

# Self-stabilizing processes in multi-wells landscape in $\mathbb{R}^d$ - Convergence\*

Julian Tugaut  
Fakultät für Mathematik  
Universität Bielefeld  
D-33615 Bielefeld  
Germany  
Email: jtugaut@math.uni-bielefeld.de

## Abstract

Self-stabilizing processes are non-markovian diffusions. The own law of the process intervenes in the drift. When the non-interacting part of the drift corresponds to the gradient of a convex potential, it has been proved in some different ways that such processes converge weakly towards the unique stationary measure when the time goes to infinity. However, in the one-dimensional case, it has been pointed out that there are several stationary measures under easy to verify conditions. The convergence is then much more difficult to get. It has been obtained in a previous paper by using the free-energy. In superior dimension, we also have the non-uniqueness of the stationary measures. The aim of this paper is to study the long-time behaviour of the self-stabilizing processes even if the set of stationary measures is not finite.

**Key words and phrases:** Self-interacting diffusion, Free-energy, McKean-Vlasov stochastic differential equations, Multi-wells potential, Granular media equation

**2000 AMS subject classifications:** Primary 60H10, 35B40 ; secondary 35K55, 60J60, 60G10

## Introduction

The aim of this work is the weak convergence in long time of the following non-markovian diffusion:

$$X_t = X_0 + \sqrt{\epsilon}B_t - \int_0^t \nabla W_s(X_s) ds \quad (\text{I})$$

---

\*Supported by the DFG-funded CRC 701, Spectral Structures and Topological Methods in Mathematics, at the University of Bielefeld.

where  $W_s$  is a potential which depends on the time. Moreover, we assume that  $W_s$  is directly linked to the own law of the diffusion:  $u_s$ . In this paper, the potential  $W_s$  is given by

$$W_s(x) := V(x) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} F(x-y)u_s(dy) = (V + F * u_s)(x).$$

The notation  $*$  is used for denoting the convolution.  $V$  is the so-called confining potential. It corresponds to a classical drift and it permits to justify the existence of a unique strong solution.  $F$  is called the interacting potential because the term  $\nabla F * u_s(X_s(\omega_0))$  corresponds to an attraction between all the trajectories  $\omega \mapsto X_s(\omega)$ . We can write (I) in this way:

$$\begin{cases} X_t = X_0 + \sqrt{\epsilon}B_t - \int_0^t \nabla V(X_s) ds - \int_0^t \nabla F * u_s(X_s) ds \\ u_s = \mathcal{L}(X_s) \end{cases} \quad (\text{I})$$

This equation is nonlinear in the sense of McKean, see [McK67, McK66]. The quantities  $X_t$  and  $u_t$  depend on  $\epsilon$  but we skip this dependence in the notation for the comfort of the reading.

The convergence of the diffusion (I) towards one of its invariant probability is the subject of this article.

In this paper, we will make some smoothness assumptions on the interaction potential  $F$ . Let just note that there exist some previous works with non smooth  $F$ . If  $d = 1$ , if  $F$  is the Heaviside step function and with  $V := 0$ , (I) is the Burgers' equation:

$$X_t(\omega_0) = \sqrt{\epsilon}B_t(\omega_0) - \int_0^t \mathbb{P}\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X_s(\omega) = X_s(\omega_0)\} ds,$$

see [SV79]. Still in the one-dimensional case, if  $F := \delta_0$  and without confining potential, it is the Oelschläger equation:

$$X_t(\omega_0) = \sqrt{\epsilon}B_t(\omega_0) - \int_0^t \frac{d}{dx} \Big|_{x=X_s(\omega_0)} \mathbb{P}\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X_s(\omega) = X_s(\omega_0)\} ds$$

studied in [Oel85].

The diffusion  $X_t$  corresponds to the thermodynamical limit of a particle in a continuous mean-field system when the number of particles tends towards infinity. The mean-field system associated to the self-stabilizing process (I) is a classical diffusion in  $(\mathbb{R}^d)^N$  like

$$\begin{cases} dX_t^1 = \sqrt{\epsilon}dB_t^1 - \nabla V(X_t^1) dt - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \nabla F(X_t^1 - X_t^j) dt \\ \vdots \\ dX_t^i = \sqrt{\epsilon}dB_t^i - \nabla V(X_t^i) dt - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \nabla F(X_t^i - X_t^j) dt \\ \vdots \\ dX_t^N = \sqrt{\epsilon}dB_t^N - \nabla V(X_t^N) dt - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \nabla F(X_t^N - X_t^j) dt \end{cases} \quad (\text{II})$$

where the  $N$  brownian motions  $(B_t^i)_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+}$  are independent. The link between (I) and (II) is called the propagation of chaos, see [Szn91, BRTV98, M el96, BAZ99, CGM08]. Let us note also some works about the propagation of chaos with different hypotheses about the dynamic or the phase space: [Gra90, Gra92, Der03, JM08].

The existence problem of self-stabilizing processes (I) has been investigated by two different methods. The first one consists in the application of a fixed point theorem, see [McK67, BRTV98, HIP08]. The other method consists in using the propagation of chaos ([M el96]).

The law of the unique strong solution  $u_t$  admits a  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ -continuous density with respect to the Lebesgue measure for all  $t > 0$ , see [McK67]. We write it  $u_t$ . Furthermore,  $u_t$  satisfies a nonlinear partial differential equation of the following type:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} u_t = \operatorname{div} \left\{ \frac{\epsilon}{2} \nabla u_t + u_t \nabla W_t \right\} = \operatorname{div} \left\{ \frac{\epsilon}{2} \nabla u_t + u_t (\nabla V + \nabla F * u_t) \right\}. \quad (\text{III})$$

The granular media equation (III) is a useful tool for characterizing the stationary measures and the long-time behavior of the McKean-Vlasov diffusion (I), see [BRTV98, BRV98, Tam84, Tam87, Ver06].

