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L^q-functional inequalities and weighted porous media equations

Jean Dolbeault, Ivan Gentil, Arnaud Guillin and Feng-Yu Wang

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Abstract

Using measure-capacity inequalities we study new functional inequalities, namely L^q -Poincaré inequalities

$$\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q)^{1/q} \leq C_P \int |\nabla f|^2 d\mu$$

and L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities

$$\mathbf{Ent}_\mu(f^{2q})^{1/q} \leq C_{LS} \int |\nabla f|^2 d\mu .$$

As a consequence, we establish the asymptotic behavior of the solutions to the so-called weighted porous media equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u^m - \nabla \psi \cdot \nabla u^m$$

for $m \geq 1$, in terms of L^2 -norms and entropies.

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1 Introduction

In this paper we analyze decay rates of the entropies associated to nonlinear diffusion equations using inequalities relating entropy and entropy production functionals. Consider for instance the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck semi-group on \mathbb{R}^d , which is governed by

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u - x \cdot \nabla u, \quad t \geq 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

with an initial condition $u_0 \in \mathcal{C}^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^1_+(\mathbb{R}^d, d\gamma)$. Here $d\gamma = \gamma dx$ is the Gaussian measure on \mathbb{R}^d , $\gamma(x) := (2\pi)^{-d/2} \exp(-|x|^2/2)$. Two entropies are widely used, namely

$$\mathbf{Var}_\gamma(u) := \int \left(u - \int u d\gamma \right)^2 d\gamma \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Ent}_\gamma(u) := \int u \log \left(\frac{u}{\int u d\gamma} \right) d\gamma .$$

If u is a smooth solution of the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck equation, integrations by parts show that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{Var}_\gamma(u) = - 2 \int |\nabla u|^2 d\gamma \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{Ent}_\gamma(u) = - 4 \int |\nabla \sqrt{u}|^2 d\gamma .$$

By the Poincaré inequality in the first case,

$$\forall f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad \mathbf{Var}_\gamma(f) \leq \int |\nabla f|^2 d\gamma,$$

and Gross' logarithmic Sobolev inequality, see [Gro75], in the second case,

$$\forall f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad \mathbf{Ent}_\gamma(f^2) \leq 2 \int |\nabla f|^2 d\gamma,$$

it follows from Gronwall's lemma that for any $t \geq 0$,

$$\mathbf{Var}_\gamma(u) \leq e^{-2t} \mathbf{Var}_\gamma(u_0) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Ent}_\gamma(u) \leq e^{-2t} \mathbf{Ent}_\gamma(u_0)$$

for all smooth initial conditions u_0 in $L^2_\gamma(\mathbb{R}^d)$ in the first case, or such that $\mathbf{Ent}_\gamma(u_0)$ is finite in the second case. With minor changes, the method can be extended to the semi-group generated by

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u - \nabla \psi \cdot \nabla u, \quad t \geq 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

if ψ is a smooth function such that $Z := \int e^{-\psi} dx$ is finite and the probability measure $d\mu_\psi = Z_\psi^{-1} e^{-\psi} dx$ satisfies a Poincaré inequality or a logarithmic Sobolev inequality. See for example [ABC⁺00] for a review on these inequalities and their applications.

A natural question is how to extend the variance or the entropy convergence to nonlinear semi-groups. Let $m > 1$, and consider the semi-group generated by the *weighted porous media equation*

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u^m - \nabla \psi \cdot \nabla u^m, \quad t \geq 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

with a non-negative initial condition $u(0, x) = u_0(x)$. This equation, in short (WPME) is a simple extension of the standard porous media equation, which corresponds to $\psi = 0$. We shall refer to [Váz92] for an introduction on this topic. A major difference is that under appropriate conditions on ψ the solution of (WPME) converges to its mean. In other words, the nonlinear semi-group converges to the limit measure μ_ψ . The variance of a solution of (WPME) now obeys to

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{Var}_{\mu_\psi}(u) = - \frac{8}{(m+1)^2} \int |\nabla u^{\frac{m+1}{2}}|^2 d\mu_\psi.$$

Classical Poincaré and logarithmic Sobolev inequalities are of no more use and have to be replaced by adapted functional inequalities, which are the purpose of this paper. This paper extends some earlier results on solutions to the porous media equation on the torus $S^1 \equiv [0, 1)$ and related functional inequalities, see [CDGJ06]. As for the functional inequalities, we will work in a more general framework involving two Borel probability measures μ and ν on a Riemannian manifold (M, g) , which are not necessarily absolutely continuous with respect to the volume measure. To consider quantities like $\int f^q d\mu$ and $\int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu$, it is therefore natural to work in the space of functions $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M)$, although slightly more general function spaces can be introduced by density with respect to appropriate norms. If the measures were absolutely continuous with respect to the volume measure, we could take functions which are only locally Lipschitz continuous as in [BCR05].

In Section 2 we will define functional inequalities that we shall call *L^q -Poincaré* and *L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities*. Equivalence of these inequalities with capacity-measure criteria will be established, based on Maz'ja's theory. Links with more classical inequalities such as weak Poincaré or weak logarithmic Sobolev inequalities are then studied in Section 3. Explicit criteria can be deduced from earlier works, mainly [BR03, BCR05, CGG05]. In Section 4

we will give applications to the weighted porous media equation. Using the L^q -Poincaré and L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities we describe the asymptotic behavior of the solutions in terms of variance or entropy. The proof of two variants of results of [BCR05] is given in an appendix, see Section 5.

Throughout this paper, we intend to work under minimal assumptions and do not require that the measures showing up on both sides of the inequalities are the same or that they are absolutely continuous with respect to the volume measure. However, when only one measure is specified, one has to understand that the measures μ and ν are the same on both sides of the inequalities.

2 Two L^q -functional inequalities

2.1 L^q -Poincaré inequalities

Definition 2.1 *Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . Assume that $q \in (0, 1]$. We shall say that (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality with constant C_P if for all non-negative functions $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M)$ one has*

$$[\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q)]^{1/q} := \left[\int f^{2q} d\mu - \left(\int f^q d\mu \right)^2 \right]^{1/q} \leq C_P \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu. \quad (1)$$

Note that if $q > 1$, Inequality (1) is not true if μ is not a Dirac measure. Consider indeed $f = 1 + \epsilon g$ with $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ and g bounded. By applying Inequality (1) we get

$$\left[q^2 \epsilon^2 (\mathbf{Var}_\mu(g^2) + o(1)) \right]^{1/q} \leq \epsilon^2 C_P \int |\nabla g|^2 d\nu + o(\epsilon^2).$$

If g is such that $\mathbf{Var}_\mu(g^2)$ and $\int |\nabla g|^2 d\nu$ are both positive and finite, we obtain a contradiction by letting $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ if $q > 1$.

Proposition 2.2 *For any bounded positive function f , the function $q \mapsto \mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q)^{1/q}$ is increasing with respect to $q \in (0, 1]$. As a consequence, if the L^{q_1} -Poincaré inequality holds, then the L^{q_2} -Poincaré inequality also holds for any $0 < q_2 \leq q_1 \leq 1$.*

We shall say that L^q -Poincaré inequalities form a *hierarchy* of inequalities. The classical Poincaré inequality corresponding to $q = 1$ implies all L^q -Poincaré inequalities for $q \in (0, 1)$.

Proof \triangleleft Without loss of generality, we may assume that f is positive. For any $q \in (0, 1)$, let $F(q) := \mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q)^{1/q}$. We have

$$\frac{F'(q)}{F(q)} = \frac{d}{dq} \log F(q) = \frac{1}{q} \left\{ -\log F(q) + \frac{\mu(f^{2q} \log f^2) - \mu(f^q) \mu(f^q \log f^2)}{F(q)^q} \right\}.$$

Let $h(t) := \mu(f^{tq} \log f^2) / \mu(f^{tq})$, $t \in (1, 2)$ and observe that by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, $\frac{2}{q} [\mu(f^{tq})]^2 h'(t) = \mu(f^{tq} (\log f^2)^2) \mu(f^{tq}) - [\mu(f^{tq} \log f^2)]^2 \geq 0$. This proves that

$$h(2) = \frac{\mu(f^{2q} \log f^2)}{\mu(f^{2q})} \geq \frac{\mu(f^q \log f^2)}{\mu(f^q)} = h(1).$$

Hence we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{qF'(q)}{F(q)} &\geq -\log F(q) + \frac{\left(1 - \frac{[\mu(f^q)]^2}{\mu(f^{2q})}\right) \mu(f^{2q} \log f^2)}{F(q)^q} = -\log F(q) + \frac{\mu(f^{2q} \log f^2)}{q \mu(f^{2q})} \\ &\geq -\log F(q) + \log (\mu(f^{2q}))^{1/q} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

where the last two inequalities hold by Jensen's inequality and by monotonicity of the logarithm. \triangleright

We will now give a characterization of the L^q -Poincaré inequality in terms of the *capacity measure criterion*. Such a criterion has recently been applied in [BCR06, Che05, CGG05] to give necessary and sufficient conditions for the usual, weak or super Poincaré inequality, and the usual or weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality or the F -Sobolev inequality. The capacity measure criterion allows to compare all these inequalities and can be characterized in terms of Hardy's inequality, in the one-dimensional case.

Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . Given measurable sets A and Ω such that $A \subset \Omega \subset M$, the capacity $\text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega)$ is defined as

$$\text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega) := \inf \left\{ \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu : f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M), \mathbb{I}_A \leq f \leq \mathbb{I}_\Omega \right\}.$$

If the set $\{f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M) : \mathbb{I}_A \leq f \leq \mathbb{I}_\Omega\}$ is empty then, by convention, we set $\text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega) := +\infty$. This is the case of $\text{Cap}_\nu(A, A) = +\infty$ for any bounded measurable set A and any ν with a locally positive density.

Let $q \in (0, 1)$ and define

$$\beta_P := \sup \left\{ \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{[\mu(\Omega_k)]^{1/(1-q)}}{[\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})]^{q/(1-q)}} \right\}^{(1-q)/q}$$

where the supremum is taken over all $\Omega \subset M$ with $\mu(\Omega) \leq 1/2$ and all sequences $(\Omega_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ such that for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\Omega_k \subset \Omega_{k+1} \subset \Omega$.

Theorem 2.3 *Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M .*

- (i) *If $q \in [1/2, 1)$ and (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality with a constant C_P , then $\beta_P \leq 2^{1/q} C_P$.*
- (ii) *If $q \in (0, 1)$ and $\beta_P < +\infty$, then (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality with constant $C_P \leq \kappa_P \beta_P$, for some constant κ_P which depends only on q .*

Proof \triangleleft The proof follows the main lines of Theorem 2.3.5 of [Maz85].

Proof of (i). Consider $\Omega \subset M$ such that $\mu(\Omega) \leq 1/2$ and let $(\Omega_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ be a sequence such that for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\Omega_k \subset \Omega_{k+1} \subset \Omega$. Fix $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and for $k \in \{-N, \dots, N\}$, let $f_k \in \mathcal{C}^1(M)$ be such that $\mathbb{I}_{\Omega_k} \leq f_k \leq \mathbb{I}_{\Omega_{k+1}}$. If no such f_k exists, that is if $\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}) = +\infty$, then we discard Ω_{k+1} from the sequence and reindex it. Finally, let $(\tau_k)_{k \in \{-N, \dots, N\}}$ be a non-increasing family of non-negative real numbers to be defined later. A function f on M is defined as follows:

- (1) $f = \tau_{-N}$ on Ω_{-N} ,
- (2) $f = (\tau_k - \tau_{k+1}) f_k + \tau_{k+1}$ on $\Omega_{k+1} \setminus \Omega_k$ for all $k \in \{-N, N-1\}$,
- (3) $f = \tau_N f_{N+1}$ on $\Omega_{N+1} \setminus \Omega_N$ and $f = 0$ on $\Omega \setminus \Omega_{N+1}$.

Using the fact that $f = 0$ on Ω^c , it follows from the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality that

$$\left(\int f^q d\mu \right)^2 \leq \mu(\Omega) \int f^{2q} d\mu,$$

from which we get

$$\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q) \geq \frac{1}{2} \int f^{2q} d\mu.$$

By the co-area formula, we obtain

$$\int f^{2q} d\mu = \int_0^\infty \mu(\{f \geq t\}) d(t^{2q}) \geq \sum_{k=-N}^{N-1} \int_{\tau_{k+1}}^{\tau_k} \mu(\{f \geq \tau_k\}) d(t^{2q}) = \sum_{k=-N}^{N-1} \mu(\{f \geq \tau_k\}) (\tau_k^{2q} - \tau_{k+1}^{2q}).$$

From $2q \geq 1$, we get $(\tau_k^{2q} - \tau_{k+1}^{2q}) \geq (\tau_k - \tau_{k+1})^{2q}$, and

$$\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q) \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=-N}^{N-1} \mu(\Omega_k) (\tau_k - \tau_{k+1})^{2q}.$$

Using the L^q -Poincaré inequality we get

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=-N}^{N-1} \mu(\Omega_k) (\tau_k - \tau_{k+1})^{2q} \right)^{1/q} \leq C_P \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu.$$

On the other hand, with the convention $\tau_{N+1} = 0$, we have

$$\int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu = \sum_{k=-N}^N (\tau_k - \tau_{k+1})^2 \int_{\Omega_{k+1} \setminus \Omega_k} |\nabla f_k|^2 d\nu.$$

We may now take the infimum over all functions f_k and obtain

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=-N}^{N-1} \mu(\Omega_k) (\tau_k - \tau_{k+1})^{2q} \right)^{1/q} \leq C_P \sum_{k=-N}^N (\tau_k - \tau_{k+1})^2 \text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}).$$

Next consider an appropriate choice of $(\tau_k)_{k=-N}^N$: for $k \in \{-N, \dots, N\}$, let

$$\tau_k = \sum_{j=k}^N \left(\frac{\mu(\Omega_j)}{\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_j, \Omega_{j+1})} \right)^{\frac{1}{2(1-q)}}.$$

We observe that $\tau_k - \tau_{k+1} = \left(\frac{\mu(\Omega_k)}{\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})} \right)^{1/(2(1-q))}$ and

$$\left\{ \sum_{k=-N}^{N-1} \frac{\mu(\Omega_k)^{1/(1-q)}}{\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})^{q/(1-q)}} \right\}^{(1-q)/q} \leq 2^{1/q} C_P (1 + \mathcal{R}_N)$$

with $\mathcal{R}_N := \frac{\mu(\Omega_N)^{1/(1-q)}}{\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_N, \Omega_{N+1})^{q/(1-q)}} \left\{ \sum_{k=-N}^{N-1} \frac{\mu(\Omega_k)^{1/(1-q)}}{\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})^{q/(1-q)}} \right\}^{-1}$. By taking the limit as N goes to infinity, we obtain $\beta_P \leq 2^{1/q} C_P$.

Proof of (ii). Let f be a smooth non-negative function on M and take $q \in (0, 1]$. For all $a \geq 0$,

$$\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q) \leq \int (f^q - a^q)^2 d\mu \leq \int |f - a|^{2q} d\mu.$$

With $a := m(f)$, a median of f with respect to μ , define $F_+ = (f - a)_+$ and $F_- = (f - a)_- = F_+ - (f - a)$, so that

$$\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q) \leq \int (f^q - a^q)^2 d\mu \leq \int F_+^{2q} d\mu + \int F_-^{2q} d\mu.$$

We recall that $m = m(f)$ is a median of f with respect to the measure μ if and only if $\mu(\{f \geq m\}) \geq 1/2$ and $\mu(\{f \leq m\}) \geq 1/2$. The computation of the term $\int F_-^{2q} d\mu$ is exactly the same as the one of $\int F_+^{2q} d\mu$, so we shall only detail one of them. Let us fix $\rho \in (0, 1)$, note $\Omega_k := \{F_+ \geq \rho^k\}$ for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, and use again the co-area formula:

$$\int F_+^{2q} d\mu = \int_0^{+\infty} \mu(\{F_+ \geq t\}) d(t^{2q}) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \int_{\rho^{k+1}}^{\rho^k} \mu(\{F_+ \geq t\}) d(t^{2q}) \leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \mu(\Omega_k) \rho^{2kq}.$$

By Hölder's inequality with parameters $(1/(1-q), 1/q)$ one gets

$$\begin{aligned} \int F_+^{2q} d\mu &\leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\mu(\Omega_k)^{1/(1-q)}}{\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})^{q/(1-q)}} \right)^{1-q} \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \rho^{2k} \text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}) \right)^q \\ &\leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \beta_{\text{P}}^q \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \rho^{2k} \text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}) \right)^q. \end{aligned}$$

For $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, define $g_k := \min \left\{ 1, \left(\frac{F_+ - \rho^{k+1}}{\rho^k - \rho^{k+1}} \right)_+ \right\}$. Then we have $\mathbb{I}_{\Omega_k} \leq g_k \leq \mathbb{I}_{\Omega_{k+1}}$,

$$\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}) \leq \int_{\Omega_{k+1} \setminus \Omega_k} |\nabla g_k|^2 d\nu = \frac{1}{\rho^{2k}(1-\rho)^2} \int_{\Omega_{k+1} \setminus \Omega_k} |\nabla F_+|^2 d\nu.$$

Hence

$$\int F_+^{2q} d\mu \leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}(1-\rho)^{2q}} \beta_{\text{P}}^q \left(\int |\nabla F_+|^2 d\nu \right)^q.$$

The same inequality holds for F_- :

$$\int F_-^{2q} d\mu \leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}(1-\rho)^{2q}} \beta_{\text{P}}^q \left(\int |\nabla F_-|^2 d\nu \right)^q.$$

Using the inequality $a^q + b^q \leq 2^{1-q}(a+b)^q$ for any $a, b \geq 0$, ones gets

$$(\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q))^{1/q} \leq \kappa_{\text{P}} \beta_{\text{P}} \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu$$

with $\kappa_{\text{P}} := 2^{(1-q)/q} \min_{\rho \in (0,1)} \frac{(1-\rho^{2q})^{1/q}}{\rho^{2q}(1-\rho)^2}$. \triangleright

2.2 L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities

Definition 2.4 Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M and assume that $q \in (0, 1]$. We shall say that (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality with constant C_{LS} if and only if, for any non-negative function $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M)$,

$$\mathbf{Ent}_\mu(f^{2q})^{1/q} := \left(\int f^{2q} \frac{\log f^{2q}}{\int f^{2q} d\mu} d\mu \right)^{1/q} \leq C_{\text{LS}} \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu.$$

It is well known that $\mathbf{Ent}_\mu(f^2) \geq \mathbf{Var}_\mu(f)$ for any non-negative function f , for any probability measure μ . Hence, for any $q \in (0, 1]$, any L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality results in a L^q -Poincaré inequality with corresponding measures.

