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# Metric gradient flows with state dependent functionals: the Nash-MFG equilibrium flows and their numerical schemes

Gabriel Turinici\*

May 29, 2017

#### Abstract

We investigate the convergence of a relaxed version of the best reply 2 numerical schemes (also known as *best response* or *fictitious play*) used 3 to find Nash-mean field games equilibriums. This leads us to consider 4 evolution equations in metric spaces similar to gradient flows except 5 that the functional to be differentiated depends on the current point; 6 these are called equilibrium flows. We give two definitions of solutions 7 and prove that as the time step tends to zero the interpolated (à la 8 de Giorgi) numerical curves converge to equilibrium flows. As a by-9 product we obtain a sufficient condition for the uniqueness of a mean 10 field games equilibrium. We close with applications to congestion and 11 vaccination mean field games. 12

<sup>13</sup> Keywords: gradient flows; mean field games; vaccination games

# 14 **1** Introduction

1

<sup>15</sup> Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a Polish geodesic metric space (see [11] for an introduction to <sup>16</sup> metric spaces) and  $\mathcal{C}(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}$  a functional. We investigate in this <sup>17</sup> work the equation:

$$\partial_t x_t + \nabla_1 \mathcal{C}(x_t, x_t) = 0, \ x_0 = \bar{x}.$$
 (1)

<sup>18</sup> Such an equation is called an *equilibrium flow* or *partial flow* for reasons that
<sup>19</sup> will be made clear in the sequel.

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Discrete (numerically computable) versions of this evolution equation are the numerical schemes defined by the recurrence:

$$x_0^{\tau} = \bar{x}, \ x_{k+1}^{\tau} \in argmin_{y \in \mathcal{X}} \frac{d(y, x_k^{\tau})^2}{2\tau} + \mathcal{C}(y, x_k^{\tau}), \ k \ge 0.$$
(2)

These numerical schemes are relaxed versions of the best reply / best response / fictitious play algorithms (see [7]); the original schemes take sometimes  $\tau = \infty$  i.e., omit the first term in (2).

Our goal is to give a rigorous definition of the concept of solution of (1) and show that the numerical schemes (2) converges, when  $\tau \to 0$ , to a solution of (1). Finally we give examples that show that the equilibrium flows can be successfully used in the study of mean field games equilibriums.

#### <sup>29</sup> 1.1 Motivation and literature review

The equilibrium in non-cooperative multi-player games are often formulated as mixed strategy Nash equilibriums (see [29]). The computation of such equilibriums and the procedure for players to reach them has been the object of many contributions and give rise to several proposals e.g., replicator dynamics and fictitious play / best reply / best response dynamics, see [14] for details.

The relatively recent introduction of the mean field games (abbreviated 36 from now on as MFG) by Lasry and Lions [25, 24, 26] and conjointly by 37 Huang, Malhamé and Caines [17, 16] (see also [6] for entry points to the 38 litterature) allow to extend this concept to games with an infinite number of 39 players. In this context the players are considered similar (or decomposed in 40 several classes, each with an infinite number of individuals) and an equilib-41 rium is attained when all agents in a class use same mixed strategy, which 42 is optimal in the Nash sense. Mixed strategies are probability measures over 43 the state of pure strategies and thus form a metric space (we will come back 44 later to the topological description of that space); in order to gain in gen-45 erality we will suppose from now on that the space of all mixed strategies 46 is metrizable and will be denoted  $\mathcal{X}$ . The cost of the individual strategy x 47 depends on the choice of everybody else's strategy  $y \in \mathcal{X}$  and is encoded 48 through the cost function  $\mathcal{C}(x, y)$ . A MFG equilibrium is thus a point  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ 49 such that 50

$$\mathcal{C}(x,x) \le \mathcal{C}(z,x), \forall z \in \mathcal{X}.$$
(3)

In this context, the relaxed best reply algorithm, which corresponds to (2) has been proposed and tested (see e.g., [7, 8]) with successful results. However only very few works concern the behavior of solutions for  $\tau \to 0$  in the general framework of metric spaces or the meaning to be given to the binit equation (1).

Note that when C is independent of the second argument, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{C}(x,y) = E(x),\tag{4}$$

the relation (2) becomes the celebrated implicit Euler-type scheme of Jordan,
Kinderlehrer and Otto [19] for the definition of gradient flows in metric spaces

$$\partial_t y_t + \nabla E(y_t) = 0, \ y_0 = \bar{y},\tag{5}$$

and received considerable attention (see [32, 31, 2] for instance). However, the situation when E has dependence on other variables has not been treated to the same extent and the related contributions involve gradient flows of time dependent functionals  $\mathcal{E}(t, u)$  with a known dependence on time (see [20, 12, 30, 27, 28]). Of course, formally one can set

$$\mathcal{E}(t, u) = \mathcal{C}(u, x_t). \tag{6}$$

<sup>64</sup> However the cited papers use implicit (in time) optimization

$$y_0^{\tau} = \bar{x}, \ y_{k+1}^{\tau} \in argmin_{y \in \mathcal{X}} \frac{d(y, y_k^{\tau})^2}{2\tau} + \mathcal{E}((k+1)\tau, y_k^{\tau}), \ k \ge 0,$$
(7)

which are not equivalent to the numerical scheme (2) because (7) is fully 65 implicit while the (relaxed) best-reply scheme is semi-explicit. Further-66 more, technical assumptions invoked in previous works assume that the time-67 dependence of  $\mathcal{E}(t, u)$  is smooth (e.g., in [30, assumption (2.19c) page 109]) 68 or that its differentiability points have additional properties (for instance 69 independent of x in [12, assumption E3.1], [20, assumption A4]) while here 70 the mere absolute continuity of  $t \mapsto x_t$  does not allow to fulfill a priori such 71 assumptions. Nevertheless our contribution ows much to all these previous 72 works which it translates to this specific setting. 73

### 74 2 Theoretical results

#### 75 2.1 Basic reminders and motivation

The absence of a vector operations in a metric space does no allow to develop
fully a differential calculus and requires adaptation of notions of derivative.
Accordingly the definition of evolution equations have to use alternative properties.

We recall below the main ideas of such an alternative formulation (see [1]) for the particular case (4)-(5); suppose for a moment than  $\mathcal{X}$  is an Euclidian space and E a smooth ( $C^1$  or above) function; then:

$$\frac{d}{dt}E(x_t) = \langle \nabla E(x_t), x'_t \rangle \ge -|\nabla E(x_t)| \cdot |x'_t| \ge -\frac{1}{2} |x'_t|^2 - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla E|^2 (x_t),$$

<sup>83</sup> or equivalently,

$$\frac{d}{dt}E(x_t) + \frac{1}{2}|x_t'|^2 + \frac{1}{2}|\nabla E|^2(x_t) \ge 0 \ \forall t,$$
(8)

with equality only if x is solution of (5). Therefore asking that

$$\frac{d}{dt}E(x_t) + \frac{1}{2}|x_t'|^2 + \frac{1}{2}|\nabla E|^2(x_t) \le 0 \ \forall t,$$
(9)

is an equivalent characterization of (5) (more preciselly called the EDI formulation). The integral form can also be used:

$$E(x_b) - E(x_a) + \int_a^b \left(\frac{1}{2} |x_t'|^2 + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla E|^2 (x_t)\right) dt \le 0 \ \forall \ 0 \le a \le b.$$
(10)

The advantage of formulation (10) is that it only uses quantities that can be defined in a metric space (see below for definition of  $|x'_t|$  and  $|\nabla E|$ ). The corresponding computation for a bi-variate functional C is:

$$\int_{a}^{b} \left( \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{C}(x_{t},\nu) \Big|_{\nu=x_{t}} \right) dt + \int_{a}^{b} \left( \frac{1}{2} |x_{t}'|^{2} + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla_{1}\mathcal{C}|^{2} (x_{t},x_{t}) \right) dt \leq 0 \,\forall \, 0 \leq a \leq b.$$
(11)

However this formulation poses specific problems (see also section 3.1) as in general the solution  $(x_t)_{t\geq 0}$  is only absolutely continuous (with respect to time) while the manipulation of the term  $\frac{d}{dt}\mathcal{C}(x_t,\nu)\Big|_{\nu=x_t}$  requires additional assumptions. This is the object of the next section.

