

ENHANCED GAUSSIAN PROCESSES AND APPLICATIONS

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Abstract. We propose some construction of enhanced Gaussian processes using Karhunen-Loeve expansion. We obtain a characterization and some criterion of existence and uniqueness. Using rough-path theory, we derive some Wong-Zakai Theorem.

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1. GENERALITIES

In [13] Lyons developed a general theory of differential equations of the form

$$dy_t = f(y_t)dx_t. \quad (1.1)$$

Classical integration/ODE theory gives a meaning to such differential equations when x has bounded variation. Lyons extended this notion to the case when x is a path with values in a Banach space B , and of finite p -variation, $p \geq 1$. To do so, one needs first to lift x to a path of finite p -variation in the free nilpotent group of B . In other words, one needs to define and make a choice for the “iterated integrals” of order less than or equal to $[p]$ of x . We refer the reader to, for example, [11,13,14].

In this paper, our aim is to work towards the study of a “natural” p -rough path process lying above an arbitrary Gaussian process. We simplify the problem by only looking at lift in the free nilpotent group of step 2, *i.e.* we are just looking at the Lévy area of Gaussian processes. This was already done by Lévy in 1950 for Brownian motion, see [12] or more recently [10] and [6], and for fractional Brownian motion, see [5] or [15]. Moreover, Biane and Yor, in [1] have constructed the Lévy area using the expansion of Brownian motion in the basis of Legendre polynomials.

Karhunen-Loeve expansion Theorem provide a natural way to approximate paths of a Gaussian process by a smooth process. This paper is devoted to study how its expansion allow to lift \mathbb{R}^d -valued Gaussian process x to a path \mathbf{x} with values in some free nilpotent of step 2 group over \mathbb{R}^d (or in other words, how to construct the Lévy area of x , *i.e.* the second iterated integral of x). We also show that if the process x with some area process satisfies some quite natural conditions, then \mathbf{x} will be the limit of the lift of the Karhunen-Loeve approximations of x .

The proof of the convergence of Karhunen-Loeve expansion Theorem or of some properties on Gaussian processes relies on the convex property of the vector spaces. The free nilpotent group of step 2 do not share this property. In the first part of this paper, we give a proof of a weak version the Karhunen-Loeve expansion

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Theorem using a discrete martingale. Some basic results on the free nilpotent group of step 2 are given. Then, in the second part, using again some martingales, we lift the process x to a path \mathbf{x} with values in some free nilpotent of step 2 group over \mathbb{R}^d . A characterisation and a result of uniqueness is also given. For the Brownian motion and the fractional Brownian motion, this definition coincides with the one obtained by dyadic linear approximation as in [5]. In the third part the case of Volterra Gaussian processes is studied. We conclude with a Wong-Zakai Theorem.

1.1. Gaussian processes

We define on the measure space $\Omega = C_0([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d)$ and its Borel σ -algebra denoted by \mathbb{F} , the probability measure \mathbb{P} corresponding to the law of a d -dimensional centered Gaussian process with covariance function C . We let (H, \langle, \rangle) the associated Cameron-Martin space associated to \mathbb{P} . We assume that the process has continuous sample paths, then it is continuous in $L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{F}, \mathbb{P})$ and the covariance function is continuous. Following [9] Theorem 2.8.2, the space (H, \langle, \rangle) is separable. Let $e = (e_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ be an orthonormal basis on (H, \langle, \rangle) . One can always represents X under \mathbb{P} with the formula

$$X^k = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (N_i^e)^k e_i^k \tag{1.2}$$

where $N_i^e = \langle X, e_i \rangle$ are independent standard d -dimensional normal random variables. Here \langle, \rangle is the duality bracket. We let $\mathcal{F}_n^e = \sigma(N_i^e, 0 \leq i \leq n)$.

We warm up with the following two propositions. Their results (and stronger results) are well known, see Theorem 2.4.2 of [9], but the proof given here allow us to generalize in the next section to the “natural lift” of X to a process with values in some free nilpotent group.

Proposition 1. For all $t \in [0, 1]$,

$$X_n^e(t) := E(X(t) | \mathcal{F}_n^e) = \sum_{i=0}^n N_i^e e_i(t).$$

Proof. It is just the observation that $\sum_{i=n+1}^{\infty} N_i^e e_i$ is mean 0 and independent of \mathcal{F}_n^e . □

Proposition 2. For all $q \geq 1$, and for all $t \in [0, 1]$, $X_n^e(t)$ converges to $X(t)$ almost surely and in L^q .

Proof. Since X has continuous sample paths, then almost surely $\|X\|_{\infty} := \sup_{t \in [0, 1]} \|X(t)\| < \infty$. Note that $\|X\|_{\infty} < \infty$ a.s. implies that the r.v. $\|X\|_{\infty}$ has a Gaussian tail (from Borell’s inequality), and therefore is in L^q for all $1 \leq q < \infty$. For all $t \in [0, 1]$

$$\begin{aligned} |X_n^e(t)| &= |E(X(t) | \mathcal{F}_n^e)| \\ &\leq E(\|X\|_{\infty} | \mathcal{F}_n^e). \end{aligned}$$

Taking the supremum over all t , we obtain that $\|X_n^e\|_{\infty} \leq E(\|X\|_{\infty} | \mathcal{F}_n^e)$. Therefore, by Doob’s inequality, $\sup_n \|X_n^e\|_{\infty}$ is in L^q for all $1 \leq q < \infty$. By the martingale convergence theorem, $X_n^e(t) \rightarrow X(t)$ for all t , where the convergence is in L^q and a.s. □

1.2. Free nilpotent group of step 2

1.2.1. Definitions

We define $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to be the space $\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^d \oplus M_d(\mathbb{R}), y^{i,j} + y^{j,i} = x^i x^j\}$ together with the product

$$(x_1, y_1) \otimes (x_2, y_2) = \left(x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2 + \left(x_1^i x_2^j \right)_{i,j} \right).$$

Indeed, $(G^2(\mathbb{R}^d), \otimes)$ is the free nilpotent group of step 2 over \mathbb{R}^d .

