

Nonlinear random perturbations of PDEs.

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Joint work with:

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Freidlin and Koralov (*PTRF 2010*) have considered the following quasi-linear parabolic problem

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u_\epsilon(t, x) = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^d a_{i,j}(x, u_\epsilon(t, x)) \partial_{ij} u_\epsilon(t, x) + \sum_{i=1}^d b_i(x) \partial_i u_\epsilon(t, x), \\ u_\epsilon(0, x) = g(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

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together with the randomly perturbed system where (B_t) is a d -dimensional Brownian motion and $a_{ij}(x, r) = (\sigma \sigma^*)_{ij}(x, r)$.

$$\begin{cases} dX_\epsilon^{t,x}(s) = b(X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s)) ds + \sqrt{\epsilon} \sigma(X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s), u_\epsilon(t-s, X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s))) dB_s, \\ X_\epsilon^{t,x}(0) = x, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

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The PDE (1) and the SDE (2) are related by the relation:

$$u_\epsilon(r, x) = \mathbb{E} g(X_\epsilon^{r,x}(r)), \quad r \geq 0$$

The classical theory of (finite dimensional) parabolic, quasi-linear, PDEs guarantees that equation (1) admits a unique classical solution u_ϵ .

In their framework, Freidlin and Koralov complete a comprehensive program:

- Prove the Large Deviation Principle for the trajectories of $X_\epsilon^{t,x}$ and characterize the action functional.
- Study the exit problem for $(X_\epsilon^{t,x})$ from a fixed domain $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$.
- Investigate the asymptotic behavior $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} u_\epsilon(\lambda/\epsilon) := c(\lambda)$.

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Two (divergent) considerations:

- The asymptotic behavior as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ of the SDE (2) can be studied independently of the PDE (1).
- The PDE (1) is of independent interest. In particular regularity of solutions.

We consider the randomly perturbed partial differential equation defined on a separable **Hilbert space** H , where ϵ is a small parameter.

$$\begin{cases} dX_{\epsilon}^{t,x}(s) = [AX_{\epsilon}^{t,x}(s) + b(X_{\epsilon}^{t,x}(s))] dt + \sqrt{\epsilon} \sigma(X_{\epsilon}^{t,x}(s), u_{\epsilon}(t-s, X_{\epsilon}^{t,x}(s))) dW_s, \\ X_{\epsilon}^{t,x}(0) = x \in H, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where u_{ϵ} satisfies (at least formally) the quasi-linear equations, $t \geq 0$

$$\begin{cases} D_t u_{\epsilon}(t, x) = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \text{Tr} [\sigma \sigma^*(x, u_{\epsilon}(t, x)) D_x^2 u_{\epsilon}(t, x)] + \langle Ax + b(x), Du_{\epsilon}(t, x) \rangle_H, \\ u_{\epsilon}(0, x) = g(x), \quad x \in H. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

and it holds

$$u_{\epsilon}(t, x) = \mathbb{E} g(X_{\epsilon}^{t,x}(t))$$

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Here

- $A : D(A) \subset H \rightarrow H$ is the generator of a strongly continuous, **Hilbert-Schmidt**, semigroup $(S(t))$ with:

$$\|S(t)\|_{\mathcal{L}_2(H)} \leq ce^{-\gamma t} \quad \text{for some } 0 < \gamma < 1/2 \text{ and all } t \in [0, 1]$$

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- (W_t) , $t \geq 0$, is a cylindrical Wiener process in an Hilbert space H .
- $g : H \rightarrow H$ is a non-linear Lipschitz mapping.

Notice that if

$$v_\epsilon^t(s, x) := u_\epsilon(t - s, x), \quad s \in [0, t]$$

then the above equations rewrite:

$$\begin{cases} D_t v_\epsilon^t(s, x) - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \text{Tr} [\sigma \sigma^*(x, v_\epsilon^t(s, x)) D_x^2 v_\epsilon^t(s, x)] + \langle Ax + b(x), Dv_\epsilon^t(s, x) \rangle_H = 0, \\ v_\epsilon^t(t, x) = g(x), \quad x \in H. \end{cases}$$

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and it holds

$$v_\epsilon^t(s, x) = \mathbb{E} g(X_\epsilon^{t-s,x}(t - s))$$

thus by markovianity

$$v_\epsilon^t(s, X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s)) = \mathbb{E} \left(g(X_\epsilon^{t,x}(t)) \middle| \mathcal{F}_s^W \right)$$

