

# Uniform L $\infty$ estimates for approximate solutions of the bipolar drift-diffusion system

Marianne Bessemoulin-Chatard, Claire Chainais-Hillairet, Ansgar Jüngel

## ▶ To cite this version:

Marianne Bessemoulin-Chatard, Claire Chainais-Hillairet, Ansgar Jüngel. Uniform L  $\infty$  estimates for approximate solutions of the bipolar drift-diffusion system. FVCA 8, Jun 2017, Lille, France. hal-01472643

# HAL Id: hal-01472643 https://hal.science/hal-01472643v1

Submitted on 21 Feb 2017

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

# Uniform $L^{\infty}$ estimates for approximate solutions of the bipolar drift-diffusion system

M. Bessemoulin-Chatard\* C. Chainais-Hillairet<sup>†</sup> A. Jüngel<sup>‡</sup> February 21, 2017

#### Abstract

We establish uniform  $L^{\infty}$  bounds for approximate solutions of the drift-diffusion system for electrons and holes in semiconductor devices, computed with the Scharfetter-Gummel finite-volume scheme. The proof is based on a Moser iteration technique adapted to the discrete case.

**Keywords:** volume scheme, drift-diffusion, Moser iterations **MSC** (2010): 65M08, 35B40.

### 1 Introduction

We consider the Van Roosbroeck's bipolar drift-diffusion system on  $\Omega \times (0,T)$ , where  $\Omega$  is a domain of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  (d=2,3):

$$\partial_t N + \operatorname{div}(-\nabla N + N\nabla \Psi) = -R(N, P), \tag{1a}$$

$$\partial_t P + \operatorname{div}(-\nabla P - P\nabla \Psi) = -R(N, P),$$
 (1b)

$$-\lambda^2 \Delta \Psi = P - N + C. \tag{1c}$$

The unknowns are the electron density N, the hole density P and the electrostatic potential  $\Psi$ . The doping profile C(x) is given and  $\lambda$  is the scaled Debye length. This system is supplemented with initial densities  $N_0$ ,  $P_0$ , Dirichlet boundary conditions on  $\Gamma^D$  ( $N^D$ ,  $P^D$ ,  $\Psi^D$ ) and homogeneous Neumann boundary conditions on  $\Gamma^N$  (with  $\partial \Omega = \Gamma^D \cup \Gamma^N$ ,  $\Gamma^D \cap \Gamma^N = \emptyset$ , and  $m(\Gamma^D) > 0$ ). The Dirichlet boundary conditions are describing Ohmic contacts, while homogeneous Neumann boundary conditions are for the insulated boundary segments. Dirichlet boundary conditions for (1) may depend on time, but we assume time-independent data to simplify. The recombination-generation rate is written under the following form which includes Shockley–Read–Hall and Auger terms:

$$R(N,P) = R_0(N,P)(NP-1). (2)$$

In what follows, we consider the following (standard) assumptions:

<sup>\*</sup>Univ. Nantes, CNRS, UMR 6629 – Laboratoire Jean Leray, F-44000 Nantes, France, Marianne.Bessemoulin@univ-nantes.fr

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Univ. Lille, CNRS, UMR 8524 – Laboratoire Paul Painlevé, F-59000 Lille, France, Claire.Chainais@math.univ-lille1.fr

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup>Institute for Analysis and Scientific Computing, TU Wien, 1040 Wien, Austria, juengel@tuwien.ac.at

- **(H1)**  $C \in L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ ,
- **(H2)**  $N^D$ ,  $P^D \in L^{\infty} \cap H^1(\Omega)$ ,  $\Psi^D \in H^1(\Omega)$ ,
- **(H3)**  $N^D P^D = 1$ ,
- **(H4)**  $\exists M > 0$  such that  $0 \le N_0, P_0, N^D, P^D \le M$  a.e. on  $\Omega$ ,
- **(H5)**  $\exists \bar{R} > 0$  such that  $0 \le R_0(N, P) \le \bar{R}(1 + |N| + |P|) \quad \forall N, P \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Hypothesis (H3) means that the boundary data are in thermal equilibrium. Existence and uniqueness of weak solutions to system (1) have been proved in [9]. Nonnegativity of the densities and uniform-in-time upper bounds have also been shown in [9]. The proof is based on an approach proposed by Alikakos [1], closely related to the Moser iteration technique [12].

