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Path-dependent Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation: Uniqueness of Crandall-Lions viscosity solutions

Andrea COSSO* Fausto GOZZI† Mauro ROSESTOLATO‡ Francesco RUSSO§

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Abstract

We formulate a path-dependent stochastic optimal control problem under general conditions, for which we prove rigorously the dynamic programming principle and that the value function is the unique Crandall-Lions viscosity solution of the corresponding Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation. Compared to the literature, the proof of our core result, that is the comparison theorem, is based on the fact that the value function is bigger than any viscosity subsolution and smaller than any viscosity supersolution. It also relies on the approximation of the value function in terms of functions defined on finite-dimensional spaces as well as on regularity results for parabolic partial differential equations.

Mathematics Subject Classification (2020): 35D40, 35B51, 93E20.

Keywords: path-dependent Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equations, viscosity solutions, comparison theorem, functional Itô calculus.

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1 Introduction

The optimal control of path-dependent stochastic differential equations (SDEs) arises frequently in applications (for instance in Economics and Finance) where the dynamics are non-Markovian. Such non-Markovianity makes difficult to apply the dynamic programming approach to those problems. Indeed, the standard dynamic programming approach is designed when the state equation is Markovian hence it cannot be applied to such problems as it is.

More precisely, consider the following SDE on a complete probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ where a m -dimensional Brownian motion $B = (B_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is defined. Let $T > 0$, $t \in [0, T]$, $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, and consider a progressively measurable process $\alpha: [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow A$ (with A being a Polish space), where x is the initial path and α the control process. Let the state process $X: [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ satisfy the following controlled path-dependent SDE:

$$\begin{cases} dX_s = b(s, X, \alpha_s) ds + \sigma(s, X, \alpha_s) dB_s, & s \in (t, T], \\ X_s = x(s), & s \in [0, t]. \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

Here X denotes the whole path, which, under mild assumptions, belongs to $C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. We assume $b: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ (as well as σ) to be non-anticipative, namely, for all $s \in [0, T]$, $a \in A$, $b(s, x, a)$ and $\sigma(s, x, a)$ depend on the path $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ only up to time s .

The stochastic optimal control problem consists in maximizing the reward functional

$$J(t, x, \alpha) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s) ds + g(X^{t,x,\alpha}) \right],$$

with f being non-anticipative, as b and σ above. In the above formula, $X^{t,x,\alpha}$ denotes the solution to (1.1). The value function is then defined as

$$v(t, x) = \sup_{\alpha} J(t, x, \alpha), \quad \forall (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d),$$

where the supremum is taken over all progressively measurable control processes α .

We see that the value function is defined on the infinite-dimensional space of continuous paths $C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, hence it is related to some Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman (HJB) equation in infinite dimension.

The “standard” approach to study such problems consists in changing state space transforming the path-dependent SDE into a Markovian SDE, formulated on an infinite-dimensional space \mathcal{H} , typically $C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ or $\mathbb{R}^d \times L^2([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. In this case the associated Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation is a PDE in infinite dimension (see for instance [19, 31]) which contains “standard” Fréchet derivatives in the space \mathcal{H} . Some results on the viscosity solution approach are given for instance in [32, 33, 51]; however, uniqueness results seems not available up to now, see the discussion in [31, Section 3.14, pages 363-364]).

More recently, another approach has been developed after the seminal work of Dupire [23]. This is based on the introduction of a different notion of “finite-dimensional” derivatives (known as horizontal/vertical derivatives), which allows to write the associated HJB equation without using the derivatives in the space \mathcal{H} . We call such an equation a path-dependent Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation (see equation (3.5) below), which belongs to the more general class of path-dependent partial differential equations, that is PDEs where the unknown depends on the paths and the involved derivatives are the Dupire horizontal and vertical derivatives. The definitions of these derivatives are recalled in Appendix A. There are also other approaches, similar to that introduced by Dupire, but based on slightly different notions of derivatives, see in particular [1, 44, 36].

The theory of path-dependent PDEs is very recent, yet there are already many papers on this subject, see for instance [7, 21, 22, 53, 45, 10, 46, 25, 26, 27, 34, 47, 13, 14, 50, 49, 48, 3, 11, 4, 15].

One stream in the literature looks at such equations using modified definitions of viscosity solution. In particular, we mention the notion of viscosity solution introduced in [25] and by now well developed (see [26, 27, 47, 50, 49, 11]), where maxima and minima are taken in expectation. We also mention the recent paper [7], where a notion of “approximate” viscosity solution is introduced, for which existence, comparison, and stability results are established under fairly general conditions.

Another stream in the literature, to which this article belongs, looks at path-dependent PDEs using the “standard” definition of viscosity solution adapted to the new derivatives. We call such a definition the “Crandall-Lions” one, recalling for instance their papers [17, 18]. In such a context there are only two papers, namely [15] and [54]. Paper [15] only addresses the path-dependent heat equation, however it is the first work where the main tools used in [54] and in the present paper were introduced, namely the use of a smooth gauge-type function and a smooth variational principle on the space of continuous paths in order to generate maxima/minima on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, therefore relying on the completeness of the underlying space in place of the missing local compactness. Concerning [54], a comparison theorem for path-dependent HJB equations is provided using the approach of doubling variables. The proof of such a result turns out to be technically more involved compared to our approach, even though we impose stronger assumptions on the diffusion coefficient.

In the present paper we prove existence and uniqueness of Crandall-Lions viscosity solutions of HJB equations associated to the optimal control of path-dependent SDEs. The proof of uniqueness (or, more precisely, of the comparison theorem, from which uniqueness is derived) is built on refinements of the original approach developed in [43] and is based on the existence of the candidate solution v (the value function), which is shown to be bigger than any subsolution and smaller than any supersolution. The latter is traditionally based on regularity results which are missing in the present context. We overcome this non-trivial technical difficulty relying on suitable approximation procedures as well as on regularity results for parabolic partial differential equations, see Lemmas B.3-B.4-B.5 and Theorem B.7 of Appendix B. Moreover, in order to generate maxima or minima for functions on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, we use the idea introduced in [15], and also adopted in [54], of relying on a smooth variational principle of Borwein-Preiss type and on a smooth gauge-type function. Here, we exploit the smooth gauge-type function introduced in [54] (see Lemma 4.2), which turns out to be simpler than that built in [15].

Once the comparison theorem is proved, we deduce from our existence result (Theorem 3.4) that the value function v is the unique Crandall-Lions viscosity solution of the path-dependent HJB equation. The existence result is based, as usual, on the dynamic programming principle, which is proved rigorously in the

present paper, see Theorem 2.9.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we formulate the stochastic optimal control problem of path-dependent SDEs and prove the dynamic programming principle. In Section 3 we introduce the notion of Crandall-Lions viscosity solution and prove that the value function v solves in the viscosity sense the path-dependent Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation. In Section 4 we state the smooth variational principle on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and prove the comparison theorem, from which the uniqueness result follows. In Appendix A we recall the definitions of horizontal and vertical derivatives together with the functional Itô formula. Finally, in Appendix B we report all the results concerning the approximation of the value function needed in the proof of the comparison theorem.

2 Path dependent stochastic optimal control problems

2.1 Notations and basic setting

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a complete probability space on which a m -dimensional Brownian motion $B = (B_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is defined. Let $\mathbb{F} = (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ denote the \mathbb{P} -completion of the filtration generated by B . Notice that \mathbb{F} is right-continuous, so that it satisfies the usual conditions. Furthermore, let $T > 0$ and let A be a Polish space, with $\mathcal{B}(A)$ being its Borel σ -algebra. We denote by \mathcal{A} the family of all \mathbb{F} -progressively measurable processes $\alpha: [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow A$. Finally, for every $p \geq 1$, we denote by $\mathbf{S}_p(\mathbb{F})$ the set of d -dimensional continuous \mathbb{F} -progressively measurable processes $X: [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ such that

$$\|X\|_{\mathbf{S}_p} := \mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} |X_t|^p \right]^{1/p} < \infty. \quad (2.1)$$

The *state space* of the stochastic optimal control problem is the set $C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ of continuous d -dimensional paths on $[0, T]$. For every $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $t \in [0, T]$, we denote by $x(t)$ or x_t the value of x at time t and we set $x(\cdot \wedge t) := (x(s \wedge t))_{s \in [0, T]}$ or $x_{\cdot \wedge t} := (x(s \wedge t))_{s \in [0, T]}$. Observe that $x(t)$ (or x_t) is an element of \mathbb{R}^d , while $x(\cdot \wedge t)$ (or $x_{\cdot \wedge t}$) belongs to $C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. We endow $C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ with the supremum norm $\|\cdot\|_T$ (also denoted by $\|\cdot\|_\infty$) defined as

$$\|x\|_T = \sup_{s \in [0, T]} |x(s)|, \quad x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d),$$

where $|x(s)|$ denotes the Euclidean norm of $x(s)$ in \mathbb{R}^d . We remark that $(C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \|\cdot\|_T)$ is a Banach space and we denote by \mathcal{B} its Borel σ -algebra. We also define, for every $t \in [0, T]$, the seminorm $\|\cdot\|_t$ as

$$\|x\|_t = \|x_{\cdot \wedge t}\|_T, \quad x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d).$$

Finally, on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ we define the pseudometric $d_\infty: ([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ as

$$d_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) := |t - t'| + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T.$$

We refer to [15, Section 2.1] for more details on such a pseudometric. On $[t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with $t_0 \in [0, T]$, we consider the restriction of d_∞ , which we still denote by the same symbol.

Definition 2.1. *We say that $w: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is a modulus of continuity if w is continuous, increasing, subadditive, and $w(0) = 0$.*

We refer to [31, Appendix D] for more details on the notion of modulus of continuity.

2.2 Assumptions and state equation

We consider the coefficients

$$b, \sigma, f: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}, \mathbb{R}, \quad g: C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

on which we impose the following assumptions.

Assumption (A).

- (i) The maps b, σ, f, g are continuous.
- (ii) There exist a constant $K \geq 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} |b(t, x, a) - b(t, x', a)| + |\sigma(t, x, a) - \sigma(t, x', a)| + |f(t, x, a) - f(t, x', a)| &\leq K \|x - x'\|_t, \\ |g(x) - g(x')| &\leq K \|x - x'\|_T, \\ |b(t, x, a)| + |\sigma(t, x, a)| + |f(t, x, a)| + |g(x)| &\leq K, \end{aligned}$$

for all $a \in A$, $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with $|\sigma(t, x, a)| := (\sum_{i,j} |\sigma_{i,j}(t, x, a)|^2)^{1/2} = (\text{tr}(\sigma\sigma^\top)(t, x, a))^{1/2}$ denoting the Frobenius norm of $\sigma(t, x, a)$.

Assumption (B). The maps b, σ, f are uniformly continuous in t , uniformly with respect to the other variables. In particular, there exists a modulus of continuity w such that

$$|b(t, x, a) - b(s, x, a)| + |\sigma(t, x, a) - \sigma(s, x, a)| + |f(t, x, a) - f(s, x, a)| \leq w(|t - s|),$$

for all $t, s \in [0, T]$, $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, $a \in A$.

Assumption (C).

- (i) There exist $\bar{d} \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\bar{\sigma}: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\bar{d}} \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}$ satisfying, for all $(t, x, a) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A$,

$$\sigma(t, x, a) = \bar{\sigma}\left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \varphi_1(s) d^-x(s), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \varphi_{\bar{d}}(s) d^-x(s), a\right),$$

for some continuously differentiable maps $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_{\bar{d}}: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where the above deterministic forward integrals are defined as in Definition B.1 with T replaced by t (see also Remark 2.3).

- (ii) There exists a constant $K \geq 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} |\bar{\sigma}(t, y, a) - \bar{\sigma}(t', y', a)| &\leq K |y - y'|, \\ |\bar{\sigma}(t, y, a)| &\leq K, \end{aligned}$$

for all $(t, a) \in [0, T] \times A$, $y, y' \in \mathbb{R}^{d\bar{d}}$, with $|y - y'|$ denoting the Euclidean norm of $y - y'$ in $\mathbb{R}^{d\bar{d}}$.

- (iii) For every $a \in A$, the map $\bar{\sigma}(\cdot, \cdot, a)$ is $C^{1,2}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\bar{d}})$. Moreover, there exist constants $K \geq 0$ and $q \geq 0$ such that

$$|\partial_t \bar{\sigma}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_y \bar{\sigma}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_{yy}^2 \bar{\sigma}(t, y, a)| \leq K (1 + |y|)^q,$$

for all $(t, y, a) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\bar{d}} \times A$.

Remark 2.2. Notice that Assumptions (C)-(i)-(ii) imply the validity of (A)-(ii) for the function σ (namely, Lipschitzianity in x and boundedness). As a matter of fact, boundedness is obvious, while the Lipschitz property follows from the Lipschitz property of $\bar{\sigma}$ and the integration by parts formula (2.2).

Remark 2.3. Since the functions $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_{\bar{d}}$ appearing in Assumption (C)-(i) are continuously differentiable, we can use the integration by parts formula (B.1) to rewrite the forward integrals as follows:

$$\int_{[0,t]} \varphi_i(s) d^-x(s) = \varphi_i(t) x(t) - \varphi_i(0) x(0) - \int_0^t x(s) \frac{d\varphi_i}{ds}(s) ds, \quad (2.2)$$

for every $i = 1, \dots, \bar{d}$, where we have used that the Lebesgue-Stieltjes integral $\int_{(0,t]} x(s) d\varphi(s)$ is equal to the Lebesgue integral $\int_0^t x(s) \frac{d\varphi}{ds}(s) ds$.

Remark 2.4. By the Lipschitz continuity of b, σ, f , we deduce that they satisfy the following non-anticipativity condition:

$$b(t, x, a) = b(t, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a), \quad \sigma(t, x, a) = \sigma(t, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a), \quad f(t, x, a) = f(t, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a),$$

for every $(t, x, a) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A$.

For every $t \in [0, T]$, $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F})$, $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, the state process satisfies the following system of controlled stochastic differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} dX_s = b(s, X, \alpha_s) ds + \sigma(s, X, \alpha_s) dB_s, & s \in (t, T], \\ X_s = \xi_s, & s \in [0, t]. \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

Proposition 2.5. Suppose that Assumption (A) holds. Then, for every $t \in [0, T]$, $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$, $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, there exists a unique solution $X^{t, \xi, \alpha} \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F})$ to equation (2.3). Moreover, it holds that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow t^+} \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{0 \leq s \leq T} |X_{s \wedge r}^{t, \xi, \alpha} - \xi_{s \wedge t}|^2 \right] = 0. \quad (2.4)$$

Proof. See [12, Proposition 2.8] for the existence and uniqueness result. Concerning (2.4) we refer to [12, Remark 2.9]. \square

2.3 Value function

Given $t \in [0, T]$ and $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, the stochastic optimal control problem consists in finding $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ maximizing the following functional:

$$J(t, x, \alpha) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t, x, \alpha}, \alpha_s) ds + g(X^{t, x, \alpha}) \right].$$

Finally, the value function is defined as

$$v(t, x) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} J(t, x, \alpha), \quad \forall (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d). \quad (2.5)$$

Proposition 2.6. Suppose that Assumption (A) holds. Then, the value function v is bounded, continuous on $([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), d_\infty)$, and there exists a constant $c \geq 0$ (depending only on T and K) such that

$$|v(t, x) - v(t', x')| \leq c(|t - t'|^{1/2} + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T), \quad (2.6)$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

Proof. The boundedness of v follows directly from the boundedness of f and g . Moreover, estimate (2.6) follows from [53, Theorem 3.7] (notice however that in [53, Lemma 3.6] the right-hand side of estimate (29) should be replaced by $c(|t - t'|^{1/2} + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T)$, as in the right-hand side of (2.6) but with $x = x'$; this is indeed a consequence of the proof of that lemma when estimating the term denoted “Part1”). \square

2.4 Dynamic programming principle

In Section 3, Theorem 3.4, we prove that the value function v is a viscosity solution of a suitable path-dependent Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation. The proof of this property is standard and it is based, as usual, on the dynamic programming principle which is stated below. We prove it relying on [12, Theorem 3.4] and on the two next technical Lemmata 2.7 and 2.8. For other rigorous proofs of the dynamic programming principle in the path-dependent case we refer to [28, 29].

We begin introducing some notations. For every $t \in [0, T]$, let $\mathbb{F}^t = (\mathcal{F}_s)_{s \in [0, T]}$ be the \mathbb{P} -completion of the filtration generated by $(B_{s \vee t} - B_t)_{s \in [0, T]}$. Let also $\text{Prog}(\mathbb{F}^t)$ denote the σ -algebra of $[t, T] \times \Omega$ of all $(\mathcal{F}_s)_{s \in [t, T]}$ -progressive sets. Finally, let \mathcal{A}_t be the subset of \mathcal{A} of all \mathbb{F}^t -progressively measurable processes.

Lemma 2.7. Suppose that Assumption (A) holds. Then, the value function defined by (2.5) satisfies

$$v(t, x) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_t} J(t, x, \alpha), \quad \forall (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d). \quad (2.7)$$

Proof. Fix $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. Since $\mathcal{A}_t \subset \mathcal{A}$, we see that $v(t, x) \geq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_t} J(t, x, \alpha)$. It remains to prove the reverse inequality

$$v(t, x) \leq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_t} J(t, x, \alpha). \quad (2.8)$$

We split the proof of (2.8) into four steps.

STEP I. *Additional notations.* We firstly fix some notations. Let $(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]}$ be the set of functions from $[0, t]$ to \mathbb{R}^m , endowed with the product σ -algebra $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]}$ generated by the finite-dimensional cylindrical sets of the form: $C_{t_1, \dots, t_n}(H) = \{y \in (\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]} : (y(t_1), \dots, y(t_n)) \in H\}$, for some $t_i \in [0, t]$, $H = H_{t_1} \times \dots \times H_{t_n}$, $H_{t_i} \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^m)$. Now, consider the map $\mathbf{B}^t : \Omega \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]}$ defined as follows:

$$\mathbf{B}^t : \omega \mapsto (B_s(\omega))_{0 \leq s \leq t}.$$

Such a map is measurable with respect to \mathcal{F}_t , as a matter of fact the counterimage through \mathbf{B}^t of a finite-dimensional cylindrical set $C_{t_1, \dots, t_n}(H)$ clearly belongs to \mathcal{F}_t . In addition, the σ -algebra generated by \mathbf{B}^t coincides with $\mathcal{G}_t := \sigma(B_s, 0 \leq s \leq t)$. Notice that

$$\mathcal{F}_t = \mathcal{G}_t \vee \mathcal{N},$$

where \mathcal{N} is the family of \mathbb{P} -null sets.

