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LARGE DEVIATIONS FOR ERGODIC PROCESSES IN SPLIT SPACES

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ABSTRACT. We study a family of stochastic additive functionals of Markov processes with locally independent increments switched by jump Markov processes in an asymptotic split phase space. Based on an average approximation, we obtain a large deviation result for this stochastic evolutionary system using a weak convergence approach. Examples, including compound Poisson processes, illustrate cases in which the rate function is calculated in an explicit form.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The main mathematical object of this paper is a family of coupled Markov processes $(\xi(t), x(t))$, $t \geq 0$ called the switched and switching processes, respectively. The switched process describes the evolution of the system and it is a stochastic functional of the process $\eta(t; x)$, $t \geq 0$, $x \in E$ with locally independent increments [6] (they are also called weakly differentiable [5] or piecewise deterministic [2] processes). In order to reduce the complexity of the phase space, the switching processes that describe the random changes in the evolution of the system, are jump Markov processes considered in a split space $E = \cup_{k=1}^{N} E_k$, $E_k \cap E_{k'} = \emptyset$, $k \neq k'$ with non-communicating components, and having the ergodic property on each class E_k. By introducing the parameter $\epsilon > 0$ one defines a jump Markov process on the split phase space with small transition probabilities between the states of the system and further merges the classes E_k, $k = 1, 2, \ldots, N$ into distinct states k, $1 \leq k \leq N$. The average limit theorem of the stochastic additive functional with fast time-scaling switching process is obtained by using the martingale characterization [11] and a solution of the singular perturbation problem for reducible-invertible operators [7]. We are interested in finding the large deviation principle for this sequence of stochastic additive functionals. Using the weak convergence approach of Dupuis and Ellis [3], a large deviation principle is derived for a sequence of random walks constructed such that they have

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the same distribution as the linear interpolation sequence of samples of stochastic additive functionals.

2. PRELIMINARIES

Let $(E, \mathcal{E})$ be a complete, separable metric space. We will use the following notation and definitions throughout the paper.

$\mathbf{D}[0,\infty)$ the space of right continuous functions having left hand side limits. This embedded with Skorokhod metric becomes a complete, separable metric space.

$(\mathbf{C}[0,\infty), ||\cdot||)$ with $||x|| = \sup_{t\geq 0}|x(t)|$, $x \in \mathbf{C}[0,\infty)$ is a complete, separable metric space.

$\mathbf{B}$ the Banach space of all bounded measurable functions with norm, $||\varphi|| = \sup_{x\in E}|\varphi(x)|$, $\varphi \in \mathbf{B}$.

Stochastic space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t\geq 0}, \mathbb{P})$ with the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t\geq 0}$ satisfying the usual conditions: it is right-continuous and complete.

The family of cadlag Markov processes $\eta(t;x)$, $t \geq 0$, $x \in E$, parameterized by x, are such that $\eta(t;x(t))$ is measurable, are of locally independent increment processes determined by their infinitesimal generators

$$\mathbb{\Gamma}(x)\varphi(u) = a(u;x)\varphi'(u) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}[\varphi(u+v) - \varphi(u) - v\varphi'(u)]\Gamma(u,dv;x), \tag{2.1}$$

where the positive kernels $\Gamma(u,dv;x)$, $x \in E$, are continuous and bounded on $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$, and uniformly continuous and bounded on $x \in E$, and the product $a\varphi'$ stands for the inner product $\langle a, \nabla\varphi\rangle$ in $\mathbb{R}^d$.

The switching jump Markov process $x(t)$, $t \geq 0$ is defined by its infinitesimal generator Q as

$$Q\varphi(x) = q(x)\int_E P(x,dy)[\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)], \tag{2.2}$$

where the kernel $P(x,B)$ is the transition kernel of the embedded Markov chain, and $q(x), x \in E$ is the intensity of jumps function.

The Markov additive process $(\xi(t), x(t))$, $t \geq 0$ is determined by the infinitesimal generator

$$\mathbb{L}\varphi(u,x) = Q\varphi(u,x) + \mathbb{\Gamma}(x)\varphi(u,x). \tag{2.3}$$

The general scheme of phase merging is realized by the family of time-homogeneous cadlag Markov jump process $x^\epsilon(t)$, $t \geq 0$, $\epsilon > 0$ with the standard phase space $(E, \mathcal{E})$, on the split phase space

$$E = \bigcup_{k=1}^N E_k, \qquad E_k \bigcap E_{k'} = \emptyset, \qquad k \neq k'$$

given by the infinitesimal generator

$$Q^\epsilon \varphi(x) = q(x) \int_E P^\epsilon(x, dy)[\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)]. \tag{2.4}$$

The phase merging algorithm is considered under the following assumptions:

A1. The stochastic kernel in (2.4) is represented in the following form

$$P^\epsilon(x, B) = P(x, B) + \epsilon P_1(x, B)$$

where the stochastic kernel $P(x, B)$ is coordinated with the splitting as follows:

$$P(x, E_k) = \mathbb{1}_k(x) := \begin{cases} 1, & x \in E_k, \\ 0, & x \notin E_k \end{cases}$$

A2. The Markov supporting process $x(t)$, $t \geq 0$, on the state space $(E, \mathcal{E})$, determined by the generator Q given in (2.2) is supposed to be uniformly ergodic in every class E_k, $1 \leq k \leq N$, with the stationary distribution $\pi_k(dx)$, $1 \leq k \leq N$, satisfying the following relations

$$\pi_k(dx)q(x) = q_k \rho_k(dx), \qquad q_k = \int_{E_k} \pi_k(dx)q(x),$$

$$\rho_k(B) = \int_{E_k} \rho_k(dx)P(x, B), \qquad \rho_k(E_k) = 1.$$

The perturbing operator $P_1(x, B)$ is a signed kernel which satisfies the conservative condition $P_1(x, E) = 0$.

