Lp Inequalities for Stopping Times of Diffusions

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Abstract. Let $X_t$ be a solution to a stochastic differential equation. Easily verified conditions on the coefficients of the equation give $L^p$ inequalities for stopping times of $X_t$ and the maximal function. An application to Brownian motion with radial drift is also discussed.

0. Introduction. Let $B(t)$ be $n$-dimensional Brownian motion ($n \geq 1$). Denote by $E_x$ the expectation associated with $B(t)$ starting at $x$. For any stopping time $\tau$ of $B(t)$ let $B(\tau)^*$ be the maximal function of $B$ up to time $\tau$:

$$B(\tau)^* = \sup_{0 \leq t < \infty} |B(t \wedge \tau)|.$$

In Burkholder and Gundy [2] ($n = 1$) and Burkholder [1] ($n \geq 2$) the following theorem was proved:

Theorem 0.1. There are positive constants $c_{p,n}$ and $C_{p,n}$ such that for any stopping time $\tau$ of $B(t)$,

$$c_{p,n} E_x [\tau + |x|^2]^{p/2} \leq E_x [B(\tau)^*]^p \leq C_{p,n} E_x [\tau + |x|^2]^{p/2}.$$

If $\tau$ is an exit time (i.e., if for some open $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \tau = \inf\{t > 0: B(t) \notin D\}$), this result can be used to determine when $E_x \tau^p$ is finite. See Burkholder [1, Theorems 3.1–3.3 and the application after Theorem 3.3]. Mueller [4] extended Theorem 0.1 to exit times of other diffusions $X(t)$; however, rather than $X(\tau)^*$, his inequalities involve

$$u(X(\tau))^* := \sup_{0 \leq t < \infty} |u(X(t \wedge \tau))|$$

where $u$ is some $X(t)$-harmonic function (i.e., $u(X(t))$ is a martingale). He applies this result to study exit times of certain diffusions from cones in $\mathbb{R}^n$, and his examples show that in general Theorem 0.1 will not hold for $B(t)$ replaced by another diffusion $X(t)$.

In this paper we obtain easy-to-check sufficient conditions under which Theorem 0.1 will be true. We also discuss an application to Brownian motion with radial drift. The paper is organized as follows. In §1 we state the main results. §2 presents some lemmas, and in §3 proofs of the main results are given. §4 is devoted to an application to Brownian motion with radial drift.

Received by the editors July 16, 1985.

1980 Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 60G40, 60H05, 60J60.

Key words and phrases. Stopping times, diffusions, maximal function.

1 This research was supported in part by the National Science Foundation under grant DMS-8301367.

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0002-9947/86 $1.00 + .25 per page

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1. Main results. Let \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)\) be a complete probability space and \(\{\mathcal{F}_t : t \geq 0\}\) an increasing family of complete \(\sigma\)-subalgebras of \(\mathcal{F}\). Suppose \(X(t)\) is a diffusion in \(\mathbb{R}^n\) (i.e., continuous strong Markov process) that is \(\mathcal{F}_t\)-progressively measurable and satisfies
\[
dX(t) = \sigma(X(t)) dB(t) + b(X(t)) dt, \quad X(0) = x,
\]
where \(\sigma: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n \otimes \mathbb{R}^n\) and \(b: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n\) are measurable and \(B(t)\) is an \(n\)-dimensional \(\{\mathcal{F}_t\}\)-Brownian motion starting at 0. \(\tau\) is a stopping time of \(X(t)\) if \(\{\tau < t\} \in \sigma(X_s: s \leq t)\) for \(t \geq 0\). Define
\[
X(\tau)^* := \sup_{0 \leq t < \infty} |X(t \wedge \tau)|,
\]
the maximal function of \(X\) up to time \(\tau\). Finally let \(a = \sigma\sigma^*\), where \(\sigma^*\) is the transpose of \(\sigma\). Denote by \(E_x\) the expectation associated with \(X(0) = x\).

**THEOREM 1.1.** Suppose \(n \geq 1\) and \(x \to \text{Tr} a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x)\) and \(x \to \sigma^{ij}(x)\) are bounded. For \(p > 0\) there is \(C_{p,n} > 0\) such that for any stopping time \(\tau\) of \(X(t)\)
\[
E_x(X_{\tau}^*)^p \leq C_{p,n} E_x[\tau + |x|^2]^{p/2}.
\]

**THEOREM 1.2.** Suppose \(n \geq 1\),
\[
\text{sup}_x |\text{Tr} a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x)| \lor \text{sup}_{i,j,x} |\sigma^{ij}(x)| < \infty \quad \text{and}
\]
\[
\text{inf}_x [\text{Tr} a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x)] > 0.
\]
Then for \(p > 0\) there are positive constants \(C_{p,n}\) and \(c_{p,n}\) such that for any stopping time \(\tau\) of \(X(t)\)
\[
c_{p,n} E_x[\tau + |x|^2]^{p/2} \leq E_x(X_{\tau}^*)^p \leq C_{p,n} E_x[\tau + |x|^2]^{p/2}.
\]

**REMARK 1.3.** (i) Notice that the case of \(b\) unbounded near 0 is not precluded so long as \(x \cdot b\) is bounded near 0.

(ii) From the proofs we may observe the following. Rather than (1.1) assume for \(Y_t = |X_t|^2\),
\[
dY_t = \tilde{\sigma}(\omega, t) dB(t) + \tilde{b}(\omega, t) dt, \quad Y_0 = x^2,
\]
where \(\tilde{\sigma}: \Omega \times [0, \infty) \to \mathbb{R}^n \otimes \mathbb{R}\) and \(\tilde{b}: \Omega \times [0, \infty) \to \mathbb{R}\) are progressively measurable. Then Theorem 1.1 holds if we replace "\(x \to \text{Tr} a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x)\) and \(x \to \sigma^{ij}(x)\) bounded" by the assumption "\(\tilde{b}\) bounded, \((t, \omega) \to \tilde{\sigma}\tilde{\sigma}^*(\omega, t)/Y_t(\omega)\) bounded". Theorem 1.2 holds if we replace (1.3) by
\[
\text{sup}_{t, \Omega} |\tilde{b}(\omega, t)| \lor [||\tilde{\sigma}\tilde{\sigma}^*(\omega, t)||/|Y_t(\omega)|] < \infty
\]
and (1.4) by
\[
\text{inf}_{t, \Omega} \tilde{b}(\omega, t) > 0.
\]

Theorem 1.2 excludes cases when \(x \cdot b\) can take on sufficiently negative values (near 0) such that (1.4) fails to hold. But if \(b\) is nice enough, it is still possible to obtain (1.5): Let
\[
\lambda_1(x) \leq \lambda_2(x) \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_n(x)
\]
be the eigenvalues of \(a(x)\). We have the following theorem.
THEOREM 1.4. Let $n \geq 2$. Assume

(1.8) \quad \text{Tr}a + 2x \cdot b \text{ is bounded;}

(1.9) \quad \text{for any } R > 0 \text{ there is } \mu(R) > 0 \text{ with } (a(x)\xi, \xi) > \mu(R)|\xi|^2 \text{ if } |x| \leq R \text{ and } \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ (here } (\cdot, \cdot) \text{ is the usual Euclidean inner product)}

(1.10) \quad a_{ij} \text{ are bounded;}

(1.11) \quad (1 + |x|) \sum_i |b_i| < \varepsilon(|x|) \text{ where } \varepsilon(\cdot) \text{ is bounded on } [0, \infty) \text{ and } \varepsilon(r) \to 0 \text{ as } r \to \infty;

(1.12) \quad \lambda_{n-1}(x) \geq \gamma > 0.

