

# Game Theory

## Dynamic Games with Complete Information

Instructor: Xiaokuai Shao

shaoxiaokuai@bfsu.edu.cn

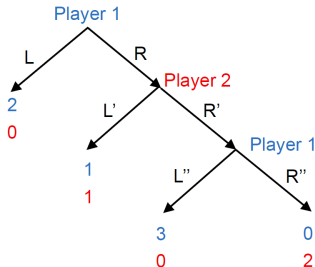
# Outline

- Sequential Rationality and Backward Induction  
序贯理性与逆向归纳法
- Subgame Perfect Nash Equilibrium  
子博弈完美纳什均衡
- Extensive v.s. Normal Representation  
博弈的拓展型与标准型
- Multi-stage Game  
多阶段博弈

## An Example Using “Backward Induction”

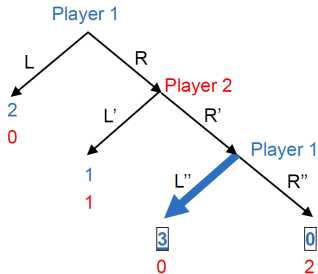
- 5 rational pirates: A, B, C, D, E. They decide to how to distribute 100 coins. Starting from A, each proposes a plan of distribution. If the proposed plan is approved by a majority or tie vote ( $\geq 50\%$ ), then it happens. Otherwise, the proposer is thrown overboard and dies, and the next makes a new proposal to the next round.
- The thought experiment: because all players are completely “rational,” they will first infer the actions taken by the player who moves last.
  - ① Starting with D and E (since a “tie vote” is sufficient): D proposes (100, 0)
  - ② C, D, and E: C proposes (99, 0, 1)
  - ③ B, C, D, and E: B proposes (99, 0, 1, 0)
  - ④ A, B, C, D, and E: A proposes (98, 0, 1, 0, 1)

# Game Tree and Order of Moves

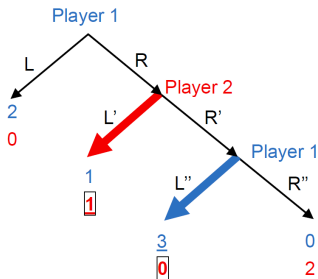


- 1 Player 1 chooses  $L$  or  $R$ , where  $L$  ends the game with payoffs of 2 to player 1 and 0 to player 2.
- 2 Player 2 observes 1's choice. If 1 chose  $R$  then 2 chooses  $L'$  or  $R'$ , where  $L'$  ends the game with payoffs of 1 to both.
- 3 Player 1 observes 2's choice (and recalls his or her own choice in the first stage). If the earlier choices were  $R$  and  $R'$  then 1 chooses  $L''$  or  $R''$ , both of which end the game,  $L''$  with payoffs of 3 to player 1 and 0 to player 2 and  $R''$  with analogous payoffs of 0 and 2.

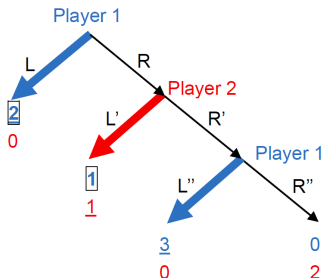
# The Backward Induction Outcome



At stage 3 by comparing  $L''$  and  $R''$ , player 1 chooses  $L''$  getting payoff 3 (better than  $R''$  which gives 0)



At stage 2 by comparing  $L'$  and  $R'$ , player 2 chooses  $L'$  (because  $1 > 0$ )



At stage 1 by comparing  $L$  and  $R$ , player 1 chooses  $L$  getting payoff 2 (because  $2 > 1$ ).

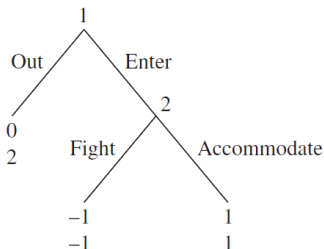
- The final outcome is: Player 1 chooses  $L$  and the game ends.
- The “three boldfaced arrows” constitutes the “subgame perfect Nash equilibrium.”

# Extensive-Form Game (博弈的拓展型)

- Set of players
- Players' payoffs as a function of outcomes
- Order of moves
- Actions of players when they can move
- The knowledge that players have when they can move
- Probability distributions over exogenous events
- The structure of the extensive-form game represented above (including this sentence) is common knowledge among all players

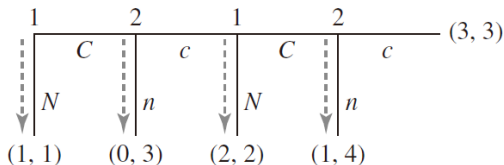


# Example: Entry Game



- The potential entrant firm (player 1), decides whether or not to enter the market
- The incumbent firm (player 2), decides how to respond to an entry by either fighting or accommodating.
- SPNE: 1 enters and 2 accommodate
- “Fight” is an incredible threat