When the confining potential  $V$  is not convex - in the one-dimensionnal case - the work in [HT10a, HT10b, HT09, Tug11a, Tug11b] provides the exact number of invariant probabilities and their small-noise behavior under easy to verify assumptions. If the phase space is  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , it has been proved in [Tug11c] that the diffusion (I) admits several stationary measures if the interaction is sufficiently strong. Consequently, the weak convergence for  $t$  going to infinity will be more tedious than when  $V$  is convex.

In [BRV98], if  $V$  is identically equal to 0, the authors proved the convergence towards the stationary measure by using an ultracontractivity property, a Poincar e inequality and a comparison lemma for stochastic processes. The ultracontractivity property still holds if  $V$  is not convex by using the results in [KKR93]. It is possible to conserve the Poincar e inequality by using the theorem of Muckenhoupt (see [ABC<sup>+</sup>00]) instead of the Bakry-Emery theorem in dimension one. In general dimension, Poincar e inequality can be obtained by using the results in [BBCG08]. But, the comparison lemma needs some convexity properties.

Another method consists in using the propagation of chaos in order to derive the convergence of the self-stabilizing process from the one of the mean-field system. However, we shall use it independently of the time and the classical result which is on a finite interval of time is not sufficiently strong. Cattiaux, Guillin and Malrieu proceeded a uniform propagation of chaos in [CGM08] and obtained the convergence in the convex case, including the non-uniformly strictly convex case. See also [Mal03]. Nevertheless, the non-uniqueness of the stationary measures pointed out in [Tug11c] implies that uniform propagation of chaos does not hold.

The method used in [Tug10b] is based on the one of [BCCP98]. See also [Mal03, Tam84, Mal01, HS87, AMTU01] for the convex case. In the non-convex

case, Carrillo, McCann and Villani provided the convergence in [CMV03] under two strong restrictions: the center of mass is fixed and  $V''(0) + F''(0) > 0$  (that means it is the synchronized case).

However, by combining the results in [HT10a, HT10b, HT09] with the work of [BCCP98] (and the more rigorous proofs in [CMV03] about the free-energy), we have been able to prove the convergence without these two assumptions. The principal tool of the paper was the monotonicity of the free-energy along the trajectories of (III).

We will use similar method in this paper in a more general setting. Indeed, we will not need that there is a finite number of stationary measures.

The convergence plays an important role in the exit problem for the McKean-Vlasov diffusion since the exit time is strongly linked to the drift (according to the Kramers' law, see [DZ10] or [HIP08]) which converges towards a homogeneous function if the law of the process converges towards a stationary measure.

As noted previously, the diffusion (I) is similar to the particle  $X_t^1$  defined in (II). However, Equation (II) can be rewritten:

$$d\mathcal{X}_t = \sqrt{\epsilon}\mathcal{B}_t - N\nabla\Upsilon^N(\mathcal{X}_t) dt \quad (\text{II})$$

where the  $i$ -th coordinate of  $\mathcal{X}_t$  (resp.  $\mathcal{B}_t$ ) is  $X_t^i$  (resp.  $B_t^i$ ) and

$$\Upsilon^N(\mathcal{X}) := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N V(\mathcal{X}_j) + \frac{1}{2N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N F(\mathcal{X}_i - \mathcal{X}_j)$$

for all  $\mathcal{X} \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^N$ . It yields

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbb{E} \{ \Upsilon^N(X_t^1, \dots, X_t^N) \} = -\mathbb{E} \left\{ \|\nabla \Upsilon^N(X_t^1, \dots, X_t^N)\|^2 \right\}$$

if  $\epsilon = 0$ . The equivalent of this potential  $\Upsilon^N$  for the flow (III) is  $\Upsilon$  defined as

$$\Upsilon(u) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} V(x)u(dx) + \frac{1}{2} \iint_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} F(x-y)u(dx)u(dy).$$

However,  $\epsilon > 0$ . Consequently, we add a term which corresponds to the entropy:

$$\Upsilon_\epsilon(u) := \frac{\epsilon}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u \log(u) + \Upsilon(u) \quad (\text{IV})$$

for all measures  $u$  which are absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure. As noted previously, the law  $u_t$  satisfies this hypothesis for all  $t > 0$ . The fonctionnal  $\Upsilon_\epsilon$  is called the free-energy and will play the role of a Lyapunov function that is to say that the free-energy is nonincreasing along the trajectories of the flow  $(u_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+}$ . See [CMV03] for a proof of this statement. It has been proved in [Tug11c] that the family  $\{u_t; t \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$  admits an adherence value which is an invariant probability of (I). Some elementary results are presented in the first section. Then, the convergence is proved. Finally, we postpone two technical propositions in the appendix.

## Assumptions

We present the properties of the confining potential  $V$ :

**Assumption (V-1):**  $V$  is a polynomial function on each coordinate  $x_1, \dots, x_d$ . And, the total degree of  $V$  is  $\deg(V) =: 2m \geq 4$ .

**Assumption (V-2):** The equation  $\nabla V(x) = 0$  admits a finite number of solution. We do not specify anything about the nature of these critical points. However, the wells will be denoted by  $a_0$ .

