Diffusion and Hamiltonian equations, back and forth

Yann Brenier CNRS Orsay Paris-Saclay et équipe CNRS-INRIA "PARMA"

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PART I FROM DIFFUSION TO HAMILTONIAN EQUATIONS: THE EXAMPLE OF CLASSICAL GRAVITATION

The trajectory $t \in \mathbb{R}_+ \to X_t(a) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ of each "particle" labelled by $a \in \mathbb{R}^3$ (mod \mathbb{Z}^3 for simplicity) is driven by

$$\frac{d^2 X_t}{dt^2} + (\nabla \varphi)(t, X_t) = 0, \quad 1 + \triangle \varphi = \rho = \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} \delta(x - X_t(a)) da$$

where $\rho(t, x)$ and $\varphi(t, x)$, $x \in \mathbb{T}^3$, respectively denote the density field (supposed to be of unit average) and the gravitational potential.

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(Y.B., G. Loeper GAFA '04, Y.B.Confl. Math '11, B. Lévy, Y.B., R. Mohayahee arXiv 24)

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i) exact in 1d, asymptotically correct for weak fields; ii) much less singular as ρ concentrates (φ staying Lipschitz in x); iii) might be as good as the Poisson equation as an approximation to the Einstein equations (conjecture), based on the "vague" analogy

 $\frac{\text{Einstein equation}}{\text{Ricci curvature}} \sim \frac{\text{Monge}-\text{Ampere equation}}{\text{Gauss curvature}}$

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Einstein equation	Monge–Ampere equation
Ricci curvature	Gauss curvature

iv) has a computational complexity similar to Poisson thanks to the Monge-Ampère solver by Quentin Mérigot (2D) and Bruno Lévy (3D).

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MONGE-AMPERE vs NEWTON (B. Lévy, Y.B., R. Mohayaee arxiv 2404.07697v2)



FIG. 8. Comparison between 3D simulations of ACDM (using an adaptive-mesh algorithm similar to 2211) and Monge-Ampère in a cube of 300 Mpc/h, 512² particles, z=5, 3 and 0. Projected integrated density in a 15 Mpc/h thick slab, using a logarithmic color scale. Large-scale similarity between the two models is striking, however MAG creates more abundant and diffuse filaments, whereas ACDM creates highly-clustered small haloes. There is weaker clustering because MAG does not diverge and is screened at short distances.

PURELY STOCHASTIC ORIGIN OF DISCRETE MONGE-AMPERE GRAVITATION FROM THE MODEL OF A BROWNIAN CLOUD

Ambrosio, Baradat, B., Analysis and PDEs '22, Léonard, Mohayaee arXiv 24 (picture taken from B. Lévy, Y.B., R. Mohayaee arxiv 2404.07697v2)



FIG. 1. Left panel: unconditioned motion of M independent Brownian particles; Center panel: motion of independent Brownian particles conditioned by their initial and final positions (in red and blue respectively); Right: conditioned Brownian motion with vanishing noise, all trajectories tend to geodesics.

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Diffusion vs Hamiltonian

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BROWNIAN CLOUDS

We define a brownian cloud to be a finite set of *N* indistinguishable points in the euclidean space, i.e. as a point *X* in the quotient space $(\mathbb{R}^d)^N/\mathfrak{S}_N$, initially located on a finite cubic lattice $\{A(\alpha) \in \mathbb{R}^d, \ \alpha = 1, \dots, N\}$ and subject to *N* independent Brownian motions in \mathbb{R}^d , with uniform noise ν .

