

Stochastic neutral fractions

&

the effective population size.

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1) STOCHASTIC NEUTRAL FRACTIONS



The Wright-Fisher model

- fixed population size $N \in \mathbb{N}$
- discrete time t

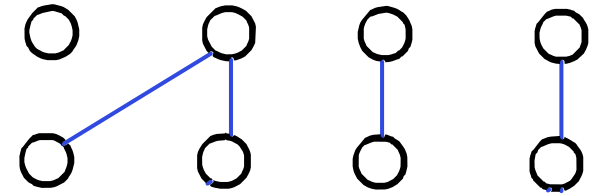
ex: $N=4$.

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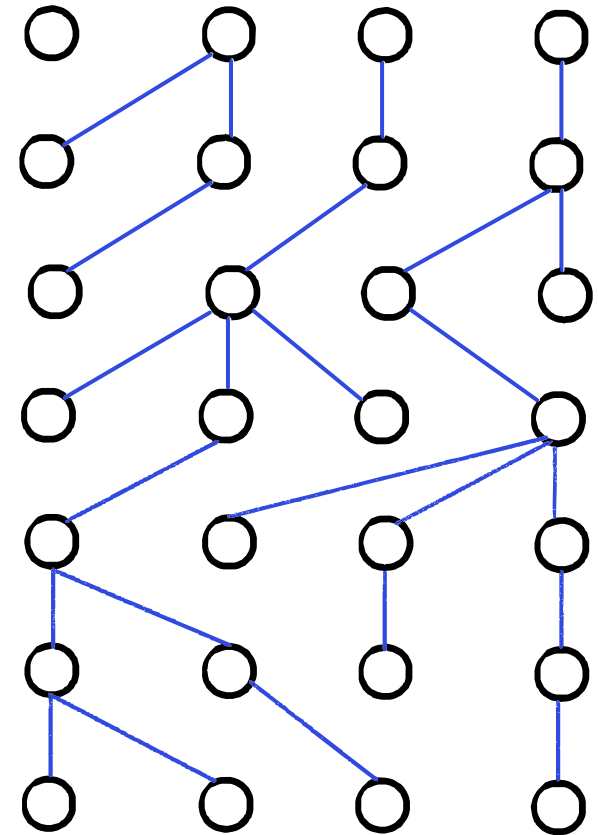


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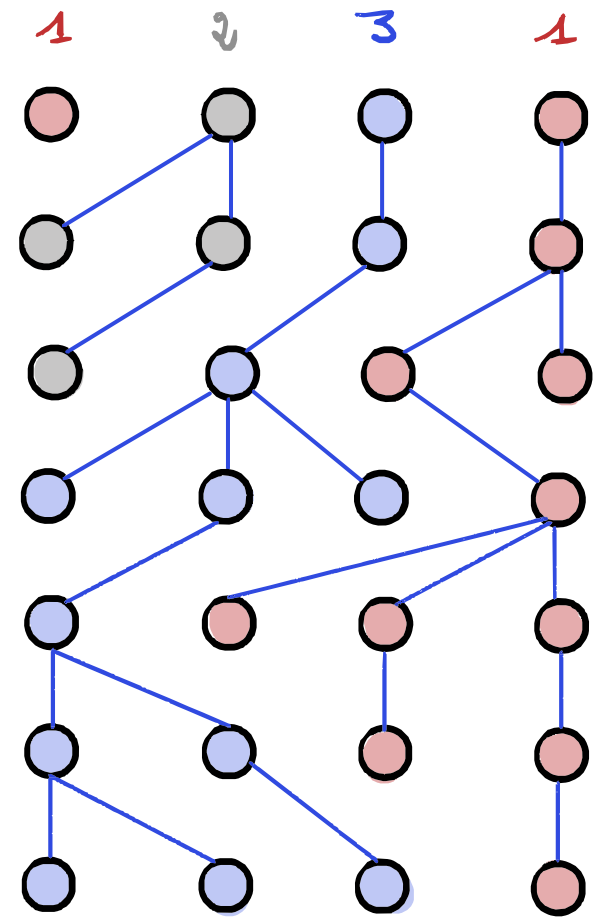
Neutral fractions

