

Convex decay of Entropy for interacting systems

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Based on:

- ▶ BOUDOU A.S., CAPUTO P., D.P., POSTA G. (2006). Spectral gap estimates for interacting particle systems via a Bochner-type identity. JOURNAL OF FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS, vol. 232; p. 222-25
- ▶ CAPUTO P, D.P., POSTA G (2009). Convex Entropy Decay via the Bochner-Bakry-Emery approach. ANNALES DE L'INSTITUT HENRI POINCARÉ-PROBABILITÉS ET STATISTIQUES, vol. 45; p. 734- 753
- ▶ Some more recent progresses, with G. POSTA.

Convergence to equilibrium

Let π be the stationary distribution of an **ergodic**, **continuous-time**, Markov chain on a finite or countable set X , with semigroup $S_t = e^{tL}$. Denote by μS_t the law at time t of the chain started from the law μ .

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Denoting by

$$\|\mu - \pi\|_{TV} := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in S} |\mu(x) - \pi(x)|$$

the **total variation distance**, one of the aims of **quantitative ergodic theory** is to estimate the rate of convergence of

$$\|\mu S_t - \pi\|_{TV} \rightarrow 0$$

as $t \rightarrow +\infty$.

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► L^2 convergence:

$$\|S_t - \pi\|_{2 \rightarrow 2} := \sup\{\|S_t f - \pi[f]\|_2 : \|f\|_2 = 1\}.$$

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The following bound holds: letting $\pi^* := \min_x \pi(x)$,

$$\sup_{x \in S} \|\delta_x S_t - \pi\|_{TV} \leq \frac{1}{\pi^*} \|S_t - \pi\|_{2 \rightarrow 2}.$$

- Convergence in relative entropy: letting

$$h(\mu|\pi) := \sum_x \pi(x) \left(\frac{\mu(x)}{\pi(x)} \log \frac{\mu(x)}{\pi(x)} \right) = \pi \left[\frac{\mu}{\pi} \log \frac{\mu}{\pi} \right].$$

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These bounds are then transferred to total variation by Czar's inequality:

$$\sup_{x \in S} h(\delta_x S_t | \pi) \geq \sup_{x \in S} \|\delta_x S_t - \pi\|_{TV}^2$$

Functional inequalities

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If the chain is reversible (i.e. $\pi(x)L_{xy} = \pi(y)L_{yx}$)

$$\mathcal{E}(f, g) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{y \in S} \pi [L_{xy}(f(y) - f(x))(g(y) - g(x))]$$

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Also let, for $f > 0$

$$Ent_\pi(f) := \pi[f \log f] - \pi[f] \log \pi[f],$$

so that $h(\mu | \pi) = Ent_\pi(d\mu/d\pi)$.

Theorem

$\|S_t - \pi\|_{2 \rightarrow 2} \leq e^{-\gamma t}$ is equivalent to

$$\text{(PI)} \quad \text{Var}_\pi[f] := \pi[f^2] - \pi^2[f] \leq \frac{1}{\gamma} \mathcal{E}(f, f)$$

for every f , which is called the Poincaré inequality. The best constant in **(PI)** is the *spectral gap* of $\frac{L+L^*}{2}$.

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for every f , which is called the Poincaré inequality. The best constant in (PI) is the *spectral gap* of $\frac{L+L^*}{2}$.

Suppose the chain is reversible. Then $h(\mu S_t | \pi) \leq h(\mu | \pi) e^{-\alpha t}$ for every initial distribution μ , is equivalent to

$$\text{(MLSI)} \quad \text{Ent}_\pi(f) \leq \frac{1}{\alpha} \mathcal{E}(f, \log f),$$

for every $f > 0$. The inequality above is called the modified logarithmic Sobolev inequality.

