WEAK CONVERGENCE OF A FULLY DISCRETE APPROXIMATION OF A LINEAR STOCHASTIC EVOLUTION EQUATION WITH A POSITIVE-TYPE MEMORY TERM

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Abstract. In this paper we are interested in the numerical approximation of the marginal distributions of the Hilbert space valued solution of a stochastic Volterra equation driven by an additive Gaussian noise. This equation can be written in the abstract Itô form as

\[ dX(t) + \left( \int_0^t b(t-s)AX(s) \, ds \right) \, dt = dW^Q(t), \quad t \in (0,T]; \quad X(0) = X_0 \in H, \]

where \( W^Q \) is a \( Q \)-Wiener process on the Hilbert space \( H \) and where the time kernel \( b \) is the locally integrable potential \( t^{\rho-2}/\Gamma(\rho-1) \), \( 1 < \rho < 2 \), or slightly more general. The operator \( A \) is unbounded, linear, self-adjoint, and positive on \( H \). Our main assumption concerning the noise term is that \( A^{(\nu-1)/\rho}/2Q^{1/2} \) is a Hilbert-Schmidt operator on \( H \) for some \( \nu \in [0,1/\rho] \). The numerical approximation is achieved via a standard continuous finite element method in space (parameter \( h \)) and an implicit Euler scheme and a Laplace convolution quadrature in time (parameter \( \Delta t = T/N \)). We show that for \( \varphi: H \to \mathbb{R} \) twice continuously differentiable test function with bounded second derivative,

\[ |E\varphi(X^N_t) - E\varphi(X(T))| \leq C \ln \left( \frac{T}{h^{2/\rho} + \Delta t} \right) \left( \Delta t^{\nu \rho} + h^{2\rho} \right), \]

for any \( 0 \leq \nu \leq 1/\rho \). This is essentially twice the rate of strong convergence under the same regularity assumption on the noise.

1. Introduction

Let \( H = L^2(\mathcal{O}) \) be the real separable Hilbert space of square integrable functions on some bounded domain \( \mathcal{O} \) of \( \mathbb{R}^d, \quad d \geq 1 \), with smooth or convex polygonal boundary equipped with the usual inner product denoted by \((\cdot,\cdot)\) and induced norm \( \| \cdot \| \). For \( T > 0 \), we consider the following stochastic Volterra type equation written in the abstract Itô form as

\[ dX(t) + \left( \int_0^t b(t-s)AX(s) \, ds \right) \, dt = dW^Q(t), \quad t \in (0,T]; \quad X(0) = X_0, \]

where \(-A = \Delta\) is the Dirichlet Laplacian with domain \( D(A) = H^2(\mathcal{O}) \cap H_0^1(\mathcal{O}) \) and \( W^Q \) is an \( H \)-valued Wiener process on the probability space \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})\) endowed with the normal filtration \( \{ \mathcal{F}_t \}_{t \geq 0} \) generated by \( W^Q \) with possibly unbounded covariance operator \( Q \). We note that, strictly speaking, the process \( W^Q \) is \( H \)-valued if and only if \( Q \) is a trace class operator. The initial condition \( X(0) = X_0 \) is \( H \)-valued and \( \mathcal{F}_0 \)-measurable. The convolution kernel \( b \) is given by

\[ b(t) = t^{\rho-2}/\Gamma(\rho-1), \quad 1 < \rho < 2, \]
or could be somewhat more general which is made precise later in Section 2. Such equations are called stochastic Volterra equations and can be used in the modeling of diffusion of heat in materials with memory or in viscoelasticity (see [3, 8] and references therein). Because of the weak singularity of the kernel \( b \) at 0, the deterministic equation exhibit certain smoothing characteristics similar to that of parabolic type evolution equations.

We study the numerical approximation of \( \{X(t)\}_{t \in [0,T]} \) by an implicit Euler scheme and a Laplace transform convolution quadrature in time together with a finite element method in space. Let \( N \geq 1 \) and \( \Delta t = T/N \). We set \( t_n = n\Delta t \), \( n = 0, \ldots, N \). Let \( \{T_h\}_{0 < h < 1} \) denote a family of triangulations of \( \Omega \), with mesh size \( h > 0 \) and consider finite element spaces \( \{V_h\}_{0 < h < 1} \), where \( V_h \subset H^1_0(\Omega) \) consists of continuous piecewise linear functions vanishing at the boundary of \( \Omega \). Let \( X_h^n \in V_h \) be the numerical approximation of \( X(t_n) \) defined via the difference equations

\[
(X^n_h, v_h) - (X^{n-1}_h, v_h) + \Delta t \sum_{k=1}^n \omega_{n-k}(\nabla X^k_h, \nabla v_h) = (w^n, v_h),
\]

for any \( n \geq 1 \), with the initial condition

\[
(X_0^h, v_h) = (X_0, v_h),
\]

for any \( v_h \in V_h \), where we have set \( w^n = W^0(t_n) - W^0(t_{n-1}) \).

