

Optimal transport in Brownian motion stopping

Young-Heon Kim

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Focusing on joint works with
Nassif Ghoussoub (UBC) and **Aaron Zeff Palmer (UBC)**,

and joint work in progress with
Inwon Kim (UCLA).

October, 2020
Fields Medal Symposium, celebrating mathematical work of
Alessio Figalli.

The main works to present

Part I

► **Brownian stopping with fixed target**

- [Ghoussoub/ K. / Palmer] PDE methods for Skorokhod embeddings. *Calc. Var. PDE* (2019)
- [Ghoussoub/ K. / Palmer] A solution to the Monge transport problem for Brownian martingales. To appear in *Ann. of Probability*.

Part II

► **Brownian stopping with free target**

[Inwon Kim/ K.] Work in progress.

Main point to present:

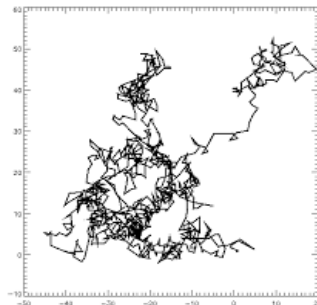
Optimal transport with Brownian motion stopping has a fundamental connection to free boundary problems of PDEs (the heat equation).

Outline

- ▶ Brownian motion, stopping time, Skorokhod problem
- ▶ Fixed target
 - ▶ Optimal Stopping time (Optimal Skorokhod Problem)/ Connection to Optimal Transport.
 - ▶ Randomized stopping time and Kantorovich solution
 - ▶ Monge solution, barrier and hitting time
 - ▶ Duality/ Dynamic programming
 - ▶ Dual attainment
 - ▶ Eulerian formulation
- ▶ Free target
 - ▶ The density constraint optimization problem
 - ▶ Monotonicity/ L^1 contraction/BV estimates
 - ▶ Saturation
 - ▶ Connection to the Stefan problem (a free boundary PDE problem): Freezing / Melting

Brownian motion and stopping time

- **Brownian motion:**



from CRM-physmath

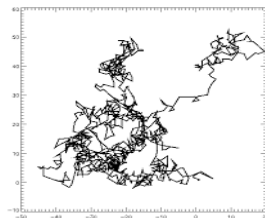
- A **stopping time** τ of Brownian motion is, roughly speaking, a random time, prescribed to satisfy a certain probabilistic condition, at which one stops a particle following the Brownian motion.

Brownian motion and stopping time

[Skorokhod problem in \mathbb{R}^n]

For given probability measures μ, ν , does there exist a **stopping time** τ of the Brownian motion such that

$$B_0 \sim \mu \quad \& \quad B_\tau \sim \nu?$$



from CRM-phymath

Remark:

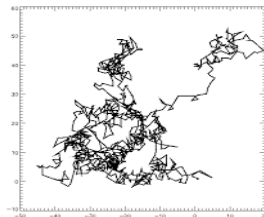
- ▶ For such a stopping time τ to exist (with $\mathbb{E}[\tau] < \infty$), we need
 - ▶ μ and ν are in **subharmonic** order, $\mu \prec_{SH} \nu$, i.e. $\int \xi d\mu \leq \int \xi d\nu$,
 \forall subharmonic $\xi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ($\Delta \xi \geq 0$).

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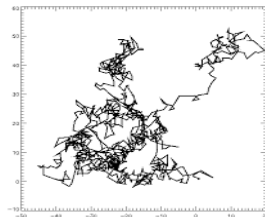
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Skorokod problem

[Skorokhod problem in R^n]

For given probability measures μ, ν , does there exist a **stopping time** τ of the Brownian motion such that

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from CRM-physmath

- ▶ [Skorokhod] [Root] [Rost] [Azéma/Yor] [Vallois] [Perkins] [Jacka] ...[Obloj]...
- ▶ [Hobson]
- ▶ [Beigleböck/Cox/Huesmann '13].
 - ▶ **Optimal transport** unifies the previous results on Skorokhod problem.
- ▶ And many many more people.

