

Critical trajectories in kinetic geometry

Lukas Niebel University of Münster

Helge Dietert, Université Paris Cité joint work with Clément Mouhot, University of Cambridge Rico Zacher, Ulm University

Oberseminar Angewandte Analysis, Dortmund University – 22nd October, 2025

Kolmogorov equation

Here: $(t, x, v) \in \Omega_T = (0, T) \times \Omega_x \times \Omega_v \subset \mathbb{R}^{1+2d}$, Study particle density $f = f(t, x, v) \colon \Omega_T \to \mathbb{R}$ solution to

$$(\partial_t + v \cdot \nabla_x)f = \nabla_v \cdot (\mathfrak{a}(t, x, v)\nabla_v f)$$

with $\mathfrak{a} \colon \Omega_{\mathcal{T}} \to \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ measurable such that

$$\textbf{(H1)} \quad 0 < \lambda := \inf_{\substack{0 \neq \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d \\ (t, x, v) \in \Omega_T}} \frac{\langle \mathfrak{a}(t, x, v) \xi, \xi \rangle}{|\xi|^2}$$

(H2)
$$\Lambda := \sup_{\substack{0 \neq \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d \\ (t,x,v) \in \Omega_T}} \frac{|\mathfrak{a}(t,x,v)\xi|^2}{\langle \mathfrak{a}(t,x,v)\xi,\xi \rangle} < \infty.$$

(1)
$$\partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = \nabla_v \cdot (\mathfrak{a} \nabla_v f)$$

Definition:

A function $f \in \mathsf{L}^\infty_t \mathsf{L}^2_{x,\nu}(\Omega_T) \cap \mathsf{L}^2_{t,x} \dot{\mathsf{H}}^1_\nu(\Omega_T)$ is a weak (sub-, super-) solution to (1) if for all $\varphi \in \mathsf{C}^\infty_c(\Omega_T)$ with $\varphi \geq 0$ we have

$$\int_{\Omega_T} \Big[-f(\partial_t + v \cdot \nabla_x)\varphi + \langle \mathfrak{a} \nabla_v f, \nabla_v \varphi \rangle \Big] \mathrm{d}(t, x, v) = (\leq, \geq) 0.$$

Literature:

- Regularity, existence and uniqueness of weak solutions together with P. Auscher and C. Imbert 24
- previous works: Degond 86, Albritton-Armstrong-Mourrat-Novack 24,
 N.-Zacher 21, Nyström-Litsgård 21

Kinetic De Giorgi-Nash-Moser theory

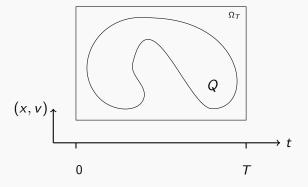
Hölder continuity

$$(1) \partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = \nabla_v \cdot (\mathfrak{a} \nabla_v f)$$

Theorem (Zhang 11, Wang & Zhang 09,11):

Let f be a weak solution to (1) and $Q \subset\subset \Omega_T$. Then, there exist constants ε , C>0 such that $f\in \dot{\mathsf{C}}^\varepsilon_{\mathrm{kin}}(\bar{Q})$ and

$$||f||_{\dot{\mathsf{C}}^{arepsilon}_{\mathrm{kin}}(\bar{Q})} \leq C ||f||_{\mathsf{L}^{\infty}(\Omega_{\mathcal{T}})}.$$



Harnack inequality

$$(1) \partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = \nabla_v \cdot (\mathfrak{a} \nabla_v f)$$

Theorem (GIMV 19, GI 22, GM 22):

There exists a universal const $C = C(d, \lambda, \Lambda) > 0$ such that for any nonnegative weak solution f of (1) in \tilde{Q} we have

$$\sup_{Q_-} f \leq C \inf_{Q_+} f.$$



$$(1) \partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = \nabla_v \cdot (\mathfrak{a} \nabla_v f)$$

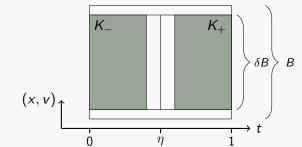
Theorem (DMNZ 25):

Let $\delta, \eta \in (0,1)$. Then for any supersolution f>0 to (1) there exists a constant $C=C(d,\delta,\eta)>0$ such that

$$s \left| \left\{ (t, x, v) \in K_{-} : \log f(t, x, v) - c(f) > s \right\} \right| \le C \left(\frac{1}{\lambda} + \Lambda \right)$$

$$s \left| \left\{ (t, x, v) \in K_{+} : c(f) - \log f(t, x, v) > s \right\} \right| \le C \left(\frac{1}{\lambda} + \Lambda \right)$$

$$\text{for all } s>0 \text{ with } c(f)=\frac{1}{c_\varphi}\int_B \log f(\eta,y,w)\varphi^2(y,w)\mathrm{d}(y,w).$$



