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# Aggregation–Diffusion Equations: concentration vs simplification

D. GÓMEZ-CASTRO  
*Mathematical Institute  
University of Oxford*

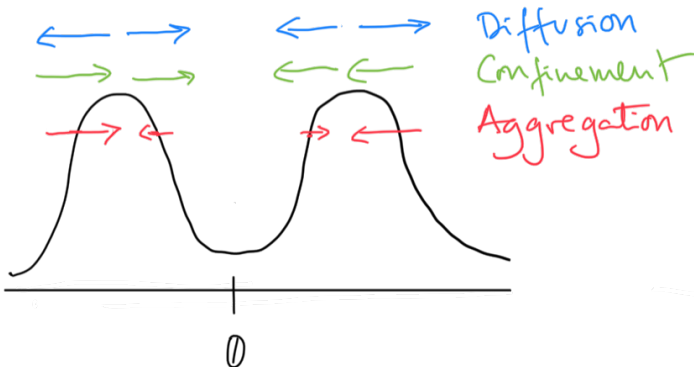
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CEDyA, July 2022

Oxford  
Mathematics

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 883363)





The aim of this talk is to explain the modeling and theory behind the following model for aggregation-diffusion phenomena:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \operatorname{div} \left( \underbrace{\rho \nabla (U'(\rho))}_{\text{Diffusion}} + \underbrace{V}_{\text{Confinement}} + \underbrace{W * \rho}_{\text{Aggregation}} \right) \quad (\text{ADE})$$

We will discuss the range of power-type aggregation and diffusion

$$U'(\rho) = \frac{m}{m-1} \rho^{m-1}, \quad V(x) = \frac{|x|^\alpha}{\alpha}, \quad \text{and} \quad W(x) = \frac{|x|^\lambda}{\lambda}.$$

If  $V, W$  are bounded below, we can always assume  $V, W \geq 0$ .

## Modelling

### Classical results of asymptotics

### Calculus of Variations approach

- Gradient flows

- Free-energy minimisation for ADE

### A tale of two examples (back to PDE theory)

- An example of asymptotic concentration

- An example of asymptotic simplification

## Modelling

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**Conservation equation.** Let  $\rho$  be a density and  $\omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  any control volume, if  $\mathbf{j}$  is the out-going flux

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\omega} \rho \, dx = - \int_{\partial\omega} \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dS = - \int_{\omega} \operatorname{div} \mathbf{j} \, dx$$

**Linear Darcy's law:** flux opposing the gradient  $\mathbf{j} = -\nabla\rho$  yields

$$\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial t} = \Delta\rho \tag{HE}$$

The confinement can be added as a drift  $\mathbf{j} = -\nabla\rho - \rho\nabla V$ .

**Non-linear Darcy's law:**  $\mathbf{j} = -\nabla\varphi(\rho)$  for some non-decreasing  $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial t} = \Delta\varphi(\rho). \tag{DE}$$

When  $\varphi(\rho) = \rho^m$  for  $m > 0$  this is called Porous Medium Equation [Vázquez 2006].

Notice  $\Delta\varphi(\rho) = \operatorname{div}(\varphi'(\rho)\nabla\rho)$  so  $U''(\rho) = \frac{\varphi'(\rho)}{\rho}$ .

Consider  $N$  with positions  $X_i$  of equal masses  $1/N$  and the attracting/repulsive system<sup>1</sup>

$$\frac{dX_i}{dt} = - \underbrace{\sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^N \frac{1}{N} \nabla W(X_i - X_j)}_{\text{Aggregation}} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{N} \nabla V(X_i)}_{\text{Confinement}}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

The empirical distribution is defined as  $\mu_t^N = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{N} \delta_{X_j(t)}$ .

In the sense of distributions,  $\mu^N$  solves the **Aggregation Equation**

$$\partial_t \mu = \operatorname{div}(\mu \nabla (W * \mu + V)) \quad (\text{AE})$$

Diffusion can be added to the particle system by introducing noise [Details](#).