<sup>94</sup> Before that, let us recall the following definition:

Definition 1 A curve  $x : [0,T] \to (\mathcal{X},d)$  is called absolutely continuous if there exists  $f \in L^1(0,T)$  such that

$$d(x_{t_1}, x_{t_2}) \le \int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(t) dt, \ \forall t_1 < t_2, \ t_1, t_2 \in [0, T].$$
(12)

For an absolutely continuous curve  $(x_t)_{t\in[0,T]}$  the metric derivative of x at r98 defined by

$$|x'_{r}| = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{d(x_{r+h}, x_{r})}{|h|},$$
(13)

exists a.e., belongs to  $L^1(0,T)$  and is the smallest  $L^1$  function that verifies (12).

#### <sup>101</sup> 2.2 Definition of EDI / EVI equilibrium flows

102 Let us denote

$$\mathcal{D}^{s}(\mathcal{C}) = \{ x \in \mathcal{X} | \mathcal{C}(x, x) < \infty \}.$$
(14)

We suppose from now on that C satisfies the assumption:

104 (A<sub>1</sub>) There exists  $C_1 < \infty$  such that  $\mathcal{C}(y, x) \geq -C_1, \forall x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ .

For any  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}, \alpha \leq \beta$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta)$  the set of divisions of the interval  $[\alpha, \beta]$ . Let  $x = (x_t)_{t \in [0,T]} \subset \mathcal{D}^s(\mathcal{C})$  be an absolutely continuous curve in  $\mathcal{X}$ ; define for  $0 \leq a \leq b \leq T$  and a division  $\Delta = \{a = t_0 < t_1 < ... t_{N_\Delta} = b\} \in \mathcal{S}(a, b)$ :

$$\Upsilon(\Delta; x, a, b) = \sum_{k} \mathcal{C}(x_{k+1}, x_k) - \mathcal{C}(x_k, x_k).$$
(15)

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$$\Upsilon(x, a, b) = \liminf_{\Delta \in \mathcal{S}(a, b), \ |\Delta| \to 0} \Upsilon(\Delta; x, a, b).$$
(16)

**Remark 1** When  $\mathcal{X}$  is e.g., Euclidian and under regularity assumptions on  $\mathcal{C}$  it is easy to check that  $\Upsilon(x, a, b) = \int_a^b \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{C}(x_t, \nu) \Big|_{\nu=x_t} dt.$ 

Definition 2 (EDI equilibrium flow) An absolutely continuous curve  $(x_t)_{t \in [0,T]}$ is called an EDI-equilibrium flow starting from  $\bar{x}$  if  $\lim_{t\to 0} x_t = \bar{x}$  and:

$$\forall s \ge 0, \ \Upsilon(x,0,s) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^s |x_r'|^2 \, \mathrm{d}r + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^s |\nabla_1 \mathcal{C}|^2 \, (x_r,x_r) \, \mathrm{d}r \le 0, \tag{17}$$

a.e. 
$$t > 0, \ \forall s \ge t, \ \Upsilon(x, t, s) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{t}^{s} |x_{r}'|^{2} dr + \frac{1}{2} \int_{t}^{s} |\nabla_{1} \mathcal{C}|^{2} (x_{r}, x_{r}) dr \le 0,$$
(18)

where, for any  $y \in \mathcal{D}^{s}(\mathcal{C})$  and any point (x, y) with  $\mathcal{C}(x, y) < \infty$ , the slope  $|\nabla_{1}\mathcal{C}|(x, y)$  of  $\mathcal{C}(\cdot, \cdot)$  with respect to the first argument evaluated at (x, y) is:

$$\left|\nabla_{1}\mathcal{C}\right|(x,y) = \limsup_{z \to x} \frac{(\mathcal{C}(x,y) - \mathcal{C}(z,y))^{+}}{d(x,z)} = \max\left\{\limsup_{z \to x} \frac{\mathcal{C}(x,y) - \mathcal{C}(z,y)}{d(x,z)}, 0\right\}.$$

**Remark 2** For the particular case (4) the definition above coincides with the definition of a EDI gradient flow, see [1]. Moreover an equilibrium flow for C(x, y) is also an equilibrium flow for C(x, y) + G(y) for any function G.

**Remark 3** A natural question is if there exist functions C that satisfy the above assumptions and that cannot be treated with developments in previous works [20, 12]; the answer is positive, see for instance [20, Example 3 page 120 11]) for  $\mathcal{X} = R$ , d(x, y) = |x - y|,  $\mathcal{C}(x, y) = d(x, y)$  (and also  $d(x, y) + \mathcal{F}(x) + G(y)$  with  $\mathcal{F}(x)$  smooth). One cannot use previous theories because setting 122  $\mathcal{E}(t, u) = \mathcal{C}(u, x_t) = |u - x_t|$  the derivative with respect to t exists except when 123  $u = x_t$ , or it is exactly there that it should be used (see [12, equation 2.3] and 124 the curve  $x_t = t$ ). See also section 3.1 below.

As the previous works concerned a different setting we do not claim that this contribution is a generalization but rather an extension of these results for our situation.

<sup>128</sup> When C has further convexity properties one can adapt the EVI formu-<sup>129</sup> lation as in [20, 21]. We introduce the following assumption (corresponding <sup>130</sup> to [1, Assumption 4.24 page 77]):

(A<sub>2</sub>) Suppose C is a lower semicontinuous functional with respect to the first argument and there exists  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for any  $x_0, x_1, z, v \in \mathcal{X}$  there exists a curve  $\gamma$  connecting  $x_0$  and  $x_1$  such that for all  $s \in [0, 1]$ :

$$\mathcal{C}(\gamma(s), z) \le (1 - s)\mathcal{C}(x_0, z) + s\mathcal{C}(x_1, z) - \lambda \frac{(1 - s)s}{2} d^2(x_0, x_1).$$
(19)

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$$d^{2}(\gamma(s), v) \leq (1-s)d^{2}(x_{0}, v) + sd^{2}(x_{1}, v) - (1-s)sd^{2}(x_{0}, x_{1}).$$
(20)

In general a function (of one or several variables) that satisfies (19)-(20) with respect to one of its variables is called  $\lambda$ -convex in that variable.

Definition 3 (EVI equilibrium flow) An absolutely continuous curve  $(x_t)_{t \in [0,T]}$ is called an EVI-equilibrium flow starting from  $\bar{x}$  if  $\lim_{t\to 0} x_t = \bar{x}$  and :

$$\mathcal{C}(x_t, x_t) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} d^2(x_t, y) + \frac{\lambda}{2} d^2(x_t, y) \le \mathcal{C}(y, x_t), \forall y, \ a.e. \ t \ge 0.$$
(21)

Note that the definition is valid because if  $(x_t)_{t \in [0,T]}$  is absolutely continuous then  $t \mapsto d^2(x_t, y)$  is also absolutely continuous thus differentiable a.e. with respect to t.

# 2.3 Convergence of numerical schemes: general situation tion

144 Let us denote

$$\mathcal{M}(x,\tau) = \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in \mathcal{X}} \frac{d(y,x)^2}{2\tau} + \mathcal{C}(y,x).$$
(22)

With this definition the relaxed *best reply* (or *fictitious play*) (see e.g., [7, 8]) numerical scheme in equation (2) can be written as  $x_{k+1}^{\tau} \in \mathcal{M}(x_k^{\tau}, \tau)$ . We investigate in this section whether when  $\tau \to 0$  the set  $\{x_k^{\tau}, k \ge 1\}$ converges to a solution of (1) as defined in (17)-(18) or (21).

