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Monge's problem with a quadratic cost by the zero-noise limit of *h*-pass processes

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Abstract

We study the asymptotic behavior, in the zero noise limit, of solutions to Schrödinger's functional equations and that of *h-pass* processes, and give a new proof of the existence of the minimizer of Monge's problem with a quadratic cost.

1 Introduction.

Let $L: \mathbf{R}^d \mapsto [0, \infty)$ be convex, P_0 and P_1 be Borel probability measures on \mathbf{R}^d , and put

$$V(P_0, P_1) := \inf \{ \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} L(\psi(X) - X) P_0(dx) : P_0(\psi(X) \in dx) = P_1(dx) \}.$$
 (1.1)

The study of the minimizer of (1.1) can be considered as a special case of Monge's problem.

Kantorovich's approach to Monge's problem is to study the minimizer of the following relaxed problem:

$$\tilde{V}(P_0, P_1) := \inf \{ \iint_{\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d} L(y - x) \mu(dxdy)
: \mu(dx \times \mathbf{R}^d) = P_0(dx), \mu(\mathbf{R}^d \times dy) = P_1(dy) \}.$$
(1.2)

If there exists a Borel measurable function ψ , on \mathbf{R}^d , such that the minimizer of (1.2) is $P_0(dx)\delta_{\psi(x)}(dy)$, then $V(P_0, P_1) = \tilde{V}(P_0, P_1)$ and ψ is a minimizer of (1.1).

This is called the Monge-Kantorovich problem and plays a crucial role in many fields and has been studied by many authors (see [8, 20, 25] and the references therein).

It is easy to see that the following holds:

$$\tilde{V}(P_0, P_1) = \inf \left\{ E \left[\int_0^1 L\left(\frac{d\phi(t)}{dt}\right) dt \right] \right\}, \tag{1.3}$$

where the infimum is taken over all absolutely continuous stochastic processes $\{\phi(t)\}_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$ for which $P(\phi(t) \in dx) = P_t(dx)$ (t = 0, 1). (In this paper we use the same notation P for different probability measures for the sake of simplicity when it is not confusing.) Indeed, the minimizer of (1.3) is linear in t (see e.g. [5], [10, p. 35]).

This implies that Monge's problem with a quadratic cost $L(u) = |u|^2$ should be the zero noise limit of *h*-pass processes (see [7, p. 566]), which enables us not to use Kantorovich's approach to study (1.1).

To make the point clearer, we introduce Schrödinger's functional equation and then describe the h-pass process briefly. For $\varepsilon > 0$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, put

$$g_{\varepsilon}(x) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\varepsilon^d}} \exp\left(-\frac{|x|^2}{2\varepsilon}\right),$$
 (1.4)

$$P_{1,\varepsilon}(dy) := \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^d} g_{\varepsilon}(z-y) P_1(dz)\right) dy. \tag{1.5}$$

The following is a special case of Schrödinger's functional equations: find nonnegative Borel measures $(\nu_{0,\varepsilon}, \nu_{1,\varepsilon})$ for which

$$P_{0}(dx) = \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}} g_{\varepsilon}(x-y)\nu_{1,\varepsilon}(dy)\right)\nu_{0,\varepsilon}(dx),$$

$$P_{1,\varepsilon}(dy) = \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}} g_{\varepsilon}(x-y)\nu_{0,\varepsilon}(dx)\right)\nu_{1,\varepsilon}(dy).$$

$$(1.6)$$

It is known that there exists a unique solution $(\nu_{0,\varepsilon}, \nu_{1,\varepsilon})$ to (1.6) (see [13], and also [22] for the recent development).

Let (Ω, \mathbf{B}, P) be a probability space, $\{\mathbf{B}_t\}_{t\geq 0}$ be a right continuous, increasing family of sub σ -fields of \mathbf{B} , X_o be a \mathbf{R}^d -valued, \mathbf{B}_0 -adapted random variable such that $P(X_o)^{-1} = P_0$, and $\{W(t)\}_{t\geq 0}$ denote a d-dimensional (\mathbf{B}_t) -Wiener process (see e.g. [7], [10] or [12]).

The *h*-pass process on [0,1] with an initial distribution P_0 and a terminal one $P_{1,\varepsilon}$, and with the diffusion matrix $\sqrt{\varepsilon} \times (\text{Identity matrix})$ is the unique weak solution to the following (see [14]): for $t \in [0,1]$,

$$X_{\varepsilon}(t) = X_o + \int_0^t b_{\varepsilon}(s, X_{\varepsilon}(s))ds + \sqrt{\varepsilon}W(t), \tag{1.7}$$

where

$$b_{\varepsilon}(s,x) := \varepsilon D_x \log \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^d} g_{\varepsilon(1-s)}(x-y) \nu_{1,\varepsilon}(dy) \right) \quad ((s,x) \in [0,1) \times \mathbf{R}^d). \tag{1.8}$$

Here $D_x := (\partial/\partial x_i)_{i=1}^d$.

It is known that

$$P((X_{\varepsilon}(0), X_{\varepsilon}(1)) \in dxdy) = \mu_{\varepsilon}(dxdy) := \nu_{0,\varepsilon}(dx)g_{\varepsilon}(x-y)\nu_{1,\varepsilon}(dy). \quad (1.9)$$

It is also known that the minimizer of the following is the h-pass process in (1.7) (see [11]):

$$V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_{1,\varepsilon}) := \inf \left\{ E\left[\int_0^1 |u(t)|^2 dt \right] \right\}, \tag{1.10}$$

where the infimum is taken over all \mathbf{R}^d -valued, (\mathbf{B}_t) -progressively measurable $\{u(t)\}_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$ for which the distribution of $X_o + \int_0^1 u(s)ds + \sqrt{\varepsilon}W(1)$ is $P_{1,\varepsilon}$, provided that the right hand side of (1.10) is finite.

