

# Anomalous diffusion and Nonlinear Fokker-Planck equations

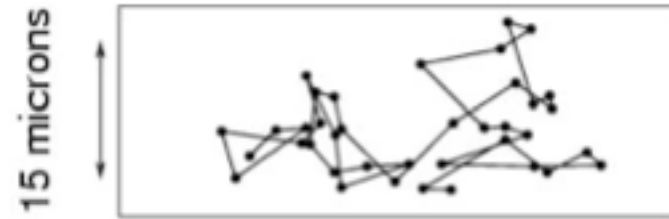
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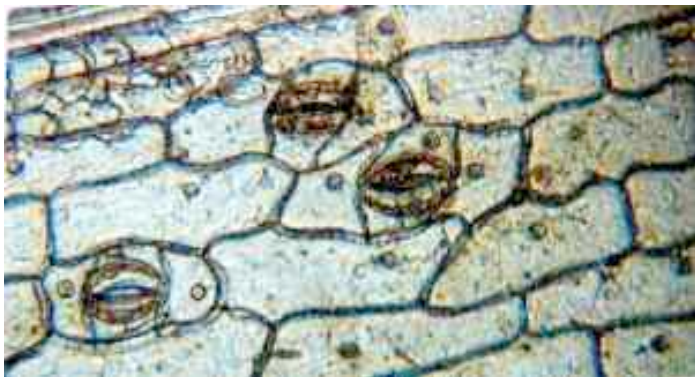
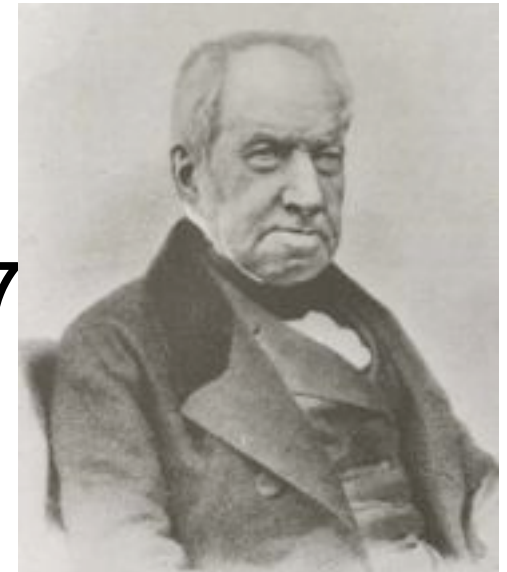
Collaborators: Fernando D. Nobre, Veit Schwammle

# random walk



# Brownian motion

- Robert Brown (botanist) - 1827



<http://www.brianjford.com/wbbrownc.htm>

A  
BRIEF ACCOUNT  
OF  
MICROSCOPICAL OBSERVATIONS

*Made in the Months of June, July, and August, 1827,*

ON THE PARTICLES CONTAINED IN THE  
POLLEN OF PLANTS;

AND

ON THE GENERAL EXISTENCE OF ACTIVE  
MOLECULES

IN ORGANIC AND INORGANIC BODIES.

BY

ROBERT BROWN,

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ACADEMIES OF PRUSSIA AND  
BAVARIA, ETC.



rw  $\rightarrow$  normal diffusion (1 dimension):

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 P(x, t)}{\partial^2 x}$$

$$P(x, t) = \frac{1}{(4\pi Dt)^{1/2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(x - x_0)^2}{4Dt} \right]$$

$$\langle x(t) \rangle = x_0 ; \quad \langle (x(t) - x_0)^2 \rangle = 2Dt$$

Einstein Relation :  $D = \mu k_B T$

$$P(x, t) = t^{-1/2} g(x^2/t) \Rightarrow \sigma^2 \sim t$$

# Linear Fokker-Planck equation:

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \{F(x)P(x, t)\}}{\partial x} + D \frac{\partial^2 P(x, t)}{\partial x^2}$$

$$F(x) = -\frac{d\phi}{dx}$$

$$P(x, t)|_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} = 0; \quad \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial x}|_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} = 0; \quad F(x)P(x, t)|_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} = 0 (\forall t)$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx P(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx P(x, t_0) = 1 \quad (\forall t)$$

# H-theorem and FP equation

BG

$$F = U - TS ; U = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \phi(x)P(x, t) ; S = -k_B \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx P(x, t) \ln P(x, t)$$

$$\frac{dF}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \phi(x)P(x, t) + k_B T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx P(x, t) \ln P(x, t) \right)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \{ \phi(x) + k_B T [\ln P(x, t) + 1] \} \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t}$$

FPE

$$\frac{dF}{dt} \leq 0$$

H-theorem is valid for linear FPE "and" BG entropy  
=> relation between FPE and BG entropy?