The equations for $X_\epsilon^{t,x}$ can be rewritten in a closed form as:

$$\begin{cases} dX_\epsilon^{t,x}(s) = [AX_\epsilon^{t,x}(s) + b((X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s)))] ds + \\ \quad \sqrt{\epsilon} \sigma \left(X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s), \mathbb{E} \left(g(X_\epsilon^{t,x})(t) \middle| \mathcal{F}_s^W \right) \right) dW_s, \\ X_\epsilon^{t,x}(0) = x \in H, \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

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or, if you prefer, as:

$$\begin{cases} dX_\epsilon^{t,x}(s) = [AX_\epsilon^{t,x}(s) + b((X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s)))] ds + \sqrt{\epsilon} \sigma (X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s), Y_\epsilon^{t,x}(s)) dW_s, \\ dY_\epsilon^{t,x}(s) = Z_\epsilon^{t,x}(s) dW_s \\ X_\epsilon^{t,x}(0) = x \in H, \\ Y_\epsilon^{t,x}(t) = g(X_\epsilon^{t,x}(t)) \end{cases}$$

The well posedness of the above equation **for small ϵ** can be easily established (essentially by Itô isometry and contraction principle):

Theorem

Fix $T > 0$ there exists $\bar{\epsilon}(T) > 0$ such that for all $t \leq T$ and $\epsilon \leq \bar{\epsilon}(T)$ there exists a unique solution $(X_\epsilon^{t,x})(s)_{s \in [0,t]}$ with continuous trajectories of equation

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Moreover

$$\mathbb{E} \left(\sup_{s \in [0,t]} |X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s)|^2 \right) \leq C(T)(1 + |x|^2)$$

$$\mathbb{E} \left(\sup_{s \in [0,t]} |X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s) - X_\epsilon^{t,x'}(s)|^2 \right) \leq C(T)|x - x'|^2$$

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Remark: if A is dissipative then $\bar{\epsilon} > 0$ can be chosen independently on T

When $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ the laws of $(X_\epsilon^{t,x})$ converge to the Dirac measure centered in Z^x where

$$\frac{d}{ds} Z^x(s) = AZ^x(s) + b(Z^x(s)); \quad Z_\epsilon^x(0) = x$$

The events $\Gamma \subset C([0, t]; H)$ that do not contain Z^x describe a **deviant** behavior.

We want to know how deviant a particular event Γ such that $Z^x \notin \bar{\Gamma}$ is, more precisely we want to compute the exponential rate at which $\mathcal{L}(X_\epsilon^{t,x})(\Gamma)$ goes to zero.

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A family of probability measures $\{\mu_\epsilon\}_{\epsilon>0}$ on a Polish space E satisfies a large deviation principle, with speed $1/\epsilon$ and **action functional** $I : E \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ if

- for every $A \subset E$ open $\liminf_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon \log \mu_\epsilon(A) \geq - \inf_{a \in A} I(a)$,
- for every $C \subset E$ closed $\limsup_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon \log \mu_\epsilon(C) \leq - \inf_{a \in C} I(a)$.
- for every $s \geq 0$, the set $\{I(a) \leq s\}$ is compact in E ,

Theorem (S. Cerrai, G. Guatteri, G.T.)

Assume that $(S(t))$ is an analytic semigroup then the family $\{\mathcal{L}(X_\epsilon^{t,x})\}_{\epsilon \in (0, \bar{\epsilon})}$ satisfies a **LDP** in $C([0, t]; H)$ governed by the action functional

$$I_{t,x}(f) = \frac{1}{2} \inf \left\{ \int_0^t \|\varphi(s)\|_H^2 ds : f(s) = X_\varphi^{t,x}(s), s \in [0, t] \right\},$$

where f ranges over continuous function $[0, t] \rightarrow H$ with $f(0) = x$ and $X_\varphi^{t,x}$ is the unique mild solution of problem

$$\begin{cases} (X_\varphi^{t,x}(s))' = AX_\varphi^{t,x}(s) + b(X_\varphi^{t,x}(s)) + \sigma \left(X_\varphi^{t,x}(s), g(Z^{X_\varphi^{t,x}}(s)(t-s)) \right) \varphi(s) \\ X_\varphi^{t,x}(0) = x \in H, \end{cases}$$

We recall that for every $y \in H$, (Z^y) verifies:

$$Z^y(s) = e^{sA}y + \int_0^s e^{(s-r)A}b(Z^y(r)) dr.$$

By general results, [A. Budhiraja, P. Dupuis, V. Maroulas, *Ann. Probab.* 2008]
a LDP with rate function $I_{t,x}(f) = \frac{1}{2} \inf \left\{ \int_0^t \|\varphi(s)\|_H^2 ds : f = X_\varphi^{t,x} \right\}$, **holds**
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- for every $t, R > 0$, the level sets $\{I_{t,x} \leq R\}$ are compact in $C([0, t]; H)$.
- For every $M > 0$ denote by $\Lambda_{t,M}$ the set of progressively measurable processes φ such that $\|\varphi\|_{L^2(0,t;H)} \leq M$, $\mathbb{P} - \text{a.s.}$.

