Uniform oscillations of the local time of iterated Brownian motion

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Burdzy and Khoshnevisan in 1995, Csáki *et al.* in 1996 and Xiao in 1997 have given some interesting information about the modulus of continuity of the local time of iterated Brownian motion. The aim of this paper is to provide the exact rate functions, respectively for the modulus of continuity and for the modulus of non-differentiability. Our approach strongly relies on Ray–Knight theorems for Brownian local times and on fine properties of Bessel processes.

Keywords: iterated Brownian motion; local time; modulus of continuity; modulus of non-differentiability

1. Introduction

Consider the real-valued process

$$Z(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} X_{+}(Y(t)), & \text{if } Y(t) \ge 0, \\ X_{-}(Y(t)), & \text{if } Y(t) < 0, \end{cases} \quad t \ge 0,$$

where $\{X_+(u); u \ge 0\}$, $\{X_-(u); u \ge 0\}$ and $\{Y(t); t \ge 0\}$ are three independent onedimensional Brownian motions, starting from 0. The study of Z, the so-called "iterated Brownian motion" process (terminology coined by Burdzy (1993)), has motivated several groups of mathematicians. We refer to Hu (1996, Chapter III) for a detailed survey. Let us also mention more recent work by Bertoin and Shi (1996), Csáki *et al.* (1996; 1997a,b), Csáki and Földes (1997), Khoshnevisan and Lewis (1997), Shi and Yor (1997) and Xiao (1997).

The present paper focuses on the local time of Z. It was proved independently by Burdzy and Khoshnevisan (1995) and Csáki *et al.* (1996) that there exists a jointly continuous version of $\{L_t^x(Z); t \ge 0, x \in \mathbb{R}\}$, the local time process of Z. Furthermore, it can be represented as

$$L_t^x(Z) = \int_0^\infty L_t^u(Y) \, \mathrm{d}_u L_u^x(X_+) + \int_0^\infty L_t^{-u}(Y) \, \mathrm{d}_u L_u^x(X_-), \tag{1.1}$$

where $L(\xi)$ denotes the local time of ξ , for any stochastic process ξ indexed by \mathbb{R}_+ .

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It is certainly interesting to study the (uniform) modulus of continuity of $t \mapsto L_t^x(Z)$, in the sense of Lévy (1939). Some interesting estimates were presented in the papers by Burdzy and Khoshnevisan (1995) and Csáki *et al.* (1996), which have been since improved by Xiao (1997). Let

$$\omega(h) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup_{0 \le t \le 1 - h} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{t+h}^{x}(Z) - L_{t}^{x}(Z) \}, \qquad 0 < h < 1.$$
 (1.2)

It was shown by Xiao (1997) that

$$\limsup_{h \to 0} \frac{\omega(h)}{h^{3/4} |\log h|^{3/4}} \le c_1, \quad \text{a.s.},$$
 (1.3)

for some (finite) universal constant $c_1 > 0$.

One may wonder if $h^{3/4}|\log h|^{3/4}$ is the correct rate function for $\omega(h)$. The answer is yes.

Theorem 1.1. Let $\omega(h)$ be as in (1.2). There exists a universal constant $c_2 > 0$ such that

$$\liminf_{h \to 0} \frac{\omega(h)}{h^{3/4} |\log h|^{3/4}} \ge c_2, \quad \text{a.s.}$$

The above provides an accurate picture of the modulus of continuity of L(Z), up to multiplication by a constant. It is also natural to investigate the corresponding liminf behaviour of L(Z), i.e. its "modulus of non-differentiability" in the sense of Csörgő and Révész (1979). Define

$$\eta(h) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf_{0 \le t \le 1 - h} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{t+h}^{x}(Z) - L_{t}^{x}(Z) \}, \qquad 0 < h < 1.$$
(1.4)

Our next result determines the exact order of magnitude of $\eta(h)$ when h is small.

Theorem 1.2. Let $\eta(h)$ be as in (1.4); then

$$c_3 \le \liminf_{h \to 0} \frac{|\log h|^{3/4}}{h^{3/4}} \eta(h) \le \limsup_{h \to 0} \frac{|\log h|^{3/4}}{h^{3/4}} \eta(h) \le c_4,$$
 a.s.,

where $c_3 > 0$ and $c_4 > 0$ are absolute constants.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 is devoted to some preliminaries on Brownian local times and Bessel processes. Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 are proved in Sections 3 and 4 respectively.

Throughout the paper, unless stated otherwise, $c_i > 0$ $(1 \le i \le 30)$ denote absolute constants.

2. Preliminaries

Let $\{Y(t); t \ge 0\}$ as before denote standard one-dimensional Brownian motion, and let $\{R_d(t); t \ge 0\}$ be a *d*-dimensional $(d \ge 0)$ Bessel process. Unless stated otherwise, we shall

assume that $R_d(0) = 0$. For general properties of R_d , we refer to Revuz and Yor (1994, Chapter XI). We mention that, when d is a positive integer, R_d can be realized as the Euclidean modulus of d-dimensional Brownian motion.

