

# Nonequilibrium variational principles from dynamical fluctuations

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# To be discussed

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- **Min- and Max-entropy production** principles: various examples
- From variational principles to **fluctuation laws**: equilibrium case
- **Static** versus **dynamical** fluctuations
- **Onsager-Machlup** equilibrium dynamical fluctuation theory
- **Stochastic** models of nonequilibrium
- Conclusions, open problems, outlook,...

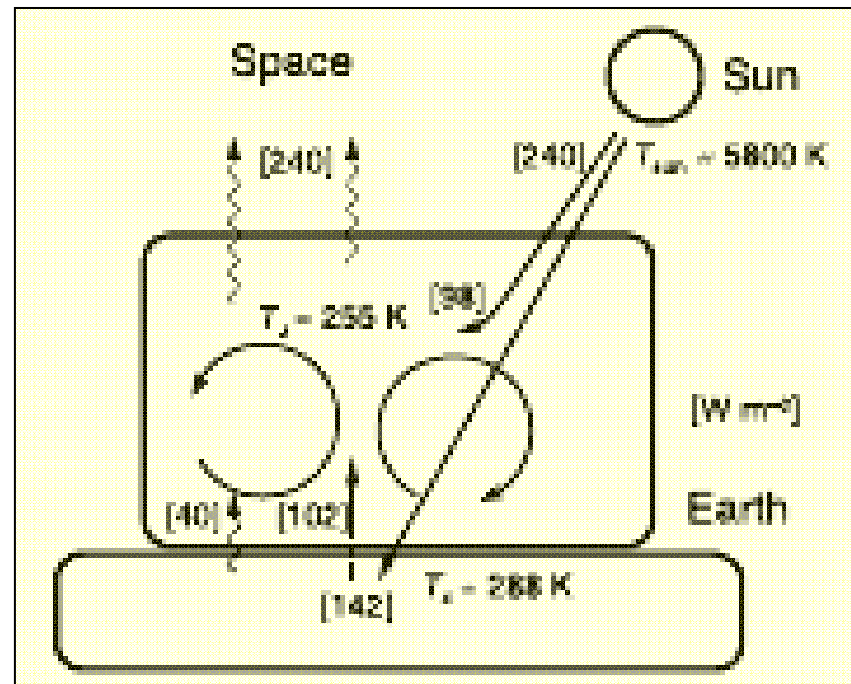
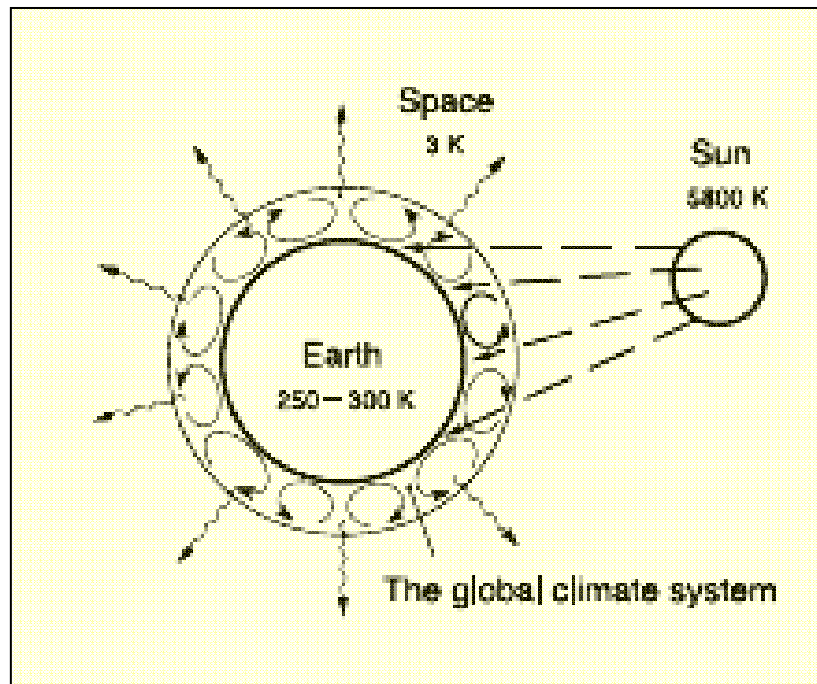


*In collaboration with **C. Maes**,  
**B. Wynants**, and **S. Bruers**  
(K.U.Leuven, Belgium)*



# Motivation: Modeling Earth climate

[Ozawa et al, *Rev. Geoph.* **41** (2003) 1018]



$$\dot{S}_{\text{whole (univ)}} \approx \dot{S}_{\text{surr}} = \left( \frac{1}{T_a} - \frac{1}{T_{\text{sun}}} \right) 240 \approx 0.90 \text{ (W K}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}) = \dot{S}_{\text{turb}} + \dot{S}_{\text{abs (short,s)}} + \dot{S}_{\text{abs (short,a)}} + \dot{S}_{\text{abs (long,a)}}$$

$$= \left( \frac{1}{T_a} - \frac{1}{T_s} \right) 102 + \left( \frac{1}{T_s} - \frac{1}{T_{\text{sun}}} \right) 142 + \left( \frac{1}{T_a} - \frac{1}{T_{\text{sun}}} \right) 98 + \left( \frac{1}{T_a} - \frac{1}{T_s} \right) 40$$

# Linear electrical networks

explaining MinEP/MaxEP principles

- Kirchhoff's loop law:

$$\sum_k U_{jk} = \sum_k E_{jk}$$

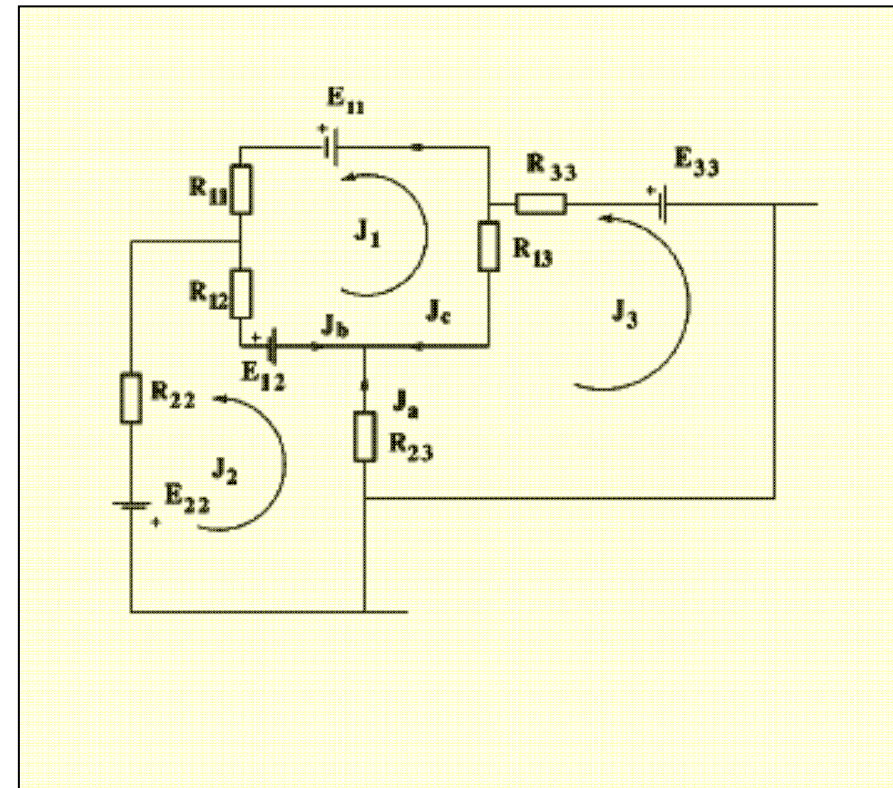
- Entropy production rate:

