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Properties of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge

Sylvain CORLAY*

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Abstract

This paper is a study of the properties of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge. We derive its canonical decomposition using filtration enlargement techniques, and its Karhunen-Loève expansion for any value of the initial variance and mean-reversion parameter (or mean-repulsion if negative). Finally, we present an application to the optimal functional quantization of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge.

Keywords: Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge, canonical decomposition, Karhunen-Loève, filtration enlargement, functional quantization

Introduction

Let θ and μ be two real numbers and $\sigma > 0$. The Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process of long-term mean μ , mean-reversion parameter θ and volatility σ is defined as the solution of the stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = \theta(\mu - X_t)dt + \sigma dW_t, \quad (1)$$

where W is a standard Brownian motion and where $X_0 \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(x_0, \sigma_0^2)$ is assumed to be independent of W . The S.D.E. is solved by applying Itô's lemma to the process $U_t := X_t e^{\theta t}$. We obtain

$$X_t = X_0 e^{-\theta t} + \mu(1 - e^{-\theta t}) + \int_0^t \sigma e^{\theta(u-t)} dW_u,$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}[X_t] = x_0 e^{-\theta t} + \mu(1 - e^{-\theta t}), \quad \text{cov}(X_t, X_s) = \begin{cases} \sigma_0^2 e^{-\theta(s+t)} + \sigma^2 e^{-\theta(s+t)} \frac{e^{2\theta s \wedge t} - 1}{2\theta} & \text{if } \theta \neq 0, \\ \sigma_0^2 + \sigma^2 s \wedge t & \text{if } \theta = 0. \end{cases}$$

Let us now consider a finite horizon $T > 0$. For $\theta \neq 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[(X_t - \mathbb{E}[X_t|X_T])(X_s - \mathbb{E}[X_s|X_T])] &= \text{cov}(X_t, X_s) - \frac{\text{cov}(X_s, X_T) \text{cov}(X_t, X_T)}{\text{Var}(X_T)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\theta} e^{-\theta(s+t)} ((2\theta\sigma_0^2 - \sigma^2) + \sigma^2 e^{2\theta s \wedge t}) - \frac{1}{2\theta} e^{-\theta T} \frac{(\sigma^2 e^{\theta t} + (2\theta\sigma_0^2 - \sigma^2) e^{-\theta t}) (\sigma^2 e^{\theta s} + (2\theta\sigma_0^2 - \sigma^2) e^{-\theta s})}{\sigma^2 e^{\theta T} + (2\theta\sigma_0^2 - \sigma^2) e^{-\theta T}}, \end{aligned}$$

and if $\theta = 0$, $\mathbb{E}[(X_t - \mathbb{E}[X_t|X_T])(X_s - \mathbb{E}[X_s|X_T])] = \sigma_0^2 + \sigma^2 s \wedge t - \frac{(\sigma_0^2 + \sigma^2 t)(\sigma_0^2 + \sigma^2 s)}{\sigma_0^2 + \sigma^2 T}$.

1 Canonical decompositions in the enlarged filtration

1.1 Backgrounds on generalized bridges

Let $(X_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ be a continuous centered Gaussian semimartingale starting from 0 on $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbb{P})$ and \mathcal{F}^X its natural filtration. Fernique's theorem ensures that $\int_0^T \mathbb{E}[X_t^2] dt < +\infty$.

*Bloomberg Quant Research, 731 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA. scorlay@bloomberg.net

As Alili in [1], we are interested in the conditioning with respect to a finite family $\bar{Z}_T := (Z_T^i)_{i \in I}$ of Gaussian random variables, which are the terminal values of processes of the form $Z_t^i = \int_0^t f_i(s) dX_s$, $i \in I$, for some finite set of bounded measurable functions $\bar{f} = (f_i)_{i \in I}$. A *generalized bridge* for $(X_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ corresponding to \bar{f} with end-point $\bar{z} = (z_i)_{i \in I}$ is a process $(X_t^{\bar{f}, \bar{z}})_{t \in [0, T]}$ with distribution $X^{\bar{f}, \bar{z}} \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{\sim} \mathcal{L}(X | Z_T^i = z_i, i \in I)$.

