

# On Extinction of Measure-Valued Markov Processes

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## Abstract

We begin with introducing superprocesses with branching rate functional and historical superprocesses. We consider the notions of recurrence, transience and extinction property of measure-valued Markov processes. Then we prove the finite time extinction for a class of measure-valued Markov processes.

**Key Words** : Extinction property, finite time extinction, measure-valued Markov process, superprocess.

## 1. Superdiffusion with Branching Rate Functional

In this section we shall introduce the superdiffusion with branching rate functional, which forms a general class of measure-valued Markov processes with diffusion as a underlying spatial motion. We write  $\langle \mu, f \rangle = \int f d\mu$ .  $M_F = M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is the space of finite measures on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Define a second order elliptic differential operator  $L = \frac{1}{2} \nabla \cdot a \nabla + b \cdot \nabla$ , and  $a = (a_{ij})$  is positive definite and we assume that  $a_{ij}, b_i \in C^{1,\varepsilon} = C^{1,\varepsilon}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . Here the space  $C^{1,\varepsilon}$  indicates the totality of all Hölder continuous functions with index  $\varepsilon$  ( $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$ ), allowing their first order derivatives to be locally Hölder continuous.  $\Xi = \{\xi, \Pi_{s,a}, s \geq 0, a \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$  indicates a  $L$ -diffusion. CAF stands for continuous additive functional in Probability Theory.

DEFINITION 1. (A Locally Admissible Class of CAF; cf. Dynkin (1994), [24]) A continuous additive functional  $K$  is said to be in the Dynkin class with index  $q$  and we write  $K \in \mathbb{K}^q$ , (some  $q > 0$ ) if (a)

$$\sup_{a \in \mathbb{R}^d} \Pi_{s,a} \int_s^t \phi_p(\xi_r) K(dr) \rightarrow 0, \quad (r_0 \geq 0) \quad \text{as } s \rightarrow r_0, t \rightarrow r_0; \quad (1)$$

(b) each  $N, \exists c_N > 0$  :

$$\Pi_{s,a} \int_s^t \phi_p(\xi_r) K(dr) \leq c_N |t - s|^q \phi_p(a), \quad (\text{for } 0 \leq s \leq t \leq N, \quad a \in \mathbb{R}^d). \quad (2)$$

□

When we write  $C_b$  as the set of bounded continuous functions on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , then  $C_b^+$  is the set of positive members  $g$  in  $C_b$ . The process  $\mathbb{X} = \{X, \mathbb{P}_{s,\mu}, s \geq 0, \mu \in M_F\}$  is said to be a *superdiffusion with branching rate functional  $K$*  or simply  $(L, K, \mu)$ -superprocess if  $X = \{X_t\}$  is a continuous  $M_F$ -valued time-inhomogeneous Markov process with Laplace functional

$$\mathbb{P}_{s,\mu} e^{-\langle X_t, \varphi \rangle} = e^{-\langle \mu, v(s,t) \rangle}, \quad 0 \leq s \leq t, \quad \mu \in M_F, \quad \varphi \in C_b^+. \quad (3)$$

Here the function  $v$  is uniquely determined by the log-Laplace equation

$$\Pi_{s,a} \varphi(\xi_t) = v(s, a) + \Pi_{s,a} \int_s^t v^2(r, \xi_r) K(dr), \quad 0 \leq s \leq t, \quad a \in \mathbb{R}^d. \quad (4)$$

## 2. Historical Superprocess

The historical superprocess was initially studied by E.B. Dynkin (1991) [23], see also Dawson-Perkins (1991) [7].  $\mathbb{C} = C(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}^d)$  denotes the space of continuous paths on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}_+$ . To each  $w \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $t > 0$ , we write  $w^t \in \mathbb{C}$  as the stopped path of  $w$ . We denote by  $\mathbb{C}^t$  the totality of all these paths stopped at time  $t$ . To every  $w \in \mathbb{C}$  we associate the corresponding stopped path trajectory  $\tilde{w}$  defined by  $\tilde{w}_t = w^t$  for  $t \geq 0$ . The image of  $L$ -diffusion  $w$  under the map  $w \mapsto \tilde{w}$  is called the *L-diffusion path process*. Moreover, we define

$$\mathbb{C}_R^\times \equiv \mathbb{R}_+ \hat{\times} \mathbb{C} = \{(s, w) : s \in \mathbb{R}_+, w \in \mathbb{C}^s\} \quad (5)$$

and we denote by  $M(\mathbb{C}_R^\times) \equiv M(\mathbb{R}_+ \hat{\times} \mathbb{C})$  the set of measures  $\eta$  on  $\mathbb{R}_+ \hat{\times} \mathbb{C}$  which are finite, if restricted to a finite time interval. Let  $K$  be a positive CAF of  $\xi$ .  $\tilde{\mathbb{X}} = \{\tilde{X}, \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{s,\mu}, s \geq 0, \mu \in M_F(\mathbb{C}^s)\}$  is said to be a Dynkin's *historical superprocess* (cf. Dynkin (1991), [23]) if  $\tilde{X} = \{\tilde{X}_t\}$  is a time-inhomogeneous Markov process with state  $\tilde{X}_t \in M_F(\mathbb{C}^t)$ ,  $t \geq s$ , with Laplace functional

