

# Density Control of Interacting Agent Systems

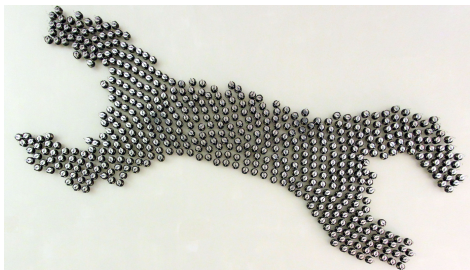
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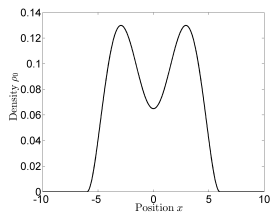


# Swarm formation control




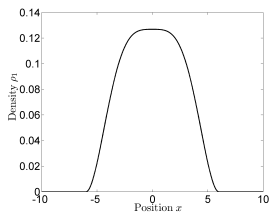
# Optimal transport approach

Idea: configuration/distribution  $\rho_0$  to configuration/distribution  $\rho_1$

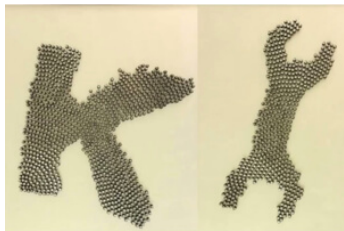


$\rho_0$

$$y = T(x)$$




$\rho_1$



Collision avoidance interaction is ignored

## Problem formulation

Given  $N$  agents

$$dX_t^i = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \nabla W(X_t^i - X_t^j) dt + u_t^i dt + \sqrt{\epsilon} dB_t^i, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

find a common strategy  $u_t^i = \xi_t(X_t^i)$  that minimizes

$$\mathbb{E} \left\{ \int_0^1 \frac{1}{2N} \sum_i \|\xi_t(X_t^i)\|^2 dt \right\}$$

and drives the particles/agents from initial configuration

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{X_0^i} \approx \mu$$

to target configuration

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{X_1^i} \approx \nu$$

# Mean-field limit

McKean-Vlasov equation

$$\partial_t \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho_t (-\nabla W * \rho_t + \xi_t)) - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \Delta \rho_t = 0$$

Mean-field formulation

$$\inf_{\rho, \xi} \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2} \|\xi_t(x)\|^2 \rho_t(x) dx dt$$
$$\partial_t \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho_t (-\nabla W * \rho_t + \xi_t)) - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \Delta \rho_t = 0$$
$$\rho_0 = \mu, \quad \rho_1 = \nu$$

## Special cases

Schrödinger bridge  $W = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{\rho, \xi} \quad & \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2} \|\xi_t(x)\|^2 \rho_t(x) dx dt \\ & \partial_t \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho_t \xi_t) - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \Delta \rho_t = 0 \\ & \rho_0 = \mu, \quad \rho_1 = \nu \end{aligned}$$

Optimal transport  $W = 0, \epsilon = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{\rho, \xi} \quad & \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2} \|\xi_t(x)\|^2 \rho_t(x) dx dt \\ & \partial_t \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho_t \xi_t) = 0 \\ & \rho_0 = \mu, \quad \rho_1 = \nu \end{aligned}$$

## Reformulation in path measures

Path measure  $\mathcal{P}$ , marginal  $\rho_t = (\mathbf{X}_t)_\# \mathcal{P}$

$$\mathcal{P}: \quad d\mathbf{X}_t = -[\nabla W * \rho_t](\mathbf{X}_t)dt + \xi_t(\mathbf{X}_t)dt + \sqrt{\epsilon}dB_t$$

$$\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{P}): \quad d\mathbf{X}_t = -[\nabla W * \rho_t](\mathbf{X}_t)dt + \sqrt{\epsilon}dB_t$$

Girsanov theorem

$$\text{KL}(\mathcal{P} \parallel \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{P})) = \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2\epsilon} \|\xi_t(\mathbf{x})\|^2 \rho_t(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} dt$$