A3. The average exit probabilities satisfy the following condition

$$\hat{p}_k := \int_{E_k} \rho_k(dx)P_1(x, E \backslash E_k) > 0, \qquad 1 \leq k \leq N.$$

Introduce the merging function $m(x) = k, \quad x \in E_k, 1 \leq k \leq N$, and the merged process

$$\hat{x}^\epsilon(t) := m(x^\epsilon(t/\epsilon)), \quad t \geq 0, \tag{2.5}$$

on the merged phase space $\hat{E} = \{1, ..., N\}$.

The phase merging principle establishes the weak convergence of the above process to the limit Markov process $\hat{x}(t)$.

Theorem 2.1 (Ergodic phase merging principle)**.** *Under the assumptions* A1–A3*, the following weak convergence holds*

$$\hat{x}^\epsilon(t) \Rightarrow \hat{x}(t), \qquad \epsilon \to 0.$$

The limit merged Markov process $\hat{x}(t)$, $t \geq 0$, on the merged state space $\hat{E}$ is determined by the generator matrix

$$\hat{Q} = (\hat{q}_{kr}; 1 \leq k, r \leq N),$$

with entries

$$\hat{q}_{kr} = \hat{q}_k p_{kr}, \qquad p_{kr} = \int_{E_k} \rho_k(dx) P_1(x, E_r), \qquad 1 \leq k, r \leq N, \tag{2.6}$$

where ρ_k is the stationary distribution of the corresponding embedded Markov chain.

Theorem 2.2 (Average approximation [8])**.** *Let the stochastic evolutionary system $\xi^\epsilon(t)$, $t \geq 0$ be represented by*

$$\xi^\epsilon(t) = \xi^\epsilon(0) + \int_0^t \eta^\epsilon\left(ds; x^\epsilon(\frac{s}{\epsilon})\right), \qquad t \geq 0, \epsilon > 0. \tag{2.7}$$

Let the process $\eta^\epsilon(t; x)$, $t \geq 0$, $\epsilon > 0$, $x \in E$ be given by the infinitesimal generators

$$\mathbb{\Gamma}^\epsilon(x)\varphi(u) = a^\epsilon(u; x)\varphi'(u) + \epsilon^{-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} [\varphi(u + \epsilon v) - \varphi(u) - \epsilon v \varphi'(u)] \Gamma_\epsilon(u, dv; x). \tag{2.8}$$

Let the switching Markov process $x^\epsilon(t)$, $t \geq 0$ satisfies the phase merging condition of Theorem 2.1*. Let the following conditions be valid*

C1. *the drift velocity $a(u; x)$ belongs to the Banach space $\mathbf{B}^1$, with*

$$a^\epsilon(u; x) = a(u; x) + \theta^\epsilon(u; x)$$

where $\theta^\epsilon(u; x) \to 0$ as $\epsilon \to 0$ uniformly on $(u; x)$ and $\Gamma_\epsilon(u, dv; x) \equiv \Gamma(u, dv; x)$ independent of ϵ.

C2. *the operator $\gamma^\epsilon(x)\varphi(u) = \epsilon^{-1} \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} [\varphi(u+\epsilon v) - \varphi(u) - \epsilon v \varphi'(u)] \Gamma(u, dv; x)$ is negligible on $\mathbf{B}^1$:*

$$\sup_{\varphi \in C^1(\mathbf{R}^d)} ||\gamma_\epsilon(x)\varphi|| \to 0 \qquad as \qquad \epsilon \to 0$$

C3. *the convergence in probability of the initial values of $(\xi^\epsilon(t), m(x^\epsilon(\frac{t}{\epsilon}))$, $t \geq 0$ holds, that is*

$$(\xi^\epsilon(0), m(x^\epsilon(0)) \to (\xi(0), \hat{x}(0))$$

and there exists a constant $c \in \mathbb{R}_+$ such that $\sup_{\epsilon > 0} \mathbb{E}|\xi^\epsilon(0)| \leq c < \infty$.

Then the stochastic evolutionary system $\xi^\epsilon(t)$, $t \geq 0$ defined by (2.7) *converges weakly to the averaged stochastic system $\hat{\xi}(t)$,*

$$\xi^\epsilon(t) \Rightarrow \hat{\xi}(t) \qquad as \qquad \epsilon \to 0.$$

The limit process $\hat{\xi}(t)$, $t \geq 0$ is defined by a solution of the evolutionary equation

$$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\xi}(t) = \hat{a}(\hat{\xi}(t); \hat{x}(t)), \qquad \hat{\xi}(0) = \xi(0), \tag{2.9}$$

where the averaged velocity is determined by

$$\hat{a}(u; k) = \int_{E_k} \pi_k(dx) a(u; x) \qquad 1 \leq k \leq N.$$

Note 2.3. The limit process $\hat{\xi}(t)$ is a random dynamical system evolving deterministically on random time intervals $[\tau_i, \tau_{i+1})$, where $\{\tau_i\}_{i=1}^{N(T)}$ are the transition times of the stationary merged process $\hat{x}(t)$ and $N(T)$ the number of transitions on $[0, T]$.

3. LARGE DEVIATION PRINCIPLE FOR ERGODIC MARKOV PROCESSES

Let $x(t)$, $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ be a time-homogeneous Markov process on a compact metric space X, $\mathcal{B}(X)$ be the Borel σ-algebra in X and $\mathcal{M}(X)$ the space of probability measures on $\mathcal{B}(X)$. Let introduce a random measure on $\mathcal{B}(X)$ by

$$\nu_t(B) = \frac{1}{t}\int_0^t 1_{\{x(s)\in B\}}ds, \quad B \in \mathcal{B}(X).$$

Theorem 3.1. *Assume that the process $x(t)$, $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ is an ergodic Markov process. Then the following large deviation result holds*

$$-\inf_{m\in\Gamma^\circ} I(m) \le \liminf_{t\to\infty} \frac{1}{t}\log \mathbb{P}\{\nu_t \in \Gamma\} \le \limsup_{t\to\infty} \frac{1}{t}\log \mathbb{P}\{\nu_t \in \Gamma\} \le -\inf_{m\in\bar{\Gamma}} I(m)$$

where the rate function $I : \mathcal{M}(X) \to [0, +\infty]$ is defined by

$$I(m) = -\inf\{\int (\phi(x))^{-1} Q\phi(x)m(dx) : \phi \in \mathcal{D}(Q), \phi > 0\}$$

and $\Gamma \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{M}(X))$ be the Borel σ-algebra in $\mathcal{M}(X)$.
Typically $\Gamma = \{\nu \in \mathcal{M}(X) | d(\nu, m) > \delta, I(m) = 0\}$ where d is some metric on $\mathcal{M}(X)$.

