SEMI-DISCRETIZATION OF STOCHASTIC PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS ON $\mathbb{R}^1$
BY A FINITE-DIFFERENCE METHOD

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Abstract. The paper concerns finite-difference scheme for the approximation of partial differential equations in $\mathbb{R}^1$, with additional stochastic noise. By replacing the space derivatives in the original stochastic partial differential equation (SPDE, for short) with difference quotients, we obtain a system of stochastic ordinary differential equations. We study the difference between the solution of the original SPDE and the solution to the corresponding equation obtained by discretizing the space variable. The need to approximate the solution in $\mathbb{R}^1$ with functions of compact support requires us to introduce a scale of weighted Sobolev spaces. Employing the weighted $L^p$-theory of SPDE, a sup-norm error estimate is derived and the rate of convergence is given.

1. Introduction

The mathematical modeling of stochastic systems can be realized in such a fashion that the time and space behavior of the dependent variable is defined by the superposition of a deterministic evolution and an additional weighted noise. In this case, the weighted noise simulates the existence of the external field and the interaction between the actual system and the outer ambient. Quite often, the deterministic evolution is described by a partial differential equation of parabolic type. Thus, we are led to the following stochastic partial differential equation (we allow the coefficients $a, b, c$ and $f$ in the “deterministic” part to be random):

\begin{equation}
\begin{aligned}
&du = (Lu + f) \, dt + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} (\Lambda^k u + g^k) \, dw^k_t, \\
&u(0, \cdot) = u_0,
\end{aligned}
\end{equation}

where $Lu = au'' + bu' + cu$, $\Lambda^k u = \sigma^k u' + \nu^k u$ and $a, b, c, \sigma^k, \nu^k, f, g^k$ are real valued functions defined on $\Omega \times [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^1$. The $w^k_t$'s are one-dimensional independent Wiener processes.

Stochastic PDEs of the form (1.1) have been extensively studied. Here we just mention Krylov [11] and Rozovskii [17], in which the reader can find further information.

Our aim is to study an approximate solution of (1.1) given by a finite-difference method, and to analyze the sup-norm error and the rate of convergence. The finite-difference scheme is one of the most frequently used methods for a finite dimensional
approximation of (deterministic) elliptic and parabolic PDEs. See [13], [18]. There are several recent papers on the finite-difference approximation of stochastic PDEs, Gyöngy [8], Davie-Gaines [5], Gaines [6]. These authors consider equations of the form

\begin{equation}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + f + \sigma \frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial t \partial x}, \tag{1.2}
\end{equation}

where $\partial^2 W/\partial t \partial x$ is the space-time white noise. Since the coefficient of $\partial^2 u/\partial x^2$ is a constant, one can write down the solution of (1.2) and the solution of the finite dimensional approximation of (1.2) explicitly using the (explicit) Green’s functions, and obtain the error bound and the rate of convergence using estimates of the Green’s functions.

The study of numerical solutions of stochastic PDEs is a very active ongoing research area. There is an extensive literature on numerical methods for the Zakai equation of the filtering problem. We only mention [3] (Galerkin approximation), [7] (finite-element method), [4] (splitting-up method), [15] (Wiener chaos decomposition). We remark that in the above works $L_2$-space is used to measure the difference between the exact solution and the approximate solution.

For applications to continuum physics, see [1], [2], where the so-called stochastic interpolation method is developed and applied to many models of stochastic systems in continuum physics. In [2], Bellomo and Flandoli studied one-dimensional SPDE (in a bounded interval) of the form

\[ du = [a(x)u'' + b(x)u' + f(t, x, u)] dt + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \phi(t, x, u) dw_k. \]

They obtained some estimates of the error bound under suitable regularity assumptions on $a, b, f, \phi$. Their approach is based on semigroup theory and stochastic interpolation methods. In their analysis, it was crucial that $a(x)$ and $b(x)$ are functions of $x$ only.

Now we briefly describe the organization of the paper. In section 2 we obtain the existence of the solution of (1.1) in a weighted Sobolev space. The weight is introduced to deal with the fact that the solution in $\mathbb{R}^1$ has to be approximated by a function defined at a finite number of points. Using Sobolev-type embedding theorems, we prove that the solution is classical. The advantage of the $L_p$-theory (over $L_2$-theory) that we are using in this paper is that one can get the classical solution under much less restrictive conditions on the smoothness of the coefficients and the nonhomogeneous terms by taking sufficiently large $p$. This fact can be seen, for instance, from the embedding $W^{n,p}(\mathbb{R}^d) \subset C^{n-d/p}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, if $pn > d$. In section 3 we present a finite-difference scheme for (1.1). As a consequence of discretization, we obtain an Itô stochastic differential equation. We also show that the (average) error satisfies a “discrete parabolic equation”. In section 4 we analyze the error bound. By the discrete maximum principle and results from sections 2 and 3 error estimates and the rate of convergence are obtained.

In this paper, we only present the semi-discretization in space of (1.1). One can obtain a fully discrete problem by discretizing time also. The reader is referred to [9], [16] and references therein. We also remark that we can consider a $d$-dimensional equation as well, without any additional difficulty. We consider the 1-dimensional case only for simplicity of notation.
We employ the summation convention throughout; the letter \( N(\cdots) \) denotes various constants depending only on the quantities inside the parenthesis.

