

Two players are playing an infinitely-repeated prisoner's dilemma game of the following form

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	C	(2,2)	(0,3)
	D	(3,0)	(1,1)

The players simultaneously choose action at regular intervals.

Consider the following “grim trigger strategy” in which player i , $i = 1, 2$ chooses C in the first stage. In the t^{th} stage, if the outcome of all $t-1$ preceding stages has been (C, C) then player i chooses C; otherwise, player i chooses D.

1. Explain how you show that the “grim trigger strategy” is a Nash equilibrium strategy of the infinitely repeated game of this game.

We can just discuss that whether the “grim trigger strategy” are the Best Response to each other (Player 1 and Player 2). If there is any action that no single player wants to deviate from his or her predicted action, we can conclude that the “grim trigger strategy” is a Nash Equilibrium.

2. Suppose Player 1 adopts the grim trigger strategy

- (a) What is Player 2's best response in stage t if the outcomes of stage $1, \dots, t-1$ are other than (C, C) ?
- (b) What is Player 2's best response in stage t if the outcomes of stage $1, \dots, t-1$ are (C, C) ?

- (a) If the outcomes of stage $1, \dots, t-1$ are other than (C, C)

Player 1 will choose D at stage t and forever after (Player 1 adopts the trigger strategy).

Player 2 will choose D at stage t and forever after (Player 2's best response to Player 1's choices)

- (b) If the outcomes of stage $1, \dots, t-1$ are (C, C)

Player 1 will choose C at t (Because that Player 1 adopts the trigger strategy). There are 2 possible choices for Player 2:

(Discussion each conditions next page)

- Player 2 choose D at t .
- Player 2 choose C at t .

3. Find the condition on the discount factor δ under which the strategy pair in which each player uses this strategy is a Nash equilibrium of the infinitely repeated game of the Prisoner's Dilemma in the above table.

- (1) If Player 2 choose D at t , Player 2 receives “3” at t and 1 forever after.

The total payoff V :

$$V = 3 + \delta \cdot 1 + \delta^2 \cdot 1 + \cdots = 3 + \frac{\delta}{1 - \delta}$$

- (2) If Player 2 choose C at t , Player 2 receives “2” at t and face the same game again.

The total payoff V :

$$V = 2 + V\delta$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \frac{2}{1 - \delta}$$

- (3) According to the statement (1) and (2)

$$\frac{2}{1 - \delta} = 3 + \frac{\delta}{1 - \delta}, \text{ if } \delta \geq \frac{1}{2} \text{ choose C.}$$

$$\delta = \frac{1}{2}, \text{ if } \delta \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{ choose D.}$$