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STOCHASTIC HOMOGENIZATION OF VISCOUS HAMILTON–JACOBI EQUATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

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We present stochastic homogenization results for viscous Hamilton–Jacobi equations using a new argument that is based only on the subadditive structure of maximal subsolutions (i.e., solutions of the “metric problem”). This permits us to give qualitative homogenization results under very general hypotheses: in particular, we treat nonuniformly coercive Hamiltonians that satisfy instead a weaker averaging condition. As an application, we derive a general quenched large deviation principle for diffusions in random environments and with absorbing random potentials.

1. Introduction

1A. Motivation and informal summary of results. In this paper, we consider the *qualitative* stochastic homogenization of second-order, “viscous” Hamilton–Jacobi equations. We present a new, short and self-contained argument that yields homogenization under very general and essentially optimal hypotheses. Our framework includes a class of equations for which the homogenization result has an equivalent formulation in probabilistic terms as a quenched large deviation principle (LDP) for diffusions in random environments (and/or with random obstacles), and so a corollary of our analysis is a very general LDP for such problems that generalizes many previous results on the topic.

In its time-dependent form, the viscous Hamilton–Jacobi equation we consider is

$$u_t^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr} \left(A \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) D^2 u^\varepsilon \right) + H \left(Du^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty). \quad (1-1)$$

Here $D\phi$ and $D^2\phi$ denote the gradient and Hessian of a real-valued function ϕ , and $\operatorname{tr} B$ is the trace of a d -by- d matrix B . The coefficients A and H are called the diffusion matrix and the Hamiltonian, respectively, and are assumed to be stationary-ergodic random fields. That is, they are randomly selected from the set of all such equations by an underlying probability measure that is stationary and ergodic with respect to \mathbb{R}^d -translations. The essential structural hypotheses on the coefficients are that A takes values in the nonnegative definite matrices (and in particular may be degenerate or even vanish) and H is *convex* and *growing superlinearly* in its first variable. See below for some important examples of the equations that fit into our framework.

The presence of the ε factor in the diffusion term of (1-1) gives the equation a critical scaling, and it turns out that it behaves like a first-order Hamilton–Jacobi equation in the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. Indeed, rather

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than providing any useful regularizing effect, the diffusion term actually makes the analysis more difficult compared to the pure first-order case by destroying localization effects (such as the finite speed of propagation). Also notice that, while we choose to write the principal part of (1-1) in nondivergence form, thanks to the scaling of the equation, our study also covers the case of equations with principal part in divergence form. Indeed, we may rewrite an equation with principal part divergence form, at least in the case that the diffusion matrix is sufficiently smooth (on the microscopic scale) in the form of (1-1) by simply expanding out the divergence, observing that the ε 's cancel, and absorbing the new first-order drift term into the Hamiltonian.

The archetypical result of almost-sure, qualitative homogenization for (1-1) is that there exists a *deterministic*, constant-coefficient equation

$$u_t + \bar{H}(Du) = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty) \quad (1-2)$$

such that, subject to an appropriate initial condition, u^ε converges locally uniformly, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ and with probability one, to the solution u of (1-2). The nonlinearity \bar{H} , called the effective Hamiltonian, depends on \mathbb{P} but is a deterministic quantity. It inherits convexity and superlinearity from the heterogeneous Hamiltonian. Its fine qualitative properties encode information regarding the behavior of solutions of the heterogeneous equation (1-1). In the particular case corresponding to quenched large deviation principles for diffusions in random environments, \bar{H} is, up to a constant, the Legendre–Fenchel transform of the rate function (see below for more details).

The first qualitative homogenization results of this type for second-order equations, asserting that (1-1) homogenizes to a limiting equation of the form of (1-2), were proved independently by Kosygina, Rezakhanlou and Varadhan [Kosygina et al. 2006] and Lions and Souganidis [2005]. Earlier homogenization results for first-order equations (i.e., $A \equiv 0$) in the random setting are due to Souganidis [1999] and Rezakhanlou and Tarver [2000], and subsequent work can be found in [Armstrong and Souganidis 2012; Lions and Souganidis 2010]. We also refer the reader to the nice survey article of Kosygina [2007].

In this paper, we present a new proof of homogenization that applies to a wider class of equations. The idea is to apply the subadditive ergodic theorem to certain *maximal subsolutions* (these are the functions m_μ in Section 2), thereby obtaining a deterministic limit (which we denote \bar{m}_μ) and hence a candidate for \bar{H} (by the formula (3-2)) and then recovering the full homogenization result by deterministic comparison arguments (presented in Sections 4 and 5). The approach is simple and more or less self-contained (the reader may consult our recent paper [Armstrong and Tran 2014] for the necessary deterministic PDE theory) and yields a very general qualitative homogenization theorem under essentially optimal hypotheses. In addition to recovering all of the known cases, including the results mentioned above, we can also treat for the first time general Hamiltonians that are not necessarily uniformly coercive. An essential characteristic of (1-1) is that $p \mapsto H(p, y)$ exhibits superlinear growth in p , and this is typically assumed to be uniform in x . Here we can handle Hamiltonians satisfying an *averaged* coercivity condition that is not uniform in x .

The most important feature of the method is that, unlike previous approaches, our proof of homogenization is quantifiable, as demonstrated in [Armstrong and Cardaliaguet 2015]. Much recent effort has been

put into obtaining quantitative stochastic homogenization results, for example, estimates for the difference $u^\varepsilon - u$, rigorous bounds for numerical methods for computing effective coefficients and so on. For first-order Hamilton–Jacobi equations, quantitative stochastic homogenization results were recently obtained by Armstrong, Cardaliaguet and Souganidis [Armstrong et al. 2014], who quantified the convergence proof in [Armstrong and Souganidis 2013]. Unfortunately, the method of this last paper is not applicable in the viscous case without new ideas, as the presence of the diffusion term generates significant additional difficulties. From this point of view, the results in this paper can be considered as the completion of the idea that originated in [Armstrong and Souganidis 2013].

1B. Statement of the main results. We begin by defining “the set of all equations” by specifying some structural conditions on the coefficients. We work with parameters $q > 1$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\Lambda_1 \geq 1$ and $\Lambda_2 \geq 0$, which are fixed throughout the paper.

We require the coefficients to be functions $A : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^d$ (here \mathbb{S}^d denotes the set of d -by- d real symmetric matrices) and $H : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying the following conditions. First, the diffusion matrix has a Lipschitz square root. Precisely, we assume that there exists a function $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ such that

$$A = \frac{1}{2} \sigma' \sigma,$$

where σ is bounded and Lipschitz: for every $y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$|\sigma(y)| \leq \Lambda_2, \tag{1-3}$$

$$|\sigma(y) - \sigma(z)| \leq \Lambda_2 |y - z|. \tag{1-4}$$

(Here $\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ is the set of real n -by- d matrices.) Regarding the Hamiltonian, we assume that, for every $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$p \mapsto H(p, y) \quad \text{is convex} \tag{1-5}$$

and, for every $R > 0$, there exist constants $0 < a_R \leq 1$ and $M_R \geq 1$ such that, for every $p, \hat{p} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $y, z \in B_R$,

$$a_R |p|^q - M_R \leq H(p, y) \leq \Lambda_1 (|p|^q + 1), \tag{1-6}$$

$$|H(p, y) - H(p, z)| \leq (\Lambda_1 |p|^q + M_R) |y - z|, \tag{1-7}$$

$$|H(p, y) - H(\hat{p}, y)| \leq \Lambda_1 (|p| + |\hat{p}| + 1)^{q-1} |p - \hat{p}|. \tag{1-8}$$

We define the probability space Ω to be the set of ordered pairs (σ, H) satisfying the above conditions:

$$\Omega := \{(\sigma, H) : \sigma \text{ and } H \text{ satisfy (1-3), (1-4), (1-5), (1-6), (1-7), and (1-8)}\}.$$

We may write $\Omega = \Omega(q, n, \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2)$ if we wish to emphasize the dependence of Ω on the parameters.

We endow the set Ω with

$$\mathcal{F} := \sigma\text{-algebra generated by } (\sigma, H) \mapsto \sigma(y) \text{ and } (\sigma, H) \mapsto H(p, y) \text{ with } p, y \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

The random environment is modeled by a probability measure \mathbb{P} on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) . The expectation with respect to \mathbb{P} is denoted by \mathbb{E} . We assume that \mathbb{P} is stationary and ergodic with respect to the action of \mathbb{R}^d

on Ω given by translation. To be precise, we let $\{\tau_z\}_{z \in \mathbb{R}^d}$ be the group action of translation on Ω defined by

$$\tau_z(\sigma, H) := (\tau_z\sigma, \tau_zH), \quad \text{where } (\tau_z\sigma)(y) := \sigma(y + z) \text{ and } (\tau_zH)(p, y) := H(p, y + z).$$

We extend this to \mathcal{F} by setting, for every event $F \in \mathcal{F}$,

$$\tau_z F := \{\tau_z\omega : \omega \in F\}.$$

The stationary-ergodic hypothesis is that

$$\text{for all } y \in \mathbb{R}^d \text{ and } F \in \mathcal{F}, \quad \mathbb{P}[\tau_y F] = \mathbb{P}[F] \quad (\text{stationarity}) \tag{1-9}$$

and, for all $F \in \mathcal{F}$,

$$\bigcap_{z \in \mathbb{R}^d} \tau_z F = F \quad \text{implies that } \mathbb{P}[F] \in \{0, 1\} \quad (\text{ergodicity}). \tag{1-10}$$

The final assumption we impose on \mathbb{P} is a *weak coercivity* condition: there exists an exponent $\alpha > d$ such that

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{\Lambda_2}{a_1} \right)^{2\alpha/(q-1)} + \left(\frac{M_1}{a_1} \right)^{\alpha/q} \right] < +\infty. \tag{1-11}$$

It is important to note that $\Lambda_2 \geq 0$ is a constant but $0 < a_1 \leq 1$ and $M_1 \geq 1$ are random variables in the above condition.

Remark 1.1. We emphasize that, in contrast to q, n, Λ_1 and Λ_2 , the positive constants a_R and M_R in the assumptions (1-6) and (1-7) depend on H itself; that is, they are random variables on Ω . To make this precise, for each $\omega = (\sigma, H) \in \Omega$, we redefine $M_R(\omega)$ to be the smallest constant not smaller than 1 for which (1-7) holds in B_R ; we then redefine $a_R(\omega)$ to be the largest constant not larger than 1 for which (1-6) holds in B_R . We denote

$$a_R(x, \omega) := a_R(\tau_x\omega) \quad \text{and} \quad M_R(x, \omega) := M_R(\tau_x\omega).$$

We drop the dependence on ω from the notation where possible, e.g., $a_R(x, \omega) = a_R(x)$.

We present our main homogenization result in terms of the initial-value problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr} \left(A \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) D^2 u^\varepsilon \right) + H \left(Du^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty), \\ u^\varepsilon = g & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d \times \{0\}. \end{cases} \tag{1-12}$$

Here the initial data g is a given element of $\text{BUC}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the set of bounded and uniformly continuous real-valued functions on \mathbb{R}^d , and the unknown function u^ε depends on (x, t) as well as g and the coefficients $\omega = (\sigma, H)$. We typically write $u^\varepsilon(x, t, g, \omega)$ or often simply $u^\varepsilon(x, t, g)$ or $u^\varepsilon(x, t)$. As explained in Section 5, under our assumptions, the problem (1-12) has a unique viscosity solution (subject to an appropriate growth condition) almost surely with respect to \mathbb{P} . In fact, it is defined by formula (5-2) below. We remark that all differential equations and inequalities in this paper, including the ones above, are interpreted in the viscosity sense; see Section 1D.

In our main result, we identify a continuous, convex $\bar{H} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and show that, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, the solutions u^ε of (1-12) converge, \mathbb{P} -almost surely, to the unique solution of

$$\begin{cases} u_t + \bar{H}(Du) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty), \\ u = g & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d \times \{0\}. \end{cases} \tag{1-13}$$

That the latter has a unique solution is a consequence of the properties of \bar{H} summarized in Lemma 3.1 (see Section 5 for more details).

We now state our main homogenization theorem.

Theorem 1. *Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}) be defined as above for fixed constants $q > 1$ and $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 > 0$. Suppose that \mathbb{P} is a probability measure on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) satisfying (1-9), (1-10) and (1-11). Then there exists a convex $\bar{H} \in C(\mathbb{R}^d)$ satisfying, for some constants $C, c > 0$,*

$$c(|p|^q - C) \leq \bar{H}(p) \leq C(|p|^q + 1)$$

with the following property: with $u^\varepsilon(x, t, g, \omega)$ defined by (5-2), and denoting by $u = u(x, t, g)$ the unique solution of (1-13), we have

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\forall g \in \text{BUC}(\mathbb{R}^d), \forall R > 0, \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{(x,t) \in B_R \times [0,R]} |u^\varepsilon(x, t, g) - u(x, t, g)| = 0 \right] = 1.$$

Let us say a few words regarding the role of the weak coercivity assumption. The first thing to notice about (1-11) is that a particular case occurs when \mathbb{P} is supported on the set of (σ, H) for which H satisfies (1-6) and (1-7) for constants $a_R > 0$ and $M_R > 1$ that are independent of R . We call this a *uniform coercivity* condition, and it is the traditional hypothesis under which homogenization results for viscous Hamilton–Jacobi equations have been obtained. From the PDE point of view, it is important because it provides uniform Lipschitz estimates for solutions, which is a starting point for the analysis. The condition (1-11) can then be seen as a relaxation of the uniform coercivity condition, replacing it by an averaging condition. We remark that we expect the averaging condition stated here to be optimal in terms of the range of the exponent α . The result should not hold if we only have (1-11) for $\alpha = d$.

There are few homogenization results in the random setting without uniform coercivity. Armstrong and Souganidis [2012] recently proved such a result under a less general averaging condition (essentially (1-11) with a_1 bounded below). They also assumed the random environment satisfied a strong mixing condition with an algebraic mixing rate assumed to be sufficiently fast, depending on the exponent α . Similar results stated in probabilistic terms were obtained at about the same time by Rassoul-Agha, Seppäläinen and Yilmaz [Rassoul-Agha et al. 2013]. In contrast to these results, we do not require any mixing condition here, merely that the environment be stationary-ergodic.

We next present a model equation that fits into our framework.

