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A Semi-Lagrangian scheme for a degenerate second order Mean Field Game system

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Abstract

In this paper we study a fully discrete Semi-Lagrangian approximation of a second order Mean Field Game system, which can be degenerate. We prove that the resulting scheme is well posed and, if the state dimension is equals to one, we prove a convergence result. Some numerical simulations are provided, evidencing the convergence of the approximation and also the difference between the numerical results for the degenerate and non-degenerate cases.

Keywords: Mean field games, Degenerate second order system, Semi-Lagrangian schemes, Numerical methods.

MSC 2000: Primary: 65M12, 91A13; Secondary: 65M25, 91A23, 49J15, 35F21, 35Q84.

1 Introduction

Mean Field Games (MFG) systems were introduced independently by [23, 24] and [27, 28, 29] in order to model dynamic games with a large number of *indistinguishable small players*. In the model proposed in [28, 29] the asymptotic equilibrium is described by means of a system of two Partial Differential Equations (PDEs). The first equation, together with a final condition, is a Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman (HJB) equation describing the value function of a *representative player* whose cost function depends on the distribution m of the entire population. The second equation is a Fokker-Planck (FP) equation which, together with an initial distribution m_0 , describes the fact that m evolves following the optimal dynamics of the average player. We refer the reader to the original papers [23, 24, 27, 28, 29] and the surveys [10, 20] for a detailed description of the problem and to [22] for some interesting applications.

In this article we consider the following second order *possibly degenerated* MFG system

$$\begin{aligned} -\partial_t v - \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(\sigma(t)\sigma(t)^\top D^2 v) + \frac{1}{2} |Dv|^2 &= F(x, m(t)) \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d \times]0, T[, \\ \partial_t m - \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(\sigma(t)\sigma(t)^\top D^2 v) - \operatorname{div}(Dvm) &= 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d \times]0, T[, \\ v(x, T) = G(x, m(T)) \text{ for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad m(\cdot, 0) = m_0(\cdot) &\in \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d), \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

where $\mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is the set of probability measures over \mathbb{R}^d having finite first order moment, $\sigma : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}$ and $F, G : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are two functions satisfying some assumptions described in Section 2. Up to the best of our knowledge, for this system, existence and uniqueness results have not been established yet (except for the case $r = d$, $\sigma := \hat{\sigma} \mathbb{I}_{d \times d}$, $\hat{\sigma} \in \mathbb{R}$).

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Numerical methods to solve MFGs problems have been addressed by several authors. We refer the reader to [3, 26, 21, 2, 11] for the analysis in the non-degenerated second order case and to [9, 12] for the first order case. For the stationary and evolutive non-degenerated second order system, a semi-implicit Finite-Difference method has been proposed in [2] and its convergence is studied in [3]. Using the Cole–Hopf change of variables, in [21] a non-degenerated second order MFG system with a quadratic Hamiltonian is transformed into a system of coupled linear parabolic equations. Then, a semi-implicit Finite-Difference scheme for the linear system is proposed and the convergence is analyzed. In the second order case, the convergence results for the above mentioned methods depend crucially on the non-degeneracy of the second order operators in (1.1).

The aim of this work is to provide a fully-discrete Semi-Lagrangian discretization of (1.1), to study the main properties of the scheme and to establish a convergence result. The main advantage of this approach is to get an explicit and conservative scheme, which allows for large time steps even when $\sigma(t)\sigma(t)^\top$ is degenerated. We refer the reader to [17] and the references therein for the study of Semi-Lagrangian schemes for first order HJB equations and to [8, 16] for the second order case. We stress the fact that, if for second order HJB equations Semi-Lagrangian schemes have already been analyzed, the proposed approximation of the FP equation is new.

The line of argument in this paper is similar to the one analyzed in [12]. Given a continuous measure-valued application $\mu(\cdot)$ and a space-time step (ρ, h) we discretize the HJB

$$\begin{aligned} -\partial_t v - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\sigma(t)\sigma(t)^\top D^2 v) + \frac{1}{2} |Dv|^2 &= F(x, \mu(t)) \text{ in } Q, \\ v(x, T) &= G(x, \mu(T)) \text{ for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

using a fully-discrete Semi-Lagrangian scheme in the spirit of [8, 16]. We then regularize the solution of the scheme by convolution with a mollifier ϕ_ε ($\varepsilon > 0$). The resulting function is called $v_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu]$. In order to discretize the Fokker-Planck equation when $\sigma \neq 0$ we propose a natural extension of the scheme which was described in [12] for the deterministic case ($\sigma = 0$). The solution of the scheme is denoted by $m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot)$. The fully-discretization of problem (1.1) is thus to find $\mu(\cdot)$ such that $m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot) = \mu(\cdot)$. The existence of a solution of the discrete problem is established in Theorem 5.1 by standard arguments based on the Brouwer fixed point Theorem. The convergence of the solutions of the discrete system to a solution of (1.1) is much more delicate. As a matter of fact, as in [12] we establish in Theorem 5.2 the convergence result only when the state dimension d is equals to one. Under suitable conditions over the discretization parameters, the proof is based on three crucial results. The first one is a relative compactness property for $m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot)$, that can be obtained as a consequence of a Markov chain interpretation of the scheme (which is related with the probabilistic interpretation of Semi-Lagrangian schemes for second order HJB equations [25]). The second result is the discrete semiconcavity of $v_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu]$ (see e.g. [1]), which implies a.e. convergence of $Dv_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu]$ to $Dv[\mu]$ (where $v[\mu]$ is the unique viscosity solution of (1.2)). The third result is a uniform L^∞ -bound for the density of $m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot)$, where the one dimensional assumption plays an important role. We remark that our convergence result proves the existence of a solution of (1.1) when $d = 1$. Moreover, our results are valid for more general Hamiltonians, as the ones considered in [1] (see Remark 5.1(ii)). However, since the proofs are already rather technical, as in [12], we preferred to present the details for the quadratic Hamiltonian. Let us notice that when $\sigma(t)\sigma(t)^\top$ is uniformly definite positive, (1.1) admits classical solutions (see e.g. [28, 29, 10]). In this non-degenerate case it would be desirable to extend our convergence result for general state dimensions and to study also the case when F and G are local non-smoothing operators (see [28, 29]). We expect to address these issues in future investigations.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we fix some notations and we state our main assumptions. In Section 3 we provide the natural Semi-Lagrangian discretization for the HJB equation and we prove its main properties. In Section 4 we propose a scheme for the Fokker-Planck

equation and we prove that the associated solutions, as functions of the discretization parameters, form a relatively compact set. In Section 5 we prove our main results, the existence of a solution of the discrete system and, if $d = r = 1$, the convergence to a solution of (1.1). Finally, in Section 6 we present some numerical simulations showing the difference between the numerical approximation between degenerate and non-degenerate systems.

2 Preliminaries

Let us first fix some notations. For $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ let $|x| = \sqrt{x^\top x}$ the Euclidean norm. In the entire article $c > 0$ will be a generic constant, which can change from line to line. For $u \in \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ let $\partial_t u$ denote the partial derivative of u (if it exists) w.r.t. the time variable and Du, D^2u denote the gradient and Hessian of u (if they exist) w.r.t. the space variables. Let $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ denote the Borel probability measures μ over \mathbb{R}^d . For $p \in [1, \infty[$, we say that $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_p(\mathbb{R}^d) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ if

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^p d\mu(x) < +\infty.$$

The distance $d_p : \mathcal{P}_p(\mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{P}_p(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$d_p(\mu_1, \mu_2) := \inf_{\gamma \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d)} \left\{ \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} |x - y|^p d\gamma(x, y) \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} ; \gamma(A \times \mathbb{R}^d) = \mu_1(A), \gamma(\mathbb{R}^d \times B) = \mu_2(B) \forall A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^d) \right\}.$$

It is well-known (see e.g. [31, Theorem 1.14]) that d_1 , can be expressed in the following dual form

$$d_1(\mu_1, \mu_2) = \sup_{\phi} \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi(x) d[\mu_1 - \mu_2](x) ; \phi \text{ is 1-Lipschitz} \right\}. \quad (2.1)$$

Let us recall the following useful result (see e.g. [4, Chapter 7] and [10, Lemma 5.7]):

Lemma 2.1 *Let $q > p > 0$ and $\mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be such that*

$$\sup_{\mu \in \mathcal{K}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^q d\mu(x) < \infty.$$

Then \mathcal{K} is a relatively compact set in $\mathcal{P}_p(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

We assume now the following assumptions on the data of (1.1):

(A1) We suppose that:

(i) F and G are uniformly bounded over $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{P}_1$ and for every $m \in \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the functions $F(\cdot, m)$, $G(\cdot, m)$ are C^2 and their first and second derivatives are bounded in \mathbb{R}^d , uniformly with respect to m , i.e. $\exists c > 0$ such that

$$\|F(\cdot, m)\|_{C^2} + \|G(\cdot, m)\|_{C^2} \leq c \quad \forall m \in \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d),$$

where for $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we set $\|\phi\|_{C^2} := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d, |\alpha| \leq 2} |D^\alpha \phi(x)|$.

(ii) Denoting by $\sigma_\ell : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ ($\ell = 1, \dots, r$) the ℓ column vector of the matrix σ , we assume that σ_ℓ is continuous.

(iii) The measure m_0 is absolutely continuous, with density still denoted as m_0 . Moreover, we suppose that m_0 is essentially bounded and has compact support, i.e. there exists $c > 0$ such that $\text{supp}(m_0) \subseteq B(0, c)$, where $B(0, c) := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d ; |x| < c\}$.