Our specific choice of the weights \( \{\omega_k\}_{k \geq 0} \) is stemming from the deterministic framework of [14, 15]. Indeed, it can be easily seen that most of the qualitative properties of the solution of (1.1) with \( Q = 0 \) depend heavily on the way the frequencies of the time kernel \( b \) are distributed. For example, in the case where \( b \) is a Dirac mass at 0, we formally recover the heat equation and if \( b \) is regular enough, we recover the wave equation. For that reason, the weights \( \{\omega_k\}_{k \geq 0} \) in (1.3) have been chosen such as to mimic, at the level of the backward Euler scheme, the spectral properties of the time kernel \( b \). Using the Laplace transform \( \hat{b} \) of \( b \), these weights can be obtained via the relation

\[
\hat{b} \left( \frac{1-z}{\Delta t} \right) = \sum_{k \geq 0} \omega_k z^k, \quad |z| < 1.
\]

Introducing the ”discrete Laplacian”

\[
A_h : V_h \to V_h, \quad (A_h \psi, \chi) = (\nabla \psi, \nabla \chi), \quad \psi, \chi \in V_h,
\]

and the orthogonal projector

\[
P_h : H \to V_h, \quad (P_h f, \chi) = (f, \chi), \quad \chi \in V_h.
\]

we rewrite (1.3) in the operator form as

\[
X^n_h - X^{n-1}_h + \Delta t \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \omega_{n-k} A_h X^k_h \right) = P_h w^n, \quad n \geq 1,
\]

with \( X_0^h = P_h X_0 \).

If \( \phi \) is a twice differentiable real functional on \( L^2(\Omega) \), not necessarily bounded and with not necessarily bounded first derivative but with bounded second derivative and \( A^{(n-\frac{3}{2})/2}Q^{1/2} \) is a Hilbert-Schmidt operator on \( H \), then our main result
can be stated as follows. Denoting the expectation by $E$, the so-called weak error can be estimated as

$$\left| E \varphi(X_N^h) - E \varphi(X(T)) \right| \leq C \ln \left( \frac{T}{h^{2/\rho} + \Delta t} \right) (\Delta t^{\nu} + h^{2\nu})$$

where $C$ may depend on $T$, $\varphi$ and the initial condition $X(0)$ but not on $h$ and $N$. Hence even in the presence of memory, similarly to parabolic and hyperbolic stochastic equations [1, 4, 10, 11, 13, 20], the weak order is essentially twice the strong order, where the latter was studied in [12]. Note that in (1.7) we may even allow the test function $\varphi(x) = \|x\|^2$.

In particular, when $Q = I$ (white noise), $\nu$ has to be chosen in such a way that $A^{(\nu-1/\rho)/2}$ is an Hilbert-Schmidt operator on $H$. Taking the asymptotics of the eigenvalues of the Laplacian into account we must have $\nu < 1/\rho - d/2$. This yields $d = 1$ and a rate of convergence in time of $(1 - \rho/2)_-$ and in space of $(2/\rho - 1)_-$.

A popular method used in the study the weak convergence of approximations of stochastic equations relies on the associated Kolmogorov equation (see [9, 17, 19]). The global weak error $E \varphi(X_N^h) - E \varphi(X(T))$ is usually decomposed in a sum of local weak errors which are then expressed using the solution of the associated Kolmogorov equation.

Unfortunately, the presence of a non-local term in time in (1.1) prevents us to use the same method directly because the process $\{X(t)\}_{t \in [0,T]}$ is not Markovian and hence no Kolmogorov equation is associated with (1.1). However, since the equation is linear and the non-local term is in the drift part, we use the same kind of method as in [4, 10, 11, 13] to remove the drift and obtain an equation which has a Markovian solution. Hence there is an associated Kolmogorov’s equation with no drift but with a time-dependent covariance operator.

The outline of the paper is as follows. In Section 2 we introduce basic notations and the main assumptions on $b$, together with the existence, uniqueness and regularity properties of $\{X(t)\}_{t \in [0,T]}$. In Section 3 we recall and prove some deterministic estimates concerning the solutions of (1.1) and (1.6) with $Q = 0$. In particular, we recall the discrete mild formulation of (1.6) and establish its regularizing properties (Theorem 3.1). In Section 4 we introduce the results which are needed in order to accommodate random initial data and unbounded test functions $\varphi$. This section ends with a representation formula of the weak error (Theorem 4.3) which symmetrize the role played by the discrete and the continuous solutions. Finally, in Section 5, we state and prove the main convergence result (Theorem 5.1).

2. Preliminaries

In this section we introduce notation and collect some preliminary results. We also state the hypothesis on the convolution kernel $b$. We denote the set of bounded linear operators on $H$ by $\mathcal{B}(H)$ endowed with the usual norm $\| \cdot \|_{\mathcal{B}(H)}$, where we drop the subscript from the norm if it is clear from the context. Let $\text{HS}$ denotes the Hilbert-Schmidt operators on $H$; that is, $T \in \text{HS}$ if $T$ is linear and for an
orthonormal basis (ONB) \( \{e_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \) of \( H \)

\[
\|T\|_{\text{HS}}^2 = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \|Te_k\|^2 < \infty.
\]

In this case the sum is independent of the ONB. If a linear operator \( T \) on \( H \) can be written as

\[
Tx = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} (x, a_k)b_k, \quad x \in H,
\]

with \( \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \|a_k\| \|b_k\| < \infty \), then \( T \) is called a \textit{trace-class} operator. The trace-norm of \( T \) is then defined as

\[
\|T\|_{\text{Tr}} = \inf \left\{ \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \|a_k\| \|b_k\| : Tx = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} (x, a_k)b_k, \quad x \in H \right\}.
\]

If \( T \) is a trace class operator then for any ONB, the trace of \( T \) is defined as

\[
\text{Tr}(T) = \sum (Te_k, e_k)
\]

is finite and the sum is independent of the ONB. Both Hilbert-Schmidt and trace class operators are bounded. If \( T \geq 0 \) is a symmetric trace class operator then,

\[
\text{Tr}(T) = \|T\|_{\text{Tr}}. \quad \text{(2.1)}
\]

Furthermore, if \( T \in \text{HS} \) and \( S \in B(H) \), then \( TS \) and \( ST \) are in \( \text{HS} \) and

\[
\max\{\|TS\|_{\text{HS}}, \|ST\|_{\text{HS}}\} \leq \|T\|_{\text{HS}} \|S\|_{B(H)}. \quad \text{(2.2)}
\]

