t \in (T_N, T_N + cN)} X_t < (1 - \epsilon)N \right] \leq C \exp(-cN),$$

for all $N \geq 1$. So $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^\varphi$ -a.s. we have

$$\inf_{t \in (T_N, T_N + cN)} X_t^1 \geq (1 - \epsilon)N,$$

for all N large enough. Moreover since a.s. $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} T_N/N = v$, we have $T_{N+1} - T_N = o(N)$. So a.s. for N large enough,

$$\inf_{t \in (T_N, T_{N+1})} X_t^1 \geq (1 - \epsilon)N.$$

Then a.s. for N large enough and $t \in (T_N, T_{N+1})$,

$$\frac{X_t^1}{t} \geq (1 - \epsilon) \frac{N}{T_{N+1}}.$$

By (6.4), a.s. $T_N \sim vN$. So this together with (6.7) finishes the proof of the theorem. \square

Here also an analogous result holds for X^2 . One has $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^\varphi$ -a.s.

$$\frac{X_t^2}{t} \rightarrow -\frac{1}{v'},$$

where

$$v' = \int_0^\infty x \exp \left[\int_0^x h(l) \frac{dl}{l} \right] dx.$$

Now if $\varphi \in \Lambda_c$, as we already observed, X^1 and X^2 cannot be both transient. But assume for instance that, let say, X^1 is transient and X^2 is recurrent. Then for t large enough $X_t^1 = X_{t+U}$, where U is the finite random variable equal to the total time spent by X in the negative part. So X satisfies the same law of large numbers as X^1 , namely a.s.

$$\frac{X_t}{t} \rightarrow \frac{1}{v}.$$

Remark 6.5. Let us comment now on the case when φ is only supposed to be locally bounded. Assume that φ is constant in the first variable and that $\liminf_{l \rightarrow \infty} h(l)/l > -\infty$ (this includes the case $\inf_{l \geq 0} \varphi(0, l) > -\infty$). Then, as we will see in the appendix below, the process X^1 of law $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}$ is still well defined. Moreover, as the reader may check, Proposition 4.4 and Theorem 6.3 hold as well for X^1 . Concerning Theorem 6.4, it is still true that $T_K/K \rightarrow v$. Then the law of large numbers follows if $v = \infty$ or under the additional hypothesis that φ is bounded below. Using the same method, like in Norris et al. (1987), it is also possible to construct \mathbb{P}^φ , assuming that $\liminf_{l \rightarrow \infty} h(l) > 0$. Then the study of \mathbb{P}^φ can be reduced to the study of $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}$. But this method does not look to apply to construct $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, -}$. We observe also that the following basic question remains:

Question: Is it possible to find φ for which $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}$ can be defined and such that $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi, +}(\sup_{t \geq 0} X_t < +\infty) > 0$?

7. Central limit theorem

In this section, $\varphi \in \Lambda_c$ and we assume that π is a probability measure with finite mean $1/v$. Define s the scale function of the diffusion with generator \mathcal{L} , by $s(1) = 0$ and

$$s'(x) = x^{-1} \exp \left(\int_0^x \frac{h(l)}{l} dl \right).$$

Note that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} s(x) = -\infty$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} s(x) = +\infty$. Let

$$\sigma := 4\sqrt{c}v^{3/2} \left(\left(\int_{[0,1]^2} + \int_{[1,\infty)^2} \right) \frac{|s(x)| \wedge |s(y)|}{s'(x)s'(y)} dx dy \right)^{1/2},$$

with c defined in (6.3).

The following theorem is similar to Theorem D.5 in [Hu and Yor \(1999\)](#):

Theorem 7.1. *Assume that $\sigma < +\infty$. Let X be a process with law $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,+}$. Then, as $t \rightarrow \infty$,*

$$\frac{X_t - vt}{\sigma\sqrt{t}}$$

converges in law toward a centered and reduced Gaussian variable. This convergence also holds for $\inf_{s \geq t} X_s$ and for $\sup_{s \leq t} X_s$ instead of X_t .

Proof: Denote by T_r the hitting time of r by X . Then, for all $0 < K < r$,

$$\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,+} \left[\inf_{s > T_r} X_s > r - K \right] = \mathbf{P}^{\varphi,+} \left[\inf_{s > T_K} X_s > 0 \right],$$

and this quantity converges to 1 when $K \rightarrow \infty$. Thus it suffices to show the central limit theorem for $\sup_{s \leq t} X_s$ in lieu of X_t . Then, up to notation (with in particular $-X$ in place of X), we can follow the proof of Theorem D.5 in [Hu and Yor \(1999\)](#). Indeed we have $T_r = \int_0^r Z_t dt$, and it suffices to show that

$$\frac{T_r - r/v}{\sqrt{r}} \longrightarrow \sigma v^{-3/2} \mathcal{N}, \quad (7.1)$$

with \mathcal{N} a centered and reduced Gaussian variable.

