

VISCOSITY SOLUTIONS OF DIVERGENCE TYPE PDES ASSOCIATED TO MULTITIME HYBRID GAMES

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Our original results are associated to a multitime hybrid game, with two equipments of players, based on a multiple integral functional and an m -flow as constraint. The aim of this paper is three-fold: (i) to define the multitime lower or upper value function; (ii) to build Divergence type PDEs ; (iii) to give viscosity solutions of previous PDEs.

Keywords: multitime hybrid differential games; divergence type PDE; multitime viscosity solution; multitime dynamic programming.

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1. Multitime lower or upper value function

All variables and functions must satisfy suitable conditions (for example, see [11]). We refer to a *multitime hybrid differential game, with two equipments of players*, whose *Bolza payoff* is the sum between a multiple integral (volume) and a function of the final event (the terminal cost) and whose evolution PDE is an *m -flow*. More specifically, this paper refers to the following optimal control problem:

Find

$$\min_{v(\cdot) \in V} \max_{u(\cdot) \in U} I(u(\cdot), v(\cdot)) = \int_{\Omega_{0T}} L(s, x(s), u(s), v(s)) ds + g(x(T)),$$

subject to the Cauchy problem

$$\frac{\partial x^i}{\partial s^\alpha}(s) = X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), u(s), v(s)), \quad x(0) = x_0, \quad s \in \Omega_{0T} \subset \mathbb{R}_+^m, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

where $i = 1, \dots, n$; $\alpha = 1, \dots, m$; $u = (u^a)$, $a = 1, \dots, p$, $v = (v^b)$, $b = 1, \dots, q$ are the controls; $ds = ds^1 \wedge \dots \wedge ds^m$ is the volume element.

We vary the starting multitime and the initial point. We obtain a larger family of similar multitime problems based on the functional

$$I_{t,x}(u(\cdot), v(\cdot)) = \int_{\Omega_{tT}} L(s, x(s), u(s), v(s)) ds + g(x(T))$$

and the multitime evolution constraint (Cauchy problem for first order PDEs system)

$$\frac{\partial x^i}{\partial s^\alpha}(s) = X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), u(s), v(s)), \quad x(t) = x, \quad s \in \Omega_{tT} \subset \mathbb{R}_+^m, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

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Remark 1.1. Sometimes, the existence of multitime totally min-max optimal controls and sheets can be seen without any optimality arguments. For example, the problem

$$V(x) = \min_u \max_v \int_{\Omega_{tT}} ((x(s) + u(s))^2 - v(s)^2) ds, \quad \frac{\partial x}{\partial s^\alpha}(s) = X_\alpha(s, x(s), u(s), v(s)),$$

with $s \in \Omega_{tT}$, $t \in \Omega_{0T}$, $x(0) = x_0$, has a global min-max solution $V(x) = 0$ for $u = -x$, $v = 0$, and all t, T, x_0 . The set of those sheets is obviously a totally optimal field of sheets corresponding to given X_α for which solutions of $\frac{\partial x}{\partial s^\alpha}(s) = X_\alpha(s, x(s), -x(s), 0)$ exist over $[0, T]$ for any x_0 .

Remark 1.2. Let us consider the problem: find $u(t)$ and $F(t)$ such that

$$W(F) = \min_u \int_{\Omega} \sum_{\alpha=1}^m (t^\alpha + u_\alpha(t))^2 dt, \quad u \nabla F = 0, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}^m, \quad \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m.$$

This problem has a global optimal solution

$$W(F) = 0, \text{ for } u_\alpha(t) = -t^\alpha \neq 0, \quad F(t) = \varphi \left(\frac{t^1}{t^2}, \dots, \frac{t^\alpha}{t^{\alpha+1}}, \dots, \frac{t^{m-1}}{t^m}, \frac{t^m}{t^1} \right),$$

with arbitrary function φ , any subset Ω and $m \geq 2$.

Definition 1.1. Let Ψ and Φ be suitable strategies of the two equipments of players.

(i) The function

$$m(t, x) = \min_{\Psi \in \mathcal{B}} \max_{u(\cdot) \in \mathcal{U}} I_{t,x}[u(\cdot), \Psi[u](\cdot)]$$

is called the multitime lower value function.