Mean-field Schrödinger bridge

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathcal{P}} \quad & \text{KL}(\mathcal{P} \parallel \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{P})) \\ & (\mathbf{X}_0)_\# \mathcal{P} = \mu, \quad (\mathbf{X}_1)_\# \mathcal{P} = \nu \end{aligned}$$

# Mean-field Schrödinger bridges

Assumptions:  $W$  is twice continuously differentiable, symmetric, and has bounded Hessian

Goal: find most likely evolution of  $N$  particles

$$dX_t^i = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \nabla W(X_t^i - X_t^j) dt + u_t^i dt + \sqrt{\epsilon} dB_t^i, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

from  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{X_0^i} \approx \mu$  to  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{X_1^i} \approx \nu$

Large deviation principle

$$\text{Prob}(\mathcal{P}) \approx \exp(-N \text{KL}(\mathcal{P} \parallel \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{P})))$$

Backhoff et al, 2020



# Schrödinger PDE systems

HJB system

$$\partial_t \lambda + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \lambda\|^2 - \nabla \lambda^\top \nabla W * \rho_t - \int \rho_t(\mathbf{y}) \nabla \lambda(\mathbf{y})^\top \nabla W(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{y} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \Delta \lambda = 0$$

$$\partial_t \rho_t + \nabla \cdot (\rho_t (-\nabla W * \rho_t + \nabla \lambda)) - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \Delta \rho_t = 0$$

$$\rho_0 = \mu, \quad \rho_1 = \nu$$

Schrödinger system

$$\rho_t = \exp(-2W * \rho_t + \varphi_t + \psi_t)$$

$$\partial_t \psi_t + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \Delta \psi_t + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \psi_t\|^2 = \int \nabla W(\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}})^\top (\nabla \psi_t(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla \psi_t(\tilde{\mathbf{x}})) \rho_t(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) d\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$$

$$-\partial_t \varphi_t + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \Delta \varphi_t + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \varphi_t\|^2 = \int \nabla W(\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}})^\top (\nabla \varphi_t(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla \varphi_t(\tilde{\mathbf{x}})) \rho_t(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) d\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$$

Backhoff et al, 2020

# Discretization

Objective:  $\text{KL}(\mathcal{P}||\mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{P}))$

Discretize  $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q}(\mathcal{P})$  over a grid:

time ( $t_i = i/T, i = 0, 1, \dots, T$ ) space ( $N_x$  points each coordinate)

Discretized objective:  $\mathbf{M}$  is a  $T + 1$  dimensional tensor

$$\langle \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{M}), \mathbf{M} \rangle + \epsilon \langle \mathbf{M}, \log \mathbf{M} \rangle$$

where

$$\langle \mathbf{M}, \log \mathbf{M} \rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T} M(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T) \log M(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T)$$

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{M})(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T) = \sum_{i=0}^{T-1} \frac{T}{2} \left\| \mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}_i + \frac{1}{T} [\nabla W * \mathbf{P}_i(\mathbf{M})](\mathbf{x}_i) \right\|^2$$

# Nonlinear entropy regularized multi-marginal optimal transport

Nonlinear MOT

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{M}} \quad & \langle \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{M}), \mathbf{M} \rangle + \epsilon \langle \mathbf{M}, \log \mathbf{M} \rangle \\ & P_0(\mathbf{M}) = \boldsymbol{\mu}, \quad P_T(\mathbf{M}) = \boldsymbol{\nu} \end{aligned}$$

nonlinear cost tensor

$$C(\mathbf{M})(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_T) = \sum_{i=0}^{T-1} \frac{T}{2} \left\| x_{i+1} - x_i + \frac{1}{T} [\nabla W * P_i(\mathbf{M})](x_i) \right\|^2$$

# Proximal gradient algorithm

Composite optimization (F smooth, G possibly nonsmooth)

$$\min_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} F(\mathbf{y}) + G(\mathbf{y})$$

Proximal gradient

$$\mathbf{y}^{k+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} G(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{1}{2\eta} \|\mathbf{y} - (\mathbf{y}^k - \eta \nabla F(\mathbf{y}^k))\|^2$$

Non-Euclidean proximal gradient (D: Bregman divergence, e.g., Kullback-Leibler divergence)

$$\mathbf{y}^{k+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} G(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{1}{\eta} D(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}^k) + \langle \nabla F(\mathbf{y}^k), \mathbf{y} \rangle$$

# Proximal gradient for nonlinear MOT

Composite optimization  $F(\mathbf{M}) = \langle \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{M}), \mathbf{M} \rangle$

$$\min_{\mathbf{M} \in \Pi(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\nu})} F(\mathbf{M}) + \epsilon \langle \mathbf{M}, \log \mathbf{M} \rangle$$

Set  $D(\cdot, \cdot) = \text{KL}(\cdot \| \cdot)$

$$\mathbf{M}_{k+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{M} \in \Pi(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\nu})} \langle \nabla F(\mathbf{M}_k), \mathbf{M} \rangle + \frac{1}{\eta} \text{KL}(\mathbf{M} \| \mathbf{M}_k) + \epsilon \langle \mathbf{M}, \log \mathbf{M} \rangle$$

Each iteration is an entropy regularized MOT

$$\mathbf{M}_{k+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{M} \in \Pi(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\nu})} \langle \nabla F(\mathbf{M}_k) - \frac{1}{\eta} \log \mathbf{M}_k, \mathbf{M} \rangle + (\epsilon + \frac{1}{\eta}) \langle \mathbf{M}, \log \mathbf{M} \rangle$$

$\nabla F(\mathbf{M}) = \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{M}) + \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{M})$  with  $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{M})(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_T) = \sum_{i=0}^{T-1} \mathbf{E}_i(x_i)$

$$\mathbf{E}_i(y) = \sum_{x_i, x_{i+1}} \nabla W(x_i - y)^T [x_{i+1} - x_i + \frac{1}{T} \nabla W * P_i(\mathbf{M})] P_{i,i+1}(\mathbf{M})(x_i, x_{i+1})$$

# Graphical optimal transport

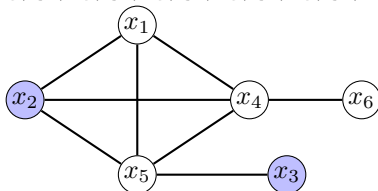
Multi-marginal optimal transport

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{d_1 \times \dots \times d_J}} \langle \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{M} \rangle + \epsilon \langle \mathbf{M}, \log \mathbf{M} \rangle \\ \text{subject to } P_j(\mathbf{M}) = \boldsymbol{\mu}_j, \text{ for } j \in \Gamma \end{aligned}$$

with graphical cost (each  $\alpha$  is a subset of  $\{1, 2, \dots, J\}$ )

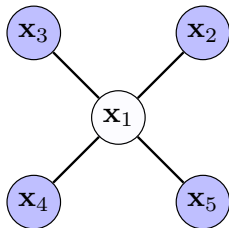
$$C(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathcal{F}} C_\alpha(\mathbf{x}_\alpha)$$

$$J = 6, \Gamma = \{2, 3\}, \mathcal{F} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{1, 4\}, \{1, 5\}, \{2, 4\}, \{2, 5\}, \{4, 5\}, \{4, 6\}, \{3, 5\}\}$$

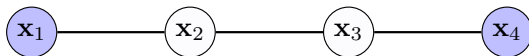


# Examples

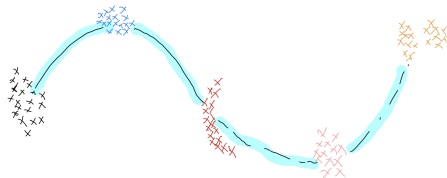
Wasserstein barycenter



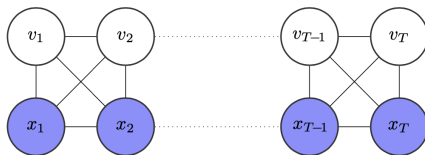
Wasserstein geodesic



# Wasserstein spline



Cubic spline in Wasserstein space





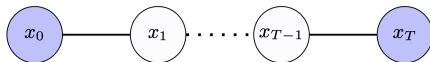
# Graphical structure for density control

