

Piecewise deterministic sampling and annealing

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CERMICS - École des Ponts Paritech and INRIA Paris

workshop Numerical aspects of nonequilibrium dynamics, IHP.



MCMC algorithms

- Target measure $\mu \propto e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}U(x)} dx$
- Ergodic process $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$, i.e.

$$\frac{1}{t} \int_0^t f(X_s) ds \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} \int f d\mu$$

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- Many available possibilities :
 - ▶ (reversible) overdamped Langevin diffusion:

$$dX_t = -\nabla U(X_t)dt + \sqrt{2\varepsilon}dB_t,$$

- ▶ kinetic Langevin equation:

$$dX_t = Y_t dt$$

$$dY_t = -\nabla U(X_t)dt - Y_t dt + \sqrt{2\varepsilon}dB_t,$$

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- ▶ Metropolis-Hastings algorithm (propose, accept/reject),
- ▶ Hamiltonian Monte-Carlo.
- Efficiency criteria:
 - ▶ asymptotic variance in a Central Limit Theorem.
 - ▶ Relaxation speed toward equilibrium.

Stochastic optimization: the simulated annealing algorithm

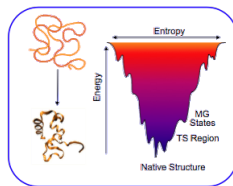
Problem : minimize a function

- in large dimension (or large finite set),
- with many local minima.

The gradient descent

$$dX_t = -\nabla U(X_t)dt$$

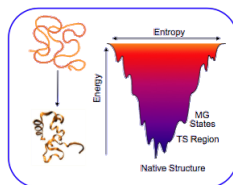
ends up in a local minima.



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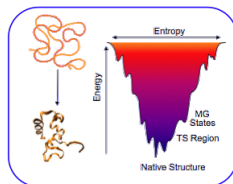
will eventually escape from any local minima.

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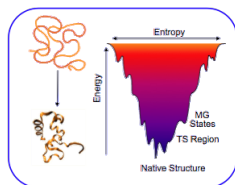
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$$\text{escape time from minima} \quad \approx \quad e^{\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \Delta U}$$

$$\text{Metastability: relaxation rate to equilibrium} \quad \approx \quad e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon} E}$$

$$\text{condition on the cooling schedule } \varepsilon_t \quad \succsim \quad \frac{E}{\ln t}.$$

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- Ideas: add some global knowledge, some memory.
- Problem: high-dimensional memory (or particles) is numerically expensive/unmanageable (\Rightarrow reaction coordinates).
- Another possibility: only keep an instantaneous memory (= inertia).



A second order Markov chain: the persistent walk

Diaconis et al. (2000, 2009): to sample the uniform law on $\{1, \dots, N\}$,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} - X_n = X_n - X_{n-1}) &= \frac{1 + \alpha}{2} \\ \mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} - X_n = -(X_n - X_{n-1})) &= \frac{1 - \alpha}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

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Alone, $(X_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is not Markov, but (X_n, X_{n-1}) is, or (X_n, Y_n) .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} = Y_n) &= \frac{1 + \alpha}{2} \\ \mathbb{P}(Y_{n+1} = -Y_n) &= \frac{1 - \alpha}{2} \\ X_{n+1} &= X_n + Y_{n+1}.\end{aligned}$$

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Reversible symmetric walk: $\alpha = 0$. Optimal speed for $\alpha = \alpha_{opt} > 0$.

Spectral study

The transition matrix Q is no more symmetric; its spectrum may not be real anymore, its eigenvectors are not orthogonal anymore. Nevertheless, explicit computation:

$$\|e^{t(Q-I)} - \mu\|_{\mathcal{L}^2} = C_\alpha(t)e^{-\rho_\alpha t}.$$

For $\alpha_{opt} = \frac{1 - \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{N}\right)}{1 + \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{N}\right)},$

$$\rho_{\alpha_{opt}} = 1 - \sqrt{\alpha_{opt}} \simeq \frac{\pi}{2N}.$$

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For the symmetric walk,

$$\rho_0 = 1 - \cos \frac{\pi}{N} \simeq \frac{\pi^2}{2N^2}.$$

It took $\mathcal{O}(N^2)$ steps to mix, and now only $\mathcal{O}(N)$ (Nota: the deterministic computation of an integral is done in exactly N steps).

