## Dynamic behavior of meanfield systems: Phase transitions, metastability, and self-similarity

#### Metastability, mean-field particle systems and non-linear processes

André Schlichting

Applied Mathematics Münster Institute for Analysis and Numerics





Mean-field systems and phase transitions



Rare events and mountain-passes

Metastability and potential theory



#### Phase separation in cluster growth

## Phase transitions in the McKean–Vlasov model

[Carrillo-Gvalani-Paviliotis-S. '20]



## The McKean–Vlasov equation – Derivation

 $\blacksquare$  Overdamped Langevin equation defined on  $\mathbb{T}^d_L\simeq [0,L)^d$ 

$$\mathrm{d}X_t^i = -\frac{\kappa}{N} \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \nabla W(X^i - X^j) dt + \sqrt{2} \,\mathrm{d}B_t^i \qquad , i = 1, \dots, N$$

- $\kappa \in [0, \infty)$  interaction strength (bifurcation parameter)
- $\blacksquare$  The mean-field limit  $N \to \infty$  is governed by the McKean–Vlasov equation

$$\partial_t \varrho = \Delta \varrho + \kappa \nabla \cdot (\varrho \nabla W \star \varrho) \qquad \text{in } \mathbb{T}_L^d \times (0, T]$$

• properties encoded in interaction potential  $W : \mathbb{T}_L^d \to \mathbb{R}$  (coordinate-wise even)

#### **Some applications:** Models for finite N or mean-field limit include

- Molecular dynamic (Lennard–Jones, Van-der-Waals)
- Collective motion of agents (attractive-repulsive)
- Opinions of individuals (Hegselmann–Krause)
- Liquid crystals / nanorods (anisotropic, Onsager, Maier–Saupe)
- Nonlinear synchronizing oscillators (Kuramoto)
- Chemotaxis models (Patlak–Keller–Segel)



## **Example:** Nonlinear synchronization of oscillators

The Kuramoto model:  $W(x) = -\cos x$  and  $L = 2\pi$ 

 $\kappa < \kappa_c$ , no phase locking

 $\kappa > \kappa_c$ , phase locking

## Example: 2d Gaussian attractive interaction potential

$$W(x) = -\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2}e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

with  $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{2}$ , L = 10,  $\kappa = \sqrt{2L} > \kappa_c$ .

## Transition points and types of phase transitions

Free energy functional (Lyapunov property, gradient flow)

$$\mathcal{F}_{\kappa}(\varrho) = \int_{\mathbb{T}_{L}^{d}} \varrho \log \varrho \, \mathrm{d}x + \frac{\kappa}{2} \iint_{\mathbb{T}_{L}^{d} \times \mathbb{T}_{L}^{d}} W(x-y) \varrho(x) \varrho(y) \, \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{d}y \; .$$

**Definition:** Let  $\rho_{\infty} \equiv L^{-d}$ .  $\kappa_c$  is transition point, if:

- For  $\kappa \leq \kappa_c$  is  $\rho_{\infty}$  global minimizer of  $\mathcal{F}_{\kappa}$  and unique for  $\kappa < \kappa_c$
- For  $\kappa > \kappa_c$  exists another global minimizer  $\varrho_{\kappa}$

## **Results and Goals:**

- Bifurcation analysis and local stability around  $\rho_{\infty} \equiv L^{-d}$
- Classification for continuous and discontinuous transitions
- Understanding of the free energy landscape
- Dynamical properties related to nucleation and coarsening



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## Characterization of phase transition

#### Theorem [Carrillo-Gvalani-Paviliotis-S. '20]

Let  $\widetilde{W} : \mathbb{N}^d \to \mathbb{R}$  denote the (real) Fourier modes of W.

If there is only one dominant unstable mode  $k^*$ : For  $\alpha > 0$  small enough holds

$$\alpha \widetilde{W}(k^*) \le \widetilde{W}(k)$$
 for all  $k \ne k^* : \widetilde{W}(k) < 0$ 

then the transition point  $\kappa_c$  is continuous.

• If there exist (near)-dominant resonating modes  $k^a, k^b, k^c$ : That is for  $\delta$  small enough exist

$$k^{a}, k^{b}, k^{c} \in \left\{ k' \in \mathbb{N}^{d} : \widetilde{W}(k') \leq \min_{k \in \mathbb{N}^{d}} \widetilde{W}(k) + \delta \right\} \quad \text{with } k^{a} = k^{b} + k^{c},$$

then the transition point  $\kappa_c$  is discontinuous.