Lemma 2.1. Fix 0 < a < 1. There exists $c_5(a) > 0$, depending only on a such that, for all $0 < \epsilon \le 1$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{0 \le x \le \epsilon} L_1^x(Y) > \frac{a}{\epsilon}\right) \ge \exp\left(-\frac{c_5(a)}{\epsilon^2}\right). \tag{2.1}$$

Proof. We only have to treat the situation when ϵ is in the neighbourhood of 0. Consider the first hitting time of 1 by Y:

$$\sigma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf\{t > 0: Y(t) = 1\}.$$

Let Δ_1 denote the probability term on the left-hand side of (2.1). By scaling, for any fixed constant 0 < b < 1 (whose value is to be chosen later),

$$\begin{split} & \Delta_1 = \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{0 \leq x \leq b} L^x_{(b/\epsilon)^2}(Y) > \frac{ab}{\epsilon^2}\right) \\ & \geqslant \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{0 \leq x \leq b} L^x_{\sigma}(Y) > \frac{ab}{\epsilon^2}; \ \sigma < \frac{b^2}{\epsilon^2}\right) \\ & = \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{0 \leq x \leq b} L^x_{\sigma}(Y) > \frac{ab}{\epsilon^2}; \ \int_0^1 L^{1-x}_{\sigma}(Y) \, \mathrm{d}x + \int_0^\infty L^{-x}_{\sigma}(Y) \, \mathrm{d}x < \frac{b^2}{\epsilon^2}\right). \end{split}$$

According to the first Ray-Knight theorem (cf. for example, Rogers and Williams (1987, Theorem VI.52.1)), $\{L_{\sigma}^{1-x}(Y); x \ge 0\}$ is an inhomogeneous Markov process. More precisely, it is a two-dimensional squared Bessel process starting from 0 for $0 \le x \le 1$ and becomes a squared Bessel process of dimension 0 for $x \ge 1$. Hence,

$$\Delta_1 \geqslant \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{1-b\leqslant t\leqslant 1} R_2^2(t) > \frac{ab}{\epsilon^2}; \int_0^1 R_2^2(t) \,\mathrm{d}t + \int_0^\infty U^2(t) \,\mathrm{d}t < \frac{b^2}{\epsilon^2}\right),$$

where U denotes a Bessel process of dimension 0, starting from $U(0) = R_2(1)$. By scaling, if $\{V(t); t \ge 0\}$ stands for a Bessel process of dimension 0 with V(0) = 1, independent of R_2 , then

$$\Delta_1 \ge \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{1-b \le t \le 1} R_2(t) > \frac{(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon}; \int_0^1 R_2^2(t) dt + R_2^4(1) \int_0^\infty V^2(t) dt < \frac{b^2}{\epsilon^2}\right).$$

Since a < 1, we can choose 0 < b < 1, q > 0 and r > v > u > 1 such that

$$v^2ab(1-b) + r^2ab^2 + qr^4a^2b^2 < b^2$$
.

Consequently,

$$\Delta_{1} \geq \mathbb{P}\left(\int_{0}^{\infty} V^{2}(t) \, \mathrm{d}t < q\epsilon^{2}\right) \mathbb{P}\left(R_{2}(t) \leq \frac{v(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon} \text{ for all } 0 \leq t \leq 1 - b;\right)$$

$$\frac{(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon} \leq R_{2}(t) \leq \frac{r(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon} \text{ for all } 1 - b \leq t \leq 1.$$
(2.2)

Let us estimate $\mathbb{P}\{\int_0^\infty V^2(t) \, \mathrm{d}t < q\epsilon^2\} = \mathbb{P}_1\{\int_0^\infty R_0^2(t) \, \mathrm{d}t < q\epsilon^2\}$, where \mathbb{P}_x denotes the probability under which R_d starts from x (thus $\mathbb{P}_0 = \mathbb{P}$). Write $H_0(r) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf\{t \ge 0: R_0(t) = r\}$ for all $r \ge 0$. By the strong Markov property,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\int_0^\infty V^2(t) \, \mathrm{d}t < q\epsilon^2\right) \ge \mathbb{P}_1\left(H_0(0) < \frac{q\epsilon^2}{4}; \ H_0(2) = \infty\right)$$
$$\ge \mathbb{P}_1\left(H_0(0) < \frac{q\epsilon^2}{4}\right) - \mathbb{P}_2\left(H_0(0) < \frac{q\epsilon^2}{4}\right).$$

It is known that $H_0(0)$ under \mathbb{P}_r is distributed as $\mathcal{L}_4(r) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup\{t > 0: R_4(t) = r\}$ under \mathbb{P} (cf. Revuz and Yor (1994, Exercise XI.1.23)). The law of the latter variable is calculated by Getoor (1979) (cf. also Khoshnevisan *et al.* (1994) and Yor (1992)):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbb{P} \{ \mathcal{L}_4(r) < t \} = \frac{r^2}{2t^2} \exp \left(-\frac{r^2}{2t} \right) \mathbf{1}_{\{t > 0\}}.$$

Therefore, for all small ϵ ,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\int_0^\infty V^2(t)\,\mathrm{d}t < q\epsilon^2\right) \ge \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{P}_1\left(H_0(0) < \frac{q\epsilon^2}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\exp\left(-\frac{2}{q\epsilon^2}\right) \ge \exp\left(-\frac{c_6(a)}{\epsilon^2}\right),$$

where $c_6(a) > 0$ denotes a constant depending only on a. Going back to (2.2) and using the Markov property,

$$\Delta_{1} \ge \exp\left(-\frac{c_{6}(a)}{\epsilon^{2}}\right) \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{0 \le t \le 1-b} R_{2}(t) \le \frac{v(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon}; R_{2}(1-b) \ge \frac{u(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon}\right)$$

$$\times \inf_{u(ab)^{1/2}/\epsilon \le x \le v(ab)^{1/2}/\epsilon} \mathbb{P}_{x}\left(\frac{(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon} \le R_{2}(t) \le \frac{r(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon} \text{ for all } 0 \le t \le b\right). \quad (2.3)$$

