

# Harnessing Mean-Field Game & Data Science for Mixed Autonomy

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Civil Engineering &  
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Data Science Institute

Data & innovative-  
**technology** driven  
Transportation Lab

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



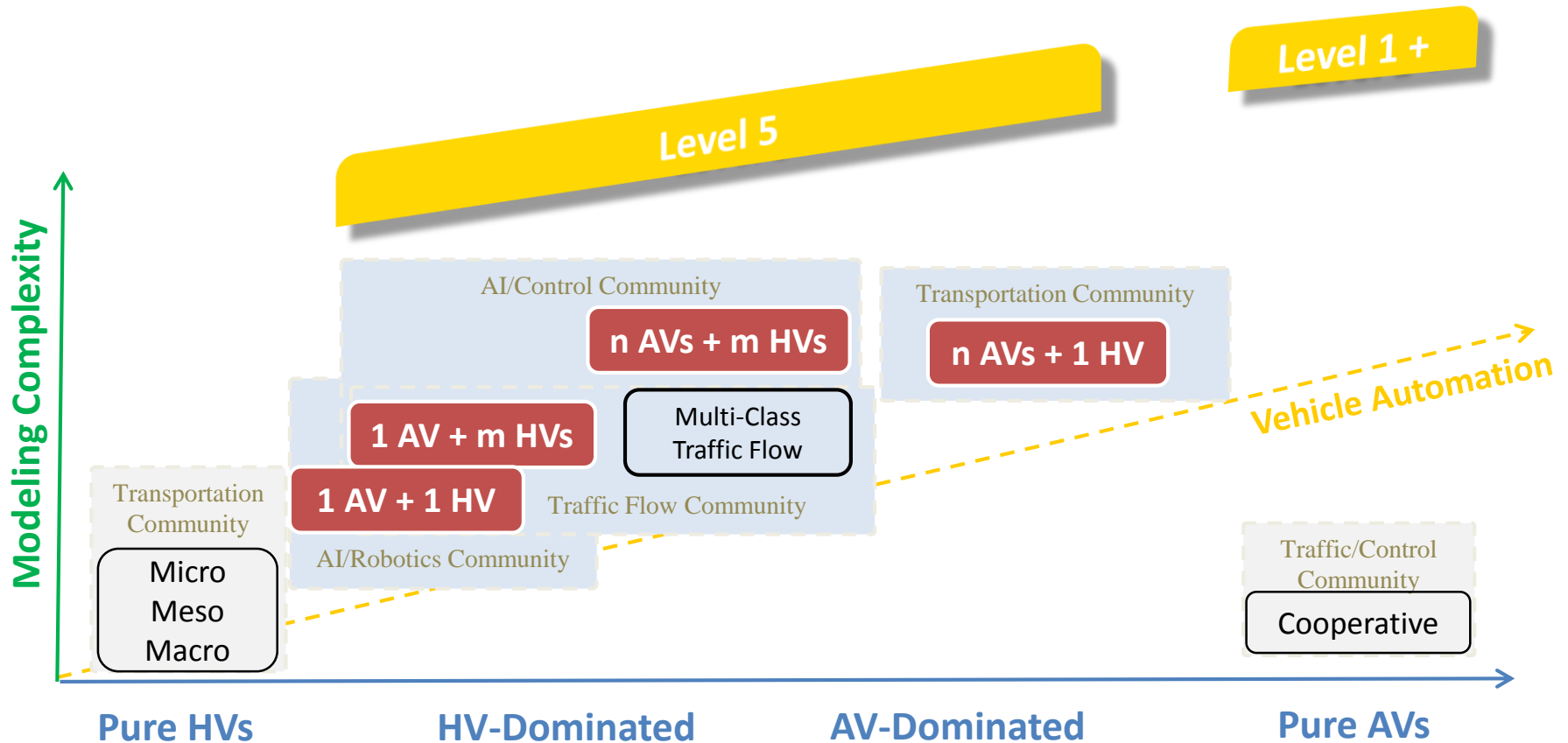
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# Mixed Autonomy: the Fundamental

1. Scalable AV Controller Design
2. Human Behavioral Estimation & Adaption
3. HV-AV Interaction Characterization



(AV: Autonomous Vehicle    HV: Human-Driven Vehicle )

# AI



## Control Agents

- ✓ Rational, utility-optimizing
- ✓ (Non)cooperative
- ✓ Learning & adaptation

Non-cooperative

Nobody slows down ...

Proactive, Anticipating

Approaching the end, shall I force in?

