

Coupling and doubling and timely decay

Alessio Porretta

University of Rome Tor Vergata

*Mostly Maximum Principle
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Isn't what nature has meant us to play ?*

[E. Kean: “Shakespeare’s flowers”, 1833]

Fokker-Planck equations: trend to equilibrium

A classical issue: analyse the convergence of solutions of FP equations in \mathbb{R}^d towards the unique stationary invariant measure

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t m + Lm - \operatorname{div}(b(x)m) = 0 \\ m(0) = m_0, \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} m_0 = 1 \end{cases} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} \bar{m} : \begin{cases} L(\bar{m}) = \operatorname{div}(b\bar{m}), \\ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \bar{m} = 1 \end{cases}$$

where L is a diffusion process (local or nonlocal).

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Related to ergodicity of the associated stochastic process X_t :

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \int_0^T \varphi(X_t) dt}_{= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi dm(t,x)} \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi d\bar{m} \quad \forall \varphi \in C_c(\mathbb{R}^d)$$

Model example is the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process in \mathbb{R}^d .

$$dX_t = -X_t dt + \sqrt{2} dB_t \quad \rightarrow \quad \partial_t m - \Delta m - \operatorname{div}(xm) = 0$$

\rightsquigarrow FP equations with confining drift

Rate of convergence \rightsquigarrow time decay analysis

Rephrase the problem as time decay for zero average distributions:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \mu + L\mu - \operatorname{div}(b(t, x)\mu) = 0 \\ \mu(0) = \mu_0, \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mu_0 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \rightarrow \quad \|\mu(t)\|_X \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

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Main focus: L can be a Levy operator

$$Lv = -\operatorname{tr}(Q(x)D^2v) - B \cdot Dv - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \{v(x+z) - v(x) - (Dv(x) \cdot z)1_{|z| \leq 1}\} \nu(dz)$$

Model case: **the fractional Laplacian** $\nu = \frac{dz}{|z|^{d+\alpha}}$

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Motivation: **Long time behavior of Nash equilibria in Mean-field game theory**

In that context: b depends on the individual strategies

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Main point: $b(t, x)$ is not very regular, it is time-dependent, it is not well-known a priori, etc...

\rightsquigarrow **need a very robust study of FP equation**

Typical results for $\begin{cases} \partial_t m - \Delta m - \operatorname{div}(b(x)m) = 0 \\ \int m_0 = 0 \end{cases}$

- Rate is exponential if $b(x) \cdot x \geq |x|^2$ for $|x| \rightarrow +\infty$
(es. Ornstein-Uhlenbeck semigroup)

$$\|m(t)\|_X \leq e^{-\omega t} \|m_0\|_X$$

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(slowly confining drifts \rightsquigarrow sub-geometrical rate)

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- Rate is slower if $b(x) \cdot x \geq |x|^\gamma$ for $|x| \rightarrow +\infty$, with $\gamma \in (0, 2)$
(slowly confining drifts \rightsquigarrow sub-geometrical rate)
- Natural choice of X is a L^1 -weighted space:

$$\text{es: } X = L^1(\langle x \rangle^{\kappa}), \quad \langle x \rangle = \sqrt{1 + |x|^2}$$

This implies decay in L^1 -norm for $m(t)$ but requires some finite moments on the initial data m_0 .

A (very partial !) look at the (very huge !) literature \rightsquigarrow two major axes

1. Approach by **energy/entropy methods**

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$$\partial_t m - \underbrace{\Delta m - \operatorname{div}(\nabla V m)}_{Lm} = 0$$

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$$\frac{d}{dt} H(m|e^{-V}) \leq -\gamma H(m|e^{-V}), \quad H(m|e^{-V}) := \int m(\log m + V) dx$$

[Toscani, Villani, Markovich, Carrillo...]

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- Extensions to fractional Laplacian: [Biler-Karch '03, Tristani '15, Gentil-Imbert '09,]

Key tools are **functional inequalities**: Poincaré inequality (strong and weak forms), log-Sobolev inequality... (Gross, Bakry-Emery, Villani..)

