

“Lévy flights in steep potential wells: Langevin modeling versus direct response to energy landscapes”

(Piotr Garbaczewski, Opole, Poland)

Somewhat puzzling topic: Reflecting boundary data for Lévy – stable processes

Fractional Laplacians in bounded domains: Killed, reflected, censored, and taboo Lévy flights PRE 99, 04126, (2019)

Qery: Is there a problem ?

Lévy flights versus Lévy walks in bounded domains

[Dybiec, Gudowska-Nowak, Barkai, Dubkov; Phys. Rev. E 95, 052102, (2017)]

Lévy flights in extremally steep potential wells and in an infinitely deep rectangular well (regarded as a limit case), whose impenetrable boundaries are interpreted as reflecting.

The pertinent boundary conditions are visualised on the path-wise level, in terms of the Langevin equation for large (even) n and compared with the results of the simulated free random motion with **stopping** or **wrapping** conditions at the boundaries at $x = \pm L$.

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -V'_n(x) + \zeta_\alpha(t). \quad n \text{ even and large, eventually} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} V_n(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{|x|^n}{L^n}$$

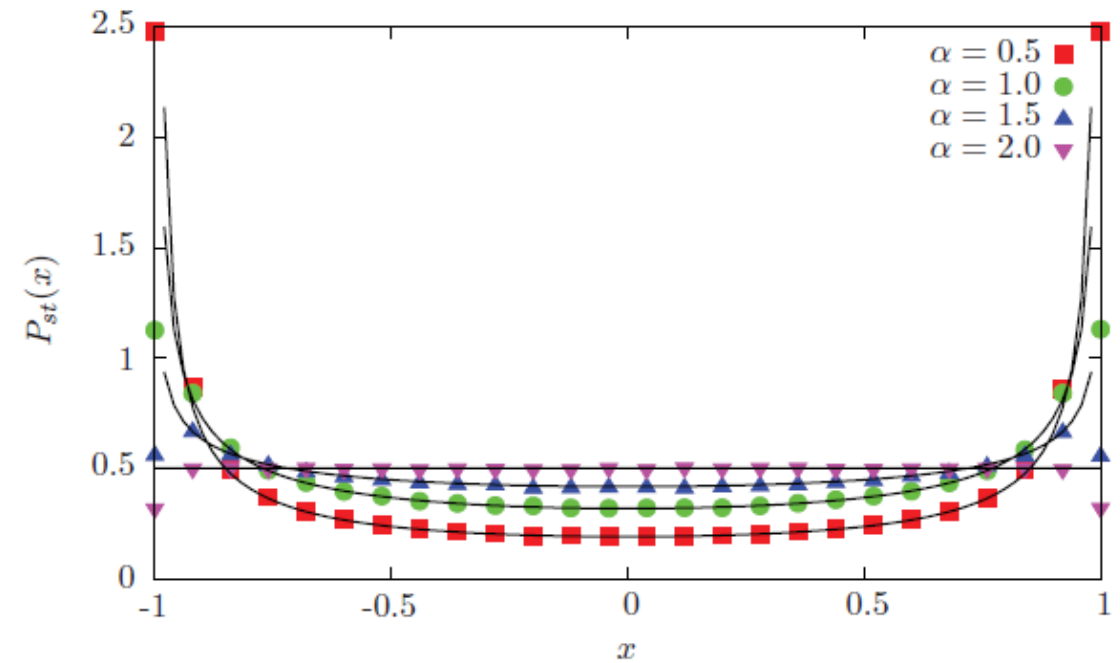
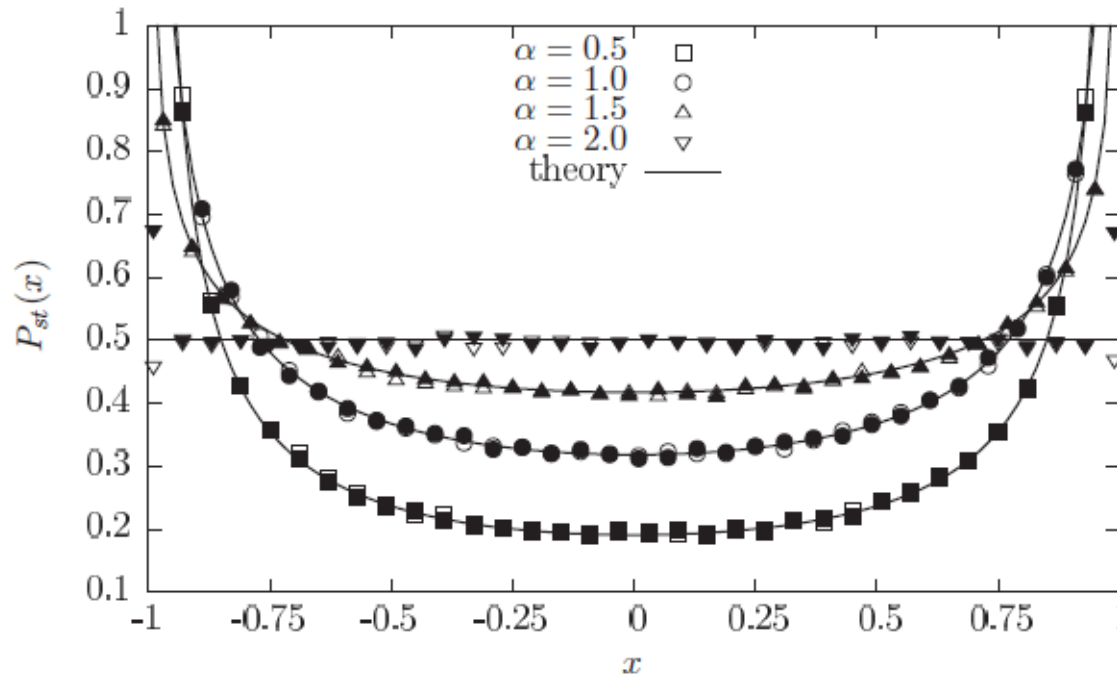
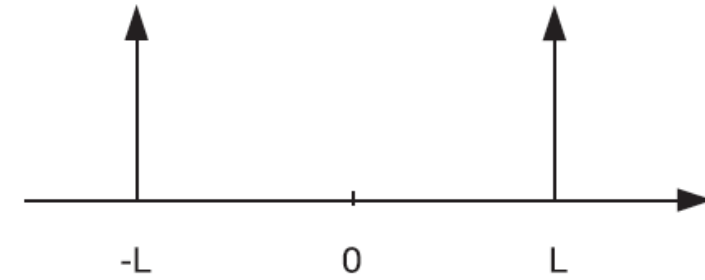
$$\dot{x} = b(x) + A^\mu(t) \Rightarrow \partial_t \rho = -\nabla(b\rho) - \lambda |\Delta|^{\mu/2} \rho$$

