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Quasi-potential for the one dimensional SSEP in weak contact with reservoirs

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Abstract

We derive a formula for the quasi-potential of the one-dimensional symmetric exclusion process in weak contact with reservoirs. The interaction with the boundary is so weak that, in the diffusive scale, the density profile evolves as the one of the exclusion process with reflecting boundary conditions. In order to observe an evolution of the total mass, the process has to be observed in a longer time-scale, in which the density profile becomes immediately constant.

Keywords: *Boundary driven exclusion process, Large deviations, quasi-potential, Macroscopic fluctuation theory*

MSC2020: *60K35, 82C22, 60F10*

1 Introduction

The investigation of the nonequilibrium stationary states of interacting particle systems in contact with reservoirs has attracted a lot of attention in the last years [3, 13, 5, 26, 12, 8, 10, 2, 21, 18, 19].

In this article, we examine the one-dimensional symmetric exclusion process in weak contact with reservoirs. The interaction of the system with the reservoirs is so weak that the hydrodynamic equation describing the macroscopic time evolution of the empirical density is the heat equation with Neumann boundary conditions, the equation which represents the density evolution of the exclusion process with reflecting boundary conditions.

The global density of particles in the system, which from now on, we refer to as the mass of the system, changes in a much longer macroscopic time-scale. In this very long time-scale, the empirical density immediately reaches the stationary profile of the heat equation with Neumann boundary conditions and mass given by the initial mass (that is, a spatially constant density profile with mass equal to the initial mass). Then, the density profile remains constant in space, while the mass evolves smoothly in time.

There are therefore two important time-scales. In the first one, the density profile evolves according to the heat equation with Neumann boundary conditions and converges, as time increases, to a constant density profile without modifying its mass. In the second much longer time-scale, the constant density profile evolves smoothly, modifying the mass according to an ODE, until it reaches the value determined by the interactions of the system with the boundary.

This picture extends to the dynamical large deviations. Denote by $K_{[0,T]}(u)$ the cost of observing a trajectory $u(t)$ in the time interval $[0, T]$. For each t , $u(t)$ is a density profile. Assume that the mass of $u(t)$ is constant in time ($\int_K u(t, x) dx = c$). As the interaction with the boundary is small, this cost coincides with that of an exclusion process with reflection at the boundary [16]. Denote the later cost by $K_{[0,T]}^{\text{Neu}}(u)$, so that $K_{[0,T]}(u) = K_{[0,T]}^{\text{Neu}}(u)$.

To consider the large deviations of the mass, observe the system in the longer time-scale at which the mass evolves. Fix a trajectory $a: [0, T'] \rightarrow [0, M]$, where M represents the length (or volume) of the interval where particles are interacting, and denote by $I_{[0, T']}(a)$ the cost of observing a trajectory $u(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq T'$, whose mass at time t is equal to a_t . Theorem 2.8 below states the dynamical large deviations principle for the mass and provides a formula for $I_{[0, T']}(a)$.

We turn to the quasi-potential. The existence of two time-scales creates an obstruction in its derivation. Denote by $\bar{\rho}_m$, $0 \leq m \leq M$, the constant density profile with mass equal to m . Let $V_m^{\text{Neu}}(\cdot)$ be the quasi-potential associated to the exclusion dynamics with reflection at the boundary: for a density profile ρ whose mass is equal to m , $V_m^{\text{Neu}}(\rho) = \inf_{T>0} \inf_u K_{[0, T]}^{\text{Neu}}(u)$, where the second infimum is carried over all trajectories u with time-independent mass and such that $u(0) = \bar{\rho}_m$, $u(T) = \rho$.

Fix a density profile ρ whose mass is equal to m , and let u_ρ^{Neu} be the relaxation trajectory, that is, the trajectory which describes the typical evolution of the density profile when the initial condition is ρ . As this evolution corresponds to the solution of the heat equation with Neumann boundary conditions, $u_\rho^{\text{Neu}}(t) \rightarrow \bar{\rho}_m$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Let $u_\rho^{\text{R,Neu}}$ be the time-reflected trajectory: $u_\rho^{\text{R,Neu}}(t) = u_\rho^{\text{Neu}}(-t)$. As the exclusion process with reflecting boundary conditions is reversible, $V_m^{\text{Neu}}(\rho) = K_{(-\infty, 0]}^{\text{Neu}}(u_\rho^{\text{R,Neu}})$.

Since the dynamical large deviations rate functional of the exclusion process with weak interaction at the boundary coincides with the one with reflection at the boundary, the quasi-potentials also coincide. The infimum is therefore reached at the time-reversed relaxation trajectory: for any density profile ρ with mass m ,

$$V_m(\rho) := \inf_{T>0} \inf_u K_{[0, T]}(u) = \inf_{T>0} \inf_u K_{[0, T]}^{\text{Neu}}(u) = K_{(-\infty, 0]}^{\text{Neu}}(u_\rho^{\text{R,Neu}}) = V_m^{\text{Neu}}(\rho).$$

Moreover, as the stationary states of the exclusion process with reflecting boundary conditions are the uniform measures with fixed total number of particles, a straightforward computation yields that

$$V_m(\rho) := V_m^{\text{Neu}}(\rho) = \int_K \left\{ \rho(x) \log \frac{\rho(x)}{m} + [1 - \rho(x)] \log \frac{1 - \rho(x)}{1 - m} \right\} dx$$

for any density profile $\rho(\cdot)$ whose mass is equal to m .

The quasi-potential $V(\cdot)$ associated to the mass evolution, is given by $V(m) := \inf_{T>0} \inf_a I_T(a)$, where the second infimum is carried over all trajectories $a: [0, T] \rightarrow [0, M]$ such that $a_0 = \gamma$, $a_T = m$. In this formula, γ stands for the typical mass under the stationary state, determined by the weak interaction of the system with the boundary.

Fix a mass m and let a_m be the relaxation path of the mass which starts from m and converges to γ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Denote by a_m^{R} the time-reversed trajectory. In Lemma 4.11 and its proof we show that

$$V(m) = I_{(-\infty, 0]}(a_m^{\text{R}}) = M \left\{ m \log \frac{m}{\gamma} + [1 - m] \log \frac{1 - m}{1 - \gamma} \right\}.$$

Theorem 2.9 asserts that V is indeed the large deviations rate function of the mass under the stationary state.

We conclude this section with heuristics to derive the quasi-potential for the symmetric exclusion process with weak interaction at the boundary. Fix a density profile $\rho(\cdot)$ with mass m . As time evolves, it relaxes to a constant density equal to m . In a longer time-scale the mass relaxes to γ . Hence, reasoning backwards, it is expected that to fluctuate to ρ , the system first changes its mass from γ to m following the relaxation path reflected in time. Then, its density profile evolves from one which is constant in space and has mass equal to m , to ρ , following the relaxation path reflected in time. The total cost of this trajectory is given by

$$I_{(-\infty, 0]}(a_m^{\text{R}}) + K_{(-\infty, 0]}^{\text{Neu}}(u_\rho^{\text{R,Neu}}) = V(m) + V_m(\rho).$$

By the previous identities,

$$W(\rho) := V(m) + V_m(\rho) = \int_K \left\{ \rho(x) \log \frac{\rho(x)}{\gamma} + [1 - \rho(x)] \log \frac{1 - \rho(x)}{1 - \gamma} \right\} dx,$$

is the quasi-potential for the symmetric exclusion process with weak interaction at the boundary.

To prove that W is indeed the quasi-potential, one should consider a time-inhomogeneous dynamics in which the process evolves diffusively in a time interval $[0, T]$, and properly time-rescaled, so as to observe an evolution of the mass in a time interval $[T, T + S]$.

It is also possible to use the matrix representation of the stationary state to derive the above equation for the quasi-potential [11]. It coincides with the quasi-potential for the symmetric exclusion process with Robin boundary conditions as the interaction with the boundary vanishes [12, 8, 9].

2 Notation and results

2.1 The model

For $N \geq 1$, the state space is given by $\Omega_N := \{0, 1\}^{\Sigma_N}$, where $\Sigma_N = \{1, \dots, N - 1\}$. For $\eta \in \Sigma_N$ $x \in \Sigma_N$, $\eta(x) = 1$ if site x is occupied and $\eta(x) = 0$ if it is empty.

Consider the infinitesimal generator $\mathcal{L}_N = N^2 (\mathcal{L}_{N,0} + \frac{1}{N^2} \mathcal{L}_{N,b})$ where $\mathcal{L}_{N,0}$ represents the generator of the symmetric simple exclusion process and $\mathcal{L}_{N,b}$ models the interaction of the system with the boundary reservoirs. For any function $f : \Omega_N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$(\mathcal{L}_{N,0}f)(\eta) = \sum_{x=1}^{N-2} (f(\eta^{x,x+1}) - f(\eta)),$$

$$(\mathcal{L}_{N,b}f)(\eta) = \sum_{x \in \{1, N-1\}} [r_x(1 - \eta(x)) + (1 - r_x)\eta(x)] (f(\eta^x) - f(\eta))$$

with $r_1 = \alpha$, $r_{N-1} = \beta$, where $0 < \alpha, \beta < 1$. In this formula, for $x \in \{1, \dots, N - 2\}$, the configuration $\eta^{x,x+1}$ is obtained from η by exchanging the occupation variables $\eta(x)$ and $\eta(x + 1)$, i.e.,

$$\eta^{x,x+1}(y) = \begin{cases} \eta(x + 1), & \text{if } y = x \\ \eta(x), & \text{if } y = x + 1 \\ \eta(y), & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

and for $x \in \{1, N - 1\}$, the configuration η^x is obtained from η by flipping the occupation variable $\eta(x)$, i.e.,

$$\eta^x(y) = \begin{cases} 1 - \eta(y), & \text{if } y = x \\ \eta(y), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

The factor N^{-2} in front of the generator of the boundary dynamics indicates a very weak interaction of the system with the reservoirs. The sum $\mathcal{L}_{N,0} + \frac{1}{N^2} \mathcal{L}_{N,b}$ is multiplied by N^2 to model a diffusive behavior of particles in the bulk.

Remark 2.1. *All results stated below are valid if we replace the generator $\mathcal{L}_{N,0} + \frac{1}{N^2} \mathcal{L}_{N,b}$ by $\mathcal{L}_{N,0} + \frac{1}{N^\theta} \mathcal{L}_{N,b}$, with $\theta > 1$, a parameter that modulates the interaction of the system with the reservoirs.*

Denote by $(\eta_t)_{t \geq 0}$ the Markov process with infinitesimal generator \mathcal{L}_N .

2.2 Hydrodynamical limit and large deviations in the diffusive scaling

Here, we recall the results established in [1], resp. [16] regarding the hydrodynamic limit, resp. large deviations for the process with generator \mathcal{L}_N known as the SSEP with slow boundaries. For that, let us first introduce some notation. Fix a time horizon $T > 0$, and recall that $\Omega_N = \{0, 1\}^{\Sigma_N}$, $\Sigma_N = \{1, \dots, N - 1\}$, and $(\eta_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is Ω_N -valued the Markov process with infinitesimal generator \mathcal{L}_N .

Given a Polish space A , \mathcal{D}_A^T denotes the space of trajectories on $[0, T]$ which are right continuous with left limits and with values in A . Given a probability measure μ_N on Ω_N , \mathbb{P}_{μ_N} is the probability measure induced on $\mathcal{D}_{\Omega_N}^T$ by $\{\eta_t, t \in [0, T]\}$ when η_0 has law μ_N . Also, denote by \mathbb{E}_{μ_N} the expectation with respect to \mathbb{P}_{μ_N} .

Introduce

$$\mathcal{M} := \{\mu \text{ is a positive measure on } [0, 1] \text{ such that } \mu([0, 1]) \leq 1\},$$

which we equip with the weak topology. Denote by $\mathcal{M}_0 \subset \mathcal{M}$ the subset of elements which are absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure and with density between zero and one. The subset \mathcal{M}_0 is closed for the induced topology and is therefore a Polish space.

Introduce the empirical measure associated to an element $\eta \in \Omega_N$ as the the element of \mathcal{M} defined by

$$\pi^N(\eta, du) = \pi^N(du) := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{x=1}^{N-1} \eta(x) \delta_{\frac{x}{N}}(du)$$

where $\delta_{\frac{x}{N}}$ is the Dirac measure at point x/N . The process $(\pi_t^N)_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ of empirical measures associated to $(\eta_t)_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ is a Markov process inducing a measure on $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}^T$.

For a continuous function $F : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, write

$$\langle \pi^N, F \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{x=1}^{N-1} \eta(x) F(x/N)$$

and for $F, G \in L^2([0, 1])$,

$$\langle F, G \rangle = \int_0^1 F(x)G(x)dx.$$

Denote by $C^{i,j} = C^{i,j}([0, T] \times [0, 1])$ the set of functions that are of class C^i in time and of class C^j in space with i, j possibly infinite, and $C^i([0, T])$ resp. $C^i([0, 1])$ the functions that are C^i in time, resp. space.

To lighten the notation, given $G : [0, T] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, we will sometimes write $G_t(x)$ instead of $G(t, x)$ and $\partial_t G(t, x)$ denotes its partial time derivative. Also, given $G : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we will sometimes write G_t instead of $G(t)$, and \dot{G}_t or $\dot{G}(t)$ denotes its time derivative, which we also sometimes denotes by $\partial_t G_t$.

We say that a sequence of probability measures $(\mu_N)_{N \geq 1}$ on Ω_N is associated to the profile $\rho_0 : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ if for any $\delta > 0$ and any continuous function $G : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mu_N [|\langle \pi^N, G \rangle - \langle \rho_0, G \rangle| > \delta] = 0.$$

2.2.1 Hydrodynamic and hydrostatic limit in the diffusive scaling

The following results established in [1] and [16] hold:

Theorem 2.2. (Hydrodynamic limit, c.f. [1]) Consider a sequence of probability measures $(\mu_N)_{N \geq 1}$ associated to a measurable profile $\rho_0 : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$. Then, for every $t \geq 0$, $\delta > 0$ and continuous function $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_{\mu_N} [|\langle \pi_t^N, f \rangle - \langle \rho_t, f \rangle| > \delta] = 0,$$

where $\rho(t, \cdot)$ is the unique weak solution of the heat equation with Neumann boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho(t, x) = \partial_x^2 \rho(t, x), & \text{for } t > 0, x \in (0, 1), \\ \partial_x \rho(t, 0) = \partial_x \rho(t, 1) = 0, & \text{for } t > 0, \\ \rho(0, x) = \rho_0(x), & \text{for } x \in [0, 1]. \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

For $N \geq 1$ fixed, the dynamics of $(\eta_t)_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ is irreducible and its state space finite. Therefore, it admits a unique invariant measure that we denote by μ_{ss}^N . The following result provides a law of large numbers for the empirical measure under the stationary state μ_{ss}^N , referred to as the hydrostatic limit. It was first established by Baldasso, Menezes, Neumann and Souza in [1]. Tsunoda provided an alternative proof in [26].

Theorem 2.3. (Law of large numbers under the invariant measure, c.f. [1] and [26]). For any continuous function $H: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\left| \langle \pi^N, H \rangle - \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} \langle 1, H \rangle \right| \right] = 0.$$

For the proof of Theorem 2.3, Baldasso et al. use a microscopic control of the two point correlations function for the invariant measure and they do not rely on the knowledge of the hydrodynamic limit of the empirical measure in the diffusive scaling. In [26], Tsunoda obtains Theorem 2.3 by using a macroscopic dynamical relaxation approach that relies on the knowledge of the hydrodynamic limit of the empirical measure, in the spirit of [23]. Reasoning as in [23] he first proves that the limit is necessarily a stationary solution of (2.3) and therefore a constant profile. He obtains the value of that constant using the hydrodynamic limit of the mass of the empirical measure in a well chosen super-diffusive scale (see Section 3 and Proposition 3.1 for a precise definition of the mass and for the statement of its hydrodynamic limit). In what follows, we are also able to recover Theorem 2.3 through a macroscopic dynamical approach. It relies on a refined version of Tsunoda's results: we derive the *pointwise* hydrodynamic limit for the process (and not just the mass) in the super-diffusive scaling (see Theorem 2.5). From that, we obtain the hydrostatic limit for the mass (Proposition 3.8), and then combine the super-diffusive and diffusive time scales to obtain the law of large numbers for the empirical measure under the invariant measure of the system.