Let $q \in (0, 1)$ and define

$$\beta_{\text{LS}} = \sup \left\{ \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\left[\mu(\Omega_k) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(\Omega_k)} \right) \right]^{1/(1-q)}}{[\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})]^{q/(1-q)}} \right\}^{(1-q)/q}$$

where the supremum is taken over all $\Omega \subset M$ with $\mu(\Omega) \leq 1/2$ and all sequence $(\Omega_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ such that, for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\Omega_k \subset \Omega_{k+1} \subset \Omega$.

Theorem 2.5 *Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . If $q \in (0, 1)$ and $\beta_{\text{LS}} < +\infty$, then (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality with constant $C_{\text{LS}} \leq \kappa_{\text{LS}} \beta_{\text{LS}}$, where κ_{LS} depends only on q .*

This theorem is the counterpart for the L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality of Theorem 2.3, (ii). As for Theorem 2.3, (i), related results will be stated in Corollary 3.8.

Proof \triangleleft Let f be a smooth function on M , $m = m(f)$ a median of f with respect to μ , and $\Omega_+ := \{|f| > m\}$, $\Omega_- := \{|f| < m\}$. As in [BR03], we can write the dual formulation

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Ent}_\mu(f^{2q}) \leq & \sup \left\{ \int (|f|^q - m^q)_+^2 h d\mu : h \geq 0, \int e^h d\mu \leq e^2 + 1 \right\} \\ & + \sup \left\{ \int (|f|^q - m^q)_-^2 h d\mu : h \geq 0, \int e^h d\mu \leq e^2 + 1 \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Such an inequality follows from Rothaus' estimate, [Rot85],

$$\mathbf{Ent}_\mu(g^2) \leq \mathbf{Ent}_\mu((g - a)^2) + 2\mu((g - a)^2)$$

for any $a \in \mathbb{R}$, and the fact that, according to Lemma 5 in [BR03],

$$\mathbf{Ent}_\mu((g - a)_+^2) + 2\mu((g - a)_+^2) \leq \sup \left\{ \int (g - a)_+^2 h d\mu : h \geq 0, \int e^h d\mu \leq e^2 + 1 \right\}.$$

Estimates for the positive and the negative part are exactly the same, so we will give details only for $F_+ := (|f| - m)_+$. Using the fact that $(t^q - 1)^2 < (t - 1)^{2q}$ for any $t > 1$, for $q \in (0, 1)$, we get

$$\int (|f|^q - m^q)_+^2 h d\mu \leq \int F_+^{2q} h d\mu.$$

Let $\rho \in (0, 1)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int F_+^{2q} h d\mu &= \int_0^{+\infty} \int_{F_+ > t} h d\mu d(t^{2q}) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \int_{\rho^{k+1}}^{\rho^k} \int_{F_+ > t} h d\mu d(t^{2q}) \\ &\leq \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \left(\rho^{2qk} - \rho^{2q(k+1)} \right) \int_{F_+ > \rho^{k+1}} h d\mu = \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \rho^{2qk} \int_{F_+ > \rho^k} h d\mu. \end{aligned}$$

Using Lemma 6 of [BR03], which asserts that

$$\int_{F_+ > \rho^k} h d\mu \leq \mu(\Omega_k) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(\Omega_k)} \right)$$

where $\Omega_k := \{F_+ > \rho^k\}$, we obtain

$$\sup \left\{ \int F_+^{2q} h \, d\mu : h \geq 0, \int e^h \, d\mu \leq e^2 + 1 \right\} \leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \rho^{2qk} \mu(\Omega_k) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(\Omega_k)} \right).$$

By Hölder's inequality, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Ent}_\mu \left(F_+^{2q} \right) &\leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \rho^{2qk} \mu(\Omega_k) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(\Omega_k)} \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\left[\mu(\Omega_k) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(\Omega_k)} \right) \right]^{1/(1-q)}}{[\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})]^{q/(1-q)}} \right)^{1-q} \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \rho^{2k} \text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}) \right)^q \\ &\leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \beta_{\text{LS}}^q \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \rho^{2k} \text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}) \right)^q \\ &\leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \beta_{\text{LS}}^q \left(\int |\nabla F_+|^2 \, d\mu \right)^q. \end{aligned}$$

The same computation shows that

$$\mathbf{Ent}_\mu \left(F_-^{2q} \right) \leq \frac{1 - \rho^{2q}}{\rho^{2q}} \beta_{\text{LS}}^q \left(\int |\nabla F_-|^2 \, d\mu \right)^q.$$

Summing both contributions in Inequality (2) completes the proof with

$$\kappa_{\text{LS}} = 2^{\frac{1-q}{q}} (1 - \rho^{2q})^{1/q} \rho^{-2}.$$

▷

3 Weak inequalities and explicit criteria

The goal of this section is to provide tractable criteria to establish L^q -Poincaré and the L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities. The strategy here is to adapt results which have been obtained for weak Poincaré inequalities by Barthe, Cattiaux and Roberto in [BCR05]. Two important results stated in this paper are extended to measures μ and ν which are not supposed to be absolutely continuous with respect to the volume measure, and given with proofs in Section 5.

3.1 L^q Poincaré and weak Poincaré inequalities

Even if the constants β_{P} and β_{LS} provide an estimate of the best constant of the L^q -Poincaré and the L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities, their expressions in terms of suprema taken over infinite sequences of sets are *a priori* difficult to use. In this section, we look for simpler criteria and establish upper and lower bounds on the constants.

The first idea is relate the L^q -Poincaré inequality and the weak Poincaré inequality introduced by Röckner and the fourth author in [RW01]. Let us define the *oscillation* of a bounded function f by $\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(f) := \text{supess}_\mu f - \text{infess}_\mu f$. If μ is absolutely continuous with respect to the volume measure and f is continuous, we can therefore define such a quantity as $(\sup \tilde{f} - \inf \tilde{f})$ where \tilde{f} is the restriction of f to the support of μ . Our definition slightly differs from the one of [RW01], which is based on $\text{supess}_\mu |f - \int f \, d\mu|$.

Definition 3.1 Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . We shall say that (μ, ν) satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality if there exists a non-negative non increasing function on $(0, +\infty) \ni s \mapsto \beta_{\text{WP}}(s)$ such that, for any bounded function $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M)$,

$$\forall s > 0, \quad \mathbf{Var}_\mu(f) \leq \beta_{\text{WP}}(s) \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu + s [\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(f)]^2.$$

Since $\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f) \leq \mu((f-a)^2)$ for all $a \in \mathbb{R}$, and as a special case, for $a = (\text{supess}_\mu f + \text{infess}_\mu f)/2$, $\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f) \leq [\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(f)]^2/4$, which means that we can assume that $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) \equiv 0$ for any $s \geq 1/4$.

Proposition 3.2 Let $q \in [1/2, 1)$. If (μ, ν) satisfies the L^q -Poincaré inequality, then it also satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality with $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = \kappa \beta_{\text{P}} s^{1-1/q}$, $\kappa := (11 + 5\sqrt{5})/2$.

Proof \triangleleft By Theorem 2.3, the constant β_{P} is finite. Let $A \subset \Omega \subset M$ with $\mu(\Omega) \leq 1/2$ and consider the sequence: $(\Omega_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ such that $\Omega_k = A$ for all $k \leq 0$, $\Omega_k = \Omega$ and for all $k > 0$. Notice that $\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}) = \infty$ if $\Omega_k = \Omega_{k+1}$. By definition of β_{P} we get

$$\frac{[\mu(A)]^{1/q}}{\beta_{\text{P}}} \leq \text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega).$$

Using the method of Barthe, Cattiaux and Roberto in [BCR05], Theorem 2, one can then prove that (μ, ν) satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality with constant $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s)$. See Theorem 5.3 for a precise statement and apply it with $\gamma(s) = \beta_{\text{P}} s^{1-1/q}$. \triangleright

Another criterion to prove L^q -Poincaré inequalities is based on Theorem 2.3.6 of [Maz85].

