

On the Mathematical Modeling and Simulation of Crowd Motion

Marie-Therese Wolfram

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① Motivations and applications

Microscopic models

Macroscopic approaches

② Mean field model for fast exit scenarios

Mean field game models

Mathematical modeling

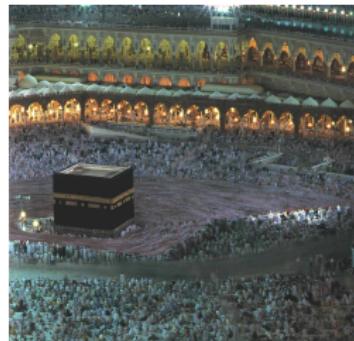
Analysis of the optimal control model

Numerical simulations

③ Understanding the Hughes model

Pedestrian motion

- Empirical studies of human crowds started about 50 years ago.
- Nowadays there is a large literature on different micro- and macroscopic approaches available.
- Challenges: microscopic interactions not clearly defined, multiscale effects, finite size effects,.....



Mathematical modeling - microscopic level

- ① **Force based models:** position of a particle is determined by forces acting on it e.g. Newton dynamics, stochastic differential equations (SDE),
Newton equations of motion

$$dX_i = V_i dt$$

$$dV_i = F_i(X_1, \dots, X_N, V_1, \dots, V_N) dt + \sigma_i dB_i^t.$$

$X_i = X_i(t)$ is the location of the i-th particle, $V_i = V_i(t)$ its velocity, F_i the forces acting on it, and dB_i some additive noise.

- ② **Stochastic optimal control** Each agent wants to minimize a cost functional

$$J_i(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N) = \mathbb{E} \left(\int_0^T L_i(X_i, V_i) + F(X_1, \dots, X_N) dt \right)$$

under the constraint that

$$dX_i = V_i dt + \sigma_i dB_i^t.$$

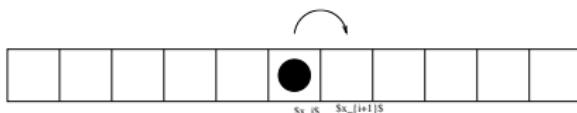
where L and F denote the running cost.

Mathematical modeling - microscopic level

- ① **Lattice based models:** Consider a domain divided into a cells and each cell center represents a possible position of a particle. Particle may jump from one cell to another with a certain transition probability, e.g. cellular automata, ..

Time continuous, discrete in space random walk for the probability p_i to find a particle at a discrete lattice point x_i :

$$\frac{\partial p_i}{\partial t} = \mathcal{T}_{i+1}^- p_{i+1} + \mathcal{T}_{i-1}^+ p_{i-1} - (\mathcal{T}_i^+ + \mathcal{T}_i^-) p_i$$



Example: Social force model ¹

- Each pedestrian changes his/her velocity V_i according to:

$$\frac{dV_i}{dt} = \frac{v_i^0 \mathbf{e}_i^0 - V_i}{\tau_i} + \frac{1}{m_i} \sum_{i \neq j} f_{ij} \quad ,$$

interaction forces

where v_i^0 is a desired velocity in direction \mathbf{e}_i^0 , τ_i is the characteristic time and m_i the mass of the i -th particle.

- Interaction forces:

$$f_{ij} = \underbrace{A_i \exp\left(\frac{R_{ij} - d_{ij}}{B_i}\right)}_{\text{repulsion}} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{ij} + \underbrace{k(R_{ij} - d_{ij})}_{\text{body force}} \cdot \mathbf{n}_{ij} - \underbrace{c_{ij} \mathbf{n}_{ij}}_{\text{attraction}} + \dots$$

where R_{ij} is the sum of the radii, d_{ij} the distance between two pedestrians and the normalized vector pointing from pedestrian j to i .

