

Numerical Methods for Mean Field Games

Lecture 3

Classical Numerical Methods: Part II *FBPDE and FBSDE systems*

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Outline

1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

5. Conclusion

- Here we will focus on the continuous time and space setting
- We have seen two types of **forward-backward** systems:
 - ▶ **PDE** systems: Kolmogorov-Fokker-Planck (KFP) and Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman (HJB)
 - ▶ **SDE** systems of McKean-Vlasov (MKV) type
- We will describe methods based on both approaches
- There are two questions to design a **numerical method**:
 - ▶ Discretization → numerical **scheme**
 - ▶ Computation → **algorithm**

Goal: (1) introduce and (2) solve a discrete version of the MFG PDE system:

$$\begin{cases} 0 = -\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t, x) - \nu \Delta u(t, x) + H(x, m(t, \cdot), \nabla u(t, x)), \\ 0 = \frac{\partial m}{\partial t}(t, x) - \nu \Delta m(t, x) - \operatorname{div}(m(t, \cdot) \partial_p H(\cdot, m(t), \nabla u(t, \cdot))) (x), \\ u(T, x) = g(x, m(T, \cdot)), \quad m(0, x) = m_0(x) \end{cases}$$

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Desirable properties for (1):

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For (2): Once we have a discrete system, how can we compute its solution?

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- Algorithms
- A Semi-Lagrangian Scheme

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Semi-implicit finite difference scheme from [Achdou and Capuzzo-Dolcetta, 2010]

Discretization:

- For simplicity we consider the domain \mathbb{T} = one-dimensional (unit) torus.
- Let $\nu = \sigma^2/2$.
- We consider N_h and N_T steps respectively in space and time.
- Let $h = 1/N_h$ and $\Delta t = T/N_T$. Let \mathbb{T}_h = discretized torus.
- We approximate $m_0(x_i)$ by ρ_i^0 such that $h \sum_i \rho_i^0 = 1$.

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Then we introduce the following **discrete operators** : for $\varphi \in \mathbb{R}^{N_T+1}$ and $\psi \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h}$

- **time derivative** : $(D_t \varphi)^n := \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \varphi^n}{\Delta t}, \quad 0 \leq n \leq N_T - 1$
- **Laplacian** : $(\Delta_h \psi)_i := -\frac{1}{h^2} (2\psi_i - \psi_{i+1} - \psi_{i-1}), \quad 0 \leq i \leq N_h$
- **partial derivative** : $(D_h \psi)_i := \frac{\psi_{i+1} - \psi_i}{h}, \quad 0 \leq i \leq N_h$
- **gradient** : $[\nabla_h \psi]_i := ((D_h \psi)_i, (D_h \psi)_{i-1}), \quad 0 \leq i \leq N_h$

For simplicity, we assume that the drift b and the costs f and g are of the form

$$b(x, \mathbf{m}, \alpha) = \alpha, \quad f(x, \mathbf{m}, \alpha) = L(x, \alpha) + \mathfrak{f}_0(x, \mathbf{m}), \quad g(x, \mathbf{m}) = \mathfrak{g}_0(x, \mathbf{m}).$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Then

$$H(x, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{p}) = \max_{\alpha} \{-L(x, \alpha) - \langle \alpha, \mathbf{p} \rangle\} - \mathfrak{f}_0(x, \mathbf{m}) = H_0(x, \mathbf{p}) - \mathfrak{f}_0(x, \mathbf{m})$$

where H_0 is the convex conjugate (also denoted L^*) of L with respect to α :

$$H_0(x, \mathbf{p}) = L^*(x, \mathbf{p}) = \sup_{\alpha} \{\langle \alpha, \mathbf{p} \rangle - L(x, \alpha)\}$$

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Discrete Hamiltonian: $(x, \mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2) \mapsto \tilde{H}_0(x, \mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2)$ satisfying:

- Monotonicity: decreasing w.r.t. p_1 and increasing w.r.t. p_2
- Consistency with H_0 : for every x, p , $\tilde{H}_0(x, p, p) = H_0(x, p)$
- Differentiability: for every x , $(p_1, p_2) \mapsto \tilde{H}_0(x, p_1, p_2)$ is \mathcal{C}^1
- Convexity: for every x , $(p_1, p_2) \mapsto \tilde{H}_0(x, p_1, p_2)$ is convex

Example: if $H_0(x, \mathbf{p}) = |\mathbf{p}|^2$, a possible choice is $\tilde{H}_0(x, \mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2) = (p_1^-)^2 + (p_2^+)^2$

Discrete solution: We replace $u, m : [0, T] \times \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by vectors

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The **HJB equation**

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u(t, x) + \nu \Delta u(t, x) + H_0(x, \nabla u(t, x)) = f_0(x, m(t, x)) \\ u(T, x) = g_0(x, m(T, x)) \end{cases}$$

is discretized as:

$$\begin{cases} -(D_t U_i)^n - \nu (\Delta_h U^n)_i + \tilde{H}_0(x_i, [D_h U^n]_i) = f_0(x_i, M_i^{n+1}) \\ U_i^{N_T} = g_0(x_i, M_i^{N_T}) \end{cases}$$

The KFP equation

$$\partial_t m(t, x) - \nu \Delta m(t, x) + \operatorname{div} \left(m(t, x) \partial_q H(x, m(t), \nabla u(t, x)) \right) = 0, \quad m(0, x) = m_0(x)$$

is discretized as

$$(D_t M_i)^n - \nu (\Delta_h M^{n+1})_i - \mathcal{T}_i(U^n, M^{n+1}) = 0, \quad M_i^0 = \rho_i^0$$

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Here we use the **discrete transport operator** $\approx -\operatorname{div}(\dots)$

$$\mathcal{T}_i(U, M) := \frac{1}{h} \left(\begin{aligned} &M_i \partial_{p_1} \tilde{H}_0(x_i, [\nabla_h U]_i) - M_{i-1} \partial_{p_1} \tilde{H}_0(x_{i-1}, [\nabla_h U]_{i-1}) \\ &+ M_{i+1} \partial_{p_2} \tilde{H}_0(x_{i+1}, [\nabla_h U]_{i+1}) - M_i \partial_{p_2} \tilde{H}_0(x_i, [\nabla_h U]_i) \end{aligned} \right)$$

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Intuition: weak formulation & integration by parts

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} \operatorname{div} (m \partial_p H_0(x, \nabla u)) w = - \int_{\mathbb{T}} m \partial_p H_0(x, \nabla u) \cdot \nabla w$$

is discretized as

$$-h \sum_i \mathcal{T}_i(U, M) W_i = h \sum_i M_i \nabla_q \tilde{H}_0(x_i, [\nabla_h U]_i) \cdot [\nabla_h W]_i$$

Discrete forward-backward system:

$$\begin{cases} -(D_t U_i)^n - \nu(\Delta_h U^n)_i + \tilde{H}_0(x_i, [D_h U^n]_i) = f_0(x_i, M_i^{n+1}), & \forall n \leq N_T - 1 \\ (D_t M_i)^n - \nu(\Delta_h M^{n+1})_i - \mathcal{T}_i(U^n, M^{n+1}) = 0, & \forall n \leq N_T - 1 \\ M_i^0 = \rho_i^0, \quad U_i^{N_T} = g_0(x_i, M_i^{N_T}), & i = 0, \dots, N_h \end{cases}$$

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This scheme enjoys many nice properties, among which:

- It yields a monotone scheme for the KFP equation: **mass** and **positivity** are preserved
- **Convergence** to classical solution if monotonicity
[Achdou and Capuzzo-Dolcetta, 2010, Achdou et al., 2012]
- Can sometimes be used to show existence of a **weak** solution [Achdou and Porretta, 2016]
- The discrete KFP operator is the **adjoint** of the linearized Bellman operator
- **Existence** and **uniqueness** result for the discrete system
- It corresponds to the **optimality condition** of a discrete optimization problem (details later)

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Algo 1: Fixed Point Iterations

Input: Initial guess (\tilde{M}, \tilde{U}) ; damping $\delta(\cdot)$; number of iterations K

Output: Approximation of (\hat{M}, \hat{U}) solving the finite difference system

1 Initialize $M^{(0)} = \tilde{M}^{(0)} = \tilde{M}, U^{(0)} = \tilde{U}$

2 **for** $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K - 1$ **do**

3 Let $U^{(k+1)}$ be the solution to:

$$\begin{cases} -(D_t U_i)^n - \nu(\Delta_h U^n)_i + \tilde{H}_0(x_i, [D_h U^n]_i) = f_0(x_i, \tilde{M}_i^{(k), n+1}), & n \leq N_T - 1 \\ U_i^{N_T} = g_0(x_i, \tilde{M}_i^{(k), N_T}) \end{cases}$$

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5 Let $\tilde{M}^{(k+1)} = \delta(k)\tilde{M}^{(k)} + (1 - \delta(k))M^{(k+1)}$

6 **return** $(M^{(K)}, U^{(K)})$

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Remark: the HJB equation is **non-linear**

● **Idea 1:** replace $\tilde{H}_0(x_i, [D_h U^n]_i)$ by $\tilde{H}_0(x_i, [D_h U^{(k), n}]_i)$

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● **Idea 2:** use non linear solver to find a zero of $\mathbb{R}^{N_h \times (N_T + 1)} \ni U \mapsto \varphi(U) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times N_T}$,

$$\varphi(U) = \left(-(D_t U_i)^n - \nu(\Delta_h U^n)_i + \tilde{H}_0(x_i, [D_h U^n]_i) - f_0(x_i, \tilde{M}_i^{(k), n+1}) \right)_{i=0, \dots, N_h-1}^{n=0, \dots, N_T-1}$$

Code

Sample code to illustrate: [IPython notebook](#)

https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1shJWSD2MA5Fo7_rB625dAvNTdZS1a7bG?usp=sharing

- Finite difference scheme
- Solved by damped fixed point approach

Algo 2: Newton's Method for FD System

Idea: Directly look for a zero of $\varphi = (\varphi_U, \varphi_M)^\top$ with φ_U and φ_M s.t.

