

# LECTURE # 11

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STRATEGIC FORM GAMES:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Normal-Form} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Matrix Games.} \end{array} \right.$

## (A) NON-COOPERATIVE:

All participants act simultaneously and without knowledge of other player's actions. (or Thoughts/intentions)  
↳ REVELATION PRINCIPLE.

## (B) RATIONALITY (or. Common Knowledge of Rationality).

(i)  $\mathcal{I}$ : The set of players. }  
(ii)  $S_i \in \mathcal{I}$ : The strategies. } Select strategies to  
(iii)  $U_i \in \mathcal{I}$ : The payoffs. } optimize payoffs.

## (C) INFORMATION

(i) The game form: Captures order of play.

(ii) Information Set: Models asymmetric/incomplete information situations.

$$S = \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} S_i ; \quad S_{-i} = \prod_{j \neq i} S_j \Rightarrow \langle s_i, s_{-i} \rangle \in S_i \times S_{-i} = S$$

## BEST RESPONSE:

$$B_i(s_{-i}) \in \operatorname{argmax}_{s_i \in S_i} u_i(s_i, s_{-i}).$$

A strategy of  $i \in \mathcal{I}$  that maximizes his utility, provided that all other players have selected  $s_{-i}$ .

EQUILIBRIUM:

Everyone should choose their BEST RESPONSES and not deviate from it: Select  $s^*$

$$\forall i \in \mathcal{I} \quad B_i(s_{-i}^*) = s_i^*$$

Example: PARTNERSHIP GAME

|                     |                |                     |         |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------|
|                     |                | Friend <sub>2</sub> |         |
|                     |                | Work Hard           | Shirk   |
| Friend <sub>1</sub> | (WH) Work Hard | (2, 2)              | (-1, 1) |
|                     | (S) Shirk      | (1, -1)             | (0, 0)  |

$$B_1(-, WH) = WH$$

$$B_2(WH, -) = WH$$

$$B_1(-, S) = S$$

$$B_2(S, -) = S$$

DOMINANT STRATEGY:

A strategy  $s_i \in S_i$  is DOMINANT for player  $i$ , if

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall s'_i \in S_i \quad \forall s_{-i} \in S_{-i} \\ u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s'_i, s_{-i}) \end{array} \right.$$

$s_i \in S_i$  is STRICTLY DOMINATED

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists s'_i \in S_i \quad \forall s_{-i} \in S_{-i} \\ u_i(s'_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \end{array} \right.$$

$s_i \in S_i$  is WEAKLY DOMINATED

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists s'_i \in S_i \\ \forall s_{-i} \in S_{-i} \quad u_i(s'_i, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \\ \wedge \\ \exists s_{-i} \in S_{-i} \quad u_i(s'_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \end{array} \right.$$

## ITERATED ELIMINATION OF STRICTLY DOMINATED STRATEGIES

$$j \leftarrow 0;$$

$$\text{For } \forall i \in \mathcal{I} \quad S_i^0 \leftarrow S_i;$$

$$j \leftarrow j+1.$$

Loop

$$\text{For } \forall i \in \mathcal{I}$$

$$S_i^j \leftarrow \{ s_i \in S_i^{j-1} \mid$$

$$\nexists s'_i \in S_i^{j-1} \quad \forall s_{-i} \in S_{-i}^{j-1}$$

$$u_i(s'_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \}$$

$$S_i^{\infty} \leftarrow \bigcap_{k=0}^{\infty} S_i^k;$$

$$S^{\infty} \leftarrow \prod_i S_i^{\infty}.$$

## DOMINANT STRATEGY EQUILIBRIUM:

A strategy profile  $s^*$  is the dominant strategy equilibrium if for each player  $i \in \mathcal{I}$

$$s_i^* = \text{A dominant strategy.}$$

Example  
(Extended) Prisoner's Dilemma:

|            |         |             |          |            |
|------------|---------|-------------|----------|------------|
|            |         | Prisoner 2. |          |            |
|            |         | Confess     | Silence  | Suicide    |
| Prisoner 1 | Confess | (-2, -2)    | (0, -3)  | (-2, -10)  |
|            | Silence | (-3, 0)     | (-1, -1) | (0, -10)   |
|            | Suicide | (-10, -2)   | (-10, 0) | (-10, -10) |

(A) Suicide is dominated for both players:  
→ Eliminate Suicide.

(B) Next, Silence is dominated for both players:  
→ Eliminate Silence

$$S^{\infty} = \{ (\text{Confess}, \text{Confess}) \}$$

↑  
DOMINANT STRATEGY EQUILIBRIUM.

(Follows from CKR)

# Example / Counter Example -

## Rock - Paper - Scissors.

|                |   |                |        |        |
|----------------|---|----------------|--------|--------|
|                |   | P <sub>2</sub> |        |        |
|                |   | R              | P      | S      |
| P <sub>1</sub> | R | (0,0)          | (-1,1) | (1,-1) |
|                | P | (1,-1)         | (0,0)  | (-1,1) |
|                | S | (-1,1)         | (1,-1) | (0,0)  |

← Zero-Sum Game.

Doesn't have a  
PURE-STRATEGY NASH EQUILIBRIUM.

## MIXED STRATEGIES : (NASH).

$\Sigma_i$  = Probability measures over the Pure Strategies  $S_i$ .  
(For player  $i$ ).

$\sigma_i \in \Sigma_i$  = Mixed Strategy of player  $i$ .

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} S_i = \{s_{i1}, s_{i2}, \dots, s_{ik}\} \leftarrow i\text{'s strategies} \\ \sigma_i = (p_{i1}, p_{i2}, \dots, p_{ik}) \leftarrow \text{corresponding probabilities.} \\ p_{ij} = \Pr [s_{ij} \in S_i \text{ is played}] \left\{ \begin{array}{l} p_{ij} \geq 0 \\ \sum p_{ij} = 1. \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.$$

$\Sigma = \prod \Sigma_i$  = Mixed Strategy Profiles.  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Players randomize} \\ \text{independently.} \end{array} \right.$   
 $\sigma \in \Sigma$ .

$$u_i(\sigma) = \int_S u_i(s) d\sigma(s) \\ = \sum p_{ij} u_i(s_{ij}, \sigma_{-i})$$

## MIXED STRATEGY NASH EQUILIBRIUM.

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$\sigma^* \in \Sigma =$  Mixed strategy profile.

$\sigma^* =$  Mixed Strategy Nash Equilibrium, if

$$\forall i \in I \quad \forall \sigma_i \in \Sigma_i \quad u_i(\sigma_i^*, \sigma_{-i}^*) \geq u_i(\sigma_i, \sigma_{-i}^*) \quad \square$$

Example  
Matching Penny.

|            |   | Matcher |         |
|------------|---|---------|---------|
|            |   | H       | T       |
| Mismatcher | H | (-1, 1) | (1, -1) |
|            | T | (1, -1) | (-1, 1) |

← Unique MS NE  
 $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}), (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$

## NASH'S THEOREM.

Every finite game has a mixed strategy NASH Eq.  $\square$ .

## KAKUTANI'S FIXED POINT THEOREM.

Let  $f: A \rightrightarrows A : x \in A \mapsto f(x) \subseteq A$  be a CORRESPONDENCE satisfying the following conditions:

(1)  $A =$  Compact, convex and nonempty  
(subset of finite dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^d$ )

(2)  $\forall x \in A \quad f(x) \neq \emptyset$ ; (3)  $\forall x \in A \quad f(x) =$  convex

(4)  $f(x)$  has a closed graph:  $\{x_n, y_n\} \rightarrow \{x, y\}$  with  $y_n \in f(x_n) \Rightarrow y \in f(x)$ .

Then  $\exists x^* \in A \quad x^* \in f(x^*)$

$f$  has a fixed point  $= x^*$ .  $\square$ .

Corollary. MS NE = Fixed point  $f =$  Best Response.

SIGNALING GAMES.

Two players:  $\begin{cases} S = \text{Sender} \\ R = \text{Receiver} \end{cases}$

- 1) Nature selects a type  $t_i$  from  $T = \{t_1, \dots, t_I\}$  with prob  $p(t_i)$
- 2) Sender observes  $t_i$  and chooses a message  $m_j$  from  $M = \{m_1, \dots, m_J\}$
- 3) Receiver observes  $m_j$  (but not  $t_i$ ) and takes an action  $a_k$  from  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_K\}$

$$\text{Payoffs} = \begin{cases} U_S(t_i, m_j, a_k) \\ U_R(t_i, m_j, a_k) \end{cases}$$

Signaling games have Nash equilibria:

- ◊ POOLING EQUILIBRIUM: All types of sender send the same message.
- ◊ SEPARATING EQUILIBRIUM: All types of sender send different messages.

Combination / Babbling.

