

# Ergodicity of Markov processes: theory and computation (4)

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# Overview

Last three times:

- 1 Find a small set  $C$
- 2 Use Lyapunov function to estimate  $\eta_C$
- 3 Create an atom  $\alpha$ . Estimate  $\eta_\alpha$
- 4 Use renewal theory to estimate the coupling time  $\tau_C$

Today: Data-driven computing for ergodicity and invariant probability measures.

Why data-driven? Traditional methods do not work in high dimension!

# Outline: Data-driven computation

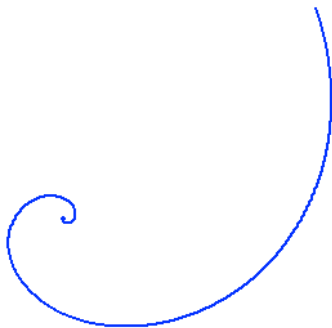
## I. Invariant probability measure

- Combine traditional PDE solver with simulation data.
- Data-driven solver for invariant probability measure.

## II. Geometric/power-law ergodicity

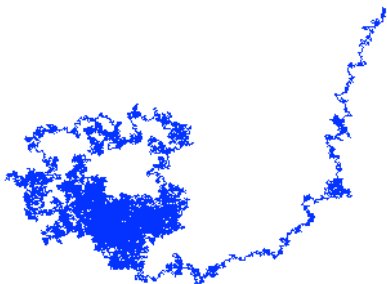
- How fast does SDE converge to  $\pi$ ?
- Estimate coupling time from data.

# Noise perturbations



ODE system

$$\frac{dX}{dt} = f(X)$$



stochastic differential equation  
(SDE)

$$dX_t = f(X_t)dt + \epsilon\sigma(x)dW_t.$$

# Noise perturbations

- 1 Theory for discrete-time Markov process still works
- 2 Transition kernel becomes time-dependent

$$P^t(x, A) = \mathbb{P}[\Phi_t \in A \mid \Phi_0 = x]$$

- 3 Infinitesimal generator

$$\mathcal{L}u = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{P^t u - u}{t} = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i u_{x_i} + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^2 \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij} u_{x_i x_j}$$

where  $A = \{a_{ij}\}_{i,j=1}^d = \sigma \sigma^T$

# Fokker-Planck equation and its steady-state

## Invariant probability measure

- Let  $P^t(x, \cdot)$  be the transition kernel of the SDE
- A probability measure  $\mu$  is said to be invariant if

$$\mu(A) = \int \mu(dx) P^t(x, A) \quad \text{for any measurable } A.$$

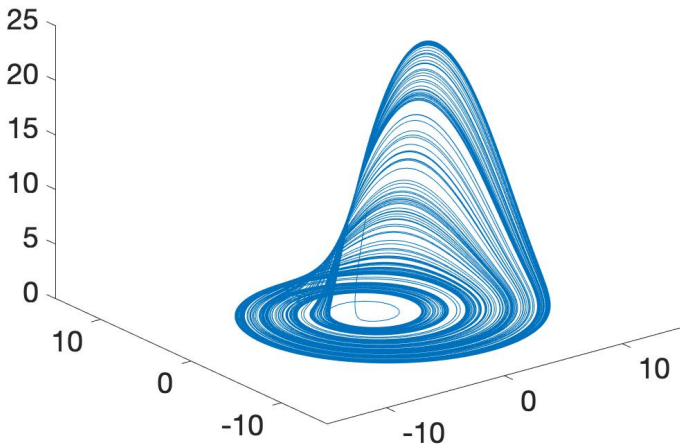
## Steady-state Fokker-Planck equation

The density function of  $\mu$  solves equation

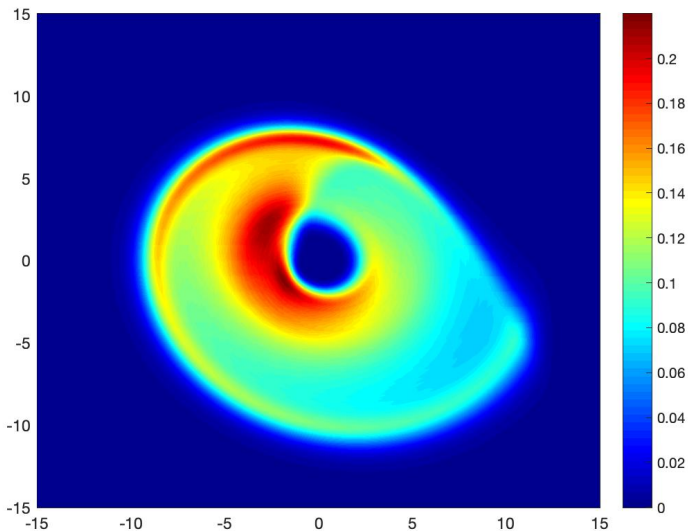
$$\mathcal{L}^* u = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^2 \sum_{i,j=1}^N (a_{ij} u)_{ij} - \nabla \cdot (f u) = 0,$$

where  $A = \{a_{ij}\}_{i,j=1}^d = \sigma \sigma^T$ .

## Numerical example: Rossler Attractor



## Numerical example: Rossler Attractor + noise





# How to compute invariant density function?

## Numerical PDE approach

Discretize steady-state Fokker-Planck equation

$$\frac{1}{2}\epsilon^2 \sum_{i,j=1}^N (a_{ij}u)_{ij} - \nabla \cdot (fu) = 0.$$

Problem: What's the boundary condition?

- Sufficiently large numerical domain.
- Use large deviations. Zero boundary.
- Find least square solution.
- High computational cost in general.

# How to compute invariant density function?

## Monte Carlo method

- Divide the domain into many bins  $B_1, \dots, B_N$ .
- Run a long SDE trajectory.
- Count samples in each bin. Estimate density.
- Works for arbitrary numerical domain.

## Problem: accuracy

- Not many sample points in each bin. High relative error.
- Solution looks “furry” even with large number of samples.

## Numerical example: Gradient flow + rotation

### Equation

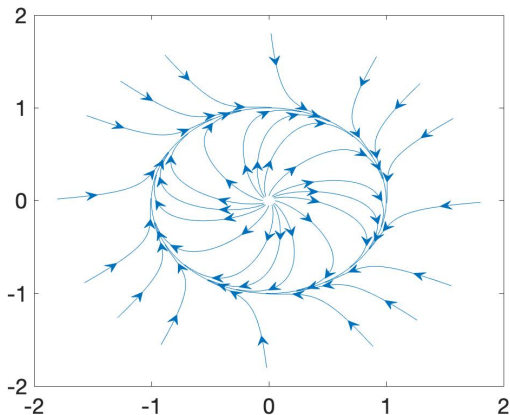
$$\begin{aligned}dX_t &= (Y_t - 4X_t(X_t^2 + Y_t^2 - 1))dt + dW_t \\dY_t &= (-X_t - 4Y_t(X_t^2 + Y_t^2 - 1))dt + dW_t\end{aligned}$$

### Invariant probability density function

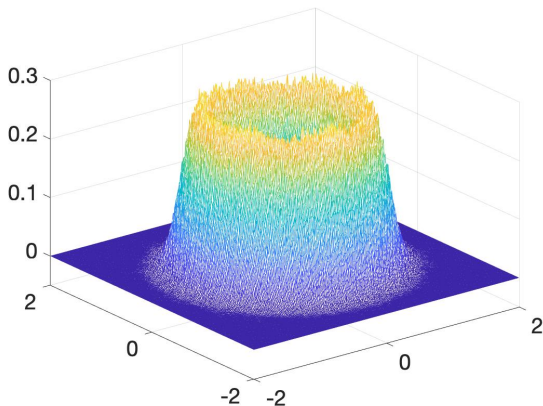
$$\rho(x, y) = \frac{1}{K} e^{-2(x^2 + y^2 - 1)^2},$$

$K$  is a normalizing constant.