Recall that R_2 is the modulus of Brownian motion in \mathbb{R}^2 . By Gaussian tail estimates, for each s > 0,

$$egin{aligned} \log \mathbb{P} \Bigl(\sup_{0 \leqslant t \leqslant s} R_2(t) \geqslant \lambda \Bigr) \sim -rac{\lambda^2}{2s}, & \lambda o \infty, \ \log \mathbb{P} \{R_2(s) \geqslant \lambda\} \sim -rac{\lambda^2}{2s}, & \lambda o \infty, \end{aligned}$$

where the usual notation $a(x) \sim b(x)$ $(x \to x_0)$ denotes $\lim_{x \to x_0} \{a(x)/b(x)\} = 1$. Therefore, letting Δ_2 denote the first probability term on the right-hand side of (2.3),

$$\Delta_{2} \geq \mathbb{P}\left(R_{2}(1-b) \geq \frac{u(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon}\right) - \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1-b} R_{2}(t) \geq \frac{v(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon}\right)$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{P}\left(R_{2}(1-b) \geq \frac{u(ab)^{1/2}}{\epsilon}\right)$$

$$\geq \exp\left(-\frac{c_{7}u^{2}ab}{(1-b)\epsilon^{2}}\right). \tag{2.4}$$

On the other hand, by the scaling property, the infimum term on the right-hand side of (2.3) equals

$$\inf_{u(ab)^{1/2} \leqslant x \leqslant v(ab)^{1/2}} \mathbb{P}_x \{ (ab)^{1/2} \leqslant R_2(t) \leqslant r(ab)^{1/2} \text{ for all } 0 \leqslant t \leqslant b\epsilon^2 \},$$

which is bounded below by a positive constant depending only on a. This, together with (2.3) and (2.4), yields Lemma 2.1.

Lemma 2.2. For d > 0 and $x \ge 0$, let

$$H_d(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf\{t \ge 0: R_d(t) = x\}. \tag{2.5}$$

Whenever r > 0.

$$\int_0^{H_d(r)} R_d^2(t) dt \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} H_{1+d/2}\left(\frac{r^2}{2}\right),$$

where $\stackrel{\text{law}}{=}$ denotes identity in distribution.

Proof. It is possible to directly prove Lemma 2.2 using Itô's calculus, but it turns out to be more convenient to apply the change of dimension theorem for Bessel processes given by Biane and Yor (1987) (cf. for example Revuz and Yor (1994, Proposition XI.1.11)) which asserts the existence of a coupling for R_d and $R_{1+d/2}$ such that

$$2R_{1+d/2}^{1/2}(t) = R_d(A(t)), t \ge 0,$$

where $A(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_0^t ds / R_{1+d/2}(s)$. Consequently,

$$A^{-1}(t) = \frac{1}{4} \int_0^t R_d^2(s) \, \mathrm{d}s, \qquad t \ge 0.$$

Accordingly, for each x > 0,

$$\inf\{t > 0: R_{1+d/2}(t) = x\} \stackrel{\text{law}}{=} A^{-1}(H_d(2x^{1/2})) = \frac{1}{4} \int_0^{H_d(2x^{1/2})} R_d^2(s) \, \mathrm{d}s,$$

which implies Lemma 2.2 by scaling and taking $x = r^2/4$.

Lemma 2.3. There exist universal constants $c_8 > 0$ and $c_9 > 0$ such that, for any $0 < \epsilon \le 1$,

$$\exp\left(-\frac{c_8}{\epsilon^2}\right) \leq \mathbb{P}\left\{\left(\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} L_1^x(Y)\right)^2 \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} |Y(t)| < \epsilon\right\} \leq \exp\left(-\frac{c_9}{\epsilon^2}\right). \tag{2.6}$$

The proof of Lemma 2.3 is based on a Ray-Knight theorem due to Eisenbaum (1990). To be precise, let

$$\alpha \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf \left(t > 0 : \sup_{x \ge 0} L_t^x(Y) = 1 \right). \tag{2.7}$$

The following theorem characterizes the distribution of the process $\{L_a^x(Y); x \in \mathbb{R}\}$. We write $\overline{Y}(\alpha) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup_{0 \le t \le a} Y(t)$ for brevity.

Theorem 2.1 (Eisenbaum 1990). The random variable $L_a^0(Y)$ is uniformly distributed in (0, 1). Moreover, given $L_a^0(Y) = \lambda \in (0, 1)$,

$$\left\{L_{\alpha}^{-x}(Y);\,x\geq0\right\},\,\left\{L_{\alpha}^{x}(Y);\,0\leq x\leq Y(\alpha)\right\}$$

and

$$\{L_{\alpha}^{\overline{Y}(\alpha)-x}(Y); 0 \le x \le \overline{Y}(\alpha) - Y(\alpha)\}$$

are three independent processes, the first being a squared Bessel process of dimension 0, starting from λ , the second a two-dimensional squared Bessel process starting from λ and killed when hitting 1 for the first time, and the third a four-dimensional squared Bessel process starting from 0, killed when hitting 1.

Proof of Lemma 2.3. Only the situation of small ϵ needs to be treated. The upper bound in (2.6) in easy. Indeed,

$$\begin{split} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} L_1^x(Y) \sup_{0 \leqslant t \leqslant 1} |Y(t)| &\geqslant \frac{1}{2} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} L_1^x(Y) \Big(\sup_{0 \leqslant t \leqslant 1} Y(t) - \inf_{0 \leqslant t \leqslant 1} Y(t) \Big) \\ &\geqslant \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} L_1^x(Y) \, \mathrm{d}x \\ &= \frac{1}{2}. \end{split}$$

Now the upper bound in (2.6) follows from the second inequality in the following well-known estimates due to Kesten (1965); cf. also Csáki and Földes (1986) for the best possible constants $c_{10} > 0$ and $c_{11} > 0$:

$$\exp\left(-\frac{c_{10}}{y^2}\right) \le \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} L_1^x(Y) < y\right) \le \exp\left(-\frac{c_{11}}{y^2}\right), \qquad 0 < y \le 1.$$
 (2.8)

