

# Coarse correlated equilibria in mean field games

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Joint work with Luciano Campi and Federico Cannerozzi

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 The N-player game
- 3 The mean field game
- 4 Approximate coarse correlated equilibria

# Mean field games and $N$ -player games

Mean field games (MFG), as introduced by [Huang, Malhamé, Caines, 2006] and [Lasry & Lions, 2007], arise as limit systems for symmetric non-zero-sum non-cooperative stochastic  $N$ -player games as the number of players  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

Passage to the limit analogous to McKean-Vlasov limit for weakly interacting particle systems; symmetry in the sense of statistically indistinguishable components (exchangeable joint laws).

For games, controlled systems; notion of solution at prelimit level usually (approximate) Nash equilibrium (NE).

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Rigorous connection can be established in two directions:

- 1 Construction of approximate  $N$ -player equilibria from MFG.
- 2 Convergence of  $N$ -player equilibria to MFG solutions.

Crucial: choice of admissible strategies.

# Mean field systems and $N$ -particle systems

McKean-Vlasov limit for uncontrolled weakly interacting particle systems corresponds to **law of large numbers** for associated empirical measures.

**Large deviations** from McKean-Vlasov limit: in Itô diffusion setting, classical results by [Tanaka, 1984], [Dawson & Gärtner, 1987].

Based on Dupuis-Ellis weak convergence approach and [Boué & Dupuis, 1998, Budhiraja & Dupuis, 2000], Laplace principle in [Budhiraja, Dupuis, F., 2012] through **controlled** martingale problems; connection with **mean field type control**.

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Technique useful also for convergence to **MFG** limit of  $N$ -player **open-loop** Nash equilibria [F., 2017, Lacker, 2016].

MFG convergence problem for **closed-loop** NE more difficult; for instance: [Cardaliaguet, Delarue, Lasry, Lions, 2019], [Lacker, 2020], [Lacker & Le Flem, 2023], [Djete, 2023].

Large deviations of closed-loop NE from MFG limit: [Delarue, Lacker, Ramanan, 2020], [Cecchin & Pelino, 2019].

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On connection with mean field type control: [Bezemek & Heldman, 2024].  
LDP for mean field multi-scale systems: [Bezemek & Spiliopoulos, 2023].

# Correlated equilibria

Basis for MFGs are Nash equilibria in underlying  $N$ -player games.

Generalization of Nash equilibrium that allows for **correlation** between players' strategies **without cooperation** due to Robert Aumann [Aumann, 1974, Aumann, 1987].

Aumann's idea: introduce **mediator** or **correlation device** that randomly selects a strategy profile according to some publicly known distribution, then tells each player **in private** which strategy she should play.

A **correlated equilibrium (CE)** is a probability distribution on the space of strategy profiles such that no player has an incentive to unilaterally deviate from the mediator's recommendation **after** having received it.

Prototypical example: traffic lights.



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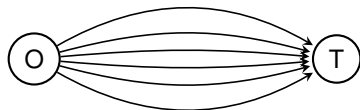
Generalization [Moulin & Vial, 1978]: Players decide whether to follow the mediator's recommendations **before** receiving them. This leads to the notion of **coarse correlated equilibrium (CCE)**.

Observe:

$$\text{NE} \subset \text{CE} \subset \text{CCE}.$$

## A textbook example [Roughgarden, 2016]

Four player routing game. Each player has to choose exactly one of six edges:



Cost to player  $i$  equal to number of players on edge chosen by  $i$ :

$$J_i(\mathbf{a}) \doteq \sum_{j=1}^4 \mathbf{1}_{a_i=a_j}.$$

- Pure NE: any set of four distinct edges. Cost 1 to each player.
- Mixed NE: Edges chosen uniformly and **independently**. Cost 3/2 to each player.
- CE (not NE): Uniform distribution over those strategy profiles that have exactly three edges occupied. Cost 3/2 to each player.
- CCE (not CE): Uniform distribution over those strategy profiles that have exactly three edges occupied and occupied edges are either the lower or the upper three. Cost 3/2 to each player.

# (Coarse) correlated equilibria

Advantages of CE and CCE:

- Possibly lower expected costs (higher efficiency).
- Easier to compute [Papadimitriou & Roughgarden, 2008].
- Easier to justify via learning algorithms [Hart & Mas-Colell, 2003].

