# Methods Of Optimal Control

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#### Structure of the course

- Short lecture (10-15 minutes)
- Team work (50 minutes)
  - \* Problem solving
  - \* Programming (Python)
  - \* Managerial skills
  - \* Reporting skills
- Delivery (5 minutes)

#### Structure of the course

### Python

Each student is expected to bring a computer to the classroom with a *Python 3.12, IPython*, and *Jupyter Notebook* installed.

- https://www.python.org/downloads
- https://www.anaconda.com/docs/main
- Virtual environment:

https://docs.python.org/3/library/venv.html https://www.anaconda.com/docs/tools/working-with-conda/environments

#### GitHub

Each student is required to have a GitHub account.

#### Rules of teamwork

- Be respectful.
- Allow all team members to engage and express their opinion. No interruption.
- Arrange chair to make sure everyone is involved.
- No one knows everything. Make sure that everyone learns what you know.
- Break down the tasks between group members based on ones abilities.
- Ask for feedback from me frequently.

## Composition of teams

Each team requires one or two members to take the following roles:

- Problem solving
- Programming (Python)
- Managerial skills
- Reporting skills

### Example1

 $\alpha:[0,T]\to\mathbb{R}$  is given.

$$\inf \left\{ \int_0^T \left( x_t^2 - \alpha_t x_t \right) dt \right\}$$

where the infimum is over all functions  $x : [0, T] \to \mathbb{R}$ .

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$$\inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left\{ x^2 - \alpha_t x \right\}$$

$$x_t^* = \frac{\alpha_t}{2} = \underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ x^2 - \alpha_t x \right\}$$

### Dynamic $x_t$

$$\inf \left\{ \int_0^T \left( x_t^2 - \alpha_t x_t \right) dt \right\}$$

Infimum is over all functions  $x : [0, T] \to \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for some function  $u : [0, T] \to \mathbb{R}$ 

$$dx_t = (-\beta x_t + u_t)dt, \quad x_0 = x$$

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,  $x_0 = x$ 

Can we find  $u_t$  such that  $x_t = \frac{\alpha_t}{2}$ ? (For simplicity, take  $\beta = 0$ .)

## Dynamic $x_t$

$$\inf\left\{\int_0^T \left(x_t^2 - \alpha_t x_t\right) \mathrm{d}t\right\}$$

Infimum is over all functions  $x : [0, T] \to \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for some function  $u : [0, T] \to \mathbb{R}$ 

$$dx_t = (-\beta x_t + u_t)dt$$
,  $x_0 = x$ 

Can we find  $u_t$  such that  $x_t = \frac{\alpha_t}{2}$ ? (For simplicity, take  $\beta = 0$ .) Check it for  $\alpha_t = \mathbb{1}_{\{0 \le t \le \frac{T}{2}\}}$ .

## Dynamic $x_t$

$$\inf \left\{ \int_0^T \left( x_t^2 - \alpha_t x_t \right) dt \right\}$$

Infimum is over all functions  $x : [0, T] \to \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for some function  $u : [0, T] \to \mathbb{R}$ 

$$dx_t = (-\beta x_t + u_t)dt$$
,  $x_0 = x$ 

Can we find  $u_t$  such that  $x_t = \frac{\alpha_t}{2}$ ? (For simplicity, take  $\beta = 0$ .)

Check it for  $\alpha_t = \mathbb{1}_{\{0 \le t \le \frac{7}{2}\}}$ .

For  $\alpha_t = \mathbb{1}_{\{0 \le t \le \frac{\tau}{2}\}}$ , what is the value of the infimum? Is it

$$\inf\left\{\int_0^T \left(x_t^2 - \alpha_t x_t\right) dt\right\} = -\frac{1}{4} \int_0^T \alpha_t^2 dt = -\frac{7}{8}?$$

### A control problem without a myopic solution

$$\inf \int_0^T \left( x_t^2 - \alpha_t x_t + u_t^2 \right) \mathrm{d}t \tag{1}$$

Infimum is over all functions  $u:[0,T] \to \mathbb{R}$ 

$$dx_t = (-\beta x_t + u_t)dt$$
,  $x_0 = x$ 

#### Trade-off:

- Trying to send  $x_t \to \frac{\alpha_t}{2}$  may cause  $\int_0^T u_t^2 dt$  to grow.
- Trying to keep cost  $\int_0^T u_t^2 dt$  near zero, does not bring  $x_t$  close to  $\frac{\alpha_t}{2}$ .

What is the sweet spot for  $u_t$ ?

