

# Gradient structures and discrete Markov chain models for reaction-diffusion systems

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**From Particle Systems to Differential Equations**

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Partial support via “*Analysis of multiscale systems driven by functionals*”

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# Overview

1. Introduction
2. Markov chains as gradient systems
3. Reaction-diffusion systems as gradient systems
4. Discrete-to-continuum passage
5. Limit of chemical master equations
6. Coupling reaction and diffusion

# 1. Introduction

## Semiconductor model: van Roosbroeck system

$$-\operatorname{div}(\varepsilon \nabla \phi) = d - n + p$$

$$\dot{n} = \operatorname{div}(\mu_n(\nabla n - n \nabla \phi)) + g - rnp$$

$$\dot{p} = \operatorname{div}(\mu_p(\nabla p + p \nabla \phi)) + g - rnp$$

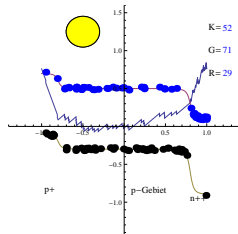
electrostatics

electron balance

hole balance

### Motivation:

- understand the van Roosbroeck system as the limit of a many-particle system
- learn how to model diffusion in random media (organic semiconductors)



# 1. Introduction

particle system	$\rightsquigarrow$	differential equation
random walk $\dot{u}_m = \mu M^2 (u_{m-1} - 2u_m + u_{m+1})$	$\rightsquigarrow$	diffusion equation $\dot{U} = \mu \Delta U$
chemical master equations $\dot{u}_n = \gamma u_{n-1} + \alpha \frac{n^p}{N^p} u_{n+1} - (\dots) u_n$	$\rightsquigarrow$	reaction kinetic $\dot{U} = \gamma - \alpha U^p$
Markov chain		ODEs / PDEs

# 1. Introduction

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random walk	$\rightsquigarrow$	diffusion equation
$\dot{u}_m = \mu M^2 (u_{m-1} - 2u_m + u_{m+1})$		$\dot{U} = \mu \Delta U$
chemical master equations	$\rightsquigarrow$	reaction kinetic
$\dot{u}_n = \gamma u_{n-1} + \alpha \frac{n^p}{N^p} u_{n+1} - (\dots) u_n$		$\dot{U} = \gamma - \alpha U^p$
Markov chain		ODEs / PDEs

**Main philosophy:** Use gradient structure  $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = -\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{u})D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u})$

$(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{K})$  gradient system

$\mathcal{X}$  state space containing the states  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{X}$ .

$\mathcal{E} : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  energy functional with differential  $D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) \in T_{\mathbf{u}}^* \mathcal{X}$

$\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{u})^{-1} = \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{u}) : T_{\mathbf{u}}^* \mathcal{X} \rightarrow T_{\mathbf{u}} \mathcal{X}$  inverse of metric: Onsager oper.

$$\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}^* \geq 0$$

# 1. Introduction

$(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{K})$  gradient system

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$\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{u})^{-1} = \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{u}) : \mathrm{T}_{\mathbf{u}}^*\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathrm{T}_{\mathbf{u}}^*\mathcal{X}$  inverse of metric (Onsager operator)

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## Study discrete-to-continuum limit for gradient structures

$\mathbf{u}^\varepsilon$  solves  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{E}_\varepsilon, \mathcal{K}_\varepsilon)$  discrete model  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{N}$ ,  $N = \#$  particles



$\mathbf{u}$  solves  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{K})$  continuum model

We want to conclude  $\mathbf{u}^\varepsilon(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{u}(t)$  from  $(\mathcal{E}_\varepsilon, \mathcal{K}_\varepsilon) \rightsquigarrow (\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{K})$  !!