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_U(U, M) = 0 & \Leftrightarrow (U, M) \text{ solves discrete HJB equation} \\ \varphi_M(U, M) = 0 & \Leftrightarrow (U, M) \text{ solves discrete KFP equation} \end{cases}$$

- Let $X^{(k)} = (U^{(k)}, M^{(k)})^\top$
- Iterate: $X^{(k+1)} = X^{(k)} - J_\varphi(X^{(k)})^{-1} \varphi(X^{(k)})$

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- Or rather: $J_\varphi(X^{(k)})Y = -\varphi(X^{(k)})$, then $X^{(k+1)} = Y + X^{(k)}$

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Key step: Solve a linear system of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{U,U} & A_{U,M} \\ A_{M,U} & A_{M,M} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} U \\ M \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} G_U \\ G_M \end{pmatrix}$$

where $A_{U,M}(U, M) = \nabla_U \varphi_M(U, M)$, $A_{U,U}(U, M) = \nabla_U \varphi_U(U, M)$, ...

Linear system to be solved: $\begin{pmatrix} A_{\mathcal{U},\mathcal{U}} & A_{\mathcal{U},\mathcal{M}} \\ A_{\mathcal{M},\mathcal{U}} & A_{\mathcal{M},\mathcal{M}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} U \\ M \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} G_{\mathcal{U}} \\ G_{\mathcal{M}} \end{pmatrix}$

Structure: $A_{\mathcal{U},\mathcal{M}}, A_{\mathcal{M},\mathcal{U}}$ are block-diagonal, $A_{\mathcal{U},\mathcal{U}} = A_{\mathcal{M},\mathcal{M}}^\top$, and

$$A_{\mathcal{U},\mathcal{U}} = \begin{pmatrix} \textcolor{red}{D_1} & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{\Delta t} \text{Id}_{N_h} & \textcolor{red}{D_2} & \ddots & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 & -\frac{1}{\Delta t} \text{Id}_{N_h} & \textcolor{red}{D_{N_T}} \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\textcolor{red}{D_n}$ corresponds to the discrete operator

$$Z = (Z_{i,j})_{i,j} \mapsto \left(\frac{1}{\Delta t} Z_{i,j} - \nu (\Delta_h Z)_{i,j} + [\nabla_h Z]_{i,j} \cdot \nabla_p \tilde{H}_0(x_{i,j}, [\nabla_h U^{(k),n}]_{i,j}) \right)_{i,j}$$

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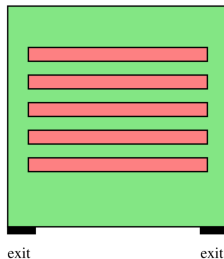
Rem. Initial guess $(U^{(0)}, M^{(0)})$ is important for Newton's method

- Idea 1: initialize with the ergodic solution
- Idea 2: continuation method w.r.t. ν (converges more easily with a large viscosity)

See [\[Achdou, 2013\]](#) for more details.

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

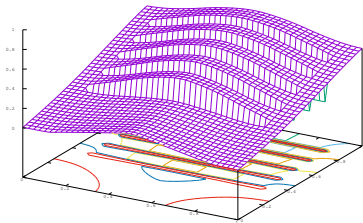
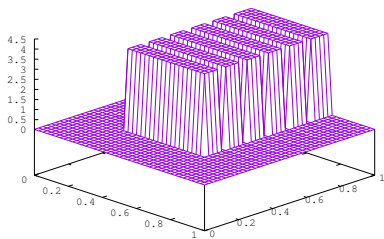
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [[Achdou and Laurière, 2020](#)]



Geometry of the room

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

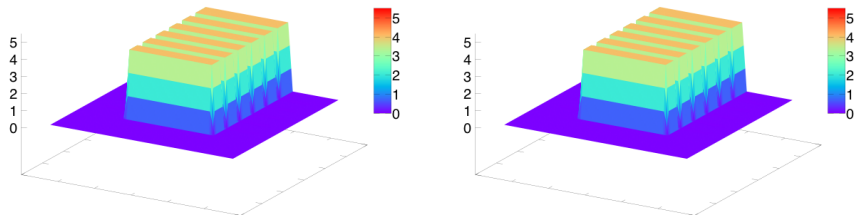
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Initial density (left) and final cost (right)

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

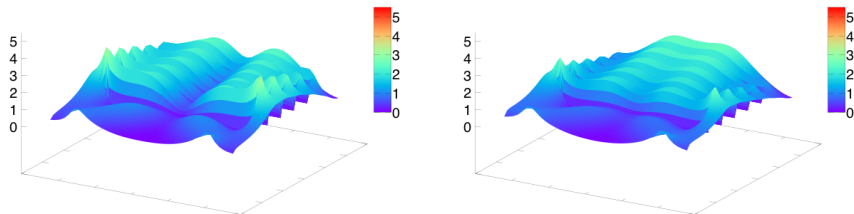
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [[Achdou and Laurière, 2020](#)]



Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

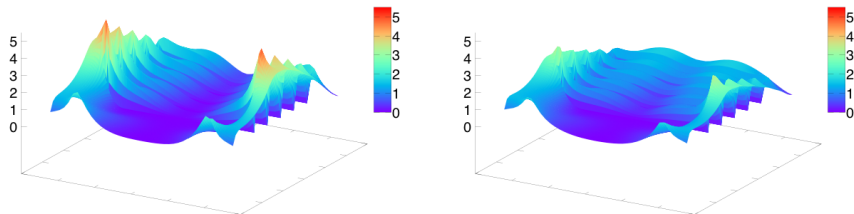
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [Achdou and Laurière, 2020]



Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

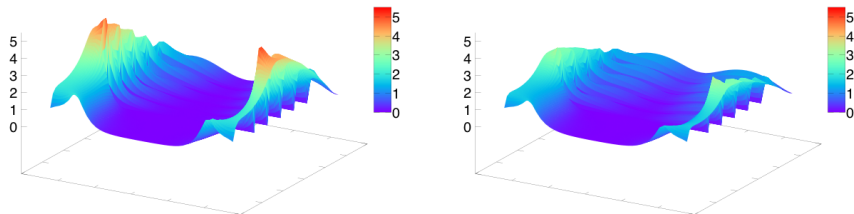
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Density in MFGame (left) and MFControl (right)

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

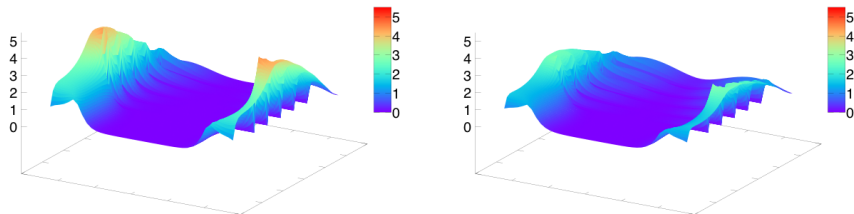
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [Achdou and Laurière, 2020]



Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

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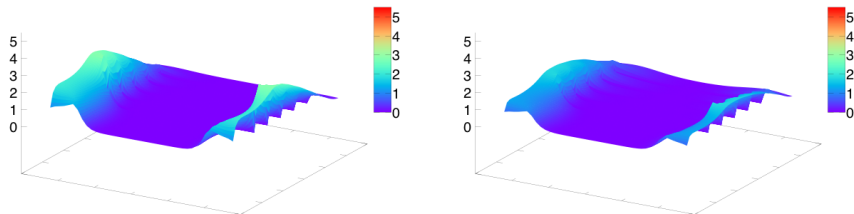
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [Achdou and Laurière, 2020]



Density in MFGame (left) and MFControl (right)

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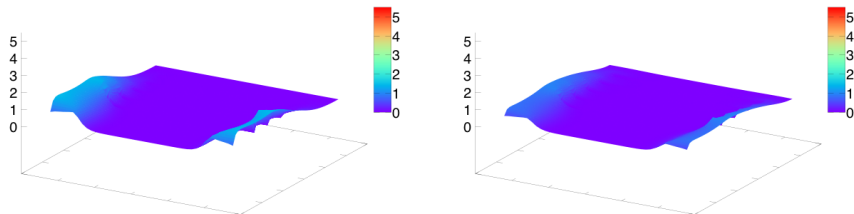
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [Achdou and Laurière, 2020]



Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

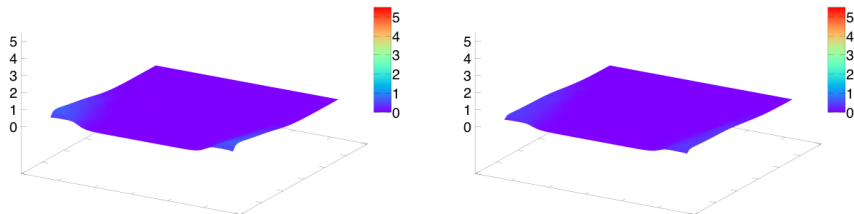
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [[Achdou and Laurière, 2020](#)]



Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

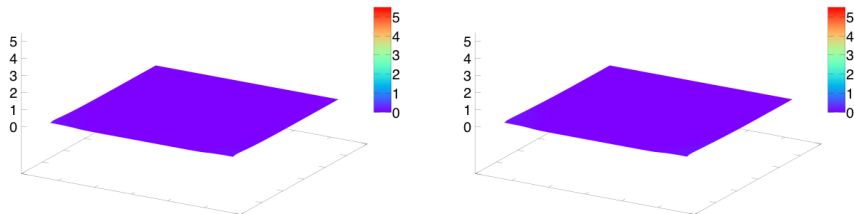
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [Achdou and Laurière, 2020]



Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

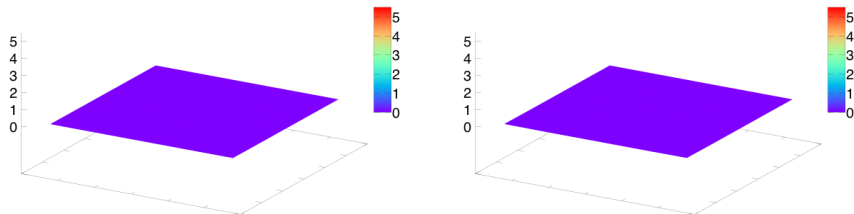
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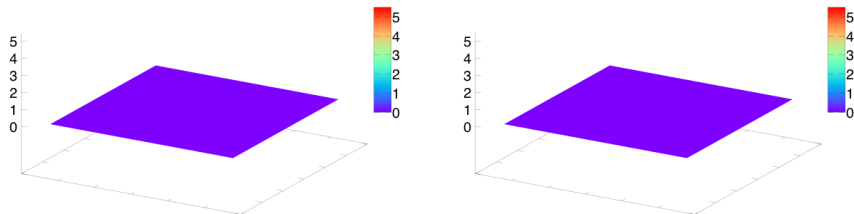
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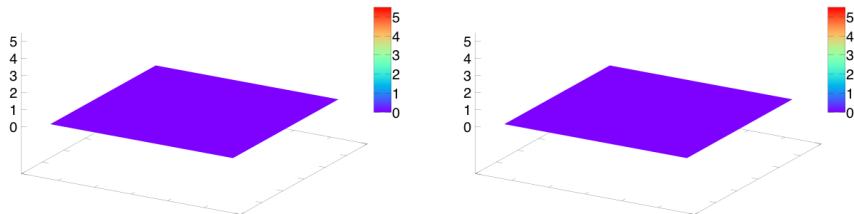
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Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

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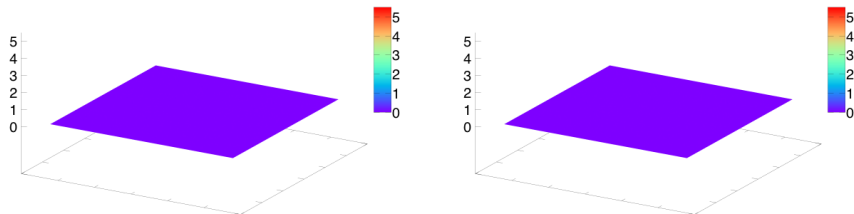
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [[Achdou and Laurière, 2020](#)]



Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

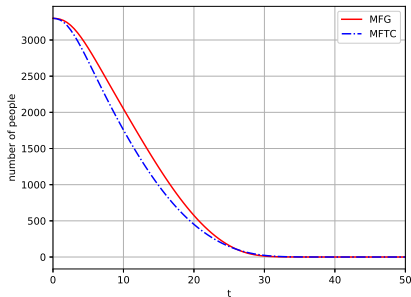
Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [[Achdou and Laurière, 2020](#)]



Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

Example: Exit of a Room – Remaining Mass

Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [Achdou and Laurière, 2020]



Remaining mass inside the room

1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

- A Finite Difference Scheme
- Algorithms
- **A Semi-Lagrangian Scheme**

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

5. Conclusion

- Scheme introduced by [Carlini and Silva, 2014]
- For simplicity: $d = 1$, domain $\mathcal{S} = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}$
- $\nu = 0$, degenerate second order case also possible; see [Carlini and Silva, 2015]
- Model:

$$b(x, m, \alpha) = \alpha$$

$$f(x, m, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2}|\alpha|^2 + f_0(x, m), \quad g(x, m)$$

where f_0 and g depend on $m \in \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R})$ in a potentially non-local way

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- MFG PDE system:

$$\begin{cases} -\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(t, x) + \frac{1}{2}|\nabla u(t, x)|^2 = f_0(x, m(t, \cdot)), & \text{in } [0, T) \times \mathbb{R}, \\ \frac{\partial m}{\partial t}(t, x) - \operatorname{div}(m(t, \cdot) \nabla u(t, \cdot))(x) = 0, & \text{in } (0, T] \times \mathbb{R}, \\ u(T, x) = g(x, m(T, \cdot)), \quad m(0, x) = m_0(x), & \text{in } \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

- Dynamics:

$$X_t^\alpha = X_0^\alpha + \int_0^t \alpha(s) ds, \quad t \geq 0.$$

- **Representation formula** for the value function given $m = (m_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$:

$$u[m](t, x) = \inf_{\alpha \in L^2([t, T]; \mathbb{R})} \left\{ \int_t^T \left[\frac{1}{2} |\alpha(s)|^2 + f_0(X_s^{\alpha, t, x}, m(s, \cdot)) \right] ds \right. \\ \left. + g(X_T^{\alpha, t, x}, m(T, \cdot)) \right\},$$

where $X^{\alpha, t, x}$ starts from x at time t and is controlled by α

Discrete HJB: Given a flow of densities m ,

$$\begin{cases} U_i^n = S_{\Delta t, h}[m](U^{n+1}, i, n), & (n, i) \in \llbracket N_T - 1 \rrbracket \times \mathbb{Z}, \\ U_i^{N_T} = g(x_i, m(T, \cdot)), & i \in \mathbb{Z}, \end{cases}$$

where

- $S_{\Delta t, h}$ is defined as

$$S_{\Delta t, h}[m](W, n, i) = \inf_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{2} |\alpha|^2 + f_0(x_i, m(t_n, \cdot)) \right) \Delta t + I[W](x_i + \alpha \Delta t) \right\},$$

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- with $I : \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{R})$ is the **interpolation operator** defined as

$$I[W](\cdot) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} W_i \beta_i(\cdot),$$

- where $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$ is the set of bounded functions from \mathbb{Z} to \mathbb{R}
- and $\beta_i = \left[1 - \frac{|x - x_i|}{h} \right]_+ : \text{triangular function with support } [x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}] \text{ and s.t. } \beta_i(x_i) = 1.$

Before moving to the KFP equation:

- **Interpolation:** from $U = (U_i^n)_{n,i}$, construct the function $u_{\Delta t, h}[m](x, t) : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$u_{\Delta t, h}[m](t, x) = I[U^{\lceil \frac{t}{\Delta t} \rceil}](x), \quad (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}.$$

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- **Regularization of HJB solution** with a mollifier ρ_ϵ :

$$u_{\Delta t, h}^\epsilon[m](t, \cdot) = \rho_\epsilon * u_{\Delta t, h}[m](t, \cdot), \quad t \in [0, T].$$

- **Eulerian** viewpoint:

- ▶ focus on a location
- ▶ look at the flow passing through it
- ▶ evolution characterized by the velocity at (t, x)

- **Lagrangian** viewpoint:

- ▶ focus on a fluid parcel
- ▶ look at how it flows
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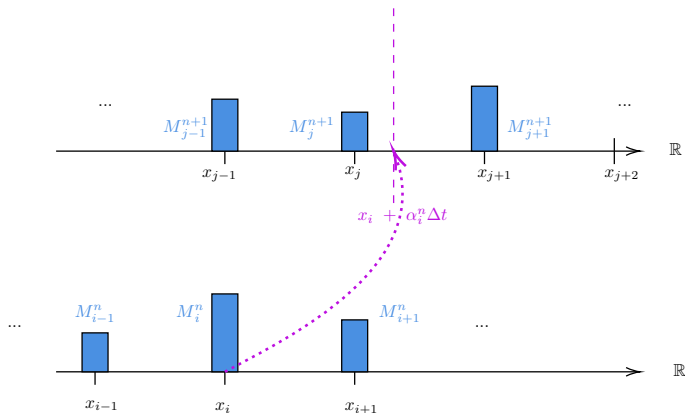
- ▶ focus on a fluid parcel
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- Here, in our model:

$$X_t^\alpha = X_0^\alpha + \int_0^t \alpha(s) ds, \quad t \geq 0.$$

- Time and space discretization?

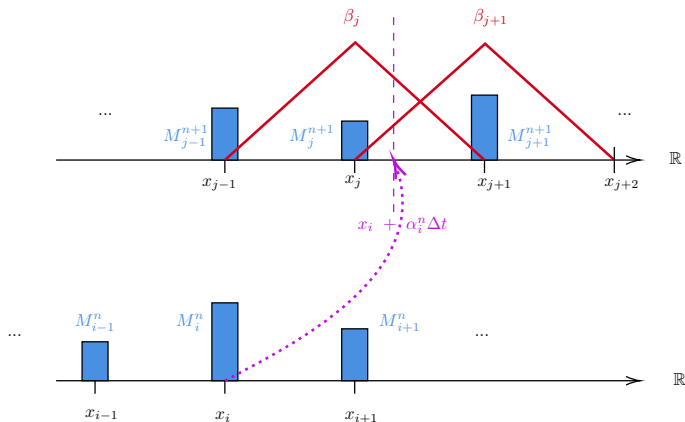
Discrete KFP equation: intuition – diagram



Movement of the mass when using control $v(t_n, x_i) = \alpha_i^n$.

Bottom: time t_n ; top: time t_{n+1} .

