

Weak dynamic programming principle toward viscosity solutions

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Ann Arbor 2011

Joint works with M. Nutz and N. Touzi

Motivation

Provide an easy to prove Dynamic Programming Principle for stochastic optimal control problems in standard form :

$$v(t, x) := \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}} F(t, x; \nu) \quad \text{with} \quad F(t, x, \nu) := \mathbb{E} [f(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))] .$$

Weaker than the usual one, but just enough to provide the usual PDE characterization.

(joint work with N. Touzi - *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization*, 49 (3), 2011)

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Extend it to optimal control problems :

- with constraints in expectation : $\mathbb{E} [g(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))] \leq m$.
- with strong state constraints : $X_{t,x}^\nu \in \mathcal{O}$ on $[t, T]$.

(joint work with M. Nutz - preprint)

The case without constraint

$$v(t, x) := \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}} F(t, x; \nu) \quad \text{with} \quad F(t, x, \nu) := \mathbb{E} [f(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))]$$

Weak Dynamic Programming Principle for Viscosity Solutions, with Nizar Touzi, *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization*, 49 (3), 2011.

Standard approach for the DPP

Either use a measurable selection argument : $(t, x) \mapsto \nu_\varepsilon(t, x) \in \mathcal{U}$
such that

$$F(t, x; \nu_\varepsilon(t, x)) \geq v(t, x) - \varepsilon$$

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Or use the regularity of v and $F(\cdot; \nu)$ to construct one :

$$F(\cdot; \nu_\varepsilon^{s,y}) \underset{lsc}{\geq} F(s, y; \nu_\varepsilon^{s,y}) - \varepsilon \geq v(s, y) - 2\varepsilon \underset{usc}{\geq} v - 3\varepsilon \text{ on } B_{s,y}$$

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$$F(\cdot; \nu_\varepsilon^{t_i, x_i}) \underset{lsc}{\geq} F(t_i, x_i; \nu_\varepsilon^{t_i, x_i}) - \varepsilon \geq v(t_i, x_i) - 2\varepsilon \underset{usc}{\geq} v - 3\varepsilon \text{ on } B_i$$

with $(B_i)_{i \geq 1}$ a partition of the state-space. Then, one constructs a measurable selection by setting

$$\nu_\varepsilon(t, x) := \sum_{i \geq 1} \nu_\varepsilon^{t_i, x_i} \mathbf{1}_{B_i}(t, x) .$$

Standard approach for the DPP

In both cases : for $\bar{\nu} = \nu \mathbf{1}_{[0, \theta)} + \mathbf{1}_{[\theta, T]} \nu_\varepsilon(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))$

$$\begin{aligned} v(t, x) &\geq F(t, x; \bar{\nu}) = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[f(X_{\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta)}^{\nu_\varepsilon(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))}(T)) \mid \mathcal{F}_\theta \right] \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} [F(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta); \nu_\varepsilon(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta)))] \geq \mathbb{E} [v(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))] - 3\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Standard approach for the DPP

In both cases : for $\bar{v} = v\mathbf{1}_{[0,\theta)} + \mathbf{1}_{[\theta,T]}\nu_\varepsilon(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))$

$$\begin{aligned}v(t, x) &\geq F(t, x; \bar{v}) = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[f(X_{\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta)}^{\nu_\varepsilon(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))})(T) \mid \mathcal{F}_\theta \right] \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} [F(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta); \nu_\varepsilon(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta)))] \geq \mathbb{E} [v(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))] - 3\varepsilon\end{aligned}$$

Most of the time, proofs are based on a regularity argument :

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In any case a minimum of regularity is required.

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And the other way round for the subsolution property :

$$\varphi(t, x) = v(t, x) \leq \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}} \mathbb{E} [v(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))] \leq \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}} \mathbb{E} [\varphi(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))] .$$

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We never use : $v(t, x) = \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}} \mathbb{E} [v(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))]$.