The rate function $I(m)$ verifies the following properties

(i) $I(m) \ge 0$ for all $m \in \mathcal{M}(X)$, and $I(m) = 0$ if and only if m is the invariant measure for the ergodic Markov process,

(ii) $I(m)$ is a convex function, i.e.,

$$I(sm_1 + (1-s)m_2) \le sI(m_1) + (1-s)I(m_2), \quad m_i \in \mathcal{M}(X),\ i = 1, 2,\ 0 < s < 1$$

(iii) $I(m)$ is a lower semi-continuous function, i.e.,

$$\liminf_{m_n\to m} I(m_n) \ge I(m)$$

(iv) For any $b > 0$ the set $C_b(I) = \{m : I(m) \le b\}$ is compact, and the function $I(m)$ is continuous on this compact set.

For proofs and details see [9] and [10].

We illustrate the concept of the split phase space in the following example.

Example 3.2. Let us consider a four-state Markov process $x(t)$, $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ on the split phase space $E = \{1, 2, 3, 4\} = E_1 \cup E_2$, $E_1 = \{1, 2\}$, $E_2 = \{3, 4\}$ generated by

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda_1 & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \mu_1 & -\mu_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\lambda_2 & \lambda_2 \\ 0 & 0 & \mu_2 & -\mu_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

One checks that the Markov process $x(t)$ is ergodic in both E_1 and E_2 with stationary distributions $\pi_1 = (\frac{\mu_1}{\lambda_1+\mu_1} \quad \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1+\mu_1})$ and $\pi_2 = (\frac{\mu_2}{\lambda_2+\mu_2} \quad \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_2+\mu_2})$.

Now we analyze singularly perturbed Markov processes by introducing a small parameter $\epsilon > 0$ which leads to a singular perturbed system involving two-time scales, the actual time t and the stretched time $\frac{t}{\epsilon}$. Since the process $x(t)$ is ergodic on E_1, E_2, the system can be decomposed and the states of the Markov process can be aggregated.

Let $x^\epsilon(t)$ be a Markov chain on E generated by $Q + \epsilon Q_1$ with Q defined above and Q_1 given by

$$Q_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda_1 & 0 & \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\mu_1 & 0 & \mu_1 \\ \lambda_2 & 0 & -\lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \mu_2 & 0 & -\mu_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $x^\epsilon(\frac{t}{\epsilon})$ be a time-invariant Markov process with generator $Q^\epsilon = \frac{1}{\epsilon}Q + Q_1$.

Note that for small ϵ, the Markov process $x^\epsilon(\frac{t}{\epsilon})$ jumps more frequently within each block and less frequently from one block to another. To further understanding of the underlying process, we consider the merged process $\hat{x}^\epsilon(t) := m(x^\epsilon(\frac{t}{\epsilon}))$ obtained by aggregating the states in the k^{th} block by a single state k and study its asymptotic behavior (for many asymptotic results see [12]).

Theorem 2.1 states that the limit process is a Markov process on the merged space $\hat{E} = \{1, 2\}$ determined by generator matrix $\hat{Q} = (\hat{q}_{kr}, 1 \le k, r \le 2)$ with $\hat{q}_{kr}$ verifying (2.6). For this example, $q_1 = \frac{2\lambda_1\mu_1}{\lambda_1+\mu_1}$, $q_2 = \frac{2\lambda_2\mu_2}{\lambda_2+\mu_2}$, $p_{11} = -1, \quad p_{12} = 1, \quad p_{21} = 1, \quad p_{22} = -1$. Thus,

$$\hat{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{2\lambda_1\mu_1}{\lambda_1+\mu_1} & \frac{2\lambda_1\mu_1}{\lambda_1+\mu_1} \\ \frac{2\lambda_2\mu_2}{\lambda_2+\mu_2} & -\frac{2\lambda_2\mu_2}{\lambda_2+\mu_2} \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & \lambda \\ \mu & -\mu \end{pmatrix}$$

Note 3.3. The merged process $\hat{x}^\epsilon(t)$, unlike its limit $\hat{x}(t)$, is not time-homogeneous.

Let us consider now the occupational time of $\hat{x}(t)$ defined by

$$\nu_t(B) = \frac{1}{t}\int_0^t \mathbb{I}_{\{\hat{x}(t)\in B\}}(s)ds$$

for any $B \in \mathcal{B}(\hat{E})$. By ergodic theorem, the measure ν_t converges to the ergodic distribution ρ as t goes to ∞. As an example, let $\mathcal{M}$ be the set of all probability measures on $\{0, 1\}$ identified with $\{(p, 1-p), 0 \le p \le 1\}$ and $d(x, y) = |x| + |y|$, $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Then Theorem 3.1 implies that for $\rho = (p_0, 1-p_0)$ and $\Gamma = \{(p, 1-p) \,|\, d((p, 1-p), (p_0, 1-p_0)) > \delta\}$, $\mathbb{P}(\nu_t \in \Gamma) \sim \exp(-tI(p_0 + \delta, 1 - p_0 - \delta))$ for large t with

$$I(m) = -\inf\{\int_{\hat{E}} \frac{(\hat{Q}\phi)(y)}{\phi(y)} m(dy) : \phi \in \mathcal{D}(\hat{Q}), \phi(y) > 0, \forall y \in \{0, 1\}\} =$$

$$-\inf\{\lambda p(\frac{\phi(2)}{\phi(1)} - 1) + \mu(1-p)(\frac{\phi(1)}{\phi(2)} - 1); \quad \phi(1), \phi(2) > 0\}$$

for $m = (p, 1-p)$.

