

# Why in some cases the asymptotic linearized problem yields optimal results for a nonlinear version of the “carré du champ”

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# Symmetry, symmetry breaking and nonlinear flows

In this talk I will discuss symmetry and symmetry breaking issues for the positive solutions of equations like

$$-\operatorname{div}(|x|^{-\beta} \nabla w) = |x|^{-\gamma} (w^{2p-1} - w^p) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\},$$

Alternatively, we could consider the equation

$$-\Delta \varphi + \Lambda \varphi = \varphi^{p-1} \quad \text{on } \mathcal{M}, \quad \mathcal{M} \text{ is a sphere, a compact manifold, an infinite cylinder...}$$

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We will see that this discussion about symmetry is strongly linked to the use of nonlinear flows and entropies.

- Elliptic approach (DEL, Invent 2016; DELM, CRAS, 2017).
- Parabolic approach (DEL, J. Ell. Parab. Eqs 2016).
- Linearization around symmetric solutions and optimality (DEL, J. Ell. Parab. Eqs 2016).

# Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg (CKN) critical and subcritical inequalities

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|w|^{2p}}{|x|^\gamma} dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2p}} \leq C_{\beta, \gamma, p} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|\nabla w|^2}{|x|^\beta} dx \right)^{\frac{\theta}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|w|^{p+1}}{|x|^\gamma} dx \right)^{\frac{1-\theta}{p+1}}$$

$$\gamma - 2 < \beta < \frac{d-2}{d} \gamma, \quad \gamma \in (-\infty, d), \quad p \in (1, p_\star],$$

$$p_\star := \frac{d-\gamma}{d-\beta-2} \quad \text{and} \quad \vartheta = \frac{(d-\gamma)(p-1)}{p(d+\beta+2-2\gamma-p(d-\beta-2))}.$$

# Caffarelli-Kohn-Nirenberg (CKN) critical and subcritical inequalities

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When  $p = p_\star = q/2$ ,  $\theta = 1$ , the above inequality becomes

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|w|^q}{|x|^{bq}} dx \right)^{2/q} \leq C_{a,b} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|\nabla w|^2}{|x|^{2a}} dx$$

with  $a \leq b \leq a+1$  if  $d \geq 3$ ,  $a < b \leq a+1$  if  $d = 2$ ,  $a \neq \frac{d-2}{2}$

$$q = \frac{2d}{d-2+2(b-a)}$$

# The symmetry issue

$$\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|w|^q}{|x|^{bq}} dx \right)^{2/q} \leq C_{a,b} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|\nabla w|^2}{|x|^{2a}} dx$$

$C_{a,b}$  = best constant for general functions  $w$

$C_{a,b}^*$  = best constant for radially symmetric functions  $w$

$$C_{a,b}^* \leq C_{a,b}$$

Up to scalar multiplication and dilation, the optimal radial function is

$$w_{a,b}^*(x) = \left( 1 + |x|^{-\frac{2a(1+a-b)}{b-a}} \right)^{-\frac{b-a}{1+a-b}}$$

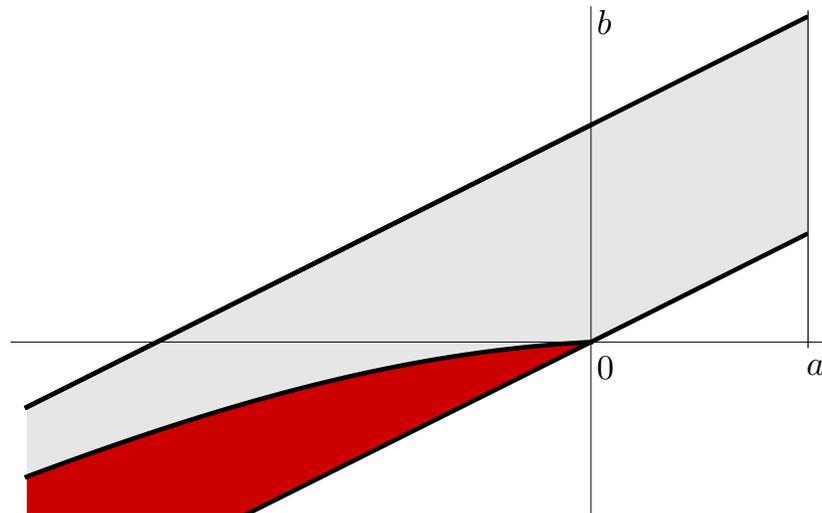
Question: is optimality (equality) achieved ? do we have  $w_{a,b} = w_{a,b}^*$  ?

