

# Newton schemes for mean field games

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Numerical methods for optimal transport problems,  
mean field games, and multi-agent dynamics

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# Outline

- 1 Mean Field Games (MFG)
- 2 Newton-Semi Lagrangian scheme
- 3 Newton-Finite Difference scheme
- 4 Numerical Simulations

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- 1 Mean Field Games (MFG)
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# Mean Field Game Problem

Model introduced by Lasry, Lions and Huang, Malhamé, Caines, 2006

$$\begin{cases} -\partial_t u - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta u + H(x, \nabla u) = F(x, m(t)) & \text{in } [0, T) \times \mathbb{T}^d, \\ \partial_t m - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta m - \operatorname{div}(\partial_p H(x, \nabla u)m) = 0 & \text{in } (0, T] \times \mathbb{T}^d, \\ u(T, \cdot) = u_T(x), \quad m(\cdot, 0) = m_0 & \text{in } \mathbb{T}^d. \end{cases} \quad (\mathbf{MFG})$$

- $T > 0$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $H(x, p)$  is convex and differentiable w.r.t.  $p$
- in the 1st line we have a Hamilton Jacobi Bellman (HJB) equation backward in time
- in the 2nd line we have a Fokker Plank equation forward in time
- $m_0$  and then  $m(t, x)$  represents the density of a probability measure

# Mean Field Game Problem

Model introduced by Lasry, Lions and Huang, Malhamé,Caines, 2006

$$\begin{cases} -\partial_t u - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta u + H(x, \nabla u) = F(m) & \text{in } \mathbb{T}^d \times [0, T), \\ \partial_t m - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta m - \operatorname{div}(\partial_p H(x, \nabla u)m) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{T}^d \times (0, T], \\ u(T, \cdot) = u_T(x), \quad m(0, \cdot) = m_0 & \text{in } \mathbb{T}^d. \end{cases} \quad (\mathbf{MFG})$$

Our aim is

- to propose a new numerical scheme by discretizing a Newton method in infinite dimension

# Some references of Numerical Approximation of MFG

- Y.Achdou, I.Capuzzo-Dolcetta ('10),Y.Achdou, F.Camilli, I.Capuzzo-Dolcetta ('12), Semi-implicite Finite Difference scheme, Newton Iteration
- E.C.,F.J.Silva ('14, '15) Semi-Lagrangian scheme
- Y.Achdou, M.Lauriere ('20), Combine Continuation Methods with Newton Iterations
- H. Li, Y. Fan, and L. Ying ('21). Multiscale method for mean field games. Second order accurate
- F. Camilli, Q. Tang ('23) **Newton's method in infinite dimension for Mean Field Games**

# Assumptions

We assume  $\sigma \neq 0$  and for  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$

**(H1)**  $m_0$  is n positive,  $m_0 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{T}^d) \cap C^{2+\alpha}(\mathbb{T}^d)$ ,  $u_T \in C^{2+\alpha}(\mathbb{T}^d)$

**(H2)**  $F, F', F''$  are uniformly bounded mappings from  $\mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Moreover,  $F'(\cdot) \geq 0$

**(H3)**  $H : \mathbb{T}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  continuous, two times differentiable in  $p$  and there exists  $c, C > 0$  such that

$$cI \leq H_{pp}(x, p) \leq CI, \quad (x, p) \in \mathbb{T}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$$

Under **(H1)-(H3)** the MFG system admits one classical solution

# Newton method

Following (Camilli Tang 2023) we define the map

$$\mathcal{T} : (u, m) \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -\partial_t u - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta u + H(Du) - F(m) \\ \partial_t m - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta m - \operatorname{div}(m H_p(Du)) \\ u(T) - u_T(x) \\ m(0) - m_0(x) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then system **(MFG)** is equivalent to

$$\mathcal{T}(u, m) = 0$$

and the corresponding **Newton's iterations** can be written, at a generic iteration  $n$ , as

$$J\mathcal{T}(u^{n-1}, m^{n-1})(u^n - u^{n-1}, m^n - m^{n-1}) = -\mathcal{T}(u^{n-1}, m^{n-1}). \quad (1)$$