The infimum is attained at $\sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\lambda}(\frac{1}{p}-1)}$ and $I(m) = \lambda p + \mu(1-p) - 2\sqrt{\lambda\mu p(1-p)}$.

4. LARGE DEVIATIONS FOR STOCHASTIC ADDITIVE FUNCTIONALS

Let us consider the family of stochastic additive functionals $\xi^\epsilon(t)$, $t \geq 0$ represented by

$$\xi^\epsilon(t) = \xi^\epsilon(0) + \int_0^t \eta^\epsilon\left(ds; x^\epsilon(\frac{s}{\epsilon})\right), \qquad t \geq 0, \epsilon > 0.$$

The family of coupled Markov processes $(\xi^\epsilon(t), x^\epsilon(\frac{t}{\epsilon}))$, $t \geq 0$, $\epsilon > 0$ on $\mathbb{R}^d \times E$ has infinitesimal generator $\mathbb{L}^\epsilon$ given by $\mathbb{L}^\epsilon = \frac{1}{\epsilon}Q + Q_1 + \mathbb{\Gamma}^\epsilon(x)$ with the domain $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{L}^\epsilon)$ dense in $\mathbf{C}(\mathbb{R}^d \times E)$ and the limit process $(\hat{\xi}(t), \hat{x}(t))$, $t \geq 0$ is a Markov process on $\mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{E}$.

Our goal is to show the large deviation principle for this family of stochastic additive functionals with the rate function I stated as

$$-\inf_{\Gamma^\circ} I \leq \liminf_{\epsilon \to 0} \epsilon \log \mathbb{P}\{\xi^\epsilon \in \Gamma\} \leq \limsup \epsilon \log \mathbb{P}\{\xi^\epsilon \in \Gamma\} \leq -\inf_{\bar{\Gamma}} I \tag{4.1}$$

where Γ° and $\bar{\Gamma}$ represent the interior respectively the closure of the set Γ. In the particular case in which we take $\Gamma = \{\xi(t) : ||\xi(t) - \hat{\xi}(t)|| > \delta\}$ one gets the asymptotic behavior of the $\mathbb{P}(\sup_{t\in[0,T]} ||\xi^\epsilon(t) - \hat{\xi}(t)|| > \delta)$.

An important consequence of the large deviation principle is due to Varadhan and it is called the Laplace principle [3] (Theorem 1.2.1).

Proposition 4.1. *If the sequence ξ^ϵ satisfies the large deviation principle on $\mathbf{D}([0,T], \mathbb{R}^d)$ with rate function $I_u(\varphi)$, then for all bounded continuous functions $h : \mathbf{D}([0,T], \mathbb{R}^d) \to \mathbb{R}$*

$$\lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \epsilon \log \mathbb{E}\{\exp[-\frac{1}{\epsilon}h(\xi^\epsilon)]\} = -inf_{\varphi \in \mathbf{D}([0,T],\mathbb{R}^d)}\{h(\varphi) + I_u(\varphi)\} \tag{4.2}$$

The Laplace principle implies the large deviation principle with the same rate function [3, Theorem 1.2.3].

Proposition 4.2. *If I_u is a rate function on $\mathbf{D}([0,T], \mathbb{R}^d)$ and the limit (4.2) is valid for all bounded continuous functions h, then the sequence ξ^ϵ satisfies the large deviation principle on $\mathbf{D}([0,T], \mathbb{R}^d)$ with rate function I.*

Lemma 4.3. *Suppose that for each fixed $k \in \hat{E}$, the family $\xi_t^\epsilon := \xi_t^\epsilon(u; k)$, $t \geq 0$, $\epsilon > 0$ satisfies the large deviation principle with the rate function $I_{u,k}(\cdot)$. If $\hat{x}_t$ is a stationary process on $\hat{E}$ then $\xi_t^\epsilon(u; \hat{x}(t))$ satisfies the large deviation principle with the rate function $I_u(\varphi) = \min\{I_{u,k}(\varphi) : 1 \leq k \leq N\}$.*

Proof. Since for each fixed $k \in \hat{E}$, the family $\xi_t^\epsilon(u;k)$, $t \geq 0$, $\epsilon > 0$ satisfy the large deviation principle with the rate function $I_{u,k}$, we have

$$\epsilon \log \mathbb{P}(\xi^\epsilon \in \Gamma | \hat{x}^\epsilon = k) \sim -\inf_\Gamma I_{u,k}.$$

Let's denote $b_k^\epsilon := \mathbb{P}(\xi^\epsilon \in \Gamma | \hat{x}^\epsilon = k)$, $b_k := \inf_\Gamma I_{u,k}$ and $p_k = \mathbb{P}(\hat{x}^\epsilon = k)$. Thus $\epsilon \log b_k^\epsilon \sim -b_k$ and therefore $b_k^\epsilon = \exp(-\frac{1}{\epsilon} b_k + c_k^\epsilon)$ with $c_k^\epsilon = o(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$.

We want to prove that $\epsilon \log \mathbb{P}(\xi^\epsilon \in \Gamma) \sim -\min\{b_1, \ldots, b_N\}$. We may assume that $b_1 \leq b_2 \leq \cdots \leq b_N$ and $0 < p_i < 1$, $1 \leq i \leq N$ without loss of generality.

