### Root's and Rost's solution of the SEP

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- I. An example: generating Brownian increments by Skorokhod stopping times of minimal variance
- II. Calculating Root barriers with integral equations
- III. Root/Rost barriers, viscosity solutions of obstacle problems and FBSDEs

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I. Generating Brownian increments by Skorokhod stopping times

Simulating Brownian motion  $B = (B_t)_{t \ge 0}$ 



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Simulating Brownian motion  $B = (B_t)_{t>0}$ 

#### Algorithm 1. (Euler)

- $(\tau_0, X_0) = (0, 0)$
- Draw

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{rcl} X_{k+1} &=& X_k + N_k \ \text{with} \ N_k \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0,1\right) \\ \tau_{k+1} &=& \tau_k + 1 \end{array} \right.$$

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• Gives 
$$(\tau_k, X_k)_{k \ge 0} = \mathcal{L} (\tau_k, B_{\tau_k})_{k \ge 0}$$

...can be seen as Skorokhod embedding

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• Gives 
$$(\tau_k, X_k)_{k\geq 0} = \mathcal{L} (\tau_k, B_{\tau_k})_{k\geq 0}$$

 $au_{1}\equiv1$  solves SEP  $B_{ au}\sim\mathcal{N}\left(0,1
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## ...can be seen as a Skorokhod embedding

### Algorithm 1 (Euler)

•  $(\tau_0, X_0) = (0, 0)$ • Draw  $\begin{cases}
X_{k+1} = X_k + N_k \text{ with } N_k \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \\
\tau_{k+1} = \tau_k + 1
\end{cases}$ • Gives  $(\tau_k, X_k)_{k \ge 0} =^{\mathcal{L}} (\tau_k, B_{t_k})_{k \ge 0} \\
\tau_1 \text{ solves SEP } B_{\tau} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)
\end{cases}$ 

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## ...can be seen as a Skorokhod embedding

### Algorithm 1 (Euler)

Algorithm 2 (Bichteler-Karandhikar)

• 
$$(\tau_0, X_0) = (0, 0)$$
  
• Draw  

$$\begin{cases}
X_{k+1} = X_k + N_k \text{ with } \mathbb{P}(N_k = 1) = \mathbb{P}(N_k = -1) = \frac{1}{2} \\
\tau_{k+1} = \tau_k + D_k \text{ with } D_k \text{ s.t. } \mathbb{E}[\exp \lambda D_k] = \frac{1}{\cosh(\sqrt{2\lambda})}
\end{cases}$$
• Gives  $(\tau_k, X_k)_{k \ge 0} = \mathcal{L}(\tau_k, B_{\tau_k})_{k \ge 0}$ 

 $au_1$  solves SEP  $B_{ au} \sim \frac{1}{2}\delta_{-1} + \frac{1}{2}\delta_1$ 

# Root's barrier

- $au_1$  solution of SEP  $B_{ au_1} \sim \mu$ 
  - in algorithm 1  $\mu = \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
  - in algorithm 2  $\mu = \frac{1}{2}\delta_{-1} + \frac{1}{2}\delta_1$

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•  $au_1$  hitting time of time-space process  $t\mapsto (t,B_t)$ 

$$\tau_1 = \inf \left\{ t > \mathsf{0} : (t, B_t) \in R \right\}$$

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- in algorithm 1  $R = \{(s, x) : s \ge 1, x \in \mathbb{R}\}$
- in algorithm 2  $R = \{(s,x) : s \ge 0, |x| \ge 1\}$

# Root's barrier

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### Theorem (Root's barrier, 1968)

Let  $\mu$  be centered and have finite second moment. Then there exists a closed set

$$R \subset [0,\infty] imes [-\infty,\infty]$$

such that  $\tau_R := \inf \{t \ge 0 : (t, B_t) \in R\}$  solves the Skorokhod embedding  $B_{\tau} \sim \mu$ ,  $B^{\tau} = (B_{t \wedge \tau})_{t \ge 0}$  u.i.