# general solution Fokker-Planck equation

- dependence on time  $\longrightarrow F(x) = -kx$

$$P(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi D(1 - e^{-2t})/k}} e^{-\frac{kx^2}{2D(1 - e^{-2t})}}$$

- normal diffusion ( $t \ll 1$ )

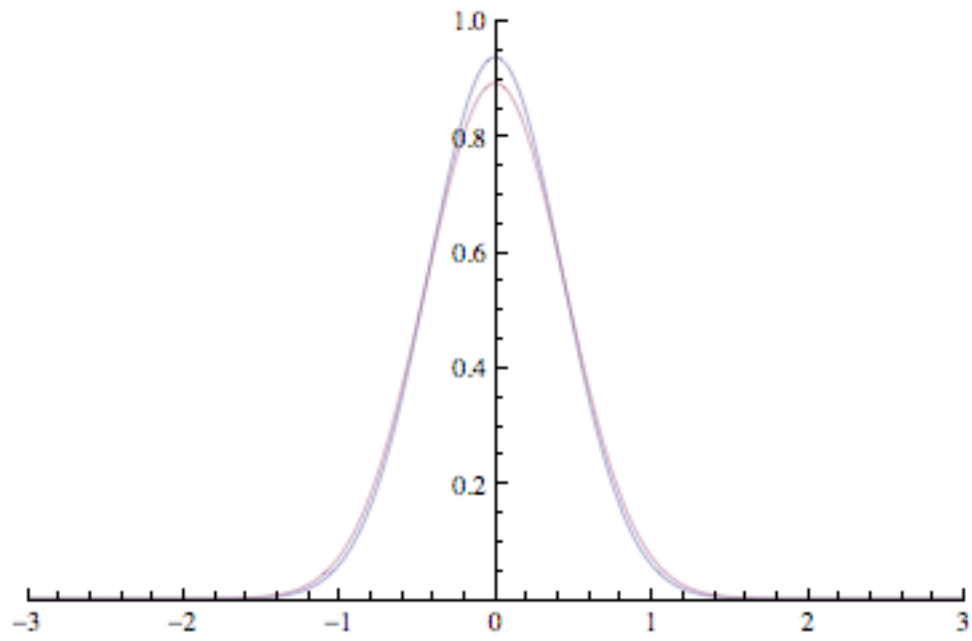
$$P(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi Dt/k}} e^{-\frac{kx^2}{4Dt}} \longrightarrow \langle (x - \langle x \rangle)^2 \rangle = \frac{2Dt}{k}$$

- $t \gg 1 \longrightarrow \langle (x - \langle x \rangle)^2 \rangle = \frac{D}{k} \left( P(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi D/k}} e^{-\frac{kx^2}{2D}} \right)$

BG entropy







# anomalous diffusion

$$\langle (x(t) - x_0)^2 \rangle \sim t^\gamma \quad (\gamma \neq 1)$$

- subdiffusive  $(\gamma < 1)$
- superdiffusive  $(\gamma > 1)$

## anomalous diffusion → subdiffusion

$$\langle (x(t) - x_0)^2 \rangle \sim t^\gamma \quad ( \gamma < 1 : \text{Subdiffusion} )$$

- existence of “traps” in space, where the particles stay for a certain time, with a broad distribution of released time

- conductivity of disordered ionic chains
- photocopiers, laser printers
- random walks on fractal substrates
- diffusion in convective rolls
- diffusion of contaminants in groundwater
- diffusion of proteins across cell membranes, etc

# subdiffusion - examples

- photocopiers, laser printers: transport of electrons or holes in amorphous semiconductors in an electric field

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 6

15 SEPTEMBER 1975

## Anomalous transit-time dispersion in amorphous solids

Harvey Scher

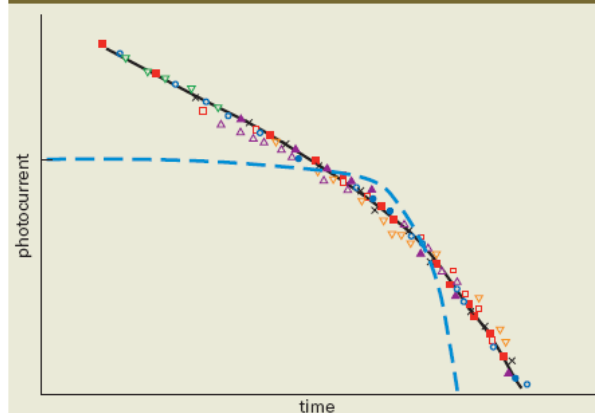
*Xerox Webster Research Center, 800 Phillips Road, Webster, New York 14580*

Elliott W. Montroll

*Institute for Fundamental Studies,\* Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627*

(Received 13 January 1975)

