

Most probable exit points for the overdamped Langevin dynamics

Dorian Le Peutrec

(Joint work with Giacomo Di Gesù, Tony Lelièvre, and Boris Nectoux)

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 - Overdamped Langevin dynamics
 - Previous results
 - Quasi-stationary distribution (QSD)
- 2 Results
 - Hypotheses and notation
 - Results
 - Comments
- 3 About the proof when $X_0 \sim \text{QSD}$

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- Overdamped Langevin dynamics :

↪ System $X = (X_t)_{t \geq 0}$ of d particles

$$dX_t = -\nabla f(X_t) dt + \sqrt{h} dB_t$$

Where :

- f potential function (assumed to be smooth here!)
 - $h = \kappa_B T$, $T \leftrightarrow$ temperature, $\kappa_B \leftrightarrow$ Boltzmann constant
 - $B = (B_1, \dots, B_d) \leftrightarrow d$ independent Brownian motions
-
- When $0 < h \ll 1$, the process X is trapped during a long period of time near a local minimum of f before going to another region of \mathbb{R}^d
 - ↪ This regions are said metastable (\leftrightarrow tunneling effect)
 - ↪ Long period of inactivities between two “transitions”

- **General question :** For $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ metastable and $h \ll 1$, what is the behaviour of the exit event from Ω ?

Rk : Exit event from $\Omega = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{time spent in } \Omega \\ + \text{ exit point distribution} \end{array} \right.$

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- We focus here on the most probable exit points :

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a smooth open and connected set, and

$\tau_\Omega = \inf\{t \geq 0 \mid X_t \notin \Omega\}$ the first exit time from Ω .

Definition 1

X_{τ_Ω} concentrates on $\mathcal{Y} \subset \partial\Omega$ if :

– for any neigh. $\mathcal{V}_y \subset \partial\Omega$ of \mathcal{Y} , $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \mathbb{P}(X_{\tau_\Omega} \in \mathcal{V}_y) = 1$

– for any $x \in \mathcal{Y}$ and $\mathcal{V}_x \subset \partial\Omega$ neigh. of x , $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \mathbb{P}(X_{\tau_\Omega} \in \mathcal{V}_x) > 0$

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- When $\partial_n f > 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ and f admits one unique critical point x_0 in Ω (and hence $f(x_0) = \min_{\overline{\Omega}} f$) being non degenerate, it holds :

$$\forall x \in \Omega, \forall F \in C^\infty(\partial\Omega, \mathbb{R}), \mathbb{E}^x[F(X_{\tau_\Omega})] = \frac{\int_{\partial\Omega} F \partial_n f e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} d\sigma}{\int_{\partial\Omega} \partial_n f e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} d\sigma} + o(1)$$

[Follows from M.I. Freidlin and A.D. Wentzell when $\operatorname{argmin}_{\partial\Omega} f = \{z_0\}$ (1970)

Result formally obtained in general by B.J. Matkowsky and Z. Schuss (1977)

Proved by S. Kamin (1978,1979), M.V. Day (1984, 1987), B. Perthame (1990)]

Rk 1 : $x \mapsto \mathbb{E}^x[F(X_{\tau_\Omega})]$ is the sol. to $\begin{cases} -\frac{h}{2}\Delta g + \nabla f \cdot \nabla g = 0 \\ g|_{\partial\Omega} = F \end{cases}$

Rk 2 : These results are also valid in the non-gradient case!

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Rk 2 : These results are also valid in the non-gradient case!