Finally, let (E^t, \mathcal{E}^t) be the measurable space given by $E^t = [t, T] \times \Omega$ and $\mathcal{E}^t = \text{Prog}(\mathbb{F}^t)$. Then, we denote by $\mathcal{I}^t : E^t \rightarrow E^t$ the identity map.

STEP II. *Representation of α .* Given $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, let us prove that there exists a map $\mathbf{a}^t : [t, T] \times \Omega \times (\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]} \rightarrow A$ such that:

- 1) \mathbf{a}^t is measurable with respect to the product σ -algebra $\text{Prog}(\mathbb{F}^t) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]}$;
- 2) the processes $\alpha_{|[t, T]}$ (denoting the restriction of α to $[t, T]$) and $(\mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t))_{s \in [t, T]}$ are indistinguishable.

In order to prove the existence of such a map \mathbf{a}^t , we begin noticing that the following holds:

$$\mathcal{F}_s = \mathcal{F}_t \vee \mathcal{F}_s^t = \mathcal{G}_t \vee \mathcal{F}_s^t, \quad \forall s \in [t, T],$$

where the second equality follows from the fact that \mathcal{N} , the family of \mathbb{P} -null sets, is contained in both \mathcal{F}_t and \mathcal{F}_s^t . Recalling that α is \mathbb{F} -progressively measurable, we have that $\alpha_{|[t, T]}$ is progressively measurable with respect to the filtration

$$\sigma(\mathcal{G}_t \vee \mathcal{F}_s^t)_{s \in [t, T]}.$$

In other words, the map $\alpha_{|[t, T]} : [t, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow A$ is $\text{Prog}(\mathbb{F}^t) \vee (\{\emptyset, [t, T]\} \otimes \mathcal{G}_t)$ -measurable, with $\{\emptyset, [t, T]\}$ denoting the trivial σ -algebra on $[t, T]$.

Now, recall the definitions of \mathcal{I}^t and \mathbf{B}^t from STEP I, and let denote still by the same symbol \mathbf{B}^t the canonical extension of \mathbf{B}^t to $[t, T] \times \Omega$ (or, equivalently, to E^t), defined as $\mathbf{B}^t : [t, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]}$ with $(t, \omega) \mapsto \mathbf{B}^t(\omega)$. Then, the σ -algebra generated by the pair $(\mathcal{I}^t, \mathbf{B}^t) : [t, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow E^t \times (\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]}$ coincides with $\text{Prog}(\mathbb{F}^t) \vee (\{\emptyset, [t, T]\} \otimes \mathcal{G}_t)$. Therefore, by Doob's measurability theorem (see for instance [38, Lemma 1.13]) it follows that the restriction of α to $[t, T]$ can be represented as follows: $\alpha_{|[t, T]} = \mathbf{a}^t(\mathcal{I}^t, \mathbf{B}^t)$, for some map $\mathbf{a}^t : [t, T] \times \Omega \times (\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]} \rightarrow A$ satisfying items 1)-2) above.

STEP III. *The stochastic process X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} .* Given $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, let \mathbf{a}^t be as in STEP II. For every $y \in (\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]}$, let $X^{t, x, y}$ be the unique solution in $\mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F})$ to the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} dX_s = b(s, X, \mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, y)) ds + \sigma(s, X, \mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, y)) dB_s, & s \in (t, T], \\ X_s = x(s), & s \in [0, t]. \end{cases} \quad (2.9)$$

By the standard Picard iteration argument for the existence of a solution to equation (2.9), together with Proposition 1 in [52], we can deduce that the random field $X: [0, T] \times \Omega \times (\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is measurable with respect to the product σ -algebra $\text{Prog}(\mathbb{F}^t) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0, t]}$. As a consequence, we can consider the composition of $X^{t, x, y}$ and \mathbf{B}^t , denoted X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} . Using the independence of $\mathcal{G}_t = \sigma(\mathbf{B}^t)$ and \mathcal{F}_T^t , we deduce that the process X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} satisfies the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} dX_s = b(s, X, \mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) ds + \sigma(s, X, \mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) dB_s, & s \in (t, T], \\ X_s = x(s), & s \in [0, t]. \end{cases} \quad (2.10)$$

As a matter of fact, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{s \in [t, T]} \left| X_s^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} - x(t) - \int_t^s b(r, X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) dr - \int_t^s \sigma(r, X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) dB_r \right| \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{s \in [t, T]} \left| X_s^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} - x(t) - \int_t^s b(r, X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) dr \right. \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. \left. - \int_t^s \sigma(r, X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) dB_r \right| \mathcal{G}_t \right] \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{s \in [t, T]} \left| X_s^{t, x, y} - x(t) - \int_t^s b(r, X^{t, x, y}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, y)) dr \right. \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. \left. - \int_t^s \sigma(r, X^{t, x, y}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, y)) dB_r \right| y = \mathbf{B}^t \right] \right], \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from the so-called freezing lemma, see for instance [2, Lemma 4.1]. Since $X^{t, x, y}$ solves equation (2.9), we have

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{s \in [t, T]} \left| X_s^{t, x, y} - x(t) - \int_t^s b(r, X^{t, x, y}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, y)) dr - \int_t^s \sigma(r, X^{t, x, y}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, y)) dB_r \right| \right] = 0.$$

Hence

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{s \in [t, T]} \left| X_s^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} - x(t) - \int_t^s b(r, X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) dr - \int_t^s \sigma(r, X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t}, \mathbf{a}^t(r, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) dB_r \right| \right] = 0.$$

This shows that X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} solves equation (2.10).

Now, recalling from STEP II that $\alpha_{|[t, T]}$ and $(\mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t))_{s \in [t, T]}$ are indistinguishable, and noticing that the solution to equation (2.11) below depends on α only through its values on $[t, T]$ (namely, it depends only on $\alpha_{|[t, T]}$), we conclude that X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} solves the same equation of $X^{t, x, \alpha}$, namely

$$\begin{cases} dX_s = b(s, X, \alpha_s) ds + \sigma(s, X, \alpha_s) dB_s, & s \in (t, T], \\ X_s = x(s), & s \in [0, t]. \end{cases} \quad (2.11)$$

From pathwise uniqueness for equation (2.11), we get that X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} and $X^{t, x, \alpha}$ are also indistinguishable.

STEP IV. *The stochastic process X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} .* Given $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, let \mathbf{a}^t be as in STEP II and X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t} as in STEP III. Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} J(t, x, \alpha) &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t, x, \alpha}, \alpha_s) ds + g(X^{t, x, \alpha}) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t}, \mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) ds + g(X^{t, x, \mathbf{B}^t}) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Denoting by μ^t the probability distribution of \mathbf{B}^t on $((\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0,t]}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0,t]})$, and recalling the independence of $\mathcal{G}_t = \sigma(\mathbf{B}^t)$ and \mathcal{F}_T^t , by Fubini's theorem we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x,\mathbf{B}^t}, \mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, \mathbf{B}^t)) ds + g(X^{t,x,\mathbf{B}^t}) \right] \\ &= \int_{(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0,t]}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x,y}, \mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, y)) ds + g(X^{t,x,y}) \right] \mu^t(dy). \end{aligned}$$

Now, fix some $a_0 \in A$ and, for every $y \in (\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0,t]}$, denote

$$\beta_s^y := a_0 1_{[0,t)}(s) + \mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, y) 1_{[t,T]}, \quad \forall s \in [0, T].$$

Notice that $\beta^y \in \mathcal{A}_t$. Moreover, recalling that $X^{t,x,y}$ solves equation (2.9), we see that it solves the same equation of X^{t,x,β^y} . Then, by pathwise uniqueness, $X^{t,x,y}$ and X^{t,x,β^y} are indistinguishable. In conclusion, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0,t]}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x,y}, \mathbf{a}^t(s, \cdot, y)) ds + g(X^{t,x,y}) \right] \mu^t(dy) \\ &= \int_{(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0,t]}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x,\beta^y}, \beta_s^y) ds + g(X^{t,x,\beta^y}) \right] \mu^t(dy) \\ &= \int_{(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0,t]}} J(t, x, \beta^y) \mu^t(dy) \leq \int_{(\mathbb{R}^m)^{[0,t]}} \sup_{\gamma \in \mathcal{A}_t} J(t, x, \gamma) \mu^t(dy) = \sup_{\gamma \in \mathcal{A}_t} J(t, x, \gamma). \end{aligned}$$

This proves that $J(t, x, \alpha) \leq \sup_{\gamma \in \mathcal{A}_t} J(t, x, \gamma)$, for every $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$. Then, inequality (2.8) follows from the arbitrariness of α . \square

Next lemma expresses in terms of v the value of the optimal control problem formulated at time t , with *random* initial condition $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F})$. In order to state such a lemma, we introduce the function $V: [0, T] \times \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined as follows:

$$V(t, \xi) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,\xi,\alpha}, \alpha_s) dr + g(X^{t,\xi,\alpha}) \right], \quad (2.12)$$

for every $t \in [0, T]$, $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F})$. Clearly, when $\xi \equiv x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ we have $V(t, x) = v(t, x)$.

Lemma 2.8. *Suppose that Assumption (A) holds. Let $t \in [0, T]$ and $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F})$, then*

$$V(t, \xi) = \mathbb{E}[v(t, \xi)]. \quad (2.13)$$

Proof. We begin noting that for $t = 0$ it is clear that equality (2.13) holds true, as a matter fact \mathcal{F}_0 is the family of \mathbb{P} -null sets, therefore ξ is a.s. equal to a constant and (2.13) follows from the fact that $V(t, x) = v(t, x)$, for every $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. For this reason, in the sequel we suppose that $t > 0$. We split the rest of the proof into four steps.

STEP I. *Additional notations.* Firstly, we fix some notations. For a fixed $t \in (0, T]$, let $\mathbb{G}^t = (\mathcal{G}_s^t)_{s \geq 0}$ be given by

$$\mathcal{G}_s^t := \mathcal{F}_t \vee \mathcal{F}_s^t, \quad \forall s \geq 0.$$

Moreover, let $\mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{G}^t)$ (resp. $\mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$) be the set of d -dimensional continuous \mathbb{G}^t -progressively measurable (resp. $\mathcal{B}([0, T]) \otimes \mathcal{F}_t$ -measurable) processes $X: [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ satisfying the integrability condition (2.1). Notice that Proposition 2.5 extends to the case with initial condition $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$ rather than $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F})$. In particular, given $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$ and $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, equation (2.3) admits a unique solution $X^{t,\xi,\alpha} \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{G}^t)$. Then, for $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$ we define $V(t, \xi)$ as in (2.12).

STEP II. *Preliminary remarks.* We begin noting that $X^{t,\xi,\alpha} = X^{t,\xi \wedge t,\alpha}$, so that it is enough to prove equality (2.13) with $\xi \wedge t$ in place of ξ . More generally, we shall prove the validity of (2.13) in the case when $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$.

Now, recall that v is Lipschitz in the variable x (see Proposition 2.6) and observe that, by the same arguments, V is also Lipschitz in its second argument. Furthermore, both v and V are bounded. Notice also that given $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$ there exists a sequence $\{\xi_k\}_k \subset \mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$ converging to ξ , with ξ_k taking only a finite number of values. As a consequence, from the continuity of v and V , it is enough to prove (2.13) with $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$ taking only a finite number of values. Then, from now on, let us suppose that

$$\xi = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i 1_{E_i}, \quad (2.14)$$

for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $x_i \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, $E_i \in \mathcal{F}_t$, with $\{E_i\}_{i=1, \dots, n}$ being a partition of Ω .

STEP III. *Proof of the inequality* $V(t, \xi) \leq \mathbb{E}[v(t, \xi)]$. Since $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F})$ takes only a finite number of values, by [12, Lemma B.3] (here we use that $t > 0$, so in particular \mathcal{F}_t has the property required by [12, Lemma B.3], namely there exists a \mathcal{F}_t -measurable random variable having uniform distribution on $[0, 1]$) there exists a \mathcal{F}_t -measurable random variable $U: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, having uniform distribution on $[0, 1]$ and being independent of ξ . As a consequence, from [12, Lemma B.2] it follows that, for every $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, there exists a measurable function

$$a: ([0, T] \times \Omega \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times [0, 1], \text{Prog}(\mathbb{F}^t) \otimes \mathcal{B}(C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)) \otimes \mathcal{B}([0, 1])) \longrightarrow (A, \mathcal{B}(A))$$

such that

$$\beta_s := \alpha_s 1_{[0, t)}(s) + a_s(\xi, U) 1_{[t, T]}(s), \quad \forall s \in [0, T]$$

belongs to \mathcal{A} and

$$\left(\xi, (a_s(\xi, U))_{s \in [t, T]}, (B_s - B_t)_{s \in [t, T]} \right) \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} \left(\xi, (\alpha_s)_{s \in [t, T]}, (B_s - B_t)_{s \in [t, T]} \right),$$

where $\stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=}$ means equality in law. Then, by the same arguments as in [31, Proposition 1.137], we get

$$(X_s^{t,\xi,\alpha}, \alpha_s)_{s \in [0, T]} \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} (X_s^{t,\xi,\beta}, \beta_s)_{s \in [0, T]}.$$

Moreover, recalling (2.14), define

$$\beta_{i,s} := \alpha_s 1_{[0, t)}(s) + a_s(x_i, U) 1_{[t, T]}(s), \quad \forall s \in [0, T], i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Since $X^{t,\xi,\beta}$ and $X^{t,x_1,\beta_1} 1_{E_1} + \dots + X^{t,x_n,\beta_n} 1_{E_n}$ solve the same equation, they are \mathbb{P} -indistinguishable. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,\xi,\alpha}, \alpha_s) ds + g(X^{t,\xi,\alpha}) \right] &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,\xi,\beta}, \beta_s) ds + g(X^{t,\xi,\beta}) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x_i,\beta_i}, \beta_{i,s}) ds + g(X^{t,x_i,\beta_i}) \right) 1_{E_i} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Recalling that both $\{X^{t,x_i,\beta_i}\}_i$ and $\{\beta_i\}_i$ are independent of $\{E_i\}_i$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x_i,\beta_i}, \beta_{i,s}) ds + g(X^{t,x_i,\beta_i}) \right) 1_{E_i} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x_i,\beta_i}, \beta_{i,s}) ds + g(X^{t,x_i,\beta_i}) \right] 1_{E_i} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x_i,\beta_i}, \beta_{i,s}) ds + g(X^{t,x_i,\beta_i}) \right] 1_{E_i} \right] \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} [v(t, x_i) 1_{E_i}] = \mathbb{E} [v(t, \xi)].$$

Then, the inequality $V(t, \xi) \leq \mathbb{E}[v(t, \xi)]$ follows from the arbitrariness of α .

STEP IV. *Proof of the inequality $V(t, \xi) \geq \mathbb{E}[v(t, \xi)]$.* Take $\xi \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathcal{F}_t)$ as in (2.14). Then, from equality (2.7) of Lemma 2.7, for every $\varepsilon > 0$ and $i = 1, \dots, n$, there exists $\beta_i^\varepsilon \in \mathcal{A}_t$ such that

$$v(t, x_i) \leq \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x_i,\beta_i^\varepsilon}, \beta_{i,s}^\varepsilon) ds + g(X^{t,x_i,\beta_i^\varepsilon}) \right] + \varepsilon.$$

Let

$$\beta^\varepsilon := \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i 1_{E_i}.$$

We have $\beta^\varepsilon \in \mathcal{A}$, moreover $X^{t,\xi,\beta^\varepsilon}$ and $X^{t,x_1,\beta_1^\varepsilon} 1_{E_1} + \dots + X^{t,x_n,\beta_n^\varepsilon} 1_{E_n}$ solve the same equation, therefore they are \mathbb{P} -indistinguishable. Therefore (exploiting the independence of both $\{X^{t,x_i,\beta_i^\varepsilon}\}_i$ and $\{\beta_i^\varepsilon\}_i$ from $\{E_i\}_i$)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[v(t, \xi)] &= \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} [v(t, x_i) 1_{E_i}] \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x_i,\beta_i^\varepsilon}, \beta_{i,s}^\varepsilon) ds + g(X^{t,x_i,\beta_i^\varepsilon}) \right] 1_{E_i} \right] + \varepsilon \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x_i,\beta_i^\varepsilon}, \beta_{i,s}^\varepsilon) ds + g(X^{t,x_i,\beta_i^\varepsilon}) \right] 1_{E_i} \right] + \varepsilon \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,x_i,\beta_i^\varepsilon}, \beta_{i,s}^\varepsilon) ds + g(X^{t,x_i,\beta_i^\varepsilon}) \right) 1_{E_i} \right] + \varepsilon \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X^{t,\xi,\beta^\varepsilon}, \beta_s^\varepsilon) ds + g(X^{t,\xi,\beta^\varepsilon}) \right] + \varepsilon \leq V(t, \xi) + \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

From the arbitrariness of ε , the inequality $\mathbb{E}[v(t, \xi)] \leq V(t, \xi)$ follows. \square

Theorem 2.9. Suppose that Assumption (A) holds. Then the value function v satisfies the **dynamic programming principle**: for every $t, s \in [0, T]$, with $t \leq s$, and every $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ it holds that

$$v(t, x) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^s f(r, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_r) dr + v(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}) \right].$$

Proof. This follows directly from [12, Theorem 3.4] and Lemma 2.8. As a matter of fact, let V be the function given by (2.12). From [12, Theorem 3.4] we get the dynamic programming principle for V :

$$V(t, x) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \left\{ \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^s f(r, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_r) dr \right] + V(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}) \right\}.$$

Moreover, by Lemma 2.8 we know that

$$V(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}) = \mathbb{E}[v(s, X^{t,x,\alpha})],$$

from which the claim follows. \square

3 Path Dependent HJB equations and viscosity solutions

3.1 Definition of path-dependent viscosity solutions

In the present paper we adopt the standard definitions of pathwise (or functional) derivatives of a map $u: [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $t_0 \in [0, T]$, as they were introduced in the seminal paper [23], and further developed by [8, 9] and [15, Section 2]. We report in Appendix A a concise presentation of these tools. Just to fix notations, we recall here that the pathwise derivatives of a map $u: [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are given by the horizontal derivative $\partial_t^H u: [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and the vertical derivatives of first and second-order $\partial_x^V u: [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\partial_{xx}^V u: [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$. We also refer to Definition A.4 (resp. Definition A.6) for the definition of the class $C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ (resp. $C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$). The reason for which we consider $C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ rather than simply $C^{1,2}([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ is due to the definition of viscosity solution adopted, for more details see Remark 3.3. Finally, we recall that for a map $u \in C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ the so-called functional Itô's formula holds, see Theorem A.7.

Now, consider the following second-order path-dependent partial differential equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^H u(t, x) = F(t, x, u(t, x), \partial_x^V u(t, x), \partial_{xx}^V u(t, x)), & (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ u(T, x) = g(x), & x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \end{cases} \quad (3.1)$$

with $F: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathcal{S}(d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $\mathcal{S}(d)$ is the set of symmetric $d \times d$ matrices.

Definition 3.1. We say that a function $u: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a **classical solution** of equation (3.1) if it belongs to $C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and satisfies (3.1).

Definition 3.2. We say that an upper semicontinuous function $u: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a **(path-dependent) viscosity subsolution** of equation (3.1) if:

- $u(T, x) \leq g(x)$, for all $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$;
- for any $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\varphi \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$, satisfying

$$(u - \varphi)(t, x) = \sup_{(t', x') \in [t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)} (u - \varphi)(t', x'),$$

with $(u - \varphi)(t, x) = 0$, we have

$$-\partial_t^H \varphi(t, x) + F(t, x, u(t, x), \partial_x^V \varphi(t, x), \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(t, x)) \leq 0. \quad (3.2)$$

We say that a lower semicontinuous function $u: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a **(path-dependent) viscosity supersolution** of equation (3.1) if:

- $u(T, x) \geq g(x)$, for all $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$;
- for any $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\varphi \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$, satisfying

$$(u - \varphi)(t, x) = \inf_{(t', x') \in [t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)} (u - \varphi)(t', x'),$$

with $(u - \varphi)(t, x) = 0$, we have

$$-\partial_t^H \varphi(t, x) + F(t, x, u(t, x), \partial_x^V \varphi(t, x), \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(t, x)) \geq 0. \quad (3.3)$$

We say that a continuous map $u: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a **(path-dependent) viscosity solution** of equation (3.1) if u is both a (path-dependent) viscosity subsolution and a (path-dependent) viscosity supersolution of (3.1).

Remark 3.3. Differently from the standard definition of viscosity solution usually adopted in the non-path-dependent case (see for instance [16]), notice that in Definition 3.2 the maxima/minima are taken on $[t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ with the right-time interval $[t, T]$ in place of $[0, T]$ (i.e. the maxima/minima are “one-sided”).

In the non-path-dependent case it is known that, even in infinite dimension, our “one-sided” definition is equivalent to the standard “two-sided” one (see e.g. [31, Lemma 3.39]). In addition, notice that the value function (say v) of our stochastic control problem is a viscosity solution of the HJB equation in both senses. As a matter of fact, the DPP, which is the main tool in order to prove the viscosity properties of the value function, only involves the values of $v = v(s, y)$ for $s \geq t$.

We observe that the fact of taking the maxima/minima on the right-time interval is generally adopted in the literature on viscosity solutions of path-dependent PDEs, as for instance in [25, 26, 27, 47, 50, 49, 11], where the notion of viscosity solution introduced involves the maxima/minima of an expectation of future (that is on $[t, T]$) values of a suitable underlying process.

In our case, the reason for considering $[t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ rather than $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ is due to the proof of the comparison Theorem 4.5. In particular, it is due to the gauge-type function implemented in that proof, which is introduced in Lemma 4.2 and denoted by κ_∞ . More precisely, given a fixed point $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, the map $(s, y) \mapsto \kappa_\infty((s, y), (t, x))$ is smooth only for $(s, y) \in [t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. However, if we would be able to find another gauge-type function $\Psi: ([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))^2 \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ such that, for every fixed (t, x) , the map $(s, y) \mapsto \Psi((s, y), (t, x))$ is smooth on the entire space $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, then the same proof of the comparison theorem would work for the more usual notion of viscosity solution where maxima/minima are taken on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

3.2 The value function solves the path-dependent HJB equation

Now, we focus on the path-dependent Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation, namely on equation (3.1) with

$$F(t, x, r, p, M) = -\sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(t, x, a), p \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, a)M] + f(t, x, a) \right\}. \quad (3.4)$$

Therefore, equation (3.1) becomes

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^H u(t, x) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(t, x, a), \partial_x^V u(t, x) \rangle \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, a) \partial_{xx}^V u(t, x)] + f(t, x, a) \right\} = 0, & (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ u(T, x) = g(x), & x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d). \end{cases} \quad (3.5)$$

We now prove that the value function v is a viscosity solution to equation (3.5).

Theorem 3.4. Suppose that Assumptions (A) and (B) hold. The value function v , defined by (2.5), is a viscosity solution to equation (3.5).

Proof. Recall from Proposition 2.6 that v is continuous, moreover $v(T, \cdot) \equiv g(\cdot)$. Then it remains to prove both the subsolution and the supersolution property on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

Subsolution property. Let $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\varphi \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ be such that

$$(v - \varphi)(t, x) = \sup_{(t', x') \in [t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)} (v - \varphi)(t', x') = 0.$$

From Theorem 2.9 we know that, for every $h > 0$ sufficiently small,

$$0 = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \left\{ \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} f(r, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_r) dr + \frac{1}{h} (v(t+h, X^{t,x,\alpha}) - v(t, x)) \right] \right\}.$$

Then, there exists $\alpha^h \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} -h &\leq \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} f(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}, \alpha_r^h) dr + \frac{1}{h} (v(t+h, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}) - v(t, x)) \right] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} f(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}, \alpha_r^h) dr + \frac{1}{h} (\varphi(t+h, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}) - \varphi(t, x)) \right], \end{aligned}$$

where the above inequality follows from the fact that $v(t, x) = \varphi(t, x)$ and $v \leq \varphi$ on $[t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. By the functional Itô formula (A.1), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq h + \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \mathbb{E} [\partial_t^H \varphi(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h})] dr + \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \mathbb{E} [\langle b(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}, \alpha_r^h), \partial_x^V \varphi(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}) \rangle] dr \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E} [\text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}, \alpha_r^h) \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h})]] dr + \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \mathbb{E} [f(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h})] dr. \end{aligned}$$

Recalling that b, σ, f are uniformly continuous in their first two arguments, uniformly with respect to a , using (2.4), we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \mathbb{E} [\partial_t^H \varphi(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h})] dr + \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \mathbb{E} \left[\langle b(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}, \alpha_r^h), \partial_x^V \varphi(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}) \rangle \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}, \alpha_r^h) \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h})] + f(r, X^{t,x,\alpha^h}, \alpha_r^h) \right] dr \\ &= \partial_t^H \varphi(t, x) + \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \mathbb{E} \left[\langle b(t, x, \alpha_r^h), \partial_x^V \varphi(t, x) \rangle \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, \alpha_r^h) \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(t, x)] + f(t, x, \alpha_r^h) \right] dr + \rho(h), \end{aligned}$$

where $\rho(h) \rightarrow 0$ as $h \rightarrow 0^+$. Then, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq h + \rho(h) + \partial_t^H \varphi(t, x) + \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(t, x, a), \partial_x^V \varphi(t, x) \rangle \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, a) \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(t, x)] + f(t, x, a) \right\} dr. \end{aligned}$$

Sending $h \rightarrow 0^+$, we conclude that (3.2) holds (with F given by (3.4)).

Supersolution property. Let $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\varphi \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ be such that

$$(v - \varphi)(t, x) = \inf_{(t', x') \in [t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)} (v - \varphi)(t', x') = 0.$$

From Theorem 2.9 we have, for every $h > 0$ sufficiently small, and for every constant control strategy $\alpha \equiv a \in A$,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\geq \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} f(r, X^{t,x,a}, a) dr + \frac{1}{h} (v(t+h, X^{t,x,a}) - v(t, x)) \right] \\ &\geq \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} f(r, X^{t,x,a}, a) dr + \frac{1}{h} (\varphi(t+h, X^{t,x,a}) - \varphi(t, x)) \right], \end{aligned}$$

where the above inequality follows from the fact that $v(t, x) = \varphi(t, x)$ and $v \geq \varphi$ on $[t, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. Now, by the functional Itô formula (A.1), we obtain

$$0 \geq \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \mathbb{E} [\partial_t^H \varphi(r, X^{t,x,a})] dr + \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \mathbb{E} [\langle b(r, X^{t,x,a}, a), \partial_x^V \varphi(r, X^{t,x,a}) \rangle] dr$$

$$+ \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}[\text{tr}[(\sigma\sigma^\top)(r, X^{t,x,a}, a) \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(r, X^{t,x,a})]] dr + \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \mathbb{E}[f(r, X^{t,x,a}, a)] dr.$$

Letting $h \rightarrow 0^+$, exploiting the regularity of φ and the continuity of b, σ, f , we find

$$0 \geq \partial_t^H \varphi(t, x) + \langle b(t, x, a), \partial_x^V \varphi(t, x) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma\sigma^\top)(t, x, a) \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(t, x)] + f(t, x, a).$$

From the arbitrariness of a , we conclude that (3.3) holds (with F given by (3.4)). \square

4 Uniqueness

4.1 Smooth variational principle

This section is devoted to state a smooth variational principle on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ which will be an essential tool in the proof of the comparison theorem (Theorem 4.5). Notice that such a smooth variational principle is obtained from [41, Theorem 1] (see also [6, Theorem 2.5.2]), which is a generalization of the Borwein-Preiss variant ([5]) of Ekeland's variational principle ([24]). More precisely, [41, Theorem 1] extends Ekeland's principle to the concept of gauge-type function, that we now introduce.

Definition 4.1. A map $\Psi: ([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))^2 \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is called a ***gauge-type function*** if it satisfies the following properties.

- a) $(t, x) \mapsto \Psi((t, x), (t_0, x_0))$ is lower semi-continuous on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, for every fixed $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.
- b) $\Psi((t, x), (t, x)) = 0$, for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.
- c) For every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\eta > 0$ such that, for all $(t', x'), (t'', x'') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, the inequality $\Psi((t', x'), (t'', x'')) \leq \eta$ implies $d_\infty((t', x'), (t'', x'')) \leq \varepsilon$.

In the proof of the comparison theorem we need a gauge-type function Ψ such that $(t, x) \mapsto \Psi((t, x), (t_0, x_0))$ is smooth on $[t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, for every fixed (t_0, x_0) . Notice that d_∞ is obviously a gauge-type function, however it is not smooth enough.

Lemma 4.2. Define the map $\kappa_\infty: ([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))^2 \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) &= \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{(\|x_{\cdot \wedge t} - x'_{\cdot \wedge t'}\|_T^4 - |x(t) - x'(t')|^4)^3}{\|x_{\cdot \wedge t} - x'_{\cdot \wedge t'}\|_T^8} + 3|x(t) - x'(t')|^4, & \|x_{\cdot \wedge t} - x'_{\cdot \wedge t'}\|_T \neq 0, \\ 0, & \|x_{\cdot \wedge t} - x'_{\cdot \wedge t'}\|_T = 0, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. Then, κ_∞ is continuous and satisfies the following inequalities:

$$\|x_{\cdot \wedge t} - x'_{\cdot \wedge t'}\|_T^4 \leq \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) \leq 3\|x_{\cdot \wedge t} - x'_{\cdot \wedge t'}\|_T^4. \quad (4.2)$$

Moreover, for every fixed $(t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, the map $[t', T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \ni (t, x) \mapsto \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))$ belongs to $C^{1,2}([t', T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and its horizontal derivative is identically equal to zero. Its vertical derivatives of first and second-order satisfy

$$|\partial_{x_i}^V \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))| \leq c \|x_{\cdot \wedge t} - x'_{\cdot \wedge t'}\|_T^3, \quad (4.3)$$

$$|\partial_{x_i x_j}^V \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))| \leq c \|x_{\cdot \wedge t} - x'_{\cdot \wedge t'}\|_T^2, \quad (4.4)$$

for some constant $c > 0$, for every $i, j = 1, \dots, d$. Finally, the following pseudo-triangle inequality holds:

$$|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) \leq 3 \cdot 2^3 \left(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) + |t_0 - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t_0, x_0), (t', x')) \right), \quad (4.5)$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x'), (t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

Proof. The claim follows from [54, Lemma 3.1], apart from (4.5). More precisely, let $\Upsilon^{m,M}$ be the function defined at the beginning of [54, Section 3]. Then, notice that κ_∞ corresponds to $\Upsilon^{2,3}$. As a consequence, (4.2) follows from inequalities (3.1) in [54]. In addition, the fact that, for every fixed $(t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, the map $[t', T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \ni (t, x) \mapsto \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))$ belongs to $C^{1,2}([t', T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ follows from [54, Lemma 3.1]. Moreover, the fact that its horizontal derivative is identically equal to zero is proved at the beginning of the proof of [54, Lemma 3.1]. Concerning estimate (4.3), this follows from the explicit expressions of the first-order vertical derivatives of κ_∞ reported in (3.8) of [54]. Finally, estimate (4.4) follows from the explicit expressions of the second-order vertical derivatives of κ_∞ given in (3.14) of [54]. Regarding (4.5), by (4.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} |t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) &\leq |t - t'|^4 + 3 \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^4 \leq 3|t - t'|^4 + 3 \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^4 \\ &\leq 3(|t - t_0| + |t' - t_0|)^4 + 3 \left(\|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T + \|x'(\cdot \wedge t') - x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T \right)^4 \\ &\leq 3 \cdot 2^3 \left(|t - t_0|^4 + |t' - t_0|^4 \right) + 3 \cdot 2^3 \left(\|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T^4 + \|x'(\cdot \wedge t') - x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T^4 \right) \\ &\leq 3 \cdot 2^3 \left(|t - t_0|^4 + |t' - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) + \kappa_\infty((t', x'), (t_0, x_0)) \right). \end{aligned}$$

□

Next result provides a gauge-type function with bounded derivatives, built starting from κ_∞ in (4.1).

Corollary 4.3. Let $\rho_\infty : ([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))^2 \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ be defined as

$$\rho_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) = \begin{cases} |t - t'|^2 + \frac{\kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))}{1 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))}, & t \geq t', \\ +\infty, & t < t', \end{cases}$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. Then, ρ_∞ is a gauge-type function. In addition, for every fixed $(t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, the map $[t', T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \ni (t, x) \mapsto \rho_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))$ belongs to $C^{1,2}([t', T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and it has bounded derivatives.

Proof. The claim follows directly from Lemma 4.2. As a matter of fact, from the continuity of κ_∞ we deduce that, for every fixed $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, the map $(t, x) \mapsto \rho_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))$ is lower semi-continuous on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. This proves item a) of Definition 4.1. Moreover, item b) is obvious, while item c) follows from inequalities (4.2). Finally, the fact that, for every fixed $(t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, the map $[t', T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \ni (t, x) \mapsto \rho_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))$ belongs to $C^{1,2}([t', T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and it has bounded derivatives follows from the regularity of κ_∞ and the estimates on its derivatives stated in Lemma 4.2. □

We can finally state the smooth variational principle on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

Theorem 4.4. Let $\lambda > 0$, $\delta > 0$, and let $G : [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be an upper semicontinuous map, bounded from above. Let also $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ satisfy

$$G(t_0, x_0) \geq \sup_{(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)} G(t, x) - \lambda.$$

Then, there exist $\{(t_i, x_i)\}_{i \geq 1} \subset [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ converging to some $(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\varphi: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ given by

$$\varphi(t, x) := \sum_{i=0}^{+\infty} \frac{\delta}{2^i} \rho_\infty((t, x), (t_i, x_i)), \quad \forall (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \quad (4.6)$$

fulfilling the following properties.

- i) $\rho_\infty((\bar{t}, \bar{x}), (t_i, x_i)) \leq \lambda/(2^i \delta)$, for every $i \geq 1$, and $\rho_\infty((\bar{t}, \bar{x}), (t_0, x_0)) \leq \lambda/\delta$.
- ii) $G(t_0, x_0) \leq G(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) - \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x})$.
- iii) For every $(t, x) \neq (\bar{t}, \bar{x})$, $G(t, x) - \varphi(t, x) < G(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) - \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x})$.
- iv) It holds that $t_0 \leq \bar{t}$ and $t_i \leq \bar{t}$, for every $i \geq 1$.

In addition, the restriction of φ to $[\bar{t}, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ belongs to $C^{1,2}([\bar{t}, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and its derivatives are bounded by $c\delta$, for some constant $c \geq 0$, independent of λ, δ .

Proof. Items i)-ii)-iii) follow from the variational principle [41, Theorem 1], which applies to a generic gauge-type function Ψ (just observe that [41, Theorem 1] is formulated on a complete *metric* space, while $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ is a complete *pseudometric* space; however, this does not affect the result). Notice that the quantities ε and δ_i appearing in [41, Theorem 1] here are taken equal respectively to $\varepsilon = \lambda$ and $\delta_i = \delta/2^i$, for $i \geq 0$.

Concerning item iv), this is a consequence of the fact that we set $\rho_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))$ equal to $+\infty$ for $t < t'$. More precisely, item iv) can be deduced looking at the proof of [41, Theorem 1] (see in particular formula (18) in [41] where (t_1, x_1) is introduced and, more generally, formula (21) where (t_i, x_i) is introduced), from which we get the inequalities $t_\delta \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \leq \dots \leq t_i \leq \dots \leq \bar{t}$.

Finally, the properties of φ follows from the properties of ρ_∞ stated in Corollary 4.3 and from item iv). \square

4.2 Comparison theorem and uniqueness

Theorem 4.5. Suppose that Assumptions (A), (B), (C) hold. Let $u_1, u_2: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be such that

$$|u_i(t, x) - u_i(t', x')| \leq C_i(|t - t'|^{q_i} + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^{p_i}), \quad (4.7)$$

for every $i = 1, 2$, $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, for some constants $C_i \geq 0$, $q_i, p_i \in (0, 1]$. Suppose that u_1 (resp. u_2) is a (path-dependent) viscosity subsolution (resp. supersolution) of equation (3.5). Then $u_1 \leq u_2$ on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

Proof. The proof consists in showing that $u_1 \leq v$ and $v \leq u_2$ on $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with v given by (2.5).

STEP I. Proof of $u_1 \leq v$. We proceed by contradiction and assume that $\sup(u_1 - v) > 0$. Then, there exists $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ such that

$$(u_1 - v)(t_0, x_0) > 0. \quad (4.8)$$

Notice that $t_0 < T$, since $u_1(T, x_0) \leq g(x_0) = v(T, x_0)$. Now, consider the sequences $\{b_n\}_n, \{f_n\}_n, \{g_n\}_n$ in (B.18). Moreover, for every n and any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, consider the functions $v_{n,\varepsilon} \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and $\bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon} \in C^{1,2}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ introduced in Theorem B.7, with $v_{n,\varepsilon}$ classical solution of the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^H v_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x) + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 \text{tr}[\partial_{yy} \bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(t, y_n^{t,x})] + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b_n(t, x, a), \partial_x^V v_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x) \rangle \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, a) \partial_{xx}^V v_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x)] + f_n(t, x, a) \right\} = 0, & (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ v_{n,\varepsilon}(T, x) = g_n(x), & x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \end{cases}$$

where $y_n^{t,x}$ is given by (B.9). Notice that the term $\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2 \text{tr}[\partial_{yy}\bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(t, y_n^{t,x})]$ depends on the function $\bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon}$ rather than on $v_{n,\varepsilon}$, see Remark B.6.

We split the rest of the proof of STEP I into four substeps.

SUBSTEP I-A. Given $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we set $\tilde{u}_1(t, x) := e^{t-t_0} u_1(t, x)$, for all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, and we define similarly $\tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}$, \tilde{f} , \tilde{g}_n . We also define $\tilde{g}(x) := e^{T-t_0} g(x)$ and $\tilde{g}_n(x) := e^{T-t_0} g_n(x)$, for all $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. Notice that \tilde{u}_1 is a (path-dependent) viscosity subsolution of the following path-dependent partial differential equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^H \tilde{u}_1(t, x) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(t, x, a), \partial_x^V \tilde{u}_1(t, x) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, a) \partial_{xx}^V \tilde{u}_1(t, x)] \right. \\ \left. + \tilde{f}(t, x, a) \right\} = \tilde{u}_1(t, x), & (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ \tilde{u}_1(T, x) = \tilde{g}(x), & x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d). \end{cases} \quad (4.9)$$

Similarly, $\tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon} \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and is a classical solution of the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^H \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x) + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 e^{t-t_0} \text{tr}[\partial_{yy} \bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(t, y_n^{t,x})] + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b_n(t, x, a), \partial_x^V \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x) \rangle \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, a) \partial_{xx}^V \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x)] \right. \\ \left. + \tilde{f}_n(t, x, a) \right\} = \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x), & (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(T, x) = \tilde{g}_n(x), & x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d). \end{cases} \quad (4.10)$$

SUBSTEP I-B. We begin noting that by (4.7) and item 5) of Theorem B.7, there exist constants $M' \geq 0$ and $p \in (0, 1/2]$, independent of n, ε , such that

$$|(\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x')| \leq \frac{M'}{2} (|t - t'|^p + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^p),$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with $|t - t'| \leq 1$ and $\|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T \leq 1$. By (4.2), we find

$$\begin{aligned} |(\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x')| &\leq \frac{M'}{2} (|t - t'|^p + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^p) \\ &= \frac{M'}{2} (|t - t'|^p + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^{\frac{4p}{4}}) \\ &\leq \frac{M'}{2} (|t - t'|^p + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x'))^{\frac{p}{4}}). \end{aligned}$$

Then, by the concavity of the map $y \mapsto y^{\frac{p}{4}}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |(\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x')| &\leq \frac{M'}{2} 2^{1-\frac{p}{4}} (|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')))^{\frac{p}{4}} \\ &\leq M' (|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')))^{\frac{p}{4}}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with $|t - t'| \leq 1$ and $\|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T \leq 1$. Let $M > 0$ be such that

$$M > 2^{2+p} 3^{\frac{p}{4}} M'. \quad (4.12)$$

Since in particular $M > M'$, from (4.11) we deduce that

$$|(\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x')| \leq M \left(|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) \right)^{\frac{p}{4}}. \quad (4.13)$$

Now, let

$$\gamma = \frac{(M/M')^{\frac{4}{p}}}{3 \cdot 2^{3+\frac{8}{p}}} - 1. \quad (4.14)$$

Notice that by (4.12) it follows that γ is strictly positive (in fact $\gamma > 1$). Moreover, let $\bar{r} \in (0, 1)$ be such that

$$\bar{r}^4 = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^3(1 + \gamma)}. \quad (4.15)$$

Now, for each $r \in (0, \bar{r})$, let $C_r > 0$ be such that the map $y \mapsto r^{\frac{4}{y}} - \frac{r^p}{\sqrt{y}}$ is strictly positive for $y \geq C_r$. Then, given $r \in (0, \bar{r})$ and $k \geq C_r$, we construct a map $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of the form

$$\begin{aligned} G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) &= (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - h_{k,r} \left(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right) \\ &\quad - \psi_{k,r} \left(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right), \end{aligned}$$

for some smooth functions $h_{k,r}$ and $\psi_{k,r}$, such that $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}$ satisfies the following properties:

- 1) $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t_0, x_0) = (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0)$;
- 2) $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) \leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) + Mr^p$, for $|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \leq r^4$;
- 3) $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) \leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) - \frac{1}{2}Mr^p$, for $|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) = r^4$;
- 4) $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) \leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) - \frac{1}{4}Mr^p$, for $|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) > r^4$;
- 5) the horizontal and vertical derivatives of first and second-order of the map $[t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \ni (t, x) \mapsto h_{k,r}(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)))$ are bounded by $\frac{D_r}{\sqrt{k}}$ on the set $\{|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \leq r^4\}$, for some constant $D_r > 0$, possibly depending on r , but independent of n, ε, k .

Notice that from properties 2) and 4) it follows that

$$\sup_{(t,x) \in [0,T] \times C([0,T]; \mathbb{R}^d)} G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) \leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) + Mr^p. \quad (4.16)$$

In order to construct $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}$, we consider a function $\psi_{k,r}: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, such that:

- a) $\psi_{k,r} \in C^2([0, \infty))$ and has polynomial growth together with its derivatives of first and second-order;
- b) $\psi_{k,r}(s) = 0$ for $0 \leq s \leq r^4$;
- c) for $s \geq \gamma r^4$, with $\gamma > 1$ as in (4.14), $\psi_{k,r}$ satisfies

$$\psi_{k,r}(s) \geq 2C' \sum_{i=1}^4 (3 \cdot 2^3 s + 3 \cdot 2^3 r^4)^{\frac{\beta_i}{4}} - \frac{1}{4}Mr^p, \quad (4.17)$$

where $C' \geq 0$ is as in (4.25) and $\beta_1 := q_1$, $\beta_2 := p_1$, $\beta_3 := 1/2$, $\beta_4 := 1$.

Then, we define $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}$ as follows:

$$G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) := (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\}$$

$$- \psi_{k,r} \left(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right),$$

for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with

$$\ell_{k,r} = \left(\frac{1}{r^{\frac{4}{k}} - \frac{r^p}{\sqrt{k}}} \right)^k. \quad (4.18)$$

Since we are assuming $k \geq C_r$, then $r^{\frac{4}{k}} - \frac{r^p}{\sqrt{k}} > 0$.

We begin noting that

$$\begin{aligned} G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) &= (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) \\ &\quad - 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.19)$$

for $|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \leq r^4$. As a matter of fact, if $|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \leq r^4$ then $\psi_{k,r}(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)))$ is equal to zero by property b) of $\psi_{k,r}$.

Property 1). Notice that property 1) above holds true:

$$G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t_0, x_0) = (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0).$$

Property 2). This property follows from (4.13), the fact that $h_{k,r} \geq 0$ and $\psi_{k,r} \geq 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) &\leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) \\ &\leq M \left(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{p}{4}} \leq Mr^p. \end{aligned}$$

Property 3). Regarding property 3), by (4.13) and (4.19), for all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with $|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) = r^4$,

$$\begin{aligned} G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) &= (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) + (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) \\ &\quad - 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\} \\ &\leq M \left(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{p}{4}} + (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) - 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + r^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\} \\ &= Mr^p + (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) - 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + r^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, notice that

$$Mr^p - 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + r^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\} \leq -\frac{1}{2}Mr^p, \quad (4.20)$$

from which property 3) follows. As a matter of fact, (4.20) can be written as

$$\frac{3M}{2}r^p \leq 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + r^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\},$$

which becomes

$$r^p + \frac{2\sqrt{k}}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \leq 2\sqrt{k} \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + r^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{k}}. \quad (4.21)$$

On the other hand, using the concavity of the map $y \mapsto y^{1/k}$, we have

$$2 \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + r^4 \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} \geq 2^{\frac{1}{k}} \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} + r^{\frac{4}{k}} \right) \geq \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} + r^{\frac{4}{k}},$$

where the last inequality follows from the fact that $2^{1/k} \geq 1$. Therefore, (4.21) holds true if

$$r^p + \frac{2\sqrt{k}}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \leq \sqrt{k} \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} + r^{\frac{4}{k}} \right).$$

This yields

$$r^{\frac{4}{k}} - \frac{r^p}{\sqrt{k}} \geq \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}},$$

which is indeed an equality due to the expression of $\ell_{k,r}$ in (4.18).

Property 4). Regarding property 4), we have, for every $|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) > r^4$,

$$\begin{aligned} G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) &= G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) - G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t', x') + G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t', x') \\ &= (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x') + G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t', x') \\ &\quad - 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\} \\ &\quad + 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t' - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t', x'), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\} \\ &\quad - \psi_{k,r}(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))) \\ &\leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x') + G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t', x') \\ &\quad - \psi_{k,r}(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))), \end{aligned} \quad (4.22)$$

for any $|t' - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t', x'), (t_0, x_0)) = r^4$, where we used (4.19), namely that $\psi_{k,r}$ does not appear in the expression of $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t', x')$, and also that the map

$$s \mapsto 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + s \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\}$$

is non-decreasing.

Now, we prove that the set $A := \{(t, x) : |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) > r^4\}$ can be written as $A_1 \cup A_2$, with A_1 and A_2 disjoint sets, where:

- A_1 is the set of points $(t, x) \in A$ for which there exists (t', x') (with $|t' - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t', x'), (t_0, x_0)) = r^4$) satisfying $|t - t'| \leq 1$, $\|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T \leq 1$, $|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) \leq \left(\frac{1}{4}r^p M/M'\right)^{4/p}$;
- A_2 is the set of points $(t, x) \in A$ such that

$$|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) > \gamma r^4, \quad (4.23)$$

with $\gamma > 1$ given by (4.14).

Let us prove that A_1, A_2 form a partition of A . To this end, consider a point $(t, x) \in A \setminus A_1$ and suppose that $|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) > \left(\frac{1}{4}r^p M/M'\right)^{4/p}$ for any (t', x') with $|t' - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t', x'), (t_0, x_0)) = r^4$. By (4.5), we have (recalling the definition of γ in (4.14))

$$|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) > \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^3} \left(\frac{1}{4} \frac{M}{M'} r^p \right)^{\frac{4}{p}} - r^4 = \left(\frac{(M/M')^{\frac{4}{p}}}{3 \cdot 2^{3+\frac{8}{p}}} - 1 \right) r^4 = \gamma r^4.$$

This shows that $(t, x) \in A_2$. Now, suppose on the other hand that $|t - t'| > 1$ (in the case $\|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T > 1$ we proceed along the same lines). Then $|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) > 1$. Therefore, by (4.5), we get

$$|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) > \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^3} - r^4 > \gamma r^4,$$

which shows that $(t, x) \in A_2$, where the last inequality follows from the fact that $r \in (0, \bar{r})$ and the definition of \bar{r} in (4.15).

For the rest of the proof of *Property 4*) we distinguish two cases depending on the point (t, x) .

Case 1: $(t, x) \in A_1$. By (4.11) and property 3) of $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}$, from (4.22) we find

$$\begin{aligned} G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) &\leq M' \left(|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) \right)^{\frac{p}{4}} + (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} M r^p - \psi_{k,r} \left(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.24)$$

Then, by (4.24), recalling that $\psi_{k,r} \geq 0$,

$$G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) \leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) - \frac{1}{4} M r^p,$$

which proves property 4) for such (t, x) .

Case 2: $(t, x) \in A_2$. We begin noting that by (4.7) and item 5) of Theorem B.7, there exists a constant $C' \geq 0$, independent of n, ε , such that

$$\begin{aligned} &|(\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x')| \\ &\leq C' (|t - t'|^{q_1} + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^{p_1} + |t - t'|^{1/2} + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T) \\ &\leq C' \sum_{i=1}^4 (|t - t'|^{\beta_i} + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^{\beta_i}), \end{aligned} \quad (4.25)$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, where $\beta_1 := q_1$, $\beta_2 := p_1$, $\beta_3 := 1/2$, $\beta_4 := 1$. Hence (recalling (4.2))

$$\begin{aligned} |(\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x')| &\leq 2C' \sum_{i=1}^4 (|t - t'|^4 + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^4)^{\frac{\beta_i}{4}} \\ &\leq 2C' \sum_{i=1}^4 (|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')))^{\frac{\beta_i}{4}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, by (4.5) we have

$$|t - t'|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t', x')) \leq 3 \cdot 2^3 (|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))) + 3 \cdot 2^3 r^4.$$

Hence

$$|(\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x')| \leq 2C' \sum_{i=1}^4 \left(3 \cdot 2^3 (|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))) + 3 \cdot 2^3 r^4 \right)^{\frac{\beta_i}{4}}.$$

Using the last inequality, together with (4.22) and property 3) of $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}$, we get (recall that (t', x') satisfies $|t' - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t', x'), (t_0, x_0)) = r^4$)

$$\begin{aligned} G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t, x) &\leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t, x) - (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t', x') + G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}(t', x') - \psi_{k,r}(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))) \\ &\leq 2C' \sum_{i=1}^4 \left(3 \cdot 2^3 (|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))) + 3 \cdot 2^3 r^4 \right)^{\frac{\beta_i}{4}} + (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) - \frac{1}{2} M r^p \\ &\quad - \psi_{k,r}(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))) \leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) - \frac{1}{4} M r^p, \end{aligned}$$

where the latter inequality follows from property c) of $\psi_{k,r}$ (namely from (4.17) with $s := |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))$) and the fact that (t, x) satisfies (4.23).

Property 5). We recall that the function $h_{k,r}$ takes the following form:

$$h_{k,r}(t, x) = 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\}.$$

Its derivatives are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t^H h_{k,r}(t, x) &= \frac{3M}{\sqrt{k}} \frac{4(t - t_0)^3}{\left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{1 - \frac{1}{k}}}, \\ \partial_{x_i}^V h_{k,r}(t, x) &= \frac{3M}{\sqrt{k}} \frac{\partial_{x_i} \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))}{\left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{1 - \frac{1}{k}}}, \\ \partial_{x_i x_j}^V h_{k,r}(t, x) &= \frac{3M}{\sqrt{k}} \frac{\partial_{x_i x_j}^V \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))}{\left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{1 - \frac{1}{k}}} \\ &\quad + \frac{3M}{\sqrt{k}} \left(\frac{1}{k} - 1 \right) \frac{\partial_{x_i}^V \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \partial_{x_j}^V \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))}{\left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{2 - \frac{1}{k}}}. \end{aligned}$$

The claim follows if we prove that the quantities multiplying $\frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$ are bounded on the set $\{|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \leq r^4\}$ by some constant $D_r > 0$, independent of k , but possibly depending on r . Consider for instance the first term appearing in the second-order derivative (the other terms can be treated in a similar way):

$$\frac{|\partial_{x_i x_j}^V \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))|}{\left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{1 - \frac{1}{k}}}.$$

By (4.2) and (4.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{|\partial_{x_i x_j}^V \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))|}{\left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{1 - \frac{1}{k}}} \\ &\leq \ell_{k,r}^{1 - \frac{1}{k}} |\partial_{x_i x_j}^V \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))| \leq c \ell_{k,r}^{1 - \frac{1}{k}} (\kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq c \ell_{k,r}^{1 - \frac{1}{k}} (|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)))^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq c \ell_{k,r}^{1 - \frac{1}{k}} r^2. \end{aligned}$$

Recalling the expression of $\ell_{k,r}$ in (4.18), we find

$$c \ell_{k,r}^{1 - \frac{1}{k}} r^2 = c \left(\frac{1}{r^{\frac{4}{k}} - \frac{r^p}{\sqrt{k}}} \right)^{k-1} r^2 \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c}{r^2}.$$

We conclude that the quantity $c\ell_{k,r}^{1-\frac{1}{k}}r^2$ is bounded in k by some constant depending on r .

SUBSTEP I-C. By (4.16) and the smooth variational principle (Theorem 4.4) with $G := G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}$ and $\lambda := Mr^p$, we deduce that for every $\delta > 0$ there exist $(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \in [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\varphi: [0, T] \times C([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ in (4.6) satisfying items i)-ii)-iii)-iv) of Theorem 4.4. Moreover, the restriction of φ to $[\bar{t}, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ belongs to $C^{1,2}([\bar{t}, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and its derivatives are bounded by $c\delta$, for some constant $c \geq 0$, independent of $n, \varepsilon, k, r, \delta$. Moreover, from properties 1)-3)-4) of $G_{n,\varepsilon,k,r}$ and item ii) of Theorem 4.4, it follows that

$$|\bar{t} - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((\bar{t}, \bar{x}), (t_0, x_0)) \leq r^4. \quad (4.26)$$

In particular

$$|\bar{t} - t_0| \leq r.$$

Recalling that $t_0 < T$, we see that $\bar{t} < T$ for r small enough.

Using again (4.26) and (4.2), we obtain

$$\|\bar{x}(\cdot \wedge \bar{t}) - x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T \leq r. \quad (4.27)$$

SUBSTEP I-D. We apply the definition of viscosity subsolution of (4.9) to \tilde{u}_1 at the point (\bar{t}, \bar{x}) with test function $(t, x) \mapsto \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x) + h_{k,r}(t, x) + \varphi(t, x)$, where (recall from (4.19) that $\psi_{k,r}$ does not appear because of (4.26))

$$h_{k,r}(t, x) = 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\}.$$

Then, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{u}_1(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \\ & \leq \partial_t^H h_{k,r}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a), \partial_x^V h_{k,r}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) \partial_{xx}^V h_{k,r}(\bar{t}, \bar{x})] \right\} \\ & + \partial_t^H \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a), \partial_x^V \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x})] \right\} \\ & + \partial_t^H \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a), \partial_x^V \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) \partial_{xx}^V \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(\bar{t}, \bar{x})] + \tilde{f}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Recalling that $\tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}$ is a classical solution of equation (4.10), we find

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) & \leq -\frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 e^{\bar{t}-t_0} \text{tr}[\partial_{yy} \bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(\bar{t}, y_n^{\bar{t}, \bar{x}})] \\ & + \partial_t^H h_{k,r}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a), \partial_x^V h_{k,r}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) \partial_{xx}^V h_{k,r}(\bar{t}, \bar{x})] \right\} \\ & + \partial_t^H \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a), \partial_x^V \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x})] \right\} \\ & + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) - b_n(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a), \partial_x^V \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \rangle + \tilde{f}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) - \tilde{f}_n(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.28)$$

where $y_n^{\bar{t}, \bar{x}}$ is given by (B.9) with t and x replaced respectively by \bar{t} and \bar{x} . By item ii) of Theorem 4.4 and the fact that $\varphi \geq 0$, we have

$$(u_1 - v_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) = (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) \leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon} - \varphi)(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \leq (\tilde{u}_1 - \tilde{v}_{n,\varepsilon})(\bar{t}, \bar{x}).$$

In addition, using the boundedness of b and σ , and recalling from Theorem 4.4 that the derivatives of φ are bounded by $c\delta$, we deduce that there exists a constant $\Lambda \geq 0$, independent of $n, \varepsilon, k, r, \delta$, such that

$$\partial_t^H \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a), \partial_x^V \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) \partial_{xx}^V \varphi(\bar{t}, \bar{x})] \right\} \leq \Lambda \delta.$$

Similarly, recall from property 5) of SUBSTEP I-B that the derivatives of $h_{k,r}$ are bounded by $\frac{D_r}{\sqrt{k}}$ on the set $\{|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \leq r^4\}$. Since by (4.26) it holds that $|\bar{t} - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((\bar{t}, \bar{x}), (t_0, x_0)) \leq r^4$, there exists some constant $\Xi_r \geq 0$, independent of $n, \varepsilon, k, \delta$, but possibly depending on r , such that

$$\partial_t^H h_{k,r}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a), \partial_x^V h_{k,r}(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) \partial_{xx}^V h_{k,r}(\bar{t}, \bar{x})] \right\} \leq \frac{\Xi_r}{\sqrt{k}}.$$

Plugging the last three estimates into (4.28) we get, using also estimates (B.33) and (B.34),

$$\begin{aligned} (u_1 - v_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) &\leq \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 e^{\bar{t}-t_0} d d_n \bar{C}_n e^{\bar{C}_n(T-\bar{t})} (1 + |y_n^{\bar{t}, \bar{x}}|)^{3q} + \Lambda \delta + \frac{\Xi_r}{\sqrt{k}} \\ &\quad + e^{\bar{t}-t_0} \left\{ \bar{L} \sup_{a \in A} \{|b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) - b_n(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a)|\} + \sup_{a \in A} \{|f(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) - f_n(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a)|\} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.29)$$

Recall that $y_n^{\bar{t}, \bar{x}}$ is given by (B.9). Then, from (B.11)-(B.12) we see that there exists a constant $c \geq 0$, independent of n, ε, δ , such that

$$|(y_n^{\bar{t}, \bar{x}})_j| \leq c \|\bar{x}(\cdot \wedge \bar{t})\|_T, \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, d_n.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} |y_n^{\bar{t}, \bar{x}}| &= \sqrt{\sum_j |(y_n^{\bar{t}, \bar{x}})_j|^2} \leq c \sqrt{d_n} \|\bar{x}(\cdot \wedge \bar{t})\|_T \leq c \sqrt{d_n} \|x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T \\ &\quad + c \sqrt{d_n} \|\bar{x}(\cdot \wedge \bar{t}) - x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T \leq c \sqrt{d_n} \|x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T + c \sqrt{d_n} \frac{1}{k}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from (4.27). Therefore, from (4.29) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (u_1 - v_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) &\leq \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 e^{\bar{t}-t_0} d d_n \bar{C}_n e^{\bar{C}_n T} \left(1 + c \sqrt{d_n} \|x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T + c \sqrt{d_n} \frac{1}{k} \right)^{3q} \\ &\quad + \Lambda \delta + \frac{\Xi_r}{\sqrt{k}} + e^{\bar{t}-t_0} \left\{ \bar{L} \sup_{a \in A} \{|b(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) - b_n(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a)|\} + \sup_{a \in A} \{|f(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a) - f_n(\bar{t}, \bar{x}, a)|\} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{|s-s'| \leq 2^{-n}} |\bar{x}(s \wedge \bar{t}) - \bar{x}(s' \wedge \bar{t})| &\leq \sup_{|s-s'| \leq 2^{-n}} |\bar{x}(s \wedge \bar{t}) - x_0(s \wedge t_0) + x_0(s \wedge t_0) - x_0(s' \wedge t_0) \\ &\quad + x_0(s' \wedge t_0) - \bar{x}(s' \wedge \bar{t})| \leq 2 \|\bar{x}(\cdot \wedge \bar{t}) - x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T + \sup_{|s-s'| \leq 2^{-n}} |x_0(s \wedge t_0) - x_0(s' \wedge t_0)| \\ &\leq 2r + \sup_{|s-s'| \leq 2^{-n}} |x_0(s \wedge t_0) - x_0(s' \wedge t_0)|, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from (4.27). Then, using estimate (B.16) with h and h_n replaced respectively by b and b_n or f and f_n , we get

$$\begin{aligned} (u_1 - v_{n,\varepsilon})(t_0, x_0) &\leq \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 e^{\bar{t}-t_0} d d_n \bar{C}_n e^{\bar{C}_n T} \left(1 + c \sqrt{d_n} \|x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T + c \sqrt{d_n} \frac{1}{k} \right)^{3q} + \Lambda \delta + \frac{\Xi_r}{\sqrt{k}} \\ &\quad + e^{\bar{t}-t_0} (1 + \bar{L}) \left(6Kr + 3K \sup_{|s-s'| \leq 2^{-n}} |x_0(s \wedge t_0) - x_0(s' \wedge t_0)| \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{2K}{\sqrt{d(2^n+1)}} + \int_0^\infty \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}r^2} w((\bar{t} + r/n) \wedge T - \bar{t}) dr \right), \end{aligned} \quad (4.30)$$

where we recall that w is the modulus of continuity of b and f with respect to the time variable. Now we pass to the limit. First, we send $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$ so the first term on the right-hand side of (4.30) goes to

zero. Then, we send $n \rightarrow +\infty$ so the second term on the second line in (4.30) goes to zero, together with the two terms on the third line. Afterwards, we let $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $\delta \rightarrow 0^+$. Finally, we send $r \rightarrow 0^+$, obtaining

$$(u_1 - v)(t_0, x_0) \leq 0,$$

which gives a contradiction to (4.8).

STEP II. *Proof of $v \leq u_2$.* It is enough to show that

$$u_2(t, x) \geq \sup_{s \in [t, T], a \in A} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^s f(r, X^{t,x,a}, a) dr + v(s, X^{t,x,a}) \right], \quad (4.31)$$

for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, where $X^{t,x,a}$ corresponds to the process $X^{t,x,\alpha}$ with $\alpha \equiv a$. As a matter of fact, it holds that

$$\sup_{s \in [t, T], a \in A} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^s f(r, X^{t,x,a}, a) dr + v(s, X^{t,x,a}) \right] \geq v(t, x),$$

where the validity of the above inequality can be shown simply taking $s = t$ in the left-hand side. For every fixed $s \in [0, T]$, $a \in A$, set

$$v^{s,a}(t, x) := \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^s f(r, X^{t,x,a}, a) dr + v(s, X^{t,x,a}) \right], \quad \forall (t, x) \in [0, s] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d).$$

Notice that applying Proposition 2.6 with g, T, A replaced by $v(s, \cdot), s, \{a\}$, respectively, we deduce that $v^{s,a}$ is bounded, jointly continuous on $[0, s] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, and there exists a constant $\hat{c} \geq 0$ (depending only on T and K) such that

$$|v^{s,a}(t, x) - v^{s,a}(t', x')| \leq \hat{c}(|t - t'|^{1/2} + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T),$$

for all $(s, a) \in [0, T] \times A$, $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, s] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. By the boundedness of f and (2.6), we also have

$$|v^{s,a}(t, x) - v^{s',a}(t, x)| \leq K|s' - s| + c|s' - s|^{1/2}, \quad (4.32)$$

for all $a \in A$, $s, s' \in [0, T]$, $(t, x) \in [0, s \wedge s'] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with c being the same constant appearing in (2.6).

In order to prove (4.31), we proceed by contradiction and suppose that there exist $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, $s_0 \in [t_0, T]$, $a_0 \in A$, such that

$$(v^{s_0, a_0} - u_2)(t_0, x_0) > 0.$$

It holds that $t_0 < T$, otherwise $t_0 = s_0 = T$ and $u_2(T, x_0) \geq g(x_0) = v^{T, a_0}(T, x_0)$. Moreover, we can suppose, without loss of generality, that $t_0 < s_0$. As a matter of fact, by (4.32) and the fact that $t_0 < T$, there exists $s_1 \in (t_0, T]$ such that $(v^{s_1, a_0} - u_2)(t_0, x_0) > 0$. Therefore, it is enough to consider s_1 in place of s_0 . For this reason, in the sequel we assume that $t_0 < s_0$.

Now, consider the sequences $\{b_n\}_n, \{f_n\}_n, \{\hat{v}_n(s_0, \cdot)\}_n, \{v_n^{s_0, a_0}\}_n$ introduced in Theorem B.8, with $v_n^{s_0, a_0}$ being a classical solution of equation (B.35).

We set $\tilde{u}_2(t, x) := e^{t-t_0} u_2(t, x)$, for all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, and we define similarly $\tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0}, \tilde{f}, \tilde{f}_n$. We also define $\tilde{g}(x) := e^{s_0-t_0} g(x)$ and $\tilde{v}_n(s_0, x) := e^{s_0-t_0} \hat{v}_n(s_0, x)$, for all $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. Notice that \tilde{u}_2 is a (path-dependent) viscosity supersolution of the following path-dependent partial differential equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^H \tilde{u}_2(t, x) + \langle b(t, x, a_0), \partial_x^V \tilde{u}_2(t, x) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, a_0) \partial_{xx}^V \tilde{u}_2(t, x)] \\ + \tilde{f}(t, x, a_0) = \tilde{u}_2(t, x), & (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ \tilde{u}_2(T, x) = \tilde{g}(x), & x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d). \end{cases}$$

Similarly, $\tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0} \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and is a classical solution of the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^H \tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x) + \langle b_n(t, x, a_0), \partial_x^V \tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\tau)(t, x, a_0) \partial_{xx}^V \tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x)] \\ + \tilde{f}_n(t, x, a_0) = \tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x), & (t, x) \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ \tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0}(s_0, x) = \tilde{v}_n(s_0, x), & x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d). \end{cases}$$

We begin noting that by (4.7) and item 4) of Theorem B.8, there exist constants $M \geq 0$ and $p \in (0, 1/2]$, independent of n, ε , such that

$$|(\tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0} - \tilde{u}_2)(t, x) - (\tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0} - \tilde{u}_2)(t', x')| \leq M(|t - t'|^p + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T^p),$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with $|t - t'| \leq 1$ and $\|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T \leq 1$. To alleviate notation, we use the same symbols M and p as in STEP I. Now, we proceed along the same lines as in SUBSTEP I-B. In particular, we consider the function

$$\begin{aligned} G_{n,k,r}(t, x) &:= (\tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0} - \tilde{u}_2)(t, x) - 3M\sqrt{k} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}} + |t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0)) \right)^{\frac{1}{k}} - \frac{1}{\ell_{k,r}^{\frac{1}{k}}} \right\} \\ &\quad - \psi_{k,r}(|t - t_0|^4 + \kappa_\infty((t, x), (t_0, x_0))). \end{aligned}$$

As in SUBSTEP I-B we can prove that, for $k \geq C_r$,

$$\sup_{(t,x) \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)} G_{n,k,r}(t, x) \leq (\tilde{v}_n^{s_0, a_0} - \tilde{u}_2)(t_0, x_0) + Mr^p.$$

Then, by the smooth variational principle (Theorem 4.4) on $[0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ with $G := G_{n,k,r}$ and $\lambda := Mr^p$, we deduce that for every $\delta > 0$ there exist $(\bar{t}, \bar{x}) \in [t_0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\varphi: [0, T] \times C([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ in (4.6) satisfying items i)-ii)-iii)-iv) of Theorem 4.4. Moreover, the restriction of φ to $[\bar{t}, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ belongs to $C^{1,2}([\bar{t}, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and its derivatives are bounded by $c\delta$, for some constant $c \geq 0$, independent of n, k, r, δ . Moreover, from the properties of $G_{n,k,r}$ and item ii) of Theorem 4.4, it follows that

$$|\bar{t} - t_0| \leq r, \quad \|\bar{x}(\cdot \wedge \bar{t}) - x_0(\cdot \wedge t_0)\|_T \leq r.$$

Recalling that $t_0 < s_0$, by the first inequality we deduce that $\bar{t} < s_0$ for r small enough.

Now, we can proceed along the same lines as in SUBSTEP I-D to get a contradiction and conclude the proof. We only notice that in order to use the viscosity supersolution property of \tilde{u}_2 at the point (\bar{t}, \bar{x}) we need to extend $v_n^{s_0, a_0}$ from $[0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ to $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ in such a way that the extension is still smooth. We can do this extending by reflection (see [37]), namely defining the function

$$v_n^{1, s_0, a_0}(t, x) = \begin{cases} v_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x), & (t, x) \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ 4v_n^{s_0, a_0}((3s_0 - t)/2, x) - 3v_n^{s_0, a_0}(2s_0 - t, x), & (t, x) \in [s_0, 2s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d). \end{cases}$$

Notice that v_n^{1, s_0, a_0} is non-anticipative. If $2s_0 \geq T$ we have finished, otherwise we extend again v_n^{1, s_0, a_0} and after a finite number of extensions we find a map defined on the entire space $[0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. \square

Finally, we can state the following uniqueness result.

Corollary 4.6. *Suppose that Assumptions (A), (B), (C) hold. Then, the value function v in (2.5) is the unique (path-dependent) viscosity solution of equation (3.5) in the class of functions satisfying (4.7).*

Proof. If u is another (path-dependent) viscosity solution of equation (3.5) satisfying (4.7), then, by Theorem 4.5, we get the two following inequalities:

$$u \leq v, \quad v \leq u,$$

from which the claim follows. \square

Appendix A Pathwise derivatives and functional Itô's formula

In the present appendix, we briefly recall the definitions of pathwise (or functional) derivatives following [15, Section 2], for which we refer for more details.

As we follow the standard approach (as it was introduced in the seminal paper [23]), in order to introduce the pathwise derivatives for a map $u: [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $t_0 \in [0, T]$, we firstly define them for a map $\hat{u}: [t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, with $D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ being the set of càdlàg paths, endowed with the supremum norm $\|\hat{x}\|_T = \sup_{s \in [0, T]} |\hat{x}(s)|$, for every $\hat{x} \in D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. We also define on $[0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ the pseudometric $\hat{d}_\infty: ([0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ as

$$\hat{d}_\infty((t, \hat{x}), (t', \hat{x}')) := |t - t'| + \|\hat{x}(\cdot \wedge t) - \hat{x}'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T.$$

On $[t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ we consider the restriction of \hat{d}_∞ , which we still denote by the same symbol.

Definition A.1. Consider a map $\hat{u}: [t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $t_0 \in [0, T]$.

- (i) For every $(t, \hat{x}) \in [t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, with $t < T$, the horizontal derivative of \hat{u} at (t, \hat{x}) is defined as (if the limit exists)

$$\partial_t^H \hat{u}(t, \hat{x}) := \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\hat{u}(t + \delta, \hat{x}(\cdot \wedge t)) - \hat{u}(t, \hat{x}(\cdot \wedge t))}{\delta}.$$

At $t = T$, it is defined as

$$\partial_t^H \hat{u}(T, \hat{x}) := \lim_{t \rightarrow T^-} \partial_t^H \hat{u}(t, \hat{x}).$$

- (ii) For every $(t, \hat{x}) \in [t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, the vertical derivatives of first and second-order of \hat{u} at (t, \hat{x}) are defined as (if the limits exist)

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{x_i}^V \hat{u}(t, \hat{x}) &:= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\hat{u}(t, \hat{x} + h e_i 1_{[t, T]}) - \hat{u}(t, \hat{x})}{h}, \\ \partial_{x_i x_j}^V \hat{u}(t, \hat{x}) &:= \partial_{x_j}^V (\partial_{x_i}^V \hat{u})(t, \hat{x}), \end{aligned}$$

where e_1, \dots, e_d is the standard orthonormal basis of \mathbb{R}^d . We also denote $\partial_x^V \hat{u} = (\partial_{x_1}^V \hat{u}, \dots, \partial_{x_d}^V \hat{u})$ and $\partial_{xx}^V \hat{u} = (\partial_{x_i x_j}^V \hat{u})_{i,j=1, \dots, d}$.

Definition A.2. $C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$, $t_0 \in [0, T]$, is the set of continuous real-valued maps \hat{u} defined on $([t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \hat{d}_\infty)$, such that $\partial_t^H \hat{u}$, $\partial_x^V \hat{u}$, $\partial_{xx}^V \hat{u}$ exist everywhere on $([t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \hat{d}_\infty)$ and are continuous.

We can now define the pathwise derivatives for a map $u: [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. To this end, the following consistency property plays a crucial role.

Lemma A.3. If $\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2 \in C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ coincide on continuous paths, namely

$$\hat{u}_1(t, x) = \hat{u}_2(t, x), \quad \forall (t, x) \in [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d),$$

then the same holds for their pathwise derivatives: for every $(t, x) \in [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t^H \hat{u}_1(t, x) &= \partial_t^H \hat{u}_2(t, x), \\ \partial_x^V \hat{u}_1(t, x) &= \partial_x^V \hat{u}_2(t, x), \\ \partial_{xx}^V \hat{u}_1(t, x) &= \partial_{xx}^V \hat{u}_2(t, x). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. See [15, Lemma 2.1]. □

We can now give the following definition.

Definition A.4. $C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$, $t_0 \in [0, T]$, is the set of continuous real-valued maps u defined on $([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), d_\infty)$, for which there exists $\hat{u} \in C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ such that

$$u(t, x) = \hat{u}(t, x), \quad \forall (t, x) \in [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d).$$

We also define, for every $(t, x) \in [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t^H u(t, x) &:= \partial_t^H \hat{u}(t, x), \\ \partial_x^V u(t, x) &:= \partial_x^V \hat{u}(t, x), \\ \partial_{xx}^V u(t, x) &:= \partial_{xx}^V \hat{u}(t, x). \end{aligned}$$

Remark A.5. Thanks to the consistency property stated in Lemma A.3, the definition of pathwise derivatives of u does not depend on the map \hat{u} appearing in Definition A.4.

In the present paper we also need to consider the following subset of $C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$.

Definition A.6. We denote by $C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ the set of $u \in C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ such that u , $\partial_t^H u$, $\partial_x^V u$, $\partial_{xx}^V u$ satisfy a polynomial growth condition: there exist constants $M \geq 0$ and $q \geq 0$ such that

$$|\partial_t^H u(t, x)| + |\partial_x^V u(t, x)| + |\partial_{xx}^V u(t, x)| \leq M (1 + \|x\|_t^q),$$

for all $(t, x) \in [t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

Finally, we state the so-called functional Itô formula.

Theorem A.7 (Functional Itô's formula). *Let $u \in C^{1,2}([t_0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$. Let also $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in [t_0, T]}, \mathbb{P})$ be a filtered probability space, with $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in [t_0, T]}$ satisfying the usual conditions, on which a d -dimensional continuous semimartingale $X = (X_t)_{t \in [t_0, T]}$ is defined, with $X = (X^1, \dots, X^d)$. Then, it holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} u(t, X) &= u(t_0, X) + \int_{t_0}^t \partial_t^H u(s, X) ds + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^d \int_{t_0}^t \partial_{x_i x_j}^V u(s, X) d[X^i, X^j]_s \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^d \int_{t_0}^t \partial_{x_i}^V u(s, X) dX_s^i, \end{aligned} \tag{A.1}$$

for all $t_0 \leq t \leq T$, \mathbb{P} -a.s.

Proof. See [15, Theorem 2.2]. □

Appendix B Cylindrical approximations

B.1 The deterministic calculus via regularization

In the present appendix, we need to consider “cylindrical” maps defined on $C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, namely maps depending on a path $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ only through a finite number of integrals with respect to x . An integral with respect to x can be formally written as “ $\int_{[0, T]} \varphi(s) dx(s)$ ”. In order to give a meaning to the latter notation, it is useful to notice that we look for a deterministic integral which coincides with the Itô integral when x is replaced by an Itô process (such a property will be exploited in the sequel). This is the case if we interpret “ $\int_{[0, T]} \varphi(s) dx(s)$ ” as the deterministic version of the forward integral, which we now introduce and denote by $\int_{[0, T]} \varphi(s) d^-x(s)$. For more details on such an integral and, more generally, on the deterministic calculus via regularization we refer to [20, Section 3.2] and [13, Section 2.2]. The only difference with respect to [20] and [13] being that here we consider d -dimensional paths (with d possibly greater than 1), even though, as usual, we work component by component, therefore relying on the one-dimensional theory.

Definition B.1. Let $x: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\varphi: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be càdlàg functions. When the following limit

$$\int_{[0, T]} \varphi(s) d^-x(s) := \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_0^T \varphi(s) \frac{x(T \wedge (s + \varepsilon)) - x(s)}{\varepsilon} ds$$

exists and it is finite, we denote it by $\int_{[0, T]} \varphi(s) d^-x(s)$ and call it **forward integral of φ with respect to x** .

When φ is continuous and of bounded variation, an integration by parts formula provides an explicit representation of the forward integral of φ with respect to x .

Proposition B.2. Let $x: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ be a càdlàg function and let $\varphi: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be càdlàg and of bounded variation. The following **integration by parts formula** holds:

$$\int_{[0, T]} \varphi(s) d^-x(s) = \varphi(T-)x(T) - \varphi(0)x(0) - \int_{(0, T]} x(s) d\varphi(s), \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where $\int_{(0, T]} x(s) d\varphi(s)$ is a Lebesgue-Stieltjes integral on $(0, T]$.

Proof. We have

$$\int_0^T \varphi(s) \frac{x(T \wedge (s + \varepsilon)) - x(s)}{\varepsilon} ds = \int_0^{T-\varepsilon} \varphi(s) \frac{x(s + \varepsilon) - x(s)}{\varepsilon} ds + \int_{T-\varepsilon}^T \varphi(s) \frac{x(T) - x(s)}{\varepsilon} ds$$

Notice that

$$\int_0^{T-\varepsilon} \varphi(s)x(s + \varepsilon) ds = \int_\varepsilon^T \varphi(s - \varepsilon)x(s) ds = \int_0^T \varphi(s - \varepsilon)x(s) ds,$$

where in the last equality we set $\varphi(s) := 0$ for $s < 0$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \varphi(s) \frac{x(T \wedge (s + \varepsilon)) - x(s)}{\varepsilon} ds \\ &= \int_0^T \frac{\varphi(s - \varepsilon) - \varphi(s)}{\varepsilon} x(s) ds + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{T-\varepsilon}^T \varphi(s)x(s) ds + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{T-\varepsilon}^T \varphi(s)(x(T) - x(s)) ds \\ &= \int_0^T \frac{\varphi(s - \varepsilon) - \varphi(s)}{\varepsilon} x(s) ds + \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{T-\varepsilon}^T \varphi(s)x(T) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Since φ is càdlàg, we have

$$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{T-\varepsilon}^T \varphi(s)x(T) ds \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \varphi(T-)x(T). \quad (\text{B.2})$$

On the other hand, by Fubini's theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \frac{\varphi(s - \varepsilon) - \varphi(s)}{\varepsilon} x(s) ds = - \int_0^T \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_{(s-\varepsilon, s]} d\varphi(r) \right) x(s) ds \\ &= - \int_{(-\varepsilon, T]} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_r^{r+\varepsilon} x(s) ds \right) d\varphi(r) = - \int_{(-\varepsilon, 0]} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_r^{r+\varepsilon} x(s) ds \right) d\varphi(r) - \int_{(0, T]} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_r^{r+\varepsilon} x(s) ds \right) d\varphi(r) \\ &= -\varphi(0) \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_0^\varepsilon x(s) ds - \int_{(0, T]} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_r^{r+\varepsilon} x(s) ds \right) d\varphi(r). \end{aligned}$$

Since x is right-continuous we have that $\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_r^{r+\varepsilon} x(s) ds \rightarrow x(r)$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$. Moreover, since x is bounded (being a càdlàg function), by Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem we conclude that

$$\int_{(0, T]} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \int_r^{r+\varepsilon} x(s) ds \right) d\varphi(r) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{(0, T]} x(r) d\varphi(r).$$

Hence

$$-\varphi(0)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\int_0^\varepsilon x(s)ds - \int_{(0,T]} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\int_r^{r+\varepsilon} x(s)ds\right)d\varphi(r) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} -\varphi(0)x(0) - \int_{(0,T]} x(r)d\varphi(r). \quad (\text{B.3})$$

From (B.2) and (B.3) we see that (B.1) follows. \square

B.2 Cylindrical approximations

Lemma B.3. *Let $h: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous and satisfying, for some constant $K \geq 0$, items a)-b)-d) or, alternatively, items a)-c)-d):*

- a) $|h(t, x, a) - h(t, x', a)| \leq K \|x - x'\|_t$, for all $t \in [0, T]$, $x, x' \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, $a \in A$;
- b) $|h(t, 0, a)| \leq K$, for all $(t, a) \in [0, T] \times A$;
- c) $|h(t, x, a)| \leq K$, for all $(t, x, a) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A$;
- d) h is uniformly continuous in t , uniformly with respect to the other variables, namely there exists a modulus of continuity $w: [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ such that

$$|h(t, x, a) - h(s, x, a)| \leq w(|t - s|), \quad (\text{B.4})$$

for all $t, s \in [0, T]$, $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, $a \in A$.

Then, there exists a sequence $\{h_n\}_n$ with $h_n: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ continuous and satisfying the following.

- 1) h_n converges pointwise to h uniformly with respect to a , namely: for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, it holds that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_{a \in A} |h_n(t, x, a) - h(t, x, a)| = 0.$$

More precisely, (B.16) holds.

- 2) If h satisfies items a) and b) (resp. a) and c)) then h_n also satisfies the same items. In particular, h_n satisfies item a) with constant $2K$ and item b) with a constant $\tilde{K} \geq 0$, depending only on K (resp. item c) with the same constant K).
- 3) For every n , there exist $d_n \in \mathbb{N}$, a continuous function $\bar{h}_n: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd_n} \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and some continuously differentiable functions $\phi_{n,1}, \dots, \phi_{n,d_n}: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$h_n(t, x, a) = \bar{h}_n\left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,1}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,d_n}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), a\right),$$

for every $(t, x, a) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A$. Moreover, d_n and $\phi_{n,1}, \dots, \phi_{n,d_n}$ do not depend on h . In addition, $y_n^{t,x}$ given by (B.9) is such that (B.11) and (B.12) hold.

- 4) If h satisfies items a) and b) (resp. a) and c)) then \bar{h}_n satisfies items i) and ii) (resp. i) and iii)) below:
 - i) $|\bar{h}_n(t, y, a) - \bar{h}_n(t, y', a)| \leq K |y - y'|$, for all $t \in [0, T]$, $y, y' \in \mathbb{R}^{dd_n}$, $a \in A$;
 - ii) $|\bar{h}_n(t, 0, a)| \leq \tilde{K}$, for all $(t, a) \in [0, T] \times A$, for some constant $\tilde{K} \geq 0$, depending only on K ;
 - iii) $|\bar{h}_n(t, y, a)| \leq K$, for all $(t, y, a) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd_n} \times A$.

5) For every n and any $a \in A$, the function $\bar{h}_n(\cdot, \cdot, a)$ is $C^{1,2}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd_n})$. Moreover, there exist constants $K_n \geq 0$ and $q \in \{0, 1\}$ such that

$$|\partial_t \bar{h}_n(t, y, a)| + |\partial_y \bar{h}_n(t, y, a)| + |\partial_{yy}^2 \bar{h}_n(t, y, a)| \leq K_n (1 + |y|)^q, \quad (\text{B.5})$$

for all $(t, y, a) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd_n} \times A$. The constant q is equal to 1 if h satisfies item b), while it is equal to 0 if h satisfies item c).

Proof. We split the proof into six steps.

Step I. Definitions of $x_{n,y}^{\text{pol}}$ and $x_n^{t,\text{pol}}$. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, consider the n -th dyadic mesh of the time interval $[0, T]$, that is

$$0 = t_0^n < t_1^n < \dots < t_{2^n}^n = T, \quad \text{with } t_j^n := \frac{j}{2^n} T, \text{ for every } j = 0, \dots, 2^n.$$

For every $y = (y_0, \dots, y_{2^n}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}$, we consider the corresponding n -th polygonal, denoted $x_{n,y}^{\text{pol}}$, which is an element of $C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ and is characterized by the following properties:

- $x_{n,y}^{\text{pol}}(t_j^n) = y_j$, for every $j = 0, \dots, 2^n$;
- $x_{n,y}^{\text{pol}}$ is linear on every interval $[t_{j-1}^n, t_j^n]$, for any $j = 1, \dots, 2^n$.

So, in particular, $x_{n,y}^{\text{pol}}$ is given by the following formula:

$$x_{n,y}^{\text{pol}}(s) = \frac{y_j - y_{j-1}}{t_j^n - t_{j-1}^n} s + \frac{t_j^n y_{j-1} - t_{j-1}^n y_j}{t_j^n - t_{j-1}^n},$$

for every $s \in [t_{j-1}^n, t_j^n]$ and any $j = 1, \dots, 2^n$.

Now, given $t \in [0, T]$ and $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, we denote

$$x_n^{t,\text{pol}} := x_{n,\hat{y}_n^{t,x}}^{\text{pol}},$$

with

$$\hat{y}_n^{t,x} := (x(t_0^n \wedge t), \dots, x(t_{2^n}^n \wedge t)) = \left(\int_{[0,t_0^n)} 1_{[0,t_0^n)}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} 1_{[0,t_{2^n}^n)}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0) \right),$$

where the second equality follows from the integration by parts formula (B.1).

It is easy to see that (in the following formulae we use the same symbol, that is $|\cdot|$, to denote the Euclidean norms on \mathbb{R}^d and $\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}$)

$$\|x_{n,y}^{\text{pol}}\|_T \leq \max_j |y_j| \leq |y|, \quad \|x_{n,y}^{\text{pol}} - x_{n,\tilde{y}}^{\text{pol}}\|_T \leq \max_j |y_j - \tilde{y}_j| \leq |y - \tilde{y}|, \quad (\text{B.6})$$

for every $y = (y_0, \dots, y_{2^n})$, $\tilde{y} = (\tilde{y}_0, \dots, \tilde{y}_{2^n}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}$. Similarly, we have

$$\|x_n^{t,\text{pol}}\|_t \leq \|x\|_t, \quad \|x_n^{t,\text{pol}} - x\|_t \leq \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r \wedge t) - x(s \wedge t)| \leq \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r) - x(s)|. \quad (\text{B.7})$$

Step II. Definitions of $\phi_{n,j}$ and $y_n^{t,x}$. Let $\chi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by

$$\chi(r) = \begin{cases} 0, & r \leq 0, \\ \frac{1}{1 + \frac{e^{1/r}}{e^{1/(1-r)}}}, & 0 < r < 1, \\ 1, & r \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Notice that χ belongs to $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ and is strictly increasing on $[0, 1]$. Then, for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we define the functions $\phi_{n,0}, \dots, \phi_{n,2^n} : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as follows:

$$\phi_{n,j}(r) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \leq r < t_j^n, \\ 1 - \chi(2^{2n}(r - t_j^n)), & t_j^n \leq r \leq T, \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.8})$$

for $j = 0, \dots, 2^n$; so, in particular,

$$\phi_{n,0}(r) = 1 - \chi(2^{2n}r), \quad 0 \leq r \leq T.$$

Moreover, for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, let $y_n^{t,x} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}$ be defined as

$$y_n^{t,x} := \left(\int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,0}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,2^n}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0) \right). \quad (\text{B.9})$$

In the rest of this step we prove that the following estimate holds:

$$\|x_{n,y_n^{t,x}}^{\text{pol}} - x_n^{\text{pol}}\|_t \leq 2 \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-2n}} |x(r \wedge t) - x(s \wedge t)| \leq 2 \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r) - x(s)|. \quad (\text{B.10})$$

We begin noting that

$$\|x_{n,y_n^{t,x}}^{\text{pol}} - x_n^{\text{pol}}\|_t = \max_{j=0, \dots, 2^n} |(y_n^{t,x})_j - x(t_j^n \wedge t)|.$$

where $y_n^{t,x} = ((y_n^{t,x})_0, \dots, (y_n^{t,x})_{2^n}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}$. By the integration by parts formula (B.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (y_n^{t,x})_j - x(t_j^n \wedge t) &= \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,j}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0) - x(t_j^n \wedge t) \\ &= \int_{[0, (t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t]} \phi_{n,j}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0) - x(t_j^n \wedge t) \\ &= \phi_{n,j}((t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t) x((t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t) - x(t_j^n \wedge t) - \int_0^{(t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t} x(s) \phi'_{n,j}(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that $\phi_{n,j}(s) = 1$ and $\phi'_{n,j}(s) = 0$, for $0 \leq s \leq t_j^n$. Now, we distinguish two cases.

1. If $t \leq t_j^n$, we have

$$(y_n^{t,x})_j - x(t_j^n \wedge t) = 0. \quad (\text{B.11})$$

2. If $t > t_j^n$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (y_n^{t,x})_j - x(t_j^n \wedge t) &= \phi_{n,j}((t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t) x((t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t) - x(t_j^n) \\ &\quad - \int_{t_j^n}^{(t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t} x(s) \phi'_{n,j}(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Observe that $\int_{t_j^n}^{(t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t} \phi'_{n,j}(s) ds = \phi_{n,j}((t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t) - 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (y_n^{t,x})_j - x(t_j^n \wedge t) &= x((t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t) - x(t_j^n) \\ &\quad + \int_{t_j^n}^{(t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t} (x((t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t) - x(s)) \phi'_{n,j}(s) ds \\ &\leq \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-2n}} |x(r \wedge t) - x(s \wedge t)| \left(1 + \int_{t_j^n}^{(t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t} |\phi'_{n,j}(s)| ds \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r \wedge t) - x(s \wedge t)| \left(1 + \int_{t_j^n}^{(t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t} |\phi'_{n,j}(s)| ds \right).$$

Since $\int_{t_j^n}^{(t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t} |\phi'_{n,j}(s)| ds = - \int_{t_j^n}^{(t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t} \phi'_{n,j}(s) ds = 1 - \phi_{n,j}((t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t)$ and $1 - \phi_{n,j}((t_j^n + 2^{-2n}) \wedge t) \leq 1$, we get

$$|(y_n^{t,x})_j - x(t_j^n \wedge t)| \leq 2 \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r \wedge t) - x(s \wedge t)| \leq 2 \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r) - x(s)|. \quad (\text{B.12})$$

From (B.11) and (B.12) we conclude that (B.10) holds.

Step III. Definitions of \bar{h}_n, h_n and proof of item 3). For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $\eta_n: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by

$$\eta_n(s) = \frac{2n}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{n^2}{2}s^2}, \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Notice that $\int_0^\infty \eta_n(s) ds = 1$. Moreover, for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $\zeta_n: \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the probability density function of the multivariate normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, (d(2^n + 1))^{-2} I_{d(2^n + 1)})$, where $I_{d(2^n + 1)}$ denotes the identity matrix of order $d(2^n + 1)$:

$$\zeta_n(z) = \frac{(d(2^n + 1))^{d(2^n + 1)/2}}{(2\pi)^{d(2^n + 1)/2}} e^{-\frac{(d(2^n + 1))^2}{2}|z|^2}, \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}.$$

Now, define $\bar{h}_n: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)} \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as follows:

$$\bar{h}_n(t, y, a) = \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}} \eta_n(s) \zeta_n(z) h((t + s) \wedge T, x_{n, y+z}^{\text{pol}}, a) ds dz,$$

for all $(t, y, a) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)} \times A$. Finally, let $h_n: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by

$$h_n(t, x, a) = \bar{h}_n\left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,0}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,2^n}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), a\right),$$

with $\phi_{n,j}$ as in (B.8). From the continuity of h , we see that both h_n and \bar{h}_n are continuous.

Step IV. Proof of item 1). For every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, let $y_n^{t,x} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}$ be given by (B.9). Then, we have (using also the equality $h(t, x, a) = h(t, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a)$)

$$\begin{aligned} & |h_n(t, x, a) - h(t, x, a)| \\ & \leq \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}} \eta_n(s) \zeta_n(z) |h((t + s) \wedge T, x_{n, y_n^{t,x} + z}^{\text{pol}}, a) - h(t, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a)| ds dz \\ & \leq \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}} \eta_n(s) \zeta_n(z) |h((t + s) \wedge T, x_{n, y_n^{t,x} + z}^{\text{pol}}, a) - h((t + s) \wedge T, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a)| ds dz \\ & \quad + \int_0^\infty \eta_n(s) |h((t + s) \wedge T, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a) - h(t, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a)| ds \\ & \leq K \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}} \eta_n(s) \zeta_n(z) \|x_{n, y_n^{t,x} + z}^{\text{pol}} - x_{\cdot \wedge t}\|_{(t+s) \wedge T} ds dz \\ & \quad + \int_0^\infty \eta_n(s) |h((t + s) \wedge T, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a) - h(t, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a)| ds. \end{aligned}$$

Since both paths $x_{n, y_n^{t,x} + z}^{\text{pol}}$ and $x_{\cdot \wedge t}$ are constant after time t , moreover recalling (B.6), (B.7) and the linearity of the map $y \mapsto x_{n, y}^{\text{pol}}$, we obtain

$$\|x_{n, y_n^{t,x} + z}^{\text{pol}} - x_{\cdot \wedge t}\|_{(t+s) \wedge T} = \|x_{n, y_n^{t,x}}^{\text{pol}} + x_{n, z}^{\text{pol}} - x_{\cdot \wedge t}\|_t \leq \|x_{n, y_n^{t,x}}^{\text{pol}} - x_{\cdot \wedge t}\|_t + |z|$$

$$\leq \|x_{n,y_n}^{\text{pol}} - x_n^{\text{pol}}\|_t + \|x_n^{\text{pol}} - x\|_t + |z|.$$

Then, by (B.7) and (B.10), we get

$$\begin{aligned} |h_n(t, x, a) - h(t, x, a)| &\leq 3K \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r) - x(s)| + K \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \zeta_n(z) |z| dz \\ &\quad + \int_0^\infty \eta_n(s) |h((t+s) \wedge T, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a) - h(t, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a)| ds. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.13})$$

Now, by (B.4) we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_0^\infty \eta_n(s) |h((t+s) \wedge T, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a) - h(t, x_{\cdot \wedge t}, a)| ds \\ &\leq \int_0^\infty \eta_n(s) w((t+s) \wedge T - t) ds = \int_0^\infty \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}r^2} w((t+r/n) \wedge T - t) dr. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.14})$$

Finally, consider the integral $\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \zeta_n(z) |z| dz$. Since the integrand is a radial function, it is more convenient to rewrite it in terms of spherical coordinates (see for instance [30, Appendix C.3]). In particular, denoting by $S_{d(2^n+1)-1}(R)$ the surface area of the sphere $\{|z| = R\}$, which is equal to $2\pi^{d(2^n+1)/2} R^{d(2^n+1)-1} / \Gamma(d(2^n+1)/2)$, with $\Gamma(\cdot)$ being the Gamma function, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \zeta_n(z) |z| dz &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \frac{(d(2^n+1))^{d(2^n+1)}}{(2\pi)^{d(2^n+1)/2}} e^{-\frac{(d(2^n+1))^2}{2}|z|^2} |z| dz \\ &= \frac{1}{d(2^n+1)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d(2^n+1)/2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}|y|^2} |y| dy \\ &= \frac{1}{d(2^n+1)} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{(d(2^n+1)-1)/2}} \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}R^2} R S_{d(2^n+1)-1}(R) dR \\ &= \frac{1}{d(2^n+1)} \frac{2\pi^{d(2^n+1)/2}}{(2\pi)^{(d(2^n+1)-1)/2}} \frac{1}{\Gamma(d(2^n+1)/2)} \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}R^2} R^{d(2^n+1)} dR. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}R^2} R^{d(2^n+1)} dR = 2^{d(2^n+1)/2-1} \Gamma((d(2^n+1)+1)/2) / \sqrt{\pi}$, we find

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \zeta_n(z) |z| dz = \sqrt{2} \frac{\Gamma((d(2^n+1)+1)/2)}{d(2^n+1) \Gamma(d(2^n+1)/2)}.$$

By [39] we know that the following inequality holds:

$$\frac{\Gamma(z+1/2)}{\Gamma(z)} \leq \left(z + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{1/2} \leq 2\sqrt{z}, \quad \forall z > \frac{1}{2}.$$

Hence

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \zeta_n(z) |z| dz \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{d(2^n+1)}}. \quad (\text{B.15})$$

In conclusion, plugging (B.14) and (B.15) into (B.13), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |h_n(t, x, a) - h(t, x, a)| &\leq 3K \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r) - x(s)| + \frac{2K}{\sqrt{d(2^n+1)}} \\ &\quad + \int_0^\infty \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}r^2} w((t+r/n) \wedge T - t) dr. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.16})$$

Then, letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (B.16), using Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem, we deduce that item 1) holds.

Step V. Proof of items 2) and 4). It is clear that h_n (resp. \bar{h}_n) satisfies item c) (resp. 4)-iii)) with the same constant K . If h satisfies item b) then $|h(t, x, a)| \leq K(1 + \|x\|_t)$, therefore, by (B.6),

$$\begin{aligned} |\bar{h}_n(t, y, a)| &\leq K \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}} \zeta_n(z) (1 + \|x_{n, y+z}^{\text{pol}}\|_t) dz \\ &\leq K(1 + |y|) + K \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}} \zeta_n(z) |z| dz = K(1 + |y|) + \frac{2K}{\sqrt{d(2^n + 1)}}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from (B.15). Since $d(2^n + 1) \geq 1$, we get

$$|\bar{h}_n(t, y, a)| \leq K(1 + |y|) + 2K,$$

which proves item 4)-ii). Concerning h_n , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |h_n(t, x, a)| &\leq K(1 + \|y_n^{t,x}\|_t) + 2K \\ &\leq K(1 + \|y_n^{t,x} - x_n^{t,\text{pol}}\|_t + \|x_n^{t,\text{pol}}\|_t) + 2K \end{aligned}$$

By (B.10) and (B.7), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |h_n(t, x, a)| &\leq K \left(1 + 2 \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r \wedge t) - x(s \wedge t)| + \|x\|_t \right) + 2K \\ &\leq K(1 + 3\|x\|_t) + 2K, \end{aligned}$$

which proves that h_n satisfies item b) with a constant \check{K} , depending only on K .

Let us now prove that h_n and \bar{h}_n satisfy respectively item a) and item 4)-i). We have

$$\begin{aligned} &|\bar{h}_n(t, y, a) - \bar{h}_n(t, \tilde{y}, a)| \\ &\leq \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}} \eta_n(s) \zeta_n(z) |h((t+s) \wedge T, x_{n, y+z}^{\text{pol}}, a) - h((t+s) \wedge T, x_{n, \tilde{y}+z}^{\text{pol}}, a)| ds dz \\ &\leq K \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n + 1)}} \eta_n(s) \zeta_n(z) \|x_{n, y+z}^{\text{pol}} - x_{n, \tilde{y}+z}^{\text{pol}}\|_{(t+s) \wedge T} ds dz \\ &= K \int_0^\infty \eta_n(s) \|x_{n, y}^{\text{pol}} - x_{n, \tilde{y}}^{\text{pol}}\|_{(t+s) \wedge T} ds, \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from the linearity of the map $y \mapsto x_{n, y}^{\text{pol}}$. Hence, recalling (B.6), we obtain

$$|\bar{h}_n(t, y, a) - \bar{h}_n(t, \tilde{y}, a)| \leq K \max_j |y_j - \tilde{y}_j| \leq K |y - \tilde{y}|, \quad (\text{B.17})$$

which proves that \bar{h}_n satisfies item 4)-i). Let us now prove that h_n satisfies item a). From (B.17) we have

$$|h_n(t, x, a) - h_n(t, \tilde{x}, a)| \leq K \max_j |(y_n^{t,x})_j - (y_n^{t,\tilde{x}})_j|.$$

By the integration by parts formula (B.1), we get

$$\begin{aligned} (y_n^{t,x})_j - (y_n^{t,\tilde{x}})_j &= \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,j}(s) d^- x(s) - \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,j}(s) d^- \tilde{x}(s) \\ &= \phi_{n,j}(t) (x(t) - \tilde{x}(t)) - \int_0^t (x(s) - \tilde{x}(s)) \phi'_{n,j}(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$|(y_n^{t,x})_j - (y_n^{t,\tilde{x}})_j| \leq |x(t) - \tilde{x}(t)| + \|x - \tilde{x}\|_t \int_0^t |\phi'_{n,j}(s)| ds.$$

Since $\int_0^t |\phi'_{n,j}(s)| ds = -\int_0^t \phi'_{n,j}(s) ds = 1 - \phi_{n,j}(t)$ and $1 - \phi_{n,j}(t) \leq 1$, we conclude that

$$|h_n(t, x, a) - h_n(t, \tilde{x}, a)| \leq 2K \|x - \tilde{x}\|_t,$$

which proves that h_n satisfies item a) with constant $2K$.

Step VI. Proof of item 5). Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_n(t, y, a) &= \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \eta_n(s) \zeta_n(z) h((t+s) \wedge T, x_{n,y+z}^{\text{pol}}, a) ds dz \\ &= \int_t^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \eta_n(s-t) \zeta_n(z-y) h(s \wedge T, x_{n,z}^{\text{pol}}, a) ds dz, \end{aligned}$$

for all $(t, y, a) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)} \times A$. Then, it is clear that, for every $a \in A$, the function $\bar{h}_n(\cdot, \cdot, a) \in C^{1,2}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd_n})$. Moreover, by direct calculation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \bar{h}_n(t, y, a) &= - \int_t^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \eta'_n(s-t) \zeta_n(z-y) h(s \wedge T, x_{n,z}^{\text{pol}}, a) ds dz \\ &\quad - \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \eta_n(0) \zeta_n(z-y) h(t \wedge T, x_{n,z}^{\text{pol}}, a) dz, \\ \partial_y \bar{h}_n(t, y, a) &= - \int_t^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \eta_n(s-t) \partial_y \zeta_n(z-y) h(s \wedge T, x_{n,z}^{\text{pol}}, a) ds dz, \\ \partial_{yy}^2 \bar{h}_n(t, y, a) &= \int_t^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (2^n+1)}} \eta_n(s-t) \partial_{yy}^2 \zeta_n(z-y) h(s \wedge T, x_{n,z}^{\text{pol}}, a) ds dz. \end{aligned}$$

By item b) or, alternatively, item c), we conclude that (B.5) holds. \square

Under Assumptions (A) and (B), the coefficients b, f, g satisfy items a), c), d) of Lemma B.3, therefore from this lemma we get sequences $\{b_n\}_n, \{f_n\}_n, \{g_n\}_n$, with

$$b_n, f_n : [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \times A \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, \mathbb{R}, \quad g_n : C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad (\text{B.18})$$

satisfying items 1)-2)-3)-4)-5) of Lemma B.3. We also recall from Lemma B.3 that d_n and $\phi_{n,1}, \dots, \phi_{n,d_n}$ are the same for b, f, g .

Finally, let

$$v_n : [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad (\text{B.19})$$

denote the value function of the optimal control problem with coefficients b_n, σ, f_n, g_n .

Lemma B.4. *Let Assumptions (A), (B), (C) hold. Consider the sequences $\{b_n\}_n, \{f_n\}_n, \{g_n\}_n, \{v_n\}_n$ in (B.18)-(B.19). Then, v_n converges pointwise to v in (2.5) as $n \rightarrow +\infty$.*

Proof. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}, t \in [0, T], x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, let $X^{n,t,x,\alpha} \in \mathbf{S}_2(\mathbb{F})$ be the unique solution to the following system of controlled stochastic differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} dX_s = b_n(s, X, \alpha_s) ds + \sigma(s, X, \alpha_s) dB_s, & s \in (t, T], \\ X_s = x(s), & s \in [0, t]. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} &|v_n(t, x) - v(t, x)| \\ &\leq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T |f_n(s, X^{n,t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s) - f(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s)| ds + |g_n(X^{n,t,x,\alpha}) - g(X^{t,x,\alpha})| \right] \\ &\leq \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \left\{ K(T+1) \|X^{n,t,x,\alpha} - X^{t,x,\alpha}\|_{\mathbf{S}_2} + \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T |f_n(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s) - f(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s)| ds \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \mathbb{E}[|g_n(X^{t,x,\alpha}) - g(X^{t,x,\alpha})|] \Big\}.$$

By standard calculations (as for instance in [40, Theorem 2.5.9]), we find

$$\|X^{n,t,x,\alpha} - X^{t,x,\alpha}\|_{\mathbf{S}_2}^2 \leq C_K T e^{C_K T} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T |b_n(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s) - b(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s)|^2 ds \right].$$

for some constant C_K , depending only on the constant K . It remains to prove that

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \left\{ \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T |b_n(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s) - b(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s)|^2 ds \right] \right. \\ & \left. + \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T |f_n(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s) - f(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s)| ds \right] + \mathbb{E}[|g_n(X^{t,x,\alpha}) - g(X^{t,x,\alpha})|] \right\} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} 0. \end{aligned}$$

Let us address the term with f and f_n , the other three terms can be treated in a similar way. From the proof of Lemma B.3, and in particular from estimate (B.16) with h and h_n replaced respectively by f and f_n , we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T |f_n(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s) - f(s, X^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s)| ds \right] \leq 3KT \mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |X_r^{t,x,\alpha} - X_s^{t,x,\alpha}| \right] \\ & + \frac{2KT}{\sqrt{d(2^n+1)}} + \int_t^T \left(\int_0^\infty \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}r^2} w((s+r/n) \wedge T - s) dr \right) ds, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.20})$$

where we recall that w is the modulus of continuity of f with respect to the time variable. By Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem, we see that the last integral in (B.20) goes to zero as $n \rightarrow +\infty$. Moreover, by standard calculations, we get

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |X_r^{t,x,\alpha} - X_s^{t,x,\alpha}|^2 \right] \leq \sup_{|r-s| \leq 2^{-n}} |x(r \wedge t) - x(s \wedge t)|^2 + C_{K,T} 2^{-n} (1 + \|x\|_t^2),$$

for some constant $C_{K,T} \geq 0$, depending only on K and T . This allows to prove that right-hand side of (B.20) goes to zero as $n \rightarrow +\infty$ and concludes the proof. \square

Lemma B.5. *Let Assumptions (A), (B), (C) hold. Suppose also that there exist $\hat{d} \in \mathbb{N}$ and functions*

$$\bar{b}, \bar{\sigma}, \bar{f}: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{\hat{d}} \times A \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\hat{d}}, \mathbb{R}^{\hat{d} \times m}, \mathbb{R}, \quad \bar{g}: \mathbb{R}^{\hat{d}} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

satisfying the following conditions. (Notice that items i)-ii)-iii) below are not true assumptions for σ , since Assumption (C) holds. Indeed here we are only assuming, without loss of generality, that \bar{d} from Assumption (C) coincides with \hat{d} and that the functions $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_{\bar{d}}$ appearing in (C)-(i) coincide with $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_{\hat{d}}$.)

i) *There exist some continuously differentiable functions $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_{\hat{d}}: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that:*

$$\begin{aligned} b(t, x, a) &= \bar{b} \left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{\hat{d}}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), a \right), \\ \sigma(t, x, a) &= \bar{\sigma} \left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{\hat{d}}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), a \right), \\ f(t, x, a) &= \bar{f} \left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{\hat{d}}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), a \right), \\ g(x) &= \bar{g} \left(\int_{[0,T]} \phi_1(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), \dots, \int_{[0,T]} \phi_{\hat{d}}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0) \right), \end{aligned}$$

for every $(t, x, a) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^{\hat{d}}) \times A$.

ii) There exist a constant $\hat{K} \geq 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} & |\bar{b}(t, y, a) - \bar{b}(t, y', a)| + |\bar{\sigma}(t, y, a) - \bar{\sigma}(t, y', a)| + \\ & \quad + |\bar{f}(t, y, a) - \bar{f}(t, y', a)| + |\bar{g}(y) - \bar{g}(y')| \leq \hat{K} |y - y'|, \\ & |\bar{b}(t, y, a)| + |\bar{\sigma}(t, y, a)| + |\bar{f}(t, y, a)| + |\bar{g}(y)| \leq \hat{K}, \end{aligned}$$

for all $(t, a) \in [0, T] \times A$, $y, y' \in \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}}$.

iii) For every $a \in A$, the functions $\bar{b}(\cdot, \cdot, a), \bar{\sigma}(\cdot, \cdot, a), \bar{f}(\cdot, \cdot, a), \bar{g}(\cdot)$ are $C^{1,2}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}})$. Moreover, there exist constants $\bar{K} \geq 0$ and $\bar{q} \geq 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} & |\partial_t \bar{b}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_t \bar{\sigma}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_t \bar{f}(t, y, a)| \leq \bar{K} (1 + |y|)^{\bar{q}}, \\ & |\partial_y \bar{b}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_y \bar{\sigma}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_y \bar{f}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_y \bar{g}(y)| \leq \bar{K} (1 + |y|)^{\bar{q}}, \\ & |\partial_{yy}^2 \bar{b}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_{yy}^2 \bar{\sigma}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_{yy}^2 \bar{f}(t, y, a)| + |\partial_{yy}^2 \bar{g}(y)| \leq \bar{K} (1 + |y|)^{\bar{q}}, \end{aligned}$$

for all $(t, y, a) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}} \times A$.

Then, for every $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, there exist $v_\varepsilon: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\bar{v}_\varepsilon: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, with

$$v_\varepsilon(t, x) = \bar{v}_\varepsilon\left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^-x(s) + x(0), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{\hat{d}}(s) d^-x(s) + x(0)\right),$$

for all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, such that the following holds.

1) $v_\varepsilon \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and $\bar{v}_\varepsilon \in C^{1,2}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}})$.

2) v_ε is a classical solution of the following equation in the unknown u (see Remark B.6):

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^H u(t, x) + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 \text{tr}[\partial_{yy} \bar{v}_\varepsilon(t, y^{t,x})] + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle b(t, x, a), \partial_x^V u(t, x) \rangle \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, a) \partial_{xx}^V u(t, x)] + f(t, x, a) \right\} = 0, & (t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ u(T, x) = g(x), & x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.21})$$

where, for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, $y^{t,x} \in \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}}$ is defined as

$$y^{t,x} := \left(\int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^-x(s), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{\hat{d}}(s) d^-x(s) \right). \quad (\text{B.22})$$

3) There exists a constant $\bar{C}' \geq 0$, depending only on $\hat{K}, \bar{K}, \bar{q}$, such that

$$-\bar{C}' e^{\bar{C}'(T-t)} (1 + |y|)^{3\bar{q}} \leq \partial_{y_i y_j}^2 \bar{v}_\varepsilon(t, y) \leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \bar{C}' e^{\bar{C}'(T-t)} (1 + |y|)^{3\bar{q}},$$

for all $(t, y) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}}$ and every $i, j = 1, \dots, d\hat{d}$.

4) There exists a constant $\bar{L}' \geq 0$, depending only on T and \hat{K} , such that

$$|\partial_x^V v_\varepsilon(t, x)| \leq \bar{L}',$$

for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

5) Finally, v_ε converges pointwise to v in (2.5) as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$.

Remark B.6. In equation (B.21) with unknown u , the term $\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2 \text{tr}[\partial_{yy}\bar{v}_\varepsilon(t, y^{t,x})]$ is known as it does not depend on u but it involves the function \bar{v}_ε . The reason for the presence of this term is due to the fact that we first derive the HJB equation for the function \bar{v}_ε , then we use equalities (B.29)-(B.30)-(B.31) to derive equation (B.21) for v_ε . However, from those equalities we are not able to rewrite the term $\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2 \text{tr}[\partial_{yy}\bar{v}_\varepsilon(t, y^{t,x})]$ in terms of v_ε , therefore we have left it as it is since this is not relevant for the sequel (actually we could work with the HJB equation satisfied by \bar{v}_ε).

Proof (of Lemma B.5). Let $\phi: [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{(d\hat{d}) \times d}$ be given by

$$\phi(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_1(t)I_d \\ \vdots \\ \phi_{\hat{d}}(t)I_d \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{B.23})$$

for all $t \in [0, T]$, where I_d denotes the $d \times d$ identity matrix. Let $\bar{b}_\phi: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}} \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}}$ and $\bar{\sigma}_\phi: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}} \times A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{(d\hat{d}) \times m}$ be given by

$$\bar{b}_\phi(t, y, a) = \phi(t) \bar{b}(t, y, a), \quad \bar{\sigma}_\phi(t, y, a) = \phi(t) \bar{\sigma}(t, y, a), \quad (\text{B.24})$$

for all $(t, y, a) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}} \times A$, with $\bar{b}(t, y, a)$ being a column vector of dimension d . For every $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, consider the following Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation on $[0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}}$:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \bar{u}(t, y) + \sup_{a \in A} \left\{ \langle \bar{b}_\phi(t, y, a), \partial_y \bar{u}(t, y) \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^2 \text{tr}[\partial_{yy}^2 \bar{u}(t, y)] \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\bar{\sigma}_\phi \bar{\sigma}_\phi^\top)(t, y, a) \partial_{yy}^2 \bar{u}(t, y)] + \bar{f}(t, y, a) \right\} = 0, & (t, y) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}}, \\ \bar{u}(T, y) = \bar{g}(y), & y \in \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}}. \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.25})$$

Proof of item 3). From the assumptions on $\bar{b}, \bar{\sigma}, \bar{f}, \bar{g}$, it follows that there exists a unique classical solution $\bar{v}_\varepsilon \in C^{1,2}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{\hat{d}})$ of equation (B.25) (see for instance [42, Theorem 14.15] and, in particular, the comments after Theorem 14.15 concerning the case when the operators “ L_ν ” are linear). Moreover, by [40, Theorems 4.1.1 and 4.7.4] we have that item 3) holds. Furthermore, by [40, Theorem 4.6.2] there exists some constant $\hat{C} \geq 0$, depending only on \hat{K} , such that

$$|\bar{v}_\varepsilon(t, y) - \bar{v}(t, y)| \leq \varepsilon \hat{C} e^{\hat{C}(T-t)}, \quad (\text{B.26})$$

for every $(t, y) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}}$, where $\bar{v}: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$\bar{v}(t, y) = \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T \bar{f}(s, Y_s^{t,y,\alpha}, \alpha_s) ds + \bar{g}(Y_T^{t,y,\alpha}) \right],$$

with $Y^{t,y,\alpha} = (Y_s^{t,y,\alpha})_{s \in [t, T]}$ solving the following system of controlled stochastic differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} dY_s^{t,y,\alpha} = \bar{b}_\phi(s, Y_s^{t,y,\alpha}, \alpha_s) ds + \bar{\sigma}_\phi(s, Y_s^{t,y,\alpha}, \alpha_s) dB_s, & s \in (t, T], \\ Y_t^{t,y,\alpha} = y. \end{cases}$$

Proof of item 1). For every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, consider $y^{t,x} \in \mathbb{R}^{d\hat{d}}$ given by (B.22). Then, proceeding as in the proof of [13, Theorem 3.15] (see, in particular, equalities (3.16)), we obtain

$$Y_r^{t,y^{t,x},\alpha} = \left(\int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^-x(s) + \int_t^r \phi_1(s) dX_s^{t,x,\alpha}, \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{\hat{d}}(s) d^-x(s) + \int_t^r \phi_{\hat{d}}(s) dX_s^{t,x,\alpha} \right)$$

$$= \left(\int_{[0,r]} \phi_1(s) d^- X_s^{t,x,\alpha}, \dots, \int_{[0,r]} \phi_d(s) d^- X_s^{t,x,\alpha} \right), \quad (\text{B.27})$$

for all $r \in [t, T]$, \mathbb{P} -a.s., where, for each $i = 1, \dots, d$, $\int_{[0,r]} \phi_i(s) d^- X_s^{t,x,\alpha}$ is intended \mathbb{P} -a.s. as a deterministic forward integral. From (B.27) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{v} \left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^- x(s), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_d(s) d^- x(s) \right) &= \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T \bar{f}(s, Y_s^{t,y^{t,x},\alpha}, \alpha_s) ds + \bar{g}(Y_T^{t,y^{t,x},\alpha}) \right] \\ &= \sup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X_s^{t,x,\alpha}, \alpha_s) ds + g(X_T^{t,x,\alpha}) \right] = v(t, x), \end{aligned}$$

where v is the value function defined in (2.5).

Now, let $v_\varepsilon: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined as

$$v_\varepsilon(t, x) := \bar{v}_\varepsilon \left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^- x(s), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_d(s) d^- x(s) \right), \quad (\text{B.28})$$

for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. Then, by direct calculations (proceeding as in the proof of [15, Lemma D.1]), we deduce that $v_\varepsilon \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and that the following equalities hold:

$$\partial_t^H v_\varepsilon(t, x) = \partial_t \bar{v}_\varepsilon \left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^- x(s), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_d(s) d^- x(s) \right), \quad (\text{B.29})$$

$$\partial_{x_i}^V v_\varepsilon(t, x) = \left\langle \partial_y \bar{v}_\varepsilon \left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^- x(s), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_d(s) d^- x(s) \right), \phi_i(t) \right\rangle, \quad (\text{B.30})$$

$$\partial_{xx}^V v_\varepsilon(t, x) = \phi^\top(t) \partial_{yy}^2 \bar{v}_\varepsilon \left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_1(s) d^- x(s), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_d(s) d^- x(s) \right) \phi(t), \quad (\text{B.31})$$

for every $i = 1, \dots, d$, where $\phi_i(t)$ denotes the i -th column of the matrix $\phi(t)$.

Proof of item 2). Since \bar{v}_ε is a classical solution of equation (B.25), it follows from equalities (B.29)-(B.30)-(B.31) that v_ε is a classical solution of equation (B.21).

Proof of item 5). From (B.26), we have

$$|v_\varepsilon(t, x) - v(t, x)| = |\bar{v}_\varepsilon(t, y^{t,x}) - \bar{v}(t, y^{t,x})| \leq \varepsilon \hat{C} e^{\hat{C}(T-t)},$$

for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. This shows the validity of item 5).

Proof of item 4). Following [40, Section 6 of Chapter 4], we now formulate a stochastic optimal control problem with value function \bar{v}_ε . To simplify notation we still consider the same probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$, on which we suppose that another Brownian motion $W = (W_t)_{t \geq 0}$, d -dimensional and independent of B , is defined. For every $t \in [0, T]$, we denote by $\hat{\mathbb{F}}^t = (\hat{\mathcal{F}}_s^t)_{s \geq 0}$ the \mathbb{P} -completion of the filtration generated by $(B_{s \vee t} - B_t)_{s \geq 0}$ and $(W_{s \vee t} - W_t)_{s \geq 0}$. We also denote by $\hat{\mathcal{A}}_t$ the family of all $\hat{\mathbb{F}}^t$ -progressively measurable processes $\hat{\alpha}: [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow A$. Then, \bar{v}_ε admits the following stochastic control representation:

$$\bar{v}_\varepsilon(t, y) = \sup_{\hat{\alpha} \in \hat{\mathcal{A}}_t} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T \bar{f}(s, Y_s^{\varepsilon, t, y, \hat{\alpha}}, \hat{\alpha}_s) ds + \bar{g}(Y_T^{\varepsilon, t, y, \hat{\alpha}}) \right],$$

with $Y^{\varepsilon, t, y, \hat{\alpha}} = (Y_s^{\varepsilon, t, y, \hat{\alpha}})_{s \in [t, T]}$ solving the following system of controlled stochastic differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} dY_s^{\varepsilon, t, y, \hat{\alpha}} = \bar{b}_\phi(s, Y_s^{\varepsilon, t, y, \hat{\alpha}}, \hat{\alpha}_s) ds + \bar{\sigma}_\phi(s, Y_s^{\varepsilon, t, y, \hat{\alpha}}, \hat{\alpha}_s) dB_s + \varepsilon \phi(s) dW_s, & s \in (t, T], \\ Y_t^{\varepsilon, t, y, \hat{\alpha}} = y, \end{cases}$$

with ϕ as in (B.23) and $\bar{b}_\phi, \bar{\sigma}_\phi$ as in (B.24), respectively. Now, given $t \in [0, T]$, $x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, $\hat{\alpha} \in \hat{\mathcal{A}}_t$, $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, consider the solution $X^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}}$ to the following system of controlled stochastic differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} dX_s^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}} = b(s, X_s^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}}, \hat{\alpha}_s) ds + \sigma(s, X_s^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}}, \hat{\alpha}_s) dB_s + \varepsilon dW_s, & s \in (t, T], \\ X_s^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}} = x(s), & s \in [0, t]. \end{cases}$$

From similar calculations as in (B.27), we deduce that (recall that $y^{t, x}$ is given by (B.22))

$$Y_r^{\varepsilon, t, y^{t, x}, \hat{\alpha}} = \left(\int_{[0, r]} \phi_1(s) d^- X_s^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}}, \dots, \int_{[0, r]} \phi_{\hat{d}}(s) d^- X_s^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}} \right),$$

for all $r \in [t, T]$, \mathbb{P} -a.s.. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{v}_\varepsilon(t, y^{t, x}) &= \sup_{\hat{\alpha} \in \hat{\mathcal{A}}_t} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T \bar{f}(s, Y_s^{\varepsilon, t, y^{t, x}, \hat{\alpha}}, \hat{\alpha}_s) ds + \bar{g}(Y_T^{\varepsilon, t, y^{t, x}, \hat{\alpha}}) \right] \\ &= \sup_{\hat{\alpha} \in \hat{\mathcal{A}}_t} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X_s^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}}, \hat{\alpha}_s) ds + g(X^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}}) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Recalling (B.28) and the definition of $y^{t, x}$ in (B.22), we get

$$v_\varepsilon(t, x) = \sup_{\hat{\alpha} \in \hat{\mathcal{A}}_t} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X_s^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}}, \hat{\alpha}_s) ds + g(X^{\varepsilon, t, x, \hat{\alpha}}) \right], \quad (\text{B.32})$$

for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. Proceeding along the same lines as for the proof of (B.32), we obtain

$$\hat{v}_\varepsilon(t, \hat{x}) = \sup_{\hat{\alpha} \in \hat{\mathcal{A}}_t} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^T f(s, X_s^{\varepsilon, t, \hat{x}, \hat{\alpha}}, \hat{\alpha}_s) ds + g(X^{\varepsilon, t, \hat{x}, \hat{\alpha}}) \right],$$

for every $(t, \hat{x}) \in [0, T] \times D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$. Then, from the Lipschitz property of f and g , we derive the following Lipschitz property of \hat{v}_ε

$$|\hat{v}_\varepsilon(t, \hat{x}) - \hat{v}_\varepsilon(t, \hat{x}')| \leq \bar{L}' \|\hat{x} - \hat{x}'\|_t,$$

for all $t \in [0, T]$, $\hat{x}, \hat{x}' \in D([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, for some constant \bar{L}' , depending only on T and K . As a consequence, from the definition of vertical derivative of v_ε , we see that item 4) holds. \square

We can now state the following result, which plays a crucial role in the proof the comparison theorem (Theorem 4.5), in order to show that $u_1 \leq v$.

Theorem B.7. *Let Assumptions (A), (B), (C) hold. Consider the sequences $\{b_n\}_n, \{f_n\}_n, \{g_n\}_n, \{v_n\}_n$ in (B.18)-(B.19) (recall from Lemma B.3 that d_n and $\phi_{n,1}, \dots, \phi_{n,d_n}$ are the same for b, f, g). We also assume, without loss of generality, that in Assumption (C)-(i), $\bar{d} = d_n$ and that the functions $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_{\bar{d}}$ coincide with $\phi_{n,1}, \dots, \phi_{n,d_n}$.*

Then, for every n and any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, there exist $v_{n,\varepsilon}: [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon}: [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd_n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, with

$$v_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x) = \bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon} \left(t, \int_{[0, t]} \phi_{n,1}(s) d^- x(s), \dots, \int_{[0, t]} \phi_{n,d_n}(s) d^- x(s) \right),$$

for all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, such that the following holds.

- 1) $v_{n,\varepsilon} \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and $\bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon} \in C^{1,2}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd_n})$.
- 2) $v_{n,\varepsilon}$ is a classical solution of equation (B.21) with $b, f, g, \bar{v}_\varepsilon, y^{t, x}$ replaced respectively by $b_n, f_n, g_n, \bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon}, y_n^{t, x}$, where $y_n^{t, x}$ is given by (B.9).

3) There exists a constant $\bar{C}_n \geq 0$, independent of ε , such that

$$-\bar{C}_n e^{\bar{C}_n(T-t)} (1+|y|)^{3q} \leq \partial_{y_i y_j}^2 \bar{v}_{n,\varepsilon}(t, y) \leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \bar{C}_n e^{\bar{C}_n(T-t)} (1+|y|)^{3q}, \quad (\text{B.33})$$

for all $(t, y) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd}$ and every $i, j = 1, \dots, dd_n$, with q as in item (iii) of Assumption (C).

4) There exists a constant $\bar{L} \geq 0$, depending only on T and K , such that

$$|\partial_x^V v_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x)| \leq \bar{L}, \quad (\text{B.34})$$

for every $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

5) There exists a constant $\bar{c} \geq 0$, depending only on K and T , such that

$$|v_{n,\varepsilon}(t, x) - v_{n,\varepsilon}(t', x')| \leq \bar{c}(|t - t'|^{1/2} + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T),$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, T] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

6) For every n , $v_{n,\varepsilon}$ converges pointwise to v_n in (B.19) as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$.

7) v_n converges pointwise to v in (2.5) as $n \rightarrow +\infty$.

Proof. Items 1)-2)-3)-4)-6) follow directly from Lemma B.5 with b, f, g replaced respectively by b_n, f_n, g_n . Moreover, item 5) follows from (2.6). Finally, item 7) follows from Lemma B.4. \square

We end this section with the next result, which plays a fundamental role in the proof of the comparison theorem (Theorem 4.5), in order to show that $v \leq u_2$.

Theorem B.8. Let Assumptions (A), (B), (C) hold. For every $s_0 \in [0, T]$, consider the sequences $\{b_n\}_n$, $\{f_n\}_n$, $\{v_n(s_0, \cdot)\}_n$ obtained applying Lemma B.3 to $b, f, v(s_0, \cdot)$ (recall from Lemma B.3 that d_n and $\phi_{n,1}, \dots, \phi_{n,d_n}$ are the same for $b, f, v_n(s_0, \cdot)$). We also assume, without loss of generality, that in Assumption (C)-(i), $\bar{d} = d_n$ and that the functions $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_{\bar{d}}$ coincide with $\phi_{n,1}, \dots, \phi_{n,d_n}$. For every $(s_0, a_0) \in [0, T] \times A$, let $v^{s_0, a_0} : [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by

$$v^{s_0, a_0}(t, x) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^{s_0} f(r, X^{t,x,a_0}, \alpha_r) dr + v(s_0, X^{t,x,a_0}) \right], \quad \forall (t, x) \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d),$$

where X^{t,x,a_0} corresponds to the process $X^{t,x,\alpha}$ with $\alpha \equiv a_0$. Similarly, for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $v_n^{s_0, a_0} : [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by

$$v_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^{s_0} f_n(r, X^{t,x,a_0}, \alpha_r) dr + \hat{v}_n(s_0, X^{t,x,a_0}) \right], \quad \forall (t, x) \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d),$$

where the sequence $\{\hat{v}_n\}$ is defined as in Lemma B.3 starting from the function v .

Then, for every n , there exists $\bar{v}_n^{s_0, a_0} : [0, s_0] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd_n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, with

$$v_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x) = \bar{v}_n^{s_0, a_0} \left(t, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,1}(s) d^-x(s), \dots, \int_{[0,t]} \phi_{n,d_n}(s) d^-x(s) \right),$$

for all $(t, x) \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$, such that the following holds.

1) $v_n^{s_0, a_0} \in C_{\text{pol}}^{1,2}([0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d))$ and $\bar{v}_n^{s_0, a_0} \in C^{1,2}([0, s_0] \times \mathbb{R}^{dd_n})$.

2) $v_n^{s_0, a_0}$ is a classical solution of the following equation:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^H v_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x) + f_n(t, x, a_0) + \langle b_n(t, x, a_0), \partial_x^V v_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x) \rangle \\ + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(\sigma \sigma^\top)(t, x, a_0) \partial_{xx}^V v_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x)] = 0, & (t, x) \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \\ v_n^{s_0, a_0}(s_0, x) = \hat{v}_n(s_0, x), & x \in C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d), \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.35})$$

where $y_n^{t,x}$ is given by (B.9).

3) There exists a constant $\hat{L} \geq 0$, depending only on T and K , such that

$$|\partial_x^V v_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x)| \leq \hat{L},$$

for every $(t, x) \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

4) There exists a constant $\hat{c} \geq 0$, depending only on K and T , such that

$$|v_n^{s_0, a_0}(t, x) - v_n^{s_0, a_0}(t', x')| \leq \hat{c}(|t - t'|^{1/2} + \|x(\cdot \wedge t) - x'(\cdot \wedge t')\|_T),$$

for all $(t, x), (t', x') \in [0, s_0] \times C([0, T]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

5) $v_n^{s_0, a_0}$ converges pointwise to v^{s_0, a_0} as $n \rightarrow +\infty$.

Proof. Items 1)-2)-3) follow from the same arguments as in [13, Theorem 3.5], which indeed goes along the same lines as in the proof of items 1)-2)-4) of Lemma B.5, relying on regularity results for linear (rather than fully nonlinear as in Lemma B.5) parabolic equations as in particular [35, Theorem 6.1, Chapter 5]. Moreover, item 5) follows from (2.6). Finally, item 4) follows from Lemma B.4 with g_n, T, A replaced respectively by $\hat{v}_n(s_0, \cdot), s_0, \{a_0\}$. \square

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