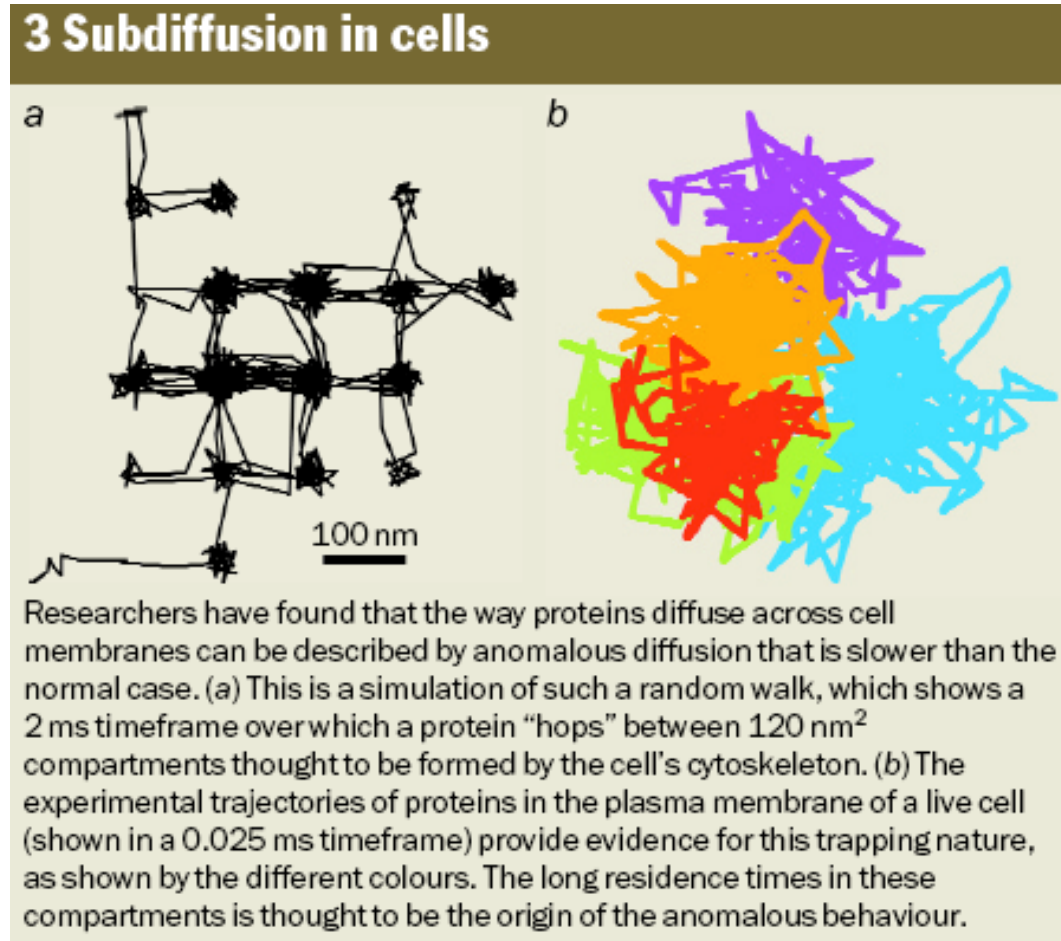
### 2 Anomalous diffusion in photocopiers



In the 1970s researchers measured the transient photocurrent in amorphous thin films that form the core of photocopier machines (data points). The blue dashed line indicates the expected behaviour if this diffusion process followed Fick's equation, which led Scher and Montroll to describe the process using broad distributions of waiting times. Both axes are logarithmic. This became the best known example of anomalous subdiffusion in nature. From H Scher and E Montroll 1975 *Phys. Rev. B* **12** 2455-2477

# subdiffusion

- diffusion of proteins across cell membranes



# anomalous diffusion -> superdiffusion

$$\langle (x(t) - x_0)^2 \rangle \sim t^\gamma \quad ( \gamma > 1 : \text{Superdiffusion} )$$

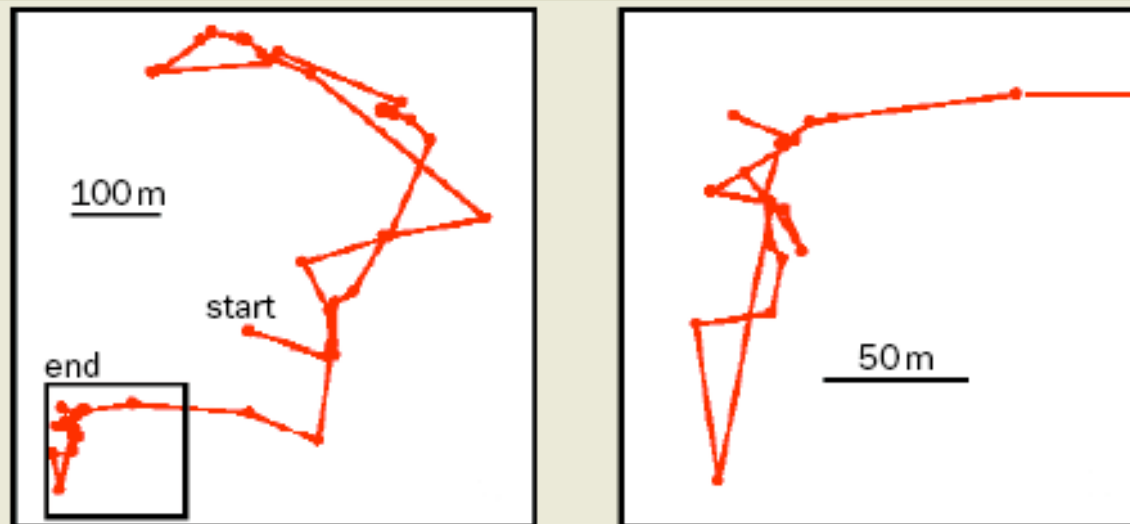
- existence of long range (in time) correlations present in the velocity of the tracer particle, Levy flights, nonlinear effects, etc.

- diffusion of micelles in salted water
- Richardson diffusion in turbulent fluids
- flight of albatrosses
- bacteria, plankton, jackals, spider monkeys
- it seems that superdiffusion superates normal BM as a strategy for finding randomly located food, etc.

# anomalous diffusion -> superdiffusion

- spider monkeys

## 4 Superdiffusion in monkey behaviour



The typical trajectories of spider monkeys in the forest of the Mexican Yucatan peninsula display steps with variable lengths, which correspond to a diffusive process that is faster than that of normal diffusion. An example of such a trajectory is shown on the left. A magnified part of it is shown on the right; this image looks qualitatively similar to the larger-scale trajectory, which is an important property of Lévy walks. Similar behaviour is found in the foraging habits of other animals, and could mean that anomalous diffusion offers a better search strategy than that of normal diffusion.



