Verification and Game Theory

Tutorial on Basic Game Theory

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Thanks to:

my co-authors Nicolas Markey, Romain Brenguier, Michael Ummels, Nathan Thomasset Stéphane Le Roux for recent discussions on the subject Thomas Brihaye for some of the slides



The tutorial in perspective

General objective of the research topic

- Import game theory solutions to the verification field
- Lift reasoning based on two-player zero-sum games to multiplayer games

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two-player zero-sum games	multiplayer non-zero-sum games
winning objective	payoff function
winning strategy	equilibria (various kinds)
von Neumann Theorem	Nash Theorem

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Focus of the tutorial

- Give basics of game theory
- Discuss aspects that will be helpful for analyzing models useful for verification

Outline



1 What is a game?

- Games we play for fun
- A broader sense to the notion of game
- 2 Strategic games Playing only once simultaneously
 - (Strict) Domination and Iteration
 - Stability: Nash equilibria
- 4 Repeated games Playing the same game again and again

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Games we play for fun

















- Number of players: 1 or 2 or 3 or ...
 - 1~>Pacman, Candy Crush, Freecel...2~>Chess, Tennis, Stratego, Four in a row, ...3 (or more)~>Poker, Monopoly,...

- Number of players: 1 or 2 or 3 or ...
- Type of interactions: simultaneous or sequential

simultaneous	\sim	Rock-Paper-Scissor, Penalty,
sequential	\sim	Chess, Stratego,

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- Maximal length of a play: finite ou infinite
 - finite \rightsquigarrow Four in a row, Battleship,... infinite \rightsquigarrow Tennis, Monopoly,...

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- Type of information: perfect or imperfect
 perfect → Four in a row, Chess,...
 imperfect → Battleship, Poker, Stratego...

- Number of players: 1 or 2 or 3 or ...
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- Maximal length of a play: finite ou infinite
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- Presence of randomness: deterministic or probabilistic
 deterministic → Four in a row, Chess, Battleship,...
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 boolean → Four in a row, Chess,...
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Wide range of applicability

"[...] it is a context-free mathematical toolbox"

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"[...] it is a context-free mathematical toolbox"

- Social science: e.g. social choice theory
- Theoretical economics: e.g. models of markets, auctions
- Political science: e.g. fair division
- Biology: e.g. evolutionary biology

• ...

The prisoner dilemma



Two suspects are arrested by the police. The police, having separated both prisoners, visit each of them to offer the same deal.

- If one testifies (Defects) for the prosecution against the other and the other remains silent (Cooperates), the betrayer goes free and the silent accomplice receives the full 10-year sentence.
- If both remain silent, both are sentenced to only 3 years in jail.
- If each betrays the other, each receives a 5-year sentence.

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Cournot competition



Two companies produce the same good, they compete on the amount of output they produce, which they decide on independently of each other and at the same time. The selling price is a commonly known decreasing function of the total amount produced.

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Let a_i denote the quantity produced by the *i*-th company.

$$\mathsf{Profit}_{A_1}(a_1, a_2) = a_1 \left(\underbrace{\alpha - \beta(a_1 + a_2)}_{\mathsf{selling price}} \right) - \underbrace{\gamma \ a_1}_{\mathsf{production cost}}$$



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What should be the amount of the output to optimise the profit?

Selling ice-cream on the beach...



Consider a beach that can be represented by a unit interval. Sun-tanned people are located uniformly on the beach. Everyone at the beach dreams of an ice-cream.



Two ice-cream sellers will settle on the beach.

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Two ice-cream sellers will settle on the beach.

Where should they build their stand in order to optimise their benefits ?

The Nim game

The rules (simplified version)

- Two players, turn-based games
- Initially, there are 8 matches
- On each turn, a player must remove 1 or 2 matches
- The player removing the last match wins the game



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Modelled as a game played on a graph $\overrightarrow{0}$ $\overrightarrow{0}$

1 and 1

Various models of games

Many models of games

- Strategic games
- Repeated games
- Games played on graphs
- Games played using equations
- ...

Many features

- imperfect information
- presence of randomness
- continuous time
- ...

Let us suppose that:

- we have fixed a game,
- we have identified an adequate model for this game.

The next natural question is:

What is a **solution** for this game?

