

A probabilistic numerical method for optimal multiple switching problem and application to investments in electricity generation

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Abstract

In this paper, we present a probabilistic numerical algorithm combining dynamic programming, Monte Carlo simulations and local basis regressions to solve non-stationary optimal multiple switching problems in infinite horizon. We provide the rate of convergence of the method in terms of the time step used to discretize the problem, of the size of the local hypercubes involved in the regressions, and of the truncating time horizon. To make the method viable for problems in high dimension and long time horizon, we extend a memory reduction method to the general Euler scheme, so that, when performing the numerical resolution, the storage of the Monte Carlo simulation paths is not needed. Then, we apply this algorithm to a model of optimal investment in power plants. This model takes into account electricity demand, cointegrated fuel prices, carbon price and random outages of power plants. It computes the optimal level of investment in each generation technology, considered as a whole, w.r.t. the electricity spot price. This electricity price is itself built according to a new extended structural model. In particular, it is a function of several factors, among which the installed capacities. The evolution of the optimal generation mix is illustrated on a realistic numerical problem in dimension eight, i.e. with two different technologies and six random factors.

1 Introduction

This paper presents a probabilistic numerical method for multiple switching problem with an application to a new stylized long-term investment model for electricity generation. Since electricity cannot be stored and building new plants takes several years, investment in new capacities must be decided a long time in advance if a country wishes to be able to satisfy its demand¹. Before the worldwide liberalization of the electricity sector, electric utilities were monopolies whose objective was to plan the construction of power plants in order to satisfy demand at the minimum cost under a given constraint on the loss of load probability or on the level of energy non-served. This investment process was called *generation expansion planning* (GEP). Its output was mostly a given set of power plants to build for the next ten or twenty years (see [36] for a comprehensive description of the GEP methodology and related difficulties). Despite thirty years of liberalization of the electricity sector, of the recognition that GEP methods were inadequate within a market context ([34, 24]) and of an important set of alternative methods (see [28] and [22] for recent surveys on generation investment models and softwares), power utilities still heavily rely on GEP methods (see [3]). However, real option methods, which should have been the natural alternative valuation method for firms converted to a value maximizing objective, did not emerge as the method of

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¹See for instance the recent massive power system blackouts in Brazil and Paraguay on November 10th and 11th, 2009 (87 millions of people affected), and in India on July 30th and 31st, 2012. (670 millions of people affected).

choice. Despite the important body of literature that followed [43]’s seminal paper, [23]’s monography and implementations for electricity generation investment (see for instance [11]), real options still remain a marginal way of assessing investment decisions both in the electric sector and in the industry in general (see for instance, amongst the recurrent surveys on capital budgeting methods, [8]).

The main reason for this situation lies in the considerable mathematical difficulties involved in the conception of a tractable yet realistic real option model for electricity generation. On one hand, if one chooses an exogenous electricity spot price model (price-taking firm situation), one gets a low-dimensional model that could be numerically and maybe even analytically tractable (see for instance [11]). But, in this case, one would fail to account for the long-term impact of investment decisions on spot prices. On the other hand, if one wishes to capture the long-term effect of investment decisions on spot prices, one would run into the curse of dimensionality: one would get such a high-dimensional problem that it could neither be tractated analytically nor numerically. Because of the dimensionality problem, the main alternative proposed to take into account uncertainties is stochastic programming methods where random events are represented by a tree (see [2] for a recent typical implementation of this approach). The resulting tractability is however obtained at the expense of a crude simplification of the statistical properties of the factors. To the knowledge of the authors, the only reported attempt to apply a full stochastic dynamic approach to investment decision can be found in [44], where stochastic dynamic programming is used to solve an investment problem in dimension four (demand, oil price, installed capacity and year) with prices modelled as Markov chains.

Our approach in the present paper takes advantage of the considerable progress made in the last ten years by numerical methods for high-dimensional American options valuation problems to propose a probabilistic way to look at future electricity generation mixes. For an up-to-date state of the art on this subject, the reader is referred to the recent book [15].

In this paper, we first adapt the resolution of American option problems by Monte-Carlo methods ([42, 55]) to the more general class of optimal switching problems. The crucial choice of regression basis is done here in the light of the work of [13], so as to obtain a stable algorithm suited to high-dimensional problems, aiming at the best possible numerical complexity. The memory complexity, often acknowledged as the major drawback of such a Monte Carlo approach (see [16]), is drastically slashed by generalizing the memory reduction method from [18, 19, 20] to any stochastic differential equation. We provide a rigorous and comprehensive analysis of the rate of convergence of our algorithm, taking advantage of the works of, most notably, [12], [53] and [29]. Note that such features as infinite horizon and non-stationarity are encompassed here. Finally, we build a long-term structural model for the spot price of electricity, extending the work of [5] and [4] in several directions (cointegrated fuels and CO₂ prices, stochastic availability rate of production capacities, etc.). This model is itself incorporated into an optimal control problem corresponding to the search for the optimal investments in electricity generation. The resolution of this problem using our algorithm is illustrated on a simple numerical example with two different technologies, leading to an eight-dimensional problem (demand, CO₂ price, and, for each technology, fuel price, random outages and the controlled installed capacity). The time evolution of the distribution of power prices and of the generation mix is illustrated on a forty-year time horizon.

To sum up, the contribution of the paper is threefold. Firstly, it provides, for a suitably chosen regression basis, a comprehensive analysis of convergence of a regression-based Monte-Carlo algorithm for a class of infinite horizon optimal multiple switching problems, large enough to handle realistic short term profit functions and investment cost structures with possible seasonality patterns. Secondly, it adapts and generalizes a memory reduction method in order to slash the amount of memory required by the Monte Carlo algorithm. Thirdly, a new stylised investment model for electricity generation is proposed, taking into account electricity demand, cointegrated fuel prices, carbon price and random outages of power plants, used as building blocks of a new structural model for the electricity spot price. A numerical resolution of this investment problem with our algorithm is illustrated on a specific example, providing, among many other outputs, an electricity spot price dynamics consistent with the investment decision process in power generation.

The outline of the paper is the following. Section 2 describes the class of optimal switching problems studied here, including the detailed list of assumptions considered. Section 3 describes the resolution algorithm and analyzes its rate of convergence. Section 4 details the computational complexity of the algorithm, as well as its memory complexity, along with the construction of the memory reduction method. Finally, Section 5 introduces the extended structural model of power spot price, the investment problem, as well as an illustrated numerical resolution. Section 6 concludes the paper.

Notation

Here are some notation that will be used throughout the paper:

- The notation $\mathbf{1}\{\cdot\}$ stands for the indicator function.
- Throughout the paper, $C > 0$ denotes a generic constant whose value may differ from line to line, but which does not depend on any parameter of our scheme.
- For any stochastic process $X = (X_s)_{s \geq 0}$ taking values in a given set \mathcal{X} , and any $(t, x) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathcal{X}$, we denote as $X^{t,x} = (X_s^{t,x})_{s \geq t}$ the stochastic process with the same dynamics as X , but starting from x at time t : $X_t^{t,x} = x$.
- For any $(a, b) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$, $a \wedge b := \min(a, b)$ and $a \vee b := \max(a, b)$.

2 Optimal switching problem

2.1 Formulation

Fix a filtered probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{F} = (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}, \mathbb{P})$, where \mathbb{F} satisfies the usual conditions of right-continuity and \mathbb{P} -completeness. We consider the following general class of (non-stationary) optimal switching problems:

$$v(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) ds - \sum_{\tau_n \geq t} k(\tau_n, \zeta_n) \right] \quad (2.1)$$

where:

- $X^{t,x} = (X_s^{t,x})_{s \geq t}$ is an \mathbb{R}^d -valued, \mathbb{F} -adapted markovian diffusion starting from $X_t = x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, with generator \mathcal{L} .
- $I^\alpha = (I_s^\alpha)_{s \geq 0}$ is a càd-làg, \mathbb{R}^d -valued, \mathbb{F} -adapted piecewise constant process. It is controlled by a strategy α , described below. We suppose it can only take values into a fixed finite set $\mathbb{I}_q = \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_q\}$, $q \in \mathbb{N}^*$ with $i_0 = 0$ ($\in \mathbb{R}^d$), which means that equation (2.1) corresponds to an optimal switching problem.
- An impulse control strategy α corresponds to a sequence $(\tau_n, \iota_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of increasing stopping times $\tau_n \geq 0$, and \mathcal{F}_{τ_n} -measurable random variables ι_n valued in \mathbb{I}_q . Using this sequence, $I^\alpha = (I_s^\alpha)_{s \geq 0}$ is defined as follows:

$$I_s^\alpha = \iota_0 \mathbf{1}\{0 \leq s < \tau_0\} + \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \iota_n \mathbf{1}\{\tau_n \leq s < \tau_{n+1}\} \in \mathbb{I}_q$$

Alternatively, α can be described by the sequence $(\tau_n, \zeta_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, where $\zeta_n := \iota_n - \iota_{n-1}$ (and $\zeta_0 := 0$). Using this alternative sequence, I^α can be written as follows:

$$I_s^\alpha = \iota_0 + \sum_{\tau_n \leq s} \zeta_n \in \mathbb{I}_q$$

- \mathcal{A} is the set of admissible strategies: a strategy α belongs to \mathcal{A} if $\tau_n \rightarrow +\infty$ a.s. as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
- For any $(t, i) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{I}_q$, the set $\mathcal{A}_{t,i} \subset \mathcal{A}$ is defined as the subset of admissible strategies α such that $I_t^\alpha = i$.
- f and k are \mathbb{R} -valued measurable functions.

2.2 Assumptions

We complete the above formulation with the following relevant assumptions.

Assumption 1. [Diffusion] The \mathbb{R}^d -valued uncontrolled process X is a diffusion process, governed by the dynamics

$$\begin{aligned} dX_s &= b(s, X_s) ds + \sigma(s, X_s) dW_s \\ X_0 &= x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

where W is a d -dimensional Brownian motion, and b and σ are respectively \mathbb{R}^d -valued and $\mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ -valued functions.

Assumption 2. [Lipschitz] The functions $b : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\sigma : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ are Lipschitz-continuous (uniformly in t) with linear growth: $\exists C_b, C_\sigma > 0$ s.t. $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+, \forall (x, x') \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^2$:

$$\begin{aligned} |b(t, x) - b(t, x')| &\leq C_b |x - x'| \\ |b(t, x)| &\leq C_b (1 + |x|) \\ |\sigma(t, x) - \sigma(t, x')| &\leq C_\sigma |x - x'| \\ |\sigma(t, x)| &\leq C_\sigma (1 + |x|) \end{aligned}$$

Remark 2.1. Assumption 2 is sufficient to prove the existence and uniqueness of a strong solution to the SDE (2.2).

Remark 2.2. Under Assumption 2, there exist, for every $p \geq 1$, positive constants C_p and ρ_p such that $\forall s \geq t \geq 0$ and $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d$:

$$\mathbb{E} [|X_s^{t,x}|^p] \leq C_p (1 + |x|^p) \exp(\rho_p (s - t)) \quad (2.3)$$

(use Burkholder-Davis-Gundy inequality and Gronwall's Lemma, see for instance [37] Theorem 4.5.4 for the even power case).

Assumption 3. [Lipschitz&Discount] The functions f and k decrease exponentially in time: $\exists \rho > 0$ s.t. $\forall (t, x, i, j) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times (\mathbb{I}_q)^2$:

$$\begin{aligned} f(t, x, i) &= e^{-\rho t} \tilde{f}(t, x, i) \\ k(t, j - i) &= e^{-\rho t} \tilde{k}(t, j - i) \end{aligned}$$

where the functions \tilde{f} and \tilde{k} are Lipschitz continuous with linear growth:

$$\exists C_f, C_k > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall \{(t, x, i, j), (t', x', i', j')\} \in \left\{ \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times (\mathbb{I}_q)^2 \right\}^2 :$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{f}(t, x, i) - \tilde{f}(t', x', i')| &\leq C_f (|t - t'| + |x - x'| + |i - i'|) \\ |\tilde{f}(t, x, i)| &\leq C_f (1 + |x|) \\ |\tilde{k}(t, j - i) - \tilde{k}(t', j' - i')| &\leq C_k (|t - t'| + |(j - i) - (j' - i')|) \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we assume in the following that $\rho > \rho_1$ where ρ_1 is defined in equation (2.3).

Assumption 4. [Fixed costs] The cost function $k : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is such that:

- $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+, k(t, 0) = 0$.
- $\exists \kappa > 0$ s.t. $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+, \forall (i, j) \in (\mathbb{I}_q)^2, \{i \neq j\} \Rightarrow \{\tilde{k}(t, j - i) \geq \kappa\}$.
- (triangular inequality) $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+, \forall (i, j, k) \in (\mathbb{I}_q)^3$ with $i \neq j$ and $j \neq k$:

$$k(t, k - i) < k(t, j - i) + k(t, k - j) .$$

Remark 2.3. The economic interpretations of Assumption 4 are the following:

1. There is no cost for not switching, but any switch incurs at least a positive fixed cost.
2. At any given date, it is always cheaper to switch directly from i to k than to switch first from i to j and then from j to k .

Remark 2.4. Under those standard assumptions, the value function v is well-defined and finite. Indeed, using equation (2.3), $\forall (t_0, t, x, i) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^{d'}$ with $t_0 \leq t$ and $\forall \alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t_0, i}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\infty |f(s, X_s^{t_0, x}, I_s^\alpha)| ds \right] &\leq C_f \int_t^\infty e^{-\rho s} (1 + \mathbb{E}[|X_s^{t_0, x}|]) ds \\ &\leq C_f \left(e^{-\rho t} + (1 + |x|) \int_t^\infty e^{-\rho s} e^{\rho_1(s-t_0)} ds \right) \\ &\leq C_f (1 + |x|) e^{-\bar{\rho}t - \rho_1 t_0} \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

where $\bar{\rho} := \rho - \rho_1 > 0$ (Assumption 3). In particular, the costs being positive (Assumption 4), and recalling (2.1), it holds that:

$$v(t, x, i) \leq C_f (1 + |x|) e^{-\rho t} \quad (2.5)$$

2.3 Outline of the solution

From a theoretical point of view, the value functions $v_i := v(\cdot, \cdot, i)$, $i \in \mathbb{I}_q$ from equation (2.1) are known to satisfy (under suitable conditions on $f_i(\cdot, \cdot) := f(\cdot, \cdot, i)$ and k , see for instance [51] in a much more general setting) the following Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman Quasi-Variational Inequalities (HJBQVI): $\forall (t, x, i) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$

$$\min \left\{ -\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial t}(t, x) - \mathcal{L}v_i(t, x) - f_i(t, x), v_i(t, x) - \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q, j \neq i} (v_j(t, x) - k(t, j - i)) \right\} = 0 \quad (2.6)$$

together with suitable limit condition.

Alternatively, the process $v(t, X_t, i)$, $t \geq 0$ can be characterized as the solution of a particular Reflected Backward Stochastic Differential Equation ([33, 25]).

