

Stochastic target games

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Joint works with L. Moreau (ETH-Zürich) and M. Nutz (Columbia)

Problem formulation and Motivations

Problem formulation

Provide a PDE characterization of the *viability* sets

$$\Lambda(t) := \{(z, m) : \exists u \in \mathcal{U} \text{ s. t. } \mathbb{E} \left[\ell(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(T)) | \mathcal{F}_t \right] \geq m \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

In which :

- \mathcal{V} is a set of admissible adverse controls
- \mathcal{U} is a set of admissible strategies
- $Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}$ is an adapted \mathbb{R}^d -valued process s.t. $Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(t) = z$
- ℓ is a given loss/utility function
- m a threshold.

Application in finance

- $Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta} = (X_{t,x}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta}, Y_{t,x,y}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta})$ where
- $X_{t,x}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta}$ models financial assets or factors with dynamics depending on ϑ
 - $Y_{t,x,y}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta}$ models a wealth process
 - ϑ is the control of the market : parameter uncertainty (e.g. volatility), adverse players, etc...
 - $u[\vartheta]$ is the financial strategy given the past observations of ϑ .

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Robust partial hedging under uncertainty and related price :

$$\inf\{y : \exists u \text{ s.t. } \mathbb{E} \left[\Psi \left(Y_{t,x,y}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta}(T) \geq g(X_{t,x}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta}(T)) \right) \right] \geq m \forall \vartheta \}$$

Application in finance

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Robust hedging under uncertainty and related price :

$$\inf\{y : \exists u \text{ s.t. } Y_{t,x,y}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta}(T) \geq g(X_{t,x}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta}(T)) \forall \vartheta\}$$

- Flexible enough to embed constraints, transaction costs, market impact, etc...

Setting for this talk

(see the papers for abstract versions)

Brownian diffusion setting

Brownian diffusion setting

- **State process** : $Z^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}$ solves (μ and σ continuous, uniformly Lipschitz in space)

$$Z(s) = z + \int_t^s \mu(Z(r), u[\vartheta]_r, \vartheta_r) dr + \int_t^s \sigma(Z(r), u[\vartheta]_r, \vartheta_r) dW_r$$

- The loss function ℓ has polynomial growth and is continuous.

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- The loss function ℓ has polynomial growth and is continuous.

- **Controls and strategies** :

- \mathcal{V} is the set of **predictable processes** with values in $V \subset \mathbb{R}^d$.
- \mathcal{U} is set of **non-anticipating maps** $u : \vartheta \in \mathcal{V} \mapsto \mathcal{U}$, i.e.

$$\{\omega : \vartheta_1(\omega) =_{[0,s]} \vartheta_2(\omega)\} \subset \{\omega : u[\vartheta_1](\omega) =_{[0,s]} u[\vartheta_2](\omega)\}.$$

where \mathcal{U} is the set of predictable processes with values in $U \subset \mathbb{R}^d$.

The game problem

□ **The *viability sets*** are given by

$$\Lambda(t) := \{(z, m) : \exists u \in \mathfrak{U} \text{ s. t. } \mathbb{E} \left[\ell(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(T)) | \mathcal{F}_t \right] \geq m \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

Compare with the formulation of games in Buckdahn and Li (08).

Geometric dynamic programming principle for controlled loss cases

How are the properties

$(z, m) \in \Lambda(t)$ and $(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(\theta), ?) \in \Lambda(\theta)$
related?

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Unformal derivation

- Take $(z, m) \in \Lambda(t)$ and $u \in \mathfrak{U}$ such that

$$\operatorname{ess\,inf}_{\vartheta \in \mathcal{V}} \mathbb{E} \left[\ell \left(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(T) \right) \mid \mathcal{F}_t \right] \geq m \quad \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s.}$$

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Take care of the evolution of the worst case scenario conditional expectation :

$$S_r^\vartheta := \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{\bar{\vartheta} \in \mathcal{V}} \mathbb{E} \left[\ell \left(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta \oplus_r \bar{\vartheta}], \vartheta \oplus_r \bar{\vartheta}}(T) \right) \mid \mathcal{F}_r \right],$$

where $\vartheta \oplus_r \bar{\vartheta} = \vartheta \mathbf{1}_{[0,r]} + \mathbf{1}_{(r,T]} \bar{\vartheta}$.

