

ONR Maritime Sensing - Discovery & Invention (D&I) Review Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock (MD) August 21-23, 2018

Multi-scale Adaptive Sensor Systems Silvia Ferrari, Professor Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Cornell University





Traditional paradigm:

Sensor information (output) used as feedback to the vehicle to support the **vehicle navigation objectives**.





Prior research foci:

Sensor-based path planning

Navigation sensors for obstacle avoidance Simultaneous localization and mapping (SLAM)

• Dual/exploratory control

- System identification
- Output-based feedback control





New paradigm:

Vehicle is used to gather information (output) to support **sensing objectives**, such as coverage or target DCLT.



Information-driven sensor navigation and control

Trajectory planning and feedback control based on information value, target and sensor geometries, and platform kinematic/dynamic constraints.

S. Ferrari and T. A. Wettergren, *Information-driven planning and Control*, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, scheduled to appear 2018.



Modern Sensor Systems



Multiple sensors installed on mobile vehicles for information gathering.



Monitoring of urban environments



Distributed Optimal Control (DOC)

- Agents operating in Region of Interest (ROI) $W \subset \mathbb{R}^2$
- Performance measured in terms of restriction operator $\wp(\mathbf{x}_i, t)$
- Restriction Operator $\wp: W \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$
 - Time varying PDF $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{x}_i, t)$
 - PDF-based control law $\mathbf{u}_{i}(t)$

Terminal Cost Instantaneous cost (Lagrangian)

$$\bigvee_{I} = \phi[\wp(\mathbf{x}_{i}, T_{f})] + \int_{T_{0}}^{T_{f}} \int_{X} \mathscr{L}[\wp(\mathbf{x}_{i}, t), \mathbf{u}_{i}(t), t] d\mathbf{x}_{i} dt$$

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- Environmental and operating conditions in situ may drastically differ from those used a priori
 - Off-line DOC solutions no longer optimal
 - Agents must react to local information, including new tactical constraints
 - Limited communications (covertness) and inertial positioning systems
 - Network-level controller can dispatch agents to localize gradient intensification while providing energy management, volume coverage, and robustness to component failure



1. **Target:** actual population is different from that assumed *a priori*.

2. **Environment:** conditions measured in situ are different from those forecasted by oceanographic models.

3. **Platform:** navigation settings are suboptimal, leading to incorrect estimates of agent position and/or direction.

4. **Sensor:** actual performance is different from the performance function model due to the above conditions, or sensor malfunctioning.





- Optimal and minimum number of agents to meet mission requirements (FISST)
- Information value and discrimination with limited communications
- Multi-scale environmental adaptation

Optimal Time-varying Probability Density Function (PDF), $\mathcal{P}^*(\mathbf{x}_i)$: max J





DOC Analysis via Finite Set Statistics (FISST)





Use Finite Set Statistics (FISST) to rigorously analyze DOC results:

- In DOC, the agent microscopic states are viewed as random variables, with a possibly infinite number of agents.
- FISST applies to a finite number of agents in the ROI (in the limit of N = 1) that is possibly unknown and changing over time (births, deaths, ..).
- If the number of the agents is given, a multi-object probability density (MPDF) and the probability hypothesis density (PHD) of the agents in the DOC problem only depend on the spatial PDF of agents, or DOC macroscopic state.
- The propagation and update of the MPDF of the agents can be implemented by the FISST methods, like the PHD and the cardinalized PHD (or CPHD) filters.
- FISST, originally developed for multi-target multi-sensor tracking problems, extends probability theory and probability calculus to finite random sets (FRS).





• Random Finite Sets (RFS)

Let \mathcal{X} be an underlying space, such as a state space or a measurement space.

Then \mathcal{X}^{∞} denotes the power set of \mathcal{X} , which is the set of all subsets of \mathcal{X} .

A random finite set (RFS) is a random variable Ψ on \mathcal{X}^{∞} .

• Power Set

The power set of a set $\mathcal{X} = \{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ is the set of all finite subsets of \mathcal{X} :

 $\mathcal{X}^{\infty} = \{ \emptyset, \{x_1\}, \{x_2\}, \{x_3\}, \{x_1, x_2\}, \{x_1, x_3\}, \{x_2, x_3\}, \{x_1, x_2, x_3\} \}$

Therefore, a realization of RFS Ψ can be:

$$X = \{\emptyset\}$$
$$X = \{x_1\}$$
$$X = \{x_1, x_2\}$$
$$\vdots$$

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• Set Integral

Let f(X) be a set function defined on \mathcal{X} . Then its *set integral* is defined as

$$\int_{\mathcal{T}} f(X) \delta X \equiv f(\emptyset) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \int_{\mathcal{T} \times \dots \times \mathcal{T}} f(\{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n\}) d\mathbf{x}_1 \dots \mathbf{x}_n$$

where $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{X}$

• Multi-object Probability Density Function (MPDF)