Example 1.2. Consider the particular case of the Hamiltonian

$$H(p, y) = a(y)|p|^q - V(y), \tag{1-14}$$

where $q > 1$, the functions a and V are stationary-ergodic random fields that are almost surely locally Lipschitz, $V \geq 0$ and a is positive and uniformly Lipschitz on \mathbb{R}^d . Assume also that A satisfies the usual

assumption stated above. This of course fits under our framework since given such a random function H (together with σ) we simply take \mathbb{P} to be the law of (σ, H) . The weak coercivity condition is satisfied in this case provided that, for some $\alpha > d$,

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\left(\frac{1}{a(0)}\right)^{2\alpha/(q-1)} + \left(\frac{\|V\|_{C^{0,1}(B_1)}}{a(0)}\right)^{\alpha/q}\right] < +\infty.$$

If the diffusion matrix A vanishes, we only need that, for some $\alpha > d$,

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\left(\frac{\|V\|_{C^{0,1}(B_1)}}{a(0)}\right)^{\alpha/q}\right] < +\infty.$$

In the case that V is bounded and uniformly Lipschitz, we need simply that $a^{-1} \in L^p(\Omega)$ for some $p > 2d/(q - 1)$; if in addition there is no diffusion ($A = 0$), then we just need $p > d/q$. Even in these relatively simple situations, the homogenization result we obtain is completely new. In the case that a is bounded below, then we just need that $\mathbb{E}[\|V\|_{C^{0,1}(B_1)}^p] < +\infty$ for some $p > d/q$, which is better than the condition $p \geq d$ assumed in [Armstrong and Souganidis 2012].

Remark 1.3. It is customary in the homogenization literature to hide the specifics of the probability space Ω by introducing the “dummy variable” ω and expressing σ and H as maps $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^d \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^d$ and $H : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by identifying $\sigma(\cdot, \omega)$ and $H(\cdot, \cdot, \omega)$ with $\tilde{\sigma}$ and \tilde{H} , respectively, where $\omega = (\tilde{\sigma}, \tilde{H})$. Viewed this way, the functions A and H are stationary with respect to the translation group action $\{\tau_z\}_{z \in \mathbb{R}^d}$ in the sense that, for every $p, y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\omega \in \Omega$,

$$\sigma(y, \tau_z \omega) = \sigma(y + z, \omega) \quad \text{and} \quad H(p, y, \tau_z \omega) = H(p, y + z, \omega).$$

While this is evidently equivalent to the formulation here, we feel that writing ω everywhere is both unsightly and unnecessary, and so we avoid it wherever possible. The meaning of expressions such as $\mathbb{P}[\dots]$ and $\mathbb{E}[\dots]$ are always quite clear from the context. Meanwhile, measurability issues are already set up by the definition of \mathcal{F} and become, in our opinion, more rather than less confusing if we display explicit dependence on ω .

1C. A quenched LDP for diffusions in random environments. In order to state the main probabilistic application of Theorem 1, we require some additional notation. We begin with another example of a Hamilton–Jacobi equation with random coefficients that is contained in the framework of Theorem 1.

Example 1.4. With $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ as described in the hypotheses (with $n = d$) and given a random vector field b and potential $V \geq 0$, we define the Hamiltonian

$$H(p, y) = \frac{1}{2}|\sigma p|^2 + b(y) \cdot p - V(y) = p \cdot Ap + b(y) \cdot p - V(y), \tag{1-15}$$

where as usual $A = \frac{1}{2}\sigma^t \sigma$, which is precisely the given diffusion matrix. The weak coercivity condition is satisfied provided there exists $\alpha > d$ such that

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1(A(0))}\right)^{2\alpha} + \left(\frac{\|V\|_{C^{0,1}(B_1)}}{\lambda_1(A(0))}\right)^{\alpha/2}\right] < +\infty, \tag{1-16}$$

where $\lambda_1(A) = \frac{1}{2} \min_{|z|=1} |\sigma z|^2$ is the smallest eigenvalue of A . If this random variable is bounded below, we say that A is *uniformly elliptic*, and in this case, we need only that the potential V has a finite q -th moment for some $q > d/2$.

Throughout the rest of this subsection, we take σ , A , b and V to be as in Example 1.4. In this situation, we may identify the probability space Ω with ordered triples (σ, b, V) .

We denote by $t \mapsto X_t$ the canonical process on $C(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}^d)$. Recall that the martingale problem corresponding to σ and b has a unique solution [Stroock and Varadhan 1979]. This means that, for each $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\omega = (\sigma, b, V) \in \Omega$, there exists a unique probability measure $P_{x,\omega}$ on $C(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}^d)$ such that, under $P_{x,\omega}$, the canonical process $X = \{X_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ satisfies the stochastic differential equation

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = \sigma(X_t, \omega) dB_t + b(X_t, \omega) dt, \\ P_{x,\omega}[X_0 = x] = 1, \end{cases}$$

where $\{B_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ is a d -dimensional Brownian motion with respect to $P_{x,\omega}$.

The main object of interest is the quenched path measure of the diffusion $t \mapsto X_t$ in the random potential $V(\cdot, \omega)$, which is defined, for each $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\omega \in \Omega$ and $t > 0$, by

$$Q_{t,x,\omega}(dv) := \frac{1}{S(t, x, \omega)} \exp\left(-\int_0^t V(X_s, \omega) ds\right) P_{x,\omega}(dv),$$

where the normalizing factor $S(t, x, \omega)$, called the *quenched partition function*, is given by

$$S(t, x, \omega) := E_{x,\omega}\left[\exp\left(-\int_0^t V(X_s, \omega) ds\right)\right]. \tag{1-17}$$

Note that $Q_{t,x,\omega}$ is a probability measure on the path space $C(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

The physical interpretation of the quenched path measures is that $Q_{t,x,\omega}$ describes the behavior of the diffusion X in an “absorbing” potential (in this interpretation, the half-life of a particle at position x is $\log 2/V(x, \omega)$) conditioned on the (exponentially unlikely event) that X is not absorbed up to time t ; the probability that the particle lives until time t is precisely $S_{t,x,\omega}$. We note that the case $V \equiv 0$ is also of interest, in which case $Q_{t,x,\omega} = P_{x,\omega}$ and our results below describe the quenched large deviations of $P_{x,\omega}$, that is, of the diffusion in the random medium with no absorption. We also remark that we may allow V to take negative values, provided that V is uniformly bounded below; in the particle interpretation, negative values of V correspond to the creation of particles.

A central task in the study of diffusions in random environments is to obtain statistical information about the typical sample paths under $Q_{t,t,x,\omega}$. Here we are interested in information regarding the large deviations of $Q_{t,t,x,\omega}$ in the asymptotic limit $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Corollary 2. *Let \mathbb{P} be a probability measure on Ω (which is identified with ordered triples (σ, b, V) as explained above) satisfying (1-9), (1-10) and (1-16). Let \bar{H} be as in the statement of Theorem 1 corresponding to the Hamiltonian H given in (1-15), and let \bar{L} be the Legendre–Fenchel transform of \bar{H} , defined for $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$ by*

$$\bar{L}(z) := \sup_{p \in \mathbb{R}^d} (p \cdot z - \bar{H}(p)).$$

Then there exists $\Omega_0 \in \mathcal{F}$ with $\mathbb{P}[\Omega_0] = 1$ such that, for every $\omega \in \Omega_0$, we have the following:

(i) For every closed set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{t} \log Q_{t,tx,\omega}[X_t \in tK] \geq \inf_{y \in K} \bar{L}(x - y) + \bar{H}(0). \tag{1-18}$$

(ii) For every open set $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{t} \log Q_{t,tx,\omega}[X_t \in tU] \leq \inf_{y \in U} \bar{L}(x - y) + \bar{H}(0). \tag{1-19}$$

The proof that Theorem 1 implies Corollary 2 is presented in Section 6, and it follows along similar lines as the ones that previously appeared for example in [Lions and Souganidis 2005; Kosygina 2007].

Sznitman [1994] was the first to prove a quenched large deviations result like this in dimensions larger than one. Precisely, he proved Corollary 2 in the special case that $\sigma = I_d$ is the identity matrix, $b(y, \omega) = b_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is a constant vector and the potential V is Poissonian; i.e.,

$$V(y, \omega) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} W(y - z) d\rho(z),$$

where $W \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and the locally finite measure ρ has a Poissonian law (see [Sznitman 1998, Theorem 4.7]). In particular, such a random potential has a finite range of dependence and bounded finite moments.

In fact, the first phase of the strategy followed in this paper to homogenize the Hamilton–Jacobi equation is analogous in many respects to the probabilistic approach Sznitman used to obtain the large deviation principle. His proof relied on an application of the subadditive ergodic theorem to certain quantities, essentially equivalent to the maximal subsolutions considered here (the m_μ ’s), to obtain deterministic limits, the *Lyapunov exponents*, which are precisely the \bar{m}_μ ’s we encounter in the next section. See also the discussion preceding Proposition 2.5.

Let us check that the rate function in Corollary 2 agrees with the one in [Sznitman 1998]. First note that $\min_{\mathbb{R}^d} \bar{H} = \bar{H}(0) = 0$ in Sznitman’s case. The effective Lagrangian \bar{L} may thus be expressed in terms of the \bar{m}_μ ’s as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{L}(z) &= \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}^d} (p \cdot z - \bar{H}(p)) && \text{(definition of } \bar{L}) \\ &= \sup_{\mu > 0} \sup \{ p \cdot z - \bar{H}(p) : \bar{H}(p) \leq \mu \} && \text{(by } 0 = \min \bar{H}) \\ &= \sup_{\mu > 0} \sup \{ p \cdot z - \mu : \bar{H}(p) \leq \mu \} \\ &= \sup_{\mu > 0} (\bar{m}_\mu(z) - \mu) && \text{(by (3-3) below).} \end{aligned}$$

In the absorption-free case $V \equiv 0$, Zerner [1998] proved a result similar to Corollary 2 for random walks on the lattice \mathbb{Z}^d with i.i.d. transition probabilities at each lattice point. He required (loosely translated into our notation) that A be “almost” uniformly elliptic:

$$\mathbb{E}[-\log \lambda_1(A(0, \omega))^d] < \infty. \tag{1-20}$$

This condition is much weaker than our (1-16) but is compensated for by the much stronger independence assumption on the random environment.

The subject of large deviations of random walks in random environments continues to receive much attention, and the works of Sznitman and Zerner have been subsequently extended to more general settings, and properties of the rate function have been studied in more depth; in particular, we refer to [Varadhan 2003; Rassoul-Agha 2004]. See also the more recent work of Yilmaz [2009], who proves a discrete version of Corollary 2 with no absorption, $V = 0$, in a quite general stationary-ergodic framework like ours with a slight strengthening of (1-20). Finally, a large deviation result for random walks in the case of absorption, $V \neq 0$, was proved recently by Rassoul-Agha et al. [2013] under the assumptions that the random environment is strongly mixing. Admitting the proof of Corollary 2 from Theorem 1, the results of [Rassoul-Agha et al. 2013] may be compared to those of [Armstrong and Souganidis 2012].

Finally, we mention that the connection between large deviations and viscosity solutions of Hamilton–Jacobi equations was observed by Evans and Ishii [1985], who studied large deviations of the occupation times of small random perturbations of ODEs.

1D. Disclaimer on viscosity solutions. Throughout the paper, all differential equalities and inequalities are understood in the viscosity sense. For a general introduction to viscosity solutions, we refer to [Crandall et al. 1992]. Many of the fundamental PDE results we need here are proved in [Armstrong and Tran 2014], which we cite many times below. Recall that the natural function space for viscosity subsolutions on a domain X is the space $USC(X)$ of upper semicontinuous functions on X and, for supersolutions, it is $LSC(X)$, the set of lower semicontinuous functions on X .

1E. Outline of the paper. In the next section, we introduce the maximal subsolutions and homogenize them using the subadditive ergodic theorem. In Section 3, we construct the effective Hamiltonian and study some of its basic properties. In Section 4, we give the proof of an intermediate homogenization result and finally prove Theorem 1 in Section 5. The quenched large deviation principle is shown in Section 6 to be a consequence of the homogenization result.

2. The shape theorem: homogenization of the maximal subsolutions

In this section, we homogenize the *maximal subsolutions* of the inequality

$$-\operatorname{tr}(A(y)D^2w) + H(Dw, y) \leq \mu \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{2-1}$$

In subsequent sections, we show with comparison arguments that homogenizing these maximal subsolutions is enough to imply Theorem 1. As we will see, the reason that the maximal subsolutions are easier to homogenize is due to their subadditive structure.

The maximal subsolutions are defined, for each $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and $y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$, by

$$m_\mu(y, z) := \sup \left\{ w(y) - \sup_{\bar{B}_1(z)} w : w \in USC(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ satisfies (2-1)} \right\}. \tag{2-2}$$

If the admissible class in the supremum above is empty, then we take $m_\mu(y, z) \equiv -\infty$. We denote, for every $\omega = (\sigma, H) \in \Omega$, the critical parameter $h(\omega)$ for which m_μ is finite by

$$h := \inf\{\mu : \text{there exists } w \in \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ satisfying (2-1)}\}. \tag{2-3}$$

According to (1-6), we have $h(\omega) \leq \Lambda_1$. It is sometimes convenient to work with the quantity

$$\tilde{m}_\mu(y, z) := \sup_{B_1(y)} m_\mu(\cdot, z). \tag{2-4}$$

Some deterministic properties of the maximal subsolutions are summarized in the following proposition, which is proved in [Armstrong and Tran 2014]. See Proposition 3.1 and Section 5 of that paper. The estimate (2-7) below is particularly important in our analysis and comes from the explicit Lipschitz estimates proved in [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Proposition 3.1].

Proposition 2.1 [Armstrong and Tran 2014]. *Fix $\omega = (\sigma, H) \in \Omega$ and $\mu \geq h(\omega)$. Then, for every $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$, the function $m_\mu(\cdot, z)$ belongs to $C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{B}_1(z)) \cap \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and satisfies*

$$-\text{tr}(A(y)D^2m_\mu) + H(Dm_\mu, y) \leq \mu \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \tag{2-5}$$

as well as

$$-\text{tr}(A(y)D^2m_\mu) + H(Dm_\mu, y) = \mu \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{B}_1(z). \tag{2-6}$$

There exists a constant $C > 0$, depending only on d and q , such that, for every $y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\text{osc}_{B_1(y)} m_\mu(\cdot, z) \leq C \left[\left(\frac{(1 + \Lambda_1)^{1/2} \|\sigma\|_{C^{0,1}(B_2(y))}}{a_2(y)} \right)^{2/(q-1)} + \left(\frac{M_2(y) + \mu}{a_2(y)} \right)^{1/q} \right]. \tag{2-7}$$

For every $\lambda \in [0, 1]$, $\mu, \nu \geq h(\omega)$ and $y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$m_{\lambda\mu + (1-\lambda)\nu}(y, z) \geq \lambda m_\mu(y, z) + (1 - \lambda)m_\nu(y, z). \tag{2-8}$$

Finally, for every $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we have

$$\tilde{m}_\mu(y, z) \leq \tilde{m}_\mu(y, x) + \tilde{m}_\mu(x, z). \tag{2-9}$$

We define $K_\mu(y)$ to be the random variable on the right side of (2-7), that is,

$$K_\mu(y) := C \left[\left(\frac{(1 + \Lambda_1)^{1/2} \|\sigma\|_{C^{0,1}(B_2(y))}}{a_2(y)} \right)^{2/(q-1)} + \left(\frac{M_2(y) + \mu}{a_2(y)} \right)^{1/q} \right],$$

so that we can write the bound (2-7) as

$$\text{osc}_{B_1(y)} m_\mu(\cdot, z) \leq K_\mu(y). \tag{2-10}$$

We also denote $K_\mu = K_\mu(0)$. The primary use of the weak coercivity hypothesis (1-11) is that it implies that the α -th moment of K_μ , which we denote by \bar{K}_μ^α , is finite for some $\alpha > d$:

$$\bar{K}_\mu := \mathbb{E}[K_\mu^\alpha]^{1/\alpha} < +\infty. \tag{2-11}$$

Note that we have used (1-11) with a_2 and M_2 replacing a_1 and M_1 , respectively, which is seen to be equivalent to (1-11) by an easy covering argument.