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{s,\mu} e^{-\langle \tilde{X}_t, \varphi \rangle} = e^{-\langle \mu, v(s,t) \rangle}, \quad 0 \leq s \leq t, \quad \mu \in M_F(\mathbb{C}^s), \quad \varphi \in C_b^+(\mathbb{C}), \quad (6)$$

where the function  $v$  is uniquely determined by the log-Laplace type equation

$$\tilde{\Pi}_{s,w_s} \varphi(\tilde{\xi}_t) = v(s, w_s) + \tilde{\Pi}_{s,w_s} \int_s^t v^2(r, \tilde{\xi}_r) K(dr), \quad 0 \leq s \leq t, \quad w_s \in \mathbb{C}^s. \quad (7)$$

## 3. Examples of Measure-Valued Processes

### 3.1 Dawson-Watanabe Superprocess

$X = \{X_t; t \geq 0\}$  is said to be the *Dawson-Watanabe superprocess* (cf. Watanabe (1968), [40], Dawson (1975), [1]) if  $\{X_t\}$  is a Markov process taking values in the space  $M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$  of finite measures on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , satisfying the following martingale

problem (MP): i.e., there exists a probability measure  $\mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{P}(M_F(\mathbb{R}^d))$  on the sapce  $M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$  such that for all  $\varphi \in \text{Dom}(\Delta)$

$$M_t(\varphi) \equiv \langle X_t, \varphi \rangle - \langle X_0, \varphi \rangle - \int_0^t \langle X_s, \frac{1}{2} \Delta \varphi \rangle ds \quad (8)$$

is a  $\mathbb{P}$ -martingale and its quadratic variation process is given by

$$\langle M(\varphi) \rangle_t = \gamma \int_0^t \langle X_s, \varphi^2 \rangle ds. \quad (9)$$

Or equivalently, the Laplace functional of  $\{X_t\}$  is given by

$$\mathbb{E} e^{-\langle X_t, \varphi \rangle} = e^{-\langle X_0, u(t) \rangle}, \quad \text{for } \varphi \in C_b^+(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap \text{Dom}(\Delta), \quad (10)$$

where  $u(t, x)$  is the unique positive solution of evolution equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \Delta u - \frac{1}{2} \gamma u^2, \quad u(0, x) = \varphi(x). \quad (11)$$

The Dawson-Watanabe superprocess  $X_t$  inherits the branching property from the approximating branching Brownian motions (cf. Dawson (1993), [2]). Namely,

$$P_t(\cdot, \nu_1 + \nu_2) = P_t(\cdot, \nu_1) * P_t(\cdot, \nu_2), \quad (12)$$

where  $P_t(\cdot, \mu)$  denotes the transition probability with the initial data  $\mu$ . The branching property extends in the obvious way to initial measures of the form  $\nu_1 + \dots + \nu_n$ . Conversely, for any integer  $n$ , the distribution of the superprocess started from initial measure  $\mu$  is written as that of the sum of  $n$  independent copies of the superprocesses each started from  $\mu/n$ . This implies that the Dawson-Watanabe superprocess is infinitely divisible.

The following proposition is well known. The statement is the analogue of the classical Lévy-Khintchine formula (cf. Sato (1999), [39]: Theorem 8.1, p.37), that characterizes the possible characteristic functions of infinitely divisible distributions on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , in the measure-valued setting.

**THEOREM 2.** (Canonical Representation Theorem) *Let  $(E, \mathcal{E})$  be a Polish space, and  $X$  be infinitely divisible Random measure on  $(E, \mathcal{E})$ . Then there exist measures  $X_d \in M_F(E)$  and  $m \in M(M_F(E))$ ,  $m \neq 0$  such that for  $\forall \varphi \in C_b(E)$ ,  $\int \{1 - e^{-\langle \nu, \varphi \rangle}\} m(d\nu) < \infty$  and*

$$-\log \mathbb{E}[e^{-\langle X, \varphi \rangle}] = \langle X_d, \varphi \rangle + \int \{1 - e^{-\langle \nu, \varphi \rangle}\} m(d\nu). \quad (13)$$

*If  $m(\{0\}) = 0$ , then  $X_d$  and  $m$  are unique. (cf. Etheridge (2000), [28]: Theorem 1.28, p.18)*

It is natural to ask whether we can construct other processes in  $M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$  (i.e. superprocesses) with infinitely divisible distributions. Using the above canonical representation formula as a starting point, we introduce the construction of general superprocess in a rather informal way. To keep the notation as simple as possible, we restrict our plan to time homogeneous Markov processes satisfying two conditions: (i) branching property; (ii) infinite divisibility. Let us denote by  $Y = \{Y_t\}$  a time homogeneous Markov process. We have

$$\mathbb{E}_\mu[e^{-\langle Y_t, \varphi \rangle}] = e^{-\langle \mu, V_t \varphi \rangle}. \quad (14)$$

This operator  $V_t$  satisfies the property  $V_{t+s} = V_t \circ V_s$ . Comparing the formula (13) and Eq.(14), we can write with the uniqueness of the canonical representation,

$$\langle \mu, V_t \varphi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \varphi(y) Y_d(\mu, t, dy) + \int_{M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)} (1 - e^{-\langle \nu, \varphi \rangle}) m(\mu, t, d\nu), \quad (15)$$

where we put for simplicity

$$Y_d(\mu, t, dy) = \int Y_d(x, t, dy) \mu(dx), \quad m(\mu, t, d\nu) = \int m(x, t, d\nu) \mu(dx).$$