# Linear instability of radial minimizers: the Felli-Schneider curve

Looking for the set of pairs  $(a, b)$  such that the functional

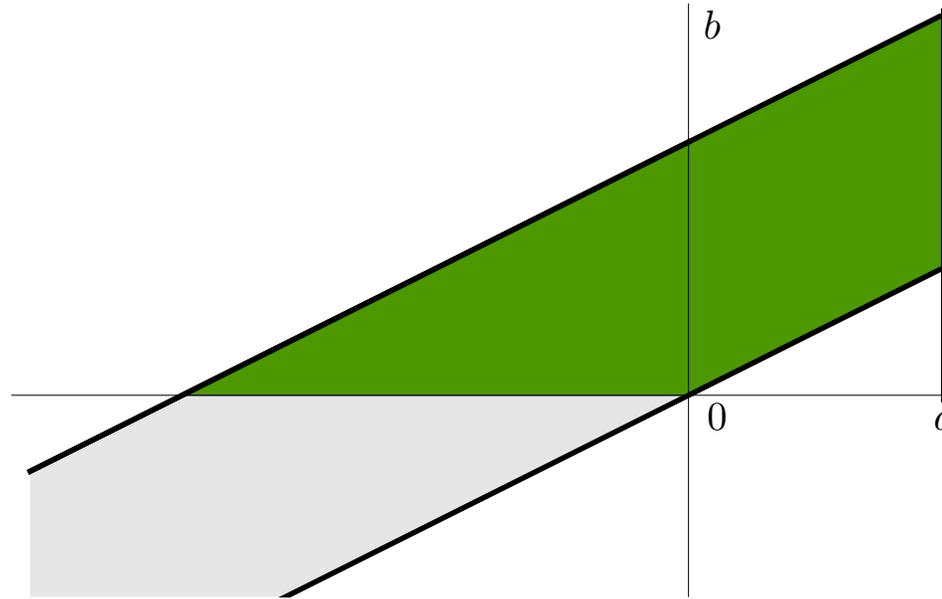
$$C_{a,b}^* \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|\nabla w|^2}{|x|^{2a}} dx - \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|w|^p}{|x|^{bp}} dx \right)^{2/p}$$

is linearly instable at  $w = w_{a,b}^*$  (Catrina, Wang; Felli, Schneider).



# Moving planes and symmetrization techniques

The symmetry region:



Chou, Chu; Horiuchi ( $a > 0$ )

Betta, Brock, Mercaldo, Posteraro ( $a < 0, b > 0$ )

Perturbation results: C-S Lin, Z-Q Wang; Smets, Willem ; Dolbeault, E., Tarantello (2007 & 2009)

# The conjecture

The minimizers are radially symmetric outside of the Felli-Schneider zone.

That is,

The symmetric minimizers are global minimizers whenever they are stable / whenever they are local minimizers.

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Instability of radial minimizers is the only possible cause of symmetry breaking.

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Instability of radial minimizers is the only possible cause of symmetry breaking.

**ANSWER:** YES (Dolbeault, E., Loss, Inv. 2016).

# Resolution of the conjecture: A Sobolev type inequality

Define

$$\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{d-1}{n-1}} =: \alpha_{\text{FS}} \quad (\text{Stability zone defined by } \alpha \leq \alpha_{\text{FS}})$$

**THEOREM [2016].-** If  $\alpha \leq \alpha_{\text{FS}}$  and  $d \geq 2$ , optimality is achieved by radial functions.

**Idea of the proof :** With the **change of variables :**  $r \mapsto r^\alpha$ ,  $w(r, \omega) = v(r^\alpha, \omega)$ , and with

$$n = \frac{d - b p}{\alpha} = \frac{d - 2 a - 2}{\alpha} + 2, \quad \mathbf{D}v = \left( \alpha \frac{\partial v}{\partial r}, \frac{1}{r} \nabla_\omega v \right)$$