μ and α in use interchangeably

Limiting (?) steady state pdf is expected to conform with the formula due to Denisov, Horsthemke, Hänggi, PRE 77, 061112,(2008)

Warning: the convergence is not uniform

$$P_{st}(x) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha)(2L)^{1-\alpha}(L^2 - x^2)^{\alpha/2-1}}{\Gamma^2(\alpha/2)}$$



Left panel: Filled points correspond to the **confining** potential $V_{800}(x)$, empty points refer to the **stopping** scenario. ($L=1$).

What about the wrapping scenario ?

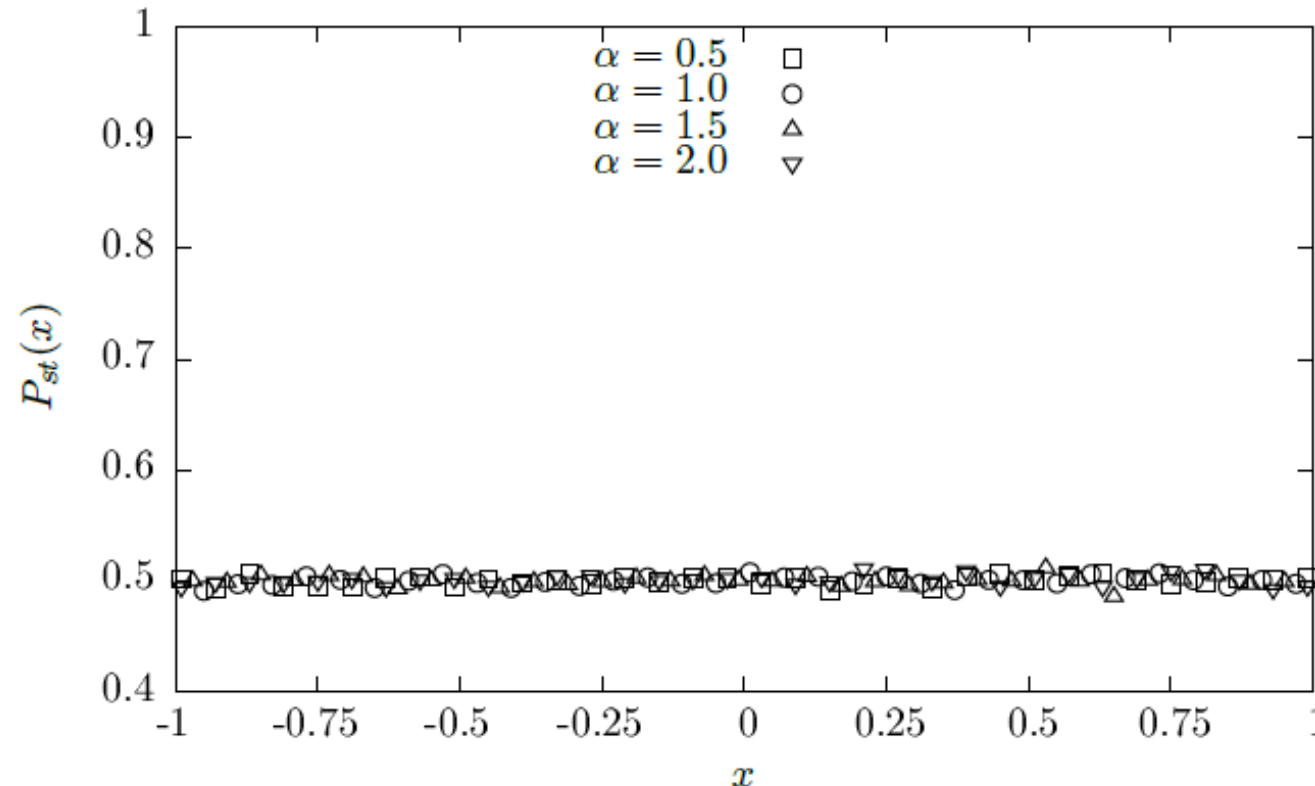
three different realizations of the reflecting condition:

(i) Motion reversal: A trajectory that ends at $x < -L$ is wrapped around the left boundary, i.e., $x \rightarrow -L + |x + L|$.

(ii) Motion stopping: A trajectory that crosses $-L$ is paused at $-L + \varepsilon$, where ε is a small and positive parameter. The point $-L + \varepsilon$ is used as a starting point for a next jump.

(iii) Motion confined within a potential: The reflecting boundary can be implemented by considering the motion in a bounding potential,

The **wrapping (motion reversal)** scenario, irrespective of the stability index value $0 < \alpha \leq 2$, **results in uniform stationary states** for the (otherwise free) Lévy motion, while restricted by impenetrable boundaries. !



