

# Branching Diffusions Representation for Nonlinear PDEs

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# Objective

Design numerical approximation for the equation :

$$\partial_t v + \mu \cdot Dv + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 : D^2 v + F(t, x, v, Dv, D^2 v) = 0, \quad v(T, \cdot) = g$$

- Finite differences, finite elements : very efficient in 1 – 2 dim, curse of dimensionality, path dependency increases dimension
- **Probabilistic representation**  $\implies$  Monte Carlo methods + extension to the path-dependent case...
- Extension to **stochastic PDEs** and **general initial value problems**

## Intuition from the linear case

The heat equation :

$$\partial_t v + \frac{1}{2} \Delta v = 0, \quad v(T, \cdot) = g$$

has the following probabilistic representations :

$$v(0, x) = \mathbb{E}[g(B_T) | B_0 = x]$$

where  $B$  a Brownian motion

⇒ opens the door to Monte Carlo approximation

dimension-free rate of convergence

⇒ allows for path-dependency

# A first Monte Carlo scheme for fully nonlinear PDEs

Consider the backward numerical scheme

$$Y_{t_n}^n = g(W_{t_n}),$$

$$Y_{t_{i-1}}^n = \mathbb{E}_{i-1}^n [Y_{t_i}^n] + f(W_{t_{i-1}}, Y_{t_{i-1}}^n, Z_{t_{i-1}}^n, \Gamma_{t_{i-1}}^n) \Delta t_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n,$$

$$Z_{t_{i-1}}^n = \mathbb{E}_{i-1}^n \left[ Y_{t_i}^n \frac{\Delta W_{t_i}}{\Delta t_i} \right]$$

$$\Gamma_{t_{i-1}}^n = \mathbb{E}_{i-1}^n \left[ Y_{t_i}^n \frac{|\Delta W_{t_i}|^2 - \Delta t_i}{|\Delta t_i|^2} \right]$$

Then  $Y_0^n \rightarrow v(0, x)$ , where  $v$  is the unique solution of

$$\partial_t v + f(x, v, Dv, D^2v) = 0, \quad v_T = g.$$

Error estimate... **Curse of dimensionality is back**

## Our main objective

An alternative representation of the **heat equation**

$$v(t, x) = e^{\beta T} \mathbb{E}[g(B_T) \mathbb{I}_{\{T < \tau\}} | B_0 = x], \quad B \text{ BM}, \quad \tau \sim \text{Expo}(\beta) \perp B$$

Extend this representation for nonlinear PDEs

⇒ Branching diffusions...

- ⊕ Purely forward Monte Carlo
- ⊕ Suitable for path-dependency
- ⊕ Very easy to implement, complexity linear in  $d^2$
- ⊖ Need to control from explosion of solution

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**$\implies$  Branching diffusions...**

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# Outline

- 1 Branching diffusion representation for Generalized KPP equation
  - KPP equation
  - Generalized KPP equation
  - Semilinear parabolic PDEs with polynomial nonlinearity
- 2 Initial Value Problems
  - Linear IVP
  - Linear IVP
- 3 Stochastic PDEs : an example

## From linear representation (i) to nonlinear

- Consider **KPP equations**

$$(KPP) \quad \partial_t v + \mu \cdot Dv + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 : D^2 v + \beta \left( \sum_{i=1}^n p_i v^i - v \right) = 0$$

with  $p_i > 0$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^n p_i = 1$

- Branching diffusions** representation :