1.1.1 Generalized bridges as semimartingales

Jirina's theorem ensures the existence of a transition kernel $\nu_{\bar{Z}_T | ((X_t)_{t \in [0, s]})} : \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^I) \times C^0([0, s], \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, corresponding to the conditional distribution $\mathcal{L}(\bar{Z}_T | ((X_t)_{t \in [0, s]}))$. We make the assumption (\mathcal{H}) that, for every $s \in [0, T)$ and for every $(t \mapsto x_t) \in C^0([0, s], \mathbb{R})$, the probability measure $\nu_{\bar{Z}_T | ((X_t)_{t \in [0, s]})}(d\bar{z}, (x_u)_{u \in [0, s]})$ is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure. We denote by $\Pi_{(x_u)_{u \in [0, s]}, T}$ its density. The covariance matrix of this Gaussian distribution on \mathbb{R}^I is given by

$$Q(s, T) := \mathbb{E} \left[(\bar{Z}_T - \mathbb{E}[\bar{Z}_T | (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}]) (\bar{Z}_T - \mathbb{E}[\bar{Z}_T | (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}])^* \middle| (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]} \right].$$

Hence, this hypothesis is equivalent to assume that

$$Q(s, T) \text{ is invertible for every } s \in [0, T). \quad (\mathcal{H})$$

Theorem 1.1 (Radon-Nikodym derivative). *Under the (\mathcal{H}) hypothesis, for any $s \in [0, T)$, and for $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{Z}_T}$ -almost every $\bar{z} \in \mathbb{R}^I$, $\mathbb{P}[\cdot | \bar{Z}_T = \bar{z}]$ is equivalent to \mathbb{P} on \mathcal{F}_s^X and its Radon-Nikodym density is given by*

$$\frac{d\mathbb{P}[\cdot | \bar{Z}_T = \bar{z}]}{d\mathbb{P}} \Big|_{\mathcal{F}_s^X} = \frac{\Pi_{(X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}, T}(\bar{z})}{\Pi_{0, T}(\bar{z})}.$$

Proposition 1.2 (Generalized bridges as semimartingales). *Let us define the filtration $\mathcal{G}^{X, \bar{f}}$ by $\mathcal{G}_t^{X, \bar{f}} := \sigma(\bar{Z}_T, \mathcal{F}_t^X)$, the enlargement of the filtration \mathcal{F}^X corresponding to the above conditioning. We consider the stochastic process $D_s^{\bar{z}} := \frac{d\mathbb{P}[\cdot | \bar{Z}_T = \bar{z}]}{d\mathbb{P}} \Big|_{\mathcal{F}_s^X} = \frac{\Pi_{(X_t)_{t \in [0, s]}, T}(\bar{z})}{\Pi_{0, T}(\bar{z})}$ for $s \in [0, T)$. Then, under the (\mathcal{H}) hypothesis, and the assumption that $D^{\bar{z}}$ is continuous, X is a continuous $\mathcal{G}^{X, \bar{f}}$ -semimartingale on $[0, T)$.*

Theorem 1.1 and Proposition 1.2 were first established in the Brownian case in [1] and extended to Gaussian semimartingales in [2].

1.1.2 Canonical decomposition of generalized bridges

Now, as X is a continuous $(\mathcal{F}^X, \mathbb{P})$ -semimartingale, we write its canonical decomposition $X = V + M$. Following the lines of [2], we define $L_t^{\bar{z}} := \int_0^t \frac{d\Pi_{(X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}, T}(\bar{z})}{\Pi_{(X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}, T}(\bar{z})}$. Then

$$d\langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle_s = d\langle X, \mathbb{E}[\bar{Z}_T | (X_u)_{u \in [0, \cdot]}] \rangle_s Q(s, T)^{-1} (\bar{z} - \mathbb{E}[\bar{Z}_T | (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}])^*.$$