- at $t=0$, each individual is assigned an allele / colour indexed by

$$[K] = \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$$

$K \in \mathbb{N}$ number of alleles

- $t \in \mathbb{N}$, each individual inherits the allele of its parent
 $\hookrightarrow$ alleles are neutral



$$X_t^{N,1} = 1/4 \quad X_t^{N,2} = 0$$

$$X_t^{N,3} = 3/4$$

For $i \in [K]$, $t \in \mathbb{N}_0$

$X_t^{N,i}$ = frequency of allele i at generation t .

Asymptotic behaviour of $(X_t^{i,N}, i \in [K], t \in \mathbb{N})$ as $N \rightarrow +\infty$?

1) STOCHASTIC NEUTRAL FRACTIONS

$X_t^{N,i}$: frequency of type i at time t . / size of the i -th fraction

Assume that the initial frequencies converge to a non degenerate limit

$(X_0^{N,i}; i \in [K]) \Rightarrow x_0 \in [0,1]^K$. Then, as $N \rightarrow +\infty$,

$(X_{[tN]}^{N,i}; i \in [K], t \geq 0) \Rightarrow (z_t^i; i \in [K], t \geq 0)$
 $(K-1)$ dimensional standard
 Wright-Fisher diffusion (*)

(*) diffusion on the simplex $\{(z_1, \dots, z_K) \in [0, +\infty)^K : \sum z_k = 1\}$

with infinitesimal generator

$$\mathcal{L} f(z) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq K} (\delta_{ij} z_i - z_i z_j) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z_i \partial z_j} f(z)$$

1) STOCHASTIC NEUTRAL FRACTIONS

WF model : Well-mixed population

equal chances of reproductive success

"fluctuations in the allelic composition only due to genetic drift"

(?) Impact of ecological constraints on genetic compositions

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structured population

- * individuals carry types (spatial locations / fitness)
- * each type corresponds to a different ability to reproduce
- * non-local reproduction (migrations / mutations)

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↳ Backward-in-time approach

structured coalescents $\xrightarrow[\substack{\text{Separation of} \\ \text{timescales}}]{N \rightarrow \infty}$ Kingman's coalescent on timescale N_e
 $\downarrow$ duality
Wright-Fisher diffusion on timescale N_e

1) STOCHASTIC NEUTRAL FRACTIONS

N_e : effective population size.

"Size of the WF diffusion that experiences the same level of genetic drift as the structured population"

Questions ?

* What if there is **no** separation of timescales ?

or the population size is not fixed ?

* can we use the backward approach ? **Not so easy!**

GOAL : Define a general framework to work directly with neutral fractions in structured models.

1) (STOCHASTIC) NEUTRAL FRACTIONS IN THE FKPP EQUATION

The FKPP equation

$$\partial_t u = \frac{1}{2} \partial_x^2 u + r(u)u$$

(PDE₁)

$u(t, x)$ density of individuals at time t at $x \in \mathbb{R}$ = type

$r(u)$: per capita growth rate $\Rightarrow$ density dependent

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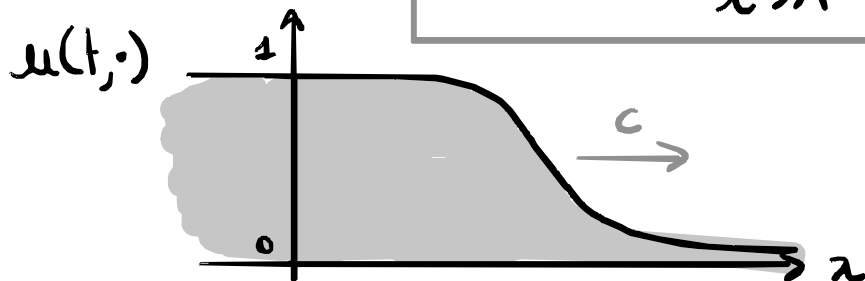
Asymptotic behaviour