# Deterministic vector field



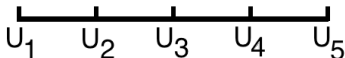
# Sample density function from Monte Carlo



# Solution: Data-driven PDE solver (low dimensional version)

## Setting

- $i = 1, \dots, N$  grid points. Solution vector  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_N)$ .
- $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = 0$ : Linear relation from numerical PDE scheme.
- No boundary condition.  $A$  is not a full matrix.



$$\left(-\frac{1}{h}f_1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2h^2}\right)u_1 - \frac{\epsilon}{h^2}u_2 + \left(\frac{1}{h}f_3 + \frac{\epsilon}{2h^2}\right)u_3 = 0$$

$$\left(-\frac{1}{h}f_2 + \frac{\epsilon}{2h^2}\right)u_2 - \frac{\epsilon}{h^2}u_3 + \left(\frac{1}{h}f_4 + \frac{\epsilon}{2h^2}\right)u_4 = 0$$

$$\left(-\frac{1}{h}f_3 + \frac{\epsilon}{2h^2}\right)u_3 - \frac{\epsilon}{h^2}u_4 + \left(\frac{1}{h}f_5 + \frac{\epsilon}{2h^2}\right)u_5 = 0$$

## Solution: Data-driven PDE solver (low dimensional version)

### Use Monte Carlo data

- $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_N)$  is obtained from Monte Carlo simulation.
- Use  $\mathbf{v}$  as a reference for the variational problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|^2 \\ A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$

### Least norm solution

- Let  $\mathbf{d} = -A\mathbf{v}$ .
- $\mathbf{u}^* = \mathbf{v} + A^T(AA^T)^{-1}\mathbf{d}$  is called the *least norm solution* to the variational problem.

## Solution: Data-driven PDE solver (low dimensional version)

- The PDE solver does not rely on the boundary condition now.
- High resolution profile for interested area.
- Still need to solve large linear system.

### Mechanism

- $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}^{\text{ext}}$  is a random vector.
- Optimization problem projects  $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}^{\text{ext}}$  to  $\text{Ker}(A)$ .
- Projection reduces  $\mathbf{u}^* - \mathbf{u}^{\text{ext}}$ .



## Error Analysis

### Proposition (with M. Dobson and J. Zhai)

Consider  $N \times N$  mesh. Assume entries of  $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}^{\text{ext}}$  be i.i.d. random variables with zero mean and variance  $\zeta^2$ . Assume the PDE solver has error  $O(N^{-p})$ . We have

$$\mathbb{E}[\|u - u^{\text{ext}}\|_{L^2}] \leq O(N^{-1/2}\zeta) + O(N^{-p}),$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_{L^2}$  is the  $L^2$  numerical integral with respect to grid points.

### Error concentration

- Empirical performance is better.
- Error concentrates at the boundary of domain.
- Most principal angles between  $\text{Ker}(A)$  and  $\Theta_D$  are small.

## Block data-driven solver

- Data-driven solver does not rely on boundary.
- Divide a large  $N^d$  domain into  $(N/M)^d$  blocks with size  $M$ .
- Original cost:  $N^{pd}$ . New cost:  $M^{(p-1)d}N^d$ .
- Empirically  $M$  (block size) can be as small as 20 – 30.
- Most error term concentrates at block boundaries.
- Very efficient for 3D and 4D problems.

## Interface error and correction

- Visible interface error occurs on the interface of blocks.
- Error mainly concentrates at boundary points.
- Method 1: Small overlap (1 – 4 grids) between blocks.
- Method 2: “Half block shift” to cover all interfaces.