Moreover, we can derive an important relation from (15)

$$V_t \varphi(x) = \mathbb{E}_{\delta_x}[\langle Y_t, \varphi \rangle] + \int (1 - e^{-\langle \nu, \varphi \rangle} - \langle \nu, \varphi \rangle) m(x, t, d\nu). \quad (16)$$

When we denote by  $P_t$  the linear semigroup associated with  $V_t$ , then we have

$$P_t \varphi(x) = \mathbb{E}_{\delta_x}[\langle Y_t, \varphi \rangle].$$

On the assumption that  $V_t \varphi$  and  $P_t \varphi$  are differentiable with respect to time, writing

$$\left. \frac{\partial P_t \varphi}{\partial t}(x) \right|_{x=0} = A \varphi(x),$$

we obtain

$$\left. \frac{\partial V_t \varphi}{\partial t}(x) \right|_{t=0} = A \varphi(x) + \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} \int (1 - e^{-\langle \nu, \varphi \rangle} - \langle \nu, \varphi \rangle) m(x, t, d\nu). \quad (17)$$

Under the integrable condition on  $m$

$$\int \langle \nu, 1 \rangle \wedge \langle \nu, 1 \rangle^2 \frac{1}{t} m(x, t, d\nu) \leq C, \quad (\exists C > 0), \quad \forall t < 1 \quad (18)$$

and some proper measurability on the kernel  $n(x, d\theta)$ , a measure on  $(0, \infty)$  satisfying  $\int_0^\infty \theta \wedge \theta^2 n(x, d\theta) < \infty$ , the compactness argument (e.g. Le Gall (1999)

[43]) allows us to pass to the limit as  $t \rightarrow 0$ . Finally, we obtain  $v(t, x) = V_t \varphi(x)$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t}(t, x) &= Av - b(x)v - c(x)v^2 \\ &+ \int_0^\infty (1 - e^{-\theta v(t, x)} - \theta v(t, x))n(x, d\theta). \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Here  $A$  is the generator of a Feller semigroup,  $c \geq 0$  and  $b$  are bounded measurable functions, and  $n : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$  is a kernel satisfying the integrability condition, where required is uniformity with respect to the parameter  $x$ . Such a superprocess can indeed be constructed, and the corresponding martingale problem has a unique solution. For the rigorous treatment, see e.g. Fitzsimmons (1988) [29] and ElKaroui-Roelly (1991) [26]. Moreover, the time inhomogeneous case is treated by Dynkin, Kuznetsov and Skorokhod (1994) [25].

### 3.2 Stable Superprocess

Let  $\alpha$  be a parameter such that  $(0 < \alpha \leq 2)$ .  $X = \{X_t; t \geq 0\}$  is called an  $\alpha$ -stable superprocess on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with branching of index  $1 + \beta \in (1, 2)$  (cf. Fleischmann (1988), [30]) if  $X$  is a finite measure-valued stochastic process and the log-Laplace equation appearing in the characterization of  $X$  is given by

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta_\alpha u + au - bu^{1+\beta}, \quad (20)$$

where  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $b > 0$  are any fixed constants, and  $\Delta_\alpha = -(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2}$  is fractional Laplacian. The underlying spatial motion of superprocess  $X$  is described by a symmetric  $\alpha$ -stable motion in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with index  $\alpha \in (0, 2]$ . Especially when  $\alpha = 2$ , then it just corresponds to the Brownian motion. While, its continuous-state branching mechanism described by

$$v \mapsto \Psi(v) = -av + bv^{1+\beta}, \quad v \geq 0$$

belongs to the domain of attraction of a stable law of index  $1 + \beta \in (1, 2]$ . The branching is critical if  $a = 0$ .

It is well known that in dimensions  $d < \frac{\alpha}{\beta}$  at any fixed time  $t > 0$ , the measure  $X_t = X_t(dx)$  is absolutely continuous with probability one. That is, there is a density function  $\tilde{X}_t(x)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , such that

$$X_t(dx) = \tilde{X}_t(x)dx.$$

For the case  $d < \frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ ,  $\beta \in (0, 1)$  and  $\alpha = 2$ , if  $a = 0$  (critical branching), it is proven that a version of the density  $\tilde{X}_t(x)$  of the measure  $X_t(dx)$  exists and satisfies, in a

weak sense, the SPDE

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} X_t(x) = \Delta X_t(x) + (bX_{t-}(x))^{1/(1+\beta)} \dot{L}(t, x), \quad (21)$$

where  $\dot{L}$  is a  $(1 + \beta)$ -stable noise without negative jumps, cf. Mytnik-Perkins (2003), [36].

#### 4. Measure-Valued Diffusions

The operator  $L$  is defined by

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^d a_{ij} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + \sum_{i=1}^d b_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d. \quad (22)$$

The coefficient  $a(x) = \{a_{ij}(x)\}$  is positive definite, and  $a_{ij}, b_i \in C^\varepsilon(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1]$ . We suppose the following assumptions:

- (A.1) the martingale problem (MP) for  $L$  is well-posed;
- (A.2) the diffusion process  $\{Y_t\}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  corresponding to  $L$  is conservative;
- (A.3)  $\{T_t\}$  is  $C_0$ -preserving.