For all $\{\varphi_\epsilon\}_{\epsilon>0} \subseteq \Lambda_{t,M}$ and $\varphi \in \Lambda_{t,M}$:

if $\varphi_\epsilon \rightharpoonup \varphi$ **weakly in $L^2(0, t; H)$ in distribution**
 then $X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x} \rightarrow X_\varphi^{t,x}$ **strongly in $C([0, t]; H)$ in distribution**

Where $X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x}$ solves:

$$\begin{cases} dX_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s) = [AX_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s) + b((X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s)))] ds + \\ \quad \sqrt{\epsilon} \sigma(X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s), v_\epsilon^t(s, X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s))) dW_s + \sigma(X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s), v_\epsilon^t(s, X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s))) \varphi_\epsilon(s) ds, \\ X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x}(0) = x \in H, \end{cases}$$

and $v_\epsilon^t(s, x) = \mathbb{E}g(X_\epsilon^{t-s,x}(t-s))$

We will concentrate on the second condition.

It is worth noticing that the controlled SPDE

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can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} dX_{\varphi_{\epsilon}, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s) = [AX_{\varphi_{\epsilon}, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s) + b((X_{\varphi_{\epsilon}, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s)))] ds + \\ \quad \sqrt{\epsilon} \sigma(X_{\varphi_{\epsilon}, \epsilon}^{t,x}(s), \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}^{\epsilon}}(g(X_{\varphi_{\epsilon}, \epsilon}^{t,x})(t) | \mathcal{F}_s^W)) dW_s^{\epsilon}, \\ X_{\varphi_{\epsilon}, \epsilon}^{t,x}(0) = x \in H, \end{cases}$$

where $W_s^{\epsilon} := W_s + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}} \int_0^s \varphi(r) dr$

and \mathbb{P}^{ϵ} is the probability under which (W^{ϵ}) is a Wiener process.

We have to prove that for all $\{\varphi_\epsilon\}_{\epsilon>0}$ with $|\varphi_\epsilon|_{L^2(0,t;H)} \leq M$, \mathbb{P} -a.s.
if $\varphi_\epsilon \rightharpoonup \varphi$ weakly in $L^2(0, t; H)$ in distribution then $X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x} \rightarrow X_\varphi^{t,x}$ strongly in $C([0, t]; H)$ in distribution.

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We proceed as follows:

- Use Skorohod's Theorem to pass from convergence in law to \mathbb{P} -a.s. (weak) convergence $\varphi_\epsilon \rightharpoonup \phi$ in $L^2(0, t; H)$

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- prove that for some $\delta > 0$, $\alpha > 0$

$$\|X_{\varphi_\epsilon}^{t,x} - X_\varphi^{t,x}\|_{C^\delta([0,t]; \mathcal{D}((-A)^\alpha))} \leq \|\varphi_\epsilon - \varphi\|_{L^2(0,t;H)}$$

where $C^\delta([0, t]; \mathcal{D}((-A)^\alpha))$ is the space of δ -Holder continuous functions with values in $\mathcal{D}((-A)^\alpha)$

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- exploit the compact embedding $C^\delta([0, t]; \mathcal{D}((-A)^\alpha)) \hookrightarrow C([0, t]; H)$ to obtain strong convergence of $X_{\varphi_\epsilon, \epsilon}^{t,x} \rightarrow X_\varphi^{t,x}$ in $C([0, t]; H)$.



We want to extend our results to an explicit nonlinear reaction diffusion equation

$$\begin{cases} dX_\epsilon^{t,x}(s, \xi) = \Delta_\xi X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s, \xi) ds + b_0(\xi, X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s, \xi)) ds \\ \quad + \sqrt{\epsilon} \sigma_0 \left(\xi, X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s, \xi), \mathbb{E} \left(g(X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s)) \middle| \mathcal{F}_s^W \right) \right) \dot{W}(s, \xi) ds, \\ X_\epsilon^{t,x}(0, \xi) = x(\xi) \quad \xi \in [0, 1]; \quad X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s, 0) = X_\epsilon^{t,x}(s, 1) \quad s \in [0, T] \end{cases}$$

where $\sigma_0 : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g : C([0, 1]) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are Lipschitz and

$$b_0(\xi, x) = -x^{2m+1} + a_m(\xi)x^{2m} + \dots + a_0(\xi)$$

is an odd dissipative polynomial function.

