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A. BELLOW

**(Appendice n°1) Sufficiently rich sets of stopping times,  
measurable cluster points and submartingales**

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SUFFICIENTLY RICH SETS OF STOPPING TIMES,  
MEASURABLE CLUSTER POINTS AND SUBMARTINGALES

A. BELLOW

(Northwestern University)



Sufficiently rich sets of stopping times,  
measurable cluster points and submartingales

by A. Bellow\*

Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  be a fixed probability space. We denote by  $N$  the set of positive integers;  $\bar{N} = N \cup \{+\infty\}$ . We shall assume in what follows that:

$(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \in N}$  is an increasing sequence of sub- $\sigma$ -fields of  $\mathcal{F}$ , i.e.,  
 $\mathcal{F}_m \subset \mathcal{F}_n \subset \mathcal{F}$  for  $m \leq n$  and we let

$$\mathcal{F}_\infty = \sigma\left(\bigcup_{n \in N} \mathcal{F}_n\right);$$

that is,  $\mathcal{F}_\infty$  is the  $\sigma$ -field spanned by  $\bigcup_{n \in N} \mathcal{F}_n$ .

A mapping  $\theta: \Omega \rightarrow \bar{N}$  is called a stopping time (relative to  $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \in N}$ ) if  $\{\theta = n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n$  for each  $n \in N$ . We associate with  $\theta$  the  $\sigma$ -field  $\mathcal{F}_\theta$  defined by

$$\mathcal{F}_\theta = \{A \in \mathcal{F}_\infty \mid A \cap \{\theta = n\} \in \mathcal{F}_n \text{ for each } n \in N\};$$

$\mathcal{F}_\theta$  is "the  $\sigma$ -field of events prior to time  $\theta$ ."

We denote by  $T_f$  the set of all stopping times  $\sigma$  that are finite a.s., that is, such that  $P(\{\sigma < +\infty\}) = 1$ . We denote by  $T$  the set of all bounded stopping times, that is, the set of all stopping times  $\sigma: \Omega \rightarrow N$ , assuming only finitely many values. Clearly  $T$  is a proper subset of  $T_f$ . We recall also that if  $\sigma, \tau$  belong to  $T_f$ , the relation  $\sigma \leq \tau$  implies  $\mathcal{F}_\sigma \subset \mathcal{F}_\tau$ .

Let now  $S$  be a subset of  $T_f$ . For each  $\tau \in T_f$  we define

$$S(\tau) = \{\sigma \in S \mid \sigma \geq \tau\};$$

in particular, for each  $n \in N$

$$S(n) = \{\sigma \in S \mid \sigma \geq n\}.$$

For  $X \in L^1 = L^1_{\mathbb{R}}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  we write

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$$\|X\|_1 = \int_{\Omega} |X(\omega)| dP(\omega).$$

We say that a sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of elements of  $L^1$  is  $L^1$ -bounded if

$$\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|X_n\|_1 < +\infty.$$

If  $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F}$  is a sub- $\sigma$ -field of  $\mathcal{F}$ , we denote by  $E^{\mathcal{G}}$  the conditional expectation operator in  $L^1$ .

Below whenever we speak of r.v.'s we shall always mean real-valued random variables.

A sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of r.v.'s is called adapted (relative to  $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ ) if each  $X_n$  is  $\mathcal{F}_n$ -measurable. If  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is an adapted sequence of r.v.'s and if  $\tau \in \mathbf{T}_{\mathcal{F}}$ , then  $X_{\tau}$  denotes the r.v. defined by  $(X_{\tau})(\omega) = X_{\tau(\omega)}(\omega)$  if  $\omega \in \{\tau < +\infty\}$ , and  $(X_{\tau})(\omega) = 0$  otherwise. Note that  $X_{\tau}$  is always  $\mathcal{F}_{\tau}$ -measurable.