2. Weighted \( L_p \)-theory of SPDE

Let \( \mathbb{R}^1 \) be 1-dimensional Euclidean space, \( T \) a fixed positive number, \( (\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P) \) a complete probability space, \( (\{\mathcal{F}_t\}, t \geq 0) \) an increasing filtration of \( \sigma \)-fields \( \mathcal{F}_t \subset \mathcal{F} \) containing all \( P \)-null subsets of \( \Omega \), and \( \mathcal{P} \) the predictable \( \sigma \)-field generated by \( \{\mathcal{F}_t\} \). Let \( \{w^k_t; k = 1, 2, \cdots, d'\} \) be independent one-dimensional \( \mathcal{F}_t \)-adapted Wiener processes defined on \( (\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P) \). For the above standard terminologies, the reader is referred to [12].

The argument \( \omega \in \Omega \) is usually omitted. In places where there is no danger of confusion, other arguments may also be omitted.

We need some notations and definitions to determine in what sense a solution of the problem (1.1) should be understood and to formulate results on its solvability. The scales of function spaces defined below are straightforward generalizations of the (stochastic) Banach spaces introduced by Krylov [10], [11] and by Krylov and Rozovskii [14].

Let \( D \) be the set of real-valued Schwartz distributions defined on \( C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^1) \). For given \( p \geq 2 \), \( r \geq 0 \) and a nonnegative real number \( n \), define the space \( H^n_{p,r}(\mathbb{R}^1) \) (called the weighted space of Bessel potentials or the weighted Sobolev space with fractional derivatives) as the space of all generalized functions \( u \) such that \((1-\Delta)^{n/2}(1+x^2)^{r/2}u \in L_p = L_p(\mathbb{R}^1) \). For \( u \in H^n_{p,r} \) and \( \phi \in C_0^\infty \), by definition

\[
(u, \phi) = ((1-\Delta)^{n/2}(1+x^2)^{r/2}u, (1-\Delta)^{-n/2}\phi)
\]

\[
= \int_{\mathbb{R}^1} [(1-\Delta)^{n/2}(1+x^2)^{r/2}u](x)(1-\Delta)^{-n/2}\phi(x) \, dx.
\]

For \( u \in H^n_{p,r} \) one introduces the norm

\[
\| u \|_{n,p,r} := \| (1-\Delta)^{n/2}(1+x^2)^{r/2}u \|_p,
\]

where \( \| \cdot \|_p \) is the norm in \( L_p \). One can easily check that \( H^n_{p,r} \) is a Banach space with the norm \( \| \cdot \|_{n,p,r} \) and the set \( C_0^\infty \) is dense in \( H^n_{p,r} \).

Note that for integers \( n \geq 0 \) the space \( H^n_{p,r} \) coincides with the weighted Sobolev space \( W^n_{p,r} = W^n_{p,r}(\mathbb{R}^1) \). Observe also that \( \| u \|_{n,p,r} = \| (1+x^2)^{r/2}u \|_{n,p} \).

We now define

\[
H^n_{p,r}(T) := L_p(\Omega \times [0,T], \mathcal{P}; H^n_{p,r}).
\]

If \( n = 0 \), we use \( \mathbb{L} \) instead of \( H^0 \). The norms in these spaces are defined in an obvious way.

**Definition 2.1.** For a \( D \)-valued function \( u \in H^n_{p,r}(T) \), we write \( u \in \mathcal{H}^n_{p,r}(T) \) if there exists \( (f, g) \in \mathcal{F}^{p,r-2}(T) := H^{p,r-2}(T) \times (H^{n-1}_{p,r}(T))^{d'} \) such that for any \( \phi \in C_0^\infty \), with probability 1 the equality

\[
(u(t,\cdot), \phi) = (u(0,\cdot), \phi) + \int_0^t (f(s,\cdot), \phi) \, ds + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \int_0^t (g^k(s,\cdot), \phi) \, dw^k_s
\]

holds for all \( t \leq T \) and \( u(0,\cdot) \in L_p(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_0; H^{p,r-2/p}_{p,r}) \). We also define

\[
\mathcal{H}^n_{p,r,0}(T) = \mathcal{H}^n_{p,r}(T) \cap \{ u : u(0,\cdot) = 0 \},
\]
Assumption 2.1 (uniform ellipticity). For any \( \omega \in \Omega, t \geq 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^1 \), we have
\[
\lambda \leq (a - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^k\sigma^k)(\omega, t, x) \leq \Lambda,
\]
where \( \lambda \) and \( \Lambda \) are fixed positive constants.

Assumption 2.2 (uniform continuity). For any \( \varepsilon > 0 \), there exists a \( \kappa_\varepsilon > 0 \) such that
\[
|a(t, x) - a(t, y)| < \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad |\sigma^k(t, x) - \sigma^k(t, y)| < \varepsilon
\]
whenever \( |x - y| < \kappa_\varepsilon, \omega \in \Omega, t \geq 0 \).

Assumption 2.3. \( a, b, c, \sigma^k, \nu^k \) are \( \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^1) \)-measurable functions, \( c \leq 0 \), and for any \( \omega \in \Omega, t \geq 0 \), we have \( a(t, \cdot), b(t, \cdot), c(t, \cdot), \sigma^k(t, \cdot), \nu^k(t, \cdot) \in C^0(\mathbb{R}^1) \).

\( f(t, x), g^k(t, x) \) are predictable as functions taking values in \( H^p_{p, r} \) and \( H^{n+1}_{p, r} \), respectively.