For \( 1 \leq p < \infty \) we denote by \( L^p(\Omega, H) \) the space of \( H \)-valued random variables \( X \) such that

\[
\|X\|_{L^p(\Omega, H)} = \left( \mathbb{E}\|X\|^p \right)^{1/p} < \infty.
\]

It is well known that our assumptions on \( A \) and on the spatial domain \( \mathcal{O} \) implies the existence of a sequence of nondecreasing positive real numbers \( \{\lambda_k\}_{k \geq 1} \) and an orthonormal basis \( \{e_k\}_{k \geq 1} \) of \( H \) such that

\[
Ae_k = \lambda_k e_k, \quad \lim_{k \to +\infty} \lambda_k = +\infty. \quad \text{(2.3)}
\]

Next, we define, by means of the spectral decomposition of \( A \), the fractional powers \( A^s \) of \( A \) for \( s \in \mathbb{R} \). That is, for \( s > 0 \) we set

\[
A^s x = \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k^s (x, e_k)e_k, \quad \text{with domain } D(A^s) \text{ being all } x \in H \text{ for which the sum converges in } H. \quad \text{(2.4)}
\]

In particular, \( D(A^0) = H \). For \( s < 0 \) we define \( A^s x \) as in (2.4) for all \( x \in H \) and \( D(A^s) \) to be the completion of \( H \) with respect to the norm of \( \|x\|_s = \|A^s x\| \).

Next we state the main hypothesis on the convolution kernel \( b \).

**Assumption 1.** The kernel \( 0 \neq b \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}_+) \), is 3-monotone; that is, \( b, -\dot{b} \) are nonnegative, nonincreasing, convex, and \( \lim_{t \to -\infty} b(t) = 0 \). Furthermore,

\[
\rho := 1 + \frac{2}{\pi} \sup \{ |\arg \hat{b}(\lambda)|, \quad \Re \lambda > 0 \} \in (1, 2). \quad \text{(2.5)}
\]
In the special case of the Riesz kernel given in (1.2) one can easily show that ρ in the exponent coincides with the one defined in (2.4). In order to obtain non-smooth data estimates for the deterministic equation we need the following additional hypothesis.

**Assumption 2.** The Laplace transform \( \hat{b} \) of \( b \) can be extended to an analytic function in a sector \( \Sigma_\theta \) with \( \theta > \pi/2 \) and \( |\hat{b}^{(k)}(z)| \leq C|z|^{1-p-k}, \ k = 0, 1, z \in \Sigma_\theta \).

In the sequel we discuss properties of the solution of (1.1). The weak solution of (1.1) is a mean-square continuous \( H \)-valued process satisfying

\[
(X(t), \eta) + \int_0^t \int_0^r b(r - s)(X(s), A^*\eta) \, ds \, dr = (X_0, \eta) + \int_0^t (\eta, dW^Q(s)),
\]

for all \( \eta \in D(A^*) \) almost surely for all \( t \in [0, T] \). Under Hypothesis [9] if \( W^Q \equiv 0 \); that is, the deterministic case, then there exists a resolvent family \( \{S(t)\}_{t \geq 0} \subset B(H) \) which is strongly continuous for \( t \geq 0 \), differentiable for \( t > 0 \) and uniformly bounded by 1, see [13] Corollary 1.2 and Corollary 3.3. The unique weak solution in the deterministic case is given by \( X(t) = S(t)X_0, \ t \in [0, T] \).

The next result, which can be found in [3] and [12], summarizes the existence, uniqueness and regularity of weak solutions of (1.1).

**Proposition 2.1.** Let \( b \) satisfy Assumption [9] and let \( \|A^{(\nu - \frac{1}{2})/2}Q^{\frac{1}{2}}\|_{HS} < \infty \) and \( A^\frac{1}{2}X_0 \in L^2(\Omega, H) \) for some \( \nu \geq 0 \). Then (1.1) has a unique weak solution given by the variation of constants formula

\[
(2.6) \quad X(t) = S(t)X_0 + \int_0^t S(t - s) \, dW^Q(s), \ t \geq 0,
\]

with \( \|A^\frac{1}{2}X(t)\|_{L^2(\Omega, H)} \leq C, \) for some \( C > 0 \) and for all \( t \geq 0 \). Furthermore, \( X \) has a version which is Hölder continuous of order less than \( \min(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\nu}{2}) \).

**Remark 2.1.** In particular, the stochastic integral in (2.6) makes sense since \( SQ^{1/2} \in L^2((0, T), HS) \) (see the proof of [12] Theorem 3.6).

3. **Deterministic estimates**

In the following proposition we collect some of the smoothing properties of \( \{S(t)\}_{t \geq 0} \) and \( \{S_h(t)\}_{t \geq 0} \), where \( \{S_h(t)\}_{t \geq 0} \subset V_h \) is the resolvent family of the deterministic equation

\[
\dot{u}_h(t) + \int_0^t b(t - s)u_h(s) \, ds = 0, \ t > 0, \quad u_h(0) = P_hu_0.
\]

We would like to note that in this paper the constant \( C \) denotes a generic non-negative constant that does not depend on the parameters \( h, k, t, \Delta t \) and is not necessarily the same at every occurrence.

**Proposition 3.1.** If \( b \) satisfies Hypothesis [9] then the following estimates hold for the resolvent families \( \{S(t)\}_{t \geq 0} \) and \( \{S_h(t)\}_{t \geq 0} \) for some \( C > 0 \).