Moreover, the value function (2.1) satisfies the well-known dynamic programming principle, i.e., for any stopping time $\tau \geq t$:

$$v(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t, i}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\tau f(s, X_s^{t, x}, I_s^\alpha) ds - \sum_{t \leq \tau_n \leq \tau} k(\tau_n, \zeta_n) + v(\tau, X_\tau^{t, x}, I_\tau^\alpha) \right]. \quad (2.7)$$

From a practical point of view, apart from a few simple examples in low-dimension, finding directly the solution of the HJBQVI (2.6) is usually infeasible, and the numerical PDE tools become cumbersome and inefficient in the multi-dimensional setting. Instead, probabilistic methods based on (2.7), in the spirit of [16], are usually more practical and versatile.

Indeed, as the diffusion X is not controlled, this optimal switching problem can be seen as an extended American option problem. This suggests that, up to some adjustments, the probabilistic numerical tools developed in this context (see [13] for instance) may be adapted to solve (2.1).

To be more specific, consider a variant \hat{v} of (2.1) such that the switching decisions can only take place on a finite time grid $\Pi = \{t_0 = 0 < t_1 < \dots < t_m = T\}$ for a fixed $T > 0$. Then $\forall i \in \mathbb{I}_q$, $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, and $\forall t_k \in \Pi$, the dynamic programming principle (2.7) becomes:

$$\hat{v}_i(t_k, x) = \max \left\{ E_i(t_k, x), \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q, j \neq i} \{ \hat{v}_j(t_k, x) - k(t_k, j - i) \} \right\} \quad (2.8)$$

where:

$$E_i(T, x) := \mathbb{E} \left[\int_T^\infty f_i(s, X_s^{T,x}) dt \right] \quad (2.9)$$

$$E_i(t_k, x) := \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} f_i(s, X_s^{t_k,x}) dt + \hat{v}_i(t_{k+1}, X_{t_{k+1}}^{t_k,x}) \right], \quad k = m-1, \dots, 0 \quad (2.10)$$

and where the notation $X^{t,x} := (X_s^{t,x})_{s \geq t}$ refers to the process X conditioned on the initial value $X_t = x$. If, moreover, the cost function k is such that at most one switch can occur on a given date t_k (triangular condition), then equation (2.8) can be simplified into:

$$\hat{v}_i(t_k, x) = \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \{ E_j(t_k, x) - k(t_k, j - i) \mathbf{1}_{\{j \neq i\}} \} \quad (2.11)$$

which is explicit in the sense that $\hat{v}_i(t_k, \cdot)$ directly depends on $\hat{v}_i(t_{k+1}, \cdot)$.

In practice, apart from the potential approximation of the stochastic process X and of the final values (2.9), the difficulty lies in the efficient computation of the conditional expectations (2.10).

In the American option literature, various approaches have been developed to solve (2.11) efficiently. Notable examples are the least-squares' approach ([42, 55]), the quantization approach and the Malliavin calculus based formulation (see [13] for a thorough comparison and improvements of these techniques). In the spirit of [17], one may also consider non-parametric regression (see [38] and [54]) combined with speeding up techniques like Kd-trees ([32, 40]) or the Fast Gauss Transform ([59, 45, 48, 52, 49]) in the case of kernel regression.

Here, we intend to solve (2.1) on numerical applications which bears the particularity of handling stochastic processes in high dimension ($\dim(X) = d \gg 3$, with however $\dim(I) = d' \approx 3$, see Section 5). For such problems, the most adequate technique so far seems to be the local regression method developed in [13]. We are thus going to make use of this specific method to solve (2.11) in practice.

In the following, we provide a detailed analysis of the above suggested computational method.

3 Numerical approximation and convergence analysis

This section is devoted to the precise description of the resolution of (2.1), along the lines of the discussions from Subsection 2.3. Moreover, the convergence rate of the proposed algorithm will be precisely assessed.

3.1 Approximations

Recall equation (2.1) defining the value function $v(t, x, i)$:

$$v(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) ds - \sum_{\tau_n \geq t} k(\tau_n, \zeta_n) \right] \quad (3.1)$$

We are going to consider the following sequence of approximations:

- *[Finite time horizon]* The time horizon will be truncated to a finite horizon T .
- *[Time discretization]* The continuous state process X and investment process I will be discretized with a time step h .
- *[Space localization]* The \mathbb{R}^d -valued process X will be projected into a bounded domain \mathcal{D}_ε , parameterized by ε .
- *[Conditional expectation approximation]* The conditional expectation involved in the dynamic programming equation will be replaced by an empirical least-squares regression, computed on a bundle of M Monte Carlo trajectories, on a finite basis of local hypercubes with edges of size δ .

The rate of convergence of the algorithm will then be provided, as a function of these five numerical parameters: T, h, ε, M and δ .

3.1.1 Finite time horizon

The first step is to reduce the set of strategies to a finite horizon:

$$v_T(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^T} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) ds - \sum_{t \leq \tau_n \leq T} k(\tau_n, \zeta_n) + g_f(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^\alpha) \right] \quad (3.2)$$

$$g_f(T, x, i) := \mathbb{E} \left[\int_T^\infty f(s, X_s^{T,x}, i) ds \right] \quad (3.3)$$

where $0 \leq t \leq T < +\infty$, and $\mathcal{A}_{t,i}^T \subset \mathcal{A}_{t,i}$ is the subset of strategies without switches strictly after time T . Hence the final value g_f corresponds to the remaining gain after T .

Alternatively, one may choose, for convenience, another final value g instead of g_f , as long as it is Lipschitz-continuous and satisfies a suitable condition (cf. equation (3.21)). The set of such functions will be denoted as Θ_{g_f} . The difference between the two value functions is quantified in Proposition 3.1.

This freedom on the final values will be used in practice to avoid a computation on an infinite interval $[T, \infty[$ as in the definition of g_f .

From now on, we choose and fix one such $g \in \Theta_{g_f}$.

3.1.2 Time discretization

Then, we discretize the time segment $[0, T]$. Introduce a time grid $\Pi = \{t_0 = 0 < t_1 < \dots < t_N = T\}$ with constant mesh h . Consider the following approximation:

$$v_\Pi(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^\Pi} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) ds - \sum_{t \leq \tau_n \leq T} k(\tau_n, \zeta_n) + g(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^\alpha) \right] \quad (3.4)$$

where $\mathcal{A}_{t,i}^\Pi \subset \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^T$ is the subset of strategies such that switches can only occur at dates $\tau_n \in \Pi \cap [t, T]$.

Now, with a slight abuse of notation, we can safely switch from the notation $\alpha = (\tau_n, \zeta_n)_{n \geq 0}$ to the notation $\alpha = (\tau_n, \iota_n)_{n \geq 0}$ (remember Subsection 2.1), replacing the quantity $\sum_{t \leq \tau_n \leq T} k(\tau_n, \zeta_n)$ by $\sum_{t \leq \tau_n \leq T} k(\tau_n, I_{\tau_n-h}^\alpha, I_{\tau_n}^\alpha)$ or by $\sum_{t \leq \tau_n \leq T} k(\tau_n, \iota_{n-1}, \iota_n)$, where $k(t, i, j) = k(t, j - i)$. The error between v_T and v_Π is quantified in Proposition 3.2.

Next we also approximate the stochastic process X by its Euler scheme $\bar{X} = (\bar{X}_s)_{0 \leq s \leq T}$, with dynamics:

$$\begin{aligned} d\bar{X}_s &= b(\pi(s), \bar{X}_{\pi(s)}) ds + \sigma(\pi(s), \bar{X}_{\pi(s)}) dW_s, \quad 0 \leq s \leq T \\ \bar{X}_0 &= x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

where $\forall s \in [0, T]$, $\pi(s) := \max\{t \in \Pi; t \leq s\}$. The new value function reads:

$$\bar{v}_\Pi(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^\Pi} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(\pi(s), \bar{X}_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) ds - \sum_{t \leq \tau_n \leq T} k(\tau_n, \iota_{n-1}, \iota_n) + g(T, \bar{X}_T^{t,x}, I_T^\alpha) \right] \quad (3.6)$$

The error between v_Π and \bar{v}_Π is computed in Proposition 3.3.

3.1.3 Space localization

Fix $\varepsilon > 0$. $\forall t \in [0, T]$, let $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$ be a bounded convex domain of \mathbb{R}^d . In particular there exists $C(t, \varepsilon) > 0$ such that $\forall x \in \mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$, $|x| \leq C(t, \varepsilon)$. Let $\mathcal{P}_t^\varepsilon : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ denote the projection on $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$. This domain is chosen such that $\forall s \in [0, t]$,

$$\mathbb{E} [|\bar{X}_s - \mathcal{P}_t^\varepsilon(\bar{X}_s)|] \leq \varepsilon. \quad (3.7)$$

Denote this projection as $\bar{X}_t^\varepsilon :$

$$\bar{X}_t^\varepsilon := \mathcal{P}_t^\varepsilon(\bar{X}_t)$$

In other words, \bar{X}_t^ε is equal to \bar{X}_t most of the time (i.e. when $\bar{X}_t \in \mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$), except when \bar{X}_t is outside $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$, in which case \bar{X}_t^ε corresponds to the projection of \bar{X}_t onto $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$.

Define \bar{v}_Π^ε as the value function \bar{v}_Π from equation (3.6) with \bar{X} replaced by \bar{X}^ε . The error between those two value functions is computed in Proposition 3.4.

Example 3.1. To clarify this construction of space localization, we explicit it on the very simple example of a d -dimensional standard brownian motion $(W_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$. In this case, $\bar{X}_t = X_t = W_t$. Choose $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$ to be a centered, symmetric hypercube: $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon = [-C(t, \varepsilon), C(t, \varepsilon)]^d$ for some constant $C(t, \varepsilon)$. Hence, $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\mathcal{P}_t^\varepsilon(x) := -C(t, \varepsilon) \wedge x \vee C(t, \varepsilon)$ component-wise. With this expressions, one can find a $C(t, \varepsilon)$ such that (3.7) holds. Indeed, $\forall s \in [0, T]$:

$$\mathbb{E}[|W_s - \mathcal{P}_t^\varepsilon(W_s)|] \leq \mathbb{E}[|W_t - \mathcal{P}_t^\varepsilon(W_t)|] = \mathbb{E}[|W_t - C(t, \varepsilon)| \mathbf{1}_{\{|W_t| > C(t, \varepsilon)\}}] = 2^d \mathbb{E}\left[(W_t^1 - C(t, \varepsilon))^+\right]^d \quad (3.8)$$

where W^1 is a one-dimensional Brownian motion. Hence, finding a value for $C(t, \varepsilon)$ such that (3.7) holds boils down to inverting Bachelier's option pricing formula in order to get the strike as a function of the price of the call option. This is done in [6], see [50], but under the form of a series expansion for small moneyness, which is unsuitable for our purpose (because $C(t, \varepsilon) \rightarrow \infty$ when $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$). Thus, we are here only going to look for a simply invertible upper bound for (3.8). Denoting as \mathcal{N} the cumulative distribution function of a standard Gaussian random variable, and using the standard inequality $1 - \mathcal{N}(x) \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{x}{x^2+1} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\left[(W_t^1 - K)^+\right] &= \int_{\frac{K}{\sqrt{t}}}^{+\infty} (x\sqrt{t} - K) \mathcal{N}'(x) dx = \frac{\sqrt{t}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{K^2}{2t}} - K \left(1 - \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{K}{\sqrt{t}}\right)\right) \\ &\leq \frac{\sqrt{t}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(1 + \frac{K^2}{K^2 + t}\right) e^{-\frac{K^2}{2t}} \leq \frac{2\sqrt{t}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{K^2}{2t}} \end{aligned}$$

Inverting this last upper bound, the inequality (3.7) is satisfied with $C(t, \varepsilon) = \sqrt{t \ln\left(\frac{8t}{\pi \varepsilon^2}\right)}$.

3.1.4 Conditional expectation approximation

From now on, in order to prevent the notation from becoming too cumbersome and clumsy, we are going to drop the ε index in the following, i.e. \bar{X}_t will stand for \bar{X}_t^ε , and \bar{v}_Π for \bar{v}_Π^ε .

For the fully discretized problem (3.6), the dynamic programming principle (2.11) becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{v}_\Pi(T, x, i) &= g(T, x, i) \\ \bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \left\{ hf(t_n, x, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \mathbb{E}\left[\bar{v}_\Pi\left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, j\right)\right] \right\}, n = N-1, \dots, 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

The last step is to approximate the conditional expectation appearing in equation (3.9). As discussed in Subsection 2.3, we choose to approximate it using the following regression procedure. Consider basis functions $(e_k(x))_{1 \leq k \leq K}$, $K \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{+\infty\}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. For suitable functions $\varphi : \Pi \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, define:

$$\tilde{\lambda} = \tilde{\lambda}_i^{t_n}(\varphi) := \arg \min_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^K} \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, i) - \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k e_k(\bar{X}_{t_n}) \right)^2 \right] \quad (3.10)$$

As truncating the approximated conditional expectations is a necessity in theory as well as in practice (see [12, 30, 53]), suppose that there exist known bounds $\underline{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi)$ and $\bar{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi)$ on $\mathbb{E}\left[\varphi\left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, i\right)\right]$:

$$\underline{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \leq \mathbb{E}\left[\varphi\left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, i\right)\right] \leq \bar{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \quad (3.11)$$

Then, $\forall i \in \mathbb{I}_q$ the quantity $\mathbb{E}\left[\varphi\left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, i\right)\right]$ is approximated by:

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}\left[\varphi\left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, i\right)\right] := \underline{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \vee \sum_{k=1}^K \tilde{\lambda}_k e_k(x) \wedge \bar{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \quad (3.12)$$

which is used to define the next approximation \tilde{v}_Π of the value function:

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{v}_\Pi(T, x, i) &= g(T, x, i) \\ \tilde{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \left\{ hf(t_n, x, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \tilde{\mathbb{E}} \left[\tilde{v}_\Pi \left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, j \right) \right] \right\}, \quad n = N-1, \dots, 0\end{aligned}\quad (3.13)$$

Interesting discussions on the choice of function basis can be found in [13]. In particular they advocate bases of local polynomials, which is numerically efficient and well-suited to tackle large-dimensional problems (see Subsection 4.1). However, for the sake of simplicity, we will restrict our study in this section to a basis of indicator functions on local hypercubes (as in [53] and [30]) (which is the simplest example of local polynomials) as defined below:

For every $t_n \in \Pi$, consider a partition of the domain $\mathcal{D}_{t_n}^\varepsilon$ into hypercubes $(B_{t_n}^k)_{k=1, \dots, K_\varepsilon}$, i.e., $\cup_{k=1, \dots, K_\varepsilon} B_{t_n}^k = \mathcal{D}_{t_n}^\varepsilon$ and $B_{t_n}^i \cap B_{t_n}^j = \emptyset \forall i \neq j$. It may be deterministic, or \mathcal{F}_t -measurable. We only assume that there exists $(\underline{\delta}, \delta) \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$ with $\underline{\delta} \leq \delta$ such that the lengths of the edges of the hypercubes, in each dimension, belong to $[\underline{\delta}, \delta]$ (in particular, the volume of each hypercube $B_{t_n}^k$ belongs to $[\underline{\delta}, \delta]^d$). This liberty over the definition of the partition enables to encompass the kind of adaptative partition described in [13]. Then, the basis functions considered here are defined by $e_{t_n}^k(x) := \mathbf{1}_{\{x \in B_{t_n}^k\}}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $1 \leq k \leq K_\varepsilon$.

