

Golden optimal processes on three dynamics :deterministic, stochastic and non-deterministic

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Abstract

This paper discusses a common criterion on three different dynamics. The criterion is discounted quadratic. The dynamics are deterministic, stochastic and non-deterministic. We consider two problems from a viewpoint of Golden optimality. The first problem is to find an optimal solution – value function and optimal policy – . The second problem is to discuss whether the optimal solution is Golden or not. Is the value function Golden? Is the optimal policy Golden? We give a complete solution to the first problem through two approaches – evaluation-optimization method and dynamic programming method – . The solution of the second depends on the discount rate β ($0 < \beta < \infty$). We show that both – deterministic and non-deterministic – dynamics allow the Golden optimal solution for $\beta = 1$. Further all the three dynamics allow the Golden optimal policy for $\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$.

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JEL classification: C61

1 Introduction

The *Golden ratio* is the symbol of beauty and practical use. It has been utilized in architecture, art, design, biology, science, engineering, and others [13]. Recently it has been incorporated into *optimization problems*. There a new – Golden (and) optimal – solution is obtained. Both static problems [5–7] and dynamic problems [8, 10, 11] are studied from the Golden optimality. The static optimization is two-variable. The dynamic

one is infinite variable — discrete-horizon [10,11] and continuous-time [8] —. All of them are on *deterministic* system.

This paper minimizes a discounted quadratic criterion on three – (1) deterministic, (2) stochastic and (3) non-deterministic – dynamics. We consider two problems from a viewpoint of Golden optimality. The first problem is to find an optimal solution – (i) value function, (ii) optimal policy, (iii) minimum value – . The second problem is to discuss whether the optimal solution is Golden or not. Our approaches are evaluation-optimization method and dynamic programming method. We give an optimal solution to the first. The solution of the second depends on the discount rate β ($0 < \beta < \infty$). We show that both – (1) deterministic and (3) non-deterministic – dynamics allow the Golden optimal solution for $\beta = 1$. Further all the three dynamics allow the Golden optimal policy for $\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \approx 0.4772$

2 Golden Paths

A real number

$$\phi = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.618$$

is called *Golden number*. It is the larger of the two solutions to quadratic equation

$$x^2 - x - 1 = 0. \quad (1)$$

Sometimes (1) is called *Fibonacci quadratic equation*. The Fibonacci quadratic equation has two real solutions: ϕ and its *conjugate* $\bar{\phi} := 1 - \phi$. We note that

$$\phi + \bar{\phi} = 1, \quad \phi \cdot \bar{\phi} = -1.$$

Further we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^{-1} &= \phi - 1 \approx 0.618, & \phi^{-2} &= 2 - \phi \approx 0.382 \\ \phi^{-1} + \phi^{-2} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

A point $\phi^{-2}x$ splits an interval $[0, x]$ into two intervals $[0, \phi^{-2}x]$ and $[\phi^{-2}x, x]$. A point $\phi^{-1}x$ splits the interval into $[0, \phi^{-1}x]$ and $[\phi^{-1}x, x]$. In either case, the length constitutes the Golden ratio $\phi^{-2} : \phi^{-1} = 1 : \phi$. Thus both divisions are the *Golden section*.

Definition 2.1 A sequence $\{x_n\}_0^\infty$ is called *Golden* if and only if either

$$x_{n+1} = \phi^{-1}x_n \quad n \geq 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x_{n+1} = \phi^{-2}x_n \quad n \geq 0.$$

Lemma 2.1 A *Golden* sequence $\{x_n\}_0^\infty$ is either

$$x_n = c\phi^{-n} \quad n \geq 0 \quad (\text{Fig. 2}) \quad \text{or} \quad x_n = c\phi^{-2n} \quad (\text{Fig. 1}),$$

where c is a real constant.

Definition 2.2 A sequence of Markov random variables $\{X_n\}_0^\infty$ with $X_0 = x_0$ is called Golden if and only if either

$$E[X_{n+1} | x_n] = \phi^{-1}x_n \quad n \geq 0 \quad \text{or} \quad E[X_{n+1} | x_n] = \phi^{-2}x_n \quad n \geq 0.$$