$$\sigma(U) = \beta Q(U) = \beta \sum_{j,k} \frac{U_{jk}^2}{R_{jk}}$$

- **MinEP** principle:

*Stationary values of voltages minimize the entropy production rate*

- **Not valid under inhomogeneous temperature!**



# Linear electrical networks

explaining MinEP/MaxEP principles

- Kirchhoff's current law:

$$\sum_j J_{jk} = 0$$

- Entropy production rate:

$$\sigma(J) = \beta Q(J) = \beta \sum_{j,k} R_{jk} J_{jk}^2$$

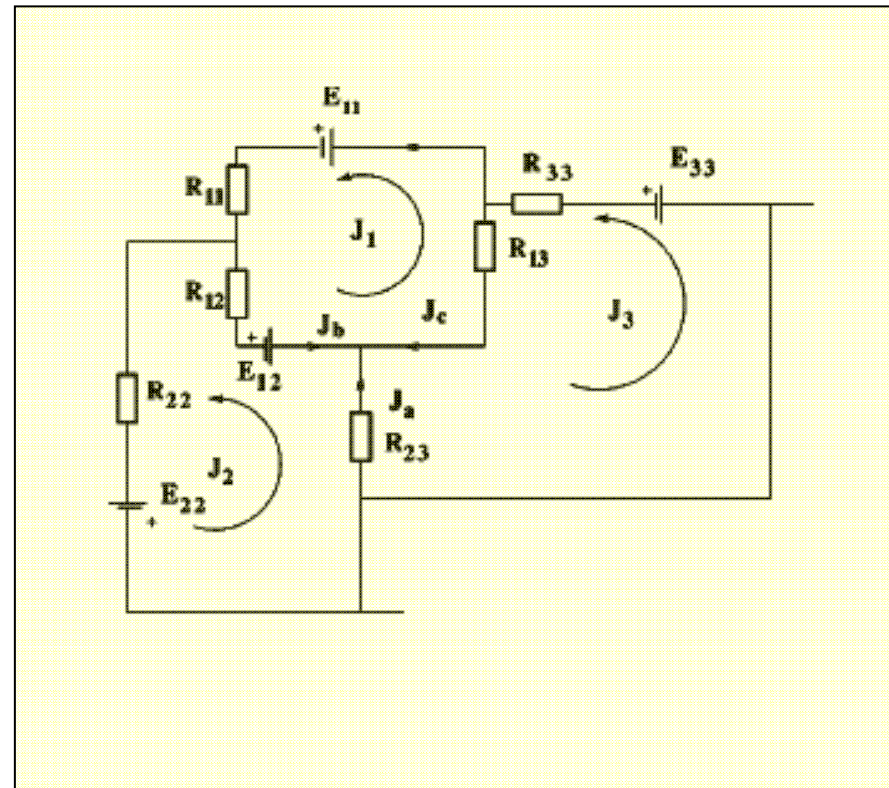
- Work done by sources:

$$W(J) = \sum_{jk} E_{jk} J_{jk}$$

- (Constrained) **MaxEP** principle:

*Stationary values of currents  
maximize the entropy  
production under constraint*