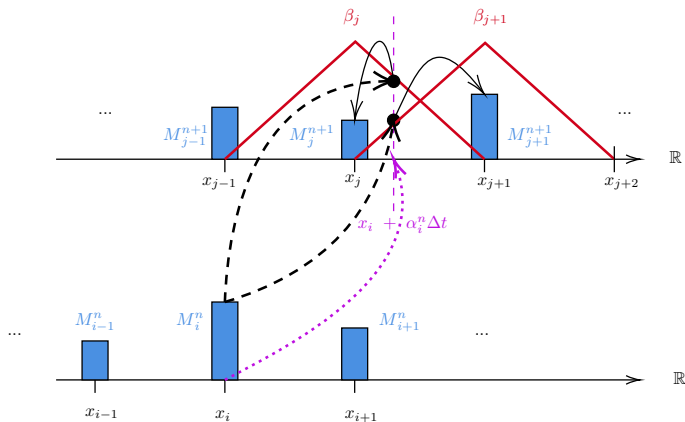
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- **Control** induced by value function:

$$\hat{\alpha}_{\Delta t, h}^{\epsilon}[m](t, x) = -\nabla u_{\Delta t, h}^{\epsilon}[m](t, x),$$

and its discrete counter part: $\hat{\alpha}_{n, i}^{\epsilon} = \hat{\alpha}_{\Delta t, h}^{\epsilon}[m](t_n, x_i)$.

- **Discrete flow:**

$$\Phi_{n, n+1, i}^{\epsilon}[m] = x_i + \hat{\alpha}_{\Delta t, h}^{\epsilon}[m](t_n, x_i)\Delta t.$$

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- **Discrete KFP equation:** for $M^{\epsilon}[m] = (M_i^{\epsilon, n}[m])_{n, i}$:

$$\begin{cases} M_i^{\epsilon, n+1}[m] = \sum_j \beta_j \left(\Phi_{n, n+1, j}^{\epsilon}[m] \right) M_j^{\epsilon, n}[m], & (n, i) \in \llbracket N_T - 1 \rrbracket \times \mathbb{Z}, \\ M_i^{\epsilon, 0}[m] = \int_{[x_i - h/2, x_i + h/2]} m_0(x) dx, & i \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{cases}$$

- **Function** $m_{\Delta t, h}^\epsilon[m] : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined as: for $n \in \llbracket N_T - 1 \rrbracket$, for $t \in [t_n, t_{n+1})$,

$$m_{\Delta t, h}^\epsilon[m](t, x) = \frac{1}{h} \left[\frac{t_{n+1} - t}{\Delta t} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} M_i^{\epsilon, n}[m] \mathbf{1}_{[x_i - h/2, x_i + h/2]}(x) + \frac{t - t_n}{\Delta t} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} M_i^{\epsilon, n+1}[m] \mathbf{1}_{[x_i - h/2, x_i + h/2]}(x) \right].$$

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- **Goal: Fixed-point problem:** Find $\hat{M} = (\hat{M}_i^n)_{i,n}$ such that:

$$\hat{M}_i^n = M_i^n [m_{\Delta t, h}^\epsilon[\hat{M}]].$$

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$$\hat{M}_i^n = M_i^n [m_{\Delta t, h}^\epsilon[\hat{M}]].$$

- **Solution strategy:** Fixed point iterations for example
- See [\[Carlini and Silva, 2014\]](#) for more details

Costs:

$$g \equiv 0, \quad f(x, m, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2}|\alpha|^2 + (x - c^*)^2 + \kappa_{MF} V(x, m),$$

with

$$V(x, m) = \rho_{\sigma_V} * (\rho_{\sigma_V} * m)(x),$$

Numerical Illustration

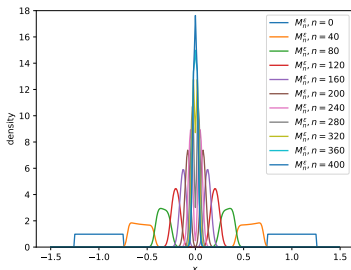
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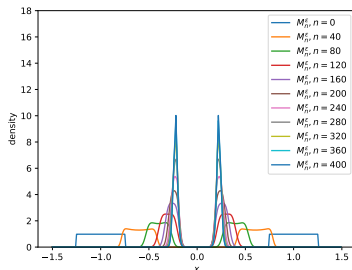
with

$$V(x, \mathbf{m}) = \rho_{\sigma_V} * (\rho_{\sigma_V} * \mathbf{m})(x),$$

Experiments: target $c^* = 0$, $\mathbf{m}_0 = \text{unif. on } [-1.25, -0.75] \text{ and on } [0.75, 1.25]$



$\kappa_{MF} = 0.5$



$\kappa_{MF} = 0.9$

See [\[Laurière, 2021\]](#) for more details on these experiments

Code

Sample code to illustrate: [IPython notebook](#)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_S9680R_CAt20M83NENcyeHKsLLcxit9/view?usp=sharing

- Semi-Lagrangian scheme
- Solved by damped fixed point approach

Outline

1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

- Variational MFGs and Duality
- Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers
- A Primal-Dual Method

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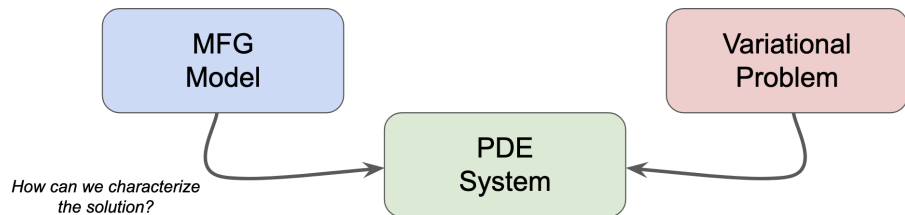
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Key ideas:

- Variational MFG
- Duality
- Optimization techniques



In some cases, the MFG PDE system can be interpreted as the optimality conditions for a variational problem

MFG PDE system \Leftrightarrow optimality condition of two optimization problems in duality

See [Lasry and Lions, 2007], [Cardaliaguet, 2015], [Cardaliaguet and Graber, 2015], [Cardaliaguet et al., 2015], [Benamou et al., 2017], ...

- $d = 1$, domain = \mathbb{T}
- drift and costs:

$$b(x, \textcolor{blue}{m}, \alpha) = \alpha, \quad f(x, \textcolor{blue}{m}, \alpha) = L(x, \alpha) + \mathfrak{f}_0(x, \textcolor{blue}{m}), \quad g(x, \textcolor{blue}{m}) = \mathfrak{g}_0(x).$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\textcolor{blue}{m} \in \mathbb{R}_+$.

- Then

$$H(x, \textcolor{blue}{m}, \textcolor{green}{p}) = \sup_{\alpha} \{-L(x, \alpha) - \alpha \textcolor{green}{p}\} - \mathfrak{f}_0(x, \textcolor{blue}{m}) = H_0(x, \textcolor{green}{p}) - \mathfrak{f}_0(x, \textcolor{blue}{m})$$

- where H_0 is the convex conjugate (also denoted L^*) of L with respect to α :

$$H_0(x, \textcolor{green}{p}) = L^*(x, \textcolor{green}{p}) = \sup_{\alpha} \{ \alpha \textcolor{green}{p} - L(x, \alpha) \}$$

- Further assume (for simplicity)

$$L(x, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2}|\alpha|^2, \quad H_0(x, \textcolor{green}{p}) = \frac{1}{2}|\textcolor{green}{p}|^2$$

A Variational Problem

- At equilibrium, $\mathcal{L}(X_t) = \hat{\mu}_t$ and

$$\begin{aligned} J(\hat{\alpha}; \hat{m}) &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^T f(X_t, \hat{m}(t, X_t), \hat{\alpha}(t, X_t)) dt + g(X_T) \right] \\ &= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{T}} \underbrace{f(x, \hat{m}(t, x), \hat{\alpha}(t, x))}_{=L(x, \hat{\alpha}(t, x)) + f_0(x, \hat{m}(t, x))} \hat{m}(t, x) dx dt + \int_{\mathbb{T}} g(x) \hat{m}(T, x) dx \end{aligned}$$

subject to:

$$0 = \frac{\partial \hat{m}}{\partial t}(t, x) - \nu \Delta \hat{m}(t, x) + \operatorname{div} \left(\hat{m}(t, \cdot) \underbrace{b(\cdot, \hat{m}(t, \cdot), \hat{\alpha}(t, \cdot))}_{=\hat{\alpha}(t, \cdot)} \right)(x), \quad \hat{m}_0 = m_0$$

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- Change of variable:

$$\hat{w}(t, x) = \hat{m}(t, x) \hat{\alpha}(t, x)$$

$$\mathcal{B}(\hat{m}, \hat{w}) = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left[L\left(x, \frac{\hat{w}(t, x)}{\hat{m}(t, x)}\right) + \mathfrak{f}_0(x, \hat{m}(t, x)) \right] \hat{m}(t, x) dx dt + \int_{\mathbb{T}} g(x) \hat{m}(T, x) dx$$

subject to:

$$0 = \frac{\partial \hat{m}}{\partial t}(t, x) - \nu \Delta \hat{m}(t, x) + \operatorname{div} \left(\hat{w}(t, \cdot) \right)(x), \quad \hat{m}_0 = m_0$$

● Reformulation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{B}(\hat{m}, \hat{w}) &= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left[\underbrace{L\left(x, \frac{\hat{w}(t, x)}{\hat{m}(t, x)}\right) \hat{m}(t, x)}_{\widetilde{L}(x, \hat{m}(t, x), \hat{w}(t, x))} + \underbrace{\mathfrak{f}_0(x, \hat{m}(t, x)) \hat{m}(t, x)}_{\widetilde{F}(x, \hat{m}(t, x))} \right] dx dt \\
 &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{T}} \underbrace{g(x) \hat{m}(T, x)}_{\widetilde{G}(x, \hat{m}(t, x))} dx \\
 &= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left[\widetilde{L}(x, \hat{m}(t, x), \hat{w}(t, x)) + \widetilde{F}(x, \hat{m}(t, x)) \right] dx dt + \int_{\mathbb{T}} \widetilde{G}(x, \hat{m}(t, x)) dx
 \end{aligned}$$

subject to:

$$0 = \frac{\partial \hat{m}}{\partial t}(t, x) - \nu \Delta \hat{m}(t, x) + \operatorname{div} \left(\hat{w}(t, \cdot) \right)(x), \quad \hat{m}_0 = m_0$$

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- Convex** problem under a **linear** constraint, provided $\tilde{L}, \tilde{F}, \tilde{G}$ are convex

Primal Optimization Problem

Primal problem: Minimize over $(m, w) = (m, m\alpha)$:

$$\mathcal{B}(m, w) = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{T}} \left(\tilde{L}(x, m(t, x), w(t, x)) + \tilde{F}(x, m(t, x)) \right) dx dt + \int_{\mathbb{T}} \tilde{G}(x, m(T, x)) dx$$

subject to the constraint:

$$\partial_t m - \nu \Delta m + \operatorname{div}(w) = 0, \quad m(0, x) = m_0(x)$$

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subject to the constraint:

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where

$$\tilde{F}(x, m) = \begin{cases} \int_0^m \tilde{f}(x, s) ds, & \text{if } m \geq 0, \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad \tilde{G}(x, m) = \begin{cases} m g_0(x), & \text{if } m \geq 0, \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\tilde{L}(x, m, w) = \begin{cases} mL\left(x, \frac{w}{m}\right), & \text{if } m > 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } m = 0 \text{ and } w = 0, \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $\mathbb{R} \ni m \mapsto \tilde{f}(x, m) = \partial_m(m f_0(x, m))$

is non-decreasing (hence \tilde{F} convex and l.s.c.) provided $m \mapsto m f_0(x, m)$ is convex.