We say that (v, m) is a solution of (1.1) if the first equation is satisfied in the viscosity sense (see e.g. [14, 19]), while the second one is satisfied in the distributional sense (see e.g [18]), i.e. for every $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $t \in [0, T]$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) dm(t)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) dm_0(x) + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left[\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\sigma \sigma^\top(s) D^2 \phi(x)) - \langle D\phi(x), Dv(x, s) \rangle \right] dm(s)(x) ds.$$

Our aim in this work is to provide a discretization scheme for (1.1). Given $h, \rho > 0$, let us define a space grid \mathcal{G}_ρ and a time-space grid $\mathcal{G}_{\rho, h}$ by

$$\mathcal{G}_\rho := \{x_i = i\rho, i \in \mathbb{Z}^d\}, \quad \mathcal{G}_{\rho, h} := \mathcal{G}_\rho \times \{t_k\}_{k=0}^N,$$

where $t_k = kh$ ($k = 0, \dots, N$) and $t_N = Nh = T$. We call $B(\mathcal{G}_\rho)$ and $B(\mathcal{G}_{\rho, h})$ the spaces of bounded functions defined respectively on \mathcal{G}_ρ and $\mathcal{G}_{\rho, h}$. For $f \in B(\mathcal{G}_\rho)$ and $g \in B(\mathcal{G}_{\rho, h})$ we set $f_i := f(x_i)$, $g_{i, k} := g(x_i, t_k)$. Given a regular triangulation \mathcal{T}_ρ of \mathbb{R}^d with vertices belonging to \mathcal{G}_ρ , we set $\beta_i(x)$ for the \mathbb{P}_1 basis function on \mathcal{T}_ρ : $\beta_i(x)$ are continuous functions, affine on each element of \mathcal{T}_ρ such that $\beta_i(x_j) = \delta_{ij}$ for all $x_j \in \mathcal{G}_\rho$ (the Kronecker symbol). Moreover, β_i result to have compact support satisfying $0 \leq \beta_i \leq 1$, and $\sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \beta_i(x) = 1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. We consider the following linear interpolation operator

$$I[f](\cdot) := \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} f_i \beta_i(\cdot) \text{ for } f \in B(\mathcal{G}_\rho). \quad (2.2)$$

We recall two basic results about the interpolation operator I (see e.g. [13, 30]). Given $\phi \in C_b(\mathbb{R}^d)$ (the space of bounded continuous functions on \mathbb{R}^d), let us define $\hat{\phi} \in B(\mathcal{G}_\rho)$ by $\hat{\phi}_i := \phi(x_i)$ for all $i \in \mathbb{Z}^d$. Suppose that $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is Lipschitz with constant L . Then,

$$I[\hat{\phi}] \text{ is Lipschitz with constant } \sqrt{d}L. \quad (2.3)$$

On the other hand, if $\phi \in \mathcal{C}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$, with bounded second derivatives, then there exists $c > 0$ such that

$$\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} |I[\hat{\phi}](x) - \phi(x)| = c\rho^2. \quad (2.4)$$

3 A fully discrete semi-Lagrangian scheme for the Hamilton-Jacobi Bellman equation

Given $\mu \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d))$, let us consider the equation

$$\begin{aligned} -\partial_t v - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\sigma(t)\sigma(t)^\top D^2 v) + \frac{1}{2} |Dv|^2 &= F(x, \mu(t)) \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d \times]0, T[, \\ v(x, T) &= G(x, \mu(T)) \text{ for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

We discuss now a probabilistic interpretation of (3.1). Consider a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$, a filtration $\mathbb{F} := \{\mathcal{F}_t ; t \in [0, T]\}$ and a Brownian motion $W(\cdot)$ adapted to \mathbb{F} . Define the space

$$L_{\mathbb{F}}^{2,2} := \{v \in L^2(\Omega \times [0, T]; \mathbb{P} \otimes dt); v \text{ is progressively measurable w.r.t. } \mathbb{F}\},$$

where dt is the Lebesgue measure in $[0, T]$. For every $\alpha \in L_{\mathbb{F}}^{2,2}$, set

$$X^{x,t}[\alpha](s) = x - \int_t^s \alpha(r) dr + \int_t^s \sigma(r) dW(r) \quad \forall s \in [t, T].$$

Then, setting

$$v[\mu](x, t) := \inf_{\alpha \in L_{\mathbb{F}}^{2,2}} \mathbb{E} \left(\int_t^T \left[\frac{1}{2} |\alpha(s)|^2 + F(X^{x,t}[\alpha](s), \mu(s)) \right] ds + G(X^{x,t}[\alpha](T), \mu(T)) \right), \quad (3.2)$$

under **(A1)**, classical arguments (see [32, Proposition 3.1 and Proposition 4.5]) imply the existence of $c > 0$ such that

$$|v[\mu](x, t) - v[\mu](x', t')| \leq c \left[|x - x'| + (1 + |x| \vee |x'|) \sqrt{|t' - t|} \right] \quad \forall x, x' \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad t, t' \in [0, T], \quad (3.3)$$

$$v[\mu](x + x', t) - 2v[\mu](x, t) + v[\mu](x - x', t) \leq c|x'|^2 \quad \forall x, x' \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T. \quad (3.4)$$

Moreover, by the continuity property implied by (3.3), we can write directly the following dynamic programming principle for $v[\mu](\cdot, \cdot)$ (see e.g. [6]):

$$v[\mu](x, t) = \inf_{\alpha \in L_{\mathbb{F}}^{2,2}} \mathbb{E} \left(\int_t^{t+h} \left[\frac{1}{2} |\alpha(s)|^2 + F(X^{x,t}[\alpha](s), \mu(s)) \right] ds + v(X^{x,t}[\alpha](t+h), t+h) \right), \quad (3.5)$$

for all $h \in [0, T - t]$. Using (3.5) it is shown (see e.g. [15, Theorem 3.1]) that $v[\mu](x, t)$ is the unique viscosity solution of (3.1).

Given $\rho, h > 0$ and N such that $Nh = T$, expression (3.5) naturally induces the following scheme to solve (3.1)

$$\begin{cases} v_{i,k} = \hat{S}_{\rho,h}[\mu](v_{\cdot,k+1}, i, k) & \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{G}_\rho, \quad k = 0, \dots, N-1, \\ v_{i,N} = G(x_i, \mu(t_N)), & \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{G}_\rho, \end{cases} \quad (3.6)$$

where $\hat{S}_{\rho,h}[\mu] : B(\mathcal{G}_\rho) \times \mathbb{Z}^d \times \{0, \dots, N-1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$\hat{S}_{\rho,h}[\mu](f, i, k) := \inf_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left[\frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left(I[f](x_i - h\alpha + \sqrt{hr}\sigma_\ell(t_k)) + I[f](x_i - h\alpha - \sqrt{hr}\sigma_\ell(t_k)) \right) + \frac{1}{2} h |\alpha|^2 + h F(x_i, \mu(t_k)) \right]. \quad (3.7)$$

This scheme has been proposed in [8] for a stationary second order possibly degenerate Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation, corresponding to an infinite horizon stochastic optimal control problem. We now prove, in our evolutive framework, some basic properties of $\hat{S}_{\rho,h}[\mu]$.

Proposition 3.1 *The following assertions hold true:*

(i) [Well-posedness] *Suppose that $I[f]$ is Lipschitz with constant $L > 0$. Then, there exists a compact set $K_L \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ (whose diameter depends only on L) such that the infima in the r.h.s. of (3.7) is attained in the interior of K_L .*

(ii) [Monotonicity] *For all $v, w \in B(\mathcal{G}_\rho)$ with $v \leq w$, we have that*

$$\hat{S}_{\rho,h}[\mu](v, i, k) \leq \hat{S}_{\rho,h}[\mu](w, i, k) \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{G}_\rho, \quad k = 0, \dots, N-1.$$

(iii) [Commutation by constant] *For every $c \in \mathbb{R}$ and $w \in B(\mathcal{G}_\rho)$ we have*

$$\hat{S}_{\rho,h}[\mu](w + c, i, k) = \hat{S}_{\rho,h}[\mu](w, i, k) + c, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{G}_\rho, \quad k = 0, \dots, N-1.$$

(iv) [Consistency] *Let $(\rho_n, h_n) \rightarrow 0$ (as $n \uparrow \infty$) with $\rho_n^2 = o(h_n)$ and consider a sequence of grid points $(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n}) \rightarrow (x, t)$ and a sequence $\mu_n \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ such that $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$. Then, for every $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T])$, we have*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{h_n} \left[\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n}) - \hat{S}_{\rho_n, h_n}[\mu_n](\phi_{k_{n+1}}, i_n, k_n) \right] = -\partial_t \phi(x, t) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left(\sigma(t) \sigma(t)^\top D^2 \phi(x, t) \right) + \frac{1}{2} |Dv|^2 - F(x, \mu(t)),$$

where $\phi_k = \{\phi(x_i, t_k)\}_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$, moreover

$$\frac{1}{h_n} \left[\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n}) - \hat{S}_{\rho_n, h_n}[\mu_n](\phi_{k_{n+1}}, i_n, k_n) \right] = O\left(h_n + \frac{\rho_n^2}{h_n}\right).$$

Proof. Properties (ii) and (iii) follows directly from (3.7). Now, since $I[f]$ is bounded and continuous we directly obtain the existence of a minimizer $\bar{\alpha}$ of the r.h.s. of (3.7). Letting

$$g(\alpha) := \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left(I[f](x_i - h\alpha + \sqrt{hr}\sigma_\ell(t_k)) + I[f](x_i - h\alpha - \sqrt{hr}\sigma_\ell(t_k)) \right)$$

we have that g is Lipschitz with constant hL and

$$\frac{1}{2}h|\bar{\alpha}|^2 \leq g(0) - g(\bar{\alpha}) \leq hL|\bar{\alpha}|.$$

The above expression implies that $|\bar{\alpha}| \leq 2L$, which proves (i). Now, in order to prove (iv) let $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and notice that since $I[\phi(\cdot, t)]$ is Lipschitz with a constant depending only on $\|D\phi(\cdot, t)\|_\infty$ (and thus independent of (μ, ρ, h)), we obtain by (i) a fixed compact $K_\phi \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ (depending only on ϕ) such that the infima in the r.h.s. of (3.7) are attained in K_ϕ . Using this fact, for every $\ell = 1, \dots, r$ and $\alpha \in K_\phi$ a Taylor expansion yields to

