

# The mass of super-Brownian motion upon exiting balls and Sheu's compact support condition

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# Super-Brownian motion

Consider a finite-measure-valued strong Markov process  $\{X_t : t \geq 0\}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  whose evolution is characterised via its log-laplace semi-group: For all  $f \in C_b^+(\mathbb{R})$ , the space of positive, uniformly bounded, continuous functions on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$  (the space of finite measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ),

$$-\log \mathbf{E}_\mu(e^{-\langle f, X_t \rangle}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} v_f(x, t) \mu(dx), \quad t \geq 0,$$

where  $v_f(x, t)$  is the unique positive solution to the evolution equation for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $t > 0$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} v_f(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} v_f(x, t) - \psi(v_f(x, t)),$$

with initial condition  $v_f(x, 0) = f(x)$ . The branching mechanism  $\psi$  satisfies:

$$\psi(\lambda) = -\alpha\lambda + \beta\lambda^2 + \int_{(0, \infty)} (e^{-\lambda x} - 1 + \lambda x) \nu(dx), \quad (1)$$

for  $\lambda \geq 0$  where  $\alpha = -\psi'(0^+) \in (0, \infty)$ ,  $\beta \geq 0$  and  $\nu$  is a measure concentrated on  $(0, \infty)$  which satisfies  $\int_{(0, \infty)} (x \wedge x^2) \nu(dx) < \infty$ .

# Super-Brownian motion

- Another way of representing the log-Laplace semi-group evolution is via the integral equation:

$$v_f(x, t) = \mathbb{E}_x[f(\xi_t)] - \mathbb{E}_x \left[ \int_0^t \psi(v_f(\xi_z, t - z)) \, dz \right],$$

and  $((\xi_z, z \geq 0), \mathbb{P}_x)$  is an  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -Brownian motion with  $\xi_0 = x$

- Choosing  $f = 1$  produces the log-Laplace exponent a CSBP with branching mechanism  $\psi$ . That is to say the total mass process,  $\|X_t\| := \langle 1, X_t \rangle$ ,  $t \geq 0$ , is a CSBP.
- This super-BM is the continuum analogue of Branching Brownian motion with a general off-spring distribution (including allowing for no offspring w.p.p.).
- The constant  $-\psi'(0+) = \alpha$  gives us the growth and hence process is (sub/super)-critical. **Largely indifferent to criticality in this talk.**

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# Mass decay and Grey's condition

- Following the same property of all (non-monotone) CSBPs:

$$\mathbf{P}_\mu(\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|X_t\| = 0 \mid \|X_0\| = x) = e^{-\lambda^* \|\mu\|},$$

where  $\psi(\lambda^*) = 0$  and  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .

- On the event  $\{\|X_t\| \rightarrow 0\}$ , Grey (1974) gives us a nice dichotomy between the two ways in which this can happen: either

$\{\exists T(\omega) > 0 \text{ s.t. } \|X_{T+t}\| = 0 \ \forall t \geq 0\}$  (extinction)

or  $\{\|X_t\| \rightarrow 0 \text{ and } \|X_t\| > 0 \ \forall t > 0\}$  (extinguishing)

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# Sheu's condition

- For the case of super-Brownian motion, Sheu (1994) offers an additional unusual condition for the event of compact support: Let

$$\mathcal{S} = \bigcup_{t \geq 0} \text{supp} X_t$$

Then for all compactly supported  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ,

$$\mathbf{P}_\mu(\mathcal{S} \text{ is compact}) = e^{-\lambda_* \|\mu\|}$$

if and only if

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{\int_{\lambda_*}^\lambda \psi(\theta) \, d\theta}} \, d\lambda < \infty$$

and otherwise  $\mathbb{P}_\mu(\mathcal{S} \text{ is compact}) = 0$ .

- What is the relation between this condition and Grey's condition? Sheu's condition comes out of PDE analysis and it is unclear.
- What is the relation between  $\{\mathcal{S} \text{ is compact}\}$  and  $\{\|X_t\| \rightarrow 0\}$ ?