Here  $C_0(\mathbb{R}^d) = \{f \in C(\mathbb{R}^d) : \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = 0\}$ , and  $\{T_t\}$  is the semigroup corresponding to the  $L$ -diffusion  $Y_t$ .

We shall explain briefly below the construction of measure-valued diffusions. Each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , consider  $N_n$ -particles with each of mass  $\frac{1}{n}$ , starting at points  $x_i^{(n)} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_n$ ). They are performing independent branching diffusions according to the operator  $L$  with branching rate  $cn$ , ( $c > 0$ ) and branching distribution  $\{p_k^{(n)}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ , where

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k \cdot p_k^{(n)} = 1 + \frac{\gamma}{n}, \quad (\gamma > 0)$$

and

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k-1)^2 p_k^{(n)} = m + o(1), \quad (m > 0), \quad (n \rightarrow \infty).$$

Let  $N_n(t)$  be the number of particles alive at time  $t$ , and  $\{x_i^{(n)}\}_{i=1}^{N_n(t)}$  be their positions. Define an  $M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -valued process  $X_n(t)$  by

$$X_n(t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{N_n(t)} \delta_{x_i^{(n)}(t)}. \quad (23)$$

$\langle \mu, f \rangle$  means the integration of  $f$  relative to measure  $\mu$ , i.e.,  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x) \mu(dx)$ . We put  $\alpha = cm$  and  $\beta = c\gamma$ .

THEOREM 3. (Roelly-Coppoletta (1986), [42]) *If*

$$X_n(0) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{N_n} \delta_{x_i^{(n)}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mu \in M_F(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad (24)$$

then  $X_n(\cdot)$  converges weakly to an  $M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -valued process, which can be uniquely characterized as the solution to the following martingale problem (MP): the process  $X_t \in M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$  satisfies  $X_0 = \mu$ , a.s. for  $\forall f \in C_c^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$

$$M_t(f) \equiv \langle X_t, f \rangle - \langle X_0, f \rangle - \int_0^t \langle X_s, Lf \rangle ds - \beta \int_0^t \langle X_s, f \rangle ds \quad (25)$$

is a martingale with increasing process

$$\langle M(f) \rangle_t = 2\alpha \int_0^t \langle X_s, f^2 \rangle ds. \quad (26)$$

Such a process  $X = \{X_t; t \geq 0\} = \{X_t, t \geq 0; \mathbb{P}_\mu^{\alpha, \beta}, \mu \in M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)\}$  is called a measure-valued diffusion with parameters  $\{\alpha, \beta, L\}$ , or  $\{\alpha, \beta, L\}$ -superprocess. The next is the alternative characterization of measure-valued diffusion via the log-Laplace equation. The  $M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -valued diffusion  $X = \{X_t\}$  with parameters  $(\alpha, \beta, L)$  is characterized by the log-Laplace equation:

$$\mathbb{E}_\mu \exp \left\{ -\langle X_t, g \rangle - \int_0^t \langle X_s, \psi \rangle ds \right\} = e^{-\langle \mu, u(t) \rangle} \quad \text{for } \forall g \geq 0, \psi \in C_c^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \quad (27)$$

where  $u \equiv u(x, t) \in C^{2,1}(\mathbb{R}^d \times [0, \infty))$  is the unique positive solution of the evolution equation :

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t u &= Lu + \beta u - \alpha u^2 + \psi, \quad (x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, \infty) \\ u(\cdot, 0) &= g(\cdot), \quad u(\cdot, t) \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^d). \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

*Remark 4.* (a) The existence of a classical solution  $u$  to the log-Laplace equation follows from the method of semigroups by Pazy (1983) [37]. (b) For the non-negativity of the solution  $u$ , the type of argument provided by Iscoe (1986) [33] is used. (c) The uniqueness yields from the parabolic maximum principle in a standard way, see e.g. Lieberman (1996) [35].

#### 4.1 Fundamental Properties

We denote by  $Z_t = \langle X_t, 1 \rangle$  the total mass process. Under the probability measure  $\mathbb{P}_\mu$ ,  $Z_t$  is a 1-dim diffusion process on  $[0, \infty)$ , corresponding to the operator

$$\mathcal{L} = \alpha x \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \beta x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \quad (29)$$

satisfying  $Z_0 = \mu(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , ( $\mu \in M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ). Standard techniques from the theory of one-dimensional diffusion processes show that

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu(Z_t > 0, \forall t \geq 0, \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} Z_t = \infty) = 1 - \exp\left\{-\frac{\beta}{\alpha}\mu(\mathbb{R}^d)\right\} \quad (30)$$

and also

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu(Z_t = 0, \forall t \gg 1 : \text{large}) = \exp\left\{-\frac{\beta}{\alpha}\mu(\mathbb{R}^d)\right\}. \quad (31)$$

DEFINITION 5. (a) The path  $X(\cdot)$  *survives*

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{if } Z_t > 0 \text{ for } \forall t \geq 0.$$

(b) The path  $X(\cdot)$  becomes *extinct*

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{if } Z_t = 0 \text{ for } \forall t \gg 1 : \text{large}.$$

The *critical* measure-valued diffusion is obtained by choosing  $\gamma = 0$

$$\text{i.e. } \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k \cdot p_k^{(n)} = 1. \quad (32)$$

In that case, it follows that  $\beta \equiv c\gamma = 0$ . So that, we obtain

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu(Z_t = 0, \forall t \gg 1 : \text{large}) = e^{-\frac{\beta}{\alpha}\mu(\mathbb{R}^d)} = 1, \quad (33)$$

which implies that  $X(\cdot)$  dies out with probability one.