Theorem 3.3 ([Maz85]) Let $q \in [1/2, 1)$. For all bounded open set $\Omega \subset M$, if $(\Omega_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is an increasing sequence of open sets such that $\Omega_k \subset \Omega_{k+1} \subset \Omega$, then

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\mu(\Omega_k)^{1/(1-q)}}{[\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})]^{q/(1-q)}} \leq \frac{1}{1-q} \int_0^{\mu(\Omega)} \left(\frac{t}{\Phi(t)} \right)^{q/(1-q)} dt,$$

where $\Phi(t) := \inf \{ \text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega) : A \subset \Omega, \mu(A) \geq t \}$.

Notice that as a consequence, $\beta_{\text{P}} \leq (1-q)^{-(1-q)/q} \|t/\Phi(t)\|_{L^{q/(1-q)}(0, \mu(\Omega))}$

Corollary 3.4 Let $q \in [1/2, 1)$ and assume that (μ, ν) satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality with function β_{WP} . Then (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality with

$$\beta_{\text{P}} \leq \kappa_{\text{P}} \left(\frac{4}{1-q} \right)^{\frac{1-q}{q}} \|\beta_{\text{WP}}(\cdot/4)\|_{L^{\frac{q}{1-q}}(0, 1/2)}$$

where κ_{P} is defined in Theorem 2.3.

Proof \triangleleft The method is again similar to the one of Theorem 2 in [BCR05]; see Theorem 5.3 in Section 5. If (μ, ν) satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality, then for all $\Omega \subset M$ with $\mu(\Omega) \leq 1/2$, $A \subset \Omega$,

$$\frac{\mu(A)}{4\beta_{\text{WP}}(\mu(A)/4)} \leq \text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega).$$

Hence for $t > 0$, $\Phi(t) \geq \frac{t}{4\beta_{\text{WP}}(t/4)}$, and the result follows. \triangleright

Proposition 3.2 and Corollary 3.4 can be summarized as follows. For any $q \in [1/2, 1)$,

$$L^q\text{-Poincaré} \implies \begin{array}{c} \text{Weak Poincaré} \\ \text{with } \beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = C s^{\frac{q-1}{q}} \end{array} \implies \begin{array}{c} L^{q'}\text{-Poincaré} \\ \forall q' \in (0, q) \end{array}.$$

As we shall see in Section 3.5, weak Poincaré inequalities with $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = C s^{\frac{q-1}{q}}$ do not imply $L^{q'}$ -Poincaré inequalities with $q' = q$.

3.2 L^q -Logarithmic Sobolev and weak logarithmic Sobolev inequalities

L^q -Poincaré have been established in terms of weak Poincaré inequalities in Section 3.1. Very similar characterizations can be done for L^q -logarithmic Sobolev in terms of weak logarithmic Sobolev inequalities. Recall first the definition of the weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality.

Definition 3.5 *Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . We say that (μ, ν) satisfies a weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality if there exists a positive and non-increasing function h_{WLS} on \mathbb{R}^+ such that for any bounded function $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M)$,*

$$\forall s > 0, \quad \mathbf{Ent}_\mu(f^2) \leq h_{\text{WLS}}(s) \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu + s [\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(f)]^2.$$

A preliminary step amounts to state the analogue of Proposition 3.2.

Proposition 3.6 *Let $q \in [1/2, 1)$. If μ is absolutely continuous with respect to the volume measure and (μ, ν) satisfies the L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality, then it also satisfies a weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality with $h_{\text{WLS}}(s) = c_q s^{1-1/q}$ for some positive constant c_q .*

Proof \triangleleft By Legendre duality, for any non-negative function f ,

$$\int f^{2q} g d\mu \leq \mathbf{Ent}_\mu(f^{2q}) \quad \forall g \text{ such that } \int e^g d\mu \leq 1.$$

Let $A \subset \Omega \subset M$ with $\mu(\Omega) \leq 1$ and assume that $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M)$ is such that $\mathbb{I}_A \leq f \leq \mathbb{I}_\Omega$. Then by the L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality for (μ, ν) , we get

$$\left(\int_A g d\mu \right)^{1/q} \leq \left(\int f^{2q} g d\mu \right)^{1/q} \leq \beta_{\text{LS}} \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu.$$

Choose now $g = -\infty$ on Ω^c , $g = 0$ on $\Omega \setminus A$ and $g = \log(1 + 1/(2\mu(A)))$ on A so that $\int e^g d\mu \leq 1$. Using $\mathbb{I}_A \leq f \leq \mathbb{I}_\Omega$, a simple computation gives

$$\mathbf{Ent}_\mu(f^{2q})^{1/q} \geq \left[\mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{2\mu(A)} \right) \right]^{1/q} \geq c^{1/q} \frac{\mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(A)} \right)}{\left[\mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(A)} \right) \right]^{1-1/q}}$$

where $c := \log 2 / \log(1 + 2e^2)$. Now optimizing in f leads to

$$\text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega) \geq \frac{c^{1/q}}{\beta_{\text{LS}}} \frac{\mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(A)} \right)}{\left[\mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(A)} \right) \right]^{1-1/q}},$$

which entails the desired weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality by [CGG05, Th. 2.2] \triangleright

Let us study the reciprocal property.

Theorem 3.7 *Let $q \in [1/2, 1)$. For any $\Omega \subset M$, $(\Omega_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ such that $\Omega_k \subset \Omega_{k+1} \subset \Omega$, one gets*

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\left[\mu(\Omega_k) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(\Omega_k)} \right) \right]^{1/(1-q)}}{[\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})]^{q/(1-q)}} \leq \frac{1}{1-q} \int_0^{\mu(\Omega)} \left(\frac{t}{\psi(t)} \right)^{q/(1-q)} dt,$$

where $\psi(t) := \inf \left\{ \text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega) : A \subset \Omega, \mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(A)} \right) \geq t \right\}$.

Proof \triangleleft The proof is a direct adaptation of the proof of Theorem 3.3 (see pages 122 and 123 of [Maz85]). \triangleright

As a consequence, we obtain the following characterization. Let $c := \log 2 / (2 \log(1 + 2e^2))$.

Corollary 3.8 *Let $q \in [1/2, 1)$. Assume that (μ, ν) satisfies a weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality with function h_{WLS} . Then it satisfies a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality if*

$$\int_0^{1/2} h_{\text{WLS}}(ct)^{q/(1-q)} dt < +\infty .$$

In such a case, the optimal constant of the L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality is bounded by $\kappa_{\text{LS}} \left(\frac{4}{1-q} \int_0^{1/2} h_{\text{WLS}}(ct)^{q/(1-q)} dt \right)^{(1-q)/q}$, where κ_{LS} is defined in Theorem 2.5.

Proof \triangleleft By Theorem 2.2 in [CGG05] (also see Lemma 5.4), for all $\Omega \subset M$ with $\mu(\Omega) \leq 1/2$, $A \subset \Omega$,

$$\frac{\frac{\mu(A)}{2} \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{2\mu(A)} \right)}{h_{\text{WLS}} \left[\frac{\mu(A)}{2} \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{2\mu(A)} \right) \right]} \leq \text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega) ,$$

Picking $c = \log(2) / (2 \log(1 + 2e^2))$, we thus get

$$c \frac{\mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(A)} \right)}{h_{\text{WLS}} \left[c \mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(A)} \right) \right]} \leq \text{Cap}_\nu(A, \Omega) .$$

Theorem 3.7 then gives the result because $\psi(t) \geq ct / h_{\text{WLS}}(ct)$. \triangleright

As a consequence of Proposition 3.6 and Corollary 3.8, we have the following result.