Then for $p > 0$ there are positive constants $c_{p,n}$ and $C_{p,n}$ such that for any stopping time $\tau$ of $X(t)$, (1.5) holds.

REMARK 1.5. If (1.12) is replaced by

(1.13) \quad \inf_x \text{Tr}a(x) > 0

and for some $0 < r < s$,

(1.14) \quad \begin{align*}
\inf_{B_R(0)} & \left[ \text{Tr}a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x) \right] |x|^2 / (a(x)x, x) \geq 1, \\
\inf_{B_s(0)} & \left[ \text{Tr}a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x) \right] |x|^2 / (a(x)x, x) > 1,
\end{align*}

then (1.5) still holds and we may take $n \geq 1$. (Here $B_R(0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| < R\}$.)

Theorems 1.2 and 1.4 may be combined in several ways. For example, the next result requires that the conditions of Theorem 1.2 be satisfied near the origin and the conditions of Theorem 1.4 be satisfied away from the origin, with overlap.

THEOREM 1.6. Let $n \geq 2$. Suppose for some $0 < r < s$

(1.15) \quad \sup_x |\text{Tr}a + 2x \cdot b| < \infty;

(1.16) \quad \inf_{B_r(0)} \text{Tr}a + 2x \cdot b > 0;

(1.17) \quad \sup_{B_s(0)} |\sigma_{ij}| < \infty;

(1.18) \quad \sup_{B_r(0)} |a_{ij}| < \infty;

(1.19) \quad \text{for any } R > r \text{ there is } \mu(R) > 0 \text{ with } (a(x)\xi, \xi) > \mu(R)|\xi|^2 \text{ if } r \leq |x| \leq R \text{ and } \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n; \text{ here } \mu(\cdot) \text{ is decreasing;}

\quad
(1.20) \((1 + |x|) \sum_i |b_i| \leq \varepsilon(|x|)\) for \(|x| \geq r\) where \(\varepsilon(\cdot)\) is bounded on \([r, \infty)\) and \(\varepsilon(\delta) \to 0\) as \(\delta \to \infty\);

(1.21) \(\text{for } |x| \geq r, \quad \lambda_{n-1}(x) \geq \gamma > 0;\)

for some \(R_0 > 0\)

(1.22) \[\frac{\text{Tr} a(x) + 2x \cdot b - (a(x)x, x)|x|^{-2}}{(a(x)x, x)|x|^{-2}} \geq 1 + \delta(|x|) \quad \text{if } |x| > R_0,\]

where \(\delta(\cdot)\) is continuous and

(1.23) \[\int_{R_0}^\infty \frac{1}{t} \exp \left\{ - \int_{R_0}^\infty \frac{\varepsilon(u)}{u} \, du \right\} \, dt < \infty.\]

Then for \(p > 0\) there are positive constants \(c_{p,n}\) and \(C_{p,n}\) such that for any stopping time \(\tau\) of \(X(t)\), (1.5) holds.

**Remark 1.7.** (i) Condition (1.22) may be regarded as a “nonrecurrence” condition (cf. Friedman [3, Theorem 9.1.1]).

(ii) Clearly other combinations of Theorems 1.2 and 1.4 (and their modifications as discussed in Remarks 1.3 and 1.5) are possible as long as the nonrecurrence condition (1.22) is in effect. Their proofs are minor modifications of the proof of Theorem 1.6.

(iii) (1.23) holds for \(\delta(s) = c\) or \(\delta(s) = c/s\) or \(\delta(s) = d/\log s\) for \(c > 0, b > 1\).

2. Some lemmas.

**Lemma 2.1.** Suppose

\[C_1 := \sup_x |\text{Tr} a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x)| \vee \sup_{i,j,x} |\sigma_{ij}(x)| < \infty.\]

Then for \(\alpha > 0, T > 0\)

(2.1) \[P_x(X(T)^* > \alpha) \leq \alpha^{-2}(2C_1T + |x|^2),\]

(2.2) \[P_x(X(T)^* > \alpha) \leq C(p) \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{[p]} |x|^{2p-2j}T^j + T^p \right\}^{-\alpha^{-2p}}, \quad p \geq 2,\]

where \([\cdot]\) is the greatest integer function.

**Proof.** Define \(\eta(t) = |X(t)|^2 + C_1t, \quad t \geq 0\). By Itô’s formula

\[d\eta_t = 2X_t \cdot \sigma(X_t) \, dB_t + [2X_t \cdot b(X_t) + \text{Tr} a(X_t) + C_1] \, dt\]

and so for \(s \leq t\)

\[E_x[(\eta_t - \eta_s)|\mathcal{F}_s] = E_x \left[ \int_s^t (2X_u \cdot b(X_u) + \text{Tr} a(X_u) + C_1) \, du |\mathcal{F}_s \right] \geq 0,\]
by choice of $C_1$. Hence $(\eta_t, \mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is a submartingale, and it is easy to see that
\begin{equation}
E_x(\eta_t - \eta_0) \leq 2C_1 t.
\end{equation}
Next, by an inequality of Doob,
\[ P_x(X(T)^* > \alpha) \leq P_x(\eta(T)^* > \alpha^2) \leq \alpha^{-2}E_x\eta(T) \]
(see e.g. Stroock-Varadhan [5, p. 21, Theorem 1.2.3])
\[ \leq \alpha^{-2}(2C_1 T + |x|^2) \]  
(by (2.3))
which gives (2.1).

Now for (2.2). Let $p \geq 2$. Let
\[ f(x) = \begin{cases} 
 x^p, & x \geq 0, \\
 0, & x < 0.
\end{cases} \]
Then by Itô’s formula and optional stopping with $\sigma_n := \inf\{t > 0: |X_t| > n\}$
\[ E_x\eta_t^{P_{\sigma_n}} = |x|^{2p} + E_x \int_0^{\sigma_n} \left[ \eta_s^{p-1} \{2X_s \cdot b(X_s) + \text{Tr} a(X_s) + C_1 \} 
\right.
\]
\[ + \frac{1}{2} p(p-1) \eta_s^{p-1} \left( a(X_s)X_s, X_s \right) \] 
\[ \left. - \frac{1}{2} p(p-1) \eta_s^{p-1} \left( a(X_s)X_s, X_s \right) \right] ds 
\]
\[ \leq |x|^{2p} + E_x \int_0^t \left[ \eta_s^{p-1} \{2C_1 \} + \frac{1}{2} p(p-1) \eta_s^{p-1} \left( a(X_s)X_s, X_s \right) \right] ds 
\]
\[ \leq |x|^{2p} + C(p) \int_0^t E_x \eta_s^{p-1} ds \]  
(see (2.3))
which gives (2.1).