\Leftrightarrow When $X_0 = x \in \Omega$, X_{τ_Ω} concentrates on $\operatorname{argmin}_{\partial\Omega} f$
(with explicitly computable asymptotic relative probabilities)

- We want to obtain similar results for quite general domains Ω when X_0 is distributed according to the QSD of Ω and to extend them to deterministic initial conditions $X_0 = x$.
- More precisely, we look for geometric assumptions ensuring that :
 - when $X_0 \sim \text{QSD}$, the distrib. of X_{τ_Ω} concentrates on $\mathcal{Y} \subset \text{argmin}_{\partial\Omega} f$,
 - these results extend to $X_0 = x$ for some particular x to be specified

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- **Def :** A QSD ν on Ω is a measure supp. in Ω s.t. $\mathcal{L}^\nu(X_t | t < \tau_\Omega) = \nu$
- Infinitesimal generator of the dynamics :

$$L^{(0)} := -\frac{h}{2}\Delta + \nabla f \cdot \nabla = -\frac{h}{2} e^{\frac{2}{h}f} \operatorname{div} (e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} \nabla \cdot)$$

- $(L^{(0)}, (H^2 \cap H_0^1)(\Omega, e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} dx))$ s.a. ≥ 0 on $L_w^2 = L^2(\Omega, e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} dx)$
- Discrete spectrum, the principal e.v. $\lambda_1(h) > 0$ is non degenerate
- The principal e.v. \vec{u}_h has a sign on Ω

Proposition 2

Let u_h be any \vec{u}_h associated with $\lambda_1(h) > 0$. Then

$$d\nu_h = \frac{u_h e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} dx}{\int_{\Omega} u_h(y) e^{-\frac{2}{h}f(y)} dy}$$

is a QSD for the process $(X_t | t < \tau_\Omega)$.

Properties of the QSD

Proposition 3 (Le Bris, Lelièvre, Luskin, Perez)

For every probability μ_0 on Ω and every t large enough,

$$\|\mathcal{L}^{\mu_0}(X_t | t < \tau_\Omega) - \nu_h\|_{TV} \leq C(\mu_0) e^{-(\lambda_2(h) - \lambda_1(h))t}$$

\Leftrightarrow The QSD is unique!

Proposition 4

When $X_0 \sim \nu_h$:

- 1 τ_Ω are X_{τ_Ω} independent,
- 2 $\tau_\Omega \sim \mathcal{E}(\lambda_1(h))$,
- 3 X_{τ_Ω} has the following density on $\partial\Omega$:

$$z \in \partial\Omega \mapsto -\frac{h}{2\lambda_1(h)} \frac{\partial_n u_h(z) e^{-\frac{2}{h}f(z)}}{\int_\Omega u_h(y) e^{-\frac{2}{h}f(y)} dy}$$

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- “Morse” type hypotheses on f (**MH**) :
 - f is a smooth Morse function on $\overline{\Omega}$
 - ∇f does not vanish on $\partial\Omega$
 - $f|_{\partial\Omega}$ (or more generally $f|_{\{\sigma \text{ s.t. } \partial_n f(\sigma) > 0\}}$) is a Morse function
 - $\mathcal{U}_0 := \{\text{local minima of } f \text{ in } \Omega\}$ is not empty
- Minimal energy needed to reach the boundary :
 - Let us define, for any $x \in \mathcal{U}_0$,

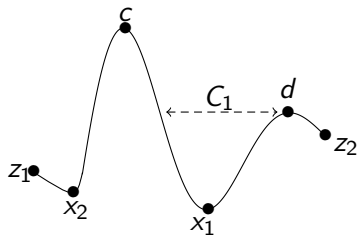
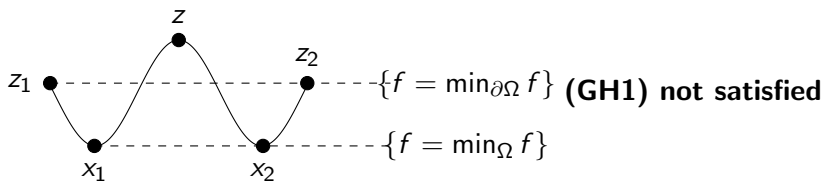
$$H_f(x) := \inf_{\substack{\gamma \in C([0,1], \overline{\Omega}) \\ \gamma(0) = x \\ \gamma(1) \in \partial\Omega}} \max_{t \in [0,1]} f(\gamma(t))$$

- and, for some arbitrary $x_1 \in \operatorname{argmax}\{H_f(x) - f(x), x \in \mathcal{U}_0\}$,

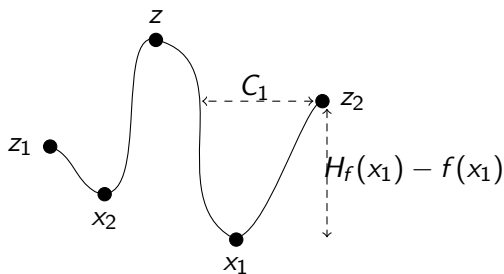
$C_1 :=$ connected component of $\{f < H_f(x_1)\}$ containing x_1

Geometric hypotheses **(GH)** :

- **(GH1)** $\operatorname{argmax}\{H_f(x) - f(x), x \in \mathcal{U}_0\} \subset C_1$
(\Rightarrow the definition of C_1 does not depend on the choice of x_1 !)
- **(GH2)** $\partial C_1 \cap \partial \Omega \neq \emptyset$
- **(GH3)** $\partial C_1 \cap \partial \Omega \subset \operatorname{argmin}_{\partial \Omega} f$

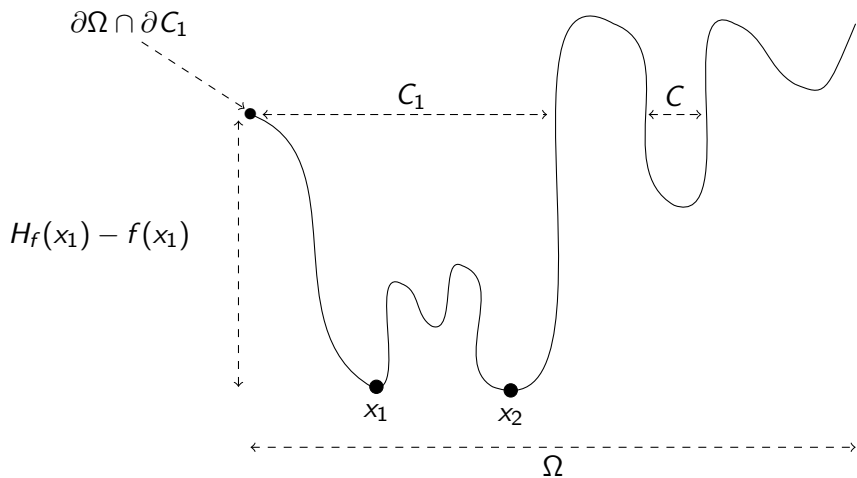


(GH1) but not (GH2)



(GH1), (GH2) but not (GH3)

An example where (GH) is satisfied



- *Generalized* saddle points on $\partial\Omega$:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{U}_1^{\partial\Omega} &= \{\text{local minima of } f|_{\partial\Omega} \text{ where } \partial_n f > 0\} \\ &= \{z_1, \dots, z_{m_1}\} \subset \partial\Omega\end{aligned}$$

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- $\partial C_1 \cap \partial\Omega = \partial C_1 \cap \mathcal{U}_1^{\partial\Omega} \cap \operatorname{argmin}_{\partial\Omega} f = \{z_1, \dots, z_{k_1}^{\partial C_1}\}$

Rk : From our hypotheses : $1 \leq k_1^{\partial C_1} \leq k_1 \leq m_1$

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Theorem 1 (with G. Di Gesù, T. Lelièvre et B. Nectoux)

We assume **(MH)** and **(GH)**.

Let $F \in C^\infty(\partial\Omega, \mathbb{R})$ and $\{\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_{k_1}\}$ be a family of disjoint neigh. of $\{z_1, \dots, z_{k_1}\} = \mathcal{U}_1^{\partial\Omega} \cap \operatorname{argmin}_{\partial\Omega} f$ in $\partial\Omega$.

We assume that $X_0 \sim \nu_h$ or $X_0 = x \in C_1$. Then :

1. There exists $c > 0$ such that in the limit $h \rightarrow 0^+$,

$$\mathbb{E}^{X_0}[F(X_{\tau_\Omega})] = \sum_{i=1}^{k_1} \mathbb{E}^{\nu_h}[\mathbf{1}_{\Sigma_i} F(X_{\tau_\Omega})] + O(e^{-\frac{c}{h}})$$

and

$$\sum_{i=k_1^{\partial C_1}+1}^{k_1} \mathbb{E}^{X_0}[\mathbf{1}_{\Sigma_i} F(X_{\tau_\Omega})] = O(h^{\frac{1}{4}})$$

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We assume that $X_0 \sim \nu_h$ or $X_0 = x \in C_1$. Then :

2. For every $i \in \{1, \dots, k_1^{\partial C_1}\}$, it holds when $h \rightarrow 0^+$,

$$\mathbb{E}^{X_0}[\mathbf{1}_{\Sigma_i} F(X_{\tau_\Omega})] = F(z_i) a_i + O(h^{\frac{1}{4}})$$

where

$$a_i = \frac{\partial_n f(z_i)}{\sqrt{\det \operatorname{Hess} f|_{\partial\Omega}(z_i)}} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{k_1^{\partial C_1}} \frac{\partial_n f(z_k)}{\sqrt{\det \operatorname{Hess} f|_{\partial\Omega}(z_k)}} \right)^{-1}$$

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We assume that $X_0 \sim \nu_h$ or $X_0 = x \in C_1$. Then :

3. Under some additional geometric assumption, it holds :

$$\sum_{i=k_1^{\partial C_1}+1}^{k_1} \mathbb{E}^{X_0}[\mathbf{1}_{\Sigma_i} F(X_{\tau_\Omega})] = O(e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{h}}) + \cancel{O(h^{\frac{1}{4}})}$$

and for every $i \in \{1, \dots, k_1^{\partial C_1}\}$,

$$\mathbb{E}^{X_0}[\mathbf{1}_{\Sigma_i} F(X_{\tau_\Omega})] = F(z_i) a_i + O(h) + \cancel{O(h^{\frac{1}{4}})}$$

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- **But** X_{τ_Ω} does not concentrate on the sets

$$\{z_{k_1^{\partial C_1+1}}, \dots, z_{k_1}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{\text{global minima of } f|_{\partial\Omega} \text{ where } \partial_n f < 0\}$$

which have energy $\min_{\partial\Omega} f$ (and can be non-empty)

- As a consequence, when

$$\partial_n f > 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \quad \text{and} \quad (\nabla f)^{-1}(\{0\}) \subset \{f < \min_{\partial\Omega} f\},$$

it holds $k_1^{\partial C_1} = k_1$ (iff $\partial C_1 \cap \partial\Omega = \operatorname{argmin}_{\partial\Omega} f$) and for every $x \in \Omega$:

$$\mathbb{E}^x[F(X_{\tau_\Omega})] = \sum_{i=1}^{k_1} F(z_i) a_i + O(h^{\frac{1}{4}}) = \frac{\int_{\partial\Omega} F \partial_n f e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} d\sigma}{\int_{\partial\Omega} \partial_n f e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} d\sigma} + o(1)$$

↔ One recovers in particular the previous mentioned results

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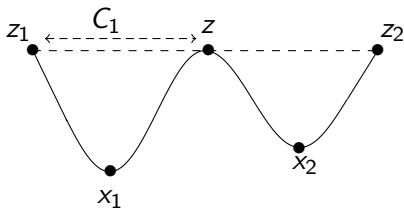
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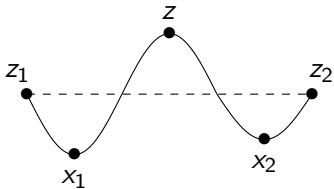
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\Leftrightarrow One recovers in particular the previous mentioned results