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<sup>1</sup>Assume  $\nabla W(0) = 0$

Joining the many particle approximation with the Porous Medium diffusion:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \operatorname{div} \left( \rho \nabla (U'(\rho) + V + W * \rho) \right) \quad (\text{ADE})$$

Some famous examples

Model	$U$	$V$	$W$
Heat Equation	$\rho \log \rho$	0	0
Porous Medium Equation $m \neq 1$	$\frac{1}{m-1} \rho^m$	0	0
Fokker-Planck	$\rho \log \rho$	$\frac{1}{2}  x ^2$	0
Keller-Segel ( $d = 2$ )	$\rho \log \rho$	0	$-\frac{1}{2\pi} \log  x $
Swarming / Herding	0	0	$\frac{1}{a}  x ^a - \frac{1}{b}  x ^b$



In conservation laws, we expect  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho_0$   
(i.e.  $\rho_0 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , we expect  $\rho(t) \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ )

A direct computation yields

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho \, dx = \frac{d}{dt} \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_{B_R} \rho \, dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\partial B_R} j \frac{x}{|x|} \, dS \stackrel{?}{=} 0.$$

Sometimes mass is not conserved, and we will give an example later.

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It admits a solution

$$K(t, x) = \frac{1}{(4\pi t)^{\frac{d}{2}}} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4t}}$$

- ▶  $K(t, \cdot) \rightarrow \delta_0$  as  $t \rightarrow 0^+$
- ▶  $\|K(t, \cdot)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} = 1$ .
- ▶ For any  $x$ ,  $K(t, x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$
- ▶ Any solution satisfies

$$\|\rho(t, \cdot) - K(t, \cdot)\|_{L^1} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

This is known as **asymptotic simplification**.

The range  $m \in \left( \left( \frac{d-2}{d} \right)_+, 1 \right) \cup (1, +\infty)$  :

Admits the Barenblatt solution (see [Vázquez 2006])

$$B(t, x) = t^{-\alpha} \left( C_1 - C_2 |x|^2 t^{\frac{2\alpha}{d}} \right)_+^{\frac{1}{m-1}}, \quad \alpha = \frac{d}{d(m-1) - 2}$$

That has the expect properties:

- ▶  $B(0^+, x) = \delta_0(x)$ ,
- ▶  $B(t, x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ,
- ▶  $\|B(t, \cdot)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} = 1$ , and
- ▶ Asymptotic simplification

$$\|\rho(t, \cdot) - B(t, \cdot)\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

For  $0 < m < \frac{d-2}{d}$  there are two surprising facts:

- ▶ There is **finite-time extinction**

If  $\rho_0 \in L^q(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with  $q = \frac{(1-m)d}{2}$  [▶ Details](#)

$$\|\rho(t)\|_{L^q} \searrow 0, \quad \text{as } t \nearrow T^* < \infty.$$

- ▶ There is always **infinite-time** total mass loss

$$\|\rho(t)\|_{L^1} \rightarrow 0$$

[▶ Details](#)

- ▶ **[Brezis and Friedman 1983]** proved that  $\delta_0$  does not diffuse:  
if we take a sequence  $\rho_j(0^+, \cdot) \rightarrow \delta_0$ , the associated solution  $\rho_j(t) \rightarrow \delta_0$ .

Notice that the heat kernel is **self-similar**

$$K(t, x) = (2t)^{-\frac{d}{2}} G\left(-\frac{x}{\sqrt{2t}}\right), \quad G(y) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{|y|^2}{2}\right)$$

So send  $K$  to  $G$ :  $\tau = \log \sqrt{2t+1}$ ,  $y = \frac{x}{\sqrt{2t+1}}$  and  $u(\tau, y) = e^{d\tau} \rho(t, x)$

Applying the change of variable to the heat equation we recover the **Fokker-Planck equation**

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\tau u &= \Delta_y u + \operatorname{div}(yu) \\ &= \operatorname{div}(u \nabla_y (\log u + \frac{|y|^2}{2})). \end{aligned}$$

Clearly,  $G$  is a stationary solution.

Furthermore,  $G$  is an **asymptotic profile** for the equation:

$$\|u(t, \cdot) - G\|_{L^1} \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

A similar approach works for the Porous Medium Equation, where the profile is  $B$ .

The Keller-Segel proposed a model of cell migration by chemotaxis given by

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho = \Delta \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho \nabla v), \\ -\Delta v = u. \end{cases} \quad M = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho_0(x) \, dx$$

For  $d \geq 2$  we can write  $v = W * u$  for  $W$  the Newtonian potential.

There exists  $M^* > 0$  such that

- ▶ If  $M < M^*$  solutions are global-in-time.
- ▶ If  $M > M^*$  there is finite-time blow-up. And  $\rho(T^*) = M\delta_0$ .

