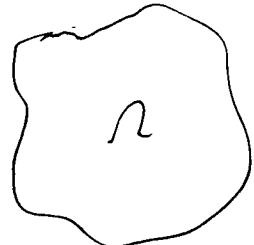


Viscosity Solution for  
Degenerate Diffusion with a Drift  
(Joint work with I. Kim)

Helen K. Lei

May 4, 2010

# Elliptic Equations and the Maximum Principle



$$Lu = a^{ij} D_{ij} u + b^i D_i u, \quad a^{ij} = a^{ji}$$

elliptic if  $a^{ij}(x) > 0$

max. principle

unif. elliptic

strong max. principle  
(no nontrivial int. max.)

$$(u, v \in C^2(\bar{\Omega}) \cap C^0(\bar{\Omega})).$$

## Max Principle

$$L(u-v) \geq 0, \quad \text{then} \quad \max (u-v) \text{ on } \partial\Omega.$$

Hence

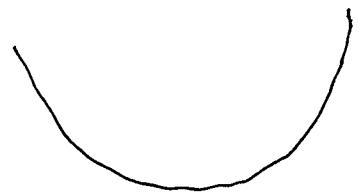
## Comparison Principle (and uniqueness)

If

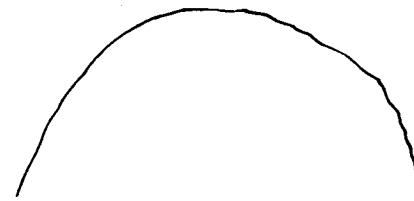
$$1). \quad u \leq v \text{ on } \partial\Omega \quad \text{then} \quad u \leq v \text{ in } \Omega.$$

$$2). \quad L(u-v) \geq 0$$

# Subsolution and Supersolution



$Lu \geq 0$   
(subsolution)



$Lu \leq 0$   
(supersolution)

Idea Define e.g. viscosity subsolution by this property:  
 $u$  is viscosity subsoln if  $\forall \varphi \in C^2(\mathbb{R}) \cap C^0(\bar{\mathbb{R}})$

(see (Randall-  
Inhee-  
Lions))

s.t.,  $(u - \varphi)$  has max at  $x_0$

$$(u - \varphi = 0, \quad \nabla(u - \varphi) = 0 \Rightarrow L(u - \varphi) \leq 0)$$

then

$$0 \leq (\leq Lu) \leq L\varphi$$

For us, parabolic eqns:  $Lu - u_t = 0$ , get  $\varphi_t \leq L\varphi$

## Porous Medium Equation

3

$$(\text{density}) \quad \rho_t = \Delta \rho^m = \nabla \cdot (\nabla \rho^m) \quad (\text{divergence form})$$

$$\nu = \frac{m}{m-1} \rho^{m-1}$$

$$(\text{pressure}) \quad u_t = (m-1)u \Delta u + |\nabla u|^2$$

- If  $0 < \varepsilon < u_0$ , unif. parabolic theory  
 $\Rightarrow \exists! \text{ soln } 0 < \varepsilon < u(x,t)$ .
- Otherwise, degenerate  $\rightarrow$  free boundary



( $\varepsilon$  small,  $u_t \approx |\nabla u|^2$ : preservation of 1). cpt support  
2) positivity )

# Free Boundary Speed

L4

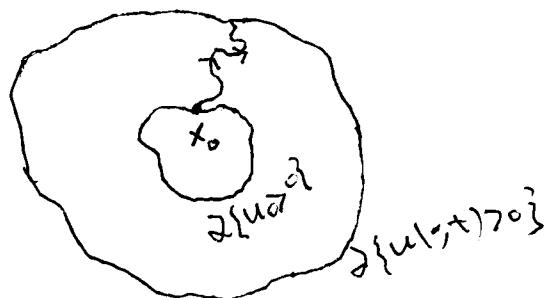
$$u=0 \text{ on } \partial\{u>0\}$$



$$\Rightarrow \nabla u \cdot \tau = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -\nabla u \cdot \nu = |\nabla u|.$$

Start at  $x_0$ ,



$$x_0 \rightsquigarrow s(t)v, \text{ s.t.}$$

$$s(t)v \in \partial\{u(\cdot, t) > 0\}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} u(s(t)v, t) = (\nabla u \cdot v) \dot{s} + u_t = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \dot{s} = \frac{-u_t}{\nabla u \cdot v} = \frac{u_t}{|\nabla u|} =: V_n$$

I.e.  $V_n$  = outward normal velocity.