The logarithm

Suppose that f is a positive weak supersolution

$$(\partial_t + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}) f \geq \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot (\mathfrak{a} \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} f)$$

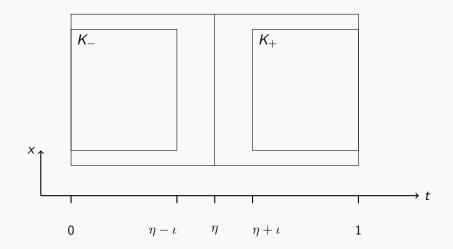
then the $g = \log f$ is a weak supersolution to

$$(\partial_t + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}) \mathbf{g} \geq \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot (\mathfrak{a} \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{g}) + \langle \mathfrak{a} \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{g}, \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{g} \rangle.$$

Proof of the weak L^1 -estimate

Unit scale. $\mathfrak{a}=\mathrm{Id}$ for simplicity. $f\geq \varepsilon$ and $\varepsilon\to 0^+$. Goal:

$$s | \{(t, x, v) \in K_-: \log f(t, x, v) - c(f) > s\} | \le C, \quad s > 0$$



Proof of the weak L^1 -estimate

Recall

$$c(f) = \frac{1}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{\Sigma} [\log f](\eta, y, w) \varphi^{2}(y, w) d(y, w).$$

where

$$c_{\varphi} = \int_{\mathcal{B}} \varphi^2(y, w) \mathrm{d}(y, w).$$

Proof of the weak L^1 -estimate

Recall

$$c(f) = \frac{1}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{\Omega} [\log f](\eta, y, w) \varphi^{2}(y, w) d(y, w).$$

Note that

$$egin{aligned} s \mid & \{(t,x,v) \in \mathcal{K}_- \colon \log(f) - c(f) > s\} \mid \ & \leq \int\limits_0^{\eta-\iota} \int\limits_R ([\log f](t,x,v) - c(f))_+ \mathrm{d}(t,x,v) \end{aligned}$$

Proof of the L^1 -estimate

Recall

$$c(f) = \frac{1}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{\Omega} [\log f](\eta, y, w) \varphi^{2}(y, w) d(y, w).$$

Goal: estimate

$$\int_{0}^{\eta-t}\int_{B}([\log f](t,x,v)-c(f))_{+}\mathrm{d}(t,x,v)\leq C$$

by a constant.

 L^1 -Poincaré inequality in spacetime without a gradient.

Recall

$$c(f) = \frac{1}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{B} [\log f](\eta, y, w) \varphi^{2}(y, w) d(y, w).$$

Goal: estimate

$$\int_{0}^{\eta-t}\int_{B}([\log f](t,x,v)-c(f))_{+}\mathrm{d}(t,x,v)\leq C$$

by a constant.

 L^1 -Poincaré inequality in spacetime without a gradient.

Recall: if f is supersolution to (1), then $g = \log f$ is a supersolution to

$$(\partial_t + v \cdot \nabla_x)g = \Delta_v g + |\nabla_v g|^2$$

Proof of the L^1 -estimate

g(t,x,v)-c(f)

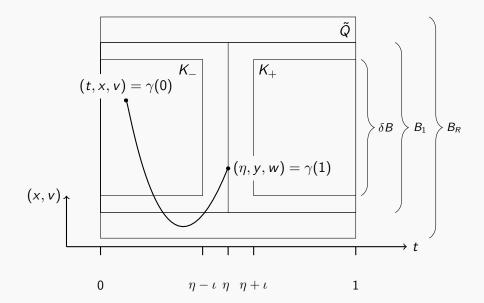
For $g = \log f$ we have

 $= -\frac{1}{c_0} \int_{\mathcal{B}} \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}r} g(\gamma(r)) \mathrm{d}r \ \varphi^2(y, w) \mathrm{d}(y, w)$

 $=\frac{1}{c_0}\int_{\mathcal{B}}\left(g(t,x,v)-g(\eta,y,w)\right)\varphi^2(y,w)\mathrm{d}(y,w)$