# Newton method

The Jacobian of  $\mathcal{T}$  is given by

$$J\mathcal{T}(u, m)(v, \rho) = \begin{pmatrix} -\partial_t v - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta v + H_p(Du)Dv & -F'(m)\rho \\ -\operatorname{div}(mH_{pp}(Du)Dv) & \partial_t \rho - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta \rho - \operatorname{div}(H_p(Du)\rho) \\ v(T, \cdot) & 0 \\ 0 & \rho(0, \cdot) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then (1), formally, gets for  $n \geq 1$

$$\begin{cases} -\partial_t u^n - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta u^n + q^n Du^n = q^n Du^{n-1} - H(Du^{n-1}) + F(m^{n-1}) + \\ \quad F'(m^{n-1})(m^n - m^{n-1}) \\ \partial_t m^n - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta m^n - \operatorname{div}(m^n q^n) = \operatorname{div}(m^{n-1} H_{pp}(Du^{n-1})(Du^n - Du^{n-1})) \\ m^n(x, 0) = m_0(x), \quad u^n(x, T) = u_T(x) \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where  $q^n = H_p(Du^{n-1})$ .

# Newton method

The Newton method reads:

given  $(u^0, m^0)$ , find  $(u^n, m^n)$  by solving (2) for  $n \geq 1$

Theorem (Camilli Tang 2023)

If the initial guess  $(u^0, m^0)$  is close enough to the  $(u, m)$  solution of **(MFG)**, then

$$\|u - u^n\|_{C^{0,1}} + \|m - m^n\|_{C^0} \leq C^*(\|u - u^{n-1}\|_{C^{0,1}} + \|m - m^{n-1}\|_{C^0})^2. \quad (3)$$

Notation:

$$\|u\|_{C^{0,1}} = \|u\|_{C^0} + \|Du\|_{C^0}$$

For simplicity, next we consider the Eikonal HJB equation

$$H(x, p) = \frac{p^2}{2} - V(x)$$

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# Linearized HJ

Given

$$L(t, x) = \frac{|q^n(t, x)|^2}{2} + F(m^{n-1}(t, x)) + F'(m^{n-1}(t, x))(m^n(t, x) - m^{n-1}(t, x))$$

let us consider

$$\begin{cases} -\partial_t u^n - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta u^n + q^n D u^n - L(t, x) = 0 \\ u^n(T, x) = u_T(x) \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Representation formula for  $u^n(t, x)$  holds true

$$u^n(t, x) = \mathbb{E} \left( \int_t^T L(s, X^{t,x}(s)) ds + u_T(X^{t,x}(T)) \right),$$

where

$$X^{t,x}(s) := x - \int_t^s q^n(r, X^{t,x}(r)) dr + \int_t^s \sigma dW(r) \quad \text{for all } s \in [t, T].$$

# Main Ingredients for SL scheme

- Representation formula in  $[t_k, t_{k+1}]$

$$u^n(t_k, x) = \mathbb{E} \left( \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} L(s, X^{t_k, x}(s)) ds \right) + u^n(t_{k+1}, X^{t_k, x}(t_{k+1}))$$

- Semi discretization in time by one-step weak Euler:

Let us approximate the stochastic characteristics by

$$X^{t_k, x}(t_{k+1}) \simeq x - \Delta t q^n(t_k, x) + \sigma \Delta W,$$

where  $P(\Delta W = \pm \sqrt{\Delta t}) = \frac{1}{2}$

- Trapezoidal rule for Running cost

$$\int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} L(s, X^{t_k, x}(s)) ds \simeq \Delta t L(t_k, x)$$

Ref. Camilli, Falcone(1998), Falcone, Ferretti (2014)

