

Mean Field Games in the weak noise limit : a semiclassical description

Denis Ullmo
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Collaboration with
Thierry Gobron (LPTM-Cergy) Thibault Bonnemain (LPTM(S))

*[Physica A. **532**, 310 (2019) & "in preparation"]*

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Mean Field Games

A mean field game paradigm : model of population dynamics

[Guéant, Lasry, Lions (2011)]

- N agents $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ ($N \gg 1$)
- state of agent $i \longrightarrow$ real vector \mathbf{X}^i (here just physical space)

$$m(\mathbf{x}, t) \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_1^N \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}_t^i) \quad \text{density of agents}$$

- agent's dynamic

$$d\mathbf{X}_t^i = \mathbf{a}_t^i dt + \sigma d\mathbf{w}_t^i$$

$d\mathbf{w}_t^i \equiv$ white noise

drift $\mathbf{a}_t^i \equiv$ control parameter

- agent tries to optimize (by the proper choice of \mathbf{a}_t^i) the cost function

$$\int_t^T d\tau \left[\frac{\mu}{2} (\mathbf{a}_\tau^i)^2 - V[m](\mathbf{X}_\tau^i) \right] + c_T(\mathbf{X}_T^i)$$

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$U_0(x) \uparrow + gm(x)$

Mean Field Game = coupling between a (collective) stochastic motion and an (individual) optimization problem through a mean field $V[m](\mathbf{x}, t)$

- Langevin dynamic $d\mathbf{X}_t^i = \mathbf{a}_t^i dt + \sigma d\mathbf{w}_t^i$ leads to a (forward) diffusion equation for the density $m(x, t)$

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t m + \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}(am) - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} m = 0 \\ m(x, t=0) = m_0(x) \end{cases} \quad (\text{Kolmogorov}) .$$

- Optimization problem, through linear programming, leads to a (backward) Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation for the value function $u(\mathbf{x}, t)$

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u + \frac{1}{2\mu} (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} u)^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} u = V[m](x, t) \\ u(x, t=T) = c_T(x) \end{cases} \quad (\text{HJB}) .$$

- Kolmogorov coupled to HJB through the drift $a(x, t) = -\partial_x u(x, t)$
- HJB coupled to Kolmogorov through the mean field $V[m](x, t)$

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Recent, applications oriented, mean field game models

- Models for vaccination policies [Laetitia Laguzet, Ph.D. thesis, 2015]
- Price formation process in the presence of high frequency participant [Lachapelle, Lasry, Lehalle, Lions (2015)]
- Load shaping via grid wide coordination of heating-cooling electric loads [Kizilkale and Malhamé, (2015)]

The weak noise limit

Mean Field Games equation is the $\sigma^2 \rightarrow 0$ limit

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t m + \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}(a m) - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} m = 0 & \text{(FP)} \\ \partial_t u - \frac{1}{2\mu} (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} u)^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} u = V[m](x, t) & \text{(HJB)} \end{cases} .$$

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$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \partial_t m + \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}(am) = 0 & \text{(Transport)} \\ \partial_t u - \frac{1}{2\mu} (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} u)^2 = V[m](x, t) & \text{(Hamilton Jacobi)} \end{cases}$$

- The $\sigma^2 = 0$ limit of MFG equations leads to a system of coupled **classical** equations, which are more “intuitive”.
- However this limit is often singular, and a small noise is mandatory to **regularize** the theory



- Genuine interest in the small σ^2 limit of the theory
- $\sigma^2 \rightarrow 0$ limit formally similar to the quantum $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ limit

Outline

- A. WKB approximation for the Fokker Planck equation [*Physica A. 532, 310 (2019)*"]
 - 1. Maslov approach for the Fokker Planck equation
 - 2. Application to the seminar problem
- B. Thomas Fermi approximation and integrability
 - 1. Scaling solutions in the long optimization time limit
 - 2. Schrödinger representation and hydrodynamic formalism
 - 3. Hodograph transform and integrability

A. The time dependent WKB approximation for the Fokker-Planck equation

Fokker-Planck equation :

$$\partial_t m(\mathbf{x}, t) + \nabla(\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}, t)m(\mathbf{x}, t)) - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta m(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0$$

$$(\text{FP}) \times \sigma^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{L}m = 0$$

$$\text{with } \hat{L} \equiv [\lambda^{-1} \partial_t \cdot + \lambda^{-1} \partial_x (a \cdot) - \frac{1}{2} (\lambda^{-1} \partial_x)^2 \cdot]$$

$\equiv \lambda$ -pseudo differential operator

($\lambda \equiv \sigma^{-2}$ assumed large)

Classical symbol : $L(x, t; p, E) = E + pa(x, t) - p^2/2$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{t} = \partial_E L = 1 & \dot{E} = -\partial_t L = -p \partial_t a \\ \dot{x} = \partial_p L = a(t, x) - p & \dot{p} = -\partial_x L = -p \partial_x a \end{cases}$$

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Fokker-Planck equation :

$$\sigma^2 \partial_t m(\mathbf{x}, t) + \sigma^2 \nabla(\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}, t)m(\mathbf{x}, t)) - \frac{\sigma^4}{2} \Delta m(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0$$