**Assumption (V-3):**  $V(x) \geq C_4 \|x\|^4 - C_2 \|x\|^2$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  with  $C_2, C_4 > 0$ .  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the euclidian norm.

**Assumption (V-4):**  $\lim_{\|x\| \rightarrow \pm\infty} \text{Hess } V(x) = +\infty$  and  $\text{Hess } V(x) > 0$  for all

$x \notin K$  where  $K$  is a compact of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  which contains all the critical points of  $V$ .

These conditions ensure that the confining potential  $V$  confines the diffusion.

It is used for proving the existence of a solution to (I), see [Tug10a].

An important constant associated to  $V$  is  $\vartheta$ :

$$\vartheta := 2 \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}^d} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{V(x) + t \langle \nabla V(x); z \rangle - V(x + tz)}{t^2}.$$

In dimension one,  $\vartheta = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}} -V''(z)$ .

Let us present now the assumptions on the interaction potential  $F$ :

**Assumption (F-1):** There exists an even polynomial function  $G$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $F(x) = G(\|x\|)$ . And,  $\deg(G) =: 2n \geq 2$ .

**Assumption (F-2):**  $G$  and  $G''$  are convex.

**Assumption (F-3):**  $G(0) = 0$ .

An important constant will be used subsequently:

$$\alpha := G''(0) = \inf_{z \in \mathbb{R}_+} G''(z) \geq 0.$$

We present now the assumptions on the initial law  $u_0$ :

**Assumption (ES):** The  $8q^2$ -th moment of the measure  $u_0$  is finite with  $q := \max\{m, n\}$ .

By Theorem 2.12 in [HIP08], we deduce that (I) admits a unique strong solution. Moreover, there exists  $M_0 > 0$  such that the following inequality holds:

$$\max_{1 \leq j \leq 8q^2} \sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+} \mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_t\|^j \right] \leq M_0. \quad (\text{V})$$

If the  $2p$ -th moment of  $u_0$  is finite, the previous inequality holds with  $2p$  instead of  $8q^2$ . We deduce immediately that the family  $(u_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+}$  is tight.

**Definition:** Let us introduce  $\mathcal{A}_\epsilon$  the set of all the limiting value of the family  $\{u_t; t \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$ .

**Assumption (FE):** The measure  $u_0$  admits a  $C^\infty$ -continuous density  $u_0$  with respect to the Lebesgue measure. And, the entropy  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u_0 \log(u_0)$  is finite.

We call  $\mathcal{S}_\epsilon$  the set of all the stationary measures for (I). We assume the following hypothesis in this work:

(D)  $\mathcal{S}_\epsilon$  is discret.

This hypothesis is reasonable according to the exact countation in dimension one made in [HT10a, HT10b, HT09, Tug11a] and according to the finite number of possible limit of stationary measures pointed out in [Tug11c].

For concluding the introduction, we write the statement of the main theorem:

**Theorem:** *Let a probability measure  $u_0$  which is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure, which admits a finite  $8q^2$ -th moment and a finite free-energy. We admit that the set of the invariant probabilities of the diffusion (I) is discret. Then  $u_t$  converges weakly towards a stationary measure.*

## 1 Preliminaries

We present the tools that we will use for proving the main result of the paper. In the following, we will need two particular functions: the free-energy of the system at time  $t$  and the function  $\eta_t$  which satisfies

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} u_t = \operatorname{div} \eta_t .$$

**Definition 1.1.** *For all  $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ , we introduce the functions:*

$$\xi(t) := \Upsilon_\epsilon(u_t) \quad \text{and} \quad \eta_t := \frac{\epsilon}{2} \nabla u_t + u_t (\nabla V + \nabla F * u_t) .$$

According to (III), we remark that if  $\eta_t$  is identically equal to 0 then  $u_t$  is a stationary measure for (I).

We recall the following well-known entropy dissipation:

**Proposition 1.2.** *Let a probability measure  $u_0$  which verifies (FE) and (ES). Then, for all  $t, s \geq 0$ , we have*

$$\xi(t+s) \leq \xi(t) \leq \xi(0) < +\infty .$$

Furthermore,  $\xi$  is derivable and we have:

$$\xi'(t) \leq - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{u_t} \|\eta_t\|^2 dx .$$

See [CMV03] for a proof. Let us introduce the functionnal space

$$\mathcal{M}_{8q^2} := \left\{ f \in C_0^2(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}_+) \mid \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f = 1 ; \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x\|^{8q^2} f < \infty \right\} .$$

We can remark that  $u_t \in \mathcal{M}_{8q^2}$  for all  $t > 0$ , see [McK67]. The first tool is the Proposition 1.2 (that is to say the fact that the free-energy is nonincreasing along the orbits of (III)). The second one is its lower-bound. We recall now the following results:

**Lemma 1.3.** *There exists  $L_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\Upsilon_\epsilon(u_t)$  converges towards  $L_0$  as time goes to infinity.*

**Proposition 1.4.** *There exists a stationary measure  $u_\epsilon$  and a sequence  $(t_k)_k$  which converges towards infinity such that  $u_{t_k}$  converges weakly towards  $u_\epsilon$  as  $k$  goes to infinity.*

See [Tug11c] for proofs.

