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PARTICLE APPROXIMATION FOR FIRST ORDER STOCHASTIC PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

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PARTICLE APPROXIMATION FOR FIRST ORDER STOCHASTIC PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS*

Approximation Particulaire pour
les Equations aux Dérivées Partielles Stochastiques
du Premier Ordre

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Abstract

A class of degenerate second order stochastic PDE is considered, for which a representation result in terms of stochastic characteristics has been proved by Krylov–Rozovskii [2] and Kunita [3,4]. An example of a stochastic PDE in this class has been exhibited in Florchinger–LeGland [1] as the result of a Trotter–like product formula for the Zakai equation of diffusion processes observed in correlated noise. Particle approximations are introduced for this class of stochastic PDE, and error estimates are provided which extend the results of Raviart [6] on first order deterministic PDE.

Résumé

On considère une classe d'EDP stochastiques du second ordre dégénérées, pour lesquelles un résultat de représentation à l'aide de courbes caractéristiques stochastiques a été prouvé par Krylov–Rozovskii [2] et Kunita [3,4]. Un exemple d'EDP stochastique de ce type, a été obtenu par Florchinger–LeGland [1] comme résultat d'une formule produit *à la Trotter* pour l'équation de Zakai des processus de diffusion observés dans un bruit corrélé. On étudie des approximations particulières pour cette classe d'EDP stochastiques, et des estimations d'erreur sont fournies, qui étendent les résultats de Raviart [6] sur les EDP déterministes du premier ordre.

1 Introduction

Consider the following stochastic differential equation

$$dX_t = b(X_t) dt + \sigma(X_t) [dW_t - e(X_t) dt] , \quad (1.1)$$

where $\{W_t, t \geq 0\}$ is a d -dimensional standard Wiener process, and the associated stochastic flow of diffeomorphisms $\{\xi_{s,t}(\cdot), 0 \leq s \leq t\}$, and define

$$\Xi_{0,t}(x) \triangleq \exp \left\{ \int_0^t e^*(\xi_{0,s}(x)) dW_s - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t |e(\xi_{0,s}(x))|^2 ds + \int_0^t c(\xi_{0,s}(x)) ds \right\} .$$

Introduce the following partial differential operators

$$L \triangleq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m a^{i,j} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + \sum_{i=1}^m b^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} + c ,$$

$$B_k \triangleq e_k + \sum_{i=1}^m \sigma_k^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} , \quad 1 \leq k \leq d ,$$

with $a = \sigma \sigma^*$, and the stochastic PDE

$$dq_t = L^* q_t dt + \sum_{k=1}^d B_k^* q_t dW_t^k . \quad (1.2)$$

Because of the relation $a = \sigma \sigma^*$ between coefficients of higher order partial derivatives in operators L and B_k , equation (1.2) is a degenerate second order stochastic PDE or equivalently, after transformation into Stratonovich form, a first order stochastic PDE. Existence and representation results have been obtained by Kunita [4] for (generally nonlinear) first order stochastic PDE, based on the notion of stochastic characteristics.

In a previous work [1], the Zakai equation for the nonlinear filtering of diffusion processes observed in correlated noise has been considered. A decomposition of the Zakai equation has been introduced, exhibiting a degenerate second order stochastic PDE similar to (1.2) in the *correction step*. In addition, a time discretization scheme has been proposed for this degenerate second order stochastic PDE, with rate of convergence of order $\sqrt{\delta}$, where δ is the time step.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a discretization scheme of the degenerate second order stochastic PDE (1.2) with respect to the space variable $x \in \mathbf{R}^m$. This approximation relies on the representation of the solution in terms of stochastic characteristics, and approximation of the initial condition by a convex linear combination of Dirac masses. This kind of approximation is called a *particle approximation*, see Raviart [6].