(B. Dybiec, private communication)

Nonlocal operator, generator of the Lévy-stable process, $0 < \alpha < 2$

$$-|\Delta|^{\mu/2} \equiv \frac{\partial^\mu}{\partial |x|^\mu}$$

We shall mostly refer to the 1D (i.e. $n=1$) case

We consider the F-P eq. with the identically vanishing drift term, while restricted to the open interval, e.g. to x in $(-1,1)$

We admit functions $f(x,t)$ with the property $\mathbf{f(x,t)=0}$ for all $|x| \geq 1$ (for convenience we set $L=1$) and address the existence issue of a time-independent solution (with the $L(R)$ normalization being implicit) of the equation

Not only a pseudo-differential equation, refers to **the spectral problem on the interval !**

$$(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} f(x) = \mathcal{A}_{\alpha,n} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{R^n \setminus \{|y-x| < \varepsilon\}} \frac{f(x) - f(y)}{|x-y|^{\alpha+n}} dy,$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\alpha,n} = \frac{2^\alpha \Gamma(\frac{\alpha+n}{2})}{\pi^{n/2} |\Gamma(-\frac{\alpha}{2})|} = \frac{2^\alpha \alpha \Gamma(\frac{\alpha+n}{2})}{\pi^{n/2} \Gamma(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2})} \quad n \geq 1$$

$$\partial_t \rho = -\nabla \left(-\frac{\nabla V}{m\beta} \rho \right) - \lambda |\Delta|^{\mu/2} \rho$$

Reference form of the fractional F-P equation

$$\partial_t f(x,t) = -(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} f(x,t)$$

$$(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} f(x,t) = 0 \quad \text{for } x \text{ in } (-1,1)$$

The solution has been known to mathematicians, quite independently of the original Denisov, Horsthemke, Hänggi argument (2008) and involves the concept of a **singular α - harmonic function**.

Example 3.3. Let $\alpha < 2$. Suppose that D is the open unit ball in \mathbb{R}^d . Then the function

$$f(x) = (1 - |x|^2)^{\alpha/2-1}, \quad |x| < 1$$

$$f(x) = 0, \quad |x| \geq 1$$

is α -harmonic in D and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow Q \in \partial D} f(x) = \infty.$$

Note: A function $f(x)$ is α -harmonic on an open set D , if and only if f is C^2 on \bar{D} and

$$(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} f(x, t) = 0$$

Denisov et al.: probability density on D

for the Cauchy case i.e. $\alpha = 1$, we have in $(-1,1)$

$$\rho_\alpha(x) = (2)^{1-\alpha} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha)}{\Gamma^2(\alpha/2)} (1 - x^2)^{\alpha/2-1}$$

$$\rho_1(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}$$

Important ! These densities need to be considered on the whole of \mathbb{R} , and required to vanish beyond $D = (-1,1)$

Remark (minor detour): Lévy processes with **killing/absorption** at the boundaries of the open set D involve a **spectral solution** and a related **spectral definition of the transition density**:

$$\begin{cases} -(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2}\varphi_n(x) = -\lambda_n\varphi_n(x) & x \in D \\ \varphi_n(x) = 0, & x \in D^c \end{cases} \quad \begin{aligned} & 0 < \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3 \leq \dots \\ & \lambda_n = \left[\frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{(2-\alpha)\pi}{8} \right]^\alpha - O\left(\frac{2-\alpha}{n\sqrt{\alpha}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Kwaśnicki, (2012))

$$k_D(t, x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda_n t} \phi_n(x) \phi_n(y)$$

$$T_t^D f(x) = E^x[f(X_t); t < \tau_D] = \int_D k_D(t, x, y) f(y) dy$$

The major technical difference, if compared with the previous **zero-eigenvalue problem**, is quite subtle and reduces to the demand that for a function $f(x, t)$, the boundary (**Dirichlet**) value 0 must be reached continuously from the interior D of the closed set, and this property must be shared by $(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} f(x, t)$ as well.

The above spectral problem on the interval $[-1,1]$ is equivalent to that of **the infinitely deep rectangular well with the exterior Dirichlet** boundary data i. e. for all x in $\mathbb{R} \setminus (-1,1)$

Problem: no analogous (explicit) **spectral solution** is known for the **reflecting case** (with zero as the bottom eigenvalue) for Lévy flights

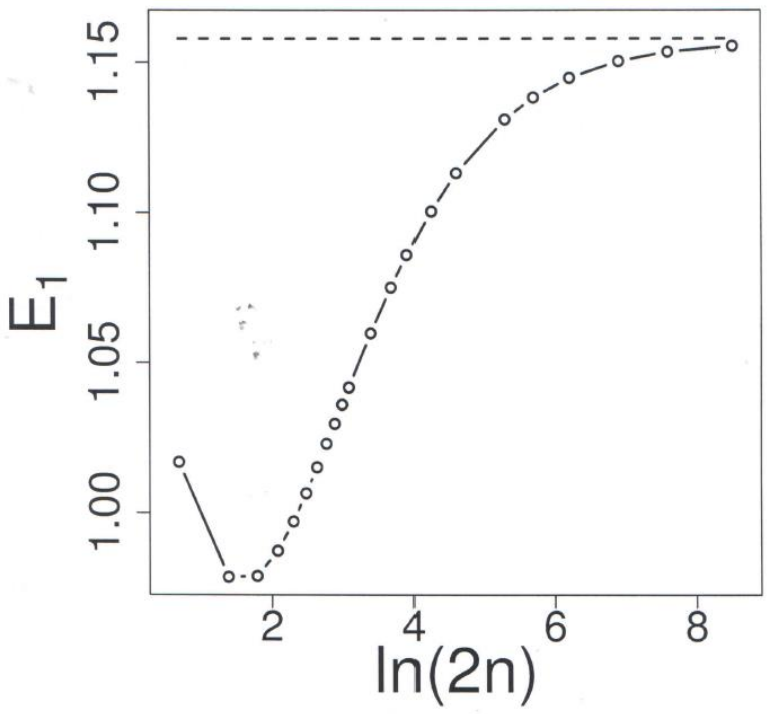
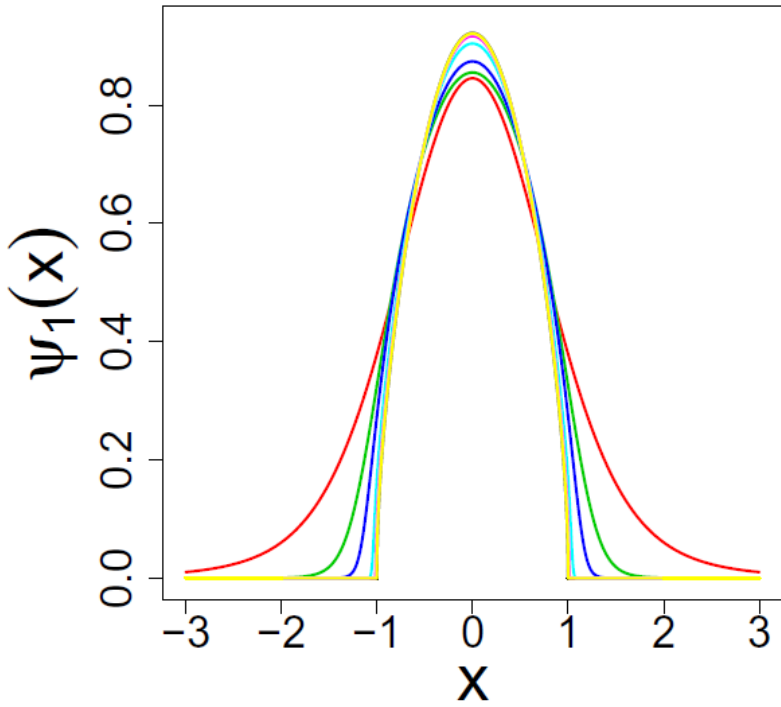
Motivations for further discussion

