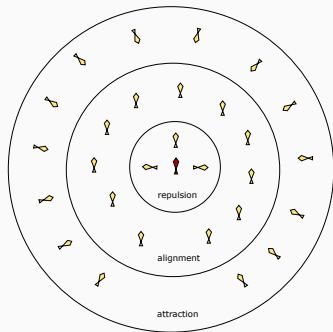


Generic alignment conjecture and the problem of emergence of collective behavior

Roman Shvydkoy (University of Illinois at Chicago)

June 16, 2023

Abel Symposium 2023



1. Collision Avoidance:
avoid collisions with nearby flockmates
2. Velocity Matching: attempt
to match velocity with nearby flockmates
3. Flock Centering:
attempt to stay close to nearby flockmates

Published in *Computer Graphics*, 21(4), July 1987, pp. 25-34.
(ACM SIGGRAPH '87 Conference Proceedings, Anaheim, California, July 1987.)

Flocks, Herds, and Schools: A Distributed Behavioral Model

Craig W. Reynolds

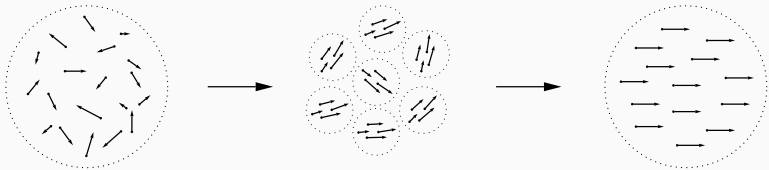
Symbolics Graphics Division

Discrete models of collective behavior describe dynamics of a number of agents:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i &= \mathbf{v}_i, \\ \dot{\mathbf{v}}_i &= s_i([\mathbf{v}]_i - \mathbf{v}_i), \quad (\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{v}_i) \in \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n.\end{aligned}$$

Agents adjust their directions to environmentally averaged velocity $[\mathbf{v}]_i$ with a strength s_i .

Emergence is formation of global patterns resulting from local interactions.



- Cucker-Smale alignment model, 2007:

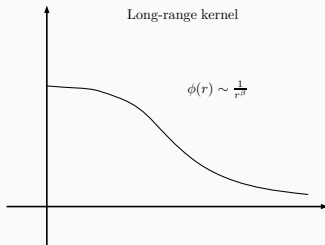
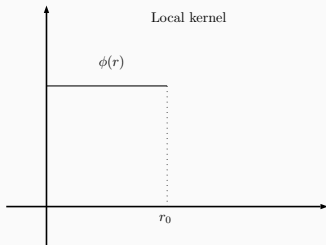
$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{v}_i, \\ \dot{\mathbf{v}}_i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \phi(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j)(\mathbf{v}_j - \mathbf{v}_i), \end{cases} \quad (\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{v}_i) \in \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^n$$

where

$$s_i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_j \phi(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j), \quad [\mathbf{v}]_i = \frac{\sum_j \phi(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j}{\sum_j \phi(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j)}$$

and ϕ is a radially decreasing communication kernel.

- Sufficiently strong global communication \Rightarrow Unconditional alignment.



Theorem (Cucker, Smale (2007); Ha, Tadmor (2008); Ha, Liu (2009))

Suppose

$$\phi(r) = \frac{H}{(1 + r^2)^{\frac{\beta}{2}}}.$$

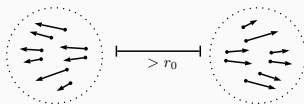
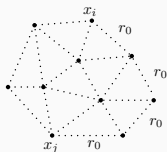
if $\beta \leq 1$, then any solution aligns and flocks exponentially fast:

$$\max_i |\mathbf{v}_i - \bar{\mathbf{v}}| \leq Ce^{-\delta t}, \quad \sup_{i,j} |\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j| \leq \bar{D} < \infty.$$

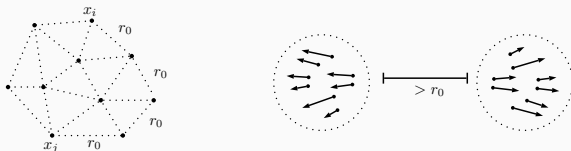
- kinetic version due to Carrillo, Fornasier, Rosado, Toscani (2010);
- macroscopic version due to Tan, Tadmor (2014).