For $p = 2$ (by (2.3)),
\[ E\eta_t^2 \leq |x|^4 + C(2) \int_0^t E_x \eta_s ds \leq |x|^4 + C(2)|x|^2 t + C(2)C_1 t^2 < \infty. \]
Iterating (2.4) gives $E_x\eta_t^p < \infty$ for $p = 2, 3, \ldots$ and in fact
\[ E_x \eta_t^q \leq C(q, r) \left[ \sum_{j=0}^{r-1} |x|^{2q-2j} t^j + \int_0^t \int_0^{t_1} \cdots \int_0^{t_{r-1}} E_x \eta_t^{q-r} dt_r \cdots dt_1 \right] \]
for $q \geq 2, 2 \leq r \leq [q]$. Setting $r = [q]$ and observing
\[ E_x \eta_t^{q-[q]} \leq (E_x \eta_t)^{q-[q]} \leq C(q)[t^{q-[q]} + |x|^{2q-2[q]}] \]  
(by (2.3)),
we see
\begin{equation}
E_x \eta_t^q \leq C(q) \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{r} |x|^{2q-2j} t^j + t^q \right\}.
\end{equation}
Since $q \geq 2$, $(\eta_t, \mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is a nonnegative submartingale. Hence
\[ P_x(X(T)^* > \alpha) \leq P_x((\eta(T))^* > \alpha^{2q}) \leq \alpha^{-2q}E_x\eta(T)^q, \]
which combined with (2.5) yields (2.2). \qed
Lemma 2.2. Suppose $C_2 := \inf \{ \text{Tr } a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x) \} > 0$. Then for $|x| \leq \alpha$

$$P_x(X(T)^* \leq \alpha) \leq 4\alpha^2/(TC_2).$$

Proof. Let $\phi(x) = C_2^{-1}(\alpha^2 - |x|^2)$. Then

$$2L\phi(x) := \sum_{i,j} a_{ij}(x) \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + 2 \sum_i b_i(x) \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i}$$

$$= -2C_2^{-1}[\text{Tr } a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x)] \leq -2.$$

Letting $\sigma := \inf\{t > 0: |X(t)| > 2\alpha\}$ and using Itô's formula, optional stopping, and (2.8):

$$\mathbb{E}_x (X(\sigma \wedge t)) - \phi(x) \leq -\mathbb{E}_x (\sigma \wedge t).$$

Thus

$$\mathbb{E}_x (\sigma \wedge t) \leq C_2^{-1}\mathbb{E}_x |X(\sigma \wedge t)|^2 \leq 4\alpha^2/C_2,$$

and so by monotone convergence

$$\mathbb{E}_x \sigma \leq 4\alpha^2/C_2.$$

Finally, for $|x| \leq \alpha$

$$P_x(X(T)^* \leq \alpha) \leq P_x(\sigma > T) \leq 4\alpha^2/(C_2T) \quad \text{by (2.9).} \quad \Box$$

Remark 2.3. Replace (1.1) by (1.6). If we replace the conditions on Tr $a$ and Tr $a + 2x \cdot b$ in Lemma 2.1 by "$b$ and $(t, \omega) \rightarrow \tilde{\sigma}\tilde{\sigma}^*(\omega, t)/Y_t(\omega)$ bounded" then the conclusion still holds. If the condition on Tr $a + 2x \cdot b$ in Lemma 2.2 is replaced by "$\inf \tilde{b} > 0$" then the lemma remains true. The proof of Lemma 2.1 goes through with minor modifications. For Lemma 2.2 use $\phi(y) = C_2^{-1}(\alpha^2 - y)$ (where $C_2 = \inf \tilde{b}$),

$$2L = \tilde{\sigma}\tilde{\sigma}^*(\omega, t) \frac{d^2}{dy^2} + 2\tilde{b}(\omega, t) \frac{d}{dy},$$

and Itô's formula with $Y(t)$.

The next lemma is due to Burkholder [1].

Lemma 2.4. Let $f$ and $g$ be nonnegative measurable functions on a probability space. Given $p > 0$ suppose there exist $\beta > 1$, $\delta > 0$, $\alpha > 0$ such that

$$P(g \geq \beta \lambda, f \leq \delta \lambda) \leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p}P(g > \lambda), \quad \lambda > 0.$$

Then

$$\mathbb{E}g^p \leq \beta^p \delta^{-p}(1 - \beta^p[\beta + \alpha]^{-p})^{-1}Ef^p.$$

The next lemma is essentially due to Friedman [3].

Lemma 2.5. Suppose $n \geq 2$ and (1.8)–(1.12) hold. Then for some $\eta \in (-1, 0)$, for any $\varepsilon > 0$

$$\mathbb{E}_x \int_0^t |b(X(s))| ds \leq C_4 + C_5(t^{(1+\eta)/2} + |x|^{1+\eta}) + \varepsilon C_6(t^{1/2} + |x|),$$

where $C_6$ is independent of $\varepsilon$.

Remark 2.6. (i) Friedman gets

$$\mathbb{E}_x \left| \int_0^t b(X(s)) ds \right| = o(t^{(1+\eta)/2}) + O(t^{1/2})$$
(see his Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3 on pp. 175-176), but his proof actually gives (2.10).

(ii) If (1.12) is replaced by (1.13) and (1.14), then we may take \( n \geq 1 \) in Lemma 2.5 with (2.10) still being true. With minor modification, Friedman’s proof still works.

**LEMMA 2.7.** **Under** (1.9), (1.10) **and** (1.11), **for** \( |x| \leq \alpha \)

\[
P_x(X(T)^* \leq \alpha) \leq [4\alpha^2 / TC_7(\alpha)]^{1/2} \exp\{TC_8(\alpha)\}
\]

**where**

\[
C_7(\alpha) = n \wedge \inf_{B_2a(0)} \text{Tr}_a \quad \text{and} \quad C_8(\alpha) = \frac{1}{2} \sup_{B_2a(0)} (a^{-1}b, b).
\]

**PROOF.** By enlarging \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})\) we can construct a continuous process \( \xi(t) \) on \( \Omega \) such that for \( |x| \leq \alpha \) with

\[
\eta = \inf\{t > 0: \xi(t) \notin B_{2\alpha}(0)\},
\]

\[
\hat{\alpha}(t) = \begin{cases} a(X_t), & t < \eta, \\ I, & t \geq \eta, \end{cases}
\]

\[
\hat{b}(t) = \begin{cases} b(X_t), & t < \eta, \\ 0, & t \geq \eta, \end{cases}
\]

\( \xi(\cdot) \) is an Itô process with respect to \( \hat{\alpha}(\cdot), \hat{b}(\cdot) \) on \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P_x)\) (written \( \xi(\cdot) \sim I(\hat{\alpha}(\cdot), \hat{b}(\cdot)) \) on \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P_x)\) — see Stroock-Varadhan [5, §4.3]) with \( \xi(t) = X(t) \) for \( t < \eta \) (see Theorem A.1 of appendix). Hence

\[
P_x(X(T)^* \leq \alpha) = P_x(\xi(T)^* \leq \alpha).
\]

Let \( \bar{\Omega} = C([0, \infty), \mathbb{R}^n) \) be the space of continuous functions from \([0, \infty)\) into \( \mathbb{R}^n \). For \( \bar{\omega} \in \bar{\Omega} \) and \( t \geq 0 \) let \( x(t, \bar{\omega}) = \bar{\omega}(t) \). Give \( \bar{\Omega} \) the topology induced by uniform convergence on compact subsets of \([0, \infty)\). Let \( \mathcal{M} \) be the Borel \( \sigma \)-algebra of subsets of the resulting topological space. Define \( \sigma \)-algebras \( \mathcal{M}_t \subseteq \mathcal{M} \) for \( t \geq 0 \) by \( \mathcal{M}_t := \sigma(x(s): 0 \leq s \leq t) \).

