

# Linear-Quadratic N-person and Mean-Field Games with Ergodic Cost

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Mean Fields **Games** are macroscopic models of **multi-agent decision problems** with noise (stochastic differential games) coupled only in the cost and with a **large number of indistinguishable agents**

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  - synthesize a Nash equilibrium for the game with  $N$  players via a new system of  $N$  HJB and  $N$  KFP PDEs,
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- Recent developments and applications: 2 special issues on MFG of **Dynamic Games and Applications**, Dec. 2013 and April 2014 ed. by M.B., I.Capuzzo Dolcetta and P. Caines.

## $N$ -person ergodic LQG games in $\mathbb{R}^d$

We consider games with

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w.r.t. state & control

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Main assumption:

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under which we can give **necessary and sufficient conditions for the synthesis of Nash feedback equilibria**.

In this talk we limit for simplicity to the **symmetric** case:

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In this talk we limit for simplicity to the **symmetric** case:

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and focus on **nearly identical players**, i.e., we assume also

- all players have the same dynamics
- all players have same cost of control and of primary interactions

Consider for  $i = 1, \dots, N$

$$dX_t^i = (AX_t^i - \alpha_t^i)dt + \sigma dW_t^i \quad X_0^i = x^i \in \mathbb{R}^d$$



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$$J^i(X_0, \alpha^1, \dots, \alpha^N) \doteq \liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \left[ \int_0^T \frac{(\alpha_t^i)^T R \alpha_t^i}{2} + \underbrace{(X_t - \bar{X}_i)^T Q^i (X_t - \bar{X}_i)}_{F^i(X^1, \dots, X^N)} dt \right]$$

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 $R \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  **symm. pos. def.**,  $X_t = (X_t^1, \dots, X_t^N) \in \mathbb{R}^{Nd}$  state var.,  
 $\bar{X}_i = (\bar{X}_i^1, \dots, \bar{X}_i^N) \in \mathbb{R}^{Nd}$  vector of reference positions,  
 $Q^i \in \mathbb{R}^{Nd \times Nd}$  symmetric matrix

$\overline{X}_i = (\overline{X}_i^1, \dots, \overline{X}_i^N) \in \mathbb{R}^{Nd}$  s.t.

- $\overline{X}_i^i = h \quad \forall i$  (preferred own position)
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- $Q_{ii}^i = Q$  **symm. pos. def.**  $\forall i$  (primary cost of self-displacement)
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- $Q_{jj}^i = C_i \quad \forall j \neq i$  (secondary cost of self-displacement)
- $Q_{jk}^i = Q_{kj}^i = D_i \quad \forall j \neq k \neq i \neq j$  (secondary cost of cross-displacement)

## Admissible strategies

A control  $\alpha_t^i$  adapted to  $W_t^i$  is an *admissible strategy* if

- $\mathbb{E}[X_t^i], \mathbb{E}[X_t^i(X_t^i)^T] \leq C$  for all  $t > 0$
- $\exists$  probability measure  $m_{\alpha^i}$  s.t. the process  $X_t^i$  is **ergodic**

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E} \left[ \int_0^T g(X_t^i) dt \right] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} g(\xi) dm_{\alpha^i}(\xi)$$

for any polynomial  $g$ , with  $\deg(g) \leq 2$ , loc. unif. in  $X_0^i$ .



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**Example.** Any affine  $\alpha^i(x) = Kx + c$  with “ $K - A > 0$ ” is admissible and the corresponding diffusion process

$$dX_t^i = ((A - K)X_t^i - c)dt + \sigma dW_t^i$$

is ergodic with  $m_{\alpha^i} =$  multivariate Gaussian

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## Nash equilibria

Any set of admissible strategies  $\bar{\alpha}^1, \dots, \bar{\alpha}^N$  such that

$$J^i(X, \bar{\alpha}^1, \dots, \bar{\alpha}^N) = \min_{\omega} J^i(X, \bar{\alpha}^1, \dots, \bar{\alpha}^{i-1}, \omega, \bar{\alpha}^{i+1}, \dots, \bar{\alpha}^N)$$