The Keller-Segel proposed a model of cell migration by chemotaxis given by

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Case  $d = 2$

- ▶ [Jäger and Luckhaus 1992] There exists  $M^*$  s.t.  $M > M^*$ , then  $\rho(T^*)$  contains a Dirac delta. They work in  $\Omega$  bounded (+no-flux condition).
- ▶ [Herrero and Velázquez 1996]: For  $\mathbb{R}^d$  we have  $M^* = 8\pi$ . Explicit constructions.
- ▶ [Dolbeault and Perthame 2004]:  $\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^2 \rho(t, x) \, dx = 4M \left(1 - \frac{M}{8\pi}\right)$   
If  $M > M^*$ , then  $\rho(T^*) = M\delta_0$
- ▶ [Blanchet, Dolbeault, and Perthame 2006]: For  $M < M^*$  global existence.

Case  $d \geq 3$

- ▶ [Blanchet, Carrillo, and Laurençot 2009]:  
There is a functional  $\mathcal{F}$  decaying along trajectories and

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^2 \rho(t, x) \, dx = 2(d-2)\mathcal{F}[\rho(t, \cdot)] \leq 2(d-2)\mathcal{F}[\rho_0].$$

When  $M > M^*$  there exist  $\|\rho_0\|_{L^1} = M$  such that  $\mathcal{F}[\rho_0] < 0$ .



For

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \operatorname{div} \left( \rho \nabla (U'(\rho) + V + W * \rho) \right) \quad (\text{ADE})$$

can we classify characterise  $\rho_\infty$  such that

$$\rho(t) \rightarrow \rho_\infty$$

in terms of general  $U, V, W$ ?

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Let  $F : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Imagine we look for  $\operatorname{argmin} F$ .

We call **gradient flow** of  $F$  the flow of the ODE 
$$\frac{dX}{dt} = -\nabla F(X(t))$$

If  $F$  is strictly convex, for any  $X(0)$  we have  $X(t) \rightarrow X_\infty = \operatorname{argmin} F$ .

If  $D^2F \geq \lambda I$  then  $|X(t) - X_\infty| \leq e^{-\lambda t} |X_0 - X_\infty|$ .

Let  $\mathcal{F} : H^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined as  $\mathcal{F}[\rho] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla \rho|^2$

Formally

$$\nabla_{L^2} \mathcal{F}[\rho_0] = \frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho}[\rho_0] = -\Delta \rho_0$$

Remark

We can rewrite the Heat Equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla_{L^2} \mathcal{F}[\rho(t)], \quad \text{where } \mathcal{F}[\rho] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla \rho|^2 \quad (\text{HE})$$

$\mathcal{F}$  is strictly convex in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . Naturally,  $\rho(t) \rightarrow 0$  which is the “minimiser” of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

In general, the  $\nabla_{L^2} \mathcal{F}$  is given by the Euler-Lagrange equations [► Details](#)

Our equations are “nice” in 2-Wasserstein space ( $\mathcal{P}_2$ ). [▶ Details](#)

For  $\mathcal{F} : L^1 \cap \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  formally speaking [▶ Details](#)

$$\nabla_{d_2} \mathcal{F}[\rho] = -\operatorname{div} \left( \rho \nabla \frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho} \right)$$

## Remark

If  $W(x) = W(-x)$ , we can formally rewrite the Aggregation-Diffusion problem as<sup>2</sup>

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla_{d_2} \mathcal{F}[\rho(t)], \quad \text{where } \mathcal{F}[\rho] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (U(\rho) + V\rho + \frac{1}{2}\rho(W * \rho)). \quad (\text{ADE})$$

Formally,  $\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{F}[\rho(t)] = -\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho \left| \nabla \frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho}[\rho] \right|^2$ . This is called *energy dissipation* estimate.

The precise definition of solution is the notion of *curves of maximal slope*. [▶ Details](#)

<sup>2</sup>Due to the convolution,  $\mathcal{F}$  is non-local and  $\mathcal{F}[\rho] \neq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} F(x, \rho(x)) \, dx$ .  $\frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho}$  can be computed directly

The extension of convexity in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  that is suitable in  $\mathcal{P}_2$  is **displacement convexity** (see [McCann 1997])

There is a suitable theory for gradient flow of  $\mathcal{F}$  in  $d_2$  (see [Ambrosio, Gigli, and Savare 2005])

In fact, as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  we have

$$\mathcal{F}[\rho(t)] \searrow \inf_{\rho \in \mathcal{P}_2 \cap L^1} \mathcal{F}.$$

Under stronger hypothesis, if  $\rho_\infty = \operatorname{argmin} \mathcal{F}$  then

$$d_p(\rho(t), \rho_\infty) \rightarrow 0.$$

Due to the estimate above, at an minimiser  $\rho_\infty$ , we have

$$\rho_\infty \nabla \frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho} [\rho_\infty] = 0.$$

Either  $\rho_\infty = 0$  (as in PME), or  $\frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho} [\rho_\infty] = C$  (over open sets).