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where $\vartheta \oplus_r \bar{\vartheta} = \vartheta \mathbf{1}_{[0,r]} + \mathbf{1}_{(r,T]} \bar{\vartheta}$.

Then

S^ϑ is a submartingale and $S_t^\vartheta \geq m$ for all $\vartheta \in \mathcal{V}$,

and we can find a martingale M^ϑ such that

$$S^\vartheta \geq M^\vartheta \quad \text{and} \quad M_t^\vartheta = S_t^\vartheta \geq m.$$

Unformal derivation

□ Take $(z, m) \in \Lambda(t)$ and $u \in \mathcal{U}$ such that

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where $\vartheta \oplus_r \bar{\vartheta} = \vartheta \mathbf{1}_{[0,r]} + \mathbf{1}_{(r,T]} \bar{\vartheta}$.

Hence,

$$\operatorname{ess\,inf}_{\bar{\vartheta} \in \mathcal{V}} \mathbb{E} \left[\ell \left(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta \oplus_\theta \bar{\vartheta}], \vartheta \oplus_\theta \bar{\vartheta}}(T) \right) \mid \mathcal{F}_\theta \right] = S_\theta^\vartheta \geq M_\theta^\vartheta \quad \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s.}$$

and therefore there exists a martingale M^ϑ such that $M_t^\vartheta = m$ and

$$(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(\theta), M_\theta^\vartheta) \in \Lambda(\theta) \quad \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s.}$$

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Hence,

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and therefore **there exists a predictable** $\alpha^\vartheta \in \mathcal{A}$ **such that**

$$(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(\theta), M_{t,m}^{\alpha^\vartheta}(\theta)) \in \Lambda(\theta) \quad \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s.}, \quad M_{t,m}^{\alpha^\vartheta} := m + \int_t^\cdot \alpha_s^\vartheta dW_s$$

The geometric dynamic programming principle

(GDP1) : If $(z, m) \in \Lambda(t)$, then $\exists u \in \mathfrak{U}$ and $\{\alpha^\vartheta, \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}\} \subset \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(\theta), M_{t,m}^{\alpha^\vartheta}(\theta)) \in \Lambda(\theta) \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s. } \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}.$$

(GDP2) : If $(u, \alpha) \in \mathfrak{U} \times \mathfrak{A}$ are such that

$$(Z_{t,z}^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(\theta[\vartheta]), M_{t,m}^{\alpha[\vartheta]}(\theta[\vartheta])) \in \Lambda(\theta[\vartheta]) \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s. } \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}$$

for some family $(\theta[\vartheta], \vartheta \in \mathcal{V})$ of non-anticipating stopping times, then

$$(z, m) \in \Lambda(t).$$

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for some family $(\theta[\vartheta], \vartheta \in \mathcal{V})$ of non-anticipating stopping times, then

$$(z, m) \in \Lambda(t).$$

Rem : Use heavily the regularity of the constraint in expectation (ℓ continuous + unif. Lipschitz coefficients). Exact statement requires an extra relaxation, which does not alter the pde derivation. See Bouchard, Moreau and Nutz, AAP to appear.

PDE Characterization

□ **Monotone case** : $Z_{t,x,y}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta} = (X_{t,x}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta}, Y_{t,x,y}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta})$ with values in $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}$ with $X_{t,x}^{u[\vartheta],\vartheta}$ independent of y and $\ell \uparrow y$.

