

Astral diffusion as a limit process for symmetric random walk in a high contrast periodic medium

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Joint work with Andrey Piatnitski

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A. Piatnitski; E. Zhizhina, [Scaling limit of symmetric random walk in high-contrast periodic environment](#). *J. Stat. Phys.*, **169** (3) (2017), 595–613.

Similar results for parabolic equations in high contrast periodic environments

Piatnitski, A.; Pirogov, S.; Zhizhina, E. [Limit behaviour of diffusion in high-contrast periodic media and related Markov semigroups](#). *Applicable Analysis*, **98**(1-2) (2019), 217–231.

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Motivation: double porosity model

Homogenization problem for parabolic equation with high-contrast periodic coefficients. Existing results.

T. Arbogast, J. Douglas, and U. Hornung, Derivation of the double porosity model of single phase flow via homogenization theory, *SIAM J. Math. Anal.*, **21**(1990), pp. 823–836.

The authors derived the limit macroscopic model, showed the memory effect in the limit equation and proved homogenization result. Their method is based on classical homogenization arguments.

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Classical double porosity model

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$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u^\varepsilon = \operatorname{div}(a^\varepsilon(x)\nabla u^\varepsilon) & x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad t > 0 \\ u^\varepsilon|_{t=0} = u_0(x), \end{cases}$$

with

$$a^\varepsilon(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \in F^\varepsilon \\ \varepsilon^2, & \text{if } x \in M^\varepsilon; \end{cases}$$

here $M^\varepsilon = \varepsilon M$, and M is the union of **periodically situated bounded Lipschitz domains** such that the distance between any two such domains is bounded from below by a positive constant; $F^\varepsilon = \mathbb{R}^d \setminus M^\varepsilon$.

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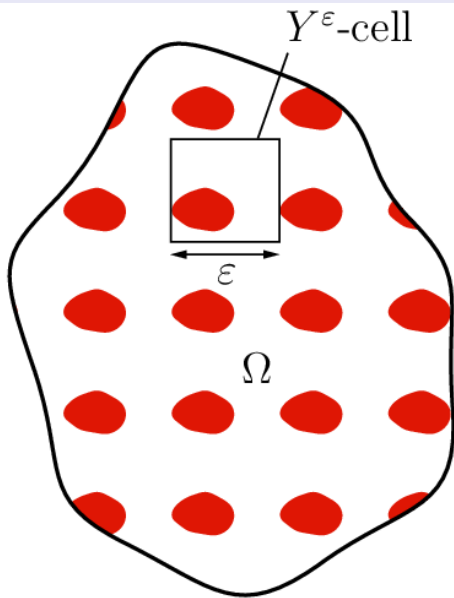
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Memory effect

Under the **diffusive scaling** $x \rightarrow \varepsilon x$, $t \rightarrow \varepsilon^2 t$ the limit evolution of $u(t, x)$, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, is not Markov:

$$\partial_t u(x, t) = \operatorname{div}(a^{\text{eff}} \nabla u(x, t)) + \int_0^t D(t-s) u(s, x) ds$$

with an exponentially decaying function $D(s)$:

$$D(s) \leq C \exp(-\gamma s), \quad \text{for some } \gamma > 0.$$

Extended Markov process

Question: Does there exist a Markov process behind this evolution?

Answer: Yes, it does.

It is a Markov process on an **extended state space** = "spatial" component related to the fast movement + "astral" component related to the slow movement.

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General assumptions on transition probabilities

We consider a **symmetric random walk** $\widehat{X}(n)$ on \mathbb{Z}^d , $d \geq 1$, with transition probabilities $p(x, y) = \Pr(x \rightarrow y)$, $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^d \times \mathbb{Z}^d$:

$$p(x, y) = p(y, x), \quad (x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^d \times \mathbb{Z}^d; \quad \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} p(x, y) = 1 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{Z}^d.$$

We assume that the random walk satisfies the following properties:

- **Periodicity.** The functions $p(x, x + \xi)$ are **periodic in x** with a period Y for all $\xi \in \mathbb{Z}^d$. In what follows we identify the period Y with the corresponding d -dimensional discrete torus \mathbb{T}^d .
- **Finite range of interactions.** There exists $c_1 > 0$ such that

$$p(x, x + \xi) = 0, \quad \text{if } |\xi| > c_1.$$

- **Irreducibility.** The random walk is irreducible in \mathbb{Z}^d .