# A generic control problem

#### Definition

$$\inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \int_0^T C(t, x_t, u_t) dt + g(x_T), \quad dx_t = f(x_t, u_t) dt$$
 (2)

- $C: \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ : running cost
- $g: \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ : terminal cost
- $\mathcal{U}$ : an admissible set of functions  $u:[0,T]\to\mathbb{R}^n$ , control variable.

# A generic control problem

#### Admissible controls

 $\ensuremath{\mathcal{U}}$  is chosen to fit the proper application and/or to make the control problem wellposed.

### Admissibility for wellposedness

$$\inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \int_0^T (x_t - u_t^2) dt = -\infty, \quad dx_t = (x_t - u_t) dt$$
 (3)

 $\mathcal U$  to be the set of all functions  $u:[0,T]\to\mathbb R$ If we restrict  $\mathcal U$  to the set of functions  $u:[0,T]\to[-1,\infty)$  (some lower bound on the value), then

$$\inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \int_0^T (x_t - u_t^2) dt > -\infty, \quad dx_t = (x_t - u_t) dt. \tag{4}$$

### Infinite horizon

#### Infinite horizon

An infinite horizon control problem is accommodated by setting  $T=\infty.$  For example,

$$\inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \int_0^\infty e^{-t} (x_t^2 + u_t^2) dt, \ C(t, x, u) = e^{-t} (x^2 + u^2)$$
 (5)

#### Exercise

Write the following problem as a generic control problems by associating the horizon T, the running cost C(t, x, u) and terminal cost g(x)

(Shortest time to exit a bounded domain) Given a bounded domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  find

$$\inf_{t}\{t\geq 0 : x_t \notin D\} \tag{6}$$

where  $\mathrm{d}x_t = u_t \mathrm{d}t$  with control  $|u_t| \leq 1$  and  $u_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and initial position  $x_0 = x \in D$ .

### Infinite horizon

#### Exercise

Write the following problem as a generic control problems by associating the horizon T, the running cost C(t, x, u) and terminal cost g(x)

(Shortest time to exit a bounded domain) Given a bounded domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , find

$$\inf_{U}\{t\geq 0 : x_t \notin D\} \tag{7}$$

where  $dx_t = u_t dt$  with control  $|u_t| \le 1$  and  $u_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and initial position  $x_0 = x \in D$ .

#### Solution

$$\inf_{u} \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathbb{1}_{\{x_t \in D\}} dt, \ dx_t = u_t dt \text{ with } |u_t| \leq 1$$

An optimal control is described by existing D as fast as possible, |u| = 1, and stop as soon as we exit, |u| = 0.

# Dynamic programming principle (DPP)

#### Value function

Fix  $x_t = x$ .

$$V(t,x) := \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_t} \int_t^T C(s,x_s,u_s) ds + g(x_T), \quad dx_s = f(x_s,u_s) ds$$

 $\mathcal{U}_t$ : the set of admissible controls restricted to [t, T].

## Dynamic programming principle (DPP)

$$V(t,x) = \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_{t}^{s} C(r,x_r,u_r) dr + V(s,x_s), \quad dx_r = f(x_r,u_r) dr$$

 $\mathcal{U}_{t,s}$ : the set of admissible controls restricted to [t,s].

### **DPP**

#### Balance of cost in DPP

$$V(t,x) = \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_t^s C(r,x_r,\mathbf{u_r}) dr + V(s,\mathbf{x_s}), \quad \mathbf{x_s} = x + \int_t^s f(x_r,\mathbf{u_r}) dr$$

### Proof of DPP

$$V(t,x) = \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_t} \int_t^T C(r, x_r, u_r) dr + g(x_T)$$

$$= \inf_{u_1 \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \inf_{u_2 \in \mathcal{U}_s} \int_t^s C(r, x_r, u_1(r)) dr + \int_s^T C(r, x_r, u_2(r)) dr + g(x_T)$$

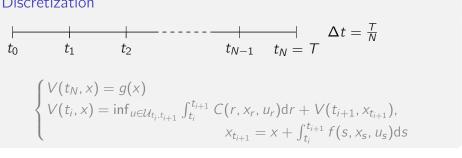
$$= \inf_{u_1 \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_t^s C(r, x_r, u_1(r)) dr + \inf_{u_2 \in \mathcal{U}_s} \int_s^T C(r, x_r, u_2(r)) dr + g(x_T)$$

Note that  $\inf_{u_2 \in \mathcal{U}_s} \int_s^T C(r, x_r, u_2(r)) dr + g(x_T) = V(s, x_s)$ . Therefore,

$$V(t,x) = \inf_{u_1 \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_{t}^{s} C(r,x_r,u_1(r)) dr + V(s,x_s)$$