Existence and uniqueness (even for ϵ small) is non-trivial: we can not localize in time.

Step 1: Solve

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Large Deviation Principle: To Do

We come back to the PDE in infinite variables

$$\begin{cases} D_t u_\epsilon(t, x) = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \text{Tr} [\sigma \sigma^*(x, u_\epsilon(t, x)) D_x^2 u_\epsilon(t, x)] + \langle Ax + b(x), Du_\epsilon(t, x) \rangle_H, \\ u_\epsilon(0, x) = g(x), \quad x \in H. \end{cases}$$

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We are now interested into “classical and regular” solutions. We will only be able to consider the case when there exist a bounded non-negative symmetric operator Q and a continuous mapping $F : H \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_1^+(H)$ such that

$$\sigma^* \sigma(x, r) = Q + \delta F(x, r), \quad x \in H, \quad r \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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$\delta > 0$ will be chosen **small enough**. On A and Q we assume:

- The semigroup (S) generated by A is of negative type
- For every $t \geq 0$, $Q_t := \int_0^t S(r) Q S^*(r) dr$ is trace class (that is $\in \mathcal{L}_1^+(H)$).

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- For every $t > 0$ $S(t)H \subset Q_t^{1/2}H$.
- If we define $\Lambda_t := Q_t^{-1/2} S(t)$ there exists some $\lambda > 0$ such that

$$\|\Lambda_t\|_{\mathcal{L}(H)} \leq c(t \wedge 1)^{-1/2} e^{-\lambda t}, \quad t > 0.$$

Let $H = L^2(\mathcal{O})$, for some bounded interval $\mathcal{O} \subset \mathbb{R}$, and let $\{e_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ be an orthonormal basis of H contained in $L^\infty(\mathcal{O})$.

- A is the realization of the Laplace operator with Dirichlet boundary conditions in \mathcal{O}
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- A is the realization of the Laplace operator with Dirichlet boundary conditions in \mathcal{O}
- $Q = I$.

We fix non-negative numbers $\{\lambda_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$, and we assume that $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \lambda_i \|e_i\|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O})} < \infty$.

- For every $x \in H$, $r \in \mathbb{R}$, and $i \in \mathbb{N}$, we define

$$[F(x, r)e_i](\xi) = f_i(x(\xi), r)\lambda_i e_i(\xi), \quad \xi \in \mathcal{O},$$

for some nice smooth functions $f_i : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

We rewrite the quasi-linear equation as a **perturbation** of Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (ϵ is now irrelevant since we have δ small; we set $\epsilon = 1$ and simplify notation)

$$\begin{cases} D_s u(s, x) = \mathcal{L}u(s, x) + \frac{\delta}{2} \text{Tr} [F(x, u(s, x)) D_x^2 u(s, x)] + \langle b(x), Du(s, x) \rangle_H, \\ u(0, x) = g(x), \quad x \in H, \end{cases}$$

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Strategy: treat the **red terms** on the right hand side as perturbations of \mathcal{L} .

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Theorem (S. Cerrai, G. Guatteri, G.T., JFA 2024)

Fix $\frac{1}{2} < \eta < 1$, $0 < \vartheta < \frac{\eta-1}{2}$, let $\varrho = \frac{1-\eta+\vartheta}{2}$ and assume that $g \in C_b^\eta(H)$.
There exists $\bar{\delta} > 0$ such that for every $\delta \leq \bar{\delta}$, $t > 0$ there exists a unique classical solution $u \in C([0, t], H)$. Moreover denoting Hölder norms by $\|\cdot\|_\alpha$.

$$\sup_{s \in (0, t]} \left(\|u(s, \cdot)\|_\eta + (s \wedge 1)^\varrho \|D_x u(s, \cdot)\|_\vartheta + (s \wedge 1)^{\varrho + \frac{1}{2}} \|D_x^2 u(s, \cdot)\|_\vartheta \right) \leq c_\delta \|g\|_\eta,$$

for some constant $c_\delta > 0$ independent of t .

Step 1.

We write the quasi-linear PDE in mild form as

$$u(s, x) = R_s g(x) + \frac{\delta}{2} \int_0^s R_{s-r} \operatorname{Tr} [\mathfrak{F}(u(r, \cdot)) D_x^2 u(r, \cdot)](x) dr \\ + \int_0^s R_{s-r} \langle b(\cdot), Du(r, \cdot) \rangle_H(x) dr.$$

where $\mathfrak{F}(\psi)(x) = F(x, \psi(x))$ and

$$R_s \psi := \int_H \psi(S(s)x + y) \mathcal{N}_{Q_s}(dy), \quad \psi \in B_b(H)$$

is the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck semigroup.

