

On diffusion and wave front propagation in narrow random channels.

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Motivation : molecular motors.

- ▶ We can think of **Brownian motors/ratchets** as particles (which model the protein molecules) traveling along a designated track.
- ▶ At a microscopic scale such a motion is conveniently described as a diffusion process with a deterministic drift.
- ▶ On the other hand, the designated track along which the molecule is traveling can be viewed as a tubular domain of some random shape.
- ▶ In particular, such a domain can have many random wings added to it.

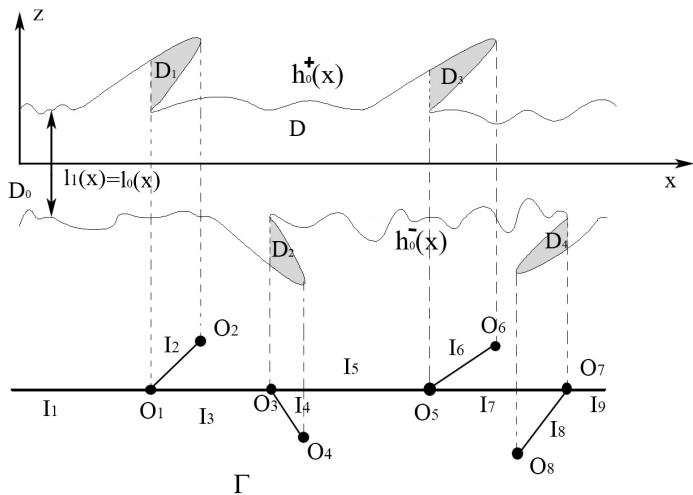


FIG. 1: A model of the molecular motor.

Mathematical modeling : The domain D .

- ▶ $h_0^\pm(x)$ —height functions. They are a pair of piecewise smooth functions with $h_0^+(x) - h_0^-(x) = l_0(x) > 0$.
- ▶ The "main channel"

$$D_0 = \{(x, z) : x \in \mathbb{R}, h_0^-(x) \leq z \leq h_0^+(x)\}$$

is a tubular 2-d domain of infinite length, i.e. it goes along the whole x -axis. At the discontinuities of $h_0^\pm(x)$, we connect the pieces of the boundary via straight vertical lines.

- ▶ Let a sequence of "wings" D_j ($j \geq 1$) be attached to D_0 . These wings are attached to D_0 at the discontinuities of the functions $h_0^\pm(x)$.
- ▶ The union $D = D_0 \cup \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} D_j \right)$ models the designated track along which the motor is traveling.

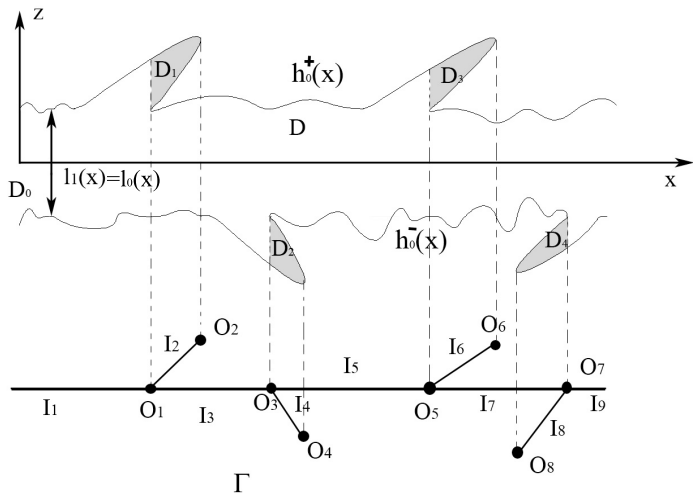


FIG. 1: A model of the molecular motor.

Mathematical modeling : The domain D .