(1) $\partial_t g + v \cdot \nabla_x g > \Delta_v g + |\nabla_v g|^2$

Critical kinetic trajectories



Proof of the L^1 -estimate

For $g = \log f$ we have

 $= -\frac{1}{c_0} \int_{\mathcal{B}} \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}r} g(\gamma(r)) \mathrm{d}r \ \varphi^2(y, w) \mathrm{d}(y, w)$

$$g(t,x,v) - c(f)$$

$$= \frac{1}{c_0} \int_{B} (g(t,x,v) - g(\eta,y,w))) \varphi^{2}(y,w) d(y,w)$$

 $=-\frac{1}{C_t}\int_{\Omega}\int_{\Omega}^1\dot{\gamma}_t(r)[(\partial_t+v\cdot\nabla_x)g](\gamma(r))+\dot{\gamma}_v(r)\cdot[\nabla_v g](\gamma(r))\mathrm{d}r\,\,\varphi^2\mathrm{d}(y,w)$

(1) $\partial_t g + v \cdot \nabla_x g > \Delta_v g + |\nabla_v g|^2$

(1) $\partial_t g + v \cdot \nabla_x g > \Delta_v g + |\nabla_v g|^2$

For $g = \log f$ we have

$$g(t,x,v)-c(f)$$

$$-c(f)$$

$$g(t, x, v) - c(f)$$

$$= \frac{1}{c_0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (g(t, x, v) - g(\eta, y, w))) \varphi^2(y, w) d(y, w)$$

 $= -\frac{1}{c_0} \int_{\mathcal{B}} \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}r} g(\gamma(r)) \mathrm{d}r \ \varphi^2(y, w) \mathrm{d}(y, w)$

 $\leq -\frac{\eta-t}{c_0}\int_{\mathbb{R}}\int_0^1 [\Delta_{\nu}g](\gamma(r)) + |\nabla_{\nu}g|^2(\gamma(r))\mathrm{d}r \ \varphi^2(y,w)\mathrm{d}(y,w)$

 $-\frac{1}{c_0}\int_{\mathbb{R}}\int_0^1\dot{\gamma}_{\nu}(r)\cdot[\nabla_{\nu}g](\gamma(r))\mathrm{d}r\ \varphi^2(y,w)\mathrm{d}(y,w)$

 $=-\frac{1}{C_0}\int_{\mathcal{D}}\int_0^1\dot{\gamma}_t(r)[(\partial_t+v\cdot\nabla_x)g](\gamma(r))+\dot{\gamma}_v(r)\cdot[\nabla_v g](\gamma(r))\mathrm{d}r\ \varphi^2\mathrm{d}(y,w)$

For $g = \log f$ we have

$$g(t, x, v) - c(f)$$

$$\begin{split} &= \frac{1}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{B} \left(g(t, x, v) - g(\eta, y, w) \right) \right) \varphi^{2}(y, w) \mathrm{d}(y, w) \\ &= -\frac{1}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{B} \int_{0}^{1} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}r} g(\gamma(r)) \mathrm{d}r \ \varphi^{2}(y, w) \mathrm{d}(y, w) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{B} \int_{0}^{1} \frac{\mathrm{d}r}{\mathrm{d}r} g(\gamma(r)) \mathrm{d}r \ \varphi \ (y, w) \mathrm{d}(y, w) \\ & = -\frac{1}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{B} \int_{0}^{1} \dot{\gamma}_{t}(r) [\partial_{t}g + v \cdot \nabla_{x}g](\gamma(r)) + \dot{\gamma}_{v}(r) \cdot [\nabla_{v}g](\gamma(r)) \mathrm{d}r \ \varphi^{2} \mathrm{d}(y, w) \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq -\frac{\eta - t}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{B}^{1} \left[\Delta_{v} g \right] (\gamma(r)) + |\nabla_{v} g|^{2} (\gamma(r)) dr \ \varphi^{2}(y, w) d(y, w) \\ - \frac{1}{c_{\varphi}} \int_{B}^{1} \dot{\gamma}_{v}(r) \cdot [\nabla_{v} g] (\gamma(r)) dr \ \varphi^{2}(y, w) d(y, w)$$

Idea: use quadratic gradient term to absorb all gradients

The forcing terms

Recall that $|\dot{\gamma}_{\nu}| \lesssim r^{-\frac{1}{2}}$, hence

$$-\frac{1}{c_{\varphi}}\int_{B}\int_{0}^{1}\dot{\gamma}_{\nu}(r)\cdot[\nabla_{\nu}g](\gamma(r))\mathrm{d}r\ \varphi^{2}(y,w)\mathrm{d}(y,w)$$

$$\lesssim \int_{B}\int_{0}^{1}r^{-\frac{1}{2}}|\nabla_{\nu}g|(\gamma(r))\mathrm{d}r\ \varphi(y,w)\mathrm{d}(y,w)$$