## Classical Free Boundary Sub (super) solution

Develop theory of viscosity solution by comparison with classical soln  $\Rightarrow$

- 1). Comp. principle for Visc. soln
- 2). Existence & Uniqueness
- 3). Identification with weak soln.

(Caffarelli-Vazquez '99, Brändle-Vazquez '05)

Defn. Nonnegative  $u \in C^2(\overline{u>0} \times \Sigma)$  is

classical free boundary sub (super) soln

in  $\Sigma$  if in  $\{u>0\} \cap \Sigma$

$$u_t \leq (\gamma) (m-1) u \Delta u + |\nabla u|^2$$

and on  $\Gamma(u) \cap \Sigma$ ,  $|\nabla u| > 0$ ,

$$\sqrt{u} \leq (\gamma) |\nabla u|$$

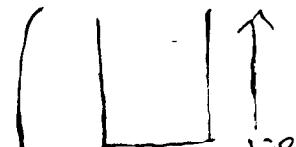


## Viscosity Subsolution

Defn.  $u$  is a visc. subsolu if it is continuous and  $\forall \varphi \in C^{2,1}(\Sigma)$  that touches  $u$  from above at  $(x_0, t_0)$ , we have

$$\varphi_+ \leq (m-1) \Delta \varphi + |\nabla \varphi|^2$$

### "Comparison Principle"

$u$  visc. subsolu,  $v$  classical. Then  
 $u \leq v$  on  $\partial\Sigma \Rightarrow u \leq v$  in  $\Sigma$ . 

Pf. Approx.  $v$  from above:

$$(v_\varepsilon)_+ = (m-1) \Delta v_\varepsilon + |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 + \varepsilon$$

$$\text{On } \partial\Sigma: v_\varepsilon = v + \varepsilon$$

Have  $v_\varepsilon \downarrow v$  locally unif. So if  $v_\varepsilon = u$  at  $p_0 \in \Sigma$ ,

then  $(v_\varepsilon)_+ \leq (m-1) \Delta v_\varepsilon + |\nabla v_\varepsilon|^2 \quad *$ .

## Viscosity Super solution

Defn  $u$  is a visc. supersoln if it is continuous and

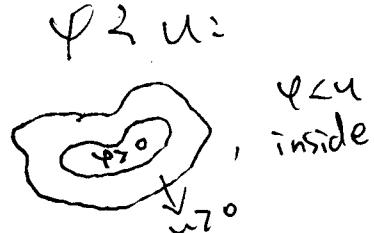
(i).  $\forall \varphi \in C^{2,1}(\Sigma)$  that touches  $u$  from below

at  $(x_0, t_0) \in \{u > 0\} \cap \Sigma$

$$\varphi_t \geq (m-1)\varphi \Delta \varphi + |\nabla \varphi|^2$$

(ii).  $\forall$  classical free-boundary subsoln  $\varphi$  in  $\Sigma$ :

If  $\varphi \geq u$  on  $\partial\Sigma$ , then  $\varphi \leq u$  in  $\Sigma$ .



I.e.,



not allowed.

Rmk.

Get (ii) for visc. subsoln

"for free", again by approx. from above  
and Max. Principle...

## Viscosity Solution

Defn  $u$  is a viscosity solution if it is both a viscosity subsolution and a viscosity supersolution.

Rmk. 1). Note there is minimal regularity assumption on  $u$ .

2).  $u$  is defined to satisfy comparison principle with classical (free boundary) sub(sup) solutions.

Instance. If we solve PDE with  $u_0^\varepsilon = u_0 + \varepsilon$ , then  $u^\varepsilon \rightarrow u^*$  a viscosity soln with initial data  $u_0$ .

Note that  $u^*$  is also maximal viscosity solution.

To prove uniqueness (i.e.,  $u^*$  is minimal) requires  
Comp. principle with visc. solns.