¹D. Helbing and P. Molnar, *Social force model for pedestrian dynamics*, Phys. Rev. E. 51, 1995

Nonlinear diffusion transportation models

In the macroscopic limit $N \rightarrow \infty$ one usually obtains a **nonlinear transport-diffusion equations** of the form

$$\rho_t = \operatorname{div}(D(\rho) \underbrace{\nabla(E'(\rho) - V + W * \rho)}_{:=v}).$$

- $V = V(x)$ is an external potential energy (e.g. confinement,...),
- $D = D(\rho)$ denotes the nonlinear diffusion/mobility
- $E = E(\rho)$ an entropy/internal energy.
- $W = W(x)$ is an interaction energy.

Classic fluid dynamic based models: Based on the **conservation of mass**

$$\rho_t = \operatorname{div}(\rho v)$$

with a particularly chosen velocity v (which depends on the specific modeling assumptions).

Traffic flow: Lighthill-Whitman and Richards model,....

Pedestrian motion: Colombo, Rossini, Venuti,

Review on literature: Bellomo & Dogbe 2011.

Hughes model for pedestrian flow ²

- ① Speed of pedestrians depends on the density of the surrounding pedestrian flow

$$v = f(\rho)u, \quad |u| = 1.$$

- ② Pedestrians have a common sense of the task (called potential ϕ)

$$u = -\frac{\nabla\phi}{|\nabla\phi|}.$$

- ③ Pedestrians try to minimize their travel time, but want to avoid high densities

$$|\nabla\phi| = \frac{1}{g(\rho)f(\rho)}.$$

Saturation effects are included via the function $f(\rho) = (\rho_{\max} - \rho)$, where ρ_{\max} denotes the maximum density.

²Hughes, R. A continuum theory for the flow of pedestrians, Transportation Research Part B, 36, 507-535, 2002

Hughes model for pedestrian flow

Hughes' model for pedestrian flow (with $g(\rho) = 1$):

$$\partial_t \rho - \operatorname{div}(\rho f^2(\rho) \nabla \phi) = 0$$

$$|\nabla \phi| = \frac{1}{f(\rho)}$$

Analytic issues:

- fully coupled system; nonlinear hyperbolic conservation law.
- density dependent stationary Hamilton Jacobi equation $\Rightarrow \phi \in C^{0,1}$ only.

Let us consider the regularized system:

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \rho^\varepsilon - \operatorname{div}((\rho^\varepsilon f^2(\rho^\varepsilon)) \nabla \phi^\varepsilon) &= \varepsilon \Delta \rho^\varepsilon \\ -\delta_1 \Delta \phi^\varepsilon + |\nabla \phi^\varepsilon| &= \frac{1}{f(\rho^\varepsilon) + \delta_2}.\end{aligned}$$

1D : solution ρ^ε converges to an entropy solution for $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, but $\delta_1 > 0, \delta_2 > 0$!³

³M. Di Francesco, P.A. Markowich, J.-F. Pietschmann and MTW, *On Hughes model for pedestrian flow: the one-dimensional case*, JDE, 2011

Mean field games ⁴

Microscopic model

N-player stochastic differential game

$$\inf_{V_i \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^T f(t, X_i, V_i, \rho) dt + g(\rho, X_i, t = T) \right]$$
$$dX_i = V_i dt + \sigma dB_i, \quad X_i(t = 0) = x.$$

Transient macroscopic model

Calculate Nash equilibrium, limiting equations as $N \rightarrow \infty$ gives time dependent mean field game: Find (ϕ, ρ) such that

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \nu \Delta \phi - H(x, \nabla \phi) = 0$$
$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} - \nu \Delta \rho - \operatorname{div} \left(\frac{\partial H}{\partial \rho}(x, \nabla \phi) \rho \right) = 0,$$

with the initial and end conditions

$$\phi(x, T) = g[\rho(x, T)], \quad \rho(x, 0) = \rho_0(x),$$

where H is the Legendre transform of the running cost f .