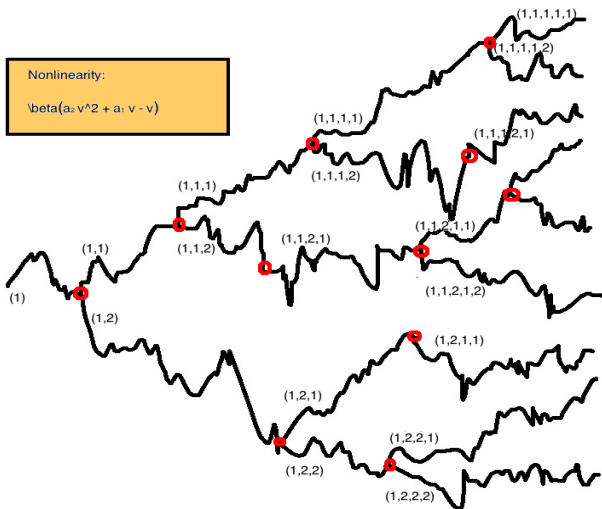
$$v(0, x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \prod_{k \in \mathcal{K}_T} g(Z_T^k) \right], \quad \text{where } Z^k : k\text{-th particle}$$

and

$$\mathcal{K}_t := \{ \text{All particles alive at time } t \}$$

[Skorokhod, Watanabe, McKean]



Branching diffusion ( $n = 2$ )

# Generalized KPP equation

Let  $a_i(t, x)$  be bounded functions, and consider the PDE

$$\partial_t v + \mu(t, x) \cdot Dv + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(t, x) : D^2 v + \sum_{i=0}^n p_i a_i(t, x) v^i = 0$$

$$v(T, \cdot) = g$$

Introduce the branching diffusion :

- $(\tau_k)_k$  iid  $\sim \rho$ , and  $T_k := T \wedge (\tau_1 + \dots + \tau_k)$  : branching times
- $(I_k)_k$  iid Multinomial( $p_0, \dots, p_n$ ) : number of decedents
- Particle  $k$  dies out at the branching event  $T_k$ , and  $I_k$  independent particles follow the diffusion with drift and diffusion  $(\mu, \sigma)$

# The branching diffusion representation

Recall

- $\mathcal{K}_T := \{\text{particles present at } T\}$
- $\bar{\mathcal{K}}_T := \cup_{t \leq T} \mathcal{K}_t$  : all particles

Theorem (Henry-Labordère, Tan & NT SPA '14)

Let  $\rho > 0$  density on  $(0, \infty)$ , and  $\bar{F}_\rho(t) := \int_t^\infty \rho(s) ds$ . Then

$$v(0, x) = \mathbb{E}_{0, x} \left[ \prod_{k \in \mathcal{K}_T} \frac{g(Z_T^k)}{\bar{F}_\rho(\Delta T)} \prod_{k \in \bar{\mathcal{K}}_T \setminus \mathcal{K}_T} \frac{a_{I_k}(T_k, Z_{T_k}^k)}{\rho(\Delta T_k)} \right]$$

Moreover, this representation extends to the path-dependent case

- Numerical implications
- In the rest of the talk : extension to more general nonlinearities

## Sketch of proof

By the Feynman-Kac formula

$$\begin{aligned} v(0, x) &= \mathbb{E}_{0, x} \left[ \frac{\bar{F}_\rho(T)}{\bar{F}_\rho(T)} g(X_T) + \int_0^T \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\rho_i a_i(t, X_t)}{\rho(t)} v(t, X_t) \rho(t) dt \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{0, x} \left[ \mathbb{1}_{\tau_1 > T} \frac{g(X_T)}{\bar{F}_\rho(T)} + \mathbb{1}_{\tau_1 \leq T} \frac{a_{h_1}(\tau_1, X_{\tau_1})}{\rho(\tau_1)} v(\tau_1, X_{\tau_1})^{h_1} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Continue with the nonlinear term to get rid of the regression :

$$\begin{aligned} v(\tau_1, X_{\tau_1})^{h_1} &= \mathbb{E}_{\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}} [\phi(\tau_2, X_{\tau_2}, l_2)]^{h_1} \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}} [\phi(\tau_2, X_{\tau_2}, l_2)] \times \dots \times \mathbb{E}_{\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}} [\phi(\tau_2, X_{\tau_2}, l_2)]}_{h_1 \text{ times}} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}} [\phi(\tau_{1,1}, Z_{\tau_{1,1}}^{1,1}, h_{1,1}) \times \dots \times \phi(\tau_{1,l}, Z_{\tau_{1,l}}^{1,l}, h_{1,l})] \end{aligned}$$

