

On the Boltzmann equation: global solutions in one spatial dimension

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Summary

The Boltzmann equation for $f(x, v, t) \geq 0$ with $x \in \mathbb{R}^1/\mathbb{Z}^1$, $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$

The macroscopic density

$$\rho(x, t) = \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} f(x, v, t) dv$$

The entropy relative to a Maxwellian $M(v) = m \left(\frac{a}{\pi}\right)^{3/2} e^{-a|v-u|^2}$ is

$$H(f|M) = \int_{x \in \mathbb{T}^1} \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} \left(f \log\left(\frac{f}{M}\right) - f + M \right) dv dx$$

Main result: There exists a constant C_0 such that if $\rho_0(x) \in L_x^\infty$ and

for some M_0 , $H(f_0|M_0) \leq C_0$ then global strong solutions exist.

Outline

The Boltzmann equation

Global existence results

Uniqueness

Properties of propagation

Main ideas of the proof

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Boltzmann equation

- ▶ The classical **Boltzmann equation**

$$\partial_t f + v \cdot \partial_x f = Q(f, f), \quad f(x, v, 0) = f_0(x, v) \quad (1)$$

Phase space coordinates $(x, v) \in \mathbb{R}_x^3 \times \mathbb{R}_v^3$.

Phase space distribution function $f(x, v, t)$.

- ▶ In case $Q = 0$ the solution is

$$f(x, v, t) = f_0(x - tv, v) = \Phi_t(f_0)(x, v)$$

Free streaming flow of the equation (1) linearized about $f = 0$

- ▶ $Q(f, f)$ is the **collision operator**

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portrait of Ludwig Boltzmann (1844 - 1906)

29/09/05

<http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollectio...-identity/thumbnails/TNSIL14-B5-06.jpg>

#1



portrait of J. C. Maxwell (1831 - 1879)

03 / 10 / 05

<http://www.egr.msu.edu/~bohnsac3/nano/figures/Ma%1e>



Collision operator

- ▶ The **collision operator** of Maxwell and Boltzmann

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q(f, f)(x, v) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}_{v_*}^3} \int_{\mathbb{S}_\sigma^2} (f(x, v')f(x, v'_*) - f(x, v)f(x, v_*)) \\
 &\quad \times K \, dS_\sigma \, dv_* \\
 &= Q^+(f, f)(x, v) - Q^-(f, f)(x, v) \quad (2)
 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Velocities before v', v'_* and after v, v_* a binary collision satisfy

$$v + v_* = v' + v'_* \quad \text{and} \quad (v' - v'_*)/|v - v_*| = \sigma \in \mathbb{S}^2$$

- ▶ The **collision kernel** $K = K(|v - v_*|, \frac{(v - v_*)}{|v - v_*|} \cdot \sigma)$

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Macroscopic quantities

- ▶ macroscopic **mass density**

$$\rho(x, t) = \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} f(x, v, t) dv$$

- ▶ macroscopic **momentum density**

$$\rho u(x, t) = \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} v f(x, v, t) dv$$

- ▶ macroscopic **energy density**

$$\rho e(x, t) = \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} |v|^2 f(x, v, t) dv$$

Macroscopic conservation laws

- ▶ Conservation of **mass**:

$$\partial_t \rho(x, t) + \nabla_x \cdot F_\rho(x, t) = 0$$

with density flux $F_\rho = \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} v f(x, v, t) dv$

- ▶ Conservation of **momentum**:

$$\partial_t \rho u(x, t) + \nabla_x \cdot F_{\rho u}(x, t) = 0$$

with momentum flux $F_{\rho u} = \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} v \otimes v f(x, v, t) dv$

- ▶ Conservation of **energy**:

$$\partial_t \rho e(x, t) + \nabla_x \cdot F_{\rho e}(x, t) = 0$$

with energy flux $F_{\rho e} = \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} |v|^2 v f(x, v, t) dv$

NB The closure problem

One dimensional geometry

We take $x \in \mathbb{R}^1$ and $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$, which is known as the **slab geometry**. It is the setting of a narrow shock tube, or a situation with spanwise constant macroscopic quantities.

Furthermore, we ask for periodic spatial boundary conditions; that is $x \in \mathbb{R}^1$ and $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$.

NB: Periodic boundary conditions, or perturbations of a state of thermodynamic equilibrium (a constant Maxwellian background) are more difficult problems than setting $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}_x^3 \times \mathbb{R}_v^3)$ in the background of a vacuum.