- L. Perea, P. Elosegui, and G. Gomez. Extension of the Cucker-Smale control law to space flight formations. *Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics*, 32:526 – 536, 2009.
- M. Bongini, M. Fornasier and D. Kalise, (Un)conditional consensus emergence under perturbed and decentralized feedback controls, *Discr. Contin. Dyn. Syst. Ser. A* 35 (2015) 4071–4094.
- Y.-P. Choi, D. Kalise, J. Peszek and A. A. Peters, A collisionless singular Cucker–Smale model with decentralized formation control, *SIAM J. Appl. Dyn. Syst.* 18 (2019), no. 4, 1954–1981.
- J.-A. Carrillo, Y.-P. Choi, C. Totzeck and O. Tse, An analytical framework for consensus-based global optimization method, *Math. Models Methods Appl. Sci.* 28 (2018) 1037–1066.
- Zhiping Mao, Zhen Li, George Em Karniadakis, Nonlocal flocking dynamics: Learning the fractional order of PDEs from particle simulations. *Commun. Appl. Math. Comput.* 1 (2019), no. 4, 597–619.

“Local communication \Rightarrow Flocking” commonly requires propagation of connectivity.



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Theorem (Morales, Peszek, Tadmor (2019))

If the flock remains r_0 -connected at all times, then it aligns. If the kernel is local, $\phi(r) \sim \Lambda \mathbb{1}_{r < r_0}$ but strong, $\Lambda \gg 1$, then any initially r_0 -connected data results in aligned outcome.

Theorem (Tadmor, Shu (2019))

Under quadratic confinement force $F = -U(x)$, $U(r) = r^2$, the condition on ϕ relaxes to $\phi \gtrsim \frac{1}{r^2}$.

Let us assume purely local communication:

$$\phi(x) \geq \lambda \mathbf{1}_{|x| \leq r_0}.$$

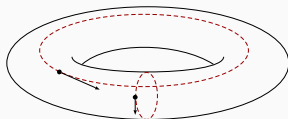
Attempted approaches:

- **microscopic level**: generic alignment conjecture.
- **kinetic level**: alignment = problem of relaxation for kinetic models; hypocoercivity method.
- **macroscopic level**: hydrodynamic connectivity; how low can the density ρ be to ensure collective outcome?

GENERIC ALIGNMENT CONJECTURE ON \mathbb{T}^n

Let us assume only local communication: “locked states”

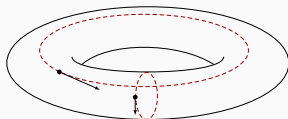
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Kronecker, 1800's: The Euclidean line $\mathbf{x} = t\mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{v}_0$, where

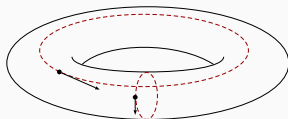
$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N), \quad \mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N)$$

densely fills a k -dimensional subtorus of \mathbb{T}^{nN} where

$$k = \dim_{\mathbb{Q}} \sum_{j=1}^{nN} \mathbb{Q}\mathbf{v}_0^j.$$

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Generic Alignment Conjecture: For almost every initial data $(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{v}_0) \in \mathbb{T}^{nN} \times \mathbb{R}^{nN}$ solutions to the Cucker-Smale system align

$$\max_{i,j} |v_i - v_j| \rightarrow 0.$$

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RS (2023) The conjecture is true for $N = 2$ and any $n \in \mathbb{N}$. In fact, for any N , for almost every initial data at least 2 agents will align. Moreover, the ensemble dynamics contracts volumes to 0:

$$\det \nabla S_t(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) = \exp \left\{ - \int_0^t \sum_{i \neq j} \phi(x_i - x_j) ds \right\} \rightarrow 0.$$

S.-Y. Ha, E. Tadmor (2008); S.-Y. Ha, J.-G. Liu (2009): mean-field limit

$$\mu_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{v_i} \otimes \delta_{x_i} \rightarrow f$$

$$\partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = s_\rho \nabla_v \cdot ((v - [u]_\rho) f), \quad (\text{Vlasov-Alignment})$$

where ρ and u are the macroscopic variables

$$\rho(x, t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x, v, t) dv, \quad \rho u = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} v f(x, v, t) dv,$$

and s_ρ and $[u]_\rho$ come from the model in question:

$$s_\rho = \rho_\phi = \rho * \phi, \quad [u]_\rho(x) = \frac{(u\rho)_\phi}{\rho_\phi} \quad (\text{Cucker-Smale})$$

$$s_\rho = 1, \quad [u]_\rho(x) = \frac{(u\rho)_\phi}{\rho_\phi} \quad (\text{Motsch-Tadmor})$$

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RS (2022) [arxiv](#): Environmental Averaging.