We define for a \mathbb{R}^d -valued path x of finite q -variation for $q < 2$, the canonical lift of x to a $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -valued path:

$$S(x)_t = \left(x_t, \int_0^t x_u^i dx_u^j \right), \quad t \in [0, 1].$$

Observe that $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d) = \{S(x)_1, x \text{ smooth } \mathbb{R}^d\text{-valued path}\}$. That allows us to define a homogeneous norm on $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$:

$$\|g\| = \sup_{\substack{x \text{ smooth} \\ S(x)_1 = g}} \int_0^1 |\dot{x}_u| du,$$

and from this homogeneous norm, a left invariant distance on $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$:

$$d(g, h) = \|g^{-1} \otimes h\|.$$

If $g = (x, y) \in G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, we define $\pi_i(g)$ to be the projection of x on the i th component of \mathbb{R}^d , and $\pi_{j,k}(g)$ the (j, k) th component of y on $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$. In particular, if x is a smooth \mathbb{R}^d -valued path then $\pi_i(S(x)_1) = x_1^i$ and $\pi_{j,k}(S(x)_1) = \int_0^1 x_u^j dx_u^k$.

We have an equivalence of homogeneous norm result: there exists some constant $c, C > 0$ such that for all $g \in G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$c \|g\| \leq \max_{i,j,k} \left\{ |\pi_i(g)|, \sqrt{|\pi_{j,k}(g)|} \right\} \leq C \|g\|. \tag{1.3}$$

1.2.2. Paths with values in $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$

When x is a path in $C_0([0, 1], G^2(\mathbb{R}^d))$, the space of continuous functions from $[0, 1]$ into $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ starting at 0, we let as a notation

$$x_{s,t} = x_s^{-1} \otimes x_t, \quad (s, t) \in [0, 1]^2.$$

On $C_0([0, 1], G^2(\mathbb{R}^d))$, we define the following distances:

$$\begin{aligned} d_\infty(x, y) &= \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} d(x_t, y_t), \\ \|x\|_\infty &= d_\infty(0, x). \end{aligned}$$

For a given control¹ ω and $p \geq 1$, we define

$$\begin{aligned} d_{p,\omega}(x, y) &= \sup_{0 \leq s < t \leq 1} \frac{d(x_{s,t}, y_{s,t})}{\omega(s, t)^{1/p}}, \\ \|x\|_{p,\omega} &= d_{p,\omega}(0, x). \end{aligned}$$

The applications $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ and $\|\cdot\|_{p,\omega}$ are not some pseudo norms since $x, y \in C_0([0, 1], G^2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ does not imply $x \otimes y \in C_0([0, 1], G^2(\mathbb{R}^d))$.

¹I.e., a continuous map from $\{s \leq t, s, t \in [0, 1]\}$ such that $\omega(t, s) + \omega(s, u) \leq \omega(t, u), \quad \forall t \leq s \leq u$, null on the diagonal.

1.2.3. Translation operator on path space

We will want to “add” two paths with values in $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$. This can be done when between these two paths make sense. This addition or translation operation will be denoted T .

The map T can be understood in the following way: for some smooth paths x and h , we define

$$T_h(S(x)) := S(x + h).$$

Then if $(S(x_n))$ converges to X in the uniform topology associated to d_∞ and h_n converges to h in bounded variation, then $(T_{h_n}(S(x_n)))$ converges in the uniform topology to a continuous $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -valued path denoted $T_h(X)$. One can check that $T_h(X)$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_i(T_h(X)) &= h^i + x^i, \\ \pi_{i,j}(T_h(X)) &= \pi_{i,j}(X) + \int_0^\cdot h_u^i dh_u^j + \int_0^\cdot x_u^i dh_u^j \\ &\quad + h^i x^j - h_0^i x_0^j - \int_0^\cdot x_u^j dh_u^i. \end{aligned} \tag{1.4}$$

2. NATURAL LIFT OF A GAUSSIAN PROCESS TO A $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -VALUED PROCESS

2.1. Definition and first property

We denote by BV the set of continuous paths of bounded variation.

Assumption 1. (1) *There exists an orthonormal basis $e = (e_i)_{i \geq 0}$ of (H, \langle, \rangle) which is in $H \cap BV$;*
 (2) *the components of X are independent.*

Example 1. *Point (1) of Assumption 1 is fulfilled if C is continuous for the usual distance on $[0, 1]^2$, and for all $t \in [0, 1]$, $C(t, \cdot) \in BV$. Indeed, the vector space generated by $\{C(t, \cdot), t \in [0, 1]\}$ is dense in (H, \langle, \rangle) and Assumption 1 follows from an orthonormalisation procedure.*

Example 2. *In particular, Assumption 1 is satisfied for fractional Brownian motion, for any Hurst parameter $h > 0$.*

All the orthonormal basis $(e_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ of H that we will consider will be implicitly assumed to be in BV .

Definition 1. *We say that $\mathbf{X} : [0, 1] \rightarrow G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ defines a natural lift of the Gaussian process X , associated to the orthonormal basis e (to a $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -valued process) if*

- (1) $S(X_{0,n}^e)_t$ converges in probability to \mathbf{X}_t for all $t \in [0, 1]$;
- (2) \mathbf{X} has a continuous sample paths.