### §1. Sufficiently rich sets of stopping times and measurable cluster points

We begin with the following definition:

Definition 1. We say that a set  $\mathbf{S} \subset \mathbf{T}_{\mathcal{F}}$  is sufficiently rich if:

- a) For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathbf{S}(n) \neq \emptyset$ ;
- b) (Localization) For each finite family  $(\tau_j)_{j \in J}$  of stopping times with  $\tau_j \in \mathbf{S}$  (for  $j \in J$ ) and finite partition of  $\Omega$ ,  $(A_j)_{j \in J}$  with  $A_j \in \mathcal{F}_{\tau_j}$  (for  $j \in J$ ), if we set  $\tau(\omega) = \tau_j(\omega)$  for  $\omega \in A_j$  ( $j \in J$ ), then  $\tau \in \mathbf{S}$ .

Remark. If  $\mathbf{S} \subset \mathbf{T}_{\mathcal{F}}$  is sufficiently rich, then for any  $\sigma \in \mathbf{S}, \tau \in \mathbf{S}$ , the stopping times  $\sigma \vee \tau$  and  $\sigma \wedge \tau$  belong to  $\mathbf{S}$  (note that the set  $\{\sigma \leq \tau\}$  belongs both to  $\mathcal{F}_{\sigma}$  and  $\mathcal{F}_{\tau}$ ).

Examples. 1) The sets  $\mathbf{T}$  and  $\mathbf{T}_{\mathcal{F}}$  clearly are sufficiently rich.

2) If  $\mathbf{S} \subset \mathbf{T}$  is sufficiently rich and if  $\mathbf{S}$  contains the constants, then  $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{T}$ .

3) Let  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be an adapted sequence of r.v.'s and let  $B \subset \mathbb{R}$  be a Borel set which is recurrent for  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ ; this means that a.s. for  $\omega \in \Omega$ , the sequence  $(X_n(\omega))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  visits the set  $B$  infinitely many times. Let  $\mathbf{S}$  be the set of all  $\tau \in \mathbb{T}_f$  with the property that  $P(\{X_\tau \in B\}) = 1$ . Then the set  $\mathbf{S}$  is sufficiently rich.

Definition 2. Let  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be an adapted sequence of r.v.'s and let  $\mathbf{S} \subset \mathbb{T}_f$  be a sufficiently rich set of stopping times. We say that a r.v.  $Y$  is a measurable cluster point of the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  relative to  $\mathbf{S}$  and we write  $Y \in \mathfrak{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}; \mathbf{S}]$  if: there is a sequence  $(\tau_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  with  $\tau_n \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  such that  $X_{\tau_n} \rightarrow Y$  a.s.

Remarks. 1) Suppose  $\mathbf{S} = \mathbb{T}$ . In this case every r.v.  $Y$  which coincides a.s. with an  $\mathcal{F}_\infty$ -measurable one and having the property that a.s. for  $\omega \in \Omega$ ,  $Y(\omega)$  is a cluster value of the sequence  $(X_n(\omega))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , belongs to  $\mathfrak{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}; \mathbb{T}]$  (see for instance Theorem 1 in [4]). We write  $\mathfrak{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}] = \mathfrak{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}; \mathbb{T}]$  and we speak of the elements of  $\mathfrak{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}]$  as the measurable cluster points of the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

2) Let  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be an adapted sequence of r.v.'s and for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $P(k)$  be a measurable property that the process  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  might satisfy. We assume that: i) For each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the set

$$\{\omega \in \Omega \mid \text{the process } (X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ satisfies } P(k)\}$$

belongs to  $\mathcal{F}_k$ . ii) For almost every  $\omega \in \Omega$ , the process  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  satisfies  $P(k)$  for all  $k$  large enough, that is, for all  $k \geq k_\omega$  (here the integer  $k_\omega$  may depend on  $\omega$ ). Let  $\mathbf{S}$  be the set of all  $\tau \in \mathbb{T}_f$  satisfying: on the set  $\{\tau = k\}$  the process  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  satisfies  $P(k)$ . Then the set  $\mathbf{S}$  is sufficiently rich and it is easily seen that  $\mathfrak{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}; \mathbf{S}] = \mathfrak{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}]$ .

