



Partial Differential Equations/Optimal Control

## A Hamilton–Jacobi PDE in the space of measures and its associated compressible Euler equations

*Une EDP de Hamilton–Jacobi dans l'espace des mesures et ses équations d'Euler compressibles associées*

Jin Feng<sup>1</sup>

Department of Mathematics, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045, USA

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### ABSTRACT

We introduce a class of action integrals defined over probability-measure-valued path space. Minimal action exists in this context and gives weak solution to a compressible Euler equation. We prove that the Hamilton–Jacobi PDE associated with such variational formulation of Euler equation is well posed in viscosity solution sense.

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### RÉSUMÉ

Nous introduisons une classe d'intégrales d'action définies sur l'espace des chemins à valeurs mesures de probabilité. Dans ce contexte l'action minimale existe et donne une solution faible d'une équation d'Euler compressible. Nous montrons que l'équation de Hamilton Jacobi associée à la formulation variationnelle de l'équation d'Euler est bien posée dans le sens des solutions de viscosité.

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### 1. Introduction

We denote by  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  the space of Borel probability measures over  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x|^2 \rho(dx) < \infty$  endowed with the Wasserstein 2-metric  $d$ .  $AC(0, T; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$  is the class of  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ -valued absolute continuous curves. Each  $\rho(\cdot)$  in such class satisfies the continuity equation  $\dot{\rho} := \partial_t \rho = -\operatorname{div}(\rho u)$  for some  $u$  (Theorem 8.3.1 of [1]). This equation expresses a conservation of mass property and naturally introduces a class of parameterized curves, which motivates the following notion of tangent space and associated geometric structure on  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  (Chapter 8 of [1,6]):

$$H_{-1,\rho}(\mathbb{R}^d) := \{m \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^d) : \|m\|_{-1,\rho} < \infty\}, \quad \|m\|_{-1,\rho}^2 := \sup_{\varphi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)} \{2\langle m, \varphi \rangle - \|\varphi\|_{1,\rho}^2\}. \quad (1)$$

In the above,  $\|\varphi\|_{1,\rho}^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla \varphi|^2 d\rho$ . It follows that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u|^2 d\rho = \|\dot{\rho}\|_{-1,\rho}^2$ . We denote  $\bar{\mathbb{R}} := \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$ .

**Definition 1.1** (*Gradient of a function*). Let  $f : \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto \bar{\mathbb{R}}$ ,  $\rho_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , and  $f(\rho_0)$  be finite. We say that gradient of  $f$  at  $\rho_0$ , denoted  $\operatorname{grad} f(\rho_0)$ , exists, if it can be identified as the unique element in  $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^d)$  satisfying the following property: for

E-mail address: jfeng@math.ku.edu.

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every  $p \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$  and the family of push forward of  $\rho_0$  through the flow generated by  $\nabla p$ , i.e.  $\{\rho^p(t) \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$  with  $\partial_t \rho^p + \operatorname{div}(\rho^p \nabla p) = 0$  and  $\rho^p(0) = \rho_0$ , we have  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} t^{-1}(f(\rho^p(t)) - f(\rho^p(0))) =: \langle \operatorname{grad} f(\rho_0), p \rangle$ .

Let  $R(\rho \|\mu) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} d\rho \log \frac{d\rho}{d\mu}$  denote relative entropy, define Gibbs measure  $\mu^\Psi(dx) := Z_\Psi^{-1} e^{-\Psi}$  with  $Z_\Psi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} e^{-\Psi} dx$ , and entropy functional  $S(\rho) := R(\rho \|\mu^\Psi)$ . It follows then  $\operatorname{grad} S(\rho) = -\Delta \rho - \operatorname{div}(\rho \nabla \Psi)$  whenever  $S(\rho) < \infty$ . Let  $\psi := |\nabla \Psi|^2 - 2\Delta \Psi$ , the Fisher information  $I(\rho) := \|\operatorname{grad} S(\rho)\|_{-1,\rho}^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|\nabla \rho|^2}{\rho} dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi d\rho$  (Appendix D.6 of [3]). Let  $\nu > 0$ , we introduce a modified kinetic energy  $T(\rho, \dot{\rho}) := \frac{1}{2} \|\dot{\rho}\|_{-1,\rho}^2 + \nu \operatorname{grad} S(\rho)$  to reinforce entropy dissipation (see [4] and its appendix). Let potential energy

$$V(\rho) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi(x) \rho(dx) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi(x - y) \rho(dx) \rho(dy) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} F(\rho(x)) dx.$$

Without pursuing generality, we assume that  $\Phi, \phi \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$  have sub-quadratic growth,  $\Phi(-x) = \Phi(x)$ ,  $\Psi \in C^4(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is quasi-convex and that the leading order terms for both  $\Psi$  and  $\psi$  have polynomial growth of order bigger than 2 (e.g.  $\Psi(x) = \frac{1}{4}|x|^4 - |x|^2$ ). Finally, let  $F \in C^1$  be such that  $|F(r)| \leq cr^\gamma, |rF'(r)| \leq c(1 + r^\gamma)$  for some finite  $c \geq 0$  and some  $\gamma \geq 1$  where  $\gamma \in [1, 1 + \frac{2}{d}]$  when  $d \geq 3$  and  $\gamma \in [1, 2)$  when  $d = 1, 2$ . For notational convenience, we set  $V(\rho) = -\infty$  whenever  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  has no Lebesgue density. The following is a consequence of Sobolev inequality and the fact that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho(dx) = 1$ . See [4]:

**Lemma 1.2.** *There exists a right continuous nondecreasing sub-linear function  $\zeta : \mathbb{R}_+ \mapsto \mathbb{R}_+$  with  $|V(\rho)| \leq \zeta(I(\rho))$ . Moreover,  $V$  is continuous on finite level sets of  $I$ .*

For  $\rho(\cdot) \in AC(0, T; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$  with  $S(\rho(0)) < \infty$ , by the calculus in [1],  $\int_0^T T(\rho, \dot{\rho}) dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T (\|\dot{\rho}\|_{-1,\rho}^2 + \nu^2 I(\rho)) dt + \nu(S(\rho(T)) - S(\rho(0)))$ . This observation motivates us considering Lagrangians  $L$  and  $\hat{L} : \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  by  $L := T - V$  and  $\hat{L} := \frac{1}{2} \|\dot{\rho}\|_{-1,\rho}^2 + \frac{\nu^2}{2} I - V$ , where  $\hat{L}$  is understood as  $+\infty$  when  $V = +\infty$ .  $\hat{L}$  takes value in  $\mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ .  $L$ , however, is only well defined when  $V$  is bounded from above in bounded sets of  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  (e.g.  $F(r) \leq cr$  for some  $c > 0$  will ensure this). Denote

$$A_T[\rho(\cdot)] := \int_0^T L(\rho, \dot{\rho}) dt, \quad J_T[\rho(\cdot)] := \int_0^T \hat{L}(\rho, \dot{\rho}) dt, \quad \rho(\cdot) \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)). \tag{2}$$

When both  $A_T$  and  $J_T$  are well defined and  $S(\rho(0)) < \infty$ , we have the following useful identity:  $A_T[\rho(\cdot)] = J_T[\rho(\cdot)] + \nu(S(\rho(T)) - S(\rho(0)))$  for  $\rho \in AC(0, T; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ . Action minimizer for  $A_T$  and  $J_T$  are the same under mild conditions, and solves a compressible Euler equation (Theorem 2.1)

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho u) = 0 \\ \partial_t(\rho u) + \operatorname{div}(\rho u \otimes u) + \nabla P(\rho) = -\rho \nabla(\phi + \Phi * \rho) - 2\nu^2 \rho \nabla \left( \frac{\Delta \sqrt{\rho}}{\sqrt{\rho}} - \frac{1}{4} \psi \right) \\ P(\rho) = \rho F'(\rho) - F(\rho). \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

If  $(\rho, u)$  are smooth for (3) to hold in classical sense, then it is also a weak solution as defined below.

**Definition 1.3 (Weak solution).**  $(\rho, u)$  is called a weak solution to system (3) if the following holds:  $\rho(\cdot) \in AC(0, T; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$  with  $S(\rho(T)) + \int_0^T I(\rho(t)) dt < \infty$ ;  $u : (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}^d$  is Borel measurable satisfying  $\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u(t, x)|^2 \rho(t) dx < \infty$ ; moreover,  $\partial_t \rho + \operatorname{div}(\rho u) = 0$  holds in the distribution sense and

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left[ u(t, x) \cdot (\partial_t \xi(t, x) + (u \cdot \nabla) \xi(t, x)) \rho(t, x) + P(\rho) \operatorname{div} \xi - (\nabla(\phi + \Phi * \rho) \cdot \xi) \rho(t, x) + \nu^2 \left( -\frac{\nabla \rho}{\rho} \cdot D\xi \cdot \frac{\nabla \rho}{\rho} + \Delta \operatorname{div} \xi + \frac{1}{2} \xi \cdot \nabla \psi \right) \rho(t, x) \right] dx dt = 0,$$

holds for every  $\xi \in C_c^\infty((0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , where  $D\xi = (\partial_i \xi_j)_{(i,j)}$  is a matrix.

A satisfactory Hamilton–Jacobi PDE theory can also be developed (Theorem 2.2), based upon a Hamiltonian induced by the Lagrangian  $L$ , not the  $\hat{L}$ . For  $V(\rho) < \infty$  and  $n = -\operatorname{div}(\rho \nabla p)$  with  $p \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , let

$$H(\rho, n) := \sup_{m \in H_{-1,\rho}(\mathbb{R}^d)} (\langle n, m \rangle_{-1,\rho} - L(\rho, m)) = -\langle \nu \operatorname{grad} S(\rho), n \rangle_{-1,\rho} + \frac{1}{2} \|n\|_{-1,\rho}^2 + V(\rho).$$

We do not attempt to extend  $H$  to  $(\rho, n) \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \times H_{-1,\rho}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , but rely on a delicate choice of test functions [3,2] to define the equations. Let  $D_0 := \{f_0(\rho) = \frac{\theta}{2}d^2(\rho, \gamma) + \epsilon S(\rho) + c: c \in \mathbb{R}, \theta > 0, 0 < \epsilon < 2\nu, \gamma \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)\}$  and  $D_1 := \{f_1(\gamma) = -\frac{\theta}{2}d^2(\rho, \gamma) - \epsilon S(\gamma) + c: c \in \mathbb{R}, \theta > 0, 0 < \epsilon < 2\nu, \rho \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)\}$ . Denote  $D := D_0 \cup D_1$ . For each  $f_0 \in D_0$  and  $\rho$  in the effective domain of  $f_0$  (i.e.  $S(\rho) < \infty$ ), it can be proved that  $\text{grad}f_0(\rho) \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^d)$  exists. Furthermore, if  $I(\rho) < \infty$ , then  $\text{grad}f_0(\rho) \in H_{-1,\rho}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , and by Lemma 1.2,  $H(\rho, \text{grad}f_0(\rho))$  is finite. Similar relation also holds for  $f_1 \in D_1$ . Let  $M(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d); \overline{\mathbb{R}})$  denote the collection of measurable functions from  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  to  $\overline{\mathbb{R}}$ . We define operator  $H : D \mapsto M(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d); \overline{\mathbb{R}})$  as follows:

$$Hf(\rho) := \begin{cases} H(\rho, \text{grad}f(\rho)) & \text{when } I(\rho) < \infty \\ -\infty & \text{when } I(\rho) = +\infty, f \in D_0 \\ +\infty & \text{when } I(\rho) = +\infty, f \in D_1. \end{cases} \tag{4}$$

**Lemma 1.4.**  $Hf_0 : \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\}$  is upper semicontinuous for  $f_0 \in D_0$  and  $Hf_1 : \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is lower semicontinuous for  $f_1 \in D_1$ .