→ modifications in linear diffusion equation

# nonlinear Fokker-Planck equation

Porous media equation  
(M. Muskat - 1937)  $\rightarrow \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 P^\nu(x, t)}{\partial x^2}$

$$\langle (x - \langle x \rangle)^2 \rangle \sim t^{\frac{2}{\nu+1}}$$

- A. R. Plastino and A. Plastino, Physica A 222 (1995) 347;  
C. Tsallis and Bukman D. J., PRE 54 (1996) R2197

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \{F(x)P(x, t)\}}{\partial x} + D \frac{\partial^2 P^\nu(x, t)}{\partial x^2} \quad F(x) = - \frac{d\phi}{dx}$$



$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \{F(x)P(x, t)\}}{\partial x} + D \frac{\partial^2 P^\nu(x, t)}{\partial x^2}$$

$$F(x) = - \frac{d\phi}{dx}$$

stationary solution ( $\nu = 2 - q$ )

$$P(x) = C[1 - \beta(1 - q)\phi(x)]^{1/(1-q)}$$

$$\beta = (1/D)[C^{q-1}/(2 - q)] \quad (C \text{ is a positive constant})$$

same distribution that maximizes Tsallis entropy  
with the external constraint  $\phi(x)$  !

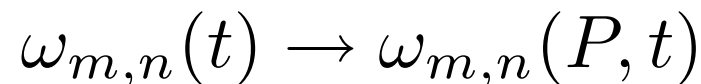
NLFPE  $\leftrightarrow$  Tsallis entropy!

master equation  $\rightarrow$  NL Fokker-Planck equation

$$\frac{\partial P(n, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} [P(m, t)w_{m,n}(t) - P(n, t)w_{n,m}(t)]$$

- nonlinear transition rates  $\rightarrow$  nonlinear Fokker-Planck equations

$$\omega_{m,n}(t) \rightarrow \omega_{m,n}(P, t)$$


$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \{ F(x) \Psi [P(x, t)] \}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left\{ \Omega [P(x, t)] \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial x} \right\}$$

# nonlinear Fokker-Planck equation

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \{ F(x) \Psi [P(x, t)] \}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left\{ \Omega [P(x, t)] \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial x} \right\}$$

$$\Omega [P] > 0 \quad \Psi [P] > 0 \quad F(x) = - \frac{d\phi}{dx}$$

$$a[P] = \text{const.}$$

$$\Omega [P] = \text{const.}$$

FPE

$$\Omega [P] = a[P]b[P] ; \quad \Psi [P] = a[P]P$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx P(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx P(x, t_0) = 1 \quad (\forall t)$$

$$a[P] = \text{const.}$$

$$\Omega [P] = DP^{\mu-1}$$

NLFPE - Plastino and  
Plastino, Physica A 1995

master equation  $\rightarrow$  NLFPE

EMFC & FD Nobre, PRE 2003,

FD Nobre, EMFC & G Rowlands, Physica A 2004

# H-theorem

$$S[P] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g[P(x, t)] dx$$

$$g(0) = g(1) = 0 \quad \frac{d^2 g}{dP^2} \leq 0$$

$$F_G = U - \frac{1}{\beta} S ; \quad U = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \phi(x) P(x, t)$$

$$g[P] = -P \ln P$$

Boltzmann-Gibbs

$$g[P] \propto P^q$$

Tsallis

$$-\frac{1}{\beta} \frac{d^2 g[P]}{dP^2} = \frac{\Omega[P]}{\Psi[P]} \Rightarrow \frac{dF}{dt} \leq 0$$

- NLFPE  $\leftrightarrow$  entropy

$$-\frac{1}{\beta} \frac{d^2 g[P]}{dP^2} = \frac{\Omega[P]}{\Psi[P]}$$

TD Frank, PH Chavanis,  
FD Nobre, EMFC, etc

↓  
entropy

↓  
FPE

connection between entropy  
and Fokker-Planck equations

- stationary state of the NLFPE

$$\mathcal{I}[P(x, t)] = S[P] + \alpha \left( 1 - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx P(x, t) \right) + \beta \left( U - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \phi(x) P(x, t) \right)$$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{I}}{dP} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{same pdf of the stationary state} \rightarrow \text{equivalent to MaxEnt (S)}$$

# families of FPEs $\leftrightarrow$ entropies

$$-\frac{1}{\beta} \frac{d^2 g[P]}{dP^2} = \frac{\Omega[P]}{\Psi[P]}$$

relation entropy  $\leftrightarrow$  FPE

same ratio  $\frac{\Omega[P]}{\Psi[P]}$  same entropy!