Let  $\Delta t > 0$  be the time step and let consider an admissible mesh of  $\Omega$ . It is given by a family  $\mathscr T$  of control volumes, a family  $\mathscr E$  of edges (or faces) and a family of points  $(x_K)_{K \in \mathscr T}$  which satisfy Definition 9.1 in [7]. In the set of edges  $\mathscr E$ , we distinguish the set of interior edges  $\mathscr E_{int}$  from the set of boundary edges  $\mathscr E_{ext}$ . We split  $\mathscr E_{ext}$  into  $\mathscr E_{ext} = \mathscr E_{ext}^D \cup \mathscr E_{ext}^N$ , where  $\mathscr E_{ext}^D$  and  $\mathscr E_{ext}^N$  is the set of Dirichlet and Neumann boundary edges, respectively. For a control volume  $K \in \mathscr T$ , we denote by  $\mathscr E_K = \mathscr E_{int,K} \cup \mathscr E_{ext,K}^D \cup \mathscr E_{ext,K}^N$ . For all  $\sigma \in \mathscr E$ , we define  $\tau_\sigma = |\sigma|/d_\sigma$ , where  $d_\sigma = \mathrm{d}(x_K,x_L)$  for  $\sigma = K|L \in \mathscr E_{int}$ , and  $d_\sigma = \mathrm{d}(x_K,\sigma)$  for  $\sigma \in \mathscr E_{ext}$ . We also need the following assumptions on the mesh:

$$\exists \xi > 0 \text{ such that } d(x_K, \sigma) \ge \xi \, d_{\sigma}, \quad \forall K \in \mathcal{T}, \quad \forall \sigma \in \mathcal{E}_K, \tag{3a}$$

$$\exists c_0 > 0 \text{ such that } \tau_{\sigma} \geq c_0, \quad \forall \sigma \in \mathscr{E}.$$
 (3b)

A finite volume discretization for (1) provides an approximate solution  $u_{\mathscr{T}}^n=(u_K^n)_{K\in\mathscr{T}}$  for all  $n\geq 0$  and approximate boundary values  $u_{\mathscr{E}^D}=(u_\sigma)_{\sigma\in\mathscr{E}^D_{ext}}$  for  $u=N,P,\Psi$ . For any vector  $u_{\mathscr{M}}=(u_{\mathscr{T}},u_{\mathscr{E}^D})$ , we define

$$D_{K,\sigma}u = u_{K,\sigma} - u_K, \qquad D_{\sigma}u = |D_{K,\sigma}u|, \ \forall K \in \mathscr{T}, \forall \sigma \in \mathscr{E}_K,$$

where  $u_{K,\sigma}$  is either  $u_L$  ( $\sigma = K|L$ ),  $u_{\sigma}$  ( $\sigma \in \mathscr{E}_{K,ext}^D$ ) or  $u_K$  ( $\sigma \in \mathscr{E}_{K,ext}^N$ ). We also define the discrete  $H^1$ -seminorm  $|\cdot|_{1,\mathscr{M}}$  by

$$|u_{\mathscr{M}}|_{1,\mathscr{M}}^2 = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}} \tau_{\sigma}(D_{\sigma}u)^2, \quad \forall u_{\mathscr{M}} = (u_{\mathscr{T}}, u_{\mathscr{E}^D}).$$

We define the initial conditions  $N_K^0$ ,  $P_K^0$  as the mean values of  $N_0$  and  $P_0$  over  $K \in \mathcal{T}$ . The boundary conditions are also approximated by taking the mean values of  $N^D$ ,  $P^D$  and  $\Psi^D$  over each Dirichlet boundary edge  $\sigma \in \mathscr{E}_{ext}^D$ .

We are now in the position to define the scheme for (1), based on a backward Euler in time discretization. For all  $K \in \mathcal{T}$  and  $n \ge 0$ ,

$$|K| \frac{N_K^{n+1} - N_K^n}{\Delta t} + \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}_K} \mathscr{F}_{K,\sigma}^{n+1} = -|K| R(N_K^{n+1}, P_K^{n+1}), \tag{4a}$$

$$|K| \frac{P_K^{n+1} - P_K^n}{\Delta t} + \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}_K} \mathscr{G}_{K,\sigma}^{n+1} = -|K| R(N_K^{n+1}, P_K^{n+1}), \tag{4b}$$

$$-\lambda^2 \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}_K} \tau_{\sigma} D_{K,\sigma} \Psi^n = |K| (P_K^n - N_K^n + C_K), \tag{4c}$$