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(x_{i_n} - h_n\alpha + \sqrt{h_n r}\sigma_\ell(t_{k_n}), t_{k_n+1}) &= \phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1}) + D\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1})^\top (-h_n\alpha + \sqrt{h_n r}\sigma_\ell(t_{k_n})) \\ &\quad + \frac{h_n r}{2}\sigma_\ell(t_{k_n})^\top D^2\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1})\sigma_\ell(t_{k_n}) \\ &\quad + T_3((-h_n\alpha + \sqrt{r h_n}\sigma(t_{k_n}))^3, D^3\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1})) + O(h_n^2), \\ \phi(x_{i_n} - h_n\alpha - \sqrt{h_n r}\sigma_\ell(t_{k_n}), t_{k_n+1}) &= \phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1}) + D\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1})^\top (-h_n\alpha - \sqrt{h_n r}\sigma_\ell(t_{k_n})) \\ &\quad + \frac{h_n r}{2}\sigma_\ell(t_{k_n})^\top D^2\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1})\sigma_\ell(t_{k_n}) \\ &\quad + T_3((-h_n\alpha - \sqrt{r h_n}\sigma(t_{k_n}))^3, D^3\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1})) + O(h_n^2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

where T_3 denotes the third term in the Taylor expansion. Using the interpolation error estimate (2.4) and adding the equations in (3.8). we get

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n}) - \hat{S}_{\rho_n, h_n}[\mu_n](\phi_{k_{n+1}}, i_n, k_n) &= \phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n}) - \phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1}) - h_n F(x_{i_n}, \mu_n(t_{k_n})) \\ &\quad - \frac{h_n}{2} \text{tr}(\sigma(t_{k_n})\sigma(t_{k_n})^\top D^2\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1})) \\ &\quad - h_n \inf_{\alpha \in \text{int}(K_\phi)} [-D\phi(x_{i_n}, t_{k_n+1})^\top \alpha + \frac{1}{2}h_n|\alpha|^2] \\ &\quad + O(\rho_n^2) + O(h_n^2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

In the last equation, by summing the third order terms, the elements of order $h_n^{3/2}$ have simplified and remaining leading term is $O(h_n^2)$. If we choose K_ϕ large enough such that for all $(x', t') \in \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T]$,

$$\inf_{\alpha \in \text{int}(K_\phi)} [-D\phi(x', t')^\top \alpha + \frac{1}{2}|\alpha|^2] = \inf_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^d} [-D\phi(x', t')^\top \alpha + \frac{1}{2}|\alpha|^2] = -\frac{1}{2}|D\phi(x', t')|^2,$$

then, dividing by h_n and letting $h_n \downarrow 0$, we can pass to the limit in (3.9) to obtain the result. \blacksquare

We now define

$$v_{\rho, h}[\mu](x, t) := I[v_{\cdot, [\frac{t}{h}]}](x) \quad \text{for all } (x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T]. \quad (3.10)$$

Note that taking $t = t'$ in (3.3), we have that $v[\mu](\cdot, t)$ is Lipschitz. We now prove the corresponding result for $v_{\rho, h}[\mu](\cdot, t)$ as well as a discrete version of (3.4).

Lemma 3.1 *For every $t \in [0, T]$, the following assertions hold true:*

- (i) [Lipschitz property] *The function $v_{\rho, h}[\mu](\cdot, t)$ is Lipschitz with Lipschitz constant independent of (ρ, h, μ, t) .*
- (ii) [Discrete semiconcavity] *There exists $c > 0$ independent of (ρ, h, μ, t) such that*

$$v_{\rho, h}[\mu](x_i + x_j, t) - 2v_{\rho, h}[\mu](x_i, t) + v_{\rho, h}[\mu](x_i - x_j, t) \leq c|x_j|^2 \quad \forall x_i, x_j \in \mathcal{G}_\rho \text{ and } t \in [0, T]. \quad (3.11)$$

Proof. Using that $\beta_m(x_{i+j} + z) = \beta_{m-j}(x_i + z)$, for every $m, i, j \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ and $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$, for every $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $k = 0, \dots, N-1$ and $\ell = 1, \dots, r$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} & I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_{i+j} - h\alpha + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) - I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_i - h\alpha + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) \\ &= \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \beta_m(x_i - h\alpha + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k))(v_{m+j, k+1} - v_{m, k+1}), \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

with an analogous equality for the difference

$$I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_{i+j} - h\alpha - \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) - I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_i - h\alpha - \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)).$$

Since $G(\cdot, \mu)$ is Lipschitz by **A1(i)**, with a constant c independent of μ , (3.6)-(3.7) imply that $|v_{m+j, N} - v_{m, N}| \leq c|x_{m+j} - x_m| = c|x_{i+j} - x_i|$ for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}^d$. Therefore, since $\sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \beta_m(x) = 1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we obtain with **A1(i)**, (3.6)-(3.7) and (3.12) that

$$|v_{i+j, N-1} - v_{i, N-1}| \leq c(1+h)|x_{i+j} - x_i|$$

Therefore, by a recursive argument using (3.12) we easily obtain that

$$|v_{i+j, k} - v_{i, k}| \leq c(1+Th)|x_{i+j} - x_i| \quad \text{for all } i, j \in \mathbb{Z}^d \text{ and } k = 0, \dots, N,$$

and assertion (i) follows from (3.10) and (2.3). In order to prove the second assertion note that, since G is semiconcave, the result is valid for $v_{\cdot, N}$. Inductively, we suppose the result for t_{k+1} , i.e.

$$v_{i+j, k+1} - 2v_{i, k+1} + v_{i-j, k+1} \leq c|x_j|^2, \quad \forall i, j \in \mathbb{Z}^d, \quad (3.13)$$

and we prove its validity for t_k ($k = 0, \dots, N-1$). Let us denote by $\alpha_{i, k}$ an optimal solution for the problem defining $\hat{S}_{\rho, h}[\mu](v_{\cdot, k+1}, i, k)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} v_{i+j, k} &\leq \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left[I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_{i+j} - h\alpha_{i, k} + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) + \frac{1}{2} I[v_{\cdot, n+1}](x_{i+j} - h\alpha_{i, k} - \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) \right] + \frac{1}{2} h |\alpha_{i, k}|^2 \\ &\quad + hF(x_{i+j}, \mu(t_k)), \\ v_{i-j, k} &\leq \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left[I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_{i-j} - h\alpha_{i, k} + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) + \frac{1}{2} I[v_{\cdot, n+1}](x_{i-j} - h\alpha_{i, k} - \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) \right] + \frac{1}{2} h |\alpha_{i, k}|^2 \\ &\quad + hF(x_{i-j}, \mu(t_k)), \\ v_{i, k} &= \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left[I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_i - h\alpha_{i, k} + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) + \frac{1}{2} I[v_{\cdot, n+1}](x_i - h\alpha_{i, k} - \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) \right] + \frac{1}{2} h |\alpha_{i, k}|^2 \\ &\quad + hF(x_i, \mu(t_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

On the other hand, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} & I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_{i+j} - h\alpha_{i, k} + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) - 2I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_i - h\alpha_{i, k} + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) + I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_{i-j} - h\alpha_{i, k} + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) = \\ & \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \beta_m(x_i - h\alpha_{i, k} + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) [v_{m+j, k+1} - 2v_{m, k+1} + v_{m-j, k+1}] \leq c|x_j|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from (3.13). Analogously,

$$I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_{i+j} - h\alpha_{i, k} - \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) - 2I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_i - h\alpha_{i, k} - \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) + I[v_{\cdot, k+1}](x_{i-j} - h\alpha_{i, k} - \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_k)) \leq c|x_j|^2.$$

Therefore, combining (3.14), the semiconcavity of F and the above inequalities, we obtain

$$v_{i+j, k} - 2v_{i, k} + v_{i-j, k} \leq c(1+h)|x_j|^2.$$

In particular, for $n = N-1$, we get

$$v_{i+j, N-1} - 2v_{i, N-1} + v_{i-j, N-1} \leq c(1+h)|x_j|^2$$

and by induction, for all $k = 0, \dots, N$,

$$v_{i+j, k} - 2v_{i, k} + v_{i-j, k} \leq c(1+T)|x_j|^2$$

from which the result follows. ■

Now, we regularize $v_{\rho,h}$ in the space variable. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ and $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$, with $\phi \geq 0$ and $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi(x) dx = 1$. Define $\phi_\varepsilon(x) := \frac{1}{\varepsilon^d} \phi(x/\varepsilon)$ and set

$$v_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot, t) := \phi_\varepsilon * v_{\rho,h}[\mu](\cdot, t) \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \quad (3.15)$$

Using that $v_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot, t)$ is Lipschitz by Lemma 3.1(i), we easily check that there exists $\gamma > 0$ (independent of $(\varepsilon, \rho, h, \mu, t)$) such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|v_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot, \cdot) - v_{\rho,h}[\mu](\cdot, \cdot)\|_\infty &\leq \gamma\varepsilon, \\ \|D^\alpha v_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot, \cdot)\|_\infty &\leq c_\alpha \varepsilon^{1-|\alpha|} \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

where $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$ is a multiindex, with $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_d > 0$, and $c_\alpha > 0$ depends only on α . We have the following results whose proofs are provided in [12].

Lemma 3.2 *For every $t \in [0, T]$ we have that:*

- (i) *The function $v_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot, t)$ is Lipschitz with constant c independent of (ρ, h, μ, t) .*
- (ii) *If $d = 1$, then*

$$(Dv_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(x_j, t_k) - Dv_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(x_i, t_k))(x_j - x_i) \leq c(x_j - x_i)^2 \quad \forall k = 0, \dots, N. \quad (3.17)$$

Proof. See [12, Lemma 3.4(i) and Lemma 3.6]. ■

The following convergence result holds true:

Theorem 3.1 *Let $(\rho_n, h_n, \varepsilon_n) \rightarrow 0$ be such that $\frac{\rho_n^2}{h_n} \rightarrow 0$ and $\rho_n = o(\varepsilon_n)$. Then, for every sequence $\mu_n \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1)$ such that $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$ in $C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1)$, we have that $v_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu_n] \rightarrow v[\mu]$ uniformly over compact sets and $Dv_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu_n](x, t) \rightarrow Dv[\mu](x, t)$ at every (x, t) such that $Dv[\mu](x, t)$ exists.*

Proof. Using the properties of the scheme proved in Proposition 3.1, the first assertion follows by classical arguments (see [5] and [12, Theorem 3.3]). The second assertion is proved following the same lines of the proof of [12, Theorem 3.5], which uses the uniform discrete semi-concavity of $v_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu_n]$, proved in our case in Lemma 3.1, and [1, Lemma 4.3 and Remark 4.4]. ■

4 The fully-discrete scheme for the Fokker-Planck equation

Given a compact set $\mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ let us define the convex and compact set

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{K}} := \left\{ (m_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d}; m_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in \mathbb{Z}^d, \quad m_i = 0 \text{ if } i\rho \notin \mathcal{K} \text{ and } \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_i = 1 \right\}. \quad (4.1)$$

For $\rho > 0$ and $i \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ we set $E_i := [x_i^1 - \frac{1}{2}\rho, x_i^1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho] \times \dots \times [x_i^d - \frac{1}{2}\rho, x_i^d + \frac{1}{2}\rho]$ and for a given $\mu = \{\mu_{i,k}; i \in \mathbb{Z}^d, k = 0, \dots, N\} \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{K}}^{N+1}$ we define for all $k = 0, \dots, N$ the measure $\tilde{\mu}(t_k) \in \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ as

$$d\tilde{\mu}(t_k) := \frac{1}{\rho^d} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \mu_{i,k} \mathbb{I}_{E_i}(x) dx \quad (4.2)$$

and its extension to all $t \in [0, T]$ by

$$\tilde{\mu}(t) := \left(\frac{t_{k+1} - t}{h} \right) \mu(t_k) + \left(\frac{t - t_k}{h} \right) \mu(t_{k+1}) \quad \text{if } t \in [t_k, t_{k+1}]. \quad (4.3)$$

By construction $\tilde{\mu} \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ and without danger of confusion we will still write μ for $\tilde{\mu}$. Thus, given $\mu \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{K}}^{N+1}$ we can define $v[\mu](\cdot, \cdot)$ as in Section 3. For $\varepsilon > 0$, $i \in \mathbb{Z}^d$, $\ell = 1, \dots, r$ and $k = 0, \dots, N-1$ let us set

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{i,k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, +}[\mu] &:= x_i - hDv_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu](x_i, t_k) + \sqrt{rh}\sigma_{\ell}(t_k), \\ \Phi_{i,k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, -}[\mu] &:= x_i - hDv_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu](x_i, t_k) - \sqrt{rh}\sigma_{\ell}(t_k),\end{aligned}\tag{4.4}$$

and define $m[\mu] = \{m_{i,k}[\mu] ; i \in \mathbb{Z}^d, k = 0, \dots, N\}$ recursively as

$$\begin{aligned}m_{i,k+1}[\mu] &:= \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left[\beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, +}[\mu] \right) + \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, -}[\mu] \right) \right] m_{j,k}[\mu], \\ m_{i,0}[\mu] &:= \int_{E_i} m_0(x) dx.\end{aligned}\tag{4.5}$$

Remark 4.1 *There exists a compact set $K_h \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ such that $m[\mu] \in \mathcal{S}_{K_h}^{N+1}$. In fact, using that m_0 has a compact support and that σ and $Dv_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu](x_i, t_k)$ are uniformly bounded (by Lemma 3.2(i)) we have the existence of a constant $c > 0$ such that $m_{i,k} = 0$ if $\rho_i \notin B(0, c/\sqrt{h})$, for every $k = 0, \dots, N$. Moreover,*

$$\sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{i,k+1}[\mu] = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \left[\beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, +}[\mu] \right) + \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, -}[\mu] \right) \right] m_{j,k}[\mu] = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{j,k}[\mu] = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{j,0}[\mu] = 1,$$

which implies that the scheme is conservative.

Associated to (4.5) we set $m_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu] := \widetilde{m}[\mu] \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d))$, defined through (4.3), and for all $k = 0, \dots, N$ we define the measure

$$\hat{m}_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu](\cdot, t_k) := \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{i,k}[\mu] \delta_{x_i}(\cdot).\tag{4.6}$$

Clearly, $\{\hat{m}_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu](\cdot, t_k) ; k = 0, \dots, N\} \in \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d)^{N+1}$. The following simple remark will be very useful in the sequel.

Remark 4.2 (Probabilistic interpretation) *Let us define*

$$\begin{aligned}p_{j,i}^{(k)} &:= \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left[\beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, +}[\mu] \right) + \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, -}[\mu] \right) \right], \quad \forall k = 0, \dots, N-1, \\ p_i^{(0)} &= m_{i,0}[\mu].\end{aligned}\tag{4.7}$$

By classical results in probability theory (see e.g. [7]) the family $\{p_{j,i}^{(k)} ; j, i \in \mathbb{Z}^d, k = 0, \dots, N-1\}$ together with $\{p_i^{(0)} ; i \in \mathbb{Z}^d\}$ allow to define a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ and a discrete Markov chain $(X_k)_{0 \leq k \leq N}$ taking values in \mathbb{Z}^d , such that its initial distribution is given by $(p_i^{(0)})_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$, the transition probabilities are given by (4.7) and the law at time t_k is given by $\hat{m}_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu](\cdot, t_k)$. That is,

$$\mathbb{P}(X_0 = x_i) = p_i^{(0)}, \quad \mathbb{P}(X_{k+1} = x_i \mid X_k = x_j) = p_{j,i}^{(k)} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P}(X_k = x_i) = m_{i,k}[\mu].$$

We have the following relation between the $m_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu]$ and $\hat{m}_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu]$:

Lemma 4.1 *There exists a constant $c > 0$ (independent of $(\rho, h, \varepsilon, \mu)$) such that for all $k = 0, \dots, N$*

$$\bar{d}_1 \left(m_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu](\cdot, t_k), \hat{m}_{\rho, h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu](\cdot, t_k) \right) \leq c\rho.$$

Proof. Let $\phi \in C(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be 1-Lipschitz. Then, by definition,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi(x) d [m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot, t_k) - \hat{m}_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot, t_k)](x) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{i,k}[\mu] \left[\frac{1}{\rho^d} \int_{E_i} \phi(x) dx - \phi(x_i) \right].$$

Then, the result follows, since for all $i \in \mathbb{Z}^d$,

$$\left| \frac{1}{\rho^d} \int_{E_i} \phi(x) dx - \phi(x_i) \right| \leq \frac{1}{\rho^d} \int_{E_i} |x - x_i| dx \leq c\rho.$$

■

The following result will be the key to prove a compactness property for $m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu]$.

Proposition 4.1 *Suppose that $\rho = O(h)$. Then, there exists a constant $c > 0$ (independent of $(\rho, h, \varepsilon, \mu)$) such that for all $0 \leq s \leq t \leq T$, we have that*

$$d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](s)) \leq c\sqrt{t-s}. \quad (4.8)$$

Proof. Let us first show that for all $k, k' = 0, \dots, N$, with $k' \leq k$, we have that

$$d_1(\hat{m}_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_k), \hat{m}_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_{k'})) \leq c\sqrt{(k-k')h} = c\sqrt{t_k - t_{k'}}, \quad (4.9)$$

$$d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_k), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_{k'})) \leq c\sqrt{(k-k')h} = c\sqrt{t_k - t_{k'}}. \quad (4.10)$$

For notational simplicity we will suppose that $k' = 0$ and we omit the dependence on μ . Consider the Markov chain $X_{(\cdot)}$ defined in Remark 4.2 and let $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ be the joint law X_k and X_0 . By definition of \bar{d}_1 we have that

$$d_1(\hat{m}_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_k), \hat{m}_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(0)) \leq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}(|X_k - X_0|), \quad (4.11)$$

where \mathbb{P} is the probability measure introduced in Remark 4.2 and $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}(Y) = \int_{\Omega} Y(\omega) d\mathbb{P}(\omega)$, for all $Y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which are \mathcal{F} measurable. We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}(|X_k - X_0|) &= \sum_{i_0, \dots, i_k} \left| \sum_{p=0}^{k-1} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| p_{i_{k-1}, i_k}^{(k-1)} p_{i_{k-2}, i_{k-1}}^{(k-2)} \cdots p_{i_0, i_1}^{(0)} m_{i_0, 0}, \\ &= \sum_{i_0, \dots, i_{k-1}} \sum_{i_k} \left| x_{i_k} - x_{i_{k-1}} + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| p_{i_{k-1}, i_k}^{(k-1)} p_{i_{k-2}, i_{k-1}}^{(k-2)} \cdots p_{i_0, i_1}^{(0)} m_{i_0, 0}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

and by (4.7) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{i_k} \left| x_{i_k} - x_{i_{k-1}} + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| p_{i_{k-1}, i_k}^{(k-1)} = \\ &\frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \sum_{i_k} \left| x_{i_k} - x_{i_{k-1}} + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| \left[\beta_{i_k} \left(\Phi_{i_{k-1}, k-1}^{\varepsilon, \ell, +} \right) + \beta_{i_k} \left(\Phi_{i_{k-1}, k-1}^{\varepsilon, \ell, -} \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Using that $\rho = O(h)$, for $\ell = 1, \dots, r$ we have that

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{i_k} \left| x_{i_k} - x_{i_{k-1}} + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| \beta_{i_k} \left(\Phi_{i_{k-1}, k-1}^{\varepsilon, \ell, +} \right) \\ &\leq \left| \Phi_{i_{k-1}, k-1}^{\varepsilon, \ell, +} - x_{i_{k-1}} + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| + O(\rho) \\ &= \left| -hDv_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(x_{i_{k-1}}, t_{k-1}) + \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_{k-1}) + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| + O(\rho) \\ &\leq \left| \sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_{k-1}) + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| + ch. \end{aligned}$$

Analogously,

$$\sum_{i_k} \left| x_{i_k} - x_{i_{k-1}} + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| \beta_{i_k} \left(\Phi_{i_{k-1}, k-1}^{\varepsilon, \ell, -} \right) \leq \left| -\sqrt{r}h\sigma_\ell(t_{k-1}) + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| + ch.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i_k} \left| x_{i_k} - x_{i_{k-1}} + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| p_{i_{k-1}, i_k}^{(k-1)} \leq \\ & \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell_{k-1}=1}^r \sum_{e_{\ell_{k-1}} \in \{-1, 1\}} \left| \sqrt{r\bar{h}} e_{\ell_{k-1}} \sigma_{\ell_{k-1}}(t_{k-1}) + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| + ch. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} (|X_k - X_0|) & \leq \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{\ell_{k-1}=1}^r \sum_{e_{\ell_{k-1}} \in \{-1, 1\}} \sum_{i_0, \dots, i_{k-1}} \left| \sqrt{r\bar{h}} e_{\ell_{k-1}} \sigma_{\ell_{k-1}}(t_{k-1}) + \sum_{p=0}^{k-2} (x_{i_{p+1}} - x_{i_p}) \right| p_{i_{k-2}, i_{k-1}}^{(k-2)} \dots p_{i_0, i_1}^{(0)} m_{i_0, 0} \\ & + ch. \end{aligned}$$

By a recursive argument, we get

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} (|X_k - X_0|) \leq \frac{\sqrt{r\bar{h}}}{(2r)^k} \sum_{\ell_{k-1}, \dots, \ell_0 \in \{1, \dots, r\}} \sum_{e_{\ell_{k-1}}, \dots, e_{\ell_0} \in \{-1, 1\}} \left| \sum_{p=0}^{k-1} e_{\ell_p} \sigma_{\ell_p}(t_p) \right| + ckh. \quad (4.13)$$

Now, consider k steps of a random walk in \mathbb{R}^r , i.e. a sequence of independent random vectors Z_0, \dots, Z_k in \mathbb{R}^r , defined in $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$, satisfying that for all $0 \leq p \leq k$

$$\mathbb{P}(Z_p^\ell = 1) = \mathbb{P}(Z_p^\ell = -1) = \frac{1}{2r} \quad \text{for all } \ell = 1, \dots, r \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P} \left(\bigcup_{1 \leq \ell_1 < \ell_2 \leq r} \{Z_p^{\ell_1} \neq 0\} \cap \{Z_p^{\ell_2} \neq 0\} \right) = 0.$$

Then, by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\frac{1}{(2r)^k} \sum_{\ell_{k-1}, \dots, \ell_0 \in \{1, \dots, r\}} \sum_{e_{\ell_{k-1}}, \dots, e_{\ell_0} \in \{-1, 1\}} \left| \sum_{p=0}^{k-1} e_{\ell_p} \sigma_{\ell_p}(t_p) \right| = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\left| \sum_{p=0}^{k-1} \sigma(t_p) Z_p \right| \right) \leq \left[\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\left| \sum_{p=0}^{k-1} \sigma(t_p) Z_p \right|^2 \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Since $\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}(Z_p) = 0$, by independence we easily get that

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\sum_{p=0}^{k-1} |\sigma(t_p) Z_p|^2 \right) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{p=0}^{k-1} \text{tr}(\sigma(t_p) \sigma(t_p)^\top),$$

and since σ is bounded, we have that

$$\frac{1}{(2r)^k} \sum_{\ell_{k-1}, \dots, \ell_0} \sum_{e_{\ell_{k-1}}, \dots, e_{\ell_0}} \left| \sum_{p=0}^{k-1} e_{\ell_p} \sigma_{\ell_p}(t_p) \right| \leq c\sqrt{k},$$

for some $c > 0$. Thus, combining (4.11), (4.13) and the above inequality, we obtain that

$$d_1(\hat{m}_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_k), \hat{m}_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_{k'})) \leq c\sqrt{k\bar{h}} + ckh = O(\sqrt{k\bar{h}}),$$

which proves (4.9). By the triangular inequality we get

$$\begin{aligned} d_1 \left(m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_k), m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_{k'}) \right) & \leq d_1 \left(m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_k), \hat{m}_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_k) \right) + d_1 \left(m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_{k'}), \hat{m}_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_{k'}) \right) \\ & + d_1 \left(\hat{m}_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_k), \hat{m}_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_{k'}) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Since $\rho = O(h)$, we get by Lemma 4.1 and (4.9) that

$$d_1 \left(m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_k), m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t_{k'}) \right) = O(\rho + \sqrt{(k - k')\bar{h}}) \leq O(\sqrt{t_k - t_{k'}}),$$

which proves (4.10). Now, suppose that $s \in (t_{k_1}, t_{k_1+1})$ and $t \in (t_{k_2}, t_{k_2+1})$, then by the triangular inequality

$$d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(s)) \leq d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_1+1}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(s)) + d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_1+1}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_2})) + d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_2}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t)). \quad (4.14)$$

Now, by (4.3) and (4.10)

$$\begin{aligned} d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_1+1}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(s)) + d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_2}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t)) &\leq \frac{t_{k_1+1}-s}{h} d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_1+1}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_1})) \\ &\quad + \frac{t-t_{k_2}}{h} d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_2}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_2+1})) \\ &\leq c \left[\frac{t-t_{k_2}}{\sqrt{h}} + \frac{t_{k_1+1}-s}{\sqrt{h}} \right] \end{aligned}$$

If $k_1 + 1 \neq k_2$ we have, since $t - t_{k_2} \leq h$ and $t_{k_1+1} - s \leq h$,

$$d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_1+1}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(s)) + d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_2}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t)) = O(\sqrt{h}) = O(\sqrt{t_{k_2} - t_{k_1+1}}) = O(\sqrt{t - s}). \quad (4.15)$$

If $k_1 + 1 = k_2$, we have that $t - s \leq 2h$

$$d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_1+1}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(s)) + d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_2}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t)) = O\left(\frac{t-s}{\sqrt{h}}\right) = O(\sqrt{t-s}). \quad (4.16)$$

Therefore, since in both cases we have $d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_2}), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t_{k_1+1})) = O(\sqrt{t-s})$, inequalities (4.14) and (4.15)-(4.16) imply that

$$d_1(m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(t), m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(s)) = O(\sqrt{t-s}).$$

■

Now, let us prove some uniform bounds for $m_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](\cdot)$ in $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Proposition 4.2 *If $\rho = O(\sqrt{h})$, then there exists $c > 0$ (independent of $(\rho, h, \varepsilon, \mu)$) such that*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^2 dm_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon[\mu](t) \leq c \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \quad (4.17)$$

Proof. By notational convenience we omit the dependence on μ . For every $k = 0, \dots, N-1$ we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^2 dm_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(x, t_{k+1}) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{1}{\rho^d} \int_{E_i} |x|^2 dx m_{i,k+1},$$

but

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{1}{\rho^d} \int_{E_i} |x|^2 dx m_{i,k+1} &= \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{1}{\rho^d} \int_{E_i} |x|^2 dx \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left[\beta_i(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon,\ell,+}) + \beta_i(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon,\ell,-}) \right] m_{j,k}, \\ &= \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{j,k} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \left[\beta_i(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon,\ell,+}) + \beta_i(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon,\ell,-}) \right] \frac{1}{\rho^d} \int_{E_i} |x|^2 dx. \end{aligned}$$

Now, by a simple Taylor expansion we easily prove that for $\phi \in C^2(\bar{E}_i)$ we have

$$\left| \frac{1}{\rho} \int_{E_i} \phi(x) dx - \phi(x_i) \right| = O(\rho^2), \quad \forall i \in \mathbb{Z}^d. \quad (4.18)$$

Thus, letting $\phi(x) = |x|^2$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} x^2 dm_{\rho,h}^\varepsilon(x, t_{k+1}) &= \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{j,k} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left(I[\hat{\phi}](\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon,\ell,+}) + I[\hat{\phi}](\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon,\ell,-}) \right) + O(\rho^2), \\ &= \frac{1}{2r} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{j,k} \left(\sum_{\ell=1}^r \left[|\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon,\ell,+}|^2 + |\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon,\ell,-}|^2 \right] \right) + O(\rho^2), \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from (2.4). Therefore, we get

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} |x|^2 dm_{\rho,h}^{\varepsilon}(x, t_{k+1}) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{j,k} \sum_{\ell=1}^r [|x_j|^2 - 2h \langle Dv_{\rho,h}^{\varepsilon}(x_j, t_k), x_j \rangle + h^2 |Dv_{\rho,h}^{\varepsilon}(x_j, t_k)|^2 + h |\sigma_{\ell}(t_k)|^2] + O(\rho^2).$$

Now, using that $|\langle Dv_{\rho,h}^{\varepsilon}(x_j, t_k), x_j \rangle| \leq \frac{1}{2}(c + |x_j|^2)$, for some $c > 0$, and that σ is uniformly bounded, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |x|^2 dm_{\rho,h}^{\varepsilon}(x, t_{k+1}) &\leq (1+h) \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} m_{j,k} |x_j|^2 + O(h + \rho^2), \\ &= (1+h) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^2 dm_{\rho,h}^{\varepsilon}(x, t_k) + O(h + \rho^2), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used again (4.18). Setting $A_k := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^2 dm_{\rho,h}^{\varepsilon}(x, t_k)$ we get that

$$A_{k+1} \leq (1+h)A_k + c(h + \rho^2),$$

for some $c > 0$. Therefore, inductively for all $k_1 = 0, \dots, k$,

$$\begin{aligned} A_{k+1} &\leq (1+h)^{k+1-k_1} A_{k_1} + c(h + \rho^2) \sum_{\ell=0}^{k-k_1} (1+h)^{\ell} \leq (1+h)^{k+1} A_0 + c(h + \rho^2) \left[\frac{(1+h)^{k+1} - 1}{h} \right], \\ &\leq e^T (A_0 + c'(1 + \frac{\rho^2}{h})). \end{aligned}$$

for some $c' > 0$. Since $\rho^2 = O(h)$ we get (4.17) for all $t_k = 0, \dots, N$ and by (4.3) for all $t \in [0, T]$. ■

Our aim now is to obtain when $d = 1$ uniform L^∞ -bounds for $m_{\rho,h}^{\varepsilon}[\mu]$. We remark that for $d = 1$ it suffices to consider also $r = 1$. In this case the notation can be simplified, and the superscript ℓ will be suppressed.

Lemma 4.2 *Suppose that $d = 1$ and consider a sequence of numbers $\rho_n, h_n, \varepsilon_n$ converging to 0. Then, there exists a constant $c > 0$ (independent of (n, μ) for n large enough) such that*

$$\min \left\{ |\Phi_{i,k}^{\varepsilon_n,+}[\mu] - \Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon_n,+}[\mu]|^2, |\Phi_{i,k}^{\varepsilon_n,-}[\mu] - \Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon_n,-}[\mu]|^2 \right\} \geq (1 - ch_n) |x_i - x_j|^2, \quad (4.19)$$

for all $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$, $k = 0, \dots, N-1$. As a consequence, there exists a constant $c > 0$ (independent of (n, μ)) such that

$$\sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \left[\beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon_n,+}[\mu] \right) + \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon_n,-}[\mu] \right) \right] \leq 1 + ch_n. \quad (4.20)$$

Proof. For the reader's convenience, we omit the μ argument. By (4.4) we have that

$$\begin{aligned} |\Phi_{i,k}^{\varepsilon_n,+} - \Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon_n,+}|^2 &= \left| x_i - x_j - h \left[Dv_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}(x_i, t_k) - Dv_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}(x_j, t_k) \right] + \sqrt{h_n} \sigma(t_k) - \sqrt{h_n} \sigma(t_k) \right|^2, \\ &\geq |x_i - x_j|^2 - 2h_n \left(Dv_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}(x_i, t_k) - Dv_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}(x_j, t_k) \right) (x_i - x_j), \end{aligned}$$

which together with the condition Lemma 3.2(ii) yields to

$$|\Phi_{i,k}^{\varepsilon_n,+} - \Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon_n,+}|^2 \geq (1 - ch_n) |x_i - x_j|^2.$$

for some $c > 0$. Since the same argument is valid for $\Phi_{i,k}^{\varepsilon_n,-}$, we get (4.19). Using (4.19) and following the proof in [12, Lemma 3.8], we obtain that for all $k = 0, \dots, N-1$ and $i \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon_n,+}[\mu] \right) \leq 1 + ch_n, \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j,k}^{\varepsilon_n,-}[\mu] \right) \leq 1 + ch_n$$

for some $c > 0$, which implies (4.20). ■

Remark 4.3 Property (4.20) plays a crucial role in finding uniform bounds in L^∞ for $m_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu]$ (see Proposition 4.3 below). Unfortunately, we have not been able to prove (4.20) in the general case. As a matter of fact, in dimension 2 it is easy to construct a counterexample in order to prove that (4.19) is not sufficient to prove (4.20). Therefore, we expect that finer properties of the scheme should be established in order to overcome this difficulty.

As a consequence we obtain the following uniform bound:

Proposition 4.3 Suppose that $d = 1$ and consider a sequence of positive numbers $(\rho_n, h_n, \varepsilon_n) \rightarrow 0$. Then, there exists a constant $c > 0$, independent of (n, μ) such that

$$\|m_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu](\cdot, t)\|_\infty \leq c. \quad (4.21)$$

Proof. We have that for all $k = 0, \dots, N - 1$ and $x \in E_i$

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu](x, t_{k+1}) &= \frac{1}{\rho_n} m_{i, k+1}[\mu] = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \left[\beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, +}[\mu] \right) + \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, -}[\mu] \right) \right] \frac{1}{\rho_n} m_{j, k}[\mu], \\ &= \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \left[\beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, +}[\mu] \right) + \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, -}[\mu] \right) \right] m_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu](x_j, t_k), \\ &\leq \|m_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu](\cdot, t_k)\|_\infty (1 + ch_n), \end{aligned}$$

by (4.20). Therefore, by recurrence

$$\|m_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu](\cdot, t_{k+1})\|_\infty \leq (1 + ch_n)^N \|m_0\|_\infty \leq e^{cT} \|m_0\|_\infty.$$

If $t \in]t_k, t_{k+1}[$, by (4.3) we have the same bound for $\|m_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}[\mu](\cdot, t)\|_\infty$. ■

5 The fully discrete SL approximation of the second order mean field game problem

Given positive numbers ρ , h and ε let us consider the problem

$$\text{Find } \mu \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1) \text{ such that } m_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu] = \mu. \quad (MFG)_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon$$

or equivalently, recalling (4.5) and Remark 4.1, find $\mu \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{K}_h}^{N+1}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{i, k+1} &:= \frac{1}{2^r} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{\ell=1}^r \left[\beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, +}[\mu] \right) + \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon, \ell, -}[\mu] \right) \right] \mu_{j, k}, \\ \mu_{i, 0} &:= \int_{E_i} m_0(x) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (5.1)$$

We have the following existence result:

Theorem 5.1 Problem $(MFG)_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon$ has at least one solution.

Proof. Let $\{\mu_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\mu \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{K}_h}^{N+1}$ such that $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$. Then, as elements in $C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^n))$ (see (4.2)-(4.3)) we have that $\sup_{t \in [0, T]} d_1(\mu_n(t), \mu(t)) \rightarrow 0$. Therefore, by assumption (A_0) we have that $v_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu_n] \rightarrow v_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu]$ uniformly and therefore $Dv_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu_n] \rightarrow Dv_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu]$ uniformly. This implies that the function $\mu \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{K}_h}^{N+1} \rightarrow m[\mu] \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{K}_h}^{N+1}$ defined by (4.5) is continuous and since $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{K}_h}^{N+1}$ is a non-empty convex compact set the result follows from Brouwer fixed point Theorem. ■

Now we can prove our main result:

Theorem 5.2 *Suppose that $d = 1$ and that (A1)-(A3) hold true. Consider a sequence of positive numbers $\rho_n, h_n, \varepsilon_n$ satisfying that $\rho_n = O(h_n)$ and that $h_n = o(\varepsilon_n^2)$. Let $\{m^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of solutions of $(MFG)_{\rho_n, h_n}^{\varepsilon_n}$ and denote by $\{v^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ the associated sequence of discrete value functions. Then, except for some subsequence, $(v^n, m^n) \rightarrow (\bar{v}, \bar{m})$, where (\bar{v}, \bar{m}) is a solution of (1.1) and the convergence is uniform over compact sets for v^n and in $C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1)$ for m^n . Moreover, $m^n \rightarrow \bar{m}$ in $L^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times [0, T])$ -weak-**.

In particular, if the mean field game problem (1.1) has a unique solution (v, m) , then the entire sequence (v^n, m^n) converges to (v, m) .

Proof. By Propositions 4.1-4.2, Lemma 2.1 and Ascoli Theorem, there exists $\bar{m} \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1)$ such that, except for some subsequence, m^n converge to \bar{m} in $C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1)$. Our aim is to prove that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) d\bar{m}(t)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) dm_0(x) + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left[\frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(s) D^2 \phi(x) - D\phi(x) Dv[\bar{m}](x, s) \right] d\bar{m}(s)(x) ds. \quad (5.2)$$

Given $t \in [0, T]$, let us set $t_n := \left\lceil \frac{t}{h_n} \right\rceil h_n$. We have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) dm^n(t_n) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) dm_0(x) + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) d[m^n(t_{k+1}) - m^n(t_k)]. \quad (5.3)$$

By (4.2)-(4.5) and (2.4), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) dm^n(t_{k+1}) &= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} m_{i, k+1}^n \frac{1}{\rho_n} \int_{E_i} \phi(x) dx, \\ &= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} m_{i, k+1}^n \phi(x_i) + O(\rho_n^2), \\ &= \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \phi(x_i) \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} m_{j, k}^n \left[\beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, +} \right) + \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, -} \right) \right] + O(\rho_n^2), \\ &= \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} m_{j, k}^n \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \phi(x_i) \left[\beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, +} \right) + \beta_i \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, -} \right) \right] + O(\rho_n^2), \\ &= \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} m_{j, k}^n \left[\phi \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, +} \right) + \phi \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, -} \right) \right] + O(\rho_n^2). \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

Let us set

$$\Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, +}(x) := x - h_n Dv^n(x, t_k) + \sqrt{h_n} \sigma(t_k), \quad \Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, -}(x) := x - h_n Dv^n(x, t_k) - \sqrt{h_n} \sigma(t_k).$$

Taking $|\alpha| = 3$ in the second inequality of (3.16) we easily obtain by a Taylor expansion that

$$\left| \frac{1}{\rho_n} \int_{E_j} \phi \left(\Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, +}(x) \right) dx - \phi \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, +} \right) \right| + \left| \frac{1}{\rho_n} \int_{E_j} \phi \left(\Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, -}(x) \right) dx - \phi \left(\Phi_{j, k}^{\varepsilon_n, -} \right) \right| \leq ch_n \frac{\rho_n^2}{\varepsilon_n},$$

for some $c > 0$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) dm^n(t_{k+1}) &= \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \int_{E_j} \left[\phi \left(\Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, +}(x) \right) + \phi \left(\Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, -}(x) \right) \right] dx \frac{m_{j, k}^n}{\rho_n} \\ &\quad + O\left(h_n \frac{\rho_n^2}{\varepsilon_n} + \rho_n^2\right), \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left[\phi \left(\Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, +}(x) \right) + \phi \left(\Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, -}(x) \right) \right] dm^n(t_k) \\ &\quad + O\left(h_n \frac{\rho_n^2}{\varepsilon_n} + \rho_n^2\right). \end{aligned}$$