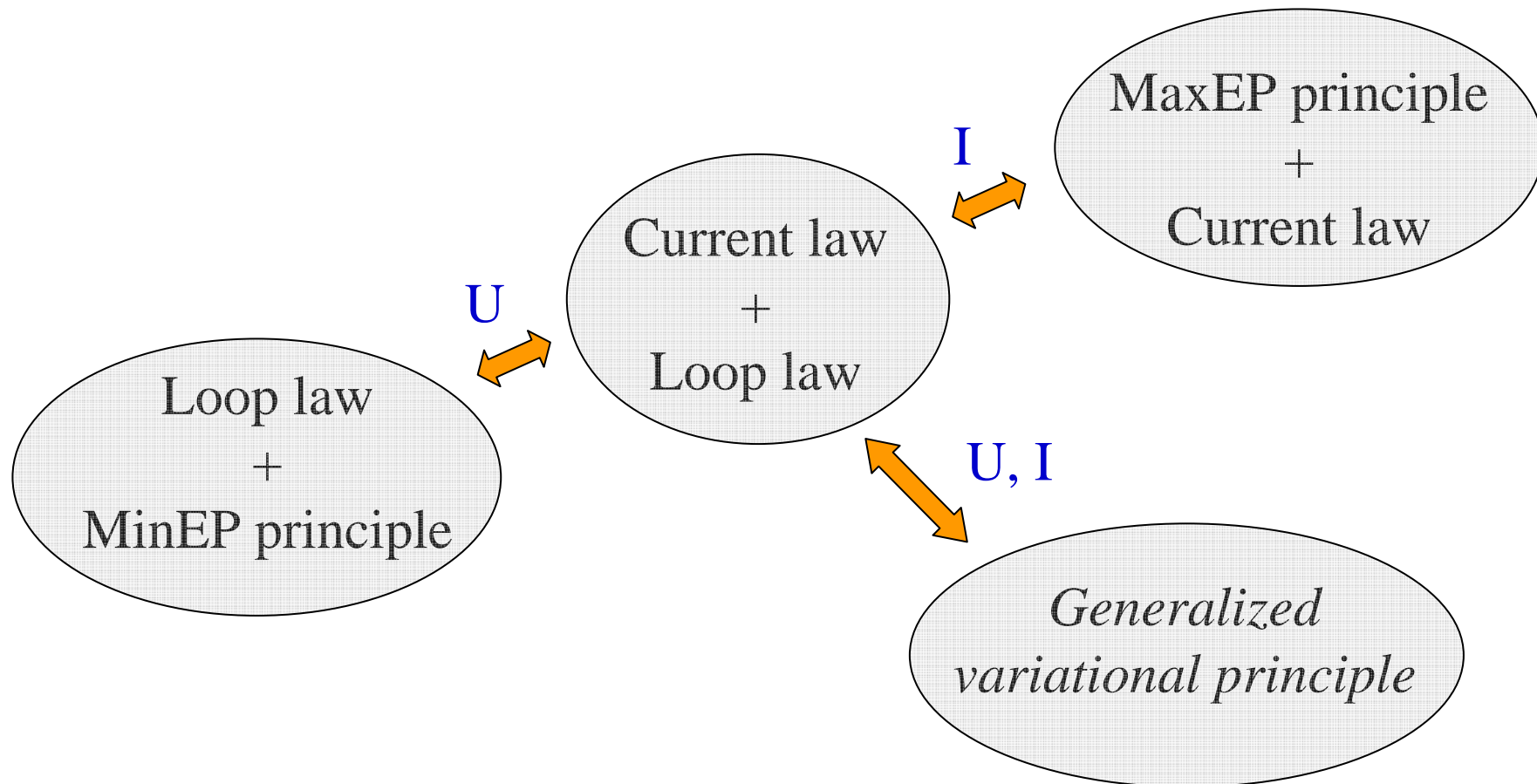
$$Q(J) = W(J)$$



# Linear electrical networks

summary of MinEP/MaxEP principles

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# From principles to fluctuation laws

Questions and ideas

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- How to go beyond **approximate** and *ad hoc* thermodynamic principles?

- Inspiration from thermostatics:

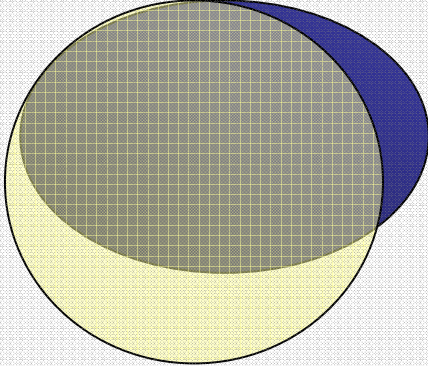
*Equilibrium variational principles are intimately related to the structure of equilibrium fluctuations*

- Is there a **nonequilibrium** analogy of thermodynamical **fluctuation theory**?

# From principles to fluctuation laws

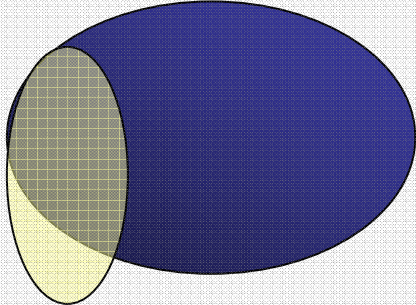
## Equilibrium fluctuations

$H(x) = Ne$



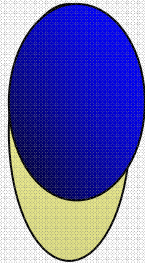
$M(x) = Nm_{eq}(e)$   
Typical value

$H(x) = Ne$



$P(M(x) = Nm) = e^{N[s(e,m) - s_{eq}(e)]}$   
Probability of fluctuation

add field

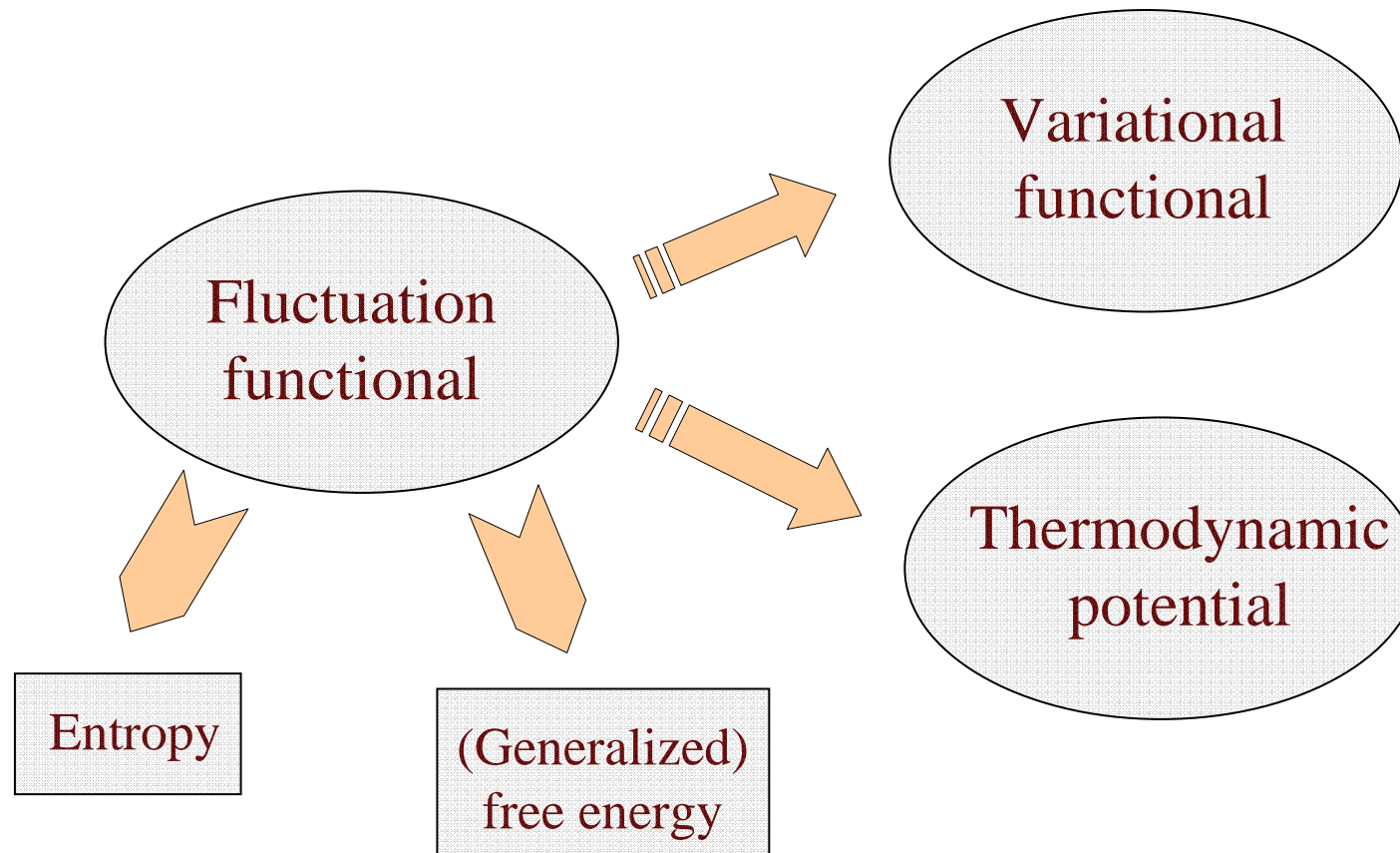


$H^h(x) = H(x) - hM(x) = N[e - hm]$   
**The fluctuation made typical!**  
 $s(e, m) = s_{eq}^h(e - hm)$