where  $\mathscr{F}_{K,\sigma}^{n+1}$  and  $\mathscr{G}_{K,\sigma}^{n+1}$  are the Scharfetter-Gummel fluxes

$$\mathscr{F}_{K,\sigma}^{n+1} = \tau_{\sigma} \left[ B \left( -D_{K,\sigma} \Psi^{n+1} \right) N_K^{n+1} - B \left( D_{K,\sigma} \Psi^{n+1} \right) N_{K,\sigma}^{n+1} \right], \tag{5a}$$

$$\mathscr{G}_{K,\sigma}^{n+1} = \tau_{\sigma} \left[ B \left( D_{K,\sigma} \Psi^{n+1} \right) P_K^{n+1} - B \left( -D_{K,\sigma} \Psi^{n+1} \right) P_{K,\sigma}^{n+1} \right], \tag{5b}$$

and *B* is the Bernoulli function  $B(x) = x/(e^x - 1)$  for  $x \neq 0$ , B(0) = 1.

In [2], the existence of a solution to scheme (4)-(5) and the boundedness of the approximate densities are shown, but the bounds depend on time and blow up when time goes to infinity. The only case where the result is uniform in time is that of zero doping profile. The purpose of this paper is to adapt the ideas developed in [9, 10] to the discrete framework to obtain uniform-in-time  $L^{\infty}$  estimates for the approximate densities obtained with scheme (4)-(5) for general doping profiles. Our main result reads as follows.

**Theorem 1.** Let (H1)–(H5) hold and let  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{P})$  be an admissible mesh of  $\Omega$  satisfying (3). Any solution  $(N_{\mathcal{T}}^n, P_{\mathcal{T}}^n, \Psi_{\mathcal{T}}^n)_{n>0}$  to (4)–(5) satisfies

$$\exists \kappa > 0, \ \forall n \ge 0, \quad \|N_{\mathcal{T}}^n\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \le \kappa \ and \ \|P_{\mathcal{T}}^n\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \le \kappa. \tag{6}$$

The constant  $\kappa$  depends only on the initial and boundary data, C,  $\lambda$ ,  $\bar{R}$ ,  $\Omega$  and d, and on the constants  $\xi$  and  $c_0$  given in (3), but not on n.

This theorem establishes a part of the assumptions needed to prove the exponential decay of approximate solutions given by scheme (4)–(5) towards an approximation of the thermal equilibrium [2, Theorem 3.1]. However, a uniform positive lower bound for the densities is also required, which is not easy to prove, and its proof is an open problem.

The proof of (6) applies a Nash-Moser type iteration method based on  $L^r$  bounds [1, 12]. Let us mention that this method has already been applied to a discrete setting in [8]. As we deal here with equations on a bounded domain, we have to take care about the boundary conditions. Therefore, as in [11], we establish (6) for  $N_M = (N - M)^+$  and  $P_M = (P - M)^+$ , where M is given in (H4), instead of N and P. The proof is detailed in Section 3. The uniform-in-time  $L^1$  bounds for the densities necessary to initialize the Moser iteration method are obtained thanks to an entropy-entropy production estimate, recalled in Section 2.

# 2 Discrete entropy-entropy production inequality

The thermal equilibrium is a steady state for which the electron and hole current densities and the recombination-generation term vanish. If (H3) is satisfied, there exists  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  such that the thermal equilibrium is defined by

$$N^* = e^{\alpha + \Psi^*}, \quad P^* = e^{-\alpha - \Psi^*},$$
 (7a)

$$-\lambda^2 \Delta \Psi^* = e^{-\alpha - \Psi^*} - e^{\alpha + \Psi^*} + C, \tag{7b}$$

$$\Psi^* = \Psi^D \text{ on } \Gamma^D, \quad \nabla \Psi^* \cdot \nu = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma^N.$$
 (7c)

An approximation of the thermal equilibrium  $(N_{\mathscr{T}}^*, P_{\mathscr{T}}^*, \Psi_{\mathscr{T}}^*)$  is given by

$$-\lambda^{2} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}_{K}} \tau_{\sigma} D_{K,\sigma} \Psi^{*} = |K| \left( e^{-\alpha - \Psi_{K}^{*}} - e^{\alpha + \Psi_{K}^{*}} + C_{K} \right), \ \forall K \in \mathscr{T}, \tag{8}$$

$$N_K^* = e^{\alpha + \Psi_K^*}, \quad P_K^* = e^{-\alpha - \Psi_K^*}, \ \forall K \in \mathcal{T}.$$

