

On the Propagation of Chaos for Diffusion Processes with Drift Coefficients Not of Average Form

Masao NAGASAWA and Hiroshi TANAKA

University of Zurich and Keio University

Introduction

Let $b^{(n)}[x, u]$ be \mathbf{R}^d -valued measurable functions defined on $\mathbf{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R}^d)$, where $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{R}^d)$ denotes the space of probability distributions on \mathbf{R}^d . We consider interacting diffusion processes on \mathbf{R}^d described by a system of stochastic differential equations

$$(1) \quad X_i^{(n)}(t) = X_i^{(n)}(0) + B_i(t) + \int_0^t b^{(n)}[X_i^{(n)}(s), U^{(n)}(s)] ds, \quad i=1, 2, \dots, n,$$

where $U^{(n)}(t) = (1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{X_i^{(n)}(t)}$ is the empirical distribution of $(X_1^{(n)}(t), \dots, X_n^{(n)}(t))$ and $B_i(t)$, $i=1, 2, \dots, n$, are mutually independent d -dimensional Brownian motions. The initial value $(X_1^{(n)}(0), \dots, X_n^{(n)}(0))$ is always assumed to be independent of the Brownian motions.

Assuming that the law of large numbers $U^{(n)}(t) \rightarrow u(t)$ and $b^{(n)}[X_1^{(n)}(t), U^{(n)}(t)] \rightarrow b[X(t), u(t)]$ hold as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and taking the limit formally in (1) for $i=1$, we get the McKean-Vlasov's SDE

$$(2) \quad X(t) = X(0) + B(t) + \int_0^t b[X(s), u(s)] ds,$$

where $u(t)$ is the probability distribution of $X(t)$.

The propagation of chaos for the diffusion processes $(X_1^{(n)}(t), \dots, X_n^{(n)}(t))$ given by (1) states as follows: If the sequence of the initial distributions in (1) is a symmetric u -chaotic family (see §2), then the sequence of the distributions of $(X_1^{(n)}(t), \dots, X_n^{(n)}(t))$ is also a symmetric $u(t)$ -chaotic family, where $u(t)$ is the probability distribution of $X(t)$ in (2) with a u -distributed initial value $X(0)$.

When the drift coefficient $b[x, u] = b^{(n)}[x, u]$, $n \geq 1$, is of average (or integral) form defined by

$$(3) \quad b[x, u] = \int b(x, y) u(dy),$$