... Tower property... Number of branching  $\rightarrow \infty$

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# A class of semilinear PDEs with polynomial nonlinearity

Consider the PDE (unit diffusion for simplicity)

$$\partial_t u + \frac{1}{2} \Delta u + f(t, x, u, Du) = 0, \quad u_T = g$$

with nonlinearity

$$f(t, x, y, z) = \sum_{(\ell_i)_{0 \leq i \leq n} \in L} p_\ell c_\ell(t, x) y^{\ell_0} \prod_{i=1}^n (b_i(t, x) \cdot z)^{\ell_i}$$

- $L$  finite subset of  $\mathbb{N}^{n+1}$
- $p_\ell > 0$  with  $\sum_{\ell \in L} p_\ell = 1$
- $b_i(t, x)$  bounded functions



# Sketch of proof for the Burger's equation

By the Feynman-Kac formula

$$\begin{aligned} v(0, x) &= \mathbb{E}_{0,x} \left[ \frac{\bar{F}_\rho(T)}{\bar{F}_\rho(T)} g(X_T) + \int_0^T \frac{1}{\rho(t)} v(t, X_t) Dv(t, X_t) \rho(t) dt \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{0,x} \left[ \mathbb{1}_{\tau_1 > T} \frac{g(X_T)}{\bar{F}_\rho(T)} + \mathbb{1}_{\tau_1 \leq T} \frac{1}{\rho(\tau_1)} v(\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}) Dv(\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Continue with the nonlinear term to **get rid of the regression** :

$$\begin{aligned} (vDv)(\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}) &= \mathbb{E}_{\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}} [\phi(\tau_2, X_{\tau_2})] \partial_x \mathbb{E}_{\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}} [\phi(\tau_2, X_{\tau_2})] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}} [\phi(\tau_2, X_{\tau_2})] \mathbb{E}_{\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}} \left[ \frac{W_{\tau_2} - W_{\tau_1}}{\tau_2 - \tau_1} \phi(\tau_2, X_{\tau_2}) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\tau_1, X_{\tau_1}} \left[ \phi(\tau_{1,1}, Z_{\tau_{1,1}}^{1,1}) \frac{W_{\tau_2} - W_{\tau_1}}{\tau_2 - \tau_1} \phi(\tau_{1,1}, Z_{\tau_{1,1}}) \right] \end{aligned}$$

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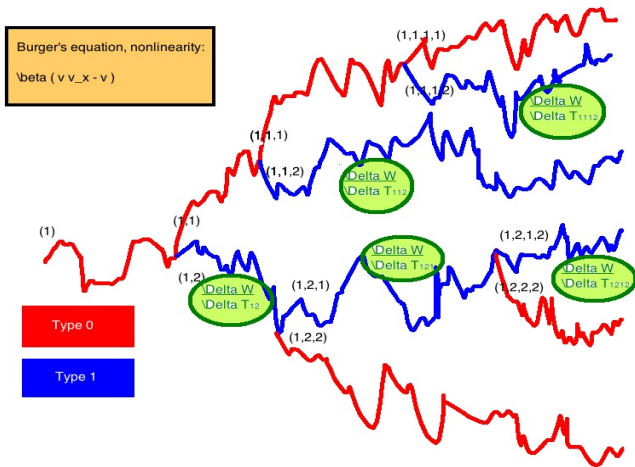
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.... Tower property... **Number of branching**  $\longrightarrow \infty$ ...