Letting

\[
\bar{\eta} = \inf\{t > 0: x(t) \notin B_{2\alpha}(0)\},
\]

\[
\bar{\alpha}(t) = \begin{cases} a(x(t)), & t < \bar{\eta}, \\ I, & t \geq \bar{\eta}, \end{cases}
\]

\[
\bar{b}(t) = \begin{cases} b(x(t)), & t < \bar{\eta}, \\ 0, & t \geq \bar{\eta}, \end{cases}
\]

we see that for \( |x| \leq \alpha \), \( \xi(\cdot) \) induces measures \( P_{x,\bar{\alpha},\bar{b}} \) on \((\bar{\Omega}, \mathcal{M})\) such that \( P_{x,\bar{\alpha},\bar{b}} = P_x \circ \xi^{-1} \) and \( x(\cdot) \sim I(\bar{\alpha}(\cdot), \bar{b}(\cdot)) \) on \((\bar{\Omega}, \mathcal{M}_t, P_{x,\bar{\alpha},\bar{b}})\). Since \( \bar{\alpha}, \bar{b} \), and \((\bar{\alpha}^{-1}\bar{b}, \bar{b})\) are bounded, by the Cameron-Martin-Girsanov Formula (Stroock-Varadhan [5, p. 153, Lemma 6.4.1]) there is a probability measure \( P'_{x,\bar{\alpha},\bar{b}} \) on \((\bar{\Omega}, \mathcal{M})\) such that \( x(\cdot) \sim I(\bar{\alpha}(\cdot), 0) \) on \((\bar{\Omega}, \mathcal{M}_t, P'_{x,\bar{\alpha},\bar{b}})\) and for \( |x| \leq \alpha \)

\[
P_{x,\bar{\alpha},\bar{b}}(x(T)^* \leq \alpha) = E^{P'_{x,\bar{\alpha},\bar{b}}}[R_{\bar{\alpha}}(T)I(x(T)^* \leq \alpha)]
\]
where

\[
R^\beta(T) = \exp \left\{ \int_0^T (\tilde{a}^{-1}\tilde{b}(u), dx_u) - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T (\tilde{a}^{-1}\tilde{b}(u), \tilde{b}(u)) du \right\}
\]

and

\[
E^{P_\mu}[R^\mu(T)] = 1 \quad \text{for any } p > 0.
\]

Notice

\[
E^{P_\mu}[R^\mu(T)]^2 = E^{P_\mu} \left[ R^{2\beta}(T) \exp \left\{ \int_0^T (\tilde{a}^{-1}\tilde{b}(u), du) \right\} \right]
\]

\[
\leq E^{P_\mu}[R^{2\beta}(T) \exp\{2C_8(\alpha)T\}] \quad \text{(by } (2.15) \text{ and } (2.12))
\]

\[
= \exp\{2C_8(\alpha)T\} \quad \text{(by } (2.18))
\]

Note that under (1.9), \(C_8 < \infty\). If

\[
\tilde{a} = \tilde{a}(\cdot) \text{ and since } x(\cdot) \sim I(\tilde{a}(\cdot), 0) \text{ on } (\tilde{\Omega}, \mathscr{F}, P_\alpha^\mu), \text{ by Theorem 4.5.1 in Stroock-Varadhan [5, p. 108] there is a Brownian motion } \beta \text{ on } (\tilde{\Omega}, \mathscr{F}, P_\alpha^\mu) \text{ such that}
\]

\[
x_t - x = \int_0^t \tilde{a}(u) d\beta_u.
\]

By (2.15) and (1.9), \(\inf \text{Tr } \tilde{a} = C_7(\alpha) > 0\), so by the proof of Lemma 2.2

\[
P_\mu^\alpha(x(T)^* \leq \alpha) \leq \frac{4\alpha^2}{(C_\mu(\alpha)T)}, \quad |x| \leq \alpha.
\]

Then for \(|x| \leq \alpha\)

\[
P_\mu(x(T)^* \leq \alpha) = P_\mu(x(T)^* \leq \alpha) \quad \text{by } (2.14)
\]

\[
= \tilde{P}_\mu(x(T)^* \leq \alpha)
\]

\[
\leq \{E^{P_\mu}[R^\beta(T)]^2\}^{1/2}\{P_\mu(x(T)^* \leq \alpha)\}^{1/2} \quad \text{by } (2.16)
\]

\[
\leq \{4\alpha^2/TC_7(\alpha)\}^{1/2}\exp\{C_8(\alpha)T\} \quad \text{by } (2.19) \text{ and } (2.20)
\]

as desired. \(\square\)

**Remark 2.8.** Clearly \(C_7(\cdot)\) is decreasing and \(C_8(\cdot)\) is increasing.

**Lemma 2.9.** Under (1.9)-(1.12) for \(|x| \leq \alpha\)

\[
P_\mu \left( \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left| x + \int_0^t \sigma(X_s) dB_s \right| \leq \alpha \right) \leq \frac{4\alpha^2}{T\gamma}.
\]

**Proof.** Let \(Z_t = x + \int_0^t \sigma(X_s) dB_s\). Then by Itô’s formula,

\[
d|Z_t|^2 = 2Z_t \cdot \sigma(X_t) dB_t + \text{Tr } a(X_t) dt.
\]

By (1.12) \(\text{Tr } a(X_t) \geq \gamma > 0\), so by Remark 2.3 (with \(Y_t = |Z_t|^2\))

\[
P_\mu \left( \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left| x + \int_0^t \sigma(X_s) dB_s \right| \leq \alpha \right) = P_\mu(Z_T^* \leq \alpha) \leq \frac{4\alpha^2}{T\gamma}. \quad \square
3. Proofs of the main results.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. We use Burkholder's method of reduction of consideration to exit times from balls [1]. By Lemma 2.4 it suffices to show that for \( p > 0 \) there are \( \beta > 1, \delta > 0, \alpha > 0 \) such that

\[
\begin{align*}
P_x[X^*_T > \beta \lambda, |\tau + |x|^2|^{1/2} \leq \delta \lambda] &\leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} P_x(X^*_T > \lambda), \quad \lambda > 0. 
\end{align*}
\]

Consider any \( \delta \in (0, 1) \) and \( \alpha > 0 \). It is harmless to assume \( |x| \leq \delta \lambda < \lambda \). Let

\[ C_1 = \sup_x |\text{Tr} a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x)| \vee \sup_{i,j} |\sigma_{ij}(x)|. \]

Define \( \mu := \inf\{t > 0: |X(\tau \wedge t)| > \lambda\} \). Then since \( \{|X(\mu)| = \lambda\} \) on \( \{\mu < \infty\} = \{X^*_T > \lambda\} \), if \( \epsilon = \delta^2 \lambda^2 - |x|^2 \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{LHS (3.1)} &= P_x \left( \mu < \infty, \tau \leq \epsilon, \sup_{\mu \leq t \leq \tau} |X(t)| > \beta \lambda \right) \\
&= E_x I(\mu(\omega) < \infty) P_{X^*_\mu(\omega)} \left( \tau \leq \epsilon - \mu(\omega), \sup_{0 \leq t \leq \tau} |X(t)| > \beta \lambda \right) \\
&\quad \text{(Strong Markov Property)} \\
&\leq E_x I(X^*_\tau > \lambda) P_{X^*_\mu(\omega)} \left( X(\delta^2 \lambda^2)^* > \beta \lambda \right) \quad (\epsilon < \delta^2 \lambda^2) \\
&\leq P_x(X^*_\tau > \lambda) \cdot \left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
\beta^{-2} \lambda^{-2} (2C_1 \delta^2 \lambda^2 + \lambda^2) & \text{if} \ p < 2, \\
C(p) \left( \sum_{j=0}^{[p]} \lambda^{2p-2j} (\delta^2 \lambda^2)^j + \delta^2 \lambda^{2p} \right) \beta^{-2p} \lambda^{-2p} & \text{if} \ p \geq 2,
\end{array} \right.
\end{align*}
\]