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# First passage branching process

- Fix an initial radius  $r > 0$  and let  $D_s := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \|x\| < s\}$  be the open ball of radius  $s \geq r$  around the origin.
- According to Dynkin's theory of exit measures we can describe the mass of  $X$  as it first exits the growing sequence of balls  $(D_s, s \geq r)$  as a sequence of random measures on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , known as branching Markov exit measures.
- We denote this sequence of branching Markov exit measures by  $\{X_{D_s}, s \geq r\}$ . Informally, the measure  $X_{D_s}$  is supported on the boundary  $\partial D_s$  and it is obtained by 'freezing' mass of the super-Brownian motion when it first hits  $\partial D_s$ . If  $X$  were a branching Brownian motion, then  $X_{D_s}$  would be a stopping line *à la* Chauvin-Neveu.
- For  $s \geq r$ , let  $Z_s := \|X_{D_s}\|$  denote the mass that is 'frozen' when it first hits the boundary of the ball  $D_s$ . We can then define the mass process  $(Z_s, s \geq r)$  which uses the radius  $s$  as its time-parameter.

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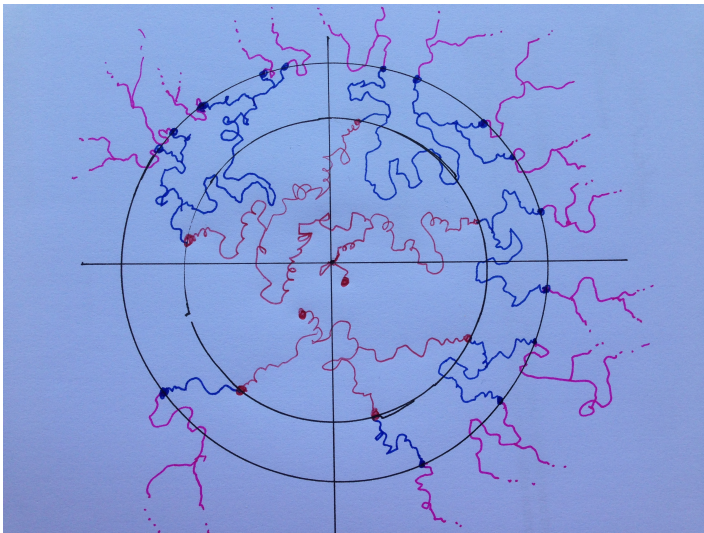
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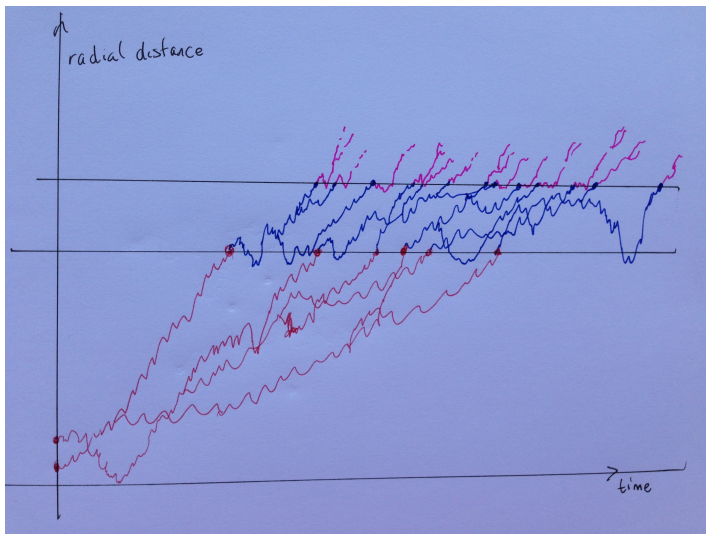
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## Theorem