⁴P.-L. Lions, J.-M. Lasry, *Mean field games*, Japan. J. Math., 2, 229-260, 2007

Link to optimal control problems

If the running cost f has the form

$$f(x, t, v, \rho) = L(x, t, v)\rho,$$

then the MFG can be written as an optimal control problem. For example let us consider the kinetic energy $f(x, t, v) = \frac{1}{2}\rho|v|^2$, then

$$\inf_v \left[\frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \rho|v|^2 \, dxdt + g(\rho(T)) \right]$$

under the constraint that

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \nu \Delta \rho - \operatorname{div}(\rho v), \quad \rho(x, 0) = \rho_0(x).$$

The formal optimality condition is $v = \nabla \phi$ and therefore the adjoint equation reads as

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \nu \Delta \phi - \frac{1}{2} |\phi|^2 = 0$$

with the terminal condition $\phi(x, T) = g'(\rho(T))$.

An optimal control approach for fast exit scenarios ⁵

- Let us consider an evacuation or fast exit scenario, i.e. a room with one or several exits from which a group wants to leave as fast as possible.
- Each individual tries to find the optimal trajectory to the exit, taking into account the distance to the exit, the density of people and other costs.



Figure: Fast-exit experiment conducted at the TU Delft

⁵M. Burger, M. Di Francesco, P.A. Markowich, MTW, *Mean field games with nonlinear mobilities in pedestrian dynamics*, accepted at DCDS, 2014.

Fast exit of particles

- Let $X(t)$ denote the trajectory of a particle, which wants to leave the domain Ω as fast as possible. The exit time is defined as:

$$T_{exit}(X) = \sup\{t > 0 \mid X(t) \in \Omega\}.$$

- Fastest path is chosen such that

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{T_{exit}} |V(t)|^2 dt + \frac{\alpha}{2} T_{exit}(X) \rightarrow \min_{(X,V)} .$$

subject to $\dot{X}(t) = V(t)$, $X(0) = X_0$.

- For the Dirac measure $\mu = \delta_{X(t)}$ and a final time T sufficiently large we can write:

$$T_{exit} = \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} d\delta_{X(t)} dt.$$

- This yields the equivalence between the continuum formulation and the particle formulation, i.e.

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |v(x,t)|^2 d\mu dt = \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |v(x,t)|^2 d\delta_{X(t)} dt = \int_0^{T_{exit}} |v(X(t), t)|^2 dt,$$

by mapping the Eulerian to the Lagrangian coordinates.

Fast exit of particles

- Hence the minimization for the particle problem can be written as a continuum problem

$$I_T(\mu, v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |v(x, t)|^2 d\mu dt + \frac{\alpha}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} d\mu dt,$$

subject to $\partial_t \mu + \nabla \cdot (\mu v) = 0$, $\mu|_{t=0} = \delta_{x_0}$.

- For a stochastic particle $d\mu = \rho dx$ and a final time T sufficiently large, the minimization reads as

$$I_T(\rho, v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \rho(x, t) |v(x, t)|^2 dx dt + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \rho(x, t) dx dt,$$

subject to $\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho v) = \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho$, $\rho(x, 0) = \rho_0(x)$.

Optimality conditions

- Formal optimality conditions; calculated via the Lagrangian with dual variable ϕ :

$$L_T(\rho, v, \phi) = I_T(\rho, v) + \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (v \rho) - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho) \phi \, dx \, dt.$$

- For the optimal solution we have

$$0 = \partial_v L_T(\rho, v, \phi) = \rho v - \rho \nabla \phi$$

$$0 = \partial_\rho L_T(\rho, v, \phi) = \frac{1}{2} |v|^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} - \partial_t \phi - v \cdot \nabla \phi - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \phi,$$

with the additional terminal condition $\phi(x, T) = 0$.