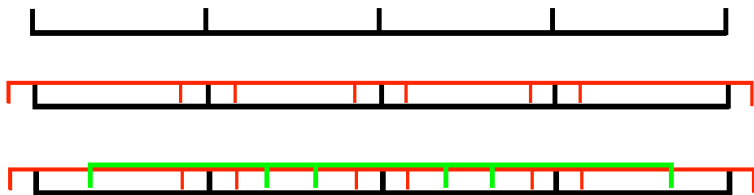
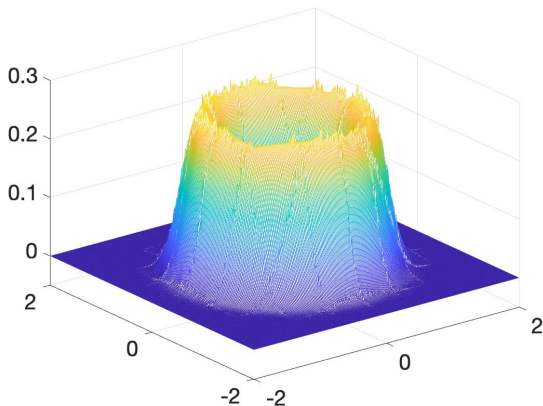
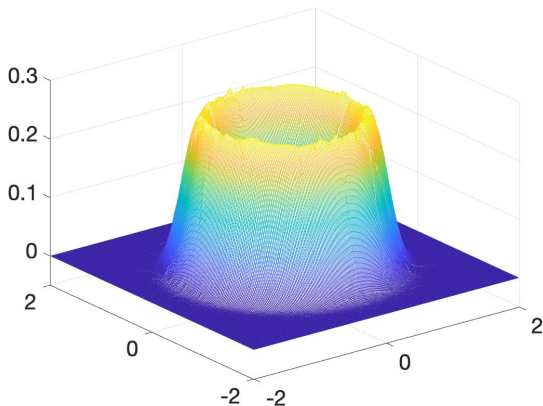


Figure: Black: blocks. Red: Overlapping numerical domain. Green: Half step shift.

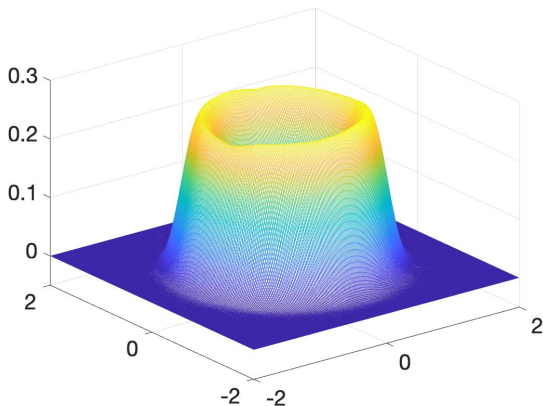
# Solution without any treatment



## Solution with 2-grid overlap



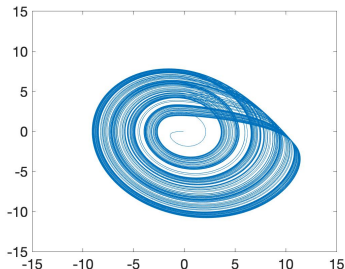
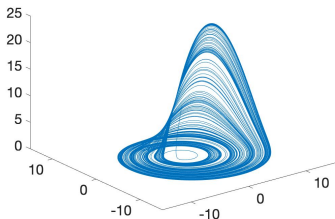
## Solution after half-block shift



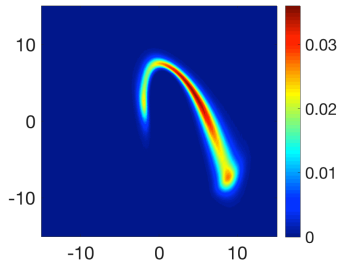
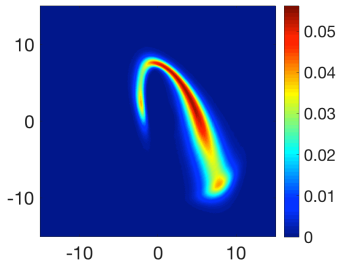
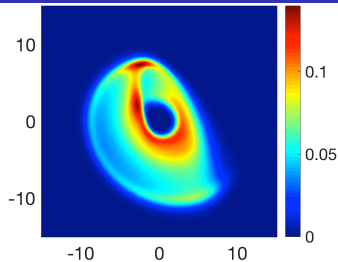
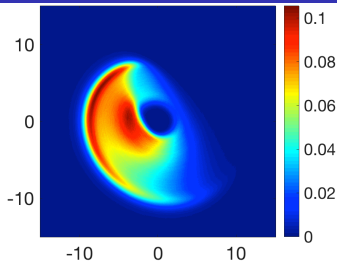
## 3D example: Rossler attractor

### Rossler equation

$$\begin{cases} dx = (-y - z) dt + \varepsilon dW_t^x \\ dy = (x + ay) dt + \varepsilon dW_t^y \\ dz = (b + z(x - c)) dt + \varepsilon dW_t^z \end{cases},$$

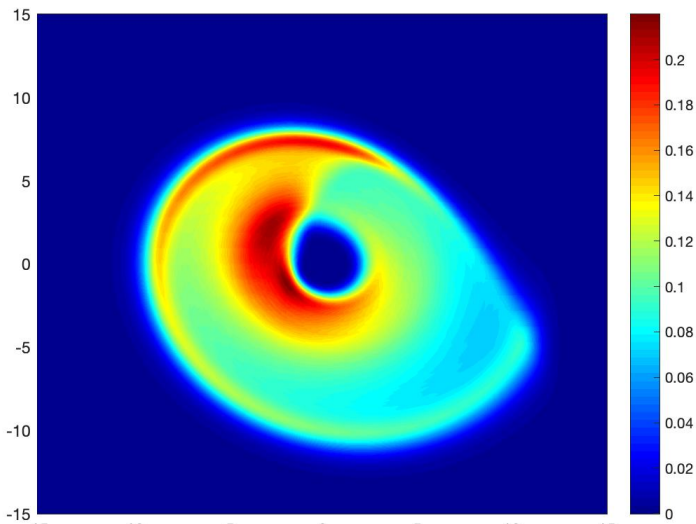


## Solution on “slices”





# Projection of solution



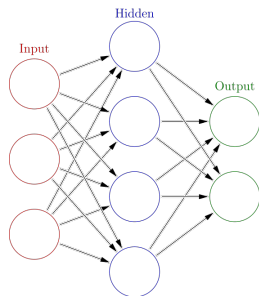
# High-dimensional data-driven solver

- 1 Discretization does not work for high dimensional problems.
- 2 Higher dimension: approximate the solution by an artificial neural network  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$ .
- 3  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_N)$  from Monte Carlo simulation.
- 4 New optimization problem

$$\min \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u}\|^2$$

- 5 What is artificial neural network?

# Artificial neural network (ANN)



- 1 ANN is a way to approximate functions  $y = NN(x, \theta)$
- 2 Parameter  $\theta$  are coupling weights between neurons
- 3 Adjust  $\theta$  such that  $y = NN(x, \theta)$  approximates  $y = f(x)$
- 4 Minimize a loss function  $L(\theta)$  over a training set  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots$

# High-dimensional data-driven solver

- 1 Two loss functions:  $\mathcal{L}_1 = \|\hat{\mathbf{u}} - \mathbf{v}\|$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_2 = \|\mathcal{L}^* \hat{\mathbf{u}}\|^2$ .
- 2 Different training sets for  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$ .
- 3 Train two loss functions alternatively to avoid adjusting their weights.
- 4  $\mathbf{v}$  is usually a very rough approximation in high dimension. Very high spatially uncorrelated noise.

## Example 1: 4D ring

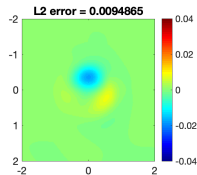
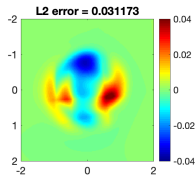
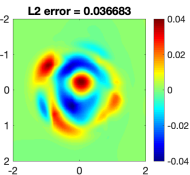
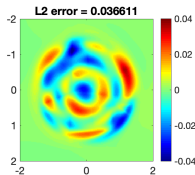
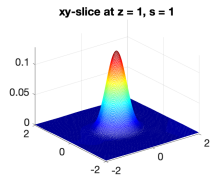
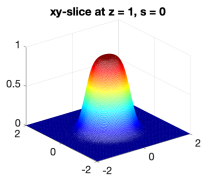
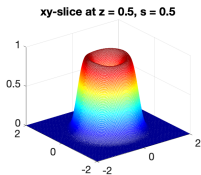
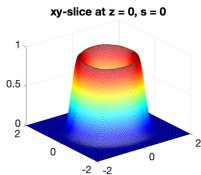
$$\begin{cases} dX_t = (-4X_t(X_t^2 + Y_t^2 + Z_t^2 + S_t^2 - 1) + Y_t) dt + \sigma dW_t^X, \\ dY_t = (-4Y_t(X_t^2 + Y_t^2 + Z_t^2 + S_t^2 - 1) - X_t) dt + \sigma dW_t^Y, \\ dZ_t = (-4Z_t(X_t^2 + Y_t^2 + Z_t^2 + S_t^2 - 1)) dt + \sigma dW_t^Z, \\ dS_t = (-4S_t(X_t^2 + Y_t^2 + Z_t^2 + S_t^2 - 1)) dt + \sigma dW_t^S, \end{cases}$$

Invariant density

$$u(x, y, z, s) = \frac{1}{K} \exp(-2(x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + s^2 - 1)^2).$$

concentrate near a 4D sphere.

# Example1: 4D ring



## Example 2: Stochastic heat equation

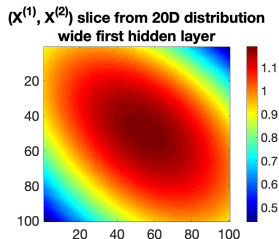
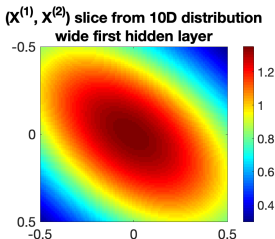
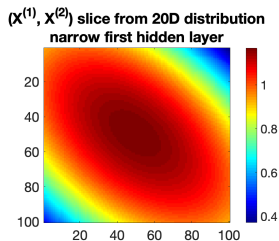
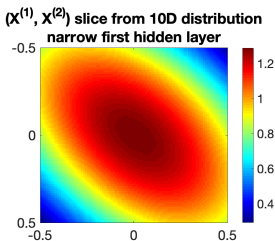
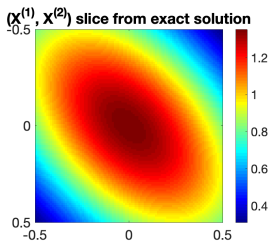
Consider a discrete stochastic heat equation

$$dU_i = (U_{i-1} + U_{i+1} - 2U_i)dt + dW_t^{(i)}$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, N$ . Assume  $U_0 = U_N = 0$ . Invariant probability density given by Lyapunov equation.

- 1 Neural network works well when  $N = 10$
- 2 Neural network is not enough (128 hidden neurons) when  $N = 20$ .

## Example 2: Stochastic heat equation





# Power-law ergodicity

- 1 Find a small set  $C$
- 2 Recall that power law tail of  $\eta_C$  is preserved in both  $\eta_\alpha$  and the first simultaneous coupling.
- 3 Simulate the first passage time  $\eta_C$
- 4 If  $\sup_{x \in C} \mathbb{E}_x[\eta_C^\beta] < \infty$ , the speed of contraction is  $\sim n^{-\beta}$ .
- 5 Use extreme value theory to verify the bounded supreme if  $C$  has high dimension.

Ref: H. Xu and Y. Li, 2017, JSP

# Geometric ergodicity

## Definition

$X_t$ : Markov process with transition kernel  $P$  and invariant probability measure  $\pi$ .

$X_t$  is geometrically ergodic with rate  $r$  if

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \|P^t(x, \cdot) - \pi\|_{TV} = -r$$

## Importance

- $r$  is the spectral gap for reversible  $X_t$ .
- Interplay of deterministic dynamics and noise.
- Difficult to estimate for non-gradient case. Most rigorous results are not sharp.

# Recall: coupling lemma

## Coupling lemma

- Let  $(X_t^{(1)}, X_t^{(2)})$  be a coupling such that if  $X_t^{(1)} = X_t^{(2)}$ , then  $X_s^{(1)} = X_s^{(2)}$  for all  $s > t$ .
- $\tau_C = \inf_t \{X_t = Y_t\}$  is the coupling time.
- 

$$\|\mu P^t - \nu P^t\|_{TV} \leq 2\mathbb{P}_{\mu, \nu}[\tau_C > t].$$

- There exists an optimal coupling such that the equality holds.

# Upper and lower bound

## Lower bound

Estimate  $r_l$  such that

$$\mathbb{P}[\tau_C > t] \approx e^{-r_l t}.$$

$r_l < r$  is a lower bound of geometric ergodicity rate.

## Upper bound

Construct disjoint sets  $(A_t, B_t)$ . Run coupling  $(\mathcal{X}_t, \mathcal{Y}_t)$  with  $\mathcal{X}_0 \in A_0$  and  $\mathcal{Y}_0 \in B_0$ .

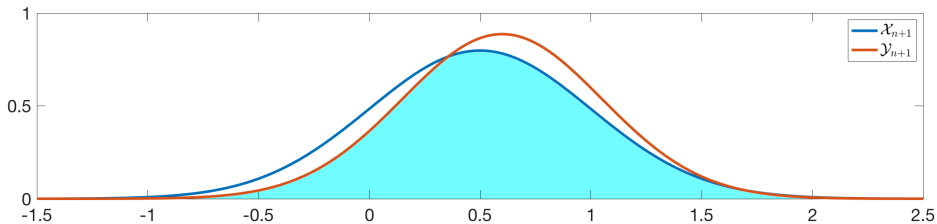
$$\xi_C = \min \left\{ \inf_t \{ \mathcal{X}_t \notin A_t \}, \inf_t \{ \mathcal{Y}_t \notin B_t \} \right\}, \quad \mathbb{P}[\xi_C > t] \approx e^{-r_u t}$$

$r < r_u$  is an upper bound of geometric ergodicity rate.

# How to couple numerically

Let  $(X_t^{(1)}, X_t^{(2)})$  be a coupling.

- Independent.  $X_t^{(1)}$  and  $X_t^{(2)}$  are independent until coupling.
- Synchronous. Use the “same noise”.
- Reflection. Use “mirroring” random terms.
- Maximal coupling. Compare density function when  $|X_t^{(1)} - X_t^{(2)}| \ll 1$ .



# Example 1: SIR model

## SIR model with degenerate noise

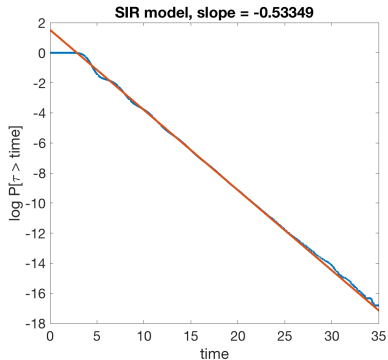
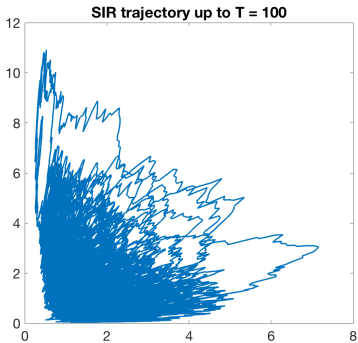
$$\begin{aligned}dS &= (\alpha - \beta SI - \mu S)dt + \sigma SdW_t \\dI &= (\beta SI - (\mu + \rho + \gamma)I)dt + \sigma IdW_t,\end{aligned}$$

Non-degenerate invariant probability measure if  $\frac{\alpha\beta}{\mu} - (\mu + \rho + \gamma - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}) > 0$ . Rigorous proof only gives faster-than-power-law ergodicity (Yin et al. 2016 SIADS).

