# Exact solutions and dynamics for the aggregation model with singular repulsion and long-range attraction



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### Introduction

We consider a simple model of particle interaction,

$$\frac{dx_j}{dt} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\substack{k=1...N\\k \neq j}} F\left(|x_j - x_k|\right) \frac{x_j - x_k}{|x_j - x_k|}, \ \ j = 1 \dots N$$
(1)

- Models insect aggregation [Edelstein-Keshet et al, 1998] such as locust swarms [Topaz et al, 2008]; robotic motion [Gazi, Passino, 2004].
- Interaction force F(r) is of attractive-repelling type: the insects repel each other if they are too close, but attract each-other at a distance.
- Mathematically F(r) is positive for small r, but negative for large r.
- Commonly, a *Morse interaction force* is used:

$$F(r) = \exp(-r) - G \exp(-r/L); \quad G < 1, L > 1$$
(2)
$$F(r) \stackrel{0.4}{0.3}_{0} \stackrel{0.4}{1}_{0} \stackrel{0.4}{1}_{2} \stackrel{0.4}{3}_{4} \stackrel{0.5}{5}_{6}$$

• Under certain conditions on repulsion/attraction, the steady state typically consists of a bounded "particle cloud" whose diameter and is independent of N in the limit  $N \to \infty$ . Then the continuum limit becomes

$$\rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho v) = 0; \qquad v(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F\left(|x - y|\right) \frac{x - y}{|x - y|} \rho(y) dy.$$

- Questions
  - 1. Describe the equilibrium cloud shape in the limit  $t \to \infty$
  - 2. What about dynamics?

#### Morse force, h-stable vs. catastrophic

• If  $GL^{n+1} > 1$ , the system is *catastrophic:* doubling N doubles the density but cloud volume is unchanged:



• If  $GL^{n+1} < 1$ , the system is *h*-stable: doubling N doubles the cloud volume: but density is unchanged:



## Morse force, explicit results

- Bernoff-Topaz, 2010: In one dimension, the steady states for the Morse force  $F(r)=\exp(-r)-G\exp(-r/L)$  have the form

$$\rho(x) = \begin{cases} a\cos(bx) + 1, & |x| < R \\ 0, & |x| > 0 \end{cases}$$

where a, b, c are related to G, L.



(taken from Topaz+Bernoff, 2010 preprint)

• What about stability? Dynamics? 2D?

#### **Bounded states of constant density**

Claim. Suppose that

$$F(r) = \frac{1}{r^{n-1}} - r, \quad \text{where } n \equiv \text{dimension}$$

Then the aggregation model

$$\rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho v) = 0; \qquad v(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F\left(|x - y|\right) \frac{x - y}{|x - y|} \rho(y) dy.$$

admits a steady state of the form

$$\rho(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & |x| < R \\ 0, & |x| > R \end{cases}; \quad v(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & |x| < 1 \\ -ax, & |x| > 1 \end{cases}$$

where R = 1 for n = 1, 2 and a = 2 in one dimension and  $a = 2\pi$  in two dimensions.



Constant density-state in 2D, F(r)=1/r-r; N=200 particles.

#### **Proof for two dimensions**

Define

$$G(x) := \ln |x| - \frac{|x|^2}{2}; \quad M = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \rho(y) dy$$

Then we have:

$$\nabla G = F(|x|) \frac{x}{|x|}$$
 and  $\Delta G(x) = 2\pi \delta(x) - 2.$ 

so that

$$v(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \nabla_x G(x-y) \rho(y) dy.$$

Thus we get:

$$\nabla \cdot v = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (2\pi\delta(x-y) - 2)\rho(y)dy$$
$$= 2\pi\rho(x) - 2M$$
$$= \begin{cases} 0, & |x| < R\\ -2M, & |x| > R \end{cases}$$

The steady state satisfies  $\nabla \cdot v = 0$  inside some ball of radius R with  $\rho = 0$  outside such a ball but then  $\rho = M/\pi$  inside this ball and  $M = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \rho(y) dy = MR^2 \implies R = 1$ .