It seems likely that the limit of h-path processes as $\varepsilon \to 0$ is the minimizer of (1.3) with $L(u) = |u|^2$. But it is not trivial that this limit is a function of t and X_o since a continuous strong Markov process which is of bounded variation in time is not always a function of the initial point and time (see [23] and also [19]). Therefore we prove that the limit of $X_{\varepsilon}(1)$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$ is a function of X_o .

If $P_0(dx)$ is absolutely continuous with respect to dx and $L(u) = |u|^2$, then (1.1) and (1.2) have the unique minimizers $D\varphi(x)$ and $P_0(dx)\delta_{D\varphi(x)}(dy)$ respectively, where $\varphi: \mathbf{R}^d \mapsto (-\infty, \infty]$ is convex (see [3, 4], and also [8, 15, 16, 20, 21, 25] and the reference therein, and also [18, 19] for the continuum limit of (1.3)).

In this paper, independently of known results on the Monge-Kantorovich problem, we show that $V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_{1,\varepsilon})$ converges to $V(P_0, P_1)$ and $X_{\varepsilon}(1)$ converges, in L^2 , to the minimizer of (1.1) as $\varepsilon \to 0$, when $L(u) = |u|^2$. As a by-product, we give a new proof of the existence of the minimizer of (1.1) with $L(u) = |u|^2$.

From a probabilistic interest, replacing $P_{1,\varepsilon}$ by P_1 in (1.6)-(1.10), we also show the similar result to above.

When L(u) = |u|, in [9] they studied (1.2) by the " $p \to \infty$ " limit of the minimization problem for which the Euler-Lagrange equation is the p-Laplacian PDE under the assumption that P_0 and P_1 have disjoint compact supports, and in [6] and [24] they studied (1.2) by the " $q \downarrow 1$ " limit of (1.2) with $L(u) = |u|^q$ under the assumption that P_0 and P_1 have compact supports (see also [1]).

In future we would like to study the zero noise limit of the minimizer of (1.10) with a more general cost function L(u), instead of $|u|^2$, and then apply the result to Monge's problem.

In section 2 we give our main result which will be proved in section 3.

2 Main Result.

In this section we give our main result. We first state assumptions. (A.0) P_0 and P_1 are Borel probability measures on \mathbf{R}^d such that the following holds:

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}^d} |x|^2 (P_0(dx) + P_1(dx)) < \infty.$$

(A.1) $p_0(x) := P_0(dx)/dx$ exists.

Then the following holds.

Theorem 2.1 Suppose that (A.0) holds. Then $\{\mu_{\varepsilon}\}_{{\varepsilon}>0}$ is tight, and any weak limit point of $\{\mu_{\varepsilon}\}_{{\varepsilon}>0}$ as ${\varepsilon}\to 0$ is supported on a cyclically monotone set.

For the readers' convenience, we introduce the following.

Definition 2.1 The set $A \in \mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d$ is called cyclically monotone if for any $n \geq 1$ and any $(x_i, y_i) \in A$ $(i = 1, \dots, n)$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle y_i, x_{i+1} - x_i \rangle \le 0 \tag{2.1}$$

(see e. g. [25, p. 80]), where $x_{n+1} := x_1$, and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the inner product in \mathbf{R}^d .

Since a cyclically monotone set in $\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d$ is contained in the subdifferential of a proper lower semicontinuous convex function on \mathbf{R}^d and since a proper convex function is differentiable dx-a.e. in the interior of its domain (see [25, pp. 52, 82]), we obtain the following.

Corollary 2.1 Suppose that (A.0) and (A.1) hold. Then for any weak limit point μ of $\{\mu_{\varepsilon}\}_{{\varepsilon}>0}$ as ${\varepsilon}\to 0$, there exists a proper lower semicontinuous convex function ${\varphi}: \mathbf{R}^d \mapsto (-\infty, \infty]$ such that

$$\mu(dxdy) = P_0(dx)\delta_{D\varphi(x)}(dy). \tag{2.2}$$

Remark 2.1 If (A.1) holds and $p_1(y) := P_1(dy)/dy$ exists, then Corollary 2.1 gives a new proof of the existence to the following Monge-Ampère equation:

$$p_0(x) = p_1(D\varphi(x))\det(D^2\varphi(x)) \tag{2.3}$$

in the sense that $P_0(D\varphi)^{-1} = P_1$, where $D^2 := (\partial^2/\partial x_i \partial x_j)_{i,j=1}^d$.

The following which can be proved from Theorem 2.1 and Corollary 2.1, independently of known results on the Monge-Kantorovich problem [1, 3, 4, 15, 16, 21], is our main result.

Theorem 2.2 Suppose that (A.0) and (A.1) hold, and that $L(u) = |u|^2$. Then

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_{1,\varepsilon}) = V(P_0, P_1) < \infty. \tag{2.4}$$

In particular, $D\varphi$ in Corollary 2.1 is the unique minimizer of (1.1), and the following holds:

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} E\left[\int_0^1 |b_{\varepsilon}(t, X_{\varepsilon}(t)) - (D\varphi(X_o) - X_o)|^2 dt\right] = 0, \tag{2.5}$$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} E[\sup_{0 < t < 1} |X_{\varepsilon}(t) - \{X_o + t(D\varphi(X_o) - X_o)\}|^2] = 0.$$
 (2.6)

The following is known on (1.1)-(1.3) with $L(u) = |u|^2$.

