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We consider the following stochastic functional-differential neutral equation on Hilbert space with delay parameter  $h \in (0, 1]$ :

$$d(u(t) + g(u(t-h), u(t))) = (f(u(t-h), u(t)) + Au(t)) dt + \sigma(u(t-h), u(t)) dW(t), \quad t \ge 0, \quad (0.1)$$
$$u(t) = \phi(t), \quad t \in [-h, 0]. \tag{0.2}$$

Here A is an inifinitesimal generator of a strong continuous semigroup  $\{S(t), t \ge 0\}$  of bounded linear operators in real separable Hilbert space H. The noise W(t) is a Q-Wiener process on separable Hilbert space K. For any  $h \in (0, 1)$  denote  $C_h := C([-h, 0], H)$ , a space of continuous H-valued functions with a norm.

$$\|\phi\|_{C_h} := \sup_{t \in [-h,0]} \|\phi(t)\|_H.$$

Below we denote  $\|\cdot\|_H$  as  $\|\cdot\|$ . The functions f and g map  $H \times H$  into H and  $\sigma: H \times H \to L_2^0$ , where  $L_2^0 = L(Q^{1/2}K, H)$  is the space of Hilbert–Schmidt operators from  $Q^{1/2}K$  to a H. Finally,  $\phi: [-h, 0] \times \Omega \to H$  is the initial condition on probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ .

We consider the limiting behavior of invariant measures of equation (0.1), (0.2) when delay parameter h converges to zero.

## **1** Preliminaries

Let  $(\Omega, F, P)$  be a complete probability space equipped with a normal filtration  $\{F_t; t \ge 0\}$  generated by the Q-Wiener process W on  $(\Omega, F, P)$  with the linear bounded covariance operator such that  $\operatorname{tr} Q < \infty$ .

We assume that there exist a complete orthonormal system  $e_k$  in K and a sequence of nonnegative real numbers  $\lambda_k$  such that  $Qe_k = \lambda_k e_k$ , k = 1, 2, ..., and

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k < \infty.$$

The Wiener process admits the expansion  $W(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k \beta_k(t) e_k$ , where  $\beta_k(t)$  are real valued Brownian motions mutually independent on  $(\Omega, F, P)$ .

Let  $U_0 = Q^{\frac{1}{2}}(U)$  and  $L_0^2 = L_2(U_0, H)$  be the space of all Hilbert–Schmidt operators from  $U_0$  to H with the inner product  $(\Phi, \Psi)L_0^2 = \operatorname{tr} [\Phi Q \Psi^*]$  and the norm  $\|\Phi\|_{L_2^0}$ , respectively.

**Lemma 1.1** (Stochastic Gronwall Lemma [5, 10]). Let Z, H be nonnegative stochastic processes adapted to filtration, M be a continuous local martingale. Then:

1. If M(0) = 0 and there exist  $K, C \ge 0$  such that

$$Z(t) \le K \int_{0}^{t} \sup_{u \in [0,s]} (Z(u)) \, ds + M(t) + C,$$

then for all  $0 < \alpha < 1$  there exist  $C_1, C_2 > 0$  such that

$$\mathbf{E}\Big(\sup_{t\in[0,T]}(Z(t))^{\alpha}\Big) \le C^{\alpha}C_1e^{C_2KT}.$$

2. If M(0) = 0, H(0) = 0 and there exists  $K \ge 0$  such that

$$Z(t) \le K \int_{0}^{t} \sup_{u \in [0,s]} (Z(u)) ds + M(t) + H(t),$$

then for all  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and  $\beta > \frac{1+\alpha}{1-\alpha}$  there exist  $C_3, C_4 > 0$  such that

$$\mathbf{E}\Big(\sup_{t\in[0,T]}(Z(t))^{\alpha}\Big) \le C_3 e^{C_4 K T} \Big(\mathbf{E}\Big(\sup_{t\in[0,T]}H(t)\Big)^{\beta}\Big)^{\alpha/\beta}.$$

3. If H(t) is non-negative, then for all  $0 < \alpha < 1$  there exists  $C_{\alpha} \ge 0$  such that

$$\mathbf{E}\Big(\sup_{t\in[0,T]} (Z(t))^{\alpha}\Big) \le (C_{\alpha}+1)e^{\alpha KT}\Big(\mathbf{E}\Big(\sup_{t\in[0,T]} H(t)\Big)^{\alpha}\Big).$$