Since $\mathbb{P}(\xi^\epsilon \in \Gamma) = \sum_{k=1}^N \mathbb{P}(\xi^\epsilon \in \Gamma | \hat{x}^\epsilon = k)\mathbb{P}(\hat{x}^\epsilon = k)$, it is enough to prove that $\epsilon \log(b_1^\epsilon p_1 + \cdots + b_N^\epsilon p_N) \sim -b_1$ which is equivalent to $\frac{1}{b_1^\epsilon p_1 + \cdots + b_N^\epsilon p_N} \sim \frac{1}{b_1^\epsilon p_1}$. This is true because $\frac{b_i^\epsilon}{b_1^\epsilon} = \exp(-\frac{1}{\epsilon}(b_i - b_1 + \epsilon(c_i^\epsilon - c_1^\epsilon))$ goes to 0 as ϵ goes to 0. □

Theorem 4.4 (Main result)**.** *For absolutely continuous functions φ from $\mathbf{D}([0,T], \mathbb{R}^d)$, with $T > 0$ arbitrary fixed, satisfying $\varphi(0) = u$, and for each fixed $k \in \hat{E}$, define*

$$I_{u,k}(\varphi) := \int_0^T L(\varphi(t), \dot{\varphi}(t); k) dt, \tag{4.3}$$

where L is subsequently defined by (4.9)*. For all other functions in $\mathbf{D}([0,T], \mathbb{R}^d)$, $I_{u,k}(\varphi) := \infty$. Then the family $\xi^\epsilon(t), \epsilon > 0$ satisfies the Large deviation principle with rate function*

$$I_u(\varphi) = \min\{I_{u,k}(\varphi) : 1 \leq k \leq N\} \tag{4.4}$$

Proof. This will be carried out in several steps. For the sake of clarity, it became necessary to state a number of known results, which we reformulated and adapted to our situation.

Step 1: Consider the martingale problem for the generator $\mathbb{L}^\epsilon$ and its relationship with the exponential martingale problem [11] by taking the transformation H^ϵ defined as

$$H^\epsilon f := \epsilon e^{-\frac{1}{\epsilon} f} \mathbb{L}^\epsilon e^{\frac{1}{\epsilon} f} \tag{4.5}$$

An important step is to prove the convergence of H^ϵ for an appropriate collection of sequences f^ϵ to an operator H in the sense that if f^ϵ converges to f as $\epsilon \to 0$ the $H^\epsilon f^\epsilon$ converges to Hf [4].

Let us consider the test functions $f^\epsilon(u,x) = f(u) + \epsilon \log \varphi^\epsilon(u,x)$ with $\varphi^\epsilon(u,x) = \varphi(u, m(x)) + \epsilon \varphi_1(u,x)$, where $f, \varphi^\epsilon(u,x)$ are bounded, measurable, continuous differentiable functions on $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$, with bounded first derivative, and uniformly continuous on E, convergent to the function $f(u)$ Then, $H^\epsilon f^\epsilon$ converges to Hf,

$$Hf(u;x) := a(u;x)f'(u) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (e^{vf'(u)} - 1 - vf'(u))\Gamma(u, dv; x). \tag{4.6}$$

Applying the stationary projector $\Pi : \mathbf{B}(E) \to \hat{\mathbf{E}}$, defined by $\Pi\varphi(x) := \int_E \rho(dx)\varphi(y)\mathbb{1}(x)$ (where $\mathbb{1}(x) = 1$ for all $x \in E$), we obtain

$$\hat{H}f(u;k) = \hat{a}(u;k)f'(u) + \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} (e^{vf'(u)} - 1 - vf'(u))\hat{\Gamma}(u, dv; k) \tag{4.7}$$

where

$$\hat{a}(u;k) = \int_{E_k} \pi_k(dx)a(u;x) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\Gamma}(u, dv; k) = \int_{E_k} \pi_k(dx)\Gamma(u, dv; k).$$

A key role is played by the function in u and p in $\mathbb{R}^d$ defined by

$$H(u, p; k) := \hat{a}(u;k)p + \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} (e^{vp} - 1 - vp)\hat{\Gamma}(u, dv; k) \tag{4.8}$$

having the following properties:

(a) for each $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and each $k \in \hat{E}$, $\sup_{u \in \mathbf{R}^d} H(u, p; k) < \infty$;
(b) for each $k \in \hat{E}$, $h(u, p; k)$ is a continuous function of $(u, p) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$.

For u and q in $\mathbb{R}^d$ we define the Legendre-Fenchel transform

$$L(u, q; k) := \sup_{p \in \mathbf{R}^d} \{pq - H(u, p; k)\} \tag{4.9}$$

Step 2: As in Lemma 6.2.3. [3] the following properties of the Legendre-Fenchel function can be proved.

Lemma 4.5. *The functions $H(u, p; k)$ and $L(u, q; k)$ defined by (4.8) and (4.9) respectively, have the following properties*

(a) *For each $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $k \in \hat{E}$, $H(u, p; k)$ is a finite convex function of $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$ which is differentiable for all p. In addition, $H(u, p; k)$ is a continuous function of $(u, p) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$*
(b) *For each $u \in \mathbb{R}^d, k \in \hat{E}$, $L(u, q; k)$ is a convex function of $q \in \mathbb{R}^d$. In addition, $L(u, q; k)$ is a nonnegative, lower semi-continuous function of $(u, q) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$*
(c) *$L(u, q; k)$ is uniformly superlinear in the sense:*

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} \inf_{u \in \mathbf{R}^d} \inf_{q \in \mathbf{R}^d : ||q|| = N} \frac{1}{||q||} L(u, q; k) = \infty$$

(d) *For each $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $k \in \hat{E}$, the relative interior $ri(domL(u, \cdot; k)) = ri(convS_{\mu(\cdot|u,k)})$; in particular $L(u, q; k)$ equals ∞ for $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $q \in (cl(convS_{\mu(\cdot|u,k)}))^c$. For any $q \in ri(domL(u, \cdot; k))$ there exists $v = v(u, q; k) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ such that $\nabla_v H(u, v(u, q; k); k) = q$. In addition,*

$$L(u, q; k) = v(u, q; k)q - H(u, v(u, q; k); k)$$

(e) *Suppose in addition that for a given $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $convS_{\mu(\cdot/u)}$ has nonempty interior. Then $H(u, v; k)$ is a strictly convex function of $v \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $int(domL(u, \cdot; k))$ is nonempty, for each $q \in int(domL(u, \cdot; k))$ there exists a unique value of v such that $\nabla_v H(u, v(u, q; k); k) = q$, and $L(u, \cdot; k)$ is differentiable on $int(domL(u, \cdot; k))$.*

(f) *For each* u *and* q *in* $\mathbb{R}^d$, $k \in \hat{E}$,

$$L(u, q; k) = \inf\{R(\nu(\cdot)||\mu(\cdot|u, k) : \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d), \int_{\mathbf{R}_d} v\nu(dv) = q\}$$

and the infimum is always attained. If $L(u, q; k) < \infty$, *then the infimum is attained uniquely.* $R(\cdot||\cdot)$ *is the relative entropy defined by* $R(\nu||\theta) := \int(\log \frac{d\nu}{d\theta})d\nu$ *whenever* ν *is absolutely continuous with respect to* θ. *Otherwise* $R(\nu||\theta) := \infty$.