# Game Theory

Empowering Driving Intelligence



Open Questions



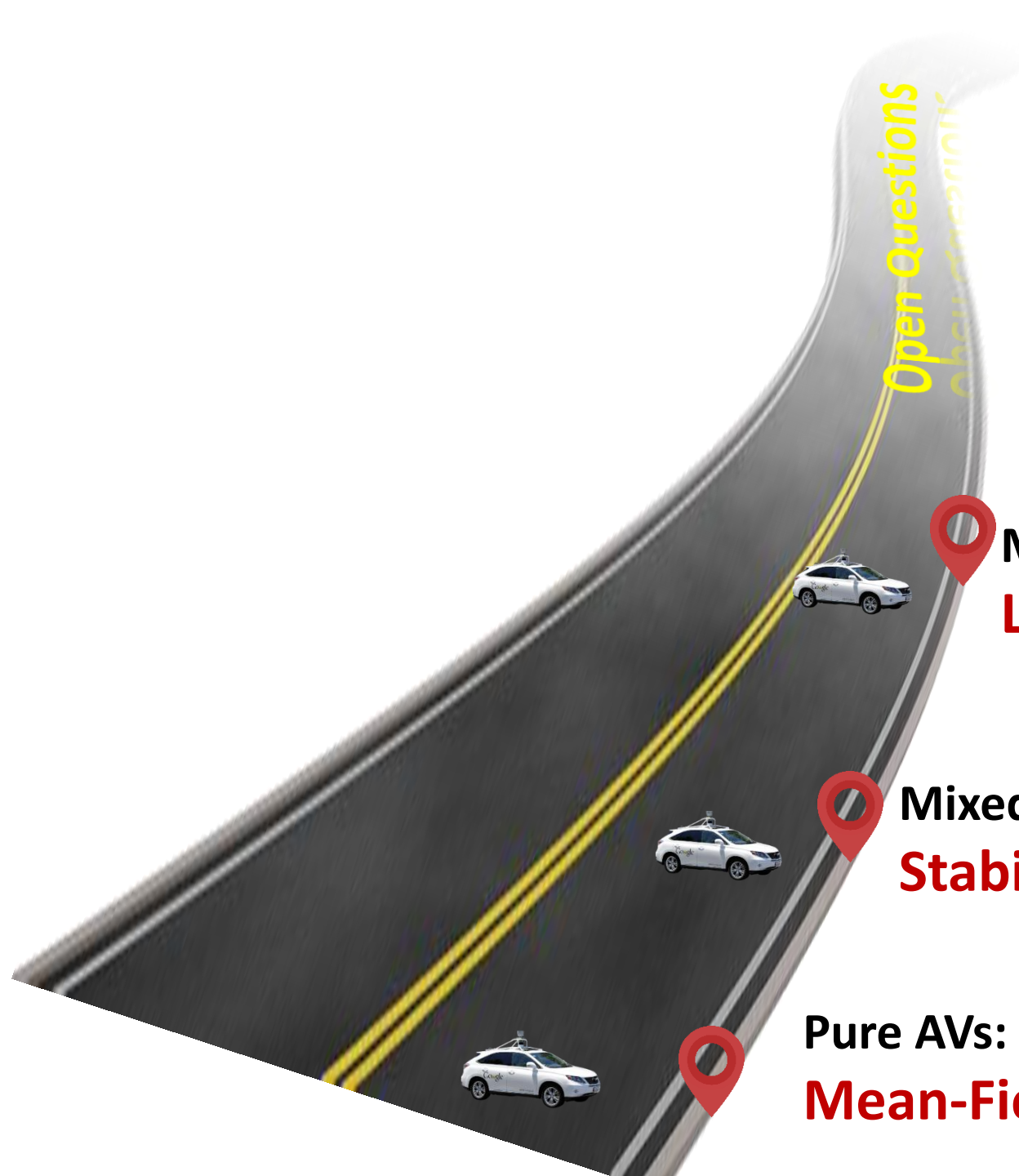
**Mixed AV-HV:  
Learning Based Game**



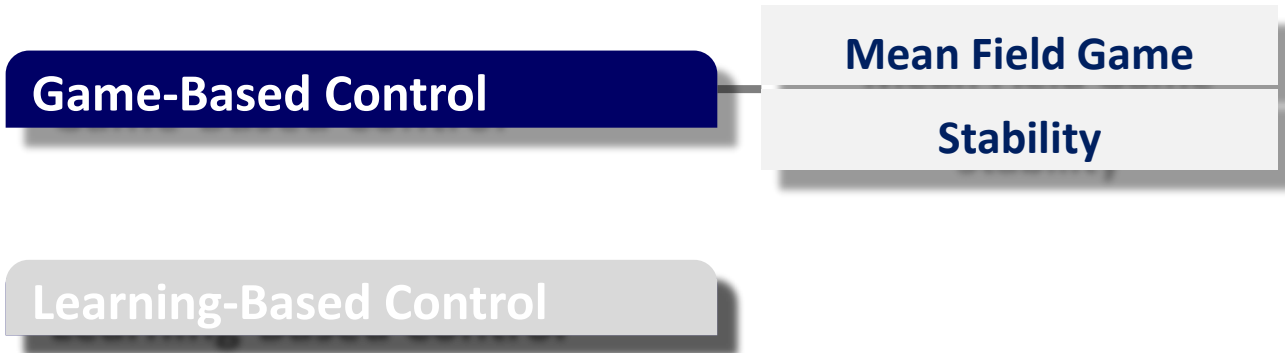
**Mixed AV-HV:  
Stability Analysis**



**Pure AVs:  
Mean-Field Game**

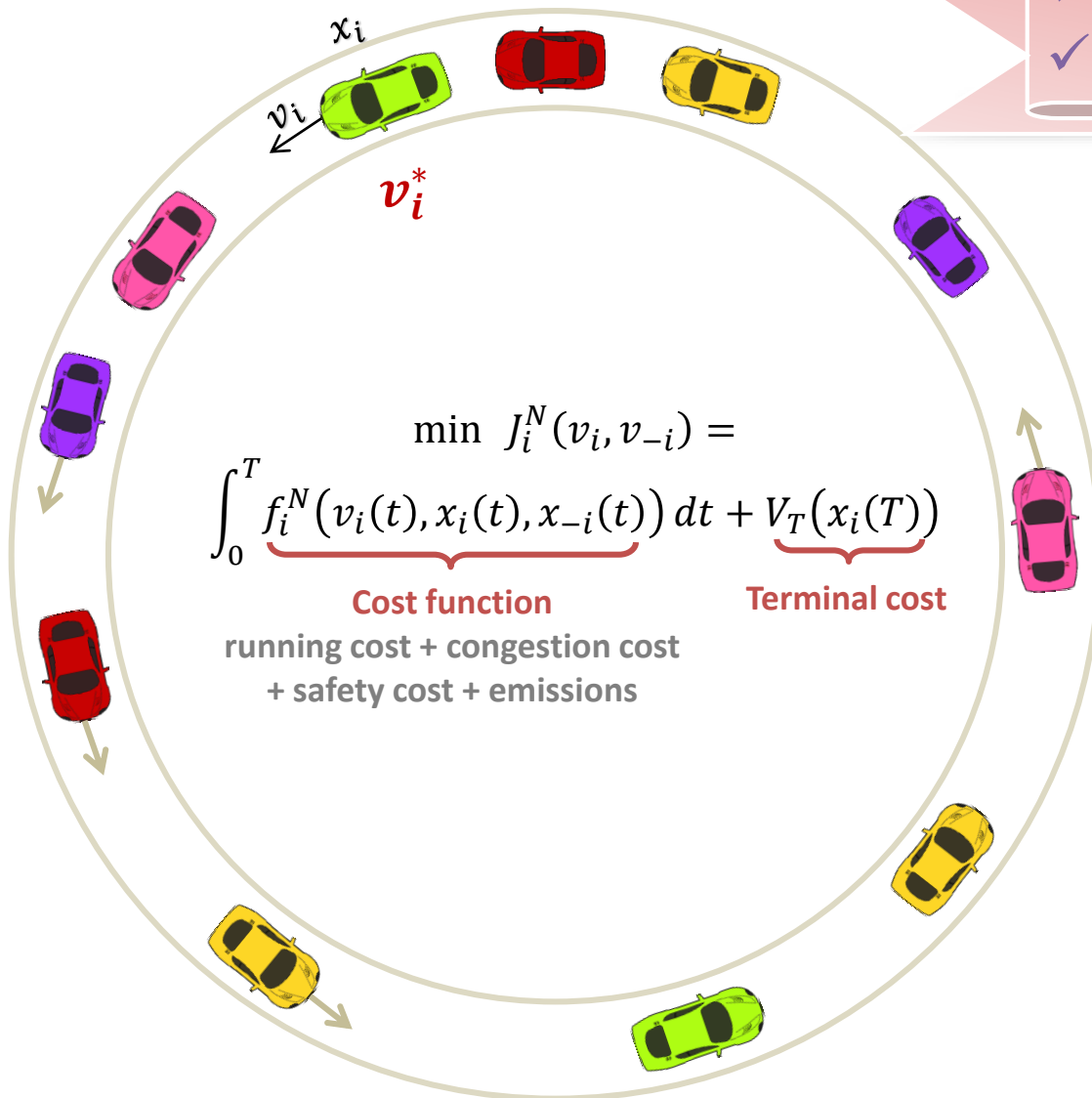


# Multi-Autonomous Vehicle Control in Mixed Traffic



<b>Deterministic environment</b>	<b>Evolutionary game</b>	<b>Equilibrium</b>
<b>Stochastic, dynamic environment</b>	<b>Markov game</b>	<b>Learning</b>

- ✓ Controls of many cars
- ✓ “New” traffic flow theory

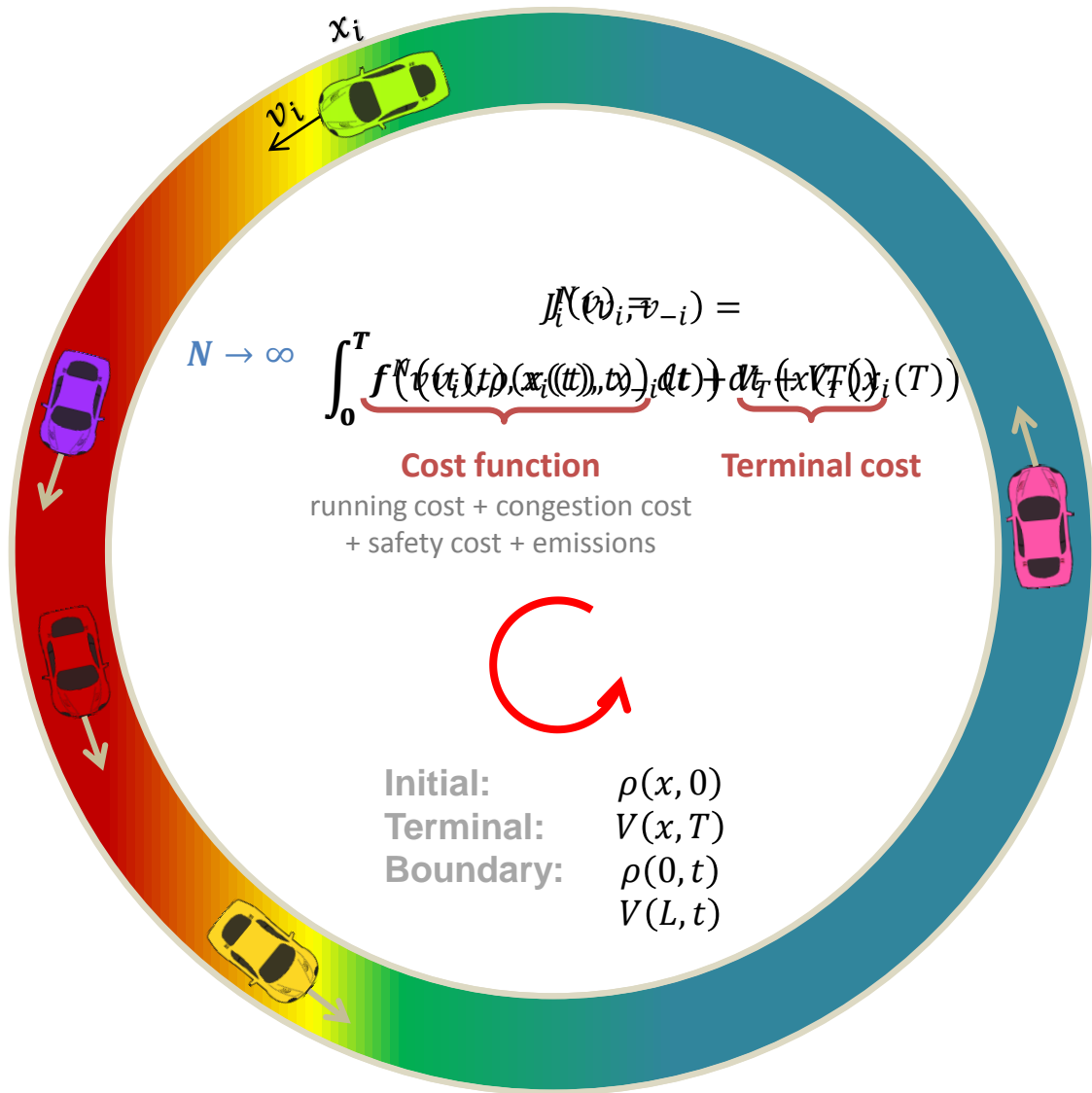


## Nash Equilibrium

$$J_i^N(v_i^*, v_{-i}^*) \leq J_i^N(v_i, v_{-i}^*), \forall v_i, i$$

- Complex **multi-agent dynamic** systems if  $N \rightarrow \infty$
- $N$ -player limit of **dynamic non-cooperative Nash** game
- Micro (**Agent**)  $\rightarrow$  Macro (**Mass**)