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One can reproduce the usual argument (but on φ) :

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(t, x) &\geq F(t, x; \bar{\nu}) = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[f(X_{\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu}^{\nu_\varepsilon(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))})(T) \mid \mathcal{F}_\theta \right] \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[F(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta); \nu_\varepsilon(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta))) \right] \\ &\geq \mathbb{E} \left[\varphi(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta)) \right] - 3\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

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$$\text{i.e. } \nu(t, x) \geq \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}} \mathbb{E} \left[\varphi(\theta, X_{t,x}^{\nu}(\theta)) \right].$$

An abstract setting

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- Admissible controls : \mathcal{U}_t the subset of \mathcal{U} whose elements are predictable with respect to $\mathbb{F}^t := (\mathcal{F}_s^t)_{s \geq t}$.
- Controlled process : $\nu \in \mathcal{U} \mapsto X_{t,x}^\nu$ a càdlàg adapted process with values in \mathbb{R}^d (could be a separable metric space).

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Structure assumption : Let $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d$, $\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t$, $\tau \in \mathcal{T}^t$, $\Gamma \in \mathcal{F}_\tau^t$ and $\bar{\nu} \in \mathcal{U}_{\|\tau\|_{L^\infty}}$.

There exists a control $\tilde{\nu} \in \mathcal{U}_t$, denoted by $\nu \otimes_{(\tau, \Gamma)} \bar{\nu}$, such that

$$X_{t,x}^{\tilde{\nu}}(\cdot) = X_{t,x}^\nu(\cdot) \quad \text{on } [t, T] \times (\Omega \setminus \Gamma);$$

$$X_{t,x}^{\tilde{\nu}}(\cdot) = X_{\tau, X_{t,x}^\nu(\tau)}^{\bar{\nu}}(\cdot) \quad \text{on } [\tau, T] \times \Gamma;$$

$$\mathbb{E} [f(X_{t,x}^{\tilde{\nu}}(T)) \mid \mathcal{F}_\tau] = F(\tau, X_{t,x}^\nu(\tau); \bar{\nu}) \quad \text{on } \Gamma.$$

Easy part of the DPP

- Fix $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d$, $\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t$. Let $\{\theta^{\nu'}, \nu' \in \mathcal{U}\} \subset \mathcal{T}^t$ and let $\varphi : [0, T] \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a measurable function such that $\nu \leq \varphi$. Then,

$$F(t, x; \nu) \leq \mathbb{E} [\varphi(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu))].$$

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Corollary :

$$v(t, x) \leq \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t} \mathbb{E} [\varphi(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu))]$$

Proof :

$$F(t, x; \nu) = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[f(X_{\theta, X_{t,x}^{\nu}(\theta)}^{\nu}(T)) \mid \mathcal{F}_{\theta} \right] \right]$$

Proof :

$$F(t, x; \nu) = \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[f(X_{\theta, X_{t,x}^{\nu}}^{\nu}(T)) \mid \mathcal{F}_{\theta} \right] \right]$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[f(X_{\theta, X_{t,x}^{\nu}}^{\nu}(T)) \mid \mathcal{F}_{\theta} \right] (\omega) &= F(\theta(\omega), X_{t,x}^{\nu}(\theta)(\omega); \nu(\omega^{\theta(\omega)}, \cdot)) \\ &\leq v(\theta(\omega), X_{t,x}^{\nu}(\theta)(\omega)) \\ &\leq \varphi(\theta(\omega), X_{t,x}^{\nu}(\theta)(\omega)) \end{aligned}$$

because $\nu(\omega^{\theta(\omega)}, \cdot) \in \mathcal{U}_{\theta(\omega)}$.

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By the Lindelöf property : we can find $(s_i, y_i)_{i \geq 1}$ such that $\cup_i B_{s_i, y_i} = (0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d$.