(by Lemma 2.1)

\[
\begin{align*}
&\leq P_x(X^*_\tau > \lambda) \cdot \left\{ \begin{array}{ll}
(2C_1 \delta^2 + 1)/\beta^2, & \text{if} \ p < 2, \\
C(p, \delta)/\beta^2p, & \text{if} \ p \geq 2,
\end{array} \right. \\
&\leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} P_x(X^*_T > \lambda)
\end{align*}
\]

if \( \beta \) is large enough. □

Proof of Theorem 1.2. By Theorem 1.1 the right-hand inequality holds. For the left-hand inequality, by Lemma 2.4 we need only show that for \( p > 0 \) there are \( \beta > 1, \alpha > 0 \) and \( \delta > 0 \) with

\[
\begin{align*}
P_x([\tau + |x|^2|^{1/2} > \beta \lambda, X(\tau)^* \leq \delta \lambda] &\leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} P_x([\tau + |x|^2|^{1/2} > \lambda), \lambda > 0. 
\end{align*}
\]

Let \( \beta > 1 \) and \( \alpha > 0 \). Choose \( \delta \in (0, 1) \) small enough so \( 4\delta^2/C_2(\beta^2 - 1) < (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} \) where \( C_2 = \inf_x \text{Tr} a + 2x \cdot b > 0 \). We may assume \( |x| \leq \delta \lambda < \lambda \). Define \( \epsilon = \lambda^2 - |x|^2 \) and \( \theta = \beta \lambda^2 - |x|^2 \). Then

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{LHS (3.3)} &= P_x(\tau > \theta, \ X^*_T \leq \delta \lambda) \leq P_x \left( \tau > \epsilon, \sup_{\epsilon \leq t \leq \theta} |X(t)| \leq \delta \lambda \right) \\
&= E_x I(\tau > \epsilon) I(X_x \leq \delta \lambda) P_{X_x} (X^*_{\theta-\epsilon} \leq \delta \lambda) \quad \text{(Strong Markov Property)} \\
&\leq P_x(\tau > \epsilon) 4\delta^2 \lambda^2/C_2(\theta - \epsilon) \\
&\quad \text{(by Lemma 2.2 where} C_2 = \inf_x [\text{Tr} a(x) + 2x \cdot b(x)] > 0) \\
&= [4\delta^2/C_2(\beta^2 - 1)] P_x(\tau > \epsilon) \leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} P_x(\tau > \epsilon)
\end{align*}
\]

by choice of \( \delta \). □
The proof of Remark 1.3(ii) follows from the preceding proof and Remark 2.3.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1.4. By (1.8) and (1.10), the hypotheses of Theorem 1.1 hold, so by that theorem the right-hand inequality in (1.5) holds.

For the left-hand inequality in (1.5), by Lemma 2.4 it suffices to find \( \beta > 1, \delta > 0, \alpha > 0 \) for which (3.3) holds. As in the proof of Theorem 1.2 we may assume \(|x| \leq \delta \lambda < \lambda\). Then if \( \varepsilon = \lambda^2 - |x|^2 \) and \( \theta = \beta^2 \lambda^2 - |x|^2 \) as there, (3.4) continues to hold:

\[
(3.5) \quad \text{LHS}(3.3) \leq E_x I(\tau > \varepsilon) I(X_e \leq \delta \lambda) P_{X_e}(X^*_e \leq \delta \lambda).
\]

Now for \(|y| \leq \delta \lambda\), if \( 1 > \delta_1 > 0 \)

\[
P_y(X^*_{\delta-e} \leq \delta \lambda) = P_y \left( \sup_{0 \leq t \leq \theta - \varepsilon} \left| y + \int_0^t \sigma(X_s) dB_s + \int_0^t b(X_s) ds \right| \leq \delta \lambda \right)
\]

\[
\leq P_y \left( \sup_{0 \leq t \leq \theta - \varepsilon} \frac{1}{\lambda} \left| y + \int_0^t \sigma(X_s) dB_s \right| \leq \delta + \delta_1 \right)
\]

\[
+ P_y \left( \sup_{0 \leq t \leq \theta - \varepsilon} \frac{1}{\lambda} \left| \int_0^t b(X_s) ds \right| > \delta_1 \right)
\]

\[
= (1) + (2), \quad \text{say}.
\]

By Lemma 2.9 (using \( \theta - \varepsilon = (\beta^2 - 1) \lambda^2 \))

\[
(3.7) \quad (1) \leq 4(\delta + \delta_1)^2 \lambda^2 / [(\beta^2 - 1) \lambda^2 \gamma] = 4(\delta + \delta_1)^2 / [(\beta^2 - 1) \gamma].
\]

Next, by Lemma 2.5, for some \( \eta \in (-1, 0) \), for any \( \delta_2 > 0 \)

\[
(2) \leq (\delta_1 \lambda)^{-1} E_y \int_0^{\theta - \varepsilon} |b(X_s)| ds
\]

\[
\leq (\delta_1 \lambda)^{-1} \{C_4 + C_5 [(\beta^2 - 1) \lambda^2]^{(1+\eta)/2} + C_5 (\delta \lambda)^{1+\eta} + \delta_2 C_6 ((\beta^2 - 1)^{1/2} \lambda + \delta \lambda)\}
\]

\[
= \delta_1^{-1} \{C_4 \lambda^{-1} + C_5 [(\beta^2 - 1)^{(1+\eta)/2} + \delta^{1+\eta}] \lambda^\eta \}
\]

\[
\delta_2 C_6 [(\beta^2 - 1)^{1/2} + \delta].
\]

For \( \beta > 1, \alpha > 0 \) choose \( \delta < 1, \delta_1 < 1 \) so

\[
\text{RHS}(3.7) \leq \frac{1}{2} (\beta + \alpha)^{-p}.
\]

Then for these values of \( \delta, \alpha, \beta, \delta_1 \) choose \( \delta_2 > 0 \) and \( \lambda_1 > 0 \) such that

\[
\text{RHS}(3.8) \leq \frac{1}{2} (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} \quad \text{for } \lambda \geq \lambda_1
\]

(this is possible since \( \eta < 0 \)). Then for these values of \( \delta, \alpha, \beta, \delta_1 \), by (3.5)-(3.8)

\[
(3.9) \quad \text{LHS}(3.3) \leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} P_x(\tau > \varepsilon), \quad \lambda \geq \lambda_1.
\]

In fact, it is easy to see from (3.7) and (3.8) that (3.9) continues to hold if \( \delta \) is made smaller.
By Lemma 2.7, Remark 2.8, and (3.5), for \( \lambda < \lambda_1 \) (since \( \delta < 1 \))

\[
\text{LHS}(3.3) \leq P_x(\tau > \epsilon)\{4\delta^2/[(\beta^2 - 1)C_7(\delta \lambda)]\} \exp\{(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2 C_8(\delta \lambda)\}
\leq \{4\delta^2/[(\beta^2 - 1)C_7(\lambda_1)]\} \exp\{(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2 C_8(\lambda_1)\} P_x(\tau > \epsilon)
\leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} P_x(\tau > \epsilon)
\]  
for \( \delta \) small enough.

In any event, we have that (3.3) holds. \( \square \)

**Corollary.** Under the hypotheses of Theorem 1.4, given \( \alpha > 0 \) we may choose \( \delta' > 0 \) independent of \( \lambda \) such that

\[
P_y(X^*_k(\theta - \epsilon)) \leq m\delta \lambda < \alpha \text{ for } \delta < \delta', \quad |y| \leq m\delta \lambda,
\]

where \( k \) and \( m \) > 0.