1. Approach by **probabilistic methods/ideas**

[Meyn & Tweedie '93, Douc-Fort-Guillin '09, Hairer, Hairer-Mattingly '11, ...]

Typical setting:

$$m(t) = e^{tA} m_0$$

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- \exists of a Lyapunov function + local strict positivity of the semigroup
 \rightsquigarrow **exponential decay**. In rough terms:

$$\begin{cases} \exists \varphi(x) : A^* \varphi \geq \gamma \varphi - C \mathbf{1}_K, K \text{ compact} \\ m(t, x) \geq \nu > 0 \quad \forall x \in K \end{cases} \Rightarrow \|m(t)\|_X \leq C e^{-\omega t} \|m_0\|_X$$

where X is a L^1 -weighted space (depends on Lyapunov function φ).

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- Further works also used a mix of ingredients (Lyapunov + Poincaré, decomposition methods... See e.g. [Bakry-Cattiaux-Guillin JFA '08], [Mischler, Mouhot-Mischler '09, Kavian-Mischler-Ndao '21], [LaFleche'20],...

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- The core lies in new **weighted oscillation estimates** for

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u + L^* u + b(t, x) \cdot Du = 0 \\ u(0) = u_0, \end{cases}$$

We define the seminorm

$$[u]_\varphi := \sup_{x, y \in \mathbb{R}^{2d}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|}{\varphi(x) + \varphi(y)}$$

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Special case: $\varphi(x)$ is of power-type:

$$[u]_{\langle x \rangle^k} = \sup_{x, y \in \mathbb{R}^{2d}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|}{\langle x \rangle^k + \langle y \rangle^k}, \quad \langle x \rangle = \sqrt{1 + |x|^2}.$$

Sample result: fractional Laplacian + drift

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u + (-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} u + b(t, x) \cdot Du = 0 & t > 0 \\ u(0) = u_0, \end{cases}$$

Theorem (A)

Assume that

$$b(t, x) \cdot x \geq \lambda |x|^2 \quad \forall (x, t) : |x| \text{ is large}$$

Under either of the following conditions:

(i) $\alpha \in (1, 2]$ and $(b(t, x) - b(t, y)) \cdot (x - y) \geq -c_0 |x - y|$, for all t, x, y

(ii) $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ and

$$(b(t, x) - b(t, y)) \cdot (x - y) \geq -c_0 |x - y| (1 \wedge |x - y|^{1-\alpha+\delta}),$$

for some $\delta > 0$, $c_0 > 0$,

then there exist K, ω :

$$[u(t)]_{\langle x \rangle^k} \leq K e^{-\omega t} [u_0]_{\langle x \rangle^k}$$

Theorem (B)

Under the same conditions of Theorem (A), the solution of the FP equation

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t m + (-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} m - \operatorname{div}(b(t, x)m) = 0 \\ \mu(0) = m_0, \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} m_0 = 0 \end{cases}$$

decays exponentially:

$$\|m(t)\|_{L^1(\langle x \rangle^\kappa)} \leq K e^{-\omega t} \|m_0\|_{L^1(\langle x \rangle^k)}$$

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Rmk: the conditions on the drift are $b(t, x) \cdot x \geq |x|^2$ for $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ and

(i) $\alpha \in (1, 2]$ and $(b(t, x) - b(t, y)) \cdot (x - y) \geq -c_0|x - y|$,

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- for $\alpha \in (1, 2]$ (elliptic case), minimal requirements on $b(t, x)$:
“confining at infinity + locally bounded”.

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- for $\alpha \in (1, 2]$ (elliptic case), minimal requirements on $b(t, x)$: “confining at infinity + locally bounded”.
- for $\alpha \in (0, 1]$, some local Hölder regularity is required on the (non dissipative part of) drift $b(t, x)$.

