

Optimal Control Problems in Wasserstein Spaces

Pontryagin Maximum Principle

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**12th International Young Researcher Workshop on
Mechanics, Geometry and Control**

Outline of the talk

- 1 Introduction and motivations
- 2 Optimal transport theory
- 3 Optimal control problems & Pontryagin Maximum Principle

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Introduction and motivation - Pedestrian modelling

Motivations coming from crowds, animal swarms, cells & opinion dynamics on large networks...



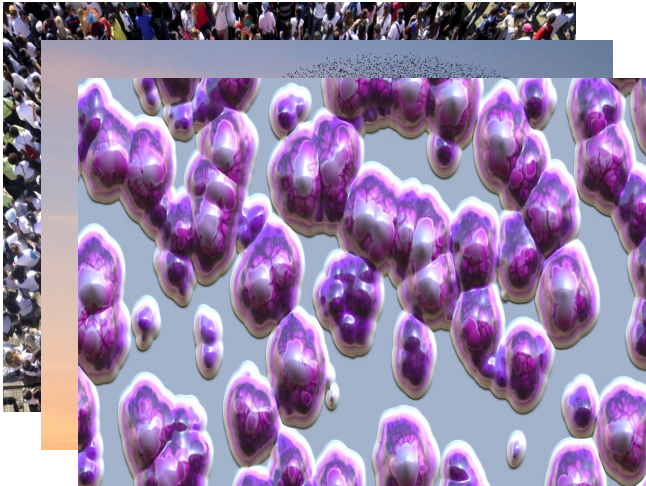
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Example (1-dimensional voting intentions)

Many voting systems are subject to the **spoiler effect**

↪ *Opinions tend to cluster locally around strong poles*



Winning strategy for a centrist candidate ?

Goal : Enforce a centrist majority at minimal cost

↔ Bounded actions (daily allowances) and Lipschitz constraints
(coherent impact on the opinion)



⁰ YouTube channel : CGP Grey

Example (Finite dim. Drift + Convolution)

Given a system of N agents $(x_1, \dots, x_N) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^N$ evolving according to

$$\dot{x}_i(t) = v_d(x_i) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \phi(x_i - x_j) + u_i(t), \quad (S_N)$$

Objective : design a set of control laws $t \mapsto (u_1(t), \dots, u_N(t))$ achieving a certain goal, e.g. forming a consensus, etc...

Issues related to the formulation (S_N)

- ◇ No a priori knowledge of the crowd (number of agents, exact positions, etc...)
- ◇ Not relevant consider individual controls for large models
- ◇ Extremely demanding computationally speaking

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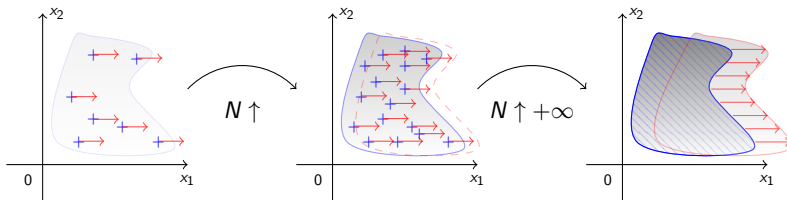
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Introduction and motivation - *Mean field approximation*

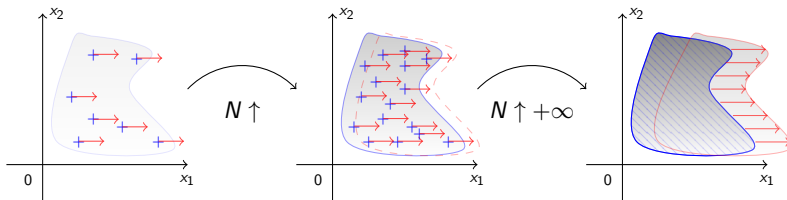
Idea : Approximate the large crowd by a single PDE through a *mean-field process*



Interesting for pedestrian modelling and crowd control

↔ Deal with intractable control / optimal control problems on large crowds through the PDE model

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Introduction and motivations - *Transport PDE*

In the **mean-field limit**, crowds are described by *transport equations with non-local velocities*

$$\partial_t \mu(t) + \nabla \cdot (v[\mu(t)](\cdot) \mu(t)) = 0. \quad (S_\infty)$$

Example (Drift + Convolution model)

$$v[\mu](x) = v_d(x) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi(x - y) d\mu(y)$$

If $\mu(t) \equiv \mu_N(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{x_i(t)}$ sum of Dirac masses, then

$$(S_\infty) \iff \dot{x}_i = v_d(x_i) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \phi(x_i - x_j),$$

Hint : *There is a natural correspondence between ODEs and Transport PDEs through $(x_1, \dots, x_N) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^N \mapsto \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{x_i}$*

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The **controlled version** of (S_∞) writes

$$\partial_t \mu(t) + \nabla \cdot ((v[\mu(t)](\cdot) + u(t, \cdot))\mu(t)) = 0,$$

where the controls **depend on time and space**.

Question : Choice of the state space

Dirac masses \implies distributional spaces (measures, distributions...)

