

Feeble Fish in Time-Dependent Waters and Homogenization of the G-equation

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Abstract

We study the following control problem. A fish with bounded aquatic locomotion speed swims in fast waters. Can this fish, under reasonable assumptions, get to a desired destination? It can, even if the flow is time dependent. Moreover, given a prescribed sufficiently large time t , it can be there at exactly the time t . The major difference from our previous work is the time dependence of the flow. We also give an application to homogenization of the G-equation.

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1 Introduction

Let $V = V_t$ be a time-dependent vector field in \mathbb{R}^n , $n \geq 2$. We assume that $V_t(x)$ is continuous, uniformly bounded, and locally Lipschitz in x . We often abuse the language and refer to V_t as a *flow*.

DEFINITION 1.1. An absolutely continuous path $\gamma: [t_0, t_1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be *admissible* if

$$\left| \frac{d}{dt} \gamma(t) - V_t(\gamma(t)) \right| \leq 1$$

for a.e. $t \in [t_0, t_1]$.

Let $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0, t_1 \in \mathbb{R}$, $t_0 \leq t_1$. We say that a point (x_1, t_1) in space-time is *reachable from* (x_0, t_0) if there exists an admissible path $\gamma: [t_0, t_1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ with $\gamma(t_0) = x_0$ and $\gamma(t_1) = x_1$.

If (x_1, t_1) is reachable from (x_0, t_0) , we also say that x_1 is *reachable from* (x_0, t_0) *at time* t_1 . In what follows we usually assume that the initial conditions are $x_0 = 0$ and $t_0 = 0$. For brevity, we say that x is *reachable at time* t if (x, t) is reachable from $(0, 0)$.

We suggest the following naive interpretation of our setup. The vector field V_t is the velocity field of waters in an ocean. Fish living in the ocean have bounded aquatic locomotive speed. We normalize the data so that the maximal speed of the fish is 1, and the speed of waters can be much larger. Definition 1.1 formalizes the condition that a fish starting its journey from x_0 at time t_0 can control its motion so that it finds itself at x_1 at exactly time t_1 .

A similar problem was considered in [5, 10] for time-independent vector fields V and a weaker reachability result: the fish is not required to arrive at its destination exactly at a prescribed time.

Handling time dependence of V_t required considerable effort and actually forced us to prove a stronger result. This reachability problem is directly related to the G-equation, which in particular models combustion processes in the presence of turbulence. Therefore another substantial part of this paper is an application to homogenization of the G-equation. We address this application in Section 6.

Our main result, see Theorem 1.2 below, states that under natural assumptions on V_t every point is reachable at all sufficiently large times. The assumptions on V_t are the following:

- (i) The field $V_t(x)$ is bounded:

$$M := 1 + \sup_{t,x} |V_t(x)| < \infty$$

and is locally Lipschitz in x .

- (ii) The flow is incompressible: $\operatorname{div} V_t = 0$ for all t .
- (iii) Small mean drift:

$$(1.1) \quad \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}, x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\| \frac{1}{L^n} \int_{[0,L]^n} V_t(x+y) dy \right\| = 0.$$

All assumptions (i)–(iii) are essential. First, the flow might have a sink towards which the flow runs faster than the maximum possible speed the fish can swim. This issue is easily resolved by assumption (ii) that the flow is incompressible. Next, the velocity of the flow might point in one direction and again it may have speed greater than the maximal speed of the fish. This obstruction is resolved by condition (iii) of small mean drift on the large scale. Finally, the flow could be so strong that the fish is carried to infinity in finite time. Condition (i) rules out this possibility. Condition (i) is also a technical assumption that is needed to be able to formulate the problem formally.

It was a surprise to us that, under these modest assumptions, the fish can reach every destination point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Furthermore, there is some t_x such that if $t \geq t_x$, the fish can get to x at exactly time t . We also prove an asymptotically optimal bounds for the reach time, namely t_x grows no faster than $|x|$ as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$.

Now we are in a position to formulate our main result.

THEOREM 1.2. *For every flow V_t satisfying (i)–(iii) above and every $a > 1$, there exists $C > 0$ such that for all $x_0, x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, (x, t) is reachable from (x_0, t_0) for every $t \geq t_0 + a|x - x_0| + C$.*

Remark 1.3. The constant C in Theorem 1.2 depends on a and parameters of the flow. One can check that C can be determined in terms of a , the parameter M from (i), and the rate of convergence of the mean drift to zero in (iii).

The small mean drift assumption (iii) may be relaxed at the expense of a weaker estimate on the reach time. Namely, we have the following:

Corollary 1.4. Let V_t be a flow satisfying (i), (ii), and

$$(1.2) \quad \Delta := \inf_{L > 0} \sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}, x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\| \frac{1}{L^n} \int_{[0, L]^n} V_t(x + y) dy \right\| < 1.$$

Then for every $a > \frac{1}{1-\Delta}$ there exists $C > 0$ such that for all $x_0, x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, (x, t) is reachable from (x_0, t_0) for every $t \geq t_0 + a|x - x_0| + C$.

The gist of the proof of Theorem 1.2 is: Fix a flow V_t and assume without loss of generality that $x_0 = 0$ and $t_0 = 0$. For $t, r > 0$ let \mathcal{R}_t denote the set of points reachable at time t , and I_r the cube $[-r, r]^n$ in \mathbb{R}^n . Our goal is to show that, for every fixed r and for all sufficiently large t the set \mathcal{R}_t contains I_r . We do this analyzing the volume of the intersection $\mathcal{R}_t \cap I_r$ as a function of t .

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we introduce our notation and main tools. In particular, there we discuss isoperimetric inequalities, co-area formula, slicing, and certain regularity results such as rectifiability of the boundary of the reachable set. Several important facts about BV functions can be found in the Appendix (pp. 33 ff.). In Section 3 we prove Theorem 1.2 and Corollary 1.4. Sections 4 and 5 provide auxiliary estimates needed in the proof of Theorem 1.2. In Section 6 we give an application of Theorem 1.2 to the theory of random homogenization of the G-equation.

Some Further Directions

In a discussion with the first author, Leonid Polterovich suggested to consider a similar problem where the fish is not a point but rather a region (think of an amoeba or a jellyfish, for instance). Leonid suggested the following symplectic formulation. Let us say we are in \mathbb{R}^2 and the flow is Hamiltonian. This, of course, means that the area of the fish does not change but its shape may change. The fish has a fixed amount of Hofer's energy it can spend to change the flow. In two dimensions Hofer's energy is

$$E(u) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} (\psi(x, t)) - \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} (\psi(x, t)) \right] dt,$$

where $\psi(x, t)$ is the streamfunction (Hamiltonian) of the flow $u(x, t)$. Now the problem in question is as follows: Initially the fish sits in some ball, and it wants to get to another (destination ball) of the same size. Leonid has made the following

observation, which at first sounds very counterintuitive. If the flow is constant (possibly very fast, no small mean drift), the fish can get from any ball to a ball of the same size located in the direction opposite to the flow and very far. Using the same amount of Hofer's energy, the fish can swim against an arbitrarily fast flow arbitrarily far away!

We do not include a formal proof here. Here is an intuitive description. Assume that the fish has M worth of Hofer's energy, where M depends on the radius of the initial ball. It spends $M/3$ of energy to stretch itself into a needle fish, or perhaps like an eel. By that time, the flow has carried the fish far away just in the opposite direction of where it wants to arrive. But now the fish can swim quite fast upstream (like eels do). Then it spends another $M/3$ of energy to go back, through the ball where it wants eventually to end its journey, to a carefully chosen place well behind the destination ball. After that, the flow carries the fish to where it dreams to arrive to, and the fish spends the remaining $M/3$ of energy to reassemble itself back into a round disc shape at exactly the time when the flow brings it to its destination.

Many open problems are left. First of all, even in dimension 2, this argument works for a constant flow only. Of course, it suggests that much more is possible, but in general the flow can have diverging streams, turbulence that may wrinkle the shape of the fish, etc., and even worse in dimension four. There may be phenomena related to nonsqueezing and such. We did not invest enough time into thinking about this.

Furthermore, a rather challenging goal is to find a more physical formulation for a fish which is a "more material" region of changing shape (and its volume is almost conserved). The first naive idea that comes to one's mind is to impose restrictions on the potential energy of the membrane (to keep the amoeba in one piece, at least) and on kinetic energy (for it is still "feeble"). We have not made any progress in this direction so far.

2 Notation and Preliminaries

Let $I_r = [-r, r]^n$ denote the cube with edge length $2r$ centered at 0, $B_r(x)$ the euclidean ball of radius r centered at $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and $v_n = |B_1(0)|$ the volume of the unit ball in \mathbb{R}^n . Occasionally we use $r = \infty$, with the convention that $I_\infty = B_\infty(x) = \mathbb{R}^n$.

For $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, and $t \geq 0$, we denote by $\mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0)$ the set of points reachable from (x_0, t_0) at time $t_0 + t$; see Definition 1.1. For brevity, let $\mathcal{R}_t = \mathcal{R}_t(0, 0)$.

The volume of $\mathcal{R}_t \cap I_r$ is denoted by $w(r, t)$:

$$(2.1) \quad w(r, t) = |\mathcal{R}_t \cap I_r| = \int_{I_r} \chi_{\mathcal{R}_t}(x) dx,$$

where $\chi_{\mathcal{R}_t}$ is the characteristic function of the reachable set \mathcal{R}_t . The volume $w(r, t)$ is the main quantity of interest.

Recall that the maximum control in Definition 1.1 is bounded by 1. Hence $|x - x_0| \leq Mt$ if x is reachable from (x_0, t_0) at time $t_0 + t$, where M is defined in condition (i) above. Therefore

$$(2.2) \quad \mathcal{R}_t \subset B_{tM}(0) \subset I_{tM}$$

for all $t > 0$. Hence $\mathcal{R}_t \cap I_r = \mathcal{R}_t$ if $r \geq tM$.

We now define $s(r, t) \geq 0$, the perimeter of \mathcal{R}_t inside the cube I_r . As we discuss below, $s(r, t)$ is essentially the $(n - 1)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure of the set $\partial\mathcal{R}_t \cap I_r$. The formal definition is based on the notion of total variation for BV functions; see the Appendix, in particular, Definition A.3. Namely,

$$s(r, t) := P(\mathcal{R}_t, I_r^\circ) = \text{Var}(\chi_{\mathcal{R}_t}, I_r^\circ),$$

where I_r° is the interior of I_r . Here the last expression is the variation of the characteristic function $\chi_{\mathcal{R}_t}$ in I_r° ; see Definition A.1.

Denote

$$D_r(t) := \mathcal{R}_t \cap \partial I_r.$$

The following lemma estimates the rate of change of the volume of \mathcal{R}_t . It is the main technical tool in our proof.

Lemma 2.1. For any fixed $r > 0$,

$$(2.3) \quad \frac{d}{dt}w(r, t) \geq s(r, t) - \text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t))$$

in the sense of distributions (with respect to t), where $\text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t))$ is the flux of the vector field V_t through the $(n - 1)$ -dimensional “surface” $D_r(t) \subset \partial I_r$. Formally $\text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t))$ is defined by

$$\text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t)) = \int_{D_r(t)} V_t(x) \cdot \nu(x) dx,$$

where $\nu(x)$ is the outer normal to the boundary of the cube I_r at a point $x \in \partial I_r$.

In the case $r = \infty$ we also have (2.3), in the form

$$(2.4) \quad \frac{d}{dt}w(\infty, t) \geq s(\infty, t).$$

Remark 2.2. The inequalities (2.3) and (2.4) are easy to verify in the case when V_t is smooth and the boundary of \mathcal{R}_t is a smooth hypersurface transverse to ∂I_r . In fact, in this case the inequalities turn into equalities. Indeed, for a small $\delta > 0$ the change from \mathcal{R}_t to $\mathcal{R}_{t+\delta}$ is approximately the composition of two operations: First move the reachable set time δ along the flow and then replace the resulting set by its δ -neighborhood. The first operation does not change the volume of the set since the flow is incompressible. However, the volume of the intersection with I_r changes; it is reduced by the amount of the flow that leaks out through the boundary of I_r . This amount is approximately $\delta \cdot \text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t))$. On the second step, taking the δ -neighborhood increases the volume by approximately $\delta \cdot s(r, t)$, since $s(r, t)$

is the area of the relevant part of the boundary of \mathcal{R}_t . Passing to the limit as $\delta \rightarrow 0$ one obtains equalities in (2.3) and (2.4).

This type of argument can be carried over to the general case if one shows that \mathcal{R}_t has a rectifiable topological boundary (compare with [5, §2]). This approach would be quite technical for a time-dependent flow. To avoid these technicalities, we use another formalization of the notion of surface area and prove Lemma 2.1 with appropriate machinery.