As far as the dependence of \bar{K}_μ on μ , we use $M_2 \geq 1$ to check that

$$\bar{K}_\mu \leq \bar{K}_0(1 + \mu^{1/q}). \tag{2-12}$$

We next use ergodicity to show that the random variable h defined in (2-3) is, up to an event of probability zero, a deterministic constant.

Lemma 2.2. *Assume that \mathbb{P} is a probability measure on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) satisfying (1-9) and (1-10). Then there exists a constant $\bar{H}_* \in \mathbb{R}$, depending on \mathbb{P} , such that*

$$\mathbb{P}[\bar{H}_* = \inf\{\mu \in \mathbb{R} : \text{there exists } w \in \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ satisfying (2-1)}\}] = 1. \tag{2-13}$$

Proof. Let us see that h defined in (2-3) is finite. We have already seen that $h \leq \Lambda_1$ by (1-6). To argue that $h(\omega) > -\infty$ for every $\omega = (\sigma, H) \in \Omega$, we use the test function

$$\phi(y) := k(1 - |y|^2)^{-1/(q-1)}.$$

If $k > 1$ and $C > 1$ are sufficiently large, depending only on Λ_2 and the constants a_1 and M_1 in (1-6) for H , then ϕ is a smooth solution of

$$-\text{tr}(A(y)D^2\phi) + H(D\phi, y) > -C \quad \text{in } B_1.$$

Now consider an arbitrary element $w \in \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Since $\phi(y) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $y \rightarrow \partial B_1$, there exists $x_0 \in B_1$ such that $w - \phi$ has a local maximum at x_0 . In view of the differential inequality for ϕ , we obtain that w cannot be a subsolution of (1-6) for any $\mu \geq -C$.

It is immediate from its definition that h is invariant under the translation group action $\{\tau_y\}_{y \in \mathbb{R}^d}$. By the ergodicity assumption, this implies that \mathbb{P} assigns each of the events $\{h > \lambda\}$ and $\{h < \lambda\}$, for every $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, probability either zero or one. This implies that h is \mathbb{P} -almost surely a constant. Taking this constant to be \bar{H}_* yields the lemma. \square

Our main interest lies in the asymptotic behavior of $m_\mu(y, z)$ for $|y - z| \simeq |z| \gg 1$. In the next lemma, we use Morrey’s inequality together with the local oscillation bound (2-10) and the ergodic theorem to prove the large-scale oscillation bound $\text{osc}_{B_R(Ry)} m_\mu(\cdot, z) \lesssim R$ uniformly in $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$ for $R \gg 1$. Recall that Morrey’s inequality [Evans 1998, Section 5.6.2] states that, for any $R > 0$, $u \in C^1(B_R)$ and $\beta > d$, there exists $C(\beta, d) > 1$ such that

$$\text{osc}_{B_R} u \leq CR \left(\int_{B_R} |Du(x)|^\beta dx \right)^{1/\beta}. \tag{2-14}$$

Therefore, we can control the oscillation of a function in terms of “averaged pointwise oscillation bounds”. Thus, it is natural to attempt to control the large-scale oscillation of $m_\mu(\cdot, z)$ in terms of the average of a power of its local oscillation with the hope of using (2-10), (2-11) and the ergodic theorem to control the latter.

Lemma 2.3. *Assume that \mathbb{P} is a probability measure on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) satisfying (1-9), (1-10) and (1-11). Then there exists $C > 0$, depending only on d and α , such that*

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall \mu \geq \bar{H}_*, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \limsup_{R \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{R} \operatorname{osc}_{B_R(Rx)} m_\mu(\cdot, z) \leq C \bar{K}_\mu\right] = 1. \tag{2-15}$$

Proof. It is convenient to mollify the functions in order to put the local oscillation bounds into a pointwise form suitable for the application of Morrey’s inequality. We first observe that, owing to Lemma 2.2, we may assume that m_μ is finite for all $\mu \geq \bar{H}_*$ by removing an event of zero probability.

We now fix $\mu \geq \bar{H}_*$ and $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and take a nonnegative $\eta \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with support in $B_{1/2}$ and unit mass, $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \eta(y) dy = 1$, and set

$$\widehat{m}_\mu(y) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \eta(y-x) m_\mu(x, z) dx. \tag{2-16}$$

Then \widehat{m}_μ is smooth, and using (2-7), we have, for every $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\widehat{m}_\mu(y) - m_\mu(y, z)| &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \eta(y-x) |m_\mu(x, z) - m_\mu(y, z)| dx \\ &\leq \operatorname{osc}_{B_{1/2}(y)} m_\mu(\cdot, z) \leq \inf_{B_{1/2}(y)} K_\mu(\cdot) \end{aligned} \tag{2-17}$$

and

$$|D\widehat{m}_\mu(y)| = \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} D\eta(y-x) (m_\mu(x, z) - m_\mu(y, z)) dx \right| \leq C K_\mu(y). \tag{2-18}$$

Applying (2-14) and then using (2-18), we deduce the existence of $C(d, \alpha) > 1$ such that, for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\operatorname{osc}_{B_R(x)} \widehat{m}_\mu \leq CR \left(\int_{B_R(x)} |D\widehat{m}_\mu(y)|^\alpha dy \right)^{1/\alpha} \leq CR \left(\int_{B_R(x)} K_\mu^\alpha(y) dy \right)^{1/\alpha}. \tag{2-19}$$

Next, we return to (2-17) and observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{y \in B_R(x)} |\widehat{m}_\mu(y) - m_\mu(y, z)| &\leq \sup_{y \in B_R(x)} \inf_{x \in B_{1/2}(y)} K_\mu(x) \leq \left(\sup_{y \in B_R(x)} \int_{B_{1/2}(y)} K_\mu^\alpha(x) dx \right)^{1/\alpha} \\ &\leq C \left(\int_{B_{R+1}(x)} K_\mu^\alpha(x) dx \right)^{1/\alpha} \leq C(R+1)^{d/\alpha} \left(\int_{B_{R+1}(x)} K_\mu^\alpha(x) dx \right)^{1/\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

Making note of the fact that $d/\alpha < 1$ and combining the above inequality with (2-19), we deduce that, for every $R > 1$ and $x, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\frac{1}{R} \operatorname{osc}_{B_R(x)} m_\mu(\cdot, z) \leq C \left(\int_{B_{R+1}(x)} K_\mu^\alpha(y) dy \right)^{1/\alpha}. \tag{2-20}$$

According to the ergodic theorem [Becker 1981],

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \left(\int_{B_{R+1}(Rx)} K_\mu^\alpha(y) dy \right)^{1/\alpha} = \mathbb{E}[K_\mu^\alpha]^{1/\alpha}\right] = 1.$$

In view of the definition of \bar{K}_μ , the last two lines yield that, for every $\mu \geq \bar{H}_*$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \limsup_{R \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{R} \operatorname{osc}_{B_R(Rx)} m_\mu(\cdot, z) \leq C \bar{K}_\mu\right] = 1.$$

Using the monotonicity of $\mu \rightarrow m_\mu$ and the continuity of $\mu \mapsto \bar{K}_\mu$ and intersecting the events corresponding to all rational μ and $\mu = \bar{H}_*$, we obtain (2-15). \square

The following lemma is an abstract tool that allows us to obtain uniform convergence, with respect to the translation group $\{\tau_y\}_{y \in \mathbb{R}^d}$, for sequences of random variables that converge almost surely and satisfy appropriate oscillation bounds. The argument follows an (unpublished) idea attributed to Varadhan, using a combination of Egoroff’s theorem and the ergodic theorem.

Lemma 2.4. *Assume \mathbb{P} is a probability measure on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) satisfying (1-9) and (1-10). Suppose that $\{X_t\}_{t>0}$ is a family of \mathcal{F} -measurable random variables on Ω such that*

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} X_t(0) \leq 0\right] = 1.$$

Denote $X_t(y, \omega) := X_t(\tau_y \omega)$, and suppose that

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall z \in \mathbb{R}^d, \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{osc}_{y \in B_{tr}(tz)} X_t(y, \cdot) = 0\right] = 1.$$

Then

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall R > 0, \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in B_{tR}} X_t(y, \cdot) \leq 0\right] = 1.$$

Proof. We first notice that, after a routine covering argument, the second hypothesis can be rewritten in a slightly stronger way as

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall R > 0, \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{z \in B_R} \operatorname{osc}_{y \in B_{tr}(tz)} X_t(y, \cdot) = 0\right] = 1. \tag{2-21}$$

By the first hypothesis, for each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $T_\varepsilon > 0$ sufficiently large that

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\sup_{t \geq T_\varepsilon} X_t(0, \cdot) \leq \varepsilon\right] \geq 1 - \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^d. \tag{2-22}$$

Denote this event by $D_\varepsilon := \{\omega \in \Omega : \sup_{t \geq T_\varepsilon} X_t(0, \omega) \leq \varepsilon\}$. According to the multiparameter ergodic theorem [Becker 1981], for each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists an event $\tilde{\Omega}_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{F}$ with $\mathbb{P}[\tilde{\Omega}_\varepsilon] = 1$ such that, for every $\omega \in \tilde{\Omega}_\varepsilon$,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \int_{B_r} \mathbb{1}_{D_\varepsilon}(\tau_x \omega) dx = \mathbb{P}[D_\varepsilon] \geq 1 - \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^d. \tag{2-23}$$

Here $\mathbb{1}_E$ denotes the indicator function of an event $E \in \mathcal{F}$. It follows that, for each $\omega \in \tilde{\Omega}_\varepsilon$, there exists $r_\varepsilon > 0$ sufficiently large (and depending on ω in addition to ε) that

$$\inf_{r \geq r_\varepsilon} \int_{B_r} \mathbb{1}_{D_\varepsilon}(\tau_x \omega) dx > 1 - \varepsilon^d. \tag{2-24}$$

Notice that (2-24) implies that, for $r \geq r_\varepsilon(\omega)$,

$$|\{x \in B_r : \tau_x \omega \in D_\varepsilon\}| > (1 - \varepsilon^d) |B_r|. \tag{2-25}$$

In particular, if $r \geq r_\varepsilon(\omega)$, then no ball of radius $r\varepsilon$ is contained in $\{x \in B_r : \tau_x \omega \notin D_\varepsilon\}$.

Let $\tilde{\Omega}$ be the intersection of $\tilde{\Omega}_\varepsilon$ over all $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{Q}_+$. Fix $R, \varepsilon > 0$ with $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{Q}_+$, $\omega \in \tilde{\Omega}$ such that ω also belongs to the event inside the probability in (2-21), $t \geq R^{-1} \max\{r_\varepsilon(\omega), T_\varepsilon\}$ and $y \in B_{tR}$. Then there exists $z \in B_R$ such that $\tau_{tz} \omega \in D_\varepsilon$ and $|y - tz| \leq tR\varepsilon$. Note that $\tau_{tz} \omega \in D_\varepsilon$ is equivalent to $X_t(tz, \omega) \leq \varepsilon$. We deduce that

$$X_t(y, \omega) \leq X_t(tz, \omega) + \sup_{x \in B_{tR\varepsilon}(tz)} \text{osc } X_t(x, \omega) \leq \varepsilon + \sup_{z' \in B_R} \sup_{x \in B_{tR\varepsilon}(tz')} \text{osc } X_t(x, \omega).$$

This holds for all $y \in B_{tR}$; hence,

$$\sup_{y \in B_{tR}} X_t(y, \omega) \leq \varepsilon + \sup_{z' \in B_R} \sup_{x \in B_{tR\varepsilon}(tz')} \text{osc } X_t(x, \omega).$$

We have shown that, for all $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $\varepsilon > 0$, we have

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in B_{tR}} X_t(y, \omega) \leq \varepsilon + \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{z' \in B_R} \sup_{x \in B_{tR\varepsilon}(tz')} \text{osc } X_t(x, \omega).$$

Sending $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, using that ω belongs to the event inside the probability in (2-21), we obtain

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in B_{tR}} X_t(y, \omega) \leq 0.$$

This conclusion applies for every $R > 0$ and ω belonging to the intersection of $\tilde{\Omega}$ and the event in (2-21), which has probability one. □

We next employ the subadditive ergodic theorem [Akcoglu and Krengel 1981] and the subadditivity of m_μ to get the following result, which asserts that, for large $t > 0$, we have $m_\mu(ty, tz) \approx t\bar{m}_\mu(y - z) + o(t)$ for some deterministic function \bar{m}_μ . The key ingredients in the proof are subadditivity (2-9) and the local oscillation estimate (2-15).

The terminology “shape theorem” originated in first-passage percolation, and “shape” refers to the sublevel sets of m_μ . In particular, the result here generalizes [Sznitman 1998, Theorem 5.2.5] and also covers the case that $A \equiv 0$ and the Hamiltonian has the specific form $H(p, x) = a(x)|p|$ where $a > 0$ is an appropriate random field, which is a continuum analogue of the first passage percolation model.

Proposition 2.5 (the shape theorem). *Assume \mathbb{P} is a probability measure on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) satisfying (1-9), (1-10) and (1-11). Then there exists a family $\{\bar{m}_\mu : \mu \geq \bar{H}_*\} \subseteq C(\mathbb{R}^d)$ of convex, positively homogeneous functions such that*

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall \mu \geq \bar{H}_*, \forall R > 0, \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y, z \in B_R} \left| \frac{m_\mu(ty, tz)}{t} - \bar{m}_\mu(y - z) \right| = 0\right] = 1. \tag{2-26}$$

Proof. We break the argument into five steps. In the first step, we construct \bar{m}_μ using the subadditive ergodic theorem and, in Step 2, derive some of its basic properties. In Step 3, we prove (2-26) for $z = 0$,

and in the fourth step, we remove this restriction. For the first four steps, we fix $\mu \geq \bar{H}_*$. The universal quantifier over $\mu \geq \bar{H}_*$ will be moved inside the probability in the final step.

Before commencing with the argument, we make a reduction. With \tilde{m}_μ defined as in (2-4), we observe that

$$0 \leq \tilde{m}_\mu(y, z) - m_\mu(y, z) = \sup_{\xi \in B_1(y)} (m_\mu(\xi, z) - m_\mu(y, z)) \leq \operatorname{osc}_{B_1(y)} m_\mu(\cdot, z).$$

Using this together with Lemma 2.3, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \left[\forall \mu \geq \bar{H}_*, \forall R > 0, \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y, z \in B_R} \frac{1}{t} |m_\mu(ty, tz) - \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, tz)| = 0 \right] \\ \geq \mathbb{P} \left[\forall \mu \geq \bar{H}_*, \forall R > 0, \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y, z \in B_R} \frac{1}{t} \operatorname{osc}_{B_1(ty)} m_\mu(\cdot, tz) = 0 \right] \\ \geq \mathbb{P} \left[\forall \mu \geq \bar{H}_*, \forall R, \delta > 0, \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sup_{y \in B_R} \frac{1}{t} \operatorname{osc}_{B_{\delta}(ty)} m_\mu(\cdot, z) \leq C \bar{K}_\mu \delta \right] = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, it suffices to prove the proposition with \tilde{m}_μ in place of m_μ .

