

Exercise 1: Gradient structures.

(a) Consider the diffusion equation $\dot{u} = \operatorname{div}(A(x, u(x))\nabla u)$ with Neumann boundary conditions, where $u(t, x) \geq 0$ is a density. Take any convex functions $\phi : [0, \infty[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (with $\phi''(u) > 0$) and define the energy $\mathcal{E}(u) = \int_{\Omega} \phi(u(x)) dx$. Show that there exists an Osager operator $\mathbb{K}(u)$ such that the above diffusion equation is generated by \mathcal{E} and \mathbb{K} .

(b) Consider the Reaction-Diffusion equation $\dot{u} = m\Delta u + k(4-u^2)$ for positive densities $u(t, x) > 0$. Construct $\mathbb{K}_{\text{RD}}(u)$ such that the equation is induced by \mathbb{K}_{RD} and $\mathcal{E}(u) = \int_{\Omega} (u \log(u/w) - u) dx$ for a suitable $w > 0$.

(c) Consider the PDE system for concentration $c(t, x) \geq 0$ and internal energy $e(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{c} &= m\Delta c + k(e-c^2) && \text{reaction-diffusion equation} \\ \dot{e} &= m\Delta e && \text{heat/energy equation} \end{aligned}$$

completed by Neumann boundary conditions for c and e . Consider the entropy functional

$$\mathcal{S}(c, e) = \int_{\Omega} S(c(x), e(x)) dx \quad \text{with } S(c, e) = \sigma(e) - c \log(c/\sqrt{e}) + c$$

with $\sigma''(e) \leq 0$. Show that S is a concave function and the \mathcal{S} increases along solutions of the PDE system.

Exercise 2: Homogenization. Set $\mathcal{J}_{\varepsilon}(u) = \int_0^{\ell} \frac{1}{2} u(x) \cdot G(x/\varepsilon) u(x) dx$ where G satisfies $G \in C_{\text{per}}^0(\mathbb{R}; \mathbb{R}_{\text{spd}}^{d \times d})$. Proof that the weak and strong Γ -limit in $L^2(0, \ell)$ is given by the harmonic and arithmetic mean, respectively.

Exercise 3: Γ -convergence and Mosco convergence. Consider two separable and reflexive Banach spaces \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Z} such that \mathbf{Z} is compactly embedded in \mathbf{X} . Assume that

$$(i) (\mathcal{E}_{\varepsilon})_{\varepsilon \in [0,1]} \text{ is equicoercive in } \mathbf{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad (ii) \mathcal{E}_{\varepsilon} \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \mathcal{E}_0 \text{ in } \mathbf{Z}.$$

Show that $\mathcal{E}_{\varepsilon} \xrightarrow{M} \mathcal{E}$ in \mathbf{X} .

Exercise 4: Sina Reichelt's lemma. Assume $(u_{\varepsilon})_{\varepsilon \in [0,1]}$ is bounded in $W^{1,p}(0, T; \mathbf{X})$ and that $u_{\varepsilon}(t) \rightarrow u_0(t)$ for all $t \in [0, T]$. For suitable dissipation potentials Ψ_{ε} show that $\Psi_{\varepsilon} \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \Psi_0$ implies the liminf estimate

$$\int_0^T \Psi_0(\dot{u}_0(t)) dt \leq \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^T \Psi_{\varepsilon}(\dot{u}_{\varepsilon}(t)) dt.$$

Hint: Approximate \dot{u}_{ε} by piecewise affine functions.