## 4.2 Transience and Recurrence

Let  $X = \{X_t; t \geq 0\}$  be a supercritical  $M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -valued diffusion, and we denote by  $\text{supp}(X)$  the support of the process  $X = \{X_t\}$ .

DEFINITION 6. (a)  $\text{supp}(X)$  is *recurrent* if, for  $\forall \mu \in M_F(\mathbb{R}^d), \forall B \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ : open set,

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu(X_t(B) > 0, \exists t \geq 0 | X(\cdot) \text{ survives}) = 1.$$

(b)  $\text{supp}(X)$  is *transient* if, for  $\forall \mu \in M_F(\mathbb{R}^d), B \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ : bounded such that  $\text{supp}(\mu) \cap \bar{B} = \emptyset$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu(X_t(B) > 0, \exists t \geq 0 | X(\cdot) \text{ survives}) < 1.$$

For  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $R > 0$  fixed, we choose a positive function  $\phi$  such that  $\phi \equiv \phi(x) \in C^{2,\eta}(\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{B}_R(x_0))$  is the minimal positive solution to the equation

$$Lu + \beta u - \alpha u^2 = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{B}_R(x_0), \quad \lim_{|x-x_0| \rightarrow R} u(x) = \infty. \quad (34)$$

THEOREM 7. For each  $\mu \in M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , we have the following expression

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu(X_t(B_R(x_0)) = 0, \text{ for } \forall t \geq 0) = e^{-\langle \mu, \phi \rangle}. \quad (35)$$



THEOREM 8. (Criterion)

- (a) If  $\inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{B}_R(x_0)} \phi(x) \geq \frac{\beta}{\alpha}$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is recurrent.
- (b) If  $\liminf_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \phi(x) = 0$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is transient.

This result (Theorem 8) is used to obtain the criteria which depend more explicitly on the operator  $L$ .

THEOREM 9. If the underlying  $L$ -diffusion  $Y = \{Y_t\}$  is recurrent, then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is also recurrent.

In order to treat the case of transience, we need to define the motions of generalized principal eigenvalues.

### 4.3 Criticality Theory for Second Order Elliptic Operator

Let  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  be a domain, and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . We define

$$C_{L-\lambda}(D) = \{u \in C^2(D) : (L - \lambda)u = 0, u > 0 \text{ in } D\}. \quad (36)$$

DEFINITION 10. (a) The operator  $L - \lambda$  on  $D$  is *subcritical* if it possesses a positive Green's function: in this case,  $C_{L-\lambda}(D) \neq \emptyset$ .

(b) The operator  $L - \lambda$  on  $D$  is *critical* if the operator  $L - \lambda$  on  $D$  does not possess a positive Green's function, but  $C_{L-\lambda}(D) \neq \emptyset$ .

(c) The operator  $L - \lambda$  on  $D$  is *supercritical* if the operator  $L - \lambda$  on  $D$  is neither subcritical nor critical: i.e.,  $C_{L-\lambda}(D) = \emptyset$ .

Then there exists a number  $\lambda_c \equiv \lambda_c(D) \in (-\infty, 0]$  such that  $L - \lambda$  on  $D$  is subcritical for  $\lambda > \lambda_c(D)$ , and  $L - \lambda$  on  $D$  is supercritical for  $\lambda < \lambda_c(D)$ . However, it is either subcritical or critical for  $\lambda = \lambda_c(D)$ .

DEFINITION 11. Such a number  $\lambda_c(D)$  is called the *generalized principal eigenvalue* (GPE) for  $L$  on  $D$ .

It is monotone non-decreasing as a function of  $D$ . Note that

$$\lambda_c(D) = \inf\{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : C_{L-\lambda}(D) \neq \emptyset\}.$$

*Remark 12.* If  $D$  is bounded and its boundary  $\partial D$  is smooth, and if coefficients  $a_{ij}$ 's and  $b_i$ 's of  $L$  are smooth up to the boundary  $\partial D$ , then  $\lambda_c(D) = \lambda_0$ , where  $\lambda_0$  is the classical principal eigenvalue, namely,  $\lambda_0 = \sup \text{Re}\{\sigma((L, \mathcal{D}_\alpha))\}$ . Let

$\{D_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  be an increasing sequence of bounded domains such that  $\mathbb{R}^d = \cup_{n=1}^\infty D_n$ . Furthermore, we define  $\lambda_{c,\infty} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_c(\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{D}_n) (\leq \lambda_c)$ , and it is called the generalized principal eigenvalue at  $\infty$ .