Note from the definition of the canonical lift on smooth \mathbb{R}^d valued path and Proposition 2, that

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_i(\mathbf{X}) &= X^i, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, d\} \\ \pi_{i,i}(\mathbf{X}) &= \frac{(X^i)^2}{2}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

Lemma 1. *Let e be an orthonormal basis on H , such that $e_n \in BV$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $t \in [0, 1]$, the random variable $(S(X_n^e)_t)$ converges almost surely if and only if*

$$\max_{i,j} \sum_{0 \leq l < k < \infty} \left[\int_0^t \left(e_l^i(s) \dot{e}_k^j(s) - e_k^j(s) \dot{e}_l^i(s) \right) ds \right]^2 < +\infty.$$

Proof. From equality (2.1) and Proposition 2, we only have to study the convergence of $((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})(S(X_n^e)_t))$. First observe that $((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})(S(X_n^e)_t))$ is \mathcal{F}_n^e -martingale. Moreover, because its belongs to the second Wiener chaos, the convergence of $((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})(S(X_n^e)_t))$ in probability is equivalent to the convergence in L^2 . By martingale convergence theorem, $((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})(S(X_n^e)_t))$ converges in L^2 and almost surely if and only if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E \left(|(\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})(S(X_n^e)_t)|^2 \right) < \infty$. But

$$\begin{aligned} E \left(|(\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})(S(X_n^e)_t)|^2 \right) &= E \left(\left| \sum_{0 \leq l, k \leq n} (N_l^i N_k^j) \int_0^t (e_l^i(s) \dot{e}_k^j(s) - e_k^j(s) \dot{e}_l^i(s)) ds \right|^2 \right) \\ &= \sum_{0 \leq l, k \leq n} \left[\int_0^t (e_l^i(s) \dot{e}_k^j(s) - e_k^j(s) \dot{e}_l^i(s)) ds \right]^2. \end{aligned}$$

Observe that we have used the independence of the coordinates of the Gaussian process X . □

A kind of 0 – 1 law is also available.

Lemma 2. *Let e be an orthonormal basis on H , such that $e_n \in BV$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $t \in [0, 1]$. If $\mathbb{P}(\{\omega, (S(X_n^e)_t(\omega))_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ converges}\}) > 0$, then $\mathbb{P}(\{\omega, (S(X_n^e)_t(\omega))_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ converges}\}) = 1$.*

Proof. Assume that $\mathbb{P}(\{\omega, (S(X_n^e)_t(\omega))_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ converges}\}) > 0$, and denote for $i, j \in \{1, \dots, d\}$

$$\Gamma^{i,j} = \{\omega, (S(X_n^e)_t^{i,j}(\omega) - S(X_n^e)_t(\omega)^{j,i})_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ converges}\}.$$

For $i \in \{1, \dots, d\}$, observe that $S(X_n^e)_t^i = \frac{(X_n^e(t)^i)^2}{2}$. Theorem 1.1.1 of [9] applied to the Gaussian vector $(X_n^e(t)^i)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ yields

$$\mathbb{P}(\{(X_n^e(t)^i)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ and } (X_n^e(t)^{i,i})_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ converge}\}) = 1.$$

For $i \neq j$, conditionally to $\sigma(N_l^i, l \in \mathbb{N})$, $(S(X_n^e)_t^{i,j} - S(X_n^e)_t^{j,i})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Gaussian vector, and using the same arguments, almost surely

$$\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{1}_{\Gamma^{i,j}} / \sigma(N_l^i, l \in \mathbb{N})) = \mathbf{1}_{\Gamma^{i,j}}.$$

But the role of i and j in the conditioning are symmetric and the following equality holds

$$\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{1}_{\Gamma^{i,j}} / \sigma(N_l^i, l \in \mathbb{N})) = \mathbf{1}_{\Gamma^{i,j}} = \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{1}_{\Gamma^{i,j}} / \sigma(N_l^j, l \in \mathbb{N})). \tag{2.2}$$

Since the σ fields $\sigma(N_l^j, l \in \mathbb{N})$ and $\sigma(N_l^i, l \in \mathbb{N})$ are independent, conditioning all terms of equality (2.2) by $\sigma(N_l^j, l \in \mathbb{N})$ yields

$$\mathbf{1}_{\Gamma^{i,j}} = \mathbb{P}(\Gamma_{i,j}) > 0.$$

Then, $\mathbf{1}_{\Gamma^{i,j}} = 1$ almost surely. This achieves the proof, since

$$S(X_n^e)^{i,j} = \frac{1}{2} [(X_n^e)^i (X_n^e)^j + S(X_n^e)^{i,j} - S(X_n^e)^{j,i}]. \tag{□}$$

2.2. A characterization of a natural lift, and a uniqueness result

We will use the maps

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_i &: C_0([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow C_0([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d) \\ (x_1, \dots, x_d) &\rightarrow (x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, -x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_d). \end{aligned}$$

Observe that $\mathbb{P} \circ \phi_i = \mathbb{P}$ for all i . (\mathbb{P} is the probability measure introduced in the previous section.)

