

A MAXIMAL INEQUALITY FOR NONNEGATIVE SUB- AND SUPERMARTINGALES

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Abstract. Let $X = (X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a nonnegative semimartingale and $H = (H_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a predictable process taking values in $[-1, 1]$. Let Y denote the stochastic integral of H with respect to X . We show that

(i) If X is a supermartingale, then

$$\|\sup_{t \geq 0} Y_t\|_1 \leq 3 \|\sup_{t \geq 0} X_t\|_1$$

and the constant 3 is the best possible.

(ii) If X is a submartingale satisfying $\|X\|_\infty \leq 1$, then

$$\|\sup_{t \geq 0} Y_t\|_p \leq 2\Gamma(p+1)^{1/p}, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty.$$

The constant $2\Gamma(p+1)^{1/p}$ is the best possible.

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