 $\Rightarrow$  local attractive potentials lead to discontinuous phase transitions



## Basic properties of transition points

- Summary of critical points:
  - $\kappa_c$  transition point
  - $\kappa_*$  bifurcation point
  - $\kappa_{\sharp}$  point of linear stability, i.e.,  $\kappa_{\sharp} = -\frac{L^{\frac{d}{2}}}{\beta \min_k \tilde{W}(k)/\Theta(k)}$ .

If  $k_{\sharp} = \arg \min \tilde{W}(k)$  is unique, then  $\kappa_{\sharp} = \kappa_*$  is a bifurcation point.

- Results from [Gates & Penrose 1970] and [Chayes & Panferov '10]
  - $\mathscr{F}_{\kappa}$  has a transition point  $\kappa_c$  iff  $W \notin \mathbb{H}_s$
  - $\blacksquare$ min $\mathscr{F}_{\kappa}$  is non-increasing as a function of  $\kappa$
  - If for some κ': ρ<sub>∞</sub> is no longer the unique minimiser, then ∀κ > κ': ρ<sub>∞</sub> is no longer a unique minimizer
  - If  $\kappa_c$  is continuous, then  $\kappa_c = \kappa_{\sharp}$
- Conclusion:
  - To proof a discontinuous transition: Show  $\rho_{\infty}$  is no longer global minimizer at  $\kappa_{\sharp}$ .
  - To proof a continuous transition:
    - If  $\kappa_* = \kappa_{\sharp}$ , sufficient to show that  $\rho_{\infty}$  at  $\kappa_{\sharp}$  is the unque global minimizer.



## Argument for resonating dominant modes ( $\delta = 0$ )

Let 
$$\varepsilon > 0$$
 be sufficiently small such that  $\varrho = \varrho_{\infty} \left( 1 + \varepsilon \sum_{k \in K^{\delta}} w_k \right) \in \mathcal{P}^+(\mathbb{T}^d)$ .  
Entropy and energy of Ansatz:

$$\beta^{-1}S(\varrho) = \beta^{-1} \left( S(\varrho_{\infty}) + \frac{|K^{\delta}|}{2} \varrho_{\infty} \varepsilon^{2} - \frac{\varrho_{\infty}}{3} \int \varepsilon^{3} \left( \sum_{k \in K^{\delta}} w_{k} \right)^{3} + O(\varepsilon^{4}) \right)$$
$$\frac{\kappa_{\sharp}}{2} \mathcal{E}(\varrho, \varrho) = \frac{\kappa_{\sharp}}{2} \mathcal{E}(\varrho_{\infty}, \varrho_{\infty}) + \frac{\kappa_{\sharp} \varepsilon^{2} |K^{\delta}| \varrho_{\infty}^{2}}{2} \min_{k \in \mathbb{N}^{d}} \frac{\tilde{W}(k)}{\Theta(k)} L^{d/2}$$

Combining both estimates, recalling  $\kappa_{\sharp} = -\frac{L^{\frac{d}{2}}}{\beta \min_k \tilde{W}(k)/\Theta(k)}$ , yields

$$\mathscr{F}_{\kappa_{\sharp}}(\varrho) - \mathscr{F}_{\kappa_{\sharp}}(\varrho_{\infty}) \leq -\frac{\varepsilon^{3}\varrho_{\infty}}{3\beta} \int \left(\sum_{k \in K^{\delta}} w_{k}\right)^{3} + O(\varepsilon^{4}).$$

The resonance condition  $k^a = k^b + k^c$  ensures that

$$\int \left(\sum_{k\in K^{\delta^*}} w_k\right)^3 > 0 \; .$$

## A mountain pass theorem

## [Gvalani-S. '20]



## Noise-induced transitions in $\mathbb{R}^d$

Start form deterministic gradient flow in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ 

 $\dot{x}(t) = -\nabla F(x)$  with  $x(0) = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ 

• F has two global minima  $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

Describe the particle transition from  $m_1$  to  $m_2$  under the influence of noise.

Modelproblem: Add Brownian motion

 $dX_t = -\nabla F(X_t) \,\mathrm{d}t + \sqrt{2\sigma} dB_t \,,$ 

**Question:** Given  $X(0) = m_1$ , what is the probability that in some finite time T > 0, we have that  $X(T) = m_2$  in the regime  $\sigma \ll 1$ ?

