

Exercise 5 of Lecture 8: The derivative martingale1. A new martingale

Let $L > 0$. For $t \geq 0$, let $Z_t^{(L)} = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{N}_t} (\lambda_c t + L - X_u(t)) e^{\lambda_c(X_u(t) - \lambda_c t)} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} X_u(s) - \lambda_c s \leq L}$.

1.a. For $x \in \mathbb{R}$, prove $((\lambda_c t + L - B_t) e^{\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2} t})_{t \geq 0}$ is a martingale under \mathbb{P}_x .

1.b. Deduce that $((\lambda_c t + L - B_t) e^{\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2} t} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L})_{t \geq 0}$ is a martingale under \mathbb{P}_x .

Hint: see this process as a stopped version of the martingale in question 1.a.

1.c. Prove that $(Z_t^{(L)})_{t \geq 0}$ is a martingale.

1.d. Deduce that $(Z_t^{(L)})_{t \geq 0}$ converges a.s. to a limit $Z_\infty^{(L)}$.

2. Convergence a.s. of $(Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$ Recall $Z_t = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{N}_t} (\lambda_c t - X_u(t)) e^{\lambda_c(X_u(t) - \lambda_c t)}$.

2.a. Prove that $Z_t + L W_t^{\lambda_c} = Z_t^{(L)}$ on $E_L = \{\forall s \geq 0, \Pi_s \leq \lambda_c s + L\}$.

2.b. Deduce that $Z_t \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{a.s.} Z_\infty^{(L)}$ on E_L .

2.c. Conclude that $(Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$ converges a.s. to a limit $Z_\infty \geq 0$ and that $Z_\infty = Z_\infty^{(L)}$ a.s. on E_L for any $L > 0$. Hint: Recall $P(E_L) \xrightarrow[L \rightarrow \infty]{} 1$.

3. The limit is non trivial

3.a. Prove $(Z_t^{(L)})_{t \geq 0}$ is bounded in L^2 .

Hint: This relies on the martingale property. Try it on your own first! Some help if you are stuck: if $f_t(x) = (\lambda_c t + L - x) e^{\lambda_c x - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2} t}$ you should have to compute $E[f_t(B_t^{1,r}) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s^{1,r} - \lambda_c s \leq L} f_t(B_t^{2,r}) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s^{2,r} - \lambda_c s \leq L}]$.

Show this equals $E[\mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} f_t(B_t)^2]$ using question 1.b.

Then show it is $\leq C(L) \left(\frac{1}{r^{3/2}} \wedge 1\right)$ by following the argument used for Lemma 2 and conclude.

3.b. Deduce that $P(Z_\infty^{(L)} > 0) > 0$.

3.c. Prove that $Z_\infty > 0$ a.s. on the survival event.

Hint: follow the same strategy as for W_∞^1 .

4. $Z_\infty \notin L^1$

4.a. Prove that $E[Z_\infty^{(4)}] = L$.

4.b. Deduce that $E[Z_\infty] = +\infty$.

Solution:

1.a. We argue this by a direct calculation: let $t, s \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} & E_x \left[(\lambda_c(s+t) + L - B_{s+t}) e^{\lambda_c B_{s+t} - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}(s+t)} \middle| \mathcal{F}_s \right] \\ &= (\lambda_c s + L - B_s) e^{\lambda_c B_s - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}s} E_x \left[e^{\lambda_c(B_{s+t} - B_s) - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}t} \middle| \mathcal{F}_s \right] + E_x \left[(\lambda_c t - (B_{t+s} - B_s)) e^{\lambda_c(B_{s+t} - B_s) - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}t} \middle| \mathcal{F}_s \right] \\ & \quad \downarrow B_{s+t} - B_s \text{ is indep of } \mathcal{F}_s \text{ and } \stackrel{(d)}{=} B_t \text{ under } \mathbb{P} \\ &= (\lambda_c s + L - B_s) e^{\lambda_c B_s - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}s} E \left[e^{\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}t} \right] + E \left[(\lambda_c t - B_t) e^{\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}t} \right] \\ &= (\lambda_c s + L - B_s) e^{\lambda_c B_s - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}s} \underbrace{= E[1] = 1}_{\text{by Girsanov}} + \underbrace{= E[-B_t] = 0}_{\text{by Girsanov}} \end{aligned}$$

So $\left((\lambda_c t + L - B_t) e^{\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}t} \right)_{t \geq 0}$ is a martingale under \mathbb{P}_x .