Step 1. We apply the subadditive ergodic theorem to construct \bar{m}_μ . Note that it is immediate from the definitions that both m_μ and \tilde{m}_μ are jointly stationary in (y, z) . Precisely, we mean that, using the notation $m_\mu(y, z, \omega)$ and $\tilde{m}_\mu(y, z, \omega)$ to denote dependence on $\omega \in \Omega$, then with respect to the translation group action $\{\tau_x\}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d}$, we have

$$m_\mu(y, z, \tau_x \omega) = m_\mu(y + x, z + x, \omega) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{m}_\mu(y, z, \tau_x \omega) = \tilde{m}_\mu(y + x, z + x, \omega).$$

Note that \tilde{m}_μ is subadditive by (2-9) and \mathbb{P} -integrable on Ω since (2-20) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\tilde{m}_\mu(y, z)] &\leq \mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{B_{|y-z|+1}(z)} m_\mu(\cdot, z) \right] \\ &\leq C(|y - z| + 1) \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\int_{B_{|y-z|+2}} K_\mu^\alpha(x) dx \right)^{1/\alpha} \right] \leq C \bar{K}_\mu (|y - z| + 1), \end{aligned} \tag{2-27}$$

where the last inequality follows by Jensen’s inequality. We have checked that \tilde{m}_μ verifies the hypothesis of the subadditive ergodic theorem [Akcoglu and Krengel 1981], and we obtain, for each fixed $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$, a random variable $\bar{m}_\mu(y)$ such that

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0) = \bar{m}_\mu(y) \right] = 1. \tag{2-28}$$

However, it turns out that $\bar{m}_\mu(y)$ is constant \mathbb{P} -almost surely, that is,

$$\mathbb{P}[\bar{m}_\mu(y) = \mathbb{E}[\bar{m}_\mu(y)]] = 1. \tag{2-29}$$

This follows from the ergodic hypothesis and the fact that $\bar{m}_\mu(y)$ is invariant under translations. To see this, we write $\tilde{m}_\mu(y, z, \omega)$ and $\bar{m}_\mu(y, \omega)$ to denote dependence on $\omega \in \Omega$ and observe that, for every $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{m}_\mu(y, \tau_z \omega) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty + z, z, \omega) \\ &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} (\tilde{m}_\mu(ty + z, ty, \omega) + \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0, \omega) + \tilde{m}_\mu(0, z, \omega)) \\ &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0, \omega) + \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \left(\operatorname{osc}_{B_{|z|+1}(ty)} m_\mu(\cdot, ty, \omega) + \operatorname{osc}_{B_1(0)} m_\mu(\cdot, z, \omega) \right) \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0, \omega) = \bar{m}_\mu(y, \omega). \end{aligned}$$

Here we used stationarity, followed by (2-9), the definition of \tilde{m}_μ and Lemma 2.3. We deduce that $\bar{m}_\mu(y, \tau_z \omega) = \bar{m}_\mu(y, \omega)$ for all $\omega \in \Omega$ and $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$, which, in view of (1-10), implies that each of the events $\{\omega \in \Omega : \bar{m}_\mu(y, \omega) > \mathbb{E}[\bar{m}_\mu(y, \cdot)]\}$ and $\{\omega \in \Omega : \bar{m}_\mu(y, \omega) < \mathbb{E}[\bar{m}_\mu(y, \cdot)]\}$ has probability either zero or one. So both must be of probability zero, and (2-29) holds.

We henceforth identify $\bar{m}_\mu(y)$ and the deterministic quantity $\mathbb{E}[\bar{m}_\mu(y, \cdot)]$. With this identification, we may combine (2-28) and (2-29) to write

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0)}{t} - \bar{m}_\mu(y) \right| = 0\right] = 1. \tag{2-30}$$

This holds for all $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$. By intersecting the events in (2-30) over all $y \in \mathbb{Q}^d$, we get

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall y \in \mathbb{Q}^d, \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0)}{t} - \bar{m}_\mu(y) \right| = 0\right] = 1. \tag{2-31}$$

Step 2. We next verify that $\bar{m}_\mu : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, convex and positively homogeneous. It is immediate from (2-27) that

$$|\bar{m}_\mu(y)| \leq C \bar{K}_\mu |y|. \tag{2-32}$$

The stationarity and subadditivity of \tilde{m}_μ yield that \bar{m}_μ is sublinear. Indeed, for every $y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{m}_\mu(y + z) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{E}[\tilde{m}_\mu(t(y + z), 0)] \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{E}[\tilde{m}_\mu(t(y + z), tz) + \tilde{m}_\mu(tz, 0)] \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{E}[\tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0)] + \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \mathbb{E}[\tilde{m}_\mu(tz, 0)] = \bar{m}_\mu(y) + \bar{m}_\mu(z). \end{aligned} \tag{2-33}$$

Combining (2-32) and (2-33) yields

$$\bar{m}_\mu(y) - \bar{m}_\mu(z) \leq \bar{m}_\mu(y - z) \leq C \bar{K}_\mu |y - z|.$$

By interchanging y and z , we get

$$|\bar{m}_\mu(y) - \bar{m}_\mu(z)| \leq C \bar{K}_\mu |y - z|, \tag{2-34}$$

and so \bar{m}_μ is Lipschitz with constant $C \bar{K}_\mu$. It is immediate from the form of the limit (2-28) that \bar{m}_μ is positively homogeneous, and from this and (2-33), we deduce that \bar{m}_μ is convex. For future reference, we observe that $\mu \mapsto \bar{m}_\mu(y)$ is concave by (2-8). Since this map is nondecreasing, it must also be continuous.

Step 3. We next upgrade assertion (2-31) to

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall R > 0, \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in B_R} \left| \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0, \omega) - \bar{m}_\mu(y) \right| = 0\right] = 1. \tag{2-35}$$

Observe that, for every $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $z \in \mathbb{Q}^d$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0) - \bar{m}_\mu(y) \right| &\leq \frac{1}{t} |\tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0) - \tilde{m}_\mu(tz, 0)| + \left| \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(tz, 0) - \bar{m}_\mu(z) \right| + |\bar{m}_\mu(y) - \bar{m}_\mu(z)| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{t} \operatorname{osc}_{B_{|y-z|+2}(tz)} m_\mu(\cdot, 0) + \frac{1}{t} |\tilde{m}_\mu(tz, 0) - \bar{m}_\mu(z)| + C \bar{K}_\mu |y - z|. \end{aligned}$$

Fix $R > 0$. Let $\delta > 0$, and select finitely many $z_1, \dots, z_k \in \mathbb{Q}^d \cap B_R$ such that the union of the balls $B(z_i, \delta)$ covers B_R . Then from the above inequality, we find that

$$\sup_{y \in B_R} \left| \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0) - \bar{m}_\mu(y) \right| \leq \sup_{y \in B_R} \sup_{i \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \frac{1}{t} \operatorname{osc}_{B_{\delta+2}(tz_i)} m_\mu(\cdot, 0) + \sup_{i \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \frac{1}{t} |\tilde{m}_\mu(tz_i, 0) - \bar{m}_\mu(z_i)| + C \bar{K}_\mu \delta.$$

Now taking the \limsup as $t \rightarrow \infty$, we deduce from (2-15) and (2-31) that, for every $R, \delta > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in B_R} \left| \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0, \omega) - \bar{m}_\mu(y) \right| \leq 2C \bar{K}_\mu \delta\right] = 1.$$

We recover (2-35) after intersecting over all the events corresponding to $\delta \in \mathbb{Q}_+$ and then over all of the resulting events corresponding to $R \in \mathbb{N}^*$.

Step 4. We next release the vertex point using Lemma 2.4 with

$$X_t := \sup_{y \in B_{2R}} \left| \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, 0) - \bar{m}_\mu(y) \right|, \quad t > 0.$$

Lemma 2.3 and (2-35) give the hypotheses of Lemma 2.4 for X_t , and so an application of the lemma yields, for every $R > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y, z \in B_R} \left| \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, tz) - \bar{m}_\mu(y-z) \right| = 0\right] \geq \mathbb{P}\left[\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{z \in B_R} \sup_{y \in B_{2R}(z)} \left| \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty+tz, tz) - \bar{m}_\mu(y) \right| = 0\right] = 1.$$

Intersecting the events corresponding to $R = 1, 2, \dots$, we obtain

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall R > 0, \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y, z \in B_R} \left| \frac{1}{t} \tilde{m}_\mu(ty, tz) - \bar{m}_\mu(y-z) \right| = 0\right] = 1. \tag{2-36}$$

Step 5. We immediately obtain (2-26) from (2-36) by the monotonicity of $\mu \mapsto m_\mu(y, z)$, the continuity of $\mu \mapsto \bar{m}_\mu(y)$ (see the end of Step 2) and intersecting the events corresponding to each rational $\mu > \bar{H}_*$ as well as to $\mu = \bar{H}_*$. □

Remark 2.6. For future reference, we note that $m_\mu(y, z) \geq \beta|y - z|$ for any $\beta > 0$ and $\mu \geq \Lambda_1(\beta^q + 1)$. Indeed, in view of the monotonicity of $\mu \mapsto m_\mu(y, z)$, it is enough to check that the cone function $\phi(y) := \beta \max\{0, |y - z| - 1\}$ is a subsolution of (2-1) for $\mu = \Lambda_1(\beta^q + 1)$. This is easy to obtain

from (1-6), using $|D\phi| \leq \beta$ and the fact that the diffusion term has a helpful sign due to the convexity of ϕ . This also yields

$$\mu \geq \Lambda_1(\beta^q + 1) \implies \text{for all } y \in \mathbb{R}^d, \bar{m}_\mu(y) \geq \beta|y|. \tag{2-37}$$

In view of the concavity of $\mu \mapsto \bar{m}_\mu(y)$, which was obtained in Step 2 of the proof above, we get the following: there exists $c > 0$ such that, for every $\mu \geq \nu \geq \bar{H}_*$ and $y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\bar{m}_\mu(y) \geq \bar{m}_\nu(y) + c\mu^{-(q-1)/q}(\mu - \nu)|y|.$$

(This remark is needed in the proof (3-4) and to check that \bar{H} is well defined.)

3. Identification of the effective Hamiltonian

In this section, we define \bar{H} in terms of the family $\{\bar{m}_\mu : \mu \geq \bar{H}_*\}$ of homogenized maximal subsolutions and proceed to study some of its basic properties. Throughout this section, we assume that \mathbb{P} is a given probability measure satisfying (1-9), (1-10) and (1-11).

We begin with an informal heuristic that leads to a guess for what \bar{H} should be, thinking in terms of an inverse problem. Write the metric problem in the ‘‘theatrical scaling’’ by introducing a parameter $\varepsilon > 0$ and defining

$$m_\mu^\varepsilon(x) := \varepsilon m_\mu\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, 0\right).$$

At this scale, Proposition 2.5 asserts that $m_\mu^\varepsilon \rightarrow \bar{m}_\mu$ locally uniformly in \mathbb{R}^d and \mathbb{P} -almost surely, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, and we may write (2-6) as

$$-\varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2m_\mu^\varepsilon\right) + H\left(Dm_\mu^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) = \mu \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \bar{B}_\varepsilon(0).$$

By formally passing to the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ in this equation (and in the rescaled version of (2-5)) under the assumption that it homogenizes, this suggests that we should obtain

$$\bar{H}(D\bar{m}_\mu) \leq \mu \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{H}(D\bar{m}_\mu) = \mu \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}. \tag{3-1}$$

That is, we expect that \bar{m}_μ is the maximal subsolution of \bar{H} with respect to μ and the gradient of this positively homogeneous function should prescribe the μ -level set of \bar{H} ; the image of its subdifferential should be the μ -sublevel set of \bar{H} .

In view of this discussion, we simply *define* \bar{H} in such a way that this is so:

$$\bar{H}(p) := \inf\{\mu \geq \bar{H}_* : \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^d, \bar{m}_\mu(y) \geq p \cdot y\}. \tag{3-2}$$

Note that, since \bar{m}_μ is convex and positively homogeneous, the subdifferential $\partial m_\mu(0)$ is actually the closed convex hull of the image of \mathbb{R}^d under $D\bar{m}_\mu$. Recall that the subdifferential $\partial\phi(x)$ of a convex function $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ at a point x is defined by

$$\partial\phi(x) := \{p \in \mathbb{R}^d : \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^d, \phi(y) \geq \phi(x) + p \cdot (y - x)\}.$$

We expect $\partial \bar{m}_\mu(0)$ to be the μ -sublevel set of \bar{H} and the image of \mathbb{R}^d under $D\bar{m}_\mu$ to be the μ -level set of \bar{H} . This indeed follows from (3-2), and we may invert this formula to write \bar{m}_μ in terms of \bar{H} :

$$\bar{m}_\mu(y) = \sup\{p \cdot y : \bar{H}(p) \leq \mu\}. \tag{3-3}$$

That is, \bar{m}_μ is simply the support function of the μ -sublevel set of \bar{H} . So the definition (3-2) is formally in accord with (3-1), and once we have verified that \bar{H} is convex (which we do below in Lemma 3.1), checking the latter in the viscosity sense is simply a routine exercise. Since here we do not actually use this fact, we omit the argument, but the reader may consult for example [Armstrong and Souganidis 2013] or else argue directly that the maximal subsolutions of a constant-coefficient convex Hamiltonian are the support functions of the sublevel sets.

We need to check that the quantity $\bar{H}(p)$ is well defined (and finite). In view of the monotonicity of $\mu \mapsto \bar{m}_\mu$, we need only show that, for every $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$, there exists $\mu > \bar{H}_*$ sufficiently large that the graph of \bar{m}_μ is above the plane $y \mapsto p \cdot y$. But this is immediate from (2-37), which in fact gives the estimate

$$\bar{H}_* \leq \bar{H}(p) \leq \Lambda_1(|p|^q + 1). \tag{3-4}$$

We collect some more basic properties of the effective Hamiltonian $\bar{H} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ in the following lemma:

Lemma 3.1. *The function $\bar{H} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, convex and satisfies $\bar{H}_* = \min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^d} \bar{H}(p)$. Moreover, there exist $C, c > 0$, depending only on d , such that*

$$c\bar{K}_0^{-q}(|p| - C\bar{K}_0)^q \leq \bar{H}(p) \leq \Lambda_1(|p|^q + 1). \tag{3-5}$$

Proof. By definition, $\bar{H}(\cdot) \geq \bar{H}_*$. On the other hand, take $\delta > 0$, and set $\mu := \bar{H}_* + \delta$. Since \bar{m}_μ is convex, we may select $p_0 \in \partial m_\mu(0)$. This implies that $\bar{m}_\mu(y) \geq p_0 \cdot y$ for every $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Thus,

$$\min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^d} \bar{H}(p) \leq \bar{H}(p_0) \leq \mu = \bar{H}_* + \delta.$$

Since $\delta > 0$ was arbitrary, we obtain the first assertion that $\bar{H}_* = \min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^d} \bar{H}(p)$.

