

# SPDEs and regularity structures

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- 1 Space time white noise
- 2 Examples of SDEs and SPDEs
- 3 Regularity structures: Definitions and a theorem
- 4 How to solve subcritical SPDEs using regularity structures

## Section 1

# Space time white noise

# Gaussian white noise

Intuitively one would like to construct a random function  $\xi$  on (let's say)  $\mathbb{R}^d$  s.t.

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- 1 We give a probabilistic definition.
- 2 A more analytic definition.
- 3 An intuitive construction and a useful analytic one.

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A probabilistic definition:

## Definition

Space-time white noise on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is the centred Gaussian random field  $\xi$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with covariance:

$$E[\xi(f)\xi(g)] = \langle f, g \rangle_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}.$$



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A more analytic definition:

## Definition

Space time white noise on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is the  $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -valued random variable satisfying for any  $\phi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ :

$$E[\exp(i\langle \xi, \phi \rangle)] = e^{-\frac{1}{2}\|\phi\|_{L^2}^2}.$$

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$$\xi = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} X_n \cdot f_n \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

## Section 2

### Examples of SDEs and SPDEs

# Motivation and examples

Examples of Stochastic ordinary and partial differential equations (SDEs and SPDEs).

- Physical Brownian motion
- Black-Scholes model from mathematical finance
- Stochastic heat equation
- KPZ-equation
- $\Phi_2^4$  and  $\Phi_3^4$ -equation

Space time white noise is present in all of these equations.

# Physical Brownian motion

## Model of a small particle

Small particle of mass  $m$  has position  $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^3$  determined by Newton's equations:

$$m\ddot{x} = -M\dot{x} + \xi,$$

where  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$ ,  $M > 0$ , symmetric models friction, each  $(\xi)_i$  is 1-d white noise.

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Remarks:

- For  $m = 0$  and  $M = id$ , we recover mathematical Brownian motion.
- In general  $M$  could depend on  $x(t)$  (incorporating inhomogeneity of the underlying space).



# Models in mathematical finance

## Black-Scholes model

The market is modelled by (let's say) two assets  $(S_0, S_1)$ , satisfying:

$$\frac{dS_0}{S_0} = rdt, \frac{dS_1}{S_1(t)} = \mu(t)dt + \sigma(t)dB$$

$S_0$  is called *Numéraire* (e.g. a bank account with interest rate  $r$ ) and  $S_1$  is a risky asset with *drift*  $\mu$  and volatility  $\sigma$ .

# A linear SPDE

## Stochastic heat equation

The stochastic heat equation on  $(\mathbb{T}^d$  let's say) is given by:

$$\partial_t u = (\Delta - 1)u + \xi,$$

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- $d = 1$ : It arises as scaling limit of symmetric interface models (e.g. the SOS model). Its stationary solution is (essentially) BM. It has Hölder regularity  $\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon$  in space and  $\frac{1}{4} - \epsilon$  in time.

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- Inhomogeneous scaling  $\mathfrak{s} = (1, \dots, 1, 2)$ , i.e. time counts double. Then  $\xi$  has regularity  $-\frac{d+2}{2} - \epsilon$  and the heat-kernel regularises by 2. Thus  $u$  is  $\frac{2-d}{2} - \epsilon$  Hölder regular.

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- Problem:  $(\partial_x u)^2$  not canonically definable.
- Hopf Cole solution:  $Z = e^u$  formally solves

$$\partial_t Z = \partial_x^2 Z + \underbrace{Z \cdot \xi}_{\text{makes sense by "Ito"}}.$$

Set

$$u = \log Z.$$

# $\Phi_2^4$ and $\Phi_3^4$ -equation

## The $\Phi_2^4$ equation

This equation reads:

$$\partial_t u = \Delta u - u^3 + \xi,$$

where  $u$  is a generalised function on  $[0, T) \times \mathbb{T}^2$  and  $\xi$  is again space time white noise.

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- Interest arising from from quantum field theory: The invariant measure for this equation is related to bosonic euclidean quantum field theory.
- It is also related to the Ising model.
- In dimension 3 it is called  $\Phi_3^4$ , two new prominent solution theories: the “Theory of regularity structures” and the “Theory of paracontrolled distributions”.

## Section 3

### Regularity structures: Definitions and a theorem

# What's a regularity structure and a model?

A vast generalisation of the relationship between Hölder (and Besov) functions and Taylor Polynomials.



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- Recall: Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a smooth function. Fix  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{N}$ . Then the Taylor polynomial  $\mathcal{P}_x^{[\gamma]}(f)$  of  $f$  at  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  of order  $[\gamma] \in \mathbb{N}$  is the unique polynomial, such that

$$|\langle f - \mathcal{P}_x^{[\gamma]}(f), \phi_x^\lambda \rangle| \lesssim \lambda^\gamma.$$

We write  $\phi_x^\lambda(\cdot) := \frac{1}{\lambda^d} \phi(\frac{\cdot - x}{\lambda})$ .

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- A regularity structure  $\mathcal{T}$  together with a model  $Z$  give a way to make the same kind of approximation for certain distributions.
- Of course not possible for any distribution (as with Taylor polynomials).

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Let us now give some rigorous definitions!



