



F. Unai Caja Lopez

---

## **Wasserstein Contractive Estimates for the Homogeneous Landau Equation**

---

Michigan State University  
October 8, 2025



## 1 Context and motivation

- The Landau equation
- Results and open problems

## 2 Wasserstein contractive estimates

- Optimal transport metric
- Maxwell molecules case
- Case of general potentials

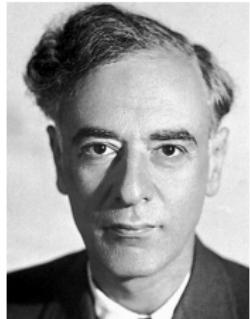
# The Landau equation



The **Landau equation** has the form

$$\partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = q(f), \quad f = f(x, v, t).$$

The **collision operator**  $q$  acts on  $v$ , is non-linear, nonlocal, and second order "elliptic":



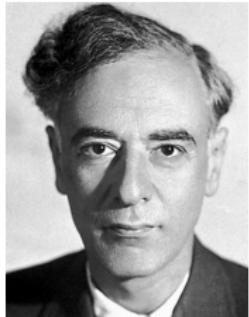
Lev. Landau

$$q(f) = \operatorname{div}_v \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |v - w|^{\gamma+2} \mathbb{P}(v - w)(\nabla_v - \nabla_w)(f(v)f(w)) dw,$$

where  $\mathbb{P}(z) = \mathbb{I} - \frac{z \otimes z}{|z|^2}$  is the projection to  $z^\perp$ .

- ▶ Appeared in 1936 as a version of the Boltzmann equation for Coulomb forces
- ▶ It is also a correction to the Vlasov Poisson equation.

# The Landau equation



The **Landau equation** has the form

$$\partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = q(f), \quad f = f(x, v, t).$$

The **collision operator**  $q$  acts on  $v$ , is non-linear, nonlocal, and second order "elliptic":

Lev. Landau

$$q(f) = \operatorname{div}_v \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |v - w|^{\gamma+2} \mathbb{P}(v - w)(\nabla_v - \nabla_w)(f(v)f(w)) dw,$$

where  $\mathbb{P}(z) = \mathbb{I} - \frac{z \otimes z}{|z|^2}$  is the projection to  $z^\perp$ .

- ▶ Appeared in 1936 as a version of the Boltzmann equation for Coulomb forces
- ▶ It is also a correction to the Vlasov Poisson equation.

# The collision operator



The collision operator can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} q(f) &= \operatorname{div}_v \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |v - w|^{\gamma+2} \mathbb{P}(v - w)(\nabla_v - \nabla_w)(f(v)f(w)) dw \\ &= \operatorname{div}_v \left[ A_\gamma[f](v) \nabla_v f(v) - \operatorname{div}_v (A_\gamma[f](v)) f(v) \right] \\ &= \operatorname{tr} \left( A_\gamma[f] D_v^2 f \right) + c_\gamma f(v) \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} f(w) |v - w|^\gamma dw, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$A_\gamma[f](v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |v - w|^{2+\gamma} \mathbb{P}(v - w) f(w) dw.$$

As  $\gamma \rightarrow -3$ , one obtains that in the **Coulomb case**

$$q(f) = \operatorname{tr} \left( A[f] D^2 f \right) + 8\pi f^2.$$



In the **space homogeneous case** we have

$$f(x, v, t) = f(v, t), \quad \partial_t f = q(f).$$

Some of the most important facts:

- The only steady states are **Maxwellians** of the form

$$m(v) = ae^{-b|v-u|^2}, \quad a, b > 0, u \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

- Moments of order 0, 1, 2 are constant:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int f dv = \frac{d}{dt} \int fv dv = \frac{d}{dt} \int f|v|^2 dv = 0.$$

If  $\int f_{\text{in}}(1, v, |v|^2) dv = (1, 0, 3)$  then  $m(v) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{|v|^2}{2}}.$

- Known **Lyapunov functionals**

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int f \log f dv \leq 0, \quad \frac{d}{dt} \int \frac{|\nabla f|^2}{f} \leq 0.$$



In the **space homogeneous case** we have

$$f(x, v, t) = f(v, t), \quad \partial_t f = q(f).$$

Some of the most important facts:

- The only steady states are **Maxwellians** of the form

$$m(v) = ae^{-b|v-u|^2}, \quad a, b > 0, u \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

- Moments of order 0, 1, 2 are constant:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int f dv = \frac{d}{dt} \int fv dv = \frac{d}{dt} \int f|v|^2 dv = 0.$$