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□ **The value function is :**

$$\varpi(t, x, m) := \inf\{y : (x, y, m) \in \Lambda(t)\}.$$

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$$\varpi(t, x, m) := \inf\{y : (x, y, m) \in \Lambda(t)\}.$$

□ We have the “characterization”

$$y > \varpi(t, x, m) \Rightarrow (z, m) \in \Lambda(t) \Rightarrow y \geq \varpi(t, x, m)$$

PDE characterization - “waving hands” version

- Assuming smoothness, existence of optimal strategies...
- $y = \varpi(t, x, m)$ implies
 $Y^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(t+) \geq \varpi(t+, X^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(t+), M^{a[\vartheta]}(t+))$ for all ϑ .

PDE characterization - “waving hands” version

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This implies $dY^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(t) \geq d\varpi(t, X^{u[\vartheta], \vartheta}(t), M^{a[\vartheta]}(t))$ for all ϑ

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Hence, for all ϑ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_Y(x, y, u[\vartheta]_t, \vartheta_t) &\geq \mathcal{L}_{X, M}^{u[\vartheta]_t, \vartheta_t, a[\vartheta]_t} \varpi(t, x, m) \\ \sigma_Y(x, y, u[\vartheta]_t, \vartheta_t) &= \sigma_X(x, u[\vartheta]_t, \vartheta_t) D_x \varpi(t, x, m) \\ &\quad + a[\vartheta]_t D_m \varpi(t, x, m)\end{aligned}$$

with $y = \varpi(t, x, m)$

PDE characterization - “waving hands” version

□

$$\sup_{(u,a) \in \mathcal{N}^v \varpi} \left(\mu_Y(\cdot, \varpi, u, v) - \mathcal{L}_{X,M}^{u,v,a} \varpi \right) \geq 0$$

where

$$\mathcal{N}^v \varpi := \{(u, a) \in U \times \mathbb{R}^d : \sigma_Y(\cdot, \varpi, u, v) = \sigma_X(\cdot, u, v) D_x \varpi + a D_m \varpi\}.$$

PDE characterization - “waving hands” version

□

$$\inf_{v \in V} \sup_{(u, a) \in \mathcal{N}^v \varpi} \left(\mu_Y(\cdot, \varpi, u, v) - \mathcal{L}_{X, M}^{u, v, a} \varpi \right) \geq 0$$

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PDE characterization - “waving hands” version

□ Supersolution property

$$\inf_{v \in V} \sup_{(u, a) \in \mathcal{N}^v \varpi} \left(\mu_Y(\cdot, \varpi, u, v) - \mathcal{L}_{X, M}^{u, v, a} \varpi \right) \geq 0$$

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□ Subsolution property

$$\sup_{(u[\cdot], a[\cdot]) \in \mathcal{N}^{[\cdot]} \varpi} \inf_{v \in V} \left(\mu_Y(\cdot, \varpi, u[v], v) - \mathcal{L}_{X, M}^{u[v], v, a[v]} \varpi \right) \leq 0$$

where

$$\mathcal{N}^{[\cdot]} \varpi := \{\text{loc. Lip. } (u[\cdot], a[\cdot]) \text{ s.t. } (u[\cdot], a[\cdot]) \in \mathcal{N}^{\cdot} \varpi(\cdot)\}.$$

Geometric dynamic programming principle for the a.s. constraint case

Prove that

$$y \geq \varpi(t, x) \Leftrightarrow Y_{t,x,y}^{u^{[\vartheta]}, \vartheta}(\theta) \geq \varpi(\theta, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(\theta))$$

(when X does not depend on u)

$$\varpi(t, x) := \inf \{ y : \exists u \in \mathcal{U} \text{ s. t. } Y_{t,z}^{u^{[\vartheta]}, \vartheta}(T) \geq g(X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(T)) \text{ a.s. } \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V} \}$$

Geometric dynamic programming principle for the a.s. constraint case

Prove that

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Expected loss case : play with the regularity of the constraint in expectation form. Not possible here.