In order to work with meaningful objects, we introduce the following assumption which is the analogue of [1, Assumption 4.8 page 67]:

(A<sub>3</sub>) There exists  $\bar{\tau} > 0$  such that for any  $\tau \leq \bar{\tau}$  and  $\bar{x} \in \mathcal{D}^{s}(\mathcal{C})$ :

$$\mathcal{M}(\bar{x},\tau) \neq \emptyset. \tag{23}$$

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Assuming that assumption (A<sub>3</sub>) is satisfied, we can define the interpolation  $\dot{a}$  la de Giorgi (see [1]) which is a curve  $t \in [0, T] \mapsto x_t^{\tau}$  such that  $x_0^{\tau} = \bar{x}$ and

$$x_t^{\tau} \in \mathcal{M}(x_{k\tau}^{\tau}, t - k\tau), \forall t \in ]k\tau, (k+1)\tau], \ k \ge 1.$$
(24)

For such a map, we define the discrete speed  $Dsp^{\tau} : [0, +\infty) \to [0, +\infty)$  by

$$\mathrm{Dsp}_t^{\tau} = \frac{d(x_{n\tau}^{\tau}, x_{(n+1)\tau}^{\tau})}{\tau} \text{ for } t \text{ in } (n\tau, (n+1)\tau),$$

and the discrete slope  $\mathrm{Dsl}^{\tau}$ :  $[0, +\infty) \to [0, +\infty)$  by

$$\mathrm{Dsl}_t^\tau = \frac{d(x_{n\tau}^\tau, x_t^\tau)}{t - n\tau} \text{ for } t \text{ in } (n\tau, (n+1)\tau).$$

<sup>158</sup> We will need some additional hypothesis:

(A<sub>4</sub>) For any  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , r > 0 and  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  the set  $\{y \in \mathcal{X} | \mathcal{C}(y, y) \le c, d(y, x) \le r\}$ is compact.

- <sup>161</sup> (A<sub>5</sub>) The slope  $|\nabla_1 \mathcal{C}|$  is lower semicontinuous.
- <sup>162</sup> (A<sub>6</sub>) Lipschitz property: there exists L > 0 such that:

$$\mathcal{C}(x,y) \le Ld(y,z) + \mathcal{C}(x,z), \ \forall x, y, z \in \mathcal{X}.$$
(25)

163 (A<sub>7</sub>) For any absolutely continuous curve  $(x_t)_{t \in [a,b]}$ :

$$\Upsilon(x, \mathcal{C}, a, b) \leq \liminf_{|\Delta_n| \to 0, y_n \to x, \sup_n \int_a^b |\dot{y}_n(t)| < \infty} \Upsilon(\Delta_n; y_n, \mathcal{C}, a, b), \qquad (26)$$

where the convergence of the curve  $y_n$  to x is in the uniform (on compacts) norm.

166 **Remark 4** The assumption  $(A_7)$  is satisfied if

167 (A<sub>8</sub>) There exists  $C_L < \infty$  such that for any  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{D}^s(\mathcal{C})$ :

$$|\mathcal{C}(x,y) + \mathcal{C}(y,z) - \mathcal{C}(x,z) - \mathcal{C}(y,y)| \le C_L d(x,y) d(y,z).$$
(27)

168 In this case

$$\Upsilon(x,\mathcal{C},a,b) = \lim_{|\Delta| \to 0} \Upsilon(\Delta; x,\mathcal{C},a,b) = \lim_{|\Delta_n| \to 0, y_n \to x, \sup_n \int_a^b |\dot{y}_n(t)| < \infty} \Upsilon(\Delta_n; y_n,\mathcal{C},a,b)$$
(28)

In particular note that C(x, y) = d(x, y) satisfies  $(\mathbf{A}_7)$  but does not satisfy (28) (thus neither  $(\mathbf{A}_8)$ ) while  $C(x, y) = d^2(x, y)$  satisfies  $(\mathbf{A}_8)$  with  $C_L = 2$ . On the other hand for  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}$  the mapping  $(x, y) \mapsto C(x, y) =$  $\int_0^x \int_0^y f(s, t) ds dt$ , with f a bounded function will also satisfy assumption ( $\mathbf{A}_8$ ).

Assumptions  $(A_1), (A_4), (A_5)$  are classical (see for instance [1, Assumption 4.13 page 69]) and  $(A_7)$  belongs to the same class; on the other hand, the assumption  $(A_6)$  is the analogue of [20, assumption A4 page 11] through the correspondence in equation (6).

The properties of the curves obtained by the numerical scheme (2) are detailed in the following result.

**Theorem 1** Let C satisfying assumptions  $(A_1)$ ,  $(A_3)$ ,  $(A_4)$ ,  $(A_5)$ ,  $(A_6)$ and  $(A_7)$ . Take  $x_0 \in D^s(C)$ . Then the set of curves  $\{(x_t^{\tau})_{t \in [0,T]}; \tau \leq \bar{\tau}\}$ defined in (24) is relatively compact in the set of curves in  $\mathcal{X}$  with local uniform convergence and any limit curve is an EDI equilibrium flow in the sense of Definition 2.

**Proof** We follow, when possible, the proof of [1, Theorem 4.14 page 69]; first we proceed as in [1, Theorem 4.9 page 67] and note that for fixed  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $\tau \leq \bar{\tau}$  and  $x_{\tau} \in \mathcal{M}(x, \tau)$ , the map  $\tau \mapsto \frac{d(x_{\tau}, x)^2}{2\tau} + \mathcal{C}(x_{\tau}, x)$ , is locally Lipschitz and

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \left( \frac{d(x_{\tau}, x)^2}{2\tau} + \mathcal{C}(x_{\tau}, x) \right) = -\frac{d^2(x, x_{\tau})}{2\tau^2}.$$
(29)

The proof of this identity follow precisely the reference and the details are left to the reader.

The minimal property of  $x_{(k+1)\tau}^{\tau}$  implies that for any k:  $\mathcal{C}(x_{(k+1)\tau}^{\tau}, x_{k\tau}^{\tau}) - \mathcal{C}(x_{k\tau}^{\tau}, x_{k\tau}^{\tau}) \leq 0$ ; combined with (25) this shows that  $\mathcal{C}(x_{(k+1)\tau}^{\tau}, x_{(k+1)\tau}^{\tau}) < \infty$ .

<sup>193</sup> On the other hand, as in [1, Lemma 4.10 page 67] we obtain (again we <sup>194</sup> skip the details) that  $\tau \mapsto d(x, x_{\tau})$  is non decreasing and

$$\left|\nabla_{1}\mathcal{C}\right|(x_{\tau}, x) \leq \frac{d(x, x_{\tau})}{2\tau}.$$
(30)

<sup>195</sup> Integrating (29) we obtain the following identity:

$$\sum_{k=n}^{m-1} \mathcal{C}(x_{(k+1)\tau}^{\tau}, x_{k\tau}^{\tau}) - \mathcal{C}(x_{k\tau}^{\tau}, x_{k\tau}^{\tau}) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{n\tau}^{m\tau} (\mathrm{Dsp}_{r}^{\tau})^{2} dr + \frac{1}{2} \int_{n\tau}^{m\tau} (\mathrm{Dsl}_{r}^{\tau})^{2} dr = 0,$$
(31)

or equivalently, denoting  $\Delta^{\tau}$  the division of [0,T] containing the points  $k\tau$ 197  $(1 \le k \le T/\tau)$ :

$$\Upsilon(\Delta^{\tau}, x^{\tau}, n\tau, m\tau) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{n\tau}^{m\tau} (\mathrm{Dsp}_{r}^{\tau})^{2} dr + \frac{1}{2} \int_{n\tau}^{m\tau} (\mathrm{Dsl}_{r}^{\tau})^{2} dr = 0.$$
(32)

198 In particular for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ :

$$\left(\sum_{\ell=0}^{k} d(x_{\ell\tau}^{\tau}, x_{\ell+1\tau}^{\tau})\right)^{2} \leq \left(\int_{0}^{(k+1)\tau} |\mathrm{Dsp}_{r}^{\tau}| \, dr\right)^{2} \leq (k+1)\tau \int_{0}^{(k+1)\tau} |\mathrm{Dsp}_{r}^{\tau}|^{2} \, dr \\
\leq -2(k+1)\tau \Upsilon(\Delta^{\tau}; x^{\tau}, 0, (k+1)\tau) \\
\leq -2(k+1)\tau \left(\mathcal{C}(\bar{x}, \bar{x}) - \mathcal{C}(x_{(k+1)\tau}^{\tau}, x_{(k+1)\tau}^{\tau}) + L \sum_{\ell=0}^{k} d(x_{\ell\tau}^{\tau}, x_{\ell+1\tau}^{\tau})\right). \quad (33)$$