- ▶ We can make some standard regularity assumptions about the shape of D .
- ▶ The shape of the domain D is **random**.
- ▶ **Stationarity** : $\mathbf{P}(A) = \mathbf{P}(\theta_r(A))$
- ▶ **Mixing** : For any $A \in \mathcal{F}_s^t$ and any $B \in \mathcal{F}_{s+r}^{t+r}$ we have

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \pm\infty} |\mathbf{P}(A \cap B) - \mathbf{P}(A)\mathbf{P}(B)| = 0$$

exponentially fast.

For instance, we can assume that there exists some $M > 0$ such that $\mathbf{P}(A \cap B) = \mathbf{P}(A)\mathbf{P}(B)$ for $|r| \geq M$.

Mathematical modeling : The domain D^ε .

- ▶ In many problems it is natural to assume that the domain D is a thin and long channel.
- ▶ We "shrink" D . Let $D^\varepsilon = \{(x, \varepsilon z) : (x, z) \in D\}$. The parameter $\varepsilon > 0$ is small.

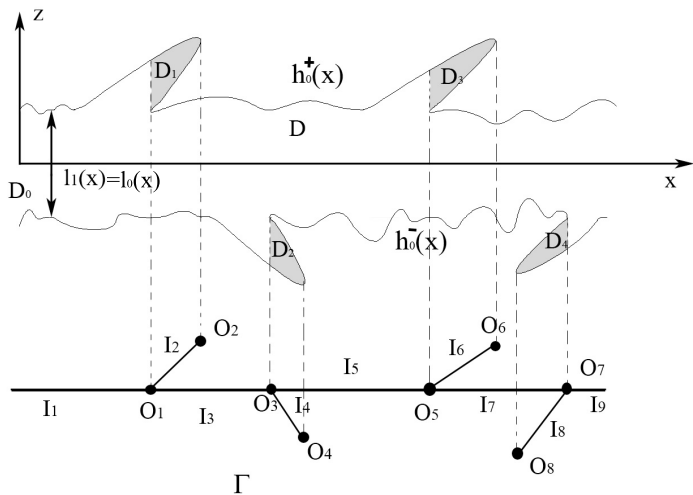


FIG. 1: A model of the molecular motor.

Mathematical modeling : The diffusion particle.

- ▶ The motor (protein molecule) is a **diffusion particle** moving inside D^ε .
- ▶ Consider the diffusion process $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_t^\varepsilon = (\hat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \hat{Z}_t^\varepsilon)$ in the domain D^ε , which is described by the following system of stochastic differential equations :

$$\begin{cases} d\hat{X}_t^\varepsilon = dW_t^1 + V(\hat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \hat{Z}_t^\varepsilon/\varepsilon)dt + \nu_1(\hat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \hat{Z}_t^\varepsilon)d\hat{\ell}_t^\varepsilon, \\ d\hat{Z}_t^\varepsilon = dW_t^2 + \nu_2(\hat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \hat{Z}_t^\varepsilon)d\hat{\ell}_t^\varepsilon. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Mathematical modeling : The diffusion particle.

- ▶ Scalar field $V(x, z) > 0, (x, z) \in D$ characterizes the **speed of the transportation** in the x -direction.
- ▶ Vector field $\nu = (\nu_1, \nu_2)$ on ∂D^ε is defined as the inward unit normal vector at the corresponding point on ∂D :
 $\nu(x, \varepsilon z) = \mathbf{n}(x, z)$ when $(x, z) \in \partial D$.
- ▶ The process (W_t^1, W_t^2) is a standard 2-dimensional Wiener process **independent** of the shape of D . In other words our process $\widehat{\mathbf{X}}_t^\varepsilon$ is moving in an **independent random environment** characterized by random shape of the domain D .
- ▶ The process $\widehat{\ell}_t^\varepsilon$ is the **local time** of the process $\widehat{\mathbf{X}}_t^\varepsilon$ at ∂D^ε .

Equivalent formulation in D .