Applications in economics or computer science; for instance:

[Moulin, Ray, Sen Gupta, 2014] (duopoly game),  
[Roughgarden, 2016] (routing games).

Literature on (coarse) correlated equilibria mostly for discrete models, but [Nowak, 1993], [Averboukh, 2019] for continuous time deterministic two-player non-zero-sum differential games.

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Little for MFGs: [Campi & F., 2022], [Bonesini, Campi, F., 2024], [Muller et al., 2022, Muller et al., 2022+], [Zhao et al., 2024+], all in discrete time with finite state space. More closely related: [Campi, Cannerozzi, Cartelier, 2023+], [Cannerozzi & Ferrari, 2024+].

# Aim and scope

Start from a class of continuous time finite horizon  $N$ -player differential games with stochastic dynamics driven by additive Wiener noise.

Consider coarse correlated equilibria in **stochastic open-loop** strategies.

- Definition of **coarse correlated solution** for corresponding mean field game; existence of solutions.
- Example of a mean field game possessing explicit non-trivial coarse correlated solutions.
- Construction of approximate  $N$ -player CCE from a coarse correlated MFG solution.

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# Setting

- Finite time horizon:  $T > 0$ .
- Individual player control actions:  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^l$  compact.
- Individual player drift coefficient:  $b: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- Individual player cost coefficients:  $f: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  
 $g: \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
- Initial states and idiosyncratic noise:  $(\xi^i)_{i \geq 1}$  i.i.d.  $\mathbb{R}^d$ -valued random variables with common distribution  $\nu$ ,  $(W^i)_{i \geq 1}$  independent  $d$ -dimensional standard Wiener processes, all defined on the canonical probability space  $(\Omega^1, \mathcal{F}^1, \mathbb{P}^1)$ .
- $N$ -player filtration:  $\mathbb{F}^{1, N}$  is the (completed) filtration generated by  $(W^1, \dots, W^N)$  and  $(\xi)_{i=1}^N$ .
- Admissible  $N$ -player strategy profiles:  $\mathcal{A}_N^N \doteq \times^N \mathcal{A}_N$  where  $\mathcal{A}_N$  space of all  $\mathbb{F}^{1, N}$ -progressively measurable  $A$ -valued processes.

# Admissible recommendations

In a pre-game phase, the mediator chooses a probability distribution  $\gamma$  on  $\mathcal{A}_N^N$  such that  $\gamma = \mathbb{P}^0 \circ \mathbf{\Lambda}^{-1}$  for some **admissible recommendation profile**  $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0), \mathbf{\Lambda})$ :

- $(\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0)$  is a Polish probability space;
- $\mathbf{\Lambda} = (\Lambda^1, \dots, \Lambda^N)$  is an  $\mathcal{A}_N^N$ -valued random variable with law  $\mathbb{P}^0 \circ \mathbf{\Lambda}^{-1} = \gamma$ ;
- setting  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}) \doteq (\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0) \otimes (\Omega^1, \mathcal{F}^1, \mathbb{P}^1)$ , the  $\mathcal{A}_N^N$ -valued process  $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_t^1, \dots, \lambda_t^N)_{t \in [0, T]}$  given by

$$\lambda_t^i(\omega_0, \omega_1) \doteq \Lambda_t^i(\omega_0)(\omega_1), \quad i \in \{1, \dots, N\},$$

is progressively measurable w.r.t. the  $\mathbb{P}$ -augmented filtration  $\mathcal{F}^{0-} \otimes \mathbb{F}^{1, N} = (\mathcal{F}^{0-} \otimes \mathcal{F}_t^{1, N})_{t \in [0, T]}$ .

Initial states  $\xi^1, \xi^2, \dots$ , Wiener processes  $W^1, W^2, \dots$ , and admissible strategies  $\beta \in \mathcal{A}_N$  also live on (filtered) product space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ .



# N-player dynamics and costs

Let  $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0), \mathbf{\Lambda})$  be an admissible recommendation profile.

