

Homework 5

Tate Mason

An ECON - 8010 Homework Assignment

November 3, 2024

PS1 - Question 3

Problem

In a second-price auction, each of the n bidders simultaneously places a bid for an object. The object is won by the bidder with the highest bid, who pays the amount of the second-highest bid. If there are multiple highest bids, then the winner is chosen at random from among the highest bidders, and this winner pays the highest bid (since this is also the second-highest bid).

Suppose that player i values the object at v_i dollars, and that all players' valuations are commonly known. Show that it is a weakly dominant strategy for player i to bid his valuation.

Solution

PS1 - Question 4

Problem

Two travelers returning home from a remote island where they bought identical antiques discover that the airline has managed to smash them. The airline manager decides to use the following scheme to determine the compensation that the airline will give each traveler: Each traveler will separately report the cost of the antique, stating an integer number of dollars between 2 and 500. If both report the same number of dollars, then the airline will give each of them that number of dollars. If they report different numbers of dollars, then the traveler who stated the smaller number will be given the amount he stated plus a bonus of 2 dollars; the traveler who stated the higher number will be given the amount stated by the other traveler minus a penalty of 2 dollars. Suppose that each traveler cares only about maximizing the expected number of dollars he receives from the airline.

(i)

Define the normal form game G corresponding to the story above specifying the set of players \mathcal{P} , their strategy sets S_i , and their payoff functions u_i .

(ii)

Fix player 1's beliefs $\mu_1 \in \Delta S_2$, and suppose that the highest strategy in S_2 that receives positive probability under μ_1 is $\bar{s}_2 > 2$. Show that player 1's best response given his beliefs must be less than \bar{s}_2 . (Hint: Start by computing player 1's payoff from choosing a strategy greater than \bar{s}_2 , and notice that answering the question does not necessarily require you to compute player 1's best response to μ_1)

(iii)

If there is a common knowledge of rationality between the players, what is the appropriate prediction of play in G ?

Solutions

(i)

$$P = \{1, 2\}$$

Payoffs:

$$s_1 = s_2 : u(s_1, s_2) = s_i \text{ for } i \in [1, 2]$$

$$s_1 > s_2 : u(s_1, s_2) = s_2 - 2$$

$$s_1 < s_2 : u(s_1, s_2) = s_1 + 2$$

(ii)

Proof. $s_1 > \bar{s}_2$ would result in player 1 receiving payoff $\bar{s}_2 - 2$. If they were to bid \bar{s}_2 , the two players would receive equal payoffs. So, by bidding less than \bar{s}_2 , player 1 will receive their bid + 2 dollars, while the opponent will receive player 1's bid - 2 dollars. \square

(iii)

Proof. Bidding 500 would be dominated by bidding 499. Then, bidding 499 becomes dominated by 498. This iterative elimination process continues until the only option remaining is to bid the minimum, 2 dollars. Thus, under common knowledge, both players bid 2 dollars, receiving an equal payoff. \square

PS1 - Question 5

Problem

Consider the following normal form game:

		2		
		L	C	R
1	T	2,3	0,4	3,6
	B	1,2	5,1	0,0

(i)

Are any pure strategies in this game strictly dominated? If so, then for each such strategy s_i , identify all dominating strategies that do not put positive probability on s_i .

(ii)

If there is common knowledge of rationality between the players, what should our prediction of play in this game be?

PS1 - Question 7

Problem

Which pure strategies are rationalizable in the following normal form game? Explain.

		2				
		<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>
1	<i>A</i>	2,1	1,2	-1,-6	-3,-4	-1,-6
	<i>B</i>	0,0	2,1	1,2	0,0	-1,-6
	<i>C</i>	-5,-1	-4,-1	2,1	1,2	-1,-6
	<i>D</i>	1,2	-4,-1	0,0	2,1	-1,-6
	<i>E</i>	-5,-1	-4,-1	0,0	0,0	2,1

PS2 - Question 1

Problem

Compute all Nash equilibria in the following game:

		2		
		<i>L</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>R</i>
1	<i>T</i>	0,4	5,6	8,7
	<i>B</i>	2,9	6,5	5,1

PS2 - Question 2

Problem

Find all Nash equilibria in the following game:

		2		
		<i>W</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>
1	<i>A</i>	25,0	25,0	25,0
	<i>C</i>	30,7	24,8	0,0
	<i>D</i>	30,7	0,0	8,24