

12/04/2023. Level-set mean Curvature Equation.

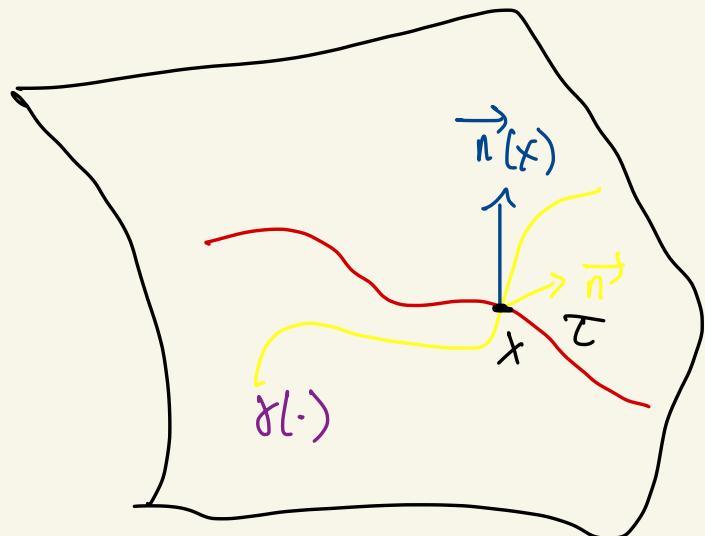
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} (\text{PDE}) \\ u_t = |\nabla u| \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \right) \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty) \\ u(x, 0) = g(x) \end{array} \right\} \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n$$

Basics on mean curvature.

$\Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ : smooth hypersurface.

$x \in \Gamma$ , let  $\vec{n}(x)$  be a unit normal  
to  $\Gamma_0$  at  $x$

We can extend  $\vec{n}$  to be a  
smooth enough vector field in



a neighborhood of  $\Gamma$ .

$$Dn(x) = \nabla n(x).$$

Definition:  $A: T_x \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\tau \rightarrow A\tau = -D_{\tau} n(x) = -Dn(x)\tau.$$

Bilinear form:  $B: T_x \Gamma \times T_x \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$(\tau, \eta) \rightarrow B(\tau, \eta) = A\tau \cdot \eta = -D_{\tau} n(x) \cdot \eta$$

Basic observations:

① In fact,  $A: T_x \Gamma \rightarrow T_x \Gamma$  as

$$A\tau \cdot \vec{n}(x) = -D_{\tau} \vec{n}(x) \cdot \vec{n}(x) = -\frac{1}{2} D_{\tau} (\|\vec{n}(x)\|^2) = 0$$

② For a function  $\phi: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$\phi(0,0) = x, \phi_{x_1}(0,0) = \tau, \phi_{x_2}(0,0) = \eta.$$

Then,  $\phi_{x_1 x_2}(0, 0) \cdot \vec{n}(x) = B(\tau, \eta)$

Proof:  $\phi_{x_1}(x) \cdot \vec{n}(\phi(x)) = 0$ .

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} : \phi_{x_1 x_2}(x) \cdot \vec{n}(\phi(x)) + \phi_{x_1} \cdot (D_n \vec{n}) \phi_{x_2}(x) = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi_{x_1 x_2}(0) \cdot \vec{n}(x) = -\tau \cdot (D_n \vec{n}) = B(\tau, \eta).$$

Definition. (Surface divergence)

For general vector field  $\vec{F}$  defined in a neighborhood of  $\Gamma$ . For  $x \in \Gamma$ , let  $\{\tau^l : 1 \leq l \leq n-1\}$

be a canonical orthonormal basis of  $T_x \Gamma$

Then  $\operatorname{div}_{\Gamma} \vec{F}(x) = \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} \tau^l \cdot (D_{T^l} F)(x)$

In particular, for the vector field  $\vec{n}$ ,

$$\operatorname{div}_{\Gamma} \vec{n}(x) = \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} \tau^l \cdot (D_{T^l} \vec{n}) = - \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} B(\tau^l, \vec{n})$$

Mean curvature of  $\Gamma$  at  $x$ : Let's take an orthonormal basis.

$\{\tau^l : 1 \leq l \leq n-1\}$  to be exactly corresponding with

the principal curvatures at  $x$ . Sum of all principle curvatures  
at  $x = H(x)$ .

$$H(x) = \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} B(\vec{\tau}^l, \vec{\tau}^l) = -\operatorname{div}_{\Gamma} \vec{n}'(x) = \vec{\tau}_i^l n_x^i \vec{\tau}_j^l \\ = \operatorname{tr}(D_n \vec{\tau}^l \otimes \vec{\tau}^l)$$

thus,

$$H(x) = \operatorname{tr}(\vec{\tau}^l \otimes \vec{\tau}^l D\vec{n}'(x)) \\ = \operatorname{tr}((I - \vec{n}'(x) \otimes \vec{n}'(x)) D\vec{n}'(x)) \\ = \operatorname{tr}(D\vec{n}'(x) - \underbrace{n^j(x) n^i(x) n_{x_j}^i(x)}_{=\frac{1}{2}(|\vec{n}'(x)|^2)_{x_j}}) \\ = 0$$

Identity :  $H(x) = \text{tr}((I - (\vec{n} \otimes \vec{n})) D\vec{n}(x)) = \text{tr}(D\vec{n}(x)).$

Remark : ①  $A: T_x \Gamma \rightarrow T_x \Gamma$  has  $(n-1)$  eigenvalues  $\lambda_1(x), \dots, \lambda_{n-1}(x)$ , which are exactly  $(n-1)$  principal curvature of  $\Gamma$  at  $x$ .

Choose  $\{\vec{t}^l : 1 \leq l \leq n-1\}$  such that

$$A\vec{t}^l = -\lambda_l(x)\vec{t}^l$$

$$\underbrace{\langle A\vec{t}^l, \vec{t}^l \rangle}_{\text{"}} = -\lambda_l(x)$$

$$\text{"B}(\vec{t}^l, \vec{t}^l)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \text{Mean curvature} = \frac{\sum \lambda_i(x)}{n-1} = \frac{H(x)}{n-1}.$$

By convention, we'll say that  $H(x) = \text{tr}(\vec{n}'(x))$  is the mean curvature.

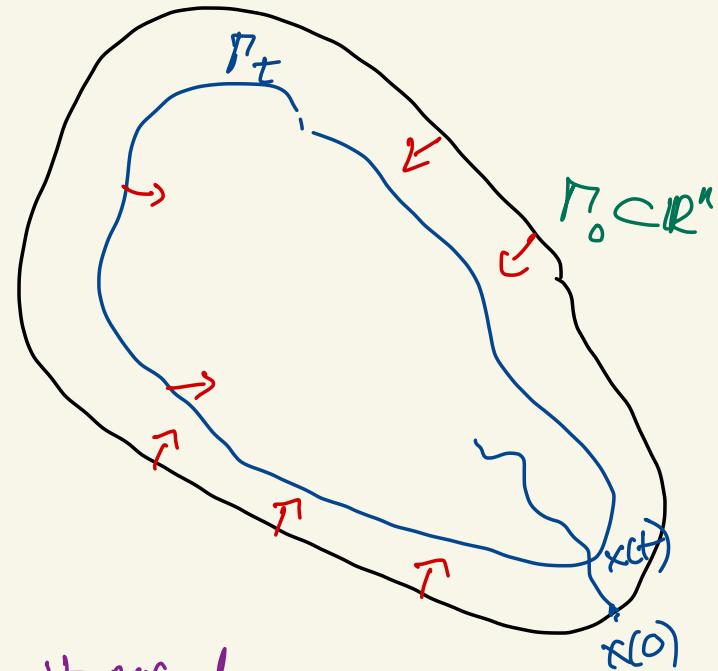
## 2. PDEs

\textcircled{1} level-set mean curvature flow

$M_0 \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ : given  $(n-1)$  dim closed, compact, smooth manifold.

Law of motion:

$$\dot{x}(t) = H(x) \cdot \vec{v}(x) : \vec{v} \text{ inner unit normal.}$$



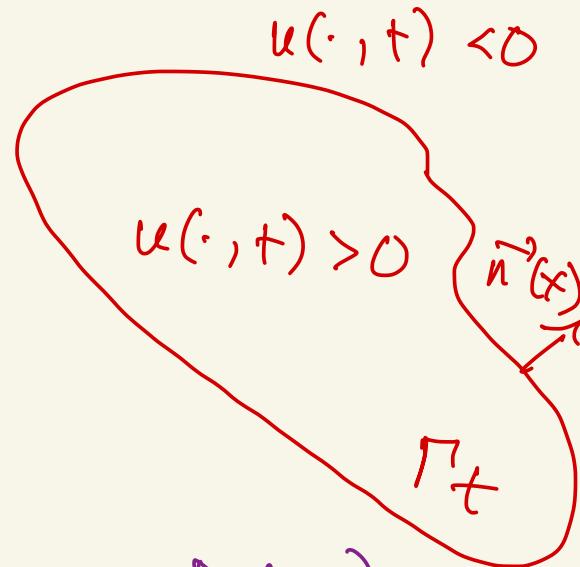
Define an unknown

$$u: \mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
$$(x, t) \mapsto u(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$\Gamma_t = \{x : u(x, t) = 0\}$$

$$\vec{n}(x) = -\frac{\vec{Du}(x, t)}{|\vec{Du}(x, t)|} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v}(x) = \frac{\vec{Du}(x, t)}{|\vec{Du}(x, t)|}$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = H(x(t)) \vec{v}(x(t)) = \left( \operatorname{div} \vec{n}(x, t) \right) \frac{\vec{Du}(x(t), t)}{|\vec{Du}(x(t), t)|}$$



$$= -\operatorname{div}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Du}}{|\mathbf{Du}|}\right) \frac{\mathbf{Du}}{|\mathbf{Du}|}$$

$$u(x(t), t) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} (u(x(t), t)) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u_t + \mathbf{Du} \cdot \dot{x}(t) = 0$$

(PDE):  $u_t - |\mathbf{Du}| \operatorname{div}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Du}}{|\mathbf{Du}|}\right) = 0$

Compute:  $|\mathbf{Du}| \operatorname{div}\left(\frac{\mathbf{Du}}{|\mathbf{Du}|}\right) = |\mathbf{Du}| \left(\frac{u_{x_i}}{|\mathbf{Du}|}\right)_{x_i}$

$$= |Du| \left( \frac{u_{x_i x_i}}{|Du|} - \frac{u_{x_i} (|Du|)_{x_i}}{|Du|^2} \right)$$

$$= |Du| \left( \frac{u_{x_i x_i}}{|Du|} - \frac{u_{x_i} u_{x_j} u_{x_i x_j}}{|Du|^3} \right)$$

$$= u_{x_i x_j} - \frac{u_{x_i} u_{x_j} u_{x_i x_j}}{|Du|^2}$$

$$|Du| \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{Du}{|Du|} \right) = u_{x_i x_i} - \frac{u_{x_i} u_{x_j} u_{x_i x_j}}{|Du|^2}$$

$$= \Delta u - \operatorname{tr} \left( \left( \frac{Du}{|Du|} \otimes \frac{Du}{|Du|} \right) D^2 u \right)$$

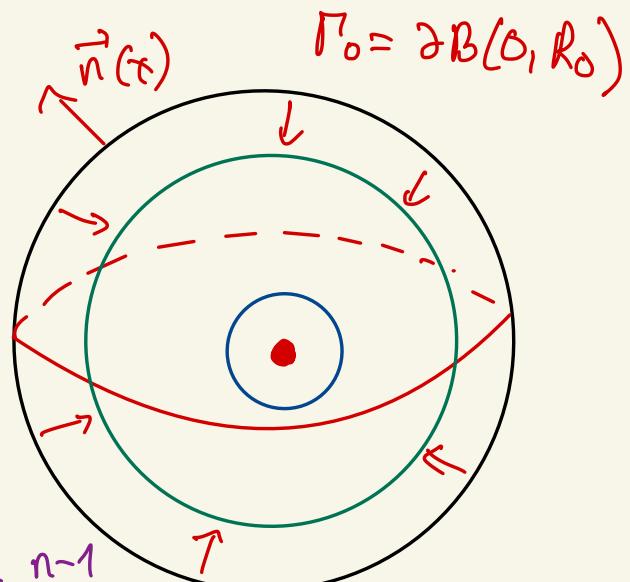
$$= \text{tr} \left( \left( I - \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \otimes \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \right) \nabla^2 u \right)$$

= Surface Laplacian at  $x$

Ex:  $\vec{n}(x) = \frac{x}{|x|}$

$$\text{div } \left( \frac{x}{|x|} \right) = \frac{n}{|x|} - \frac{x_i x_j}{|x|^3} = \frac{n-1}{|x|}$$

$$H(x) = \frac{n-1}{|x|}$$



Let  $R(t)$  be such that  $\Gamma_t = \partial B(0, R(t))$ . Then

$$\begin{cases} \dot{R}(t) = -\frac{n-1}{R(t)} \\ R(0) = R_0 \end{cases}$$

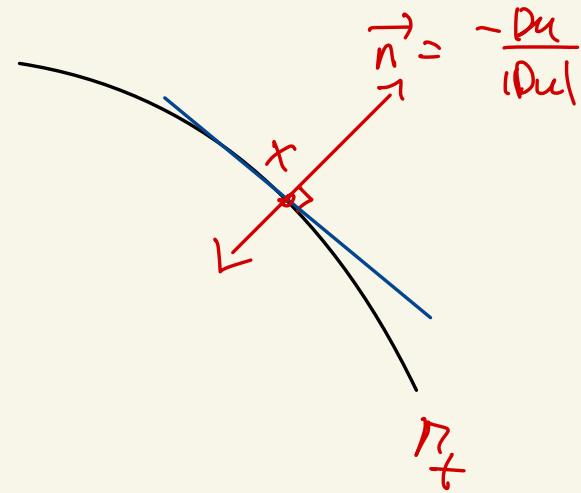
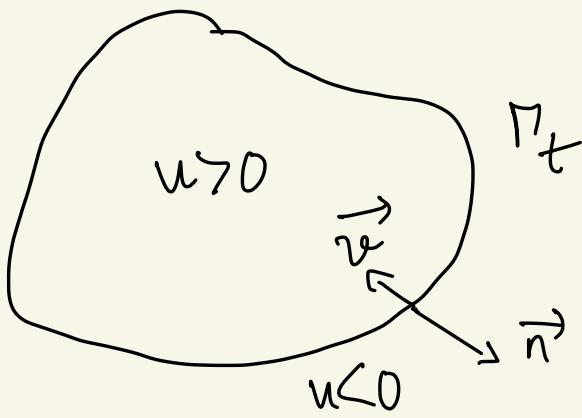
$$\frac{d}{dt}(R(t)^2) = -(n-1)$$

$$R(t)^2 = R(0)^2 - 2(n-1)$$

$$R(t) = \sqrt{R(0)^2 - 2(n-1)}, \quad T = \frac{R(0)^2}{2(n-1)}$$

12/06/2023. Level-set MCF.

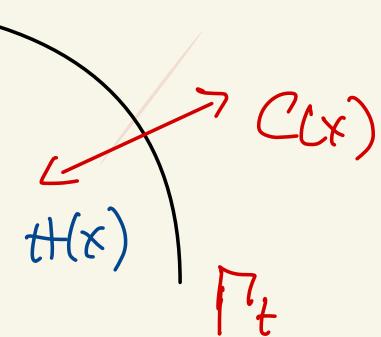
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_t = |\nabla u| \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \right) = \operatorname{tr} \left( I - \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \otimes \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \right) D^2 u \\ u(x, 0) = g(x) \end{array} \right.$$



$$\vec{n} = \frac{-Du}{|Du|} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v} = -\vec{n} = \frac{Du}{|Du|}$$

Mean curvature

$$H = -\operatorname{div}_{\Gamma_t} \vec{n} = -\operatorname{div} \vec{n}' = \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{Du}{|Du|} \right)$$



forced level-set MCF:  $\nabla(x) = (C(x) \pm H(x))\vec{n}$

$x(0) \in \Gamma_0$ ,  $x(t) \in \Gamma_t$ , and

$$\dot{x}(t) = (C(x(t)) + H(x(t))\vec{n}'(x(t))).$$

$$= [C(x(t)) + H(x(t))] = \frac{-Du}{|Du|}$$

$$u(x(t), t) = 0 \Rightarrow u_t + Du \cdot \dot{x}(t) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u_t + Du \cdot \frac{-Du}{|Du|} \left( c(x(t)) + \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{Du}{|Du|} \right) \right) = 0$$

②  $\begin{cases} u_t = |Du| \left( C(x) + \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{Du}{|Du|} \right) \right) \\ u(x, 0) = g(x). \end{cases}$

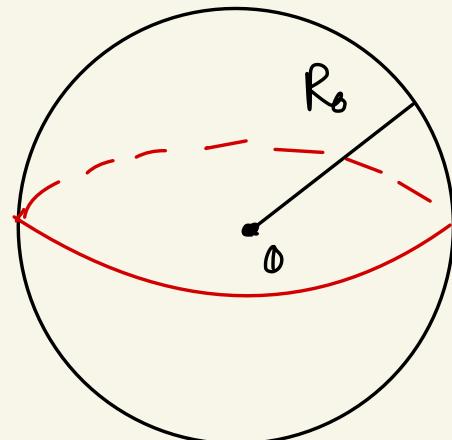
Remarks:

- ① Let  $c(x) \equiv 1$ . Then  $\mathbf{v} = (1 + H(x)) \vec{n}$  is at equilibrium if  $1 + H(x) = 0$  on  $\Gamma_0$

$H(x) = -1$  on  $\Gamma_0$  : constant mean curvature.

$R_0 = n-1 \rightarrow \partial B(O, n-1)$  is an equilibrium surface.

→ Union of many disjoint spheres of radius  $n-1$  also work.



② Alexandrov's Theorem (under some conditions)

If  $H(x) = -1$  on  $\Gamma_0$ , then  $\Gamma_0$  must be an union of many disjoint spheres of radius  $n-1$ .

## Definition of viscosity solution for (2).

① Subsolution:  $u$  is a viscosity solution to (2) if  
 $u(x, 0) \leq g(x)$  and for ANY smooth test function  
 $\varphi$  touching  $u$  from above at  $(x_0, t_0) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty)$   
then

a) If  $D\varphi(x_0, t_0) \neq 0$ ,

$$U_t(x_0, t_0) - \text{tr} \left( \left( I - \frac{D\varphi}{|D\varphi|} \otimes \frac{D\varphi}{|D\varphi|} \right) D^2 \varphi(x_0, t_0) \right)$$

$$- C(\varepsilon_0) D\varphi(x_0, t_0) \leq 0$$

b) If  $D\Psi(x_0, t_0) = 0$ ,

$$\Psi_t(x_0, t_0) - \text{tr}((I - \zeta \otimes \zeta)^* D\Psi(x_0, t_0)) \leq 0,$$

for a vector  $|\zeta| \leq 1$ .

② Super solution:

Same as above:  $\Psi$  smooth touching  $u$  from below at  $(x_1, t_1)$ :

If  $D\Psi(x_1, t_1) = 0$ ,

$$\Psi_t(t_1, x_1) - \text{tr}((I - \eta \otimes \eta)^* D^*\Psi(t_1, x_1)) \geq 0 \text{ for}$$

a vector  $|\eta| \leq 1$ .

Theorem [Comparison principle for both (1) & (2)].

Let  $u \in \text{VSC}(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \infty))$ ,  $v \in \text{LSC}(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \infty))$  be a sub-,  
a super-solution to (1), resp. Then  $u \leq v \Rightarrow$  **UNIQUENESS**.

Sketch of proof: **Doubling variables.**

$$\Psi^{\varepsilon, \lambda}(x, y, t, s) = u(x, t) - v(y, s) - \frac{(x-y)^2 + |t-s|^2}{2\varepsilon} - \lambda(t+s).$$

for  $\varepsilon, \lambda$  sufficiently small.

Assume by contradiction that  $u \neq v$ ,  $\sup_{\mathbb{R}^n} (u-v) = r > 0$ .

$\psi^{\varepsilon_1 \gamma}$  has a max at  $(x_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, t_\varepsilon, s_\varepsilon) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} (\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{t}, \hat{s})$   
 $\in \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty)^2$ .

$$(u(x_\varepsilon, t_\varepsilon), \frac{x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon}{\varepsilon}, \underline{\Sigma}^\varepsilon) \in \bar{J}^{2,+} u(x_\varepsilon, t_\varepsilon)$$

$$(v(y_\varepsilon, t_\varepsilon), \frac{x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon}{\varepsilon}, \underline{\Upsilon}^\varepsilon) \in \bar{J}^{2,-} v(y_\varepsilon, t_\varepsilon)$$

and

$$-\frac{1}{K} \underline{\mathbb{I}}_{2n} \leq \begin{pmatrix} \underline{\Sigma}^\varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \underline{\Upsilon}^\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon - 2K} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{I}_n & -\mathbb{I}_n \\ -\mathbb{I}_n & \mathbb{I}_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\Sigma}^\varepsilon \leq \underline{\Upsilon}^\varepsilon. \quad \text{And } \underline{\Sigma}^\varepsilon - \underline{\Upsilon}^\varepsilon \leq 0.$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad v_t - \operatorname{tr}\left(\left(I - \frac{Du}{|Du|} \otimes \frac{Du}{|Du|}\right) D^2 u\right) = 0$$

Subsolution test for  $u$ .

$$\lambda + \frac{t_\varepsilon - s_\varepsilon}{\varepsilon} - \operatorname{tr}\left(\left(I - \frac{x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon}{|x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon|} \otimes \frac{x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon}{|x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon|}\right) X^\varepsilon\right) \leq 0$$

Supersolution test for  $v$ .

$$-\lambda + \frac{t_\varepsilon - s_\varepsilon}{\varepsilon} - \operatorname{tr}\left(\left(I - \frac{x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon}{|x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon|} \otimes \frac{x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon}{|x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon|}\right) Y^\varepsilon\right) \geq 0$$

Subtracting the two

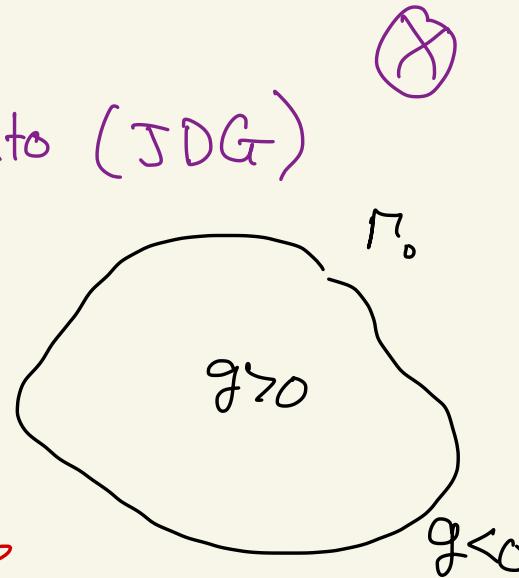
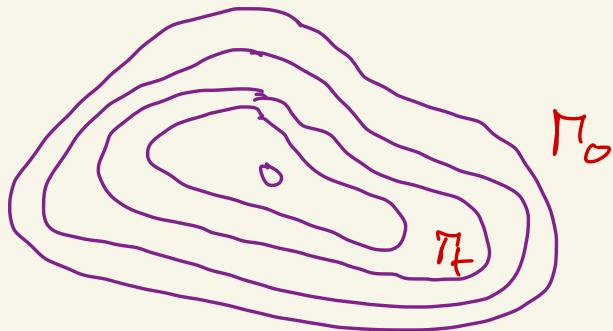
$$\underbrace{\mathcal{L}_X}_{\geq 0} + \text{tr} \left( \left( I - \frac{x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon}{|x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon|} \otimes \frac{x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon}{|x_\varepsilon - y_\varepsilon|} \right) \underbrace{\left( Y^\varepsilon - X^\varepsilon \right)}_{\geq 0} \right) \geq 0$$

$\otimes$

Ref: Evans-Spruck, Chen-Giga-Goto (JDG)

Q: What about geometry?

Embed  $\Gamma_t$  to be the zero-level set  
of  $u(\cdot, t)$



Theorem 2: Assume  $\Gamma_0$  is a smooth, compact, no-hole  $(n-1)$ -dim manifold. Construct initial condition  $g$  such that  $\{g=0\} = \Gamma_0$ ,  $g > 0$  in the region enclosed by  $\Gamma_0$ ,  $g < 0$  outside.

If the geometric evolution  $\mathcal{V} = \vec{x_n}$  is still classical  $0 < t < T$ . Then,  $\{u(\cdot, t) = 0\} = \Gamma_t$  for  $0 \leq t \leq T$ .

Idea:  $g(x) =$  Signed distance function to

$$\Gamma_0 = \begin{cases} d(x, \Gamma_0) & x \text{ inside} \\ -d(x, \Gamma_0) & x \text{ outside} \end{cases}$$

Keep track with this signed distance function.

$$|Dd(x, \Gamma_t)| = 1.$$

### Some Simple & puzzling examples

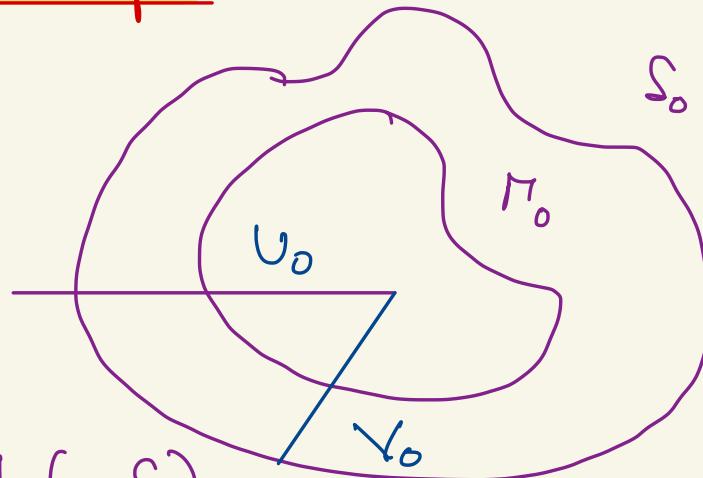
①  $\Gamma_t$  enclosed  $U_t$

$S_t$  enclosed  $V_t$

$$\text{If } U_0 \subset V_0 \Rightarrow U_t \subset V_t$$

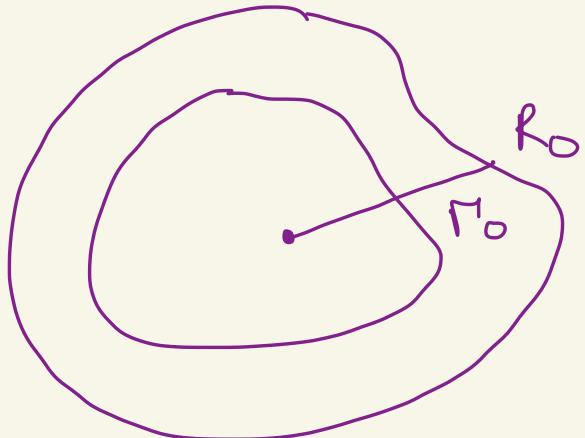
$$g_1 = sd(x, \Gamma_0) \leq g_2 = sd(x, S_0)$$

