

Convergence for finite state mean field control problems

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Introduction

Mean field control problems as limits of N -agent optimization, when the number N of agents tends to infinity.

- ▶ We consider problems in continuous time where the position of each agent belongs to a finite state space $\llbracket d \rrbracket = \{1, \dots, d\}$.
- ▶ Agents are indistinguishable and control their transition rate from state to state in order to minimize a cost.
- ▶ **Symmetric** and **mean field** interaction: each agent knows its position and the number of other agents in any of the d states.
- ▶ Notion of optimality at prelimit level: Pareto equilibrium. Agents are **cooperative** and have a **common cost** to minimize.

Results for continuous state space

Mean field control problem analyzed in:

- ▶ [Carmona-Delarue '15]: open-loop controls, use stochastic maximum principle, get FBSDEs of McKean-Vlasov type;
- ▶ [Pham-Wei '18]: closed-loop controls, use dynamic programming, get HJB equation, viscosity solutions.
- ▶ [Cardaliaguet-Graber-Porretta-Tonon '15]: potential mean field game, MFG system as necessary conditions for optimality.

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Convergence of N -agent optimization studied in:

- ▶ [Lacker '17]: convergence of optimal controls via compactness arguments, no convergence rate;
- ▶ [Carmona-Delarue '15]: convergence rate, using strong convexity assumptions.

Outline

1. N -agent optimization
 - ▶ Value function V^N

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2. Mean field control problem
 - ▶ Value function V is viscosity solution of HJB equation
3. Convergence of V^N to V with convergence rate, under general assumption, using viscosity solution property
4. Under convexity assumptions
 - ▶ Unique solution to MFPCP
 - ▶ Regularity of V
 - ▶ Convergence of optimal trajectories, with convergence rate

Agents dynamics

N identical agents X^1, \dots, X^N with $X_t^k \in \llbracket d \rrbracket$,

Evolve in continuous time, finite horizon T .

denote $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_N)$, $\mathbf{X}_t = (X_t^1, \dots, X_t^N) \in \llbracket d \rrbracket^N$.

Player k chooses its transition rate $\beta_j^k(t, \mathbf{x}) \geq 0$ in **Markovian feedback** form:

$$\mathbb{P} \left[X_{t+h}^k = j | \mathbf{X}_t = \mathbf{x} \right] = \beta_j^k(t, \mathbf{x})h + o(h)$$

in order to minimize the cost

$$J^k(\beta^1, \dots, \beta^N) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^T \ell(X_t^k, \beta^k(t, \mathbf{X}_t)) + f(X_t^k, \mu_t^N) dt + g(X_T^k, \mu_T^N) \right]$$

Given \mathbf{x} denote the **empirical measure** $m_{\mathbf{x}}^N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \delta_{x_k}$

$N \cdot m_{i,t}^N = \sum_k \mathbb{1}_{\{X_t^k=i\}}$ is the number of players in state i .

Optimization

Consider for simplicity

$$\ell^i(\beta^k(\mathbf{x})) = \ell(i, \beta^k(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq i} |\beta_j^k(t, i, \mathbf{x}^{-k})|^2$$

Agents are **cooperative**: common reward to minimize

$$J_N(\beta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N J^k(\beta)$$

strategy vector $\beta = (\beta^1, \dots, \beta^N)$ not necessarily exchangeable.

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Single optimization problem for the process $\mathbf{X} = (X^1, \dots, X^N)$ defined by the generator

$$\mathcal{L}_t^N \phi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{j \neq i} \beta_j^k(x_k, \mathbf{x}^{-k}) [\phi(j, \mathbf{x}^{-k}) - \phi(\mathbf{x})]$$

Value function

Value function $v^N(t, \mathbf{x})$

- ▶ HJB equation is ODE, indexed by $\mathbf{x} \in \llbracket d \rrbracket^N$;
- ▶ Well-posedness of HJB;
- ▶ Existence and uniqueness of optimal strategy β .
- ▶ Possible to consider also open-loop controls and non-convex ℓ : multiple optimizers, non exchangeable.

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Mean-field assumption: There exists

$\alpha^N : [0, T] \times S_d^N \rightarrow [0, +\infty)^{d \times d}$ such that

$$\beta_j^k(t, \mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{x}^{-k}) = \alpha_{\mathbf{x}_k, j}^N(t, \mu_{\mathbf{x}}^N)$$

$$S_d = \{m \in \mathbb{R}^d : m_i \geq 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^d m_i = 1\}, \quad S_d^N = S_d \cap \frac{1}{N}\mathbb{Z}^d$$

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Assume $\alpha_{i,j} \in [0, M]$ for any N .