(g) *There is a stochastic kernel* $\nu(dv|u, k)$ *on* $\mathbb{R}^d$ *given* $\mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{E}$ *satisfying for* u *and* q *in* $\mathbb{R}^d$,

$$R(\nu(\cdot|u, k)||\mu(\cdot|u, k)) = L(u, q; k) \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} v\nu(dv|u, k) = q$$

(h) *If* $\nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ *satisfies* $R(\nu(\cdot)||\mu(\cdot|u, k)) < \infty$ *for* $u \in \mathbb{R}^d, k \in \hat{E}$ *then* $\int_{\mathbf{R}^d} ||v||\nu(dv) < \infty$ *and*

$$R(\nu(\cdot|u, k)||\mu(\cdot|u, k)) \geq L(u, \int_{\mathbf{R}_d} v\nu(dv); k).$$

Step 3: To prove Laplace principle for the sequence ξ^ϵ it is sufficient to prove it for a sequence of random walks X^n constructed below.

Let h be any bounded continuous function mapping $\mathbf{D}([0, T], \mathbb{R}^d)$ into $\mathbb{R}$. We prove the Laplace limit (4.2) when $\epsilon \to 0$ along any sequence $\{\epsilon_n, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ converging to 0. Let's fix such a sequence. By sampling the process ξ^{ϵ_n} at a sequence of times depending on ϵ_n, we define a sequence of piecewise linear processes $\{\zeta^n, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ for which we prove Laplace principle. Then we show that the sequence is superexponentially closed to $\{\xi^{\epsilon_n}, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Fix $T > 0$. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $c_n := [\frac{T}{\epsilon_n}]$ (where $[x]$ represents the integer part of x). Consider the sampled sequence $\xi^{\epsilon_n}(\frac{Tj}{c_n}), j = 0, 1, \ldots, c_n - 1$. Define $\zeta^n := \{\zeta^n(t), t \in [0, T]\}$ by

$$\zeta^n(t) = \xi^{\epsilon_n}(\frac{Tj}{c_n}) + c_n(t - \frac{Tj}{c_n}) \left(\xi^{\epsilon_n}(\frac{T(j+1)}{c_n} - \xi^{\epsilon_n}(\frac{Tj}{c_n})\right)$$

for $t \in \left[\frac{Tj}{c_n}, \frac{T(j+1)}{c_n}\right]$, which is the linear interpolation of the sampled sequence $\xi^{\epsilon_n}(\frac{Tj}{c_n}), j = 0, 1, \ldots, c_n - 1$.

For each fixed $k \in \hat{E}$, let $\{v_j^n(u; k), u \in \mathbb{R}^d, j \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$ be an i.i.d sequence of random vector fields having the common distribution

$$\mu^n(dv|u, k) := \mathbb{P}_u \left(\frac{c_n}{T}(\xi^{\epsilon_n}(\frac{T}{c_n}) - u) \in dv\right) \tag{4.10}$$

which is a stochastic kernel on $\mathbb{R}^d$ given $\mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{E}$.

We construct the random walks corresponding to the sequence of stochastic kernels $\mu^n(dv|u, k)$ as follows: for each $u \in \mathbb{R}^d, k \in \hat{E}, n \in \mathbb{N}$, consider the sequence of random variables $\{X_j^n, j = 0, 1, \ldots, c_n - 1\}$ taking values in $\mathbb{R}^d$ with

$$X_{j+1}^n := X_j^n + \frac{T}{c_n} v_j^n(X_j^n; k), \quad X_0^n = u.$$

Suppose that the the sequence of random vectors X_j^n is interpolated into a piecewise linear continuous-time process $X^n := \{X^n(t), t \in [0, T]\}$ by

$$X^n(t) = X_j^n + \left(t - \frac{Tj}{c_n}\right) v_j^n(X_j^n; k), \quad t \in \left[\frac{Tj}{c_n}, \frac{T(j+1)}{c_n}\right], j = 0, 1, \ldots, c_n - 1$$

Then the distribution of ζ^n is the same as the distribution of X^n. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $u, p \in \mathbb{R}^d, k \in \hat{E}$, define

$$H^n(u, p; k) := \log \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{vp} \mu^n(dv|u, k) \tag{4.11}$$

Step 4: We will show that the function $H(u, p; k)$ defined in (4.8) can be written as the moment generating function of a stochastic kernel $\mu(dv|u, k)$.

Since the conditions of the Proposition 10.3.2 in [3] are fulfilled the next result follow.