let us consider the classes of FPEs satisfying

$$\Omega[P] = a[P]b[P] ; \quad \Psi[P] = a[P]P$$

$$\frac{d^2 g[P]}{dP^2} = -\beta \frac{b[P]}{P}$$

Freedom for functional  $a[P]$

Schwammle V, Nobre FD, EMFC, PRE 2007  
Schwammle V, EMFC, Nobre FD, EPJB 2007

# NLFPEs $\leftrightarrow$ Boltzmann-Gibbs entropy

$$\frac{d^2 g[P]}{dP^2} = -\beta \frac{b[P]}{P}$$

$$b[P] = D$$

$$\beta = k_B / D$$

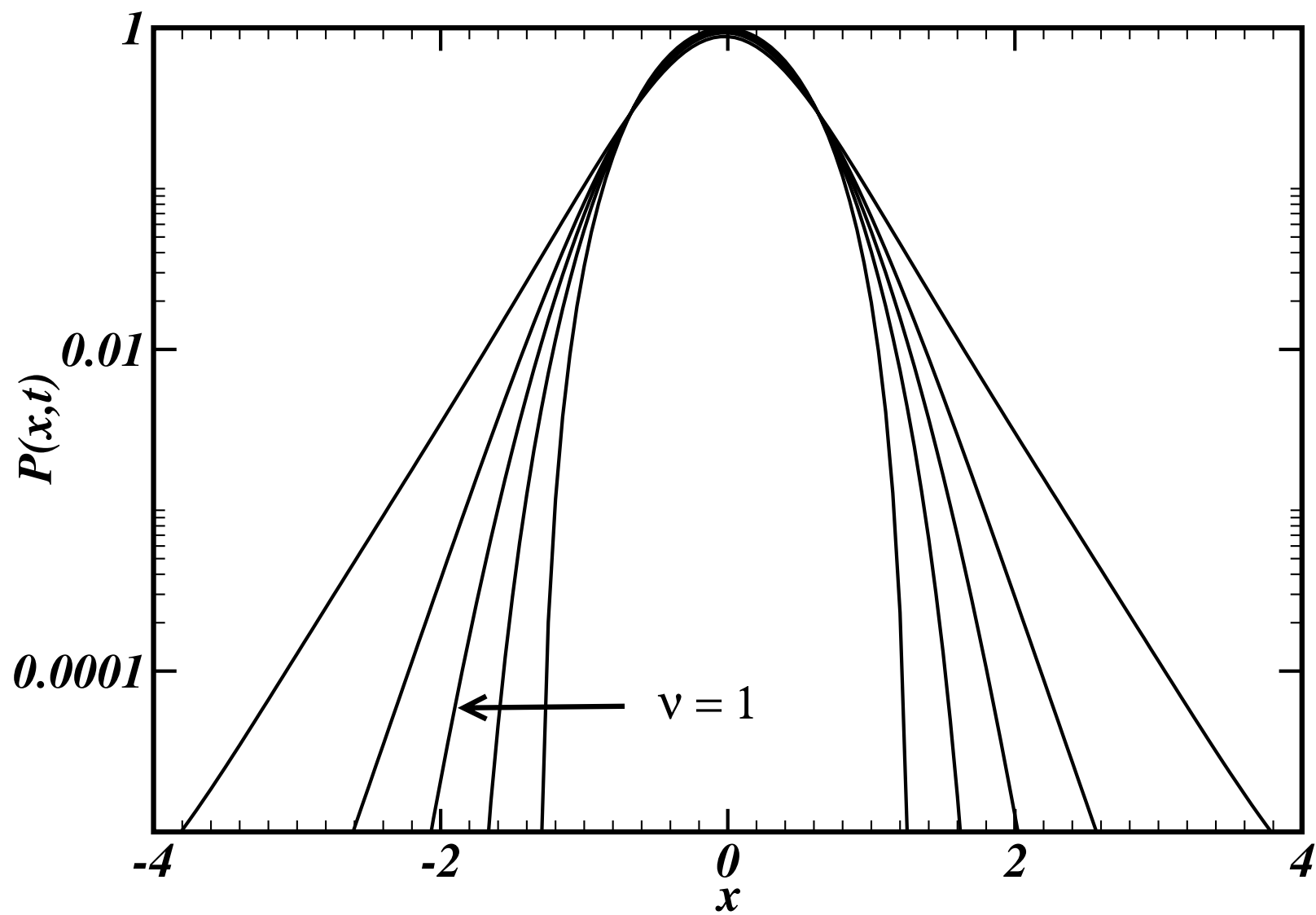
$$\frac{dg}{dP} = -\beta D \ln P + C \quad \Rightarrow \quad g[P] = -k_B P \ln P$$

$$S = -k_B \int P(x) \ln P(x) dx$$

$$\text{if } a[P] \propto P^{\nu-1}$$

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (F(x) P(x, t)^\nu) + D \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( P(x, t)^{\nu-1} \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial x} \right)$$

$\nu = 1 \quad \longrightarrow \quad$  linear Fokker-Planck equation



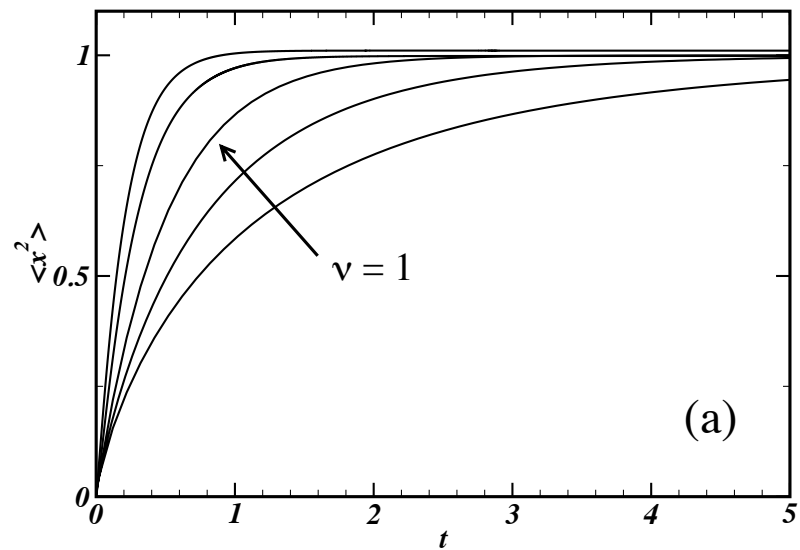
$$F(x) = -kx$$

$$P(x, 0) = \delta(x)$$

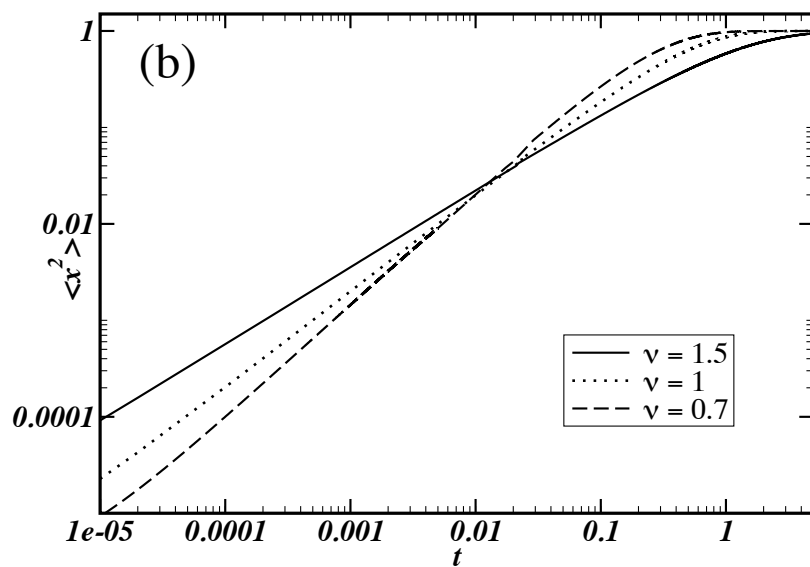
$$t = 0.1$$

$$\nu = 0.7, 0.9, 1, 1.1, 1.25$$



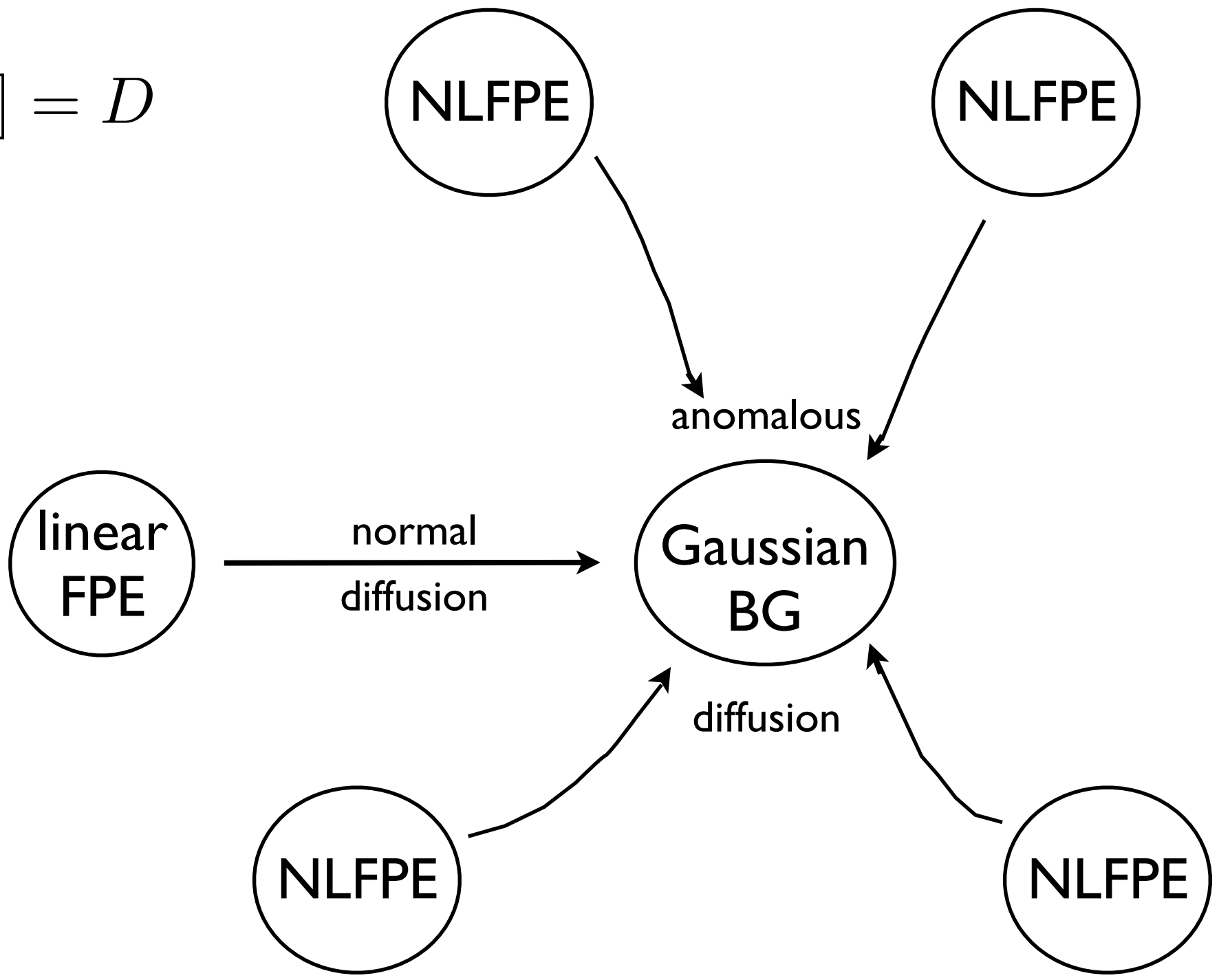


$\nu = 0.5, 0.7, 1,$   
 $1.25, 1.5$



$$\langle x^2 \rangle \sim \left( \frac{2}{\nu^2} \right) t^{\frac{2}{\nu+1}}$$

$$b[P] = D$$



# NLFPEs $\leftrightarrow$ Tsallis entropy

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \{ F(x) \Psi[P(x, t)] \}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left\{ \Omega[P(x, t)] \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial x} \right\}$$

$$\Omega[P] = a[P]b[P] ; \quad \Psi[P] = a[P]P$$

$$\frac{d^2 g[P]}{dP^2} = \frac{\Omega[P]}{\Psi[P]} = -\beta \frac{b[P]}{P}$$

$$b[P(x, t)] = D\nu P(x, t)^{\nu-1}$$

$$g[P] = -\frac{\beta D}{\nu-1} P^\nu + CP \Rightarrow g[P] = k_B \frac{P - P^\nu}{\nu-1}$$

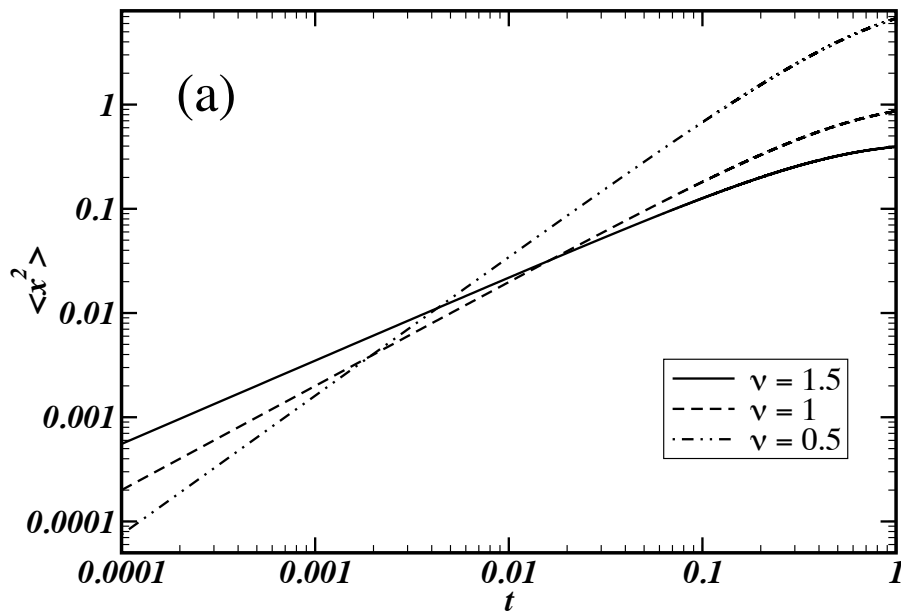
$$\text{if } a[P] \propto P^{\mu-1}$$

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (F(x) P(x, t)^\mu) + D \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( P(x, t)^{\mu+\nu-2} \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial x} \right)$$

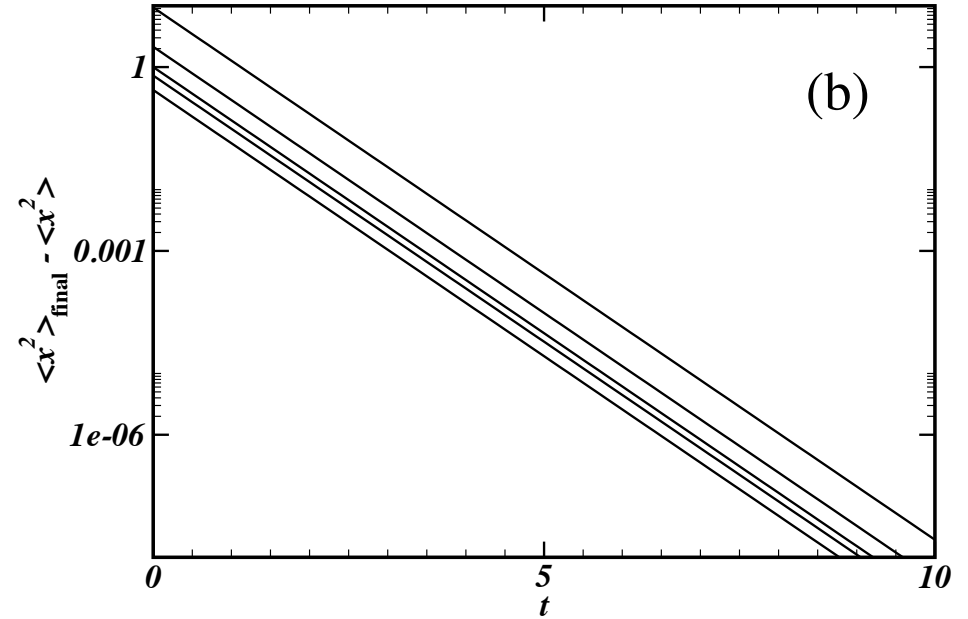


a)  $\mu = 1$  (NLFPE - Plastino&Plastino1995)