An essential property on the stationary measure is the following:

**Lemma 1.5.** *A stationary measure of the diffusion (I) is uniquely determined by its moments.*

*Proof.* Let a stationary measure  $u_\epsilon$ . By Lemma 2.1 in [Tug11c], it satisfies the following implicit equation:

$$u_\epsilon(x) = \frac{\exp\left[-\frac{2}{\epsilon}(V(x) + F * u_\epsilon(x))\right]}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \exp\left[-\frac{2}{\epsilon}(V(y) + F * u_\epsilon(y))\right] dy}.$$

Consequently, for all  $r > 0$ , we have:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{\frac{2}{\epsilon}r\|x\|} u_\epsilon(x) dx = \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \exp\left[-\frac{2}{\epsilon}(V(x) + F * u_\epsilon(x) - r\|x\|)\right]}{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \exp\left[-\frac{2}{\epsilon}(V(x) + F * u_\epsilon(x))\right] dy}.$$

Since  $F$  is convex and since  $\text{Hess } V(x) > 0$  if  $\|x\|$  is sufficiently large, we deduce that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{\frac{2}{\epsilon}r\|x\|} u_\epsilon(x) dx < \infty$ . Consequently, the serie  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\nu_k}{k!} x^k$  has a positive convergence radius with  $\nu_k := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x\|^k u_\epsilon(x) dx$ . After applying the Fourier criteria, the statement holds.  $\square$

## 2 Convergence

We write the main result of the paper:

**Theorem 2.1.** *Under (D), the law  $u_t$  converges weakly towards a stationary measure.*

*Proof. Plan:* The tightness of the family  $\{u_t; t \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$  implies that it is sufficient to prove the uniqueness of the adherence values. We already know that there exists an invariant probability  $u_\epsilon$  which is in  $\mathcal{A}_\epsilon$ . We proceed a *reductio ad absurdum* by assuming the existence of another adherence value  $v_\infty$ . Since  $u_\epsilon$  is determined uniquely by its moments, we provide a function  $\varphi$  with compact support which separates  $u_\epsilon$  and  $v_\infty$ . By definition of  $\mathcal{A}_\epsilon$  and since  $\mathcal{S}_\epsilon \cap \mathcal{A}_\epsilon$  is discret, we find a contradiction.

**Step 1:** The inequality (V) implies that the family of probability measures  $\{u_t; t \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$  is tight. Prohorov Theorem permits to conclude that each extracted sequence of this family is relatively compact with respect to the weak convergence. So, in order to prove the statement of the theorem, it is sufficient

to prove  $\#\mathcal{A}_\epsilon = 1$ . We proceed a *reductio ad absurdum*. We assume in the following that the family admits at least two adherence values.

**Step 2:** By Proposition 1.4, we know that at least one of these adherence value is a stationary measure:  $u_\epsilon$ . The assumption (D) implies that the set  $\mathcal{S}_\epsilon \cap \mathcal{A}_\epsilon$  is discret.

**Step 3:** Let another adherence value  $v_\infty$ . The hypothesis (ES) and Proposition A.2 implies that for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x\|^k v_\infty(x) dx < \infty$ . According to Lemma 1.5, there exists  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\lambda_1 := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x\|^k u_\epsilon(x) dx \neq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x\|^k v_\infty(x) dx =: \lambda_2.$$

**Step 4:** Consequently, there exists a polynomial function  $\varphi$  such that:

$$0 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(\|x\|) u_\epsilon(x) dx < \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(\|x\|) v_\infty(x) dx.$$

We consider now the following function:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_R(x) &:= \mathbf{1}_{\{\|x\| \leq R\}} \\ &\quad + Z^{-1} \mathbf{1}_{\{R \leq \|x\| \leq R+1\}} \int_{\|x\|}^{R+1} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{(y-R)^2} - \frac{1}{(y-R-1)^2} \right] dy \\ \text{with } Z &:= \int_0^1 \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{z^2} - \frac{1}{(z-1)^2} \right] dz. \end{aligned}$$

**Step 5:** We introduce the function with compact support:  $\xi_R(x) := \tau_r(x) \times \varphi(\|x\|)$ . By construction,  $\xi_R \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R})$ . Furthermore,  $|\xi_R(x)| \leq \|x\|^l$  where  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ . The same inequality holds for  $\|\nabla \xi_R\|^2$  with an other integer  $l'$ . By using the triangular inequality, for all  $u_\infty \in \mathcal{A}_\epsilon$ , we have:

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi_R u_\infty - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi u_\infty \right| \leq \left| \int_{\|x\| \geq R} \|x\|^l u_\infty(x) dx \right| \leq \frac{1}{R^3} C_0$$

where  $C_0 := \sup_{t \geq 1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x\|^{l+3} u_t(x) dx < +\infty$ . Consequently, for  $R$  large enough, we obtain the existence of a smooth function  $\xi$  with compact support such that

$$0 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) u_\epsilon(x) dx < \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) v_\infty(x) dx.$$

Moreover, since  $\mathcal{S}_\epsilon$  is discret, there exists  $\kappa > 0$  such that for all element  $v_\epsilon \in \mathcal{S}_\epsilon \cap \mathcal{A}_\epsilon$ , we have which verifies  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) v_\epsilon(x) dx \notin [\kappa; 2\kappa]$  where  $0 < \kappa < \frac{1}{3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) v_\infty(x) dx$ .

**Step 6:** By definition of  $\mathcal{A}_\epsilon$ , there exist an increasing sequences  $(t_k^{(1)})_k$  (respectively  $(t_k^{(2)})_k$ ) which goes to infinity such that  $u_{t_k^{(1)}}$  (respectively  $u_{t_k^{(2)}}$ ) converges

weakly towards  $u_\epsilon$  (respectively  $v_\infty$ ).