Better: solve SEP with  $\mu = \mathcal{U}[-1, 1]$ 

Corollary

 $\exists r \in C (\mathbb{R}, [0, \infty)) \text{ s.t. } R = \{(t, x) : t \ge r(x)\} \text{ is the Root barrier}$  for the SEP  $B_{\tau} \sim \mathcal{U} [-1, 1].$ 



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#### Algorithm 3

•  $(\tau_0, X_0) = (0, 0)$ 

Draw

$$\begin{cases} X_{k+1} = X_k + U_k \text{ with } U_k \sim \mathcal{U} [-1,1] \\ \tau_{k+1} = \tau_k + r (U_k) \end{cases}$$

• Then 
$$(\tau_k, X_k)_{k\geq 0} = \mathcal{L} (\tau_k, B_{\tau_k})_{k\geq 0}$$
.

- Trivial to simulate (once you know r)
- Increments bounded in space AND time (scaled Monte-Carlo; example knock-out options)

- Similar schemes without SEP (Milstein-Tretyakov, Lejay, Deaconu-Hermann, etc.)
- For more applications see Gassiat&Mijatovic&O13

**Problem:** Find Root barrier R for any given distribution  $\mu$ **Unfortunately:** 

▶ Root's existence proof of barrier *R* not constructive

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Rest of talk:

- 1-1 correspondence of Root barrier and solutions of nonlinear integral equation
- 1-1 correspondence between Root barrier and viscosity solution of parabolic obstacle problem (Dupire, Cox-Wang)
- ▶ 1-1 correspondence of *R* with solution of reflected FBSDE
- Barles-Souganidis for numerical schemes parabolic obstacle problem

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II. Root barrier and integral equations

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$$g(t,x) = \mathbb{E}L_t^x = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}}\sqrt{t}e^{-\frac{x^2}{2t}} - \operatorname{xerfc}\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}\sqrt{t}}\right)$$
$$K(r,\overline{r},x,y) = \frac{1}{2}(g(r-\overline{r},x-y) + g(r-\overline{r},x+y))$$

# Theorem (Gassiat&Mijatovic&O13) $\exists ! r \in C_b([-1,1], \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ which solves the integral equation

$$\frac{x^{2}+1}{2}-x=g(r(x),x)-\int_{x}^{1}K(r(x),r(y),x,y)\,dy$$

Moreover, if we extend r to  $\mathbb{R}$  by r(x) = 0 for  $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus [-1, 1]$  then

$$R = \{(t, x) : t \ge r(x)\}$$

is the Root barrier for the SEP  $B_{ au} \sim \mathcal{U}[-1, 1]$ .

### Potential functions

*B* one-dimensional Brownian motion; denote semigroup (of transformations on measures)  $(P_t^B)$ . Define operator  $U^B$ 

$$\mu\mapsto U^{B}\mu:=\int_{0}^{\infty}P_{t}^{B}\mu dt$$

If  $\mu$  is a signed measure with  $\mu\left(\mathbb{R}
ight)=$  0 then

$$\frac{dU^{B}\mu}{dx} = -\int_{\mathbb{R}} |x - y| \, \mu \left( dy \right) =: u_{\mu} \left( x \right)$$

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(rhs well-defined also for positive measures with finite moment).

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(rhs well-defined also for positive measures with finite moment). Definition

For probability measure  $\mu$  on  $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}))$  with finite first moment, associate with it a function  $u_{\mu} \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0})$ 

$$u_{\mu}\left(x
ight)=-\int_{\mathbb{R}}\left|x-y
ight|\mu\left(dy
ight)$$

We call  $u_{\mu}$  the **potential function** of  $\mu$ .