Conserved quantities

- ▶ Total **Mass**

$$M(f) = \int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \rho(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} f(x, v, t) dv dx$$

- ▶ Total **Momentum**

$$I(f) = \int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \rho u(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} v f(x, v, t) dv dx$$

- ▶ Total **Energy**

$$E(f) = \int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \rho e(x, t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} |v|^2 f(x, v, t) dv dx$$

These quantities are constants of motion for the Boltzmann equation.

Relative entropy

Define the **relative entropy** of a phase space distribution function $f(x, v)$ with respect to a constant Maxwellian distribution by

$$H(f|M) = \int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} \left(f \log\left(\frac{f}{M}\right) - f + M \right) dv dx$$

Proposition (1)

Positivity properties of the relative entropy

1. $H(f|M) \geq 0$
2. Let $m := \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} M dv$. The *Csiszár–Kullback–Pinsker inequality* is equivalent to

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}^1} \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} |f(x, v) - M(v)| dv dx \leq \sqrt{4mH(f|M)} + H(f|M)$$

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The H -theorem

Proposition (2)

The relative entropy $H(f|M)$ decreases along the flow of the Boltzmann equation

$$\partial_t H(f|M) \leq 0$$

Remarks: The following are equivalent:

1. $f \in L \log(L)$ and $\int_x \int_v (1 + |v|^2) |f| dv dx < +\infty$
2. $f \in L \log \left(\frac{|f|}{M} \right)$ for some Maxwellian $M(v)$

The $\|f\|$ norm

Definition (3)

For functions $f(x, v)$ on phase space define the norm

$$\|f\| := \sup_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{T}^1 \\ p \in \mathbb{R}^+}} \int_{\mathbb{R}_v^3} |f|(x - pv, v) dv \quad (3)$$

Denote by X the space of functions for which this is finite.

The function space $X \subseteq L_x^\infty(L_v^1)$.

NB: The streaming flow $\Phi_t(f)(x, v) = f(x - tv, v)$ is not continuous on $L_x^\infty(L_v^1)$ but it is so on X

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First global result

Theorem (4)

Assume that the collision kernel K satisfies *hypothesis (H1)*. Then there is a constant K_0 such that if initial data f_0 for the Boltzmann equation (1) satisfies

$$\|f_0\| < +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad H(f_0|M_0) \leq \frac{1}{4\pi K_0} \quad (4)$$

for some Maxwellian M_0 , then the solution $f(\cdot, t) \in X$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$.

More specifically the theorem asserts that there is an estimate on the L_x^∞ norm of the density $\rho(x, t)$. When strict inequality holds in (4)

$$\exists \beta \quad \text{such that} \quad \|\rho(x, t)\|_{L_x^\infty} \leq \|f(x, v, t)\| \leq C_0 \exp(\sqrt{t/\beta})$$

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Hypotheses on the collision kernel

The result depends upon a newly described smoothing property of the collision kernel K .

$$K(r, \xi) = K\left(|v - v_*|, \frac{(v - v_*) \cdot \sigma}{|v - v_*|}\right)$$

Hypothesis (H1)

*Large relative velocity interactions are **soft**, while small relative velocity interactions are **hard**:*

$$(H1) \quad 0 \leq K(r, \xi) \leq \frac{K_0 w}{1 + w \log^{1+\varepsilon}(w + 1)}$$

NB This hypothesis is related to one appearing in Cercignani's work.

Compare with Boltzmann's collision kernel

Power law potential interactions between molecules for $1 < p \leq \infty$ are in the form

$$V(|q_1 - q_2|) = \frac{\gamma}{|q_1 - q_2|^p}$$

In this case, the classical Boltzmann collision kernel has the form

$$K(r, \xi) = b(\xi)|v - v_*|^\beta$$

where $-\infty < \beta = \beta(p) \leq 1$.

For hard spheres $\beta = 1$, For the Maxwell molecule case $p = 5$ it turns out that $\beta = 0$.

NB: For all but the hard spheres case, $b(\xi)$ diverges nonintegrably as $\xi \rightarrow \pm 1$. **Grad cutoffs** appear here, where they truncate grazing collisions.

A stronger hypothesis on the collision kernel gives a better result

Hypothesis (H2)

Small relative velocity interactions are absent.

- (H2)** (i) $K(r, \xi) = 0$ for $r < R_1$
 (ii) $K(r, \xi) \geq \beta(\xi) \sup_{\xi \in (-1,1)} (K(r, \xi))$ for $R_1 < r$,
 where $\beta(\xi)$ is positive on a set of positive measure.

Theorem (5)

Assume that hypotheses (H1) and (H2) hold, and that

$$\|f_0\| < +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad M(f_0) + E(f_0) < +\infty \quad (5)$$

then for all $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$ solutions to (1) exist and have L_x^∞ macroscopic density $\rho(x, t)$.