# Example: Centipede Game



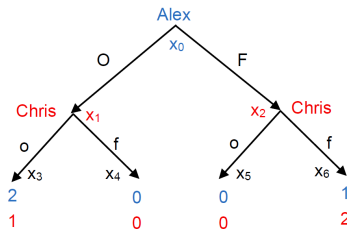
- Player 1 can terminate the game immediately by choosing  $N$  in his first node or can continue by choosing  $C$ . Player 2 faces the same choice, and if player 2 chooses to continue then the ball is back in player 1's court, who again can terminate and continue...
- SPNE: player 1 chooses  $N$  at first stage
- "Curse of Rationality"

# Example: Battle of Sexes with First-Mover Advantage

		Chris	
		o	f
Alex	O	2,1	0,0
	F	0,0	1,2

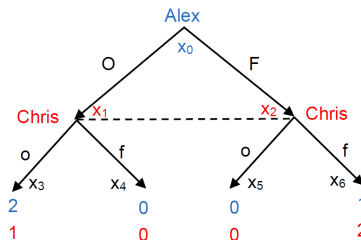
Left-side table: Alex and Chris move simultaneously. Then two pure-strategy Nash equilibrium.

- The backward-induction outcome for Alex is better than the outcome in simultaneous-move game.
- The first-mover advantage (先行者优势) comes from restricting Alex's choices ("先斩后奏").



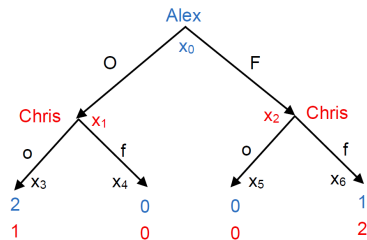
Right-side game tree: Alex moves first

# Extensive-Form Representation of a Static Game



Left-side: The simultaneous-move game can be represented by an extensive-form

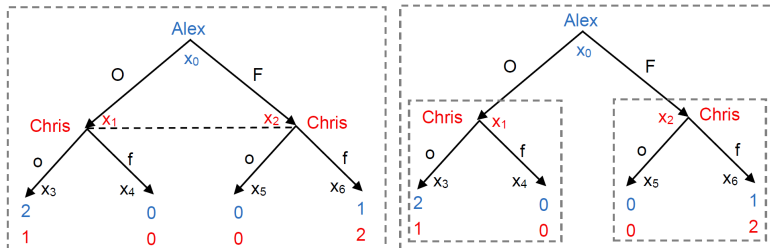
- Information set (信息集):  $\{x_1, x_2\}$ , i.e.,  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  can not be distinguished



Right-side: Player 1 moves first

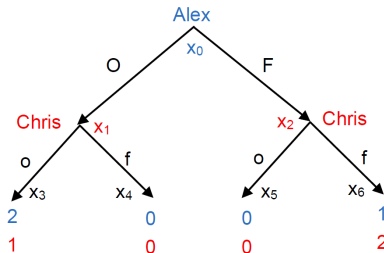
- Information set:  $\{x_1\}, \{x_2\}$ , i.e., player 2 knows exactly where he/she stands at  $x_1$  or at  $x_2$ .

# Subgames (子博弈)



- Nodes:  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_6$
- Proper subgame:
  - One proper subgame (left graph): starting from  $x_1$
  - Three proper subgames (right graph): the whole game starting from  $x_0$ ; and two proper subgames starting from  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , respectively.

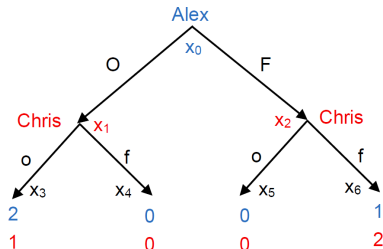
# Pure Strategies in Extensive-Form Games



A pure strategy for player  $i$  is a **complete plan of play** that describes which pure action player  $i$  will choose at each of his/her information set (node).

- Player 1's choices at node  $x_0$ :  $\{O, F\}$
- Player 2 makes a “plan” by listing all possible combinations of actions chosen at node  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , respectively:  $\{oo, of, fo, ff\}$ , where the first (resp., second) letter denotes player 2's action at node  $x_1$  (resp.,  $x_2$ ).

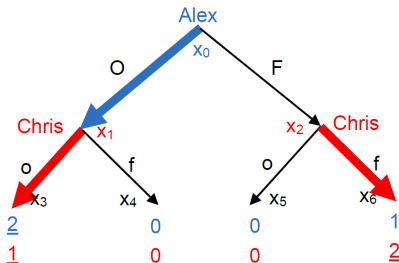
# Normal-Form Representation of Extensive-Form Games



		Chris ( $x_1 x_2$ )			
		oo	of	fo	ff
Alex ( $x_0$ )	O	2,1	2,1	0,0	0,0
	F	0,0	1,2	0,0	1,2

- Transferring extensive-form into the normal form seems to miss the dynamic feature
- The concept of Nash equilibrium is static in nature
  - Players take the strategies of others as given, and in turn they play a best response.