Euler Alignment system

The macroscopic variables satisfy the Euler-Alignment system

$$\begin{cases} \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho u) = 0, \\ (\rho u)_t + \nabla_x \cdot (\rho u \otimes u + \mathcal{R}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \rho(x) \rho(y) (u(y) - u(x)) \phi(x - y) dy, \end{cases}$$

where \mathcal{R} is the Reynolds stress tensor,

$$\mathcal{R}(x, t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (v - u(x, t)) \otimes (v - u(x, t)) f(x, v, t) dv.$$

Kang, Vasseur (2014); Figalli, Kang, (2019); RS (2020): hydrodynamic limit in monokinetic regime

$$f \rightarrow \rho(x, t) \delta(v - u(x, t))$$

This leads to pressureless EAS, $\mathcal{R} = 0$.

Karper, Mellet, Trivisa, 2014-16: Maxwellian regime

$$f \rightarrow \frac{\rho(x, t)}{(2\pi)^{n/2}} e^{-\frac{|v - u(x, t)|^2}{2}}$$

This leads to isothermal pressure, $\mathcal{R} = \rho \mathbb{I}$.

Well-posedness of hydrodynamic models

- Carrillo, Choi, Tadmor, Tan (2014-2016). Pressureless EAS: g.w.p. under critical threshold criterion, smooth kernel 1D:

$$e = u_x + \phi * \rho \geq 0, \quad e_t + (eu)_x = 0.$$

- Tadmor, RS, (2016-2017); T. Do, A. Kiselev, L. Ryzhik, and C. Tan (2017): singular fractional parabolic models, unconditional g.w.p. in 1D

$$\phi(r) = \frac{1}{r^{1+\alpha}}, \quad 0 < \alpha < 2.$$

(Caffarelli-Chen-Vasseur, Caffarelli-Silvestre regularization; alternatively, modulus of continuity)

- He, Tadmor (2016) spectral dynamics in 2D, D. Lear, RS (2019-21) unidirectional flows, Ch. Tan (2020) radial flows, Danchin, Mucha, Peszek, Wroblewski (2019), RS (2019) small initial data, etc.
- Choi (2018) 1D isothermal EAS, small data; Constantin, Drivas, RS 2020 global well-posedness of non-vacuous solutions, entropy hierarchy.

Hydrodynamic approach. Spectral Gap

Consider solution to pressureless EAS

$$\begin{cases} \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho u) = 0, \\ (\rho u)_t + \nabla_x \cdot (\rho u \otimes u) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \rho(x)\rho(y)(u(y) - u(x))\phi(x - y) dy, \end{cases}$$

with $\bar{u} = \int_{\Omega} \rho u dx = 0$. Then alignment can be measured by the energy

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega \times \Omega} \rho |u|^2 dx.$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega \times \Omega} |u(x, t) - u(y, t)|^2 \rho(x, t)\rho(y, t)\phi(x - y) dx dy := -(u, \mathcal{L}_\rho u)_\rho,$$

where $\mathcal{L}_\rho u = s_\rho(u - [u]_\rho)$. Let

$$\lambda = \inf_{u \in L_0^2(\rho)} \frac{(u, \mathcal{L}_\rho u)_\rho}{(u, u)_\rho} \geq 0. \quad (2)$$

Then

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E} \leq -\lambda \mathcal{E} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{E} \rightarrow 0 \text{ if } \int_0^\infty \lambda(s) ds = \infty.$$

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Tadmor (2021): $\lambda \sim \frac{\rho_-^2}{\rho_+}$. So, provided ρ_+ is under control we need $\rho_- \gtrsim \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}$.