The upper bound for \bar{H} was proved already in (3-4). The lower bound follows from (2-12) and (2-32) and the definition of \bar{H} after an easy computation. □

An immediate consequence of the convexity of \bar{H} is that, with the possible exception of the minimal level set $\{\bar{H} = \bar{H}_*\}$, each of the level sets of \bar{H} is the boundary of the corresponding sublevel set. That is, for every $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\bar{H}(p) > \bar{H}_* \quad \text{implies that} \quad p \in \partial\{\hat{p} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \bar{H}(\hat{p}) \leq \bar{H}(p)\}. \tag{3-6}$$

To prove the main homogenization result, we need further geometric information, summarized in the following lemma, relating the level sets of \bar{H} and the maximal subsolutions.

Recall that, if $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ is closed and convex, an *exposed point* of K is a point $p \in K$ such that there exists a linear functional $l : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $l(p) > l(\hat{p})$ for every $\hat{p} \in K \setminus \{p\}$. The set of exposed points is, for a general bounded convex subset K of \mathbb{R}^d , a subset of the set of extreme points of K . However,

Straszewicz’s theorem [Rockafellar 1970, Theorem 18.6] asserts that every extreme point is a limit of exposed points.

Lemma 3.2. *Let $\mu \geq \bar{H}_*$ and $p \in \partial\{\hat{p} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \bar{H}(\hat{p}) \leq \mu\}$. There exists a unit vector $e \in \partial B_1$ such that*

$$\bar{m}_\mu(e) - p \cdot e = 0 = \inf_{y \in \mathbb{R}^d} (\bar{m}_\mu(y) - p \cdot y). \tag{3-7}$$

If in addition p is an exposed point of $\{\hat{p} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \bar{H}(\hat{p}) \leq \mu\}$, then e can be chosen in such a way that \bar{m}_μ is differentiable at e with $p = D\bar{m}_\mu(e)$.

Proof. Set $S := \{\hat{p} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \bar{H}(\hat{p}) \leq \mu\}$. By elementary convex separation, there exists a linear functional $l : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $l(p) = 0$ and $l(\hat{p}) \leq 0$ for every $\hat{p} \in S$. If p is an exposed point, then we also take l so that $l(\hat{p}) < 0$ for every $\hat{p} \in S \setminus \{p\}$. There exists $e \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}$ such that $l(x) = e \cdot (x - p)$. By normalizing, we may assume that $|e| = 1$. We deduce that, for every $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\bar{m}_\mu(e) - p \cdot e = \sup\{(\hat{p} - p) \cdot e : \hat{p} \in S\} = 0 \leq \sup\{(\hat{p} - p) \cdot y : \hat{p} \in S\} = \bar{m}_\mu(y) - p \cdot y. \tag{3-8}$$

This is (3-7). Since \bar{m}_μ is positively homogeneous, we see that $p \in \partial\bar{m}_\mu(e)$. In fact, if we repeat (3-8) with an arbitrary element of S in place of p , we find that

$$\partial\bar{m}_\mu(e) \subseteq \{\hat{p} \in S : l(\hat{p}) = 0\}. \tag{3-9}$$

Thus, if p is an exposed point of S , then we have $\partial\bar{m}_\mu(e) = \{p\}$ by our choice of l . This implies that \bar{m}_μ is differentiable at e and $D\bar{m}_\mu(e) = p$. □

Remark 3.3. We can express \bar{H} via the following “min-max” formula:

$$\bar{H}(p) = \inf\left\{\mu \in \mathbb{R} : \text{there exists } w \in C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ satisfying (2-1) and } \liminf_{|y| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{w(y) - p \cdot y}{|y|} \geq 0\right\}. \tag{3-10}$$

Indeed, if $w \in \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ satisfies (2-1), then

$$\bar{m}_\mu(y) - p \cdot y \geq \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{w(ty) - p \cdot (ty)}{t}.$$

If the latter is nonnegative for all $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$, then $\bar{H}(p) \leq \mu$ by definition. This yields “ \leq ” in (3-10). To obtain the reverse inequality, we use m_μ with $\mu = \bar{H}(p)$ and observe that

$$\liminf_{|y| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m_\mu(y) - p \cdot y}{|y|} = \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \inf_{|y|=1} \left(\frac{m_\mu(ty)}{t} - p \cdot y\right) = \inf_{|y|=1} (\bar{m}_\mu(y) - p \cdot y) \geq 0.$$

The reason that we call (3-10) a “min-max” representation is that it can be formally written

$$\bar{H}(p) = \inf_{w \in \mathcal{L}_p} \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}^d} (-\text{tr}(A(y)D^2w(y)) + H(Dw(y), y)), \tag{3-11}$$

where

$$\mathcal{L}_p := \left\{w \in C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d) : \liminf_{|y| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{w(y) - p \cdot y}{|y|} \geq 0\right\}.$$

The expression inside the infimum on the right of (3-11) does not make sense since w may not have enough regularity. It must therefore be interpreted in the viscosity sense, and this leads precisely to (3-10).

4. Homogenization of the approximate cell problem

In this section, we show using a comparison argument that Proposition 2.5 implies a homogenization result for a special time-independent problem. The particularities of this argument are new here, even for uniformly coercive Hamiltonians or first-order equations.

Throughout, we assume \mathbb{P} is a probability measure on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) satisfying (1-9), (1-10) and (1-11).

For each fixed $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we consider the problem

$$w^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) D^2 w^\varepsilon\right) + H\left(p + Dw^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{4-1}$$

We will show that (4-1) has a unique bounded-below solution with probability one that we denote by $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p)$. We argue that

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall p \in \mathbb{R}^d, \forall R > 0, \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in B_R} |w^\varepsilon(x, p) + \bar{H}(p)| = 0\right] = 1. \tag{4-2}$$

Recall that (4-1), often written at the microscopic (“nontheatrical”) scale (as in (4-5) below), is often called the *approximate cell problem* and homogenizing it (by which we mean proving (4-2)) is the key step in the derivation of Theorem 1 from Proposition 2.5. To see why we expect $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p)$ to converge locally uniformly to the constant $-\bar{H}(p)$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, observe that the (unique) solution of

$$w + \bar{H}(p + Dw) = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \tag{4-3}$$

is precisely the constant function $w \equiv -\bar{H}(p)$. Thus, (4-2) can be understood roughly as the assertion that “(4-1) homogenizes to (4-3)”.

4A. Basic properties of (4-1). In order to prove (4-2), we must first establish some fundamental properties of (4-1) including wellposedness. In the uniformly coercive case, it is straightforward (and classical) to show that the Perron method and the comparison principle yield a unique bounded solution of (4-1) given by the formula

$$w^\varepsilon(x, p) := \sup\{v(x) : v \in \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ is a subsolution of (4-1)}\}. \tag{4-4}$$

Wellposedness in the general weakly coercive setting is more nontrivial because it is less easy to show a priori that $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p)$ satisfies a suitable growth condition at infinity for the application of the comparison principle.

We take (4-4) to be the *definition* of the function $w^\varepsilon(x, p)$ and continue with a discussion of some elementary properties of w^ε . First, we remark that it is often convenient to consider (4-1) at the microscopic scale in order to use the stationarity of the environment. The rescaled equation is

$$\varepsilon v - \operatorname{tr}(A(y) D^2 v) + H(p + Dv, y) = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d, \tag{4-5}$$

and we rescale w^ε by introducing

$$v^\varepsilon(y, p) := \frac{1}{\varepsilon} w^\varepsilon(\varepsilon y, p) = \sup\{v(x) : v \in \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ is a subsolution of (4-5)}\}. \tag{4-6}$$

The second equality in (4-6) follows from the definition of w^ε and a rescaling of (4-1). Note that it is immediate from (4-6) that $v^\varepsilon(x, p)$ is stationary with respect to the translation action. According to [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Theorem 6.1], for every $\varepsilon > 0$, $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and choice of coefficients $(\sigma, H) \in \Omega$, the function $v^\varepsilon(\cdot, p)$ defined in (4-6) belongs to $C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and is a solution of (4-5). It follows immediately from reversing the scaling that $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p) \in C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is a solution of (4-1). Uniqueness is a separate issue addressed below; see (4-16).

Next, we observe that $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p)$ is bounded below uniformly in ε . Indeed, for all $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} w^\varepsilon(x, p) \geq -\Lambda_1(|p|^q + 1). \tag{4-7}$$

This follows from the definition of w^ε and the fact that the right side of this inequality is a subsolution of (4-1), according to (1-6), as we have already seen in (2-37). Using this bound for the equation at the microscopic scale, we obtain that $v^\varepsilon(\cdot, p)$ is a solution of the inequality

$$-\text{tr}(A(y)D^2v^\varepsilon) + H(p + Dv^\varepsilon, y) \leq \Lambda_1(|p|^q + 1) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Then according to the definition of m_μ with $\mu = \Lambda_1(|p|^q + 1)$, we obtain the estimate

$$v^\varepsilon(y, p) - \sup_{x \in B_1(z)} v^\varepsilon(x, p) \leq m_\mu(y, z) \quad \text{for every } \mu \geq \Lambda_1(|p|^q + 1). \tag{4-8}$$

Note that this inequality holds uniformly in ε .

Lemma 4.1. *For every $\varepsilon > 0$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $(\sigma, H) \in \Omega$,*

$$p \mapsto w^\varepsilon(x, p) \quad \text{is concave.} \tag{4-9}$$

Proof. Observe that, if $v_1, v_2 \in \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ are subsolutions of (4-1) with $p = p_1$ and $p = p_2$, respectively, and $\lambda \in [0, 1]$, then the function $\lambda v_1 + (1 - \lambda)v_2$ is a subsolution of (4-1) with $p = \lambda p_1 + (1 - \lambda)p_2$. This follows formally from the convexity of the Hamiltonian, and for a rigorous proof, we refer to the argument of [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Lemma 2.4]. In view of the definition of w^ε in (4-4), this observation gives the lemma. □

An immediate consequence of (4-7) and Lemma 4.1 is that the map $p \mapsto \max\{k, w^\varepsilon(x, p)\}$ is uniformly continuous for every $k > 0$. Indeed, we obtain that, for all $p, \hat{p} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ with $|p - \hat{p}| < 1$,

$$w^\varepsilon(x, p) \geq (1 - |p - \hat{p}|)w^\varepsilon(x, \hat{p}) - \Lambda_1(|p|^q + 1)|p - \hat{p}|. \tag{4-10}$$

We next show that $w^\varepsilon(x, p)$ satisfies, almost surely with respect to \mathbb{P} , an appropriate sublinear growth condition uniformly in ε and for bounded $|p|$. This is required both in order to establish w^ε as the *unique* bounded-below solution of (4-1) and is also needed in the proof of (4-2). Note that this estimate is trivial for uniformly coercive Hamiltonians since in that case $w^\varepsilon(x, p)$ is bounded above uniformly for $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $p \in B_R$ and $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$. In the general case, it is a consequence of the averaged coercivity condition (1-11) and its proof uses the ergodic theorem, which is the reason we expect it to hold only almost surely with respect to \mathbb{P} .

Lemma 4.2. *We have*

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall R > 0, \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|p| \leq R} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \frac{|w^\varepsilon(x, p)|}{|x|} = 0\right] = 1. \quad (4-11)$$

Proof. In view of (4-7), we need only prove upper bounds for w^ε . For most of the argument, we work at the microscopic scale. It clearly suffices to prove the lemma for fixed $R > 0$ since we obtain the general case by intersecting the events corresponding to all positive integers R .

It is convenient to work with the random fields

$$V^\varepsilon(y) := \sup_{|p| \leq R} \sup_{z \in B_1(y)} v^\varepsilon(z, p).$$

Note that V^ε is stationary with respect to the translation group action. According to [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Theorem 4.2], the family $\{V^\varepsilon\}_{\varepsilon > 0}$ is locally equi-Lipschitz continuous in \mathbb{R}^d for every realization $\omega = (\sigma, H) \in \Omega$ of the coefficients.

Step 1. We begin from the estimate from [Armstrong and Tran 2014] that, for $C > 0$ depending only on d and q ,

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall \varepsilon \in (0, 1], \varepsilon V^\varepsilon(0) \leq M_2(1 + \Lambda_1 R^q) + C \left(\frac{\Lambda_2^2}{a_2}\right)^{1/(q-1)}\right] = 1. \quad (4-12)$$

This is shown by exhibiting explicit, smooth supersolutions. See for example [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Lemma 3.2, Remark 4.5], which handles the case $R = 0$, and note that the estimate for $R > 0$ can be reduced to the former by using (1-8).

Let ξ denote the random variable

$$\xi := M_2(1 + \Lambda_1 R^q) + C \left(\frac{\Lambda_2^2}{a_2}\right)^{1/(q-1)},$$

and let I denote its essential infimum (with respect to \mathbb{P}):

$$I := \inf\{\lambda \in \mathbb{R} : \mathbb{P}[\xi < \lambda] > 0\} < \infty.$$

We eventually apply Lemma 2.4 to the sequence of random fields defined by

$$X_t(y) := \frac{1}{t} \inf_{z \in B_t(y)} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \left(V^\varepsilon(z) - \frac{2}{\varepsilon} I \right), \quad t > 0.$$

In the next few steps, we check that the hypotheses of Lemma 2.4 hold for X_t .

Step 2. We show that

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} X_t(0) \leq 0\right] = 1. \quad (4-13)$$

According to the ergodic theorem,

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \int_{B_s} \mathbb{1}_{\{\xi(\cdot) \leq 2I\}}(y) dy = \mathbb{P}[\xi(0) \leq 2I]\right] = 1.$$

Note that $\mathbb{P}[\xi(0) \leq 2I] > 0$ by the definition of I and that, if $\mathbb{1}_{\{\xi(\cdot) \leq 2I\}}(y)$ does not vanish identically in B_r , then $X_r(0) \leq 0$ by (4-12). This yields (4-13).