We denote the transition matrix of the random walk by

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Structure of the periodicity cell $Y = A \cup B$

The periodicity cell Y is divided into two sets

$$Y = A \cup B; \quad A, B \neq \emptyset, \quad A \cap B = \emptyset.$$

Let A^\sharp, B^\sharp be the [periodic extension](#) of A and B .

Then

$$\mathbb{Z}^d = A^\sharp \cup B^\sharp.$$

We assume that B is a connected set and its periodic extension B^\sharp is unbounded and connected.

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Transition probabilities for random walk in a high-contrast periodic environment

Let $p^{(\varepsilon)}(x, y)$ be a family of transition probabilities that depend on a small parameter $\varepsilon > 0$ and satisfy for each $\varepsilon > 0$ the properties formulated above.

We suppose that the transition matrix $P^{(\varepsilon)}$ is a small perturbation of a fixed transition matrix P^0 :

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Definition of fast and slow components P_0 and V

We impose the following conditions on P^0 and V :

- P^0 is a transition matrix of a SRW on \mathbb{Z}^d ;
- $p_0(x, x) = 1$, if $x \in A^\sharp$;
(all states in A^\sharp are absorbing states for P^0)
- $p_0(x, y) = 0$, if $x, y \in A^\sharp$, $x \neq y$;
- $p_0(x, y) = 0$, if $x \in B^\sharp$, $y \in A^\sharp$;
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Under these conditions, for the transition matrix $P^{(\varepsilon)} = P^0 + \varepsilon^2 V$ has the following properties:

- $p(x, y) \asymp 1$, when $x, y \in B^\sharp$ (rapid movement);
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The above choice of the transition probabilities reflects a significant slowdown of the random walk in the slow component A^\sharp :

$$B^\sharp = \text{supp} \{ \text{fast RW} \}, \quad A^\sharp = \text{supp} \{ \text{slow RW} \}.$$

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Rescaled process

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$$\varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d = \varepsilon A^\# \cup \varepsilon B^\#,$$

and we define the rescaled random walk

$$\hat{X}_\varepsilon(t) = \varepsilon \hat{X}\left(\left\lceil \frac{t}{\varepsilon^2} \right\rceil\right) \quad \text{on} \quad \varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d$$

by the transition operator T_ε :

$$T_\varepsilon f(x) = \sum_{y \in \varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d} P^{(\varepsilon)}\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \frac{y}{\varepsilon}\right) f(y), \quad f \in l_0^\infty(\varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d).$$

The difference generator of the random walk $\hat{X}_\varepsilon(t)$ takes the form

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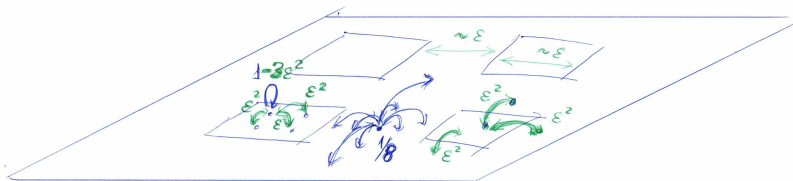
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Limit behaviour under diffusive scaling

Our goal is to describe the large time behavior of the random walk $\widehat{X}_\varepsilon(t)$ and to construct the limit process.

Idea: In addition to the coordinate $\widehat{X}_\varepsilon(t)$ of the random walk on the lattice we introduce extra variables $k(\widehat{X}_\varepsilon(t))$ that characterizes the position of the random walk inside the period. Then the limit dynamics of this two-component process

$$X_\varepsilon(t) = (\widehat{X}_\varepsilon(t), k(\widehat{X}_\varepsilon(t)))$$

is Markovian.

The components of the limit process are coupled, thus the projection of the Markov process on the "spatial" component is not Markov any more.

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Construction of the limit Markov semigroup $T(t)$

Assume that the set A contains $M \in \mathbb{N}$ sites of the periodicity cell:

$$A = \{x_1, \dots, x_M\}, \quad M \geq 1.$$

We denote $E = \mathbb{R}^d \times \{0, 1, \dots, M\}$, and $C_0(E)$ stands for the Banach space of continuous functions vanishing at infinity.