Dual problem: Maximize over ϕ such that $\phi(T, x) = g_0(x)$

$$\mathcal{A}(\phi) = \inf_m \mathcal{A}(\phi, m)$$

$$\text{with } \mathcal{A}(\phi, m) = \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{T}} m(t, x) \left(\partial_t \phi(t, x) + \nu \Delta \phi(t, x) - H(x, m(t, x), \nabla \phi(t, x)) \right) dx dt \\ + \int_{\mathbb{T}} m_0(x) \phi(0, x) dx.$$

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Duality relation: \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy: $(\mathbf{A}) = \sup_{\phi} \mathcal{A}(\phi) = \inf_{(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{w})} \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{w}) = (\mathbf{B})$

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Duality relation: \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} satisfy: $(\mathbf{A}) = \sup_{\phi} \mathcal{A}(\phi) = \inf_{(m, w)} \mathcal{B}(m, w) = (\mathbf{B})$

Proof idea: Fenchel-Rockafellar duality theorem and observe:

$$(\mathbf{A}) = - \inf_{\phi} \left\{ \mathcal{F}(\phi) + \mathcal{G}(\Lambda(\phi)) \right\}, \quad (\mathbf{B}) = \inf_{(m, w)} \left\{ \mathcal{F}^*(\Lambda^*(m, w)) + \mathcal{G}^*(-m, -w) \right\}$$

where $\mathcal{F}^*, \mathcal{G}^*$ are the convex conjugates of \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G} , and Λ^* is the adjoint operator of Λ , and $\Lambda(\phi) = \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \nu \Delta \phi, \nabla \phi \right)$,

$$\mathcal{F}(\phi) = \chi_T(\phi) - \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} m_0(x) \phi(0, x) dx, \quad \chi_T(\phi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \phi|_{t=T} = g_0 \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{G}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2) = - \inf_{0 \leq m \in L^1((0, T) \times \mathbb{T}^d)} \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{T}^d} m(t, x) (\varphi_1(t, x) - H(x, m(t, x), \varphi_2(t, x))) dx dt.$$

Outline

1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

- Variational MFGs and Duality
- **Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers**
- A Primal-Dual Method

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

5. Conclusion

Reformulation of the primal problem:

$$(\mathbf{A}) = -\inf_{\phi} \left\{ \mathcal{F}(\phi) + \mathcal{G}(\Lambda(\phi)) \right\} = -\inf_{\phi} \inf_q \left\{ \mathcal{F}(\phi) + \mathcal{G}(q), \text{ subj. to } q = \Lambda(\phi) \right\}.$$

- The corresponding **Lagrangian** is

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, q, \tilde{q}) = \mathcal{F}(\phi) + \mathcal{G}(q) - \langle \tilde{q}, \Lambda(\phi) - q \rangle.$$

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- We consider the **augmented Lagrangian** (with parameter $r > 0$)

$$\mathcal{L}^r(\phi, q, \tilde{q}) = \mathcal{L}(\phi, q, \tilde{q}) + \frac{r}{2} \|\Lambda(\phi) - q\|^2$$

- Goal: find a **saddle-point** of \mathcal{L}^r .

Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers (ADMM)

Reminder: $\mathcal{L}^r(\phi, q, \tilde{q}) = \mathcal{F}(\phi) + \mathcal{G}(q) - \langle \tilde{q}, \Lambda(\phi) - q \rangle + \frac{r}{2} \|\Lambda(\phi) - q\|^2$

Input: Initial guess $(\phi^{(0)}, q^{(0)}, \tilde{q}^{(0)})$; number of iterations K

Output: Approximation of a saddle point (ϕ, q, \tilde{q}) solving the finite difference system

- 1 Initialize $(\phi^{(0)}, q^{(0)}, \tilde{q}^{(0)})$
- 2 **for** $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K - 1$ **do**
- 3 (a) Compute

$$\phi^{(k+1)} \in \underset{\phi}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \mathcal{F}(\phi) - \langle \tilde{q}^{(k)}, \Lambda(\phi) \rangle + \frac{r}{2} \|\Lambda(\phi) - q^{(k)}\|^2 \right\}$$

References: ALG2 in the book of [Fortin and Glowinski, 1983]

→ in MFG: [Benamou and Carlier, 2015a], [Andreev, 2017]

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4 (b) Compute

$$q^{(k+1)} \in \underset{q}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \mathcal{G}(q) + \langle \tilde{q}^{(k)}, q \rangle + \frac{r}{2} \|\Lambda(\phi^{(k+1)}) - q\|^2 \right\}$$

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5 (c) Compute

$$\tilde{q}^{(k+1)} = \tilde{q}^{(k)} - r \left(\Lambda(\phi^{(k+1)}) - q^{(k+1)} \right)$$

6 **return** $(\phi^{(K)}, q^{(K)}, \tilde{q}^{(K)})$

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ADMM: Discrete Primal Problem

Notation: N_h, N_T steps resp. in space and time, $N = (N_T + 1)N_h$, $N' = N_T N_h$.

Recall: $H_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2}|p|^2$. We take $\tilde{H}_0(x, p_1, p_2) = \frac{1}{2}|(p_1^-, p_2^+)|^2$.

Discrete version of the **dual** convex problem:

$$(\mathbf{A}_h) = - \inf_{\phi \in \mathbb{R}^N} \left\{ \mathcal{F}_h(\phi) + \mathcal{G}_h(\Lambda_h(\phi)) \right\},$$

where $\Lambda_h : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3N'}$ is defined by : $\forall n \in \{1, \dots, N_T\}, \forall i \in \{0, \dots, N_h - 1\}$,

$$(\Lambda_h(\phi))_i^n = \left((D_t \phi_i)^n + \nu \left(\Delta_h \phi^{n-1} \right)_i, [\nabla_h \phi^{n-1}]_i \right),$$

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where $\mathcal{F}_h, \mathcal{G}_h$ are the l.s.c. proper functions defined by:

$$\mathcal{F}_h : \mathbb{R}^N \ni \phi \mapsto \chi_T(\phi) - h \sum_{i=0}^{N_h-1} \rho_i^0 \phi_i^0 \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\},$$

$$\mathcal{G}_h : \mathbb{R}^{3N'} \ni (a, b, c) \mapsto -h \Delta t \sum_{n=1}^{N_T} \sum_{i=0}^{N_h-1} \mathcal{K}_h(x_i, a_i^n, b_i^n, c_i^n) \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\},$$

with

$$\mathcal{K}_h(x, a_0, p_1, p_2) = \min_{m \in \mathbb{R}_+} \left\{ m[a_0 + \tilde{H}_0(x, m, p_1, p_2)] \right\}, \quad \chi_T(\phi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \phi_i^{N_T} \equiv g_0(x_i) \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

ADMM with Discretization

Discrete Aug. Lag.: $\mathcal{L}_h^r(\phi, q, \tilde{q}) = \mathcal{F}_h(\phi) + \mathcal{G}_h(q) - \langle \tilde{q}, \Lambda_h(\phi) - q \rangle + \frac{r}{2} \|\Lambda_h(\phi) - q\|^2$

Input: Initial guess $(\phi^{(0)}, q^{(0)}, \tilde{q}^{(0)})$; number of iterations K

Output: Approximation of a saddle point (ϕ, q, \tilde{q})

1 Initialize $(\phi^{(0)}, q^{(0)}, \tilde{q}^{(0)})$

2 **for** $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K - 1$ **do**

3 (a) Compute $\phi^{(k+1)} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\phi} \left\{ \mathcal{F}_h(\phi) - \langle \tilde{q}^{(k)}, \Lambda_h(\phi) \rangle + \frac{r}{2} \|\Lambda_h(\phi) - q^{(k)}\|^2 \right\}$

4 (b) Compute $q^{(k+1)} \in \operatorname{argmin}_q \left\{ \mathcal{G}_h(q) + \langle \tilde{q}^{(k)}, q \rangle + \frac{r}{2} \|\Lambda_h(\phi^{(k+1)}) - q\|^2 \right\}$

5 (c) Compute $\tilde{q}^{(k+1)} = \tilde{q}^{(k)} - r (\Lambda_h(\phi^{(k+1)}) - q^{(k+1)})$

6 **return** $(\phi^{(K)}, q^{(K)}, \tilde{q}^{(K)})$

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First-order Optimality Conditions:

Step (a): finite-difference equation

Step (b): minimization problem at each point of the grid

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First-order Optimality Conditions:

Step (a): finite-difference equation

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Rem.: For (a): discrete PDE

- if $\nu = 0$, a direct solver can be used
- if $\nu > 0$, PDE with 4^{th} order linear elliptic operator \Rightarrow needs preconditioner

See e.g. [\[Achdou and Perez, 2012\]](#), [\[Andreev, 2017\]](#), [\[Briceño Arias et al., 2018\]](#)

- Domain $\Omega = [0, 1]^2 \setminus [0.4, 0.6]^2$ (obstacle at the center)
- Define the Hamiltonian by duality (on $\partial\Omega$ the vector speed is **towards the interior**)

$$H(x, m, p) = \begin{cases} \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^2} \{ -\xi \cdot p - L(x, m, \xi) \} = m^{-\alpha} |p|^\beta - \ell(x, m), & \text{if } x \in \Omega, \\ \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \xi \cdot n \leq 0} \{ -\xi \cdot p - L(x, m, \xi) \}, & \text{if } x \in \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

- The associated Lagrangian (corresponding to the running cost) is:

$$L(x, m, \xi) = (\beta - 1)\beta^{-\beta^*} m^{\frac{\alpha}{\beta-1}} |\xi|^{\beta^*} + \ell(x, m), \quad 1 < \beta \leq 2, 0 \leq \alpha < 1$$

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

- Domain $\Omega = [0, 1]^2 \setminus [0.4, 0.6]^2$ (obstacle at the center)
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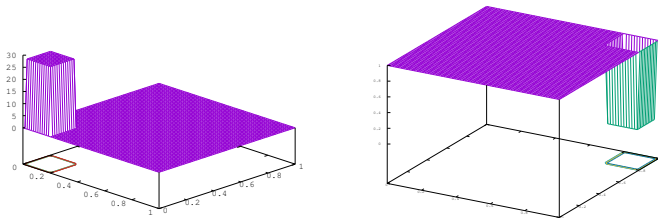
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- Ex.: m_0 : & u_T : opposite corners; $\alpha = 0.01, \beta = 2, \ell(x, m) = 0.01m$.

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with $\nu = 0$

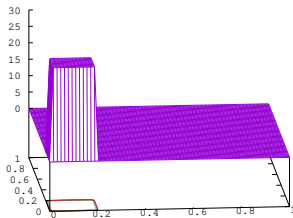


Initial distribution (left) and final cost (right)

For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with $\nu = 0$

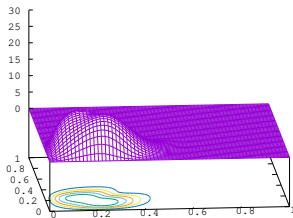


Density at time $t = 0$

For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

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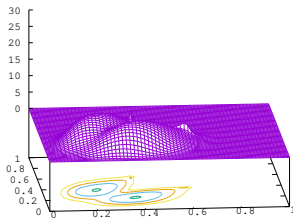


Density at time $t = T/8$

For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with $\nu = 0$

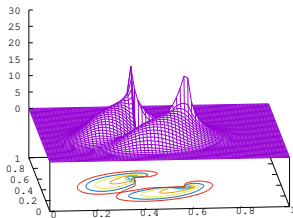


Density at time $t = T/4$

For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with $\nu = 0$

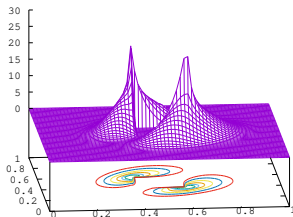


Density at time $t = 3T/8$

For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with $\nu = 0$

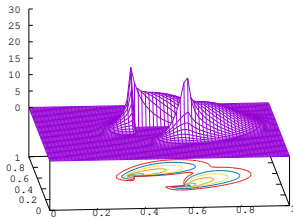


Density at time $t = T/2$

For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)

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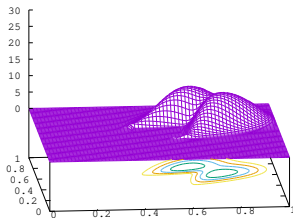


Density at time $t = 5T/8$

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Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with $\nu = 0$

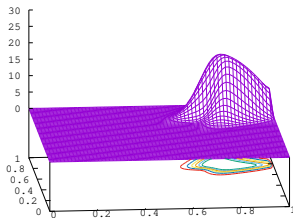


Density at time $t = 3T/4$

For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with $\nu = 0$

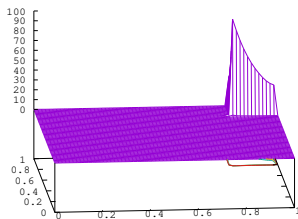


Density at time $t = 7T/8$

For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with $\nu = 0$



Density at time $t = T$

For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)

Outline

1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

- Variational MFGs and Duality
- Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers
- **A Primal-Dual Method**

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

5. Conclusion

Optimality Conditions and Proximal Operator

- Let $\varphi, \psi: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ be convex l.s.c. proper functions.
- Consider the optimization problem

$$\min_{y \in \mathbb{R}^N} \varphi(y) + \psi(y),$$

and its dual

$$\min_{\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^N} \varphi^*(-\sigma) + \psi^*(\sigma).$$

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- The 1st-order opt. cond. satisfied by a solution $(\hat{y}, \hat{\sigma})$ are

$$\begin{cases} -\hat{\sigma} \in \partial\varphi(\hat{y}) \\ \hat{y} \in \partial\psi^*(\hat{\sigma}) \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \hat{y} - \tau\hat{\sigma} \in \tau\partial\varphi(\hat{y}) + \hat{y} \\ \hat{\sigma} + \gamma\hat{y} \in \gamma\partial\psi^*(\hat{\sigma}) + \hat{\sigma} \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{prox}_{\tau\varphi}(\hat{y} - \tau\hat{\sigma}) = \hat{y} \\ \text{prox}_{\gamma\psi^*}(\hat{\sigma} + \gamma\hat{y}) = \hat{\sigma}, \end{cases}$$

where $\gamma > 0$ and $\tau > 0$ are arbitrary and

- The **proximal operator** of a l.s.c. convex proper $\phi: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ is:

$$\text{prox}_{\gamma\phi}(x) := \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in \mathbb{R}^N} \left\{ \phi(y) + \frac{|y-x|^2}{2\gamma} \right\} = (I + \partial(\gamma\phi))^{-1}(x), \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N.$$

Chambolle-Pock's Primal-Dual Algorithm

The following algorithm has been proposed by [\[Chambolle and Pock, 2011\]](#)

It has been proved to converge when $\tau\gamma < 1$.

Input: Initial guess $(\sigma^{(0)}, y^{(0)}, \bar{y}^{(0)})$; $\theta \in [0, 1]$; $\gamma > 0, \tau > 0$; number of iterations K

Output: Approximation of $(\hat{\sigma}, \hat{y})$ solving the optimality conditions

1 Initialize $(\sigma^{(0)}, y^{(0)}, \bar{y}^{(0)})$

2 **for** $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K - 1$ **do**

3 (a) Compute

$$\sigma^{(k+1)} = \text{prox}_{\gamma\psi^*}(\sigma^{(k)} + \gamma\bar{y}^{(k)}),$$