for any  $i = 1, \dots, N$

The HJB+KFP PDEs of Lasry-Lions for the  $N$ -person game are

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -\text{tr}(\nu D^2 v^i) + H(x, \nabla v^i) + \lambda^i = f^i(x; m^1, \dots, m^N) \\ -\text{tr}(\nu D^2 m^i) + \text{div}\left(m^i \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(x, \nabla v^i)\right) = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d \\ m^i > 0, \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} m^i(x) dx = 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, N \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$

where

$$\nu = \frac{\sigma^T \sigma}{2} \quad H(x, p) = p^T \frac{R^{-1}}{2} p - p^T A x$$

$$f^i(x; m^1, \dots, m^N) \doteq \int_{\mathbb{R}^{(N-1)d}} F^i(\xi^1, \dots, \xi^{i-1}, x, \xi^{i+1}, \dots, \xi^N) \prod_{j \neq i} dm^j(\xi^j)$$

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$2N$  equations with unknowns  $\lambda^i, v^i, m^i$ , but always  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,

different from the classical strongly coupled system of  $N$  HJB PDEs in  $\mathbb{R}^{Nd}$  ! (e.g. Bensoussan-Frehse 1995)

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Search for solutions

- **identically distributed**, i.e.,  $v^i = v^j = v$ ,  $m^i = m^j = m$ ,  $\forall i, j = 1, \dots, N$ , and
- Quadratic-Gaussian (QG):  $v$  polynomial of degree 2,  $m \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma^{-1})$ ,

$$\lambda^i \in \mathbb{R} \quad v^i(x) = x^T \frac{\Lambda}{2} x + \rho x \quad m^i(x) = \gamma \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu)^T \Sigma (x - \mu) \right\}$$

## Theorem 1. For $N$ -players LQG game

- Existence & uniqueness  $\lambda^i, v^i, m^i$  sol. to (1) with  $v^i, m^i$  QG  
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 $\Leftrightarrow$  **ALGEBRAIC CONDITIONS**
- $\bar{\alpha}^i(x) = R^{-1}\nabla v^i(x) = R^{-1}(\Lambda x + \rho)$  are Nash feedback equilibrium strategies and  
 $\lambda^i = J^i(X_0, \bar{\alpha}^1, \dots, \bar{\alpha}^N)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, N$

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*Proof.*

(i) By plugging into (1)

$$v^i(x) = x^T \frac{\Lambda}{2} x + \rho x \quad m^i(x) = \gamma \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}(x - \mu)^T \Sigma (x - \mu) \right\}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  algebraic conditions on  $\rho, \mu \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\Lambda, \Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$

(ii) Verification theorem, using Dynkin's formula and ergodicity.



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HJB

$$\Sigma \frac{\nu R \nu}{2} \Sigma - \frac{A^T R A}{2} = Q$$

$$-\left( \frac{A^T R A}{2} + Q + (N-1)B \right) \mu = -Qh - (N-1)Br$$

$$(\mu)^T \frac{\Sigma \nu R \nu \Sigma}{2} \mu - \text{tr}(\nu R \nu \Sigma + \nu R A) + \lambda^i = \mathfrak{f}^i(\Sigma, \mu)$$

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$$\Sigma \text{ solves ARE} \quad X \frac{\nu R \nu}{2} X - \left( \frac{A^T R A}{2} + Q \right) = 0$$

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$$\lambda^i = \text{explicit function of } \Sigma \text{ and } \mu$$

FACT:

under our conditions on the matrices  $\nu, R, A, Q$  the Algebraic matrix Riccati Equation

$$X \frac{\nu R \nu}{2} X - \left( \frac{A^T R A}{2} + Q \right) = 0$$

has a **unique solution positive definite solution**  $X = \Sigma > 0$

Proof: follows with some work from the theory of ARE.