A function $F = F(x, k) \in C_0(E)$ can be represented as a vector function

$$F(x, k) = \{f_k(x) \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^d), k = 0, 1, \dots, M\}.$$

The norm in $C_0(E)$ is given by

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The generator of the limit semigroup

Consider the operator

$$(LF)(x, k) = \begin{pmatrix} \Theta \cdot \nabla \nabla f_0(x) \\ 0 \\ \dots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + L_A F(x, k),$$

where Θ is a positive definite matrix (defined in terms of the homogenization problem), and L_A is a generator of a continuous time Markov jump process

$$L_A F(x, k) = \lambda(k) \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq k}}^M \mu_{kj} (f_j(x) - f_k(x)).$$

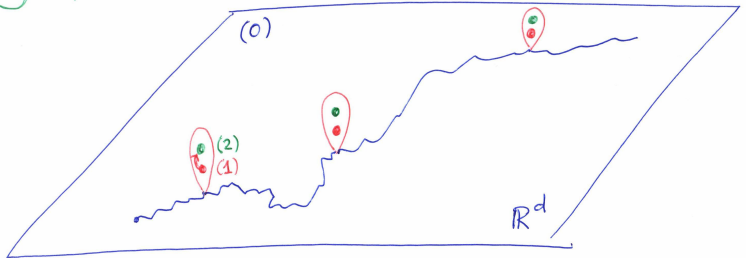
The intensities of jump rates are

$$\alpha_{0j} = \frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{y \in B} v(y, y_j), \quad \alpha_{j0} = \sum_{y \in B} v(y_j, y), \quad \alpha_{kj} = v(y_k, y_j).$$

$$\lambda(k) = \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq k}}^M \alpha_{kj}, \quad \mu_{kj} = \frac{\alpha_{kj}}{\lambda(k)}, \quad j, k = 0, 1, \dots, M, \quad j \neq k,$$

Remark. The coefficients of the operator L_A depend only on the elements of matrix V .

Astral diffusion



The semigroup

The operator L is defined on **the core**

$$D = \{(f_0, f_1, \dots, f_M), f_0 \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d), \\ f_j \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^d), j = 1, \dots, M\}$$

which is a dense set in $C_0(E)$. The operator L on $C_0(E)$ satisfies the positive maximum principle, i.e. if $F \in C_0(E)$ and $\max_E F(x, k) = F(x_0, k_0) = f_{k_0}(x_0)$, then $LF(x_0, k_0) \leq 0$.

Then by the Hille-Yosida theorem the closure of L is a **generator of a strongly continuous, positive, contraction semigroup** $T(t)$ on $C_0(E)$, that is a Feller semigroup.

Question: How to see the semigroup convergence

$$T_\varepsilon^{\lfloor \frac{t}{\varepsilon^2} \rfloor} \rightarrow T(t)?$$

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Question: How to see the semigroup convergence

$$T_\varepsilon^{\lfloor \frac{t}{\varepsilon^2} \rfloor} \rightarrow T(t)?$$

Construction of the extended process

First we equip the random walk $\widehat{X}_\varepsilon(t) = \varepsilon \widehat{X}(\lfloor \frac{t}{\varepsilon^2} \rfloor)$ with an additional component $k(\widehat{X}_\varepsilon(t))$. For the extended process $X_\varepsilon(t)$ we prove convergence of the corresponding semigroups.

The additional coordinates characterize the position of a random walker in the slow component.

If we denote by $\{x_k\}^\sharp$ the periodic extension of the point $x_k \in A$ for each $k = 1, \dots, M$, then

$$\varepsilon \mathbb{Z}^d = \varepsilon B^\sharp \cup \varepsilon A^\sharp = \varepsilon B^\sharp \cup \varepsilon \{x_1\}^\sharp \cup \dots \cup \varepsilon \{x_M\}^\sharp.$$

To each point $x \in \varepsilon \mathbb{Z}^d$ we assign an index $k(x) \in \{0, 1, \dots, M\}$ depending on the component to which x belongs:

$$k(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \in \varepsilon B^\sharp; \\ j, & \text{if } x \in \varepsilon \{x_j\}^\sharp, j = 1, \dots, M. \end{cases}$$

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The extended process: space and transition operator

Then we introduce the space

$$E_\varepsilon = \{(x, k(x)), x \in \varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d, k(x) \in \{0, 1, \dots, M\}\},$$
$$E_\varepsilon \subset \varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d \times \{0, 1, \dots, M\}.$$

We can take $x \in \varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d$ as a coordinate on E_ε .

Let $\mathcal{B}(E_\varepsilon)$ be the space of bounded functions on E_ε and T_ε be the transition operator of the extended random walk

$$X_\varepsilon(t) = (\widehat{X}_\varepsilon(t), k(\widehat{X}_\varepsilon(t)))$$

on E_ε with the same transition probabilities of the random walk on $\varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d$ as above:

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The projection operator $\pi_\varepsilon : C_0(E) \rightarrow l_0^\infty(E_\varepsilon)$

Let $l_0^\infty(E_\varepsilon)$ be a Banach space of bounded functions on E_ε vanishing as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ with the norm

$$\|f\|_{l_0^\infty(E_\varepsilon)} = \sup_{(x, k(x)) \in E_\varepsilon} |f(x, k(x))| = \sup_{x \in \varepsilon \mathbb{Z}^d} |f(x, k(x))|.$$

For every $F \in C_0(E)$ we define on E_ε the function $\pi_\varepsilon F \in l_0^\infty(E_\varepsilon)$ as follows:

$$(\pi_\varepsilon F)(x, k(x)) = \begin{cases} f_0(x), & \text{if } x \in \varepsilon B^\sharp, k(x) = 0; \\ f_1(x), & \text{if } x \in \varepsilon \{x_1\}^\sharp, k(x) = 1; \\ \dots & \\ f_M(x), & \text{if } x \in \varepsilon \{x_M\}^\sharp, k(x) = M. \end{cases}$$

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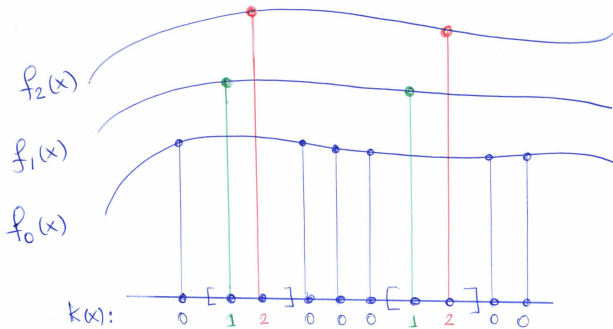
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$M=2$



The semigroup convergence

Theorem

Let $T(t)$ be a strongly continuous, positive, contraction semigroup on $C_0(E)$ with generator L defined by

$$(LF)(x, k) = \begin{pmatrix} \Theta \cdot \nabla \nabla f_0(x) \\ 0 \\ \dots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + L_A F(x, k),$$

and T_ε be the linear operator on $l_0^\infty(E_\varepsilon)$ defined above (the transition operator of the extended random walk $X_\varepsilon(t) = (\hat{X}_\varepsilon(t), k(\hat{X}_\varepsilon(t)))$ on E_ε).

Then for every $F \in C_0(E)$

$$T_\varepsilon^{\lfloor \frac{t}{\varepsilon^2} \rfloor} \pi_\varepsilon F \rightarrow T(t)F \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

The idea of the proof

The proof of the Theorem relies on the following approximation theorem

Theorem (Theorem 6.5, Ch.1, S. N. Ethier, T. G. Kurtz, Markov processes: Characterization and convergence, 2005.)

For $n = 1, 2, \dots$, let T_n be a linear contraction on the Banach space \mathcal{L}_n , let ε_n be a positive number, and put $A_n = \varepsilon_n^{-1}(T_n - E)$. Assume that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_n = 0$.

Let $\{T(t)\}$ be a strongly continuous contraction semigroup on the Banach space \mathcal{L} with generator A , and let D be a core for A .

Assume that $\pi_n : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_n$ are bounded linear transformations with $\sup_n \|\pi_n\| < \infty$.

Then the following are equivalent:

a) For each $f \in \mathcal{L}$, $T_n^{\lceil \frac{t}{\varepsilon_n} \rceil} \pi_n f \rightarrow T(t)f$ for all $t \geq 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

b) For each $f \in D$, there exists $f_n \in \mathcal{L}_n$ for each $n \geq 1$ such that $f_n \rightarrow f$ and $A_n f_n \rightarrow Af$.

For every $F = (f_0, f_1, \dots, f_M) \in D$ we construct $F_\varepsilon \in l_0^\infty(E_\varepsilon)$ as a small perturbation of $\pi_\varepsilon F$:

$$F_\varepsilon = \pi_\varepsilon F + G_\varepsilon, \quad \|G_\varepsilon\|_{l_0^\infty(E_\varepsilon)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

We consider the following $F_\varepsilon \in l_0^\infty(E_\varepsilon)$

$$F_\varepsilon(x, k(x)) = \begin{cases} f_0(x) + \varepsilon(\nabla f_0(x), h(\frac{x}{\varepsilon})) + \varepsilon^2(\nabla\nabla f_0(x), g(\frac{x}{\varepsilon})) \\ \quad + \varepsilon^2 \sum_{j=1}^M q_j(\frac{x}{\varepsilon})(f_0(x) - f_j(x)), \\ \quad \text{if } x \in \varepsilon B^\sharp, k(x) = 0, \\ f_1(x), \quad \text{if } x \in \varepsilon\{x_1\}^\sharp, k(x) = 1, \\ \dots \\ f_M(x), \quad \text{if } x \in \varepsilon\{x_M\}^\sharp, k(x) = M. \end{cases}$$

Here $h(y), g(y), q_j(y), j = 1, \dots, M$, are periodic bounded functions (correctors).

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Correctors

Lemma

There exist bounded periodic functions $h(y) = \{h_i(y)\}_{i=1}^d$ and $g(y) = \{g_{im}(y)\}_{i,m=1}^d$ (correctors) and a positive definite matrix $\Theta > 0$, such that the limit relation $L_\varepsilon F_\varepsilon \rightarrow LF$ holds for every $F \in D$.

The matrix Θ defined by

$$\Theta = \frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{y \in B} \sum_{\xi \in \Lambda_y} p_0(y, y + \xi) \xi \otimes \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi + h(y + \xi) \right)$$

is positive definite, i.e. $(\Theta \eta, \eta) > 0 \quad \forall \eta \neq 0$.

Invariance principle. The limit Markov process

Thus we justified the convergence of the semigroups, and consequently, the convergence of finite dimensional distributions of $X_\varepsilon(t)$.

The next question is about existence of the limit process $\mathcal{X}(t)$ in E and convergence in the Skorokhod topology of $D_E[0, \infty)$.

Theorem (Invariance principle for the extended processes $X_\varepsilon(t)$)

For any initial distribution $\nu \in \mathcal{P}(E)$ there exists a Markov process $\mathcal{X}(t)$ corresponding to the semigroup $T(t) : C_0(E) \rightarrow C_0(E)$ with our generator L and with sample paths in $D_E[0, \infty)$.

If ν is the limit law of $X_\varepsilon(0)$, then

$$X_\varepsilon(t) \Rightarrow \mathcal{X}(t) \quad \text{in } D_E[0, \infty) \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

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Generalization: several fast components

We keep the assumptions on $P^{(\varepsilon)}(x, y)$, in particular we assume that the transition probabilities are **periodic**, have a **finite range of interaction** and **define an irreducible random walk**.

however, now we assume that B^\sharp is the union of N , $N > 1$, non-intersecting unbounded sets such that P^0 is **periodic**, **invariant** and **irreducible on each of these sets**.

We denote these sets $B_1^\sharp, \dots, B_N^\sharp$. Then

$$\varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d = \varepsilon B^\sharp \cup \varepsilon A^\sharp = \varepsilon B_1^\sharp \cup \dots \cup \varepsilon B_N^\sharp \cup \varepsilon\{x_1\}^\sharp \cup \dots \cup \varepsilon\{x_M\}^\sharp.$$

We assign to each $x \in \varepsilon\mathbb{Z}^d$ an index $k(x) \in \{1, \dots, N + M\}$ depending on the component to which x belongs:

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Then the limit Markov process has the similar structure and the generator L has the form

$$(LF)(x, k) = \begin{pmatrix} \Theta^1 \cdot \nabla \nabla f_1(x) \\ \dots \\ \Theta^N \cdot \nabla \nabla f_N(x) \\ 0 \\ \dots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + L_A F(x, k),$$

where $\Theta^1, \dots, \Theta^N$ are positive definite matrices, and L_A is a generator of a continuous time Markov jump process

$$L_A F(x, k) = \lambda(k) \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq k}}^{N+M} \mu_{kj} (f_j(x) - f_k(x))$$

with jump rates $\lambda(k)\mu_{kj}$.

