

Game Theory and Applications (博弈论及其应用)

# **Chapter 12: Repeated Games II**

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## Recap on Previous Chapter

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- Repeated game: many real interactions have an ongoing structure; players consider short- and long-term payoffs.
- A repeated game  $G^T(\delta)$  consists of stage game  $G$ , terminal date  $T$  and discount factor  $\delta$
- Folk Theorem
  - An infinitely repeated game with a stage game equilibrium  $a^* = (a_1^*, a_2^*, \dots, a_N^*)$  with payoffs  $u^* = (u_1^*, u_2^*, \dots, u_N^*)$ .
  - Suppose there is another  $\hat{a} = (\hat{a}_1, \hat{a}_2, \dots, \hat{a}_N)$  with payoffs  $\hat{u} = (\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2, \dots, \hat{u}_N)$ , where,  $\hat{u}_i \geq u_i^*$  for every player  $i$
  - There is a Subgame Perfect Nash Equilibrium for some discount factor  $\delta$

# Construct SPNE in Repeated Games

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1. Solve all equilibria of the stage game (**Competition**)
2. Find an outcome (equilibrium/not) where all the players do at least as well as in the stage game (**Cooperation**)
3. Design **trigger strategies** that support cooperation and punish with competition
4. Compute **the maximum discount factor** so that cooperation is an equilibrium
5. The trigger strategies are an **SPEN** of the infinitely repeated game for some larger discount factor

# Repeated Cournot Competition

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- Two firms compete by choosing how much to produce

$$G = \{\{1, 2\}, \{q_1, q_2\}, \{u_1, u_2\}\}$$

- Price

$$p(q_1 + q_2) = \max(0, a - (q_1 + q_2))$$

- Costs ( $i = 1, 2$ )

$$c_i(q_i) = 0$$

这里简化为  
cost为0

- Payoffs ( $i = 1, 2$ )

$$u_i(q_1, q_2) = (\max(0, a - (q_1 + q_2)))q_i$$

- Condition  $a > 0, q_1 \geq 0, q_2 \geq 0$

## Step 1: Nash Equilibrium for One Stage

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Best Response Correspondence is given by

$$B_i(q_{-i}) = \max(0, (a - q_{-i})/2)$$

The Nash equilibria is give by

$$q^* = (q_1^*, q_2^*) = \left(\frac{a}{3}, \frac{a}{3}\right)$$

The payoff is

$$u^* = (u_1^*, u_2^*) = \left(\frac{a^2}{9}, \frac{a^2}{9}\right)$$

What happens if two firms cooperate for their profits?

## Maximal Payoff for Cooperation

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Summing the firms' profits, we get

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 + u_2 &= (a - q_1 - q_2)q_1 + (a - q_1 - q_2)q_2 \\ &= (a - q_1 - q_2)(q_1 + q_2) \end{aligned}$$

Maximizing the above gives

$$q_1 + q_2 = a/2$$

The total payoff for cooperation:  $a^2/4 = 2a^2/8$

The total payoff for completion:  $2a^2/9$

**Cooperation is potentially profitable**

## Step 2: Cooperation

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Suppose the two firms are playing the Cournot game an infinite number of times, and they share a discount factor  $\delta$ .

Let

$$\hat{q} = (\hat{q}_1, \hat{q}_2) = \left(\frac{a}{4}, \frac{a}{4}\right)$$
$$\hat{u} = (\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2) = \left(\frac{a^2}{8}, \frac{a^2}{8}\right)$$

In competitive model,

$$\hat{q} = (\hat{q}_1, \hat{q}_2) = \left(\frac{a}{3}, \frac{a}{3}\right)$$
$$\hat{u} = (\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2) = \left(\frac{a^2}{9}, \frac{a^2}{9}\right)$$

## Step 3: Trigger Strategy

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Consider the strategy:

- If the two firms have both used  $\hat{q} = (a/4, a/4)$  in all previous periods, use  $\hat{q}_j = a/4$  this period
- If either firm ever did anything besides  $\hat{q}$ , play the stage Cournot quantity  $q_j^* = a/3$

Is this a **subgame perfect Nash equilibrium** of the infinitely repeated game?