Refs: books by Engwerda (2005) and Lancaster - Rodman (1995)

## ALGEBRAIC CONDITIONS IN THM. 1

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UNIQUENESS



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$$X\nu R - R\nu X = RA - A^T R$$

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## UNIQUENESS

- $\mathcal{B}$  is invertible  
 $[\iff \text{ the system } \mathcal{B}y = \mathcal{C} \text{ has unique solution}]$

## Mean field equations

The symmetry assumption on the costs  $F^i(X^1, \dots, X^N)$  imply they can be written as function of the **empirical density** of other players

$$F^i(X^1, \dots, X^N) = V_N^i \left[ \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{j \neq i} \delta_{X^j} \right] (X^i)$$

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$$V_N^i[m](X) \doteq (X - h)^T Q^N (X - h)$$

$$+ (N-1) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left( (X - h)^T \frac{B^N}{2} (\xi - r) + (\xi - r)^T \frac{B^N}{2} (X - h) \right) dm(\xi)$$

$$+ (N-1) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi - r)^T (C_i^N - D_i^N) (\xi - r) dm(\xi)$$

$$+ \left( (N-1) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi - r) dm(\xi) \right)^T D_i^N \left( (N-1) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi - r) dm(\xi) \right)$$

Assuming that the coefficients scale as follows as  $N \rightarrow \infty$

$$\begin{aligned} Q^N &\rightarrow \hat{Q} > 0 & B^N(N-1) &\rightarrow \hat{B} \\ C_i^N(N-1) &\rightarrow \hat{C} & D_i^N(N-1)^2 &\rightarrow \hat{D} \end{aligned}$$

then for any prob. measure  $m$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and all  $i = 1, \dots, N$

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$$V_N^i[m](X) \rightarrow \hat{V}[m](X) \quad \text{loc. unif. in } X$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \hat{V}[m](X) &\doteq (X-h)^T \hat{Q} (X-h) \\ &+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left( (X-h)^T \frac{\hat{B}}{2} (\xi-r) + (\xi-r)^T \frac{\hat{B}}{2} (X-h) \right) dm(\xi) \\ &+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi-r)^T \hat{C} (\xi-r) dm(\xi) \\ &+ \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi-r) dm(\xi) \right)^T \hat{D} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\xi-r) dm(\xi) \right) \end{aligned}$$



Then we expect as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  that the  $N$  HJB +  $N$  KFP reduce to just ONE HJB+KFP

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -\text{tr}(\nu D^2 u) + H(x, Du) + \lambda = \hat{V}[m](x) \\ -\text{tr}(\nu D^2 m) - \text{div} \left( m \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(x, Du) \right) = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d \\ m > 0 \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} m(x) dx = 1 \end{array} \right. \quad (\text{MFE})$$

We look for solutions  $\lambda, u, m$  such that  $u, m$  is QG

$$u(x) = x^T \frac{\Lambda}{2} x + \rho x \quad m(x) = \gamma \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu)^T \Sigma (x - \mu) \right\}$$

## Existence and uniqueness for the single HJB+KFP

$$\begin{cases} -\operatorname{tr}(\nu D^2 u) + H(x, Du) + \lambda = \hat{V}[m](x) \\ -\operatorname{tr}(\nu D^2 m) - \operatorname{div}\left(m \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(x, Du)\right) = 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^d \\ m > 0 \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} m(x) dx = 1 \end{cases} \quad (\text{MFE})$$

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- Existence & uniqueness  $\lambda, u, m$  sol. to MFE with  $u, m$  **QG**  
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 $\iff$  **ALGEBRAIC CONDITIONS** similar to the preceding
- $\hat{V}$  is a monotone operator in  $L^2 \iff \hat{B} \geq 0$ ,  
 then if  $\hat{B} \geq 0$  the QG sol. is the **unique  $C^2$  solution** to MFE

Rmk:  $\hat{B} \geq 0$  means that **imitation is not rewarding**,  
 [M.B. 2012 for  $d = 1$ ]

Limit as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ 

**Theorem 3.** Assume

$$(i) \quad \begin{array}{ll} Q^N \rightarrow \hat{Q} & B^N(N-1) \rightarrow \hat{B} \\ C_i^N(N-1) \rightarrow \hat{C} & D_i^N(N-1)^2 \rightarrow \hat{D} \end{array}$$

