

# ON A REFINEMENT TYPE EQUATION

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**Abstract.** Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$  be a complete probability space. We show that the trivial function is the unique  $L^1$ -solution of the following refinement type equation

$$f(x) = \int_{\Omega} |\varphi'_x(x, \omega)| f(\varphi(x, \omega)) dP(\omega)$$

for a wide class of the given functions  $\varphi$ . This class contains functions of the form  $\varphi(x, \omega) = \alpha(\omega)x - \beta(\omega)$  with  $-\infty < \int_{\Omega} \log |\alpha(\omega)| dP(\omega) < 0$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper, fix a complete probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$  and a function  $\varphi: \mathbb{R} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfying conditions:

$$\varphi(\cdot, \omega) \text{ is a diffeomorphism from } \mathbb{R} \text{ onto } \mathbb{R} \text{ for } \omega \in \Omega, \quad (1.1)$$

$$\varphi(x, \cdot) \text{ is a measurable function for } x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (1.2)$$

$$(l_1 \otimes P)(\varphi^{-1}(B)) = 0 \text{ for } B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \text{ with } l_1(B) = 0. \quad (1.3)$$

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We are interested in  $L^1$ -solutions  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the following refinement type equation

$$f(x) = \int_{\Omega} |\varphi'_x(x, \omega)| f(\varphi(x, \omega)) dP(\omega). \quad (1.4)$$

Before we discuss our assumptions notice that if  $\alpha: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\beta: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are measurable functions, then the function  $\varphi: \mathbb{R} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by

$$\varphi(x, \omega) = \alpha(\omega)x - \beta(\omega) \quad (1.5)$$

satisfies conditions (1.1)–(1.3). In this case equation (1.4) takes the form

$$f(x) = \int_{\Omega} |\alpha(\omega)| f(\alpha(\omega)x - \beta(\omega)) dP(\omega) \quad (1.6)$$

and contains the discrete refinement equation  $f(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} c_n f(\alpha x - n)$  and the continuous refinement equation  $f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} c(y) f(\alpha x - y) dy$ , which appear in many areas of pure and applied mathematics (see [4]–[8], [11]–[13], [22], [23]; cf. [9] where more details can be found).

## 2. DISCUSSION ON ASSUMPTIONS

Conditions (1.1) and (1.2) imply that both functions  $\varphi$  and  $\varphi'_x$  are measurable with respect to the product  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \otimes \mathcal{A}$  (see [15]; cf. [21]). Fix a Lebesgue integrable function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and a set  $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ . From (1.3) we see that the set  $(f \circ \varphi)^{-1}(B)$  belongs to the completion  $\overline{\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \otimes \mathcal{A}}$  of  $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \otimes \mathcal{A}$ . Consequently, the function  $|\varphi'_x(f \circ \varphi)|$  is measurable with respect to  $\overline{\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \mathcal{A}}$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \Omega} |\varphi'_x(x, \omega) f(\varphi(x, \omega))| d(\overline{l_1 \otimes P})(x, \omega) &= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(y)| dy dP(\omega) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(y)| dy < +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

(We will need integrability of  $|\varphi'_x|(f \circ \varphi)$  later.) Since  $\mathcal{A}$  is complete we conclude that  $|\varphi'_x(x, \cdot)|(f \circ \varphi)(x, \cdot)$  is a measurable and integrable function for almost all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and the integral in (1.4) is a Lebesgue measurable and Lebesgue integrable function of variable  $x$ .

Fix two Lebesgue integrable functions  $f, g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and a set  $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$  of Lebesgue measure zero such that  $f(x) = g(x) = \int_{\Omega} |\varphi'_x(x, \omega)| g(\varphi(x, \omega)) dP(\omega)$  for  $x \notin B$ . By (1.3) we have

$$0 = (l_1 \otimes P)(\varphi^{-1}(B)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} P(\varphi^{-1}(B)_x) dx.$$

Hence there exists a set  $C$  of Lebesgue measure zero such that  $P(\varphi^{-1}(B)_x) = 0$  for  $x \notin C$ . Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \int_{\Omega \setminus \varphi^{-1}(B)_x} |\varphi'_x(x, \omega)| g(\varphi(x, \omega)) dP(\omega) \\ &= \int_{\Omega} |\varphi'_x(x, \omega)| f(\varphi(x, \omega)) dP(\omega) \end{aligned}$$

for  $x \notin B \cup C$ .

Concluding, we have proved the following fact. If  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is an  $L^1$ -function, then the integral in (1.4) is an  $L^1$ -function of variable  $x$  and if a representative of  $f$  satisfies (1.4) for almost all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $f$  satisfies (1.4) in  $L^1$ -sense. Thus the question on  $L^1$ -solutions of (1.4) is well posed.

It is clear that the set of all  $L^1$ -solutions of (1.4) is a vector subspace of  $L^1$ .

### 3. MAIN RESULTS

Fix  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  and put  $\Omega_1 = \{\omega \in \Omega: \varphi'_x(x_0, \omega) > 0\}$ . From (1.1) it follows that  $\Omega_1$  does not depend on the choice of  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

The following proposition is a useful tool for studying the existence of  $L^1$ -solutions of (1.4).