# Fully discrete SL scheme for HJL

Let us define  $\{u_{k,i}^n\}$  as the solution to

$$\begin{cases} u_{k,i}^n = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\pm} I[u_{k+1}^n](x_i - \Delta t q^n(t_k, x_i) \pm \sqrt{\Delta t}) + \Delta t L(t_k, x_i) \\ u_{N_{\Delta t, i}}^n = u_T(x_i). \end{cases} \quad (\text{SL})$$

where for a given grid function  $f$

$$I[f](x) := \sum_j \beta_j(x) f_j$$

where  $\{\beta_j\}$  denotes the  $\mathbb{P}_1$  basis of **piecewise linear function**, and

$$L(t_k, x_i) = \frac{|q^n(t_k, x_i)|^2}{2} + V(x_i) + F(m_{k,i}^{n-1}) + F'(m_{k,i}^{n-1})(m_{k,i}^n - m_{k,i}^{n-1})$$

where  $m_{k,i}^n \simeq m^n(x_i, t_k)$

## Backward explicit SL scheme for HJL

For given  $Q_k^n = \{q^n(t_k, x_i)\}$ ,  $M_k^n = \{m_{k,i}^n\}$ , compute  $U_k^n = \{u_{k,i}^n\}$

$$\begin{cases} U_k^n = \mathcal{A}(Q_k^n)U_{k+1}^n + \Delta t \mathcal{W}_k M_k^n + \Delta t \mathcal{B}_k & k = 0, \dots, N_{\Delta t} - 1, \\ U_{N_{\Delta t}}^n = U_T \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where, given  $\{m_{k,i}^{n-1}\}$ , we define

$$\begin{cases} (\mathcal{A}(Q))_{ij} := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\pm} \beta_j (x_i - \Delta t(Q)_i \pm \sqrt{\Delta t}) \\ (\mathcal{W}_k)_{i,j} := F'(m_{k,i}^{n-1}) \delta_{i,j} \\ (\mathcal{B}_k)_i := \frac{|q^n(t_k, x_i)|^2}{2} + V(x_i) + F(m_{k,i}^{n-1}) + F'(m_{k,i}^{n-1}) m_{k,i}^{n-1} \end{cases}$$

# Fully discrete adjoint SL scheme for FP

Given

$$G(t, x) = \operatorname{div}(m^{n-1}(t, x)(Du^n(t, x) - Du^{n-1}(t, x)))$$

let us consider

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t m^n - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta m^n - \operatorname{div}(m^n q^n) = G(t, x) \\ m^n(x, 0) = m_0(x). \end{cases}$$

Using the **duality** property

$$\int L(f)g \, dx = \int L^*(g)f \, dx$$

of the operators

$$L^*(m) := -\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta m - \operatorname{div}(q(x)m)$$

$$L(u) := -\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta u + q(x)^\top Du$$

we derive a scheme for the FP

## Adjoint SL scheme for FP

For given  $Q_k^n = \{q^n(t_k, x_i)\}$ ,  $U_k^n = \{u_{k,i}^n\}$ , compute  $M_k^n = \{m_{k,i}^n\}$

$$\begin{cases} M_{k+1}^n = \mathcal{A}^*(Q_k^n)M_k^n + \Delta t \mathcal{Z}_k U_k^n + \Delta t \mathcal{C}_k, & k = 0, \dots, N_{\Delta t} - 1 \\ M_0^n = M_0, \end{cases}$$

where  $\mathcal{A}^*(Q)$  is the transpose of  $\mathcal{A}(Q)$  and, for given  $M_k^{n-1}$ ,  $\mathcal{Z}_k$  is the matrix defined such that

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{Z}_k U)_i &= (D_{\Delta x} M_k^{n-1})_i (D_{\Delta x} U_k)_i + (M_k^{n-1})_i (\text{Lap}_{\Delta x} U_k)_i \\ &\simeq \text{div}(m^{n-1}(t_k, x_i) (Du^n(t_k, x_i))) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{C}_k)_i &= -(D_{\Delta x} M_k^{n-1})_i (Q_k^n)_i - (M_k^{n-1})_i (\text{div}_{\Delta x} Q_k^n)_i \\ &\simeq -\text{div}(m^{n-1}(t_k, x_i) q(t_k, x_i)) \end{aligned}$$

# Fully discrete Newton scheme

Given  $(U^{n-1}, M^{n-1})$ , define  $Q_k^n := D_h U_k^{n-1}$  and compute  $(U^n, M^n)$  as solution of the linear system

$$\begin{cases} U_k^n = \mathcal{A}(Q_k^n)U_{k+1}^n + \Delta t \mathcal{W}_k M_k^n + \Delta t \mathcal{B}_k & k = 0, \dots, N_{\Delta t} - 1, \\ M_{k+1}^n = \mathcal{A}^*(Q_k^n)M_k^n + \Delta t \mathcal{Z}_k U_k^n + \Delta t \mathcal{C}_{k+1} & k = 0, \dots, N_{\Delta t} - 1 \\ U_{N_{\Delta t}}^n = U_T \quad M_0^n = M_0, \end{cases} \quad (\text{Newton-SL})$$

which can be written as an Hamiltonian system

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{A} & -\mathbb{W} \\ -\mathbb{Z} & -\mathbb{A}^\top \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{U} \\ \bar{M} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{B} \\ \mathbb{C} \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

## Proposition

If  $M^n \geq 0$ , then for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists a unique solution  $(U^n, M^n)$  to (6)

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# Implicit FD scheme for HJL

Given  $q^n, m^n, m^{n-1}$ , we define  $\{u_{k,i}^n\}$  for  $k = 0, \dots, N_{\Delta t} - 1$  as the solution to the following Implicit FD scheme

$$\begin{cases} u_{k,i}^n = u_{k+1,i}^n + \Delta t \mu_i^k \text{Lap} u_{k,i}^n + \Delta t q^n(t_k, x_i) D_h u_{k,i}^n + \Delta t L(t_k, x_i) \\ u_{N_{\Delta t}, i}^n = u_T(x_i). \end{cases} \quad (\text{FD})$$

where

$$\mu_i^k = \frac{\sigma^2}{2} + \Delta x |q^n(t_k, x_i)|$$

and

$$L(t_k, x_i) = \frac{|q^n(t_k, x_i)|^2}{2} + V(x_i) + F(m_{k,i}^{n-1}) + F'(m_{k,i}^{n-1})(m_{k,i}^n - m_{k,i}^{n-1})$$

which can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} U_k^n = U_{k+1}^n - \Delta t \mathcal{D}_k U_k^n + \Delta t \mathcal{W}_k M_k^n + \Delta t \mathcal{B}_k & k = 0, \dots, N_{\Delta t} - 1, \\ U_{N_{\Delta t}}^n = U_T \end{cases}$$

# FD Newton scheme

Given  $(U^{n-1}, M^{n-1})$ , define  $Q_k^n := D_h U_k^{n-1}$  and compute  $(U^n, M^n)$  as solution of the linear system, for  $k = 0, \dots, N_{\Delta t} - 1$

$$\begin{cases} U_k^n = U_{k+1}^n - \Delta t (\mathcal{D}_k U_k^n + \mathcal{W}_k M_k^n + \mathcal{B}_k) \\ M_{k+1}^n = M_k^n - \Delta t ((\mathcal{D}_k)^* M_{k+1}^n + \mathcal{Z}_{k+1} U_{k+1}^n + \mathcal{C}_{k+1}) \\ U_{N_{\Delta t}}^n = U_T \quad M_0^n = M_0, \end{cases} \quad (\text{Newton-FD})$$