①  $U_1 \subseteq U_2$



$$\Rightarrow U_t = \{u_1 > 0\} \subset V_t = \{u_2 > 0\}$$

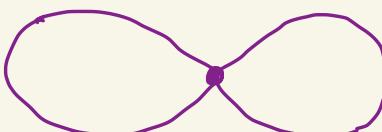
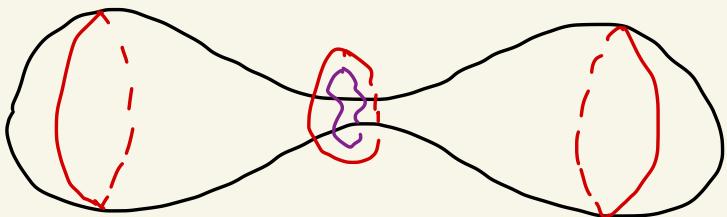
②



$$R(t) = \sqrt{R_0^2 - \omega(n-1)t}$$

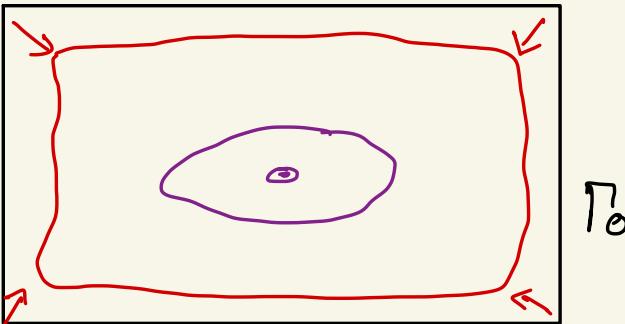
$\Rightarrow \Gamma_t$  will develop singularities  
in time  $\leq \frac{R_0^2}{\omega(n-1)}$

③



4

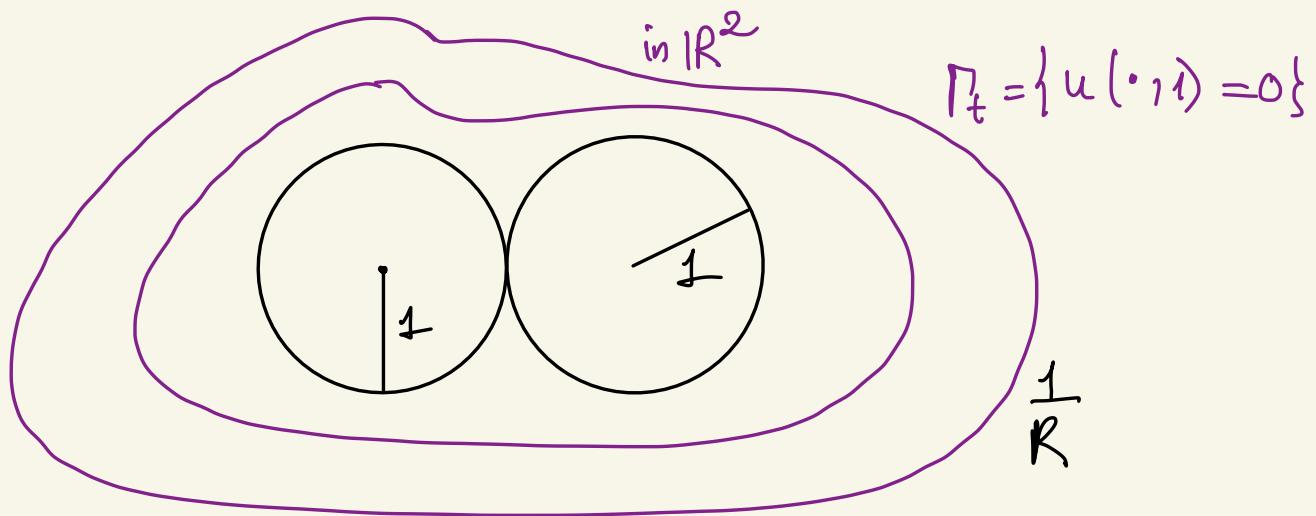
$$V = C$$



$\Gamma_0$

5

$$V = C + 1$$



$\Gamma_1 = \{u(\cdot, i) = 0\}$

12/08/2023

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \begin{cases} u_t = |\nabla u| \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \right) = \operatorname{tr} \left( \left( I - \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \otimes \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \right) D^2 u \right) \\ u(x, 0) = g(x). \end{cases}$$

Goal:  $\begin{cases} \text{Lipschitz regularity} \\ \text{some observations.} \end{cases}$

Notations:  $\widehat{D}u = \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|}; \widehat{P} = \frac{P}{|P|}$

$$(1) \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} u_t - F(Du, \widehat{D}u) = 0 \\ u(x, 0) = g(x) \end{cases}$$

Hence,  $F: (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}) \times \mathbb{S}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

$$(p, \underline{x}) \rightarrow F(p, \underline{x}) = \text{tr}((I - \hat{p} \otimes \hat{p}) \underline{x})$$

\*  $F$  is not defined at 0

$$F^*(0, \underline{x}) = \lim_{(p, \underline{y}) \rightarrow (0, \underline{x})} \sup F(p, \underline{y})$$

$$F_*(0, \underline{x}) = \lim_{(p, \underline{y}) \rightarrow (0, \underline{x})} \inf F(p, \underline{y})$$

\*  $F$  is independent of  $\underline{x}$ .

key observation:  $u$  is solution, then  $(x, t) \rightarrow u(x+y, t)$  or  $(x, t) \rightarrow u(x, t+s)$ , for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $s \geq 0$  is also a solution.

Theorem 1: Assume  $g \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap \text{Lip}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ : Then there exists  $C = C(g, n) > 0$  such that

$$\|u_+\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty))} + \|Du\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty))} \leq C.$$

Proof 1:  $u(x, t)$  is a solution to (1)  $\forall$  with initial data  $g(x)$ .

