

Entropy-Entropy Production Inequalities

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- 1 Motivation by an inspiring example: beyond Boltzmann's H theorem
- 2 More entropy producing models
- 3 EEP for the McKean-Vlasov equation

The kinetic theory of gases

- **Gas**: made of a large number of molecules colliding with each other, moving in the space.
- **Maxwell and Boltzmann**: describe the gas by a density function on the phase space $\mathbb{R}_x^d \times \mathbb{R}_v^d$

$f(t, x, v)$ = the probability of particles at position x and with velocity v

- The evolution: the Boltzmann equation.
- Rigorous derivation of the equation: Boltzmann-Grad limit.
- Well-posedness and regularity of solutions.
- **The entropy production phenomenon: Boltzmann's H theorem.**

Boltzmann's H theorem

For simplicity: assume $x \in \mathbb{T}^d$ and $V(x) = 1$ in this slide.

Theorem (Boltzmann's H theorem)

Suppose the collision kernel $B > 0$ a.e.. Assume $f = (f_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is a “nice” probability density solution of the Boltzmann equation, then **Boltzmann's H functional**

$$H(f) = \int f \log f \, dx dv$$

is non-increasing in time. Indeed, formally

$$\frac{d}{dt} H(f) \leq 0$$

Some mathematical problems

- Derive the equations from N interacting-particle systems:

Boltzmann-Grad limit, mean-field limit, propagation of chaos,...

- relations between entropies and entropy production functionals:

entropy-entropy production inequalities;

- convergence to equilibrium with constructive/realistic rates:

transport, confinement, self-consistent, collision/diffusion.

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Boltzmann's H functional

- Clausius introduced the concept of **entropy**.
- Boltzmann's H functional: a statistical definition of entropy

$$H(f) = \int f \log f,$$

- The Boltzmann equation for a monatomic rarefied gas:

$$\partial_t f + \underbrace{v \cdot \nabla_x f}_{\text{transport}} - \underbrace{\nabla_x V(x) \cdot \nabla_v f}_{\text{confinement}} = \underbrace{Q(f, f)}_{\text{binary collisions}}, \quad t \geq 0$$

where

- the Boltzmann collision operator (“nonlinear jump process”?):

$$Q(f, f) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{S^{d-1}} (f(v')f(v'_*) - f(v)f(v_*))B(v - v_*, \sigma) d\sigma dv_*;$$

- (v, v_*) : the velocities before(or after) collision
- (v', v'_*) : the velocities after(or before) a collision

Boltzmann's H theorem

A mathematical manifestation of the second law of thermodynamics:

Theorem (Boltzmann's H theorem 1872')

Suppose the collision kernel $B = B(v - v_*, \sigma) > 0$ a.e.. Assume $f = (f_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is a "nice" probability density solution of the Boltzmann equation, then *Boltzmann's H functional*

$$H(f) = \int f \log f \, dx \, dv$$

is non-increasing in time. Indeed, at least formally

$$\frac{d}{dt} H(f) \leq 0.$$

Entropy production functional

Denote $f = f(v)$, $f_* = f(v_*)$, $f' = f(v')$, $f'_* = f(v'_*)$, then

$$\frac{d}{dt}H(f) = -\frac{1}{4} \int (ff_* - f'f'_*)(\log ff_* - \log f'f'_*)B(v - v_*, \sigma)d\sigma dv_* dv dx \leq 0$$

since $(r - s)(\log r - \log s) \geq 0$ for $r, s > 0$.

- Boltzmann entropy production functional:

$$D_B(f) = \frac{1}{4} \int (ff_* - f'f'_*)(\log ff_* - \log f'f'_*)B(v - v_*, \sigma)d\sigma dv_* dv.$$

- Identify the equilibrium: $D_B(f) = 0 \Rightarrow$

$$f(v)f(v_*) = f(v')f(v'_*) \rightsquigarrow \text{gaussian functions.}$$

- Denote the equilibrium by f_∞ .