## Proposition

If  $M^n \geq 0$ , then for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists a unique solution  $(U^n, M^n)$  to (Newton-FD)

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# Newton SL Algorithm

Initial guesses  $M^0, U^0$  and tolerances  $\delta > 0, \tau > 0$

Compute  $Q^0 = D_h u^0$ , set  $\epsilon_0 = 1, n = 0$

While  $\epsilon_n > \tau$

    Compute  $M^n, U^n$  by ( Newton-SL)

        (Gauss-Seidel with tolerance  $\delta$ )

    Update  $Q^n, n = n + 1$

    Let  $\epsilon_n = \|M_n - M_{n+1}\|_\infty + \|U_n - U_{n+1}\|_\infty$

End While

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(Gauss-Seidel with tolerance  $\delta$ )

Update  $Q^n, n = n + 1$

Let  $\epsilon_n = \|M_n - M_{n+1}\|_\infty + \|U_n - U_{n+1}\|_\infty$

End While

# Newton FD Algorithm

Initial guesses  $M^0, U^0$  and tolerances  $\delta > 0, \tau > 0$

Compute  $Q^0 = D_h u^0$ , set  $\epsilon_0 = 1, n = 0$

While  $\epsilon_n > \tau$

    Compute  $M^n, U^n$  by ( Newton-FD)  
        (Gauss-Seidel with tolerance  $\delta$ )

    Update  $Q^n, n = n + 1$

    Let  $\epsilon_n = \|M_n - M_{n+1}\|_\infty + \|U_n - U_{n+1}\|_\infty$

End While

## MFG 1d

Let us choose  $H(p) = \frac{p^2}{2}$ ,  $V(x) = 0$ ,

$$m_0(x) = \begin{cases} 4 \sin^2(2\pi(x - 1/4)) & \text{if } x \in [1/4, 3/4] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$F(m(x)) = 3m_0(x) - 4 \min(4, m), \quad u_T = 0.$$

We set  $\sigma = 0.05$ ,  $T = 0.05$ ,  $\tau = \delta = 10^{-4}$  and periodic boundary conditions.

We solve the MFG system using

**Newton-SL**, **Newton-FD**, **FD-Newton** (Ref. Achodou, Capuzzo Dolcetta (2010))

and **Fixed Point-SL** (Carlini-Silva 2014)

# Comparison Newton-SL vs Fixed Point-SL

$h$	$E_\infty(u)$	$E_\infty(m)$	Time	Iterations
Newton-SL				
$2.50 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$5.51 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.64 \cdot 10^{-1}$	0.61s	6
$1.25 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.40 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.16 \cdot 10^{-1}$	2.77s	7
$6.25 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.83 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$6.61 \cdot 10^{-2}$	13.92s	7
$3.125 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$4.50 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.41 \cdot 10^{-2}$	80.60s	7
Fixed Point-SL				
$2.50 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$5.75 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.62 \cdot 10^{-1}$	8.09s	10
$1.25 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.84 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.11 \cdot 10^{-1}$	40.79s	10
$6.25 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$2.15 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$5.84 \cdot 10^{-2}$	259.72s	12
$3.125 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$9.50 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$6.51 \cdot 10^{-3}$	2793.71s	12

Table: Errors for the approximation of solution  $(u, m)$  using Fixed Point and Newton SL schemes with  $\Delta t = h^{3/2}/2$

# Newton-FD vs FD-Newton

$h$	$E_\infty(u)$	$E_\infty(m)$	Time	Iterations
FD-Newton				
$2.50 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.23 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$3.11 \cdot 10^{-2}$	2.23s	7
$1.25 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$6.21 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.63 \cdot 10^{-2}$	18.32s	8
$6.25 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$3.14 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$8.75 \cdot 10^{-3}$	92.91s	8
$3.125 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.77 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$9.54 \cdot 10^{-3}$	597.21s	8
Newton-FD				
$2.50 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.532 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$3.42 \cdot 10^{-2}$	1.48s	7
$1.25 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$6.71 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.83 \cdot 10^{-2}$	12.27s	7
$6.25 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$3.37 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$9.51 \cdot 10^{-3}$	68.10s	7
$3.125 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.91 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$7.38 \cdot 10^{-3}$	436.01s	7