Step 3. We show that

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \sup_{y \in B_t} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \operatorname{osc}_{B_{rt}(y)} V^\varepsilon = 0\right] = 1. \tag{4-14}$$

To see this, observe that (4-8) implies that, for every $\varepsilon > 0$ and $y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$V^\varepsilon(y) - V^\varepsilon(z) \leq \tilde{m}_\mu(y, z) \quad \text{with } \mu := \Lambda_1(R^q + 1).$$

We therefore obtain (4-14) from (2-15). As a consequence of (4-14), we get

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in B_t} \operatorname{osc}_{B_{rt}(y)} X_t = 0\right] = 1. \tag{4-15}$$

Step 4. We complete the argument. In view of (4-13) and (4-15), we may apply Lemma 2.4 to conclude that

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall K > 0, \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in B_{Kt}} X_t(y) \leq 0\right] = 1.$$

Using the definition of X_t , replacing Kt by t and setting $r = 1/K$, this gives

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall r > 0, \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \sup_{y \in B_t} \inf_{z \in B_{rt}(y)} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \left(V^\varepsilon(z) - \frac{2}{\varepsilon}I\right) \leq 0\right] = 1.$$

Using again (4-14), we obtain

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \sup_{y \in B_t} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \left(V^\varepsilon(y) - \frac{2}{\varepsilon}I\right) \leq 0\right] = 1.$$

Using the definition of V^ε and rewriting the expression in terms of w^ε , we get

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \sup_{|p| \leq R} \sup_{x \in B_{\varepsilon t}} \frac{w^\varepsilon(x, p) - 2I}{\varepsilon t} \leq 0\right] = 1.$$

This is actually stronger than (4-11). Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \sup_{|p| \leq R} \sup_{x \in B_{\varepsilon t}} \frac{w^\varepsilon(x, p) - 2I}{\varepsilon t} &= \limsup_{s \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{t \geq s} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \sup_{|p| \leq R} \sup_{x \in B_{\varepsilon t}} \frac{w^\varepsilon(x, p) - 2I}{\varepsilon t} \\ &\geq \limsup_{s \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \sup_{|p| \leq R} \sup_{x \in B_s} \frac{w^\varepsilon(x, p) - 2I}{s} \\ &\geq \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \sup_{|p| \leq R} \frac{w^\varepsilon(x, p)}{|x|}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the inequality on the second line was obtained by reversing the first two suprema and then taking $t = s/\varepsilon$ in the supremum over t . This completes the proof. \square

It follows from Lemma 4.2 and [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Theorem 2.1] that, with probability one, $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p)$ is the unique bounded-below solution of (4-1) for every fixed $\varepsilon > 0$ and $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$. That is,

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall p \in \mathbb{R}^d, \forall \varepsilon > 0, w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p) \text{ belongs to } C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ and is the unique solution of (4-1), \right. \\ \left. \text{which is bounded below on } \mathbb{R}^d\right] = 1. \quad (4-16)$$

4B. The proof of (4-2). The next lemma is the first step in the direction of (4-2). For the argument, we again use Lemma 2.4.

Lemma 4.3. *We have*

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall p \in \mathbb{R}^d, \forall R > 0, \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in B_R} w^\varepsilon(x, p) \leq -\bar{H}_*\right] = 1. \quad (4-17)$$

Proof. Here we employ a soft compactness argument using the rescaled functions v^ε defined in (4-6). Let

$$E := \{(\sigma, H) \in \Omega : \bar{H}_* = \inf\{\mu \in \mathbb{R} : \text{there exists } w \in \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ satisfying (2-1)}\}\}.$$

Recall from Lemma 2.2 that $\mathbb{P}[E] = 1$.

Step 1. We first show that, for all $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\omega \in E$,

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{z \in B_1} \varepsilon v^\varepsilon(z, p) \leq -\bar{H}_*. \quad (4-18)$$

Suppose on the contrary that there exist $\eta > 0$ and a subsequence $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$ such that, for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\varepsilon_k \sup_{z \in B_1} v^{\varepsilon_k}(z, p) \geq -\bar{H}_* + \eta.$$

Define the function

$$\tilde{v}^\varepsilon(y, p) := p \cdot y + v^\varepsilon(y, p) - \sup_{z \in B_1} v^\varepsilon(z, p).$$

According to the local Lipschitz estimates [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Proposition 3.1] and (4-11), the family $\{\tilde{v}^\varepsilon\}_{\varepsilon > 0}$ is uniformly bounded in $C^{0,1}(B_s)$ for every $s > 0$. By taking a further subsequence of $\{\varepsilon_k\}$, we may suppose that $\tilde{v}^{\varepsilon_k}$ converges locally uniformly on \mathbb{R}^d to a function $\tilde{v} \in C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$. In view of the fact that \tilde{v}^ε satisfies the equation

$$\varepsilon \tilde{v}^\varepsilon - \text{tr}(A(y)D^2\tilde{v}^\varepsilon) + H(D\tilde{v}^\varepsilon, y) = -\varepsilon \sup_{z \in B_1} v^\varepsilon(z, p) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d,$$

we obtain, by the stability of viscosity solutions under local uniform convergence, that \tilde{v} satisfies

$$-\text{tr}(A(y)D^2\tilde{v}) + H(D\tilde{v}, y) \leq \bar{H}_* - \eta \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d.$$

This contradicts the assumption that $\omega = (\sigma, H) \in E$ and completes the proof of (4-18). As a consequence, we obtain

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall p \in \mathbb{R}^d, \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{z \in B_1} \varepsilon v^\varepsilon(z, p) \leq -\bar{H}_*\right] = 1. \quad (4-19)$$

Step 2. To obtain the conclusion of the lemma from (4-18), we apply Lemma 2.4 to the family of random variables

$$X_t := \sup_{z \in B_1} \varepsilon v^\varepsilon(z, p) \quad \text{with } t = \varepsilon^{-1}.$$

The first hypothesis of Lemma 2.4 is satisfied by (4-18), and the second hypothesis is confirmed by (4-8) and (2-15). The conclusion of Lemma 2.4 yields that, for every $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall R > 0, \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{z \in B_{R/\varepsilon}} \varepsilon v^\varepsilon(z, p) \leq -\bar{H}_*\right] = 1.$$

Using (4-10) and intersecting over all events corresponding to rational p , we obtain

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\forall p \in \mathbb{R}^d, \forall R > 0, \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{z \in B_{R/\varepsilon}} \varepsilon v^\varepsilon(z, p) \leq -\bar{H}_*\right] = 1.$$

This is equivalent to (4-17). □

We now show that (4-1) homogenizes to (4-3).

Proposition 4.4. *The assertion (4-2) holds.*

Proof. The argument is deterministic and based on the comparison principle. To give an overview of the proof, we introduce the following events:

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &:= \left\{ (\sigma, H) \in \Omega : \forall \mu \geq \bar{H}_*, \forall R > 0, \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y, z \in B_R} \left| \frac{m_\mu(ty, tz)}{t} - \bar{m}_\mu(y - z) \right| = 0 \right\}, \\ E_2 &:= \left\{ (\sigma, H) \in \Omega : \forall R > 0, \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|p| \leq R} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \frac{|w^\varepsilon(x, p)|}{|x|} = 0 \right\}, \\ E_3 &:= \left\{ (\sigma, H) \in \Omega : \forall p \in \mathbb{R}^d, \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in B_R} w^\varepsilon(x, p) \leq -\bar{H}_* \right\}, \\ E_4 &:= \left\{ (\sigma, H) \in \Omega : \forall p \in \mathbb{R}^d, \forall R > 0, \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in B_R} |w^\varepsilon(x, p) + \bar{H}(p)| = 0 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

According to Proposition 2.5, Lemma 4.2 and Lemma 4.3, we have

$$\mathbb{P}[E_1 \cap E_2 \cap E_3] = 1.$$

To obtain $\mathbb{P}[E_4] = 1$, it therefore suffices to demonstrate that

$$E_1 \cap E_2 \cap E_3 \subseteq E_4. \tag{4-20}$$

Thus, for the remainder of the proof, we fix $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $R > 0$ and $(\sigma, H) \in E_1 \cap E_2 \cap E_3$ and argue that

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in B_R} |w^\varepsilon(x, p) + \bar{H}(p)| = 0. \tag{4-21}$$

The proof of (4-21) is broken into two steps.

Step 1. We show that

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \inf_{z \in B_R} w^\varepsilon(z, p) \geq -\bar{H}(p). \tag{4-22}$$

We begin with some reductions. By the concavity of the map $\hat{p} \mapsto w^\varepsilon(x, \hat{p})$, we may assume without loss of generality that p is an extreme point of $\{\hat{p} : \bar{H}(\hat{p}) \leq \bar{H}(p)\}$. Second, by (4-10), we may also suppose that $\bar{H}(p) > \bar{H}_*$. Next, Straszewicz’s theorem [Rockafellar 1970, Theorem 18.6] and (4-10) permit us to further suppose that p is an *exposed* point of $\{\hat{p} : \bar{H}(\hat{p}) \leq \bar{H}(p)\}$. This is useful in view of (3-6) and Lemma 3.2, which imply the existence of $e \in \partial B_1$ such that $\bar{m}_\mu(e) = e \cdot p$ and \bar{m}_μ is differentiable at e with $p = D\bar{m}_\mu(e)$, where as usual we have set $\mu := \bar{H}(p)$ for convenience. In view of the limit (2-26), this forces the function $m_\mu(\cdot, z - te)$, with $t > 0$ very large, to be very “flat” in large balls centered at z , as we will see. This is what allows us to use this function as an “approximate subcorrector” in order to bound w^ε from below.

We proceed with the demonstration of (4-22) by supposing that $-\bar{H}(p) - w^\varepsilon(z, p) \geq \delta > 0$ for some $z \in B_R$ and deriving a contradiction if $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1$ is too small. The idea is to compare $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p)$ in the ball $B_s(z)$, for a large enough but fixed $s > 0$, to the function $x \mapsto -p \cdot (x - z + te) + \varepsilon m_\mu(x/\varepsilon, (z - te)/\varepsilon)$ for $t \gg s$. We argue that the former is a strict supersolution of the equation solved by the latter, and then we derive a contradiction by showing that their difference has a local minimum. To ensure that we can touch the first function from below by the second, we use the fact that both functions are expected to be “flat” near z (for the second function, this is due to the fact that $p = D\bar{m}_\mu(e)$), and we add a small linearly growing perturbative term made possible by the positivity of δ .

In order to prepare $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p)$ for comparison, we take $c > 0$ and $\lambda > 1$ to be selected below and define the auxiliary function

$$W^\varepsilon(x) := \lambda(w^\varepsilon(x, p) - w^\varepsilon(z, p)) + c\delta((1 + |x - z|^2)^{1/2} - 1).$$

Since $\omega \in E_2$, there exists an $s > 0$, which does not depend on z or $\varepsilon > 0$, such that

$$U_\varepsilon := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : W^\varepsilon(x) \leq \frac{1}{4}\delta\} \subseteq B_s(z).$$

We claim that, by choosing λ sufficiently close to 1 and $c > 0$ sufficiently small depending on λ , then we have

$$-\operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2W^\varepsilon\right) + H\left(p + DW^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq \bar{H}(p) + \frac{1}{2}\delta \quad \text{in } U_\varepsilon. \tag{4-23}$$

In order to verify (4-23), take any smooth test function φ such that $v^\varepsilon - \varphi$ has a strict local minimum at $x_0 \in U_\varepsilon$. Set $\psi(x) := (1 + |x - z|^2)^{1/2}$. Then $w^\varepsilon - \lambda^{-1}(\varphi + c\delta\psi)$ has a strict local minimum at x_0 . Using the equation satisfied by w^ε and the definition of viscosity supersolution, we obtain

$$w^\varepsilon(x_0) - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x_0}{\varepsilon}\right)\lambda^{-1}D^2(\varphi + c\delta\psi)(x_0)\right) + H\left(p + \lambda^{-1}D(\varphi + c\delta\psi)(x_0), \frac{x_0}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq 0.$$

The convexity of H gives

$$H\left(p + \lambda^{-1}D(\varphi + c\delta\psi)(x_0), \frac{x_0}{\varepsilon}\right) \leq \lambda^{-1}H\left(p + D\varphi(x_0), \frac{x_0}{\varepsilon}\right) + (1 - \lambda^{-1})H\left(p + (\lambda - 1)^{-1}c\delta D\psi(x_0), \frac{x_0}{\varepsilon}\right).$$

Combining the above computations and using $x_0 \in U_\varepsilon$, we deduce that, for λ sufficiently close to 1 and $c > 0$ sufficiently small depending on λ ,

$$-\operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x_0}{\varepsilon}, \omega\right)D^2\varphi(x_0)\right) + H\left(p + D\varphi(x_0), \frac{x_0}{\varepsilon}, \omega\right) \geq \bar{H}(p) + \frac{1}{2}\delta.$$

This completes the proof of (4-23).

We may now apply the comparison principle [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Theorem 2.2] to conclude that, for every $t \geq s + 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{x \in U_\varepsilon} \left(W^\varepsilon(x) + p \cdot (x - z + te) - \varepsilon m_\mu \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \frac{z - te}{\varepsilon} \right) \right) \\ = \inf_{x \in \partial U_\varepsilon} \left(W^\varepsilon(x) + p \cdot (x - z + te) - \varepsilon m_\mu \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \frac{z - te}{\varepsilon} \right) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4-24)$$

Estimating the infimum on the left side of (4-24) by taking $x = z$ and recalling that $W^\varepsilon(z) = 0$ and the term on the right side by using that $W^\varepsilon \equiv \delta/4$ on ∂U_ε and $\partial U_\varepsilon \subseteq B_s(z)$, we conclude after a rearrangement that, for every $t \geq s + 1$,

$$\inf_{x \in B_s(z)} \left(p \cdot (x - z) + \varepsilon m_\mu \left(\frac{z}{\varepsilon}, \frac{z - te}{\varepsilon} \right) - \varepsilon m_\mu \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \frac{z - te}{\varepsilon} \right) \right) \leq -\frac{1}{4}\delta. \quad (4-25)$$

This holds for every $z \in B_R$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ for which $-\bar{H}(p) - w^\varepsilon(z, p) \geq \delta > 0$. So if $-\bar{H}(p) - w^{\varepsilon_j}(z_j, p) \geq \delta$ along subsequences $\{z_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq B_R$ and $\varepsilon_j \rightarrow 0$, then by passing to limits in (4-25), using (2-26), we obtain, for every $t \geq s + 1$,

$$\inf_{x \in B_s} (p \cdot x + \bar{m}_\mu(te) - \bar{m}_\mu(x + te)) \leq -\frac{1}{4}\delta.$$

This contradicts the fact that $p = D\bar{m}_\mu(e)$ since the latter implies, in view of the positive homogeneity of \bar{m}_μ , that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{x \in B_s} |\bar{m}_\mu(x + te) - \bar{m}_\mu(te) - p \cdot x| = 0. \quad (4-26)$$

This completes the proof of (4-22).

Step 2. We demonstrate that

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{z \in B_R} w^\varepsilon(z, p) \leq -\bar{H}(p). \quad (4-27)$$

We may suppose that $\bar{H}(p) > \bar{H}_*$ since otherwise the claim follows from $\omega \in E_3$.

The argument is similar to one introduced in [Armstrong and Souganidis 2013], relying on the limit (2-26) and using m_μ as a supercorrector. Here it is a bit simpler than Step 1 since we do not need to use Straszewicz’s theorem or to restrict our attention to exposed points of the sublevel set of \bar{H} . Applying Lemma 3.2 in view of (3-6) and the assumption that $\bar{H}(p) > \bar{H}_*$, we may select $e \in \partial B_1$ such that $p \in \partial \bar{m}_\mu(e)$ and $\bar{m}_\mu(e) = e \cdot p$, where as usual we set $\mu := \bar{H}(p)$. The reason we do not need $p = D\bar{m}_\mu(e)$ is because m_μ will be used as a supercorrector; so the fact that it may not be flat and rather “bends upward” like a cone can only help in the comparison argument.