$(x, t) \rightarrow u(x+y, t) + \underbrace{\|Dg\|_\infty |y|}_{\text{Constant}}$  is also to (1)  $\forall$  with initial data  $g(x+y) + \underbrace{\|Dg\|_\infty |y|}_{\geq g(x)}.$

By the comparison principle,  $u(x+y, t) + \underbrace{\|Dg\|_\infty |y|}_{\geq g(x)} \geq u(x, t)$

By symmetric, we get

$$|u(x+y, t) - u(x, t)| \leq \|Du\|_{L^\infty} |y|.$$

By similar, we get  $\|u_t\|_{L^\infty} + \|Du_t\|_{L^\infty} \leq C$ .

Proof 2: [Vanishing process].

$$\begin{cases} u_t^\varepsilon = \sqrt{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon|^2} \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{Du^\varepsilon}{\sqrt{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon|^2}} \right) = \operatorname{tr} \left( \left( I - \frac{Du^\varepsilon \otimes Du^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon|^2} \right) Du^\varepsilon \right) \\ u^\varepsilon(x, 0) = q(x). \end{cases}$$

Claim.  $\|u_t^\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty} + \|Du^\varepsilon\|_{L^\infty} \leq C$ .

$$u_t^\varepsilon = \Delta u^\varepsilon - \frac{u_{x_i}^\varepsilon u_{x_j}^\varepsilon u_{x_i x_j}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon|^2}$$

Idea:  $u_t^\varepsilon, u_{x_k}^\varepsilon$  solve linear parabolic PDEs.

$$u_t^\varepsilon = \Delta u^\varepsilon - \frac{u_{x_i}^\varepsilon u_{x_j}^\varepsilon u_{x_i x_j}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon|^2}$$

$\boxed{\frac{\partial}{\partial t}}$

$$(u_t^\varepsilon)_t = \left[ \Delta u^\varepsilon - \frac{u_{x_i}^\varepsilon u_{x_j}^\varepsilon (u_t^\varepsilon)_{x_i x_j}}{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon|^2} \right] - 2 \frac{(u_t^\varepsilon)_{x_i} u_{x_j}^\varepsilon u_{x_i x_j}^\varepsilon}{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon|^2} + \frac{u_{x_i}^\varepsilon u_{x_j}^\varepsilon u_{x_i x_j}^\varepsilon}{(\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon|^2)^2} \cdot 2 Du^\varepsilon \cdot D(u_t^\varepsilon)$$

$\psi = u_t^\varepsilon$  solves a linear parabolic PDE

$$\Psi_t = \text{tr} \left( \left( I - \frac{u_{x_i}^{\varepsilon} u_{x_j}^{\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^{\varepsilon}|^2} \right) D^2 \varphi \right) + b_i \cdot \nabla_{x_i} \varphi$$

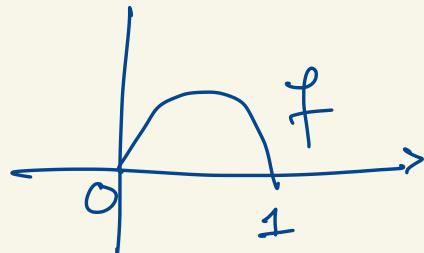
$$\max \varphi = \max \varphi(\cdot, 0). \Rightarrow \max_{\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \infty)} u_t^{\varepsilon} = \max_{\mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty)} u_t^{\varepsilon}(\cdot, 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow g(x) - ct \leq u_t^{\varepsilon}(x, t) \leq g(x) + ct$$

$$\Rightarrow |u_t^{\varepsilon}(\cdot, 0)| \leq C.$$

General Remark: F-KPP equation

$$u_t - \Delta u = \underbrace{f(u)}_{g(x)}$$



Iterative method to solve PDE: Take a first guess ( $u^1$ )

$$(u^2)_t + \Delta u^2 = \underbrace{f(u^1)}_{g(t)}$$

$$\vdots$$

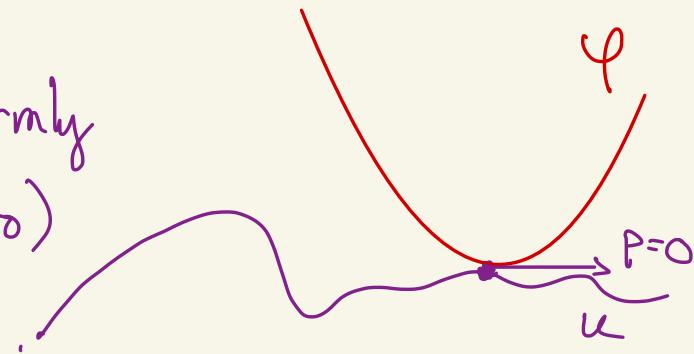
$$(u^{k+1})_t + \Delta u^{k+1} = f(u^k)$$

$$u^k \rightarrow u.$$

Remark 2:  $u^2 \rightarrow u$  local uniformly

Say  $u - \varphi$  has a max at  $(x_0, t_0)$

$$\text{and } D\varphi(x_0, t_0) = 0$$



$u^\varepsilon - \varphi$  has a nearby max at  $(x_\varepsilon, t_\varepsilon)$

$$\Psi_t - \text{tr} \left( \underbrace{\left( I - \frac{D\varphi}{\sqrt{\varepsilon^2 + |D\varphi|^2}} \otimes \frac{D\varphi}{\sqrt{\varepsilon^2 + |D\varphi|^2}} \right)}_{q_\varepsilon \otimes q_\varepsilon \text{ with } |q_\varepsilon| \leq 1} D^2\varphi(x_\varepsilon, t_\varepsilon) \right) \leq 0$$

$$q_\varepsilon \rightarrow \eta \text{ with } |\eta| \leq 1.$$

$$\Psi_t(x_0, t_0) - \text{tr} \left( (I - \eta \otimes \eta) D^2\varphi(x_0, t_0) \right) \leq 0 \text{ for some } |\eta| \leq 1.$$

Remark 3.

$$u^\varepsilon_t = \sqrt{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon_t|^2} \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{Du^\varepsilon}{\sqrt{\varepsilon^2 + |Du^\varepsilon|^2}} \right)$$

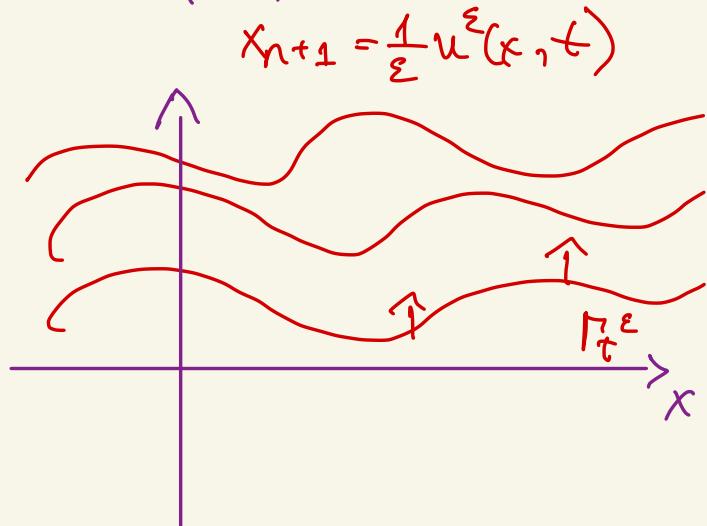
$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , Consider  $y = (x, x_{n+1}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ .

$$\nabla^\varepsilon(y, t) = u^\varepsilon(x, t) - \varepsilon x_{n+1} \Rightarrow |\nabla v^\varepsilon|^2 = |Du^\varepsilon|^2 + \varepsilon^2$$

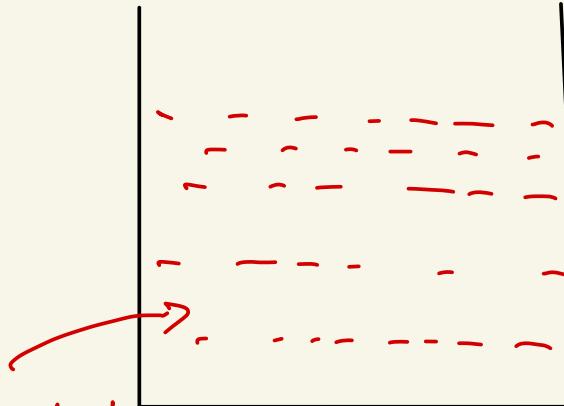
PDE because:  $\nabla_t^\varepsilon = |\nabla v^\varepsilon| \operatorname{div}_y \left( \frac{\nabla v^\varepsilon}{|\nabla v^\varepsilon|} \right)$

Key:  $\nabla^\varepsilon(y, t) = u^\varepsilon(x, t) - \varepsilon x_{n+1}$

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma_t^\varepsilon &= \left\{ y : \nabla^\varepsilon(y, t) = 0 \right\} \\ &= \left\{ y : x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} u^\varepsilon(x, t) \right\}\end{aligned}$$



12/11/2023. Crystal Growth in Supersaturated media / environment.  
(See lecture note on Canvas)



SuperSaturated  
(i.e., loss of crystal molecules)

12/13/2023 Birth and spread model.

$$(1) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_t = |\nabla u| \left( \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} \right) + 1 \right) - f(x) \\ u(x, 0) = g(x) \end{array} \right.$$

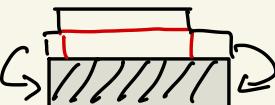
Birth: Vertical growth from the source term  $f(x)$

spread: Horizontal growth from adatoms to the surface.

$$\nabla = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{1}.$$

Hence,  $u(x, t)$  represents the height of the crystal at  $(x, t)$ .

Level set of  $u$  evolve w.r.t geometric motions.



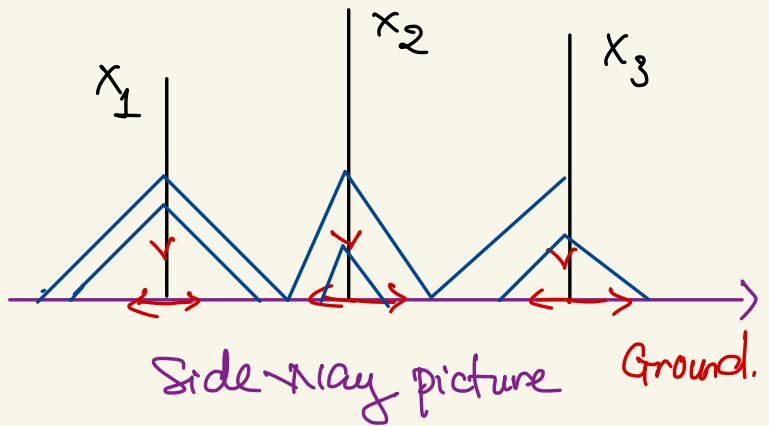
In principle, we can replace  $|Du| \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{Du}{|Du|} + 1 \right)$  by any fully nonlinear  $F(Du, D^2u)$ .

Let's think of a simpler example (Kohn (NYU), Giga (Tokyo), ...)

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} u_t = |Du| + \mathbb{M}_E \\ u(x, 0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Let  $E = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$

$$\mathbb{M}_E = \mathbb{M}_{\{x_1\}} + \dots + \mathbb{M}_{\{x_k\}}$$

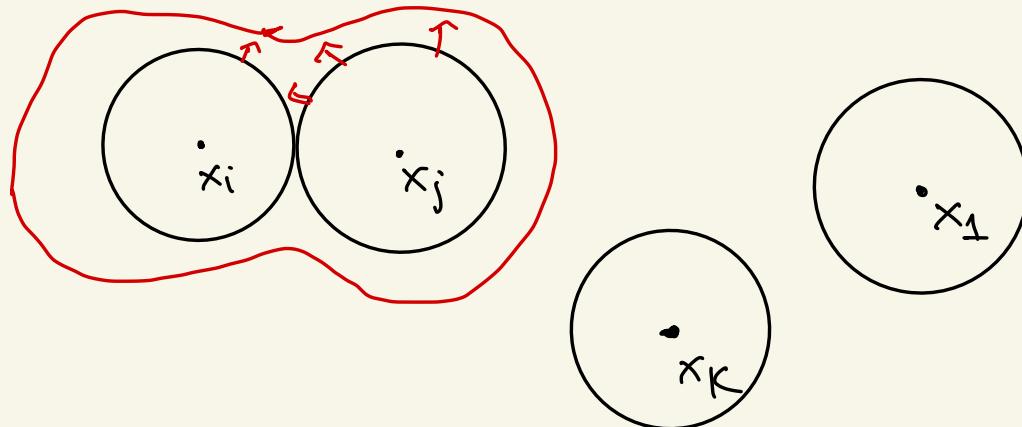
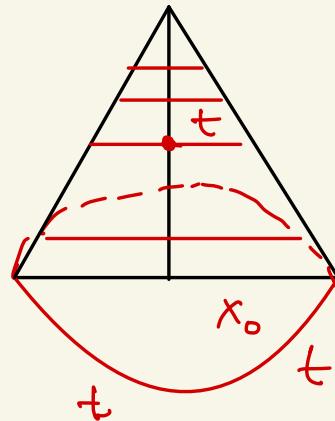


Locally, for each  $x_i$ , at time  $t$ , it looks like

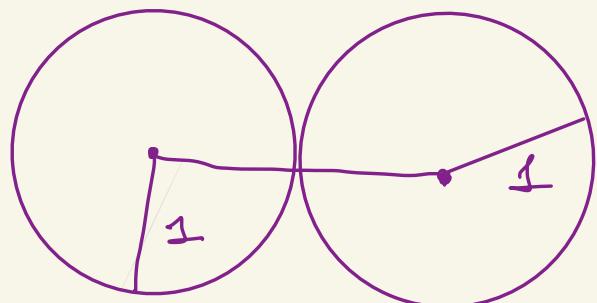
Up to a time  $T_1 > 0$ :

2 sandpiles start overlap with each other

Top down picture



Back to (1), there will also be cases in which level set of  $u$  exhibit singularities  $\nabla u = \lambda + 1$ .