Assumption 2.4. For any \( t \geq 0, \omega \in \Omega \),
\[
\| a(t, \cdot) \|_{C^\alpha} + \| b(t, \cdot) \|_{C^\alpha} + \| c(t, \cdot) \|_{C^\alpha} + \| \sigma^k(t, \cdot) \|_{C^\alpha} + \| \nu^k(t, \cdot) \|_{C^\alpha} \leq K, \quad \text{and} \quad (f(\cdot, \cdot), g(\cdot, \cdot)) \in \mathcal{F}_{p, r}^n(T).
\]

Theorem 2.3. Let Assumptions 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 be satisfied and let
\[
u_0 \in L_p(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_0; H^{p+2-2/p}_{p, r}).
\]
Then the Cauchy problem for equation (1.1) on \([0, T]\) with the initial condition \( u(0, \cdot) = u_0 \) has a unique \( r \)-generalized solution \( u \in \mathcal{H}^{n+2}_{p, r}(T) \). For this solution, we have
\[
\| u \|_{\mathcal{H}^{n+2}_{p, r}(T)} \leq N\left\{ \| f \|_{\mathcal{H}^p_{p, r}(T)} + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \| g^k \|_{\mathcal{H}^{n+1}_{p, r}(T)} + (E \| u_0 \|_{p+n+2-2/p, p, r})^{1/p} \right\},
\]
where the constant \( N \) depends only on \( n, p, \lambda, K, T, r \) and the function \( \kappa_\varepsilon \).
Proof. Let \( \tilde{f} := (1 + x^2)^{r/2} f \) and \( \tilde{g}^k := (1 + x^2)^{r/2} g^k \). Then \( (\tilde{f}, \tilde{g}^k) \in \mathcal{F}^n_p(T) \). We also define \( \tilde{a} := a, \tilde{b} := b - 2ra_1x_1, c := c - \frac{r}{n + 2}, \tilde{\sigma} := \frac{r}{n + 2} + r + 2a_1x_1, \tilde{\sigma}^k := \sigma^k, \tilde{v}^k := \nu^k - r\sigma^k \frac{x}{1+x^2}, \) and \( \tilde{u}_0 := (1 + x^2)^{r/2} u_0 \).

Clearly \( \tilde{a}, \tilde{b}, c \) satisfy Assumptions 2.1-2.4. Thus, by Theorem 3.2 (4.1) of [10], there exists a unique solution \( \tilde{u} \in \mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T) \) of

\[
\begin{align*}
\begin{cases}
\frac{d\tilde{u}}{dt} = (\tilde{a}\tilde{u}'' + \tilde{b}\tilde{u} + \tilde{c}\tilde{u} + \tilde{f}) dt + (\tilde{\sigma}^k\tilde{u}' + \tilde{\sigma}^k\tilde{u} + \tilde{g}^k) dt, \\
\tilde{u}(0, \cdot) = \tilde{u}_0.
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]

One can easily check that \( u := (1 + x^2)^{-r/2} \tilde{u} \in \mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T) \) satisfies (1.1). Moreover, since

\[
\| \tilde{u} \|_{\mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T)} \leq N \| \tilde{f} \|_{\mathcal{H}^n_p(T)} + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \| \tilde{g}^k \|_{\mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T)} + (E \| \tilde{u}_0 \|_{n+2-2/p,p}^p)^{1/p},
\]

we get the desired estimate for \( u \) by the definition of the weighted spaces. \( \Box \)

**Theorem 2.4** (Embedding theorem). If \( p > 2, 1/2 > \beta > \alpha > 1/p \), then for any function \( u \in \mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T) \), we have \( u \in C^{\alpha-1/p}(0, T], \mathcal{H}^{n+2-2\beta}_p \) (a.s.) and for any \( t, s \leq T \),

\[
\begin{align*}
E \| u(t, \cdot) - u(s, \cdot) \|_{n+2-2\beta, p} &\leq N(\beta, p, T) |t - s|^{\beta p - 1} \| u \|_{\mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T)}, \\
E \| u(t, \cdot) \|_{C^{\alpha-1/p}(0, T], \mathcal{H}^{n+2-2\beta}_p} &\leq N(\beta, \alpha, p, T) \| u \|_{\mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T)}.
\end{align*}
\]

**Proof.** See Theorem 3.1 (iii) of [10] or Theorem 6.2 of [11]. \( \Box \)

**Corollary 2.5** (Existence of a classical solution). Suppose that \( 1/2 > \beta > \alpha > 1/p \) and \( n + 2 - 2\beta - 1/p \geq 2 \). Then the \( r \)-generalized solution \( u \in \mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T) \) of (1.1) is the classical solution. \( \Box \)

**Proof.** This corollary follows from Theorem 2.4 and the Sobolev embedding theorem, \( \mathcal{H}^{n+2-2\beta}_p \subset C^{\alpha-1/p}. \)

**Corollary 2.6.** If \( p > 2, 1/2 > \beta > \alpha > 1/p \) and \( n + 2 - 2\beta - 1/p > 0 \), then for any function \( u \in \mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T) \), we have

\[
E \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \sup_{|x| \geq R} |u(t, x)|^p \leq \frac{N(p, T, n, \alpha, \beta)}{(1 + R^2)^{r/2}} \| u \|_{\mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T)}^p.
\]