**Definition 1.1** (Mild solution). A continuous  $\mathcal{F}_t$  adapted stochastic process  $u : [-h, T] \times \Omega \to H$  is a mild solution for (0.1), (0.2) for  $t \in [0, T]$  if it satisfies the integral equation

$$\begin{split} u(t) &= S(t)(\phi(0) + g(\phi(-h), \phi(0))) - g(u(t-h), u(t)) - \int_{0}^{t} AS(t-s)g(u(s-h), u(s)) \, ds \\ &+ \int_{0}^{t} S(t-s)f(u(s-h), u(s)) \, ds + \int_{0}^{t} S(t-s)\sigma(u(s-h), u(h)) \, dW(s), \end{split}$$

and  $u(t) = \phi(t)$  a.s. for  $t \in [-h, 0]$ .

A non-delay equation will look as follows

$$d(u(t) + g(u(t), u(t))) = (f(u(t), u(t)) + Au(t)) dt + \sigma(u(t), u(t)) dW(t), \quad t \ge 0,$$
(1.1)  
$$u(0) = \phi(0).$$
(1.2)

For starting function  $\phi$  and delay parameter  $h \in (0, 1)$  we denote mild solution of equation (0.1), (0.2) as  $u^{h}(t, \phi)$ . For starting point v we denote mild solution of equation (1.1), (1.2) as  $u^{0}(t, v)$ .

Let (Z, d) be a polish space with metric d. Suppose for every  $\rho \in (0, 1]$  and  $\phi \in C([-\rho, 0], Z)$ ,  $\{X^{\rho}(t, 0, \phi), t \geq 0\}$  is a stochastic process in the state space  $C([-\rho, 0], Z)$  with initial value  $\phi$  at initial time 0. Similarly, assume for every  $x \in Z$ ,  $\{X^0(t, 0, x), t \geq 0\}$  is a stochastic process in the state space Z with initial value x at initial time 0. We also assume that the probability transition operators of  $X^0$  are Feller.

 $UC_b(Z)$  is the Banach space of all bounded uniformly continuous functions defined on Z with uniform norm.

Given  $\rho \in (0, 1]$ , define an operator  $T_{\rho} : C([-\rho, 0], Z) \to Z$  by  $T_{\rho}\phi = \phi(0)$ , and  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho} : C([-1, 0], Z) \to C([-\rho, 0], Z)$  by  $\mathcal{T}_{\rho}\phi(s) = \phi(s)$ .

**Condition (C1).** For every compact set  $K \subset C([-1,0], Z)$ ,  $t \ge 0$ , and  $\eta > 0$ ,

$$\lim_{\rho \to 0} \sup_{\phi \in \mathcal{T}_{\rho}K} P(d(X^{\rho}(t,0,\phi)(0), X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho}\phi))) \ge \eta) = 0.$$

**Theorem 1.1** ([4]). Assume (C1) holds true and  $\rho_n \in (0, 1]$ . Let  $\mu^{\rho_n}$  be an invariant measure of  $X^{\rho_n}$  in  $C([-\rho_n, 0], Z)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Suppose  $\{\mu^{\rho_n}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is tight in a sense that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists compact set  $K_1 \subset C([-1, 0], Z)$  such that

$$\mu^{\rho_n}(\mathcal{T}_{\rho_n}K_1) > 1 - \varepsilon, \tag{1.3}$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then we have:

- 1. The sequence  $\{\mu^{\rho_n} \circ T_{\rho_n}^{-1}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is tight;
- 2. If  $\rho_n \to 0$  and  $\mu$  is a probability measure in Z such that  $\mu^{\rho_n} \circ T_{\rho_n}^{-1} \to \mu$  weakly, then  $\mu$  must be an invariant measure of  $X^0$ .

### Proof.

1. Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $K_1 \subset C([-1,0], Z)$  be the compact set satisfying (1.3). Denote by  $K_0 = \{\phi(0) : \phi \in K_1\}$ . Then  $K_0$  is a compact subset of Z and for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\mu^{\rho_n} \circ T_{\rho_n}^{-1}(K_0) \ge \mu^{\rho_n}(\mathcal{T}_{\rho_n}K_1) > 1 - \varepsilon,$$
(1.4)

which shows that  $\{\mu^{\rho_n} \circ T_{\rho_n}^{-1}\}$  is tight.