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Set

$$\nu_n := (((\nu \otimes_{\theta, \Gamma_1} \nu_{s_1, y_1}) \otimes_{\theta, \Gamma_2} \nu_{s_2, y_2}) \otimes \cdots) \otimes_{\theta, \Gamma_n} \nu_{s_n, y_n}$$

Then

$$F(t, x; \nu_n) = \mathbb{E} \left[f(X_{t,x}^\nu(T)) \mathbf{1}_{\Gamma^{nc}} + \sum_{i \leq n} \mathbb{E} \left[f(X_{\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta)}^{\nu_{s_i, y_i}}(T)) \mid \mathcal{F}_\theta \right] \mathbf{1}_{\Gamma_i} \right]$$

where, on Γ_i (with $A_i \subset B_i$),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[f(X_{\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta)}^{\nu_{s_i, y_i}}(T)) \mid \mathcal{F}_\theta \right] (\omega) &= F(\theta(\omega), X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta)(\omega); \nu_{s_i, y_i}) \\ &\geq \varphi(\theta(\omega), X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta)(\omega)) - 3\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Then

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Pass to the limit in $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

The weak DPP (summing up)

Theorem : Assume that $F(\cdot; \nu)$ is lsc for all $\nu \in \mathcal{U}$ (on the left in time). Let $\varphi_- \leq v \leq \varphi_+$ be two smooth functions. Then

$$\sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t} \mathbb{E} [\varphi_-(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu))] \leq v(t, x) \leq \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t} \mathbb{E} [\varphi_+(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu))]$$

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Remark : if v is locally bounded and $\{(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu)), \nu \in \mathcal{U}_t\}$ is bounded then

$$\sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t} \mathbb{E} [v_*(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu))] \leq v(t, x) \leq \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t} \mathbb{E} [v^*(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu))]$$

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Remark : $v = v_*$ if $F(\cdot; \nu)$ is lsc. If v is usc, then one retrieves the usual DPP.

Other examples of application

- Set of controls depending on the state process : Bouchard, Dang and Lehall, Optimal control of trading algorithms : a general impulse control approach, to appear in *SIAM Journal on Financial Mathematics*.
- Game problem : Bayraktar and Hang, On the Multi-dimensional controller and stopper games, preprint 2010.

The case with constraint in expectation

$$v(t, x) := \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}(t, x, m)} F(t, x; \nu) \quad \text{with} \quad F(t, x, \nu) := \mathbb{E} [f(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))]$$

and

$$\mathcal{U}(t, x, m) := \{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t : G(t, x; \nu) := \mathbb{E} [g(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))] \leq m\}$$

Weak Dynamic Programming for Generalized State Constraints, with
Marcel Nutz, preprint 2011.

(compare with Bouchard, Elie, Imbert, *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization*, 48 (5), 2010.)

Problem reformulation towards DPP

- **State space augmentation** : Let $\mathcal{M}_{t,m}$ be a set of càdlàg martingales $M = \{M(s), s \in [t, T]\}$ with initial value $M(t) = m$, adapted to \mathbb{F}^t .

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- **Martingale representation assumption** : We assume that, for all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t$:

$$\exists M_t^\nu[x] \in \mathcal{M}_{t,m} \text{ such that } M_t^\nu[x](T) = g(X_{t,x}^\nu(T)),$$

with $m := \mathbb{E} [g(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))]$.

Problem reformulation towards DPP

- **State space augmentation** : Let $\mathcal{M}_{t,m}$ be a set of càdlàg martingales $M = \{M(s), s \in [t, T]\}$ with initial value $M(t) = m$, adapted to \mathbb{F}^t .
- **Martingale representation assumption** : We assume that, for all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t$:

$$\exists M_t^\nu[x] \in \mathcal{M}_{t,m} \text{ such that } M_t^\nu[x](T) = g(X_{t,x}^\nu(T)),$$

with $m := \mathbb{E} [g(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))]$.