There exists a minimal speed c , and an associated profile $\tilde{h}$ s.t

under suitable i.c.,

$$u(t, x) \underset{t \gg 1}{\approx} \tilde{h}(x - ct) \leftarrow$$

travelling wave/front solution to (PDE₁)



1) (STOCHASTIC) NEUTRAL FRACTIONS IN THE FKPP EQUATION

The FKPP equation

$$\partial_t u = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} u + r(u)u \quad (\text{PDE}_1)$$

$u(t, x)$ density of individuals at time t at $x \in \mathbb{R}$

How to define neutral fractions ?

Hallatschek and Nelson 2008

Roques, Garnier, Hamel and Klein 2012

initial condition : $u(0, x) = u_0(x) = \sum_{k=1}^K v_0^k(x)$

fraction dynamics : for all $k \in [K]$, v^k solution to the PDE

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t v^k = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} v^k + r(u) v^k \\ v^k(0, x) = v_0^k(x) \end{cases} \quad (\text{PDE}_2)$$

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$\sum v^k$ solution
to (PDE_1)

AND

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t v^k = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} v^k + r(u) v^k \\ v^k(0, x) = v_0^k(x) \end{cases} \quad (\text{PDE}_2)$$

same dispersal + same growth $\Rightarrow$ neutral fractions

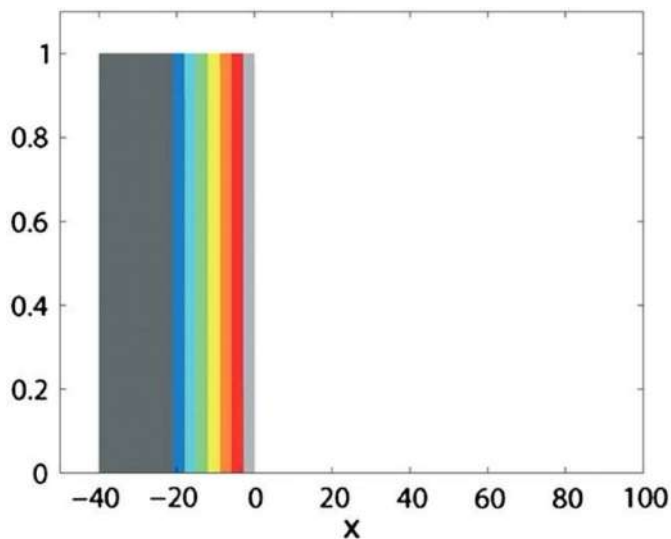
1) (STOCHASTIC) NEUTRAL FRACTIONS IN THE FKPP EQUATION

$$\partial_t u = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} u + r(u) u \quad (\text{PDE}_1) \quad \text{Total population size}$$

$$\partial_t v^k = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} v^k + r(u) v^k \quad k \in [K] \quad (\text{PDE}_2) \quad \text{neutral fractions}$$