PROOF OF LEMMA 2.1. The relation (2.4) follows from (2.3) and (2.2). To prove (2.3), consider a family of functions $u^\varepsilon: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\varepsilon > 0$, defined by

$$(2.5) \quad u^\varepsilon(x, t) = \sup\{e^{-|y|/\varepsilon} \mid y \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ is such that } x \in \mathcal{R}_t(y, 0)\}.$$

Equivalently, one can set $u_0^\varepsilon(x) = e^{-|x|/\varepsilon}$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and define

$$(2.6) \quad u^\varepsilon(x, t) = \sup\{u_0^\varepsilon(\gamma(0)) \mid \gamma: [0, t] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \text{ is an admissible path with } \gamma(t) = x\};$$

see Definition 1.1. We need two properties of u^ε : For every fixed $\varepsilon > 0$, the function u^ε is locally Lipschitz and satisfies the following partial differential equation:

$$(2.7) \quad \partial_t u^\varepsilon + V_t \cdot \nabla u^\varepsilon = |\nabla u^\varepsilon|$$

for a.e. $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t > 0$, where ∇u^ε denotes the gradient of u^ε with respect to the first argument. The equation (2.7) is called the *G-equation* associated to V_t .

The above properties are not hard to verify directly. Alternatively, one can prove them using the theory of viscosity solutions, as follows. Equation (2.7) is a Hamilton-Jacobi equation with the Hamiltonian

$$H(t, x, p) = -|p| + V_t \cdot p$$

and the corresponding Lagrangian

$$L(t, x, q) = \inf_{p \in \mathbb{R}^n} [p \cdot q - H(t, x, p)] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } |q - V_t| \leq 1, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By, for example, [7, theorem 7.2], the function u^ε defined by (2.6) is a viscosity solution of (2.7) with the initial data $u^\varepsilon(x, 0) = u_0^\varepsilon$. For a definition, motivations, and derivation of viscosity solutions for optimal control problems, see [2]. Since u_0^ε is bounded and uniformly continuous and V_t is locally Lipschitz and bounded, the viscosity solution $u^\varepsilon(x, t)$ is locally Lipschitz (by lemma 9.2 in [4]). Furthermore, a viscosity solution satisfies the equation whenever it is differentiable (see, e.g., proposition 1.9 on p. 31 in [2]). Hence by Rademacher's theorem, u^ε satisfies (2.7) almost everywhere.

Formula (2.5) implies that $u^\varepsilon(x, t) \downarrow \chi_{\mathcal{R}_t}(x)$ as $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$, where $\chi_{\mathcal{R}_t}$ is the characteristic function of \mathcal{R}_t . Hence

$$\int_{I_r} u^\varepsilon(x, t) dx \rightarrow w(r, t)$$

and

$$\text{flux}(V_t u^\varepsilon, \partial I_r) \rightarrow \text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t))$$

as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. Integrating the G-equation over I_r and taking into account the incompressibility of V_t , we obtain that

$$\partial_t \int_{I_r} u^\varepsilon dx + \text{flux}(V_t u^\varepsilon, \partial I_r) = \int_{I_r} |\nabla u^\varepsilon| dx.$$

Hence for any t_1 and t_2 we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \text{Var}(u^\varepsilon, I_r^\circ) dt \\ &= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \int_{I_r} |\nabla u^\varepsilon| dx dt \\ &= \int_{I_r} u^\varepsilon(x, t_2) dx - \int_{I_r} u^\varepsilon(x, t_1) dx + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \text{flux}(V_t u^\varepsilon, \partial I_r) dt. \end{aligned}$$

Note that this quantity is bounded by a constant independent of ε since $|u^\varepsilon| \leq 1$ and $|V_t| \leq M$. By Fatou's lemma and the lower semicontinuity of the total variation (see, e.g., remark 3.5 in [1]) it follows that

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} s(r, t) dt \equiv \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \text{Var}(\chi_{\mathcal{R}_t}, I_r^\circ) dt \leq \liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \text{Var}(u^\varepsilon, I_r^\circ) dx dt.$$

Thus

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} s(r, t) dt \leq w(r, t_2) - w(r, t_1) + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t)) dt.$$

This inequality means that (2.3) holds in the sense of distributions. \square

Remark 2.3. Since $\text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t))$ is bounded for every fixed r and $s(r, t) \geq 0$, Lemma 2.1 implies that $w(r, \cdot)$ is the sum of a Lipschitz function and a non-decreasing function. Therefore, for almost all $t > 0$ the derivative $\frac{d}{dt} w(r, t)$ exists and satisfies (2.3).

By (2.4) the perimeter $P(\mathcal{R}_t) = s(\infty, t)$ is finite for almost all $t > 0$. This and the De Giorgi theorem A.5 imply that the perimeter of \mathcal{R}_t equals the $(n-1)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure $\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\partial^* \mathcal{R}_t)$ of a rectifiable set $\partial^* \mathcal{R}_t$, the reduced boundary of \mathcal{R}_t (see Definition A.4). We define $p(r, t)$ to be the $(n-2)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure of the slice of $\partial^* \mathcal{R}_t$ by ∂I_r :

$$(2.8) \quad p(r, t) = \mathcal{H}^{n-2}(\partial^* \mathcal{R}_t \cap \partial I_r).$$

Then Corollary A.9 gives us the *co-area inequality* for this slicing:

$$(2.9) \quad s(r_2, t) - s(r_1, t) \geq \int_{r_1}^{r_2} p(x, t) dx.$$

The quantity $p(r, t)$ can be thought of as the $(n - 2)$ -dimensional perimeter of the $(n - 1)$ -dimensional set $D_r(t) = \mathcal{R}_t \cap \partial I_r$. This is formalized in the Appendix (see Theorem A.10) and used in the proof of Lemma 4.4 below.

We will need the following isoperimetric inequalities.

The euclidean isoperimetric inequality (theorem 14.1 in [12]) implies that the volume $w(\infty, t) = |\mathcal{R}_t|$ of the entire reachable set \mathcal{R}_t and its perimeter $s(\infty, t)$ satisfy

$$(2.10) \quad s(\infty, t) \geq \lambda_0 w(\infty, t)^{\frac{n-1}{n}},$$

where $\lambda_0 = n\mathbf{v}_n^{1/n}$ is the euclidean isoperimetric constant satisfying

$$|\partial B_r(0)| = \lambda_0 |B_r(0)|^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \quad \text{for all } r > 0.$$

The relative isoperimetric inequality in the cube (Theorem A.6 in the Appendix) implies that the volume $w(r, t)$ of $\mathcal{R}_t \cap I_r$ and its relative perimeter $s(r, t)$ inside I_r satisfy

$$(2.11) \quad s(r, t) \geq \lambda_1 (\min\{w(r, t), |I_r| - w(r, t)\})^{\frac{n-1}{n}},$$

where λ_1 is a positive constant depending only on n .

3 Proof of Theorem 1.2 and Corollary 1.4

In most of this section we spend proving Theorem 1.2. Its most technical stage (namely the proof of Proposition 3.2) is put off. It is contained in Sections 4 and 5.

Let us say a few words about how the proof of Theorem 1.2 goes. It is easy to show that the volume of \mathcal{R}_t grows to infinity. It is a more delicate task to verify that the set \mathcal{R}_t cannot be carried away from the origin by the flow. Our idea is to show that, for every $r \geq 0$, the set $\mathcal{R}_t \cap I_r$ fills I_r for all sufficiently large t . Thus we look at how the volume $w(r, t) = |\mathcal{R}_t \cap I_r|$ grows. We want it to reach $(2r)^n$, the volume of I_r . This is done by dividing the filling process into three stages. During the initial stage we fill in at least $\alpha|I_r|$ of the volume of I_r , where α is a small positive constant defined below. In the next step, which is the key one, we fill in at least $(1 - \alpha)|I_r|$ of the volume of I_r . Furthermore, this portion of volume remains filled forever after a certain time t . Finally, we show that at a later time a smaller cube $I_{r/2}$ is completely filled. Since the choice of r is arbitrary, $r/2$ is as good as r .

Our choice of α depends on the maximal speed of the fluid flow and the dimension. We fix

$$(3.1) \quad \alpha = \frac{\mathbf{v}_n}{(4M)^n}$$

for the rest of the proof. We assume that r is sufficiently large, more precisely $r \geq r_0$ where r_0 is a constant depending on V_t . The precise value of r_0 is defined in the course of the proof.

The initial stage of the filling process is simple. It is analyzed in the following lemma:

Lemma 3.1. Let $r > 0$ and $T_0 = \frac{r}{2M}$. Then

$$w(r, T_0) \geq \alpha |I_r|.$$

PROOF. By (2.2) we have $\mathcal{R}_{T_0} \subset I_r$; hence $w(r, T_0) = |\mathcal{R}_{T_0}|$. Clearly \mathcal{R}_t has a nonempty interior and hence $|\mathcal{R}_t| > 0$ for every $t > 0$. By (2.4) and the isoperimetric inequality (2.10) we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} |\mathcal{R}_t| \geq s(\infty, t) \geq n \mathbf{v}_n^{1/n} |\mathcal{R}_t|^{\frac{n-1}{n}}.$$

Therefore

$$(3.2) \quad |\mathcal{R}_t| \geq \mathbf{v}_n \cdot t^n = |B_t(0)|.$$

$$\text{Hence } w(r, T_0) \geq \mathbf{v}_n T_0^n = \mathbf{v}_n (2M)^{-n} r^n = \alpha |I_r|. \quad \square$$

The middle stage of the filling process is the most technical. This is the content of the next proposition.

Proposition 3.2. There exist constants $A = A(n) \geq 1$ and $r_0 > 0$ such that $w(r, t) > (1 - \alpha) |I_r|$ for all $r \geq r_0$ and $t \geq Ar$.

We prove Proposition 3.2 in Section 5. For this proof we need to estimate how much volume of $\mathcal{R}_t \cap I_r$ can leak out through the boundary of I_r . This estimate is contained in Section 4; see Proposition 4.1.

The final stage of the filling process is simple again. It is analyzed in Lemma 3.3. We show that, once $w(r, t)$ exceeds $(1 - \alpha) |I_r|$, then in time T_0 the reachable set covers the smaller cube $I_{r/2}$.

Lemma 3.3. Suppose that $r > 0$ and $t_1 > 0$ are such that $w(r, t_1) > (1 - \alpha) |I_r|$. As in the previous lemma, let $T_0 = \frac{r}{2M}$. Then

$$I_{r/2} \subset \mathcal{R}_{t_1 + T_0}.$$

PROOF. Fix $p \in I_{r/2}$ and let $t_2 = t_1 + T_0$. Let

$$\mathcal{R}_t^- = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : (p, t_2) \text{ is reachable from } (x, t_2 - t)\}.$$

\mathcal{R}_t^- is the reachable set from p for the reversed flow $V_t^- = -V_{t_2-t}$. As in the previous lemma we can apply (3.2) to V_t^- to obtain

$$|\mathcal{R}_{T_0}^-| \geq \mathbf{v}_n T_0^n = \alpha |I_r|;$$

hence

$$|\mathcal{R}_{T_0}^-| + w(r, t_1) > |I_r|.$$

By (2.2) applied to V_t^- we have

$$\mathcal{R}_{T_0}^- \subset B_{r/2}(p) \subset I_r.$$

Thus $\mathcal{R}_{T_0}^- \cap \mathcal{R}_{t_1} \neq \emptyset$. Hence $p \in \mathcal{R}_{t_2}$. \square

Combining the results of the three stages, we obtain the following proposition, which is essentially Theorem 1.2 with nonoptimal bounds on reach time.

Proposition 3.4. There exist constants $\mu = \mu(n) \in (0, 1)$ and $C > 0$ such that for every $t \geq C$ we have $B_{\mu t}(0) \subset \mathcal{R}_t$.

PROOF. By Proposition 3.2 we have $w(r, t) > (1 - \alpha)|I_r|$ for all $r \geq r_0$ and $t \geq Ar$. By Lemma 3.3 it follows that

$$B_{r/2}(0) \subset I_{r/2} \subset \mathcal{R}_t$$

for all $t \geq Ar + T_0 = (A + \frac{1}{2M})r$. Applying this to $2r$ in place of r yields that $B_r(0) \subset \mathcal{R}_t$ for all $r \geq r_0$ and $t \geq (2A + 1)r$. Hence the statement holds for $\mu = (2A + 1)^{-1}$ and $C = (2A + 1)r_0$. \square

Now we are in a position to prove Theorem 1.2 and Corollary 1.4.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2. Fix $\varepsilon > 0$. Note that Proposition 3.4 (after a suitable rescaling) holds for controls bounded by ε instead of 1. Our plan is to spare a small part of control to ensure reachability and use the remaining part of control to add the drift with speed $1 - \varepsilon$ in a desired direction.

Without loss of generality, assume that $x_0 = 0$ and $t_0 = 0$. Fix $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $|v| \leq 1 - \varepsilon$ and apply Proposition 3.4 to the flow \tilde{V} defined by

$$\tilde{V}_t(x) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} V_t(\varepsilon x + tv).$$

This yields a constant $C_{\varepsilon, v} > 0$ such that for every $t \geq C_{\varepsilon, v}$ the reachable set for \tilde{V} at time t contains the ball $B_{\mu t}(0)$. Here $\mu = \mu(n)$ is the constant from Proposition 3.4. If $\tilde{\gamma} : [0, t] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is an admissible path for \tilde{V} , then the path γ defined by

$$\gamma(\tau) = \varepsilon \tilde{\gamma}(\tau) + \tau v$$

is admissible for our flow V . Hence the reachable set \mathcal{R}_t contains the ball $B_{\varepsilon \mu t}(tv)$. In particular, the point $y = tv$ can be reached at time t , which satisfies $t \leq |y|/(1 - \varepsilon)$.