**Proof.** Let \( v(t, x) := (1 + x^2)^{r/2} u(t, x) \). Then,

\[
\sup_{|x| \geq R} |v(t, x)| \leq \sup_{|x| \geq R} \frac{(1 + x^2)^{r/2}}{(1 + R^2)^{r/2}} |u(t, x)| = \frac{1}{(1 + R^2)^{r/2}} \sup_{|x| \geq R} |v(t, x)|.
\]

Thus,

\[
E \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \sup_{|x| \geq R} |u(t, x)|^p \leq \frac{1}{(1 + R^2)^{r/2}} E \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \sup_{|x| \geq R} |v(t, x)|^p.
\]

But since \( v \in \mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T) \), by Theorem 2.4

\[
E \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \sup_{|x| \geq R} |v(t, x)|^p \leq E |v|^p_{C^{\alpha-1/p}(0, T], \mathcal{H}^{n+2-2\beta-1/p}} \leq N \| v \|_{\mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T)}^p = N \| u \|_{\mathcal{H}^{n+2}_p(T)}^p.
\]

The corollary is proved. \( \Box \)
3. Discretization

We begin our discussion of a finite-difference scheme for (1.1) by defining a grid of points. Take a number $h \in (0, 1]$. Define a uniform $h$-grid on $[-hM, hM]$ by

$$Z_h^M := \{x_i = hi, i = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots, \pm M\}.$$  

Let $R := hM$. For a random function $v$ defined on $\Omega \times [0, T] \times Z_h^M$, we write $v_i(t, x)$ for the value of $v$ at $(\omega, t, x_i)$. For a function $v$ defined on $\Omega \times [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^1$, we define finite-difference operators $L_h$ and $\Lambda_h$ by

$$L_h v(t, x) = a(t, x)\frac{1}{h^2} [v(t, x + h) - 2v(t, x) + v(t, x - h)]$$

$$+ |b(t, x)|\frac{1}{h} [v(t, x + h \text{ sign } b) - v(t, x)] + c(t, x)v(t, x),$$

$$\Lambda_h v(t, x) = \sigma(t, x)\frac{1}{h} [v(t, x + h) - v(t, x)] + \nu(t, x)v(t, x).$$

Note that $L_h$ and $\Lambda_h$ are obtained by replacing the space derivatives in the operator $L$ and $\Lambda$ in (1.1) by the corresponding difference quotients. Note also that $L_h v(t, x_i)$ and $\Lambda_h v(t, x_i)$ make sense for a function $v$ defined on $\Omega \times [0, T] \times Z_h^M$ if $i \neq \pm M$.

**Lemma 3.1.** Let $\delta$ be an arbitrary number in $(0, 1)$. For any fixed $\omega, t$, and $u(t, \cdot) \in C^{2+\delta}$, we have

$$|Lu(t, \cdot) - L_h u(t, \cdot)|_{C^0} \leq Nh^\delta |u(t, \cdot)|_{C^{2+\delta}},$$

where $N = N(|a(t, \cdot)|_{C^0}, |b(t, \cdot)|_{C^0})$.

**Proof.**

$$|a(t, x)u''(t, x) - a(t, x)\frac{1}{h^2} [u(t, x + h) - 2u(t, x) + u(t, x - h)]|$$

$$\leq |a(t, \cdot)|_{C^0} |u'' - \frac{1}{h^2} [u(t, x + h) - 2u(t, x) + u(t, x - h)]|$$

$$\leq |a(t, \cdot)|_{C^0} \frac{h^\delta}{3} |u''(t, \cdot)|_{C^0}.$$  

Also,

$$|b(t, x)u'(t, x) - |b(t, x)|\frac{1}{h} [u(t, x + h \text{ sign } b) - u(t, x)]|$$

$$\leq \left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
|b(t, x)| |u'(t, x) - \frac{1}{h} [u(t, x + h) - u(t, x)]|, & \text{if } b(t, x) \geq 0 \\
|b(t, x)| |u'(t, x) + \frac{1}{h} [u(t, x) - u(t, x)]|, & \text{if } b(t, x) < 0
\end{array} \right.$$  

$$\leq |b(t, \cdot)|_{C^0} h |u''(t, \cdot)|_{C^0}.$$  

Now notice that $h \leq h^\delta$.  

From now on, we assume that Assumptions 2.1 - 2.4 are satisfied with $n$ and $p$ such that the conditions in Corollary 2.5 are satisfied.
Let $u_h$ be a function in $\Omega \times [0, T] \times \mathbb{Z}^M_h$. We consider the following Itô stochastic differential equation in $[0, T]$:

$$
\left\{
\begin{array}{ll}
du_h(t, x) = \lf L_h u_h(t, x) + f(t, x) \rt dt + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \lf \Lambda^k_h u_h(t, x) + g^k(t, x) \rt dW^k_t, \\
\text{for } x \neq x_{\pm 1},
\end{array}
\right.
$$

(3.1)

$$
u_h(t, x_{\pm 1}) = 0, \text{ for all } t \in [0, T],
$$

$$
u_h(0, x) = u_0(x), \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{Z}^M_{h^{-1}}.
$$

Note that under our assumption, $u_0(x)$, $f(\cdot, x)$ and $g^k(\cdot, x)$ make sense pointwise by the Sobolev embedding theorem.