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (F(x)P(x, t)) + D \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( P^{\nu-1}(x, t) \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial x} \right)$$



$$\langle x^2 \rangle \propto t^{2/(\nu+1)}$$



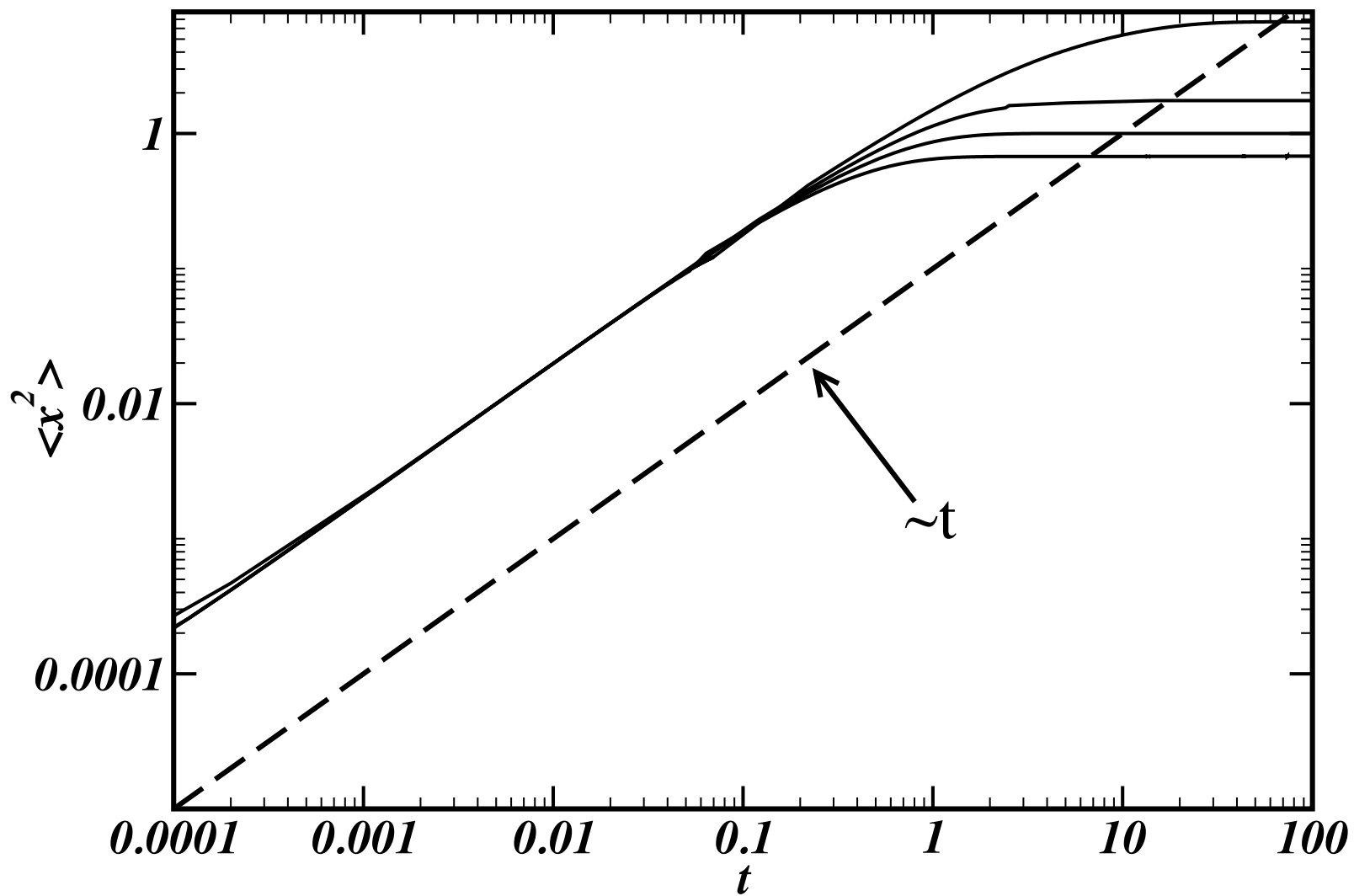
$$\langle x^2 \rangle_{\text{final}} - \langle x^2 \rangle \propto e^{-(\nu+1)t}$$

# Nonlinear FPE $\rightarrow$ normal diffusion

b)  $\nu = 2 - \mu \quad (\mu \neq 1) \quad \blacktriangle$

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (F(x)P(x, t)^\mu) + D \frac{\partial^2 P(x, t)}{\partial x^2}$$

- stationary solution  $\rightarrow$  q-Gaussian



$\mu = 0.7, 1, 1.2, 1.5$

# NLFPE

$$b[P(x, t)] = D\nu P(x, t)^{\nu-1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu &\neq 1 \\ \nu &= 2 - \mu \end{aligned}$$

normal  
diffusion

q-Gaussian

anomalous  
diffusion  
q-Gaussian

anomalous  
diffusion

$$\begin{aligned} \mu &= 1 \\ \nu &\neq 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu &\neq 1 \\ \nu &\neq 1 \end{aligned}$$

# non-orthodox constraints

$$U = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \phi(x) \Gamma[P(x, t)]$$

$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \Psi[P] \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\underbrace{\phi(x) \chi[P]}_{F(x)}) \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \Omega[P] \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} \right)$$

$$\chi[P] = \frac{d\Gamma[P]}{dP} \quad -\frac{1}{\beta} \frac{d^2 g[P]}{dP^2} = \frac{\Omega[P]}{\Psi[P]}$$

$$P(x) = C[1 - \beta(1 - q)\phi(x)]^{1/(1-q)}$$



- conclusions - curious situations:
- nonlinear FPEs  $\rightarrow$  Gaussian as stationary state  $\rightarrow$  same distribution obtained from Boltzmann-Gibbs entropy  $\rightarrow$  anomalous diffusion
- nonlinear FPEs  $\rightarrow$  q-Gaussian as stationary states  $\rightarrow$  same distribution obtained from Tsallis entropy  $\rightarrow$  normal diffusion.