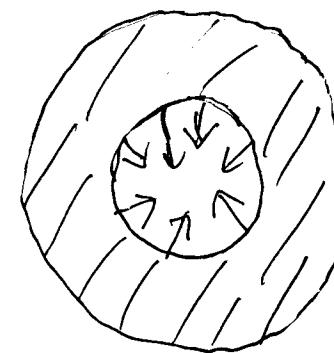
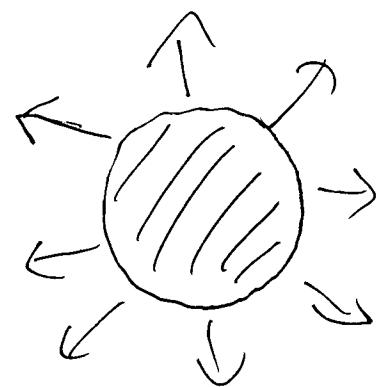
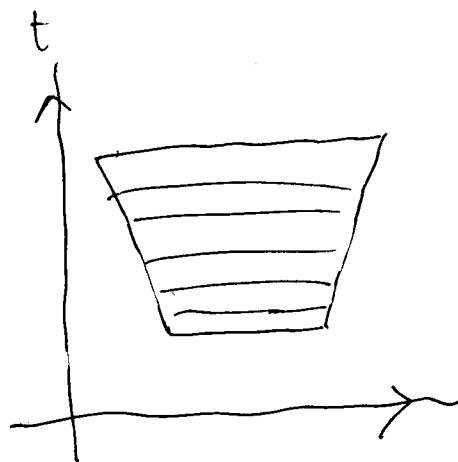
# Solutions For Comparison

Barenblatt ((sub)solution)

$$B(x, t; \zeta) = \frac{((t+\tau)^{2\lambda} - k|x|^2)_+}{(t+\tau)}$$

$$\lambda = ((m-1)d + 2)^{-1}$$

$$\lambda = 2k$$



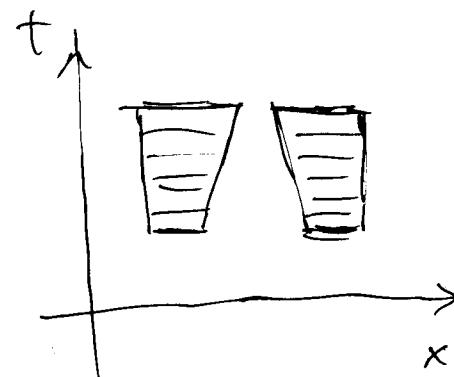
Travelling Wave

$$H(x, t, A, \omega) = A(|x| + \omega t - B)_+$$

$$\text{in } \{|x| \leq R\} \times [\omega^{-1}(R-B), 0]$$

$$R/2 < B < R$$

$$\omega/A > 1 + 2(m-1)(d-1) \frac{R-B}{R}$$



# Comparison Principle

10

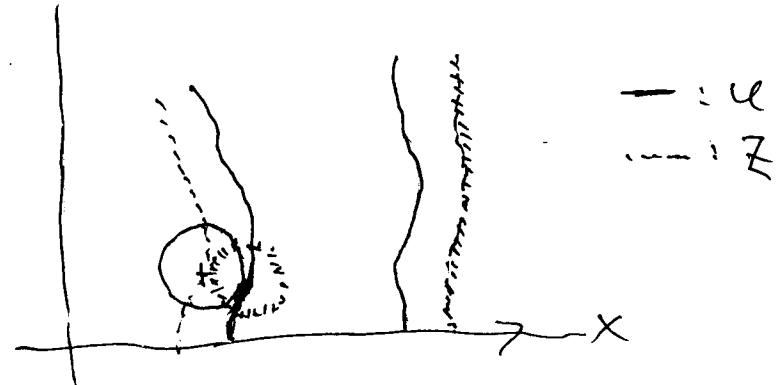
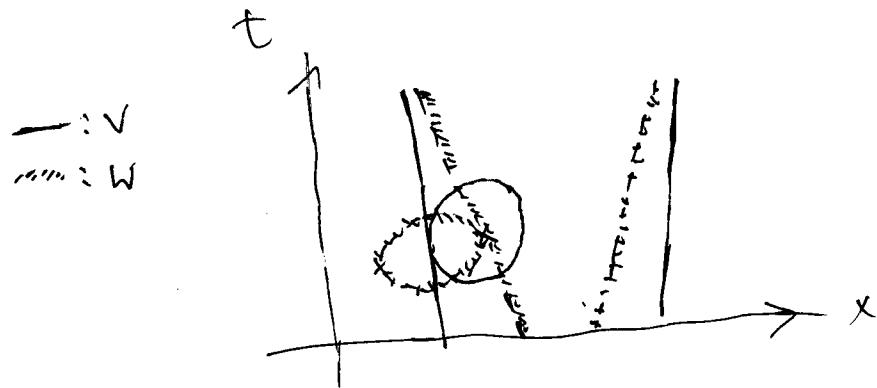
u visc. subsoln. v visc. supersolution.