# From principles to fluctuation laws

## Equilibrium fluctuations

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# From principles to fluctuation laws

## Static versus dynamical fluctuations

- Empirical time average:

$$\bar{m}_T = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T m(x_t) dt$$

- Ergodic property:

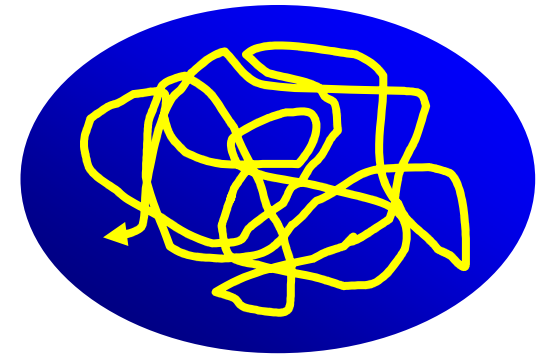
$$\bar{m}_T \rightarrow m_{eq}(e), \quad T \rightarrow \infty$$

- Dynamical fluctuations:

$$P(\bar{m}_T = m) = e^{-T I(m)}$$

- Interpolating between **static** and **dynamical** fluctuations:

$$P\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n m(x_{\tau k}) = m\right) = e^{-n I^{(\tau)}(m)}$$



$$H(x) = Ne$$

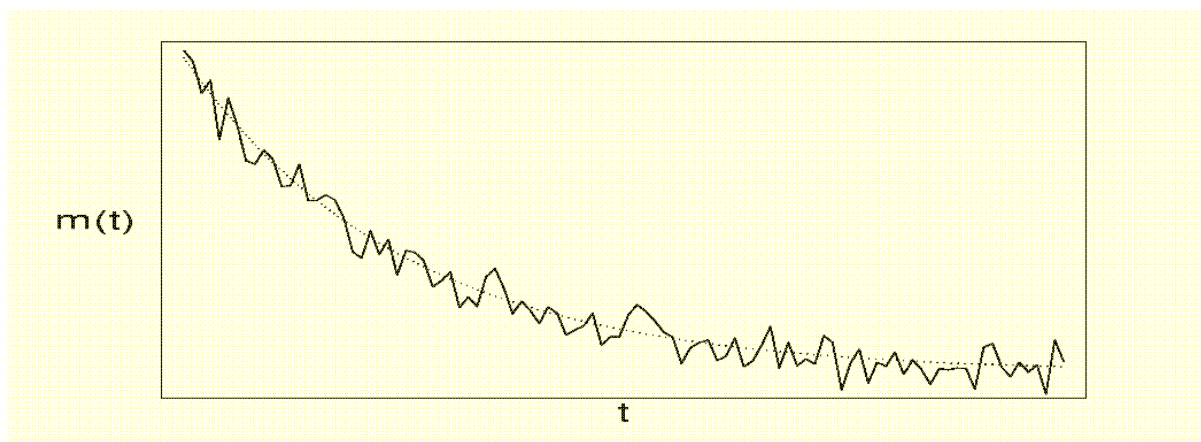
Static:  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$

$$I^{(\infty)}(m) = s(e) - s(e, m)$$

Dynamic:  $\tau \rightarrow 0$

# Effective model of macrofluctuations

## Onsager-Machlup theory



- Dynamics:  $R dm_t = -s m_t dt + \sqrt{\frac{2R}{N}} dB_t$
- Equilibrium:  $P(m_\infty = m) \propto e^{-\frac{1}{2} N s m^2}$
- Path distribution:  $P(\omega) = \exp\left[-\frac{N}{4} \int_0^T \frac{R}{2} \left(\frac{dm_t}{dt} + \frac{s}{R} m_t\right)^2\right]$

# Effective model of macrofluctuations

Onsager-Machlup theory

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- Dynamical fluctuations:

$$P(\bar{m}_T = m) = P(m_t = m; 0 \leq t \leq T) = \exp\left[-T \frac{Ns^2}{8R} m^2\right]$$

- (Typical immediate) entropy production rate:

$$\sigma(m) = \frac{dS(m_t)}{dt} = \frac{Ns^2}{2R} m^2$$

# Effective model of macrofluctuations

Onsager-Machlup theory

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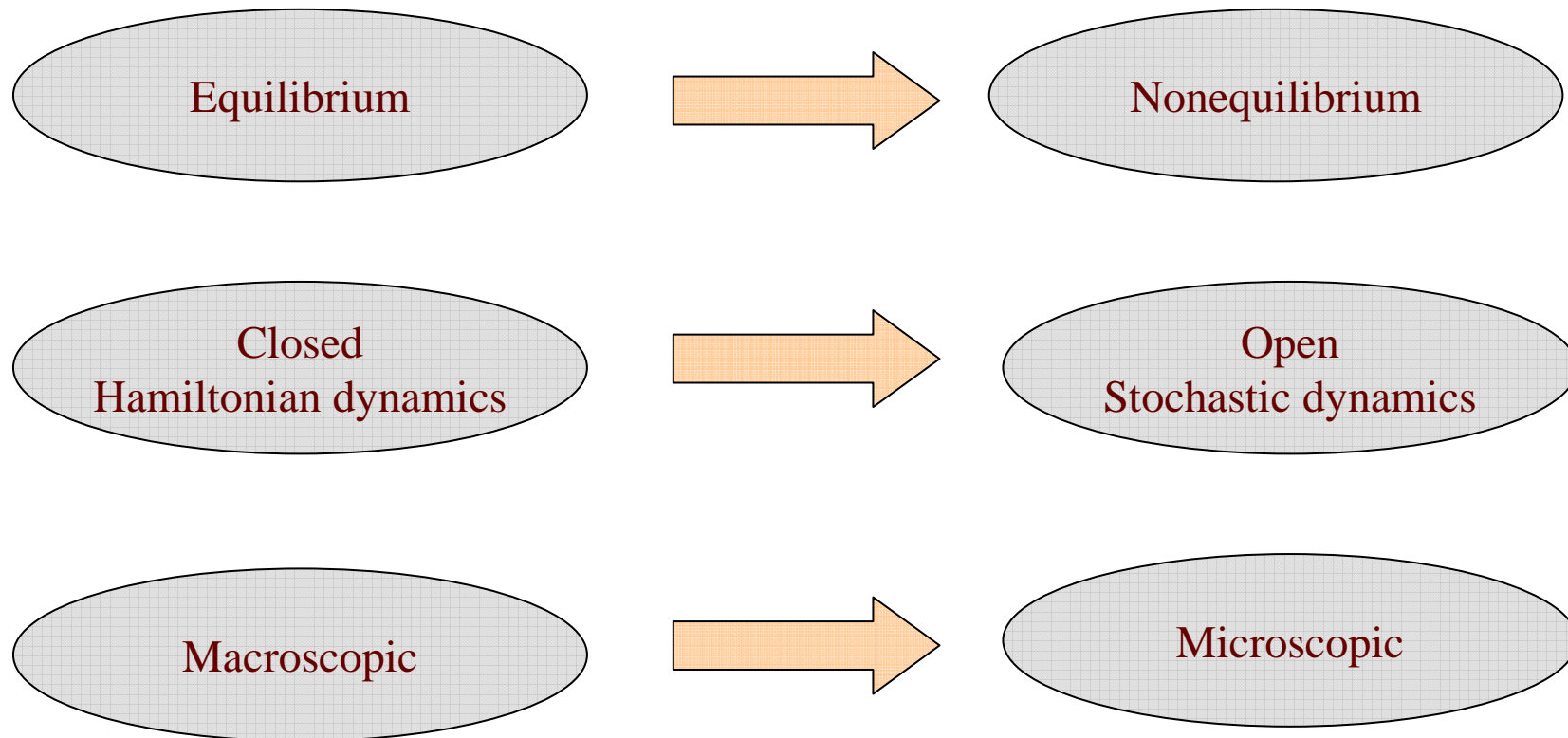
$$I(m) = \frac{1}{4} \sigma(m)$$

- (Typical immediate) entropy production rate:

$$\sigma(m) = \frac{dS(m_t)}{dt} = \frac{N s^2}{2R} m^2$$


# Towards general theory

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# Linear electrical networks revisited

## Dynamical fluctuations

- Fluctuating dynamics:

$$E = U + R_2 J + E_2^f$$

$$J = C\dot{U} + \frac{U - E_1^f}{R_1}$$

- Johnson-Nyquist noise:

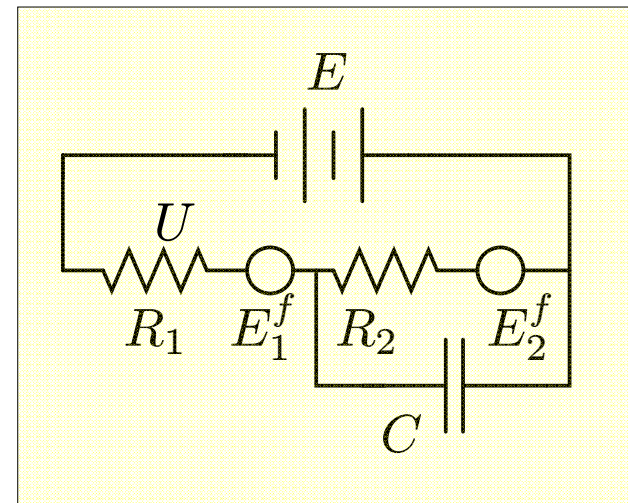
$$E_t^f = \sqrt{\frac{2R}{\beta}} \xi_t \quad \leftarrow \text{white noise}$$

- Empirical time average:

$$\bar{U}_T = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T U_t dt$$

- Dynamical fluctuation law:

$$-\frac{1}{T} \log P(\bar{U}_T = U) = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\beta_1 \beta_2 (R_1 + R_2)}{\beta_1 R_1 + \beta_2 R_2} \left[ \frac{U^2}{R_1} + \frac{(E - U)^2}{R_2} - \frac{E^2}{R_1 + R_2} \right]$$



# Linear electrical networks revisited

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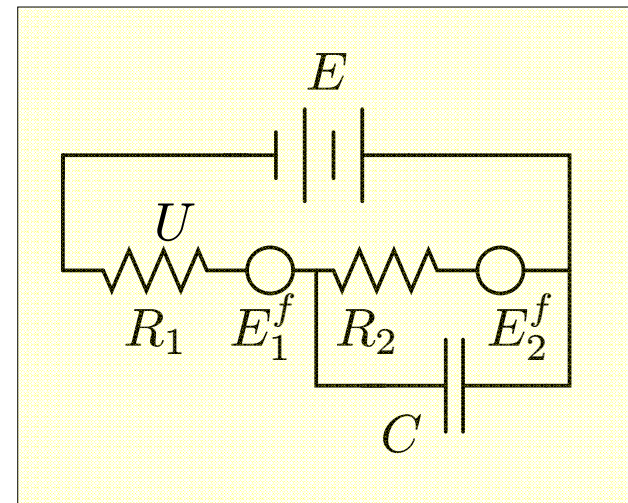
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total dissipated  
heat

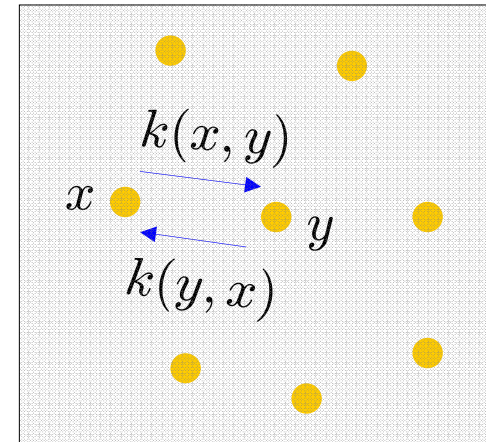


# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

breaking detailed balance

- **Local detailed balance:**

$$\log \frac{k(x,y)}{k(y,x)} = \Delta s(x,y) = -\Delta s(y,x)$$



- **Global detailed balance generally broken:**

$$\Delta s(x,y) = s(y) - s(x) + \epsilon F(x,y)$$

- **Markov dynamics:**


$$\frac{d\rho_t(x)}{dt} = \sum_y [\rho_t(y)k(y,x) - \rho_t(x)k(x,y)]$$

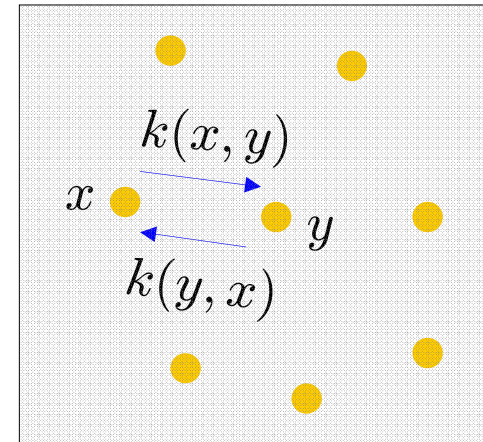
# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

breaking detailed balance

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 entropy change  
in the environment