The free energy for (ADE)

$$\mathcal{F}[\rho] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (U(\rho) + V\rho + \frac{1}{2}\rho(W * \rho)).$$

In some cases it is displacement convex (see [Carrillo and Slepčev 2009]):  
 $m \geq \frac{d-1}{d}$  and  $V, W$  convex.

Recall for  $\partial_t \rho = \Delta \rho^m$  with  $m < \frac{d-2}{d}$  we can leave  $\mathcal{P}_2$ .

When  $\inf \mathcal{F} = -\infty$ , then we do not expect an asymptotic equilibrium.  
 (maybe intermediate asymptotics)

Actually, we need to consider the extension of  $\mathcal{F}$  to  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , which we denote  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$   
 (see [Demengel and Temam 1986]) [▶ Details](#)

If  $\mu_\infty \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\|\mu\|=M} \tilde{\mathcal{F}}[\mu]$ , we expect it to be a local attractor (no guarantee).

The first variation is:  $\frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho} = U'(\rho) + V + W * \rho.$



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The free energy for Keller-Segel is

$$\mathcal{F}[\rho] = \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \rho \log \rho}_{\mathcal{S}[\rho]} + \underbrace{\frac{-1}{4\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \rho(x)\rho(y) \log |x - y| dx dy}_{\mathcal{I}[\rho]}.$$

To see whether diffused or concentrated is energy beneficial:  $\rho_\lambda(x) = \lambda^2 \rho_1(\lambda x)$ .

Then, letting  $M = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \rho_1$  we have

$$\mathcal{S}[\rho_\lambda] = \mathcal{S}[\rho_1] + 2M \log \lambda$$

$$\mathcal{I}[\rho_\lambda] = \mathcal{I}[\rho_1] - \frac{M^2}{2\pi} \log \lambda$$

Eventually

$$\mathcal{F}[\rho_\lambda] = \mathcal{F}[\rho_1] + 2M \log \lambda \left(1 - \frac{M}{8\pi}\right)$$

This gives the intuition that for  $M > 8\pi$  then  $\delta_0$  (i.e.  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ) is energy beneficial.

# Free-energy minimisation for (ADE) when $V = 0$

Existence and non-existence of  $\delta_0$

Minimisation for  $U = \frac{m}{m-1}\rho^m$ ,  $V = 0$ , and  $W(x) = |x|^\lambda/\lambda$ :

▶ [Carrillo, Hittmeir, Volzone, and Yao 2019]:

Any minimiser is  $\mu_\infty = \rho_\infty + M\delta_0$  with  $\rho_\infty$  radially symmetric

▶ [Carrillo, Delgadino, Dolbeault, Frank, and Hoffmann 2019]:

$\lambda > 0$  and  $m \in (0, 1)$

- $\mathcal{F}$  is bounded below iff  $m \in (\frac{d}{d+\lambda}, 1)$
- If  $m > \frac{d}{d+\lambda}$  there exists a minimiser of the form  $\mu_\infty = \rho_\infty + M\delta_0$
- If  $\lambda \in [2, 4]$  or  $\lambda \geq 1$  and  $m \geq 1 - \frac{1}{d}$ , then the global minimiser is unique (up to translation).
- $M = 0$  if  $\lambda \in (0, 2 + \frac{4}{(N-2)_+})$  and  $m \in (\frac{d}{d+\lambda}, 1)$

▶ [Carrillo, Delgadino, Frank, and Lewin 2020]:

- If  $\lambda = 4$  and  $d \leq 5$  then  $M = 0$ .
- If  $\lambda = 4$  and  $d \geq 6$  then  $M = 0$  if and only if  $m \geq \frac{d-2}{d+4} \left(1 + \frac{4}{3d}\right)$ .
- Numerical results for  $\lambda = 2k$

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## Asymptotic behaviour for (ADE)

$m \in (0, 1)$ ,  $W = 0$  and  $V$  radially non-decreasing

The Euler-Lagrange equation is

$$-\frac{m}{1-m}\rho^{m-1} + V = -C.$$

We deduce that the minimising profiles are

$$\rho_{V+h} = \left(\frac{1-m}{m}(V+h)\right)^{-\frac{1}{1-m}}$$

By standard minimisation arguments, we show that

$$\mu_\infty = \begin{cases} \rho_{V+h} & \text{if } \exists h \geq 0 \text{ such that } \|\rho_{V+h}\|_{L^1} = \|\rho_0\|_{L^1}, \\ \rho_V + \left(\|\rho_0\|_{L^1} - \|\rho_V\|_{L^1}\right)\delta_0 & \text{if } \|\rho_0\|_{L^1} > \|\rho_V\|_{L^1} \end{cases}$$

The question is

$$\rho(t) \rightarrow \rho_\infty?$$

Outside the displacement convex range, we have to go back to PDE methods.