§2. The submartingales associated with  $X$ , the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the set  $\mathbf{S}$

From now on, through the rest of the paper we shall assume that:

$(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is an adapted sequence of elements of  $L^1$ , and  $\mathbf{S} \subset \mathbf{T}_f$  is a sufficiently rich set of stopping times such that  $X_\tau \in L^1$  for each  $\tau \in \mathbf{S}$ .

Our starting point is an idea proposed by Baxter (see [2]; see also [4]) which we expand as follows:

Proposition 1. Let  $X \in L^1$ . For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  define  $\mu_n: \mathcal{F}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  by

$$\mu_n(A) = \inf_A \left\{ \int |X - X_\tau| dP \mid \tau \in \mathbf{S}(n) \right\}, \quad \text{for } A \in \mathcal{F}_n.$$

There is then a positive submartingale  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  (relative to  $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of course) such that for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\mu_n(A) = \int_A S_n dP, \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{F}_n.$$

Proof: The fact that

(1)  $\mu_n: \mathcal{F}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  is finitely additive is an immediate consequence of the "localization" property b) of  $\mathbf{S}$ . Note also that if we fix  $\tau(n) \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  then

$$(2) \mu_n(A) \leq \int_A |X - X_{\tau(n)}| dP, \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{F}_n.$$

Properties (1) and (2) imply in particular that  $\mu_n$  is countably additive and absolutely continuous with respect to the restriction  $P|_{\mathcal{F}_n}$ . This yields the existence of  $S_n \in L^1(\mathcal{F}_n)$ ,  $S_n \geq 0$  satisfying

$$\mu_n(A) = \int_A S_n dP, \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{F}_n.$$

It is clear that the sequence  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  satisfies the submartingale property relative to  $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  (for the definition and basic properties of submartingales; see for instance Chap. IV in [8]).

Definition 3. We call the sequence  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of Proposition 1 the submartingale of type (I) associated with X, the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the set S.

With the notation of Proposition 1 we have:

Corollary 1. The submartingale  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is  $L^1$ -bounded if and only if there is a sequence  $(\tau(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  with  $\tau(n) \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  such that  $(X_{\tau(n)})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is  $L^1$ -bounded. In particular, this is the case if S contains the constants and

$$\liminf_n \|X_n\|_1 < \infty.$$

Proof: Immediate consequence of the definition of  $\mu_n$  and  $S_n$ .

Corollary 2. Suppose that there is a sequence  $(\tau(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  with  $\tau(n) \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  such that  $(X_{\tau(n)})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly integrable. Then the submartingale  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly integrable. In particular this is the case if S contains the constants and if there is a subsequence of  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  which is uniformly integrable.

Proof: Corollary 2 follows easily from formula (2) (in the proof of Proposition 1) if we note that

$$0 \leq S_n \leq E^{\mathcal{F}_n}(|X|) + E^{\mathcal{F}_n}(|X_{\tau(n)}|), \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{N}$$

and if we recall that whenever  $\mathcal{H} \subset L^1$  is uniformly integrable, then the set

$$\{E^{\mathcal{G}}(Y) \mid Y \in \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F} \text{ an arbitrary sub-}\sigma\text{-field}\}$$

is also uniformly integrable (for an elegant treatment of uniform integrability see [7], pp. 16-17).