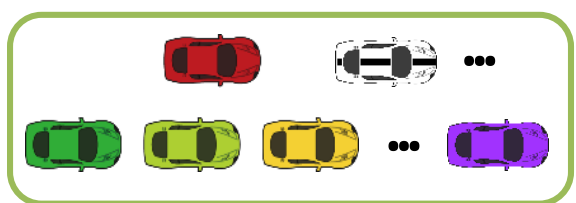


## Mean Field Equilibrium

$$u^*(x, t)$$

$$\rho^*(x, t)$$

## Mass Dynamic



$$\rho_t + (\rho u)_x = 0$$

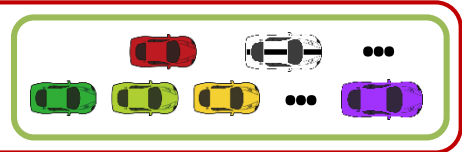
$u(x, t)$

$\rho(x, t)$

## Agent Dynamic



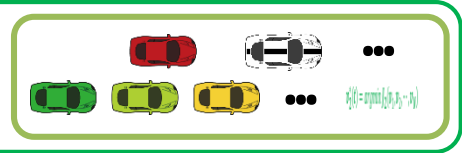
I react to



$$v(t) = \operatorname{argmin} J(v, \rho)$$



I react to

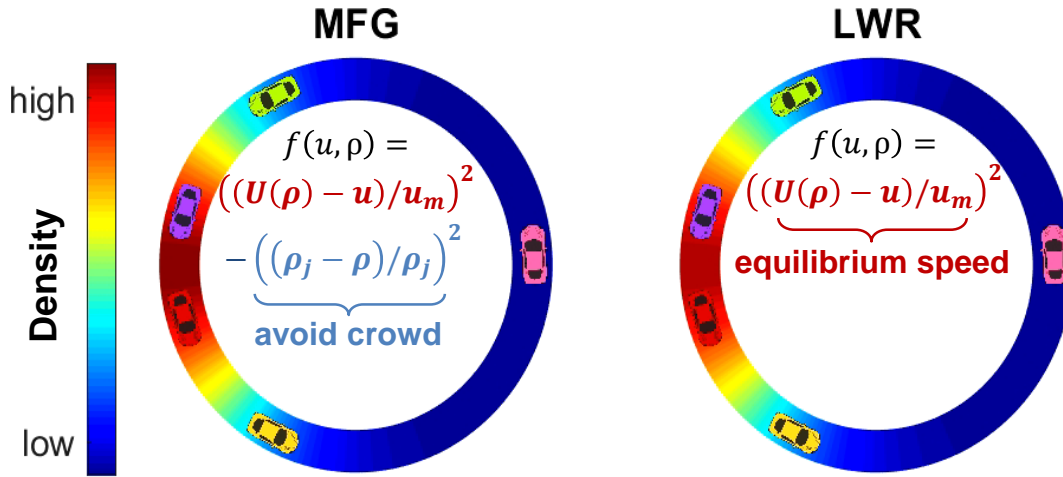


Fokker-Planck-Kolmogorov (FPK)

Forward

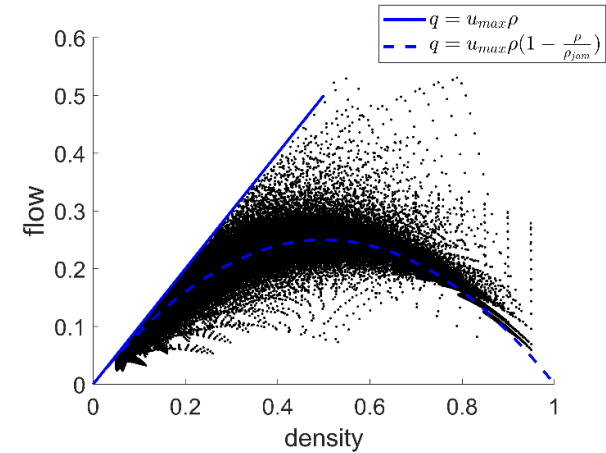
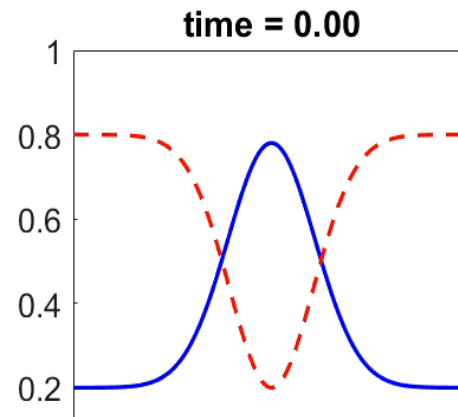
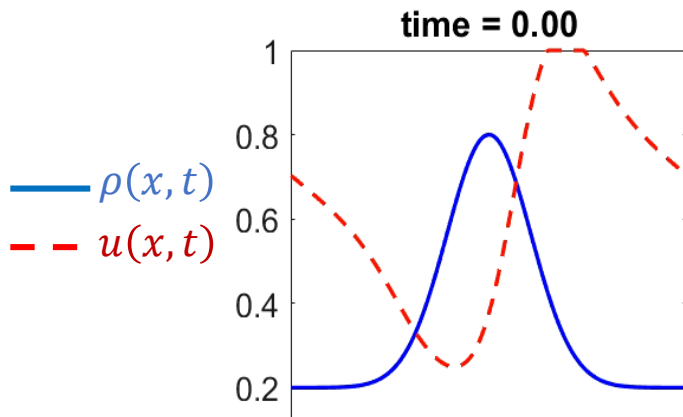
Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman (HJB)

Backward



$$J(\mathbf{u}) = \int_0^T \underbrace{f(u(t), \rho(x(t), t))}_{\text{Cost function}} dt + V_T(x(T))$$

running cost + congestion cost  
+ safety cost + emissions



## LWR is a special type of MFG

1. LWR is the MFG with a cost function that aims to move toward an equilibrium speed
2. LWR is the *myopic* MFG with generic cost functions under regularity conditions

- ✓ Critical AV penetration
- ✓ Stability by design

**Uniform Flow:**

$$\rho^{AV}(x, t) \equiv \bar{\rho}^{AV}, \quad \rho^{HV}(x, t) \equiv \bar{\rho}^{HV}$$

$$(\bar{\rho}^{AV}, \bar{\rho}^{HV}, \bar{u})$$

$$u^{AV}(x, t) \equiv u^{HV}(x, t) \equiv \bar{u}$$

**Stability Conditions:**

$$\sum_{i=AV, HV} \|\rho^i(\cdot, 0) - \bar{\rho}^i\| + \|u^{HV}(\cdot, 0) - \bar{u}\| \leq \delta$$

$$\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \sum_{i=AV, HV} \|\rho^i(\cdot, t) - \bar{\rho}^i\| + \|u^i(\cdot, t) - \bar{u}\| \right\} \leq \epsilon$$



$$(\rho^{AV}, \rho^{HV}, u^{AV}, u^{HV})$$



## MFG

## ARZ

Flow

$$\rho_t^{AV} + (\rho^{AV} u^{AV})_x = 0$$

$$\rho_t^{HV} + (\rho^{HV} u^{HV})_x = 0$$

+  
 $\rho^{TOT}$

Dynamic

$$\begin{cases} V_t + uV_x + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{u^{AV}}{u_m} \right)^2 - \frac{u^{AV}}{u_m} + \frac{u^{AV} \rho^{TOT}}{u_m \rho_j} + \beta \frac{\rho^{HV}}{\rho_j} = 0 \\ u = u_{max} \left( 1 - \frac{\rho^{TOT}}{\rho_j} - u_m V_x \right) \end{cases}$$

