

# Ve492: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

## Game Theory

---



Paul Weng

UM-SJTU Joint Institute

Slides adapted from <http://ai.berkeley.edu>, AIMA, UM, CMU

---

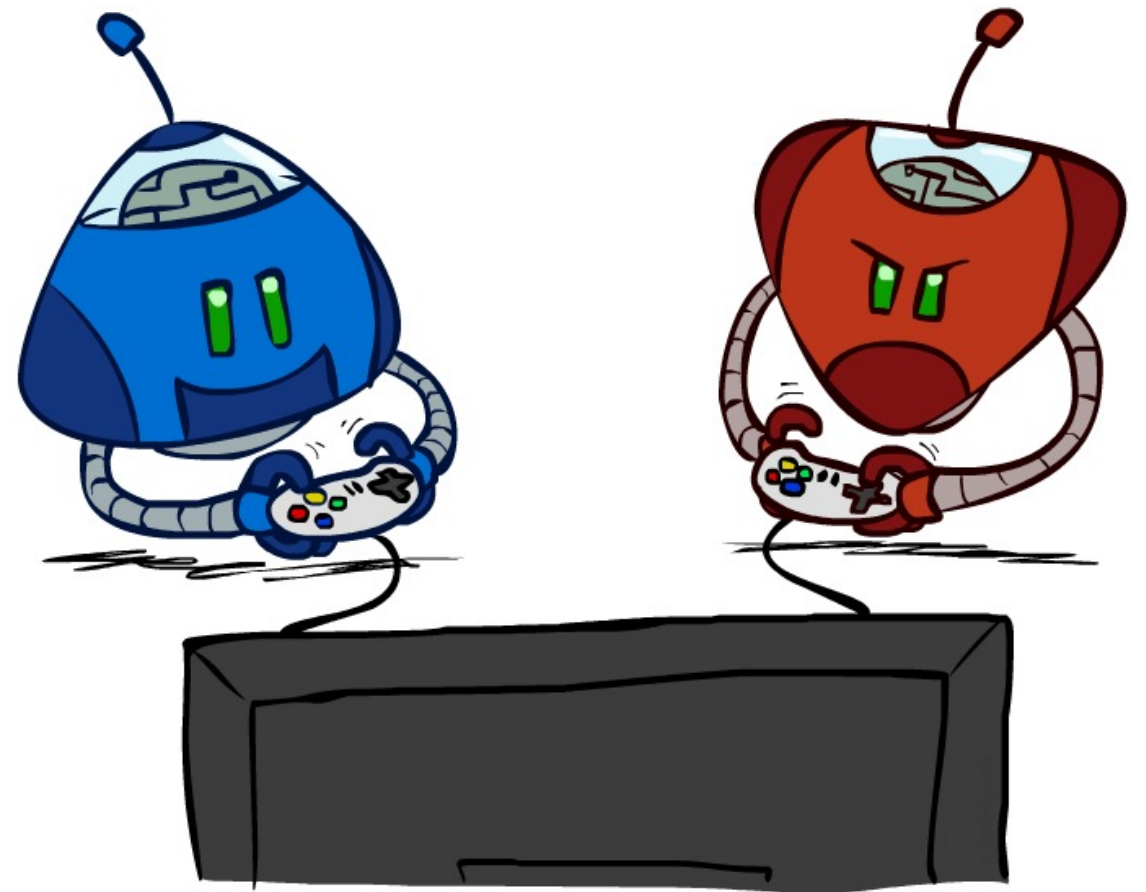
# Announcements

---

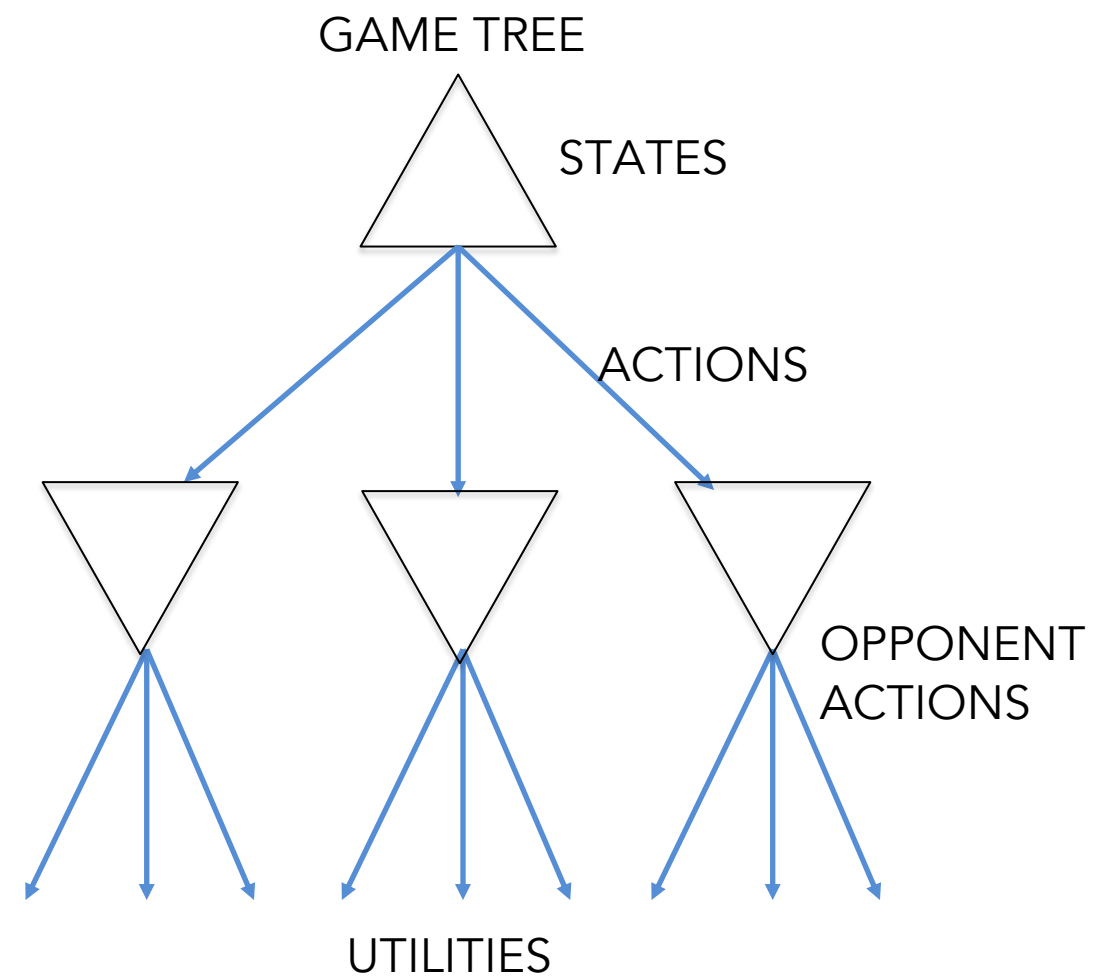
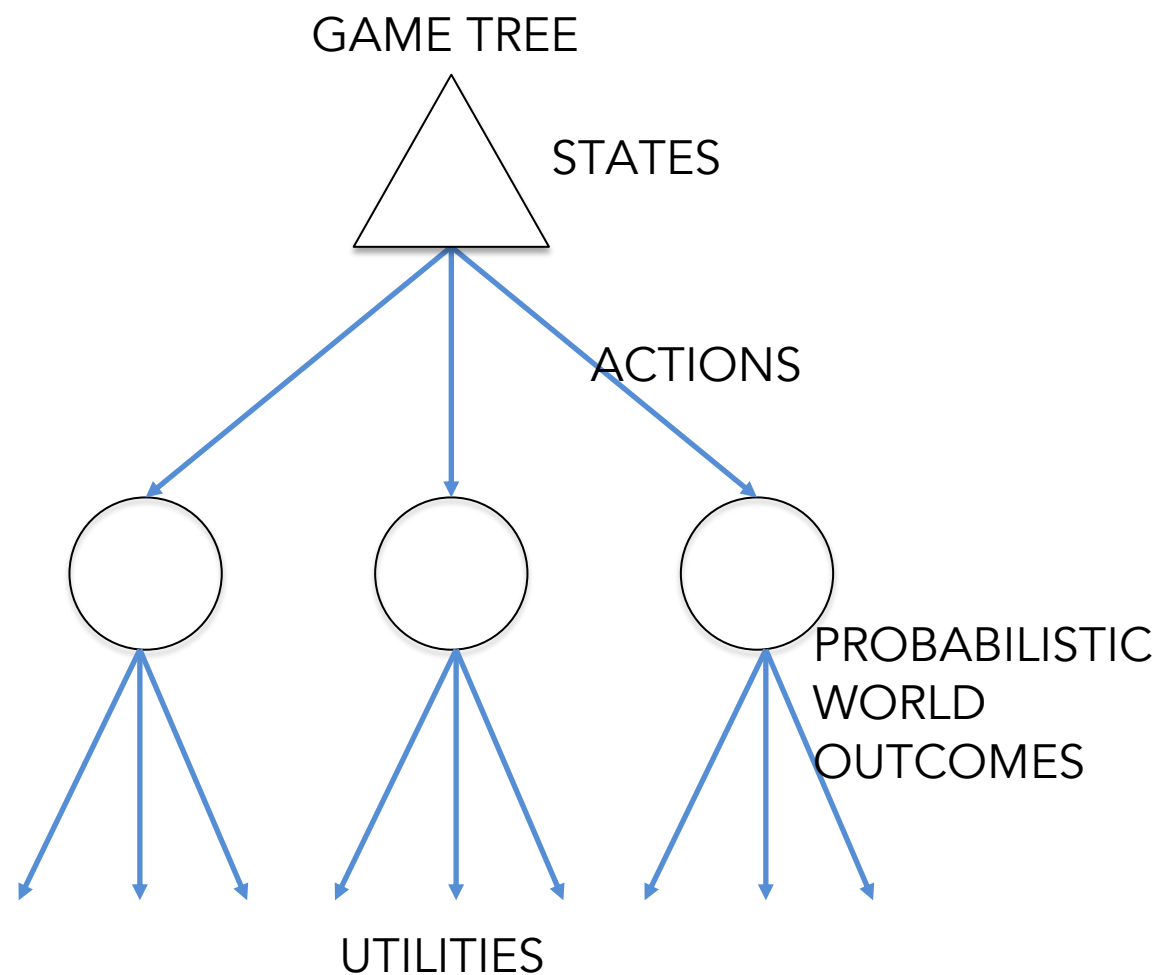
- ❖ P1 due May 31 at 11:59pm
- ❖ HW2 released today
- ❖ P2 to be released next week
- ❖ Mid-term exam June 25

# Outline

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Game Theory



# Problems with Uncertainty vs Adversary



# Decision Theory vs Game Theory

---

- ❖ **Decision Theory:** pick a strategy to maximize utility given world outcomes
- ❖ **Game Theory:** pick a strategy for player that maximizes her utility given the strategies of the other players
- ❖ Models are essentially the same
- ❖ Imagine the world is a player in the game!

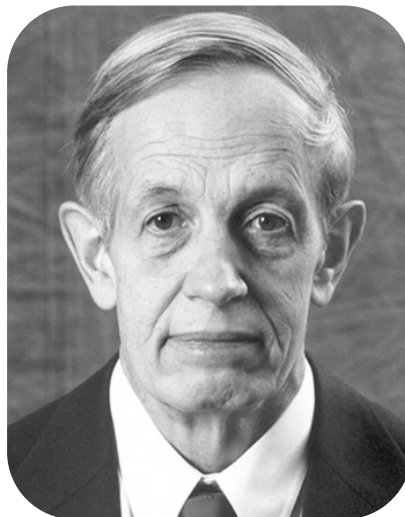
# History of Game Theory

- ❖ Game theory is the study of strategic decision-making (of more than one player)
- ❖ Used in economics, political science etc.