With this choice of function basis, the error between \bar{v}_Π and \tilde{v}_Π is computed in Proposition 3.5.

Finally, let $(\bar{X}_{t_n}^m)_{1 \leq m \leq M}^{1 \leq n \leq N}$ be a finite sample of size M of paths of the process \bar{X} . The final step is to replace the regression (3.10) by a regression on this sample:

$$\hat{\lambda} = \hat{\lambda}_i^{t_n}(\varphi) := \arg \min_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^K} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \left[\left(\varphi \left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^m, i \right) - \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k e_k \left(\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \right) \right)^2 \right]. \quad (3.14)$$

Then $\forall i \in \mathbb{I}_q$ the quantity $\mathbb{E} \left[\varphi \left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, i \right) \right]$ is approximated by:

$$\hat{\mathbb{E}} \left[\varphi \left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, i \right) \right] := \underline{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \vee \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{\lambda}_k e_k(x) \wedge \bar{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \quad (3.15)$$

leading to the final, computable approximation \hat{v}_Π of the value function:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{v}_\Pi(T, x, i) &= g(T, x, i) \\ \hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \left\{ hf(t_n, x, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \hat{\mathbb{E}} \left[\hat{v}_\Pi \left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, j \right) \right] \right\}, \quad n = N-1, \dots, 0\end{aligned}\quad (3.16)$$

The error between \tilde{v}_Π and \hat{v}_Π (in fact directly between \bar{v}_Π and \hat{v}_Π) with the same choice of function basis is given in Proposition 3.6. This proposition will make use of the following quantity:

$$p(t_n, \delta, \varepsilon) := \min_{t \in \Pi \cap [0, t_n]} \min_{B_t^k \subset \mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon} \mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_t \in B_t^k) \quad (3.17)$$

which is strictly positive, as the domains $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$, $t \in [0, T]$ are bounded. More precisely, only lower bounds of these quantities will be required.

Example 3.2. Carrying on with Example 3.1 of a d -dimensional Brownian motion, we explicit a lower bound for $p(t_n, \delta, \varepsilon)$ in this simple case. First, $\mathbb{P}(W_t \in B_{t_n}^k) = \int_{B_{t_n}^k} f_{W_t}(x) dx$ where f_{W_t} is the density of W_t . As $\forall k, B_{t_n}^k \subset \mathcal{D}_{t_n}^\varepsilon$, where in this example $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon = [-C(t, \varepsilon), C(t, \varepsilon)]^d$ with $C(t, \varepsilon) = \sqrt{t \ln \left(\frac{8t}{\pi \varepsilon^2} \right)}$, it holds that $\forall x \in \mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$, $f_{W_t}(x) \geq \left(f_{W_t^1}(C(t, \varepsilon)) \right)^d = \frac{\varepsilon}{(4t)^d}$. Hence $\mathbb{P}(W_t \in B_t^k) \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{(4t)^d} \text{Vol}(B_t^k) \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{(4t)^d} \underline{\delta}^d$. As a conclusion, $p(t_n, \delta, \varepsilon) \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{(4t_n)^d} \underline{\delta}^d$. Remark however that this lower bound is very crude, and that it can be very far below $p(t_n, \delta, \varepsilon)$ for large δ .

Combining all these results, we obtain a rate of convergence of \hat{v}_Π towards v :

Theorem 3.1. $\forall p \geq 1, \exists C_p > 0$ s.t. $\forall (x, i) \in \mathcal{D}_{t_0}^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \|v(t_0, x, i) - \hat{v}_\Pi(t_0, x, i)\|_p \\ & \leq C_p \left\{ (1 + |x|) e^{-\bar{\rho}T} + (1 + |x|)^{\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{h} + \varepsilon + \frac{1}{h} \left(\delta + \frac{1 + C(T, \varepsilon) + \sqrt{h}}{\sqrt{Mp}(T, \delta, \varepsilon)^{1 - \frac{1}{p\sqrt{2}}}} \right) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

In particular, $\forall (x, i) \in \mathcal{D}_{t_0}^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$, $\hat{v}_\Pi(0, x, i) \rightarrow_{L_p} v(0, x, i)$ when $T \rightarrow \infty$, $h \rightarrow 0$, $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, $\delta \rightarrow 0$ and $M \rightarrow \infty$ with $\frac{\delta}{h} \rightarrow 0$ and $\frac{C(T, \varepsilon)}{h\sqrt{Mp}(T, \delta, \varepsilon)^{1 - \frac{1}{p\sqrt{2}}}} \rightarrow 0$.

Remark 3.1. If the cost function k (recall Assumption 3) were to depend on x , then, under a usual Lipschitz condition on k (similar to that of f), Theorem 3.1 can be shown to be still valid, replacing only the term $(1 + |x|)^{\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{h}$ by $(1 + |x|^{\frac{5}{2}}) \sqrt{h \log(\frac{2T}{h})}$ (recalling Remark 3.3).

Example 3.3. In the case of a d -dimensional Brownian motion, the rate of convergence of Theorem 3.1 can be explicated further, using the upper bound on $C(T, \varepsilon)$ from Example 3.1 and the lower bound on $p(T, \delta, \varepsilon)$ from Example 3.2. Moreover, one can express the rate of convergence as a function of only one parameter, choosing the five numerical parameters $T, h, \varepsilon, \delta$ and M accordingly. For instance, assuming $\underline{\delta} = \delta$, and minimizing over δ, h, ε and T , one can get a convergence rate upper bounded by $C_p (1 + |x|)^{\frac{3}{2}} z$ by choosing $M \sim z^{-\frac{1}{2}[6(d+1)]^2}$. This is admittedly highly demanding in terms of sample size M , but remember that this expression suffers from the crude lower bound on $p(T, \delta, \varepsilon)$ we chose previously.

3.2 Convergence analysis

From now on, we suppose that all the assumptions from Subsection 2.2 are in force.

3.2.1 Finite time horizon

Lemma 3.1. *There exists $C > 0$ such that $\forall (t, x, i) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^{d'}$:*

$$0 \leq v(t, x, i) - v_T(t, x, i) \leq C(1 + |x|) e^{-\bar{\rho}t \vee T - \rho_1 t}.$$

Proof. First, we introduce the following notations:

$$H(t, T, x, \alpha) := \int_t^T f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) ds - \sum_{t < \tau_n \leq T} k(\tau_n, \zeta_n) \quad (3.18)$$

$$J(t, T, x, \alpha) := \mathbb{E}[H(t, T, x, \alpha)] \quad (3.19)$$

for any admissible strategy $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}$. In particular:

$$v(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}} J(t, +\infty, x, \alpha) \quad , \quad v_T(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^T} J(t, +\infty, x, \alpha). \quad (3.20)$$

Fix $(t, x, i) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^{d'}$. Using equation (3.20):

$$v_T(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^T} J(t, \infty, x, \alpha) \leq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}} J(t, \infty, x, \alpha) = v(t, x, i)$$

which provides the first inequality. Consider now the second inequality. Choose $\varepsilon > 0$. From the definition of v (equation (3.1)) there exists a strategy $\alpha^\varepsilon \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}$ such that:

$$v(t, x, i) - \varepsilon \leq J(t, \infty, x, \alpha^\varepsilon) \leq v(t, x, i)$$

Define the truncated strategy $\alpha_T^\varepsilon \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^T$ such that $\forall s \in [t, T], I_s^{\alpha_T^\varepsilon} = I_s^{\alpha^\varepsilon}$ and $\forall s > T, I_s^{\alpha_T^\varepsilon} = I_T^{\alpha^\varepsilon}$. In order not to mix up the variables τ_n and ζ_n from different strategies, we add the name of the strategy in

index when needed. Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
& H(t, \infty, x, \alpha^\varepsilon) - H(t, \infty, x, \alpha_T^\varepsilon) \\
&= \left\{ \int_t^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) ds - \sum_{\tau_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon} \geq t} k(\tau_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon}, \zeta_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) \right\} \\
&\quad - \left\{ \int_t^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^{\alpha_T^\varepsilon}) ds - \sum_{\tau_n^{\alpha_T^\varepsilon} \geq t} k(\tau_n^{\alpha_T^\varepsilon}, \zeta_n^{\alpha_T^\varepsilon}) \right\} \\
&= \left\{ \int_t^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) ds - \sum_{\tau_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon} \geq t} k(\tau_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon}, \zeta_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) \right\} \\
&\quad - \left\{ \int_t^{t \vee T} f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) ds + \int_{t \vee T}^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_{t \vee T}^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) ds - \sum_{t \vee T \geq \tau_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon} \geq t} k(\tau_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon}, \zeta_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) \right\} \\
&= \int_{t \vee T}^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) ds - \int_{t \vee T}^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_{t \vee T}^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) ds - \sum_{\tau_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon} \geq t \vee T} k(\tau_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon}, \zeta_n^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) \\
&\leq \int_{t \vee T}^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) ds - \int_{t \vee T}^\infty f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_{t \vee T}^{\alpha^\varepsilon}) ds
\end{aligned}$$

as $k(s, 0) = 0$ and $k \geq 0$ (Assumption 4). Hence, using Jensen's inequality and equation (2.4), $\exists C > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}
|J(t, \infty, x, \alpha^\varepsilon) - J(t, \infty, x, \alpha_T^\varepsilon)| &\leq \mathbb{E}[|H(t, \infty, x, \alpha^\varepsilon) - H(t, \infty, x, \alpha_T^\varepsilon)|] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E}\left[\int_{t \vee T}^\infty |f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^{\alpha^\varepsilon})| ds\right] + \mathbb{E}\left[\int_{t \vee T}^\infty |f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_{t \vee T}^{\alpha^\varepsilon})| ds\right] \\
&\leq C(1 + |x|)e^{-\bar{\rho}t \vee T - \rho_1 t}
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, given that $v(t, x, i) \leq \varepsilon + J(t, \infty, x, \alpha^\varepsilon)$ and $v_T(t, x, i) \geq J(t, \infty, x, \alpha_T^\varepsilon)$, the following holds:

$$\begin{aligned}
v(t, x, i) - v_T(t, x, i) &\leq \varepsilon + J(t, \infty, x, \alpha^\varepsilon) - J(t, \infty, x, \alpha_T^\varepsilon) \\
&\leq \varepsilon + C(1 + |x|)e^{-\bar{\rho}t \vee T - \rho_1 t}.
\end{aligned}$$

Since this is true for any $\varepsilon > 0$, and that C, ρ and ρ_1 do not depend on ε , the proposition is proved. \square

Now, we focus on the final boundary g_f . For the time being, denote the value function (3.2) as $v_T^{g_f}$ to emphasize the dependence of v on the terminal condition. As a consequence of equation (2.4), $\forall (x, i) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$|g_f(T, x, i)| \leq C(1 + |x|)e^{-\rho T} \quad (3.21)$$

Hence, define the class Θ_{g_f} of Lipschitz functions from $\mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$ into \mathbb{R} such that $\forall g \in \Theta_{g_f}$, $\forall (T, x, x', i) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$|g(T, x, i) - g(T, x', i)| \leq C_g e^{-\rho T} |x - x'| \quad (3.22)$$

$$|g(T, x, i)| \leq C_g e^{-\rho T} (1 + |x|) \quad (3.23)$$

for some $C_g > 0$. Obviously $g_f \in \Theta_{g_f}$. Now, for any $g \in \Theta_{g_f}$, denote as v_T^g the value function defined as in equation (3.2) with g instead of g_f . We are going to show that the precise approximation error due to the choice of final value g does not matter much as long as g is chosen in this class Θ_{g_f} .

Lemma 3.2. *There exists $C > 0$ such that $\forall (t, x, i) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$:*

$$|v_T^{g_f}(t, x, i) - v_T^g(t, x, i)| \leq C(1 + |x|)e^{-\bar{\rho}t \vee T - \rho_1 t}$$

Proof. Fix $(t, x, i) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$. To shorten the proof, we assume that v_T^{gf} (resp. v_T^g) admits an optimal strategy $\alpha_f^* \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^T$ (resp. $\alpha^* \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^T$) (this assumption can then be relaxed using ε -optimal strategies as in the proof of Proposition 3.1)¹. Therefore, recalling the notations H (equation (3.18)) and J (equation (3.19)) introduced in the proof of Lemma 3.1:

$$\begin{aligned}
v_T^{gf}(t, x, i) - v_T^g(t, x, i) &= J(t, T, x, \alpha_f^*) + \mathbb{E} \left[g_f \left(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha_f^*} \right) \right] - J(t, T, x, \alpha^*) - \mathbb{E} \left[g \left(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha^*} \right) \right] \\
&= J(t, T, x, \alpha_f^*) + \mathbb{E} \left[g \left(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha_f^*} \right) \right] - J(t, T, x, \alpha^*) - \mathbb{E} \left[g \left(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha^*} \right) \right] \\
&\quad + \mathbb{E} \left[g_f \left(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha_f^*} \right) - g \left(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha^*} \right) \right] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E} \left[g_f \left(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha_f^*} \right) - g \left(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha^*} \right) \right] \\
&\leq C (1 + \mathbb{E} [|X_T^{t,x}|]) e^{-\rho T} \leq C (1 + |x|) e^{-\bar{\rho}t \vee T - \rho_1 t}
\end{aligned}$$

Symmetrically, the same inequality holds for $v_T^g(t, x, i) - v_T^{gf}(t, x, i)$, ending the proof. \square

Proposition 3.1. *There exists $C > 0$ independent of T such that $\forall (t, x, i) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$ and $\forall g \in \Theta_{gf}$:*

$$|v(t, x, i) - v_T^g(t, x, i)| \leq C (1 + |x|) e^{-\bar{\rho}t \vee T - \rho_1 t}$$

Proof. Combine Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2. \square

From now on, we choose and keep one final value function $g \in \Theta_{gf}$, and remove the index g from the notation of v and its subsequent approximations.

3.2.2 Time Discretization

Proposition 3.2. *There exists a positive constant C such that for any $(t, x, i) \in \Pi \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$:*

$$|v_T(t, x, i) - v_\Pi(t, x, i)| \leq C e^{-\rho t} \left(1 + |x|^{\frac{3}{2}} \right) h^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (3.24)$$

Proof. Under the assumptions from Subsection 2.2, one can apply Theorem 3.1 in [29] to prove (3.24), noticing that the cost function k does not depend on the state variable x .

Use the discounting factor in the definition of f to factor the $e^{-\rho t}$ term and to get that C does not depend on T . \square

Remark 3.2. Another alternative to get this rate of $h^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is to work with the reflected BSDE representation of v_Π , as in [16] (adapting [12]) or [21].

