

## Nash equilibrium.

The action profile  $a^*$  in a strategic game with ordinal preference is a Nash equilibrium if, for every player  $i$  and every action  $a_i$  of player  $i$ ,  $a^*$  is at least as good according to player  $i$ 's preferences as the action profile  $(a_i, a_{-i}^*)$ , in which player  $i$  chooses  $a_i$  while every other player  $j$  chooses  $a_j^*$ . Equivalently, for every player  $i$ ,  $u_i(a^*) \geq u_i(a_i, a_{-i}^*)$  for every action  $a_i$  of player  $i$ .

## Best Response Function

$$b_i(a_{-i}) = \{a_i \in A_i \mid u_i(a_i, a_{-i}) \geq u_i(a'_i, a_{-i}) \quad \forall a'_i \in A_i\}$$

↑ can be no BR.

↑ given others' action

↑ any other action

output own response

$a_i$  is a best response (BR) to  $a_{-i}$

$a^*$  is NE if  $a_i^*$  is BR to  $a_{-i}^*$  for all players  $i$

E.g. in L2. Best Response

## NE Assumptions

- No communication
- one-time interaction (payoff only base on current action, no future...)
- Players from large population
- Beliefs from experience
- simultaneous choice of strategy.

different levels.  
Common knowledge of Rationality and of the game.  
wiki common knowledge, puzzle (blue, green eyes, k days for k people to leave the island).

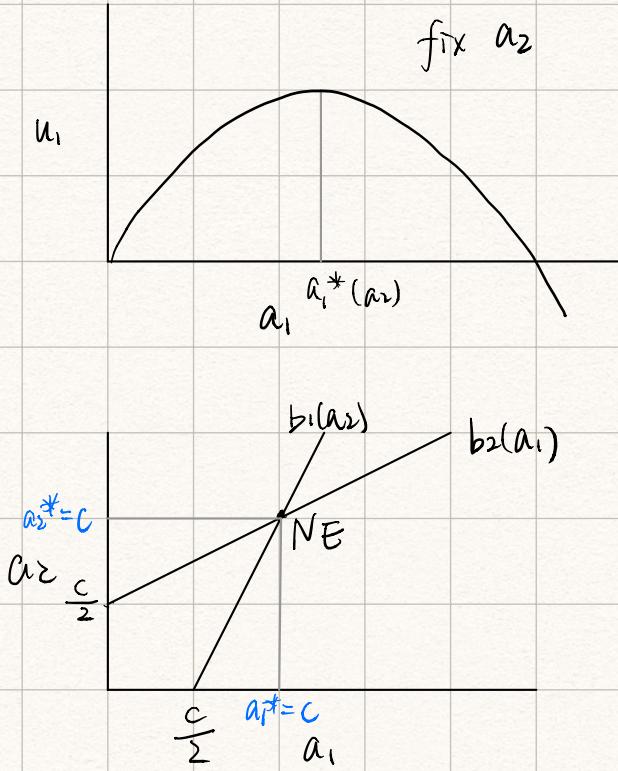
Sometime payoff matrix might not work!

Synergy Game. (2 player game)

单边，非正式

① Each player payoffs:  $u_i(a_1, a_2) = a_i(c - a_1 + a_2)$   $c > 0$ .

strategies:  $a_1 + a_2 \geq 0$



$$u_1 = a_1 c - a_1^2 + a_1 a_2.$$

$$\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial a_1} = c - 2a_1 + a_2 = 0.$$

$$b_1(a_2) = \frac{c + a_2}{2}$$

$$\text{Similarly: } b_2(a_1) = \frac{c + a_1}{2}$$

$$\text{Solve: } a_1 = \frac{c + a_1}{2}$$

$$a_1 = \frac{c}{2} + \frac{c}{4} + \frac{a_1}{4}$$

$$\underline{a_1 = c}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \underline{a_2 = c}$$

② Maximize total surplus.

$$ca_1 - a_1^2 + a_1 a_2 + ca_2 - a_2^2 + a_1 a_2$$

$$= c(a_1 + a_2) - (a_1 - a_2)^2.$$

as big as  
you want w/ ↑  
choose  $a_1 = a_2$ .

↑  
no max utility.

## L4 01.30

Focal Point. ← what we think might happen by various equilibrium.