<sup>199</sup> This shows that in particular  $\sum_{\ell=0}^{k} d(x_{\ell\tau}^{\tau}, x_{\ell+1\tau}^{\tau})$  is bounded by a constant <sup>200</sup> depending on  $T, L, C(\bar{x}, \bar{x})$  and  $C_1$  but independent on  $\tau$ . On the other hand <sup>201</sup> for  $t \in [k\tau, (k+1)\tau], t \leq T$ :

$$d^{2}(x_{t}^{\tau},\bar{x}) \leq \left(d(x_{t}^{\tau},x_{k\tau}^{\tau}) + \sum_{\ell=0}^{k-1} d(x_{\ell\tau}^{\tau},x_{\ell+1\tau}^{\tau})\right)^{2} \leq \left(\sum_{\ell=0}^{k} d(x_{\ell\tau}^{\tau},x_{\ell+1\tau}^{\tau})\right)^{2},$$

where we used that  $\tau \mapsto d(x_t^{\tau}, x_{k\tau}^{\tau})$  is non decreasing. Thus the set of curves  $\{(x_t^{\tau})_{t \in [0,T]}; \tau \leq \bar{\tau}\}$  is uniformly bounded with respect to  $\tau$ . As a by-product  $\Upsilon(\Delta^{\tau}; x^{\tau}, n\tau, m\tau)$  is bounded uniformly with respect to  $\tau$ , and  $n, m \leq T/\tau$ . A similar estimation starting from:

$$d^{2}(x_{n\tau}^{\tau}, x_{n\tau}^{\tau}) \leq \left(\int_{n\tau}^{m\tau} \left|\operatorname{Dsp}_{r}^{\tau}\right| dr\right)^{2} \leq (n\tau - m\tau) \int_{n\tau}^{m\tau} \left|\operatorname{Dsp}_{r}^{\tau}\right|^{2} dr,$$

allows to see that the set of curves is also equicontinuous. By Arzela-Ascoli
one obtains the relative compactness.

Let now  $\tau_n \downarrow 0$  and  $(x_t)_{t \in [0,T]}$  a limit curve of  $\{(x_t^{\tau_n})_{t \in [0,T]}; n \ge 1\}$ . From (34) one obtains that  $(x_t)_{t \in [0,T]}$  is absolutely continuous and for  $t \le s \le T$ :

$$\int_{t}^{s} |\dot{x_r}|^2 dr \le \liminf_{n \to \infty} \int_{t}^{s} |\mathrm{Dsp}_{r}^{\tau_n}|^2 dr.$$
(34)

<sup>210</sup> On the other hand, from the lower semicontinuity of  $|\nabla_1 \mathcal{C}|$  and (30) we obtain

$$\left|\nabla_{1}\mathcal{C}\right|(x_{t}, x_{t}) \leq \liminf_{n \to \infty} \left|\nabla_{1}\mathcal{C}\right|(x_{t}^{\tau_{n}}, x_{k_{n}\tau_{n}}^{\tau_{n}}) \leq \liminf_{n \to \infty} \mathrm{Dsl}_{t}^{\tau_{n}}.$$
 (35)

where  $k_n$  is such that  $t \in ]k_n\tau_n, (k_n+1)\tau_n]$ .

Using  $(\mathbf{A}_7)$  and similar arguments as in the end of the proof of [1, Theorem 4.14 page 69] (details are left to the reader) one can pass to the limit in (32) and obtain relations (17)-(18).

#### 215 2.4 Convergence of numerical schemes: convex case

For the convex case more precise information can be obtained and is gathered in the following theorem.

Theorem 2 Let C satisfying assumptions  $(A_1)$ ,  $(A_2)$ ,  $(A_4)$  and  $(A_6)$ .

1. For every  $x \in \mathcal{D}^{s}(\mathcal{C})$ , the set  $\mathcal{M}(x,\tau)$  contains exactly one element for any  $\tau \leq 1/\lambda^{-}$ . Moreover, for  $x_{0} \in \mathcal{D}^{s}(\mathcal{C})$  the set of curves  $\{(x_{t}^{\tau})_{t \in [0,T]}; \tau \leq \overline{\tau}\}$  defined in (24) is relatively compact and any limit curve  $(x_{t})_{t \in [0,T]}$ is an EVI equilibrium flow in the sense of Definition 3.

223 2. Suppose in addition that for any  $x \in \mathcal{D}^{s}(\mathcal{C})$  and  $u, v \in \mathcal{D}^{s}(\mathcal{C})$  in a 224 neighborhood of x:

$$|C(u,v) + C(v,u) - C(u,u) - C(v,v)| = o(d(u,v)).$$
(36)

225 Then the (EVI) equilibrium flow is unique.

226 3. If the stronger assumption  $(\mathbf{A}_8)$  (instead of (36)) is satisfied, then for 227 any two EVI equilibrium flows  $(x_t)_{t\in[0,T]}$  and  $(y_t)_{t\in[0,T]}$  starting from 228  $\bar{x} \in \mathcal{D}^s(\mathcal{C})$  and  $\bar{y} \in \mathcal{D}^s(\mathcal{C})$  respectively:

$$d(x_t, y_t) \le e^{-(\lambda - C_L)t} d(\bar{x}, \bar{y}), \ a.e., t \ge 0.$$
 (37)

4. Under assumption (A<sub>8</sub>) if  $\lambda > C_L$  then the mean field game with cost functional  $\mathcal{C}(\cdot, \cdot)$  has an unique Nash-MFG equilibrium  $x^{\mathcal{C}}$  and any equilibrium flow  $(x_t)_{t\geq 0}$  starting from some  $x(0) = \bar{x} \in \mathcal{D}^s(\mathcal{C})$  converges exponentially fast to  $x^{\mathcal{C}}$ .

#### 233 **Proof**

**Proof of item 1:** Following the proof of [1, Theorem 4.25 page 77] it is possible to prove the existence and uniqueness of the minimizers in  $\mathcal{M}(x,\tau)$ using the same arguments i.e. taking a minimizing sequence  $(x_n)_{n\geq 1}$  and using assumption (A<sub>2</sub>) for s = 1/2,  $x_0 = x_n$ ,  $x_1 = x_m$ , y = x, v = x. Moreover, the following estimation (replacing [1, equation (69) page 78]) is obtained using arguments in the same proof as soon as  $x^{\tau} \in \mathcal{M}(x,\tau)$ :

$$\frac{d^2(x^{\tau}, y) - d^2(x, y)}{2\tau} + \frac{\lambda}{2} d^2(x^{\tau}, y) \le \mathcal{C}(y, x) - \mathcal{C}(x^{\tau}, x), \ \forall y \in \mathcal{X}.$$
 (38)

Summing up such estimations it follows that for  $t = n\tau < m\tau = s$ :

$$\frac{d^{2}(x_{t}^{\tau}, y) - d^{2}(x_{s}^{\tau}, y)}{2(s-t)} + \frac{\lambda\tau}{2(s-t)} \sum_{\ell=n}^{m-1} d^{2}(x_{(\ell+1)\tau}^{\tau}, y) \\
\leq \frac{\tau}{s-t} \left( \sum_{\ell=n}^{m-1} \mathcal{C}(y, x_{\ell\tau}^{\tau}) - \mathcal{C}(x_{(\ell+1)\tau}^{\tau}, x_{\ell\tau}^{\tau}) \right), \ \forall y \in \mathcal{X}.$$
(39)