If  $\int f_{\text{in}}(1, v, |v|^2) dv = (1, 0, 3)$  then  $m(v) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{|v|^2}{2}}.$

- Known **Lyapunov functionals**

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int f \log f dv \leq 0, \quad \frac{d}{dt} \int \frac{|\nabla f|^2}{f} \leq 0.$$



State of the field for the homogeneous Landau equation:

- ▶ **Existence of weak solutions** (known): Ukai, DiPerna, Lions, Villani, Desvillettes, ...
- ▶ **Asymptotic behavior** (known): Desvillettes, Villani, Carrapatoso, ...
- ▶ **Existence of smooth solutions** (known): Desvillettes, Villani, Guillen, Silvestre, Ji, Gualdani, Golding, Loher, ...
- ▶ **Uniqueness** (mostly known): Open for  $L^1$  initial data.  
Various results by Fournier, Guerin, Gualdani, Golding, Loher, ...

General global well-posedness remains an open problem in the inhomogeneous setting.



Blow-up was only ruled out recently. Note that for  $\gamma = -3$ ,

$$\partial_t f = \text{tr} (A[f] D^2 f) + 8\pi f^2, \quad A[f] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v-w|^{-1} \mathbb{P}(v-w) f(w) dw.$$

## Theorem (Guillen, Silvestre, 2023)

Let  $f$  be a classical solution to the Landau equation for any  $|\gamma| \leq \sqrt{19}$ . Then the Fisher information  $i(f)$  is monotone decreasing:

$$i(f) = \int \frac{|\nabla f|^2}{f} dv.$$

For example, note that

$$i(f) = 4 \int |\nabla \sqrt{f}|^2 dv = 4 \|\sqrt{f}\|_{\dot{H}^1} \gtrsim \|\sqrt{f}\|_{L^6} = \|f\|_{L^3}.$$



Blow-up was only ruled out recently. Note that for  $\gamma = -3$ ,

$$\partial_t f = \text{tr} (A[f] D^2 f) + 8\pi f^2, \quad A[f] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v-w|^{-1} \mathbb{P}(v-w) f(w) dw.$$

## Theorem (Guillen, Silvestre, 2023)

Let  $f$  be a classical solution to the Landau equation for any  $|\gamma| \leq \sqrt{19}$ . Then the Fisher information  $i(f)$  is monotone decreasing:

$$i(f) = \int \frac{|\nabla f|^2}{f} dv.$$

For example, note that

$$i(f) = 4 \int |\nabla \sqrt{f}|^2 dv = 4 \|\sqrt{f}\|_{\dot{H}^1} \gtrsim \|\sqrt{f}\|_{L^6} = \|f\|_{L^3}.$$



**Objective:** Finding other monotone or bounded functionals.

**Motivation:** Consider  $\gamma = 0$  and  $f$  radial. Then

$$\partial_t f = \operatorname{div}(\nabla f(v) + vf) = \operatorname{div}(m\nabla(f/m)),$$

where  $m(v) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}|v|^2}$ .

In this case the following functionals are decreasing:

- ▶ Entropy and Fisher information.
- ▶ **Relative  $L^p$  norms**  $\int \left( \frac{f}{m} - 1 \right)^p m dv.$
- ▶ **2-Wasserstein distance** between any pair of solutions.



**Objective:** Finding other monotone or bounded functionals.

**Motivation:** Consider  $\gamma = 0$  and  $f$  radial. Then

$$\partial_t f = \operatorname{div}(\nabla f(v) + vf) = \operatorname{div}(m\nabla(f/m)),$$

where  $m(v) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}|v|^2}$ .

In this case the following functionals are decreasing:

- ▶ Entropy and Fisher information.
- ▶ **Relative  $L^p$  norms**  $\int \left( \frac{f}{m} - 1 \right)^p m dv.$
- ▶ **2-Wasserstein distance** between any pair of solutions.

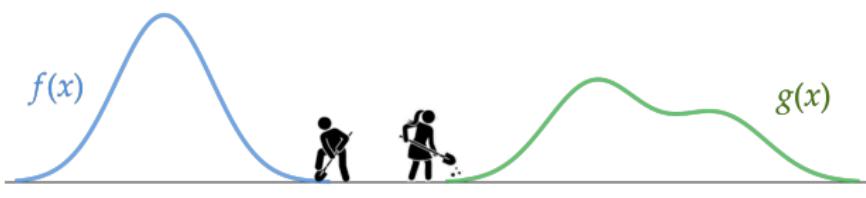


## 1 Context and motivation

- The Landau equation
- Results and open problems

## 2 Wasserstein contractive estimates

- Optimal transport metric
- Maxwell molecules case
- Case of general potentials



## Definition

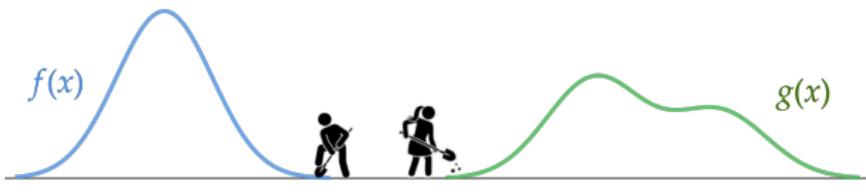
Given two probability densities  $f, g : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , we define the **2-Wasserstein distance** as