Motivations for quantitative refinement

- The entropy production functional is nonnegative:

$$D_B(f) \geq 0$$

with equality if and only if f is a Gaussian.

- The density f_t is expected to converge to the equilibrium f_∞ .

Question : quantitative convergence to equilibrium??

Motivations:

- (A) It is expected that $f_t \rightarrow f_\infty$ very rapidly.
- (B) Boltzmann's response to Zermelo's paradox.
- (C) Understanding the entropy production mechanism (applications in various problems).
- (D) This is a natural mathematical question...

Motivation (B1)

Zermelo's paradox: Contradiction between Boltzmann's H theorem and Poincaré recurrence theorem.

- The gas is modeled by a large number of particles moving and colliding according to Newtonian mechanics.
- Poincaré's recurrence theorem: for a Hamiltonian system

the system will return arbitrarily close to the initial state.

- Boltzmann's H theorem \Rightarrow

solutions of the Boltzmann equation will tend to the equilibrium.

- **Zermelo's conclusion: Boltzmann's H theorem is physically irrelevant!**
(see also in an earlier note of Poincaré)

Boltzmann's response to Zermelo's paradox:

- The recurrence time would be too huge.
- Estimates by Boltzmann: huge even if the estimated age of the universe is taken as the time unit.
- The accuracy of Boltzmann's model describing the gas breaks down on very large time scales.

??The physical relevance of Boltzmann's H theorem??

Prove the convergence to equilibrium in a short time scale.

(i.e. Prove " H theorem" that is not only quantitative but also physically realistic.)

Beyond Boltzmann's H theorem: functional inequality?

- Cercignani's conjecture(1982'): **entropy-entropy production inequality??**

$$D_B(f)?? \geq \lambda \left(\int f \log f dv - \int f_\infty \log f_\infty dv \right) := \lambda H(f|f_\infty)$$

for f with unit mass, zero mean velocity and unit temperature, i.e.

$$f \in \mathcal{C}_{1,0,1} := \left\{ \int f(v)dv = 1, \int vf(v)dv = 0, \int |v|^2 f(v)dv = d. \right\}$$

- Bobylev, Cercignani 1999': for a large class of collision kernels, NO such a inequality holds even for a very restricted class of functions.
- Related works: Caflisch 1980', Bobylev 1984' & 1988', Wennberg 1997'...

What if Cercignani's conjecture was true?

Consider solutions f_t to the spatially homogeneous Boltzmann equation

$$\partial_t f_t = Q(f_t, f_t),$$

then we would have

$$-\frac{d}{dt} H(f_t | f_\infty) = D_B(f_t) \geq \lambda H(f_t | f_\infty)$$

which would imply

$$H(f_t | f_\infty) \leq e^{-\lambda t} H(f_0 | f_\infty).$$

Define the time $T(\varepsilon)$ for $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$

$$T(\varepsilon) := \inf \left\{ t > 0 : H(f_t | f_\infty) \leq \varepsilon H(f_0 | f_\infty), \forall f_0 \text{ with finite entropy} \right\},$$

then it would yield

$$T(\varepsilon) \leq \frac{-\log \varepsilon}{\lambda}.$$

“Cercignani’s conjecture is sometimes true”

$$D_B(f) = \frac{1}{4} \int (ff_* - f'f'_*)(\log ff_* - \log f'f'_*) B(v - v_*, \sigma) d\sigma dv_* dv$$

Theorem (Villani 2003')

Let the collision kernel B satisfy (“super hard sphere”)

$$B(v - v_*, \sigma) \geq K_B(1 + |v - v_*|^2).$$

Then for $f \in \mathcal{C}_{1,0,1}$, $f_\infty = (2\pi)^{-d/2} \exp(-\frac{1}{2}|v|^2)$,

$$D_B(f) \geq \lambda_B H(f|f_\infty).$$

where $\lambda_B > 0$ depends on an upper bound for $H(f)$.