Hence $M - \langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle$ is a $(\mathcal{G}^{X, \bar{f}}, \mathbb{P}[\cdot | \bar{Z}_T = \bar{z}])$ -martingale, and the canonical decomposition satisfies $X = (V + \langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle) + (M - \langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle)$. The expression for $\langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle$ can be simplified in the two following cases:

- In the case where X is a martingale, then $\forall j \in I$, $\mathbb{E}[Z_T^j | (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}] = \int_0^s f_j(u) dX_u$ so that

$$d\langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle_s = \sum_{i \in I} f_i(s) \sum_{j \in I} (Q(s, T)^{-1})_{ij} \left(z_j - \mathbb{E}[Z_T^j | (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}] \right) d\langle X \rangle_s. \quad (2)$$

- In the case where X is a Markov process, for every $j \in I$ there exists $g_j \in L^2([0, T])$ such that $\mathbb{E}[Z_T^j | (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}] = \int_0^s f_j(u) dX_u + g_j(s) X_s$. Hence, if one assumes that functions $(g_j)_{j \in I}$ have

finite-variations, which is the case if X is an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process, then $d\langle X, \mathbb{E}[\bar{Z}_T | (X_u)_{u \in [0, \cdot]}] \rangle_s = (\bar{f}(s) + \bar{g}(s)) d\langle X \rangle_s$, and thus

$$d\langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle_s = \sum_{i \in I} (f_i(s) + g_i(s)) \sum_{j \in I} (Q(s, T)^{-1})_{ij} \left(z_j - \mathbb{E} \left[Z_T^j | (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]} \right] \right) d\langle X \rangle_s. \quad (3)$$

1.2 The Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge with a deterministic starting point

We perform the conditioning of a centered Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process X starting from 0 by $X_T = z$. With the same notation as the previous section, we have

$$d\langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle_s = d\langle X, \mathbb{E}[\bar{Z}_T | (X_u)_{u \in [0, \cdot]}] \rangle_s Q(s, T)^{-1} (\bar{z} - E[\bar{Z}_T | (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}]).$$

We have $\mathbb{E}[X_T | (X_u)_{u \in [0, s]}] = X_s e^{-\theta(T-s)}$ and thus $d\langle X, E[Z_T | (X_u)_{u \in [0, \cdot]}] \rangle_s = e^{-\theta(T-s)} d\langle X \rangle_s = \sigma^2 e^{-\theta(T-s)} ds$. In this case, Equation (3) simplifies to

$$d\langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle_s = e^{-\theta(T-s)} \sigma^2 Q(s, T)^{-1} (\bar{z} - X_s e^{-\theta(T-s)}) ds. \quad (4)$$

Moreover

$$Q(s, T) = \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\int_s^T \sigma e^{\theta(s-T)} dW_u \right)^2 \right] = \sigma^2 e^{-2\theta T} \int_s^T e^{2\theta s} ds,$$

and thus

$$Q(s, T)^{-1} = \begin{cases} \frac{2\theta}{\sigma^2} e^{-2\theta T} \frac{1}{e^{2\theta T} - e^{2\theta s}} & \text{if } \theta \neq 0, \\ \frac{1}{\sigma^2(T-s)} & \text{if } \theta = 0. \end{cases}$$

If $\theta \neq 0$, plugging this into (4) yields

$$d\langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle_s = e^{-\theta(T-s)} 2\theta e^{2\theta T} \frac{1}{e^{2\theta T} - e^{2\theta s}} (\bar{z} - X_s e^{-\theta(T-s)}) ds = 2\theta \frac{ze^{\theta(T+s)} + X_s e^{2\theta s}}{e^{2\theta T} - e^{2\theta s}} ds. \quad (5)$$

Finally, we obtain the following canonical decomposition

$$dX_t = -\theta X_t dt + 2\theta \frac{ze^{\theta(T+t)} + X_t e^{2\theta t}}{e^{2\theta T} - e^{2\theta t}} dt + \underbrace{(\theta X_t dt + dX_t + d\langle X, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle_t)}_{(\mathcal{G}^W, \mathbb{P}[\cdot | Z_T = z])\text{-martingale}}.$$

By Lévy's characterization of Brownian motion, the martingale part is of the form $\sigma d\widetilde{W}_t$ where \widetilde{W} is a $(\mathcal{G}^W, \mathbb{P}[\cdot | Z_T = z])$ -Brownian motion. When $\theta = 0$, we obtain the classical Brownian bridge $dX_t = \frac{z - X_t}{T-t} dt + \sigma d\widetilde{W}_t$.