Optimal Skorokhod problem

Question: What can we say about an **optimal** stopping time τ for

$$\mathcal{P}(\mu, \nu) := \inf_{\tau} \{ \mathcal{C}(\tau) \mid B_0 \sim \mu \text{ \& } B_{\tau} \sim \nu \}?$$

where $\mathcal{C}(\tau) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^{\tau} L(t, B_t) dt \right]$ or $\mathcal{C}(\tau) = \mathbb{E} [|B_0 - B_{\tau}|]$, etc.

- ▶ Existence?
- ▶ Uniqueness?
- ▶ Any extremal structure?
 - ▶ Does τ drop mass only in a special type of set?

Optimal transport

Optimal Skorokhod problem is a version of **optimal transport** where the **additional constraint** is given on how mass moves.

- ▶ $T(\mu, \nu)$:
probability measures π on $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$
with the marginals μ, ν .

Monge-Kantorovich problem:

$$\inf_{\pi \in T(\mu, \nu)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y).$$

[Monge][**Kantorovich**][Brenier][McCann][Delanoë][Urbas]
[Caffarelli][Evans/Gangbo][Gangbo/McCann][Benamou/Brenier]
[Trudinger/Wang][Ambrosio] [Caffarelli/Feldman/McCann]
[Otto][Otto/Villani][**Villani**] [Lott/Villani][Sturm]
[Ma/Trudinger/Wang][Loeper]**[Figalli]**.....
.....and many more people

Martingale optimal transport/Optimal Skorokhod:

- Backhoff, Bayraktar, Beiglböck, Bouchard, Claisse, Cox, Davis, Dolinsky, De March, Galichon, Ghoussoub, Griessler, Guo, Henry-Labordère, Hobson, Hu, Huesmann, Juillet, Kallblad, K., Klimmek, Lim, Neuberger, Nutz, Oblój, Palmer, Penkner, Perkowski, Proemel, Schachermayer, Siorpaes, Soner, Spoida, Stebegg, Tan, Touzi, Zaeu, and many more people

Optimal Skorokhod problem with given μ and ν .

From now on we assume that $\text{supp } \mu, \text{supp } \nu$ are compact in \mathbb{R}^n .

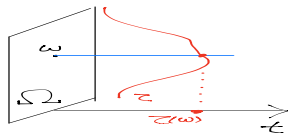
Randomized stopping time

Let $\Omega := C(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}; \mathbb{R}^n)$.

Stopping time

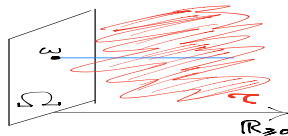
is a (certain) measurable **function** τ on the probability space (Ω, \mathbb{P}^μ) .

(\mathbb{P}^μ = the Wiener measure with $B_0 \sim \mu$).



Randomized stopping time [Baxter & Chacon '77, Meyer '78]

is a (certain) probability **measure** τ on the space $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \Omega$, whose marginal on Ω is \mathbb{P}^μ .



A (nonrandomized) stopping time gives Dirac mass along each path.

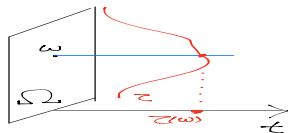
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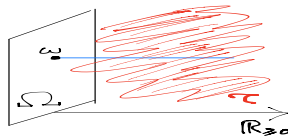
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Optimal Skorokhod problem: Kantorovich solution (a measure-valued solution)

- ▶ [Beiglböck, Cox & Huesmann '13]

Randomized stopping times give

Kantorovich relaxation to optimal Skorokhod problem.

- ▶ **The set of randomized stopping times** from μ to ν is nonempty if $\mu \prec_{SH} \nu$.
- ▶ Space of randomized stopping times is compact: weak* **-compactness** of the space of probability measures.
- ▶ Optimal randomized stopping time exists through lower semi-continuity of the functional $\tau \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(\tau)$ over **randomized stopping times**.

Optimal Skorokhod problem: Monge solution?

- ▶ **Question:**

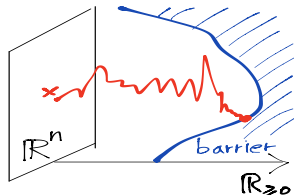
- ▶ When is the optimal Kantorovich solution a Monge solution?
 - ▶ In what case, does the optimal randomized stopping time become pure, that is, non-randomized, pure stopping time?
- ▶ Any associated structure?