- (i) Suppose that (A.0) holds. Then a probability measure supported on a cyclically monotone set in $\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d$ is a minimizer of (1.2) (see [15, 16] and also [25, pp. 66, 82], [1, Theorem 3.2]).
- (ii) Suppose that (A.0) and (A.1) hold. Then there exists a convex function φ such that $P_0(dx)\delta_{D\varphi(x)}(dy)$ is the unique minimizer of (1.2) (see [3, 4]).

Using these facts, we have the following.

Corollary 2. 2 (i) Suppose that (A.0) holds and that $L(u) = |u|^2$. Then any weak limit point of $\{\mu_{\varepsilon}\}_{{\varepsilon}>0}$ as ${\varepsilon}\to 0$ is a minimizer of (1.2). (ii) Suppose in addition that (A.1) holds. Then μ_{ε} weakly converges to the unique minimizer of (1.2) as ${\varepsilon}\to 0$, and $X_o+t(D\varphi(X_o)-X_o)$ in (2.6) is the unique minimizer of (1.3).

To replace a terminal distribution $P_{1,\varepsilon}$ by P_1 in Theorems 2.1-2.2, we need extra assumptions.

(A.2) $p_1(x) := P_1(dx)/dx$ exists. (A.3)

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}^d} \log \left(\frac{P_1(dx)}{dx} \right) P_1(dx) < \infty.$$

Repalce $P_{1,\varepsilon}$ by P_1 in (1.6)-(1.7). Then there exists the unique solution $\tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(t)$ to (1.7) from (A.2), and $V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_1)$ is finite from (A.3) (see Lemma 3.4). Besides, the following holds.

Proposition 2.1 Suppose that (A.0)-(A.3) hold, and replace X_{ε} by \tilde{X}_{ε} in (2.6). Then (2.6) still holds.

3 Proof.

In this section we prove our results stated in section 2.

We first state and prove technical lemmas to prove Theorem 2.1. For x, $y \in \mathbf{R}^d$, $m \ge 1$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, put

$$H_{m,\varepsilon}(x,y) := \varepsilon \log \left\{ \iint_{U_m(o) \times U_m(o)} \exp \left(\frac{\langle x, z_2 \rangle + \langle y, z_1 \rangle}{\varepsilon} \right) - \frac{\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle}{\varepsilon} \mu_{\varepsilon}(dz_1 dz_2) \right\},$$
(3.1)

$$H_{i,m,\varepsilon}(x) := \varepsilon \log \left(\int_{U_m(\varrho)} g_{\varepsilon}(x - y) \nu_{j,\varepsilon}(dy) \right) + \frac{|x|^2}{2} \quad (i, j = 0, 1, \ i \neq j), \ (3.2)$$

$$\mu_{0,m,\varepsilon}(dx) := \mu_{\varepsilon}(dx \times U_m(o)), \quad \mu_{1,m,\varepsilon}(dy) := \mu_{\varepsilon}(U_m(o) \times dy),$$
 (3.3)

where $U_m(o) := \{x \in \mathbf{R}^d : |x| < m\}$. Then the following holds.

Lemma 3.1 (i) For $x, y \in \mathbf{R}^d$, $m \ge 1$ and $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$H_{m,\varepsilon}(x,y) = H_{0,m,\varepsilon}(x) + H_{1,m,\varepsilon}(y) + \varepsilon \log \sqrt{2\pi\varepsilon}^{d}$$

$$= \varepsilon \log \left\{ \iint_{U_{m}(o) \times U_{m}(o)} \exp\left(\frac{\langle x, z_{2} \rangle + \langle y, z_{1} \rangle}{\varepsilon}\right) - \frac{H_{m,\varepsilon}(z_{1}, z_{2})}{\varepsilon} \right\} \mu_{0,m,\varepsilon}(dz_{1}) \mu_{1,m,\varepsilon}(dz_{2}) \right\},$$
(3.4)

$$\mu_{\varepsilon}(dxdy) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}(\langle x, y \rangle - H_{m,\varepsilon}(x, y))\right) \mu_{0,m,\varepsilon}(dx) \mu_{1,m,\varepsilon}(dy), \qquad (3.5)$$

provided that $\mu_{\varepsilon}(U_m(o) \times U_m(o)) > 0$.

(ii) For $m \geq 1$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, $(x, y) \mapsto H_{m,\varepsilon}(x, y)$ is convex, and for any x and $y \in \mathbf{R}^d$,

$$|H_{m,\varepsilon}(x,y)| \le (|x| + |y|)m + m^2 - \varepsilon \log \mu_{\varepsilon}(U_m(o) \times U_m(o)).$$
 (3.6)

Proof. The first equality in (3.4) and (3.6) can be obtained from (3.1)-(3.2) easily. (3.5) holds from (1.9), the first equality in (3.4) and the following: for i, j = 0, 1 for which $i \neq j$,

$$\frac{\mu_{i,m,\varepsilon}(dx)}{\nu_{i,\varepsilon}(dx)} = \int_{U_m(o)} g_{\varepsilon}(x-y)\nu_{j,\varepsilon}(dy) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\left(H_{i,m,\varepsilon}(x) - \frac{|x|^2}{2}\right)\right). \tag{3.7}$$

The second equality in (3.4) can be obtained from (3.1) and (3.5).