The set function defined \mathcal{X} on is a multi-object probability density function if

• It is non-negative

$$f(X) \ge 0$$

• Its set integral is equal to 1

$$\int_{\mathcal{X}} f(X) \delta X = 1$$





• Probability Hypothesis Density (PHD)

The probability hypothesis density of an RFS Ψ is a density function $D_{\Psi}(\mathbf{x})$ on single objects $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}$ which is defined by:

$$D_{\Psi}(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{X} f_{\Psi}(\{\mathbf{x} \cup W\}) \delta W = \frac{\delta G_{\Psi}}{\delta \mathbf{x}} [\mathbf{1}] = \frac{\delta \beta_{\Psi}}{\delta \mathbf{x}} (X)$$

where the number $D_{\Psi}(\mathbf{x})$ is the density of objects at \mathbf{x} .

• Cardinality Distribution

The cardinality distribution of an RFS $\Psi \subset \mathcal{X}$ is

$$p_{\Psi}(n) = P(|\Psi|=n) = \int_{|X|=n} f_{\Psi}(X) \delta X$$





• Consider a simple example, where the RFS is represented by two random objects with respective PDFs $f_i(\mathbf{x})$ (i = 1, 2) and the corresponding probability of existence q_i (i = 1, 2). Then, the MPDF can be expressed by

$$f_{\Psi}(X) = \begin{cases} (1-q_1)(1-q_2) & \text{if } X = \emptyset \\ q_1(1-q_2) \cdot f_1(\mathbf{x}) + (1-q_1)q_2 \cdot f_2(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } X = \{\mathbf{x}\} \\ q_1q_2 \cdot \left[f_1(\mathbf{x}_1)f_2(\mathbf{x}_2) + f_1(\mathbf{x}_2)f_2(\mathbf{x}_1)\right] & \text{if } X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2\} \\ 0 & \text{if } |X| > 2 \end{cases}$$

Then the combined PHD can be expressed by

$$D_{\Psi}(\mathbf{x}) = q_1 \cdot f_1(\mathbf{x}) + q_2 \cdot f_2(\mathbf{x}).$$

Assume that these two 2-D PDFs are expressed by

$$f_{1}(\mathbf{x}) = w_{1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi |\Sigma_{1}|}} e^{-(\mathbf{x}-\mu_{1})^{T} \Sigma_{1}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\mu_{1})} + w_{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi |\Sigma_{2}|}} e^{-(\mathbf{x}-\mu_{2})^{T} \Sigma_{2}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\mu_{2})}$$

$$f_{2}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi |\Sigma_{3}|}} e^{-(\mathbf{x}-\mu_{3})^{T} \Sigma_{3}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\mu_{3})}$$

$$\mu_{1} = [1,2]^{T} \quad \mu_{2} = [-3,-1]^{T} \quad \mu_{3} = [-1,0]^{T}$$

$$\Sigma_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \quad \Sigma_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \Sigma_{3} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Example: Multi-Bernoulli RFS



• The two 2-D PDFs are plotted below:





• The combined PHD is







• Assume the locations of targets in a work space $\mathcal{W} = [-10m, 10m] \times [-10m, 10m]$ are described by a Poisson RFS Ψ with a initial PHD $D_0(\mathbf{x})$. The expected number of target in the work space is equal to 5, such as

$$N_0 = \int_{\mathcal{W}} D_0(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = 5$$

where the target location $\mathbf{x} = [x, y]^T \in \mathcal{W} \subset \mathbb{R}$ and the initial PHD $D_0(\mathbf{x})$ is defined by

$$D_0(x, y) = \left[\frac{\sin(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2})}{\sin(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + 0.1)} + 0.5\right] \cdot a$$

where a is a normalization term.

The PDFs of targets are identical and can be expressed by

$$\wp(x, y) = \frac{D_0(x, y)}{N_0} = \frac{D_0(x, y)}{5}$$

and the MPDF of the targets in the work space is expressed by

$$f_{\Psi}(X) = e^{-N_0} \cdot N_0^X = e^{-5} \cdot (5\wp)^{(X)}$$



Example: Poisson RFS



Three samples of RFS Ψ are plotted below:

• The cardinality distribution is a Poisson distribution $p_{n}(n) = \frac{\lambda^{n} e^{-N_{0}}}{\lambda^{n} e^{-5}} = \frac{\lambda^{n} e^{-5}}{\lambda^{n} e^{-5}}$

$$p_{\Psi}(n) = \frac{n!}{n!} = \frac{n!}{n!}$$

- The numbers of targets in the work space are 4, 5, and 7, respectively.
- The Poisson RFS is special case of the *i.i.d.c.* RFS, where the cardinality distribution is a Poisson distribution.



Three different realizations of the same RFS







By introducing the FISST framework in DOC, a RFS Ψ can represent the macroscopic state and can be used to describe the network, where the finite set of the states of all *n* agents in the ROI, $X = \{\mathbf{x}_1, ..., \mathbf{x}_n\}$, is treated as a realization of the RFS Ψ .

- The microscopic states of these agents can treated as continuous random variables denoted by X_i , i = 1, ..., n.
- The number of agents, *n*, is also a realization of the discrete random variable *N*.

Assume that the macroscopic state is a *identical,independently distributed cluster* (i.i.d.c) RFS, where PDFs of the agents are assume to be the same, denoted by $\wp(\mathbf{x})$. Then, the MPDF of the RFS, Ψ , can be expressed by

$$f_{\Psi}(X) = |X|! p_{\Psi}(|X|) \cdot \wp^{X}$$

The expected number of the agents denoted by N_{Ψ} can be expressed by

$$N_{\Psi} = \sum_{n \ge 0} n \cdot p_{\Psi}(n)$$

and the PHD of the RFS can be expressed by

 $D_{\Psi}(\mathbf{x}) = N_{\Psi} \cdot \boldsymbol{\wp}(\mathbf{x})$





In the DOC method, the number of the agents, N_{agent} , is a constant. The cardinality distribution can be expressed by

$$p_{\Psi}(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = N_{agent} \\ 0 & \text{if } n \neq N_{agent} \end{cases}$$

Then, the MPDF in the DOC problem can be expressed by

$$f_{\Psi}(X) = \begin{cases} N_{agent} \cdot \wp^{X} & \text{if } |X| = N_{agent} \\ 0 & \text{if } |X| \neq N_{agent} \end{cases}$$

and the PHD of the agents can be expressed by

$$D_{\Psi}(\mathbf{x}) = N_{agent} \cdot \wp(\mathbf{x})$$



Information Value with Limited Communications





The Expected Entropy Reduction (EER) of a measurement set Z at location \mathbf{x} at time k can be defined as the following:

$$\Delta H(Z_k(\mathbf{x})) = H(Y \mid \mathcal{M}_{k-1}, \lambda) - \mathbb{E}_Z[H(Y \mid Z_k(\mathbf{x}), \mathcal{M}_{k-1}, \lambda)]$$

The Total Expected Entropy Reduction (Total EER) can be defined for the system of robots as:

$$\Delta H_{tot}(k) \coloneqq \int_{\mathcal{X}} \Delta H(Z_k(\mathbf{x})) d\mathbf{x}$$

The Average Total EER can be defined for the system of robots as:

 $\overline{\Delta H_{tot}}(k) \coloneqq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \Delta H_{tot}(j)$ Total number of agents N Z_k : measurement at location **x** at time k γ : binary categorical random variable \mathcal{M}_k : set of all previous measurements up to time k λ : vector of environmental conditions



Influence of Limited Communications



- □ Consider the problem of searching and information about targets and environments (DCLT)
- □ A network of sensors can provide better performance than a single agent provided they can communicate

Resulting Hilbert Map



Partial Communications



Disconnected communication graphs

x (km)

Information Value as a Function of Network Connectivity



Numerical Results:

Total and average expected entropy reduction (EER) for a network of N = 200 vehicles with varying communication abilities (% of agents).





Preliminary Results



The Average Total EER can be fit to a one-component exponential function

$$\overline{\Delta H_{tot}}(k) \approx A e^{-Bk}$$

By taking its derivative, the Average Total EER rate of the system can be obtained





Multi-scale Environmental Adaptation





- Adaptive distributed optimal control:
 - Agents make decisions based on in situ conditions and environment information
- Value function V, defined in terms of discrete agent distribution \mathcal{P}_k , Hilbert map h_k at time k and control law $C(\mathcal{P}_k)$:

$$V \equiv \varphi[\wp_{k_f}] + \sum_{t_k}^{t_{f-1}} \int_W \mathscr{L}[\wp_k, h_k, C(\wp_k)] d\mathbf{x}_i = V[\wp_k, h_k, C(\cdot)]$$

• Control law C_l and Value function V_l are iteratively improved online, where l is the iteration





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Summary and Conclusions

Multi-scale Adaptive Optimal Control:

- \checkmark Recurrent relations for policy improvement and value iteration
- ✓ Decentralized Hilbert mapping for information fusion
- ✓ Communication protocols for efficient map-information spreading
- ✓ FISST analysis of DOC approach
- ✓ Performance analysis: connectivity influence on information value
- ✓ Environmental adaptation: adaptive value function

Future Work:

- Stability analysis in the presence of delayed information propagation
- > Environmental adaptation: optimize agent density over time
- Robustness and performance analysis



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Important Events and Publications

- Invited Talk: *Workshop on Informative Path Planning and Adaptive Sampling*; 2018 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2018) Brisbane, Australia; May 21, 2018
- Invited Talk: Workshop on Imaging Beyond the Visible Spectrum; SIAM Imaging Science Symposium, IS18; Bologna, Italy, June 5th 2018
- G. Foderaro, S. Ferrari, T. A. Wettergren, "Distributed Optimal Control of Sensor Networks for Dynamic Track Coverage," *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*, Vol. 5, No. 1, 2018.
- K. Rudd, G. Foderaro, and S. Ferrari, "A Generalized Reduced Gradient Method for the Optimal Control of Very Large Scale Robotic (VLSR) Systems," *IEEE Transactions on Robotics*, Vol. 33, No. 5, pp. 1226-1232, 2017.
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Questions?

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Thank you



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Backup Slides



Motivation: Multi-scale Adaptive Control

- Environmental and operating conditions in situ may drastically differ those used a priori
 - Off-line DOC solutions no longer optimal
 - Agents must react to local information, including new tactical constraints
 - Network-level controller can dispatch agents to localize gradient intensification while

providing energy management, volume coverage, and robustness to component failure





Motivation: Oceanographic Conditions

- Full, nonlinear dynamics $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}, t)$
- Robot state: $\mathbf{x} = [x, y, z, \theta, \psi, \dot{x}, \dot{y}, \dot{z}, \dot{\theta}, \dot{\psi}]^T$ Inertial position Pitch and yaw Euler angles

•Robot Control: $\mathbf{u} = [\delta_{rpm}, \delta_r, \delta_s]$

• UUV kinematics:

$$\dot{x} = \|\mathbf{v}_B\|(\cos\theta\cos\psi) + v_{cx}$$
$$\dot{y} = \|\mathbf{v}_B\|(\cos\theta\sin\psi) + v_{cy}$$
$$\dot{z} = \|\mathbf{v}_B\|(-\sin\theta)$$
$$\dot{\theta} = g_{\theta}\delta_r$$
$$\dot{\psi} = g_{\psi}\delta_s$$

 $\mathbf{v}_{\rm B}$: measured velocity v_{cx}, v_{cy} : measured ocear and y velocities g_{θ}, g_{ψ} : control gains



A-priori current estimates:



Actual currents:





Problem Formulation

Mission Goal: Collectively *explore* and *map* obstacles and currents in a region of interest *W* while obtaining decentralized sensor measurements, avoiding obstacles, and communicating with other agents and a central station.



- Region of Interest $W \subset R^2$:
- Fixed, unknown, rigid obstacles, B_i , i=1,...,r
- N agents



On-board Sensor Measurements

- Sensor can infer classification \hat{Y} within sensor range and construct $D_i = \{\mathbf{x}_j, y_j\}^m$
- Noisy sensor measurements:

 $\mathbf{x}_{M} = \mathbf{x}_{i} + D\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{r}$ $\hat{Z} = [\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{M}, \hat{Y}]$

•*Y* is a random and binary classification variable:

$$Y(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1, \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in B \\ 0, \text{if } \mathbf{x} \notin B \end{cases}$$

D = d + v : Distance measurement $\Theta = \theta + v : Angle measurement$ $v \sim N(0, \sigma_d): Sample from normal distribution$ $v \sim N(0, \sigma_{\theta}): Sample from normal distribution$ $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_r = \hat{x} \cos \Theta + \hat{y} \sin \Theta : radial unit vector$ $\hat{x}, \hat{y} : unit vectors of basis in F_A$





On-board Sensing and Communications

- **Sensing goal:** maximize information gain of future measurements to minimize uncertainty
- Mission constraints:

Bounded sensor FOV range, RBounded communication range, R_c

• Multiobjective Cost Function:

$$J = \int_{W} \hat{\phi}(Y; Z \mid M, \lambda) d\mathbf{x} + \int_{T_0}^{T} \left\{ U[\mathbf{x}_i(t)] + \mathbf{u}_i(t)^T \mathbf{R} \mathbf{u}_i(t) \right\} dt$$