NB These solutions could have infinite entropy

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Uniqueness in X

- ▶ Solutions $f(x, v, t)$ of the Boltzmann equation (1) such that

$$\rho(x, t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_v^3} f(x, v, t) dv \in C([0, T] : L_x^\infty)$$

are known as **strong** solutions.

- ▶ Solutions in the class X are unique.
- ▶ However the more general property of **weak/strong** uniqueness holds.

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Dissipative solutions

Definition (P.-L. Lions (1994))

A nonnegative $f(x, v, t) \in C([0, T]; L^1(\mathbb{T}^1 \times \mathbb{R}^3))$ is a **dissipative solution** of the Boltzmann equation (1) if for all

$$g(x, v, t) \in L^\infty([0, T]; L_x^\infty(\mathbb{T}^1; L_v^1(\mathbb{R}^3)))$$

satisfying

$$\partial_t g + v \cdot \nabla_x g - Q(g, g) = \mathcal{E}(g),$$

in the sense of distributions, then f obeys the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \int |f - g| dv + \nabla_x \cdot \int v |f - g| dv \\ \leq \int Q(g, f - g) \operatorname{sgn}(f - g) dv - \int \mathcal{E}(g) \operatorname{sgn}(f - g) dv \end{aligned}$$

Weak/strong uniqueness

Theorem (6)

Given initial data satisfying (4), that is

$$\|f_0\| < +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad H(f_0|M_0) \leq \frac{1}{4\pi K_0} \quad (6)$$

any other dissipative solution starting with the same initial data f_0 must coincide with the strong solution for all $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$

In the case where hypothesis (H2) also holds, for uniqueness we only require

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Moments and derivatives

This question has to do with the evolution of smoothness and moment properties of the phase space distribution function $f(x, v, t)$, once the basic property of being a strong solution is established.

- ▶ **Moments** $M_\kappa(f) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{T}^1} \int_{\mathbb{R}_v^3} v^\kappa f(x, v, t) dv$
- ▶ **Derivatives in v** $Q_\lambda(f) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{T}^1} \int_{\mathbb{R}_v^3} |\partial_v^\lambda f(x, v, t)| dv$
- ▶ **Derivatives in x** $P_\mu(f) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{T}^1} \int_{\mathbb{R}_v^3} |\partial_x^\mu f(x, v, t)| dv$

Propagation of moments and derivatives

Theorem (7)

Given initial data $f_0(x, v)$ satisfying (4) (or in the case where hypothesis (H2) also holds, (5)). If in addition for integers k, ℓ, m the data satisfies

$$\sum_{|\kappa| \leq k, |\lambda| \leq \ell, |\mu| \leq m} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{T}^1} \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} |v^\kappa| |\partial_v^\lambda \partial_x^\mu f_0(x, v)| dv dx < +\infty$$

then for all $t > 0$

$$\sum_{|\kappa| \leq k, |\lambda| \leq \ell, |\mu| \leq m} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{T}^1} \int_{v \in \mathbb{R}^3} |v^\kappa| |\partial_v^\lambda \partial_x^\mu f(x, v, t)| dv dx \leq \varphi_{k\ell m}(t) < +\infty$$

The **growth rate** is bounded by $c_{k\ell m} \exp(\exp(\sqrt{t/\beta}))$.

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The **growth rate** is bounded by $c_{k\ell m} \exp(\exp(\sqrt{t/\beta}))$.

Main ideas of the proof

- ▶ Using Duhamel's principle and the streaming flow, rewrite the Boltzmann equation as an **integral equation**

$$f(x, v, t) = f_0(x - tv, v) + \int_0^t Q(x - (t-s)v, v, s) ds$$

- ▶ Solutions satisfy the **maximum principle**:

$$f_0(x, v) \geq 0 \quad \text{implies} \quad f(x, v, t) \geq 0 \quad \text{for } t > 0$$

- ▶ **Drop** the Q^- term for the inequality

$$0 \leq f(x, v, t) \leq f_0(x - tv, v) + \int_0^t Q^+(x - (t-s)v, v, s) ds$$

- ▶ **Integrate** in $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$

$$0 \leq \rho(x, t) \leq \int_v f_0(x - tv, v) dv + \int_0^t \int_v Q^+(x - (t-s)v, v, s) dv ds \quad (7)$$

The integrand in (7) involves a spherical integral through the part of the collision operator Q^+