Table: Errors for the approximation of solution  $(u, m)$  using FD-Newton and Newton-FD shemes with  $\Delta t = h/4$

## MFG 1d

Let us choose  $H(p) = p^2$ ,  $V(x) = 200 \cos(2\pi x) - 10 \cos(4\pi x)$ ,

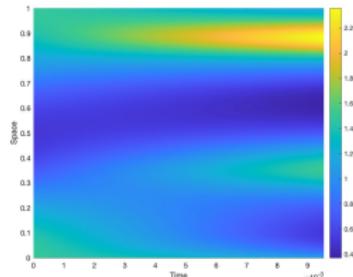
$$m_0(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \cos(2\pi x), \quad u_T = \sin(4\pi x) + 0.1 \cos(10\pi x),$$

$$F(m(x)) = m^2, \quad .$$

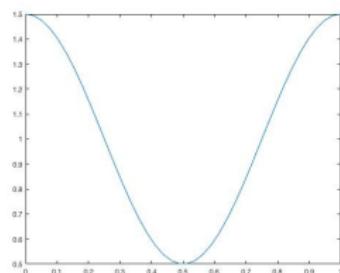
We set  $T = 0.01$ ,  $\tau = \delta = 10^{-4}$  and periodic boundary conditions.

We solve the MFG system using **Newton-SL**, **Newton-FD**, **FD-Newton** (Ref. Achodou. Capuzzo Dolcetta 2010) and We set  $\Delta t = h$  for the two finite differences schemes, and  $\Delta t = h^{3/2}/2$  for Newton-SL