[Cao and Li 2020]: If  $\rho_{V+h_1} \leq \rho_0 \leq \rho_{V+h_2}$  with  $h_1, h_2 > 0$  then  $L_{loc}^\infty$  convergence to

$$\rho_\infty = \rho_{V+h}, \quad \text{for some } h > 0.$$

[Carrillo, G-C, and Vázquez 2021]:

Under some technical hypothesis on  $V$  regular, assume that  $\|\rho_V\|_{L^1} < 1$ .  
 Then  $\exists \rho_0 \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $\forall r > 0$

$$M(t, r) = \int_{B_r} \rho(t, x) \, dx \nearrow \int_{B_r} \rho_V(x) \, dx + \underbrace{1 - \|\rho_V\|_{L^1}}_{\text{a Dirac!}} \quad \text{with } a > 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

The key idea is that  $M$  satisfies a Hamilton-Jacobi type equation.

▶ Sketch of Proof

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We start by a classical observation.

## Remark

If  $W \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , then there are no finite-mass steady states.

If  $W \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $\rho \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , then  $W * \rho \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .

The Euler-Lagrange equation is  $\log \rho + W * \rho = c$ , so

$$\rho = e^c e^{W * \rho} \geq e^c e^{-\|W * \rho\|_{L^\infty}} > 0.$$

Therefore, in this range we always expect diffusion.



In the case of linear diffusion

$$\partial_t \rho = \Delta \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho \nabla W * \rho).$$

[Cañizo, Carrillo, and Schonbek 2012]: for small  $W$ :

$$\|\rho(t, \cdot) - K(t, \cdot)\|_{L^1} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty. \quad (\star)$$

where  $K$  is the heat kernel.

Theorem [Carrillo, G-C, Yao, and Zeng 2021] [▶ Sketch of proof](#)

Let  $n \geq 2$ , and assume  $W(x) = W(-x)$

- ▶  $W \in \mathcal{W}^{1, \infty}(\mathbb{R}^d)$
- ▶  $\nabla W \in L^{n-\varepsilon}(\mathbb{R}^d)$
- ▶  $\Delta W \in L^{\frac{n}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  (and also  $\Delta W \in L^{\frac{n}{2}-\varepsilon}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  if  $n \geq 3$ )

Then  $(\star)$ .

Notice that this hypothesis work for  $W(x) \sim |x|^{-\varepsilon}$  for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  
but not for the critical case  $W(x) \sim \log |x|$ .

Question that arise:

1. Does this idea work for any  $\rho_0 \in L^1$ ?
2. Does it work for some classes  $W \neq 0$ .

The answer seems positive for some  $W$ .

PhD plan of Alejandro Fernández-Jiménez (U. Oxford).

Thank you for your attention!



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Consider an stochastic particle jumping over the mesh  $\{\dots, -h, 0, h, 2h, \dots\}$  ( $h > 0$ ). Let  $X_n$  be the position after  $n$  jumps. Assume the jump probabilities are

$$\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = jh \mid X_n = ih) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } |i - j| = 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Define  $U_j^n = P(X_n = hj)$  and assume the initial distribution  $U_j^0$  is given.

Then  $U_j^{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}(U_{j-1}^n + U_{j+1}^n)$  or, for  $\tau = h^2$

$$\frac{U_j^{n+1} - U_j^n}{\tau} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{U_{j-1}^n - 2U_j^n + U_{j+1}^n}{h^2}.$$

This is a classical discretisation of the stochastic version of (HE):  $\partial_t \rho = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \rho$ .

The time continuous extension of  $X_n$  version is the Wiener process  $X_t = W_t$ .

This gives rise to the intuition (which has to be understood in terms of the Itô calculus)

$$dX_t = dW_t$$



Consider 1 particle. Using a similar arguments, for the stochastic equation

$$dX_t = \underbrace{\mu(t, X_t)}_{\text{drift}} dt + \underbrace{\sigma(t, X_t)}_{\text{diffusion}} dW_t$$

its probability density  $\rho$  is the solution of the Fokker-Planck equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}(t, x) = -\operatorname{div}(\mu(t, x)\rho(t, x)) + \Delta(D(t, x)\rho(t, x))$$

where  $D = \frac{\sigma^2}{2}$ .