Mean field N -agent problem

The cost becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 J_N(\alpha^N) &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^d \mathbb{1}_{\{X_T^k=i\}} g^i(\mu_T^N) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \int_0^T \sum_{i=1}^d \mathbb{1}_{\{X_t^k=i\}} (\ell(i, \alpha^N(t, i, \mu_t^N)) + f(i, \mu_t^N)) dt \right] \\
 &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^T \sum_{i=1}^d \mu_{i,t}^N (\ell^i(\alpha^N(t, i, \mu_t^N)) + f^i(\mu_t^N)) dt + \sum_{i=1}^d \mu_{i,T}^N g^i(\mu_T^N) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

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 \end{aligned}$$

Optimal control problem for Markov chain $\mu_t^N \in S_d^N$

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\mu_{t+h}^N = m + \frac{1}{N} (e_j - e_i) \middle| \mu_t^N = m \right) = Nm_i \alpha_{i,j}^N(t, m) h + o(h)$$

HJB-N equation

$V^N(t, m)$ value function, $m \in S_d^N$, HJB equation is ODE

$$\begin{aligned}
 -\frac{d}{dt}V^N + \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i H(D^{N,i} V^N(t, m)) &= \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i f^i(m) \\
 V^N(T, m) &= \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i g^i(m),
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{HJB-N}$$

where $[D^{N,i} V^N(t, m)]_j := N[V^N(m + \frac{1}{N}(e_j - e_i)) - V^N(m)]$,

$$H^i(z) = \sum_{j \neq i} \{-a^*(-z_j)z_j - \frac{1}{2}|a^*(-z_j)|^2\}, \quad a^*(r) = \begin{cases} 0 & r \leq 0 \\ r & 0 \leq r \leq M \\ M & r \geq M \end{cases}$$

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- HJB well-posed, **unique** optimal control

$$\alpha_{i,j}^N(t, m) = a^* \left(-N \left[V^N(m + \frac{1}{N}(e_j - e_i)) - V^N(m) \right] \right)$$

- Result: $\min_{\beta} J_N(\beta) = \min_{\alpha_N} J_N(\alpha_N)$ and $v^N(t, x) = V^N(t, \mu_x^N)$

Mean field control problem

$N \rightarrow \infty$: X^1, X^2, \dots i.i.d., $\mu^N \rightarrow \mu = \mathcal{L}(X)$, $\lim_N V^N$??

One reference player X chooses its transition rate $\alpha = (\alpha_{i,j})_{i,j=1}^d$,
 $\alpha_{i,j}(t) \in [0, M]$ deterministic (in **feedback** form)

$$\mathbb{P}(X_{t+h} = j | X_t = i) = \alpha_{i,j}(t)h + o(h) \quad j \neq i$$

in order to minimize, $\mathcal{L}(X_t) = \mathbb{P} \circ X_t^{-1} \in S_d$,

$$J(\alpha) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^T \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq X_t} |\alpha_{X_t,j}(t)|^2 + f(X_t, \mathcal{L}(X_t)) dt + g(X_T, \mathcal{L}(X_T)) \right]$$

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Rewrite in the form, $\mu_t^i = \mathbb{P}(X_t = i)$, $\mu_t = \mathcal{L}(X_t)$

$$\dot{\mu}_t^i = \sum_{j \neq i} \left(\mu_t^j \alpha_{j,i}(t) - \mu_t^i \alpha_{i,j}(t) \right)$$

$$J(\alpha) = \int_0^T \sum_{i=1}^d \mu_t^i \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq i} |\alpha_{i,j}(t)|^2 + f^i(\mu_t) \right) dt + \sum_{i=1}^d \mu_T^i g^i(\mu_T)$$

HJB equation

Single **deterministic** optimal control problem

HJB equation for value function $V(t, m)$:

$$\begin{aligned} -\partial_t V + \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i H\left(\left\{(\partial_{m_j} - \partial_{m_i})V\right\}_{j=1}^d\right) &= \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i f^i(m) \\ V(T, m) &= \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i g^i(m), \end{aligned} \tag{HJB}$$

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 \end{aligned}
 \tag{HJB}$$

- ▶ First order PDE in $[0, T] \times S_d$, no boundary conditions;
- ▶ $N[V^N(m + \frac{1}{N}(e_j - e_i)) - V^N(m)] \rightarrow (\partial_{m_j} - \partial_{m_i})V(m)$;
- ▶ no classical solutions;
- ▶ existence of optimal controls, non-uniqueness;
- ▶ Potential mean field game: $f^i(m) = F(m)$.

Viscosity solution

- ▶ Value function V is the unique viscosity solution of (HJB) in $[0, T) \times S_d$.
- ▶ Test functions in $\mathcal{C}^1([0, T) \times S_d)$.
- ▶ V is Lipschitz-continuous.

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- ▶ $\mu_t \in \text{Int}(S_d)$ if $\mu_0 \in \text{Int}(S_d)$.
- ▶ gives property on $D_z H$.

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- ▶ Analogous results for continuous state space: [Pham-Wei '18], [Wu-Zhang '19].

Previous results

Aim: $V^N \rightarrow V$ with convergence rate.

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Results for continuous state space:

- ▶ [Lacker '17], [Djete-Possamai-Tan '20] and [Fornasier-Lisini -Orrieri -Savaré '19]: convergence of optimal controls via compactness arguments (common noise, deterministic, ...);
- ▶ [Carmona-Delarue '15]: convergence rate, using convexity of f and g in (x, m) .