#### 4.4 Local Extinction

THEOREM 13. (one-dimensional case)

- (i) If  $\beta < -\lambda_{c,\infty}$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is transient.
- (ii) If  $\beta > -\lambda_{c,\infty}$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is recurrent.
- (iii) If  $\beta = -\lambda_{c,\infty} = -\lambda_c$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is transient.

THEOREM 14. (Multidimensional case)

If  $\beta < -\lambda_{c,\infty}$  or if  $\beta = -\lambda_{c,\infty} = -\lambda_c$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is transient.

Remark 15. There is an example which illustrates the assertion that it is possible to obtain “transience” in multidimensional case even if  $\beta > -\lambda_{c,\infty}$ , cf. Pinsky (1996), [38].

DEFINITION 16. The support  $\text{supp}(X)$  exhibits *local extinction* if for each  $\mu \in M_F(\mathbb{R}^d)$  and each bounded set  $B \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , there exists a finite random time  $\zeta_B < \infty$ ,  $\mathbb{P}_\mu$ -a.s. such that  $X_t(B) = 0$  for  $\forall t \geq \zeta_B$ .

As a matter of fact, the notion of “local extinction” is not equivalent to “transience”. It is a rather stronger condition, compared to transience.

THEOREM 17. *The local extinction of  $\text{supp}(X)$  occurs if and only if  $\beta \leq -\lambda_c$ .*

Remark 18. Thus, if  $\lambda_c \neq \lambda_{c,\infty}$  and  $\beta \in (-\lambda_c, -\lambda_{c,\infty})$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is transient. But  $\text{supp}(X)$  does not exhibit local extinction. When we denote by  $\lambda_c^{(\beta)}$  the GPE for  $L + \beta$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , then Theorem 17 implies that local extinction occurs if and only if  $\lambda_c^{(\beta)} \leq 0$  according to the terminology of Pinsky (1996) [38].

EXAMPLE 19. (Case study) We consider the operator  $L = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + b_0 \frac{d}{dx}$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ , where  $b_0 \neq 0$  is a constant. Then  $L$  just corresponds to a transient diffusion  $Y = \{Y_t\}$ . Since  $d = 1$ , we define  $\lambda_{c,\infty} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_c((n, \infty))$  and  $\lambda_{c,-\infty} = \lambda_c((-\infty, -n))$ . Then we obtain  $\lambda_c = \lambda_{c,\infty} = \lambda_{c,-\infty} = -\frac{b_0^2}{2}$ . Note that  $L - \lambda_c$  is critical. If  $\beta < \frac{b_0^2}{2}$ , then the Grenn’s function for  $L + \beta = L - (-\beta)$  is given by

$$G_{-\beta}(x, y) = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{b_0^2 - 2\beta}} \exp\{-(b_0^2 - 2\beta)^{1/2}|y - x| - b_0(x - y)\}. \quad (37)$$

- (a) If  $\beta \in (0, \frac{b_0^2}{2})$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is transient, and also  $\text{supp}(X)$  exhibits local extinction.
- (b) If  $\beta = \frac{b_0^2}{2}$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is transient, and  $\text{supp}(X)$  exhibits local extinction.
- (c) If  $\beta > \frac{b_0^2}{2}$ , then  $\text{supp}(X)$  is no more transient, but it is recurrent.

## 5. Principal Results on Extinction Properties

Case I is the result proved by D.A. Dawson and K. Fleischmann in *Z. Wahrsch. Verw. Geb.* **70** (1985), [3], where the super-Brownian motion (SBM)  $X$  starting from Lebesgue measure  $\lambda$  satisfies *weak local extinction* in lower dimensions. Precisely,

(a) When  $d = 1, 2$ , for any compact set  $A$ ,

$$X_t(A) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{in probability as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

(b) However, when  $d \geq 3$ , then  $X$  is persistent, i.e., the limiting random measure  $X_\infty$  satisfies

$$\mathbb{P}_\lambda[X_\infty] = \lambda.$$

Case II is about the result that a  $(1 + \beta)$ -SBM  $X$  (with  $0 < \beta \leq 1$ ) admits *weak local extinction*. In fact,

(a)  $X$  is persistent if and only if  $d\beta > 2$ .

However,

(b) if  $d\beta = 2$ , then

$$X_t(A) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{in probability } (t \rightarrow \infty).$$

This was proved in D.A. Dawson and K. Fleischmann: *Stoch. Proc. Appl.* **30** (1988), [4].

Case III is the result by I. Iscoe: *Ann. Probab.* **16** (1988), [34], where a 1-dimensional  $(1+1)$ -SBM  $X$  satisfies *almost sure local extinction*. That is,

$$\mathbb{P}_\lambda - \text{a.s. } X_t(A) = 0 \quad \text{for } t \text{ large enough.}$$

It is interesting to note that the Laplace functional of the weighted occupation time for for SBM can also be expressed in terms of the solution to a nonlinear PDE of similar type, cf. I. Iscoe: *Probab. Th. Relat. Fields* **71** (1986), [33].

Case IV treats the case of a measure-valued diffusion  $X$  with constant parameters  $\alpha, \beta$ . Let  $\lambda_c$  be the generalized principal eigenvalue for

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \partial_i \partial_j + \sum_i b_i \partial_i \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Assume that  $X_t$  is a supercritical measure-valued diffusion. The support  $\text{supp}(X)$  of the process exhibits *local extinction* if and only if

$$\beta \leq -\lambda_c.$$

This result was obtained by R.G. Pinsky in *Ann. Probab.* **24** (1996), [38].