**Proof.** This is immediate from the proof of Theorem 1.4. \( \square \)

**Proof of Remark 1.5.** By Remark 2.6(ii), the proof of Theorem 1.4 is still valid. \( \square \)

**Proof of Theorem 1.6.** As in the proof of Theorems 1.2 and 1.4 it suffices to show that for some \( \beta > 1, \alpha > 0, \delta > 0 \) (3.3) holds. Notice (3.4) still holds:

\[
\text{LHS}(3.3) \leq E_x[I(\tau > \epsilon) I(X_\infty \leq \delta \lambda) P_{X_\infty}(X^*_{\theta - \epsilon} \leq \delta \lambda)]
\]
(where \( \epsilon = \lambda^2 - |x|^2 \) and \( \theta = \beta^2 \lambda^2 - |x|^2 \)). Thus it suffices to show that given \( \beta > 1, \alpha > 0 \) there is \( \delta > 0 \) for which

\[
P_y(X^*_{\theta - \epsilon} \leq \delta \lambda) \leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} \text{ when } |y| \leq \delta \lambda.
\]

Let \( s \) and \( r \) be as in the hypotheses of the theorem. Define

\[
\sigma_0 = \inf\{t > 0 : |X_t| \geq 2\delta \lambda\}, \quad \tau_0 = 0,
\]
\[
\sigma_i = \inf\{t > \tau_{i-1} : X_t \notin B_{2\delta \lambda}(0) \setminus \overline{B_r(0)}\}, \quad i \geq 1,
\]
\[
\tau_i = \inf\{t > \sigma_i : |X_t| \geq s\}, \quad i \geq 1.
\]

Under condition (1.22) there exists an integrable function \( I(\cdot) \) such that if

\[
F(v) = \int_v^\infty e^{-I(u)} \, du,
\]
then for \( |x| > r \)

\[
F(r) P_x(|X(\sigma_1)| = r) + F(2\delta \lambda) P_x(|X(\sigma_1)| = 2\delta \lambda) \leq F(|x|)
\]
(see Friedman [3, proof of his Theorem 9.1.1]). Hence for \( |x| = s \),

\[
P_x(\sigma_0 > \sigma_1) = P_x(|X(\sigma_1)| = r) \leq F(|x|)/F(r)
\]
\[
= F(s)/F(r) := \xi < 1, \quad |x| = s.
\]

Let \( \beta > 1 \) and \( \alpha > 0 \). Choose \( N \) such that

\[
\sum_{i=N+1}^\infty \xi^{-3} < \frac{1}{3}(\beta + \alpha)^{-p}.
\]

Extend \( \sigma|_{B_r(0)}, \sigma|_{B_r(0)^c}, b|_{B_r(0)}, b|_{B_r(0)^c} \) by \( \tilde{\sigma}, \tilde{\sigma}, \tilde{b}, \tilde{b} \), resp., to all of \( \mathbb{R}^n \) so that \( \tilde{a} = \tilde{\sigma} \tilde{\sigma}^* \) and \( \tilde{b} \) satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 1.2 and \( \tilde{a} = \tilde{\sigma} \tilde{\sigma}^* \) and \( \tilde{b} \) satisfy
the hypotheses of Theorem 1.4. Denote by $\tilde{X}(\cdot)$ and $\overline{X}(\cdot)$ the processes governed by $(\overline{a}, \overline{b})$ and $(\overline{a}, \overline{b})$ resp. Define $\tilde{\sigma}_0, \tilde{\sigma}_i, \tilde{\tau}_i, \tilde{\rho}_i$ analogous to $\sigma_0, \sigma_i, \tau_i$.

If $\delta \lambda > s$ then by the proof of Theorem 1.2, for $|y| \leq \delta \lambda$

$$P_y(X^*_\theta \leq \delta \lambda) = P_y(\tilde{X}^*_\theta \leq \delta \lambda) \leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p}$$

for $\delta$ small enough. Thus in this case (3.10) holds.

Thus we may assume $\delta \lambda > s$. If $|z| < r$ then

$$P_z(t_1 > k) = P_z(\tilde{t}_1 > k) \leq P_z(\tilde{X}(k)^* \leq s)$$

$$\leq P_z(\tilde{X}(k)^* \leq 2\delta \lambda) \leq C\delta^2 \lambda^2 / k$$

by Lemma 2.2, where $C$ is independent of $k, \delta, \lambda$.

Throughout the rest of this proof, $C$ will be a constant independent of $\delta$ and $\lambda$ which might change from line to line.

For $|z| \leq \delta \lambda$ there is $\delta'(k, u)$ such that

$$P_z(\tilde{\sigma}_1 > k(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) \leq P_z(\tilde{\sigma}_1 > k(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) \leq P_z(\overline{\sigma}_0 > k(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2)$$

$$\leq P_z(\overline{X}(k(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2)^* \leq 2\delta \lambda)$$

$$< u \text{ whenever } \delta < \delta'(k, u) (k \text{ and } u > 0)$$

(this is by the corollary after the proof of Theorem 1.4).

By the Strong Markov Property, for $i \geq 2, |y| \leq \delta \lambda$,

$$P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1}) = E_y I(\sigma_0 > \tau_{i-2}) E_{X(\tau_{i-2})} I(\sigma_0 > \sigma_1)$$

$$\leq \xi P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-2}) \quad \text{(by (3.12))}$$

(3.16)

$$\leq \xi^{i-2} P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_1) \leq \xi^{i-2}.$$

Two applications of the Strong Markov Property give for $i \geq 2, |y| \leq \delta \lambda$, and $k = m(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2$

$$P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_i > k) = E_y I(\sigma_0 > \tau_{i-1}) \{I(\tau_{i-1} \leq k/2) + I(\tau_{i-1} > k/2)\}$$

$$= E_y I(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1}) (E_{X(\tau_{i-1})} I(\sigma_0 > \sigma_1 > k/2))$$

$$+ E_y I(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1}) I(\tau_{i-1} > k/2)$$

$$\leq u P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1}) + E_y I(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1}) \{I(\sigma_{i-1} \leq k/4) + I(\sigma_{i-1} > k/4)\}$$

$$\cdot E_{X(\sigma_{i-1})} I(\tau_1 > k/2 - \sigma_{i-1}(\omega))$$

for $\delta < \delta'(m/2, u)$ (by (3.15) since $s \leq \delta \lambda$)

$$\leq u \xi^{i-2} + E_y I(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1}) E_{X(\sigma_{i-1})} I(\tau_1 > k/4) + E_y I(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1} > k/4)$$

(by (3.16))

(3.17)

$$\leq u \xi^{i-2} + C(\xi^{i-2} \delta^2 / m(\beta^2 - 1)) + E_y I(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1} > k/4)$$

for $\delta < \delta'(m/2, u)$.

(by (3.14)–(3.16) and choice of $k$).
Now another application of (3.16) to this yields

\[ P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_i > m(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) \leq u\xi^i - 2 + C\xi^i - 2\delta^2/m + \xi^i - 2, \quad i \geq 2, \]

for \( \delta < \delta'(m/2, u), |y| \leq \delta \lambda \). Notice also by (3.17) and iteration

\[ P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_i > m(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) \leq u + C\delta^2 + P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1} > m(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2/4) \]

\[ \leq \cdots \leq (i - 1)u + C(m)\delta^2 + P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_1 > m(\beta - 1)\lambda^2/4^{i-1}) \]

for \( \delta < \min_{1 \leq j \leq i-1} \delta'(m/4^j, u) \).

The same argument used to derive (3.17) yields for \( i \geq 2 \)

\[ P_y(\sigma_0 = \sigma_i > m(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) \leq u\xi^{i-2} + C(m)\delta^2 \xi^{i-2} \]

\[ + P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_{i-1} > m(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2/4) \]

for \( \delta < \delta'(m/2, u) \) and \( |y| \leq \delta \lambda \). Then using \( \xi < 1 \) together with (3.18) and (3.19) in (3.20) we get

\[ P_y(\sigma_0 = \sigma_i > m(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) \leq 2u\xi^{i-3} + C(m)\delta^2 \xi^{i-3} + \xi^{i-3}, \quad i \geq 3, \]

for \( \delta < \delta'(m/2, u) \), \( |y| \leq \delta \lambda \) (by (3.18)) and

\[ P_y(\sigma_0 = \sigma_i > m(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) \leq iu + C(m)\delta^2 + P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_1 > m(\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2/4^{i-1}) \]

for \( \delta < \min_{1 \leq j \leq i-1} \delta'(m/4^j, u) \), \( i \geq 2 \), and \( |y| \leq \delta \lambda \) (by (3.19)).