**Dynamics in 1D with** F(r) = 1 - r

Assume WLOG that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \rho(x) = 0; \quad M := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \rho(x) \, dx$$

Then

$$\begin{split} v(x) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F\left(|x-y|\right) \frac{x-y}{|x-y|} \rho(y) dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(1 - |x-y|\right) \operatorname{sign}(x-y) \rho(y) \\ &= 2 \int_{-\infty}^{x} \rho(y) dy - M(x+1). \end{split}$$

and continuity equations become

$$\rho_t + v\rho_x = -v_x\rho$$
$$= (M - 2\rho)\rho$$

Define the characteristic curves  $X(t, x_0)$  by

$$\frac{d}{dt}X(t;x_0) = v; \quad X(0,x_0) = x_0$$

Then along the characteristics, we have  $\rho=\rho(X,t);$ 

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \rho(M - 2\rho)$$

Solving we get:

$$\rho(X(t,x_0),t) = \frac{M}{2 + e^{-Mt}(M/\rho_0 - 2)}; \quad \rho(X(t,x_0),t) \to M/2 \text{ as } t \to \infty$$

#### **Solving for characteristic curves**

Let

$$w:=\int_{-\infty}^x \rho(y)dy$$

then

$$v = 2w - M(x+1); \quad v_x = 2\rho - M$$

and integrating  $\rho_t + (\rho v)_x = 0$  we get:

$$w_t + vw_x = 0$$

Thus w is constant along the characteristics X of  $\rho,$  so that characteristics  $\frac{d}{dt}X=v$  become

$$\frac{d}{dt}X = 2w_0 - M(X+1); \quad X(0;x_0) = x_0$$

#### Summary for F(r) = 1 - r in 1D:

$$X = \frac{2w_0(x_0)}{M} - 1 + e^{-Mt} \left( x_0 + 1 - \frac{2w_0(x_0)}{M} \right)$$
$$w_0(x_0) = \int_{-\infty}^{x_0} \rho_0(z) dz; \quad M = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \rho_0(z) dz$$
$$\rho(X, t) = \frac{M}{2 + e^{-tM} (M/\rho_0(x_0) - 2)}$$

Example:  $\rho_0(x) = \exp(-x^2) / \sqrt{\pi}; M = 1:$ 



### **Global stability**

In limit  $t \to \infty$  we get:

$$X = \frac{2w_0}{M} - 1; \quad w_0 = 0 \dots M; \quad \rho(X, \infty) = \frac{M}{2}$$

We have shown that as  $t \to \infty$ , the steady state is

$$\rho(x,\infty) = \begin{cases} M/2, & |x| < 1\\ 0, & |x| > 1 \end{cases}$$
(3)

- This proves the global stability of (3)!
- Characteristics intersect at  $t = \infty$ ; solution forms a shock at  $x = \pm 1$  at  $t = \infty$ .

**Dynamics in 2D,**  $F(r) = \frac{1}{r} - r$ 

• Similar to 1D,

$$\nabla \cdot v = 2\pi\rho(x) - 4\pi M;$$

$$\rho_t + v \cdot \nabla \rho = -\rho \nabla \cdot v$$
$$= -\rho \left(\rho - 2M\right) 2\pi$$

• Along the characterisitics:

$$\frac{d}{dt}X(t;x_0) = v;$$
  $X(0,x_0) = x_0$ 

we still get

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = 2\pi\rho(2M - \rho);$$

$$\rho(X(t;x_0),t) = \frac{2M}{1 + \left(\frac{2M}{\rho(x_0)} - 1\right)\exp\left(-4\pi Mt\right)}$$
(4)

• Continuity equations yield:

$$\rho(X(t;x_0),t) \det \nabla_{x_0} X(t;x_0) = \rho_0(x_0)$$

• Using (4) we get

$$\det \nabla_{x_0} X(t; x_0) = \frac{\rho_0(x_0)}{2M} + \left(1 - \frac{\rho_0(x_0)}{2M}\right) \exp\left(-4\pi M t\right).$$

