

# MFG MASTER EQUATIONS INVOLVING NON-SEPARABLE HAMILTONIANS UNDER DISPLACEMENT MONOTONICITY

Alpar R. MÉSZÁROS

Durham University, UK

[based on works with M. Bansil, W. Gangbo, C. Mou, F. Zhang]

NYUAD SITE SEMINAR

January 2024

- MFG initiated around the same time in 2006, by LASRY-LIONS & HUANG-MALTHANE-CAINES
- Aim: Study & characterize limits of Nash equilibria of N-player stochastic games as  $N \rightarrow +\infty$ .
- Two main approaches : PDE & probabilistic.

Our setting :  $\bullet T > 0$  (arbitrary long time horizon)

- $\bullet \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  = space of Borel prob. measures with finite second moment.
- $\bullet G : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  terminal cost
- $\bullet L : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  Lagrangian  
 $\begin{matrix} \cap_x & \cap_v & \cap_\mu \end{matrix} + H(x, \cdot, \mu) = L(x, \cdot, \mu)^*$
- $\bullet \mu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  : initial agent population distribution.
- $\bullet 0 < t_0 < T$  : initial time

- A typical agent predicts  $(\rho_t)_{t \in [t_0, T]}$ ,

with  $\rho_{t_0} = \mu_0$  and solves

$$\inf_{\alpha} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \int_{t_0}^T L(X_s, \alpha_s, \rho_s) ds + G(X_T; e_T) \right\}$$

s.t.  $dX_s = \alpha_s ds + \rho dB_s + \beta_0 dB^0$

idiosyncratic noise

common noise

- $(B_s)_{s \in [t_0, T]} \not\sim (B^0_s)_{s \in [t_0, T]}$

are given independent Brownian motions in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

- Suppose that  $\exists$  an optimal process  $(X_t^*)_{t \in [t_0, T]}$ .
- $(\rho_t)_{t \in [t_0, T]}$  is a MFE if  $\rho_t = \text{Law}(X_t^* | \bar{\mathcal{F}}_t^{B^0})$
- $\bar{\mathcal{F}}^{B^0} = (\bar{\mathcal{F}}_t^{B^0})_{t \in [t_0, T]}$ : filtration generated by  $B^0$ .

Remark:

- if  $\beta_0 = 0$ ,  $(\rho_t)_{t \in [t_0, T]}$  is deterministic,  
otherwise this is stochastic, adapted to  
 $\bar{\mathcal{F}}^{B^0}$ .

One can find MFE by solving the MFG system  
 (MFG)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} du_t = -\left\{ (\frac{\beta^2}{2} + \frac{\beta_0^2}{2}) \Delta u_t + H(x, D_x u_t; \rho_t) - \beta_0 \operatorname{div}(v_t) \right\} dt + v_t \cdot dB_t^0 \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{in } (t_0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d \\ d\rho_t = \left\{ (\frac{\beta^2}{2} + \frac{\beta_0^2}{2}) \Delta \rho_t + \operatorname{div}(\rho_t D_p H(x, D_x u_t, \rho_t)) \right\} dt - \beta_0 \operatorname{div}(\rho_t dB_t^0) \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{in } (t_0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d \\ \rho(t_0, \cdot) = \mu_0; \quad u(T, \cdot) = g(\cdot, e_T) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d. \end{array} \right.$$

- Equivalently, one can study a system of FBSDEs.

Central object : master equation introduced by Lions in his lectures.

This is set on  $(0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  and reads as  
(Master)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -\partial_t V(t, x, \mu) - \left( \frac{\beta^2}{2} + \frac{\beta_0^2}{2} \right) \Delta_x V(t, x, \mu) + H(x, D_x V, \mu) + (\nabla V)(t, x, \mu) = 0 \\ \text{in } (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \\ V(T, x, \mu) = G(x, \mu) \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d), \end{array} \right.$$

where for  $U: \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  sufficiently regular

$$(WU)(x, \mu) := -\left( \frac{\beta^2}{2} + \frac{\beta_0^2}{2} \right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \operatorname{div}_y [\partial_\mu U] d\mu(y) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \partial_\mu U \cdot D_p H(y, D_x U(y, y)) d\mu(y)$$

$$- \beta_0^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \operatorname{div}_x [\partial_\mu U] d\mu(y) - \frac{\beta_0^2}{2} \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{2d}} \operatorname{tr} [\partial_{\mu\mu}^2 U] d\mu(y) d\mu(y').$$

Here  $\partial_\mu u$  stands for the so-called  $W_2$ -Wasserstein gradient of  $u$ .

[i.e. if  $u(x, \cdot)$  is diff. at  $\mu$ , then

$$u(x, \gamma) = u(x, \mu) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \partial_\mu u(x, \mu)(x') \cdot (y' - x') d\gamma(x', y')$$

$$+ \Theta(W_2(\mu, \nu))$$

[see Ambrosio-Gigli-Savare  
Birkhäuser, 2008]

[essentially equivalent to the  
"L-derivative", c.f.  
Cannarsa-Delarue]

$$\forall \gamma \in \Gamma_0(\mu, \nu).$$

(set of optimal plans in the def. of  $W_2(\mu, \nu)$ )

- $W_2(\mu; \nu) := \inf \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \|x - y\|^2 d\gamma(x, y) : \gamma \in \Gamma(\mu, \nu) \right\}$

- $\Gamma(\mu, \nu) := \left\{ \gamma \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d) : (\pi^x)_\# \gamma = \mu; (\pi^y)_\# \gamma = \nu \right\}$

# Derivation of (Master)

$$V(t_0, x, \mu_0) := u(t_0; x) \quad \text{&} \quad V(t, x, \rho_t) = u(t, x)$$

↑  
 sol. to MFG  
 HJB with  $(t_0; \mu_0)$

↑  $t \in (t_0, T)$ .  
 DPP

Formally : •  $D_x V = D_x u$

•  $\partial_t u(t, x) = \partial_t (V(t, x, \rho_t)) = \partial_t V + \langle \partial_\mu V, v_t \rangle_{\rho_t}$

if  $\partial_t \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho_t v_t) = 0$

• In our case, if  $\beta_0 = 0$ ,  $v_t := -\frac{\nabla \rho_t}{\rho_t} - D_p H(x, D_x V, \rho_t)$

so  $\langle \partial_\mu V, v_t \rangle_{\rho_t} := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \operatorname{div}_y [\partial_\mu V(t, x, \rho_t)(y)] d\rho_t(y)$

$- \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \partial_\mu V(t, x, \rho_t)(y) \cdot D_p H(y, D_x V(t, x, \rho_t), \rho_t) d\rho_t(y)$

• In general, if  $\beta_0 > 0$ , we need an Itô lemma.

- Our goal : present a well-posedness result (classical solutions) for (Master) for arbitrary long  $T_0$ .

→ clearly : one needs to impose assumptions on the data  $H \not\subset G$ .

→ in our setting  $\beta > 0$  (so for simplicity we set it  $\beta = 1$ ) and  $\beta_0 \geq 0$ .

- Most results on classical solutions involve so-called separable Hamiltonians, i.e.  
 $(SEP)$   $H(x, p, \mu) = H_0(x, p) - F(x, \mu)$ ,  
 for some  $H_0 \not\subset F$

## Literature review :

### Short time well-posedness

- Gango - Swiech [JDE, 2015] : potential game  
 $(\beta = \beta_0 = 0 ; (SEP) : H_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2} |p|^2)$   
 → Extended by Mayorga [JDE, 2020], (SEP), general  
 (OT techniques)  $H_0$ .
- Bensoussan - Yam [ESAIM: COCV, 2019] ; (SEP),  
 $H_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2} |p|^2$  (Hilbert space techniques)  
 $(\beta = \beta_0 = 0)$  potential game
- Carmona - Delarue [Book, Vol 2 ; 2018]  
 $(\beta > 0 ; \beta_0 \geq 0)$  no structural assumption  
 on  $H$  or  $G$  (just smoothness)

# Global in time well-posedness

A. (SEP) and Lasry-Lions monotonicity of  $F \otimes G$ .

$$(LL): \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (F(x; \mu) - F(x; \nu)) d(\mu - \nu)(x) \geq 0 \quad \forall \mu, \nu$$

Potential game:  $\exists \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}: \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , s.t.

$$\begin{cases} \partial_\mu \mathcal{F}(\mu)(x) = D_x F(x, \mu) & \forall (x, \mu) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \\ \partial_\mu \mathcal{G}(\mu)(x) = D_x G(x, \mu) \end{cases}$$

[ i.e.  $\frac{\delta}{\delta \mu} \mathcal{F}(\mu)(x) = F(x, \mu)$   
 and  $\frac{\delta}{\delta \mu} \mathcal{G}(\mu)(x) = G(x, \mu)$  ]

Rmk: In the potential game case (LL) is equivalent to convexity of  $\mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{G}$  along "flat interpolation" of probability measures,

$$\text{i.e. } \mathcal{F}((1-\lambda)\mu + \lambda\nu) \leq (1-\lambda)\mathcal{F}(\mu) + \lambda\mathcal{F}(\nu) \quad \forall \mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \quad \forall \lambda \in [0, 1]$$

- Chassagneux - Crisan - Delarue [Mem. AMS, 2022]
  $\rightarrow \begin{cases} \beta > 0 \\ \beta_0 = 0 \end{cases}$ ; (probabilistic techniques)

- Cardaliaguet - Delarue - Lasry - Lions [Ann. Math. Sci., 2019]
  $\rightarrow \begin{cases} \beta > 0 \\ \beta_0 \geq 0 \end{cases}$  (PDE techniques)

$\textcircled{B}$  (SEP)  $\Leftrightarrow$  displacement monotonicity of the data

$F: P_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is displacement convex  
 (cf. McCann '96) if

$\textcircled{DC}$   $F(\mu_t) \leq (1-t)F(\mu_0) + tF(\mu_1)$   $\forall \mu_0, \mu_1 \in P_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$   
 $(\mu_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$   $W_2$ -geod. connecting  $\mu_0$  to  $\mu_1$ .

- Gangbo - M. [CPAM, 2022]
  - $\beta = \beta_0 = 0$ ; potential game case (DC) data.  
(OT techniques)
- Bensoussan - Graber - Yam [arXiv, 2020] (potential case)
  - $\beta > 0$ ;  $\beta_0 = 0$ ;  $H_0(x, p) = \frac{1}{2} |p|^2$  (Hilbertian tech.)

Remarks on (DM) in MFG related problems

- Achuja [SICON, 2016]; Achuja - Ren - Yang [SPA, 2019]
- Carmona - Delarue [AoP, 2015]
- Chassagneux - Crisan - Delarue [M. of AMS, 2022]

[Various other authors had contributions to master:]

→ Bertucci; Cecchin; Grant; Lacker; Ramanan;  
Porretta; Souganidis; etc, ... ]

Observation :  $\mathcal{F}$  satisfies (DC) and regular , then  
 $\partial\mu\mathcal{F}$  is monotone in the following sense

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} (\partial\mu\mathcal{F}(\mu)(x) - \partial\mu\mathcal{F}(\nu)(y)) \cdot (x-y) d\mathcal{F}(x,y) \geq 0 \\ \forall \mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \quad \forall \mathcal{F} \in \Pi(\mu, \nu).$$

- This inspires a definition of monotonicity for not nec. potential games.

Df:  $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is said to be displ. mon.  
if : (DM)  $\iint_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} (D_x \mathcal{F}(x, \mu) - D_x \mathcal{F}(y, \nu)) \cdot (x-y) d\mathcal{F}(x,y) \geq 0$ .  
 $\forall \mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \quad \forall \mathcal{F} \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)$ .

- Our setting :
- $G$  satisfies (DM)
  - $H$  Non-(SEP), but appropriate monotonicity (to described)
- [Gangbo-M. Mon-Zhang  
AoP, 2022]
- $\beta > 0$ ;  $\beta_0 \geq 0$ .