### Numerical DPP

#### Discretization



## **Approximation**

$$\begin{cases} \hat{V}(t_N, x) = g(x) \\ \hat{V}(t_i, x) := \inf_{u} C(t_i, x_{t_i}, u) \Delta t + \hat{V}(t_{i+1}, x_{t_{i+1}}), \ x_{t_{i+1}} = x + f(t_i, x, u) \Delta t \end{cases}$$

### Numerical DPP

## **Approximation**

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### Simplification of one-step approximate DPP

The approximation is not over the control  $u:[t_i,t_{i+1}]\to\mathbb{R}^m$ , but over values  $u\in\mathbb{R}^m$ . The optimal value  $\hat{u}^*$  is a constant approximately optimal control over  $[t_i,t_{i+1}]$ .

## Algorithm

#### **Algorithm 1:** Numerical DPP

```
Parameter T, N, f(t, x, u), C(t, x, u), and g(x);
  \Delta t = \frac{T}{N}
   Data: \hat{V}(t_N, x) = g(x);
  x_i^J for j = 1, ..., J and i = 0, ..., N - 1;
   (x_i^J) means the jth discrete point at time t_i.)
1 for i \leftarrow N-1 to 0 do
    \hat{x}_{i+1}^j = x_i^j + f(t_i, x_i^j, u) \Delta t;
       \tilde{V}(t_i, x_i^j) \leftarrow \inf_{u} C(t_i, x_i^j, u) \Delta t + \hat{V}(t_{i+1}, \hat{x}_{t+1}^j);
       \hat{V}(t_i, x) obtained from interpolation on \tilde{V}(t_i, x_i^j) for j = 1, ..., J;
     \hat{u}^*(t_i, x_i^j) \in \text{argmin } C(t_i, x_i^j, u) \Delta t + \hat{V}(t_{i+1}, \hat{x}_{i+1}^j);
```

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# DPP algorithm

#### Exercise

Why interpolation is required in Algorithm 1?

Can we perform the algorithm by only knowing  $\hat{V}(t_{i+1}, x_{i+1}^j)$  for all i = 1, ..., J?

Note the difference between  $\hat{V}(t_{i+1}, x_{i+1}^j)$  and  $\hat{V}(t_{i+1}, \hat{x}_{i+1}^j)$  and the difference between  $x_{i+1}^j$  and  $\hat{x}_{i+1}^j = x_i^j + f(t_i, x_i^j, u)\Delta t$ .

$$\inf_{u} C(t_i, x_i^j, \mathbf{u}) + \hat{V}(t_i, x_i^j + f(t_i, x_i^j, \mathbf{u}) \Delta t)$$

# Quadratic example

### Example

Value function:

$$V(t,x) := \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_t} \int_t^T (x_s^2 + u_s^2) \, \mathrm{d}s + \frac{1}{2} x_T^2 - x_T, \quad dx_s = (x_s - u_s) \, \mathrm{d}s. \tag{8}$$

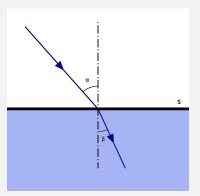
We cannot find value functions using a myopic argument.

#### Exercise

- 1) In example above, write the approximate DPP from time  $t_i$  to  $t_{i+1}$ .
- 2) Assume that  $\hat{V}(t_{i+1},x) = a_{i+1}x^2 + b_{i+1}x + c_{i+1}$  for some known values  $a_{i+1}$ ,  $b_{i+1}$ , and  $c_{i+1}$ . Use optimization of a quadratic function to find  $\hat{V}(t_i,x)$ . Note that you need to use  $\hat{x}_{t_{i+1}} = x + (x-u)\Delta t$ .
- 3) Does  $\hat{V}(t_i, x)$  is of the form  $a_i x^2 + b_i x + c_i$ ? What is the relation between  $(a_i, b_i, c_i)$  and  $(a_{i+1}, b_{i+1}, c_{i+1})$ ?