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## 2. Markov chains as gradient systems

- Otto 1999: Fokker-Planck equation  $\dot{U} = \text{div}(\nabla U + U\nabla V)$   
is a gradient system  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{K})$ :  
 $\mathcal{E}(U) = \int_{\Omega} U \log(U/W)$  with  $W(x) = ce^{-V(x)}$   $\rightsquigarrow D\mathcal{E}(U) = \log U + V$   
 $\mathcal{K}(U)\xi = -\text{div}(U\nabla\xi)$   $\rightsquigarrow \dot{U} = -\mathcal{K}(U)D\mathcal{E}(U)$

- M'10: Reaction-diffusion systems satisfying the **detailed-balance condition** (and possibly including temperature or drift due to electric charges) have a gradient structure for the relative entropy.

- Maas'11, M'11: Discrete Markov chains with detailed-balance condition have a gradient structure for the relative entropy.



## 2. Markov chains as gradient systems

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Discrete Markov chain on states  $j \in J$  (e.g.  $\mathbb{Z}_M^d$  or  $\mathbb{N}_0^m$ )

$\mathcal{X} = \text{Prob}(J) = \{ \mathbf{u} = (u_j)_{j \in J} \in \ell^1(J) \mid u_j \geq 0, \sum_J u_j = 1 \}$

$\dot{\mathbf{u}} = Q\mathbf{u}$  linear evolution with unique steady state  $\mathbf{w} = (w_j)_J$

## 2. Markov chains as gradient systems

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**Theorem (M'11, Maas'11).**

If  $Q$  satisfies the **detailed balance condition (DBC)**

$$w_j > 0 \text{ and } Q_{jk}w_k = Q_{kj}w_j \text{ for all } j, k \in J,$$

then we have the gradient structure  $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = Q\mathbf{u} = -\mathcal{K}_{\text{Mv}}(\mathbf{u})D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u})$

with  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_J u_j \log(u_j/w_j)$  and

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{Mv}}(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{j,k \in J} \frac{1}{2} Q_{jk} w_k \Lambda\left(\frac{u_j}{w_j}, \frac{u_k}{w_k}\right) \mathbb{E}_{jk} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{J \times J} \text{ where}$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{jk} = \mathbb{E}_{jk}^* = (e_j - e_k) \otimes (e_j - e_k) \geq 0 \text{ and } \Lambda(a, b) = \frac{a-b}{\log(a/b)} \geq 0.$$

## 2. Markov chains as gradient systems

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$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_J u_j \log(u_j/w_j) \text{ and } \mathcal{K}_{\text{Mv}}(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{j,k \in J} \frac{1}{2} Q_{jk} w_k \Lambda\left(\frac{u_j}{w_j}, \frac{u_k}{w_k}\right) \mathbb{E}_{jk}$$
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To be proved:  $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = Q\mathbf{u} = -\mathcal{K}_{\text{Mv}}(\mathbf{u})D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u})$

- $D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = (\log(u_j/w_j) + 1)_J \implies$   
 $\mathbb{E}_{jk} D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = (\log(u_j/w_j) - \log(u_k/w_k)) (e_j - e_k)$

## 2. Markov chains as gradient systems

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- $D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = (\log(u_j/w_j) + 1)_J \implies$   
 $\mathbb{E}_{jk} D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = (\log(u_j/w_j) - \log(u_k/w_k)) (e_j - e_k)$
- Using the cancellation  $\Lambda(a, b)(\log a - \log b) = (a - b)$  gives  
 $\mathcal{K}_{\text{Mv}}(\mathbf{u})D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{j,k \in J} \frac{Q_{jk} w_k}{2} \left(\frac{u_j}{w_j} - \frac{u_k}{w_k}\right) (e_j - e_k)$  (already linear)
- Using detailed balance gives  $\mathcal{K}_{\text{Mv}}(\mathbf{u})D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = -Q\mathbf{u}$ .