Theorem 1. *Assume that Assumption 1 is fulfilled.*

The path $\mathbf{X} : [0, 1] \rightarrow G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is a natural lift of X for some orthonormal basis e , if and only if there exists a measurable map

$$\Psi : C_0([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow C_0([0, 1], G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)) \cup \{\delta\}$$

(where δ is a cemetery point) such that

- Definition 2.**
- (1) $\mathbf{X} = \Psi(X)$ a.s. and $\Psi(X) \neq \delta$ a.s.
 - (2) The projection of $\Psi(X)$ onto \mathbb{R}^d is equal to X a.s. (Lifting property.)
 - (3) $\begin{cases} \pi_{j,k}\Psi(\phi_i(X)) = -\pi_{j,k}\Psi(X) & \text{if } i \in \{j, k\}, \\ \pi_{j,k}\Psi(\phi_i(X)) = \pi_{j,k}\Psi(X) & \text{if } i \notin \{j, k\}. \end{cases}$ (Symmetry property.)
 - (4) For all path $h \in H \cap BV$, $\Psi(h) = S(h)$. (Definition on “smooth” paths.)
 - (5) For all path $h \in H \cap BV$, $\Psi(X + h) = T_h\Psi(X)$ almost surely. (Stability of translations property.)
 - (6) The r.v. $\|\mathbf{X}_{s,t}\|$ is in $L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{F}, \mathbb{P})$ for $0 \leq s < t \leq 1$. (Integrability property.)

Proof. If \mathbf{X} is a natural lift (associated to an orthonormal basis f), it is easy to check that it satisfies properties (1) to (6).

Conversely, we want to check that if Ψ is a measurable map satisfying the above condition, then $\Psi(X)$ is the natural lift associated to e . The proof will be complete once we prove that for all n , for all $0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1$,

$$E\left(\log \Psi(X)_{s,t} | \mathcal{F}_n^e\right) = \log S(X_n^e)_{s,t}. \tag{2.3}$$

Indeed, the martingale $\log S(X_{0,,n}^e)_{s,t}$ converges to $\log \mathbf{X}_{s,t}$, and the above equality plus the fact that $\log \Psi(X)_{s,t}$ is $\mathcal{F}_{0,\infty}^e$ -measurable would prove that $\mathbf{X}_{s,t} = \Psi(X)_{s,t}$. Here, \log is defined by its power serie.

The first level of equality (2.3) was proved in Proposition 1. We therefore only need to prove that for $i \neq j$, $0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ using (1.4),

$$E\left((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})\left(\Psi(X)_{s,t}\right) | \mathcal{F}_n^e\right) = (\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})\left(S(X_n^e)_{s,t}\right).$$

From the stability of translations property, $\Psi(X) = T_{X_n^e}(\Psi(X - X_n^e))$. In particular, for all $0 \leq s < t \leq 1$, and $1 \leq i < j \leq d$,

$$\begin{aligned} (\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})\left(\Psi(X)_{s,t}\right) &= (\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})\left(\Psi(X - X_n^e)_{s,t}\right) + (\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{i,j})\left(S(X_n^e)_{s,t}\right) \\ &+ \int_s^t (X - X_n^e)_{s,u}^i d(X_n^e)_u^j - \int_s^t (X - X_n^e)_{s,u}^j d(X_n^e)_u^i \\ &- \int_s^t (X - X_n^e)_{s,u}^j d(X_n^e)_u^i + \int_s^t (X - X_n^e)_{s,u}^i d(X_n^e)_u^j \\ &+ (X_n^e)_{s,t}^i (X - X_n^e)_{s,t}^j - (X_n^e)_{s,t}^j (X - X_n^e)_{s,t}^i. \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

It is easy to check that all the expressions in equality (2.4) are in $L^2(\Omega, \mathbb{F}, \mathbb{P})$. As $(X - X_n^e)$ is independent of \mathcal{F}_n^e while N_k^e is \mathcal{F}_n^e -measurable,

$$\begin{aligned} E\left(\int_s^t (X - X_n^e)_{s,u}^i d(X_n^e)_u^j | \mathcal{F}_n^e\right) &= \sum_{k=0}^n N_k^j \int_s^t E\left((X - X_n^e)_{s,u}^i | \mathcal{F}_n^e\right) de_k^j(u) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n N_k^j \int_s^t E\left((X - X_n^e)_{s,u}^i\right) de_k^j(u) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The same equality and argument applies to $\int_s^t (X - X_n^e)^j d(X_n^e)^i_u$ and to $(X_n^e)^i_{s,t} (X - X_n^e)^j_{s,t}$ and the reverse expressions. Therefore,

$$E \left((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i}) \left(\Psi(X)_{s,t} \right) \middle| \mathcal{F}_n^e \right) = (\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i}) \left(S(X_n^e)_{s,t} \right) + E \left((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i}) \left(\Psi(X - X_n^e)_{s,t} \right) \middle| \mathcal{F}_n^e \right).$$

From the symmetry assumption, $(\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i}) \left(\Psi(X - X_n^e)_{s,t} \right) = -(\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i}) \left(\Psi \circ \Phi_i(X - X_n^e)_{s,t} \right)$. Since X and $\phi_i(X)$ has the same law, $(\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i}) \left(\Psi(X - X_n^e)_{s,t} \right)$ is a centered random variable. Hence, as $X - X_n^e$ is independent of \mathcal{F}_n^e , we obtain,

$$E \left((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i}) \left(\Psi(X - X_n^e)_{s,t} \right) \middle| \mathcal{F}_n^e \right) = 0.$$

Therefore,

$$E \left((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i}) \left(\Psi(X)_{s,t} \right) \middle| \mathcal{F}_n^e \right) = (\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i}) \left(S(X_n^e)_{s,t} \right). \quad \square$$

As a simple corollary of the previous result, we obtain the important result of uniqueness of the natural lift.