Related works: Carlen-Carvalho 1992', 1994'; Toscani-Villani 1999'.

Convergence to equilibrium: Desvillettes-Villani 2005'.

What's next

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The Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process: LSI

$$dX_t = \sqrt{2}dB_t - X_t dt$$

- The invariant measure: γ the standard Gaussian measure.
- h : The density function of X_t w.r.t γ .
- The entropy:

$$\text{Ent}_\gamma(h) := \int h \log h d\gamma;$$

- The entropy production functional = the relative Fisher information:

$$D_{OU}(h) = \int \frac{|\nabla h|^2}{h} d\gamma.$$

Theorem (Gross's Gaussian logarithmic Sobolev inequality)

$$\int \frac{|\nabla h|^2}{h} d\gamma \geq 2 \int h \log h d\gamma.$$

The Langevin diffusion (1): Basic properties

The Langevin diffusion:

$$\begin{cases} dx_t = v_t dt \\ dv_t = \sqrt{2} dB_t - v_t dt - \nabla_x V(x_t) dt. \end{cases}$$

The kinetic Fokker-Planck equation:

$$\partial_t h + v \cdot \nabla_x h - \nabla_x V(x) \cdot \nabla_v h = \Delta_v h - v \cdot \nabla_v h$$

The invariant measure:

$$\mu(dx, dv) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-V(x)} \cdot (2\pi)^{-\frac{Nd}{2}} e^{-\frac{|v|^2}{2}} dx dv := d\nu(x) d\gamma(v).$$

The entropy:

$$\text{Ent}_\mu(h) := \int h \log h d\mu$$

The Langevin diffusion (2): Entropic convergence

Theorem (Villani)

Assume that

- 1 the potential $V \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with $|\nabla^2 V| \leq K$;
- 2 the reference measure μ satisfies a logarithmic Sobolev inequality;

Then there exist constant $C > 0$ and $\lambda > 0$, explicitly computable, such that

$$\int h_t \log h_t d\mu \leq C e^{-\lambda t} \int h_0 \log h_0 d\mu.$$

Further results on entropic decay:

- Baudoin'17: local Γ calculus;
- Cattiaux-Guillin-Monmarché-Z.'19: relax the condition (1).

Related works: F.-Y. Wang, J. Wang, L.-M. Wu, X.-C. Zhang, ...

The Landau equation

The Landau equation:

$$\partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f - F(x) \cdot \nabla_v f = Q_L(f, f), \quad t \geq 0$$

The Landau entropy production functional:

$$D_L(f) = \frac{1}{2} \int ff_* \Psi(|v - v_*|) \left| \text{Proj}_{(v-v_*)^\perp} \left(\nabla \log f - (\nabla \log f)_* \right) \right|^2 dv_* dv$$

Theorem (Desvillettes-Villani2001')

If $\Psi(|z|) \geq |z|^2$, then

$$D_L(f) \geq \lambda(f) H(f|f_\infty).$$

Continuous time Markov chains: MLSI

Let (K, π) be a irreducible reversible Markov chain on a finite state space.

- The Dirichlet form:

$$\mathcal{E}(f, g) = \langle (I - K)f, g \rangle$$

- Poincaré inequality:

$$\lambda_1 \text{Var}_\pi(f) \leq \mathcal{E}(f, f).$$

- Log Sobolev inequality:

$$\rho \text{Ent}_\pi(f) \leq 2\mathcal{E}(\sqrt{f}, \sqrt{f}).$$

- Modified log Sobolev inequality: (**entropy-entropy production inequality**)

$$\rho_0 \text{Ent}_\pi(f) \leq \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{E}(f, \log f).$$

Summary: Entropy producing models

- The Boltzmann equation;
- The Landau equation;
- The kinetic Fokker-Planck equation (the Langevin equation);
- The Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process (the log Sobolev inequalities);
- Poisson point processes;
- Random transpositions, Bernoulli-Laplace model;
- The Kac model;
- Zero range processes;
- Swendsen-Wang dynamics;
- etc.