Let  $H(x) = x \log x - x + 1$ . The discrete relative entropy is defined by

$$\mathbb{E}^{n} = \frac{\lambda^{2}}{2} |\Psi_{\mathcal{M}}^{n} - \Psi_{\mathcal{M}}^{*}|_{1,\mathcal{M}}^{2} + \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}} |K| \Big( H(N_{K}^{n}) - H(N_{K}^{*}) - \log N_{K}^{*}(N_{K}^{n} - N_{K}^{*}) + H(P_{K}^{n}) - H(P_{K}^{*}) - \log P_{K}^{*}(P_{K}^{n} - P_{K}^{*}) \Big). \quad (10)$$

We also define the discrete entropy production:

$$\mathbb{I}^{n} = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}; K = K_{\sigma}} \tau_{\sigma} \left[ \min(N_{K}^{n}, N_{K,\sigma}^{n}) \left( D_{\sigma} (\log(N^{n}) - \Psi^{n}) \right)^{2} + \min(P_{K}^{n}, P_{K,\sigma}^{n}) \left( D_{\sigma} (\log(P^{n}) + \Psi^{n}) \right)^{2} \right] + \sum_{K \in \mathscr{T}} |K| R_{0}(N_{K}^{n}, P_{K}^{n}) (N_{K}^{n} P_{K}^{n} - 1) \log(N_{K}^{n} P_{K}^{n}), \quad (11)$$

We recall the discrete entropy-entropy production inequality proved in [5].

**Proposition 1.** For all  $n \ge 0$ ,

$$0 \le \mathbb{E}^{n+1} + \Delta t \mathbb{I}^{n+1} \le \mathbb{E}^n. \tag{12}$$

Summing (12) over n, we have  $\mathbb{E}^n \leq \mathbb{E}^0$ , which gives a uniform-in-time estimate for  $\mathbb{E}^n$ . Then, if  $\mathscr{M}$  satisfies (3b), and since there exists  $C^*$  such that  $|\Psi^*_{\mathscr{M}}|_{1,\mathscr{M}} \leq C^*$  (see [4, Lemma 3.3]), we have  $D_\sigma \Psi^{n+1} \leq D$ , where D > 0 only depends on  $\mathbb{E}^0$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $c_0$  and  $C^*$ . The properties of the Bernoulli function ensure that

$$\exists \gamma \in (0,1], \quad B(D_{\sigma} \Psi^{n+1}) \ge \gamma, \quad \forall \sigma \in \mathscr{E}, \forall n \ge 0.$$
 (13)

## 3 Proof of Theorem 1

We set

$$\begin{split} N^n_{M,K} &= (N^n_K - M)^+, \ P^n_{M,K} = (P^n_K - M)^+, \quad \forall K \in \mathscr{T}, \ \forall n \geq 0, \\ \text{and} \ V^n_q &= \sum_{K \in \mathscr{T}} |K| \left[ (N^n_{M,K})^q + (P^n_{M,K})^q \right], \quad \forall n \geq 0, \ \forall q \geq 1. \end{split}$$

We start by establishing the following result about the evolution of  $V_{q+1}^n$ .

**Proposition 2.** Let  $q \ge 1$ . There exist positive constants  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  only depending on  $\|C\|_{\infty}$ ,  $\lambda$ , M,  $\bar{R}$  and  $\gamma \in (0,1]$  such that

$$\frac{1}{\Delta t} \left( V_{q+1}^{n+1} - V_{q+1}^{n} \right) + \frac{4q}{q+1} \gamma \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}} \left[ \left( D_{\sigma} (N_{M}^{n+1})^{\frac{q+1}{2}} \right)^{2} + \left( D_{\sigma} (P_{M}^{n+1})^{\frac{q+1}{2}} \right)^{2} \right] \\
\leq \mu q V_{q+1}^{n+1} + \nu |\Omega|. \quad (14)$$

*Proof.* Multiplying (4a) (resp. (4b)) by  $(N_{M,K}^{n+1})^q$  (resp.  $(P_{M,K}^{n+1})^q$ ), summing over K and adding the two equations, we obtain  $S_1+S_2=S_3$ , where  $S_1$  contains the discrete time derivatives,  $S_2$  the numerical fluxes and  $S_3$  the recombination-generation term. Using the elementary identity  $(x-y)x^q \geq (x^{q+1}-y^{q+1})/(q+1)$  for all  $x,y \geq 0$  and  $q \geq 1$ , we find that

$$S_1 \ge \frac{1}{q+1} \frac{1}{\Delta t} \left( V_{q+1}^{n+1} - V_{q+1}^n \right). \tag{15}$$

By a discrete integration by parts on  $S_2$ , combined with some properties of the Bernoulli function, we have

$$\begin{split} S_2 &\geq \frac{4q}{(q+1)^2} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}} \tau_{\sigma} B(D_{\sigma} \Psi^{n+1}) \left[ (D_{\sigma}(N_M^{n+1})^{\frac{q+1}{2}})^2 + (D_{\sigma}(P_M^{n+1})^{\frac{q+1}{2}})^2 \right] \\ &- \frac{q}{q+1} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}} \tau_{\sigma} D_{K,\sigma} \Psi^{n+1} \left[ D_{K,\sigma} ((N_M^{n+1})^{q+1}) - D_{K,\sigma} ((P_M^{n+1})^{q+1})) \right] \\ &- M \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}} \tau_{\sigma} D_{K,\sigma} \Psi^{n+1} \left[ D_{K,\sigma} ((N_M^{n+1})^q) - D_{K,\sigma} ((P_M^{n+1})^q)) \right]. \end{split}$$

We perform a discrete integration by parts of the two last sums on the right-hand side, use scheme (4c) and the monotonicity of the functions  $x \mapsto ((x-M)^+)^q$  and  $x \mapsto ((x-M)^+)^{q+1}$ . Combined with (13), this yields

$$S_{2} \geq \frac{4q}{(q+1)^{2}} \gamma \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}} \tau_{\sigma} \left[ (D_{\sigma}(N_{M}^{n+1})^{\frac{q+1}{2}})^{2} + (D_{\sigma}(P_{M}^{n+1})^{\frac{q+1}{2}})^{2} \right] - \frac{q}{q+1} \frac{\|C\|_{\infty}}{\lambda^{2}} V_{q+1}^{n+1} - M \frac{\|C\|_{\infty}}{\lambda^{2}} V_{q}^{n+1}. \quad (16)$$

Thanks to (H5) and the nonnegativity of the approximate densities, we have

$$R_{0}(N_{K}^{n+1}, P_{K}^{n+1})(1 - N_{K}^{n+1}P_{K}^{n+1}) \left[ \left( N_{M,K}^{n+1} \right)^{q} + \left( P_{M,K}^{n+1} \right)^{q} \right]$$

$$\leq \bar{R}(1 + 2M) \left[ (N_{M,K}^{n+1})^{q} + (P_{M,K}^{n+1})^{q} \right] + \bar{R} \left[ (N_{M,K}^{n+1})^{q+1} + (P_{M,K}^{n+1})^{q+1} \right]$$

$$+ \bar{R} \left[ (N_{M,K}^{n+1})^{q} P_{M,K}^{n+1} + (P_{M,K}^{n+1})^{q} N_{M,K}^{n+1} \right]. \quad (17)$$

Then, applying the Young's inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{split} V_q^{n+1} &\leq \frac{1}{q+1} \left( q V_{q+1}^{n+1} + \mathbf{m}(\Omega) \right), \\ \sum_{K \in \mathcal{T}} |K| \left[ (N_{M,K}^{n+1})^q P_{M,K}^{n+1} + (P_{M,K}^{n+1})^q N_{M,K}^{n+1} \right] &\leq V_{q+1}^{n+1}. \end{split}$$

Combining this with (15), (16) and (17) finishes the proof.

Now, our aim is to control the term  $V_{q+1}^{n+1}$  appearing on the right-hand side of (14). The discrete Nash inequality [3, Corollary 4.5] reads for functions  $\chi_{\mathscr{T}}$  that vanish on a part of the boundary as

$$\left(\sum_{K\in\mathscr{T}}|K|\chi_K^2\right)^{1+\frac{2}{d}}\leq \frac{\tilde{C}}{\xi}\left(\sum_{\sigma\in\mathscr{E}}\tau_\sigma(D_\sigma\chi)^2\right)\left(\sum_{K\in\mathscr{T}}|K||\chi_K|\right)^{\frac{4}{d}},$$

where  $\xi$  is given in (3a) and  $\tilde{C}$  only depends on  $\Omega$  and d. Thanks to Young's inequality, it follows for  $\varepsilon > 0$  that, up to a change of the value of  $\tilde{C}$ ,

$$\sum_{K \in \mathscr{T}} |K| \chi_K^2 \leq \frac{\tilde{C}}{\varepsilon^{d/2} \xi^{d/2}} \left( \sum_{K \in \mathscr{T}} |K| |\chi_K| \right)^2 + \varepsilon \left( \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}} \tau_{\sigma} (D_{\sigma} \chi)^2 \right).$$

Applying this inequality to  $\chi = \left(N_M^{n+1}\right)^{\frac{q+1}{2}}$  and  $\chi = \left(P_M^{n+1}\right)^{\frac{q+1}{2}}$ , we have

$$V_{q+1}^{n+1} \le \frac{\tilde{C}}{(\varepsilon\xi)^{d/2}} \left( V_{\frac{q+1}{2}}^{n+1} \right)^2 + \varepsilon \sum_{\sigma \in \mathscr{E}} \left[ \left( D_{\sigma} (N_M^{n+1})^{\frac{q+1}{2}} \right)^2 + \left( D_{\sigma} (P_M^{n+1})^{\frac{q+1}{2}} \right)^2 \right]. \tag{18}$$

Arguing similarly as in [6] and using the fact that  $\gamma \in (0,1]$ , we can find A > 0 depending only on  $\mu$  and hence only on  $\|C\|_{\infty}$ ,  $\lambda$ , M and  $\bar{R}$  such that

$$\frac{\gamma A}{q}\left(\mu q + \frac{\gamma A}{q}\right) \leq \frac{4\gamma q}{q+1}, \quad \forall q \geq 1.$$

Therefore, multiplying (18) by  $\mu q + \varepsilon(q)$  with  $\varepsilon(q) = \gamma A/q$  and adding the resulting equation to (14), we infer that

$$\frac{V_{q+1}^{n+1} - V_{q+1}^{n}}{\Delta t} \le -\varepsilon(q)V_{q+1}^{n+1} + \nu|\Omega| + \frac{\tilde{C}}{\varepsilon(q)^{d/2}\xi^{d/2}} \left(\mu q + \varepsilon(q)\right) \left(V_{\frac{q+1}{2}}^{n+1}\right)^{2}.$$
 (19)

Let us now define  $W_k^n = V_{2^k}^n$  for all  $n \ge 0$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . The definitions of M and the initial condition ensure that  $W_k^0 = 0$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Moreover, the discrete entropyentropy production inequality (12) ensures that  $\mathbb{E}^n \le \mathbb{E}^0$  for all  $n \ge 0$  and applying the inequalities

$$\forall x, y > 0$$
  $x \log \frac{x}{y} - x + y \ge (\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{y})^2 \ge \frac{x}{2} - y$ 

we deduce a uniform bound of  $W_0^n$  for all  $n \ge 0$ . With  $q = 2^k - 1 = \zeta_k$  and  $\varepsilon_k = \gamma A/\zeta_k$ , we infer from (19) that

$$\frac{W_k^{n+1} - W_k^n}{\Delta t} \le -\varepsilon_k W_k^{n+1} + B\left(\zeta_k^{d/2} (\zeta_k + \varepsilon_k) (W_{k-1}^{n+1})^2 + 1\right) \tag{20}$$

with  $B=\gamma^{-d/2}\max\{\nu\mathrm{m}(\Omega),\frac{\tilde{c}}{\xi^{d/2}}A^{-d/2},\frac{\tilde{c}}{\xi^{d/2}}A^{-d/2}\mu\}$ . Therefore, if  $W_{k-1}^n$  is bounded for all n by E, we conclude from (20) that

$$W_k^n \leq \frac{B}{\varepsilon_k} \left( \zeta_k^{d/2} (\zeta_k + \varepsilon_k) E^2 + 1 \right), \quad \forall n \geq 0.$$

Set  $\delta_k = B\zeta_k^{d/2}(\zeta_k + \varepsilon_k)/\varepsilon_k$ . As  $\zeta_k^{d/2}(\zeta_k + \varepsilon_k) \ge 1$ , it follows that

$$W_k^n \le \delta_k(E^2 + 1), \quad \forall n \ge 0. \tag{21}$$

We prove by induction (see [1, 11]) that for all  $k \ge 0$ ,

$$W_k^n \le 2\delta_k (2\delta_{k-1})^2 \cdots (2\delta_1)^{2^{k-1}} \mathcal{K}^{2^k}, \quad \forall n \ge 0,$$

where  $\mathscr{K}=\max(1,\sup_{n\geq 0}W_0^n)$ . This is a direct consequence of (21), remarking that with  $E=2\delta_k(2\delta_{k-1})^2\cdots(2\delta_1)^{2^k-1}\mathscr{K}^{2^k}$  for all  $k\geq 0$ , we have  $1\leq E^2$  (thanks to the definition of  $\mathscr{K}$ ).