Proof of Thm (B) from Thm (A):

- By duality we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi m(t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} m_0 u(0) dx$$

$$\forall \xi, u : \begin{cases} -\partial_t u + (-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} u + b(t, x) \cdot Du = 0 & \text{in } (0, t) \\ u(t) = \xi, \end{cases}$$

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- Using m_0 with zero average we have, $\forall c \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi m(t) dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} m_0 u(0) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} m_0 (u(0) + c) dx \\ &\leq \|u(0) + c\|_{L^\infty(\langle x \rangle^{-k} dx)} \|m_0\|_{L^1(\langle x \rangle^k)} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

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- We use equivalence of seminorms

$$\inf_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \|u + c\|_{L^\infty(\langle x \rangle^{-k} dx)} = \sup_{x, y \in \mathbb{R}^{2d}} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|}{\langle x \rangle^k + \langle y \rangle^k} = [u]_{\langle x \rangle^k}$$

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- We minimize on c in (1) and use Thm (A)

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi m(t) dx \leq \|m_0\|_{L^1(\langle x \rangle^k)} [u(0)]_{\langle x \rangle^k} \leq \|m_0\|_{L^1(\langle x \rangle^k)} K e^{-\omega t} \|\xi\|_{L^\infty(\langle x \rangle^{-k} dx)}$$

We prove similar results for the *slowly confining case*:

$$b(t, x) \cdot x \geq c |x|^\gamma \quad \forall (x, t) : |x| \text{ is large} \quad (2)$$

whenever

$$\gamma \in (0, 2)$$

Theorem

Assume that b satisfies (2) with $\gamma \in (2 - \alpha, 2)$ and b satisfies the conditions of Theorem (A). Let m be the solution of the FP equation

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t m + (-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} m - \operatorname{div} (b(t, x)m) = 0 \\ \mu(0) = m_0, \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} m_0 = 0. \end{cases}$$

Then, for any $k \in (2 - \gamma, \alpha)$ and $\bar{k} > k$, we have

$$\|m(t)\|_{L^1(\langle x \rangle^k)} \leq K (1+t)^{-q} \|m_0\|_{L^1(\langle x \rangle^{\bar{k}})} \quad \text{where } q = \frac{\bar{k}-k}{2-\gamma}.$$

Main novelty of this approach: decay of FP equations \iff decay in weighted seminorms for drift-diffusion eqs

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u + (-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} u + b(t, x) \cdot Du = 0 & t > 0 \\ u(0) = u_0, \end{cases}$$

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$$\exists \omega, K > 0 : u(t, x) - u(t, y) \leq K e^{-\omega t} (\langle x \rangle^k + \langle y \rangle^k) \quad (3)$$

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$$u(t, x) - u(t, y) \leq e^{-\omega t} \{K[\langle x \rangle^k + \langle y \rangle^k] + \psi(|x - y|)\} \quad (4)$$

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- $\psi(|x - y|)$ takes care of **small range interactions**
Typically: ψ is a concave bounded function which is locally Hölder
- **long range interactions** only happen at infinity
 \rightsquigarrow **dominated by the Lyapunov function**

Decay of weighted seminorms:

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- Estimate (5) is an evidence of ergodicity of the underlying process.

Similar results exist in the probabilistic literature in the form of *contraction estimates for transition probabilities in Wasserstein's metrics* [F.Y. Wang], [Eberle], [Schilling-J.Wang], [Majka]...

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- Our proof is entirely analytic and quite elementary:
max. principle + doubling variables' method

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Similar results exist in the probabilistic literature in the form of *contraction estimates for transition probabilities in Wasserstein's metrics* [F.Y. Wang], [Eberle], [Schilling-J.Wang], [Majka]...

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We upgrade (especially for nonlocal diffusions) the method developed in [Ishii-Lions '92] for viscosity solutions, extended to nonlocal operators in [Barles-Chasseigne-Imbert '11], [Barles-Chasseigne-Ciomaga-Imbert '13] (see also [Barles-Ley-Topp '17], [Chasseigne-Ley-Nguyen].)

Decay of weighted seminorms:

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Key-point: [P.-Priola '12]:

PDE doubling variables methods \leftrightarrow **probabilistic coupling methods**

Coupling method in probability

[Doeblin '38], [Lindvall, Rogers '86], [Chen-Li '89], [F.Y. Wang '11]...

Given a process X_t starting from $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, Y_t starting from $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$

\rightsquigarrow look for a new process Z_t in the product space \mathbb{R}^{2d} :

- (i) the marginal laws of Z_t are the laws of X_t, Y_t respectively
- (ii) $Z_t = (X_t, X_t)$ after the first time Z_t hits the diagonal $\Delta := \{x = y\}$.

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$$u(t, x) - u(t, y) = \mathbb{E}_{Z_t} [u_0(x_t) - u_0(y_t)] \leq 2\|u_0\|_\infty \mathbb{P}(t < T_c)$$

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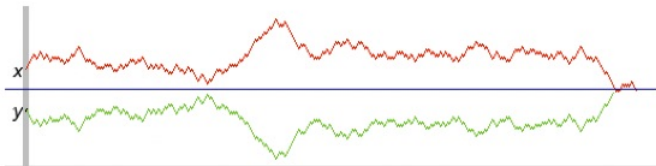
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Ex (coupling by reflection) [from W. Kendall' s course, Warwick '17]



[P-Priola '12] \rightsquigarrow the analytical version:

u, v are sub/super sol. of $\partial_t u = \text{tr}(q(x)D^2 u) + b(x)Du$ in \mathbb{R}^d

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Roughly speaking, we have

$$u(t, x) - u(t, y) \leq \inf_{\mathcal{A}_c} \{ \psi(t, x, y), : \partial_t \psi - \mathcal{A}_c(\psi) \geq 0 \}.$$

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• The method is nonlinear: coupling methods are embedded into doubling variables approach for viscosity solutions

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Rough sketch of the argument:

- Look at the maximum points of

$$W(t, x, y) := u(t, x) - u(t, y) - K_t \left\{ \underbrace{[\varphi(x) + \varphi(y)]}_{\text{Lyapunov}} + \underbrace{\psi(|x - y|)}_{\text{concave increasing}} \right\}$$

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- Let (t, x, y) be a max. point $\rightsquigarrow W(t, x, y) \geq W(t, x + z, y + z)$
 $\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{L}[u](x) - \mathcal{L}[u](y) \geq K_t (\mathcal{L}[\varphi](x) + \mathcal{L}[\varphi](y))$

But we also have

$$W(t, x, y) \geq W(t, x + z, y + Az) \quad \text{for any matrix } A$$

Ex: $A := Id - 2(\widehat{x - y} \otimes \widehat{x - y})$ (reflection of the jumps)

\rightsquigarrow exploits the concavity of ψ for small interactions.

Key-estimate:

Lemma Suppose that

$$\mathcal{L}[u](x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \{u(x+z) - u(x) - (Du(x) \cdot z)\mathbf{1}_{|z| \leq 1}\} \nu(dz)$$

where the Levy measure ν satisfies, in a neighborhood of the origin

$$\exists \lambda > 0 : \quad \frac{\lambda}{|z|^{d+\alpha}} \leq \frac{d\nu}{dz}.$$

If (x, y) is a local maximum point of the function

$$u(x) - u(y) - ([\varphi(x) + \varphi(y)] + \psi(|x - y|))$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[u](x) - \mathcal{L}[u](y) &\geq [\mathcal{L}[\varphi](x) + \mathcal{L}[\varphi](y)] \\ &\quad - 4\lambda \int_0^1 (1-s) \int_B \psi''(r + 2s(\widehat{x-y} \cdot z)) |z|^2 \frac{dz}{|z|^{d+\sigma}} ds, \end{aligned}$$

where $B := \{z \in \mathbb{R}^d : |z| < (|x - y| \wedge 1)\}$. □

Comments:

- Similar arguments also apply to get regularizing effects.
Ex ($\alpha > 1$ + strong confinement)

$$\|Du(t)\|_{L^\infty(\langle x \rangle^{-k})} \leq \frac{K e^{-\omega t}}{t^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}} [u(0)]_{\langle x \rangle^k} \quad \forall t > 0.$$

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More tricky perspective (future goal): how to export same approach to degenerate Kolmogorov operators (Hormander types of diffusions, kinetic models,...)

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- We suggest a new strategy for proving long time decay rates of Fokker-Planck equations (both local and nonlocal diffusions).
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- We have successfully applied those results to analyse long-time convergence of mean field games with Levy operators
[work in progress with O. Ersland & E. Jakobsen]

Thanks for the attention !