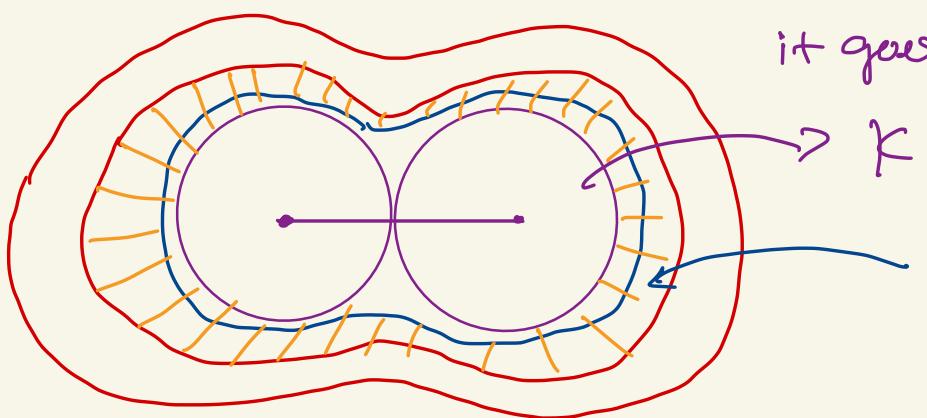
$$\Gamma_0 = \partial B(x_1, 1) \cup \partial B(x_2, 1)$$

solution 1: Nothing moves.

solution 2: (Maximal viscosity)  
it goes to the whole  $\mathbb{R}^2$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{R} < 1$$

$\Gamma_t$  has interior.



Theorem: If  $f \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^n, [0, \infty))$ , then  $\exists! c = c_f \geq 0$

such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u(x, t)}{t} = c_f \quad \text{loc. uni. in } x \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Open problem:  $u(x, t) - c_f t \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} ?? \quad v(x) ?$

Sketch of proof:

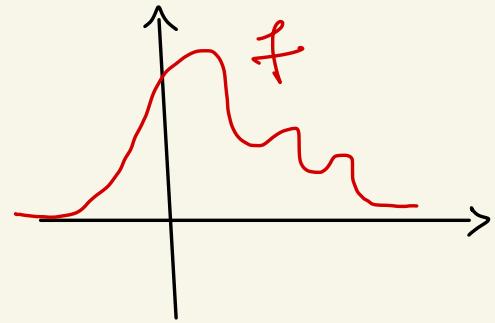
①  $u$  is Lipschitz (Berstein's method for  $\Psi = |\nabla u|^2$ )

$$\text{or } \Psi = \sqrt{\varepsilon^2 + |\nabla u^\varepsilon|^2}.$$

②  $\text{supp}(f) \subset B(0, R)$ ,  $\max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} u(x, t) = \max_{x \in B(0, R)} u(x, t)$

Heuristic:

$$\max_x u(x, t) = u(x_0, t)$$
$$\Rightarrow u_t(x_0, t) \leq f(x_0) \quad (\text{MP}).$$



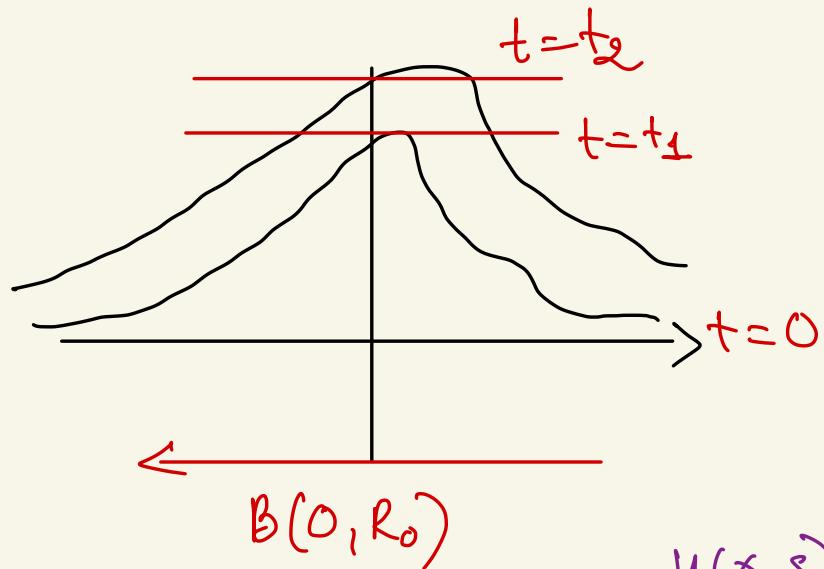
$$\max_{(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [0,T]} u(x, t) = u(x_0, t_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow u_t(x_0, t_0) \leq f(x_0) \Rightarrow x_0 \in \text{supp}(f) \subset B(0, R_0)$$

$\Downarrow$   
 $O$

Rigorous proof:  $u(x, t) - \delta t - \sqrt{1 + |x|^2}$

③ Snapshots (sideways pictures of  $u$ ).



$$M(t) = \max_x u(x, t)$$

keep track tip of the crystal

$M$  is Subadditive :

$$M(t+s) \leq M(t) + M(s),$$

$$\forall t, s > 0$$

$$u(x, s) \leq M(s)$$

↓ run for time  $t$

$$u(x, t+s) \leq M(s) + u(x, t)$$

$$\Rightarrow M(t+s) \leq M(s) + M(t).$$

Then by Fejér's lemma

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{M(t)}{t} = c = \inf_{s > 0} \frac{M(s)}{s}$$

$$M(2s) \leq 2M(s) \quad \therefore \quad \frac{M(s_0)}{s_0} \leq \frac{M(Ks_0)}{Ks_0}$$

---

Say  $M(t) = u(x_t, t)$  for some  $x_t \in B(0, R)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For any } x : |u(x, t) - u(x_t, t)| &\leq C|x - x_t| \\ &\leq C(|x| + R) \end{aligned}$$

$$\left| \frac{u(x, t)}{t} - \frac{M(t)}{t} \right| \leq C \frac{(|x| + R)}{t} \rightarrow 0 \text{ loc. uni.}$$

OPEN problem 2:  $c_f = c(f)$  : dependent on what way ?