Mathematical proofs + Synthetic Simulations

Andreas Philippou

May 2025

1 Progress

I have proved u_{MF}^* , x_{MF}^* , u_{MB}^* and x_{MB}^* for my model. I also see how u_{MF}^* causes sub-row stochasticity but that is okay because λ -connectivity remains. x_{MB}^* was found using KKT (I watched some videos about it on YouTube). I want to prove theorem 3, but I am finding it quite difficult, I am still working on it.

2 Reminder of cost function

$$\theta_m(x(t), u(t)) = \|x(t) - u(t)1_n\|_2^2 + a(n) \cdot \|u(t)\|^2 \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)}$$
(1)

$$a(n) = \rho \cdot n \tag{2}$$

3 Finding x_{MF}^* (and u_{MF}^*)

3.0.1 Finding u_{MF}^*

The model-free approach solves:

$$u_{MF}^{*}(t) = \arg\min_{u \in [0,1]} \theta_{m}(x(t), u)$$
 (3)

Expanding θ_m :

$$\theta_m(x(t), u(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i(t) - u(t))^2 + \rho \cdot n \cdot u(t)^2 \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)}$$
(4)

To find the minimum:

$$\frac{\partial \theta_m}{\partial u} = -2\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i(t) - u(t)) + 2\rho \cdot n \cdot u(t) \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)} = 0$$
(5)

Simplifying:

$$-2\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i(t) + 2n \cdot u(t) + 2\rho \cdot n \cdot u(t) \cdot e^{-\lambda(t-t_c)} = 0$$
(6)

$$2n \cdot u(t) \cdot (1 + \rho \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)}) = 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i(t)$$
 (7)

Solving for u(t) gives $u_{MF}^*(t)$

$$u_{MF}^{*}(t) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i(t)}{n(1 + \rho \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)})}$$
(8)

3.0.2 Finding x_{MF}^*

System dynamics:

$$x(t+1) = Ax(t) + Bu(t) + \Lambda x(0) \tag{9}$$

Substituting in u_{MF}^* :

$$x(t+1) = Ax(t) + \frac{B \cdot 1_n^T}{n(1 + \rho \cdot e^{-\lambda(t-t_c)})} x(t) + \Lambda x(0)$$
(10)

This can be rewritten as:

$$x(t+1) = (I_n - \Lambda)Fx(t) + \Lambda x(0) \tag{11}$$

where:

$$F = W + \frac{w_{rec} 1_n^T}{n(1 + \rho \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)})}$$
 (12)

3.0.3 F matrix analysis

The F matrix can be seen as an adjacency graph. It is sub-row stochastic so satisfies . The sub-stochastic is a direct effect of the mitigation of extreme opinions.

3.0.4 Finding x_{MF}^* (continued)

At steady state, $x(t+1) = x(t) = x_{MF}^*$:

$$x_{MF}^* = (I_n - \Lambda)Fx_{MF}^* + \Lambda x(0) \tag{13}$$

Rearranging:

$$(I_n - (I_n - \Lambda)F)x_{MF}^* = \Lambda x(0) \tag{14}$$

Substituting F and then replacing with $A = (I_n - \Lambda)W$ and $B = (I_n - \Lambda)w_{rec}$:

$$\left(I_n - A - \frac{B \cdot 1_n^T}{n(1 + \rho \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)})}\right) x_{MF}^* = \Lambda x(0) \tag{15}$$

So:

$$x_{MF}^* = \left(I_n - A - \frac{B \cdot 1_n^T}{n(1 + \rho \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)})}\right)^{-1} \Lambda x(0)$$
 (16)

4 Finding x_{MB}^* (and u_{MB}^*)

The model-based approach solves:

$$(x_{MB}^*, u_{MB}^*) = \arg\min_{x,u} \theta_m(x, u)$$
 (17)

subject to
$$x = Ax + Bu + \Lambda x(0)$$
, (18)

$$u \in [0, 1] \tag{19}$$

where $\theta_m(x, u) = ||x - u\mathbf{1}_n||_2^2 + \rho n||u||^2 e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)}$

4.0.1 Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(x, u, \mu, \alpha, \beta) = \theta_m(x, u) + \mu^T(x - Ax - Bu - \Lambda x(0)) + \alpha(u - 1) + \beta(-u)$$

4.0.2 Gradients

$$\nabla_x \theta_m(x, u) = 2(x - u\mathbf{1}_n) \tag{20}$$

$$\nabla_u \theta_m(x, u) = -2\mathbf{1}_n^T x + 2nu + 2\rho nu \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)}$$
(21)

4.0.3 Stationarity Conditions

$$\nabla_x \mathcal{L} = 2(x - u\mathbf{1}_n) + \mu - A^T \mu = 0$$
(22)

$$\nabla_u \mathcal{L} = -2\mathbf{1}_n^T x + 2nu + 2\rho nu \cdot e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)} - B^T \mu + \alpha - \beta = 0$$
(23)

4.0.4 From First Stationarity Condition

$$\mu = (I_n - A^T)^{-1}(-2(x - u\mathbf{1}_n))$$

4.0.5 From Equality Constraint

$$x = Ax + Bu + \Lambda x(0) \tag{24}$$

$$x = (I_n - A)^{-1}(Bu + \Lambda x(0))$$
(25)

$$v = (I_n - A)^{-1}B (26)$$

$$z = (I_n - A)^{-1} \Lambda x(0) \tag{27}$$

Therefore: x = vu + z

4.0.6 Substituting into Second Stationarity Condition

Substituting μ and redefined x into $\nabla_{\mu}\mathcal{L}$:

$$\nabla_{u}\mathcal{L} = -2\mathbf{1}_{n}^{T}(vu+z) + 2nu + 2\rho nu \cdot e^{-\lambda(t-t_{c})} - B^{T}(I_{n} - A^{T})^{-1}(-2((vu+z) - u\mathbf{1}_{n})) + \alpha - \beta$$
 (28)

4.0.7 Simplifying equation

 $B^T(I_n - A^T)^{-1}$ can also be defines as:

$$v^{T} = B^{T} (I_{n} - A^{T})^{-1} (29)$$

This can be found by applying properties of transpose matrices. This allows to simplify further:

$$\nabla_{u}\mathcal{L} = -2\mathbf{1}_{n}^{T}vu - 2\mathbf{1}_{n}^{T}z + 2nu + 2\rho nu \cdot e^{-\lambda(t-t_{c})} + 2v^{T}vu + 2v^{T}z - 2v^{T}u\mathbf{1}_{n} + \alpha - \beta$$
(30)

4.0.8 Collecting Terms with u

$$\nabla_{u}\mathcal{L} = \left[-2\mathbf{1}_{n}^{T}v + 2n + 2\rho n \cdot e^{-\lambda(t-t_{c})} + 2v^{T}v - 2v^{T}\mathbf{1}_{n}\right]u + 2v^{T}z - 2\mathbf{1}_{n}^{T}z + \alpha - \beta \tag{31}$$

For simplicity:

$$k = e^{-\lambda(t - t_c)} \tag{32}$$

$$q = -\mathbf{1}_n^T v + n + v^T v - v^T \mathbf{1}_n \tag{33}$$

$$s = -(v^T z - \mathbf{1}_n^T z) \tag{34}$$

Giving:

$$\nabla_u \mathcal{L} = 2(q + \rho nk)u - 2s + \alpha - \beta \tag{35}$$

(36)

Since $\nabla_u \mathcal{L} = 0$, we can find an equation defining u.

$$u = \frac{2s + \beta - \alpha}{2(q + \rho nk)} \tag{37}$$

4.0.9 Interior Solution (0 < u < 1)

$$\alpha = 0, \beta = 0 \tag{38}$$

$$u_{MB}^* = \frac{s}{q + \rho nk} \tag{39}$$

So:

$$x_{MB}^* = v u_{MB}^* + z (40)$$

5 Next Steps

- \bullet Finish theorem 3 (MB convergence)
- Try simulations with many users (100+)
- Make different simulations to get different results
- Improve the BEP paper based on all new progress
- \bullet re-do the presentation