

# Dynamic Polymers

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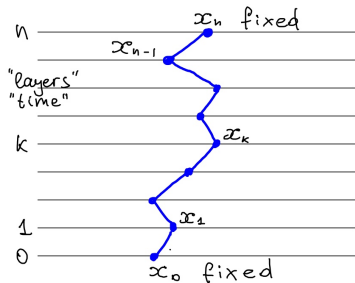
## Keywords

- directed polymers
  - Gibbs distributions (LPP-type model if temperature = 0)
  - random potential
  - infinite volume/length (thermodynamic limit)
- dynamical viewpoint
  - $\infty$ -dimensional stochastic gradient flows
  - invariant measures
  - monotonicity
  - one force – one solution principle (1F1S)

Initial motivation:

SPDEs, ergodic theory of stochastic Burgers / KPZ / heat equations

# Point-to-point action minimizers (geodesics)



Fix endpoints  $x_0, x_n$ , minimize

$$E(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k - x_{k-1}|^2 + \sum_{k=1}^n F_k(x_k)$$

$F_k(x) = \text{i.i.d. in } k, \text{ mixing in } x.$

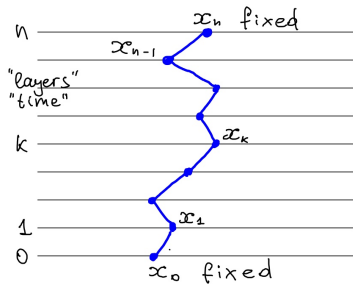
Bakhtin, Cator, Khanin (2014), Bakhtin (2016)

- $n \rightarrow \infty, \frac{x_n}{n} \rightarrow v$
- semi-infinite one-sided minimizers, mutual behavior
- applications to Burgers equation with random kick forcing

This LPP-type model is a “temperature  $T = 0$ ” Gibbs measure  
Directed polymers:  $T > 0$  (for Burgers equation, viscosity  $> 0$ )

# Finite volume/length directed polymers

point-to-point ("p2p") Gibbs polymer measure:



$$\frac{d\mu_{x_0, x_n, F}^{0, n}}{d \text{Leb}}(x) = \frac{e^{-\beta E(x)}}{Z} \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$$

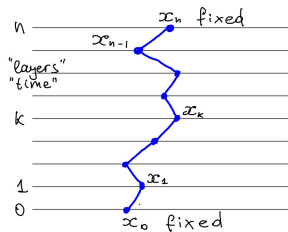
$Z$  = normalizing constant  
("partition function")

$$E(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k - x_{k-1}|^2 + \sum_{k=1}^n F_k(x_k)$$

inverse temperature  $\beta = 1/T = \text{const}$

as  $\beta \rightarrow \infty, T \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\mu_{x_0, x_n, F}^{0, n}$  concentrates on minimizer

# Infinite Volume Polymer Measures (IVPM)



$$\frac{d\mu_{x_0, x_n, F}^{0, n}}{d \text{Leb}}(x) = \frac{e^{-\beta E(x)}}{Z} \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$$

$$E(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k - x_{k-1}|^2 + \sum_{k=1}^n F_k(x_k)$$

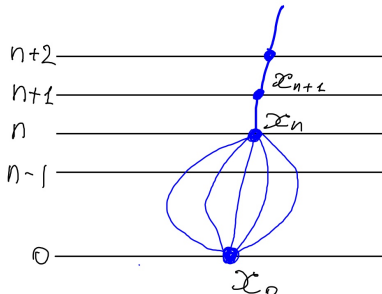
DLR (Dobrushin – Lanford – Ruelle) condition:

$\mu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is IVPM if:

for all  $n$ ,

$$\mu \left( \cdot \mid x_n, x_{n+1}, \dots \right) = \mu_{x_0, x_n, F}^{0, n}$$

$\mu$ -a.s.



# The potentials $F_k(x)$ we will work with

$F_k(x)$  = random potential,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$

- stationarity
- i.i.d. in  $k$
- mixing in  $x$  (e.g., finite dependence range)
- some exponential moments
- some smoothness in  $x$
- more (to be discussed)

## Archetypal examples

- smooth Gaussian process with finite dependence range
- convolution of Poisson point process with a compact smooth kernel (“shot noise”)

# Infinite Volume Polymer Measures (IVPM)

Existence / uniqueness / description of all DLR measures is a basic problem of statistical mechanics

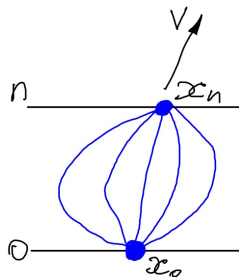
Theorem (with Liying Li, CPAM 2018)

Fix  $v \in \mathbb{R}$ . For a.e.  $F$ , if  $x_n/n \rightarrow v$ ,  
then for all  $x_0$ ,

$$\mu_{x_0, x_n, F}^{0, n} \Rightarrow \mu_{v, F}$$

$\mu_{v, F}$  is a unique IVPM concentrated on

$$S(v) = \{(x_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} : x_k/k \rightarrow v\}$$



- These measures, along with this and other convergence results are used to study Burgers equation with random kick forcing and prove unique ergodicity and, moreover, 1F1S on each ergodic component  $\left\{ \text{velocities } u : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ with average } v \right\}$

# IVPMs for other polymer models: mostly an open problem

More general

- energies? (not just  $|x_i - x_{i-1}|^2$ )
- dimensions?  $d \geq 2$ ? (existence OK. Uniqueness?)
- potentials? (not i.i.d.)
- lattice models?

The latter is open except a couple of exactly solvable models:

- Log-gamma polymers  
[Georgiou, Rassoul-Agha, Seppäläinen, Yilmaz, 2016 – 2017]
- O’Connell–Yor polymers [Alberts, Rassoul-Agha, Simper, 2020]  
Also zero temperature.

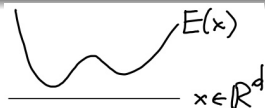
PDE approach to Burgers and its generalizations (no polymers) in papers by Drivas, Dunlap, Graham, La, Ryzhik (2020 – 2022+)



# Gibbs measure are invariant for stochastic gradient flow

Let  $d < \infty$

$$E : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



$$\frac{d\mu}{d\text{Leb}}(x) = \frac{e^{-\beta E(x)}}{Z}, \quad Z = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{-\beta E(x)} dx$$

Theorem (Kolmogorov, 1937, was he really first? I am not sure )

Gibbs  $\iff$  invariant under

$$dX_t = -\nabla E(X_t)dt + \sigma dW,$$

where  $\sigma = \sqrt{2\beta^{-1}} = \sqrt{2T}$

(can be seen from Fokker–Planck equation)

Archetypal example:  $E(x) = \frac{x^2}{2}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

The only invariant density for  $dX = -Xdt + \sqrt{2}dW$  is  $\frac{e^{-x^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$ .

# Study IVPs as invariant for $\infty$ -dim diffusion?

Define

$$“ E(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |x_k - x_{k-1}|^2 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} F_k(x_k) ”$$

and try to make sense of  $dX = -\nabla E(X)dt + \sigma dW$

$$dX_k = (\Delta_k X + f_k(X_k))dt + \sigma dW_k, \quad k \in \mathbb{N},$$
$$X_0 \equiv 0.$$

Discrete Laplacian:

$$\Delta_k x = x_{k-1} - 2x_k + x_{k+1} = 2 \left( \frac{x_{k-1} + x_{k+1}}{2} - x_k \right)$$

$$f_k(x) = -\partial_x F_k(x)$$

$$dX_k = (\Delta_k X + f_k(X_k))dt + \sigma dW_k, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$X_0 \equiv 0$$

Theorem (with Hong-Bin Chen, PTRF, 2021)

The solution map  $(\Phi_{F,W}^t)$

- is well-defined on  $\mathbb{L} = \left\{x \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}} : \|x\|_{\mathbb{L}} = \sup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{|x_k|}{k} < \infty\right\}$
- defines an order-preserving continuous RDS

Fix  $v \in \mathbb{R}$ . For a.e. realization of  $(F_k)$  or  $(f_k)$ :

- $S(v) = \{x : x_k/k \rightarrow v\}$  is preserved
- $\exists!$  invariant measure on  $S(v)$ ; mixing
- it coincides with unique IVPM on  $S(v)$
- one force — one solution Principle (1F1S, synch) on  $S(v)$ .

Also, *ordering by noise* holds

# Existing work on Gibbs and invariance in $\infty$ -dim

In general, in  $\text{dim}=\infty$

- “Gibbs  $\implies$  invariant” typically holds and often not hard
- “invariant  $\implies$  Gibbs” is harder, still holds often (not always).

[Fritz,1982]

[V. Bogachev, Röckner, Wang 2004]

[Albeverio, Kondratiev, Röckner, Tsikalenko 2001]

[Funaki, Spohn 1997]

[Liggett's book on interacting particles 1985]

[Guionnet, Zegarlinski lectures on log-Sobolev inequalities 2003]

[many more]

## If $F \equiv 0$ then synchronization or 1F1S

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Let  $X, Y \in S(v)$  (same slope) be two solutions

$$dX = \Delta X dt + dW$$

$$dY = \Delta Y dt + dW$$

$$d(X - Y) = \Delta(X - Y) dt$$

so  $X(t) - Y(t) \rightarrow 0$  (slowly, no spectral gap), mixing follows.

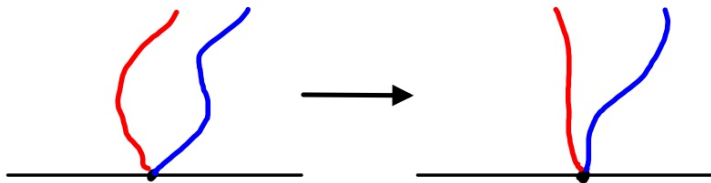
On each  $S(v)$ , a unique invariant distribution is the Gaussian RW with drift  $v$  (can be interpreted as GFF.)

If different slopes, convergence to nonzero fixed point of  $\Delta X$  (a ray).

True in any dimension.

# Order-preservation, aka monotonicity, comparison principle

$$dX_k = (\Delta_k X + f_k(X_k))dt + \sigma dW_k, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}$$

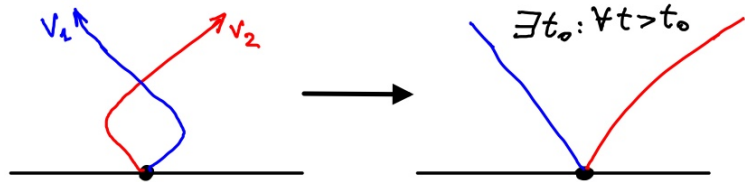


Results on synchronization for monotone systems:

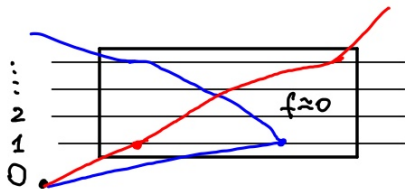
Chueshov, Scheutzow, Flandoli, Gess, Butkovsky ...

Our system does not seem to fit.

## Ordering by noise

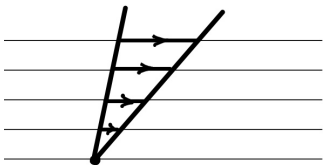


The mechanism (and an extra condition we need):



# Synchronization and uniqueness of invariant measure

- IVPMs are invariant (take limit of finite-dim result).
- Ordering by noise  $\implies$  in a stationary regime, if subject to the same noise  $X_{v_1} \ll X_{v_2}$  (coordinate-wise) for  $v_1 < v_2$ . So for a fixed  $v$  and each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  possible values of  $X_{v,k}$  occupy a finite interval or one point.
- Dynamics in  $S(v_1)$  is conjugated to dynamics in  $S(v_2)$  by a shear:



“shear-invariance”

- There are uncountable many  $v \in \mathbb{R}$ , so probability that possible values of  $X_{v,k}$  occupy a whole interval must be zero.

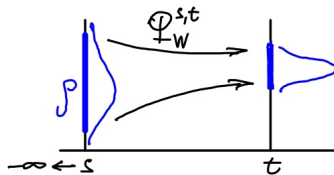
The rigorous version of this argument is based on pullback sample measures (Le Jan 1985, Ledrappier, Young 1988)



# Pullback sample measures

If  $\rho$  is invariant for the Markov process generated by RDS, then the pullback limits are well-defined:

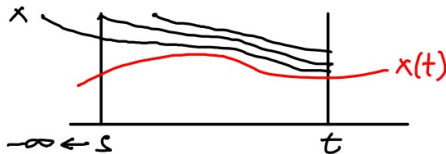
$$\rho_{W,t} = \lim_{s \rightarrow -\infty} \rho(\Phi_W^{s,t})^{-1}$$



limit of the pushforward of  $\rho$   
under the solution map  $\Phi_W^{s,t}$ .

- weak 1F1S:  $\rho_{W,t} = \delta_{x(t)}$  for some  $x(t)$
- true 1F1S: for all  $x \in S(v)$ ,  $\lim_{s \rightarrow -\infty} \Phi_W^{s,t} x = x(t) \in S(v)$   
 $x(t)$  is a global (defined for all all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ) stationary solution:

$$\Phi_W^{s,t} x(s) = x(t)$$



Corollary:

- Inv. distr on  $S(v)$  is unique (has to be IVPM)
- mixing

# Conjecture

In broad generality (non-quadratic interactions, higher dim, non-i.i.d. potentials):

For all  $v \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\exists!$  IVPM  $\in S(v)$ , coincides with unique invariant measure, depends on  $v$  continuously.

Are available methods good enough?

In  $d \geq 2$  with quadratic potential, existence is similar to  $d = 1$ .

Usual strategy for uniqueness: irreducibility + regularity.

Not elliptic enough?