#### Theorem (Freidlin–Wentzell)

The family of processes  $\{X_t^{\sigma}\} \in C([0,T]; \mathbb{R}^2)$ satisfy a LDP with good rate function  $I: C([0,T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ 

$$I(\gamma) = \frac{1}{4} \int_0^T |\dot{\gamma}(t) + \nabla F(\gamma(t))|^2 \,\mathrm{d}t.$$

and it holds

$$\mathbf{P}(X_t^{\sigma} \in \Gamma) \approx \exp\left(-\sigma^{-1} \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} I(\gamma)\right) \qquad \sigma \ll 1,$$

for any  $\Gamma \subset C([0,T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ .



## Noise-induced transitions in $\mathbb{R}^d$

For 
$$\gamma \in \Gamma = \{ f \in C^1([0,T]; \mathbb{R}^d) : \gamma(0) = m_1, \gamma(T) = m_2 \}$$
 let  $T^* = \arg \max_{t \in [0,T]} (F(\gamma(t)) - F(\gamma(0)))$ 

$$\begin{split} I(\gamma) &\geq \frac{1}{4} \int_{0}^{T^{*}} |\dot{\gamma}(t) + \nabla F(\gamma(t))|^{2} \,\mathrm{d}t = \frac{1}{4} \int_{0}^{T^{*}} |\dot{\gamma}(t) - \nabla F(\gamma(t))|^{2} \,\mathrm{d}t + \int_{0}^{T^{*}} \dot{\gamma}(t) \cdot \nabla F(\gamma(t)) \,\mathrm{d}t \\ &\geq F(\gamma(T^{*})) - F(\gamma(0)) \geq \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} (F(\gamma(T^{*})) - F(\gamma(0))) =: c - F(\gamma(0)) \,, \end{split}$$

By classical mountain pass theorem: c a critical value of F, i.e.,  $\exists s \in \mathbb{R}^d : \nabla F(s) = 0, F(s) = c$ .

$$\Rightarrow \qquad \mathbf{P}(X_t^{\sigma} \in \Gamma) \lesssim \exp(-\sigma^{-1}\Delta F) \qquad \text{where} \quad \Delta F = F(s) - F(m_1).$$



## LDP for McKean-Vlasov interaction particle system

 $\blacksquare$  Apply argument to the McKean–Vlasov  $N\text{-particle system for }N\gg 1$ 

$$\mathrm{d}X_t^i = -\frac{\kappa}{N} \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^N \nabla W(X^i - X^j) dt + \sqrt{2} \,\mathrm{d}B_t^i, \qquad i = 1, \dots, N$$

• [Dawson-Gärtner 1987] proved LDP with rate function for  $\mu \in AC^2([0,T], \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{T}^d_L))$  given by

$$I_{\kappa}(\mu(\cdot)) := \frac{1}{4} \int_0^T \|\partial_t \mu_t - \nabla \cdot (\mu_t \nabla (\log \mu_t + \kappa W \star \mu_t))\|_{-1,\mu_t}^2 \,\mathrm{d}t$$

• Associated quasipotential to LDP is  $\mathcal{F}_{\kappa}$ !

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{transition: } \varrho_{\infty} \to \varrho_{\kappa_c}) \simeq \exp\left(-N \inf\{I_{\kappa}(\mu(\cdot)) : \mu(0) = \varrho_{\infty}, \mu(T) = \varrho_{\kappa_c}\}\right)$$
$$\leq \exp\left(-N \inf_{\mu} \left\{\sup_{T^* \in [0,T]} \left(\mathcal{F}_{\kappa}(\mu(T^*)) - \mathcal{F}_{\kappa}(\mu(0))\right) : \mu(0) = \varrho_{\infty}, \mu(T) = \varrho_{\kappa_c}\right\}\right).$$

#### A mountain pass theorem in the space of probability measures

## Discontinuous phase transitions and metastability

- $\blacksquare$   $N\mbox{-}particle$  system is metastable at disc. phase transition
- By [Dawson-Gärtner 1989] need to understand free energy



- $(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{T}_L^d), W_2)$  only metric space
- $\mathcal{F}_{\kappa}$  only lower semicontinuous







## A mountain pass theorem

#### Theorem [Gvalani-S. '20]

If  $\mathcal{F}_{\kappa_c}$  has two distinct minimizers  $\varrho_{\infty} \equiv 1/L^d$  and  $\varrho_{\kappa_c} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{T}_L^d)$ , then there exists  $\varrho^* \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{T}_L^d)$  distinct from  $\varrho_{\infty}$ and  $\varrho_{\kappa_c}$  such that  $|\partial \mathcal{F}_{\kappa_c}|(\varrho^*) = 0$ . Moreover:  $\mathcal{F}_{\kappa_c}(\varrho^*) = c$  with  $c = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \max_{t \in [0,Ts]} \mathcal{F}(\gamma(t))$ , where  $\Gamma = \{C([0,T]; \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{T}_L^d)) : \gamma(0) = \varrho_{\infty}, \gamma(T) = \varrho_{\kappa_c}\}.$ 