Geometric dynamic programming principle for the a.s. constraint case

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No adverse control case : measurable selection argument which requires to have a Polish space structure. Not possible here.

Geometric dynamic programming principle for the a.s. constraint case

Prove that

$$y \geq \varpi(t, x) \Leftrightarrow Y_{t,x,y}^{u^{[\vartheta]}, \vartheta}(\theta) \geq \varpi(\theta, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(\theta))$$

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Main difficulty : no smoothness and no measurable selection argument possible.

GDP1 - “Easy part”

□ **GDP1** Assume that $y > \varpi(t, x)$. Then, there exists $u \in \mathfrak{U}$ such that

$$Y_{t,x,y}^{u,\vartheta}(\theta) \geq \varpi_*(\theta, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(\theta)) \text{ a.e. } \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}.$$

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$$Y_{t,x,y}^{u,\vartheta}(\theta) \geq \varpi_*(\theta, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(\theta)) \text{ a.e. } \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}.$$

This implies as before that ϖ_* is a supersolution of

$$H\varpi_* := \inf_{v \in V} \sup_{u \in \mathcal{N}^v \varpi_*} (\mu_Y(\cdot, \varpi_*, u, v) - \mathcal{L}_X^v \varpi_*) \geq 0$$

where

$$\mathcal{N}^v \varpi_* := \{u \in U : \sigma_Y(\cdot, \varpi_*, u, v) = \sigma_X(\cdot, v) D\varpi_*\}.$$

GDP2 - “Difficult part”

□ Assume : \forall compact B and $\eta > 0$, \exists a smooth w s.t.

$w \leq \varpi + \eta$ on B , $Hw \geq 0$ on $[0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ and $w \geq g$ on $\{T\} \times \mathbb{R}^d$

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□ Assume : $\exists!$ $\hat{u} = \hat{u}(x, y, \rho, v)$ s.t. $\sigma_Y(x, y, \hat{u}, v) = \rho$.

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□ Assume : $\exists!$ $\hat{u} = \hat{u}(x, y, \rho, v)$ s.t. $\sigma_Y(x, y, \hat{u}, v) = \rho$.

Then, use a verification (under regularity assumptions) ensuring that

$$Y_{t,x,y}^{u_o, \vartheta}(\theta) \geq w(\theta, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(\theta)) \quad a.e. \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}$$

implies that the Markovian strategy

$$\bar{u}[\vartheta] := u_o \mathbf{1}_{[t, \theta]} + \mathbf{1}_{[\theta, T]} \hat{u}(Z_{t,x,y}^{\bar{u}, \vartheta}, [\sigma_X(\cdot, \vartheta) D_X w](\cdot, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}), \vartheta)$$

is such that

$$Y_{t,x,y}^{\bar{u}, \vartheta}(T) \geq g(X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(T)) \quad a.e. \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V},$$

since

$$\mu_Y(\cdot, w, \hat{u}(\cdot, w, \sigma_X(\cdot, v) Dw, v), v) - \mathcal{L}_X^v w \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad w(T, \cdot) \geq g.$$

GDP2 - “Difficult part”

□ **GDP2** Let ϕ be a test function for ϖ^* at (t, x) . Let $\eta > 0$ be such that

$$Y_{t,x,y}^{u_0, \vartheta}(\theta) \geq \varpi(\theta, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(\theta)) + \eta \text{ a.e. } \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V},$$

where θ is the first exit time from an open ball $\mathcal{O} \ni (t, x)$. Then, $y \geq \varpi(t, x)$.

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□ Indeed, let w be the smooth supersolution constructed as above so that

$$\varpi + \eta \geq w \text{ on } \partial\mathcal{O}.$$

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□ Indeed, let w be the smooth supersolution constructed as above so that

$$\varpi + \eta \geq w \text{ on } \partial\mathcal{O}.$$

Then,

$$Y_{t,x,y}^{u_0, \vartheta}(\theta) \geq w(\theta, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(\theta)) \text{ a.e. } \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}.$$

From this, we can use the Markovian strategy based on \hat{u} to reach the target at T for all $\vartheta \in \mathcal{V}$.

GDP2 - “Difficult part”

- We assume now : $\exists! \hat{u} = \hat{u}(x, y, \rho, v)$ s.t. $\sigma_Y(x, y, \hat{u}, v) = \rho$.

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$w \leq \varpi + \eta$ on B , $Hw \geq 0$ on $[0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ and $w \geq g$ on $\{T\} \times \mathbb{R}^d$

where

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$$Hw := \inf_v \mu_Y(\cdot, w, \hat{u}(\cdot, w, \sigma_X(\cdot, v)Dw, v), v) - \mathcal{L}_X^v w$$

- Assume that $(y, z) \mapsto \mu_Y(\cdot, y, \hat{u}(\cdot, y, z, v), v)$ can serve as a nice driver for BSDEs. Then, the above is the HJB equation of an optimal control on BSDEs.

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□ Then, it is the same for the version with *shaken coefficients*

$$H^\varepsilon \varphi := \inf_{v, \|b\| \leq 1} \mu_Y(\varepsilon b + \cdot, \varphi, \hat{u}(\varepsilon b + \cdot, \varphi, \sigma_X(\varepsilon b + \cdot, v) D\varphi, v), v) - \mathcal{L}_X^{v, \varepsilon b} \varphi$$

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- Using stability results, we show that for each $\varepsilon > 0 \exists$ viscosity supersolution w^ε of (a version of)

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□ Finally, **assuming that $H(x, \cdot)$ is concave** and using the fact that on $B_{\varepsilon/2}(t, x)$

$$\inf_v \mu_Y^{t,x}(w^\varepsilon(\cdot), \hat{u}^{t,x}(w^\varepsilon(\cdot), \sigma_X^{t,x}(v) Dw^\varepsilon(\cdot), v), v) - \mathcal{L}_X^{v, (t,x)} w^\varepsilon(\cdot) \geq 0,$$

we can smooth w^ε to obtain w .

Application to hedging under uncertainty

- Evolution of the log price :

$$X_{t,x}^{\vartheta} = x + \int_t^{\cdot} \mu(s, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(s), \vartheta_s) ds + \int_t^{\cdot} \sigma(s, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(s), \vartheta_s) dW_s.$$

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- Financial strategy (with different interest rates for borrowing and lending) :

$$Y_{t,x,y}^{\nu,\vartheta} = y + \int_t^{\cdot} \left(\nu_s^{\top} \left\{ \mu + \frac{1}{2} \gamma \right\} (s, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(s), \vartheta_s) + \rho(s, Y_{t,x,y}^{\nu,\vartheta}(s), \nu_s, \vartheta_s) \right) ds + \int_t^{\cdot} \nu_s^{\top} \sigma(s, X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(s), \vartheta_s) dW_s,$$

where $\gamma =$ vector of diagonal elements of $\sigma \sigma^{\top}$ and

$$\rho(t, y, u, \nu) := [y - u^{\top} \mathbf{1}]^{+} r^l(t, \nu) - [y - u^{\top} \mathbf{1}]^{-} r^b(t, \nu).$$

Application to hedging under uncertainty

- The super-hedging price under uncertainty

$$\inf\{y : \exists u \in \mathcal{U} \text{ s.t. } Y_{t,x,y}^{u,\vartheta}(T) \geq g(X_{t,x}^{\vartheta}(T)) \mathbb{P} - \text{a.s. } \forall \vartheta \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

is a (discontinuous) viscosity solution of

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{v \in V} [\rho(\cdot, \varphi, D\varphi, v) + \frac{1}{2}\gamma(\cdot, v)D\varphi - \mathcal{L}_X^v \varphi] &= 0 & \text{on } [0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d \\ \varphi(T, \cdot) &= g & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d. \end{aligned}$$

We retrieve a version of the Black-Scholes-Barrenblatt equation.

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