- Global detailed balance generally broken:

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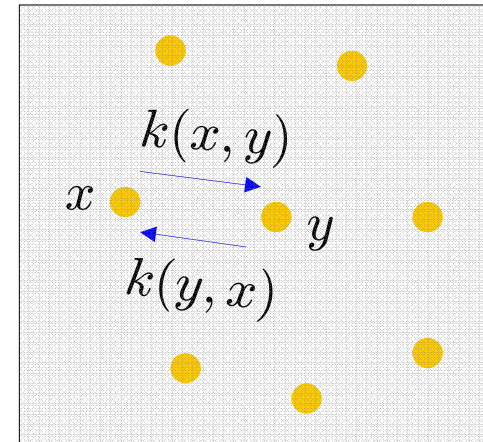
# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

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breaking term

- Markov dynamics:

$$\frac{d\rho_t(x)}{dt} = \sum_y [\rho_t(y)k(y,x) - \rho_t(x)k(x,y)]$$

# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

entropy production

- **Entropy** of the system:

$$S(\rho) = - \sum_x \rho(x) \log \rho(x)$$

- **Mean currents:**

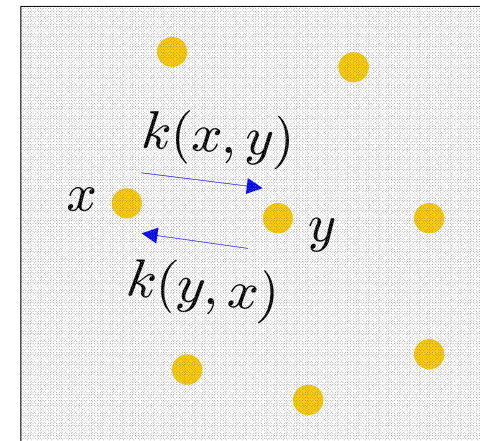
$$J_\rho(x, y) = \rho(x)k(x, y) - \rho(y)k(y, x)$$

zero at detailed balance

- **Mean entropy production rate:**

$$\sigma(\rho) = \frac{dS(\rho_t)}{dt} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(x,y)} J_\rho(x, y) \Delta s(x, y)$$

$$= \sum_{x,y} \rho(x)k(x, y) \log \frac{\rho(x)k(x, y)}{\rho(y)k(y, x)}$$



# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

entropy production

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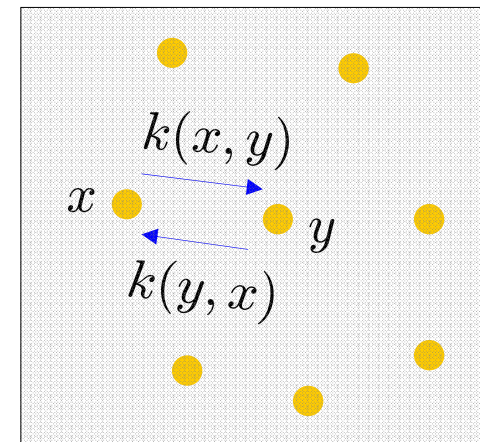
- Entropy fluxes:

$$J_\rho(x, y) = \underbrace{\rho(x)k(x, y) - \rho(y)k(y, x)}$$

zero at detailed balance

- Mean entropy production rate:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(\rho) &= \frac{dS(\rho_t)}{dt} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(x,y)} J_\rho(x, y) \Delta s(x, y) \\ &= \sum_{x,y} \rho(x)k(x, y) \log \frac{\rho(x)k(x, y)}{\rho(y)k(y, x)} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



**Warning:**  
Only for time-reversal  
symmetric observables!

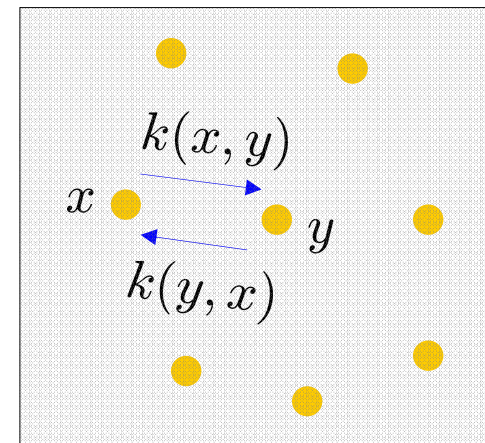
# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

## MinEP principle

- (“Microscopic”) **MinEP** principle:

*In the first order approximation around detailed balance*

$$\sigma(\rho) = \min \Rightarrow \rho = \rho_s + O(\epsilon^2)$$



- Can we again recognize entropy production as a **fluctuation functional**?

# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

dynamical fluctuations

- Empirical occupation times:

$$\bar{p}_T(x) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \chi(\omega_t = x) dt$$

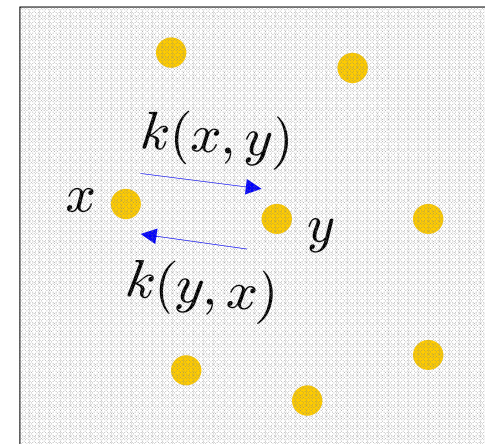
- Ergodic theorem:

$$\bar{p}_T(x) \rightarrow \rho_s(x), \quad T \rightarrow \infty$$

- Fluctuation law for occupation times?