$$d_2^2(f, g) = \inf_{T_\# f = g} \int |T(x) - x|^2 f(x) dx,$$

where  $T_\# f$  denotes the push-forward measure.

The topology is slightly stronger than weak convergence:

$$\lim_n d_2(f_n, f) = 0 \iff f_n \rightharpoonup f, \quad \lim_n \int |x|^2 f_n(x) dx = \int |x|^2 f(x) dx.$$



## Definition

Given two probability densities  $f, g : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , we define the **2-Wasserstein distance** as

$$d_2^2(f, g) = \inf_{T_\# f = g} \int |T(x) - x|^2 f(x) dx,$$

where  $T_\# f$  denotes the push-forward measure.

The topology is slightly stronger than weak convergence:

$$\lim_n d_2(f_n, f) = 0 \iff f_n \rightharpoonup f, \quad \lim_n \int |x|^2 f_n(x) dx = \int |x|^2 f(x) dx.$$

The metric satisfies the **Benamou-Brenier** formula:

$$d_2^2(f, g) = \inf \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\vec{v}(x, s)|^2 \rho(x, s) dx ds,$$

where the infimum is taken over solutions of

$$\partial_s \rho + \operatorname{div}(\vec{v} \rho) = 0, \quad \rho(\cdot, 0) = f, \quad \rho(\cdot, 1) = g.$$

At the optimum, we have  $\vec{v}(x, s) = \nabla u(x, s)$  and

$$\partial_s u + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u|^2 = 0, \quad d_2^2(f, g) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(\cdot, 1) g - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(\cdot, 0) f,$$

which gives the alternative formulation

$$d_2^2(f, g) = \sup \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(\cdot, 1) g - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(\cdot, 0) f : \partial_s u + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u|^2 = 0 \right\}.$$

The metric satisfies the **Benamou-Brenier** formula:

$$d_2^2(f, g) = \inf \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\vec{v}(x, s)|^2 \rho(x, s) dx ds,$$

where the infimum is taken over solutions of

$$\partial_s \rho + \operatorname{div}(\vec{v} \rho) = 0, \quad \rho(\cdot, 0) = f, \quad \rho(\cdot, 1) = g.$$

At the optimum, we have  $\vec{v}(x, s) = \nabla u(x, s)$  and

$$\partial_s u + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u|^2 = 0, \quad d_2^2(f, g) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(\cdot, 1) g - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(\cdot, 0) f,$$

which gives the alternative formulation

$$d_2^2(f, g) = \sup \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(\cdot, 1) g - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(\cdot, 0) f : \partial_s u + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u|^2 = 0 \right\}.$$



## Theorem

Let  $f, g$  be smooth solutions of the Landau equation for  $\gamma = 0$  with mass 1. Then  $d_2(f, g)$  is decreasing in  $t$ .

This has been proven by Fournier using different methods.

**Key idea of Guillen-Silvestre.** The Landau operator is the projection of a "lifted" operator  $Q$  on  $\mathbb{R}^6$ .

$$Q(F) = (\operatorname{div}_v - \operatorname{div}_w) \left[ |v - w|^{2+\gamma} \mathbb{P}(v - w)(\nabla_v F - \nabla_w F) \right].$$

Then the idea is to compare the evolution of

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f = q(f) \\ f_0 = f_{\text{in}} \end{cases}, \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t F = Q(F) \\ F_0 = f_{\text{in}} \otimes f_{\text{in}} \end{cases}$$

at time  $t = 0$ .



## Theorem

Let  $f, g$  be smooth solutions of the Landau equation for  $\gamma = 0$  with mass 1. Then  $d_2(f, g)$  is decreasing in  $t$ .

This has been proven by Fournier using different methods.