# Branching diffusion for the Burger equation

Example : Burgers equation  $d = 1$  and  $f(t, x, u, u_x) = u u_x$



## Automatic differentiation

For simplicity,  $d = 1$ , constant  $\mu$ ,  $\sigma = 1$  :  $X_h = x + \mu h + W_h$

$$\partial_x \mathbb{E}[\phi(X_h)] = \mathbb{E} \left[ \phi(X_h) \frac{W_h}{h} \right]$$

Direct Integration by parts

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_x \mathbb{E}[\phi(X_h)] = \mathbb{E}[\phi_x(X_h)] &= \int \phi_x(x+y) \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2h}(y-\mu h)^2}}{\sqrt{2\pi h}} dy \\ &= \int \phi(x+y) \frac{(y-\mu h)}{h} \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2h}(y-\mu h)^2}}{\sqrt{2\pi h}} dy \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[ \phi(X_h) \frac{W_h}{h} \right] \end{aligned}$$

# Marked branching mechanism

- $(\tau_k)_k$  iid arrival times,  $T_k := \tau_k \wedge T$
- $(I_k)_k$  iid Multinomial( $\ell, p_\ell, \ell \in L$ )
- If  $T_1 < T$  : particle dies out at  $T_1$ 
  - $I_1 = \ell = (\ell_0, \dots, \ell_n)$  with probability  $p_\ell$
  - birth of new particles :
    - $\ell_i$  particles of type  $i, i = 0, \dots, n$
- $\mathcal{K}_t = \{k \text{ alive at time } t\}, \bar{\mathcal{K}}_t := \cup_{s \leq t} \mathcal{K}_s$ , for all  $k \in \bar{\mathcal{K}}_T$  :
  - $D(k)$  its type
  - $k$  – its parent particle
    - $\implies$  Particle  $k$  lives between  $T_{k-}$  and  $T_k$

# Using automatic differentiation

- Automatic differentiation :

$$\mathcal{W}_k := \mathbb{1}_{\{D(k)=0\}} + \mathbb{1}_{\{D(k)\neq 0\}} b_{D(k)}(T_{k-}, X_{T_{k-}}^k) \cdot \frac{\Delta W_{T_k}}{\Delta T_k}$$

The limiting random variable is :

$$\begin{aligned} \psi &:= \prod_{k \in \mathcal{K}_T} \bar{F}_\rho(\Delta T_k)^{-1} [g(X_T^k) - \mathbb{1}_{\{D_k \neq 0\}} g(X_{T_{k-}}^k)] \mathcal{W}_k \\ &\times \prod_{k' \in \bar{\mathcal{K}}_T \setminus \mathcal{K}_T} [\rho(\Delta T_{k'})]^{-1} b_{l_{k'}}(T_{k'}, X_{T_{k'}}^{k'}) \mathcal{W}_{k'} \end{aligned}$$



## Sufficient condition for square integrability

For independent BM  $W$ ,  $\tau \sim \rho$ , and  $T_1 := \tau \wedge T$ , define :

$$A_p := \max_{\ell} \frac{|g|_{\infty}^p \vee \|W_{T_1}\|^p \|b_{\ell} \cdot \frac{W_{T_1}}{T_1}\|^p}{\bar{F}_{\rho}(T)^{p-1}}$$

$$B_p := \max_{\ell} \|\Delta_{\tau}\|^{p/2} \left\| b_{\ell} \cdot \frac{W_{T_1}}{T_1} \right\|^p \left[ |b_{\ell}|_{\infty} \sup_{t \leq T} \frac{t^{-\frac{p}{2(p-1)}}}{\rho(t)} \right]^{p-1}$$

Theorem (Henry-Labordère, Oudjane, Tan, NT, Warin '16)