John von Neumann



John Nash



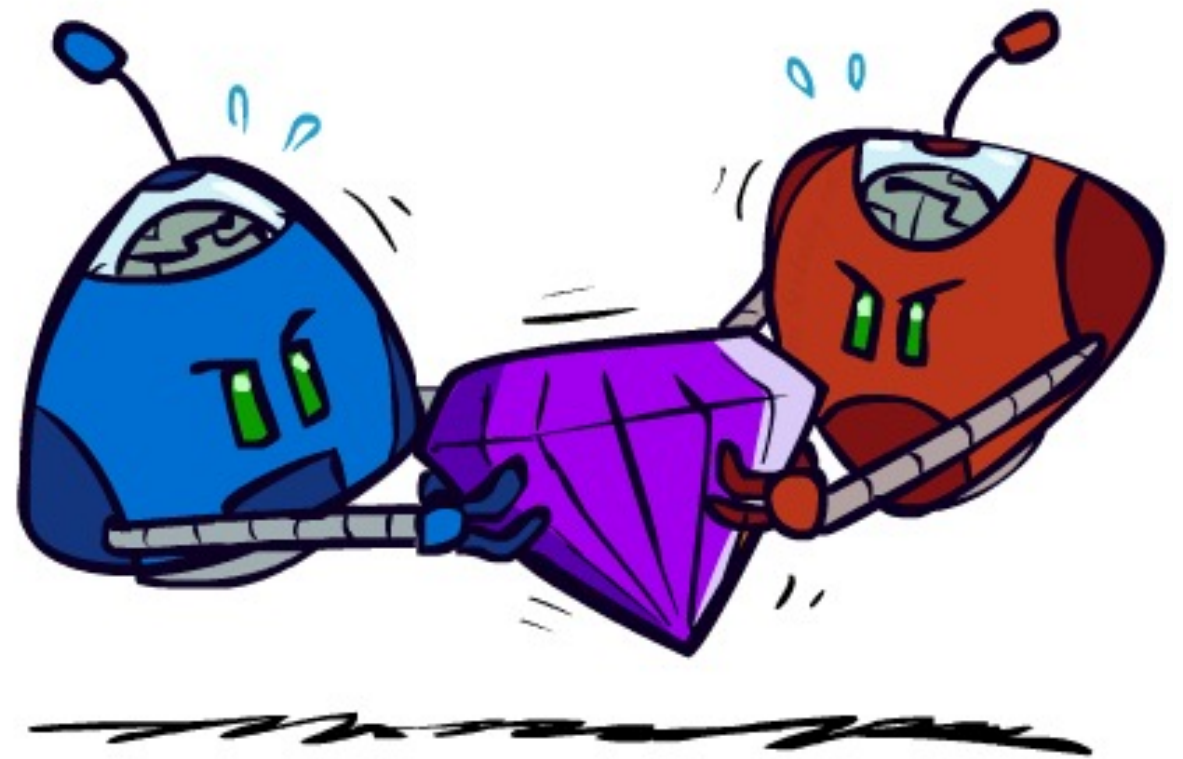
Robert Aumann



---

# Game Theory

---



---

# Important Notions

---

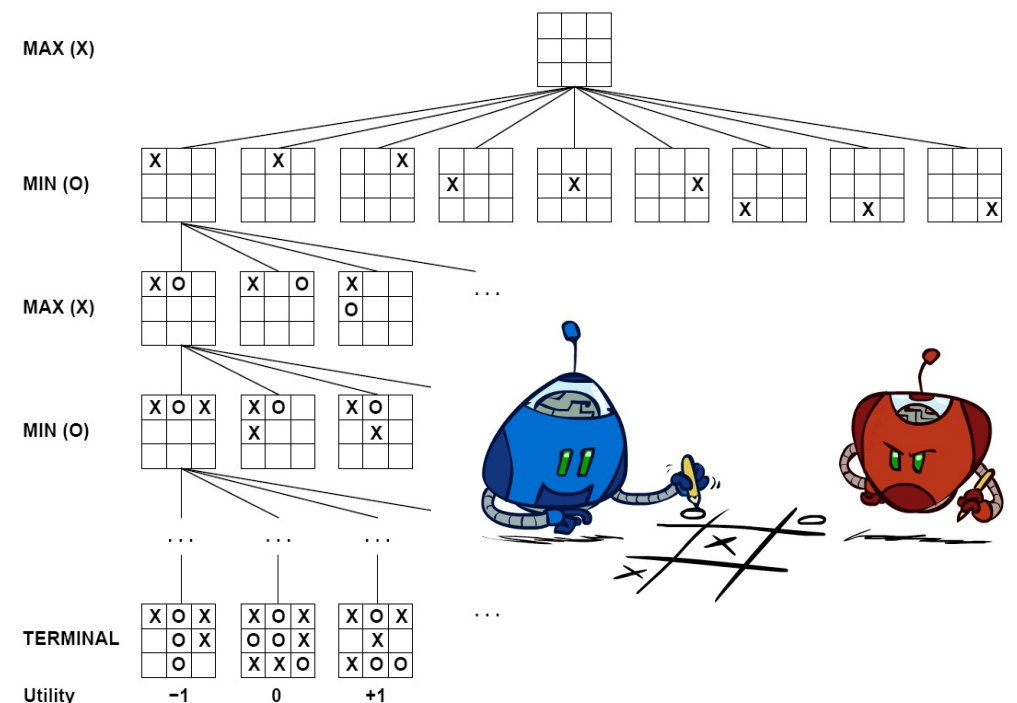
- ❖ Extensive Form vs Normal Form
- ❖ Strategy:
  - ❖ Pure strategy vs mixed strategy
  - ❖ Strategy profile
- ❖ Solution concepts
  - ❖ Nash equilibrium
  - ❖ Pareto optimal
  - ❖ Correlated equilibrium
- ❖ Famous games (e.g., Prisoner's dilemma)



# Games: Extensive Form

## ❖ Representation:

1. Set of all players of a game
2. For every player, every opportunity they have to move
3. What each player can do at each of their moves
4. What each player knows / observes when making every move
5. Payoffs received by everyone for all possible combo of moves



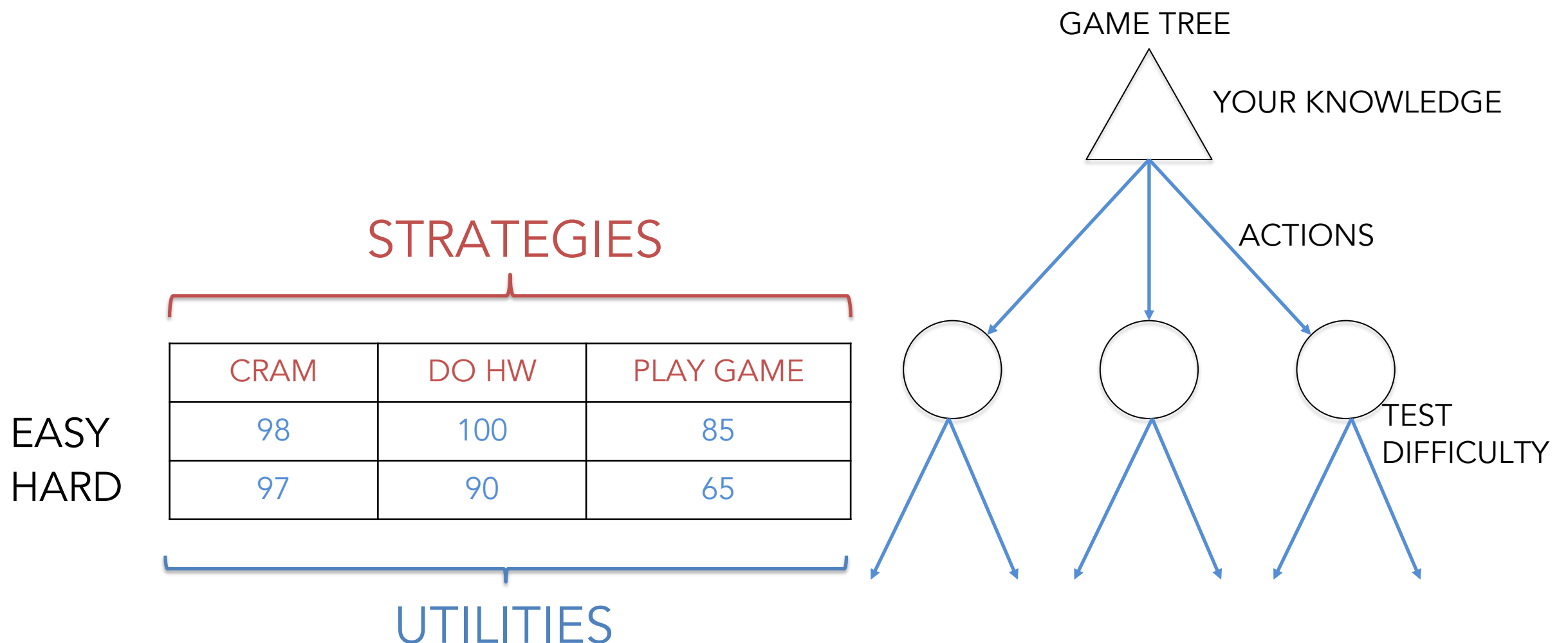
# Alternative Representation: Normal Form

---

- ❖ Represent games as single-shot decision-making problems
- ❖ Represent only strategies (e.g., actions or policies) and utilities
- ❖ Easier to determine particular properties of games

# Studying – Normal Form Game

- ❖ Represent games as single shot
- ❖ Represent only strategies and utilities



# Studying - Strategies and Utilities

- ❖ The world acts at the same time as you choose a strategy

World outcomes or adversary's strategies

The diagram shows a 2x3 matrix. The columns are labeled 'CRAM', 'DO HW', and 'PLAY GAME' in red. The rows are labeled 'EASY' and 'HARD' in blue. A red bracket above the columns is labeled 'STRATEGIES'. A blue bracket below the rows is labeled 'UTILITIES'. An arrow points from the text 'World outcomes or adversary's strategies' to the top-left cell of the matrix.

