

Summer School on Mathematical Control Theory

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Value Function in Optimal Control

Lecture 4

Hélele Frankowska

CNRS, CREA
Ecole Polytechnique
1, rue Descartes
75005 Paris
France

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VALUE FUNCTION OF BOLZA PROBLEM AND RICCATI EQUATIONS

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VALUE FUNCTION OF BOLZA PROBLEM

Consider the minimization problem

$$(P) \quad \text{minimize } \int_{t_0}^T L(t, x(t), u(t))dt + g(x(T))$$

over solution-control pairs (x, u) of the control system

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} x'(t) = f(t, x(t), u(t)), & u(t) \in U \\ x(t_0) = x_0 \end{cases}$$

where $t_0 \in [0, T]$, $x_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$, U is a complete separable metric space,

$$g : \mathbf{R}^n \mapsto \mathbf{R}, \quad L : [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n \times U \mapsto \mathbf{R}$$

$$f : [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n \times U \mapsto \mathbf{R}^n$$

We denote by \mathcal{U} the set of all measurable controls $u : [0, T] \mapsto U$ and by $x(\cdot; t_0, x_0, u)$ the solution of (1) starting at time t_0 from the initial condition x_0 and corresponding to the control $u(\cdot) \in \mathcal{U}$. Of course not to every $u \in \mathcal{U}$ corresponds a solution $x(\cdot; t_0, x_0, u)$ of (1).

For all $(t_0, x_0, u) \in [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathcal{U}$ set

$$\Phi(t_0, x_0, u) =$$

$$\int_{t_0}^T L(t, x(t; t_0, x_0, u), u(t))dt + g(x(T; t_0, x_0, u))$$

if this expression is well defined and $\Phi(t_0, x_0, u) = +\infty$ otherwise.

The value function associated to the Bolza problem (P) is defined by

$$V(t_0, x_0) = \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \Phi(t_0, x_0, u)$$

when (t_0, x_0) range over $[0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$.

In this lecture we address only locally Lipschitz value functions.

The **Hamiltonian** $H : [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n \mapsto \mathbf{R}$ is defined by

$$H(t, x, p) = \sup_{u \in U} (\langle p, f(t, x, u) \rangle - L(t, x, u))$$

Proposition 4.1 *Assume that $H(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ is differentiable. Then*

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(t, x, p) =$$

$$\{f(t, x, u) \mid \langle p, f(t, x, u) \rangle - L(t, x, u) = H(t, x, p)\}$$

and

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial x}(t, x, p) = \left\{ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(t, x, u)^* p - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x}(t, x, u) \mid$$

$$\langle p, f(t, x, u) \rangle - L(t, x, u) = H(t, x, p) \right\}$$

Consider the Hamiltonian system

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} x'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(t, x(t), p(t)), & x(T) = x_T \\ -p'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}(t, x(t), p(t)), & p(T) = -\nabla g(x_T) \end{cases}$$

Definition 4.2 Hamiltonian system (2) is called complete if for every x_T , the solution of (2) is defined on $[0, T]$ and depends continuously on the “initial” state in the following sense:

Let (x_i, p_i) be solutions of (2) satisfying $x_i(t_i) \rightarrow x_0$, $p_i(t_i) \rightarrow p_0$ for some $t_i \rightarrow t_0$, $x_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $p_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$. Then (x_i, p_i) converge uniformly to the solution (x, p) of (2) such that $x(t_0) = x_0$ and $p(t_0) = p_0$.

We impose the following hypothesis:

H₁) f, L are continuous and

$\forall r > 0, \exists k_r \in L^1(0, T)$ such that $\forall u \in U,$

$(f(t, \cdot, u), L(t, \cdot, u))$ is $k_r(t)$ –Lipschitz on $B_r(0)$

H₂) $f(t, \cdot, u), L(t, \cdot, u)$ are differentiable and $g \in \mathcal{C}^1$

H₃) H and $\frac{\partial H}{\partial p}$ are continuous on $[0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n$