1.b. Write $\nabla_t = (\lambda_c t + L - B_t) e^{\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}t}$ and $\tau = \inf \{s \geq 0 : B_s = \lambda_c s + L\}$

Then τ is a stopping time so $(\nabla_{t \wedge \tau})_{t \geq 0}$ is a martingale.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{But } \nabla_{t \wedge \tau} &= \underbrace{\nabla_\tau}_{=0} \mathbb{1}_{\tau \leq t} + \nabla_t \mathbb{1}_{\tau > t} = (\lambda_c t + L - B_t) e^{\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}t} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} \text{ a.s.} \\ & \quad \text{because } \lambda_c \tau + L - B_\tau = 0 \quad = \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} = \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} \text{ a.s.} \end{aligned}$$

So $\left((\lambda_c t + L - B_t) e^{\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}t} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right)_{t \geq 0}$ is a martingale under \mathbb{P}_x .

1.c. This can be seen as a consequence of a lemma of Lecture 3 together with 1.b.

Let's do a direct proof. First note that, for $t \geq 0$, by the many-to-one

$$\begin{aligned} E[Z_t^{(4)}] &= e^{mt} E \left[(\lambda_c t + L - B_t) e^{\lambda_c(B_t - \lambda_c t)} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \\ &= E \left[(\lambda_c t + L - B_t) e^{\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2}t} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \quad \downarrow m = \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2} \\ &= L \text{ using that it is a martingale.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_{s+t}^{(L)} &= \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_{s+t}} (\lambda_c(s+t) + L - X_v(s+t)) e^{\lambda_c(X_v(s+t) - \lambda_c(s+t))} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{r \in [0, s+t]} X_v(r) - \lambda_c r \leq L} \\
 &= \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_s} e^{\lambda_c(X_v(s) - \lambda_c s)} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{r \in [0, s]} X_v(r) - \lambda_c r \leq L} \sum_{\substack{u \in \mathcal{N}_{s+t} \\ u \geq v}} (\lambda_c s + L - X_v(s) + \lambda_c t - (X_u(t+s) - X_v(s))) e^{\lambda_c(X_u(s+t) - X_v(s) - \lambda_c t)} \\
 &\quad \times \mathbb{1}_{\max_{r \in [0, t]} X_u(r) - X_v(s) - \lambda_c r \leq L + \lambda_c s - X_v(s)} = L_v(s)
 \end{aligned}$$

by the branching property, given \mathcal{F}_s , these are independent r.v. with the same distribution as $Z_t^{(L_v(s))}$

$$\text{So } \mathbb{E}[Z_{s+t}^{(L)} | \mathcal{F}_s] = \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_s} e^{\lambda_c(X_v(s) - \lambda_c s)} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{r \in [0, s]} X_v(r) - \lambda_c r \leq L} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[Z_t^{(L_v(s))}]}_{= L_v(s) = \lambda_c s + L - X_v(s)} = Z_s^{(L)}$$

and $(Z_t^{(L)})_{t \geq 0}$ is a martingale.

1.d. $(Z_t^{(L)})_{t \geq 0}$ is a non-negative martingale so it converges a.s. to a limit $Z_\infty^{(L)}$.

2.a. Note that $E_L = \{\forall s \geq 0, \forall v \in \mathcal{N}(s), X_v(s) \leq \lambda_c s + L\}$, so, on E_L ,

$$Z_t^{(L)} = \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_t} (\lambda_c t + L - X_v(t)) e^{\lambda_c(X_v(t) - \lambda_c t)} = Z_t + L W_t^{\lambda_c} \rightarrow \text{Recall } W_t^{\lambda_c} = \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_t} e^{\lambda_c(X_v(t) - (\text{int } \frac{\lambda_c}{2})t)}$$

$\lambda_c^2 = 2m \Rightarrow \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_t} e^{\lambda_c(X_v(t) - \lambda_c t)}$

2.b. We know that $Z_t^{(L)} \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} Z_\infty^{(L)}$ and $W_t^{\lambda_c} \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} 0$ so, on E_L ,

$$Z_t = Z_t^{(L)} - L W_t^{\lambda_c} \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} Z_\infty^{(L)}.$$

2.c. The family of events $(E_L)_{L > 0}$ is increasing and $P(E_L) \rightarrow 1$ so $P(\bigcup_{L > 0} E_L) = 1$.