2.2.2 Dynamic large deviations in the diffusive scaling

We write $L^2(0, 1)$ the space of L^2 functions defined on $[0, 1]$ and denote by $\|\cdot\|_{L^2}$, the associated norm. Let $\mathcal{H}^1(0, 1)$ be the subset of $L^2(0, 1)$ such that for any $F \in \mathcal{H}^1(0, 1)$, there is $\partial_x F \in L^2(0, 1)$ satisfying $\langle \partial_x F, G \rangle = -\langle F, \partial_x G \rangle$, for any $G \in C^\infty$ with compact support in $(0, 1)$. For $F \in \mathcal{H}^1(0, 1)$ define the norm

$$\|F\|_{\mathcal{H}^1} := (\|F\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\partial_x F\|_{L^2}^2)^{1/2}.$$

Let $L^2([0, T], \mathcal{H}^1)$ be the space of measurable functions $F: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^1$ such that

$$\|F\|_{L^2([0, T], \mathcal{H}^1)}^2 := \int_0^T \|F_t\|_{\mathcal{H}^1}^2 dt < \infty.$$

Define the energy functional $\mathcal{E}: \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}^T \rightarrow [0, \infty]$, as in [16], by $\mathcal{E}(\pi) = \sup_H \mathcal{E}_H(\pi)$ where the supremum is taken over elements in $C^{0,1}([0, T] \times [0, 1])$ whose support is contained in $[0, T] \times (0, 1)$, and

$$\mathcal{E}_H(\pi) = \begin{cases} \int_0^1 \int_0^T \partial_x H(t, x) \rho(t, x) dt dx - 2 \int_0^1 \int_0^T H^2(t, x), & \text{if } \pi \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}_0}^T \text{ and } \pi_t(dx) = \rho_t(x) dx \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Introduce

$$\mathfrak{M} = \{ \pi \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}^T, \langle \pi_t, 1 \rangle = \langle \pi_0, 1 \rangle, \forall t \in [0, T] \}.$$

For $H \in C^{1,2}([0, T] \times [0, 1])$, define the linear functional $\tilde{J}_H(\pi): \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}^T \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{J}_H(\pi) &= \langle \rho_T, H_T \rangle - \langle \rho_0, H_0 \rangle - \int_0^T \langle \rho_s, \partial_s H_s \rangle ds + \int_0^T \langle \partial_x \rho_s, \partial_x H_s \rangle ds \\ &\quad - \int_0^T \langle \rho_s(1 - \rho_s), (\partial_x H_s)^2 \rangle ds \end{aligned}$$

if $\pi \in \mathfrak{M}$ and $\mathcal{E}(\pi) < \infty$ with $\pi_t = \rho_t(x)dx$, and $\tilde{J}_H(\pi) = +\infty$ otherwise.

The rate function $\tilde{I}_T : \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}^T \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ that appears in the large deviations principle proved in [16] and recalled below (Theorem 2.4) is given by:

$$\tilde{I}_T(\pi) = \sup_{H \in C^{1,2}([0,T] \times [0,1])} \tilde{J}_H(\pi).$$

Theorem 2.4. (Dynamical large deviations principle, c.f. [16])

Consider a sequence of deterministic configurations $(\eta^N)_{N \geq 1}$ associated to a continuous profile ρ_0 which is bounded away from 0 and 1. The sequence of probability measures $(\mathbb{P}_{\delta_{\eta^N}})_{N \geq 1}$ satisfies the following large deviations principle:

(i) (**Upper bound**) For any closed subset \mathcal{C} of $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}^T$,

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mathbb{P}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}[\mathcal{C}] \leq - \inf_{\pi \in \mathcal{C}} \tilde{I}_T(\pi)$$

(ii) (**Lower bound**) For any open subset \mathcal{O} of $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}^T$,

$$\underline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mathbb{P}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}[\mathcal{O}] \geq - \inf_{\pi \in \mathcal{O}} \tilde{I}_T(\pi).$$

2.3 Main results

To observe an evolution of the mass of the process $(\eta_t)_{t \geq 0}$, time has to be accelerated by a factor N , that is, by speeding-up the exclusion part by N^3 and the boundary dynamics by N . We refer to this as the super-diffusive regime, or accelerated regime.

Fix one and for all a time horizon $T > 0$ and denote by $\{\zeta_t, t \in [0, T]\}$ the Markov process with generator

$$\mathfrak{L}_N = N^3 \{\mathcal{L}_{N,0} + N^{-2} \mathcal{L}_{N,b}\} = N \mathcal{L}_N.$$

We will often refer to $\{\zeta_t, t \in [0, T]\}$ as the accelerated process. Given a measure μ_N on Ω_N , $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N}$ is the probability measure induced on $\mathcal{D}_{\Omega_N}^T$ by the speeded up process $\{\zeta_t, t \in [0, T]\}$ when ζ_0 has law μ_N . Also, denote by $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_N}$ the expectation with respect to $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N}$.

For $\pi \in \mathcal{M}$, introduce

$$\hat{m}(\pi) = \langle 1, \pi \rangle = \pi([0, 1])$$

the mass of π . Then, the process $(\hat{m}(\pi^N(\zeta_t, \cdot)))_{0 \leq t \leq T}$, which we will denote by $(\hat{m}(\pi_t^N))_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ defines a hidden Markov process with state space $[0, 1]$ and induces a probability measure on $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$, the space of trajectories defined on $[0, T]$ that are right continuous with left limits and taking their values in $[0, 1]$.

2.3.1 Hydrodynamic limits

As mentioned before, in [26], Tsunoda established the hydrodynamic limit for the mass $\hat{m}(\pi_t^N)$ in the super-diffusive regime, which corresponds in our case to having the process accelerated by a factor N . An extra argument provides the hydrodynamic limit for the empirical measure of the process.

Theorem 2.5. (Hydrodynamic limit for the accelerated process). Fix a measurable profile $\rho_0 : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ and consider a sequence $(\mu_N)_{N \geq 1}$ associated to ρ_0 . For any $t \in (0, T]$, $\delta > 0$ and continuous function $H : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \langle \pi_t^N, H \rangle - m(t) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| > \delta \right] = 0,$$

where $m : [0, T] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is the unique solution of

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t m = -2(m - \gamma) \\ m(0) = \int_0^1 \rho_0(x) dx, \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

and $\gamma := (\alpha + \beta)/2$.

For $N \geq 1$ the generators of $(\eta_t)_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ and $(\zeta_t)_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ are proportional so they admit the same stationary measure μ_{ss}^N .

2.3.2 Large deviations principles

We first define the rate function that appears in the dynamical large deviations principle.

Definition 2.6. For $T > 0$ fixed and $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$, define $J_{T,G} : \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$J_{T,G}(a) := a_T G_T - a_0 G_0 - \int_0^T \partial_s G_s a_s ds - \int_0^T A_{G_s}(a_s) ds, \quad (2.5)$$

where $(a_s)_{0 \leq s \leq T}$ represents an element of $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$, and

$$A_g(b) := 2\gamma(1-b)(e^g - 1) + 2(1-\gamma)b(e^{-g} - 1), \quad g \in \mathbb{R}, \quad b \in [0, 1]. \quad (2.6)$$

The rate function is defined as follows.

Definition 2.7. Fix $m \in (0, 1)$. Let $I_T, I_T(\cdot|m) : \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ be given by

$$I_T(a) = \sup_{G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])} J_{T,G}(a), \quad I_T(a|m) = \begin{cases} I_T(a) & \text{if } a_0 = m \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We present in Proposition 4.4 below an explicit formula for rate functional provided the trajectory is smooth. Fix $a \in \mathcal{C}^2([0, T])$ for which there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $\delta \leq a(t) \leq 1 - \delta$ for $0 \leq t \leq T$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} I_T(a) &= \int_0^T 2\gamma(1-a_s) \{1 + H_s e^{H_s} - e^{H_s}\} ds \\ &\quad + \int_0^T 2(1-\gamma)a_s \{1 - H_s e^{-H_s} - e^{-H_s}\} ds, \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

where, for each $0 \leq t \leq T$, H_t is the unique solution of the equation

$$\dot{a}(t) = 2\gamma(1-a_t)e^{H_t} - 2(1-\gamma)a_t e^{-H_t}.$$

We are now in a position to state the dynamic and static large deviations principle.

Theorem 2.8. (Dynamical large deviations). Fix $m_0 \in (0, 1)$ an initial mass and consider a sequence of configurations $(\eta^N)_{N \geq 1}$ such that $\widehat{m}(\pi^N(\eta^N))$ converges to m_0 . The sequence of probability measures $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N}$ satisfies the following large deviations principle:

(i) For any closed subset \mathcal{F} of $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} \left[(\widehat{m}(\pi_t^N))_{0 \leq t \leq T} \in \mathcal{F} \right] \leq - \inf_{a \in \mathcal{F}} I(a|m_0).$$

(ii) For any open subset \mathcal{O} of $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} \left[(\widehat{m}(\pi_t^N))_{0 \leq t \leq T} \in \mathcal{O} \right] \geq - \inf_{a \in \mathcal{O}} I(a|m_0).$$

Theorem 2.9. (Static large deviations principle).

(i) For any closed subset \mathcal{F} of $[0, 1]$,

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mu_{ss}^N [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{F}] \leq - \inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m). \quad (2.8)$$

(ii) For any open subset \mathcal{O} of $[0, 1]$,

$$\underline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mu_{ss}^N [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{O}] \geq - \inf_{m \in \mathcal{O}} V(m). \quad (2.9)$$

where $V : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$, the quasi potential for the rate function $I_T(\cdot | \gamma)$, is given by:

$$V(m) := \inf_{T > 0} \inf_{a(\cdot), a_T = m} I_T(a|\gamma), \quad (2.10)$$

and the infimum is taken over elements a in $\mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$.

Remark 2.10. Theorems 2.5, 2.8, 2.9 hold as stated if the generator $N^{-2}\mathcal{L}_{N,b}$ is replaced by $N^{-\theta}\mathcal{L}_{N,b}$ for some $\theta > 1$. In this case, \mathcal{L}_N has to be accelerated by $N^{\theta-1}$ so that

$$N^{\theta-1}N^2(\mathcal{L}_{N,0} + N^{-\theta}\mathcal{L}_{N,b}) = N^{1+\theta}\mathcal{L}_{N,0} + N\mathcal{L}_{N,b}.$$

The study is carried out for the case where $\theta = 2$ but all arguments apply without modifications, to the case $\theta > 1$.

We prove Theorem 2.5 in section 3, Theorem 2.8 in Section 5 and Theorem 2.9 in Section 7.

3 Hydrodynamic limits

3.1 Dynamical law of large numbers for the accelerated process

To prove Theorem 2.5, which is a pointwise hydrodynamic result, we first establish the hydrodynamic limit of the mass (Proposition 3.1). The latter is also stated pointwisely but we prove that the convergence of the mass trajectory holds in law, which yields the pointwise convergence. For that, we follow the standard steps. First we prove tightness of the sequence of probability measures induced by the mass process (Lemma 3.2). Then, we perform a superexponential replacement lemma (Lemma 3.3) which will also be used for the proof of the large deviations principle. In order to do so, we use some Dirichlet estimates (Lemma 3.5).

Fix $\rho \in (0, 1)$ and define

$$\mathbb{D}_N(f) = \int_{\zeta} \sum_{x=1}^{N-2} \left(\sqrt{f(\zeta^{x,x+1})} - \sqrt{f(\zeta)} \right)^2 d\nu_{\rho}^N(\zeta),$$

and

$$\mathbb{D}_{N,b}(f) = \int_{\zeta} \sum_{x \in \{1, N-1\}} [r_x(1 - \zeta(x)) + (1 - r_x)\zeta(x)] \left(\sqrt{f(\zeta^x)} - \sqrt{f(\zeta)} \right)^2 d\nu_{\rho}^N(\zeta),$$

for $f : \Omega_N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. In this formula, ν_ρ^N represents the Bernoulli product measure on Ω_N with density ρ .

Fix a constant $m_0 \in [0, 1]$. We say that a sequence of probability measures $(\mu_N)_{N \geq 1}$ on Ω_N is associated to the mass m_0 if, for any $\delta > 0$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mu_N \left[\left| \widehat{m}(\pi^N) - m_0 \right| > \delta \right] = 0.$$

Proposition 3.1. (*Hydrodynamic limit for the mass*). Fix $m_0 \in [0, 1]$ and consider a sequence of measures $(\mu_N)_{N \geq 1}$ on Ω_N associated to the mass m_0 . Then, for any $t \in [0, T]$ and any $\delta > 0$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) - m(t) \right| > \delta \right] = 0,$$

where $m : [0, T] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is the unique solution of (2.4) with $m(0) = m_0$.

Lemma 3.2. For any sequence of measures $(\mu_N)_{N \geq 1}$ on Ω_N , the sequence of probability measures $(\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N})_{N \geq 1}$ induced by $\widehat{m}(\pi_t^N)$ when $\eta_0 \sim \mu_N$, is tight for the Skorohod topology. Moreover, all limit points are concentrated on continuous paths.

Proof. It is enough to show that for any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\sup_{|t-s| \leq \delta} \left| \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) - \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N) \right| > \varepsilon \right] = 0. \quad (3.1)$$

By Dynkin's formula (see [22, Appendix 1]),

$$M_t^N = \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^N) - N^3 \int_0^t \mathcal{L}_{N,0} \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N) ds - N \int_0^t \mathcal{L}_{N,b} \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N) ds$$

is a martingale with respect to the natural filtration $\mathcal{F}_t := \sigma(\eta_s, s \leq t)$. As the bulk dynamics is conservative,

$$\mathcal{L}_{N,0} \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N) = 0.$$

Also, computations yield:

$$N \mathcal{L}_{N,b} \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N) = \alpha - \zeta_s(1) + \beta - \zeta_s(N-1),$$

so

$$M_t^N = \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^N) - \int_0^t (\alpha + \beta - \zeta_s(1) - \zeta_s(N-1)) ds. \quad (3.2)$$

Therefore, (3.1) holds if

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_N} \left[\sup_{|t-s| \leq \delta} \left| M_t^N - M_s^N \right| \right] = 0 \quad (3.3)$$

and

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_N} \left[\sup_{|t-s| \leq \delta} \left| \int_s^t (\alpha + \beta - \zeta_r(1) - \zeta_r(N-1)) dr \right| \right] = 0. \quad (3.4)$$

Denote by $\langle M_t^N \rangle$ the quadratic variation of M_t^N . By Doob's inequality,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_N} \left[\sup_{|t-s| \leq \delta} \left| M_t^N - M_s^N \right| \right] \leq 2 \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_N} \left[\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left| M_t^N \right| \right] \leq 4 \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_N} \left[\langle M_T^N \rangle \right]^{1/2}.$$

Dynkin's formula and the fact that the bulk dynamics is conservative yields the following expression for $\langle M_t^N \rangle$:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle M_t^N \rangle &= N \int_0^t [\mathcal{L}_{N,b} \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N)^2 - 2\widehat{m}(\pi_s^N) \mathcal{L}_{N,b} \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N)] ds \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \int_0^t \sum_{x \in \{1, N-1\}} [r_x \zeta_s(x) + (1-r_x)(1-\zeta_s(x))] ds. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

Hence, as $\zeta_s(x)$ is bounded, $\langle M_t^N \rangle \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0$, in L^1 , and (3.3) follows. To prove (3.4), simply note that for $0 \leq s \leq t$, $\alpha + \beta - \zeta_s(1) - \zeta_s(N-1)$ is uniformly bounded. \square

Lemma 3.3. (*Supereponential Replacement Lemma*). *Given $g \in \mathcal{C}([0, T])$, for any sequence of probability measures μ_N on Ω_N , $t \in [0, T]$, $\delta > 0$ and $x \in \{1, N-1\}$,*

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \int_0^t g(s) (\zeta_s(x) - \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N)) ds \right| > \delta \right] = -\infty. \quad (3.6)$$

Remark 3.4. *In the proof of Proposition 3.1 we only need the probability in (3.6) to vanish in the limit. The stronger version presented in Lemma 3.3 is needed in Section 5.*

For the proof of Lemma 3.3, we use the following :

Lemma 3.5. *For any density f with respect to ν_ρ^N ,*

$$(i) \langle \mathcal{L}_{N,0} \sqrt{f}, \sqrt{f} \rangle_{\nu_\rho^N} = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{D}_N(f)$$

$$(ii) \langle \mathcal{L}_{N,b} \sqrt{f}, \sqrt{f} \rangle_{\nu_\rho^N} = -(1/2) \mathbb{D}_{N,b}(f) + U_N(f). \text{ There exists a finite constant } C_0, \text{ depending only on } \rho, \text{ such that } |U_N(f)| \leq C_0 \text{ for all } N \geq 1 \text{ and density } f \text{ with respect to } \nu_\rho^N.$$

Proof.

(i) This point comes from the the fact that the measure ν_ρ^N satisfies the detailed balance conditions under the dynamics generated by $\mathcal{L}_{N,0}$ and a change of variables.

(ii) Add and subtract $(1/2) E_{\nu_\rho^N}[\mathcal{L}_{N,b} f]$. On the one hand,

$$-\frac{1}{2} \left\{ E_{\nu_\rho^N}[\mathcal{L}_{N,b} f] - 2 \langle \mathcal{L}_{N,b} \sqrt{f}, \sqrt{f} \rangle_{\nu_\rho^N} \right\} = -(1/2) \mathbb{D}_{N,b}(f).$$

On the other hand, performing the change of variables $\zeta \rightarrow \zeta^x$ in the term $(1/2) E_{\nu_\rho^N}[\mathcal{L}_{N,b} f]$ yields that

$$\langle \mathcal{L}_{N,b} \sqrt{f}, \sqrt{f} \rangle_{\nu_\rho^N} = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{D}_{N,b}(f) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in \{1, N-1\}} [r_x - \rho] \int \frac{\zeta_x - \rho}{\rho(1-\rho)} f(\zeta) d\nu_\rho^N(\zeta).$$

Now, using that f is a density, that the jump rates are bounded and that $\rho \in (0, 1)$, the result follows. \square

Proof of Lemma 3.3. Fix $\rho \in (0, 1)$, and suppose, without loss of generality, that $x = N-1$. For $s \in [0, t]$ and $g \in \mathcal{C}([0, T])$, write $V_s^g(\zeta) = g(s)(\zeta_s(N-1) - \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N))$. Using that $\left| \frac{d\mu_N}{d\nu_\rho^N} \right| \leq e^{cN}$ and Tchebychev's inequality,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \int_0^t V_s^g(\zeta) ds \right| > \delta \right] \leq \exp(-(c\delta - C)N) \times \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\nu_\rho^N} \left[\exp \left(cN \left| \int_0^t V_s^g(\zeta) ds \right| \right) \right], \quad (3.7)$$

for any $c > 0$. Therefore,

$$\frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \int_0^t V_s^g(\zeta) ds \right| > \delta \right] \leq C - c\delta + \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\nu_\rho^N} \left[\exp \left(cN \left| \int_0^t V_s^g(\zeta) ds \right| \right) \right]. \quad (3.8)$$

Let us deal with the last term. As $e^{|x|} \leq e^x + e^{-x}$, and

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log(a_N + b_N) \leq \max \left(\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log a_N, \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log b_N \right), \quad (3.9)$$

it is enough to bound that expectation without the absolute values.

Let $V^N(\zeta) = \zeta(N-1) - \langle 1, \pi^N \rangle$. By Feynman-Kac's inequality, stated, for instance in [22, Appendix 1], Lemma 3.5 and the fact that $\mathbb{D}_{N,b}$ is non negative,

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\nu_\rho^N} \left[\exp \left(cN \int_0^t V_s^g(\zeta) ds \right) \right] \\ & \leq \exp \left(\int_0^t \sup_f \left\{ \int cNg(s) V^N(\zeta) f(\zeta) d\nu_\rho^N(\zeta) + N^3 \langle \mathcal{L}_{N,0} \sqrt{f}, \sqrt{f} \rangle + N \langle \mathcal{L}_{N,b} \sqrt{f}, \sqrt{f} \rangle \right\} ds \right) \\ & \leq \exp \left(\int_0^t \sup_f \left\{ \int cNg(s) V^N(\zeta) f(\zeta) d\nu_\rho^N(\zeta) - \frac{N^3}{2} \mathbb{D}_N(f) + NU_N(f) \right\} ds \right), \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

where $U_N(f)$ has been introduced in Lemma 3.5, and the supremum is carried over all densities f with respect to ν_ρ^N .

By definition of V^N ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_\zeta V^N(\zeta) f(\zeta) d\nu_\rho^N(\zeta) &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{y=1}^{N-1} \int_\zeta (\zeta(N-1) - \zeta(y)) f(\zeta) d\nu_\rho^N(\zeta) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{y=1}^{N-1} \sum_{i=y}^{N-2} \int (\zeta(i+1) - \zeta(i)) f(\zeta) d\nu_\rho^N(\zeta) \\ &= \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{y=1}^{N-1} \sum_{i=y}^{N-2} \int (\zeta(i+1) - \zeta(i)) (f(\zeta) - f(\zeta^{i,i+1})) d\nu_\rho^N(\zeta), \end{aligned}$$

where we performed the change of variable $\zeta \rightarrow \zeta^{i,i+1}$ in the last line. Now, write

$$f(\zeta) - f(\zeta^{i,i+1}) = (\sqrt{f(\zeta)} - \sqrt{f(\zeta^{i,i+1})}) (\sqrt{f(\zeta)} + \sqrt{f(\zeta^{i,i+1})}).$$

By Young's inequality and using the fact that ζ is bounded, the penultimate expression is less than

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{y=1}^{N-1} \sum_{i=y}^{N-2} \int \left[\frac{B}{4N} \left(\sqrt{f(\zeta^{i,i+1})} - \sqrt{f(\zeta)} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{4NB} \left(\sqrt{f(\zeta^{i,i+1})} + \sqrt{f(\zeta)} \right)^2 \right] d\nu_\rho^N(\zeta) \\ & \leq \frac{B}{4N} \sum_{y=1}^{N-1} \mathbb{D}_N(f) + \frac{N}{B}, \end{aligned}$$

for any $B > 0$, where we used that f is a density.

Taking the log of (3.10), dividing it by N and using the above inequality yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\nu_\rho^N} \left[\exp \left(cN \int_0^t V_s^g(\zeta) ds \right) \right] &\leq \int_0^t \sup_f \left\{ \frac{c|g(s)|B}{4} \mathbb{D}_N(f) + \frac{cN}{B} |g(s)| - \frac{N^2}{2} \mathbb{D}_N(f) + U_N(f) \right\} ds \\ &\leq T \sup_f \left\{ \frac{c\|g\|_\infty B}{4} \mathbb{D}_N(f) + \frac{cN}{B} \|g\|_\infty - \frac{N^2}{2} \mathbb{D}_N(f) + U_N(f) \right\} \\ &\leq T \left\{ \frac{c^2 \|g\|_\infty^2}{N} + U_N(f) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where to get the last inequality we took $B = \frac{2N^2}{c\|g\|_\infty}$. By Lemma 3.5 $U_N(f)$ is uniformly bounded by a constant C_0 . Therefore, we are left with

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\nu_\rho^N} \left[\exp \left(cN \int_0^t V_s^g(\zeta) ds \right) \right] \leq TC_0.$$

By (3.8),

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\nu_\rho^N} \left[\left| \int_0^t V_s^g(\zeta) ds \right| > \delta \right] \leq C - c\delta + TC_0.$$

Taking $c \rightarrow +\infty$ yields the result. \square

Proof of Proposition 3.1. From (3.5), we have that

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_N} \left[\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} |M_t^N| \right] \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

Thus, by the formula (3.2) for M_t^N and by Lemma 3.3, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, $t \in [0, T]$,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \hat{m}(\pi_t^N) - \hat{m}(\pi_0^N) - \int_0^t 2(\gamma - \hat{m}(\pi_s^N)) ds \right| > \varepsilon \right] \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

Since, by Lemma 3.2, all limit points of the sequence $(\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N})_{N \geq 1}$ are concentrated on continuous trajectories, by Portmanteau's lemma, for any limit point \mathbb{Q}^* of $(\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N})_{N \geq 1}$, for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $t \in [0, T]$,

$$\mathbb{Q}^* \left[\left| \hat{m}(\pi_t) - \hat{m}(\pi_0) - \int_0^t 2(\gamma - \hat{m}(\pi_s)) ds \right| > \varepsilon \right] = 0. \quad (3.11)$$

Taking $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, for any $t \in [0, T]$,

$$\mathbb{Q}^* \left[\hat{m}(\pi_t) - \hat{m}(\pi_0) = \int_0^t 2(\gamma - \hat{m}(\pi_s)) ds \right] = 1. \quad (3.12)$$

Taking a dense subset of times and using the right-continuity of the trajectories yields that

$$\mathbb{Q}^* \left[\hat{m}(\pi_t) - \hat{m}(\pi_0) = \int_0^t 2(\gamma - \hat{m}(\pi_s)) ds, \quad \forall t \in [0, T] \right] = 1. \quad (3.13)$$

If $(\mu_N)_{N \geq 1}$ is associated to a mass m_0 ,

$$\mathbb{Q}^* \left[\hat{m}(\pi_t) = m_0 + \int_0^t 2(\gamma - \hat{m}(\pi_s)) ds, \quad \forall t \in [0, T] \right] = 1.$$

Therefore, \mathbb{Q}^* is concentrated on solutions of (2.4) with $m(0) = m_0$. By uniqueness of solutions, the measure \mathbb{Q}^* is the measure concentrated on the trajectory $m(\cdot)$ which solves (2.4) with $m(0) = m_0$. Convergence in law to a deterministic measure implies convergence in probability so we proved Proposition 3.1. Note that m is explicitly given by

$$m(t) = \gamma + (m_0 - \gamma) e^{-2t}. \quad (3.14)$$

\square

We move on to the proof of Theorem 2.5, the hydrodynamic limit of the empirical measure associated to the accelerated process. The idea is to use the fact that the hydrodynamic limit of the non accelerated process is the heat equation with Neumann boundary conditions (see Theorem 2.2) and that the solution of that equation converges in time to a flat profile given by the mass of the initial condition (Lemma 3.7). The accelerated process then only evolves according to the hydrodynamic limit of the mass, stated in Proposition 3.1. This is the object of Proposition 3.6.

Proposition 3.6. *Consider $(\mu_N)_{N \geq 1}$ a sequence of probability measures. Fix $a > 0$ and a continuous function $H: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. There is a $t_0 > 0$, depending on a and H , such that*

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \langle \pi_{\frac{t}{N}}^N, H \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^N) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| > a \right] = 0, \quad (3.15)$$

for any $t \geq t_0$.

To prove Proposition 3.6 we use the following Lemma for which a proof can be found for instance in [14] or [24], Chapter 4.

Lemma 3.7. *Consider a measurable profile $\rho_0: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ and let ρ be the solution in $\mathcal{H}^1(0, 1)$ of (2.3). Then, for any $t \geq 0$,*

$$\|\rho(t, \cdot) - \int_0^1 \rho_0(x) dx\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \|\rho(0, \cdot) - \int_0^1 \rho_0(x) dx\|_{L^2}^2 e^{-2\lambda_1 t} \leq 2e^{-2\lambda_1 t},$$

where $\lambda_1 > 0$ is the smallest non zero eigenvalue of the Laplacian associated to Neumann boundary conditions.

Proof of Proposition 3.6. Fix $a > 0$, and a continuous function $H: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Consider $t_0 > 0$ such that $2e^{-\lambda_1 t_0} \|H\|_{L^2(0,1)} < \frac{a}{2}$ and fix $t \geq t_0$. Let $(N_k)_{k \geq 1}$ be a subsequence such that

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \langle \pi_{\frac{t}{N}}^N, H \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^N) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| > a \right] = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{N_k}} \left[\left| \langle \pi_{\frac{t}{N_k}}^{N_k}, H \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^{N_k}) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| > a \right].$$

Let us show that the right-hand side vanishes. To prove this assertion, it is enough to show that any subsequence of N_k has a further subsequence which converges to 0. Fix a subsequence of N_k , still denoted by N_k to keep the notation simple.

Define $\mathcal{A}_t \subset \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}_0}^t$ as the set of trajectories $\{\rho(r, \cdot), 0 \leq r \leq t\}$ whose density ρ is a solution of (2.3) for some initial condition. The process $(\pi_{\frac{r}{N}}^N)_{0 \leq r \leq t}$ has generator \mathcal{L}_N and by the proof of Theorem 2.2 in [1], the sequence of probability measures $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{N_k}}$ on $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}^t$ induced by $(\pi_{\frac{r}{N_k}}^{N_k})_{0 \leq r \leq t}$ when $\pi_0^{N_k} \sim \mu_{N_k}$, is tight and all its limit points \mathbb{P}^* satisfy

$$\mathbb{P}^*(\mathcal{A}_t) = 1.$$

Consider $(N'_j)_{j \geq 1}$ a subsequence of $(N_k)_{k \geq 1}$ such that $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{N'_j}}$ converges to a probability measure \mathbb{P}^* . Then, by Portmanteau's Lemma,

$$\begin{aligned} & \overline{\lim}_{j \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{N'_j}} \left[\left| \langle \pi_{\frac{t}{N'_j}}^{N'_j}, H \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^{N'_j}) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| \geq a \right] \\ & \leq \mathbb{P}^* \left[\left(\left| \langle \rho(t), H \rangle - \int_0^1 \rho(0, x) dx \langle 1, H \rangle \right| \geq a \right) \cap (\rho \in \mathcal{A}_t) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

By Lemma 3.7, for any $\rho \in \mathcal{A}_t$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \langle \rho_t, H \rangle - \int_0^1 \rho(0, x) dx \langle 1, H \rangle \right| & \leq \|\rho(t, \cdot) - \int_0^1 \rho(0, x) dx\|_{L^2(0,1)} \|H\|_{L^2(0,1)} \\ & \leq 2e^{-\lambda_1 t} \|H\|_{L^2(0,1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by definition of t_0 , for any $t \geq t_0$ and $\rho \in \mathcal{A}_t$

$$|\langle \rho_t, H \rangle - \int_0^1 \rho(0, x) dx \langle 1, H \rangle| < \frac{a}{2}.$$

This implies that the right-hand side of (3.16) vanishes, and completes the proof of the lemma, as we showed that any subsequence of N_k possesses a further subsequence N'_j such that

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{N'_j}} \left[\left| \langle \pi_{\frac{t}{N'_j}}^{N'_j}, H \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^{N'_j}) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| > a \right] = 0.$$

□

Proof of Theorem 2.5. Fix a continuous function $H: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. The idea is to split the term $|\langle \pi_t^N, H \rangle - m(t) \langle 1, H \rangle|$ into two parts involving the mass process $\widehat{m}(\pi_t^N)$. One part is dealt with thanks to the hydrodynamic limit for the mass given in Proposition 3.1. The other part relies on Proposition 3.6.

Fix a $t \in (0, T]$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle \pi_t^N, H \rangle - m(t) \langle 1, H \rangle| &\leq |\langle \pi_t^N, H \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) \langle 1, H \rangle| \\ &\quad + |\widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) - m(t)| |\langle 1, H \rangle|. \end{aligned}$$

By Proposition 3.1, the second term above converges in probability to zero under $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N}$. Let us prove that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \langle \pi_t^N, H \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| > \varepsilon \right] = 0$$

for all $\varepsilon > 0$. Consider t_0 such that

$$2e^{-\lambda_1 t_0} \|H\|_{L^2(0,1)} < \frac{\varepsilon}{4},$$

where we recall that λ_1 was introduced in Lemma 3.7. Also, consider N large enough so that $t - \frac{t_0}{N} \geq 0$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle \pi_t^N, H \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) \langle 1, H \rangle| &\leq \left| \langle \pi_t^N, H \rangle - \widehat{m} \left(\pi_{t - \frac{t_0}{N}}^N \right) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \widehat{m} \left(\pi_{t - \frac{t_0}{N}}^N \right) - \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) \right| |\langle 1, H \rangle|. \end{aligned}$$

By (3.1),

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \widehat{m} \left(\pi_{t - \frac{t_0}{N}}^N \right) - \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) \right| |\langle 1, H \rangle| > \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right] = 0.$$

Now, we are left to show that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N} \left[\left| \langle \pi_t^N, H \rangle - \widehat{m} \left(\pi_{t - \frac{t_0}{N}}^N \right) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| > \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right] = 0.$$

By the Markov property, the previous expression is equal to

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{S_{t - \frac{t_0}{N}}(\mu_N)} \left[\left| \langle \pi_{t_0/N}^N, H \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^N) \langle 1, H \rangle \right| > \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right],$$

where $S_{t - \frac{t_0}{N}}(\mu_N)$ is the push-forward of the measure μ_N under the dynamics. By Proposition 3.6 (since this result does not impose any condition on the initial measure) and the choice of t_0 , this expression goes to zero as N goes to infinity. □

3.2 Static law of large numbers for the accelerated process

In order to prove Theorem 2.3, we start by proving the static law of large numbers for the mass of the process (see Proposition 3.8). This result follows from the fact that any solution to the O.D.E (2.4) of the mass converges to γ . Then, we use a similar argument as in the proof of Theorem 2.5 which consists in moving by a factor t/N back in time, to recover the static law of large numbers for the accelerated process of empirical measures.

Recall that μ_{ss}^N denotes the unique stationary measure on Ω_N relatively to the dynamics induced by the generator \mathcal{L}_N .

Proposition 3.8. *The sequence of invariant measures $(\mu_{ss}^N)_{N \geq 1}$ satisfies:*

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} E_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\left| \widehat{m}(\pi^N) - \gamma \right| \right] = 0,$$

where, recall, $E_{\mu_{ss}^N}$ is the expectation under μ_{ss}^N on Ω_N .

Proof. As $\left(\widehat{m}(\pi^N) - \gamma \right)_{N \geq 1}$ is μ_{ss}^N -almost surely bounded, it is enough to prove the convergence in probability to zero. Fix $\varepsilon > 0$ and choose $T = T(\varepsilon)$ such that for any $m_0 \in [0, 1]$, $|m_0 - \gamma|e^{-2T} \leq \varepsilon$.

Consider $(N_k)_{k \geq 1}$ an increasing sequence such that

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mu_{ss}^N \left(\left| \widehat{m}(\pi^N) - \gamma \right| > \varepsilon \right) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mu_{ss}^{N_k} \left(\left| \widehat{m}(\pi^{N_k}) - \gamma \right| > \varepsilon \right).$$

By stationarity of μ_{ss}^N ,

$$\mu_{ss}^{N_k} \left(\left| \widehat{m}(\pi^{N_k}) - \gamma \right| > \varepsilon \right) = \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{ss}^{N_k}} \left(\left| \widehat{m}(\pi_T^{N_k}) - \gamma \right| > \varepsilon \right).$$

By Lemma 3.2 (which does not impose any condition on the sequence of initial measures), one can extract from $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{ss}^{N_k}}$ a converging subsequence $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{ss}^{N'_j}}$ with limit \mathbb{P}^* , so that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mu_{ss}^{N_k} \left(\left| \widehat{m}(\pi^{N_k}) - \gamma \right| > \varepsilon \right) &= \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{ss}^{N'_j}} \left(\left| \widehat{m}(\pi_T^{N'_j}) - \gamma \right| > \varepsilon \right) \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}^* \left(\left| \widehat{m}(\pi_T) - \gamma \right| \geq \varepsilon \right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}^* \left(\left| \widehat{m}(\pi_0) - \gamma \right| e^{-2T} \geq \varepsilon \right) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

where the last line comes from (3.11) and the choice of T . \square

Remark 3.9. *One can deduce from the proof of Proposition 3.8 that there is a sequence $(\varepsilon_N)_{N \geq 1}$ converging to 0 such that $\mu_{ss}^N(B_{\varepsilon_N})$ converges to 1, where B_{ε_N} is the set of measures with mass less than ε_N away from γ :*

$$B_{\varepsilon_N} = \{ \pi \in \mathcal{M}, |\widehat{m}(\pi) - \gamma| < \varepsilon_N \}.$$

Proof of Theorem 2.3. Consider $(\pi_t^N)_{t \geq 0}$ the accelerated process of empirical measures, that is, with generator \mathfrak{L}_N , and such that $\pi_0^N \sim \mu_{ss}^N$. Fix a continuous function $G: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and $T > 0$. As the generator of the accelerated process is proportional to the one for the non accelerated one, μ_{ss}^N is invariant for that process. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{ss}^N \left[\left| \langle \pi^N, G \rangle - \gamma \langle 1, G \rangle \right| \right] &= \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\left| \langle \pi_T^N, G \rangle - \gamma \langle 1, G \rangle \right| \right] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\left| \langle \pi_T^N, G \rangle - \widehat{m}(\pi_{T-\frac{t_0}{N}}^N) \langle 1, G \rangle \right| \right] \quad := a_{N,T,t_0} \\ &+ \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\left| \widehat{m}(\pi_{T-\frac{t_0}{N}}^N) - \widehat{m}(\pi_T^N) \right| \langle 1, G \rangle \right] \quad := b_{N,T,t_0} \\ &+ \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\left| \widehat{m}(\pi_T^N) - \gamma \right| \langle 1, G \rangle \right] \quad := c_N \end{aligned} \tag{3.17}$$

where N is large enough so that $T - \frac{t_0}{N} > 0$. By Proposition 3.8, c_N (which does not depend on T because the expectation is under the invariant measure) goes to zero when N goes to infinity.

Using the proof of Lemma 3.2 we get:

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} b_{N,T,t_0} \leq \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\sup_{|s-t| \leq \frac{t_0}{N}} \left| M_t^N - M_s^N \right| \right] + \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\sup_{|s-t| \leq \frac{t_0}{N}} \left| N \int_s^t \mathcal{L}_{N,b} \widehat{m}(\pi_r^N) dr \right| \right] = 0.$$

To control a_{N,T,t_0} , introduce the process $\left(\tilde{\pi}_s^N := \pi_{t - \frac{t_0}{N} + \frac{s}{N}}^N \right)_{s \geq 0}$ as in the proof of Theorem 2.5. By Markov's property,

$$a_{N,T,t_0} = \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\left| \langle \tilde{\pi}_{t_0}^N, G \rangle - \langle \tilde{\pi}_0^N, 1 \rangle \langle 1, G \rangle \right| \right].$$

By Lemma 3.2, $(\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{ss}^N})_{N \geq 1}$ is tight so we can extract from it a sequence $(\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_{ss}^{N_k}})_{k \geq 1}$ converging to a probability measure \mathbb{Q}^* . By Theorem 2.2,

$$\mathbb{Q}^* \left(\pi \in \mathcal{A}_{t_0} \right) = 1,$$

where

$$\mathcal{A}_{t_0} = \left\{ (\rho(t, x) dx)_{t \in [0, t_0]}, \rho \text{ is a weak solution of (2.3)} \right\}.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_{\mu_{ss}^{N_k}} \left[\left| \langle \tilde{\pi}_{t_0}^{N_k}, G \rangle - \langle \tilde{\pi}_0^{N_k}, 1 \rangle \langle 1, G \rangle \right| \right] &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}^*} \left[\left| \langle \pi_{t_0}, G \rangle - \langle \pi_0, 1 \rangle \langle 1, G \rangle \right| \mathbf{1}_{\pi \in \mathcal{A}_{t_0}} \right] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}^*} \left[\left\| \rho(t_0, \cdot) - \int_0^1 \rho(0, x) dx \right\|_{L^2(0,1)} \|G\|_{L^2(0,1)} \mathbf{1}_{\pi \in \mathcal{A}_{t_0}} \right] \\ &\leq 2e^{-\lambda_1 t_0} \|G\|_{L^2(0,1)}. \end{aligned}$$

We are left with

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mu_{ss}^N \left[\left| \langle \pi^N, G \rangle - \gamma \langle 1, G \rangle \right| \right] \leq 2e^{-\lambda_1 t_0} \|G\|_{L^2(0,1)} \xrightarrow{t_0 \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

□

4 Large deviations functional

In this section, we list some properties on the large deviations functional I_T , introduced in Definition 2.7, that will be used later on. We prove the I_T - density, used for the proof of the lower bound of Theorem 2.8, and we prove Lemma 4.11.

4.1 Some properties on I_T

It is immediate to see that I_T is lower semi-continuous, as the supremum of linear functions and therefore continuous functions. Furthermore, we show that it is infinite on non continuous trajectories, that it has compact level sets and that its variational formulation is solvable on a particular class of elements of $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$.

Proposition 4.1. *If $a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ satisfies $I_T(a) < \infty$, then a is continuous.*

Proof. Consider $0 \leq s < t \leq T$ such that $t - s \leq 1$ and let $H_{s,t} : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by $H_{s,t}(r) = \log(1/(t-s)) \mathbf{1}_{[s,t]}(r)$. Also, consider an approximation $H_{s,t}^p : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of $H_{s,t}$ in the sense that for any element f of $\mathcal{C}^\infty([0, T])$,

$$\int_0^T f(r) H_{s,t}^p(r) dr \xrightarrow{p \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T f(r) H_{s,t}(r) dr, \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^T f(r) \partial_r H_{s,t}^p(r) dr \xrightarrow{p \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T f(r) \partial_r H_{s,t}(r) dr,$$

where $\partial_r H_{s,t}^p$ resp. $\partial_r H_{s,t}$ refers to the weak derivative of $H_{s,t}^p$ resp. $H_{s,t}$. The approximating sequence $H_{s,t}^p$ can be taken to be supported in $[s, t]$, constant in $[s + (1/p), t - (1/p)]$, and linear in the two remaining intervals.

Then, recalling the definition of $J_{T,H}$ and using that the weak derivative of $H_{s,t}$ is given by:

$$\int_0^T f(r) \partial_r H_{s,t}(r) dr = f(T)H_{s,t}(T) - f(0)H_{s,t}(0) - \log(1/(t-s))(f(t) - f(s)),$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\lim}_{p \rightarrow \infty} J_{T, H_{s,t}^p}(\pi) &= \log(1/(t-s))(a_t - a_s) \\ &\quad - \int_s^t \left[2\gamma(1 - a_r) \left(\frac{1}{t-s} - 1 \right) + 2(1 - \gamma)a_r(t-s-1) \right] dr. \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

Now, as $\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} J_{T, H_{s,t}^p}(a) \leq I_T(a) < \infty$ and a is bounded, there are constants $C_1, C_2 > 0$ such that

$$|a_t - a_s| \leq [\log(1/(t-s))]^{-1} [I_T(a) + (t-s)C_1 + C_2] \quad (4.2)$$

and the right hand side of this inequality goes to zero as $s \rightarrow t$, hence the result. \square

For $q \geq 0$, the q -level set of I is defined as

$$E_q = \left\{ a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T, \quad I_T(a) \leq q \right\}.$$

A corollary of the proof of Proposition 4.1 is the following:

Lemma 4.2. *The level sets of I_T are compact in $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$.*

Proof. Fix $q \geq 0$. By lower semi continuity of I_T , E_q is closed so we just need to show that it is relatively compact. For that, we show that

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \sup_{u \in E_q} \sup_{\substack{0 \leq s, t \leq T \\ |t-s| < \delta}} |a_t - a_s| = 0$$

but this is an immediate consequence of (4.2). \square

Remark 4.3. *By Proposition 4.1, any level set of I_T is a subset of $\mathcal{C}([0, T])$ and the proof of Lemma 4.2 shows that a level set is compact in $\mathcal{C}([0, T])$ for the topology of uniform convergence.*

Proposition 4.4. *Fix a trajectory $a \in \mathcal{C}^2([0, T])$ for which there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $\delta \leq a(t) \leq 1 - \delta$ for $0 \leq t \leq T$. For each $0 \leq t \leq T$, let H_t be the unique solution of the equation,*

$$\dot{a}(t) = 2\gamma(1 - a_t)e^{H_t} - 2(1 - \gamma)a_t e^{-H_t}. \quad (4.3)$$

Then, H belongs to $\mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$ and solves the following variational problem

$$I_T(a) = \sup_{G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])} J_{T,G}(a) = J_{T,H}(a), \quad (4.4)$$

where $J_{T,G}(a)$ has been introduced in (2.5).

Proof. For $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$, performing an integration by part we get

$$J_{T,G}(a_s) = \int_0^T G_s \dot{a}_s ds - \int_0^T A_{G_s}(a_s) ds,$$

where recall that $A_{G_s}(a_s)$ was defined in (2.6). Now, writing $J_{T,G}(a_s) = J_{T,G}(a_s) - J_{T,H}(a_s) + J_{T,H}(a_s)$ we check that $J_{T,G}(a_s) - J_{T,H}(a_s) \leq 0$. Replacing \dot{a}_s thanks to (4.3) we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{T,G}(a_s) - J_{T,H}(a_s) &= \int_0^T (G_s - H_s) \dot{a}_s ds - \int_0^T [A_{G_s}(a_s) - A_{H_s}(a_s)] ds \\
&= \int_0^T (G_s - H_s) [2\gamma(1 - a_s)e^{H_s} - 2(1 - \gamma)a_s e^{-H_s}] ds \\
&\quad - \int_0^T [2\gamma(1 - a_s)(e^{G_s} - e^{H_s}) + 2(1 - \gamma)a_s(e^{-G_s} - e^{-H_s})] ds \\
&= \int_0^T F_{a_s, H_s}(G_s) ds,
\end{aligned} \tag{4.5}$$

where for $\check{a} \in [0, 1]$, $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$F_{\check{a}, y}(x) := 2\gamma(1 - \check{a})[(x - y)e^y - (e^x - e^y)] - 2\check{a}(1 - \gamma)[(x - y)e^{-y} + e^{-x} - e^{-y}].$$

We have that $F_{\check{a}, y}(x)$ is a concave function of x and $F'_{\check{a}, y}(y) = 0$ so it reaches its maximum at y , where $F_{\check{a}, y}(y) = 0$. It follows that $\int_0^T F_{a_s, H_s}(G_s) ds \leq 0$, hence the result. \square

A straightforward computation yields that under the hypotheses of the previous proposition

$$\begin{aligned}
I_T(a) &= \int_0^T 2\gamma(1 - a_s) \{ 1 + H_s e^{H_s} - e^{H_s} \} ds \\
&\quad + \int_0^T 2(1 - \gamma) a_s \{ 1 - H_s e^{-H_s} - e^{-H_s} \} ds.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.6}$$

Given $t > 0$, introduce the time shift operator θ_t , such that for $a : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $s \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\theta_t a_s = a_{s+t}. \tag{4.7}$$

We will often make use of the following result: for any $a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ such that $I_T(a) < \infty$, for any $t \in [0, T]$,

$$I_T(a) = I_t(a) + I_{T-t}(\theta_t a). \tag{4.8}$$

In particular, as I is a positive functional, for any $t \in [0, T]$ $I_t(a) \leq I_T(a)$. To prove that, decomposing $J_{T,G}(a_s)$, for $G \in \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, T])$, as

$$J_{T,G}(a_s) = J_{t,G}(a_s) + J_{T-t,G}(\theta_t a_s),$$

we immediately get that $I_T(a) \leq I_t(a) + I_{T-t}(\theta_t a)$.

To prove the reverse inequality, fix $\varepsilon > 0$ and consider $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, t])$ and $H \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T - t])$ such that

$$J_{t,G}(a_s) + J_{T-t,H}(\theta_t a_s) \geq I_t(a) + I_{T-t}(\theta_t a) - 2\varepsilon.$$

Taking smooth approximations $(K_n)_{n \geq 1}$ of $G\mathbf{1}_{[0,t]} + \theta_{-t}H\mathbf{1}_{[t,T]}$ in $\mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$, we have that

$$I_T(a) \geq \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} J_{T, K_n}(a) = J_{t,G}(a) + J_{T-t,H}(\theta_t a) \geq I_t(a) + I_{T-t}(\theta_t a) - 2\varepsilon.$$

Taking ε to zero the result follows.

Corollary 4.5. *If $a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ then $I_T(a) = 0$ if and only if a is a weak solution of $\dot{a} = -2(a - \gamma)$. This implies that a is a strong solution of that equation and is therefore in $\mathcal{C}^\infty([0, T])$.*

Proof. If $a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ is a solution of $\dot{a} = -2(a - \gamma)$, by Proposition 4.4, $I_T(a) = J_H(a)$ with $H = 0$, so $I_T(a) = 0$.

Conversely, fix $a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ and assume that $I_T(a) = 0$. For $t \in [0, T]$, consider the function $F_t : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $F_t(x) = J_{t,x}(a)$, where x refers to the function that is constant in time, equal to x . Then

$$F_t(x) = x(a_t - a_0) + 2 \int_0^t [\gamma(e^x - 1) - (1 - \gamma)(e^{-x} - 1)] a_s ds - 2\gamma t(e^x - 1).$$

By (4.8), we have $I_T(a) \geq I_t(a)$. As $I_T(a) = 0$, for any $t \in [0, T]$, $I_t(a) = 0$. Evaluating $J_G(a)$ with G constant equal to x yields that $F_t \leq 0$ on \mathbb{R} . As $F_t(0) = 0$, 0 is a local maximum for F_t so $F_t'(0) = 0$. This implies that for any $t \in [0, T]$,

$$a_t - a_0 = -2 \int_0^t a_s ds + 2\gamma,$$

so a is a solution of $\dot{a} = -2(a - \gamma)$. □

4.2 The I_T - density

The proof follows the same steps as in the seminal papers [25] and [6]. First we approximate trajectories by ones which follow the hydrodynamic equation on a small time interval (Lemma 4.8) and are uniformly bounded away from 0 and 1 (Lemma 4.9). Then, we regularize such trajectories in time (Lemma 4.10).

Definition 4.6. A set $A \subset \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ is said to be I_T - dense if for any a in $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ such that $I_T(a) < \infty$, there exists a sequence $(a_p)_{p \geq 1}$ of elements in A such that

$$a_p \xrightarrow[p \rightarrow \infty]{} a \text{ in } \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T \quad \text{and} \quad I_T(a_p) \xrightarrow[p \rightarrow \infty]{} I_T(a).$$

Let B^T be the set of elements a in $\mathcal{C}^2([0, T])$ for which there exists $H \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$ such that a and H are related by the ordinary differential equation (4.3).

Theorem 4.7. The set B^T is I_T - dense.

The proof of Theorem 4.7 is carried out in several steps. It relies on Proposition 4.4 which provides an explicit formula (4.6) for the rate function. This result requires the path to be smooth and bounded away from 0 and 1.

To smooth a path we use convolutions with respect to smooth approximations of the identity. To perform such time convolution, we need to be away from the boundary $t = 0$. This is the role of the first step, carried out in Lemma 4.8, where we let the trajectory follow the typical path in a small interval of time.

In the second step, presented in Lemma 4.9, we move the trajectory away from 0 and 1. At this point, we are in position to prove the I_T -density of the set B^T , as stated in Lemma 4.10.

Denote by Π_1^T the set of elements $a(\cdot)$ in $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ which follow in a time interval $[0, \delta]$ the typical trajectory (2.4), described in Theorem 2.5. More precisely, for any $a \in \Pi_1^T$, there is a $\delta > 0$ such that on $[0, \delta]$, a is a solution of the ordinary differential equation

$$\partial_t \lambda = -2(\lambda - \gamma). \tag{4.9}$$

Lemma 4.8. The set Π_1^T is I_T - dense in $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$.

Proof. Consider a in $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ such that $I_T(a) < \infty$ and $\lambda : [0, T] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ the unique solution of (4.9) with initial condition a_0 . For $\delta > 0$, define a^δ as follows:

$$a^\delta(t) = \begin{cases} \lambda(t), & \text{if } t \in [0, \delta] \\ \lambda(2\delta - t), & \text{if } t \in [\delta, 2\delta] \\ a(t - 2\delta), & \text{if } t \in [2\delta, T]. \end{cases} \quad (4.10)$$

It is clear that a^δ converges to a in $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ as $\delta \downarrow 0$ and, by construction, a^δ belongs to Π_1^T . By lower semi continuity of $v \mapsto I_T(v)$,

$$I_T(a) \leq \liminf_{\delta \rightarrow 0} I_T(a^\delta).$$

We are therefore left to show that

$$I_T(a) \geq \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} I_T(a^\delta).$$

Decomposing $J_{T,G}(a^\delta)$ into the sum of the contributions on each time interval $[0, \delta]$, $[\delta, 2\delta]$ and $[2\delta, T]$ we get:

$$\begin{aligned} J_{T,G}(a_s^\delta) &= a_T^\delta G_T - a_{2\delta}^\delta G_{2\delta} - \int_{2\delta}^T \dot{G}_s a_s^\delta ds - \int_{2\delta}^T A_{G_s}(a_s^\delta) ds \\ &+ a_{2\delta}^\delta G_{2\delta} - a_\delta^\delta G_\delta - \int_\delta^{2\delta} \dot{G}_s a_s^\delta ds - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{G_s}(a_s^\delta) ds \\ &+ a_s^\delta G_s - a_0^\delta G_0 - \int_0^\delta \dot{G}_s a_s^\delta ds - \int_0^\delta A_{G_s}(a_s^\delta) ds, \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

where we recall that the definition of A_{G_s} is given in (2.6). The first term is bounded above by $I_{T-2\delta}(a)$ and recall, by arguments detailed in the proof of Corollary 4.5, that $I_{T-2\delta}(a) \leq I_T(a)$. The last term in (4.11) equals $I_\delta(a_\delta) = I_\delta(\lambda) = 0$ because λ solves (4.9) on $[0, \delta]$. Finally, let us show that

$$\limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \sup_{G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0,T])} \left\{ a_{2\delta}^\delta G_{2\delta} - a_\delta^\delta G_\delta - \int_\delta^{2\delta} \dot{G}_s a_s^\delta ds - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{G_s}(a_s^\delta) ds \right\} = 0. \quad (4.12)$$

For $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$,

$$\begin{aligned} &a_{2\delta}^\delta G_{2\delta} - a_\delta^\delta G_\delta - \int_\delta^{2\delta} \partial_s G_s a_s^\delta ds - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{G_s}(a_s^\delta) ds = \int_\delta^{2\delta} G_s \dot{a}_s^\delta ds - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{G_s}(a_s^\delta) ds \\ &= \int_0^\delta G_{2\delta-s} \dot{a}_{2\delta-s}^\delta ds - \int_0^\delta A_{G_{2\delta-s}}(a_{2\delta-s}^\delta) ds, \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} &\sup_{G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0,T])} \left\{ a_{2\delta}^\delta G_{2\delta} - a_\delta^\delta G_\delta - \int_\delta^{2\delta} \partial_s G_s a_s^\delta ds - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{G_s}(a_s^\delta) ds \right\} \\ &= \sup_{G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0,T])} \left\{ \int_0^\delta G_s \dot{\mathbf{a}}_s ds - \int_0^\delta A_G(\mathbf{a})(s) ds \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

where $\mathbf{a}^\delta(s) = a_{\delta-s}^\delta = \lambda(\delta - s)$. Using that $a_0 \in (0, 1)$ and that $\lambda(t) = \gamma + (a_0 - \gamma)e^{-2t}$ we have that for any $t > 0$,

$$0 < \gamma(1 - e^{-2\delta}) \leq \mathbf{a}_s^\delta \leq \gamma + (1 - \gamma)e^{-2\delta} < 1.$$

We can therefore define the continuous function

$$H(t) := \log \left(\frac{\dot{\mathbf{a}}_t^\delta + \sqrt{(\dot{\mathbf{a}}_t^\delta)^2 + 16\gamma(1 - \gamma)(1 - \mathbf{a}_t^\delta)\mathbf{a}_t^\delta}}{4\gamma(1 - \mathbf{a}_t^\delta)} \right) \quad (4.15)$$

on $[0, \delta]$. Furthermore, this belongs to $\mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$, and \mathbf{a} and H are related by (4.3). It follows by Proposition 4.4 applied to the time interval $[0, \delta]$ that

$$\sup_{G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])} \left\{ \int_0^\delta G_s \dot{\mathbf{a}}_s ds - \int_0^\delta A_{G_s}(\mathbf{a}_s) ds \right\} = \int_0^\delta H_s \dot{\mathbf{a}}_s ds - \int_0^\delta A_{H_s}(\mathbf{a}_s) ds.$$

Using that $H_s \dot{\mathbf{a}}_s$ and $A_{H_s}(\mathbf{a}_s)$ are continuous functions, the second term converges to zero as $\delta \downarrow 0$, hence the result. \square

Denote by Π_2^T the set of elements a in Π_1^T such that for every $\delta > 0$, a is uniformly bounded away from 0 and 1 on $[\delta, T]$, that is, there is an $\varepsilon > 0$, such that for all $t \in [\delta, T]$, $\varepsilon \leq a_t \leq 1 - \varepsilon$.

Lemma 4.9. *The set Π_2^T is I_T -dense in Π_1^T .*

Proof. Fix an a in Π_1^T such that $I_T(a) < \infty$. For $\varepsilon > 0$, introduce $a^\varepsilon = (1 - \varepsilon)a + \varepsilon\lambda$, where $\lambda : [0, T] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is the unique solution of (4.9) with initial condition a_0 . By definition, a^ε belongs to Π_1^T and a^ε converges to a in $\mathcal{D}_{[0, 1]}^T$ as $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$. Furthermore, using that

$$\lambda(t) = \gamma + (a_0 - \gamma)e^{-2t},$$

with $a_0 \in [0, 1]$, the following inequalities hold: for any $\delta > 0$ and $t \in [\delta, T]$,

$$0 < \varepsilon\gamma(1 - e^{-2\delta}) \leq a_t^\varepsilon \leq 1 - \varepsilon + \varepsilon[\gamma + (1 - \gamma)e^{-2\delta}] < 1,$$

so a^ε is in Π_2^T . Again, by lower semi continuity of I_T , $\liminf_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} I_T(a^\varepsilon) \geq I_T(a)$. Then, by linearity of $J_{T, G}$,

$$J_{T, G}(a^\varepsilon) = (1 - \varepsilon)J_{T, G}(a) + \varepsilon J_{T, G}(\lambda) \leq (1 - \varepsilon)J_{T, G}(a) \leq (1 - \varepsilon)I_T(a),$$

where, in the first inequality, we used that $J_{T, G}(\lambda) \leq 0$, since λ is a solution of (4.9). Taking the lim sup we get the desired result. \square

Denote by Π_3^T the set of elements in Π_2^T belonging to $\mathcal{C}^2([0, T])$.

Lemma 4.10. *The set Π_3^T is I_T -dense in Π_2^T .*

Proof. Consider $a \in \Pi_2^T$ such that $I_T(a) < \infty$. By Proposition 4.1, a is continuous. Let $\delta > 0$ be such that a is solution to (4.9) on $[0, 3\delta]$. Consider $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ smooth with compact support in $(0, 1)$ and $\int_0^1 \phi(s) ds = 1$. For $\varepsilon > 0$, define $\psi(\varepsilon, s) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \phi\left(\frac{s}{\varepsilon}\right)$. Then, $(\psi(\varepsilon, \cdot))_{\varepsilon > 0}$ is an approximation of the identity on compact sets in the sense that for any $\rho \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R})$ with compact support, $t \mapsto \int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho(t + s) \psi(\varepsilon, s) ds$ converges uniformly to ρ on \mathbb{R} as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Consider $\varepsilon : [0, T] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ a smooth non decreasing function such that

$$\varepsilon(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } t \in [0, \delta] \\ 0 < \varepsilon(t) < 1, & \text{if } t \in (\delta, 2\delta) \\ 1, & \text{if } t \in [2\delta, T] \end{cases} \quad (4.16)$$

and for $p \in \mathbb{N}$, define $\varepsilon_p(t) = \frac{\varepsilon(t)}{p}$. Introduce

$$a^p(t) = \int_0^1 a_{t + \varepsilon_p(t)s} \phi(s) ds,$$

where we extend a on $[T, T + 1]$ by letting, for $t \in [0, 1]$, $a_{t+T} = \tilde{\lambda}(t)$, where $\tilde{\lambda}$ is the solution to (4.9) with initial condition a_T .

By construction of ϕ , the sequence a^p converges to a in $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$. For $t \in [0, \delta]$, $a_t^p = a_t$, where a is solution to (4.9), so $a^p \in \Pi_1^T$. As $a \in \Pi_2^T$, the convolution product ensures that a^p is also in Π_2^T . For $t \in [0, 2\delta)$, $a_t^p = \int_0^t a_{t+\varepsilon_p(t)s} \phi(s) ds$. As a is smooth on $[0, 3\delta)$, for p large enough, a^p is smooth on $[0, 2\delta)$. For $t \in (\delta, T]$, $\varepsilon_p(t) > 0$ and the following change of variable holds:

$$\begin{aligned} a_t^p &= \int_0^{\varepsilon_p(t)} a_{t+s} \frac{1}{\varepsilon_p(t)} \phi\left(\frac{s}{\varepsilon_p(t)}\right) ds = \int_t^{t+\varepsilon_p(t)} a_s \psi(\varepsilon_p(t), s-t) ds \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} a_s \psi(\varepsilon_p(t), s-t) ds \end{aligned}$$

and this is smooth in t . Hence, a^p is smooth on $[0, T]$ and it follows that $a^p \in \Pi_3^T$.

To conclude the proof, let us check that $\overline{\lim}_{p \rightarrow \infty} I_T(a^p) \leq I_T(a)$. For $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$, decomposing $J_{T,G}(a^p)$ as in (4.11) we have:

$$\begin{aligned} J_{T,G}(a^p) &= a_T^p G_T - a_{2\delta}^p G_{2\delta} - \int_{2\delta}^T \dot{G}_s a_s^p ds - \int_{2\delta}^T A_{G_s}(a_s^p) ds \\ &\quad + a_{2\delta}^p G_{2\delta} - a_\delta^p G_\delta - \int_\delta^{2\delta} \dot{G}_s a_s^p ds - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{G_s}(a_s^p) ds \\ &\quad + a_\delta^p G_\delta - a_0^p G_0 - \int_0^\delta \dot{G}_s a_s^p ds - \int_0^\delta A_{G_s}(a_s^p) ds. \end{aligned} \tag{4.17}$$

Again, as a is a solution of (4.9) on $[0, \delta]$, the last term is negative. The first term in (4.17) is given by

$$\int_0^1 \left[\theta_{\frac{s}{p}} a_T G_T - \theta_{\frac{s}{p}} a_{2\delta} G_{2\delta} - \int_{2\delta}^T \dot{G}_s \theta_{\frac{s}{p}} a_t dt + \int_{2\delta}^T A_{G_s}(\theta_{\frac{s}{p}} a_s) dt \right] \phi(s) ds$$

Bound this by $\int_0^1 I_T(\theta_{\frac{s}{p}} a) \phi(s) ds$. Using that a solves (4.9) on $[T, T+1]$, this is less than

$$\int_0^1 I_T(a) \phi(s) ds = I_T(a).$$

Now we deal with the second term in (4.17). By regularity of a^p we can perform the following integration by part

$$a_{2\delta}^p G_{2\delta} - a_\delta^p G_\delta - \int_\delta^{2\delta} \dot{G}_t a_t^p dt = \int_\delta^{2\delta} \dot{a}_s^p G_s ds.$$

Therefore,

$$a_{2\delta}^p G_{2\delta} - a_\delta^p G_\delta - \int_\delta^{2\delta} \dot{G}_t a_t^p dt - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{G_s}(a_s^p) ds = \int_\delta^{2\delta} \dot{a}_s^p G_s ds - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{G_s}(a_s^p) ds.$$

Using Proposition 4.4 and the fact that a^p is smooth on $[\delta, 2\delta]$ and uniformly bounded away from 0 and 1, we have that

$$\sup_{\tilde{G} \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])} \int_\delta^{2\delta} \dot{a}_s^p \tilde{G}_s ds - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{\tilde{G}_s}(a_s^p) ds = \int_\delta^{2\delta} \dot{a}_s^p H_s ds - \int_\delta^{2\delta} A_{H_s}(a_s^p) ds \tag{4.18}$$

where here

$$H(t) = \log \left(\frac{\dot{a}_t^p + \sqrt{(\dot{a}_t^p)^2 + 16\gamma(1-\gamma)(1-a_t^p)a_t^p}}{4\gamma(1-a_t^p)} \right).$$

Since a solves the ODE (2.4) on $[0, 3\delta]$,

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{a}_t^p &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \dot{a}_{t+s} \psi(\varepsilon_p(t), s) ds + \int_{\mathbb{R}} a_{t+s} \partial_t \psi(\varepsilon_p(t), s) ds \\ &= -2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} a_{t+s} \psi(\varepsilon_p(t), s) ds + 2\gamma + r^p(t)\end{aligned}$$

with

$$r^p(t) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} a_{t+s} \partial_t \psi(\varepsilon_p(t), s) ds.$$

Hence,

$$\dot{a}_t^p = -2a_t^p + 2\gamma + r^p(t), \quad (4.19)$$

and the right hand side term in (4.18) equals

$$\int_{\delta}^{2\delta} (-2a_s^p + 2\gamma) H_s ds + \int_{\delta}^{2\delta} r^p(s) H_s ds - \int_{\delta}^{2\delta} A_{H_s}(a_s^p) ds.$$

Therefore, the second term in (4.17) is less than

$$\int_{\delta}^{2\delta} (-2a_s^p + 2\gamma) H_s ds + \int_{\delta}^{2\delta} r^p(s) H_s ds - \int_{\delta}^{2\delta} A_{H_s}(a_s^p) ds. \quad (4.20)$$

Now,

$$\int_{\delta}^{2\delta} (-2a_s^p + 2\gamma) H(s) ds - \int_{\delta}^{2\delta} A_{H_s}(a_s^p) ds \leq 0.$$

Indeed, for any $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$ and $a \in C([0, T])$ with values in $[0, 1]$, for any $s \in [0, T]$,

$$A_{G_s}(a_s) + 2(a_s - \gamma)G(s) \geq 0.$$

To see that, for $s \in [0, T]$, write $A_{G_s}(a_s) + 2(a_s - \gamma)G_s$ as $f_{a_s}(G_s)$, where f_a is a convex function achieving its minimum at 0 where it vanishes.

To conclude, we show that $\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\delta}^{2\delta} r^p(s) H_s ds = 0$. Recall that $\int_0^1 \phi(s) ds = 1$, so

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \partial_t \psi(\varepsilon_p(t), s) ds = 0.$$

We then have

$$r^p(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} [a_{t+s} - a_t] \partial_t \psi(\varepsilon_p(t), s) ds$$

and as a is smooth, so Lipschitz on $[\delta, 2\delta]$, there is a $C(\delta) > 0$ such that $|a_{t+s} - a_t| \leq C(\delta)s$. Following the same lines as in the proof of Lemma 5.6 in [23], we prove that $r^p(t) \leq \frac{C(\delta, \phi)}{p}$ which yields the desired result. \square

Proof of Theorem 4.7. By Lemma 4.10, it is enough to check that $\Pi_3^T \subset B^T$. For that, fix $a \in \Pi_3^T$ and $t \in (0, T]$, and define

$$H(t) = \log \left(\frac{\dot{a}_t + \sqrt{\dot{a}_t^2 + 16\gamma(1-\gamma)(1-a_t)a_t}}{4\gamma(1-a_t)} \right).$$

This is well defined because a is in Π_2^T . Since $a \in \mathcal{C}^2([0, T])$, H is in $\mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$ and by construction of H , it is related to a by (4.3). Therefore a belongs to B^T . \square

4.3 Solving the variational problem for the quasi-potential formula

For a constant $m \in (0, 1)$, recall the definition of the quasi-potential formula given in (2.10). The following result holds:

Lemma 4.11. *The quasi-potential satisfies:*

$$\forall m \in [0, 1], V(m) = S(m),$$

where

$$S(m) := m \log \left(\frac{m}{\gamma} \right) + (1 - m) \log \left(\frac{1 - m}{1 - \gamma} \right). \quad (4.21)$$

The proof of Lemma 4.11 relies on an argument introduced in [4]. Let us recall some notation. The quasi potential $V : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ relatively to $I_T(\cdot | \gamma)$ is defined by

$$V(m) := \inf_{T > 0} \inf_{a(\cdot), a_T = m} I_T(a | \gamma), \quad (4.22)$$

where the second infimum is taken over elements a of $\mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$. The aim is to show that $V = S$, where we recall that S was defined in (4.21).

To prove that $V(m) \leq S(m)$, one exhibits a path a connecting γ to m in $[0, T]$ such that $I_T(a | \gamma) \leq S(m)$. Recall the variational definition of I_T given in Definition 2.7. To prove that $V(m) \geq S(m)$, we show that for any path a connecting γ , at time 0, to m at time T , $I_T(a) \geq S(m)$ from which the inequality follows.

First we prove the following result:

Lemma 4.12. *For $\kappa \in (0, 1)$, let $a_\kappa : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be given by $a_\kappa(t) = \kappa t + \gamma$. Then,*

$$I_1(a_\kappa | \gamma) \xrightarrow{\kappa \rightarrow 0} 0.$$

Proof. Choose $\kappa \in [0, 1)$ so that $t \mapsto \kappa t + \gamma$ is an element of Π_3^1 (that is, uniformly bounded away from 0 and 1 and in \mathcal{C}^2). Then, $I_1(\kappa t + \gamma | \gamma) = J_{1, H_\kappa}(\kappa t + \gamma)$, with

$$H_\kappa(t) = \log \left(\frac{\kappa + \sqrt{\kappa^2 + 16\gamma(1 - \gamma)a_t(1 - a_t)}}{4\gamma(1 - a_t)} \right),$$

where $a_t = \kappa t + \gamma$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} I_1(\kappa t + \gamma | \gamma) &= \kappa \int_0^1 H_\kappa(s) ds - \int_0^1 [2\gamma(1 - a_s)(e^{H_\kappa(s)} - 1) + 2(1 - \gamma)a_s(e^{-H_\kappa(s)} - 1)] ds \\ &= \kappa \int_0^1 H_\kappa(s) ds - \int_0^1 [2\gamma(1 - \kappa s)(e^{H_\kappa(s)} - 1) + 2(1 - \gamma)\kappa s(e^{-H_\kappa(s)} - 1)] ds \\ &\quad - \int_0^1 [2\gamma(1 - \gamma)(e^{H_\kappa(s)} - 1) + 2(1 - \gamma)\gamma(e^{-H_\kappa(s)} - 1)] ds. \end{aligned}$$

The last term is less than $I_1(\gamma | \gamma) = 0$. Using that H_κ converges weakly to zero, that it is uniformly bounded in κ and $t \in [0, 1]$ and the dominated convergence theorem, the above converges to zero. \square

Let us now prove Lemma 4.11.

Proof. Let us first prove that $V(m) \leq S(m)$. Consider $m \in (0, 1)$ and fix $0 < \varepsilon < 1$. Denote by a^* the unique solution of the Cauchy problem: $\dot{a}^* = -2a^* + 2\gamma$, $a_0^* = m$. It is immediate to see that there

is $T_1 = T_1(\epsilon) > 0$ such that $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} T_1(\epsilon) = +\infty$, and $|a_t^* - \gamma| < \epsilon$ for any $t \geq T_1$. Now, consider the following trajectory m^* defined on $[0, T_1 + 1]$ by

$$\begin{cases} a_{T_1}^* t + \gamma(1-t), & \text{if } t \in [0, 1] \\ a_{T_1+1-t}^*, & \text{if } t \in [1, T_1 + 1]. \end{cases} \quad (4.23)$$

By definition, $V(m) \leq I_{T_1+1}(m^*|\gamma)$, and by (4.8),

$$\begin{aligned} I_{T_1+1}(m^*|\gamma) &= I_1(m^*|\gamma) + I_{T_1}\theta_1 m^* \\ &= I_1(m^*|\gamma) + I_{T_1}(a_{T_1-}^*). \end{aligned} \quad (4.24)$$

Let us compute the second term in (4.24). Denote by $a_s = a_{T_1-s}^*$ for $s \in [0, T_1]$. Then a satisfies the Cauchy problem $\dot{a}_s = 2a - 2\gamma$, $a_0 = a_{T_1}^*$, and one can check that H , as defined in (4.15) associated to a is given by:

$$H(t) = \log\left(\frac{(1-\gamma)a_t}{\gamma(1-a_t)}\right).$$

We claim that

$$J_{T_1, H}(a_{T_1-}^*) = m \log\left(\frac{(1-\gamma)m}{\gamma(1-m)}\right) - a_{T_1}^* \log\left(\frac{(1-\gamma)a_{T_1}^*}{\gamma(1-a_{T_1}^*)}\right) + \log\left(\frac{1-m}{1-\gamma}\right). \quad (4.25)$$

The proof relies on a long but straightforward computation detailed in Appendix A. Collecting (4.24) and (4.25) we have

$$V(m) \leq I_1((a_{T_1}^* - \gamma)t + \gamma|\gamma) + m \log\left(\frac{(1-\gamma)m}{\gamma(1-m)}\right) - a_{T_1}^* \log\left(\frac{(1-\gamma)a_{T_1}^*}{\gamma(1-a_{T_1}^*)}\right) + \log\left(\frac{1-m}{1-\gamma}\right). \quad (4.26)$$

Since $T_1(\epsilon) \rightarrow \infty$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, $a_{T_1(\epsilon)}^* \rightarrow \gamma$. Therefore, by Lemma 4.12, the first term on the right hand side of (4.26) vanishes as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$. The rest, by (4.21), converges to $S(m)$ so $V(m) \leq S(m)$.

Now, we prove that $V(m) \geq S(m)$. It is enough to show that for any $T > 0$, for any $a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ such that $a_0 = \gamma$ and $a_T = m$, $I_T(a|\gamma) \geq S(m)$. Fix $T > 0$, suppose that a is in Π_3^T and define, for $t \in [0, T]$, $H(t) = \log\left(\frac{(1-\gamma)a_t}{\gamma(1-a_t)}\right)$.

By definition, $I_T(a|\gamma) \geq J_{T, H}(a)$. Now, let us compute $J_{T, H}(a)$:

$$J_{T, H}(a) = mH_T - \gamma H_0 - \int_0^T a_s \dot{H}_s ds - \int_0^T A_{H_s}(a_s) ds.$$

We have $\dot{H}_s = \frac{\dot{a}_s}{a_s(1-a_s)}$, so $-\int_0^T a_s \dot{H}_s ds = [\log(1-a_s)]_0^T$. Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} A_{H_s}(a_s) &= 2\gamma \left[\frac{(1-\gamma)a_s}{\gamma(1-a_s)} + \frac{\gamma(1-a_s)}{(1-\gamma)a_s} \right] a_s + 2(1-2\gamma)a_s - 2\gamma \frac{(1-a_s)a_s}{(1-\gamma)a_s} a_s - 2 \frac{(a_s - \gamma)}{1-a_s} \\ &= 2(1-\gamma) \frac{a_s^2}{1-a_s} - 2\gamma(1-a_s) + 2a_s - 4\gamma a_s + \frac{2\gamma}{1-a_s} - \frac{2a_s}{1-a_s} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We have thus proved that

$$J_{T, H}(a|\gamma) = mH_T - \gamma H_0 + [\log(1-a_s)]_0^T = S(m).$$

To extend this fact for any trajectory $a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$ such that $a_0 = \gamma$ and $a_T = m$, we use the I_T -density of Π_3^T in $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$. Indeed, if $a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$, using the approximation a^δ from the proof of Lemma 4.8 of a and $a^{\delta, \epsilon}$ the approximation of each a^δ from the proof or Lemma 4.9, we have

$$\lim_{\epsilon, \delta \rightarrow 0} I_T(a^{\delta, \epsilon}|\gamma) = I_T(a|\gamma) \geq S(m).$$

□

5 Dynamical large deviations principle

In this section, we prove the dynamical large deviations principle (Theorem 2.8) following the approach in [25], or [6]. The steps are by now standard. For the upper bound, we use an exponential martingale and, for the lower bound, we perturb the dynamics to turn typical a trajectory.

5.1 Large deviations upper bound

We first prove the upper bound for compact sets. For that, we use an exponential martingale as well as the superexponential replacement lemma (Lemma 3.3). To extend the result to closed sets, we prove exponential tightness of the process (Proposition 5.1).

5.1.1 Upper bound for closed compact sets

For $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$ consider, for $t \in [0, T]$, $F(t, \eta_t) = N \langle \pi_t^N, G_t \rangle = N \widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) G_t$ and

$$M_t(G) = \exp \left\{ F(t, \eta_t) - F(0, \eta_0) - \int_0^t e^{-F(s, \eta_s)} (\partial_s + \mathfrak{L}_N) e^{F(s, \eta_s)} ds \right\}.$$

Then $(M_t(G))_{0 \leq t \leq T}$ is an exponential martingale of mean 1 with respect to the natural filtration and a computation yields:

$$\begin{aligned} M_t(G) = \exp \left\{ N \left(\widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) G_t - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^N) G_0 - \int_0^t \partial_s G_s \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N) ds \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - \int_0^t \sum_{x \in \{1, N-1\}} [r_x(1 - \eta_s(x))(e^{G_s} - 1) + (1 - r_x)\eta_s(x)(e^{-G_s} - 1)] ds \right) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.1)$$

Fix $m_0 \in (0, 1)$ and consider a sequence of configurations $(\eta^N)_{N \geq 1}$ such that $\widehat{m}(\pi^N(\eta^N))_{N \geq 1}$ converges to m_0 . For $\delta > 0$, introduce the following event:

$$\begin{aligned} S_\delta^G = \left\{ (\eta_s)_{0 \leq s \leq T} \in \mathcal{D}_{\Omega_N}^T, \left| \int_0^T \sum_{x \in \{1, N-1\}} [r_x(1 - \eta_s(x))(e^{G_s} - 1) + (1 - r_x)\eta_s(x)(e^{-G_s} - 1)] ds \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - \int_0^T [2\gamma(1 - \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N))(e^{G_s} - 1) + 2\widehat{m}(\pi_s^N)(1 - \gamma)(e^{-G_s} - 1)] ds \right| < \delta \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

Let \mathcal{F} be a closed subset of $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$. Introduce

$$\mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta} = \left\{ a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T, |a_0 - m_0| < \delta \right\}.$$

Using inequality (3.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta}] \\ & \leq \max \left(\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [(\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta}) \cap (\pi_\bullet^N \in S_\delta^G)], \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [\pi_\bullet^N \in (S_\delta^G)^c] \right), \end{aligned}$$

where, $\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N)$, π_\bullet^N stand for the trajectories $(\widehat{m}(\pi_t^N) : 0 \leq t \leq T)$, $(\pi_t^N : 0 \leq t \leq T)$, respectively. By Lemma 3.3, the second limit is $-\infty$. Now, writing

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [(\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta}) \cap (\pi_\bullet^N \in S_\delta^G)] = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta, \eta^N} \left[\mathbf{1}_{(\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta}) \cap (\pi_\bullet^N \in S_\delta^G)} M_T^G (M_T^G)^{-1} \right],$$

using the fact that M_T^G is a martingale with mean 1 and upper bounding $(M_T^G)^{-1}$ yields that this is less than

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\pi \in S_\delta^G \cap m^{-1}(\mathcal{F})} \exp \left\{ -N \left(\widehat{m}(\pi_T^N) G_T - \widehat{m}(\pi_0^N) G_0 - \int_0^T \partial_s G_s \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N) ds \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. - \int_0^T [2\gamma(1 - \widehat{m}(\pi_s^N))(e^{G_s} - 1) + 2\widehat{m}(\pi_s^N)(1 - \gamma)(e^{-G_s} - 1)] ds \right) \right\} \exp(N\delta) \end{aligned} \quad (5.3)$$

where we used the definition of the event S_δ^G . Therefore, for any $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta}] \\ & \leq - \inf_{a \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta}} \left\{ a_T G_T - a_0 G_0 - \int_0^T \partial_s G_s a_s ds \right. \\ & \left. - \int_0^T [2\gamma(1 - a_s)(e^{G_s} - 1) + 2a_s(1 - \gamma)(e^{-G_s} - 1)] ds \right\} + \delta \\ & \leq - \inf_{a \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta}} J_G(a) + \delta. \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

Now, as $\widehat{m}(\pi^N(\eta^N))_{N \geq 1}$ converges to m_0 ,

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta}^c] = -\infty,$$

so we are left with

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F}] \leq - \inf_{a \in \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}_{m_0, \delta}} J_G(a) + \delta$$

and taking $\delta \rightarrow 0$,

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F}] \leq - \inf_{a \in \mathcal{F}_{m_0}} J_G(a),$$

where \mathcal{F}_{m_0} is the set of elements of \mathcal{F} with initial data m_0 . Optimizing this inequality over G yields

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F}] \leq - \sup_{G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])} \inf_{a \in \mathcal{F}_{m_0}} J_{T, G}(a). \quad (5.5)$$

If \mathcal{F} is a compact subset of $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}^T$, so is \mathcal{F}_{m_0} and one can exchange the supremum and infimum. Indeed, at any fixed $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$, $a \mapsto J_G(a)$ is a linear and continuous function so one can apply Varadhan's argument (as done in [22]). In that case we get

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [\widehat{m}(\pi_\bullet^N) \in \mathcal{F}] \leq - \inf_{a \in \mathcal{F}_{m_0}} I_T(a) = - \inf_{a \in \mathcal{F}} I_T(a | m_0). \quad (5.6)$$

5.1.2 Upper bound for closed sets

In the previous subsection, we have established the large deviations upper bound for compact sets. To extend the result to closed sets we use the standard method presented in [22], Chapter 10, and based on the so called exponential tightness of the process, stated in the following Proposition.