Corollary 3. Assume that the submartingale  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is  $L^1$ -bounded. Then: i) For each  $\sigma \in \mathbf{T}_f$ ,  $S_\sigma$  is integrable; ii) if  $\sigma \in \mathbf{T}_f$  is such that  $S(\sigma) \neq \emptyset$  then we also have



$$(3) \int_A S_\sigma dP \leq \inf_A \left\{ \int |X - X_\tau| dP \mid \tau \in \mathbf{S}(\sigma) \right\}, \quad \text{for } A \in \mathcal{F}_\sigma.$$

Proof: i) is an immediate consequence of the  $L^1$ -boundedness of  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the submartingale property.

ii) Let  $\sigma \in \mathbf{T}_f$  such that  $\mathbf{S}(\sigma) \neq \emptyset$  and let  $A \in \mathcal{F}_\sigma$ . Take any  $\tau \in \mathbf{S}(\sigma)$ . For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $A_n = A \cap \{\sigma = n\}$ . Then  $A_n \in \mathcal{F}_n$  and  $A_n \in \mathcal{F}_\sigma \subset \mathcal{F}_\tau$ ; choose now  $\sigma_n \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  and define

$$\tau_n(\omega) = \tau(\omega) \quad \text{for } \omega \in A_n, \quad \tau_n(\omega) = \sigma_n(\omega) \quad \text{for } \omega \in (A_n)^c.$$

Clearly  $\tau_n \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_A S_\sigma dP &= \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_{A_n} S_n dP \\ &\leq \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_{A_n} |X - X_{\tau_n}| dP = \int_A |X - X_\tau| dP \end{aligned}$$

which proves (3).

Remarks. 1) If  $\sigma \in \mathbf{S}$ , then clearly  $\mathbf{S}(\sigma) \neq \emptyset$ .

2) With the notation of Corollary 3, if  $\sigma$  assumes only finitely many values, i.e. if  $\sigma \in \mathbf{T}$ , then as is easily seen, we actually have equality in (3).

We now show how one can associate a second type of submartingale with  $X$ , the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the set  $\mathbf{S}$ :

Proposition 2. Let  $X \in L^1$ . For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  define  $\gamma_n: \mathcal{F}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  by

$$\gamma_n(A) = \inf_A \left\{ \int |X - (X_\sigma - X_\tau)| dP \mid \sigma, \tau \in \mathbf{S}(n) \right\},$$

for  $A \in \mathcal{F}_n$ . There is then a positive submartingale  $(G_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  (relative to  $(\mathcal{F}_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of course) such that for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\gamma_n(A) = \int_A G_n dP, \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{F}_n.$$

The submartingale  $(G_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is always  $L^1$ -bounded and even uniformly integrable.

Proof: We note that (take  $\sigma = \tau$ )

$$(4) \quad \gamma_n(A) \leq \int_A |X| dP, \quad \text{for all } A \in \mathcal{F}_n.$$

The existence of the submartingale  $(G_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  follows by an argument similar to that used in the proof of Proposition 1. The  $L^1$ -boundedness of  $(G_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and even the uniform integrability of  $(G_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  follow from inequality (4) (see the argument in the proof of Corollary 2 above).

Definition 4. We call the sequence  $(G_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of Proposition 2 the submartingale of type (II) associated with X, the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the set S.

§3. The main result: Submartingale characterization of measurable cluster points.

The result is the following:

Theorem 1. Suppose that there is a sequence  $(\tau(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  with  $\tau(n) \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  such that  $(X_{\tau(n)})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is  $L^1$ -bounded. Let  $Y \in L^1$  and let  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be the submartingale of type (I) associated with Y, the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the set S. Then the following assertions are equivalent:

(i) The r.v. Y is a measurable cluster point of the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  relative to S, that is,  $Y \in \mathcal{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}; \mathbf{S}]$ .

(ii) The submartingale  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  converges to zero a.s.

