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Differential games with asymmetric and correlated information

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Abstract. Differential games with asymmetric information were introduced by Cardaliaguet (2007). As in repeated games with lack of information on both sides (Aumann and Maschler (1995)), each player receives a private signal (his type) before the game starts and has a prior belief about his opponent's type. Then, a differential game is played in which the dynamic and the payoff function depend on both types: each player is thus partially informed about the differential game that is played. The existence of the value function and some characterizations have been obtained under the assumption that the signals are drawn independently. In this paper, we drop this assumption and extend these two results to the general case of correlated types. This result is then applied to repeated games with incomplete information: the characterization of the asymptotic value obtained by Rosenberg and Sorin (2001) and Laraki (2001) for the independent case is extended to the general case.

Key words: Differential games; Fenchel duality; Incomplete information; Comparison principle; Value function.

MSC2000 subject classification: 49N30, 49N70, 91A05, 91A23, 93C41

1 Introduction

Differential games with incomplete information were introduced by Cardaliaguet [4], combining the aspects of classical differential games with the informational issues introduced by Aumann and Maschler [1] in the study of repeated games. More precisely, the game

consists in a dynamic

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(t, x(t), u(t), v(t)), \quad t \in [t_0, T], \quad x(t_0) = x_0,$$

where u (resp. v) is the control played by the first (resp. second) player, and a family of payoff functions

$$\mathcal{J}^{k\ell}(t_0, x_0) = \int_{t_0}^T \gamma^{k\ell}(t, x(t), u(t), v(t)) dt + g^{k\ell}(x(T)), \quad (k, \ell) \in K \times L,$$

where K and L are two finite sets. Before the game starts, the type k (resp. ℓ) of player 1 (resp. 2) is drawn according to a probability distribution p (resp. q) over K (resp. L). Each player knows (or is informed of) his type only. Player 1 (resp. 2) aims at maximizing (resp. minimizing) the payoff. The main result of [4] is that, under standard regularity assumptions of the dynamic and the payoff functions and under Isaacs' condition, the game has a value. Moreover, as a function of the initial time t_0 , the initial position x_0 and of p and q , the value is characterized as the unique dual solution of some Hamilton-Jacobi-Isaacs. The notion of dual solution is the following: the function $V(t_0, x_0, \cdot, \cdot)$ is concave-convex and Lipschitz continuous with respect to (p, q) , the concave conjugate of the value function with respect to p is a sub-solution of the Hamilton-Jacobi-Isaacs equation, while the convex conjugate of the value function with respect to q is a super-solution of the same equation.

The present paper is concerned with the same problem, dropping the (important) assumption that the players' types are drawn independently. Considering correlated types is referred to as the *dependent case* in the literature of repeated games, as opposed to the *independent case*: the pair of types is drawn according to some probability distribution over $K \times L$, which is not necessarily a direct product $p \otimes q$. Using the decomposition of a probability measure over the product set $K \times L$, as the direct product of a marginal probability and a matrix of conditional probabilities, one obtains analogue results following the main lines of [4]. These two components replace the couple of independent probabilities in the formulation of a new system of Hamilton-Jacobi-Isaacs equations that characterizes the value of the game. Our result is then applied to repeated games with incomplete information, leading to a characterization of the asymptotic value in the spirit of Rosenberg and Sorin (2001) and Laraki (2001) (a pair of inequalities written only on the extreme points of the graph of the value function).

To underline the relevance of the dependent case we refer to Sorin and Zamir [21]: "the dependent case is not only conceivable but seems to be rather the typical case : whenever the states of the world or the *types* in question contain also the beliefs, as is typically the situation, the dependent case seems unavoidable". However, our paper is the first in the literature on differential games with asymmetric information [4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23] to treat the dependent case.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we introduce differential games with asymmetric information and define the sets of strategies (deterministic and random). Then, we shortly describe some concepts from the theory of P.D.E's and from convex analysis. Section 3 is devoted to our main results.

2 Differential games with asymmetric information

A (standard, zero-sum) differential game is described by an initial state, a dynamic, a running payoff and a terminal payoff. A differential game with asymmetric information $\mathcal{G}(t_0, x_0, \pi)$ is described by two finite sets K and L , a probability distribution $\pi \in \Delta(K \times L)^1$, an initial time $t_0 \in [0, 1]$ and a family of differential games indexed by $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$, with initial positions $x_0^{k\ell}$. It is played as follows:

- First, a pair of parameters (or types) $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$ is drawn according to π : player 1 is informed only about k , player 2 only about ℓ .
- Second, the differential game $(x_0^{k\ell}, f^{k\ell}, \gamma^{k\ell}, g^{k\ell})$ is played on $[t_0, 1]$, where
 - $x_0^{k\ell} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the initial state,
 - $f^{k\ell} : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times U \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is a dynamic,
 - $\gamma^{k\ell} : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times U \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, is a running payoff function, and
 - $g^{k\ell} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a terminal payoff function.

A crucial aspect of this model is the fact that, unlike standard differential games, none of the players knows the true state of the world, i.e. each player is partially informed about the game that is being played.

A *control* for player 1 (resp. 2) is a Lebesgue-measurable mapping from $[t_0, 1]$ to U (resp. V). Elements of U and V are identified with constant controls. The set of controls are denoted by $\mathcal{U}(t_0)$ and $\mathcal{V}(t_0)$ respectively.

The following assumptions on f, γ and g are standard.

Assumption 2.1. For each $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$,

- (a) $f^{k\ell}$ and $\gamma^{k\ell}$ are uniformly bounded, uniformly Lipschitz in (t, x) and continuous.
- (b) $g^{k\ell}$ is Lipschitz continuous and bounded.

Assumption 2.1 ensures that, for any pair of controls $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \in \mathcal{U}(t_0) \times \mathcal{V}(t_0)$, the following O.D.E. has a unique solution, modulo equality a.e.²

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\mathbf{x}}^{k\ell}(t) = f^{k\ell}(t, \mathbf{x}(t), \mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{v}(t)), & \text{a.e. on } [t_0, 1] \\ \mathbf{x}^{k\ell}(t_0) = x_0^{k\ell}. \end{cases}$$

Its solution is the *trajectory* induced by the couple (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) . It belongs to $\mathcal{C}^1([t_0, 1]; \mathbb{R}^n)$ and is denoted by $\mathbf{x}^{k\ell}[t_0, x_0^{k\ell}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}]$. The next assumption corresponds to perfect monitoring (i.e. observation of the past actions) in repeated games.

¹For any finite set X , $\Delta(X) := \{a : X \rightarrow [0, 1], \sum_{x \in X} a(x) = 1\}$ denotes the set of probability distributions over X .

²a.e. is an abbreviation for almost everywhere.

Assumption 2.2. *The players observe the past controls, i.e. at time $t \in [t_0, 1]$,*

$$(\mathbf{u}(s), \mathbf{v}(s))_{s \in [t_0, t]}$$

is commonly known by the players.

Both players know the description of the game. Player 1 (resp. 2) aims at maximizing (resp. minimizing) the following payoff functional:

$$\mathcal{J}^{k\ell}(t_0, x_0, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) := \int_{t_0}^1 \gamma^{k\ell}(s, \mathbf{x}^{k\ell}[t_0, x_0^{k\ell}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}](s), \mathbf{u}(s), \mathbf{v}(s)) ds + g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{x}^{k\ell}[t_0, x_0^{k\ell}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}](1)).$$

Remark 2.3. *Standard differential games correspond to the case where both K and L are singletons, i.e. $|K| = |L| = 1$. Differential games with incomplete information on one side correspond to the case where either $|K| = 1$ or $|L| = 1$. The case where π is a product measure (i.e. there exist $p \in \Delta(K)$ and $q \in \Delta(L)$ such that $\pi = p \otimes q$) is known as the independent case.*

2.1 Reduction

Without loss of generality, the following simplification of the model is assumed:

- (a) There is no running payoff, i.e. $\gamma^{k\ell} \equiv 0$ for all $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$;
- (b) The dynamic and the initial position do not depend on the types, i.e. only the terminal payoff function is type dependent.

The differential game with asymmetric information $\mathcal{G}(t_0, x_0, \pi)$ is then described by following 5-tuple (t_0, x_0, f, g, π) , where $g = (g^{k\ell})_{k\ell}$ is a family of payoff functions indexed by K and L .

Let us briefly explain why this reduction is possible (we refer the reader to the Appendix for more details). The past controls being commonly observed, at time t both players can compute the $K \times L$ potential integral payoffs and positions induced by the pair of controls that have been played so far, i.e. in the interval $[t_0, t]$. An auxiliary state variable in $(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n)^{K \times L}$, which includes this information, can thus be observed by both players. As a consequence, one can construct an auxiliary game satisfying (a) and (b), and which is strategically equivalent to the initial model.

2.2 Strategies

Let us define two sets of strategies: deterministic and random. In both cases, the definition of the strategy involves some partition of $[t_0, 1]$: the choice of the partition is part of the strategy. The main property of these sets is that any pair of strategies (and of a random event) determine a unique trajectory, and thus a unique outcome. The game is then said to be in normal form.

2.2.1 Deterministic strategies

Definition 2.4. A map $\alpha : \mathcal{V}(t_0) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(t_0)$ is a (deterministic) strategy for player 1 if there exists a finite partition of $[t_0, 1]$, $t_0 = s_0 < s_1 < \dots < s_N = 1$, such that for all $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in \mathcal{V}(t_0)$ and $0 \leq m < N$:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{v}_2 \text{ a.e. on } [s_0, s_m] \implies \alpha(\mathbf{v}_1) = \alpha(\mathbf{v}_2) \text{ a.e. on } [s_0, s_{m+1}].$$

Strategies are defined similarly for player 2. Denote by $\mathcal{A}(t_0)$ (resp. $\mathcal{B}(t_0)$) the set of strategies of player 1 (resp. 2). As opposed to nonanticipative strategies, the following property holds ([8, Lemma 1]):

For any couple of strategies $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{A}(t_0) \times \mathcal{B}(t_0)$, there exists a unique pair $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \in \mathcal{U}(t_0) \times \mathcal{V}(t_0)$ such that $\alpha(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{u}$ and $\beta(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{v}$ a.e. on $[t_0, 1]$.

For any $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{A}(t_0) \times \mathcal{B}(t_0)$, we denote by $\mathbf{x}[t_0, x_0, \alpha, \beta] \in \mathcal{C}^1([t_0, 1]; \mathbb{R}^n)$ the trajectory induced by α and β , i.e. by the unique pair $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \in \mathcal{U}(t_0) \times \mathcal{V}(t_0)$ such that $\alpha(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{u}$ and $\beta(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{v}$ a.e. on $[t_0, 1]$.

2.2.2 Random strategies

The definition of random strategies involves a set \mathcal{S} of (non trivial) probability spaces, which has to be stable by finite product. For simplicity, let

$$\mathcal{S} = \{([0, 1]^n, \mathcal{B}([0, 1]^n), \mathcal{L}_n), \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{N}^*\}$$

where $\mathcal{B}([0, 1]^n)$ is the σ -algebra of Borel sets and \mathcal{L}_n is the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^n . Endow the set of controls $\mathcal{U}(0)$ with the topology of the L^1 -convergence, i.e. \mathbf{u}_n converges to \mathbf{u} if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 d_U(\mathbf{u}_n(t), \mathbf{u}(t)) dt = 0$, where d_U is the metric of U .

Definition 2.5. A random strategy for Player 1 is a pair $((\Omega_\alpha, \mathcal{F}_\alpha, \mathbb{P}_\alpha), \alpha)$, where $(\Omega_\alpha, \mathcal{F}_\alpha, \mathbb{P}_\alpha)$ belongs to the set of probability spaces \mathcal{S} and $\alpha : \Omega_\alpha \times \mathcal{V}(t_0) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(t_0)$ satisfies

- α is a measurable function from $\Omega_\alpha \times \mathcal{V}(t_0)$ to $\mathcal{U}(t_0)$, with Ω_α endowed with the σ -field \mathcal{F}_α and $\mathcal{U}(t_0)$ and $\mathcal{V}(t_0)$ with the Borel σ -field associated with the L^1 topology.
- There exists a partition of $[t_0, 1]$, $t_0 = s_0 < s_1 < \dots < s_N = 1$ such that, for any $0 \leq m \leq N$, $\omega \in \Omega_\alpha$, and $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2 \in \mathcal{V}(t_0)$:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{v}_2 \text{ a.e. on } [s_0, s_m] \implies \alpha(\omega, \mathbf{v}_1) = \alpha(\omega, \mathbf{v}_2) \text{ a.e. on } [s_0, s_{m+1}].$$

Denote by $\mathcal{A}_r(t_0)$ the set of random strategies for Player 1. The set of random strategies for player 2 is defined similarly, and is denoted by $\mathcal{B}_r(t_0)$.

Notation 2.6. For simplicity, an element in $\mathcal{A}_r(t_0)$ is simply denoted by α . The underlying probability space being always denoted by $(\Omega_\alpha, \mathcal{F}_\alpha, \mathbb{P}_\alpha)$.

As for the deterministic case, random strategies lead to a normal-form representation of the game ([4]):

Lemma 2.1. *For any pair $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{A}_r(t_0) \times \mathcal{B}_r(t_0)$ and any $\omega = (\omega_1, \omega_2) \in \Omega_\alpha \times \Omega_\beta$, there exists a unique pair $(\mathbf{u}_\omega, \mathbf{v}_\omega) \in \mathcal{U}(t_0) \times \mathcal{V}(t_0)$ such that:*

$$\alpha(\omega_1, \mathbf{v}_\omega) = \mathbf{u}_\omega, \quad \text{and} \quad \beta(\omega_2, \mathbf{u}_\omega) = \mathbf{v}_\omega. \quad (2.1)$$

Moreover, the map $\rho : \Omega_\alpha \times \Omega_\beta \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(t_0) \times \mathcal{V}(t_0)$, $\omega \mapsto (\mathbf{u}_\omega, \mathbf{v}_\omega)$ is measurable with respect to the $\mathcal{F}_\alpha \otimes \mathcal{F}_\beta$ σ -field, and the topology of the L^1 -convergence.

A direct consequence of Lemma 2.1 is that to each pair $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{A}_r(t_0) \times \mathcal{B}_r(t_0)$ and to each event $\omega \in \Omega_\alpha \times \Omega_\beta$ corresponds a unique trajectory, denoted by $\mathbf{x}[t_0, x_0, \alpha(\omega), \beta(\omega)]$.

A strategy of player 1 in the game $\mathcal{G}(t_0, x_0, \pi)$ is a vector of random strategies $\hat{\alpha} = (\hat{\alpha}^k)_{k \in K}$, where $\alpha^k \in \mathcal{A}_r(t_0)$ for each k . Similarly, player 2's set of strategies is $\mathcal{B}_r(t_0)^L$.

Remark 2.7. *Random strategies contain deterministic ones, and the latter contain the set of controls, i.e. $\mathcal{U}(t_0) \subset \mathcal{A}(t_0) \subset \mathcal{A}_r(t_0) \subset \mathcal{A}_r(t_0)^K$.*

Let us introduce some useful notation.

Notation 2.8. *For any pair of strategies $(\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}) \in \mathcal{A}_r(t_0)^K \times \mathcal{B}_r(t_0)^L$ and measure $\mu \in \Delta(K \times L)$, the expected payoff is defined as follows:*

$$\mathbb{E}_{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}}^\mu \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{X}_1^{t_0, x_0, \hat{\alpha}^k, \hat{\beta}^\ell}(\omega)) \right] = \sum_{K \times L} \mu^{k\ell} \int_{\Omega_\alpha \times \Omega_\beta} g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{X}_1^{t_0, x_0, \hat{\alpha}^k, \hat{\beta}^\ell}(\omega)) d\mathbb{P}_\alpha \otimes d\mathbb{P}_\beta(\omega),$$

where $\mathbf{X}_t^{t_0, x_0, \hat{\alpha}^k, \hat{\beta}^\ell}(\omega) := \mathbf{x}[t_0, x_0, \hat{\alpha}^k(\omega), \hat{\beta}^\ell(\omega)](t)$. This expectation makes sense: the map $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \mapsto \mathbf{x}[t_0, x_0, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}](t)$ is continuous in the topology of the L^1 -convergence, so that the maps

$$\omega \mapsto g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{X}_1^{t_0, x_0, \hat{\alpha}^k, \hat{\beta}^\ell}(\omega)), \quad (k, \ell) \in K \times L$$

are measurable in $\Omega_\alpha \times \Omega_\beta$ and bounded.

2.3 The upper and lower value functions

The upper and lower value functions $\mathbf{V}^-, \mathbf{V}^+ : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K \times L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{V}^-(t_0, x_0, \pi) &:= \sup_{\hat{\alpha} \in \mathcal{A}_r(t_0)^K} \inf_{\hat{\beta} \in \mathcal{B}_r(t_0)^L} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}}^\pi \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{X}_1^{t_0, x_0, \hat{\alpha}^k, \hat{\beta}^\ell}(\omega)) \right], \\ \mathbf{V}^+(t_0, x_0, \pi) &:= \inf_{\hat{\beta} \in \mathcal{B}_r(t_0)^L} \sup_{\hat{\alpha} \in \mathcal{A}_r(t_0)^K} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}}^\pi \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{X}_1^{t_0, x_0, \hat{\alpha}^k, \hat{\beta}^\ell}(\omega)) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

The inequality $\mathbf{V}^- \leq \mathbf{V}^+$ holds everywhere. The value exists if $\mathbf{V}^- = \mathbf{V}^+$, and we denote the common function by \mathbf{V} . Introduce the lower and upper Hamiltonians, $H^-, H^+ : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} H^-(t, x, \xi) &:= \sup_{u \in U} \inf_{v \in V} \langle f(t, x, u, v), \xi \rangle, \\ H^+(t, x, \xi) &:= \inf_{v \in V} \sup_{u \in U} \langle f(t, x, u, v), \xi \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

We are mostly concerned with the existence of the value function and its characterization. Unlike standard differential games, where one can identify \mathbf{V}^- (resp. \mathbf{V}^+) as the unique viscosity solution of a (first-order) Hamilton-Jacobi-Isaacs equation with Hamiltonian H^- (resp. H^+), there is little hope in characterizing \mathbf{V}^- (resp. \mathbf{V}^+) in the context of differential games with asymmetric information. Rather, we will characterize the value function \mathbf{V} , when it exists. Isaacs' condition holds in the rest of the paper:

Isaacs' condition. $H^-(t, x, \xi) = H^+(t, x, \xi)$ for all $(t, x, \xi) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$.

We denote by H the common Hamiltonian. Cardaliaguet [4] established the existence of the value function under Assumptions 2.1, 2.2 and Isaacs condition, in the case where k and ℓ are drawn *independently*. The value function was characterized as the unique *dual solution* of the following Hamilton-Jacobi-Isaacs equation:

$$\partial_t w(t, x) + H(t, x, Dw(t, x)) = 0, \quad \text{on } (0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^n. \quad (2.2)$$

The definition of dual solutions involves the Fenchel conjugate and the notion of viscosity solutions introduced by Crandall and Lions [12], and used in the framework of differential games for the first time by Evans and Souganidis [14]. Precisely, the notion of dual solution is the following: the function $V(t_0, x_0, \cdot, \cdot)$ is concave-convex and Lipschitz continuous with respect to (p, q) , the concave conjugate of the value function with respect to p is a sub-solution of the Hamilton-Jacobi-Isaacs equation, while the convex conjugate of the value function with respect to q is a super-solution of the same equation. The extension of this notion to the general, dependent case is left to Theorem 3.1.

2.4 Tools

In this section, we start by defining a notion of convexity for functions defined in $\Delta(K \times L)$. Our definition goes back to Heuer [16] and is equivalent, yet easier to handle, to the notion of I -convexity given by Mertens and Zamir [17]. Second, we recall the definition of viscosity solutions, and of some classical objects from convex analysis, such as the Fenchel conjugate and the sub-gradients.

2.4.1 Convexity in $\Delta(K \times L)$

For any probability measure $\mu \in \Delta(K \times L)$, let $\mu^K \in \Delta(K)$ denote its marginal on K (resp. L) and let $\mu^{L|K} \in \Delta(L)^K$ be the matrix of conditional probabilities, i.e.:

$$\mu^K(k) := \sum_{\ell \in L} \mu(k, \ell) \quad \text{and} \quad \mu^{L|K}(\ell|k) := \frac{\mu(k, \ell)}{\mu^K(k)}.$$

The probability μ is the direct product of μ^K and $\mu^{L|K}$, i.e.

$$\mu(k, \ell) = \mu^K(k) \mu^{L|K}(\ell|k), \quad \text{for all } (k, \ell) \in K \times L.$$

Similarly, $\mu = \mu^L \otimes \mu^{K|L}$, where $\mu^L \in \Delta(L)$ is the marginal on L and $\mu^{K|L} \in \Delta(K)^L$ is the matrix of conditionals on K given ℓ .

Notation 2.9. Let $\varphi : \Delta(K \times L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be some map, and let $Q \in \Delta(L)^K$ be some matrix of conditional probabilities. We denote by $\varphi_K(\cdot, Q) : \Delta(K) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ the following function:

$$\varphi_K(p, Q) := \varphi(p \otimes Q), \quad \text{for all } p \in \Delta(K).$$

Similarly, one defines $\varphi_L(P, \cdot) : \Delta(L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for any $P \in \Delta(K)^L$ as follows:

$$\varphi_L(P, q) := \varphi(q \otimes P), \quad \text{for all } q \in \Delta(L).$$

Definition 2.10. The map $\varphi : \Delta(K \times L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

- K -concave if $\varphi_K(\cdot, Q)$ is concave on K , for all $Q \in \Delta(L)^K$;
- L -convex if $\varphi_L(P, \cdot)$ is convex on L , for all $P \in \Delta(K)^L$;

Fenchel duality

Definition 2.11. For any $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$, the Fenchel transform of φ , denoted by φ^* is defined by $\varphi^* : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$, $\varphi^*(x^*) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \langle x, x^* \rangle - \varphi(x)$.

Here, we define two slightly different transforms which are more convenient in the framework of games with incomplete information. The reason is that they correspond to the dual operators, one for each player, in the general theory of duality for games with incomplete information (see [20, Section 4.6]).

Definition 2.12. Let $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Define its upper and lower conjugates $\varphi^\sharp, \varphi^\flat : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi^\sharp(x) &:= \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi(y) - \langle y, x \rangle, \\ \varphi^\flat(y) &:= \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \varphi(x) + \langle x, y \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

For all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ the following relations are straightforward:

$$\varphi^\sharp(x) = (-\varphi)^*(-x), \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi^\flat(y) = -\varphi^*(-y).$$

Sub-gradients

Definition 2.13. For any $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the sub-differential of φ at x is defined as follows:

$$\partial^- \varphi(x) := \{x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \varphi(x) + \langle x^*, y - x \rangle \leq \varphi(y), \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^n\}.$$

The super-differential $\partial^+ \varphi(x)$ is defined similarly. The following result can be found in [19, Section 12].

Theorem 2.14 (Fenchel equality). Let $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ be convex and proper. Then $x^* \in \partial^- \varphi(x)$ if and only if $\varphi^*(x^*) + \varphi(x) = \langle x, x^* \rangle$.

Next, let us state a useful, straightforward lemma which follows directly from Fenchel equality and the definitions of ∂^- and ∂^+ .

Notation 2.15. Without further mention, functions defined on $\Delta(K)$ (resp. $\Delta(L)$) are extended to \mathbb{R}^K (resp. \mathbb{R}^L) by $-\infty$ (resp. $+\infty$) in $\mathbb{R}^K \setminus \Delta(K)$ (resp. $\mathbb{R}^L \setminus \Delta(L)$). The sub-differentials (resp. super-differentials) of f are defined according to this extension.

Lemma 2.2. Let $\varphi : \Delta(K) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a concave function and let $x \in \partial^+ \varphi(p)$. Then,

$$\varphi^\sharp(x) = \varphi(p) - \langle x, p \rangle \geq \varphi(p') - \langle x, p' \rangle, \quad \forall p' \in \Delta(K).$$

Similarly, if $\phi : \Delta(L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex and $y \in \partial^- \phi(q)$, then

$$\phi^\flat(-y) = \phi(q) + \langle -y, q \rangle \leq \phi(q') + \langle -y, q' \rangle, \quad \forall q' \in \Delta(L).$$

Note that the scalar products in Lemma 2.2 are in \mathbb{R}^K and \mathbb{R}^L , respectively.

Definition 2.16. Given $\varphi : \Delta(K) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, let \mathcal{E}_φ denote the set of extreme points of φ on $\Delta(K)$. Explicitly, $p \in \mathcal{E}_\varphi$ if the equality $(p, \varphi(p)) = \sum_{r \in R} \lambda_r (p_r, \varphi(p_r))$ with R finite and $\lambda \in \Delta(R)$, $\lambda \gg 0$ and $p_r \in \Delta(K)$ implies $p_r = p$ for all $r \in R$.

Lemma 2.3. Let $\varphi : \Delta(K) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a concave function. Then φ^\sharp is differentiable at $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^K$ if and only if $p_0 := -\nabla \varphi^\sharp(x_0) \in \Delta(K)$ is an extreme point of φ .

Proof. It follows directly from the Envelope Theorem. □

Viscosity solutions

Definition 2.17 (Viscosity solutions). A map $w : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a

- (viscosity) super-solution of (2.2) if it is lower-semi-continuous in $(0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^n$ and if, for any test function $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n; \mathbb{R})$ such that $w - \varphi$ has a local minimum at some point $(t, x) \in (0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^n$, one has:

$$\partial_t \varphi(t, x) + H(t, x, D\varphi(t, x)) \leq 0.$$

- (viscosity) sub-solution of (2.2) if it is upper-semi-continuous in $(0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^n$ and if, for any test function $\phi \in \mathcal{C}^1([0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n; \mathbb{R})$ such that $w - \phi$ has a local maximum at some point $(t, x) \in (0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^n$, one has:

$$\partial_t \phi(t, x) + H(t, x, D\phi(t, x)) \geq 0.$$

- viscosity solution of (2.2) if it is both a super-solution and a sub-solution.

Three basic properties of *viscosity solutions* are existence, uniqueness and stability with respect to uniform convergence.

3 Main results

In this section we state and prove our main result: the existence and characterization of the value function for differential games with asymmetric and correlated information.

We can now state our main result. In the sequel, sub-solutions (resp. super-solutions) refer to *viscosity sub-solutions* (resp. *super-solutions*).

Theorem 3.1 (Existence and characterization of the value \mathbf{V}). *Assume Isaacs condition. Then, the value exists and is the unique Lipschitz continuous function on $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K \times L)$ satisfying:*

- $p \mapsto \mathbf{V}_K(t, x, p, Q)$ is concave for all $(t, x, Q) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(L)^K$,
- $q \mapsto \mathbf{V}_L(t, x, P, q)$ is convex for all $(t, x, P) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K)^L$,
- For all $(\zeta, Q) \in \mathbb{R}^K \times \Delta(L)^K$, $(t, x) \mapsto \mathbf{V}_K^\sharp(t, x, \zeta, Q)$ is a sub-solution of (2.2).
- For all $(P, \eta) \in \Delta(K)^L \times \mathbb{R}^L$, $(t, x) \mapsto \mathbf{V}_L^\flat(t, x, P, \eta)$ is a super-solution of (2.2).
- $\mathbf{V}(1, x, \pi) = \sum_{k, \ell} \pi^{k\ell} g^{k\ell}(x^{k\ell})$, for all $(x, \pi) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K \times L)$.

Remark 3.2. *The characterization of the value function in Theorem 3.1 gives an explicit definition of what was called a dual solution to the Hamilton-Jacobi equation (2.2) in [4].*

3.1 Proof of Theorem 3.1

We follow the main ideas in the proof of [4]. Also, we use the duality techniques introduced by De Meyer [13] for games with incomplete information on one side (see [20, Chapter 2] for a general presentation), and extended in [15] to the case of general type dependence. The proof can be summarized as follows.

Step 1. One proves the K -concavity, L -convexity and Lipschitz continuity of both the upper and the lower value functions. These results being classical, we have preferred to

omit the proof.

Step 2. One proves a sub-dynamic programming principle for $\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}$ at fixed (ζ, Q) . For that, we use an alternative expression for $\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t, x, \zeta, Q)$ which, again, is a general property of any normal-form game with incomplete information. We then deduce that $(t, x) \mapsto \mathbf{V}^{+\sharp}(t, x, \zeta, Q)$ is a sub-solution of (2.2). Symmetrical results hold for \mathbf{V}^{-b} by exchanging the roles of the players: $(t, x) \mapsto \mathbf{V}^{-b}(t, x, P, \eta)$ is a super-solution of (2.2).

Step 3. One concludes using a new comparison theorem inspired by the analog result in [4]. Here, Assumption 2.1 ensures that the Hamiltonian is regular enough.

3.2 Regularity

Lemma 3.1. *The upper and lower value function are K -concave, L -convex and Lipschitz continuous.*

The K -concavity, L -convexity and the Lipschitz continuity with respect to $\pi \in \Delta(K \times L)$ is standard for games with incomplete information (see [20, Chapter 2]). The proof is omitted, for there is nothing particular to our model. The regularity in $(t, x) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n$ follows from the assumptions on f , γ and g (see, for instance, [3]).

3.3 Sub-dynamic programming principle

Proposition 3.1. *For all $(\zeta, Q) \in \mathbb{R}^K \times \Delta(L)^K$, $t, t+h \in [0, 1]$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$:*

$$\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t, x, \zeta, Q) \leq \inf_{\beta \in \mathcal{B}(t)} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t+h, \mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha, \beta](t+h), \zeta, Q).$$

Proof. Consider the following alternative expression for $\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t, x, \zeta, Q)$, which is a general property of normal-form games with convex sets of strategies (see [20, Chapter 2]):

$$\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t, x, \zeta, Q) = \inf_{\hat{\beta} \in \mathcal{B}_r(t)^L} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_r(t)} \max_{k \in K} \mathbb{E}_{\alpha, \hat{\beta}}^{k, Q} \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha(\omega), \beta(\omega)](1)) \right] - \zeta^k. \quad (3.1)$$

Recall that $\omega = (\omega_1, \omega_2) \in \Omega_\alpha \times \Omega_\beta$. Using the convexity of the map $z \mapsto \max_{k \in K} z^k$, one can replace the random strategy of player 1 by a deterministic one. Indeed, for any random strategy $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_r(t)$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{k \in K} \mathbb{E}_{\alpha, \hat{\beta}}^{k, Q} \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha(\omega), \beta(\omega)](1)) \right] - \zeta^k \\ &= \max_{k \in K} \int_{\Omega_\alpha} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}}^{k, Q} \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha(\omega_1), \beta(\omega_2)](1)) \right] d\mathbb{P}_\alpha(\omega_1) - \zeta^k, \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega_\alpha} \max_{k \in K} \left(\mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}}^{k, Q} \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha(\omega_1), \beta(\omega_2)](1)) \right] - \zeta^k \right) d\mathbb{P}_\alpha(\omega_1), \\ &\leq \sup_{\omega_1 \in \Omega_\alpha} \max_{k \in K} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}}^{k, Q} \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha(\omega_1), \beta(\omega_2)](1)) \right] - \zeta^k. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, clearly $\sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_r(t)} \sup_{\omega_1 \in \Omega_\alpha} = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(t)}$. It follows that

$$\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t, x, \zeta, Q) \leq \inf_{\hat{\beta} \in \mathcal{B}_r(t)^L} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \max_{k \in K} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}}^{k, Q} \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha, \beta(\omega_2)](1)) \right] - \zeta^k. \quad (3.2)$$

For any $\hat{\beta} \in \mathcal{B}_r(t)$, the regularity assumptions on f and g ensure the Lipschitz-continuity of the map

$$x \mapsto \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \max_{k \in K} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}}^{k, Q} \left[g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha, \beta(\omega_2)](1)) \right] - \zeta^k.$$

Notation 3.3. We say that $\hat{\beta}$ is ε -optimal for $\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t, x, \zeta, Q)$ if it reaches the infimum in the formulation (3.2) up to ε .

For any $\varepsilon > 0$, let $\delta > 0$ be such that if $\hat{\beta}^y$ is ε -optimal for $\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t, y, \zeta, Q)$, for some $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$, then $\hat{\beta}^y$ is 2ε -optimal for $\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t, y', \zeta, Q)$ for any $y' \in B(y, \delta)$.

The set of reachable points at time $t + h$ is clearly contained in $B(x, \|f\|)$. Let $(x_i)_{i \in I}$ be a finite family of points such that $\bigcup_{i \in I} B(x_i, \delta)$ covers $B(x, \|f\|)$, and let E_i be a Borel partition of $B(x, \|f\|)$ such that, for all $i \in I$, $E_i \subset B(x_i, \delta)$. We aim at proving (3.1) by explicitly constructing a strategy $\hat{\beta}_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{B}_r(t)$ for player 2 which is ε -optimal in (3.2). Intuitively, the strategy is as follows:

- Play $\beta_0 \in \mathcal{B}(t)$ on $[t, t + h]$, where β_0 is ε -optimal in the right-hand-side of (3.1).
- If $\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha, \beta](t + h)$ belongs to E_i , then play in the remaining of the game $[t + h, 1]$ a strategy $\hat{\beta}_i \in \mathcal{B}_r(t + h)$ which is ε -optimal for $\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t + h, x_i, \zeta, Q)$.

Let us define $\hat{\beta}_\varepsilon$ formally. For $i \in I$ and $\ell \in L$, let $(\Omega_i^\ell, \mathcal{F}_i^\ell, \mathbb{P}_i^\ell) = (\Omega_{\hat{\beta}_i^\ell}, \mathcal{F}_{\hat{\beta}_i^\ell}, \mathbb{P}_{\hat{\beta}_i^\ell})$ be the probability space associated to $\hat{\beta}_i^\ell$, and let $t + h = s_0 < s_1 < \dots < s_N = 1$ be a common partition to all $\hat{\beta}_i^\ell$. This is possible because $I \times L$ is finite. For any $\ell \in L$, let

$$(\Omega^\ell, \mathcal{F}^\ell, \mathbb{P}^\ell) = \left(\prod_{i \in I} \Omega_i^\ell, \otimes_{i \in I} \mathcal{F}_i^\ell, \otimes_{i \in I} \mathbb{P}_i^\ell \right),$$

which belongs to \mathcal{S} . It is the probability space associated to $\hat{\beta}_\varepsilon^\ell$. Now, for any $\omega^\ell = (\omega_i^\ell)_{i \in I} \in \Omega^\ell$ and $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{U}(t)$, let

$$\hat{\beta}_\varepsilon^\ell(\omega^\ell, \mathbf{u})(s) = \begin{cases} \beta_0(\mathbf{u})(s), & \text{if } s \in [t, t + h], \\ \beta_i^\ell(\omega_i^\ell, \mathbf{u}'(s)), & \text{if } s \in [t + h, 1], \text{ and } \mathbf{x}[t, x, \mathbf{u}, \beta_0](t + h) \in E_i, \end{cases}$$

where \mathbf{u}' denotes the restriction of \mathbf{u} to $[t + h, 1]$. Let $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(t)$ be a strategy of player 1, and let $(\mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{v}_0)$ be (the unique pair) such that $\alpha(\mathbf{v}_0) = \mathbf{u}_0$ and $\beta_0(\mathbf{u}_0) = \mathbf{v}_0$ a.e. on $[t, t + h]$. For any $\mathbf{v}' \in \mathcal{V}(t + h)$, let $\mathbf{v}' \circ \mathbf{v}_0 \in \mathcal{V}(t)$ be the control obtained by concatenating \mathbf{v}_0 and \mathbf{v}' at time $t + h$. Define $\alpha' \in \mathcal{A}(t + h)$ by the relation $\alpha'(\mathbf{v}') := \alpha(\mathbf{v}' \circ \mathbf{v}_0)$. Now, by the choice of $\hat{\beta}_\varepsilon$, the following relation holds for any $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$ and $\omega^\ell \in \Omega^\ell$:

$$g^{k\ell}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha, \hat{\beta}_\varepsilon^\ell(\omega^\ell)](1)) = \sum_{i \in I} g^{k\ell} \left(\mathbf{x}[t + h, \mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t, x, \alpha, \beta_0}, \alpha', \hat{\beta}_i^\ell(\omega_i^\ell)](1) \right) \mathbf{1}_{F_i}, \quad (3.3)$$

where $\mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t,x,\alpha,\beta_0} = \mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha, \beta_0](t+h)$ and $F_i = \{\mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t,x,\alpha,\beta_0} \in E_i\}$. We claim that

$$\max_{k \in K} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}_\varepsilon}^{k,Q} \left[g^{kl}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha, \beta(\omega_2)](1)) \right] - \zeta^k \leq \mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t+h, \mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t,x,\alpha,\beta_0}, \zeta, Q) + 2\varepsilon. \quad (3.4)$$

Proof of the claim. From (3.3), one deduces the following equality:

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{k \in K} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}_\varepsilon}^{k,Q} \left[g^{kl}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha, \beta(\omega_2)](1)) \right] - \zeta^k = \\ & \max_{k \in K} \sum_{i \in I} g^{kl} \left(\mathbf{x}[t+h, \mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t,x,\alpha,\beta_0}, \alpha', \hat{\beta}_i^\ell(\omega_i^\ell)](1) \right) \mathbf{1}_{F_i} - \zeta^k. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

The convexity of $z \mapsto \max_{k \in K} z^k$ implies that (3.5) is smaller than:

$$\sum_{i \in I} \sup_{\alpha' \in \mathcal{A}(t+h)} \max_{k \in K} \left(g^{kl} \left(\mathbf{x}[t+h, \mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t,x,\alpha,\beta_0}, \alpha', \hat{\beta}_i^\ell(\omega_i^\ell)](1) \right) - \zeta^k \right) \mathbf{1}_{F_i}. \quad (3.6)$$

By the choice of $\hat{\beta}_i$, (3.6) is smaller than

$$\sum_{i \in I} \left(\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t+h, \mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t,x,\alpha,\beta_0}, \zeta, Q) + 2\varepsilon \right) \mathbf{1}_{F_i}, \quad (3.7)$$

which is equal to $\mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t+h, \mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t,x,\alpha,\beta_0}, \zeta, Q) + 2\varepsilon$, so that the claim follows.

Taking the $\inf_{\hat{\beta} \in \mathcal{B}_r(t)} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(t)}$ in both sides of (3.4), one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{\hat{\beta} \in \mathcal{B}_r(t)} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \max_{k \in K} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\beta}_\varepsilon}^{k,Q} \left[g^{kl}(\mathbf{x}[t, x, \alpha, \beta(\omega_2)](1)) \right] - \zeta^k & \leq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t+h, \mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t,x,\alpha,\beta_0}, \zeta, Q) + 2\varepsilon, \\ & \leq \inf_{\beta \in \mathcal{B}(t)} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t+h, \mathbf{X}_{t+h}^{t,x,\alpha,\beta}, \zeta, Q) + 3\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

The first inequality holds because the right-hand-side of (3.4) does not depend on $\hat{\beta}$. The second, by the choice of β_0 . Together with (3.2), these inequalities complete the proof. \square

It is well-known that a function satisfying a sub-dynamic programming principle is a sub-solution of the associated Hamilton-Jacobi equation. we refer the reader to [14] (resp. [4]) for the case where the game is played with classical non-anticipative strategies (resp. non-anticipative with delay, or discretized strategies).

Corollary 3.4. *For any $(\zeta, Q) \in \mathbb{R}^K \times \Delta(L)^K$, the map $(t, x) \mapsto \mathbf{V}_K^{+\sharp}(t, x, \zeta, Q)$ is a sub-solution of (2.2).*

Reversing the roles of the players, one obtains the following result in the same manner.

Corollary 3.5. *For any $(P, \eta) \in \Delta(K)^L \times \mathbb{R}^L$, the map $(t, x) \mapsto \mathbf{V}_L^{-\flat}(t, x, P, \eta)$ is a super-solution of (2.2).*

3.4 Comparison principle

Consider some general Hamilton-Jacobi equation, i.e. not necessarily depending on f :

$$\partial_t w(t, x) + H(t, x, Dw(t, x)) = 0, \quad \text{on } (0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^n. \quad (\text{H})$$

Suppose that the Hamiltonian $H : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous and such that, for all $t, s \in [0, 1]$ and $x, y, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$|H(t, x, \xi) - H(s, y, \xi)| \leq C \|\xi\| (|t - s| + \|x - y\|), \quad \text{for some } C \geq 0.$$

Theorem 3.6 (Comparison principle). *Let $w^1, w^2 : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K \times L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two Lipschitz continuous functions satisfying:*

- w_K^1, w_K^2 are concave on $\Delta(K)$ and w_L^1, w_L^2 are convex on $\Delta(L)$,
- For all $(\zeta, Q) \in \mathbb{R}^K \times \Delta(L)^K$, $(t, x) \mapsto w_K^2(t, x, \zeta, Q)$ is a sub-solution of (H),
- For all $(P, \eta) \in \Delta(K)^L \times \mathbb{R}^L$, $(t, x) \mapsto w_L^1(t, x, P, \eta)$ is a super-solution of (H),
- $w^1(1, x, \pi) \geq w^2(1, x, \pi)$, for all $(x, \pi) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K \times L)$.

Then $w^1(t, x, \pi) \geq w^2(t, x, \pi)$, for all $(t, x, \pi) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K \times L)$.

This statement extends [4, Theorem 5.1] to the case of general type dependence. The proof follows the same lines and is inspired in the proof of the Comparison Principle by Bardi and Capuzzo-Dolcetta [2, Theorem 3.7].

Proof. Suppose, on the contrary, the existence of some $(t', x', \pi') \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K \times L)$ such that $w^2(t', x', \pi') > w^1(t', x', \pi')$. Then, for some $\sigma > 0$,

$$\sup_{(t, x, \pi)} w^2(t, x, \pi) - w^1(t, x, \pi) - \sigma(1 - t) > 0,$$

where the supremum is taken over $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K \times L)$. Let us consider the standard method of separation of variables. To avoid technical details, we will assume that for some $R > 0$, $w^1(t, x, \pi) \geq w^2(t, x, \pi)$ for all (t, x, π) with $\|x\| > R$. This assumption can be omitted by using penalization arguments at infinity (see [2]). Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be fixed and consider the following map:

$$(t, x, s, y, \pi) \mapsto w^2(s, y, \pi) - w^1(t, x, \pi) - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \|(s, y) - (t, x)\|^2 - \sigma(1 - t) > 0. \quad (3.8)$$

It attains its maximum at some point, denoted by $(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, \pi_\varepsilon)$. Let $p_\varepsilon \in \Delta(K)$, $q_\varepsilon \in \Delta(L)$, $Q_\varepsilon \in \Delta(L)^K$, $P_\varepsilon \in \Delta(K)^L$ such that

$$\pi_\varepsilon = p_\varepsilon \otimes Q_\varepsilon = q_\varepsilon \otimes P_\varepsilon.$$

From usual arguments (see [2]), $t_\varepsilon, s_\varepsilon < 1$ for small ε , because $w_2(1, y, \pi) - w_1(1, x, \pi) \leq 0$ and w^1 and w^2 are Lipschitz continuous. Moreover,

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \|(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon) - (t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon)\|^2 = 0.$$

Part 1. Here, we use that w_L^{1b} is a super-solution to (H).

Fix $(s, y, P) = (s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon)$. Then, $(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon)$ is a maximizer in (3.8) so that for all $(t, x, q) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(L)$,

$$w_L^1(t, x, P_\varepsilon, q) \geq w_L^1(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon) + w_L^2(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q) - w_L^2(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon) + \varphi(t, x), \quad (3.9)$$

where $\varphi(t, x) = \varphi_{(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon)}(t, x)$ is defined as follows:

$$\varphi(t, x) := \frac{1}{\varepsilon} (\|(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon) - (t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon)\|^2 - \|(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon) - (t, x)\|^2) + \sigma(t - t_\varepsilon).$$

In particular, putting $(t, x) = (t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon)$ and because $\varphi(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon) = 0$, one has:

$$w_L^1(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon) - w_L^1(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q) \leq w_L^2(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon) - w_L^2(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q). \quad (3.10)$$

Let η_ε be in the sub-differential of the convex function $q \mapsto w_L^2(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q)$ at q_ε , i.e.:

$$w_L^2(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon) + \langle \eta_\varepsilon, q - q_\varepsilon \rangle \leq w_L^2(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q), \quad \forall q \in \Delta(L).$$

Then, by (3.10), $\eta_\varepsilon \in \partial_q^- w_L^1(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon)$ too. This implies (see Lemma 2.2) that:

$$\begin{aligned} w_L^{1b}(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, -\eta_\varepsilon) &= w_L^1(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon) + \langle -\eta_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon \rangle, \\ w_L^{2b}(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, -\eta_\varepsilon) &= w_L^2(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon) + \langle -\eta_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

Taking the lower conjugate of (3.9) at $-\eta_\varepsilon$, one obtains that

$$w_L^{1b}(t, x, P_\varepsilon, -\eta_\varepsilon) \geq w_L^1(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon) + w_L^{2b}(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, -\eta_\varepsilon) - w_L^2(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, q_\varepsilon) + \varphi(t, x). \quad (3.12)$$

Using the equalities in (3.11), we obtain that

$$w_L^{1b}(t, x, P_\varepsilon, -\eta_\varepsilon) \geq w_L^{1b}(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, P_\varepsilon, -\eta_\varepsilon) + \varphi(t, x), \quad (3.13)$$

with an equality at $(t, x) = (t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon)$. The right-hand-side is a \mathcal{C}^1 -function, and can be taken as a test function. Its derivatives are clearly those of φ , i.e.:

$$\partial_t \varphi(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon) = \sigma + \frac{2}{\varepsilon} (s_\varepsilon - t_\varepsilon),$$

$$D\varphi(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon) = \frac{2}{\varepsilon} (y_\varepsilon - x_\varepsilon).$$

Finally, $(t, x) \mapsto w_L^{1b}(t, x, P_\varepsilon, -\eta_\varepsilon)$ being a super-solution of (H), one has:

$$\sigma + \frac{2}{\varepsilon} (s_\varepsilon - t_\varepsilon) + H(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, \frac{2}{\varepsilon} (y_\varepsilon - x_\varepsilon)) \leq 0. \quad (3.14)$$

Part 2. Symmetrically, we use here that $w_K^{2\sharp}$ is a sub-solution to (H). We fix $(t, x, Q) = (t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, Q_\varepsilon)$ and let $(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, p_\varepsilon)$ be a maximizer in (3.8). As in Part 1, one obtains

$$w_K^{2\sharp}(s, y, \zeta_\varepsilon, Q_\varepsilon) \leq w_K^{2\sharp}(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, \zeta_\varepsilon, Q_\varepsilon) + \phi(s, y),$$

with an equality at $(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon)$, and where ϕ is a \mathcal{C}^1 and satisfies:

$$\partial_t \phi(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon) = \frac{2}{\varepsilon}(s_\varepsilon - t_\varepsilon),$$

$$D\phi(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon) = \frac{2}{\varepsilon}(y_\varepsilon - x_\varepsilon).$$

The mapping $(t, x) \mapsto w_K^{2\sharp}(t, x, \zeta_\varepsilon, Q_\varepsilon)$ being a sub-solution of (H), and using ϕ as a test function one obtains:

$$\frac{2}{\varepsilon}(s_\varepsilon - t_\varepsilon) + H(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, \frac{2}{\varepsilon}(y_\varepsilon - x_\varepsilon)) \geq 0. \quad (3.15)$$

Conclusion. Subtracting (3.14) and (3.15) yields:

$$H(t_\varepsilon, x_\varepsilon, \frac{2}{\varepsilon}(y_\varepsilon - x_\varepsilon)) - H(s_\varepsilon, y_\varepsilon, \frac{2}{\varepsilon}(y_\varepsilon - x_\varepsilon)) \leq -\sigma. \quad (3.16)$$

Using the assumptions on the Hamiltonian, one gets a contradiction by letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. \square

Proof of Theorem 3.1.

Let $w^1 = \mathbf{V}^-$ and $w^2 = \mathbf{V}^+$. These functions satisfy the assumptions of the comparison principle (Theorem 3.6). Indeed, we already noticed that the concavity-convexity is a general property for games with incomplete information. Corollary 3.4 (resp. 3.5) gives the second (resp. third) assumption. Finally, by definition, one has

$$\mathbf{V}^-(1, x, \pi) = \mathbf{V}^+(1, x, \pi) = \sum_{(k, \ell) \in K \times L} \pi^{k\ell} g^{k\ell}(x), \quad \forall (x, \pi) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \Delta(K \times L).$$

The fact that the Hamiltonian associated to the game $H = H^+ = H^-$ satisfies the assumptions in the comparison principle, follows from the Assumption 2.1 and from Cauchy-Schwartz inequality. Indeed, there exists $c \geq 0$ such that, for any $(u, v) \in U \times V$, $s, t \in [0, 1]$, $x, y, \xi, \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle f(t, x, u, v), \xi \rangle - \langle f(s, y, u, v), \xi \rangle| &\leq \|\xi\| \|f(t, x, u, v) - f(s, y, u, v)\|, \\ &\leq \|\xi\| c (|t - s| + \|x - y\|). \end{aligned} \quad (3.17)$$

A classical sup inf argument gives then

$$|H(t, x, \xi) - H(t, y, \xi)| \leq \|\xi\| c (|t - s| + \|x - y\|).$$

Theorem 3.6 applies, so that $\mathbf{V}^- \geq \mathbf{V}^+$. \square

3.5 Application to repeated games

In this paragraph, we deduce from Theorem 3.1 a new characterization for the asymptotic value of repeated games with incomplete information.

Let I and J be two finite sets, let $U := \Delta(I)$ and $V := \Delta(J)$ stand for the corresponding simplexes and let $G^{k\ell} : I \times J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a matrix game for each $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$. Let $\pi \in \Delta(K \times L)$ be an initial probability and let $\theta \in \Delta(\mathbb{N}^*)$ be a measure giving the weight of each stage. A repeated game with incomplete information is played as follows:

- First, a pair of signals (k, ℓ) is drawn according to π ; player 1 is informed of k , player 2 of ℓ .
- Then, at every stage $m \geq 1$, knowing the past actions, the players choose actions $(i_m, j_m) \in I \times J$.

Player 1 maximizes $\sum_{m \geq 1} \theta_m G^{k\ell}(i_m, j_m)$. The existence of the value $v_\theta(\pi)$ is straightforward. The convergence of $v_\theta(\pi)$, as $\|\theta\| := \max_{m \geq 1} \theta_m$ tends to 0, was established by Mertens and Zamir [17], for the two classical evaluations $\theta_m = \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{1}_{m \geq n}$ and $\theta_m = \lambda(1 - \lambda)^{m-1}$, extended to a general evaluation by Cardaliaguet, Laraki and Sorin [7], in the independent case, and then to the general case by Oliu-Barton [18, Section 5.4]. The limit, denoted by $v(\cdot)$, is the unique solution of the Mertens and Zamir [17] system of functional equations on $\Delta(K \times L)$:

$$\begin{cases} w(\pi) = \text{Cav}_{\Delta(K)} \min\{u_K, w_K\}(\pi^K, \pi^{L|K}) \\ w(\pi) = \text{Vex}_{\Delta(L)} \max\{u_L, w_L\}(\pi^L, \pi^{K|L}) \end{cases} \quad (\text{MZ})$$

where $u : \Delta(K \times L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the value of the *average* (or non-revealing) game:

$$u(\pi) = \text{val}_{(u,v) \in U \times V} \sum_{(k,\ell) \in K \times L} \pi^{k\ell} G^{k\ell}(u, v),$$

which exists by the minmax theorem. Here, $G^{k\ell}$ is bi-linearly extended to $U \times V$.

Consider now a natural continuous-time analog of the game we just described:

- First, a pair of signals (k, ℓ) is drawn according to $\pi \in \Delta(K \times L)$, player 1 is informed of k , player 2 of ℓ .
- Then, the players play a differential game with initial time t_0 , running payoff $G^{k\ell}$ and no dynamic, i.e. there is no state variable.

By stationarity (i.e. there is no dependence on t) one can assume w.l.o.g. that $t_0 = 0$ and thus use the shorter notation \mathcal{A} , \mathcal{A}_r , \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{B}_r for $\mathcal{A}(0)$, $\mathcal{A}_r(0)$, $\mathcal{B}(0)$ and $\mathcal{B}_r(0)$ respectively. The value exists thanks to Theorem 3.1:

$$\mathbf{W}(\pi) := \text{val}_{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{A}_r^K \times \mathcal{B}_r^L} \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}}^\pi \left[\int_0^1 G^{k\ell}(\mathbf{u}_\omega(s), \mathbf{v}_\omega(s)) ds \right].$$

The characterization of \mathbf{W} will yield a new characterization of $v(\cdot)$, together with the equality $\mathbf{W}(\pi) = v(\pi)$ for all $\pi \in \Delta(K \times L)$. Start by using the reduction of Section 2.1 (see the Appendix). Define an auxiliary game with initial state $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times L}$, dynamic $f(t, x, u, v) := (G^{k\ell}(u, v))_{k\ell}$, no running payoff and terminal payoff functions $g^{k\ell}(x) = x^{k\ell}$, for each $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$. The state accounts for the cumulated payoff in each one of the $K \times L$ coordinates:

$$x_t = \int_{t_0}^t G(\mathbf{u}(s), \mathbf{v}(s)) ds \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times L},$$

and the terminal payoff is simply the cumulated payoff corresponding to the true parameters. This game has a value $\mathbf{V}(t_0, x_0, \pi)$ by Theorem 3.1. The following properties are straightforward consequences of the stationarity of the model: for all $(t, x, \pi) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^{K \times L} \times \Delta(K \times L)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{V}(t, x, \pi) &= \mathbf{V}(t, 0, \pi) + \langle x, \pi \rangle, \\ \mathbf{V}(t, x, \pi) &= (1 - t)\mathbf{V}(0, x, \pi), \\ \mathbf{V}(0, 0, \pi) &= \mathbf{W}(\pi). \end{aligned} \tag{3.18}$$

The next result is a consequence of the the sub-dynamic programming principle (Proposition 3.1), the characterization in Theorem 3.1 and the equalities (3.18).

Proposition 3.2. *The map $\mathbf{W} : \Delta(K \times L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the unique K -concave and L -convex Lipschitz continuous function satisfying:*

(1) For all $Q \in \Delta(L)^K$, $\zeta \mapsto \mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta, Q)$ is a sub-solution of:

$$-w(\zeta) + \langle Dw(\zeta), \zeta \rangle + u_K(-Dw(\zeta), Q) \geq 0, \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^K.$$

(2) For all $P \in \Delta(K)^L$, $\eta \mapsto \mathbf{W}_L^\flat(P, \eta)$ is a super-solution of:

$$-w(\eta) + \langle Dw(\eta), \eta \rangle + u_L(P, Dw(\eta)) \leq 0, \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^L.$$

Proof. The K -concavity, L -convexity and Lipschitz continuity of \mathbf{W} is a direct consequence of Theorem 3.1 and the relation $\mathbf{V}(0, 0, \pi) = \mathbf{W}(\pi)$. Now, it follows from (3.18) that, for all $(t, x, \zeta, Q) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^K \times \Delta(L)^K$,

$$\mathbf{V}_K^\sharp(t, x, \zeta, Q) = (1 - t)\mathbf{W}_K^\sharp\left(\frac{\zeta - x(Q)}{1 - t}, Q\right), \tag{3.19}$$

where $x^k(Q) = \sum_{\ell \in L} Q(\ell|k)x^{k\ell}$, for all $k \in K$. Applying Proposition 3.1 at $(t, x) = (0, 0)$, one obtains that, for all $(\zeta, Q) \in \mathbb{R}^K \times \Delta(L)^K$ and $h \in [0, 1)$,

$$\mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta, Q) \leq (1 - h) \inf_{\beta \in \mathcal{B}} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbf{W}_K^\sharp\left(\frac{\zeta - G_h^Q(\alpha, \beta)}{1 - h}, Q\right), \tag{3.20}$$

where $G_h^Q(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^K$,

$$(G_h^Q(\alpha, \beta))^k = \int_0^h \sum_{\ell \in L} Q(\ell|k) G^{k\ell}(\alpha(s), \beta(s)) ds.$$

By classical arguments, the super-dynamic principle (3.20) implies (1). Reversing the roles of the players, one obtains (2). Finally, uniqueness follows from a standard comparison principle. \square

It is somehow deceiving to characterize \mathbf{W} in terms of its upper and lower conjugates. The next results shows how, from Proposition 3.2, one can recover properties on the original function.

Corollary 3.7. *Let $Q_0 \in \Delta(L)^K$ be fixed, and suppose that $\zeta \mapsto \mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta, Q_0)$ is differentiable at $\zeta_0 \in \mathbb{R}^K$. Then,*

$$\mathbf{W}(p_0 \otimes Q_0) \leq u(p_0 \otimes Q_0), \quad \text{where } p_0 := -D\mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta_0, Q_0) \in \Delta(K).$$

Proof. Let ϕ be a test function at ζ_0 , i.e. $\phi(\zeta) \geq \mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta, Q_0)$, for all $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^K$, with an equality at ζ_0 . The differentiability of $\zeta \mapsto \mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta, Q_0)$ at ζ_0 implies then that $D\phi(\zeta_0) = D\mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta_0, Q_0)$. Then, by Proposition 3.2 and the choice of p_0 one has:

$$-\mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta_0, Q_0) + \langle -p_0, \zeta_0 \rangle + u_K(p_0, Q_0) \geq 0. \quad (3.21)$$

Finally, by Fenchel duality (see Lemma 2.2) one has

$$\mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta_0, Q_0) = -\mathbf{W}_K(p_0, Q_0) + \langle p_0, \zeta_0 \rangle.$$

Replacing this expression in (3.21) gives the desired result. \square

We can now obtain the desired equality.

Corollary 3.8. $\mathbf{W}(\pi) = v(\pi)$ for all $\pi \in \Delta(K \times L)$

Proof. By Lemma 2.3, the differentiability of $\zeta \mapsto \mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta, Q_0)$ at $\zeta_0 \in \mathbb{R}^K$ is equivalent to the fact that $p_0 := -D\mathbf{W}_K^\sharp(\zeta_0, Q_0) \in \Delta(K)$ is an extreme point of $p \mapsto \mathbf{W}_K(p, Q_0)$. On the other hand, any K -concave, L -convex continuous, bounded function $f : \Delta(K \times L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a solution to (MZ) if and only if (see [20, Lemma 4.35])

$$\begin{cases} f(p \otimes Q) \leq u(p \otimes Q), & \forall p \in \mathcal{E}_f(Q), \\ f(q \otimes P) \geq u(q \otimes P), & \forall q \in \mathcal{E}_f(P), \end{cases}$$

where $\mathcal{E}_f(Q)$ (resp. $\mathcal{E}_f(P)$) is the set of extreme points of $f_K(\cdot, Q)$ (resp. $f_L(\cdot, P)$). By Corollary 3.7, \mathbf{W} is thus a solution of the Mertens-Zamir system of functional equations. The solution being unique [17, Theorem 2.1], one obtains $\mathbf{W} = v$. \square

Corollary 3.8 and Proposition 3.2 provide a new characterization for the asymptotic value $v(\cdot)$ of repeated games with incomplete information.

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Appendix

Let us describe precisely the standard transformation from a Bolza to a Mayer problem, which allows to assume without loss of generality, that there is no running payoff. The past controls being commonly observed, both players can compute the $K \times L$ potential integral payoffs and positions induced by the pair $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \in \mathcal{U}(t_0) \times \mathcal{V}(t_0)$ at time $t \in [t_0, 1]$:

$$\int_{t_0}^t \gamma^{k\ell}(s, \mathbf{x}^{k\ell}[t_0, x_0^{k\ell}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}](s), \mathbf{u}(s), \mathbf{v}(s)) ds, \quad (k, \ell) \in K \times L$$

$$\mathbf{x}^{k\ell}[t_0, x_0^{k\ell}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}](t), \quad (k, \ell) \in K \times L.$$

Define a new state variable in $(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n)^{K \times L}$ which contains this information. Let the dynamic be given by:

$$F : [0, 1] \times (\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n)^{K \times L} \times U \times V \rightarrow (\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n)^{K \times L},$$

$$F^{k\ell}(t, (y^{k\ell}, x^{k\ell})_{(k,\ell)}, u, v) = (\gamma^{k\ell}(t, x^{k\ell}, u, v), f^{k\ell}(t, x^{k\ell}, u, v)).$$

Define new terminal payoff functions by setting, for each $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$,

$$G^{k\ell} : (\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n)^{K \times L} \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

$$G^{k\ell}((y^{k,\ell}, x^{k\ell})_{(k,\ell)}) = y^{k\ell} + g^{k\ell}(x^{k\ell}).$$

Let $N = (1 + n)|K||L|$ and let $X_0 := (0, x_0^{k\ell})_{(k,\ell) \in K \times L} \in \mathbb{R}^N$. The regularity of f , γ and g ensures that F and $G^{k\ell}$ satisfy Assumption 2.1, for each (k, ℓ) . Define an auxiliary differential game with asymmetric information as follows: before the game starts, $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$ is drawn according to π ; k (resp. ℓ) is told to player 1 (resp. 2). Then, the standard differential game

$$(X_0, F, 0, (G^{k\ell})_{k,\ell})$$

is played. This game is equivalent to $\mathcal{G}(t_0, \pi)$ since any couple of controls $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \in \mathcal{U}(t_0) \times \mathcal{V}(t_0)$ induces the same payoff in both games.

In view of this reduction, with no loss of generality we may focus on games satisfying (a) and (b). The following assumption holds in the rest of the paper.

Assumption 3.9. *There exists $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\phi : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^n \times U \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $x_0^{k\ell} = z$ and $f^{k\ell} = \phi$, for all $(k, \ell) \in K \times L$. Moreover, $\gamma \equiv 0$.*

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