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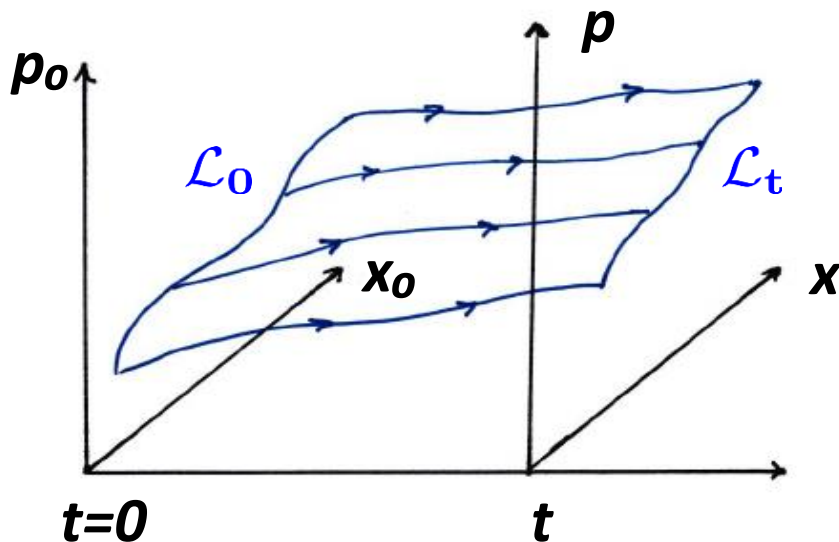
“Semiclassical” initial state : $\mathcal{N}(x_0) \exp [\lambda S_0(x_0)]$

e.g. Gaussian : $m_0(x_0) = \mathcal{N} \exp \left[-\frac{\mu}{2\sigma^2} (x_0 - \bar{x}_0)^2 \right]$

$$S_0(x_0) \equiv -\mu \frac{(x_0 - \bar{x}_0)^2}{2} \quad \mathcal{N} \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2\pi\sigma^2}}$$

→ associate a **Lagrangian manifold** (just a curve in 1d)

$$\mathcal{L}_0 \equiv \{(x_0, p_0(x_0) = \partial_x S_0)\} \xrightarrow{\text{Gaussian}} p_0(x_0) = -\lambda(x_0 - \bar{x}_0)$$



The WKB evolution is based on the classical evolution of the Lagrangian manifold

[Maslov & Fedoriuk (1981)]

Semiclassical action

$$S(t, x) \equiv \int_{[\mathcal{L}: (0, \bar{x}_0) \rightarrow (t, x)] \subset \mathcal{M}} p dx + E dt$$

Semiclassical evolution

$$m_{\text{s.c.}}(t, x) = \frac{\mathcal{N}}{\sqrt{\partial_{x_0} x(t, x_0)}} \exp \left[\lambda S(t, x) - \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_0}^t (\partial_x a) d\tau \right],$$

Difference with usual WKB :

- $\lambda = \frac{1}{\hbar} \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$
- $i\lambda \rightarrow \lambda$
- \hat{L} non-hermitic \Rightarrow term $\exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \int_{t_0}^t (\partial_x a) d\tau \right]$

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Illustration with the drift field of the “seminar problem”

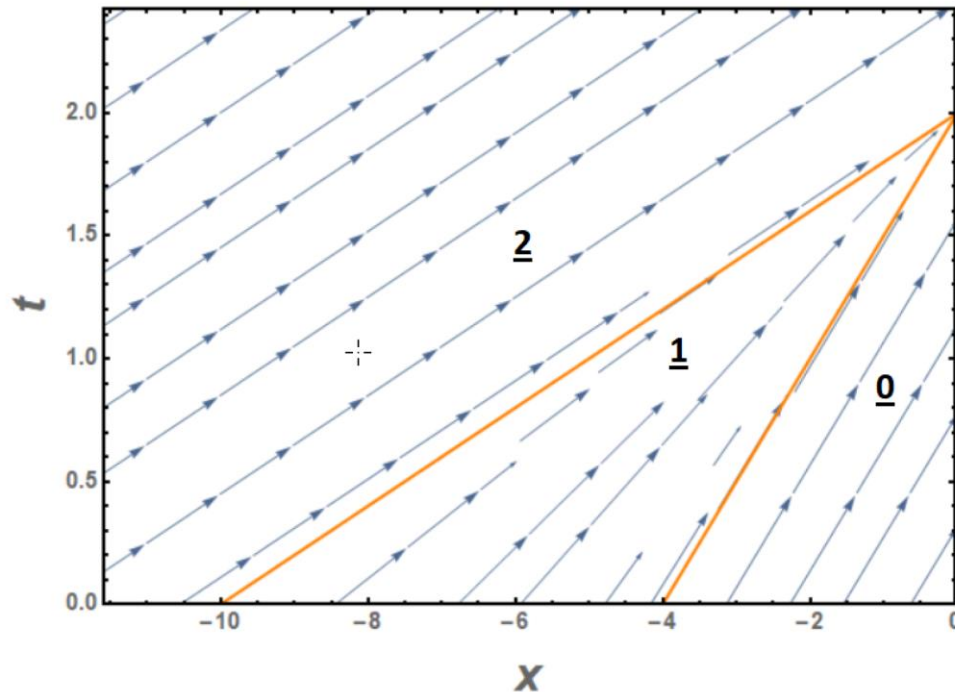


Figure 1 Regions of the (t, x) space, where $T = 2$ is the time when the seminar effectively begins, and their associated optimal drift $a(t, x)$. In regions (0) and (2) the drift stays constant and is denoted respectively $a^{(0)}$ and $a^{(2)}$ (here 5 and 2). In region (1), the drift is linear in x .

$$a(t, x) = \begin{cases} a^{(0)} & \text{for } x \leq -a^{(0)}(T - t) \\ \frac{-x}{(T - t)} & \text{for } -a^{(0)}(T - t) \leq x \leq -a^{(2)}(T - t) \\ a^{(2)} & \text{for } -a^{(2)}(T - t) \leq x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