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Prove convergence using viscosity solution characterization of V :

- ▶ (HJB-N) is **finite difference scheme** for (HJB).
- ▶ results on approximation scheme for viscosity solutions in
 - ▶ [Capuzzo Dolcetta-Ishii '84]: discounted control problem;
 - ▶ [Souganidis '85]: general HJ equation.

Main convergence result

Theorem

Assume $m \rightarrow \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i f^i(m)$ and $m \rightarrow \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i g^i(m)$ Lipschitz.

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T], m \in S_d^N} |V^N(t, m) - V(t, m)| \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{N}}$$

- Use Lipschitz-continuity of V and V^N , uniformly in N .

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- ▶ Use Lipschitz-continuity of V and V^N , uniformly in N .
- ▶ Valid also for cost $c(t, x, \alpha, m)$ not convex in α and transition rate $Q_{ij}(t, \alpha, \mu)$: in this case, non-uniqueness of N -optimal control and non-existence of limiting optimal control.

Approximation

Corollary

Let α be an optimal control for mean field control problem. Then α (not depending on m) is *quasi-optimal* for N -agent optimization:

$$J^N(\alpha) \leq \inf_{\alpha^N} J^N(\alpha^N) + \frac{C}{\sqrt{N}}$$

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- ▶ Apply standard arguments in propagation of chaos to estimate

$$|J^N(\alpha) - J(\alpha)| \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{N}}, \quad \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \mathbb{E} |\mu_t^N(\alpha) - \mu(\alpha)| \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{N}}$$

- ▶ Assume initial conditions X_0^k , $k = 1, \dots, N$, i.i.d.

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Results for continuous state space:

- ▶ [Lacker '17], [Djete-Possamai-Tan '20]: no convergence rate
- ▶ [Carmona-Delarue '15]: rate, requires convexity of f and g .

Convexity

- ▶ Uniqueness of optimal control of MFCP ?
- ▶ Existence of classical solution to (HJB)?
- ▶ Convergence of optimal control and optimal trajectories?

Convexity

- ▶ **Uniqueness** of optimal control of MFCP ?
- ▶ Existence of **classical** solution to (HJB)?
- ▶ **Convergence** of optimal control and optimal trajectories?

Assume that the functions

$$S_d \ni m \rightarrow \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i f^i(m), \quad S_d \ni m \rightarrow \sum_{i \in \llbracket d \rrbracket} m_i g^i(m).$$

are **convex** and in $\mathcal{C}^{1,1}(S_d)$.

Classical solution

Theorem

Assume convexity. Then the value function $V \in \mathcal{C}^{1,1}([0, T] \times S_d)$ and is a classical solution to (HJB).

Unique optimal control, in feedback form,

$$\alpha_{i,j}(t, m) = a^* \left((\partial_{m_i} - \partial_{m_j}) V(t, m) \right)$$

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Unique optimal control, in feedback form,

$$\alpha_{i,j}(t, m) = a^* \left((\partial_{m_i} - \partial_{m_j}) V(t, m) \right)$$

- ▶ Prove that V is semiconcave and semiconvex.
- ▶ Equivalent problem, set $w_{i,j} = \mu^i \alpha_{i,j}$,

$$\dot{\mu}_t^i = \sum_{j \neq i} (w_{j,i}(t) - w_{i,j}(t))$$

$$J(\alpha) = \int_0^T \sum_{i=1}^d \left(\frac{1}{\mu_t^i} \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{|w_{i,j}(t)|^2}{2} + \mu_t^i f^i(\mu_t) \right) dt + \sum_{i=1}^d \mu_T^i g^i(\mu_T)$$

Convergence

Convergence of optimal (μ^N, α^N) to (μ, α) ?

Rely on regularity of V . Approximate

$$N \left[V \left(m + \frac{1}{N} (e_j - e_i) \right) - V(m) \right] = (\partial_{m_j} - \partial_{m_i}) V(t, m) + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{1}{N} \right)$$

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Analogous convergence results for MFG:

- ▶ [Cardaliaguet-Delarue-Lasry-Lions '19]: continuous state space.
- ▶ [Bayraktar-Cohen '18] and [Cecchin-Pelino]: finite state space.

Convergence of optimal trajectories

μ^N empirical measure using optimal N -control $\alpha^N(t, m)$ given by V^N
 ρ^N empirical measure using limiting control $\alpha(t, m)$, given by V
 μ unique optimal trajectory of MFCP, optimal control $\alpha(t, m)$

Theorem

Assume $V \in \mathcal{C}^{1,1}([0, T] \times S_d)$.

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{t \in [0, T]} |\mu_t^N - \rho_t^N| \right] \leq \frac{C}{N^{1/4}},$$
$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{t \in [0, T]} |\mu_t^N - \mu_t| \right] \leq \frac{C}{N^{1/9}}.$$

Conclusion and perspectives

We obtained

1. Convergence of V^N to V with convergence rate, via viscosity solutions, under general assumptions.
2. Convergence of optimal trajectories μ^N to μ if V is smooth, e.g. under convexity assumptions.

For future work:

- Analogous results for continuous state space.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION