

# Reminder

- ▶ Quiz for Lecture 1 (9/1, 10pm)
- ▶ Quiz for Lecture 2 (9/3, 10pm)
  
- ▶ Paper Bidding (9/6, 10pm)
- ▶ Paper Reading Assignment 1 (9/13, 10pm)
  - ▶ Peer reviewed (Due 1 week after assignment due)
- ▶ Confirm group members for course project (9/13, 10pm)

## Revisit Lec 1, Quiz 3

- ▶ Consider the following two LPs (LP-L and LP-R) where  $b \geq 0$

LP-L

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{x,z} 1^T z \\ & \text{s.t. } Ax + z = b \\ & \quad x, z \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

LP-R

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_x c^T x \\ & \text{s.t. } Ax = b \\ & \quad x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Applying simplex algorithm to LP-L with the initial vertex  $x_0 = 0, z_0 = b$ . Denote the optimal solution as  $(x^*, z^*)$ . If  $z^* = 0$ , then which of the following claims are true about  $x^*$ ?
  - ▶ A:  $x^*$  is not in the feasible region of LP-R
  - ▶ B:  $x^*$  is in the feasible region of LP-R
  - ▶ C:  $x^*$  is a vertex of the feasible region of LP-R
  - ▶ D:  $x^*$  is an optimal solution of LP-R

## Revisit Lec 1, Quiz 3

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LP-L

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LP-R

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_x c^T x \\ & \text{s.t. } Ax = b \\ & \quad x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Denote the optimal solution of LP-L as  $(x^*, z^*)$ . If  $z^* = 0$ , then  $x^*$  is a vertex of the feasible region of LP-R
- ▶  $(x^*, z^*)$  is a vertex of feasible region of LP-L. LP-L has  $m + n$  variables,  $m (< n)$  equality constraints,  $m + n$  inequality constraints (non-negative constraints). So the vertex is defined by the  $m$  equality constraints  $Ax + z = b$  and make  $n$  non-negative constraints equality constraints, i.e.,  $n$  of  $x$  and  $z$  variables have to be 0. Since  $z^* = 0$  ( $m$  variables), we know that at least  $m - n$  variables in  $x^*$  are 0. So  $x^*$  only has  $m$  non-zero values and satisfies  $Ax^* = b$ , which means  $x^*$  is a vertex of LP-R

Advanced Topics in  
Machine Learning and Game Theory  
Lecture 2: Introduction to Game Theory

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# From Games to Game Theory



- ▶ The study of mathematical models of conflict and cooperation between intelligent decision makers
- ▶ Used in economics, political science etc

John von Neumann



John Nash



Heinrich Freiherr von Stackelberg



Winners of Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences

# Outline

- ▶ Normal-Form Games
- ▶ Solution Concepts
- ▶ Linear Programming-based Equilibrium Computation
- ▶ Extensive-Form Games

# Some Classical Games

- ▶ Rock-Paper-Scissors (RPS)
- ▶ Prisoner's Dilemma (PD)
  - ▶ If both Cooperate: 1 year in jail each
  - ▶ If one Defect, one Cooperate: 0 year for (D), 3 years for (C)
  - ▶ If both Defect: 2 years in jail each
- ▶ Football vs Concert (FvsC)
  - ▶ Historically known as Battle of Sexes
  - ▶ If football together: Alex 😊😊, Berry 😊
  - ▶ If concert together: Alex 😊, Berry 😊😊
  - ▶ If not together: Alex 😞, Berry 😞

# Normal-Form Games

- ▶ A finite,  $n$ -player normal-form game is described by a tuple  $(N, A, u)$ 
  - ▶ Set of players  $N = \{1..n\}$
  - ▶ Set of joint actions  $A = \prod_i A_i$ 
    - ▶  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in A$  is an action profile
  - ▶ Payoffs / Utility functions  $u_i: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 
    - ▶  $u_i(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  or  $u_i(\mathbf{a})$
- ▶ Players move simultaneously and then game ends immediately
- ▶ Zero-Sum Game:  $\sum_i u_i(\mathbf{a}) = 0, \forall \mathbf{a}$

May also be called matrix form, strategic form, or standard form



# Payoff Matrix

- ▶ A two-player normal-form game with finite actions can be represented by a (bi)matrix
  - ▶ Player 1: Row player, Player 2: Column player
  - ▶ First number is the utility for Player 1, second for Player 2

		Player 2		
		Rock	Paper	Scissors
Player 1	Rock	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
	Paper	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
	Scissor	-1,1	1,-1	0,0

		Player 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
Player 1	Cooperate	-1,-1	-3,0
	Defect	0,-3	-2,-2

		Berry	
		Football	Concert
Alex	Football	2,1	0,0
	Concert	0,0	1,2

Q: What if we have more than 2 players?

# Pure Strategy, Mixed Strategy, Support

- ▶ Pure strategy: choose an action deterministically
- ▶ Mixed strategy: choose action randomly
- ▶ Given action set  $A_i$ , player  $i$ 's strategy set is  $S_i = \Delta^{|A_i|}$
- ▶ Support: set of actions chosen with non-zero probability
- ▶ Let  $s_i = (x_1, \dots, x_{|A_i|})^T$  where  $x_j$  is the probability of choosing the  $j^{\text{th}}$  action of player  $i$ , then
  - ▶ Pure strategy:
  - ▶ Mixed strategy:
  - ▶ Support  $\triangleq$

# Pure Strategy, Mixed Strategy, Support

- ▶ Pure strategy: choose an action deterministically
- ▶ Mixed strategy: choose action randomly
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- ▶ Support: set of actions chosen with non-zero probability
- ▶ Let  $s_i = (x_1, \dots, x_{|A_i|})^T$  where  $x_j$  is the probability of choosing the  $j^{\text{th}}$  action of player  $i$ , then
  - ▶ Pure strategy:  $\exists j^*, x_{j^*} = 1$
  - ▶ Mixed strategy:  $\exists j_1, j_2$  where  $j_1 \neq j_2, x_{j_1} > 0, x_{j_2} > 0$
  - ▶ Support  $\triangleq \{j: x_j > 0\}$

## Expected Utility

- ▶ Given players' strategy profile  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$ , what is the expected utility for each player?
- ▶ Let  $s_i(a)$  be the probability of choosing action  $a \in A_i$ , then
  - ▶  $u_i(s_1, \dots, s_n) =$

## Expected Utility

- ▶ Given players' strategy profile  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$ , what is the expected utility for each player?
- ▶ Let  $s_i(a)$  be the probability of choosing action  $a \in A_i$ , then
  - ▶  $u_i(s_1, \dots, s_n) = \sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{A}} P(\mathbf{a}) u_i(\mathbf{a}) = \sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{A}} u_i(\mathbf{a}) \prod_{i'} s_{i'}(a_{i'})$

# Outline

- ▶ Normal-Form Games
- ▶ Solution Concepts
- ▶ Linear Programming-based Equilibrium Computation
- ▶ Extensive-Form Games

# Best Response

- ▶ Let  $a_{-i} = (a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n)$ .
- ▶ An action profile can be denoted as  $\mathbf{a} = (a_i, a_{-i})$
- ▶ Similarly, define  $u_{-i}$  and  $s_{-i}$
  
- ▶ Best Response: Set of actions or strategies leading to highest expected utility given the strategies or actions of other players
  - ▶  $a_i^* \in BR(a_{-i})$  iff
  - ▶  $s_i^* \in BR(s_{-i})$  iff
  
- ▶ Theorem (Nash 1951): A mixed strategy is BR iff all actions in the support are BR
  - ▶  $s_i \in BR(s_{-i})$  iff

# Best Response

- ▶ Let  $a_{-i} = (a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n)$ .
- ▶ An action profile can be denoted as  $\mathbf{a} = (a_i, a_{-i})$
- ▶ Similarly, define  $u_{-i}$  and  $s_{-i}$
  
- ▶ **Best Response:** Set of actions or strategies leading to highest expected utility given the strategies or actions of other players
  - ▶  $a_i^* \in BR(a_{-i})$  iff  $\forall a_i \in A_i, u_i(a_i^*, a_{-i}) \geq u_i(a_i, a_{-i})$
  - ▶  $s_i^* \in BR(s_{-i})$  iff  $\forall s_i \in S_i, u_i(s_i^*, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s_i, s_{-i})$
  
- ▶ **Theorem (Nash 1951):** A mixed strategy is BR iff all actions in the support are BR
  - ▶  $s_i \in BR(s_{-i})$  iff  $\forall a_i: s_i(a_i) > 0, a_i \in BR(s_{-i})$



# Dominant Strategy

	Cooperate	Defect
Cooperate	-1,-1	-3,0
Defect	0,-3	-2,-2

## ► Dominant Strategy

- One strategy is always better/never worse/never worse and sometimes better than any other strategy
- Focus on single player's strategy
- Not always exist