More specifically, for any probability measure $\mu(dx)$ on \mathbf{R}^m , define the transformed measure $Q_t \mu(dx)$ by

$$\langle Q_t \mu, \phi \rangle = \int \phi(\xi_{0,t}(x)) \Xi_{0,t}(x) \mu(dx) , \quad (1.3)$$

for any test function ϕ , or equivalently

$$Q_t \mu(A) = \int_{\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(A)} \Xi_{0,t}(x) \mu(dx) .$$

Note that, if ϕ is regular enough, then the Itô formula gives

$$d[\phi(\xi_{0,t}(x)) \Xi_{0,t}(x)] = L\phi(\xi_{0,t}(x)) \cdot \Xi_{0,t}(x) dt + \sum_{k=1}^d B_k \phi(\xi_{0,t}(x)) \cdot \Xi_{0,t}(x) dW_t^k .$$

Therefore $\mu_t(dx) = Q_t \mu(dx)$ solves equation (1.2) in weak form, i.e.

$$d\mu_t = L^* \mu_t dt + \sum_{k=1}^d B_k^* \mu_t dW_t^k , \quad \mu_0 = \mu . \quad (1.4)$$

Consider next the following two different assumptions on the original measure $\mu_0(dx)$:

□ Assume that the original measure $\mu(dx)$ has a density $q(x)$ with respect to the Lebesgue measure on \mathbf{R}^m , i.e. $\mu(dx) = q(x) dx$. Then, the transformed measure $Q_t \mu(dx)$ has itself a density $q_t(x)$ which satisfies

$$q_t(\xi_{0,t}(x)) \cdot J_{0,t}(x) = \Xi_{0,t}(x) \cdot q(x) ,$$

or in integrated form

$$\int_A q_t(x) dx = \int_{\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(A)} \Xi_{0,t}(x) \cdot q(x) dx .$$

Here, $J_{0,t}(\cdot)$ is the Jacobian (i.e. the determinant of the Jacobian matrix) of the stochastic flow $\xi_{0,t}(\cdot)$. In addition, the density $q_t(x)$ solves the degenerate second order stochastic PDE

$$dq_t = L^* q_t dt + \sum_{k=1}^d B_k^* q_t dW_t^k , \quad q_0 = q . \quad (1.5)$$

□ Assume that the original measure $\mu(dx)$ is a convex linear combination of Dirac masses, also called *particles*

$$\mu(dx) = \sum_{i \in I} a^i \delta(x - x^i) ,$$

where $\{a^i, i \in I\}$ are the particle weights, and $\{x^i, i \in I\}$ are the particle locations. Then, the transformed measure $Q_t \mu(dx)$ has a similar representation

$$Q_t \mu(dx) = \sum_{i \in I} a_t^i \delta(x - x_t^i) ,$$

where the particles have been transported by the flow i.e. $x_t^i = \xi_{0,t}(x^i)$, and the weights have been updated according to $a_t^i = a^i \Xi_{0,t}(x^i)$.

The idea behind particle approximation for equation (1.2) is the following :

- given an initial condition $\mu_0(dx)$ with density $q_0(x)$, find an approximation $\mu_0^h(dx)$ in terms of a linear convex combination of Dirac masses,
- use the exact solution of equation (1.4) with the approximation $\mu_0^h(dx)$ as initial condition, as an approximation for the solution of the original equation (1.5), and get error estimate if possible.

This can be illustrated by the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 q_0(x) dx = \mu_0(dx) & \longrightarrow & \mu_0^h(dx) \\
 \downarrow Q_t & & \downarrow Q_t \\
 q_t(x) dx = \mu_t(dx) & \longrightarrow & \mu_t^h(dx)
 \end{array}$$

The remaining of this section is devoted to recalling standard results concerning stochastic flows of diffeomorphisms and stochastic PDE.

Proposition 1.1 *Let $n \geq 0$ be fixed. Assume that*

- b, σ and e have bounded derivatives up to order $(n + 1)$,
- c has bounded derivatives up to order n .

Then $\xi_{s,t}(\cdot)$ is a C^n -diffeomorphism in \mathbf{R}^m . In addition, the following estimates hold for all $p \geq 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sup_{x \in \mathbf{R}^m} \mathbf{E} \left[|D^\alpha \xi_{s,t}(x)|^p \right] &< \infty, & 1 \leq |\alpha| \leq n, \\
 \sup_{x \in \mathbf{R}^m} \mathbf{E} \left[|D^\alpha \Xi_{s,t}(x)|^p \right] &< \infty, & 0 \leq |\alpha| \leq n.
 \end{aligned}$$

Restricting to compact sets of \mathbf{R}^m , it is possible to invert the supremum and the mathematical expectation in the estimates above, see the Corollary 4.6.7 of Kunita [5]

Proposition 1.2 *Under the assumptions of the Proposition 1.1, there exists a constant $C > 0$, such that for any compact set $B \subset \mathbf{R}^m$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ the following uniform estimates hold for all $p \geq 1$*

$$\mathbf{E} \left[\sup_{x \in B} |D^\alpha \xi_{s,t}(x)|^p \right] \leq C [1 + \delta^{p-\varepsilon}] , \quad 1 \leq |\alpha| \leq n ,$$

$$\mathbf{E} \left[\sup_{x \in B} |D^\alpha \Xi_{s,t}(x)|^p \right] \leq C [1 + \delta^{p-\varepsilon}] , \quad 0 \leq |\alpha| \leq n ,$$

where $\delta = \delta(B)$ denotes the diameter of B .