Let  $\alpha > 0$  and for simplicity in statement of the results, we restrict attention to  $h, g \in C_b(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$ . More general results can be found in [4]. By resolvent problem of the Hamilton–Jacobi PDE, we mean

$$f(\rho) - \alpha Hf(\rho) = h(\rho), \quad \rho \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d). \tag{5}$$

By Cauchy problem, we mean

$$\partial_t U(t, \rho) = HU(t, \rho), \quad (t, \rho) \in (0, T) \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d); \quad U(0, \rho) = g(\rho) \quad \rho \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d). \tag{6}$$

**Definition 1.5 (Resolvent problem).** Let  $f \in M(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d); \overline{\mathbb{R}})$ ;  $|f| \leq \zeta(S)$  for some sub-linear function  $\zeta : \mathbb{R}_+ \mapsto \mathbb{R}_+$ ;  $f$  is continuous on finite level sets of  $S$ . Then

- (i)  $f$  is called a viscosity sub-solution to (5) if for each  $f_0 \in D_0$  and  $\rho_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $(f - f_0)(\rho_0) = \sup_{\rho \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} (f - f_0)(\rho)$ , we have  $\alpha^{-1}(f - h)(\rho_0) \leq Hf_0(\rho_0)$ .
- (ii)  $f$  is called a super-solution to (5) if for each  $f_1 \in D_1$  and  $\rho_1 \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $(f_1 - f)(\rho_1) = \sup_{\rho \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} (f_1 - f)(\rho)$ , we have  $\alpha^{-1}(f - h)(\rho_1) \geq Hf_1(\rho_1)$ .

If  $f$  is both sub- and super-solutions to (5), we call it a solution.

**Definition 1.6 (Cauchy problem).** Let  $U \in M([0, T] \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d); \overline{\mathbb{R}})$ ;  $|U(t, \rho)| \leq \zeta(S(\rho))$  for all  $(t, \rho) \in [0, T] \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  for some sub-linear function  $\zeta : \mathbb{R}_+ \mapsto \mathbb{R}_+$ ;  $U$  is continuous on  $[0, T] \times K_L$  where  $K_L := \{\rho \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d): S(\rho) \leq L\}$  for each  $L < \infty$ . Then

- (i)  $U$  is called a viscosity sub-solution to (6), if for each  $U_0(t, \rho) = \frac{\alpha}{2}|t - s|^2 + f_0(\rho)$ , and for each  $(t_0, \rho_0) \in [0, T] \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $(U - U_0)(t_0, \rho_0) = \sup_{(t,\rho) \in [0,T] \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} (U - U_0)(t, \rho)$ , we have
  - (a) in the case of  $t_0 > 0$ ,  $(-\partial_t U_0 + HU_0)(t_0, \rho_0) \geq 0$ ;
  - (b) in the case of  $t_0 = 0$ ,  $\limsup_{t \rightarrow 0+, \rho' \rightarrow \rho_0, S(\rho') \leq C} U(t, \rho') \leq g(\rho_0)$ , for every  $C \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .
- (ii)  $U$  is called a super-solution to (6), if for each  $U_1(s, \gamma) = -\frac{\alpha}{2}|t - s|^2 + f_1(\gamma)$  and for each  $(s_0, \gamma_0) \in [0, T] \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $(U_1 - U)(s_0, \gamma_0) = \sup_{(s,\gamma) \in [0,T] \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} (U_1 - U)(s, \gamma)$ , we have
  - (a) in the case of  $s_0 > 0$ ,  $(-\partial_s U_1 + HU_1)(s_0, \gamma_0) \leq 0$ ;
  - (b) in the case of  $s_0 = 0$ ,  $\liminf_{t \rightarrow 0+, \gamma' \rightarrow \gamma_0, S(\gamma') \leq C} U(t, \gamma') \geq g(\gamma_0)$ , for every  $C \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

If  $U$  is both sub- and super-solutions, we call it a solution.