# Nash Equilibrium

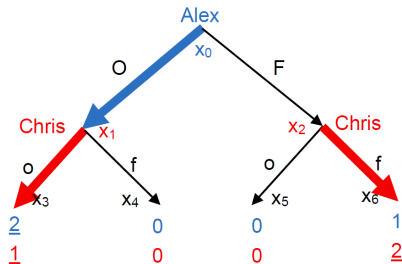


		Chris ( $x_1 x_2$ )			
		oo	of	fo	ff
Alex ( $x_0$ )	O	<u>2</u> , <u>1</u>	<u>2</u> , <u>1</u>	<u>0</u> , <u>0</u>	<u>0</u> , <u>0</u>
	F	0, 0	1, <u>2</u>	<u>0</u> , <u>0</u>	<u>1</u> , <u>2</u>

- Three pure-strategy Nash equilibrium:  $(O, oo)$ ,  $(O, of)$  and  $(F, ff)$ 
  - By definition: all the three are best responses.
  - $(O, oo)$ : Chris “can choose to” to play  $o$  at node  $x_2$  while she knows that  $x_2$  will not be reached. Check: Alex will not deviate.
  - $(O, of)$ : Chris “plans” to play  $f$  as long as  $x_2$  is reached (although  $x_2$  is not actually reached). Check: Alex will not deviate.
  - $(F, ff)$ : Chris “can choose to” play  $f$  at node  $x_1$  while  $x_2$  is actually reached.
- Complete plan of actions, on and off the equilibrium paths.



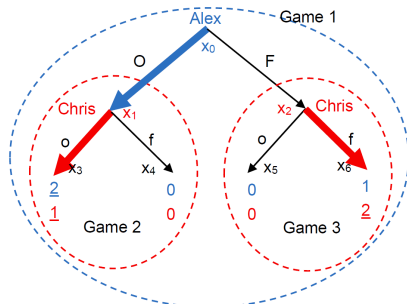
# Sequential Rationality and Backward Induction



		Chris ( $x_1 x_2$ )			
		oo	of	fo	ff
Alex	O	<u>2</u> , <u>1</u>	<b><u>2</u></b> , <u>1</u>	<u>0</u> , 0	0, 0
	F	0, 0	1, <u>2</u>	<u>0</u> , 0	<u>1</u> , <u>2</u>

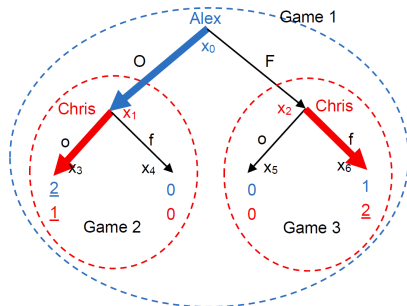
- Are  $(O, oo)$  and  $(F, ff)$  sequentially rational?
- We know the backward induction outcome should be  $(O, of)$
- We need a new solution concept with respect to dynamic games—Subgame Perfect Nash Equilibrium (SPNE)—a refinement of Nash equilibrium that survives backward induction (逆向归纳) and is sequentially rational (序贯理性).

# Subgame Perfect Nash Equilibrium (SPNE)



		Chris ( $x_1 x_2$ )			
		oo	of	fo	ff
Alex ( $x_0$ )	O	<u>2</u> , <u>1</u>	<b><u>2</u></b> , <u>1</u>	<u>0</u> , 0	0, 0
	F	0, 0	1, <u>2</u>	<u>0</u> , 0	<u>1</u> , <u>2</u>

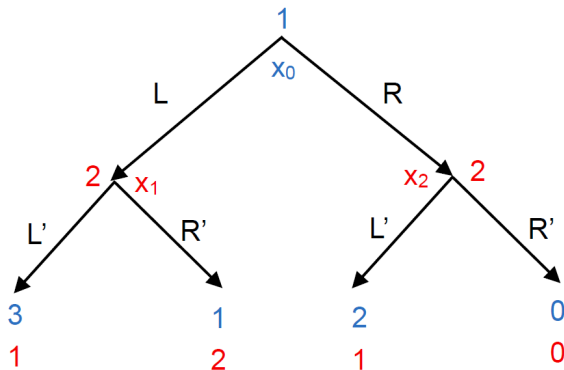
- Concept: Nash equilibrium in **every** proper subgame, i.e., best responses
  - not only on the equilibrium path
  - but also off the equilibrium path (including those subgames that are not reached in equilibrium)
- Among the 3 Nash equilibrium, only  $(O, of)$  is SPNE.
  - SPNE **refines** NE. 精炼