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It turns out that $\alpha \leq 2\gamma$. Thus the estimate obtained with the **(MLSI)** could be worse in the exponential rate, but for moderate times could be much better since, for large S , $\sqrt{\log \left(\frac{1}{\pi^*} \right)} \ll \frac{1}{\pi^*}$.

It is customary to deal with a third functional inequality, the *logarithmic Sobolev inequality*:

$$\text{(LSI)} \quad Ent_{\pi}(f) \leq \frac{1}{s} \mathcal{E}(\sqrt{f}, \sqrt{f})$$

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The deepest meaning of this inequality will not be dealt with here. We mention the fact that in the case of *diffusion processes*, i.e. when L is a second order differential operator, **(MLSI)** and **(LSI)** coincide.

Theorem

Consider an irreducible, reversible, finite state Markov chain, and let γ, α, s denote the largest constants in **(PI)**, **(MLSI)** and **(LSI)** respectively. Then

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For Markov chains with infinite state space the inequalities between the best constants still hold, but the constants may be zero.

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 - ▶ Quite powerful but spatial mixing can be hard to prove.
 - ▶ Applications to inhomogeneous models may be problematic.
- ▶ Lyapunov function methods (Cattiaux, Guillin).
 - ▶ Natural approach, but effectiveness on models with spatial structure is still unclear (to me)

The Bochner-Bakry-Emery approach to PI and MLSI

In this section we assume reversibility of L . We recall that the proof that the rate of L^2 convergence to equilibrium is the best constant in **(PI)** is based on

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We get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}(S_t f, S_t f) \leq -2k \mathcal{E}(S_t f, S_t f)$$

In particular $\mathcal{E}(S_t f, S_t f) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow +\infty$. Rewriting the last inequality as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}(S_t f, S_t f) \leq k \frac{d}{dt} \text{Var}_\pi(S_t f)$$

and integrating from t to $+\infty$ we get

$$\mathcal{E}(f, f) \geq k \text{Var}_\pi(f) \Rightarrow k \leq \gamma !$$

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By a bit of spectral Theory it can be shown that the best constant k in

$$(PI') \quad \mathcal{E}(f, f) \leq \frac{1}{k} \pi [(Lf)^2]$$

is *equal* to the spectral gap γ .

The same argument can be implemented with the entropy replacing the variance. We obtain, for $f > 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^2}{dt^2} Ent_{\pi}(S_t f) &= -\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}(S_t f, \log S_t f) \\ &= \pi [L S_t f L \log S_t f] + \pi \left[\frac{(L S_t f)^2}{S_t f} \right]\end{aligned}$$

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We therefore have that the inequality

$$(\mathbf{MLSI}') \quad k \mathcal{E}(f, \log f) \leq \pi [L f L \log f] + \pi \left[\frac{(L f)^2}{f} \right]$$

for every $f > 0$, implies the **(MLSI)** $k Ent_{\pi}(f) \leq \mathcal{E}(f, \log f)$.

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This time the converse is not necessarily true: the entropy may decay exponentially fast, but not necessarily in a convex way.

In order to understand how useful the above inequalities are, we write generators of Markov chains in the following form:

$$Lf(x) = \sum_{\gamma \in G} c(x, \gamma)[f(\gamma(x)) - f(x)] =: \sum_{\gamma \in G} c(x, \gamma) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x)$$

where G is some set of functions from X to X (*allowed movements*). It is clear that every countable Markov chain can be written in this way.

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For L to be reversible w.r.t. a probability π we need

(Rev) For every $\gamma \in G$ there exists $\gamma^{-1} \in G$ such that $\gamma^{-1}\gamma(x) = x$ for every $x \in X$ such that $c(x, \gamma) > 0$. Moreover

$$\pi(x)c(x, \gamma) = \pi(\gamma(x))c(\gamma(x), \gamma^{-1})$$

The inequalities **(PI')** and **(MLSI')** become, respectively

$$\frac{1}{2}\pi \left[\sum_{\gamma \in G} c(x, \gamma) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \right] \leq \frac{1}{k}\pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} c(x, \gamma) c(x, \delta) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} f(x) \right]$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2}\pi \left[\sum_{\gamma \in G} c(x, \gamma) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\gamma} \log f(x) \right] \\ & \leq \frac{1}{k}\pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta} c(x, \gamma) c(x, \delta) \left(\nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} \log f(x) + \frac{\nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} f(x)}{f(x)} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

The “quadratic form”

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can be modified as follows.