To verify the lower estimate in (2.6), let α be as in (2.7) and let b > 0 be an absolute constant whose value is to be chosen later. Let Δ_3 denote the probability term in (2.6). By scaling,

$$\begin{split} &\Delta_3 = \mathbb{P} \left\{ \left(\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} L_{b^2/\epsilon^2}^x(Y) \right)^2 \sup_{0 \leqslant t \leqslant b^2/\epsilon^2} |Y(t)| < \frac{b^3}{\epsilon^2} \right\} \\ &\geqslant \mathbb{P} \left\{ \left(\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} L_a^x(Y) \right)^2 \sup_{0 \leqslant t \leqslant a} |Y(t)| < \frac{b^3}{\epsilon^2}; \ \alpha \geqslant \frac{b^2}{\epsilon^2} \right\} \\ &\geqslant \mathbb{P} \left(\sup_{x \leqslant 0} L_a^x(Y) < 1; \sup_{0 \leqslant t \leqslant a} |Y(t)| < \frac{b^3}{\epsilon^2}; \ \alpha \geqslant \frac{b^2}{\epsilon^2}; \frac{1}{3} \leqslant L_a^0(Y) \leqslant \frac{1}{2} \right), \end{split}$$

where we have used the fact that $\sup_{x\geq 0} L_a^x(Y) = 1$. Let as before \mathbb{P}_x denote the probability under which the *d*-dimensional Bessel process R_d starts from x. Recall the definition of H_d from (2.5). According to Theorem 2.1,

$$\Delta_{3} \geq \int_{1/3}^{1/2} \mathbb{P}_{\lambda^{1/2}} \left(\sup_{t \geq 0} R_{0}(t) < 1; \ H_{0}(0) < \frac{b^{3}}{\epsilon^{2}} \right) \mathbb{P}_{\lambda^{1/2}} \left(H_{2}(1) < \frac{b^{3}}{2\epsilon^{2}} \right)$$

$$\times \mathbb{P} \left(H_{4}(1) < \frac{b^{3}}{2\epsilon^{2}}; \int_{0}^{H_{4}(1)} R_{4}^{2}(t) \, \mathrm{d}t \geq \frac{b^{2}}{\epsilon^{2}} \right) \mathrm{d}\lambda.$$

Obviously,

$$\inf_{1/3 \leq \lambda \leq 1/2} \mathbb{P}_{\lambda^{1/2}} \left(\sup_{t \geq 0} R_0(t) < 1; \ H_0(0) < \frac{b^3}{\epsilon^2} \right) \geq c_{12}, \qquad \inf_{1/3 \leq \lambda \leq 1/2} \mathbb{P}_{\lambda^{1/2}} \left(H_2(1) < \frac{b^3}{2\epsilon^2} \right) \geq c_{13}.$$

As a consequence,

$$\Delta_{3} \geq c_{14} \mathbb{P} \left(H_{4}(1) < \frac{b^{3}}{2\epsilon^{2}}; \int_{0}^{H_{4}(1)} R_{4}^{2}(t) dt \geq \frac{b^{2}}{\epsilon^{2}} \right)
\geq c_{14} \mathbb{P} \left(\int_{0}^{H_{4}(1)} R_{4}^{2}(t) dt \geq \frac{b^{2}}{\epsilon^{2}} \right) - c_{14} \mathbb{P} \left(H_{4}(1) \geq \frac{b^{3}}{2\epsilon^{2}} \right)
= c_{14} \mathbb{P} \left(H_{3}(\frac{1}{2}) \geq \frac{b^{2}}{\epsilon^{2}} \right) - c_{14} \mathbb{P} \left(H_{4}(1) \geq \frac{b^{3}}{2\epsilon^{2}} \right), \tag{2.9}$$

by means of Lemma 2.2. Since $\mathbb{P}\{H_d(r) > x\} = \mathbb{P}\{\sup_{0 \le t \le x} R_d(t) < r\}$, we can use the following well-known estimate of Ciesielski and Taylor (1962): for fixed r > 0 and d > 0,

$$\log \mathbb{P}\{H_d(r) \ge y\} \sim -\frac{j_{d/2-1}^2}{2r^2}y, \qquad y \to \infty,$$

where $j_{d/2-1}$ is the smallest positive root of the Bessel function $J_{d/2-1}$. Therefore, we can choose a sufficiently large constant b such that

$$\mathbb{P}\left(H_3(\frac{1}{2}) \geqslant \frac{b^2}{\epsilon^2}\right) \geqslant 2\mathbb{P}\left(H_4(1) \geqslant \frac{b^3}{2\epsilon^2}\right) \geqslant \exp\left(-\frac{c_{15}}{\epsilon^2}\right),$$

which, jointly considered with (2.9), yields the lower estimate in Lemma 2.3.

3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Let Y be Brownian motion as before. Define a sequence of increasing stopping times $(\theta_n)_{n\geq 0}$ by recurrence: $\theta_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0$ and

$$\theta_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf\{t \ge 1 + \theta_{n-1}: Y(t) = n\}, \qquad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Define the absolute constant

$$c_{16} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{16c_s^{1/4}},\tag{3.1}$$

where $c_5 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} c_5(1/2)$ is introduced in (2.1) (taking a = 1/2 in Lemma 2.1). In the rest of this section, we shall work only for large T. Define the random variable

$$N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} N(T) = \inf(n \ge 1: \theta_n > T - 1).$$