2. We need to prove that for all  $\psi \in UC_b(Z)$  and t > 0,

$$\int_{Z} \mathbf{E}\psi(X^{0}(t,0,x))\mu(dx) = \int_{Z} \psi(x)\mu(dx).$$
(1.5)

One can notice that

$$\int_{Z} \psi(x)\mu^{\rho_{n}} \circ T_{\rho_{n}}^{-1}(dx) = \int_{C([-\rho_{n},0],Z)} \psi(T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)\mu^{\rho_{n}} d\xi$$
$$= \int_{C([-\rho_{n},0],Z)} \psi(T_{\rho_{n}}X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi))\mu^{\rho_{n}} d\xi = \int_{C([-\rho_{n},0],Z)} \psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0))\mu^{\rho_{n}} d\xi,$$

which with (1.4) yields that

$$\begin{split} \left| \int_{Z} \mathbf{E} \psi(X^{0}(t,0,x)) \mu^{\rho_{n}} \circ T_{\rho_{n}}^{-1}(dx) - \int_{Z} \psi(x) \mu^{\rho_{n}} \circ T_{\rho_{n}}^{-1}(dx) \right| \\ & \leq \int_{C([-\rho_{n},0],Z)} \mathbf{E} \left| \psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)) - \psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0)) \right| \mu^{\rho_{n}}(d\xi) \\ & \leq \int_{\mathcal{T}_{\rho_{n}}K_{1}} \mathbf{E} \left| \psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)) - \psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0)) \right| \mu^{\rho_{n}}(d\xi) \\ & \quad + \int_{C([-\rho_{n},0],Z) \setminus \mathcal{T}_{\rho_{n}}K_{1}} \mathbf{E} \left| \psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)) - \psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0)) \right| \mu^{\rho_{n}}(d\xi) \\ & \leq \int_{\mathcal{T}_{\rho_{n}}K_{1}} \mathbf{E} \left| \psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)) - \psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0)) \right| \mu^{\rho_{n}}(d\xi) + 2\varepsilon \sup_{x \in Z} |\psi(x)|. \end{split}$$
(1.6)

Since  $\psi \in UC_b(Z)$  and for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\eta > 0$  such that

$$|\psi(u) - \psi(v)| < \varepsilon,$$

if  $d(u, v) < \eta$ . Then we get

$$\int_{\mathcal{T}_{\rho_{n}}K_{1}} \mathbf{E} \left| \psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)) - \psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0)) \right| \mu^{\rho_{n}} (d\xi) \\
= \int_{\mathcal{T}_{\rho_{n}}K_{1}} \left( \int_{\{d(\psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)),\psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0))) \ge \eta\}} \left| \psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)) - \psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0)) \right| \mu^{\rho_{n}}P(d\omega) \right) (d\xi) \\
+ \int_{\mathcal{T}_{\rho_{n}}K_{1}} \left( \int_{\{d(\psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)),\psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0))) < \eta\}} \left| \psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)) - \psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0)) \right| \mu^{\rho_{n}}P(d\omega) \right) (d\xi) \\
\leq 2 \sup_{x \in Z} |\psi(x)| \cdot \sup_{\xi \in \mathcal{T}_{\rho_{n}}K_{1}} P\left( \left\{ d\left(\psi(X^{0}(t,0,T_{\rho_{n}}\xi)),\psi(X^{\rho_{n}}(t,0,\xi)(0))\right) \ge \eta \right\} \right) + \varepsilon. \quad (1.7)$$

Then, from (C1) and (1.6), (1.7) we can deduce that

$$\left|\int\limits_{Z} \mathbf{E}\psi(X^{0}(t,0,x))\mu^{\rho_{n}} \circ T_{\rho_{n}}^{-1}(dx) - \int\limits_{Z}\psi(x)\mu^{\rho_{n}} \circ T_{\rho_{n}}^{-1}(dx)\right| \leq \varepsilon + 2\varepsilon \sup_{x \in Z} |\psi(x)|.$$

and since  $\varepsilon > 0$  is arbitrary and  $\mu^{\rho_n} \circ T_{\rho_n}^{-1} \to \mu$  weakly, we get that  $\mu$  is an invariant measure for  $X^0$  by (1.5).