We consider a point $z \in B_s$ and $\varepsilon, \delta > 0$ such that $w^\varepsilon(z, p, \omega) + \bar{H}(p) \geq \delta > 0$. With $c > 0$ and $\lambda < 1$ to be selected, we consider the auxiliary function

$$W^\varepsilon(x) := \lambda(w^\varepsilon(x, p) - w^\varepsilon(z, p)) - c\delta(1 + |x - z|^2)^{1/2} + c\delta. \quad (4-28)$$

Since $\omega \in E_2$, there exists $s > 0$, which does not depend on z or ε , such that

$$U_\varepsilon := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : W^\varepsilon(x) \geq -\frac{1}{4}\delta\} \subseteq B_s(z). \quad (4-29)$$

Choosing λ sufficiently close to 1 and $c > 0$ sufficiently small depending on λ and after similar computations arguments as in the demonstration of (4-23), we find that

$$-\operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2W^\varepsilon\right) + H\left(p + DW^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \leq \bar{H}(p) - \frac{1}{2}\delta \quad \text{in } U_\varepsilon. \quad (4-30)$$

The comparison principle yields

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{x \in U_\varepsilon} \left(\varepsilon m_\mu \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \frac{z - (s+1)e}{\varepsilon} \right) - W^\varepsilon(x) - p \cdot (x - z + (s+1)e) \right) \\ = \inf_{x \in \partial U_\varepsilon} \left(\varepsilon m_\mu \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \frac{z - (s+1)e}{\varepsilon} \right) - W^\varepsilon(x) - p \cdot (x - z + (s+1)e) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4-31)$$

Using that $W^\varepsilon(z) = 0$ and $W^\varepsilon \equiv -\delta/4$ on $\partial U_\varepsilon \subseteq B_s(z)$ and rearranging, we obtain

$$\inf_{x \in B_s(z)} \left(\varepsilon m_\mu \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \frac{z - (s+1)e}{\varepsilon} \right) - \varepsilon m_\mu \left(\frac{z}{\varepsilon}, \frac{z - (s+1)e}{\varepsilon} \right) - p \cdot (x - z) \right) \leq -\frac{1}{4}\delta. \quad (4-32)$$

To obtain a contradiction, we suppose that $w^{\varepsilon_j}(z_j, p) + \bar{H}(p) \geq \delta > 0$ for sequences $\{z_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq B_R$ and $\varepsilon_j \rightarrow 0$. Applying (4-32) and sending $j \rightarrow \infty$ yields, in light of (2-26),

$$\inf_{x \in B_s} (\bar{m}_\mu(x + (s+1)e) - \bar{m}_\mu((s+1)e) - p \cdot x) \leq -\frac{1}{4}\delta. \quad (4-33)$$

Since $\bar{m}_\mu((s+1)e) = (s+1)e \cdot p$, we conclude that, for some $x \in B_s$,

$$\bar{m}_\mu(x + (s+1)e) - p \cdot (x + (s+1)e) \leq -\frac{1}{8}\delta. \quad (4-34)$$

This contradicts that $p \in \partial \bar{m}_\mu(e)$ and finishes Step 2 and the proof of the proposition. \square

Remark 4.5. The reader may object to the proof of Theorem 1 on the grounds that several steps in the proof are not as “quantifiable” as promised in the introduction. In particular, it seems at first glance impossible to quantify (i) the limit in (4-26) without extra information about the shape of the level sets of \bar{H} (which is not easy to obtain) and (ii) Lemma 4.3 since it is obtained by a compactness argument.

About (i): this step is actually quantifiable because we can approximate the level sets of \bar{H} by nice sets with positive curvature. Rather than the exposed points of the sublevel sets of \bar{H} , we may instead consider “points of positive curvature” of the boundary of the level set, that is, points that also lie on the boundary of a large ball that contains the level set. The radius of this ball controls the rate of the limit (4-26), and the error this introduces is relatively small. The details will appear in [Armstrong and Cardaliaguet 2015].

The second objection is more serious, but the phenomenon we encounter here is not artificial or a limitation of the method. Indeed, it was shown already in the first-order case [Armstrong et al. 2014] that the rate of convergence in the limit in Lemma 4.3 may be arbitrarily slow (even with a finite range of dependence quantifying the ergodicity assumption). In this sense, the proof above seems to optimally capture the underlying phenomena driving the homogenization of Hamilton–Jacobi equations in random media.

5. Homogenization: the proof of Theorem 1

In this section, we present the proof of our main result, Theorem 1. The convergence result is obtained from the classical perturbed test function argument, suitably modified to handle the lack of uniform Lipschitz estimates for weakly coercive Hamiltonians. The argument can be seen as a method for showing that the homogenization result of (4-2), which is a special case of Theorem 1, is actually strong enough to imply the theorem.

As in the previous section, we assume throughout that \mathbb{P} is a probability measure on (Ω, \mathcal{F}) satisfying (1-9), (1-10) and (1-11).

5A. Wellposedness and basic properties. Before giving the proof of homogenization, we first consider the question of wellposedness of solutions of the time-dependent initial-value problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2u^\varepsilon\right) + H\left(Du^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty), \\ u^\varepsilon(\cdot, 0) = g \in \text{BUC}(\mathbb{R}^d). \end{cases} \tag{5-1}$$

For each $\varepsilon > 0$, $g \in \text{BUC}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty)$, we define the random variable

$$u^\varepsilon(x, t, g) := \sup \left\{ w(x, t) : w \in \text{USC}(\mathbb{R}^d \times [0, t]) \text{ is a subsolution of (1-1) in } \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, t], \right. \\ \left. \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{0 < s \leq t} \frac{w(x, s)}{|x|} = 0 \text{ and } w(\cdot, 0) \leq g \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^d \right\}. \tag{5-2}$$

This is the candidate for the unique solution of (5-1). Observe that we have

$$u^\varepsilon(x, t, g) \geq -\Lambda_1 t + \inf_{\mathbb{R}^d} g \tag{5-3}$$

since the function on the right belongs to the admissible class in (5-2) by (1-6) and (1-3).

Similar to the situation for the approximate cell problem, checking that $(x, t) \mapsto u^\varepsilon(x, t, g)$ does indeed solve (5-1) reduces to proving a sublinear growth condition at infinity (uniformly in time). We remark that this is of interest only in the nonuniformly coercivity case since otherwise wellposedness of (5-1) is classical.

Lemma 5.1. *We have*

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\forall T > 0, \forall g \in \text{BUC}(\mathbb{R}^d), \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{0 < t \leq T} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \frac{|u^\varepsilon(x, t, g)|}{|x|} = 0 \right] = 1.$$

Proof. In view of (5-3), we may focus only on obtaining upper bounds for u^ε . By definition, $g \mapsto u^\varepsilon(x, t, g)$ is monotone nondecreasing, and so we may suppose that g is constant. Since $g \mapsto u^\varepsilon(x, t, g)$ also commutes with constants, it suffices therefore to prove the sublinear growth estimate for $g \equiv 0$. That is, we need to show only the following:

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\forall T > 0, \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{0 < t \leq T} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \frac{|u^\varepsilon(x, t, 0)|}{|x|} = 0 \right] = 1.$$

We proceed by exhibiting an explicit supersolution and appealing to the comparison principle. The supersolution is

$$V^\varepsilon(x, t) := e^t w^\varepsilon(x, 0) + e^t \Lambda_1,$$

where $w^\varepsilon(x, p)$ is, as in the previous section, the solution of (4-1). The convexity of H and (1-6) imply that, for every $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\lambda \geq 1$,

$$\lambda^{-1} H(\lambda p, y) \geq H(p, y) - (1 - \lambda^{-1}) H(0, y) \geq H(p, y) - (1 - \lambda^{-1}) \Lambda_1.$$

Using this with $\lambda = e^t$, we find that, for each $t > 0$, the function $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, 0)$ satisfies the inequality

$$w^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr} \left(A \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) D^2 w^\varepsilon \right) + e^{-t} H \left(e^t D w^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) \geq -(1 - e^{-t}) \Lambda_1 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d.$$

From this, it follows that V^ε satisfies

$$V_t^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr} \left(A \left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) D^2 V^\varepsilon \right) + H \left(D V^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon} \right) \geq 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times [0, \infty).$$

Since V^ε is bounded below by 0 uniformly in $\mathbb{R}^d \times [0, \infty)$, by comparing V^ε to any function in the admissible class in (5-2) using the comparison principle, we find that, for all $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, \infty)$ and every realization of the coefficients,

$$u^\varepsilon(x, t, 0) \leq V^\varepsilon(x, t).$$

According to Lemma 4.2,

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\forall T > 0, \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{0 < t \leq T} \sup_{0 < \varepsilon \leq 1} \frac{|V^\varepsilon(x, t)|}{|x|} = 0 \right] = 1.$$

This yields the lemma. □

By Lemma 5.1, the lower bound (5-3), the comparison principle [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Theorem 2.3] and the classical Perron argument, we obtain

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\forall \varepsilon > 0, \forall g \in \text{BUC}(\mathbb{R}^d), (x, t) \mapsto u^\varepsilon(x, t, g) \text{ belongs to } C(\mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty)) \text{ and, for all } T > 0, \right. \\ \left. \text{is the unique bounded-below solution of (5-1) in } \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T] \right] = 1. \quad (5-4)$$

5B. Homogenization. In this subsection, we complete the proof of Theorem 1. We let $u(x, t, g)$ denote the unique solution of the homogenized problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t + \bar{H}(Du) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty), \\ u = g & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d \times \{0\}. \end{cases} \quad (5-5)$$

In view of the growth condition (3-5), the problem (5-5) indeed possesses a unique solution, and it is given by the *Hopf–Lax formula*

$$u(x, t, g) := \inf_{y \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left(t \bar{L} \left(\frac{x - y}{t} \right) + g(y) \right),$$

where $\bar{L} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the Legendre–Fenchel transform of \bar{H} , that is,

$$\bar{L}(z) := \sup_{p \in \mathbb{R}^d} (p \cdot z - \bar{H}(p)).$$

Note that \bar{L} is continuous, convex and satisfies $|z|^{-1} \bar{L}(z) \rightarrow +\infty$ as $|z| \rightarrow \infty$ [Evans 1998].

A proof that the Hopf–Lax formula defines a viscosity solution of (5-5) can be found for example in [Evans 1998, Theorem 3 in Section 10.3.4] under the assumption that $g \in C_{\text{loc}}^{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$. It is easy to extend this to the case that $g \in \text{BUC}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ using the monotonicity of the Hopf–Lax formula in g and the stability of viscosity solutions under local uniform convergence. The uniqueness of this solution follows from classical comparison principles for first-order equations.

We now present the proof of the main result.

Proof of Theorem 1. The theorem follows from Proposition 4.4 by a variation of the classical perturbed test function argument first introduced by Evans [1992]. This comparison argument is entirely deterministic. The fact that the functions u^ε are not uniformly equi-Lipschitz continuous causes a technical difficulty that is overcome by the use of the parameter λ in Step 1, an idea which first appeared in [Armstrong and Souganidis 2012].

To set up the argument, we let the events E_2 and E_4 be defined as in the proof of Proposition 4.4 and set

$$E_5 := \left\{ (\sigma, H) \in \Omega : \forall g \in \text{BUC}(\mathbb{R}^d), \forall R > 0, \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{(x,t) \in B_R \times [0,R]} |u^\varepsilon(x, t, g) - u(x, t, g)| = 0 \right\}.$$

We claim that

$$E_2 \cup E_4 \subseteq E_5. \tag{5-6}$$

Since $\mathbb{P}[E_2 \cap E_4] = 1$ by Lemma 4.2 and Proposition 4.4, the theorem follows from (5-6).

For the rest of the argument, we fix $(\sigma, H) \in E_2 \cap E_4$, $g \in \text{BUC}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $R > 0$ and argue that

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{(x,t) \in B_R \times [0,R]} |u^\varepsilon(x, t, g) - u(x, t, g)| = 0.$$

By the comparison principle [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Theorem 2.3], the flow $g \mapsto u^\varepsilon(\cdot, t, g)$ is monotone nondecreasing as well as a contraction mapping on $L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$. We may therefore assume without loss of generality that $g \in C^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$. For notational convenience, we henceforth drop the dependence of u and u^ε on g .

We first argue that

$$U(x, t) := \limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} u^\varepsilon(x, t) \leq u(x, t). \tag{5-7}$$

By the comparison principle, it suffices to check that U is a subsolution of the limiting equation and $U(\cdot, 0) \leq g$. We handle these claims in the next two steps.

Step 1. To check that U is a subsolution of the limiting equation, take a smooth test function $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty))$ and a point $(x_0, t_0) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty)$ so that

$$U - \psi \quad \text{has a strict local maximum at } (x_0, t_0). \tag{5-8}$$

We must show that

$$\psi_t(x_0, t_0) + \bar{H}(D\psi(x_0, t_0)) \leq 0. \quad (5-9)$$

Arguing by contradiction, we suppose on the contrary that

$$\eta := \psi_t(x_0, t_0) + \bar{H}(D\psi(x_0, t_0)) > 0. \quad (5-10)$$

With $p_0 := D\psi(x_0, t_0)$ and $\lambda > 1$ a constant to be selected below, we introduce the perturbed test function

$$\psi^\varepsilon(x, t) := \psi(x, t) + \lambda w^\varepsilon(x, p_0),$$

where w^ε is the solution of the approximate cell problem (4-1). It is appropriate to compare ψ^ε to u^ε , and to this end, we must check that, for $\varepsilon, r > 0$ sufficiently small, ψ^ε is a solution of the inequality

$$\psi_t^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2\psi^\varepsilon\right) + H\left(D\psi^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq \frac{1}{6}\eta \quad \text{in } B(x_0, r) \times (t_0 - r, t_0 + r). \quad (5-11)$$

Let us admit the claim (5-11) for the moment and show that it allows us to obtain the desired contraction, completing the proof that U is a subsolution of the limiting equation. Applying the comparison principle [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Theorem 2.3], in view of (5-11) and the equation satisfied by u^ε , we deduce that

$$\sup_{B(x_0, r) \times (t_0 - r, t_0 + r)} (u^\varepsilon - \psi^\varepsilon) = \sup_{\partial(B(x_0, r) \times (t_0 - r, t_0 + r))} (u^\varepsilon - \psi^\varepsilon).$$

This holds for all sufficiently small $r > 0$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, and by passing to the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, using that by $(\sigma, H) \in E_4$ we have that $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, p_0)$ converges to the constant $-\bar{H}(p_0)$ uniformly on compact subsets of \mathbb{R}^d as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, we find that

$$\sup_{B(x_0, r) \times (t_0 - r, t_0 + r)} (U - \psi) = \sup_{\partial(B(x_0, r) \times (t_0 - r, t_0 + r))} (U - \psi).$$

This holds for all sufficiently small $r > 0$, which contradicts the assumption (5-8).

