

A framework for
a nonlinear nonlocal diffusion equation

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Fractional Laplacian

$$(-\Delta)^s v(x) = C(\alpha) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (v(x) - v(y)) \frac{1}{|x - y|^{d+2s}} dy$$

with

$$s \in (0, 1) \quad \alpha = 2s$$

The integral is understood the sense of the Cauchy principal value, if

$$s \in \left[\frac{1}{2}, 1 \right).$$

Lévy operator

$$\mathcal{L}v(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (v(x) - v(y)) d\mu(x - y)$$

μ is a nonnegative symmetric Radon measure on $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}$ satisfying

$$\int_{|y| \leq 1} |y|^2 d\mu(y) + \int_{|y| > 1} d\mu(y) < \infty.$$

Fractional Laplacian:

$$\mu(x - y) = \frac{1}{|x - y|^{n+2s}}$$

The integral is understood the sense of the Cauchy principal value, if μ is too singular.

The Cauchy problem

$$u_t + \mathcal{L}u = 0, \quad u(0) = u_0.$$

Theorem

For every initial datum $u_0 \in L^1 \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the Cauchy problem has a unique weak solution

$$u \in L^\infty([0, \infty), L^1 \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)).$$

This solution has the following properties

- ▶ *mass is conserved: $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(t, x) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u_0(x) dx$ for all $t \geq 0$,*
- ▶ *L^p -norm is non-increasing: $\|u(t)\|_p \leq \|u_0\|_p$ for all $p \in [1, \infty]$ and $t \geq 0$,*
- ▶ *if u_0 is nonnegative then the corresponding weak solution is nonnegative for almost all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $t \geq 0$.*

Nonlinear Cauchy problem

Fractional porous medium equation

$$u_t + (-\Delta)^s f(u) = 0, \quad u(0) = u_0.$$

See papers by

{de Pablo, Quirós, Rodríguez, Vázquez}

{del Teso, Endal, Jakobsen}.

$$\begin{aligned} ((-\Delta)^s f(u))(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{f(u(x)) - f(u(y))}{|x - y|^{d+2s}} dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (u(x) - u(y)) \left(\frac{f(u(x)) - f(u(y))}{u(x) - u(y)} \mu(|x - y|) \right) dy \end{aligned}$$

Fractional p -Laplacian

$$\partial_t u + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{\Phi(u(x) - u(y))}{|x - y|^{d+ps}} dy = 0$$

$$\partial_t u + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (u(x) - u(y)) \left(\frac{\Phi(u(x) - u(y))}{u(x) - u(y)} \frac{1}{|x - y|^{d+ps}} \right) dy = 0$$

Doubly nonlinear

$$\partial_t u + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi[f(u(x)) - f(u(y))] \mu(|x - y|) dy = 0.$$

Here f and Φ are non-decreasing functions and μ is a density of a Lévy measure with low singularity.

This is a nonlocal counterpart of the equation

$$\partial_t u = (\Delta_p)(u |u|^m), \quad \text{where} \quad \Delta_p v = \operatorname{div}(|\nabla v|^{p-2} \nabla v),$$

Non-local nonlinear “diffusion” equation

$$u_t + \mathcal{L}_u u = 0$$

with a nonlinear and nonlocal operator

$$\mathcal{L}_v u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [u(x) - u(y)] \rho(v(x), v(y); x, y) dy.$$

with a suitable *jump kernel* ρ .

Main property: Maximum principle. If

$$u(x_0) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} u(x) \geq 0$$

then

$$-\mathcal{L}_u u(x_0) \leq 0$$

(as long as everything is well-defined).