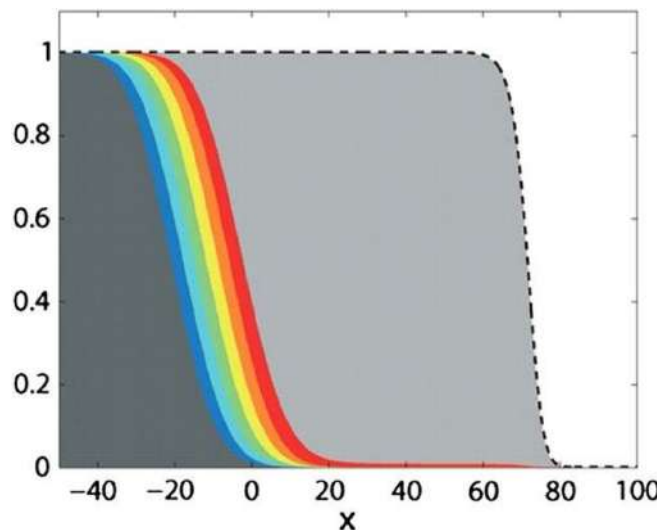
Roques, Garnier, Hamel and Klein 2012

$t=0$



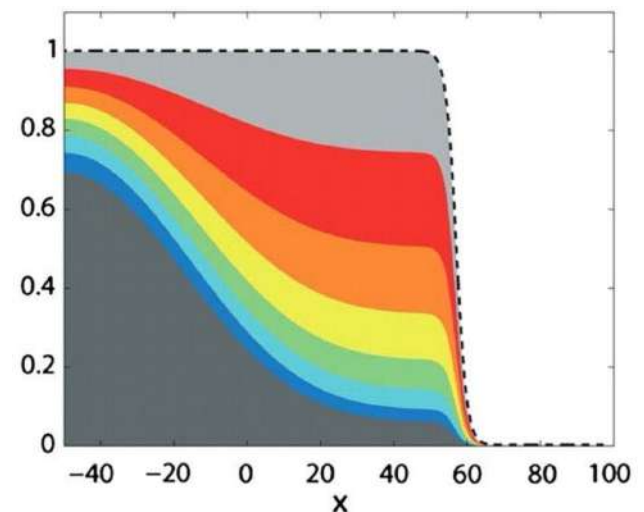
EX 1

$$r(u) = (1-u)$$



EX 2 : Allee effects

$$r(u) = (1-u)(u-u^*)$$



1) { STOCHASTIC } NEUTRAL FRACTIONS IN THE FKPP EQUATION

Noisy FKPP equation :

$$\partial_t u^N = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} u^N + r(u^N) u^N + \sqrt{\frac{u^N}{N}} \dot{w}$$

(SPDE₁)

N : large demographic parameter local population density

$\dot{w}$: white noise

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Noisy FKPP equation :

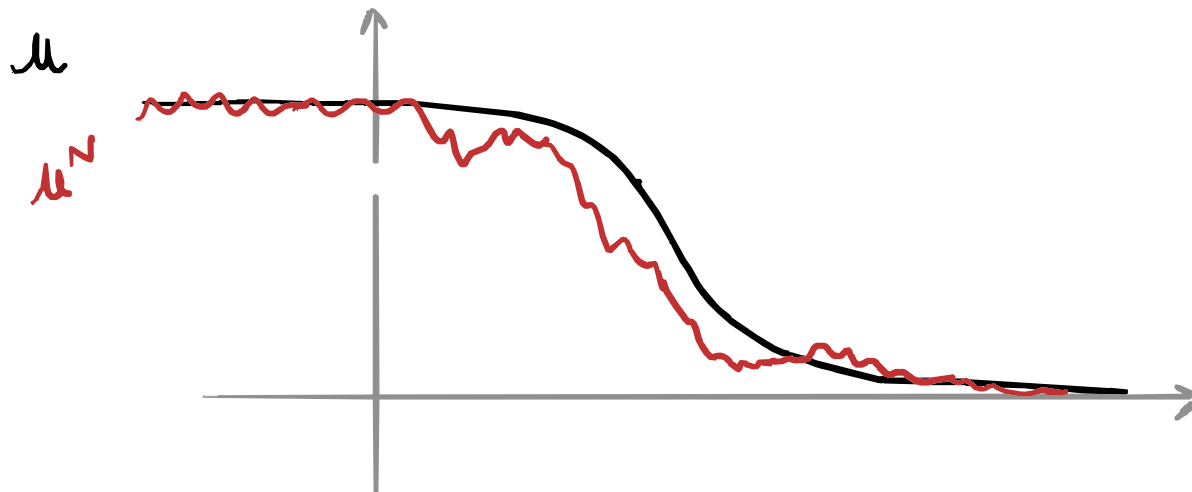
$$\partial_t u^N = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} u^N + r(u^N) u^N + \sqrt{\frac{u^N}{N}} \dot{w} \quad (\text{SPDE}_1)$$

N : large demographic parameter local population density

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1st step : fluctuations of the total population u^N around the deterministic limit ($N \rightarrow +\infty$) ?