Optimal Skorokhod problem: Monge solutions (non-randomized stopping)

[Beigleböck, Cox, & Huesmann '13].

- ▶ Some **variational** tools in the path space Ω , called monotonicity principle, comparing different paths.
- ▶ geometric structures for the cost $\mathbb{E} [\int_0^\tau L(t) dt]$.
 - ▶ The optimal stopping time is unique and given by hitting a certain **barrier in the space-time** $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

- ▶ **Barrier** $R \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- ▶ The **hitting time** τ^R to R ,
$$\tau^R := \inf\{t \geq 0 \mid (t, B_t) \in R\}.$$



Some literature in 1D

Barriers for optimal stopping and obstacle problems for the heat equation:

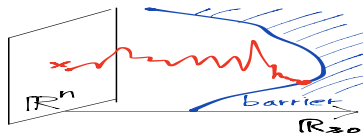
- ▶ [McConnell'91]:
- ▶ [Cox/Wang '13]
- ▶ [Gassiat/Oberhauser/dos Reis '15]
- ▶ [DeAngelis,T '18]
- ▶

Optimal Skorokhod problem: Monge solutions (non-randomized stopping)

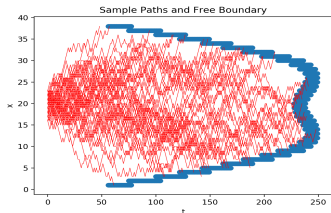
[Ghoussoub, K. & Palmer '18-'19].

- ▶ Some **analytical/PDE** tools based on dual formulation.
 - ▶ **dual attainment for general dimensions n .**
- ▶ geometric structures
 - ▶ For $\mathbb{E} [\int_0^\tau L(t, B_t) dt]$:
 - ▶ The optimal stopping time is uniquely determined by hitting a certain **barrier in the space-time $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ given by the optimal dual function.**
 - ▶ For $\mathbb{E} [|B_0 - B_\tau|]$ ($\mathbb{E} [d(B_0, B_\tau)]$ in Riemannian case):
 - ▶ The optimal stopping time is uniquely determined by hitting a certain **barrier in the product space $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$ given by the optimal dual function.**

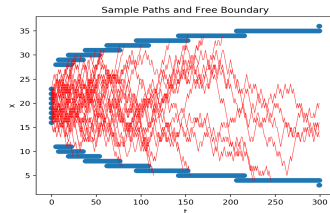
Markovian cost $\mathcal{C}(\tau) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\tau L(t, B_t) dt \right]$.



Barrier looks like the graph of a function on \mathbb{R}^n .



hitting from below
when $t \mapsto L(t, x) \nearrow$
[Root's solution]



hitting from above
when $t \mapsto L(t, x) \searrow$
[Rost's solution]

Non-Markovian cost $\mathcal{C}(\tau) = \mathbb{E}[|B_0 - B_\tau|]$

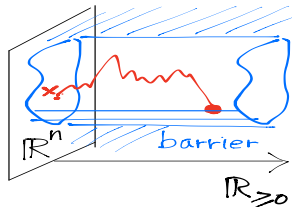
Barrier

$$R = \{(x, y) \mid y \in R_x\} \\ \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n.$$

The barrier R_x depends on the starting point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$.



In the space time, the barrier R_x (depending on the starting point x) looks like a vertical wall in the space-time.



Tools in [Ghoussoub/ K./ Palmer]:

Duality: $\mathcal{P}(\mu, \nu) = \mathcal{D}(\mu, \nu)$ where

$$\mathcal{D}(\mu, \nu) := \sup_{\psi \in LSC} \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi(z) \nu(dz) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} "J_{\psi}" \mu(dx) \right\}.$$

Dynamic programming:

- ▶ Markovian: " J_{ψ} " = $J_{\psi}(0, x)$ where

$$J_{\psi}(t, y) := \sup_{\tau \in \mathcal{R}} \left\{ \mathbb{E} \left[\psi(B_{\tau}^y) - \int_0^{\tau} L(t+s, B_s^y) ds \right] \right\}.$$

- ▶ Non-Markovian: " J_{ψ} " = $J_{\psi}(x, x)$ where

$$J_{\psi}(x, y) := \sup_{\tau \in \mathcal{R}} \left\{ \mathbb{E} \left[\psi(B_{\tau}^y) - c(x, B_{\tau}^y) \right] \right\}.$$