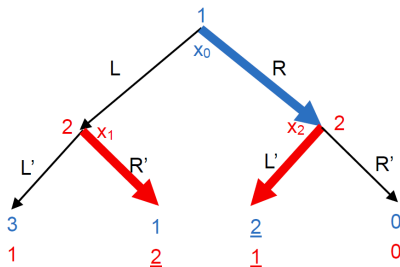
		Chris ( $x_1 x_2$ )			
		oo	of	fo	ff
Alex O ( $x_0$ ) F	O	<u>2</u> , <u>1</u>	<u>2</u> , <u>1</u>	<u>0</u> , 0	0, 0
	F	0, 0	1, <u>2</u>	<u>0</u> , 0	<u>1</u> , <u>2</u>

- $(O, oo)$ : the second  $o$  in  $oo$  is not a best response off the equilibrium path (game 3).
- $(F, ff)$ : the first  $f$  in  $ff$  is not a best response in game 2 (when Alex chooses  $F$ , the equilibrium path becomes game 1  $\rightarrow$  game 3; game 2 is off the equilibrium path).
- Only  $(O, of)$  are the best responses in game 1, 2 and 3, and coincides with the set of NE that survive backward induction. Therefore,  $(O, of)$  is a SPNE.

## Example

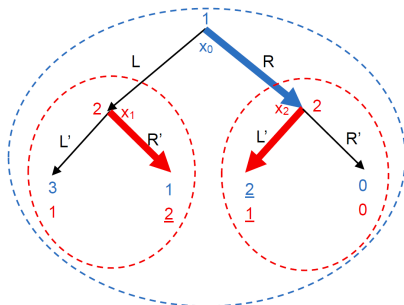


- ① 1 chooses an action from  $\{L, R\}$
- ② 2 observes 1's action and then chooses from  $\{L', R'\}$



		2			
		$L'L'$	$L'R'$	$R'L'$	$R'R'$
1	L	<u>3</u> , 1	<u>3</u> , 1	1, <u>2</u>	1, <u>2</u>
	R	2, <u>1</u>	0, 0	<u>2</u> , <u>1</u>	0, 0

- A complete plan of play:
  - Player 1's plan node  $x_0$ :  $L$  or  $R$
  - Player 2's plan of play at node  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ :
    - $(L'L')$ : play  $L'$  at  $x_1$  and  $L'$  at  $x_2$ ;
    - $(L'R')$ : play  $L'$  at  $x_1$  and  $R'$  at  $x_2$ ;
    - $(R'L')$ : play  $R'$  at  $x_1$  and  $L'$  at  $x_2$ ;
    - $(R'R')$ : play  $R'$  at  $x_1$  and  $R'$  at  $x_2$ .
- Two pure-strategy Nash equilibrium (player 1, player 2)
  - $(L, R'R')$
  - $(R, R'L')$

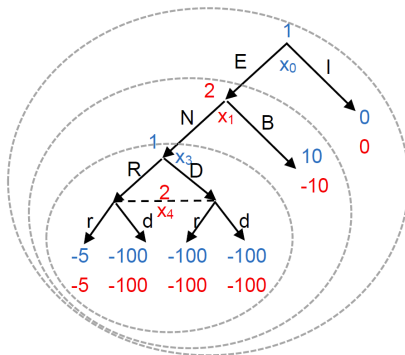


		2			
		L'L'	L'R'	R'L'	R'R'
1	L	<u>3</u> , 1	<u>3</u> , 1	1, <u>2</u>	1, <u>2</u>
	R	2, <u>1</u>	0, 0	<b>2</b> , <b>1</b>	0, 0

- SPNE:  $(R, R'L')$ .
  - Bold path: including  $R \rightarrow L'$  on the equilibrium path; and  $L \rightarrow R'$  that is not reached at equilibrium (off equilibrium path)
  - $(R, R'L')$  is a Nash equilibrium of every proper subgame
- NE but not SPNE:  $(L, R'R')$ 
  - Indeed a best response
  - Not an equilibrium in each proper subgame

# Example: Mutually Assured Destruction

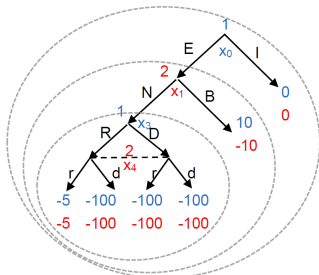
- Cuban missile crisis of 1962:
  - U.S. found Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba. U.S. escalated the crisis by quarantining Cuba. The USSR then backed down, agreeing to remove its missiles from Cuba.
- Could the suggest “if you don’t back off we both pay dearly” be a credible threat?



- Player 1: U.S.; Player 2: USSR
  - 1 chooses to ignore  $I$  (with 0 each); or escalate the situation  $E$
  - 2 can back down  $B$  (losing face -10) or proceed to a nuclear confrontation  $N$
  - War stage (simultaneous-move): retreat ( $r$  and  $R$ ) gives -5; or choose Doomsday ( $D$  or  $d$ ) that gives -100.