Thus we have for \( \delta < \min_{i \leq N} \delta'(1/4^{i-1}, u) \) and \( \delta'(1/2, u) \)

\[ P_y(X_{\delta - \epsilon} \leq \delta \lambda) \leq P_y(\sigma_0 > (\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) \]

\[ = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P_y(\sigma_0 = \sigma_i > (\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) \]

\[ \leq P_y(\sigma_1 > (\beta^2 - 1)\lambda^2) + \sum_{i=2}^{N} (iu + C\delta^2 + P_y(\sigma_0 > \sigma_1 > (\beta - 1)\lambda^2/4^{N-1})) \]

\[ + \sum_{i>N} (2u + C\delta^2 + 1)\xi^{i-3} \]

((3.22) used in \( \sum_{i=2}^{N} \), (3.21) used in \( \sum_{i>N} \))

\[ \leq u + C(u + \delta^2) + (2u + C\delta^2 + 1) \sum_{i>N} \xi^{i-3} \]

(by (3.15))

\[ \leq Cu + C\delta^2 + (2u + C\delta^2 + 1)\frac{1}{3}(\beta + \alpha)^{-p} \]

(by (3.13))

\[ \leq (\beta + \alpha)^{-p} \]

for \( u \) and \( \delta \) sufficiently small. Thus (3.10) holds and we are done. \( \square \)
4. An example. Let $n \geq 2$ and suppose
\[ dX_t = dB_t + L X_t \left\lvert X_t \right\rvert^{-2} \, dt, \quad X_0 = x, \]
where $L \in \mathbb{R}$.
Let $C = \bigcup_{r>0} rG$ be a cone with $\partial C \cap S^{n-1}$ smooth, where $G$ is an open subset of $S^{n-1}$. Let $L_{S^{n-1}}$ be the Laplace-Beltrami operator on $S^{n-1}$. Denote by $\lambda_C$ the first (positive) eigenvalue of $L_{S^{n-1}}$ on $C \cap S^{n-1}$ with eigenfunction $m_C$; i.e.,
\[ m_C \in C(C \cap S^{n-1}) \cap C^2(C \cap S^{n-1}), \quad L_{S^{n-1}} m_C = -\lambda_C m_C, \]
and any other eigenvalue $\lambda$ satisfies $\lambda < \lambda_C$. Let $\tau_C$ be the first exit time from $C$ of $X_t$. In [4] (noting that $2L$ and not $L$ is required) Mueller showed that if
\[ n - 1 + 2L < \lambda_C \]
then
\[ E_x \tau_C^{p/2} < \infty \iff p(n + p - 2 + 2L) < \lambda_C. \]

The next result eliminates the assumption that $n - 1 + 2L < \lambda_C$, replacing it with a condition independent of $\lambda_C$.

**Theorem 4.1.** Let $C$ be a cone in $\mathbb{R}^n$ ($n \geq 2$) with $\partial C \cap S^{n-1}$ smooth. If $n + 2L > 0$ then
\[ E_x \tau_C^{p/2} < \infty \iff p(n + p - 2 + 2L) < \lambda_C. \]

To prove this we need the following lemmas which were done for $L = 0$ in Burkholder [1]. The operator governing $X_t$ is
\[ \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2} + L \sum_{i=1}^n \left\lvert x \right\rvert^{-2} x_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}. \]
In polar coordinates $(r, \theta)$, where $r = \left\lvert x \right\rvert$ and $\theta$ represents $x/r \in S^{n-1}$,
\[ \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{n - 1 + 2L}{2r} \frac{1}{2r^2} + \frac{1}{2r^2} L_{S^{n-1}}. \]

**Lemma 4.2.** Suppose $n + 2L > 0$, $\mathcal{L} u = 0$ on $C$, and $\left\lvert x \right\rvert^p \leq u(x)$ on $C$. Then $E_x \tau_C^{p/2} < \infty$ for $x \in C$.

**Proof.** Fix $x \in C$. Choose $x \in R_1 \subseteq \overline{R_1} \subseteq R_2 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq C$ where $R_k$ is bounded and $\bigcup_{i \geq 1} R_i = C$. Let $\tau_i$, $i \geq 1$, be the corresponding exit times. Then by Itô’s formula and optional stopping, since $\mathcal{L} u = 0$
\[ E_x u(X(t \wedge \tau_j)) = u(x). \]
Now $u$ is bounded on $R_{j+1}$, so dominated convergence gives
\[ E_x u(X(\tau_j)) = u(x). \]
Hence
\[ E_X |X(\tau_j)|^p \leq E_x u(X(\tau_j)) = u(x). \]
Hence by Fatou’s Lemma,
\[ E_x |X(\tau_C)|^p = E_x \lim_{n \to \infty} |X_{r_n}|^p \leq u(x). \]
In the proof of his Lemma 1, Mueller [4] shows

\[ P_x(X(\tau_C)^* > \lambda) \leq KP_x(|X(\tau_C)| > \lambda). \]

Thus by (4.2) we have

\[ E_x(X(\tau_C)^*)^p \leq KE_x|X(\tau_C)|^p \leq u(x). \]  

Notice \( \text{Tr} I + 2x \cdot (Lx|x|^{-2}) = n + 2L > 0 \). So by Theorem 1.2

\[ E_x\tau_C^{p/2} \leq C_{p,n}E_x(X(\tau_C)^*)^p < u(x) < \infty. \]

**Lemma 4.3.** Suppose \( n + 2L > 0, u \in C(C), u = 0 \text{ on } C, u|_{\partial C} = 0, \text{ and } \) \( 0 < u(x) \leq K(|x|^p + 1) \text{ on } C. \) Then \( E_x\tau_C^{p/2} = \infty \text{ for } x \in C. \)

**Proof.** Let \( u \) be so given, but assume for some \( x \in C, E_x\tau_C^{p/2} < \infty. \) Then by Theorem 1.2 \( E_x(X(\tau_C)^*)^p < \infty. \) Letting \( \tau_j \) be as in the preceding proof, we see

\[ \sup_{0 < t < \tau_j} u(X(t)) \leq K(|X(T)|^p + 1).\]

Hence by dominated convergence and (4.1)

\[ 0 < u(x) = \lim_{n \to \infty} u(X(\tau_n)) = u(X(\tau_C)) = 0, \]

contradiction. Thus \( E_x\tau_C^{p/2} = \infty \) for \( x \in C. \)

**Proof of Theorem 4.1.** Let \( p(n + p - 2 + 2L) = \lambda_C. \) Then

\[ u(x) := |x|^p m_C(x/|x|) \]

(\( m_C \) 1st eigenfunction as discussed above) satisfies the hypotheses of Lemma 4.3 which then tells us that \( E_x\tau_C^{p/2} = \infty, x \in C. \) It follows that \( p(n + p - 2 + 2L) > \lambda_C \Rightarrow E_x\tau_C^{p/2} = \infty, x \in C. \)

For the converse, let \( p(n + p - 2 + 2L) < \lambda_C. \) Mueller [4, Theorem 6, p. 104] shows that there is a positive \( h \in C(C \cap S^{n-1}) \cap C^2(C \cap S^{n-1}) \) with

\[ (L_{S^{n-1}} + p(p + n - 2 + 2L))h = 0 \text{ and } h|_{\partial C \cap S^{n-1}} = 1. \]

By the maximum principle, \( h \geq 1 \text{ on } C \cap S^{n-1}. \) Thus \( u(x) := |x|^p h(x/|x|) \) satisfies the hypotheses of Lemma 4.2 which gives that \( E_x\tau_C^{p/2} < \infty, x \in C. \)

**Remark 4.4.** Theorem 4.1 remains true if the assumption \( \partial C \cap S^{n-1} \) smooth is replaced by the requirement that \( C \cap S^{n-1} \) satisfies an exterior cone condition at every boundary point. The proof is similar.