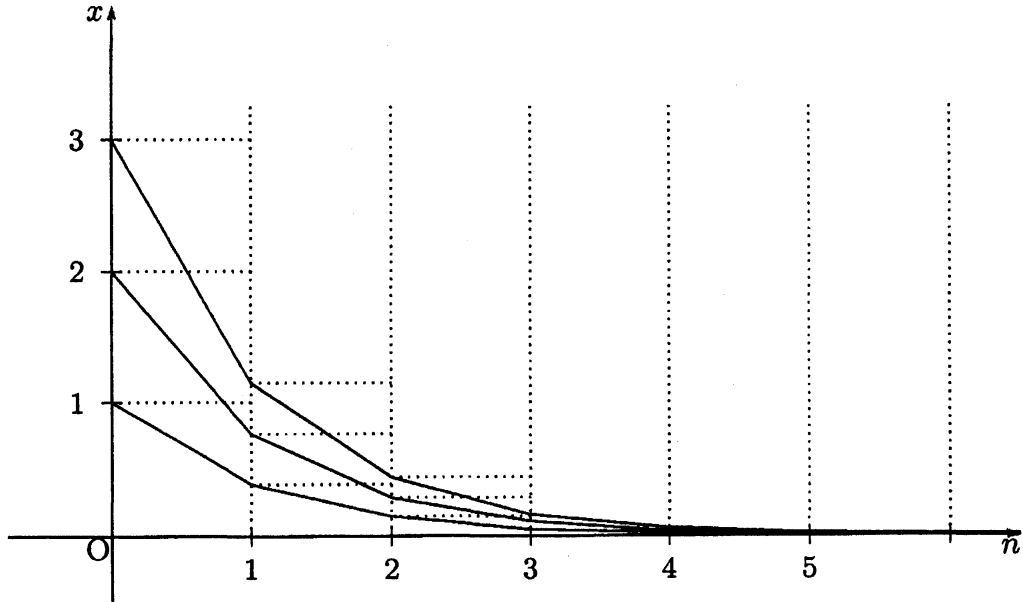


Fig. 1 Golden paths of rate ϕ^{-2} $x_n = c\phi^{-2n}$ $c = 1, 2, 3$

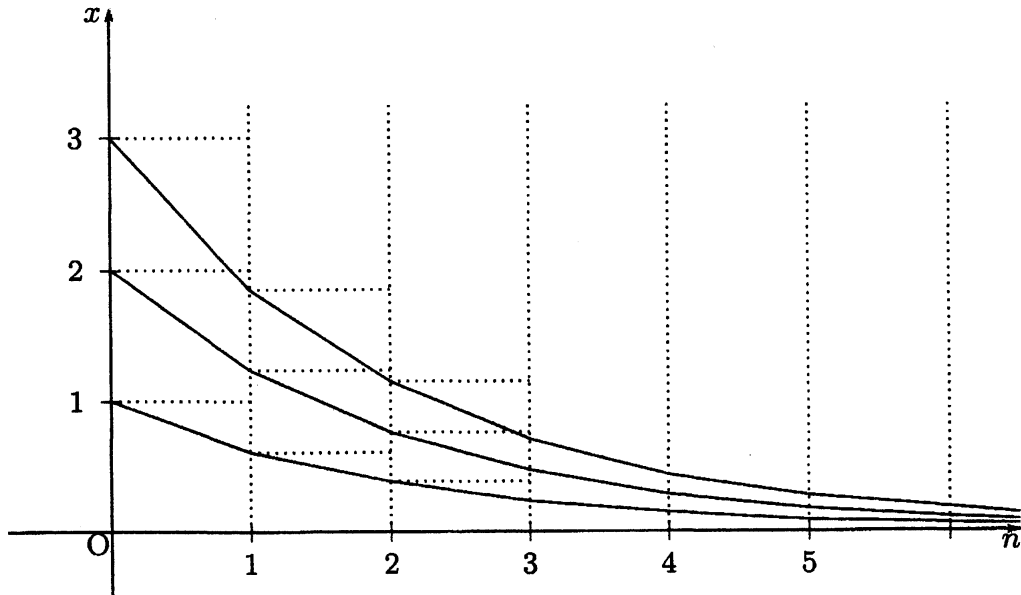


Fig. 2 Golden paths of rate ϕ^{-1} $x_n = c\phi^{-n}$ $c = 1, 2, 3$

We remark that either Golden sequence is supermartingale. In either case, $E[X_{n+1} | x_n]$ generates a Golden section of interval $[0, x_n]$ for $x_n \geq 0$ and does a Golden section of interval $[x_n, 0]$ for $x_n \leq 0$.

Let $\{\epsilon_n\}_1^\infty$ be a sequence of independent and identical random variables with the standard normal distributuion. Then

$$E[\epsilon_n] = 0, \quad E[\epsilon_n^2] = 1.$$

For given x_0 and y_0 we define two sequences of Markov random variables $\{X_n\}$ and $\{Y_n\}$ by

$$\begin{aligned} X_{n+1} &= \phi^{-1}X_n - \epsilon_{n+1}, & X_0 &= x_0 \\ Y_{n+1} &= \phi^{-2}Y_n - \epsilon_{n+1}, & Y_0 &= y_0. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 2.2 *Then $\{X_n\}$ and $\{Y_n\}$ are Golden.*

3 Three Dynamics

We consider three dynamic optimization problems with a common discounted quadratic criterion.