	CRAM	DO HW	PLAY GAME
EASY	98	100	85
HARD	97	90	65

UTILITIES

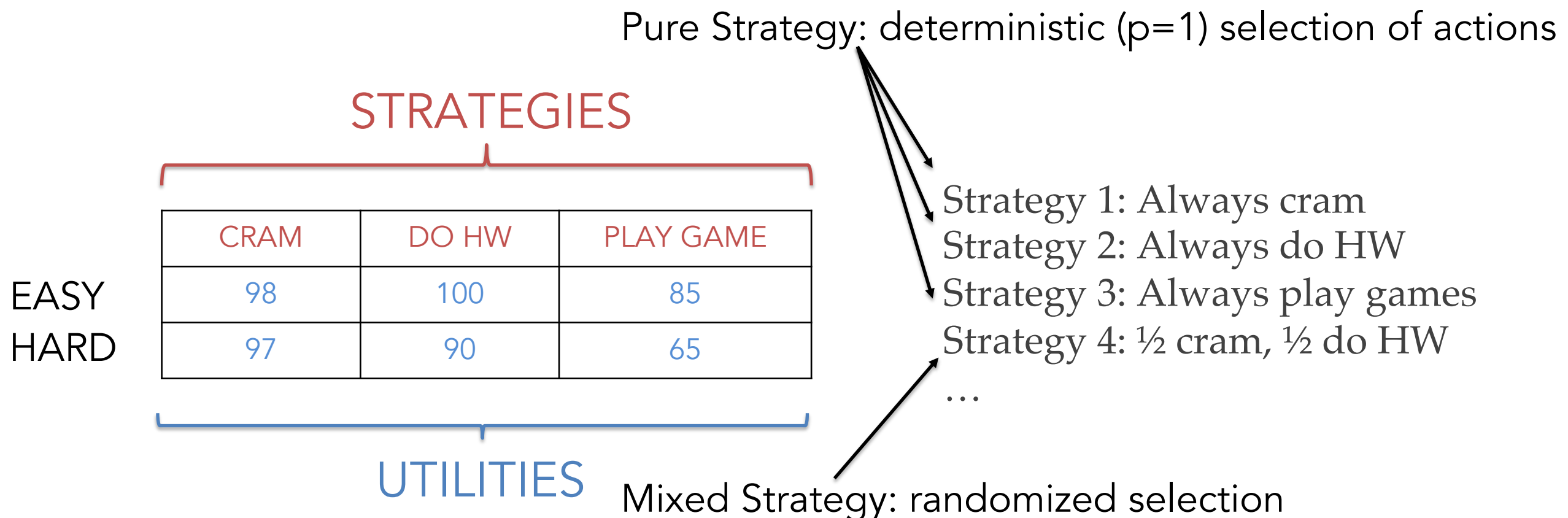
# Strategy/Utility Notations

- ❖ Strategy  $k$  for player =  $\pi_k \in \Pi$  where  $\Pi$  is finite
- ❖ Utility  $u(\pi_k, s)$  where  $s$  is a state of the world
- ❖ Which strategy should I adopt?
  - ❖ Maximize the expected utility based on state probabilities
- ❖ Is it beneficial to choose a strategy in a random way?

		STRATEGIES		
		CRAM	DO HW	PLAY GAME
EASY		98	100	85
HARD		97	90	65
		UTILITIES		

# Mixed Strategies

- ❖ Pure strategies  $\Pi$
- ❖ Mixed strategies  $\Delta(\Pi)$  = set of probability distributions over  $\Pi$
- ❖ Goal: Pick strategy that maximizes expected utility given exam probability



# Calculating Utilities of Pure Strategies

- ❖ What is the utility of pure strategy: CRAM?

$$u(CRAM) = P(Easy) \cdot u(CRAM, Easy) + P(Hard) \cdot u(CRAM, Hard)$$

- ❖ General formula:

$$u(\pi) = \sum_s P(s) \cdot u(\pi, s)$$

CRAM	DO HW	PLAY GAME
98	100	85
97	90	65

$$P(Easy) = .2$$

$$P(Hard) = .8$$

# Calculating Utilities of Pure Strategies

- ❖ What is the utility of pure strategy: DO HW?
- ❖ What is the utility of pure strategy: PLAY GAME?

CRAM	DO HW	PLAY GAME
98	100	85
97	90	65

$P(\text{Easy}) = .2$

$P(\text{Hard}) = .8$



# Calculating Utilities of Mixed Strategies

- ❖ What is the utility of mixed strategy:  $\sigma = (\frac{1}{2} \text{ CRAM}, \frac{1}{2} \text{ DO HW})$ ?

$$u(\sigma) = P_{\sigma}(\text{CRAM}) \left( \sum_s P(s) u(\text{CRAM}, s) \right) + P_{\sigma}(\text{DO HW}) \left( \sum_s P(s) u(\text{DO HW}, s) \right)$$

- ❖ General formula:

$$u(\sigma) = \sum_k \sum_s P(s) P_{\sigma}(\pi_k) u(\pi_k, s) = \sum_k P_{\sigma}(\pi_k) \sum_s P(s) u(\pi_k, s)$$

CRAM	DO HW	PLAY GAME
98	100	85
97	90	65

$P(\text{Easy}) = .2$

$P(\text{Hard}) = .8$

# Quiz: Grocery Shopping Transportation Decision

Suppose you want to decide how to get groceries from the store

	BIKE	WALK	BUS	DRIVE
SUN	1	2	1	1
RAIN	-2	-4	-1	0

1. How many pure strategies to do you have?

- A) 1      B) 2      C) 3      **D) 4**      E) Infinite

2. How many mixed strategies do you have?

- A) 4      B) 8      C) 16      D) 64      **E) Infinite**

3. What is your best pure strategy?

- A) Bike      B) Walk      C) Bus      D) Drive      **E) It depends**

# Quiz: Grocery Shopping Transportation Decision

Suppose you want to decide how to get groceries from the store

	BIKE	WALK	BUS	DRIVE	
SUN	1	2	1	1	P=.5
RAIN	-2	-4	-1	0	P=.5

4. What is your best pure strategy?

A) Bike      B) Walk      C) Bus      **D) Drive**      E) It depends

5. What is the utility of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  walk,  $\frac{1}{4}$  bike, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  drive strategy?

**A)  $-1/8$**       B)  $-1/4$       C)  $-1/2$       D)  $1/8$       E)  $1/2$

# Game: Rock, Paper, Scissors

- ❖ Each player simultaneously picks rock, paper, or scissors
- ❖ Rock beats scissors, scissors beats paper, paper beats rock



P1's Strategies

$$\Pi_1 = \{\textit{rock}, \textit{paper}, \textit{scissors}\}$$

P2's Strategies

$$\Pi_2 = \{\textit{rock}, \textit{paper}, \textit{scissors}\}$$

# Joint Utilities

- ❖ When both players choose their actions, they receive a utility based on both of their choices



P2's ACTIONS

		PLAYER 2		
		ROCK	PAPER	SCISSORS
PLAYER 1	ROCK	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
	PAPER	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
	SCISSORS	-1,1	1,-1	0,0

JOINT UTILITIES

# Normal Form Notation

- ❖ Players:  $\{1, \dots, N\}$
- ❖ Pure strategies for each player  $i$ 
  - ❖  $\pi_{i,1}, \dots, \pi_{i,n_i}$
- ❖ Utility functions that maps a strategy per player to a reward for player  $i$ 
  - ❖  $u_i(\pi_1, \dots, \pi_N) = u_i(\vec{\pi})$
- ❖ **Strategy profile:**
  - ❖  $\vec{\pi} = (\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_N)$        $\vec{\pi}_{-i} = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_{i-1}, \pi_{i+1}, \dots, \pi_N)$

P2's ACTIONS

		PLAYER 2		
		ROCK	PAPER	SCISSORS
PLAYER 1	ROCK	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
	PAPER	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
	SCISSORS	-1,1	1,-1	0,0

JOINT UTILITIES

# Zero-Sum Games

- ❖ If each cell in the table sums to 0, the game is zero-sum:

$$\forall \vec{\pi}, \sum_i u_i(\vec{\pi}) = 0$$

- ❖ Is Rock, Paper, Scissors zero-sum?

