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Lévy flights in confining environments: random paths and their statistics. (English)

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Summary: We analyze a specific class of random systems that, while being driven by a symmetric Lévy stable noise, asymptotically set down at the Boltzmann-type equilibrium, represented by a probability density function (pdf) $\rho_*(x) \sim \exp[-\Phi(x)]$. This behavior needs to be contrasted with the standard Langevin representation of Lévy jump-type processes. It is known that the choice of the drift function in the Newtonian form $\sim -\nabla\Phi$ excludes the existence of the Boltzmannian pdf $\sim \exp[-\Phi(x)]$ (Eliazar-Klafter no go theorem). In view of this incompatibility statement, our main goal here is to establish the appropriate path-wise description of the equilibrating jump-type process. A priori given inputs are (i) jump transition rates entering the master equation for $\rho(x, t)$ and (ii) the target (invariant) pdf $\rho_*(x)$ of that equation, in the Boltzmannian form. We resort to numerical methods and construct a suitable modification of the Gillespie algorithm, originally invented in the chemical kinetics context. The generated sample trajectories show up a qualitative typicality, e.g. they display structural features of jumping paths (predominance of small vs large jumps) specific to particular stability indices $\mu \in (0, 2)$. The obtained random paths statistical data allow us to infer an associated pdf $\rho(x, t)$ dynamics which stands for a validity check of our procedure. The considered exemplary Boltzmannian equilibria $\sim \exp[-\Phi(x)]$ refer to (i) harmonic potential $\Phi \sim x^2$, (ii) logarithmic potential $\Phi \sim n \ln(1+x^2)$ with $n = 1, 2$ and (iii) locally periodic confining potential $\Phi \sim \sin^2(2\pi x)$, $|x| \leq 2$, $\Phi \sim (x^2 - 4)$, $|x| > 2$.

MSC:

82B31 Stochastic methods applied to problems in equilibrium statistical mechanics

82B80 Numerical methods in equilibrium statistical mechanics (MSC2010)

Keywords:

symmetric stable noise; confining potentials; Boltzmann-type equilibrium; Gillespie's algorithm; random paths statistics; transport equations

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