1.3 The corresponding generalized Brownian bridge

Still in the case where $\sigma_0^2 = 0$, the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process X_t is in one-to-one correspondence with $Z_t := \int_0^T e^{\theta u} dW_u$. Hence, the Brownian motion W conditioned by $Z_T = z$ is a generalized Brownian bridge in the sense of Alili [1] corresponding to $(f_i)_{i \in I} = (f : s \mapsto e^{\theta s})$, and thus we know its canonical decomposition. We have $\mathbb{E}[Z_T | (W_u)_{u \in [0, t]}] = \int_0^t e^{\theta u} dW_u$, and $Z_T - \mathbb{E}[Z_T | (W_u)_{u \in [0, t]}] = \int_t^T e^{\theta u} dW_u$, which yields

$$Q(s, T) = \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\int_s^T e^{\theta u} dW_u \right)^2 \right] = \int_s^T e^{2\theta u} du.$$

Hence, if $\theta \neq 0$, $Q(s, T)^{-1} = \frac{2\theta}{e^{2\theta T} - e^{2\theta s}}$. Otherwise, $Q(s, T)^{-1} = \frac{1}{T-s}$.

$$\begin{aligned} d\langle W, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle_s &= f(s) Q(s, T)^{-1} (z - \int_0^s f(u) dW_u) ds \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{2\theta e^{2\theta s}}{e^{2\theta T} - e^{2\theta s}} (ze^{-\theta s} - \frac{X_s}{\sigma}) ds & \text{if } \theta \neq 0, \\ \frac{X_T - X_s}{\sigma(T-s)} ds & \text{if } \theta = 0. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Plugging this into Equation (6) yields the canonical decomposition of the corresponding generalized bridge.

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \langle W, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle + \underbrace{(W - \langle W, L^{\bar{z}} \rangle)}_{= \widetilde{W}, (\mathcal{G}^W, \mathbb{P}[\cdot | Z_T = z])\text{-Brownian motion}}. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

1.4 The case of a non-deterministic starting point ($\sigma_0^2 \neq 0$)

The conditional distribution of X_0 knowing X_T , $\mathcal{N}(\mathbb{E}[X_0|X_T], \text{Var}(X_0|X_T))$ is explicit from the covariance and expectation of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge given in the introduction.

From Equation (1), we can write $X_t = (X_0 e^{-\theta t} + \mu(1 - e^{-\theta t})) + \underbrace{\int_0^t \sigma e^{\theta(u-t)} dW_u}_{=:\tilde{X}_t}$. \tilde{X}_t depends on

X_T only through its dependence on $\tilde{X}_T = X_T - X_0 e^{-\theta T} - \mu(1 - e^{-\theta T})$. Thus, we just need to plug $z = X_T - X_0 e^{-\theta T} - \mu(1 - e^{-\theta T})$ in (5) to obtain the canonical decomposition of \tilde{X} with respect to $(\mathcal{G}^W, \mathbb{P}[\cdot|X_T])$.

2 Karhunen-Loève expansions

In this section, we derive the Karhunen-Loève expansion of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge of any initial variance or mean-reversion parameter. The method of derivation is the same as the one used for the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process in [3].

The covariance operator of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge is defined by $T^{OB}f(s) := \int_0^T c(s,t)f(t)dt$, where $c(s,t)$ is the covariance function $\mathbb{E}[(X_t - \mathbb{E}[X_t|X_T])(X_s - \mathbb{E}[X_s|X_T])]$ given in the introduction.