↳ HARD PROBLEM !



2) THE MODEL

$E = (x_1, \dots, x_d)$ finite type space

We consider the d -dimensional stochastic differential equation

$$dU_t^N = b(U_t^N) dt + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} a(U_t^N) dW_t \quad (\text{SDE}_1)$$

$U_t \in \mathbb{R}^E$, $\forall x \in E$ $(U_t)_x$ "number" of individuals with type x

$b: \mathbb{R}^E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^E$ growth of the system

$a: \mathbb{R}^E \rightarrow M_d(\mathbb{R})$ noise correlation matrix

W_t d -dimensional Wiener process -

a and b are smooth enough to have existence + uniqueness of weak sol.

How to define neutral fractions in this population model?

2) THE MODEL

Neutral fractions. Can we define $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ $V_t^1, \dots, V_t^k : \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}^E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^E$ s.t.

1) $\sum_{k=1}^K V_t^k$ is solution to (SDE₁) "fractions"

2) the fractions are exchangeable: $\forall \sigma \in S_K$

$$(V_t^{\sigma(1)}, \dots, V_t^{\sigma(K)}) \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} (V_t^1, \dots, V_t^K)$$

3) the fractions are consistent

$$(V_t^1, \dots, V_t^{K-1} + V_t^K) \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} (V_t^1, \dots, V_t^{K-1})$$

"neutral"

1) + 2) + 3) : the system is ∞ -decomposable

2) THE MODEL

Sufficient conditions for (SDE_1) to be ∞ -decomposable

1) DRIFT TERM

$$\exists F: \mathbb{R}^E \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^E, \mathbb{R}^E): \forall U \in \mathbb{R}^E$$

$$b(U) = F(U)U$$

remark: density-dependent growth rate $\approx$ FKPP run, u

2) DEMOGRAPHIC FLUCTUATIONS

$$\exists C: \mathbb{R}^E \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^E, \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^E, \mathbb{R}^E)) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma: \mathbb{R}^E \times \mathbb{R}^E \rightarrow M_{d,K}(\mathbb{R})$$

such that $\forall U_1, U_2 \in \mathbb{R}^E$,

$$a a^*(U_1) = C(U_1) \cdot U_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma \sigma^*(U_1, U_2) = C(U_1) U_2$$

Neutral fractions $(V_t^1, \dots, V_t^K)$ solutions to

$$dV_t^{N,k} = F(\sum V_t^{N,k}) V_t^{N,k} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sigma(\sum V_t^{N,k}, V_t^{N,k}) dW_t^k, \quad k \in [K] \quad (SDE_2)$$

(W_t^k) independent d -dimensional Wiener processes

$$dV_t^{N,k} = F(\sum V_t^{N,k}) V_t^{N,k} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} G(\sum V_t^{N,k}, V_t^{N,k}) dW_t^k; k \in [K] \quad (\text{SDE}_2)$$

Karatzas go' :

Assume that the deterministic system
has an attractive stable manifold Γ .

$$dV_t^k = F\left(\sum_{k=1}^K V_t^k\right) V_t^k; k \in [K], t > 0 \quad (\text{ODE}_2)$$

Then, as $N \rightarrow +\infty$, on a suitable time scale, $(V_t^{N,k}; k \in [K])$
converges to a diffusion on Γ

$$dV_t^{N,k} = F\left(\sum V_t^{N,k}\right) V_t^{N,k} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} G\left(\sum V_t^{N,k}, V_t^{N,k}\right) dW_t^k; k \in [K] \quad (\text{SDE}_2)$$

Karmonberger 90':