The first is a deterministic dynamics on which we minimizes a typical quadratic function. The problem is called linear-quadratic (LQ) [2, 3] :

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n (x_n^2 + u_n^2) \\ & \text{subject to} \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{(i)} \quad x_{n+1} = x_n - u_n \\ & \text{(ii)} \quad u_n \in R^1 \\ & \text{(iii)} \quad x_0 = c, \end{aligned} \quad n \geq 0 \end{aligned} \tag{D}$$

where $c \in R^1$. Here (i) denotes that next state x_{n+1} turns out to be $x_n - u_n$ with certainty from state x_n under decision u_n . This dynamics together with immediate cost is depicted as

$$R^1 \ni x_n \xrightarrow[\hookrightarrow x_n^2 + u_n^2]{\downarrow u_n \in R^1} \text{a unique } x_{n+1} := x_n - u_n \in R^1,$$

where $\hookrightarrow$ denotes that state x_n under decision u_n yields the stage-cost $x_n^2 + u_n^2$.

The second is a stochastic dynamics on which we minimizes the expected value of the

same quadratic function as in deterministic one:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{minimize } E_{x_0} \left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n (x_n^2 + u_n^2) \right] \\
 & \text{subject to } \quad \text{(i) } x_{n+1} = x_n - u_n - \epsilon_{n+1} \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \text{(ii) } u_n \in R^1 \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \text{(iii) } x_0 = c,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{S} \quad n \geq 0$$

where $c \in R^1$. The problem (S) is called stochastic linear-quadratic (LQ). Here $\{\epsilon_n\}_1^\infty$ is a sequence of independently and identically distributed random variables with the standard normal distribution. Thus (i) denotes that x_{n+1} appears on R^1 with transition probability $q(x_{n+1} | x_n, u_n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x_{n+1}-x_n+u_n)^2/2}$ from x_n under u_n . This dynamics is depicted as

$$R^1 \ni x_n \xrightarrow[\hookrightarrow x_n^2 + u_n^2]{\downarrow u_n \in R^1} x_{n+1} \text{ w.p. } q(x_{n+1} | x_n, u_n) \text{ for any } x_{n+1} \in R^1.$$

The third is on non-deterministic dynamics. There we minimize a total discounted weighted value of quadratic cost:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{minimize } \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n W_{x_0} [x_n^2 + u_n^2] \\
 & \text{subject to } \quad \text{(i) } 0 < x_{n+1} < x_n - u_n \text{ with weight } 2/x_{n+1} \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \text{(ii) } u_n \in R^1 \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \text{(iii) } x_0 = c,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{N} \quad n \geq 0$$

where $c > 0$. We call the problem (N) is *non-deterministic* quadratic (Q). Here the infinite series is defined in Section 6. The successive constraint (i) denotes that x_{n+1} appears on the open interval $(0, x_n - u_n)$ with transition weight $2/x_{n+1}$ from x_n under u_n . This dynamics is depicted as

$$(0, \infty) \ni x_n \xrightarrow[\hookrightarrow x_n^2 + u_n^2]{\downarrow u_n \in (-\infty, x_n)} x_{n+1} \text{ w.w. } \frac{2}{x_{n+1}} \text{ for any } x_{n+1} \in (0, x_n - u_n).$$

A characteristic feature of the dynamics is as follows. As next state degenerates small, its weight grows unboundedly large. The total weight from any state x_n under any decision u_n diverges to ∞ as long as $x_n - u_n > 0$:

$$\int_0^{x_n - u_n} \frac{2}{x_{n+1}} dx_{n+1} = \infty.$$

4 Deterministic Dynamics

Let us consider the discounted quadratic criterion on deterministic dynamics:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{minimize} \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n (x_n^2 + u_n^2) \\
 (D) \quad & \text{subject to} \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{(i)} \quad x_{n+1} = x_n - u_n \\ & \text{(ii)} \quad u_n \in R^1 \\ & \text{(iii)} \quad x_0 = c, \end{aligned} \quad n \geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

where $c \in R^1$ is a given constant.

4.1 Evaluation-optimization

Let us solve (D) through evaluation-optimization method, which has two stages. The first stage evaluates any policy in a class of policies and the second minimizes the evaluated value over the class.

A stationary policy f^∞ is called *proportional* if the decision function is specified by $f(x) = px$, where p is a real constant. Then p is called a *proportional rate*. In this subsection, we consider the set of all proportional policies whose rate p satisfies $\beta(1-p)^2 < 1$.

Lemma 4.1 *A proportional policy $f^\infty, f(x) = px$, yields the objective value*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n (x_n^2 + u_n^2) = \frac{r}{1 - \beta q} x_0^2,$$

where $r = 1 + p^2$, $q = (1 - p)^2$.