Q. E. D.

Remark 3.1 For $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $m \ge 1$, $\varepsilon > 0$, and i, j = 0, 1 $(i \ne j)$,

$$H_{i,m,\varepsilon}(x) = \varepsilon \log \left(\int_{U_m(o)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\varepsilon}^d} \exp \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} (\langle x, y \rangle - H_{j,m,\varepsilon}(y)) \right) \mu_{j,m,\varepsilon}(dy) \right)$$

from (3.2) and (3.7).

Lemma 3. 2 Suppose that (A.0) holds. Then for any sequence $\{\varepsilon_n\}_{n\geq 1}$ for which $\varepsilon_n \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$, there exist $m_0 \geq 1$ and subsequences $\{\{\varepsilon_{m,n}\}_{n\geq 1}\}_{m\geq m_0}$ such that $H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}$ is convergent in $C(\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d)$ as $n \to \infty$ for all $m \geq m_0$, and such that

$$\{\varepsilon_{m+1,n}\}_{n\geq 1}\subset \{\varepsilon_{m,n}\}_{n\geq 1}\quad (m\geq m_0).$$
 (3.8)

In particular, $m \mapsto H_m := \lim_{n \to \infty} H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}$ is nondecreasing on $\{m_0, m_0 + 1, \cdots\}$,

$$(x,y) \mapsto H(x,y) := \lim_{m \to \infty} H_m(x,y) \in (-\infty, \infty]$$
 (3.9)

is a lower semicontinuous convex function,

$$< x, y > -H(x, y) \le 0 \quad ((x, y) \in supp(P_0) \times supp(P_1)),$$
 (3.10)

and the following set is cyclically monotone:

$$S := \{(x, y) \in supp(P_0) \times supp(P_1) | \langle x, y \rangle = H(x, y)\}. \tag{3.11}$$

Proof. There exist $m_0 \ge 1$ such that for any $m \ge m_0$, $\{H_{m,\varepsilon_n}\}_{n\ge 1}$ is bounded in $U_{\ell+1}(o) \times U_{\ell+1}(o)$ for any $\ell \ge 1$ from (3.6) and from the following:

$$1 - \mu_{\varepsilon}(U_{m}(o) \times U_{m}(o))$$

$$\leq \frac{\iint_{\mathbf{R}^{d} \times \mathbf{R}^{d}}(|x|^{2} + |y|^{2})\mu_{\varepsilon}(dxdy)}{m^{2}} = \frac{\int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}}|x|^{2}P_{0}(dx) + \int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}}|y|^{2}P_{1,\varepsilon}(dy)}{m^{2}}$$

$$= \frac{\int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}}|x|^{2}P_{0}(dx) + \iint_{\mathbf{R}^{d} \times \mathbf{R}^{d}}|x + y|^{2}g_{\varepsilon}(x)dxP_{1}(dy)}{m^{2}}$$

$$\leq \frac{\int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}}|x|^{2}P_{0}(dx) + 2(\varepsilon d + \int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}}|y|^{2}P_{1}(dy))}{m^{2}} \to 0 \quad (\text{as } m \to \infty \text{ from (A.0)}).$$

Hence for any $m \geq m_0$, $\{H_{m,\varepsilon_n}\}_{n\geq 1}$ contains a uniformly convergent subsequence on $U_{\ell}(o) \times U_{\ell}(o)$ (see [2, p. 21, Theorem 3.2]). By the diagonal argument, $\{H_{m,\varepsilon_n}\}_{n\geq 1}$ contains a convergent subsequence $\{H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}\}_{n\geq 1}$ in $C(\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d)$. In particular, we can take $\{\varepsilon_{m,n}\}_{n\geq 1}$ so that (3.8) holds.

 $m \mapsto H_m$ is nondecreasing on $\{m_0, m_0 + 1, \cdots\}$ since

$$H_{m+1,\varepsilon_{m+1,n}} \ge H_{m,\varepsilon_{m+1,n}}$$

for all $m \geq m_0$ from (3.1), and since $H_{m,\varepsilon_{m+1,n}} \to H_m$ as $n \to \infty$ from (3.8). Hence for any $(x,y) \in \mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d$, $H_m(x,y)$ is convergent or diverges to ∞ as $m \to \infty$.

As the limit of convex functions, H in (3.9) is convex in $\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d$. H is also lower semicontinuous. Indeed, if $(x_n, y_n) \to (x, y)$ as $n \to \infty$, then

$$H(x_n, y_n) \ge H_m(x_n, y_n) \rightarrow H_m(x, y)$$
 (as $n \to \infty$, for all $m \ge m_0$)
 $\to H(x, y)$ (as $m \to \infty$)

since $H_m \in C(\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d)$ as a finite convex function (see (3.6)).

For any $(x, y) \in \operatorname{supp}(P_0) \times \operatorname{supp}(P_1)$, r > 0, $m \ge r + |x| + |y| + m_0$ and $n \ge 1$, from the second equality of (3.4),

$$H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}(x,y)$$

$$\geq \inf_{(z_{1},z_{2})\in U_{r}(x)\times U_{r}(y)} \{\langle x,z_{2}\rangle + \langle y,z_{1}\rangle - H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}(z_{1},z_{2})\}$$

$$+\varepsilon \log\{\mu_{0,m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}(U_{r}(x))\mu_{1,m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}(U_{r}(y))\}.$$
(3.13)

Since $H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}$ converges to H_m as $n \to \infty$, uniformly on every compact subset of $\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d$,

$$\inf_{\substack{(z_1, z_2) \in U_r(x) \times U_r(y)}} (\langle x, z_2 \rangle + \langle y, z_1 \rangle - H_{m, \varepsilon_{m,n}}(z_1, z_2))$$

$$\to \inf_{\substack{(z_1, z_2) \in U_r(x) \times U_r(y)}} (\langle x, z_2 \rangle + \langle y, z_1 \rangle - H_m(z_1, z_2))$$
 (as $n \to \infty$)
$$\to 2 \langle x, y \rangle - H_m(x, y)$$
 (as $r \to 0$)
$$\to 2 \langle x, y \rangle - H(x, y)$$
 (as $m \to \infty$).