# 2 Conditions on functions

**Condition (H1).** If  $\sigma(-A)$  is the spectrum of (-A), we have

$$\operatorname{Re}\sigma(-A) > \delta > 0,$$

and  $A^{-1}$  is compact in H.

It follows from [6] that for  $0 \le \alpha \le 1$  one can define fractional power  $(-A)^{\alpha}$ , which is closed linear operator with domain  $D(-A)^{\alpha}$ . We denote  $H_{\alpha}$  to be a Banach space  $D(-A)^{\alpha}$  with the norm

$$||u||_{\alpha} := ||(-A)^{\alpha}u||,$$

which is equivalent to the graph norm of  $(-A)^{\alpha}$ . This way  $H_0 = H$ . It follows from [3, Section 1.4] that if  $A^{-1}$  is compact, then S(t) is compact for t > 0. Next, it follows from [6, Theorem 3.2, p. 48] that under assumption (H1) semigroup S(t) is continuous with respect to uniform operator topology for t > 0. Thus, using [6, Theorem 3.3, p. 48], we may conclude that the operator A has a compact resolvent. Consequently, from [3, Theorem 1.4.8], we have the following result.

**Proposition 2.1.** Under condition (H1) the embedding  $H_{\alpha} \subset H_{\beta}$  is compact if  $0 \leq \beta < \alpha \leq 1$ .

**Proposition 2.2** ([3, Theorem 1.4.3]). Under condition (H1), for every  $\alpha \ge 0$  there exists  $C_{\alpha} > 0$  such that

$$\|(-A)^{\alpha}S(t)\| \le C_{\alpha}t^{-\alpha}e^{-\delta t}$$

for t > 0. In particular,

$$||S(t)|| \le C_0 e^{-\delta t},$$

for t > 0.

**Proposition 2.3** ([1]). Let p > 2, T > 0 and let  $\Phi$  be an  $L_2^0$  valued, predictable process such that

$$\mathbf{E}\int_{0}^{T} \left\|\Phi(t)\right\|_{L_{2}^{0}}^{p} dt < \infty.$$

Then there is a constant  $M_T > 0$  such that

$$\mathbf{E} \sup_{t \in [0,T]} \left\| \int_{0}^{t} S(t-s)\Phi(s) \, dW(s) \right\| \le M_{T} \mathbf{E} \int_{0}^{T} \|\Phi(s)\|_{L^{0}_{2}}^{p} \, ds$$

**Condition (H2).** The mappings  $f: H \times H \to H$  and  $\sigma: H \times H \to L_2^0$  are continuous and satisfy:

1. There exist a positive constant K > 0 such that

$$||f(u,v)|| + ||\sigma(u,v)||_{L_2^0} \le K(1 + ||u|| + ||v||)$$

for all  $u, v \in H$ .

2. There exist a positive constant L > 0 such that

$$||f(u,v) - f(u_1,v_1)||^2 + ||\sigma(u,v) - \sigma(u_1,v_1)||_{L^0_2}^2 \le L(1 + ||u - u_1||^2 + ||v - v_1||^2)$$

for all  $u, v, u_1, v_1 \in H$ .

**Condition (H3).** There exist positive constants  $\alpha \in (0,1)$  and  $M_g \in (0,1)$  such that for all  $u, v, u_1, v_1 \in H$  the function  $g: H \times H \to H_{\alpha}$  satisfies

$$||g(u,v) - g(u_1,v_1)||_{H_{\alpha}}^2 \le M_g (||u - u_1||^2 + ||v - v_1||^2)$$

**Condition (H4).** The initial condition  $\phi : [-h, 0] \times \Omega \to H$  is an  $\mathcal{F}_0$ -measurable random variable, independent of W, which has continuous trajectories.

*Remark.* It is easy to see from [9], that under conditions above equation (0.1), (0.2) have unique mild solution, and this solution have an invariant measure.