## Check the NE of Cooperative Strategy

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To check whether  $\hat{q} = (\hat{q}_1, \hat{q}_2) = (a/4, a/4)$  is a NE?

By symmetry, it is sufficient to check player 1. We solve

$$\max_{q_2} (a - \hat{q}_1 - q_2)q_2 = \max_{q_2} (a - a/4 - q_2)q_2$$

Maximizing the above gives

$$q'_2 = \frac{3a}{8}, u'_2 \left( \frac{a}{4}, \frac{3a}{8} \right) = \left( \frac{3a}{8} \right)^2$$

9/64 = 0.140625  
大于1/9=0.111111

$\hat{q} = (\hat{q}_1, \hat{q}_2) = (a/4, a/4)$  is not a NE

## Step 4: Select Discounting Factor

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For cooperating case, all players keep the cooperation model, and the payoff for player 2 is

$$\hat{u}_2(1 + \delta + \delta^2 + \dots) = \frac{a^2}{8} \frac{1}{1 - \delta}$$

For competitive case, deviating optimally in some period  $t$  after a history, and all players cooperated switches the game to competition. The pay off for player 2 is

$$u'_2 + u_2^*(\delta + \delta^2 + \dots) = \left(\frac{3a}{8}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{a}{3}\right)^2 \frac{\delta}{1 - \delta}$$

贴现因子只和次数有关

原来，越轨后是进入NE状态，之前都为0是因为NE时的支付刚好为0

## Step 5: SPNE

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- The cooperating is better than deviating if

$$\frac{a^2}{8} \frac{1}{1-\delta} \geq \left(\frac{3a}{8}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{a}{3}\right)^2 \frac{\delta}{1-\delta}$$

This implies  $\delta \geq 9/17$ .

If  $\delta \geq 9/17$ , then **the strategy:**

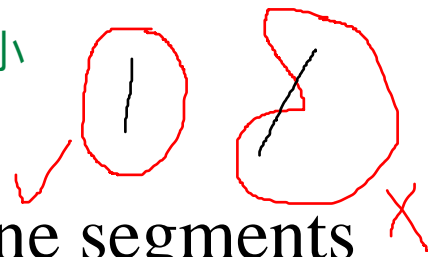
- If the two firms have both used  $\hat{q} = (a/4, a/4)$  in all previous periods, use  $\hat{q}_j = a/4$  this period
- If either firm ever did anything besides  $\hat{q}$ , play the stage Cournot quantity  $q_j^* = a/3$

**is a SPNE** of the infinitely repeated game

# Convex Hull

先将一些凸集的性质

局部最小就是全局最小

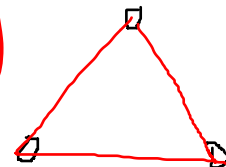


- A set is said to be **convex** if it contains the line segments connecting each pair of its points

凸包

- The **convex hull** of set  $S = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  is defined as

$$\text{Conv}(S) = \left\{ \sum_i a_i x_i \mid a_i \in [0,1], \sum_i a_i = 1 \right\}$$



- The set of all convex combinations of points in  $S$
- The (unique) minimal convex set containing  $S$
- The intersection of all convex sets containing  $S$

包含这n个点的  
最小的凸集

所有包含这n个点的  
凸集的交

# Feasible Payoffs

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- Consider stage game  $G = \{N, \{A_i\}, \{u_i\}\}$  and infinitely repeated game  $G^\infty(\delta)$ .
- Let us introduce the **set of feasible payoffs**:

$$U = \text{conv} \left\{ u \in R^N : \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists } a = (a_1, \dots, a_N) \\ \text{s.t. } u = (u_1(a), \dots, u_N(a)) \end{array} \right\}$$

That is,  $U$  is the **convex hull** of all  $N$ -dimensional vectors that can be obtained by some (possibly mixed) strategy outcome.

## Minmax Payoffs 最小化最大 (和二人零和博弈无关, 但理论神似)

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- **Minmax payoff of player  $i$** : the lowest payoff that player  $i$ 's opponent can hold him to:

$$\underline{u}_i = \min_{a_{-i}} \left[ \max_{a_i} u_i(a_i, a_{-i}) \right]$$

- The player can never receive less than this amount.

- **Minmax strategy outcome against to  $i$**

直观: 玩家 $i$ 不遵守规则  
对手们选一个策略惩罚他  
使得{max}最小

$$a_{-i}^i = \arg \min_{a_{-i}} \left[ \max_a u_i(a_i, a_{-i}) \right]$$

- Let  $a_i^i$  denote the strategy of player  $i$  such that

$$u_i(a_i^i, a_{-i}^i) = \underline{u}_i$$

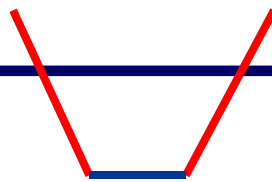
Notice that  $a_i$  may be a mixed strategy for each player  $i$



## Example (cont.)

We have

画图法



“最大”的min是0（蓝色那段）

$$\underline{u}_1 = \min_{q \in [0,1]} [\max \{1 - 3q, -2 + 3q, 0\}]$$

Then,  $\underline{u}_1 = 0$ , and  $a_{-1}^1 = a_2^1$  is the mixed strategy with probability  $q \in [\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}]$  over strategy ‘L’

两平面交于一直线，大脑画图就难了

For player 2, we have

线性规划用计算机可解（LINGO），好在这里只有两项，左右比一下大小

$$\underline{u}_2 = \min_{\substack{q_1, q_2 \in [0,1] \\ q_1 + q_2 \leq 1}} [\max \{1 + q_1 - 3q_2, 1 + q_2 - 3q_1\}]$$

$1 - q_1 - 3q_2 \geq 1 + q_2 - 3q_1$   
 $q_1 \geq q_2$

Then,  $\underline{u}_2 = 0$ , and  $a_{-1}^2$  is the mixed strategy with probability  $q_1 = q_2 = 1/2$  over strategy ‘U’ and ‘M’



# Minmax Payoff Lower Bounds

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## Theorem

- Let  $a' = (a'_1, a'_2, \dots, a'_n)$  be a (possibly mixed) Nash Equilibrium of game  $G$  and  $u_i(a')$  be its payoff. Then

$$u_i(a') \geq \underline{u}_i$$

*Proof.* See board.

## Nash Folk Theorem 之前都是为了“制定惩罚规则”做铺垫

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**Definition** A payoff vector  $(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_N) \in R^N$  is **strictly individually rational** if  $u_i > \underline{u}_i$  for all  $i$

之前学的是Folk定理

**Nash Folk Theorem** If  $(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_N) \in U$  is strictly **individually rational**, then there exists some  $\delta_0 < 1$  such that for all  $\delta \geq \delta_0$ , there is Nash equilibrium of  $G^\infty(\delta)$  with payoff  $(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_N)$  合作时要比最差时好

Any strictly individually rational payoff can be obtained as a Nash Equilibrium when players are patient enough

*Proof.* See board

# Problem with Nash Folk Theorem

NE不一定是SPNE  
反例如下

- Nash Folk Theorem may be not a subgame perfect

		Player 2	
		L	R
Player 1	U	6      6	0      -20
	D	7      1	0      -20

- The unique NE in this game is (D,L).
- The minmax payoff are given by

$$\underline{u}_1 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{u}_2 = 1$$

$$\text{and } a_{-1}^2 = R$$

# Problem with Nash Folk Theorem

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		Player 2	
		L	R
Player 1	U	6      6	0      -20
	D	7      1	0      -20

- Nash Folk Theorem: the strategy
  - Play (U,L) as long as no one deviates
  - If Player 1 deviates, then player 2 select R
- While this will hurt player 1, it will hurt player 2 a lot.
- It is an threat, and it is not a SPNE

# Subgame Perfect Folk Theorem

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The first subgame perfect folk theorem shows that **any** payoff above the static Nash payoffs can be sustained as a subgame perfect equilibrium of the repeated game

## **Theorem** (Friedman)

- Let  $a^{\text{NE}}$  be a static equilibrium of the stage game with payoffs  $u^{\text{NE}}$ ;
- For any feasible payoff  $u$  with  $u_i > u_i^{\text{NE}}$  for all  $i$ ;

There exists some  $\delta_0 < 1$  s.t. for all  $\delta \geq \delta_0$ , there is subgame perfect Nash equilibrium of  $G^\infty(\delta)$  with payoff  $u$ .

# Cooperation in Finitely-Repeated Games

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- There are unique stage equilibrium in previous example
- There are multiple Nash equilibria in the stage game.

		Player 2					
		A		B		C	
Player 1	A	3	3	0	4	-2	0
	B	4	0	1	1	-2	0
	C	0	-2	0	-2	-1	-1

The Nash equilibria are (B,B) and (C,C)

For cooperation, the best strategy is (A,A)

# Cooperation in Finitely-Repeated Games

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For  $T = 1$ , the strategy is (B, B)

For  $T = 2$ , the strategy is

- Each plays (A, A) in the first period, and plays (B, B) in the second period
- If some player plays B in the first period, then the other plays C in the second period

If each player agrees the strategy, then the payoff is 4 for each player

If some one deviates, then the other will play C, and the payoff is 3 先使坏, 得4, 然后(C, C) -1得3

**Deviation is not profitable** 以至于没有人有动机改变strategy

For  $T = 3$ , (1) (A, A)(A, A)(B, B)

(2) if ...

# Repeated Games with Imperfect Information

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- So far, we assume that in the repeated game, **each player observes the actions of others at the end of each stage**
  - I could observe if you stick or deviated from the agreement
- In several cases, player's actions may not be directly observable, e.g.,
  - Firm productions in Cartel
  - Antiballistic Missile treaty between the US and USSR in 1972 (**ABM treaty**).
  - Every country can imperfectly observe each other's compliance (despite spies, satellites, etc.)



We introduce ABMs treaty as follows:

- |   | 部署的导弹          | 被发现概率                         |
|---|----------------|-------------------------------|
| – | Number of ABMs | Probability of detection ABMs |
| – | None           | 0                             |
| – | Low            | 10%                           |
| – | High           | 50%                           |
- If a country has no ABMs, then the probability that satellite detects ABMs is zero
  - If a country has a low level of ABMs, then the probability that my satellite detects ABMs is 10%
  - If a country has a high level of ABMs, then the probability that my satellite detects ABMs is 50%

# ABMs treaty with Imperfect Information

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		USSR					
		No		Low		High	
USA	No	10	10	6	12	0	18
	Low	12	6	8	8	2	14
	High	18	0	14	2	3	3

- The unique NE is (High,High)
- (Low,Low) is more efficient, and (No,No) is the most efficient
- Can we cooperate playing (No,No) in the SPNE of the infinitely repeated game

# ABMs treaty with Imperfect Information

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## Strategy

- In period  $t = 1$ , choose No ABMs (cooperation)
- For  $t \geq 1$ , the strategy is:
  - No ABMs if neither country has observed ABMs in other countries during the previous period, or
  - High ABMs if either country has observed ABMs in other countries during previous periods
- At any time  $t$ , if no country has detected ABMs, the payoff from sticking to the agreement is:

$$10 + 10\delta + \dots + 10\delta^{t-1} + \dots = \frac{10}{1 - \delta}$$

## ABMs treaty with imperfect monitoring google 这个标题

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- In contract, the payoff from deviating to **low ABMs** during one period

$$12 + \delta \left( 0.1 \times \frac{3}{1 - \delta} + 0.9 \times \frac{10}{1 - \delta} \right)$$

- The payoff from deviating to **high ABMs** during one period

$$18 + \delta \left( 0.5 \times \frac{3}{1 - \delta} + 0.5 \times \frac{10}{1 - \delta} \right)$$

We need  $\text{Coop} \geq \text{Low}$  and  $\text{Coop} \geq \text{High}$  by

$$\delta \geq 0.74 \quad \text{and} \quad \delta \geq 0.7$$

概率分布到次数上，90%日子都是no,no，然后有一天越轨一次，之后就3，3了

# Summaries

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- Repeated Game
- Minmax strategy
- Nash Folk Theorem (NE, Not SPNE)
- Folk Theorem (previous chapter)
- Repeated game with imperfect information