

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

Outline

1. Introduction

2. A Finite Difference Scheme

3. A Semi-Lagrangian Scheme

4. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

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

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- Algorithms

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Semi-implicit finite difference scheme from Achdou & Capuzzo-Dolcetta [ACD10]¹
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** : $[\nabla_h \psi]_i := ((D_h \psi)_i, (D_h \psi)_{i-1}), \quad 0 \leq i \leq N_h$

¹ Achdou, Y., & Capuzzo-Dolcetta, I. (2010). Mean field games: numerical methods. *SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis*, 48(3), 1136-1162.

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

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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** $\approx -\operatorname{div}(\dots)$

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

The KFP equation

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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 [ACD10, ACCD12]²³
- Can sometimes be used to show existence of a **weak** solution [AP16]⁴
- 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 $\mathbb{R}^{N_h \times (N_T + 1)} \ni U \mapsto \varphi(U) \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times N_T}$,

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

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

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

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

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

⁵ 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.

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

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

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

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

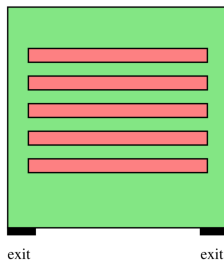
- Idea 1: initialize with the ergodic solution
- Idea 2: continuation method w.r.t. ν (converges more easily with a large viscosity)

See [Achdou \[Ach13\]⁵](#) for more details.

⁵Achdou, 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

Example: evacuation of a room with obstacles and congestion [\[AL15\]](#)⁶

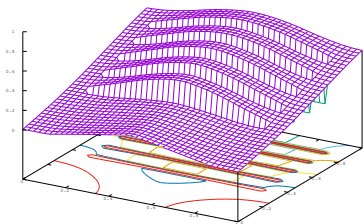
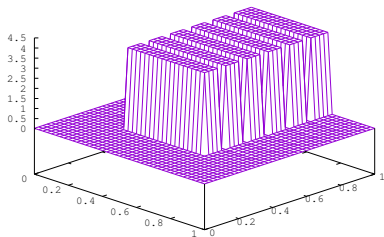


Geometry of the room

⁶ 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.

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

Example: evacuation of a room with obstacles and congestion [AL15]⁶

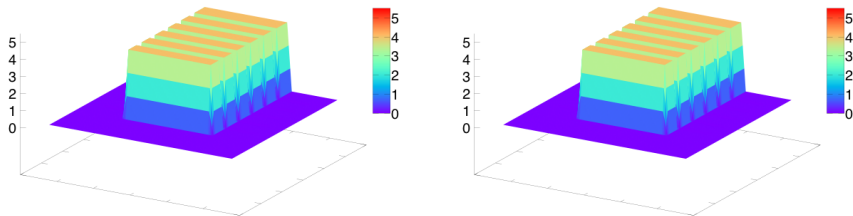


Initial density (left) and final cost (right)

⁶ 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.

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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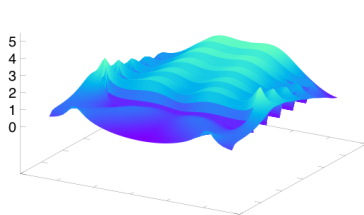
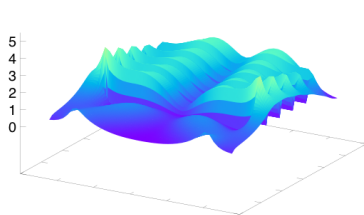


Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

⁶ 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.

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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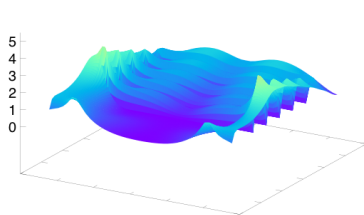
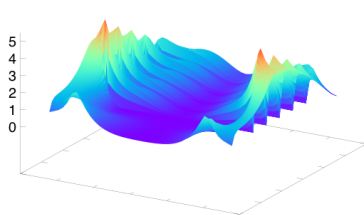


Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

⁶ 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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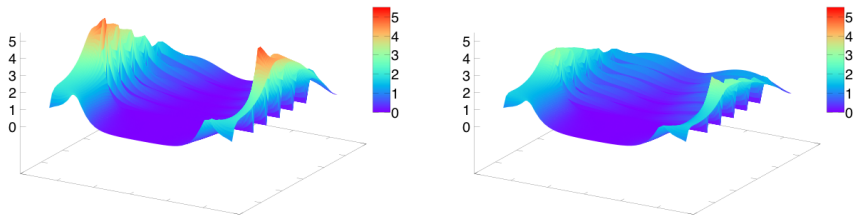


Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

⁶ 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.

