

Cooperative Game

Before: individual player makes decision individually.
assume no enforcing agreement between players

Now: binding agreement

Coalitions / groups

Coalitional game

- players
- set of actions for each coalition
- preferences.

E.g. Two-player unanimity game

coalitions: $S = \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{1, 2\}\}$ - grand coalition
individual coalition

Output: $V(S) = V(\{1\}) = 0 \quad V(\{2\}) = 0 \quad V(\{1, 2\}) = 1$

Action: $a_N = (x_1, x_2)$ st. $x_1 + x_2 = 1 \quad x_1 \geq 0 \quad x_2 \geq 0$

E.g. Land owner and workers

m workers

owner and k workers produce $f(k+1)$

workers without owner produce 0

action of coalition = allocation to members.

Transferable payoffs

sum of payoffs for coalition S is $V(S)$

E.g. House allocation.

n players

each player has one house

coalition can reallocate houses among members

actions = allocations

$$\{1\} = h_1 \text{ to } 1 \quad \text{actions}$$

$$\{1, 3\} (h_1 \rightarrow 1, h_3 \rightarrow 3) \text{ or } (h_1 \rightarrow 3, h_3 \rightarrow 1)$$

Players may have different payoffs for different houses

no transferable payoffs

E.g. Marriage Market.

Group of men and group of women.

Coalitions actions:

pairs between men and women in group

and possibly some unpaired.

preferences over potential partners or being single.

no transferable payoffs

Above games are **cohesive**

\downarrow all players involved

for any coalitions and actions, the grand coalition always has an action
that is at least as good for all players

E.g. players | Andy: microchip set sells for \$900

| Bill: software sells for \$100

Combination: sells for \$3000, \$2000 for surplus

Divide: \$3000 between x_A , x_B
for Andy for Bill

BATNA: best alternative to a negotiated agreement

$$d_A = 900, d_B = 100, x_A \geq d_A, x_B \geq d_B.$$

Nash Bargaining:

Axiomatic: (EFF) Pareto efficiency

(SYM) Symmetry

If players have equal bargaining power,
they get the same amount.

(INV) Invariant to linear transformation

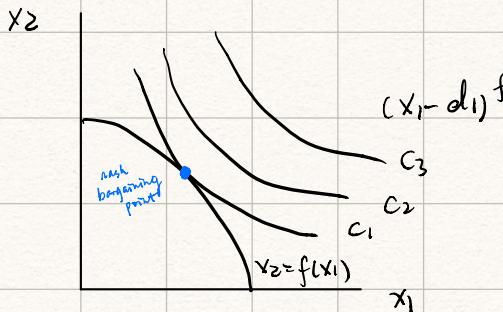
If transform payoff linearly, no change in preference.

(IND) Independent of irrelevant alternatives

Solution will maximize $(u(x_1) - u(d_1))^{f_1} (u(x_2) - u(d_2))^{f_2}$

subject to $x_2 = f(x_1)$ ($x_1 + x_2 = V$ here)

f_1, f_2 : bargaining power, $f_1 + f_2 = 1$



$$\max (x_1 - d_1)^{f_1} (v - x_1 - d_2)^{f_2} \quad (x_1 + x_2 = v)$$

$$\Rightarrow f_1 \ln(x_1 - d_1) + f_2 \ln(v - x_1 - d_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{f_1}{x_1 - d_1} - \frac{f_2}{v - x_1 - d_2} \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{f_1}{f_2} = \frac{x_1 - d_1}{x_2 - d_2}$$

E.g. Andy & Bill

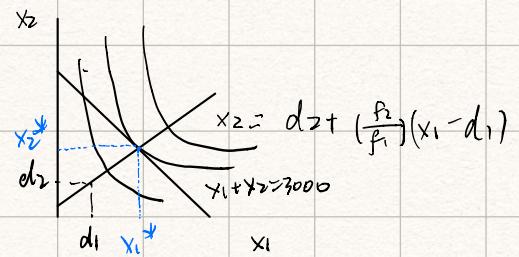
$$\max ((u(x_1) - u(d_1))^{f_1} (u(x_2) - u(d_2))^{f_2} \quad (\text{when cooperate})$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x_1 - d_1}{x_2 - d_2} = \frac{f_2}{f_1} \quad \begin{matrix} \textcircled{1} \\ \textcircled{2} \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{outside option} \\ \text{smart, persuasion} \end{matrix}$$

$$\text{Suppose } \frac{x_1 - 900}{x_2 - 100} = \frac{0.8}{0.2} \quad \dots \dots$$

$$0.2x_1 = 100 + 0.8x_2 \quad \left. \begin{matrix} x_1 = 2500 \\ x_2 = 500 \end{matrix} \right\}$$

$$\text{Also, } x_1 + x_2 = 3000$$



The Core

players coalition/actions, payoffs

Core of a game: set of all stable actions by grand coal

is set of actions, Δ^n , such that no coalition (including N)

has an action that's all its members prefer to action in Δ^n .

E.g. two player unanimity

$$V(\{1\}) = 0 = V(\{2\})$$

$$V(\{1, 2\}) = 1 \quad x_1 + x_2 = 1 \quad x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0$$

↗ All allocations are in core

E.g. Landowner - Workers game

k people, including landowner, generate $f(k)$

any coalition without landowner generates 0

Assume 2 workers (core)

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = f(3) \quad x_i \geq f(1), \quad x_2, x_3 \geq 0$$

$$x_1 + x_2 \geq f(2)$$

$$x_1 + x_3 \geq f(2)$$

E.g. $f(1) = 2, f(2) = 5, f(3) = 8$

$$x_1 \geq 2 \quad x_1 + x_2 \geq 5, \quad x_1 + x_3 \geq 5, \quad x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 8$$

$$x_1 = 4, \quad x_2 = x_3 = 2$$

E.g. Indivisible good

Owner starts with good

2 buyers with money

owner values good at 0

no transferable payoff

buyers value good at 1

coalition rearrange goods and money of its members

actions are S-allocation

2 actions in core: owner sells good to one buyer for \$1

↑

if ≤ 1 , the one not have the
good will coalition with owner
at higher price (≤ 1)

If one buyer values the object at 2

Core: ↓ buys the good for between \$1 and \$2

E.g. Matching Market.

Two sided one-to-one

Each x can be matched with at most one y , and vice versa

$M(i)$: partner of i

Strict preference ranking, including being single.

x_1	x_2	x_3	y_1	y_2	y_3
y_2	y_1	y_1	x_1	y_2	x_1
y_1	y_2	y_2	x_3	x_1	y_3
	y_3		x_2	x_3	x_2

Cone: Pairing s.t. no rearrangement of pairings can make those involved better off.

Ex. $M(x_1) = y_1$, $M(x_2) = y_2$, $M(x_3) = y_3$, $M(y_3) = x_3$ is in core.

E.g. Matching



deferred acceptance

procedure with proposals

1. One side (Say, X)

makes proposal to most preferred.

2. Other side (Say, Y)

chooses most preferred proposal or reject call
(if all unacceptable)

3. If all proposals are accepted,
process is over and matches are set.

4. If some proposal is rejected, rejected y 's make proposal to next favorite.

5. y 's receiving proposals

choose best option available.

6. Repeat until no more proposals are possible.

x_1	x_2	x_3	y_1	y_2	y_3
y_2	y_1	y_1	x_1	y_2	x_1
y_1	y_2	y_2	x_3	x_1	y_3
	y_3		x_2	x_3	x_2

1 2 3 4

$x_1 \rightarrow y_2$ R $\rightarrow y_1$

$x_2 \rightarrow y_1$ R $\rightarrow y_2$ Ends

$x_3 \rightarrow y_1$ R $\rightarrow y_2$ R x_3 does not have anymore
preference

$$M(x_1) = y_1, M(x_2) = y_2, M(x_3) = y_3, M(y_3) = y_3.$$

E.g. Matching (another preference)

x_1	x_2	x_3	y_1	y_2	y_3
y_1	y_1	y_1	x_1	x_1	x_1
y_2	y_2	y_3	x_2	y_3	x_2
y_3	y_3	y_2	x_3	x_2	y_3

X's proposal

$$x_1 \rightarrow y_1$$

$$x_2 \rightarrow y_1 \text{ R } \rightarrow y_2$$

$$x_3 \rightarrow y_1 \text{ R } \rightarrow y_3$$

$$M(x_1) = y_1, M(x_2) = y_2, M(x_3) = y_3$$

Y's proposal

$$y_1 \rightarrow x_1$$

$$y_2 \rightarrow x_1 \text{ R } \rightarrow x_3$$

$$y_3 \rightarrow x_1 \text{ R } \rightarrow x_2$$

$$M(x_1) = y_1, M(x_2) = y_3, M(x_3) = y_2.$$

E.g. Exchanging homogenous horses

Identical horses

At most 1 horse / person

At least 2 owners, 2 nonowners

Person i values horse at r_i

Some trade is mutually desirable

Payoff: $v_i + r$ if ends up with a horse & $\$r$

r if ends up w/o a horse & $\$r$

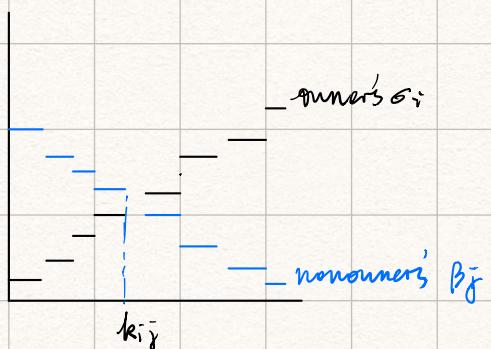
Coalition action is S-allocation of horses and money.

No transferable payoff (coalition does not have a fixed value)

Core: sort owners by value (call it σ_i) and nonowner by value (β_j)

so that σ_i is increasing, β_j is decreasing in j

(σ_i smallest, β_i highest)



k is the largest number s.t. $\beta_k = \sigma_k$

L is the set of sellers

B is the set of buyers

r_i is money received by owner i

p_j is money paid by nonowner j

Core: $p_j = 0$ & nonowners not in B (not buy)

$r_i = 0$ & owners not in L (not sell)

$p^* = p_j = r_i$ for every owner in L and nonowner j in B .

If $r_i < p_i$ for some i, j .

then they could exchange at $\frac{r_i + p_i}{2}$

So $r_i = p_j$ for all i in L and j in B

conservation of money $\Rightarrow p^* = r_i = p_j$

$\sigma_{k+1} > p^* > \sigma_k$, $\beta_k > p^* > \beta_{k+1}$

owners $1 \dots k$ are in L

nonowners $1 \dots k$ are in B .

The core can be empty

E.g. Roomate Problem

i	j	k	$(j, l) (i, k)$
j	k	i	not stable
k	i	j	
l	l	l	