$s_i$  **strictly** dominates  $s'_i$  if

$s_i$  **very weakly** dominates  $s'_i$  if

$s_i$  **weakly** dominates  $s'_i$  if

$s_i$  is a (strictly/very weakly/weakly) dominant strategy if it dominates  $s'_i, \forall s'_i \in S_i$



# Dominant Strategy

	Cooperate	Defect
Cooperate	-1,-1	-3,0
Defect	0,-3	-2,-2

## ► Dominant Strategy

- One strategy is always better/never worse/never worse and sometimes better than any other strategy
- Focus on single player's strategy
- Not always exist

$s_i$  **strictly** dominates  $s'_i$  if  $\forall s_{-i}, u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(s'_i, s_{-i})$

$s_i$  **very weakly** dominates  $s'_i$  if  $\forall s_{-i}, u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s'_i, s_{-i})$

$s_i$  **weakly** dominates  $s'_i$  if  $\forall s_{-i}, u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s'_i, s_{-i})$   
and  $\exists s_{-i}, u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(s'_i, s_{-i})$

$s_i$  is a (strictly/very weakly/weakly) dominant strategy if it dominates  $s'_i, \forall s'_i \in S_i$

# Dominant Strategy Equilibrium or Dominant Strategy Solution

- ▶ Dominant strategy equilibrium/solution
  - ▶ Every player plays a dominant strategy
  - ▶ Focus on strategy profile for all players
  - ▶ Not always exist
  - ▶ Can be found through enumerating pure strategies for each player

Q: Is there a dominant strategy equilibrium in the following game?

	Cooperate	Defect
Cooperate	-1,-1	-3,0
Defect	0,-3	-2,-2

	c	d
a	2,1	4,0
b	1,0	3,2

# Nash Equilibrium

## ▶ Nash Equilibrium (NE)

- ▶  $\mathbf{s} = \langle s_1, \dots, s_n \rangle$  is NE if  $\forall i, s_i \in BR(s_{-i})$
- ▶ Everyone's strategy is a BR to others' strategy profile
- ▶ Focus on strategy profile for all players
- ▶ One cannot gain by unilateral deviation
- ▶ Pure Strategy Nash Equilibrium (PSNE)
  - ▶  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle$  is PSNE if  $\forall i, a_i \in BR(a_{-i})$
- ▶ Mixed Strategy NE: at least one player use a mixed strategy

		Player 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
Player 1	Cooperate	-1,-1	-3,0
	Defect	0,-3	-2,-2

Q: What are the PSNEs in this game?

# Quiz I

$s = \langle s_1, \dots, s_n \rangle$  is NE if  $\forall i, s_i \in BR(s_{-i})$

Is the following strategy profile an NE?  
Alex: (2/3, 1/3), Berry: (1/3, 2/3)

		Berry	
		Football	Concert
Alex	Football	2,1	0,0
	Concert	0,0	1,2



# Quiz I

$s = \langle s_1, \dots, s_n \rangle$  is NE if  $\forall i, s_i \in BR(s_{-i})$

Is the following strategy profile an NE?

Alex: (2/3, 1/3), Berry: (1/3, 2/3)

$$u_A(s_A, s_B) = \frac{2}{3} * \frac{1}{3} * 2 + \frac{1}{3} * \frac{2}{3} * 1 = 2/3$$

$$u_A(F, s_B) = 2 * \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$u_A(C, s_B) = 1 * \frac{2}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$$

So  $u_A(s'_A, s_B) = \epsilon u_A(F, s_B) + (1 - \epsilon) u_A(C, s_B) = 2/3$

So Alex has no incentive to deviate ( $u_A$  cannot increase)

Similar reasoning goes for  $u_B$

		Berry	
		Football	Concert
Alex	Football	2,1	0,0
	Concert	0,0	1,2

# Nash Equilibrium

- ▶ Theorem (Nash 1951): NE always exists in finite games
  - ▶ Finite game:  $n < \infty$ ,  $|A| < \infty$
  - ▶ NE: pure or mixed

# Maximin Strategy

- ▶ Maximin Strategy (applicable to multiplayer games)
  - ▶ Maximize worst case expected utility
  - ▶ Maximin strategy for player  $i$  is  $\operatorname{argmax}_{s_i} \min_{s_{-i}} u_i(s_i, s_{-i})$
  - ▶ **Maximin value** for player  $i$  is  $\max_{s_i} \min_{s_{-i}} u_i(s_i, s_{-i})$   
(Also called safety level)
  - ▶ Focus on single player's strategy
  - ▶ Can be computed through linear programming



# Minimax Strategy

- ▶ Minimax Strategy in two-player games:
  - ▶ Minimize best case expected utility for the other player (just want to harm your opponent)
  - ▶ Minimax strategy for player  $i$  against player  $-i$  is  $\operatorname{argmin}_{s_i} \max_{s_{-i}} u_{-i}(s_i, s_{-i})$
  - ▶ **Minimax value** for player  $-i$  is  $\min_{s_i} \max_{s_{-i}} u_{-i}(s_i, s_{-i})$
  - ▶ Focus on single player's strategy
  - ▶ Can be computed through linear programming

# Minimax Strategy

- ▶ Minimax Strategy in n-player games:
  - ▶ Coordinate with other players to minimize best case expected utility for a particular player (just want to harm that player)
  - ▶ Minimax strategy for player  $i$  against player  $j$  is  $i$ 's component of  $s_{-j}$  in  $\operatorname{argmin}_{s_{-j}} \max_{s_j} u_j(s_j, s_{-j})$
  - ▶ **Minimax value** for player  $j$  is  $\min_{s_{-j}} \max_{s_j} u_j(s_j, s_{-j})$
  - ▶ Focus on single player's strategy
  - ▶ Can be computed through linear programming (treating all players other than  $j$  as a meta-player)

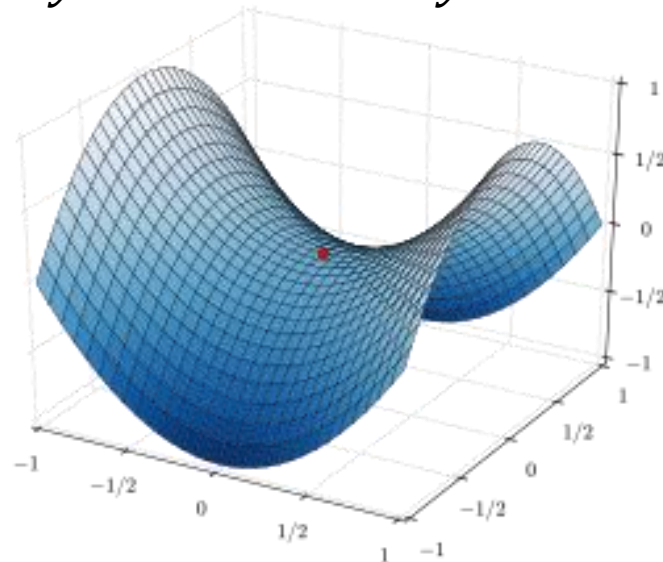
# Minimax Theorem

- ▶ Theorem (von Neumann 1928, Nash 1951):
  - ▶ Informal: Minimax value=Maximin value=NE value in finite 2-player zero-sum games
  - ▶ Formally
    - ▶  $\max_{s_i} \min_{s_{-i}} u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) = \min_{s_{-i}} \max_{s_i} u_i(s_i, s_{-i})$
    - ▶  $\exists v \in \mathbb{R}$  such that Player 1 can guarantee value at least  $v$  and Player 2 can guarantee loss at most  $v$  ( $v$  is called value of the game)
  - ▶ Indication: All NEs leads to the same utility profile in a finite two-player zero-sum game

# Minimax Theorem

- ▶ Let  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be compact convex sets
- ▶ If  $f: X \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a continuous concave-convex function, i.e.,  $f(\cdot, y)$  is a concave function of  $x$  for any fixed  $y$ ,  $f(x, \cdot)$  is a convex function of  $y$  for any fixed  $x$
- ▶ Then

$$\max_x \min_y f(x, y) = \min_y \max_x f(x, y)$$



$$f(x, y) = x^2 - y^2$$

# Power of Commitment

- ▶ NE utility=(2,1)
- ▶ If leader (player 1) commits to playing  $b$ , then player has to play  $d$ , leading to a utility of 3 for leader
- ▶ If leader (player 1) commits to playing  $a$  and  $b$  uniformly randomly, then player still has to play  $d$ , leading to a utility of 3.5 for leader

		Player 2	
		c	d
Player 1	a	2,1	4,0
	b	1,0	3,2

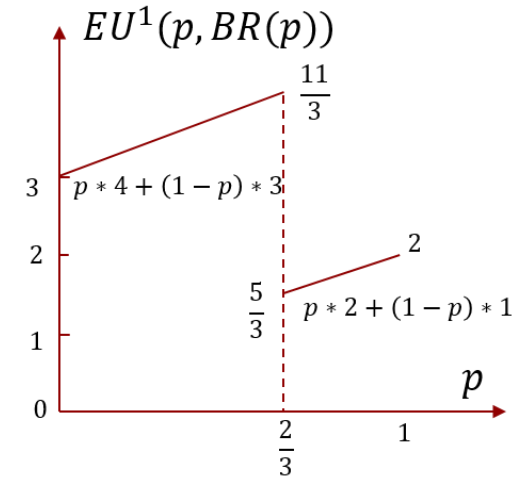
# Best Response Function

- ▶ Recall: Best response: Set of actions or strategies leading to highest expected utility given the strategies or actions of other players
  - ▶  $a_i^* \in BR(a_{-i})$  iff  $\forall a_i \in A_i, u_i(a_i^*, a_{-i}) \geq u_i(a_i, a_{-i})$
  - ▶  $s_i^* \in BR(s_{-i})$  iff  $\forall s_i \in S_i, u_i(s_i^*, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s_i, s_{-i})$
- ▶ Best Response Function
  - ▶ A mapping from a strategy of one player to a strategy of another player in the best response set
  - ▶  $f: S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  is a best response function iff  $u_2(s_1, f(s_1)) \geq u_2(s_1, s_2), \forall s_1 \in S_1, s_2 \in S_2$ . Or equivalently,  $u_2(s_1, f(s_1)) \geq u_2(s_1, a_2), \forall s_1 \in S_1, a_2 \in A_2$

# Stackelberg Equilibrium

Player I		c	d
	a	2,1	4,0
	b	1,0	3,2

- ▶ Stackelberg Equilibrium
  - ▶ Focus on strategy profile for all players
  - ▶ Follower responds according a best response function
  - ▶  $(s_1, f(s_1))$  is a Stackelberg Equilibrium iff
    - ▶ 1)  $f$  is a best response function
    - ▶ 2)  $u_1(s_1, f(s_1)) \geq u_1(s'_1, f(s'_1)), \forall s'_1 \in S_1$
  - ▶ There may exist many Stackelberg Equilibria due to different best response functions. For some best response functions, the Stackelberg Equilibrium may not exist

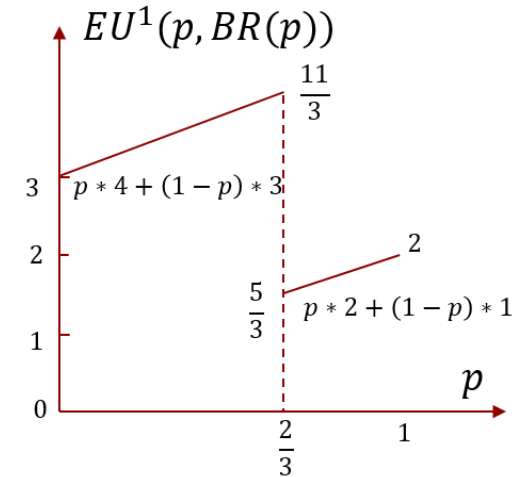


If  $f\left(p = \frac{2}{3}\right) = d$ , then SE is  $s_1 = \left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right), s_2 = (0, 1)$   
 If  $f\left(p = \frac{2}{3}\right) = c$ , then SE does not exist

## Quiz 2

Player I		c	d
	a	2,1	4,0
	b	1,0	3,2

- ▶ If the best response function breaks tie uniform randomly, does Stackelberg Equilibrium exist in this game?
- ▶ Yes
- ▶ No





# Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium

- ▶ Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium (SSE)
  - ▶ Follower breaks tie in favor of the leader
  - ▶  $(s_1, f(s_1))$  is a Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium iff
    - ▶ 1)  $f$  is a best response function
    - ▶ 2)  $f(s) \in \operatorname{argmax}_{s_2 \in BR(s)} u_1(s, s_2)$
    - ▶ 3)  $u_1(s_1, f(s_1)) \geq u_1(s'_1, f(s'_1)), \forall s'_1 \in S_1$
  - ▶ There may exist many SSEs but the leader's utility is the same in all these equilibria
  - ▶ Leader can induce the follower to break tie in favor of the leader by perturbing the strategy in the right direction
  - ▶ SSE always exist in two-player finite games

# Outline

- ▶ Normal-Form Games
- ▶ Solution Concepts
- ▶ Linear Programming-based Equilibrium Computation
- ▶ Extensive-Form Games

## Find All NEs (PSNE and Mixed Strategy NE)

- ▶ Special case: Two player, finite, zero-sum game
  - ▶ NE=Minimax=Maximin (Minimax theorem)
  - ▶ Solved by LP
- ▶ General case: PPAD-Complete (Chen & Deng, 2006)
  - ▶ Unlikely to have polynomial time algorithm
  - ▶ Conjecture: slightly easier than NP-Complete problems
- ▶ Two-player, general-sum bimatrix game: Support Enumeration Method

# Compute Maximin Strategy

- ▶ For bimatrix games, maximin strategy can be computed through linear programming
- ▶ Let  $U_{ij}^1$  be player 1's payoff value when player 1 choose action  $i$  and player 2 choose action  $j$

Denote  $s_1 = \langle x_1, \dots, x_{|A_1|} \rangle$  where  $x_i$  is the probability of choosing the  $i^{th}$  action of player 1

# Compute Maximin Strategy

- ▶ For bimatrix games, maximin strategy can be computed through linear programming
- ▶ Let  $U_{ij}^1$  be player 1's payoff value when player 1 choose action  $i$  and player 2 choose action  $j$

To get  $\operatorname{argmax}_{s_1} \min_{s_2} u_1(s_1, s_2)$ , we denote  $s_1 = \langle x_1, \dots, x_{|A_1|} \rangle$  where  $x_i$  is the probability of choosing the  $i^{\text{th}}$  action of player 1. Now we need to find the value of  $x_i$

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{x_1, \dots, x_{|A_1|}} \min_j \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^1 \\ \text{s.t. } & \sum_i x_i = 1 \\ & x_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Only need to check pure strategies. Recall the theorem of BR: A mixed strategy is BR iff all actions in the support are BR

# Compute Maximin Strategy

## ► Convert to LP

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}_1 & & \mathcal{P}_2 \text{ -- LP} \\ \max_x \min_j \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^1 & \longrightarrow & \max_{x,v} v \\ \text{s.t. } \sum_i x_i = 1 & & \text{s.t. } v \leq \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^1, \forall j \\ x_i \geq 0 & & \sum_i x_i = 1 \\ & & x_i \geq 0 \end{array}$$

- Claim:  $x^*$  is optimal solution for  $\mathcal{P}_1$  iff it is optimal solution for  $\mathcal{P}_2$

# Compute Maximin Strategy

## ► Convert to LP

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}_1 & & \mathcal{P}_2 \text{ -- LP} \\ \max_x \min_j \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^1 & \longrightarrow & \max_{x,v} v \\ \text{s.t. } \sum_i x_i = 1 & & \text{s.t. } v \leq \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^1, \forall j \\ x_i \geq 0 & & \sum_i x_i = 1 \\ & & x_i \geq 0 \end{array}$$

## ► Claim: $x^*$ is optimal solution for $\mathcal{P}_1$ iff it is optimal solution for $\mathcal{P}_2$

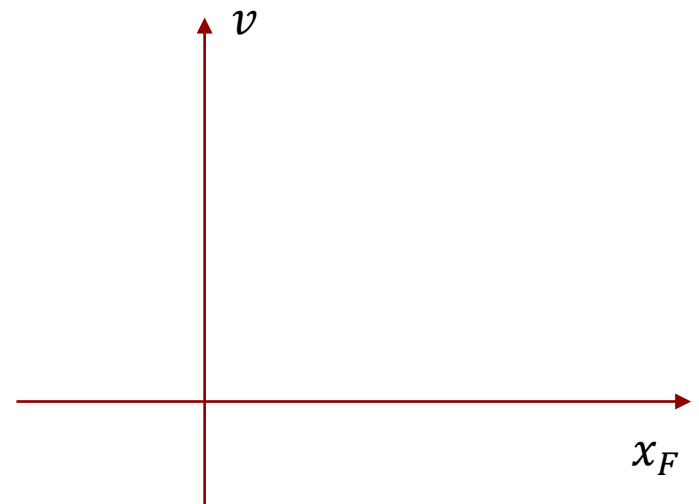
Let  $U^1$  be the payoff matrix for player I (row player). Then  $\mathcal{P}_2$  can be rewritten in matrix form

$$\begin{array}{l} \max_{x,v} v \\ \text{s.t. } v \leq (\mathbf{x}^T U^1)_j, \forall j \\ \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{1} = 1 \\ \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array}$$

# Compute Maximin Strategy

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{x,v} v \\ \text{s.t. } & v \leq \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^1, \forall j \\ & \sum_i x_i = 1 \\ & x_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

	Berry	
	Football	Concert
Alex	Football	2,1
	Concert	0,0
	0,0	1,2





# Compute Maximin Strategy

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{x,v} v \\ \text{s.t. } & v \leq \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^1, \forall j \\ & \sum_i x_i = 1 \\ & x_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

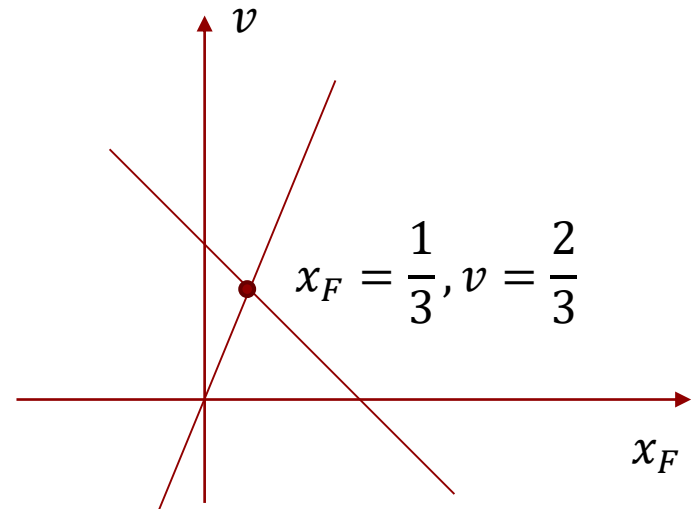


$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{x_F, x_C, v} v \\ \text{s.t. } & v \leq x_F * 2 + x_C * 0 \\ & v \leq x_F * 0 + x_C * 1 \\ & x_F + x_C = 1 \\ & x_F \geq 0, x_C \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{x_F, v} v \\ \text{s.t. } & v \leq 2x_F \\ & v \leq 1 - x_F \\ & 0 \leq x_F \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

		Berry	
		Football	Concert
Alex	Football	2,1	0,0
	Concert	0,0	1,2



# Compute Minimax Strategy

- ▶ For bimatrix games, minimax strategy can be computed through linear programming
- ▶ Let  $U_{ij}^2$  be player 2's payoff value when player 1 choose action  $i$  and player 2 choose action  $j$ . Denote  $s_1 = \langle x_1, \dots, x_{|A_1|} \rangle$  where  $x_i$  is the probability of choosing the  $i^{th}$  action of player 1. Then the minimax strategy can be found through solving the following LP

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{x,v} v \\ \text{s.t. } & v \geq \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^2, \forall j \\ & \sum_i x_i = 1 \\ & x_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

## Quiz 3

- ▶ What is the minimax value for player 2 in the following game?
  - ▶ A:  $1/3$
  - ▶ B:  $2/3$
  - ▶ C: 0
  - ▶ D: 1

		Berry	
		Football	Concert
Alex	Football	2,1	0,0
	Concert	0,0	1,2

# Quiz 3

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{x,v} v \\ \text{s.t. } & v \geq \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^2, \forall j \\ & \sum_i x_i = 1 \\ & x_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

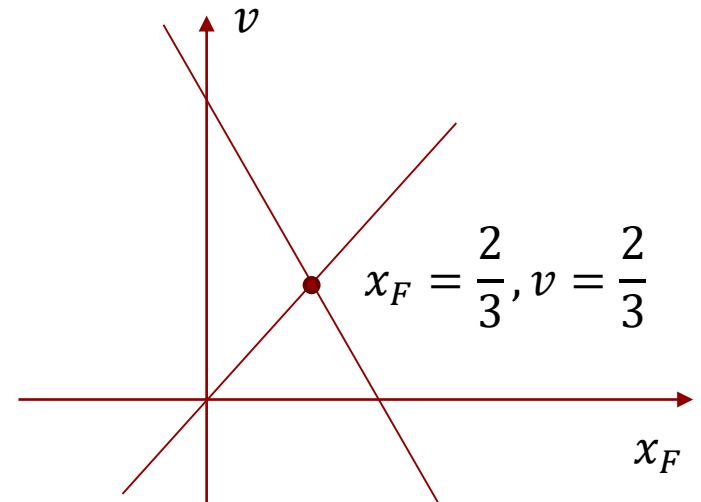


$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{x_F, x_C, v} v \\ \text{s.t. } & v \geq x_F * 1 + x_C * 0 \\ & v \geq x_F * 0 + x_C * 2 \\ & x_F + x_C = 1 \\ & x_F \geq 0, x_C \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{x_F, v} v \\ \text{s.t. } & v \geq x_F \\ & v \geq 2(1 - x_F) \\ & 0 \leq x_F \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

	Berry	
	Football	Concert
Alex	Football	0,0
	Concert	0,2



## Find All NEs

- ▶ Recall: A mixed strategy is BR iff all actions in the support are BR
- ▶ To find all NEs, think from the inverse direction: enumerate support
  - ▶ If we know in a NE, for player  $i$ , action 1, 2, and 3 are in the support of  $s_i$ , action 4, 5 are not what does it mean?
    - ▶ (1)
    - ▶ (2)
    - ▶ (3)
    - ▶ (4)

## Find All NEs

- ▶ Recall: A mixed strategy is BR iff all actions in the support are BR
- ▶ To find all NEs, think from the inverse direction: enumerate support
  - ▶ If we know in a NE, for player  $i$ , action 1, 2, and 3 are in the support of  $s_i$ , action 4, 5 are not what does it mean?
    - ▶ (1) Action 1, 2, and 3 are chosen with non-zero probability, action 4, 5 are chosen with zero probability
    - ▶ (2) The probability of choosing action 1, 2, 3 sum up to 1
    - ▶ (3) Action 1, 2, and 3 lead to the exactly same expected utility
    - ▶ (4) The expected utility of taking action 1, 2, and 3 is not lower than action 4, 5

## Find All NEs

- ▶ If support for both Alex and Berry is (F, C), then action F and C should lead to same expected utility for Alex when fixing Berry's strategy and vice versa
- ▶ Assume Alex's strategy is  $s_A = (x_1, x_2)$  and Berry's strategy is  $s_B = (y_1, y_2)$  then similar to (1)-(4) in the previous slide, we know

	Football	Concert
Alex Football	2,1	0,0
Concert	0,0	1,2

## Find All NEs

- ▶ If support for both Alex and Berry is (F, C), then action F and C should lead to same expected utility for Alex when fixing Berry's strategy and vice versa
- ▶ Assume Alex's strategy is  $s_A = (x_1, x_2)$  and Berry's strategy is  $s_B = (y_1, y_2)$  then similar to (1)-(4) in the previous slide, we know

$$(1): x_1 > 0, x_2 > 0, y_1 > 0, y_2 > 0$$

$$(2): x_1 + x_2 = 1, y_1 + y_2 = 1$$

$$(3): u_A(F, s_B) = u_A(C, s_B), u_B(s_A, F) = u_B(s_A, C)$$

$$u_A(F, s_B) = 2 \times y_1 + 0 \times y_2$$

$$u_B(s_A, F) = 1 \times x_1 + 0 \times x_2$$

$$u_A(C, s_B) = 0 \times y_1 + 1 \times y_2$$

$$u_B(s_A, C) = 0 \times x_1 + 2 \times x_2$$

$$\text{So } 2y_1 = y_2$$

$$\text{So } x_1 = 2x_2$$

Alex

	Football	Concert
Football	2,1	0,0
Concert	0,0	1,2

Solve the equations in (2)(3) and get  $s_A = (\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$ ,  $s_B = (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3})$  which satisfy (1). It is indeed a NE with specified support.





# Find All NEs

- ▶ Support Enumeration Method (for bimatrix games)
  - ▶ Enumerate all support pairs with the same size for  $\text{size}=1$  to  $\min_i |A_i|$
  - ▶ For each possible support pair  $J_1, J_2$ , build and solve a LP
  
- ▶ An NE is found if the LP has a feasible solution



# Find All NEs

- ▶ Support Enumeration Method (for bimatrix games)
  - ▶ Enumerate all support pairs with the same size for size=1 to  $\min_i |A_i|$
  - ▶ For each possible support pair  $J_1, J_2$ , build and solve a LP

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{x,y,v} 1 \\ & x_i \geq 0, \forall i; y_j \geq 0, \forall j \\ & x_i = 0, \forall i \notin J_1; y_j = 0, \forall j \notin J_2 \\ & \sum_{i \in J_1} x_i = 1 \\ & \sum_{j \in J_2} y_j = 1 \\ & \sum_{j \in J_2} y_j u_1(i, j) = v_1, \forall i \in J_1 \\ & \sum_{i \in J_1} x_i u_2(i, j) = v_2, \forall j \in J_2 \\ & \sum_{j \in J_2} y_j u_1(i, j) \leq v_1, \forall i \notin J_1 \\ & \sum_{i \in J_1} x_i u_2(i, j) \leq v_2, \forall j \notin J_2 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ An NE is found if the LP has a feasible solution

# Find All NEs

- ▶ Support Enumeration Method (for bimatrix games)
  - ▶ Enumerate all support pairs with the same size for size=1 to  $\min_i |A_i|$
  - ▶ For each possible support pair  $J_1, J_2$ , build and solve a LP
    - ▶ Variables:  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n, v_1, v_2$
    - ▶ Objective: a dummy one  $\max_{x,y,v} 1$
    - ▶ Constraints (1b, 1c): Probabilities are nonnegative, probability of actions not in the support is zero
      - $x_i \geq 0, \forall i; y_j \geq 0, \forall j; x_i = 0, \forall i \notin J_1; y_j = 0, \forall j \notin J_2$
    - ▶ Constraints (2): Probability of taking actions in the support sum up to 1
      - $\sum_{i \in J_1} x_i = 1; \sum_{j \in J_2} y_j = 1$
    - ▶ Constraints (3): **Expected utility (EU) of choosing any action in the support is the same when fixing the other player's strategy**
      - $\sum_{j \in J_2} y_j u_1(i, j) = v_1, \forall i \in J_1; \sum_{i \in J_1} x_i u_2(i, j) = v_2, \forall j \in J_2$
    - ▶ Constraints (4): Actions not in support does not lead to higher expected utility
      - $\sum_{j \in J_2} y_j u_1(i, j) \leq v_1, \forall i \notin J_1; \sum_{i \in J_1} x_i u_2(i, j) \leq v_2, \forall j \notin J_2$
    - ▶ An NE is found if the LP has a feasible solution

# Compute Nash Equilibrium

- ▶ Find all Nash Equilibrium (two-player)
  - ▶ Support Enumeration Method
  - ▶ Lemke-Howson Algorithm
    - ▶ Linear Complementarity (LCP) formulation (another special class of optimization problem)
    - ▶ Solve by pivoting on support (similar to Simplex algorithm)
  - ▶ In practice, available solvers/packages: nashpy (python), gambit project (<http://www.gambit-project.org/>)

# Compute Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium

- ▶ Find Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium (not restricted to pure strategy)
  - ▶ Finite zero-sum games:  $SSE=NE=Minimax=Maximin$
  - ▶ General case: solve multiple linear programs or a mixed integer linear program
  - ▶ For some security games: greedy algorithm

# Compute Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium

- ▶ Find Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium (not restricted to pure strategy)
  - ▶ Special case (zero-sum): SSE=NE=Minimax=Maximin
  - ▶ General case: Solve Multiple Linear Programs
    - ▶ Key idea: Enumerate the follower's best response (similar to support enumeration method for finding NE)
    - ▶ If the leader (player 1) plays a mixed strategy  $s_1 = \langle x_1, \dots, x_{|A_1|} \rangle$ , and follower's (player 2) best response is action  $j$ , then
      - 1)  $x_1, \dots, x_{|A_1|}$  sum up to 1
      - 2) All actions other than  $j$  lead to no higher expected utility for player 2
    - ▶ No matter what the leader plays, one of the actions in  $A_2$  is a best response for player 2

# Compute Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium

## ► Solve Multiple Linear Programs

Let  $U_{ij}^1$  be player 1's payoff value when player 1 choose action  $i$  and player 2 choose action  $j$

For each  $j = 1..|A_2|$ , solve the following LP

Then pick the solution with the highest optimal objective value among all  $j$ 's



# Compute Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium

## ► Solve Multiple Linear Programs

Let  $U_{ij}^1$  be player 1's payoff value when player 1 choose action  $i$  and player 2 choose action  $j$

For each  $j = 1..|A_2|$ , solve the following LP

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_x \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^1 \\ \text{s.t.} & \\ & \sum_i x_i = 1 \\ & x_i \geq 0 \\ & \sum_i x_i U_{ij}^2 \geq \sum_i x_i U_{ij'}^2, \forall j' \in A_2 \end{aligned}$$

Then pick the solution with the highest optimal objective value among all  $j$ 's



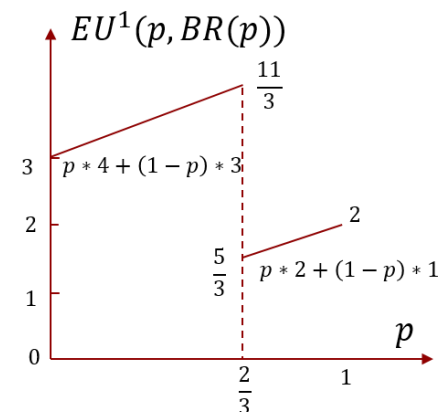
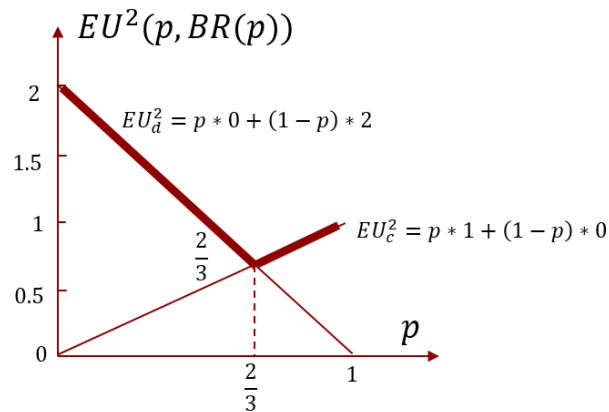
# Multiple LP

Player I		c	d
	a	2,1	4,0
	b	1,0	3,2

Let  $s_1 = \langle p, 1 - p \rangle$

If BR is c, solve

If BR is d, solve



# Multiple LP

		c	d
Player I	a	2,1	4,0
	b	1,0	3,2

Let  $s_1 = \langle p, 1 - p \rangle$

If BR is c, solve

$$\max_p EU^1(p, c) = p * 2 + (1 - p) * 1$$

$$\text{s.t. } 0 \leq p \leq 1$$

$$EU_c^2 = p * 1 + (1 - p) * 0 \geq EU_d^2$$

$$= p * 0 + (1 - p) * 2$$

Get  $p = 1, EU^1(p, c) = 2$

If BR is d, solve

$$\max_p EU^1(p, d) = p * 4 + (1 - p) * 3$$

$$\text{s.t. } 0 \leq p \leq 1$$

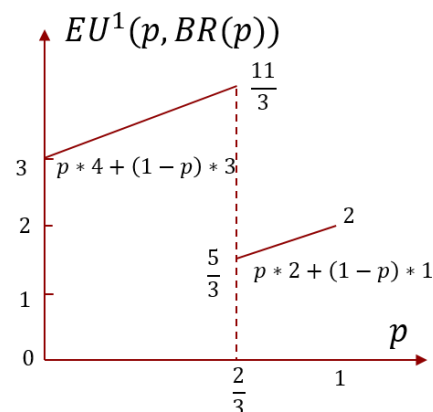
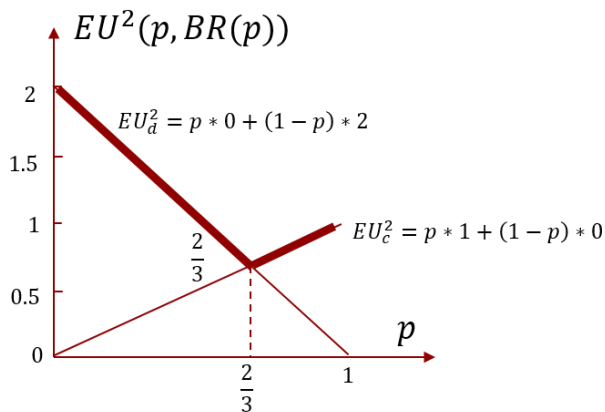
$$EU_d^2 = p * 0 + (1 - p) * 2$$

$$\geq EU_c^2 = p * 1 + (1 - p) * 0$$

Get  $p = \frac{2}{3}, \max_p EU^1(p, d) = \frac{11}{3}$

Compare the optimal objective value, pick the second LP.

So  $p = \frac{2}{3}$ , SSE is  $s_1 = \left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right), s_2 = (0, 1)$

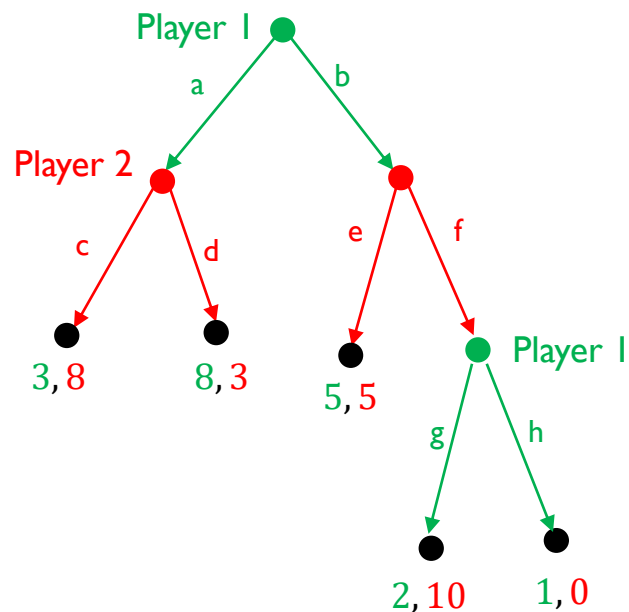


# Outline

- ▶ Normal-Form Games
- ▶ Solution Concepts
- ▶ Linear Programming-based Equilibrium Computation
- ▶ Extensive-Form Games

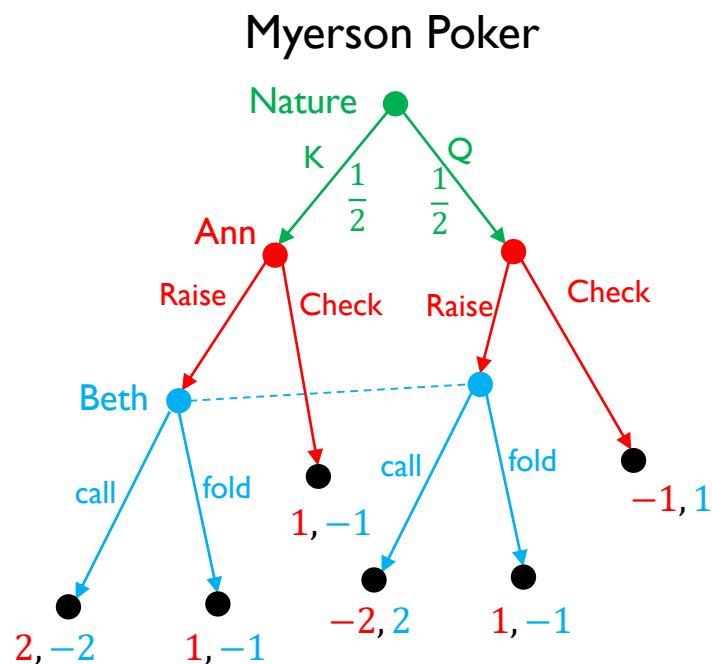
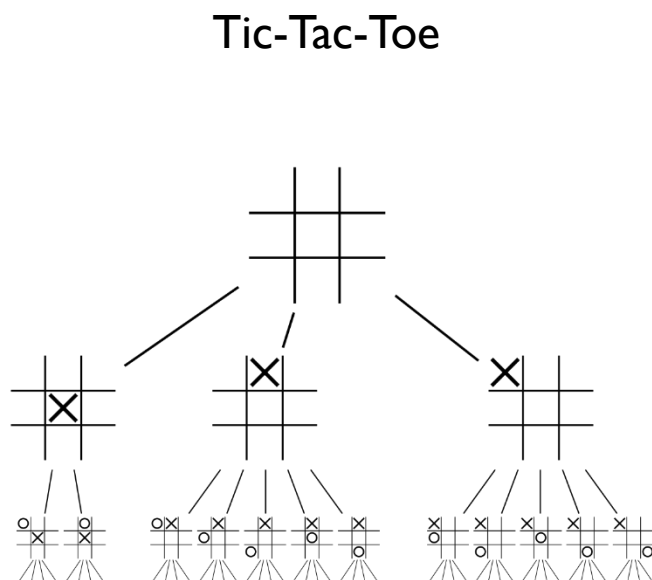
# Extensive-Form Games

- ▶ A game in extensive-form
  - ▶ Timing, sequence of move
  - ▶ Can be represented by a game tree with information sets



# Extensive-Form Games

- ▶ Perfect information vs Imperfect information
- ▶ Special fictitious player: Nature or Chance

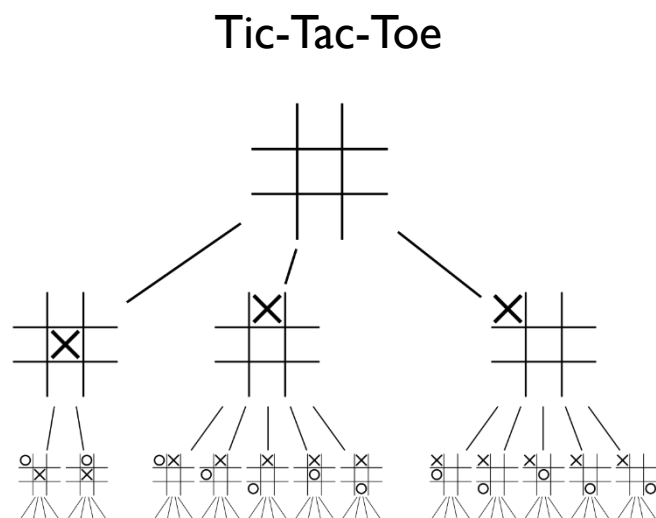


# Perfect-Information Extensive-Form Game

- ▶ A finite,  $n$ -player perfect-information extensive-form game is described by a tuple  $(N, A, H, Z, \chi, \rho, \sigma, u)$ 
  - ▶  $N = \{1..n\}$ : Set of players
  - ▶  $A$ : Set of actions **Note: not joint actions**
  - ▶  $H$ : Set of non-terminal nodes in the game tree
  - ▶  $Z$ : Set of terminal nodes
  - ▶  $\chi: H \mapsto \{0,1\}^{|A|}$  specifies actions available at each node
  - ▶  $\rho: H \mapsto N$  specifies the acting player at each node
  - ▶  $\sigma: H \times A \mapsto H \cup Z$  is the successor function, specifies the successor node after an action is taken at a node
  - ▶ Payoffs / Utility functions  $u_i: Z \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

# Perfect-Information Extensive-Form Game

## ▶ $(N, A, H, Z, \chi, \rho, \sigma, u)$



$N = \{1..n\}$ : Set of players

$A$ : Set of actions

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Payoffs / Utility functions  $u_i: Z \mapsto \mathbb{R}$

# Imperfect-Information Extensive-Form Game

- ▶ A finite,  $n$ -player imperfect-information extensive-form game is described by a tuple  $(N, A, H, Z, \chi, \rho, \sigma, u, I)$ 
  - ▶  $I$  specifies the information sets (infosets in short)
  - ▶  $I = (I_1, \dots, I_n)$
  - ▶  $I_i = (I_{i1}, \dots, I_{ik_i})$
  - ▶  $I_i$  is a partition of the set of nodes belonging to player  $i$ 
    - ▶  $\cap I_{ij} = \emptyset, \forall i, j$
    - ▶  $\cup_j I_{ij} = \{h: \rho(h) = i\}$
  - ▶ Nodes in the same information set should have the same acting player and the same available actions
    - ▶  $\rho(h) = \rho(h'), \chi(h) = \chi(h')$



# Imperfect-Information Extensive-Form Game

►  $(N, A, H, Z, \chi, \rho, \sigma, u, I)$

$I$  specifies the information sets (infosets in short)

$$I = (I_1, \dots, I_n)$$

$$I_i = (I_{i1}, \dots, I_{ik_i})$$

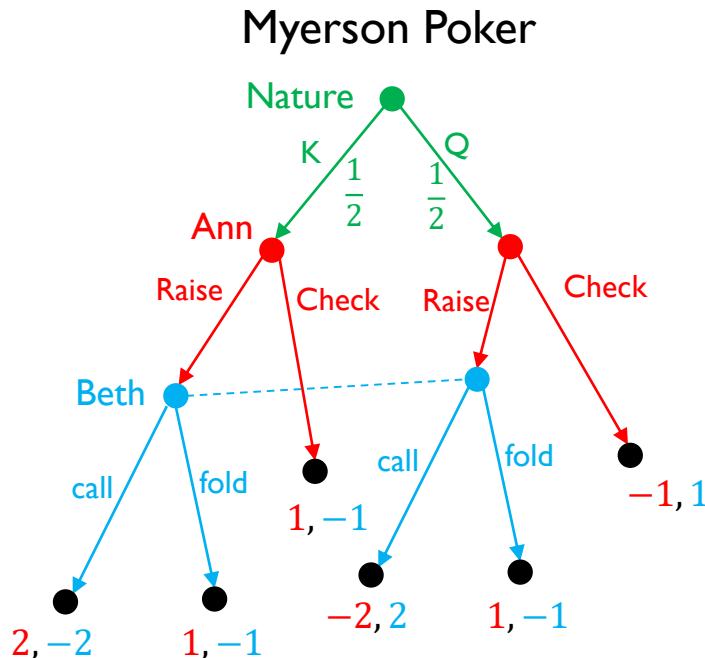
$I_i$  is a partition of the set of nodes belonging to player  $i$

$$\cap I_{ij} = \emptyset, \forall i, j$$

$$\cup_j I_{ij} = \{h: \rho(h) = i\}$$

Nodes in the same information set should have the same acting player and the same available actions