(i) \( \max\{\|A^{\nu/2}S(t)\|, \|A^{\nu/2}S_h(t)P_h\|\} \leq C t^{-\nu \rho/2}, \ 0 \leq \nu \leq 2/\rho, \ t > 0, \ h > 0; \)
(ii) \( \|S(t)\| \leq C t^{-1}, \ t > 0; \)
From (3.2) and Proposition 3.1 (i) with \( \nu \) and \( t \geq 0 \), it follows from [12, Corollary 3.3] that

\[
\| \dot{B}_{h,N} \| \leq C t^{-\rho/2}, \quad 0 < \nu \leq \frac{1}{\rho}, \quad 0 < t \leq T;
\]

(3.4)

(3.5)

\[
\| E_{h,N}(t) \| \leq C t^{-\rho/2} (\Delta t^{\rho} + h^{2\nu}), \quad 0 < \nu \leq \frac{1}{\rho}, \quad 0 < t \leq T;
\]

(3.6)

Let \( \sigma(t) := \left[ \frac{t}{\Delta t} \right] \) and define the piecewise constant operator function

\[
\dot{B}_{h,N}(t) := B_{\sigma(t),h} P_h, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T.
\]

Theorem 3.1. If \( b \) satisfies Hypothesis 3 and 2 then the following estimates hold for some \( C > 0 \) where \( E_{h,N}(t) = \dot{B}_{h,N}(t) - S(t), N\Delta t = T \) and \( h > 0 \).

\[
\| S(t) - S(s) \|_{B(H)} \leq C s^{-\alpha} |t - s|^{\alpha}, \quad 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1, \quad 0 < s \leq t;
\]

(3.3)

Proof. It follows from [13, Corollary 3.3] that \( \| \dot{S}(t) x \| \leq C t^{-1} |x| \) for all \( x \in H \) and \( t > 0 \). Thus, for \( 0 < s \leq t \), we have

\[
\| S(t) x - S(s) x \| \leq \int_s^t \| \dot{S}(r) x \| dr \leq C \| x \| \int_s^t r^{-1} dr \leq C \| x \| s^{-1} |t - s|.
\]

Since we also have that \( \| S(t) x - S(s) x \| \leq 2 |x| \), the inequality in (3.3) follows.

To show (3.4), first note that it follows from (3.2) and Proposition 3.1 (i) with \( \nu = 0 \) that

\[
\| B_{k,h} \| \leq C, \quad \text{for all } k \geq 1, \quad h > 0.
\]

From (3.2) and Proposition 3.1 (i) with \( \nu = 2/\rho \) we conclude that, for \( k \geq 2 \) and \( h > 0 \),

\[
\| A_h^{1/\rho} B_{k,h} P_h x \| \leq C |x| (\Delta t)^{-1} \int_0^\infty e^{-s} s^{k-2} (k-1)! ds
\]

(3.7)

\[
= C |x| ((k-1)\Delta t)^{-1} \int_0^\infty e^{-s} s^{k-2} (k-2)! ds = C |x| t_{k-1}^{k-1} = C |x| t_{k-1}^{k-1} \leq C |x| t_{k-1}^{k-1}.
\]

(3.8)
Furthermore, we also have that max

\[\|A_{h}^{1/(2\rho)} B_{1,h} P_{h} x\| \leq \int_{0}^{\infty} \|A_{h}^{1/(2\rho)} S_{h}(\Delta t s)x\| e^{-s} ds\]

\[\leq C \left( \int_{0}^{\infty} \|A_{h}^{1/(2\rho)} S_{h}(\Delta t s) P_{h} x\|^{2} ds \right)^{1/2} \leq C(\Delta t)^{-1/2}\|x\| .\]

By interpolation, using (3.7), (3.9) and (3.8) we conclude that

\[\|A_{h}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} B_{h,k} P_{h}\| \leq C^{\frac{\rho/2 - \alpha/2}{\rho}} , \quad 0 \leq \nu \leq \frac{1}{\rho} , \quad k \geq 1 , \quad h > 0 .\]

Since for \(\nu \in [0,1/2]\) and \(v_{h} \in S_{h}\) we have that \(\|A^{0} v_{h}\| \leq \|A_{h}^{1} v_{h}\|\) it also follows that

\[\|A_{h}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} B_{h,k} P_{h}\| \leq C^{\frac{\rho/2 - \alpha/2}{\rho}} , \quad 0 \leq \nu \leq \frac{1}{\rho} , \quad k \geq 1 , \quad h > 0 .\]

Finally, for \(t \in (t_{j-1}, t_{j})\), \(j \geq 1\), we see that

\[\|A_{h}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} B_{h,N}(t)\| = \|A_{h}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} B_{h,j} P_{h}\| \leq C^{\frac{\rho/2 - \alpha/2}{\rho}} , \quad 0 \leq \nu \leq \frac{1}{\rho} , \quad h > 0 .\]

and the proof of (3.4) is complete.

Next we prove (3.5). First, we write

\[\|B_{h,k} P_{h} - S(t_{k})\| \leq \|B_{h,k} - S_{h}(t_{k})\| + \|S_{h}(t_{k}) - S(t_{k})\| : = e_{1} + e_{2} .\]

It is show in [16] that if \(b\) satisfies Hypothesis (2) then

\[e_{1} \leq C t_{k}^{-1} \Delta t\] and \(e_{2} \leq C t_{k}^{-\rho} h^{2} , \quad k \geq 1 , \quad h > 0 .\]

Furthermore, we also have that \(\max\{e_{1}, e_{2}\} \leq C\) by Proposition 3.1 with \(\nu = 0\), and thus

\[\|B_{h,k} P_{h} - S(t_{k})\| \leq C t_{k}^{-\rho} (\Delta t \nu^{\nu} + h^{2\nu}) , \quad 0 \leq \nu \leq 1/\rho , \quad k \geq 1 , \quad h > 0 .\]