(1)
$$\gamma_{x,v} = \mathcal{A}\begin{pmatrix} y \\ w \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{B}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\int_{B} [\Delta_{v} g](\gamma(r)) \varphi^{2}(y, w) d(y, w)$$

(1)
$$\gamma_{x,v} = \mathcal{A}\begin{pmatrix} y \\ w \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{B}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

Substitute $(\tilde{y}, \tilde{w}) = \Phi(y, w) = \Phi_{r,t,x,v,\eta}(y, w) := (\gamma_x(r), \gamma_v(r)).$

$$\begin{split} &\int_{B} [\Delta_{v} g](\gamma(r)) \varphi^{2}(y, w) \mathrm{d}(y, w) \\ &= \int_{\Phi(B)} [\Delta_{v} g](\gamma_{t}(r), \tilde{y}, \tilde{w}) \varphi^{2}(\Phi^{-1}(\tilde{y}, \tilde{w})) \left| \det \mathcal{A} \right|^{-1} \mathrm{d}(\tilde{y}, \tilde{w}) \end{split}$$

(1)
$$\gamma_{x,v} = \mathcal{A}\begin{pmatrix} y \\ w \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{B}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

Substitute $(\tilde{y}, \tilde{w}) = \Phi(y, w) = \Phi_{r,t,x,v,\eta}(y, w) := (\gamma_x(r), \gamma_v(r)).$

$$\varphi(\Phi^{-1}(\tilde{y}, \tilde{w})) \cdot |\det \mathcal{A}|^{-1} d(\tilde{y}, \tilde{w})$$

(1)
$$\gamma_{x,v} = \mathcal{A}\begin{pmatrix} y \\ w \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{B}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

Substitute $(\tilde{y}, \tilde{w}) = \Phi(y, w) = \Phi_{r,t,x,v,\eta}(y, w) := (\gamma_x(r), \gamma_v(r)).$

Distributing the good term

for some constant M > 0.

$$(g(t, x, v) - c(f))_+$$

$$\lesssim \int_0^1 \int_B \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_v g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_v g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi^2(y, w) \right)_+ d(y, w) dr$$

Integrating on K_{-}

 $\int_{0}^{\eta-\iota} \int_{B} (g(t,x,v) - c(f))_{+} d(t,x,v)$

 $\leq \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \int_0^1 \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi^2(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi^2(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi^2(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi^2(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi^2(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi^2(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi^2(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt \right) dy dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\Omega} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_0^{\eta} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \int_0^{\eta} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) dr dt + \int_0^{\eta} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r))$

Integrating on K_{-}

$$\begin{split} &\int_0^{\eta-\iota} \int_{\mathcal{B}} (g(t,x,v) - c(f))_+ \mathrm{d}(t,x,v) \\ &\leq \int_0^{\eta} \int_{\mathcal{B}} \int_0^1 \int_{\mathcal{B}} \left(M r^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_v g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y,w) - \left| \nabla_v g \right|^2 (\gamma(r)) \varphi^2(y,w) \right)_+ \mathrm{d}(y,w) \mathrm{d}r \mathrm{d}(t,x,v) \end{split}$$

 $=\int_{0}^{\eta}\int_{\Omega}\int_{0}^{\frac{1}{2}}\int_{\Omega}\left(Mr^{-1/2}\left|\nabla_{v}g\right|(\gamma(r))\varphi(y,w)-\left|\nabla_{v}g\right|^{2}(\gamma(r))\varphi^{2}(y,w)\right)drd(t,x,v)$

 $+\int_{0}^{\eta}\int_{\mathbb{R}}\int_{1}^{1}\int_{\mathbb{R}}\left(Mr^{-1/2}\left|\nabla_{v}g\right|(\gamma(r))\varphi(y,w)-\left|\nabla_{v}g\right|^{2}(\gamma(r))\varphi^{2}(y,w)\right)_{+}^{\mathrm{d}}(y,w)\mathrm{d}r\mathrm{d}(t,x,v)$

$$\int_{B}^{\eta} \int_{B}^{\eta} \int_{A}^{\eta} \int_{A}^{\eta} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{\nu} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y) \right)$$