Recall $\omega(h)$ from (1.2). By scaling,

$$\Delta_{4} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{P} \left\{ \omega \left(\frac{1}{T} \right) < c_{16} T^{-3/4} (\log T)^{3/4} \right\}
= \mathbb{P} \left(\sup_{0 \le t \le T - 1} \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{1+t}^{y}(Z) - L_{t}^{y}(Z) \} < c_{16} (\log T)^{3/4} \right)
\leq \mathbb{P}(N \le m) + \mathbb{P} \left(\max_{0 \le n \le m} \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{1+\theta_{n}}^{y}(Z) - L_{\theta_{n}}^{y}(Z) \} < c_{16} (\log T)^{3/4} \right),$$
(3.2)

where $m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [T^{1/4}]$, the integer part of $T^{1/4}$. Let us estimate the first probability term on the right-hand side. By definition,

$$\mathbb{P}(N \leq m) = \mathbb{P}(\theta_m > T - 1) = \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{n=1}^m (\theta_n - \theta_{n-1}) > T - 1\right).$$

Observe that $(\theta_n - \theta_{n-1})_{n \ge 1}$ is a sequence of iid variables, distributed as $(1 + \mathcal{N})^2 / \tilde{\mathcal{N}}^2$, where \mathcal{N} and $\tilde{\mathcal{N}}$ denote two independent Gaussian $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ variables. Accordingly, for each n and $\lambda > 0$,

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{P}(\theta_n - \theta_{n-1} > \lambda) &= \mathbb{P}\{(1 + \mathcal{N})^2 > \lambda \tilde{\mathcal{N}}^2\} \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{N}^2 > \frac{1}{2}\lambda \tilde{\mathcal{N}}^2 - 1) \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{N}^2 > \frac{1}{4}\lambda \tilde{\mathcal{N}}^2) + \mathbb{P}\{\lambda \tilde{\mathcal{N}}^2 < 4\} \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}\{\exp(-\frac{1}{8}\lambda \tilde{\mathcal{N}}^2)\} + \mathbb{P}(\lambda \tilde{\mathcal{N}}^2 < 4) \\ &\leq \frac{c_{17}}{\lambda^{1/2}}. \end{split}$$

Therefore,

$$\mathbb{P}(N \leq m) \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\max_{1 \leq n \leq m} (\theta_n - \theta_{n-1}) > \frac{T-1}{m}\right)$$

$$= 1 - \prod_{n=1}^{m} \left\{ 1 - \mathbb{P}\left(\theta_n - \theta_{n-1} > \frac{T-1}{m}\right) \right\}$$

$$\leq 1 - \left(1 - \frac{c_{18}}{T^{3/8}}\right)^m$$

$$\leq \frac{c_{19}}{T^{1/8}}.$$

Going back to (3.2), we have

$$\Delta_4 \leq \frac{c_{19}}{T^{1/8}} + \mathbb{P}\left(\max_{0 \leq n \leq m} \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \{L_{1+\theta_n}^y(Z) - L_{\theta_n}^y(Z)\} \leq c_{16} (\log T)^{3/4}\right).$$

It remains to estimate the probability term on the right-hand side. By (1.1), for any $b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} b(T) \in (0, 1)$,

$$\begin{split} \max_{0 \leqslant n \leqslant m} \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}} & \{ L^{y}_{1+\theta_{n}}(Z) - L^{y}_{\theta_{n}}(Z) \} \\ & \geqslant \max_{0 \leqslant n \leqslant m} \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{0}^{\infty} \left\{ L^{u}_{1+\theta_{n}}(Y) - L^{u}_{\theta_{n}}(Y) \right\} \mathrm{d}_{u} L^{y}_{u}(X_{+}) \\ & \geqslant \max_{0 \leqslant n \leqslant m} \int_{n}^{n+b} \left\{ L^{u}_{1+\theta_{n}}(Y) - L^{u}_{\theta_{n}}(Y) \right\} \mathrm{d}_{u} L^{X_{+}(n)}_{u}(X_{+}) \\ & \geqslant \max_{0 \leqslant n \leqslant m} \inf_{0 \leqslant x \leqslant b} \left\{ L^{x+n}_{1+\theta_{n}}(Y) - L^{x+n}_{\theta_{n}}(Y) \right\} \left\{ L^{X_{+}(n)}_{n+b}(X_{+}) - L^{X_{+}(n)}_{n}(X_{+}) \right\}. \end{split}$$

By the strong Markov property, $\{L_{1+\theta_n}^{n+x}(Y)-L_{\theta_n}^{n+x}(Y); x\in\mathbb{R}\}_{n\geqslant 0}$ is an i.i.d. sequence of processes, distributed as $\{L_1^x(Y); x\in\mathbb{R}\}$. On the other hand, $\{L_{n+b}^{X_+(n)}(X_+)-L_n^{X_+(n)}(X_+)\}_{n\geqslant 0}$ are i.i.d. variables, distributed as $L_b^0(X_+)$. Consequently,

$$\begin{split} & \Delta_4 \leqslant \frac{c_{19}}{T^{1/8}} + \left[\mathbb{P} \left\{ \left(\inf_{0 \leqslant x \leqslant b} L_1^x(Y) \right) L_b^0(X_+) < c_{16} (\log T)^{3/4} \right\} \right]^{m+1} \\ & \leqslant \frac{c_{19}}{T^{1/8}} + \left\{ 1 - \mathbb{P} \left(\inf_{0 \leqslant x \leqslant b} L_1^x(Y) > \frac{1}{2b} \right) \mathbb{P} \left\{ L_b^0(X_+) > 2c_{16}b (\log T)^{3/4} \right\} \right\}^{m+1}. \end{split}$$

Now take $b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (16c_5/\log T)^{1/2}$. Applying Lemma 2.1 gives