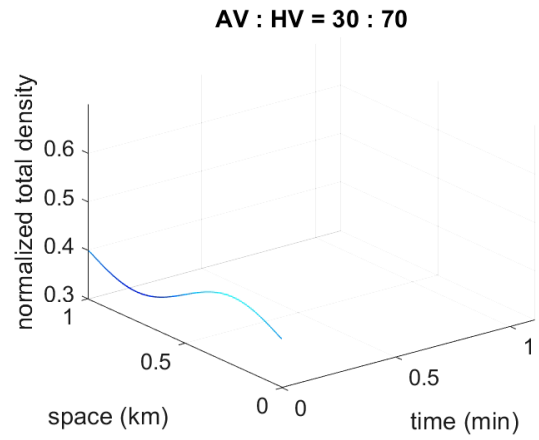
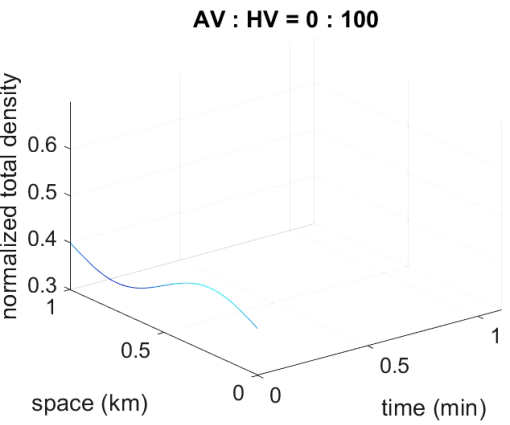
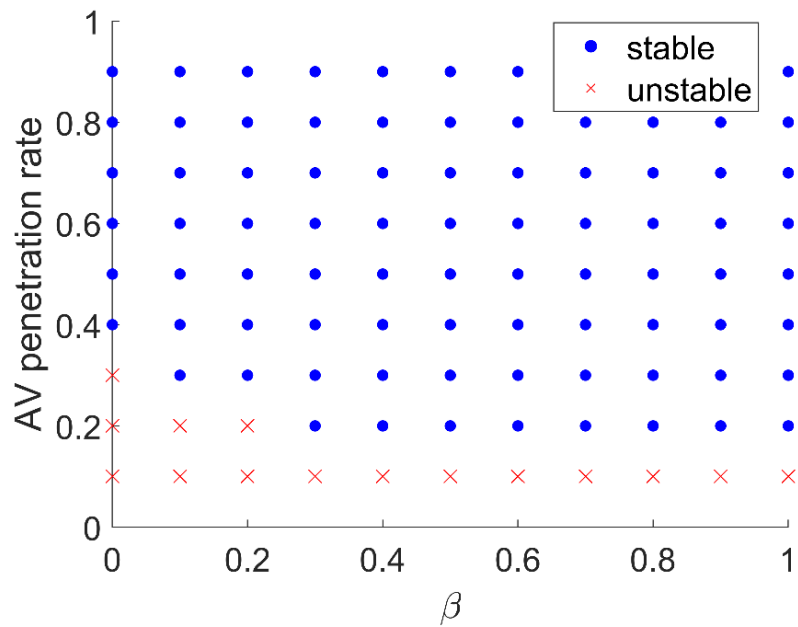
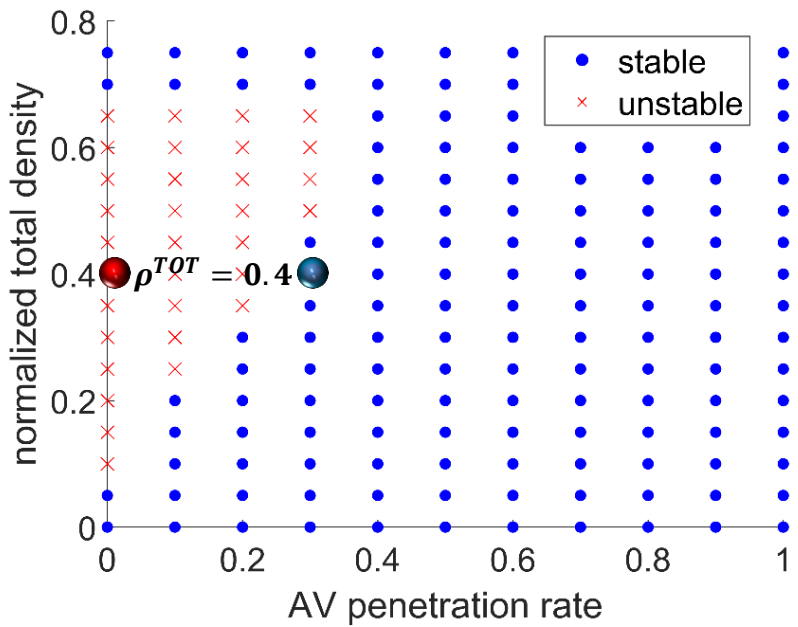
$$\begin{aligned} [u^{HV} + h(\rho^{TOT})]_t + u^{HV} [u^{HV} + h(\rho^{TOT})]_x \\ = \frac{1}{\tau} (U(\rho^{TOT}) - u^{HV}) \end{aligned}$$

(HJB Equation)

(Momentum Equation)

(AV: Autonomous Vehicle    HV: Human-Driven Vehicle )

# Stabilizing Traffic via MFG Control

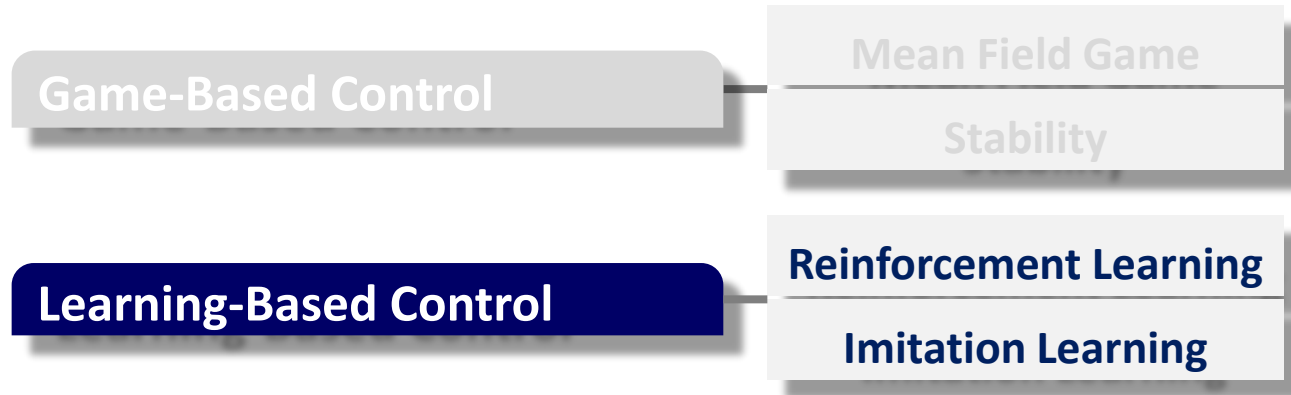


$$f(u^{AV}, \rho^{AV}, \rho^{HV}) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{u^{AV}}{u_{max}} \right)^2 - \frac{u^{AV}}{u_{max}} + \frac{u^{AV} \rho^{TOT}}{u_{max} \rho_{jam}} + \beta \frac{\rho^{HV}}{\rho_{jam}}$$

**Autonomous Controller Design**

(AV: Autonomous Vehicle    HV: Human-Driven Vehicle)

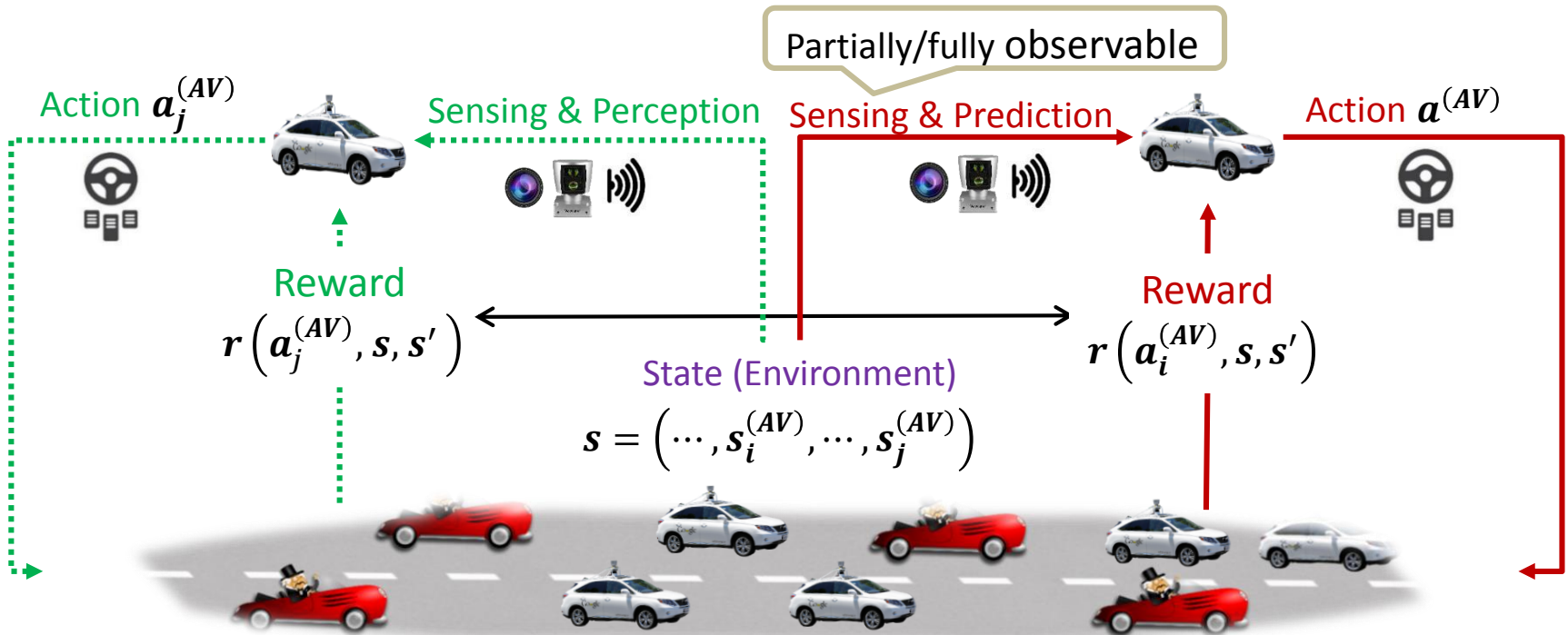
# Multi-Autonomous Vehicle Control in Mixed Traffic



Deterministic environment	Evolutionary game	Equilibrium
Stochastic, dynamic environment	Markov game	Learning

*“It is not the strongest that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.”*

## Reinforcement Learning



### HVs

- ✓ Heterogeneity
- ✓ Stochasticity

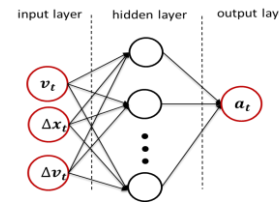
### Imitation Learning of Mixed Traffic

### Uncontrolled AVs

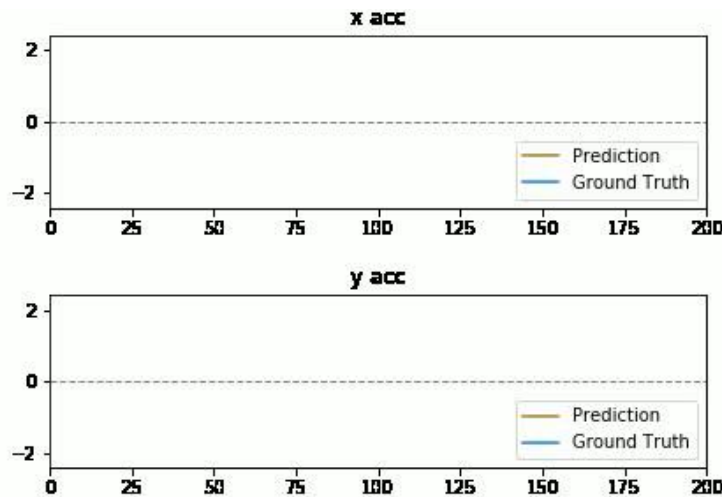
- ✓ Unconventional data

$\Delta x_i(t), \Delta v_i(t), v_i(t)$   
images

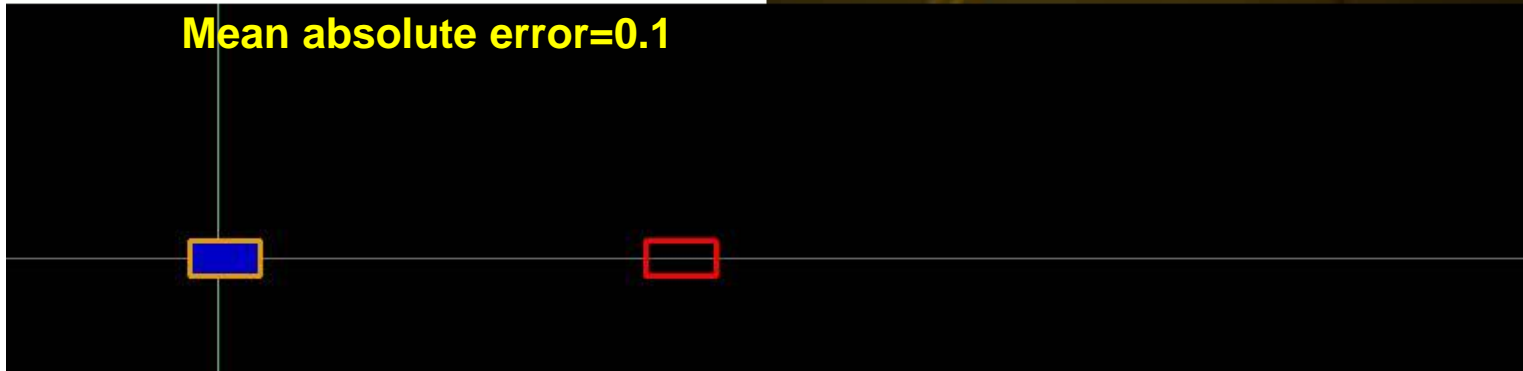
## Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)



$a_i(t)$



Mean absolute error=0.1

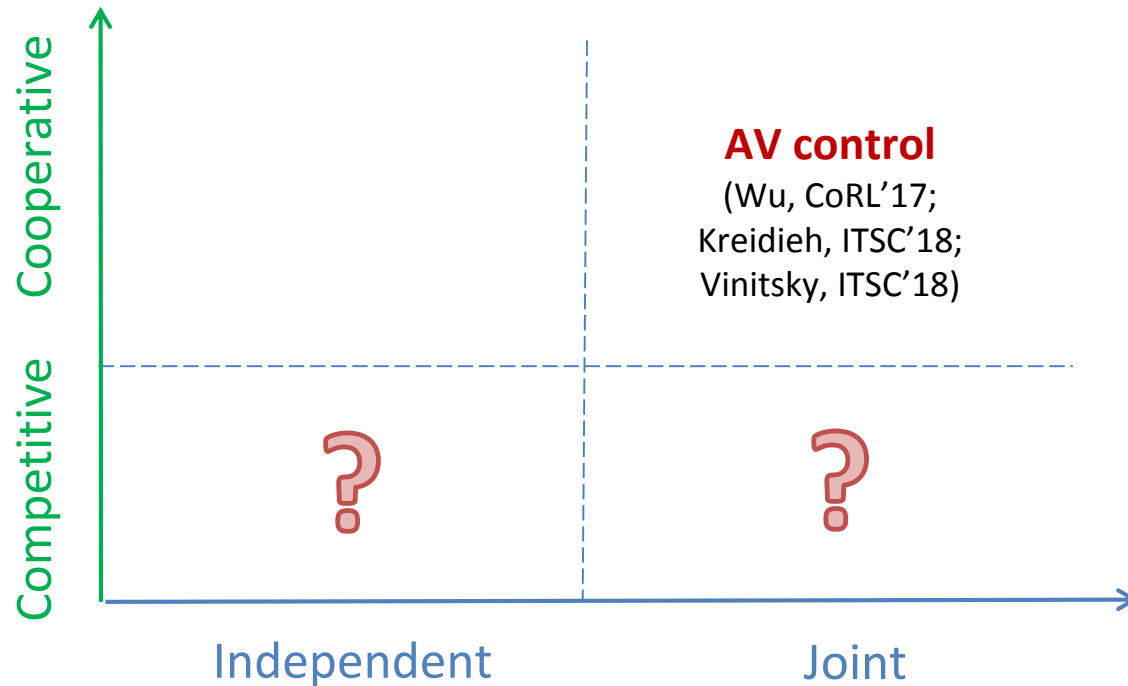


Multi-

**Single-Agent** Reinforcement learning

Markovian

Game Theory



# Multi-Autonomous Vehicle Control in Mixed Traffic

Game-Based Control

Mean Field Game

Stability

Learning-Based Control

Reinforcement Learning

Imitation Learning

## Open Questions

- ✓ **Autonomous Driving Model**
- ✓ **Multi-Scale:** micro – macro
- ✓ **Mixed Traffic Simulator**
- ✓ **Social Implications**

1. Scalable AV Controller Design
2. Human Behavioral Estimation & Adaption
3. HV-AV Interaction Characterization

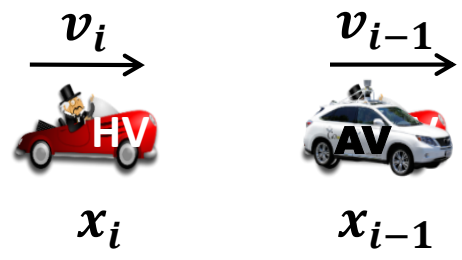
**THANK YOU!**



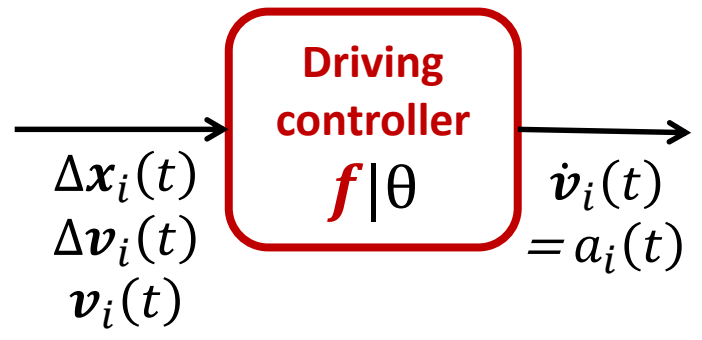
**Questions?**



1. Achdou, Y. and Perez, V., 2012. Iterative strategies for solving linearized discrete mean field games systems. *Networks & Heterogeneous Media*, 7(2).
2. Couillet, R., Perlaza, S.M., Tembine, H. and Debbah, M., 2012. Electrical vehicles in the smart grid: A mean field game analysis. *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, 30(6), pp.1086-1096.
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4. Gong, S., Shen, J., Du, L., 2016. Constrained optimization and distributed computation based car following control of a connected and autonomous vehicle platoon. *Transportation Research Part B: Methodological* 94, 314-334.
5. Lachapelle, A. and Wolfram, M.T., 2011. On a mean field game approach modeling congestion and aversion in pedestrian crowds. *Transportation research part B: methodological*, 45(10), pp.1572-1589.
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11. Wu, C., Bayen, A. M., Mehta, A., 2018. Stabilizing traffic with autonomous vehicles. In: *2018 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*. IEEE, pp. 1-7.
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- ✓ (Collaborative) adaptive cruise control
- ✓ Nonlinear car following model
- ✓ Optimal control problem
- ✓ Model predictive control