$$P(\bar{p}_T = p) = e^{-T I(p)}$$

- Note:  $I(\rho_s) = 0$



# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

dynamical fluctuations

---

- *Idea*: Make the empirical distribution **typical** by **modifying dynamics**:

$$k(x, y) \longrightarrow k_v(x, y) = k(x, y) e^{[v(y) - v(x)]/2}$$

- The “field”  $v$  is such that distribution  $p$  is **stationary** distribution for the modified dynamics:

$$\sum_y [p(y)k_v(y, x) - p(x)k_v(x, y)] = 0$$

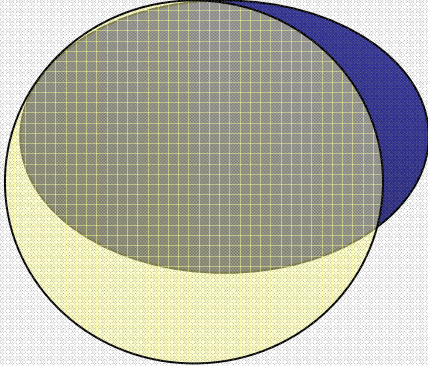
- Comparing both processes yields the **fluctuation law**:

$$I(p) = \sum_{x,y} p(x) [k(x, y) - k_v(x, y)]$$

# Recall

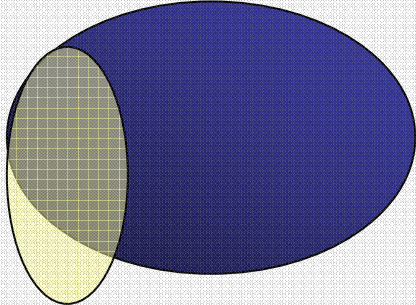
## Equilibrium fluctuations

$H(x) = Ne$



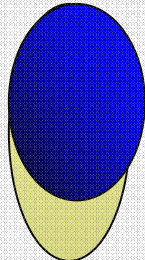
$M(x) = Nm_{eq}(e)$   
Typical value

$H(x) = Ne$



$P(M(x) = Nm) = e^{N[s(e,m) - s_{eq}(e)]}$   
Probability of fluctuation

add field



$H^h(x) = H(x) - hM(x) = N[e - hm]$   
**The fluctuation made typical!**  
 $s(e, m) = s_{eq}^h(e - hm)$

# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

dynamical fluctuations

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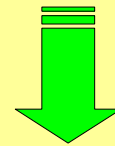
$$I(p) = \sum_{x, y} p(x) [k(x, y) - k_v(x, y)]$$

# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

dynamical

*Traffic = mean dynamical activity:*

$$\mathcal{T} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x,y} p(x)k(x,y) + p(y)k(y,x)$$



$I(p)$  = excess in traffic

- Ideal model

$k(x,y)$

- The distribution

$\sum_y$

- Comparing both processes yields the **fluctuation law:**

$$I(p) = \sum_{x,y} p(x) [k(x,y) - k_v(x,y)]$$

# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

Recall: entropy production functional

- **Entropy** of the system:

$$S(\rho) = - \sum_x \rho(x) \log \rho(x)$$

- **Mean currents**:

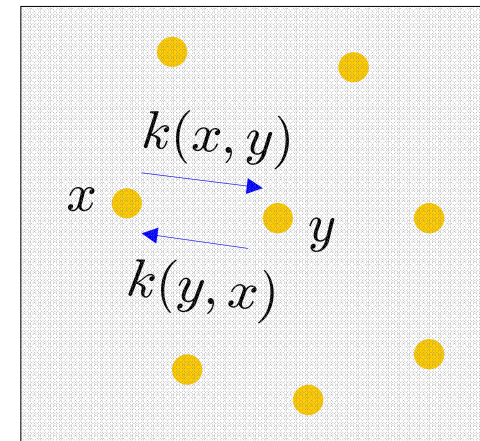
$$J_\rho(x, y) = \rho(x)k(x, y) - \rho(y)k(y, x)$$

zero at detailed balance

- **Mean entropy production rate**:

$$\sigma(\rho) = \frac{dS(\rho_t)}{dt} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(x,y)} J_\rho(x, y) \Delta s(x, y)$$

$$= \sum_{x,y} \rho(x)k(x, y) \log \frac{\rho(x)k(x, y)}{\rho(y)k(y, x)}$$



# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

dynamical fluctuations close to equilibrium

---

- General observation:

 *In the first order approximation around detailed balance*

$$I(p) = \frac{1}{4} [\sigma(p) - \sigma(\rho_s)] + o(\epsilon^2)$$

- The variational functional is recognized as an **approximate** fluctuation functional
- *A consequence:* A natural way how to go **beyond MinEP principle** is to systematically analyze appropriate fluctuation laws

# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

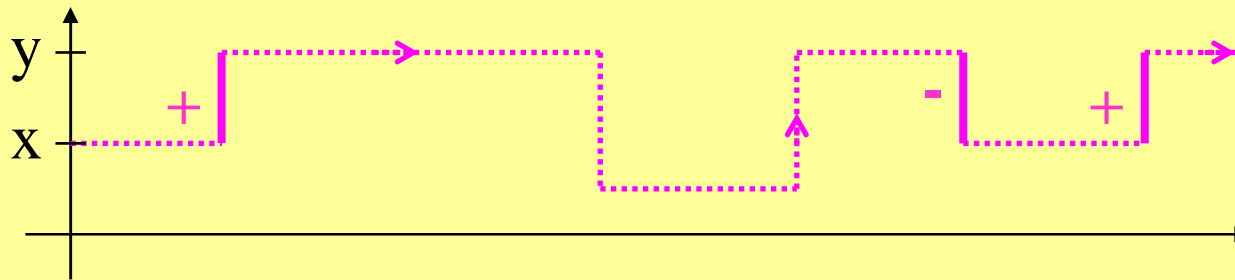
dynamical fluctuations close to equilibrium

- General observation:

*In the first order approximation around detailed balance*

*Empirical currents:*

$$\bar{J}_T(x, y) = \frac{1}{T} [\#\{\text{jumps } x \rightarrow y \text{ in } [0, T]\} - \#\{\text{jumps } y \rightarrow x \text{ in } [0, T]\}]$$



an

beyond  
tion laws

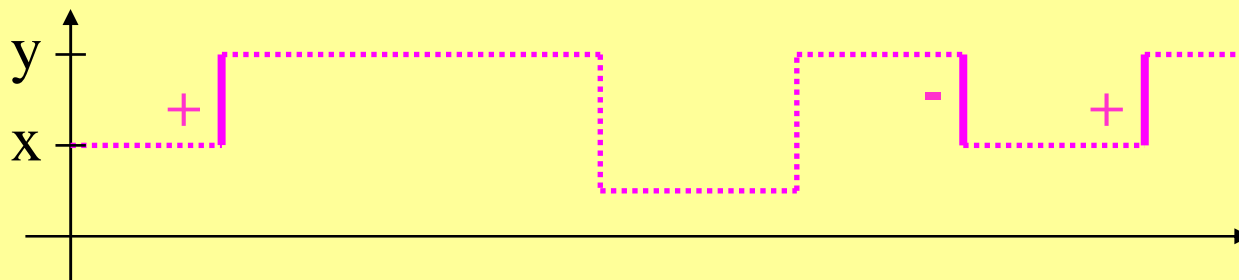
# Stochastic model of dynamical fluctuations