Corollary 1. *Let X be a Gaussian process, and assume that there exists a natural lift \mathbf{X} of X associated to some orthonormal basis e of H in BV . Then, for all orthonormal basis f of H in BV , there exists a natural lift \mathbf{X}^f associated to X . Moreover, almost surely, for all such orthonormal basis, $\mathbf{X}^f = \mathbf{X}^e$.*

2.3. Other constructions

Theorem 2. *Assume that there exists linear measurable maps $\Delta_n : C_0([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow H \cap BV$ such that*

- (1) *almost surely, $S \circ \Delta_n(X)$ converges in uniform topology;*
- (2) *$\Delta_n(h)$ converges pointwise to h and $\sup_n |\Delta_n(h)|_{BV} < \infty \forall h \in H \cap BV$;*
- (3) *for all $1 \leq i \leq d$, $\Delta_n \circ \phi_i = \phi_i \circ \Delta_n$.*

Then, there exists a (unique up to indistinguishability) natural lift of X , and it is $\mathbf{X} := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S \circ \Delta_n(X)$.

Proof. We define $\Psi(X) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S \circ \Delta_n(X)$. Condition 1 clearly implies that $\Psi(X)$ has almost surely continuous paths. Hence, $T_h(\Psi(X))$ exists for all $h \in BV$. Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} S \circ \Delta_n(X + h) &= S(\Delta_n(X) + \Delta_n(h)) \\ &= T_{\Delta_n(h)}(S \circ \Delta_n(X)), \end{aligned}$$

and by property of the translation operator, we see that $T_{\Delta_n(h)}(S \circ \Delta_n(X))$ converges in uniform topology to variation topology to $T_h(\Psi(X))$. Hence, $\Psi(X + h)$ is well defined a.s. and equal a.s. to $T_h(\Psi(X))$. The other conditions of Theorem 1 are easily checked to be true. □

Corollary 2. *The level n dyadic piecewise linear approximation of a continuous path, i.e.*

$$\Delta_n(x)_t = x_{\frac{k}{2^n}} + (2^n t - k) \left(x_{\frac{k+1}{2^n}} - x_{\frac{k}{2^n}} \right) \text{ for } t \in \left[\frac{k}{2^n}, \frac{k+1}{2^n} \right].$$

Assume that $S \circ \Delta_n(X)$ converges almost in uniform topology. Then, $\mathbf{X} := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S \circ \Delta_n(X)$ is the unique natural lift associated to X .

The above corollary is obvious. It proves in particular that the lift of fractional Brownian motion constructed in [5] is a natural one.

2.4. Convergence in $d_{p,\omega}$ topology

Theorem 3. *Assume that there exists a natural lift associated \mathbf{X} to a Gaussian process X , and assume that for some control ω , such that $\|\mathbf{X}\|_{p,\omega}$ is in $\mathbf{L}^q(\Omega, \mathbb{F}, \mathbb{R})$ for $q \geq 2$. Let us fix a orthonormal basis e of H which in BV . Then,*

$$\sup_n \|S(X_{0,n}^e)\|_{p,\omega}$$

is in L^q . In particular, for all $p' > p$, $d_{p',\omega}(S(X_{0,n}^e), \mathbf{X})$ converges to 0 almost surely and in L^q .

Proof. We define $A = ((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})(\mathbf{X}))_{(i,j) \in \{1,\dots,d\}}$ to be the area of \mathbf{X} . For all $s < t \in [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|S(X_{0,n}^e)_{s,t}\| &\leq C |E(X_{s,t} | \mathcal{F}_n^e)| + C \sqrt{|E(A_{s,t} | \mathcal{F}_n^e)|} \\ &\leq 2C \sqrt{E(\|\mathbf{X}_{s,t}\|^2 | \mathcal{F}_n^e)} \\ &\leq 2\omega(s, t)^{1/p} \sqrt{E(\|\mathbf{X}\|_{p,\omega}^2 | \mathcal{F}_n^e)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, since $q \geq 2$,

$$\sup_n \|S(X_{0,n}^e)\|_{p,\omega} \leq C \sup_n E(\|\mathbf{X}\|_{p,\omega}^q | \mathcal{F}_{0,n}^e)^{1/q},$$

which in L^q by Doob's inequality. By interpolation, we obtain the convergence of $d_{p',\omega}(S(X_{0,n}^e), \mathbf{X})$ to 0 both almost surely and in L^q . □

3. THE PARTICULAR CASE OF A VOLTERRA GAUSSIAN PROCESS

This section is devoted to apply the previous results to Volterra Gaussian processes. There are a lot of work about integration with respect to these processes see [3,7] or [4] for more details and references therein. Since we are only interesting in the construction of enhanced Gaussian Volterra processes, we work in a more simpler framework.

Let K be a measurable kernel $K : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that for all $t \in [0, 1]$, $K(t, \cdot) \in L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}, dr)$, and for all $0 \leq t \leq s \leq 1$, $K(t, s) = 0$. Let $B = (B^1, \dots, B^d)$ be a d -dimensional Brownian motion, then the Gaussian Volterra process associated to B and K is the process $(X(t), t \in [0, 1])$ defined by:

$$X^i(t) = \int_0^t K(t, s) dB_s^i, \quad t \in [0, 1], \quad i = 1, \dots, d.$$

Its covariance function is

$$C(t, s) = c(t, s) I_{\mathbb{R}}^d, \quad (s, t) \in [0, 1]$$

where $I_{\mathbb{R}}^d$ is the identity matrix and

$$c(t, s) = \int_0^1 K(t, u) K(s, u) du.$$

In order to construct the natural lift we may assume the following.

- Assumption 2.** (1) *There exists $\alpha > 0$ such that the map $t \mapsto K(t, \cdot)$ is α Hölder continuous from $[0, 1]$ to $L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}, dr)$;*
 (2) *the function $t \mapsto \int_0^t K(t, s) ds$ is of bounded variation;*

(3) the function $t \mapsto K(t, s)$ has a differential with respect to t on $]s, 1]$ denoted by $\partial K(t, s)$, $\partial K(t, \cdot)$ belongs to $L^1_{loc}([0, t[, \mathbb{R}, du)$ and $\sup_{0 \leq s < t \leq 1} |\partial K(t, s)|(t - s)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} < +\infty$.

Under point (1) of Assumption 2, X has a modification with β Hölder continuous sample path for any $\beta < \alpha$. In the sequel, we only consider this modification. Indeed, the variance of the increments is

$$\sum_{i=1}^d \mathbb{E}(|X^i(t) - X^i(s)|^2) = d \int_0^1 [K(t, u) - K(s, u)]^2 du.$$

Therefore using (1) of Assumption 2 there exists a constant C_α such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^d E(|X_t^i - X_s^i|^2) \leq C_\alpha |t - s|^{2\alpha},$$

and the existence of a continuous modification is a consequence of the Kolmogorov Theorem.

The Cameron-Martin space associated to X , is

$$H = \{h, h(t) = \int_0^t K(t, s)\dot{h}(s)ds, t \in [0, 1], \dot{h} \in L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d, ds)\},$$

endowed with the scalar product $\langle h, g \rangle = \langle \dot{h}, \dot{g} \rangle_{L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d, ds)}$. Let us recall the proof given in [8]. Indeed, in one hand, if $h(t) = \int_0^t K(t, s)\dot{h}(s)ds, \dot{h} \in L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d, ds), t \in [0, 1]$, then for any $n \in \mathbb{N}^*, \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}, t_i \in [0, 1], i = 1, \dots, n$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i h(t_i) \right\|^2 &= \left\| \int_{[0, 1]} \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i K(t_i, s)\dot{h}(s)ds \right\|^2 \\ &\leq \|\dot{h}\|_{L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d, ds)}^2 \left[\sum_{i, j=1}^n \alpha_i \alpha_j c(t_i, t_j) \right], \end{aligned}$$

that means that h belongs to H and $\|h\|_H \leq \|\dot{h}\|_{L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d, ds)}$. On the other hand, let $h, g \in H$, there exists two Gaussian random vectors Φ_h, Φ_g , belonging to the Gaussian space associated to X such that for all $t \in [0, 1], j = 1, \dots, d, h^j(t) = \mathbb{E}(\Phi_h^j X^j(t))$ and $g^j(t) = \mathbb{E}(\Phi_g^j X^j(t))$. Then, Φ_h and Φ_g belong to the Gaussian space associated to B and there exists \dot{h} and \dot{g} in $L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d, ds)$ such that $\Phi_h^j = \int_0^1 \dot{h}^j(s)dB_s^j$ and $\Phi_g^j = \int_0^1 \dot{g}^j(s)dB_s^j$ for $j = 1, \dots, d$. We derive that, for $t \in [0, 1], h(t) = \int_0^1 K(t, s)\dot{h}(s)ds, g(t) = \int_0^t \dot{g}(s)K(t, s)ds$ and

$$\langle h, g \rangle = E(\langle \Phi_h, \Phi_g \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^d}) = \langle \dot{h}, \dot{g} \rangle_{L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}^d, ds)}.$$

Let $(h_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be an orthonormal basis of $L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}, dr)$ belonging to $C^\infty([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$, and set

$$e_n(t) = \int_0^t K(t, s)h_n(s)ds, t \in [0, 1]. \tag{3.1}$$

Then under Assumption 2, (2) and (3), (e_n) is an orthonormal basis of $(H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ which is $H \cap BV$. Indeed, for $n \in \mathbb{N}, t \in [0, 1]$,

$$e_n(t) = \int_0^1 K(t, s)ds h_n(t) + \int_0^1 K(t, s)(h_n(s) - h_n(t))ds$$

is the sum of a function in BV and a function absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure with derivative given by

$$\int_0^t \partial K(t, s)(h_n(s) - h_n(t))ds - \int_0^t K(t, s)ds \dot{h}_n(t), \quad t \in [0, 1].$$

Let us introduce some notation: for $\Pi = (t_i)_{i=0}^{|\Pi|}$ a subdivision of $[0, 1]$, and $t \in [0, 1]$,

$$K_2^\Pi(t, u, v) = \sum_{t_i \in \Pi, t_i \leq t} (K(t_i, u)[K(t_{i+1}, v) - K(t_i, v)] - K(t_i, v)[K(t_{i+1}, u) - K(t_i, u)]), \quad (3.2)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} K_2(t, u, v) &= 2 \int_u^t K(r, u) \partial K(r, v) dr - K(t, u)K(t, v) \quad \text{if } u > v, \\ &= -2 \int_v^t K(r, v) \partial K(r, u) dr + K(t, u)K(t, v) \quad \text{if } v > u. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3. *Let K be a measurable kernel fulfilling Assumption 2. The sequel $(S_t(X_n^e))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges in probability if and only if $K_2(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ belongs to $L^2([0, 1], dudv)$.*

Proof. Let $k, l \in \mathbb{N}$, since e_k and e_l have finite variation, the integral of e_l with respect to e_k is limit of the Riemann sums. Then using the integral representation given in (3.1), Fubini's Lemma and the definition of $K_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ given in (3.2), we have

$$\int_0^t (e_l(s) \dot{e}_k(s) - e_k(s) \dot{e}_l(s)) ds = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle h_l \otimes h_k, K_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot) \rangle. \quad (3.3)$$

Note that $(u, v) \mapsto K_2^\Pi(t, u, v)$ is antisymmetric, so we deal only with $u > v$. Then using a change of variable, with $t_{i_t} \leq t < t_{i_t+1}$,

$$\begin{aligned} K_2^\Pi(t, u, v) &= -K(t_{i_t+1}, u)K(t_{i_t+1}, v) + \sum_{t_i \in \Pi, t_i \leq t} 2K(t_i, u)[K(t_{i+1}, v) - K(t_i, v)] \\ &\quad + \sum_{t_i \in \Pi, t_i \leq t} [K(t_{i+1}, u) - K(t_i, u)][K(t_{i+1}, v) - K(t_i, v)]. \end{aligned}$$

Since $(h_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an orthonormal basis of $L^2([0, 1], \mathbb{R}, du)$, then $(h_k \otimes h_l)_{(l,k) \in \mathbb{N}^2}$ is an orthonormal basis of $L^2([0, 1]^2, \mathbb{R}, dudv)$. According Lemma 1, the sequence of random variables $(S(X_n^e)_t)_n$ converges almost surely if and only if

$$\sum_{0 \leq l < k < \infty} \left[\int_0^t (e_l(s) \dot{e}_k(s) - e_k(s) \dot{e}_l(s)) ds \right]^2 < +\infty.$$

In other words,

$$\sum_{0 \leq k < l < \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle h_k \otimes h_l, K_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot) \rangle^2 < \infty.$$

If under Assumption 2, $(K_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot))_n$ converges to $K_2(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ in $L^1([0, 1]^2, dudv)$ then using the fact that the function h_k are bounded on $[0, 1]$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle h_k \otimes h_l, K_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot) \rangle = \langle h_k \otimes h_l, K_2(t, \cdot, \cdot) \rangle$ for all $l, k \in \mathbb{N}$; and $(S(X_n^e)_t)_n$ converges almost surely if and only if $K_2(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ belongs to $L^2([0, 1], dudv)$.

Then, it remains to prove that $(K_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot))_n$ converge to $K_2(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ in $L^1([0, 1]^2, dudv)$.

We split $K_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot) - K_2(t, \cdot, \cdot) = S_1^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot) + 2S_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot) + S_3^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot)$, where for $0 \leq v < u \leq 1$,

$$S_1^{\Pi^n}(t, u, v) = K(t, v)K(t, u) - K(t_{i+1}, u)K(t_i, v),$$

$$S_2^{\Pi^n}(t, u, v) = \sum_{t_i \in \Pi^n, t_i \leq t} K(t_i, u) (K(t_{i+1}, v) - K(t_i, v)) - \int_u^t K(r, u) \partial K(r, v) dr,$$

and

$$S_3^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot) = \sum_{t_i \in \Pi, t_i \leq t} [K(t_{i+1}, u) - K(t_i, u)] [K(t_{i+1}, v) - K(t_i, v)].$$

First, observe that for $v < u$

$$\left| S_1^{\Pi^n}(t, u, v) \right| \leq |K(t_{i+1}, u)| |K(t_i, v) - K(t, v)| + |K(t, u) - K(t_{i+1}, u)| |K(t, v)|$$

and use Fubini's Theorem and Cauchy Schwartz inequality to derive:

$$\|S_1^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot)\|_{L^1([0,1]^2, \mathbb{R}, dudv)} \leq 2 \left(\sqrt{\mathbb{E}((X_{t_{i+1}}^1)^2) \mathbb{E} \left((X_{t_i}^1 - X_t^1)^2 \right)} + \sqrt{\mathbb{E}((X_t^1)^2) \mathbb{E} \left((X_{t_{i+1}}^1 - X_t^1)^2 \right)} \right).$$

Since X is a Gaussian process with continuous sample path $\|S_1^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot)\|_{L^1([0,1]^2, \mathbb{R}, dudv)}$ converge to 0 when n goes to infinity.

Second, we observe that for $0 \leq v < u \leq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} S_2^{\Pi^n}(t, u, v) &= \int_{t_{i_u+1}}^t (K(t_{i_r}, u) - K(r, u)) \partial K(r, v) dr \\ &\quad - \int_u^{t_{i_u+1}} K(r, u) \partial K(r, v) dr + K(t_i, u) (K(t_{i+1}, v) - K(t, v)). \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

The convergence of the last term of the right member of (3.4) to 0 in $L^1([0, 1]^2, dudv)$ follows the same lines as the convergence of $\|S_1^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot)\|_{L^1([0,1]^2, \mathbb{R}, dudv)}$ to 0.

For the first term of the right member of (3.4) note that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{0 \leq v \leq u \leq 1} dudv \int_{t_{i_u+1}}^t |K(t_{i_r}, u) - K(r, u)| |\partial K(r, v)| dr &= \\ \int_{t_1}^t dr \int_0^{t_{i_r}} dv |\partial K(r, v)| \int_v^{t_{i_r}} |K(t_{i_r}, u) - K(r, u)| du. \end{aligned}$$

Using Cauchy Schwarz inequality in the integral with respect to du and

$$\mathbb{E}((X_z - X_y)^2) = \int_0^1 [K(z, r) - K(y, r)]^2 dr$$

we derive

$$\int_{0 \leq v \leq u \leq 1} dudv \int_{t_{i_u+1}}^t |K(t_{i_r}, u) - K(r, u)| |\partial K(r, v)| dr \leq \sqrt{C_\alpha} \int_0^1 dr \int_0^{t_{i_r}} |\partial K(r, v)| \sqrt{t_{i_r} - v} |r - t_{i_r}|^\alpha dv.$$

Then $\int_{0 \leq v \leq u \leq 1} dudv \int_{t_{i_u+1}}^t |K(t_{i_r}, u) - K(r, u)| |\partial K(r, v)| dr$ converges to 0 when n goes to ∞ since $t_r \leq r$. For the second term of the right member of (3.4), the same kind of computations yields