Case V is about an  $(L, \beta, \alpha, D)$ -superprocess  $X$ . The support  $\text{supp}(X)$  of the process  $X$  exhibits *local extinction* if and only if there exists a positive solution  $u > 0$  to the equation

$$(L + \beta)u = 0 \quad \text{on } D.$$

This was proved in J. Engländer and R.G. Pinsky: Ann. Probab. **27** (1999), [27].

Case VI is devoted to a new type of result, where a  $(1+1)$ -SBM  $X$  exhibits a *stronger version of a.s. local extinction*. Indeed, for  $\forall a$  ( $0 < a < 1$ ),

$$X_t([-t^a, t^a]) = 0 \quad \text{holds } \mathbb{P}_\mu - \text{a.s. for } t : \text{ large enough.}$$

This is the result shown by K. Fleischmann, A. Klenke and J. Xiong: J. Theoret. Probab. **19** (2006), [31].

The last Case VII is also about the result of a *stronger version of a.s. local extinction*. Let  $X$  be a  $(1 + \beta)$ -SBM with Lebesgue initial measure  $\lambda$ . Suppose that  $d < \frac{2}{\beta}$ , and let  $g(t)$  be a nondecreasing and right-continuous radius and let  $B_{g(t)}$  denote a closed ball in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with radius  $g(t)$ . X. Zhou proved in Stoch. Proc. Appl. **118** (2008) [41] that

$$X_t(B_{g(t)}) = 0 \quad \text{holds } \mathbb{P}_\lambda - \text{a.s. for } \forall t : \text{ large enough,}$$

provided that the integrability condition

$$\int_1^\infty g(y)^d y^{-1-1/\beta} dy < \infty$$

is satisfied.

## 6. Finite Time Extinction

Suppose that  $p > d$ , and let  $\phi_p(x) = (1 + |x|^2)^{-p/2}$  be the reference function.  $C = C(\mathbb{R}^d)$  denotes the space of continuous functions on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and define

$$C_p = \{f \in C : |f| \leq C_f \cdot \phi_p, \exists C_f > 0\}. \quad (38)$$

We denote by  $M_p = M_p(\mathbb{R}^d)$  the set of non-negative measures  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , satisfying

$$\langle \mu, \phi_p \rangle = \int \phi_p(x) \mu(dx) < \infty. \quad (39)$$

It is called the space of  $p$ -tempered measures. When  $\xi = \{\xi_t, P_{s,a}, s \geq 0, a \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$  is an  $L$ -diffusion, then we define the continuous additive functional  $K_\eta$  of  $\xi$  by

$$K_\eta = \langle \eta, \delta_x(\xi_r) \rangle dr = \left( \int \delta_X(\xi_r) \eta(dx) \right) dr \quad \text{for } \eta \in M_p \quad (40)$$

or equivalently, we define

$$K[s, t] \equiv K_\eta[s, t] = \int_s^t dr \int \eta(dx) \delta_x(\xi_r), \quad \eta \in M_p. \quad (41)$$

Then  $X^\eta = \{X_t^\eta; t \geq 0\}$  is said to be a measure-valued diffusion with branching rate functional  $K_\eta$  if for the initial measure  $\mu \in M_F$ ,  $X$  satisfies the Laplace functional of the form

$$\mathbb{P}_{s,\mu}^\eta e^{-\langle X_t^\eta, \varphi \rangle} = e^{-\langle \mu, v(s) \rangle}, \quad (\varphi \in C_b^+), \quad (42)$$

where the function  $v \geq 0$  is uniquely determined by

$$P_{s,a}\varphi(\xi_t) = v(s, a) + P_{s,a} \int_s^t v^2(r, \xi_r) K_\eta(dr), \quad (0 < s \leq t, a \in \mathbb{R}^d). \quad (43)$$

Assume that  $d = 1$  and  $0 < \nu < 1$ . Let  $\lambda \equiv \lambda(dx)$  be the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$ , and let  $(\gamma, \mathbb{P})$  be the stable random measure on  $\mathbb{R}$  with Laplace functional

$$\mathbb{P}e^{-\langle \gamma, \varphi \rangle} = \exp \left\{ - \int \varphi^\nu(x) \lambda(dx) \right\}, \quad \varphi \in C_b^+. \quad (44)$$

Note that  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.a  $\omega$  realization,  $\gamma(\omega) \in M_p$  under the condition  $p > \nu^{-1}$ . We consider a positive CAF  $K_\gamma$  of  $\xi$  for  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.a.  $\omega$ . So that, thanks to Dynkin's general formalism for superprocess with branching rate functional (see Section 1), there exists an  $(L, K_\gamma, \mu)$ -superprocess  $X^\gamma$  when we adopt a  $p$ -tempered measure  $\gamma$  for CAF  $K_\eta$  in (40) instead of  $\eta$ , as far as  $K_\gamma$  may lie in the class  $\mathbb{K}^q$  for some  $q > 0$ . Namely, we can get:

**THEOREM 20.** *Let  $K_\gamma \in \mathbb{K}^q$ . For  $\mu \in M_F$  with compact support, there exists an  $(L, K_\gamma, \mu)$ -superprocess with branching rate functional  $K_\gamma$ , i.e.,*

$$\mathbb{P} - \text{a.a.} \omega, \quad \exists \mathbb{X}^\gamma = \{X^\gamma, \mathbb{P}_{s,\mu}^\gamma, s \geq 0, \mu \in M_F\}.$$

**THEOREM 21.** (Main Result) *Suppose that  $p > 1/\nu$ . Let  $\mu \in M_F$  with compact support. Then the superprocess  $X^\gamma$  with branching rate functional  $K_\gamma$  dies out for finite time with probability one. That is to say,*

$$\mathbb{P} - \text{a.a.} \quad \gamma, \quad \mathbb{P}_{0,\mu}^\gamma(X_t^\gamma = 0, \quad \exists t > 0) = 1 \quad (45)$$

*holds.*

**EXAMPLE 22.** For  $d = 1, a = 1$  and  $b = 0$ ,  $X^\gamma$  is a stable catalytic SBM. This was initially constructed and investigated by Dawson-Fleischmann-Mueller (2000).

## 7. Sketch of the Proof

Since the initial measure  $\mu$  has compact support, according to Dawson-Li-Mueller : Ann. Probab. **23** (1995) [6],  $X^\gamma$  has the compact support property, with the result that the range  $\mathcal{R}(X)$  of  $X^\gamma$  is compact. We are going to work with historical superprocesses. As a matter of fact, for the sake of convenient criterion, we put the superprocess  $X^\gamma$  lifted up to the historical superprocess setting  $\tilde{X}_t^\gamma(dw)$ . For a path  $w \in \mathbb{C} = \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ , we consider the stopped path  $w^t \in \mathbb{C}$  defined by  $w_s^t = w_{t \wedge s}$ , ( $s \geq 0$ ), cf. E.B. Dynkin: Probab. Theory Relat. Fields **90** (1991) [23]. Then we can show the existence of the corresponding historical superprocess in Dynkin sense, namely, we can prove that  $\exists \{\tilde{X}^\gamma, \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{s,\mu}, s \geq 0, \mu \in M_F(\mathbb{C}^s)\}$ .

**THEOREM 23.** *There exists a Dynkin's historical superprocess*

$$\tilde{X}^\gamma = \{\tilde{X}^\gamma, \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{s,\mu}^\gamma, s \geq 0, \mu \in M_F(\mathbb{C}^2)\}.$$

We want to show that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{0,\mu}^\gamma(\tilde{X}_t^\gamma \neq 0) = 0, \quad \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s.} \quad (46)$$

Moreover, we define

$$\mathbb{C}_K = \{w \in \mathbb{C} : |w_s| < K, \forall s \geq 0\} \quad \text{for } K \geq 1.$$

By the compact support property, we have

$$\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \inf_{t \geq 0} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{0,\mu}^\gamma(\text{supp}(\tilde{X}_t^\gamma) \subseteq \mathbb{C}_K) = 1, \quad \mathbb{P} - \text{a.a.}\omega. \quad (47)$$

The goal is to show that,  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.s.,  $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{0,\mu}^\gamma(\tilde{X}_t^\gamma \neq 0)$  vanishes for large  $t$ . Hence it suffices to show that, for  $\forall K$ : large

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{0,\mu}^\gamma(\tilde{X}_t^\gamma \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{supp}(\tilde{X}_t^\gamma) \subset \mathbb{C}_K) = 0. \quad (48)$$

By employing the periodic extension technique  $\gamma \rightarrow \gamma^K$ , it suffices to show finite time extinction of the historical Dynkin-superprocess  $\tilde{X}^{\gamma^K}$  with fixed periodic extension  $\gamma^K$ : i.e.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{0,\mu}^{\gamma^K}(\tilde{X}_t^{\gamma^K} \neq 0) = 0, \quad \text{each fixed } K > 1.$$

As a matter of fact, we can show the above expression by using the comparison of extinction probabilities of Dawson-Fleischmann-Mueller: Ann. Probab. **28** (2000) [5] and also by a similar technique on finite time extinction of catalytic branching process of Fleischmann-Mueller (2000) [32]. There is another important key point, i.e., decomposition of initial measures. Suppose that the initial measure has a finite decomposition  $\mu = \sum_i \mu_i$ . If we can show finite time extinction for each

initial measure  $X_0^\gamma = \mu_i$ , then the branching property implies finite time extinction for  $X_0^\gamma = \mu$ . Therefore it is very useful that the stable random measure  $\gamma$  admits a representation of sum of discrete points. After all, we obtain

PROPOSITION 24. *For a fixed sample  $\gamma(\omega)$*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{0,\mu}^\gamma(\tilde{X}_t^\gamma \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{supp}(\tilde{X}_t^\gamma) \subseteq \mathbb{C}_K) = 0.$$

Finally, through the projection technique (cf. Dawson-Perkins (1991) [7]; Dôku (2003) [9]), we obtain the following result. For  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.a.  $\omega$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}_{0,\mu}^\gamma(X_t^\gamma = 0 \quad \text{for some} \quad t > 0) = 1$$

which means that the process  $X^\gamma$  exhibits finite time extinction.

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