If **all players precommit** to mediator's recommendations, then costs for player  $i$  given by

$$J_i^N(\mathbf{\Lambda}) \doteq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \int_0^T f(t, X_t^{N,i}, \bar{\mu}_t^N, \lambda_t^i) dt + g(X_T^{N,i}, \bar{\mu}_T^N) \right]$$

with  $\bar{\mu}_t^N \doteq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \delta_{X_t^{N,j}}$  subject to

$$dX_t^{N,j} = b(t, X_t^{N,j}, \bar{\mu}_t^N, \lambda_t^j) dt + dW_t^j, \quad X_0^{N,j} = \xi^j, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, N\}.$$

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If **player  $i$  deviates** using  $\beta \in \mathcal{A}_N$  while the others precommit, then

$$J_i^N(\beta, \mathbf{\Lambda}^{-i}) \doteq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \int_0^T f(t, X_t^{N,i}, \bar{\mu}_t^N, \beta_t) dt + g(X_T^{N,i}, \bar{\mu}_T^N) \right]$$

with  $\bar{\mu}_t^N \doteq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \delta_{X_t^{N,j}}$  subject to

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# N-player coarse correlated equilibrium

## Definition 1.

Let  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ . An admissible recommendation profile  $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0), \mathbf{\Lambda})$  is called an  $\varepsilon$ -**coarse correlated equilibrium** (with initial distribution  $\otimes^N \nu$ ) if for every  $i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ , every strategy  $\beta \in \mathcal{A}_N$ ,

$$J_i^N(\mathbf{\Lambda}) \leq J_i^N(\beta, \mathbf{\Lambda}^{-i}) + \varepsilon.$$

When  $\varepsilon = 0$ , we say that  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  is a **coarse correlated equilibrium**.

Observations:

- 1 Deviations and recommendations in stochastic open-loop strategies.
- 2 When  $\mathbf{\Lambda} = (\Lambda^1, \dots, \Lambda^N)$  is a vector of independent r.v.s, then Definition 1 corresponds to Nash equilibrium in mixed strategies.
- 3 In a non-coarse **correlated equilibrium**, deviating player  $i$  would choose  $\beta$  in function of  $\Lambda_i$ .

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# Admissible recommendations

Aim: Limit model for CCE in  $N$ -player games when  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

Let  $(\Omega^*, \mathcal{F}^*, \mathbb{F}^*, \mathbb{P}^*)$  be the filtered canonical space for an initial state  $\xi$  with distribution  $\nu$  and a standard  $d$ -dimensional Wiener process  $W$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the set of **admissible strategies**, i.e.,  $\mathbb{F}^*$ -progressively measurable  $A$ -valued processes.

An **admissible recommendation** is a pair  $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0), \Lambda)$  such that

- $(\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0)$  is a Polish probability space;
- $\Lambda$  is an  $A$ -valued random variable;
- setting  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}) \doteq (\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0) \otimes (\Omega^*, \mathcal{F}^*, \mathbb{P}^*)$ , the  $A$ -valued process  $\lambda = (\lambda_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$  given by

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is progressively measurable w.r.t. the  $\mathbb{P}$ -augmented filtration  $\mathbb{F} \doteq \mathcal{F}^{0-} \otimes \mathbb{F}^* = (\mathcal{F}^{0-} \otimes \mathcal{F}_t^*)_{t \in [0, T]}$ .

# Mean field game dynamics and costs

Let  $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0), \Lambda, \mu)$  be a **correlated flow**:

- $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0), \Lambda)$  is an admissible recommendation;
- $\mu$  is a  $\mathbf{C}([0, T], \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ -valued random variable on  $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0)$  (**random flow of measures**)).

If the **representative player precommits** to mediator's recommendations, then costs given by

$$J(\Lambda, \mu) \doteq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \int_0^T f(t, X_t, \mu_t, \lambda_t) dt + g(X_T, \mu_T) \right]$$

subject to  $dX_t = b(t, X_t, \mu_t, \lambda_t)dt + dW_t$  with  $X_0 = \xi$ .

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If the **representative player deviates** using  $\beta \in \mathcal{A}$ , then

$$J(\beta, \mu) \doteq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \int_0^T f(t, X_t, \mu_t, \beta_t) dt + g(X_T, \mu_T) \right]$$

subject to  $dX_t = b(t, X_t, \bar{\mu}_t, \beta_t) dt + dW_t$  with  $X_0 = \xi$ .