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{0\leqslant x\leqslant b}L_1^x(Y)>\frac{1}{2b}\right)\geqslant \exp\left(-\frac{c_5}{b^2}\right)=\frac{1}{T^{1/16}},$$

whereas by the usual Gaussian tail estimate and (3.1), for all large T,

$$\mathbb{P}\{L_b^0(X_+) > 2c_{16}b(\log T)^{3/4}\} = \mathbb{P}\{|\mathcal{N}| > 2c_{16}b^{1/2}(\log T)^{3/4}\}$$
$$\ge \exp\{-4c_{16}^2b(\log T)^{3/2}\}$$
$$= \frac{1}{T^{1/16}}.$$

It follows that

$$\Delta_4 \le \frac{c_{19}}{T^{1/8}} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{T^{1/8}}\right)^{m+1} \le \frac{c_{20}}{T^{1/8}}.$$

Let $T_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} k^9$. By the Borel–Cantelli lemma,

$$\liminf_{k\to\infty}\frac{\omega(1/T_k)}{\varphi(1/T_k)}\geq c_{16}, \quad \text{a.s.},$$

where $\varphi(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} t^{3/4} |\log t|^{3/4}$. Let $h \in [1/T_{k+1}, 1/T_k]$. By monotonicity, for large k,

$$\frac{\omega(1/T_{k+1})}{\varphi(1/T_k)} \le \frac{\omega(h)}{\varphi(h)} \le \frac{\omega(1/T_k)}{\varphi(1/T_{k+1})}.$$

Since $\varphi(1/T_k) \sim \varphi(1/T_{k+1})$ as k tends to infinity, this implies that

$$\liminf_{h\to 0} \frac{\omega(h)}{\varphi(h)} \ge c_{16}, \quad \text{a.s.,}$$

as desired.

4. Proof of Theorem 1.2

Let us restate Theorem 1.2:

$$\liminf_{h \to 0} \frac{|\log h|^{3/4}}{h^{3/4}} \eta(h) \ge c_3, \quad \text{a.s.}$$
(4.1)

$$\limsup_{h \to 0} \frac{|\log h|^{3/4}}{h^{3/4}} \eta(h) \le c_4, \quad \text{a.s.}$$
 (4.2)

The proof is divided into two parts.

Proof of (4.1). Let Z be the iterated Brownian motion in Section 1. Using Gaussian tail estimates, it is readily checked that, for $x \ge 1$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{0\leq s\leq 1} Z(s) > x\right) \leq \exp(-c_{21}x^{4/3}). \tag{4.3}$$

For more details, and for the best possible value of c_{21} , cf. Révész (1990, p. 126), Burdzy (1993) and Csáki *et al.* (1995).

By the occupation time formula,

$$1 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} L_1^x(Z) \, \mathrm{d}x \le \left(\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} L_1^x(Z) \right) \left(\sup_{0 \le s \le 1} Z(s) - \inf_{0 \le s \le 1} Z(s) \right).$$

Therefore, by scaling, symmetry and (4.3), for any h > 0 and $0 < y \le h^{3/4}/2$.

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}}L_{h}^{x}(Z) < y\right) = \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}}L_{1}^{x}(Z) < \frac{y}{h^{3/4}}\right)$$

$$\leq \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{0\leq s\leq 1}Z(s) - \inf_{0\leq s\leq 1}Z(s) > \frac{h^{3/4}}{y}\right)$$

$$\leq 2\mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{0\leq s\leq 1}Z(s) > \frac{h^{3/4}}{2y}\right)$$

$$\leq \exp\left(-c_{22}\frac{h}{v^{4/3}}\right).$$
(4.4)

Now let h be very small, and define $t_j \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} jh|\log h|^{-3}$ for $0 \le j \le M(h) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [h^{-1}|\log h|^3]$. Introduce the absolute constant

$$c_{23} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left(\frac{c_{22}}{2}\right)^{3/4}.\tag{4.5}$$

Consider the probability

$$\Delta_{5} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{P} \left(\min_{0 \leq j \leq M(h)} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{t_{j}+h}^{x}(Z) - L_{t_{j}}^{x}(Z) \} < c_{23} \frac{h^{3/4}}{|\log h|^{3/4}} \right)$$

$$\leq \sum_{j=0}^{M(h)} \mathbb{P} \left(\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{t_{j}+h}^{x}(Z) - L_{t_{j}}^{x}(Z) \} < c_{23} \frac{h^{3/4}}{|\log h|^{3/4}} \right).$$

Since the iterated Brownian motion Z has stationary (but not independent) increments, for

each fixed $t \ge 0$, $\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{L_{t+h}^x(Z) - L_t^x(Z)\}$ has the same law as $\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} L_h^x(Z)$. By (4.4) and (4.5),

$$\Delta_5 \le \{M(h) + 1\} \exp\left\{-\frac{c_{22}}{c_{23}^{4/3}} \log\left(\frac{1}{h}\right)\right\} \le c_{24} h |\log h|^3.$$

Let $h_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} k^{-2}$. It follows from the Borel-Cantelli lemma that

$$\liminf_{k \to \infty} \frac{|\log h_k|^{3/4}}{h_*^{3/4}} \min_{0 \le j \le M(h_k)} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{t_j + h_k}^x(Z) - L_{t_j}^x(Z) \} \ge c_{23}, \quad \text{a.s.},$$
 (4.6)

where we have written $t_j \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} jh_k |\log h_k|^{-3}$ by (slight) abuse of notation. On the other hand, applying (1.3) readily gives

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{|\log h_k|^{3/4}}{h_L^{3/4}} \sup_{0 \le t \le 1} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{t+h_k|\log h_k|^{-3}}^x(Z) - L_t^x(Z) \} = 0, \quad \text{a.s.}.$$

which, in view of (4.6), yields (recalling $\eta(h)$ from (1.4))

$$\liminf_{k\to\infty}\frac{|\log h_k|^{3/4}}{h_k^{3/4}}\eta(h_k)\geq c_{23}, \quad \text{a.s.}$$

This yields (4.1) in view of monotonicity of the function $h \mapsto |\log h|^{3/4}/h^{3/4}$.