**Lemma 3.2.** There exists a unique solution

$$(u_h(\cdot, \cdot, x_{-M}), u_h(\cdot, \cdot, x_{-M+1}), \ldots, u_h(\cdot, \cdot, x_{M-1}), u_h(\cdot, \cdot, x_M)) \in \mathbb{R}^{2M+1}$$

of (3.1), and

$$E \int_0^T \sum_{j=-M}^M (u_h(t, x_j))^2 dt < \infty.$$

**Proof.** First notice that

$$|b(t, x)| \frac{1}{h} [u_h(t, x + h \text{ sign } b) - u_h(t, x)] = b_+(t, x) \frac{1}{h} [u_h(t, x + h) - u_h(t, x)] + b_-(t, x) \frac{1}{h} [u_h(t, x - h) - u_h(t, x)],$$

where $b_+ = \frac{|b_0 + b|}{2}$ and $b_- = \frac{|b_0 - b|}{2}$. Thus, (3.1) is a linear system of stochastic differential equations in $\mathbb{R}^{2M+1}$. Note also that the coefficients $a, b, c, \sigma^k, \nu^k$ are bounded (by a constant $K$), and by the Sobolev embedding theorem

$$E \int_0^T \sum_{j=-M}^M f^2(t, x_j) dt \leq N(T, M, p) (E \int_0^T \lf |f(t, \cdot)|^p_C \rt dt)^{2/p} \leq N(T, M, p) \| f \|_{\mathbb{H}^p_C(T)}^2,$$

(3.3)

$$E \int_0^T \sum_{j=-M}^M \sum_{k=1}^{d'} (g^k)^2(t, x_j) dt \leq N \lf (E \int_0^T \sum_{k=1}^{d'} |g^k(t, \cdot)|^p_C dt)^{2/p} \rt \leq N \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \| g \|_{\mathbb{H}^p_C(T)}^2.$$

(3.4)

Let $u_h(t) := (u_h(t, x_{-M}), u_h(t, x_{-M+1}), \ldots, u_h(t, x_{M-1}), u_h(t, x_M)) \in \mathbb{R}^{2M+1}$, and let $u_{h,i}(t)$ be the $i$-th component of $u_h(t)$. We rewrite (3.1):

$$d u_h(t) = A_h(t, u_h(t)) dt + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} B^k_h(t, u_h(t)) dW^k_t,$$

(3.5)

where $A_h$ and $B^k_h$ are the drift and diffusion terms in (3.1), respectively. Note that $A_h$ and $B^k_h$ are of the following forms:

$$
\begin{aligned}
A^i_j(t, u) &= \sum_{j=-M}^M \alpha_{ij}(t) u_j + f_i(t), \\
B^k_h(t, u) &= \sum_{j=-M}^M \beta^k_{ij}(t) u_j + g^k_i(t),
\end{aligned}
$$
for \( u = (u_i), f(t) = (f_i(t)), g^k(t) = (g^k_i(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^{2M+1} \). To show the unique solvability of (3.5), we apply Theorem 5.1.1 of [12]. To employ this theorem, we need to check (i). (monotonicity condition) There exists a function \( K(t) \geq 0 \) such that \( E \int_0^T K(t) \, dt < \infty \) and for all \( u, v \in \mathbb{R}^{2M+1}, t \in [0, T], \omega \in \Omega, \)
\[
2(u - v, A_h(t, u) - A_h(t, v)) + \| B_h(t, u) - B_h(t, v) \| \leq K(t) \| u - v \|^2,
\]
where \( \cdot, \cdot \) are norms in \( \mathbb{R}^d \) and \( \mathbb{R}^{(2M+1) \times d'} \), respectively.

(ii). (growth condition) For all \( u, t \in [0, T], \omega \in \Omega, \)
\[
2(u, A_h(t, u)) + \| B_h(t, u) \|^2 \leq K(t)(1 + |u|^2).
\]

Let \( K(t) := N(K)(1 + |f(t, \cdot)|^2_{C_0} + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} |g^k(t, \cdot)|^2_{C_0}) \). By the previous observation, \( E \int_0^T K(t) \, dt < \infty \). (i) and (ii) follow from the linearity of \( A_h, B^k_h \), the boundedness of \( \alpha_{ij}, \beta^k_{ij} \) and the definition of \( K(t) \) with an obvious choice of \( N(K) \).

The unique solvability is proved.

Now we show (3.2). Recall that \( u_h(t) \) is a \((2M + 1)\)-dimensional continuous stochastic process and satisfies
\[
\text{(3.6)} \quad u_h(t) = u_0 + \int_0^t A_h(s, u_h(s)) \, ds + \int_0^t B^k_h(t, u_h(s)) \, dw^k_s
\]
almost surely. Since \( u_h(t) \) is also a locally square integrable local martingale, there exists a sequence of Markov times \( \tau_n \) such that \( \tau_n \uparrow T \) a.s. and
\[
E \int_0^{\tau_n} |u_h(t)|^2 \, dt < \infty.
\]

We square both sides of (3.6) and then take expectations. Then for all \( t \leq T \) and \( n \) we have
\[
\text{(3.7)}
E|u_h(t \wedge \tau_n)|^2 \\
\leq 3E|u_0|^2 + 3E\left(\int_0^{t \wedge \tau_n} A_h(s, u_h(s)) \, ds \right)^2 + 3E\left(\int_0^{t \wedge \tau_n} B^k_h(t, u_h(s)) \, dw^k_s \right)^2 \\
\leq 3E|u_0|^2 + N(T)E \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_n} (A_h)^2(s, u_h(s)) \, ds + 3E \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_n} (B^k_h)^2(t, u_h(s)) \, ds.
\]