Integrating on K_{-}

$$\int_{0}^{\eta-\iota} \int_{\mathcal{B}} (g(t,x,v) - c(f))_{+} d(t,x,v)
\leq \int_{0}^{\eta} \int_{\mathcal{B}} \int_{0}^{1} \int_{\mathcal{B}} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y,w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^{2} (\gamma(r)) \varphi^{2}(y,w) \right)_{+} d(y,w) dr d(t,x,v)$$

$$= \int_{0}^{\eta} \int_{B} \int_{0}^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{B} \dots d(y, w) dr d(t, x, v)$$

$$+ \int_{0}^{\eta} \int_{B} \int_{1}^{1} \int_{B} \left(Mr^{-1/2} |\nabla_{v} g| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - |\nabla_{v} g|^{2} (\gamma(r)) \varphi^{2}(y, w) \right) d(y, w) dr d(t, x, v)$$

$$\leq \int_0^{\eta} \int_B \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_B \dots d(y, w) dr d(t, x, v)$$

$$+ C =: I_1 + C$$

for some C > 0 by Cauchy-Schwarz inequality.

Estimating I_1

(1)
$$\gamma_{x,v} = \mathcal{A}\begin{pmatrix} y \\ w \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{B}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

Substitute $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) = \Psi_{r,t,\eta,y,w}(x,v) := \gamma_{x,v}(r)$ and $\tilde{t} = t + r(\eta - t)$.

$$I_{1} = \int_{0}^{\eta} \int_{B} \int_{0}^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{B} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\gamma(r)) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^{2} (\gamma(r)) \varphi^{2}(y, w) \right)_{+} d(y, w) dr d(x, v) dt$$

Estimating I_1

$$(1) \,\, \gamma_{\mathsf{x},\mathsf{v}} = \mathcal{A} \big(\begin{smallmatrix} \mathsf{y} \\ \mathsf{w} \end{smallmatrix} \big) + \mathcal{B} \big(\begin{smallmatrix} \mathsf{x} \\ \mathsf{v} \end{smallmatrix} \big)$$

Substitute $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) = \Psi_{r,t,\eta,v,w}(x,v) := \gamma_{x,v}(r)$ and $\tilde{t} = t + r(\eta - t)$.

$$I_{1} \leq \int_{0}^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{B} \int_{0}^{\eta} \int_{\Psi(B)} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\tilde{t}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^{2} (\tilde{t}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) \varphi^{2}(y, w) \right)_{+}$$

$$\frac{1}{1-r} |\det \mathcal{B}(r)|^{-1} \operatorname{d}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) \operatorname{d}\tilde{t} \operatorname{d}(y, w) \operatorname{d}r$$

Estimating
$$I_1$$

(1)
$$\gamma_{x,v} = \mathcal{A}\begin{pmatrix} y \\ w \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{B}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

Substitute $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) = \Psi_{r,t,\eta,y,w}(x,v) := \gamma_{x,v}(r)$ and $\tilde{t} = t + r(\eta - t)$.

as
$$\Psi(B)\subset ilde{B}$$
 and $\det \mathcal{B}(r)\sim 1$ on $(frac{1}{2},1).$

Estimating I_1

(1)
$$\gamma_{x,v} = \mathcal{A}\begin{pmatrix} y \\ w \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{B}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

Substitute $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) = \Psi_{r,t,\eta,y,w}(x,v) := \gamma_{x,v}(r)$ and $\tilde{t} = t + r(\eta - t)$.

$$I_{1} \leq \int_{0}^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{B} \int_{0}^{\eta} \int_{\tilde{B}} \left(Mr^{-1/2} \left| \nabla_{v} g \right| (\tilde{t}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) \varphi(y, w) - \left| \nabla_{v} g \right|^{2} (\tilde{t}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) \varphi^{2}(y, w) \right)_{+} d(\tilde{x}, \tilde{v}) d\tilde{t} d(y, w) dr$$

as $\Psi(B)\subset \tilde{B}$ and $\det \mathcal{B}(r)\sim 1$ on $(\frac{1}{2},1)$.

Calculating the r-integral from 0 to $\min\{1/2, M^2/p^2\}$ yields

$$\int_0^{1/2} \left(r^{-1/2} M p - p^2 \right)_+ \mathrm{d}r \lesssim M^2$$

for all p > 0. Here $p = |\nabla_{v}g|(\tilde{t}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{v})\varphi(y, w)$.

