



Lecture14

Lecture 14: Game Theory // Nash equilibrium

Mauricio Romero

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Lecture 14: Game Theory // Nash equilibrium

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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- ▶ The probability of winning with every strategy is the same
- ▶ Thus, people tend to choose randomly which of the three options to play
- ▶ We would like the concept of Nash equilibrium to reflect this

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Mixed strategies

Definition

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

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

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

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- ▶ A pure strategy is simply a mixed strategy σ_i that plays some strategy $s \in S_i$ with probability one

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- ▶ $\sigma_i(s_i)$ represents the probability with which player i plays s_i
- ▶ A **pure strategy** is simply a mixed strategy σ_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 Σ_i

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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$$E(u_i(\text{rock}, \sigma_{-i})) = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 0$$

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- ▶ The expected utility of playing "rock" is

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- ▶ If I'm randomizing over rock and scissors (i.e. $\sigma_i = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$) then

$$E(u_i(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i})) = \underbrace{-\frac{1}{2}}_{\text{rock vs paper}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}}_{\text{rock vs scissors}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}}_{\text{scissors vs paper}} + \underbrace{-\frac{1}{2}}_{\text{scissors vs scissors}} = 0$$

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 $\sigma_i \in \Sigma_i$.

Handwritten note: $\sigma_i \in \Sigma_i \forall i$

Mixed strategies

Definition (Mixed Strategy Dominance Definition A)
 Let σ_i, σ_i' be two mixed strategies of player i . Then σ_i strictly dominates σ_i' if for all mixed strategies of the opponents, σ_{-i} ,

$$u_i(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i}) > u_i(\sigma_i', \sigma_{-i}).$$

Mixed strategies

If σ_i is better than σ_i' no matter what **pure strategy** opponents play, then σ_i is also strictly dominated by σ_i when we allow for mixed strategy opponents play.

Theorem
 Let σ_i and σ_i' be two mixed strategies of player i . Then σ_i strictly dominates σ_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 σ_i strictly dominates σ_i'

Proof - Part 1

- Since $S_{-i} \subseteq E_{-i}$, σ_{-i} strictly dominates σ'_{-i} .
- 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 $s_{-i} \in S_{-i}$, $u_i(\sigma_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(\sigma'_i, s_{-i})$.

Handwritten: $u_i(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i}) \geq u_i(\sigma'_i, \sigma_{-i})$
 $\sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma_{-i}(s_{-i}) u_i(\sigma_i, s_{-i}) > \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma'_{-i}(s_{-i}) u_i(\sigma'_i, s_{-i})$

Proof - Part 2

- To prove the other direction, suppose that for all $s_{-i} \in S_{-i}$, $u_i(\sigma_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(\sigma'_i, s_{-i})$.
- For any σ_{-i} , $u_i(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i}) = \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma_{-i}(s_{-i}) u_i(\sigma_i, s_{-i})$
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 $= \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma_{-i}(s_{-i}) u_i(\sigma_i, s_{-i})$
- So $u_i(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i}) = \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma_{-i}(s_{-i}) u_i(\sigma_i, s_{-i}) > \sum_{s_{-i} \in S_{-i}} \sigma'_{-i}(s_{-i}) u_i(\sigma'_i, s_{-i}) = u_i(\sigma'_i, \sigma_{-i})$

Mixed strategies

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

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Battle of the sexes

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

Battle of the sexes

λ \rightarrow $\begin{matrix} G \\ P \end{matrix}$ $\begin{matrix} G & P \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix}$

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

Battle of the sexes

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

- There are two pure strategy equilibria (G, G) and (P, P).
- We now look for Nash equilibria that involve randomization by the players

Handwritten: $\sigma_i = (\lambda, 1-\lambda)$
 \downarrow
 Prob(G) \rightarrow Prob(P)

$E(u_2(\sigma_i, G)) = 1 \cdot \lambda + 0 \cdot (1-\lambda) = \lambda$
 $E(u_2(\sigma_i, P)) = 0 \cdot \lambda + 2 \cdot (1-\lambda) = 2-2\lambda$

$G \succ_2 P \iff \lambda > 2-2\lambda \iff 3\lambda > 2 \iff \lambda > 2/3$
 $P \succ_2 G \iff 2-2\lambda > \lambda \iff 2 < 3\lambda \iff \lambda < 2/3$

$\lambda = 2/3$

$\dots \rightarrow 1/3$

Titel der Seite
 1. Die Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass ein Spieler 1 die Wahl 1 wählt, ist λ .
 2. Die Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass ein Spieler 2 die Wahl 1 wählt, ist μ .

$\lambda > 2/3$
 $3\lambda > 2$
 $\lambda > 2/3$
 $\lambda < 2/3$
 $\lambda = 2/3$

$$MR_2(\sigma_1) = \begin{cases} 6 & \text{si } \lambda > 2/3 \\ 6/2P & \text{si } \lambda = 2/3 \\ P & \text{si } \lambda < 2/3 \end{cases}$$

Titel der Seite
 1. Die Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass ein Spieler 1 die Wahl 1 wählt, ist α .
 2. Die Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass ein Spieler 2 die Wahl 1 wählt, ist β .

$\sigma_2 = (\alpha, 1-\alpha)$
 $MR_1(\sigma_2) \geq 0$
 $E(U_1(G, \sigma_2)) = \alpha \cdot 2 + (1-\alpha) \cdot 0 = 2\alpha$
 $E(U_1(P, \sigma_2)) = \alpha \cdot 0 + (1-\alpha) \cdot 1 = 1-\alpha$
 $G \succ P$
 $2\alpha > 1-\alpha$
 $3\alpha > 1$
 $\alpha > 1/3$
 $P \succ G$
 $2\alpha < 1-\alpha$
 $\alpha < 1/3$
 $P \sim G$
 $2\alpha = 1-\alpha$
 $\alpha = 1/3$

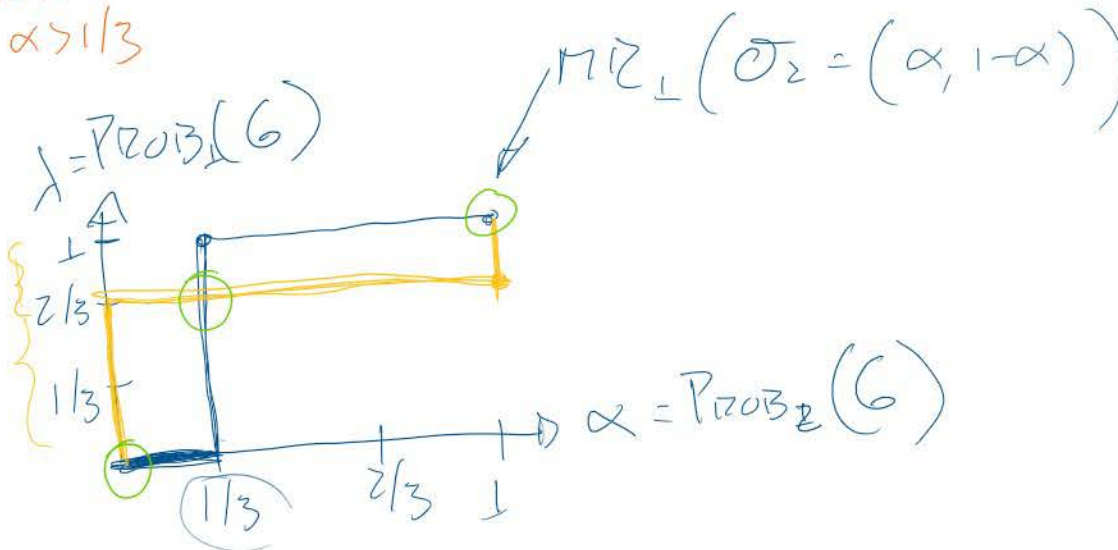
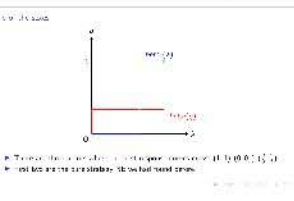
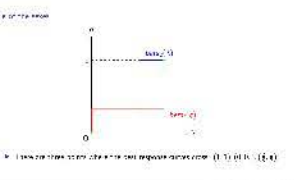
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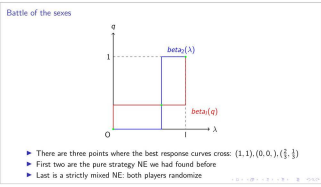
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$$EN \left(\begin{matrix} \sigma_1 = (0, 1), \sigma_2 = (0, 1) \\ \sigma_1 = (2/3, 1/3), \sigma_2 = (1/3, 2/3) \\ \sigma_1 = (1, 0), \sigma_2 = (1, 0) \end{matrix} \right)$$



Consider the following game

	E	G
A	5, 10	3, 4
B	3, 4	7, 6
C	4, 2	3, 8
D	2, 4	1, 8, 4

Handwritten notes: $q_1, q_2, 1-q_1, 1-q_2$ and a table with columns E, G and rows A, B, C, D. A box around the first two rows of the original table is labeled $1-q_1, 1-q_2$.

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$EU(E, \sigma_1) = 10\frac{1}{2} + 4\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} + 4\frac{1}{2} = 5.5$

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$EU(F, \sigma_1) = 3\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} + 4\frac{1}{2} + 3\frac{1}{2} = 3$

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$EU(G, \sigma_1) = 4\frac{1}{2} + 6\frac{1}{2} + 8\frac{1}{2} + 4\frac{1}{2} = 5.5$

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$EU(G, \sigma_1) = 4\frac{1}{2} + 6\frac{1}{2} + 8\frac{1}{2} + 4\frac{1}{2} = 5.5$

Then $BR(\sigma_1) = \{(p, 0, 1-p), p \in [0, 1]\}$

G dominates F (player 2)

G dominates F (player 2)

D dominates B (player 1)

Reduced game

	E	G
A	5, 10	3, 4
C	4, 2	3, 8
D	2, 4	1, 8, 4

Handwritten notes: $\sigma_1 = (p, 0, 1-p)$, $5p + 4 + 2(1-p) > 4$, $3p + 3 + 0 + 8(1-p) > 3$, $5p + 2 - 2p > 4$, $3p + 8 - 8p > 3$. A box around the first two rows of the reduced game is labeled $1-p$.

▶ Note that $\sigma_1 = (p, 0, 1-p)$ with $p > \frac{1}{3}$ dominates C
 ▶ $EU(\sigma_1, E) = 5p + 2(1-p) = 3p + 2$
 ▶ $EU(\sigma_1, G) = 3p + 8(1-p) = 8 - 5p$
 ▶ $EU(\sigma_1, E) > EU(C, E)$
 $3p + 2 > 4$
 $p > \frac{2}{3}$
 ▶ $EU(\sigma_1, G) > EU(C, G)$
 $8 - 5p > 3$
 $p < \frac{5}{5} = 1$

Payoff matrix for σ_1 and σ_2 :

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

▶ Let's find BR₁($\sigma_2 = (q, 1-q)$)
 ▶ $EU(A, \sigma_2) = 5q + 3(1-q) = 2q + 3$
 ▶ $EU(D, \sigma_2) = 2q + 8(1-q) = 8 - 6q$

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 ▶ $EU(D, \sigma_2) = 2q + 8(1-q) = 8 - 6q$
 ▶ $8 - 6q > 2q + 3 \iff \frac{5}{2} > q$
 ▶ $8 - 6q < 2q + 3 \iff \frac{5}{2} < q$

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

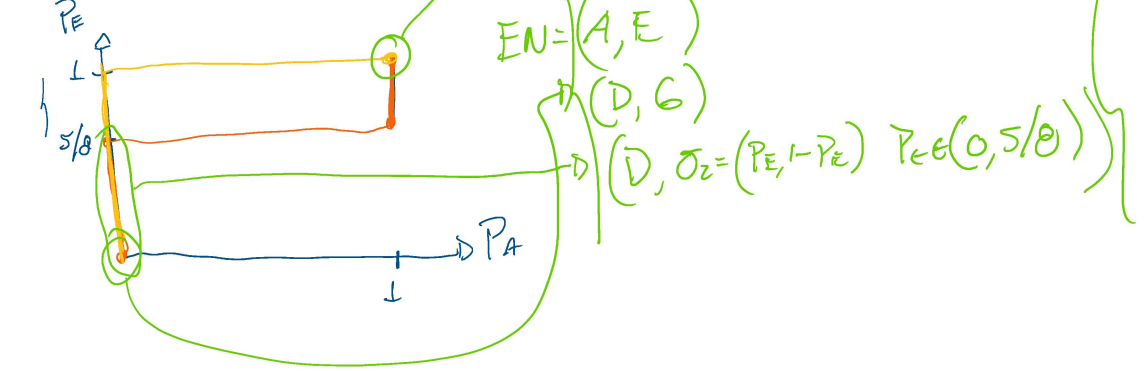
▶ Let's find BR₁($\sigma_1 = (p, 1-p)$)

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

$\Rightarrow 3p > 2$
 $-3p > 5$
 $\Rightarrow p > \frac{2}{3}$
 $p < 1$
 $p \in (\frac{2}{3}, 1)$
 $\rightarrow \sigma_1 \text{ DOMINA C}$
 $EU(\sigma_1, E) = 5p + 2(1-p)$
 $EU(A, \sigma_2) = 5p + 3(1-p)$
 $EU(D, \sigma_2) = 2p + 8(1-p)$
 $EU(A, \sigma_2) > EU(D, \sigma_2) \iff 5p + 3 > 2p + 8 \iff 3p > 5 \iff p > \frac{5}{3}$
 $EU(D, \sigma_2) > EU(A, \sigma_2) \iff 2p + 8 > 5p + 3 \iff 5 > 3p \iff p < \frac{5}{3}$

$EU_2(\sigma_1, E) = 10p + 4(1-p) = 6p + 4$
 $EU_2(\sigma_1, G) = 4p + 4(1-p) = 4$

$E \geq G \iff 6p + 4 > 4 \iff p > 0$
 $E < G \iff 6p + 4 < 4 \iff p < 0$ (UNCA)
 $E \approx G \iff 6p + 4 = 4 \iff p = 0$



- ▶ Lets find $BR_2(\sigma_1 = (p, 1-p))$
- ▶ $EU(\sigma_2, E) = 10p + 4(1-p) = 6p + 4$
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Navigation icons

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Navigation icons

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Navigation icons

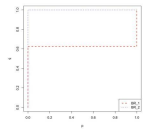
- ▶ Lets find $BR_2(\sigma_1 = (p, 1-p))$
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- ▶ $EU(\sigma_2, G) = 4p + 4(1-p) = 4$
- ▶ $6p + 4 > 4$ if $p > 0$
- ▶ $6p + 4 < 4$ if $p < 0$.

▶ Thus

$$BR_2(p, 1-p) = \begin{cases} \sigma_2 = (1, 0) & \text{if } p > 0 \\ \sigma_2 = (q, 1-q) & \text{if } p = 0 \end{cases}$$

Navigation icons

Best responses



$NE = \{(A, E), (D, \sigma_2^q)\}$ where $\sigma_2^q = (q, 1-q)$ and $0 \leq q \leq \frac{1}{2}$

Navigation icons