- **Reformulation** : We set

$$\mathcal{M}_{t,x,m}^+(\nu) := \{M \in \mathcal{M}_{t,m} : M(T) \geq g(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))\}$$

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Example : In a Brownian filtration, we can take

$$\mathcal{M}_{t,m} = m + \{M_{t,0}^\alpha(T) := \int_t^T \alpha_s dW_s, \alpha \in \mathcal{A}_t\}$$

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$$\mathcal{U}(t, x, m) = \{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t : \exists \alpha \in \mathcal{A}_t \text{ s.t. } M_{t,m}^\alpha(T) \geq g(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))\}.$$

Heuristic DPP in the Brownian setting

- In the case $\mathcal{M}_{t,m} = m + \{M_{t,0}^\alpha(T) := \int_t^T \alpha_s dW_s, \alpha \in \mathcal{A}_t\}$:

$$v(t, x, m) \stackrel{?}{=} \sup_{(\nu, \alpha) \in \Theta(t, x, m)} \mathbb{E} [v(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta), M_{t,m}^\alpha(\theta))]$$

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If $G(\cdot; \nu)$ is u.s.c, moving a bit moves the m constraint to an $m + \delta$ constraint with $\delta > 0$ small.

Guess : for all $\delta > 0$

$$v(t, x, m + \delta) \geq \sup_{(\nu, \alpha) \in \Theta(t, x, m)} \mathbb{E} [\varphi(\theta, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta), M_{t,m}^\alpha(\theta))] .$$

Additional assumption

Assumption : Let $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d$, $\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t$, $\tau \in \mathcal{T}^t$, $\Gamma \in \mathcal{F}_\tau^t$, $\bar{\nu} \in \mathcal{U}_{\|\tau\|_{L^\infty}}$, and $M \in \mathcal{M}_{t,0}$. Then, there exists a process $\bar{M} = \{\bar{M}(r), r \in [\tau, T]\}$ such that

$$\bar{M}(\cdot)(\omega) = (M_{\tau(\omega)}^{\bar{\nu}}[X_{t,x}^\nu(\tau)(\omega)](\cdot))(\omega) \quad \text{on } [\tau, T] \quad \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s.}$$

and

$$M\mathbf{1}_{[t,\tau)} + \mathbf{1}_{[\tau,T]} \left(M\mathbf{1}_{\Omega \setminus \Gamma} + [\bar{M} - \bar{M}(\tau) + M(\tau)]\mathbf{1}_\Gamma \right) \in \mathcal{M}_{t,0}.$$

General result

Theorem : Assume the above holds.

(i) Let $\varphi_+ \geq v$ be a measurable function. Then

$$v(t, x, m) \leq \mathbb{E} [\varphi_+(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu), M(\theta^\nu))]$$

for some $\nu \in \mathcal{U}(t, x, m)$ and $M \in \mathcal{M}_{t,x,m}^+(\nu)$.

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(ii) Assume that $F(\cdot; \nu)$ and $-G(\cdot; \nu)$ are lsc for all $\nu \in \mathcal{U}$ (on the left in time). Let $\varphi_- \leq v$ be a usc function and fix $\delta > 0$. Then

$$v(t, x, m + \delta) \geq \mathbb{E} [\varphi_-(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu), M(\theta^\nu))]$$

for all $\nu \in \mathcal{U}(t, x, m)$ and $M \in \mathcal{M}_{t,x,m}^+(\nu)$.

The Brownian setting

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- The set of martingales is given by :

$$\mathcal{M}_{t,m} = m + \{M_{t,0}^\alpha(T) := \int_t^T \alpha_s dW_s, \alpha \in \mathcal{A}_t\}.$$

Domain of definition

- The natural domain $D := \{(t, x, m) : \mathcal{U}(t, x, m) \neq \emptyset\}$ is associated to

$$w(t, x) := \inf_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t} E[g(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))],$$

through

$$\text{int}D = \{(t, x, m) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R} : m > w(t, x), t < T\},$$

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- One has

$$\begin{aligned} D &\subseteq \{(t, x, m) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R} : m \geq w_*(t, x)\} \\ &= \overline{\text{int}D}, \end{aligned}$$

where w_* is the lower semicontinuous envelope of w on $[0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d$.