(i) In the **Cauchy case**, we have worked out an approximation procedure of the **Dirichlet infinite well** spectral problem **by a sequence of Hamiltonian problems with the Cauchy operator plus a steep anharmonic potential**, whose even exponent $m=2n$ is allowed to approach infinity (the higher the maximum in the figure below, the better an approximation of the true ground-state function is)

$$H\psi_1 = \lambda_1\psi_1$$

$$H = |\Delta| + x^{2n}$$

$n=1, 4, 10, 50, 250, \text{ up to } 2500$



Reliable for not too small n

Problem: No analogous spectral result is in existence for the reflecting infinite well; the latter can be sequentially approximated by following the direct **Langevin route** (c.f. Dubkov et al.)

(ii) Targeted stochasticity and reverse engineering problem:

The Eliazar-Klafter targeted stochasticity concept, together with that of the reverse engineering (reconstruction of the stochastic process once a **target pdf is a priori given**), has been originally devised for **Lévy-driven Langevin systems**

Eliazar and Klafter, (2003): „how to design a **Langevin** system, subject to a given Lévy noise, that would yield a pre-specified “target” steady state behavior”

Our **reverse engineering proposal** [Pre84, 011142, (2011)], with roots in papers by Brockmann and Sokolov (2002-2003), refers to the **non-Langevin alternative**, e.g. the „potential landscape idea”: **given a probability density function and the (Lévy) driver, specify the semigroup potential, and the jump-type dynamics for which this pdf is actually a long-time asymptotic (target) solution of the master equation.**

(iii) Related issue of detailed balance: **Lévy targeting and the principle of detailed balance** PHYSICAL REVIEW E 84, 011142 (2011)

The detailed balance has been found not to hold true in case of **Langevin driven Levy flights** (Kuśmierz, Dybiec, Gudowska-Nowak, (2018)). However, it does hold true in the **non-Langevin** alternative !

Detailed balance - preserving Lévy processes and related Lévy semigroups

$$\partial_t \rho = -\lambda |\Delta|^{\mu/2} \rho$$

$$(|\Delta|^{\mu/2} f)(x) = -\frac{\Gamma(\mu + 1) \sin(\pi\mu/2)}{\pi} \int \frac{f(z) - f(x)}{|z - x|^{1+\mu}} dz$$

$$\partial_t \rho(x) = \int [w(x|z)\rho(z) - w(z|x)\rho(x)] \nu_\mu(dz)$$

we replace the jump rate

$$w(x|y) \sim 1/|x - y|^{1+\mu}$$

by the expression

$$w_\phi(x|y) \sim \frac{\exp[\Phi(x) - \Phi(y)]}{|x - y|^{1+\mu}}$$

$$\rho_* = \exp(2\Phi)$$

$$\rho(x, t) \rightarrow \rho_*(x)$$

$$(1/\lambda)\partial_t \rho = |\Delta|_{\Phi}^{\mu/2} f = -\exp(\Phi) |\Delta|^{\mu/2} [\exp(-\Phi)\rho] + \rho \exp(-\Phi) |\Delta|^{\mu/2} \exp(\Phi)$$

$$\rho_*(x) = (1/Z) \exp(-V_*(x)/k_B T)$$

Gibbs-Boltzmann form

$$\partial_t \rho = -\exp(-\kappa V_*/2) |\Delta|^{\mu/2} \exp(\kappa V_*/2) \rho + \rho \exp(\kappa V_*/2) |\Delta|^{\mu/2} \exp(-\kappa V_*/2), \quad \kappa = 1/k_B T.$$

This dynamics is manifestly non-Langevin by construction, and is **Lévy semigroup – driven**. Namely, define

$$\hat{H}_\mu \equiv \lambda |\Delta|^{\mu/2} + \mathcal{V}(x).$$

with the ground state condition

$$\hat{H}_\mu \rho_*^{1/2} = 0$$

The semigroup dynamics is ruled by the equation

$$\partial_t \Psi = -\hat{H}_\mu \Psi = -\lambda |\Delta|^{\mu/2} \Psi - \mathcal{V}(x) \Psi,$$

$$\mathcal{V} = -\lambda \frac{|\Delta|^{\mu/2} \rho_*^{1/2}}{\rho_*^{1/2}}$$

This potential actually sets an „energy landscape” (Feynman-Kac formula related concept)

$$k(y, s, x, t) = \int \exp \left[- \int_s^t \mathcal{V}(X(u), u) du \right] d\mu[s, y | t, x]$$

Clearly, given a predefined square root of the stationary pdf, while setting $\Psi(x, t) = \rho(x, t) \rho_*^{-1/2}(x)$

we arrive at the equation which controls a relaxation of the time-dependent pdf towards a stationary one

$$\rho(x, t) \rightarrow \rho_*(x)$$

$$\partial_t \rho = \lambda [-\rho_*^{1/2} |\Delta|^{\mu/2} (\rho_*^{-1/2} \cdot) + \rho_*^{-1/2} (|\Delta|^{\mu/2} \rho_*^{1/2})] \rho$$

