

# Mean Field Games: Numerical Methods and Applications in Machine Learning

## Part 3: Numerical Schemes for MF PDE Systems

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<https://mlauriere.github.io/teaching/MFG-PKU-3.pdf>

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# RECAP

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## 1. Introduction

## 2. A Finite Difference Scheme

## 3. A Semi-Lagrangian Scheme

## 4. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

## 5. Conclusion

**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):**

- **Mass** and **positivity** of distribution:  $\int_{\mathcal{S}} m(t, x) dx = 1, m \geq 0$
- **Convergence** of discrete solution to continuous solution as mesh step  $\rightarrow 0$

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

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**Semi-implicit finite difference scheme** introduced by [Achdou, Capuzzo-Dolcetta]<sup>1</sup>  
**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  $\rho_i^0$  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** :  $[\nabla_h \psi]_i := ((D_h \psi)_i, (D_h \psi)_{i-1}), \quad 0 \leq i \leq N_h$

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

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

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

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

where  $H_0$  is the convex conjugate (also denoted  $L^*$ ) of  $L$  with respect to  $\mathbf{v}$ :

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

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$$b(x, m, v) = v, \quad f(x, m, v) = L(x, v) + f_0(x, m), \quad g(x, m) = g_0(x, m).$$

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

$$H(x, m, p) = \max_v \{-L(x, v) - \langle v, p \rangle\} - f_0(x, m) = H_0(x, p) - f_0(x, m)$$

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**Discrete Hamiltonian:**  $(x, p_1, p_2) \mapsto \tilde{H}_0(x, p_1, p_2)$  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  $H_0(x, p) = |p|^2$ , a possible choice is  $\tilde{H}_0(x, p_1, p_2) = (p_1^-)^2 + (p_2^+)^2$

**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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Discrete **forward-backward** system:

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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, & Camilli, Capuzzo-Dolcetta]<sup>23</sup>
- Can sometimes be used to show existence of a **weak** solution [Achdou, Porretta]<sup>4</sup>
- 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

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

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

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



## Algo 2: Newton's Method for FD System

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**Idea:** Directly look for a zero of  $\varphi = (\varphi_U, \varphi_M)^\top$  with  $\varphi_U$  and  $\varphi_M$  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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- Let  $X^{(k)} = (U^{(k)}, M^{(k)})^\top$
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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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**Idea:** Directly look for a zero of  $\varphi = (\varphi_{\mathcal{U}}, \varphi_{\mathcal{M}})^\top$  with  $\varphi_{\mathcal{U}}$  and  $\varphi_{\mathcal{M}}$  s.t.

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

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

**Key step:** Solve a linear system of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{U}} & A_{\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{M}} \\ A_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{U}} & A_{\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{M}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} U \\ M \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} G_{\mathcal{U}} \\ G_{\mathcal{M}} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $A_{\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{M}}(U, M) = \nabla_U \varphi_{\mathcal{M}}(U, M)$ ,  $A_{\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{U}}(U, M) = \nabla_U \varphi_{\mathcal{U}}(U, M)$ ,  $\dots$

**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

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

---

<sup>5</sup> Achdou, Y. (2013). Finite difference methods for mean field games. In Hamilton-Jacobi equations: approximations, numerical analysis and applications (pp. 1-47). Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.

**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

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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.  $\nu$  (converges more easily with a large viscosity)

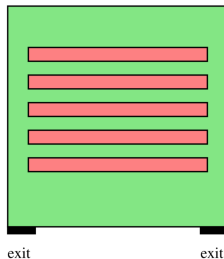
See [\[Achdou'13\]<sup>5</sup>](#) for more details.

<sup>5</sup>Achdou, Y. (2013). Finite difference methods for mean field games. In Hamilton-Jacobi equations: approximations, numerical analysis and applications (pp. 1-47). Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.

## Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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Example: evacuation of a room with obstacles and congestion [[Achdou, L.'15](#)]<sup>6</sup>



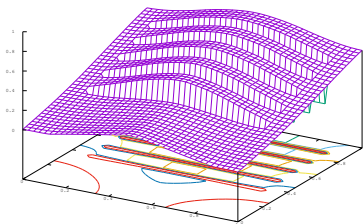
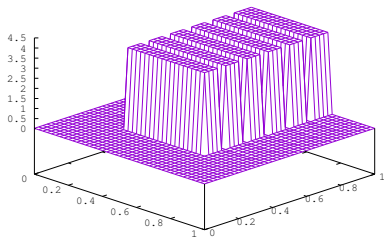
Geometry of the room

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<sup>6</sup> Achdou, Y., & Laurière, M. (2015). On the system of partial differential equations arising in mean field type control. *Discrete & Continuous Dynamical Systems*, 35(9), 3879.

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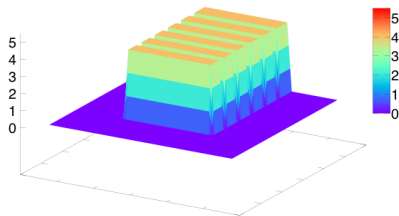
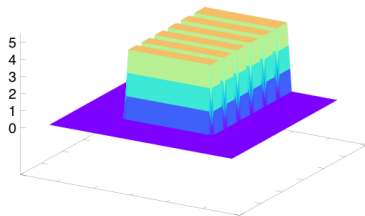


Initial density (left) and final cost (right)

<sup>6</sup> Achdou, Y., & Laurière, M. (2015). On the system of partial differential equations arising in mean field type control. *Discrete & Continuous Dynamical Systems*, 35(9), 3879.

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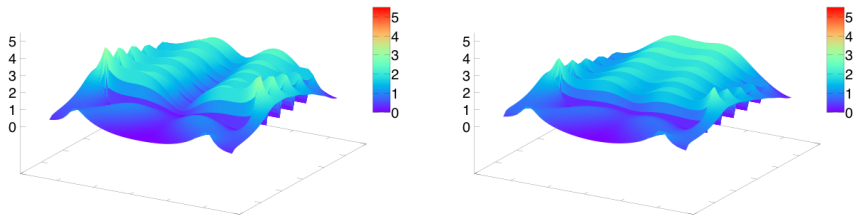
Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

<sup>6</sup> Achdou, Y., & Laurière, M. (2015). On the system of partial differential equations arising in mean field type control. *Discrete & Continuous Dynamical Systems*, 35(9), 3879.



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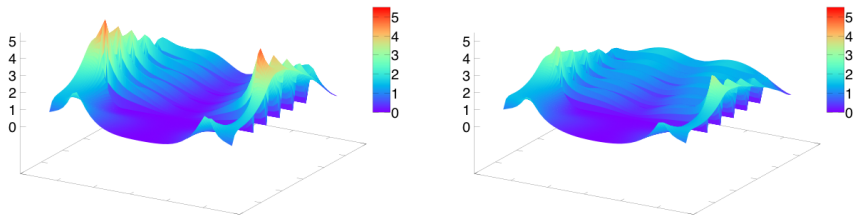


Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

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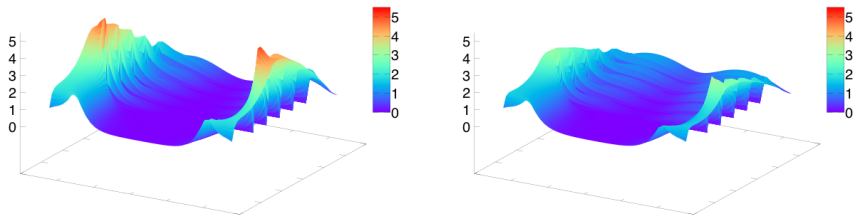
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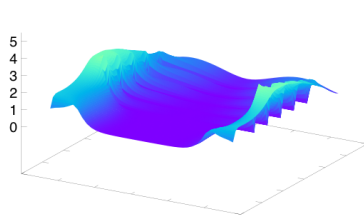
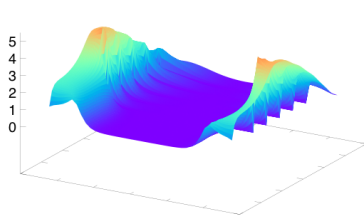
Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

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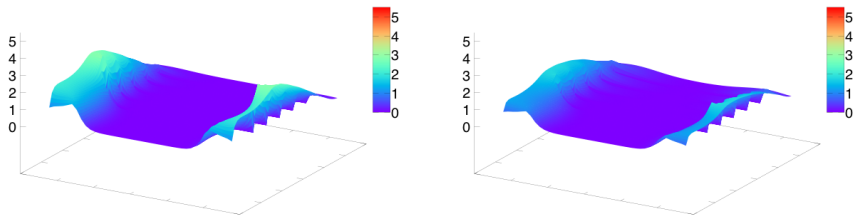


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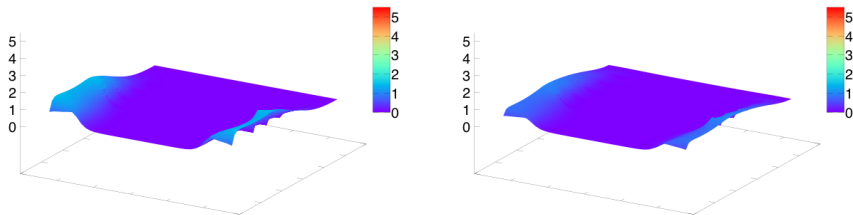


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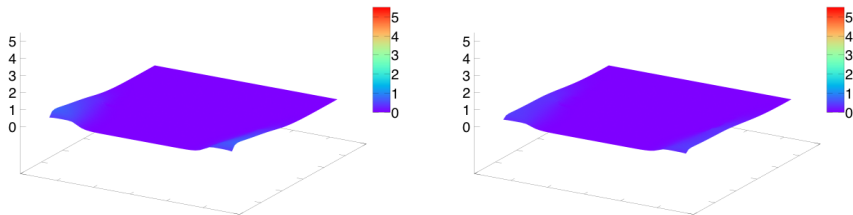
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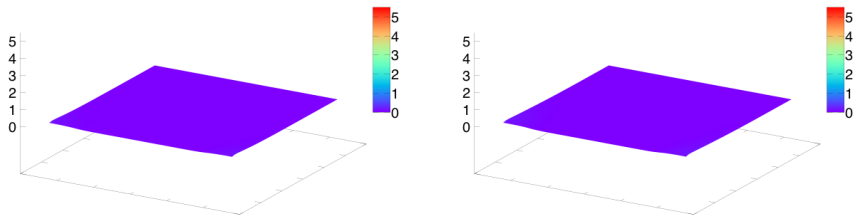
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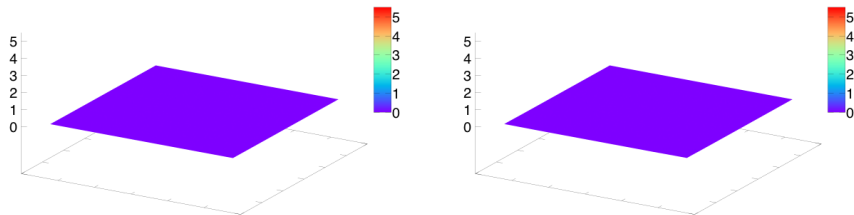
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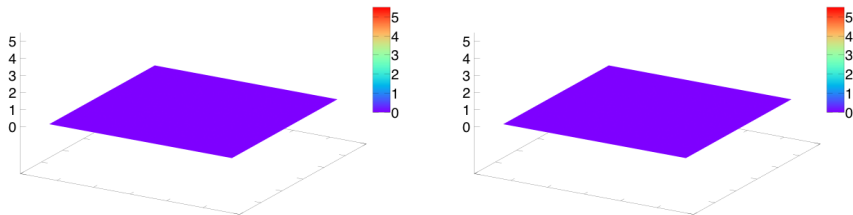
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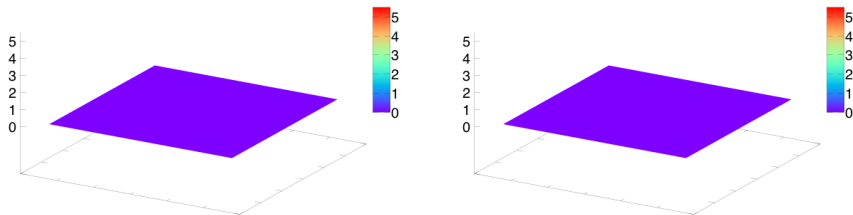
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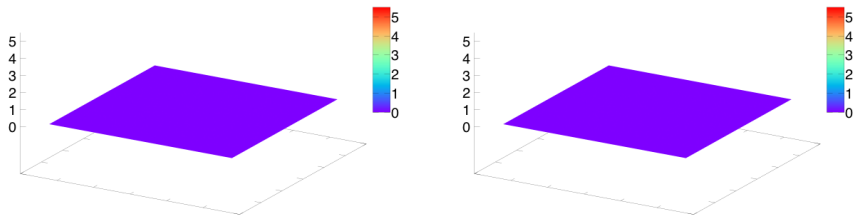
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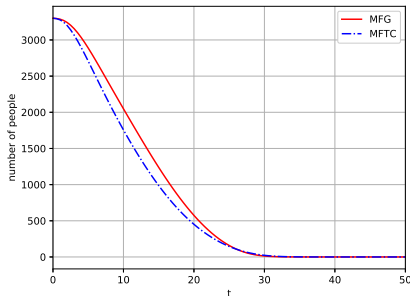
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## Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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Remaining mass inside the room