Proposition 2.1. *If $f \in C([0, T])$ and $g := T^{OB}f$, then*

$$g(T) = 0, \quad \begin{aligned} g'' - \theta^2 g &= -\sigma^2 f \\ \sigma_0^2 g'(0) &= (\sigma^2 - \theta\sigma_0^2)g(0) \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, if $f \in C([0, T])$ and $g \in C^2([0, T])$ satisfy these three properties, then $g = T^{OB}f$.

This is proved by differentiating twice under the integral signs and evaluating at $t = 0$ and $t = T$.

As a consequence, $T^{OB}f = \lambda f$ is equivalent to g being the solution of the O.D.E.

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda g'' + (\sigma^2 - \lambda\theta^2)g &= 0 \\ g(T) = 0, \quad \sigma_0^2 g'(0) &= (\sigma^2 - \theta\sigma_0^2)g(0). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the Karhunen-Loève eigenvalues and unit eigenfunctions of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge are

$$\lambda_n^{OB} = \frac{\sigma^2}{w_n^2 + \theta^2} \quad \text{and} \quad e_n^{OB}(t) = \left(\frac{T}{2} - \frac{1}{4w_n} \sin(2w_n T) \right)^{-1/2} \sin(w_n(t - T)), \quad (7)$$

where $(w_n)_{n \geq 1}$ are the strictly positive and increasingly sorted solutions to

$$(\sigma^2 - \theta\sigma_0^2) \sin(wT) = -w\sigma_0^2 \cos(wT). \quad (8)$$

1. Deterministic starting point ($\sigma_0 = 0$)

Equation (8) then amounts to $\sin(wT) = 0$, and thus $w_n = \frac{n\pi}{T}$ for $n \geq 1$. (This case has already been derived in [4].)

2. Non-deterministic starting point ($\sigma_0 \neq 0$)

(a) If $\sigma^2 = \theta\sigma_0^2$, Equation (8) amounts to

$$\cos(wT) = 0,$$

and thus the increasingly sorted positive solutions are $w_n = \frac{n\pi}{T} - \frac{\pi}{2T}$ for $n \geq 1$.

(b) If $\theta\sigma_0^2 < \sigma^2$, Equation (8) amounts to

$$\underbrace{(\sigma^2 - \sigma_0^2\theta)}_{>0} \tan(wT) = -\sigma_0^2 w,$$

and thus the increasingly sorted positive solutions are $w_n \in]\frac{n\pi}{T} - \frac{\pi}{2T}, \frac{n\pi}{T}[$ for $n \geq 1$.

(c) If $\theta\sigma_0^2 > \sigma^2$, Equation (8) amounts to

$$\underbrace{(\sigma_0^2\theta - \sigma^2)}_{>0} \tan(wT) = \sigma_0^2 w.$$

There is a unique solution in each interval of the form $]\frac{k\pi}{T}, \frac{k\pi}{T} + \frac{\pi}{2T}[$ for $k \geq 1$. There is another solution on $]0, \frac{\pi}{2T}[$ if and only if $\sigma_0^2 > \sigma_0^2\theta - \sigma^2$.

In cases (b) and (c), the numerical value can then be computed using a root-finding method on the corresponding interval. This is illustrated in Figure 1.

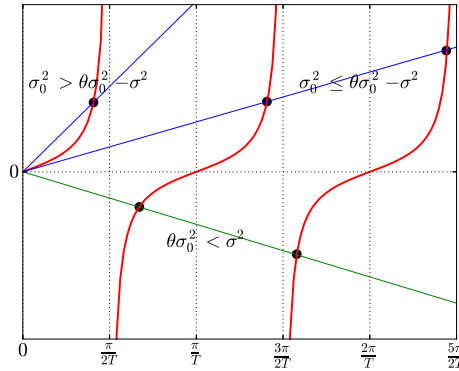


Figure 1: Solutions to Equation (8) in cases (b) and (c).

3 Functional quantization

The quantization of a random variable X valued in a reflexive separable Banach space $(E, |\cdot|)$ consists in its approximation by Y that takes finitely many values in E . We measure the resulting discretization error with the L^2 norm of the difference $|X - Y|$. If we settle on a fixed maximum cardinal N for $Y(\Omega)$, the minimization of the error reduces to the optimization problem.

$$\mathcal{E}_N(X, |\cdot|) = \min \{ \| |X - \text{Proj}_\Gamma(X)| \|_2, \Gamma \subset E \text{ such that } |\Gamma| \leq N \}, \quad (9)$$

A solution of (9) is an L^2 -optimal quantizer of X .

