

# Large deviation theory and applications

## Application I: The parabolic Anderson model

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This presentation is based on [dH00, Chapter VIII]. The parabolic Anderson model is given by the heat equation on the lattice  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  with a random potential, i.e. we consider the solution  $u : [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  of the Cauchy problem

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u(t, z) &= \Delta u(t, z) + \xi(z)u(t, z), & (t, z) \in (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{Z}^d, \\ u(0, z) &= 1, & z \in \mathbb{Z}^d. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Here  $\Delta$  is the discrete Laplacian

$$\Delta u(t, x) = \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d: y \sim x} (u(t, y) - u(t, x)),$$

where  $y \sim x$  means that  $y$  is a nearest-neighbour of site  $x$ . The potential  $\xi = (\xi(z) : z \in \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is a collection of independent, identically distributed random variables. We denote by  $\langle \cdot \rangle$  the expectation with respect to the random potential.

The solution  $u$  is influenced by the competition between the Laplacian  $\Delta$  which has a smoothing effect, and the random potential, which makes the solution spatially irregular. In general, it is believed that there is a small number of *relevant island* where the potential takes especially large values, which are important for the large times asymptotics of the solution. This effect is called *intermittency*. For our purposes we will say that the model is intermittent if for any integers  $p > q \geq 1$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \log \frac{\langle u(t, 0)^p \rangle^{1/p}}{\langle u(t, 0)^q \rangle^{1/q}} = \infty.$$

Our main aim will be to show that, for a special class of potentials, the parabolic Anderson model is intermittent.

Throughout, we will assume that the logarithmic moment generating function  $H(t)$  is finite for all  $t$ , i.e.

$$H(t) = \log \langle e^{t\xi(0)} \rangle < \infty \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0. \tag{2}$$

To represent the solution of (1) in a way that makes it accessible to large deviations techniques, we consider a continuous-time simple random walk  $(X_s)_{s \geq 0}$  on  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  jumping at rate  $2d$ , i.e. the Markov process with generator  $\Delta$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Under assumption (2), the heat equation (1) has a unique non-negative solution  $u : [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  with Feynman-Kac representation*

$$u(t, z) = \mathbb{E}_z \left[ \exp \left\{ \int_0^t \xi(X_s) ds \right\} \right].$$

*For all  $t \geq 0$ , the random field  $(u(t, z) : z \in \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is stationary and ergodic under translations.*

*Proof.* A direct calculation using the Markov property shows that  $u$  defined in this way is a solution. For the uniqueness of the solution see [GM90]. Stationarity follows since  $u(0, \cdot) \equiv 1$ ,  $\xi$  is stationary and since the increments of the random walk are i.i.d. Similarly,  $(u(t, z) : z \in \mathbb{Z}^d)$  is ergodic, since  $\xi$  is ergodic.  $\square$

The Feynman-Kac representation tells that  $u(t, z)$  can be expressed as some functional of a simple random walk, whose large deviation behaviour we know. We are now in the continuous-time setting, so let us state the equivalent of Sanov's theorem for continuous-time Markov chains.

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a finite set and let  $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$  be a  $\mathcal{X}$ -valued continuous-time Markov chain with an irreducible generator  $G = (G_{ij})_{i, j \in \mathcal{X}}$ . Define the *empirical measure* (or occupation time measure)

$$L_t = \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \delta_{X_s} ds.$$

In order to obtain a nice rate function, we assume additionally that the generator  $G$  is symmetric.

**Theorem 2.** *Under the above assumptions, the empirical measures  $L_t$  satisfy a large deviation principle on  $\mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{X})$  with speed  $t$  and rate function*

$$I_G(\nu) = - \sum_{x, y \in \mathcal{X}} \sqrt{\nu(x)} G_{xy} \sqrt{\nu(y)} = \langle \sqrt{\nu}, (-G) \sqrt{\nu} \rangle.$$

Intuitively, we expect that the field  $(u(t, z) : z \in \mathbb{Z}^d)$  develops peaks where the potential  $\xi$  takes large values. So it is clear that the asymptotic behaviour of these peaks depends on the right tail of the distribution of  $\xi$ . We will consider a special class of potentials, namely those which satisfy

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} (H(ct) - cH(t)) = \rho \log c \quad \text{for all } c \in (0, 1), \quad (3)$$

for some parameter  $\rho \in (0, \infty)$ . The most basic example satisfying this condition is when  $\xi(0)$  has the double exponential distribution

$$\text{Prob}(\xi(0) > s) = \exp\{-e^{s/\rho}\}, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

In this case, the probability that  $\xi(0)$  takes values larger than  $s = \rho$  drops quickly to zero, so  $\rho$  indicates the degree of disorder in the underlying potential  $\xi$ .