Remark 3.3. Were the cost function k to depend on the state variable, the upper bound in Proposition 3.2 would only be $C e^{-\rho t} \left(1 + |x|^{\frac{5}{2}} \right) \left(h \log \left(\frac{2T}{h} \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$, as stated in [29] (making use of results from [27]).

Proposition 3.3. *There exists $C > 0$ such that for any $(t, x, i) \in \Pi \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$:*

$$|v_\Pi(t, x, i) - \bar{v}_\Pi(t, x, i)| \leq C e^{-\rho t} h^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

¹Note that under the assumptions from Subsection 2.2, one may use Theorem 3.1 from [35] to get the existence of a unique optimal strategy α^* for the value function (3.2), satisfying $\mathbb{E} \left[\left| \sum_{0 \leq \tau_n^{\alpha^*} \leq T} k \left(\tau_n^{\alpha^*}, \zeta_n^{\alpha^*} \right) \right|^2 \right] < \infty$

Proof. T and g being fixed, we can define, in the spirit of equations (3.18) and (3.19), the following quantities:

$$H(t, x, \alpha) := \int_t^T f(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) ds - \sum_{t \leq \tau_n \leq T} k(\tau_n, \ell_{n-1}, \ell_n) + g(t \vee T, X_{t \vee T}^{t,x}, I_{t \vee T}^\alpha) \quad (3.25)$$

$$J(t, x, \alpha) := \mathbb{E}[H(t, x, \alpha)] \quad (3.26)$$

$$\bar{H}(t, x, \alpha) := \int_t^T f(\pi(s), \bar{X}_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) ds - \sum_{t \leq \tau_n \leq T} k(\tau_n, \ell_{n-1}, \ell_n) + g(t \vee T, \bar{X}_{t \vee T}^{t,x}, I_{t \vee T}^\alpha) \quad (3.27)$$

$$\bar{J}(t, x, \alpha) := \mathbb{E}[\bar{H}(t, x, \alpha)] \quad (3.28)$$

for any admissible strategy $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^\Pi$. For these discretized problems, the existence of optimal controls α^* and $\bar{\alpha}^*$ is granted. Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} v_\Pi(t, x, i) - \bar{v}_\Pi(t, x, i) &= J(t, x, \alpha^*) - \bar{J}(t, x, \bar{\alpha}^*) \\ &= J(t, x, \alpha^*) - \bar{J}(t, x, \alpha^*) + \{ \bar{J}(t, x, \alpha^*) - \bar{J}(t, x, \bar{\alpha}^*) \} \\ &\leq J(t, x, \alpha^*) - \bar{J}(t, x, \alpha^*) \\ &= \int_t^T e^{-\rho s} \mathbb{E} \left[\tilde{f}(s, X_s^{t,x}, I_s^{\alpha^*}) - \tilde{f}(s, \bar{X}_s^{t,x}, I_s^{\alpha^*}) \right] ds \\ &\quad + \mathbb{E} \left[g(T, X_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha^*}) - g(T, \bar{X}_T^{t,x}, I_T^{\alpha^*}) \right] \\ &\leq C_f \int_t^T e^{-\rho s} \mathbb{E} [|X_s^{t,x} - \bar{X}_s^{t,x}|] ds + C_g e^{-\rho T} \mathbb{E} [|X_T^{t,x} - \bar{X}_T^{t,x}|] \\ &\leq C e^{-\rho t} \mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{t \leq s \leq T} |X_s^{t,x} - \bar{X}_s^{t,x}| \right] \leq C e^{-\rho t} h^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

using the strong convergence speed of the Euler scheme on $[t, T]$. Symmetrically, the same inequality holds for $\bar{v}_\Pi(t, x, i) - v_\Pi(t, x, i)$, ending the proof. \square

Finally, below are some bounds on v_Π and \bar{v}_Π , which will be useful later:

$$|v_\Pi(t, x, i)| \leq C e^{-\rho t} (1 + |x|) \quad (3.29)$$

$$|\bar{v}_\Pi(t, x, i)| \leq C e^{-\rho t} \left(1 + |x| + h^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \quad (3.30)$$

For the first inequality, proceed as for equation (2.5). For the second one, combine equation (3.29) with Proposition 3.3.

3.2.3 Space localization

Recall from Subsection 3.1.3 the definition of the bounded domain $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$, $t \in [0, T]$.

Proposition 3.4. $\forall \varepsilon > 0$, there exists $C > 0$ such that for any $(x, i) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$|\bar{v}_\Pi(0, x, i) - \bar{v}_\Pi^\varepsilon(0, x, i)| \leq C \varepsilon$$

Proof. Recall the definitions of $\bar{H}(t, x, \alpha)$ (equation (3.27)) and $\bar{J}(t, x, \alpha)$ (equation (3.28)), and define the quantities $\bar{H}^\varepsilon(t, x, \alpha)$ and $\bar{J}^\varepsilon(t, x, \alpha)$ like $\bar{H}(t, x, \alpha)$ and $\bar{J}(t, x, \alpha)$ but with \bar{X} replaced by \bar{X}^ε . Then, for every $(t, x, i) \in \Pi \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$ and $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}^\Pi$:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{J}(t, x, \alpha) &= \bar{J}^\varepsilon(t, x, \alpha) + \int_t^T \mathbb{E} \left[f(\pi(s), \bar{X}_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) - f(\pi(s), \bar{X}_s^{\varepsilon,t,x}, I_s^\alpha) \right] ds \\ &\quad + \mathbb{E} \left[g(T, \bar{X}_T^{t,x}, I_T^\alpha) - g(T, \bar{X}_T^{\varepsilon,t,x}, I_T^\alpha) \right] \end{aligned}$$

But:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_t^T \mathbb{E} [f(\pi(s), \bar{X}_s^{t,x}, I_s^\alpha) - f(\pi(s), \bar{X}_s^{\varepsilon,t,x}, I_s^\alpha)] ds + \mathbb{E} [g(T, \bar{X}_T^{t,x}, I_T^\alpha) - g(T, \bar{X}_T^{\varepsilon,t,x}, I_T^\alpha)] \right| \\ & \leq C_f \int_t^T e^{-\rho s} \mathbb{E} [|\bar{X}_s^{t,x} - \bar{X}_s^{\varepsilon,t,x}|] ds + C_g e^{-\rho T} \mathbb{E} [|\bar{X}_T^{t,x} - \bar{X}_T^{\varepsilon,t,x}|] \end{aligned}$$

It follows that:

$$|\bar{v}_\Pi(t, x, i) - \bar{v}_\Pi^\varepsilon(t, x, i)| \leq C_f \int_t^T e^{-\rho s} \mathbb{E} [|\bar{X}_s^{t,x} - \bar{X}_s^{\varepsilon,t,x}|] ds + C_g e^{-\rho T} \mathbb{E} [|\bar{X}_T^{t,x} - \bar{X}_T^{\varepsilon,t,x}|]$$

In particular, at $t = 0$, using equation (3.7), $\exists C > 0$ such that:

$$|\bar{v}_\Pi(0, x, i) - \bar{v}_\Pi^\varepsilon(0, x, i)| \leq C\varepsilon$$

□

3.2.4 Conditional expectation approximation

From now on the domains $\mathcal{D}_t^\varepsilon$, $t \in [0, T]$ are fixed once and for all, and, with a slight abuse of notation, we will drop ε from the subsequent notations.

We start with preliminary remarks. Recalling Subsection 3.1.4, with this choice of basis, $\tilde{\lambda}_i^{t_n}(\varphi)$ (equation (3.10)) and $\hat{\lambda}_i^{t_n}(\varphi)$ (equation (3.14)) become:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\lambda}_i^{t_n}(\varphi) &= \frac{\mathbb{E} [\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, i) \mathbf{1} \{\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}^k\}]}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}^k)} = \mathbb{E} [\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, i) | \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}^k], \quad 1 \leq k \leq K_\varepsilon \\ \hat{\lambda}_i^{t_n}(\varphi) &= \frac{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^m, i) \mathbf{1} \{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}^k\}}{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{1} \{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}^k\}}, \quad 1 \leq k \leq K_\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Extending these equations, define

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\lambda}_i^{t_n, x}(\varphi) &:= \frac{\mathbb{E} [\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, i) \mathbf{1} \{\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x)\}]}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} = \mathbb{E} [\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, i) | \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x)] \quad (3.31) \\ \hat{\lambda}_i^{t_n, x}(\varphi) &:= \frac{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^m, i) \mathbf{1} \{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}(x)\}}{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{1} \{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}(x)\}} \quad (3.32) \end{aligned}$$

for every $(t_n, x, i) \in \Pi \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_\Pi^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$, where $\forall x \in \mathcal{D}_n^\varepsilon$, $B_{t_n}(x)$ is the unique hypercube in the partition which contains x at time t_n .

Finally, recalling the approximated conditional expectations (3.12) and (3.15),

define for any $(t_n, x, j) \in \Pi \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_\Pi^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$ and any measurable function $\varphi : \Pi \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the following quantities:

$$\Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) := \mathbb{E} [\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, j)] \quad (3.33)$$

$$\tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) := \tilde{\mathbb{E}} [\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, j)] = \underline{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \vee \tilde{\lambda}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \wedge \bar{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \quad (3.34)$$

$$\hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) := \hat{\mathbb{E}} [\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, j)] = \underline{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \vee \hat{\lambda}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \wedge \bar{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \quad (3.35)$$

where (recalling equation 3.11) $\underline{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi)$ and $\bar{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi)$ are lower and upper bounds on $\Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)$:

$$\underline{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \leq \Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \leq \bar{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\varphi)$$

Remark 3.4. These definitions are useful to express the dynamic programming equations (3.9), (3.13) and (3.16). Indeed, these equations become:

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{v}_\Pi(T, x, i) &= g(T, x, i) \\
\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \{hf(t_n, x, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi)\}, \quad n = N-1, \dots, 0 \\
\tilde{v}_\Pi(T, x, i) &= g(T, x, i) \\
\tilde{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \{hf(t_n, x, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\tilde{v}_\Pi)\}, \quad n = N-1, \dots, 0 \\
\hat{v}_\Pi(T, x, i) &= g(T, x, i) \\
\hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \{hf(t_n, x, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\hat{v}_\Pi)\}, \quad n = N-1, \dots, 0
\end{aligned}$$

Remark 3.5. For $\varphi = \bar{v}_\Pi$, we can easily explicit bounding functions $\underline{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi)$ and $\bar{\Gamma}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi)$ of $\Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi)$. Indeed, combining equation (3.30) with the above dynamic programming equation, $\exists C > 0$ such that $\forall (t_n, x, j) \in \Pi \times \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_\Pi^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$|\Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi)| \leq \Gamma^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) := Ce^{-\rho t_n} (1 + |x| + \sqrt{h}) \quad (3.36)$$

Now we can start the assessment of the regression error.

Lemma 3.3. *Consider a measurable function $\varphi : \Pi \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Suppose that, for a fixed $t_{n+1} \in \Pi$, it is Lipschitz with constant C_{n+1} , uniformly in j : $\forall (x_1, x_2, j) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$*

$$|\varphi(t_{n+1}, x_1, j) - \varphi(t_{n+1}, x_2, j)| \leq C_{n+1} |x_1 - x_2| \quad (3.37)$$

Then $\Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)$ is Lipschitz with constant $C_{n+1}(1 + Lh)$, uniformly in j , where $L := C_b + \frac{C_\sigma^2}{2} > 0$.

Proof. Choose $(t_n, j, x_1, x_2) \in \Pi \times \mathbb{I}_q \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$. Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
|\Phi_j^{t_n, x_1}(\varphi) - \Phi_j^{t_n, x_2}(\varphi)| &= \left| \mathbb{E} \left[\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_1}, j) - \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_2}, j) \right] \right| \\
&\leq \left\| \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_1}, j) - \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_2}, j) \right\|_1 \\
&\leq \left\| \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_1}, j) - \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_2}, j) \right\|_2
\end{aligned}$$

Now, using equations (3.37) and (3.5), and G denoting a d -dimensional standard Gaussian random variable, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_1}, j) - \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_2}, j) \right)^2 \right] \\
&\leq C_{n+1}^2 \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_1} - \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x_2} \right)^2 \right] \\
&\leq C_{n+1}^2 \mathbb{E} \left[\left(x_1 - x_2 + h(b(t_n, x_1) - b(t_n, x_2)) + \sqrt{h}(\sigma(t_n, x_1) - \sigma(t_n, x_2))G \right)^2 \right] \\
&= C_{n+1}^2 \left\{ (x_1 - x_2 + h(b(t_n, x_1) - b(t_n, x_2)))^2 + h \mathbb{E} \left[((\sigma(t_n, x_1) - \sigma(t_n, x_2))G)^2 \right] \right\} \\
&\leq C_{n+1}^2 (x_1 - x_2)^2 \{1 + (2C_b + C_\sigma^2)h + C_b^2 h^2\} \\
&\leq C_{n+1}^2 (x_1 - x_2)^2 \left(C_b + \frac{C_\sigma^2}{2} \right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{C_b + \frac{C_\sigma^2}{2}} + h \right)^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus:

$$|\Phi_j^{t_n, x_1}(\varphi) - \Phi_j^{t_n, x_2}(\varphi)| \leq C_{n+1} \left(1 + \left(C_b + \frac{C_\sigma^2}{2} \right) h \right) |x_1 - x_2|$$

□

Lemma 3.4. Consider again a function $\varphi : \Pi \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that (3.37) holds for a given $t_{n+1} \in \Pi$. Then, $\forall (x, j) \in \mathcal{D}_{t_n}^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$|\tilde{\lambda}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)| \leq C_{n+1} \delta (1 + Lh) .$$

In particular:

$$|\tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)| \leq C_{n+1} \delta (1 + Lh) \quad (3.38)$$

Proof. Recalling the definitions of $B_{t_n}(x)$, of $\tilde{\lambda}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)$ (equation (3.31)) and of $\Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)$ (equation (3.33)), simply remark that:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\tilde{x} \in B_{t_n}(x)} \Phi_j^{t_n, \tilde{x}}(\varphi) &\leq \Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \leq \max_{\tilde{x} \in B_{t_n}(x)} \Phi_j^{t_n, \tilde{x}}(\varphi) \\ \min_{\tilde{x} \in B_{t_n}(x)} \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, \tilde{x}}(\varphi) &\leq \tilde{\lambda}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \leq \max_{\tilde{x} \in B_{t_n}(x)} \Phi_j^{t_n, \tilde{x}}(\varphi) . \end{aligned}$$

Now, using Lemma 3.3:

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{\lambda}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)| &\leq \max_{\tilde{x} \in B_{t_n}(x)} \Phi_j^{t_n, \tilde{x}}(\varphi) - \min_{\tilde{x} \in B_{t_n}(x)} \Phi_j^{t_n, \tilde{x}}(\varphi) \\ &\leq C_{n+1} (1 + Lh) \max_{(x_1, x_2) \in B_{t_n}(x)^2} |x_1 - x_2| \\ &\leq C_{n+1} (1 + Lh) \delta \end{aligned}$$

