## Quadratic is the new smooth

A notion of viscosity for control problems in the Wasserstein space over  $\mathbb{R}^d$ 



Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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Definitions				
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#### Let

- $[0,T] \times \Omega$  an underlying space,
- measurable controls  $u \in \mathcal{U}_{[0,T]}$ ,  $u(\cdot): [0,T] \mapsto U \subset \mathbb{R}^{\kappa}$  compact,



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## Definitions

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- A notion of ODE satisfying

$$\begin{cases} y_0^{0,x,u}=x\in\Omega,\\ \frac{d}{dt}y_t^{0,x,u}=f(y_t^{0,x,u},u(t)), \end{cases}$$



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• A terminal cost  $\mathcal{J}: \Omega \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ .

Given  $x \in \Omega$ , find  $u(\cdot)$  such that

 $\mathcal{J}(y_T^{0,x,u}) \leqslant \mathcal{J}(y_T^{0,x,v}) \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{U}_{[0,T]}.$ 





Let the value function  $V: [0,T] \times \Omega \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  be given by  $V(t,x) \coloneqq \inf_{u(\cdot) \in \mathcal{U}_{[t,T]}} \mathcal{J}(y_T^{t,x,u}).$ 



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**Bellman's principle** For all  $h \in [0, T - t]$ ,  $V(t, x) = \inf_{u(\cdot) \in \mathcal{U}_{[t,t+h]}} V(t + h, y_{t+h}^{t,x,u})$ .



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$$-\partial_t V(t,x) + \sup_{u \in U} - \langle \nabla V(t,x), f(x,u) \rangle = 0.$$
 (HJB)



Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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Viscosity solutions

Consider more generally the HJ equation in  $Q\coloneqq]0,T[\times\Omega$ 

$$-\partial_t V(t,x) + H(x,\nabla V(t,x)) = 0, \qquad V(T,x) = \mathcal{J}(x).$$
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A map  $v: \overline{Q} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is a sub/supersolution of (HJ) if  $\pm v$  is u.s.c, and for all  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^1(Q, \mathbb{R})$  such that  $\pm (v - \varphi)$  is maximized at  $(t, x) \in Q$ ,

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Another definition by super/subdifferentials.

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$$d_{\mathcal{W}}^{2}\left(\mu,\nu\right) \coloneqq \inf\left\{ \int_{(x,y)\in(\mathbb{R}^{d})^{2}} d^{2}(x,y)d\eta(x,y) \ \left| \ \eta\in\mathscr{P}((\mathbb{R}^{d})^{2}), \ \int_{y} d\eta(\cdot,y) = \mu, \ \int_{x} d\eta(x,\cdot) = \nu \right\} \right\}$$

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**Pushforward of measures** Let  $g : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}^d$  be a measurable map, and  $\mu \in \mathscr{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . The pushforward  $g \# \mu \in \mathscr{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is given by  $[g \# \mu](A) = \mu \left(g^{-1}(A)\right)$  for all  $A \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ .

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Moving $(1/2)$ : t	the exponential			

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$$\exp_{\mu}(t \cdot \xi) \coloneqq (\pi_x + t\pi_v) \# \xi \qquad \forall \xi \in \mathscr{P}_{\mu}(T\mathbb{R}^d),$$

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•  $\exp_{\mu}(t \cdot \xi) := (\pi_x + t\pi_v) \# \xi$ 

• 
$$W_{\mu}\left(\xi,\overline{\xi}\right) \coloneqq \lim_{t \searrow 0} \frac{d_{\mathcal{W}}\left(\exp_{\mu}(t\cdot\xi),\exp_{\mu}(t\cdot\overline{\xi})\right)}{t}$$
,

$$\begin{array}{l|c} \hline \label{eq:control problems} & \underline{\operatorname{Wasserstein}}_{\operatorname{COOD}} & \underline{\operatorname{Viscosity}}_{\operatorname{COOD}} & \underline{\operatorname{Coopparison}}_{\operatorname{COOD}} & \underline{\operatorname{Results}}_{\operatorname{COOD}} & \underline{\operatorname{Results}}_{\operatorname{Results}} & \underline{\operatorname{Results}}_{\operatorname{Results}$$

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 $\operatorname{exp}_{\mu}(t \cdot \xi) := (\pi_x + t\pi_v) \# \xi \quad \forall \xi \in \mathscr{P}_{\mu}(T\mathbb{R}^d),$   
 $\operatorname{exp}_{\mu}(\xi, \overline{\xi}) := \lim_{t \to 0} \frac{d_{W}(\exp_{\mu}(t \cdot \xi), \exp_{\mu}(t \cdot \overline{\xi}))}{t},$   
 $\pi^{\mu} : \mathscr{P}_{\mu}(T\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto T_{\mu} \mathscr{P}_2(T\mathbb{R}^d)$  a partially defined projection.  
Now  $t \mapsto \exp_{\mu}(t \cdot \xi)$  is a measure analogue of  $t \mapsto x + tv$ .