Reaction time	Long	<b>Short</b>
Information	Local	<b>Global</b>
Driving control	Heterogeneous	<b>Homogeneous</b>

**Reinforcement**  
 $(S, A, P, s_0, R)$

Find  $\pi_\theta$   
s.t.  $\pi_\theta = \arg \max E[V^\pi(s_0)]$

→ Optimal sequence of actions  $a_0 a_1 \dots a_t$



- Model-based: dynamic programming
- Model-free: Q-learning

**Imitation**  
 $(S, A, P, s_0, R)$

Sampled trajectories  $\tau = s_0 a_0 s_1 a_1 \dots s_t a_t \dots$

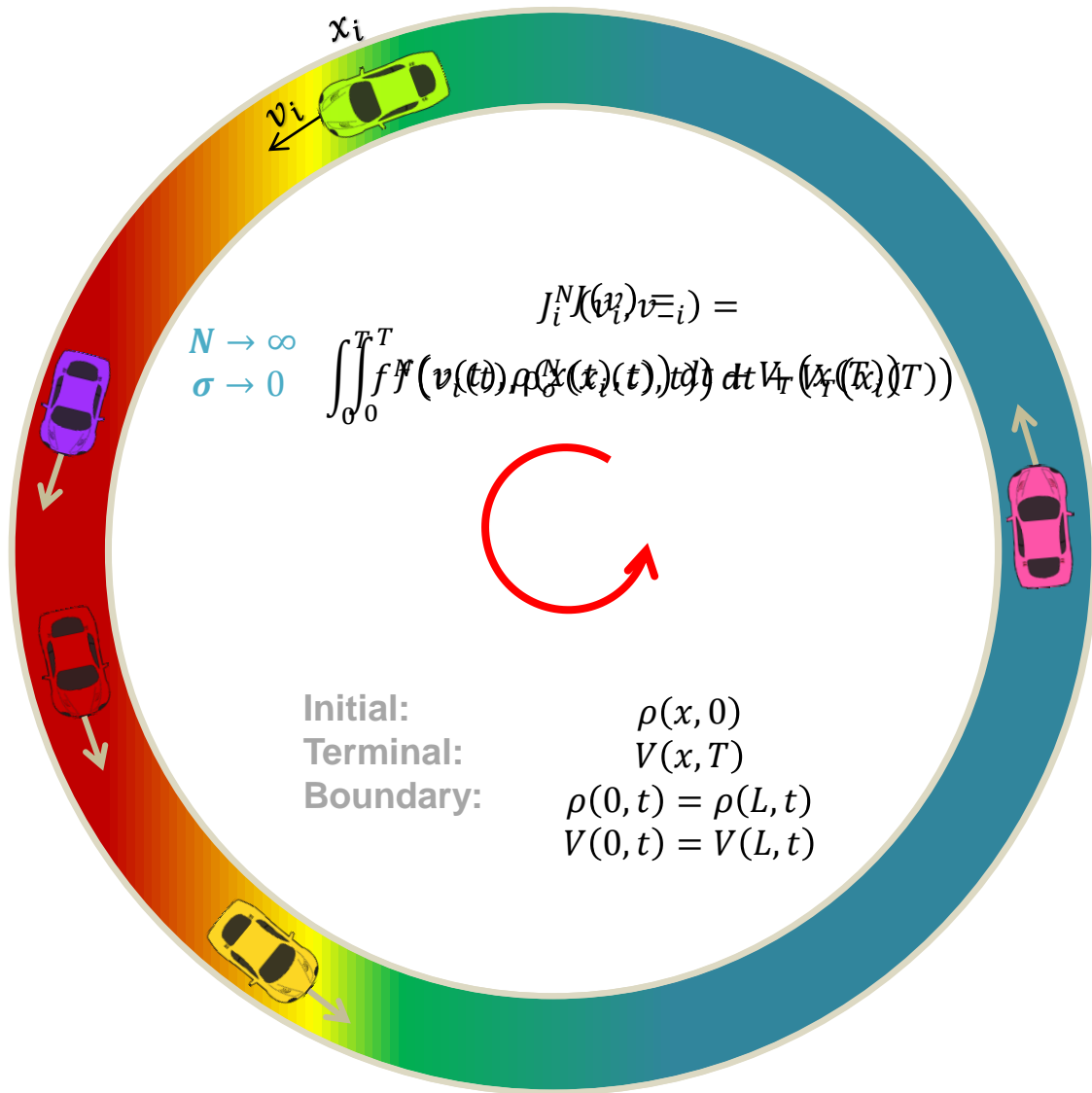
Find  $\pi_\theta$   
s.t.  $\min E_\tau \|\pi(s_0) - \pi_\theta(s_0)\|$



- Supervised learning: behavioral cloning
- Imitation learning

# Supplemental Materials

# Continuum Mean Field Game Potential Game



## Mean Field Equilibrium:

$$\rho^*(x, t)$$

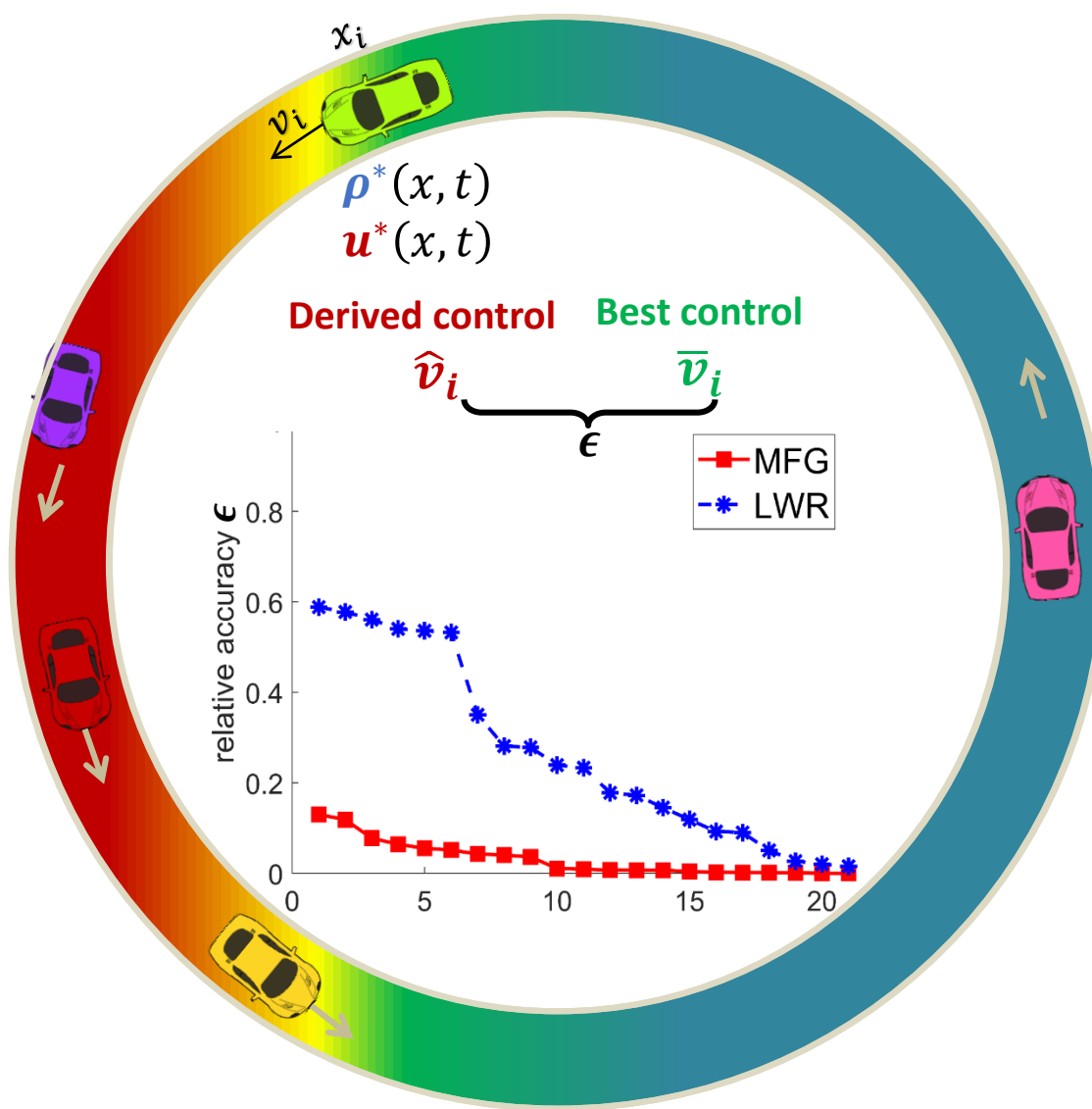
$$u^*(x, t)$$

$$(FPK) \rho_t + (\rho u)_x = 0$$

$$(HJB) \begin{cases} V_t + f^*(V_x, \rho) = 0 \\ u = f_p^*(V_x, \rho) \end{cases}$$

