

Mean Field Games:
Numerical Methods and
Applications in Machine Learning
Part 4: Methods Based on the Probabilistic
Approach

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<https://mlauriere.github.io/teaching/MFG-PKU-4.pdf>

Peking University
Summer School on Applied Mathematics
July 26 – August 6, 2021

RECAP

1. A Picard Scheme for MKV FBSDE

2. A Class of Finite-Dimensional MKV Control Problems

- Recall: generic form:

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

- Decouple:

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

- Iterate

- Algorithm proposed by [Chassagneux et al.'19]¹, [Angiuli et al.'19]²

¹Chassagneux, J.-F., Crisan, D., & Delarue, F. Numerical method for FBSDEs of McKean–Vlasov type. *The Annals of Applied Probability* 29.3 (2019): 1640-1684.

²Angiuli, A., et al. Cemracs 2017: numerical probabilistic approach to MFG. *ESAIM: Proceedings and Surveys* 65 (2019): 84-113.

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:

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = B(X_t, \mathcal{L}(X_t), Y_t, Z_t)dt + \sigma dW_t, & T_m \leq t \leq T_{m+1} \\ dY_t = -F(X_t, \mathcal{L}(X_t), Y_t, Z_t)dt + Z_t dW_t, & T_m \leq t \leq T_{m+1} \\ X_{T_m} = \xi_{T_m}, & Y_{T_{m+1}} = \zeta_{T_{m+1}} \end{cases}$$

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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.'19], a global solver can be defined recursively, and then we 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**

3 Compute

$$Y_{T_{m+1}}^{(k+1)} = \text{Solver}[m+1](X_{T_{m+1}}^{(k)}, \mathcal{L}(X_{T_{m+1}}^{(k)}))$$

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

Following [\[Angiuli et al.'19\]](#)³

- Tree algorithm:
 - ▶ Time discretization
 - ▶ Space discretization: binomial tree structure
- Grid algorithm:
 - ▶ Time and space discretization on a grid

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