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- A group  $G$  of linear operators acting on  $T$ , such that for every  $\Gamma \in G$  the following holds: The restriction  $\Gamma|_{T_0}$  is the identity map and for all  $\tau \in T_\alpha$ :

$$\Gamma\tau - \tau \in \bigoplus_{\beta < \alpha} T_\beta.$$

This group  $G$  is called the structure group of  $\mathcal{T}$ .

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It corresponds to the natural action of translating polynomials.  
In this example it is given by the maps

$$\underbrace{X^k}_{:= \prod_{i=1}^d (X_i)^{k_i}} \mapsto \underbrace{(X + h)^k}_{:= \prod_{i=1}^d (X_i + h_i)^{k_i}},$$

where  $h \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Thus it is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

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- a map  $\Pi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow L(T, S')$ ,  $x \mapsto \Pi_x$ , such that

$$|\langle \Pi_x \tau, \phi_x^\lambda \rangle| \lesssim \lambda^\alpha,$$

for  $\tau \in T_\alpha$  and uniformly over  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$  and  $\{\phi \in C_c^\infty \mid \|\phi\|_{C^r} \lesssim 1, \text{supp} \phi \subset B_1\}$ .

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- a map  $\Pi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow L(T, S')$ ,  $x \mapsto \Pi_x$ , such that

$$|\langle \Pi_x \tau, \phi_x^\lambda \rangle| \lesssim \lambda^\alpha,$$

for  $\tau \in T_\alpha$  and uniformly over  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$  and  $\{\phi \in C_c^\infty \mid \|\phi\|_{C^r} \lesssim 1, \text{supp} \phi \subset B_1\}$ .

- and  $\Gamma : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow G$ ,  $(x, y) \mapsto \Gamma_{x,y}$  satisfying the conditions:

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$$|\Gamma_{x,y} \tau|_\beta \lesssim |x - y|^{\alpha - \beta}.$$

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Clearly  $\Pi_x \Gamma_{x,y} = \Pi_y$  holds. The bound  $|\Gamma_{x,y} X^k|_m \lesssim |x - y|^{|k| - m}$  follows from the formula:

$$(X + (x - y))^k = \sum_{l \leq k} \binom{k}{l} (x - y)^{k-l} X^l.$$

# Modelled distributions

How can we describe distributions locally using regularity structures?

This is again done in analogy to Hölder functions.

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$$\mathcal{C}^\gamma(\mathbb{R}^d) = \{f \in \mathcal{S}' \mid \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d \exists P_x^{[\gamma]} \text{ a Polynomial of order } [\gamma] : \\ |\langle f - P_x^{[\gamma]}, \phi_x^\lambda \rangle| \lesssim \lambda^\gamma\}.$$

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Given a regularity structure  $\mathcal{T} = (A, T, G)$  and a model  $Z = (\Pi, \Gamma)$  for it, we define  $\mathcal{D}^\gamma$  as the space of all maps  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow T_{<\gamma}$  such that the following bound holds:

$$|f(x+h) - \Gamma_{x+h,x} f(x)|_\alpha \lesssim \|h\|^{\gamma-\alpha},$$

for all  $\alpha \in A \cap (-\infty, \gamma)$ .

# Reconstruction theorem

The following theorem is a lynch pin in this theory:

## Theorem (Hairer 14)

*Let  $\mathcal{T} = (A, T, G)$  be a regularity structure and  $Z = (\Pi, \Gamma)$  a model for it. Set  $\alpha = \min A$ . Then, for  $\gamma > 0$ , there exists a unique continuous linear map  $\mathcal{R} : \mathcal{D}^\gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\alpha$ , such that:*

$$|\langle \mathcal{R}f - \Pi_x f(x), \phi_x^\lambda \rangle| \lesssim \lambda^\gamma \quad (1)$$

*for all  $f \in \mathcal{D}^\gamma$  and all models  $Z = (\Pi, \Gamma)$ . Furthermore, the map  $Z \mapsto \mathcal{R}$  is continuous (in an appropriate sense).*

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- For the polynomial regularity structure and  $\gamma \notin \mathbb{N}$  the reconstruction map  $\mathcal{R}$  is an isomorphism between  $\mathcal{D}^\gamma$  and  $\mathcal{C}^\gamma$ .

## Section 4

# How to solve subcritical SPDEs using regularity structures

A very rough outline!

How to solve  $\partial_t u = \Delta u - u^3 + \xi$  on  $\mathbb{T}^3$

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# Type of result from regularity structures

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## Theorem (Hairer 14)

*Let  $\xi_\epsilon = \rho_\epsilon \star \xi$  denote the regularisation of space-time white noise with a compactly supported smooth mollifier  $\rho_\epsilon$ . Denote by  $u_\epsilon$  the solutions to*

$$\partial_t u_\epsilon = \Delta u_\epsilon + C_\epsilon u_\epsilon - u_\epsilon^3 + \xi_\epsilon.$$

*Then, there exist choices of constants  $C_\epsilon$  diverging as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , as well as a processes  $u$  such that  $u_\epsilon \rightarrow u$  in probability. Furthermore, while the constants  $C_\epsilon$  do depend crucially on the choice of mollifiers  $\rho_\epsilon$ , the limit  $u$  does not.*



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- What initial conditions make sense?
- The convergence in probability takes place in a Besov space  $C^\alpha$  where  $\alpha < 0$ .
- This result is only finite in time. But there exist a priori “energy estimates” guaranteeing global in time existence.

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