For all $n \geq 0$, $p \geq 1$, let $W^{n,p} \equiv W^{n,p}(\mathbf{R}^m)$ denote the space of real-valued Lebesgue-measurable functions on \mathbf{R}^m whose generalized derivatives up to order n are integrable in p -mean, and define the corresponding norm $\|\cdot\|_{n,p}$ and semi-norm $|\cdot|_{n,p}$ by

$$\|u\|_{n,p}^p \triangleq \sum_{0 \leq |\alpha| \leq n} \int |D^\alpha u(x)|^p dx \quad \text{and} \quad |u|_{n,p}^p \triangleq \sum_{|\alpha|=n} \int |D^\alpha u(x)|^p dx ,$$

respectively.

Consider the following degenerate second order stochastic PDE

$$dq_t = L^* q_t dt + \sum_{k=1}^d B_k^* q_t dW_t^k , \quad q_0 = q . \quad (1.6)$$

Although no coercivity hypothesis is satisfied, the following existence, uniqueness and regularity result is proved in Krylov–Rozovskii [2].

Theorem 1.3 *Let $n \geq 1$ be fixed. Assume that*

- *a has bounded derivatives up to order $\max(n, 2)$,*
- *b, σ, c and e have bounded derivatives up to order n ,*
- *the initial condition satisfies $q_0 \in W^{n,p}$.*

Then equation (1.6) has a unique solution $q \in M^p(0, T; W^{n,p})$. In addition

$$q \in L^p(\Omega; C_w([0, T]; W^{n,p})),$$

and the following estimate holds

$$\mathbf{E} \left[\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \|q_t\|_{n,p}^p \right] \leq \|q_0\|_{n,p}^p e^{CT} .$$

2 Quadrature-based particle approximation

With the quadrature formula (A.1)

$$\int g(x) dx \sim \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i g(x^i) ,$$

is associated the following particle approximation for the initial density $q_0(x)$

$$q_0(x) dx = \mu_0(dx) \sim \mu_0^h(dx) = \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i q_0(x^i) \delta(x - x^i) . \quad (2.1)$$

This induces the following particle approximation for the solution $q_t(x)$ of equation (1.6)

$$q_t(x) dx = \mu_t(dx) \sim \mu_t^h(dx) = \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i \Xi_{0,t}(x^i) q_0(x^i) \delta(x - \xi_{0,t}(x^i)) .$$

The following error estimate holds in Sobolev space with negative exponent, which extends the result of Raviart to the case of first order stochastic PDE.

Theorem 2.1 *Let $n \geq m$ be fixed. Assume that*

- *b, σ, c and e have bounded derivatives up to order $(n + 1)$,*
- *the initial condition satisfies $q_0 \in W^{n,p}$.*

Then there exists a constant $C > 0$ independent of h , such that

$$\mathbf{E} \|\mu_t - \mu_t^h\|_{-n,p} \leq C h^n \|q_0\|_{n,p} .$$

PROOF. Let $\phi \in W^{n,p'}$ be an arbitrary test function. Since

$$\langle \mu_t, \phi \rangle = \int \phi(\xi_{0,t}(x)) \Xi_{0,t}(x) q_0(x) dx , \quad \langle \mu_t^h, \phi \rangle = \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i \phi(\xi_{0,t}(x^i)) \Xi_{0,t}(x^i) q_0(x^i) ,$$

it follows from Theorem A.2 that

$$|\langle \mu_t, \phi \rangle - \langle \mu_t^h, \phi \rangle| \leq C h^n |g|_{n,1} ,$$

with $g = \phi \circ \xi_{0,t} \cdot \Xi_{0,t} q_0$, provided $g \in W^{n,1}$, $n \geq m$.