To fix ideas, set $\pi(x) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-H(x)}$, $c(x, \gamma) = \exp[-\nabla_{\gamma} H(x)/2]$, and assume $\gamma \circ \delta = \delta \circ \gamma$ for every γ, δ . Then one shows that, for every f

$$\begin{aligned} & \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} c(x, \gamma) c(\gamma(x), \delta) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} f(x) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} c(x, \gamma) c(\gamma(x), \delta) (\nabla_{\gamma} \nabla_{\delta} f(x))^2 \right] \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\frac{1}{2}\pi \left[\sum_{\gamma \in G} c(x, \gamma) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \right] \leq$$

$$\frac{1}{k}\pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} (c(x, \gamma)c(x, \delta) - c(x, \gamma)c(\gamma(x), \delta)) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} f(x) \right]$$

is stronger than **(PI')**.

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This may be useful if

$$c(x, \gamma)c(x, \delta) \simeq c(x, \gamma)c(\gamma(x), \delta)$$

for “many” pairs (γ, δ) .

Theorem

Let $R : S \times G \times G \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ be such that for each x, γ, δ with $R(x, \gamma, \delta) > 0$ we have

$$\mathbf{P1} : \quad R(x, \gamma, \delta) = R(x, \delta, \gamma)$$

$$\mathbf{P2} : \quad \pi(x)R(x, \gamma, \delta) = \pi(\gamma(x))R(\gamma(x), \gamma^{-1}, \delta)$$

$$\mathbf{P3} : \quad \gamma\delta(x) = \delta\gamma(x)$$

Set $\Gamma_R(x, \gamma, \delta) := c(x, \gamma)c(x, \delta) - R(x, \gamma, \delta)$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \pi \left[(Lf)^2 \right] &= \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} c(x, \gamma)c(x, \delta) \nabla_\gamma f(x) \nabla_\delta f(x) \right] \\ &\geq \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} \Gamma_R(x, \gamma, \delta) \nabla_\gamma f(x) \nabla_\delta f(x) \right] \end{aligned}$$

The result above follows from the identity:

$$\begin{aligned} & \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} c(x, \gamma) c(x, \delta) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} f(x) \right] \\ &= \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} \Gamma_R(x, \gamma, \delta) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} f(x) \right] \\ & \quad + \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} \Gamma_R(x, \gamma, \delta) (\nabla_{\gamma} \nabla_{\delta} f(x))^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

which is reminiscent of Bochner's identities.

Similarly

Theorem

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \pi [LfL \log f] + \pi \left[\frac{(Lf)^2}{f} \right] \\
 &= \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta} c(x, \gamma) c(x, \delta) \left(\nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} \log f(x) + \frac{\nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} f(x)}{f(x)} \right) \right] \\
 &\geq \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta} \Gamma_R(x, \gamma, \delta) \left(\nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} \log f(x) + \frac{\nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} f(x)}{f(x)} \right) \right]
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Summing up:

$$\pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} \Gamma_R(x, \gamma, \delta) \nabla_{\gamma} f(x) \nabla_{\delta} f(x) \right] \geq k \mathcal{E}(f, f)$$

Summing up:

$$\pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta \in G} \Gamma_R(x, \gamma, \delta) \nabla_\gamma f(x) \nabla_\delta f(x) \right] \geq k\mathcal{E}(f, f)$$

and

$$\pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta} \Gamma_R(x, \gamma, \delta) \left(\nabla_\gamma f(x) \nabla_\delta \log f(x) + \frac{\nabla_\gamma f(x) \nabla_\delta f(x)}{f(x)} \right) \right] \geq k\mathcal{E}(f, \log f)$$

for every $f > 0$, imply **(PI)** and **(MLSI')**, respectively.