Imagine now we have  $N$  stochastic particles at positions  $X_1(t), \dots, X_N(t)$ . We assume they have equal mass.

Recall the empirical measure  $\mu_t^N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \delta_{X_j(t)}$

Assume the evolution of the particles is given by the system of SODEs

$$dX_i = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j \neq i} \nabla W(X_i - X_j) - \frac{1}{N} \nabla V(X_i) + \sqrt{2D} dW_t^i$$

The limit as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  is the solution of

$$\partial_t \rho = \operatorname{div}(\rho \nabla (W * \rho + V)) + D \Delta \rho.$$

This corresponds to  $U(\rho) = D \rho \log \rho$ .

**Mean-Field Approximation:** As  $N \rightarrow \infty$

$$\mu_0^N \rightarrow \rho_0 \text{ in the tight topology} \implies \mu_t^N \rightarrow \rho(t) \text{ in law for a.e. } t > 0.$$

For the details see, e.g., [Jabin and Wang 2017].

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<sup>2</sup>Convergence in law: pointwise convergence of distribution functions at continuity points of the limit

Let  $\partial_t \rho = \Delta \rho^m$  with  $m < \frac{d-2}{d}$  and  $d \geq 3$  and  $\rho_0 \in L^q(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with  $q = \frac{(1-m)d}{2}$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{1}{q} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho^q \stackrel{\text{PDE}}{=} -C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla \rho^{\frac{m+q}{2}}|^2 \stackrel{\text{Sobolev}}{\leq} -C \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho^{\frac{m+q}{2} 2^*} \right)^{\frac{1}{2^*}}$$

where  $2^* = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{d}$ .

The equation  $\frac{d}{dt} X = -CX^\alpha$  where  $\alpha < 1$  has finite time extinction.

Take  $\varepsilon > 0$ , taking  $\rho_0^\varepsilon \in L^q$  with  $\|\rho_0 - \rho_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^1} \leq \varepsilon$ . For  $t \geq T_\varepsilon^*$

$$\begin{aligned}\|\rho(t)\|_{L^1} &\leq \|\rho(t) - \rho^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^1} + \|\rho^\varepsilon(t)\|_{L^1} \\ &\leq \|\rho_0 - \rho_0^\varepsilon\|_{L^1} + 0 \\ &\leq \varepsilon.\end{aligned}$$

## Computation of the Wasserstein gradient

Following [Ambrosio, Gigli, and Savare 2005, §10.4.1] [▶ Go back](#)

$\mathcal{P}_2$  is not a vector space, so there we are not using the intrinsic notion of Fréchet gradient. The correct notion is **Fréchet subdifferentials** (we will not define it here).

Also, we can see  $\mathcal{P}_2$  inside the space of measures.

Fix  $\rho_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . Then, the tangent space is given by

$$\text{Tan}_{\rho_0} \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) = \left\{ \xi : \exists \zeta_n \in C_c(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}) \text{ s.t. } \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi - \nabla \zeta_n|^2 d\rho_0 \rightarrow 0 \right\}$$

Take  $\xi = \nabla \zeta$  with  $\zeta \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R})$ . Then, by [Ambrosio, Gigli, and Savare 2005, Lemma 5.5.3]

$$\rho_\varepsilon = (1_{\mathbb{R}^d} + \varepsilon \xi) \# \rho_0 = \frac{\rho_0}{\det(1_{\mathbb{R}^d} + \varepsilon \nabla \xi)} \circ (1_{\mathbb{R}^d} + \varepsilon \xi)^{-1}$$

The map  $(x, \varepsilon) \mapsto \rho_\varepsilon(x)$  is  $C^2$  and

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \rho_\varepsilon = \rho_0, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \varepsilon} \Big|_{\varepsilon=0} \rho_\varepsilon = -\text{div}(\rho \xi).$$

For  $\varepsilon$  small enough  $1_{\mathbb{R}^d} + \varepsilon \nabla \zeta$  is an optimal transport map, so  $\rho_\varepsilon$  is a constant-speed geodesic.