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# Outline

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1. Introduction

2. A Finite Difference Scheme

3. A Semi-Lagrangian Scheme

4. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

5. Conclusion

- Scheme introduced by [Carlini, Silva]<sup>7</sup>
- For simplicity:  $d = 1$ , domain  $\mathcal{S} = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}$
- $\nu = 0$  (degenerate second order case also possible; see [Carlini, Silva]<sup>8</sup>)
- Model:

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

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

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<sup>7</sup>Carlini, E., & Silva, F. J. (2014). A fully discrete semi-Lagrangian scheme for a first order mean field game problem. *SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis*, 52(1), 45-67.

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- MFG PDE system:

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

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- Dynamics:

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

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

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

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

## Discrete HJB equation

---

**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

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

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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

$$u_{\Delta t, h}[\textcolor{blue}{m}](x, t) : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

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

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

- **Regularization of HJB solution** with a mollifier  $\rho_\epsilon$ :

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

- **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
- ▶ evolution characterized by the position at time  $t$  of a particle starting at  $x$

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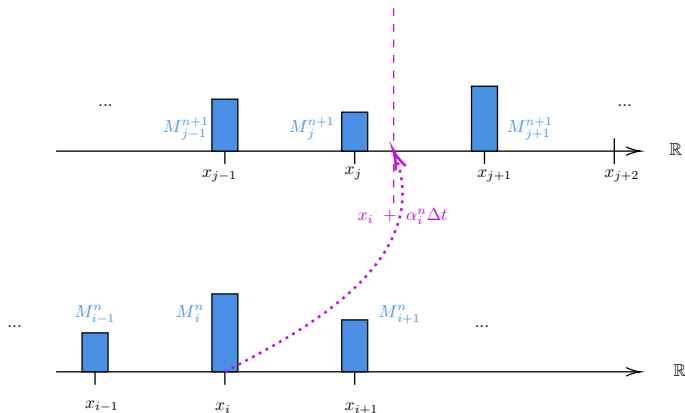
- ▶ focus on a fluid parcel
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- Here, in our model:

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

- Time and space discretization?

## Discrete KFP equation: intuition – diagram

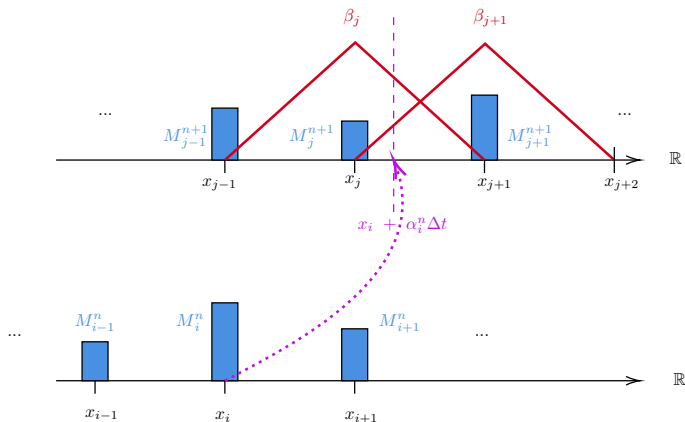


Movement of the mass when using control  $v(t_n, x_i) = \alpha_i^n$ .