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$$u(t,x) = -\mathbb{E}\left[|B_{t\wedge\tau} - x|\right]$$



• 
$$u(0, x) = u_{\delta_0}(x) = -x, u(\infty, x) = u_{\mathcal{U}}(x) = \frac{x^2 + 1}{2}$$
  
•  $R = \{(t, x) : u(t, x) = u_{\mathcal{U}}(x)\}$ 

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Let *R* be the Root barrier for *B<sub>τ</sub>* ~ *U* [−1, 1], *r* (*x*) s.t. *R* = {(*t*, *x*) : *t* ≥ *r* (*x*)} and ρ(*t*) = *r*<sup>-1</sup>(*t*) (positive)
 Tanaka: ∀(*t*, *x*)

$$\begin{array}{ll} u(t,x) &=& u_{\delta}(x) - \mathbb{E}\left[L_{t\wedge\tau}^{x}\right] = -|x| - \mathbb{E}\left[L_{t}^{x} + 1_{t>\tau}\left(L_{\tau}^{x} - L_{t}^{x}\right)\right] \\ &=& -|x| - g\left(t,x\right) - \mathbb{E}\left[1_{t>\tau}\left(L_{\tau}^{x} - L_{t}^{x}\right)\right] \end{array}$$

• At  $x = \rho_t$ ,  $u(t, \rho_t) = u_U(x)$  above becomes

$$u_{\mathcal{U}}(\rho_t) = -|\rho_t| - g(t,\rho_t) - \mathbb{E}\left[\mathbf{1}_{t>\tau} \left(L_{\tau}^{\rho_t} - L_{t}^{\rho_t}\right)\right]$$

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Finished if we can write as explicit  $\mathbb{E}\left[1_{t>\tau} \left(L_{\tau}^{\rho_t} - L_{t}^{\rho_t}\right)\right]$  functional of  $\rho$ .

► Note 
$$\mathbb{P}(\tau < t) = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{U} \notin [-\rho_t, \rho_t]) = 1 - \rho_t$$
 hence  
 $\mathbb{P}(\tau \in dt) = -d\rho_t$ 

Using Markovianity and symmetry

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\left(L_{t}^{\mathsf{x}}-L_{\tau}^{\mathsf{x}}\right)\mathbf{1}_{t>\tau}\right] = \int_{0}^{t} \mathbb{E}\left[\left(L_{t}^{\mathsf{x}}-L_{s}^{\mathsf{x}}\right)|\tau=s\right] \mathbb{P}\left(\tau\in ds\right)$$
$$= -\int_{0}^{t} \mathbb{E}\left[\left(L_{t}^{\mathsf{x}}-L_{s}^{\mathsf{x}}\right)|\tau=s\right] d\rho_{s}$$
$$= -\int_{0}^{t} \frac{1}{2}\left(\mathbb{E}\left[L_{t-s}^{\mathsf{x}-\rho_{s}}\right] + \mathbb{E}\left[L_{t-s}^{\mathsf{x}+\rho_{s}}\right]\right) d\rho_{s}.$$

Putting this into above

$$u_{\mathcal{U}}(\rho_{t}) = u_{\delta}(\rho_{t}) - g(t,\rho_{t}) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{t} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left[L_{t-s}^{\rho_{t}-\rho_{s}}\right] + \mathbb{E}\left[L_{t-s}^{\rho_{t}+\rho_{s}}\right]}_{\mathbb{E}\left[L_{t-s}^{\rho_{t}+\rho_{s}}\right]} d\rho_{s}$$

• Finish by change of variable  $dy = d\rho(s)$ :

$$u_{\mathcal{U}}(x) = u_{\delta_{r}}(x) - g(r(x), x) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{1}^{x} K(r(x), r(y), x, y) \, dy$$

- Derivation purely probabilistic...no PDE techniques
- Extends to other target distributions (but there are limits)
- Uniqueness of solutions is hard (without using PDE uniqueness)! see Gassiat&Mijatovich&O13
- Useful? Solving this integral equation is numerically MUCH MUCH better than solving for free boundary via PDE
- The integral term in

$$\frac{x^{2}+1}{2}-x = g(r(x), x) - \int_{x}^{1} K(r(x), r(y), x, y) \, dy$$

is very small. Hence applying  $\frac{d}{dx}$  to both both sides of  $\frac{x^2+1}{2} - x = g(r(x), x)$  gives ODE for r which is a very good approximation.