It remains to show that the constant $C_{\varepsilon, v}$ can be chosen independently of v . To show this, let us choose a finite $\varepsilon\mu$ -net $\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$ in the ball $B_{1-\varepsilon}(0)$ and let $C_\varepsilon = \max\{C_{\varepsilon, v_i} : 1 \leq i \leq m\}$. Then for every $t \geq C_\varepsilon$ we have

$$\mathcal{R}_t \supset \bigcup_{i=1}^m B_{\varepsilon \mu t}(tv_i) \supset B_{(1-\varepsilon)t}(0).$$

Thus every point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is reachable at any moment

$$t \geq \max\{C_\varepsilon, |x|/(1 - \varepsilon)\}.$$

To finish the proof of the theorem, set $\varepsilon = 1 - \frac{1}{a}$ and $C = C_\varepsilon$. \square

PROOF OF COROLLARY 1.4. The idea is to use a part of the control to compensate the mean drift at some scale. Fix $c \in (\Delta, 1)$. By (1.2) there exists $L_0 > 0$ such that the flow

$$(3.3) \quad \bar{V}_t(x) := \frac{1}{L_0^n} \int_{[0, L_0]^n} V_t(x + y) dy$$

satisfies $\|\bar{V}_t(x)\| < c$ for all t and x . Let $V_t^0 = V_t - \bar{V}_t$. Then

$$(3.4) \quad \left\| \frac{1}{L^n} \int_{[0, L]^n} V_t^0(x + y) dy \right\| \leq \frac{2^n L_0 M}{L}$$

for all $L \geq L_0$. Indeed, let Φ_L denote the characteristic function of the cube $[-L, 0]^n$ divided by L^n . Then \bar{V}_t is the convolution $V_t * \Phi_{L_0}$ and the integral in (3.4) is the value at x of the convolution $V_t^0 * \Phi_L = V_t * (\Phi_L - \Phi_{L_0} * \Phi_L)$. The function $|\Phi_L - \Phi_{L_0} * \Phi_L|$ is bounded by $1/L^n$ and its support is contained in the set $[-L - L_0, 0]^n \setminus [-L, -L_0]^n$ of volume $(L + L_0)^n - (L - L_0)^n \leq 2^n L_0 L^{n-1}$. Hence the L^1 -norm of $\Phi_L - \Phi_{L_0} * \Phi_L$ is bounded by $2^n L_0 / L$ and (3.4) follows.

Observe that \bar{V}_t is incompressible and bounded by M . This and (3.4) imply that V_t^0 satisfies the assumptions of Theorem 1.2. We apply Theorem 1.2 to V_t^0 with the maximal fish speed set to $1 - c$ instead of 1. Since $\|\bar{V}_t\| < c$, every admissible path in this setting is admissible for the original flow $V_t = V_t^0 + \bar{V}_t$. Because of the speed renormalization, the conclusion of the theorem holds for any $a > \frac{1}{1-c}$. Since $c \in (\Delta, 1)$ is arbitrary, Corollary 1.4 follows. \square

REMARK 3.5. One can see from the proof that the constant C in Corollary 1.4 is determined by M, Δ, a , and any value L_0 such that $\bar{V}_t(x)$ in (3.3) is bounded by $\frac{\Delta+1}{2}$ for all t and x .

4 Volume Change Estimate

Throughout the paper we integrate areas and perimeters over time intervals. Such integrals are indicated by a hat. Namely we define

$$\hat{s}(r, t, T) = \int_t^{t+T} s(r, \tau) d\tau \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{p}(r, t, T) = \int_t^{t+T} p(r, \tau) d\tau.$$

The goal of this section is to prove the following proposition:

Proposition 4.1. For every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $r_0 > 0$ such that for all $r \geq r_0, t > 0$, and $T \in [0, r]$, we have

$$(4.1) \quad w(r, t + T) - w(r, t) \geq \hat{s}(r, t, T) - \varepsilon r^n.$$

For the proof of Proposition 4.1 we need the following two lemmas.

Lemma 4.2. For all $r, t, T > 0$,

$$(4.2) \quad \hat{s}(r, t, T) \leq C_1(r + T) r^{n-1}$$

where $C_1 = n2^n M$.

PROOF. From Lemma 2.1 and a trivial estimate

$$|\text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t))| \leq M |\partial I_r|$$

we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} w(r, t) \geq s(r, t) - M |\partial I_r|$$

(in the sense of distributions). By integrating this we obtain

$$w(r, t + T) - w(r, t) \geq \widehat{s}(r, t, T) - M T |\partial I_r|.$$

The left-hand side is bounded above by $|I_r|$. Hence

$$\widehat{s}(r, t, T) \leq |I_r| + M T |\partial I_r|.$$

Since $|I_r| = 2^n r^n$ and $|\partial I_r| = n 2^n r^{n-1}$, (4.2) follows. \square

The incompressibility and small mean drift assumptions imply the following lemma, which we borrow from [5]. This is the only place in the proof where the small mean drift assumption is used.

Lemma 4.3 (cf. [5, lemma 3.1]). For every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $L_0 > 0$ such that the following holds. Let F be an $(n-1)$ -dimensional cube with edge length $L \geq L_0$; then

$$(4.3) \quad |\text{flux}(V, F)| \leq \varepsilon L^{n-1}.$$

PROOF. This lemma is stated in [5] for a time-independent vector field. We apply [5, lemma 3.1] to the vector field V_t for every fixed t . The constant L_0 (named A_0 in [5, lemma 3.1]) depends on the vector field, so we need to make sure that it can be chosen independently of t . In the proof in [5] one can see that L_0 depends only on M and on the rate of convergence of the mean drift to 0. Hence the proof works for our Lemma 4.3 as well. \square

Lemma 4.4 (cf. [5, lemma 3.3]). For every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exist $r_1 > 0$ and $C_0 > 0$ such that for almost all $t > 0$ and $r \geq r_1$,

$$(4.4) \quad |\text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t))| \leq C_0 p(r, t) + \varepsilon r^{n-1}.$$

PROOF. This lemma could also be borrowed from [5] if we had proven certain regularity properties of \mathcal{R}_t . For the sake of completeness we include a proof here. The proof is essentially the same, but it is based on different foundations in geometric measure theory.

We fix $\varepsilon > 0$ and apply Lemma 4.3. Let L_0 be the constant provided by Lemma 4.3. Let $t > 0$ be such that \mathcal{R}_t has finite perimeter. Assume that $r \geq L_0$ and the following holds: For every hyperplane Σ containing one of the $(n-1)$ -dimensional faces of the cube I_r , the slice $\mathcal{R}_t \cap \Sigma$ has finite perimeter in $\Sigma \cong \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$, and its reduced boundary in Σ coincides with $\Sigma \cap \partial^* \mathcal{R}_t$ up to a set of zero $(n-2)$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure. By the boundary slicing theorem A.10, these conditions are satisfied for almost all r .

Since $r \geq L_0$, we have $r = mL$ for some $L \in [L_0, 2L_0]$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. We divide ∂I_r into $(n-1)$ -dimensional cubes F_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2nm^{n-1}$, with edge length L . Denote $D = D_r(t)$ for brevity. For each i , define

$$s_i = \min\{|F_i \cap \mathcal{R}_t|, |F_i \setminus \mathcal{R}_t|\} = \min\{|F_i \cap D|, |F_i \setminus D|\}$$

and

$$p_i = P_{n-1}(D, F_i^\circ) = \mathcal{H}^{n-2}(F_i^\circ \cap \partial^* \mathcal{R}_t)$$

where P_{n-1} denotes the perimeter in the respective hyperplane and F_i° is the relative interior of F_i . The last identity follows from the De Giorgi theorem A.5.

The isoperimetric inequality in $(n-1)$ -dimensional cubes implies that

$$s_i \leq CLp_i$$

where C is a constant depending only on n . For $n \geq 3$, we prove this isoperimetric inequality in the Appendix, Corollary A.7. For $n = 2$ Corollary A.7 is trivially true. Therefore, we have

$$|\text{flux}(V_t, F_i \cap D)| - |\text{flux}(V_t, F_i \setminus D)| \leq |\text{flux}(V_t, F_i)| \leq \varepsilon L^{n-1},$$

where the second inequality follows from Lemma 4.3. At least one of the quantities $|\text{flux}(V_t, F_i \cap D)|$ and $|\text{flux}(V_t, F_i \setminus D)|$ is bounded by Ms_i , hence both of them are bounded by $Ms_i + \varepsilon L^{n-1}$. Thus

$$|\text{flux}(V_t, F_i \cap D)| \leq Ms_i + \varepsilon L^{n-1} \leq CMLp_i + \varepsilon L^{n-1} \leq C_0 p_i + \varepsilon |F_i|,$$

where $C_0 = 2CML_0$. Summing up over all i yields that

$$|\text{flux}(V_t, D)| \leq C_0 \sum p_i + \varepsilon |\partial I_r| \leq C_0 p(r, t) + n2^n \varepsilon r^{n-1}$$

for almost all $r \geq L_0$. Since ε is arbitrary, the lemma follows. \square

PROOF OF PROPOSITION 4.1. Fix $\beta, \varepsilon > 0$. We apply Lemma 4.4 to $\varepsilon_1 := \varepsilon/2^{n+1}$ in place of ε . This yields

$$|\text{flux}(V_t, D_r(t))| \leq C_0 p(r, t) + \varepsilon_1 r^{n-1}$$

for almost all $r \geq r_1$ and $t > 0$. This and (2.3) imply

$$\frac{d}{dt} w(r, t) \geq s(r, t) - C_0 p(r, t) - \varepsilon_1 r^{n-1}$$

for almost all $r > r_1$ and $t > 0$. Integration in t yields

$$(4.5) \quad w(r, t+T) - w(r, t) \geq \widehat{s}(r, t, T) - C_0 \widehat{p}(r, t, T) - \varepsilon_1 T r^{n-1}$$

for almost all $r > r_1$ and all $t, T > 0$.

Define

$$h := \frac{2^{n+1} C_0 C_1}{\varepsilon_1},$$

where C_1 is the constant from Lemma 4.2. By the co-area inequality (2.9),

$$s(r+h, t) \geq \int_0^{r+h} p(x, t) dx \geq \int_r^{r+h} p(x, t) dx$$

for all $r > 0$ and almost all $t > 0$. Once again, integration in t yields

$$(4.6) \quad \widehat{s}(r + h, t, T) \geq \int_r^{r+h} \widehat{p}(x, t, T) dx$$

for all $r > 0$ and all $t, T > 0$.

Now let r and t be as in the formulation of Proposition 4.1. Namely $t > 0$ is arbitrary, $r \geq r_0$ where r_0 is to be chosen later, and $0 \leq T \leq r$. We require that $r_0 \geq r_1$ and $r_0 \geq h$, the latter ensures that $h \leq r$. By Lemma 4.2 applied to $r + h$ in place of r ,

$$\widehat{s}(r + h, t, T) \leq C_1(r + h + T)(r + h)^{n-1} \leq 2^{n+1}C_1r^n$$

since $T \leq r$ and $h \leq r$. This and (4.6) imply that there exists $\tilde{r} \in [r, r + h]$ such that

$$(4.7) \quad \widehat{p}(\tilde{r}, t, T) \leq \frac{2^{n+1}C_1r^n}{h} = C_0^{-1}\varepsilon_1r^n,$$

where the equality follows from the definition of h . Furthermore, the set of $\tilde{r} \in [r, r + h]$ satisfying (4.7) has positive measure; hence we can choose \tilde{r} so that (4.7) holds and (4.5) applies to \tilde{r} in place of r :

$$w(\tilde{r}, t + T) - w(\tilde{r}, t) \geq \widehat{s}(\tilde{r}, t, T) - C_0\widehat{p}(\tilde{r}, t, T) - \varepsilon_1T\tilde{r}^{n-1}.$$

This estimate, (4.7), and the inequalities $T \leq r$ and $\tilde{r} \leq 2r$ imply that

$$\begin{aligned} w(\tilde{r}, t + T) - w(\tilde{r}, t) &\geq \widehat{s}(\tilde{r}, t, T) - \varepsilon_1r^n - 2^{n-1}\varepsilon_1r^n \\ &\geq \widehat{s}(\tilde{r}, t, T) - 2^n\varepsilon_1r^n = \widehat{s}(\tilde{r}, t, T) - \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon r^n. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\tilde{r} \geq r$, we have $\widehat{s}(\tilde{r}, t, T) \geq \widehat{s}(r, t, T)$. Thus

$$(4.8) \quad w(\tilde{r}, t + T) - w(\tilde{r}, t) \geq \widehat{s}(r, t, T) - \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon r^n.$$

Now we estimate the difference between $w(\tilde{r}, t + T)$ and $w(r, t + T)$:

$$w(\tilde{r}, t + T) - w(r, t + T) = |\mathcal{R}_{t+T} \cap (I_{\tilde{r}} \setminus I_r)| \leq |I_{\tilde{r}} \setminus I_r| = 2^n(\tilde{r}^n - r^n).$$

The right-hand side is bounded as follows:

$$2^n(\tilde{r}^n - r^n) \leq n2^n(\tilde{r} - r)\tilde{r}^{n-1} \leq n2^n h\tilde{r}^{n-1} \leq n2^{2n-1}hr^{n-1} \leq \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon r^n$$

if we require that

$$(4.9) \quad r \geq r_0 \geq n2^{2n-1}h\varepsilon^{-1}.$$

Thus

$$(4.10) \quad w(\tilde{r}, t + T) - w(r, t + T) \leq \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon r^n.$$

This and a trivial inequality $w(r, t) \leq w(\tilde{r}, t)$ imply that

$$w(r, t + T) - w(r, t) \geq w(\tilde{r}, t + T) - w(\tilde{r}, t) - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}r^n \geq \widehat{s}(r, t, T) - \varepsilon r^n,$$

where the second inequality follows from (4.8). This finishes the proof of Proposition 4.1. \square

5 Middle Stage. Proof of Proposition 3.2

In this section we prove Proposition 3.2, the last remaining piece of the proof of Theorem 1.2. The proof is based on Proposition 4.1 and the isoperimetric inequality (2.11) for subsets of a cube.