**Key idea of Guillen-Silvestre.** The Landau operator is the projection of a "lifted" operator  $Q$  on  $\mathbb{R}^6$ .

$$Q(F) = (\operatorname{div}_v - \operatorname{div}_w) \left[ |v - w|^{2+\gamma} \mathbb{P}(v - w)(\nabla_v F - \nabla_w F) \right].$$

Then the idea is to compare the evolution of

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f = q(f) \\ f_0 = f_{\text{in}} \end{cases}, \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t F = Q(F) \\ F_0 = f_{\text{in}} \otimes f_{\text{in}} \end{cases}$$

at time  $t = 0$ .



## Proposition (Lifting)

Let  $i(f), I(F)$  be functionals such that

1.  $I(f \otimes f) = 2i(f).$
2. If  $F(v, w) = F(w, v)$  then  $I(F) \geq 2i(\pi_1 f)$  where  $\pi_1 f = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F dw$  is the marginal of  $F.$

If  $f, F$  are solutions of the previous equations then

$$\frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} i(f) \leq \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} I(F).$$

- Entropy, fisher information and  $d_2^2$  lift!
- Other functionals like  $L^p$  norms don't lift.
- These properties holds for any  $\gamma.$



The optimal vector field to compute  $d_2^2(f \otimes f, g \otimes g)$  is form

$$u(v, w, s) = u(v, s) + u(w, s), \quad d_2^2(f, g) = \int u(\cdot, 1)g - \int u(\cdot, 0)f.$$

From here the lifting follows easily:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(f, g)] &= \int u(v, 1)q(g) - \int u(v, 0)q(f) \\ &= \iint u(v, 1)Q(g \otimes g) - \iint u(v, 0)Q(f \otimes f) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \iint u(v, w, 1)Q(g \otimes g) - \frac{1}{2} \iint u(v, w, 0)Q(f \otimes f) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(F, G)]. \end{aligned}$$

The problem is reduced to the linear equation  $\partial_t F = Q(F)!$



**Notation:** Given a functional  $I(F)$ , we denote

$$\langle I'(F), \xi \rangle := \frac{d}{ds} \Big|_{s=0} I(F+s\xi), \quad \langle I''(F)\xi, \xi \rangle := \frac{d^2}{ds^2} \Big|_{s=0} I(F+s\xi).$$

Then, given a solution of  $\partial_t F = \Delta F$ , we have



**Notation:** Given a functional  $I(F)$ , we denote

$$\langle I'(F), \xi \rangle := \frac{d}{ds} \Big|_{s=0} I(F+s\xi), \quad \langle I''(F)\xi, \xi \rangle := \frac{d^2}{ds^2} \Big|_{s=0} I(F+s\xi).$$

Then, given solutions of  $\partial_t F = \Delta F$ ,  $\partial_t G = \Delta G$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(F, G)] &= \sum_k \left\langle (d_2^2)'(F, G), (\partial_{x_k x_k} F, \partial_{x_k x_k} G) \right\rangle \\ &= - \sum_k \left\langle (d_2^2)''(F, G)(\partial_{x_k} F, \partial_{x_k} G), (\partial_{x_k} F, \partial_{x_k} G) \right\rangle \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

where we used that  $d_2^2$  is convex.



**Key idea:** Decompose  $Q$  into directions where we have diffusion. Following Guillen-Silvestre, we define

$$b_1(z) := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -z_3 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad b_2(z) := \begin{pmatrix} z_3 \\ 0 \\ -z_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad b_3(z) := \begin{pmatrix} -z_2 \\ z_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{b}_k = \begin{pmatrix} b_k \\ -b_k \end{pmatrix}.$$

These satisfy:

- $\text{span}(b_k(z)) = \langle z \rangle^\perp$ ,
- $\operatorname{div} b_k = 0$ ,
- $\sum_k (b_k \otimes b_k) = |z|^2 \mathbb{P}(z)$

Setting  $\tilde{b}_k = \tilde{b}_k(v - w)$ , we have

$$Q(F) = \sum_k \operatorname{div} \left[ |v - w|^\gamma (\tilde{b}_k \otimes \tilde{b}_k) \nabla F \right] = |v - w|^\gamma \sum_k \left( \tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla \left( \tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla F \right) \right)$$

# Contractivity for $\gamma = 0$



For the Maxwell molecules case  $\gamma = 0$ , we have

$$Q(F) = \sum_k \left( \tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla \left( \tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla F \right) \right).$$

Then setting  $L_k(F) := \tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla F$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left[ d_2^2(F, G) \right] &= \sum_k \left\langle (d_2^2)'(F, G), ((L_k \circ L_k)(F), (L_k \circ L_k)(G)) \right\rangle \\ &= - \sum_k \left\langle (d_2^2)''(F, G) (L_k F, L_k G), (L_k F, L_k G) \right\rangle \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

**Key property** and why this does not work for  $\gamma \neq 0$ :

The flow of  $\begin{pmatrix} \dot{v} \\ \dot{w} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_k(v - w) \\ -b_k(v - w) \end{pmatrix}$  generates an isometry.