From (A.0), for sufficiently large $m \geq 1$,

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \to 0} \{ \mu_{0,m,\varepsilon}(U_r(x)) \mu_{1,m,\varepsilon}(U_r(y)) \} > 0.$$
 (3.15)

Indeed,

$$\mu_{0,m,\varepsilon}(U_r(x))\mu_{1,m,\varepsilon}(U_r(y)) = \{P_0(U_r(x)) - \mu_{\varepsilon}(U_r(x) \times U_m(o)^c)\}\{P_{1,\varepsilon}(U_r(y)) - \mu_{\varepsilon}(U_m(o)^c \times U_r(y))\}.$$

$$\mu_{\varepsilon}(U_r(x) \times U_m(o)^c) \le \frac{1}{m^2} \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} |z|^2 P_{1,\varepsilon}(dz) \le \frac{2(\varepsilon + \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} |z|^2 P_1(dz))}{m^2}$$

as in (3.12), and

$$\mu_{\varepsilon}(U_m(o)^c \times U_r(y)) \le \frac{1}{m^2} \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} |z|^2 P_0(dz).$$

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \to 0} P_{1,\varepsilon}(U_r(y)) \ge P_1(U_r(y))$$

since $P_{1,\varepsilon}$ weakly converges to P_1 as $\varepsilon \to 0$, and

$$(P_0 \times P_1)(U_r(x) \times U_r(y)) > 0.$$

(3.13)-(3.15) implies (3.10).

The set S is cyclically monotone. Indeed, for any $k, n \ge 1, (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_k, y_k) \in S$ and $m \ge m_0$, putting $x_{k+1} := x_1$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} (H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}(x_{i+1}, y_i) - H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}(x_i, y_i)) = 0$$
(3.16)

from the first equality of (3.4). Let $n \to \infty$ and then $m \to \infty$. Then from (3.10),

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} \langle y_i, x_{i+1} - x_i \rangle \leq \sum_{i=1}^{k} (H(x_{i+1}, y_i) - H(x_i, y_i)) = 0.$$
 (3.17)

(Notice that $H(x_i, y_i)$ is finite for all $i = 1, \dots, k$.)

Q. E. D.

Remark 3.2 If H(x,y) and H(a,b) are finite, then H(x,b) and H(a,y) are also finite since for sufficiently large $m \ge 1$, from (3.9) and (3.16),

$$-\infty < H_m(x,b) + H_m(a,y) \le H(x,b) + H(a,y) = H(x,y) + H(a,b) < \infty.$$

In particular,

$$H(x, y) = H(x, b) + H(a, y) - H(a, b).$$

(Proof of Theorem 2.1.) $\{\mu_{\varepsilon}\}_{{\varepsilon}>0}$ is tight from (3.12) (see e.g. [12, p. 7]). Take a weakly convergent subsequence $\{\mu_{\varepsilon_n}\}_{n\geq 1}$ and denote by μ its weak limit, where $\varepsilon_n\to 0$ as $n\to\infty$.

By taking $m_0 \ge 1$ and subsequences $\{\varepsilon_{m,n}\}_{n\ge 1}$ $(m \ge m_0)$, construct a convex function H as in Lemma 3.2.

From (3.10)-(3.11), we only have to show the following to complete the proof:

$$\mu(\{(x,y)| < x, y > -H(x,y) < 0\}) = 0. \tag{3.18}$$

By the monotone convergence theorem and Lemma 3.2,

$$\mu(\{(x,y)| < x, y > -H(x,y) < 0\})$$

$$= \lim_{r \downarrow 0} (\lim_{m \uparrow \infty} \mu(\{(x,y)| < x, y > -H_m(x,y) < -r\})).$$
(3.19)

For any $m \geq m_0$, $H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}$ converges to H_m as $n \to \infty$, uniformly on every compact subset of $\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d$. Therefore for any R > 0,

$$\mu(\{(x,y)| < x, y > -H_m(x,y) < -r, |x|, |y| < R\})$$

$$\leq \liminf_{n \to \infty} \mu_{\varepsilon_{m,n}}(\{(x,y)| < x, y > -H_m(x,y) < -r, |x|, |y| < R\})$$

$$\leq \liminf_{n \to \infty} \mu_{\varepsilon_{m,n}}(\{(x,y)| < x, y > -H_{m,\varepsilon_{m,n}}(x,y) < -r/2, |x|, |y| < R\})$$

$$\leq \liminf_{n \to \infty} \exp\left(-\frac{r}{2\varepsilon_{m,n}}\right) = 0 \quad \text{(from (3.5))}.$$

Notice that the set $\{(x,y)| < x, y > -H_m(x,y) < -r, |x|, |y| < R\}$ is open since $H_m \in C(\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d)$ from Lemma 3.1, (ii).

Letting $R \to \infty$ in (3.20), we obtain (3.18) from (3.19).

Q. E. D.

Next we prove Theorem 2.2.