QED

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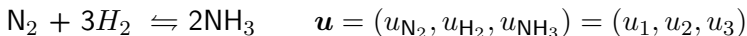
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### 3. Reaction-diffusion systems as gradient systems

$\mathbf{u} = (u_1(t, x), \dots, u_I(t, x))$  densities of chemical species

$$\text{Reaction-diffusion systems } \dot{\mathbf{u}} = \text{div} (M(\mathbf{u})\nabla\mathbf{u}) + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{u})$$

**Example: Ammonia synthesis**



$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{u}_1 \\ \dot{u}_2 \\ \dot{u}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 \Delta u_1 \\ m_2 \Delta u_2 \\ m_3 \Delta u_3 \end{pmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -(k_f u_1 u_2^3 - k_b u_3^2) \\ -3(k_f u_1 u_2^3 - k_b u_3^2) \\ +2(k_f u_1 u_2^3 - k_b u_3^2) \end{pmatrix}}_{=\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{u})}$$

The usual guess of Allen-Cahn or Cahn-Hilliard type

$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = \int_{\Omega} m_1 |\nabla u_1|^2 + m_2 |\nabla u_2|^2 + m_3 |\nabla u_3|^2 + F(\mathbf{u}) \, dx$  does NOT work,  
since  $\text{curl } \mathbf{R} \neq 0$  !

### 3. Reaction-diffusion systems as gradient systems

Reaction-diffusion systems (RDS)  $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = \operatorname{div} (M(\mathbf{u})\nabla\mathbf{u}) + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{u})$

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Reaction kinetic of mass-action type with detailed balance cond. (DBC)

$$\dot{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{u}) = - \sum_{r=1}^R k_r \left( \underbrace{\frac{\mathbf{u}^{\alpha^r}}{\mathbf{w}^{\alpha^r}}}_{\text{educts}} - \underbrace{\frac{\mathbf{u}^{\beta^r}}{\mathbf{w}^{\beta^r}}}_{\text{products}} \right) \underbrace{(\alpha^r - \beta^r)}_{\text{stoich. vect.}} \quad \mathbf{u}^\gamma = \prod_{i=1}^I u_i^{\gamma_i}$$

(DBC = for  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{w}$  each reaction  $r = 1, \dots, R$  is balanced)

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(DBC = for  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{w}$  each reaction  $r = 1, \dots, R$  is balanced)

Gradient structure for reaction kinetics:  $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{u}) = -\mathbb{K}(\mathbf{u})DE(\mathbf{u})$

$E(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_i^I u_i \log(u_i/w_i)$  and

$$\mathbb{K}(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{r=1}^R k_r \Lambda \left( \frac{\mathbf{u}^{\alpha^r}}{\mathbf{w}^{\alpha^r}}, \frac{\mathbf{u}^{\beta^r}}{\mathbf{w}^{\beta^r}} \right) (\alpha^r - \beta^r) \otimes (\alpha^r - \beta^r) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{I \times I}$$

with  $\Lambda(a, b) = \frac{a-b}{\log a - \log b} > 0$

[ use again  $\gamma \cdot (\log v_i) = \log(\mathbf{v}^\gamma)$  ]



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(DBC = for  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{w}$  each reaction  $r = 1, \dots, R$  is balanced)

Gradient structure for RDS with DBC:  $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = -\mathcal{K}_{\text{RDS}}(\mathbf{u})D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u})$

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = \int_{\Omega} E(\mathbf{u}(x)) \, dx = \int_{\Omega} u_i(x) \log(u_i(x)/w_i(x)) \, dx$$

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{RDS}}(\mathbf{u})\xi = \underbrace{-\operatorname{div} (M(\mathbf{u})\nabla\xi)}_{\text{diffusion}} + \underbrace{K(\mathbf{u})\xi}_{\text{react}}$$

Onsager'31:  $K = K^* \geq 0$  and  $M = M^* \geq 0$  mobilities

$$M(\mathbf{u}) = M(\mathbf{u})D^2E(\mathbf{u}) = M(\mathbf{u})\operatorname{diag}\left(\frac{1}{u_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{u_I}\right) \text{ not necess. symm.}$$

### 3. Reaction-diffusion systems as gradient systems

**Example: Ammonia synthesis**  $N_2 + 3H_2 \rightleftharpoons 2NH_3$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{u}_1 \\ \dot{u}_2 \\ \dot{u}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 \Delta u_1 \\ m_2 \Delta u_2 \\ m_3 \Delta u_3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -(k_f u_1 u_2^3 - k_b u_3^2) \\ -3(k_f u_1 u_2^3 - k_b u_3^2) \\ +2(k_f u_1 u_2^3 - k_b u_3^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

