

ECO316: Applied game theory

Lecture 1

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Policy on use of electronic devices

- ▶ No electronic devices may be used *except* in the first 5 rows of the classroom
- ▶ In the first 5 rows, electronic devices may be use *only* to view the class slides and take notes

Game theory

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individual humans, groups of humans, animals, . . .

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- ▶ Used in economics, psychology, political science, sociology, computer science, biology

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- ▶ Course covers basic theory, with emphasis on applications in economics
 - ▶ ECO326 is more formal, more suitable prep for theoretically-oriented grad program

Economic theory

1. Economic question

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3. Analyze model using appropriate tools
 - ▶ Typically look for an "equilibrium"
4. Extract from analysis insights about economic question

Applications: preview

- Competition between firms

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Voting in a jury

- ▶ Jury is presented with evidence



Voting in a jury

- ▶ Jury is presented with evidence
- ▶ Members vote



Voting in a jury

- ▶ Jury is presented with evidence
- ▶ Members vote
- ▶ Unanimity rule: defendant is convicted only if every member votes to convict



Voting in a jury

- ▶ When does your vote make a difference to the decision?



Voting in a jury

- ▶ When does your vote make a difference to the decision?
- ▶ Not if some other jurors vote to acquit . . .



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- ▶ . . . only if *all* other jurors vote to convict



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- ▶ That all jurors find the evidence of guilt very compelling?

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- ▶ ... so the nature of an equilibrium is unclear

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- ▶ But all the other jurors should reason in the same way
- ▶ ... so the nature of an equilibrium is unclear
- ▶ General point: decision-maker may need to consider other decision-makers' *information* when choosing her action

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- ▶ Auctions
 - ▶ Which design produces an efficient outcome? High revenue for the auctioneer?

Auctions

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category

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All Categories

Search

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[Searching & researching](#)[Bidding & buying](#)[Buying basics](#)[All about bidding](#)[Managing your buying activity](#)[Resolving buying problems](#)[Becoming a better buyer](#)[Selling & seller fees](#)[Payment & shipping](#)[Feedback](#)[Membership & account](#)[eBay glossary](#)[eBay acronyms](#)[A-Z index](#)

Search the help pages

(Does not search for items or products)

Example: 'payment methods'

Search

Tips

Automatic bidding

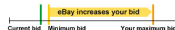
In this article

[How automatic bidding works](#)[Other terms](#)

Our automatic bidding system makes bidding convenient so you don't have to keep coming back to re-bid every time someone places another bid.

How automatic bidding works

- ✓ When you place a bid, you enter the maximum amount you're willing to pay for the item. The seller and other bidders don't know your maximum bid.
- ✓ We'll place bids on your behalf using the automatic [bid increment](#) amount, which is based on the current high bid. We'll bid only as much as necessary to make sure that you remain the high bidder, or to meet the reserve price, up to your maximum amount.
- ✓ If another bidder places the same maximum bid or higher, we'll notify you so you can place another bid. Your maximum bid is kept confidential until it is exceeded by another bidder.



Here's an example:

1. The current bid for an item is \$10.00. Tom is the high bidder, and has placed a maximum bid of \$12.00 on the item. His maximum bid is kept confidential from other members.
2. Laura views the item and places a maximum bid of \$15.00. Laura becomes the high bidder.
3. Tom's bid is raised to his maximum of \$12.00. Laura's bid is now \$12.50.
4. We send Tom an email that he has been outbid. If he doesn't raise his maximum bid, Laura wins the item.

Contact us

Have a question? We can help.

[Contact us](#)

Ask eBay members

Get help from other eBay members. Visit the [Answer Center](#) to post a question.

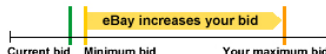
Related help topics

- [Reserve price listings](#)
- [Changing your maximum bid](#)
- [Getting outbid](#)
- [Bid increments](#)

Auctions

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 - ▶ Which design produces an efficient outcome? High revenue for the auctioneer?
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 - ▶ Which algorithm produces a good outcome?

Course website

<http://mjo.osborne.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/course/index/9>

Username: *UTORid*

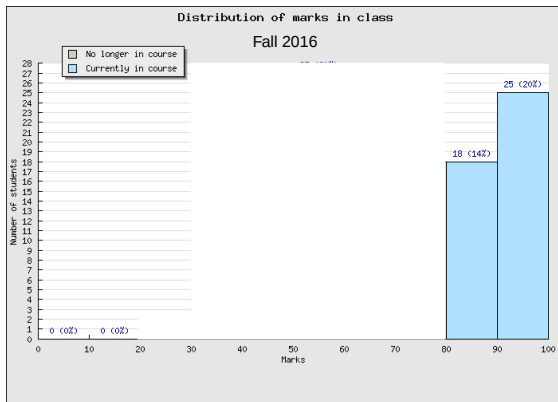
Password: *U of T student number (without leading 0)*

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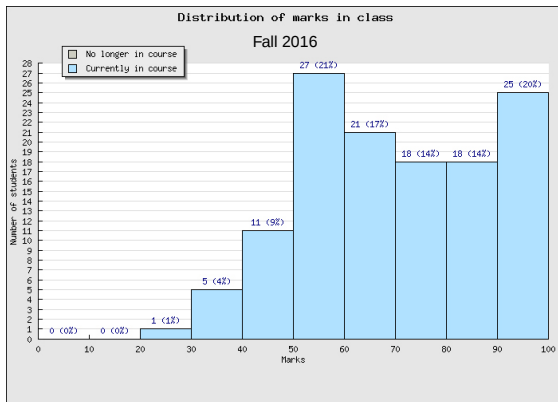


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- ▶ Rational does *not* mean
 - ▶ fully informed
 - ▶ selfish
 - ▶ sensible in an objective sense

Rational decision-maker

Model

A decision problem consists of

Rational decision-maker

Model

A decision problem consists of

- ▶ a set A of possible *actions*

Rational decision-maker

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- ▶ *preferences* over A

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Theory

Decision-maker chooses the member of A that is best according to her preferences

Many decision-makers: Strategic games

- ▶ Game theory concerns situations in which decision-makers *interact*

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any decision-making
entity: individual human
being, group of individuals,
animal, ...

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 - ▶ a set of possible

any set (numbers, lists of numbers, functions, ...)

actions

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A strategic game consists of

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action profile = list of actions, one for each player

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Preferences over action profiles $\implies$ each player cares about actions taken by *other* players (as well as her own action)

Many decision-makers: Strategic games

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A **strategic game** consists of

- ▶ a set of *players*
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 - ▶ a set of possible *actions*
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Strategic game: Example

- Players: two firms



Strategic game: Example

- ▶ Players: two firms
- ▶ For each firm:



Strategic game: Example

- ▶ Players: two firms
- ▶ For each firm:
 - ▶ possible actions: *low price*, *high price*



Strategic game: Example

- ▶ Players: two firms
- ▶ For each firm:
 - ▶ possible actions: *low price*, *high price*
 - ▶ preferences: for firm 1,

$$(low, high) \succ (high, high) \succ (low, low) \succ (high, low)$$



Strategic game: Example

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- ▶ For each firm:
 - ▶ possible actions: *low price*, *high price*
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and symmetrically for firm 2



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Comments

- ▶ Highly simplified model!

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- ▶ (Other patterns are also possible)

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Working with preferences

Use numbers to represent them:

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2	0
	<i>low</i>	3	1

Firm 1's payoffs

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Firm 1's payoffs

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2	3
	<i>low</i>	0	1

Firm 2's payoffs

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Working with preferences

Combine tables:

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Payoff of firm 1, payoff of firm 2

Strategic game: Example

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Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
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Notes

- We could use other numbers to represent preferences (e.g. profits)

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- ▶ For current purposes, only *order* matters

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- ▶ We could use other numbers to represent preferences (e.g. profits)
- ▶ For current purposes, only *order* matters
- ▶ What defines game are players' *preferences*, not specific payoff representations

Strategic game: Example

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Same game:

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	100, 100	-5, 101
	<i>low</i>	101, -5	0, 0

Strategic game: Example

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Same game:

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	100, 100	-5, 101
	<i>low</i>	101, -5	0, 0

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	0, 90	-100, 100
	<i>low</i>	100, -5	-1, 1

Strategic game: Example

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Same game:

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	100, 100	-5, 101
	<i>low</i>	101, -5	0, 0

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	0, 90	-100, 100
	<i>low</i>	100, -5	-1, 1

A game is determined by the players' *orderings* of the outcomes

Strategic game: Example

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Strategic game: Example

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

- Game is called

Strategic game: Example

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

- ▶ Game is called *Prisoner's Dilemma*

Strategic game: Example

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

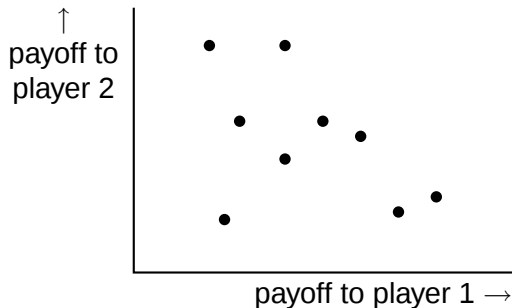
- ▶ Game is called *Prisoner's Dilemma*
- ▶ Structure of incentives in game is present in many situations

Strategic game: Example

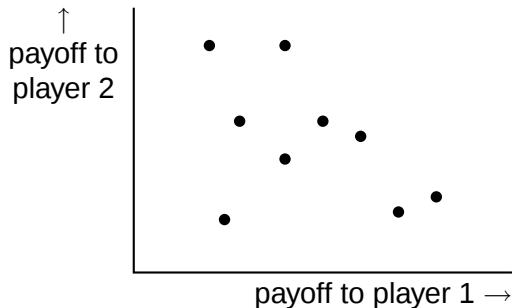
		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
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	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

- ▶ Game is called *Prisoner's Dilemma*
- ▶ Structure of incentives in game is present in many situations
- ▶ Has been used to model a huge variety of situations in diverse fields

Digression: Pareto efficiency

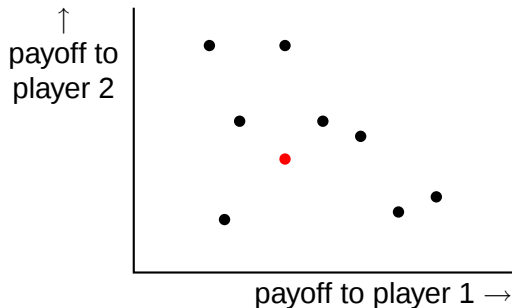


Digression: Pareto efficiency



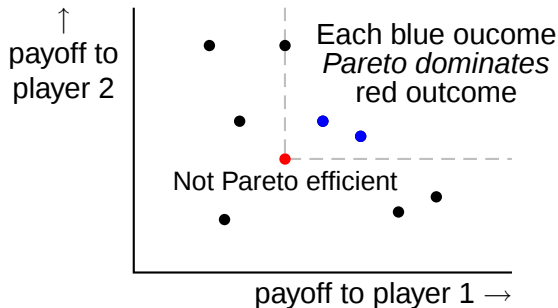
- Which outcomes are Pareto efficient?

Digression: Pareto efficiency



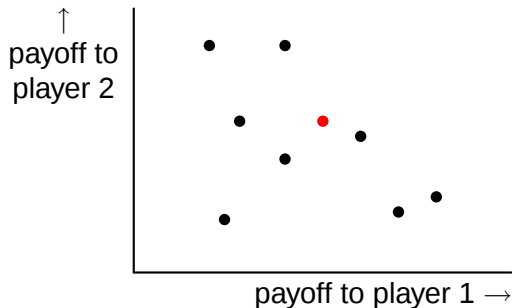
- Which outcomes are Pareto efficient?

Digression: Pareto efficiency



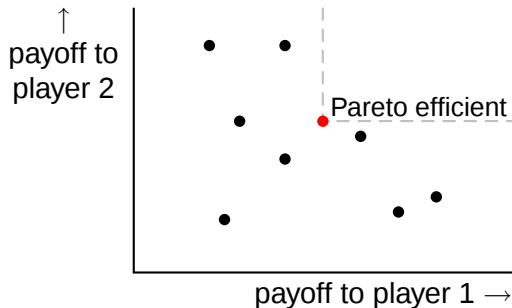
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Digression: Pareto efficiency



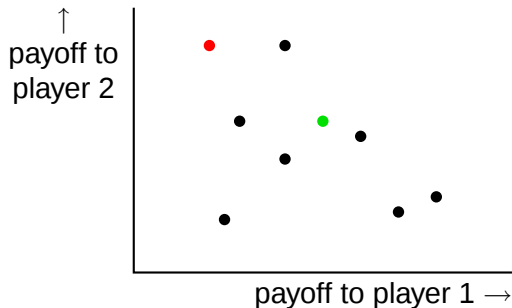
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Digression: Pareto efficiency