We deduce that there exist two increasing sequences  $(r_k)_k$  and  $(s_k)_k$  such that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) u_{r_k}(x) dx = \kappa$  and  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) u_{s_k}(x) dx = 2\kappa$ . Then, for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we put  $\widehat{r}_k := \sup \{t \in [0; s_k] \mid \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) u_t(x) dx = \kappa\}$  and we define the sequence  $\widehat{s}_k := \inf \{s \in [\widehat{r}_k; s_k] \mid \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) u_s(x) dx = 2\kappa\}$ . For simplicity, we write  $r_k$  (respectively  $s_k$ ) instead of  $\widehat{r}_k$  (respectively  $\widehat{s}_k$ ). And, we have:

$$\kappa = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) u_{r_k}(x) dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) u_t(x) dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) u_{s_k}(x) dx = 2\kappa$$

for all  $t \in [r_k; s_k]$ .

**Step 7:** By applying Proposition A.1, we deduce the existence of  $w_\epsilon \in \mathcal{S}_\epsilon$  verifying  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \xi(x) w_\epsilon(x) dx \in [\kappa; 2\kappa]$ . This is impossible.  $\square$

We provide now a result without assuming the hypothesis (D). It holds in the small-noise limit:

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let us admit that  $\alpha - \vartheta > 0$ . Let a law  $u_0$  which satisfies (ES) and (FE). Then, there exists a critical point of  $V$   $a_0$  such that:*

$$\limsup_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x - a_0\|^2 u_t(x) dx = 0.$$

*Proof.* We proceed a *reductio ad absurdum* by assuming the existence of a constant  $\kappa > 0$  and two sequences  $(\epsilon_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(t_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  which verify

- $\epsilon_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .
- $t_k \rightarrow \infty$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .
- $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x - a_0\|^2 u_{t_k}(x) dx \geq \kappa$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and for all the critical points  $a_0$  of the potential  $V$ .

According to Proposition 3.8 in [Tug11c], since  $\alpha > \vartheta$ , we deduce that the only possible limits of stationary measures when  $\epsilon$  goes to 0 are Dirac measures  $\delta_{A_0}$ . Moreover,  $A_0$  satisfies  $\nabla V(A_0) = 0$  so  $A_0$  is a critical point of  $V$ . We deduce that for all  $\rho > 0$ , there exists  $\epsilon_0 > 0$  sufficiently small such that for all  $\epsilon < \epsilon_0$ , there is no element  $v \in \mathcal{S}_\epsilon$  which would satisfy  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x - a_0\|^2 v(x) dx \geq \rho$  for all the critical points  $a_0$  of  $V$ . We take  $\rho := \kappa$ . By proceeding exactly like in Theorem 2.1, the initial hypothesis would permit to construct a stationary measure  $v \in \mathcal{S}_{\epsilon_k}$  such that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x - a_0\|^2 v(x) dx \geq \rho$  for all the critical points  $a_0$  of  $V$ . This is impossible.  $\square$

## A Useful technical results

The central idea in the proof of Theorem 2.1 is the fact that we can construct an element of  $\mathcal{S}_\epsilon \cap \mathcal{A}_\epsilon$  such that its integration against a function  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R})$  with compact support takes a value between  $\kappa$  and  $2\kappa$  if for all  $\tau \in [\kappa; 2\kappa]$ , there exists  $v_\epsilon \in \mathcal{A}_\epsilon$  such that  $\int \varphi v_\epsilon = \tau$ . Let us prove now this statement.

**Proposition A.1.** *We assume the existence of two polynomial functions  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$ , a smooth function  $\varphi$  from  $\mathbb{R}^d$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  with compact support such that  $|\varphi(x)| \leq \mathcal{P}(\|x\|)$  and  $\|\nabla\varphi(x)\|^2 \leq \mathcal{Q}(\|x\|)$ ,  $\kappa > 0$  and two sequences  $(r_k)_k$  and  $(s_k)_k$  which go to  $\infty$  such that for all  $r_k \leq t \leq s_k < r_{k+1}$ :*

$$\kappa = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(x) u_{r_k}(x) dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(x) u_t(x) dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(x) u_{s_k}(x) dx = 2\kappa.$$

Then, there exists  $v_\epsilon \in \mathcal{A}_\epsilon \cap \mathcal{S}_\epsilon$  which verifies  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(x) v_\epsilon(x) dx \in [\kappa; 2\kappa]$ .

*Proof. Plan:* We proceed exactly like in the proof of Proposition 2.1 in [Tug11c]. We just need to find a sequence  $(q_k)_k$  which tends towards infinity as  $k$  goes to infinity and which verifies the two following conditions:

- $\xi'(q_k)$  converges towards 0.
- $r_k \leq q_k \leq s_k$ .

For doing this, we remark that the inequality  $\xi'(s) \leq 0$  and the convergence of  $\int_t^\infty \xi'(s) ds$  towards 0 implies that  $\sum_{p=k}^\infty \int_{r_p}^{s_p} \xi'(s) ds$  elapses when  $k$  is going to infinity. However, for obtaining the existence of such a sequence  $(q_k)_k$ , we shall prove that  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} (s_k - r_k) > 0$ . This will be done like in the proof of Proposition A.1 in [Tug10b].

