## Optimal management of stochastic shallow lakes

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## oligotrophic vs eutrophic lakes



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#### Modelling the nutrient content

The nutrient content is usually measured in terms of P concentration.

$$\begin{split} \dot{P}(t) &= L(t) \qquad (\mathsf{P} \text{ loading by natural and human activity}) \\ &- sP(t) \qquad (\text{sedimentation, outflow}) \\ &+ \Phi\bigl(P(t)\bigr) \qquad (\text{recycling from sediments}) \end{split}$$

#### Modelling the nutrient content

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 (P loading by natural and human activity)  
 $-sP(t)$  (sedimentation, outflow)  
 $+\Phi(P(t))$  (recycling from sediments)

Limnologists take  $\Phi$  to be a sigmoid function, typically

$$\Phi(x) = r \frac{x^2}{m^2 + x^2}.$$

[Carpenter, Ludwig, Brock 1999]

With a change of variables  $\left(x = \frac{P}{m}, a = \frac{L}{r}, b = \frac{sm}{r}\right)$  the equation becomes

$$\dot{x}(t) = a(t) - bx(t) + \frac{x^2(t)}{1 + x^2(t)}.$$

#### Equilibrium under constant load

$$\dot{x}(t) = a(t) - bx(t) + \frac{x^2(t)}{1 + x^2(t)}.$$

When b is not too large the lake may have 2 stable equilibria.



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#### A welfare function

Farmers or industry have an interest to increase P loading, a. Visitors prefer a clean lake, i.e. small x.

Suppose a community balances these needs and assigns value to the state of the lake

$$U(a,x) = \ln a - cx^2.$$

Given the current P concentration x, we are interested in the optimal loading  $\{a(t):t\geq 0\}$  to maximise the welfare function

$$J(x, a(\cdot)) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} U(a(t), x(t)) dt$$

where  $\{x(t): t \ge 0\}$  solves

$$\dot{x}(t) = a(t) - bx(t) + \frac{x^2(t)}{1 + x^2(t)}, \qquad x(0) = x.$$

### The problem

#### Add multiplicative noise

[Grass, Kiseleva, Wagener 2015]

$$\begin{cases} dx(t) = \left(u(t) - bx(t) + \frac{x^2(t)}{x^2(t) + 1}\right) dt + \sigma x(t) dW(t), \\ x(0) = x \end{cases}$$
(1)

and the value function

$$V(x) = \sup_{u \in \mathfrak{U}_x} \mathbb{E}\left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \left[\ln u(t) - cx^2(t)\right] dt\right]$$

Admissible controls  $u \in \mathfrak{U}_x$  should be positive, adapted processes in some filtered probability space such that

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t}\ln u(t)dt\right]<\infty$$

and (1) has a unique strong solution.

The tool to characterise the value function V is the Dynamic Programming Principle (DPP):

$$V(x) = \sup_{u \in \mathfrak{U}_x} \mathbb{E}\left[\int_0^{\theta_u} e^{-\rho t} \left(\ln u(t) - cx^2(t)\right) dt + e^{-\rho \theta_u} V(x(\theta_u))\right].$$

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- No a priori regularity for V. In fact we do not even know if V takes finite values.
- Unbounded controls, the Hamiltonian may be infinite.
- Boundary conditions at zero? at infinity?

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#### V as a constrained HJB v.s.

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The value function V is a continuous constrained viscosity solution on  $[0,\infty)$  to the HJB equation

$$\rho V = \underbrace{\left[ \left( \frac{x^2}{x^2 + 1} - bx \right) V' - \left( \ln(-V') + cx^2 + 1 \right) + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 x^2 V'' \right]}_{H(x,V',V'')}.$$

i) For every  $\phi \in C^2[0,\infty)$  such that  $V - \phi$  has a local maximum at  $x \ge 0$ :

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ii) For any  $\phi \in C^2(0,\infty)$  such that  $V - \phi$  has a local minimum at x > 0:

$$\rho V(x) \ge H(x, \phi'(x), \phi''(x))$$

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satisfying:

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satisfying:

$$DV(x) \le -\frac{1}{c_*} < 0, \quad \forall x \in [0,\infty).$$

and

$$\liminf_{x \to \infty} \frac{V(x)}{1 + x^2} > -\infty.$$

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## Properties of the value function $(\sigma^2 < 2b + \rho)$

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$$V(x) + A\left(x + \frac{1}{b+\rho}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{\rho}\ln\left(x + \frac{1}{b+\rho}\right) \stackrel{x \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} K$$



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#### Optimally controlled process

Bartaloni '20,'21; Koutsimpela, L 2022+

A verification theorem gives the optimal control in feedback form

$$u_*(x(t)) = -\frac{1}{V'_{\sigma}(x(t))} \le \frac{1}{c_*}$$

so the optimally controlled system satisfies

$$dx(t) = \left(-\frac{1}{V'_{\sigma}(x(t))} - bx(t) + \frac{x^2(t)}{x^2(t) + 1}\right)dt + \sigma x(t)dW(t).$$



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#### Invariant measure

$$\mathcal{L}^*\mu = 0 \Longrightarrow d\mu(x) = \frac{1}{Z} \ x^{-2\left(1 + \frac{b}{\sigma^2}\right)} e^{-\Psi_\sigma(x)} \, dx.$$

The exponent  $\Psi_\sigma$  is explicitly given in terms of  $V_\sigma'$  and

$$\Psi_{\sigma}(x)\simeq \frac{2}{\sigma^2 |V_{\sigma}'(0)|x}, \ x\to 0 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \Psi_{\sigma}(x)\simeq \frac{2}{\sigma^2 x}, \ x\to \infty.$$

Polynomial tails at infinity get fatter as  $\sigma$  increases.



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### Oligotrophic vs Eutrophic

When  $\sigma$  is small and other parameters are suitable, the invariant distribution may be bimodal. The process  $y(t) = \ln (x(t))$  is a diffusion in a double-well potential  $\Phi_{\sigma}(y)$ :



$$dy(t) = -\Phi_\sigma'\bigl(y(t)\bigr)dt + \sigma\,dW(t).$$

with invariant distribution for  $\sigma>0$ 

$$d\mu_{\sigma}(x) = \frac{1}{Z_{\sigma}} \exp\left(-\frac{2}{\sigma^2}\Phi_{\sigma}(x)\right) dx.$$

#### Deterministic vs Stochastic trajectories

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#### $\sigma \rightarrow 0$ asymptotics: metastability

$$V_{\sigma}$$
 semi-convex  $\Rightarrow V'_{\sigma} \rightarrow V'_{0}$ , as  $\sigma \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\forall x \neq x_{*}$ 

 $\Rightarrow \Phi_{\sigma} \to \Phi_0, \text{ uniformly on compact subsets of } (0, +\infty)$ reduced to Freidlin-Wentzel theory.

Arrhenius law : 
$$\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \log \mathbb{E}[\tau_{O \to E}] \to A, \quad \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \log \mathbb{E}[\tau_{E \to O}] \to B$$

[Siguira 1993, Bovier & den Hollander book 2014]

[Day 1983]



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