Under the assumptions on the coefficients, $\phi \circ \xi_{0,t} \in W^{n,p'}$ and $\Xi_{0,t} \cdot q_0 \in W^{n,p}$, for conjugate p and p' . Moreover, the generalized Leibniz formula yields

$$|g|_{n,1} \leq \sum_{(\alpha,\beta) \in I_n} \int |\chi_{\alpha,\beta}(x) D^\alpha \phi(\xi_{0,t}(x)) D^\beta q_0(x)| dx ,$$

where I_n denotes the set of pairs (α, β) of multi-indices such that $|\alpha| + |\beta| \leq n$, and $\chi_{\alpha, \beta}(\cdot)$ are random fields involving the derivatives of $\xi_{0,t}(\cdot)$ and $\Xi_{0,t}(\cdot)$ up to order n . Using back and forth the changes of variable induced by the diffeomorphisms $\xi_{0,t}(\cdot)$ and $\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(\cdot)$, and the Hölder inequality, gives

$$\begin{aligned}
|g|_{n,1} &\leq \sum_{(\alpha, \beta) \in I_n} \int |\chi_{\alpha, \beta}(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(x)) D^\alpha \phi(x) D^\beta q_0(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(x))| [J_{0,t}(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(x))]^{-1} dx \\
&\leq \sum_{(\alpha, \beta) \in I_n} \left\{ \int |D^\alpha \phi(x)|^{p'} dx \right\}^{1/p'} \left\{ \int |\chi_{\alpha, \beta}(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(x)) D^\beta q_0(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(x))|^p \right. \\
&\quad \left. [J_{0,t}(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(x))]^{-p} dx \right\}^{1/p} \\
&\leq \|\phi\|_{n,p'} \sum_{(\alpha, \beta) \in I_n} \left\{ \int |\chi_{\alpha, \beta}(x) D^\beta q_0(x)|^p [J_{0,t}(x)]^{-(p-1)} dx \right\}^{1/p}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\frac{|\langle \mu_t, \phi \rangle - \langle \mu_t^h, \phi \rangle|}{\|\phi\|_{n,p'}} \leq C h^n \sum_{(\alpha, \beta) \in I_n} \left\{ \int |\chi_{\alpha, \beta}(x) D^\beta q_0(x)|^p [J_{0,t}(x)]^{-(p-1)} dx \right\}^{1/p},$$

and

$$\mathbf{E} \|\mu_t - \mu_t^h\|_{-n,p} \leq C h^n \sum_{(\alpha, \beta) \in I_n} \left\{ \mathbf{E} \left\{ |\chi_{\alpha, \beta}(x)|^p [J_{0,t}(x)]^{-(p-1)} \right. \right. \\
\left. \left. |D^\beta q_0(x)|^p dx \right\} \right\}^{1/p}.$$

From estimates in Proposition 1.1, it holds

$$\sup_{x \in \mathbf{R}^m} \mathbf{E} \left\{ |\chi_{\alpha, \beta}(x)|^p [J_{0,t}(x)]^{-(p-1)} \right\} < \infty,$$

so that

$$\mathbf{E} \|\mu_t - \mu_t^h\|_{-n,p} \leq C h^n \|q_0\|_{n,p}. \quad \square$$

Regularization

Let $\zeta(x)$ be a continuous cut-off function defined on \mathbf{R}^m , which satisfies

- (i) $\int \zeta(x) dx = 1$,
- (ii) $\int x^\alpha \zeta(x) dx = 0$, $1 \leq |\alpha| \leq k-1$,
- (iii) $\int |x|^k |\zeta(x)| dx < \infty$,

for some $k \geq 2$. For any $\varepsilon > 0$, $\zeta_\varepsilon(x)$ is defined by the following scaling

$$\zeta_\varepsilon(x) \triangleq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^m} \zeta\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right).$$

With the particle approximation

$$\mu_t^h(dx) = \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i \Xi_{0,t}(x^i) q_0(x^i) \delta(x - x_t^i),$$

is associated the regularized measure

$$\mu_t^{h,\varepsilon}(dx) = \mu_t^h * \zeta_\varepsilon(dx) = q_t^{h,\varepsilon}(x) dx,$$

where the density $q_t^{h,\varepsilon}(x)$ is given by

$$q_t^{h,\varepsilon}(x) = \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i \Xi_{0,t}(x^i) q_0(x^i) \zeta_\varepsilon(x - x_t^i).$$

The main result of this section is the following theorem, which is an extension of the Theorem 4.2 in [6], to the case of first order stochastic PDE.

Theorem 2.2 *Let $n > m$ be fixed. Assume that*

- *the cut-off function ζ satisfies (i)–(iii) for some $k \geq 2$, and $\zeta \in W^{n,1}$,*
- *b, σ, c and e have bounded derivatives up to order $(\ell + 1)$,*
- *the initial condition satisfies $q_0 \in W^{\ell,p}$,*

where $\ell = \max(k, n)$.

Then, there exists a constant C independent of both h and ε , such that

$$\{\mathbf{E}\|q_t - q_t^{h,\varepsilon}\|_{0,p}^p\}^{1/p} \leq C \left\{ \varepsilon^k \|q_0\|_{k,p} + (h/\varepsilon)^n \|q_0\|_{n,p} \right\}.$$

PROOF. Obviously

$$q_t - q_t^{h,\varepsilon} = [q_t - q_t * \zeta_\varepsilon] + [q_t * \zeta_\varepsilon - q_t^{h,\varepsilon}].$$

First, it follows from Lemma 4.4 in [6] that

$$\|q_t - q_t * \zeta_\varepsilon\|_{0,p} \leq C \varepsilon^k |q_t|_{k,p}$$

provided $q_t \in W^{k,p}$. Under the assumptions, Theorem 1.3 gives

$$\{\mathbf{E}\|q_t - q_t * \zeta_\varepsilon\|_{0,p}^p\}^{1/p} \leq C \varepsilon^k \{\mathbf{E}|q_t|_{k,p}^p\}^{1/p} \leq C \varepsilon^k \|q_0\|_{k,p}.$$

On the other hand, using the change of variable induced by the diffeomorphism $\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(\cdot)$, it holds for all $x \in \mathbf{R}^m$

$$q_t * \zeta_\varepsilon(x) - q_t^{h,\varepsilon}(x) = \int \Xi_{0,t}(z) q_0(z) \zeta_\varepsilon(x - \xi_{0,t}(z)) dz \\ - \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i \Xi_{0,t}(x^i) q_0(x^i) \zeta_\varepsilon(x - \xi_{0,t}(x^i)) = E(g(x, \cdot))$$

with $g(x, \cdot) = \Xi_{0,t} q_0 \cdot \zeta_\varepsilon(x - \xi_{0,t})$. Therefore, it follows from Theorem A.1 that for all $x \in \mathbf{R}^m$

$$|q_t * \zeta_\varepsilon(x) - q_t^{h,\varepsilon}(x)| \leq C h^n |g(x, \cdot)|_{n,1}$$

provided $g(x, \cdot) \in W^{n,1}$, $n \geq m$. Moreover, the generalized Leibniz formula yields

$$|g(x, \cdot)|_{n,1} \leq \sum_{(\alpha,\beta) \in I_n} \int |\chi'_{\alpha,\beta}(z) D^\beta q_0(z) D^\alpha \zeta_\varepsilon(x - \xi_{0,t}(z))| dx ,$$

where I_n denotes the set of pairs (α, β) of multi-indices such that $|\alpha| + |\beta| \leq n$, and $\chi'_{\alpha,\beta}(\cdot)$ are random fields involving the derivatives of $\xi_{0,t}(\cdot)$ and $\Xi_{0,t}(\cdot)$ up to order n . From the technical lemma below, it follows that

$$\int |g(x, \cdot)|_{n,1}^p dx \leq C \sum_{(\alpha,\beta) \in I_n} \left\{ \int |D^\alpha \zeta_\varepsilon(x)| dx \right\}^p \left\{ \int |\chi'_{\alpha,\beta}(x) D^\beta q_0(x)|^p [J_{0,t}(x)]^{-(p-1)} dx \right\} .$$

Making use of

$$D^\alpha \zeta_\varepsilon(x) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{m+|\alpha|}} D^\alpha \zeta\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) ,$$

taking mathematical expectation on both sides, and raising to the power $1/p$ gives

$$\left\{ \mathbf{E} \int |g(x, \cdot)|_{n,1}^p dx \right\}^{1/p} \leq C \frac{1}{\varepsilon^n} \|\zeta\|_{n,1} \sum_{(\alpha,\beta) \in I_n} \left\{ \int \mathbf{E} \left\{ |\chi'_{\alpha,\beta}(x)|^p [J_{0,t}(x)]^{-(p-1)} \right\} |D^\beta q_0(x)|^p dx \right\}^{1/p} .$$

From estimates in Proposition 1.1, it holds

$$\sup_{x \in \mathbf{R}^m} \mathbf{E} \left\{ |\chi'_{\alpha,\beta}(x)|^p [J_{0,t}(x)]^{-(p-1)} \right\} < \infty .$$

Therefore

$$\left\{ \mathbf{E} \|q_t * \zeta_\varepsilon - q_t^{h,\varepsilon}\|_{0,p}^p \right\}^{1/p} \leq C h^n \left\{ \mathbf{E} \int |g(x, \cdot)|_{n,1}^p dx \right\}^{1/p} \\ \leq C (h/\varepsilon)^n \|\zeta\|_{n,1} \|q_0\|_{n,p} . \quad \square$$

Lemma 2.3 *Let $f \in L^p$ and $g \in L^1$, and define*

$$I(x) = \int f(z) g(x - \xi_{0,t}(z)) dz .$$

Then $I \in L^p$ and in addition

$$\left\{ \int |I(x)|^p dx \right\}^{1/p} \leq \left\{ \int |f(x)|^p [J_{0,t}(x)]^{-(p-1)} dx \right\}^{1/p} \int |g(x)| dx .$$

PROOF. Using back and forth the changes of variable induced by the diffeomorphisms $\xi_{0,t}(\cdot)$ and $\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(\cdot)$, and the Lemma 4.3 in [6], gives

$$I(x) = \int f(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(z)) [J_{0,t}(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(z))]^{-1} g(x - z) dz ,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left\{ \int |I(x)|^p dx \right\}^{1/p} &\leq \left\{ \int |f(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(x))|^p [J_{0,t}(\xi_{0,t}^{-1}(x))]^{-p} dx \right\}^{1/p} \int |g(x)| dx \\ &\leq \left\{ \int |f(x)|^p [J_{0,t}(x)]^{-(p-1)} dx \right\}^{1/p} \int |g(x)| dx . \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

3 Adapted particle approximation

Consider the particle approximation (A.3) for the initial condition $\mu_0(dx)$

$$\mu_0(dx) \sim \mu_0^h(dx) = \sum_{i \in I} a^i \delta(x - x^i),$$

where the particle weights $\{a^i, i \in I\}$ and the particle locations $\{x^i, i \in I\}$ are defined in the following way

$$a^i \triangleq \mu_0(B^i) = \int_{B^i} \mu_0(dx), \quad x^i \triangleq \frac{1}{a^i} \int_{B^i} x \mu_0(dx),$$

depending on the measure $\mu_0(dx)$. This induces the following particle approximation for the solution $\mu_t(x)$ of equation (1.4)

$$\mu_t(dx) \sim \mu_t^h(dx) = \sum_{i \in I} a^i \Xi_{0,t}(x^i) \delta(x - \xi_{0,t}(x^i)).$$

Parallel to the Theorem 2.1 above, the following error estimate holds in Sobolev space with negative exponent.

Theorem 3.1 *Assume that*

- b, σ, c and e have bounded derivatives up to order 3,
- for all $i \in I$, the set $B^i \subset \mathbf{R}^m$ is compact.

Then there exists a constant $C > 0$, such that

$$\mathbf{E} \|\mu_t - \mu_t^h\|_{-2,1} \leq C \sum_{i \in I} \delta_i^2 a^i,$$

where $a^i = \mu_0(B^i)$ and $\delta_i = \delta(B^i)$ denotes the diameter of the set B^i .

PROOF. Let $\phi \in W^{2,\infty}$ be an arbitrary test function. Since

$$\langle \mu_t, \phi \rangle = \int \phi(\xi_{0,t}(x)) \Xi_{0,t}(x) \mu_0(dx), \quad \langle \mu_t^h, \phi \rangle = \sum_{i \in I} a^i \phi(\xi_{0,t}(x^i)) \Xi_{0,t}(x^i),$$

it follows from estimate (A.6) that

$$|\langle \mu_t, \phi \rangle - \langle \mu_t^h, \phi \rangle| \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} |g|_{2,\infty, \widehat{B}^i} \delta_i^2 a^i,$$

with $g = \phi \circ \xi_{0,t} \cdot \Xi_{0,t}$, where \widehat{B}^i denotes the *convex hull* of B^i . The generalized Leibniz formula yields

$$\begin{aligned} |g|_{2,\infty,B} &\leq \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2} \sup_{x \in B} |\chi_\alpha(x) D^\alpha \phi(\xi_{0,t}(x))| \\ &\leq \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2} \left[\sup_{x \in B} |\chi_\alpha(x)| \right] \left[\sup_{x \in \mathbf{R}^m} |D^\alpha \phi(x)| \right] \\ &\leq \|\phi\|_{2,\infty} \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2} \sup_{x \in B} |\chi_\alpha(x)|, \end{aligned}$$

where $\chi_\alpha(\cdot)$ are random fields involving the derivatives of $\xi_{0,t}(\cdot)$ and $\Xi_{0,t}(\cdot)$ up to order 2. Therefore

$$\frac{|\langle \mu_t, \phi \rangle - \langle \mu_t^h, \phi \rangle|}{\|\phi\|_{2,\infty}} \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2} \sup_{x \in \widehat{B}^i} |\chi_\alpha(x)| \delta_i^2 a^i,$$

and

$$\mathbf{E} \|\mu_t - \mu_t^h\|_{-2,1} \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2} \mathbf{E} \left[\sup_{x \in \widehat{B}^i} |\chi_\alpha(x)| \right] \delta_i^2 a^i.$$

From estimates in Proposition 1.2, it holds

$$\mathbf{E} \left[\sup_{x \in \widehat{B}^i} |\chi_\alpha(x)| \right] \leq C [1 + \delta_i^{2-\varepsilon}],$$

for some p , where $\delta_i = \delta(B^i)$ denotes the diameter of both B^i and its convex hull \widehat{B}^i , so that

$$\mathbf{E} \|\mu_t - \mu_t^h\|_{-2,1} \leq C \sum_{i \in I} [1 + \delta_i^{2-\varepsilon}] \delta_i^2 a^i. \quad \square$$

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A Particle approximation of functions

Consider the following quadrature formula on \mathbf{R}^m

$$\int g(x) dx \sim \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i g(x^i), \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where $\{x^i, i \in I\}$ is a coordinate grid of size $h > 0$, $I = \mathbf{Z}^m$ and $\omega^i = h^m$ is the Lebesgue measure of the m -dimensional cube B^i with center x^i and edge size h . For all $g \in C(\mathbf{R}^m)$, the quadrature error associated with the quadrature formula (A.1) is defined by

$$E_i(g) \triangleq \int_{B^i} g(x) dx - \omega^i g(x^i), \quad E(g) \triangleq \sum_{i \in I} E_i(g).$$

The following estimate is proved in Raviart [6]

Theorem A.1 *There is a constant $C > 0$ independent of h such that*

$$|E(g)| \leq C h^n |g|_{n,1},$$

for all $g \in W^{n,1}$, $n \geq m$.

Let $\mu(dx)$ be a probability measure on \mathbf{R}^m having a continuous density $q(x)$ with respect to the Lebesgue measure, i.e. $\mu(dx) = q(x) dx$. With the quadrature formula (A.1) is associated the following particle approximation for the density $q(x)$

$$q(x) dx = \mu(dx) \sim \mu^h(dx) = \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i q(x^i) \delta(x - x^i), \quad (\text{A.2})$$

so that, for any test function ϕ

$$\langle \mu, \phi \rangle = \int \phi(x) q(x) dx, \quad \langle \mu^h, \phi \rangle = \sum_{i \in I} \omega^i \phi(x^i) q(x^i).$$

The following result is proved in Raviart [6]

Theorem A.2 *There is a constant $C > 0$ independent of h such that*

$$\|\mu - \mu^h\|_{-n,p} \leq C h^n \|q\|_{n,p},$$

for all $q \in W^{n,p}$, $n \geq m$.