Hence, using standard variation formulae (see [Giaquinta and Hildebrandt 1996])

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathcal{F}[\rho_\varepsilon] - \mathcal{F}[\rho_0]}{\varepsilon} = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho}[\rho_0] \nabla \cdot (\rho \xi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \nabla \zeta \nabla \frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho}[\rho_0] d\rho$$

This characterises  $\nabla_{d_2} \mathcal{F} = -\text{div}(\rho \nabla \frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho})$  in a broad distributional sense.

Let

$$\mathcal{F}[\rho] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} F(x, \rho(x), \nabla \rho(x)) \, dx.$$

Expanding  $F(x, s, \xi)$  in Taylor expansion yields

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathcal{F}[\rho_0 + \varepsilon \varphi] - \mathcal{F}[\rho_0]}{\varepsilon} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial s}(x, \rho_0, \nabla \rho_0) \varphi + \frac{\partial F}{\partial \xi}(x, \rho_0, \nabla \rho_0) \cdot \nabla \varphi \right) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial s}(x, \rho_0, \nabla \rho_0) - \operatorname{div} \left[ \frac{\partial F}{\partial \xi}(x, \rho_0, \nabla \rho_0) \right] \right) \varphi \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\nabla_{L^2} \mathcal{F}[\rho_0] = \frac{\delta \mathcal{F}}{\delta \rho}[\rho_0] = \frac{\partial F}{\partial s}[\rho_0] - \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial \xi}[\rho_0] \right).$$

This is the Euler-Lagrange equation!

## Convex functions of a measure

Following [Demengel and Temam 1986]

[Go back](#)

Given

$$\mathcal{F}[\rho] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(\rho) \, dx$$

where  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

The question is what is the natural lower semicontinuous extension of  $\mathcal{F}$  to  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with the weak- $\star$  topology.

Given a measure  $\mu$  and mollifiers  $\eta_\varepsilon$  we define  $\rho_\varepsilon = \mu * \eta_\varepsilon$ .

For  $|f(\xi)| \leq C(1 + |\xi|)$  define

$$f_\infty(\xi) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(t\xi)}{t}.$$

Since we can use the Lebesgue decomposition theorem  $\mu = \rho \, dx + \mu^s$ , where  $\rho$  is the Radon-Nikodym derivative of  $\mu$ . Then

$$\tilde{F}[\mu] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(\rho) \, dx + f_\infty(\mu^s).$$

The notion of  $f_\infty(\mu^s)$  is tricky (but possible) to define.

If  $f(s) = s^m$  with  $m < 1$ , then  $f_\infty = 0$ .

## Curves of maximal slope

(see [Ambrosio, Gigli, and Savare 2005])

[Go back](#)

Typically,  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla_X \mathcal{F}[\rho(t)]$  for  $X = L^2, H^1$  is satisfied in the dual sense.

The way in which  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla_{d_2} \mathcal{F}[\rho(t)]$  is rather tricky since  $\mathcal{P}_2$  is not linear a space.

The main idea is the equivalence for  $u : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  that

$$u'(t) = -\nabla \mathcal{F}(u), \quad \iff \quad \begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}(\mathcal{F} \circ u) = -|\nabla \mathcal{F}(u)| |u'| & \text{orientation} \\ |u'| = |\nabla \mathcal{F}(u)| & \text{norm} \end{cases}$$

We define the metric slopes

$$|\mu'| (t) = \limsup_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{d_2(\mu(t+h), \mu(t))}{h}, \quad |\partial \mathcal{F}|[\mu] = \limsup_{\nu \rightarrow \mu} \frac{(\mathcal{F}[\mu] - \mathcal{F}[\nu])_+}{d_2(\mu, \nu)}$$

### Definition 1 Maximal slope curve

A locally abs. cont. curve  $t \mapsto \mu(t) \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $t \mapsto \mathcal{F}[\mu(t)]$  is abs. cont. and

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_s^t |\mu'|^2(r) dr + \frac{1}{2} \int_s^t |\partial \mathcal{F}|^2[\mu(r)] dr \leq \mathcal{F}[\mu(s)] - \mathcal{F}[\mu(t)] \quad \forall 0 \leq s < t \leq T$$



Given a radially decreasing  $\rho \geq 0$ ,  $\rho^q \in L^1(B_R)$  for some  $q > 0$  (for any  $R \leq \infty$ ), using an old trick of Lieb's (see [Lieb 1977; Lieb 1983]) we get, for  $|x| \leq R$ ,

$$\int_{B_R} \rho^q dx = n\omega_n \int_0^R \rho(r)^q r^{n-1} dr \geq n\omega_n \int_0^{|x|} \rho(r)^q r^{n-1} dr \geq n\omega_n \rho(x)^q \int_0^{|x|} r^{n-1} dr.$$

Hence, we deduce the point-wise estimate

$$\rho(x) \leq \left( \frac{\int_{B_R} \rho^q}{n\omega_n |x|^n} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \quad (1)$$

It is easy to see that (1) is not sharp. However, it is useful to prove tightness for sets of probability measures.