By a Taylor expansion we find that

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[\phi \left(\Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, +}(x) \right) + \phi \left(\Phi_k^{\varepsilon_n, -}(x) \right) \right] - \phi(x) = -h_n \left[Dv^n(x, t_k) D\phi(x) + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(t_k) D^2 \phi(x) \right] + O(h_n^2),$$

The expression above yields

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) d[m^n(t_{k+1}) - m^n(t_k)] &= -h_n \int_{\mathbb{R}} [Dv^n(x, t_k) D\phi(x) + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(t_k) D^2\phi(x)] dm^n(t_k) \\ &\quad + O\left(h_n^2 + h_n \frac{\rho_n^2}{\varepsilon_n} + \rho_n^2\right). \end{aligned} \quad (5.5)$$

Since by the second inequality of (3.16) the term inside the integral in (5.5) is c/ε_n -Lipschitz (with c large enough) w.r.t. x , Proposition 4.1 gives that for all $s \in [t_k, t_{k+1}]$, with $k = 0, \dots, n-1$, we have

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}} Dv^n(x, s) D\phi(x) d[m^n(s)(x) - m^n(t_k)(x)] \right| \leq \frac{c}{\varepsilon_n} \sqrt{s - t_k} \leq \frac{c\sqrt{h_n}}{\varepsilon_n},$$

which implies that, since $Dv^n(x, t_k) = Dv^n(x, s)$ for all $s \in [t_k, t_{k+1}[$,

$$\left| \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} Dv^n(x, s) D\phi(x) dm^n(s)(x) ds - \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} Dv^n(x, t_k) D\phi(x) dm^n(t_k)(x) ds \right| \leq \frac{ch_n^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\varepsilon_n}. \quad (5.6)$$

Therefore, combining (5.5) and (5.6), we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) d[m^n(t_{k+1}) - m^n(t_k)] &= - \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} Dv^n(x, s) D\phi(x) dm^n(s)(x) ds \\ &\quad + h_n \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(t_k) D^2\phi(x) dm^n(t_k)(x) \\ &\quad + O\left(h_n^2 + h_n \frac{\rho_n^2}{\varepsilon_n} + \frac{h_n^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\varepsilon_n} + \rho_n^2\right). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, summing from $k = 0$ to $k = n-1$ and using (5.3)

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) dm^n(t_n)(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) m^n(x, 0) - \int_0^{t_n} \int_{\mathbb{R}} Dv^n(x, s) D\phi(x) dm^n(s)(x) ds \\ &\quad + h_n \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(t_k) D^2\phi(x) dm^n(t_k)(x) + O\left(h_n + \frac{\rho_n}{\varepsilon_n} + \frac{\sqrt{h_n}}{\varepsilon_n} + \frac{\rho_n^2}{h_n}\right), \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(x) m^n(x, 0) - \int_0^{t_n} \int_{\mathbb{R}} Dv^n(x, s) D\phi(x) dm^n(s)(x) ds \\ &\quad + h_n \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(t_k) D^2\phi(x) d\bar{m}(t_k)(x) \\ &\quad + O\left(\sup_{s \in [0, T]} d_1(m_n(s), \bar{m}(s)) + h_n + \frac{\rho_n}{\varepsilon_n} + \frac{\sqrt{h_n}}{\varepsilon_n} + \frac{\rho_n^2}{h_n}\right). \end{aligned} \quad (5.7)$$

Since $t \in [0, T] \rightarrow \int_{\mathbb{R}} \sigma^2(t) D^2\phi(x) d\bar{m}(t)(x)$ is continuous (because σ is continuous and $\bar{m} \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1)$), we have that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h_n \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(t_k) D^2\phi(x) d\bar{m}(t_k)(x) = \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(s) D^2\phi(x) d\bar{m}(s)(x) ds. \quad (5.8)$$

Moreover, Proposition 4.3 implies that the density of m^n (still denoted by m^n) is bounded in $L^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times [0, T])$. Thus, \bar{m} is absolutely continuous and $m_n \rightarrow \bar{m}$ in $L^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times [0, T])$ -weak-*. On the other hand, using that $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, that for all $t \in [0, T]$ the derivative $Dv[\bar{m}](x, t)$ exists for a.a. x (by (3.3)), Theorem 3.1 and the Lebesgue theorem, we get that

$$\mathbb{I}_{[0, t_n]} Dv^n(\cdot, \cdot) D\phi(\cdot) \rightarrow \mathbb{I}_{[0, t]} Dv[\bar{m}](\cdot, \cdot) D\phi(\cdot) \quad \text{strongly in } L^1(\mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T]), \quad (5.9)$$

Thus, since m^n converge to \bar{m} in $L^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times [0, T])$ -weak-*, using (5.8)-(5.9), that $\rho_n = O(h_n)$ and that $h_n = o(\varepsilon_n^2)$, we can pass to the limit in (5.7) to obtain (5.2). The convergence result for v^n follows from Theorem 3.1. ■

Remark 5.1 (i) *As the proof shows, the costly assumption $h_n = o(\varepsilon_n^2)$ comes from the a priori non regularity of $Dv[\bar{m}](x, t)$ w.r.t. the time variable. In fact, an argument similar to the one used for*

the convergence in (5.8) cannot be applied since a priori $Dv[\bar{m}](x, \cdot)$ is not necessarily Riemman integrable and hence (5.6) seems to be necessary.

(ii) All the results of this paper, can be extended for the more general Hamiltonians $H(x, t, p)$ considered in [1]. In fact, consider the system

$$\begin{aligned} -\partial_t v - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\sigma(t)\sigma(t)^\top D^2 v) + H(x, t, Dv) &= F(x, m(t)) \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d \times]0, T[, \\ \partial_t m - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\sigma(t)\sigma(t)^\top D^2 v) - \text{div}(\partial_p H(x, t, Dv)m) &= 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^d \times]0, T[, \\ v(x, T) = G(x, m(T)) \text{ for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad m(\cdot, 0) = m_0(\cdot) &\in \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d). \end{aligned} \quad (5.10)$$

If the assumptions in [1, Section 2] for the Hamiltonian $H(x, t, p)$ hold true and for every $\mu \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ the (OSL_h^ρ) condition in [1, page 16] is verified for $-\partial_p H(x, t, Dv_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu])$ (where $v_{\rho, h}^\varepsilon[\mu]$ is the Semi-Lagrangian approximation of the viscosity solution $v[\mu]$ of the HJB equation in (5.10), with m replaced by μ), then the proofs of this article can be reproduced for this more general case.

6 Numerical Tests

We present some numerical simulations for the one dimensional case. For an easier explanation of the tests, let us recall the heuristic interpretation of the MFG system: an average player, whose dynamic is given by

$$dX(s) = \alpha(s)ds + \sigma(s)dW(s), \text{ for all } t \in [0, T], \quad X(0) = x \in \mathbb{R},$$

and $W(\cdot)$ a standard one dimensional Brownian motion, aims to minimize, with respect to the control $\alpha(\cdot)$, the functional :

$$\mathbb{E} \left(\int_0^T \left[\frac{1}{2} \alpha^2(s) + F(X(s), m(s)) \right] ds + G(X^{x, t}(T), m(T)) \right).$$

We will consider running costs of the form

$$\frac{1}{2} \alpha^2 + F(x, m) = \frac{1}{2} \alpha^2 + f(x) + V_\delta(x, m),$$

where f is C^2 and

$$V_\delta(x, m) = \phi_\delta * [\phi_\delta * m](x) \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_\delta(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/(2\delta^2)}. \quad (6.1)$$

for some $\delta > 0$ to be chosen later. We solve heuristically the fully discrete MFG system (5.1) by a fixed-point iteration method. At a generic iteration p , let us call

$$\{(v_{i, k}^{\varepsilon, p}, m_{i, k}^{\varepsilon, p}), i \in \mathbb{Z}, k = 0, \dots, N\}_{p \in \mathbb{N}}$$

the sequences representing the approximated value function and mass distribution. We consider as initial guess

$$m_{i, k}^{\varepsilon, 0} = m_{i, 0}^{\varepsilon, 0} = \int_{E_i} m_0(x) dx, \quad i \in \mathbb{Z}, k = 0, \dots, N.$$

Given $m_{i, k}^{\varepsilon, p}$ we calculate $m_{i, k}^{\varepsilon, p+1}$ according to the following scheme

$$m_{i, k}^{\varepsilon, p} \longrightarrow v_{i, k}^{\varepsilon, p} \longrightarrow Dv^{\varepsilon, p}(x_i, t_k) \longrightarrow m_{i, k}^{\varepsilon, p+1},$$

where in the step $m_{i,k}^{\varepsilon,p} \rightarrow v_{i,k}^{\varepsilon,p}$ we compute $\{v_{i,k}^{\varepsilon,p}\}_{i,k}$ by solving the scheme (3.6) with discrete mass distribution given by $\{m_{i,k}^{\varepsilon,p}\}_{i,k}$. In the step $v_{i,k}^{\varepsilon,p} \rightarrow Dv^{\varepsilon,p}(x_i, t_k)$ we compute the discrete gradient of $v^{\varepsilon,p}$ by approximating (3.15) using a discrete convolution and then approximating the gradient by central finite differences. In the last step $Dv^{\varepsilon,p}(x_i, t_k) \rightarrow m_{i,k}^{\varepsilon,p+1}$, we compute $m_{i,k}^{\varepsilon,p+1}$ by the scheme (4.5). We stop the fixed point method when the errors

$$E(v^{\varepsilon,p}) := \|v^{\varepsilon,p+1} - v^{\varepsilon,p}\|_{\infty}, \quad E(m^{\varepsilon,p}) := \|m^{\varepsilon,p+1} - m^{\varepsilon,p}\|_{\infty}, \quad (6.2)$$

are below a given threshold τ or p has reached a fixed number of iterations.