- Two simple examples :



Here : $\mathbb{P}^{X_0}[X_{\tau_\Omega} = z_2] \simeq \sqrt{h}$



$\mathbb{P}^{X_0}[X_{\tau_\Omega} = z_2] = \mathcal{O}(e^{-\frac{c}{h}})$

- Intermediate results about $\lambda_1(h)$:

- Under **(MH)**, there exist $C_1, C_2 > 0$ such that when $h \rightarrow 0^+$,

$$\frac{C_1}{h^p} e^{-\frac{2}{h}(H_f(x_1) - f(x_1))} \leq \lambda_1(h) \leq \frac{C_2}{h^p} e^{-\frac{2}{h}(H_f(x_1) - f(x_1))}$$

for some $p \in \{0, \frac{1}{2}\}$ and

(GH1) holds iff $\exists c > 0$ s.t. $\lambda_1(h) = \lambda_2(h) O(e^{-\frac{c}{h}})$.

- Lastly, under **(MH)**, **(GH1)**, and **(GH2)**, it holds :

$$\lambda_1(h) = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{k_1^{c_1}} \partial_n f(z_j) (\det \text{Hess} f|_{\partial\Omega}(z_j))^{-\frac{1}{2}}}{\sqrt{\pi h} \sum_{x \in \text{argmin}_{C_1} f} (\det \text{Hess} f(x))^{-\frac{1}{2}}} e^{-\frac{2}{h}(H_f(x_1) - f(x_1))} (1 + O(\sqrt{h}))$$

- Some related results about the low spectrum of $L^{(0)}$ (in Ω or in \mathbb{R}^d) :

- Probabilistic approach : Holley-Kusuoka-Stroock, Miclo, Mathieu, Bovier-Gaynard-Klein
- Semi-classical approach : Helffer-Klein-Nier, Helffer-Nier, L.P., Michel
- Langevin (in \mathbb{R}^d) : Hérau-Hitrik-Sjöstrand

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Let u_h be any e.v. associated with $\lambda_1(h)$ and $F \in C^\infty(\partial\Omega, \mathbb{R})$, then :

$$\mathbb{E}^{\nu_h}[F(X_{\tau_\Omega})] = -\frac{h}{2\lambda_1(h)} \frac{\int_{\partial\Omega} F(z) \partial_n u_h(z) e^{-\frac{2}{h}f(z)} dz}{\int_{\Omega} u_h(x) e^{-\frac{2}{h}f(x)} dx}$$

↪ we precisely estimate :

- $\lambda_1(h)$
- $\int_{\Omega} u_h(y) e^{-\frac{2}{h}f(y)} dy$
- $\partial_n u_h$ on $\partial\Omega$

Estimates on $\lambda_1(h)$ and on the low spectrum of $L^{(0)}$

- By standard techniques developed in semiclassical analysis, for $p \in \{0, 1\}$ and $C > 0$ small enough :

$$\dim (\operatorname{Im} \mathbf{1}_{[0,C)}(L^{(p)})) = \dim (\operatorname{Im} \mathbf{1}_{[0,he^{-\frac{C}{h}})}(L^{(p)})) = \operatorname{Card}(\mathcal{U}_p)$$

where

$$\mathcal{U}_1 := \mathcal{U}_1^{\partial\Omega} \cup \{\text{saddle points of } f \text{ in } \Omega\}$$

- Use the supersymmetric extension “à la Witten”

$$L^{(1)} := L^{(0)} \otimes \operatorname{Id} + \operatorname{Hess} f,$$

$$\operatorname{Dom}(L^{(1)}) = \left\{ v \in \Lambda^1 H^2(\Omega, e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} dx); \mathbf{t}v = 0 \text{ et } \mathbf{t}(\operatorname{div}(e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} v)) = 0 \right\}$$

