

# Lecture 14

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Lecture14

## Lecture 14: Game Theory // Nash equilibrium

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Mixed strategies

Examples

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#### Mixed strategies

Consider rock/paper/scissors



	Rock	Paper	Scissors
Rock	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
Paper	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
Scissors	-1,1	1,-1	0,0

- ▶ This game is entirely stochastic (ability has nothing to do with your chances of winning)

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- ▶ This game is entirely stochastic (ability has nothing to do with your chances of winning)
- ▶ The probability of winning with every strategy is the same
- ▶ Thus, people tend choose randomly which of the three options to play
- ▶ We would like the concept of Nash equilibrium to reflect this

Mixed strategies

Definition

A mixed strategy  $\sigma_i$  is a function  $\sigma_i: S_i \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that

$$\sum_{s_i \in S_i} \sigma_i(s_i) = 1.$$

- ▶  $\sigma_i(s_i)$  represents the probability with which player  $i$  plays  $s_i$

*Handwritten notes:*  $\sigma_i: \{R, P, T\} \rightarrow [0, 1]$   
 $\left. \begin{matrix} \sigma_i(R) = 1/3 \\ \sigma_i(P) = 1/3 \\ \sigma_i(T) = 1/3 \end{matrix} \right\} \bar{\sigma} = 1$

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- ▶ A **pure strategy** is simply a mixed strategy  $\sigma_i$  that plays some strategy  $s_i \in S_i$  with probability one
- ▶ We will denote the set of all mixed strategies of player  $i$  by  $\Sigma_i$

*Handwritten note:*  $\sigma_i(T_i) = 1 \sim T_i \text{ is pure}$

Mixed strategies

- ▶ Given a mixed strategy profile  $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n)$ , we need a way to define how players evaluate payoffs of mixed strategy profiles

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- ▶ 
$$u_i(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n) = \sum_{s \in S} u_i(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n) \sigma_1(s_1) \sigma_2(s_2) \dots \sigma_n(s_n).$$

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- ▶ The expected utility of playing "rock" is 
$$E(u(\text{rock}, \sigma_{-i})) = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 0$$

Mixed strategies

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- ▶ 
$$u_i(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n) = \sum_{s \in S} u_i(s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n) \sigma_1(s_1) \sigma_2(s_2) \dots \sigma_n(s_n) \in \mathbb{R} \quad E(U_i)$$
- ▶ For instance, assume my opponent is playing randomizing over paper and scissors with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$  (i.e.  $\sigma_{-i} = (0, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ )
- ▶ The expected utility of playing "rock" is 
$$E(u(\text{rock}, \sigma_{-i})) = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 0$$
- ▶ If I'm randomizing over rock and scissors (i.e.  $\sigma_i = (\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2})$ ) then 
$$E(u(\sigma, \sigma_{-i})) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

Mixed strategies

Definition

A (possibly mixed) strategy profile  $(\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*, \dots, \sigma_n^*)$  is a Nash equilibrium if and only if for every  $i$ ,

$$u_i(\sigma_i^*, \sigma_{-i}^*) \geq u_i(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i}^*)$$

for all  $\sigma_i \in \Sigma_i$ .

Mixed strategies

Definition (Mixed Strategy Dominance Definition A)

Let  $\sigma_i, \sigma'_i$  be two mixed strategies of player  $i$ . Then  $\sigma_i$  strictly dominates  $\sigma'_i$  if for all mixed strategies of the opponents,  $\sigma_{-i}$ ,

$$u_i(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i}) > u_i(\sigma'_i, \sigma_{-i}) \quad \forall \sigma_{-i} \in \Sigma_{-i}$$

Mixed strategies

If  $\sigma_i$  is better than  $\sigma'_i$  no matter what pure strategy opponents play, then  $\sigma_i$  is also strictly better than  $\sigma'_i$  no matter what mixed strategies opponents play