In order to show intermittency, we need to evaluate the asymptotics of the integer moments of  $u(0, t)$  for large  $t$ .

**Theorem 3.** *Assume (2) and (3). Then, for any  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ ,*

$$\langle u^p(0, t) \rangle = \exp\{H(pt) - 2dpt\chi(\rho) + o(t)\},$$

where

$$\chi(\rho) = \frac{1}{2d} \inf_{\nu \in \mathcal{M}_1(\mathbb{Z}^d)} \{I(\nu) + \rho J(\nu)\},$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} I(\nu) &= \langle \sqrt{\nu}, (-\Delta)\sqrt{\nu} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d: x \sim y} (\sqrt{\nu(x)} - \sqrt{\nu(y)})^2, \\ J(\nu) &= - \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \nu(x) \log \nu(x). \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 4.** (a) It can be shown that the infimum in the definition of  $\chi$  factorizes as  $d$  times the equivalent expression for the one-dimensional model, so  $\chi$  does not depend on the dimension  $d$ . Moreover,  $\chi$  can be linked to the non-linear difference equation

$$\Delta v + 2\rho v \log v = 0, \quad v : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow (0, \infty).$$

Namely, this equation has a ground state  $v_\rho$ , i.e. a solution with minimal  $\ell^2$  norm, and

$$\chi = \rho \log \|v_\rho\|_2.$$

(b) Note,  $I(\nu)$  is the (weak) rate function for the local times of the Markov chain on  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  with generator  $\Delta$ . The level sets of  $I$  are not compact, since  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  is infinite.

As a direct consequence of Theorem 3 we can show that the model is intermittent. Indeed, using the scaling assumption (3) on the tails

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\langle u^p(0, t) \rangle^{\frac{1}{p}}}{\langle u^q(0, t) \rangle^{\frac{1}{q}}} &= \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{p} H(pt) - \frac{1}{q} H(qt) + o(t) \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{p} H(pt) - H\left(\frac{1}{p}pt\right) - \left(\frac{1}{q}H(qt) - H\left(\frac{1}{q}qt\right)\right) + o(t) \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ -pt\rho^{\frac{1}{p}} \log \frac{1}{p} + qt\rho^{\frac{1}{q}} \log \frac{1}{q} + o(t) \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ t\rho \log \frac{p}{q} + o(t) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

The physical interpretation is that each moment is carried by higher and higher peaks that are localized on random islands, which are far apart and occupy a vanishing fraction of the lattice. Indeed, if we write  $\Lambda_p(t) = \log \langle u^p(t, 0) \rangle$ , then

$$\frac{1}{p+1} \Lambda_{p+1}(t) - \frac{1}{p} \Lambda_p(t) = \log \frac{\langle u^{p+1}(t, 0) \rangle^{1/(p+1)}}{\langle u^p(t, 0) \rangle^{1/p}} = \rho t \log \frac{p+1}{p} + o(t).$$

Therefore, we can choose level functions  $\ell_p(t)$  such that

$$\frac{\Lambda_p}{p} \ll \ell_p(t) \ll \frac{\Lambda_{p+1}}{p+1},$$

where  $f(t) \ll g(t)$  means that  $g(t) - f(t) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Then consider the event

$$E_p(t) = \{u(t, 0) > e^{\ell_p(t)}\}.$$

Note that by Chebyshev's inequality,

$$\text{Prob}(E_p(t)) \leq \exp\{\Lambda_p(t) - p\ell_p(t)\} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty,$$

so that by ergodicity the sites  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  where  $u(t, x) > e^{\ell_p(t)}$  occupy a vanishing fraction of the lattice. But on the other hand,

$$\langle u(t, 0)^{p+1} \mathbf{1}_{\Omega \setminus E_p(t)} \rangle \leq e^{(p+1)\ell_p(t)} = e^{(p+1)\ell_p(t) - \Lambda_{p+1}(t)} \langle u(t, 0)^{p+1} \rangle = o(\langle u(t, 0)^{p+1} \rangle).$$

Hence, we can deduce that

$$\langle u(t, 0)^{p+1} \rangle \sim \langle u(t, 0)^{p+1} \mathbf{1}_{E_p(t)} \rangle,$$

so that the main contribution to the  $(p+1)$ st moment is carried by those sites where the field  $(u(t, x))$  takes values larger than  $e^{\ell_p(t)}$ .