□

Lemma 3.5. $\forall (t_n, x_1, x_2, i) \in \Pi \times (\mathbb{R}^d)^2 \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$|\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x_1, i) - \bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x_2, i)| \leq C_n |x_1 - x_2| \quad (3.39)$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} C_N &= e^{-\rho t_N} C_g \\ C_n &= h C_f e^{-\rho t_n} + C_{n+1} (1 + Lh) , \quad n = N - 1, \dots, 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3.40)$$

In particular, $\exists C > 0$ such that $\forall n = 0, 1, \dots, N$:

$$C_n \leq C e^{-\rho t_n} e^{L(T-t_n)} \quad (3.41)$$

Proof. Recall Remark 3.4. We prove the lemma by induction. First, remark that, using hypothesis (3.22), it holds for $n = N$. Now, suppose that it holds for some $(n + 1) \in [1, \dots, N]$. Then, using Lemma 3.3:

$$\begin{aligned} &\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x_1, i) \\ &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \{ h f(t_n, x_1, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \Phi_j^{t_n, x_1}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \} \\ &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \{ h f(t_n, x_2, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \Phi_j^{t_n, x_2}(\bar{v}_\Pi) + h(f(t_n, x_1, j) - f(t_n, x_2, j)) + (\Phi_j^{t_n, x_1}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \Phi_j^{t_n, x_2}(\bar{v}_\Pi)) \} \\ &\leq \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \{ h f(t_n, x_2, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \Phi_j^{t_n, x_2}(\bar{v}_\Pi) + h e^{-\rho t_n} C_f |x_1 - x_2| + C_{n+1} (1 + Lh) |x_1 - x_2| \} \\ &= \bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x_2, i) + (h e^{-\rho t_n} C_f + C_{n+1} (1 + Lh)) |x_1 - x_2| \end{aligned}$$

Symmetrically, the same inequality holds for $\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x_2, i) - \bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x_1, i)$, yielding equations (3.39) and (3.40). Finally, use the discrete version of Gronwall's inequality to obtain equation (3.41) □

Proposition 3.5. $\exists C > 0$ s.t. $\forall (t, x, i) \in \Pi \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$|\bar{v}_\Pi(t, x, i) - \tilde{v}_\Pi(t, x, i)| \leq C \frac{\delta}{h} e^{-\rho t} .$$

Proof. For each $t_n \in \Pi$, we look for an upper bound E_n , independent of x and i , of the quantity $|\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) - \tilde{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i)|$. First:

$$|\bar{v}_\Pi(T, x, i) - \tilde{v}_\Pi(T, x, i)| = |g(T, x, i) - g(T, x, i)| = 0$$

Hence $E_N = 0$. Fix now $n \in [0, N - 1]$. Using Remark 3.4:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \{hf(t_n, x, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\tilde{v}_\Pi)\} \\ &= \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q} \{hf(t_n, x, j) - k(t_n, i, j) + \Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \\ &\quad + \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \\ &\quad + \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\tilde{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi)\} \end{aligned}$$

Using Lemmas 3.4 and 3.5, $\tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \Phi_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \leq C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh)$ where C_{n+1} is the Lipschitz constant of \bar{v}_Π at time t_{n+1} (see Lemma 3.5). Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\tilde{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) &\leq \mathbb{E}[\tilde{v}_\Pi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j) - \bar{v}_\Pi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j) | X_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x)] \\ &\leq E_{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence:

$$\tilde{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) \leq \bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1}$$

Symmetrically, the same inequality holds for $\bar{v}_\Pi(T, x, i) - \tilde{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i)$, leading to:

$$|\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) - \tilde{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i)| \leq E_n$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} E_N &= 0 \\ E_n &= C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, using equation (3.41):

$$E_n = \delta(1 + Lh) \sum_{k=n+1}^N C_k \leq C \frac{\delta}{h} e^{-\rho t_n}$$

where $C > 0$ does not depend on t_n nor T . □

The following lemma measures the regression error. It is an extension of Lemma 3.8 in [53] (itself inspired by Theorem 5.1 in [12]).

Lemma 3.6. *Consider a measurable function $\varphi : \Pi \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{I}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. For any $p \geq 1$, there exists $C_p \geq 0$ such that $\forall (t_n, x, j) \in \Pi \times \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_\Pi^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$:*

$$\left\| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right\|_p \leq \frac{C_p}{\sqrt{M}} \frac{\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) + \bar{\varphi}^{t_n}}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))^{1 - \frac{1}{p\nu^2}}} \quad (3.42)$$

where $\bar{\varphi}^{t_n} \in \mathbb{R}_+$ is such that $|\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j)| \leq \bar{\varphi}^{t_n}$ a.s. .

Proof. Define the following centered random variables:

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) &:= \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^m, j) \mathbf{1}\{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}(x)\} - \mathbb{E}[\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j) \mathbf{1}\{\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x)\}] \\ \varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1) &:= \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{1}\{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}(x)\} - \mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x)) \end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right| = \left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right| \wedge 2\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \\ &\leq \left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right| \mathbf{1} \left\{ \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} \leq \frac{1}{2} \right\} + 2\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \mathbf{1} \left\{ \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} > \frac{1}{2} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right| \mathbf{1} \left\{ \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} \leq \frac{1}{2} \right\} \\
&= \left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \frac{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))}{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{1}\{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}(x)\}} - \right. \\
&\quad \left. \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \frac{\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)}{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{1}\{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}(x)\}} \right| \mathbf{1} \left\{ \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} \leq \frac{1}{2} \right\} \\
&\leq \left\{ \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)|}{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{1}\{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}(x)\}} \wedge 3\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) + \right. \\
&\quad \left. |\tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)| \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|}{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{1}\{\bar{X}_{t_n}^m \in B_{t_n}(x)\}} \right\} \mathbf{1} \left\{ \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} \leq \frac{1}{2} \right\} \\
&\leq \frac{2}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} \left\{ |\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)| \wedge 5\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) + |\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)| \Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right\} \mathbf{1} \left\{ \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} \leq \frac{1}{2} \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

Now, for any $p \geq 1$:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right|^p \\
&\leq \frac{2^{3p-2}}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))^p} \left\{ \left\{ |\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)| \wedge 5\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right\}^p + \left\{ |\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)| \Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right\}^p \right\} \times \\
&\quad \mathbf{1} \left\{ \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} \leq \frac{1}{2} \right\} + 2^{2p-1} (\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi))^p \mathbf{1} \left\{ \frac{|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))} > \frac{1}{2} \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E} \left[\left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right|^p \right] \\
&\leq \frac{2^{3p-2}}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))^p} \left\{ \mathbb{E} \left[\left\{ |\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)| \wedge 5\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right\}^p \right] + (\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi))^p \mathbb{E} \left[|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|^p \right] \right\} \\
&\quad + 2^{2p-1} (\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi))^p \mathbb{P} \left(|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|^p > \frac{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))^p}{2^p} \right) \\
&\leq \frac{8^p}{\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))^p} \left\{ \mathbb{E} \left[\left\{ |\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)| \wedge 5\Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right\}^p \right] + \left\{ \Gamma^{t_n, x}(\varphi) \right\}^p \mathbb{E} \left[|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|^p \right] \right\} \quad (3.43)
\end{aligned}$$

using Markov's inequality. Now, the following lemma will provide upper bounds for $\mathbb{E} \left[|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|^p \right]$ and $\mathbb{E} \left[|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)|^p \right]$.

Lemma 3.7. *Let $p \geq 1$ and X_1, \dots, X_M be a sample of i.i.d. \mathbb{R} -valued random variables such that $\mathbb{E}[X_1] = 0$ and $\mathbb{E}[|X_1|^p] < \infty$. Then, $\exists C_p > 0$ such that:*

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left| \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M X_m \right|^p \right] \leq \frac{C_p}{M^{\frac{p}{2}}} \mathbb{E} \left[|X_1|^{p \vee 2} \right]^{\frac{p}{p \vee 2}} \quad (3.44)$$

Proof. Using Marcinkiewicz-Zygmund's inequality, there exists $C_p > 0$ such that:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left| \sum_{m=1}^M X_m \right|^p \right] \leq C_p \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\sum_{m=1}^M |X_m|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \right]$$

Multiplying both sides by $\frac{1}{M^p}$:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left| \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M X_m \right|^p \right] \leq \frac{C_p}{M^{\frac{p}{2}}} \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M |X_m|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \right] \quad (3.45)$$

If $p \geq 2$, then $\frac{p}{2} \geq 1$ and, using Jensen's inequality:

$$\left(\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M |X_m|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \leq \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \left(|X_m|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M |X_m|^p$$

Taking expectations on both sides:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M |X_m|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \right] \leq \mathbb{E} [|X_1|^p] \quad (3.46)$$

Now, if $p < 2$, then $\frac{p}{2} < 1$ and, using Jensen's inequality:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M |X_m|^2 \right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \right] \leq \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M |X_m|^2 \right) \right]^{\frac{p}{2}} = \mathbb{E} [|X_1|^2]^{\frac{p}{2}} \quad (3.47)$$

Then combine inequalities (3.45), (3.46) and (3.47) to obtain the inequality (3.44). \square

Using Lemma 3.7, $\exists C > 0$ such that:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(1)|^p \right] \leq \frac{C_p}{M^{\frac{p}{2}}} \mathbb{E} \left[\left| \mathbf{1} \{ \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x) \} - \mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x)) \right|^{p \vee 2} \right]^{\frac{p}{p \vee 2}} \quad (3.48)$$

$$\mathbb{E} \left[|\varepsilon_j^{t_n, x}(\varphi)|^p \right] \leq \frac{C_p}{M^{\frac{p}{2}}} \mathbb{E} \left[\left| \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j) \mathbf{1} \{ \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x) \} - \mathbb{E}[\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j) \mathbf{1} \{ \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x) \}] \right|^{p \vee 2} \right]^{\frac{p}{p \vee 2}} \quad (3.49)$$

Now, suppose that $\exists \bar{\varphi}^{t_n} \in \mathbb{R}_+$ s.t. $|\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j)| \leq \bar{\varphi}^{t_n}$ a.s. . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E} \left[\left| \varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j) \mathbf{1} \{ \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x) \} - \mathbb{E}[\varphi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j) \mathbf{1} \{ \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x) \}] \right|^{p \vee 2} \right]^{\frac{p}{p \vee 2}} \\ & \leq \left(2^{p \vee 2 - 1} \mathbb{E} \left[(\bar{\varphi}^{t_n})^{p \vee 2} \mathbf{1} \{ \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x) \} \right] + \mathbb{E} \left[(\bar{\varphi}^{t_n})^{p \vee 2} \mathbf{1} \{ \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x) \} \right] \right)^{\frac{p}{p \vee 2}} \\ & \leq 2^p (\bar{\varphi}^{t_n})^p \mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))^{\frac{p}{p \vee 2}} \end{aligned} \quad (3.50)$$

In a similar manner:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\left| \mathbf{1} \{ \bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x) \} - \mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x)) \right|^{p \vee 2} \right]^{\frac{p}{p \vee 2}} \leq 2^p \mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_{t_n} \in B_{t_n}(x))^{\frac{p}{p \vee 2}} \quad (3.51)$$

Finally, the combination of inequalities (3.43), (3.48), (3.49), (3.50) and (3.51) proves equation (3.42). \square

Unlike equation (3.38), the estimate in (3.42) does depend on x . This fact makes the assessment of the error between the value functions a bit more difficult. This is where the space localization enters into play (cf. Paragraph 3.1.3). Indeed, $\mathcal{D}_{t_n}^\varepsilon$ being bounded, one can get a lower bound of the denominator in (3.42) using the minimum probability $p(T, \delta, \varepsilon)$ defined in equation (3.17). For the numerator in (3.42), recalling the definition of $C(T, \varepsilon)$ (Paragraph 3.1.3), one easily gets, as a direct consequence of equations (3.36) and (3.30), that for every $(t_n, x, j) \in \Pi \times \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_\Pi^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$\Gamma_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \leq C e^{-\rho t_n} \left(1 + C(T, \varepsilon) + \sqrt{h} \right) \quad (3.52)$$

$$|\bar{v}_\Pi(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}, j)| \leq C e^{-\rho t_n} \left(1 + C(T, \varepsilon) + \sqrt{h} \right) \quad (3.53)$$

Combining these remarks with Lemma 3.6 provides the following Corollary:

Corollary 3.1. *For every $p \geq 1$, there exists $C_p \geq 0$ s.t. $\forall (t_n, x, j) \in \Pi \times \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_\Pi^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$:*

$$\left\| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \right\|_p \leq C_p e^{-\rho t_n} \frac{1 + C(T, \varepsilon) + \sqrt{h}}{\sqrt{M} p(T, \delta, \varepsilon)^{1 - \frac{1}{p \vee 2}}}$$

Proof. Combine Lemma 3.6 with equations (3.17), (3.52) and (3.53). \square

Proposition 3.6. $\forall p \geq 1, \exists C_p > 0$ s.t. $\forall (t, x, i) \in \Pi \tilde{\times} \mathcal{D}^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$\|\bar{v}_\Pi(t, x, i) - \hat{v}_\Pi(t, x, i)\|_p \leq C_p e^{-\rho t_n} \left\{ \frac{1 + C(T, \varepsilon) + \sqrt{h}}{h\sqrt{Mp}(T, \delta, \varepsilon)^{1 - \frac{1}{p\sqrt{2}}}} + \frac{\delta}{h} \right\}$$

Proof. For each $t_n \in \Pi$, we look for an upper bound E_n , independent of x and i , of the quantity $\|\bar{v}_\Pi(t, x, i) - \hat{v}_\Pi(t, x, i)\|_p, x \in \mathcal{D}_{t_n}^\varepsilon$. First:

$$\|\bar{v}_\Pi(T, x, i) - \hat{v}_\Pi(T, x, i)\|_p = \|g(T, x, i) - g(T, x, i)\|_p = 0$$

Hence $E_N = 0$. Fix now $n \in [0, N - 1]$. Recall the dynamic programming equations from Remark 3.4, and introduce j^* (resp. \hat{j}^*) the arg max for \bar{v}_Π (resp. \hat{v}_Π), i.e.:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= hf(t_n, x, j^*) - k(t_n, i, j^*) + \Phi_{j^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \\ \hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= hf(t_n, x, \hat{j}^*) - k(t_n, i, \hat{j}^*) + \hat{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\hat{v}_\Pi) \end{aligned}$$

Now, for every $\forall (t, x, i) \in \Pi \tilde{\times} \mathcal{D}_\Pi^\varepsilon \times \mathbb{I}_q$:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &= hf(t_n, x, \hat{j}^*) - k(t_n, i, \hat{j}^*) + \hat{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\hat{v}_\Pi) \\ &= hf(t_n, x, \hat{j}^*) - k(t_n, i, \hat{j}^*) + \Phi_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \\ &\quad + \tilde{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \Phi_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \\ &\quad + \hat{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \\ &\quad + \hat{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\hat{v}_\Pi) - \hat{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \\ &\leq \bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) \\ &\quad + \hat{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \\ &\quad + E_{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

as D^ε contains all the trajectories (\bar{X} being projected on D^ε). Hence, a.s.:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) - \bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) &\leq \left| \hat{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \right| + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^q \left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \right| \mathbf{1}\{\hat{j}^* = j\} + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1} \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^q \left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \right| + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

Symmetrically:

$$\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) - \hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) \leq \left| \tilde{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \hat{\Phi}_{\hat{j}^*}^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \right| + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1}$$

Thus:

$$\begin{aligned} &|\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) - \hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i)| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^q \left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \right| + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

and, $\forall p \geq 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) - \hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i)\|_p &\leq \left\| \sum_{j=1}^q \left| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \right| + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1} \right\|_p \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^q \left\| \hat{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) - \tilde{\Phi}_j^{t_n, x}(\bar{v}_\Pi) \right\|_p + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1} \\ &\leq C_p e^{-\rho t_n} \frac{1 + C(T, \varepsilon) + \sqrt{h}}{\sqrt{Mp}(T, \delta, \varepsilon)^{1 - \frac{1}{p\sqrt{2}}}} + C_{n+1}\delta(1 + Lh) + E_{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

for some constant $C_p > 0$ which depends only on p , using Corollary 3.1. By an induction argument:

$$\|\bar{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) - \hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i)\|_p \leq E_n$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} E_N &= 0 \\ E_n &= C_p e^{-\rho t_n} \frac{1 + C(T, \varepsilon) + \sqrt{h}}{\sqrt{Mp}(T, \delta, \varepsilon)^{1 - \frac{1}{p\sqrt{2}}}} + C_{n+1} \delta (1 + Lh) + E_{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

Consequently:

$$\begin{aligned} E_n &= C_p \frac{1 + C(T, \varepsilon) + \sqrt{h}}{\sqrt{Mp}(T, \delta, \varepsilon)^{1 - \frac{1}{p\sqrt{2}}}} \sum_{k=n}^N e^{-\rho t_k} + \delta (1 + Lh) \sum_{k=n+1}^N C_k \\ &\leq C_p e^{-\rho t_n} \left\{ \frac{1 + C(T, \varepsilon) + \sqrt{h}}{h\sqrt{Mp}(T, \delta, \varepsilon)^{1 - \frac{1}{p\sqrt{2}}}} + \frac{\delta}{h} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

where $C_p > 0$ depends only on p . □

Finally, the combinations of Propositions 3.1 3.2, 3.3, 3.5 and 3.6 at time $t = t_0$ proves Theorem 3.1.

4 Complexity analysis and memory reduction

4.1 Complexity

4.1.1 Computational complexity

The number of operations required by the algorithm described below is in $\mathcal{O}(q^2.N.M)$, where we recall that q is the number of possible switches, N is the number of time steps and M is the number of Monte Carlo trajectories.

- The q^2 term stems from the fact that for every $i \in \mathbb{I}_q$, one has to compute a maximum on $j \in \mathbb{I}_q$ (see equation (3.16)). However, this q^2 can be reduced to q as soon as the two following conditions are satisfied:
 1. (Irreversibility) The controlled variable can only be increased (or, symmetrically, can only be decreased)
 2. (Cost Separability) There exists two functions k_1 and k_2 such that $\forall (t, i, j) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{I}_q \times \mathbb{I}_q$, $k(t, i, j) = k_1(t, i) + k_2(t, j)$. For instance, this is true of affine costs.

Indeed, under those two conditions, equation (3.16) becomes:

$$\hat{v}_\Pi(t_n, x, i) + k_1(t_n, i) = \max_{j \in \mathbb{I}_q, j \geq i} \left\{ hf(t_n, x, j) - k_2(t_n, j) + \mathbb{E} \left[\hat{v}_\Pi \left(t_{n+1}, \bar{X}_{t_{n+1}}^{t_n, x}, j \right) \right] \right\}, \quad n = N - 1, \dots, 0$$

These maxima can be computed in $\mathcal{O}(q)$ instead of $\mathcal{O}(q^2)$ by starting from the biggest element $i = i_q$ down to the smallest element $i = i_1$ (in lexicographical order) and keeping track of the partial maxima.

Note that these two conditions hold for the numerical application from Section 5, providing the improved complexity $\mathcal{O}(q.N.M)$.

- The N term comes from the backward time induction.
- The M term corresponds to the cost of a regression, which, in the case of a local basis, can be brought down to $\mathcal{O}(M)$ (cf. [13]).

4.1.2 Memory complexity

The memory size required for solving optimal switching problems (as well as the simpler American option problems and the more complex BSDE problems) by Monte Carlo methods is often said to be in $\mathcal{O}(N.M)$, because, as the Euler scheme is a forward scheme and the dynamic programming principle is a backward scheme, the storage of the Monte Carlo trajectories seems inescapable. This fact is the major limitation of such methods, as acknowledged in [16] for instance.

Since such a complexity would be unbearable in high dimension, we describe below a general memory reduction method to obtain a much more amenable $\mathcal{O}(N + M)$ complexity (or, more precisely, of $\mathcal{O}(m.N + q.M)$ with $m \ll M$). This improvement really opens the door to the use of Monte Carlo methods for American options, optimal switching and BSDEs on high-dimensional practical applications. Note that this tool can be combined with all the existing Monte Carlo backward methods which (seem to) require the storage of all the trajectories.

A drawback of this tool is that it is limited to Markovian processes. However, one can usually circumvent this restriction by increasing the dimension of the state variable.

4.2 General memory reduction method

4.2.1 Description

The memory reduction method for Monte Carlo pricing of American options was pioneered by [18] for the geometric Brownian motion, and was subsequently extended to multi-dimensional geometric Brownian motions ([19]) as well as exponential Lévy processes ([20]). These papers take advantage of the additivity property of the processes considered. However, as briefly hinted in [57], the memory reduction trick can be extended to more general processes. In particular, it can be combined with any discretization scheme, for instance the Euler scheme or Milstein scheme, as long as the value of the stochastic process at one time step can be expressed via its value at the subsequent time step.

From a practical point of view, the production of “random” sequences usually involves wisely chosen deterministic sequences, with statistical properties as close as possible to true randomness (cf. [39] for instance for an overview). These sequences can usually be set using a *seed*, i.e. a (possibly multidimensional) fixed value aimed at initializing the algorithm which produces the sequence:

$$\{\text{set seed } s\} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{rand()}} \quad \varepsilon_1 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{rand()}} \quad \varepsilon_2 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{rand()}} \quad \dots \quad \xrightarrow{\text{rand()}} \quad \varepsilon_n \quad (4.1)$$

where the $\text{rand}()$ operation consists in going to the next element of the sequence. Now two useful aspects can be stressed. The first is that one can usually recover the current seed at any stage of the sequence. The second is that, if the seed is set later to, say, once again the seed s from equation (4.1), then the following elements of the sequence will be once again $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots$. In other words, one can recover any previously produced subsequence of the sequence $(\varepsilon_n)_{n \geq 1}$, provided one stored beforehand the seed at the beginning of the subsequence. This feature is at the core of the memory reduction method, which we are going to discuss below in a general setting.

Consider a Markovian stochastic process $(X_t)_{t \geq 0}$, for instance the solution of the stochastic differential equation (2.2), recalled below:

$$\begin{aligned} X_0 &= x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d \\ dX_s &= b(s, X_s) ds + \sigma(s, X_s) dW_s \end{aligned}$$

The application of the Euler scheme to this equation can be denoted as follows:

$$x_{t_{i+1}}^j = f\left(x_{t_i}^j, \varepsilon_i^j\right) \quad (4.2)$$

$$f(x, \varepsilon) := x + b(t_i, x) h + \sigma(t_i, x) \varepsilon \sqrt{h} \quad (4.3)$$

where $\forall i \in [0, N - 1]$ and $\forall j \in [1, M]$, $\varepsilon_i^j \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is drawn from a d -dimensional Gaussian random variable. Suppose that for any $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^d$, the function $x \mapsto f(x, \varepsilon)$ is invertible (call f_{inv} its inverse). Then, starting

from the final value $x_{t_N}^j$ of the sequence (4.2), one can recover the whole trajectory of X :

$$x_{t_i}^j = f_{\text{inv}}\left(x_{t_{i+1}}^j, \varepsilon_i^j\right) \quad (4.4)$$

as long as one can recover the previous draws $\varepsilon_{N-1}^j, \dots, \varepsilon_0^j$. The following pseudo-code describes an easy way to do it.

Algorithm 1 Euler Scheme	Inverse Euler Scheme
1 <i>% Initialization</i>	
2 for j from 1 to M	
3 X[j] ← x _j	
4 end for	
5	
6 <i>% LOOP 1: Euler scheme</i>	1 <i>% LOOP 2: Inverse Euler scheme</i>
7 for i from 0 to N-1	2 for i from N-1 down to 0
8 S[i] ← getseed()	3 setseed(S[i])
9 for j from 1 to M	4 for j from 1 to M
10 E ← rand(d)	5 E ← rand(d)
11 X[j] ← f(X[j], E)	6 X[j] ← finv(X[j], E)
12 end for	7 end for
13 end for	8 end for
14 S[N] ← getseed()	9 setseed(S[N])

The first column corresponds to the Euler scheme, with the addition of the storage of the seeds. At the end of the first column, the vector X contains the last values $X_T^j, j = 1, \dots, M$. From this point, one can recover the previous values $X_{t_i}^j, i = N - 1, \dots, 0, j = 1, \dots, M$ as done in the second column.

Inside this last loop, one can perform the estimation of the conditional expectations required by the resolution algorithm of our stochastic control problem (equation (2.10)). Compared to the standard resolution storing the full trajectories $X_{t_i}^j, i = 0, \dots, N, j = 1, \dots, M$, the pros and cons are the following:

- The memory needed is brought down from $\mathcal{O}(M \times N)$ to $\mathcal{O}(M + N)$ (storage of the vector space and the seeds)
- The number of calls to the `rand()` function is doubled.

In other words, at the price of doubling the computation time, one can bring down the required memory storage by the factor $\min(M, N)$, which is a very significant saving. Moreover, the theoretical additional computation time can be insignificant in practice, as the availability of much more physical memory makes the resort to the slower virtual memory much less likely.

Remark 4.1. Even though the storage of the seeds does take $\mathcal{O}(N)$ in memory size, the constant may be much greater than 1. For instance, on Matlab[®], a seed from the Combined Multiple Recursive algorithm (refer for instance to [39] for a description of several random generators) is made of 12 `uint32` (32-bit unsigned integer), a seed from the Multiplicative Lagged Fibonacci algorithm is made of 130 `uint64`, and a seed from the popular Mersenne Twister algorithm is made of 625 `uint32`.

In order to relieve the storage of the seeds, we provide below a finer memory reduction algorithm, and discuss its potential benefits:

Algorithm 2 General Memory Reduction Method

```
1 % LOOP 1: Seeds storage          1 % LOOP 2: Euler scheme
2 for i from 0 to N-1            2 for i from 0 to N-1
3   S[i] ← getseed()             3   setseed(S[N-i-1])
4   for j from 1 to M            4   for j from 1 to M
5     E ← rand(d)                 5     E ← rand(d)
6   end for                       6     X[j] ← f(X[j],E)
7 end for                          7   end for
8                                  8 end for
9 % Initialization                9 setseed(S[0]) ; free(S)
10 for j from 1 to M              10
11   X[j] ← xj                     11 % LOOP 3: Inverse Euler scheme
12 end for                          12 for i from N-1 down to 0
13 %                                13   for j from 1 to M
14 %                                14     E ← rand(d)
15 %                                15     X[j] ← finv(X[j],E)
16 %                                16   end for
17 %                                17 end for
```

Although this algorithm requires three main loops, it enables to perform the last loop without fiddling the seed of the random generator, and without any vector of seeds locked in memory, which will thus be fully dedicated to the regressions and other resolution operations. Moreover, the first two main loops can be performed beforehand once and for all, storing only the last values of the vector X as well as the first seed $S[0]$. Finally, if the random generator is able to leapfrog a given number of steps, the first loop can be drastically reduced.

4.2.2 Numerical stability

Theoretically, the trajectories produced by the Euler scheme (4.2) and the inverse Euler scheme (4.4) are exactly the same. In practice however, a discrepancy may appear, the cause of which is discussed below.

On a computer, not all real numbers can be reproduced. Indeed, they must be stored on a finite number of bits, using a predefined format (usually the IEEE Standard for Floating-Point Arithmetic (IEEE 754)). In particular, there exists an incompressible distance $\varepsilon > 0$ between two different numbers stored. This causes rounding errors when performing operations on real numbers.

For instance, consider $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and an invertible function $f : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$. Compute $y = f(x)$ and then compute $\hat{x} = f_{\text{inv}}(y)$. One would expect that $\hat{x} = x$, but in practice, because of rounding effects, one may get $\hat{x} = x + \varepsilon z$ for a small $\varepsilon > 0$, where z is a discrete variable, which can be deemed random, taking values around zero. This phenomenon is illustrated on Figure 4.1, which displays a histogram of $\hat{x} - x$ for $n = 10^7$ different values of $x \in [0, 1]$ and for the simple linear function $f(x) = 2x + 3$.

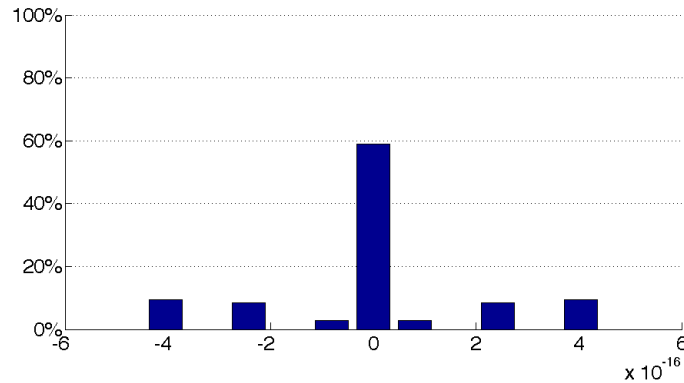


Figure 4.1: Histogram of rounding errors

We now describe how this affects our memory reduction method. Recall equation 4.2:

$$x_{t_{i+1}}^j = f\left(x_{t_i}^j, \varepsilon_i^j\right)$$

Now, instead of equation (4.4), the inverse Euler scheme will provide something like:

$$\begin{aligned} y_{t_N}^j &= x_{t_N}^j \\ y_{t_i}^j &= f_{\text{inv}}\left(y_{t_{i+1}}^j, \varepsilon_i^j\right) + \varepsilon z_i^j \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

for a small $\varepsilon > 0$, where z_i^j , $i = 0, \dots, N$, $j = 1, \dots, M$, can be deemed realizations of a discrete random variable Z , independent of W . The distribution of Z is unknown, but data suggests it may be innocuously assumed centered, symmetric, and with finite moments.

We are now interested in studying the compound rounding error $y_{t_i} - x_{t_i}$ as a function of ε . Of course, its behaviour depends on the choice of f (equation (4.3)). Below, we explicit this error on two simple examples: an arithmetic Brownian motion and an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process. These two examples illustrate how the compound rounding error can vary dramatically w.r.t. f .