# Coarse correlated solutions

## Definition 2.

A correlated flow  $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0), \Lambda, \mu)$  is called a **coarse correlated solution** of the mean field game (with initial distribution  $\nu$ ) if the following two conditions hold:

- i **Optimality**: for every strategy  $\beta \in \mathcal{A}$ ,

$$J(\Lambda, \mu) \leq J(\beta, \mu).$$

- ii **Consistency**: with  $X$  state process under  $\Lambda$ ,

$$\mu_t(\cdot) = \mathbb{P}[X_t \in \cdot \mid \mathcal{F}_T^\mu] \quad \text{for all } t \in [0, T].$$

Observations:

- 1 Consistency condition implies  $\mu(t)(\cdot) = \mathbb{P}[X(t) \in \cdot \mid \mathcal{F}_t^\mu]$ .
- 2 Classical MFG solution if  $(\Lambda, \mu)$  deterministic (Dirac distribution).
- 3 Flow of measures  $\mu$  in general non-deterministic although **no** explicit common noise.



# Assumptions

- A1  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^l$  compact;
- A2 initial distribution  $\nu \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathbb{R}^d)$  some  $p > 4$ ;
- A3  $b, f, g$  jointly measurable in all their variables;
- A4  $(x, m, a) \mapsto b(t, x, m, a)$  Lipschitz uniformly in  $t$ ;
- A5  $t \mapsto (b, f)(t, 0, \delta_0, a_0)$  bounded for some  $a_0 \in A$ ;
- A6  $f, g$  locally Lipschitz of sub-quadratic growth in  $(x, m, a)$  (unif. in  $t$ ).

Extra-assumption for the existence of coarse correlated solutions:

- B For all  $(t, x, m) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ,

$$K(t, x, m) \doteq \{(b(t, x, m, a), z) : a \in A, f(t, x, m, a) \leq z\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}$$

is closed and convex.

# Existence of coarse correlated solutions

## Theorem 1.

Grant assumptions A1–A6 and B, then there exists a coarse correlated solution of the mean field game.

Proof based on observation by [Hart & Schmeidler, 1989]:

Let  $(\Lambda, \mu)$  be a coarse correlated solution. Then **optimality** condition:

$$J(\Lambda, \mu) \leq \inf_{\beta \in \mathcal{A}} J(\beta, \mu) \iff \inf_{\beta \in \mathcal{A}} \{J(\beta, \mu) - J(\Lambda, \mu)\} \geq 0.$$

Using a **minimax theorem** (due to K. Fan), we check that the **auxiliary zero-sum game**

$$\sup_{(\Lambda, \mu): \text{admissible and consistent}} \inf_{\beta \in \mathcal{A}} \{J(\beta, \mu) - J(\Lambda, \mu)\}$$

has a value and that  $\inf_{\beta} \sup_{(\Lambda, \mu)} \dots \geq 0$ , thus getting existence of a coarse correlated solution.

Relaxed controls are used to compactify the spaces of strategies in the zero-sum game. Assumption B allows to return to ordinary strategies.

# Example

Similar to [Lacker, 2016], [Bardi & F., 2019]: Choose

$$\begin{aligned}d &= 1, & A &\doteq [a, b] \text{ with } a < 0 < b, & b(t, x, m, \gamma) &= \gamma, \\f &\equiv 0, & g(x, m) &= -x \cdot \int_{\mathbb{R}} y m(dy), & \nu &= \delta_0.\end{aligned}$$

Costs associated with an admissible recommendation  $(\Lambda, \mu)$  thus given by

$$J(\Lambda, \mu) \doteq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ -X_T \cdot \int_{\mathbb{R}} y \mu_T(dy) \right],$$

subject to

$$dX_t = \Lambda_t dt + dW_t, \quad X_0 = 0.$$

There exist two classical MFG solutions (in open loop strategies):

$$u_t^+ = b, \quad \mu_t^+ = \mathcal{L}(tb + W_t); \quad u_t^- = a, \quad \mu_t^- = \mathcal{L}(ta + W_t).$$