$p = \frac{2n}{n-2}$  and the CKN the inequality becomes

$$\alpha^{1 - \frac{2}{p}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v|^p d\mu_n \right)^{\frac{2}{p}} \leq C_{a,b} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\mathbf{D}v|^2 d\mu_n, \quad d\mu := r^{n-1} dr d\omega \text{ “} = dx(\mathbb{R}^n)\text{”}$$

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The parameters  $\alpha$  and  $n$  vary in the ranges  $0 < \alpha < \infty$  and  $d < n < \infty$  and the *Felli-Schneider curve* in the  $(\alpha, n)$  variables is given by  $\alpha = \alpha_{\text{FS}}$ .

# Notations

If  $\nabla_\omega$  denotes the gradient with respect to the angular variables  $\omega \in S^{d-1}$  and  $\Delta_\omega$  is the Laplace-Beltrami operator on  $S^{d-1}$ , we define

$$Dv = \left( \alpha \frac{\partial v}{\partial r}, \frac{1}{r} \nabla_\omega v \right),$$

we define the self-adjoint operator  $L$  by

$$Lv := -D^* Dv = \alpha^2 v'' + \alpha^2 \frac{n-1}{r} v' + \frac{\Delta_\omega v}{r^2}$$

The fundamental property of  $L$  is the fact that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} v_1 Lv_2 d\mu_n = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} Dv_1 \cdot Dv_2 d\mu_n \quad \forall v_1, v_2 \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^d)$$

▷ Heuristics: we look for a monotonicity formula along a well chosen nonlinear flow, based on the analogy with the decay of the Fisher information along the fast diffusion flow in  $\mathbb{R}^d$

# Fisher information decay and a fast diffusion equation

Let  $u = |v|^p$ ,  $p = \frac{2n}{n-2}$ .

Up to multiplicative constants,  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v|^p d\mu_n = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u d\mu_n$ , and  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |Dv|^2 d\mu_n = \mathcal{I}[u]$ , with

$$\mathcal{I}[u] := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u |Dp|^2 d\mu_n, \quad p = \frac{m}{1-m} u^{m-1} \quad \text{and} \quad m = 1 - \frac{1}{n}$$

Here  $\mathcal{I}$  is the *Fisher information* and  $p$  is the *pressure function*.

# Fisher information decay and a fast diffusion equation

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Here  $\mathcal{I}$  is the *Fisher information* and  $p$  is the *pressure function*.

Next, define the fast diffusion equation (flow)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = Lu^m, \quad m = 1 - \frac{1}{n}$$

▷ STRATEGY: Assume that  $\alpha \leq \alpha_{FS}$ ,

1) prove that for all  $t \geq 0$ ,  $\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(t) d\mu_n = 0$  and  $\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{I}[u(t, \cdot)] \leq 0$ ,

2) prove that  $\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{I}[u(t, \cdot)] = 0$  means, in particular, that  $u$  is radially symmetric.

# Mass conservation and Fisher information decay along the fast diffusion flow

Easy to see: the mass  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u \, d\mu_n$  is conserved along the flow.

$$\text{With } p = \frac{m}{1-m} u^{m-1}, \quad \mathcal{I}[u] := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u |\mathbf{D}p|^2 \, d\mu_n,$$

Some calculations: Let  $u_0 \geq 0$ . Up to estimates near the origin and near infinity,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{I}[u(t, \cdot)] = -2(n-1)^{n-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{K}[p] p^{1-n} \, d\mu_n,$$

with  $d\mu_n = r^{n-1} dx$  and  $\zeta_\star > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}[p] := & \alpha^4 \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left[ p'' - \frac{p'}{r} - \frac{\Delta_\omega p}{\alpha^2 (n-1) r^2} \right]^2 + 2\alpha^2 \frac{1}{r^2} \left| \nabla_\omega p' - \frac{\nabla_\omega p}{r} \right|^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{r^4} \left( (n-2) (\alpha_{\text{FS}}^2 - \alpha^2) \int_{S^d} |\nabla_\omega p|^2 p^{1-n} \, d\omega + \zeta_\star (n-d) \int_{S^d} |\nabla_\omega p|^4 p^{1-n} \, d\omega \right). \end{aligned}$$

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So, if  $\alpha \leq \alpha_{\text{FS}}$ ,  $\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{I}[u(t, \cdot)] \leq 0$ , and  $\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{I}[u(t, \cdot)] = 0$  implies that  $p$  is radially symmetric.