- General observations

*In the first part of the course, we will discuss this in more detail*

*Empirical currents:*

$$\bar{J}_T(x, y) = \frac{1}{T} [\#\{\text{jumps } x \rightarrow y\} - \#\{\text{jumps } y \rightarrow x\}]$$



*Typically,*

$$\bar{J}_T(x, y) \rightarrow \rho_s(x)k(x, y) - \rho_s(y)k(y, x)$$

*Fluctuation law:*  $J_s(x, y)$

$$P(\bar{J}_T = J) = e^{-T G(J)}$$

with the fluctuation functional

$$G(J) = \frac{1}{4} [\dot{S}(J_s) - \dot{S}(J)] + o(\epsilon^2)$$

on stationary currents satisfying

$$\dot{S}(J) = D(J)$$

beyond fluctuation laws

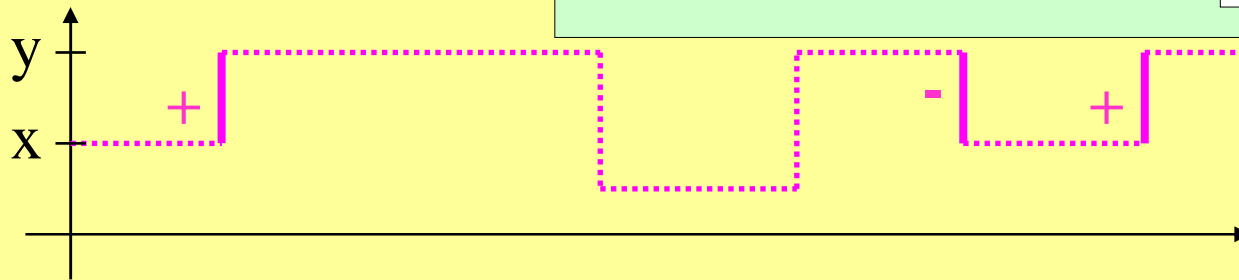
# Stochastic model of dynamical fluctuations

- General observations

*In the first part, we will be more detailed*

*Empirical currents:*

$$\bar{J}_T(x, y) = \frac{1}{T} [\#\{\text{jumps } x \rightarrow y\} - \#\{\text{jumps } y \rightarrow x\}]$$



*Typically,*

$$\bar{J}_T(x, y) \rightarrow \rho_s(x)k(x, y) - \rho_s(y)k(y, x)$$

*Fluctuation law:*

$$P(\bar{J}_T = J) = e^{-T G(J)}$$

Entropy flux  
 $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{x,y} J(x, y) \Delta s(x, y)$

with the fluctuation functional

$$G(J) = \frac{1}{4} [\dot{S}(J_s) - \dot{S}(J)] + o(\epsilon^2)$$

*on stationary currents satisfying*

$$\dot{S}(J) = D(J)$$

Onsager dissipation function

*beyond fluctuation laws*

# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

towards general fluctuation theory

---

- It is useful to study the **occupation time** statistics and **current** statistics **jointly**
- Joint occupation-current statistics has a **canonical structure**

Driving-parameterized dynamics

$$k_F(x, y) = k_0(x, y) e^{F(x, y)/2}$$

Reference equilibrium

anti-symmetric

Current potential function

$$H(p, F) = 2[\mathcal{T}_F(p) - \mathcal{T}_0(p)]$$

Traffic

## Canonical equations

$$\left. \frac{\delta H}{\delta F(x,y)} \right|_{p,F} = J_F(x,y) \quad \overset{\text{Legendre}}{\longleftrightarrow} \quad \left. \frac{\delta G}{\delta J(x,y)} \right|_{p,J_F} = F(x,y)$$

## Joint occupation-current fluctuation functional

$$\mathcal{I}_F(p, J) = \frac{1}{2} [G(p, J) + H(p, F) - \dot{S}(F, J)]$$

Driving-parameterized dynamics

$$k_F(x, y) = k_0(x, y) e^{F(x,y)/2}$$

Reference equilibrium anti-symmetric

Current potential function

$$H(p, F) = 2[\mathcal{T}_F(p) - \mathcal{T}_0(p)]$$

Traffic

# Stochastic models of nonequilibrium

consequences of canonical formalism

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- Functional  $G$  describes (reference) **equilibrium** dynamical fluctuations
- **Fluctuation symmetry** immediately follows:  
$$\mathcal{I}_F(p, -J) - \mathcal{I}_F(p, J) = \dot{S}(F, J)$$
- **Symmetric** ( $p$ ) and **antisymmetric** ( $J$ ) fluctuations are **coupled** away from equilibrium, but:

Decoupling between  $p$  and  $J$

- for small fluctuations
- close to equilibrium

# General conclusions

what we know

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- Both **MinEP** and **MaxEP** principles naturally follow from the fluctuation laws for **empirical occupation times** and **empirical currents**, respectively
- The validity of both principles is restricted to the **close-to-equilibrium** regime and it is essentially a consequence of
  - **decoupling** between time-symmetric and time-antisymmetric fluctuations
  - intimate relation between **traffic** and **entropy production** for Markovian dynamics close to detailed balance
- **Time-symmetric** fluctuations are in general governed by the **traffic** functional (nonperturbative result!)
- **Joint** occupation-current fluctuations have a general **canonical structure**, generalizing the original Onsager-Machlup theory
- Our approach can be extended to **semi-Markov** systems with some similar conclusions, cf. [6]



# General conclusions

what we would like to know

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- What is the **operational meaning** of new quantities (traffic,...) emerging in the dynamical fluctuation theory?
- Are there useful **computational schemes** for the fluctuation functionals and can one **systematically improve** on the EP principles beyond equilibrium?
- What is the relation between **static** and **dynamical** fluctuations?
- Could the dynamical fluctuation theory be a useful approach towards building **nonequilibrium thermodynamics beyond close-to-equilibrium**?

*...and still many other things would be nice to know...*



# References

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A high-altitude mountain landscape featuring snow-covered peaks and a glacier. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The foreground shows a rocky, snow-dusted slope leading down to a wide, textured glacier. The background consists of several large, rounded mountain peaks covered in snow, with some darker rock faces visible. The overall scene is bright and clear.

*Thank You  
for Your Attention!*