ECO2030: Microeconomic Theory II, module 1

Lecture 3

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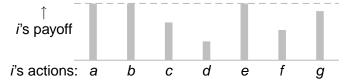
Domination by a mixed strategy

Rationalizability

Bayesian games: introduction

Finding equilibria

- α^* is a mixed strategy Nash equilibrium $\Leftrightarrow \alpha_i^*$ is a best response to α_{-i}^* for all i
- ▶ When is a mixed strategy α_i a best response to α_{-i}^* ?
- Suppose expected payoffs to player i's actions, given α^{*}_{-i}, are:



- ▶ What mixed strategies of player *i* are best responses to α_{-i}^* ?
- ▶ Mixed strategy α_i is a best response to α_{-i}^* if and only if it assigns probability zero to c, d, and f; all probability must be assigned to actions that are best responses to α_{-i}^*

Characterization of mixed strategy Nash equilibrium

Definition

Support of mixed strategy = set of actions to which strategy assigns positive probability

Proposition (Lemma 33.2)

 α^* is a mixed strategy Nash equilibrium

 \Leftrightarrow

for every player $i, \, \alpha_i^*$ is a best response to α_{-i}^*

 \Leftarrow

for every player i, every action in support of α_i^* is a best response to α_i^* .

Finding equilibria

- Consider two-player game
- Actions 1,..., k for player 1 and 1,..., m for player 2
- ► Mixed strategy pair $((p_1, ..., p_k), (q_1, ..., q_m))$ is mixed strategy Nash equilibrium if and only if there exist numbers π_1 and π_2 such that

$$E(u_1(j,q))$$
 $\begin{cases} = \pi_1 & \text{for every action } j \text{ with } p_j > 0 \\ \le \pi_1 & \text{for every action } j \text{ with } p_j = 0 \end{cases}$

and

$$E(u_2(p,j))$$
 $\begin{cases} = \pi_2 & \text{for every action } j \text{ with } q_j > 0 \\ \leq \pi_2 & \text{for every action } j \text{ with } q_j = 0 \end{cases}$

Is strategy pair a mixed strategy Nash equilibrium?

	L (0)	$C(\frac{1}{3})$	$R(\frac{2}{3})$	
$T(\frac{3}{4})$	·, 2	3,3	1,1	<u>5</u> 3
M (0)	٠,٠	0, ·	2, ·	53 43 53
$B(\frac{1}{4})$	·, 4	5, 1	0,7	<u>5</u> 3
	<u>5</u> 2	<u>5</u> 2	<u>5</u> 2	

(Unspecified payoffs are irrelevant.)

- Compute expected payoff of each action, given other player's actions
- If every action in support of each player's mixed strategy yields same payoff and actions outside support yield at most this payoff then strategy pair is mixed strategy Nash equilibrium

Finding equilibria

Finding mixed strategy Nash equilibria

Finding mixed strategy equilibrium in which each player's strategy has given support, if one exists:

- ▶ For each player i = 1, ..., n, let $S_i \subseteq A_i$
- ▶ To find mixed strategy equilibrium $(p_1, ..., p_n)$ in which support of p_i is S_i for each player i,
 - find solution of system of equations

$$E(u_1(j,p_{-1})) = \pi_1$$
 for every $j \in S_i$
 \vdots
 $E(u_n(j,p_{-n})) = \pi_n$ for every $j \in S_n$

(if one exists)

▶ Check, for each player *i*, whether $E(u_i(j, p_{-i})) \le \pi_i$ for every action *j* of player *i*

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc}
L & C & R \\
T & 1,2 & 3,3 & 1,1 \\
M & 1,0 & 0,2 & 2,1 \\
B & 3,4 & 2,1 & 0,7
\end{array}$$

Equilibrium in which support of player 1's strategy is $\{T, M\}$ and support of player 2's strategy is $\{L, C\}$?