Proof of (4.2). By (2.8) and Lemma 2.3, there exists a universal constant $c_{25} > 0$ such that, for all $0 < \lambda \le 1$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}}L_1^x(X_+)<\lambda\right) \ge \exp\left(-\frac{c_{25}}{\lambda^2}\right),\tag{4.7}$$

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\left(\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}}L_1^x(Y)\right)^2\left(\sup_{0\leqslant t\leqslant 1}Y(t)-\inf_{0\leqslant t\leqslant 1}Y(t)\right)<\lambda\right\} \geq \exp\left(-\frac{c_{25}}{\lambda^2}\right). \tag{4.8}$$

Pick the absolute constant

$$c_{26} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (32c_{25})^{3/4}. \tag{4.9}$$

For notational simplification, we write the "two-sided local time" process

$$L_u^x(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} L_u^x(X_+), & \text{if } u \ge 0, \\ -L_{-u}^x(X_-), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then (1.1) can be simply written as

$$L_t^x(Z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} L_t^u(Y) \, \mathrm{d}_u L_u^x(X), \qquad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
 (4.10)

Fix a sufficiently large T and define a sequence of stopping times $(\tau_n)_{n\geq 0}$ by $\tau_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0$ and

$$\tau_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \tau_n(T) = \inf\{t \ge 1 + \tau_{n-1}: Y(t) = nT^{1/16}\}, \qquad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Note the similarity between the τ_n and θ_n introduced in Section 3. Define

$$\begin{split} m &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [T^{1/8}], \\ N &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf(n \ge 1: \tau_n > T - 1), \\ E &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (N \ge m + 1) \cap \bigcap_{n=1}^N \left(\inf_{\tau_n \le t \le 1 + \tau_n} Y(t) \ge \sup_{\tau_{n-1} \le t \le 1 + \tau_{n-1}} Y(t) \right). \end{split}$$

Consider the probability

$$\Delta_{6} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{P} \left\{ \eta \left(\frac{1}{T} \right) > c_{26} T^{-3/4} (\log T)^{-3/4} \right\} \\
= \mathbb{P} \left(\inf_{0 \le t \le T - 1} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{t+1}^{x}(Z) - L_{t}^{x}(Z) \} > c_{26} (\log T)^{-3/4} \right) \\
\leq \mathbb{P} \left(\min_{0 \le n \le N - 1} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{1+\tau_{n}}^{x}(Z) - L_{\tau_{n}}^{x}(Z) \} > c_{26} (\log T)^{-3/4} \right) \\
\leq \mathbb{P}(E^{c}) + \mathbb{P}(E; \min_{1 \le n \le N - 1} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_{1+\tau_{n}}^{x}(Z) - L_{\tau_{n}}^{x}(Z) \} > c_{26} (\log T)^{-3/4}) \\
\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{P}(E^{c}) + \Delta_{7}, \tag{4.11}$$

with obvious notation. For brevity, for any $0 \le s \le t$ and $-\infty < u \le v < \infty$, write

$$L_Y^*(s, t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_t^y(Y) - L_s^y(Y) \},$$

$$L_X^*(u, v) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \{ L_v^x(X) - L_u^x(X) \},$$

$$\overline{Y}(s, t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup_{s \leqslant r \leqslant t} Y(r),$$

$$\underline{Y}(s, t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf_{s \leqslant r \leqslant t} Y(r),$$

$$Y^\#(s, t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \overline{Y}(s, t) - \underline{Y}(s, t).$$

Clearly, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, by (4.10),

$$\begin{split} L_{1+\tau_{n}}^{x}(Z) - L_{\tau_{n}}^{x}(Z) &= \int_{\underline{Y}(\tau_{n}, 1+\tau_{n})}^{\overline{Y}(\tau_{n}, 1+\tau_{n})} \{L_{1+\tau_{n}}^{u}(Y) - L_{\tau_{n}}^{u}(Y)\} \, \mathrm{d}_{u} L_{u}^{x}(X) \\ &\leq L_{Y}^{*}(\tau_{n}, 1+\tau_{n}) L_{X}^{*}(\underline{Y}(\tau_{n}, 1+\tau_{n}), \, \overline{Y}(\tau_{n}, 1+\tau_{n})). \end{split}$$

On the event E, we have

$$\overline{Y}(\tau_0, 1+\tau_0) \leq \underline{Y}(\tau_1, 1+\tau_1) \leq \overline{Y}(\tau_1, 1+\tau_1) \leq \underline{Y}(\tau_2, 1+\tau_2) \leq \ldots$$

Therefore, on E and given $(Y(t); t \ge 0)$,

$$\left(\frac{L_X^*(\underline{Y}(\tau_n, 1+\tau_n), \overline{Y}(\tau_n, 1+\tau_n))}{\{Y^\#(\tau_n, 1+\tau_n)\}^{1/2}}\right)_{n\geq 1}$$

are i.i.d. variables, distributed as $\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} L_1^x(X_+)$. Accordingly,

$$\Delta_{7} \leq \mathbb{P}\left(E; \min_{1 \leq n \leq N-1} L_{Y}^{*}(\tau_{n}, 1 + \tau_{n}) \{Y^{\#}(\tau_{n}, 1 + \tau_{n})\}^{1/2} \Xi_{n} > c_{26}(\log T)^{-3/4}\right)$$

$$\leq \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{1 \leq n \leq m} L_{Y}^{*}(\tau_{n}, 1 + \tau_{n}) \{Y^{\#}(\tau_{n}, 1 + \tau_{n})\}^{1/2} \Xi_{n} > c_{26}(\log T)^{-3/4}\right),$$