## Example (cont.)

Now, define the following “mixtures”:

$$\mu^1 \doteq w_1 \mu^+ + (1 - w_1) \mu^-, \quad \mu^2 \doteq w_2 \mu^+ + (1 - w_2) \mu^-,$$

with weights  $w_1, w_2 \in [0, 1]$ , and set

$$(\Lambda, \mu)((i, j)) = \begin{cases} (u^+, \mu^1) & \text{if } (i, j) = (1, 1), \\ (u^+, \mu^2) & \text{if } (i, j) = (1, 2), \\ (u^-, \mu^1) & \text{if } (i, j) = (2, 1), \\ (u^-, \mu^2) & \text{if } (i, j) = (2, 2), \end{cases}$$

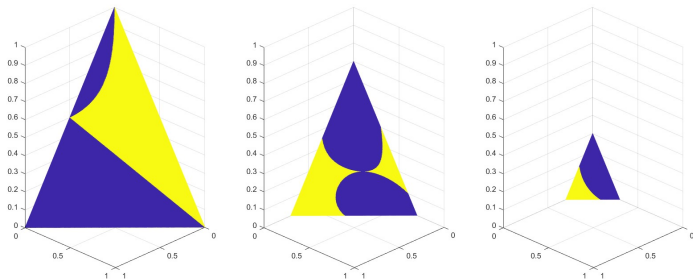
$$(i, j) \in \Omega^0 \doteq \{1, 2\}^2.$$

For any  $T > 0$ , there exist a probability density  $(p_{i,j})_{i,j=1,2}$  and weights  $w_1, w_2$  such that  $(\Lambda, \mu)$  is a coarse correlated solution.

Consistency condition gives

$$w_1 = \frac{p_{1,1}}{p_{1,1} + p_{2,1}}, \quad w_2 = \frac{p_{1,2}}{p_{1,2} + p_{2,2}}.$$

## Example (cont.): infinitely many solutions



**Figure:** Case  $[a, b] = [-1, 1]$ ,  $T = 2$ . Colored points indicate values of  $(p_{1,1}, p_{1,2}, p_{2,2})$  such that  $p_{1,1} + p_{1,2} + p_{2,2} = 1 - p_{2,1}$  for  $p_{2,1} = 0.0$  (left),  $p_{2,1} = 0.3$  (center), and  $p_{2,1} = 0.7$  (right), respectively. Yellow points correspond to coarse correlated solutions of the mean field game.

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# Approximate CCE: construction

Aim: Use coarse correlated MFG solution to construct approximate CCE in the  $N$ -player game ( $N$  large enough).

Let  $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0), \hat{\Lambda}, \hat{\mu})$  be a coarse correlated MFG solution.

(a) Disintegrate the joint law of  $(\hat{\Lambda}, \hat{\mu})$  as

$$\mathbb{P}^0((\hat{\Lambda}, \hat{\mu}) \in C \times B) = \int_B \kappa(C, m) \rho(dm)$$

for some stochastic kernel  $\kappa$ .

(b) Define  $\bar{\Omega} = (\times_1^\infty \Omega^0) \times \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ ,  $\bar{\mathcal{F}}$  the product  $\sigma$ -field and

$$\bar{\mathbb{P}}(A_1 \times \cdots \times A_N \times B) = \int_B \prod_{i=1}^N K(A_i, m) \rho(dm), \quad N \geq 2,$$

where  $K$  is the regular conditional probability of  $\mathbb{P}^0$  given  $\hat{\mu}$ .

# Approximate CCE: construction (cont.)

- (c) Build random variables  $\Lambda^i: (\bar{\Omega}, \bar{\mathcal{F}}, \bar{\mathbb{P}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(\mathbb{F}^{\xi^i}, W^i)$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  
 $\mu: (\bar{\Omega}, \bar{\mathcal{F}}, \bar{\mathbb{P}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$  such that, for all  $N \geq 1$ ,

$$\bar{\mathbb{P}}(\Lambda^1 \in C_1, \dots, \Lambda^N \in C_N, \mu \in B) = \int_B \prod_{i=1}^N \kappa(C_i, m) \rho(dm).$$

Thus,  $\bar{\mathbb{P}} \circ (\Lambda^i, \mu)^{-1} = \mathbb{P}^0 \circ (\hat{\Lambda}, \hat{\mu})^{-1}$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, N$ , and  $\Lambda^1, \dots, \Lambda^N$  are **conditionally i.i.d.** given  $\mu$ .