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_v Q^+(x - (t-s)v, v, s) dv \\
 &= \int_v \int_{v_*} \int_{\mathbb{S}_\sigma^2} f(x - (t-s)v, v') f(x - (t-s)v, v'_*) \\
 & \quad \times K(|v - v_*|, \frac{(v - v_*)}{|v - v_*|} \cdot \sigma) dS_\sigma dv_* dv \\
 &= \int_v \int_{v_*} \int_{\mathbb{S}_\sigma^2} f(x - (t-s)v', v) f(x - (t-s)v', v_*) \\
 & \quad \times K(|v - v_*|, \frac{(v - v_*)}{|v - v_*|} \cdot \sigma) dS_\sigma dv_* dv
 \end{aligned}$$

where $v' = \frac{1}{2}((v + v_*) + |v - v_*|\sigma)$

A smoothing property

In one dimensional geometries, the integral over $\sigma \in \mathbb{S}^2$ converts to a spatial integral over the interval $[v_{min}, v_{max}]$ where

$$v_{min} = \frac{1}{2}((v + v_*) \cdot e_1 - |v - v_*|)$$

$$v_{max} = \frac{1}{2}((v + v_*) \cdot e_1 + |v - v_*|)$$

Changing variables in the integral (assume for simplicity that $K(r, \xi) = 0$ for $r > R$)

$$\int_v Q^+(x - (t-s)v, v, s) dv \leq \frac{1}{t-s} \int_{-R(t-s)}^{R(t-s)} 4\pi K_0 \rho^2(x+z, s) dz$$

Two estimates of the integrand

- ▶ The first estimate of the integrand is simply through $\|\rho\|_{L^\infty}$

$$\frac{1}{t-s} \int_{-R(t-s)}^{R(t-s)} 4\pi K_0 \rho^2(x+z, s) dz \leq 8\pi K_0 R \|\rho\|_{L^\infty}^2$$

- ▶ The second estimate uses the relative entropy $H(f|M)$

$$\frac{1}{t-s} \int_{-R(t-s)}^{R(t-s)} 4\pi K_0 \rho^2(x+z, s) dz \leq \frac{4\pi K_0 H(f|M)}{t-s} \frac{\|\rho\|_{L^\infty}}{\log(\|\rho\|_{L^\infty})}$$

Each one individually gives rise to an estimate which doesn't forbid blowup in finite time.

The integral inequality

Estimate the integrand by optimizing the two estimates

Denote $\|f(x, v, t)\| = \varphi(t)$ and $\alpha = C_0 K_0 H(f_0|M)$

$$\varphi(t) \leq \varphi(0) + \int_0^t \min \left\{ c_1 \varphi^2(s), \left(\frac{\alpha}{t-s} + c_2 \right) \frac{\varphi(s)}{\log(\varphi(s))} \right\} ds \quad (8)$$

Theorem (8)

Global solutions of (8) depend only upon $\alpha \leq 1$.

The constant c_1 depends upon ε, K_0 and $H(f_0|M)$, while c_2 depends upon the initial data.

The Bony functional

- ▶ The proof of the second theorem under hypothesis (H2) is based on the **Bony functional**

$$b(t) = \int \int \int \int f(x, v, t) f(x, v_*, t) \\ \times K(|v - v_*|, \sigma \cdot (v - v_*) / |v - v_*|) |v - v_*|^2 dS_\sigma dv dv_* dx$$

which has the property that $\int_0^\infty b(t) dt < +\infty$

- ▶ Using similar ideas in the case where (H2) holds, the integral inequality is

$$\varphi(t) \leq \varphi(0) + \int_0^t \min \left\{ c_1 \varphi^2(s), \left(\frac{1}{t-s} + 1 \right) c_3 b(s) \right\} ds \quad (9)$$

global existence

Proposition (9)

Given $b(t)$, the maximal solution $\varphi(t)$ of the integral inequality (9) is a locally bounded function of t .

Furthermore the quantity $\|f(\cdot, t)\| \leq \varphi(t)$. This implies global existence of a strong solution $f(x, v, t)$

However no rate of growth is available from this method, and indeed there may not be any quantitative rate.

Future directions

- ▶ Theorem (5) is restricted to one dimensional geometries. It is an open question whether Theorem (4) is so constrained.
- ▶ Can we relax the conditions $(H1)$ on the collision kernel, possibly by using energy conservation.
- ▶ Does a similar theorem hold for nonelastic collisions (P. Degond). One of the difficult tendencies is for particles to coagulate (this is avoided precisely through hypothesis $(H2)$ in our second category of results).
- ▶ Use Boltzmann-like kinetic equations to study homogeneous forms of dispersive nonlinear Hamiltonian partial differential equations