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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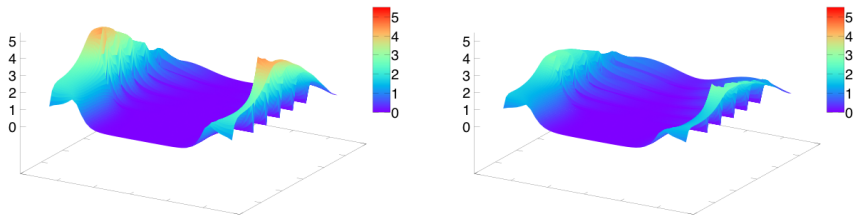


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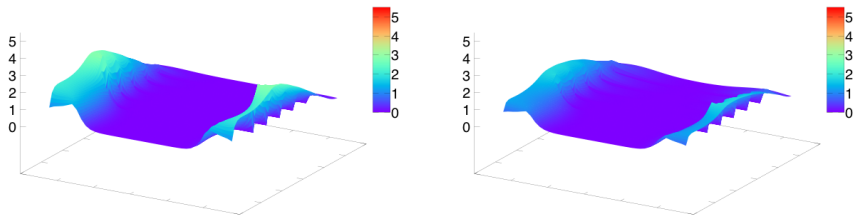


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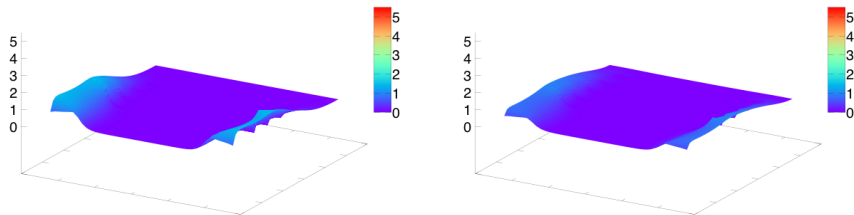


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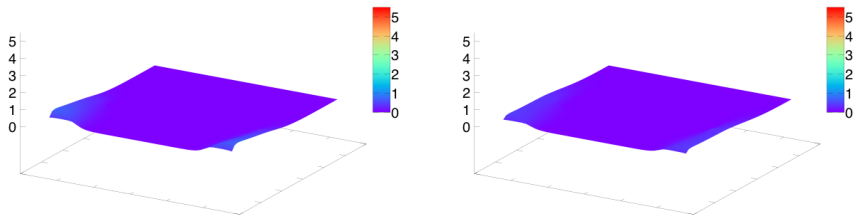


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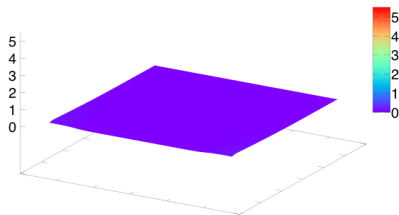
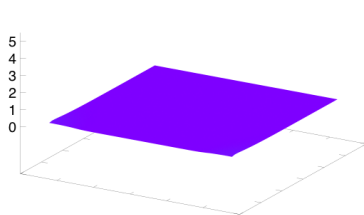


Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

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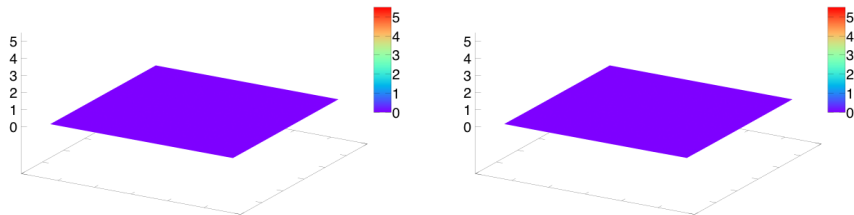


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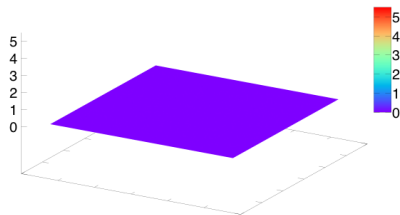
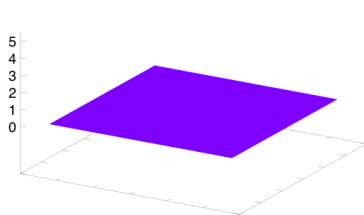


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⁶ Achdou, Y., & Laurière, M. (2015). On the system of partial differential equations arising in mean field type control. *Discrete & Continuous Dynamical Systems*, 35(9), 3879.

Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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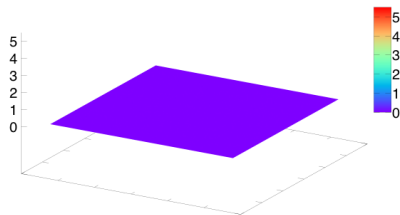
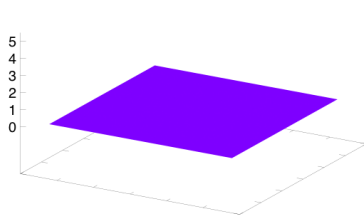


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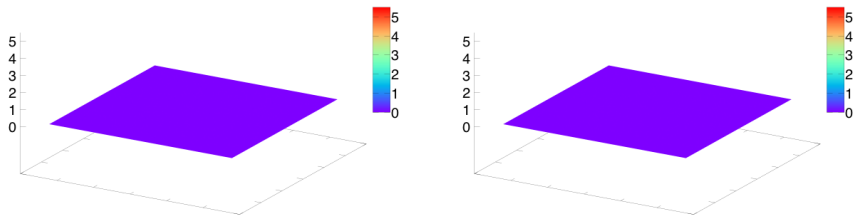


Density in **MFGame** (left) and **MFControl** (right)

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Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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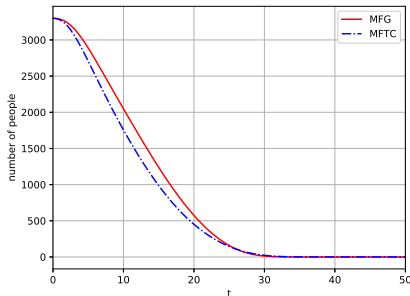


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Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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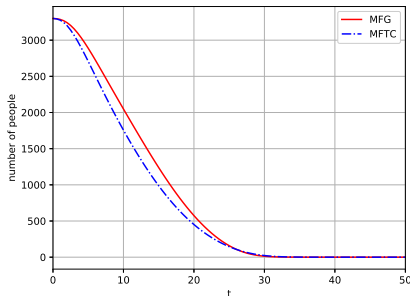


Remaining mass inside the room

⁶ 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.

Example: Exit of a Room – Remaining Mass

Example: evacuation of a room with obstacles and congestion [AL20]⁷



Remaining mass inside the room

⁷ Achdou, Y., & Laurière, M. (2020). Mean Field Games and Applications: Numerical Aspects. *Mean Field Games: Cetraro, Italy 2019*, 2281, 249–307.

Outline

1. Introduction

2. A Finite Difference Scheme

3. A Semi-Lagrangian Scheme

4. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

- Scheme introduced by [Carlini & Silva \[CS14\]](#)⁸
- For simplicity: $d = 1$, domain $\mathcal{S} = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}$
- $\nu = 0$ (degenerate second order case also possible; see [\[CS15\]](#)⁹)
- 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

⁸Carlini, 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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- Model:

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

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

- MFG PDE system:

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

⁸Carlini, 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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- 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: 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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- **Regularization of HJB solution** with a mollifier ρ_ϵ :

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

- **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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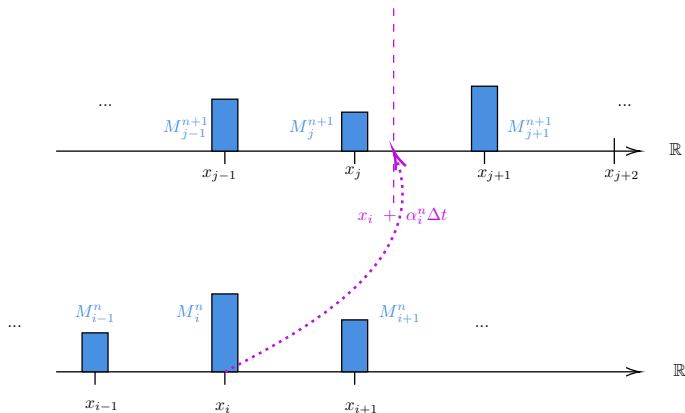
- ▶ focus on a fluid parcel
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- ▶ evolution characterized by the position at time t of a particle starting at x

- Here, in our model:

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

- Time and space discretization?