Proposition 5.1. *For every $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a compact set $K_\ell \in \mathcal{D}_{[0, 1]}^T$ such that*

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} \left[(\widehat{m}(\pi_t^N))_{0 \leq t \leq T} \in K_\ell^c \right] \leq -\ell. \quad (5.7)$$

To build a sequence of compact sets satisfying Proposition 5.1, one proves the following estimate:

Lemma 5.2. *For $\varepsilon, \delta > 0$, introduce the set*

$$\mathcal{C}_{\delta, \varepsilon} = \{a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T, \sup_{s \leq t \leq s+\delta} |a_t - a_s| \leq \varepsilon\}.$$

For any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N} [\hat{m}(\pi_t^N) \notin \mathcal{C}_{\delta, \varepsilon}] = -\infty. \quad (5.8)$$

We refer to [22], or [17] for precise details on how to recover the large deviations upper bound for closed sets from Proposition 5.1, how to derive Proposition 5.1 from Lemma 5.2 and for a proof of Lemma 5.2.

5.2 Large deviations lower bound

To prove the lower bound in Theorem 2.8, we follow the usual strategy which consists in finding a perturbation of the process under which a trajectory satisfying some regularity assumptions becomes typical. The large deviation functional then appears as the entropy of the measure induced by the perturbed process, relatively to the one induced by the initial process. To extend this to any trajectory, proceeding as in [6], we use an I_T -density argument.

5.2.1 Hydrodynamic limit of a perturbation of the process

Given $G \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$, consider the following generator:

$$(\mathcal{L}_{N,b}^G f)(\eta) = \sum_{x \in \{1, N-1\}} \left[e^{G(t)} r_x (1 - \eta(x)) + e^{-G(t)} \eta(x) (1 - r_x) \right] (f(\eta^x) - f(\eta)). \quad (5.9)$$

We will write G_t instead of $G(t)$. Denote by $\{\bar{\eta}_t^N, t \in [0, T]\}$ the Markov process with generator $N\bar{\mathcal{L}}_N$, where

$$\bar{\mathcal{L}}_N = N^2 \mathcal{L}_{N,0} + \mathcal{L}_{N,b}^G.$$

Given μ_N a measure on Ω_N , denote by $\bar{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N}^G$ the probability measure on $\mathcal{D}_{\Omega_N}^T$ induced by $(\bar{\eta}_t^N)_{t \geq 0}$ when $\bar{\eta}_0 \sim \mu_N$, and $\bar{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_N}^G$ its associated expectation. In particular, for $\eta^N \in \Omega_N$, $\bar{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta, \eta^N}^G$ is the measure induced starting from η^N . Denote by $\bar{\pi}_t^N$ the empirical measure associated to $\bar{\eta}_t^N$ and $\hat{m}(\bar{\pi}_t^N)$ its mass.

Theorem 5.3. *(Hydrodynamic limit for the mass of the perturbed process). Fix $\bar{m}_0 \in [0, 1]$ and consider a sequence of measures $(\mu_N)_{N \geq 1}$ on Ω_N associated to the mass \bar{m}_0 . Then, for any $t \in [0, T]$ and any $\delta > 0$,*

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \bar{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N}^G \left[\left| \hat{m}(\bar{\pi}_t^N) - \bar{m}(t) \right| > \delta \right] = 0,$$

where $\bar{m} : [0, T] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is the unique solution of

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \bar{m}(t) = 2\gamma(1 - \bar{m}(t))e^{G_t} - 2(1 - \gamma)\bar{m}(t)e^{-G_t} \\ \bar{m}(0) = \bar{m}_0. \end{cases} \quad (5.10)$$

The proof of Theorem 5.3 follows the same lines as that of Proposition 3.1. Indeed, start by writing the martingale associated to $\hat{m}(\bar{\pi}_t^N)$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{M}_t^N &:= \hat{m}(\bar{\pi}_t^N) - \hat{m}(\bar{\pi}_0^N) - N^3 \int_0^t \mathcal{L}_{N,0} \hat{m}(\bar{\pi}_s^N) ds - N \int_0^t \mathcal{L}_{N,b}^G \hat{m}(\bar{\pi}_s^N) ds \\ &= \hat{m}(\bar{\pi}_t^N) - \hat{m}(\bar{\pi}_0^N) - \int_0^t \sum_{x \in \{1, N-1\}} [e^{G_s} r_x (1 - \bar{\eta}_s(x)) - e^{-G_s} \bar{\eta}_s(x) (1 - r_x)] ds. \end{aligned} \quad (5.11)$$

Using the quadratic variation of \overline{M}_t^N one proves tightness of the sequence of measures $\overline{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N}^G$. Then, one proves the replacement lemma: given $g \in \mathcal{C}([0, T])$, for any $t \in [0, T]$ and $\delta > 0$, for any $x \in \{1, N-1\}$,

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \overline{\mathbb{P}}_{\mu_N}^G \left[\left| \int_0^t g(s) (\overline{\eta}_s(x) - \widehat{m}(\overline{\pi}_s^N)) ds \right| > \delta \right] = -\infty. \quad (5.12)$$

From this, one proves that a limit point must lie on a solution of (5.10). Uniqueness of the solution of (5.10) is immediate.

For the proof of (5.12), use that there is a uniform constant C_0 such that

$$\langle \mathcal{L}_{N,b}^{G,t} \sqrt{f}, \sqrt{f} \rangle_{\nu_\delta^N} \leq C_0.$$

To prove that, proceed as in the proof of (ii) in Lemma 3.5 and use that the transition rates of the dynamics are bounded in N . Then, to recover (5.12), proceed as in the proof of Lemma 3.3 using this estimate.

5.2.2 Proof of the lower bound

Fix m_0 in $[0, 1]$ and consider a sequence $(\eta^N)_{N \geq 1}$ such that $\widehat{m}(\pi^N(\eta^N))_{N \geq 1}$ converges to m_0 . We wish to prove that for any open subset \mathcal{O} of $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T$,

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{O}] \geq -\inf_{a \in \mathcal{O}} I(a|m_0).$$

Consider a profile $a \in \mathcal{O} \cap \Pi_3^T$ such that $I_T(a|m_0) < \infty$. For $\varepsilon > 0$ denote by $\widehat{B}_\varepsilon(a)$ the ball of radius ε and centered in a for the Skorohod distance. Consider $H \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, T])$ such that a and H are related by (4.3). As \mathcal{O} is open, there is $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $\widehat{B}_\varepsilon(a) \subset \mathcal{O}$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{O}] &\geq \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \widehat{B}_\varepsilon(a)] = \overline{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}^H \left[\frac{d\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}}{d\overline{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}^H} \mathbb{1}_{\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \widehat{B}_\varepsilon(a)} \right] \\ &= \overline{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}^H \left[\frac{d\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}}{d\overline{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}^H} \Big| \widehat{m}(\overline{\pi}^N) \in \widehat{B}_\varepsilon(a) \right] \overline{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}^H [\widehat{m}(\overline{\pi}^N) \in \widehat{B}_\varepsilon(a)] \end{aligned} \quad (5.13)$$

The Radon-Nikodym derivative in the expectation is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} (M_T(H))^{-1} &= \exp \left\{ -N \left(\widehat{m}(\overline{\pi}_T^N) H_T - \widehat{m}(\overline{\pi}_0^N) H_0 - \int_0^T \partial_s H_s \widehat{m}(\overline{\pi}_s^N) ds \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - \int_0^T \sum_{x \in \{1, N-1\}} [r_x (1 - \overline{\eta}_s^N(x)) (e^{H_s} - 1) + (1 - r_x) \overline{\eta}_s^N(x) (e^{-H_s} - 1)] ds \right) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.14)$$

For a justification of that, see for instance [22], Appendix 1. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{O}] \\ &\geq \frac{1}{N} \log \overline{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}^{H, \varepsilon} \left[(M_T(H))^{-1} \Big| \widehat{m}(\overline{\pi}^N) \in \widehat{B}_\varepsilon(a) \right] + \frac{1}{N} \log \overline{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}}^H [\widehat{m}(\overline{\pi}^N) \in \widehat{B}_\varepsilon(a)]. \end{aligned} \quad (5.15)$$

By the hydrodynamic limit of the perturbed process (Theorem 5.3), the last term goes to 0 when $N \rightarrow \infty$. Using Jensen's inequality in the conditional expectation, the replacement lemma 3.3 and

the martingale computations in Subsection 5.1.1, we get that the right hand side is bounded below by $-J_{T,H}(a) = -I_T(a)$. Therefore,

$$\liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{O}] \geq -I(a) \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{O} \cap \Pi_3^T.$$

Optimize this in $a \in \mathcal{O} \cap \Pi_3^T$ and the lower bound follows by I_T -density of Π_3^T (see Lemma 4.10). Again, we refer to [22], Chapter 10 for more details.

6 Static large deviations

In this section, we prove Theorem 2.9, that is, that the quasi potential V is the large deviations functional for the mass under the stationary profile. First we prove the lower bound, then the upper bound. In both cases we make use of the dynamic large deviations principle (Theorem 2.8). In the lower bound we use the hydrostatic limit for the mass (Theorem 3.8) and for the upper bound, inspired by [20], [7] and [15], we use a Markov chain representation of the invariant measure. For $\delta > 0$, denote by

$$B_\delta = \{\pi \in \mathcal{M}, |\widehat{m}(\pi) - \gamma| < \delta\}. \quad (6.1)$$

6.1 Proof of the lower bound

Fix an open set \mathcal{O} in $[0, 1]$. By definition of V , it is enough to prove that for any $m \in \mathcal{O}$, for any $T > 0$ and for any $a \in \mathcal{C}([0, T])$ such that $a_0 = \gamma$ and $a_T = m$,

$$\liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mu_{ss}^N [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{O}] \geq -I_T(a|\gamma).$$

Fix $\widehat{a} \in \mathcal{C}([0, T])$ such that $\widehat{a}(0) = \gamma$ and $\widehat{a}(T) = m$. Recall (see Remark 3.9) that there is a sequence $(\varepsilon_N)_{N \geq 1} \downarrow 0$ such that $\mu_{ss}^N(B_{\varepsilon_N})$ converges to 1. Consider such a sequence $(\varepsilon_N)_{N \geq 1}$. By stationarity of μ_{ss}^N ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{ss}^N [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{O}] &= \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} (\widehat{m}(\pi_T^N) \in \mathcal{O}) \right] \\ &\geq \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\mu_{ss}^N} \left[\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} (\widehat{m}(\pi_T^N) \in \mathcal{O}) \mathbf{1}_{\eta \in (\pi^N)^{-1}(B_{\varepsilon_N})} \right] \\ &\geq \mu_{ss}^N(B_{\varepsilon_N}) \inf_{\eta \in (\pi^N)^{-1}(B_{\varepsilon_N})} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} [\pi_T^N \in \mathcal{O}] \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \inf_{\eta \in (\pi^N)^{-1}(B_{\varepsilon_N})} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} [\pi_T^N \in \mathcal{O}], \end{aligned}$$

where we used that for N large enough, $\mu_{ss}^N(B_{\varepsilon_N}) \geq \frac{1}{2}$. Now, since $(\pi^N)^{-1}(B_{\varepsilon_N})$ is finite, the infimum above is achieved for a certain $\eta^N \in (\pi^N)^{-1}(B_{\varepsilon_N})$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mu_{ss}^N [\widehat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{O}] &\geq \liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} [\widehat{m}(\pi_T^N) \in \mathcal{O}] \\ &\geq \liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} [\widehat{m}((\pi_t^N)_{t \in [0, T]}) \in \mathcal{O}_T] \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{O}_T = \{a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0, 1]}^T, a_T \in \mathcal{O}\}$ is an open set because \mathcal{O} is open, and the map $X: \mathcal{D}_{[0, 1]}^T \rightarrow [0, 1]$ given by $X(a) = a_T$ is continuous with respect to the Skorohod-topology on $\mathcal{D}_{[0, 1]}^T$. By the dynamic large deviations principle and since $\widehat{m}(\pi^N(\eta^N))$ converges to γ ,

$$\liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} [\widehat{m}((\pi_t^N)_{t \in [0, T]}) \in \mathcal{O}_T] \geq - \inf_{v \in \mathcal{O}_T} I_T(v|\gamma) \geq -I_T(\widehat{a}|\gamma).$$

6.2 Proof of the upper bound

Consider \mathcal{F} a closed subset of $[0, 1]$. If $\gamma \in \mathcal{F}$, $\inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) = V(\gamma) = 0$ and the upper bound follows.

Now, let us deal with the case where $\gamma \notin \mathcal{F}$. There is a $\delta > 0$ such that $[\gamma - 3\delta, \gamma + 3\delta] \cap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset$. As mentioned above, the idea is to use a representation of the invariant measure $\mu_{s,s}^N$ in terms of an invariant measure for an irreducible dynamics defined on a subset of Ω_N , as done in [20] and [15]. The subset for this representation is the set of configurations η such that

$$|\widehat{m}(\pi^N(\eta)) - \gamma| < \delta,$$

that is, the configurations whose associated empirical measure is in B_δ , defined in (6.1).

Define the closed set

$$R_\delta = \{\pi \in \mathcal{M}, 2\delta \leq |\widehat{m}(\pi) - \gamma| \leq 3\delta\}.$$

For any integer N and any subset A of \mathcal{M} , let $A^N = (\pi^N)^{-1}(A) \in \Omega_N$, and denote by $\tau_{A^N} : \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^+, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ the entry time in A^N of η_t^N , that is,

$$\tau_{A^N} = \inf\{t \geq 0, \eta_t^N \in A^N\}.$$

We also denote by $\mathfrak{F} = \widehat{m}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}) \subset \mathcal{M}$, which is closed because \widehat{m} is continuous and \mathcal{F} is closed. Define ∂B_δ^N as the set of configurations $\eta \in B_\delta^N$ such that there is a finite sequence $(\eta^i)_{1 \leq i \leq k}$ such that $\eta^0 \in R_\delta^N$, $\eta^k = \eta$ and

- (i) η^i is obtained from η^{i-1} by a move which is allowed by the dynamics.
- (ii) for any $1 \leq i < k$, $\eta^i \notin B_\delta^N$.

Define

$$\tau_1 = \inf\{t > 0, \exists s < t, \eta_s^N \in R_\delta^N \text{ and } \eta_t^N \in \partial B_\delta^N\},$$

and introduce the sequence of stopping times τ_k obtained by iterating τ_1 , that is, the sequence defined by induction:

$$\forall k \geq 2, \tau_k = \inf\{t > \tau_{k-1}, \exists s, \tau_{k-1} < s < t, \eta_s^N \in R_\delta^N \text{ and } \eta_t^N \in \partial B_\delta^N\}.$$

Lemma 6.1. *The sequence $(\eta_{\tau_k})_{k \geq 1}$, is an irreducible Markov chain.*

Proof. Since τ_k is a sequence of increasing stopping times, $(\eta_{\tau_k})_{k \geq 1}$ is a Markov chain. Now, let us prove irreducibility. Consider $\eta, \xi \in \partial B_\delta^N$ and $(\eta^i)_{1 \leq i \leq k}$ a path connecting $\eta^0 \in R_\delta^N$ to η . By irreducibility of the original dynamics, there is a sequence $(\xi^i)_{0 \leq i \leq \ell}$ connecting $\xi^0 = \xi$ to $\xi^\ell = \eta^0$. Then, consider the sequence of configurations $z^0 = \xi^0, \dots, z^\ell = \xi^\ell = \eta^0, z^{\ell+1} = \eta^1, \dots, z^{\ell+k} = \eta^k = \eta$ connecting ξ to η . From the path z we can extract a sequence $\tilde{z}^0 = \xi, \dots, \tilde{z}^p = \eta$ in ∂B_δ^N , such that

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\tilde{z}^{i-1}}[\eta_{\tau_1} = \tilde{z}^i] > 0.$$

Indeed, consider $j_0 = 0$ and for $i \geq 1$, let

$$j_{2i-1} = \min_{\substack{j > j_{2i-2} \\ z^j \in R_\delta^N}} \{j\} \quad \text{and} \quad j_{2i} = \min_{\substack{j > j_{2i-1} \\ z^j \in \partial B_\delta^N}} \{j\}.$$

The sequence $\tilde{z}^i = z^{2j}$ satisfies the assumptions. □

Since ∂B_δ^N is finite, the irreducible Markov chain thus defined has a unique invariant measure that we denote by ν_N . Following [20] and [15], the stationary measure μ_{ss}^N can be written as follows: for every subset A of Ω_N ,

$$\mu_{ss}^N(A) = \frac{1}{C_N} \int_{\partial B_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} \left(\int_0^{\tau_1} \mathbf{1}_{\eta_s^N \in A} ds \right) d\nu_N(\eta) \quad (6.2)$$

with $C_N = \int_{\partial B_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta}(\tau_1) d\nu_N(\eta)$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{ss}^N(\widehat{m}^{-1}(\mathcal{F})) &= \frac{1}{C_N} \int_{\partial B_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} \left(\int_0^{\tau_1} \mathbf{1}_{\eta_s^N \in (\pi^N)^{-1}(\widehat{m}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}))} ds \right) d\nu_N(\eta) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{C_N} \sup_{\eta \in \partial B_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} \left(\int_0^{\tau_1} \mathbf{1}_{\eta_s^N \in (\pi^N)^{-1}(\widehat{m}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}))} ds \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{C_N} \sup_{\eta \in \partial B_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_1] \sup_{\eta \in \mathfrak{F}^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_1], \end{aligned} \quad (6.3)$$

where the last inequality results from the strong Markov property.

For N large, any trajectory in $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^+, \Omega_N)$ starting from \mathfrak{F}^N has to perform at least one jump before reaching ∂B_δ^N , because $[\gamma - 3\delta, \gamma + 3\delta] \cap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset$. As the jump rates of the dynamics in the bulk are of order N^3 and those for the dynamics at the boundary are of order N , there is a constant $c > 0$ depending on α and β such that $C_N > \frac{1}{cN^3}$. If the mesh size $1/N$ of $[0, 1]$ is small enough, that is N large enough, by continuity of \widehat{m} , any trajectory in $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^+, \Omega_N)$ starting in ∂B_δ^N satisfies $\tau_{R_\delta^N} \leq \tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N}$. That means that when N is large enough, a flip in the configuration cannot lead directly from ∂B_δ^N to \mathfrak{F}^N without passing through R_δ^N . For that same reason, we also have that for N large enough, any trajectory starting in \mathfrak{F}^N satisfies $\tau_1 = \tau_{B_\delta^N}$ almost surely. The second supremum in (6.3) is therefore bounded by $\sup_{\eta \in \mathfrak{F}^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_{B_\delta^N}]$ and using the strong Markov property, the first supremum satisfies, for N large enough:

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{\eta \in \partial B_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_1] &= \sup_{\eta \in \partial B_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\eta_{\tau_{R_\delta^N}}} \left[\mathbf{1}_{\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_1} \right] \mathbf{1}_{\tau_{R_\delta^N} < \tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N}} \right] \\ &\leq \sup_{\eta \in R_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_1] = \sup_{\eta \in R_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_{B_\delta^N}]. \end{aligned}$$

We are left with

$$\mu_{ss}^N(\widehat{m}^{-1}(\mathcal{F})) \leq cN^3 \sup_{\eta \in R_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_{B_\delta^N}] \sup_{\eta \in \mathfrak{F}^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_{B_\delta^N}].$$

Now, to prove the upper bound, it is enough to prove the following result:

Lemma 6.2. (i) For every $\delta > 0$,

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \sup_{\eta \in \mathfrak{F}^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_{B_\delta^N}] \leq 0. \quad (6.4)$$

(ii) For every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \sup_{\eta \in R_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} [\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_{B_\delta^N}] \leq - \inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) + \varepsilon. \quad (6.5)$$

For that, use the following result proved later on.

Lemma 6.3. *For every $\delta > 0$, there is $T_0, C_0, N_0 > 0$ such that for any $N \geq N_0$ and for any integer $k > 0$,*

$$\sup_{\eta \in \Omega_N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq kT_0 \right] \leq \exp(-kC_0N). \quad (6.6)$$

Proof. (Lemma 6.2)

(i) For $\delta > 0$ and T_0, C_0, N_0 as in the statement of Lemma 6.3, for every $N \geq N_0$ and every $\eta \in \Omega_N$,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \right] &= T_0 \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\frac{\tau_{B_\delta^N}}{T_0} \right] \leq T_0 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sup_{\eta \in \Omega_N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq kT_0 \right] \\ &\leq T_0 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \exp(-kC_0N) \leq \frac{T_0}{1 - e^{-C_0N}}, \end{aligned}$$

therefore,

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \sup_{\eta \in \mathfrak{F}^N} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \right] \leq \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \frac{T_0}{1 - e^{-C_0N}} = 0.$$

(ii) Fix $\varepsilon > 0$ and pick $\delta > 0$, that will be specified according to ε later on. Consider $T_0, C_0 > 0$ as in Lemma 6.3. Since $\inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) < \infty$, there is an integer $k > 0$ such that $-kC_0 < -\inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m)$ so taking $T_\delta = kT_0$ we get, by Lemma 6.3,

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \sup_{\eta \in \Omega_N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq T_\delta \right] \leq -\inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m). \quad (6.7)$$

Now write for $\eta \in R_\delta^N$,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_{B_\delta^N} \right] &= \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\left(\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_{B_\delta^N} \right) \cap \left(\tau_{B_\delta^N} < T_\delta \right) \right] + \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\left(\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_{B_\delta^N} \right) \cap \left(\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq T_\delta \right) \right] \\ &\leq \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} \leq T_\delta \right] + \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq T_\delta \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Using that $\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log(a_N + b_N) \leq \max \left(\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log a_N, \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log b_N \right)$ and (6.7), we are left with

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \sup_{\eta \in R_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < \tau_{B_\delta^N} \right] \leq \max \left(-\inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m), \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \sup_{\eta \in R_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < T_\delta \right] \right)$$

and so it is enough to show that

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \sup_{\eta \in R_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < T_\delta \right] \leq -\inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) + \varepsilon.$$

As R_δ^N is finite, there is a configuration $\eta^N \in R_\delta^N$ such that

$$\sup_{\eta \in R_\delta^N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < T_\delta \right] = \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} \left[\tau_{\mathfrak{F}^N} < T_\delta \right] \leq \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} \left[\hat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{F}_\delta \right],$$

where \mathcal{F}_δ is the closed set of elements in $\mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^{T_\delta}$ such that for a in that set, there is $t \in [0, T_\delta]$ such that a_t or $a(t-)$ is in \mathcal{F} . By compactness of \mathcal{M} , $\pi^N(\eta^N)$ contains a subsequence which converges to an element ρ_δ in \mathcal{M}_0 . The continuity of the map \hat{m} ensures that $\hat{m}(\rho_\delta) \in R_\delta$. Along that converging subsequence, using the dynamical large deviation principle for the mass, one has:

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} \left[\hat{m}(\pi^N) \in \mathcal{F}_\delta \right] \leq -\inf_{a \in \mathcal{F}_\delta} I_{T_\delta}(a | \hat{m}(\rho_\delta)).$$

Finally, we show that there is a $\delta > 0$, such that

$$\inf_{a \in \mathcal{F}_\delta} I_{T_\delta}(a|\widehat{m}(\rho_\delta)) \geq \inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) - \varepsilon.$$

Assume that this is not true so that for any $k > 0$, there is $a^k \in \mathcal{F}_{\frac{1}{k}} \subset \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^{T_{\frac{1}{k}}}$ such that

$$I_{T_{\frac{1}{k}}}(a^k|\widehat{m}(\rho_{\frac{1}{k}})) < \inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) - \varepsilon.$$

Then, for any $k > 0$, there is $0 < T'_k \leq T_{\frac{1}{k}}$ such that $a^k(T'_k) \in \mathcal{F}$ or $a^k(T'_k -) \in \mathcal{F}$. Without loss of generality, we assume that $a^k(T'_k) \in \mathcal{F}$. We have

$$\inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) \leq V(a^k(T'_k)) = \inf_{\substack{a, T > 0 \\ u(0) = \gamma, a_T = a^k(T'_k)}} I_T(a|\gamma) \leq I_{T'_k+1}(\tilde{a}^k|\gamma) \quad (6.8)$$

where \tilde{a}^k is defined on $[0, T'_k + 1]$ by

$$\tilde{a}^k = \begin{cases} (1-t)\gamma + t\widehat{m}(\rho_{\frac{1}{k}}), & \text{if } t \in [0, 1] \\ a^k(t-1), & \text{if } t \in [1, T'_k + 1]. \end{cases} \quad (6.9)$$

Then, by (4.8),

$$\begin{aligned} I_{T'_k+1}(\tilde{a}^k|\gamma) &= I_1((1-t)\gamma + t\widehat{m}(\rho_{1/N})|\gamma) + I_{T'_k}(a^k|\widehat{m}(\rho_{\frac{1}{k}})) \\ &\leq I_1\left(\left(\widehat{m}(\rho_{\frac{1}{k}}) - \gamma\right)t|\gamma\right) + \inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) - \varepsilon, \end{aligned} \quad (6.10)$$

where we used that $T'_k \leq T_{\frac{1}{k}}$, so $I_{T'_k}(a^k|\widehat{m}(\rho_{\frac{1}{k}})) \leq I_{T_{\frac{1}{k}}}(a^k|\widehat{m}(\rho_{\frac{1}{k}}))$.

By Lemma 4.12, for $k > 0$ large enough, $I_1\left(\left(\widehat{m}(\rho_{\frac{1}{k}}) - \gamma\right)t|\gamma\right) < \varepsilon$, so we are left with

$$\inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) \leq V(a^k(T'_k)) < \varepsilon + \inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m) - \varepsilon = \inf_{m \in \mathcal{F}} V(m)$$

which is a contradiction. □

To prove Lemma 6.3, we use the following

Lemma 6.4. *For every $\delta > 0$, there is a $T > 0$ such that*

$$\inf \left\{ I_T(a), a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T \text{ and } a_T \notin]\gamma - \delta, \gamma + \delta[\right\} > 0.$$

Proof. Suppose that the result is not true and consider $\delta > 0$ such that for any $T > 0$ $\inf_{a \in \mathcal{D}_{\delta, T}} I_T(a) = 0$, where

$$D_{\delta, T} = \left\{ a \in \mathcal{D}_{[0,1]}^T \text{ and } a_T \notin]\gamma - \delta, \gamma + \delta[\right\}.$$

For $T > 0$ consider $(a^{T,k})_{k \geq 0}$ a sequence in $D_{\delta, T}$ such that $I(a^{T,k}) \rightarrow 0$. Recall that by Lemma 4.2 and Remark 4.3, the level sets are compact for the uniform convergence topology so there is $a^T \in \mathcal{C}([0, T])$ a limit of a strong converging subsequence of $(a^{T,k})_{k \geq 0}$ and, by lower semi-continuity of I_T , $I_T(a^T) = 0$. By Corollary 4.5, a^T is therefore a strong solution of $\dot{a} = -2(a - \gamma)$ and $a_T^T \xrightarrow{T \rightarrow \infty} \gamma$. The strong convergence of $a^{T,k}$ to a also implies that $|a_T^T - \gamma| \geq \delta$ which yields a contradiction when T is large enough. □

Proof. (Lemma 6.3) Fix a $\delta > 0$. To prove the result, it is enough to show that there is T_0, C_0 and an $N_0 > 0$ such that for every $N > N_0$,

$$\sup_{\eta \in \Omega_N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq T_0 \right] \leq \exp(-C_0 N).$$

Indeed, using induction and the strong Markov property, one then gets the desired result. Let us show that there is $T_0, C_0 > 0$ such that

$$\overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \sup_{\eta \in \Omega_N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq T_0 \right] \leq -C_0.$$

Consider $\eta^N \in \Omega_N$ such that

$$\sup_{\eta \in \Omega_N} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_\eta} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq T_0 \right] = \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq T_0 \right].$$

We have, for $\tilde{T}_0 < T_0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq T_0 \right] &\leq \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} > \tilde{T}_0 \right] \\ &\leq \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} \left[m(\pi^N) \in D_{\delta, \tilde{T}_0} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

By compactness of \mathcal{M} and the fact that each configuration in Ω_N has at most one particle per site, $\pi^N(\eta^N)$ contains a subsequence converging to some ρ in \mathcal{M}_0 . By continuity of \hat{m} and the fact that D_{δ, \tilde{T}_0} is closed, using the dynamical large deviations principle we get, up to some extraction,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} \left[\tau_{B_\delta^N} \geq T_0 \right] &= \overline{\lim}_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{\delta_{\eta^N}} \left[\hat{m}(\pi^N) \in D_{\delta, \tilde{T}_0} \right] \\ &\leq - \inf_{a \in \mathcal{D}_\gamma} I_{\tilde{T}_0}(a|\rho). \end{aligned} \tag{6.11}$$

We then conclude thanks to Lemma 6.4, by taking \tilde{T}_0 large enough. \square

A Proof of (4.25)

Recall that

$$H(t) = \log \left(\frac{(1-\gamma)a_t}{\gamma(1-a_t)} \right) =: \log \left(\frac{v(t)}{w(t)} \right).$$

Let us compute $J_{T_1, H}(a^*(T_1 - \cdot))$:

$$J_{T_1, H}(a^*(T_1 - \cdot)) = mH(T_1) - a_{T_1}^* H(0) - \int_0^{T_1} a_s \partial_s H(s) ds - \int_0^{T_1} A_{H_s}(a_s) ds.$$

On the one hand,

$$\int_0^{T_1} a_s \partial_s H(s) ds = \int_0^{T_1} \frac{2(a_s - \gamma)}{1 - a_s} ds = \int_0^{T_1} \frac{\partial_s a_s}{1 - a_s} ds = - [\log(1 - a_s)]_0^{T_1}.$$

On the other hand,

$$A_{H_s}(a_s) = 2\gamma \left[\frac{v(s)}{w(s)} + \frac{w(s)}{v(s)} \right] a_s + 2(1 - 2\gamma)a_s - 2\frac{w(s)}{v(s)}a_s - 2\gamma \left(\frac{v(s) - w(s)}{w(s)} \right),$$

and

$$2\gamma \int_0^{T_1} \frac{v(s) - w(s)}{w(s)} ds = 2\gamma \int_0^{T_1} \frac{2a_s - 2\gamma}{2\gamma(1 - a_s)} ds = - [\log(1 - a_s)]_0^{T_1}.$$

We are left with

$$\begin{aligned} J_{H,T_1}(a^*(T_1 - \cdot)) &= mH(T_1) - u^*(T_1)H(0) + 2 [\log(1 - u(s))]_0^{T_1} \\ &+ 2\gamma \int_0^{T_1} \frac{a_s}{b(s)} u(s) ds + [2\gamma - 2] \int_0^{T_1} \frac{b(s)}{a_s} u(s) ds + 2(1 - 2\gamma) \int_0^{T_1} u(s) ds. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

As $\frac{a_s}{v(s)} = \frac{1}{2-2\gamma}$,

$$2[\gamma - 1] \int_0^{T_1} \frac{w(s)}{v(s)} a_s ds = 2\gamma \int_0^{T_1} a_s ds - 2\gamma T_1,$$

so

$$2[\gamma - 1] \int_0^{T_1} \frac{w(s)}{v(s)} a_s ds + 2(1 - \gamma) \int_0^{T_1} a_s ds = 2[1 - \gamma] \int_0^{T_1} a_s ds - 2\gamma T_1. \quad (\text{A.2})$$

We also have: $\frac{v(s)a_s}{w(s)} = 2[1 - \gamma] \frac{a^2(s)}{1 - a_s} = 2 \frac{a_s - \gamma}{1 - a_s} - 2[1 - \gamma] a_s + 2\gamma$. Therefore,

$$2\gamma \int_0^{T_1} \frac{v(s)}{w(s)} a_s ds = - [\log(1 - a_s)]_0^{T_1} - 2[1 - \gamma] \int_0^{T_1} a_s ds + 2\gamma T_1. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Collecting (A.1), (A.2) and (A.3) we are left with

$$J_{T_1,H}(a^*(T_1 - \cdot)) = m \log \left(\frac{(1 - \gamma)m}{\gamma(1 - m)} \right) - a_{T_1}^* \log \left(\frac{(1 - \gamma)a_{T_1}^*}{\gamma(1 - a_{T_1}^*)} \right) + \log \left(\frac{1 - m}{1 - \gamma} \right). \quad (\text{A.4})$$

Declarations

The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

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