## Theorem (Non Coulomb)

Let  $f, g$  solve the Landau equation for  $-3 < \gamma \leq 0$ . If  $f, g \in L_t^1 L_v^p$  for  $p > \frac{3}{3+\gamma}$  then there is  $C_{\gamma,p} > 0$  such that

$$d_2^2(f_t, g_t) \leq d_2^2(f_{\text{in}}, g_{\text{in}}) \exp \left( C_{\gamma,p} \int_0^t \left( \|f_s\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g_s\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)} \right) ds \right).$$

These estimates were found by Fourier and Guérin in 2008.

## Theorem (Maxwell molecules)

If  $\gamma = 0$  then  $d_2^2(f, g)$  is decreasing with dissipation

$$\frac{d}{dt} [d_2^2(f, g)] = - \sum_k \int_0^1 \iint_{\mathbb{R}^6} |\nabla(\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla u)|^2 \rho \, dv dw \, ds,$$

where  $\rho$  interpolates  $\rho(\cdot, 0) = f \otimes f$ ,  $\rho(\cdot, 0) = g \otimes g$  and

$$\partial_s u + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u|^2 = 0, \quad \partial_s \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho \nabla u) = 0.$$



# Case of general potential

## Theorem (Non Coulomb)

Let  $f, g$  solve the Landau equation for  $-3 < \gamma \leq 0$ . If  $f, g \in L_t^1 L_v^p$  for  $p > \frac{3}{3+\gamma}$  then there is  $C_{\gamma,p} > 0$  such that

$$d_2^2(f_t, g_t) \leq d_2^2(f_{\text{in}}, g_{\text{in}}) \exp \left( C_{\gamma,p} \int_0^t \left( \|f_s\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g_s\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)} \right) ds \right).$$

These estimates were found by Fourier and Guérin in 2008.

## Theorem (Maxwell molecules)

If  $\gamma = 0$  then  $d_2^2(f, g)$  is decreasing with dissipation

$$\frac{d}{dt} [d_2^2(f, g)] = - \sum_k \int_0^1 \iint_{\mathbb{R}^6} |\nabla(\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla u)|^2 \rho \, dv dw \, ds,$$

where  $\rho$  interpolates  $\rho(\cdot, 0) = f \otimes f$ ,  $\rho(\cdot, 0) = g \otimes g$  and

$$\partial_s u + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u|^2 = 0, \quad \partial_s \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho \nabla u) = 0.$$



## Theorem (Coulomb)

Let  $f, g$  solve the Landau equation for  $\gamma = -3$ . If  $f, g \in L_t^1 L_v^\infty$  then

$$\frac{d}{dt} [d_2^2(f, g)] \lesssim \left( \|f\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} \right) d_2^2(f, g) |\log d_2^2(f, g)|.$$

which implies the estimate

$$d_2^2(f_t, g_t) \leq [d_2^2(f_{\text{in}}, g_{\text{in}})]^{e^{-\alpha(t)}}, \quad \alpha(t) = C \int_0^t \left( \|f_s\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g_s\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} \right) ds.$$

- Fournier proved an equivalent result in 2009 using stochastic analysis.
- This estimate implies uniqueness within the class  $L_t^1 L_v^\infty$ .

# Overview of the proof for $\gamma \neq 0$



- As before, we compute  $\frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(F, G)]$  where  $F, G$  solve

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t F = Q(F) \\ F_0 = f_{\text{in}} \otimes f_{\text{in}} \end{cases}, \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t G = Q(G) \\ G_0 = g_{\text{in}} \otimes g_{\text{in}}. \end{cases}$$

- We use the heat equation as inspiration.

If  $F, G$  solve  $\partial_t F = \Delta F, \partial_t G = \Delta G$  then



- As before, we compute  $\frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(F, G)]$  where  $F, G$  solve

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t F = Q(F) \\ F_0 = f_{\text{in}} \otimes f_{\text{in}} \end{cases}, \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t G = Q(G) \\ G_0 = g_{\text{in}} \otimes g_{\text{in}}. \end{cases}$$

- We use the heat equation as inspiration.

