

## Bellman Equations

Let's consider a process solution of

$$dX_t = b(X_t, u_t)dt + \sigma(X_t, u_t)dB_t; \quad X_0 = x_0$$

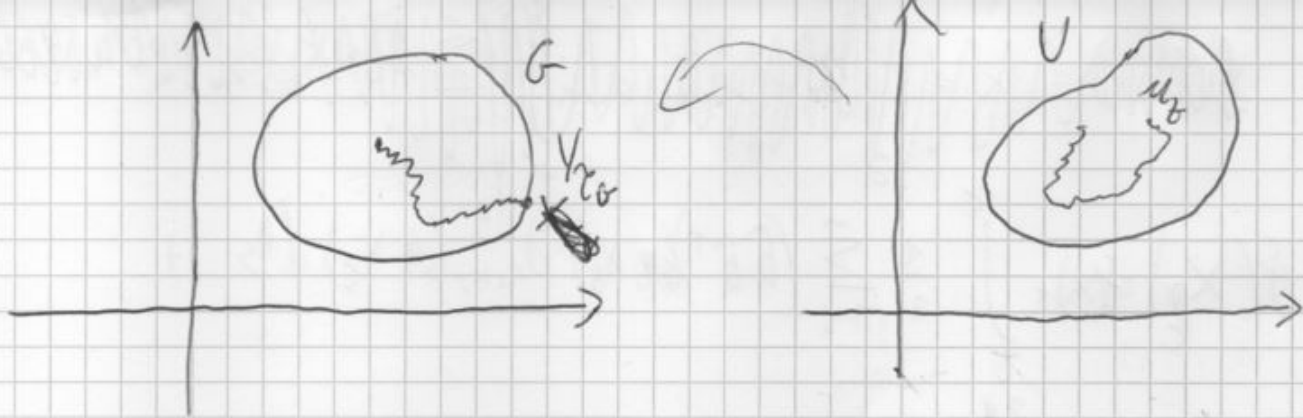
where  $(t, \omega) \mapsto u_t(\omega)$  is a control process such that

$u_t(\omega) \in U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$  where  $U$  is a given borel set.

Let's consider a borel set  $G \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$

Let's consider a payoff density  $F$  and a bequest function  $K$

$$F: \mathbb{R}^m \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; \quad K: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



$$\tau_v(\omega) = \inf \{ t \geq 0 \mid X_t(\omega) \notin G \}$$

We define the average performance function  $J^u(x)$  for  $x \in G$  by

$$J^u(x) = E \left[ \int_0^{\tau_v} F(X_s, u_s) ds + K(X_{\tau_v}) \chi_{\{\tau_v < +\infty\}} \right]$$

**Def** (Bellman function)

$B(x) = \sup_{u = \{u_t\}_{t \geq 0} \text{ admissible}}$  over the set of admissible controls

$u = \{u_t\}_{t \geq 0}$   
admissible

Markov controls  $\leftarrow$  ~~Markov controls~~  
 $u(t, \omega) = u_0(t, V_t(\omega))$

if  $u^* = \{u_t^*\}_{t \geq 0}$  is such that  $B(x) = J^{u^*}(x) \quad \forall x$

then  $u^*$  is called an optimal control

**Thm** HJB equation

$$\text{Let } L^v f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^m b_i(x, v) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m (G G^T)_{i,j}(x, v) \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}(x)$$

**Obs**  $L^v$  is the infinitesimal generator of the process

$$X_t = X_0 + \int_0^t b(X_s, v) ds + \int_0^t G(X_s, v) dB_s$$

Let's consider the Bellman function

$$B(y) = \sup \{ J^u(y) \mid u = u_0(Y) \text{ Markov control} \}$$

Let's assume that  $B$  satisfies

$$E^y \left[ |B(Y_\alpha)| + \int_0^\alpha |L^u B(Y_t)| dt \right] < +\infty$$

for all bounded stopping times  $\alpha < T$ , where  $T = \inf \{ s \geq 0 \mid Y_s \notin G \}$

$\forall y \in G; \forall u \in U$ . Suppose that  $T$  is  $T < +\infty$  almost surely w.r.t.  $Q^y$  for all  $y \in G$ . Suppose that an optimal Markov control  $u^* = u_0^*(Y)$  exists.

Let's suppose that  $\partial G$  is regular for  $Y^{u^*}$ .

THEN (1)  $\sup_{u \in U} \{ F^u(y) + (L^u B)(y) \} = 0 \quad \forall y \in G$

and

$$(2) B(y) = K(y) \quad \forall y \in \partial G$$

Moreover, the supremum in (1) is obtained at  $u = u_0^*(y)$

where  $u^* = u_0^*(Y)$  is an optimal Markov control. i.e.

$$B(y) = J^{u^*}(y) = E^y \left[ \int_0^T F(Y_s, u^*(Y_s)) ds + K(Y_T) \right]$$

**Def**  $x \in \partial G$  is regular for  $X_t = b dt + \sigma dB_t$

if  $\tau_x = \inf \{ s > 0 \mid X_s^x \notin G \}$ ,

we have  $Q^x[\tau_x = 0] = 1$ .  $\partial G$  is regular at  $x$  if  $x \in \partial G$  and  $Q^x[\tau_x = 0] = 1$ .  
 probability 1 starting from  $x$  starting point

Proof if  $y \in D$  is regular then  $\tau_0 = 0$  almost surely

wrt.  $Q^y$ , ~~no~~

$$B(y) = \sup_{u \text{ control}} E^y \left[ \int_0^{\tau_0} F(Y_s, u_s) ds + K(Y_{\tau_0}) \right]$$

but  $\tau_0 = 0$  a.s., ~~no~~

$$B(y) = \sup_u E^y [0 + K(Y_0)]$$

but  $Y_0 = y$  a.s., ~~no~~  $\forall u$ , ~~no~~

$$B(y) = K(y). \quad \text{OK.}$$

We are using the following theorem to prove our result

Theorem Under the same Hypotheses as the previous theorem, if we consider

$$W(y) = E^y [K(Y_{\tau_0})] + E^y \left[ \int_0^{\tau_0} F^u(Y_s) ds \right]$$

for  $x \in G$  then

$$a) \begin{cases} AW = -F^u \text{ in } G & (3) \text{ almost surely wrt. } Q^y \\ \lim_{t \uparrow \tau_0} W(Y_t) = K(Y_{\tau_0}) & (4) \quad \forall y \in G. \end{cases}$$

i.e.  $W$  is the solution of the Dirichlet Problem

N.B.  $A$  is the infinitesimal generator of  $Y$

b) If there exists a function  $W_1 \in C^2(G)$  and  $C > 0$  s.t.

$$|W_1(y)| \leq C \left( 1 + E^y \left[ \int_0^{\tau_0} |F^u(Y_s)| ds \right] \right) \quad \forall y \in D$$

and  $u_0$  satisfies (1) and (2) then  $u_0 = u$

↳ by the theorem we get, for  $u = u^*$

$$\underline{(L^{u^*} B)(y) = -F(y, u_0^*(y)) \quad \forall y \in G}$$

because  $B = W$  if  $u = u^*$  CM.

Fix  $y \in G$ ; let  $u = u_0(y)$  be a marked control.

Let  $\alpha \leq T$  be a stopping time  $T = \tau_G$

since ~~since~~  $J^u(y) = E^y \left[ \int_0^T F^u(Y_s) ds + K(Y_T) \right]$

We get

$$E^y [J^u(Y_\alpha)] = E^y \left[ E^{Y_\alpha} \left[ \int_0^T F^u(Y_s) ds + K(Y_T) \right] \right] =$$

Markov property  $\rightarrow = E^y \left[ E_{T^-}^{Y_\alpha} \left[ \theta_\alpha \left( \int_0^T F^u(Y_s) ds + K(Y_T) \right) \middle| \mathcal{F}_\alpha \right] \right]$

by a proper lemma  $= E^y \left[ E_{T^-}^{Y_\alpha} \left[ \int_0^T F^u(Y_s) ds + K(Y_T) \middle| \mathcal{F}_\alpha \right] \right]$

$$= E^y \left[ \int_0^\alpha F^u(Y_s) ds + K(Y_T) - \int_0^\alpha F^u(Y_s) ds \right] =$$

$$= J^u(y) - E \left[ \int_0^\alpha F^u(Y_s) ds \right] \Rightarrow J^u(y) = E^y \left[ \int_0^\alpha F^u(Y_s) ds \right] +$$

$$\Rightarrow B(y) \geq E^y \left[ \int_0^\alpha F^u(Y_s) ds \right] + E^y [B(Y_\alpha)]$$

or

By Dynkin's formula

$$E^y[B(Y_x)] = B(y) + E^y \left[ \int_0^x (L^\alpha B)(Y_s) ds \right] \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow B(y) \geq E^y \left[ \int_0^x F^\alpha(Y_s) ds \right] + B(y) + E^y \left[ \int_0^x (L^\alpha B)(Y_s) ds \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow E^y \left[ \int_0^x (F^\alpha(Y_s) + (L^\alpha B)(Y_s)) ds \right] \leq 0$$

We choose a proper  $\alpha$  to get the theorem.

The idea is  $\alpha \rightarrow 0$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^x F^\alpha(Y_s) + (L^\alpha B)(Y_s) ds \leq 0$$

~~because~~

+ optimal control  $\Rightarrow$  things

because.

This proof works as long as we ~~choose~~ choose ~~proper~~ a proper control  $\alpha$ .