This relaxation proces is paralleled by

$$\psi(x, t) \rightarrow \rho_*^{1/2}$$

Response to external forces in the Langevin scenario

$$\dot{x} = b(x) + A^\mu(t) \implies \partial_t \rho = -\nabla(b \cdot \rho) - \lambda |\Delta|^{\mu/2} \rho$$

Assume per force that $\rho_*(x) = (1/Z) \exp(-V_*(x)/k_B T)$ might arise as a stationary solution of the fractional Fokker-Planck equation, hence in the large time asymptotic of the Langevin-induced dynamics.

$$b(x) = -\lambda \frac{\int |\Delta|^{\mu/2} \rho_*(x) dx}{\rho_*(x)}$$

Eliazar-Klafter version employs Fourier transforms

Targeted stochasticity

The drift $b(x)$ **cannot** be represented in the form $-\nabla V_*(x)$ (up to a multiplicative constant); Eliazar-Klafter no-go statement (2003)

Targeted stochasticity for the Cauchy driver (potential landscape issue made explicit)

$$(|\nabla|f)(x) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int \frac{f(z) - f(x)}{|z - x|^2} dz$$

Ornstein-Uhlenbeck-Cauchy process

Link with logarithmic potentials
 $\ln(\sigma^2 + x^2)$

Langvin route, F-P Eq.

$$\partial_t \rho = -\lambda |\nabla| \rho + \nabla[(\gamma x) \rho]$$

$$\rho_*(x) = \frac{\sigma}{\pi(\sigma^2 + x^2)}$$

$$\sigma = \frac{\lambda}{\gamma}$$

In below set $\mu=1$

Invariant density vs semigroup potential

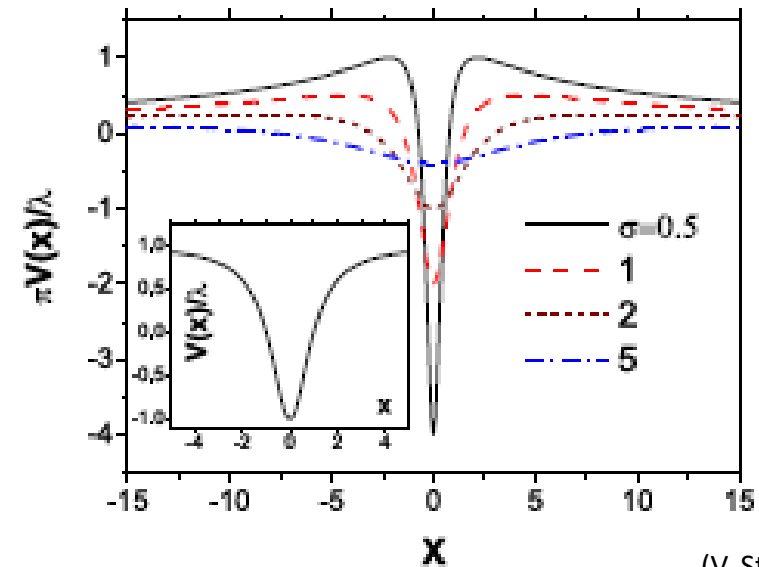
$$\mathcal{V} = -\lambda \frac{|\Delta|^{\mu/2} \rho_*^{1/2}}{\rho_*^{1/2}}$$

„energy landscape“

$$\mathcal{V}(x) = \frac{\lambda}{\pi} \left[-\frac{2}{\sqrt{a}} + \frac{x}{a} \ln \frac{\sqrt{a} + x}{\sqrt{a} - x} \right]$$

$$a = \sigma^2 + x^2$$

$$\hat{H}_\mu \equiv \lambda |\Delta|^{\mu/2} + \mathcal{V}(x)$$



We recall the title of the talk: **“Lévy flights in steep potential wells: Langevin modeling versus direct response to energy landscapes”**.

We revisit the problem of Lévy motion in steep potential wells, addressed in [A.A. Kharcheva et al., J. Stat Mech., (2016), 054029] and [B. Dybiec et al., PRE 95, 05201, (2017)] and **discuss the alternative semigroup (Feynman-Kac) motion scenario.**

Langevin route: sequential approximation (n goes to infinity) of an infinite well with **reflecting walls**

The infinite rectangular potential well with impenetrable boundaries located at $x = \pm L$ can be obtained as $n \rightarrow \infty$ limit of the symmetric single-well potential

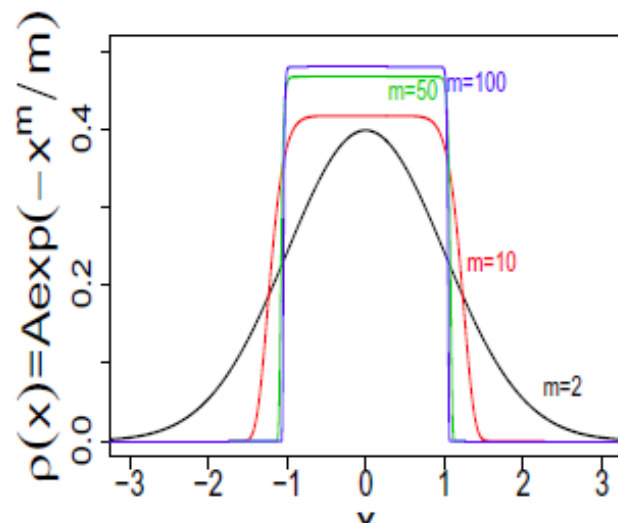
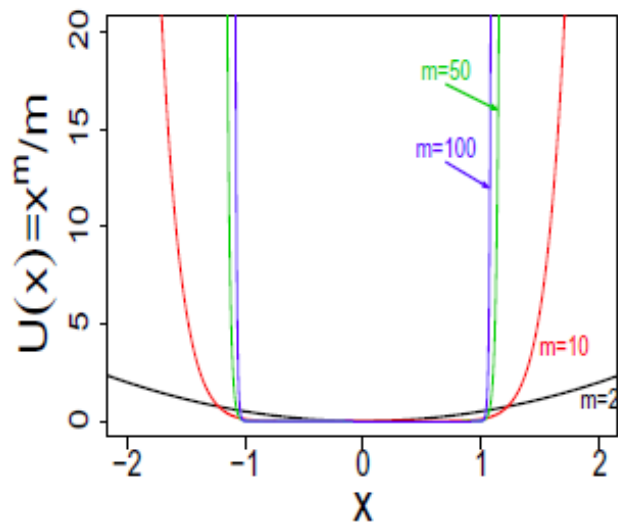
$$V_n(x) = \frac{(x/L)^{2n}}{2n}$$