**Appendix.**

**Theorem A.1.** Suppose (1.9)—(1.11) hold. There are a probability space \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}_x)\), an increasing sequence of \( \sigma \)-algebras \( \mathcal{F}_t \subseteq \mathcal{F} \), a continuous progressively measurable process \( \xi(\cdot) \) on \( \Omega \), a continuous progressively measurable process \( X(\cdot) \) on \( \Omega \) such that \( \mathcal{L}(X(\cdot)) = \mathcal{L}(\xi(\cdot)) \), and for

\[ \eta = \inf\{t > 0: \xi(t) \notin B_{2\alpha}(0)\}, \]

\[ \hat{a}(t, \bar{w}) = \begin{cases} a(X_t(\bar{w})), & t < \eta \\ I, & t \geq \eta \end{cases}, \quad \bar{w} \in \Omega, \]
\[(A.3) \quad \hat{b}(t, \omega) = \begin{cases} b(X_t(\omega)), & t < \eta \\ 0, & t \geq \eta \end{cases}, \quad \omega \in \Omega.\]

\[\xi(\cdot) \sim I(\hat{a}(\cdot), \hat{b}(\cdot)) \text{ on } (\Omega, \mathcal{F}_t, \mathcal{P}_x) \text{ with } \xi(t) = X(t) \text{ for } t < \eta.\]

**Proof.** Let \((\Omega', \mathcal{F}', \mathcal{P}')\) be a probability space with an increasing sequence of \(\sigma\)-algebras \(\mathcal{F}'_t \subseteq \mathcal{F}'\) and suppose \(\beta(\cdot)\) is an \(n\)-dimensional \(\mathcal{F}'\) Brownian motion on \((\Omega', \mathcal{F}', \mathcal{P}')\). Define \(\Omega = \Omega \times \Omega', \mathcal{F}_t = \mathcal{F}_t \times \mathcal{F}'_t, \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{F}',\) and \(\mathcal{P}_x = \mathcal{P}_x \times \mathcal{P}'\). Then for \(\omega = (\omega, \omega') \in \Omega\) set

\[\bar{\beta}(t, \omega) = \beta(t, \omega'), \quad X(t, \omega) = X(t, \omega),\]

\[\eta(\omega) = \inf\{t > 0: X(t, \omega) \not\in B_{2\alpha}(0)\},\]

and

\[\xi(t, \omega) = \begin{cases} X(t, \omega), & t < \eta(\omega), \\ X(\eta(\omega), \omega) + \beta(t - \eta(\omega), \omega), & t \geq \eta(\omega). \end{cases}\]

Clearly \(X\) and \(\xi\) are continuous and progressively measurable, \(\mathcal{L}(X(\cdot)) = \mathcal{L}(X(\cdot)),\)
\(\bar{X}(\cdot)\) and \(\bar{\beta}(\cdot)\) are independent and \(\xi(t) = X(t)\) for \(t < \eta\). So it remains to show \(\xi(\cdot) \sim I(\hat{a}(\cdot), \hat{b}(\cdot))\) on \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}_t, \mathcal{P}_x)\).

It suffices to show that for \(f \in C^0_0(\mathbb{R}^n)\) (functions on \(\mathbb{R}^n\) which have compact support and continuous derivatives of all orders)

\[f(\xi(t)) - \int_0^t (L_u f)(\xi(u)) \, du, \quad t \geq 0,\]

is a martingale relative to \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}_t, \mathcal{P}_x)\), where

\[(L_t(\omega)f)(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n \hat{a}_{ij}(t, \omega) \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + \sum_{j=1}^n \hat{b}_j(t, \omega) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j}.\]

(See Stroock-Varadhan [5, §4.3].)

Let \(A = A_1 \times A_2 \in \mathcal{F}_s \times \mathcal{F}_s'.\) For \(t > s\)

\[\mathbb{E}_x \left[ f(\xi_t) - f(\xi_s) - \int_s^t (L_u f)(\xi_u) \, du \right] I_A = \mathbb{E}_x \left[ \mathbb{I}_{A_1 \times A_2} \{I_{\eta \leq s} + I_{s < \eta \leq t} + I_{t < \eta} \} \right] = (1 + 2 + 3), \text{ say.}\]
Now

$$\begin{align*}
\mathbb{E}_x \left[ f(X_t + \beta_{t-\eta}) - f(X_t + \beta_{s-\eta}) - \int_s^t \frac{1}{2} \Delta f(X_u + \beta_{u-\eta}) \, du \right] I_{A_1 \times A_2} I_{s \leq \eta} &= 0 \quad \text{by independence of } X(\cdot) \text{ and } \beta(\cdot), \text{ Fubini, and the fact that } \beta(\cdot) \text{ is Brownian motion;} \\
\mathbb{E}_x \left[ f(X_t + \beta_{t-\eta}) - f(X_t) + f(X_t) - f(X_s) \right. \\
&\quad - \int_s^t \left( \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + \sum_j b_j \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} \right) (X_u) \, du \\
&\quad - \left. \int_s^t \frac{1}{2} \Delta f(X_u + \beta_{u-\eta}) \, du \right] I_{A_1 \times A_2} I_{s < \eta \leq t} \\
&= \mathbb{E}_x \left[ f(X_t + \beta_{t-\eta}) - f(X_t) - \int_s^t \frac{1}{2} \Delta f(X_u + \beta_{u-\eta}) \, du \right] I_{A_1 \times A_2} I_{s < \eta \leq t} \\
&\quad + \mathbb{E}_x \left[ f(X_{t \wedge s}) - f(X_{t \wedge s}) \right. \\
&\quad - \int_{s \wedge t}^{t \wedge s} \left( \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + \sum_j b_j \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} \right) (X_u) \, du \\
&\quad \cdot I_{A_1 \times A_2} I_{s \leq \eta \leq t} \\
&= 0 + \mathbb{E}_x \left[ I_{A_1 \times A_2} I_{s < \eta \leq t} \right. \\
&\quad \left. \text{ (as in (1))} \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}_x \left[ I_{A_1 \times A_2} \{ -I_{\eta \leq s} - I_{t < \eta} \} \right. \\
&\quad \text{ (by optional stopping since } X(\cdot) \sim I(\alpha(X(\cdot)), b(X(\cdot))) \text{ under } (\Omega, \mathcal{F}_t, P_x) \} \\
&= 0 - \mathbb{E}_x \left[ f(X_t) - f(X_s) \right. \\
&\quad - \int_s^t \left( \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + \sum_j b_j \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} \right) (X_u) \, du \\
&\quad \cdot I_{A_1 \times A_2} I_{t < \eta} \\
&= \mathbb{E}_x \left[ f(\xi_t) - f(\xi_s) - \int_s^t (L_u f)(\xi_u) \, du \right] I_{A_1 \times A_2} I_{t < \eta} \\
&= -3.
\end{align*}$$

Thus (1) + (2) + (3) = 0 and we are done. □
REFERENCES


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