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4     (b) Compute
           
$$y^{(k+1)} = \text{prox}_{\tau\varphi}(y^{(k)} - \tau\sigma^{(k+1)}),$$

5     (c) Compute
           
$$\bar{y}^{(k+1)} = y^{(k+1)} + \theta(y^{(k+1)} - y^{(k)}).$$

6 return  $(\sigma^{(K)}, y^{(K)}, \bar{y}^{(K)})$ 
```

Dual of Discrete Problem (\mathbf{A}_h)

By [Fenchel-Rockafellar theorem](#), the dual problem of (\mathbf{A}_h) is:

$$(\mathbf{B}_h) = \min_{(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_2) = \sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{3N'}} \left\{ \mathcal{F}_h^*(\Lambda_h^*(\sigma)) + \mathcal{G}_h^*(-\sigma) \right\},$$

where \mathcal{G}_h^* and \mathcal{F}_h^* are respectively the Legendre-Fenchel conjugates of \mathcal{G}_h and \mathcal{F}_h , defined by:

- $\mathcal{F}_h^*(\mu) = \sup_{\phi \in \mathbb{R}^N} \left\{ \langle \mu, \phi \rangle_{\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^N)} - \mathcal{F}_h(\phi) \right\}, \quad \forall \mu \in \mathbb{R}^N$
- $\mathcal{G}_h^*(-\sigma) = \max_{q \in \mathbb{R}^{3N'}} \left\{ -\langle \sigma, q \rangle_{\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^{3N'})} - \mathcal{G}_h(q) \right\} = h\Delta t \sum_{n=1}^{N_T} \sum_{i=0}^{N_h-1} \tilde{L}_h(x_i, \sigma_i^n), \quad \forall \sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{3N'}$
- with $\tilde{L}_h(x, \sigma_0) = \max_{p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3} \left\{ -\sigma_0 \cdot p_0 + \mathcal{K}_h(x, q_0) \right\}, \quad \forall \sigma_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3.$

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Rem.: The max can be costly to compute but in some cases \tilde{L}_h has a **closed-form** expression.

Finally $\Lambda_h^* : \mathbb{R}^{3N'} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ denotes the adjoint of Λ_h : for all $(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) \in \mathbb{R}^{3N'}, \phi \in \mathbb{R}^N$:

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Rem.: We have $\mathcal{F}_h^*(\Lambda_h^*(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})) = \begin{cases} h \sum_{i=0}^{N_h-1} \mathbf{m}_i^{NT} \mathcal{G}_0(x_i), & \text{if } (\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) \text{ satisfies } (\star) \text{ below,} \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$

with $\forall i \in \{0, \dots, N_h - 1\}, \mathbf{m}_i^0 = \rho_i^0$, and $\forall n \in \{0, \dots, N_T - 1\}$:

$$(D_t \mathbf{m}_i)^n - \nu \left(\Delta_h \mathbf{m}^{n+1} \right)_i + \frac{y_i^{n+1} - y_{i-1}^{n+1}}{h} + \frac{z_{i+1}^{n+1} - z_i^{n+1}}{h} = 0. \quad (\star)$$

Reformulation

The discrete dual problem can be recast as:

$$\inf_{(m,w)} \underbrace{\mathbb{B}_h(m,w) + \mathbb{F}_h(m)}_{\varphi(m,w)} + \underbrace{\iota_{\mathbb{G}-1}(\rho^0,0)(m,w)}_{\psi(m,w)} \quad (P_h)$$

with the costs

$$\mathbb{F}_h(m) := \sum_{i,n} \widetilde{F}(x_i, m_i^n) + \frac{1}{\Delta t} \sum_i \widetilde{G}(x_i, m_i^{N_T}), \quad \mathbb{B}_h(m,w) := \sum_{i,n} \hat{b}(m_i^n, w_i^{n-1}),$$

$$\hat{b}(m,w) := \begin{cases} mL \left(x, -\frac{w}{m} \right), & \text{if } m > 0, w \in K = \mathbb{R}_- \times \mathbb{R}_+, \\ 0, & \text{if } (m,w) = (0,0), \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and $\mathbb{G}(m,w) := (m_0, (Am^{n+1} + Bw^n)_{0 \leq n \leq N_T-1})$ with

$$(Am)_i^{n+1} := (D_t m)_i^n - \nu(\Delta_h m)_i^{n+1}, \quad (Bw)_i^n := (D_h w^1)_{i-1}^n + (D_h w^2)_i^n.$$

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Rem.: The optimality conditions of this problem correspond to the **finite-difference system**

So we can apply **Chambolle-Pock's** method for (P_h) with

$$y = (m,w), \quad \varphi(m,w) = \mathbb{B}_h(m,w) + \mathbb{F}_h(m), \quad \psi(m,w) = \iota_{\mathbb{G}-1}(\rho^0,0)(m,w)$$

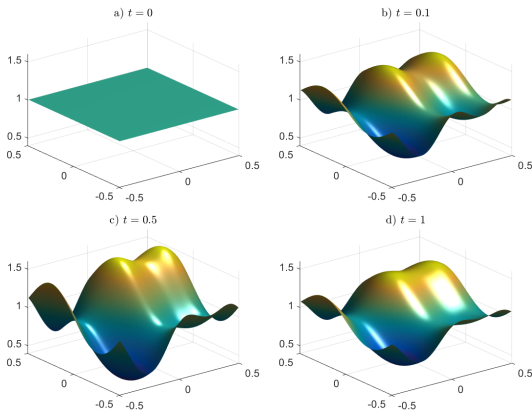
See [Briceño Arias et al., 2018] and [Briceño Arias et al., 2019] in stationary and dynamic cases.

Numerical Example

Setting: $g \equiv 0$ and $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R} \ni (x, m) \mapsto f(x, m) := m^2 - \overline{H}(x)$, with

$$\overline{H}(x) = \sin(2\pi x_2) + \sin(2\pi x_1) + \cos(2\pi x_1)$$

We solve the corresponding MFG and obtain the following evolution of the density:



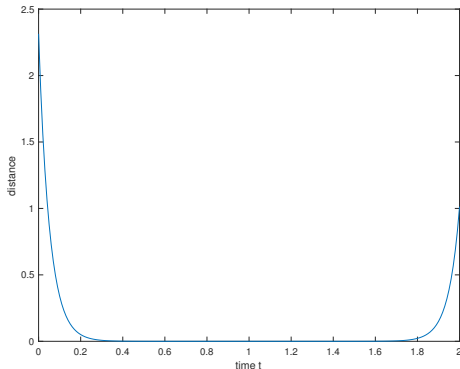
Evolution of the density

More details in [\[Briceño Arias et al., 2019\]](#)

Turnpike phenomenon

This example also illustrates the **turnpike phenomenon**, see e.g. [\[Porretta and Zuazua, 2013\]](#)

- the mass starts from an initial density;
- it **converges to a steady state**, influenced only by the running cost;
- as $t \rightarrow T$, the mass is influenced by the final cost and **converges to a final state**.



L^2 distance between dynamic and stationary solutions

More details in [\[Briceño Arias et al., 2019\]](#)

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- A Picard Scheme for MKV FBSDE
- Stochastic Methods for some Finite-Dimensional MFC Problems

5. Conclusion

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- Recall: generic form:

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = B(X_t, \mathcal{L}(X_t), Y_t, Z_t)dt + \sigma dW_t, & 0 \leq t \leq T \\ dY_t = -F(X_t, \mathcal{L}(X_t), Y_t, Z_t)dt + Z_t dW_t, & 0 \leq t \leq T \\ X_0 \sim m_0, & Y_T = G(X_T, \mathcal{L}(X_T)) \end{cases}$$

- Decouple:

- ▶ Given $(\mathcal{L}(X), Y, Z)$, solve for X
- ▶ Given $(X, \mathcal{L}(X))$ solve for (Y, Z)

- Iterate

- Algorithm proposed by [\[Chassagneux et al., 2019, Angiuli et al., 2019\]](#)

Picard Scheme for MKV FBSDE System

Input: Initial guess (ξ, ζ) ; initial condition ξ ; terminal condition ζ ; time horizon T ;
number of iterations K

Output: Approximation of (X, Y, Z) solving the MKV FBSDE system

1 Initialize $X_t^{(0)} = \xi, Y_t^{(0)} = 0, Z_t^{(0)} = 0, 0 \leq t \leq T$

2 **for** $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K - 1$ **do**

3 Let $X^{(k+1)}$ be the solution to:

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = B(X_t^{(k)}, \mathcal{L}(X_t^{(k)}), Y_t^{(k)}, Z_t^{(k)})dt + \sigma dW_t, & 0 \leq t \leq T \\ X_0 = \xi \end{cases}$$

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4 Let $(Y^{(k+1)}, Z^{(k+1)})$ be the solution to:

$$\begin{cases} dY_t = -F(X_t^{(k+1)}, \mathcal{L}(X_t^{(k+1)}), Y_t^{(k)}, Z_t^{(k)})dt + Z_t^{(k)}dW_t, & 0 \leq t \leq T \\ Y_T = \zeta \end{cases}$$

5 **return** $\text{Picard}[T](\xi, \zeta) = (X^{(K)}, Y^{(K)}, Z^{(K)})$

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Notation: $\Phi_{\xi, \zeta} : (X^{(k)}, \mathcal{L}(X^{(k)}), Y^{(k)}, Z^{(k)}) \mapsto (X^{(k+1)}, \mathcal{L}(X^{(k+1)}), Y^{(k+1)}, Z^{(k+1)})$

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Contraction? Small T or small Lipschitz constants for B, F, G

- If T is big: Solve FBSDE on small intervals & “patch” the solutions together

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- Subproblem: Given $(\xi_{T_m}, \mathcal{L}(\xi_{T_m}))$ and $\zeta_{T_{m+1}}$, solve:

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- How to find ξ_{T_m} and $\zeta_{T_{m+1}}$?
 - ξ_{T_m} from previous problem's solution (or initial condition)
 - $\zeta_{T_{m+1}}$ from next problem's solution (or terminal condition)

Global Solver for MKV FBSDE System

Following [Chassagneux et al., 2019], define a global solver recursively, and then call:

$$\text{Solver}[m](\xi_0, \mu_0)$$

with ξ_0 a random variable with distribution μ_0

Input: Initial guess $(\xi, \mathcal{L}(\xi))$; time step index m ; number of iterations K

Output: Approximation of Y_{T_m} where (X, Y, Z) solves the MKV FBSDE system on $[T_m, T]$ starting with $(\xi, \mathcal{L}(\xi))$ at time T_m

- 1 Initialize $X_t^{(0)} = \xi, \mathcal{L}(X_t^{(0)}) = \mathcal{L}(\xi)$ for all $T_m \leq t \leq T_{m+1}$
- 2 **for** $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K - 1$ **do**
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Global Solver for MKV FBSDE System

Following [Chassagneux et al., 2019], define a global solver recursively, and then call:

$$\text{Solver}[m](\xi_0, \mu_0)$$

with ξ_0 a random variable with distribution μ_0

Input: Initial guess $(\xi, \mathcal{L}(\xi))$; time step index m ; number of iterations K

Output: Approximation of Y_{T_m} where (X, Y, Z) solves the MKV FBSDE system on $[T_m, T]$ starting with $(\xi, \mathcal{L}(\xi))$ at time T_m

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$$Y_{T_{m+1}}^{(k+1)} = \text{Solver}[m+1](X_{T_{m+1}}^{(k)}, \mathcal{L}(X_{T_{m+1}}^{(k)}))$$
- 5 Compute:
$$(X_t^{(k+1)}, \mathcal{L}(X_t^{(k+1)}), Y_t^{(k+1)}, Z_t^{(k+1)})_{T_m \leq t \leq T_{m+1}} = \text{Picard}[T_{m+1} - T_m](X_{T_m}^{(k)}, Y_{T_{m+1}}^{(k+1)})$$
- 6 **return** $\text{Solver}[m](\xi, \mathcal{L}(\xi)) := Y_{T_m}^{(K)}$

In the sequel, we present two algorithms, following [\[Angiuli et al., 2019\]](#)

- **Tree algorithm:**

- ▶ Time discretization
- ▶ Space discretization: binomial tree structure
- ▶ Look at trajectories

- **Grid algorithm:**

- ▶ Time and space discretization on a grid
- ▶ Look at time marginals

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$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} X_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)} = X_{t_i}^{(k+1)} + B(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}, \mathcal{L}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}), Y_{t_i}^{(k)}, Z_{t_i}^{(k)})\Delta t + \sigma \Delta W_{t_{i+1}} \\ X_0^{(k+1)} = \xi \\ Y_{t_i}^{(k+1)} = \mathbb{E}_{t_i}[Y_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)}] + F(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}, \mathcal{L}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}), Y_{t_i}^{(k)}, Z_{t_i}^{(k)})\Delta t \\ \quad \approx Y_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)} + F(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}, \mathcal{L}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}), Y_{t_i}^{(k)}, Z_{t_i}^{(k)})\Delta t - Z_{t_i}^{(k+1)} \Delta W_{t_{i+1}} \\ Y_T^{(k+1)} = G(X_T^{(k+1)}, \mathcal{L}(X_T^{(k+1)})) \\ Z_{t_i}^{(k+1)} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \mathbb{E}_{t_i}[Y_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)} \Delta W_{t_{i+1}}] \\ Z_T^{(k+1)} = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