## Example (Heat equation)

If  $\partial_t f = \Delta f$ ,  $\partial_t g = \Delta g$  have mass 1 then

$$\frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(f, g)] = - \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |D^2 u|^2 \rho(x) dx ds$$

where  $\rho(x, s)$ ,  $u(x, s)$ ,  $0 \leq s \leq 1$  satisfy

$$\partial_s \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho \nabla u) = 0, \quad \rho_0 = f, \quad \rho_1 = g, \quad \partial_s u + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u|^2 = 0.$$



## Step 1: Imitate computation for the heat equation.

Denoting  $F = f \otimes f$ ,  $G = g \otimes g$ , we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} [d_2^2(F, G)] = \iint u_1 Q(G) - \iint u_0 Q(F) = \int_0^1 \frac{d}{ds} \iint Q(u) \rho.$$

Now the expression for  $Q$  in terms of  $\tilde{b}_k$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} \blacksquare &= \sum_k \iint \left[ \nabla (\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla (\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla u)) \cdot \nabla u - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla (\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla |\nabla u|^2) \right] r^\gamma \rho \\ &\quad + \sum_k \gamma \iint (\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla (\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla u)) (\hat{n} \cdot \nabla u) r^{\gamma-2} \rho, \end{aligned}$$

where  $r = |v - w|$  and  $\hat{n} = \begin{pmatrix} v - w \\ w - v \end{pmatrix}$ .

# Outline of the proof for Landau



The final expression is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(f, g)] &= -\sum_{k=1}^3 \int_0^1 \iint \left| \nabla (\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla u) \right|^2 r^\gamma \rho \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^3 \gamma \int_0^1 \iint \left( \tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla (\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla u) \right) (\hat{n} \cdot \nabla u) r^{\gamma-2} \rho. \end{aligned}$$

where  $r = |v - w|$  and  $\hat{n} = \begin{pmatrix} v - w \\ w - v \end{pmatrix}$ . Then we decompose

$$\left| \nabla (\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla u) \right|^2 r^\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \left( \tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla (\tilde{b}_k \cdot \nabla u) \right)^2 r^{\gamma-2} + \dots$$

which gives

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(f, g)] \leq \frac{3\gamma^2}{2} \int_0^1 \iint (\hat{n} \cdot \nabla u)^2 r^{\gamma-2} \rho}$$

# Estimate for $-3 < \gamma < 0$

Using  $u(v, w) = u(v) + u(w)$ ,  $\rho(v, w) = \rho(v)\rho(w)$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} \blacksquare &\leq \int_0^1 \iint_{\mathbb{R}^6} |\nabla u(v) - \nabla u(w)|^2 |v - w|^\gamma \rho(v)\rho(w) dv dw ds \\ &\leq 2 \int_0^1 \iint_{\mathbb{R}^6} |v - w|^\gamma |\nabla u(v)|^2 \rho(v)\rho(w) dv dw ds \\ &= 2 \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u(v)|^2 \rho(v) \underbrace{\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \rho(w) |v - w|^\gamma dw \right)}_{:=(I_\gamma \rho)(v)} dv ds \\ &\leq 2 \|I_\gamma \rho\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0,1])} d_2^2(f, g). \end{aligned}$$

Then, given  $p > \frac{3}{3+\gamma}$ , we have

$$\|I_\gamma \rho\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0,1])} \leq C_{\gamma,p} \left( \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)} \right).$$

# Estimate for $-3 < \gamma < 0$

Using  $u(v, w) = u(v) + u(w)$ ,  $\rho(v, w) = \rho(v)\rho(w)$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} \blacksquare &\leq \int_0^1 \iint_{\mathbb{R}^6} |\nabla u(v) - \nabla u(w)|^2 |v - w|^\gamma \rho(v)\rho(w) dv dw ds \\ &\leq 2 \int_0^1 \iint_{\mathbb{R}^6} |v - w|^\gamma |\nabla u(v)|^2 \rho(v)\rho(w) dv dw ds \\ &= 2 \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u(v)|^2 \rho(v) \underbrace{\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \rho(w) |v - w|^\gamma dw \right)}_{:=(I_\gamma \rho)(v)} dv ds \\ &\leq 2 \|I_\gamma \rho\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0,1])} d_2^2(f, g). \end{aligned}$$

Then, given  $p > \frac{3}{3+\gamma}$ , we have

$$\|I_\gamma \rho\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0,1])} \leq C_{\gamma,p} \left( \|f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)} \right).$$

# Estimate for $\gamma = -3$

For  $\gamma = -3$  we use

$$-\frac{1}{1-s}\mathbb{I} \leq D^2u \leq \frac{1}{s}\mathbb{I} \implies |\nabla u(v) - \nabla u(w)| \leq \frac{|v-w|}{\min(s, 1-s)}.$$