#### Corollary (Arrhenius law)

The empirical McKean-Vlasov process  $\rho^{(N)}$  satisfies

$$\mathbb{P}\Big[\varrho^N(T)\in\overline{B}_{\varepsilon}^{W_2}(\varrho_{\kappa_c}), \varrho^{(N)}(0)=\varrho_0^{(N)}\Big]\lesssim e^{-N\Delta}$$

for N sufficiently large with  $\mathbb{E}(W_2(\varrho_0^{(N)}, \varrho_\infty)) \to 0$  and  $\Delta := \mathcal{F}_{\kappa_c}(\varrho^*) - \mathcal{F}_{\kappa_c}(\varrho_\infty)$  with  $\varrho^*$  the mountain pass point.





## Models of nucleation and condensation

#### Nucleation of oversaturated vapor:

- Only monomers move
- no collisions between clusters
- clusters grow/shrink by one monomer

## Applications:

- polymerization
- cloud and galaxy formation mechanism [Smoluchowski 1916, Becker–Döring 1935]

## Clustering of granular gases:

- Single beads hop to neighboring cells
- hopping rate depends on cell filling
- phases: frozen, clustering, gaseous Applications:
- migration, population dynamics
- $\bullet\,$  wealth exchange

[Spitzer 1970 zero-range process]

Goal: Dynamic of cluster population.

[Tanaka et al J. Chem. Phys. 2011]





# Longtime behavior of the exchange-driven growth model

[S. '19]



## Exchange driven growth (EDG)

Previous models evolve size distribution  $(X_k)_{k\geq 0}$  in a population of clusters [Ben-Naim, Krapivsky '03]

$$X_{k-1} + X_l \xrightarrow{K(l,k-1)} X_k + X_{l-1}$$
, for  $k, l \ge 1$ .

- K(l, k 1) rate kernel: jump of monomer from l to k 1 cluster
- rate equation is a countable nonlinear coupled birth-death chain:

$$\dot{c}_k = A_{k-1}[c]c_{k-1} - (A_k[c] + B_k[c])c_k + B_{k+1}[c]c_{k+1}$$
 (EDG)

with (state-dependent) birth- and death-rates

$$A_{k-1}[c] = \sum_{l \ge 1} K(l, k-1)c_l$$
 and  $B_k[c] = \sum_{l \ge 1} K(k, l-1)c_{l-1}$  for  $k \ge 1$ .

• two conservation laws:

$$1 = \sum_{k \ge 0} c_k \qquad \text{and} \qquad \varrho = \sum_{k \ge 1} k c_k$$

#### Theorem (Well posedness [S. J Nonlinear Sci '19])

If the kernel K has at most linear growth  $K(k,l) \leq C k l$ , then the solution to (EDG) is a semigroup on  $\mathcal{P}^{\varrho} = \{c \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0) : c_k \geq 0, \sum_{k \geq 0} c_k = 1, \sum_{k \geq 1} k c_k = \varrho\}$  with  $c(0) \in \mathcal{P}^{\varrho}$  for  $\varrho \geq 0$ .

#### 18 / 26



Exchange-driven growth: longtime behavior • Equilibria

## Equilibria - longtime behavior - phase separation

If the kernel is curl-free

$$\begin{array}{cccc} X_{k-1} + X_l + X_0 & \xrightarrow{K(l,k-1)} & X_k + X_{l-1} + X_0 \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & &$$

then there exists a chemical potential and (formal) equilibria

$$Q_0 = 1, \quad Q_l = \prod_{k=1}^l \frac{K(1, k-1)}{K(k, 0)} \quad \text{and} \quad \omega_l(\phi) = \frac{\phi^l Q_l}{Z(\phi)} \quad \text{with} \quad Z(\phi) = \sum_{l \ge 0} \phi^l Q_l$$

These equilibria have a critical mass density  $\rho_c \in [0, \infty]$ 

$$\varrho_c = \limsup_{\phi \uparrow \phi_c} \sum_{l \ge 1} l \omega_l(\phi) \quad \text{with} \quad \phi_c = \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{K(k, 0)}{K(1, k - 1)} \in (0, \infty].$$