Evolution of the first component

Question: *How to describe an evolution for the first (spatial) component in the astral diffusion?*

Let us consider the case of an one-point astral set: $|A| = 1$.

Then $P(x, t) = (p_0(x, t), p_1(x, t))$, and let $(\pi_0(x), \pi_1(x))$ be the initial condition.

The evolution equation for $P(x, t)$ is

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t p_0 = \Theta \cdot \nabla \nabla p_0 - \lambda(0)p_0 + \lambda(1)p_1 \\ \partial_t p_1 = -\lambda(1)p_1 + \lambda(0)p_0 \end{cases}$$

Evolution of the first component

Question: *How to describe an evolution for the first (spatial) component in the astral diffusion?*

Let us consider the case of an one-point astral set: $|A| = 1$.

Then $P(x, t) = (p_0(x, t), p_1(x, t))$, and let $(\pi_0(x), \pi_1(x))$ be the initial condition.

The evolution equation for $P(x, t)$ is

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t p_0 = \Theta \cdot \nabla \nabla p_0 - \lambda(0)p_0 + \lambda(1)p_1 \\ \partial_t p_1 = -\lambda(1)p_1 + \lambda(0)p_0 \end{cases}$$

The solution of the second equation is

$$p_1(x, t) = e^{-\lambda(1)t} \pi_1(x) + \lambda(0) \int_0^t e^{-\lambda(1)(t-s)} p_0(x, s) ds,$$

where $\pi_1(x) = p_1(x, 0)$.

Substitution of this solution into the first equation gives the following evolution equation on p_0 :

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t p_0 = \Theta \cdot \nabla \nabla p_0 - \\ \quad -\lambda(0)p_0 + \lambda(0)\lambda(1) \int_0^t e^{-\lambda(1)(t-s)} p_0(x, s) ds + \lambda(1)e^{-\lambda(1)t} \pi_1(x), \\ p_0(x, 0) = \pi_0(x). \end{cases}$$

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For the construction of the limit process for [diffusions in high-contrast periodic media](#) see

[A. Piatnitski, S. Pirogov, E. Zhizhina](#), Limit behaviour of diffusion in high-contrast periodic media and related Markov semigroups, *Applicable Analysis*, **98**(1-2) (2019).

Denote $E = \mathbb{R}^d \times G^*$, where $G^* = G \cup \{\star\}$, then a function $F \in C_0(E)$ can be written in a vector form

$$F(x, \hat{y}) = (f_0(x), f_1(x, y)), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \hat{y} \in G^*, y \in G$$

with $f_0 \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $f_1 \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^d, C(\overline{G}))$.

Denote by $C_0^G(E)$ a linear closed subspace of functions from $C_0(E)$ such that

$$f_1(x, y)|_{y \in \partial G} = f_0(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

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Let us consider in $C_0^G(E)$ an unbounded operator of the following form

$$(AF)(x, \hat{y}) = \begin{pmatrix} \Theta \nabla \nabla f_0(x) - \frac{1}{|G^c|} \int_G \Delta_y f_1(x, y) dy \\ \Delta_y f_1(x, y) \end{pmatrix}.$$

The domain $D(A)$ of the operator A is the closure (in the graph norm) of

$$D_A = \left\{ u_0 \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d), u_1 \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; C^\infty(\bar{G})), u_1(x, y)|_{y \in \partial G} = u_0(x), \right. \\ \left. \Delta_y u_1(x, y)|_{y \in \partial G} = \Theta \nabla \nabla u_0(x) + \frac{1}{|G^c|} \int_{\partial G} \frac{\partial u_1(x, y)}{\partial n_{\bar{y}}} d\sigma(y) \right\}.$$

Lemma

The closure of the operator A is a generator of a strongly continuous, positive, contraction semigroup $T(t)$ on $C_0^G(E)$.

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Thank you for your attention!