

The invariant distribution of a stochastic dynamical system

Pengcheng Xie & Zhuoran Gu

May 12, 2021

Institute of Computational Mathematics and Scientific/Engineering Computing Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

The initial question is

$$\begin{cases} dx = vdt \\ dv = -\nabla V dt - \gamma(v - Ax)dt + Avdt + \sigma d\omega, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where

$$V = \frac{1}{2}x^T Bx.$$

This equation can be written as

$$d \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix} = M \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix} dt + \begin{pmatrix} O & O \\ O & I \end{pmatrix} \sigma d\omega,$$

where

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} O & I \\ \gamma A - B & A - \gamma I \end{pmatrix}.$$

We can get the solution of the initial form of the problem is

$$x(t) = e^{Mt}x(0) + \int_0^t e^{M(t-\tau)} \begin{pmatrix} O & O \\ O & I \end{pmatrix} d\omega_\tau.$$

Assumption.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} e^{Mt} = 0.$$

Then $x(t)$ will converge to a limit distribution when $t \rightarrow \infty$. It can be proved that it is a normal distribution $N(0, C)$, where

$$C = \sigma^2 \int_0^{+\infty} \exp(Mt) \begin{pmatrix} O & O \\ O & I \end{pmatrix} \exp(M^T t) dt.$$

So, we get a linear system below

$$\begin{aligned}
MC + CM^T &= \sigma^2 \int_0^{+\infty} \left(M \exp(Mt) \begin{pmatrix} O & O \\ O & I \end{pmatrix} \exp(M^T t) + \exp(Mt) \begin{pmatrix} O & O \\ O & I \end{pmatrix} \exp(M^T t) M^T \right) dt \\
&= \sigma^2 \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\exp(Mt) \begin{pmatrix} O & O \\ O & I \end{pmatrix} \exp(M^T t) \right) dt \\
&= -\sigma^2 \begin{pmatrix} O & O \\ O & I \end{pmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

We arrange the content we talked about above, and get the theorem below

Theorem 1. Suppose that we have an equation

$$\begin{cases} dx = v dt \\ dv = -\nabla V dt - \gamma(v - Ax) dt + A v dt + \sigma d\omega \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Let

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} O & I \\ \gamma A - B & A - \gamma I \end{pmatrix}$$

Suppose that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} e^{Mt} = 0,$$

then the limit distribution is $N(0, C)$ where

$$MC + CM^T = -\sigma^2 \begin{pmatrix} O & O \\ O & I \end{pmatrix}.$$

From this equation we can not only solve the matrix C easily but also get some corollaries. Here we give the most obvious one.

Corollary 1. Suppose that

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} C_1 & C_2 \\ C_3 & C_4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We have

- (1) C_2 is a skew-symmetric matrix.
- (2) the diagonal elements of C_2 are all 0.

Proof. From

$$MC + CM^T = -\sigma^2 \begin{pmatrix} O & O \\ O & I \end{pmatrix}$$

We can get

$$C_2 + C_3 = O$$

But C is the covariance matrix of a normal distribution, so C is symmetric. Therefore,

$$C_3 = C_2^T$$

We conclude

$$C_2^T = -C_2$$

So (1) is proved. (2) is a corollary of (1).

Finally we give two examples.

Example 1.

$$n = 2, \sigma = 1, \gamma = 1, A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, B = I.$$

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & b\gamma & -\gamma & b \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -\gamma \end{pmatrix},$$

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & 0 & c_{14} \\ c_{12} & c_{22} & -c_{14} & 0 \\ 0 & -c_{14} & c_{33} & c_{34} \\ c_{14} & 0 & c_{34} & c_{44} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$MC + CM^T = D.$$

We get

$$c_{11} = \frac{1}{4}(3b^2 + 2), c_{12} = \frac{b}{2}, c_{22} = \frac{1}{2}, c_{33} = \frac{1}{2}(b^2 + 1), c_{34} = \frac{b}{4}, c_{44} = \frac{1}{2}, c_{14} = -\frac{b}{4}.$$

Therefore

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4}(3b^2 + 2) & \frac{b}{2} & 0 & -\frac{b}{4} \\ \frac{b}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{b}{4} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{b}{4} & \frac{1}{2}(b^2 + 1) & \frac{b}{4} \\ -\frac{b}{4} & 0 & \frac{b}{4} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\rho = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|2\pi C|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(q_1, q_2, p_1, p_2)C^{-1}(q_1, q_2, p_1, p_2)^T\right).$$

From the Fokker-Planck equation

$$0 = \frac{d\rho}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^n -\frac{\partial}{\partial q_i}(p_i \rho) - \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left[\left(-\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_i} - \gamma \left(p_i - \sum_j A_{ij} q_j \right) + \sum_j A_{ij} p_j \right) \rho \right]$$

$$+ \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial p_i^2} \rho,$$

we can confirm this result.

Example 2.

$$n = 1, A = a, B = b$$

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \gamma a - b & a - \gamma \end{pmatrix}$$

From

$$MC + CM^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma^2 \end{pmatrix},$$

we can get

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sigma^2}{2(a-\gamma)(\gamma a-b)} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{\sigma^2}{2(a-\gamma)} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\rho = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|2\pi C|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(q, p)C^{-1}(q, p)^T\right).$$

From the Fokker-Planck equation

$$0 = \frac{d\rho}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^n -\frac{\partial}{\partial q_i}(p_i \rho) - \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left[\left(-\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_i} - \gamma \left(p_i - \sum_j A_{ij} q_j \right) + \sum_j A_{ij} p_j \right) \rho \right]$$

$$+ \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial p_i^2} \rho,$$

we have

$$MC + CM^T = -\sigma^2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}.$$

Assume $C' = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}C$, in this case, we get:

$$MC' + C'M^T = -\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}.$$

For conveniently writing, we denote C' as C in the following

$$MC + CM^T = -\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$$

where M is known, C is unknown based on simple calculation, we have the conclusion that the total account of the unknown variable is $2n \times 2n$.

The system is equivalent to a linear equation set $DX = y$, where $d \in R^{4n^2 \times 4n^2}$, $x \in R^{4n^2}$, $y \in R^{4n^2}$.

Since

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} C_1 & C_2 \\ -C_2 & C_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

where C_1 is a symmetric matrix, C_2 is a skew symmetric matrix, C_4 is a symmetric matrix, the amount of the unknown components, in fact, is only

$$\frac{1}{2}n(n+1) \times 2 + \frac{1}{2}n(n-1) = \frac{3}{2}n^2 + \frac{1}{2}n$$

Simplify it and we get

$$\begin{aligned}
M &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ \gamma A - B & A - \gamma I \end{pmatrix} \\
MC + CM^T &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ P & Q \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} C_1 & C_2 \\ -C_2 & C_4 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} C_1 & C_2 \\ -C_2 & C_4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & P^T \\ I & Q^T \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} -C_2 & C_4 \\ PC_1 - QC_2 & PC_2 + QC_4 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} C_2 & C_2 P^T + C_2 Q^T \\ C_4 & -C_2 P^T + C_4 Q^T \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & C_4 + C_1 P^T + C_2 Q^T \\ C_4 + PC_1 - QC_2 & PC_2 + QC_4 - C_2 P^T + C_4 Q^T \end{pmatrix} \\
&= - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

where $P = \gamma A - B, Q = A - \gamma I$

Thus we get:

$$\begin{cases} C_4 + C_1 P^T + C_2 Q^T = 0 \\ PC_2 + QC_4 - C_2 P^T + C_4 Q^T = I \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

According to the first line of (3) :

$$C_4 = -C_1 P^T - C_2 Q^T$$

Besides, we know C_4 is symmetric matrix, which means $C_4^T = C_4$ Thus we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
C_4 &= -C_1 P^T - C_2 Q^T \\
&= -(C_1 P^T - C_2 Q^T)^T \\
&= -PC_1 - QC_2^T \\
&= -PC_1 - QC_2
\end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Substitute (2) into the left hand side of the second line of (1) we get :

$$PC_2 + Q(-C_1 P^T) - C_2 P^T + (PC_1 + QC_2) Q^T = -I$$

and

$$PC_2 - PC_1 Q^T - C_2 P^T - QC_1 P^T = -I$$

Thus calculating the covariance matrix C which is equivalent to solving (3) is finally equivalent to solving the equations

$$\begin{cases} C_4 + C_1 P^T + C_2 Q^T = 0 \\ P(C_2 - C_1 Q^T) + (C_2 - C_1 Q^T)^T P^T = -I \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

without the integral.

$$n = 2, \sigma = 1, \gamma = 1, A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, B = I.$$

so

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & b \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, Q = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We denote C_1 by C_{ij}^1 , C_2 by C_{ij}^2 and C_4 by C_{ij}^4 . According to symmetry or skew-symmetry of C_1, C_2, C_4 and (3), we get the linear equations:

$$\begin{cases} -2C_{11}^1 + 2bC_{12}^1 - 2C_{11}^2 + 2b(C_{21}^1 - bC_{22}^1 + C_{21}^2) = -1 \\ -C_{12}^1 - C_{21}^1 + bC_{22}^1 - C_{12}^2 - C_{21}^2 + b(C_{22}^1 + C_{22}^2) = 0 \\ -C_{11}^1 + bC_{12}^1 - C_{11}^2 + bC_{12}^2 + C_{11}^4 = 0 \\ -C_{21}^1 + bC_{22}^1 - C_{21}^2 + bC_{22}^2 + C_{21}^4 = 0 \\ -C_{12}^1 - C_{12}^2 + C_{12}^4 = 0 \\ -C_{22}^1 - C_{22}^2 + C_{22}^4 = 0 \\ -2C_{22}^1 - 2C_{22}^2 = -1 \\ C_{12}^4 - C_{21}^4 = 0 \\ C_{12}^1 - C_{21}^1 = 0 \\ C_{12}^2 + C_{21}^2 = 0 \\ C_{11}^2 = 0 \\ C_{22}^2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

Solving the equations, we get C :

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4}(2+3b^2) & \frac{b}{2} & 0 & -\frac{b}{4} \\ \frac{b}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{b}{4} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{b}{4} & \frac{1}{2}(1+b^2) & \frac{b}{4} \\ -\frac{b}{4} & 0 & \frac{b}{4} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Fokker-Planck Equation helps us to check the solution

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^n -\frac{\partial}{\partial q_i}(p_i\rho) - \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left[\left(-\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_i} - \gamma \left(p_i - \sum_j A_{ij}q_j \right) + \sum_j A_{ij}p_j \right) \rho \right] + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial p_i^2} \rho = 0$$

It shows that the solution is correct at the same time, and our derivation is also correct.

Consider the possible solution

$$\rho = e^{-(x'x/2+V(y))}, x = C_1p + C_2q, y = Dq \quad (6)$$

of the Fokker-Planck Equation

$$0 = \frac{d\rho}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^n -\frac{\partial}{\partial q_i}(p_i\rho) - \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left[\left(-\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_i} - \gamma \left(p_i - \sum_j A_{ij}q_j \right) + \sum_j A_{ij}p_j \right) \rho \right] + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial p_i^2} \rho,$$

where $V(y) = \frac{1}{\|y\|}$

$$\begin{aligned}
-\frac{\partial}{\partial q_i}(p_i \rho) &= p_i \rho \left(x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial q_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} V(y) \right) \\
-\frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left(-\frac{\partial V}{\partial q_i} \rho \right) &= \frac{\partial V(q)}{\partial q_i} \rho \left(-x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right) \\
-\frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left(-\gamma(p_i - \sum_j A_{ij} q_j) \right) \rho &= \gamma \rho + \gamma(p_i - \sum_j A_{ij} q_j) \rho \left(-x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right) \\
-\frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left(\sum_j A_{ij} p_j \rho \right) &= -A_{ii} \rho + \sum_j A_{ij} p_j \rho \left(x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right) \\
\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial p_i^2} \rho &= \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \rho \left[\left(-x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right)^2 - \frac{\partial x'}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Then consider the adjoint equation

$$\sum_{i=1}^n -\frac{\partial}{\partial q_i}(p_i \rho) - \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left[\left(-\frac{\partial V_1}{\partial q_i} - \gamma \left(p_i - \sum_j A_{ij} q_j \right) + \sum_j A_{ij} p_j \right) \rho \right] + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial p_i^2} \rho = 0 \quad (7)$$

where $V_1(y) = \frac{1}{2} y' B y$ By We get similar results

$$\begin{aligned}
-\frac{\partial}{\partial q_i}(p_i \rho) &= p_i \rho \left(x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial q_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} V_1 \right) \\
-\frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left(-\frac{\partial V_1}{\partial q_i} \rho \right) &= \frac{\partial V_1}{\partial q_i} \rho \left(-x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right) \\
-\frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left(-\gamma(p_i - \sum_j A_{ij} q_j) \right) \rho &= \gamma \rho + \gamma(p_i - \sum_j A_{ij} q_j) \rho \left(-x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right) \\
-\frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} \left(\sum_j A_{ij} p_j \rho \right) &= -A_{ii} \rho + \sum_j A_{ij} p_j \rho \left(x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right) \\
\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial p_i^2} \rho &= \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \rho \left[\left(-x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right)^2 - \frac{\partial x'}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

For equation (5), we can solve it. And we know the solution is in the form

$$\rho = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\frac{x'x}{2}}$$

Set $B=0$, the equation (5) is corresponding to some parts of the equation (4). So we use the same x solved in (5) in equation (4), and get

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial V(y)}{\partial q_i} p_i - \frac{\partial V(q)}{\partial q_i} \left(x' \frac{\partial x}{\partial p_i} \right) = 0$$

But for general V , the equation has no solution.