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



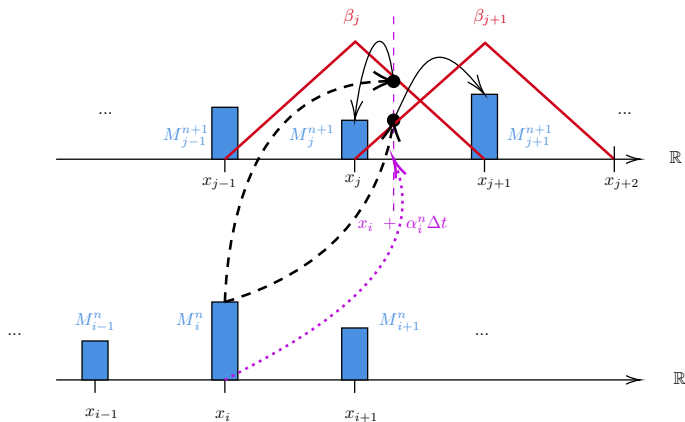
# Discrete KFP equation: intuition – diagram



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# 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  $t_{n+1}$ .

- **Control** induced by value function:

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

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

- **Discrete flow:**

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

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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:

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

- **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  $t \in [t_n, t_{n+1})$ ,

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

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

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

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

Costs:

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

with

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



# Numerical Illustration

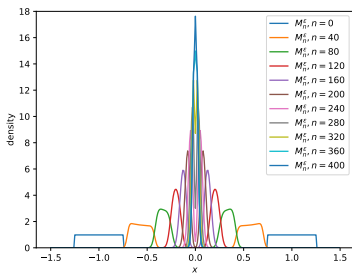
Costs:

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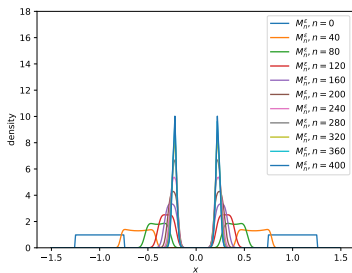
with

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

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



$\kappa_{MF} = 0.5$



$\kappa_{MF} = 0.9$

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Key ideas:

- Variational MFG
- Duality
- Optimization techniques

- $d = 1$ , domain =  $\mathbb{T}$

- drift and costs:

$$b(x, m, v) = v, \quad f(x, m, v) = L(x, v) + f_0(x, m), \quad g(x, m) = g_0(x).$$

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

- Then

$$H(x, m, p) = \sup_v \{-L(x, v) - vp\} - f_0(x, m) = H_0(x, p) - f_0(x, m)$$

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

$$H_0(x, p) = L^*(x, p) = \sup_v \{vp - L(x, v)\}$$

- Further assume (for simplicity)

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

# A Variational MFG

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- Further assume (for simplicity)

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

- **Claim:**

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

[Lasry, Lions'07; Cardaliaguet'13; Cardaliaguet, Graber, Porretta, Tonon'15]

# A Variational Problem

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

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

subject to:

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

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subject to:

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- Change of variable:

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

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

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:

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

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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 \end{aligned}$$

subject to:

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

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

# Primal Optimization Problem

**Primal problem:** Minimize over  $(m, w) = (m, mv)$ :

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

subject to the constraint:

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

**Primal problem:** Minimize over  $(m, w) = (m, mv)$ :

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subject to the constraint:

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

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  $\phi$  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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**Proof:** 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  $\Lambda^*$  is the adjoint operator of  $\Lambda$ , and  $\Lambda(\phi) = \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \nu \Delta \phi, \nabla \phi \right)$ ,

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

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

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**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  $(\phi, q, \tilde{q})$  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, Glowinski];

→ in MFG: [Benamou, Carlier'15; Andreev'17]; in MFC: [Achdou, L.'16]

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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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→ in MFG: [Benamou, Carlier'15; Andreev'17]; in MFC: [Achdou, L'16]