1. Heads or tails : heads.
2. A, B, C in some order : ABC
3. split money game . \$0 and \$100 .. \$50

### Strict Best Responses.

$a_i^*$  is a strict best response to  $a_{-i}$  if

$$u(a_i^*, a_{-i}) > u(a'_i, a_{-i}) \quad \forall a'_i \neq a_i^*$$

$a^*$  is a strict Nash equilibrium if  $a_i^*$  is a Best Response for all player.

e.g. Prisoner's Dilemma. ✓

split & steal x.

### Strictly Dominated action

↙ can not by a combination

$a_i$  is strictly dominated by  $a'_i$  if  $u(a'_i, a_{-i}) > u(a_i, a_{-i})$  for all  $a_{-i}$ .

SD action is never a BR, never used in NE.

e.g. ~~(L)~~ M ~~(R)~~ x

U 5, 2 1, b 3, 4

NE (U, M)

S 6, 1 1, b 2, 5

(S, M)

~~(D)~~ 1, b 0, 7 0, 7  
strictly dominated. ↗ iterated deletion of SD strategies.

### Weakly Dominated Strategy.

$a_i$  is weakly dominated by  $a'_i$  if  $u(a'_i, a_{-i}) \geq u(a_i, a_{-i}) \quad \forall a_{-i}$   
and  $u(a'_i, a_{-i}) > u(a_i, a_{-i})$  for some  $a_{-i}$

e.g. i) split, steal : split is weakly dominated by steal.

weakly dominated strategy can still be in NE.

ii) 

	L	C	R
T	2,2	1,3	0,1
M	3,1	0,0	0,0
B	1,0	0,0	0,0

 B is WD by T, M.

T 2,2 1,3 0,1 (T, C)

M 3,1 0,0 0,0 (M, R)

B 1,0 0,0 0,0 (B, R)

iii) Voter game.

n voters, vote for A or B,

each person has a preferred candidate

NE: every voter vote A / B,

any outcome except votes for A - votes for B  $\leq 2$ , vice versa.

lots of NE involve WD strategies

## Games.

### Symmetric Game.

- set of actions is the same for all players.
- payoffs are symmetric  $u_1(a', a'') = u_2(a'', a')$
- SG has a symmetric equilibrium if all the players choose same action.

e.g. on the street, facing other person. how to choose



R L

R 1,1 -1,-1 (R, R), (L, L)

L -1,1 1,1 symmetric equilibrium

N -1,-1 1,1 (N, S), (S, N)

S 1,1 -1,-1 (not) symmetric equilibrium.

→ game that is not symmetric can get symmetric Equilibrium.

Zero - Sum (constant - sum) Game. conflict win/lose.

Pay off for any outcome add up to same value.

To solve: minimax solution (of zero-sum game).

choose action that maximize the minimum payoff.

e.g.  $\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 6 & 4 \\ L & M & R \end{array}$

1	U	5, 2	0, 0	3, 4	(U, M) or (S, M) is minimax solution.
1	S	6, 1	0, 0	2, 5	
0	D	1, 6	0, 7	0, 7	

The NE of Zero-Sum Game is also a minimax solution

$\begin{array}{ccc} 3 & 10 & -4 \\ A & B & C \end{array}$  minimax: (B, B).

$\rightarrow$  A 3, 3 0, 2 2, -2 No NE.

$\begin{array}{ccc} -1 & B & 0, 1 \\ -4 & C & 4, -4 \end{array}$

-4 C 0, 4 -3, 3 1, -1

## LS 02.04

### Public Good Game.

2 plays, have wealth,  $w_1, w_2$ . contribute  $c_1, c_2$ .  $0 \leq c_i \leq w_i$

$$u_i(c_1, c_2) = V_i \underbrace{(c_1 + c_2)}_{\text{private}} + \underbrace{(w_i - c_i)}_{\text{public}}$$

$$V_1 \leftarrow V_1(c_1, c_2) = 3(c_1 + c_2) - (c_1 + c_2)^2$$

$$V_2(c_1, c_2) = 5(c_1 + c_2) - (c_1 + c_2)^2$$

↑ need boundary. so that not enter the extreme case.