\hookrightarrow s.a. ≥ 0 on $\Lambda^1 L^2(\Omega, e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} dx)$ and

$$L^{(1)} \nabla = \nabla L^{(0)}$$

Estimates on $\lambda_1(h)$ and on the low spectrum of $L^{(0)}$

- Reduce the problem to a finite dimensional one :

\hookrightarrow we study $\nabla : \text{Im } \mathbf{1}_{[0,C)}(L^{(0)}) \rightarrow \text{Im } \mathbf{1}_{[0,C)}(L^{(1)}) :$

$$\begin{aligned} L^{(0)} &= -\frac{h}{2} e^{\frac{2}{h}f} \text{div} (e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} \nabla \cdot) \\ &= \frac{h}{2} \nabla^* \nabla \quad (\text{adjoint w.r.t. } e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} dx) \end{aligned}$$

$\hookrightarrow \left\{ \text{E.v. of } L^{(0)} \Big|_{\text{Im } \mathbf{1}_{[0,C)}(L^{(0)})} \right\} = \left\{ \frac{h}{2} (\text{Sing. V. of } \nabla \Big|_{\text{Im } \mathbf{1}_{[0,C)}(L^{(0)})})^2 \right\}$

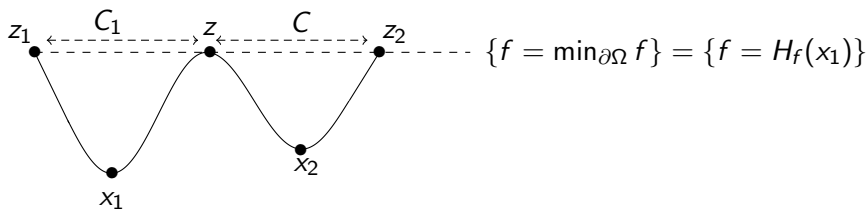
\hookrightarrow Construct $(u_j^{(p)})_{j \in \{1, \dots, \text{Card } \mathcal{U}_p^{\bar{\Omega}}\}}$ an appropriate basis of

$$\text{Im } \mathbf{1}_{[0,C)}(L^{(p)}) , \quad p \in \{0, 1\}$$

in which the matrix ∇ is estimable

Estimates on $\lambda_1(h)$ and on the low spectrum of $L^{(0)}$

On this simple example :



↪ A “good” choice of “quasi-modes” first leads to the singular values of :

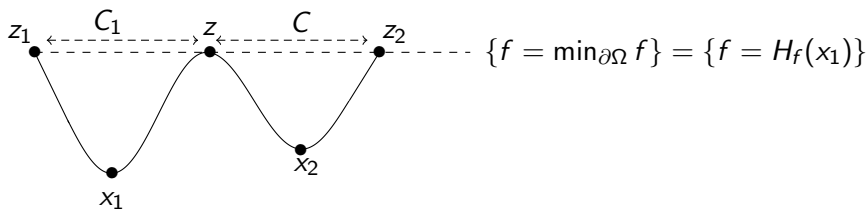
$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & O(e^{-\frac{c}{h}}) \\ b_1 h^{\frac{1}{4}} & b_2 h^{\frac{1}{4}} \\ O(e^{-\frac{c}{h}}) & a_2 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} h^{-\frac{3}{4}} e^{-\frac{f(z_1)-f(x_1)}{h}} & 0 \\ 0 & h^{-\frac{3}{4}} e^{-\frac{f(z_2)-f(x_2)}{h}} \end{pmatrix}$$

where

$$a_i \sim -\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} |f'(z_i)|^{\frac{1}{2}} |f''(x_i)|^{\frac{1}{4}} \quad \text{et} \quad b_i \sim (-1)^i \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} |f''(z)|^{\frac{1}{4}} |f''(x_i)|^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

Estimates on $\lambda_1(h)$ and on the low spectrum of $L^{(0)}$

On this simple example :



↪ Which finally leads to :

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_1(h) &= \frac{h}{2} (a_1^2 + O(\sqrt{h})) h^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{2}{h}(f(z_1)-f(x_1))} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi h}} |f'(z_1)| |f''(x_1)|^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{2}{h}(f(z_1)-f(x_1))} (1 + O(\sqrt{h}))\end{aligned}$$

Estimates on $\int_{\Omega} u_h(y) e^{-\frac{2}{h}f(y)} dy$

Under **(HG1)** and $\min_{C_1} f = \min_{\overline{\Omega}} f$, one easily proves :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} u_h e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} &= \int_{\mathcal{V}(\operatorname{argmin}_{C_1} f)} u_h e^{-\frac{2}{h}f} (1 + O(e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{h}})) \\ &= h^{\frac{d}{4}} \pi^{\frac{d}{4}} e^{-\frac{1}{h} \min_{\overline{\Omega}} f} \left(\sum_{x \in \operatorname{argmin}_{C_1} f} (\det \operatorname{Hess} f(x))^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} (1 + O(h)) \end{aligned}$$

\hookrightarrow take a “good” quasi-mode $\tilde{u}_h = \frac{\chi}{\|\chi\|_{L_w^2}}$

\hookrightarrow use **(HG1)** $\Leftrightarrow \exists c > 0$ t.q. $\lambda_1(h) = \lambda_2(h) O(e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{h}})$

\hookrightarrow it then holds in L_w^2 , for some fixed $\delta > 0$ small enough :

$$u_h + O(e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{h}}) = \mathbf{1}_{[0, \lambda_1(h)e^{\frac{\delta}{h}})}(L^{(0)}) \tilde{u}_h = \tilde{u}_h + O(e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{h}})$$

\hookrightarrow we conclude using Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and $\min_{C_1} f = \min_{\overline{\Omega}} f$!

Estimates on $\partial_n u_h$

- We have to conveniently estimate, on $\partial\Omega$,

$$\partial_n u = \vec{n} \cdot \nabla u_h$$

(where $u_h > 0$ unitary L_w^2)

↔ Supersymmetry :

$$\nabla u \in \text{Im } \mathbf{1}_{[0,C)}(L^{(1)})$$

↔ In any o.n.b. $(\psi_j)_j$ of $\text{Im } \mathbf{1}_{[0,C)}(L^{(1)})$, it holds :

$$\partial_n u = \sum_j \langle \nabla u, \psi_j \rangle \psi_j \cdot \vec{n}$$

- An accurate quasi-mode (but in L_w^2) for u_h is given by $\tilde{u}_h := \frac{\chi}{\|\chi\|_{L_w^2}}$

↔ We need to precisely compare their gradients !

- A “key” result (OK under **(HG1)** and **(HG2)**) :

$$\|\nabla(\mathbf{1}_{[0,C]}(L^{(0)}) \tilde{u}_h)\|_{L_w^2}^2 = \frac{2}{h} \lambda_1(h) (1 + O(\sqrt{h}))$$

and for $\delta > 0$ small enough

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\nabla(\mathbf{1}_{[0,C]}(L^{(0)}) - \mathbf{1}_{[0,\lambda_1(h)e^{\frac{\delta}{h}}]}(L^{(0)})) \tilde{u}_h\|_{L_w^2}^2 \\ &= \|\nabla \mathbf{1}_{[0,C]}(L^{(0)}) \tilde{u}_h\|_{L_w^2}^2 - \|\nabla \mathbf{1}_{[0,\lambda_1(h)e^{\frac{\delta}{h}}]}(L^{(0)}) \tilde{u}_h\|_{L_w^2}^2 \\ &= \frac{2}{h} \lambda_1(h) O(\sqrt{h}) \end{aligned}$$

Thank you for your attention !