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

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---

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

**Output:** Approximation of a saddle point  $(\phi, q, \tilde{q})$

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



# 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  $(\phi, q, \tilde{q})$

```
1 Initialize  $(\phi^{(0)}, q^{(0)}, \tilde{q}^{(0)})$ 
2 for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K - 1$  do
3     (a) Compute  $\phi^{(k+1)} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\phi} \left\{ \mathcal{F}_h(\phi) - \langle \tilde{q}^{(k)}, \Lambda_h(\phi) \rangle + \frac{r}{2} \|\Lambda_h(\phi) - q^{(k)}\|^2 \right\}$ 
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---

## First-order Optimality Conditions:

Step (a): finite-difference equation

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

# ADMM with Discretization

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

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---

## First-order Optimality Conditions:

Step (a): finite-difference equation

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

**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. [\[Achdou, Perez'12, Andreev'17, Briceño-Arias et al.'19\]](#))

## Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

- 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:

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

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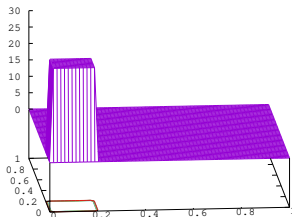
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- Ex.:  $m_0$  : &  $u_T$  : opposite corners;  $\alpha = 0.01, \beta = 2, \ell(x, m) = 0.01m$ .
- Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with  $\nu = 0$



**Density at time  $t = 0$**

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

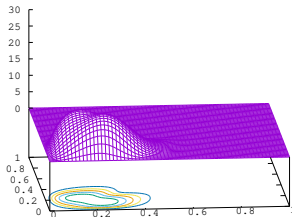
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**Density at time  $t = T/8$**

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

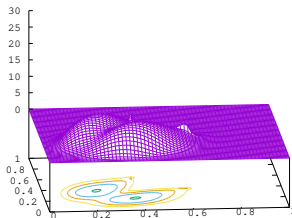
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**Density at time  $t = T/4$**

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

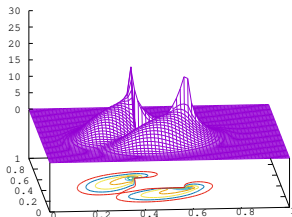
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**Density at time  $t = 3T/8$**

## Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

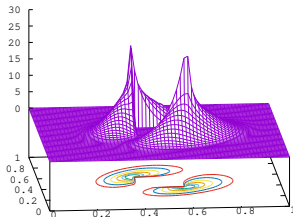
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**Density at time  $t = T/2$**



# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

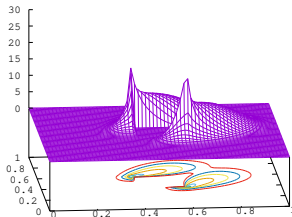
- Domain  $\Omega = [0, 1]^2 \setminus [0.4, 0.6]^2$  (obstacle at the center)
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**Density at time  $t = 5T/8$**

## Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

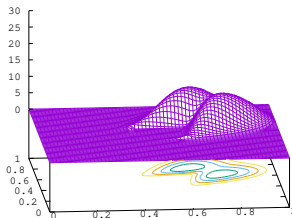
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**Density at time  $t = 3T/4$**

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

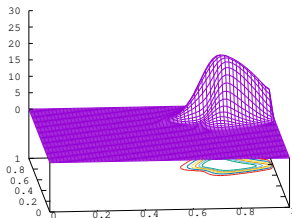
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**Density at time  $t = 7T/8$**

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

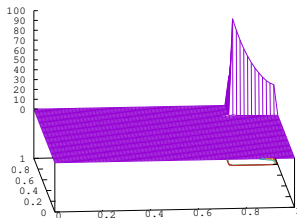
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**Density at time  $t = T$**

# Outline

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## 1. Introduction

## 2. A Finite Difference Scheme

## 3. A Semi-Lagrangian Scheme

## 4. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

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

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>-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 & Pock]<sup>9</sup> 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**  $(\sigma^{(K)}, y^{(K)}, \bar{y}^{(K)})$

---

<sup>9</sup>Chambolle, A. & Thomas P.. A first-order primal-dual algorithm for convex problems with applications to imaging. *Journal of mathematical imaging and vision* 40.1 (2011): 120-145.