## Theorem 2.

Assume A1–A6. Let  $((\Omega^0, \mathcal{F}^{0-}, \mathbb{P}^0), \hat{\Lambda}, \hat{\mu})$  be a coarse correlated solution.

Then there exist admissible recommendations  $((\Omega^{0,N}, \mathcal{F}^{0-,N}, \mathbb{P}^{0,N}), \mathbf{\Lambda}^N)$  such that  $\mathbf{\Lambda}^N = (\Lambda^1, \dots, \Lambda^N)$  is an  $\varepsilon_N$ -CCE for the  $N$ -player game and  $\varepsilon_N \rightarrow 0$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .



# Sketch of proof

By symmetry, focus on deviations of player  $i = 1$ . Set

$$\varepsilon_N \doteq J_1^N(\mathbf{\Lambda}^N) - \inf_{\beta \in \mathcal{A}_N} J_1^N(\mathbf{\Lambda}^{N,-1}, \beta).$$

Then  $\mathbf{\Lambda}^N$  is an  $\varepsilon_N$ -coarse correlated equilibrium for every  $N \geq 2$ .  
Show that  $\varepsilon_N \rightarrow 0$ .

Sufficient to prove the following:

$$(1a) \quad J(\mathbf{\Lambda}^1, \mu) \leq J(\beta^N, \mu),$$

$$(1b) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} J_1^N(\mathbf{\Lambda}^N) = J(\mathbf{\Lambda}^1, \mu),$$

$$(1c) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} |J_1^N(\beta^N, \mathbf{\Lambda}^{N,-1}) - J(\beta^N, \mu)| = 0.$$

The limits (1b), (1c) can be proved by continuity of the cost functions and propagation of chaos arguments.

## Sketch of proof (cont.)

To prove (1a): **cannot** exploit limit optimality as  $\beta^N$  could depend on all Wiener processes and initial conditions, not only on  $(\xi^1, W^1)$ .

But **conditionally on the paths of  $(\xi^i, W^i)_{i=2}^N$**  we can compare  $J(\beta^N, \mu)$  to  $J(\Lambda^1, \mu)$  and conclude:

$$\begin{aligned} & J(\Lambda^1, \mu) - J(\beta^N, \mu) \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbb{E} \left[ \int_0^T f(s, X_s, \mu_s, \lambda_s^1) ds + g(X_T, \mu_T) \mid (\xi^i, W^i)_{i=2}^N \right] \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \mathbb{E} \left[ \int_0^T f(s, Z_s, \mu_s, \beta_s^N) ds + g(Z_T, \mu_T) \mid (\xi^i, W^i)_{i=2}^N \right] \right] \\ &= \int \left( J(\hat{\Lambda}, \hat{\mu}) - J(\tilde{\beta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}), \hat{\mu}) \right) P_\nu(d\mathbf{x}, d\mathbf{w}) \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $P_\nu$  is the law of  $(\xi^i, W^i)_{i=2}^N$  and  $\tilde{\beta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) \in \mathcal{A}$ .

Thank you.

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6 Additional material

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6 Additional material

# Examples of admissible $N$ -player recommendations

- If  $\Lambda$  takes only  $k \geq 1$  values  $\alpha^1, \dots, \alpha^k \in \mathcal{A}_N^N$  with probabilities  $\mathbb{P}^0(\Lambda = \alpha^j) = p_j$ , then it is admissible. In this case

$$\lambda_t(\omega_0, \omega_1) = \sum_{j=1}^k \mathbf{1}_{\{\Lambda = \alpha^j\}}(\omega_0) \alpha_t^j(\omega_1).$$

- More generally, if  $\Lambda$  takes at most countably many values, then it is admissible. We have

$$\lambda_t(\omega_0, \omega_1) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{1}_{\{\Lambda = \alpha^j\}}(\omega_0) \alpha_t^j(\omega_1).$$

- Let  $(\lambda_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$  be an  $A$ -valued progressively measurable as before, define

$$\Lambda(\omega_0) = (\lambda_t(\omega_0, \cdot))_{t \in [0, T]} \mathbf{1}_{N^c}(\omega_0) + a_0 \mathbf{1}_N(\omega_0)$$

for  $a_0 \in A$  and  $N$  a  $\mathbb{P}^0$ -null subset of  $\Omega^0$ . Then  $\Lambda$  is an admissible recommendation