- Inserting $v = \nabla \phi$ we obtain the following system (with MFG structure):

$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \nabla \phi) - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho = 0$$

$$\partial_t \phi + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi|^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \phi = \frac{\alpha}{2}.$$

Mean field games and crowding

We consider the following generalization of the optimal control problem:

$$I_T(\rho, v) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} F(\rho) |v(x, t)|^2 dx dt + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} E(\rho) dx dt,$$

subject to

$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (G(\rho)v) = \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho, \text{ with initial condition } \rho(x, t=0) = \rho_0(x).$$

Motivation:

- $G = G(\rho)$ corresponds to a nonlinear mobility, e.g. $G(\rho) = \rho(\rho_{\max} - \rho)$.
- $F = F(\rho)$ corresponds to transport costs created by large densities. For example:

$$F(\rho) \rightarrow \infty \text{ as } \rho \rightarrow \rho_{\max}.$$

- $E = E(\rho)$ may model active avoidance of jams, in particular by penalizing large density regions.

Relation to the classical model by Hughes

- Let $H(\rho) = \frac{G^2}{F} = \rho f(\rho)^2$, $E(\rho) = \alpha\rho$ and $\sigma = 0$. Then we obtain the following optimality conditions:

$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho f(\rho)^2 \nabla \phi) = 0$$

$$\partial_t \phi + \frac{f(\rho)}{2} (f(\rho) + 2\rho f'(\rho)) |\nabla \phi|^2 = \frac{\alpha}{2}$$

- For large T we expect equilibration of ϕ backward in time, hence we consider

$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho f(\rho)^2 \nabla \phi) = 0$$

$$(f(\rho) + 2\rho f'(\rho)) |\nabla \phi|^2 = \frac{\alpha}{f(\rho)},$$

which has a similar structure as the Hughes model

$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho f(\rho)^2 \nabla \phi) = 0$$

$$|\nabla \phi| = \frac{1}{f(\rho)}.$$

- Setting $f(\rho) = \rho_{\max} - \rho$ and $\alpha = 1$ yields $f(\rho) + 2\rho f'(\rho) = \rho_{\max} - 3\rho$, thus for small densities the behavior is similar, but the singular point is $\rho = \frac{\rho_{\max}}{3}$.

Boundary conditions

On the Neumann boundary Γ_N we clearly have no outflux, hence naturally

$$\left(-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}\nabla\rho + j\right) \cdot n = 0.$$

At an exit Γ_E : the outflux depends on how fast people can leave the room.

$$\left(-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}\nabla\rho + j\right) \cdot n = \underbrace{\beta\rho}_{\text{outflow}}.$$

Boundary conditions for the adjoint variable ϕ can be obtained via Lagrangian and result in

$$\frac{\sigma^2}{2}\nabla\phi \cdot n + \beta\phi = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_E \quad \text{and} \quad -\frac{\sigma^2}{2}\nabla\phi \cdot n = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_N.$$

Analysis of the optimal control model

Let $\rho_{\max} > 0$ denote the maximum density and $\Upsilon = [0, \rho_{\max}]$. Let $F = G = H$ which satisfy the following assumptions:

- (A1) $F = F(\rho) \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$, F bounded, $E = E(\rho) \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ and $F(\rho) \geq 0$, $E(\rho) \geq 0$ for $\rho \in \Upsilon$.

Existence of minimizes is guaranteed if

- (A2) $E = E(\rho)$ is convex.

To ensure that the minimizes satisfy $\rho \in \Upsilon$, we need the following assumption on F :

- (A3) $F(0) > 0$ if $\rho \in \Upsilon$ and $F = 0$ otherwise.

Uniqueness holds for:

- (A4) $F = F(\rho)$ is concave.

We consider the optimization problem on the set $V \times Q$, i.e. $I_T(\rho, v) : V \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where V and Q are defined as follows

$$V = L^2(0, T; H^1(\Omega)) \cap H^1(0, T; H^{-1}(\Omega)) \text{ and } Q = L^2(\Omega \times (0, T)).$$

Abstract problem formulation in different variables

- Then the optimization problem reads as

$$\min_{(\rho, v) \in V \times Q} I_T(\rho, v) \text{ such that } \partial_t \rho = \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho - \operatorname{div}(F(\rho)v),$$

respectively in momentum formulation

$$\min_{(\rho, j) \in V \times Q} I_T(\rho, j) \text{ such that } \partial_t \rho = \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho - \operatorname{div}(j).$$