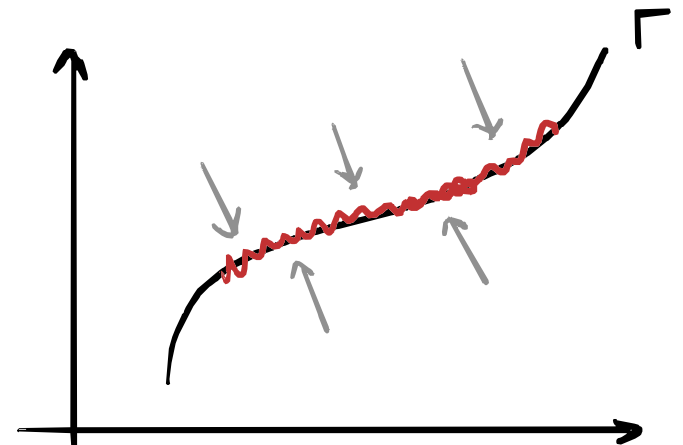
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⊕ (SDE₂) does not necessarily satisfies the ∞ -decomposability condition

⊖ the limiting diffusion is not explicit.



Assumptions

$$dU_t^N = b(U_t^N) dt + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} a(U_t^N) dW_t \quad (\text{SDE}_1)$$

(∞ -decomposability) $b(u) = F(u)u$ and $aa^*(u) = C(u)u$

(regularity) F and C are smooth

(equilibrium) $\frac{du}{dt} = b(u)$ (ODE_1) has an exponentially locally attractive equilibrium $\tilde{h} > 0$ [$b(\tilde{h}) = F(\tilde{h})\tilde{h} = 0$]

(PF) $F(\hat{h})$ is Metzler and $\exists t_0 > 0: \forall n, y \in E (e^{t_0 F(\hat{h})})_{ny} > 0$
 $\hookrightarrow \tilde{h}$ is the right principal eigenvector associated to $F(\hat{h})$
 $\hookrightarrow$ there exists an associated positive left eigenvector s.t.
 $\langle \tilde{h}, \tilde{h} \rangle = 1$

Remark: $\langle \tilde{h}, 1 \rangle \neq 1$ carrying capacity of the system.

3) RESULT

$$dV_t^{N,k} = F(\sum V_t^{N,k}) V_t^{N,k} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} G(\sum V_t^{N,k}, V_t^{N,k}) dW_t^k, \quad k \in [K] \quad (\text{SDE}_2)$$

Stable manifold : $\Gamma^K = \{ \theta \otimes \tilde{h}, \sum_{k=1}^K \theta^k = 1, \theta^k \geq 0 \}$

Scaling parameter $\Sigma^2 = \langle h, a a^*(\tilde{h}) h \rangle$

THEOREM : Under natural assumptions on the initial condition,

$$(V_{tN/\Sigma^2}^{N,k}; k \in [K], t \in [0, T]) \xRightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} (\theta_t \otimes \tilde{h}, t \in [0, T])$$

where (θ_t) is a standard $(K-1)$ -dimensional Wright-Fisher diffusion

$N_e = \frac{N}{\Sigma^2}$ effective population size.

3) RESULT

$$dU_t^N = b(U_t^N) dt + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} a(U_t^N) dW_t \quad (\text{SDE}_1)$$

$$dV_t^{N,k} = F(\sum V_t^{N,k}) V_t^{N,k} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} G(\sum V_t^{N,k}, V_t^{N,k}) dW_t^k, \quad k \in [K] \quad (\text{SDE}_2)$$

EX $\approx$ Noisy FKPP equation

$$a(u) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{u_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \sqrt{u_d} \end{pmatrix}$$

then $C(u)u = \begin{pmatrix} u_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & u_d \end{pmatrix}$ and $G(u,w) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{w_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \sqrt{w_d} \end{pmatrix}$

$$\Sigma^2 = \sum_{n \in E} h_n^2 \tilde{h}_n \quad (N_e = N/\Sigma^2)$$

reproductive variance of the structured system.

$\tilde{h}_n$: mean number of children of an individual with type n .