Next, for \(t \in (t_{k-1}, t_{k})\), \(k \geq 1\), we have by (3.3) and (3.10), that

\[\|E_{h,N}(t)\| \leq \|B_{h,k} P_{h} - S(t_{k})\| + \|S(t_{k}) - S(t)\| \]

\[\leq C t_{k}^{-\rho/2} (\Delta t^{\nu^{\nu}} + h^{2\nu}) + C t_{k}^{-\rho/2} \Delta t^{\rho} \]

\[\leq C t_{k}^{-\rho} (\Delta t^{\nu^{\nu}} + h^{2\nu}) , \quad 0 \leq \nu \leq 1/\rho , \quad k \geq 1 , \quad h > 0 .\]

which finishes the proof of (3.5).

Finally, by interpolation, for \(0 \leq \alpha \leq 1/(2\rho)\) have that

\[\|A^{\alpha} E_{h,N}(t)\| \leq \|E_{h,N}(t)\|^{1-2\alpha} \|A_{h}^{1/(2\rho)} E_{h,N}(t)\|^{2\alpha} \]

\[\leq \|E_{h,N}(t)\|^{1-2\alpha} \left( \|A_{h}^{1/(2\rho)} S(t)\|^{2\alpha} + \|A_{h}^{1/(2\rho)} B_{h,N}(t)\|^{2\alpha} \right) .\]

Setting \(\alpha = \frac{1/\rho - \nu}{2}\), \(0 \leq \nu \leq 1/\rho\), and using Proposition 3.1 (i), (3.4) and (3.5) all with \(\nu = 1/\rho\) the estimate in (3.6) follows.
4. Error representation

Our main assumptions concerning \( \varphi \), depending on the initial data, are

\[
\varphi \in C(H, \mathbb{R}), \quad D\varphi \in C(H, H) \quad \text{and} \quad D^2\varphi \in C_b(H, \mathcal{B}(H)).
\]

or

\[
\varphi \in C(H, \mathbb{R}), \quad D\varphi \in C_b(H, H) \quad \text{and} \quad D^2\varphi \in C_b(H, \mathcal{B}(H)),
\]

where \( C(X, Y) \) and \( C_b(X, Y) \) denote the space of continuous resp. continuous and bounded functions \( f : X \to Y \) and \( D \) denotes the Fréchet derivative. The next lemma and its corollary are needed in the proof of Theorem 4.3 to accommodate random initial data and test functions \( \varphi \) that are unbounded with possibly an unbounded first derivative. For bounded test functions \( \varphi \) the next result can be found, in for example, [5, Proposition 1.12].

**Lemma 4.1.** Let \( \varphi : H \to \mathbb{R} \) be measurable such that \( |\varphi(x)| \leq p_N(\|x\|) \) where \( p_N \) is a real polynomial of degree \( N \) with non-negative coefficients. Let \( (\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P) \) be a probability space and \( \mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{F} \) is a sub sigma-algebra of \( \mathcal{F} \). Let \( \xi_1, \xi_2 \in L^N(\Omega, H) \) be \( H \)-valued random variables such that \( \xi_1 \) is \( \mathcal{G} \)-measurable and \( \xi_2 \) is independent of \( \mathcal{G} \). If we define \( u : H \to \mathbb{R} \) by \( u(x) = \mathbb{E}(\varphi(x + \xi_2)) \), \( x \in H \), then, almost surely, \( u(\xi_1) = \mathbb{E}(\varphi(\xi_1 + \xi_2)|\mathcal{G}) \).

**Proof.** Define \( \varphi_n(x) = \varphi(\xi_{B_n(0)}(x)x) \) where \( \xi_{B_n(0)} \) is the characteristic function of the closed unit ball around 0 with radius \( n \). We clearly have that \( \varphi_n(x) \to \varphi(x) \) for all \( x \in H \). Furthermore, \( |\varphi_n(x)| \leq p_N(\|x\|) \) for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) and \( x \in H \). Therefore, if \( \eta \in L^N(\Omega, H) \), then by the dominated convergence theorem \( \varphi_n(\eta) \to \varphi(\eta) \) in \( L^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}) \). Let \( x \in H \) and define \( u_n(x) := \mathbb{E}(\varphi(x + \xi_2)) \) and \( u_n(x) := \mathbb{E}(\varphi_n(x + \xi_2)) \).

If we take \( \eta := x + \xi_2 \), then, for all \( x \in H \),

\[
|u_n(x) - u(x)| \leq |\mathbb{E}(\varphi_n(\eta) - \varphi(\eta))| \leq \|\varphi_n(\eta) - \varphi(\eta)\|_{L^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R})} \to 0
\]
as \( n \to \infty \). We also have that

\[
|u_n(x)| \leq \mathbb{E}(|\varphi_n(x + \xi_2)|) \leq \mathbb{E}(p_N(\|x + \xi_2\|))
\]

\[
\leq C(p_N(\|x\|) + \mathbb{E}(p_N(\|\xi_2\|))) \leq C(p_N(\|x\|) + \|\xi_2\|_{L^N(\Omega, H)}),
\]

and hence

\[
|u_n(\xi_1)| \leq C(p_N(\|\xi_1\|) + \|\xi_2\|_{L^N(\Omega, H)}) \in L^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}).
\]