Let  $r > 0$ . The process  $Z = (Z_s, s \geq r)$  is a time-inhomogeneous continuous-state branching process. Let  $r > 0$  and  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_F(\partial D_r)$  with  $\|\mu\| = a$ . Then, for  $s \geq r$ , we have

$$E_{a,r}[e^{-\theta Z_s}] = e^{-u(r,s,\theta)a}, \quad \theta \geq 0,$$

where the Laplace functional  $u(r, s, \theta)$  satisfies

$$u(r, s, \theta) = \theta - \int_r^s \Psi(z, u(z, s, \theta)) \, dz,$$

for a family of branching mechanisms  $(\Psi(r, \cdot), r > 0)$  satisfying the PDE

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \Psi(r, \theta) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \Psi^2(r, \theta) + \frac{d-1}{r} \Psi(r, \theta) &= 2\psi(\theta) \\ \Psi(r, \lambda^*) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

for  $r > 0$ ,  $\theta \in (0, \infty)$ .

# Asymptotic behaviour of $Z$

## Proposition

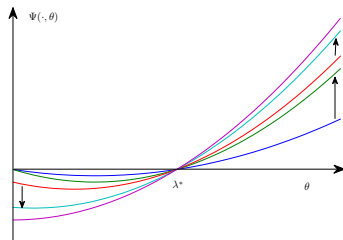
(i) For (sub)critical  $\psi$ , we have, for  $0 < r \leq s$ ,

$$\Psi(r, \theta) \leq \Psi(s, \theta) \quad \text{for all } \theta \geq 0.$$

(ii) For supercritical  $\psi$ , we have, for  $0 < r \leq s$ ,

$$\Psi(r, \theta) \geq \Psi(s, \theta) \quad \text{for all } \theta \leq \lambda^*$$

$$\Psi(r, \theta) \leq \Psi(s, \theta) \quad \text{for all } \theta \geq \lambda^*.$$



# Asymptotic behaviour of $Z$

## Lemma

For each  $\theta \geq 0$ , the limit  $\lim_{r \uparrow \infty} \Psi(r, \theta) = \Psi_\infty(\theta)$  is finite and the convergence holds uniformly in  $\theta$  on any bounded, closed subset of  $\mathbb{R}_+$ . For any  $\theta \geq 0$ , we have

$$\Psi_\infty(\theta) = 2 \operatorname{sgn}(\psi(\theta)) \sqrt{\int_{\lambda^*}^{\theta} \psi(\lambda) \, d\lambda},$$

with  $\lambda^* = 0$  in the (sub)critical case.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \Psi(r, \theta) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \Psi^2(r, \theta) + \frac{d-1}{r} \Psi(r, \theta) &= 2\psi(\theta) \\ \Psi(r, \lambda^*) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

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# Asymptotic behaviour of $Z$

## Lemma

Denote by  $((Z_s^\infty, s \geq 0), P^\infty)$  the standard CSBP associated with the limiting branching mechanism  $\Psi_\infty$ , with unit initial mass at time 0.

Then, for any  $s > 0$ ,  $\theta \geq 0$ ,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} E_{r,1}[e^{-\theta Z_{r+s}}] = E^\infty[e^{-\theta Z_s^\infty}].$$

# Sheu's condition is Grey's condition

- Sheu's condition is Grey's condition for  $Z^\infty$ .

$$\int^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{\int_{\lambda^*}^\lambda \psi(\theta) d\theta}} d\lambda = \int^\infty \frac{1}{\Psi^\infty(\lambda)} d\lambda.$$

- There is no hierarchy between  $\{\|X_t\| \rightarrow 0\}$  and  $\{\mathcal{S} \text{ is compact}\}$ .
- Take e.g. the supercritical branching mechanism  $\psi(\lambda) = \lambda - (\lambda + 2)^\alpha + 2^\alpha$  for  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ . This branching mechanism respects  $\int^\infty 1/\psi(\lambda) d\lambda = \infty$  (extinguishing) but  $\int^\infty 1/(\int_{\lambda^*}^\lambda \psi(\theta) d\theta)^{1/2} d\lambda = \infty$  (no compact support).
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# Martingales

- On the one hand, using the semi-group equations,

$$M_s^\lambda = e^{-\lambda^* Z_s} - \int_r^s \Psi(v, \lambda^*) Z_v e^{-\lambda^* Z_v} \mathbf{1}_{\{Z_v < \infty\}} dv, \quad s \geq r,$$

is a martingale.