- In the case of non-concave H we use the variable $w = \sqrt{F(\rho)}v$. Then the minimization problem becomes:

$$\min_{(\rho, w) \in V \times Q} \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (|w|^2 + E(\rho)) dx dt \text{ such that } \partial_t \rho = \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho - \operatorname{div}(\sqrt{F(\rho)}w).$$

Theorem (Existence in the general case)

Let $\rho_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$. Let (A1) and (A2) be satisfied, $\sigma > 0$ and $w = \sqrt{F(\rho)}v$. Then the variational problem has at least a weak solution $(\rho, w) \in V \times Q$ with initial condition ρ_0 . If in addition (A3) is satisfied, then $\rho \in \Upsilon$.

Idea of the proof: Let $(\rho_k, w_k) \in V \times Q$ be a minimizing sequence. Both sequences ρ_k and w_k are bounded, hence we can extract a weakly convergent sub-sequence with limit $(\hat{\rho}, \hat{w})$. Using the Lemma of Aubin and Lions we can show that $(\hat{\rho}, \hat{w})$ is admissible and the lower semicontinuity of the objective functional implies it is indeed a minimizer.

Theorem (Existence for concave mobility)

Let (A1), (A2), (A3), and (A4) be satisfied, $\sigma > 0$ and $j = F(\rho)v$. Then the variational problem has at least one minimize $(\rho, j) \in L^\infty(\Omega \times (0, T)) \times Q$ such that $\rho(x) \in \Upsilon$ for almost every $x \in \Omega$. If E is strictly convex the minimize is unique.

Steepest descent

We solve the optimal control problem using a steepest descent method given by

- ① Solve the forward equation for $\rho = \rho(x, t)$

$$\partial_t \rho = \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho - \nabla \cdot (F(\rho) v)$$

$$(-\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho + \nabla \cdot F(\rho) v) \cdot n = \beta \rho \text{ on } \Gamma_E \text{ and } (-\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho + \nabla \cdot F(\rho) v) \cdot n = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_N,$$

using Newton's method for the implicit Euler discretization and a mixed hybrid DG method for the discretization in space.

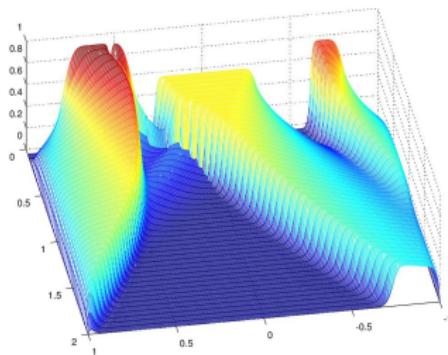
- ② Calculate the backward evolution of the adjoint variable ϕ using the density ρ

$$\begin{aligned} -\partial_t \phi - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \phi - G'(\rho) v \cdot \nabla \phi &= -\frac{1}{2} F'(\rho) |v|^2 - \frac{1}{2} E'(\rho) \\ -\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \nabla \phi \cdot n - \beta \phi &= 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_E \text{ and } -\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \nabla \phi \cdot n = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_N, \end{aligned}$$

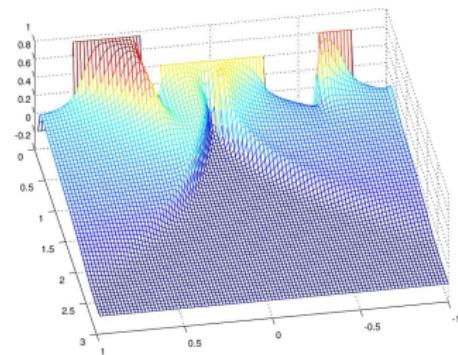
using an implicit in time discretization and a mixed hybrid DG method.

- ③ Update the velocity $v = v - \tau(F(\rho)v - G(\rho)\nabla\phi)$.
- ④ Go to (1) until convergence of the functional.

Fast exit for three groups



(a) Solution of the classical Hughes model



(b) Solution of the mean field optimal control approach

Understanding the Hughes model

- Let us consider N particles with position $X_k = X_k(t)$ and the empirical density

$$\rho^N(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \delta(x - X_k(t)).$$

- To define the cost functional in a proper way we introduce the smoothed approximation ρ_g^N by

$$\rho_g^N(t) = (\rho^N * g)(x, t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N g(x - X_k(t)),$$

where g is a sufficiently smooth positive kernel.

We freeze the empirical density ρ^N and look for the optimal trajectory of each particle, i.e.

$$C(X; \rho(t)) = \min_{(X, V)} \frac{1}{2} \int_t^{T+t} \frac{|V(s)|^2}{G(\rho_g^N(\xi(s; t)))} ds + \frac{1}{2} T_{exit}(X, V),$$

subject to $\frac{d\xi}{ds} = V(s)$ and $\xi(0) = X(t)$.

Understanding the Hughes model

- For sufficiently large $T > T_{exit}$:

$$T_{exit}(X, V) - t = \int_t^{T+t} \int_{\Omega} \delta_{\xi(s)} \, dx \, ds.$$

Since the macroscopic version of $\rho^N(t)$ converges to the mean field $\rho(t)$ (at least in the weak-* sense of measures as $N \rightarrow \infty$), we replace $\rho_g^N(t)$ by $\rho(t)$ and obtain:

$$C(X; \rho(t)) = \min_{(\mu, w)} J(\mu, w) = \frac{1}{2} \int_t^{T+t} \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{w^2(x, s)}{G(\rho(\xi(s; t)))} + 1 \right) d\mu ds,$$

subject to $\partial_s \mu + \nabla \cdot (\mu w) = 0$ with $\mu(t=0) = \delta_X$.

Understanding the Hughes model

- The formal optimality conditions can be calculated via the Lagrange functional

$$0 = \partial_w L_X = w - G(\rho) \nabla \psi,$$

$$0 = \partial_\mu L_X = \partial_s \psi + \frac{1}{2} G(\rho(t)) |\nabla \psi|^2 - \frac{1}{2}.$$

with $\psi(T+t) = 0$, $\psi(t) = -\phi$

- For $T \rightarrow 0$ the behavior at $s = t$ represents the long-time behavior of the HJE.
Hence we expect $\phi = -\psi(t)$ to solve

$$G(\rho(t)) |\nabla \psi|^2 = 1.$$

Then we recover the Hughes model by choosing $G(\rho) = f(\rho)^2$ i.e.

$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho f(\rho)^2 \nabla \phi) = 0,$$

$$|\nabla \phi| = \frac{1}{f(\rho)}.$$

Numerical simulations of the particle model

Consider N particles located at positions $X_i = X_i(t)$, $i = 1, \dots, N$. In every time step we update their position by:

- ① Determine the empirical density

$$\rho_g^N(x, t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N g(x - X_i(t)),$$

where g denotes a Gaussian to approximate the Dirac deltas.

- ② Solve the Eikonal equation⁶

$$|\nabla \phi| = \frac{1}{f(\rho_g^N)}$$

with boundary conditions $\phi = 0$ at the exit and $\phi = 1$ at obstacles.

- ③ Update each position by $X_i(t + \Delta t) = X_i(t) + \Delta t (\rho_g^N f(\rho_g^N)^2 \nabla \phi)$.

⁶J. Qian, Y.-T. Zhang, H.-K. Zhao, Fast sweeping methods for Eikonal equations on triangular mesh, SIAM J. Numer. Anal. 45(1), 2007

Future work

- Analysis of the problem for more general functions E , F and $G \Rightarrow$ non convex optimization problems
- Simulations in 2D, numerical solvers for non-convex optimization problems.
- Other generalization of the Hughes model for pedestrian flow, e.g. include local vision.
- Multiscale problems in crowd dynamics: crowd-leader interactions or the motion of small social groups in large crowds.
- Inverse problems: How many leaders are necessary to guide a crowd efficiently ?

Thank you very much for your attention !

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