Proof: (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). By assumption  $S_n \rightarrow 0$  in probability. Thus for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we can find an integer  $k(n) \geq n$  and a set  $A(n) \in \mathcal{F}_{k(n)}$  such that

$$\mu_{k(n)}(A(n)) = \int_{A(n)} S_{k(n)} dP < \frac{1}{n} \quad \text{and} \quad P((A(n))^c) < \frac{1}{n}.$$

By the definition of  $\mu_{k(n)}$  there is then  $\tau_n \in \mathbf{S}(k(n))$  such that

$$\int_{A(n)} |Y - X_{\tau_n}| dP < \frac{1}{n} \quad \text{and of course} \quad P((A(n))^c) < \frac{1}{n}.$$

It is then clear that  $\tau_n \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and that  $X_{\tau_n} \rightarrow Y$  in probability.

Thus  $Y \in \mathfrak{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}; \mathbf{S}]$ .

(i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). Let  $(\xi(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence with  $\xi(n) \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  such that  $X_{\xi(n)} \rightarrow Y$  a.s.

By Corollary 1 in Section 2, the submartingale  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is  $L^1$ -bounded and hence by the "Doob a.s. convergence theorem for submartingales" (see for instance [8], p. 63),  $\lim_n S_n(\omega)$  exists a.s.; to identify the limit it suffices to show that for some sequence of stopping times  $(\sigma_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  with  $\sigma_k \in \mathbf{S}(k)$  we have

$$(1) \quad S_{\sigma_k} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{in probability.}$$

By assumption  $Y$  is integrable and  $Y$  coincides a.s. with an  $\mathcal{F}_\infty$ -measurable r.v.; hence if we let  $Y_n = E_n^{\mathcal{F}}(Y)$ , then  $\|Y - Y_n\|_1 \rightarrow 0$  (see for instance [8], pp. 103-104). In particular then  $Y_n - X_{\xi(n)} \rightarrow 0$  in probability. Choose now an increasing sequence of integers  $(n_k)$  such that

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} \|Y - Y_{n_k}\|_1 \leq \frac{1}{k} \\ P(\{|Y_{n_k} - X_{\xi(n_k)}| \geq \frac{1}{k}\}) \leq \frac{1}{k}. \end{cases}$$

Since  $Y_{n_k}$  is  $\mathcal{F}_{n_k}$ -measurable and  $n_k \leq \xi(n_k)$ , the set  $B(k) = \{|Y_{n_k} - X_{\xi(n_k)}| < \frac{1}{k}\}$  belongs to  $\mathcal{F}_{\xi(n_k)}$ . Using Corollary 3 in Section 2 and

(2) above we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B(k)} S_{\xi(n_k)} dP &\leq \int_{B(k)} |Y - X_{\xi(n_k)}| dP \leq \frac{1}{k} + \int_{B(k)} |Y_{n_k} - X_{\xi(n_k)}| dP \\ &\leq \frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{k} = \frac{2}{k} \end{aligned}$$

and of course  $P((B(k))^c) \leq 1/k$ . Setting  $\sigma_k = \xi(n_k)$  yields (1) and thus finishes the proof.

Remark. The above theorem gives (under suitable assumptions) a characterization of the integrable elements  $Y \in \mathfrak{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}; \mathbf{S}]$ . This extends Theorem 1 of [4].

§4. Consequences

From Theorem 1 we easily obtain the following result which generalizes a theorem of Baxter [2] (see also Theorem 2 of [4]):

Theorem 2. Suppose that there is a sequence  $(\tau(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  with  $\tau(n) \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  such that  $(X_{\tau(n)})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is  $L^1$ -bounded. Let  $Y$  and  $Z$  be integrable elements of  $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{C}[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}]; \mathbf{S})$ . Then the submartingale of type (II) associated with  $X = Y - Z$ , the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the set  $\mathbf{S}$  is identically zero and hence there are sequences  $(\sigma'(k))_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(\sigma''(k))_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  with  $\sigma'(k) \in \mathbf{S}(k)$ ,  $\sigma''(k) \in \mathbf{S}(k)$  such that