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- Questions:

- ▶ How to represent $\mathcal{L}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)})$?
- ▶ How to compute the conditional expectation $\mathbb{E}_{t_i}[Y_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)}]$?

- At each t_i , replace $\Delta W_{t_{i+1}}$ by a branch with 2 values: $\pm\sqrt{\Delta t}$ w.p. 1/2
- Answers:
 - ▶ $\mathcal{L}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}) \approx$ weighted empirical distribution:

$$\mathcal{L}(X_{t_0}^{(k+1)}) \approx \sum_{n=1}^{N_{x_0}} p_0^k \delta_{x_0^k},$$

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Grid-Based Algorithm: Time & Space Discretization

- Decoupling functions (see e.g., Section 6.4 in [\[Carmona and Delarue, 2018\]](#)):

$$Y_t = u(t, X_t, \mathcal{L}(X_t)), \quad Z_t = v(t, X_t, \mathcal{L}(X_t))$$

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- Picard iterations for distribution & decoupling functions:

- **Step 1:** Given $(\mu^{(k)}, u^{(k)}, v^{(k)})$, compute $\mu_t^{(k+1)} = \mathcal{L}(X_t^{(k+1)})$, $0 \leq t \leq T$, where

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- **Step 2:** Given $(X^{(k)}, \mu^{(k+1)})$, compute $(u^{(k+1)}, v^{(k+1)})$ such that (\star) holds, where

$$dY_t^{(k+1)} = -F\left(X_t^{(k+1)}, \mu_t^{(k+1)}, Y_t^{(k+1)}, Z_t^{(k+1)}\right)dt + Z_t^{(k+1)}dW_t$$

- Return $(\mu^{(k+1)}, u^{(k+1)}, v^{(k+1)})$

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- ▶ In fact $\mu_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)}$ can be expressed in terms of $\mu_{t_i}^{(k+1)}$ and a transition kernel
- ▶ Ex: binomial approx. of $W \rightarrow$ efficient computation using quantization

- Picard iterations for distribution & decoupling functions (continued):

- ▶ **Step 2:** Update u, v : for all $0 \leq i \leq N_t, x \in \Gamma$,

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More details and numerical examples in

[Chassagneux et al., 2019, Angiuli et al., 2019]

1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

- A Picard Scheme for MKV FBSDE
- Stochastic Methods for some Finite-Dimensional MFC Problems

5. Conclusion

Dependence on the Moments

- In general: b, f, g involve the whole distribution $\mu_t = \mathcal{L}(X_t)$ (infinite dim.)
- What if they involve only the first moment $\bar{\mu}_t = \mathbb{E}[X_t]$?

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- Ex. 2:

$$\begin{cases} b(x, \mu, \alpha) = b(x, \bar{\mu}, \alpha) = (\cos(x) + \cos(\bar{\mu}))\alpha \\ f(x, \mu, \alpha) = |\alpha|^2, \quad g(x, \mu) = 0 \end{cases}$$

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- Class of MFC s.t. the problem can be solved with a finite number of moments?

Following [Balata et al., 2019]

- In some cases, MFC problems can be written as:

$$J(\alpha) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^T \mathcal{F}(\underline{X}_t, \alpha_t) dt + \mathcal{G}(\underline{X}_T) \right]$$

subject to:

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where the state is: $\underline{X}_t = (\mathbb{E}[X_t], \mathbb{E}[|X_t|^2], \dots, \mathbb{E}[|X_t|^p]) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^p$

- Time discretization: $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_{N_t} = T, t_{i+1} - t_i = \Delta t$
- DPP for $V : [0, T] \times (\mathbb{R}^d)^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ or rather $V_{\Delta t} : \{t_0, \dots, t_{N_t}\} \times (\mathbb{R}^d)^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

$$\begin{cases} V_{\Delta t}(T, \underline{x}) = \mathcal{G}(\underline{x}) \\ V_{\Delta t}(t_n, \underline{x}) = \sup_{\alpha} \left\{ \mathcal{F}(\underline{x}, \alpha) \Delta t + \mathbb{E}^{t_n, \underline{x}, \alpha} \left[V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}) \right] \right\}, n = N_t - 1, \dots, 1, 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{where } \mathbb{E}^{t_n, \underline{x}, \alpha} \left[V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}) \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\alpha}) \mid \underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha} = \underline{x} \right]$$

Following [Balata et al., 2019]

- In some cases, MFC problems can be written as:

$$J(\alpha) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^T \mathcal{F}(\underline{X}_t, \alpha_t) dt + \mathcal{G}(\underline{X}_T) \right]$$

subject to:

$$d\underline{X}_t = \mathcal{B}(\underline{X}_t, \alpha_t) dt + \Sigma d\mathbb{W}_t$$

where the state is: $\underline{X}_t = (\mathbb{E}[X_t], \mathbb{E}[|X_t|^2], \dots, \mathbb{E}[|X_t|^p]) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^p$

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→ **Key difficulty:** estimation of the conditional expectation

Estimation Method 1: Regression Monte Carlo

- Family of basis functions $\phi = (\phi^m)_{m=1,\dots,M}$
- Projection:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\alpha}) \mid \underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha} \right] \approx \sum_{m=1}^M \beta_{t_n}^m \phi^m(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha})$$

where

$$\beta_{t_n}^m = \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^M} \mathbb{E} \left[\left| V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\alpha}) - \sum_{m=1}^M \beta^m \phi^m(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha}) \right|^2 \right]$$

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- Explicit expression:

$$\beta_{t_n}^m = \mathbb{E}[\phi(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha}) \phi(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha})^{\top}]^{-1} \mathbb{E}[V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\alpha}) \phi(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha})]$$

Estimation Method 1: Regression Monte Carlo

- Family of basis functions $\phi = (\phi^m)_{m=1,\dots,M}$
- Projection:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\alpha}) | \underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha} \right] \approx \sum_{m=1}^M \beta_{t_n}^m \phi^m(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha})$$

where

$$\beta_{t_n}^m = \underset{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^M}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathbb{E} \left[\left| V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\alpha}) - \sum_{m=1}^M \beta^m \phi^m(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha}) \right|^2 \right]$$

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- Estimation with N_{MC} Monte Carlo samples:

$$\mathbb{E}[\phi(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\ell, \alpha}) \phi(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\ell, \alpha})^{\top}] \approx \frac{1}{N_{MC}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_{MC}} \phi(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\ell, \alpha}) \phi(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\ell, \alpha})^{\top}$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}[V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\ell, \alpha}) \phi(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\ell, \alpha})] \approx \frac{1}{N_{MC}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_{MC}} V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\ell, \alpha}) \phi(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\ell, \alpha})$$

with training set $\{(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\ell, \alpha}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\ell, \alpha}); \ell = 1, \dots, N_{MC}\}$

Estimation Method 1: Regression Monte Carlo

- Family of basis functions $\phi = (\phi^m)_{m=1,\dots,M}$ *Not always easy to choose !*
- Projection:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[V_{\Delta t}(t_{n+1}, \underline{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{\alpha}) | \underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha} \right] \approx \sum_{m=1}^M \beta_{t_n}^m \phi^m(\underline{X}_{t_n}^{\alpha})$$

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- Two space discretizations:

- ▶ Set of points Γ on which we want to approximate $V_{\Delta t}$; projection Π_Γ
- ▶ Quantization of noise (see e.g. [Pagès, 2018]):
 - ★ Set of cells $\mathcal{C}_Q = \{C_j; j = 1, \dots, J_Q\}$
 - ★ Associated grid points $\mathcal{G}_Q = \{\zeta_j; j = 1, \dots, J_Q\}$
 - ★ Weights for Gaussian r.v. $\Delta \mathbb{W} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Delta t)$: $p_j = \mathbb{P}(\Delta \mathbb{W} \in C_j)$
 - ★ Discrete version: $\Delta \hat{\mathbb{W}} \in \mathcal{G}_Q$: $\mathbb{P}(\Delta \hat{\mathbb{W}} = \zeta_j) = p_j$
 - ★ Can be optimized¹; particularly helpful when $d > 1$

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for all $\underline{x} \in \Gamma$

- Other interpolations are possible

For more details and numerical examples, see [Balata et al., 2019]

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Outline

1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

5. Conclusion

The previous presentation is not exhaustive!

Some other references:

- Gradient descent based methods [Laurière and Pironneau, 2016], [Pfeiffer, 2016], [Lavigne and Pfeiffer, 2022]
- Monotone operators [Almulla et al., 2017], [Gomes and Saúde, 2018], [Gomes and Yang, 2020]
- Policy iteration [Cacace et al., 2021], [Cui and Koepl, 2021], [Camilli and Tang, 2022], [Tang and Song, 2022], [Laurière et al., 2023]
- Finite elements [Benamou and Carlier, 2015b], [Andreev, 2017]
- Cubature [de Raynal and Trillos, 2015]
- ...

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- ...

However **efficient**, these methods are usually limited to problems with:

- (relatively) **small dimension**
- (relatively) **simple structure**

⇒ motivations to develop **machine learning** methods (see next lectures)

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