For player 1 to get same payoff from T and B need

$$q_1 + 3q_2 = \pi_1$$
$$q_1 = \pi_1$$

which obviously has no solution with $q_2>0$ So no equilibrium with these supports

Rationalizability

Finding equilibria

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} & L & C & R \\ T & 1,2 & 3,3 & 1,1 \\ M & 1,0 & 0,2 & 2,1 \\ B & 3,4 & 2,1 & 0,7 \end{array}$$

Equilibrium in which support of player 1's strategy is $\{T, B\}$ and support of player 2's strategy is $\{L, C\}$?

For player 1 to get same payoff from T and B need

$$q_1 + 3q_2 = \pi_1 \ 3q_1 + 2q_2 = \pi_1 \ \Rightarrow q_1 = \frac{1}{3}, q_2 = \frac{2}{3}, \pi_1 = \frac{7}{3} \ (q_1 + q_2 = 1)$$

For player 2 to get same payoff from L and C need

$$\begin{array}{ll} 2p_1 + 4p_3 = \pi_2 \\ 3p_1 + p_3 = \pi_2 \end{array} \Rightarrow p_1 = \frac{3}{4}, p_3 = \frac{1}{4}, \pi_2 = \frac{10}{4} \quad (p_1 + p_3 = 1)$$

	L	С	R
Τ	1,2	3,3	1, 1
Μ	1,0	0,2	2, 1
В	3,4	2,1	0,7

Equilibrium in which support of player 1's strategy is $\{T, B\}$ and support of player 2's strategy is $\{L, C\}$?

$$q_1 = \frac{1}{3}, q_2 = \frac{2}{3}, \pi_1 = \frac{7}{3}; p_1 = \frac{3}{4}, p_3 = \frac{1}{4}, \pi_2 = \frac{10}{4}$$

For an equilibrium, need also

1's payoff to
$$M \le \pi_1 \implies q_1 \le \frac{7}{3}$$
, which is true

and

2's payoff to
$$R \le \pi_2$$
 $\Rightarrow p_1 + 7p_3 \le \frac{10}{4}$, which is true

So equilibrium exists with these supports

Finding all mixed strategy equilibria

Procedure

- ▶ For each player i, choose a set $S_i \subseteq A_i$
- ► Find all the mixed strategy equilibria of the game in which the support of the strategy of each player *i* is S_i
- ▶ Repeat for all possible profiles $(S_i)_{i \in N}$ of such subsets

Finding equilibria

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
 L & R \\
 T & 1,1 & 2,0 \\
 B & 1,0 & 0,2
\end{array}$$

- Subsets of A₁: {T}, {B}, {T, B}
- Subsets of A₂: {L}, {R}, {L, R}

Pairs of subsets:

P1	P2	NE?
\overline{T}	{ <i>L</i> }	Yes
{ <i>T</i> }	{ R }	No: R is not best response
{ <i>T</i> }	$\{L,R\}$	No: P2 not indifferent between L, R
{ B }	{ <i>L</i> }	No: L is not best response
{ B }	{ R }	No: B is not best response
{ B }	$\{L,R\}$	No: P2 not indifferent between L, R
$\{T, B\}$	{ <i>L</i> }	L is best response $\Leftrightarrow p \ge 2(1-p) \Leftrightarrow p \ge \frac{2}{3}$
{ <i>T</i> , <i>B</i> }	{ <i>R</i> }	No: P1 not indifferent between T, B
{ T , B }	$\{L,R\}$	No: B not best response if $q < 1$

			L C R		
		Τ	1,2 3,3 1,1		
		Μ	1,0 0,2 2,1		
		В	3,4 2,1 0,7		
P1	P2		NE?		
$\overline{\{T\}}$	{ <i>L</i> }		No: L is not BR		
{ T }	{ C }		Yes		
Other singleton pairs		`S	No:		
{ T }	{ <i>L</i> , <i>C</i> }		No: P2 not indifferent between L, C		
Other pairs w/ 1			Only one with indifference: $(\{T, M\}, \{L\})$.		
action in support			Not NE, because <i>B</i> is better than <i>T</i> , <i>M</i> .		
for one pl	ayer				
$\{T,M\}$	•		No: L is not BR to any strategy with support $\{T, M\}$		