Corollary 3.9 *Let $q \in [1/2, 1)$ and assume that (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality. Then for all $0 < q' < q$, all $\Omega \subset M$ with $\mu(\Omega) \leq 1/2$ and all sequence $(\Omega_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ such that, for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\Omega_k \subset \Omega_{k+1} \subset \Omega$, we have*

$$\beta_{\text{LS}}^{q'} = \sup \left\{ \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\left[\mu(\Omega_k) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(\Omega_k)} \right) \right]^{1/(1-q')}}{\left[\text{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}) \right]^{q'/(1-q')}} \right\}^{(1-q')/q'} < +\infty .$$

This result completes that of Theorem 2.5. Unfortunately the equivalence is not proved for the L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality. This however proves the counterpart of Proposition 2.2, namely the hierarchy between L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities. Summarizing the results of this subsection, we have for any $q \in [1/2, 1)$,

$$L^q\text{-Logarithmic Sobolev} \implies \begin{array}{c} \text{Weak logarithmic Sobolev} \\ \text{with } h_{\text{WLS}}(s) = C s^{\frac{q-1}{q}} \end{array} \implies L^{q'}\text{-Logarithmic Sobolev} \quad \forall q' \in (0, q) .$$

3.3 A Hardy condition on \mathbb{R}

On \mathbb{R} , to a probability measure μ and a positive measure ν with density ρ_ν with respect to Lebesgue's measure, if m_μ is a median of μ , we associate the functions

$$R(x) := \mu([x, +\infty)) , \quad L(x) := \mu((-\infty, x]) , \quad r(x) := \int_{m_\mu}^x \frac{1}{\rho_\nu} dx \quad \text{and} \quad \ell(x) := \int_x^{m_\mu} \frac{1}{\rho_\nu} dx .$$

Proposition 3.10 *Let $q \in [1/2, 1]$, and let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on \mathbb{R} . With the above notations, (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality if*

$$\int_{m_\mu}^{\infty} |r R|^{q/(1-q)} d\mu < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{m_\mu} |\ell L|^{q/(1-q)} d\mu < \infty .$$

Analogously, (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality if

$$\int_{m_\mu}^{\infty} |r R \log R|^{q/(1-q)} d\mu < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{m_\mu} |\ell L \log L|^{q/(1-q)} d\mu < \infty .$$

Proof \triangleleft The proof of Theorem 3 in [BCR05] can then be adapted to the setting of Proposition 3.10. It relies on weak Poincaré inequalities. Taking advantage of $\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f) \leq \mu(|F_-|^2) + \mu(|F_+|^2)$ with $F_\pm := (f - f(m_\mu))_\pm$, we notice that the weak Poincaré inequality

$$\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f) \leq \kappa \gamma(s) \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu + s [\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(f)]^2 \quad \forall s \in (0, 1/2)$$

holds if we are able to prove independently for $g = F_+$ and $g = F_-$ that the inequality

$$\mu(|g|^2) \leq \kappa \gamma(s) \int |\nabla g|^2 d\nu + s [\text{supess}_\mu g]^2 \quad \forall s \in (0, 1/2)$$

holds for some positive non increasing function γ on $(0, 1)$ and for $\kappa := (11 + 5\sqrt{5})/2$. For this purpose, we are going to rely on Lemma 5.2. If A and B are two measurable subsets of $M = (m_\mu, \infty)$ such that $A \subset B$ and $\mu(B) \leq 1/2$, then

$$\text{Cap}_\nu(A, B) \geq \text{Cap}_\nu(A, (m_\mu, \infty)) = \text{Cap}_\nu((a, \infty), (m_\mu, \infty)) = \frac{1}{r(a)}$$

where $a = \inf A$. By Lemma 5.2, it is therefore sufficient to prove that

$$\frac{1}{r(a)} \geq \frac{R(a)}{\gamma(R(a))} \quad \forall a > m_\mu .$$

With the change of variables $t = R(a)$, $a > m_\mu$, this amounts to require that

$$\gamma(t) \geq t (r \circ R^{-1})(t) .$$

With no restriction, we can choose $\gamma(t) := t (r \circ R)^{-1}(t)$ for any $t \in (0, 1/2)$.

By Corollaries 3.4 and 3.8, (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality if $\beta_{\text{WP}} \in L^{q/(1-q)}(0, 1/2)$ and a L^q -logarithmic inequality if $h_{\text{WLS}} \in L^{q/(1-q)}(0, 1/2)$. \triangleright

3.4 Examples

Let us illustrate the above results on L^q -Poincaré and L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities with examples on $M = \mathbb{R}$, in case of a single measure $\mu = \nu$. We start with some observations on L^q -Poincaré inequalities.

- (i) The classical Poincaré inequality implies a L^q -Poincaré inequality for all $q \in [1/2, 1)$ by Proposition 2.2. This gives an explicit estimate of the constant $\kappa_{p,q}$ of Theorem 1 of [CDGJ06] when $pq = 2$, that is $\kappa_{p,q} \geq 2^{p+2} \pi^2$. Recall indeed that $1/(4\pi^2)$ is the Poincaré constant of the uniform measure on $[0, 1)$, with periodic boundary conditions.

- (ii) For $p \in (0, 1)$, the probability measure $d\mu = e^{-|x|^p}/(2\Gamma(1 + 1/p)) dx$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality with $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = C \log(2/s)^{2/p-2}$ for some positive constant C . As a consequence, μ also satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality for all $q \in [1/2, 1)$.
- (iii) For $\alpha > 0$, the probability measure $d\mu = \alpha(1 + |x|)^{-1-\alpha} dx/2$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality with $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = C s^{-2/\alpha}$ for some positive constant C , see [RW01, BCR05]. Then for any $q \in [1/2, 1)$, the probability measure μ satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality if $\alpha > 2q/(1 - q)$. As in Example 1.1 of [Wan06] in case of Orlicz-Poincaré inequalities (see below), the L^q -Poincaré inequality is not satisfied for $\alpha = 2q/(1 - q)$.

Similar remarks can be done for L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities.

- (i) Gross' logarithmic Sobolev inequality implies the L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality, for all $q \in [1/2, 1)$.
- (ii) For $p \in (0, 1)$, the probability measure $d\mu = e^{-|x|^p}/(2\Gamma(1 + 1/p)) dx$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, satisfies a weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality with $h_{\text{WLS}}(s) = C (\log 1/s)^{(2-p)/p}$ for some positive constant C , see [CGG05]. As a consequence, $d\mu$ also satisfies a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality for all $q \in [1/2, 1)$.
- (iii) For $\alpha > 0$, the probability measure $d\mu = \alpha(1 + |x|)^{-1-\alpha} dx/2$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, satisfies the weak logarithmic Sobolev with $h_{\text{WLS}}(s) = C s^{-2/\alpha} (\log(1/s))^{(2+\alpha)/\alpha}$ for some positive constant C , see [CGG05]. Then for any $q \in [1/2, 1)$, the probability measure μ satisfies a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality if $\alpha > 2q/(1 - q)$.

At the light of the above examples L^q -Poincaré and L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequalities seem to be satisfied by the same measures. This is not true as shown by the following example. On \mathbb{R} , the probability measure

$$d\mu = \frac{C_{\alpha,\beta}}{1 + |x|^{1+\alpha} |\log x|^\beta} dx \quad \text{with } \alpha > 0, \beta \in \mathbb{R},$$

satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality with $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = C s^{-2/\alpha} (\log(1/s))^{-2\beta/\alpha}$ for some constant $C > 0$ and a weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality with $h_{\text{WLS}}(s) = C' s^{-2/\alpha} (\log(1/s))^{1+2(1-\beta)/\alpha}$ for some positive constant C' . Fix α such that $\frac{2}{\alpha} \frac{q}{1-q} = 1$. Using Bertrand's integrals, the probability measure μ satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality if and only if $\beta > 1$, and a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality if and only if $\beta > 1 + 1/(1 - q)$. The two conditions clearly differ.

3.5 Orlicz-Poincaré inequalities

The L^q -Poincaré inequality for $q \in [1/2, 1)$ is a particular case of the Orlicz-Poincaré inequality introduced by Roberto and Zegarlinski in [RZ06] in the sub-Gaussian case and by the fourth author in [Wan06], in the others cases.

Proposition 3.11 *Let $q \in [1/2, 1]$. Then the L^q -Poincaré inequality holds for some $C_P > 0$ if and only if the following Orlicz-Poincaré inequality*

$$\left(\int |f - \mu(f)|^{2q} d\mu \right)^{1/q} \leq C_{\text{OP}} \int |\nabla f|^2 d\mu. \quad (3)$$

holds for some $C_{\text{OP}} > 0$.

Proof \triangleleft We notice that $\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q) \leq \int (f^q - a)^2 d\mu$ for any $a \in \mathbb{R}$, and as a special case for $a = \mu(f)$. The function $t \mapsto (t^q - 1)/(t - 1)^q$ is monotone increasing on $(1, \infty)$ and converges to 1 as $t \rightarrow \infty$, so that $(t^q - 1)^2 \leq (t - 1)^{2q}$ for any $t \in (1, \infty)$. This proves that $\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f^q) \leq \int |f - \mu(f)|^{2q} d\mu$. Inequality (3) therefore implies the L^q -Poincaré inequality. On the other hand, let $F := f - m$, where m is a median of f . We have

$$\|f - \mu(f)\|_{2q} = \|F - \mu(F)\|_{2q} \leq \|F\|_{2q} + \mu(|F|) \leq 2\|F\|_{2q},$$

and hence

$$\mu(|f - \mu(f)|^{2q}) \leq 2^{2q} \int (F_+^{2q} + F_-^{2q}) d\mu.$$

As in the proof of Theorem 2.3, (3) follows from $\beta_P < \infty$. \triangleright

We are now in position to prove that weak Poincaré inequalities with $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = C s^{\frac{q-1}{q}}$ and L^q Poincaré inequalities are not equivalent (see the end of Section 3.1), or to be precise that

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Weak Poincaré} \\ \text{with } \beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = C s^{\frac{q-1}{q}} \end{array} \not\Rightarrow L^q\text{-Poincaré}.$$

By Proposition 3.11 and according to [Wan06, Proposition 3.2], $\mu(f^{2q/(1-q)})$ is finite for any $f \in \mathcal{C}^1$ with $\|f\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1$. An example for which a weak Poincaré inequality with $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = C s^{(q-1)/q}$ holds while the L^q Poincaré inequality is wrong is given by $\mu = \nu = \alpha(1 + |x|)^{-1-\alpha} dx/2$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\alpha = 2q/(1-q)$, which satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality with $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) = C s^{(q-1)/q}$ for some positive constant C , and $f(x) := \sqrt{1 + x^2}$.