**Step 1:** We begin to prove that  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} (s_k - r_k) > 0$ . We introduce the function :

$$\Phi(t) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(x) u_t(x) dx.$$

This function is well-defined since  $|\varphi|$  is bounded by a polynomial function of the norm of  $x$ . The derivation of  $\Phi$ , the use of equation (III) and an integration by parts lead to:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi'(t) &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left\langle \nabla\varphi; \left\{ \frac{\epsilon}{2} \nabla u_t + u_t (\nabla V + \nabla F * u_t) \right\} \right\rangle \\ &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \langle \nabla\varphi; \eta_t \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

The Cauchy-Schwarz inequality implies

$$|\Phi'(t)| \leq \sqrt{-\xi'(t)} \sqrt{\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|\nabla\varphi(x)\|^2 u_t(x) dx}$$

where we recall that  $\xi(t) = \Upsilon_\epsilon(u_t)$ . The function  $\|\nabla\varphi\|^2$  is bounded by a polynomial function and  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x\|^{2N} u_t(x)$  is uniformly bounded with respect to  $t \geq 1$  for all  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . So, there exists  $C > 0$  such that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|\nabla\varphi(x)\|^2 u_t(x) dx \leq C^2$  for all  $t \geq 1$ . We deduce

$$|\Phi'(t)| \leq C \sqrt{|\xi'(t)|}. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

By definition of the two sequences  $(r_k)_k$  and  $(s_k)_k$ , we have

$$\Phi(s_k) - \Phi(r_k) = \kappa.$$

Combining this identity with (A.1), it yields

$$C \int_{r_k}^{s_k} \sqrt{|\xi'(t)|} dt \geq \kappa.$$

We apply the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and we obtain:

$$C \sqrt{s_k - r_k} \sqrt{\xi(r_k) - \xi(s_k)} \geq \kappa$$

since  $\xi$  is nonincreasing (see Proposition 1.2). Moreover,  $\xi(t)$  converges as  $t$  goes to  $\infty$  (see Lemma 1.3). It implies the convergence of  $\xi(r_k) - \xi(s_k)$  towards 0 when  $k$  goes to  $+\infty$ . Consequently,  $s_k - r_k$  converges towards  $+\infty$  so

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} s_k - r_k > 0.$$

**Step 2:** By Lemma 1.3,  $\Upsilon_\epsilon(u_t) - \Upsilon_\epsilon(u_\epsilon) = \int_t^\infty \xi'(s) ds$  converges towards 0. As  $\xi'$  is nonpositive, we deduce that  $\sum_{k=N}^\infty \int_{r_k}^{s_k} \xi'(s) ds$  converges also towards 0 when  $N$  goes to  $+\infty$ . As  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow +\infty} s_k - r_k > 0$ , we deduce that there exists an increasing sequence  $q_k \in [r_k; s_k]$  which goes to  $\infty$  and such that  $\xi'(q_k)$  converges towards 0 when  $k$  goes to  $\infty$ . Furthermore,  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi u_{q_k} \in [\kappa; 2\kappa]$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Step 3:** By proceeding similarly as in the proof of Theorem 2.7 in [Tug11c], we extract a subsequence of  $(q_k)_k$  (we continue to write it  $q_k$  for simplifying the reading) such that  $u_{q_k}$  converges weakly towards a stationary measure  $v_\epsilon$ . Moreover,  $v_\epsilon$  verifies  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(x) v_\epsilon(x) dx \in [\kappa; 2\kappa]$ .  $\square$

Now, we explain why all the moments of  $u_t$  are finite for all  $t > 0$ . This was essential for making the separation between an element of  $\mathcal{S}_\epsilon \cap \mathcal{A}_\epsilon$  and any other elements of  $\mathcal{A}_\epsilon$ .

**Proposition A.2.** *For all  $t > 0$ , for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , we have  $\mathbb{E}[||X_t||^n] < \infty$ . Moreover,  $\sup_{t \geq 1} \mathbb{E}[||X_t||^n] < \infty$*

*Proof. Step 1:* If  $\mathbb{E}[||X_0||^n] < \infty$  then  $\mathbb{E}[||X_t||^n] < \infty$  for all  $t > 0$ , see Theorem 2.12 in [HIP08]. We assume now that there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$  such that  $\mathbb{E}[||X_0||^{2n}] = \infty$ . Let us introduce  $l_0 := \min \{l \geq 0 \mid \mathbb{E}[||X_0||^{2l}]\} = +\infty$ . We know that  $\mathbb{E}[||X_t||^{2l_0-2}] < +\infty$  for all  $t \geq 0$ , see [HIP08].

**Step 2:** Let  $t_0 > 0$ . We proceed a *reductio ad absurdum* by assuming that  $\mathbb{E}[||X_{t_0}||^{2l_0}] = +\infty$ . This implies directly  $\mathbb{E}[||X_t||^{2l_0}] = +\infty$  for all  $t \in [0, t_0]$ . We recall that  $2m$  (respectively  $2n$ ) is the degree of the confining (respectively interacting) potential  $V$  (respectively  $F$ ). Also,  $q := \max\{m; n\}$ . For all  $t \in [0, t_0]$ , the application  $\nabla F * u_t$  is a polynomial function in each coordinate

with parameters depending on  $u_t$ . And, these parameters are uniformly bounded with respect to  $t$  by the inequality (V):

$$\sup_{1 \leq j \leq 8q^2} \sup_{t \in [0, t_0]} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \|X_t\|^j \right\} \leq M_0.$$

Consequently, the application  $\nabla V + \nabla F * u_t$  is a polynomial function in each coordinate  $x_1, \dots, x_d$  with global degree  $2q-1$ . Furthermore, the principal term does not depend on the moments of the law  $u_t$  so we can write:

$$\nabla V(x) + \nabla F * u_t(x) = \kappa_{2q-1} \|x\|^{2q-2} x + \mathcal{P}_t(x)$$

where  $\kappa_{2q-1} \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$  is a constant, and  $\mathcal{P}_t$  is a polynomial function with degree at most  $2q-2$ . Moreover,  $\mathcal{P}_t$  is parametrized by the moments of degree equal to (or less than)  $2n$  only.