	L	С	R
Τ	1,2	3,3	1,1
Μ	1,0	0,2	2, 1
В	3,4	2,1	0,7

 $\{\overline{T,B}\}$ Find *q* s.t. P1 indifferent between *T* and B: $q = \frac{1}{3}$. Find p s.t. P2 indifferent between L and C: $p = \frac{3}{4}$. Now check payoffs to M and R: payoff to M <payoff to T, B; payoff to R <payoff to $L, C \Rightarrow Nash equilibrium$.

NE?

Other pairs w/ 2 actions in each support

Rationalizability

	L	С	R
Τ	1,2	3,3	1,1
Μ	1,0	0,2	2, 1
В	3,4	2, 1	0,7

Pairs w/ 2 actions in support for 1 player, 3 actions in support for other $\{T, M, B\}$ $\{L, C, R\}$

NE?

For each player, three equations in three unknowns.

Finding all mixed strategy equilibria

- Method is exhaustive
- ... and exhausting for even moderate sized games
- Number of possible supports for mixed strategy of player with *k* actions: 2^k − 1
- So *n* players each with *k* actions $\Rightarrow (2^k 1)^n$ possible pairs of supports
- ▶ 4 players, 4 actions each \Rightarrow (15)⁴ \approx 50,000 possible pairs
- ▶ 2 players, 10 actions each \Rightarrow (1,023)² \approx 1,000,000 possible pairs
- Computationally efficient methods exist to find an equilibrium
- See http://www.gambit-project.org/ and Chapter 4 of Multiagent Systems by Shoham and Leyton-Brown

Finding equilibria Strict equilibrium Example Domination Rationalizability Bayesian games

Strict Nash equilibrium

Definition

A Nash equilibrium is **strict** if, for every player, the payoff to every nonequilibrium strategy is *less than* the payoff to her equilibrium strategy, given the other players' strategies

Examples

- Nash equilibrium of Prisoner's Dilemma is strict
- Pure strategy Nash equilibria of BoS are strict
- Nash equilibrium of Bertrand's duopoly game is not strict
- Mixed strategy Nash equilibrium in which some player's strategy is not pure is not strict (all actions in support of strategy yield same payoff)

- Every mixed strategy with the same support as equilibrium mixed strategy is best response to other players' strategies
- So no player has a positive incentive to choose equilibrium strategy
- What determines her equilibrium strategy?
- Strategy is determined by requirement that other players' strategies be optimal
- Specifically, in two-player game, one player's equilibrium mixed strategy keeps other player indifferent between a set of her actions, so that she is willing to randomize

	$L(\frac{2}{3})$	$R(\frac{1}{3})$
$T(\frac{1}{5})$	1,0	0,4
$B(\frac{4}{5})$	0, 1	2,0

Example: reporting a crime ("volunteer's dilemma")

- Many people witness a crime
- One person's reporting crime to police suffices
- When deciding whether to report, each person doesn't know whether anyone else has reported
- A person who reports bears a cost c
- If the crime is reported, everyone obtains the benefit v > c

Strategic game

Players *n* individuals
Actions For each player, { Call, Don't call}

Payoffs For each player i,

$$u_{i}(a) = \begin{cases} v - c & \text{if } a_{i} = Call \\ v & \text{if } a_{i} = Don't call \text{ and} \\ a_{j} = Call \text{ for some } j \neq i \\ 0 & \text{if } a_{j} = Don't call \text{ for all } j \end{cases}$$

Application: reporting a crime ("volunteer's dilemma")

Nash equilibria

- Equilibria in pure strategies? n pure Nash equilibria, in each of which exactly one player calls
- How can these equilibria be realized? For an equilibrium in which player 1 calls, who is player 1?
- Look for symmetric equilibrium, in mixed strategies

Rationalizability

Application: reporting a crime ("volunteer's dilemma")

Mixed strategy Nash equilibrium

In mixed strategy equilibrium in which every player calls with same probability p with 0 ,

payoff if player calls = payoff if player doesn't call

$$\Rightarrow$$

$$v - c = 0 \cdot Pr\{\text{no one else calls}\} + v \cdot Pr\{\geq \text{one other person calls}\}$$

$$\Rightarrow$$

$$v - c = v \cdot (1 - Pr\{\text{no one else calls}\})$$

$$\Rightarrow$$

$$c/v = Pr\{No \text{ one else calls}\} = (1-p)^{n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow$$

$$p = 1 - (c/v)^{1/(n-1)}$$

Mixed strategy Nash equilibrium

 Conclusion: in a symmetric mixed strategy Nash equilibrium, every player calls with probability

$$p = 1 - (c/v)^{1/(n-1)}$$

(Note: this number is between 0 and 1.)

Finding equilibria

$$p = 1 - (c/v)^{1/(n-1)}$$

- ▶ $n \uparrow \Rightarrow p \downarrow$: more people \Rightarrow each is less likely to call
- Probability that at least one person calls:

$$= 1 - Pr\{no one calls\}$$

$$= 1 - Pr\{i \text{ does not call}\} Pr\{no \text{ one else calls}\}$$

$$=1-(1-p)(c/v)$$

Because
$$n \uparrow \Rightarrow p \downarrow$$
,

$$n \uparrow \Rightarrow \Pr\{\text{at least one person calls}\} \downarrow$$

⇒ the more people, the *less* likely the police are informed

Domination by a mixed strategy

An action may be dominated by a *mixed strategy* even if it is not dominated by a pure strategy

Example

(where the payoffs are those of player 1)

▶ $\frac{1}{2} \cdot M \oplus \frac{1}{2} \cdot B$ strictly dominates T

An action strictly dominated by a mixed strategy is not used with positive probability in a mixed strategy equilibrium, and hence can be eliminated when looking for Nash equilibria

Mixed strategy equilibrium

- Interpretation: Read Section 3.2 of book
- Omit Section 3.3 (correlated equilibrium)
- Omit Section 3.4 (evolutionary equilibrium)

Another approach to outcomes in strategic games

Definition

A belief of player i (about the other players' actions) is a probability distribution on $\times_{j \in N \setminus \{i\}} A_j$ (the set of lists of the other players' actions)

Note: a belief may involve correlation between the other players' actions

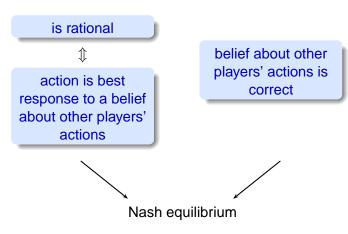
Definition

A player in a strategic game is rational if her mixed strategy is a best response to some belief

Finding equilibria Strict equilibrium Example Domination Rationalizability Bayesian games

Implications of rationality

Every player



Every player

is rational



action is best response to a belief about other players' actions belief about other players' actions is correct

Which actions are best responses to some belief?

Proposition

An action is a best response to some belief if and only if it is not strictly dominated by a mixed strategy.

So every player is rational \Rightarrow no player's strategy is strictly dominated by any mixed strategy

Example: Prisoner's Dilemma

Players are rational \Rightarrow action pair is (F, F)

Every player

is rational



no player's strategy is strictly dominated by a mixed strategy

... and believes that other players are rational

... and believes that other players believe she is rational

... and believes that other playersbelieve she believes they are rational

... and so on

Example

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} & L & C & R \\ T & 0,4 & 4,0 & 2,1 \\ M & 1,0 & 3,1 & 3,2 \\ B & 0,2 & 2,3 & 1,1 \\ \end{array}$$

- ▶ Player 1 is rational ⇒ does not choose B (strictly dominated by M)
- ▶ Player 2 believes player 1 is rational ⇒ player 2 believes player 1 does not choose B So player 2 is rational \Rightarrow she does not choose C (strictly dominated by R)
- Player 1 believes that player 2 is rational and that player 2 believes player 1 is rational \Rightarrow player 1 believes player 2 believes player 1 does not choose B and that player 2 therefore does not choose C
 - So player 1 is rational \Rightarrow she does not choose T
- In one more step ... player 2 does not choose L

Finding equilibria Strict equilibrium Example Domination Rationalizability Bayesian games

Implications of rationality

Example

$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc}
L & C & R \\
T & 0.4 & 4.0 & 2.1 \\
M & 1.0 & 3.1 & 3.2 \\
B & 0.2 & 2.3 & 1.1
\end{array}$$

Conclusion

Every player is rational and believes every other player is rational and believes every other player believes she is rational and so on . . .

 \Rightarrow only action pair that remains is (M, R)

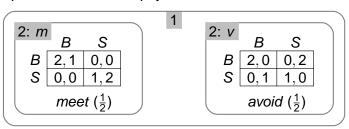
- Each player's action in any action profile that survives iterated elimination of strictly dominated actions is rationalizable
 - ► Note: domination = domination by a mixed strategy
- Any action used with positive probability in a mixed strategy Nash equilibrium is rationalizable
- But in many games other actions also are rationalizable
- If no action of any player is strictly dominated, then all actions of every player are rationalizable

Bayesian games

- Strategic game models situation in which each player knows preferences of other players
- In some situations, players are not certain of other players' preferences
- Model of Bayesian Game allows players to face uncertainty about other players' preferences

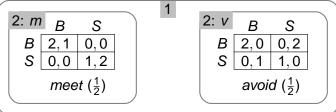
Bayesian games: motivational example Variant of BoS with imperfect information

- Player 1 doesn't know whether
 - ▶ player 2 prefers to go out with her—player 2 is type m
 - or prefers to avoid her—player 2 is type v
- ► She thinks probabilities of states are $\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2}$
- Player 2 knows player 1's preferences
- ► Probabilities are involved, so need players' preferences over lotteries, even if interested only in pure strategy equilibria ⇒ Bernoulli payoffs



Bayesian games: motivational example

Variant of BoS with imperfect information



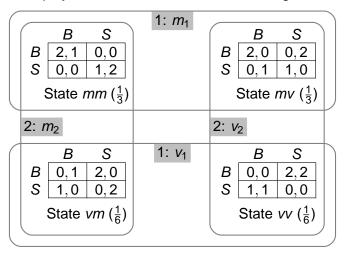
An equilibrium

- Player 1 chooses B
- Type m of player 2 chooses B and type v chooses S
- Argument:
 - ▶ P1 chooses $B \Rightarrow \text{payoff } \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 = 1$; deviates to $S \Rightarrow$ payoff $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 = \frac{1}{2}$
 - ▶ Type \overline{m} of player 2: deviate to $S \Rightarrow$ payoff 0
 - ▶ Type v of player 2: deviate to $B \Rightarrow$ payoff 0

Bayesian games: motivational example

Another variant of *BoS* with imperfect information

Neither player knows whether other wants to go out with her



Finding equilibria Strict equilibrium Example Domination Rationalizability Bayesian games

Bayesian games: motivational example Another variant of *BoS* with imperfect information

- How to model information?
- Each player receives signal about state before choosing action:
 - ▶ Player 1 receives same signal, say m_1 , in states mm and mv, and same signal, say $v_1 \neq m_1$, in states vm and vv
 - ▶ Player 2 receives same signal, say m_2 , in states mm and vm, and same signal, say $v_2 \neq m_2$, in states mv and vv.
- Player i who receives signal t_i is type t_i of player i
- Type m₁ of player 1's posterior belief: state is mm with probability ½ and mv with probability ½ Type v₁ of player 1's posterior belief: state is vm with probability ½ and vv with probability ½
- ▶ Type m_2 of player 2's posterior belief: state is mm with probability $\frac{2}{3}$ and vm with probability $\frac{1}{3}$ Type v_2 of player 2's posterior belief: state is mv with probability $\frac{2}{3}$ and vv with probability $\frac{1}{3}$

Strict equilibrium

Bayesian games

Finding equilibria

Elements new relative to strategic game are indicated in red

A Bayesian game consists of

- a finite set N (players)
- a set Ω (states)
- for each player i ∈ N
 - ▶ a set *A_i* (actions)
 - a set T_i (of signals that i may receive) and a function
 τ_i : Ω → T_i that associates a signal with each state (i's signal function)
 - ▶ a probability measure p_i on Ω (*i*'s prior belief) with $p_i(\tau_i^{-1}(t_i)) > 0$ for all $t_i \in T_i$
 - a preference relation over probability distributions over A × Ω (represented by the expected value of a Bernoulli payoff function).

Notes

- ▶ *i* has no information: $\tau_i(\omega) = \tau_i(\omega')$ for all ω , ω'
- ▶ *i* has perfect information: $\tau_i(\omega) \neq \tau_i(\omega')$ if $\omega \neq \omega'$

Finding equilibria

```
Players N = \{1, 2\} (the pair of people)
 States \Omega = \{ meet, avoid \}
Actions A_1 = A_2 = \{B, S\}
Signals T_1 = \{z\} and \tau_1(meet) = \tau_1(avoid) = z
          T_2 = \{m, v\} and \tau_2(meet) = m and \tau_2(avoid) = v
Beliefs p_1(meet) = p_2(meet) = \frac{1}{2},
         p_1(avoid) = p_2(avoid) = \frac{1}{2}
Payoffs The payoffs u_i(a, meet) of each player i for all
         possible action pairs are given in the left panel of
         the figure on the earlier slide and the payoffs
          u_i(a, avoid) are given in the right panel
```

Finding equilibria

Players
$$N = \{1, 2\}$$
 (the pair of people)

States $\Omega = \{mm, mv, vm, vv\}$

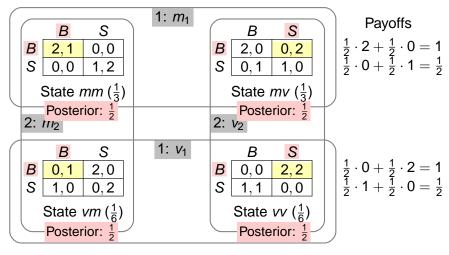
Actions $A_1 = A_2 = \{B, S\}$

Signals $T_1 = \{m_1, v_1\}, \ \tau_1(mm) = \tau_1(mv) = m_1, \ \text{and} \ \tau_1(vm) = \tau_1(vv) = v_1 \ T_2 = \{m_2, v_2\}, \ \tau_2(mm) = \tau_2(vm) = m_2, \ \text{and} \ \tau_2(mv) = \tau_2(vv) = v_2$

Beliefs $p_i(mm) = p_i(mv) = \frac{1}{3} \ \text{and} \ p_i(vm) = p_i(vv) = \frac{1}{6} \ \text{for} \ i = 1, 2$

Payoffs The payoffs $u_i(a, \omega)$ of each player i for all possible action pairs and states are given on the earlier slide

Second example: Nash equilibria



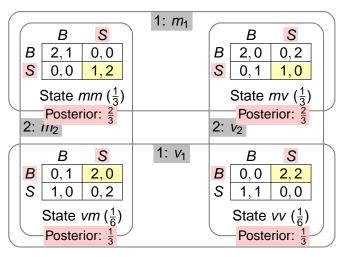
Payoffs: 1 0

0 2

Nash equilibrium: ((B, B), (B, S))

Finding equilibria Strict equilibrium Example Domination Rationalizability Bayesian games

Second example: Nash equilibria



Another Nash equilibrium: ((S, B), (S, S))