Then, given  $\varepsilon > 0$  small, and denoting  $\theta_\varepsilon(s) = [\min(s, 1-s)]^{-2\varepsilon}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(f, g)] &\lesssim \int_0^1 \theta_\varepsilon(s) \iint_{\mathbb{R}^6} |v-w|^{-3+2\varepsilon} |\nabla u(v) - \nabla u(w)|^{2(1-\varepsilon)} \rho(v)\rho(w) dv dw ds. \\ &\lesssim \left(\|f\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)}\right) \varepsilon^{-1} [d_2^2(f, g)]^{1-\varepsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

Choosing  $\varepsilon = -\frac{1}{\log d_2^2(f, g)}$  for small  $d_2^2(f, g)$  gives an estimate

$$\frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(f, g)] \lesssim \left(\|f\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)}\right) d_2^2(f, g) |\log d_2^2(f, g)|.$$

# Estimate for $\gamma = -3$

For  $\gamma = -3$  we use

$$-\frac{1}{1-s}\mathbb{I} \leq D^2u \leq \frac{1}{s}\mathbb{I} \implies |\nabla u(v) - \nabla u(w)| \leq \frac{|v-w|}{\min(s, 1-s)}.$$

Then, given  $\varepsilon > 0$  small, and denoting  $\theta_\varepsilon(s) = [\min(s, 1-s)]^{-2\varepsilon}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(f, g)] &\lesssim \int_0^1 \theta_\varepsilon(s) \iint_{\mathbb{R}^6} |v-w|^{-3+2\varepsilon} |\nabla u(v) - \nabla u(w)|^{2(1-\varepsilon)} \rho(v)\rho(w) dv dw ds. \\ &\lesssim \left(\|f\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)}\right) \varepsilon^{-1} [d_2^2(f, g)]^{1-\varepsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

Choosing  $\varepsilon = -\frac{1}{\log d_2^2(f, g)}$  for small  $d_2^2(f, g)$  gives an estimate

$$\frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(f, g)] \lesssim \left(\|f\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)} + \|g\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)}\right) d_2^2(f, g) |\log d_2^2(f, g)|.$$



## What have we achieved?

- ▶ New non-stochastic proofs of Fournier's contractive estimates in the 2-Wasserstein distance.
- ▶ Dissipation expression for  $\gamma = 0$ .
- ▶ Entropic optimal transport is decreasing for  $\gamma = 0$ .
- ▶ Explicit expression of  $\frac{d}{dt}[d_2^2(f, g)]$ .

## Open problems:

- ▶ Is  $d_2^2(f, g)$  decreasing for any range of  $\gamma \neq 0$ ?
- ▶ Obtain similar estimates in the inhomogeneous setting.



We consider  $f$  a smooth solution of the homogeneous Landau equation for Maxwell molecules ( $\gamma = 0$ ) and assume

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} f_0(1, v, |v|^2) dv = (1, 0, 3), \quad m(v) = (2\pi)^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}|v|^2}.$$

## Theorem (Maxwell Molecules)

*The relative  $L^2$  norm of  $f$  with respect to  $m$  decays exponentially:*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( \frac{f_t}{m} - 1 \right)^2 m dv \leq C e^{-4t} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( \frac{f_{in}}{m} - 1 \right)^2 m dv, \quad C \leq e^{\frac{1}{6}}.$$

*Moreover, it is monotonically decreasing for  $t \geq t_0$ ,*

$$t_0 = \max \left\{ 0, \frac{1}{8} \log (|\mathbb{M}_{f_{in}} - \mathbb{I}|_2) \right\}, \quad (\mathbb{M}_{f_{in}})_{ij} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} f_{in} v_i v_j dv.$$



## Step 1: Reduction to a linear equation.

$$A[f_t] = \int \mathbb{P}(v-w)|v-w|^2 f_t(w) dw = |v|^2 \mathbb{P}(v) + 3\mathbb{I} - \mathbb{M}_{f_t}$$

where  $\mathbb{M}_{f_t} = \int f_t v_i v_j dv$ . Then, one can show

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbb{M}_{f_t} = -12(\mathbb{M}_{f_t} - \mathbb{I}) \implies \mathbb{M}_{f_t} = \mathbb{I} + e^{-12t}(\mathbb{M}_{f_{in}} - \mathbb{I}).$$

Rotating the initial data, we reduce the Landau equation to

$$\partial_t f = 3 \operatorname{div}(m \nabla(f/m)) + \operatorname{div}(|v|^2 \mathbb{P}(v) \nabla f) - \operatorname{div}(fv + \mathbb{M}_{f_t} \nabla f),$$

where

$$\mathbb{M}_{f_t} = \operatorname{diag}(\lambda_i(t)), \quad \lambda_i(t) = \int f_t v_i^2 dv = 1 + e^{-12t}(\lambda_i(0) - 1).$$