(ii) The function

$$M(t, x) = \max_{\Phi \in \mathcal{A}} \min_{v(\cdot) \in \mathcal{V}} I_{t,x}[\Phi[v](\cdot), [v](\cdot)]$$

is called the multitime upper value function.

The most important ingredient in our theory is the idea of *generating vector field*. This mathematical ingredient allow the introduction of PDEs of divergence type (see [11]).

Definition 1.2. Let D_α be the total derivative and c_{hyp} , C_{hyp} be hyperbolic constants.

(i) The vector field $(m^\alpha(t, x))$ is called the generating lower vector field of the lower value function $m(t, x)$, if

$$m(T, x(T)) = c_{hyp} + m(t, x(t)) + \int_{\Omega_{tT}} D_\alpha m^\alpha(s, x(s)) ds.$$

(ii) The vector field $(M^\alpha(t, x))$ is called the generating upper vector field of the upper value function $M(t, x)$, if

$$M(T, x(T)) = C_{hyp} + M(t, x(t)) + \int_{\Omega_{tT}} D_\alpha M^\alpha(s, x(s)) ds.$$

The papers [1]-[4], [12] refer to viscosity solutions of Hamilton-Jacobi-Isaacs equations. Our papers [5]-[11] are listed for understanding the multitime optimal control and our recent results which led to the present work.

2. Viscosity solutions of divergence type PDEs

Let us recall some PDEs that admit viscosity solutions: (i) the *Eikonal Equation*: $|Du| = f(x)$, which is related to geometric optics (rays); (ii) *(stationary) Hamilton-Jacobi equation*: $H(x, u, Du) = 0$, $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, where $H : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called Hamiltonian and is continuous and in general convex in p (i.e. in the gradient-variable); the eikonal equation is in particular a (stationary) Hamilton-Jacobi equation; (iii) *(single time evolution) Hamilton-Jacobi equation*: $u_t + H(x, u, Du) = 0$, $\mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty)$; (iv) the *single time Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation*, based on the Hamiltonian

$$H(x, p) = \sup_{a \in A} \{-f(x, a) \cdot p - l(x, a)\};$$

this is a particular Hamilton-Jacobi equation which is very important in single-time control theory and economics; (v) in *Differential Games*, with two equipments of players, the (lower) value function

$$v(t, x) = \inf_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{B}]} \sup_{\beta \in \mathcal{B}} J(t, x, \alpha, \beta)$$

solves the Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman PDE

$$u_t + H(x, Du) = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

where

$$H(t, x, p) := \min_{b \in B} \max_{a \in A} \{-f(t, x, a, b) \cdot p - l(t, x, a, b)\}.$$

(vi) there exists *multitime Hamilton-Jacobi PDEs systems* which admit no viscosity solution, in the non-convex setting, even when the Hamiltonians are in involution [12].

Our aim is to introduce multitime divergence type PDEs that admit viscosity solutions. Viscosity solutions need not be differentiable anywhere and thus are not sensitive to the classical problem of the crossing of characteristics.

The generating lower and upper vector fields, denoted by (m^α) and (M^α) , define the relations

$$m(t) - m(t+h) = -c_{hyp} - \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} D_\alpha m^\alpha ds.$$

$$M(t) - M(t+h) = -C_{hyp} - \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} D_\alpha M^\alpha ds.$$

The key original idea is that the generating upper vector field or the generating lower vector field are solutions of divergence type PDEs, defined in the next Theorem. Our PDEs contain some implicit assumptions, and are valid under certain conditions which are defined and analyzed for multitime hybrid differential games.

Theorem 2.1. (i) *The generating upper vector field $(M^\alpha(t, x))$ is the viscosity solution of the multitime upper divergence type PDE*

$$\frac{\partial M^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha}(t, x) + \min_{v \in V} \max_{u \in U} \left\{ \frac{\partial M^\alpha}{\partial x^i}(t, x) X_\alpha^i(t, x, u, v) + L(t, x, u, v) \right\} = 0,$$

which satisfies the terminal condition $M^\alpha(T, x) = g^\alpha(x)$.