## How to couple?

- Synchronous coupling until  $|X_t^{(1)} - X_t^{(2)}| \ll 1$
- Compute probability density function for two steps.
- Use maximal coupling.

# SIR model



## Example 2: Coupled Fitzhugh-Nagumo oscillators

50 coupled neurons.

$$du_i = \left( \frac{u}{\mu} - \frac{u^3}{3\mu} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu}}v + \frac{d_u}{\mu}(u_{i+1} + u_{i-1} - 2u_i) + \frac{w}{\mu}(\bar{u} - u_i) \right) dt + \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{\mu}}dW_t^1$$

$$dv_i = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu}}u + \frac{a}{\sqrt{\mu}} \right) dt + \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{\mu}}dW_t^2.$$

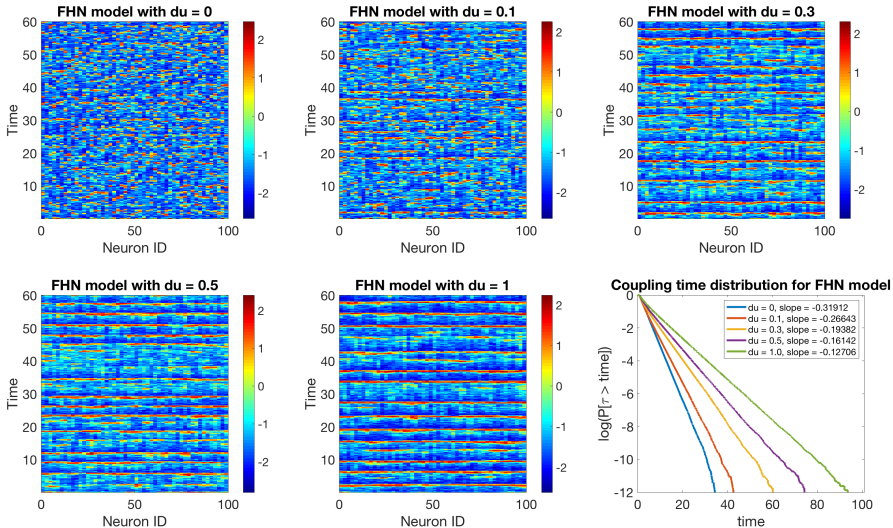
- $i = 1, \dots, 50$
- $d_u$ : nearest-neighbor coupling strength.  $w$ : mean field coupling strength.
- $\bar{u}$ : average membrane potential.



## Example 2: Coupled Fizhugh-Nagumo oscillators

- $\omega = 0.4$ ,  $\mu = 0.05$ ,  $\sigma = 0.6$
- Change nearest-neighbor coupling strength  $du$ .
- Reflection coupling until  $|\mathcal{X}_t - \mathcal{Y}_t| \ll 1$
- Compare probability density functions and use maximal coupling.
- Numerical result: higher  $du$  gives more coherent evolution, and slower rate of geometric ergodicity.
- Heuristically, strong synchronization makes two trajectories harder to couple.






# Coupled Fizhugh-Nagumo oscillators



## Comments

- Coupling method is data-driven. No spatial discretization.
- Coupling speed versus noise magnitude depends on the deterministic dynamics.
- Important application: classification of high dimensional potential landscape.
- Ongoing work: *Can you hear the shape of a landscape?*

# Selected Reference

-  Li, Y. *A data-driven method for the steady state of randomly perturbed dynamics*, Communications in Mathematical Sciences, 17(4), 1045-1059, 2019
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-  Li, Y., Wang, S. *Numerical computations of geometric ergodicity for stochastic dynamics*, Nonlinearity 33(12), 6935, 2020
-  Li, Y., Xu, H. *Numerical Simulation of Polynomial-Speed Convergence Phenomenon* Journal of Statistical Physics, 169(4), 2017

# Thank you