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Uniform equilibrium μ , and generator

$$Lf(x, y) = y \partial_x f(x, y) + a (f(x, -y) - f(x, y)).$$

Again a spectral study is possible; for instance, for $a_{opt} = 1$,

$$\|e^{tL} - \mu\| = e^{-t} \sqrt{1 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{t^2}} - 1}} \underset{t \rightarrow 0}{\approx} 1 - \frac{t^3}{3}$$

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Remark: $a = 0 \Rightarrow$ no cv, but $\left| \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t f(x+s) ds - \int f d\mu \right| \leq \frac{c}{t}$.

With a potential

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Only choice: the jump rate. Solution: $x \mapsto a(x) \geq 0$ arbitrary,

$$\lambda(x, y) = (yU'(x))_+ + a(x).$$

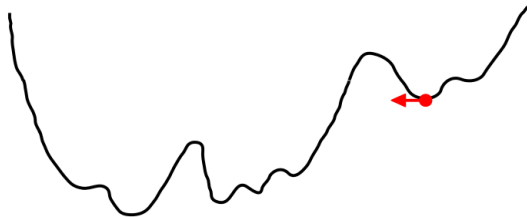
In other words, if E is a standard exponential r.v., next jump at

$$T = \inf \left\{ t > 0, E > \int_0^t \lambda(X_s, Y_s) ds \right\}.$$

The minimal jump rate

If $a = 0$, $\lambda(x, y) = (yU'(x))_+$; since $y = x'$,

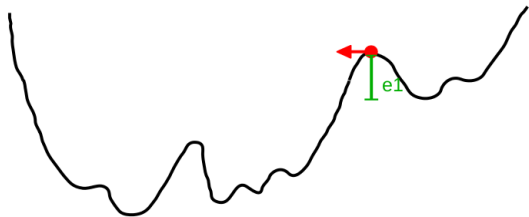
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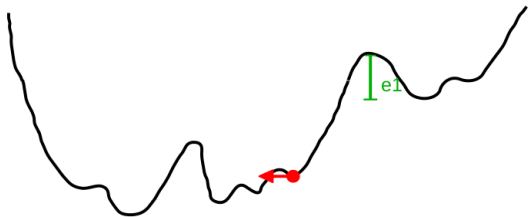
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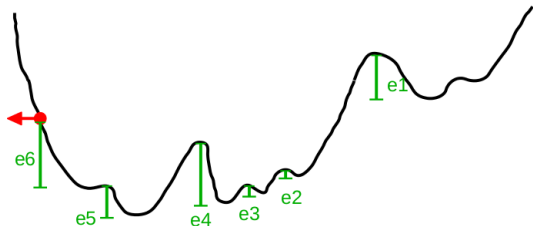
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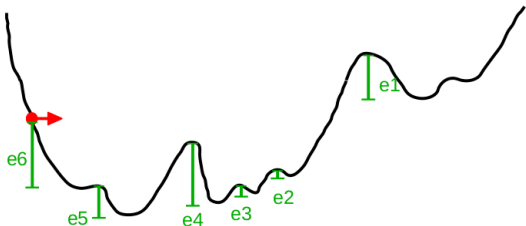
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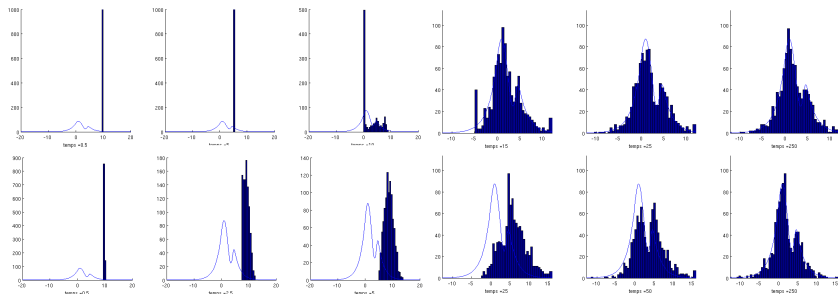
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With a supplementary rate

For $a \neq 0$, it's the same, except that random jumps are added which do not depend on the velocity.



In higher dimension

We want to keep the same rate:

$$\lambda(x, y) = (y \cdot \nabla U(x))_+.$$

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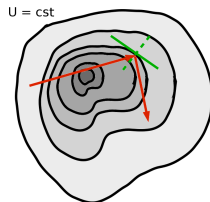
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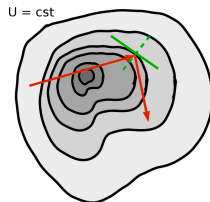
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Not ergodic in general!

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At constant rate, the velocity can be (uniformly) refreshed. Ultimately,

$$Lf(x, y) = y \nabla_x f(x, y) + (y \cdot \nabla U(x))_+ (f(x, y_*) - f(x, y)) \\ + r \left(\int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} f(x, z) dz - f(x, y) \right).$$

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- PDMP, no discretization needed thanks to a thinning method:

$$(y \cdot \nabla U(x))_+ (f(x, y_*) - f(x, y)) \\ = \|\nabla U\|_\infty (p f(x, y_*) + (1 - p) f(x, y) - f(x, y)).$$

with $p = (y \cdot \nabla U(x))_+ / \|\nabla U\|_\infty$.

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- Bierkens, Fearnhead, Roberts (2016, *Zig-zag process*, $y \in \{-1, +1\}^d$)

What kind of results do we have ?

To compare different dynamics (overdamped or kinetic Langevin, PDMP sampler), we have:

- empirical results (molecular dynamics; Bayesian statistics)
- precise theoretical results for toy models (dimension 1, uniform or gaussian measure; Hwang, Hwang-Ma, Sheu 2005, Lelièvre, Nier, Pavliotis, 2013, Guillin, M. 2016, Ottobre, Pillai, Spiliopoulos 2017)
- asymptotics theoretical results (small temperature in metastable settings)

Metastability

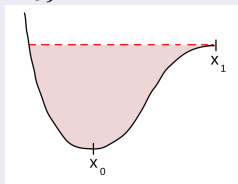
Replace U by $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}U$, with minimal rate $\lambda(x, y) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} (y \nabla U(x))_+$.

Theorem (Eyring-Kramers formula)

In dimension 1, let $\tau = \inf\{s > 0, X_s = x_1 \mid X_0 = x_0\}$. Then

$$\mathbb{E}[\tau] \underset{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0}{\sim} \sqrt{\frac{8\pi\varepsilon}{U''(x_0)}} e^{\frac{U(x_1) - U(x_0)}{\varepsilon}}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau \geq t\mathbb{E}[\tau]) \underset{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0}{\longrightarrow} e^{-t}.$$



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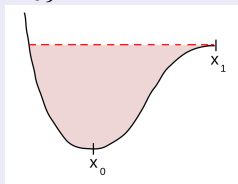
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Theorem (annealing)

With a cooling schedule $(\varepsilon_t)_{t \geq 0}$, NSC for the annealing:

$$\forall \delta > 0 \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}\left(U(X_t) < \min_{\mathbb{R}} U + \delta\right) = 1 \iff \int_0^\infty (\varepsilon_s)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{E^*}{\varepsilon_s}} ds = \infty.$$

Sketch of the proof for the EK formula

$$\mathbb{E}[\tau] = \mathbb{E}[\text{duration of a failed attempt to escape}] \\ \times \mathbb{E}[\text{number of failure}] \times \left(1 + o_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0}(1)\right).$$

As far as the second term is concerned,

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{escape in one shot}) = \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{E}(1)}(\varepsilon E \geq U(x_1) - U(x_0)) = e^{-\frac{U(x_1) - U(x_0)}{\varepsilon}}.$$

For the first one, if $\delta > 0$ is small enough,

$$\int_0^\delta \frac{t}{\varepsilon} (-U'(x_0 - t)) e^{-\frac{U(x_0 - t) - U(x_0)}{\varepsilon}} dt = \sqrt{\frac{\pi\varepsilon}{2U''(x_0)}} \left(1 + o_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0}(1)\right).$$

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For the first one, if $\delta > 0$ is small enough,

$$\int_0^\delta \frac{t}{\varepsilon} (-U'(x_0 - t)) e^{-\frac{U(x_0 - t) - U(x_0)}{\varepsilon}} dt = \sqrt{\frac{\pi\varepsilon}{2U''(x_0)}} \left(1 + o_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0}(1)\right).$$

Remark: with a supplementary rate $a \neq 0$, one gets

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{escape in one shot}) = \frac{e^{-\frac{U(x_1) - U(x_0)}{\varepsilon}}}{1 + \int_{x_0}^{x_1} a(z) e^{-\frac{U(x_1) - U(z)}{\varepsilon}} dz}$$

Sketch of the proof for the EK formula

$$\mathbb{E}[\tau] = \mathbb{E}[\text{duration of a failed attempt to escape}] \\ \times \mathbb{E}[\text{number of failure}] \times \left(1 + o_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0}(1)\right).$$

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Sketch of the proof for the annealing algorithm

Regardless of X_0 et t_0 , there is a positive probability that the process reaches x_0 after the time t_0 . The question is: does it succeed in escaping ?

Suppose the temperature is kept constant during one attempt,

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{success of the } k^{\text{th}} \text{ attempt}) = e^{-\frac{E}{\varepsilon_k}}.$$

The result is then mainly the consequence of the Eyring-Kramers and of the Borel-Cantelli Theorem.

Metastability in higher dimension

The study is restricted to the compact (periodic) case. Denote $Z = (X, Y)$ and

$$\|\nu_1 - \nu_2\|_1 = \inf_{Z_i \sim \nu_i} \mathbb{P}(Z_1 \neq Z_2).$$

Theorem

- 1 *There exist $\theta, c, t_0 > 0$ which depend only on the potential U , the rate r and the dimension d such that*

$$\|\mathcal{L}(Z_t) - \mathcal{L}(Z_\infty)\|_1 \leq e^{-ce^{\frac{-\theta}{\varepsilon}}(t-t_0)} \|\mathcal{L}(Z_0) - \mathcal{L}(Z_\infty)\|_1.$$

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- 2 *For the annealing, if $\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon_t} \right) \leq \frac{1}{(\theta+\eta)t}$ with $\eta > 0$ then $\forall \delta > 0$*

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Proof: couplings.

Some remarks

- The NSC in dimension 1 implies
 - ▶ if $\varepsilon_t \geq \frac{c}{\ln(1+t)}$ with $c > E^*$, the algorithm converges,
 - ▶ if $\varepsilon_t \leq \frac{c}{\ln(1+t)}$ with $c < E^*$, it may fail.

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Another question: how do you choose the radius of the ball (i.e. the scalar velocity of the process) ? Or, in the Gaussian case, the variance at equilibrium of the velocity ?

Some remarks

Same question for the kinetic Langevin equation:

$$dX_t = Y_t dt$$

$$dY_t = -\nu \nabla U(X_t) dt - \frac{1}{\nu} Y_t dt + \sqrt{2} dB_t,$$

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When $U(x) = \frac{1}{2}\lambda|x|^2$, $\nu_{opt} = (4\lambda)^{-\frac{1}{3}}$ with convergence rate $(\frac{1}{2}\lambda)^{\frac{1}{3}}$.
By comparison, the rate of convergence of

$$dX_t = -\lambda X_t dt + \sqrt{2} dB_t$$

is λ , which is better than $(\lambda/2)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ if and only if $\lambda > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$.

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- However, the escape time from local traps may be as small as we want.
- Problem: entropic barrier.
- Short-term memory (and more generally non-reversible sampling) can be used together with global and long-memory methods (Wang-Landau, ABF, metadynamics, etc.)

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