Tools in [Ghoussoub/ K./ Palmer]:

Dynamic programming principle

ψ determines J_ψ that solves (in viscosity sense)

► (Markovian)

$$\min \left\{ -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} J(t, y) - \frac{1}{2} \Delta J(t, y) + L(t, y) \right\} = 0.$$

► (NonMarkovian)

$$\min[J(x, y) - \psi(y) + c(x, y), -\Delta_y[J(x, y)]] = 0$$

Tools

Duality: $\mathcal{P}(\mu, \nu) = \mathcal{D}(\mu, \nu)$ where

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Remark: It is nontrivial to find the dual optimizer, as the space of LSC functions ψ does not have "compactness"; unlike the usual OT case where ψ are Lipschitz functions (for Lipschitz costs).

One may still find a reduction to a compact function space to get:

[Ghoussoub/ K./ Palmer]: **Dual attainment:**

Assume: $\mu \prec_{SH} \nu$, $\text{supp } \mu, \text{supp } \nu$ are compact, $\mu \in H^{-1}$,

$0 \leq L(t, x) \leq D$

$(c(x, y) = |x - y| \text{ or } -M \leq \Delta_y c(x, y) \leq M), \dots$

Then

\exists **optimal dual** $\psi^* \in LSC \cap H_0^1$.

Tools

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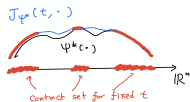
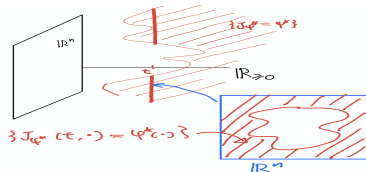
\exists **optimal dual** $\psi^* \in LSC \cap H_0^1$.

Use the optimal dual ψ^* to define the **Barrier**:

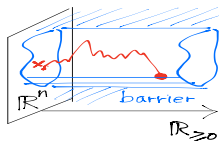
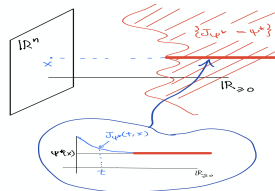
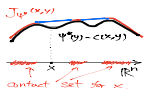
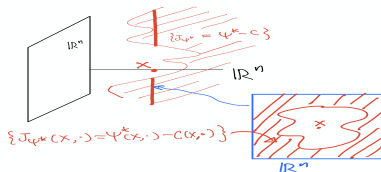
(Markovian) $R^* = \{(x, t) \mid J_{\psi^*}(t, x) = \psi^*(x)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.

(NonMarkovian) $R^* = \{(x, y) \mid J_{\psi^*}(x, y) = \psi^*(y) - c(x, y)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$.

(Markovian)



(NonMarkovian)



Optimal stopping = Hitting time to the Barrier

Assume

- ▶ (Markovian case) $t \mapsto L(t, x) \nearrow (t \mapsto L(t, x) \searrow)$ strictly.
- ▶ (Non-Markovian case) $c(x, y) = |x - y|$ or $d(x, y)$ Riemannian distance, among others.

[Ghoussoub/ K./ Palmer]

Under reasonable assumptions on μ, ν , we have the optimal stopping time τ^* uniquely given by

$$\tau^* = \tau^{R^*}.$$

Corollary: The optimal stopping time is unique.

Eulerian formulation and the barrier (Markovian case)

$$\mathcal{P}(\mu, \nu) = \mathcal{P}_1(\mu, \nu) := \inf_{(\eta, \rho)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} L(t, x) \eta(dt, dx)$$

$$\text{subject to } \rho(t, x) + \partial_t \eta(t, x) = \frac{1}{2} \Delta \eta(t, x),$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^+} d\rho = \nu, \quad \eta(0, x) = \mu(x).$$

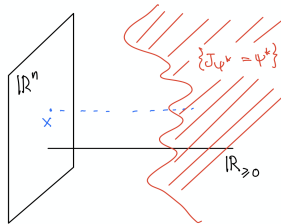
The unique optimal solution (η^*, ρ^*) is a weak solution to the PDE, determined by the condition

$$\eta^*(R^*) = 0 \text{ and } \rho^*(R^*) = 1.$$

Moreover, $\forall g \in C_c(\mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}^n)$,

$$\mathbb{E}[g(\tau^*, B_{\tau^*})] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} g(t, x) \rho^*(dt, dx),$$

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\int_0^{\tau^*} g(t, B_t) dt\right] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} g(t, x) \eta^*(dt, dx).$$



Part II: Optimal Brownian stopping with free target under **density constraint**.