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Strategic games (aka matrix games, or one-shot games)

Strategic game

A strategic game G is a triple
$$(Agt, \Sigma, (g_A)_{A \in Agt})$$
 where:

- Agt is the finite and non empty set of players,
- Σ is a non empty set of actions,
- $g_A : \Sigma^{Agt} \to \mathbb{R}$ is the payoff function of player $A \in Agt$.
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Example: Prisoner dilemma

•
$$Agt = \{A_1, A_2\}$$

•
$$\Sigma = \{C, D\}$$

$$(g_{A_1}, g_{A_2})$$
 is given by

$$\begin{array}{c|c} C & D \\ \hline C & (-3, -3) & (-10, 0) \\ D & (0, -10) & (-5, -5) \end{array}$$

Hypotheses made in classical game theory

Hypotheses

- The players are intelligent (i.e. they reason perfectly and quickly)
- The players are rational (i.e. they want to maximise their payoff)
- The players are selfish (i.e. they only care for their own payoff)

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Optimality

Dominating profile

A profile $\boldsymbol{b} \in \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{\mathsf{Agt}}$ is dominating if

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	L	R
Т	(0 ,0)	(2,1)
В	(3 , 2)	(1, 2)

• (B,L) is optimal!

Stricly dominated action (or strategy)

An action $b_A \in \Sigma$ is strictly dominated by $c_A \in \Sigma$ for player $A \in \mathsf{Agt}$ if

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The only rational issue of the game is (D, D) whose payoff is (-5, -5).

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The only rational issue of the game is (D, D)whose payoff is (-5, -5). (Even though this is sub-optimal)

	L	М	Н
L	(4, 4)	(2,5)	(1,3)
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Action H is strictly dominated by M for Player 1.

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} L & M & H \\ \hline L & (4,4) & (2,5) & (1,3) \\ M & (5,2) & (3,3) & (2,1) \\ H & (3,1) & (1,2) & (0,0) \end{array}$$

Action H is strictly dominated by M for Player 2.

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 $\mathsf{Profit}_{A_1}(a_1, a_2) = a_1 \left(\underbrace{\alpha - \beta(a_1 + a_2)}_{-} \right) \gamma a_1$ selling price production cost



$$rac{1}{eta}\operatorname{\mathsf{Profit}}_{\mathcal{A}_1}(x,y) = -x^2 + x\left(rac{lpha-\gamma}{eta}-y
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All actions in
$$\left(\frac{\alpha-\gamma}{2\beta},\frac{\alpha-\gamma}{\beta}\right]$$
 are strictly dominated

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The IESDS converges to:

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The result is non trivial: the elimination process is infinite.

Domination - Ice-cream sellers dilemma





The only strategies that are strictly dominated are the two borders...

We have seen:

- The notion of strictly dominated strategy:
 - + allows to find rational issues of some games, *Prisoner dilemma, Cournot competition*

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- The notion of strictly dominated strategy:
 - + allows to find rational issues of some games, *Prisoner dilemma, Cournot competition*
 - not always easy to obtain the rational issue, *Cournot competition*
 - very strong notion: rational issues are not always obtained. *Ice-cream sellers dilemma*

 \rightsquigarrow We need another notion to determine rational issues.

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Nash equilibrium

Let $(Agt, \Sigma, (g_A)_{A \in Agt})$ be a strategic game and $\mathbf{b} \in \Sigma^{Agt}$ be a strategy profile. We say that \mathbf{b} is a Nash equilibrium iff

 $\forall A \in \mathsf{Agt}, \ \forall d_A \in \Sigma \text{ s.t. } g_A(\mathbf{b}_{-A}, d_A) \leq g_A(\mathbf{b})$

A rational player should not deviate from the Nash equilibrium.

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• (D, D) is the unique Nash equilibrium...

• ... even if (C, C) would be better for both prisoners

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- R dominates L (but not strictly)
- (B,R) is not a Nash equilibrium, but (T,R) is a Nash equilibrium
- R might not be the best option...
- (B,L) is optimal, hence a Nash equilibrium

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General principle/result

• No strictly dominated action can take part to a Nash equilibrium;

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General principle/result

- No strictly dominated action can take part to a Nash equilibrium; this is also the case in the IESDS process
- A profile obtained by IESDS is a Nash equilibrium
Do all the finite matrix games have a Nash equilibrium?

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The matching penny game

Given *E*, we denote $\Delta(E)$ the set of probability distributions over *E*.

Mixed strategy

If Σ is the of actions (or strategies), $\Delta(\Sigma)$ is the set of mixed strategies.

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Expected payoff

Let $\sigma = (\sigma_{A_1}, \dots, \sigma_{A_n})$ be a mixed strategy profile. Let $A \in \mathsf{Agt}$:

$$\widetilde{g}_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \sum_{\mathbf{b}=(b_{\mathcal{A}})_{\mathcal{A}\in\mathsf{Agt}}\in\Sigma^{\mathsf{Agt}}} \underbrace{\left(\prod_{\mathcal{A}\in\mathsf{Agt}}\sigma_{\mathcal{A}}(b_{\mathcal{A}})
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Mixed extension of game G $\widetilde{G} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left(\text{Agt}, \Delta(\Sigma), (\widetilde{g}_A)_{A \in \text{Agt}} \right)$ is a game.

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Mixed extension of game
$$G$$

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G has a mixed Nash equilibrium iff \widetilde{G} has a Nash equilibrium.

Nash equilibria in mixed strategies

The following profile is a Nash equilibrium in mixed strategies:

$$\sigma_{A_1} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \mathbf{a} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \mathbf{b}$$
 and $\sigma_{A_2} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \mathbf{a} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \mathbf{b}$

whose expected payoff is $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$.

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Nash Theorem [Nash50]

Any finite game admits mixed Nash equilibria.

[Nash50] Equilibrium Points in n-Person Games (1950).

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Example: Prisoner dilemma

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• Best response correspondence of Player A

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{BR}_{\mathcal{A}} &: \Sigma^{\mathsf{Agt} \setminus \{\mathcal{A}\}} \to \mathcal{P}(\Sigma) \\ \mathbf{a}_{-\mathcal{A}} &\to \{ \underline{b}_{\mathcal{A}} \mid \underline{b}_{\mathcal{A}} \text{ is a best response to } \mathbf{a}_{-\mathcal{A}} \} \end{aligned}$$

Best response

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$$egin{array}{l} \exists \mathsf{R}: \Sigma^{\mathsf{Agt}} o \mathcal{P}ig(\Sigma^{\mathsf{Agt}}ig) \ \mathbf{a} o \prod_{A \in \mathsf{Agt}} \mathsf{BR}_A(\mathbf{a}_{-A}ig) \end{array}$$

Best response and Nash equilibrium

Proposition

Let **a** be a strategy profile.

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$$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
 L & R \\
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 T & (1,-1) & (0,0) \\
 B & (0,0) & (2,-2)
\end{array}$$

A strategy consists in giving a probability distribution over $\{T, B\}$ (resp. $\{L, R\}$), that is, it consists in fixing the probability to play T (resp. L).

Assume

$$\sigma_{A_1} = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \mathbf{T} + \frac{3}{4} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$
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the expected payoff is:

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$$g_{A_1}\left(\frac{1}{4},\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{7}{8} \qquad g_{A_2}\left(\frac{1}{4},\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\frac{7}{8}$$

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In general, we have

$$\sigma_{A_1} = \alpha \cdot \mathtt{T} + (1 - \alpha) \cdot \mathtt{B}$$
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whose expected payoff is:

$$g_{A_1}(\alpha,\beta) = \alpha(3\beta-2)-2\beta+2 = -g_{A_2}(\alpha,\beta)$$

$$\frac{\begin{vmatrix} L & R \\ \hline T & (1,-1) & (0,0) \\ B & (0,0) & (2,-2) \end{vmatrix}}{g_{A_1}(\alpha,\beta) = \alpha(3\beta-2) - 2\beta + 2}$$
$$\mathsf{BR}_{A_1}(\beta) = \begin{cases} \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{array}{c|c} L & R \\ \hline T & (1,-1) & (0,0) \\ B & (0,0) & (2,-2) \end{array}$$

Thus the following profile is an equilibrium in mixed strategies:

$$\sigma_{A_1} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \mathbf{T} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$
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whose expected payoff is:

$$\left(\frac{2}{3},-\frac{2}{3}\right)$$















Best response - Back to the ice-cream sellers dilemma



One can show that the only Nash equilibrium is:
Best response - Back to the ice-cream sellers dilemma



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Nash Theorem [Nash50]

Any finite game admits mixed Nash equilibria.

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Any finite game admits mixed Nash equilibria.

Key ingredient of the proof: Brouwer's fixpoint theorem Or simply Kakutani's fixpoint theorem

Fixpoint theorems

Brouwer's fixpoint theorem

Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a convex, compact and nonempty set. Then every continuous function $f: X \to X$ has a fixpoint.

Kakutani's fixpoint theorem

Let X be a non-empty, compact and convex subset of \mathbb{R}^n . Let $f: X \to 2^X$ be a set-valued function on X with a closed graph and the property that f(x) is non-empty and convex for all $x \in X$. Then f has a fixpoint.

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 \sim One can obtain twists or generalizations of Nash Theorem (ex: Nash-Glicksberg Theorem on compact sets of actions)

Outline



- Games we play for fun
- A broader sense to the notion of game
- 2 Strategic games Playing only once simultaneously
 - (Strict) Domination and Iteration
 - Stability: Nash equilibria

Extensive games – Playing several times sequentially

4 Repeated games – Playing the same game again and again

5 Conclusion



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Outcome $(\sigma_{A_1}, \sigma_{A_2}, \sigma_{A_3})$ is the branch determined by the three strategies.



One could also have concurrent nodes, or stochastic nodes. One could also consider randomized strategies.

A finite extensive game can always be turned into a strategic game!

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S	(5,4)	(10, 0)
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- (S, E) whose payoff is (5, 4)
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Corollary

In a finite extensive game (with perfect information), there always exists a Nash equilibrium in behavior strategies.

Stackelberg competition



The Stackelberg leadership model is a strategic game in which the leader firm moves first and then the follower firms move sequentially.

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Let a_i denote the quantity produced by the *i*-th firm.

$$\mathsf{Profit}_{A_1}(a_1, a_2) = a_1 \left(\underbrace{\alpha - \beta(a_1 + a_2)}_{\mathsf{selling price}} \right) - \underbrace{\gamma \ a_1}_{\mathsf{production cost}}$$
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What should be the amount of the output to optimize the profit?

Cournot vs Stackelberg (simplified)





$$\mathsf{Profit}_{A_1}(a_1, a_2) = a_1 \left(\alpha - (a_1 + a_2) \right) - \gamma a_1$$

VS

Nash equilibria

• Cournot: $\left(\frac{\alpha-\gamma}{3}, \frac{\alpha-\gamma}{3}\right)$ with payoff $\left(\frac{(\alpha-\gamma)^2}{9}, \frac{(\alpha-\gamma)^2}{9}\right)$.

• Stackelberg: $\left(\frac{\alpha-\gamma}{2}, \frac{\alpha-\gamma}{4}\right)$ with payoff $\left(\frac{(\alpha-\gamma)^2}{8}, \frac{(\alpha-\gamma)^2}{16}\right)$.

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What would happen if the game was repeated again and again?

As an extensive game with simultaneous moves



As an extensive game with simultaneous moves



G

Repeated twice



Repeated twice



Repeated three times



Repeated infinitely



Repeated infinitely



We need to define what will be the payoff in such a repeated game

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$$G = (Agt, \Sigma, (g_A)_{A \in Agt})$$
 and $t \in \mathbb{N}$,

 \mathbf{a}_t denotes the profile of actions played at the t^{th} repetition of G.

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• A finitely repeated game denoted Γ_{T} (where $T \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$)

$$g_{A}^{T}(\mathbf{a}_{1},\ldots,\mathbf{a}_{T})=rac{1}{T}\sum_{t=1}^{T}g_{A}(\mathbf{a}_{t})$$

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• A discounted game denoted Γ_{λ} (where $\lambda \in (0, 1)$)

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$$g_A^{\infty}(\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \ldots) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T g_A(\mathbf{a}_t)$$

Remark

Since repeated games are particular *extensive games with perfect information*, the notion of Nash equilibrium extends.

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Two approaches to the study of (infinitely) repeated games

• the compact approach: Study the equilibria of Γ_T and observe what happens when $T \to \infty$ Study the equilibria of Γ_{λ} and observe what happens when $\lambda \to 1$

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Two approaches to the study of (infinitely) repeated games

- the compact approach: Study the equilibria of Γ_T and observe what happens when $T \to \infty$ Study the equilibria of Γ_{λ} and observe what happens when $\lambda \to 1$
- the uniform approach: Study "directly" the equilibria of Γ_∞

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One can prove that:

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- Grim-Trigger strategy: play C as long as everyone plays C; play D otherwise
- Payoff of main outcome: (-3, -3)
- Payoff of any deviation $(C, C) \cdots (C, C)(D, C)(-, D)(-, D) \cdots$ is < -3
- $\rightsquigarrow\,$ No profitable deviation

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 - Total-payoff of main outcome: (3,3)
 - No profitable deviation at the second round, since D is dominating
 - What if a player plays D instead of C at the first round? Then, at the second round, he will be punished by P. He would then get at most 3 1 = 2. Not profitable.

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• Not so easy to compute the sets E_T ...
Minmax level of Player A

Let $G = (Agt, \Sigma, (g_A)_{A \in Agt})$ be a strategic game. The Minmax level of Player A denoted v_A is defined by:

$$v_{\mathcal{A}} = \min_{\pi_{-\mathcal{A}} \in (\Delta(\Sigma)^{\operatorname{Agt} \setminus \{\mathcal{A}\}})} \max_{b_{\mathcal{A}} \in \Delta(\Sigma)} g_{\mathcal{A}}(b_{\mathcal{A}}, \pi_{-\mathcal{A}}).$$

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- It is realized by an element $\pi_{-A} \in \Delta(\Sigma)^{\operatorname{Agt} \setminus \{A\}}$.
- π_{-A} is the **punishment** strategy of coalition Agt $\setminus \{A\}$

$$\begin{array}{c|c} C & D \\ \hline C & (-3,-3) & (-10,0) \\ D & (0,-10) & (-5,-5) \end{array} v_{A_1} = \min_{\beta} \max_{\alpha} g_{A_1}(\alpha,\beta) = -5 = v_{A_2}$$













Folk Theorem [AS76,Rub77]

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$$E = E_{\infty}$$

[AS76] Aumann, Shapley. Long-term competition – A game theoretic analysis (Essays on Game Theory, 1994) [Rub77] Rubinstein. Equilibrium in supergames (Research Memorandum)



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The proofs build "simple" equilibria based on the concept of **punishment**.

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This is the principal plan (which is a pure profile)

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 - play along **u** as long as noone deviates
 - if player A is the first player deviating from this plan, then all players of Agt \setminus {A} switch to π_{-A}

Example: the prisoner dilemma



Example: the prisoner dilemma



Example: the variant of the prisoner dilemma

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} C & D & P \\ \hline C & (2,2) & (0,3) & (-2,-1) \\ D & (3,0) & (1,1) & (-1,-1) \\ P & (-1,-2) & (-1,-1) & (-3,-3) \end{array}$$

We have that $v_{A_1} = v_{A_2} = -1$ and $E_1 = \{(1,1)\}.$



The compact approach

Link between E_T and E_∞ [BK87]

Given $G = (Agt, \Sigma, (g_A)_{A \in Agt})$ satisfying some condition (easy to test),^a we have:

$$E_T \xrightarrow{T \to \infty} E_\infty$$

^aFor every $A \in Agt$, there is $\mathbf{b} \in E_1$ s.t. $g_A^T(\mathbf{b}) > v_A$.

Note: The prisoner dilemma does not satisfy the above condition

[Tom06] Tomala. Théorie des jeux: Introduction à la théorie des jeux répétés, chapter "leux répétés" [BK87] Benoit, Krishna. Nash equilibria of finitely repeated games (*Int. Journal of Game Theory*) [Sord6] Sorin: On repeated games with complete information (*Math. of Operations Research*)

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Link between E_{λ} and E_{∞} [Sor86] Given $G = (Agt, \Sigma, (g_A)_{A \in Agt})$ satisfying some condition (easy to test),^a we have:

$$E_{\lambda} \xrightarrow{\lambda \to 1} E_{\infty}$$

^aTwo players, or there is $\mathbf{x} \in E_{\infty}$ s.t. $x_A > v_A$ for every $A \in Agt$.

Note: The prisoner dilemma satisfies the above condition

[Tom06] Tomala. Théorie des jeux: Introduction à la théorie des jeux répétés, chapter "Jeux répétés" [BK87] Benoit, Krishna. Nash equilibria of finitely repeated games (Int. Journal of Game Theory) [Sord6] Sorin. On repeated games with complete information (Math. of Operations Research)

Outline



- Games we play for fun
- A broader sense to the notion of game
- 2 Strategic games Playing only once simultaneously
 - (Strict) Domination and Iteration
 - Stability: Nash equilibria
- 8 Extensive games Playing several times sequentially
- 4 Repeated games Playing the same game again and again



Content of the tutorial

• Basic results on strategic games

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 - includes notions and mechanisms that will be used in models for verification
 - has already interesting applications to the modelling of wireless communications in general, and more specifically to distributed power control problems [LL10]

Definition 1 (Static PC game): The static PC game is a triplet $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{K}, \{\mathcal{A}_i\}_{i \in \mathcal{K}}, \{u_i\}_{i \in \mathcal{K}})$ where \mathcal{K} is the set of players, $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_K$ are the corresponding sets of actions, $\mathcal{A}_i = [0, p^{\max}]$. $p^{\max}_{i = 1}$ is the maximum transmit power for player *i*, and u_1, \dots, u_k are the utilities of the different players which are defined by:

$$u_i(p_1, ..., p_K) = \frac{R_i f(\text{SINR}_i)}{p_i} \text{ [bit/J]}. \quad (3)$$



What's next?

Talk on Thursday!

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- Why game theory for verification?
- Which games? How can we treat them?
- Discussion