Now there exists some Brownian motion β such that $Z_t = s^{-1}(\beta(a_t^{-1}))$, where $a_t = \int_0^t \Delta(\beta_v) dv$ and $\Delta(x) = 1/(4s^{-1}(x)s'^2(s^{-1}(x)))$. Now Δ is integrable on \mathbb{R} since π is a finite measure:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Delta(x) dx = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{du}{4us'(u)} = (4c)^{-1}.$$

With notation of [Hu and Yor \(1999\)](#) this means that $C_9 = 4c > 0$. In the same way, $v > 0$ implies that C_6 from [Hu and Yor \(1999\)](#), which is equal to v , is positive and $C_{10} = \sigma v^{-3/2}$ is finite if $\sigma < +\infty$. Then (see [Hu and Yor, 1999](#) for details) we get (7.1). The theorem follows. \square

As observed for the law of large numbers, Theorem 7.1 implies also a central limit theorem for an excited Brownian motion of law \mathbf{P}^{φ} , when the process of law $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,+}$ (or $\mathbf{P}^{\varphi,-}$) has nonzero speed and satisfies the condition of Theorem 7.1.

Proposition 7.2. *If $h(l)$ converges towards h_{∞} , then the constant σ is finite if $h_{\infty} > 4$ and infinite if $0 < h_{\infty} < 4$.*

Proof: First

$$I_1 = \int_{[1,\infty)^2} \frac{|s(x)| \wedge |s(y)|}{s'(x)s'(y)} dx dy$$

is equal to

$$\int_1^{\infty} \left(\int_1^y \frac{s(x)}{s'(x)} dx + \int_y^{\infty} \frac{s(y)}{s'(x)} dx \right) \frac{dy}{s'(y)}.$$

But note that for any $\epsilon > 0$, $x^{h_\infty-1-\epsilon} \leq s'(x) \leq x^{h_\infty-1+\epsilon}$ and $x^{h_\infty-\epsilon} \leq s(x) \leq x^{h_\infty+\epsilon}$ for x large enough. Thus for any $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\frac{1}{s'(y)} \int_1^y \frac{s(x)}{s'(x)} dx,$$

and

$$\frac{1}{s'(y)} \int_y^\infty \frac{s(y)}{s'(x)} dx,$$

both lie in the interval $[y^{3-h_\infty-\epsilon}, y^{3-h_\infty+\epsilon}]$ for y large enough. This implies that $I_1 < \infty$ if $h_\infty > 4$ and $I_1 = \infty$ if $0 < h_\infty < 4$. The term

$$I_2 = \int_{[0,1]^2} \frac{|s(x)| \wedge |s(y)|}{s'(x)s'(y)} dx dy$$

is always finite, since as $x \rightarrow 0$, $s'(x) \sim 1/x$. \square

8. Appendix: Construction of P^φ and $P^{\varphi,+}$ in cases φ is locally bounded

We assume that φ is constant in the first variable. We note $\varphi(x, l) \equiv \varphi(l)$ for any x and l . We assume also that φ is locally bounded, i.e. $\sup_{l \in [0, L]} \varphi(l) < +\infty$ for any $L > 0$, and $\liminf_{l \rightarrow \infty} h(l)/l > -\infty$. We want to define $P^{\varphi,+}$. Following [Norris et al. \(1987\)](#), set $\varphi_n(l) := 1_{\{l \leq n\}} \varphi(l)$. Let $S'_n = \inf\{t \mid L_t^{X_t} > n\}$ and let $S_n = S'_n \wedge n$. According to Theorem B in [Norris et al. \(1987\)](#), if we can prove that for each $t > 0$,

$$P^{\varphi_n,+}(S_n < t) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow +\infty,$$

then by consistency, it will be possible to define $P^{\varphi,+}$. Observe that it is enough to prove the two statements:

$$\text{for each } a > 0 \quad P^{\varphi_n,+}(S_n < T_a) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow +\infty,$$

and for each $t > 0$ and $\epsilon > 0$, there is some $a > 0$ such that

$$P^{\varphi_n,+}(T_a < t) < \epsilon \quad \text{for all } n.$$

The first statement can be proved like in [Norris et al. \(1987\)](#): by using the Ray-Knight theorem under $P^{\varphi_n,+}$,

$$P^{\varphi_n,+}(S_n < T_a) = P^{\varphi_n,+}\left(\sup_{0 \leq x \leq a} Z_x^{(a)} > n\right) = P^Z\left(\sup_{0 \leq x \leq a} Z_x > n\right),$$

where P^Z denotes the law of the diffusion with generator $\mathcal{L} = 2zd^2/dz^2 + 2(1 - h(z))d/dz$. The last term tends to 0 when $n \rightarrow +\infty$, since a.s. Z does not explode in finite time (this follows from the fact that $\liminf_{l \rightarrow \infty} h(l)/l > -\infty$). For the second statement, write:

$$\begin{aligned} P^{\varphi_n,+}(T_a < t) &= P^{\varphi_n,+}\left(\int_0^a Z_x^{(a)} dx < t\right) \\ &\leq P^{\varphi_n,+}\left(\int_0^{a \wedge T_n} Z_x^{(a)} dx < t\right) \\ &\leq P^Z\left(\int_0^{a \wedge T_n} Z_x dx < t\right), \end{aligned}$$

where T_n denotes the first time $Z^{(a)}$ or Z reaches n . But by using standard scale functions arguments, we can see 0 is an entrance boundary point for the diffusion with generator \mathcal{L} . Thus \mathbb{P}^Z -a.s.

$$\int_0^\infty Z_x dx = +\infty.$$

The second statement follows.

We give now some hints to construct \mathbb{P}^φ when $\liminf h(l) > 0$. Using the fact that $\mathbb{P}^{\varphi_n, -}(R) = 1$, all the stopping times T_a are finite \mathbb{P}^{φ_n} -a.s. for all positive a . Then the method of Norris et al. (1987) can be followed.

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