Rmk : non-(SEP) Hamiltonians are motivated by

- economical applications ; see for instance
  - [Achdou - Buer - Lasry - Lions - Moll ; 2014]
  - [Achdou - Han - Lasry - Lions - Moll ; 2021]
  - ⋮

• congestion modeling

- [Achdou - Porretta ; 2018]
- [Gomes - Voskanyan ; 2015]
- ⋮

Theorem [ Gangbo - M. Mou - Zhang ; 2022 ]

Suppose that  $\beta > 0$ ;  $\beta_0 \geq 0$ ,  $G \not\approx H$  are sufficiently regular. Suppose that  $G$  is (DM),  $H$  is convex in  $p$ ;  $H$  satisfies the (HDM) monotonicity condition. Suppose that  $\mu \mapsto G(x, \mu)$  and  $\mu \mapsto H(x, p, \mu)$  are  $W_1$ -Lipschitz continuous. Then (Master) has a global in time classical solution for arbitrary long  $T > 0$ .

- Need to define (HDM)!

- First observations:  $G : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is regular enough, then  $G$  is (LL) monotone

$$\Leftrightarrow \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \langle \partial_{xy}^2 G(x, \mu)(y) v(y), v(x) \rangle d\mu(x) d\mu(y) \geq 0 \\ \text{if } \mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ if } v \in L^2_\mu(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d).$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \mathbb{E} \left[ \langle \partial_{x\mu}^2 G(\xi; \mathcal{L}_{\tilde{\xi}})(\tilde{\xi}) \tilde{\eta}, \eta \rangle \right] \geq 0 \\ \text{if } \xi, \eta \text{ } L^2\text{-R.V. } (\tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\eta}) \text{ is an indep. copy of } (\xi, \eta).$$

G is DM

$$\Leftrightarrow \iint_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \langle \partial_{xy}^2 G(x, \mu)(y) v(y), v(x) \rangle d\mu(x) d\mu(y)$$

$$+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \langle \partial_{xx}^2 G(x, \mu) v(x), v(x) \rangle d\mu(x) \geq 0 \quad \forall \mu$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \mathbb{E} \left[ \langle \partial_{x\mu}^2 G(\xi, \mathcal{L}_{\xi})(\tilde{\xi}) \tilde{\eta}, \eta \rangle + \langle \partial_{xx}^2 G(\xi, \mathcal{L}_{\xi}) \eta, \eta \rangle \right] \geq 0$$

||  $\forall \xi, \eta \in L^2 - \text{R.V.}$   
 $(\tilde{\xi}, \tilde{\eta})$  indep. copy of  $(\xi, \eta)$ .

$$(\partial_{yy})_{\xi} G(\eta, \eta)$$

Example :  $G(x, \mu) = (\phi * \mu)(x) ; \phi: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

smooth, even;

$G$  (LL) monotone  $\Leftrightarrow \hat{\phi} \geq 0$  (Fourier tr.)

$G$  (DM) monotone  $\Leftrightarrow \phi$  is convex.

Def :  $H: \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\partial_{pp}^2 H > 0$  and

Sufficiently regular is displacement monotone

if

(HDM)

$$(\text{displ}_{\bar{\xi}}^\varphi H)(\eta, \eta) := (\text{d}_{x,d})_{\bar{\xi}} H(\cdot, \varphi(\bar{\xi}), \cdot)(\eta, \eta)$$

$$+ Q_{\bar{\xi}}^\varphi H(\eta, \eta) \leq 0 \quad \forall \bar{\xi}, \eta \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

$\forall \varphi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$

bdd, Lip.,

where

$$Q_{\bar{\xi}}^\varphi H(\eta, \eta) := \frac{1}{4} \mathbb{E} \left\{ \left| \left[ \partial_{pp}^2 H(\bar{\xi}, \varphi(\bar{\xi}), \mathcal{L}_{\bar{\xi}}) \right]^{\frac{-1}{2}} \mathbb{E} [\partial_{p\mu} H(\bar{\xi}, \varphi(\bar{\xi}), \mathcal{L}_{\bar{\xi}}, \tilde{\xi})]_j \right|^2 \right\}$$

## Strategy of the proof of our main Theorem

Step 0. Classical results [Cormona -Delarue, Vol 2] imply that under our assumptions (Master) has a smooth solution for  $T > 0$  short enough.