But, on any E_L , $(Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$ converges a.s. so it converges a.s. on the full probability space. Let Z_∞ be its limit.

By 2.b., on E_L , $Z_\infty = Z_\infty^{(L)}$ a.s. for any $L > 0$. But $Z_\infty^{(L)} \geq 0$.

So $Z_\infty \geq 0$ a.s. (using again that $P(\bigcup_{L > 0} E_L) = 1$).

3.a. Write $f_t^{(L)}(x) = (\lambda_c t + L - x) e^{\lambda_c(x - \lambda_c t)}$

$$(Z_t^{(L)})^2 = \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_t} f_t^{(L)}(X_v(t))^2 \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} X_v(s) - \lambda_c s \leq L}$$

$$+ \sum_{\substack{v, v' \in \mathcal{N}_t \\ v \neq v'}} f_t^{(L)}(X_v(t)) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} X_v(s) - \lambda_c s \leq L} f_t^{(L)}(X_{v'}(t)) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0, t]} X_{v'}(s) - \lambda_c s \leq L}$$

For the 1st term, by the many-to-one, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{u \in \mathcal{N}_t} p_t^{(1)}(X_u(t))^2 \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} X_u(s) - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] = e^{-\lambda_c t} \mathbb{E} \left[p_t^{(1)}(B_t)^2 \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \\
& \leq e^{-\lambda_c t} \mathbb{E} \left[(\lambda_c t + L - B_t)^2 e^{2\lambda_c (B_t - \lambda_c t)} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \\
& = e^{-\lambda_c t} \mathbb{E} \left[e^{-\lambda_c B_t - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2} t} (L - B_t)^2 e^{2\lambda_c B_t} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s \leq L} \right] \\
& = \mathbb{E} \left[(L - B_t)^2 e^{\lambda_c B_t} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s \leq L} \right] \\
& \leq \sum_{k \geq 1} k^2 e^{\lambda_c (L - k + 1)} \underbrace{P(B_t \in [L - k, L - k + 1], \max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s \leq L)}_{\leq P(B_t \geq L - k, \max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s \leq L)} \\
& \leq \left(\frac{L}{t^{3/2}} \wedge 1 \right) e^{\lambda_c (L+1)} \underbrace{\sum_{k \geq 1} k^4 e^{-\lambda_c k}}_{< \infty} \leq P(B_t \geq L - k, \max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s \leq L) \leq \frac{L k^2}{t^{3/2}} \wedge 1 \text{ by Corollary 2, Lecture 6} \\
& \leq \left(\frac{L}{t^{3/2}} \wedge 1 \right) k^2
\end{aligned}$$

So this is bounded.

We now deal with the 2nd term. By the many-to-two lemma,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{\substack{u, v \in \mathcal{N}_t \\ u \neq v}} p_t^{(1)}(X_u(t)) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} X_u(s) - \lambda_c s \leq L} p_t^{(1)}(X_v(t)) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} X_v(s) - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \\
& = \mathbb{E}[L(L-1)] \int_0^t e^{2\lambda_c t - \lambda_c r} \mathbb{E} \left[p_t^{(1)}(B_t^{1,r}) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s^{1,r} - \lambda_c s \leq L} p_t^{(1)}(B_t^{2,r}) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s^{2,r} - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] dr
\end{aligned}$$

We first focus on the expectation in the integral:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E} \left[p_t^{(1)}(B_t^{1,r}) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s^{1,r} - \lambda_c s \leq L} p_t^{(1)}(B_t^{2,r}) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} B_s^{2,r} - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \\
& = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,r]} B_s^0 - \lambda_c s \leq L} p_t^{(1)}(B_r^0 + B_{t-r}^1) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t-r]} B_r^0 + B_s^1 - \lambda_c (r+s) \leq L} p_t^{(1)}(B_r^0 + B_{t-r}^2) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t-r]} B_r^0 + B_s^2 - \lambda_c (r+s) \leq L} \right] \\
& = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,r]} B_s^0 - \lambda_c s \leq L} \varphi(B_r^0)^2 \right] \\
& \quad \text{with } \varphi(x) = \mathbb{E} \left[p_t^{(1)}(x + B_{t-r}^1) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t-r]} x + B_s^1 - \lambda_c (r+s) \leq L} \right] \\
& \quad = \mathbb{E} \left[(\lambda_c t + L - B_{t-r} - x) e^{\lambda_c (B_{t-r} + x - \lambda_c t)} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t-r]} B_s + x - \lambda_c r - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \\
& \quad = \mathbb{E}_{x - \lambda_c r} \left[(\lambda_c (t-r) + L - B_{t-r}) e^{\lambda_c (B_{t-r} - \lambda_c (t-r))} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t-r]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \quad \text{martingale (i.b.)} \\
& \quad = e^{-\frac{\lambda_c^2}{2} (t-r)} \cdot \mathbb{E}_{x - \lambda_c r} \left[(\lambda_c \cdot 0 + L - B_0) e^{\lambda_c B_0 - \frac{\lambda_c^2}{2} \cdot 0} \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,0]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \\
& \quad = e^{-\frac{\lambda_c^2}{2} (t-r)} (\lambda_c r + L - x) e^{\lambda_c (x - \lambda_c r)} \mathbb{1}_{x - \lambda_c r \leq L} \\
& = e^{-\lambda_c^2 (t-r)} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,r]} B_s - \lambda_c s \leq L} (\lambda_c r + L - B_r)^2 e^{2\lambda_c (B_r - \lambda_c r)} \right] \\
& \leq e^{-\lambda_c^2 (t-r)} \left(\frac{L}{r^{3/2}} \wedge 1 \right) C \text{ with } C \text{ depending on } L \text{ and } \lambda_c. \\
& \leq C e^{-2\lambda_c t + \lambda_c r} \left(\frac{L}{r^{3/2}} \wedge 1 \right)
\end{aligned}$$

So finally we get

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{\substack{u,v \in \mathcal{N}_t \\ u \neq v}} f_t^{(L)}(X_u(t)) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} X_u(s) - \lambda_c s \leq L} f_t^{(L)}(X_v(t)) \mathbb{1}_{\max_{s \in [0,t]} X_v(s) - \lambda_c s \leq L} \right] \\ \leq \mathbb{E}[L(L-1)] \int_0^t C \left(\frac{L}{r^{3/2}} \wedge 1 \right) dr \leq C'.$$

So $(Z_t^{(L)})_{t \geq 0}$ is bounded in L^2 .

3.b. In particular, we deduce that $(Z_t^{(L)})_{t \geq 0}$ converges in L^1 and so $\mathbb{E}[Z_\infty^{(L)}] = \mathbb{E}[Z_0^{(L)}] = L$ and therefore $\mathbb{P}(Z_\infty^{(L)} > 0) > 0$.

3.c. On $\{\tau_\phi \leq t\}$, we decompose

$$Z_t = \sum_{i=1}^{L_\phi} \sum_{\substack{u \in \mathcal{N}_t \\ u \geq i}} (\lambda_c t - X_u(t)) e^{\lambda_c (X_u(t) - \lambda_c t)} \\ = (\lambda_c \tau_\phi - X_\phi(\tau_\phi)) e^{\lambda_c (X_\phi(\tau_\phi) - \lambda_c \tau_\phi)} \sum_{i=1}^{L_\phi} \sum_{\substack{u \in \mathcal{N}_t \\ u \geq i}} e^{\lambda_c (X_u(t) - X_\phi(\tau_\phi) - \lambda_c (t - \tau_\phi))} \\ + e^{\lambda_c (X_\phi(\tau_\phi) - \lambda_c \tau_\phi)} \sum_{i=1}^{L_\phi} \sum_{\substack{u \in \mathcal{N}_t \\ u \geq i}} (\lambda_c (t - \tau_\phi) - (X_u(t) - X_\phi(\tau_\phi))) e^{\lambda_c (X_u(t) - X_\phi(\tau_\phi) - \lambda_c (t - \tau_\phi))}$$