Assume that  $g$  Lipschitz and, for some  $p > 1$ ,

$$\int_{A_p}^{\infty} [B_p \sum |b_{\ell}|_{\infty} |x|^{|\ell|}]^{-1} dx > T$$

Then  $v(0, x) = \mathbb{E}_{0,x}[\psi]$ , and  $\psi \in \mathbb{L}^2$

# Numerical example

- Define

$$u(t, x) = \cos(x_1 + \cdots + x_d) \exp(\alpha(T - t))$$

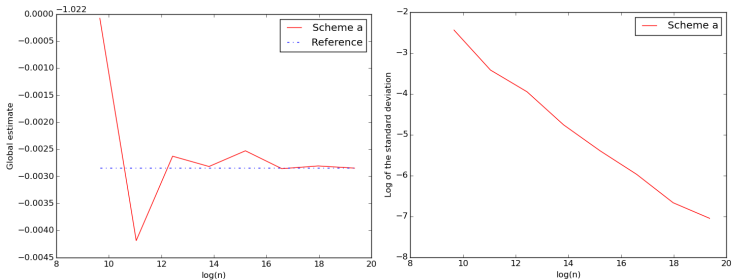
is solution of semilinear PDE

$$\partial_t u + \frac{1}{2} \Delta u + c u (b_1 \cdot Du) + b_0 = 0.$$

- For numerical implementation, we choose

$$\alpha = 0.2, \quad c = 0.15, \quad b_1 = \left(1 + \frac{1}{d}, 1 + \frac{2}{d}, \dots, 2\right).$$

# A numerical example of dimension $d = 20$



**Figure** – Estimation and standard deviation observed in dimension  $d = 20$  depending on the log of the number of simulation used.

# Comments on the Monte-Carlo method

- Choice of  $\rho$ ,  $(\rho_\ell)_{\ell \in L}$ , the expression of nonlinearity ...
- possible to use importance sampling, particles method,...
- open to parallel computing

# Monte Carlo approximation of nonlinear PDEs

Fully nonlinear PDEs... (e.g. HJB equations)

If  $T_1 < T$  : particle dies out, and is replaced with probability  $p_\ell$  by

- $i_\ell$  particles of type 0
- $j_\ell$  particles of type 1  $\implies$  first order differentiation weight
- $h_\ell$  particles of type 2  $\implies$  second order differentiation weight

Automatic differentiation for particles  $k$  of type  $D(k) = 2$  :

$$\frac{\Delta W_T^2 - \Delta T}{(\Delta T)^2} \quad !!$$

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# Linear initial value problems with constant coefficients

Consider the general PDE :

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_j \partial_t^j u - \sum_{j=1}^m b_j \cdot D^j u = f_n \text{ on } \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d,$$

$$\partial_t^j u(0, \cdot) = f_j \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^d, \quad j = 0, \dots, n-1,$$

where

$f_j : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $j < n$  and  $f_n : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , bounded continuous

**Examples :**

- Wave equation :  $\partial_t^2 u - \Delta u = f_2$
- KdV equation :  $\partial_t u - b_3 \cdot D^3 u = f_1$

# Duhamel's Representation

For all  $t \geq 0$ , and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , we have

$$u(t, x) = \sum_{j=1}^n \int f_{j-1}(y) g_j(t, x - y) dy + \int_0^t \int f_n(s, y) g_n(t - s, x - y) dy ds$$

where  $g_j(r, z) := (2\pi)^{-d} \int \{e^{B(\xi)r}\}_{1,j} e^{-i\xi \cdot z} d\xi$ , and

$$B(\xi) := \left( \begin{array}{c|ccc} 0 & & & \\ \vdots & & I_{n-1} & \\ 0 & & & \\ \hline b(\xi) & -a_1 & \cdots & -a_{n-1} \end{array} \right)$$



# Probabilistic representation

Assume  $G_j(t) := \int |g_j(t, y)| dy < \infty$  for all  $t \geq 0$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n$

$$\text{Then, } u(t, x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} m_l(t, Z_t^{1+l}) f_l(X_t^{1+l}) + \mathbb{1}_{\{\tau \leq t\}} m_n(\tau, Z_\tau^n) f_n(t - \tau, X_\tau^n) \right]$$