# Normal-Form Representation:



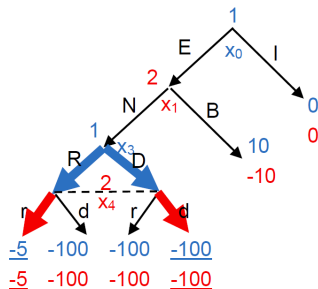
Player 1  
( $x_0x_3$ )

Player 2 ( $x_1x_4$ )

	Br	Bd	Nr	Nd
IR	0, <u>0</u>	0, <u>0</u>	<u>0</u> , <u>0</u>	<u>0</u> , <u>0</u>
ID	0, <u>0</u>	0, <u>0</u>	<u>0</u> , <u>0</u>	<u>0</u> , <u>0</u>
ER	<u>10</u> , -10	<u>10</u> , -10	-5, <u>-5</u>	-100, -100
ED	<u>10</u> , <u>-10</u>	<b><u>10</u>, <u>-10</u></b>	-100, -100	-100, -100

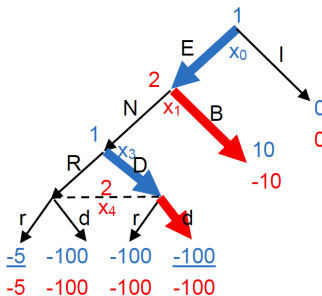
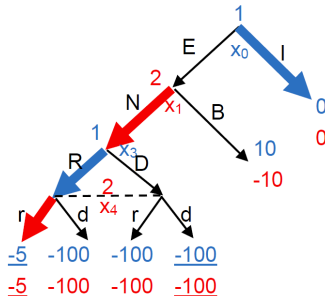
- 1's strategy set:  $\{IR, ID, ER, ED\}$ , where the first letter denotes the action taken at the beginning step; the second letter denotes the action taken when the "war-stage" is reached.
- 2's strategy set:  $\{Br, Bd, Nr, Nd\}$ , where the first letter denotes the action taken at the second step; the second letter denotes the action taken at the "war-stage."
- Six pure-strategy Nash equilibrium
- Next: solve SPNE

# The War Stage



		Player 2 ( $x_4$ )	
		$r$	$d$
Player 1 ( $x_3$ )	$R$	<u><b>-5, -5</b></u>	<u>-100, -100</u>
	$D$	<u>-100, <b>-100</b></u>	<u><b>-100, -100</b></u>

- There are three proper subgames: (1) the whole game; (2) starting from player 2 chooses  $B$  or  $N$ ; (3) war stage
- The war stage: simultaneous-move. Two pure-strategy Nash equilibria
  - i NE1:  $(R, r)$  both retreat
  - ii NE2:  $(D, d)$  Doomsday
- To proceed, consider two possible NEs as two cases.



- Case 1: for NE1 at war stage,  $(IR, Nr)$
- Case 2: for NE2 at war stage,  $(ED, Bd)$
- Two SPNE: (1) 1 chooses  $I$  (0) because 1 believes that if not then 2 will choose  $N$  and both  $r$  (-5); (2) 1 chooses  $E$  because 1 believes that 2 will treat this as a signal that 1 is willing to “go all the way”—both play the Doomsday—and 2 who shares the same beliefs, will back off.
- In both cases, the war game is *off the equilibrium path*. Nonetheless it is the expected behavior in the last and final stage that dictates how players will play.
- E.g., second-strike from survival forces (ballistic missile submarines)

# Sequential Bargaining

- Two players 1 and 2 are bargaining over one dollar. They alternate in making offers: first player 1 makes a proposal that player 2 can accept or reject; if player 2 rejects then 2 makes a proposal that 1 can accept or reject; and so on.
- Each offer takes one period. Players are impatient. They discount payoffs received in later periods by the factor  $\delta$  per period.
- Assume 3 periods:
  - ①  $t = 1$ : 1 proposes to take a share  $s_1$ ;  $1 - s_1$  for 2; if 2 rejects, then
  - ②  $t = 2$ : 2 proposes to give  $s_2$  to player 1 (hence  $1 - s_2$  to himself/herself); if 1 rejects, then
  - ③  $t = 3$ : 1 receives a share  $s_3$ , leaving  $1 - s_3$  for 2.