Constant drift : $a = \text{const.}$

$$S(t, x) = - \left(\frac{\mu t}{1 + \mu t} \right) \left(\frac{(x - \bar{x}_0 - at)^2}{2t} \right)$$

$$\partial_{x_0} x(t, x_0) = 1 + t\mu \quad \partial_x a \equiv 0$$

$$m(t, x) = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2\pi\sigma^2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + t\mu}} \exp \left[- \left(\frac{\mu t}{1 + \mu t} \right) \left(\frac{(x - \bar{x}_0 - at)^2}{2t\sigma^2} \right) \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\mu \rightarrow \infty} G(t, x, \bar{x}_0) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi t\sigma^2}} \exp \left[- \frac{(x - \bar{x}_0 - at)^2}{2t\sigma^2} \right]$$

- Exact result, even for finite μ
- Neumann or Dirichlet boundary conditions can be implemented

Linear drift : $a = -x/(T-t)$

$$S(t, x) = \frac{\mu(\bar{x}_0(t - T) - Tx)^2}{2(T - t)(T - t + \mu Tt)} .$$

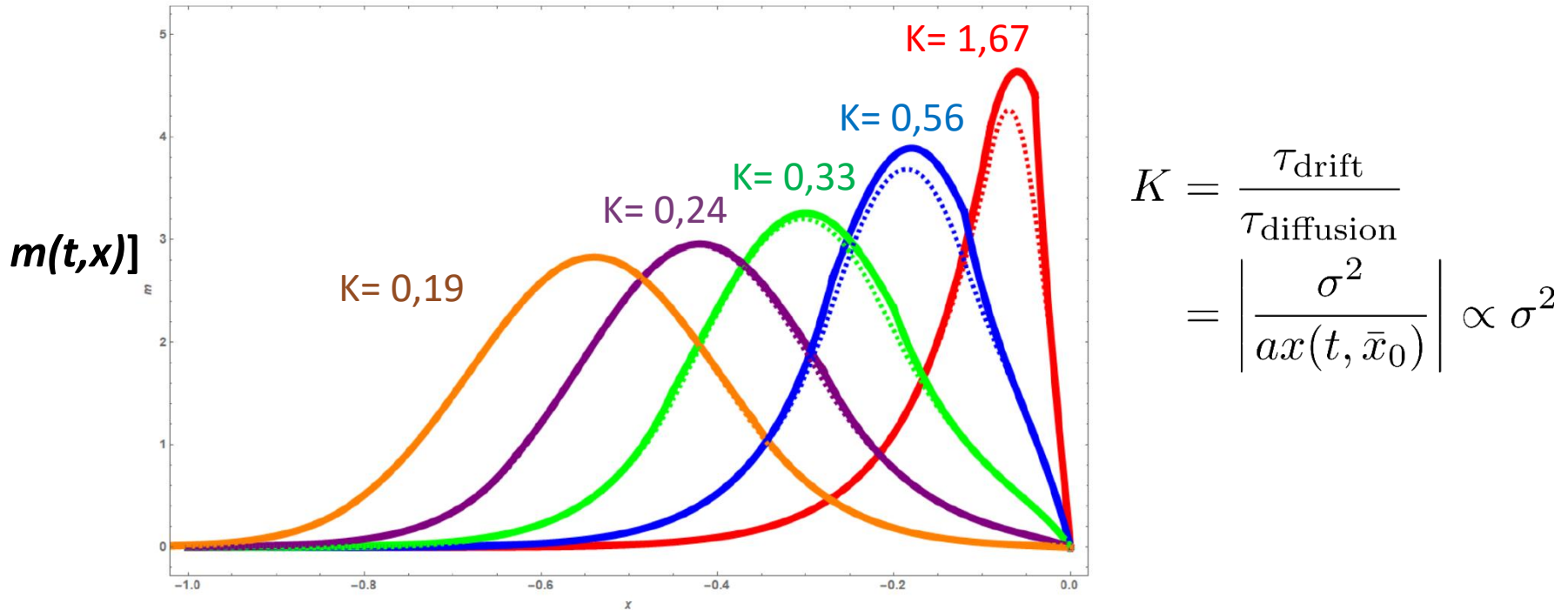
$$\partial x / \partial x_0 = (T - t + \mu tT) / T, \quad \int_0^t (\partial_x a) dt = \log[(T - t) / T]$$

$$m(t, x) = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2\pi\sigma^2}} \sqrt{\frac{T^2}{(\mu tT - T - t)(T - t)}} \exp \left[\frac{\mu(xT - (T - t)\bar{x}_0)^2}{2\sigma^2(t - T)(T - t + \mu Tt)} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\mu \rightarrow \infty} G(t, x, \bar{x}_0) = \sqrt{\frac{T}{2\pi\sigma^2 t(T - t)}} \exp \left(-\frac{T(x - \frac{T-t}{T}\bar{x}_0)^2}{2\sigma^2 t(T - t)} \right)$$

- Exact result again, even for finite μ
- Neumann or Dirichlet boundary conditions can be implemented

Coupling the two solutions [with Dirichlet $m(t,0) = 0$ at origin]



$$K = \frac{\tau_{\text{drift}}}{\tau_{\text{diffusion}}} = \left| \frac{\sigma^2}{ax(t, \bar{x}_0)} \right| \propto \sigma^2$$

Figure 4 Spatial distribution of the agents at fixed time, dashed lines show the numerical solution while solid lines show the approximation. From left to right, $K = 0.19$ and $t = 1.1$, $K = 0.24$ and $t = 1.3$, $K = 0.33$ and $t = 1.5$, $K = 0.56$ and $t = 1.7$, $K = 1.67$ and $t = 1.9$. In this case $T = 2$, $a^{(0)} = 0.4$, $a^{(2)} = 0.9$, $\sigma = 0.2$, $\bar{x}_0 = 1.2$ and $\tau = 106$.