Bayesian measurement model: $p(Z | Y, \lambda)$





- $\hat{\varphi}(\cdot)$: Information gain
- *Y*, *Z*: hidden discrete random variables
- *M*: set of all prior measurements
- λ : environmental condition parameters
- $U(\mathbf{x}_i)$: obstacle repulsion potential
- *R*: control weight matrix



An Illustrative DOC Example





Value Function Approximation

Consider the training data set $\mathcal{D}^0 = \{(\wp_i^0, h^0, \ell_i^0)\}_{i=1}^N$ and the testing data set $\mathcal{D} = \{(\wp_i, h, \ell_i)\}_{n=1}^N$ The training and the testing data sets are all generated by the same control law $C(\cdot)$. The goal of value function approximation is to approximate an operator $\hat{\mathcal{V}}^C(\cdot, \cdot)$ from the training data set \mathcal{D}^0 and predict the evaluation of the value function in the testing data set \mathcal{D}

First, consider that the Hilbert map function h^0 is fixed. Then, the approximation of the value function can be expressed by

$$\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_{h^0}^{\mathcal{C}}(\wp) = \widehat{\mathcal{V}}^{\mathcal{C}}(\wp, h^0)$$

To learn the operator, a new kernel least squares temporal difference (KLSTD) algorithm is proposed based on a functional kernel, which is defined as follows:

$$k(\wp_i, \wp_j) = \exp\left(\frac{\Box\wp_i - \wp_j \Box_{\mathcal{P}}^2}{\sigma_{\wp^2}}\right) = \exp\left(\frac{\langle \wp_i, \wp_i \rangle_{\mathcal{P}} - 2\langle \wp_i - \wp_j \rangle_{\mathcal{P}} + \langle \wp_j, \wp_j \rangle_{\mathcal{P}}}{\sigma_{\wp^2}}\right)$$

where the inner product is defined by

$$\langle \wp_i, \wp_j \rangle_{\mathcal{P}} = \int_{\mathcal{W}} \wp_i(\mathbf{x}) \wp_j(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$



Value Function Approximation

 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\gamma & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Let $\phi(\wp) = k(\wp, \cdot)$ denote the kernel feature map and $\Phi = [k(\wp_1, \cdot), \dots, k(\wp_N, \cdot)]$ denote the feature matrix. Then, according to the KLSTD algorithm, the value function $\mathcal{V}(\cdot, h^0)$ is approximated by

$$\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_{h^0}^{C}(\wp) = \mathbf{k}(\wp)^T \mathbf{H}^T \left(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{K}\mathbf{H}^T\right)^{-1} \mathbf{K}\mathbf{L}$$

Here,

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{bmatrix} k(\wp_1, \wp_1) & \dots & k(\wp_1, \wp_N) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ k(\wp_N, \wp_1) & \dots & k(\wp_N, \wp_N) \end{bmatrix} = \Phi^T \Phi \qquad \mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -\gamma & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & -\gamma \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$\mathbf{L} = \left[\mathcal{L} \left[\wp_1, h_0, \mathcal{C}(\cdot, \cdot) \right], \dots, \mathcal{L} \left[\wp_N, h_0, \mathcal{C}(\cdot, \cdot) \right] \right]^2$$

Therefore, the approximated value function can be expressed by

$$\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_{h^0}^{\mathcal{C}}(\wp) = \phi(\wp)^T \Phi \mathbf{H}^T \left(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{K}\mathbf{H}^T\right)^{-1} \mathbf{K}\mathbf{L}(\Phi, h^0) = \phi(\wp)^T \Phi \mathbf{F}(\Phi)\mathbf{L}(\Phi, h^0)$$

where $\mathbf{F}(\Phi) = \mathbf{H}^T \left(\mathbf{H} \mathbf{K} \mathbf{H}^T \right)^{-1} \mathbf{K}$

Furthermore, if the Hilbert map h^0 is varying, then the approximated value function with two function arguments can be expressed by

$$\widehat{\mathcal{V}}^{\mathcal{C}}(\wp,h) = \phi(\wp)^T \Phi \mathbf{F}(\Phi) \mathbf{L}(\Phi,h)$$



Simulation Results





- The environment is approximated by Hilbert map *h*.
- The Hilbert map is updated by the new measurements obtained by a group of agents

- The idea environment is assumed to be known in advance.
- The trajectory of optimal agent distributions, $\wp(k)$, k = 1, ..., 600, is obtained by the DOC method.



Simulation Results