Let us rewrite the energy equality in a different way:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\mathcal{E} = (u, [u]_\rho)_{\rho s_\rho} - (u, u)_{\rho s_\rho} := \mathcal{E}_1 - \mathcal{E}_0.$$

Need:

$$\mathcal{E}_0 - \mathcal{E}_1 \geq \varepsilon \mathcal{E}_0 \gtrsim \varepsilon \rho_- \mathcal{E}.$$

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$$\mathcal{E}_0 = (u, u)_{\rho s_\rho}$$

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$$\mathcal{E}_2 = ([u]_\rho, [u]_\rho)_{\rho s_\rho}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_3 = ([u]_\rho, [[u]_\rho]_\rho)_{\rho s_\rho} \dots$$

It turns out:

$$\mathcal{E}_1 - \mathcal{E}_2 \geq \varepsilon \mathcal{E}_1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{E}_0 - \mathcal{E}_1 \geq \varepsilon \mathcal{E}_0.$$

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KEY observation: estimates on the lower energy gap are independent of ρ_+ !

For Cucker-Smale: supposing $\phi = \psi * \psi$, we have where $\psi \geq 0$, alignment occurs provided

$$\mathcal{E}_1 - \mathcal{E}_2 = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega^2} \rho_\psi(x) \rho_\psi(y) \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_\phi} \right)_{\psi\psi}(x, y) \left| \frac{(u\rho)_\psi}{\rho_\psi}(x) - \frac{(u\rho)_\psi}{\rho_\psi}(y) \right|^2 dy dx,$$

where

$$r_{\psi\psi}(x, y) = \int_{\Omega} \psi(x - \xi) \psi(y - \xi) r(\xi) d\xi,$$

This leads to the new estimate

$$\lambda \sim \rho_-^4.$$

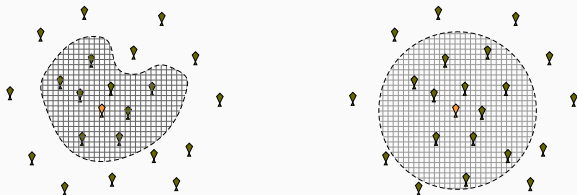
So, for alignment we need

$$\rho_- \gtrsim \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{t}}.$$

Topological diffusion

When communication has a limited range the interaction may be "topological" rather than "metric":

Topological versus Metric protocol



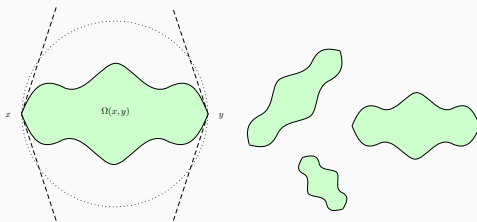
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– A. Blanchet and P. Degond. Topological interactions in a Boltzmann-type framework. *J. Stat. Phys.*, 163:41–60, 2016.

– A. Blanchet and P. Degond. Kinetic models for topological nearest-neighbor interactions. *J. Stat. Phys.* volume 169: 929–950, 2017.

– Tadmor, RS. Topologically based fractional diffusion and emergent dynamics with short range interactions. SIAM J. Math. Anal., 52(6):5792–5839, 2020



1. Every agent x has a finite influence range, $B(x, r_0)$.
2. Agent x influences agent y through communication domain $\Omega(x, y) = \Omega(y, x)$.
3. The mass

$$d(x, y, t) = \int_{\Omega(x, y)} \rho(z, t) dz.$$

determines the communication distance between x and y .

Based on the outlined principles, we make the following choice:

$$\phi_\rho(x, y) = \frac{1}{d(x, y, t)|x - y|^\alpha} \mathbb{1}_{|x - y| < r_0}.$$

$$\begin{cases} \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho u) = 0, \\ u_t + u \cdot \nabla u = \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} \phi_\rho(x, y)(u(y, t) - u(x, t))\rho(y, t) dy. \end{cases}$$

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Theorem (Tadmor, RS (2018))

Let (u, ρ) be a global smooth solution to the topological model on \mathbb{T}^n and

$$\rho(x, t) \gtrsim \frac{1}{t}, \quad t \rightarrow \infty. \quad (3)$$

Then

$$|u(t) - \bar{u}|_\infty \lesssim \frac{1}{(\ln t)^{1/6}}.$$

In 1D the lower bound (3) holds automatically.