To facilitate understanding of the proof, we first give its simplified version assuming that the estimate (4.1) from Proposition 4.1 holds without the correction term $-\varepsilon r^n$. After this simplification the estimate (4.1) boils down to the differential inequality

$$(5.1) \quad \frac{d}{dt}w(r, t) \geq s(r, t) \geq \lambda_1 \min\{w(r, t), |I_r| - w(r, t)\}^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$$

where the second inequality is the isoperimetric inequality (2.11). This implies that $w(r, t) \geq \phi(t)$ where $\phi(t) > 0$ solves the ODE

$$\frac{d}{dt}\phi(t) = \lambda_1 \min\{\phi(t), |I_r| - \phi(t)\}^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$$

with the initial condition $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \phi(t) = 0$. The solution is given by

$$\phi(t) = \begin{cases} at^n, & t \in [0, b], \\ |I_r| - a(2b - t)^n, & t \in [b, 2b], \end{cases}$$

where $a = (\lambda_1/n)^n$ and $b = (\frac{1}{2a}|I_r|)^{1/n} = cr$ with $c = 2^{\frac{n-1}{n}}n\lambda_1^{-1}$. It reaches the value $\phi(t) = |I_r|$ at $t = 2b = 2cr$, and the coefficient $2c$ depends only on n . This proves the main theorem under the above simplifying assumption.

The actual proof of Proposition 3.2 is essentially a discrete version of the above argument. We apply Proposition 4.1 to $T = \beta r$ where $\beta \in (0, 1)$ is a carefully chosen constant (depending on the flow but not depending on r). This yields a lower bound for $w(r, T_k)$ where $T_k = T_0 + k\beta r$, $k = 1, 2, \dots$. It turns out that for a sufficiently small $\varepsilon > 0$ the term $\hat{s}(r, t)$ dominates the correction term $-\varepsilon r^n$, and hence the resulting bound for $w(r, T_k)$ is similar to the formula for $\phi(T_k)$. This implies the desired conclusion.

Another technical issue is that the isoperimetric inequality (2.11) does not integrate well over time intervals. This is handled in Lemma 5.1 below, where we prove a discrete analogue of the differential inequality (5.1).

Now we are back to the formal proof. Recall that we have a fixed α defined by (3.1). We now choose a small constant $\beta \in (0, 1)$. First we require that $\beta < \frac{\alpha}{10}$. Second, we require that β be so small that the following holds. For all $x \in [\frac{\alpha}{2}, 1]$ and all $\delta \in [0, \beta]$

$$(5.2) \quad (x + \delta)^{1/n} - x^{1/n} \geq \frac{1}{2n}x^{\frac{1-n}{n}}\delta.$$

Such β exists since the function $x \mapsto x^{1/n}$ is smooth on $[\frac{\alpha}{2}, 1]$ and its derivative equals $\frac{1}{n}x^{\frac{1-n}{n}}$.

We fix α and β for the rest of the proof.

Lemma 5.1. There exist $\lambda = \lambda(n) \in (0, 1]$ and $r_0 > 0$ such that for every $r \geq r_0$ and $T = \beta r$ the following holds.

1. For all $t > 0$ and $\tau \in [t, t + T]$,

$$(5.3) \quad w(r, \tau) \geq w(r, t) - \frac{\alpha}{10} |I_r|.$$

2. If $t > 0$ satisfies

$$(5.4) \quad \frac{\alpha}{2} |I_r| \leq w(r, t) \leq (1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}) |I_r|,$$

then

$$(5.5) \quad w(r, t + T) \geq w(r, t) + \lambda T m(t)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$$

where

$$m(t) = \min\{w(r, t), |I_r| - w(r, t)\}.$$

PROOF. Fix a sufficiently small $\varepsilon > 0$, namely,

$$\varepsilon < \min\left\{\frac{\alpha}{10}, \frac{1}{16} \lambda_1 \alpha \beta\right\},$$

where $\lambda_1 = \lambda_1(n)$ is the isoperimetric constant from (2.11). By Proposition 4.1 there exists $r_0 > 0$ such that

$$(5.6) \quad w(r, \tau) - w(r, t) \geq \hat{s}(r, t, \tau) - \varepsilon r^n$$

for any $r \geq r_0$, $T = \beta r$, and $\tau \in [t, t + T]$. Since $\hat{s}(r, t, \tau) \geq 0$, this implies that

$$w(r, \tau) - w(r, t) \geq -\varepsilon r^n > -\frac{\alpha}{10} |I_r|$$

due to the choice of ε . This proves the first claim of the lemma.

To prove the second one, define

$$m_0 = \inf\{m(\tau) : \tau \in [t, t + T]\}$$

and consider two cases: $m_0 < \frac{1}{2}m(t)$ and $m_0 \geq \frac{1}{2}m(t)$.

Case 1. $m_0 < \frac{1}{2}m(t)$. Then $m(\tau) < \frac{1}{2}m(t)$ for some $\tau \in [t, t + T]$. The definition of $m(t)$ and (5.4) imply that

$$(5.7) \quad |w(r, \tau) - w(r, t)| > \frac{\alpha}{4} |I_r|.$$

The inequality (5.3) rules out the case $w(r, \tau) < w(r, t)$; hence

$$w(r, \tau) > w(r, t) + \frac{\alpha}{4} |I_r|.$$

Combining this inequality with (5.3) applied to τ and $t + T$ in place of t and τ , respectively, yields

$$(5.8) \quad w(r, t + T) \geq w(r, \tau) - \frac{\alpha}{10} |I_r| > w(r, t) + \frac{\alpha}{10} |I_r|.$$

On the other hand, by the trivial estimate $m(t) \leq |I_r| = (2r)^n$ we have

$$T m(t)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \leq T (2r)^{n-1} = \beta r (2r)^{n-1} = \frac{\beta}{2} |I_r| < \frac{\alpha}{10} |I_r|.$$

This and (5.8) imply (5.5) for any $\lambda \leq 1$.

Case 2. $m_0 \geq \frac{1}{2}m(t)$. By the isoperimetric inequality (2.11) for subsets of the cube,

$$s(r, \tau) \geq \lambda_1 m(\tau)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \geq \lambda_1 m_0^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \geq \frac{1}{2} \lambda_1 m(t)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$$

for all $\tau \in [t, t + T]$. Hence

$$(5.9) \quad \widehat{s}(r, t, T) \geq \frac{1}{2} \lambda_1 T m(t)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}.$$

By (5.4), we have $m(t) \geq \frac{\alpha}{2} |I_r| = \frac{\alpha}{2} (2r)^n$. Therefore

$$(5.10) \quad \begin{aligned} \widehat{s}(r, t, T) &\geq \frac{1}{2} \lambda_1 T m(t)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} = \frac{1}{2} \lambda_1 \beta r m(t)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{4} \lambda_1 \beta r \left(\frac{\alpha}{2} (2r)^n \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} > \frac{1}{8} \lambda_1 \alpha \beta r^n > 2\varepsilon r^n, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from the choice of ε . Inequalities (5.10), (5.6), and (5.9) imply that

$$(5.11) \quad w(r, t + T) - w(r, t) \geq \widehat{s}(r, t, T) - \varepsilon r^n \geq \frac{1}{2} \widehat{s}(r, t, T) \geq \frac{1}{4} \lambda_1 T m(t)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}.$$

The inequality (5.11) implies (5.5) for $\lambda = \frac{1}{4} \lambda_1$.

Combining the outcomes of the two cases, one sees that (5.5) holds for $\lambda = \min\{1, \frac{1}{4} \lambda_1\}$. \square

Now we are in a position to prove Proposition 3.2. The proof is a straightforward but technical implication of Lemma 5.1. Nothing beyond basic analysis is used.

PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3.2. Let r_0 be such that the assertion of Lemma 5.1 holds. Fix $r > r_0$ and define a function $f: \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow [0, 1]$ by

$$f(t) := \frac{w(r, t)}{|I_r|} = \frac{w(r, t)}{(2r)^n}.$$

We rewrite some of the previous results in terms of f . First, Lemma 3.1 turns into the inequality

$$(5.12) \quad f(T_0) \geq \alpha \quad \text{where } T_0 = \frac{r}{2M}.$$

By the first statement of Lemma 5.1 we have

$$(5.13) \quad f(\tau) \geq f(t) - \frac{\alpha}{10} \quad \text{if } t \leq \tau \leq t + \beta r.$$

Finally, the second statement of Lemma 5.1 takes the form

$$(5.14) \quad \begin{aligned} f(t + \beta r) &\geq f(t) + \frac{1}{2} \lambda \beta \min\{f(t), 1 - f(t)\}^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \\ &\text{provided that } \frac{\alpha}{2} \leq f(t) \leq 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Here $\lambda = \lambda(n) \in (0, 1]$ is the constant from Lemma 5.1, and we use this notation throughout the rest of the proof.

In our new notation the statement of Proposition 3.2 turns into

$$f(t) > 1 - \alpha \quad \text{for all } t \geq Ar$$

where A is a constant depending only on n .

Now consider a sequence $\{y_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ defined by $y_k = f(T_0 + k\beta r)$. The relations (5.12)–(5.14) imply the following properties of this sequence:

- (1) $y_0 \geq \alpha$;
- (2) if $\frac{\alpha}{2} \leq y_k \leq \frac{1}{2}$, then $y_{k+1} \geq y_k + \frac{1}{2}\lambda\beta y_k^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$;
- (3) if $\frac{1}{2} \leq y_k \leq 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}$ then $y_{k+1} \geq y_k + \frac{1}{2}\lambda\beta(1 - y_k)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$;
- (4) if $y_k \geq 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}$, then $y_{k+1} \geq 1 - \frac{6}{10}\alpha$.

It follows that $\{y_k\}$ increases as long as it stays below $1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}$, and if it gets above $1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}$, then after that it is confined to the interval $[1 - \frac{6}{10}\alpha, 1]$. We are going to prove that y_k eventually attains a value greater than $1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}$, and estimate the index k for which this happens.

If $y_k \leq \frac{1}{2}$, then by (1) and (2) we have $y_k \geq y_0 \geq \alpha$ and $y_{k+1} \geq y_k + \delta_k$ where $\delta_k = \frac{1}{2}\lambda\beta y_k^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$. Hence

$$y_{k+1}^{1/n} \geq (y_k + \delta_k)^{1/n} \geq y_k^{1/n} + \frac{1}{2n} y_k^{\frac{1-n}{n}} \delta_k = y_k^{1/n} + \frac{\lambda\beta}{4n}.$$

Here the second inequality follows from the choice of β (see (5.2)) and the fact that $\delta_k \leq \beta$ since $\lambda \leq 1$ and $y_k \leq 1$. By induction it follows that

$$y_k^{1/n} \geq y_0^{1/n} + \frac{\lambda\beta k}{4n} > \frac{\lambda\beta k}{4n}$$

as long as $y_0, \dots, y_{k-1} \leq \frac{1}{2}$. Hence there exists $k_1 \leq \frac{4n}{\lambda\beta}$ such that $y_{k_1} \geq \frac{1}{2}$.

Now consider $k \geq k_1$. Note that $y_k \geq \frac{1}{2}$ by (2)–(4). As long as $y_k \leq 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}$, we have

$$(5.15) \quad y_{k+1} \geq y_k + \delta_k,$$

where

$$\delta_k = \frac{1}{2}\lambda\beta(1 - y_k)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}.$$

We rewrite (5.15) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - y_{k+1})^{1/n} &\leq (1 - y_k - \delta_k)^{1/n} \leq (1 - y_k)^{1/n} - \frac{1}{n}(1 - y_k)^{\frac{1-n}{n}} \delta_k \\ &= (1 - y_k)^{1/n} - \frac{\lambda\beta}{2n}. \end{aligned}$$

Here the second inequality follows from the concavity of the function $t \mapsto t^{1/n}$. By induction it follows that

$$(1 - y_k)^{1/n} \leq (1 - y_{k_1})^{1/n} - \frac{\lambda\beta}{2n}(k - k_1) \leq 1 - \frac{\lambda\beta}{2n}(k - k_1)$$

as long as $y_{k_1}, \dots, y_{k-1} \leq 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}$. Hence there exists $k_2 \leq k_1 + \frac{2n}{\lambda\beta} \leq \frac{6n}{\lambda\beta}$ such that $y_{k_2} \geq 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}$. Then (3) and (4) imply that $y_k \geq 1 - \frac{6}{10}\alpha$ for all $k \geq k_2$.