## Step 1: Reduction to a linear equation.

$$A[f_t] = \int \mathbb{P}(v-w)|v-w|^2 f_t(w) dw = |v|^2 \mathbb{P}(v) + 3\mathbb{I} - \mathbb{M}_{f_t}$$

where  $\mathbb{M}_{f_t} = \int f_t v_i v_j dv$ . Then, one can show

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbb{M}_{f_t} = -12(\mathbb{M}_{f_t} - \mathbb{I}) \implies \mathbb{M}_{f_t} = \mathbb{I} + e^{-12t}(\mathbb{M}_{f_{in}} - \mathbb{I}).$$

Rotating the initial data, we reduce the Landau equation to

$$\partial_t f = 3 \operatorname{div}(m \nabla(f/m)) + \operatorname{div}(|v|^2 \mathbb{P}(v) \nabla f) - \operatorname{div}(fv + \mathbb{M}_{f_t} \nabla f),$$

where

$$\mathbb{M}_{f_t} = \operatorname{diag}(\lambda_i(t)), \quad \lambda_i(t) = \int f_t v_i^2 dv = 1 + e^{-12t}(\lambda_i(0) - 1).$$



## Step 2: Write as perturbation of Fokker-Planck.

We use the test function  $f/m$  on

$$\partial_t f = 3 \operatorname{div}(m \nabla(f/m)) + \operatorname{div}(|v|^2 \mathbb{P}(v) \nabla f) - \operatorname{div}(f v + \mathbb{M}_{f_t} \nabla f),$$

gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int \left( \frac{f}{m} - 1 \right)^2 m &\leq -2 \int \left| \nabla \left( \frac{f}{m} \right) \right|^2 m \\ &+ \sum_i (\lambda_i(t) - 1) \int \left( \left[ \partial_{v_i} \left( \frac{f}{m} \right) \right]^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{f^2}{m^2} v_i^2 \right) m. \end{aligned}$$

where  $\lambda_i(t) = 1 + e^{-12t}(\lambda_i(0) - 1)$ .



## Step 2: Write as perturbation of Fokker-Planck.

We use the test function  $f/m$  on

$$\partial_t f = 3 \operatorname{div}(m \nabla(f/m)) + \operatorname{div}(|v|^2 \mathbb{P}(v) \nabla f) - \operatorname{div}(f v + \mathbb{M}_{f_t} \nabla f),$$

gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int \left( \frac{f}{m} - 1 \right)^2 m &\leq -2 \int \left| \nabla \left( \frac{f}{m} \right) \right|^2 m \\ &+ \sum_i (\lambda_i(t) - 1) \int \left( \left[ \partial_{v_i} \left( \frac{f}{m} \right) \right]^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{f^2}{m^2} v_i^2 \right) m. \end{aligned}$$

where  $\lambda_i(t) = 1 + e^{-12t}(\lambda_i(0) - 1)$ .



## Step 3: Control lower order term using Poincaré inequality.

### Lemma

For any smooth function  $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  we have

$$\int |x_i|^2 \varphi^2(x) m(x) dx \leq 2 \int |\partial_{x_i} \varphi|^2 m(x) dx + 2 \int \varphi^2(x) m(x) dx.$$

Moreover, if  $\varphi$  has zero average  $\int \varphi(x) m(x) dx = 0$  then

$$\int \varphi^2(x) m(x) dx \leq \int |\nabla \varphi|^2 m(x) dx.$$

Then, denoting  $E(t) = \int \left( \frac{f}{m} - 1 \right)^2 m$ , we obtain the inequality

$$E'(t) \leq -4(1 - Ce^{-12t})E(t), \quad C = C(\lambda_i(0)).$$



## Step 3: Control lower order term using Poincaré inequality.

### Lemma

For any smooth function  $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  we have

$$\int |x_i|^2 \varphi^2(x) m(x) dx \leq 2 \int |\partial_{x_i} \varphi|^2 m(x) dx + 2 \int \varphi^2(x) m(x) dx.$$

Moreover, if  $\varphi$  has zero average  $\int \varphi(x) m(x) dx = 0$  then

$$\int \varphi^2(x) m(x) dx \leq \int |\nabla \varphi|^2 m(x) dx.$$

Then, denoting  $E(t) = \int \left( \frac{f}{m} - 1 \right)^2 m$ , we obtain the inequality

$$E'(t) \leq -4(1 - Ce^{-12t})E(t), \quad C = C(\lambda_i(0)).$$