# 3 Main results

**Lemma 3.1.** Suppose that (H1)–(H4) hold. Then for every compact set K in  $C_h$ , t > 0 and  $\eta > 0$  the following holds

$$\lim_{h \to 0} \sup_{\xi \in \mathcal{T}_h K} P\Big( \left\| u^h(t,\xi) - u^0(t,T_h\xi) \right\| \ge \eta \Big) = 0$$

Sketch of the proof.

Step 1. Rewrite solutions  $u^h(t,\xi)$  and  $u^0(t,T_h\xi)$  using Definition 1 as follows

$$\begin{aligned} u^{h}(t,\xi) &= S(t) \big( \xi(0) - g(\xi(-h),\xi(0)) \big) \\ &+ g \big( u^{h}(t-h,\xi), u^{h}(t,\xi) \big) - \int_{0}^{t} AS(t-s) g \big( u^{h}(s-h,\xi), u^{h}(s,\xi) \big) \, ds \\ &+ \int_{0}^{t} S(t-s) f \big( u^{h}(s-h,\xi), u^{h}(s,\xi) \big) \, ds + \int_{0}^{t} S(t-s) \sigma \big( u^{h}(s-h,\xi), u^{h}(s,\xi) \big) \, dW(s) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} u^{0}(t,T_{h}\xi) &= S(t)(T_{h}\xi - g(T_{h}\xi,T_{h}\xi)) \\ &+ g\left(u^{0}(t,T_{h}\xi),u^{0}(t,T_{h}\xi)\right) - \int_{0}^{t} AS(t-s)g\left(u^{0}(s,T_{h}\xi),u^{0}(s,T_{h}\xi)\right) ds \\ &+ \int_{0}^{t} S(t-s)f\left(u^{0}(s,T_{h}\xi),u^{0}(s,T_{h}\xi)\right) ds + \int_{0}^{t} S(t-s)\sigma\left(u^{0}(s,T_{h}\xi),u^{0}(s,T_{h}\xi)\right) dW(s). \end{aligned}$$

Step 2. Estimate  $\mathbf{E} ||u^h(t,\xi) - u^0(t,T_h\xi)||^2$  from conditions (H1)–(H4) and Propositions 2.1–2.3 and using Lemma 1.1 (Stochastic Gronwall Lemma).

Step 3. Proposition of the lemma is a direct consequence of Chebyshev inequality.

Given  $h \in [0, 1]$ , let  $p^h(r, \xi; t, \cdot)$  be the transition probability function of  $u^h(t, \xi)$  with  $0 \le r \le t$ and  $\xi \in C_h$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{M}^h$  -collection of all limit points of probability measure

$$\frac{1}{n}\int_{0}^{n}p^{h}(0,0;t,\,\cdot\,)\,dt.$$

Then we have the following result.

**Theorem 3.1.** Suppose that (H1)–(H4) hold. Then:

- 1. The union  $\bigcup_{h \in [0,1]} \mathcal{M}^h$  is tight;
- 2. If  $h_n \to 0$  and  $\mu^{h_n} \in \mathcal{M}^{h_n}$ , then there exist a subsequence  $h_{k(n)}$  and an invariant measure  $\mu^0 \in \mathcal{M}^0$  such that  $\mu^{h_{k(n)}} \circ T_{h_{k(n)}}^{-1} \to \mu^0$  weakly.

### Proof.

- 1. Direct consequence of [9].
- 2. By first item we know that  $\{\mu^{h_n}\}$  is tight and hence by Theorem 1.1 and Lemma 3.1 we infer that sequence  $\{\mu^{h_n} \circ T_{h_n}^{-1}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is also tight. Consequently, there exists a subsequence  $h_{n_k}$  and a probability measure  $\mu^*$  such that  $\mu^{h_{n_k}} \circ T_{h_{n_k}}^{-1} \to \mu^*$  weakly. By Theorem 1.1 and Lemma 3.1 we find that  $\mu^*$  is invariant and  $\mu^* \in \mathcal{M}^0$ .

As an immediate corollary of Theorem 3.1, we have the following result.

**Theorem 3.2.** Suppose that (H1)–(H4) hold and  $h_n \to 0$ . Then, if  $\mu^{h_n}$  and  $\mu^0$  are the unique invariant measures of equations (0.1), (0.2) and (1.1), (1.2) correspondingly, then  $\mu^{h_n} \to \mu^0$  weakly.

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