Therefore,

\[
u_n(\xi_1) \to u(\xi_1) \quad \text{in} \quad L^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R})
\]
as \( n \to \infty \) by dominated convergence. Since \( \phi_n \) is a bounded and measurable function it follows from [5, Proposition 1.12] that \( u_n(\xi_1) = \mathbb{E}(\varphi(\xi_1 + \xi_2)|\mathcal{G}) \). By taking \( \eta = \xi_1 + \xi_2 \) it follows as above that \( \varphi_n(\xi_1 + \xi_2) \to \varphi(\xi_1 + \xi_2) \) in \( L^1(\Omega, \mathbb{R}) \) and thus by the dominated convergence theorem for conditional expectations we conclude that

\[
u_n(\xi_1) = \mathbb{E}(\varphi_n(\xi_1 + \xi_2)|\mathcal{G}) \to \mathbb{E}(\varphi(\xi_1 + \xi_2)|\mathcal{G}) \quad \text{in} \quad L^1(\Omega, H)
\]
as \( n \to \infty \) which finishes the proof in view of (4.3).
For any $x \in H$ and $t \in [0, T]$, we define

$$Z(T, t, x) := x + \int_t^T S(T - s) \, dW^Q(s).$$

The above stochastic integral makes sense since $SQ^{1/2} \in L^2((0, T), HS)$ (see Remark 2.1). Let $\varphi$ satisfy (4.1) or (4.2), and define

$$u(x, t) := E(\varphi(Z(T, t, x))), \quad x \in H, \ t \in [0, T].$$

Since $\operatorname{Tr}(S(T - \cdot)QS(T - \cdot)^\ast) \in L^1(0, T)$ (see Remark 2.1) and $D^2 \varphi \in C_b(H, B(H))$, it is well known that $u$ is a solution of the following backward Kolmogorov equation

$$u_t(x, t) + \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Tr}\left(u_{xx}(x, t)S(T - t)QS(T - t)^\ast\right) = 0, \quad x \in H, \ t \in [0, T),$$

with the terminal condition $u(T, x) = \varphi(x), \ x \in H$.

**Corollary 4.2.** Let $\xi$ be $\mathcal{F}_t$-measurable where $\{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ is the normal filtration generated by $W$. Let $\varphi$ satisfy (4.1) and $\xi_1 \in L^2(\Omega, H)$ or let $\varphi$ satisfy (4.2) and $\xi \in L^1(\Omega, H)$. Let $u$ defined by (4.4). Then

$$u(\xi, t) = E(\varphi(Z(T, t, \xi)) | \mathcal{F}_t), \ t \in [0, T].$$

**Proof.** The statement follow from Lemma 4.1 with $\xi_1 = \xi$ and $\xi_2 = \int_0^T S(T - s) \, dW^Q(s)$ noting that $\xi_2 \in L^2(\Omega, H) \subset L^1(\Omega, H)$ as, by Itô’s Isometry,

$$E\|\xi_2\|^2 = \int_0^T \|S(T - s)Q^{1/2}\|^2_{HS} \, ds \leq \int_0^T \|S(t)Q^{1/2}\|^2_{HS} \, dt < \infty.$$  

□

We quote the following Itô’s formula from [2].

**Proposition 4.1** (Itô’s formula). Let $f : [c, d] \times H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $0 \leq c < d \leq \infty$, such that $f, \partial_t f, \partial_x f$ and $\partial^2_{xx} f$ are continuous on $[c, d] \times H$ with values in the appropriate spaces. Let $a \in L^2_{loc}(\Omega \times (c, d); H)$ and $\xi Q^{1/2} \in L^2_{loc}(\Omega \times (c, d), HS)$ and

$$X(t) = X(c) + \int_c^t a(s) \, ds + \int_c^t \xi(s) \, dW^Q(s), \quad t \in [c, d].$$

Then, for all $t \in [c, d)$, almost surely,

$$f(t, X(t)) - f(c, X(c)) = \int_c^t \partial_t f(s, X(s)) \, ds + \int_c^t (\partial_x f(s, X(s)), a(s)) \, ds$$

$$+ \int_c^t (\partial_x f(s, X(s)), \xi(s) \, dW^Q(s)) + \frac{1}{2} \int_c^t \operatorname{Tr}(\partial^2_{xx} f(s, X(s)) \xi(s)) \, ds \, ds.$$  

The proof of the main approximation result of the paper relies on the ability to compare the laws of two different Itô processes of the form

$$Y(t) := Y(0) + \int_0^t S(T - s) \, dW^Q(s)$$

and

$$\tilde{Y}(t) := \tilde{Y}(0) + \int_0^t \tilde{S}(T - s) \, dW^Q(s),$$
where \( \{ \tilde{S}(t) \}_{t > 0} \) denotes another family of bounded operators on \( H \) such that \( \tilde{S}Q^{1/2} \in L^2((0, T), HS) \). We have the following general error formula for
\[
e(T) = E \left( \varphi(\tilde{Y}(T)) - \varphi(Y(T)) \right).
\]

**Theorem 4.3.** If \( \varphi \) satisfies (4.1) and \( Y(0), \tilde{Y}(0) \in L^2(\Omega, H) \) or \( \varphi \) satisfies (1.2) and \( Y(0), \tilde{Y}(0) \in L^1(\Omega, H) \) and \( SQ^{1/2}, \tilde{S}Q^{1/2} \in L^2((0, T), HS) \), then \( Y \) and \( \tilde{Y} \) are well-defined and the weak error \( e(T) \) in (4.6) has the representation
\[
e(T) = E(u(\tilde{Y}(0), 0) - u(Y(0), 0)) + \frac{1}{2} E \int_0^T Tr \left( u_{xx}(\tilde{Y}(t), t) \mathcal{O}(t) \right) dt,
\]
where
\[
\mathcal{O}(t) = (\tilde{S}(T - t) + S(T - t))Q(\tilde{S}(T - t) - S(T - t))^*,
\]
or
\[
\mathcal{O}(t) = (\tilde{S}(T - t) - S(T - t))Q(\tilde{S}(T - t) + S(T - t))^*.
\]

**Proof.** The proof is analogous to the semigroup case in [10, Theorem 3.1] and [11, Theorem 3.1] using Proposition 4.1, Corollary 4.2 and the Kolmogorov’s equation (4.3). \( \square \)

## 5. The convergence result

In this section we apply Theorem 4.3 to the approximation scheme (1.6). In order to do so we set
\[
Y(t) = S(T)X_0 + \int_0^t S(T - s) \, dW^Q(s)
\]
and
\[
\tilde{Y}(t) = \tilde{B}_{h,N}(T)X_0 + \int_0^t \tilde{B}_{h,N}(T - s) \, dW^Q(s).
\]
Note that \( Y(T) = X(T) \) and \( \tilde{Y}(T) = X_N^N \). Our main result is stated below.

**Theorem 5.1.** Let \( T > 0 \), \( N \geq 1 \) an integer and \( \Delta t = T/N \). For any \( h > 0 \), let \( \{ X_n^N \}_{0 \leq n \leq N} \) be defined by (1.6), and let \( \{ X(t) \}_{t \in [0, T]} \) be the unique weak solution (2.0) of (1.1). Let \( \varphi \) satisfy (4.1) and suppose that \( X_0 \in L^2(\Omega, H) \) or \( \varphi \) satisfy (1.2) and suppose \( X_0 \in L^1(\Omega, H) \). If \( \| A^{-1/2} Q^\frac{\nu}{2} \|_{HS} < \infty, 0 \leq \nu \leq 1/\rho \), then there exists a constant \( C = C(T, \nu, \varphi, X_0) > 0 \) which does not depend on \( h \) and \( N \) such that for \( h^{2/\rho} + \Delta t < T \),
\[
||E \varphi(X_N^N) - E \varphi(X(T))|| \leq C \ln \left( \frac{T}{h^{2/\rho} + \Delta t} \right) (\Delta t^{\nu} + h^{2\nu}).
\]

**Proof.** We use Theorem 4.3 with \( Y(0) = S(T)X_0, \tilde{Y}(0) = \tilde{B}_{h,N}(T)X_0 \), and \( \tilde{S}(t) = \tilde{B}_{h,N}(t) \). Using (2.2) and (3.3) with \( \nu = 0 \), we have that
\[
\| B_{h,N}(t) \|_{HS} = \| P_h \tilde{B}_{h,N}(t) \|_{HS} \leq C \| P_h \|_{HS}, \quad t \in (0, T).
\]
Therefore, as \( V_h \) is finite dimensional, it follows that \( \tilde{S}Q^{1/2} \in L^2((0, T), HS) \). Furthermore,
\[
\int_0^T \| S(t)Q^\frac{\nu}{2} \|_{HS} dt \leq C \| A^{-\frac{1}{2}} Q^\frac{\nu}{2} \|_{HS} \leq C \| A^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|_{B(H)} \| A^{-\frac{1}{2}} Q^\frac{\nu}{2} \|_{BS(H)} < \infty,
\]
where the first inequality is shown in the proof of Theorem 3.6] and the second inequality follows from 2.2. Thus, Theorem 4.3 is applicable.

We estimate the trace term first. Using that the operators $A, \tilde{B}_{h,N},$ and $S$ are self-adjoint, and taking inequalities (2.1) and (2.2) into account, we have

$$
\left\vert \mathbb{E} \int_0^T \text{Tr} \left( u_{xx}( \tilde{Y}(t), t) 
\times [\tilde{B}_{h,N}(T - t) + S(T - t)] Q [\tilde{B}_{h,N}(T - t) - S(T - t)]^* \right) dt \right\vert
$$

$$
= \left\vert \mathbb{E} \int_0^T \text{Tr} \left( u_{xx}( \tilde{Y}(t), t) [\tilde{B}_{h,N}(T - t) + S(T - t)]^* \right.
\times A^{1/2 - \nu} A^{\nu} Q^2 A^{\nu} A^{1/2 - \nu} E_{h,N}(T - t) dt \right\vert
$$

$$
\leq \mathbb{E} \int_0^T \| u_{xx}( \tilde{Y}(t), t) \|_{B(H)} \| A^{1/2 - \nu} A^{\nu} E_{h,N}(T - t) \|_{B(H)} dt
$$

(5.2)

$$
\times \| A^{1/2 - \nu} [\tilde{B}_{h,N}(T - t) + S(T - t)]^* A^{\nu} Q^2 \|_{HS}
$$

(5.3)

$$
\times \int_0^T \| A^{1/2 - \nu} (\tilde{B}_{h,N}(t) + S(t)) \|_{B(H)} \| A^{1/2 - \nu} E_{h,N}(t) \|_{B(H)} dt.
$$

Next we split the integral from 0 to $\Delta t + h^{2/\rho}$ and from $h^{2/\rho} + \Delta t$ to $T.$ Then, using Proposition 3.1 (i) and (5.4),

$$
\int_0^{\Delta t + h^{2/\rho}} \| A^{1/2 - \nu} (\tilde{B}_{h,N}(t) + S(t)) \|_{B(H)} \| A^{1/2 - \nu} E_{h,N}(t) \|_{B(H)} dt
$$

$$
\leq 2 \int_0^{\Delta t + h^{2/\rho}} \left( \| A^{1/2 - \nu} \tilde{B}_{h,N}(t) \|_{B(H)}^2 + \| A^{1/2 - \nu} S(t) \|_{B(H)}^2 \right) dt
$$

$$
\leq C \int_0^{\Delta t + h^{2/\rho}} t^{-1 + \rho \nu} dt \leq C (\Delta^\nu + h^{2\nu}).
$$

Furthermore, by 3.3 (i), 3.1 and (3.6), it follows that

$$
\int_0^T \| A^{1/2 - \nu} (\tilde{B}_{h,N}(t) + S(t)) \|_{B(H)} \| A^{1/2 - \nu} E_{h,N}(t) \|_{B(H)} dt
$$

$$
\leq C \int_0^T t^{-1/2 + \rho \nu/2} (\Delta^\nu + h^{2\nu}) t^{-1/2 - \rho \nu/2} dt = C \ln \left( \frac{T}{\Delta t + h^{2/\rho}} \right) (\Delta^\nu + h^{2\nu}).
$$

This finishes the estimate of the trace term considering that

$$
\sup_{(x, t) \in H \times [0, T]} \| u_{xx}(x, t) \|_{B(H)} \leq \sup_{x \in H} \| D^2 \varphi(x) \|_{B(H)}.
$$
To estimate the initial error term first assume $\varphi$ satisfies \[ (4.1) \] and $\mathbb{E}\|X_0\|^2 < \infty$.

Note that under assumption \[ (4.1) \] it follows from Taylor’s Formula that
\[
|\varphi(x) - \varphi(y)| \leq \|D\varphi(x)\| \cdot \|x - y\| + C\|x - y\|^2,
\]
where $C = \sup_{x \in H} \|D^2\varphi(x)\|_{\mathcal{B}(H)}$ and that $\|D\varphi(x)\| \leq K(1 + \|x\|)$ where $K = \max\{C, \|D\varphi(0)\|\}$.

Therefore,
\[
|\varphi(x) - \varphi(y)| \leq C(1 + \|y\|) \cdot \|x - y\| + C\|x - y\|^2.
\]

Then, using the law of double expectations, and noting that
\[
X(T) = S(T)X_0 + \int_0^T S(T - s) dW(s),
\]
we have, using Corollary \[ (4.2) \] Proposition \[ (2.1) \] with $\nu = 0$ and \[ (5.1) \], that
\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbb{E} \left( u(\bar{Y}(0), 0) - u(Y(0), 0) \right) &= \mathbb{E} \left( u(\bar{B}_{h,N}(T)X_0, 0) - u(S(T)X_0, 0) \right) \\
&= \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(\varphi(\bar{B}_{h,N}(T)X_0 + \int_0^T S(T - s) dW^Q(s) \\
&\quad - \varphi(S(T)X_0 + \int_0^T S(T - s) dW^Q(s))|\mathcal{F}_0))) \\
&\leq C\mathbb{E}(\|\bar{B}_{h,N}(T)X_0 - S(T)X_0\| \cdot (1 + \|X(T)||)) + C\mathbb{E}(\|\bar{B}_{h,N}(T)X_0 - S(T)X_0\|^2) \\
&\leq CT^{-\nu}(\Delta t^{2\nu} + h^{2\nu})(1 + \mathbb{E}(\|X(T)\|^2)) + C T^{-2\nu}(\Delta t^{2\nu} + h^{4\nu})\mathbb{E}\|X_0\|^2.
\end{align*}
\]

Finally, if $\varphi$ satisfies \[ (4.2) \] and $\mathbb{E}\|X_0\| < \infty$, then, again by Taylor’s Formula, $|\varphi(x) - \varphi(y)| \leq C\|x - y\|$ with $C = \sup_{x \in H} \|D\varphi(x)\|$. Thus, similarly to the above calculation, we have that
\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbb{E} \left( u(\bar{Y}(0), 0) - u(Y(0), 0) \right) &= \mathbb{E} \left( u(\bar{B}_{h,N}(T)X_0, 0) - u(S(T)X_0, 0) \right) \\
&= \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(\varphi(\bar{B}_{h,N}(T)X_0 + \int_0^T S(T - s) dW^Q(s) \\
&\quad - \varphi(S(T)X_0 + \int_0^T S(T - s) dW^Q(s))|\mathcal{F}_0))) \\
&\leq C\mathbb{E}(\|\bar{B}_{h,N}(T)X_0 - S(T)X_0\|) \leq CT^{-\nu}(\Delta t^{2\nu} + h^{2\nu})\mathbb{E}\|X_0\|,
\end{align*}
\]
and the proof is complete. \(\square\)

**Remark 5.2.** Below we give examples of the rate of convergence obtained in Theorem \[ 5.1 \] in some typical cases.

(i) If $Q = I$ (white noise), then, as mentioned in the introduction, we must have $d = 1$ and the rate of weak convergence in time is $(1 - \rho)/2$– and in space it is $(2\rho - 1)$–.

(ii) If $Q$ is of trace class, then we may take $\nu = 1/\rho$ and recover the finite dimensional order; that is, $1_\nu$ in time and $2_\nu$ in space.

(iii) Suppose that there exist some real numbers $\kappa$ and $\alpha > 0$ such that $A^\kappa Q \in \mathcal{B}(H)$, $\text{Tr}(A^{-\alpha}) < \infty$ and $\alpha - 1/\rho < \kappa \leq \alpha$. Then, since
\[
\|A^{\frac{\kappa - 1/\rho}{2}}Q^2\frac{1}{2}\|_{\text{HS}}^2 \leq \|A^\kappa Q\|_{\mathcal{B}(H)}\text{Tr}(A^{\nu-1/\rho - \kappa}),
\]
we recover a space weak order of convergence $(2/\rho - 2(\alpha - \kappa))$ and a time weak order of $(1 - \rho(\alpha - \kappa))$. These are twice the strong orders (modulo the logarithmic term) respectively in space and in time found in [12].

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