$$\rho(h) = \rho(h'), \chi(h) = \chi(h')$$

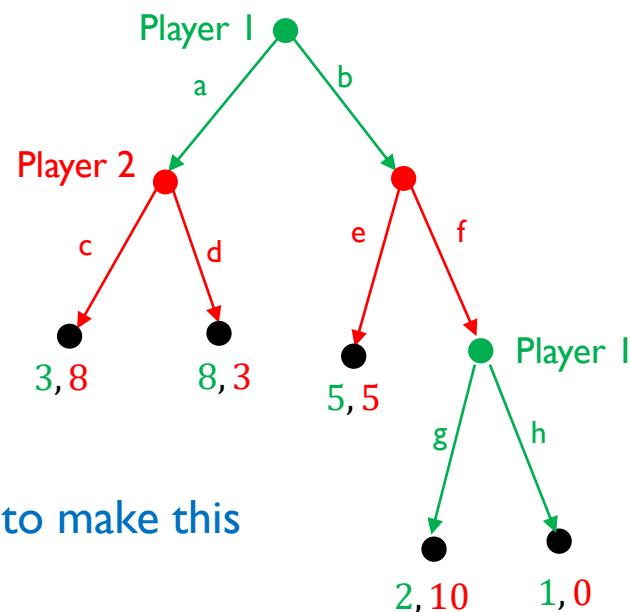


Q: How many infosets are there in this game (exclude Nature)?



# Extensive-Form Games

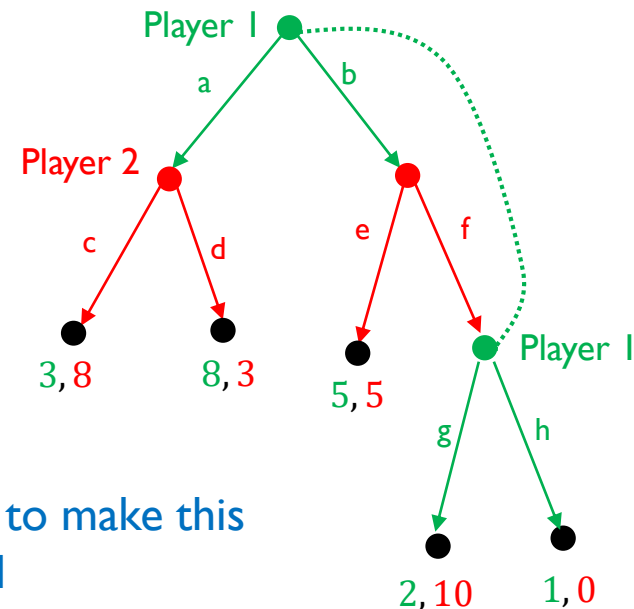
- ▶ An EFG has perfect recall if all players remember their own past actions
  - ▶ Nodes in the same info set has the same “path” if we only consider the actions and decision points of the acting player
- ▶ We focus on games with perfect recall



Specify an information set to make this game have imperfect recall

# Extensive-Form Games

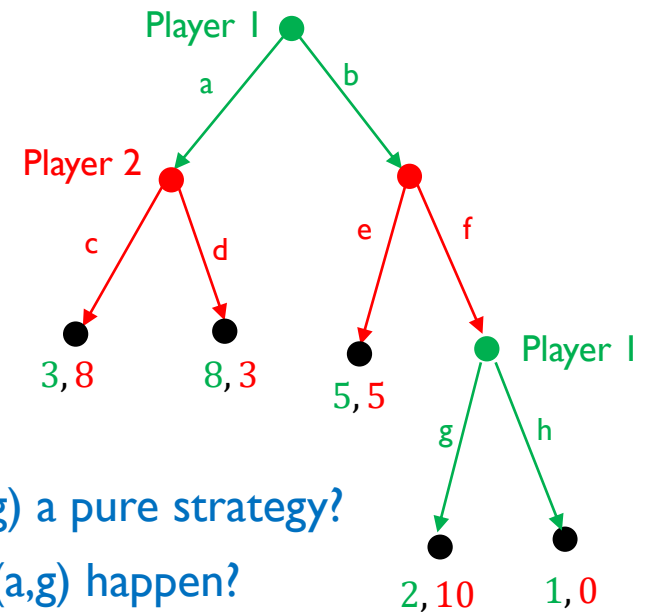
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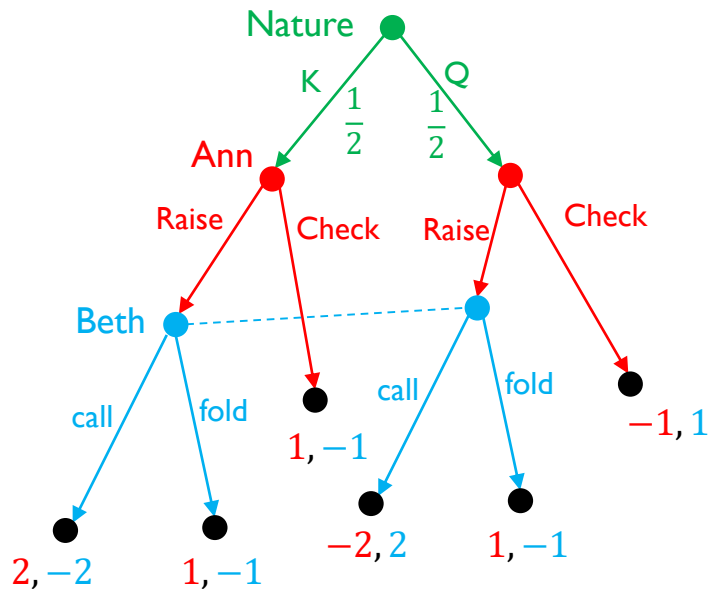
# Pure Strategy

- ▶ A pure strategy of a player is a complete contingent-plan determining the action to take at each info set he is to move
  - ▶ A mapping from an info set belonging to that player to an available action at that info set
- ▶ Reduced-form strategy: only specify actions at info sets that are not precluded by the plan



# Extensive-Form Games

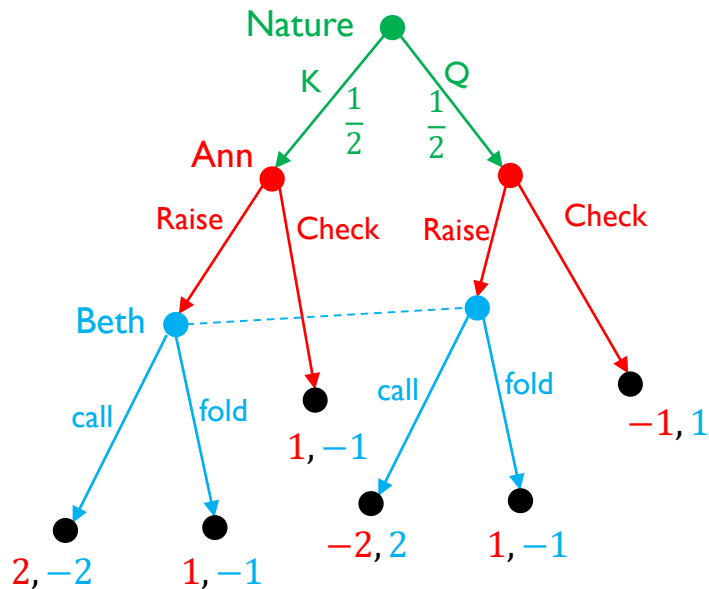
- ▶ A game in extensive form can be converted into a game in normal form



	Beth	
Ann		

# Extensive-Form Games

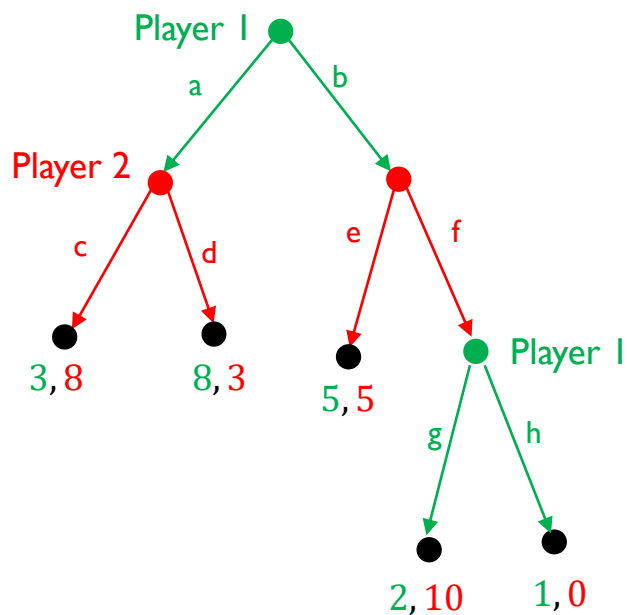
- ▶ A game in extensive form can be converted into a game in normal form



		Beth	
		Call	Fold
Ann	Raise if K, Raise if Q	$EU^{Ann}=0$	0
	Raise if K, Check if Q	0.5	0
	Check if K, Raise if Q	-0.5	1
	Check if K, Check if Q	0	0

# Extensive-Form Games

- ▶ Sometimes we only use reduced-form strategies in the converted normal-form game



		Player 2			
		c	d	e	f
Player 1	a				
	b, g				
	b, h				

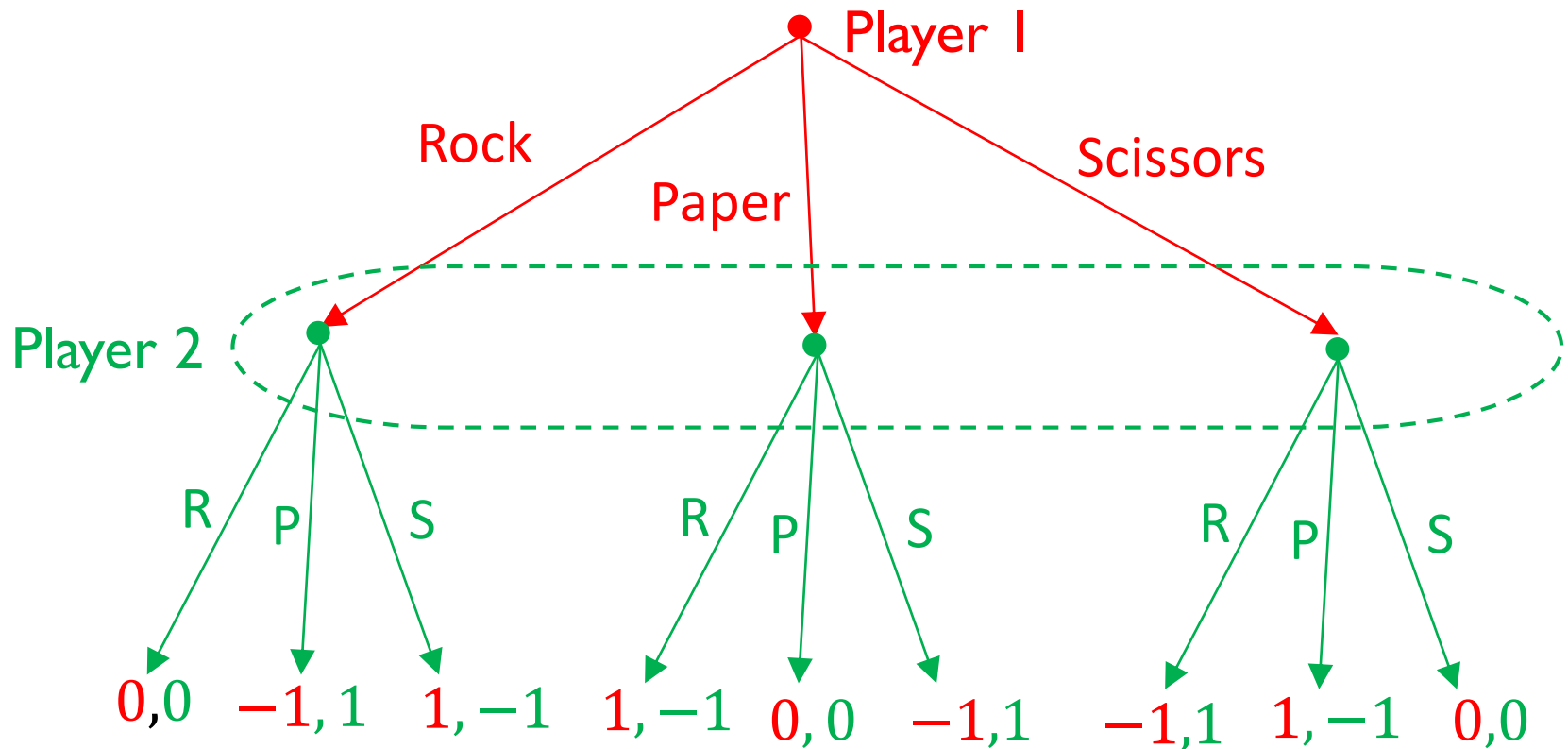
# Extensive-Form Games

- ▶ Can we represent a normal-form game (e.g., Rock-Paper-Scissors) as an extensive form game?



# Extensive-Form Games

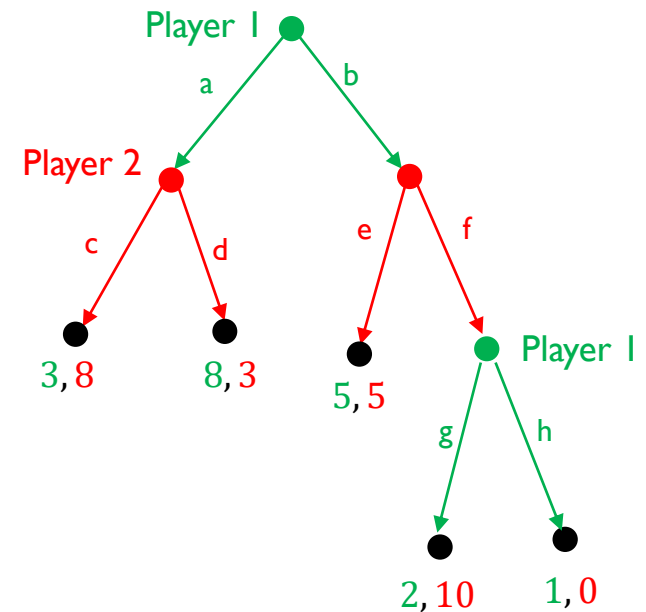
- ▶ Can we represent a normal-form game (e.g., Rock-Paper-Scissors) as an extensive form game?



# Randomized Strategy

- ▶ How to represent randomness in the strategy?
  - ▶ Option 1 (mixed strategy): Prob. distribution over pure strategies
  - ▶ Option 2 (behavioral strategy): Prob. distribution over actions at each info set

Which one is better?



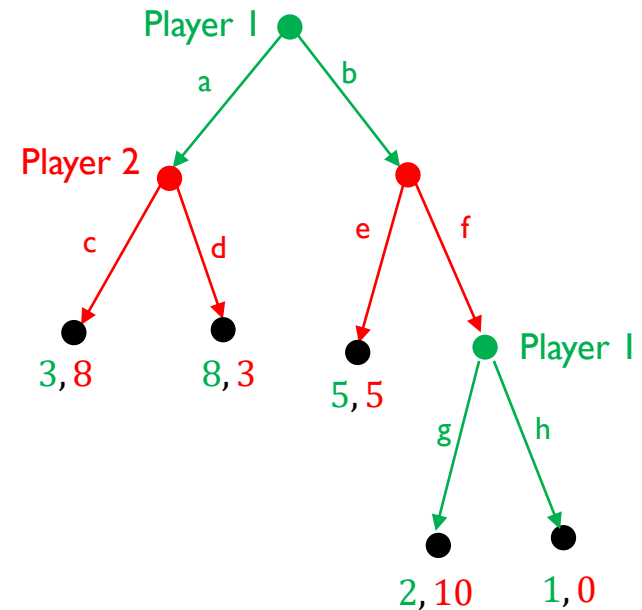
Mixed:  $\mathbb{P}(a, g) = 0.3, \mathbb{P}(b, h) = 0.7$

Behavioral:  $\mathbb{P}(a) = 0.5, \mathbb{P}(g) = 0.6$

# Randomized Strategy

- ▶ In games with perfect recall:
  - ▶ Any mixed (behavioral) strategy of an agent can be replaced by an equivalent behavioral (mixed) strategy
  - ▶ Two strategies of a player are equivalent if they induce the same probabilities on outcomes given any fixed strategy profile of the other players

Provide an example mixed / behavioral strategy of the game



Mixed:  $\mathbb{P}(a, g) = 0.3$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(b, h) = 0.7$

Behavioral:  $\mathbb{P}(a) = 0.5$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(g) = 0.6$

# Summary

<b>Solution Concepts</b>	<b>Key Algorithm In Class</b>
Minimax/Maximin	LP
Nash Equilibrium	LP for zero-sum, Support enumeration for general-sum
Strong Stackelberg Equilibrium	LP for zero-sum, multiple LP or MILP for general-sum

# Game Theory: Additional Resources

- ▶ *Algorithmic Game Theory 1st Edition, Chapters 1-3*  
Noam Nisan (Editor), Tim Roughgarden (Editor), Eva Tardos (Editor), Vijay V. Vazirani (Editor)
  - ▶ <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~sandholm/cs15-892F13/algorithmic-game-theory.pdf>
- ▶ [Multiagent Systems: Algorithmic, Game-Theoretic, and Logical Foundations](#), Chp 3,4
- ▶ Online course
  - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/user/gametheoryonline>