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The McKean-Vlasov equation

Question: Entropy-entropy production inequality for

$$\partial_t f = \Delta f + \nabla \cdot (f(\nabla V + \nabla W * f))$$

and the corresponding **self-interacting diffusion** $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ on \mathbb{R}^d :

$$dX_t = \sqrt{2}dB_t - \nabla V(X_t)dt - \nabla W * \text{law}(X_t)dt,$$

where

- the confinement potential $V : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$;
- the interaction potential $W : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is even (symmetric interaction).

Convergence to equilibrium: Carrillo-McCann-Villani, Malrieu, Cattiaux-Guillin-Malrieu, Bolley-Gentil-Guillin, Eberle-Guillin-Zimmer, **Guillin-Liu-Wu-Z.**, Liu-Wu-Z., Ren-Wang, Wang,....

Entropy and entropy production

- It is the gradient flow of the **free energy**

$$E(f) := \int f \log f dx + \int V f dx + \frac{1}{2} \int W(x-y) f(x) f(y) dx dy$$

in the space of probability measures with the Wasserstein metric.

- We shall always assume $E(f)$ admits a unique minimizer f_∞ (equilibrium) with finite free energy. Denote the relative free energy by

$$E(f|f_\infty) := E(f) - E(f_\infty).$$

- The entropy production functional

$$D_{MV}(f) := \int |\nabla \log f + \nabla V + \nabla W * f|^2 f dx.$$

- **EFP inequality:**

$$D_{MV}(f) \geq \lambda E(f|f_\infty).$$

Theorem (Carrillo-McCann-Villani, theorem 2.1)

Assume that V is uniformly convex and

$$\nabla^2 V \geq \rho \text{Id} > 0, \quad \rho > \|(\nabla^2 W)^-\|_{L^\infty},$$

where $(\nabla^2 W)^-$ is the negative part of the Hessian $\nabla^2 W$. Let

$$\lambda = \rho - \|(\nabla^2 W)^-\|_{L^\infty} > 0.$$

Then

- ① Existence and uniqueness of minimizer f_∞ of the free energy.
- ② EEP inequality:

$$\int |\nabla \log f + \nabla V + \nabla W * f|^2 f dx \geq 2\lambda(E(f) - E(f_\infty)).$$

There are results for the “degenerately convex interaction” as well, for

Non-convex settings

Remark: convexity of $V(x)$ is assumed in their EEP inequalities... Unlike the log Sobolev inequality, perturbation argument doesn't work well. But in many cases, linear EEP inequalities are still expected!

Question: How to prove EEP inequality in non-convex settings?

An motivating example:

$$V(x) = \beta\left(\frac{|x|^4}{4} - \frac{|x|^2}{2}\right), \quad W(x) = -\frac{\beta K}{2}|x|^2.$$

or more generally:

- $\nabla^2 W \geq -K_0 \text{Id}$,
- V is "super-convex": $\nabla^2 V \geq K(|x|)\text{Id}$, with

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow +\infty} K(R) = +\infty.$$

The strategy: Using interacting particle systems

- Consider the corresponding **particle system with mean field interaction**, $1 \leq i \leq N$,

$$dX_i = \sqrt{2}dB_t^i - \left[\nabla V(X_i) + \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{1 \leq j \leq N} \nabla W(X_i - X_j) \right] dt$$

- and its Gibbs measure $m(dx_1 \cdots dx_N)$

$$m(dx_1 \cdots dx_N) = e^{-H_N} dx_1 \cdots dx_N$$

where H_N is the Hamiltonian

$$H_N(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq N} V(x_i) + \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} W(x_i - x_j).$$