So far, we have set the problem in the space domain $Q = \mathbb{R}$. Clearly to implement the numerical scheme we have to suppose that the domain Q is bounded. Following [8, Section 3], we will thus formally constraint the problem to a sufficiently large bounded domain Q_b by supposing now that $\sigma = \xi_b^2(x)\sigma(t)$, where $\xi_b \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ satisfies $\xi_b(x) = 1$ if $x \in Q_b$. Note that by doing this we are imposing a dependence on x for σ and our results do not apply. Moreover, for the Fokker Planck equation, in order to maintain the mass m in Q_b , we will impose Neumann boundary conditions, which are not covered by our results neither. Therefore, the numerical resolution of the scheme is heuristic. However, since we will consider cost functions that incite the players to remain on a bounded domain, this type of approximation is reasonable since the influence in the cost, expressed through $V_\delta(x, m)$, of players being far from Q_b , is negligible.

We will show three numerical tests, comparing the different behavior at different choices for the diffusion term. First we consider the case in which the diffusion term is zero (studied already in [12]), which corresponds to a deterministic MFG system, then the case with a constant and positive diffusion term, which corresponds to second order MFG system (see [11]). Finally, we consider the case when the diffusion term is given by a positive continuous function, which degenerates in a given time interval.

Test 1 (deterministic case) We consider a numerical domain $Q_b \times [0, T] = [0, 1] \times [0, 2]$ and we choose as initial mass distribution:

$$m_0(x) = \frac{\nu(x)}{\int_{\Omega} \nu(x) dx} \quad \text{with } \nu(x) = e^{-(x-0.5)^2/(0.1)^2}.$$

We choose as final cost $G = 0$, as running cost $\frac{1}{2}\alpha^2(t) + f(x) + V_\delta(x, m(t))$ with $\delta = 0.2$ and

$$f(x, t) = 5(x - (1 - \sin(2\pi t))/2)^2,$$

and we set $\sigma(\cdot) \equiv 0$. In the running cost the term $f(x, t)$ incites the agents to stay close to the point $(1 - \sin(2\pi t))/2$ at each time t , while the term $V_\delta(x, m)$ penalizes high concentration of the density distribution. The density evolution is shown in Fig.1, which has been computed with $\rho = 3.12 \cdot 10^{-3}$, $h = \rho$, $\varepsilon = 0.15$. The number of iterations required by the fixed point method to satisfy the stopping criteria with $\tau = 10^{-3}$ is 10. We observe, during the whole time interval, that the mass density tends to concentrate around to the curve $(1 - \sin(2\pi t))/2$ and no diffusion effect appears. It is important to remark that the term $V_\delta(x, m)$ has a non negligible effect in the distribution. As a matter of fact, if this term is not present, then much higher concentrations are observed (see e.g. [12, Fig. 4.8]).

Test 2 (non-degenerate diffusion) We consider the same problem as in Test 1, but now we change the diffusion term choosing $\sigma = 0.2$. Let us note that, in this case, the scheme reduce to the one proposed in [11]. The running cost and the initial distribution are chosen as in the previous tests. The density evolution is shown in Fig. 2, which has been computed with $\rho = 6.35 \cdot 10^{-3}$, $h = \rho$, $\varepsilon = 2\sqrt{h}$ and $\tau = 10^{-3}$. The number of iterations for the fixed point method,

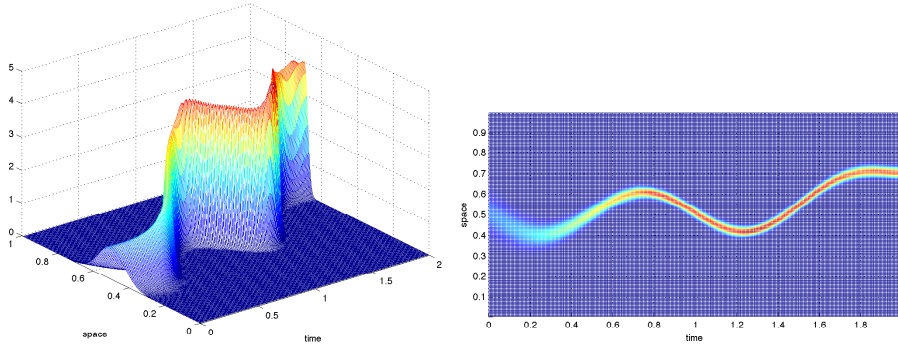


Figure 1: **Test 1: Mass evolution** $m_{i,k}^\varepsilon$

to satisfy the stopping criteria with $\tau = 10^{-3}$, is 6. Let us note that in this case the convergence is faster compared to the deterministic case in Test 1. A diffusive effect is observed during the whole time interval, which seems not very strong, since it is opposite to the one due to the running cost, which tends to concentrate the mass density around the sinusoidal curve.

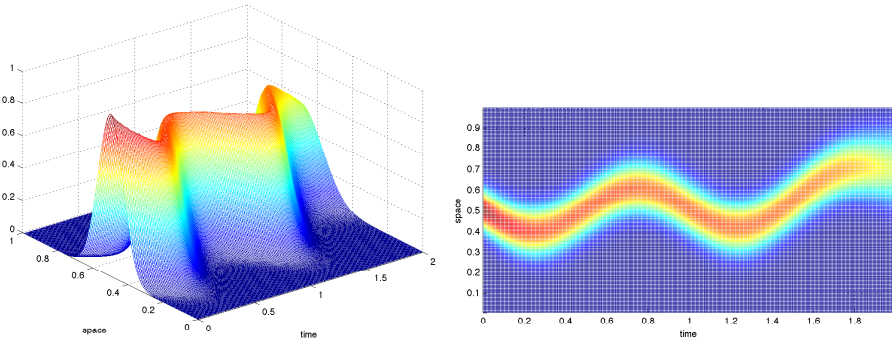


Figure 2: **Test 2: Mass evolution** $m_{i,k}^\varepsilon$

Test 3 (degenerate diffusion) We consider the same problem as in Test 1, but now we change the diffusion term choosing a scalar function

$$\sigma(t) = \max(0, 0.2 - |t - 1|).$$

Note that $\sigma(t) = 0$ for all $t \in [0, 0.8] \cup [1.2, 2]$. The running cost and the initial distribution are chosen as in the previous tests. The density evolution is shown in Fig. 3, which has been computed with $\rho = 6.35 \cdot 10^{-3}$, $h = \rho$, $\varepsilon = 2\sqrt{h}$ and $\tau = 10^{-3}$. The number of iterations, for the fixed point method to satisfy the stopping criteria with $\tau = 10^{-3}$, is 9. Let us note that in this case the rate of convergence, for the fixed point method, is between the rates for the two cases. We observe a diffusive effect during the time interval $[0.8, 1.2]$, due to the non zero term $\sigma(t)$. When the diffusion stops to act, at time $t = 1.2$ the density starts again to concentrate faster around the curve where f is lower.

Table 1 shows the errors (6.2) computed varying all the parameters (ρ, h, ε) , according the balance

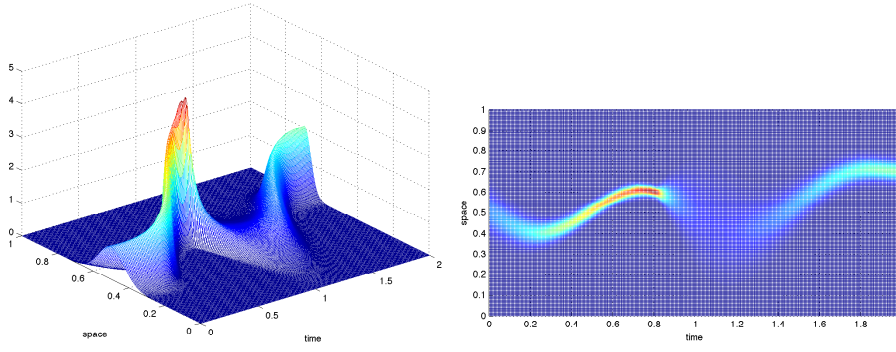


Figure 3: **Test 1: Mass evolution** $m_{i,k}^\varepsilon$

$h = \rho$ and $\varepsilon = 2\sqrt{h}$. In the first two columns of Table 1 we show the space and regularizing parameters, in the last two columns the errors for the value function and the density computed after 10 iterations of the fixed point algorithm.

Table 1: Parameters and errors between successive iterations

ρ	ε	$E(v^{\varepsilon,10})$	$E(m^{\varepsilon,10})$
$1.25 \cdot 10^{-2}$	0.2	$1.72 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$9.52 \cdot 10^{-5}$
$6.25 \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.15	$1.08 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$1.17 \cdot 10^{-4}$
$3.12 \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.1	$1.82 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$3.26 \cdot 10^{-4}$

In Fig. 4, we display the errors (6.2) in logarithmic scale on the y -axes versus the number of fixed-point iterations on the x -axes. We vary all the parameters according to the Table 1. The behavior of the errors shows a linear convergence of the iterative method.

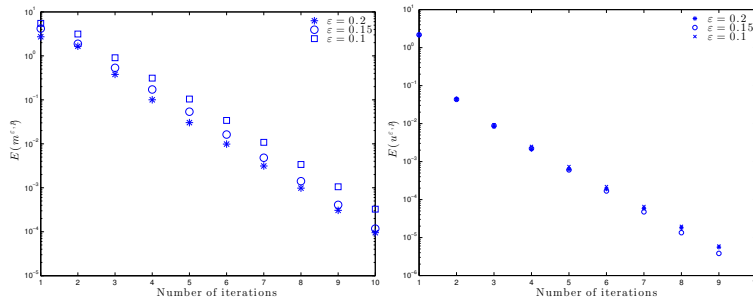


Figure 4: **Errors:** $E(m^{\varepsilon,p})$ (left) $E(u^{\varepsilon,p})$ (right) varying all the parameters (ε, ρ, h) according to Table 1.

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