

**Problem 1.** Consider the Cournot competition game from the last problem set (PS8, Problem 2). Now suppose this game is infinitely repeated with common discount factor  $\delta < 1$ .

- (a) What is the set of feasible and strictly individually rational payoffs in this game? In particular, what is the greatest symmetric feasible payoff vector?
- (b) Show that, using trigger strategies which involve switching to the static Nash equilibrium ( $q_1 = \frac{1}{3}, q_2 = \frac{1}{3}$ ), the players can attain their greatest symmetric feasible payoffs in a SPE whenever  $\delta \geq \frac{9}{17}$ .
- (c) We will now show that the set of feasible and individually rational payoff vectors for the Cournot game includes some where the players receive *lower* payoffs than they would if they repeatedly played the static Nash equilibrium. Use the one-shot deviation principle to show that the symmetric strategy profile described below is a SPE if  $\delta \geq \frac{9}{40}$ , and show that the per-period payoffs players receive from it corresponds to a payoff vector in which each player receives less than the static Nash equilibrium profit.

$$q_i(h^t) = \begin{cases} 3/8 & \text{if } t = 0 \\ 1/3 & \text{if } t > 0 \text{ and both players followed strategy } q \text{ in the previous period} \\ 3/8 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(Note that the “punishment” of  $q_1 = q_2 = \frac{3}{8}$  lasts for only one period after a deviation.)

- (d) Construct a SPE using the strategies in part (c) as punishments where the players attain their greatest symmetric feasible payoffs in a SPE for some  $\delta < \frac{9}{17}$ .

**Problem 2.** In Lectures 19-20 we saw that, in the repeated prisoners' dilemma with anonymous random matching, for any fixed  $N$ , there exists  $\bar{\delta}$  such that, if  $\delta > \bar{\delta}$ , *Always Cooperate* is a Nash equilibrium outcome. Prove that, for any fixed  $\delta$ , there exists  $\bar{N}$  such that, if  $N > \bar{N}$ , the unique Nash equilibrium outcome is *Always Defect*. So, with anonymous random matching, is cooperation possible in a large group of patient players, or isn't it?

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