**Proposition 3.1.** *Equation (1.4) has a non-trivial  $L^1$ -solution if and only if the equation*

$$F(t) = \int_{\Omega_1} F(\varphi(t, \omega)) dP(\omega) + \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_1} [1 - F(\varphi(t, \omega))] dP(\omega) \quad (3.1)$$

*has an absolutely continuous probability distribution solution.*

**Proof.** Fix a non-trivial  $L^1$ -solution  $f$  of (1.4). Without loss of generality we can assume that  $\|f\|_1 = 1$ . Since

$$1 = \|f\|_1 \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\Omega} |\varphi'_x(x, \omega)| f(\varphi(x, \omega)) dP(\omega) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(x)| dx = 1,$$

we have  $|f(x)| = \int_{\Omega} |\varphi'_x(x, \omega)| f(\varphi(x, \omega)) dP(\omega)$ , which means that  $|f|$  is an  $L^1$ -solution of (1.4). Putting  $F(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t |f(x)| dx$  we have defined an absolutely continuous probability distribution function and

$$\begin{aligned} F(t) &= \int_{-\infty}^t \int_{\Omega} |\varphi'_x(x, \omega)| f(\varphi(x, \omega)) dP(\omega) dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega_1} \int_{-\infty}^{\varphi(t, \omega)} |f(y)| dy dP(\omega) + \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_1} \int_{\varphi(t, \omega)}^{+\infty} |f(y)| dy dP(\omega) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \int_{\Omega_1} F(\varphi(t, \omega)) dP(\omega) + \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_1} [1 - F(\varphi(t, \omega))] dP(\omega).$$

The converse implication follows from the above calculation.  $\square$

In the proof of our first result we will iterate functions from  $\mathbb{R} \times \Omega$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ . Having a function  $\psi: \mathbb{R} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  we define its iterates  $\psi^n: \mathbb{R} \times \Omega^\infty \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , in the following way

$$\psi^1(x, \omega_1, \omega_2, \dots) = \psi(x, \omega_1),$$

$$\psi^{n+1}(x, \omega_1, \omega_2, \dots) = \psi(\psi^n(x, \omega_1, \omega_2, \dots), \omega_{n+1}).$$

This definition of iterates were introduced independently in [3] and [14], and then studied also in [1], [17] and [20]. It turns out that such iterates are useful for instance in solving functional equations (see [2], [16], [18]).

**Theorem 3.2.** *Assume that  $|\varphi(x, \omega) - \varphi(y, \omega)| \leq L(\omega)|x - y|$  for  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\omega \in \Omega$  with a measurable function  $L: \Omega \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$  such that  $-\infty < \int_{\Omega} \log L(\omega) dP(\omega) < 0$ . If  $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is an uniformly continuous and bounded solution of (3.1) then  $F$  is constant.*

**Proof.** Fix a uniformly continuous solution  $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-M, M]$  of (3.1),  $x_0, y_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$  and choose a  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$|F(x) - F(y)| \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{for } x, y \in \mathbb{R} \text{ with } |x - y| \leq \delta. \quad (3.2)$$

We first observe that by induction we get

$$|\varphi^n(x_0, \omega) - \varphi^n(y_0, \omega)| \leq \prod_{k=1}^n L(\omega_k) |x_0 - y_0|$$

for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\omega \in \Omega^\infty$ . The Kolmogorov strong law of large numbers now gives

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \left( \prod_{k=1}^n L(\omega_k) \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} = \exp \left( \int_{\Omega} \log L(\omega) dP(\omega) \right) < 1 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Hence

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \prod_{k=1}^n L(\omega_k) = 0 \quad \text{a.s.},$$

and so

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} |\varphi^n(x_0, \omega) - \varphi^n(y_0, \omega)| = 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

By the Egoroff theorem there are  $C \in \mathcal{A}^\infty$  and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$P^\infty(\Omega^\infty \setminus C) \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad |\varphi^N(x_0, \omega) - \varphi^N(y_0, \omega)| \leq \delta \text{ for } \omega \in C. \quad (3.3)$$

From (3.1) we conclude that

$$|F(x) - F(y)| \leq \int_{\Omega} |F(\varphi(x, \omega)) - F(\varphi(y, \omega))| dP(\omega) \text{ for } x, y \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (3.4)$$

Since  $\varphi$  is measurable with respect to  $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \otimes \mathcal{A}$ , it follows that its iterates are measurable with respect to  $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \otimes \mathcal{A}^{\infty}$  (see [3]). Thus we can iterate inequality (3.4). This fact jointly with (3.2) and (3.3) leads to

$$\begin{aligned} |F(x_0) - F(y_0)| &\leq \int_{\Omega^{\infty}} |F(\varphi^N(x_0, \omega)) - F(\varphi^N(y_0, \omega))| dP^{\infty}(\omega) \\ &\leq \int_C |F(\varphi^N(x_0, \omega)) - F(\varphi^N(y_0, \omega))| dP^{\infty}(\omega) \\ &\quad + 2M \int_{\Omega^{\infty} \setminus C} dP^{\infty}(\omega) \leq \varepsilon + 2M\varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. □

Note that in the case where  $P(\Omega_1) = 1$  and  $\varphi$  is an affine transformation given by (1.5) with  $\alpha > 0$  a criterion for nonexistence (existence) of continuous, bounded and nonconstant solutions of (3.1) has been found in [10]. Theorem 3.2 extends the nonexistence part of that result both by considering a more general equation and a wider class of the given function  $\varphi$ . In fact, it concerns uniformly continuous solutions, but we do not need additional conditions guarantying the convergence of iterates.

From Proposition 3.1 and Theorem 3.2 we get the following result on  $L^1$ -solutions of (1.4).

**Theorem 3.3.** *Under the assumptions of Theorem 3.2 the trivial function is the unique  $L^1$ -solution of (1.4).*

If  $\varphi$  has form (1.5), then Theorem 3.3 gives the following result on both (discrete and continuous) refinement equations.

**Corollary 3.4.** *Assume that  $\alpha: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\beta: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are measurable functions and*

$$-\infty < \int_{\Omega} \log |\alpha(\omega)| dP(\omega) < 0. \quad (3.5)$$

*Then the trivial function is the unique  $L^1$ -solution of (1.6).*

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