Jump kernel

$$\mathcal{L}_v u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [u(x) - u(y)] \rho(v(x), v(y); x, y) dy.$$

Suppose $\rho : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

(A1) is a non-negative Borel function such that $\rho(a, b; x, y)$ is continuous with respect to a and b ;

(A2) is symmetric

$$\rho(a, b; x, y) = \rho(b, a; y, x);$$

(A3) is monotonous in the following sense

$$(a-b)\rho(a, b; x, y) \geq (c-d)\rho(c, d; x, y) \quad \text{whenever } a \geq c \geq d \geq b;$$

(A4) we consider a homogeneous jump kernel

$$\rho(a, b; x, y) = \rho(a, b; |x - y|).$$

(A5) for every $R > 0$ there exists a function $m_R : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, which we call R -majorant of ρ , such that

$$\sup_{-R \leq a, b \leq R} \rho(a, b; x, y) \leq m_R(|x - y|)$$

$$\text{and } \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (1 \wedge |y|) m_R(|y|) dy = K_R < \infty.$$

Jump kernel

$$\mathcal{L}_v u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [u(x) - u(y)] \rho(v(x), v(y); x, y) dy.$$

(A6) Regularity assumption.

The jump kernel ρ is continuous with respect to the first two variables and it is locally Lipschitz-continuous outside diagonals, namely for every $\varepsilon > 0$ and every $R > \varepsilon$ there exists a constant $C_{R,\varepsilon}$ such that

$$|\rho(a, b, x, y) - \rho(c, d, x, y)| \leq C_{R,\varepsilon} (|a - c| + |b - d|) m_R(|x - y|)$$

for every $a, b, c, d \in [-R, R]$ such that $|a - b| \geq \varepsilon$ and $|c - d| \geq \varepsilon$.

Main result

Theorem (K., Kassmann, Krupski (2018))

Let ρ be a homogeneous jump kernel. For every initial datum $u_0 \in L^1 \cap L^\infty \cap BV(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the Cauchy problem has a unique (weak) solution

$$u \in L^\infty([0, \infty), L^1 \cap L^\infty \cap BV(\mathbb{R}^d)).$$

This solution has the following properties

- ▶ $\partial_t u \in L^\infty((0, \infty), L^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$,
- ▶ mass is conserved: $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(t, x) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u_0(x) dx$ for all $t \geq 0$,
- ▶ L^p -norm is non-increasing: $\|u(t)\|_p \leq \|u_0\|_p$ for all $p \in [1, \infty]$ and $t \geq 0$,
- ▶ if u_0 is nonnegative then the corresponding weak solution is nonnegative for almost all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $t \geq 0$.

Moreover, for two solutions u and \tilde{u} corresponding to initial conditions u_0 and \tilde{u}_0 , respectively, we have

$$\|u(t) - \tilde{u}(t)\|_1 \leq \|u_0 - \tilde{u}_0\|_1 \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0.$$

First look

Lemma (Mass conservation)

Solution u satisfies $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u_0 dx$ for every $t \geq 0$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(t) dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{d}{dt} u(t) dx = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{L}_{u(t)} u(t) dx \\ &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} [u(t, y) - u(t, x)] \rho(u(t, x), u(t, y); x, y) dy dx \\ &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} [u(t, x) - u(t, y)] \rho(u(t, x), u(t, y); x, y) dx dy = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We used the symmetry of the jump kernel ρ (property [A2](#)).

□

Contraction in L^1

Theorem (Kato-type inequality)

If $u, v \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ are such that $\mathcal{L}_u u, \mathcal{L}_v v \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ then

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{L}_u u - \mathcal{L}_v v) \operatorname{sgn}(u - v) \geq 0.$$

Proof.

Let $\rho(u(x), u(y); x, y) = \rho_{u,x,y}$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} ((\mathcal{L}_u u)(x) - (\mathcal{L}_v v)(x)) \operatorname{sgn}(u(x) - v(x)) dx \\ &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} [u(x) - u(y)] \rho_{u,x,y} - [v(x) - v(y)] \rho_{v,x,y} dy \operatorname{sgn}(u(x) - v(x)) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} [u(x) - u(y)] \rho_{u,x,y} - [v(x) - v(y)] \rho_{v,x,y} \\ & \quad [\operatorname{sgn}(u(x) - v(x)) - \operatorname{sgn}(u(y) - v(y))] dy dx. \end{aligned}$$

Contraction in L^1

Lemma

If u, v are weak solutions with initial data u_0 and v_0 , respectively, such that

$$u, v \in W_{loc}^{1,1}([0, \infty), L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}_u u, \mathcal{L}_v v \in L_{loc}^1([0, \infty), L^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$$

then

$$\|u(t) - v(t)\|_1 \leq \|u_0 - v_0\|_1$$

for every $t \geq 0$.

Proof.

Multiply by $\text{sgn}(u - v)$ and integrate over \mathbb{R}^d the equality

$$\partial_t(u - v) = \mathcal{L}_u u - \mathcal{L}_v v.$$

In fact, we should begin with the relation

$$\int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\partial_t(u(t, x) - v(t, x)) + \mathcal{L}_{u(t)} u(t, x) - \mathcal{L}_{v(t)} v(t, x) \right) \psi(t, x) dx dt = 0$$

□

The BV space (bounded variation)

Let $u \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and suppose for $i = 1, \dots, d$ there exist finite signed Radon measures λ_i such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u \partial_{x_i} \phi \, dx = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi \, d\lambda_i \quad \text{for every } \phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

We define

$$|Du|(\mathbb{R}^d) = \sup \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^d \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi_i \, d\lambda_i : \Phi \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^d), \|\Phi\|_{C_0(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^d)} < 1 \right\}.$$

Then we say $u \in BV(\mathbb{R}^d)$ if $\|u\|_{BV} = 2\|u\|_1 + |Du|(\mathbb{R}^d) < \infty$.

Properties of \mathcal{L}

Lemma

For every $v \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ such that $\|v\|_\infty \leq R$ the linear operator $\mathcal{L}_v : BV(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ satisfies

$$\|\mathcal{L}_v u\|_1 \leq K_R \|u\|_{BV}.$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{L}_v u\|_1 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [u(x) - u(y)] \rho_{v,x,y} dy \right| dx \\ &\leq \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} \frac{|u(x) - u(x-y)|}{1 \wedge |y|} (1 \wedge |y|) m_R(|y|) dx dy \\ &\leq \|u\|_{BV} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (1 \wedge |y|) m_R(|y|) dy = \|u\|_{BV} K_R. \end{aligned}$$

□

Existence of solutions for regular jump kernels

Theorem

If ρ is a regular jump kernel then there exists a global classical solution to the Cauchy problem

$$u_t + \mathcal{L}_u u = 0, \quad u(0) = u_0.$$

Proof.

$$F(u) = -\mathcal{L}_u u \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{F}v(t) = u_0 + \int_0^t F(v(s)) ds.$$

For $T > 0$ sufficiently small it is a contraction on $C([0, T], L^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d))$. Here, the equation $\partial_t u = F(u) = -\mathcal{L}_u u$ is satisfied in the usual sense. It can be shown that

$$\|u(t)\|_p \leq \|u_0\|_p \quad \text{for each } p \in [1, \infty).$$

Thus the local classical solution may be extended to all $t \in [0, \infty)$ by a usual continuation argument. □

Convergence of a sequence of approximations

Lemma

Let ρ be a homogeneous jump kernel and $u_0 \in BV(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$. For each $\varepsilon > 0$ consider the unique solution u^ε of the initial value problem

$$\partial_t u^\varepsilon + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [u^\varepsilon(x) - u^\varepsilon(y)] \rho^\varepsilon((u^\varepsilon(x), u^\varepsilon(y)); x, y)) dy = 0, \quad u^\varepsilon(0, \cdot) = u_0.$$

Then there exists a sequence $\varepsilon_j \rightarrow 0$ and a function $u \in C([0, \infty); L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ such that

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} u^{\varepsilon_j}(t, x) = u(t, x) \quad \text{a.e. in } [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d$$

Proof.

Let $v_\xi(x) = v(x + \xi)$. We have

$$\begin{aligned}(\mathcal{L}_v v)(x + \xi) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (v(x + \xi) - v(y)) \rho_{v, x + \xi, y} dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (v_\xi(x) - v_\xi(y)) \rho_{v_\xi, x, y} dy = (\mathcal{L}_{v_\xi} v_\xi)(x).\end{aligned}$$

The function $\tilde{u} = u^{\varepsilon_j}$ is a solution with the initial condition $u_{\xi, 0}(x) = u_0(x + \xi)$. Because of the L^1 -contraction we have

$$\|\tilde{u}_\xi(t) - \tilde{u}(t)\|_1 \leq \|u_{\xi, 0} - u_0\|_1$$

which give us

$$\|u(t)\|_{BV} \leq \|u_0\|_{BV}.$$

Hence $\mathcal{L}_{u(t)} u(t) \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for every $t \geq 0$. Moreover,

$$\|\partial_t u\|_1 = \|\mathcal{L}_u u\|_1 \leq \|u(t)\|_{BV} K_R \leq \|u_0\|_{BV} K_R.$$

We conclude by applying Rellich-Kondrachov and Aubin-Lions-Simon lemmas.

□

Existence and uniqueness of solutions

Theorem

If ρ is a homogeneous jump kernel then there exists a unique weak solution $u \in L^\infty([0, \infty), BV \cap L^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d))$ to the problem for every $u_0 \in BV \cap L^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Proof.

The approximating sequence of solutions $\{u_j^\varepsilon\}$ converges to $u(t, x)$.
By the Lebesgue convergence theorem, it is a weak solution.
Uniqueness follows from the L^1 -contraction property.



Comparison principle

Lemma (Comparison principle)

If u and \tilde{u} are weak solutions corresponding to initial conditions $u_0, \tilde{u}_0 \in BV \cap L^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$, respectively, satisfying

$$u_0(x) \leq \tilde{u}_0(x) \quad \text{a.e. in } x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

then

$$u(t, x) \leq \tilde{u}(t, x) \quad \text{a.e. in } (t, x) \in [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d$$

Proof.

Using the L^1 -contraction and the conservation of mass we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (u(t) - \tilde{u}(t))^+ dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|u(t) - \tilde{u}(t)| + u(t) - \tilde{u}(t)}{2} dx \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|u_0 - \tilde{u}_0| + u_0 - \tilde{u}_0}{2} dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (u_0 - \tilde{u}_0)^+ dx \end{aligned}$$

In particular, the equality $(u_0 - \tilde{u}_0)^+ = 0$ a.e. implies $(u - \tilde{u})^+ = 0$ a.e. \square

EXAMPLES

Old examples: fractional porous medium equation

$$\begin{aligned} \left((-\Delta)^s f(u) \right)(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{f(u(x)) - f(u(y))}{|x - y|^{d+2s}} dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (u(x) - u(y)) \left(\frac{f(u(x)) - f(u(y))}{u(x) - u(y)} \mu(|x - y|) \right) dy \end{aligned}$$

Old examples: fractional porous medium equation

Lemma

Let $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ be a non-decreasing function and

$$F(a, b) = \frac{f(a) - f(b)}{a - b}.$$

Then $\rho = F(a, b) \times \mu(|x - y|)$ is a jump kernel if

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (1 \wedge |y|) \mu(|y|) dy < \infty.$$

Proof.

For $a \geq c \geq d \geq b$ we have $f(a) \geq f(c) \geq f(d) \geq f(b)$, hence

$$(a - b) \frac{f(a) - f(b)}{a - b} = f(a) - f(b) \geq f(c) - f(d) = (c - d) \frac{f(c) - f(d)}{c - d}.$$

□

Old examples: fractional p -Laplacian

$$\partial_t u + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{\Phi(u(x) - u(y))}{|x - y|^{d+ps}} dy = 0, \quad \Phi(z) = z|z|^{p-2}.$$

Lemma

Let $\Phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous, non-decreasing function satisfying $\Phi(x) \geq 0$ for $x \geq 0$, $\Phi(-x) = -\Phi(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Phi(x)}{x} < \infty$, and let

$$F(a, b) = \frac{\Phi(a - b)}{a - b}$$

Then $\rho = F(a, b) \times \mu(|x - y|)$ is a jump kernel if $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (1 \wedge |y|) \mu(|y|) dy < \infty$.

Proof.

For $a \geq c \geq d \geq b$ and by using the fact that f is non-decreasing, we have

$$(a - b) \frac{\Phi(a - b)}{a - b} = \Phi(a - b) \geq \Phi(c - d) = (c - d) \frac{\Phi(c - d)}{c - d},$$

from which [A3](#) follows. □

New examples: Wrocław type jump kernel

$$\partial_t u + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (u(x) - u(y)) \left[\left(f(u(x)) + f(u(y)) \right) \mu(|x - y|) \right] dy$$

Lemma

Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a continuous, convex function and

$$F(a, b) = f(a) + f(b)$$

Then $\rho = F(a, b) \times \mu(|x - y|)$ is a jump kernel if

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (1 \wedge |y|) \mu(|y|) dy < \infty.$$

New examples: Wrocław type jump kernel

Proof.