### Proof of Theorem 3

We start by sketching the proof in the case  $p = 1$ , later on we see how to fix the gaps and also how to extend it to  $p \geq 2$ .

Define the local time of the simple random walk

$$\ell_t(z) = \int_0^t \mathbf{1}_{\{X_s=z\}} ds, \quad z \in \mathbb{Z}^d, t \geq 0.$$

Then, by the Feynman-Kac formula in Lemma 1, we have that

$$u(t, 0) = \mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \exp \left\{ \int_0^t \xi(X_s) ds \right\} \right] = \mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \exp \left\{ \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \xi(z) \ell_t(z) \right\} \right].$$

Hence taking the expectation and using the independence of the  $\xi(z)$ , we obtain

$$\langle u(t, 0) \rangle = \mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \prod_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \langle e^{\ell_t(z) \xi(z)} \rangle \right] = \mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \exp \left\{ \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} H(\ell_t(z)) \right\} \right].$$

Recall that  $L_t(z) = \frac{1}{t} \ell_t(z)$  and use  $\sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \ell_t(z) = t$  to write

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} H(\ell_t(z)) &= H(t) + t \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{1}{t} \left[ H(L_t(z)t) - L_t(z)H(t) \right] \\ &= H(t) + t \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} [\rho L_t(z) \log L_t(z) + o(1)] \\ &= H(t) - t\rho J(L_t) + o(t), \end{aligned}$$

where the second step is *plausible* by our assumption (3) on  $H$ . Therefore, we obtain that

$$\langle u(t, 0) \rangle = e^{H(t)+o(t)} \mathbb{E}_0 [e^{-t\rho J(L_t)}],$$

which is an expression that is of the right form for Varadhan's lemma. Thus (if we ignore the problem that  $Z_t$  is a Markov chain with an infinite state space), it becomes *plausible* that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u(t, 0) \rangle &= \exp \left\{ H(t) + t \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{M}_1(\mathbb{Z}^d)} \{-\rho J(\nu) - I(\nu)\} \right\} \\ &= \exp \left\{ H(t) - 2dt\chi(\rho) + o(t) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

The two problems in the above argument can be fixed by restricting the problem to a large box  $T_N = (-N, N]^d \cap \mathbb{Z}^d$  and finally letting  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

For the *upper bound*, we assume that the simple random walk moves on  $T_N$  with periodic boundary conditions. Then, if  $\{\ell_t^N(z) : z \in T_N\}$  denote the local times of the wrapped random walk, we can write

$$\ell_t^N(z) = \sum_{y \in (2N\mathbb{Z})^d} \ell_t(z + y), \quad z \in T_N.$$

Since  $H(0) = 0$  and  $H$  is convex,  $H$  is super-additive, and thus

$$\sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} H(\ell_t(z)) = \sum_{z \in T_N} \sum_{y \in (2N\mathbb{Z})^d} H(\ell_t(z + y)) \leq \sum_{z \in T_N} H(\ell_t^N(z)).$$

On the finite set  $T_N$ , the above calculations become rigorous, so that we get by Theorem 2 and Varadhan's lemma

$$\langle u(0, t) \rangle \leq \mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \exp \left\{ \sum_{z \in T_N} H(\ell_t^N(z)) \right\} \right] = \exp \left\{ H(t) - 2dt\chi^N(\rho) + o(t) \right\},$$

where  $\chi^N$  is defined as

$$\chi^N(\rho) = \frac{1}{2d} \inf_{\nu \in \mathcal{M}^1(T_N)} \{I^N(\nu) + \rho J^N(\nu)\}$$

where  $I^N$  and  $J^N$  are defined as before, but they are now restricted to the box  $T_N$  with periodic boundary conditions. See [GM98] for a proof of the fact that  $\chi^N \rightarrow \chi$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

For the *lower bound*, we kill the random walk when it hits  $\partial T_N$ . This means that we have to include the indicator of the event that  $\ell_t(z) = 0$  for all  $z \notin T_N \setminus \partial T_N$  under the expectation. Thus, we get the lower bound,

$$\langle u(t, 0) \rangle \geq \mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \exp \left\{ \sum_{z \in T_N} H(\ell_t^N(z)) \right\} \mathbf{1} \{ \ell_t^N(z) = 0 \ \forall z \in \partial T_N \} \right].$$

As before, we can now apply our large deviation results and obtain for the corresponding  $\chi$

$$\widehat{\chi}^N(\rho) = \frac{1}{2d} \inf_{\substack{\nu \in \mathcal{M}^1(T_N) \\ \nu(z)=0 \ \forall z \in \partial T_N}} \{I^N(\nu) + \rho J^N(\nu)\}.$$