Now let us consider the ratio minimization problem

$$\text{minimize} \quad \frac{r}{1 - \beta q} \quad \text{subject to} \quad \beta q < 1.$$

This is expressed as a single-variable problem :

$$\begin{aligned}
 (C_\beta) \quad & \text{minimize} \quad \frac{1 + p^2}{1 - \beta(1 - p)^2} \\
 & \text{subject to} \quad 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\beta}} < p < 1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\beta}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 4.2 *The problem (C_β) has the minimum value*

$$m = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2\beta} \quad \text{at} \quad \hat{p} = \frac{\sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1} - 1}{2\beta}.$$

Thus we have the optimal policy $\hat{f}^\infty$;

$$\hat{f}(x) = \hat{p}x, \quad \hat{p} = \frac{\sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1} - 1}{2\beta}$$

in the proportional policy class and the value function

$$v(x) = mx^2, \quad m = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2\beta}.$$

We remark that

$$m = 1 + \hat{p}.$$

4.2 Dynamic programming

In this subsection, we apply dynamic programming to optimize the infinite stage problem [1, 4, 8, 12].

Let $v(c)$ be the minimum value for $c \in R^1$. Then $v : R^1 \rightarrow R^1$ is called a *value function*. The value function v satisfies the *Bellman equation* :

$$v(x) = \min_{-\infty < u < \infty} [x^2 + u^2 + \beta v(x - u)], \quad v(0) = 0. \quad (2)$$

Lemma 4.3 *The control process (D) has the proportional optimal policy f^∞ , $f(x) = px$, and the quadratic value function $v(x) = vx^2$, where*

$$v = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2\beta}, \quad p = \frac{\sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1} - 1}{2\beta}.$$

The proportional optimal policy f^∞ splits at any time an interval $[0, x]$ into $[0, (1 - p)x]$ and $[(1 - p)x, x]$. When, in particular, $\beta = 1$, the quadratic coefficient v is reduced to the *Golden number*

$$\phi = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.618$$

and the proportional rate p is reduced to its *inverse number*

$$\phi^{-1} = \phi - 1 = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{2} \approx 0.618$$

Further the division of $[0, x]$ into $[0, \phi^{-2}x]$ and $[\phi^{-2}x, x]$ is Golden. That is, the ratio of length of two intervals constitutes the Golden ratio:

$$\phi^{-2} : \phi^{-1} = 1 : \phi.$$

A quadratic function $w(x) = ax^2$ is called *Golden* if $a = \phi$.

Theorem 4.1 *The control process (D) with unit discount rate $\beta = 1$ has a Golden optimal policy f^∞ , $f(x) = \phi^{-1}x$, and the Golden quadratic value function $v(x) = \phi x^2$.*

5 Stochastic Dynamics

Let us consider the stochastic dynamic process under the condition that the discount rate β should be $0 < \beta < 1$. Soon it will be clarified that the expected value diverges for the case $\beta \geq 1$. Our stochastic dynamic minimization problem is

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{minimize } E_{x_0} \left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n (x_n^2 + u_n^2) \right] \\
 & \text{subject to } \quad \text{(i) } x_{n+1} = x_n - u_n - \epsilon_{n+1} \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \text{(ii) } u_n \in R^1 \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \text{(iii) } x_0 = c,
 \end{aligned} \tag{S} \quad n \geq 0$$

where an initial state $c \in R^1$ is given, and $\{\epsilon_n\}$ is a sequence of random variables that is independently and identically distributed through time and obeys the standard normal distribution. Thus

$$E[\epsilon_n] = 0, \quad E[\epsilon_n^2] = 1.$$

We note that ϵ_n has the probability density function

$$p(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2} \quad -\infty < z < \infty.$$

The next state (random variable) x_{n+1} obeys the normal distribution with mean $x_n - u_n$ and unit variance, provided that a decision u_n is taken at state x_n on stage n . When a decision maker adopts a decision u on state x , the system will go to state (scalar) y with probability $q(y | x, u) = p(y - x + u)$:

$$q(y | x, u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(y-x+u)^2/2} \quad -\infty < y < \infty.$$

We depict this dynamics as

$$(-\infty, \infty) \ni x \xrightarrow[\hookrightarrow x^2 + u^2]{\downarrow u \in (-\infty, \infty)} y \text{ w.p. } q(y | x, u) \text{ for any } y \in (-\infty, \infty).$$

5.1 Evaluation-optimization

Let us evaluate any proportional policy $f^\infty, f(x) = px$ for $0 < p < 2$. The decision maker adopts the decision $u_n = f(x_n) = px_n$ on state x_n . Hence

$$E_{x_0} \left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n (x_n^2 + u_n^2) \right] = r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n E_{x_0} [x_n^2],$$

where $r = 1 + p^2$. The controlled dynamics $x_{n+1} = x_n - u_n - \epsilon_{n+1}$ is reduced to

$$x_{n+1} = (1 - p)x_n - \epsilon_{n+1} \quad x_0 = c. \tag{3}$$

Here we note that $|1 - p| < 1$.

Lemma 5.1 *It follows that under (3)*

$$E[x_n^2] = \frac{1}{1-q} + \left(x_0^2 - \frac{1}{1-q}\right) q^n, \quad (4)$$

where $q = (1-p)^2$.

Lemma 5.2 *A proportional policy $f^\infty, f(x) = px$, yields the expected value*

$$E_{x_0} \left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n (x_n^2 + u_n^2) \right] = \frac{r}{1-\beta q} \left(x_0^2 + \frac{\beta}{1-\beta} \right),$$

where $r = 1 + p^2$, $q = (1-p)^2$.

Note that the term $x_0^2 + \frac{\beta}{1-\beta}$ is independent of p . We have reached the ratio minimization problem (C_β) in the deterministic dynamics. Lemma 4.2 gives the minimum solution of (C_β) .

Thus we have the optimal policy $\hat{f}^\infty$;

$$\hat{f}(x) = \hat{p}x, \quad \hat{p} = \frac{\sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1} - 1}{2\beta}$$

in the proportional policy class and the value function

$$v(x) = mx^2 + \rho, \quad m = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2\beta}, \quad \rho = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2(1-\beta)}.$$

5.2 Dynamic programming

Let $v(c)$ be the minimum value. Then the value function $v : R^1 \rightarrow R^1$ satisfies the Bellman equation:

$$v(x) = \min_{-\infty < u < \infty} [x^2 + u^2 + \beta E_x [v(x - u - \epsilon)]] . \quad (5)$$

This is also written as the controlled integral equation

$$v(x) = \min_{-\infty < u < \infty} \left[x^2 + u^2 + \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(y-x+u)^2} v(y) dy \right].$$

Lemma 5.3 *The control process (S) has a proportional optimal policy $f^\infty, f(x) = px$, and a quadratic value function $v(x) = vx^2 + \rho$, where*

$$v = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2\beta}, \quad \rho = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2(1-\beta)} \quad (6)$$

$$p = \frac{\sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1} - 1}{2\beta}.$$

Thus we see that the stochastic dynamic system (S) has the same optimal policy as deterministic dynamic system (D). This is what we call *certainty equivalence principle*. The value function has a difference ρ which comes from the discounted total noise under uncertainty.

6 Non-deterministic Dynamics

Now we consider the minimization problem on non-deterministic dynamics:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{minimize} \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n W_{x_0} [x_n^2 + u_n^2] \\
 (N) \quad & \text{subject to} \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{(i)} \quad 0 < x_{n+1} < x_n - u_n \quad \text{with weight} \quad 2/x_{n+1} \\ & \text{(ii)} \quad u_n \in R^1 \quad n \geq 0 \\ & \text{(iii)} \quad x_0 = c, \end{aligned}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $c > 0$ is a given constant. The constraints (i), (ii) yields the feasibility $-\infty < u_n < x_n$. Here the n -th term is defined as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_{x_0} [x_n^2 + u_n^2] &= \iint \cdots \int_R \gamma_0 \gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{n-1} r_n dx_1 dx_2 \cdots dx_n \\
 &= \iint \cdots \int_R \frac{2^n (x_n^2 + u_n^2)}{x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n} dx_1 dx_2 \cdots dx_n,
 \end{aligned}$$

where the *transition weight function* and *cost function* are stationary:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma_m &= \gamma(x_m, u_m, x_{m+1}) = \frac{2}{x_{m+1}} \\
 r_n &= r(x_n, u_n) = x_n^2 + u_n^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

The integral domain R is determined through the sequence of decision functions $f_0, f_1, \dots, f_{n-1}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R &= \{ (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \mid 0 < x_1 < x_0 - u_0, \dots, 0 < x_n < x_{n-1} - u_{n-1} \} \\
 &\subset (0, \infty)^n,
 \end{aligned}$$

where $u_m = f_m(x_m)$.