Proposition 4.6. *For each $k \in \hat{E}$, the following conclusions hold:*

(a) *there exists a superlinear function $f : (0, \infty) \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ such that for any $\epsilon > 0, \delta > 0, s \in [0, T], t \in (s, T]$*

$$\sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{P}_{u,k}\{\sup_{s \le \sigma \le t} ||\xi^\epsilon(\sigma) - \xi^\epsilon(s)|| \ge \delta\} \le 2d \exp\left(-\frac{t-s}{\epsilon} f(\frac{\delta}{\sqrt{d}(t-s)})\right)$$

(b) *for each $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}^d} H^n(u, p; k) < \infty$*

(c) *for each $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and each compact subset $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$,*

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \sup_{u \in K} |H^n(u, p; k) - H(u, p; k)| = 0 \tag{4.12}$$

(d) *for each $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$, the sequence of probability measures $\mu^n(dv|u, k), n \in \mathbb{N}$ converges weakly to a probability measure $\mu(dv|u, k)$ on $\mathbb{R}^d$ and for each $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$,*

$$H(u, p; k) = \log \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{pv} \mu(dv|u, k).$$

The family $\mu(dv|u, k), u \in \mathbb{R}^d, k \in \hat{E}$ defines a stochastic kernel on $\mathbb{R}^d$ given $\mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{E}$. In addition, the function mapping $u \in \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mu(\cdot|u, k) \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is continuous in the topology of weak convergence on $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Step 5: In order to study the Laplace principle for the process X^n, we need to verify the asymptotic behavior of

$$W^n(u) := -\frac{1}{c_n} \log \mathbb{E}_u(\exp(-c_n h(X^n))), \tag{4.13}$$

where $\mathbb{E}_u$ denotes the expectation with respect to $\mathbb{P}_u$ and h is any bounded continuous function mapping $\mathbf{C}([0,T],\mathbb{R}^d)$ into $\mathbb{R}$. We will show that this is equal to the minimal cost of function of an associated stochastic control problem.

We now specify the stochastic control problem whose minimal cost function gives a representation for the function $W^n(u)$. The controlled process is a discrete-time process $\bar{X}_j^n$, $j=0,1,\ldots,c_n-1$, and at each time t there will be a control ν_j^n giving the distributions of the controlled random variable that replaces this noise due to the increments. ν_j^n is a stochastic kernels on $(\mathbb{R}^d)^{j+1}$, denoted by $\nu_j^n(dv)=\nu_j^n(dv|\bar{X}_0^n,\ldots,\bar{X}_j^n)$. A sequence of controls $\{\nu_{1,j}^n,\ j=0,1,\ldots,c_n-1\}$ is called an admissible control sequence.

Then, as in [3] (Theorem 4.3.1) we get the variational representation of W_u^n as

$$W^n(u)=\inf_{\nu_j^n}\bar{\mathbb{E}}_u\{\sum_{j=0}^{c_n-1}\left[\frac{1}{c_n}R(\nu_j^n(\cdot)||\mu(\cdot|\bar{X}_j^n,k)\right]+h(\bar{X}^n\} \tag{4.14}$$

where the infimum is taken over all admissible control sequences $\{\nu_j^n\}$. For $n\in\mathbb{N}$ and $t\in[0,T]$, define the stochastic kernel

$$\nu^n(dv|t):=\begin{cases}\nu_j^n(dv), & t\in[\frac{Tj}{c_n},\frac{T(j+1)}{c_n}), \quad j=0,1,\ldots,c_n-2\\ \nu_{c_n-1}^n(dv), & t\in[\frac{T(c_n-1)}{c_n},T]\end{cases}$$

The following representation holds (similar as in [3] (Corollary 5.2.1))

$$W^n(u)=\inf_{\nu_j^n}\bar{\mathbb{E}}_u\{\int_0^T R(\nu_1^n(\cdot|t)||\mu(\cdot|\tilde{X}^n(t))+h(\bar{X}^n)\} \tag{4.15}$$

where $\tilde{X}^n=\{\tilde{X}^n(t),t\in[0,T]\}$ is the piecewise constant interpolation of the controlled random variables $\{\bar{X}_j^n,j=0,1,\ldots,c_n-1\}$.

Step 6: Laplace principle upper bound

Let $I_{u,k}(\varphi):=\int_0^T L(\varphi(t),\dot{\varphi}(t),k)dt$ where L is the Legendre-Fenchel transform defined in (4.9). Then $I_{u,k}$ is a rate function and

$$\limsup_{n\to\infty}\frac{1}{c_n}\log\mathbb{E}_u(\exp(-c_nh(X^n)))\leq-\inf_{\varphi\in\mathbf{C}([0,T],\mathbf{R}^d)}(I_{u,k}(\varphi)+h(\varphi)) \tag{4.16}$$

Indeed, first it can be shown that $I_{u,k}$ has compact level sets in $\mathbf{C}([0,T],\mathbb{R}^d)$ by using parts (b) and (c) of the Proposition 4.6, which implies that $I_{u,k}$ is a rate function. Then using part (h) of Proposition 4.5 we will get

$$\liminf_{n\to\infty}W^n(u)\geq\inf_{\varphi\in\mathbf{C}([0,T],\mathbf{R}^d)}(I_{u,k}(\varphi)+h(\varphi)).$$

Step 7: Laplace principle lower bound.

In order to prove the Laplace principle lower bound we need to characterize the relative interior of the effective domain of $L(u,\cdot;k)$ in terms of the stochastic kernel $\mu(dv|u,k)$. This is done in part (d) of Proposition 4.5.

For A, B subsets of $\mathbb{R}^d$ define

$$A + B := \{u \in \mathbb{R}^d : u = a + b, a \in A, b \in B\}.$$

A subset C of $\mathbb{R}^d$ is called a convex cone if it has the property that for $c \in C$, $\lambda c \in C\ \forall \lambda \in [0,\infty)$. Denote $conC$ for the convex cone of C.

We can rewrite $H(u,p;k)$ as

$$H(u,p;k) = \hat{b}(u;k)p + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (e^{vp} - 1)\hat{\Gamma}(u,dv;k)$$

where

$$\hat{b}(u;k) := \hat{a}(u;k) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} v\hat{\Gamma}(u,dv;k)$$

Let $S_{\hat{\Gamma}_{(u,k)}}$ be the support of $\hat{\Gamma}_{(u,k)}$ and define $T_{(u,k)} := \{\hat{b}(u;k)\} + conS_{\hat{\Gamma}_{(u,k)}}$.

