

# Numerical Methods for Mean Field Games

## *Lecture 3*

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

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Open Doctoral Lectures  
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## 1. Introduction

## 2. Methods for the PDE system

## 3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

## 4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

## 5. Conclusion

## Reminder: FB systems

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

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

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

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**Desirable properties for (1):**

- **Mass** and **positivity** of distribution:  $\int_{\mathcal{X}} m(t, x) dx = 1, m \geq 0$
- **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?

# Outline

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**2. Methods for the PDE system**

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

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

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

**Discretization:**

- For simplicity we consider the domain  $\mathbb{T} =$  one-dimensional (unit) torus.
- Let  $\nu = \sigma^2/2$ .
- We consider  $N_h$  and  $N_T$  steps respectively in space and time.
- Let  $h = 1/N_h$  and  $\Delta t = T/N_T$ . Let  $\mathbb{T}_h =$  discretized torus.
- We approximate  $m_0(x_i)$  by  $\rho_i^0$  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** :  $[\nabla_h \psi]_i := ((D_h \psi)_i, (D_h \psi)_{i-1}), \quad 0 \leq i \leq N_h$

## Discrete Hamiltonian

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

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

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

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

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

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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

$$U, M \in \mathbb{R}^{(N_T+1) \times N_h}$$

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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:

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

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 and Capuzzo-Dolcetta, 2010, Achdou et al., 2012]
- Can sometimes be used to show existence of a **weak** solution [Achdou and Porretta, 2016]
- The discrete KFP operator is the **adjoint** of the linearized Bellman operator
- **Existence** and **uniqueness** result for the discrete system
- It corresponds to the **optimality condition** of a discrete optimization problem (details later)

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# Algo 1: Fixed Point Iterations

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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:

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

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

$$\begin{cases} (D_t M_i)^n - \nu(\Delta_h M^{n+1})_i - \mathcal{T}_i(U^{(k+1), n}, M^{n+1}) = 0, & n \leq N_T - 1 \\ M_i^0 = \rho_i^0 \end{cases}$$

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

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

---

The HJB equation is **non-linear**

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

## Algo 1: Fixed Point Iterations

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

● **Idea 2:** use non linear solver to find a zero of

$$\varphi : \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times (N_T + 1)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{N_h \times N_T},$$

with:

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

Example: Newton's method



### Code

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

[https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1shJWSD2MA5Fo7\\_rB625dAvNTdZS1a7bG?usp=sharing](https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1shJWSD2MA5Fo7_rB625dAvNTdZS1a7bG?usp=sharing)

- Finite difference scheme
- Solved by (damped) fixed point approach

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

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

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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

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

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

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

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

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

where  $D_n$  corresponds to the discrete operator

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

## Newton Method – Implementation

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

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

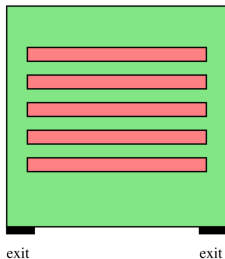
- Idea 1: initialize with the ergodic solution (see e.g., [Achdou et al., 2021])
- Idea 2: continuation method w.r.t.  $\nu$  (converges more easily with a large viscosity)

See [Achdou, 2013] for more details.

## Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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

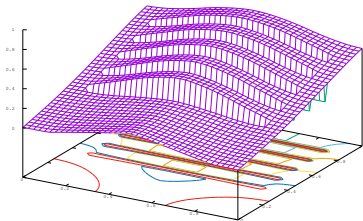
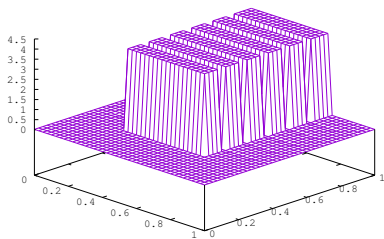


Geometry of the room

## Example: Exit of a Room – Distribution

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



Initial density (left) and final cost (right)



## Example: Exit of a Room – Crowd model

- Crowd motion with local interactions; see e.g. [Lachapelle and Wolfram, 2011, Achdou and Lasry, 2019, Achdou and Porretta, 2018, Achdou and Laurière, 2016a] for other models of this type and [Aurell and Djehiche, 2018, Achdou and Laurière, 2015] for crowd motion models with non-local interactions.
- Here, control = velocity:

$$dX_t = \alpha(t, X_t)dt + \sigma dW_t$$

- Congestion through the cost: higher density  $\Rightarrow$  higher price to move
- Hamiltonian:

$$H(x, m, p) = \frac{8|p|^2}{(1+m)^{\frac{3}{4}}} - \frac{1}{3200}.$$

### Exercise

What is the cost function leading to this Hamiltonian?

## Example: Exit of a Room – Crowd model

- MFG PDE system:

- 1 Mean field games: the MFG PDE system is:

$$\begin{cases} -\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - 0.05 \Delta u + \frac{8}{(1+m)^{\frac{3}{4}}} |\nabla u|^2 = \frac{1}{3200}, \\ \frac{\partial m}{\partial t} - 0.05 \Delta m - 16 \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{m \nabla u}{(1+m)^{\frac{3}{4}}} \right) = 0. \end{cases}$$

- 2 Mean field control: the HJB becomes:

$$-\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - 0.05 \Delta u + \left( \frac{2}{(1+m)^{\frac{3}{4}}} + \frac{6}{(1+m)^{\frac{7}{4}}} \right) |\nabla u|^2 = \frac{1}{3200}.$$

- We choose a small  $\nu$  (e.g. 0.05) so the diffusion is not too strong
- No terminal cost:  $g \equiv 0$
- Boundary has several parts.
  - ▶ Doors: Dirichlet condition  $u = 0$  (exit cost),  $m = 0$  ( $m = 0$  outside the domain)
  - ▶ Walls: for  $u$ , Neumann condition:  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0$  (velocity is tangential to the walls); for  $m$ :  
 $\nu \frac{\partial m}{\partial n} + m \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(\cdot, m, \nabla u) \cdot n = 0$ , therefore  $\frac{\partial m}{\partial n} = 0$
- Initial density  $m_0$ : piecewise constant with two values 0 and 4 people/m<sup>2</sup>
- Interpretation: At  $t = 0$ , there are 3300 people in the hall.  $T = 50$  minutes

## Example: Exit of a Room – Evolution

---

Evacuation of a room with obstacles & congestion [Achdou and Laurière, 2015]

Density in **MFGGame** (left) and **MFCControl** (right)

## Example: Exit of a Room – Evolution

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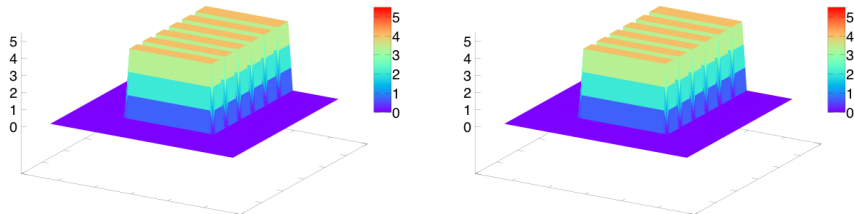
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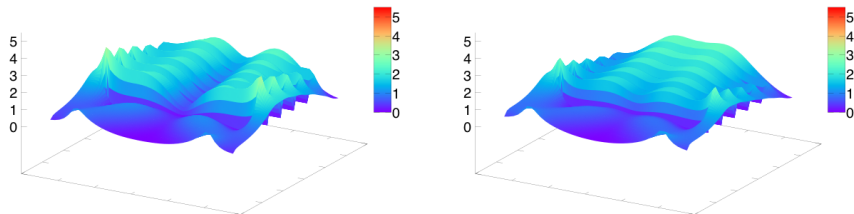


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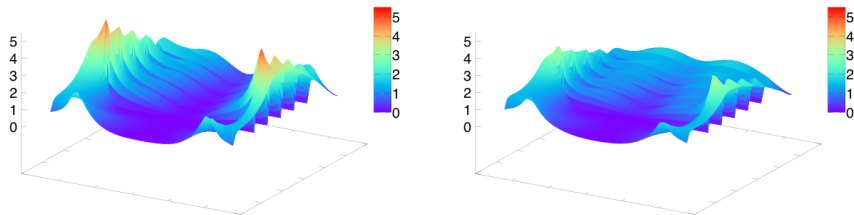


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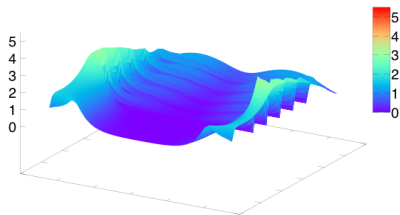
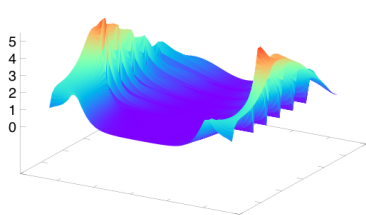


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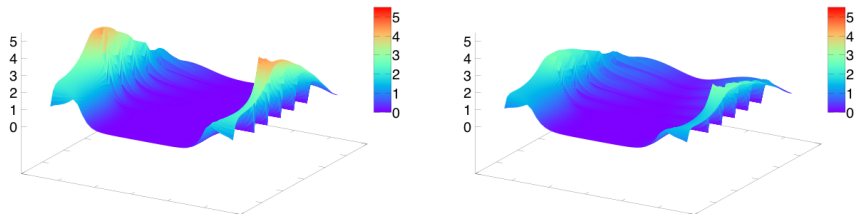
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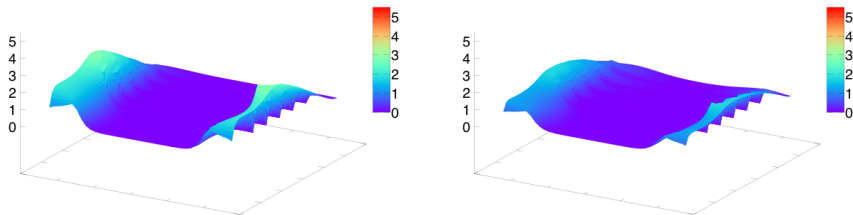


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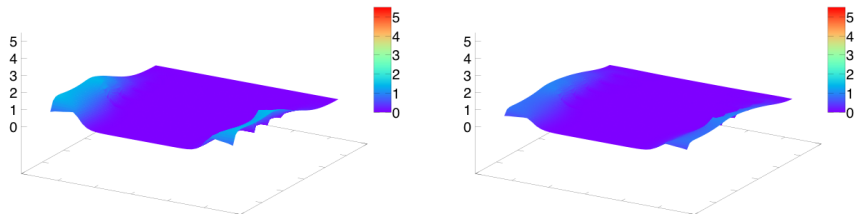


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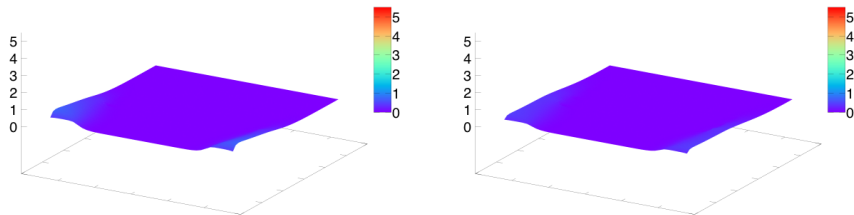


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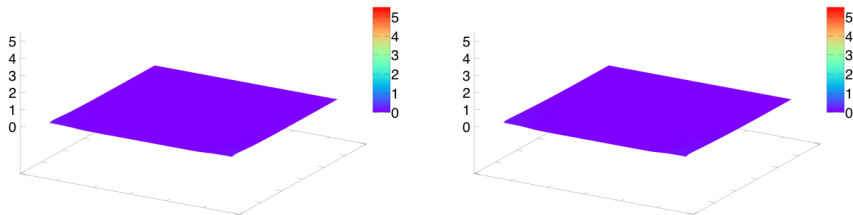


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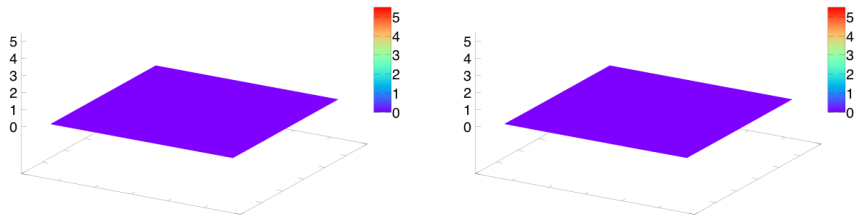


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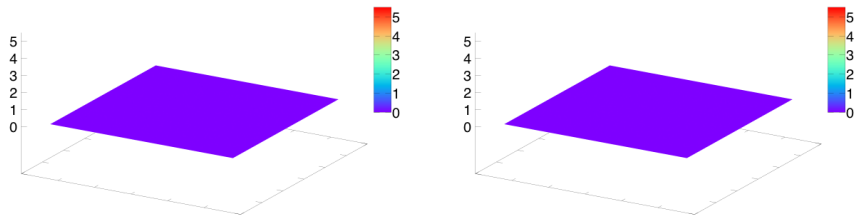


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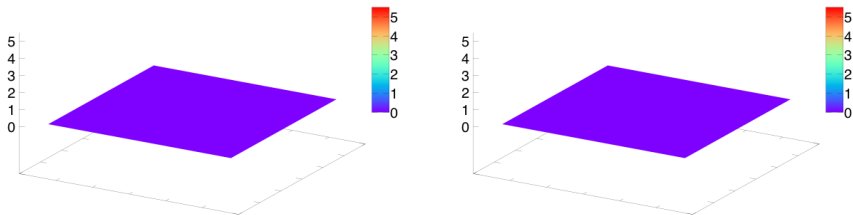


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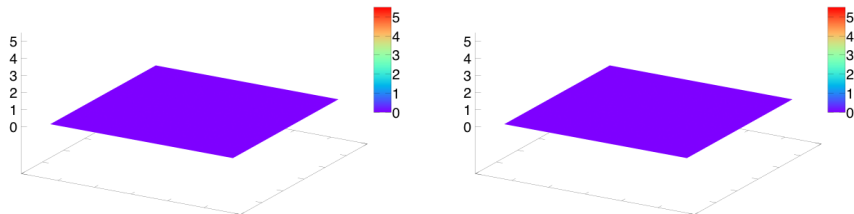
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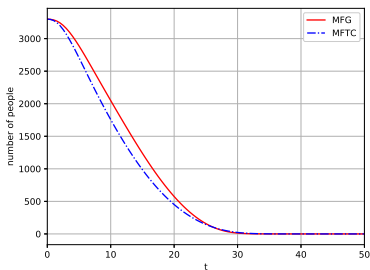
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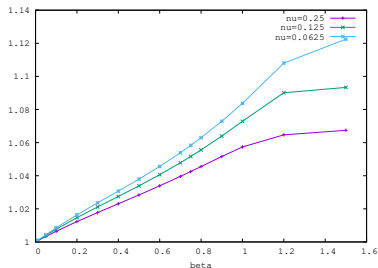
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## Example: Exit of a Room – Remaining Mass

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



Remaining mass inside the room



Price of Anarchy  
( $\beta = \text{exponent}$ )

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Methods for the PDE system

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

## 3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

## 4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

## 5. Conclusion

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

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

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

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

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- MFG PDE system:

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

- Dynamics:

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

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

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

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

## 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

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

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

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

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



Before moving to the KFP equation:

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

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

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

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

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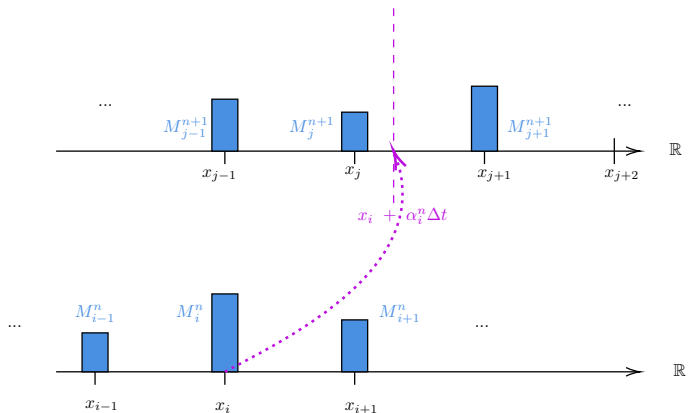
- ▶ focus on a fluid parcel
- ▶ look at how it flows
- ▶ evolution characterized by the position at time  $t$  of a particle starting at  $x$

- Here, in our model:

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

- Time and space discretization?

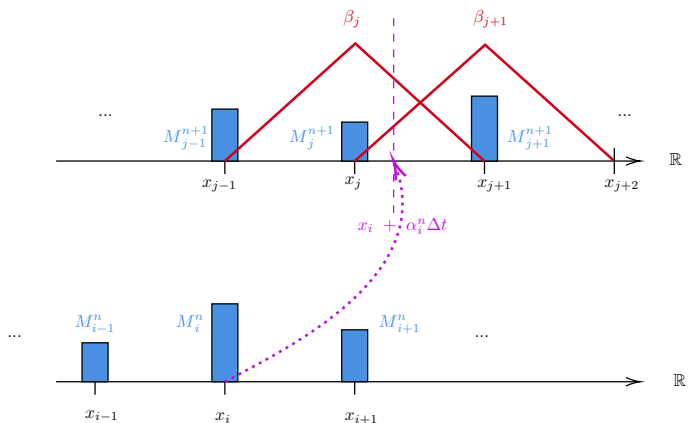
## Discrete KFP equation: intuition – diagram



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

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

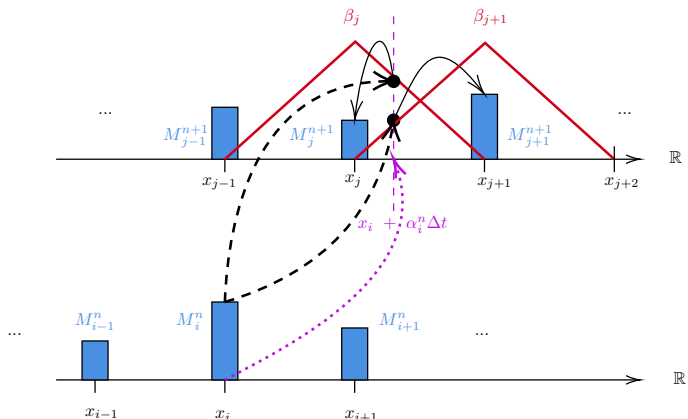
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- **Control** induced by value function:

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

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

- **Discrete flow:**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Numerical Illustration

---

Costs:

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

with

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

# Numerical Illustration

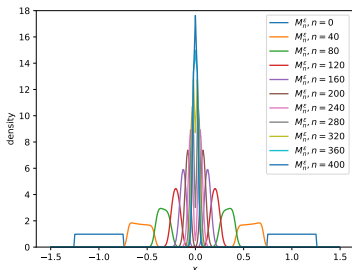
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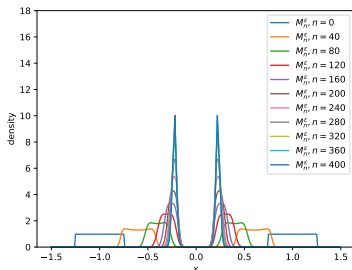
with

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

Experiments: target  $c^* = 0$ ,  $m_0 = \text{unif. on } [-1.25, -0.75]$  and on  $[0.75, 1.25]$



$\kappa_{MF} = 0.5$



$\kappa_{MF} = 0.9$

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

### Code

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

[https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1ZikqKh-DlIGNJhhgzPQV0\\_gIu1jOP78g?usp=sharing](https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1ZikqKh-DlIGNJhhgzPQV0_gIu1jOP78g?usp=sharing)

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

### Exercise

Implement the previous finite difference scheme on the same MFG model.

If the algorithm fails to converge with  $\nu = 0$ , try with  $\nu > 0$  but small.



# Outline

---

1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

**3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG**

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

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

5. Conclusion

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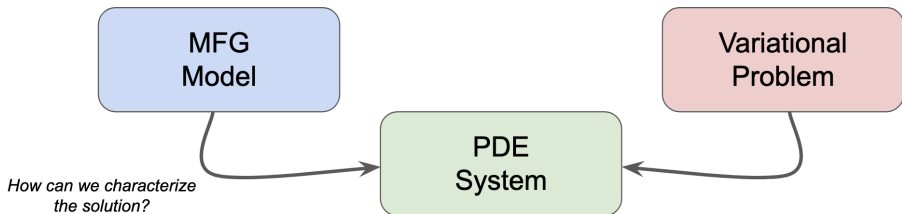
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## Key ideas:

- Variational MFG
- Duality
- Optimization techniques



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

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

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

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

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

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

- Then

$$H(x, m, p) = \sup_{\alpha} \{-L(x, \alpha) - \alpha p\} - f_0(x, m) = H_0(x, p) - f_0(x, m)$$

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

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

- Further assume (for simplicity)

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

## A Variational Problem

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

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

subject to:

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

## A Variational Problem

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

$$\begin{aligned} J(\hat{\alpha}; \hat{m}) &= \mathbb{E} \left[ \int_0^T f(X_t, \hat{m}(t, X_t), \hat{\alpha}(t, X_t)) dt + g(X_T) \right] \\ &= \int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{T}} \underbrace{f(x, \hat{m}(t, x), \hat{\alpha}(t, x))}_{=L(x, \hat{\alpha}(t, x)) + \mathfrak{f}_0(x, \hat{m}(t, x))} \hat{m}(t, x) dx dt + \int_{\mathbb{T}} g(x) \hat{m}(T, x) dx \end{aligned}$$

subject to:

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- Change of variable:

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

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

subject to:

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

## Primal Optimization Problem

---

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

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

subject to the constraint:

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

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subject to the constraint:

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where

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

and

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

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

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

**Dual problem:** Maximize over  $\phi$  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:  $(\mathbf{A}) = \sup_{\phi} \mathcal{A}(\phi) = \inf_{(m, w)} \mathcal{B}(m, w) = (\mathbf{B})$

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**Proof idea:** Fenchel-Rockafellar duality theorem and observe:

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

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

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

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

# Outline

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1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

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

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

5. Conclusion

**Reformulation** of the primal problem:

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

- The corresponding **Lagrangian** is

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



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

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

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

# Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers (ADMM)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## 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

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

## ADMM with Discretization

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

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### First-order Optimality Conditions:

Step (a): finite-difference equation

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



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## First-order Optimality Conditions:

Step (a): finite-difference equation

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 and Perez, 2012], [Andreev, 2017], [Briceño Arias et al., 2018]

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

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

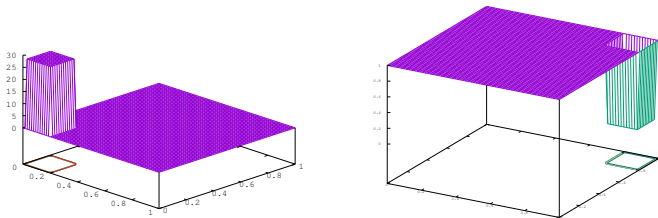
$$L(x, m, \xi) = (\beta - 1)\beta^{-\beta^*} m^{\frac{\alpha}{\beta-1}} |\xi|^{\beta^*} + \ell(x, m), \quad 1 < \beta \leq 2, 0 \leq \alpha < 1$$

- Ex.:  $m_0$  : &  $u_T$  : opposite corners;  $\alpha = 0.01, \beta = 2, \ell(x, m) = 0.01m$ .

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

---

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



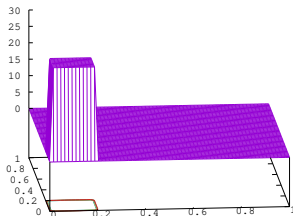
**Initial distribution (left) and final cost (right)**

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

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

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



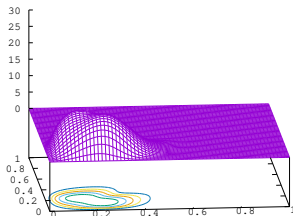
**Density at time  $t = 0$**

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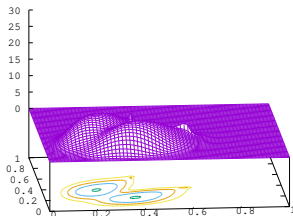
**Density at time  $t = T/8$**

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

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

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



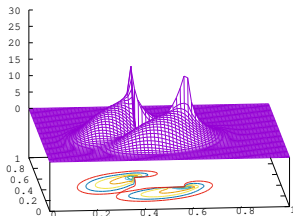
**Density at time  $t = T/4$**

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

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

---

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



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

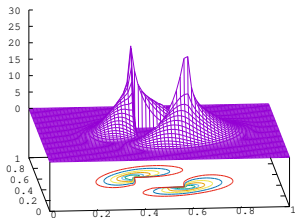
For more details, see [\[Achdou and Laurière, 2016b\]](#)



# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

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



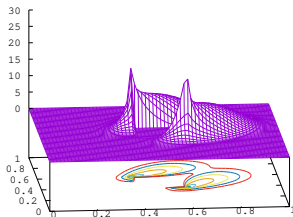
**Density at time  $t = T/2$**

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

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

---

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



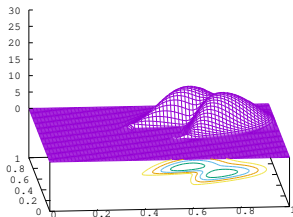
**Density at time  $t = 5T/8$**

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

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

---

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



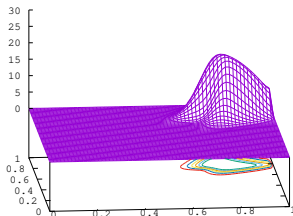
**Density at time  $t = 3T/4$**

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

## Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

---

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



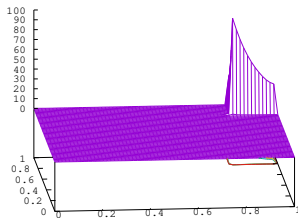
**Density at time  $t = 7T/8$**

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

# Numerical Example: Congestion Without Viscosity

---

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



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

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

# Outline

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1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

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

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

5. Conclusion

## Optimality Conditions and Proximal Operator

---

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

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

and its dual

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

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- The 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:

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



## Chambolle-Pock's Primal-Dual Algorithm

---

The following algorithm has been proposed by [Chambolle and Pock, 2011]  
It has been proved to converge when  $\tau\gamma < 1$ .

---

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**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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$$\sigma^{(k+1)} = \text{prox}_{\gamma\psi^*}(\sigma^{(k)} + \gamma\bar{y}^{(k)}),$$
  - 4 (b) Compute
$$y^{(k+1)} = \text{prox}_{\tau\varphi}(y^{(k)} - \tau\sigma^{(k+1)}),$$
  - 5 (c) Compute
$$\bar{y}^{(k+1)} = y^{(k+1)} + \theta(y^{(k+1)} - y^{(k)}).$$
- 6 **return**  $(\sigma^{(K)}, y^{(K)}, \bar{y}^{(K)})$

---

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

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

$$(\mathbf{B}_h) = \min_{(m, w_1, w_2) = \sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{3N'}} \left\{ \mathcal{F}_h^*(\Lambda_h^*(\sigma)) + \mathcal{G}_h^*(-\sigma) \right\},$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

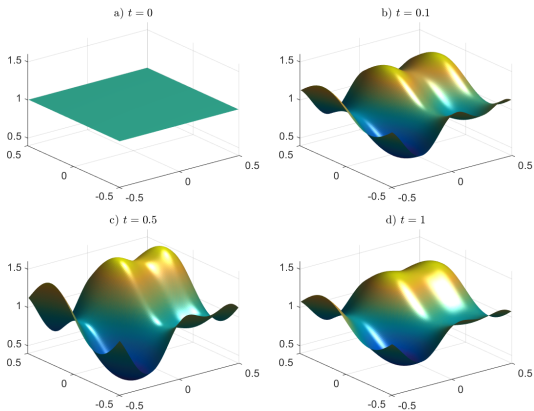


## Numerical Example

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

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

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



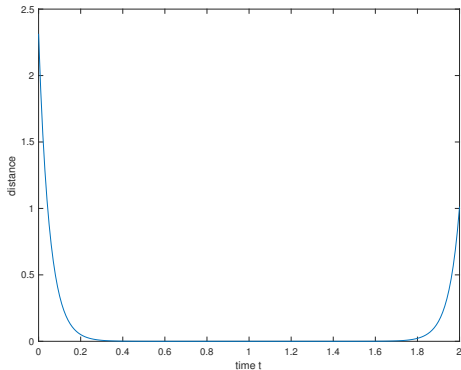
**Evolution of the density**

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

## Turnpike phenomenon

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

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



$L^2$  distance between dynamic and stationary solutions

More details in [Briceño Arias et al., 2019]

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1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

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4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

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

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- Recall: generic form:

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

- Decouple:

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

- Iterate

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

# Picard Scheme for MKV FBSDE System

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---

**Algorithm:** Picard scheme for MKV FBSDE

---

**Input:** Initial guess  $(\xi, \zeta)$ ; initial condition  $\xi$ ; terminal condition  $\zeta$ ; time horizon  $T$ ;  
number of iterations  $K$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

---

**Algorithm:** Picard scheme for MKV FBSDE

---

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

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

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

---

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



---

**Algorithm:** Picard scheme for MKV FBSDE

---

**Input:** Initial guess  $(\xi, \zeta)$ ; initial condition  $\xi$ ; terminal condition  $\zeta$ ; time horizon  $T$ ;  
number of iterations  $K$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Global Solver for MKV FBSDE System

---

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

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

with  $\xi_0$  a random variable with distribution  $\mu_0$

---

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

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

- 1 Initialize  $X_t^{(0)} = \xi, \mathcal{L}(X_t^{(0)}) = \mathcal{L}(\xi)$  for all  $T_m \leq t \leq T_{m+1}$
- 2 **for**  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K - 1$  **do**
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- 4     **else:** compute recursively:

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

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

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

- **Tree algorithm:**

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

- **Grid algorithm:**

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



## Tree-Based Algorithm: Time Discretization

---

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- Euler Scheme:  $0 \leq i \leq N_t - 1$

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

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- Questions:

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

## Tree-Based Algorithm: Remarks

---

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

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

and at time  $t_i, i \geq 1$ : look at values on the nodes at depth  $i$

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- Starting from some  $x_0$ , doing  $N_t$  steps:  $2^{N_t}$  paths
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## Grid-Based Algorithm: Time & Space Discretization

---

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

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

→ Approximate  $u(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot), v(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$  instead of  $(Y_t, Z_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$



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→ Freeze it during each Picard iteration:

$$Y_t^{(k+1)} = u^{(k+1)}(t, X_t^{(k+1)}), \quad Z_t^{(k+1)} = v^{(k+1)}(t, X_t^{(k+1)}) \quad (\star)$$

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- Picard iterations for distribution & decoupling functions:

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

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

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

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

## Grid-Based Algorithm: Forward Equation

---

- Focus on an interval  $[0, T]$  with small enough  $T$  (otherwise: call recursive solver)
- Time discretization:  $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_{N_t} = T, t_{i+1} - t_i = \Delta t$
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- ▶ In fact  $\mu_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)}$  can be expressed in terms of  $\mu_{t_i}^{(k+1)}$  and a transition kernel
- ▶ Ex: binomial approx. of  $W \rightarrow$  efficient computation using quantization

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

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

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_{t_i}^{(k+1)}(x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ u_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}) \right. \\ \quad \left. + F(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}, \mu_{t_i}^{(k+1)}, u_{t_i}^{(k)}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}), v_{t_i}^{(k)}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)})) \Delta t \mid X_{t_i}^{(k+1)} = x \right] \\ u_T^{(k+1)}(x) = G(x, \mu_{t_i}^{(k+1)}) \\ v_{t_i}^{(k+1)}(x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{\Delta t} u_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}) \mid X_{t_i}^{(k+1)} = x \right] \\ v_T^{(k+1)}(x) = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

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- ▶ Ex.: binomial approximation of  $W \rightarrow$  more explicit formulas

- Summary:

- ▶ Forward:  $(\mu^{(k)}, u^{(k)}, v^{(k)}) \mapsto \mu^{(k+1)} = \mathcal{L}(X^{(k+1)})$
- ▶ Backward:  $(\mu^{(k+1)}, u^{(k)}, v^{(k)}) \mapsto (u^{(k+1)}, v^{(k+1)})$



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

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

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_{t_i}^{(k+1)}(x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ u_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}) \right. \\ \quad \left. + F(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}, \mu_{t_i}^{(k+1)}, u_{t_i}^{(k)}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}), v_{t_i}^{(k)}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)})) \Delta t \mid X_{t_i}^{(k+1)} = x \right] \\ u_T^{(k+1)}(x) = G(x, \mu_{t_i}^{(k+1)}) \\ v_{t_i}^{(k+1)}(x) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{\Delta t} u_{t_{i+1}}^{(k+1)}(X_{t_i}^{(k+1)}) \mid X_{t_i}^{(k+1)} = x \right] \\ v_T^{(k+1)}(x) = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

- ▶ Ex.: binomial approximation of  $W \rightarrow$  more explicit formulas

- Summary:

- ▶ Forward:  $(\mu^{(k)}, u^{(k)}, v^{(k)}) \mapsto \mu^{(k+1)} = \mathcal{L}(X^{(k+1)})$
- ▶ Backward:  $(\mu^{(k+1)}, u^{(k)}, v^{(k)}) \mapsto (u^{(k+1)}, v^{(k+1)})$

Details and numerical examples in [[Chassagneux et al., 2019](#), [Angiuli et al., 2019](#)]

# Outline

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1. Introduction

2. Methods for the PDE system

3. Optimization Methods for MFC and Variational MFG

4. Methods for MKV FBSDE

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

5. Conclusion

## Dependence on the Moments

---

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

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- Ex. 2:

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

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

Following [Balata et al., 2019]

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

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

subject to:

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

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



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- DPP for  $V : [0, T] \times (\mathbb{R}^d)^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  or rather  $V_{\Delta t} : \{t_0, \dots, t_{N_t}\} \times (\mathbb{R}^d)^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ :

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

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

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

## Estimation Method 1: Regression Monte Carlo

---

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

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

where

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

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- Explicit expression:

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

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- Estimation with  $N_{MC}$  Monte Carlo samples:

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

and

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## Estimation Method 1: Regression Monte Carlo

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

- ▶ Set of points  $\Gamma$  on which we want to approximate  $V_{\Delta t}$ ; projection  $\Pi_{\Gamma}$
- ▶ Quantization of noise (see e.g. [Pagès, 2018]):
  - ★ Set of cells  $\mathcal{C}_Q = \{C_j; j = 1, \dots, J_Q\}$
  - ★ Associated grid points  $\mathcal{G}_Q = \{\zeta_j; j = 1, \dots, J_Q\}$
  - ★ Weights for Gaussian r.v.  $\Delta \mathbb{W} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Delta t)$ :  $p_j = \mathbb{P}(\Delta \mathbb{W} \in C_j)$
  - ★ Discrete version:  $\Delta \hat{\mathbb{W}} \in \mathcal{G}_Q$ :  $\mathbb{P}(\Delta \hat{\mathbb{W}} = \zeta_j) = p_j$
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For more details and numerical examples, see [Balata et al., 2019]

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# Outline

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2. Methods for the PDE system

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5. Conclusion

- Two schemes for FB PDEs of MFG
- Optimization methods for MFC and variational MFGs
- Two methods based on the probabilistic approach

## Other numerical methods

---

The previous presentation is not exhaustive!

Some other references:

- Gradient descent based methods [Laurière and Pironneau, 2016], [Pfeiffer, 2016], [Lavigne and Pfeiffer, 2022]
- Monotone operators [Almulla et al., 2017], [Gomes and Saúde, 2018], [Gomes and Yang, 2020]
- Policy iteration [Cacace et al., 2021], [Cui and Koepl, 2021], [Camilli and Tang, 2022], [Tang and Song, 2022], [Laurière et al., 2023]
- Finite elements [Benamou and Carlier, 2015b], [Andreev, 2017]
- Cubature [de Raynal and Trillos, 2015]
- Gaussian processes [Mou et al., 2022]
- Kernel-based representation [Liu et al., 2021]
- Fourier approximation [Nurbekyan et al., 2019]
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- ...

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

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

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

Thank you for your attention

Questions?

Feel free to reach out: `mathieu.lauriere@nyu.edu`



# References I

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