Root/Rost barriers, viscosity solutions of obstacle problems and FBSDEs

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 $\mathsf{u}(t,x) = -\mathbb{E}\left[|B_{t\wedge\tau} - x|\right]$ 



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### Recall viscosity theory

#### Definition

 $\mathcal{O}$  a locally compact subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_T = (0, T) \times \mathcal{O}$  for  $T \in (0, \infty]$ . Let  $u : \mathcal{O}_T \to \mathbb{R}$  and define for  $(s, z) \in \mathcal{O}_T$  the parabolic superjet  $\mathcal{P}^{2,+}_{\mathcal{O}} u(s, z)$  as the set of triples  $(a, p, m) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$  which fulfill

$$u(t,x) \leq u(s,z) + a(t-s) + p(x-z) + m \frac{(x-z)^2}{2} + o(|t-s| + |x-z|^2)$$

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as  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}} \ni (t, x) \to (s, z)$ . Similarly we define the parabolic subjet  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^{2,-}u(s, z)$  such that  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^{2,-}u = -\mathcal{P}^{2,+}(-u)$ .

#### Definition

A function  $F : \mathcal{O}_T \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  is proper if  $\forall (t, x, a, p) \in \mathcal{O}_T \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ 

$$F(t, x, r, a, p, m) \leq F(t, x, s, a, p, m') \quad \forall m \geq m', s \geq r.$$

Denote the real-valued, upper semicontinuous functions on  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}}$  with  $USC(\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}})$ . A subsolution of

$$\begin{cases} F(t, x, u, \partial_t u, Du, D^2 u) = 0\\ u(0, .) = u_0(.) \end{cases}$$
(1)

is a function  $u \in USC\left( {\mathcal O}_{\mathcal T} 
ight)$  such that

$$\begin{array}{rcl} F\left(t,x,a,p,m\right) &\leq & 0 \text{ for } (t,x) \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}} \text{ and } (a,p,m) \in \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^{2,+}u\left(t,x\right) \\ & u\left(0,.\right) &\leq & u_{0}\left(.\right) \text{ on } \mathcal{O} \end{array}$$

The definition of a supersolution follows by replacing upper by lower semicontinuous,  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^{2,+}$  by  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^{2,-}$  and  $\leq$  by  $\geq$ .

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• If u is a classic  $C^{1,2}((0,T) \times \mathbb{R},\mathbb{R})$  solution of

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{rcl} F\left(t,x,u,\partial_t u,D u,D^2 u\right) &=& 0\\ &u\left(0,.\right) &=& u_0\left(.\right) \end{array} \right.$$

then v is also a viscosity solution

Comparison Theorem (Maximum Principle): u (0, .) ≤ v (0, .), u sub- and v supersolution implies u ≤ v

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Barles-Perthame's semi-relaxed limits

Proposition

Let  $(u^n)_n \subset USC(\mathcal{O}_T), \mathcal{O}$  a locally compact subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $(F_n)$  a sequence of maps

$$F_n: \mathcal{O}_T \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$$

each  $u^n$  a subsolution of  $F_n(t, x, v, \partial_t v, D^2 v) = 0$ . Assume  $(u^n)_n$ and  $(F^n)_n$  are locally uniformly bounded. Then  $\underline{u}(t, x) = \liminf_{(s,y)\to(t,x),n\to\infty} u^n(s, y)$  is a subsolution of

$$\underline{F}(t, x, \underline{u}, \partial_t \underline{u}, D^2 \underline{u}) = 0 \text{ on } \mathcal{O}$$

The analogous statement holds for a sequence of LSC ( $\mathcal{O}_T$ ) functions which are supersolutions. Further, if  $\overline{u} = \underline{u}$  then the convergence of  $(u_n)$  to  $\overline{u} = \underline{u}$  is locally uniform.