The relative interior $ri(domL(u,\cdot;k)) = ri(T_{(u,k)})$ and the following properties hold:

(a) The sets $intT_{(u,k)}$ are independent of $(u,k) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \hat{E}$
(b) $0 \in intT_{(u,k)}$

With similar arguments as in Theorem 6.5.1 [3] it can be proved that

$$\limsup_{n\to\infty} W^n(u,k) \le \inf_{\varphi\in\mathbf{C}([0,T],\mathbb{R}^d)} (I_{uk}(\varphi) + h(\varphi)).$$

This gives the Laplace principle lower bound for X^n.

$$\liminf_{n\to\infty} \frac{1}{c_n} \log \mathbb{E}_u(\exp(-c_n h(X^n))) \ge - \inf_{\varphi\in\mathbf{C}([0,T],\mathbb{R}^d)} (I_{uk}(\varphi) + h(\varphi)). \tag{4.17}$$

Thus the Laplace principle is proved for the random walk X^n and therefore for the process ζ^n.

Step 8: Laplace principle holds for the sequence ξ^{ϵ_n} because $\xi^{\epsilon_n}, \zeta^n$ are superexponentially closed, i.e.

$$\limsup_{n\to\infty} \sup_{u\in\mathbb{R}^d} \epsilon_n \log \mathbb{P}_u(\rho(\xi^{\epsilon_n}, \zeta^n) > \delta) = -\infty, \tag{4.18}$$

where ρ is Skorokhod metric on $\mathbf{D}([0,T],\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Thus, by Proposition 4.2 we obtain the large deviation principle for the sequence of random variables $\xi^\epsilon_t(u;k)$ with the rate function $I_{u,k}(\varphi) = \int_0^T L(\varphi(t),\dot{\varphi}(t);k)dt$. Using Lemma 4.3 we get the large deviation principle for the sequence of stochastic additive functionals ξ^ϵ with rate function $I_u(\varphi) = \min\{I_{u,k}(\varphi) : 1 \le k \le N\}$.

This completes the proof of the theorem. □

This principle has many applications, for example finding the probability of exit from a stable domain of the process. In some cases the infimum can be explicitly found by using calculus of variations. The class of absolutely continuous functions on $[0, T]$ can be identified with the Sobolev space $H^{1,1}[0, T]$, and since the Legendre-Fenchel function $L(u, q; k)$ verifies the conditions of Tonelli's existence theorem (Theorem 3.7 [1]), the existence of the minimizer will follow. If $\varphi \in AC[0, T]$ is a local minimizer of the functional $L(\varphi, \varphi')$, then φ will satisfy the Euler-Lagrange equation which will be further simplified to the Beltrami equation: $L(\varphi, \varphi') - \varphi' L_{\varphi'}(\varphi, \varphi') = C$, where C is a constant.

Example 4.7 (Compound Poisson process)**.** Consider the compound Poisson process $\xi^\epsilon(t)$, $t \geq 0$ switched by the jump Markov process $x(t)$, $t \geq 0$ defined in Example 3.2, of the form

$$\xi^\epsilon(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\nu(t/\epsilon; x(t/\epsilon)} a_k(x(\frac{t}{\epsilon}))$$

with the infinitesimal generator given by

$$\mathbb{\Gamma}^\epsilon(x)\phi(u) = \frac{\Lambda(x)}{\epsilon} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [\phi(u + \epsilon v) - \phi(u)] F(dv; x).$$

Here $\nu(t; x)$, $t \geq 0$, $x \in E = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ is a homogeneous Poisson process, with intensity $\Lambda(x)$ and $a_k(x), k \geq 1, x \in E$ is a sequence of i.i.d. random variables, independent of $\nu(t)$, $t \geq 0$, with common distribution $F(dv; x)$.

Using notation $\hat{a}(k) = \int_{E_k} \pi_k(dx) a(x)$, this process converges weakly,

$$\xi^\epsilon(t) \Rightarrow \int_0^t \hat{a}(\hat{x}(s)) ds, \quad \text{as } \epsilon \to 0.$$

Applying the operator $H^\epsilon f^\epsilon$ as in equation (4.5) we get the limitting operator Hf as follows

$$Hf(u, x) = \Lambda(x) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [e^{vf'(u)} - 1] F(dv, x).$$

For tractability purposes, let's suppose that $F(dv; x)$ is independent of x. Then the projected operator $\hat{H}f$ is

$$\hat{H}f(u, k) = \hat{\Lambda}(k) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [e^{vf'(u)} - 1] F(dv)$$

where $\hat{\Lambda}(k) = \int_{E_k} \pi_k(dx) \Lambda(x)$. Hence, $\hat{\Lambda}(1) = \frac{2\lambda_1\mu_1}{\lambda_1 + \mu_1}$ and $\hat{\Lambda}(2) = \frac{2\lambda_2\mu_2}{\lambda_2 + \mu_2}$. Assume that the random variables $a_k(x)$ are distributed exponential with the parameter λ. Then the function $H(p; k), p \in \mathbb{R}, k \in \hat{E} = \{1, 2\}$ defined in the relation 4.8 is

$$H(p; k) = \hat{\Lambda}(k) \frac{p}{\lambda - p}, \quad \lambda > p$$

The Legendre-Fenchel transform $L(q;k) = \sup_{p\in\mathbb{R}}\{pq - H(p;k)\}$ becomes

$$L(q;k) = \lambda q - 2\sqrt{\lambda q\hat{\Lambda}(k)} + \hat{\Lambda}(k),$$

the supremum being attained for $p = \lambda - \sqrt{\frac{\lambda\hat{\Lambda}(k)}{q}}$. Therefore, for $T > 0$ arbitrary fixed, and for absolutely continuous functions $\varphi \in \mathbf{D}([0,T],\mathbb{R})$, with $\varphi(0) = 0$, the process ξ^ϵ satisfies the large deviation principle. Its rate function is $I(\varphi) = \min_{k=1,2} I_k(\varphi)$, where $I_k(\varphi) = \int_0^T L(\varphi'(t);k)dt$ and $L(\varphi'(t)) = \lambda\varphi'(t) - 2\sqrt{\lambda\varphi'(t)\hat{\Lambda}(k)} + \hat{\Lambda}(k)$.

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