The very same folk phrase refers to the reflecting and Dirichlet infinite well

for which stationary states for $\alpha = 1$ are also known

(Dubkov, Spagnolo et al. - somewhat involved but explicit analytic formula)

Sequential approximation, with $m=2n$ growing



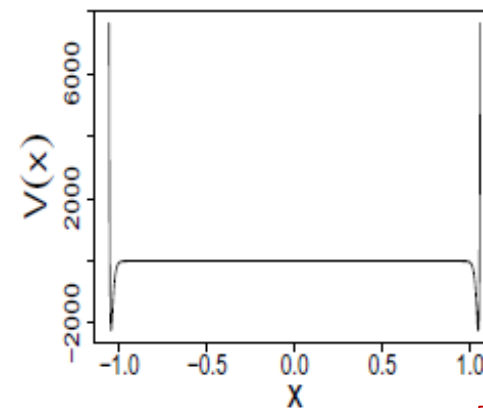
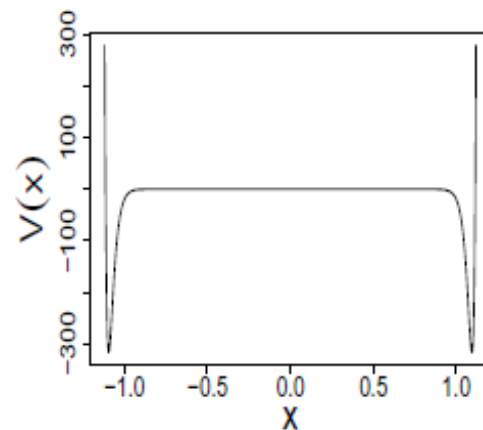
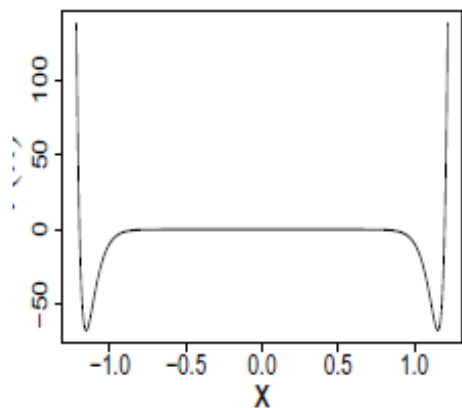
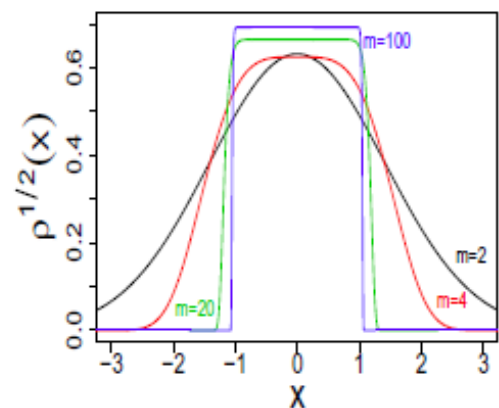
Langevin-Wiener scenario (Brownian motion)

$$\partial_t \rho = D \Delta \rho - \nabla (b \cdot \rho)$$

$$\rho(x) = A \exp[-U(x)], \text{ with } 1/A = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp[-U(x)] dx$$

This Boltzmann-Gibbs pdf is our $\rho_*(x)$

Feynman-Kac semigroup potential landscape



$\rho_*^{1/2}(x)$ is an eigenfunction of $-\Delta + \mathcal{V}(x)$ corresponding to the eigenvalue zero,