In the last inequality we used the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and the \( L^2 \)-isometry property of the stochastic integral. Since \( \alpha_{ij} \) and \( \beta^k_{ij} \) are bounded, we obtain from (3.7)
\[
\text{(3.8)}
E|u_h(t \wedge \tau_n)|^2 \leq 3E|u_0|^2 + N(K, h, T, M)E \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_n} |u_h(s)|^2 \, ds \\
+ N(T)E \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_n} |f(s)|^2 + |g^k(s)|^2 \, ds.
\]

Now by the Gronwall inequality, we obtain from (3.8)
\[
E|u_h(t \wedge \tau_n)|^2 \leq N(K, h, T, M) \left( E|u_0|^2 + E \int_0^T |f(s)|^2 + |g^k(s)|^2 \, ds \right).
\]

Thus, we get
\[
\text{(3.9)}
E \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_n} |u_h(s)|^2 \, ds \leq N(K, h, T, M) \left( E|u_0|^2 + E \int_0^T |f(s)|^2 + |g^k(s)|^2 \, ds \right).
\]
Note that by (3.3) and (3.4), the right hand side of (3.9) is bounded by a constant independent of \( n \). We let \( n \to \infty \) in (3.9) and apply Fatou’s lemma. Finally, (3.2) is proved.

Now let \( u \) be the classical solution of (1.1), which exists by the assumption on \( n, p \) and Corollary 2.5. Then for all \( t \in [0, T] \), \( x \in \mathbb{Z}^M \),

\[
    u(t,x) = u_0(x) + \int_0^t Lu(s,x) + f(s,x) \, ds \\
    + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \int_0^t \Lambda^k u(s,x) + g^k(s,x) \, dw^k_s, \text{ a.s.}
\]

(3.10)

And by Lemma 3.2

\[
    u_h(t,x) = u_0(x) + \int_0^t L_h u_h(s,x) + f(s,x) \, ds \\
    + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \int_0^t \Lambda^k_h u_h(s,x) + g^k(s,x) \, dw^k_s, \text{ a.s.}
\]

(3.11)

**Theorem 3.3.** Let \( e(t,x) := u(t,x) - u_h(t,x) \). Assume \( x \neq x_{\pm M} \).

(i) \( E(e(t,x)) \) satisfies

\[
    \begin{cases}
    \frac{d}{dt} E(e(t,x)) = L_h e(t,x) + E(Lu(t,x) - L_h u(t,x)), \\
    E(e(0,x)) = 0.
\end{cases}
\]

(ii) If \( \sigma^k = \nu^k = 0 \), \( e(t,x) \) almost surely satisfies

\[
    \begin{cases}
    \frac{d}{dt} e(t,x) = L_h e(t,x) + Lu(t,x) - L_h u(t,x), \\
    e(0,x) = 0.
\end{cases}
\]

**Proof.** (i). First we claim that

\[
    E \int_0^t \Lambda^k u(s,x) - \Lambda^k_h u_h(s,x) \, dw^k_s = 0.
\]

Since a stochastic integral is a local martingale, it suffices to show that

\[
    E \int_0^T \{\Lambda^k u(s,x) - \Lambda^k_h u_h(s,x)\}^2 \, ds < \infty.
\]

We calculate

\[
    E \int_0^T |\Lambda^k u(s,x)|^2 \, ds = E \int_0^T |\sigma^k(s,x) u'(s,x) + \nu^k(s,x) u(s,x)|^2 \, ds \\
    \leq 2K^2 E \int_0^T |u'(s,x)|^2 + |u(s,x)|^2 \, ds \\
    \leq N(K,T,p) \left( E \int_0^T |u'(s,x)|^p + |u(s,x)|^p \, ds \right)^{2/p} \\
    \leq N(K,T,p) \| u \|_{L_{p,2}^2(T)}^{2/n+2} < \infty,
\]

(3.12)
\[ E \int_0^T |\Lambda_h^k u_h(s, x)|^2 \, ds \]

(3.13) \[ = E \int_0^T |\sigma^k(s, x) \frac{1}{h} \{ u_h(s, x+h) - u_h(s, x) \} + \nu^k(s, x) u_h(s, x) |^2 \, ds \]

\[ \leq N(K, h)E \int_0^T |u_h(s, x + h)|^2 + |u_h(s, x)|^2 \, ds < \infty, \]

by Lemma 3.2 The claim is proved. If we subtract (3.11) from (3.10), we get

\[ e(t, x) = \int_0^t L u(s, x) - L_h u_h(s, x) \, ds + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \int_0^t \Lambda^k u(s, x) - \Lambda_h^k u_h(s, x) \, dw_s^k \]

\[ = \int_0^t L_h e(s, x) \, ds + \int_0^t L u(s, x) - L_h u(s, x) \, ds \]

\[ + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \int_0^t \Lambda^k u(s, x) - \Lambda_h^k u_h(s, x) \, dw_s^k. \]

By the claim, if we take the expectation in the above equality, we get

\[ E e(t, x) = \int_0^t E L h e(s, x) \, ds + \int_0^t E (L u(s, x) - L_h u(s, x)) \, ds. \]

Thus, we see that \( E e(t, x) \) is differentiable in \( t \) and

\[ \frac{d}{dt} E e(t, x) = L_h E e(t, x) + E (L u(t, x) - L_h u(t, x)) \]

and \( E e(0, x) = 0. \)

(ii). We subtract (3.11) from (3.10). Then we get

\[ e(t, x) = \int_0^t L u(s, x) - L_h u_h(s, x) \, ds \]

(3.14) \[ = \int_0^t L_h e(s, x) \, ds + \int_0^t L u(s, x) - L_h u(s, x) \, ds, \]

for all \( t \in [0, T], x \in \mathbb{Z}_h^{M-1}. \) Now if we differentiate (3.14), we get the desired equation. \( \square \)

4. Error estimates

We begin with a lemma which is a standard tool in the study of (deterministic) partial differential equations.