[I.Kim & K., Work in progress]

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Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ (e.g. $f \equiv 1$).

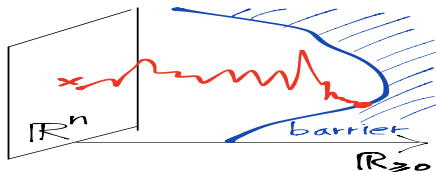
$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mu) := \inf_{\tau} \{ \mathcal{C}(\tau) \mid B_0 \sim \mu, B_{\tau} \sim \nu, \nu \leq f \}$$

- ▶ Also motivated from the (Non-stochastic case)

$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mu) := \inf_{\nu} \{ W_2^2(\mu, \nu) \mid \nu \leq f \}$$

of [De Philippis/Mészáros/Santambrogio/Velichkov '15]
BV Estimates in Optimal Transportation ...

- ▶ We focus on the (Markovian) cost $\mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^{\tau} L(t, B_t) dt \right]$.
Barriers look like



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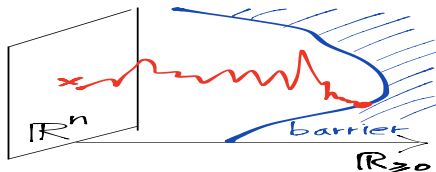
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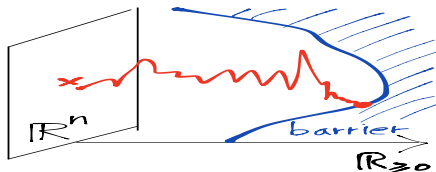
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Existence of optimal τ^*

[I.Kim & K., Work in progress]

$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mu) := \inf_{\tau} \{ \mathcal{C}(\tau) \mid B_0 \sim \mu, B_{\tau} \sim \nu, \nu \leq f \}$$

Easy existence by assuming $\text{supp } f$ is compact.

We will get optimal τ^* , $B_{\tau^*} \sim \nu^*$ such that τ^* is the unique optimal solution for $P(\mu, \nu^*)$.

- ▶ **Can apply results for fixed target problem:**
dual attainment ψ^* , barrier R^* , hitting time, Eulerian formulation, etc.

Much less clear if $f \equiv 1$.

- ▶ How do we know that the mass will not spread to infinity?
 - ▶ Use the compact support case then take limit.
 - ▶ To control the limit, use tools like **monotonicity/saturation**.

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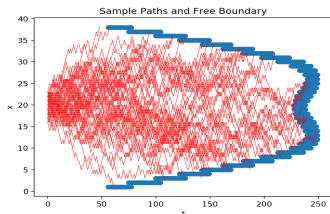
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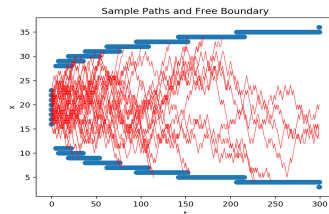
Two cases: D1 and D2

(D1) $t \mapsto L(t, x) \nearrow$ strictly

(D2) $t \mapsto L(t, x) \searrow$ strictly



(D1) hitting from below



(D2) hitting from above

$$s(x) := \begin{cases} \inf\{t \in \mathbb{R}^+; J_{\psi^*}(t, x) = \psi^*(x)\} & \text{for (D1)} \\ \sup\{t \in \mathbb{R}^+; J_{\psi^*}(t, x) = \psi^*(x)\} & \text{for (D2)} \end{cases}$$

$$\tau^* = \begin{cases} \inf\{t \mid t \geq s(B_t)\} & \text{(D1)} \\ \inf\{t \mid t \leq s(B_t)\} & \text{(D2)} \end{cases}$$

Monotonicity

[I.Kim & K., Work in progress]