To check that (5-11) holds in the viscosity sense, we take a smooth test function φ and a point $(x_1, t_1) \in B(x_0, r) \times (t_0 - r, t_0 + r)$ such that

$$\psi^\varepsilon - \varphi \quad \text{has a strict local minimum at } (x_1, t_1).$$

Rewriting this using the definition of ψ^ε , we get

$$(x, t) \mapsto w^\varepsilon(x, p_0) - \lambda^{-1}(\varphi - \psi)(x, t) \quad \text{has a strict local minimum at } (x_1, t_1).$$

Using the equation for w^ε , we find that

$$w^\varepsilon(x_1, p_0) - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right)\lambda^{-1}D^2(\varphi - \psi)(x_1, t_1)\right) + H\left(p_0 + \lambda^{-1}D(\varphi - \psi), \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq 0. \quad (5-12)$$

Using that $(\sigma, H) \in E_4$ and ψ is smooth, we may select $\varepsilon > 0$ sufficiently small and λ sufficiently close to 1 so that

$$|\lambda w^\varepsilon(x_1, p_0) + \bar{H}(p_0)| + \left| \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2\psi(x_1, t_1)\right) \right| \leq \frac{1}{3}\eta. \quad (5-13)$$

Next, by selecting $r > 0$ small enough, depending on λ and ψ , we obtain

$$(\lambda - 1)^{-1}|\lambda p_0 - D\psi(x_1, t_1)| \leq |p_0| + (\lambda - 1)^{-1}|p_0 - D\psi(x_1, t_1)| \leq 2|p_0|.$$

Using the convexity of H together with the previous line and (1-6), we discover that

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda H\left(p_0 + \lambda^{-1}D(\varphi - \psi)(x_1, t_1), \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) &\leq H\left(D\varphi(x_1, t_1), \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) + (\lambda - 1)H\left(\frac{\lambda p_0 - D\psi(x_1, t_1)}{\lambda - 1}, \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) \\ &\leq H\left(D\varphi(x_1, t_1), \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) + \Lambda_1(\lambda - 1)(2^q|p_0|^q + 1). \end{aligned}$$

Taking $\lambda > 1$ closer to 1, if necessary, we obtain

$$\lambda H\left(p_0 + \lambda^{-1}D(\varphi - \psi)(x_1, t_1), \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) \leq H\left(D\varphi(x_1, t_1), \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) + \frac{1}{3}\eta. \quad (5-14)$$

Combining (5-12), (5-13) and (5-14) yields

$$-\bar{H}(p_0) - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2\varphi(x_1, t_1)\right) + H\left(D\varphi, \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq -\frac{2}{3}\eta, \quad (5-15)$$

and then combining (5-10) and (5-15) gives

$$\psi_t(x_0, t_0) - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2\varphi(x_1, t_1)\right) + H\left(D\varphi, \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq \frac{1}{3}\eta.$$

By making $r > 0$ smaller, if necessary, and using $\varphi_t(x_1, t_1) = \psi_t(x_1, t_1)$, we obtain

$$\varphi_t(x_1, t_1) - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2\varphi(x_1, t_1)\right) + H\left(D\varphi, \frac{x_1}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq \frac{1}{6}\eta.$$

This completes the proof of (5-11) and thus that of Step 1.

Step 2. We next show that $U(\cdot, 0) \leq g$ or, more precisely, that for every $R > 0$,

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in B_R} (U(x, t) - g(x)) \leq 0. \quad (5-16)$$

To accomplish this, we must construct supersolution barriers from above and apply the comparison principle. Note that this is very easy to do in the uniformly coercive case; we simply use the map $(x, t) \mapsto g(x) + kt$ where $k > 0$ is a large constant depending on the constants in the hypotheses and $\|g\|_{C^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)}$. Unfortunately, this function is not a supersolution in the nonuniformly coercive case, and so we need to consider a more elaborate barrier function. Rather than construct a barrier from scratch, we build it from the functions w^ε and use the fact that these homogenize.

For each fixed $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$, the functions we consider have the form

$$V^\varepsilon(x, t) := 2W^\varepsilon(x, t) - \phi(x, t),$$

where

$$W^\varepsilon(x, t) := e^t w^\varepsilon\left(x, \frac{1}{2}Dg(x_0)\right) + \bar{H}\left(\frac{1}{2}Dg(x_0)\right) + \frac{1}{2}g(x_0) + \frac{1}{2}Dg(x_0) \cdot (x - x_0)$$

and

$$\phi(x, t) := -2(1 + \|g\|_{C^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)})(1 + |x - x_0|^2)^{1/2} - 1 - k(e^t - 1)$$

and $k > 0$ is a constant depending only on g , x_0 , and other structural constants defined by

$$k := 2\Lambda_2(1 + \|g\|_{C^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)}) + \Lambda_1(2^q(1 + \|g\|_{C^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)})^q + 1) + 2\Lambda_1(2^{-q}|Dg(x_0)|^q + 1).$$

We next derive a supersolution inequality for W^ε . The convexity of H and (1-6) imply that, for every $p, \hat{p} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\lambda \geq 1$,

$$\lambda^{-1}H(\lambda p + \hat{p}, y) \geq H(p + \hat{p}, y) - (1 - \lambda^{-1})H(\hat{p}, y) \geq H(p + \hat{p}, y) - (1 - \lambda^{-1})\Lambda_1(|\hat{p}|^q + 1).$$

Using this with \hat{p} fixed and $\lambda = e^t$, we find that, for each $t > 0$, the function $w^\varepsilon(\cdot, \hat{p})$ satisfies the inequality

$$w^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2w^\varepsilon\right) + e^{-t}H\left(\hat{p} + e^t Dw^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq -(1 - e^{-t})\Lambda_1(|\hat{p}|^q + 1) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d.$$

From this, we see that W^ε satisfies the inequality

$$W_t^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2W^\varepsilon\right) + H\left(DW^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq -(e^t - 1)\Lambda_1(2^{-q}|Dg(x_0)|^q + 1) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty).$$

On the other hand, we see by a routine calculation, using the definition of k , (1-6) and (1-3), that ϕ is a (smooth) subsolution of the inequality

$$\phi_t - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2\phi\right) + H\left(D\phi, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \leq -2e^t \Lambda_1(2^{-q}|Dg(x_0)|^q + 1) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty).$$

The definition of k has been split into three terms, and we see from (1-6) that the first two terms take care of the contributions from spatial derivatives of ϕ and the third term is responsible for the right-hand side.

We may now apply [Armstrong and Tran 2014, Lemma 2.5 and Remark 2.6 with $\lambda = 1$] to find that V^ε is a supersolution of

$$V_t^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)D^2V^\varepsilon\right) + H\left(DV^\varepsilon, \frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right) \geq 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty).$$

Therefore, the comparison principle implies that, for every $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$u^\varepsilon \leq V^\varepsilon - \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} (V^\varepsilon(x, 0) - g(x)) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, \infty). \quad (5-17)$$

Since w^ε is bounded below (see (4-7)) and g is bounded, the linearly growing term in ϕ ensures that $V^\varepsilon(\cdot, 0)$ is larger than g outside a ball of fixed radius and centered at x_0 . But due to the fact that $\omega = (\sigma, H)$ belongs to E_4 , we have that, for every $R > 0$,

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in B_R} \sup_{0 \leq t \leq R} |V^\varepsilon(x, t) - V(x, t)| = 0,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} V(x, t) &:= 2(e^t - 1)\bar{H}\left(\frac{1}{2}Dg(x_0)\right) + g(x_0) + Dg(x_0) \cdot (x - x_0) \\ &\quad + 2(1 + \|g\|_{C^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)})((1 + |x - x_0|^2)^{1/2} - 1) + k(e^t - 1). \end{aligned}$$

It is routine to check that, for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$g(x) \leq g(x_0) + Dg(x_0) \cdot (x - x_0) + 2(1 + \|g\|_{C^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)})((1 + |x - x_0|^2)^{1/2} - 1) = V(x, 0).$$

We deduce that

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} (V^\varepsilon(x, 0) - g(x)) \geq 0.$$

Since $V(x_0, 0) = g(x_0)$ and V is uniformly Lipschitz continuous on $\mathbb{R}^d \times [0, 1)$ with a constant that is bounded above independently of x_0 , this inequality combined with (5-17) yields (5-16).

Step 3. We complete the proof by arguing that

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} u^\varepsilon(x, t) \geq u(x, t). \quad (5-18)$$

The argument here is similar to the demonstration of (5-7). We omit the proof that the left side of (5-18) is a supersolution of the limiting equation since this part is essentially identical to Step 1 (except that we remark that it is necessary to take $0 < \lambda < 1$ in contrast to $\lambda > 1$ as we did above). The second step, which is the analogue of Step 2, is actually much easier because we may produce a single smooth function that is a subsolution of the heterogeneous equation for all $\varepsilon > 0$. Indeed, since $H(p, x)$ is uniformly bounded above for bounded $|p|$, we may take $k > 0$ large enough, depending only on Λ_1, Λ_2 and $\|g\|_{C^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)}$, such that $(x, t) \mapsto g(x) - kt$ is a subsolution of (5-1). Thus, $u^\varepsilon(x, t) \geq g(x) - kt$ for all $\varepsilon > 0$, giving us the desired lower bound at the initial time. \square

6. The proof of the quenched large deviation principle

In this section, we give the proof of Corollary 2 and study some properties of the rate function \bar{L} . To our knowledge, the argument is originally due to Varadhan (communicated orally and unpublished) and also appeared later in [Lions and Souganidis 2005] and well as in [Kosygina 2007].

Before giving the demonstration of Corollary 2, let us see how the viscous Hamilton–Jacobi equation arises by considering the asymptotics of the partition function. According to the Feynman–Kac formula, for each $\omega \in \Omega$, the map $(x, t) \mapsto S(t, x, \omega)$ defined in (1-17) is a solution of the equation

$$S_t - \text{tr}(A(y, \omega)D^2S) - b(y, \omega) \cdot DS + V(y, \omega)S = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}_+$$

and we have $S(0, \cdot, \omega) \equiv 1$. If we take the (inverse) Hopf–Cole transform of S , setting

$$U(x, t, \omega) := -\log S(t, x, \omega),$$

then we check that $(x, t) \mapsto U(x, t, \omega)$ is the unique viscosity solution of the initial-value problem

$$\begin{cases} U_t - \text{tr}(A(y, \omega)D^2U) + DU \cdot A(y, \omega)DU + b(y, \omega) \cdot DU - V(y, \omega) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}_+, \\ U(\cdot, 0, \omega) \equiv 0 & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

This suggests the definition (1-15) of H . Rescale by setting

$$u^\varepsilon(x, t, \omega) := \varepsilon U\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \frac{t}{\varepsilon}, \omega\right), \quad (6-1)$$

and observe that u^ε is the solution of (5-1) with $g \equiv 0$. An application of Theorem 1 yields

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} U(tx, t, \omega) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} u^\varepsilon(x, 1, \omega) = -\bar{H}(0) \text{ locally uniformly in } x \in \mathbb{R}^d\right] = 1.$$

This gives the approximate likelihood that a particle survives for a very long time:

$$\sup_{|x| \leq Rt} e^{-\bar{H}(0)t} S(t, tx, \omega) = \exp(o(t)) \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty. \quad (6-2)$$

(Note that in this context we have $\bar{H}(0) \leq 0$ as can be seen from the fact that $w^\varepsilon \geq 0$ since the zero function is a subsolution of (4-1).) In fact, we have just proved Corollary 2 in the case $K = U = \mathbb{R}^d$ since, by the duality of the Legendre transform,

$$\inf_{y \in \mathbb{R}^d} \bar{L}(y) = -\bar{H}(0).$$

It turns out that by varying the initial condition g in Theorem 1 (taking it to be approximately the characteristic function of K or U) and using the Hopf–Lax formula for the solution of the limiting equation, this argument yields a proof of the large deviation principle. Here it is:

Proof of Corollary 2. Fix an element $\omega \in \Omega$ belonging to the event inside the probability in the conclusion of Theorem 1. We prove only the upper bound since the argument for the lower bound is similar (except that in the latter case we have to approximate initial data that is $-\infty$ from below, but this technicality can be handled by recalling the monotonicity of the solutions with respect to the data and using an approximation argument). Select a positive, uniformly continuous function g on \mathbb{R}^d such that $g \leq 1$ in \mathbb{R}^d and $g \equiv 1$ on K , and observe that

$$-\log Q_{t,x,\omega}[X_t \in sK] \geq \underbrace{-\log E_{x,\omega} \left[g(X_t/s) \exp \left(- \int_0^t V(X_s, \omega) ds \right) \right]}_{=: U(x, t, \omega; s)} + \log S(t, x, \omega). \quad (6-3)$$

The limit of the second term on the right side is given by (6-2):

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \log S(t, tx, \omega) = \bar{H}(0).$$

Therefore, we concentrate on the first term on the right of (6-2). By the Feynman–Kac formula and an inverse Hopf–Cole change of variables, the function U defined in (6-3) is a solution of the initial-value problem

$$\begin{cases} U_t - \operatorname{tr}(A(y, \omega) D^2 U) + DU \cdot A(y, \omega) DU + b(y, \omega) \cdot DU - V(y, \omega) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}_+, \\ U(\cdot, 0, \omega; s) = -\log g(\cdot/s) & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

Rescale by introducing

$$u^\varepsilon(x, t, \omega) := \varepsilon U\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \frac{t}{\varepsilon}, \omega; \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right),$$

and notice that u^ε satisfies the rescaled equation

$$u_t^\varepsilon - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}\left(A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \omega\right) D^2 u^\varepsilon\right) + Du^\varepsilon \cdot A\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \omega\right) Du^\varepsilon + b\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \omega\right) \cdot Du^\varepsilon - V\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}, \omega\right) = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}_+$$

with the initial condition $u^\varepsilon(\cdot, 0, \omega) = -\log g$ on \mathbb{R}^d .

Since ω belongs to the event in the conclusion of Theorem 1, we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} U(tx, t, \omega; t) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} u^\varepsilon(x, 1, \omega) = u(x, 1),$$

where $u = u(x, t)$ is the unique solution of the deterministic problem

$$\begin{cases} u_t + \bar{H}(Du) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}_+, \\ u(\cdot, 0) = -\log g & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

According to the Hopf–Lax formula, we have

$$u(x, t) = \inf_{y \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left(t \bar{L} \left(\frac{x-y}{t} \right) - \log g(y) \right).$$

Combining the last few lines, we obtain

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} U(tx, t, \omega; t) = \inf_{y \in \mathbb{R}^d} (\bar{L}(x-y) - \log g(y)).$$

Inserting into (6-3), we obtain

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{t} \log Q_{t,tx,\omega}[X_t \in tK] \geq \inf_{y \in \mathbb{R}^d} (\bar{L}(x-y) - \log g(y)) + \bar{H}(0).$$

Using the continuity of \bar{L} and taking g to approximate the characteristic function of K , we obtain

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{t} \log Q_{t,tx,\omega}[X_t \in tK] \geq \inf_{y \in K} \bar{L}(x-y) + \bar{H}(0). \quad \square$$

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