First example: arithmetic Brownian motion Consider first the case of an arithmetic Brownian motion with drift parameter μ and volatility parameter σ . Here f and its inverse are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, \varepsilon) &= x + \mu h + \sigma \sqrt{h} \varepsilon \\ f_{\text{inv}}(x, \varepsilon) &= x - \mu h - \sigma \sqrt{h} \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Hence, using equation (4.5), for every $j = 1, \dots, M$:

$$y_{t_i}^j - x_{t_i}^j = \varepsilon \sum_{k=i}^{N-1} z_k^j$$

In other words, the compound rounding error behaves as a random walk, multiplied by the small parameter ε . Hence, as long as $\varepsilon \ll h$ (which is always the case as real numbers smaller than ε cannot be handled properly on a computer), this numerical error is harmless.

Remark that a similar numerical error arises from the algorithms proposed in [18], [19] and [20], but, fortunately, as discussed above, this error is utterly negligible.

Second example: Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process Now, consider the case of an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process with mean reversion $\alpha > 0$, long-term mean μ and volatility σ . Here:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, \varepsilon) &= x + \alpha(\mu - x)h + \sigma \sqrt{h} \varepsilon \\ f_{\text{inv}}(x, \varepsilon) &= \frac{1}{1 - \alpha h} \left(x - \alpha \mu h - \sigma \sqrt{h} \varepsilon \right) \end{aligned}$$

Using equation (4.5), for every $j = 1, \dots, M$ the compound error is given by:

$$y_{t_i}^j - x_{t_i}^j = \varepsilon \sum_{k=i}^{N-1} \frac{1}{(1 - \alpha h)^{k-i}} z_k^j$$

As $(1 - \alpha h)^{-N} \sim \exp(\alpha T)$ when $h \rightarrow 0$, one can see that, as soon as $T > -\frac{\ln(\varepsilon)}{\alpha}$, this error may become overwhelming. This phenomenon is illustrated on Figure 4.2a on a sample of 100 trajectories.

In order to mitigate this effect, we propose to modify the Algorithm 2 as follows: in its second loop (usual Euler scheme), instead of saving only the last values x_T^j , one may define a small subset $\tilde{\Pi} \subset \Pi$ and save the intermediate values $x_{t_i}^j$, $t_i \in \tilde{\Pi}$. Then, in the last loop (inverse Euler scheme), every time that $t_i \in \tilde{\Pi}$, the current value of the set $x_{t_i}^j$ may be recovered from this previous storage.

Figure 4.2b illustrates the new behaviour of the compound rounding error with this mended algorithm, on an example with $T = 10$ years and 4 intermediate saves (in addition to the final values).

The drawback of this modification, of course, is that it multiplies the required storage space by the factor $\#\bar{\Pi}$. However, this remains much smaller than the $\mathcal{O}(M \times N)$ required by the naive full storage algorithm.

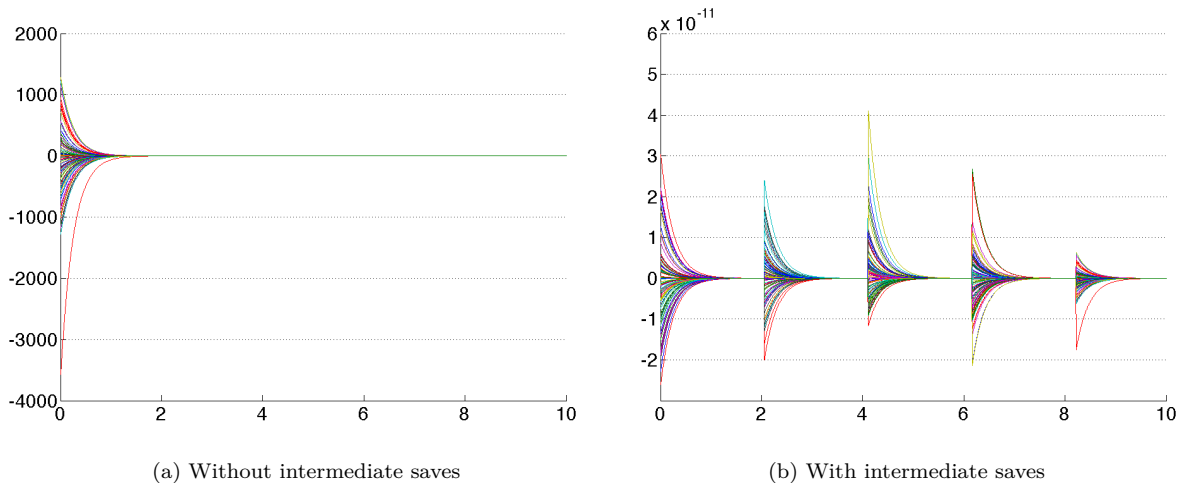


Figure 4.2: Compound rounding error for the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process

5 Application to investment in electricity generation

This section is devoted to an application of the resolution method studied in Section 2. We choose to apply it to an investment problem in electricity generation on a single geographical zone. We intend to show that it is possible to provide a probabilistic outlook of future electricity generation mixes instead of a deterministic outlook provided by planification methods. Nevertheless, the problem presents so many difficulties that addressing all of them in the same model is unreasonable. Some aspects have thus to be left aside. Our goal here is to show that the algorithm described in Section 3 can handle high-dimensional investment problems. We focus on the influence of investment decisions on the spot price, consistently with the fundamentals of the electricity spot price formation mechanism.

Although the strategic aspect of investment is an important driver of utilities' decisions, this aspect is beyond the scope of our modeling approach. There exist models limited to a two-stage decision making (see for instance [46]), but in the case of continuously repeated multiplayer game models, defining what is a closed-loop strategy is already a difficulty (see Sec. 2 in [7]).

We did not consider time-to-build in this implementation either. Relying on the fact that it is possible to transform an investment model with time-to-build into a model without time-to-build by replacing capacities with committed capacities (see [9, 1] for implementations in dimension one, and [26] in dimension two), we left this aspect for future work.

Finally, we did not consider the dynamic constraints of power generation. Their effect on spot prices is well-known: they tend to increase spot prices during peak hours and to decrease them during off-peak hours (see [41]). However, we assume here that this effect is negligible compared to the effect induced by a lack or an excess of capacity.

Thus, we focused on the following key factors of electricity spot prices: demand, capacities (including random outages) and fuel prices. Our model is based on [5, 4], where the electricity spot price is defined as a linear combination of fuel prices multiplied by a scarcity factor. This model exhibits the main feature wanted here, which is that the spot price, being determined both by the fuel prices and the residual capacity, is directly affected by the evolution of the installed capacity. When the residual capacity tends to decrease, spot prices will tend to increase, making investment valuable. Thus, in this model, investments are undertaken not on the specific purpose of satisfying the demand but as soon as they are profitable. In our example, new capacities are invested according to the criterion of value maximization.

Energy non-served and loss of load probability may still be adjusted through the price cap on the spot market.

In this section, we first detail the chosen modelling and objective function (which will be shown to be encompassed in the general optimal multiple switching problem (2.1)), and then solve it numerically using the general algorithm developed in the previous sections.

5.1 Modelling

The key variable in order to describe our electricity generation investment problem is the price of electricity. More precisely, the key quantities are the spreads between the prices of electricity and other energies. To model these spreads accurately, it may be worth considering a structural model for electricity (cf. the survey [14]). Here we choose such a model, mainly inspired by those introduced in [5] and [4], albeit amended and customized for a long-term time horizon. All the variables involved are detailed below.

5.1.1 Electricity demand

The electricity demand, or electricity load, at time t on the given geographical zone considered is modelled by an exogenous stochastic process $(D_t)_{t \geq 0}$:

$$D_t = f_0(t) + Z_t^0 \quad (5.1)$$

where Z^0 is an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (henceforth O.U.) process:

$$dZ_t^0 = -\alpha_0 Z_t^0 dt + \beta_0 dW_t^D$$

where α_0 and β_0 are constants, and f_0 is a deterministic function that takes into account demand seasonalities:

$$f_0(t) = d_1 + d_2 \cos\left(2\pi \frac{t - d_3}{l_1}\right) + f_{week}(t) \quad (5.2)$$

where d_j , $1 \leq j \leq 3$ are constants, and, assuming that t is expressed in years, $l_1 = 1$ (yearly seasonality), and f_{week} is a periodic non-parametric deterministic function describing the intra-week load pattern.

5.1.2 Production capacities

Let d' be the number of different production technologies. Denote as $I_t = (I_t^1, \dots, I_t^{d'})$ the installed production capacities at time t . They represent the maximum amount of electricity that is physically possible to produce. These fleets can be modified: at a given time τ_n , one can decide to build (or dismantle) an amount ζ_n of capacities:

$$I_{\tau_n} = I_{\tau_n^-} + \zeta_n, \quad n \geq 0 \quad (5.3)$$

Denote as $\alpha = (\tau_n, \zeta_n)_{n \geq 1}$ the corresponding impulse control strategy, where $(\tau_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is an increasing sequence of stopping times with $\tau_n \nearrow \infty$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$, and $(\zeta_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is a sequence of vectors corresponding to the increases (or decreases) in capacities. Apart from these variations, I_t will be deemed constant, i.e.:

$$I_t = I_{0^-} + \sum_{n, \tau_n \leq t} \zeta_n. \quad (5.4)$$

Now, denote as $C_t = (C_t^1, \dots, C_t^{d'})$ the available production capacities. Because of spinning reserves, maintenance and random outages, these quantities are lower than the installed capacities I_t , which represent their physical maximum. In other terms, C_t is a fraction of I_t :

$$C_t^i = I_t^i \times A_t^i \quad (5.5)$$

for every $1 \leq i \leq d'$, where A_t^i corresponds to the rate of availability of the i^{th} production technology. Therefore one must choose a model for the process A_t that ensures that it stays within the interval $[0, 1]$.

One possibility would be to model it as a Jacobi process (see for instance [56], where it is used to model stochastic correlations, and the references therein for more information on this process). This process is however tricky to estimate and simulate (see [31] for the description of some possible methods), and its main simulation method (the truncated Euler scheme) disables our memory reduction method described in Subsection 4.2. Hence we look for a simpler model.

In [58], a detailed structural model for electricity is developed, which includes renewable energies like wind and solar. In particular, wind power infeed efficiency (which belongs to $[0, 1]$) is modelled as a logit transform of an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process with seasonality. Adapting this idea, we model $(A_t^i)_{t \geq 0}^{1 \leq i \leq d'}$ as follows:

$$A_t^i := \mathcal{T}(f_i(t) + Z_t^i) \quad (5.6)$$

where Z , f and \mathcal{T} are chosen as follows:

- Z^i is an O.U. process :

$$dZ_t^i = -\alpha_i Z_t^i dt + \beta_i dW_t^{Z^i}$$

where $\alpha_i > 0$, $\beta_i > 0$ and $(W_t^{Z^i})_{t \geq 0}$ is a Brownian motion.

- The deterministic function f_i accounts for the seasonality in the availability of production capacities:

$$f_i(t) = c_1^i + c_2^i \cos\left(2\pi \frac{t - c_3^i}{l_1}\right) \quad (5.7)$$

where c_k^i , $1 \leq k \leq 3$, $1 \leq i \leq d'$ are constants. This seasonality stems from the maintenance plannings, which usually mimic the long term seasonality of demand, which in turn originates in the seasonality of temperature.

- The function $\mathcal{T} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is here to ensure that $\forall t \geq 0$, $A_t \in [0, 1]^{d'}$. One can choose the versatile logit function as in [58], or any other mapping of \mathbb{R} into $[0, 1]$. For instance, any cumulative distribution function would be suitable. As the process Z is gaussian and asymptotically stationary, we choose for \mathcal{T} the (standard) normal cumulative distribution function, as it makes, in particular, the calibration process trivial.

5.1.3 Fuels and CO₂ prices

For each technology i , denote as S_t^i the price of the fuel i to produce electricity at time t . In the particular case of renewable energies, which, *per se*, do not involve traded fuels, the corresponding S_t^i can be chosen to be zero. Moreover, define S_t^0 as the price of CO₂. Denote as S_t the full vector $(S_t^0, S_t^1, \dots, S_t^{d'})$.

Now, we introduce the multiplicative constants needed to convert these quantities into €/MWh. For each technology $i = 1, \dots, d'$, let h_i denote its heat rate, and h_i^0 denote its CO₂ emission rate. Hence, the quantity

$$\tilde{S}_t^i := h_i^0 S_t^0 + h_i S_t^i \quad (5.8)$$

expressed in €/MWh, corresponds to the price in € to pay in order to produce 1MWh of electricity using the i th technology. We note $h^0 = (h_1^0, \dots, h_{d'}^0) \in \mathbb{R}^{d'}$ and $h = (h_1, \dots, h_{d'}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d'}$.

Remark 5.1. One can choose to add a fixed cost into the definition of \tilde{S}_t^i . This is all the more so relevant for technologies whose fixed costs outweigh the cost of fuel (e.g. nuclear).

Adapting the work of [10], we model S_t as a multidimensional, cointegrated geometric Brownian motion:

$$dS_t = \Xi S_t dt + \Sigma S_t dW_t^S$$

where Ξ and Σ are $(d' + 1) \times (d' + 1)$ matrices with $1 \leq \text{rank}(\Xi) < d'$, and $(W_t^S)_{t \geq 0}$ is a $(d' + 1)$ -dimensional Brownian motion. This model ensures the positivity of prices, as well as the existence of long-term relationships between energy prices (the relevance of which is illustrated, for instance, in [47]).

5.1.4 Electricity price

We model the price of electricity using a long-term structural model. First, we define the marginal cost of electricity using the previously introduced variables. For any time $t \geq 0$, define the permutation $(1), \dots, (M)$ of the numbers $1, \dots, M$, such that $S_t^{(1)} \leq \dots \leq S_t^{(M)}$. Then, define $\bar{C}_t^{(i)}$ as the total capacity available at time t from the i first technologies, i.e. $\bar{C}_t^{(i)} := \sum_{j \leq i} C_t^{(j)}$. Using these notations and equation (5.8), the marginal cost of electricity at time t is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} MC_t &:= \tilde{S}_t^{(1)} \mathbf{1} \{D_t < \bar{C}_t^{(1)}\} + \sum_{i=2}^{M-1} \tilde{S}_t^{(i)} \mathbf{1} \{\bar{C}_t^{(i-1)} \leq D_t < \bar{C}_t^{(i)}\} + \tilde{S}_t^{(M)} \mathbf{1} \{\bar{C}_t^{(M-1)} \leq D_t\} \\ &= \tilde{S}_t^{(1)} + \sum_{i=1}^{M-1} \left(\tilde{S}_t^{(i+1)} - \tilde{S}_t^{(i)} \right) \mathbf{1} \{D_t - \bar{C}_t^{(i)} \geq 0\} \end{aligned}$$

Refer to [5] for more details on marginal costs. Remark that the price of CO₂ emissions is explicitly included in the marginal cost (through equation (5.8)).