$$\hat{H}_\mu \rho_*^{1/2} = 0$$

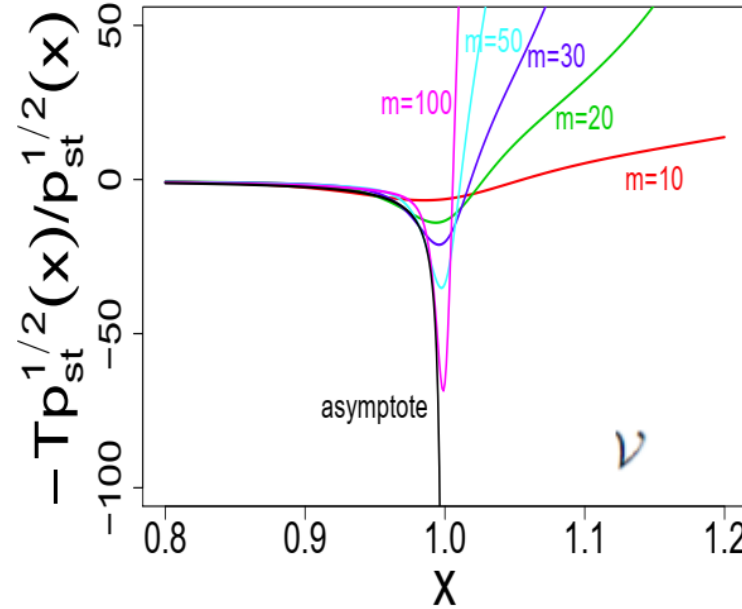
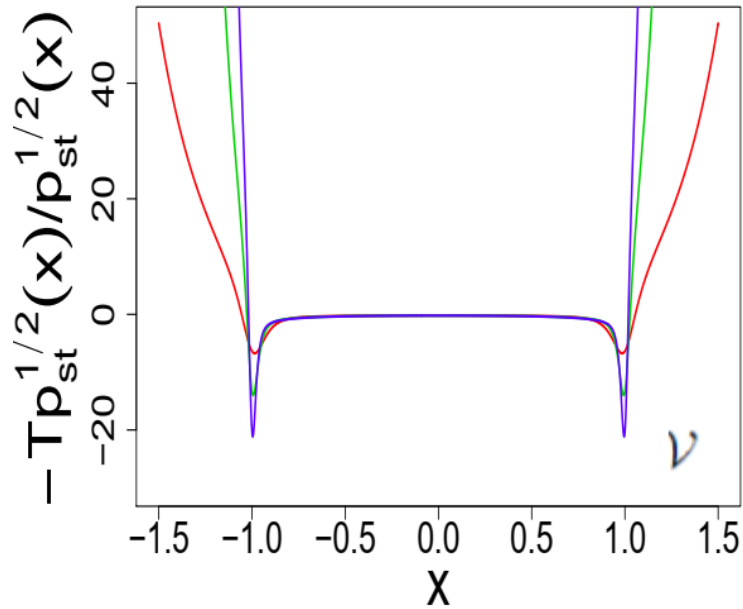
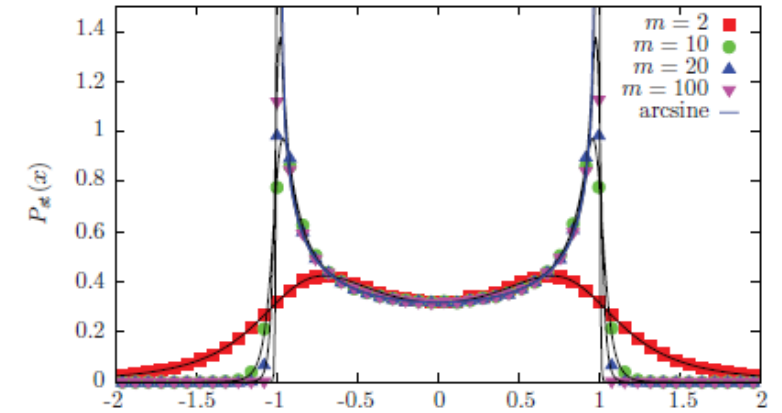
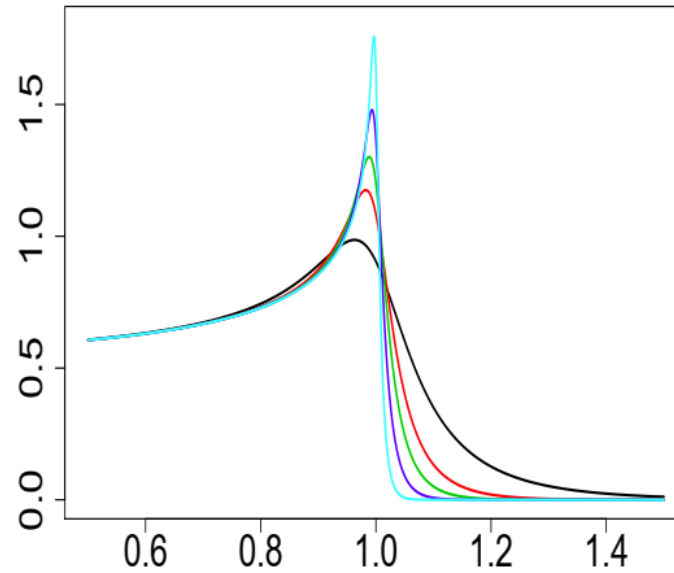
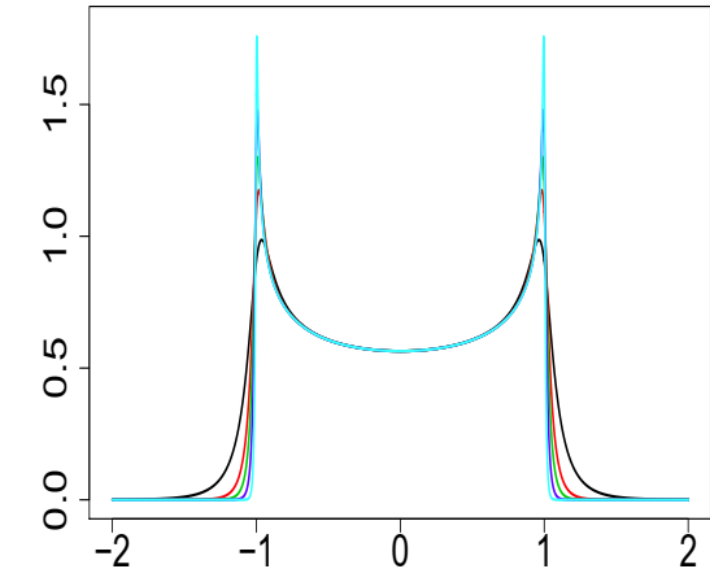
$$\mu = 2$$

$$\mathcal{V}(x) = \mathcal{V}_m(x) = \frac{x^{m-2}}{2} \left[\frac{x^m}{2} + (1-m) \right] \text{ for } m = 20, 40, 100.$$

$$\partial_t \Psi = \Delta \Psi - \mathcal{V} \Psi = -\hat{H} \Psi$$

Minima of the semigroup potential are located at points $x = \pm [(m-2)/2]^{1/m}$ i.e. $|x| \sim m^{1/m} > 1$.