Heart of our analysis is

Step 1. (Propagation of (DM))

If  $G$  satisfies (DM) &  $H$  satisfies (HDM)  
and  $V$  is a regular enough classical solution  
to (Master), then

$V(t, \cdot, \cdot)$  satisfies (DM)  $\forall t \in [\rho, T]$ .  
(in a quantified way)

→ Proof of Step 1: get estimates on  $(d_x d) V(t, \cdot, \cdot)$   
by differentiating (Master).  
(This is how we discovered the (HDM) condition)

Step 2: (DM) implies  $W_2$ -Lipschitz)

If  $V(t, \cdot, \cdot)$  solves (Master) and satisfies (DM), then

$V$  &  $\partial_x V$  are  $W_2$ -Lipschitz in the  $\mu$ -variable!

↳ We show that both  $\partial_\mu V(t, x, \mu, \cdot)$  and  $\partial_{\mu x}^2 V(t, x, \mu, \cdot)$  have uniformly bdd  $L^2_\mu$  norm

↳ The constants depend on the data and on  $\|\partial_x V\|_\infty$  &  $\|\partial_{xx}^2 V\|_\infty$ , which is a consequence of the assumptions on the data (in particular that  $\partial_x G$  &  $\partial_{xx}^2 G$  are bdd)

Step 3 ([most subtle one !]  $W_2$ -Lipschitz + assumptions  
on the data  $\Rightarrow W_1$ -Lipschitz)

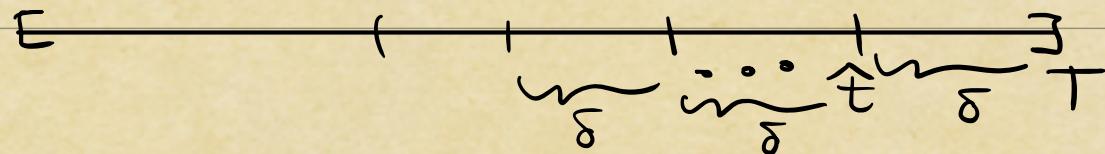
Critical observation: The local existence result  
in [Carmona - Delarue, Vol 2] needs  $W_1$ -Lipschitz  
condition on the terminal data.

• Thus, Step 3 is really needed!

→ To prove this, we show that  $\partial_u V$  &  $\partial_{ux} V$  are  
unif. bounded via obtained via a representation  
formula using the corresponding FBSDE system  
[cf. Ma-Zhang 2020]

## Step 4 (gluing step ; more or less standard)

- Solve (Master) on  $[\hat{t}, T]$  of size  $\delta > 0$ .



- $\delta$  depends only on  $W_2$ -Lip. constant (and the data)
- Using the previous steps, iterate now with  $V(\hat{t}, \cdot, \cdot)$  as final datum.

## Some final remarks

- In the case when  $H$  satisfies (SEP)  $\nRightarrow F \& G$  satisfy (LL), so does  $V(t, \cdot, \cdot)$   $\forall t \in [0, T]$ .
- $V(t, \cdot, \cdot)$  (LL)  $\Rightarrow V(t, x, \cdot)$   $W_1$ -Lipschitz
- One can go "directly" to the "gluing step".
- However, it remains a challenge to find a condition on  $H$  NON-(SEP), that allows the propagation of (LL)-monotonicity!
- Our approach applies to problems with degenerate idiosyncratic noise (also common noise only)

[Bansil - M. - Mon, 2023]

## Some words about the improvements in [BMM, 2023]

- This approach allows us to handle degenerate idiosyncratic noise, i.e.  $\beta=0$  and  $\beta_0 \geq 0$ .
- discovered a first order condition to characterise (DM) Hamiltonians (see also [M.-Mau, 24])
$$\mathbb{E}\left\{\partial_p H(x^1; p^1; \mathcal{L}_{x^1}) - \partial_p H(x^2; p^2; \mathcal{L}_{x^2})\right\} \cdot (x^1 - x^2) \\ + \mathbb{E}\left\{\mathbb{E}\left[\partial_x H(x^1; p^1; \mathcal{L}_{x^1}) + \partial_x H(x^2; p^2; \mathcal{L}_{x^2})\right]\right\} \cdot (p^1 - p^2) \geq 0$$
$$\forall x^1; p^1; x^2; p^2 \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$$
- as a result of this, we relax the assumptions on the regularity for  $H \not\in G$ .

THANK You FOR  
Your ATTENTION!