When $n = 0$, we have

$$W_{x_0}[r_0] = x_0^2 + u_0^2.$$

In the following, the sequence of states

$$x \xrightarrow{u} y \xrightarrow{v} z \xrightarrow{w} a \xrightarrow{b} \cdots \xrightarrow{p} s \xrightarrow{q} t \longrightarrow \cdots$$

reads

$$x_0 \xrightarrow{u_0} x_1 \xrightarrow{u_1} x_2 \xrightarrow{u_2} x_3 \xrightarrow{u_3} \cdots \xrightarrow{u_{n-2}} x_{n-1} \xrightarrow{u_{n-1}} x_n \longrightarrow \cdots$$

The first three weighted values are

$$\begin{aligned} W_x [y^2 + v^2] &= \int_C \frac{2(y^2 + v^2)}{y} dy \\ W_x [z^2 + w^2] &= \iint_D \frac{2^2(z^2 + w^2)}{yz} dy dz \\ W_x [a^2 + b^2] &= \iiint_E \frac{2^3(a^2 + b^2)}{yza} dy dz da, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \{y \mid 0 < y < x - u(x)\} \subset (0, \infty) \\ D &= \{(y, z) \mid 0 < y < x - u(x), 0 < z < y - v(y)\} \subset (0, \infty)^2 \\ E &= \{(y, z, a) \mid 0 < y < x - u(x), 0 < z < y - v(y), 0 < a < z - w(z)\} \subset (0, \infty)^3 \end{aligned}$$

We call

$$W_{x_0} [x_n^2 + u_n^2] \quad \text{and} \quad \beta^n W_{x_0} [x_n^2 + u_n^2]$$

n -th weighted value and n -th discounted weighted value, respectively. The limit of series is called a *total discounted weighted value*. Thus the objective function (of x_0) represents a total discounted weighted value by using policy $\pi = \{f_0, f_1, \dots, f_{n-1}, \dots\}$ from initial state x_0 .

Then we consider the total discounted weighted value

$$J(x_0; \pi) := W_{x_0}[r_0] + \beta W_{x_0}[r_1] + \dots + \beta^n W_{x_0}[r_n] + \dots$$

Thus our problem is to choose a policy which minimizes the discounted total weighted value. This is expressed as

$$P(x_0) \quad \text{minimize} \quad J(x_0; \pi) \quad \text{subject to} \quad \pi \in \Pi.$$

6.1 Evaluation-optimization

First we evaluate any proportional policy $\pi = f^\infty, f(x) = px$. The decision maker adopts a decision $u = px$ on state x and the system will go to state y on open interval $(0, x - u) = (0, (1 - p)x)$ with the weight $\frac{2}{y}$. Then we have inductively

$$W_x [x_n^2 + u_n^2] = r q^n x^2.$$

Lemma 6.1 *A proportional policy $\pi = f^\infty, f(x) = px$, yields the objective value*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta^n W_{x_0} [x_n^2 + u_n^2] = \frac{r}{1 - \beta q} x_0^2,$$

where $r = 1 + p^2$, $q = (1 - p)^2$.

Thus we have reached the same ratio minimization problem (C_β) as in deterministic dynamics. Therefore we have the optimal policy $\hat{f}^\infty$;

$$\hat{f}(x) = \hat{p}x, \quad \hat{p} = \frac{\sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1} - 1}{2\beta}$$

and the value function

$$v(x) = mx^2, \quad m = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2\beta}.$$

6.2 Dynamic programming

Let $v(x_0)$ be the minimum value. Then the value function $v : [0, \infty) \rightarrow R^1$ satisfies the Bellman equation:

$$v(x) = \min_{-\infty < u < \infty} \left[x^2 + u^2 + \beta \int_0^{x-u} 2 \frac{v(y)}{y} dy \right] \quad v(0) = 0. \quad (7)$$

This is also written as follows:

$$v(x) = \min_{-\infty < u < \infty} [x^2 + u^2 + \beta W_x^u[v]].$$

We may assume that Eq.(7) has a quadratic form $v(x) = vx^2$, where $v \in R^1$. We solve (7) as follows. Then we have

$$\int_0^{x-u} 2 \frac{v(y)}{y} dy = \int_0^{x-u} 2vy dy = v(x-u)^2.$$

Eq.(7) is reduced to a minimum equation for scalar v :

$$vx^2 = \min_{-\infty < u < \infty} [x^2 + u^2 + \beta v(x-u)^2].$$

Thus we have reached the same situation as in deterministic dynamics as was shown in (5).

Lemma 6.2 *The control process (N) has the proportional optimal policy f^∞ , $f(x) = px$, and the quadratic value function $v(x) = vx^2$, where*

$$v = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2\beta}, \quad p = \frac{\sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1} - 1}{2\beta}.$$

Thus as in deterministic dynamics, we have the same result on Golden optimality:

Theorem 6.1 *The control process (N) with unit discount rate $\beta = 1$ has a Golden optimal policy f^∞ , $f(x) = (\phi - 1)x$, and the Golden quadratic value function $v(x) = \phi x^2$.*

7 Golden Policies

Let us now discuss whether the desired optimal policy is Golden or not. Throughout three presections, we have obtained a common optimal solution. The optimal policy both for stochastic process and for non-deterministic process is identical with the optimal policy for the deterministic process. This is called *certainty equivalence principle*. The three control processes — (D), (S) and (N) — have a common proportional optimal policy

$$f^\infty; f(x) = px$$

and the quadratic value function

$$v(x) = \begin{cases} vx^2 & \text{for (D), (N)} \\ vx^2 + \rho & \text{for (S),} \end{cases}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \frac{\sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1} - 1}{2\beta} = \frac{2\beta}{1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}} \\ v &= \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2\beta}, \quad \rho = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2(1 - \beta)}. \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

The rate p is determined by the coefficient v :

$$p = v - 1.$$

The proportional optimal policy f^∞ splits any interval $[0, x]$ into $[0, (1-p)x]$ and $[(1-p)x, x]$. We are interested in values of discount factor β which yields the two Golden sections. This asks us when $1 - p$ becomes $\phi - 1$ or $2 - \phi$.

Let us now consider both p and $1 - p$ as functions of β . We take

$$p(\beta) := \frac{2\beta}{1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}.$$

Then

$$p'(\beta) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1} (1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1})} > 0.$$

Thus $p(\beta)$ is strictly increasing and

$$1 - p(0) = 1, \quad 1 - p(1) = 2 - \phi \approx 0.382$$

This enables us to solve the equation

$$1 - p(\beta) = \begin{cases} 2 - \phi \\ \phi - 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{i.e.} \quad p(\beta) = \begin{cases} \phi - 1 \\ 2 - \phi. \end{cases}$$

This is reduced to

$$\frac{2\beta}{1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}} = \begin{cases} \phi^{-1} \\ \phi^{-2} \end{cases}.$$

The equation has respective solutions

$$\beta = \begin{cases} 1 \\ \frac{\phi^2}{\phi^4 - 1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \end{cases}.$$

We note that

$$\frac{\phi^2}{\phi^4 - 1} = \frac{1}{(\phi^2 + 1)(\phi - 1)} = \frac{1}{2\phi - 1} = \frac{2\phi - 1}{5} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \approx 0.4772$$

7.1 Deterministic dynamics

The deterministic control process (D) has a discount factor $0 \leq \beta < \infty$.

7.1.1 Case $\beta = 1$

When $\beta = 1$, the quadratic coefficient v is reduced to the *Golden number*

$$v = \phi = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.618$$

and the proportional rate p is reduced to

$$p = \phi - 1 = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{2} \approx 0.618$$

Further the division of $[0, x]$ into $[0, \phi^{-2}x]$ and $[\phi^{-2}x, x]$ is Golden.

The Golden optimal policy f^∞ , $f(x) = px$, yields the optimal deterministic behavior as follows. A current state x_n under the Golden optimal decision $u_n = px_n = \phi^{-1}x_n$ goes to a unique state $x_{n+1} = x_n - u_n = \phi^{-2}x_n$ into R^1 . The next state is $x_{n+1} = \phi^{-2}x_n \approx 0.382x_n$ (Fig. 1). The dynamics is depicted as

$$R^1 \ni x_n \xrightarrow{\downarrow u_n = \phi^{-1}x_n} x_{n+1} = \phi^{-2}x_n \approx 0.382x_n \text{ uniquely.}$$

Thus the Golden optimal dynamics says that next state becomes $x_{n+1} = \phi^{-2}x_n \approx 0.382x_n$.

7.1.2 Case $\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$

We consider case $\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \approx 0.4772$ Then we have

$$v = 3 - \phi \approx 1.382, \quad p = \phi^{-2} \approx 0.382$$

The division of $[0, x]$ into $[0, \phi^{-1}x]$ and $[\phi^{-1}x, x]$ is Golden.

The Golden optimal policy $f^\infty, f(x) = px$, yields the optimal deterministic behavior as follows. A current state x_n under the Golden optimal decision $u_n = \phi^{-2}x_n$ goes to a unique state $x_{n+1} = x_n - u_n = \phi^{-1}x_n \approx 0.618x_n$ (Fig. 2). The the Golden optimal dynamics

$$R^1 \ni x_n \xrightarrow{\downarrow u_n = \phi^{-2}x_n} x_{n+1} = \phi^{-1}x_n \approx 0.618x_n \text{ uniquely}$$

says that $x_{n+1} = \phi^{-1}x_n \approx 0.618x_n$.

7.2 Stochastic dynamics

The stochastic control process (S) has the discount factor restricted to $0 \leq \beta < 1$. We consider the Case $\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ only.

7.2.1 Case $\beta = 1$

As we have shown in (6), the total noise is $\rho = \frac{2\beta - 1 + \sqrt{4\beta^2 + 1}}{2(1 - \beta)}$ for $0 \leq \beta < 1$. Thus it diverges to ∞ for $\beta = 1$.