If  $u_0 \leq v_0$ , then  $u(x,t) \leq v(x,t), \forall (x,t) \in \Sigma$ .

## Regularity

$$W(x,t) = \inf_{\overline{B}_{r-\delta}(x,t)} v(y,\tau)$$

$$Z(x,t) = \sup_{\overline{B}_r(x,t)} u(y,\tau)$$



Enough to show  $Z \leq W$  always, then  $\delta \rightarrow 0, r \rightarrow 0$

No contact in positivity set by Strong Max. Principle.

Also no free boundary contact ...

## Identification with Weak Solution

11

Weak soln. Back in density variable:  $\varphi \in C^{2,1}$

$$\int_{\Omega} \rho(t) \varphi(t) = \int_{\Omega} \rho(0) \varphi(0) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \rho \varphi_t + \rho^m \Delta \varphi$$

Have from e.g., (Bertsch-Hilhorst '86)

- 1).  $u^\varepsilon \downarrow u$ ,  $u_0^\varepsilon = u_0 + \varepsilon$ ,  $u$  weak soln.
- 2). Uniqueness of weak soln.

Comparison principle  $\Rightarrow$  uniqueness of viscosity soln.  
 $\Rightarrow$  identification of weak & visc. soln.

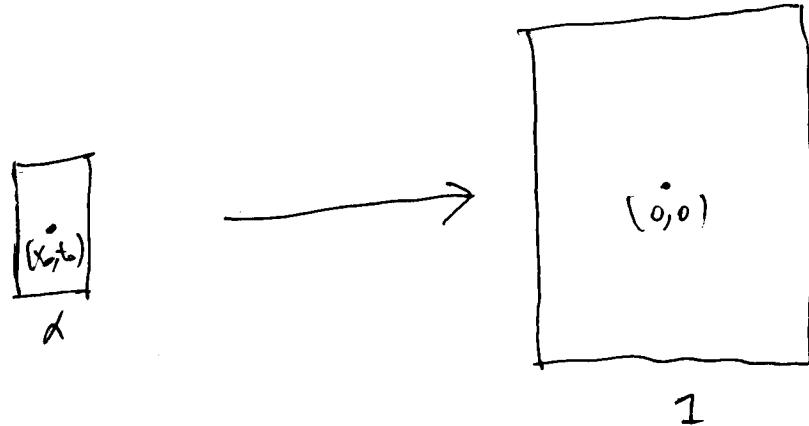
## Added Drift Term (joint work w. I. Kim)

$$\rho_t = \Delta(\rho^m) + \nabla \cdot (P \nabla \Phi) \quad (\text{PME-D})$$

$$u_t = (m-1)u\Delta u + |\nabla u|^2 + \nabla u \cdot \nabla \Phi + (m-1)u\Delta \Phi$$

Can do other things, but seems best:

Use hyperbolic scaling to suitably modify  
Barenblatt and traveling wave solutions.



$$u(x,t) \longmapsto v_1(x,t) = \alpha^{-1}u(\alpha(x-x_0), \alpha(t-t_0))$$

$u$  satisfies PME-D, then  $v_i$  satisfies ( $b = \nabla \Phi(x_0, t_0)$ )