*Generalization to  $p \geq 2$ .* Consider  $p$  independent copies of our simple random walk  $\{X_t^i : t \geq 0\}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, p$  with corresponding local times  $\{\ell_t^i\}$ . Then by Lemma 1, we find

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u(t, 0)^p \rangle &= \left\langle \mathbb{E}_0^{\otimes p} \left[ \prod_{i=1}^p \exp \left\{ \int_0^t \xi(X_s^i) ds \right\} \right] \right\rangle \\ &= \mathbb{E}_0^{\otimes p} \left[ \left\langle \exp \left\{ \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \xi(z) \sum_{i=1}^p \ell_t^i(z) \right\} \right\rangle \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_0^{\otimes p} \left[ \exp \left\{ \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} H \left( \sum_{i=1}^p \ell_t^i(z) \right) \right\} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Following the same argument as for  $p = 1$  and using that  $\sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{i=1}^p \ell_t^i(z) = pt$ , we obtain

$$\langle u^p(t, 0) \rangle = \exp \{ H(pt) - 2dpt\chi_p(\rho) + o(t) \},$$

with

$$\chi_p(\rho) = \frac{1}{2d} \inf_{\nu^1, \dots, \nu^p \in \mathcal{M}_1(\mathbb{Z}^d)} \left\{ \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p I(\nu^i) + \rho J \left( \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p \nu^i \right) \right\}.$$

Here,  $\frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p I(\nu^i)$  is the weak rate function in the large deviations principle for  $(L_t^1, \dots, L_t^p)$ . Since  $\nu \mapsto J(\nu)$  is strictly concave, the infimum reduces to the diagonal  $\nu^1 = \dots = \nu^p$ , so that  $\chi_p(\rho) = \chi(\rho)$ , which completes the proof of Theorem 3.

## Appendix: Large deviations for continuous-time Markov chains

In this section, we will give a very rough sketch of how to obtain Theorem 2 from the corresponding theorem for discrete-time Markov chains. For more details see [dH00, Section IV].

Before we move to the continuous-time setting, let us recall the result for discrete-time Markov chains and reformulate the expression for the rate function. Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a finite set and suppose  $Z_1, Z_2, \dots$  is a Markov chain on  $\mathcal{X}$  with strictly positive transition matrix  $P$ . Then, we know that the empirical measures are defined as

$$L_n^Z(y) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{1}\{Z_i = y\}, \quad \text{for } y \in \mathcal{X}.$$

Applying the contraction principle to the result about the LDP for the empirical pair measures, we obtain that the empirical measures  $L_t^Z$  satisfy a large deviation principle on  $\mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{X})$  with speed  $n$  and good rate function given by

$$I_P(\nu) = \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X}): \nu_1 = \mu} I_P^2(\mu),$$

where  $I_P^2$  is the rate function for the empirical pair measures, i.e.

$$I_P^2(\mu) = \begin{cases} H(\mu \| \mu_1 \otimes P) & \text{if } \mu_1 = \mu_2, \\ \infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We can express  $I_P$  in a slightly different form, which will be useful for the continuous-time setting.

**Lemma 5.** *We can write*

$$I_P(\nu) = \sup_{u > 0} \left[ - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \nu(x) \log \left( \frac{(Pu)_x}{u_x} \right) \right], \quad (4)$$

where the supremum runs over all  $u : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow (0, \infty)$  and  $(Pu)_x = \sum_y P_{xy} u_y$ .

*Proof.* Fix  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{X})$ . Let

$$f_\nu(u) = - \sum_x \nu(x) \log \left( \frac{(Pu)_x}{u_x} \right).$$

Assume that  $\nu > 0$  (otherwise restrict all the sums to the support of  $\nu$ ). Then, one can check that the supremum in (4) is attained for  $u^*$  satisfying

$$0 = - \sum_x \nu(x) \left( \frac{P_{xy}}{(Pu^*)_x} - \frac{\delta_{xy}}{u_y^*} \right) \quad \forall y.$$