DPP for viscosity super-solution

Corollary : Assume the above holds. Let $\theta_B^{\nu,\alpha}$ be the first exist time of $(\cdot, X_{t,x}^\nu, M_{t,m}^\alpha)$ from a ball B around $(t, x, m) \in \text{int}D$. Then, for all $\delta > 0$ and $\theta^{\nu,\alpha} \leq \theta_B^{\nu,\alpha}$,

$$v(t, x, m + \delta) \geq \sup_{(\nu,\alpha) \in \mathcal{U}_t \times \mathcal{A}_t} \mathbb{E} [\varphi_-(\theta^{\nu,\alpha}, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^{\nu,\alpha}), M_{t,m}^\alpha(\theta^{\nu,\alpha}))]$$

Viscosity super-solution property derivation

Let φ_- be a test function for v_* at (t, x, m) Fix
 $(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, m_\varepsilon, \delta_\varepsilon) \rightarrow (t, x, m, 0)$ such that

$$|v(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, m_\varepsilon + \delta_\varepsilon) - \varphi_-(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, m_\varepsilon)| \leq \varepsilon^2 \rightarrow 0$$

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Set $(\nu, \alpha) = (u, a) \in U \times \mathbb{R}^d$, $\theta_\varepsilon := \theta_B^{u,a} \wedge (t_\varepsilon + \varepsilon)$. Then,

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and therefore

$$0 \geq \varepsilon^{-1} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{t_\varepsilon}^{\theta_B^{u,a} \wedge (t_\varepsilon + \varepsilon)} (\partial_t + L_{X,M}^{u,a}) \varphi_-(s, X_{t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon}^u(s), M_{t_\varepsilon, m_\varepsilon}^a(s)) ds \right] - \varepsilon$$

and pass to the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

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[In practice use a proof by contradiction to avoid passages to the limit]

PDE characterization

Theorem : Assume the above holds. Then,

(i) v_* is a viscosity super-solution on $\text{int}D$ of

$$-\partial_t \varphi + H(\cdot, D\varphi, D^2\varphi) = 0.$$

(ii) v^* is a viscosity sub-solution on $\text{cl}D$ of

$$-\partial_t \varphi + H_*(\cdot, D\varphi, D^2\varphi) = 0$$

where

$$H(\cdot, D\varphi, D^2\varphi) := - \sup_{(u,a) \in U \times \mathbb{R}^d} L_{X,M}^{u,a} \varphi.$$

(See Bouchard, Elie and Imbert 2010 for a discussion on the boundary conditions)

The case with \mathbb{P} – a.s. state constraint

$$v(t, x) := \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}(t, x)} F(t, x; \nu) \text{ with } F(t, x, \nu) := \mathbb{E} [f(X_{t,x}^\nu(T))]$$

and

$$\mathcal{U}(t, x) := \{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t : X_{t,x}^\nu \in \mathcal{O} \text{ on } [t, T]\}$$

with \mathcal{O} an open subset.

Weak Dynamic Programming for Generalized State Constraints, with
Marcel Nutz, preprint 2011.

A-priori difficulty

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Approximation by constraints in expectations

- Additional dimension

$$Y_{t,x,y}^\nu(s) := y \wedge \inf_{r \in [t,s]} d(X_{t,x}^\nu(r)), \quad s \in [t, T], \quad y > 0.$$

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By continuity, each trajectory $\{X_{t,x}^\nu(r)(\omega), r \in [t, T]\}$ has strictly positive distance to \mathcal{O}^c whenever it is contained in \mathcal{O} :

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- Equivalent control problem

$$v(t, x) = \bar{v}(t, x, y, 0)$$

where

$$\bar{v}(t, x, y, m) := \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}(t,x,y,m)} F(t, x; \nu)$$

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$$\mathcal{U}(t, x, y, m) := \{\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t : \mathbb{P} [Y_{t,x,1}^\nu(T) \leq 0] \leq m\}.$$