■ reference density  $\mathbf{w} = (k_b, k_f, k_f^2)$

■ relative entropy

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) = \int_{\Omega} u_1 \log(u_1/w_1) + u_2 \log(u_2/w_2) + u_3 \log(u_3/w_3) \, dx$$

■ Onsager operator

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{RDS}}(\mathbf{u})\boldsymbol{\xi} = - \begin{pmatrix} m_1 \operatorname{div}(u_1 \nabla \xi_1) \\ m_2 \operatorname{div}(u_2 \nabla \xi_2) \\ m_3 \operatorname{div}(u_3 \nabla \xi_3) \end{pmatrix} + \Lambda \left( \frac{u_1 u_2^3}{w_1 w_2^3}, \frac{u_3^2}{w_3^2} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & -2 \\ 3 & 9 & -6 \\ -2 & -6 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \\ \xi_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

### 3. Reaction-diffusion systems as gradient systems

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#### Semiconductor model: van Roosbroeck system

$$-\operatorname{div}(\varepsilon \nabla \phi) = d - n + p \quad \text{electrostatics}$$

$$\dot{n} = \operatorname{div}(\mu_n(\nabla n - n \nabla \phi)) + g - rnp \quad \text{electron balance}$$

$$\dot{p} = \operatorname{div}(\mu_p(\nabla p + p \nabla \phi)) + g - rnp \quad \text{hole balance}$$

$$\text{Gradient structure}^1 \quad (\dot{n}, \dot{p}) = -\mathcal{K}_{\text{vR}}(n, p) D\mathcal{E}(n, p)$$

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<sup>1</sup>M.: Grad. structures for RDS and energy-drift-diffusion systems, Nonlin. 2011

### 3. Reaction-diffusion systems as gradient systems

#### Semiconductor model: van Roosbroeck system

$$-\operatorname{div}(\varepsilon \nabla \phi) = d - n + p \quad \text{electrostatics}$$

$$\dot{n} = \operatorname{div}(\mu_n(\nabla n - n \nabla \phi)) + g - rnp \quad \text{electron balance}$$

$$\dot{p} = \operatorname{div}(\mu_p(\nabla p + p \nabla \phi)) + g - rnp \quad \text{hole balance}$$

Gradient structure<sup>1</sup>  $(\dot{n}, \dot{p}) = -\mathcal{K}_{\text{vR}}(n, p) D\mathcal{E}(n, p)$

■ Reference density  $w = (w, w)$  with  $w = (g/r)^{1/2}$

■ Free energy  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{vR}}(n, p) = \int_{\Omega} n \log(n/w) + p \log(p/w) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} |\nabla \phi_{n,p}|^2 dx$

■ Onsager oper.  $\mathcal{K}_{\text{vR}}(n, p) \begin{pmatrix} \xi_n \\ \xi_p \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \operatorname{div}(n \mu_n \nabla \xi_n) \\ \operatorname{div}(p \mu_p \nabla \xi_p) \end{pmatrix} + g \Lambda(1, \frac{np}{w^2}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_n \\ \xi_p \end{pmatrix}$

Crucial observation (AlbGajHün'01)  $D\mathcal{E}_{\text{vR}} = \begin{pmatrix} \log(n/w)+1 \\ \log(p/w)+1 \end{pmatrix} + \phi_{n,p} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ +1 \end{pmatrix}$

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## 4. Discrete-to-continuum passage

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### From random walk to diffusion

- already very well understood with many approaches
- **here:** add another approach that will be compatible with reactions

## 4. Discrete-to-continuum passage

### From random walk to diffusion

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State space  $J = \mathbb{Z}_M = \mathbb{Z}/M\mathbb{Z}$

$$\dot{u}_m = \mu M^2 (u_{m-1} - 2u_m + u_{m+1}) \quad \dot{\mathbf{u}} = Q\mathbf{u} = -\mathcal{K}^M(\mathbf{u}) D\mathcal{E}^M(\mathbf{u})$$