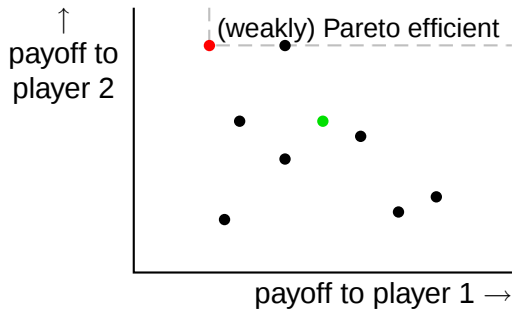
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Digression: Pareto efficiency



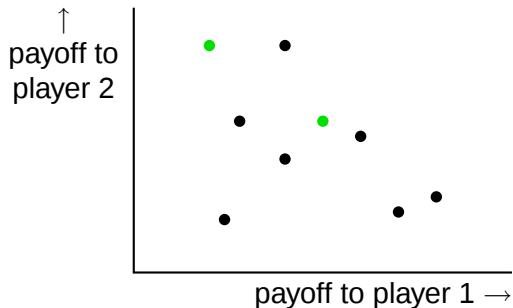
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Digression: Pareto efficiency



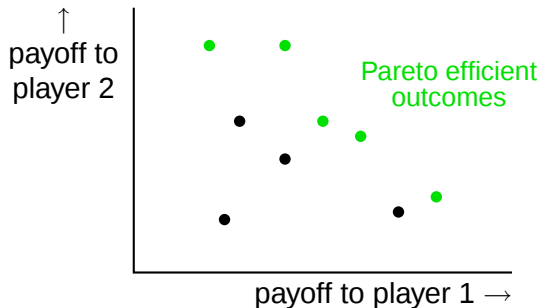
- Which outcomes are Pareto efficient?

Digression: Pareto efficiency



- Which outcomes are Pareto efficient?

Digression: Pareto efficiency



- ▶ Which outcomes are Pareto efficient?
- ▶ An outcome a is (weakly) *Pareto efficient* if there is no outcome that every player prefers to a

Strategic game: Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

- Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?

Strategic game: Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
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Strategic game: Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
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- ▶ Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?
- ▶ (*high, high*)

Strategic game: Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
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- ▶ Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?
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Strategic game: Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
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- ▶ Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?
- ▶ $(high, high)$, $(high, low)$

Strategic game: Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
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- ▶ Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?
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Strategic game: Prisoner's Dilemma

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- ▶ Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?
- ▶ $(high, high)$, $(high, low)$, $(low, high)$

Strategic game: Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

- ▶ Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?
- ▶ $(high, high)$, $(high, low)$, $(low, high)$

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	X	Y
X	2, 2	1, 1
Y	1, 1	0, 0

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	X	Y
X	2, 2	1, 1
Y	1, 1	0, 0

	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
Y	0, 0	1, 1

Coordination game

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	X	Y
X	2, 2	1, 1
Y	1, 1	0, 0

	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
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Coordination game

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

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	X	Y
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Coordination game

Strategic games: More examples

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	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
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Coordination game

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>X</i>	2, 2	1, 1
<i>Y</i>	1, 1	0, 0

	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>X</i>	2, 2	0, 0
<i>Y</i>	0, 0	1, 1

Coordination game

	<i>B</i>
<i>B</i>	
<i>Bach</i>	

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>
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	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>X</i>	2, 2	0, 0
<i>Y</i>	0, 0	1, 1

Coordination game

	<i>B</i>
<i>B</i>	
<i>Bach</i>	

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	X	Y
X	2, 2	1, 1
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	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
Y	0, 0	1, 1

Coordination game

	B	
B		
$Bach$		

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>X</i>	2, 2	1, 1
<i>Y</i>	1, 1	0, 0

	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>X</i>	2, 2	0, 0
<i>Y</i>	0, 0	1, 1

Coordination game

	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>B</i>		
<i>S</i>		

Bach or Stravinsky?

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	X	Y
X	2, 2	1, 1
Y	1, 1	0, 0

	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
Y	0, 0	1, 1

Coordination game

	B	S
B	2, 1	
S		

Bach or Stravinsky?

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	X	Y
X	2, 2	1, 1
Y	1, 1	0, 0

	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
Y	0, 0	1, 1

Coordination game

	B	S
B	2, 1	
S		1, 2

Bach or Stravinsky?

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	X	Y
X	2, 2	1, 1
Y	1, 1	0, 0

	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
Y	0, 0	1, 1

Coordination game

	B	S
B	2, 1	0, 0
S	0, 0	1, 2

Bach or Stravinsky?

Strategic games: More examples

In other examples, the pattern of incentives is different

	X	Y
X	2, 2	1, 1
Y	1, 1	0, 0

	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
Y	0, 0	1, 1

Coordination game

	B	S
B	2, 1	0, 0
S	0, 0	1, 2

Bach or Stravinsky?

	X	Y
X	1, -1	-1, 1
Y	-1, 1	1, -1

Matching pennies

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

Cournot's oligopoly game

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

Cournot's oligopoly game

- ▶ Players:

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

Cournot's oligopoly game

- ▶ Players: n firms

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

Cournot's oligopoly game

- ▶ Players: n firms
- ▶ For each firm
 - ▶ possible actions:

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

Cournot's oligopoly game

- ▶ Players: n firms
- ▶ For each firm
 - ▶ possible actions: outputs (nonnegative numbers)

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

Cournot's oligopoly game

- ▶ Players: n firms
- ▶ For each firm
 - ▶ possible actions: outputs (nonnegative numbers)
 - ▶ payoff:

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

Cournot's oligopoly game

- ▶ Players: n firms
- ▶ For each firm
 - ▶ possible actions: outputs (nonnegative numbers)
 - ▶ payoff: profit

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

Cournot's oligopoly game

- ▶ Players: n firms
- ▶ For each firm
 - ▶ possible actions: outputs (nonnegative numbers)
 - ▶ payoff: profit

Notes

- ▶ Many players, each with continuum of actions

A richer example

In examples so far, only two players, each with only two actions

Cournot's oligopoly game

- ▶ Players: n firms
- ▶ For each firm
 - ▶ possible actions: outputs (nonnegative numbers)
 - ▶ payoff: profit

Notes

- ▶ Many players, each with continuum of actions
- ▶ *Cannot* represent game in a table

Equilibrium outcomes

- ▶ We want to assume each player is rational

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- ▶ But each player doesn't know what others will do—so how to choose action?
- ▶ Form *beliefs* about others' actions
- ▶ Where do beliefs come from?

Equilibrium outcomes

- ▶ We want to assume each player is rational
- ▶ But each player doesn't know what others will do—so how to choose action?
- ▶ Form *beliefs* about others' actions
- ▶ Where do beliefs come from?
- ▶ Assume players have experience playing the game, or similar games—in fact, assume that their beliefs are *correct*

Equilibrium outcomes

- ▶ Each player's action is optimal given her beliefs

Equilibrium outcomes

- ▶ Each player's action is optimal given her beliefs
- ▶ Each player's belief is correct

Equilibrium outcomes

- ▶ Each player's action is optimal given her beliefs
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⇒ each player's action is optimal given other players' actions

Equilibrium outcomes

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- ▶ Each player's belief is correct

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Definition

A Nash equilibrium of a strategic game is an action profile

Equilibrium outcomes

- ▶ Each player's action is optimal given her beliefs
- ▶ Each player's belief is correct

⇒ each player's action is optimal given other players' actions

Definition

A Nash equilibrium of a strategic game is an action profile

list of actions, one
for each player

Equilibrium outcomes

- ▶ Each player's action is optimal given her beliefs
- ▶ Each player's belief is correct

⇒ each player's action is optimal given other players' actions

Definition

A Nash equilibrium of a strategic game is an action profile with the property that every player's action is optimal

Equilibrium outcomes

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Definition

A Nash equilibrium of a strategic game is an action profile with the property that every player's action is optimal, given the other players' actions.

Equilibrium outcomes

- ▶ Each player's action is optimal given her beliefs
- ▶ Each player's belief is correct

⇒ each player's action is optimal given other players' actions

Definition

A Nash equilibrium of a strategic game is an action profile with the property that every player's action is optimal, given the other players' actions.



Equilibrium outcomes

- ▶ Each player's action is optimal given her beliefs
- ▶ Each player's belief is correct

⇒ each player's action is optimal given other players' actions

Definition

A Nash equilibrium of a strategic game is an action profile with the property that every player's action is optimal, given the other players' actions.



Equivalently: an action profile is a Nash equilibrium if no player can increase her payoff by changing her action, given the other players' actions

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Check each action pair in turn

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Check each action pair in turn

- *(high, high)*:

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Check each action pair in turn

- ▶ (*high, high*): not a Nash equilibrium because firm 1 is better off deviating to *low* (and firm 2 is also better off deviating to *low*)

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
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- ▶ (*high, low*):

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

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- ▶ *(high, high)*: not a Nash equilibrium because firm 1 is better off deviating to *low* (and firm 2 is also better off deviating to *low*)
- ▶ *(high, low)*: not a Nash equilibrium because

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
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- ▶ *(high, low)*: not a Nash equilibrium because
- ▶ *(low, high)*:

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
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- ▶ *(high, high)*: not a Nash equilibrium because firm 1 is better off deviating to *low* (and firm 2 is also better off deviating to *low*)
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- ▶ *(low, high)*: not a Nash equilibrium because

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Check each action pair in turn

- ▶ (*high, high*): not a Nash equilibrium because firm 1 is better off deviating to *low* (and firm 2 is also better off deviating to *low*)
- ▶ (*high, low*): not a Nash equilibrium because
- ▶ (*low, high*): not a Nash equilibrium because
- ▶ (*low, low*):

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Check each action pair in turn

- ▶ *(high, high)*: not a Nash equilibrium because firm 1 is better off deviating to *low* (and firm 2 is also better off deviating to *low*)
- ▶ *(high, low)*: not a Nash equilibrium because
- ▶ *(low, high)*: not a Nash equilibrium because
- ▶ *(low, low)*: Nash equilibrium because each player is worse off switching to *high* if other player's action is *low*.

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

Check each action pair in turn

- ▶ *(high, high)*: not a Nash equilibrium because firm 1 is better off deviating to *low* (and firm 2 is also better off deviating to *low*)
- ▶ *(high, low)*: not a Nash equilibrium because
- ▶ *(low, high)*: not a Nash equilibrium because
- ▶ *(low, low)*: Nash equilibrium because each player is worse off switching to *high* if other player's action is *low*.

So: unique Nash equilibrium, *(low, low)*.

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

- Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

- ▶ Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?
 - ▶ $(low, high)$, $(high, high)$, $(high, low)$

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

- ▶ Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?
 - ▶ $(low, high)$, $(high, high)$, $(high, low)$
- ▶ Note that the unique Nash equilibrium, (low, low) , is *not* Pareto efficient

Prisoner's Dilemma

		Firm 2	
		<i>high</i>	<i>low</i>
Firm 1	<i>high</i>	2, 2	0, 3
	<i>low</i>	3, 0	1, 1

- ▶ Which outcomes (action pairs) are Pareto efficient?
 - ▶ $(low, high)$, $(high, high)$, $(high, low)$
- ▶ Note that the unique Nash equilibrium, (low, low) , is *not* Pareto efficient

Split or steal?

Split or steal?

	<i>Split</i>	<i>Steal</i>
<i>Split</i>	50,075, 50,075	0, 100,150
<i>Steal</i>	100,150, 0	0, 0

Split or steal?

	<i>Split</i>	<i>Steal</i>
<i>Split</i>	50,075, 50,075	0, 100,150
<i>Steal</i>	100,150, 0	0, 0

Nash equilibria?

Split or steal?

	<i>Split</i>	<i>Steal</i>
<i>Split</i>	50, 75, 50, 75	0, 100, 150
<i>Steal</i>	100, 150, 0	0, 0

Nash equilibria? (*Split*, *Steal*)

Split or steal?

	<i>Split</i>	<i>Steal</i>
<i>Split</i>	50, 75, 50, 75	0, 100, 150
<i>Steal</i>	100, 150, 0	0, 0

Nash equilibria? (*Split*, *Steal*), (*Steal*, *Split*)

Split or steal?

	<i>Split</i>	<i>Steal</i>
<i>Split</i>	50,075, 50,075	0, 100,150
<i>Steal</i>	100,150, 0	0, 0

Nash equilibria? (*Split*, *Steal*), (*Steal*, *Split*), and (*Steal*, *Steal*)

Split or steal?

	<i>Split</i>	<i>Steal</i>
<i>Split</i>	50, 75, 50, 75	0, 100, 150
<i>Steal</i>	100, 150, 0	0, 0

Nash equilibria? (*Split*, *Steal*), (*Steal*, *Split*), and (*Steal*, *Steal*)

Alternative representation:

	<i>Split</i>	<i>Steal</i>
<i>Split</i>	1, 1	0, 2
<i>Steal</i>	2, 0	0, 0

Split or steal?

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<i>Split</i>	50,075, 50,075	0, 100,150
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Compare with *Prisoner's Dilemma*:

	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 3
Y	3, 0	1, 1

Only difference between games:

Split or steal?

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Nash equilibria? (*Split*, *Steal*), (*Steal*, *Split*), and (*Steal*, *Steal*)

Alternative representation:

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Only difference between games: indicated preferences

Example of Nash equilibrium: Coordination game

	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
Y	0, 0	1, 1

Example of Nash equilibrium: Coordination game

	X	Y
X	2, 2	0, 0
Y	0, 0	1, 1

Two Nash equilibria, (X, X) and (Y, Y)

Example of Nash equilibrium: *Bach or Stravinsky?*

	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Stravinsky</i>
<i>Bach</i>	2, 1	0, 0
<i>Stravinsky</i>	0, 0	1, 2

Example of Nash equilibrium: *Bach or Stravinsky?*

	<i>Bach</i>	<i>Stravinsky</i>
<i>Bach</i>	2, 1	0, 0
<i>Stravinsky</i>	0, 0	1, 2

Two Nash equilibria, (B, B) and (S, S)

Example of Nash equilibrium: *Matching Pennies*

	H	T
H	$1, -1$	$-1, 1$
T	$-1, 1$	$1, -1$

Example of Nash equilibrium: *Matching Pennies*

	H	T
H	$1, -1$	$-1, 1$
T	$-1, 1$	$1, -1$

No Nash equilibrium!

Example of Nash equilibrium

	L	R
T	1, 1	2, 1
B	0, 0	2, 4

Example of Nash equilibrium

	L	R
T	1, 1	2, 1
B	0, 0	2, 4

Nash equilibria: (T, L) , (T, R) , and (B, R)

Example: Investing in a joint project

- ▶ n people

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- ▶ Noninvestors unaffected by outcome of project

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- ▶ Project succeeds $\Rightarrow$ every investor gets positive return
- ▶ Project fails $\Rightarrow$ every investor suffers a loss
- ▶ Noninvestors unaffected by outcome of project
- ▶ So for every person,

invest & project succeeds $\succ$ don't invest $\succ$ invest & project fails

Investing in a joint project

Strategic game

- Players:

Investing in a joint project

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- ▶ Players: n people

Investing in a joint project

Strategic game

- ▶ Players: n people
- ▶ For each player,
 - ▶ possible actions:

Investing in a joint project

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Strategic game

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$$\begin{cases} 100 & \text{if at least } k \text{ people choose } \textit{Invest} \\ -10 & \text{if fewer than } k \text{ people choose } \textit{Invest} \end{cases}$$

If player chooses *Don't invest*, 0 regardless of others' actions

Investing in a joint project

Nash equilibrium

- ▶ k people invest?

Investing in a joint project

Nash equilibrium

- ▶ k people invest?
- ▶ n people invest?

Investing in a joint project

Nash equilibrium

- ▶ k people invest?
- ▶ n people invest?
- ▶ no one invests?

Investing in a joint project

Nash equilibrium

- ▶ k people invest?
- ▶ n people invest?
- ▶ no one invests?
- ▶ some other number of people invest?

Investing in a joint project

Reminder of payoffs:

- ▶ *Invest* $\Rightarrow 100$ if $\geq k$ investors, -10 if $< k$ investors
- ▶ *Don't invest* $\Rightarrow 0$

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- ▶ n people invest: Nash equilibrium because player deviates $\Rightarrow$ gets 0 rather than 100

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- ▶ between 1 and $k - 1$ people invest: not Nash equilibrium because investor deviates $\Rightarrow$ gets 0 rather than -10

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- ▶ between 1 and $k - 1$ people invest: not Nash equilibrium because investor deviates $\Rightarrow$ gets 0 rather than -10
- ▶ between k and $n - 1$ people invest: not Nash equilibrium because noninvestor deviates $\Rightarrow$ gets 100 rather than 0

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Reminder of payoffs:

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Summary

Exactly two Nash equilibria:

- ▶ everyone invests
- ▶ no one invests

Traveler's Dilemma

- ▶ Airline has lost suitcases of two travelers

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Traveler's Dilemma

Strategic game

- Players:

Traveler's Dilemma

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- ▶ Players: two travelers

Traveler's Dilemma

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- ▶ For each player,
 - ▶ possible actions:

Traveler's Dilemma

Strategic game

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- ▶ For each player,
 - ▶ possible actions: \$2, \$3, $\dots$, \$100

Traveler's Dilemma

Strategic game

- ▶ Players: two travelers
- ▶ For each player,
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 - ▶ payoffs: for player i ,

{

Traveler's Dilemma

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$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{if } a_i = a_j \end{array} \right.$$

where a_i is i 's action and a_j is the other player's action

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$$\begin{cases} a_i + 2 & \text{if } a_i < a_j \\ a_i & \text{if } a_i = a_j \end{cases}$$

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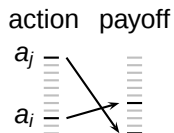
$$\begin{cases} a_i + 2 & \text{if } a_i < a_j \\ a_i & \text{if } a_i = a_j \\ a_j - 2 & \text{if } a_i > a_j \end{cases}$$

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Traveler's Dilemma

Nash equilibrium

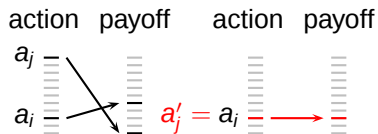
- ▶ $a_i < a_j$?



Traveler's Dilemma

Nash equilibrium

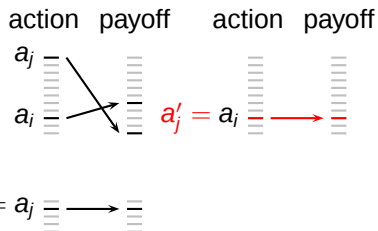
- ▶ $a_i < a_j$?
 - ▶ Not NE: j lowers a_j to a_i
 $\Rightarrow$ increases j 's payoff



Traveler's Dilemma

Nash equilibrium

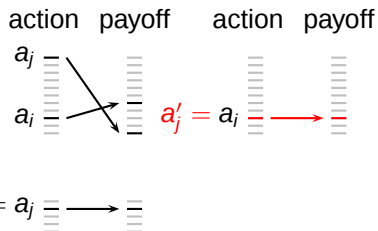
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Traveler's Dilemma

Nash equilibrium

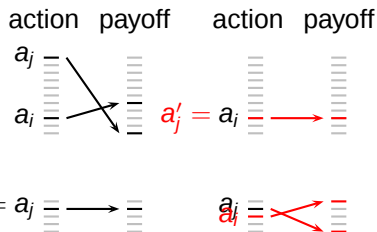
- ▶ $a_i < a_j$?
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- ▶ $a_i = a_j$?
 - ▶ If $a_i \geq 3$



Traveler's Dilemma

Nash equilibrium

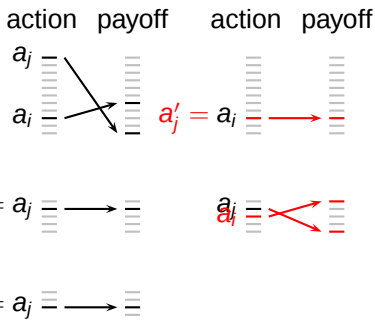
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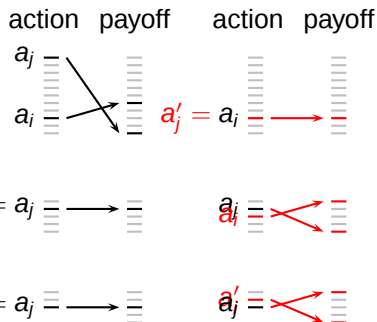
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 - ▶ If $a_i = a_j = 2$



Traveler's Dilemma

Nash equilibrium

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- ▶ $a_i = a_j$?
 - ▶ If $a_i \geq 3$, not NE: i lowers a_i to $a_i - 1 \Rightarrow$ increases i 's payoff
 - ▶ If $a_i = a_j = 2$, NE! If either player increases amount, payoff = 0



Traveler's Dilemma

Summary

Unique Nash equilibrium: both travelers name the lowest possible valuation, \$2