#### Theorem (O&Reis13)

Let  $\mu,\nu\in\mathcal{M}^2$  ,  $\mu\leq_{\rm cx}\nu$  and denote with R the Root barrier for the SEP

$$dX_t = \sigma(t, X_t) dB_t, X_0 \sim \mu, X_{\tau_R} \sim \nu$$

Define

$$u(t,x):=-\mathbb{E}\left[|X_{t\wedge\tau_R}-x|\right].$$

Then u is the unique viscosity solution of the obstacle problem

$$\begin{cases} \min\left(u-u_{\nu},\partial_{t}u-\frac{\sigma^{2}}{2}\Delta u\right) = 0, \\ u\left(0,.\right) = u_{\mu}\left(.\right). \end{cases}$$
(2)

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Moreover,

- 1.  $t \mapsto u(t,x)$  is non-increasing and  $x \mapsto u(t,x)$  is Lipschitz (uniformly in time)
- 2.  $u_{\nu}(x) \leq u(t,x) \leq u_{\mu}(x)$ ,
- 3.  $\lim_{t\to\infty} u(t,x) = u_{\nu}(x).$

Proof (Sketch).

► Show

$$\begin{split} \left(\partial_t - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\Delta\right) u &\geq 0 \text{ on } [0,\infty) \times \mathbb{R}, \\ u - u_\nu &\geq 0 \text{ on } [0,\infty) \times \mathbb{R}, \\ \left(\partial_t - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\Delta\right) u &= 0 \text{ on } R^c, \\ u - u_\nu &= 0 \text{ on } R, \end{split}$$

• Step 1.  $u - U_{\nu} \ge 0$ . By Jensen

$$u(t,x) = -\mathbb{E}\left[|X_t^{\tau_R} - x|\right] \ge \mathbb{E}\left[\mathbb{E}\left[-|X_{\tau_R} - x| |\mathcal{F}_{t \wedge \tau_R}\right]\right]$$
$$= -\mathbb{E}\left[|X_{\tau_R} - x|\right] = u_{\nu}(x)$$

► Take  $(\psi_n), \psi_n \subset C^2(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}), \psi_n \to |.|$  uniformly,  $\Delta \psi_n(.)$  is continuous,  $\Delta \psi_n \geq 0$  and  $supp(\Delta \psi_n) \subset \left[-\frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{n}\right]$ ;

Define

$$u^{n}(t,x) = -\mathbb{E} \left[ \psi^{n} \left( X_{t}^{\tau} - x \right) \right] \rightarrow_{n \to \infty} u(t,x)$$
  

$$u^{n}_{\mu} = -\mathbb{E} \left[ \psi^{n} \left( X_{0} - x \right) \right] \rightarrow_{n \to \infty} u_{\mu}(x)$$
  

$$u^{n}_{\nu} = -\mathbb{E} \left[ \psi^{n} \left( X_{\tau} - x \right) \right] \rightarrow_{n \to \infty} u_{\nu}(x)$$

• Apply Ito to  $\psi^n (X_{\cdot}^{\tau_R} - x)$ 

$$u^{n}(t,x) = u^{n}_{\mu}(x) - \int_{0}^{t} \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\sigma^{2}(r,X_{r})}{2}\Delta\psi^{n}(X_{r}-x)\mathbf{1}_{r<\tau_{R}}\right]dr$$

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• Step 2.  $u - U_{\mu} = 0$  on R

• By Ito, applied to 
$$\psi^n (X^{\tau_R} - x)$$

$$u^{n}(t,x) = u^{n}_{\mu}(x) - \int_{0}^{t} \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\sigma^{2}(r,X_{r})}{2}\Delta\psi^{n}(X_{r}-x)\mathbf{1}_{r<\tau_{R}}\right]dr$$

Take  $\lim_{t\to\infty}$ 

$$u_{\nu}^{n}(x) = u_{\mu}^{n}(x) - \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\sigma^{2}(r, X_{r})}{2} \Delta \psi^{n}(X_{r} - x) \mathbf{1}_{r < \tau_{R}}\right] dr$$

► Hence

$$u^{n}(t,x)-u_{\nu}(x)=\int_{t}^{\infty}\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{\sigma^{2}(r,X_{r})}{2}\Delta\psi^{n}(X_{r}-x)\mathbf{1}_{r<\tau_{R}}\right]dr$$