Let  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let us introduce:  $\varphi(x) := \|x\|^{2l}$ . Some computations lead to:

$$\langle \nabla \varphi(x); \nabla V(x) + \nabla F * u_t(x) \rangle - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \Delta \varphi(x) \geq C_l \left( \|x\|^{2l+2q-2} - 1 \right)$$

where  $C_l$  is a positive constant. Consequently, for all  $\omega \in \Omega$ , we have the inequality:

$$\|X_{t_0}(\omega)\|^{2l} \leq \|X_0(\omega)\|^{2l} + \mathcal{M}_{t_0}(\omega) + C_l t_0 - C_l \int_0^{t_0} \|X_t(\omega)\|^{2l+2q-2} dt$$

where  $(\mathcal{M}_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is a martingale. We take  $l := l_0 + 1 - q < l_0$ . By taking the expectation, it yields  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_{t_0}\|^{2l} \right] \leq -\infty$ . This is absurd. Consequently, for all  $t_0 > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_{t_0}\|^{2l_0} \right] < +\infty$ .

**Step 3:** Let  $T > 0$  and  $l_1 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $l_1 \geq l_0$  where the integer  $l_0$  is defined as previously:  $l_0 := \min \left\{ l \geq 0 \mid \mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_0\|^{2l} \right] = +\infty \right\}$ . If  $l_1 = l_0$ , the application of Step 2 leads to  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_T\|^{2l_1} \right] < +\infty$ . If  $l_1 > l_0$ , we put  $t_i := \frac{i}{l_1+1-l_0} T$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq l_1 + 1 - l_0$ . We apply Step 2 to  $t_1$  and we deduce  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_{t_1}\|^{2l_0} \right] < +\infty$ . By recurrence, we deduce  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_{t_i}\|^{2l_0+2i} \right] < +\infty$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq l_1 + 1 - l_0$ , in particular  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_{t_{l_1+1-l_0}}\|^{2l_0+2(l_1-l_0)} \right] < +\infty$  that means  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_T\|^{2l_1} \right] < +\infty$ . This inequality holds for all  $l_1 \geq l_0$  so the probability measure  $u_T$  satisfies  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|x\|^{2n} u_T(x) dx < \infty$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

**Step 4:** In particular, it holds with  $T := 1$ . Thank to Theorem 2.12 in [HIP08], we obtain directly  $\sup_{t \geq 1} \mathbb{E} \left[ \|X_t\|^n \right] < \infty$ .  $\square$

**Acknowledgments:** *This work has been motivated by the natural question about what happen in dimension  $d$ . Consequently, I would like to thank Arnaud Guillin and Patrick Cattiaux for having suggested me to work on it on Friday 13th May 2011.*

*Finalement, un très grand merci à Manue et à Sandra pour tout.*

## References

- [ABC<sup>+</sup>00] Cécile Ané, Sébastien Blachère, Djali Chafaï, Pierre Fougères, Ivan Gentil, Florent Malrieu, Cyril Roberto, and Grégory Scheffer. *Sur les inégalités de Sobolev logarithmiques*, volume 10 of *Panoramas et Synthèses [Panoramas and Syntheses]*. Société Mathématique de France, Paris, 2000. With a preface by Dominique Bakry and Michel Ledoux.
- [AMTU01] Anton Arnold, Peter Markowich, Giuseppe Toscani, and Andreas Unterreiter. On convex Sobolev inequalities and the rate of convergence to equilibrium for Fokker-Planck type equations. *Comm. Partial Differential Equations*, 26(1-2):43–100, 2001.
- [BBCG08] D. Bakry, F. Barthe, P. Cattiaux, and A. Guillin. A simple proof of the Poincaré inequality for a large class of probability measures including the log-concave case. *Electronic Communications in Probability*, 13:60–66, 2008.
- [BAZ99] G. Ben Arous and O. Zeitouni. Increasing propagation of chaos for mean field models. *Ann. Inst. H. Poincaré Probab. Statist.*, 35(1):85–102, 1999.
- [BCCP98] D. Benedetto, E. Caglioti, J. A. Carrillo, and M. Pulvirenti. A non-Maxwellian steady distribution for one-dimensional granular media. *J. Statist. Phys.*, 91(5-6):979–990, 1998.
- [BRTV98] S. Benachour, B. Roynette, D. Talay, and P. Vallois. Nonlinear self-stabilizing processes. I. Existence, invariant probability, propagation of chaos. *Stochastic Process. Appl.*, 75(2):173–201, 1998.
- [BRV98] S. Benachour, B. Roynette, and P. Vallois. Nonlinear self-stabilizing processes. II. Convergence to invariant probability. *Stochastic Process. Appl.*, 75(2):203–224, 1998.
- [CGM08] P. Cattiaux, A. Guillin, and F. Malrieu. Probabilistic approach for granular media equations in the non-uniformly convex case. *Probab. Theory Related Fields*, 140(1-2):19–40, 2008.
- [CMV03] José A. Carrillo, Robert J. McCann, and Cédric Villani. Kinetic equilibration rates for granular media and related equations: entropy dissipation and mass transportation estimates. *Rev. Mat. Iberoamericana*, 19(3):971–1018, 2003.
- [DZ10] Amir Dembo and Ofer Zeitouni. *Large deviations techniques and applications*, volume 38 of *Stochastic Modelling and Applied Probability*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2010. Corrected reprint of the second (1998) edition.
- [Der03] Azzouz Dermoune. Propagation and conditional propagation of chaos for pressureless gas equations. *Probab. Theory Related Fields*, 126(4):459–476, 2003.
- [Gra90] Carl Graham. Nonlinear limit for a system of diffusing particles which alternate between two states. *Appl. Math. Optim.*, 22(1):75–90, 1990.
- [Gra92] Carl Graham. McKean-Vlasov Itô-Skorohod equations, and nonlinear diffusions with discrete jump sets. *Stochastic Process. Appl.*, 40(1):69–82, 1992.
- [HIP08] Samuel Herrmann, Peter Imkeller, and Dierk Peithmann. Large deviations and a Kramers’ type law for self-stabilizing diffusions. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 18(4):1379–1423, 2008.