3.6 Perturbation, tensorization and concentration of measure

Proposition 3.12 (i) *Let μ, ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . Assume that h is a bounded function on M and define the probability measure $d\mu_h := Z_h^{-1} e^h d\mu$ with $Z_h := \int e^h d\mu$. If (μ, ν) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré (resp. a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev) inequality with constant C_P (resp. C_{LS}), then (μ_h, ν) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré (resp. a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev) inequality with constant $C_P \exp(\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(h)/q)$ (resp. $C_{\text{LS}} \exp(\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(h)/q)$).*

(ii) *If for any $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, μ_i is a probability measure and (μ_i, μ_i) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré (resp. a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev) inequality with constant C_{P_i} (resp. C_{LS_i}), then $(\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i, \otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i)$ satisfies a L^q -Poincaré (resp. L^q -logarithmic Sobolev) inequality on M^n with constant $n^{1/q-1} \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} C_{P_i}$ (resp. $n^{1/q-1} \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} C_{\text{LS}_i}$).*

(iii) *If μ is a probability measure and (μ, μ) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality, then for any non-negative function $f \in \mathcal{C}^1$ with $\|f\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1$ there exists $t_0 > 0$ and $C > 0$ such that*

$$\forall t \geq t_0, \quad \mu(\{f \geq t\}) \leq \frac{C}{t^{2q/(1-q)}}. \quad (4)$$

Proof \triangleleft The first point is based on the same proof as in Theorem 3.4.1 and 3.4.3 of [ABC⁺00]. We observe that for any $a \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\mathbf{Var}_{\mu_h}(f^q) \leq \int |f^q - a|^2 d\mu_h \leq e^{-\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(h)} \int |f^q - a|^2 d\mu,$$

and apply the L^q -Poincaré inequality with $a = \mu(f)$. Similarly, with $a = \mu(f)$, we get

$$\mathbf{Ent}_{\mu_h}(f^q) \leq \int \left[f^q \log \left(\frac{f^q}{a} \right) + f^q - a \right] d\mu_h \leq e^{-\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(h)} \mathbf{Ent}_\mu(f^q).$$

The second point is almost the same as in Theorem 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 of [ABC⁺00]: for all functions $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M)$ (see Proposition 1.4.1 of [ABC⁺00]), by sub-additivity of the variance,

$$\mathbf{Var}_{\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i}(f^q) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \int \mathbf{Var}_{\mu_i}(f^q) d\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i .$$

Apply the L^q -Poincaré inequality, $[\mathbf{Var}_{\mu_i}(f^q)]^{1/q} \leq C_{P_i} \int |\nabla_{x_i} f|^2 d\mu_i$, component by component to get

$$\mathbf{Var}_{\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i}(f^q) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \int \left(C_{P_i} \int |\nabla_{x_i} f|^2 d\mu_i \right)^q d\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i .$$

Hölder's inequality with $q \in (0, 1)$, and the identity $\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^q \leq n^{1-q} (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i)^q$ for $x_i \geq 0$, give

$$\mathbf{Var}_{\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i}(f^q) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \left(C_{P_i} \int |\nabla f|^2 d\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i \right)^q \leq n^{1-q} \left(\max_{1 \leq i \leq n} C_{P_i} \sum_{i=1}^n \int |\nabla f|^2 d\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i \right)^q ,$$

with the notation $\sum_{i=1}^n |\nabla_{x_i} f|^2 = |\nabla f|^2$. The proof for the L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality is similar and relies on the sub-additivity of the entropy:

$$\mathbf{Ent}_{\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i}(f^{2q}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \int \mathbf{Ent}_{\mu_i}(f^{2q}) d\otimes_{i=1}^n \mu_i .$$

Property (iii) is inspired by the method of Aida, Masuda and Shigekawa in [AMS94]. Define $a(t) := \mu(\{f \geq t\})$ and choose t_0 such that $a(t_0) \leq 1/2$. For any $t \geq t_0$, define $g := \min\{\frac{1}{t}(f-t)_+, 1\}$. On the one hand, by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\int g^q d\mu \right)^2 &= \left(\int_{f \geq t_0} g^q d\mu \right)^2 \leq \mu(\{f \geq t_0\}) \int g^{2q} d\mu \leq \frac{1}{2} \int g^{2q} d\mu , \\ \mathbf{Var}_{\mu}(g^q) &\geq \frac{1}{2} \int g^{2q} d\mu \geq \frac{1}{2} \mu(\{f \geq 2t\}) = \frac{1}{2} a(2t) . \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by the L^q -Poincaré inequality,

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} a(2t) \right)^{1/q} \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{Var}_{\mu}(g^q) \right)^{1/q} \leq C_P \int |\nabla g|^2 d\mu \leq C_P \frac{\mu(\{t \leq \rho < 2t\})}{t^2}$$

using the fact that, a.e., $|\nabla f|^2 \leq \|f\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1$. With $\kappa := 2^{1/q} C_P$, this proves that

$$t^2 (a(2t))^{1/q} + \kappa a(2t) \leq \kappa a(t) \quad \forall t > t_0 ,$$

and as a consequence,

$$t^2 (a(2t))^{1/q} \leq \kappa a(t) \quad \forall t > t_0 .$$

With $c := \kappa^q t_0^{-2q}$ and $a_n := a(2^n t_0)$, this means

$$a_{n+1} \leq c 2^{-2nq} a_n^q \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} .$$

If $b_n := 2^{2n\alpha_n}$ with $(n+1)\alpha_{n+1} = nq\alpha_n - 2nq$, then $b_{n+1} \leq c b_n^q$ and $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$ is therefore bounded by the unique fixed point, \bar{b} , of $b \mapsto c b^q$. The sequence $(\alpha_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges to $q/(1-q)$. Hence

$$a(t) \leq a_n \leq O\left(2^{-2n \frac{q}{1-q}}\right) \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty ,$$

where n is the integer part of $\log(t/t_0)/\log 2$. This concludes the proof. \triangleright

4 Application to the weighted porous media equation

Let d be a positive integer and $\psi \in \mathcal{C}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ a function such that $\int e^{-\psi} dx < +\infty$. We define the probability measure

$$d\mu_\psi := \frac{e^{-\psi} dx}{Z_\psi}$$

and the operator \mathcal{L} on $\mathcal{C}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ by

$$\forall f \in \mathcal{C}^2(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad \mathcal{L}f := \Delta f - \nabla\psi \cdot \nabla f.$$

Such a generator \mathcal{L} is symmetric in $L^2_{\mu_\psi}(\mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\forall f, g \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad \int f \mathcal{L}g d\mu_\psi = - \int \nabla f \cdot \nabla g d\mu_\psi.$$

We consider for $m > 1$ the nonlinear partial differential equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \mathcal{L} u^m \tag{WPME}$$

for $t \geq 0$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, corresponding to a non-negative initial condition $u(0, x) = u_0(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Such an equation will be called the *weighted porous media equation*.

4.1 L^1 -contraction, existence and uniqueness

The existence proof is based on the method developed by Vázquez in [Váz92]. The main difference between the standard porous media and the weighted porous media equations is that a natural space to study weak solutions of (WPME) is a weighted space, for instance $L^2_{\mu_\psi}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, which contains all constant functions. We shall first consider the case of a bounded domain and then extend solutions to the whole space.