▶ Fix  $(t,x) \in R^o$ , then  $(t+r,x) \in R^o$  for  $r \ge 0$  hence

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \left( u^n - u^n_\nu \right)(t, x) = \int_t^\infty \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\sigma^2(r, X_r)}{2} \lim_{n \to \infty} \Delta \psi^n \left( X_r - x \right) \mathbb{1}_{r < \tau} \right]$$
$$= 0$$

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Step 3.  $\left(\partial_t - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\Delta\right) u \ge 0$  on  $[0,\infty) \times \mathbb{R}$ . First show that  $u^n$  solves  $\left(\left(\partial_t - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\Delta\right)u^n - \frac{1}{2}u = 0 \text{ on } (0,\infty)\right)$ 

$$\begin{cases} \left(\partial_t - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\Delta\right)u^n - \frac{1}{2}I_n &= 0 \text{ on } (0,\infty) \times \mathbb{R} \\ u^n(0,.) &= u^n_\mu(.). \end{cases}$$

 u<sup>n</sup>(t,x) has a right- and left derivative ∀(t,x) ∈ [0,∞) × ℝ and continuous derivative Δu<sup>n</sup>(t,x)

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• 
$$\lim_{n\to 0} I^n = 0$$
 loc. uniformly

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$$\begin{cases} \left(\partial_t - \frac{\sigma_2}{2}\Delta\right)u^n - \frac{1}{2}I_n &= 0 \text{ on } (0,\infty) \times \mathbb{I}\\ u^n(0,.) &= u_\mu^n(.). \end{cases}$$

- u<sup>n</sup>(t,x) has a right- and left derivative ∀(t,x) ∈ [0,∞) × ℝ and continuous derivative Δu<sup>n</sup>(t,x)
- $\lim_{n\to 0} I^n = 0$  loc. uniformly
- Apply the method of semi-relaxed limits:  $u^n \to u$  and  $u^n_{\mu}(.) \to u_{\mu}(.)$  uniformly hence u is viscosity supersolution of

$$\begin{cases} \left(\partial_t - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\Delta\right)u = 0 \text{ on } [0,\infty) \times \mathbb{R} \\ u(0,.) = u_{\mu}(.) \end{cases}$$

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**Step 4.** 
$$\left(\partial_t - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\Delta\right)u = 0$$
 on  $R^c$ :

- need to show that u is a subsolution (supersolution follows from above
- R is a Root barrier, hence

$$(\tau_R+r,X_{\tau_R})\in R \ \forall r\geq 0,$$

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hence if  $(t, x) \in R^c$  and  $t \ge \tau_R$  then  $X_{\tau_R} \ne x$ . Therefore  $\lim_{n \to \infty} \sup_{(t,x) \in K} \Delta \psi^n (X_{\tau_R} - x) \mathbf{1}_{t \ge \tau_R} = 0 \quad \text{for every compact } K \subset R^c$ 

### c) From PDE to barrier

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#### Proposition

Under (TC) there exists a  $v_\infty\in C\left([0,\infty)\times\mathbb{R},\mathbb{R}\right)$  which is a viscosity solution of

$$\begin{cases} \min\left(v-h,\partial_t v-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}\Delta v\right) = 0, (t,x) \in (0,\infty) \times \mathbb{R} \\ v(0,x) = u_0(x), x \in \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, for  $T<\infty$ 

1.  $\forall (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \exists ! (X_s^{t,x}, Y_s^{t,x}, Z_s^{t,x}, K_s^{t,x})_{s \in [t,T]} of \{\mathcal{F}_s^t\}$ -progressively measurable processes, solution of the rFBSDE

$$\begin{cases} X_{s}^{t,x} &= x + \int_{t}^{s} \sigma\left(T - r, X_{r}^{t,x}\right) dW_{r}, \\ Y_{s}^{t,x} &= u_{0}\left(X_{T}^{t,x}\right) + \mathcal{K}_{T}^{t,x} - \mathcal{K}_{s}^{t,x} - \int_{s}^{T} Z_{r}^{t,x} dW_{r}, \\ Y_{s}^{t,x} &\geq h\left(X_{s}^{t,x}\right), \ t < s \leq T, \int_{t}^{T} \left(Y_{s}^{t,x} - h\left(X_{s}^{t,x}\right)\right) d\mathcal{K}_{s}^{t,x} = 0, \end{cases}$$

2.  $(K_s^{t,x})_{s \in [t,T]}$  increasing, continuous, and  $K_t^{t,x} = 0$ . 3.  $v_{\infty}|_{[0,T] \times \mathbb{R}}(t,x) \equiv Y_{T-t}^{T-t,x}$ .