# Moving (2/2): the continuity equation

We follow solutions  $(\mu_s^{t,\nu,u})_{s\in[t,T]}$  of the controlled nonlocal continuity equation (see [AGS05])

$$\mu_t = \nu, \qquad \partial_s \mu_s + \operatorname{div} \left( f(\cdot, \mu_s, u(s)) \mu_s \right) = 0.$$
(CE)

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Two conflicting notions of *straight lines*:

• convex combinations  $\mu_t^{\uparrow} = (1-t)\mu_0 + t\mu_1$  (vertical displacement)



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- convex combinations  $\mu_t^{\uparrow} = (1-t)\mu_0 + t\mu_1$  (vertical displacement)
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The squared distance  $d^2_{\mathcal{W}}(\cdot,\sigma)$  is

• convex along  $(\mu_t^{\uparrow})_{t\in[0,1]}$ ,



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The squared distance  $d^2_{\mathcal{W}}(\cdot,\sigma)$  is

- convex along  $(\mu_t^{\uparrow})_{t\in[0,1]}$ ,
- semiconcave along  $(\vec{\mu_t})_{t \in [0,1]}$  (see [AGS05]):

$$d_{\mathcal{W}}^{2}(\vec{\mu}_{t},\sigma) \ge (1-t)d_{\mathcal{W}}^{2}(\vec{\mu}_{0},\sigma) + td_{\mathcal{W}}^{2}(\vec{\mu}_{1},\sigma) - t(1-t)d_{\mathcal{W}}^{2}(\vec{\mu}_{0},\vec{\mu}_{1}).$$





Two conflicting notions of *straight lines*:

- convex combinations  $\mu_t^{\uparrow} = (1-t)\mu_0 + t\mu_1$  (vertical displacement)
- geodesics  $\vec{\mu}_t = \exp_{\mu}(t \cdot \xi)$  for  $\xi \in \mathscr{P}_{\mu,o}(T\mathbb{R}^d)$  (horizontal displacement)

The squared distance  $d^2_{\mathcal{W}}(\cdot,\sigma)$  is

- convex along  $(\mu_t^{\uparrow})_{t\in[0,1]}$ ,
- semiconcave along  $(\vec{\mu_t})_{t \in [0,1]}$  (see [AGS05]):

$$\begin{aligned} d_{\mathcal{W}}^2(\vec{\mu}_t,\sigma) &\geq (1-t) d_{\mathcal{W}}^2(\vec{\mu}_0,\sigma) + t d_{\mathcal{W}}^2(\vec{\mu}_1,\sigma) \\ &- t(1-t) d_{\mathcal{W}}^2\left(\vec{\mu}_0,\vec{\mu}_1\right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence directionally differentiable along  $t \mapsto \exp_{\mu}(t \cdot \xi)!$ 



Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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Let 
$$\mu_n \coloneqq \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)\delta_0 + \frac{1}{n^2}\delta_n$$
.

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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Let 
$$\mu_n \coloneqq \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2}\right) \delta_0 + \frac{1}{n^2} \delta_n$$
. On one hand,

$$d_{\mathcal{W}}(\delta_0, \mu_n) = 1 \qquad \forall n \ge 1.$$

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But  $\mu_n \xrightarrow[n \to \infty]{\text{narrow}} \delta_0$ , since for  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R})$ ,  
 $\langle \varphi, \mu_n \rangle = \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2}\right) \varphi(0) + \frac{1}{n^2} \varphi(n)$   
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Without bounds on the support,  $\mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is not locally compact.

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	<b>Results</b>
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  - ▶ setting of this presentation, in the line of [JJZ] and [Jer22].

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	<b>Results</b>
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Let 
$$\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R})$$
. Then  $\forall b \in T\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\langle \nabla \varphi(x), b \rangle = \lim_{t \searrow 0} \frac{\varphi(x+tb) - \varphi(x)}{t}$ .