Consider first a bounded domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ with smooth boundary. Denote by $Q = \Omega \times [0, +\infty)$, $\Sigma = \partial\Omega \times [0, +\infty)$. Let u_0 be a positive function in Ω which satisfies $n \cdot \nabla u_0 = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$, where $n = n(x)$ denotes the outgoing normal unit vector at $x \in \partial\Omega$. We shall say that u is classical solution of (WPME) in Ω if u is a \mathcal{C}^2 function on Q such that

$$\begin{cases} u_t = \mathcal{L} u^m & \text{in } Q \\ u(\cdot, 0) = u_0 & \text{in } \Omega \\ n \cdot \nabla u = 0 & \text{on } \Sigma \end{cases} \tag{5}$$

Lemma 4.1 (L^1 -contraction principle) *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a bounded domain with smooth boundary. If u, \hat{u} are two classical solutions of (5) with smooth positive initial data u_0 and \hat{u}_0 , then for all $t > \tau > 0$ one gets*

$$\int_{\Omega} (u(t, x) - \hat{u}(t, x))_+ d\mu_\psi(x) \leq \int_{\Omega} (u(\tau, x) - \hat{u}(\tau, x))_+ d\mu_\psi(x) \leq \int_{\Omega} (u_0(x) - \hat{u}_0(x))_+ d\mu_\psi(x).$$

Proof \triangleleft Let $\chi \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R})$ be such that $0 \leq \chi \leq 1$, $\chi(s) = 0$ for $s \leq 0$, $\chi'(s) > 0$ for $s > 0$. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} (u - \hat{u})_t \chi(u^m - \hat{u}^m) d\mu_\psi &= \int_{\Omega} \mathcal{L}(u^m - \hat{u}^m) \chi(u^m - \hat{u}^m) d\mu_\psi \\ &= - \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(u^m - \hat{u}^m)|^2 \chi'(u^m - \hat{u}^m) d\mu_\psi, \end{aligned}$$

using that $n \cdot \nabla(u^m - \hat{u}^m) = 0$ on Σ . Therefore, by taking χ as a smooth approximation of the function sgn_0^+ which is identically equal to 1 on $(0, +\infty)$ and to 0 on $(-\infty, 0]$, and observing that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(u - \hat{u})_+ = \text{sgn}_0^+(u - \hat{u}) \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(u - \hat{u}),$$

we get that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega} (u - \hat{u})_+ d\mu_{\psi} \leq 0.$$

▷

Lemma 4.1 results in a Maximum Principle for (WPME).

Corollary 4.2 (Maximum Principle and uniqueness) *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a bounded domain with smooth boundary and consider two classical solutions u, \hat{u} of (5) with smooth positive initial data u_0 and \hat{u}_0 . If $u_0 \leq \hat{u}_0$ in Ω , then $u \leq \hat{u}$ in Q . As a consequence, the classical solution of (WPME) is unique.*

We may now apply the existence theory for non degenerate parabolic equations as in [LSU67].

Proposition 4.3 *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a bounded domain with smooth boundary. For any positive function $u_0 \in C^\infty$, there exists a classical solution u of (5) with initial datum u_0 . Moreover, for all $\tau \geq 0$,*

$$\int_{\Omega} \int_0^\tau |\nabla u(t, x)^m|^2 dt d\mu_{\psi}(x) - \int_{\Omega} u^{m+1}(\tau, x) d\mu_{\psi}(x) = - \int_{\Omega} u_0(x)^{m+1} d\mu_{\psi}(x).$$

Proof ◁ Since the initial datum u_0 is positive on $\bar{\Omega}$, which is bounded, it follows that $\min(u_0) > 0$. Standard quasilinear theory (see chapter 6 of [LSU67]) applies, thus providing us with a classical solution of (WPME). For all $\tau > 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} u^{m+1}(\tau, x) d\mu_{\psi}(x) - \int_{\Omega} u_0(x)^{m+1} d\mu_{\psi}(x) &= \int_{\Omega} \left(\int_0^\tau \frac{\partial}{\partial s} u^{m+1}(s, x) dt \right) d\mu_{\psi}(x) \\ &= -(m+1) \int_{\Omega} \int_0^\tau |\nabla u^m|^2 d\mu_{\psi} dt \end{aligned}$$

after an integration by parts. ▷

The results obtained for a bounded domain can be extended to solutions in the whole euclidean space. Various results can be stated which are out of the scope of our paper, so let us make some simplifying assumptions.

Proposition 4.4 *Let u_0 be a $C^1 \cap L_{\mu_{\psi}}^{m+1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ positive initial condition. Then there exists a unique classical solution of the (WPME) with initial datum u_0 .*

Proof ◁ We can approximate the solution using the following scheme:

- (1) Consider an initial datum which is uniformly bounded away from 0, for instance $u_0^n = u_0 + 1/n$.
- (2) Consider a regularized drift term ψ_n such that $\psi_n \equiv \psi$ in $B(0, n)$ and $\psi_n(x) \equiv c_n |x|^2/2$ in $B(0, n)^c$, with $c_n > 0$.

- (3) Modify the operator \mathcal{L} by considering $\mathcal{L}_n f^m := \nabla(a_n(f) \nabla f) - \nabla \psi_n \cdot \nabla f^m$ where a_0 is a smooth positive function on $[0, m n^{-(m-1)}]$ and such that $a_n(s) = m s^{m-1}$ for any $s \geq 1/n$. The standard theory of parabolic equations applies and provides us with a solution u_n of the regularized equation, $\partial u_n / \partial t = \mathcal{L}_n u_n^m$.
- (4) Prove an L^1 -contraction principle as in Lemma 4.1, from which we deduce a Maximum Principle and the uniqueness of the approximating solution u_n . We observe that u_n is a solution of (WPME) with initial datum u_0^n , except that ψ has to be replaced by ψ_n .
- (5) Barrier functions based on the solution of the heat equation can be provided, thus showing the conservation of the L^1 -norm (with respect to the measure $d\mu_\psi$) and uniform estimates with respect to $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- (6) Take a pointwise monotone limit as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and obtain a weak solution $u(t, x)$ of (WPME) with initial datum u_0 . Classical regularity properties (see for instance [LSU67, Chap. 6]) prove that the weak solution is a classical solution on \mathbb{R}^d .

▷

4.2 Asymptotic behavior of the solutions

Theorem 4.5 *Let $m \geq 1$.*

- (i) *If (μ_ψ, μ_ψ) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality, $q = 2/(m+1)$, for some constant $C_P > 0$, then for any initial condition $u_0 \in L^2(\mu_\psi)$, we have*

$$\forall t \geq 0, \quad \mathbf{Var}_{\mu_\psi}(u(\cdot, t)) \leq \left([\mathbf{Var}_{\mu_\psi}(u_0)]^{-(m-1)/2} + \frac{4m(m-1)}{(m+1)^2} C_P t \right)^{-2/(m-1)}.$$

Reciprocally, if the above inequality is satisfied for any u_0 , then (μ_ψ, μ_ψ) satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality with constant C_P .

- (ii) *If (μ_ψ, μ_ψ) satisfies a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality, $q = 1/m$, for some constant $C_{LS} > 0$, then for any non-negative initial condition u_0 such that $\mathbf{Ent}_{\mu_\psi}(u_0) < \infty$, we have*

$$\forall t \geq 0, \quad \mathbf{Ent}_{\mu_\psi}(u(\cdot, t)) \leq \left([\mathbf{Ent}_{\mu_\psi}(u_0)]^{1-m} + \frac{4(m-1)}{m} C_{LS} t \right)^{-1/(m-1)}.$$

Reciprocally, if the above inequality is satisfied for any u_0 , then (μ_ψ, μ_ψ) satisfies a L^q -logarithmic Sobolev inequality with constant C_{LS} .

Proof ◁ Let us briefly sketch the first result.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{Var}_{\mu_\psi}(u) &= 2 \int u_t u d\mu_\psi = 2 \int u \mathcal{L} u^m d\mu_\psi = -2 \int \nabla u \cdot \nabla(u^m) d\mu_\psi \\ &= -\frac{8m}{(m+1)^2} \int |\nabla u^{\frac{m+1}{2}}|^2 d\mu_\psi. \end{aligned}$$

One can now apply the L^q -Poincaré inequality with $u = f^{2/(m+1)}$, $q = 2/(m+1)$, to get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{Var}_{\mu_\psi}(u) \leq -\frac{8m}{(m+1)^2} C_P [\mathbf{Var}_{\mu_\psi}(u)]^{\frac{m+1}{2}}.$$

A simple integration of this differential inequality gives the result. Reciprocally, a derivation at $t = 0$ gives the L^q -Poincaré inequality with constant C_P . The proof in the second case is similar. ▷

Example 4.6 Consider on \mathbb{R}^d the probability measure μ given by

$$d\mu(x_1, \dots, x_n) := Z^{-1} e^{W(x_1, \dots, x_n)} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{dx_i}{(1 + |x_i|)^{1+\alpha}},$$

where Z is a normalization constant and W a bounded function on \mathbb{R}^d . By Proposition 3.12, the measure μ satisfies a L^q -Poincaré inequality with $q \in [1/2, 1)$ if $\alpha > 2q/(1 - q)$. Then the variance of the solution to the associated (WPME) converges to 0 as $t \rightarrow +\infty$ if $m > (\alpha + 4)/\alpha$.

5 Appendix. A Variant of two results of [BCR05]

We present variants of Theorem 1 and 2 in [BCR05], in which we remove any assumption on the absolute continuity of the measure μ with respect to the volume measure.

We recall that (μ, ν) satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality with associated function β_{WP} if

$$\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f) \leq \beta_{\text{WP}}(s) \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu + s [\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(f)]^2 \quad \forall s \in (0, 1/4), \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M).$$

See Definition 3.1 for details.