### Theorem (O&Reis13)

Let  $\mu, \nu$  have a second moment,  $\mu \leq_{cx} \nu$  and  $\sigma$  Lip+LG. Then the the free boundary R

$$R = \{(t, x) : u(t, x) = u_{\nu}(x)\}$$

of the obstacle problem

$$\begin{cases} \min\left(u-u_{\nu},\partial_{t}u-\frac{\sigma^{2}}{2}\Delta u\right) = 0, \\ u\left(0,.\right) = u_{\mu}\left(.\right). \end{cases}$$
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solves the SEP

$$dX_t = \sigma(t, X_t) dB_t, X_0 \sim \mu, X_{\tau_R} \sim \nu.$$

### Proof. (sketch)

- ► Under above assumptions the PDE has exactly one solution *O*(u<sub>μ</sub>, u<sub>ν</sub>, σ) = {u}
- $\blacktriangleright \mathcal{R}(\mu,\nu,\sigma) = \{R\}$
- From previous Theorem  $u(t,x) = -\mathbb{E}\left[|X_{t \wedge \tau_R} x|\right]$
- ► By proof of previous theorem, hence  $R \subset \{(t,x) : u(t,x) = u_{\nu}(x)\}$
- ► To see  $R \supset \{(t,x) : u(t,x) = u_{\nu}(x)\}$  use the representation  $u(t+r,x) - u(t,x) = \mathbb{E} \left[L_t^x - L_{t+r}^x\right]$

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## (d) Numerics

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Assume  $\mu, \nu$  support in interval  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ 

$$S^{h}\left[u^{h}\right](t,x) := \begin{cases} u_{\mu}(x) \text{ in } [0,\Delta t) \times (a,b) \\ u^{h}(t,x) + \frac{\Delta t \sigma^{h}(t,x)}{2(\Delta x)^{2}} \left(u^{h}(t,x+\Delta x) - 2u^{h}(t,x) + u^{h}(t,x) + u^{h}(t,x)\right) \\ u_{\mu}(x) = u_{\nu}(x) \text{ in } [0,T] \times \{a,b\} \end{cases}$$

#### Proposition (O&Reis13)

Let  $T < \infty$  and let  $\mu, \nu$  have second moments, compact support,  $\mu \leq_{cx} \nu$ . If  $\Delta t |\sigma|_{\infty;[a,b] \times [0,T]} < (\Delta x)^2$  Then  $u^h \in \mathcal{B}([0,T] \times \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$  and

$$\left|u^{h}-u
ight|_{\infty;\left[0,\,T
ight] imes \mathbb{R}}
ightarrow 0$$
 as  $h
ightarrow (0,0)$ 

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on [0, T],  $\{u\} \in O(u_{\mu}, u_{\nu}, \sigma)$ .



Figure: 
$$\sigma = 1, \mu = \delta_0$$
 and  $\nu = \frac{2}{7}\delta_{-1} + \frac{1}{4}\delta_{-\frac{1}{4}} + \frac{13}{28}\delta_{\frac{3}{4}}$ .

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Figure:  $\sigma(x) = x, \mu = \delta_1 \text{ and } \nu = \mathcal{U}\left(\left[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right]\right)$ 

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Figure:  $\sigma(x) = 1, \mu = \frac{3}{4}\delta_{-\frac{1}{6}} + \frac{1}{4}\delta_{0.5}$ ,  $\nu = \frac{1}{3}\delta_{-1} + \frac{2}{3}\mathcal{U}([0,1])$ .

[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

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### THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

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