DPP in the state constraint case

- Apply the DPP to \bar{v} : for all $(\nu, \alpha) \in \Theta(t, x, y, 0)$

$$\bar{v}(t, x, y, 0 + \delta) \geq \mathbb{E} [\varphi_-(\theta^\nu, X_{t,x}^\nu(\theta^\nu), Y_{t,x,y}^\nu(\theta^\nu), M_{t,0}^\alpha(\theta^\nu))]$$

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If $\bar{v}(t, x, y, 0+) = \bar{v}(t, x, y, 0)$, then

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Hence

$$v(t, x) \geq \sup_{\nu \in \mathcal{U}(t,x)} \mathbb{E} [\phi_{-}(\theta^{\nu}, X_{t,x}^{\nu}(\theta^{\nu}))]$$

for $\phi_{-} \leq v$ usc.

DPP in the state constraint case : sufficient condition

Measurable selection assumption : There exists a Lipschitz continuous mapping $\hat{u} : \mathcal{O} \rightarrow U$ such that, for all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathcal{O}$, the solution $\hat{X}_{t,x}$ of

$$\hat{X}(s) = x + \int_t^s b(\hat{X}(r), \hat{u}(\hat{X}(r))) dr + \int_t^s \sigma(\hat{X}(r), \hat{u}(\hat{X}(r))) dW_r$$

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Proposition : Under the above assumption,
 $\bar{v}(t, x, y, 0+) = \bar{v}(t, x, y, 0)$.

DPP in the state constraint case

Lemma : Let B be an open neighborhood of $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathcal{O}$ such that $v(t, x)$ is finite.

(i) Let $\varphi : \text{cl}B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function such that $v \leq \varphi$ on $\text{cl}B$. For all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\nu \in \mathcal{U}(t, x)$ such that

$$v(t, x) \leq E[\varphi(\tau, X_{t,x}^\nu(\tau))] + \varepsilon,$$

where τ is the first exit time of $(s, X_{t,x}^\nu(s))_{s \geq t}$ from B .

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(ii) For any $\nu \in \mathcal{U}_t$ and any continuous function φ s.t. $v \geq \varphi$ on $\text{cl}B$

$$v(t, x) \geq E[\varphi(\tau, X_{t,x}^\nu(\tau))],$$

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The case of closed domain

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Sufficient condition for comparison

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Definition : w is of class $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{O})$ if

1. $\exists r > 0$, an open neighborhood B of x in \mathbb{R}^d and a function $\ell : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ such that

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon^{-1} |\ell(\varepsilon)| < \infty \quad \text{and} \\ y + \ell(\varepsilon) + o(\varepsilon) \in \mathcal{O} \quad \text{for all } y \in \text{cl}\mathcal{O} \cap B \text{ and } \varepsilon \in (0, r).$$

2. $\exists \lambda : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ such that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \lambda(\varepsilon) = 0 \quad \text{and} \\ \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} w(t + \lambda(\varepsilon), x + \ell(\varepsilon)) = w(t, x).$$

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Example : - There exists a C^1 -function δ such that $D\delta$ is locally Lipschitz continuous and

$$\delta > 0 \text{ on } \mathcal{O}, \quad \delta = 0 \text{ on } \partial\mathcal{O}, \quad \delta < 0 \text{ outside } \text{cl}\mathcal{O}.$$

- There exists a locally Lipschitz continuous mapping $\check{u} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow U$ s.t. for all $x \in \text{cl}\mathcal{O} \exists$ open neighborhood B of x and $\iota > 0$ satisfying

$$\mu(z, \check{u}(z))^\top D\delta(y) \geq \iota \text{ and } \sigma(y, \check{u}(y)) = 0 \quad \forall y \in B \cap \text{cl}\mathcal{O}, z \in B.$$

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Similar conditions from the literature : Soner (1986), Katsoulakis (1994), Ishii and Loreti (2002).