**Lemma 4.1** (Discrete maximum principle). Fix \( \omega. \) Suppose that a function \( v \) defined on \( \Omega \times [0, T] \times \mathbb{Z}_h^M \) satisfies

\[ \begin{cases} \frac{dv}{dt}(t, x) \leq L_h v(t, x) \text{ for all } t \in [0, T] \text{ and } x \in \mathbb{Z}_h^{M-1}, \\
v(0, x) \leq 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{Z}_h^M, \text{ and } v(t, x_{\pm M}) \leq 0, \text{ for all } t \in [0, T]. \end{cases} \]

Then \( v(t, x) \leq 0 \) for all \( (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{Z}_h^M. \)
Proof. Take a constant $\gamma > 0$ and define $\bar{v} = v - \frac{\gamma}{T-t}$. Let $(t^*, x_l)$ be a point at which $\bar{v}$ takes its maximum value. Observe that $t^* < T$. Actually if $\bar{v}(t^*, x_l) > 0$, then $t^* = 0$ or $l = M$ or $l = -M$. Indeed, if $t^* > 0$ and $l \neq \pm M$, then

$$a(t^*, x_l)\frac{1}{h^2}[\bar{v}(t^*, x_{l+1}) - 2\bar{v}(t^*, x_l) + \bar{v}(t^*, x_{l-1})] \leq 0,$$

$$|b(t^*, x_l)|\frac{1}{h}[\bar{v}(t^*, x_{l+\text{sign } b(t^*, x_1)}) - \bar{v}(t^*, x_l)] \leq 0,$$

$$c(t^*, x_l)\bar{v}(t^*, x_l) \leq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d\bar{v}}{dt}(t^*, x_l) = 0.$$

Since $L_h\bar{v} = L_h(v + \frac{\gamma}{T-t}) = L_h\bar{v} + c(t, x)xT - \gamma \leq L_h\bar{v}$, from the assumption and the above inequalities we get

$$0 \leq L_h\bar{v}(t^*, x_l) - \frac{d\bar{v}}{dt}(t^*, x_l) \leq L_h\bar{v}(t^*, x_l) - \frac{\gamma}{(T-t)^2} \leq -\gamma(L(t^*, x_l) < 0),$$

which is impossible. Thus, either $\bar{v}(t^*, x_l) < 0$ or $t^* = 0$ or $l = M$ or $l = -M$. In any case, we see that $\bar{v}(t^*, x_l) \leq 0$ and $\bar{v}(t, x) \leq 0$ for all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{Z}_h^M$. Since $\gamma$ is arbitrary, the lemma is proved. \qed

Lemma 4.2. The function $e$ defined in Theorem 3.3 satisfies

$$\sup_{[0, T] \times \mathbb{Z}_h^M} |Ee(t, x)| \leq T E \sup_{[0, T] \times \mathbb{Z}_h^M} |Lu - L_h u| + E \sup_{t \in [0, T], k = \pm M} |u(t, x_k)|.$$

If $\sigma^k = \nu^k = 0$, then

$$\sup_{[0, T] \times \mathbb{Z}_h^M} |e(t, x)| \leq T \sup_{[0, T] \times \mathbb{Z}_h^M} |Lu - L_h u| + \sup_{t \in [0, T], k = \pm M} |u(t, x_k)|.$$

Proof. Let

$$N_1 := E \sup_{t \in [0, T], k = \pm M} |e(t, x_k)| = E \sup_{t \in [0, T], k = \pm M} |u(t, x_k)|$$

and

$$N_0 := E \sup_{[0, T] \times \mathbb{Z}_h^M} |Lu - L_h u|.$$

The last equality for $N_1$ follows from (1.1). Then for $\bar{e} = e - N_0 t - N_1$, we have

$$\frac{d}{dt}\bar{e} = \frac{d}{dt}Ee - N_0 = L_h Ee(t, x) + E(Lu - L_h u)(t, x) - N_0 \leq L_h Ee(t, x) = L_h \bar{e} + c(t, x)(N_0 t + N_1) \leq L_h \bar{e}(t, x).$$

Obviously, $Ee(0, x) \leq 0$ and $Ee(t, x, \pm M) \leq 0$. Therefore, by Lemma 3.3 $E\bar{e}(t, x) \leq 0$ and $Ee(t, x) \leq N_0 T + N_1$. Similarly, $-Ee(t, x) \leq N_0 T + N_1$. The first desired inequality is proved.

To prove the second inequality, we just copy the above proof without writing “E”. \qed

Now we present the main result of this paper.
Theorem 4.3. Suppose that $n$ and $p$ satisfy
\[ n + 2 - 2\beta - 1/p \geq 2 + \delta \quad \text{and} \quad 1/2 > \beta > 1/p, \]
for a fixed $\delta \in (0, 1)$. Then the function $e$ satisfies
\begin{equation}
\sup_{[0,T] \times Z^n_h} |e(t,x)| \leq N(h^\delta + \frac{1}{(1 + R^2)^{\gamma/2}})(E \| u_0 \|_{n+2-2/p,p,r})^{1/p}
+ N(h^\delta + \frac{1}{(1 + R^2)^{\gamma/2}})(\| f \|_{L^p_{n,p,r}(T)} + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \| g_k \|_{L^{p+1}_{n,p,r}(T)}),
\end{equation}
where $N = N(n, p, T, \beta)$.