- ▶ Recall that the diffusion process $\widehat{\mathbf{X}}_t^\varepsilon = (\widehat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \widehat{Z}_t^\varepsilon)$ is moving in the domain D^ε .
- ▶ We can make a change of variable $\widehat{Z}_t^\varepsilon \rightarrow \widehat{Z}_t^\varepsilon/\varepsilon = Z_t^\varepsilon$ in the equation (1) :

$$\begin{cases} d\widehat{X}_t^\varepsilon = dW_t^1 + V(\widehat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \widehat{Z}_t^\varepsilon/\varepsilon)dt + \nu_1(\widehat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \widehat{Z}_t^\varepsilon)d\widehat{\ell}_t^\varepsilon, \\ d\widehat{Z}_t^\varepsilon = dW_t^2 + \nu_2(\widehat{X}_t^\varepsilon, \widehat{Z}_t^\varepsilon)d\widehat{\ell}_t^\varepsilon. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

- ▶ We then equivalently consider the diffusion process $\mathbf{X}_t^\varepsilon = (X_t^\varepsilon, Z_t^\varepsilon)$ in the original domain D as follows :

$$\begin{cases} dX_t^\varepsilon = dW_t^1 + V(X_t^\varepsilon, Z_t^\varepsilon)dt + \nu_1^\varepsilon(X_t^\varepsilon, Z_t^\varepsilon)d\ell_t^\varepsilon, \\ dZ_t^\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\varepsilon}dW_t^2 + \nu_2^\varepsilon(X_t^\varepsilon, Z_t^\varepsilon)d\ell_t^\varepsilon, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Notational convention.

- ▶ \mathbf{P} , \mathbf{E} with respect to the random shape of D . (the **environment**)
- ▶ \mathbf{P}^W , \mathbf{E}^W with respect to the driving noise (W_t^1, W_t^2) .

The process \mathbf{X}_t^ε : fast and slow components.

- ▶ We recall (2) :

$$\begin{cases} dX_t^\varepsilon = dW_t^1 + V(X_t^\varepsilon, Z_t^\varepsilon)dt + \nu_1^\varepsilon(X_t^\varepsilon, Z_t^\varepsilon)d\ell_t^\varepsilon, \\ dZ_t^\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\varepsilon}dW_t^2 + \nu_2^\varepsilon(X_t^\varepsilon, Z_t^\varepsilon)d\ell_t^\varepsilon, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

- ▶ The process \mathbf{X}_t^ε has the "fast" and the "slow" components. The "fast" component is the process Z_t^ε and the "slow" component is the process X_t^ε .

Averaging principle.

- ▶ According to the averaging principle we can expect a mixing in the "fast" component before the "slow" component X_t^ε changes significantly. We shall describe the limiting slow motion.
- ▶ Problems of this type initiated in Freidlin–Wentzell, PTRF, 2012. ("fish paper")

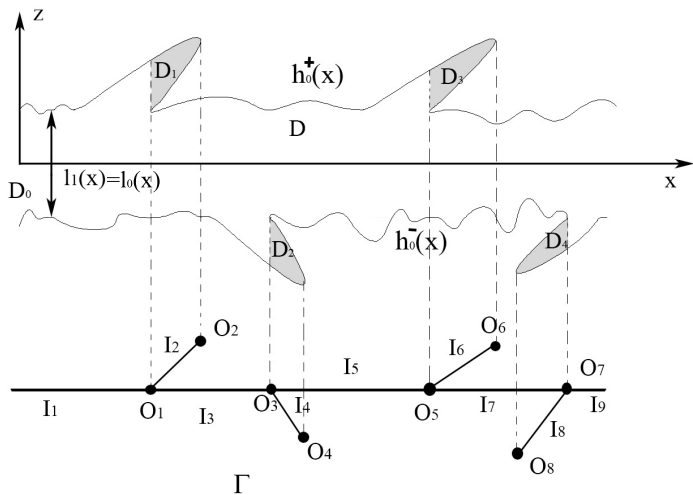


FIG. 1: A model of the molecular motor.

Averaging principle : Result.