HEAT EQUATION AND BROWNIAN CLOUDS

In PDE terms, this corresponds to the heat equation in \mathbb{R}^{Nd} :

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}(t,X) = \frac{\nu}{2} \bigtriangleup \rho(t,X), \quad \rho(t=0,X) = \frac{1}{N!} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_N} \prod_{\alpha=1}^N \delta(X(\alpha) - A(\sigma(\alpha)))$$

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where the initial data takes the relabeling symmetry into account so that $\rho(t, X)$ is the probability density of finding the brownian cloud at position X (up to a permutation of the labels) at time t

$$\rho(t,X) = \frac{1}{N!} (2\pi\nu t)^{-Nd/2} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_N} \prod_{\alpha=1}^N \exp(-\frac{|X(\alpha) - A(\sigma(\alpha))|^2}{2\nu t})$$

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"L'ONDE PILOTE"

After solving the heat equation in the space of "clouds" $X \in \mathbb{R}^{Nd}$

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we may solve the companion ODE in the same space \mathbb{R}^{Nd}

$$\frac{dX_t}{dt} = v(t, X_t), \quad v(t, X) = -\frac{\nu}{2} \nabla(\log \rho)(t, X)$$

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This is an adaptation of de Broglie's "onde pilote" idea. As a matter of fact, a similar calculation also works for the free Schrödinger equation:

$$(i\partial_t + \triangle)\psi = 0, \quad \psi(0, X) = \sum_{\sigma} \exp(-||X - A_{\sigma}||^2/a^2), \quad v = \nabla \mathcal{I}m \log \psi$$

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"ONDE PILOTE" AND ZERO NOISE LIMIT

Setting $t = \exp(2\theta)$, we more explicitly get (with abuse of notation $X_t \to X_{\theta}$):

$$\frac{dX_{\theta}}{d\theta} = -\nabla_X \Phi_{\nu,\theta}(X_{\theta}) , \ \ \Phi_{\nu,\theta}(X) = \nu \exp(2\theta) \log \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_N} \exp(\frac{-||X - A_{\sigma}||^2}{2\nu \exp(2\theta)})$$

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Surprisingly enough, we may easily pass to the limit $\nu \rightarrow 0$ in the class of maximal monotone operators (cf. Brezis' book)

$$\frac{d_{+}X_{\theta}}{d\theta} = -\overline{\nabla}_{X}\Phi(X_{\theta}), \quad \Phi(X) = \lim_{\nu \to 0} \Phi_{\nu,\theta}(X) = -\inf_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_{N}} ||X - A_{\sigma}||^{2}/2$$

Indeed, $\Phi_{\nu,\theta}(X)$ reads $-\frac{||X||^{2} + ||A||^{2}}{2} + a$ convex function of X .

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Indeed, $\Phi_{\nu,\theta}(X)$ reads $-\frac{||X||^2+||A||^2}{2}$ + a convex function of *X*. N.B. Through $\overline{\nabla}_X \Phi$, this equation includes sticky collisions in 1D.

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1D sticky collisions

horizontal : 51 grid points in x /vertical : 60 grid points in t



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LARGE DEVIATIONS FOR THE "ONDE PILOTE"

$$\frac{dX_{\theta}}{d\theta} = -\nabla_X \Phi_{\nu,\theta}(X_{\theta}) + \sqrt{\eta} \frac{dB_{\theta}}{d\theta} \Phi_{\nu,\theta}(X) = \nu e^{2\theta} \log \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_N} \exp(\frac{-||X - A_{\sigma}||^2}{2\nu e^{2\theta}}),$$

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Then, we may pass to the limit $\nu \rightarrow 0$ and obtain as " Γ -limit"

$$\int_{\theta_0}^{\theta_1} ||\frac{d_+X_{\theta}}{d\theta} + \overline{\nabla}_X \Phi(X_{\theta})||^2 d\theta, \ \Phi(X) = -\inf_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_N} \ ||X - A_{\sigma}||^2/2$$

which (at least in 1D) handles sticky collisions thanks to $\overline{\nabla}_X \Phi$! L. Ambrosio, A. Baradat, Y.B. Analysis and PDE 2023

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BACK TO MONGE-AMPERE GRAVITATION!

Using the least action principle, we obtain

$$\frac{d^2 X_{\theta}(\alpha)}{d\theta^2} = X_{\theta}(\alpha) - A(\sigma_{opt}(\alpha)) , \quad X_{\theta}(\alpha) \in \mathbb{R}^d, \ \alpha = 1, \cdots, N$$

$$\sigma_{opt} = \operatorname{Arginf}_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_N} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N |X_{\theta}(\alpha) - A(\sigma(\alpha))|^2$$

(but not in the sense of Bouchut/Ambrosio!)

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and finally, using Optimal Transport tools, the continuous version

$$\frac{d^2 X_{\theta}}{d\theta^2} + (\nabla \varphi)(\theta, X_{\theta}) = 0, \quad \det(\mathbb{I}_d + D^2 \varphi) = \rho = \int \delta(x - X_{\theta}(a)) da$$

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From Hamiltonian equations to diffusions

Y.B. Ann. Toulouse '17, Y.B., Xianglong Duan ARMA '18, Lecture notes "Hidden Convexity" Y.B. '20, hal-02928398.

First example: from Euler to Fourier.

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> First example: from Euler to Fourier. The Euler model for fluids (1755/57) reads

 $\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \partial_t (\rho \mathbf{v}) + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} \otimes \mathbf{v}) = -\nabla \mathbf{p}$

where $(\rho, p, v) \in \mathbb{R}^{1+1+3}$ are the density, pressure and velocity fields of a fluid and p is assumed to be a given function of ρ .

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where $(\rho, p, v) \in \mathbb{R}^{1+1+3}$ are the density, pressure and velocity fields of a fluid and p is assumed to be a given function of ρ . Let us now perform the quadratic change of time $\rho(t, x) = \tilde{\rho}(\theta, x), \quad \theta = t^2/2, \quad v(t, x) = \tilde{v}(\theta, x) \frac{d\theta}{dt}$

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from Euler to Fourier and diffusion in porous media

After the quadratic change of time, the Euler equations become

 $\partial_{\theta}\rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}, \ \rho \mathbf{v} + 2\theta [\partial_{\theta}(\rho \mathbf{v}) + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} \otimes \mathbf{v})] = -\nabla (\rho(\rho))$

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leading as $\theta << 1$ to the Fourier law and the porous media equation

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This can be done in many other ways (for ex. Lattanzio-Tzavaras did it some years ago with the relative entropy method, by adding suitable friction terms).

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From Schrödinger to Derrida-Lebowitz-Speer-Spohn

In a similar way the quantum diffusion equation (aka DLSS equation)

$$\partial_t \rho + \Delta^2 \rho - \nabla \otimes \nabla : \frac{\nabla \rho \otimes \nabla \rho}{\rho} = \mathbf{0}$$

can be obtained after the same quadratic change of time from the Schrödinger equation (written in Madelung's form).

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From Born-Infeld's Electromagnetism to the diffusion of divergence-free vector fields

In a d + 1 dimensional Lorentzian space-time manifold of metric $g_{ij}dx^i dx^j$ the BI theory involves vector potentials $A = A_i dx^i$

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$$\int \sqrt{-\det(g + dA)}$$

* for compactly supported variations/** invariant under changes of coordinates/

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Max Born (1882-1970)

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Diffusion vs Hamiltonian

Olympe de Gouges 02/07/25 17/19

Through quadratic change of time, a diffusion equation for divergence-free vector fields à la Born-Infeld! (Xianglong Duan arXiv:1706.01661,

Y.B. Ann. Toulouse, Y.B. and Xianglong Duan ARMA '18)

 $\partial_{\theta} \boldsymbol{B} + \nabla \times (\boldsymbol{B} \times \boldsymbol{v}) + \nabla \times (\rho^{-1} \nabla \times (\rho^{-1} \boldsymbol{B})) = \boldsymbol{0}$

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$$\partial_{\theta} B + \nabla \times (B \times v) + \nabla \times (\rho^{-1} \nabla \times (\rho^{-1} B)) = 0$$

$$\partial_{\theta} \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \rho \mathbf{v} = \nabla \cdot (\frac{B \otimes B}{\rho}) + \nabla (\rho^{-1})$$

An "incompressible" version ($\rho = cst$) reads

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which is a quite decent diffusion equation from a MHD viewpoint

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MERCI CHRISTIAN ET BONNE CONTINUATION !



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