Theorem 5.1 [BCR05] *Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . Assume that (μ, ν) satisfies a weak Poincaré inequality for some non-negative non increasing function $\beta_{\text{WP}}(s)$. Let $\gamma(s) := 4\beta_{\text{WP}}(s/4)$. Then for every measurable subsets A, B of M such that $A \subset B$ and $\mu(B) \leq 1/2$,*

$$\text{Cap}_\nu(A, B) \geq \frac{\mu(A)}{\gamma(\mu(A))}.$$

Proof \triangleleft The proof of [BCR05] can be extended to the case of two measures μ and ν without changes. Let us sketch it for completeness. Let f be such that $\mathbb{1}_A \leq f \leq \mathbb{1}_B$ and observe that $\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(f) \leq 1$. By the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, $(\int f d\mu)^2 \leq \mu(B) \int f^2 d\mu \leq \frac{1}{2} \int f^2 d\mu$. Hence

$$\beta_{\text{WP}}(s) \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu + s \geq \mathbf{Var}_\mu(f) \geq \frac{1}{2} \int f^2 d\mu \geq \frac{\mu(A)}{2},$$

which completes the proof after noticing that $\frac{a}{\gamma(a)} = \frac{a}{4\beta_{\text{WP}}(a/4)} \leq \sup_{s \in (0, 1/4)} \frac{a/2 - s}{\beta_{\text{WP}}(s)}$ with $a/2 = \mu(A)/2 \leq 1/4$. \triangleright

In the next result, we explicitly remove the assumption of absolute continuity with respect to the volume measure. Let $\kappa := (11 + 5\sqrt{5})/2 \approx 11.0902$.

Lemma 5.2 *Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . For some $\theta \in (0, 1)$, consider a positive non increasing function γ on $(0, \theta)$ and assume that for every measurable subsets A, B of M such that $A \subset B$ and $\mu(B) \leq \theta$,*

$$\text{Cap}_\nu(A, B) \geq \frac{\mu(A)}{\gamma(\mu(A))}.$$

Then for every function $f \in \mathcal{C}^1(M)$ such that $\mu(\Omega_+) \leq \theta$, $\Omega_+ := \{f > 0\}$, and every $s \in (0, 1)$ one has

$$\int f_+^2 \leq \kappa \gamma(s) \int_{\Omega_+} |\nabla f|^2 d\nu + s \left[\sup_{\text{ess}_\mu} f \right]^2.$$

Proof \triangleleft Fix $s \in (0, 1)$. Let $c = c(s) := \inf\{t \geq 0 : \mu(\{f_+ > t\}) \leq s\}$. If $c = 0$ then $\mu(\Omega_+) \leq s$ and $\int_{\Omega_+} f_+^2 d\mu \leq s \operatorname{supess}_\mu f_+^2$. We also know that $c \leq \operatorname{supess}_\mu f_+$ and $s_0 := \mu(\{f_+ > c\}) \leq s$. For a given $\rho \in (0, 1)$, let $\Omega_k := \{f_+ > c\rho^k\}$ for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and define $s_k := \mu(\Omega_k)$. We observe that

$$s_0 \leq s \leq s_1 \leq s_2 \leq \dots \leq \mu(\Omega_+) \leq \theta.$$

Using the decomposition $\Omega_+ = \Omega_0 + \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} (\Omega_{k+1} \setminus \Omega_k)$, we get

$$\int_{\Omega_+} f_+^2 d\mu = \int_{\Omega_0} f_+^2 d\mu + \sum_{k > 0} \int_{\Omega_{k+1} \setminus \Omega_k} f_+^2 d\mu \leq s_0 [\operatorname{supess}_\mu f_+]^2 + \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} c^2 \rho^{2k} (s_{k+1} - s_k).$$

Since $s_0 \leq s$, we can actually write

$$\int_{\Omega_+} f_+^2 d\mu = \int_{\Omega_0} f_+^2 d\mu + \sum_{k > 0} \int_{\Omega_{k+1} \setminus \Omega_k} f_+^2 d\mu \leq s [\operatorname{supess}_\mu f_+]^2 + \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} c^2 \rho^{2k} (s_{k+1} - s_k).$$

On the other hand, by noticing that

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \rho^{2k} (s_{k+1} - s_k) = \left(\frac{1}{\rho^2} - 1 \right) \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \rho^{2k} s_k - \frac{1}{\rho^2} s_0 = \frac{1 - \rho^2}{\rho^2} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \rho^{2k} (s_k - s_0),$$

we get

$$\int_{\Omega_+} f_+^2 d\mu \leq s [\operatorname{supess}_\mu f_+]^2 + c^2 \frac{1 - \rho^2}{\rho^2} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \rho^{2k} (s_k - s_0).$$

By our assumptions, for any $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$, the function $\theta \mapsto \frac{s_k - s_0 + \theta s_0}{\gamma(s + \theta(s_k - s))}$ is monotone increasing on $(0, 1)$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{s_k - s_0}{\gamma(s)} &\leq \frac{s_k}{\gamma(s_k)} \leq \operatorname{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}), \\ s_k - s_0 &\leq \gamma(s) \operatorname{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}). \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$F_k := \min \left\{ 1, \frac{1}{1 - \rho} \left(\frac{f_+}{c\rho^k} - \rho \right)_+ \right\}.$$

By definition of $\operatorname{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1})$, we have

$$\operatorname{Cap}_\nu(\Omega_k, \Omega_{k+1}) \leq \int_{\Omega_{k+1} \setminus \Omega_k} |\nabla F_k|^2 d\mu = \frac{1}{c^2 \rho^{2k} (1 - \rho)^2} \int_{\Omega_{k+1} \setminus \Omega_k} |\nabla f_+|^2 d\mu.$$

Collecting the estimates, we get

$$\int_{\Omega_+} f_+^2 d\mu \leq s [\operatorname{supess}_\mu f_+]^2 + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{1 + \rho}{1 - \rho} \int_{\Omega_+} |\nabla f_+|^2 d\mu.$$

The result follows after optimizing on ρ , that is by taking $\rho = (\sqrt{5} - 1)/2$. \triangleright

Theorem 2 in [BCR05] can be generalized in case of two measures μ and ν which are not absolutely continuous with respect to the volume measure as follows. The main idea is to apply Lemma 5.2 with $\theta = 1/2$ and use the median of f to define subsets of M with measure at most equal to θ .

Theorem 5.3 *Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . Consider a positive non increasing function γ on $(0, 1/2)$ and assume that for every measurable subsets A, B of M such that $A \subset B$ and $\mu(B) \leq 1/2$,*

$$\text{Cap}_\nu(A, B) \geq \frac{\mu(A)}{\gamma(\mu(A))}.$$

Then with $\kappa := (11 + 5\sqrt{5})/2$, for every function $f \in C^1(M)$ and every $s \in (0, 1/4)$ one has

$$\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f) \leq \kappa \gamma(s) \int |\nabla f|^2 d\nu + s [\mathbf{Osc}_\mu(f)].$$

Proof \triangleleft Fix $s \in (0, 1/4)$ and let m be a median of f with respect to μ . Denote by Ω_+ and Ω_- the sets $\{f > m\}$ and $\{f < m\}$. By definition of m , $\mu(\Omega_\pm) \leq 1/2$. By definition of the variance, we also know that

$$\mathbf{Var}_\mu(f) \leq \int (f - m)^2 d\mu = \int_{\Omega_+} (f - m)^2 d\mu + \int_{\Omega_-} (f - m)^2 d\mu.$$

We can apply Lemma 5.2 to F_+ and F_- with $\theta = 1/2$ and get the result using the fact that, if $a = \inf_{\text{ess}}_\mu f$ and $b = \sup_{\text{ess}}_\mu f$, then for any $m \in [a, b]$, $(b - m)^2 + (m - a)^2 \leq (b - a)^2 = \mathbf{Osc}_\mu(f)^2$. \triangleright

Concerning the weak logarithmic Sobolev inequalities, the absolute continuity of μ with respect to the volume measure can easily be removed in Theorem 2.1 of [CGG05], without change in the proof.

Lemma 5.4 *Let μ and ν be respectively a probability measure and a positive measure on M . If (μ, ν) satisfies a weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality with associated function h_{WLS} , then for every $A \subset B \subset M$ such that $\mu(B) \leq 1/2$,*

$$\text{Cap}_\nu(A, B) \geq \frac{\mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(A)}\right)}{\gamma \left[\mu(A) \log \left(1 + \frac{e^2}{\mu(A)}\right) \right]}$$

with $\gamma(s) := 2 h_{\text{WLS}}(s/2)$.

Proof \triangleleft As in the proof of Proposition 3.6, it holds that

$$\text{Cap}_\nu(A, B) \geq \frac{\mu(A) \log \left(1 + e^2/\mu(A)\right) - s}{h_{\text{WLS}}(s)}.$$

\triangleright

Reciprocally, if the capacity measure criterion of Lemma 5.4 is satisfied, it is not clear that a weak logarithmic Sobolev inequality holds unless we assume the absolute continuity of μ with respect to the volume measure. See Theorem 2.2 of [CGG05] in such a case.

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