Cost at each iteration

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathbf{C}}_k &= \nabla F(\mathbf{M}_k) - \frac{1}{\eta} \log \mathbf{M}_k \\ &= \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{M}) + \sum_{i=0}^{T-1} E_i(x_i) - \frac{1}{\eta} \log \mathbf{M}_k\end{aligned}$$

with

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{M})(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_T) = \sum_{i=0}^{T-1} \frac{T}{2} \left\| x_{i+1} - x_i + \frac{1}{T} [\nabla W * P_i(\mathbf{M})](x_i) \right\|^2$$



How to utilize the graphical structure of the cost?

# Sinkhorn algorithm

MOT

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1 \times \dots \times d_J}} \quad & \langle \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{M} \rangle + \epsilon \langle \mathbf{M}, \log \mathbf{M} \rangle \\ \text{subject to} \quad & P_j(\mathbf{M}) = \boldsymbol{\mu}_j, \text{ for } j \in \Gamma \end{aligned}$$

Optimal solution  $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{K} \odot \mathbf{U}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{K} &= \exp(-\mathbf{C}/\epsilon) \\ \mathbf{U} &= \mathbf{u}_1 \otimes \mathbf{u}_2 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{u}_J \\ \mathbf{u}_j &= \begin{cases} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{J} - \frac{\lambda_j}{\epsilon}\right), & \text{if } j \in \Gamma \\ \exp\left(-\frac{1}{J}\right) \mathbf{1}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

# Sinkhorn algorithm as dual block ascent

Dual problem

$$\max_{\{\lambda_j, j \in \Gamma\}} -\epsilon \langle \mathbf{K}, \mathbf{U} \rangle - \sum_{j \in \Gamma} \lambda_j^T \mu_j$$

Sinkhorn algorithm

- 1 Compute  $\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{u}_1 \otimes \mathbf{u}_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{u}_J$
- 2 Update  $\mathbf{u}_j$  as  $\mathbf{u}_j \leftarrow \mathbf{u}_j \odot \mu_{j \cdot} / P_j(\mathbf{K} \odot \mathbf{U})$

Advantages

- global linear convergent
- easily parallelizable

bottleneck: projection  $P_j(\mathbf{K} \odot \mathbf{U})$  ( $O(N_x^J)$  complexity)

# Bayesian inference

## Bayesian marginal inference

$$p(x_j) = \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_{j-1}, x_{j+1}, \dots, x_J} p(\mathbf{x})$$

- Brutal force computation is expensive
- There are efficient ways to compute the marginals such as variable elimination and belief propagation

# Projection as Bayesian inference

Bottleneck: Projection  $P_j(\mathbf{K} \odot \mathbf{U})$

$$\mathbf{K} = \exp(-\mathbf{C}/\epsilon), \quad \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{u}_1 \otimes \mathbf{u}_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{u}_J$$

Probabilistic graphical model

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{x}) &= \prod_{\alpha \in F} \exp(-C_\alpha/\epsilon)(\mathbf{x}_\alpha) \prod_{j \in V} \mathbf{u}_j(\mathbf{x}_j) \\ &= \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{\alpha \in F} \psi_\alpha(\mathbf{x}_\alpha) \prod_{j \in V} \phi_j(\mathbf{x}_j) \end{aligned}$$

$$P_j(\mathbf{K} \odot \mathbf{U}) = p(\mathbf{x}_j)$$

# Sinkhorn belief propagation

Apply belief propagation to compute  $\mathbf{P}_j(\mathbf{K} \odot \mathbf{U}) = \mathbf{p}(x_j)$

Sinkhorn belief propagation

- 1 update

$$\mathbf{m}_{i \rightarrow j}(x_j) \propto \sum_{x_i} \psi_{ij}(x_i, x_j) \frac{\mu_i(x_i)}{\mathbf{m}_{j \rightarrow i}(x_i)}$$