- $\mathcal{E}^M(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_1^M u_i \log(Mu_i)$  where  $\mathbf{w} = \frac{1}{M}(1, \dots, 1)$  and
- $\mathcal{K}^M(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_1^M \mu M^2 \Lambda(u_m, u_{m+1}) \mathbb{E}_{m,m+1} \geq 0$  (tridiagonal)

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**Riemannian transport distance** on  $\mathcal{X}^M = \text{Prob}(\mathbb{Z}_M)$

$d_{\mathcal{K}^M} : \mathcal{X}^M \times \mathcal{X}^M \rightarrow [0, \infty[$  defined via

$$d_{\mathcal{K}^M}(\mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{u}_1)^2 = \inf \left\{ \int_0^1 \mathbf{u}'(s) \cdot \underbrace{\mathcal{K}^M(\mathbf{u}(s))^{-1}}_{\text{Riemannian tensor}} \mathbf{u}'(s) ds \mid \mathbf{u}_0 \overset{\mathbf{u}}{\rightsquigarrow} \mathbf{u}_1 \right\}.$$

Markov chain is **metric gradient flow**  $(\mathcal{X}^M, \mathcal{E}^M, d_{\mathcal{K}^M})$  in De Giorgi's sense!



## 4. Discrete-to-continuum passage

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$$\dot{u}_m = \mu M^2(u_{m-1} - 2u_m + u_{m+1}), \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}_M \qquad \dot{\mathbf{u}} = -\mathcal{K}^M(\mathbf{u}) D\mathcal{E}^M(\mathbf{u})$$

---

**Limit passage:** embed  $\mathcal{X}^M = \text{Prob}(\mathbb{Z}_M)$  into  $\mathcal{X} = \text{Prob}(\mathbb{S}^1)$

$$U = I_M \mathbf{u} \text{ with } U(x) = \sum_{m=1}^M M u_m \chi_{[(m-1)/M, m/M]}(x)$$

$$\dot{u}_m = \mu M^2(u_{m-1} - 2u_m + u_{m+1}) \quad \xrightarrow{\text{to be shown}} \quad \dot{U} = \mu U_{xx}$$

## 4. Discrete-to-continuum passage

$$\dot{u}_m = \mu M^2(u_{m-1} - 2u_m + u_{m+1}), \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}_M$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{u}} = -\mathcal{K}^M(\mathbf{u}) D\mathcal{E}^M(\mathbf{u})$$

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$$\mathcal{E}^M(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_1^M u_i \log(M u_i) \quad \xrightarrow{\text{trivial via } I_M} \quad \mathcal{E}(U) = \int_0^1 U \log U \, dx$$

$$\xi \cdot \mathcal{K}^M(\mathbf{u}) \xi = \sum_1^M \mu \Lambda(u_m, u_{m+1}) M^2 (\xi_m - \xi_{m+1})^2 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{in what sense?}} \quad \langle \Xi, \mathcal{K}(U) \Xi \rangle = \int_0^1 \mu U |\Xi'|^2 \, dx$$

- formally  $\mathcal{K}^M(\mathbf{u}) \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{K}(U)$  as quadratic forms
- but in what sense do we need convergence to guarantee convergence of solutions?

## 4. Discrete-to-continuum passage

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**Limit passage:**  $\dot{u}_m = \mu M^2(u_{m-1} - 2u_m + u_{m+1})$  → to be shown  $\dot{U} = \mu U_{xx}$

---

### Use metric approach instead:

Evolutionary variational inequality (EVI) (cf. Ambrosio, Gigli, Savaré'05)

If  $\mathcal{E}$  is geodesically convex with respect to  $d_{\mathcal{X}}$ , then

$$\dot{\mathbf{u}} = -\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{u})D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) \iff (\text{EVI}) \quad \frac{d^+}{dt}d(\mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{v})^2 + \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}(t)) \leq \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{v})$$

for all  $t \geq 0$  and  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{X}$