- ▶ We fix a random shape of D . ("quenched" setting) After that we allow the shape of D be random and we will work on a corresponding random graph.
- ▶ Introduce the metric graph Γ corresponding to the domain D . Introduce the projection map \mathfrak{Y} .
- ▶ We can show similarly as in the previously mentioned paper of Freidlin–Wentzell that as $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$, the process $\mathfrak{Y}(\mathbf{X}_t^\varepsilon)$ converges weakly in $\mathbf{C}_{[0, T]}(\Gamma)$ to a Markov process Y_t on Γ .
- ▶ In other words we have

$$\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{X}_0^\varepsilon = \mathbf{x}}^W F(\mathfrak{Y}(\mathbf{X}_\bullet^\varepsilon)) \rightarrow \mathbf{E}_{\mathfrak{Y}(\mathbf{x})}^W F(Y_\bullet)$$

for every bounded continuous functional F on the space $\mathbf{C}_{[0, T]}(\Gamma)$.

Averaging principle : The process Y_t .

- ▶ The process Y_t is a diffusion process on Γ with a generator A and the domain of definition $D(A)$.
- ▶ For each edge I_k we define an operator \bar{L}_k :

$$\bar{L}_k u(x) = \frac{1}{2l_k(x)} \frac{d}{dx} \left(l_k(x) \frac{du}{dx} \right) + \bar{V}_k(x) \frac{du}{dx}, \quad A_k \leq x \leq B_k .$$

Averaging principle : The process Y_t .

- ▶ Here

$$\bar{V}_k(x) = \frac{1}{l_k(x)} \int_{h_k^-(x)}^{h_k^+(x)} V(x, z) dz$$

is the average of the velocity field $V(x, z)$ on the connected component $C_k(x)$, with respect to Lebesgue measure in z -direction. At places where $l_k = 0$, the above expression for $\bar{V}_k(x)$ is understood as a limit as $l_k \rightarrow 0$:

$$\bar{V}_k(x) = \lim_{y \rightarrow x} \frac{1}{l_k(y)} \int_{h_k^-(y)}^{h_k^+(y)} V(y, z) dz .$$

- ▶ We **assume for simplicity** $\bar{V}_k(x) = \beta > 0$ is a constant.

Averaging principle : The process Y_t .

- ▶ The operator A is acting on functions f on the graph Γ : for $y = (x, k)$ being an interior point of the edge l_k we take $Af(y) = \bar{L}_k f(x, k)$.
- ▶ What about the domain $D(A)$ (**boundary conditions**)?
- ▶ We introduce

$$q_k(x) = \int \frac{dx}{l_k(x)}, \quad r_k(x) = 2 \int l_k(x) dx .$$

(scale function and speed measure)

Averaging principle : The process Y_t .

- ▶ The domain of definition $D(A)$ of the operator A consists of such functions f satisfying the following properties.
 - The function f must be a continuous function that is twice continuously differentiable in x in the interior part of every edge I_k ;
 - There exist finite limits $\lim_{y \rightarrow O_i} Af(y)$ (which are taken as the value of the function Af at the point O_i);

Averaging principle : The process Y_t .

- ▶ One more property.
 - There exist finite one-sided limits $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_i} D_{q_k} f(x, k)$ along every edge ending at $O_i = (x_i, k)$ and they satisfy the gluing conditions

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N_i} (\pm) \lim_{x \rightarrow x_i} D_{q_{k_j}} f(x, k_j) = 0, \quad (3)$$

where the sign "+" is taken if the values of x for points $(x, k_j) \in I_{k_j}$ are $\geq x_i$ and "-" otherwise. Here $N_i = 1$ (when O_i is an exterior vertex) or 3 (when O_i is an interior vertex).

Averaging principle : The process Y_t .