B. Thomas Fermi approximation and integrability

- Mean Field Games equations [$a = -\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}u$, $m \equiv$ agent density]

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t m + \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}(am) - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} m = 0 \\ m(x, t=0) = m_0(x) \end{cases} \quad (\text{Fokker-Planck}) .$$

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u - \frac{1}{2\mu} (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} u)^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} u = V[m](x, t) \\ u(x, t=T) = c_T(x) \end{cases} \quad (\text{HJB}) .$$

- Repulsive interaction between the agents

$$V[m](x) = U_0(x) + gm(x) ; \quad g < 0$$

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- Repulsive interaction between the agents

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- Strong interaction regime

$$|g \nabla_x m| \gg |\nabla U_0| ; \quad \eta \equiv \frac{\mu \sigma^2}{|g|} \ll L$$

The « ergodic » state

Th : [Cardaliaguet, Lasry, Lions, Porretta (2013)]

- No explicit time dependence: $V[m](\mathbf{x}, t)$
- Long time limit for the optimization : $T \rightarrow \infty$
- ... + other conditions

\exists an *ergodic* state $(m_e(\mathbf{x}), u_e(\mathbf{x}), \lambda)$ such that,

for $0 \ll t \ll T$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} m(\mathbf{x}, t) \simeq m_e(\mathbf{x}) \\ u(\mathbf{x}, t) \simeq u_e(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda t \end{array} \right.$$

(m_e, u_e, λ) such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda - \frac{1}{2\mu} (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} u_e)^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} u_e = V[m_e](x) \\ \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}(\bar{m}(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} u_e)) - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} m_e = 0 \end{array} \right. .$$

E.g. finite box ($d=1$), $U_o(x) \equiv 0$

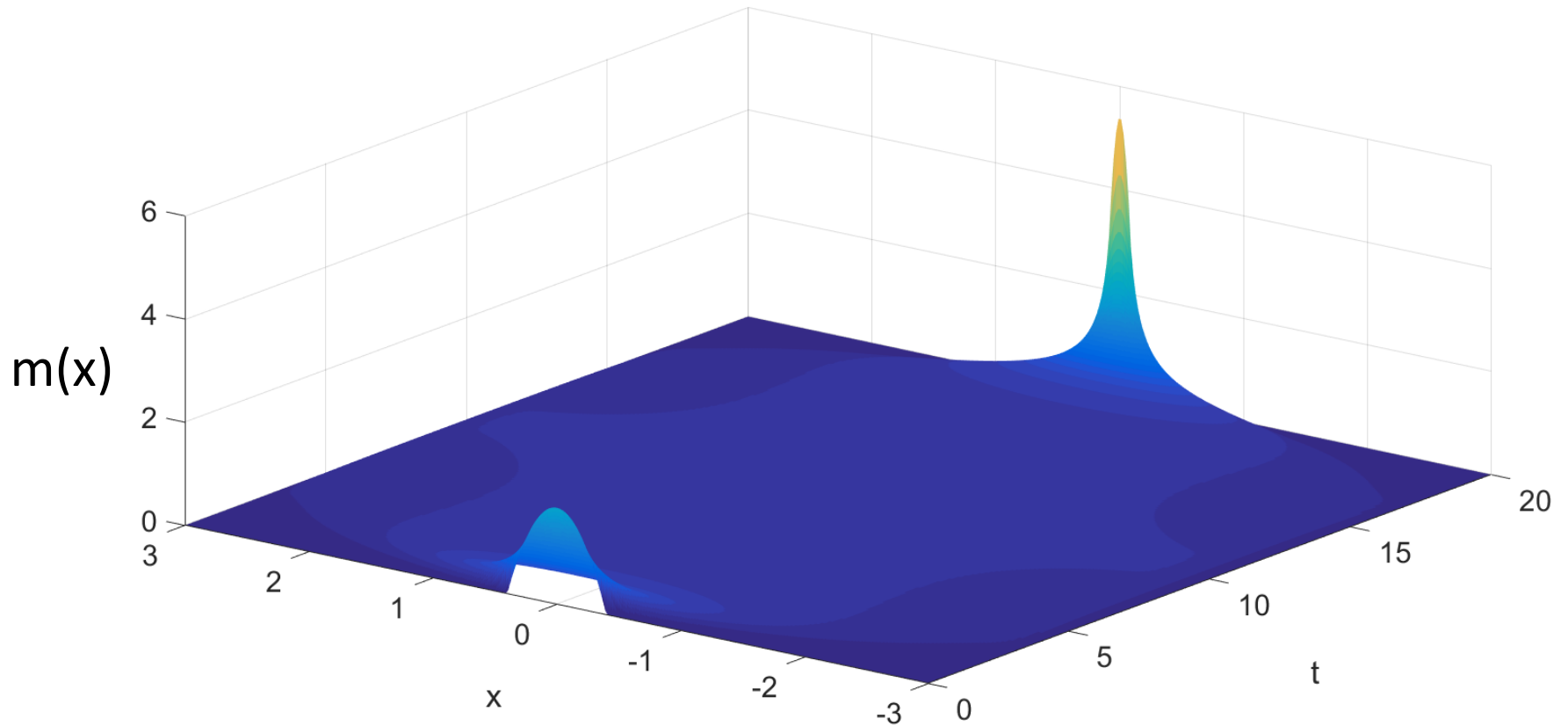


Figure 3 Distribution of the agents as a function of time and position, in the long optimization time limit $T \gg 1$, for negative coordination ($g < 0$) and in the absence of "one-body potential" ($U_0(x) = 0$).