## 4. Discrete-to-continuum passage

**Limit passage:**  $\dot{u}_m = \mu M^2(u_{m-1} - 2u_m + u_{m+1}) \xrightarrow{\text{to be shown}} \dot{U} = \mu U_{xx}$

### Use metric approach instead:

Evolutionary variational inequality (EVI) (cf. Ambrosio, Gigli, Savaré'05)

If  $\mathcal{E}$  is geodesically convex with respect to  $d_{\mathcal{K}}$ , then

$$\dot{\mathbf{u}} = -\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{u})D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}) \iff (\text{EVI}) \quad \frac{d^+}{dt}d(\mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{v})^2 + \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}(t)) \leq \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{v})$$

for all  $t \geq 0$  and  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{X}$

### Theorem M'12.

If  $(\mathcal{X}^M, \mathcal{E}^M, d_{\mathcal{K}^M})$  and  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{E}, d_W)$  are given as above, then

$$I_M \mathbf{u}^M(0) \xrightarrow{d_W} U(0) \implies I_M \mathbf{u}^M(t) \xrightarrow{d_W} U(t) \text{ for all } t \geq 0.$$

- M.11:  $(\mathcal{X}^M, \mathcal{E}^M, d_{\mathcal{K}^M})$  is geodesically 0-convex (indep. of  $M$ )
- Gigli-Maas'11/12:  $d_W = \Gamma\text{-}\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} d_{\mathcal{K}^M}$
- Use EVI and  $\mathcal{E} = \Gamma\text{-}\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^M$ .

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# Overview

1. Introduction
2. Markov chains as gradient systems
3. Reaction-diffusion systems as gradient systems
4. Discrete-to-continuum passage
5. Limit of chemical master equations
6. Coupling reaction and diffusion

## 5. Limit of chemical master equations

Simple reaction equation  $\dot{a} = 1 - a^p$  ( $1$ =generation,  $-a^p$  annihilation)

Gradient system  $([0, \infty[, a \log a - a, \mathbb{K})$  with  $\mathbb{K}(a) = \Lambda(1, a^p)p$

**Chemical master equation:** keep track of number of particles!

$a = \frac{1}{N}$  # number of particles, where  $N =$  typical number of particles

$u_n =$  probability of having exactly  $n$  particles

**Markov chain:**  $\dot{u}_n = \underbrace{1}_{\text{generation}} u_{n-1} - \underbrace{\left(1 + \left(\frac{n}{N}\right)^p\right)}_{\text{losses}} u_n + \underbrace{\left(\frac{n+1}{N}\right)^p}_{\text{annihilation}} u_{n+1}$

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- DBC holds for  $\mathbf{w}^N = (w_n^N)$  with  $w_n^N = \left(\frac{N^n}{n!}\right)^p w_0^N$
- We have the gradient structure  $(\mathcal{X}_{\text{CME}}, \mathcal{E}^N, \mathcal{K}^N)$  with
  - $\mathcal{X}_{\text{CME}} = \{ \mathbf{u} \in \ell_1(\mathbb{N}_0) \mid u_n \geq 1, \|\mathbf{u}\|_1 = 1 \}$
  - $\mathcal{E}^N(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u_n \log(u_n/w_n^N)$
  - $\mathcal{K}^N(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} w_{n-1}^N \Lambda\left(\frac{u_{n-1}}{w_{n-1}^N}, \frac{u_n}{w_n^N}\right) \mathbb{E}_{n-1,n} \geq 0$

## 5. Limit of chemical master equations

Limit passage  $N \rightarrow \infty$

We embed  $\mathcal{X}_{\text{CME}}$  into  $\text{Prob}([0, \infty[)$  via

$$U = I_N \mathbf{u} \text{ with } U(a) = \sum_{n=1}^M N u_n \chi_{[(n-1)/N, n/N]}(a) \quad "a \approx n/N"$$

We use the expansion (large deviation argument)

$$-\frac{1}{N} \log w_n^N \approx E(n/N) \text{ where } E(a) = p(a \log a - a + 1) \quad (\text{rate fcn.})$$

$$\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{E}^N(\mathbf{u}) \approx \sum_0^\infty (u_n \log u_n + N u_n E(n/N))$$