- ▶ For an exterior vertex $O_i = (x_i, k)$ with only one edge I_k attached to it the condition (3) is just $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_i} D_{q_k} f(x, k) = 0$.
- ▶ For an interior vertex the gluing condition (3) can be written with the derivatives $\frac{d}{dx}$ instead of D_{q_k} . For k being one of the k_j we define $\alpha_{i,k} = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_i} I_k(x)$ (for each edge I_k the limit is a one-sided one). Then the condition (3) can be written as

$$\sum_{j=1}^3 (\pm) \alpha_{i,k_j} \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow x_i} \frac{df(x, k_j)}{dx} = 0 . \quad (4)$$

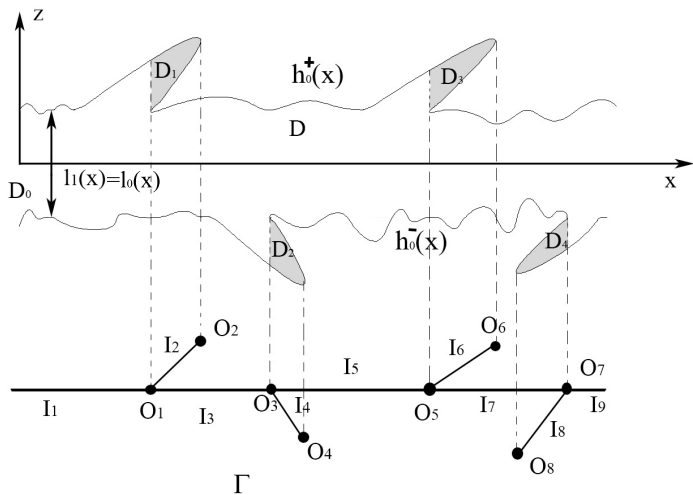


FIG. 1: A model of the molecular motor.

Question arising in applications.

- ▶ An interesting question arising in the applications is to calculate **the effective speed** of the particles.
- ▶ In mathematical language this problem can be formulated as follows. Let $\sigma^\varepsilon((-\infty, a])$ be the first time that the process \mathbf{X}_t^ε , starting from a point $\mathbf{x}_0 = (x_0, z_0) \in D$, hits $D \cap \{x = a > 0\}$. The limit

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \frac{\sigma^\varepsilon((-\infty, a])}{a}$$

exists in $\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{P}_{(x_0, z_0)}^W$ -probability and can be viewed as the inverse of the average effective speed of transportation of the particle inside D .

Answer.

- **Theorem.** (Freidlin–H, JSP, 2013, to appear) *We have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \frac{\sigma^\varepsilon((-\infty, a])}{a} \\ &= 2 \int_0^\infty K(t) \exp(-2\beta t) dt \\ & \quad + 2\mathbf{E}n\mathbf{E}\text{sign}(r) \int_0^r l_{\text{wing}}(t) \exp(2\beta t) dt \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{l_0(y)} \exp(-2\beta y) dy \end{aligned}$$

in probability. Here $K(t) = \mathbf{E} \frac{l_0(s)}{l_0(s+t)}$.

Brief sketch of the calculation.

- ▶ We first consider the corresponding Markov time $\tau((-\infty, a])$ for the limiting process Y_t .
- ▶ **Step 1.** "average transportation time when there is no wing"

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbf{E}_0^W \tau((-\infty, a])}{a} = 2 \int_0^{\infty} K(t) \exp(-2\beta t) dt ,$$

where $K(t) = \mathbf{E} \frac{l_0(s)}{l_0(s+t)}$.

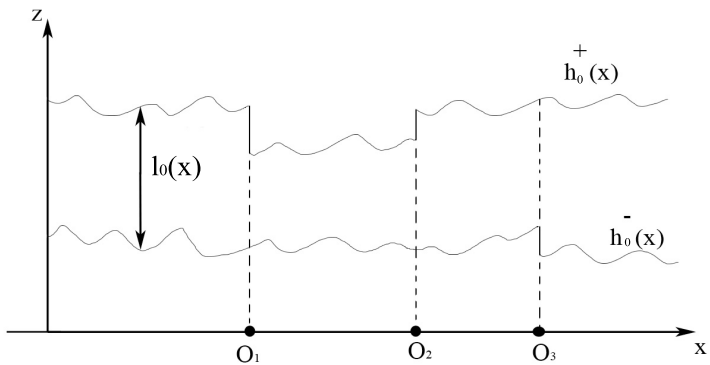


FIG. 2: The case when $l_0(x)$ has jumps.

Brief sketch of the calculation.

- Step 2. "average transportation time inside D_0 " Do an approximation.

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbf{E}_0^W \int_0^{\tau((-\infty, a])} \mathbf{1}(\mathcal{Y}^{-1}(Y_t) \subset D_0) dt}{a}$$
$$= 2 \int_0^{\infty} K(t) \exp(-2\beta t) dt$$

where $K(t) = \mathbf{E} \frac{l_0(s)}{l_0(s+t)}$.

Brief sketch of the calculation.

- ▶ Step 3. "average transportation time spent in one wing" First we let this wing be located at $x = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{E}_0^W \tau_{I_3}((-\infty, a]) \\ &= 2\text{sign}(r) \int_0^r I_3(t) \exp(2\beta t) dt \int_0^a \frac{1}{I_2(y)} \exp(-2\beta y) dy . \end{aligned}$$

Brief sketch of the calculation.

- ▶ Step 3 (continued). "average transportation time spent in one wing" Let this wing be located at $x = q$. If $q > 0$ then

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{E}_0^W \tau_{I_3}((-\infty, a]) \\ &= 2\text{sign}(r) \int_q^{q+r} l_3(t) \exp(2\beta(t - q)) dt \times \\ & \int_q^a \frac{1}{l_2(y)} \exp(-2\beta(y - q)) dy . \end{aligned}$$

If $q < 0$ then

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{E}_0^W \tau_{I_3}((-\infty, a]) \\ &= 2\text{sign}(r) \int_q^{q+r} l_3(t) \exp(2\beta(t - q)) dt \times \\ & \int_0^a \frac{1}{l_2(y)} \exp(-2\beta(y - q)) dy . \end{aligned}$$

Brief sketch of the calculation.

- **Step 4.** "average transportation time spent in all wings" We have

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbf{E}_0^W \int_0^{\tau(-\infty, a]} \mathbf{1}(\mathfrak{Y}^{-1}(Y_t) \notin D_0) dt}{a}$$
$$= 2\mathbf{E}n\mathbf{E}\text{sign}(r) \int_0^r l_{\text{wing}}(t) \exp(2\beta t) dt \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{l_0(y)} \exp(-2\beta y) dy$$

in probability.

Brief sketch of the calculation.

- Step 5. Combine Steps 2 and 4 we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \frac{\mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{x}_0}^W \sigma^\varepsilon((-\infty, a])}{a} \\ &= 2 \int_0^\infty K(t) \exp(-2\beta t) dt \\ & \quad + 2\mathbf{E}n\mathbf{E}\text{sign}(r) \int_0^r l_{\text{wing}}(t) \exp(2\beta t) dt \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{l_0(y)} \exp(-2\beta y) dy \end{aligned}$$

in probability. Here $K(t) = \mathbf{E} \frac{l_0(s)}{l_0(s+t)}$.

Brief sketch of the calculation.

- ▶ Step 6. Conclude that

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \frac{\mathbf{E}_{x_0}^W \sigma^\varepsilon((-\infty, a])}{a} = \lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \frac{\sigma^\varepsilon((-\infty, a])}{a} .$$

("Bernstein argument" and $\beta > 0$)

Remarks and Generalizations.

- ▶ Multidimensional situation.
- ▶ The case when random shape of D depends on time :
"ratchet effect".
- ▶ More general graphs.

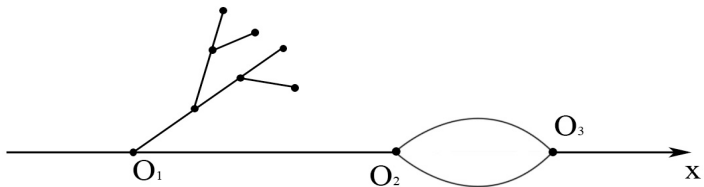


FIG. 3: A more general graph.

Reaction-diffusion equation in narrow random channels.

► RDE in D^ε .

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial u^\varepsilon}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u^\varepsilon}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u^\varepsilon}{\partial z^2} \right) + V(x, z) \frac{\partial u^\varepsilon}{\partial x} + f(u^\varepsilon) , \\ u^\varepsilon(0, x, z) = g(x) , \\ \left. \frac{\partial u^\varepsilon}{\partial \nu} \right|_{\partial D^\varepsilon} = 0 , \\ u^\varepsilon = u^\varepsilon(t, x, z) , (t, x, z) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times D^\varepsilon . \end{array} \right. \quad (5)$$

Reaction-diffusion equation in narrow random channels.

- ▶ Same as before, we rescale $D^\varepsilon \rightarrow D$:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial u^\varepsilon}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u^\varepsilon}{\partial x^2} + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \frac{\partial^2 u^\varepsilon}{\partial z^2} \right) + V(x, z) \frac{\partial u^\varepsilon}{\partial x} + f(u^\varepsilon) , \\ u^\varepsilon(0, x, z) = g(x) , \\ \left. \frac{\partial u^\varepsilon}{\partial \nu^\varepsilon} \right|_{\partial D} = 0 , \\ u^\varepsilon = u^\varepsilon(t, x, z) , (t, x, z) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times D . \end{array} \right. \quad (6)$$

- ▶ $f(u)$ is of KPP type nonlinearity ; $g(x) \geq 0$ (not identically equal to 0) smooth and compactly supported.

Reaction-diffusion equation in narrow random channels.

- ▶ Path integral representation (Feynmann-Kac) formula for the **generalized solution** :

$$u^\varepsilon(t, (x, z)) = \mathbf{E}_{(x,z)}^W \left[\exp \left(\int_0^t c(u^\varepsilon(t-s, \mathbf{X}_s^\varepsilon)) ds \right) g(X_t^\varepsilon) \right]. \quad (7)$$

- ▶ Here $c(u) = \frac{f(u)}{u}$ for $u > 0$ and $c(0) = \lim_{u \downarrow 0} \frac{f(u)}{u} = \sup_{u > 0} \frac{f(u)}{u}$.
The latter equality is due to the KPP nonlinearity assumption.
We shall also suppose that $|c'(u)| \leq \text{Lip}(c) < \infty$, $u \in [0, 1]$.
- ▶ The proof of existence, uniqueness and regularity of the generalized solution to the integral equation (7) is close to Freidlin, 1985, red book, Chapter 5, Section 3.

Approximation by a RDE on random graph.

- ▶ Making use of the convergence of $\mathfrak{Y}(\mathbf{X}_t^\varepsilon)$ to Y_t as $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$ we have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} \max_{(x,z) \in D} |u^\varepsilon(t, (x, z)) - u(t, \mathfrak{Y}((x, z)))| = 0 .$$

- ▶ Here $u(t, y)$, $t \geq 0$, $y = (x, k) \in \Gamma$ is the generalized solution to the RDE on Γ :

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = Au + f(u), u(0, (x, k)) = g(x), u(t, \bullet) \in D(A), (t, y) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \Gamma .$$

- ▶ Feynmann-Kac formula :

$$u(t, (x, k)) = \mathbf{E}_{(x,k)}^W \left[\exp \left(\int_0^t c(u(t-s), Y_s) ds \right) g(X_t) \right] . \quad (8)$$

Wave front propagation.

- ▶ We then focus on $u(t, (x, k))$.
- ▶ The study of wave front propagation for RDE in random environment was first initiated by Freidlin–Gärtner, 1979. They considered there a 1-d situation with **no drift**.
- ▶ The case of 1-d with the presence of a drift was considered by Nolen–Xin (CMP 2007, Dis Cont Dyn Sys B. 2009). They assume that **the mean drift is 0**.
- ▶ We mainly follow the technique developed in Nolen–Xin. As a consequence we shall assume that **the mean drift $\beta = 0$** .

Wave front propagation.



$$\mu^\pm(\lambda) \equiv \frac{1}{\mathbf{E}L} \mathbf{E} \left(\ln \mathbf{E}^W [e^{\lambda T_0^\pm L} \mathbf{1}_{T_0^\pm L < \infty}] \right) .$$



$$I^\pm(a) \equiv \sup_{\lambda \leq 0} (a\lambda - \mu^\pm(\lambda)) .$$

- ▶ We define non-random constants $c_+^* > 0$ and $c_-^* < 0$ as the solutions of the equations

$$c_+^* I^+ \left(\frac{1}{c_+^*} \right) = f'(0) ,$$

$$|c_-^*| I^- \left(\frac{1}{|c_-^*|} \right) = f'(0) .$$

These solutions exist and are unique.

Wave front propagation.

- **Theorem.** (Freidlin-H, preprint, 2013) *For any closed set $F \subset (-\infty, c_-^*) \cup (c_+^*, \infty)$ we have*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{c \in F} u(t, (ct, k)) = 0$$

almost surely with respect to \mathbf{P} . For any compact set $K \subset (c_-^, c_+^*)$ we have*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \inf_{c \in K} u(t, (ct, k)) = 1$$

almost surely with respect to \mathbf{P} .

Basic ingredients in the proof.

- ▶ The main technique of the proof borrows from Nolen–Xin (2007, 2009).
- ▶ Proof based on large deviation analysis for diffusion in random environments (Comets–Gantert–Zeitouni PTRF 2000, Taleb Ann Prob 2001).
- ▶ Actually all these results are based on the large deviation approach suggested in Freidlin–Gärtner, 1979.
- ▶ We have more degrees of freedom due to the presence of the wings.
- ▶ LDP is a large scale effect so that finite length of wings do not affect the analysis.

Basic ingredients in the proof.

- ▶ We need to show finiteness of the Lyapunov exponents

$$\mathbf{E}[|\ln \mathbf{E}^W[e^{-\lambda T_0^L}]|] < \infty ; \mathbf{E}[|\ln \mathbf{E}^W[e^{-\lambda T_0^{-L}}]|] < \infty .$$

- ▶ This is done by considering the solution of the Sturm-Liouville problem

$$Au - \lambda u = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma , u \in D(A) , u(0) = 1 , u(+\infty) = 0 .$$

- ▶ We make use of Feller's theory and the structure of the random graph Γ .

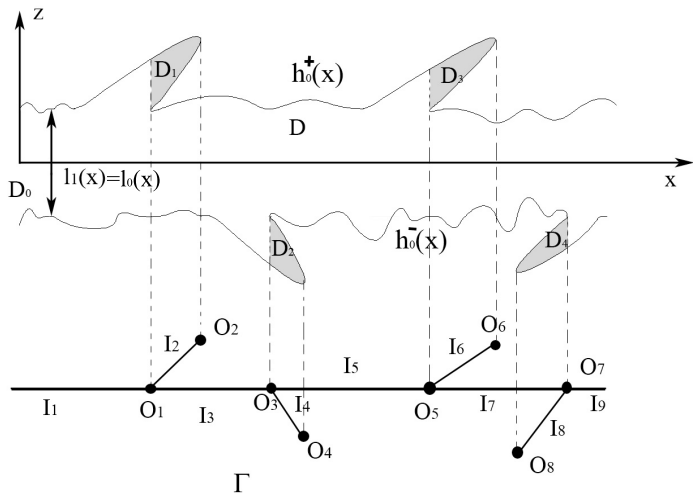


FIG. 1: A model of the molecular motor.

Basic ingredients in the proof.

- ▶ Products of random matrices naturally appear in the analysis.
- ▶ However these matrices contain negative terms so that it is not easy to analyze the limit of the products.
- ▶ We can show **finiteness** of Lyapunov exponents so that we can conclude **existence** of wave speed.

Questions left open.

- ▶ Identify/estimate the wave speed. This needs more information about the limit of products of random matrices appeared in our problem. To this end probably **Markov dependence assumption** is needed and the limit point is identified as certain boundary point.
- ▶ The case $\beta > 0$ as in the molecular motors. We do not know how to deal with this case yet...

The end.

- ▶ Thank you for your attention !