(ii) *The generating lower vector field $(m^\alpha(t, x))$ is the viscosity solution of the multitime lower divergence type PDE*

$$\frac{\partial m^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha} + \max_{u \in U} \min_{v \in V} \left\{ \frac{\partial m^\alpha}{\partial x^i}(t, x) X_\alpha^i(t, x, u, v) + L(t, x, u, v) \right\} = 0,$$

which satisfies the terminal condition $m^\alpha(T, x) = g^\alpha(x)$.

Proof. To simplify the divergence type PDEs, we introduce the so-called upper and lower Hamiltonian defined respectively by

$$H^+(t, x, p) = \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}} \max_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \{p_i^\alpha(t) X_\alpha^i(t, x, u, v) + L(t, x, u, v)\},$$

$$H^-(t, x, p) = \max_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}} \{p_i^\alpha(t) X_\alpha^i(t, x, u, v) + L(t, x, u, v)\}.$$

We prove only the first statement. For $s \in \Omega_{tt+h}$, we use the Cauchy problem

$$\frac{\partial x^i}{\partial s^\alpha}(s) = X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), u(s), v(s)), \quad x(t) = x, \quad s \in \Omega_{tt+h} \subset \mathbb{R}_+^m, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

and the cost functional (volume)

$$I_{t,x}(u(\cdot), v(\cdot)) = \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} L(s, x(s), u(s), v(s)) ds.$$

For $s \in \Omega_{tT} \setminus \Omega_{tt+h}$, the cost is $M(t+h, x(t+h))$. Consequently,

$$I_{t,x}(u(\cdot), v(\cdot)) = \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} L(s, x(s), u(s), v(s)) ds + M(t+h, x(t+h)),$$

with $M(t, x) \geq M(t+h, x(t+h))$, because $M(t, x)$ is the greatest cost. Thus we have the multitime dynamic programming optimality condition

$$M(t, x) = \max_{\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}(t)} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) ds + M(t+h, x(t+h)) \right\}.$$

Let $(w^\alpha) \in C^1(\Omega_{0T} \times \mathbb{R}^n)$ be a generating vector field. We analyse two cases:

Case 1 Suppose $M^\alpha - w^\alpha$ attains a local maximum at $(t, x) \in \Omega_{0T} \times \mathbb{R}^n$. To prove the inequality

$$\frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha}(t, x) + H^+\left(t, x, \frac{\partial w}{\partial x^i}(t, x)\right) \geq 0, \quad (1)$$

it is enough to prove that the relation

$$\frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha}(t, x) + H^+\left(t, x, \frac{\partial w}{\partial x^i}(t, x)\right) \leq -\theta < 0,$$

is false, for some constant $\theta > 0$.

We use the *Fundamental Lemma* in the next Section. For a sufficiently small $\|h\| > 0$, all $w \in \mathcal{A}(t)$, for $v \in \mathcal{V}(t)$, we obtain that the relation

$$\int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} \left(L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial x^i} X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial s^\alpha} \right) ds \leq -\frac{\theta \text{vol}(h)}{2}$$

holds for $v \in \mathcal{V}$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}(t)} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} \left(L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial x^i} X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial s^\alpha} \right) ds \right\} \\ \leq -\frac{\theta \text{vol}(h)}{2}, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

with $x(\cdot)$ solution of the previous Cauchy problem.

Because $M^\alpha - w^\alpha$ has a local maximum at (t, x) , we have

$$w^\alpha(t+h, x(t+h)) - w^\alpha(t, x) \geq M^\alpha(t+h, x(t+h)) - M^\alpha(t, x).$$

Dividing by h^α , taking the limit for $h^\alpha \rightarrow 0$, summing after α , we find the inequality $D_\alpha w^\alpha \geq D_\alpha M^\alpha$ and finally

$$M(t, x) - M(t+h, x(t+h)) \geq w(t, x) - w(t+h, x(t+h)).$$

The multitime dynamic programming optimality condition and the local maximum definition give us

$$M(t, x) - M(t + h, x(t + h)) = \max_{\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}(t)} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) ds \right\}.$$

Consequently, we have

$$\max_{\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}(t)} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) ds \right\} \geq w(t, x) - w(t + h, x(t + h))$$

or

$$\max_{\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}(t)} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) ds \right\} + w(t + h, x(t + h)) - w(t, x) \geq 0.$$

By the definition of the generating vector field, the m -dimensional hyperbolic difference is

$$\begin{aligned} w(t + h, x(t + h)) - w(t, x) &= \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} D_\alpha w^\alpha ds \\ &= \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} \left(\frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial x^i} X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial s^\alpha} \right) ds \end{aligned}$$

and thus the contradiction with (2) arises.