We can prove as in theorem 1 that the curves  $\{x_t^{\tau}\}_{\tau \leq 1/\lambda^-}$  form a relatively compact set. Taking  $\tau_n \downarrow 0$  one obtains for  $0 \leq t < s \leq T$ :

$$\frac{d^2(x_t, y) - d^2(x_s, y)}{2(s-t)} + \frac{\lambda}{2(s-t)} \int_t^s d^2(x_r, y) dr$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{s-t} \left( \int_t^s \left[ \mathcal{C}(y, x_r) - \mathcal{C}(x_r, x_r) \right] dr \right), \ \forall y \in \mathcal{X},$$
(40)

which is the integral form of the definition 3 of a EVI equilibrium flow. In the passage from (39) to (40) the terms  $\sum_{\ell=n}^{m-1} d^2(x_{(\ell+1)\tau}^{\tau}, y)$  and  $\sum_{\ell=n}^{m-1} C(y, x_{\ell\tau}^{\tau})$ are, thanks to the Lipschitz property of  $C(y, \cdot)$  and  $d^2(\cdot, y)$ , arbitrarily close to Riemann sums of the corresponding integrals. On the other hand for the term  $\sum_{\ell=n}^{m-1} C(x_{(\ell+1)\tau}^{\tau}, x_{\ell\tau}^{\tau})$  the inequality is obtained from the Fatou lemma applied to  $f_n(r) = \sum_{\ell=n}^{m-1} 1_{[\ell\tau_n, (\ell+1)\tau_n]}(r) C(x_{(\ell+1)\tau_n}^{\tau_n}, x_{\ell\tau_n}^{\tau_n})$  (recall that we have a lower bound on C from assumption (A<sub>1</sub>)) and the lower semi-continuity of C.

**Proof of item 3** To prove contraction (37) we use the EVI inequality for  $x_t$ and  $y_t$  and write:

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{ds}d^{2}(x_{s}, y_{t})\Big|_{s=t} + \frac{\lambda}{2}d^{2}(x_{t}, y_{t}) \leq \mathcal{C}(y_{t}, x_{t}) - \mathcal{C}(x_{t}, x_{t}) \ a.e. \ t \geq 0.$$
  
$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{ds}d^{2}(y_{s}, x_{t})\Big|_{s=t} + \frac{\lambda}{2}d^{2}(y_{t}, x_{t}) \leq \mathcal{C}(x_{t}, y_{t}) - \mathcal{C}(y_{t}, y_{t}) \ a.e. \ t \geq 0.$$
(41)

Adding up the two identities and invoking (27) for  $x = z = x_t$ ,  $y = y_t$  we obtain (heuristically for the moment):

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}d^2(x_t, y_t) + \lambda d^2(x_t, y_t) \le C_L d^2(x_t, y_t) \ a.e. \ t \ge 0,$$
(42)

and (37) follows. In practice, the manipulations above can be made precise by a doubling of variables argument (see [1, page 80], [22], [9, pages 179, 183]).

Proof of item 2: the proof is similar to that of item 3 and is left as an exercice to the reader. The key ingredient is the [2, Lemma 4.1.8] which we recall below:

Lemma 1 Let  $f : [0, \infty[ \to \mathbb{R} \text{ be a locally absolutely continuous function}, and <math>a, b \in L^1_{loc}([0, \infty[) \text{ be given functions satisfying for } \lambda \in R:$ 

$$\frac{d}{dt}f^{2}(t) + 2\lambda f^{2}(t) \le a(t) + 2b(t)f(t), \ a.e., t > 0.$$
(43)

263 Then for any T > 0

$$e^{\lambda T}|f(T)| \le \sqrt{f^2(0) + \sup_{t \in [0,T]} \int_0^t e^{2\lambda s} a(s)ds} + 2\int_0^T e^{\lambda t}|b(t)|dt.$$
(44)

**Proof of item 4:** the proof is a consequence of item 3 as soon as one proves that the curve  $y_t = x^c$  is an EVI equilibrium flow. To prove this, note that the definition (3) of a Nash-MFG equilibrium implies  $\mathcal{M}(x^c, \tau) = \{x^c\}$  for all  $\tau > 0$ . Then  $x_t^{\tau} = x^c$  for any  $\tau, t \ge 0$  thus the (only) limit curve is  $y_t = x^c$ and by item 1 it is an EVI equilibrium flow.

Remark 5 The item 4 is interesting because it gives a different route to
ensure uniqueness of mean field games equilibriums, very few such procedures
exist in the literature.

# 272 **3** Applications

<sup>273</sup> For the notations used in this section see the appendix A.

# <sup>274</sup> **3.1** The treatment of the term $\int_a^b \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{C}(x_t, \nu) \Big|_{\nu=x_t} dt$

We consider first an example that shows how our proposed methodology avoids problems with the term  $\int_a^b \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{C}(x_t,\nu)\Big|_{\nu=x_t} dt$  which does not always has a well-defined meaning, even when the dynamics is  $C^{\infty}$  with respect to time.

Set  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathcal{C}(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{2} + \theta |x - y|$  for some fixed  $\theta > 0$ . After elementary computations we obtain from the definition (3) that the set of Nash equilibriums is the entire interval  $[-\theta, \theta]$ . In particular there is no uniqueness; we check thus the assumptions of the theorem 1:

- (A<sub>1</sub>) is valid with  $C_1 = 0;$
- $(A_3)$  is valid because we minimize a continuous coercive real function;
- $(\mathbf{A}_4)$  is valid trivially on  $\mathbb{R}$ ;
- (A<sub>5</sub>) results from the computation  $|\nabla_1 \mathcal{C}|(x, y) = (x \theta \cdot 1_{x \le y} + \theta \cdot 1_{x > y})_+$
- (A<sub>6</sub>) is valid with  $L = \theta$ ;

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• (A<sub>7</sub>) results from the formula  $\Upsilon(x, a, b) = \frac{x_b^2 - x_a^2}{2} + length(x, a, b)$  (with length(x, a, b) being the length of the curve  $(x_t)_{t\geq 0}$  between t = a and t = b); note that (A<sub>8</sub>) does not hold in this case.

We can apply the theorem 1 to conclude that at least an equilibrium flow exists. In fact, a more careful inspection reveals that the flow is:

- when  $|x_0| \leq \theta$ : the flow is the constant curve  $x_t = x_0$ ;
- when  $x_0 > \theta$ :  $x_t = \theta + e^{-t}(x_0 \theta);$
- 295 when  $x_0 < \theta$ :  $x_t = -\theta + e^{-t}(x_0 + \theta)$ .

The dynamics is thus smooth; however the term  $\int_a^b \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{C}(x_t, \nu) \Big|_{\nu=x_t} dt$  cannot be given any meaning because of the non-differentiability with respect to t of  $|x_t - x_s|$  in s = t.

**Remark 6** In this case the assumption  $(\mathbf{A}_2)$  is also valid thus one can apply the first point of the theorem 2 to conclude to the existence of a EVI - equilibrium flow. However one can propose examples of  $\mathcal{C}$  being the sum of a smooth, coercive but non-convex function of x (as  $(x^2 - 1)^2$ ) and the term  $\theta | x - y |$  that can still check the hypothesis of theorem 1 but not those of the theorem 2. Here we took the first term to be quadratic in order to have explicit analytic solutions.

# 306 3.2 Multiple agent types games with potential and in 307 teraction terms

We follow here the framework in [7] and in particular show how their Corrolary 5.2 (corresponding to their example in equation (5.9) Section 5) can be treated with tools provided in this work. In this situation, the players are assigned to one of several types  $x \in X$ ; once an agent is given a type x it cannot change it. As a consequence, the probability measure on the set Xis fixed, let us denote it by  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ . Each agent can take actions y in a set Y. Both X and Y are supposed compact and moreover Y is a convex, closed subset of an Euclidian space. A strategy is a joint probability measure  $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}(X \times Y)$  with  $\pi^1_{\#} \gamma = \mu$ . We assign:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{X}} = \left\{ \gamma \in \mathcal{P}(X \times Y) | \pi_{\#}^1 \gamma = \mu \right\}.$$
(45)

The cost of the action y for the individual of type  $x \in X$  when everybody else is doing  $\gamma$  is  $C(x, y, \gamma)$ . Denote  $\mathcal{C}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2) = \int_{X \times Y} C(x, y, \gamma_2) \gamma_1(dx, dy)$ . The Nash equilibrium (termed Cournot-Nash in [7]) is defined as in equation (3).

Note that by the disintegration theorem [2, Theorem 5.3.1 page 121] for any  $\gamma \in \tilde{\mathcal{X}}$  there exist a unique ( $\mu$ - a.e. ) set  $(\gamma_x)_{x \in X} \subset \mathcal{P}(Y)$  such that for any Borel function f:

$$\int_{X \times Y} f(x, y)\gamma(dx, dy) = \int_X \left(\int_Y f(x, y)\gamma_x(dy)\right)\mu(dx).$$
(46)

When there is no ambiguity, we will use the notation  $(\gamma_x)_{x \in X} \subset \mathcal{P}(Y)$  to designate the disintegration of the measure  $\gamma$  along the elements  $x \in X$ .

The measure  $\gamma_x$  can be interpreted as the strategy of the agents of type  $x_x$ .

**Remark 7** In [7] a specific situation is considered when the cost does not depend on the type of other agents choosing a given action in Y but only on how many they are i.e., on the measure  $\pi_{\#}^2 \gamma$ . In this case  $C(x, y, \gamma) =$  $C(x, y, \pi_{\#}^2 \gamma)$ .

For  $p \ge 1$  take  $\nu \in \mathcal{P}_p(Y)$  (arbitrary but fixed) and define

$$\mathcal{X}_p = \left\{ \gamma \in \tilde{\mathcal{X}} \left| \int_X \mathbb{W}_p(\gamma_x, \nu)^p \mu(dx) < \infty \right\}.$$
(47)

Note that the definition of  $\mathcal{X}_p$  does not depend on  $\nu$ . When we do not mention the *p* index we mean p = 2, i.e,  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}_2$ . We introduce on  $\mathcal{X}_p$  the distance:

$$\forall \gamma_0, \gamma_1 \in \mathcal{X}_p: \ d_{\mathcal{X},p}(\gamma_0, \gamma_1) = \left(\int_X \mathbb{W}_p(\gamma_{0,x}, \gamma_{1,x})^p \mu(dx)\right)^{1/p}.$$
(48)

Note that from (70) using the Holder inequality we obtain a similar relation for  $d_{\chi,p}(\gamma_0,\gamma_1)$ :

$$\forall 1 \le p_1 \le p_2, \ \gamma_0, \gamma_1 \in \mathcal{X}_{p_1} : d_{\mathcal{X}, p_1}(\gamma_0, \gamma_1) \le d_{\mathcal{X}, p_2}(\gamma_0, \gamma_1).$$
(49)

With these provisions we can state the following result (compare with [7, Corrolary 5.2 page 425]):

Proposition 1 Suppose Y is the closure of some open set in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Let  $V_0$  be a smooth function satisfying the hypothesis of Lemma 2 (in the appendix) and  $\phi: \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$  a function with continuous second derivatives everywhere. Then, if  $\epsilon > 0$  is small enough, the game with payoff

$$C(x, y, \gamma) = \frac{|x - y|^2}{2} + V_0(y) + \epsilon \int_{X \times Y} \phi(y, y_2) \gamma(dx, dy_2),$$
(50)

admits a unique Nash-MFG equilibrium and any EVI-equilibrium flow (as in
theorem 2) converges exponentially fast to it.

Proof We derive first a duality formula for the distance  $d_{\mathcal{X},1}$ ; for any g:  $X \times Y \to \mathbb{R}, \gamma_0, \gamma_1 \in \mathcal{X}_1$ , we obtain from (71):

$$\int_{X \times Y} g(x,y)(\gamma_0(dx,dy) - \gamma_1(dx,dy)) = \int_X \left( \int_Y g(x,y) \left[ \gamma_{0,x}(dy) - \gamma_{1,x}(dy) \right] \right) \mu(dx)$$
  
$$\leq \int_X \|g(x,\cdot)\|_{Lip} \cdot \mathbb{W}_1(\gamma_{0,x},\gamma_{1,x})\mu(dx) \leq \left[ \sup_{x \in X} \|g(x,\cdot)\|_{Lip} \right] \cdot d_{\mathcal{X},1}(\gamma_0,\gamma_1).$$
(51)

We use theorem 2 on  $(\mathcal{X}, d_{\mathcal{X},2})$  and check all assumptions.

• First, since  $V_0$  and  $\phi$  are smooth and X, Y are compact one obtains assumption ( $\mathbf{A}_1$ ).

• The assumption  $(\mathbf{A}_2)$  is also verified because the function  $C(x, y, \gamma)$  is  $1 + \lambda_V - \epsilon C_2$ -convex ( $C_2$  being a constant that only depends on  $\phi$  and Y). In this case the geodesics between  $\gamma_0$  and  $\gamma_1$  are the curves  $\gamma_t$  such that  $t \mapsto \gamma_{t,x}$ is the generalized geodesic (with some fixed base  $\nu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(Y), \nu$  being absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure dx) having end points  $\gamma_{0,x}$  and  $\gamma_{1,x}$ . Here  $(\gamma_{t,x})_{x \in X}$  is the disintegration of  $\gamma_t$  for any  $t \in [0, 1]$ . • Assumption ( $\mathbf{A}_4$ ) is obvious since  $\mathcal{X}$  is compact.

• Remain only assumptions  $(\mathbf{A}_6)$  and  $(\mathbf{A}_8)$ . We only prove  $(\mathbf{A}_8)$ , the other being easier to obtain (and uses essentially the same arguments). The idea is to prove the upper bound for the distance  $d_{\mathcal{X},1}$  invoking (51) then use the ordering in (49). Let  $\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in \mathcal{X}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \mathcal{C}(\gamma_{0},\gamma_{1}) + \mathcal{C}(\gamma_{1},\gamma_{2}) - \mathcal{C}(\gamma_{0},\gamma_{2}) - \mathcal{C}(\gamma_{1},\gamma_{1}) \right| &= \\ \epsilon \left| \int_{X \times Y} \int_{X \times Y} \phi(y_{1},y_{2}) \left[ \gamma_{1}(dx,dy_{2}) - \gamma_{2}(dx,dy_{2}) \right] \left[ \gamma_{0}(dx,dy_{1}) - \gamma_{1}(dx,dy_{1}) \right] \right| \\ &\leq \epsilon \left\| \int_{X \times Y} \phi(\cdot,y_{2}) \left[ \gamma_{1}(dx,dy_{2}) - \gamma_{2}(dx,dy_{2}) \right] \right\|_{Lip} d_{\mathcal{X},1}(\gamma_{0},\gamma_{1}), \end{aligned}$$
(52)

where (51) has been used. It remains to see that the Lipschitz norm of  $\int_{X \times Y} \phi(\cdot, y_2) \left[\gamma_1(dx, dy_2) - \gamma_2(dx, dy_2)\right]$  can be upper bounded by  $d_{\mathcal{X},1}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2)$ . But for any  $y, \tilde{y} \in Y$  with  $y \neq \tilde{y}$ :

$$\left| \int_{X \times Y} \phi(y, y_2) \left[ \gamma_1(dx, dy_2) - \gamma_2(dx, dy_2) \right] - \int_{X \times Y} \phi(\tilde{y}, y_2) \left[ \gamma_1(dx, dy_2) - \gamma_2(dx, dy_2) \right] \right| \\
= \left| \int_{X \times Y} \left[ \phi(y, y_2) - \phi(\tilde{y}, y_2) \right] \left[ \gamma_1(dx, dy_2) - \gamma_2(dx, dy_2) \right] \right| \\
\leq |y - \tilde{y}| \cdot d_{X,1}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2) \left[ \sup_{y, \tilde{y} \in Y} \left\| \frac{\phi(y, \cdot) - \phi(\tilde{y}, \cdot)}{|y - \tilde{y}|} \right\|_{Lip} \right].$$
(53)

Since  $\phi$  is twice differentiable, assumption (A<sub>8</sub>) follows with  $C_L = \epsilon C_3$  where  $C_3$  is a constant depending only on  $\phi$  and the space Y.