# Elliptic proof for rigidity (uniqueness of positive solutions) if $\alpha \leq \alpha_{FS}$

If  $\alpha \leq \alpha_{FS}$  and if  $\mathbf{p}_0$  is a critical point of the E-L equations for CKN, written in the good variables, then

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathcal{I}[u(t)]|_{t=0} = \mathcal{I}'[u(t)] \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u(t)|_{t=0} = \mathcal{I}'[u_0] \cdot Lu_0^m = 0 = -C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{K}[\mathbf{p}_0] \mathbf{p}_0^{1-n} d\mu_n, \quad \mathbf{p}_0 = \frac{m u_0^{m-1}}{1-m}$$

$$0 = \mathcal{K}[\mathbf{p}_0] \geq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \alpha^4 \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left[ \mathbf{p}_0'' - \frac{\mathbf{p}_0'}{r} - \frac{\Delta_\omega \mathbf{p}_0}{\alpha^2 (n-1) r^2} \right]^2 \mathbf{p}_0^{1-n} d\mu_n$$

$$+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (n-2) (\alpha_{FS}^2 - \alpha^2) |\nabla_\omega \mathbf{p}_0|^2 \mathbf{p}_0^{1-n} d\mu_n + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \zeta_\star (n-d) |\nabla_\omega \mathbf{p}_0|^4 \mathbf{p}_0^{1-n} d\mu_n,$$

where  $\zeta_\star > 0$  and  $n > d$ .

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where  $\zeta_\star > 0$  and  $n > d$ .

So,  $\nabla_\omega \mathbf{p}_0 \equiv 0$ , that is,  $\mathbf{p}_0$  does not depend on  $\omega$ , which means **radial symmetry**.

Moreover,  $\mathbf{p}_0'' - \frac{\mathbf{p}_0'}{r} - \frac{\Delta_\omega \mathbf{p}_0}{\alpha^2 (n-1) r^2} \equiv 0$ , which implies that for some  $a, b > 0$ ,  $\mathbf{p}_0 = a + b r^2$ .

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In the case of subcritical CKN inequalities, the method has to be modified, and Renyi entropies shown to be concave:

$$\mathcal{E}[u] := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^m d\mu_n, \quad \mathcal{E}' = (1-m)\mathcal{I}, \quad \mathcal{R}[u] := \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^m d\mu_n \right)^\sigma, \quad \sigma = \frac{1}{d(1-m)} - 1$$

# Disadvantages of this approach

- Painful estimates of boundary terms in integrations by parts.
- No way to obtain improved inequalities from the remainder terms.
- No clear understanding of why a **local** stability result for the symmetric solutions yields a **global** result (non existence of other positive solutions apart from the symmetric ones, when these are stable).

# Alternative parabolic approach in self-similar variables

With  $\mu = 2 + n(m - 1)$  and  $\kappa = \left(\frac{2m}{1-m}\right)^{1/\mu}$ , let

$$u(t, x) = \frac{1}{\kappa^n R^n} g\left(\tau, \frac{x}{\kappa R}\right) \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{cases} \frac{dR}{dt} = R^{1-\mu}, & R(0) = R_0 = \kappa^{-1}, \\ \tau(t) = \frac{1}{2} \log\left(\frac{R(t)}{R_0}\right). \end{cases} \quad (0)$$

In self-similar variables the function  $g$  solves

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial \tau} = D^*(g z) \quad (0)$$

where, with the notation  $\mathcal{B}_\alpha(x) := \left(1 + \frac{|x|^2}{\alpha^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m-1}}$ ,

$$z(\tau, x) := Dg^{m-1} - \frac{2}{\alpha} x = D\left(g^{m-1} - \frac{|x|^2}{\alpha^2}\right) = Dq, \quad q := g^{m-1} - \mathcal{B}_\alpha^{m-1}.$$

The exponent  $m$  is now in the range  $m_1 \leq m < 1$  with  $m_1 = 1 - 1/n$ .

# Bakry-Emery type calculation

For any  $R >$ , let us consider the solution of the no-flux boundary problem

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial \tau} = D^*(g z) \text{ in } B_R; \quad z \cdot \omega = 0 \text{ on } \partial B_R.$$

and suppose that  $g$  is **smooth at the origin**. Then, by defining  $p := g^{m-1}$ , computing in  $B_R$  and taking the limit  $R \rightarrow +\infty$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{d\tau} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g |z|^2 d\mu_n + 4 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g |z|^2 d\mu_n \\ & \leq -2 \frac{1-m}{m} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left( \alpha^4 \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left[ p'' - \frac{p'}{r} - \frac{\Delta_\omega p}{\alpha^2 (n-1) r^2} \right]^2 + \frac{2\alpha^2}{r^2} \left| \nabla_\omega p' - \frac{\nabla_\omega p}{r} \right|^2 \right) g^m d\mu_n \\ & \quad - 2 \frac{1-m}{m} (m - m_1) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathbb{L}_\alpha g^{m-1} - 2n)^2 g^m d\mu_n \\ & \quad - 2 \frac{1-m}{m} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{Q[p]}{r^4} g^m d\mu_n - 2 \frac{1-m}{m} (n-2) (\alpha_{FS}^2 - \alpha^2) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|\nabla_\omega p|^2}{r^4} g^m d\mu_n \\ & \leq 0 \text{ when } \alpha \leq \alpha_{FS}. \end{aligned}$$

# Improved inequalities

For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $t > 0$  let

$$v_\star(t, x) := \frac{1}{\kappa^n (\mu t)^{n/\mu}} \mathcal{B}_\star \left( \frac{x}{\kappa^{\mu/\mu_\star} (\mu t)^{1/\mu_\star}} \right) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{B}_\star(x) := \left( 1 + |x|^{2+\beta-\gamma} \right)^{-1/(1-m)}$$

$$\mathbf{G}[v] := \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} v^m |x|^{-\gamma} dx \right)^{\sigma-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} v |\nabla \mathbf{p}|^2 |x|^{-\beta} dx$$

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**THEOREM.-** Define  $h(t) := \left( 1 + \frac{2m}{1-m} \mu t \right)^{1/\mu} \quad \forall t \geq 0$ , with  $\mu = 2 \frac{2 + \beta - d + m(d - \gamma)}{2 + \beta - \gamma}$ ,

$$\mathbf{G}[v(t, \cdot)] - \mathbf{G}[v_\star] \geq C \int_t^\infty h(s)^{3\mu-2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} v^m(s, x) \frac{|\nabla_\omega v^{m-1}(s, x)|^2}{|x|^4} |x|^{\gamma-2\beta} dx ds \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

if  $\alpha \leq \alpha_{\text{FS}}$ , if  $v$  is smooth at the origin, if  $\|v_0\|_{1,\gamma} = \|\mathcal{B}_\star\|_{1,\gamma}$ , and if

$$\left( C_1 + |x|^{2+\beta-\gamma} \right)^{-1/(1-m)} \leq v_0(x) \leq \left( C_2 + |x|^{2+\beta-\gamma} \right)^{-1/(1-m)} \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

(REMARK.- Different, and better, remainder terms in the critical and in the subcritical case).