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 $D_{\mu}\varphi$  is Lipschitz for  $W_{\mu}$  and positively homogeneous. Let

$$\mathbb{T} \coloneqq \bigcup_{\mu \in \mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \{\mu\} \times \{W_\mu - \text{Lipschitz and positively homogeneous maps}\},\$$

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$$\begin{split} \mathbb{T} &\coloneqq \bigcup_{\mu \in \mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \{\mu\} \times \{W_\mu - \text{Lipschitz and positively homogeneous maps}\}, \\ H &: \mathbb{T} \mapsto \mathbb{R}, \qquad H(\mu, p) \coloneqq \sup_{u \in U} -p\left(\pi^\mu \circ f(\cdot, \mu, u) \# \mu\right) \qquad \text{v.s.} \quad \sup_{u \in U} - \langle p, f(x, u) \rangle \end{split}$$

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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## The choice of test functions

# Define $\mathcal{T}_{\pm} := \{(t,\mu) \mapsto \psi(t) \pm \varphi(\mu) \mid \psi \in \mathcal{C}^1([0,T],\mathbb{R}), \varphi \text{ locally Lip and semiconcave}\}.$

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A map  $v : [0,T] \times \mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is a sub/supersolution of (HJ) if  $\pm v$  is u.s.c, and for all  $\varphi \in \mathcal{T}_{\pm}$  such that  $\pm (v - \varphi)$  is maximized at  $(t, \mu) \in [0, T[\times \mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d),$ 

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A map  $v: [0,T] \times \mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is a solution if it is a subsolution, a supersolution, and if  $v(T,x) = \mathcal{J}(x)$ .

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#### ▷ Issue 1 solved! <</p>

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	<b>Results</b>
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- 2. Introduce a variable doubling function  $\Phi(z_v, z_w) := w(z_w) v(z_v) + \frac{d^2(z_v, z_w)}{\varepsilon}$ .



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Step 3. implies to minimize a l.s.c function, but no local compactness.


Let (X, d) be a complete metric space.

**Gauge-type functions** Any lower semicontinuous  $\rho : X \times X \mapsto [0, \infty]$  satisfying  $\rho(x, x) = 0$  for all  $x \in X$ , and  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\exists \eta > 0$  such that  $\rho(x, y) \leq \eta$  implies  $d(x, y) \leq \varepsilon$ .



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**Theorem – Borwein-Preiss [BP87]** Let  $f: X \mapsto \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$  be proper, lsc and lower bounded. Let  $\rho$  be gauge-type,  $(\delta_i)_i \subset \mathbb{R}^+_*$ , and  $x_0 \in X$  such that  $f(x_0) \leq \inf_X f + \varepsilon$ .

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$$\rho(x_0, y) \leqslant \varepsilon / \delta_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho(x_i, y) \leqslant \varepsilon / (2^i \delta_0) \tag{1a}$$

(1b) (1c)

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$$\begin{pmatrix} \rho(x_0, y) \leqslant \varepsilon / \delta_0 & \text{and} & \rho(x_i, y) \leqslant \varepsilon / (2^i \delta_0) \\ f(y) + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \delta_i \rho(y, x_i) \leqslant f(x_0) \\ \end{cases}$$
(1a) (1b)

(1c)

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$$\begin{cases} \rho(x_0, y) \leqslant \varepsilon/\delta_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho(x_i, y) \leqslant \varepsilon/(2^i\delta_0) \\ f(y) + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \delta_i \rho(y, x_i) \leqslant f(x_0) \\ f(x) + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \delta_i \rho(x, x_i) > f(y) + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \delta_i \rho(y, x_i) \quad \forall x \in X \setminus \{y\}. \end{cases}$$
(1c)

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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## Illustration of Borwein-Preiss



Figure: Iterative construction with  $f(x) = (1 + |x|)^{-1}$ ,  $\delta_i = 0.01/(1 + i)^2$ ,  $\rho(x, y) = |x - y|^2$ .

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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## Illustration of Borwein-Preiss



Figure: Iterative construction with  $f(x) = (1 + |x|)^{-1}$ ,  $\delta_i = 0.01/(1 + i)^2$ ,  $\rho(x, y) = |x - y|^2$ .