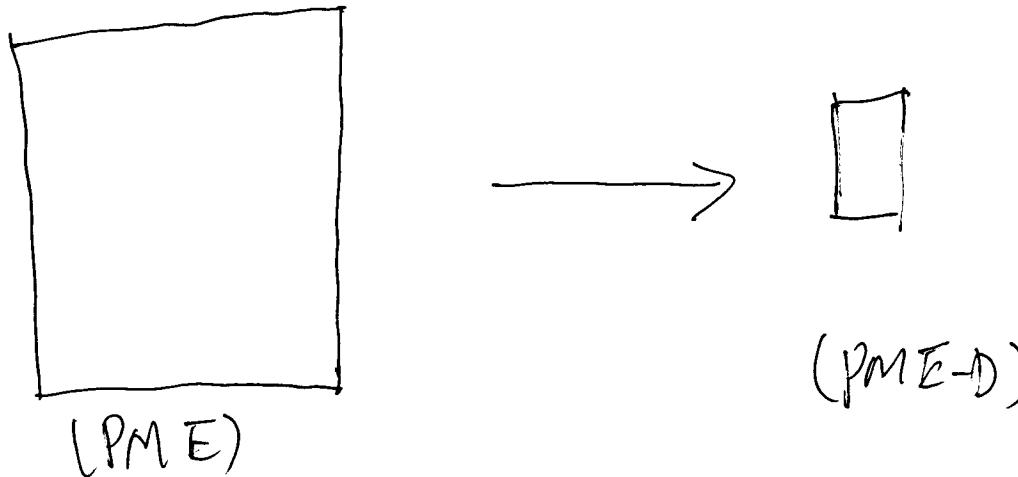
$$\begin{aligned} (v_i)_x &= (m-1)v_i \Delta v_i + |\nabla v_i|^2 + \vec{b} \cdot \nabla v_i \\ &\quad + O(\alpha) \nabla v_i + \alpha(m-1)v_i \Delta \Phi \end{aligned}$$

and  $v = v_i(x - \vec{b}t, t)$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} v_t &= (m-1)v \Delta v + |\nabla v|^2 + O(\alpha) \nabla v + O(\alpha)v \\ v_t &= (m-1)v \Delta v + |\nabla v|^2 + O(\alpha) \nabla v + O(\alpha)v \end{aligned}$$

key point:  $\Phi$ -dependence in higher order terms

To build test funcs, reverse:



Have, e.g.,

Lemma.  $u$  visc. soln of PME in  $B_{1+\epsilon}(0) \times (-1, 1)$

then  $\underline{u}(x, t) = \inf_{y \in B_{\alpha^{-1}t}} (x) e^{\alpha t} u(y, t)$

is subsoln of

$$(\underline{u})_t = (m-1) \underline{u} \Delta \underline{u} + |\nabla \underline{u}|^2 - \alpha |\nabla \underline{u}| - \alpha \underline{u}$$

Hence if  $H(x, t; A, \omega) = A(|x| + \omega t - B) +$  supersoln for PME,  
in cylinder of unit scale,

$$\tilde{H}(x, t) = \alpha \underline{H}(\alpha^{-1}(x - x_0 + \tilde{b}(t - t_0)), \alpha^{-1}(t - t_0); (\alpha))$$

is (classical free boundary) supersoln of PME-D  
in cylinder of  $\alpha$ -scale.

Following general steps as before, modifying  
defn. of visc. soln. appropriately, and using  
these test func for comparison, we obtain :

Thm. (Kim, L.) If viscosity solution for PME-D.  
and it coincides with the weak solution.

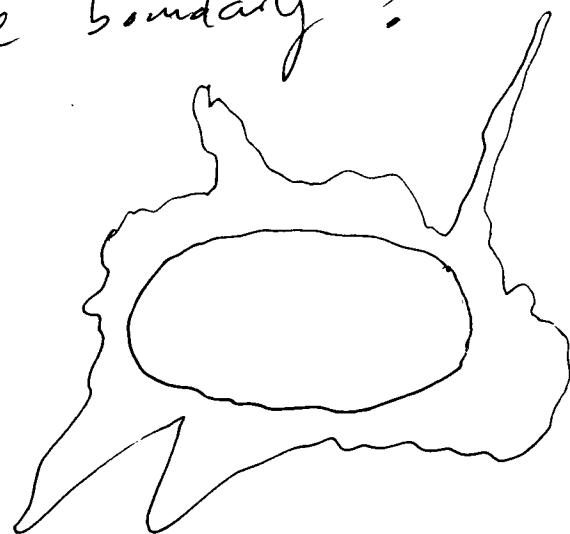
As application, we investigate free boundary  
convergence as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  ..

## Convergence of Free Boundary

Monotone  $\mathbb{E} \in C^2 : (\nabla \mathbb{E}) > 0$  except at  $X = X_0$  (minimum)

Know  $u_l \cdot (+) \rightarrow (C_s - \mathbb{E})_+ := u_\infty$  uniformly (BH '86)  
 $\downarrow$   
 determined by mass.

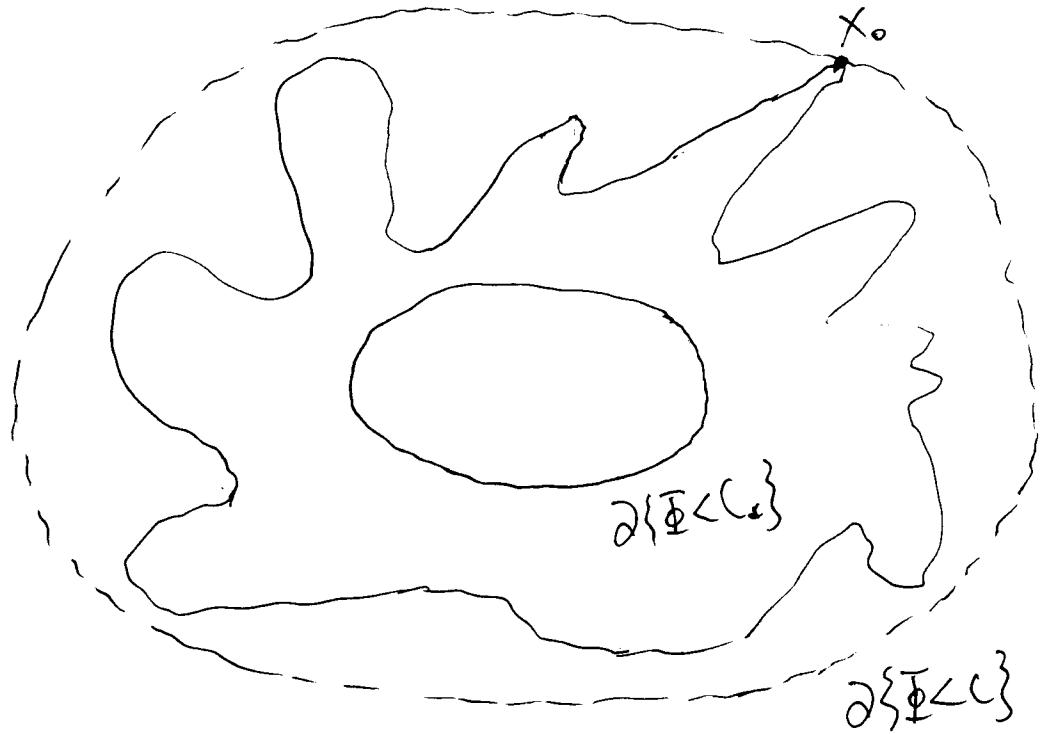
Free boundary ?



$\rightarrow$  tentacles as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  ?

Have  $P(u_\infty) \geq \lim P_t(u)$  by unif. convergence.

Need to show  $P_t(u) \rightarrow P(u_\infty)$  from outside.



- Fix  $T > 0$
- Comp. w/ supersolu  
⇒ cpt support
- C smallest s.t.  
 $\{\bar{z} < C\} \supseteq R_T(u)$   
 $:= \{u(\cdot; T) > 0\}$
- $\exists x_0 \in \partial\{\bar{z} < C\} \cap R_T(u)$ .

Basically want to show :

At some  $T + \varepsilon$ ,  $x_0$  has moved inwards ...

We have:



At  $x_0$ ,  
 $\nabla u$  and  $\nabla \Phi$   
are anti-parallel.