7.2.2 Case $\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$

We have

$$v = 3 - \phi \approx 1.382, \quad p = \phi^{-2} \approx 0.382, \quad \rho = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.118$$

The state sequence $\{X_n\}_0^\infty$ defined by

$$X_{n+1} = X_n - pX_n - \epsilon_{n+1}, \quad X_0 = x_0$$

is stochastically *Golden* :

$$E[X_{n+1} | x_n] = \phi^{-1}x_n.$$

That is, the Golden optimal policy $f^\infty, f(x) = px$, yields the optimal stochastic behavior as follows. A current state x_n under the Golden optimal decision $u_n = px_n = \phi^{-2}x_n$ goes

to x_{n+1} on R^1 with transition probability $q(x_{n+1} | x_n, u_n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x_{n+1} - \phi^{-1}x_n)^2/2}$. The next state (random variable) x_{n+1} follows the normal distribution $N(\phi^{-1}x_n, 1)$. The mean is $\phi^{-1}x_n \approx 0.618x_n$ (see Fig. 2). The Golden optimal dynamics

$$R^1 \ni x_n \xrightarrow{\downarrow u_n = \phi^{-2}x_n} x_{n+1} \text{ w.p. } q(x_{n+1} | x_n, u_n) \text{ for any } x_{n+1} \in R^1$$

says that current state goes down to $\phi^{-1}x_n \approx 0.618x_n$ on average.

7.3 Non-deterministic dynamics

The non-deterministic control process (N) has a discount factor $0 \leq \beta < \infty$.

7.3.1 Case $\beta = 1$

When $\beta = 1$, it follows that

$$v = \phi \approx 1.618, \quad p = \phi^{-1} \approx 0.618$$

Further the division of $[0, x]$ into $[0, \phi^{-2}x]$ and $[\phi^{-2}x, x]$ is Golden optimal.

The Golden optimal policy $f^\infty, f(x) = px$, yields the optimal non-deterministic behavior as follows. A current state x_n under the Golden optimal decision $u_n = px_n = \phi^{-1}x_n$ goes to x_{n+1} on interval $(0, x_n - u_n) = (0, \phi^{-2}x_n)$ with transition weight $q(x_{n+1} | x_n, u_n) = 2/x_{n+1}$. The next state (non-deterministic variable) x_{n+1} has the unbounded weight $2/x_{n+1}$ on $(0, \phi^{-2}x_n) \approx (0, 0.382x_n)$. The Golden optimal dynamics

$$(0 \infty) \ni x_n \xrightarrow{\downarrow u_n = \phi^{-1}x_n} x_{n+1} \text{ w.w. } 2/x_{n+1} \text{ for any } x_{n+1} \in (0, \phi^{-2}x_n)$$

says that current state goes down on a shrunken interval $(0, \phi^{-2}x_n) \approx (0, 0.382x_n)$ with the Golden rate $\phi^{-2} \approx 0.382$ (see Fig. 1).

7.3.2 Case $\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$

The case yields

$$v = 3 - \phi \approx 1.382, \quad p = \phi^{-2} \approx 0.382$$

The division of $[0, x]$ into $[0, \phi^{-1}x]$ and $[\phi^{-1}x, x]$ is Golden optimal.

The Golden optimal policy $f^\infty, f(x) = px$, yields the optimal non-deterministic behavior as follows. A current state x_n under the Golden optimal decision $u_n = \phi^{-2}x_n$ goes to x_{n+1} on interval $(0, x_n - u_n) = (0, \phi^{-1}x_n)$ with transition weight $q(x_{n+1} | x_n, u_n) = 2/x_{n+1}$. The non-deterministic x_{n+1} has the unbounded weight $2/x_{n+1}$ on $(0, \phi^{-1}x_n) \approx (0, 0.618x_n)$. The Golden optimal dynamics

$$(0 \infty) \ni x_n \xrightarrow{\downarrow u_n = \phi^{-2}x_n} x_{n+1} \text{ w.w. } 2/x_{n+1} \text{ for any } x_{n+1} \in (0, \phi^{-1}x_n)$$

says that next state goes down on a shrunken interval $(0, \phi^{-1}x_n) \approx (0, 0.618x_n)$ with the Golden rate $\phi^{-1} \approx 0.618$ (see Fig. 2).

Finally we have the following result.

Theorem 7.1 *For the discount rate $\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$, three processes (D), (S) and (N) have a common Golden optimal policy $g^\infty, g(x) = (2 - \phi)x$. Then (D) and (N) have the quadratic value function $v(x) = (3 - \phi)x^2$ and (S) has the quadratic value function $v(x) = (3 - \phi)x^2 + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$.*

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