If $\sigma^k = 0$, then
\begin{equation}
E \sup_{[0,T] \times Z^n_h} |e(t,x)|^p \leq N(h^\delta p + \frac{1}{(1 + R^2)^{\gamma/2}})(E \| u_0 \|_{n+2-2/p,p,r})^{1/p}
+ N(h^\delta p + \frac{1}{(1 + R^2)^{\gamma/2}})(\| f \|_{L^p_{n,p,r}(T)} + \sum_{k=1}^{d'} \| g_k \|_{L^{p+1}_{n,p,r}(T)}).
\end{equation}

Proof. We first prove (4.1). The proof of (4.1) is similar and easier. By Lemma 4.2 and Lemma 3.1,
\begin{equation}
\sup_{[0,T] \times Z^n_h} |e(t,x)| \leq T \sup_{t \in [0,T]} |Lu(t,\cdot) - L_h u(t,\cdot)|_{C^0} + \sup_{t \in [0,T], k = \pm M} |u(t,x_k)|
\leq N(T, K)h^\delta \sup_{t \in [0,T]} |u(t,\cdot)|_{C^{2+s}} + \sup_{t \in [0,T], k = \pm M} |u(t,x_k)|.
\end{equation}
We take $p$th powers and mathematical expectations:
\begin{equation*}
E \sup_{[0,T] \times Z^n_h} |e(t,x)|^p \leq N(T, K, p)h^\delta E \sup_{t \in [0,T]} |u(t,\cdot)|^p_{C^{2+s}} + E \sup_{t \in [0,T], k = \pm M} |u(t,x_k)|^p.
\end{equation*}
We apply Theorem 2.4 and Corollary 2.6 to the right hand side of the above inequality, to get
\begin{equation*}
E \sup_{[0,T] \times Z^n_h} |e(t,x)|^p \leq N(T, K, p, \alpha, \beta)h^\delta \| u \|_{H^{p+2}_{n,p,r}(T)}^{p} + \frac{N(p, T, n, \alpha, \beta)}{(1 + R^2)^{\gamma/2}} \| u \|_{H^{p+2}_{n,p,r}(T)}^{p}.
\end{equation*}
Finally, we apply Theorem 2.3 and (4.2) is proved.

Now we show (4.1). By Lemma 4.2 and Jensen’s inequality, we get
\begin{equation}
\sup_{[0,T] \times Z^n_h} |e(t,x)| \leq T \left( E \sup_{[0,T] \times Z^n_h} |Lu - L_h u|^p \right)^{1/p} + (E \sup_{t \in [0,T], k = \pm M} |u(t,x_k)|^p)^{1/p}.
\end{equation}
We apply Lemma 3.1 and Corollary 2.6 to estimate the right hand side. Then we get
\begin{equation*}
\sup_{[0,T] \times Z^n_h} |e(t,x)| \leq T Nh^\delta \left( E \sup_{t \in [0,T]} |u(t,\cdot)|_{C^{2+s}}^p \right)^{1/p} + \frac{N}{(1 + R^2)^{\gamma/2}} \| u \|_{H^{p+2}_{n,p,r}(T)}.
\end{equation*}
We apply Theorem 2.3 and Theorem 2.4 The theorem is proved. \qed
From the above theorem, we see that if $\sigma^k = \nu^k = 0$, one can select the mesh size $h$ and the diameter $R$ to guarantee that up to any specified final time $T$, the $p$th moment of the sup-norm error is less than any given $\varepsilon > 0$. If $\sigma^k$ and $\nu^k$ are not identically zero, one can make the sup-norm of the average error arbitrarily small.

Remarks. 1. As we remarked above, when $\sigma^k$ and $\nu^k$ are not identically zero, we only have (4.1), which is much weaker than (4.2). The main idea to obtain these estimates was to derive certain equations for the error and to apply the discrete maximum principle, Lemma 4.1, to these equations. Since one does not have maximum principle for general stochastic PDEs, we had to take the expectation of the error and obtain an equation for $Ee(t,x)$. A new approach based on the $L_2$-theory of discrete stochastic evolution equations and embedding theorems has recently been investigated by the author [19]. Estimates (full-discretization) similar to (4.2) were obtained for general stochastic PDEs under rather strong regularity assumptions on the coefficients and the data.

2. Lemma 3.1 can be strengthened for $u(t,\cdot) \in C^4$:

$$|Lu(t,\cdot) - L_h u(t,\cdot)|_{C^0} = O(h^2)$$

if we approximate

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(t,x) \simeq \frac{1}{2h}[u(t,x+h) - u(t,x-h)].$$

But to obtain a solution in $C^4$, we need to assume that

$$n + 2 - 2\beta - 1/p \geq 4$$

instead of $n + 2 - 2\beta - 1/p \geq 2 + \delta$; thus we must require higher regularity for the coefficients and the data. As we explained in the Introduction, our aim was to obtain solutions and estimates for them under less restrictive conditions on the smoothness of the coefficients and the data by employing $L_p$-theory.

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