Let $a \geq c \geq d \geq b$ and $t \in [0, 1]$ such that $d = ta + (1 - t)b$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} f(a) + f(b) &\geq (1 - t^2)f(a) + (1 - t)^2f(b) \\ &= (1 - t)((1 + t)f(a) + (1 - t)f(b)) = (1 - t)(f(a) + tf(a) + (1 - t)f(b)). \end{aligned}$$

Because we assume f to be convex, we have

$$tf(a) + (1 - t)f(b) \geq f(ta + (1 - t)b) = f(d),$$

hence

$$f(a) + f(b) \geq (1 - t)(f(a) + f(d)).$$

In the same fashion, by taking $s \in [0, 1]$ such that $c = (1 - s)a + sd$, we can show that

$$f(a) + f(d) \geq (1 - s)(f(c) + f(d)).$$

Also

$$(1 - t)(a - b) = a - (ta + (1 - t)b) = a - d$$

and $(1 - s)(a - d) = (c - d)$, so

$$(a - b)(f(a) + f(b)) \geq (1 - s)(1 - t)(a - b)(f(c) + f(d)) = (c - d)(f(c) + f(d)).$$

□

New examples: Bielefeld type jump kernel

$$\partial_t u - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{u(y) - u(x)}{|y - x|^{d + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \sin \frac{1}{|x-y|}}} = 0$$

$$\partial_t u - \int_{B_1(x)} \frac{u(y) - u(x)}{|x - y|^{d + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \exp(-|u(y) - u(x)|)}} dy = 0$$

New examples: Bielefeld type jump kernel

Lemma

Let

$$f(a; x) = f_1(a)\mathbb{1}_{|x| < 1}(x) + f_2(a)\mathbb{1}_{|x| \geq 1}(x),$$

where f_1 is non-decreasing, f_2 is non-increasing, f_1, f_2 are continuous and

$$0 < A_1 \leq f(a; x) \leq A_2 < 1.$$

Then

$$\rho(a, b; x, y) = |x - y|^{-d - f(a - b; x - y)}$$

is a jump kernel.

New examples: Bielefeld type jump kernel

Proof.

The conditions [A1](#) and [A2](#) are easy. We notice that for $a \geq c$ we have

$$a|x|^{-f_1(a)\mathbb{1}_{|x|<1}(x)} \geq c|x|^{-f_1(c)\mathbb{1}_{|x|<1}(x)},$$

because f_1 is non-decreasing and

$$a|x|^{-f_2(a)\mathbb{1}_{|x|\geq 1}(x)} \geq c|x|^{-f_2(c)\mathbb{1}_{|x|\geq 1}(x)},$$

because f_2 is non-increasing. Hence for $a \geq c \geq d \geq b$ we have $(a-b)\rho(a, b; x, y) \geq (c-d)\rho(c, d; x, y)$. This verifies [A3](#). Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (1 \wedge |x-y|) \rho_{u,x,y} dy &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (1 \wedge |y|) |y|^{-d-f(u(x)-u(x-y);y)} dy \\ &\leq \int_{|y|<1} |y|^{1-d-A_1} dy + \int_{|y|\geq 1} |y|^{-d-A_2} dy = \int_0^1 r^{-A_1} dr + \int_1^\infty r^{-1-A_2} dr, \end{aligned}$$

therefore [A4](#) is also satisfied. □

SEVERAL OTHER EXAMPLES

Lemma

Let ρ_1 and ρ_2 be jump kernels. Then

$$\rho = \alpha\rho_1 + \beta\rho_2$$

is a jump kernel for every $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$ (i.e. the set of jump kernels is a convex cone).

$$u_t + \mathcal{L}_u u = 0$$

where

$$\mathcal{L}_u u(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [u(x) - u(y)] \rho(u(x), u(y); x, y) dy.$$