Notice that if $\xi(s, x) = [R_s \psi](x)$ then ξ is a classical solution of the linear PDE in H :

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{ds} \xi(s, x) = \mathcal{L} \xi(s, x) \\ \xi(0, x) = \psi(x) \end{cases}$$

By [Da Prato, Zabczyk 2002] we know that the operator R_s , $s > 0$ is smoothing. For instance for every $0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha$ there exist some $c_{\alpha,\beta} > 0$ such that

$$\|R_s \varphi\|_{\alpha} \leq c_{\alpha,\beta} (s \wedge 1)^{-\frac{\alpha-\beta}{2}} \|\varphi\|_{\beta}, \quad t > 0.$$

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Moreover R_s , $s > 0$ maps $C^0(H)$ into $C^\infty(H)$. In particular if we set

$$\|\varphi\|_{s,\theta} := (\|\varphi\|_0 + e^{-\omega\theta s} [\varphi]_\theta)$$

where $[\varphi]_\theta$ is the θ -Hölder seminorm then it holds for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $0 \leq \theta \leq \rho \leq 1$

$$\|D^n R_s \varphi\|_\theta \leq c_{n,\theta,\rho} (s \wedge 1)^{-\frac{n-(\rho-\theta)}{2}} e^{-\lambda n s} \|\varphi\|_{s,\rho}, \quad s > 0.$$

Step 2: We try to establish a contraction argument, we have to take into account that:

- we deal with a second order nonlinear term $\text{Tr} [F(u(r, \cdot)) D_x^2 u(r, \cdot)]$ in our function space we have to go up to **second order differentiability**.
- g is not smooth we have to cope with **explosions** of norms when $s \searrow 0$.

Thus we chose to work with the space of smooth Hölder continuous functions in H endowed with a slight modification of the norm:

$$\sup_{s \in (0, t]} \left(\|u(s, \cdot)\|_{\eta} + (s \wedge 1)^{\varrho} \|D_x u(s, \cdot)\|_{\vartheta} + (s \wedge 1)^{\varrho + \frac{1}{2}} \|D_x^2 u(s, \cdot)\|_{\vartheta} \right) := \|u\|_{\eta, \rho, \theta, t}$$

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We prove, exploiting smoothing estimates for (R) , that if

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma[u](s, x) := & R_s g(x) + \frac{\delta}{2} \int_0^s R_{s-r} \text{Tr} [\mathfrak{F}(u(r, \cdot)) D_x^2 u(r, \cdot)](x) dr \\ & + \int_0^s R_{s-r} \langle b(\cdot), Du(r, \cdot) \rangle_H(x) dr. \end{aligned}$$

and **if δ and t are sufficiently small** then Γ is a contraction with respect to norm $\|\cdot\|_{\eta, \rho, \theta, t}$. Thus **a unique local mild solution exists**.

Step 3: We show, again exploiting the smoothing of R_s , that any local mild solution u is in fact a **classical** solution. In particular,

- $u(s, \cdot) \in C_b^2(H)$, for every $s \in (0, t]$,
- $QD_x^2 u(t, x) \in \mathcal{L}_1(H)$ (is a trace-class operator),
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Step 4: We show that local solution satisfies an *a-priori* bound, that is lies in a ball with respect to the norm $\|u\|_{\eta, \rho, \theta, t}$.

Notice that the estimate is the C^0 part of the norm, that is the **maximum principle**

$$\|u(s, \cdot)\|_0 \leq \|g\|_0$$

comes from stochastic representation of the solution u .

We conclude **global existence** by a standard iterative process. □

We remark that, even in the case in which F only depends on x , that is for equation:

$$\begin{cases} D_t u(t, x) = \mathcal{L}u(t, x) + \text{Tr} [f(x) D_x^2 u(t, x)] + \langle b(x), Du(t, x) \rangle_H, \\ u(0, x) = g(x), \quad x \in H, \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

existence of classical solutions is not a trivial result, see [Cannarsa, Da Prato 1996] or [Zambotti 1999].

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In particular, the regularity estimates for u , obtained in the above papers, depending on the regularity of f , are not good enough (for us). Namely we can not attack our PDE by a contraction argument following the schema:

$$u \mapsto F \circ u := f \text{ and then } f \mapsto u$$

where the last map is indeed given by equation (6).

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Grazie

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Tanti auguri!