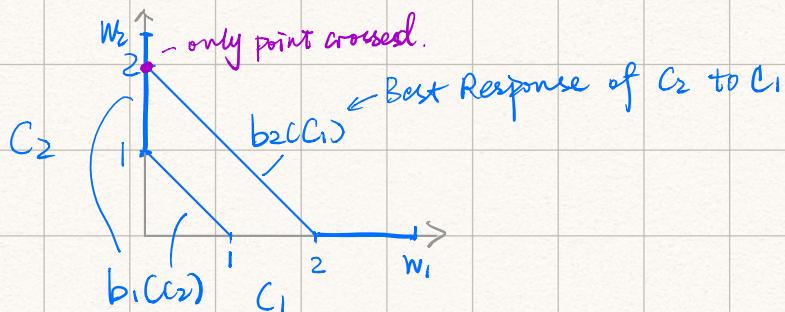
$$u_1 = 3(c_1 + c_2) - (c_1 + c_2)^2 + (w_1 - c_1)$$

$$= 2c_1 - (c_1 + c_2)^2 + w_1 - 3c_2.$$

$$\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial c_1} = 2 - 2(c_1 + c_2) \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0 \quad (\text{to max } u_1) \Rightarrow c_1 = 1 - c_2. \quad \textcircled{1} \quad \text{Best Response function.}$$

$$u_2 = 5(c_1 + c_2) - (c_1 + c_2)^2 + (w_2 - c_2)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_2}{\partial c_2} = 4 - 2(c_1 + c_2) \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = 2 - c_1. \quad \textcircled{2}.$$



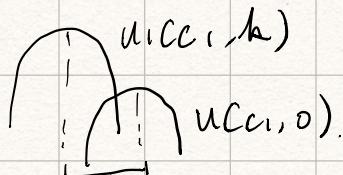
(value the contribution more)

⇒ one pay for all public good as others free-riding.

$$\text{NE: } c_2 = 2, c_1 = 0$$

$$u_1(c_1, k) = u_1(c_1 + k, 0) + k$$

(how  $c_2$  influence  $c_1$ )



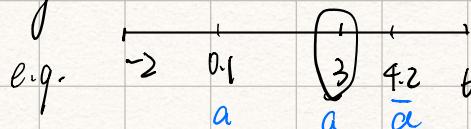
k

### Public Median Investment Games

odd number of voters

each voters vote for particular policy  $a$ .

median policy is the one chosen.



each player has preferred point  $x_i^*$ .

$$u_i = -|x_i^* - x|$$

↑ chosen policy

never worse-off to choose preferred point.

Various NE including weakly dominated strategy.

Any strategy but choosing preferred point here is weakly dominated.

Xavier and Yvonne.

i) choose price

$$Q_x = 44 - 2P_x + P_y$$

$Q$  for quantity,  $P$  for price.

$$Q_y = 44 - 2P_y + P_x$$

Substitute for each other.

Assume has constant marginal cost.

$$U_x = (P_x - 8)(\underbrace{44 - 2P_x + P_y}_{Q_x})$$

$$U_y = (P_y - 8)(44 - 2P_y + P_x)$$

$$= 44P_x - 2P_x^2 + P_xP_y - 352 + 16P_x - 8P_y$$

$$= -2P_x^2 + 60P_x + P_xP_y - 352 - 8P_y$$

$$\frac{\partial U_x}{\partial P_x} = -4P_x + 60 + P_y \stackrel{\text{set } 0}{=} 0$$

$$\text{Best Response for } x: P_x = 15 + \frac{1}{4}P_y$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \dots \text{ for } y: P_y = 15 + \frac{1}{4}P_x$$

$$P_x = 15 + \frac{1}{4}(15 + \frac{1}{4}P_x)$$

$$\frac{15}{16}P_x = 15 + \frac{5}{4}$$

$$P_x = 20$$

$$P_y = 20$$

ii) Cartel Outcome.

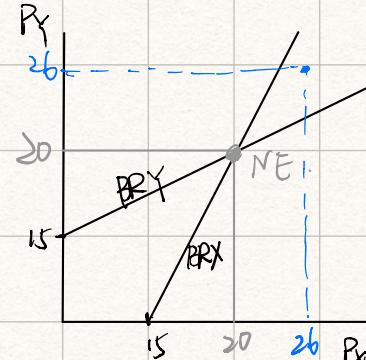
2 firms cooperate, max  $U_x + U_y = U_T$

$$U_T = -2P_x^2 - 2P_y^2 + 52P_x + 52P_y + 2P_xP_y - 704$$

$$\frac{\partial U_T}{\partial P_x} = 52 + 2P_y - 4P_x \stackrel{\text{set } 0}{=} 0$$

$$\frac{\partial U_T}{\partial P_y} = 52 + 2P_x - 4P_y \stackrel{\text{set } 0}{=} 0$$

$$P_x = P_y = 26$$



## Cournot Competition (next time)

$n$  firms, choose quantities,  $q_1, \dots, q_n$ .

common demand curve,  $P = P(Q)$ ,  $Q = \sum q_i$  (more produce, lower price).

cost function  $C_i(q_i)$

$$\max_{q_i} u_i = q_i P(Q) - C_i(q_i)$$

Lb 02.06

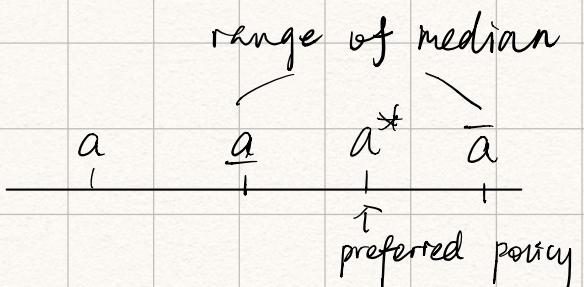
Last Lecture: Median Investment

when  $a \notin [\underline{a}, \bar{a}]$ .

$\alpha^*$  better than  $a$      $\underline{a} \leq \alpha^* \leq \bar{a}$

same                       $\alpha^* < \underline{a}$  or  $\alpha^* > \bar{a}$      $\Rightarrow$  weakly dominated

when  $a \in [\underline{a}, \bar{a}]$ .     $\alpha^*$  better than  $a$ .



## Stag & Hunt

extend to a group of players.

i) - need  $n$  players to catch stag,

- value of stag is  $R$ , of hare is 1

- stag hunters divide  $R$ ,  $\frac{R}{n}$  is preferred to 1 ( $\frac{R}{n} > 1$ )

-  $S$  stag hunters.

$S=0$  NE

$0 < S < n-1$ : not NE some  $S$  players will switch to H.

$S=n-1$      $S \rightarrow H$ ,  $H \rightarrow S$

$S=n$                       NE.

ii) need fewer hunters to catch the stag,  $2 \leq m < n$ ,  $\frac{R}{n} > 1$

$s=0$  NE

iii)  $R = k$   $\frac{R}{k+1} < 1$ ,  $\frac{R}{k} > 1$ ,  $2 \leq m \leq R < n$ . (Discussion).

## Dividing money Game

- 2 players, choose  $m_1, m_2 \in (0, 10)$

- payoff if  $m_1 + m_2 \leq 10$ ,  $u_1 = m_1$ ,  $u_2 = m_2$

$$\text{if } m_1 + m_2 > 10, m_1 > m_2 : u_1 = 10 - m_2 \quad u_2 = m_2$$

$$m_1 < m_2 : u_1 = m_1 \quad u_2 = 10 - m_1$$

$$m_1 = m_2 : u_1 = u_2 = 5.$$

$$BR_1, m_2 \leq 5 : 10 - m_2$$

$$m_2 = 6 \quad BR = 5 \text{ or } 6$$

$$m_2 > 7 \quad BR = m_2 - 1$$

$$NE (5, 5) (6, 6) (5, 6) (6, 5)$$

## Competition Game

### Cournot Game

- choose quantities,  $n$  firms

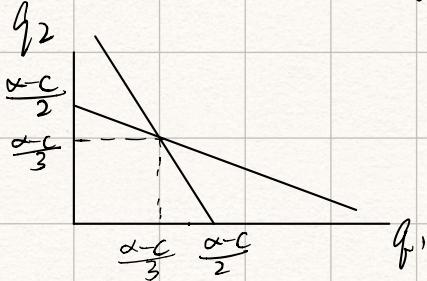
$$- P = P(Q), Q = \sum_i q_i$$

$$- cost = C_i(q_i)$$

$$- \max_{q_i} u_i = q_i p(Q) - C_i(q_i)$$

i) 2 players  $P(Q) = \alpha - Q$ ,  $C_i(q_i) = Cq_i$ ,  $U_i = q_i(\alpha - q_1 - q_2) - Cq_i$   
 $\approx$  constant marginal cost

To max  $\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial q_1} = \alpha - 2q_1 - q_2 - C \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0$   $\Rightarrow \text{BR}_1: q_1 = \frac{\alpha - c - q_2}{2}$   
 $\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial q_2} = \alpha - 2q_2 - q_1 - C \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0$   $\Rightarrow \text{BR}_2: q_2 = \frac{\alpha - c - q_1}{2}$



Solve:  $q_1 = \frac{\alpha - c}{2} - \frac{\alpha - c - q_1}{4}$  (Nash Equilibrium)

$$q_1 = q_2 = \frac{\alpha - c}{3}$$

$$U_1 = U_2 = \frac{(\alpha - c)^2}{9}$$

ii) Cartel:  $\max_Q L(Q)(\alpha - Q) - CQ)$

$$\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial Q} = \alpha - 2Q - C \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0$$

$$Q = \frac{\alpha - c}{2}$$

$$\text{Profit: } \frac{(\alpha - c)^2}{4}$$

producing less  $\rightarrow$  get higher output.

iii)  $n$  players

$$\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial q_i} = \alpha - c - 2q_i - q_j - Q_{-i,-j} \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0$$

$$\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial q_j} = \alpha - c - 2q_j - q_i - Q_{-i,-j} \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0$$

$$\uparrow \text{BR: } q_i^* = q_j^* = q^* = \frac{\alpha - c}{n+1}$$

$\Rightarrow$  For any 2 player of  $n$  players, NE is equal  
 (symmetric  $C_i(q_i), P(Q)$ )

Total  $Q: \frac{n}{n+1}(\alpha - c)$  Price =  $c$

L7 02.11

## Rationalizability

- eliminate strictly dominated strategy.
- eliminate strategies that are never BR
- continue process until nothing else can be eliminated.

BR corner. perfect competition  
(n players)

Book P151

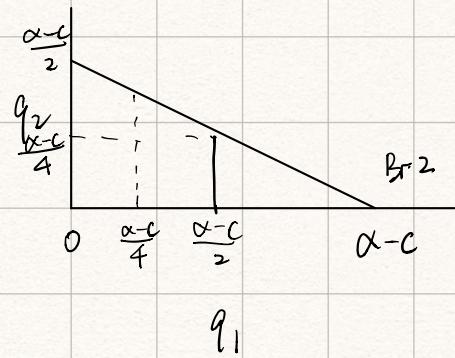
First  $C_4$  not best response for any row. (no strictly dominated strategies).

Then  $R_4$  is not BR to anything



only BR to  $C_4$ .

Cournot:  $q_2 = \frac{\alpha - c - q_1}{2}$



any option  $> \frac{\alpha - c}{2}$  not rationalizable. (for  $q_2$ )

know  $q_1$  with same BR curve, not choose option

$> \frac{\alpha - c}{2} \rightarrow q_2$ : option  $> \frac{\alpha - c}{4}$  not rationalizable

... → reach one point.

## Bertrand Competition

- n firms, choose  $p_1, \dots, p_n$ .
- consumers buy from lowest price firm(s)
- Profits: m firms at lowest price: earning others: 0.

$$Pr \frac{D(p_i)}{m} \cdot c_i \left( \frac{D(p_i)}{m} \right)$$

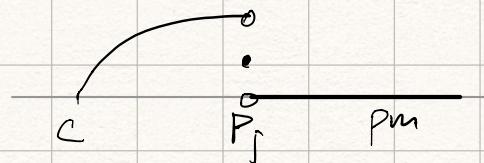
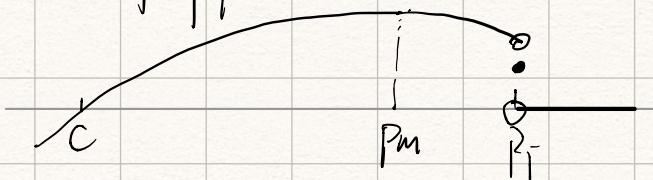
i) 2 Firms: assume constant MC  $C_i = C_f$ ; Demand:  $D = \alpha - p$ .

profit function: If  $p_i < p_j$ :  $(p_i - c)(\alpha - p_i)$

$$p_i = p_j : (p_i - c) \left( \frac{\alpha - p_i}{2} \right)$$

$$p_i > p_j : 0$$

$p_m$ : monopoly price



BR<sub>i</sub>:  $p_j > p_m : p_i = p_m$

$p_m > p_j > c$ : if continuous, no BR (a little bit less but not defined)

if discrete: BR:  $p_i = p_{j-1}$

$p_j = c$ :  $p_i \geq c$  ( $=c$ ,  $p_i - c = 0$ , profit = 0,  $>c$ : no market, 0,  
 $<c$ ,  $p_i - c < 0$ , lose money).

$p_j < c$ :  $p_i > p_j$

NT: Continuous: Both charge at  $c$  ( $c, c$ )

(no BR when  $p_i > c$ ,

for  $p_j > p_m$ , if i choose  $p_m$ ,  $p_j$  choose  $< p_i$  and under cut each other  
in the case  $p_m > p_j > c$ . until  $c$ .

$<c$ : choose  $c$  to avoid negative profit).

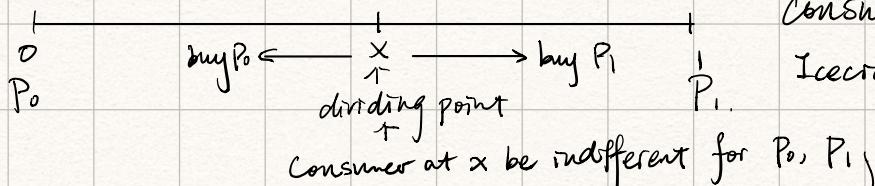
Discrete:  $(c, c)$  ( $c+1, c+1$ )

$\uparrow c$ : no profit  $p_i - c = 0$   $<c$ : negative  
 $>c$ : no market.

$n$  players: same to 2 players.

## Spatial Dimension

Hotelling (Exercise 87 p.168)



Consumer on continuous  $[0, 1]$

Icecream (product) at 0, 1.

$$- MC = 0.25$$

- Continuous of Consumers each buy 1

- Transport costs  $0.5 d^2$

$$- P_0 + 0.5x^2 = P_1 + 0.5(1-x)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow x = P_1 - P_0 + 0.5 \quad P_0 \uparrow \Rightarrow x \Rightarrow P_0 ; P_1 \uparrow \Rightarrow x \Rightarrow P_1$$

$$\text{Firm 0: } \max (P_0 - 0.25)(P_1 - P_0 + 0.5)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_0}{\partial P_0} = P_1 - 2P_0 + 0.5 + 0.25 \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0 \quad P_0 = \frac{P_1}{2} + \frac{3}{8}$$

$$\text{Firm 1: } P_1 = \frac{P_0}{2} + \frac{3}{8} \quad (\text{symmetric})$$

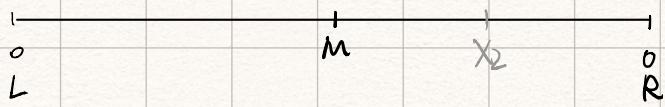
$$\Rightarrow P_0 = P_1 = \frac{3}{4} \leftarrow \text{equally divide market.}$$

Cartel: can increase their charge if they charge the same price.

Location  $\rightarrow$  NE  $\overset{\rightarrow \infty}{\rightarrow}$  next to each other?

L8 02.13

Hotelling (Location) Model — Electoral competition.



- Players are candidates.

- strategies: position  $x_1, x_2$ .

choose  $m$  based on

- voters choose the closer candidate  $\leftarrow$  uniform distributed or not?

- Candidates wins by getting most votes.

BR:  $x_2 > m$  :  $1 - x_2 < x_1 < x_2$ .

$x_2 < m$  :  $x_2 < x_1 < 1 - x_2$ .

$x_2 = m$  :  $x_1 = m$ .

NE:  $(m, m)$  can always improve when at least one not at  $m$ .

Not at  $m$ : if lose, go to  $m$  to ensure at least a tie.) at  $x_1 < m$   
if tie, go to  $m$  to win.  
if win, go to  $m$  will not improve  
} not better off.

## Auctions

$n$  bidders

bids:  $b_1, \dots, b_n \geq 0$ .

valuations:  $v_1, \dots, v_n \geq 0$

### Second Price Auction, seal-bid

- Everyone submit a bid simultaneously.
- the highest bidder, pay the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest price  $b_j$
- represent ascending auctions.

payoff: winner =  $v_i - b_j$

losers : 0

Assume  $v_1 \geq v_2 \geq \dots \geq v_n \geq 0$

NE: for example:  $(v_1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$

$(v_2, v_1, 0, \dots, 0)$

$(v_3, v_2, v_1, \dots, 0)$

Bidding  $b_i = v_i$  weakly dominate any other bid.

fix  $b'$ , let  $\bar{b}$  be the highest bid of others

fix  $b' < b$ ,  $b'' > v$ .

	$\bar{b} < b'$	$b' < \bar{b} < v$	$v < \bar{b} < b''$	$\bar{b} > b''$
$b'$	$v - \bar{b}$	$0$ smallest	$b$	$0$
$v$	$v - \bar{b}$	$v - \bar{b}$	$0$	$0$
$b''$	$v - \bar{b}$	$v - \bar{b}$	$v - \bar{b} < 0$	$0$

### First Price Auction

The highest bidder wins and pay their bid, sealed-bid.

$b_i'' > v_i$  is weakly dominated by  $b_i = v_i$  is weakly dominated by  $b_i' < v_i$

$$\Leftrightarrow b_i'' \leq v_i \leq b_i'$$

Player 1 always wins (player with highest value)

winning bid between  $b_1, b_2$   $v_2 \leq b_1 \leq v_1$ .

break tie: player with higher value win.

L9

02.20

highest bid of others.

	$\bar{b} < b'$	$b' < \bar{b} < v$	$v < \bar{b} < b''$	$b'' < \bar{b}$
$v - b'$	$v - b'$	$0$	$0$	$0$
$v$	$v - v = 0 < v - b'$	$v - v = 0$	$0$	$0$
$v < b''$	$v - b'' < 0$	$v - b'' < 0$	$v - b'' < 0$	$0$

cases for " $=$ " belong to lower or higher cases based on the tie breaker.

NE:

1. top 2 bid the same.
2. player 1 always win.
3. winning bid is between  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ :  $v_1 \geq b_1 \geq v_2$

### All pay auction

everyone pay their own bid. no NE for first-paid in all pay auction

War of attrition,

pay for the second highest if win, pay his own cost if lose.

- 2 players, strategies  $t_1, t_2 \geq 0$ ,

Payoff for 1:  $t_1 > t_2$   $v_1 - t_2$

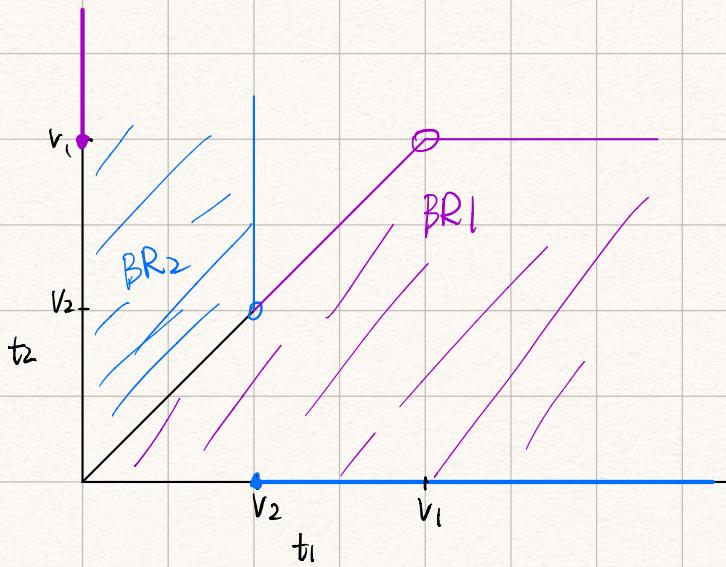
$t_1 = t_2$   $0.5v_1 - t_1$

$t_1 < t_2$   $-t_1$

BR for 1:  $t_2 < v_1$  any  $t_1 > t_2$  to get payoff  $= v_1 - t_2$ .

$t_2 = v_1$   $t_1 > t_2$  or  $t_1 = 0$ .

$t_2 > v_1$   $t_1 = 0$ .



NE:  $t_1 = 0, t_2 \geq v_1$

$t_1 \geq v_2, t_2 = 0$

do not depend on value.

Real world: value change,  
sequential

SWOOPD.