For (DE) **entropy solutions**:

$$\rho_0 \in L^1 \implies \exists! \rho \in C([0, +\infty); L^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$$

(see, e.g. [Kruřkov 1970; Carrillo 1999])

Keller-Segel with  $M > M^*$ :

$$\rho(t) \longrightarrow M\delta_0 \quad \text{as } t \nearrow T < \infty.$$

The  $L^1$  framework is not enough!

**Total variation:**  $\|\mu\|_{\mathcal{M}} = |\mu|(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .

However, if  $a \neq b$  then  $\|\delta_a - \delta_b\|_{\mathcal{M}} = 2$ .

For the particle system  $t \mapsto \mu_t^N$  is not  $C\left([0, T]; (\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d), \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{M}})\right)$ .

We want to construct a distance between measures such that

$$d(\delta_a, \delta_b) = |a - b|.$$

Given  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ , taking plans between  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ :

$$\Pi(\mu, \nu) = \left\{ \pi \in \mathcal{P}(X \times Y) : \pi(A \times Y) = \mu(A), \quad \pi(X \times B) = \nu(B) \right\}.$$

we define the  $p$ -Wasserstein distance

$$d_p(\mu, \nu) = \left( \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \int_{X \times X} |x - y|^p \, d\pi(x, y) \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

The correct space to work with this distance is

$$\mathcal{P}_p(\mathbb{R}^d) = \left\{ \mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) : \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^p \, d\mu(x) < \infty \right\}$$

We endow  $\mathcal{P}_p(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with the distance  $d_p$ .

For simplicity, we restrict to first bounded domains

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u = \Delta \rho^m + \operatorname{div}(u \nabla V) & x \in \Omega, t > 0 \\ \partial_n u = \partial_n V = 0 & \partial \Omega. \end{cases}$$

For  $m \in (0, 1)$ ,  $V \in W^{1, \infty}$ , then the solution is well-defined and regular for all  $t > 0$ .

If  $\rho$  is radially symmetric, the mass function

$$M(t, r) = \int_{B_r} \rho(t, x) \, dx$$

can be studied as viscosity solution of a Hamilton-Jacobi type equation (see [Crandall, Ishii, and Lions 1992]).

For viscosity solutions many properties are known: stability,  $C^\alpha$  regularity, ...

We construct an explicit initial datum  $\rho_0$  such that  $\partial_t M \geq 0$ .

In the limit  $M(t, \cdot) \nearrow M_\infty$ , a solution of the mass of Euler-Lagrange and  $M_\infty(R_v) = 1$ .

There are no solutions of sufficient mass. Therefore  $M_\infty(0^+) = a > 0$ .

First, we prove well-posedness by Duhamel's formula and that, in rescaled variable

- ▶ If  $\nabla W \in L^n(\mathbb{R}^d)$  then  $\sup_{\tau \geq 1} \|\tilde{\rho}(\tau, \cdot)\|_{H^1} < \infty$ .
- ▶ If  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\nabla W \in L^n(\mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $\Delta W \in L^{\frac{n}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  then  $\sup_{\tau \geq 1} \|\tilde{\rho}(\tau, \cdot)\|_{C^\alpha} < \infty$  (modulus of continuity arguments, e.g. [Kiselev, Nazarov, and Volberg 2007])

Using a smart change in variable  $\mathcal{F}[\rho(t)] \leq -\frac{n}{2} \ln t + C(n, \|W\|_{L^\infty})$ .

Thus, we prove that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{\rho}(\tau, y) |\log \tilde{\rho}(\tau, y)| dy \leq C$ .

We study the  $L^1$  relative entropy  $E_1(\tilde{\rho} \| G) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{\rho} \log \frac{\tilde{\rho}}{G} dy$ .

Like for (HE), we can use logarithmic Sobolev inequality to recover an Ordinary Differential Inequality for  $E_1$  (where the terms from  $W$  are a controlled errors)

Lastly, we apply the Csiszar-Kullback inequality

$$\|\rho(t, \cdot) - K(t, \cdot)\|_{L^1} = \|\tilde{\rho}(t, \cdot) - G(\cdot)\|_{L^1} \leq 2\sqrt{E_1(\tilde{\rho} \| G)} \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$