Glauber dynamics for unbounded particles

Let $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^d$, $K, \lambda : \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ with $K(0) = 0$,

$$\sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} K(x) < +\infty \quad \bar{\lambda} := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \lambda(x) < +\infty.$$

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$X := \mathbb{N}^\Lambda$. So, for $\eta \in X$, $\eta_x =$ number of particles at $x \in \Lambda$.

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$$\pi(\eta) := \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{x \in \Lambda} \frac{\lambda(x)^{\eta_x}}{\eta_x!} \exp \left[-\beta \sum_{\{x,y\} \subseteq \Lambda} K(x-y) \eta_x \eta_y \right],$$

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γ_x^+ = creation of a particle at x .

γ_x^- = deletion of a particle at x .

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$$\sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} K(x) < +\infty \quad \bar{\lambda} := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \lambda(x) < +\infty.$$

$X := \mathbb{N}^\Lambda$. So, for $\eta \in X$, $\eta_x =$ number of particles at $x \in \Lambda$.

$$\pi(\eta) := \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{x \in \Lambda} \frac{\lambda(x)^{\eta_x}}{\eta_x!} \exp \left[-\beta \sum_{\{x,y\} \subseteq \Lambda} K(x-y) \eta_x \eta_y \right],$$

γ_x^+ = creation of a particle at x .

γ_x^- = deletion of a particle at x .

$$c(\eta, \gamma_x^-) := \eta_x \quad c(\eta, \gamma_x^+) := \lambda(x) \exp \left[-\beta \sum_{y \in \Lambda} K(x-y) \eta_y \right]$$

Choose

$$R(\eta, \gamma_x^+, \gamma_y^+) = c(\eta, \gamma_y^+)c(\gamma_x^+(\eta), \gamma_y^+)$$

$$R(\eta, \gamma_x^-, \gamma_y^-) = c(\eta, \gamma_y^-)c(\gamma_x^-(\eta), \gamma_y^-)$$

$$R(\eta, \gamma_x^-, \gamma_y^+) = c(\eta, \gamma_x^-)c(\eta, \gamma_y^+)$$

and write ∇_x^\pm for $\nabla_{\gamma_x^\pm}$.

We get

$$\begin{aligned} \pi \left[(Lf)^2 \right] &\geq \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta} \Gamma_R(\eta, \gamma, \delta) \nabla_{\gamma} f(\eta) \nabla_{\delta} f(\eta) \right] = \sum_{x \in \Lambda} \pi \left[\eta_x (\nabla_x^- f(\eta))^2 \right] \\ &+ \sum_{x, y \in \Lambda} \pi \left[c(\eta, \gamma_x^+) c(\eta, \gamma_y^+) (1 - \exp[-\beta K(x - y)]) \nabla_x^+ f(\eta) \nabla_y^+ f(\eta) \right] \\ &= \mathcal{E}(f, f) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

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Using:

- ▶ $c(\eta, \gamma_y^+) \leq \bar{\lambda}$,
- ▶ $2\nabla_x^+ f(\eta) \nabla_y^+ f(\eta) \geq -[\nabla_x^+ f(\eta)]^2 - [\nabla_y^+ f(\eta)]^2$

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we obtain

$$\pi \left[(Lf)^2 \right] \geq [1 - \bar{\lambda}\varepsilon(\beta)] \mathcal{E}(f, f)$$

with

$$\varepsilon(\beta) := \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} (1 - \exp[-\beta K(x)]).$$

This proves **(PI)** with

$$\gamma = 1 - \bar{\lambda}\varepsilon(\beta),$$

reproving results by Bertini, Cancrini, Cesi (2002), Kondratiev & Lytvynov (2005).