Problem : Distributional topologies are not very 'explicit'

\hookrightarrow Space of probability measures endowed with an optimal transportation metric !

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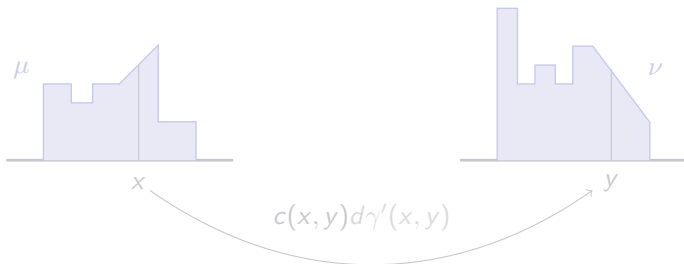
Optimal transport theory - *Kantorovich problem*

Kantorovich problem (1942) - (OT_K)

Given two probability measures $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and a cost function $c : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, **find a measure** $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^{2d})$ such that

$$(i) \quad \gamma \in \Gamma(\mu, \nu) = \left\{ \gamma \in \mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^{2d}) \text{ s.t. } \pi_{\#}^1 \gamma = \mu, \pi_{\#}^2 \gamma = \nu \right\},$$

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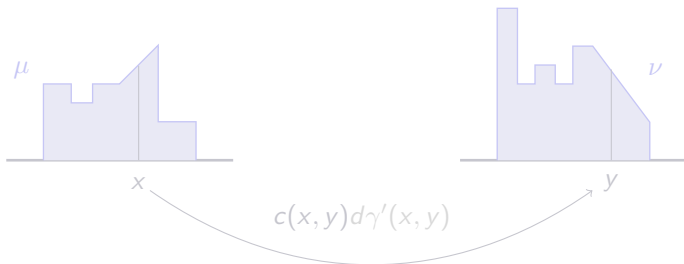
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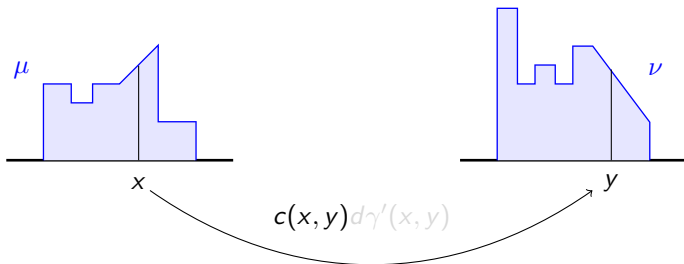
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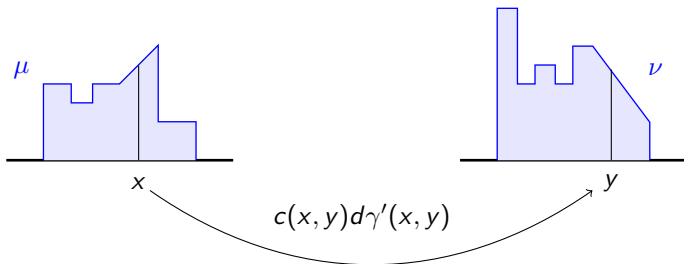
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Optimal transport theory - Wasserstein spaces

Definition (Wasserstein distance and spaces)

\hookrightarrow When $c(x, y) = |x - y|^p$, (OT_K) defines a distance over $\mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^d)$ called the *Wasserstein distance* of order p .

$$W_p(\mu, \nu) = \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\mu, \nu)} \left\{ \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} |x - y|^p d\gamma(x, y) \right)^{1/p} \right\}$$

\hookrightarrow It metrizes the weak-* topology of measures.

\hookrightarrow The space $(\mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^d), W_p)$ is a complete and separable metric space called *Wasserstein space* of order p .

Additional structure when $p = 2$ (Ambrosio, Gigli, Gangbo, ...)

\hookrightarrow The space $(\mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^d), W_2)$ has the structure of a *weak Riemannian manifold* : geodesic space, tangent bundle, 1st & 2nd order differentiation theory... \rightarrow **Perfect for control theory!**

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Theorem (Ambrosio, Gangbo '07 - Piccoli, Rossi '13)

Under Cauchy-Lipschitz type assumptions, the Cauchy problem

$$\partial_t \mu(t) + \nabla \cdot (v[\mu(t)](t, \cdot) \mu(t)) = 0, \quad \mu(0) = \mu^0 \in \mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^d)$$

has a unique Lipschitz solution and is continuous w.r.t. its initial datum.

The solution $t \mapsto \mu(t)$ is given explicitly by

$$\mu(t) = \Phi_{(0,t)}^v(\cdot)_{\#} \mu^0$$

where $(\Phi_{(0,t)}^v(\cdot))_t$ is the flow generated by $v[\cdot]$, i.e.

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General optimal control problem in the space $(\mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^d), W_1)$

$$(\mathcal{P}_{OC}) \quad \begin{cases} \min_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \left[\int_0^T L(\mu(t), u(t)) dt + \varphi(\mu(T)) \right] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t \mu(t) + \nabla \cdot ((v[\mu(t)](t, \cdot) + u(t, \cdot))\mu(t)) = 0, \\ \mu(0) = \mu^0 \in \mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^d), \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

Classical questions: Existence of minimizers, optimality conditions, efficient algorithms, etc...

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- ◇ **Numerical methods** : Good methods in the transport + diffusion case (*Albi, Pareschi, Toscani, Zanella,...*). More difficult for pure transport.
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where the control set \mathcal{U} is defined by

$$\mathcal{U} = \left\{ u \in L^1([0, T], C^1(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^d)) \text{ s.t. } \|u(t)\|_{C^1(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq M \right\}$$

Question : Choice of the control set \mathcal{U}

\Leftrightarrow Cauchy-Lipschitz requires $u(t) \in \text{Lip}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^d) + \text{sublinear}$.

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Theorem (Unconstrained and smooth PMP on \mathbb{R}^d)

Let $(u^*(\cdot), x^*(\cdot))$ be an optimal pair control-trajectory for the problem

$$\begin{cases} \min_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \left[\int_0^T L(x(t), u(t)) dt + \varphi(x(T)) \right] \\ \dot{x}(t) = f(t, x(t), u(t)) , \quad x(0) = x^0. \end{cases}$$

Then, there exists a curve $p^*(\cdot)$ called *costate* such that

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◇ Couple state-costate $(x^*(\cdot), p^*(\cdot)) \in \text{Lip}([0, T], \mathbb{R}^{2d})$

\hookrightarrow measures $\nu^*(\cdot) \in \text{Lip}([0, T], \mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^{2d}))$ on the product space.

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The **Wasserstein subdifferential** $\partial\phi(\mu)$ of $\phi : \mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ at $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is the set of maps $\xi \in L^2(\mu)$ satisfying

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If $(u^*(\cdot), \mu^*(\cdot))$ is an optimal pair for (\mathcal{P}_{OC}) , there exists a curve $\nu^*(\cdot) \in \text{Lip}([0, T], \mathcal{P}_c(\mathbb{R}^{2d}))$, Lipschitz in the W_1 metric, and solution of

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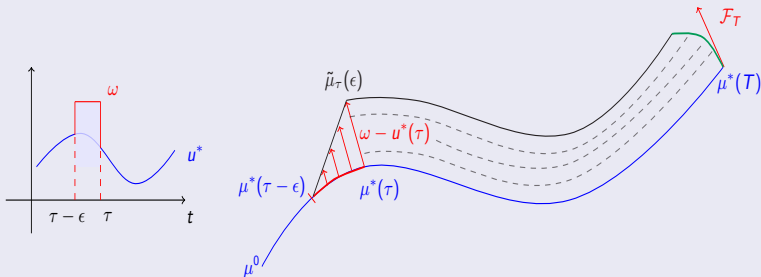
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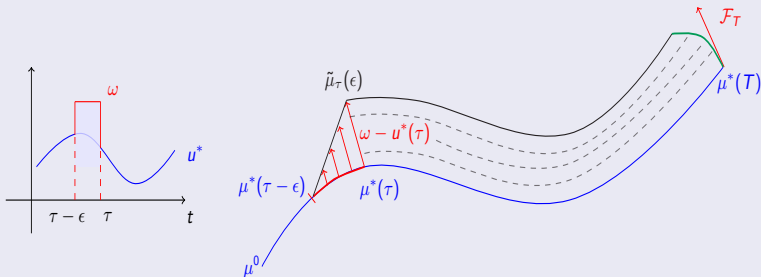
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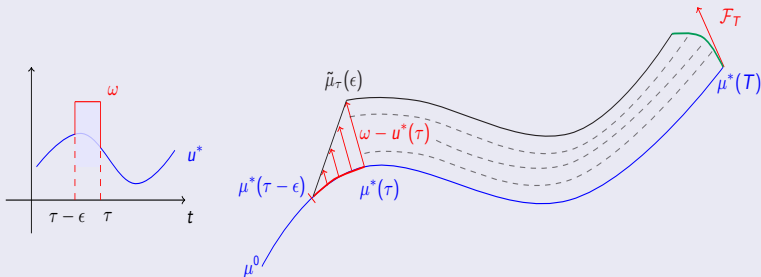
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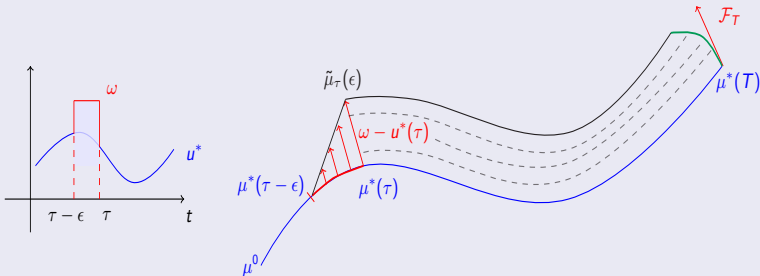
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Developments with (and without) PMP flavours

- ◇ Numerical simulations and indirect methods using the PMP.
- ◇ Geometric PMP formulated in terms of the symplectic structure in Wasserstein spaces.
- ◇ Applications to optimal covering problems.

Thank you for your attention !