To conclude, we first remark that  $\delta_k \leq D2^{(2+d/2)k}$  with D = B/A. Hence

$$\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (2\delta_{k-j})^{2^j} \leq (2D)^{2^k-1} \cdot 2^{(2+d/2)\sum_{j=0}^{k-1} (k-j)2^j} \leq (2D)^{2^k} \cdot 2^{(2+d/2) \cdot 2^k \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \ell 2^{-\ell}},$$

and since  $\sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \ell 2^{-\ell} = 2$ , we find that  $W_k^n \leq (2^{5+d}D\mathcal{K})^{2^k}$ . Taking the power  $1/2^k$  of  $W_k^n$  we obtain

$$\left\|N_{M}^{n}\right\|_{L^{2^{k}}(\Omega)}\leq 2^{5+d}D\mathcal{K},\quad \left\|P_{M}^{n}\right\|_{L^{2^{k}}(\Omega)}\leq 2^{5+d}D\mathcal{K},\quad \forall n\geq 0,\quad \forall k\in\mathbb{N},$$

and passing to the limit  $k \to \infty$  gives

$$||N_M^n||_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \leq 2^{5+d} D \mathcal{K}, \quad ||P_M^n||_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \leq 2^{5+d} D \mathcal{K}, \quad \forall n \geq 0.$$

**Acknowledgements:** The authors have been partially supported by the bilateral French-Austrian Amadée-ÖAD project. M. B.-C. thanks the project ANR-14-CE25-0001 Achylles. C. C.-H. thanks the team Inria/Rapsodi, the ANR Moonrise and the Labex Cempi (ANR-11-LABX-0007-01) for their support. A.J. acknowledges partial support from the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), grants P22108, P24304, and W1245.

### References

- [1] N. D. Alikakos.  $L^p$  bounds of solutions of reaction-diffusion equations. *Comm. Partial Differential Equations*, 1979.
- [2] M. Bessemoulin-Chatard and C. Chainais-Hillairet. Exponential decay of a finite volume scheme to the thermal equilibrium for drift-diffusion systems. *JNUM*, 2016
- [3] M. Bessemoulin-Chatard, C. Chainais-Hillairet, and F. Filbet. On discrete functional inequalities for some finite volume schemes. *IMA Journal of Numerical Analysis*, 2015.
- [4] C. Chainais-Hillairet and F. Filbet. Asymptotic behavior of a finite volume scheme for the transient drift-diffusion model. *IMA J. Numer. Anal.*, 2007.
- [5] M. Chatard. Asymptotic Behavior of the Scharfetter–Gummel Scheme for the Drift-Diffusion Model. In *FVCA VI*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2011.
- [6] M. Di Francesco, K. Fellner, and P. A. Markowich. The entropy dissipation method for spatially inhomogeneous reaction–diffusion-type systems. *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. Ser. A Math. Phys. Eng. Sci.*, 2008.
- [7] R. Eymard, T. Gallouët, and R. Herbin. Finite volume methods. In *Handbook of numerical analysis*. North-Holland, 2000.
- [8] A. Fiebach, A. Glitzky, and A. Linke. Uniform global bounds for solutions of an implicit Voronoi finite volume method for reaction-diffusion problems. *Numer. Math.*, 2014.
- [9] H. Gajewski and K. Gröger. On the basic equations for carrier transport in semi-conductors. *J. Math. Anal. Appl.*, 1986.
- [10] H. Gajewski and K. Gröger. Semiconductor equations for variable mobilities based on Boltzmann statistics or Fermi-Dirac statistics. *Math. Nachr.*, 1989.
- [11] R. Kowalczyk. Preventing blow-up in a chemotaxis model. *J. Math. Anal. Appl.*, 2005.
- [12] J. Moser. A new proof of de Giorgi's theorem concerning the regularity problem for elliptic differential equations. *Commun. Pur. Appl. Math.*, 1960.