Rearranging yields that

$$\nu(y) = \sum_x \nu_x Q_{xy}^{u^*} \quad \text{where} \quad Q_{xy}^{u^*} = \frac{P_{xy} u_y^*}{(P u^*)_x} > 0,$$

so that  $\nu$  is the stationary distribution of the stochastic matrix  $Q^{u^*}$ . Define,  $\mu^* \in \mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X})$  by

$$\mu^*(x, y) = \nu(x) Q_{xy}^{u^*}.$$

Then for  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X})$  with  $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \nu$ , we can calculate using that  $\mu_1^* = \mu_2^* = \nu$

$$\begin{aligned} I_P^2(\mu) &= H(\mu \| \nu \otimes P) = H(\mu \| \mu^*) + \sum_{x,y} \log \frac{\mu^*(x, y)}{\nu(x) P_{xy}} \\ &= H(\mu \| \mu^*) + \sum_{x,y} \mu(x, y) \log \frac{u_y^*}{(P u^*)_x} = H(\mu \| \mu^*) + f_\nu(u^*). \end{aligned}$$

The infimum of the last term over the set  $\{\mu \in \mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X}) : \mu_1 = \nu\}$  is zero, which completes the proof.  $\square$

Now, we move to the continuous time setting, so let  $(X_t : t \geq 0)$  be a continuous-time Markov chain with an irreducible generator  $G = (G_{xy})_{x,y \in \mathcal{X}}$ . First, we will indicate how the general rate function can be derived and finally we see how it simplifies when  $G$  is symmetric. Again, denote by  $L_t$  the empirical measures.

**Theorem 6.** (a) *Under the above assumptions, the empirical measures  $L_t$  satisfy a large deviation principle on  $\mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{X})$  with speed  $t$  and rate function*

$$I_G(\nu) = \sup_{u > 0} \left\{ - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \nu(x) \frac{(Gu)_x}{u_x} \right\},$$

where the supremum runs over all  $u : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ .

(b) *If, in addition,  $G$  is symmetric, then the rate function is given by*

$$I_G(\nu) = - \sum_{x,y \in \mathcal{X}} \sqrt{\nu(x)} G_{xy} \sqrt{\nu(y)} = \langle \sqrt{\nu}, (-G) \sqrt{\nu} \rangle.$$

*Proof.* (a) We will only sketch the proof, which is based on a discrete approximation of the Markov chain. Fix  $\delta > 0$  and let

$$L_t^\delta = [t/\delta]^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor t/\delta \rfloor} \delta_{X_{k\delta}}$$

be the empirical measure after  $\lfloor t/\delta \rfloor$  steps of the  $\mathcal{X}$ -valued discrete-time Markov chain with strictly positive transition matrix  $P^\delta = e^{\delta G}$ . Thus, by Lemma 5 we find that  $L_t^\delta$  satisfies a large deviation principle with speed  $t$  and rate function

$$\frac{1}{\delta} I_{P^\delta}(\nu) = \frac{1}{\delta} \sup_{u>0} \left[ - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \nu(x) \log \left( \frac{(P^\delta u)_x}{u_x} \right) \right].$$

Then, we have to show that  $L_t^\delta$  approximates  $L_t$  sufficiently well in the limit  $\delta \rightarrow 0$ , and also that

$$\lim_{\delta} \frac{1}{\delta} I_{P^\delta}(\nu) = I_G(\nu).$$

To get a rough idea we will show that  $\frac{1}{\delta} I_{P^\delta}(\nu) \leq I_G(\nu)$ . Indeed, using that  $\frac{d}{d\delta} P^\delta = G P^\delta$ , we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\delta} I_{P^\delta} &= \sup_{u>0} \left[ - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \nu(x) \frac{1}{\delta} \int_0^\delta d\varepsilon \left( \frac{(G P^\varepsilon u)_x}{(P^\varepsilon u)_x} \right) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\delta} \int_0^\delta d\varepsilon \sup_{u>0} \left[ - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \nu(x) \left( \frac{(G P^\varepsilon u)_x}{(P^\varepsilon u)_x} \right) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\delta} \int_0^\delta d\varepsilon I_G(\nu) = I_G(\nu). \end{aligned}$$

For more details, see [dH00, Thm. IV.14].

(b) Write the rate function  $I_G$  as

$$I_G(\nu) = - \sum_{x,y} \sqrt{\nu(x)} G_{xy} \sqrt{\nu(y)} - \inf_{u>0} \sum_{x,y} G_{xy} \left( \nu(x) \frac{u_y}{u_x} - \sqrt{\nu(x)} \sqrt{\nu(y)} \right).$$

If  $G$  is symmetric, then the last term can be rewritten as

$$- \inf_{u>0} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \neq y} G_{xy} \left( \sqrt{\frac{\nu(x) u_y}{u_x}} - \sqrt{\frac{\nu(y) u_x}{u_y}} \right)^2,$$

which is zero, since the generator satisfies  $G_{xy} \geq 0$  for  $x \neq y$ . □

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