#### 366 3.2.1 Congestion Mean Field Games

We consider next a congestion mean field game. Consider a population that 367 has to choose a place on a real line (an adaptation of the "beach example" in 368 P.L. Lions' lectures at Collège de France). The strategy of any individual is 369 a probability law  $\xi$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ . The individuals prefer to be at the origin and the 370 cost increases with the distance from the origin; this is modeled by a term 371  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} F_0(x)\xi(dx)$  with, for instance,  $F_0(x) = c_0 x^2/2$ ,  $c_0 > 0$ . The individuals 372 dislike congestion which means that there is a penalty to choose a location 373 where the local density of others is large. If the mean field density of others 374 is m(dx) the term that models congestion is  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho_{\sigma}(y-x)m(dx)\xi(dy)$  where 375  $\rho_{\sigma}$  is a given kernel, for instance  $\rho_{\sigma}(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$ , for some  $\sigma \ge 0$ 376 ( $\sigma$  models the range of interaction). Thus the cost functional is: 377

$$\mathcal{C}(\xi,m) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} F_0(y)\xi(dy) + \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho_\sigma(y-x)m(dx)\xi(dy).$$
(54)

This can be put into the framework of the previous section taking X to be a singleton (all individuals are alike) but here Y is potentially the whole

real line (thus in particular not compact). However, since the individual 380 minimizes his / her cost, any Nash-MFG equilibrium strategy  $\xi$ , if it exists, 381 must satisfy 382

$$supp(\xi) \subset argmin_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ F_0(y) + \int_{\mathbb{R}} \rho_\sigma(y-x)\xi(dx) \right\}.$$
 (55)

In particular any y in the support of  $\xi$  will satisfy  $c_0 y^2/2 \leq 1/(\sigma \sqrt{2\pi})$ , thus 383 the support of  $\xi$  is included in Y = [-M, M] with M a constant depending 384 only on  $c_0$  and  $\sigma$ . Thus we can apply the Proposition 1 to conclude that, as 385 soon as  $c_0$  is large enough, theorem 2 can be applied which gives the existence 386 and uniqueness of the EVI equilibrium flow (1) for this choice of  $\mathcal{C}$ . 387

**Remark 8** When  $\sigma \to 0$  the equilibrium is the semicircle law [3]:  $\xi(x) =$ 388  $\frac{2}{\pi r_0^2}(r_0^2-x^2)_+dx$  for some constant  $r_0 > 0$ . Note however that the approach 389 above does not guarantee convexity for any choice of  $c_0$  and in particular when 390  $\sigma \to 0$  no value of  $c_0$  is large enough. On the contrary, a metric similar to 391 that in section 3.4 is 0-convex for any  $c_0$  and allows to use theorem 2. 392

#### 3.3 Non-smooth interaction Mean Field Games with 393 multiple equilibria 394

Consider now the cost 395

$$\mathcal{C}(\xi,\eta) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} F_0(x)\xi(dx) + \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |x-y|\xi(dx)\eta(dy).$$
(56)

This is a MFG model similar to that in sections 3.1 and 3.2.1 where individ-396 uals prefer to be at the origin but here they also prefer to be close together. 397 With the same technique as in (55) we can prove that it is enough to 398 restrict to the domain [-R, R] with  $R = \sqrt{\frac{2M_1(\xi)}{c_0}}$ , where  $M_1(\xi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} |x|\xi(dx)$ . 399 But then 400

$$M_1(\xi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} |x|\xi(dx) = \int_{-R}^{R} |x|\xi(dx) \le R = \sqrt{\frac{2M_1(\xi)}{c_0}},$$
 (57)

thus  $R \leq 2/c_0$ . Consider  $\Omega = [-2/c_0, 2/c_0], (\mathcal{X}, d) = (\mathcal{P}_2(\Omega), \mathbb{W}_2)$  and the 401 cost functional: 402

$$\mathcal{C}(\xi,\eta) = \int_{\Omega} F_0(x)\xi(dx) + \int_{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} |x-y|\xi(dx)\eta(dy).$$
(58)

We start checking the assumptions of the theorem 2: 403

• (A<sub>1</sub>) is verified with  $C_1 = 0$ ;

• (A<sub>2</sub>) is verified with  $\lambda = c_0$  taking as interpolating curves the generalized geodesics with some arbitrary, fixed, base; note that there is no restriction on  $c_0$  except strict positivity, in particular it does need to be large;

• (A<sub>6</sub>) is verified for L = 1, using arguments similar to those in the proof of Proposition 1 (i.e., bounding first by the  $W_1$  distance);

 $\bullet$  (A<sub>4</sub>) is also satisfied.

This allows to use the first point of the theorem 2 to ensure the convergence of numerical schemes to a EVI equilibrium flow. Note that (A<sub>8</sub>) is not valid here. Based on section 3.1 we do not expect to have uniqueness of the Nash-MFG equilibria. Indeed one can check that any  $\delta_{x^*}$  with  $|x^*| \leq 1/c_0$  is a Nash-MFG equilibrium:

$$\forall \xi \in \mathcal{X} : \mathcal{C}(\xi, \delta_{x^*}) = \int_{\Omega} (F_0(x) + |x - x^*|) \xi(dx) \ge \int_{\Omega} F_0(x^*) \xi(dx)$$
$$= F_0(x^*) = \int_{\Omega} (F_0(x) + |x - x^*|) \delta_{x^*}(dx) = \mathcal{C}(\delta_{x^*}, \delta_{x^*}).$$
(59)

#### 416 3.4 Vaccination Mean Field Games

An important class of MFG examples that go beyond potential or interaction 417 terms are vaccination mean field games (see [13, 4, 5, 23] and more generally 418 [10, 15, 34] for vaccination coverage dynamics). In this framework the indi-419 vidual can choose his / her vaccination strategy which is a probability law 420 set on  $\Omega = [0, T] \cup \{\infty\}$  (the point at infinity meaning no vaccination). Thus 421  $\mathcal{X}$  is the space of probability measures on  $\Omega$ ; we can also see it as a subset of 422  $H^{-1}(\Omega)$  (the dual of the space of zero-mean  $H^{1}(\Omega)$ -Sobolev functions) with 423 metric: 424

$$d^{2}(m_{1}, m_{2}) = \sum_{\omega \in \{0, T, \infty\}} [m_{1}(\{\omega\}) - m_{2}(\{\omega\})]^{2} + \sup_{\|\nabla \phi\|_{L^{2}([0,T];\mathbb{R})} \le 1, \ \int_{0}^{T} \phi = 0} \left\{ \int_{0}^{T} \phi(m_{1} - m_{2}) \right\}^{2}.$$
 (60)

This metric can also be given another expression (see [31, Section 5.5.2 page 210]: denote by  $u_{m_1,m_2}$  the solution on ]0,T[ of the Laplace problem  $-\Delta u_{m_1,m_2} = m_1 - m_2$  with homogeneous Neumann boundary conditions <sup>428</sup>  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0$  in 0 and T; note that  $u_{m_1,m_2}$  depends linearly of  $m_1 - m_2$ . Then:

$$d^{2}(m_{1}, m_{2}) = \left(\sum_{\omega \in \{0, T, \infty\}} [m_{1}(\{\omega\}) - m_{2}(\{\omega\})]^{2}\right) + \|\nabla u_{m_{1}, m_{2}}\|_{L^{2}([0, T]; \mathbb{R})}^{2}.$$
(61)

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The cost can be expressed, for some functional 
$$F : (\mathcal{X}, d) \to C(\Omega; \mathbb{R})$$
, as

$$\mathcal{C}(\xi,m) = \int_{\Omega} F(m)(x)\xi(dx).$$
(62)

The functional F is highly non-linear and depends on the solution of a system of measure-driven ODEs, see [23, equations (1) and (4)] for details. More precisely, for some constants  $\beta, \gamma > 0$ ,  $0 < r_V < r_I < \infty$ ,  $S_0, I_0 \ge 0$ ,  $S_0 + I_0 < 1$ , consider the system (see also [9, Theorem 10.2.3 page 246] for the well-posedness):

$$\begin{cases} dS^{m}(t) = -\beta S^{m}(t)I^{m}(t)dt - dm(t), & S^{m}(0^{-}) = S_{0}, \\ dI^{m}(t) = \left(\beta S^{m}(t) - \gamma\right)I^{m}(t)dt, & I^{m}(0^{-}) = I_{0}, \\ d\varphi^{m}(t) = \beta I^{m}(t)(1 - \varphi^{m}(t))dt, & \varphi^{m}(0^{-}) = 0, \end{cases}$$
(63)

where m is prolonged by 0 on  $]T, \infty[$ . Note that  $S^m(t), S^m(t)$  and  $\varphi^m(t)$  take values in [0, 1]. The cost is:

$$\mathcal{C}(\xi,m) = -\xi(\{\infty\})r_I\varphi^m(\infty) + \int_0^T \left(r_V + (r_I - r_V)\varphi^m(t)\right)\xi(dt), \quad (64)$$

437 and thus

$$F(m)(t) = r_V + (r_I - r_V)\varphi^m(t) \text{ for } t < \infty, \ F(m)(\infty) = -r_I\varphi^m(\infty).$$
(65)

• In particular F is bounded from below which implies hypothesis  $(A_1)$ .