Now let X be a bi-measurable stochastic process on $[0, T]$ verifying $\int_0^T \mathbb{E} [|X_t|^2] dt < \infty$, which we see as a random variable valued in the Hilbert space $H = L^2([0, T])$. We assume that its covariance function Γ^X is continuous. In the seminal paper [6], it is shown that, in the centered Gaussian case, linear subspaces U of H spanned by N -stationary quantizers correspond to principal components of X , in other words, are spanned by eigenvectors of the covariance operator of X , that is, its Karhunen-Loève eigenfunctions $(e_n^X)_{n \geq 1}$.

To perform optimal quantization, the Karhunen-Loève expansion is first truncated at a fixed order m and then the \mathbb{R}^m -valued Gaussian vector constituted of the m first coordinates of the process on its Karhunen-Loève decomposition is quantized. We have to determine the optimal rank of truncation $d^X(N)$ (the quantization dimension) and the optimal $d^X(N)$ -dimensional quantizer of the first coordinates,

$\bigotimes_{j=1}^{d^X(N)} \mathcal{N}(0, \lambda_j^X)$. The minimal quadratic distortion $\mathcal{E}_N(X)$ is given by

$$\mathcal{E}_N(X)^2 = \sum_{j \geq m+1} \lambda_j^X + \mathcal{E}_N \left(\bigotimes_{j=1}^m \mathcal{N}(0, \lambda_j^X) \right)^2.$$

If the eigensystem $(e_n^X, \lambda_n^X)_{1 \leq n \leq d^X(N)}$ is known, we just need to perform the finite-dimensional quantization of $\bigotimes_{j=1}^m \mathcal{N}(0, \lambda_j^X)$. Various algorithms have been devised to deal with this problem, among others,

Lloyd’s algorithm [5] and the Competitive Learning Vector Quantization (CLVQ) [7]. In Figures 2 and 3, we show optimal quantizers of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge for different initial variances, mean-reversion parameters, volatilities and maturities.

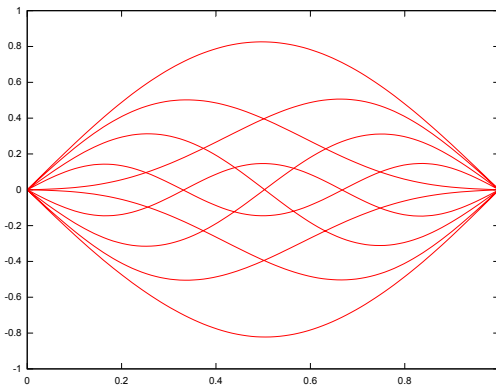


Figure 2: Optimal quantization of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge with parameters $T = 1$, $\theta = 1$, $\sigma^2 = 1$, $\sigma_0^2 = 0$, $x_0 = \mu = X_T = 0$ and $N = 10$.

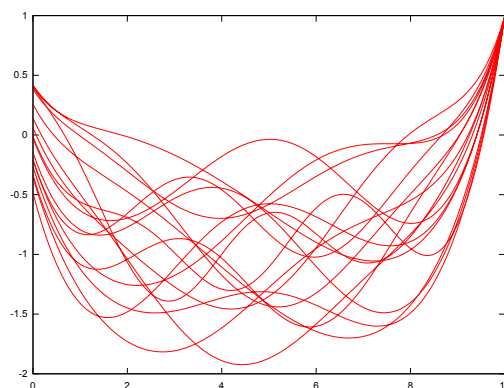


Figure 3: Optimal quantization of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck bridge with parameters $T = 10$, $\theta = 1$, $\sigma^2 = 1$, $\sigma_0^2 = 1/2$, $x_0 = 0$, $\mu = -1$, $X_T = 1$ and $N = 16$.

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