- 2 update all the messages on the path from  $i$  to  $i_{\text{next}}$  with

$$\mathbf{m}_{i \rightarrow j}(x_j) \propto \sum_{x_i} \psi_{ij}(x_i, x_j) \prod_{k \in \mathbf{N}(i) \setminus j} \mathbf{m}_{k \rightarrow i}(x_i)$$

- 3  $i = i_{\text{next}} \in \Gamma$

# Proximal Sinkhorn belief propagation algorithm

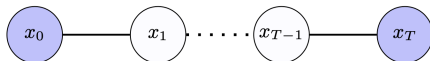
For  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

- 1 Compute  $\tilde{\mathbf{C}}_k = \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{M}_k) + \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{M}_k) - \frac{1}{\eta} \log \mathbf{M}_k$
- 2 Solve

$$\mathbf{M}_{k+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{M} \in \Pi(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\nu})} \langle \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_k, \mathbf{M} \rangle + \left( \epsilon + \frac{1}{\eta} \right) \langle \mathbf{M}, \log \mathbf{M} \rangle$$

using the Sinkhorn Belief Propagation algorithm

Complexity of each iteration  $\mathcal{O}(N_x^2 T)$





## Extensions

- more general cost

$$\int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \|\xi_t(\mathbf{x})\|^2 + V(\mathbf{x}) \right] \rho_t(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} dt$$

- multiple species  $\ell = 1, \dots, L$

$$\begin{aligned} dX_{\ell,t}^i &= -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{m=1}^L \sum_{j=1}^N \nabla W_{\ell m}(X_{\ell,t}^i - X_{m,t}^j) dt + b_{\ell}(X_{\ell,t}^i) dt \\ &\quad + \sigma(u_{\ell,t}^i) dt + \sqrt{\epsilon} dB_{\ell,t}^i, \quad i = 1, \dots, N \end{aligned}$$

# Numerical example

Dynamics

$$dX_t^i = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \nabla W(X_t^i - X_t^j) dt + u_t^i dt + \sqrt{\epsilon} dB_t^i, \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

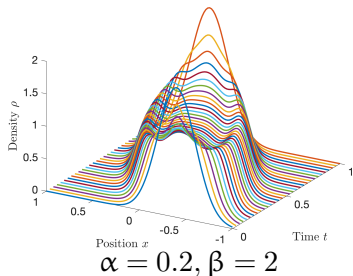
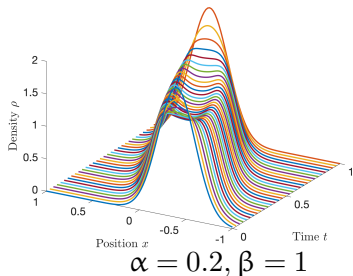
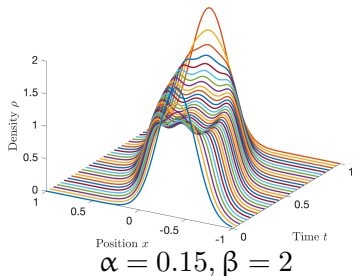
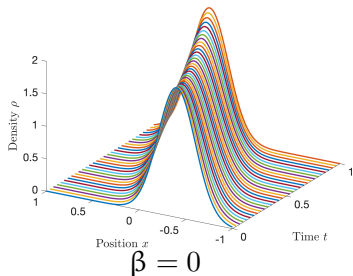
$$W(x) = \frac{\beta}{|x|^\alpha + \delta}, \quad \epsilon = 0.1$$

marginals

$$\mu = \mathcal{N}(-0.4, 0.2)$$

$$\nu = \mathcal{N}(0.4, 0.2)$$

# Numerical example



## Future directions

- Particle-based methods
- Neural network based algorithm, gradient flow
- Connections to consensus based sampling

## References

1. Backhoff et al, The mean field Schrödinger problem: ergodic behavior, entropy estimates and functional inequalities
2. Chen, Density Control of Interacting Agent Systems
3. Singh et al, Multi-marginal Optimal Transport and Probabilistic Graphical Models
4. Haasler et al, Multi-marginal Optimal Transport with a Tree-structured Cost and the Schrödinger Bridges Problem

**Thank you for the attention!**