PROOF. From Theorem A.1, it holds

$$|\langle \mu, \phi \rangle - \langle \mu^h, \phi \rangle| = |E(g)| \leq C h^n |g|_{n,1},$$

with $g = \phi \cdot q$, provided $g \in W^{n,1}$, $n \geq m$. The generalized Leibniz formula and the Hölder inequality yield

$$|g|_{n,1} \leq C \|\phi\|_{n,p'} \|q\|_{n,p},$$

for conjugate p and p' , and therefore

$$\|\mu - \mu^h\|_{-n,p} = \sup_{\phi \in W^{n,p'}} \frac{|\langle \mu, \phi \rangle - \langle \mu^h, \phi \rangle|}{\|\phi\|_{n,p'}} \leq C h^n \|q\|_{n,p}. \quad \square$$

Another possible approximation is to consider a partition $\{B^i, i \in I\}$ of \mathbf{R}^m , and to define the following particle approximation for the probability measure $\mu(dx)$

$$\mu(dx) \sim \mu^h(dx) = \sum_{i \in I} a^i \delta(x - x^i), \quad (\text{A.3})$$

where the particle weights $\{a^i, i \in I\}$ and the particle locations $\{x^i, i \in I\}$ are defined in the following way

$$a^i \triangleq \mu(B^i) = \int_{B^i} \mu(dx), \quad x^i \triangleq \frac{1}{a^i} \int_{B^i} x \mu(dx), \quad (\text{A.4})$$

depending on the measure $\mu(dx)$ so that, for any test function ϕ

$$\langle \mu, \phi \rangle = \int \phi(x) \mu(dx), \quad \langle \mu^h, \phi \rangle = \sum_{i \in I} a^i \phi(x^i).$$

For all $\phi \in C(\mathbf{R}^m)$, the quadrature error associated with the formula (A.3), is defined by

$$E'_i(\phi) \triangleq \int_{B^i} \phi(x) \mu(dx) - a^i \phi(x^i), \quad E'(\phi) \triangleq \sum_{i \in I} E'_i(\phi).$$

Parallel to the Theorem A.2 above, the following result holds

Theorem A.3 *For any partition $\{B^i, i \in I\}$*

$$\|\mu - \mu^h\|_{-2,1} \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} \delta_i^2 a^i, \quad (\text{A.5})$$

where $a^i = \mu(B^i)$ and $\delta_i = \delta(B^i)$ denotes the diameter of the set B^i .

PROOF. Let $\phi \in W^{2,\infty}$ be an arbitrary test-function. Using Taylor expansion around the point $x = x^i$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(x) &= \phi(x^i) + (x - x^i)^* D\phi(x^i) \\ &\quad + (x - x^i)^* \left\{ \int_0^1 (1-u) D^2 \phi[ux + (1-u)x^i] du \right\} (x - x^i), \end{aligned}$$

and the definition (A.4) gives

$$E'_i(\phi) = \int_{B^i} (x - x^i)^* \left\{ \int_0^1 (1-u) D^2 \phi[ux + (1-u)x^i] du \right\} (x - x^i) dx .$$

Therefore

$$|E'_i(\phi)| \leq \frac{1}{2} |\phi|_{2,\infty,\widehat{B}^i} \int_{B^i} \|x - x^i\|^2 \mu(dx) \leq \frac{1}{2} |\phi|_{2,\infty,\widehat{B}^i} \delta_i^2 a^i ,$$

where \widehat{B}^i denotes the *convex hull* of B^i . Then

$$|\langle \mu, \phi \rangle - \langle \mu^h, \phi \rangle| = |E'(\phi)| \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} |\phi|_{2,\infty,\widehat{B}^i} \delta_i^2 a^i , \quad (\text{A.6})$$

and

$$\|\mu - \mu^h\|_{-2,1} = \sup_{\phi \in W^{2,\infty}} \frac{|\langle \mu, \phi \rangle - \langle \mu^h, \phi \rangle|}{\|\phi\|_{2,\infty}} \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in I} \delta_i^2 a^i . \quad \square$$

Remark A.4 If the partition $\{B_i, i \in I\}$ is given, with $\delta_i \leq Ch$ for all $i \in I$, then

$$\|\mu - \mu^h\|_{-2,1} \leq Ch^2 .$$

On the other hand, if the partition $\{B_i, i \in I\}$ has to be chosen so as to make the quadrature error as small as possible, then estimate (A.5) can be used to derive the following criterion

$$\delta_i^2 a^i = c \quad \text{for all } i \in I .$$

This criterion based on *equidistribution* of the local quadrature error, has the following interesting property

- a set with a **large mass**, will be split into some smaller subsets,
- conversely, neighbouring sets with small masses, will be packed together into one single set.

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