We find  $\Gamma$ -convergence  $\frac{1}{N} \mathcal{E}^N \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \mathbf{E}$  where  $\mathbf{E}(U) = \int_0^\infty U(a) E(a) da$



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Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \xi \cdot N \mathcal{K}^N(\mathbf{u}^N) \xi &= \sum_1^\infty \underbrace{w_{n-1}^N \Lambda\left(\frac{u_{n-1}}{w_{n-1}^N}, \frac{u_n}{w_n^N}\right)}_{\approx U(n/N) \Lambda(1, (n/N)^p)} N^2 (\xi_n - \xi_{n-1})^2 \frac{1}{N} \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{formally}} \int_0^\infty U(a) \Lambda(1, a^p) (\Xi'(a))^2 da \end{aligned}$$

## 5. Limit of chemical master equations

Markov chain:  $\dot{u}_n = u_{n-1} - \left(1 + \left(\frac{n}{N}\right)^p\right)u_n + \left(\frac{n+1}{N}\right)^p u_{n+1}$

Gradient structure  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{E}^N, \mathcal{K}^N)$  with

$$\mathcal{X} = \{ \mathbf{u} \in \ell_1(\mathbb{N}_0) \mid u_n \geq 1, \|\mathbf{u}\|_1 = 1 \}$$

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The embedding  $(\text{Prob}([0, \infty[), \mathcal{E}^N \circ I_N, \mathcal{K}^N \circ I_N)$  converges formally to the **limiting gradient system**  $(\text{Prob}([0, \infty[), \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{K})$  with

$$\mathbf{E}(U) = \int_0^\infty U(a)E(a) da \quad \text{where } E(a) = p(a \log a - a + 1)$$

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**Result:** Liouville equation = transport equation (cf. T.R.Kurtz'67-70)

$$\dot{U}(t, a) = -\left((1-a^p)U(t, a)\right)' \text{ since } D\mathbf{E} = E \text{ and } K(a)E'(a) = a^p - 1$$

## 5. Limit of chemical master equations

Inspired by Eindhoven group (Mark Peletier, Michiel Renger, ....)

A similar result holds for  $N$ -particle Markov chains

$\dot{\mathbf{u}} = Q\mathbf{u}$  single-particle process

$$\mathbf{u} = (u_j)_{j \in J} \in \text{Prob}(J), \quad \mathcal{E}_{\text{Mv}}(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{j \in J} u_j \log(u_j/w_j)$$

$N$  independent particles:  $\dot{\mathbf{U}} = \frac{1}{N}Q^N\mathbf{U}$  (time rescaling)

$$\mathbf{U} = (\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{n}})_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{J}_N} \in \text{Prob}(\mathbb{J}_N) \text{ where } \mathbb{J}_N = \{ \mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{N}_0^J \mid \sum_{j \in J} n_j = N \}$$

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**Lemma** If  $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = Q\mathbf{u}$  satisfies DBC for  $w$ , then  $\dot{\mathbb{U}} = \frac{1}{N}Q^N\mathbb{U}$  satisfies DBC for  $\mathbb{W}$  with

$$\mathbb{W} = (\mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}})_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{J}_N} \text{ with } \mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}} = N! \prod_{j \in J} w_j^{n_j} / (n_j!)$$

Gradient structure  $(\text{Prob}(\mathbb{J}_N), \mathbb{E}_N, \mathbb{K}_N)$  with  $\mathbb{E}_N(\mathbb{U}) = \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{J}_N} \mathbb{U}_{\mathbf{n}} \log(\mathbb{U}_{\mathbf{n}}/\mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}})$

## 5. Limit of chemical master equations

Independence of particles gives a large-deviation result

$$\frac{1}{N} \log \mathbb{W}_n \approx -\mathcal{E}_{Mv}(\frac{1}{N}n) \quad \leftarrow \text{single-part. energy!}$$