This and (5.13) imply that $f(t) \geq 1 - \frac{7}{10}\alpha$ for all $t \geq T_0 + \beta r k_2$. Since $T_0 + \beta r k_2 \leq T_0 + \frac{6n}{\lambda}r \leq (\frac{6n}{\lambda} + 1)r$, the statement of Proposition 3.2 holds for $A = \frac{6n}{\lambda} + 1$. \square

6 Application to Homogenization of the G-equation

In this section we prove a result about the homogenization limit of solutions to the G-equation with random drift. The proof of this result is a corollary of Theorem 1.2 combined with standard arguments of the homogenization theory. We give these arguments here for the convenience of the reader. We start with the notions needed to formulate our result.

We investigate the asymptotic behavior as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ of the solutions of the family of the initial value problems parametrized by ε . Namely, we consider the family of Hamilton-Jacobi equations:

$$(6.1) \quad \begin{aligned} u_t^\varepsilon + V_{\frac{t}{\varepsilon}}\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \omega\right) \cdot Du^\varepsilon &= |Du^\varepsilon|, \quad t > 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \\ u^\varepsilon &= u_0(x), \quad t = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \end{aligned}$$

for the unknown $u^\varepsilon = u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega)$, where u_t^ε and Du^ε are the derivatives of u^ε with respect to t and x , respectively. Here ω is an elementary event (realization) in the sample space: $\omega \in \Omega$. We assume the sample space is a part of the probability triple $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$, where \mathcal{F} is the σ -algebra of measurable events, and \mathbb{P} is the probability measure. The velocity

$$V_t: \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

is a random field, a family of random variables parametrized by x and t . All random variables are assumed Borel measurable.

If V_t is locally Lipschitz, then, by, e.g., exercise 3.9 in [2], we are guaranteed that the viscosity solutions of the G-equation (6.1) are unique in the space of bounded and uniformly continuous functions for every fixed ω . These solutions $u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega)$ of (6.1) are random functions in x and t . Our objective is to determine assumptions on $V_t(x, \omega)$ that imply the *law of large numbers*: $u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega) \rightarrow \bar{u}(t, x)$ with probability 1 as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, and characterize the deterministic limit $\bar{u}(t, x)$ as a solution of another *homogenized* initial value problem. In order to determine this homogenized initial value problem, we will find a deterministic time-independent function $\bar{H}: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ such that it is positively homogeneous of degree 1, that is, $\bar{H}(\lambda p) = \lambda \bar{H}(p)$ for all $\lambda > 0$ and $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and verify that \bar{u} is the unique viscosity solution of the initial value problem

$$(6.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \bar{u}_t &= \bar{H}(D\bar{u}), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad t > 0, \\ \bar{u}(0, x) &= u_0(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{aligned}$$

The solutions of (6.1) have a control representation formula (2.6). Similarly, solutions of (6.2) are given by the Hopf-Lax formula [8, 11]

$$(6.3) \quad \bar{u}(t, x) = \max\{u_0(y) : \bar{T}(x - y) \leq t\},$$

where

$$\bar{T}(v) = \sup\{v \cdot q : q \in \mathbb{R}^n, \bar{H}(q) = 1\}.$$

The following two definitions are needed to state our assumptions on $V_t(x, \omega)$.

DEFINITION 6.1. We say that $V_t(x, \omega)$ is space-time stationary if there is an action of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} on Ω , denoted by $y \mapsto \pi_y : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$, $y = (x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, such that the action is measure preserving:

$$(6.4) \quad \mathbb{P}(\pi_y(A)) = \mathbb{P}(A), \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{F}, \quad y \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1},$$

and

$$(6.5) \quad \begin{aligned} V_{t_0}(x_0, \pi_y \omega) &= V_{t_0+t}(x_0 + x, \omega), \\ \forall x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad t_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad y &= (x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

DEFINITION 6.2. Define

$$(6.6) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_{t+} &:= \sigma\{V_s(x, \omega) : s \geq t, x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}, \\ \mathcal{G}_{t-} &:= \sigma\{V_s(x, \omega) : s \leq t, x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\sigma\{\cdot\}$ denotes the σ -algebra on Ω generated by the given family of random variables. We say V_t has *finite range of time dependence* if

$$(6.7) \quad \exists \aleph > 0 \text{ such that } \mathcal{G}_{t+} \text{ and } \mathcal{G}_{s-} \text{ are independent when } t - s \geq \aleph.$$

We state the result in two essentially equivalent ways.

THEOREM 6.3. Suppose that a random vector field $V_t : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is time-space stationary (6.4)–(6.5), has finite range of time dependence (6.7), $V_t(\cdot, \omega)$ is locally Lipschitz and incompressible for all t and ω , and has the following uniform bounds:

$$(6.8) \quad M := 1 + \sup_{t, x, \omega} |V_t(x, \omega)| < \infty,$$

$$(6.9) \quad \Delta := \inf_{L > 0} \sup_{t, x, \omega} \left\| \frac{1}{L^n} \int_{[0, L]^n} V_t(x + y, \omega) dy \right\| < 1.$$

Then there exists a convex body $W \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $B_{1-\Delta}(0) \subset W \subset B_M(0)$ and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} d_H(t^{-1} \mathcal{R}_t(\omega), W) = 0$$

for a.e. $\omega \in \Omega$, where $\mathcal{R}_t(\omega)$ is the reachable set from $(0, 0)$ at time t (see Section 2) of the flow $V_t(x, \omega)$ and d_H denotes the Hausdorff distance.

THEOREM 6.4. Let $V_t : \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a random vector field satisfying the same assumptions as in Theorem 6.3. Then there exists a positively one-homogeneous convex Hamiltonian function $\bar{H} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ with

$$1 - \Delta \leq \bar{H}(p)/|p| \leq M$$

such that the following holds with probability 1: For every bounded, uniformly continuous function $u_0: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, one has

$$(6.10) \quad \forall T > 0, \forall R > 0 \quad \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \sup_{|x| \leq R} |u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega) - \bar{u}(t, x)| = 0,$$

where u^ε and \bar{u} are the unique viscosity solutions of (6.1) and (6.2), respectively.

REMARK 6.5. Theorems 6.3 and 6.4 are also true if we request V_t to be merely integer stationary. This means that (6.4)–(6.5) holds for $y = (x, t) \in \mathbb{Z}^{n+1}$ only. Here is an example of an integer stationary and finite range dependent flow $V_t(x, \omega)$ that satisfies the conditions of Theorem 6.3. Take any two deterministic incompressible vector fields $V_t^1(x)$ and $V_t^2(x)$ with compact support in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . The incompressibility and compact support imply that

$$(6.11) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} V_t^i(x) dx = 0, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

for every t . Consider a family of Bernoulli trials $\zeta_{jk}(\omega)$, $j \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, that are independent identically distributed random variables such that $\zeta_{jk} = 1$ or $\zeta_{jk} = 0$ with probability 1/2. Set

$$V_t(x, \omega) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^n, k \in \mathbb{Z}} (\zeta_{jk}(\omega) V_{t+k}^1(x+j) + (1 - \zeta_{jk}(\omega)) V_{t+k}^2(x+j)).$$

The identity (6.11) implies that this random field satisfies (6.9) with $\Delta = 0$.

REMARK 6.6. Using Theorem 1.2 and Corollary 1.4 we can prove the conclusions of Theorems 6.3 and 6.4 if, instead of finite range dependence and stationarity, we impose other assumptions on V_t . We are aware of two approaches.

- If V_t is periodic in x and random, statistically stationary, and ergodic with respect to t , then the homogenization limit can be proven by an argument given in [9].
- If V_t is periodic in t and random, statistically stationary, and ergodic with respect to x , then the homogenization limit can be proven by an argument given in [13].

Note that the level-set equation (6.1) is used as a model for turbulent combustion in the regime of thin flames [14, 15]. In this model, the level sets of u^ε represent the flame surface, and V_t is the velocity of the underlying fluid (assumed to be independent of u^ε). Spatial or temporal periodicity is rarely observed in unsteady turbulent flows. Thus, in the context of unsteady turbulent flows, it is more relevant to assume the velocities are time-space stationary and have finite range of time dependence.

We prove Theorems 6.3 and 6.4 for a time-space stationary random vector field. Generalization to the integer stationary case is straightforward. We denote by $\mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega)$ the reachable set from (x_0, t_0) at time $t_0 + t$ of the flow $V_t(x, \omega)$. Note that $\mathcal{R}_t(\omega) = \mathcal{R}_t(0, 0, \omega)$.

Observe that

$$(6.12) \quad \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega) \subset B_{Mt}(x_0) \quad \forall t > 0, x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, t_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \omega \in \Omega.$$

Define $\Lambda = \frac{2}{1-\Delta}$. Corollary 1.4 implies that there is a positive integer $\tau_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$(6.13) \quad B_{t/\Lambda}(x_0) \subset \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega) \quad \forall t \geq \tau_0 - 1, x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, t_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \omega \in \Omega.$$

Here we use (6.8), (6.9), and Remark 3.5 to ensure that τ_0 is independent of ω . We assume that $\tau_0 > \aleph$ where \aleph is the range of time dependence from (6.7).

The relation (6.13) implies that $x_0 \in \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega)$ for all $t \geq \tau_0 - 1$. Therefore

$$(6.14) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_{t_1}(x_0, t_0, \omega) &\subset \mathcal{R}_{t_1+t}(x_0, t_0, \omega) \\ \forall t &\geq \tau_0 - 1, t_1 \geq 0, x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, t_0 \in \mathbb{R}, \omega \in \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

For $x_0, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\omega \in \Omega$, define the travel time

$$(6.15) \quad \tau(x_0, t_0, v, \omega) = \inf\{t \in \mathbb{N} : x_0 + v \in \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega)\} + \tau_0.$$

Set $\tau(v, \omega) = \tau(0, 0, v, \omega)$. Note that for any $N \in \mathbb{N}$ the event $\{\omega \in \Omega : \tau(x_0, t_0, v, \omega) = N\}$ is determined by the restriction of V_t to the time interval $[t_0, t_0 + N - \tau_0]$.

By (6.12) and (6.13), the random variable $\tau(v, \omega)$ grows linearly in v and moreover

$$(6.16) \quad \frac{|v|}{M} \leq \tau(x_0, t_0, v, \omega) \leq \Lambda|v| + 2\tau_0$$

for all x_0, t_0, v, ω . This estimate is the main ingredient of the first steps of the proof. We also need a number of technical estimates. By (6.14) we have

$$(6.17) \quad x_0 + v \in \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0) \quad \forall t \geq \tau(x_0, t_0, v, \omega) - 1$$

and

$$(6.18) \quad \tau(x_0, t_0, v, \omega) \leq t_1 + 2\tau_0 \quad \text{if } x_0 + v \in \mathcal{R}_{t_1}(x_0, t_0).$$

For any $x_0, x_1, v_0, v_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$(6.19) \quad \begin{aligned} \tau(x_0, t_0, v_0, \omega) &\leq \tau(x_1, t_0 + T, v_1, \omega) + 2T \\ \forall T &\geq \Lambda|x_1 - x_0| + \Lambda|v_1 - v_0| + \tau_0. \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, $(x_1, t_0 + T)$ is reachable from (x_0, t_0) by (6.13). Then the point $x_1 + v_1$ is reachable from $(x_1, t_0 + T)$ at time $t_1 = t_0 + T + \tau(x_1, t_0 + T, v_1, \omega) - \tau_0$. Then, by (6.13), $x_0 + v_0$ is reachable from $(x_1 + v_1, t_1)$ at any time $t_2 \geq t_1 + T - 1$. Choosing t_2 such that $t_2 - t_0$ is an integer and $t_2 \leq t_1 + T$ yields (6.19).

Our preliminary goal is to obtain the asymptotic shape of the reachable set. This is analogous to “shape theorems” for the first-passage time in percolation theory, and we proceed with similar arguments.

LEMMA 6.7. *There exists a positively 1-homogeneous convex function*

$$\bar{T}: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$$

satisfying

$$(6.20) \quad \frac{|v|}{M} \leq \bar{T}(v) \leq \frac{|v|}{1 - \Delta}$$

for all $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and such that the following holds:

i. *For any $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$,*

$$\limsup_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\lambda} \tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \omega) = \bar{T}(v) \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

ii. *For any $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$,*

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \omega) \rightarrow \bar{T}(v)$$

in probability as $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$, that is,

$$(6.21) \quad \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P} \left\{ \omega : \left| \frac{1}{\lambda} \tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \omega) - \bar{T}(v) \right| \geq \varepsilon \right\} = 0$$

for every $\varepsilon > 0$.