$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mu) := \inf_{\tau} \{ \mathcal{C}(\tau) \mid B_0 \sim \mu, B_{\tau} \sim \nu, \nu \leq f \}$$

Assume

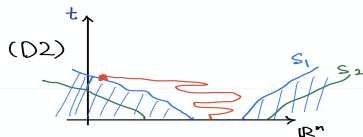
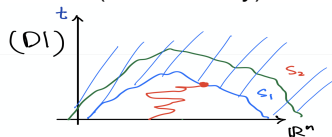
- ▶ either (D1) or (D2).
- ▶ τ_i be optimal solution for $\mathcal{P}_f(\mu_i)$, hitting the space-time boundary s_i , $i = 1, 2$;
- ▶ $B_{\tau_i} \sim \nu_i$, $i = 1, 2$.

If $\mu_1 \leq \mu_2$, then

$$\tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \text{ a.s., and } \nu_1 \leq \nu_2;$$

$s_1 \leq s_2$ in (D1), $s_1 \geq s_2$ in (D2).

(Monotonicity)



L^1 -contraction/uniqueness/ BV -estimate

[I.Kim & K., Work in progress]

Corollary (Without assuming $\mu_1 \leq \mu_2$)

Under (D1) or (D2), for the optimal solutions of

$$\mathcal{P}_f(\mu) := \inf_{\tau} \{ \mathcal{C}(\tau) \mid B_0 \sim \mu, B_{\tau} \sim \nu, \nu \leq f \}$$

we have

- ▶ (L^1 -contraction) $\|\nu_1 - \nu_2\|_{L^1} \leq \|\mu_1 - \mu_2\|_{L^1}$.
- ▶ (Uniqueness) Optimal ν (thus τ) is uniquely determined.
- ▶ (BV -estimate) (If $f \equiv \text{const}$)
 $\|\nu_i\|_{BV} := \int |\nabla \nu_i| \leq \|\mu\|_{BV} := \int |\nabla \mu_i|$.

Saturation.

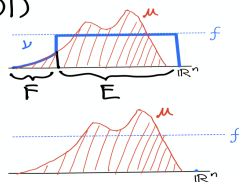
[I.Kim & K., Work in progress]:

Assume: (D1) or (D2) & the optimal solution $B_{\tau^*} \sim \nu$ to $\mathcal{P}_f(\mu)$.

(D1) $\nu = f\chi_E + \mu\chi_F$

- ▶ $|E \cap F| = 0$;
- ▶ in E the Brownian motion does not stop immediately;
- ▶ in F the Brownian paths stop immediately.

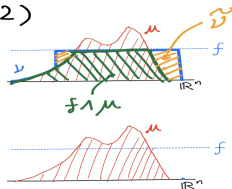
(D1)



(D2) $\nu = \tilde{\nu} + f \wedge \mu$

- ▶ $\tilde{\nu}$ optimal for $\mathcal{P}_f(\tilde{\mu})$ with $\tilde{\mu} = \mu - f \wedge \mu$, and $\tilde{f} = f - f \wedge \mu$;
- ▶ $\tilde{\nu} = \tilde{f}\chi_E$ for some set E .
- ▶ for the portion $f \wedge \mu$ the Brownian motion stops immediately.

(D2)



Saturation.

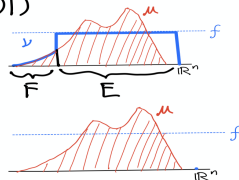
[I.Kim & K., Work in progress]:

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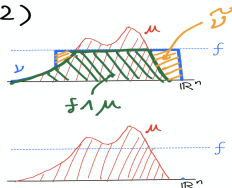
(D1)



(D2) $\nu = \tilde{\nu} + f \wedge \mu$

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Saturation

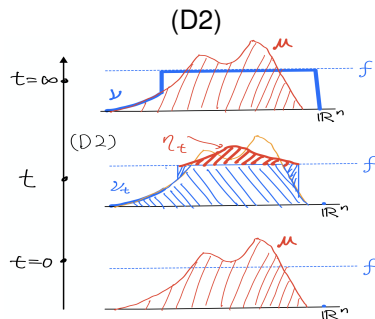
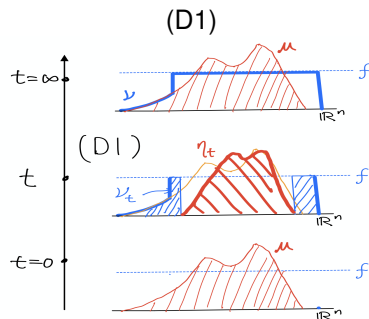
[I.Kim & K., work in progress]

Assume: (D1) or (D2) & the optimal solution $B_{\tau^*} \sim \nu$ to $\mathcal{P}_f(\mu)$.