$$\arg\min_{\alpha} \{f(\alpha, \rho) + \alpha V_x\}$$

$$f^*(p, \rho) = \arg\min_{\alpha} \{f(\alpha, \rho) + \alpha p\}$$



$$u^*(x, t)$$

$$\begin{cases} \hat{v}_i(t) = u^*(x_i(t), t) \\ \dot{x}_i(t) = \hat{v}_i(t), x_i(0) = x_{i,0} \end{cases}$$

## $\epsilon$ -Nash Equilibrium:

$$J_i^N(\hat{v}_i, \hat{v}_{-i}) \leq J_i^N(v_i, \hat{v}_{-i}) + \epsilon,$$

$$\forall v_i \in A, i = 1, \dots, N$$

**Challenge:** forward-backward structure

## Fixed-point Iteration

- Alternatingly solve the forward and backward equations
- Simple to implement
- Fail to converge when  $T$  is relatively large

## Variational Form

- Only valid for separable cost function (potential game)
- Transform into an optimization

## Finite-Difference Newton's Method

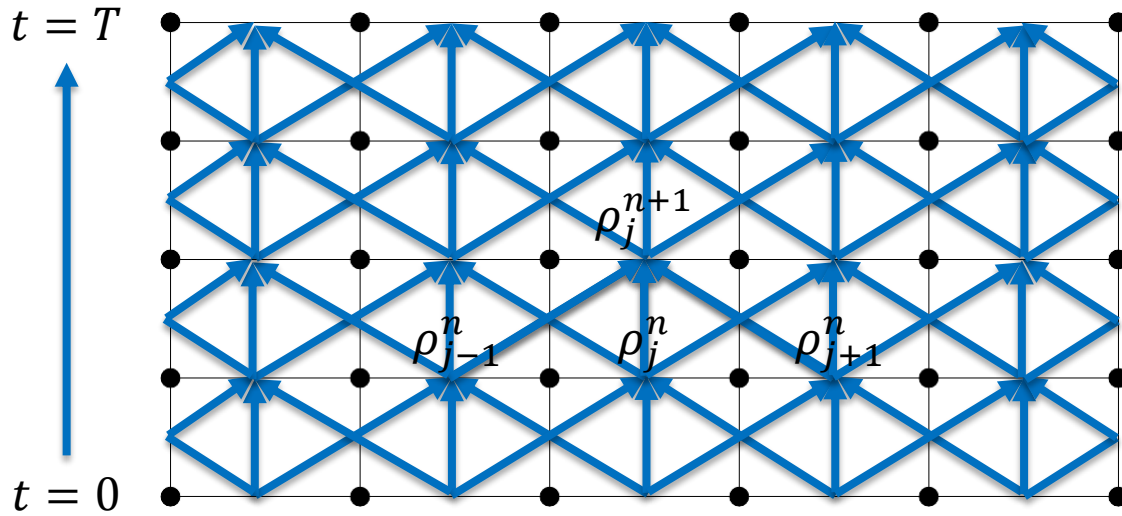
- View forward and backward equations as a whole nonlinear system
- Use Newton's method to solve the nonlinear system
- Not so efficient, no guarantee on convergence

Couillet, R., Perlaza, S.M., Tembine, H. and Debbah, M., 2012. Electrical vehicles in the smart grid: A mean field game analysis. *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, 30(6), pp.1086-1096.

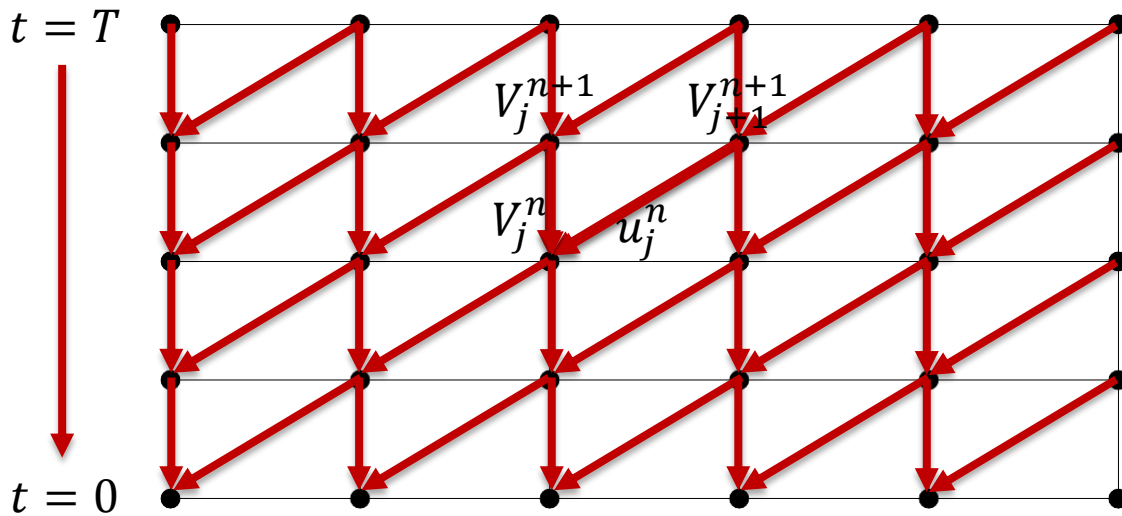
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Achdou, Y. and Perez, V., 2012. Iterative strategies for solving linearized discrete mean field games systems. *Networks & Heterogeneous Media*, 7(2).

**Forward**  
continuity equ.:  
*Lax-Friedrichs*  
scheme



**Backward**  
HJB equ.:  
*upwind* scheme



## Step 1. Space-time grids

$$0 = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{N_x} = L, \quad x_j = j\Delta x, \quad \Delta x = \frac{L}{N_x}$$

$$0 = t^0 < t^1 < \dots < t^{N_t} = T, \quad t^n = n\Delta t, \quad \Delta t = \frac{T}{N_t}$$

Discretize density, velocity and cost

$$\rho_j^n = \frac{1}{\Delta x} \int_{x_j}^{x_{j+1}} \rho(x, t^n) dx \quad u_j^n = u(x_{j+1/2}, t^n) \quad V_j^n = V(x_j, t^n)$$

## Step 2. Discretization of equations

- Lax-Friedrichs scheme for continuity equation
- Upwind scheme for HJB equations (dynamic programming)

$$\rho_j^{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}(\rho_{j-1}^n + \rho_{j+1}^n) - \frac{\Delta t}{2\Delta x}(\rho_{j+1}^n u_{j+1}^n - \rho_{j-1}^n u_{j-1}^n)$$

$$\frac{V_j^{n+1} - V_j^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{u_j^n}{u_f} \right)^2$$

$$\frac{\rho_j^n}{\rho_j} + \frac{u_j^n}{u_f} + \frac{V_{j+1}^{n+1} - V_j^{n+1}}{\Delta x} = 1$$

Plus initial/terminal conditions

Step 3. Solve the discretized system as a large system of nonlinear equations

$\rho_j^n, u_j^n, V_j^n$   Vector  $w$

$$\rho_j^{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}(\rho_{j-1}^n + \rho_{j+1}^n) - \frac{\Delta t}{2\Delta x}(\rho_{j+1}^n u_{j+1}^n - \rho_{j-1}^n u_{j-1}^n)$$

$$\frac{V_j^{n+1} - V_j^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{u_j^n}{u_f} \right)^2 \quad \text{---} \quad F(w) = 0$$

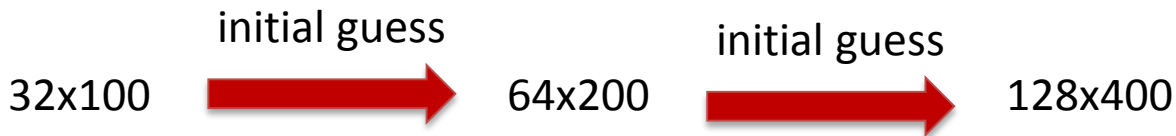
$$\frac{\rho_j^n}{\rho_j} + \frac{u_j^n}{u_f} + \frac{V_{j+1}^{n+1} - V_j^{n+1}}{\Delta x} = 1$$