Theorem

Let  $\sigma_i$  and  $\sigma'_i$  be two mixed strategies of player  $i$ . Then  $\sigma_i$  strictly dominates  $\sigma'_i$  if and only if for all  $s_{-i} \in S_{-i}$ ,

$$u_i(\sigma_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(\sigma'_i, s_{-i})$$

Proof- Part 1

- ▶ Since  $S_{-i} \subseteq \Sigma_{-i}$  if  $\sigma_i$  strictly dominates  $\sigma'_i$

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- ▶ Then for all  $s_{-i} \in S_{-i}$ , 
$$u_i(\sigma_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(\sigma'_i, s_{-i})$$

Proof - Part 2

► To prove the other direction, suppose that for all  $s_{-i} \in S_{-i}$ ,

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► For any  $\sigma_{-i}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} u(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i}) &= \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma_{-i}(s_{-i}) u(\sigma_i, s_{-i}) \\ &= \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma_{-i}(s_{-i}) \sum_{k \in K} \sigma(k) u(k, s_{-i}) \\ &= \sum_{k \in K} \sigma(k) \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma_{-i}(s_{-i}) u(k, s_{-i}) \end{aligned}$$

Proof - Part 2

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► So

$$u(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i}) = \sum_{k \in K} \sigma(k) \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma_{-i}(s_{-i}) u(k, s_{-i}) > \sum_{k \in K} \sigma'_i(k) \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma_{-i}(s_{-i}) u(k, s_{-i}) = u(\sigma'_i, \sigma_{-i})$$

Mixed strategies

**Definition (Mixed Strategy Dominance)**  
 Let  $\sigma_i, \sigma'_i$  be two mixed strategies of player  $i$ . Then  $\sigma_i$  strictly dominates  $\sigma'_i$  if for all pure strategies of the opponents,  $s_{-i} \in S_{-i}$ ,

$$u(\sigma_i, s_{-i}) > u(\sigma'_i, s_{-i}).$$

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Examples

Battle of the sexes

$J_1$

	$G$	$P$
$G$	1, 0	0, 0
$P$	0, 0	1, 1

$J_2$

$EN = \{(G, G), (P, P)\}$

Battle of the sexes

	G	P
G	2,1	0,0
P	0,0	1,2

► There are two pure strategy equilibria (G, G) and (P, P)

Battle of the sexes

	G	P
G	2,1	0,0
P	0,0	1,2

► There are two pure strategy equilibria (G, G) and (P, P)

► We now look for Nash equilibria that involve randomization by the players

Battle of the sexes

► Let  $\lambda$  be the probability with which player 1 chooses G and  $q$  be the probability with which player 2 plays G

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►  $u_1(\lambda, q) = 2\lambda q + (1-\lambda)(1-q)$

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► Case 1: If  $q > 1/3$ , then  $2q > 2/3 > 1-q$  and therefore, the best response is  $\lambda = 1$

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► Case 2: If  $q = 1/3$ , then  $2q = 2/3 = 1-q$  and therefore, the best response is  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$

► Case 3: If  $q < 1/3$ , then  $2q < 2/3 < 1-q$  and therefore the best response is  $\lambda = 0$

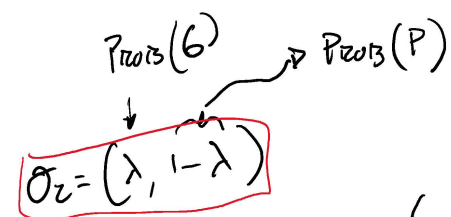
Battle of the sexes

► Let  $\lambda$  be the probability with which player 1 chooses G and  $q$  be the probability with which player 2 plays G

$S_2$

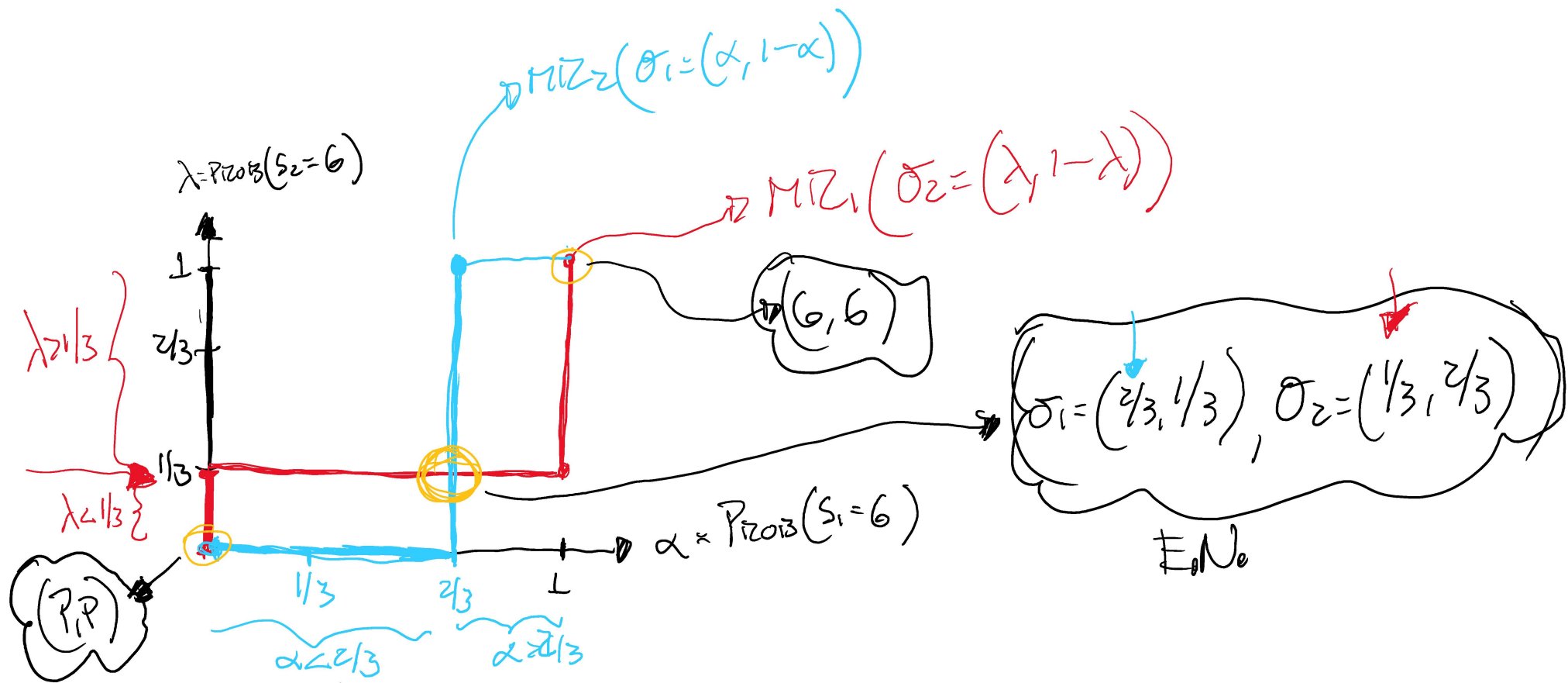
	G	P
G	2,1	0,0
P	0,0	1,2

$S_1$



$$u_1(G, \sigma_2) = 2\lambda + (1-\lambda)0 = 2\lambda = \mathbb{E}(u_1(G, \sigma_2))$$

$$u_1(P, \sigma_2) = (1-\lambda)0 + \lambda 2 = 2\lambda = \mathbb{E}(u_1(P, \sigma_2))$$



Battle of the sexes

Let  $\lambda$  be the probability with which player 1 chooses G and  $q$  be the probability with which player 2 plays G

$u_1(\lambda, q) = 2\lambda q + (1-\lambda)(1-q)$

Case 1: If  $q > 1/3$ , then  $2q > 2/3 > 1-q$  and therefore, the best response is  $\lambda = 1$

Case 2: If  $q = 1/3$ , then  $2q = 2/3 = 1-q$  and therefore, the best response is  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$

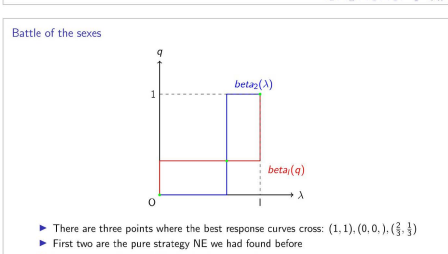
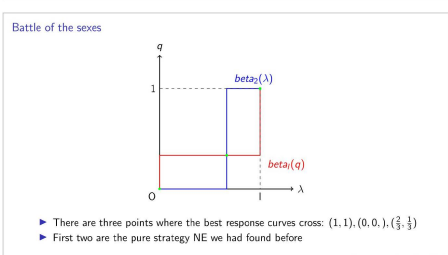
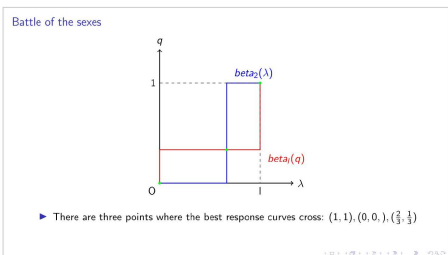
Case 3: If  $q < 1/3$ , then  $2q < 2/3 < 1-q$  and therefore the best response is  $\lambda = 0$

Thus, the best response function is given by:

$$BR_1(q) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q > 1/3 \\ [0, 1] & \text{if } q = 1/3 \\ 0 & \text{if } q < 1/3 \end{cases}$$

Battle of the sexes

Similarly we can calculate the best response function for player 2 and we get:

$$BR_2(\lambda) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \lambda > 2/3 \\ [0, 1] & \text{if } \lambda = 2/3 \\ 0 & \text{if } \lambda < 2/3 \end{cases}$$


Consider the following game

	$s_2$	B	G
$s_1$	A	3, 4	3, 4
	C	4, 2	3, 3
	D	2, 4	3, 1

Handwritten notes:  $EU = (A, E); (D, G)$ ,  $G \succ F$ ,  $D \succ B$

Consider  $\pi_1 = (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$

51  $U_1(G, \sigma_2) = 2\lambda + (1-\lambda)1$   
 $U_1(P, \sigma_2) = \lambda \cdot 0 + (1-\lambda) \cdot 1 = 1-\lambda = \mathbb{E}(U_1(P, \sigma_2))$

$G \succ P$

$2\lambda > 1-\lambda$

$3\lambda > 1$

$\lambda > 1/3$

$G \prec P$

$2\lambda < 1-\lambda$

$\lambda < 1/3$

$G \sim P$

$2\lambda = 1-\lambda$

$3\lambda = 1$

$\lambda = 1/3$

$MR_1(\sigma_2 = (\lambda, 1-\lambda)) = \begin{cases} G & \text{if } \lambda > 1/3 \\ G \sim P & \text{if } \lambda = 1/3 \\ P & \text{if } \lambda < 1/3 \end{cases} \rightarrow \sigma_1 = (\alpha, 1-\alpha) \text{ if } \alpha \in [0, 1] \text{ and } \lambda = 1/3$

$S_2 \alpha = \text{Prob}(s_1 = G)$

$U_2(\sigma_1 = (\alpha, 1-\alpha), G) = 1 \cdot \alpha + 0 \cdot (1-\alpha) = \alpha$

$U_2(\sigma_1 = (\alpha, 1-\alpha), P) = 0 \cdot \alpha + 2 \cdot (1-\alpha) = 2 - 2\alpha$

$G \succ P$   
 $\alpha > 2 - 2\alpha$   
 $3\alpha > 2$   
 $\alpha > 2/3$

$P \succ G$   
 $\alpha < 2/3$

$P \sim G$   
 $\alpha = 2/3$

► Consider  $\sigma_1 = (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{6})$   
 ►  $EU(\sigma_1) = 10\frac{1}{3} + 4\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{6} + 4\frac{1}{6} = 5.5$

► Consider  $\sigma_1 = (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{6})$   
 ►  $EU(E, \sigma_1) = 10\frac{1}{3} + 4\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{6} + 4\frac{1}{6} = 5.5$   
 ►  $EU(F, \sigma_1) = 3\frac{1}{3} + 2\frac{1}{4} + 4\frac{1}{6} + 3\frac{1}{6} = 3$

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 ►  $EU(G, \sigma_1) = 4\frac{1}{3} + 6\frac{1}{4} + 8\frac{1}{6} + 4\frac{1}{6} = 5.5$

► Consider  $\sigma_1 = (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{6})$   
 ►  $EU(E, \sigma_1) = 10\frac{1}{3} + 4\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{6} + 4\frac{1}{6} = 5.5$   
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 ►  $EU(G, \sigma_1) = 4\frac{1}{3} + 6\frac{1}{4} + 8\frac{1}{6} + 4\frac{1}{6} = 5.5$   
 ► Then  $BR_1(\sigma_1) = \{(p, 0, 1-p), p \in [0, 1]\}$

► G dominates F (player 2)

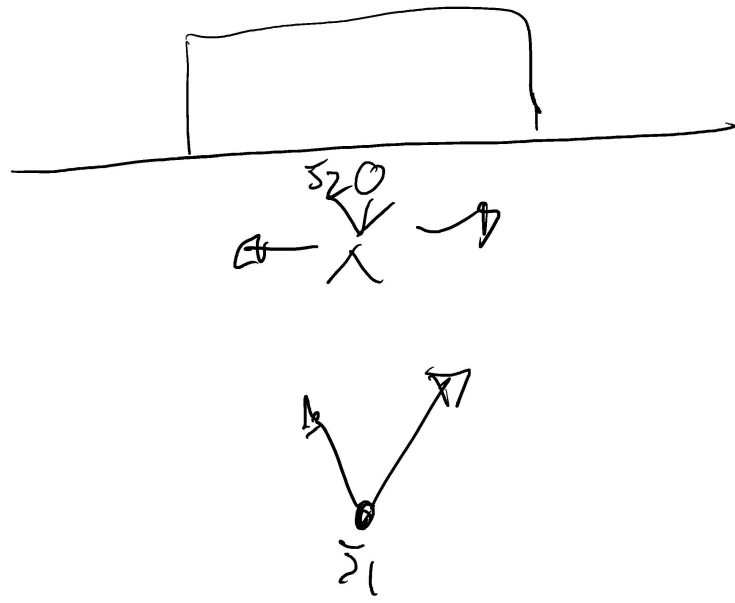
► G dominates F (player 2)  
 ► D dominates B (player 1)

Reduced game

	E	G
A	5, 10	3, 4
D	2, 4	8, 4

$\sigma_1 = (\alpha, 0, 1-\alpha)$   
 $\alpha$  muy cercano a 1

► Note that  $\sigma_1 = (p, 0, 1-p)$  with  $p > \frac{2}{3}$  dominates C  
 ►  $EU(\sigma_1, E) = 5p + 2(1-p) = 3p + 2$   
 ►  $EU(\sigma_1, G) = 3p + 8(1-p) = 8 - 5p$



$$\begin{array}{c|cc}
 & I & D \\
 \hline
 S_1 & -1, 1 & 1, -1 \\
 \hline
 D & 1, -1 & -1, 1 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

$$\text{EW} = \left( \sigma_1 = \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right), \sigma_2 = \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right) \right)$$

Quieted  
 $\sigma_i >_i C$   
 $\rightarrow S_2 E: 5\alpha + 2(1-\alpha) > 4$   
 $\rightarrow S_2 G: 3\alpha + 8(1-\alpha) > 3$   
 $5\alpha + 2 - 2\alpha > 4$   
 $3\alpha + 8 - 8\alpha > 3$   
 $3\alpha > 2 \rightarrow \alpha > 2/3$   
 $-5\alpha > -5 \rightarrow \alpha < 1$   
 $\therefore \alpha \in (2/3, 1) \Rightarrow \sigma_i >_i C$

Note that  $\sigma_1 = (p, 0, 1-p)$  with  $p > \frac{2}{3}$  dominates C

- $EU(\sigma_1, E) = 5p + 2(1-p) = 3p + 2$
- $EU(\sigma_1, G) = 3p + 8(1-p) = 8 - 5p$

$$EU(\sigma_1, E) > U(C, E)$$

$$3p + 2 > \frac{4}{3}$$

$$p > \frac{2}{9}$$
  

$$EU(\sigma_1, G) > EU(C, G)$$

$$8 - 5p > \frac{3}{5}$$

$$p < \frac{5}{5} = 1$$

Reduced game

	E	G
A	5, 10	3, 4
D	2, 4	8, 4

$A > D$   
 $2p+3 > 8-6p$   
 $8p > 5$   
 $p > 5/8$

$D > A$   
 $8-6p > 2p+3$   
 $8-8p > 3$   
 $-8p > -5$   
 $p < 5/8$

$D \sim A$   
 $8-6p = 2p+3$   
 $8-8p = 3$   
 $p = 5/8$

Lets find  $BR_1(\sigma_2 = (q, 1-q))$

**MR S2**

$MR_2(\sigma_1 = (\alpha, 1-\alpha))$  ← OBSERVING

$$E(U_2(\sigma_1, E)) = 10\alpha + 4(1-\alpha) = 6\alpha + 4$$

$$E(U_2(\sigma_1, G)) = 4\alpha + 4(1-\alpha) = 4$$

Lets find  $BR_1(\sigma_2 = (q, 1-q))$

- $EU(A, \sigma_2) = 5q + 3(1-q) = 2q + 3$
- $EU(D, \sigma_2) = 2q + 8(1-q) = 8 - 6q$

$E > G$   
 $6\alpha + 4 > 4$   
 $6\alpha > 0$   
 $\alpha > 0$

~~$G > E$~~   
 ~~$4 > 6\alpha + 4$~~   
 ~~$\alpha < 0$~~

**$G \sim E$**   
 $\alpha = 0$

Lets find  $BR_1(\sigma_2 = (q, 1-q))$

- $EU(A, \sigma_2) = 5q + 3(1-q) = 2q + 3$
- $EU(D, \sigma_2) = 2q + 8(1-q) = 8 - 6q$

$8 - 6q > 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} > q$

Lets find  $BR_1(\sigma_2 = (q, 1-q))$

- $EU(A, \sigma_2) = 5q + 3(1-q) = 2q + 3$
- $EU(D, \sigma_2) = 2q + 8(1-q) = 8 - 6q$

$8 - 6q > 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} > q$

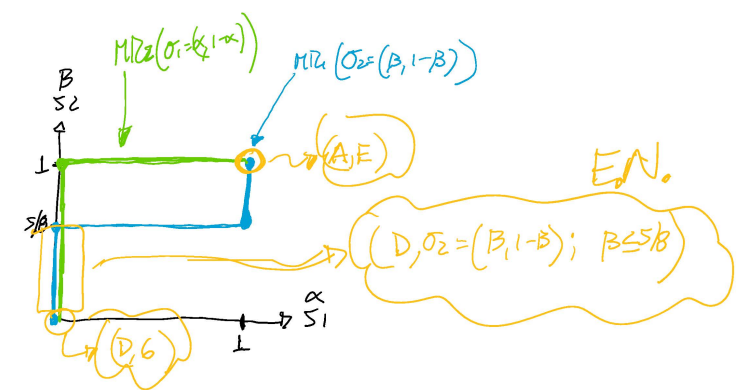
$8 - 6q < 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} < q$

Lets find  $BR_1(\sigma_2 = (q, 1-q))$

- $EU(A, \sigma_2) = 5q + 3(1-q) = 2q + 3$
- $EU(D, \sigma_2) = 2q + 8(1-q) = 8 - 6q$

$8 - 6q > 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} > q$

$8 - 6q < 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} < q$



**MR S1**

$MR_1(\sigma_2 = (\beta, 1-\beta))$  ← OBSERVING

$$E(U_1(A, \sigma_2)) = 5\beta + 3(1-\beta) = 2\beta + 3$$

$$E(U_1(D, \sigma_2)) = 2\beta + 8(1-\beta) = 8 - 6\beta$$

**MR S2**

$MR_2(\sigma_1 = (\alpha, 1-\alpha))$  ← OBSERVING

$$E(U_2(\sigma_1, E)) = 10\alpha + 4(1-\alpha) = 6\alpha + 4$$

$$E(U_2(\sigma_1, G)) = 4\alpha + 4(1-\alpha) = 4$$

$E > G$   
 $6\alpha + 4 > 4$   
 $6\alpha > 0$   
 $\alpha > 0$

~~$G > E$~~   
 ~~$4 > 6\alpha + 4$~~   
 ~~$\alpha < 0$~~

**$G \sim E$**   
 $\alpha = 0$

$8 - 6q > 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} > q$

$8 - 6q > 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} > q$

$8 - 6q < 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} < q$

$8 - 6q > 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} > q$

$8 - 6q < 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} < q$



- ▶ Lets find  $BR_1(\sigma_2 = (q, 1-q))$
- ▶  $EU(A, \sigma_2) = 5q + 3(1-q) = 2q + 3$
- ▶  $EU(D, \sigma_2) = 2q + 8(1-q) = 8 - 6q$
- ▶  $8 - 6q > 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} > q$
- ▶  $8 - 6q < 2q + 3$  if  $\frac{5}{8} < q$
- ▶ Thus
 
$$BR_1(q, 1-q) = \begin{cases} \sigma_1 = (0,1) & \text{if } 0 \leq q < \frac{5}{8} \\ \sigma_1 = (1,0) & \text{if } \frac{5}{8} < q \leq 1 \\ \sigma_1 = (p, 1-p) & \text{if } \frac{5}{8} = q \end{cases}$$

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- ▶ Lets find  $BR_2(\sigma_1 = (p, 1-p))$

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- ▶ Lets find  $BR_2(\sigma_1 = (p, 1-p))$
- ▶  $EU(\sigma_1, E) = 10p + 4(1-p) = 6p + 4$

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- ▶ Lets find  $BR_2(\sigma_1 = (p, 1-p))$
- ▶  $EU(\sigma_1, E) = 10p + 4(1-p) = 6p + 4$
- ▶  $EU(\sigma_1, G) = 4p + 4(1-p) = 4$

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- ▶ Lets find  $BR_2(\sigma_1 = (p, 1-p))$
- ▶  $EU(\sigma_1, E) = 10p + 4(1-p) = 6p + 4$
- ▶  $EU(\sigma_1, G) = 4p + 4(1-p) = 4$
- ▶  $6p + 4 > 4$  if  $p > 0$

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- ▶ Lets find  $BR_2(\sigma_1 = (p, 1-p))$
- ▶  $EU(\sigma_1, E) = 10p + 4(1-p) = 6p + 4$
- ▶  $EU(\sigma_1, G) = 4p + 4(1-p) = 4$
- ▶  $6p + 4 > 4$  if  $p > 0$
- ▶  $6p + 4 < 4$  if  $p < 0$ .

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- ▶ Lets find  $BR_2(\sigma_1 = (p, 1-p))$
- ▶  $EU(\sigma_1, E) = 10p + 4(1-p) = 6p + 4$
- ▶  $EU(\sigma_1, G) = 4p + 4(1-p) = 4$
- ▶  $6p + 4 > 4$  if  $p > 0$
- ▶  $6p + 4 < 4$  if  $p < 0$ .
- ▶ Thus
 
$$BR_2(p, 1-p) = \begin{cases} \sigma_2 = (1,0) & \text{if } p > 0 \\ \sigma_2 = (q, 1-q) & \text{if } p = 0 \end{cases}$$

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