		P2's ACTIONS		
		PLAYER 2		
		ROCK	PAPER	SCISSORS
PLAYER 1	ROCK	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
	PAPER	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
	SCISSORS	-1,1	1,-1	0,0

JOINT UTILITIES

# Solution Concepts

---

- ❖ Solution concept
  - ❖ Subset of outcomes of the games that are possibly interesting
  - ❖ Generally assumes that players are rational
- ❖ Minimax solution
- ❖ Nash equilibrium (NE)
  - ❖ Best response
  - ❖ Dominant strategies
  - ❖ With pure strategies vs with mixed strategies
  - ❖ Weak vs strict NE
- ❖ Pareto-optimal solutions
- ❖ Correlated equilibrium



# Strategies for Games

- ❖ **Best response** against  $\vec{\pi}_{-i}$ 
  - ❖ Strategy for player  $i$  that maximizes her utility given the strategy of the other players

Pure Strategies:

P2 always picks rock

P1 should \_\_\_\_\_

P2 always picks paper

P1 should \_\_\_\_\_

Mixed Strategies:

P2 randomly chooses between 50% rock  
and 50% paper

P1 should \_\_\_\_\_

		P2's ACTIONS		
		PLAYER 2		
		ROCK	PAPER	SCISSORS
PLAYER 1	ROCK	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
	PAPER	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
	SCISSORS	-1,1	1,-1	0,0
		JOINT UTILITIES		

# Dominant Strategies

- ❖ A strategy  $\pi_{i,k}$  for player  $i$  is **strictly** dominant if it is better than all other strategies for player  $i$  no matter any opponent's strategy:

$$\forall k' \neq k, u_i(\pi_{i,k}, \vec{\pi}_{-i}) > u_i(\pi_{i,k'}, \vec{\pi}_{-i})$$

	A	B	C	D	E
i	2,10	4,7	4,6	5,2	3,8
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	1,3	2,6
iii	5,3	3,1	2,2	4,1	3,0
iv	6,7	9,5	7,5	8,5	3,5

# Dominant Strategies

- ❖ A strategy  $\pi_{i,k}$  for player  $i$  is **strictly** dominant if it is better than all other strategies for player  $i$  no matter any opponent's strategy:

$$\forall k' \neq k, u_i(\pi_{i,k}, \vec{\pi}_{-i}) \geq u_i(\pi_{i,k'}, \vec{\pi}_{-i})$$

	A	B	C	D	E
i	2,10	4,7	4,6	5,2	3,8
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	1,3	2,6
iii	5,3	3,1	2,2	4,1	3,0
iv	6,7	9,5	7,5	8,5	3,5

# Is there always a dominant strategy?

- ❖ No! There is no dominant strategy in Rock, Paper, Scissors, for example.

		P2's ACTIONS		
		PLAYER 2		
		ROCK	PAPER	SCISSORS
PLAYER 1	ROCK	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
	PAPER	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
	SCISSORS	-1,1	1,-1	0,0
		JOINT UTILITIES		

# Prisoner's Dilemma

- ❖ 2 Players {1,2}
- ❖ Each as 2 strategies {Cooperate,Defect}
- ❖ Utilities in table:

		PRISONER 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
PRISONER 1	Cooperate	-1,-1	-5,0
	Defect	0,-5	-3,-3

- ❖ Is there a dominant strategy?
  - ❖ Yes!
- ❖ What is the best joint strategy for both prisoners?
  - ❖ Best joint strategy: prisoners cooperate

# Measure of Social Welfare

- ❖ The sum of the utilities of the players is the social welfare

- ❖  $SW(C,C) = -2$

- ❖  $SW(C,D) = -5$

- ❖  $SW(D,C) = -5$

- ❖  $SW(D,D) = -6$

		PRISONER 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
PRISONER 1	Cooperate	-1,-1	-5,0
	Defect	0,-5	-3,-3

# Prisoner's Dilemma

- ❖ Compute best responses

		PRISONER 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
PRISONER 1	Cooperate	-1,-1	-5,0
	Defect	0,-5	-3,-3

# Prisoner's Dilemma

- ❖ Strategy profile (C, C) is not stable
- ❖ Each prisoner would profit by switching to defection assuming that the other prisoner continues to cooperate

		PRISONER 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
PRISONER 1	Cooperate	-1,-1 → -5,0	-5,0
	Defect	0,-5	-3,-3



# Prisoner's Dilemma

- ❖ If they both trust that the other prisoner will cooperate, each should defect. But both defecting results in lower scores!

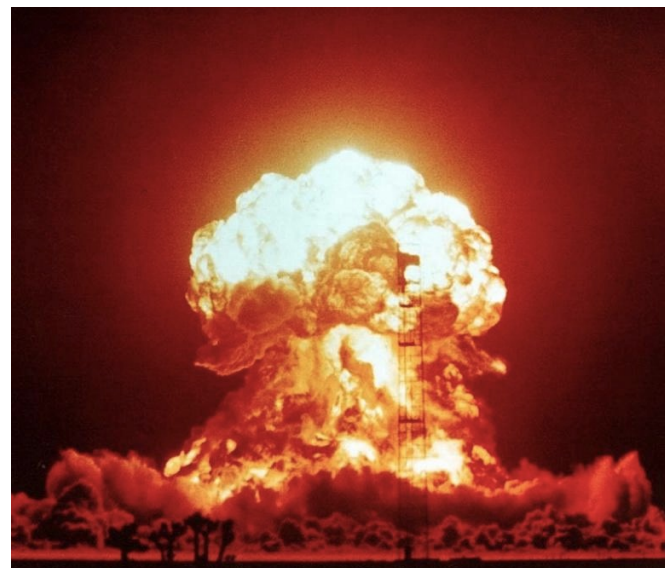
		PRISONER 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
PRISONER 1	Cooperate	-1,-1	-5,0
	Defect	0,-5	-3,-3

# Tragedy of the Commons

- ❖ Individuals act in their own self-interest contrary to the common good



Political Ads



Nuclear Arms Race



CO2 Emissions

# Nash Equilibrium

- ❖ **Nash Equilibria:** strategy profiles  $\vec{\pi}$  where none of the participants benefit from unilaterally changing their decisions:

$$\forall i, u_i(\vec{\pi}) \geq u_i(\pi'_i, \vec{\pi}_{-i})$$

		PRISONER 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
PRISONER 1	Cooperate	-1,-1	-5,0
	Defect	0,-5	-3,-3

# Nash Equilibrium

- ❖ NOT A NASH EQUILIBRIUM - participants benefit from unilaterally changing their decision

		PRISONER 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
PRISONER 1	Cooperate	-1,-1 → -5,0	-5,0
	Defect	0,-5	-3,-3

# Nash Equilibrium

- ❖ Strict Nash Equilibria are Nash Equilibria where the “neighbor” strategy profiles have strictly less utility.

$$\forall i, u_i(\vec{\pi}) > u_i(\pi'_i, \vec{\pi}_{-i})$$

		PRISONER 2	
		Cooperate	Defect
PRISONER 1	Cooperate	-1,-1	-5,0
	Defect	0,-5	-3,-3

# Professor's Dilemma!

- ❖ What is / are the Nash equilibrium / equilibria?
- ❖ Which are strict Nash equilibria?

		Student	
		Study	Games
Professor	Effort	1000,1000	0,-10
	Slack	-10,0	0,0

# Finding a Pure Nash Equilibrium

---

Pure Nash Equilibria are composed of pure strategies

- ❖ **Option 1:** Examine each state and determine if it fits the criteria
- ❖ **Option 2:** Find a dominant strategy and eliminate all other row or columns and recurse
- ❖ **Option 3:** Remove a strictly dominated strategy and recurse

# Finding a Pure Nash Equilibrium

- ❖ **Option 1:** Examine each state and determine if it fits the criteria
- ❖ **Option 2:** Find a dominating strategy and eliminate all other row or columns and recurse
- ❖ **Option 3:** Remove a strictly dominated strategy and recurse

The diagram shows the iterative elimination of dominated strategies in a 3x3 game. The game starts with strategies U, M, D for Player 1 and L, C, R for Player 2. In the first step, R is dominated by L, and C is dominated by L. In the second step, M is dominated by U. In the third step, D is dominated by U. The final outcome is (U, C) with payoffs (1, 5).

	L	C	R
U	10,3	1,5	5,4
M	3,1	2,4	5,2
D	0,10	1,8	7,0

→

	L	C
U	10,3	1,5
M	3,1	2,4
D	0,10	1,8

→

	L	C
U	10,3	1,5
M	3,1	2,4

→

	C
U	1,5
M	2,4

→

	C
M	2,4



---

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 1

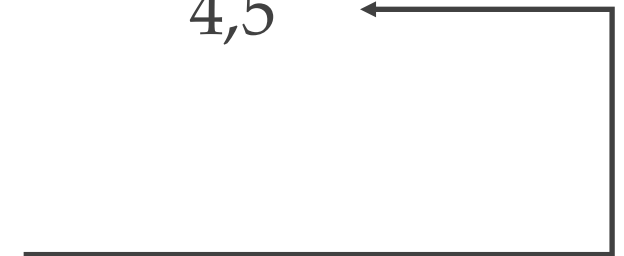
---

	A	B	C	D	E
i	2,10	4,7	4,6	5,2	3,8
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	1,3	2,6
iii	5,3	3,1	2,2	4,1	3,0
iv	6,7	9,5	7,5	8,5	4,5

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

	A	B	C	D	E
i	2,4	4,7	4,6	5,2	3,8
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	1,3	2,6
iii	5,3	3,1	2,2	9,1	3,0
iv	6,7	9,5	5,5	8,5	4,5

No longer strict dominant strategies!



# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

	A	B	C	D	E
i	2,4	4,7	4,6	5,2	3,8
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	1,3	2,6
iii	5,3	3,1	2,2	9,1	3,0
iv	6,7	9,5	5,5	8,5	4,5

>

D is strictly dominated by A

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

	A	B	C	D	E
i	2,4	4,7	4,6	5,2	3,8
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	1,3	2,6
iii	5,3	3,1	2,2	9,1	3,0
iv	6,7	9,5	5,5	8,5	4,5

D is weakly dominated by B



---

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

---

	A	B	C	E
i	2,4	4,7	4,6	3,8
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	2,6
iii	5,3	3,1	2,2	3,0
iv	6,7	9,5	5,5	4,5

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

	A	B	C	E
i	2,4	4,7	4,6	3,8
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	2,6
iii	5,3	3,1	2,2	3,0
iv	6,7	9,5	5,5	4,5

iii is strictly dominated by iv

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

	A	B	C	E	
i	2,4	4,7	4,6	3,8	
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	2,6	
iii	5,3	3,1	2,2	3,0	<
iv	6,7	9,5	5,5	4,5	

i is strictly dominated by iv

---

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

---

	A	B	C	E
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	2,6
iv	6,7	9,5	4,5	4,5



# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

	A	B	C	E
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	2,6
iv	6,7	9,5	4,5	4,5

>

E is strictly dominated by A

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

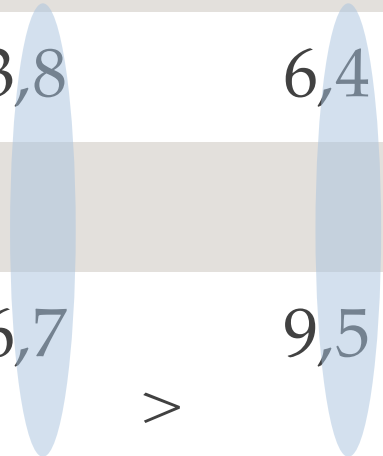
	A	B	C	E
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	2,6
iv	6,7	9,5	4,5	4,5

*Note: In the original image, blue vertical ovals highlight the columns for strategies A and C, and a greater-than sign (>) is placed between the payoffs for A and C in row iv.*