• If  $\rho$  is **radially symmetric**, characteristics are also radially symmetric, i.e.

$$X(t;x_0) = \lambda(|x_0|,t) x_0$$

then

$$\det \nabla_{x_0} X(t; x_0) = \lambda(t; r) \left( \lambda(t; r) + \lambda_r(t; r) r \right), \quad r = |x_0|$$

so that

$$\lambda^2 + \lambda_r \lambda r = \frac{\rho_0(x_0)}{2M} + \left(1 - \frac{\rho_0(x_0)}{2M}\right) \exp\left(-4\pi M t\right)$$
$$\lambda^2 r^2 = \frac{1}{M} \int_0^r s\rho_0(s) ds + 2\exp\left(-4\pi M t\right) \int_0^r s\left(1 - \frac{\rho\left(s\right)}{2M}\right) ds$$

So characteristics are fully solvable!!

- $\bullet$  This proves global stability in the space of radial initial conditions  $\rho_0(x)=\rho_0(|x|).$
- More general global stability is still open.

## The force $F(r) = \frac{1}{r} - r^{q-1}$ in 2D

- If q = 2, we have explicit ode and solution for characteristics.
- For other *q*, no explicit solution is available but we have **differential inequalities**: Define

$$ho_{\max} := \sup_{x} 
ho(x,t); \quad R(t) := ext{ radius of support of } 
ho(x,t)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\rho_{\max}}{dt} &\leq (aR^{q-2} - b\rho_{\max})\rho_{\max} \\ \frac{dR}{dt} &\leq c\sqrt{\rho_{\max}} - dR^{q-1}; \end{aligned}$$

where a, b, c, d are some [known] positive constants.

- It follows that if R(0) is sufficiently big, then R(t),  $\rho_{\max}(t)$  remain bounded for all t. [using bounding box argument]
- Theorem: For  $q \ge 2$ , there exists a bounded steady state [uniqueness??]

# Inverse problem: Custom-designer kernels: 1D

Theorem. In one dimension, conisder a radially symmetric density of the form

$$\rho(x) = \begin{cases} b_0 + b_2 x^2 + b_4 x^4 + \ldots + b_{2n} x^{2n}, & |x| < R \\ 0, & |x| \ge R \end{cases}$$
(5)

Define the following quantities,

$$m_{2q} := \int_0^R \rho(r) r^{2q} dr.$$
(6)

Then  $\rho(r)$  is the steady state  $% \rho(r)$  corresponding to the kernel

$$F(r) = 1 - a_0 r - \frac{a_2}{3} r^3 - \frac{a_4}{5} r^5 - \dots - \frac{a_{2n}}{2n+1} r^{2n+1}$$
(7)

where the constants  $a_0, a_2, \ldots, a_{2n}$ , are computed from the constants  $b_0, b_2, \ldots, b_{2n}$  by solving the following linear problem:

$$b_{2k} = \sum_{j=k}^{n} a_{2j} \begin{pmatrix} 2j \\ 2k \end{pmatrix} m_{2(j-k)}, \quad k = 0 \dots n.$$
(8)

#### **Example: custom kernels 1D**

Example 1:  $\rho = 1 - x^2$ , R = 1, then  $F(r) = 1 - 9/5r + 1/2r^3$ .

**Example 2**:  $\rho = x^2$ , R = 1, then  $F(r) = 1 + 9/5r - r^3$ .

Example 3:  $\rho = 1/2 + x^2 - x^4$ , R = 1; then  $F(r) = 1 + \frac{209425}{336091}r - \frac{4150}{2527}r^3 + \frac{6}{19}r^5$ .