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STRONGER INEQUALITIES?

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STRONGER INEQUALITIES?

(LSI) is known to fail

One key step was to bound the “non-diagonal terms”

$$\pi [c(\eta, \gamma_x^+)c(\eta, \gamma_y^+) (1 - \exp[-\beta K(x - y)]) \nabla_x^+ f(\eta)\nabla_y^+ f(\eta)]$$

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using $2\nabla_x^+ f(\eta) \nabla_y^+ f(\eta) \geq -[\nabla_x^+ f(\eta)]^2 - [\nabla_y^+ f(\eta)]^2$.

This is an instance of the following bound: for a symmetric matrix $A = (A_{ij})$,

$$A \geq D$$

with D diagonal and

$$d_{ii} = a_{ii} - \sum_{j \neq i} |a_{ij}|.$$

For the **(MLSI')** we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \pi [LfL \log f] + \pi \left[\frac{(Lf)^2}{f} \right] \\
 & \geq \pi \left[\sum_{\gamma, \delta} \Gamma_R(x, \gamma, \delta) \left(\nabla_\gamma f(x) \nabla_\delta \log f(x) + \frac{\nabla_\gamma f(x) \nabla_\delta f(x)}{f(x)} \right) \right] \\
 & \quad = \mathcal{E}(f, \log f) + \sum_{x \in \Lambda} \pi \left[\eta(x) \frac{(\nabla_x^- f(\eta))^2}{f(\eta)} \right] \\
 & + \sum_{x, y \in \Lambda} \pi \left[c(\eta, \gamma_x^+) c(\eta, \gamma_y^+) \left(1 - e^{-\beta K(x-y)} \right) \left(\nabla_x^+ f(\eta) \nabla_y^+ \log f(\eta) + \frac{\nabla_x^+ f(\eta) \nabla_y^+ f(\eta)}{f(\eta)} \right) \right]
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which yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \nabla_x^+ f(\eta) \nabla_y^+ \log f(\eta) + \nabla_y^+ f(\eta) \nabla_x^+ \log f(\eta) + 2 \frac{\nabla_x^+ f(\eta) \nabla_y^+ f(\eta)}{f(\eta)} \\ & \geq -\frac{(\nabla_x^+ f(\eta))^2}{f(\eta + \delta_x)} - \frac{(\nabla_y^+ f(\eta))^2}{f(\eta + \delta_y)} - \nabla_x^+ f(\eta) \nabla_x^+ \log f(\eta) - \nabla_y^+ f(\eta) \nabla_y^+ \log f(\eta) \end{aligned}$$

from which we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \pi [LfL \log f] + \pi \left[\frac{(Lf)^2}{f} \right] \\ \geq [1 - \varepsilon(\beta)] \left[\mathcal{E}(f, \log f) + \sum_{x \in \Lambda} \pi \left[\eta(x) \frac{(\nabla_x^- f(\eta))^2}{f(\eta)} \right] \right] \end{aligned}$$

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Theorem

Assuming $\bar{\lambda}\varepsilon(\beta) < 1$, **(MLSI')** holds with constant $[1 - \bar{\lambda}\varepsilon(\beta)]$.

Some concluding remarks

For the spectral gap, the methods used for bounding from below a quadratic form is very naive. Better estimates could be obtained by estimating the **spectral radius** of the form.

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We worked out some examples where the “naive” estimates are not good enough.

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We worked out some examples where the “naive” estimates are not good enough.

E.g. the [Loss Networks representation of Peierls contours](#) (Fernandez, Ferrari, Garcia, 2001). This is a birth & death dynamics on Peierls contours, having the Ising model as invariant measure.

We can give a uniform lower bound of the gap under the same [low temperature](#) condition as in [FFG].

Some concluding remarks

However, *global, non-diagonal bounds* are not yet available for **(MLSI')**.

THANKS!