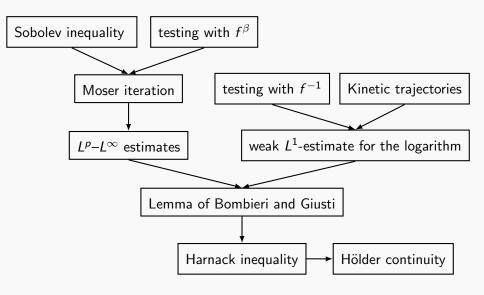
Conclusion of the L^1 -estimate

We have proven

$$\int_{0}^{\eta-t}\int_{B}([\log f](t,x,v)-c(f))_{+}\mathrm{d}(t,x,v)\leq C$$

for universal constant C > 0.

Moser's 1971 method in kinetic theory



Harnack inequality

$$(1) \partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = \nabla_v \cdot (\mathfrak{a} \nabla_v f)$$

Theorem (DMNZ 25):

There exists a universal constant C = C(d) > 0 such that for any nonnegative weak solution f of (1) in \tilde{Q} we have

$$\sup_{Q_-} f \le C^{\mu} \inf_{Q_+} f.$$

Here, $\mu = \frac{1}{\lambda} + \Lambda$. Optimal in μ !



$$(1) \partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f = \nabla_v \cdot (\mathfrak{a} \nabla_v f)$$

Theorem (DMNZ 25):

There exists a universal $C(d,\mu)>0$ such that for all $p\in(0,1+\frac{1}{2d})$ and any nonnegative weak supersolution f to (1) in \tilde{Q} we have

$$\left(\int_{Q_{-}} f^{p} d(t, x, v)\right)^{p} \leq C \inf_{Q_{+}} f.$$

Optimal range for p.



t

Kinetic mollification

Consider $\gamma^m\colon \mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R}^{1+2d}$ with $m=(m_0,m_1,m_2)\in\mathbb{R}^{1+2d}$, $m_0\neq 0$ as

$$\gamma^{\mathsf{m}}(r;(t,x,v)) = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma^{\mathsf{m}}_{t}(r) \\ \gamma^{\mathsf{m}}_{x}(r) \\ \gamma^{\mathsf{m}}_{v}(r) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} t + m_{0}r \\ \mathcal{E}_{m_{0}}(r) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{D}_{m_{0}} \mathcal{W}(r) \mathcal{D}_{m_{0}}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} m_{1} \\ m_{2} \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

with

$$\mathcal{W}(r) := \begin{pmatrix} g_1(r) & g_2(r) \\ \dot{g}_1(r) & \dot{g}_2(r) \end{pmatrix}, \; \mathcal{D}_{m_0} := \begin{pmatrix} m_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \; \text{and} \; \mathcal{E}_{m_0}(r) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & m_0 r \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Define the kinetic mollification operator as

$$[S_r(f)](t,x,v) = \frac{1}{c_{\omega}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{1+2d}} f(\gamma^{\mathsf{m}}(r;(t,x,v))) \varphi^{2}(\mathsf{m}) d\mathsf{m}.$$

Kinetic Sobolev embedding

Theorem (DMNZ 25):

Let $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{1+d}; H^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ such that $(\partial_t + v \cdot \nabla_x)f = \nabla_v \cdot S$ for some $S \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{1+2d}; \mathbb{R}^d)$, then

$$||f||_{\mathsf{L}^{2\kappa}(\mathbb{R}^{1+2d})} \le C \left(||\nabla_{\nu} f||_{\mathsf{L}^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{1+2d})} + ||S||_{\mathsf{L}^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{1+2d};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \right)$$

with
$$\kappa = 1 + \frac{1}{2d}$$
 and $C = C(d) > 0$.

Local versions. No fundamental solution needed.

References



P. Auscher, C. Imbert and L. N. Weak solutions to Kolmogorov-Fokker-Planck equations: regularity, existence and uniqueness. arXiv:2403.17464 (2024).



P. Auscher, C. Imbert and L. N. Fundamental solutions to Kolmogorov-Fokker-Planck equations with rough coefficients: existence, uniqueness, upper estimates. SIAM J. Math. Anal., 57(2):2114–2137 (2025).



H. Dietert, C. Mouhot, L. N. and Rico Zacher. *Critical trajectories and Moser's method in kinetic theory.* arXiv:2508.14868 (2025).



L. N. and R. Zacher. A trajectorial interpretation of Moser's proof of the Harnack inequality. Ann. Sc. Norm. Super. Pisa Cl. Sci. (2025).



L. N. and R. Zacher. *On a kinetic Poincaré inequality and beyond*. Funct. Anal., 289(1): Paper No. 110899, 18 (2025).