Topological Euler-Alignment system

$$\begin{cases} \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho u) = 0, \\ u_t + u \cdot \nabla u = \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} \phi_\rho(x, y)(u(y, t) - u(x, t))\rho(y, t) dy. \end{cases}$$

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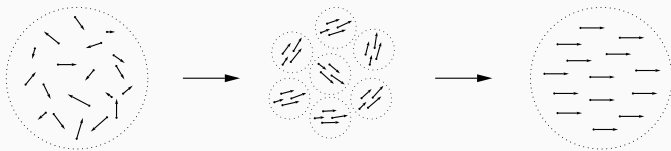
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Fokker-Planck-Alignment model

Locked states are disrupted by stochastic noise

$$\dot{v}_i = s_i([v]_i - v_i) + \sqrt{2\sigma s_i} \dot{W}_i, \quad (4)$$

where W_i 's are independent Brownian motions in \mathbb{R}^n . The mean-field limit of solutions satisfies a Fokker-Planck-Alignment equation

$$f_t^\sigma + v \cdot \nabla_x f^\sigma = \sigma s_\rho \Delta_v f^\sigma + s_\rho \nabla_v \cdot ((v - [u^\sigma]_\rho) f^\sigma).$$

So, the expected behavior as $t \rightarrow \infty$ would be the same as for the linear Fokker-Planck equation which is a relaxation to the global Maxwellian

$$f^\sigma \rightarrow \mu_{\sigma, \bar{u}} = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma)^{n/2}} e^{-\frac{|v - \bar{u}|^2}{2\sigma}},$$

where \bar{u} is the mean velocity. If such a convergence holds true, then the alignment of the original system can be recovered in the limit of vanishing noise $\sigma \rightarrow 0$:

$$\lim_{\sigma \rightarrow 0} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f^\sigma(t) = \delta_{v=\bar{u}} \otimes dx.$$

- **Duan, Fornasier, and Toscani (2010)**: relaxation in the Cucker-Smale case

$$f_t + v \cdot \nabla_x f = \sigma \rho_\phi \Delta_v f + \nabla_v((\rho_\phi v - (u\rho)_\phi) f),$$

for perturbation data,

$$f = \mu_{\sigma, \bar{u}} + g \sqrt{\mu_{\sigma, \bar{u}}}, \quad \|g_0\|_{H^k(\mathbb{T}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n)} \leq \varepsilon,$$

for some small $\varepsilon > 0$.

- **Choi (2016)**: relaxation for purely local model

$$f_t + v \cdot \nabla_x f = \sigma \Delta_v f + \nabla_v((v - u) f),$$

in the perturbative settings also.

These results are inspired by techniques from collisional models (Landau, Boltzmann) by Guo, Duan, and others.

Consider IVP for FPA based on Cucker-Smale protocol

$$f_t + v \cdot \nabla_x f = \sigma \rho_\phi \Delta_v f + \nabla_v \cdot ((\rho_\phi v - (u\rho)_\phi) f),$$

Theorem (RS, 2022)

*Suppose $f_0 \in H_l^k$, $k, l \geq n + 3$, and suppose $\phi = \psi * \psi$. Then there exists a unique solution to FPA in H_l^k classical global solution to FPA, such that $\rho_- > 0$ uniformly for all $t > t_0 > 0$, and f relaxes to the corresponding Maxwellian at an exponential rate*

$$\|f(t) - \mu_{\sigma, \bar{u}}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{T}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n)} \leq c_1 \sigma^{-1/2} e^{-c_2 \sigma^{1/2} t},$$

for some c_1 depending on the initial data, and $c_2 > 0$ depending only on the parameters of the system.

Proof consists of several steps:

- global well-posedness in weighted Sobolev spaces;
- uniform gain of positivity, $f \geq a e^{-b|v|^2}$, where a, b are time-independent for $t > t_0$.
- estimate on the spectral gap of $[\cdot]_\rho$: $\varepsilon \sim \rho_-^3$. This is where we use $\phi = \psi * \psi$.
- hypocoercivity implied by the uniform spectral gap.