# Inverse problem: Custom-designer kernels: 2D

**Theorem.** In two dimensions, conisder a radially symmetric density  $\rho(x) = \rho\left(|x|\right)$  of the form

$$\rho(r) = \begin{cases} b_0 + b_2 r^2 + b_4 r^4 + \dots + b_{2n} r^{2n}, & r < R \\ 0, & r \ge R \end{cases}$$
(9)

Define the following quantities,

$$m_{2q} := \int_0^R \rho(r) r^{2q} dr.$$
 (10)

Then  $\rho(r)$  is the steady state corresponding to the kernel

$$F(r) = \frac{1}{r} - \frac{a_0}{2}r - \frac{a_2}{4}r^3 - \dots - \frac{a_{2n}}{2n+2}r^{2n+1}$$
(11)

where the constants  $a_0, a_2, \ldots, a_{2n}$ , are computed from the constants  $b_0, b_2, \ldots, b_{2n}$  by solving the following linear problem:

$$b_{2k} = \sum_{j=k}^{n} a_{2j} \left( \begin{array}{c} j \\ k \end{array} \right)^2 m_{2(j-k)+1}; \quad k = 0 \dots n.$$
 (12)

This system always has a unique solution for provided that  $m_0 \neq 0$ .

## **Numerical simulations, 1D**

• First, use standard ODE solver to integrate the corresponding discrete particle model,

$$\frac{dx_j}{dt} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\substack{k=1...N\\k \neq j}} F\left(|x_j - x_k|\right) \frac{x_j - x_k}{|x_j - x_k|}, \ j = 1...N.$$

• How to compute ho(x) from  $x_i$ ? [Topaz-Bernoff, 2010]

- Use  $x_i$  to approximate the cumulitive distribution,  $w(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{x} \rho(z) dz$ .
- Next take derivative to get  $\rho(x)=w^\prime(x)$



[Figure taken from Topaz+Bernoff, 2010 preprint]

## **Numerical simulations, 2D**

- Solve for  $x_i$  using ODE particle model as before [2N variables]
- Use *x<sub>i</sub>* to compute **Voronoi diagram**;
- Estimate  $\rho(x_j) = 1/a_j$  where  $a_j$  is the area of the voronoi cell around  $x_j$ .
- Use **Delanay triangulation** to generate smooth mesh.
- Example: Take

$$\rho(r) = \begin{cases} 1 + r^2, r < 1\\ 0, r > 0 \end{cases}$$

Then by Custom-designed kernel in 2D is:

$$F(r) = \frac{1}{r} - \frac{8}{27}r - \frac{r^3}{3}.$$

Running the particle method yeids...



# Numerical solutions for radial steady states for $F(r) = \frac{1}{r} - r^{q-1}$

- Radial steady states of radius R satisfy  $\rho(r) = 2q \int_0^R (r'\rho(r')I(r,r')dr')$ where c(q) is some constant and  $I(r,r') = \int_0^\pi (r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr'\sin\theta)^{q/2-1}d\theta$ .
- To find  $\rho$  and R, we adjust R until the operator  $\rho \to c(q) \int_0^R (r'\rho(r')K(r,r')dr') dr'$  has eigenvalue 1; then  $\rho$  is the corresponding eigenfunction.



### **Discussions/open problems**

- We found bound states of constant density with  $F(r) = r^{1-n} r$ .
  - may be of relevance for biology (minimizes overcrowding)
- Can we get explicit results for Morse force in 2D?
  - To get explicit results in 2D, we need that  $F(r) \sim 1/r$  as  $r \to 0.$
  - Morse force looks like  $F(r) \sim const.$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . This is a more "difficult" singularity in 2D.
- Open question: global stability for  $F(r) = r^{1-n} r$ ? [can show for n = 1 or for radial initial conditions if  $n \ge 2$ .]
- Open question: Uniqueness of (radial) steady states for  $F(r) = r^{1-n} r^{q-1}, \ q \neq 2$ ? [can show it is bounded for all q; can show uniqueness if q = 2]
- What about q < 2?
- Most of the results generalize to *n* dimensions.
- This talk is downloadable from my website (preprint will be available by spring), http://www.mathstat.dal.ca/~tkolokol/papers