 $\Rightarrow$  Free energy functional (gradient flow, Lyapunov function)

$$\mathcal{F}[c] = \sum_{k \ge 0} c_k \log \frac{c_k}{Q_k} = \sum_{k \ge 0} c_k \log c_k + \sum_{k \ge 0} c_k \log \frac{1}{Q_k}$$

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## Longtime behavior and phase separation

#### Theorem [S. J Nonlinear Sci '19]

Let K be curl-free, sublinear, sufficiently regular with  $\rho_c \in (0, \infty)$ . Then for any  $\rho \in (0, \infty)$  and any  $c(0) \in \mathcal{P}^{\rho}$ , the solution c of (EDG) satisfies

1. If 
$$\rho \leq \rho_c$$
: Then  $\mathcal{F}[c(t)] \to \mathcal{F}[\omega^{\rho}]$  and  $\sum_{l \geq 0} (l+1)|c_l(t) - \omega_l^{\rho}| \to 0$  as  $t \to \infty$ .

2. If  $\rho > \rho_c$ : Then  $\mathcal{F}[c(t)] \to \mathcal{F}[\omega^{\rho_c}] + (\rho - \rho_c) \log \phi_c$  and  $c_l(t) \to \omega_l^{\rho_c}$  for all  $l \ge 0$  as  $t \to \infty$ . In particular no  $\ell^1$ -convergence, since excess mass  $\rho - \rho_c$  vanishes!





## Self-similar behavior of the exchange-driven growth model

[Eichenberg-S. '21]





## Special class of kernels [Ben-Naim, Krapivsky '03]

## **Product kernel:** for $\lambda \in [0, 2)$

$$K(k,l) = K_{\lambda}(k,l) = a_{\lambda}(k)a_{\lambda}(l)$$
  
with  $a_{\lambda}(k) = \begin{cases} k^{\lambda}, & \lambda > 0, \\ 1 - \delta_{k,0}, & \lambda = 0, \end{cases}$ 

$$\begin{cases} \dot{c}_0 = M_{\lambda}[c] \ c_1, \\ \dot{c}_1 = M_{\lambda}[c] \ (-2c_1 + 2^{\lambda}c_2), \\ \dot{c}_k = M_{\lambda}[c] \ ((k-1)^{\lambda}c_{k-1} - 2k^{\lambda}c_k + (k+1)^{\lambda}c_{k+1}). \end{cases}$$
EDG<sub>\lambda</sub>

#### Theorem (Coarsening rate)

$$\ell(t) \propto \begin{cases} t^{\beta}, & \text{if } 0 \leq \lambda < 3/2, \\ \exp(C_0 t), & \text{if } \lambda = 3/2, \\ (t_{\text{gel}} - t)^{\beta}, & \text{if } 3/2 < \lambda < 2, \end{cases}$$

- $K_{\lambda}(k,0) = 0$  for all  $k \ge 1$  $\Rightarrow$  no formation of new clusters
- Homogeneity and symmetry simplify (EDG) through moments

$$M_{\kappa}[c] = \sum_{l \ge 1} l^{\kappa} c_l$$

• Average size of alive clusters  $\ell(t) = \frac{1}{1 - c_0(t)} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k c_k(t) = \frac{\rho}{M_0[c]},$ 

Coarsening exponent

$$\beta = \frac{1}{3 - 2\lambda}.$$

## Self-similar behavior

#### Behave solutions dynamical self-similar?

$$c_k(t) \propto \rho \, s(t)^{-2} g_\lambda \left( s(t)^{-1} k \right)$$
 for  $t \gg 1$ ?

for the explicit profile

$$g_{\lambda}(x) = \frac{1}{Z_{\lambda}} \frac{x^{1-\lambda}}{2-\lambda} \exp\left(-\frac{x^{2-\lambda}}{(2-\lambda)^2}\right),$$

#### Theorem (Self-similar behavior)

1. For 
$$0 \le \lambda < 3/2$$
 there exists  $C = C(\lambda, \rho) > 0$  and  
 $s(t) = Ct^{\beta}$  with  $\beta = (3 - 2\lambda)^{-1}$ ,  
such that every global solution c to  $(\text{EDG}_{\lambda})$  satisfies

$$\mu_c(t) \rightharpoonup \rho g_\lambda \qquad \text{as } t \to \infty.$$

2. For  $\lambda = 3/2$  ...

3. For  $3/2 < \lambda < 2$  and  $t_{\text{gel}}$  as before there exists  $C = C(\lambda, \rho) > 0$  and  $s(t) = C(t_{\text{gel}} - t)^{\beta}$  with  $\beta = (3 - 2\lambda)^{-1}$ , such that every solution c to  $(\text{EDG}_{\lambda})$  existing on  $[0, t_{\text{gel}})$ satisfies  $\mu_c(t) \rightharpoonup \rho g_{\lambda}$  as  $t \rightarrow t_{\text{gel}}$ .