Assuming $\bar{u} = 0$ by Galilean invariance and $\sigma = 1$, consider $h = f/\mu$:

$$\partial_t h = -\rho_\phi A^* A h - B h + A^* ((u\rho)_\phi h),$$

where

$$A = \nabla_v, \quad A^* = v - \nabla_v, \quad B = v \cdot \nabla_x.$$

We have the entropy

$$\mathcal{H} = \int_{\mathbb{T}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} h \log h \, d\mu,$$

which obeys two forms of entropy law:

- non-dissipative

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{H} = -\mathcal{I}_{vv}(h) + (u, [u]_\rho)_{\rho\rho_\phi},$$

where

$$\mathcal{I}_{vv}(h) = \int_{\mathbb{T}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{|\nabla_v h|^2}{h} d\mu, \quad (u, [u]_\rho)_{\rho\rho_\phi} = \int_{\Omega^n} (u\rho)_\phi u\rho dx,$$

- non-dissipative

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- dissipative

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{H} \leq -(u, u)_{\rho\rho_\phi} + (u, [u]_\rho)_{\rho\rho_\phi}.$$

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- dissipative

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{H} \leq -(u, u)_{\rho\rho_\phi} + (u, [u]_\rho)_{\rho\rho_\phi}.$$

We seek to find the spectral gap

$$-(u, u)_{\rho\rho_\phi} + (u, [u]_\rho)_{\rho\rho_\phi} \leq -\varepsilon(u, u)_{\rho\rho_\phi}.$$

Suppose for the moment that we control this gap uniformly for $t > t_0$. Then

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{H} \lesssim -\mathcal{I}_{vv}(h) - (u, u)_{\rho\rho_\phi}.$$

Next: use the full Fischer information

$$\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I}_{vv} + \varepsilon \mathcal{I}_{xv} + \mathcal{I}_{xx} \gtrsim \mathcal{H} \quad (\text{log-Sobolev inequality}),$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{xv}(h) = \int_{\mathbb{T}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\nabla_x h \cdot \nabla_v h}{h} d\mu, \quad \mathcal{I}_{xx}(h) = \int_{\mathbb{T}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{|\nabla_x h|^2}{h} d\mu.$$

Then one computes a la Villani-Desvillettes,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{I} \leq c_1 \mathcal{I}_{vv} - c_2 \mathcal{I}_{xx} + c_3(u, u)_{\rho\rho\phi}.$$

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So,

$$\frac{d}{dt} [c_4 \mathcal{H} + \mathcal{I}] \leq -c_5 [c_4 \mathcal{H} + \mathcal{I}].$$

In particular, by the Csiszár-Kullback inequality

$$\|f - \mu\|_1^2 \leq \mathcal{H} \leq ce^{-ct}.$$

$$\mathcal{E}_0 - \mathcal{E}_1 \geq \varepsilon \mathcal{E}_0.$$

Instead we use the Low Energy Method and look for

$$\mathcal{E}_1 - \mathcal{E}_2 \geq \varepsilon \mathcal{E}_1.$$

One can achieve this by using Bochner-positivity of the kernel:

$$(u, [u]_\rho)_{\rho\rho_\phi} = \int_{\Omega^n} (u\rho)_\phi u\rho \, dx = \int_{\Omega^n} (u\rho)_\psi^2 \, dx \geq 0.$$

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From the formula for $\mathcal{E}_1 - \mathcal{E}_2$ shown before, one gets

$$\varepsilon \geq \rho_-^3.$$

- Villani, Desvillettes (2000) Space-homogeneous Fokker-Planck;
- Henderson, Snelson, Tarfulea, (2020) Gain of positivity for Boltzmann and Landau;
- F. Anceschi, Y. Zhu (2021) provided a time-dependent gain for general FP equations with bounded drift.
- J. Guerand, C. Imbert (2022) weak Harnack inequality for supersolutions.

Theorem

There exist time-independent constants $a, b > 0$ which depend only on \mathcal{H}_0 such that

$$f(t, x, v) \geq b e^{-a|v|^2}, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{T}^n, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, t > 1. \quad (5)$$

Consequently,

$$\rho_- \geq c(a, b).$$

Hence, the spectral gap is uniform in time and previous estimates apply. QED.

THANK YOU!!!