5) What do we expect for stochastic FKPP equations?

$$\partial_t u^N = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{xx} u^N + r(u^N) u^N + \sqrt{\frac{u^N}{N}} \dot{W}(t) \quad (\text{SPDE}_1)$$

(equilibrium) there exists a stable profile $\tilde{h}$ such that

$$\|u^\infty(t, \cdot + ct) - \tilde{h}(\cdot)\|_\infty \leq Ce^{-\lambda t} \quad [\checkmark \text{ Allée case}]$$

(finite variance) $\Sigma^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}} h(x)^2 \tilde{h}(x) dx < +\infty \quad [\checkmark \text{ Allée case}]$

Then $\exists (S_t^N)_{t \geq 0}$ s.t.

$$\sup_{t \in [0, TN]} \|u^N(t, \cdot) - \tilde{h}(\cdot - S_t^N)\| \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

(S_t^N) converges to a Brownian motion

Etheridge, Forien, Pemington 2025 +

and

$$\sup_{t \in [0, TN]} \sup_{k \in [K]} \|\underbrace{\theta^{k,N}(t)}_{WF!} \tilde{h}(\cdot - S_t^N)\| \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

4) SKETCH OF PROOF

notation $V_t^N = (V_t^{N,1} \dots V_t^{N,k})$ composition matrix $\in M_{d,k}(\mathbb{R}^+)$

Katzenberger projection π

$$\begin{aligned} \text{let } \Phi : [0, +\infty) \times M_{d,k}(\mathbb{R}^+) &\longrightarrow M_{d,k}(\mathbb{R}^+) \\ (t, v_0) &\longmapsto \Phi(t, v_0) = v_t \end{aligned}$$

where v_t is solution of the ODE

"flow of the deterministic dynamics"

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{v}_t &= F\left(\sum_{j=1}^k v_t^j\right) v_t \\ \text{initial condition } v_0. & \text{ (ODE}_2\text{)} \end{aligned}$$

Define $\pi(v_0) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \Phi(t, v_0)$

Fact 1 : $\pi(v_0) \in \Gamma^k \Rightarrow \pi(V_t^N)$ natural candidate for the limiting diffusion.

↗ It usually requires a lot of info on the flow to work with π .

4) SKETCH OF PROOF

notation $V_t^N = (V_t^{N,1} \dots V_t^{N,k})$ composition matrix $\in M_{d,k}(\mathbb{R}^+)$

Katzenberger projection $\pi(\cdot) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \Phi(t, \cdot)$

Fact 1 : $\pi(v_0) \in \Gamma^k \Rightarrow \pi(V_t^N)$ natural candidate for the limiting diffusion.

Fact 2 $\exists H: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ such that

$$\forall v_0 \in M_{d,k}(\mathbb{R}^+) \quad \pi(v_0)^d = \langle H(u_0), v_0 \bar{j} \rangle \tilde{h} \quad u_0 = \sum v_0 \bar{j}$$

Proof. decomposability $\Rightarrow$ each column is solution of a linear ODE

$\rightsquigarrow$ Reduction of the problem's dimension

Next steps of the proof : 1) show that $V_t^N \approx \pi(V_t^N)$ STABILITY.

2) show that $(\langle H(U_t^N), V_t^{N,j} \rangle)_j \Rightarrow$ WF
ITÔ CALCULUS.

4) SKETCH OF PROOF

Stability: show that $\pi(V_t^N) \approx V_t^N$

Define the Perron-Frobenius projection $P: \omega \mapsto \langle \omega, h \rangle \tilde{h}$

$\mathbb{R}^d$
 ω right e.v. $\downarrow$
left e.v. $\uparrow$

0) Stability of the total pop. size $V_t^N \approx \tilde{h}$

1) Stability of Perron-Frobenius dynamic projections

$$(P(V_t^{N,i}))_i \approx V_t^N$$

Proof - Standard Perron-Frobenius theory + martingale arguments -

2) Comparison with Katzemberger projections

Recall that $\pi(V_t^N)^i = \langle H(U_t^N), V_t^{N,i} \rangle \tilde{h}$

$$\|H(v_0) - \tilde{h}\| \leq C \|v_0 - \tilde{h}\|$$