

Improved regularity for the stochastic fast diffusion equation*

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Abstract

We prove that the solution to the singular-degenerate stochastic fast-diffusion equation with parameter $m \in (0, 1)$, with zero Dirichlet boundary conditions on a bounded domain in any spatial dimension, and driven by linear multiplicative Wiener noise, exhibits improved regularity in the Sobolev space $W_0^{1,m+1}$ for initial data in L^2 .

Keywords: stochastic singular-degenerate diffusion equation; stochastic partial differential equation; stochastic fast diffusion equation; improved Sobolev regularity; linear multiplicative Wiener noise.

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1 Introduction

In this work, we establish higher order regularity of the strong solutions to the stochastic fast diffusion equation perturbed by linear multiplicative Wiener noise. The equations are set on a bounded domain $\mathcal{O} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ with sufficiently smooth boundary, and formulated with zero Dirichlet boundary conditions. Our approach is independent of the space dimension.

The singular-degenerate stochastic fast diffusion equation, $m \in (0, 1)$, until the time-horizon $T > 0$, is given by

$$\begin{cases} du(t) = \Delta \left(u^{[m]}(t) \right) dt + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} g_k u(t) d\beta_k(t), & t \in (0, T], \quad \text{in } \mathcal{O}, \\ u(t) = 0, & t \in (0, T], \quad \text{on } \partial\mathcal{O}, \\ u(0) = u_0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

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where we employ the notation $x^{[m]} := |x|^{m-1}x$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $m \in (0, 1)$. The stochastic driving term is given by an independent family of standard one-dimensional Brownian motions $\{\beta_k(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$ supported by a filtered probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \mathbb{P})$ satisfying the usual assumptions of completeness and right-continuity. The noise coefficients g_k , $k \in \mathbb{N}$, are assumed to satisfy

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \|g_k\|_{C^1(\overline{\mathcal{O}})}^2 =: C_g < \infty. \tag{1.2}$$

Denote $H := H_0^{-1}(\mathcal{O})$, that is, the topological dual space of $H_0^1(\mathcal{O}) = W_0^{1,2}(\mathcal{O})$. Furthermore, denote the $L^2(\mathcal{O})$ -norm by $\|\cdot\|_2$ and the $H_0^{-1}(\mathcal{O})$ -norm by $\|\cdot\|_H$. For $v \in H$, we introduce the following notation for the noise coefficient,

$$B(v)(h) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} g_k v(e_k, h)_H, \quad h \in H,$$

where $e_k \in H$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$ are the elements of an orthonormal basis of H . Then $B : H \rightarrow L_2(H, H)$ is Lipschitz continuous, i.e.,

$$\|B(x) - B(y)\|_{L_2(H, H)}^2 \leq C_g \|x - y\|_H^2, \quad x, y \in H,$$

see [19, Section 3]. Here, $L_2(H, H)$ denotes the space of linear Hilbert-Schmidt operators from H to H . We also obtain

$$\|B(x)\|_{L_2(H, L^2(\mathcal{O}))}^2 \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \|g_k\|_{C^0(\overline{\mathcal{O}})}^2 \|x\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O})}^2, \quad x \in L^2(\mathcal{O}).$$

The stochastic fast diffusion equation is closely related to the stochastic porous medium equation, see [7] and the references therein. Several properties of the solutions to stochastic fast diffusion equations have been studied, for instance, finite time extinction [6, 17], random attractors [16], invariance of subspaces [24], ergodicity and uniqueness of invariant measures [21, 25, 27, 4], convergence of solutions [11, 22], under general pseudodifferential operators [29], and regularity [19]. The limiting case $m = 0$ exhibits two particular frameworks, depending on how one interprets the passage to the limit for $m \rightarrow 0$. The multivalued case with a step-function nonlinearity is related to models of self-organized criticality and has been first studied in [5, 8, 3, 17] and is still an active topic of research [1, 26]. The logarithmic diffusion case has been studied in [2, 10]. The case $m \in (-1, 0)$ is treated in [9].

For an initial datum $u_0 \in L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_0, \mathbb{P}; H)$ and all spatial dimensions $d \in \mathbb{N}$, it is known that there exists a unique solution $\{u(t)\}_{t \in [0, T]}$ in the sense of stochastic variational inequalities (SVI) [19, Definition 2.1] to (1.1) in the space $L^2(\Omega; C([0, T], H))$ by [19, Theorem 2.3], which is also a unique generalized strong solution in the sense of [19, Definition A.1] by [19, Theorem 3.1]. At the same place, for initial data $u_0 \in L^{m+1}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_0, \mathbb{P}; L^{m+1}(\mathcal{O})) \cap L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_0, \mathbb{P}; H)$, the authors obtain that u is in fact a unique pathwise strong solution in the sense of [19, Definition A.1], such that

$$u \in C([0, T]; L^{m+1}(\Omega; L^{m+1}(\mathcal{O}))). \tag{1.3}$$

Stronger notions of solutions and non-negativity of solutions are discussed in [7, Section 3.6], where the authors obtain $u^{[m]} \in L^2([0, T]; H_0^1(\mathcal{O}))$ and $\frac{d}{dt} u \in L^2([0, T]; H)$ for $d = 1, 2, 3$, where $m \in [\frac{1}{5}, 1]$ if $d = 3$.

Our main result is given as follows.

Theorem 1.1. *Assume that (1.2) holds. Then the unique strong solution u to equation (1.1) with initial datum $u_0 \in L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_0, \mathbb{P}; L^2(\mathcal{O}))$ satisfies*

$$u \in L^{m+1}(\Omega \times [0, T]; W_0^{1,m+1}(\mathcal{O})) \cap L^\infty([0, T]; L^2(\Omega; L^2(\mathcal{O}))).$$

Note that also

$$u \in C([0, T]; L^{m+1}(\Omega; L^{m+1}(\mathcal{O}))) \cap L^2(\Omega; C([0, T], H))$$

by the results of Gess and Röckner [19].

Our main idea is based on the observation that formally,

$$\Delta \left(u^{[m]} \right) = \operatorname{div} \left(\nabla \left(u^{[m]} \right) \right) = m \operatorname{div} \left(|u|^{m-1} \nabla u \right), \tag{1.4}$$

so the nonlinear drift is of the form $u \mapsto \operatorname{div}(A(u)\nabla u)$, that is, a divergence-form quasi-linear partial differential operator. The structure of the drift operator resembles the quasi-linear operators in [14, 28], however, we would like to point out that their result requires strong ellipticity of the nonlinear coefficient A , whereas $A(u) = m|u|^{m-1}$ becomes singular for $u = 0$ in our case. We will justify the formal chain rule (1.4) by a choice of suitable approximations for the nonlinearity $u^{[m]}$.

For the degenerate drift case, there are several strong regularity results for the stochastic porous medium equation, that is (1.1) with $m > 1$, as in this case one can treat the second order terms occurring in Itô’s formula more directly, see [15]. Recently, optimal regularity for the stochastic porous medium equation in one spatial dimension with multiplicative space-time white noise was obtained using the so-called Stroock-Varopoulos inequality by Dareiotis, Gerencsér and Gess [13], see [18, 20, 23] for further results proving improved regularity for porous media equations. We note that the application of the Stroock-Varopoulos inequality requires $m > 1$ and cannot be applied in our case.

Furthermore, we would like to point out that our upper estimate contains a factor $m^{-\frac{m+1}{2}}$, so our argument does not carry over to the singular multi-valued case $m = 0$. Looking closer at our proof below, one observes that for $m = 0$, we may obtain an upper bound containing a term $\frac{1}{\delta} \|u\|_{L^3(\mathcal{O})}^3$, with $\delta \rightarrow 0$, so even the improved integrability results from [5] in spatial dimensions $d = 1, 2, 3$ cannot resolve this issue. A result of improved regularity in this limiting case remains an open problem.

2 Proof of the main result

Let us introduce a regularization for the nonlinearity $r \mapsto r^{[m]}$, for $\delta \geq 0$, let

$$\phi_\delta(r) := (r^2 + \delta)^{\frac{m-1}{2}} r,$$

where $\phi_\delta \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ for $\delta > 0$ with derivative

$$\phi'_\delta(r) = (r^2 + \delta)^{\frac{m-3}{2}} (\delta + mr^2) \geq 0.$$

Now, we need to regularize the original equation (1.1) with parameter $\varepsilon > 0$, $\delta \geq 0$

$$\begin{cases} du_{\varepsilon,\delta}(t) = \Delta(\phi_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}(t)) + \varepsilon u_{\varepsilon,\delta}(t)) dt + B(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}(t)) dW(t), & t \in (0, T], \text{ in } \mathcal{O}, \\ u_{\varepsilon,\delta}(t) = 0, & t \in (0, T], \text{ on } \partial\mathcal{O}, \\ u_{\varepsilon,\delta}(0) = u_0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}. \end{cases} \tag{2.1}$$

Here, $\{W(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$ denotes the cylindrical Wiener process in H on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \mathbb{P})$, constructed with respect to the $\{\beta_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ introduced in the description of the equation (1.1) and the orthonormal basis $\{e_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ of H .