# Linearization and optimality

Let us linearize the equation  $\frac{\partial g}{\partial \tau} = D^*(g z)$  around a Barenblatt profile  $\mathcal{B}_\alpha$ , by taking a solution  $g_\varepsilon$  s.t.  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g_\varepsilon = M_\star = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ ,  $g_\varepsilon = \mathcal{B}_\alpha \left(1 + \varepsilon f \mathcal{B}_\alpha^{1-m}\right)$ . Taking  $\varepsilon$  to 0 we find

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \mathcal{L}_\alpha f \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{L}_\alpha f := (m-1) \mathcal{B}_\alpha^{m-2} D^* (\mathcal{B}_\alpha Df) .$$

We define the scalar products

$$\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_1 f_2 \mathcal{B}_\alpha^{2-m} d\mu_n \quad \text{and} \quad \langle\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle\rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} Df_1 \cdot Df_2 \mathcal{B}_\alpha d\mu_n$$

and its corresponding Hilbert spaces,  $X$  and  $Y$  ( $Y \subset X$ ). We see that

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \langle f, f \rangle = - \langle\langle f, f \rangle\rangle ; \quad \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \langle\langle f, f \rangle\rangle = - \langle\langle f, \mathcal{L}_\alpha f \rangle\rangle$$

and if  $\lambda_1$  is the smallest positive eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{L}_\alpha$ , with  $\mathcal{L}_\alpha f_1 = \lambda_1 f_1$ , then it has been proved by Bonforte-Dolbeault-Muratori-Nazaret that  $f_1 \in Y \subset X$ . Moreover  $\lambda_1 \geq 4$  iff  $\alpha \leq \alpha_{\text{FS}}$ .

A simple expansion of a square tells us that  $\lambda_1$  is also optimal in the inequality

$$- \langle\langle g, \mathcal{L}_\alpha g \rangle\rangle \geq \lambda_1 \langle\langle g, g \rangle\rangle , \quad \forall g, \text{ s.t. } \langle\langle g, 1 \rangle\rangle = 0 \quad (\text{Hardy-Poincaré type inequality}) .$$

# Link between the nonlinear problem and the asymptotic linearized problem

$$\text{Define } \mathcal{I}[g] := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g |z|^2 d\mu_n ; \quad \frac{d}{d\tau} \mathcal{I}[g] = -\mathcal{K}[g]$$

$$\text{Since for } \alpha \leq \alpha_{\text{FS}}, \quad -\mathcal{K}[g] + 4\mathcal{I}[g] = \frac{d}{d\tau} \mathcal{I}[g] + 4\mathcal{I}[g] = \frac{d}{d\tau} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g |z|^2 d\mu_n + 4 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g |z|^2 d\mu_n \leq 0$$

the functional  $g \mapsto \frac{\mathcal{K}[g]}{\mathcal{I}[g]} - 4$  is nonnegative and if  $\alpha \leq \alpha_{\text{FS}}$ , its minimizer is  $g = \mathcal{B}_\alpha$ .

Moreover, with  $g_\varepsilon = \mathcal{B}_\alpha \left(1 + \varepsilon f \mathcal{B}_\alpha^{1-m}\right)$ ,

$$4 \leq \mathcal{C}_2 := \inf_u \frac{\mathcal{K}[g]}{\mathcal{I}[g]} \leq \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \inf_f \frac{\mathcal{K}[g_\varepsilon]}{\mathcal{I}[g_\varepsilon]} = \inf_f \frac{\langle\langle f, \mathcal{L}_\alpha f \rangle\rangle}{\langle\langle f, f \rangle\rangle} = \frac{\langle\langle f_1, \mathcal{L}_\alpha f_1 \rangle\rangle}{\langle\langle f_1, f_1 \rangle\rangle} = \lambda_1 .$$

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Summarizing, the infimum of  $\mathcal{K}/\mathcal{I}$  is achieved in the asymptotic regime as  $g \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_\alpha$  and determined by the spectral gap of  $\mathcal{L}_\alpha$  when  $\lambda_1 = 4$ . And  $\mathcal{K}/\mathcal{I} > 4$  if  $\lambda_1 > 4$ , that is, when

$\alpha < \alpha_{\text{FS}}$ .

Finally,

$$\text{If } \alpha > \alpha_{\text{FS}}, \quad \mathcal{C}_2 = \inf_u \frac{\mathcal{K}[u]}{\mathcal{I}[u]} \leq \lambda_1 < 4$$

$$\text{If } \alpha \leq \alpha_{\text{FS}}, \quad 4 \leq \mathcal{C}_2 = \inf_u \frac{\mathcal{K}[u]}{\mathcal{I}[u]} \leq \lambda_1 .$$

Thank you for your attention!