## 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:

$$\mathcal{F}_h^*(\mu) = \sup_{\phi \in \mathbb{R}^N} \left\{ \langle \mu, \phi \rangle_{\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^N)} - \mathcal{F}_h(\phi) \right\}, \quad \forall \mu \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$\mathcal{G}_h^*(-\sigma) = \max_{q \in \mathbb{R}^{3N'}} \left\{ -\langle \sigma, q \rangle_{\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^{3N'})} - \mathcal{G}_h(q) \right\} = h\Delta t \sum_{n=1}^{N_T} \sum_{i=0}^{N_h-1} \tilde{L}_h(x_i, \sigma_i^n), \quad \forall \sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{3N'}$$

$$\text{with } \tilde{L}_h(x, \sigma_0) = \max_{p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3} \left\{ -\sigma_0 \cdot p_0 + \mathcal{K}_h(x, q_0) \right\}, \quad \forall \sigma_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3.$$

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

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  $\tilde{L}_h(x, \sigma_0) = \max_{p_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3} \left\{ -\sigma_0 \cdot p_0 + \mathcal{K}_h(x, q_0) \right\}, \quad \forall \sigma_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3.$

**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  $\Lambda_h$ : for all  $(\mathbf{m}, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^{3N'}, \phi \in \mathbb{R}^N$ :

$$\langle \Lambda_h^*(\mathbf{m}, y, z), \phi \rangle_{\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^N)} = \langle (\mathbf{m}, y, z), \Lambda_h(\phi) \rangle_{\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^{3N'})}$$

# 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:

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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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$$\langle \Lambda_h^*(\mathbf{m}, y, z), \phi \rangle_{\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^N)} = \langle (\mathbf{m}, y, z), \Lambda_h(\phi) \rangle_{\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^{3N'})}$$

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

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

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

# 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

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

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

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

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

<sup>10</sup> Briceno-Arias, L., Kalise, D. & Silva, J.. Proximal methods for stationary mean field games with local couplings. *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization* 56.2 (2018): 801-836.

<sup>11</sup> Briceño-Arias, L., et al. On the implementation of a primal-dual algorithm for second order time-dependent mean field games with local couplings. *ESAIM: Proceedings and Surveys* 65 (2019): 330-348.

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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.'18]<sup>10</sup> and [Briceño-Arias et al.'19]<sup>11</sup> in the stationary and dynamic cases.

<sup>10</sup> Briceño-Arias, L., Kalise, D. & Silva, J.. Proximal methods for stationary mean field games with local couplings. *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization* 56.2 (2018): 801-836.

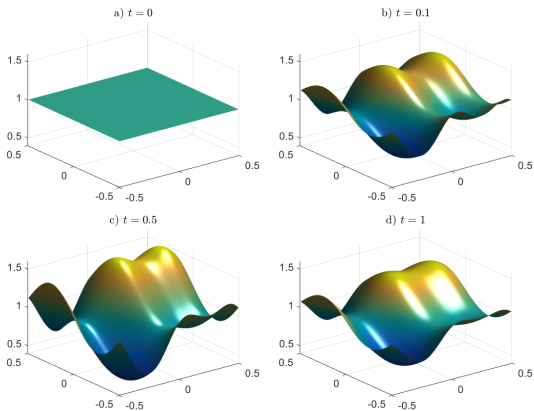
<sup>11</sup> Briceño-Arias, L., et al. On the implementation of a primal-dual algorithm for second order time-dependent mean field games with local couplings. *ESAIM: Proceedings and Surveys* 65 (2019): 330-348.

## 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**

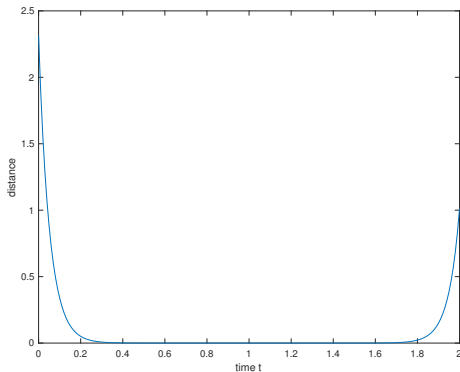
(More details in [\[Briceño-Arias et al.'19\]](#))



# Turnpike phenomenon

This example also illustrates the **turnpike phenomenon**, see e.g. [Porretta, Zuazua]

- 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.'19])

# Outline

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1. Introduction

2. A Finite Difference Scheme

3. A Semi-Lagrangian Scheme

4. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

5. Conclusion