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Borwein-Preiss:  $\forall \delta > 0$ , existence of minimum of a *perturbed* function  $\Phi(\cdot, \cdot) + \alpha_{\delta}(\cdot, \cdot)$ .



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• For each  $\delta > 0$ , obtain a minimum point  $(z_{v,\delta}^*, z_{w,\delta}^*)$  of  $\Phi(\cdot, \cdot) + \alpha_{\delta}(\cdot, \cdot)$ .

$$w(\boldsymbol{\cdot}) - \left[v(z_{v,\delta}^*) - \frac{d^2(z_{v,\delta}^*,\boldsymbol{\cdot})}{\varepsilon} - \alpha_{\delta}(z_{v,\delta}^*,\boldsymbol{\cdot})\right] \text{ minimized.}$$

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• Key idea: build the space of test functions such that the term in bracket is in  $\mathcal{T}_{-}$ .

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• Key idea: build the space of test functions such that the term in bracket is in  $\mathcal{T}_{-}$ .

$$\mathcal{T}_{\underline{+}} \coloneqq \left\{ \mathcal{C}^1([0,T],\mathbb{R}) \underline{+} \sum_{i \geqslant 0} \delta_i d^2_{\mathcal{W}}(\cdot,\sigma_i) \ \Big| \ \delta_i \geqslant 0, \ \sum_{i \geqslant 0} \delta_i < \infty, \ \operatorname{diam}\left(\{\sigma_i\}\right) < \infty. \right\}$$

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• Key idea: build the space of test functions such that the term in bracket is in  $\mathcal{T}_{-}$ .

$$\mathcal{T}_{\pm} \coloneqq \left\{ \mathcal{C}^1([0,T],\mathbb{R}) \pm \sum_{i \geqslant 0} \delta_i d_{\mathcal{W}}^2(\cdot,\sigma_i) \ \Big| \ \delta_i \geqslant 0, \ \sum_{i \geqslant 0} \delta_i < \infty, \ \operatorname{diam}\left(\{\sigma_i\}\right) < \infty. \right\}$$

• Apply the definition of viscosity, some estimate machinery to get rid of the perturbation.

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	<b>Results</b>
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Context of the idea				

• Long history of Ekeland principles in viscosity (Crandall & Lions [CL85] for nonemptiness of subdifferential)

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  - $\blacktriangleright$  To account for the perturbation, introduction of  $\delta-{\rm viscosity}:$

 $\pm \left( -\partial_t \varphi + H\left(\mu, D_\mu \varphi\right) - \delta C \right) \leqslant 0 \qquad \forall \varphi \text{ s.t. } \pm \left( v - \varphi \right) \text{ reaches a } \delta - \max,$ 

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where C > 0 is a constant related to the speed of the propagation of information.

• The "swallowing trick" is a simple idea, but requires a large enough test function set.

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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#### A general introduction to control problems

Elements of Wasserstein spaces and the associated difficulties

Viscosity in the space of measures

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**Results** and perspectives

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	<b>Results</b>
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**Theorem – Comparison principle ([JPZ23])** Assume  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \times U \mapsto T\mathbb{R}^d$ is Lip. and bounded. Let v, w be Lipschitz and bounded sub/supersolutions of (HJ). Then  $\inf_{(t,\mu)\in[0,T]\times\mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} [w(t,\mu) - v(t,\mu)] \ge \inf_{\mu\in\mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} [w(T,\mu) - v(T,\mu)].$ 

What is done

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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**Theorem – Comparison principle ([JPZ23])** Assume  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \times U \mapsto T\mathbb{R}^d$  is Lip. and bounded. Let v, w be Lipschitz and bounded sub/supersolutions of (HJ). Then

$$\inf_{(t,\mu)\in[0,T]\times\mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \left[ w(t,\mu) - v(t,\mu) \right] \geqslant \inf_{\mu\in\mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \left[ w(T,\mu) - v(T,\mu) \right].$$

**Theorem** Assume  $\mathcal{J} : \mathscr{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  and f are Lip. and bounded. The value function V is the unique Lipschitz and bounded viscosity solution of (HJ).

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# Perspectives on this topic

Improving the results:

• weakening the regularity?

Control problems	Wasserstein	Viscosity	Comparison	Results
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• generalization to other spaces than  $\mathbb{R}^d$ 

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- using Measure Differential Equations ([Pic19, CCDMP21])

Control problems	Wasserstein 000000	Viscosity 0000	Comparison 000000	Results

#### Thank you!

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