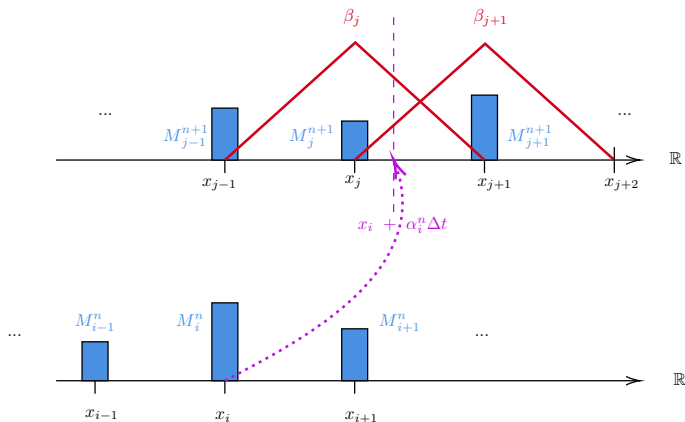
Discrete KFP equation: intuition – diagram



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

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

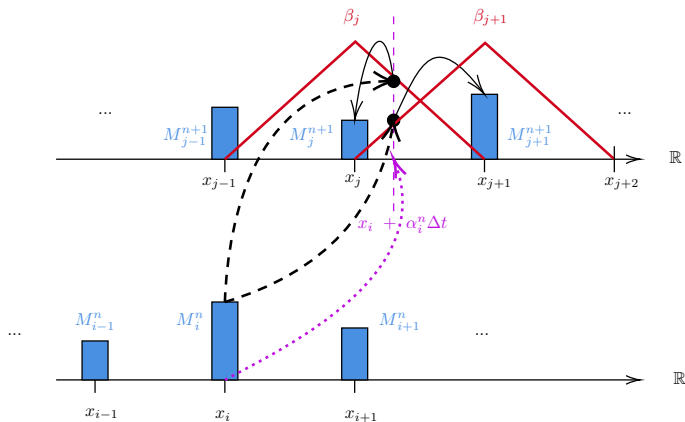
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Bottom: time t_n ; top: time t_{n+1} .

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

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

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

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

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

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- **Solution strategy:** Fixed point iterations for example
- See [\[CS14\]](#) for more details

Numerical Illustration

Costs:

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

with

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

Numerical Illustration

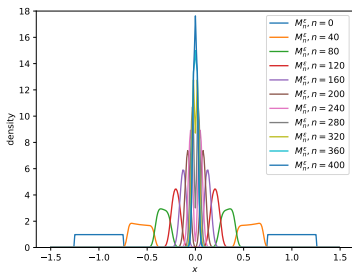
Costs:

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

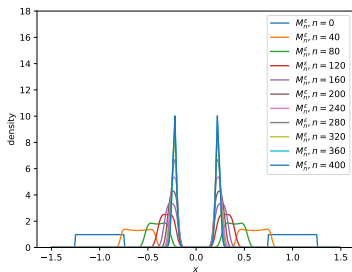
with

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

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 [Lau21] for more details on the experiments)

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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

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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

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

- drift and costs:

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

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

- Then

$$H(x, m, p) = \sup_v \{-L(x, v) - vp\} - \mathfrak{f}_0(x, m) = H_0(x, p) - \mathfrak{f}_0(x, m)$$

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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 [LL07], Cardaliaguet *et al.* [Car15, CG15, CGPT15], Benamou *et al.* [BCS17]

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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- 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:

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

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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 \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 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 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:

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

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: 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 $\Lambda(\phi) = \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \nu \Delta \phi, \nabla \phi \right)$,

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

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

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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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- The corresponding **Lagrangian** is

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

- 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 & Glowinski [FG83];

→ in MFG: Benamou & Carlier [BC15], Andreev [And17]; in MFC: Achdou & L. [AL16a]

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

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

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

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

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 \[AP12\]](#), [Andreev \[And17\]](#), [Briceño-Arias et al. \[BnAKS18\]](#))

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:

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

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

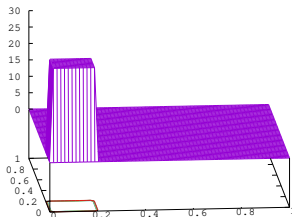
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- Ex.: m_0 : & u_T : opposite corners; $\alpha = 0.01, \beta = 2, \ell(x, m) = 0.01m$.
- Results for the mean field control (MFC) problem, with $\nu = 0$ (see [AL16b])