$$\lim_k \|(Y - Z) - (X_{\sigma'(k)} - X_{\sigma''(k)})\|_1 = 0.$$

Proof: Let  $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  — respectively  $(T_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  — be the submartingales of type (I) associated with  $Y$ , the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the set  $\mathbf{S}$  — respectively with  $Z$ , the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the set  $\mathbf{S}$ . Let  $(G_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be the submartingale of type (II) associated with  $X = Y - Z$ , the sequence  $(X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and the set  $\mathbf{S}$ . Now  $S_n, T_n, G_n$  correspond respectively to the set functions  $\mu_n, \nu_n$  and  $\gamma_n$  defined on  $\mathcal{F}_n$ . From the obvious inequality  $\gamma_n \leq \mu_n + \nu_n$  follows that  $0 \leq G_n \leq S_n + T_n$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . By Theorem 1 in Section 3,  $\lim_n S_n(\omega) = \lim_n T_n(\omega) = 0$  a.s. We deduce that

$$\lim_n G_n(\omega) = 0 \text{ a.s.}$$

But  $(G_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly integrable by Proposition 2 in Section 2; as the sequence  $(\int G_n dP)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  increases and must converge to zero, we deduce the desired conclusion:  $G_n = 0$  a.s. for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We shall need two more observations which we state in the form of lemmas:

Lemma 1. For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$\sup_{\substack{(\sigma, \tau) \\ \sigma, \tau \in \mathbf{S}(n)}} \int (X_\tau - X_\sigma) dP = \sup_{\substack{(\sigma, \tau) \\ \sigma, \tau \in \mathbf{S} \\ \tau \geq \sigma \geq n}} \int |E^{\mathcal{F}_\sigma}(X_\tau) - X_\sigma| dP$$

Proof: Easy: Note that for  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathbf{S}$ , the set  $A = \{\sigma \leq \tau\}$  belongs to both  $\mathcal{F}_\sigma$  and  $\mathcal{F}_\tau$  [respectively, for  $\sigma, \tau \in \mathbf{S}$  with  $\tau \geq \sigma$ , the set  $B = \{X_\sigma \leq E^{\mathcal{F}_\sigma}(X_\tau)\}$  belongs to  $\mathcal{F}_\sigma \subset \mathcal{F}_\tau$ ] and then use the "localization" property b) of  $\mathbf{S}$ .

Lemma 2. Let  $Y$  and  $Z$  be elements of  $\mathcal{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}}; \mathbf{S}]$ . Then  $Y \vee Z$  and  $Y \wedge Z$  also belong to  $\mathcal{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}}; \mathbf{S}]$ .

Proof: Elementary (use again the "localization" property of  $\mathbf{S}$ ).

Using Lemmas 1 and 2 we may easily derive the following corollary of Theorem 2 which extends the "Generalized Fatou Inequality" of Chacon ([5]; see also [2] and [4]):

Theorem 3 (Generalized Fatou Inequality). Suppose that there is a sequence  $(\tau(n))_{n \in \mathbf{N}}$  with  $\tau(n) \in \mathbf{S}(n)$  such that  $(X_{\tau(n)})_{n \in \mathbf{N}}$  is  $L^1$ -bounded. Let  $Y$  and  $Z$  be integrable elements of  $\mathcal{M}^c[(X_n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}}; \mathbf{S}]$ . Then we have for each  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ :

$$(I) \quad \int (Y - Z) dP \leq \sup_{\substack{(\sigma, \tau) \\ \sigma, \tau \in \mathbf{S}(n)}} \int (X_\tau - X_\sigma) dP;$$

or alternatively,

$$(I') \quad \int |Y - Z| dP \leq \sup_{\substack{(\sigma, \tau) \\ \sigma, \tau \in \mathbf{S} \\ \tau \geq \sigma \geq n}} \int |E^{\mathcal{F}_\sigma}(X_\tau) - X_\sigma| dP.$$

Remarks. 1) For other related results, such as the "amart convergence theorem" see for instance [4] (see also [1],[6],[3]).

2) Further applications of the above techniques will be given in a forthcoming paper.

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