• The motivation for the distance (61) appears when trying to fulfill the assumption (A<sub>2</sub>). Indeed, there is no apparent convexity in the function  $x \mapsto F(m)(x)$ . But, the cost C is linear in the first variable with respect to affine combinations of measures. Therefore we choose as curves in the assumption (A<sub>2</sub>) the segments  $\gamma(t) = (1 - t)\gamma(0) + t\gamma(1)$ . With this choice the distance (61) satisfies the equation (20) ( in fact we have equality) while C will satisfy (19) with  $\lambda = 0$  thus assumption (A<sub>2</sub>) is valid.

• Assumption  $(A_4)$  is immediate, the space being compact.

• Assumptions (A<sub>6</sub>) follows immediately after noting that  $\frac{d}{dt}F(m)(t)$  is bounded independently on m and t because  $\frac{d}{dt}\varphi^m(t)$  is.

• Assumption  $(A_8)$  requires longer computations and is left as an exercise for the reader. Remark 9 Within the vaccination MFG framework one can encounter also
different, more exotic, metric spaces, see for instance [18] where:

$$\mathcal{X} = \{ u : [0, \infty[ \to \mathbb{R} | u(0) = 0, \forall b \ge a \ge 0 : |u(a) - u(b)| \le |a - b|, u(b) \ge u(a) \}$$
(66)

453 the metric  $d^{2}(f,g) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}^{*}} \frac{\|f-g\|_{L^{2}([0,n])}^{2}}{2^{n}}$ , and the cost functional

$$\mathcal{C}(\xi,m) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} F(m)(t)\dot{u}(t)e^{-rt}dt,$$
(67)

454 for some functional  $F: \mathcal{X} \to C(\mathbb{R}; \mathbb{R})$ .

In all cases, the numerical simulations show that the algorithm (2) converges to a MFG equilibrium.

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## 461 A Notations

<sup>462</sup> We recall below some notations and results used in the paper.

For any set  $\Omega$  we denote by  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  the ensemble of probability laws on  $\Omega$ . For a general application f defined on  $\Omega$  with values in a measure space,  $f_{\#}\nu$ is the push-forward (image) measure of  $\nu \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  through f characterized by  $f_{\#}\nu(A) = \nu(f^{-1}(A))$  for any measurable set A in the image. When  $\Omega$  is a metric space, for  $p \geq 1$  and some  $x_0 \in \Omega$ :

$$\mathcal{P}_p(\Omega) = \left\{ \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega) \left| \int_{\Omega} d(x, x_0)^p \nu(dx) < \infty \right\},$$
(68)

i.e.,  $\mathcal{P}_p(\Omega)$  is the set of probability laws on  $\Omega$  with finite *p*-th moment. Note that the definition does not depend on the choice of  $x_0$ .

When  $\Omega$  is a tensor product  $\Omega = \Omega_1 \times \Omega_2 \times ... \times \Omega_M$ , and  $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  we denote  $\pi_{\#}^1 \gamma \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega_1)$  the first marginal,  $\pi_{\#}^2 \gamma \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega_2)$  the second marginal,  $\pi_{\#}^{1,2} \gamma \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega_1 \times \Omega_2)$  the marginal with respect to the first two coordinates, etc. <sup>474</sup> The set  $\mathcal{P}_p(\Omega)$  can be given the structure of a metric space with the <sup>475</sup> *p*-Wasserstein metric [31, Section 5] denoted  $\mathbb{W}_p$  with

$$\mathbb{W}_p(\nu_1,\nu_2) = \left( \inf\left\{ \int_{\Omega \times \Omega} d(x,y)^p \gamma(x,y) \, \middle| \, \gamma \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega \times \Omega), \pi^1_{\#} \gamma = \nu_1, \pi^2_{\#} \gamma = \nu_2 \right\} \right)^{1/p}.$$
(69)

<sup>476</sup> The set of  $\gamma$  that realize the "inf" in (69) is denoted  $\Gamma_o(\nu_1, \nu_2)$ .

Proving that  $W_p$  is a distance can be performed with usual techniques [31, Lemmas 5.4 and 5.5 page 182]; also standard is to note that these distances are ordered i.e.

$$\mathbb{W}_{p_1}(\gamma_0,\gamma_1) \le \mathbb{W}_{p_2}(\gamma_0,\gamma_1), \ \forall \ 1 \le p_1 \le p_2, \ \forall \gamma_0,\gamma_1 \in \mathcal{P}_{p_1}(\Omega).$$
(70)

Recall that the norm  $||f||_{Lip}$  of a function f is its smallest Lipschitz constant (and  $+\infty$  if no such constant exists). Then (see [33, Remark 6.5 page 482 95]):

$$\mathbb{W}_1(\gamma_0, \gamma_1) = \sup\left\{ \left. \int_{\Omega} f(\gamma_0 - \gamma_1) \right| \|f\|_{Lip} \le 1 \right\}.$$
(71)

In order to exploit convexity, we need to define the notion of (generalized) geodesics (see [2, Definition 9.2.2. page 207]): let  $\nu_0, \nu_1, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_p(\Omega)$  and  $\xi \in$   $\mathcal{P}(\Omega \times \Omega \times \Omega)$  such that  $\pi^{1,2}_{\#} \xi \in \Gamma_0(\nu, \nu_0), \pi^{1,3}_{\#} \xi \in \Gamma_0(\nu, \nu_1)$ . The generalized geodesic between  $\nu_0$  and  $\nu_1$  with base  $\nu$  is the curve  $(\nu^{\xi}(t))_{t \in [0,1]} \subset \mathcal{P}_p(\Omega)$ with

$$\nu^{\xi}(t) = [(y_1, y_2, y_3) \mapsto ((1-t)y_2 + ty_3)]_{\#} \xi.$$
(72)

In particular  $\nu^{\xi}(0) = \nu_0$ ,  $\nu^{\xi}(1) = \nu_1$ . When  $\nu = \nu_0$  the generalized geodesic is a (ordinary) geodesic in the space  $\mathcal{P}_p(\Omega)$ ; in this case we do not mention the base any more.

This definition allows to state the following result (for the proof see [2, Lemma 9.2.1 page 206, Proposition 9.3.2 page 210]):

Lemma 2 Take  $p = 2, \lambda_V \ge 0$  and  $V : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$  be a  $\lambda_V$ -convex function in the sense that for any  $y_1, y_2 \in \Omega, t \in [0, 1]$ :

$$V((1-t)y_1 + ty_2) \le (1-t)V(y_1) + tV(y_2) - \frac{\lambda_V}{2}d^2(y_1, y_2).$$
(73)

495 Then the functional  $\mathcal{V}: \mathcal{P}_p(\Omega) \to \mathbb{R}$ :

$$\mathcal{V}(\gamma) = \int_{\Omega} V(y)\gamma(dy),\tag{74}$$

is  $\lambda_V$ -convex on  $(\mathcal{P}_p(\Omega), \mathbb{W}_p)$  in the sense of the assumption  $(\mathbf{A}_2)$  on the generalized geodesics with base  $\nu$  for any  $\nu \in \mathcal{P}_p(\Omega)$ .

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