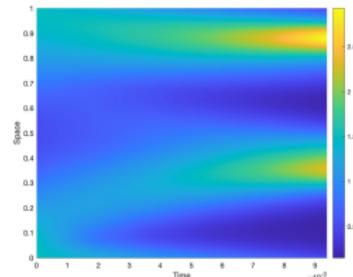
# MFG 1d $\sigma = 0.4$



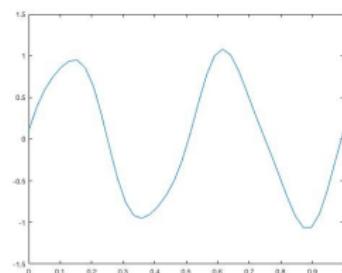
Newton-SL



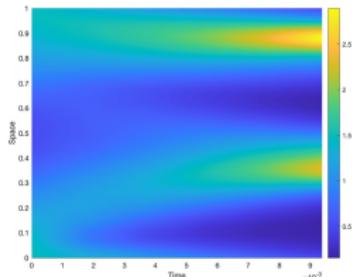
Initial mass  $m_0$



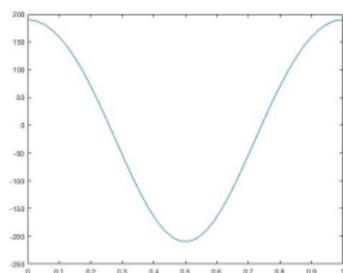
Newton-FD



Terminal cost  $u_T$

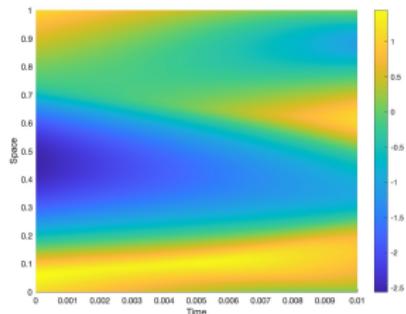


FD-Newton

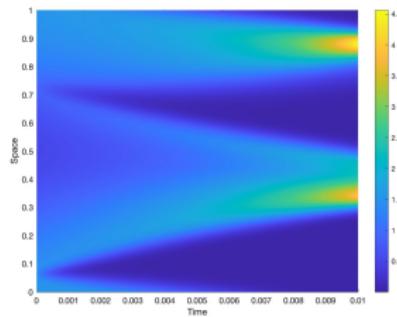


Potential  $V$

# MFG, Newton-SL $\sigma = 0.02$



Value Function



Density

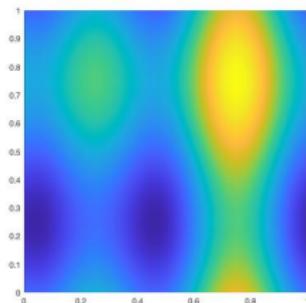
# MFG 2d, Newton-SL

Let us choose  $H(p) = p^2$ ,  $V(x) = -\sin(2\pi x_1) - \sin(2\pi x_2) - \cos(4\pi x_1)$ ,  $T = 1$ ,  $\tau = \delta = 10^{-4}$ , periodic boundary conditions,

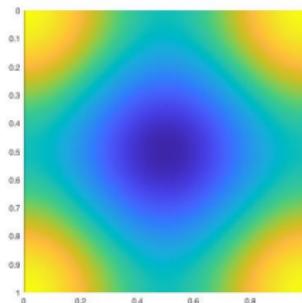
$$m_0(x) = 1 + 12 \cos(2\pi x_1) + 12 \cos(2\pi x_2), \quad u_T = \cos(2\pi x_1) + \cos(2\pi x_2),$$

$$F(m(x)) = m^2.$$

We solve the MFG system using **Newton-SL** with  $\Delta t = h^2$

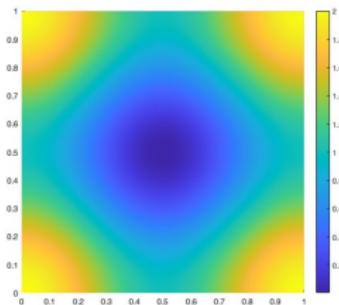


Potential  $V$

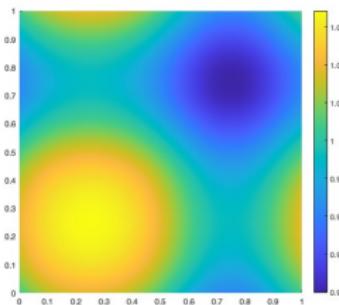


Terminal cost  $u_T$

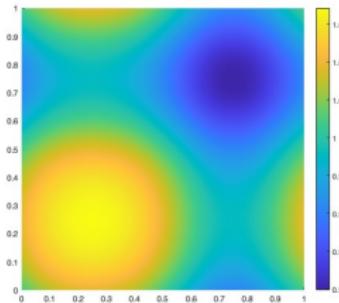
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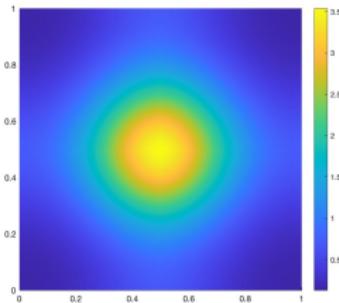
Initial condition  $m_0$



Density at  $t = 0.5$



Density at  $t = 0.75$



Density at  $T = 1$

# Conclusions

- FD-Newton and Newton-DF show similar behaviour in terms of CPU time and accuracy
- Newton-SL needs the cheapest CPU time and shows comparable accuracy with respect to the other methods
- Newton-SL scheme works well in hyperbolic regime ( $\sigma$  small)

## References

- F. Camilli and Q.Tang. *A convergence rate for the newton's method for mean field games with non-separable hamiltonians*, (2023)
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- E.Carlini, F.J.Silva and A. Zorkot *Newton methods for MFGs*, in preparation (2024).