- [HS87] Richard Holley and Daniel Stroock. Logarithmic Sobolev inequalities and stochastic Ising models. *J. Statist. Phys.*, 46(5-6):1159–1194, 1987.
- [HT09] S. Herrmann and J. Tugaut. Self-stabilizing processes: uniqueness problem for stationary measures and convergence rate in the small noise limit. *Prépublications de l’Institut Élie Cartan*, 2009.
- [HT10a] S. Herrmann and J. Tugaut. Non-uniqueness of stationary measures for self-stabilizing processes. *Stochastic Process. Appl.*, 120(7):1215–1246, 2010.
- [HT10b] S. Herrmann and J. Tugaut. Stationary measures for self-stabilizing processes: asymptotic analysis in the small noise limit. *Electron. J. Probab.*, 15:2087–2116, 2010.
- [JM08] Benjamin Jourdain and Florent Malrieu. Propagation of chaos and Poincaré inequalities for a system of particles interacting through their CDF. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 18(5):1706–1736, 2008.
- [KKR93] Otared Kavian, Gérard Kerkycharian, and Bernard Roynette. Quelques remarques sur l’ultracontractivité. *J. Funct. Anal.*, 111(1):155–196, 1993.
- [Mal01] F. Malrieu. Logarithmic Sobolev inequalities for some nonlinear PDE’s. *Stochastic Process. Appl.*, 95(1):109–132, 2001.
- [Mal03] Florent Malrieu. Convergence to equilibrium for granular media equations and their Euler schemes. *Ann. Appl. Probab.*, 13(2):540–560, 2003.
- [McK66] H. P. McKean, Jr. A class of Markov processes associated with nonlinear parabolic equations. *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 56:1907–1911, 1966.
- [McK67] H. P. McKean, Jr. Propagation of chaos for a class of non-linear parabolic equations. In *Stochastic Differential Equations (Lecture Series in Differential Equations, Session 7, Catholic Univ., 1967)*, pages 41–57. Air Force Office Sci. Res., Arlington, Va., 1967.
- [Mél96] Sylvie Méléard. Asymptotic behaviour of some interacting particle systems; McKean-Vlasov and Boltzmann models. In *Probabilistic models for nonlinear partial differential equations (Montecatini Terme, 1995)*, volume 1627 of *Lecture Notes in Math.*, pages 42–95. Springer, Berlin, 1996.
- [Oel85] Karl Oelschläger. A law of large numbers for moderately interacting diffusion processes. *Z. Wahrsch. Verw. Gebiete*, 69(2):279–322, 1985.
- [SV79] Daniel W. Stroock and S. R. Srinivasa Varadhan. *Multidimensional diffusion processes*, volume 233 of *Grundlehren der Mathematischen Wissenschaften [Fundamental Principles of Mathematical Sciences]*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1979.
- [Szn91] Alain-Sol Sznitman. Topics in propagation of chaos. In *École d’Été de Probabilités de Saint-Flour XIX—1989*, volume 1464 of *Lecture Notes in Math.*, pages 165–251. Springer, Berlin, 1991.
- [Tam84] Yozo Tamura. On asymptotic behaviors of the solution of a nonlinear diffusion equation. *J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo Sect. IA Math.*, 31(1):195–221, 1984.
- [Tam87] Yozo Tamura. Free energy and the convergence of distributions of diffusion processes of McKean type. *J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo Sect. IA Math.*, 34(2):443–484, 1987.

- [Tug10a] J. Tugaut. *Processus autostabilisants dans un paysage multi-puits*. available on <http://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-00573044/fr/> PhD thesis, Université Henri Poincaré, Nancy, 2010.
- [Tug10b] J. Tugaut. Convergence to the equilibria for self-stabilizing processes in double well landscape. available on <http://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-00573045/fr/> accepted in *Annals of Probability*, 2010.
- [Tug11a] J. Tugaut. Phase transitions of McKean-Vlasov processes in symmetrical and asymmetrical multiwells landscape. available on <http://www.math.uni-bielefeld.de/sfb701/preprints/view/520> Preprint, Bielefeld Universität, 2011.
- [Tug11b] J. Tugaut. McKean-Vlasov diffusions: from the asynchronisation to the synchronization. *Comptes Rendus Mathématiques*, Volume 349, Issues 17–18, pp. 983–986, 2011.
- [Tug11c] J. Tugaut. Self-stabilizing processes in multi-wells landscape in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  - Invariant probabilities. available on <http://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-00627901/fr/>, 2011.
- [Ver06] A. Yu. Veretennikov. On ergodic measures for McKean-Vlasov stochastic equations. In *Monte Carlo and quasi-Monte Carlo methods 2004*, pages 471–486. Springer, Berlin, 2006.