## Backward induction:

- ① At  $t = 3$ , player 1 gets  $s_3 = 1$ .
  - ② At  $t = 2$ , stage-3's payoff  $s_3$  worths  $\delta s_3$  at stage 2. 1 will accept  $s_2$  if and only if  $s_2 \geq \delta s_3$ . Player 2 gets  $1 - \delta s_3$
  - ③ At  $t = 1$ , 1 knows that 2 can receive  $1 - s_2$  in the next round by rejecting 1's offer now. Receiving  $1 - s_2$  worths  $\delta(1 - s_2)$  now. Providing 2 with  $\delta(1 - s_2)$  will end the game at stage 1. Player 1 gets  $s_1 = 1 - \delta(1 - s_2)$ .
- $s_3^* = 1 \Rightarrow s_2^* = \delta s_3^* = \delta \Rightarrow s_1^* = 1 - \delta(1 - s_2^*) = 1 - \delta(1 - \delta)$
  - 1 proposes  $(s_1^*, 1 - s_1^*)$  at stage 1 and 2 will accept.
  - If the game lasts for infinite rounds, by induction, observe that

$$s_1^* = 1 - \delta + \delta^2 - \delta^3 + \dots = \frac{1}{1 + \delta}$$

# Example: Wages and Employment in a Unionized Firm\*<sup>1</sup>

- A union and a firm. The union prefers high wage  $w$  and high employment  $L$ . The union's utility  $U(w, L)$  is increasing and concave in both arguments.
- Given  $w$ , the firm chooses to hire labor  $L$  to maximize profit  $\pi(w, L) = R(L) - wL$ , where  $R(L)$  is the revenue function that is increasing and concave.
- First, the union makes a wage demand; Second, observing  $w$ , the firm makes hiring decisions  $L$ .
- Using backward induction, at stage 2, the firm solves

$$\max_L R(L) - wL \Rightarrow R'(L^{BR}) = w$$

$L^{BR}(w)$  is a best response of  $w$ .

---

<sup>1</sup>Not required

- Back to the stage 1: the union chooses  $w^*$  subjected to  $L^{BR}(w)$  such that the indifferent curve  $(w, L)$  reaches the highest possible level.
- SPNE:  $(w^*, L^{BR}(w^*))$  and  $R'(L^{BR}) = w^*$ .
- Is SPNE socially efficient? Consider a benevolent planner who tries to maximize the sum of the payoffs of the two parties:  
 $W = R(L) - wL + U(w, L)$

$$\max_{w, L} R(L) - wL + U(w, L)$$

If  $L$  increases a little bit, then  $\frac{\partial W}{\partial L} = R'(L) - w + U'_L$ .

- However, if we plug the Nash outcome  $(w^*, L^{BR}(w^*))$  into the first-order derivative:

$$\left. \frac{\partial W}{\partial L} \right|_{R'(L^{BR})=w^*} = \underbrace{R'(L^{BR}) - w^*}_{=0} + U'_L(w^*, L^{BR}) > 0,$$

which implies that, starting from the SPNE, a further increase of  $L$  will be welfare-improving.

# Two-Stage Repeated Game (重复博弈)

- Recall the Prisoner's dilemma, where  $M$  and  $F$  are replaced by  $R$  and  $L$ . And payoffs are replaced by positive numbers.

		Player 2	
		$L_2$	$R_2$
Player 1	$L_1$	<u>1,1</u>	5,0
	$R_1$	0,5	4,4

- For one-shot game, the unique Nash equilibrium is  $(L_1, L_2)$ . However,  $(R_1, R_2)$  is the socially efficient outcome.
- Suppose the game is played twice. Using backward induction, it is clear that  $(L_1, L_2)$  is the second-stage equilibrium is the first-stage equilibrium.



	$L_2$	$R_2$
$L_1$	<u>1,1</u>	5,0
$R_1$	0,5	4,4

	$L_2$	$R_2$
$L_1$	<u>1+1, 1+1</u>	<u>5+1, 0+1</u>
$R_1$	0+1, <u>5+1</u>	4+1, 4+1

The game at stage two: Nash equilibrium  $(L_1, L_2)$

The “entire game” from the view of the first stage.

- When the game is played twice, we use the right-side graph to represent the “entire game.”
- Because the second-stage outcome is  $(L_1, L_2)$  which gives  $(1, 1)$ , hence  $(1, 1)$  is added to each payoff pair.
- The unique SPNE is  $(L_1, L_2)$  in both stages. And cooperation  $(R_1, R_2)$  can not be achieved.
- If the stage game  $G$  has a **unique** Nash equilibrium, then for **finite** periods  $T$ , the repeated game  $G(T)$  has a unique SPNE: the Nash equilibrium of  $G$  is played in every stage.

# Multiple Equilibria Case

- Consider the following game with multiple Nash equilibria:

	$L_2$	$M_2$	$R_2$
$L_1$	<u>1,1</u>	<u>5,0</u>	0,0
$M_1$	0, <u>5</u>	4,4	0,0
$R_1$	0,0	0,0	<u>3,3</u>

- Two NE:  $(L_1, L_2)$  and  $(R_1, R_2)$
- Suppose the game is played twice: The second-stage NE will be  $(L_1, L_2)$  or  $(R_1, R_2)$ , then  $(M_1, M_2)$  could be a SPNE played at stage 1.
  - Observe that  $(M_1, M_2)$  is better than  $(L_1, L_2)$  and  $(R_1, R_2)$ .
  - In order to achieve  $(M_1, M_2)$  at stage 1, consider whether the following “threat” is credible:
 

*“If  $(M_1, M_2)$  is played at stage 1, then we play  $(R_1, R_2)$  at stage 2; Otherwise, we play  $(L_1, L_2)$  at stage 2 if any of the other 8 outcomes occurs at stage 1.”*

	L <sub>2</sub>	M <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>
L <sub>1</sub>	<u>1, 1</u>	<u>5</u> , 0	0, 0
M <sub>1</sub>	0, <u>5</u>	4, 4	0, 0
R <sub>1</sub>	0, 0	0, 0	<u>3, 3</u>

Second-stage game

	L <sub>2</sub>	M <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>
L <sub>1</sub>	<u>1+1, 1+1</u>	5+1, 0+1	0+1, 0+1
M <sub>1</sub>	0+1, 5+1	<u>4+3, 4+3</u>	0+1, 0+1
R <sub>1</sub>	0+1, 0+1	0+1, 0+1	<u>3+1, 3+1</u>

The entire game from the view of stage 1

- For the anticipation: play  $R$  after  $M$ ; play  $L$  if the stage-1 outcome is not  $M$ , then the payoff of the entire game can be represented by the right side graph.
- Three Nash equilibrium in the right side (hence three SPNE of the entire game):
  - $(L_1, L_2)$ : corresponds to SPNE  $((L_1, L_2), (L_1, L_2))$
  - $(R_1, R_2)$ : corresponds to SPNE  $((R_1, R_2), (L_1, L_2))$
  - $(M_1, M_2)$  is a qualitatively different result: SPNE  $((M_1, M_2), (R_1, R_2))$
- Renegotiation is not considered here.

# Finitely vs. Infinitely Repeated Game (有限/无限次重复博弈)

		Player 2	
		$L_2$	$R_2$
Player 1	$L_1$	$\underline{1}, \underline{1}$	$\underline{5}, 0$
	$R_1$	$0, \underline{5}$	$4, 4$

- For **finite** periods,  $(L_1, L_2)$  is NE for each period.
  - At stage  $n$ , both choose  $(L_1, L_2)$ .
  - At stage  $n - 1$ , both choose  $(L_1, L_2)$ .
  - ...
  - Play  $(L_1, L_2)$  in **every** period.
- Consider whether the “cooperative outcome”  $(R_1, R_2)$  can be achieved if the game is played for **infinite** times.  
Define  $\delta$  the discount factor.
- They adopt “grim-trigger” strategy (触发策略): history dependent.

# Grim-Trigger Strategy (触发策略)

- We introduce two components in the infinitely repeated game.
  - Preference for “future:” define  $\delta \in [0, 1)$  the discount factor. \$10 obtained in the next period is valued by  $\delta \cdot 10$  currently. \$10 obtained in the next next period is valued by  $\delta \cdot 10$  in the next period, and hence is valued by  $\delta \cdot (\delta \cdot 10) = \delta^2 \cdot 10$  currently.
  - History-dependent strategy: “grim-trigger.” What I will play depends on the what we have done in the previous rounds.

		Player 2	
		$L_2$	$R_2$
Player 1	$L_1$	<u>1</u> , <u>1</u>	<u>5</u> , 0
	$R_1$	0, <u>5</u>	4, 4

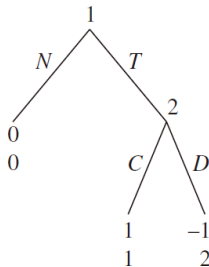
- If one player believes that the opponents' behavior is independent of history, then there can be no role for considering how current play affects future play  $\Rightarrow$  unconditionally repeat  $(L_1, L_2)$ .
- Grim-trigger: Play  $R$  if  $R$  is achieved in the previous round; otherwise, play  $L$  forever.

		Player 2	
		$L_2$	$R_2$
Player 1	$L_1$	$\underline{1}, \underline{1}$	$\underline{5}, 0$
	$R_1$	$0, \underline{5}$	$4, 4$

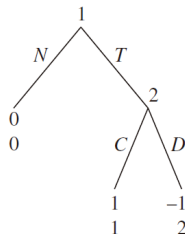
- Grim-trigger: Play  $R$  if  $R$  was played in the previous round; otherwise, play  $L$  forever.
  - Keep playing  $R$  gives 4 each round;
  - One-shot deviation gives 5, but gets only 1 in each round in future.
- From an arbitrage stage:
  - Stick with  $R$  gives a stream of future value:
 
$$4 + 4\delta + 4\delta^2 + \dots = \frac{4}{1-\delta}$$
  - One-shot deviation gives  $5 + 1 \cdot \delta + 1 \cdot \delta^2 + \dots = 5 + \frac{\delta}{1-\delta}$
- Cooperative outcome  $(R_1, R_2)$  is achieved if

$$\underbrace{\frac{4}{1-\delta}}_{\text{cooperation}} \geq \underbrace{5}_{\text{one-shot cheating}} + \underbrace{\frac{\delta}{1-\delta}}_{\text{never cooperate}} \Rightarrow \delta \geq \frac{1}{4}$$

## Example: Trust Game and Reputation



- ① At stage 1, player 1 chooses to trust (T) or not trust (N) player 2. If 1 chooses N, the game ends.
- ② If 1 trusts 2, 2 chooses to cooperate (C) or defect (D).
- For one-shot game, the SPNE is 1 chooses N, which is not “socially efficient”

[illegible]

- Grim-trigger:
  - 1 trusts 2, and if there's no deviations from  $(T, C)$ , then trust him/her again; otherwise never trust him/her: trust forever implies  $\frac{1}{1-\delta} \geq 0$
  - 2 cooperate, and if there's no deviations from  $(T, C)$ , then cooperate again; otherwise never cooperate: cooperate forever implies  $\frac{1}{1-\delta} \geq 2 + 0 \cdot \frac{\delta}{1-\delta} \Rightarrow \delta \geq \frac{1}{2}$ .
- The cooperative outcome is achieved if  $\delta \geq \frac{1}{2}$  (both players confirm that the two inequalities hold simultaneously).



# Application: Time-Consistent Monetary Policy\*<sup>2</sup>

- Effectiveness of monetary policy in macroeconomics:
  - Keynesian: fiscal policy
  - Neoclassical: rational expectations
  - Nominal rigidity and unexpected inflation
- The “surprise inflation” helps (rules v.s. discretion)
  - ① At stage 1, the employers form an expectation of inflation  $\pi^e$
  - ② At stage 2, the monetary authority chooses inflation level  $\pi$
- Payoff of employer:  $-(\pi - \pi^e)^2$  (correctly estimates inflation to maintain zero profit)
- Payoff of the monetary authority:  $-c\pi^2 - (y - y^*)^2$ 
  - prefer low inflation
  - “efficient” output  $y^*$
  - The actual output is a function of target output  $y^*$  and surprise inflation:  $y = by^* + d(\pi - \pi^e)$ , where  $b < 1$  and  $d > 0$ .

---

<sup>2</sup>Not required

- At stage 2, the monetary authority solves

$$\max_{\pi} W(\pi, \pi^e) = -c\pi^2 - [(b-1)y^* + d(\pi - \pi^e)]^2$$

$$\frac{dW}{d\pi} = 0 \Rightarrow \pi^{BR}(\pi^e) = \frac{d^2}{c + d^2} \pi^e + \frac{d(1-b)}{c + d^2} y^*$$

- At stage 1, the employers maximize  $-(\pi^*(\pi^e) - \pi^e)^2$ , which gives  $\pi^{BR}(\pi^e) = \pi^e$ . Hence, the inflation for a finite stage game is

$$\pi^e = \frac{d(1-b)}{c} y^* \equiv \pi_s$$

- Therefore, the Nash outcome for a finite game is  $\pi = \pi^e = \pi_s$ , and the payoff of the authority is  $W(\pi_s, \pi_s) = -c\pi_s^2 - (b-1)^2 y^{*2}$ . The payoff for the employer is 0.
- However, the authority can be better off if  $\pi = \pi^e = 0$ , which gives  $W(0, 0) = -(b-1)^2 y^{*2} > W(\pi_s, \pi_s)$ .
- The prisoners' dilemma.

- Consider the infinitely repeated game with discount factor  $\delta$ :
  - Employers hold expectations  $\pi^e = 0$  if  $\pi = 0$  in all previous rounds
  - If the monetary authority deviates to  $\pi^{BR}(\pi^e) = \pi^{BR}(0)$  once, then it lead to  $\pi^e = \pi_s$  forever.
- Keep promise (rule):  $W(0, 0) \cdot \frac{1}{1-\delta}$
- One-shot deviation (discretion):  $W(\pi^*(0), 0) + W(\pi_s, \pi_s) \frac{\delta}{1-\delta}$
- Keeping the rule instead of discretion provided that

$$\underbrace{W(0, 0) \cdot \frac{1}{1-\delta}}_{\text{rules}} \geq \underbrace{W(\pi^*(0), 0)}_{\text{surprise inflation}} + \underbrace{W(\pi_s, \pi_s) \frac{\delta}{1-\delta}}_{\text{ineffective monetary policy}}$$

- $\Rightarrow \delta \geq \frac{c}{2c+d^2}$

# What can you learn from this lecture?

- 多次博弈，从最后一个行动的人的角度考虑问题
- “日久”见人心：合作与否取决于长期还是短期
  - 要考虑当前的事态是否是“一锤子买卖”；还是以后“抬头不见低头见”
- “狼来了的故事”：只有“老实人”才能骗人
  - 维持信誉靠长期，毁于一旦