PROOF. Fix $x_0, v_1, v_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, and define $\tau_1(\omega) = \tau(x_0, t_0, v_1, \omega)$. By (6.17) and the definition of τ we have the following subadditivity relation:

$$(6.22) \quad \tau(x_0, t_0, v_1 + v_2, \omega) \leq \tau_1(\omega) + \tau(x_0 + v_1, t_0 + \tau_1(\omega), v_2, \omega).$$

The two terms in the right-hand side of (6.22) are independent random variables, and they have the same distributions as $\tau(v_1, \cdot)$ and $\tau(v_2, \cdot)$, respectively. To show this, fix any $N_1, N_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ and consider events

$$A_{N_1} = \{\omega : \tau_1(\omega) = N_1\}$$

and

$$B_{N_1, N_2} = \{\omega : \tau(x_0 + v_1, t_0 + N_1, v_2, \omega) = N_2\}.$$

Their probabilities are equal to those of $\{\tau(v_1, \cdot) = N_1\}$ and $\{\tau(v_2, \cdot) = N_2\}$, respectively, due to the space-time stationarity. The event A_{N_1} is determined by $V_t(x, \omega)$ for $t \leq t_0 + N_1 - \tau_0$, and B_{N_1, N_2} is determined by $V_t(x, \omega)$ for $t \geq t_0 + N_1$. Since $\tau_0 > \aleph$, the finite range of time dependence implies that A_{N_2, N_1} and B_{N_2} are independent. Thus

$$(6.23) \quad \begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}(\{\omega : \tau_1(\omega) = N_1 \text{ and } \tau(x_0 + v_1, t_0 + \tau_1(\omega), v_2, \omega) = N_2\}) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(A_{N_1} \cap B_{N_1, N_2}) = \mathbb{P}(A_{N_1})\mathbb{P}(B_{N_1, N_2}) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(\{\tau(v_1, \cdot) = N_1\})\mathbb{P}(\{\tau(v_2, \cdot) = N_2\}). \end{aligned}$$

By summing over either N_2 or N_1 we obtain that

$$\tau_1(\omega) \quad \text{and} \quad \tau(x_0 + v_1, t_0 + \tau_1(\omega), v_2, \omega)$$

have the same distributions as $\tau(v_1, \cdot)$ and $\tau(v_2, \cdot)$, respectively; furthermore, (6.23) shows that they are independent.

Therefore, from (6.22) we have

$$(6.24) \quad \mathbb{E}(\tau(v_1 + v_2, \cdot)) \leq \mathbb{E}(\tau(v_1, \cdot)) + \mathbb{E}(\tau(v_2, \cdot)).$$

This implies that there exists a limit

$$(6.25) \quad \overline{T}(v) := \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}(\tau(\lambda v, \cdot))}{\lambda} = \inf_{\lambda > 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}(\tau(\lambda v, \cdot))}{\lambda}.$$

The function \overline{T} is 1-homogeneous by definition. By (6.24), \overline{T} is subadditive and hence convex. The inequality (6.16) implies that $|v|/M \leq \overline{T}(v) \leq \Lambda|v|$. Moreover, by Corollary 1.4 for every $a > \frac{1}{1-\Delta}$ there is a constant $C > 0$ such that $\tau(v, \omega) \leq a|v| + C$ for all $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\omega \in \Omega$. Hence $\overline{T}(v) \leq a|v|$ for all $a > \frac{1}{1-\Delta}$ and (6.20) follows.

Fix $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and arbitrary sequences $\{x_k\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\{t_k\} \subset \mathbb{R}$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$. For each k , define finite sequences $\xi_{k,m}$ and $t_{k,m}$, $1 \leq m \leq k$, of random variables by induction as follows:

$$\xi_{k,m}(\omega) = \tau(x_k + (m-1)v, t_{k,m}(\omega), v, \omega),$$

where

$$t_{k,m}(\omega) = t_k + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \xi_{k,i}(\omega),$$

in particular $t_{k,1}(\omega) = t_k$. Note that for any $N \in \mathbb{N}$ the event $\{\omega : t_{k,m}(\omega) = t_k + N\}$ is determined by the values $V_t(x, \omega)$ for $t \in [t_k, t_k + N - \tau_0]$ only. As in the above discussion of the terms in (6.22), one sees that for each fixed k the random variables $\xi_{k,m}$, $1 \leq m \leq k$, are independent and have the same distribution as $\tau(v, \cdot)$. Since $\xi_{k,m}$ are uniformly bounded (see (6.16)), the strong law of the large numbers for triangular arrays applies to them, and we obtain that

$$(6.26) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} \sum_{m=1}^k \xi_{k,m}(\omega) = \mathbb{E}(\tau(v, \cdot)) \text{ almost surely.}$$

As in (6.22) we have subadditivity

$$\tau(x_k, t_k, kv, \omega) \leq \sum_{m=1}^k \xi_{k,m}(\omega)$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\omega \in \Omega$. This and (6.26) imply that

$$(6.27) \quad \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tau(x_k, t_k, kv, \omega)}{k} \leq \mathbb{E}(\tau(v, \cdot)) \text{ almost surely.}$$

Now we prove the two main assertions of the lemma. Fix $x_0, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\varepsilon > 0$. By (6.25) there exists $\lambda_0 > 0$ such that

$$\overline{T}(v) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(\tau(\lambda_0 v, \cdot))}{\lambda_0} \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \overline{T}(v).$$

For $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that $k\lambda_0 \leq \lambda < (k+1)\lambda_0$. We apply (6.19) to $\lambda x_0, k\lambda_0 x_0, \lambda v, k\lambda_0 v, \lambda t_0$ in place of x_0, x_1, v_0, v_1, t_0 , respectively, with $T = T_0 + (k\lambda_0 - \lambda)t_0$ where $T_0 = \Lambda\lambda_0|x_0| + \Lambda\lambda_0|v| + \lambda_0|t_0| + \tau_0$. This implies that

$$\tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \omega) \leq \tau(k\lambda_0 x_0, k\lambda_0 t_0 + T_0, k\lambda_0 v, \omega) + 2T_0 + 2\lambda_0|t_0|,$$

where the last term comes from the estimate $|k\lambda_0 - \lambda| \leq \lambda_0$. Therefore

$$\limsup_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \omega)}{\lambda} \leq \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tau(k\lambda_0 x_0, k\lambda_0 t_0 + T_0, k\lambda_0 v, \omega)}{k\lambda_0}.$$

By (6.27) applied to $x_k = k\lambda_0 x_0$, $t_k = k\lambda_0 t_0 + T_0$, and $\lambda_0 v$ in place of v , the right-hand side is bounded by $\mathbb{E}(\tau(\lambda_0 v, \cdot))/\lambda_0$ almost surely. Thus

$$\limsup_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \omega)}{\lambda} \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(\tau(\lambda_0 v, \cdot))}{\lambda_0} \leq (1 + \varepsilon) \overline{T}(v) \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

Since ε is arbitrary, it follows that

$$(6.28) \quad \limsup_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \omega)}{\lambda} \leq \overline{T}(v) \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

By the space-time stationarity and (6.25),

$$(6.29) \quad \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{\tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \cdot)}{\lambda}\right) = \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{\tau(\lambda v, \cdot)}{\lambda}\right) \geq \overline{T}(v).$$

Since $\tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \cdot)/\lambda$ is bounded above by $\Lambda|v| + \tau_0$ for all $\lambda \geq 1$, (6.28), (6.29), and Fatou's lemma imply that

$$\limsup_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \omega)}{\lambda} = \overline{T}(v) \quad \text{almost surely,}$$

and $\tau(\lambda x_0, \lambda t_0, \lambda v, \cdot)/\lambda$ converges to $\overline{T}(v)$ in probability. \square

DEFINITION 6.8. Let \overline{T} be the function constructed in Lemma 6.7. Define the *effective reachable set*

$$W_t = \{v \in \mathbb{R}^n : \overline{T}(v) \leq t\}.$$

Note that $W_t = t \cdot W_1$ and W_1 is a convex body satisfying $B_{1-\Delta}(0) \subset W_1 \subset B_M(0)$. We are going to show that the reachable set $\mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega)$ for large t is close to the set $x_0 + W_t$ in a certain sense. We introduce the following quantity measuring the difference between these sets.

DEFINITION 6.9. For $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, $t \geq \tau_0$, and $\omega \in \Omega$ define

$$\begin{aligned}\rho^+(x_0, t_0, t, \omega) &= \inf\{\varepsilon > 0 : \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega) \subset x_0 + (1 + \varepsilon)W_t\}, \\ \rho^-(x_0, t_0, t, \omega) &= \inf\{\varepsilon > 0 : x_0 + (1 + \varepsilon)^{-1}W_t \subset \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega)\}\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\rho(x_0, t_0, t, \omega) = \max\{\rho^+(x_0, t_0, t, \omega), \rho^-(x_0, t_0, t, \omega)\}.$$

Note that the statement of Theorem 6.3 is equivalent to the property that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \rho(0, 0, t, \omega) = 0 \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

LEMMA 6.10. *For any fixed $R > 0$,*

$$(6.30) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|x_0| \leq Rt} \rho^-(x_0, 0, t, \omega) = 0 \quad \text{almost surely}$$

and

$$(6.31) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|x_0| \leq Rt} \rho^+(x_0, 0, t, \omega) = 0 \quad \text{in probability,}$$

that is, for any $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$(6.32) \quad \mathbb{P}\{\omega : \forall x_0 \in B_{Rt}(0), \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, 0, \omega) \subset x_0 + (1 + \varepsilon)W_t\} \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

PROOF. To prove (6.30), fix $R > 0$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ and choose ε -nets $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^N$ in the ball $B_R(0)$ and $\{v_j\}_{j=1}^K$ in the effective 1-reachable set W_1 . For every $x_0 \in B_{Rt}(0)$ and $v \in W_t$ there exist i and j such that $|x_0 - ty_i| < t\varepsilon$ and $|v - tv_j| < t\varepsilon$. Assuming that $t \geq \varepsilon^{-1}\tau_0 \geq 2\Lambda^{-1}\varepsilon^{-1}\tau_0$, we see from (6.19) that

$$\tau(x_0, 0, v, \omega) \leq \tau(ty_i, 3\Lambda t\varepsilon, tv_j, \omega) + 6\Lambda t\varepsilon$$

for all $\omega \in \Omega$. Hence

$$\sup_{|x_0| \leq Rt, v \in W_t} \tau(x_0, 0, v, \omega) \leq \max_{i,j} \tau(ty_i, 3\Lambda t\varepsilon, tv_j, \omega) + 6\Lambda t\varepsilon$$

for all $t \geq \varepsilon^{-1}\tau_0$ and $\omega \in \Omega$. By Lemma 6.7 (part 1)

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \max_{i,j} \frac{1}{t} \tau(ty_i, 3\Lambda t\varepsilon, tv_j, \omega) = \max_j \overline{T}(v_j) \leq 1 \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

Thus

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|x_0| \leq Rt, v \in W_t} \frac{1}{t} \tau(x_0, 0, v, \omega) \leq 1 + 6\Lambda\varepsilon \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

By (6.17) this implies that for every $\delta > 0$ there is

$$s = s(\delta, \omega) > 0$$

such that

$$x_0 + v \in \mathcal{R}_{t(1+6\Lambda\varepsilon+\delta)}(x_0, t_0)$$

for all $t \geq s$, $v \in W_t$ and $|x_0| \leq Rt$. Setting $\delta = \Lambda\varepsilon$ we obtain that

$$\rho^-(x_0, 0, t(1 + 7\Lambda\varepsilon), \omega) \leq 7\Lambda\varepsilon$$

for all $t \geq s = s(\Lambda\varepsilon, \omega)$ and $|x_0| \leq Rt$. Therefore

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|x_0| \leq R't} \rho^-(x_0, 0, t, \omega) \leq 7\Lambda\varepsilon \quad \text{almost surely}$$

where $R' = (1 + 7\Lambda\varepsilon)^{-1}R$. Since R and ε are arbitrary, (6.30) follows. To prove (6.31), fix $R > 0$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ and define

$$\Omega_1(t) = \{\omega : \exists x_0 \in B_{Rt}(0), \rho^+(x_0, 0, t, \omega) > \varepsilon\}.$$

Let $\delta = \varepsilon/32\Lambda$ and choose δ -nets $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^N$ in $B_R(0)$ and $\{v_j\}_{j=1}^K$ in $B_M(0)$. Consider $\omega \in \Omega_1(t)$ where $t \geq \delta^{-1}\tau_0$. By the definition of $\Omega_1(t)$ there exist $x_0 \in B_{Rt}(0)$ and $v \in \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, 0, \omega) - x_0$ such that $v \notin (1 + \varepsilon)W_t$. By (6.12) we have $v \in B_{Mt}(0)$, hence there exist i and j such that $|x_0 - ty_i| < \delta t$ and $|v - tv_j| < \delta t$. These inequalities, (6.19), and (6.18) imply that

$$\begin{aligned} \tau(ty_i, -3\Lambda\delta t, tv_j, \omega) &\leq \tau(x_0, 0, v, \omega) + 6\Lambda\delta t \\ (6.33) \quad &\leq t + 2\tau_0 + 6\Lambda\delta t \leq (1 + \varepsilon/4)t. \end{aligned}$$

Since $v \notin (1 + \varepsilon)W_t$, we have $\bar{T}(t^{-1}v) \geq 1 + \varepsilon$. On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{T}(t^{-1}v) &\leq \bar{T}(v_j) + \bar{T}(t^{-1}v - v_j) \leq \bar{T}(v_j) + \Lambda|t^{-1}v - v_j| \\ &\leq \bar{T}(v_j) + \Lambda\delta \leq \bar{T}(v_j) + \varepsilon/4 \end{aligned}$$

by the subadditivity of \bar{T} and (6.20). Therefore $\bar{T}(v_j) \geq 1 + \varepsilon/2$. Hence, by (6.33),

$$\frac{1}{t}\tau(ty_i, -3\Lambda\delta t, tv_j, \omega) \leq 1 + \varepsilon/4 \leq \bar{T}(v_j) - \varepsilon/4.$$

Thus

$$\mathbb{P}(\Omega_1(t)) \leq \sum_{i,j} \mathbb{P}\left\{\omega : \frac{1}{t}\tau(ty_i, -3\Lambda\delta t, tv_j, \omega) \leq \bar{T}(v_j) - \varepsilon/4\right\}$$

for all $t \geq \delta^{-1}\tau_0$. By Lemma 6.7 (part 2), each summand in the right-hand side goes to 0 as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Hence $\mathbb{P}(\Omega_1(t)) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and (6.31) follows. \square

DEFINITION 6.11. Define the support function of W_1 (also known as the effective Hamiltonian)

$$\bar{H}(p) = \sup\{p \cdot y \mid y \in W_1\}.$$

Since $\bar{H}(p)$ is the supremum of a family of linear functions of p , it is immediate that \bar{H} is convex in p , and positively homogeneous of degree 1. Since $B_{1-\Delta}(0) \subset W_1 \subset B_M(t)$, we have $(1 - \Delta)|p| \leq \bar{H}(p) \leq M|p|$. Similarly, we define the support functions of reachable sets.

DEFINITION 6.12. For $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\omega \in \Omega$ define

$$H_t(x_0, t_0, p, \omega) = \sup\{p \cdot (y - x_0) \mid y \in \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega)\}$$

and

$$H_t(p, \omega) = H_t(0, 0, p, \omega).$$

Due to the space-time stationarity, the random variable $H_t(x_0, t_0, p, \cdot)$ has the same distribution as $H_t(p, \cdot)$.

LEMMA 6.13. *For any $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $R > 0$,*

$$(6.34) \quad \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|x_0| \leq Rt} \frac{H_t(x_0, 0, p, \omega)}{t} \leq \bar{H}(p) \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

Here is an outline of the proof of Lemma 6.13. First we adjust parameters in (6.34) to define a more manageable random variable $h(t, \omega)$; see (6.37) and (6.38) below. The advantages of $h(t, \omega)$ over the original expression are its subadditivity and independence properties, demonstrated in the course of the proof. With the new variable $h(t, \omega)$ the lemma is reduced to (6.39), which we then prove in four steps.

In Step 1 we prove the subadditivity (6.43). Unfortunately, this subadditivity is weaker than the classical one; we only have a bound for $h(qt, \omega)$ by a sum of $h_q(t, \omega)$ where h_q is another random variable parametrized by $q \in \mathbb{N}$. We overcome this difficulty by chaining random variables $h_q(t, \omega)$ to $h(t, \omega)$ in Step 2. Namely, we show in Step 2 that one can control distributions of $h_q(t, \omega)$ by distribution of $h(t, \omega)$; see (6.45). Step 3 is the key one. There we prove almost sure convergence for t ranging along a geometric progression; see (6.51). We do this by analysis of the probability distribution of $h(t, \omega)$ using our stationarity and independence assumptions, subadditivity of $h(t, \omega)$, and its convergence in probability (6.40). In our final Step 4 we show that the linear bound (6.36) on the growth of $H_t(x_0, t_0, p, \omega)$ is sufficient to deduce the convergence for all $t \rightarrow \infty$.

PROOF OF LEMMA 6.13. We begin with several preliminary observations. By scaling it is sufficient to consider $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $|p| = 1$. We may also assume that $R \geq M$. We fix such p and R for the rest of the proof. Since $\mathcal{R}_t(x_0, t_0, \omega) \subset B_{Mt}(x_0)$, we have

$$(6.35) \quad H_t(x_0, t_0, p, \omega) \leq Mt.$$

Moreover,

$$(6.36) \quad H_{t_1+t_2}(x_0, t_0, p, \omega) \leq H_{t_1}(x_0, t_0, p, \omega) + Mt_2$$

for all $t_1, t_2 \geq 0$, since $\mathcal{R}_{t_1+t_2}(x_0, t_0)$ is contained in the (Mt_2) -neighborhood of $\mathcal{R}_{t_1}(x_0, t_0)$.

For $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, $t \geq \tau_0$, and $\omega \in \Omega$, define

$$(6.37) \quad h(x_0, t_0, t, \omega) = \sup_{|x-x_0| \leq Rt} H_{t-\tau_0}(x, t_0, p, \omega) + M\tau_0$$

and, for brevity,

$$(6.38) \quad h(t, \omega) = h(0, 0, t, \omega).$$

For every $x_0 \in B_{Rt}(0)$ we have $H_t(x_0, 0, p, \omega) \leq h(t, \omega)$ by (6.36) applied to $t_1 = t - \tau_0$ and $t_2 = \tau_0$. Thus, in order to prove the lemma, it suffices to show that

$$(6.39) \quad \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h(t, \omega)}{t} \leq \bar{H}(p).$$

Let us now reformulate the convergence in probability from Lemma 6.10 in terms of $h(t, \omega)$. We claim that, for every $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$(6.40) \quad \mathbb{P} \left\{ \omega : \frac{h(t, \omega)}{t} > \bar{H}(p) + \varepsilon \right\} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

Indeed, by (6.32) in Lemma 6.10 we have

$$(6.41) \quad \mathbb{P} \{ \omega : \forall x_0 \in B_{Rt}(0), \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, 0, \omega) - x_0 \subset (1 + \varepsilon)W_t \} \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

For every ω satisfying the relation $\mathcal{R}_t(x_0, 0, \omega) - x_0 \subset (1 + \varepsilon)W_t$ in (6.41), we have

$$H_t(x_0, 0, p, \omega) \leq \sup \{ p \cdot y \mid y \in (1 + \varepsilon)W_t \} = (1 + \varepsilon)t\bar{H}(p).$$

Therefore, we can conclude from (6.41) that

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ \omega : \forall x_0 \in B_{Rt}(0), \frac{H_t(x_0, 0, p, \omega)}{t} \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\bar{H}(p) \right\} \rightarrow 1$$

as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for every $\varepsilon > 0$, and (6.40) follows.

In order to state subadditivity properties of $h(t, \omega)$, we need one more definition. Fix $q \in \mathbb{N}$ and define

$$h_q(x_0, t_0, t, \omega) = \sup_{|x-x_0| \leq 2qRt} H_{t-\tau_0}(x, t_0, p, \omega) + M\tau_0$$

and

$$h_q(t, \omega) = h_q(0, 0, t, \omega)$$

for $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, $t \geq \tau_0$, and $\omega \in \Omega$. Observe that

$$(6.42) \quad h_q(x_0, t_0, t, \omega) \leq Mt$$

by (6.35). We are now ready for our four steps.

Step 1. Subadditivity of $h(t, \omega)$. We show here that for every $q \in \mathbb{N}$, $t \geq \tau_0$, and $\omega \in \Omega$,

$$(6.43) \quad h(qt, \omega) \leq \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} h_q(0, kt, t, \omega).$$

Indeed, let $\gamma: [0, qt - \tau_0] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be an admissible path for $V_t(x, \omega)$ with $\gamma(0) \in B_{qRt}(0)$. To prove (6.43), it suffices to verify that

$$(6.44) \quad (\gamma(qt - \tau_0) - \gamma(0)) \cdot p \leq \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} h_q(0, kt, t, \omega) - M\tau_0$$

for every such path γ . Observe that $\gamma(kt) \in B_{2qRt}(0)$ for $k = 0, \dots, q-1$ since $\gamma(0) \in B_{qRt}(0)$ and $|\dot{\gamma}| \leq M \leq R$. Hence

$(\gamma((k+1)t - \tau_0) - \gamma(kt)) \cdot p \leq H_{t-\tau_0}(\gamma(kt), kt, p, \omega) \leq h_q(0, kt, t, \omega) - M\tau_0$ for each $k = 0, 1, \dots, q-1$. We also have

$$(\gamma(kt) - \gamma(kt - \tau_0)) \cdot p \leq |\gamma(kt) - \gamma(kt - \tau_0)| \leq M\tau_0$$

for each $k = 1, \dots, q-1$. Summing up these $2q-1$ inequalities yields (6.44), which implies (6.43).

Step 2. Chaining of $h_q(t, \omega)$. The goal of this step is to show that there exists $N = N(q, n) \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$(6.45) \quad \mathbb{P}\{\omega : h_q(t, \omega) > \alpha\} \leq N \cdot \mathbb{P}\{\omega : h(t, \omega) > \alpha\}$$

for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, $t \geq \tau_0$, and $\omega \in \Omega$.

To prove this, observe that a ball of radius $2qRt$ can be covered by N balls of radius Rt :

$$B_{2qRt}(0) \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^N B_{Rt}(z_i)$$

for some z_1, \dots, z_N , where N is determined by q and n . Therefore

$$h_q(t, \omega) \leq \max_{1 \leq i \leq N} h(z_i, 0, t, \omega);$$

hence

$$\mathbb{P}\{\omega : h_q(t, \omega) > \alpha\} \leq \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{P}\{\omega : h(z_i, 0, t, \omega) > \alpha\}.$$

Due to the space-time stationarity, each summand in the last sum equals $\mathbb{P}\{\omega : h(t, \omega) > \alpha\}$ and the inequality (6.45) follows.

Step 3. Convergence along a geometric progression. As we have mentioned earlier, this is the key step. Recall that our goal is to prove (6.39). Here we prove that the same inequality with a small error term holds for t ranging along a geometric progression with common ratio q ; see (6.51) below.

Fix $\varepsilon > 0$ and $q \in \mathbb{N}$, and let $N = N(q, n)$ from Step 2. Define

$$f(t, \omega) = \frac{h(t, \omega)}{t} - \bar{H}(p) - \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad f_k(t, \omega) = \frac{h_q(0, kt, t, \omega)}{t} - \bar{H}(p) - \varepsilon$$

for all $t \geq \tau_0$, $\omega \in \Omega$, and $k \in \{1, \dots, q\}$. Note that $f_k(t, \omega) \leq M$ by (6.42).

With this notation, (6.43) takes the form

$$(6.46) \quad f(qt, \omega) \leq \frac{1}{q} \sum_{k=0}^{q-1} f_k(t, \omega).$$

The inequality (6.45) along with the space-time stationarity imply that

$$(6.47) \quad \mathbb{P}\{f_k(t, \omega) > \alpha\} \leq N \cdot \mathbb{P}\{f(t, \omega) > \alpha\}$$

for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$.

Fix a positive $\delta < \frac{1}{2q^2N^2}$. By (6.40),

$$\mathbb{P}\{\omega : f(t, \omega) > 0\} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

Hence there exists $t_0 \geq \tau_0$ such that

$$(6.48) \quad \mathbb{P}\{\omega : f(t, \omega) > 0\} < \delta \quad \forall t \geq t_0.$$

Define

$$(6.49) \quad \Delta(t) = \mathbb{P}\left\{\omega : f(t, \omega) > \frac{M}{q}\right\}$$

for all $t \geq \tau_0$. We are going to estimate $\Delta(qt)$ in terms of $\Delta(t)$ using the above inequalities.

Assume that $t \geq t_0$ where t_0 is the same as in (6.48). The bound $f_k(t, \omega) \leq M$ and (6.46) imply the following property: For every $\omega \in \Omega$ such that $f(qt, \omega) > \frac{M}{q}$, at least two of the terms $f_k(t, \omega)$ must be positive, and at least one of them must be greater than $\frac{M}{q}$. Therefore

$$(6.50) \quad \Delta(qt) \leq \sum_{i \neq j} \mathbb{P}\left\{\omega : f_i(t, \omega) > \frac{M}{q} \text{ and } f_j(t, \omega) > 0\right\}.$$

Observe that the random variables $f_i(t, \cdot)$ and $f_j(t, \cdot)$ are independent if $i \neq j$. This follows from the finite range time dependence and the fact that $f_k(t, \omega)$ is determined by the restriction of the flow to the time interval $[kt, (k+1)t - \tau_0]$. Hence (6.50) can be rewritten as

$$\Delta(qt) \leq \sum_{i \neq j} \mathbb{P}\{\omega : f_i(t, \omega) > M/q\} \cdot \mathbb{P}\{f_j(t, \omega) > 0\}.$$

This and (6.47), (6.48), and (6.49) imply that

$$\Delta(qt) \leq \sum_{i \neq j} N\Delta(t) \cdot N\delta = q(q-1)N^2\delta\Delta(t) \leq \frac{\Delta(t)}{2}$$

where the last inequality follows from the choice of δ .

By induction it follows that $\Delta(q^m t) \leq 2^{-m}$ for all $t \geq t_0$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$. By the Borel-Cantelli lemma and (6.49), this implies that for every $t > 0$

$$\limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} f(q^m t, \omega) \leq \frac{M}{q}$$

for a.e. $\omega \in \Omega$. Substituting the definition of f yields that

$$(6.51) \quad \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h(q^m t, \omega)}{q^m t} \leq \bar{H}(p) + \varepsilon + \frac{M}{q}$$

for a.e. $\omega \in \Omega$.

Step 4. Convergence for all t . To finish the proof, choose a partition $1 = t_1 \leq t_2 \leq \dots \leq t_l = q$ of $[1, q]$ such that $t_{i+1} < (1 + \varepsilon)t_i$ for all $i < l$. For every $t \geq q$ there exist positive integers $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i < l$ such that

$$q^m t_i \leq t < q^m t_{i+1} < q^m t_i + \varepsilon t.$$

These inequalities and (6.36) imply that

$$h(t, \omega) \leq h(q^m t_i, \omega) + M\varepsilon t,$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h(t, \omega)}{t} &\leq \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \max_{1 \leq i < l} \frac{h(q^m t_i, \omega)}{q^m t_i} + M\varepsilon \\ &= \max_{1 \leq i < l} \limsup_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h(q^m t_i, \omega)}{q^m t_i} + M\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

for all $\omega \in \Omega$. This and (6.51) imply that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h(t, \omega)}{t} \leq \bar{H}(p) + \frac{M}{q} + (M + 1)\varepsilon$$

for a.e. $\omega \in \Omega$. Since this holds for all $\varepsilon > 0$ and $q \in \mathbb{N}$, the estimate (6.39) follows. This finishes the proof of the lemma. \square

LEMMA 6.14. *For any fixed $R > 0$*

$$(6.52) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|x_0| \leq Rt} \rho^+(x_0, 0, t, \omega) = 0 \quad \text{almost surely.}$$

PROOF. Fix $R > 0$ and $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$. Since W_1 is a compact convex set, we have

$$W_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x \cdot p \leq \bar{H}(p), \forall p \in \mathbb{R}^n\}.$$

Furthermore, there is a finite collection of vectors $p_1, \dots, p_N \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $|p_i| = 1$ such that

$$\widetilde{W}_1 := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x \cdot p_i \leq \bar{H}(p_i), \forall i\} \subset (1 + \varepsilon)W_1.$$

By Lemma 6.13, for almost every $\omega \in \Omega$ there exists $t_\omega > 0$ such that for all $t > t_\omega$ and $x_0 \in B_{Rt}(0)$,

$$(x - x_0) \cdot p_i \leq (1 + \varepsilon)t \bar{H}(p_i) \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{R}_t(x_0, 0, \omega), \forall i.$$

This implies that

$$\mathcal{R}_t(x_0, 0, \omega) - x_0 \subset (1 + \varepsilon)t \widetilde{W}_1 \subset (1 + \varepsilon)^2 W_1$$

and therefore $\rho^+(x_0, 0, t, \omega) < (1 + \varepsilon)^2 - 1 < 3\varepsilon$. Since ε is arbitrary, (6.52) follows. \square

PROOF OF THEOREMS 6.3 AND 6.4. Theorem 6.3 follows by setting $W = W_1$ and applying (6.30) and (6.52).

To prove Theorem 6.4 we recall the control representation (2.6) for the solution of the G-equations. For $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t > 0$, and $\omega \in \Omega$, define

$$\mathcal{R}_t^-(x, \omega) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : x \in \mathcal{R}_t(y, 0, \omega)\}.$$

The control representation for the solution of (6.1) and (6.2) have the form

$$u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega) = \sup\{u_0(y) : y \in \varepsilon\mathcal{R}_{t/\varepsilon}^-(x/\varepsilon, \omega)\}$$

and

$$\bar{u}(t, x) = \sup\{u_0(y) : y \in x - W_t\}.$$

Let $\delta > 0$, $h > 0$, and $R > 0$. From (6.30) and (6.52) we see that for almost every $\omega \in \Omega$ there exists $\varepsilon_0 = \varepsilon_0(\delta, R, h, \omega) > 0$ so that for all $|x| \leq R$, $t \geq h$, and $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_0$, we have

$$\{x - W_{t(1-\delta)}\} \subset \varepsilon\mathcal{R}_{t/\varepsilon}^-(x/\varepsilon, \omega) \subset \{x - W_{t(1+\delta)}\}.$$

Therefore

$$(6.53) \quad \bar{u}(t(1-\delta), x) \leq u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega) \leq \bar{u}(t(1+\delta), x).$$

Since $\delta > 0$ is arbitrary and $\bar{u}(t, x)$ is uniformly continuous, (6.53) implies that $u^\varepsilon \rightarrow \bar{u}$ uniformly on compact sets in $(0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^n$. To obtain the locally uniform convergence down to time $t = 0$, we need the uniform L^∞ bound on V_t and uniform continuity of $u_0(x)$. Observe that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, h]} |u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega) - \bar{u}(t, x)| \leq \sup_{t \in [0, h]} |u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega) - u_0(x)| + \sup_{t \in [0, h]} |\bar{u}(t, x) - u_0(x)|.$$

For any $y \in \varepsilon\mathcal{R}_{t/\varepsilon}^-(x/\varepsilon, 0, \omega)$ we have $|y - x| \leq Mt$. Thus the first term on the right is bounded by

$$(6.54) \quad \sup_{t \in [0, h]} |u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega) - u_0(x)| \leq \sup_{\substack{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ |y-x| \leq Mh}} |u_0(y) - u_0(x)| \leq \phi(Mh),$$

where ϕ is the modulus of continuity of $u_0(x)$. This and a similar bound on $|\bar{u}(t, x) - u_0(x)|$ implies that

$$(6.55) \quad \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left[\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ t \in [0, h]}} |u^\varepsilon(t, x, \omega) - \bar{u}(t, x)| \right] = 0.$$

Combining (6.53) and (6.55), we conclude that (6.10) holds with probability 1. \square

Appendix: Functions of Bounded Variation

We collect here needed facts about functions of bounded variation (BV functions) in \mathbb{R}^n , $n \geq 2$. We followed [1] and [12].

DEFINITION A.1 (Proposition 3.6 and Definition 3.4 in [1]). Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open set and $u \in L^1(\Omega)$. The *variation* of u in Ω , denoted by $\text{Var}(u, \Omega)$, is

$$\text{Var}(u, \Omega) = \sup \left\{ \int_{\Omega} u \, \text{div} \phi : \phi \in [C_c^1(\Omega)]^n, \|\phi\|_{L^\infty} \leq 1 \right\}.$$

Here and below $[C_c^1(\Omega)]^n$ denotes the set of all compactly supported C^1 functions from Ω to \mathbb{R}^n .

The space $\text{BV}(\Omega)$ consists of all functions $u \in L^1(\Omega)$ with $\text{Var}(u, \Omega) < \infty$. It is equipped with the norm

$$\|u\|_{\text{BV}} = \int_{\Omega} |u| dx + \text{Var}(u, \Omega).$$

Remark A.2. The distributional derivative Du of a BV-function u is a (vector-valued) finite Radon measure, and $\text{Var}(u, \Omega) = |Du|(\Omega)$. We occasionally write

$$\text{Var}(u, \Omega) = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|,$$

where the right-hand side is understood in the sense of distributions.

DEFINITION A.3 (Definition 3.35 in [1]). The *perimeter* $P(E, \Omega)$ of a measurable set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ in an open set $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is defined by

$$P(E, \Omega) = \text{Var}(\chi_E, \Omega) = \sup \left\{ \int_E \text{div } \phi : \phi \in [C_c^1(\Omega)]^n, \|\phi\|_{L^\infty} \leq 1 \right\}.$$

We denote $P(E) = P(E, \mathbb{R}^n)$.

In all cases of interest in this paper the set E is bounded.

DEFINITION A.4 (Reduced boundary, definition 3.54 in [1]). Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a set of finite perimeter. The *reduced boundary* $\partial^* E$ of E is the collection of points $x \in \text{supp}(|D\chi_E|)$ such that the limit

$$(A.1) \quad v_E(x) = \lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0} \frac{\int_{B_\rho(x)} \nabla \chi_E}{\int_{B_\rho(x)} |\nabla \chi_E|}$$

exists in \mathbb{R}^n and satisfies $|v_E(x)| = 1$. The integrals here are understood in the sense of distributions. The function $v_E : \partial^* E \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ is called the generalized inner normal to E .

Theorem A.5 (De Giorgi theorem, theorem 15.9 in [12]). If $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is a set of finite perimeter, then the reduced boundary $\partial^* E$ is \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -rectifiable and

$$P(E, \Omega) = \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\Omega \cap \partial^* E)$$

for every open set $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$.

Recall that $I_r = [-r, r]^n$ is a cube with edge length $2r$ and I_r° denotes its interior.

Theorem A.6 (Relative isoperimetric inequality in the cube). If E is a set of finite perimeter in \mathbb{R}^n , then for every $r > 0$,

$$(A.2) \quad \min(|E \cap I_r|, |I_r \setminus E|)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \leq CP(E, I_r^\circ) = C \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\partial^* E \cap I_r^\circ),$$

where C is a constant depending on n only.

PROOF. This inequality is standard, but we could not find exactly this formulation in the literature. For the sake of completeness we include a proof here.

Every $u \in \text{BV}(I_r^\circ)$ satisfies the following Sobolev inequality (see, e.g., remark 3.50 in [12]): there is a constant $C_1 = C_1(n)$ such that

$$(A.3) \quad \left(\int_{I_r} |u - \bar{u}|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \leq C_1 \text{Var}(u, I_r^\circ),$$

where \bar{u} denotes the average of u over I_r :

$$\bar{u} = \frac{1}{|I_r|} \int_{I_r} u.$$

The fact that C_1 does not depend on r follows from a scaling argument.

Let $u = \chi_E$, then $\bar{u} = \frac{|E \cap I_r|}{|I_r|}$ and $1 - \bar{u} = \frac{|I_r \setminus E|}{|I_r|}$; hence

$$\int_{I_r} |u - \bar{u}|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} dx = \left(\frac{|I_r \setminus E|}{|I_r|} \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} |E \cap I_r| + \left(\frac{|E \cap I_r|}{|I_r|} \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} |I_r \setminus E|.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\int_{I_r} |u - \bar{u}|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} dx \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \\ & \geq \frac{1}{|I_r|} \left(|E \cap I_r|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} + |I_r \setminus E|^{\frac{n}{n-1}} \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \min(|E \cap I_r|, |I_r \setminus E|)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \\ & \geq \frac{1}{2} \min(|E \cap I_r|, |I_r \setminus E|)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}. \end{aligned}$$

This and the Sobolev inequality (A.3) imply the inequality in (A.2). The equality in (A.2) holds due to the De Giorgi theorem A.5. \square

Corollary A.7. If E is a set of finite perimeter in \mathbb{R}^n , then for every $r > 0$

$$\min(|E \cap I_r|, |I_r \setminus E|) \leq CrP(E, I_r^\circ) = Cr\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\partial^* E \cap I_r^\circ)$$

where C is a constant depending only on n .

PROOF. The inequality follows immediately from (A.2) and the trivial estimate

$$\min(|E \cap I_r|, |I_r \setminus E|) \leq |I_r| = 2^n r^n.$$

(See also [1, remark 3.45] for a different proof.) \square

Theorem A.8 (Federer co-area formula, theorem 2.93 in [1]). Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Lipschitz function and $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ an \mathcal{H}^k -rectifiable set. Then the function $t \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^{k-1}(E \cap f^{-1}(t))$ is Lebesgue measurable, $E \cap f^{-1}(t)$ is \mathcal{H}^{k-1} -rectifiable for almost every $t \in \mathbb{R}$, and

$$\int_E |\nabla_\tau f(x)| d\mathcal{H}^k(x) = \int_{t=0}^\infty \mathcal{H}^{k-1}(E \cap f^{-1}(t)) dt$$

where $\nabla_\tau f(x)$ is the component of $\nabla f(x)$ tangential to E .

In the next theorem we use the following notation. For $t \in \mathbb{R}$, we denote by Σ_t the hyperplane $\Sigma_t := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_1 = t\}$. For a set $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, we denote by E_t the intersection (“slice”) $E_t := E \cap \Sigma_t$.

Corollary A.9 (Co-area inequality). Let $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a set with finite perimeter. Then $\partial^* E \cap \partial I_r$ is \mathcal{H}^{n-2} -rectifiable for almost every r , and

$$(A.4) \quad \mathcal{H}^{n-1}(\partial^* E) \geq \int_0^\infty \mathcal{H}^{n-2}(\partial^* E \cap \partial I_r) dr.$$

PROOF. By the De Giorgi theorem A.5 the reduced boundary $\partial^* E$ is \mathcal{H}^{n-1} -rectifiable. We obtain the inequality in (A.4) by applying Theorem A.8 to $\partial^* E$ in place of E with $k = n - 1$, $f(x) = \|x\|_{L_\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)}$, and using the fact that $|\nabla_\tau f(x)| \leq 1$. \square

Theorem A.10 (Boundary slicing theorem, Theorem 18.11 in [12]). If E is a set of finite perimeter in \mathbb{R}^n , then for almost every $t \in \mathbb{R}$ the slice $E_t = E \cap \Sigma_t$ is a set of finite perimeter in the hyperplane $\Sigma_t \cong \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ and

$$\mathcal{H}^{n-2}(\partial^*(E_t) \Delta (\partial^* E)_t) = 0,$$

where Δ denotes symmetric difference of two sets and $\partial^*(E_t)$ is the $(n - 2)$ -dimensional reduced boundary of E_t in Σ_t .

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