## Hamiltonian and Lagrangian

Hamilton: principle of minimum action



### Recall the DPP

$$V(t,x) = \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_{t}^{s} C(r, x_r, \mathbf{u_r}) dr + V(s, \mathbf{x_s}), \quad \mathbf{x_s} = x + \int_{t}^{s} f(x_r, \mathbf{u_r}) dr$$

### Taylor expansion

$$V(s, \mathbf{x_s}) = V(t, x) + V_t(t, x)(s - t) + V_x(t, x)(\mathbf{x_s} - x) + R_2$$

$$V(t,x) = \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_{t}^{s} C(r, x_{r}, u_{r}) dr + V(s, x_{s})$$

$$= \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_{t}^{s} C(r, x_{r}, u_{r}) dr$$

$$+ V(t, x) + V_{t}(t, x)(s - t) + V_{x}(t, x) \int_{t}^{s} f(x_{r}, u_{r}) dr + R_{2}$$

### Taylor expansion

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$$+ V(t,x) + V_{t}(t,x)(s-t) + V_{x}(t,x) \int_{t}^{s} f(x_{r}, u_{r}) dr + R_{2}$$

$$= V(t,x) + V_{t}(t,x)(s-t) + \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_{t}^{s} C(r, x_{r}, u_{r}) dr$$

$$+ V_{x}(t,x) \int_{t}^{s} f(x_{r}, u_{r}) dr + R_{2}$$

### Taylor expansion

$$\underline{V(t,x)} = \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_{t}^{s} C(r, x_r, u_r) dr + V(s, x_s)$$

$$= \underline{V(t,x)} + V_t(t,x)(s-t) + \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_{t}^{s} C(r, x_r, u_r) dr$$

$$+ V_x(t,x) \int_{t}^{s} f(r, x_r, u_r) dr + R_2$$

Dividing both sides by s - t and sending  $s \rightarrow t$ .

## Taylor expansion

$$0 = \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \int_{t}^{s} C(r, x_{r}, u_{r}) dr + V(s, x_{s})$$

$$= V_{t}(t, x) + \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_{t,s}} \lim_{s \to t} \frac{\int_{t}^{s} C(r, x_{r}, u_{r}) dr}{s - t}$$

$$+ V_{x}(t, x) \lim_{s \to t} \frac{\int_{t}^{s} f(r, x_{r}, u_{r}) dr}{s - t} + \lim_{s \to t} \frac{R_{2}}{s - t}$$

$$R_2 = o(s - t)$$
:  $\lim_{s \to t} \frac{R_2}{s - t} = 0$ .

### **HJ** equation

$$0 = V_{t}(t, x) + \inf_{u} \left\{ C(t, x, u) + V_{x}(t, x) f(t, x, u) \right\}$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 = V_{t}(t, x) + H(t, x, V_{x}(t, x)) \\ V(T, x) = g(x) \end{cases}$$

Hamiltonian:  $H(t, x, p) = \inf_{u} \left\{ C(t, x, u) + p \cdot f(t, x, u) \right\}$ 

## LQC

### A linear-quadratic control problem

Consider the control problem:

$$\inf_{u} \left\{ \int_{0}^{T} \left( x_t^2 + u_t^2 \right) dt \right\}, \quad dx_t = \left( -\beta x_t + u_t \right) dt \tag{9}$$

$$C(t, x, u) = x^2 + u^2$$
 and  $f(t, x, u) = -\beta x + u$ .

Write the HJ equation.

After writing the HJ, plug in  $V(t,x) = a(t)x^2 + b(t)x + c(t)$ the HJ and find ODEs for a(t), b(t), and c(t). What are a(T), b(T), and c(T)?

## Eikonal equation

#### Fastest exit

Recall the fastest exit problem.

$$\inf_{u} \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathbb{1}_{\{x_t \in D\}} \mathrm{d}t, \ \mathrm{d}x_t = u_t \mathrm{d}t \ \text{ with } \ |u_t| \leq 1$$

Write the definition of value function for initial state  $x_0 = x \in D$ . Write the HJ equation. Is there any boundary condition?

### Solution to Eikonal equation

Write the HJ equation and boundary condition for the special case where  $D = [-1, 1] \subset \mathbb{R}$ . Which one of the following functions satisfy the HJ equation? Which one matches the value function?

$$v_1(x) = 1 - |x|, v_2(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} - |x - \frac{1}{2}| & 0 \le x \le 1\\ \frac{1}{2} - |x + \frac{1}{2}| & -1 \le x < 0 \end{cases}$$

# SIR model in epidemiology

#### **ODEs**

Susceptible, infected, and recovered:

$$\begin{cases} \mathrm{d}S_t = -\beta S_t I_t \mathrm{d}t \\ \mathrm{d}I_t = (\beta I_t S_t - \gamma I_t) \mathrm{d}t \\ \mathrm{d}R_t = \gamma I_t \mathrm{d}t \end{cases}$$

#### Controlled state variables

Susceptible, infected, and recovered:

$$\begin{cases} dS_t = -\beta_t S_t I_t dt \\ dI_t = (\beta_t I_t S_t - \gamma_t I_t) dt \\ dR_t = \gamma_t I_t dt \end{cases}$$

 $\beta_t \in [b_0, b_1]$  and  $\gamma_t \in [c_0, c_1]$  all positive.

# SIR model in epidemiology

#### Controlled state variables

Susceptible, infected, and recovered:

$$\begin{cases} dS_t = -\beta_t S_t I_t dt \\ dI_t = (\beta_t I_t S_t - \gamma_t I_t) dt \\ dR_t = \gamma_t I_t dt \end{cases}$$

 $\beta_t \in [b_0, b_1]$  and  $\gamma_t \in [c_0, c_1]$  all positive.

$$\inf_{\beta_t, \gamma_t} \int_0^T (\beta_t^2 + \gamma_t^2) dt + I_T^2$$

Write the HJ equation.

# Consumption

### Savings account

$$dS_t = (rS_t - c_t)dt$$

 $c_t \geq 0$  is the rate of consumption.

$$\inf_{c_t \geq 0} \int_0^T U(c_t) dt + S_T$$

 $U(c) = 1 - e^{-c}$ . Write the HJ equation.

# Consumption with discounting

### Savings account

$$dS_t = (rS_t - c_t)dt$$

 $c_t > 0$  is the rate of consumption.

$$\inf_{c_t \ge 0} \int_0^T e^{-kt} U(c_t) dt + e^{-kT} S_T$$

 $U(c) = 1 - e^{-c}$ . Write the HJ equation.

## Control problem with discounting

$$\inf_{u} \int_{0}^{T} e^{-kt} C(x_t, u_t) dt + e^{-kT} g(x_T), \quad dx_t = f(x_t, u_t) dt$$

#### Value function

$$V(t,x) := \inf_{u} \int_{t}^{T} e^{-k(s-t)} C(x_s, u_s) ds + e^{-k(T-t)} g(x_T)$$

### **DPP**

$$V(t,x) = \inf_{u} \int_{t}^{s} e^{-k(r-t)} C(x_r, u_r) dr + e^{-k(s-t)} V(s, x_s)$$

#### Value function

$$V(t,x) := \inf_{u} \int_{t}^{T} e^{-k(s-t)} C(x_s, u_s) ds + e^{-k(T-t)} g(x_T)$$

#### DPP

$$V(t,x) = \inf_{u} \int_{t}^{s} e^{-k(r-t)} C(x_r, u_r) dr + e^{-k(s-t)} V(s, x_s)$$

### HJB with discounting

Write the first three terms of the Taylor polynomial for  $V(s, x_s)$  about point (t, x).

### HJB with discounting

$$e^{-k(s-t)}V(s,x_{s}) = V(t,x) + e^{-k(s-t)} \Big( \big(V_{t}(t,x) - kV(t,x)\big)(s-t) + V_{x}(t,x) \int_{t}^{s} f(x_{r},u_{r}) dr \Big) + o((s-t)^{2})$$

$$V(t,x) = \inf_{u} \int_{t}^{s} e^{-k(r-t)} C(x_{r},u_{r}) dr + V(t,x) + e^{-k(s-t)} \Big( \big(V_{t}(t,x) - kV(t,x)\big)(s-t) + V_{x}(t,x) \int_{t}^{s} f(x_{r},u_{r}) dr \Big) + o((s-t)^{2})$$

### HJB with discounting

Divide by s - t and  $s \rightarrow t$ :

$$0 = \inf_{u} C(x, u) + V_{t}(t, x) - kV(t, x) + V_{x}(t, x)f(x, u)$$

$$0 = V_t(t, x) - kV(t, x) + \inf_{u} \{C(x, u) + V_x(t, x)f(x, u)\}$$

Hamiltonian:

$$H(x, p) := \inf_{u} \{ C(x, u) + pf(x, u) \}$$

# Consumption with discounting

### Savings account

$$dS_t = (rS_t - c_t)dt$$

 $c_t \geq 0$  is the rate of consumption.

$$\inf_{c_t>0} \int_0^T e^{-kt} U(c_t) dt + e^{-kT} S_T$$

 $U(c) = 1 - e^{-c}$ . Write the HJ equation by including the discounting in the DPP.

# Lagrange multiplier

### Constrained optimization

$$\inf_{x} f(x) \quad \text{subject to} \quad g(x) = 0$$

### Lagrangian

$$L(x, \lambda) := f(x) - \lambda \cdot g(x)$$

### Saddle point problem

$$\sup_{\lambda} \inf_{x} L(x, \lambda)$$

## Individual project

#### Due end October

In your area of study, find an optimal control problem. Then, write the cost functions and the control variable and determine a set of admissible controls.