At time t , $B_{\tau^* \wedge t} \sim \mu_t$, $\mu_t = \eta_t + \nu_t$

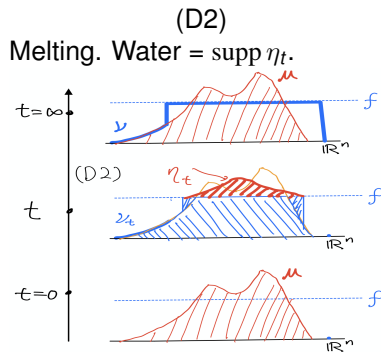
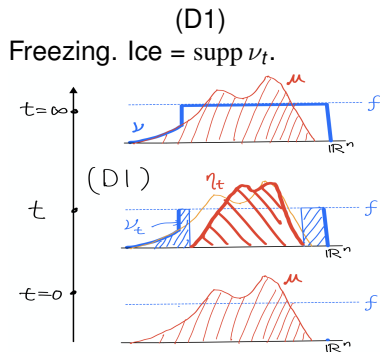
η_t = moving mass, ν_t = stopped mass.

Then:



Physical interpretation: the Stefan problem.

η_t = moving mass/particles, ν_t = stopped mass/particles.



Connection to the Stefan problem

[Ghoussoub/K./Palmer'19] [I.Kim & K., work in progress]

Assume among others, $\mu \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap C(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $f \in C(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

(Then, one can show $\nu \in C(\{\nu > 0\})$).

Then η is a weak solution of the **weighted** Stefan problem:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \eta - \frac{1}{2} \Delta \eta = 0 & \text{in } \{\eta > 0\}; \\ V = w(x) \nabla \eta \cdot \vec{n} & \text{on } \partial\{\eta > 0\}, \end{cases}$$

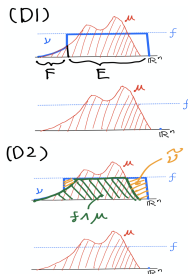
$$w(x) = \begin{cases} -\tilde{\nu}^{-1}(x) & \text{(D1) "freezing",} \\ +\tilde{\nu}^{-1}(x) & \text{(D2) "melting".} \end{cases}$$

The free boundary $\partial\{\eta > 0\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ at each time.

V = the normal velocity of $\partial\{\eta > 0\}$.

\vec{n} = outward unit normal.

- ▶ $\tilde{\nu} = f$ for (D1) and $\tilde{\nu} = f - f \wedge \mu$ for (D2).
- ▶ The initial data $\eta_0 = \mu - \mu \chi_F$ for (D1), $\eta_0 = \mu - f \wedge \mu$ for (D2).
- ▶ F (the inactive region) is determined by μ, ν .
- ▶ F is disjoint from the initial active region of the flow, the set $E = \overline{\{\eta > 0\}} \cap \{t = 0\}$.



Connection to the Stefan problem

[Ghoussoub/K./Palmer'19] [I.Kim & K., work in progress]

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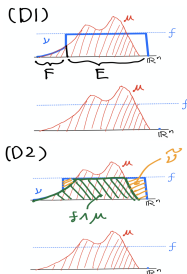
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- ▶ F is disjoint from the initial active region of the flow, the set $E = \overline{\{\eta > 0\}} \cap \{t = 0\}$.



The Stefan problem

- ▶ Only few on (D1) the freezing problem:
 - ▶ 1-D, special case [Chayes/Swindle][Chayes/I.Kim'08]
 - ▶ self-similar, well-prepared (smooth) radial data [Hadzic/Raphael]
- ▶ Many works for (D2) melting problem
 - ▶ Well-posedness: [Meirmanov]
 - ▶ Regularity: [Caffarelli'77], [Athanasopoulos/Cafferlli/Salsa '96-98][Choi-I.Kim'10],
 - ▶ Stability: [Hadzic/Shkoller'14][Hadzic/Raphael'16],

Challenges: Regularity of the free boundary!