(ii) HJB+KFP for  $N$ -players admit QG sol.  $(v_N, m_N, \lambda_N^1, \dots, \lambda_N^N)$

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Then

- $v_N \rightarrow u$  in  $C_{loc}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$
- $m_N \rightarrow m$  in  $C^k(\mathbb{R}^d)$  for all  $k$
- $\lambda_N^i \rightarrow \lambda$  for all  $i$

Proof is based on estimates of the maximal eigenvalue of  $\Sigma_N$  solving the ARE for  $N$  players.

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- Convergence of QG sols of HJB+KFP for  $N$ -person to sols of MFE as  $N \rightarrow +\infty$
- In several examples the algebraic conditions can be easily checked solutions are explicit

### Example 1:

$N$ -players game with  $R = rI_d$ ,  $\nu = \bar{\nu}I_d$ ,  $r, \bar{\nu} \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$A$  symmetric,  $B \geq 0$

#### ALGEBRAIC CONDITIONS

- $$X \frac{\nu R \nu}{2} X = \frac{A^T R A}{2} + Q \implies X \nu R - R \nu X = R A - A^T R$$

becomes  $\bar{\nu} r (X - X) = r (A - A^T)$ , true for all matrices  $X$
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- $$B = Q + r \frac{A^2}{2} + \frac{B}{2} > 0$$

$\implies \exists!$  QG solution, with  $\Sigma, \Lambda, \mu, \rho$  satisfying

$$\Sigma^2 = \frac{2}{r \bar{\nu}^2} \left( r \frac{A^2}{2} + Q \right) \quad B \mu = C$$

$$\Lambda = r(\bar{\nu} \Sigma + A) \quad \rho = -r \bar{\nu} \Sigma \mu$$

Examples with  $A$  NOT symmetric?

Example 2:

the previous example can be adapted to the case of  $A$  non-defective, i.e.

$\forall \lambda$  eigenvalue the dimension of the eigenspace = multiplicity of  $\lambda$ , i.e.,  $\mathbb{R}^d$  has a basis of right eigenvectors of  $A$ .

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$A$  non-defective  $\implies A$  has a positive definite symmetrizer.

Then by changing coordinates can transform the game into one that fits in Example 1.

## A Consensus model:

$N$ -players game with cost involving

$$F^i(X^1, \dots, X^N) = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{j \neq i} (X^i - X^j)^T P (X^i - X^j),$$

$i = 1, \dots, N$ , with  $P = P^N > 0$ .

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Assume (for simplicity)  $R = rI_d$ ,  $\nu = \bar{\nu}I_d$ ,  $r, \bar{\nu} \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $A$  symmetric.

There is QG solution  $m = m_N \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma^{-1}) \iff \frac{r}{2} A^2 \mu = 0$ .

The  $N$ -person game has an identically distributed QG solution with mean  $\mu \iff A\mu = 0$

i.e., for  $\mu$  stationary point of the system  $X'_t = AX_t$ .



## Large population limit in the Consensus model:

Assume  $P^N \rightarrow \hat{P} > 0$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , and set

$$\hat{\Sigma} = \frac{1}{\bar{v}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{r} \hat{P} - A^2}$$

The MFG PDEs have a solution  $(v, m, \lambda)$  with  $v$  quadratic and  $m$  Gaussian  $\iff m \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \hat{\Sigma}^{-1})$  with  $A\mu = 0$ .

- If  $\det A = 0$  there are infinitely many QG solutions,
- if  $\det A \neq 0$  uniqueness of QG solution, other non-QG solutions?

Ref. for MFG consensus models: Nourian, Caines, Malhame, Huang 2013.

## PERSPECTIVES:

- In a very recent paper [Priuli](#) studies infinite horizon discounted LQG games, the small discount limit, the vanishing viscosity and other singular limits,
- [multi-population MFG](#) models can be studied by these methods,
- ideas for applications are welcome!

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Thanks for Your Attention!