By [19, Proof of Theorem 3.1], see also [22, Theorem 6.4], we get that there exist unique solutions $u_{\varepsilon,\delta}$ to (2.1) for any $\varepsilon > 0, \delta \geq 0$, and we obtain the following weak convergences (weak* convergence, respectively) for a subsequence $\{\delta_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \delta_n = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} u_{\varepsilon,\delta_n} &\rightharpoonup u_\varepsilon && \text{in } L^2(\Omega \times [0, T]; H_0^1(\mathcal{O})) \text{ as } && n \rightarrow \infty, \\ u_{\varepsilon,\delta_n} &\rightharpoonup^* u_\varepsilon && \text{in } L^2(\Omega; L^\infty([0, T]; L^2(\mathcal{O}))) \text{ as } && n \rightarrow \infty, \\ \Delta\phi_{\delta_n}(u_{\varepsilon,\delta_n}) &\rightharpoonup \Delta u_\varepsilon^{[m]} && \text{in } L^2(\Omega \times [0, T]; H) \text{ as } && n \rightarrow \infty, \\ u_\varepsilon &\rightharpoonup u && \text{in } L^2(\Omega; C([0, T]; H)) \text{ as } && \varepsilon \searrow 0, \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

where u is the unique solution to (1.1) in the sense of [19, Definition A.1]. On the other hand, $u_{\varepsilon,\delta} \in L^2(\Omega \times [0, T]; H_0^1(\mathcal{O}))$, for any $\varepsilon > 0, \delta \geq 0$.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. We recall that we have assumed (1.2) to hold. Note that by the chain rule for Sobolev functions, as $\phi_\delta \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ for $\delta > 0$ (composing ϕ_δ with a smooth cut-off function if necessary), we get that for all $v \in H_0^1(\mathcal{O})$,

$$\nabla(\phi_\delta(v)) = \phi'_\delta(v)\nabla v.$$

In the sequel, let us fix $t \in [0, T]$. By Itô's formula [12, Theorem 4.32] for the functional

$$(v, t) \mapsto \|v\|_2^2 e^{-Kt}, \quad v \in L^2(\mathcal{O}), \quad t \in [0, T],$$

for some $K \geq 0$, and by integration by parts in \mathcal{O} , we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\|u_{\varepsilon,\delta}(t)\|_2^2 e^{-tK} &= \mathbb{E}\|u_0\|_2^2 - 2\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} e^{-Ks} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) + \varepsilon) (\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta} \cdot \nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) \, d\xi \, ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^\infty \mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} e^{-Ks} |g_k u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 \, d\xi \, ds - K\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} e^{-Ks} |u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 \, d\xi \, ds \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}\|u_0\|_2^2 - 2\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} e^{-Ks} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) + \varepsilon) |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 \, d\xi \, ds \\ &\quad + (C_g - K)\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} e^{-Ks} |u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 \, d\xi \, ds \end{aligned}$$

For notation purposes, we have dropped the dependency on the time $s \in [0, t]$ and the space variable $\xi \in \mathcal{O}$ for the functions $u_{\varepsilon,\delta}$ under the integrals. This convention will be kept throughout the arguments below.

Choosing $K = C_g$, we obtain for $\varepsilon, \delta \in (0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\|u_{\varepsilon,\delta}(t)\|_2^2 + 2\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) + \varepsilon) |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 \, d\xi \, ds \\ \leq \mathbb{E}\|u_0\|_2^2 e^{C_g t}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

We shall use this estimate to get the regularity of the solution as follows. We first rewrite for $\beta > 0$,

$$\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^{m+1} \, d\xi \, ds = \mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}))^\beta |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^{m+1} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}))^{-\beta} \, d\xi \, ds,$$

and use Hölder's inequality for $p = \frac{2}{m+1}$ and $q = \frac{2}{1-m}$.

