

Variational approach to mean field games with density constraints

Alpár Richárd Mészáros

LMO, Université Paris-Sud

(based on ongoing joint works with
F. Santambrogio, P. Cardaliaguet and F. J. Silva)



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The content of the talk

- 1 Basic models of **Mean Field Games**, after J.-M. Lasry and P.-L. Lions
- 2 **Variational approaches** for MFGs
- 3 A link with **Optimal Transport** and its **Benamou-Brenier** formulation
- 4 **Second order stationary** MFGs
- 5 Treating **density constraints and penalizations** for second order stationary MFGs
- 6 Summary, works in progress and open questions

A short history of Mean Field Games

- This theory was introduced recently (in 2006-2007) by J.-M. Lasry and P.-L. Lions^{1 2 3} in a series of papers and a series of lectures by P.-L. Lions at Collège de France;

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- Real life applications in Economy, Finance and Social Sciences

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A typical model for second order MFG

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} (i) & -\partial_t u + \nu \Delta u + H(x, m, \nabla u) = f(x, m) & \text{in } (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d \\ (ii) & \partial_t m - \nu \Delta m - \nabla \cdot (\nabla_p H(x, m, \nabla u) m) = 0 & \text{in } (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d \\ (iii) & m(0) = m_0, u(T, x) = G(x, m(T)) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d. \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$

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- Assumptions: $\nu \geq 0$ is a parameter; the Hamiltonian H is convex in its last variable; m_0 (and $m(t)$) is the density of a probability measure;
- u is the value function of an arbitrary agent, m is the distribution of the agents;

A heustistical interpretation

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$$\mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^T L(X_s, m(s), \alpha_s) + f(X_s, m(s)) ds + G(X_T, m(T)) \right],$$

where L is the usual Legendre-Fenchel conjugate of H w.r.t. the p variable.

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- His optimal control is (at least heuristically) given in feedback form by $\alpha^*(t, x) = -\nabla_p H(x, m, \nabla u)$.

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- u corresponds to the value function of a typical agent who controls his velocity $\alpha(t)$ and has to minimize his cost

$$\int_0^T \left(\frac{1}{2} |\alpha(t)|^2 + f(x(t), m(t)) \right) dt + G(x(T), m(T)),$$

where $x'(s) = \alpha(s)$ and $x(0) = x_0$.

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where $x'(s) = \alpha(s)$ and $x(0) = x_0$.

- The distribution of the other agents is represented by the density $m(t)$. Then their “feedback strategy” is given by $\alpha(t, x) = -\nabla u(t, x)$.

The variational formulation

- We can obtain the solution of the system (2) by minimization of a global functional:

$$\min \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \left(\frac{1}{2} |\alpha(t, x)|^2 \rho(t, x) + F(\rho(t, x)) \right) dx dt - \int_{\Omega} G(x) \rho(T, x) dx,$$

among solutions (ρ, α) of the continuity equation

$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \alpha) = 0$ with the initial datum $\rho(0, x) = \rho_0(x)$.

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- Recently many interesting results in this **variational direction**, see for instance the works of P. Cardaliaguet and P. J. Graber^{4, 5}

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- Recently many interesting results in this **variational direction**, see for instance the works of P. Cardaliaguet and P. J. Graber^{4, 5}
- $F(x, \cdot)' = f(x, \cdot)$ and it is convex. The above functional recalls the functional studied by **Benamou and Brenier** to give a dynamical formulation of optimal transport.

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Optimal transportation and its Benamou-Brenier formulation

- For two (regular enough) probability measures $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ we define

$$W_2^2(\mu, \nu) := \inf \left\{ \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} |x - T(x)|^2 d\mu : T : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega, T_{\#}\mu = \nu \right\}$$

- **Teorem [Y. Brenier, '87]:** Under suitable assumptions there exists T (optimal transport map) which is a gradient of a convex function.
- We can solve this problem via a dynamic formulation due to **J.-D. Benamou** and **Y. Brenier, '00**:

$$\min_{\alpha} \left\{ \int_0^1 \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} |\alpha_t|^2 d\rho_t dt : \partial_t \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho_t \alpha_t) = 0, \rho_0 = \mu, \rho_1 = \nu \right\}.$$

- W_2 metrizes the weak-* topology on $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ for compact domains Ω .

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- We will have in the limit

$$\min \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} |\alpha(t, x)|^2 \rho(t, x) \, dx dt - \int_{\Omega} G(x) \rho(T, x) \, dx,$$

with the same assumptions as above and with the additional assumption that $\rho(t, x) \leq 1$ a.e.

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- However it is not not that clear how to define the equilibria and what are the optimality conditions (the MFG system) in the limit \rightarrow subject of an ongoing work with P. Cardaliaguet and F. Santambrogio.

Stationary second order MFGs

- Stationary MFG systems could be seen as **long time average** of time-dependent ones (see the original papers of Lasry and Lions and ⁶)

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Stationary second order MFGs

- Stationary MFG systems could be seen as **long time average** of time-dependent ones (see the original papers of Lasry and Lions and ⁶)
- One can prove the convergence (in a reasonable sense as $T \rightarrow +\infty$) of the solutions of the system

$$\begin{cases} -\partial_t u^T - \Delta u^T + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u^T|^2 = f(x, m^T), \\ \partial_t m^T - \Delta m^T - \nabla \cdot (m^T \nabla u^T) = 0, \\ m^T(0) = m_0, u^T(T) = G \end{cases}$$

to the solutions of the **ergodic system**

$$\begin{cases} \lambda - \Delta u + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u|^2 = f(x, m), \\ -\Delta m - \nabla \cdot (m \nabla u) = 0, \\ \int_{\Omega} m = 1, \int_{\Omega} u = 0. \end{cases}$$

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Treating directly the density constraint

- The ergodic problem corresponds to the optimality conditions of the following optimization problem in a bounded open set $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\min_{(m,w)} \mathcal{L}_2(m, w) + \mathcal{F}(m), \quad (P_2)$$

subject to $-\Delta m + \nabla \cdot w = 0$ with Neumann b.c. $(\nabla m - w) \cdot n = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ and $\int_{\Omega} m = 1$.

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$$\ell_q(a, b) := \begin{cases} \frac{1}{q} \frac{|b|^q}{a^{q-1}}, & \text{if } a > 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } (a, b) = (0, 0), \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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- We use the notation $\mathcal{F}(m) := \int_{\Omega} F(x, m(x)) dx$ and $\mathcal{L}_q(m, w) := \int_{\Omega} \ell_q(m, w) dx$.
- Our objective is to study $(P_q) + "m \leq 1" \rightarrow$ joint work with F. J. Silva.

Interior point condition and subdifferentiability

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Proposition

Denote $E_0^m := \overline{\{m = 0\} \cap \{w = 0\}}$ and $E_1^m = \{m > 0\}$. Let us set $v := (w/m) \mathbb{1}_{\{m > 0\}}$. Then, if $v \notin L^q(\Omega)$, we have that $\partial \mathcal{L}_q(m, w) = \emptyset$. Otherwise we have that \mathcal{L}_q is subdifferentiable at (m, w) and

$$\partial \mathcal{L}_q(m, w) = \left\{ (\alpha, \beta) \in \overline{\mathcal{A}} : \text{spt}(\alpha^s) \subseteq E_0^m, \alpha^{ac} \llcorner E_1^m = -\frac{1}{q'} |v|^q \text{ and } \beta \llcorner E_1^m = |v|^{q-2} v \right\},$$

where

$$\overline{\mathcal{A}} = \left\{ (\alpha, \beta) \in \mathfrak{M}(\Omega) \times L^{q'}(\Omega)^d ; \alpha + \frac{1}{q'} |\beta|^{q'} \leq 0 \right\},$$

and $\alpha = \alpha^{ac} + \alpha^s$ is the Lebesgue decomposition of the measure α .

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Let (m, w) be a solution of problem (P_q) . Then,

$v := (w/m)\mathbb{1}_{\{m>0\}} \in L^q(\Omega)^d$ and there exist

$(u, p, \lambda) \in W_{\diamond}^{1,q'}(\Omega) \times \mathfrak{M}_+(\Omega) \times \mathbb{R}$ and $(\alpha, \beta) \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$ such that $-\Delta u \in \mathfrak{M}(\Omega)$ and the following optimality conditions hold true

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -\Delta u + \frac{1}{q'} |\nabla u|^{q'} - p - \lambda - \alpha = f(m), \\ \beta - \nabla u = 0, \\ -\Delta m + \nabla \cdot w = 0, \\ \text{spt}(p) \subseteq \{m = 1\}, \\ +\text{Neumann b.c. on } \partial\Omega \end{array} \right. \quad (3)$$

where the first equality holds in $\mathfrak{M}(\Omega)$.

Regularity of the solutions

Corollary

Let (m, w, u, p, λ) be as in the previous theorem. Then,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\Delta u + \frac{1}{q'} |\nabla u|^{q'} - p - \lambda & = f(m), \\ \nabla u \cdot n = 0 & \text{on } \partial E_1^m \\ -\Delta m - \nabla \cdot (m |\nabla u|^{\frac{2-q}{q-1}} \nabla u) & = 0, \\ \nabla m \cdot n = 0 & \text{on } \partial E_1^m \end{array} \right. \quad (4)$$

where the first equality is satisfied in the sense of measures while the second one in the sense of distributions over E_1^m . In particular if

$f \in C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$, setting $E_2^m := \{0 < m < 1\}$, we have that $(m, u) \in C^\infty(E_2^m) \times C^\infty(E_2^m)$ is a classical solution of

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The dual problem

Proposition

The dual problem of (P_q) has at least one solution and can be written as

$$- \min_{(u, p, \lambda, a) \in \mathcal{K}_D} \left\{ \int_{\Omega} F^*(x, a) dx + \lambda + \sigma_{\mathcal{C}}(p) \right\} \quad (PD_q)$$

where

$$\mathcal{K}_D := \left\{ (u, p, \lambda, a) \in W_{\diamond}^{1, q'}(\Omega) \times \mathfrak{M}_+(\Omega) \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathfrak{M}_{ac}(\Omega) : -\Delta u + \frac{1}{q'} |\nabla u|^{q'} - p - \lambda \leq a \right\},$$

$\mathcal{C} := \{y \in C(\bar{\Omega}) : y \leq 1\}$, $\sigma_{\mathcal{C}}(p) := \sup_{y \in \mathcal{C}} \langle p, y \rangle_{\mathfrak{M}(\bar{\Omega}), C(\bar{\Omega})}$ and the PDE in the definition of the set has to be understood in the **sense of measures**.

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→ Moreover $(P_q) = (PD_q)$ from where we obtain an alternative way to derive first order optimality conditions.

An approximation argument for less regular cases

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- For this we proved **uniform (in ε) estimates** for each term. We have

$$|\lambda_\varepsilon| + \|p_\varepsilon\|_{\mathfrak{M}} + \|m_\varepsilon\|_{H^1} + \|H_\varepsilon(\nabla u_\varepsilon)\|_{L^1} \leq C.$$

- This implies in particular that $\|\Delta u_\varepsilon\|_{\mathfrak{M}} \leq C$, which is enough to use again a Calderón-Zygmund-type argument and get compactness for ∇u_ε .

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Thank you for your attention!