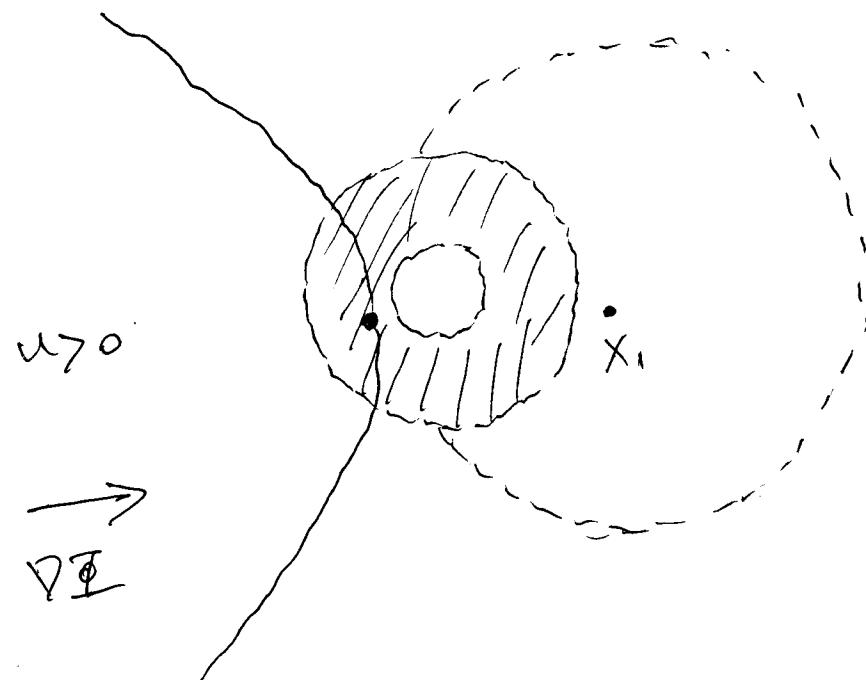
Recall

$$\nu_n = \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|} = |\nabla u| + \nabla \Phi \cdot \frac{\nabla u}{|\nabla u|}$$

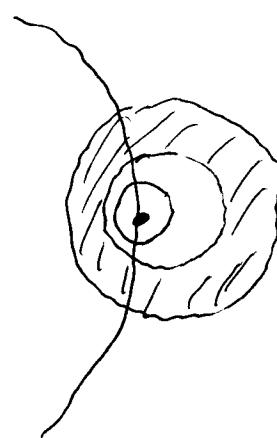
So formally, at  $x_0$ ,

$$\nu_n = |\nabla u| - |\nabla \Phi| < 0 \quad (|\nabla \Phi| \neq 0)$$

Rigorous,



Later:



- At time  $T^*$ ,  
fit under supersolution  $\tilde{H}$
  - By construction of  $\tilde{H}$ ,
- $$V_n(\tilde{H}) = \omega + \underbrace{\nabla \Phi \cdot \frac{\nabla H}{|\nabla H|}}_{\leq 0} + \underbrace{\alpha}_{\text{small}} < 0$$

$\omega < 0$   
( $\nabla \Phi$  pulls  $\Gamma_t(u)$  inwards)

- At time  $T^* + \varepsilon$ ,  
 $u = 0$  in  $B_\delta(x_0)$

## Rate of Convergence

Have  $L^1$ -rate of convergence from

Thm (Carrillo - Jüngel - Markowich - Toscani - Unterreiter, '01)

Suppose  $\Phi$  is convex. Then  $\exists$  constants s.t.

$$\int |u(x,t) - u_\infty(x)| dx \leq K e^{-\alpha t}$$

To quantify rate of free boundary convergence,

need to convert

$L^1$ -estimate  $\rightarrow$  pointwise estimate.

Use comparison + Hölder regularity

for weak solns...

We have

Thm (Kim, L.)

- If  $\underline{\mathbb{E}}$  is monotone, then  $P_T(u) \rightarrow P_\infty(u)$  in the Hausdorff distance.
- If  $\underline{\mathbb{E}}$  is convex, we have further that for  $T$  sufficiently large,  
 $P_T(u)$  is in the  $K e^{-\alpha t}$ -nbhd of  $P(u_\infty)$ .  
 Here  $K, \alpha$  depend on  $m, \sup u_0$ , and  $\underline{\mathbb{E}}$ .

Thank you