In view of growth estimate  $|f| \leq \zeta(S)$ ,  $\epsilon S(\rho) - f(\rho)$  is understood as  $+\infty$ , when  $S(\rho) = +\infty$ . Therefore,  $f - f_0$  and  $f_1 - f$  are always well defined on  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . The case of  $U - U_0$  and  $U_1 - U$  is handled similarly.

## 2. Main results

Let  $P_t$  be the transition probability such that  $\rho(t) := P_t \rho_0$  solves Fokker–Planck equation  $\partial_t \rho = \Delta \rho + \text{div}(\rho \nabla \Psi)$  with  $\rho(0) = \rho_0$ . We define  $D(\rho_1 \| \rho_0; T) := \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\rho_0, \rho_1)} R(\pi \| P_{\nu T} \otimes \rho_0)$  where  $\Pi(\rho_0, \rho_1) \subset \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d)$  is the class of probability measures on  $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$  with first marginal  $\rho_0$  and second marginal  $\rho_1$ . Ref. [4] proves the following:

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $S(\rho_0) + D(\rho_1 \|\rho_0; T) < \infty$ . Then there exists a  $\rho(\cdot) \in AC(0, T; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))$  satisfying  $\inf\{J_T[\sigma(\cdot)]: \sigma(\cdot) \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)), \sigma(0) = \rho_0, \sigma(T) = \rho_1\} = J_T[\rho(\cdot)]$ . There exists a Borel vector field  $u : (0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}^d$  with

$$\int_0^T \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u(t, x)|^2 dx dt < \infty$$

such that the pair  $(\rho, u)$  is a weak solution (Definition 1.3) to (3). Additionally, if the extra condition  $F(r) \leq cr$  holds for some  $c > 0$ , then  $\inf\{A_T[\sigma(\cdot)]: \sigma(\cdot) \in C([0, T]; \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)), \sigma(0) = \rho_0, \sigma(T) = \rho_1\} = A_T[\rho(\cdot)] = J_T[\rho(\cdot)] + \nu(S(\rho_1) - S(\rho_0))$ .

At least formally, one can show  $u = -\nabla\varphi$  for some  $\varphi$  [4]. Therefore, only potential flows are obtained.

**Theorem 2.2.** There is at most one viscosity solution to (5) (respectively, to (6)) on  $E_0 := \{\rho: S(\rho) < \infty\}$  (resp.  $[0, T] \times E_0$ ). If  $F(r) \leq cr$  for some  $c > 0$ , then  $f(\rho_0) := \sup\{\int_0^\infty e^{-\alpha^{-1}s}(\alpha^{-1}h(\rho) - L(\rho, \dot{\rho})) ds: \rho(\cdot) \in C([0, \infty); \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)), \rho(0) = \rho_0\}$  (resp.  $U(t, \rho_0) := \sup\{g(\rho(t)) - \int_0^t L(\rho(s), \dot{\rho}(s)) ds: \rho(0) = \rho_0, \rho(\cdot) \in C([0, \infty); \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d))\}$ ) is such a solution. Moreover, if  $|\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} F(\rho(x)) dx| \leq \zeta(S(\rho))$  for some sub-linear  $\zeta$ , then the existence-uniqueness and continuity of solution above can be extended to  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .

In the case of  $V \equiv 0$ , Theorem 2.2 also follows from results in [3,2]. A version of Theorem 2.1 also appears in mean-field game theory [5] using a different formulation (at individual particle level).

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