$\lambda_c t - X_u(t) = \lambda_c \tau_\phi - X_\phi(\tau_\phi) + \lambda_c (t - \tau_\phi) - (X_u(t) - X_\phi(\tau_\phi))$

this is the critical additive martingale of the BBT rooted at i at time $t - \tau_\phi$: tends to 0 a.s. as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

this is the derivative martingale of the BBT rooted at i at time $t - \tau_\phi$: tends to Z_∞^i a.s. as $t \rightarrow \infty$ where $(Z_\infty^i)_{i \geq 1}$ are iid $\stackrel{(d)}{=} Z_\infty$ and indep. of \mathcal{F}_{τ_ϕ}

So letting $t \rightarrow \infty$, we get $Z_\infty = e^{\lambda_c (X_\phi(\tau_\phi) - \lambda_c \tau_\phi)} \sum_{i=1}^{L_\phi} Z_\infty^i$

in particular $\mathbb{P}(Z_\infty = 0) = \mathbb{P}(\forall i \in \{1, \dots, L_\phi\}, Z_\infty^i = 0)$

$$= \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{P}(Z_\infty = 0)^{L_\phi}] = f(\mathbb{P}(Z_\infty = 0))$$

where $f(s) = \mathbb{E}[s^L]$.

But f has 2 fixed points in $[0, 1]$: 1 and $q = \mathbb{P}(\text{extinction})$.

Since $\mathbb{P}(Z_\infty = 0) \neq 1$ by 3.b. (and the fact that $Z_\infty \geq Z_\infty^{(L)}$, see 4.b. below), we get $\mathbb{P}(Z_\infty = 0) = q$.

Moreover $\{\text{extinction}\} \subset \{Z_\infty = 0\}$ so $\mathbb{P}(\{Z_\infty = 0\} \cap \{\text{survival}\}) = 0$.

Hence $Z_\infty > 0$ a.s. on the survival event.

4.a. The fact $E[Z_\infty^{(L)}] = L$ has been seen in 3.b.

4.b. Recall that, on E_L , $Z_\infty = Z_\infty^{(L)}$ a.s. and that $P(\bigcup_{L>0} E_L) = 1$.

Moreover note that $L \mapsto Z_\infty^{(L)}$ is non-decreasing.

It follows that $Z_\infty \geq Z_\infty^{(L)}$ a.s. for any $L > 0$ and so $E[Z_\infty] \geq L$.

Therefore $E[Z_\infty] = +\infty$.

Exercise 2 of Lecture 5: Let $\tilde{\Gamma}_t = \max_{1 \leq i \leq L e^{mt}} B_t^i$ with $(B^i)_{i \geq 0}$ independent BTs.

Prove that $\frac{\tilde{\Gamma}_t}{t} \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{\text{a.s.}} \lambda_c = \sqrt{2m}$.

Help with intermediary questions:

1. Prove that, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $C, c > 0$ such that for t large enough
 $P\left(\left|\frac{\tilde{\Gamma}_t}{t} - \lambda_c\right| \geq \varepsilon\right) \leq C e^{-ct}$.

2. Deduce that $\frac{\tilde{\Gamma}_k}{k} \xrightarrow[k \in \mathbb{N}]{\text{a.s.}} \lambda_c$.

3. Prove that $\max_{1 \leq i \leq L e^{mk}} \max_{s \in [k-1, k]} \frac{1}{k} |B_s^i - B_k^i| \xrightarrow[k \in \mathbb{N}]{\text{a.s.}} 0$.

4. Conclude.

Additional hints:

1. Treat separately $P(\tilde{\Gamma}_t \leq (\lambda_c - \varepsilon)t)$ and $P(\tilde{\Gamma}_t \geq (\lambda_c + \varepsilon)t)$.

2. Borel Carbelli.

3. Use that $\max_{r \in [0,1]} B_r \stackrel{(d)}{=} \max_{r \in [0,1]} -B_r \stackrel{(d)}{=} |B_1| \stackrel{(d)}{=} \frac{|B_k|}{\sqrt{k}}$ and use question 2.
(Direct bound + Borel Carbelli can work as well).

4. For $s \in [k-1, k]$, upper or lower bound $\tilde{\Gamma}_s$ using $\tilde{\Gamma}_k$ or $\tilde{\Gamma}_{k-1}$,
and question 3.