- ▶ Breakthrough of [Caffarelli '77]
- ▶ Many other important works...
- ▶ The recent breakthrough of [Alessio Figalli] (works with J. Serra, X. Ros-Oton,....);
- ▶ Also [De Philippis/ Spolaor/ Velichkov].

BV estimates at $t = \infty$ and at $t < \infty$.

[I.Kim/ K., Work in Progress]

- ▶ Let τ^* be optimal for $\mathcal{P}_f(\mu)$ and $f \equiv 1$.
- ▶ Let $B_{\tau^* \wedge t} \sim \mu_t$ and $\mu_t = \nu_t + \eta_t$,
where ν_t = stopped mass, η_t = moving mass.
- ▶ Note: from the saturation property, regularity of $\partial\{\eta > 0\}$ is related to regularity of ν_t .
- ▶ For the case $t \rightarrow \infty$, $\nu = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mu_t$, we now have our BV estimate:

$$\|\nu\|_{BV} \leq \|\mu\|_{BV}.$$

Question: What about for $t < \infty$?

Answer: We have

- ▶ (D1): ??
- ▶ (D2): new proof of known facts:

$$\|\nu_t\|_{BV} + \|\eta_t\|_{BV} \leq \|\mu\|_{BV}.$$

Star shapes and Lipschitzness of the free boundary.

[I.Kim & K., Work in progress]

Corollary (of Monotonicity)

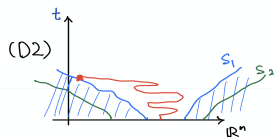
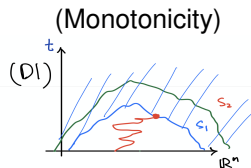
Assume (D1) or (D2) and $f \equiv 1$.

Let

$A = \{(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \mid \eta(x, t) > 0\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$,
"the active region",

and consider the free boundary $\partial A \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.

- ▶ **If μ is radially decreasing with respect to each point $x_0 \in B_r$ for a small ball B_r , (e.g. $\mu = \chi_S$ for a Lipschitz star-shaped set S) then ∂A is **Lipschitz**.**



Works on [Brownian stopping]

► [Fixed target]

- [Markovian]. $\mathcal{C}(\tau) = \mathbb{E}[\int_0^\tau L(t, B_t) dt]$.
 - [Ghoussoub/ K. / Palmer] PDE methods for Skorokhod embeddings. *Calc. Var. PDE* (2019)
- [Non-Markovian]. $\mathcal{C}(\tau) = \mathbb{E}[|B_0 - B_\tau|]$.
 - [Ghoussoub / K. / Lim] Optimal Brownian Stopping between radially symmetric marginals in general dimensions. To appear in *SIAM J. Control & Optimization*.
 - [Ghoussoub/ K. / Palmer] A solution to the Monge transport problem for Brownian martingales To appear in *Ann. of Probability*.
 - [Ghoussoub/ K. / Palmer] Optimal stopping of stochastic transport minimizing submartingale costs. *Arxiv e-prints*, 2020.

► [Free target under density constraints]

- [Inwon Kim/ K.] Work in progress.

Works on [Other cases with fixed target]

- ▶ [Martingale Transport]
 - ▶ [Ghoussoub / K. / Lim] Structure of optimal martingale transport plans in general dimensions. *Ann. of Probability*. 2019.
- ▶ [Stopping with control/drifts] $\mathcal{C}(\tau) = \mathbb{E}[\int_0^\tau L(t, X_t, A)dt]$.
 - ▶ [Deterministic] $dX_t = Adt$.
 - ▶ [Ghoussoub/ K. / Palmer] Optimal transport with controlled dynamics and free end times. *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization*, 2018.
 - ▶ [Stochastic] $dX_t = Adt + dB_t$.
 - ▶ [Dweik/ Ghoussoub/ K. / Palmer] Stochastic optimal transport with free end time. To appear in *Ann. Institut Henri Poincaré (B)*



Thank you very much!