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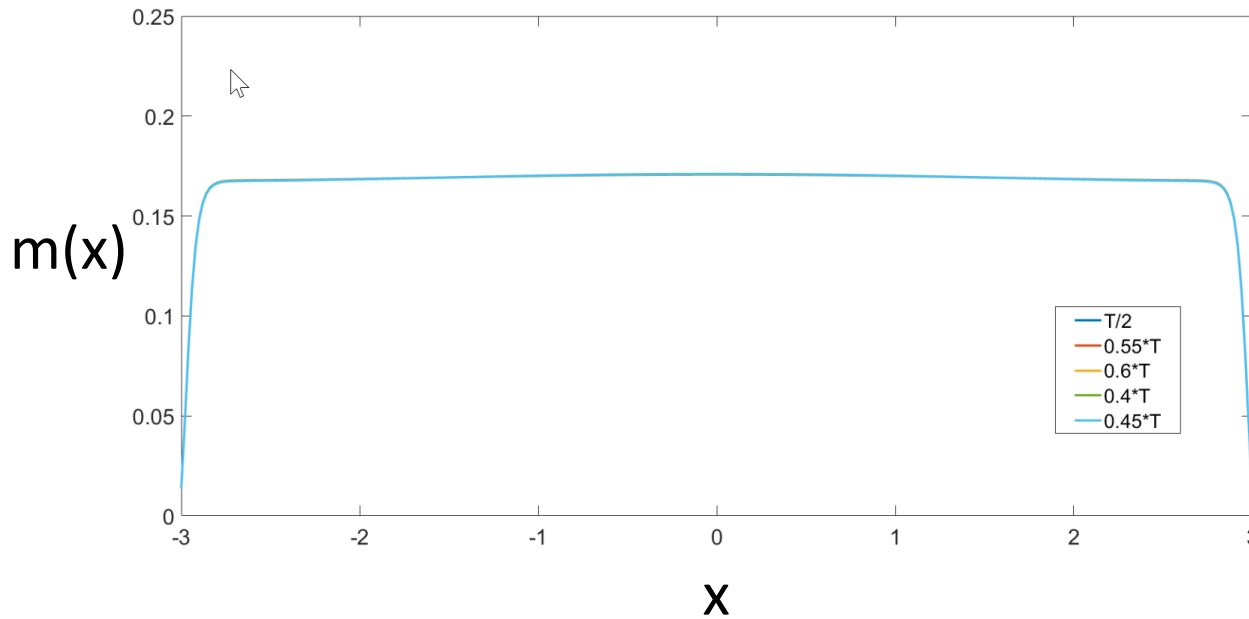
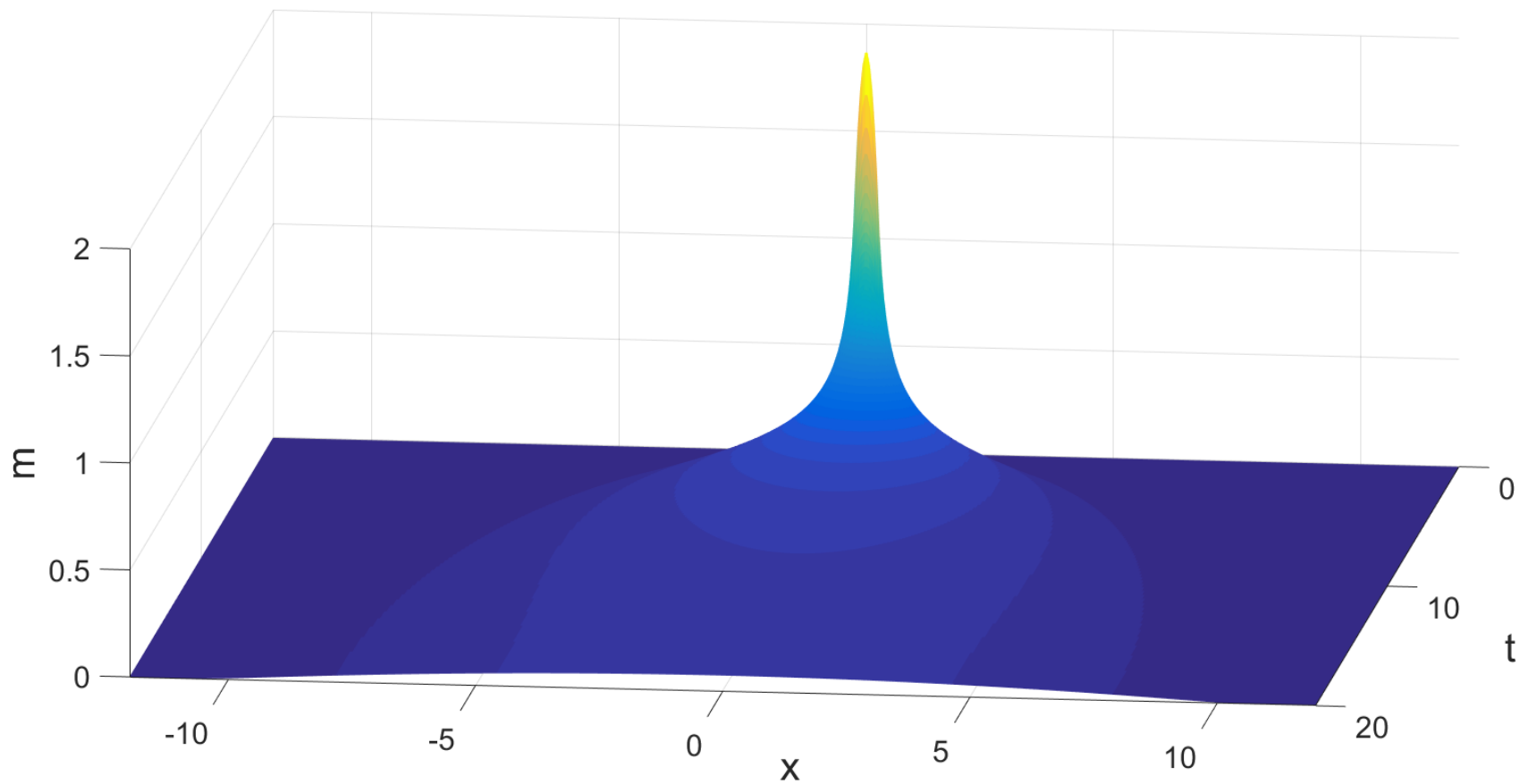


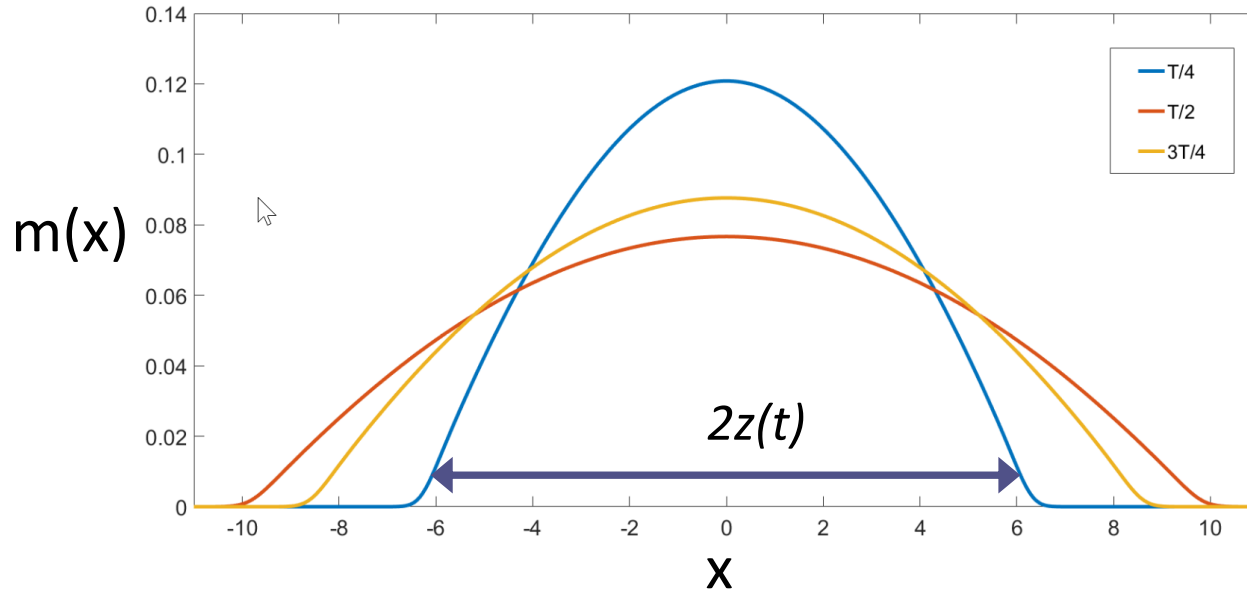
Figure 4 Spatial distribution of the agents at fixed time, in the long optimization time limit $T \gg 1$ ($U_0(x) = 0$). The various curves correspond to $t/T = 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, 0.55, 0.6$

Question : what about infinite boxes ?

“infinite” box ($d=1$), $U_o(x) \equiv 0$



“infinite” box ($d=1$), $U_o(x) \equiv 0$



$$\eta \equiv \frac{\mu\sigma^2}{|g|} \ll z$$

Numerical facts (for typical boundary conditions) :

- $m(x, t)$ looks very much like an inverted parabola

$$m(x, t) \simeq \frac{3(z(t)^2 - x^2)}{4z(t)^3}$$

- its width scale as

$$z(t) \sim t^{2/3}$$

How do we understand this ?

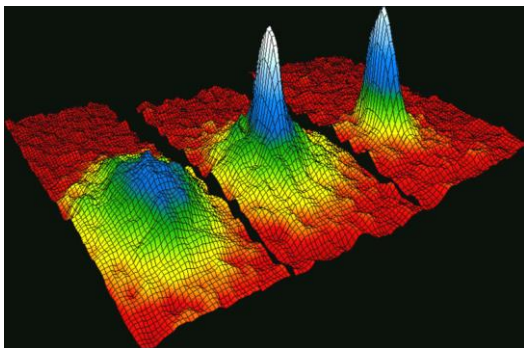
1rst stage : transformation into Non Linear Schrödinger

[Swiecicki, Gobron, Ullmo prl (2016), Phys Rep. (2019)]

- Introduce two new variables $\Phi(x, t)$, $\Gamma(x, t)$ defined by :

$$u(x, t) = -\mu\sigma^2 \log(\Phi(x, t)) \quad , \quad m(x, t) = \Gamma(x, t)\Phi(x, t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mu\sigma^2 \partial_t \Gamma = \frac{\mu\sigma^4}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} \Gamma + U_0(\mathbf{x})\Gamma + g m \Gamma \\ -\mu\sigma^2 \partial_t \Phi = \frac{\mu\sigma^4}{2} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} \Phi + U_0(\mathbf{x})\Phi + g m \Phi \end{cases} \quad m = \Gamma\Phi$$



$$i\hbar\partial_t \Psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} \Psi + U_0(\mathbf{x})\Psi + g|\Psi|^2 \Psi$$


Non-Linear Schrödinger

$$(\Psi, \Psi^*, \hbar) \rightarrow (\Phi, \Gamma, i\mu\sigma^2)$$

2cd stage : hydrodynamic variables

- Go back from $(\Phi(x, t), \Gamma(x, t)) \longrightarrow (m(x, t), v(x, t)) :$

$$v(x, t) = \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \left(\frac{\nabla\Phi(x, t)}{\Phi(x, t)} - \frac{\nabla\Gamma(x, t)}{\Gamma(x, t)} \right)$$



$$\begin{cases} \partial_t m + \nabla(mv) = 0 \\ \partial_t v + \nabla \left[\frac{\sigma^4}{2\sqrt{m}} \Delta \sqrt{m} + \frac{v^2}{2} + \frac{g}{\mu} m + U_0(x) \right] = 0 \end{cases}$$

- Riemann invariants nomenclature


$$\xi(x, t) = v(x, t), \quad \eta(x, t) = \sqrt{\frac{|g|m(x, t)}{\mu}}$$

$(\lambda_{\pm} = \xi \pm i\eta$ are the Riemann invariants)

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3rd stage : hodograph transform and potential representation

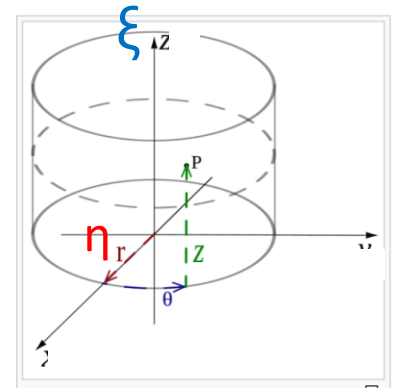
- The equations governing (m, v) , (i.e. (η, ξ)) are non linear, but they are first order (ie in some sens linear) in (∂_x, ∂_t)

$$\Rightarrow \text{invert : } (\eta(x, t), \xi(x, t)) \rightarrow (x(\eta, \xi), t(\eta, \xi))$$

- Potential representation : $\chi(\eta, \xi)$

$$\partial_{\xi, \xi} \chi + \partial_{\eta, \eta} \chi + \frac{1}{\eta} \partial_{\eta} \chi = 0$$

(Laplace equation in cylindrical coordinates)



$$\Rightarrow \vec{E} = -\nabla V, \quad \begin{cases} E_{\eta} = -\partial_{\eta} \chi = -\eta t \\ E_{\xi} = -\partial_{\xi} \chi = -2(x - \xi t) \end{cases}$$

- Implementing boundary conditions is however not so straightforward : e.g. at $t = 0$

$$m(x, t=0) = m_0(x) \Leftrightarrow m(x(\eta, \xi) \text{ s.t. } t(\eta, \xi)=0) = m_0(x(\eta, \xi))$$

Boundary conditions (eg at $t=0$)

To meet the initial boundary condition, one needs to

- Pick a solution of

$$\partial_{\xi,\xi}\chi + \partial_{\eta,\eta}\chi + \frac{1}{\eta}\partial_{\eta}\chi = 0$$

- Derive $x(\xi, \eta)$ and $t(\xi, \eta)$ from

$$\begin{cases} E_{\eta} = -\eta t(\xi, \eta) \\ E_{\xi} = -2(x(\xi, \eta) - \xi t(\xi, \eta)) \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} t = -E_{\eta}(\xi, \eta)/\eta \\ x = -\frac{1}{2}E_{\xi}(\xi, \eta) + \frac{\xi}{\eta}E_{\eta}(\xi, \eta) \end{cases}$$

- Locate the surface $t(\xi, \eta) = 0$
- Check that on that surface that

$$x(\xi, \eta) = (m_0)^{-1} \left[\left(\frac{\mu\eta}{g} \right)^2 \right] \quad \text{since } \eta = \sqrt{\frac{|g|m}{\mu}}$$

Multipolar expansion

- View χ are originating from a distribution of charges $\rho(\xi, \eta)$ located either near the origin ($(t > T)$), or at infinity ($(t < 0)$).
- Multipolar expansion ($r = \sqrt{\xi^2 + \eta^2}$)

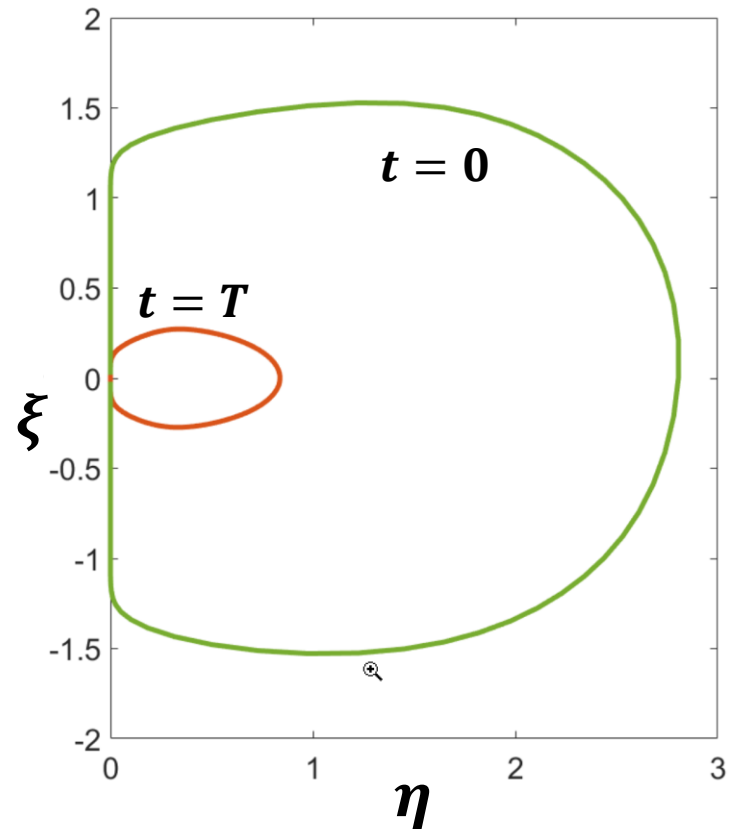
$$\chi(\xi, \eta) = \sum_{l=-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{Q_l}{r^{l+1}} P_l \left(\frac{\xi}{r} \right)$$