The strategy: Using interacting particle systems+1

Under technical assumptions, as the number of particles $N \rightarrow +\infty$,

- ① The mean relative entropy tends to the relative free energy (Liu-Wu'20)

$$\frac{1}{N} H(f^{\otimes N} | m) \rightarrow E(f | f_\infty);$$

- ② The mean Fisher information tends to $D_{MV}(f)$

$$\frac{1}{N} I(f^{\otimes N} | m) \rightarrow \int |\nabla \log f + \nabla V + \nabla W * f|^2 f dx;$$

- ③ Then EEP inequality can be deduced from **uniform LSI for the Gibbs measure m** :

$$H(F | m) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} I(F | m).$$

by taking $F = f^{\otimes N}$.

Zegarlin'ski's theorem for the Gibbs measure

$$dm(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \exp \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^N V(x_i) + \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} W(x_i - x_j) \right\} dx_1 \cdots dx_N$$

Notations: the conditional measure knowing $(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_N)$,

$$dm_i(x_i) = \frac{1}{Z_i} \exp \left\{ -V(x_i) - \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{j: j \neq i} W(x_i, x_j) \right\} dx_i.$$

Theorem (Zegarlin'ski'92)

(Z1) *uniform LSI for all m_i 's*

(Z2) *Zegarlin'ski's condition on interdependence*

implies LSI for the Gibbs measure.

Beyond convexity: Lipschitzian spectral gap condition

Define for $r > 0$

$$b(r) := \sup - \left\langle \frac{x - y}{|x - y|}, (\nabla V(x) - \nabla V(y)) + (\nabla_x W(x - z) - \nabla_x W(y - z)) \right\rangle$$

where the supremum runs over $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$ with $|x - y| = r$.

Assumption (L1)

Suppose that the following Lipschitzian constant

$$c_{Lip} := \frac{1}{4} \int_0^\infty \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{4} \int_0^s b(u) du \right\} s ds < +\infty$$

Lemma (Wu'09)

Suppose (L1), then the conditional measure $m_i(dx_i)$ satisfies a Poincaré inequality with uniform constant c_{Lip} .

By this we are able to verify Zegarliński's condition (Z2).

Theorem (Guillin-Liu-Wu-Z. '22)

Assume (L1) and

- 1 for some constant $\rho_{\text{LS}} > 0$, the conditional measures m_i on \mathbb{R}^d satisfy the log-Sobolev inequality :

$$2\rho_{\text{LS}}H(f|m_i) \leq I(f|m_i), \quad f \in C_b^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$$

for all i and $(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_N)$;

- 2 (Dobrushin-Zegarlinski condition)

$$\gamma_0 := c_{\text{Lip},m} \sup_{x,y \in \mathbb{R}^d, |z|=1} |\nabla_{x,y}^2 W(x,y)z| < 1.$$

then m satisfies

$$2\rho_{\text{LS}}(1 - \gamma_0)^2 H(f|m) \leq I(f|m), \quad f \in C_b^1(\mathbb{R}^{dN}).$$

The strategy recalled

Under technical assumptions, as the number of particles $N \rightarrow +\infty$,

- ① The mean relative entropy tends to the relative free energy (Liu-Wu'20)

$$\frac{1}{N} H(f^{\otimes N} | m) \rightarrow E(f | f_\infty);$$

- ② The mean Fisher information tends to $D_{MV}(f)$

$$\frac{1}{N} I(f^{\otimes N} | m) \rightarrow \int |\nabla \log f + \nabla V + \nabla W * f|^2 f dx;$$

- ③ Then EEP inequality is deduced from **uniform LSI for the Gibbs measure m_N** :

$$H(F | m) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} I(F | m_N).$$

by taking $F = f^{\otimes N}$.

The motivating example recalled

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$$\lim_{R \rightarrow +\infty} K(R) = +\infty.$$

Thank you for your attention!!