Langevin-Cauchy scenario – target pdfs from which $\rho_*^{1/2}$ and \mathcal{V} are inferred to set the „potential landscape”, Cauchy semigroup view. $m = 10, 20, 30, 50, 100$



Cauchy semigroup potential

$$\mathcal{V} = -\lambda \frac{|\Delta|^{\mu/2} \rho_*^{1/2}}{\rho_*^{1/2}} \quad \begin{matrix} \mu=1 \\ \lambda=1 \end{matrix}$$

Black curve refers to the **square root** of the limiting pdf $\rho_1(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ i.e.:

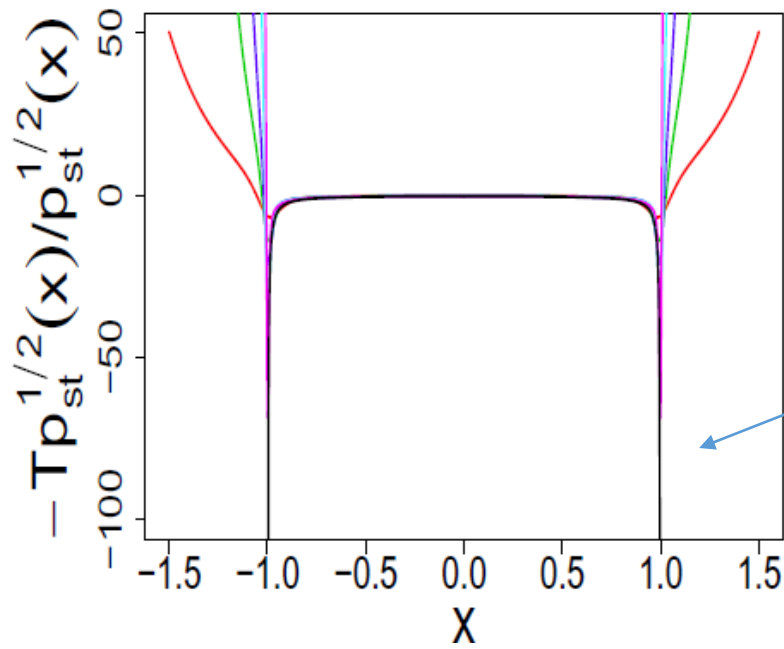
$$\rho_*^{1/2}(x) = p_{st}^{1/2}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi} \sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

$m=10, 20, 30$

$$\hat{H}_\mu \equiv \lambda |\Delta|^{\mu/2} + \mathcal{V}(x).$$

$$\hat{H}_\mu \rho_*^{1/2} = 0$$

$\mu=1$



The asymptotic potential is non-positive (turned upside down).
Is that strange ?

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$$(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} f(x) = [(-\Delta)_{D,\text{reg}}^{\alpha/2} + \kappa_D(x)] f(x)$$

where $\kappa_D(x) = \mathcal{A}_{\alpha,n} \int_{R^n \setminus D} |x - y|^{-(n+\alpha)} dy$ is non-negative

spectral problem for the regional fractional Laplacian in $D = [-1, 1]$

$$(-\Delta)_{D,\text{reg}}^{\alpha/2} \psi(x) = (-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} \psi(x) - \kappa_D^\alpha(x) \psi(x) = E \psi(x)$$

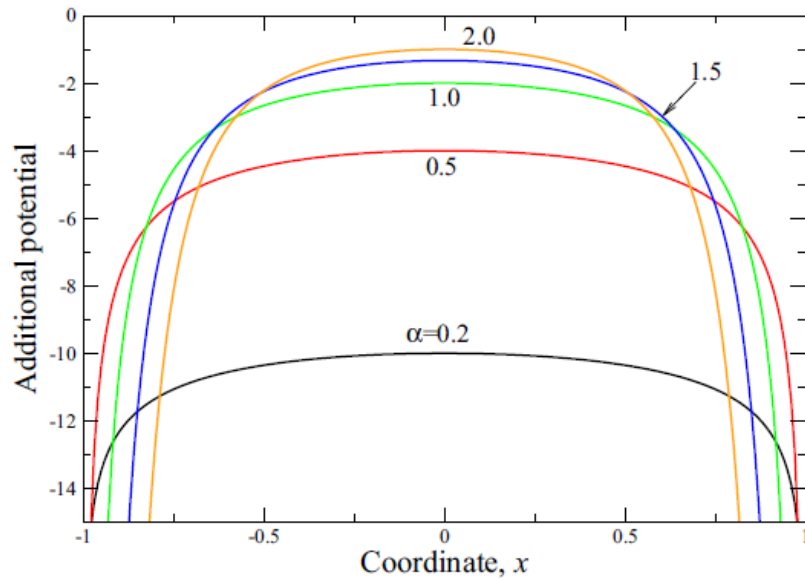


FIG. 1. Negative-definite singular potential (32) in the spectral problem for the regional fractional Laplacian for various values of α (figures near curves).

$$-A_\alpha \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\psi(u) du}{|u - x|^{1+\alpha}} - \frac{A_\alpha \psi(x) (1 - x)^\alpha + (1 + x)^\alpha}{\alpha (1 - x^2)^\alpha} = E \psi(x)$$

Last sentence of the Abstract: Our focus is on a link with the problem of boundary data (Dirichlet versus Neumann, or absorbing versus reflecting) for the Lévy motion and its generator on the interval (or bounded domain, in general).

At the moment we have no definite and unambiguous answer concerning the **detailed spectral relationship** of the motion generator on the interval with reflecting boundary data, with that of the affiliated semigroup, neither in the Brownian nor in the Lévy context. **This work is in progress.**

Brownian reference to the term „spectral”

$\partial_t f(x) = \Delta_{\mathcal{N}} f(x)$ Laplacian on a closed interval $[a,b]$, with Neumann boundary data
 $(\partial_x f)(a) = 0 = (\partial_x f)(b)$

Eigenfunction expansion of the transition probability density
(meaning of the term „spectral”)

$$k_{\mathcal{N}}(t, x, y) = \frac{1}{\text{vol}(D)} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-\kappa_n t} \psi_n(x) \psi_n(y)$$

$$\psi_0(x) = 1/\sqrt{\text{vol}(D)}$$

Phys. Rev. E **99**, 042126 (2019) **Fractional Laplacians in bounded domains: Killed, reflected, censored, and taboo Lévy flights** Piotr Garbaczewski and Vladimir Stephanovich

arXiv:1906.06694 **Brownian motion in trapping enclosures: Steep potential wells and false bistability of affiliated Schrödinger type systems** Piotr Garbaczewski and Mariusz Żaba