C is strictly dominated by A

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

	A	B	C	E
ii	3,8	6,4	5,2	2,6
iv	6,7	9,5	4,5	4,5



B is strictly dominated by A

---

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

---

	A
ii	3,8
iv	6,7

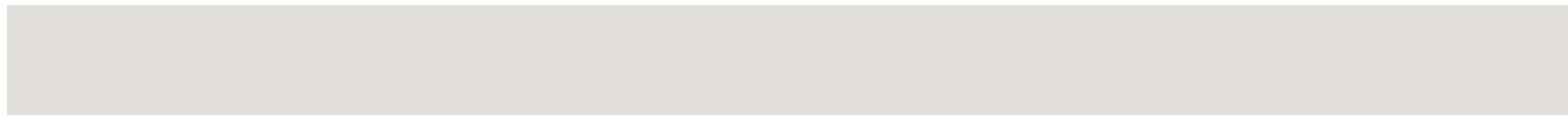
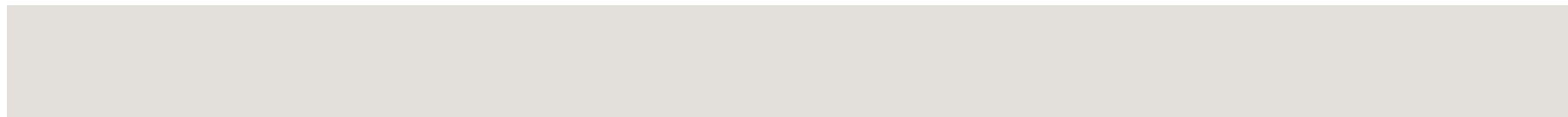
ii is strictly dominated by iv

---

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 2

---

A



iv

6,7

# Finding Nash Equilibrium Example 3 (Battle of Sexes)

	Opera	Football
Opera	(3, 2)	(0, 0)
Football	(0, 0)	(2, 3)

# Finding Nash Equilibrium: Rock, Paper, Scissors

## ❖ Nash Equilibrium?

- ❖ Not with pure strategies!

		PLAYER 2		
		ROCK	PAPER	SCISSORS
PLAYER 1	ROCK	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
	PAPER	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
	SCISSORS	-1,1	1,-1	0,0

# Nash Equilibria always exist in finite games

---

- ❖ Theorem (Nash, 1950)
  - ❖ If there are a finite number of players and each player has a finite number of actions, there always exists a Nash Equilibrium.
- ❖ The NE may be with pure or mixed strategies.



# Calculating Utilities of Mixed Strategies

---

## ❖ Decision Theory Version:

$$u(\sigma) = \sum_k \sum_s P(s) P_\sigma(\pi_k) u(\pi_k, s)$$

## ❖ Game Theory Version:

$$u(\vec{\sigma}) = \sum_{\pi_1, \dots, \pi_N} \prod_i P_{\sigma_i}(\pi_i) u(\pi_1, \dots, \pi_N)$$

# Example: Calculating Utilities

- ❖ What is  $u_1$  for  $\sigma_1 = (1/2, 1/2, 0)$  and  $\sigma_2 = (0, 1/2, 1/2)$ ?
- ❖ Is  $[\sigma_1 = (1/2, 1/2, 0), \sigma_2 = (0, 1/2, 1/2)]$  a mixed strategy equilibrium?

		PLAYER 2		
		ROCK	PAPER	SCISSORS
PLAYER 1	ROCK	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
	PAPER	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
	SCISSORS	-1,1	1,-1	0,0

# Finding the Mixed Strategy Nash Equilibrium

---

- ❖ What features of a mixed strategy profile qualify it as a NE?
- ❖ There is no reason for any player to deviate from their strategy, which occurs when the utilities of the weighted actions are equal and are as large as possible!

# Finding the Mixed Strategy Nash Equilibrium

❖ P1

❖ P2

		PLAYER 2		
		ROCK	PAPER	SCISSORS
PLAYER 1	ROCK	0,0	-1,1	1,-1
	PAPER	1,-1	0,0	-1,1
	SCISSORS	-1,1	1,-1	0,0

---

# Other Solution Concepts

---

- ❖ Correlated Equilibrium
- ❖ Pareto Optimal / Dominated

# Correlated Equilibrium

- ❖ Suppose a mediator computes the best combined strategy  $\sigma \in \Delta(\Pi_1 \times \Pi_2)$  for P1 and P2, samples a strategy profile  $(\pi_1, \pi_2)$ , and shares  $\pi_1$  with P1 and  $\pi_2$  with P2
- ❖ The strategy is a CE if  $\forall \pi'_1 \in \Pi_1$
- ❖ 
$$\sum_{\pi_2} P_\sigma(\pi_1, \pi_2) u_1(\pi_1, \pi_2) \geq \sum_{\pi_2} P_\sigma(\pi_1, \pi_2) u_1(\pi'_1, \pi_2)$$
- ❖ And the same for the other player

---

# Game of Chicken

---

	Dare	Chicken out
Dare	(0, 0)	(7, 2)
Chicken out	(2, 7)	(6, 6)

# Pareto Optimal and Pareto Dominated

---

- ❖ An outcome  $u(\vec{\sigma}) = (u_1(\vec{\sigma}), \dots, u_n(\vec{\sigma}))$  is Pareto optimal if there is no other outcome that all players would prefer, i.e., each player gets higher utility
  - ❖ At least one player would be disappointed in changing strategy
- ❖ An outcome  $u(\vec{\sigma}) = (u_1(\vec{\sigma}), \dots, u_n(\vec{\sigma}))$  is Pareto dominated by another outcome if all the players would prefer the other outcome



---

# Summary

---

- ❖ Vocabulary
- ❖ Pure / Mixed Strategies (and calculating them)
- ❖ Zero-Sum Games
- ❖ Dominant vs Dominated Strategies
- ❖ Strict / Weak Nash Equilibrium
- ❖ Prisoner's dilemma, Tragedy of the commons
- ❖ Correlated Equilibrium
- ❖ Pareto Optimal / Dominated
- ❖ Social Welfare