H₄) The Hamiltonian system (2) is complete

H₅) For all $(t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$, the set

$\{(f(t, x, u), L(t, x, u) + r) \mid u \in U, r \geq 0\}$

is closed and convex }

NECESSARY CONDITIONS

Theorem 4.3 *Assume $H_1), H_2)$ and let (\bar{x}, \bar{u}) be an optimal solution-control pair of (P) for some $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$. If $H(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ is differentiable, then there exists $p : [t_0, T] \mapsto \mathbf{R}^n$ such that (\bar{x}, p) solves the Hamiltonian system*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(t, x(t), p(t)), \quad x(t_0) = x_0 \\ -p'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}(t, x(t), p(t)), \quad p(T) = -\nabla g(\bar{x}(T)) \\ p(t_0) \in -\partial_+ V_x(t_0, x_0) \end{array} \right.$$

where $\partial_+ V_x(t_0, x_0)$ denotes the superdifferential of $V(t_0, \cdot)$ at x_0 .

Consequently for almost all $t \in [t_0, T]$,

$$H(t, \bar{x}(t), p(t)) = \langle p(t), \bar{x}'(t) \rangle - L(t, \bar{x}(t), \bar{u}(t))$$

DIFFERENTIABILITY OF VALUE FUNCTION AND UNIQUENESS OF OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS

Theorem 4.4 *Assume $H_1) - H_5)$, that V is locally Lipschitz and for every $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$ the problem (P) has an optimal solution. Then for every $\bar{p} \in$*

$$\partial_x^* V(t_0, x_0) := \text{Limsup}_{x_i \rightarrow x_0, t_i \rightarrow t_0} \left\{ \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t_i, x_i) \right\}$$

there exists a solution (x, p) of (2) satisfying

$$x(t_0) = x_0 \ \& \ p(t_0) = \bar{p}$$

and x is optimal for problem (P).

In particular if (P) has a unique optimal trajectory, then the set $\partial_x^ V(t_0, x_0)$ is a singleton. Consequently, $V(t_0, \cdot)$ is differentiable at x_0 .*

CHARACTERISTIC SYSTEM OF HAMILTON-JACOBI EQUATION

Consider the Hamilton-Jacobi equation **(HJB)**

$$-\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + H\left(t, x, -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}\right) = 0, \quad V(T, \cdot) = g(\cdot)$$

Lemma 4.5 *Assume $H_1) - H_5)$, that V is locally Lipschitz and for every $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$ the problem (P) has an optimal solution. Consider $(t_0, x_0) \in]0, T[\times \mathbf{R}^n$ such that V is differentiable at (t_0, x_0) . Then*

$$-\frac{\partial V}{\partial t}(t_0, x_0) + H\left(t_0, x_0, -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t_0, x_0)\right) = 0$$

i.e., V satisfies the Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation almost everywhere in $[0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$. Consequently for all $(p_t, p_x) \in \partial^ V(t, x)$*

$$-p_t + H(t, x, -p_x) = 0$$

Corollary 4.6 *Under all the assumptions of Lemma 4.5, V is a viscosity solution to **(HJB)**. Furthermore, for all $0 < t < T$ and x*

$$\forall (p_t, p_x) \in \partial_- V(t, x), \quad -p_t + H(t, x, -p_x) = 0$$

The characteristic system of **(HJB)** is the **Hamiltonian system**

$$(3) \quad \begin{cases} x'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(t, x(t), p(t)), & x(T) = x_T \\ -p'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}(t, x(t), p(t)), & p(T) = -\nabla g(x_T) \end{cases}$$

By the maximum principle, if $x : [t_0, T] \mapsto \mathbf{R}^n$ is optimal, then there exists $p : [t_0, T] \mapsto \mathbf{R}^n$ such that (x, p) solves (3) with $x_T = x(T)$.

This is not a sufficient condition for optimality: it may happen that to a given $x_0 \in \mathbf{R}^n$ correspond two distinct solutions (x_i, p_i) , $i = 1, 2$ of (3) satisfying

$$(4) \quad x_i(t_0) = x_0$$

and with one of x_i being not optimal.

If the Hamiltonian system enjoys uniqueness of solutions, then

$$(5) \quad p_1(t_0) \neq p_2(t_0)$$

Whenever (4) and (5) hold true for some solutions (x_i, p_i) , $i = 1, 2$ of (3), we say that the system (3) has a **shock** at time t_0 .

Shocks are the very reason why the value function is not smooth and why, in general, one should not expect smooth solutions to the Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation **(HJB)**.

If we could guarantee that on some time interval $[t_0, T]$ there are no shocks, then the value function would be a continuously differentiable on $[t_0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$ solution of **(HJB)**. In the same time we would have the uniqueness of optimal trajectories and would derive the optimal feedback law $G : [t_0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n \rightsquigarrow U$ by setting

$$G(t, x) = \left\{ u \mid H\left(t, x, -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, x)\right) = \left\langle -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, x), f(t, x, u) \right\rangle - L(t, x, u) \right\}$$

Then the closed loop control system

$$x' = f(t, x, u(t, x)), \quad u(t, x) \in G(t, x), \quad x(t_0) = x_0$$

would have exactly one solution which is optimal for the Bolza problem.

MATRIX RICCATI EQUATIONS AND SHOCKS

We relate the absence of shocks of the Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation (**HJB**) with the existence of solutions to matrix Riccati equations

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} P' + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p \partial x}(t, x(t), p(t))P + P \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x \partial p}(t, x(t), p(t)) + \\ + P \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2}(t, x(t), p(t))P + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2}(t, x(t), p(t)) = 0 \\ P(T) = -g''(x(T)) \end{array} \right.$$

Consider $H : [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n \mapsto \mathbf{R}$ and a locally Lipschitz $\psi : \mathbf{R}^n \mapsto \mathbf{R}^n$. We assume that $H(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ is twice continuously differentiable and that for every $r > 0$, there exists $k_r \in L^1(0, T)$ satisfying

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial(x, p)}(t, \cdot, \cdot) \text{ is } k_r(t) \text{ - Lipschitz on } B_r(0)$$

We associate to these data the Hamiltonian system

$$(6) \quad \begin{cases} x'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(t, x(t), p(t)), & x(T) = x_T \\ -p'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}(t, x(t), p(t)), & p(T) = \psi(x_T) \end{cases}$$

and assume that it is complete.

Define for every $t \in [0, T]$ the set

$$M_t = \{(x(t), p(t)) \mid (x, p) \text{ solves (6), } x_T \in \mathbf{R}^n\}$$

Theorem 4.7 *The following statements are equivalent:*

i) $\forall t$, M_t is the graph of a locally Lipschitz function from an open set $\mathcal{D}(t)$ into \mathbf{R}^n

ii) $\forall (x, p)$ solving (6) on $[0, T]$ and $P_T \in \partial^ \psi(x(T))$, the matrix Riccati equation*

$$(7) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} P' + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p \partial x}(t, x(t), p(t))P + P \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x \partial p}(t, x(t), p(t)) + \\ + P \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2}(t, x(t), p(t))P + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2}(t, x(t), p(t)) = 0 \\ P(T) = P_T \end{array} \right.$$

has a solution on $[0, T]$.

Furthermore, if i) (or equivalently ii)) holds true, we have : if ψ is differentiable, then

M_t is the graph of a differentiable function and if $\psi \in C^1$, then

M_t is the graph of a C^1 – function

Corollary 4.8 *Under all assumptions of Theorem 4.7, suppose that for every (x, p) solving (6) on $[0, T]$ and $P_T \in \partial^* \psi(x(T))$, the matrix Riccati equation (7) has a solution on $[0, T]$. Then the Hamiltonian system (6) has no shocks on $[0, T]$.*

Lemma 4.9 *Let $K \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ be a compact set. Consider a locally Lipschitz function $\psi : \mathbf{R}^n \mapsto \mathbf{R}^n$ and the subsets $M_t(K)$, $t \in [0, T]$ defined by*

$$M_t(K) = \{(x(t), p(t)) \mid (x, p) \text{ solves (6), } x_T \in K\}$$

Then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $t \in [T - \delta, T]$, $M_t(K)$ is the graph of a Lipschitz function.

MATRIX RICCATI EQUATIONS

$$P' + A(t)^*P + PA(t) + PE(t)P + D(t) = 0, P(T) = P_T$$

Theorem 4.10 *Let $A, E_i, D_i : [0, T] \mapsto L(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$, $i = 1, 2$ be integrable. Assume that $E_i(t), D_i(t)$ are self-adjoint for almost every t and*

$$D_1(t) \leq D_2(t), E_1(t) \leq E_2(t) \text{ a.e. in } [0, T]$$

Consider self-adjoint operators $P_{iT} \in L(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$ such that

$$P_{1T} \leq P_{2T}$$

and solutions $P_i(\cdot) : [t_0, T] \mapsto L(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$ to the matrix equations $P_i(T) = P_{iT}$

*$P' + A(t)^*P + PA(t) + PE_i(t)P + D_i(t) = 0$ for $i = 1, 2$. Then $P_1 \leq P_2$ on $[t_0, T]$.*

Theorem 4.11 *Under all assumptions of Theorem 4.10 assume that for almost every $t \in [0, T]$, $E_1(t) \geq 0$. Consider solutions $P_i(\cdot) : [t_i, T] \mapsto L(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$ to the matrix equations $P_i(T) = P_{iT}$,*

$$P' + A(t)^*P + PA(t) + PE_i(t)P + D_i(t) = 0$$

where $i = 1, 2$. Then the solution P_1 is defined at least on $[t_2, T]$ and $P_1 \leq P_2$.

EXISTENCE OF SOLUTIONS

Theorem 4.12 *Let $A, E, D : [0, T] \mapsto L(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$ be integrable. We assume that $E(t), D(t)$ are self-adjoint and $E(t) \geq 0$ for almost every $t \in [0, T]$. Consider a self-adjoint operator $P_T \in L(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$ and assume that there exists an absolutely continuous $P : [t_0, T] \mapsto L(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$ such that for every $t \in [t_0, T]$, $P(t)$ is self-adjoint and*

$$P' + A^*P + PA + PEP + D \leq 0$$

a.e. in $[t_0, T]$ and $P_T \leq P(T)$. Then the solution \bar{P} to the equation $P(T) = P_T$

$$(8) P' + A(t)^*P + PA(t) + PE(t)P + D(t) = 0$$

is defined at least on $[t_0, T]$ and $\bar{P} \leq P$ on $[t_0, T]$.

Corollary 4.13 *Under all the assumptions of Theorem 4.12, consider a self-adjoint nonpositive $P_T \in L(\mathbf{R}^n, \mathbf{R}^n)$. If for almost all $t \in [0, T]$, $D(t) \leq 0$, then the solution \bar{P} to the matrix Riccati equation (8) is well defined on $[0, T]$ and $\bar{P} \leq 0$.*

SMOOTHNESS OF THE VALUE FUNCTION

Differentiability of the value function is related to solutions of the Riccati Equation (7) in the following way.

Theorem 4.14 *Assume $H_1) - H_5)$, that V is locally Lipschitz and for every $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$ the problem (P) has an optimal solution.*

The following four statements are equivalent:

i) The value function V is continuously differentiable

ii) For every $t_0 \in [0, T]$, $V(t_0, \cdot) \in C^1$

iii) $\forall (t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$ the optimal trajectory of (P) is unique

iv) For the Hamiltonian system (2) the set

$$M_t := \{(x(t), p(t)) \mid (x, p) \text{ solves (2) on } [t, T]\}$$

is the graph of a continuous function $\pi_t : \mathbf{R}^n \mapsto \mathbf{R}^n$.

Furthermore, iv) yields that $\pi_t(\cdot) = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, \cdot)$ and every solution (x, p) of (2) restricted to $[t_0, T]$ satisfies: x is optimal for (P) with $x_0 = x(t_0)$ and $p(t) = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, x(t))$ for all $t \in [0, T]$.

Corollary 4.15 *Under all assumptions of Theorem 4.14, suppose that U is a finite dimensional space, that for some $\bar{f} : [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n \mapsto \mathbf{R}^n$, $b : [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n \mapsto L(U, \mathbf{R}^n)$ we have*

$$\forall (t, x), f(t, x, u) = \bar{f}(t, x) + b(t, x)u$$

and $\frac{\partial L}{\partial u}(t, x, \cdot)$ is bijective. Then the (equivalent) statements i) – iv) of Theorem 4.14 are equivalent to

v) For every $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$ there exists a unique optimal control $\bar{u}(\cdot)$ solving the problem (P). Furthermore, if z denotes the corresponding optimal trajectory, then for all $t \in [t_0, T]$,

$$\bar{u}(t) = \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial u}(t, z(t), \cdot) \right)^{-1} \left(-b(t, z(t))^* \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, z(t)) \right)$$

Corollary 4.16 *Under all assumptions of Theorem 4.14, suppose that $\nabla g(\cdot)$ is locally Lipschitz, $H(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ is twice continuously differentiable and $\forall r > 0, \exists k_r \in L^1(0, T)$ such that*

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial(x, p)}(t, \cdot, \cdot) \text{ is } k_r(t) \text{ - Lipschitz on } B_r(0)$$

The following two statements are equivalent:

- i) $\forall t \in [0, T], \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, \cdot)$ is locally Lipschitz*
- ii) $\forall (x, p)$ solving (2) on $[0, T]$ and every $P_T \in \partial^*(\nabla g)(x(T))$, the matrix Riccati equation*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} P' + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p \partial x}(t, x(t), p(t))P + P \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x \partial p}(t, x(t), p(t)) + \\ + P \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2}(t, x(t), p(t))P + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2}(t, x(t), p(t)) = 0 \\ P(T) = P_T \end{array} \right.$$

has a solution on $[0, T]$.

Furthermore, if *i*) (or equivalently *ii*)) holds true, then

∇g is differentiable $\implies \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, \cdot)$ is differentiable
and for every (x, p) solving (2),

$$P(t) = -\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2}(t, x(t))$$

If moreover $g \in C^2$, then $V(t, \cdot) \in C^2$.

Proof — Let M_t be defined as in Theorem 4.14. If *i*) holds true, then, by Theorem 4.14, M_t is the graph of a locally Lipschitz function π_t . By Theorem 4.3, $\pi_t(\cdot) = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, \cdot)$. Applying Theorem 4.7, we deduce *ii*). Conversely, assume that *ii*) is verified. Thus, by Theorem 4.7, M_t is the graph of a locally Lipschitz function from an open set $\mathcal{D}(t) \subset \mathbf{R}^n$ into \mathbf{R}^n . By Theorem 4.3, $M_t = \text{Graph}(-\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, \cdot))$. Hence *i*).

The last statement follows from Theorem 4.7, because $P(t)$ describes the evolution of tangent space to M_t at $(x(t), p(t))$.

PROBLEMS WITH CONCAVE-CONVEX HAMILTONIANS

Observe that in general one has

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2}(t, x(t), p(t)) \geq 0$$

for every solution (x, p) of the Hamiltonian system

$$(9) \quad \begin{cases} x'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p}(t, x(t), p(t)), & x(T) = x_T \\ -p'(t) = \frac{\partial H}{\partial x}(t, x(t), p(t)), & p(T) = -\nabla g(x_T) \end{cases}$$

and that whenever in addition $H(t, \cdot, p(t))$ is concave for all $t \in [0, T]$, then

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2}(t, x(t), p(t)) \leq 0$$

If g is convex, then every matrix from the generalized Jacobian $\partial^* g(x(T))$ is nonnegative.

By Corollary 4.13 for every $P_T \in \partial^*(\nabla g)(x(T))$, the solution $P(\cdot)$ of the matrix Riccati equation

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} P' + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p \partial x}(t, x(t), p(t))P + P \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x \partial p}(t, x(t), p(t)) \\ + P \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial p^2}(t, x(t), p(t))P + \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2}(t, x(t), p(t)) = 0 \\ P(T) = -P_T \end{array} \right.$$

(10)

exists on $[0, T]$.

By Theorem 4.7, no shocks of (9) may occur backward in time. From Theorem 4.14 and Corollary 4.16 we get

Theorem 4.17 *Assume $H_1) - H_5)$, that V is locally Lipschitz and for every $(t_0, x_0) \in [0, T] \times \mathbf{R}^n$ the problem (P) has an optimal solution.*

Further assume that $\nabla g(\cdot)$ is locally Lipschitz, $H(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ is twice continuously differentiable and for all $r > 0$ there exists $k_r \in L^1(0, T)$ such that

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial(x, p)}(t, \cdot, \cdot) \text{ is } k_r(t) \text{ - Lipschitz on } B_r(0)$$

If for every solution (x, p) of (9), $H(t, \cdot, p(t))$ is concave and g is convex, then $V \in C^1$ and $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}(t, \cdot)$ is locally Lipschitz.

Moreover, every solution (x, p) of (9) is an optimal trajectory-co-state pair. If in addition $g \in C^2$, then $V(t, \cdot) \in C^2$ and, in this case,

$$P(t) = -\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2}(t, x(t))$$

solves the matrix Riccati equation (10) with $P_T = -g''(x(T))$.