Now, we are going to use this marginal cost as a building block of our price model, along with some power law *scarcity premiums* (along the lines of [4]) as well as a fixed upper bound¹.

First, consider two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) in \mathbb{R}^2 . One can always find three positive constants $a := a(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2)$, $b := b(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2)$ and $c := c(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2)$ such that the function:

$$p(x) := p(x; x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) = \frac{a}{b-x} + c \quad (5.9)$$

satisfies $p(x_1) = y_1$ and $p(x_2) = y_2$ ².

Using this notation, introduce the price P_t of electricity, defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} P_t &:= \tilde{S}_t^{(1)} \mathbf{1} \{D_t < 0\} + \left\{ \tilde{S}_t^{(1)} + p\left(D_t; 0, \bar{C}_t^{(1)}, \tilde{S}_t^{(1)}, \tilde{S}_t^{(2)}\right) \right\} \mathbf{1} \{0 \leq D_t < \bar{C}_t^{(1)}\} \\ &\quad \sum_{i=2}^{d'-1} \left\{ \tilde{S}_t^{(i)} + p\left(D_t; \bar{C}_t^{(i-1)}, \bar{C}_t^{(i)}, \tilde{S}_t^{(i)}, \tilde{S}_t^{(i+1)}\right) \right\} \mathbf{1} \{\bar{C}_t^{(i-1)} \leq D_t < \bar{C}_t^{(i)}\} \\ &\quad + \left\{ \tilde{S}_t^{(d')} + p\left(D_t; \bar{C}_t^{(d'-1)}, \bar{C}_t^{(d')}, \tilde{S}_t^{(d')}, M_{\max}\right) \right\} \mathbf{1} \{\bar{C}_t^{(d'-1)} \leq D_t\} \end{aligned} \quad (5.10)$$

where $M_{\max} > 0$ is a fixed upper bound on the price of electricity. In particular, the last term, the one involving M_{\max} , enables price spikes to occur (when the residual capacity is small).

Moreover, thanks to the knitting function (5.9), the electricity price P is a Lipschitz continuous function of the structural variables D , C and S ³, which is what motivated this specific choice of model.

5.1.5 Objective function

We now explicit the objective function of the investor in electricity generation. Suppose that, at time t , an agent (a producer, or an investor) modifies the level of installed capacity of type $j \in [1, d']$, from I_{t-}^j to $I_s^j = I_{t-}^j + \zeta^j$, $s \geq t$. It generates the cost:

$$k(\zeta^j) := \begin{cases} \kappa_j^{f+} + \zeta^j \kappa_j^{p+} & , \zeta^j > 0 \\ 0 & , \zeta^j = 0 \\ \kappa_j^{f-} - \zeta^j \kappa_j^{p-} & , \zeta^j < 0 \end{cases}$$

¹Indeed, in the French, German and Austrian markets for instance, power prices cannot be set outside the $[-3000, 3000]$ €/MWh range, see <http://www.epexspot.com/en/product-info/auction..>

²For instance, fix $a > 0$, then define $b = \frac{1}{2} \left(x_1 + x_2 + \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + 4a \frac{x_2 - x_1}{y_2 - y_1}} \right)$ and finally $c = y_1 - \frac{a}{b-x_1}$.

³Rigorously, this property requires that C does not reach zero. One can, for instance, add a fixed minimum availability rate $1 \gg a_{\min} > 0$ to the definition (5.6), replacing \mathcal{T} by $a_{\min} + (1 - a_{\min}) \mathcal{T}$

where κ_j^{f+} and κ_j^{p+} are the fixed and proportional costs of building new plants of type j , and κ_j^{f-} and κ_j^{p-} are the fixed and proportional costs of dismantling old plants of type j .

Consider the case of new plants ($\zeta^j > 0$). Assuming that the global availability rate(5.6) of technology j applies to the new plants, they can then produce up to $\zeta^j A_s^j$, $s \geq t$, or, more precisely, according to the stack order principle:

$$\min \left\{ \zeta^j A_s^j, \left(D_s - \bar{C}_s^{(j-1)} \right)^+ \right\}$$

assuming that, in the stack order, the new plants are called before the older plants I_{t-} of the same technology (as they can be expected to have an at least slightly better efficiency rate compared to the older plants of the same technology, a phenomenon that can be seen as partly captured by the function (5.9)).

At time $s \geq t$, this production is sold at price P_s , but costs \tilde{S}_s to produce (if $P_s < \tilde{S}_s$, then of course the producer chooses not to produce). In addition, regardless of the output level, there may exist a fixed maintenance cost κ_j . Summing up all these gains, discounted to time t using a constant interest rate $\rho > 0$, the new plant yield a revenue of:

$$\int_t^\infty e^{-\rho s} \left(\min \left\{ \zeta^j A_s^j, D_s - \bar{C}_s^{(j-1)} \right\} \times \left(P_s - \tilde{S}_s^j \right)^+ - \kappa_i \right) ds$$

(noticing that with our power price model, $\left\{ D_s - \bar{C}_s^{(j-1)} \leq 0 \right\} \Leftrightarrow \left\{ P_s - \tilde{S}_s^j \leq 0 \right\}$). This was the cost-benefit analysis for one quantity ζ^j of new plants. Now, consider as a whole the full fleet of the geographical zone considered. Maximizing the expected gains along the potential new plants yields the following value function:

$$v(t, x, i) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{t,i}} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{j=1}^{d'} \int_t^\infty e^{-\rho s} \left(\min \left\{ C_s^j, D_s - \bar{C}_s^{(j-1)} \right\} \times \left(P_s - \tilde{S}_s^j \right)^+ - \kappa_i \right) ds - \sum_{\tau_n \geq t} e^{-\rho \tau_n} k(\zeta^j) \right] \quad (5.11)$$

where the strategies α affect the installed capacities (equations (5.4)), hence also the available capacities (equation (5.5)) as well as the power price (equation (5.10)), and where the cash flows are purposely discounted up to time 0, the time of interest.

Remark 5.2. Replacing P in (5.11) by its definition (5.10), it is patent that this objective function fits into the mould studied thoroughly in Section 3. In Subsection 5.2 below, our algorithm will be applied to this specific objective function.

Remark 5.3. Remark that under this modelling, the demand is satisfied as long as it does not exceed the total available capacity. Indeed, the effective output of the plant ζ^j is equal to $\min \left\{ \zeta^j A_s^j, \left(D_s - \bar{C}_s^{(j-1)} \right)^+ \right\} \times \mathbf{1} \left\{ P_s - \tilde{S}_s^j > 0 \right\}$. It is indeed governed by the electricity spot price level, but, as with our modelling $\mathbf{1} \left\{ P_s - \tilde{S}_s^j > 0 \right\} = \mathbf{1} \left\{ D_s - \bar{C}_s^{(j-1)} > 0 \right\}$, summing up the effective outputs of all the power plants yield $\sum_{j=1}^{d'} \min \left\{ C_s^j, D_s - \bar{C}_s^{(j-1)} \right\} \times \mathbf{1} \left\{ D_s - \bar{C}_s^{(j-1)} > 0 \right\} = \min \left\{ D_s, \bar{C}_s^{(d')} \right\}$.

5.2 Numerical results

Finally, we solve the control problem described in Subsection 5.1 on a numerical example, using the algorithm detailed in Subsection 3 combined with the general memory reduction method described in Subsection 4.2.

Our purpose here is not to perform a full study of investments in electricity markets, but a more modest attempt at illustrating the practical feasibility of our approach, with some possible outputs that the algorithm can provide.

We consider a numerical example including two cointegrated fuels (in addition to the price of CO_2): one “base fuel” and one “peak fuel”, starting respectively from $40\text{€}/\text{MWh}$ and $80\text{€}/\text{MWh}$. Hence, using the notations from Subsection 5.1, $d' = 2$ (two technologies) and $d = 6$ (electricity demand, CO_2 price, two fuel prices and two availability rates). In order to take into account the minimum size of one power plant we restrict the values of the installed capacity process(5.4) to a (bi-dimensional) fixed grid $\Lambda^{d'}$, with a mesh of 1GW. We make the simplifying assumptions that investments are irreversible, and that no dismantling can occur (recall from Subsection 4.1 the computational gain provided by this assumption).

Remark 5.4. If such a grid is indeed manageable in dimension $d' = 2$, it may less be the case if additional technologies were considered. However, as discussed in [53] equation (3.2), instead of performing one regression for each $i \in \Lambda^{d'}$, one can solve equation (3.16) at time t_i by only one $(d + d')$ -dimensional regression, by choosing an a priori law for the randomized control ζ_{t_i} . The error analysis from Section 2 can be easily generalized to such regressions in higher dimension.

Figure 5.1 illustrates the evolution of the optimal strategy on this numerical example.

Figure 5.1a shows the time evolution of the average optimal strategy. One can distinguish a first short phase characterised by the construction of several GW of peak load assets, followed by a much slower second phase involving the construction of both base load and peak load assets. Moreover, the increase in variance of the optimal strategy is also clearly visible.

Figure 5.1b details the distribution of the optimal strategy at time $T = 40$ years. One can see that the more the peak fuel is expensive (and hence both fuels are expensive, as they are cointegrated), the more constructions of base load plants occur.

The fact that the average fleet seem to converge is related to the fact that this numerical example does not consider any growth trend in the electricity demand (recall equation (5.2)). Otherwise, more investments would occur, indeed, to keep the pace with consumption.

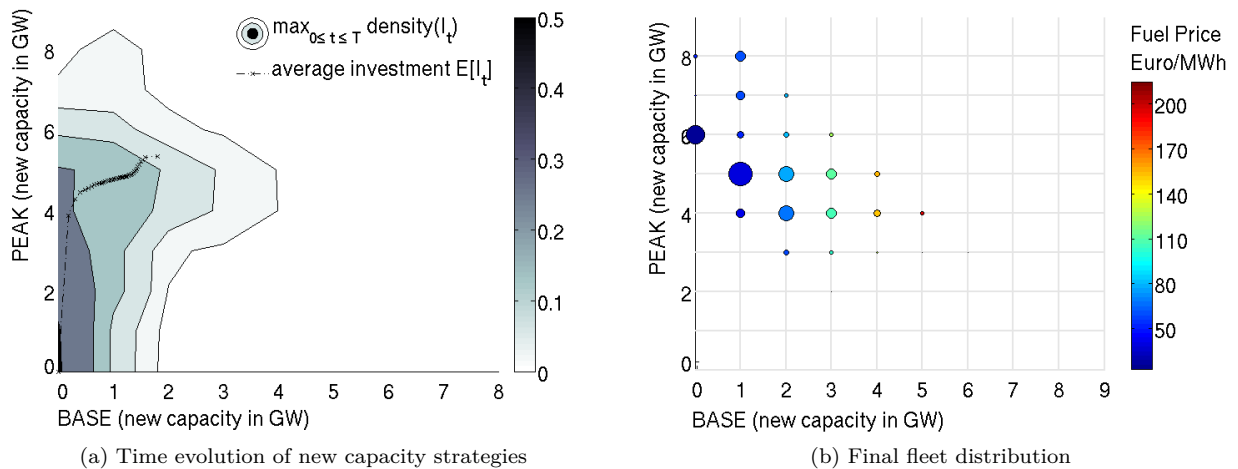


Figure 5.1: Optimal strategies

Figure 5.2 illustrates the evolution of the price of electricity.

Figure 5.2a displays the time evolution of the electricity spot price density. For better readability, each density covers one whole year. One can see how the density moves away from the initial bimodal density (with prices clustering around the initial prices of the two fuels) towards a more diffuse density. One can notice the downward effect of investments on prices.

This effect is more visible on Figure 5.2b. It compares the effect on electricity prices of three different strategies: the optimal strategy, the optimal deterministic strategy (computed as the average of the optimal strategy), and the do-nothing strategy. For each strategy, the joint time-evolution of the yearly median price and the yearly interquartile range are drawn. As expected, prices tend to be higher and more scattered without any new plant. Nevertheless, on this example, the distributions of prices under

the optimal deterministic and optimal strategies are close (only slightly less scattered under the optimal strategy).

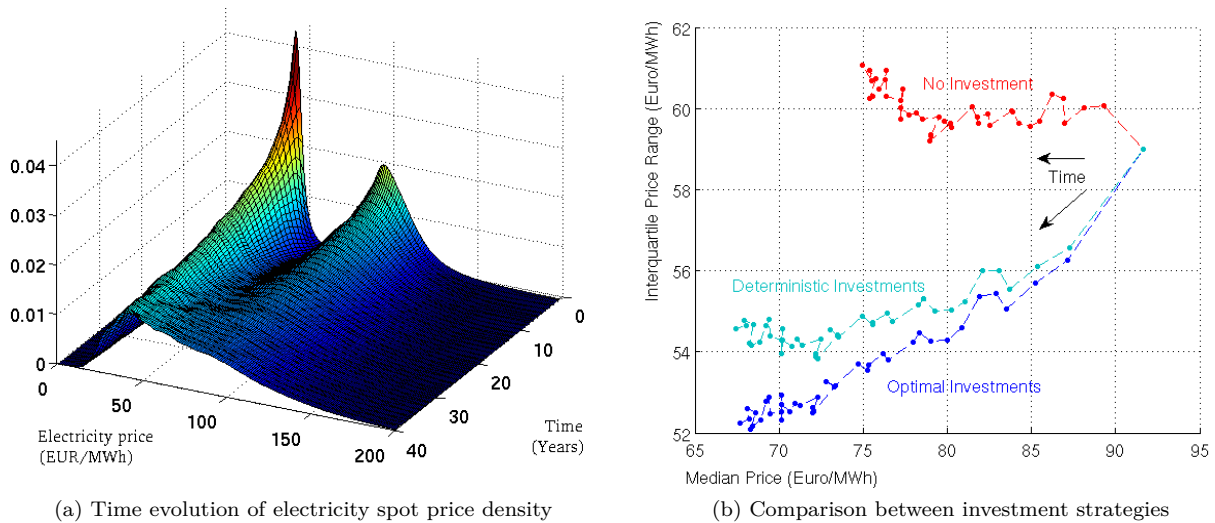


Figure 5.2: Electricity spot price

These few pictures give examples on the kind of information that can be extracted from the resolution of this control problem. Of course, much more can be extracted and analyzed (distribution of income, CO₂ emissions, optimal exercise frontiers, etc).

6 Conclusion

In this paper, we presented a probabilistic method to solve optimal multiple switching problems. We showed on a realistic investment model for electricity generation that it can efficiently provide insight into the distribution of future generation mixes and electricity spot prices. We intend to develop this work in several directions in the future. First, we wish to take into account more generation technologies, most notably wind farms, nuclear production, as well as solar distributed production. These additions would raise the dimension of the problem from eight to fifteen. Yet another range of innovations in numerical methods will be necessary to overcome this increase in dimension. Second, we wish to take time-to-build into account. And last but not least, we wish to adapt the problem to a continuous-time multiplayer game and contribute to the quest for an efficient algorithm to solve it.

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