## Step 3. Solve the discretized system as a large system of nonlinear equations

- Newton's method

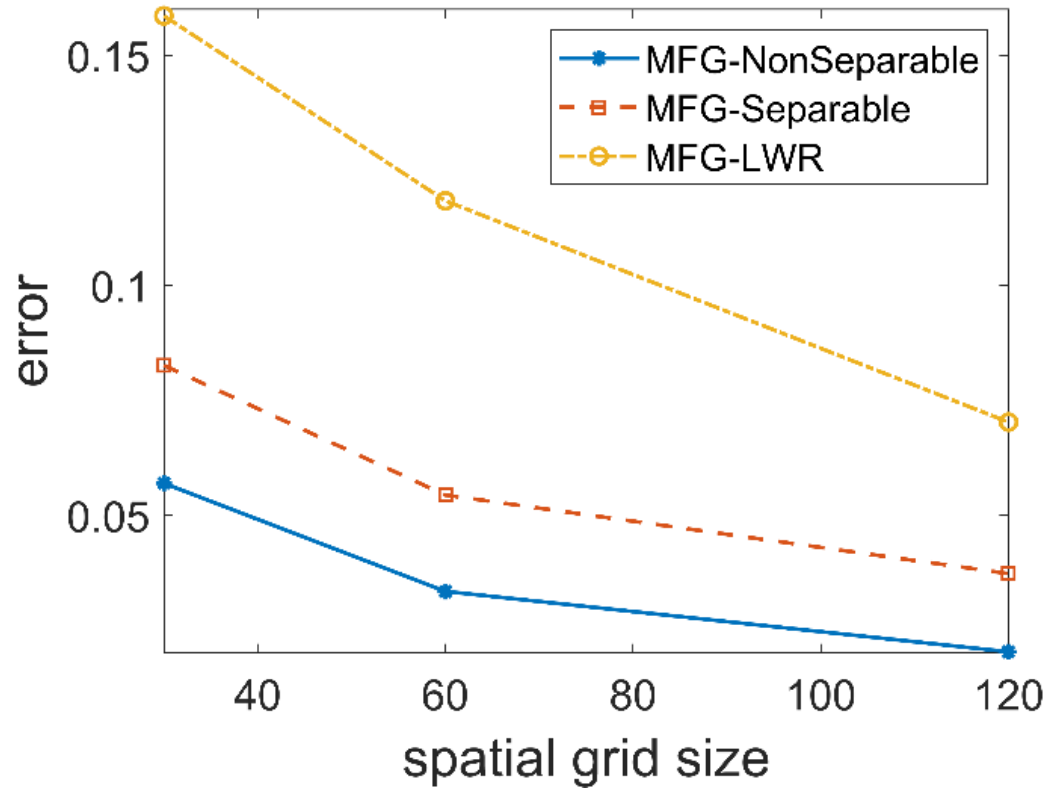
$$w^{n+1} = w^n - (JF(w^n))^{-1}F(w^n)$$

- Multigrid



- Preconditioning

At each Newton's step, use the uncoupled system as the preconditioner, apply iterative linear solvers



## Theorem 1.

The solution of the LWR model

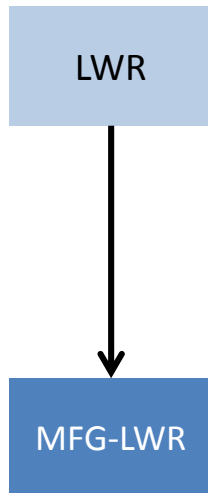
$$\rho_t + (\rho U(\rho))_x = 0$$

is a solution of the MFG system with cost function

$$f(u, \rho) = \frac{1}{2} (U(\rho) - u)^2$$

under the conditions that:

- (i) They have the same initial density  $\rho_0(x)$  and boundary conditions;
- (ii) The terminal cost  $V_T(x) = 0$ .



$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbf{u} = U(\rho) \\
 & \downarrow \\
 & \mathbf{u} = \operatorname{argmin} J(\mathbf{u}, \rho) = \int_0^T f(v(t), \rho(x(t), t)) dt \\
 & \downarrow \\
 & f(u, \rho) = \frac{1}{2} (U(\rho) - u)^2
 \end{aligned}$$

## Theorem 2.

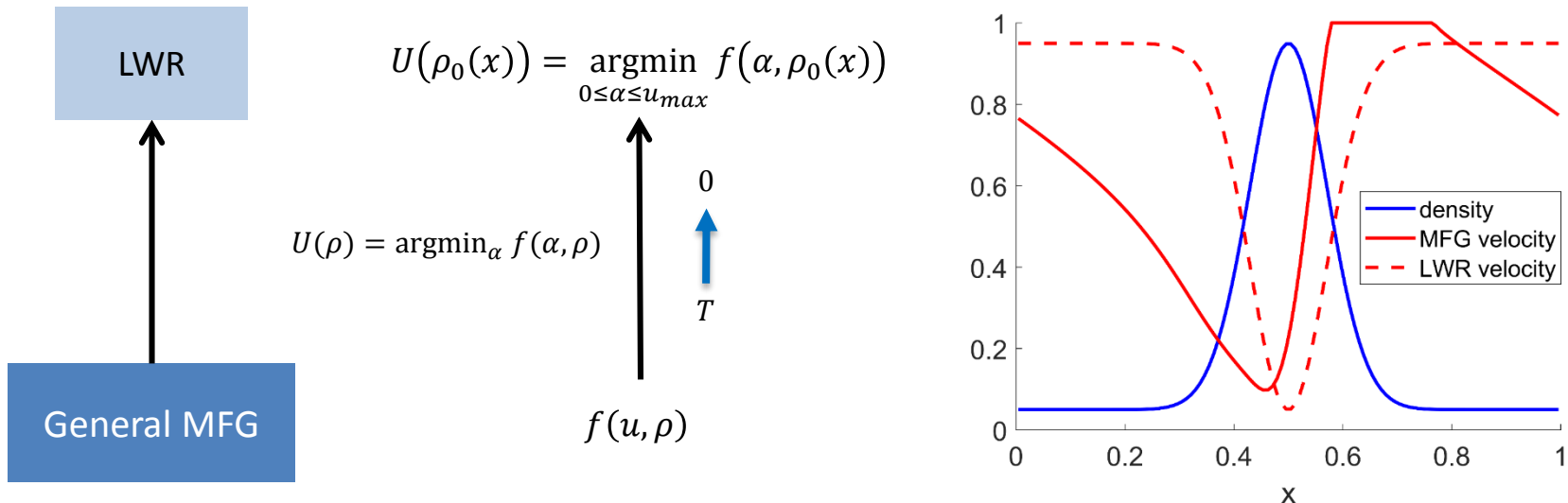
Under the conditions that:

- (i) The cost function  $f(u, \rho)$  is *continuously differentiable, strictly convex* w.r.t  $u$ ;
- (ii) The terminal cost  $V_T(x) = 0$ ;
- (iii)  $\exists T_0 > 0$  s.t. whenever  $0 < T \leq T_0$ , the MFG system has a *unique* solution  $\rho^{(T)}(x, t), u^{(T)}(x, t)$  and  $V^{(T)}(x, t)$  that are uniformly bounded up to second order derivatives on  $0 \leq x \leq L, 0 \leq t \leq T \leq T_0$ .

When  $T \rightarrow 0$  we have:

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow 0} u^{(T)}(x, 0) = U(\rho_0(x)) = \operatorname{argmin}_{0 \leq \alpha \leq u_{\max}} f(\alpha, \rho_0(x)),$$

which is LWR with fundamental diagram  $U(\rho)$  and initial density  $\rho_0(x)$ .



Uniform Flow:

$(\bar{\rho}, \bar{u})$

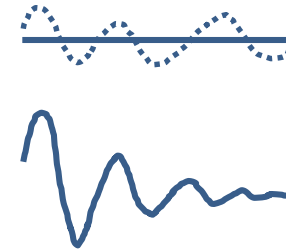
$$\bar{\rho} \equiv \rho(x, t)$$

$$\bar{u} = U(\bar{\rho})$$

Stability Conditions:

$$\|\rho(\cdot, 0) - \bar{\rho}\| \leq \delta$$

$$\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} \{ \|\rho^{(T)}(\cdot, t) - \bar{\rho}\| + \|u^{(T)}(\cdot, t) - \bar{u}\| \} \leq \epsilon$$



## Theorem 3.

The MFG system is linearly stable around the uniform flow  $(\bar{\rho}, \bar{u})$  where

$$f(u, \rho) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{u}{u_{max}} \right)^2 - \frac{u}{u_{max}} + \frac{u\rho}{u_{max}\rho_{jam}}$$

for all  $0 \leq \bar{\rho} \leq \rho_{jam}$ .