- On the other hand  $\exp\{-\lambda^* ||X_t||\}$ ,  $t \geq 0$  is a martingale since

$$\mathbf{E}_\mu[\mathbf{1}_{\{||X_u|| \rightarrow 0\}} \mid \sigma(||X_s||, s \leq t)] = e^{-\lambda^* ||X_t||}, \quad t \geq 0,$$

and hence so is

$$\mathbf{E}_\mu[\mathbf{1}_{\{||X_u|| \rightarrow 0\}} \mid \sigma(||X_{D_v}||, r \leq v \leq s)] = e^{-\lambda^* ||X_{D_s}||} = e^{-\lambda^* Z_s},$$

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# Branching mechanism PDE

- On the one hand: Let  $r > 0$  and  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_F(\partial D_r)$  with  $\|\mu\| = a$ . Then, for  $s \geq r$ , we have

$$E_{a,r}[e^{-\theta Z_s}] = e^{-u(r,s,\theta)a}, \quad \theta \geq 0,$$

where the Laplace functional  $u(r, s, \theta)$  satisfies

$$u(r, s, \theta) = \theta - \int_r^s \Psi(z, u(z, s, \theta)) \, dz,$$

- On the other hand: Recalling that the radial part of an  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -Brownian motion is a Bessel process, Dynkin's semigroup theory for branching Markov exit measures gives us

$$u(r, s, \theta) = \theta - \mathbb{E}_r^{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^{\tau_s} \psi(u(R_\ell, s, \theta)) \, d\ell, \quad 0 < r \leq s, \quad \theta \geq 0,$$

where  $(R, \mathbb{P}^{\mathbb{R}})$  is a  $d$ -dimensional Bessel process and  $\tau_s := \inf\{l > 0 : R_l > s\}$  its first passage time above level  $s$

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where the Laplace functional  $u(r, s, \theta)$  satisfies

$$u(r, s, \theta) = \theta - \int_r^s \Psi(z, u(z, s, \theta)) \, dz,$$

- On the other hand: Recalling that the radial part of an  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -Brownian motion is a Bessel process, Dynkin's semigroup theory for branching Markov exit measures gives us

$$u(r, s, \theta) = \theta - \mathbb{E}_r^{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^{\tau_s} \psi(u(R_\ell, s, \theta)) \, d\ell, \quad 0 < r \leq s, \quad \theta \geq 0,$$

where  $(R, \mathbb{P}^{\mathbb{R}})$  is a  $d$ -dimensional Bessel process and  $\tau_s := \inf\{l > 0 : R_l > s\}$  its first passage time above level  $s$

# Branching mechanism PDE

- Define  $\varphi(s) = \int_0^{r^2 s} R_\ell^{-2} d\ell$ ,  $s \geq 0$ , then

$$B_s = \log(r^{-1} R_{r^2 \varphi^{-1}(s)}), \quad s \geq 0,$$

is a one-dimensional Brownian motion with drift  $\frac{d}{2} - 1$ .

- the Last semi-group equation can be developed into

$$\begin{aligned} u(r, s, \theta) &= \theta - \mathbb{E}_{\log r} \int_0^{T_{\log s}} \psi(u(e^{B_\ell}, s, \theta)) e^{2B_\ell} d\ell \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\log r} \sum_{\log r \leq u \leq \log s} \int_0^{\zeta^{(u)}} \psi(u(e^{u-e_u(\ell)}, s, \theta)) e^{2(u-e_u(\ell))} d\ell \\ &= \theta - 2 \int_r^s v^{1-d} \int_0^v \psi(u(z, s, \theta)) z^{d-1} dz dv. \end{aligned}$$



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- Line up the two representations of the semi-group equation:

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$$u(r, s, \theta) = \theta - \int_r^s \Psi(z, u(z, s, \theta)) dz,$$

- Fiddling with derivatives in  $s, r$  and  $\theta$ , gives the desired PDE

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