($l \geq 0 \rightarrow$ charge near origin;

$l < 0 \rightarrow$ charge at infinity)

- For $0 \ll t \ll T$: keep only the monopole

$$\chi(\xi, \eta) = \frac{Q_0}{r}$$



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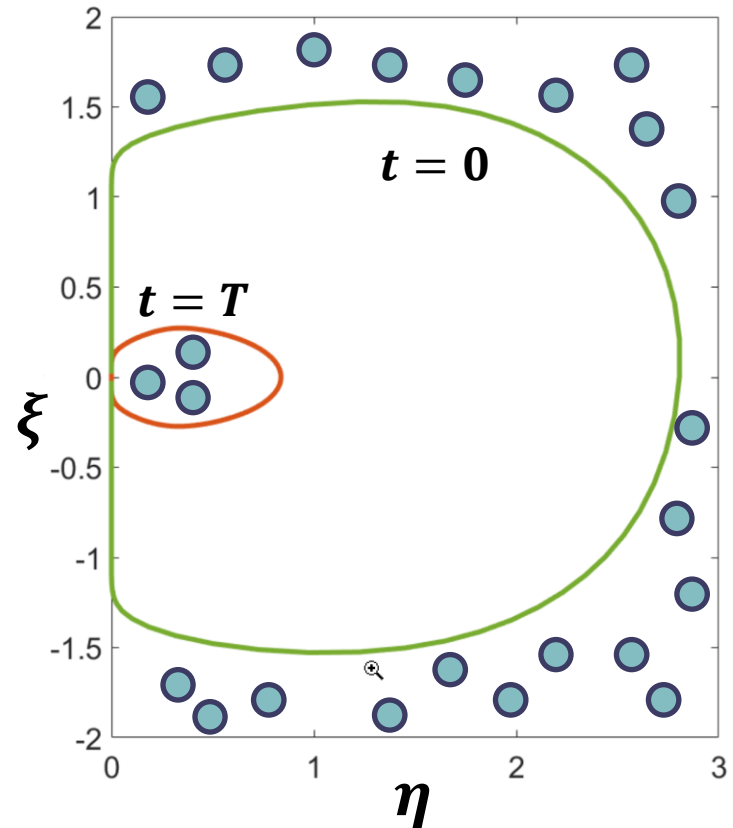
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Long optimization time limit $T \rightarrow \infty$

- Monopole potential

$$\chi(\xi, \eta) = \frac{Q_0}{\sqrt{\eta^2 + \xi^2}}$$

- Electric field

$$\begin{cases} E_\eta = -\eta \frac{Q_0}{(\eta^2 + \xi^2)^{3/2}} = -\eta t \\ E_\xi = -\xi \frac{Q_0}{(\eta^2 + \xi^2)^{3/2}} = -2(x - \xi t) \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} t = \frac{Q_0}{(\eta^2 + \xi^2)^{3/2}} \\ \xi t = 2(x - \xi t) \Rightarrow \xi = \frac{2x}{3t} \end{cases}$$

- And thus (remember that $\eta^2 = |g|m/\mu$)

$$\eta^2 = \left(\frac{Q_0}{t}\right)^{2/3} - \left(\frac{2x}{3t}\right)^2 = \frac{3}{2} \frac{\left(Q_0^{2/3} \tilde{z}(t)^2 - x^2\right)}{\tilde{z}(t)^3} \quad \tilde{z}(t) = \frac{3}{2} t^{2/3}$$

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What about the charge Q_0 ?

Gauss $Q_0 = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S_{\tilde{t}}} (\vec{E} \cdot \vec{n}) dS$

$$\begin{cases} E_\eta = -\eta t \\ E_\xi = -2(x - \xi t) \end{cases}$$

$$dS = \eta \sqrt{(\partial_x \xi)^2 + (\partial_x \eta)^2} d\theta dx \quad \hat{n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(\partial_x \xi)^2 + (\partial_x \eta)^2}} \left((\partial_x \xi) \hat{\xi} - (\partial_x \eta) \hat{\eta} \right)$$

$$Q_0 = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left[\underbrace{-\tilde{t} \partial_x(\eta^2 \xi)}_{\rightarrow 0} + 2 \underbrace{x \eta \partial_x \eta}_{\rightarrow x \partial_x(\eta^2)} \right] dx = \frac{2g}{\mu} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} m(x) dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad m(x, t) = \frac{3}{4} \frac{(z(t)^2 - x^2)}{z(t)^3} \quad z(t) = \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{2|g|}{\mu} \right)^{1/3} t^{2/3}$$

$$\eta^2 = \frac{|g|m}{\mu}$$

Multipolar coefficients Q_n

- The Mean Field Game equations with $U_0(x) \equiv 0$ are integrable with the “charges” Q_n as constant of motions
- Q_n $n \geq 0 \rightarrow$ “usual” integral of motion in the language of Non-Linear Schrödinger Equation
(eg $Q_1 \rightarrow$ momentum, $Q_2 \rightarrow$ energy)
- Q_n $n < 0 \rightarrow$ “new” integral of motion
(eg : $Q_{-2} \rightarrow$ initial time)

Conclusion

- Limit $\sigma^2 \rightarrow 0$ of Mean Field Games equations share a lot of formal similarity with the quantum $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ limit
- For the Fokker Planck equation, a WKB approach “à la Maslov” can be constructed with minor modifications, an work beautifully well.
- In the “large repulsive interaction” limit where $U_0(x)$ can be neglected, the system of coupled Mean Field Games equations become integrable.
- The (semiclassical) Thomas Fermi regime can then be addressed using a potential representation in which the “charges” of the multipolar expansion are the integral of motion.
- In the large optimization time T limit, and for $0 \ll t \ll T$ regime, keeping only the monopolar term leads to the scaling behavior observed numerically.