#### Measure-valued formulation

$$\mu_c(t) = s(t) \sum_{k \ge 1} c_k(t) \delta_{s(t)^{-1}k}.$$

Number of clusters

$$M_0[c] = 1 - c_0 = s^{-1}(t) \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}\mu_c.$$

Total mass density

$$M_1[c] = \int_0^\infty x \,\mathrm{d}\mu_c.$$



## Some ingredients for the proof

Time-change

$$\tau(t) = \int_0^t M_\lambda[c](s) \,\mathrm{d}s.$$

Discrete weighted Laplacian:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_{\tau} u = \Delta_{\mathbb{N}}(a_{\lambda}u), & k \ge 1, \\ u(\tau, 0) = 0, & \tau \ge 0. \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{Tail-distribution:} \ U(t,k) &= \sum_{l \geq k} u(t,l) \\ \begin{cases} \partial_t U(k) &= \partial^- (a_\lambda \partial^+ U)(k), \\ \partial^+ U(t,0) &= 0. \end{cases} \end{split}$$

Proposition (Discrete Nash-inequality)

$$||U||_{2}^{2} \lesssim ||U||_{1}^{\frac{2(2-\lambda)}{3-\lambda}} E_{\lambda}(U)^{\frac{1}{3-\lambda}},$$

Dirichlet form:  $E_{\lambda}(U) = \sum_{k \ge 1} k^{\lambda} |\partial^+ U(k)|^2$ .

 $\Rightarrow$  Nash-continuity, decay, moment bounds, . . .

#### Continuous solution:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \mathcal{U} = \partial_x (a_\lambda \partial_x \mathcal{U}) = \mathcal{L}_\lambda \mathcal{U}, & (t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^2_+, \\ a_\lambda \partial_x \mathcal{U}|_{x=0} = 0, & t \in \mathbb{R}_+, \\ \mathcal{U}(0, \cdot) = \mathcal{U}_0, & x \in \mathbb{R}_+. \end{cases}$$

#### Discrete-to-continuum interpolation:

$$\mathcal{U}_{\varepsilon}(t,x) = \varepsilon^{-\alpha} U(\varepsilon^{-1}t, \lfloor \varepsilon^{-\alpha}x \rfloor + 1).$$

*parabolic* scaling:  $k \propto t^{\alpha}$  with  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2-\lambda} \in \left[\frac{1}{2}, \infty\right)$ 

#### Theorem

It holds  $\mathcal{U}_{\varepsilon} \to \mathcal{U}$ .

**Proof:** Replacement lemma, compactness

**Note:** For 
$$t = 1$$
, we get

 $\varepsilon^{-\alpha}U(\varepsilon^{-1}, \lfloor \varepsilon^{-\alpha}x \rfloor + 1) \to \rho \,\mathcal{G}_{\lambda}(x).$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  Obtain long-time behavior by setting  $t = \varepsilon^{-1}$ .

# Oscillations in a Becker–Döring model with injection and depletion

[Niethammer-Pego-S.-Velazquez, to appear SIAP, arXiv:2102.06751]



## Hopf bifurcation of a bubbleator



#### **Becker-Döring bubbleator:**

$$\begin{split} \emptyset \xrightarrow{S} X_1 & \text{Injection } S > 0\\ X_1 + X_k \xrightarrow{k^{\alpha}} X_{k+1}, & k = 1, 2, 3, \dots\\ X_k \xrightarrow{Rk^r} \emptyset, & \text{Depletion } R > 0. \end{split}$$

Limit model (small oversaturation)

$$\partial_{\tau} u = 1 - \int_{0}^{\infty} f(x,\tau) x^{\alpha} dx ,$$
  
$$\partial_{\tau} f + \partial_{x} (x^{\alpha} f) = -\bar{R} x^{r} f , \quad x > 0$$
  
$$x^{\alpha} f(x,\tau) \to e^{u(\tau)} \qquad x \to 0$$

**Parameters:**  $\bar{R} = 0.1, \, \alpha = \beta = 1/3, \, r = 2/3$