We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}))^\beta |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^{m+1} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}))^{-\beta} d\xi ds \\ & \leq \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} ((\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}))^\beta |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^{m+1})^{\frac{2}{m+1}} d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}))^{-\beta \frac{2}{1-m}} d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{1-m}{2}} \\ & = \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}))^{\frac{2\beta}{m+1}} |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}))^{-\frac{2\beta}{1-m}} d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{1-m}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

If we choose $\beta = \frac{m+1}{2}$, we get from the previous computations that for $\varepsilon, \delta \in (0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^{m+1} d\xi ds \\ & \leq \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} \phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (\phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}))^{-\frac{m+1}{1-m}} d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{1-m}{2}} \\ & = \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} \phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (u_{\varepsilon,\delta}^2 + \delta)^{\frac{(m-3)(m+1)}{2(m-1)}} (\delta + mu_{\varepsilon,\delta}^2)^{-\frac{m+1}{1-m}} d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{1-m}{2}} \\ & \leq \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} \phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (u_{\varepsilon,\delta}^2 + \delta)^{\frac{(m-3)(m+1)}{2(m-1)}} (m\delta + mu_{\varepsilon,\delta}^2)^{-\frac{m+1}{1-m}} d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{1-m}{2}} \tag{2.4} \\ & \leq \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} \phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times C(m) \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (u_{\varepsilon,\delta}^2 + \delta)^{\frac{(m-3)(m+1)+2m+2}{2(m-1)}} d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{1-m}{2}} \\ & \leq \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} \phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times C(m) \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (u_{\varepsilon,\delta}^2 + \delta)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{1-m}{2}} \\ & \leq \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} \phi'_\delta(u_{\varepsilon,\delta}) |\nabla u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^2 d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2}} \\ & \quad \times C(m) \left(\mathbb{E} \int_0^t \int_{\mathcal{O}} (|u_{\varepsilon,\delta}|^{m+1} + \delta^{\frac{m+1}{2}}) d\xi ds \right)^{\frac{1-m}{2}}, \end{aligned}$$

where $C(m) := m^{-\frac{m+1}{2}}$. The first factor is bounded by (2.3) and the second factor is bounded by (1.3), where the bounds do not depend on $\varepsilon, \delta \in (0, 1]$, compare with [19, Theorem 3.1, Lemma 3.3 and the respective proofs]. By (2.3) or (2.2), we know that

$$u_{\varepsilon,\delta_n} \in L^2(\Omega \times [0, T]; H_0^1(\mathcal{O})), \quad \varepsilon > 0, \delta \geq 0. \tag{2.5}$$

By (2.2), and the fact that

$$L^2(\Omega \times [0, T]; H_0^1(\mathcal{O})) \subset L^{m+1}(\Omega \times [0, T]; W_0^{1,m+1}(\mathcal{O})) =: X,$$

we may take the limit $n \rightarrow \infty$, and, in virtue of the uniform estimate in δ from [19, Theorem 3.1], obtain that (2.4) holds for u_ε , $\varepsilon \in (0, 1]$. Also, as the bounds used above are independent of $\varepsilon \in (0, 1]$, so we get that the family $\{u_\varepsilon\}_{\varepsilon>0}$ is uniformly bounded in the reflexive Banach space X , where the Sobolev trace is seen to be zero on $\partial\mathcal{O}$ $\mathbb{P} \otimes dt$ -a.e. by (2.5). Thus, we can extract a weakly convergent subsequence $\{u_{\varepsilon_k}\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_k = 0$ with a weak limit $\tilde{u} \in X$. By the weak convergence (2.2) $u_\varepsilon \rightharpoonup u$ as $\varepsilon \searrow 0$ in the Hilbert space $L^2(\Omega \times [0, T]; H)$, we obtain easily by duality arguments that $u = \tilde{u}$ $\mathbb{P} \otimes dt$ -a.e. in $W_0^{1,m+1}(\mathcal{O})$.

The uniform bound of $\{u_{\varepsilon,\delta}\}_{\varepsilon,\delta \in (0,1]}$ in $L^\infty([0, T]; L^2(\Omega; L^2(\mathcal{O})))$ follows from (2.3), where we can obtain $u \in L^\infty([0, T]; L^2(\Omega; L^2(\mathcal{O})))$ by similar weak convergence arguments. \square

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