Density at time $t = 0$

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

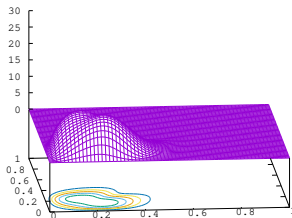
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Density at time $t = T/8$

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

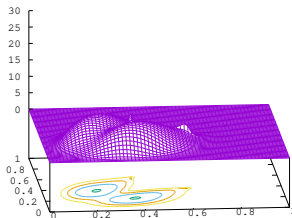
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Density at time $t = T/4$

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

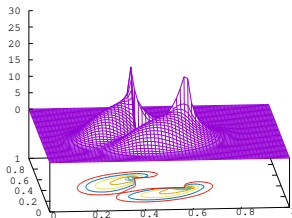
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Density at time $t = 3T/8$

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

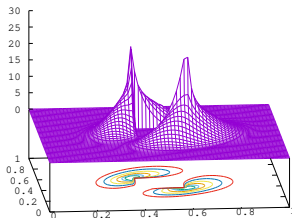
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Density at time $t = T/2$

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

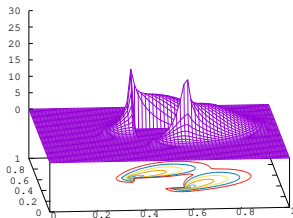
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Density at time $t = 5T/8$

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

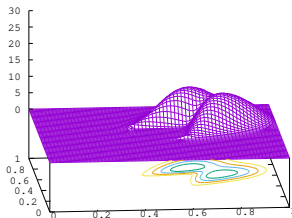
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Density at time $t = 3T/4$

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

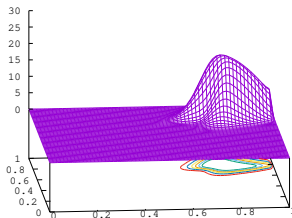
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Density at time $t = 7T/8$

Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

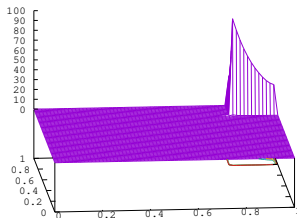
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Density at time $t = T$

Outline

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

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 & Pock \[CP11\]](#)¹⁰ 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 $(\sigma^{(0)}, y^{(0)}, \bar{y}^{(0)})$

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

¹⁰ 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:

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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

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

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

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

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

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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. \[BnAKS18\]¹¹](#) and [\[BnAKK⁺19\]¹²](#) in stationary and dynamic cases.

¹¹ 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.

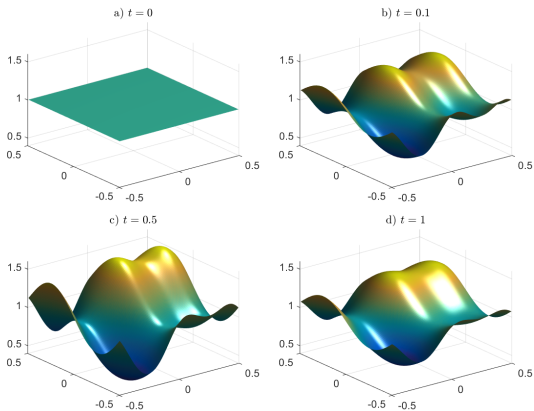
¹² Briceño-Arias, L., et al. On the implementation of a primal-dual algorithm for second order time-dependent mean field games with local couplings. *ESAIM: Proceedings and Surveys* 65 (2019): 330-348.

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:



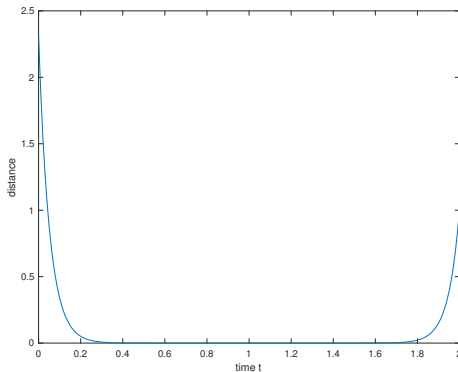
Evolution of the density

(More details in [\[BnAKK⁺ 19\]](#))

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])

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