We again embed  $\text{Prob}(\mathbb{J}_N)$  into  $\text{Prob}(\underbrace{\text{Prob}(J)}_{\text{Gibbs simplex}})$  via

$$U = I_N \mathbb{U} \text{ where } U(\mathbf{u}) = \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{J}_N} \mathbb{U}_n c^N \chi_0(\mathbf{u} - \frac{1}{N}n)$$

$$\text{As above } \frac{1}{N} \mathbb{E}_{N \circ I_N} \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \mathbf{E} \text{ with } \mathbf{E}(U) = \int_{\text{Prob}(J)} U(\mathbf{u}) \mathcal{E}_{Mv}(\mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$

$$\mathbb{K}_N \xrightarrow{\text{formally}} \mathbf{K} \text{ with } \mathbf{K}(U) = -\text{div}_{\mathbf{u}} (U \mathcal{K}_{Mv}(\mathbf{u}) \nabla_{\mathbf{u}} \xi)$$

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**Limiting system:** Liouville equation = transport equation

$$\dot{U}(t, \mathbf{u}) = -\text{div}_{\mathbf{u}} (U(t, \mathbf{u}) Q\mathbf{u})$$

$$\text{since } D_U \mathbf{E} = \mathcal{E}_{Mv} \text{ and } -\mathbf{K}(U) D\mathbf{E} = \text{div}_{\mathbf{u}} (\underbrace{U \mathcal{K}_{Mv} D_{\mathbf{u}} \mathcal{E}_{Mv}}_{=-Q\mathbf{u}}) = -\text{div}_{\mathbf{u}} (U Q\mathbf{u})$$

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## 6. Coupling reaction and diffusion

**Open problem:** Can we find similar PDE limits for a Markov chain coupling reaction and diffusion?

**Attempt:** Model  $\dot{U} = \mu U_{xx} + 1 - U^2$

$n_1 \ n_2 \ \dots \ \dots \ n_m \ \dots \dots \ n_M$

• • • • • • • • •

using  $\mathbb{J}_{K,N} = \{ \mathbf{n} = (n_1, \dots, n_M) \in \mathbb{N}_0^M \mid \sum_1^M n_m = KN \}$  and

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**Idea:** model directly the gradient structure (instead of Markov chain)

$$\mathbb{E}_{M,N}(\mathbf{U}) = \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{J}_{M,N}} \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{n}} \log(\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{n}}/\mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}}) \text{ and } \mathbb{K} = \mathbb{K}_{\text{diff}} + \mathbb{K}_{\text{react}}$$

$$\xi \cdot \mathbb{K}_{\text{react}}(\mathbf{U})\xi = \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{J}_{M,N}} \sum_{m=1}^M \rho_{m,\mathbf{n}}^{M,N} \mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}} \Lambda\left(\frac{\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{n}}}{\mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}}}, \frac{\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{n}+e_m}}{\mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}+e_m}}\right) (\xi_{\mathbf{n}} - \xi_{\mathbf{n}+e_m})^2$$

where  $e_m = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots)$

$$\xi \cdot \mathbb{K}_{\text{diff}}(\mathbf{U})\xi = \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{J}_{M,N}} \sum_{m=1}^M \mu_{m,\mathbf{n}}^{M,N} \mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}} \Lambda\left(\frac{\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{n}}}{\mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}}}, \frac{\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{n}+\delta_m}}{\mathbb{W}_{\mathbf{n}+\delta_m}}\right) (\xi_{\mathbf{n}} - \xi_{\mathbf{n}+\delta_m})^2$$

where  $\delta_m = e_m - e_{m-1}$

# Conclusion

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- Markov chains and RDS with DBC have gradient structures
- The Onsager form  $\dot{\mathbf{u}} = -\mathcal{K}(\mathbf{u})D\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u})$  allows for easy modeling

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- Limit passages in many-particle systems often lead to Liouville-type equations which need further reduction.
- Metric gradient structures allow for easy limit passages with uniform geodesic  $\lambda$ -convexity holds  $\rightsquigarrow$   $(EVI)_\lambda$  evolutionary variational inequality

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**Thank you for your attention**

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