(Proof of Theorem 2.2). The proof of (2.4) is devided into the following:

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \to 0} V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_{1,\varepsilon}) \ge V(P_0, P_1), \tag{3.21}$$

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \sup_{\varepsilon \to 0} V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_{1,\varepsilon}) \le V(P_0, P_1) < \infty.$$
(3.22)

To prove (3.21), we only have to show that for any $\{\varepsilon_n\}_{n\geq 1}$ for which $\varepsilon_n \to 0$ and $E[\int_0^1 |b_{\varepsilon_n}(s, X_{\varepsilon_n}(s))|^2 ds]$ is convergent as $n \to \infty$,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} E\left[\int_0^1 |b_{\varepsilon_n}(s, X_{\varepsilon_n}(s))|^2 ds\right] \ge V(P_0, P_1)$$
(3.23)

(see (1.7) for notation). (3.23) holds since $\{X_{\varepsilon_n}(\cdot)\}_{n\geq 1}$ is tight in C([0,1]), any weak limit point $X(\cdot)$ of $\{X_{\varepsilon_n}(\cdot)\}_{n\geq 1}$ is an absolutely continuous stochastic process (see e.g. [19, Lemmas 2-3]), and

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} E[\int_0^1 |b_{\varepsilon_n}(s, X_{\varepsilon_n}(s))|^2 ds]$$

$$\geq E[\int_0^1 \left| \frac{dX(s)}{ds} \right|^2 ds] \geq E[|X(1) - X(0)|^2] \geq V(P_0, P_1)$$
(3.24)

from (1.9) and (2.2) (see e.g. [19, the proof of (3.17)]).

Next we prove (3.22). Take ψ for which $P_0\psi^{-1}=P_1$, which is possible from (2.2). Then from (A.0),

$$V(P_0, P_1) \le E[|\psi(X_o) - X_o|^2] \le 2 \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} |x|^2 (P_0(dx) + P_1(dx)) < \infty. \quad (3.25)$$

Put

$$X_{\varepsilon,\psi}(t) := X_o + t(\psi(X_o) - X_o) + \sqrt{\varepsilon}W(t). \tag{3.26}$$

Then $P(X_{\varepsilon,\psi}(1))^{-1} = P_{1,\varepsilon}$, which implies (3.22).

By (2.2), (2.4) and (3.24), $D\varphi$ in Corollary 2.1 is a minimizer of (1.1) with $L(u) = |u|^2$. In particular, $D\varphi$ is the unique minimizer. Indeed, if ψ is a minimizer of (1.1) with $L(u) = |u|^2$, then

$$E[\langle X_o, \psi(X_o) \rangle] = E[\langle X_o, D\varphi(X_o) \rangle]$$

= $E[\varphi(X_o) + \varphi^*(D\varphi(X_o))] = E[\varphi(X_o) + \varphi^*(\psi(X_o))],$

which implies that $\psi(X_o) \in \partial \varphi(X_o)$ a.s., where

$$\varphi^*(y) := \sup_{x \in \mathbf{R}^d} \{ \langle x, y \rangle - \varphi(x) \},$$

$$\partial \varphi(x) := \{ p \in \mathbf{R}^d | \varphi(y) \ge \varphi(x) + \langle p, y - x \rangle \text{ for all } y \in \mathbf{R}^d \}.$$

Here we used the fact that for any $(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^d \times \mathbf{R}^d$,

$$\langle x, y \rangle \leq \varphi(x) + \varphi^*(y),$$

where the equality holds if and only if $y \in \partial \varphi(x)$ (see e.g. [25]). From (A.1), $\psi(X_o) = D\varphi(X_o)$ a.s. since a proper convex function is differentiable dx-a.e. in the interior of its domain (see [25, pp. 52]).

(2.5)-(2.6) is an easy consequence of (2.4). For $t \in [0,1]$,

$$|X_{\varepsilon}(t) - \{X_o + t(D\varphi(X_o) - X_o)\}|$$

$$\leq \int_0^1 |b_{\varepsilon}(s, X_{\varepsilon}(s)) - (D\varphi(X_o) - X_o)|ds + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} |W(t)|.$$
(3.27)

$$E[\sup_{0 < t < 1} |W(t)|^2] \le 4d \tag{3.28}$$

(see e.g. [12, p. 34]), and from (2.4),

$$E\left[\int_{0}^{1} |b_{\varepsilon}(s, X_{\varepsilon}(s)) - (D\varphi(X_{o}) - X_{o})|^{2} ds\right]$$

$$= E\left[\int_{0}^{1} |b_{\varepsilon}(s, X_{\varepsilon}(s))|^{2} ds + |D\varphi(X_{o}) - X_{o}|^{2}\right]$$

$$-2E\left[\langle X_{\varepsilon}(1) - X_{o} - \sqrt{\varepsilon}W(1), D\varphi(X_{o}) - X_{o} \rangle\right]$$

$$\to 2V(P_{0}, P_{1}) - 2E\left[\langle D\varphi(X_{o}) - X_{o}, D\varphi(X_{o}) - X_{o} \rangle\right] = 0 \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \to 0.$$
(3.29)

Indeed,

$$E[\langle W(1), D\varphi(X_o) - X_o \rangle] = \langle E[W(1)], E[D\varphi(X_o) - X_o] \rangle = 0.$$