Case 2 Suppose $M^\alpha - w^\alpha$ attains a local minimum at $(t, x) \in \Omega_{0T} \times \mathbb{R}^n$. Analogously to the previous case, we shall prove the relation

$$\frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha}(t, x) + H^+(t, x, \frac{\partial w}{\partial x^i}(t, x)) \leq 0 \quad (3)$$

by supposing the contrary

$$\frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha}(t, x) + H^+(t, x, \frac{\partial w}{\partial x^i}(t, x)) \geq \theta > 0,$$

for some constant $\theta > 0$.

According to *Fundamental Lemma* (see next Section), for each sufficiently small $\|h\| > 0$ and all $w \in \mathcal{A}(t)$, the foregoing results imply that the relation

$$\int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} \left(L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial x^i} X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial s^\alpha} \right) ds \geq \frac{\theta \text{vol}(h)}{2}$$

holds for $v \in \mathcal{V}(t)$. It follows that the relation

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}(t)} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} \left(L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial x^i} X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial s^\alpha} \right) ds \right\} \geq \frac{\theta \text{vol}(h)}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

is true.

Because $M^\alpha - w^\alpha$ has a minimum at (t, x) , we have the inequality

$$M^\alpha(t, x) - w^\alpha(t, x) \leq M^\alpha(t + h, x(t + h)) - w^\alpha(t + h, x(t + h))$$

and so $D_\alpha w^\alpha \leq D_\alpha M^\alpha$. By the local minimum definition and by the multitime dynamic programming optimality condition, we can state the relation

$$M(t, x) - M(t + h, x(t + h)) = \max_{\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}(t)} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) ds \right\}.$$

Consequently, we obtain

$$\max_{\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t)} \min_{v \in \mathcal{V}(t)} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) ds \right\} + w(t+h, x(t+h)) - w(t, x) \leq 0.$$

On the other hand, we know that

$$\begin{aligned} w(t+h, x(t+h)) - w(t, x) &= \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} D_\alpha w^\alpha ds \\ &= \int_{\Omega_{tt+h}} \left(\frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial x^i} X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial s^\alpha} \right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

The last two relations contradicts the relation (4) and thus the relation (3) must be true. \square

3. Fundamental contradict Lemma

It is preferable to put the Lemma in this Section to receive notations from the previous Section.

Lemma 3.1. *Let $w \in C^1(\Omega_{0T} \times \mathbb{R}^n)$ and the associated generating vector field (w^α) .*

(i) *If $M^\alpha - w^\alpha$ attains a local maximum at $(t_0, x_0) \in \Omega_{0T} \times \mathbb{R}^n$, for each α , and*

$$\frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha}(t_0, x_0) + H^+ \left(t_0, x_0, \frac{\partial w}{\partial x^i}(t_0, x_0) \right) \leq -\theta < 0,$$

then for all sufficiently small $\|h\| > 0$, there exists a control $v = (v_\alpha) \in \mathcal{V}(t_0)$ such that the relation (2) holds for all strategies $\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t_0)$.

(ii) *If $M^\alpha - w^\alpha$ attains a local minimum at $(t_0, x_0) \in \Omega_{0T} \times \mathbb{R}^n$, for each α , and*

$$\frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha}(t_0, x_0) + H^+ \left(t_0, x_0, \frac{\partial w}{\partial x^i}(t_0, x_0) \right) \geq \theta > 0,$$

then for all sufficiently small $\|h\| > 0$, there exists a control $u = (u_\alpha) \in \mathcal{U}(t_0)$ such that the relation (4) holds for all strategies $\Psi \in \mathcal{B}(t_0)$.

Proof. The basic object is the m -form (identified with one component function, see multiple integral)

$$\Lambda = L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial x^i} X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha}.$$

(i) By hypothesis

$$\min_{v \in \mathcal{V}} \max_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \Lambda(t_0, x_0, u, v) \leq -\theta < 0.$$

Consequently there exists some control $v^* \in \mathcal{V}$ such that

$$\max_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \Lambda(t_0, x_0, u, v^*) \leq -\theta.$$

By the uniform continuity of the m -form Λ , we have

$$\max_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \Lambda(t_0, x(s), u, v^*) \leq -\frac{1}{2} \theta$$

provided $s \in \Omega_{t_0 t_0+h}$, for any small $\|h\| > 0$, and $x(\cdot)$ is solution of PDE on $\Omega_{t_0 t_0+h}$, for any $u(\cdot), v(\cdot)$, with initial condition $x(t_0) = x_0$. For the control $v(\cdot) = v^*$ and for any strategy $\Phi \in \mathcal{A}(t_0)$, we find

$$L(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial x^i} X_\alpha^i(s, x(s), \Phi[v](s), v(s)) + \frac{\partial w^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha} \leq \frac{1}{2} \theta,$$

for $s \in \Omega_{t_0 t_0+h}$. Taking the hyperbolic primitive integral on $\Omega_{t_0 t_0+h}$, we obtain the relation (2).

(ii) The inequality in the Lemma reads

$$\min_{v \in \mathcal{V}} \max_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \Lambda(t_0, x_0, u, v) \geq \theta > 0.$$

Consequently, for each control $v \in \mathcal{V}$ there exists a control $u = u(v) \in U$ such that

$$\Lambda(t_0, x_0, u, v) \geq \theta.$$

The uniform continuity of the m -form Λ implies

$$\Lambda(t_0, x_0, u, \xi) \geq \frac{3}{4} \theta, \quad \forall \xi \in B(v, r) \cap V \text{ and some } r = r(v) > 0.$$

Due to compactness of \mathcal{V} , there exists finitely many distinct points

$$v_1, \dots, v_n \in \mathcal{V}; \quad u_1, \dots, u_n \in \mathcal{U}$$

and the numbers $r_1, \dots, r_n > 0$ such that $\mathcal{V} \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B(v_i, r_i)$ and

$$\Lambda(t_0, x_0, u_i, \xi) \geq \frac{3}{4} \theta, \quad \forall \xi \in B(v_i, r_i).$$

Define

$$\psi : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}, \quad \psi(v) = u_k \text{ if } v \in B(u_k, r_k) \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^{k-1} B(u_i, r_i), \quad k = \overline{1, n}.$$

In this way, we have the inequality

$$\Lambda(t_0, x_0, \psi(v), v) \geq \frac{3}{4} \theta, \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{V}.$$

Again, the uniform continuity of the m -form Λ and a sufficiently small $\|h\| > 0$ give

$$\Lambda(s, x(s), \psi(v), v) \geq \frac{1}{2} \theta, \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{V}, \quad s \in \Omega_{t_0 t_0+h},$$

and any solution $x(\cdot)$ of PDE on $\Omega_{t_0 t_0+h}$, for any $u(\cdot), v(\cdot)$ and with initial condition $x(t_0) = x_0$. Now define the strategy

$$\Psi \in \mathcal{B}(t_0), \quad \Psi[v](s) = \psi(v(s)), \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{V}(t_0), \quad s \in \Omega_{t_0 t_0+h}.$$

Finally, we have the inequality

$$\Lambda(s, x(s), \Psi[v])(s, v(s)) \geq \frac{1}{2} \theta, \quad \forall s \in \Omega_{t_0 t_0+h},$$

and taking the hyperbolic primitive integral on $\Omega_{t_0 t_0+h}$, we find the result in Lemma. \square

4. Conclusions

Our problem of multitime hybrid differential games requires some original ideas issued from our research in multitime dynamic programming: generating vector field, divergence type PDEs and their viscosity solutions. Also, to formulate and prove such Theorems we need a proper geometric language. This research shows how the general theory of multitime dynamic programming can be applied to special problems, here multitime optimal games.

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