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{0 \leq v \leq u \leq 1} dudv \int_u^{t_{i_u+1}} |K(r, u)| |\partial K(r, v)| dr &\leq \int_0^1 dr \int_0^r |\partial K(r, v)| dv \int_{\max(v, t_r)}^r |K(r, u)| du \\ &\leq \sqrt{C_\alpha} \int_0^1 dr \int_0^r |\partial K(r, v)| |r - \max(v, t_r)|^{1/2} |r - v|^\alpha dv. \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that $\|S_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot)\|_{L^1([0,1]^2, \mathbb{R}, dudv)}$ converge to 0 when n goes to infinity. Using the same arguments, $\|S_3^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot)\|_{L^1([0,1]^2, \mathbb{R}, dudv)}$ converge to 0 when n goes to infinity. \square

Corollary 3. *Let K be a measurable kernel fulfilling Assumption 2. Assume that*

- $(K_2^{\Pi^n}(t, \cdot, \cdot))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges in $L^2([0, 1]^2, dudv)$ to $K_2(t, \cdot, \cdot)$;
- $t \mapsto K_2(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ is β Hölder continuous in $L^2([0, 1]^2, \mathbb{R}, dudv)$.

then \mathbf{X} is natural lift of X .

Proof. We define $A = ((\pi_{i,j} - \pi_{j,i})(\mathbf{X}))_{(i,j) \in \{1, \dots, d\}^2}$ to be the area of \mathbf{X} . For all $s < t \in [0, 1]$,

In order to establish the continuity of the paths of \mathbf{X} , according to the expression of $\pi_{i,i}(\mathbf{X})$ given in (2.1) it only remains to prove that A has a continuous version. Just observe that for $t, s \in [0, 1]^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}((A_t^{i,j} - A_s^{i,j})^2) &= \|K^2(t, \cdot, \cdot) - K^2(s, \cdot, \cdot)\|_{L^2([0,1], \mathbb{R}, dudv)}^2 \\ &\leq |t - s|^{2\beta}. \end{aligned}$$

Then using the fact (see [2]) that there exists a constant C_p such that for all variable Y in the second Wiener chaos of X ,

$$\mathbb{E}(Y^p) \leq C_p \mathbb{E}(Y^2)^{p/2}$$

and the Kolmogorov Lemma we obtain the continuity of $A^{i,j}$ and then of \mathbf{X} in $G^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$. \square

As it is pointed out in the pioneering paper of Decreusefond-Üstünel, [8], a now celebrate example of Volterra process which satisfies the previous assumptions is the fractional Brownian motion with Hurst parameter $h \in (0, 1]$. The associated kernel is [16]: for $s < t$,

$$\begin{aligned} K_h(t, s) &= c_h s^{\frac{1}{2}-h} \int_s^t (u-s)^{h-\frac{3}{2}} u^{h-\frac{1}{2}} du, \quad \text{for } h > \frac{1}{2}, \\ &= c_h \left[\frac{(t-s)^{h-\frac{1}{2}} t^{h-\frac{1}{2}}}{h-\frac{1}{2}} - \int_s^t (u-s)^{h-\frac{1}{2}} u^{h-\frac{3}{2}} du \right] s^{\frac{1}{2}-h}, \quad \text{for } h < \frac{1}{2}, \\ &= \mathbf{1}_{[0,t]}(s) \quad \text{for } h = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

where c_h is a suitable constant such that the covariance function is

$$c(t, s) = \frac{1}{2} [s^{2h} + t^{2h} - |t - s|^{2h}].$$

Remark 1. As it pointed out in Proposition 32 of [5], fractional Brownian motion fulfills the existence condition of Corollary 3 if and only if $h > \frac{1}{4}$.

4. APPLICATION: A GENERALISED WONG-ZAKAI THEOREM

For simplicity, we will work with the Gaussian process Brownian Motion B , together with its natural lift $\mathbf{B}_t = \left(B_t, \int_0^t B_u \circ dB_u \right)$ (it is a natural lift from Th. 2 for example). It is clear that we can extend the following result to more general Gaussian processes. We fix a orthonormal basis e of the Cameron-Martin space of B , i.e. $(\dot{e}_n)_n$ is a orthonormal basis of $L^2([0, 1], du)$. Then, $B_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} N_i^e e_i(t)$, and define $B_{0,n}^e(t) = \sum_{i=0}^n N_i^e e_i(t)$. Then, from the continuity of the Ito map and the results in this paper, we obtain the following theorem:

Theorem 4. Assume that $p \in [2, 3)$. Let $V = (V_i)_{1 \leq i \leq d}$ be some vector fields on \mathbb{R}^N which are $C^{p+\varepsilon}$, $\varepsilon > 0$. Define $Y_{0,n}$ to be the solution of the ODE

$$\begin{cases} dY_{0,n}(t) = V(Y_{0,n}(t)) dB_{0,n}(t) \\ Y_0 = y_0. \end{cases}$$

Almost surely, $Y_{0,n}$ converges in p -variation topology to the solution of the Stratonovich SDE

$$\begin{cases} dY(t) = V(Y(t)) \circ dB(t) \\ Y_0 = y_0. \end{cases}$$

Observe that if we take the Haar basis for the orthonormal basis e of $L^2([0, 1], du)$, then we fall back on the classical Wong-Zakai Theorem.

5. DIRECTION OF FURTHER RESEARCH

It would be nice to extend our result to lift to the free nilpotent group of step 3, or to a general step n . Things there get harder, as the martingale arguments fails to work for integrals of the type $\int |B_u^1|^2 dB_u^2$. The condition to check whether we can have a lift is quite neat and easy to read on Volterra process.

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