For any R > 0, taking $f_R \in C(\mathbf{R}^d : [0,1])$ for which $f_R(x) = 1$ $(|x| \le R)$ and $f_R(x) = 0$ $(|x| \ge R + 1)$,

$$E[\langle X_{\varepsilon}(1), D\varphi(X_{o}) - X_{o} \rangle]$$

$$= E[\langle X_{\varepsilon}(1), D\varphi(X_{o}) - X_{o} \rangle (1 - f_{R}(X_{\varepsilon}(1))f_{R}(X_{o}))]$$

$$+ E[\langle X_{\varepsilon}(1), D\varphi(X_{\varepsilon}(0)) - X_{\varepsilon}(0) \rangle f_{R}(X_{\varepsilon}(1))f_{R}(X_{\varepsilon}(0))].$$

$$E[|\langle X_{\varepsilon}(1), D\varphi(X_o) - X_o \rangle | (1 - f_R(X_{\varepsilon}(1)) f_R(X_o))]$$

$$\leq \sqrt{E[|D\varphi(X_o) - X_o|^2] E[|X_{\varepsilon}(1)|^2 : |X_{\varepsilon}(1)| \geq R]}$$

$$+ \sqrt{E[|X_{\varepsilon}(1)|^2] E[|D\varphi(X_o) - X_o|^2 : |X_o| \geq R]} \to 0 \quad \text{as } R \to 0$$

uniformly in $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$. Since $(X_{\varepsilon}(0), X_{\varepsilon}(1))$ weakly converges to $(X_o, D\varphi(X_o))$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$ by the uniqueness of the minimizer of $V(P_0, P_1)$, one can assume, by taking a new probability space $(\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{\mathbf{B}}, \tilde{P})$, that $(X_{\varepsilon}(0), X_{\varepsilon}(1))$ converges to $(X_o, D\varphi(X_o))$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$, \tilde{P} -a.s., by Skhorohod's theorem (see e.g. [12, p. 9]). Put

$$A := \{ y \in \mathbf{R}^d | \varphi(y) < \infty, \partial \varphi(y) = \{ D\varphi(y) \} \}.$$

Then $X_o \in A$ a.s. from (A.1) and $\bigcap_{r>0} \partial \varphi(U_r(x)) = \{D\varphi(x)\}$ for any $x \in A$ (see [25, p. 54]), from which the following holds:

$$E[\langle X_{\varepsilon}(1), D\varphi(X_{\varepsilon}(0)) - X_{\varepsilon}(0) \rangle f_{R}(X_{\varepsilon}(1)) f_{R}(X_{\varepsilon}(0))]$$

$$= \tilde{E}[\langle X_{\varepsilon}(1), D\varphi(X_{\varepsilon}(0)) - X_{\varepsilon}(0) \rangle f_{R}(X_{\varepsilon}(1)) f_{R}(X_{\varepsilon}(0)) : X_{o} \in A]$$

$$\to \tilde{E}[\langle D\varphi(X_{o}), D\varphi(X_{o}) - X_{o} \rangle f_{R}(D\varphi(X_{o})) f_{R}(X_{o}) : X_{o} \in A]$$

$$(\text{as } \varepsilon \to 0)$$

$$\to E[\langle D\varphi(X_{o}), D\varphi(X_{o}) - X_{o} \rangle] \quad (\text{as } R \to \infty).$$

(3.27)-(3.29) implies (2.5)-(2.6).

Q. E. D.

We give technical lemmas and then prove Proposition 2.1.

Lemma 3.3 (see [17, Lemma 2.5]). Suppose that (A.2) holds and replace $P_{1,\varepsilon}$ by P_1 in (1.6). Then for any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_1) = 2\varepsilon E \left[\log \frac{h_{\varepsilon}(1, \tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(1))}{h_{\varepsilon}(0, \tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(0))} \right], \tag{3.30}$$

where \tilde{X}_{ε} is the unique weak solution to (1.7),

$$h_{\varepsilon}(t,x) := \int_{\mathbf{P}_d} g_{\varepsilon(1-t)}(x-y) \tilde{\nu}_{1,\varepsilon}(dy),$$

and $(\tilde{\nu}_{0,\varepsilon}, \tilde{\nu}_{1,\varepsilon})$ is a solution to (1.6). $V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_1)$ is also the infimum of

$$\int_{0}^{1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}} |b(t,x)|^{2} q(t,x) dt dx \tag{3.31}$$

over all (b, q) for which

$$q(t,x) \ge 0$$
 $dx - a.e., \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} q(t,x)dx = 1$ for all $t \in [0,1],$ (3.32)

$$q(0,x)dx = P_0(dx), \quad q(1,x)dx = P_1(dx),$$
 (3.33)

and for which the following holds: for any $f \in C_o^{\infty}(\mathbf{R}^d)$ and any $t \in [0,1]$,

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}} f(x)(q(t,x) - q(0,x))dx \qquad (3.34)$$

$$= \int_{0}^{t} ds \int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}} \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \triangle f(x) + \langle b(t,x), Df(x) \rangle\right) q(s,x)dx,$$

where $\triangle := \sum_{i=1}^{d} \partial^2 / \partial x_i^2$.

Remark 3. 3 Suppose that (A.1) and (A.2) hold and that $supp(P_0) \cup supp(P_1)$ is bounded. Then it is known that $\tilde{V}(P_0, P_1)$ is the infimum of (3.31) over all (b,q) for which (3.32)-(3.34) hold for $\varepsilon = 0$ and for which $\bigcup_{0 \le t \le 1} supp(q(t,\cdot))$ is bounded (see [5] or [25, p. 239]).

Lemma 3.4 Suppose that (A.0), (A.2) and (A.3) hold. Then for any $\varepsilon > 0$, $V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_1)$ is finite. In particular, $V_1(P_{1,1}, P_1)$ is finite.

Proof. Put $\tilde{\mu}_{\varepsilon}(dxdy) := \tilde{\nu}_{0,\varepsilon}(dx)g_{\varepsilon}(x-y)\tilde{\nu}_{1,\varepsilon}(dy)$ (see (3.30) for notation). Replace μ_{ε} by $\tilde{\mu}_{\varepsilon}$ in (3.1) and denote by $\tilde{H}_{m,\varepsilon}$ a function obtained from (3.1). Then, from (3.4), (3.7) and (3.30),

$$V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_1) = E[|\tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(0)|^2 + |\tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(1)|^2 - 2\tilde{H}_{\infty, \varepsilon}(\tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(0), \tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(1))] + 2\varepsilon \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} \log\left(\frac{dP_1}{dx}\right) P_1(dx) + 2\varepsilon \log \sqrt{2\pi\varepsilon}^d.$$
(3.35)

From (3.1), (3.6), (3.12) and (A.0), for sufficiently large $m \ge 1$,

$$E[\tilde{H}_{\infty,\varepsilon}(\tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(0), \tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(1))] \ge E[\tilde{H}_{m,\varepsilon}(\tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(0), \tilde{X}_{\varepsilon}(1))] > -\infty.$$
(3.36)
$$Q. E. D.$$

(Proof of Proposition 2.1). Most part of the proof is almost the same as that of Theorem 2.2. The only thing we have to prove is the following:

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \to 0} V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_1) \le V(P_0, P_1). \tag{3.37}$$

Take ψ for which $P_0\psi^{-1}=P_1$, which is possible from (2.2). For $r\in(0,1/2)$, solve Schrödinger's functional equation:

$$P_{1,\varepsilon(1-r)}(dx) = \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^d} g_{\varepsilon r}(x-y)\nu_{1,r,\varepsilon}(dy)\right)\nu_{0,r,\varepsilon}(dx), \qquad (3.38)$$

$$P_1(dy) = \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^d} g_{\varepsilon r}(x-y)\nu_{0,r,\varepsilon}(dx)\right)\nu_{1,r,\varepsilon}(dy).$$

For $t \in [0, 1 - r]$, put

$$X_{r,\varepsilon}(t) := X_o + t \frac{\psi(X_o) - X_o}{1 - r} + \sqrt{\varepsilon} W(t), \qquad (3.39)$$

and solve the following: for $t \in [1 - r, 1]$

$$X_{r,\varepsilon}(t) = X_{r,\varepsilon}(1-r) + \int_{1-r}^{t} b_{r,\varepsilon}(s, X_{r,\varepsilon}(s))ds + \sqrt{\varepsilon}(W(t) - W(1-r)), \quad (3.40)$$

where

$$b_{r,\varepsilon}(s,x) := D_x \log \left(\int_{\mathbf{R}^d} g_{\varepsilon(1-s)}(x-y) \nu_{1,r,\varepsilon}(dy) \right).$$

Then, from Lemma 3.3,

$$V_{\varepsilon}(P_0, P_1) \le \frac{E[|\psi(X_o) - X_o|^2]}{1 - r} + E[\int_{1 - r}^1 |b_{r,\varepsilon}(s, X_{r,\varepsilon}(s))|^2 ds]$$
(3.41)

since $X_{r,\varepsilon}(0) = X_o$ and $PX_{r,\varepsilon}(1)^{-1} = P_1$.

We prove the following to complete the proof: for any $r \in (0, 1/2)$,

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} E\left[\int_{1-r}^{1} |b_{r,\varepsilon}(s, X_{r,\varepsilon}(s))|^2 ds\right] = 0.$$
 (3.42)

$$p_{r,\varepsilon}(t,x) := \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} g_{\frac{\varepsilon(1-r)(1-t)}{r}}(x-y) P_1(dy)$$
 (3.43)

is a weak solution to the following: for $t \in [1-r, 1)$,

$$\frac{\partial p_{r,\varepsilon}(t,x)}{\partial t} = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \triangle p_{r,\varepsilon}(t,x) - div \left\{ \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2r}\right) \frac{D_x p_{r,\varepsilon}(t,x)}{p_{r,\varepsilon}(t,x)} p_{r,\varepsilon}(t,x) \right\}. \tag{3.44}$$

Hence, from Lemmas 3.3 and 3.4, for $\varepsilon < 1$,

$$E\left[\int_{1-r}^{1} |b_{r,\varepsilon}(s, X_{r,\varepsilon}(s))|^{2} ds\right]$$

$$\leq \int_{1-r}^{1} dt \int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}} \left|\left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2r}\right) \frac{D_{x} p_{r,\varepsilon}(t, x)}{p_{r,\varepsilon}(t, x)}\right|^{2} p_{r,\varepsilon}(t, x) dx$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon}{4r(1-r)} \int_{1-\varepsilon(1-r)}^{1} ds \int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}} \left|\frac{D_{x} p_{\frac{1}{2},1}(s, x)}{p_{\frac{1}{2},1}(s, x)}\right|^{2} p_{\frac{1}{2},1}(s, x) dx \to 0 \quad (as \varepsilon \to 0),$$

where we used the following change of variable:

$$\frac{\varepsilon(1-r)(1-t)}{r} = 1-s,$$

and the following:

$$\int_{1-\varepsilon(1-r)}^{1} ds \int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}} \left| \frac{D_{x} p_{\frac{1}{2},1}(s,x)}{p_{\frac{1}{2},1}(s,x)} \right|^{2} p_{\frac{1}{2},1}(s,x) dx$$

$$\leq \int_{0}^{1} ds \int_{\mathbf{R}^{d}} \left| \frac{D_{x} p_{\frac{1}{2},1}(s,x)}{p_{\frac{1}{2},1}(s,x)} \right|^{2} p_{\frac{1}{2},1}(s,x) dx = V_{1}(P_{1,1}, P_{1}) < \infty.$$
Q. E. D.

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