where $(\Xi_n)_{n\geq 0}$ are i.i.d. variables independent of $\sigma\{Y(t); t\geq 0\}$, having the same law as $\sup_{x\in\mathbb{R}}L^x_1(X_+)$. By the strong Markov property,

$$\Delta_7 \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\min_{1 \leq n \leq m} \Theta_n \Xi_n > c_{26} (\log T)^{-3/4}\right),\tag{4.12}$$

where the Θ_n are distributed as $L_\gamma^*(0,1)\{Y^\#(0,1)\}^{1/2}$ and we assume that $(\Theta_n,\Xi_n;n\geq 0)$ are mutually independent. Write $b\stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=}b(T)=c_{26}^{2/3}/(\log T)^{1/2}$. By (4.8) and (4.7),

$$\mathbb{P}\{\Theta_0\Xi_0 < c_{26}(\log T)^{-3/4}\} \ge \mathbb{P}\{\Xi_0 < b\}\mathbb{P}\left(\Theta_0 < \frac{c_{26}(\log T)^{-3/4}}{b}\right) \\
\ge \exp\left(-\frac{c_{25}}{b^2} - \frac{c_{25}b^4(\log T)^3}{c_{26}^4}\right) \\
= \frac{1}{T^{1/16}},$$

where we have used (4.9) in the last equality. Going back to (4.12), recalling that $m = [T^{1/8}]$ and (4.9),

$$\Delta_7 \leq [1 - \mathbb{P}\{\theta_0 \Xi_0 < c_{26} (\log T)^{-3/4}\}]^m$$

$$\leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{T^{1/16}}\right)^m$$

$$\leq \exp(-c_{27} T^{1/16}). \tag{4.13}$$

It remains to estimate $\mathbb{P}(E^c)$. Since $N \leq T$,

$$\mathbb{P}(E^c) \leq \mathbb{P}(N \leq m) + \sum_{n=1}^{[T]} \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{\substack{\tau_n \leq t \leq 1 + \tau_n \\ \tau_1 \leq t \leq 1 + \tau_1}} Y(t) < \sup_{\substack{\tau_{n-1} \leq t \leq 1 + \tau_{n-1} \\ 0 \leq t \leq 1}} Y(t)\right)$$

$$= \mathbb{P}(\tau_m > T - 1) + [T] \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{\substack{\tau_1 \leq t \leq 1 + \tau_1 \\ \tau_1 \leq t \leq 1 + \tau_1}} Y(t) < \sup_{\substack{0 \leq t \leq 1 \\ 0 \leq t \leq 1}} Y(t)\right),$$

using the strong Markov property. Since $\tau_m = \sum_{n=1}^m (\tau_n - \tau_{n-1})$ and the $\tau_n - \tau_{n-1}$ are i.i.d., distributed as $(T^{1/16} - \mathcal{N})^2 / \tilde{\mathcal{N}}^2$ (where \mathcal{N} and $\tilde{\mathcal{N}}$ denote as before independent Gaussian $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ variables), we have

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{P}(\tau_{m} > T - 1) &\leq \mathbb{P}\left(\max_{1 \leq n \leq m} (\tau_{n} - \tau_{n-1}) > \frac{T}{2m}\right) \\ &\leq 1 - \left\{1 - \mathbb{P}\left((T^{1/16} - \mathcal{N})^{2} > \frac{T}{2m}\tilde{\mathcal{N}}^{2}\right)\right\}^{m} \\ &\leq 1 - \left\{1 - \mathbb{P}\left(|\mathcal{N}| > \frac{T^{1/16}}{2}\right) - \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{9T^{1/8}}{4} > \frac{T}{2m}\tilde{\mathcal{N}}^{2}\right)\right\}^{m} \\ &\leq 1 - \left\{1 - \exp\left(-\frac{T^{1/8}}{8}\right) - \frac{3T^{1/16}}{2^{1/2}}\frac{m^{1/2}}{T^{1/2}}\right\}^{m} \\ &\leq \frac{c_{28}}{T^{1/4}}. \end{split}$$

On the other hand, by the independence of $\inf_{\tau_1 \leq t \leq 1+\tau_1} Y(t)$ and $\sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} Y(t)$,

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{P}\Big(\inf_{\tau_1 \leq t \leq 1+\tau_1} Y(t) < \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} Y(t)\Big) &= \mathbb{P}(T^{1/16} - |\mathcal{N}| < |\tilde{\mathcal{N}}|) \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}\bigg(|\mathcal{N}| > \frac{T^{1/16}}{2}\bigg) + \mathbb{P}\bigg(|\tilde{\mathcal{N}}| > \frac{T^{1/16}}{2}\bigg) \\ &\leq 2 \exp\bigg(-\frac{T^{1/8}}{8}\bigg). \end{split}$$

Therefore

$$\mathbb{P}(E^c) \le \frac{c_{28}}{T^{1/4}} + 2T \exp\left(-\frac{T^{1/8}}{8}\right) \le \frac{c_{29}}{T^{1/4}}.$$
 (4.14)

Assembling (4.11), (4.13) and (4.14) yields

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\eta\left(\frac{1}{T}\right) > c_{26}T^{-3/4}(\log T)^{-3/4}\right\} \leqslant \frac{c_{30}}{T^{1/4}}.$$

Take $T_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} k^5$ and apply the Borel-Cantelli lemma to arrive at the following estimate:

$$\limsup_{k\to\infty} T_k^{3/4} (\log T_k)^{3/4} \eta\left(\frac{1}{T_k}\right) \le c_{26}, \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Now (4.2) follows by monotonicity of the function $T \mapsto T^{3/4}(\log T)^{3/4}$.

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