$l, \tau, X_t^j := x - Z_t^j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n$  independent with

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} p_j = 1, \quad p_j := \mathbb{P}[l = j]$$

$$\mathbb{P}[\tau \in dt] = \rho(t) \mathbb{1}_{\{t \geq 0\}} dt, \quad \rho > 0$$

$$\mathbb{P}[Z_t^j \in dz] = \frac{|g_j(t, z)|}{G_j(t)} dz$$

$$m_n(t, y) := \frac{\text{sg}\{g_n(t, y)\} G_n(t)}{\rho(t)}, \quad m_j(t, y) := \frac{\text{sg}\{g_{j+1}(t, y)\} G_{j+1}(t)}{p_j \bar{\rho}(t)}, \quad j < n$$

## Representation of semilinear initial value problems

## Theorem (Henry-Labordère &amp; NT)

Under some conditions, we have

$$\xi_{t,x} := \prod_{k \in \mathcal{K}_t} m_{l_k}(\Delta T_k^t, Z_t^{1+l_k}) f_{l_k}(X_t^{1+l_k}) \\ \times \prod_{k \in \bar{\mathcal{K}}_t \setminus \mathcal{K}_t} m_n(\Delta T_k^t, Z_{T_k^t}^k) c_{J_k}(t - T_k^t, X_{T_k^t}^n) \in \mathbb{L}^1$$

and  $u(t, x) := \mathbb{E}[\xi_{t,x}]$  is the unique solution of the semilinear IVP

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_j \partial_t^j u - \sum_{j=1}^m b_j \cdot D^j u = \sum_{\ell=1}^L q_\ell c_\ell u^\ell \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \\ \partial_t^j u(0, \cdot) = f_j \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d, \quad j = 0, \dots, n-1$$

# Outline

- 1 Branching diffusion representation for Generalized KPP equation
  - KPP equation
  - Generalized KPP equation
  - Semilinear parabolic PDEs with polynomial nonlinearity
- 2 Initial Value Problems
  - Linear IVP
  - Linear IVP
- 3 Stochastic PDEs : an example

## Representation of semilinear initial value problems

Consider the SPDE driven by Brownian motion  $W$  :

$$\partial_t u + \frac{1}{2} \Delta u + \beta \left( \frac{1}{3} u^2 - u \right) + \dot{W} = 0, \quad t < T, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad u(T, \cdot) = g(\cdot) \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^d$$

Notice that  $u^0(t) := \int_t^T e^{-\beta(s-t)} dW_s$  is the solution of

$$\partial_t u^0 + \frac{1}{2} \Delta u^0 + -\beta u^0 + \dot{W} = 0, \quad t < T, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad u^0(T, \cdot) = g(\cdot) \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^d$$

Then,  $U(t, x) := u(t, x) - u^0(t)$  satisfies :

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t U + \frac{1}{2} \Delta U_t dt + \beta \left( \frac{U_t^2 + 2u_t^0 U_t + (u_t^0)^2}{3} - U_t \right) = 0, & t < T, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d \\ U(T, x) = g(x), & x \in \mathbb{R}^d \end{cases}$$

# Branching diffusion representation of SPDE

## Theorem (Henry-Labordère, Matoussi & NT)

Under convenient conditions, the solution of the SPDE is  $u := U + u^0$  where

$$U_t(x, \omega) = \mathbb{E}_{t,x} \left[ \prod_{k \in \mathcal{K}_T} g(W_T^k) \prod_{k \in \bar{\mathcal{K}}_T \setminus \mathcal{K}_T} (2^{l_k} u_{T_k}^0)^{2-l_k} \right],$$

satisfies  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \int_0^T (|u(t, \cdot)|_{\mathbb{L}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)} + |Du(t, \cdot)|_{\mathbb{L}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)}) dt \right] < \infty$ .

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION