

# Intro to Economic Analysis: Microeconomics

EC 201 - Day 20 Slides

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# Logistics

- ▶ Homework 8 due this Monday (Monday of finals week, Dec 6th at 11:59pm)
- ▶ Comprehensive final exam on December 9th at 2:45pm – the exam will last for 2 hours

# Dictator Game

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- ▶ What should you do?
  - If you are just playing once and you value money, offer \$0/ always accept (unless maybe the offer is literally \$0, in which case it doesn't matter)
  - What actually happens? Do people care about spite? How does this change if people are expecting another round?

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# Who Cares about Game Theory?

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## Everyday Uses

- ▶ Much like intuition in this class helps you understand why things happen in the real world, game theory can also help with understanding the optimal/best ways to make interactive decisions:

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  - What happens if your wife gets kidnapped? (Don't use game theory)

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## 2/3 Average

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- ▶ What's your guess?
- ▶ What's the best strategy?

## 2/3 Average Solution

- Note: the maximum that anyone can say is 100. If everyone said 100, the average would be 100, so  $2/3$  of the average would be  $66.\bar{6}$ , so this is the largest target score



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  - Even among economists, no

# The Rules of the Game

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    - Here is an interesting application of this principle **Green-Eyed Islander Puzzle**

# Normal Form Games

- If these (and some other, subtler principles) are satisfied, we may write down what's called a Normal Form Game<sup>3</sup>

		$P_B$	
		$L$	$R$
$P_A$	$U$	$a, b$	$c, d$
	$D$	$e, f$	$g, h$

or

		$P_B$	
		$L$	$R$
$P_A$	$U$	$\overset{A}{\pi}_{11}, \overset{B}{\pi}_{11}$	$\overset{A}{\pi}_{12}, \overset{B}{\pi}_{12}$
	$D$	$\overset{A}{\pi}_{21}, \overset{B}{\pi}_{21}$	$\overset{A}{\pi}_{22}, \overset{B}{\pi}_{22}$

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- Players are trying to maximize their utility

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- ▶ Here is the game in Normal Form:

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		<i>Q</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>Q</i>	-5, -5	-20, 0
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## Example Prisoner's Dilemma

- Again, here is the game we are considering:

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- ▶ Much like the  $2/3$  average game, we do so by iteratively thinking about what a *rational* person would do
  - Much of game theory is about assuming the other player is rational, narrowing down their rational decisions, and then seeing what another player would do, given what is rational for the first player

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    - That is, given that he knows (...) that playing Q will mean Ariana plays S, he should play S

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- ▶ For the test, I want to be able to give you a prisoner's dilemma (with possibly varied notation), and show that you know that both players snitching is the solution

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- ▶ A **Best Response** is the strategy (or strategies) which produces the most favorable outcome for a player, taking other players' strategies as given
  - Symbolically, given other players' strategies  $S$  as given, my payoff of playing  $s$  is better than (or at least as good as) any other strategy  $s'$ , given  $S$ :

$$\pi^i(s|S) \geq \pi^i(s'|S)$$

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# A Bigger Prisoner's Dilemma

- Recognize the following? It's just a prisoner's dilemma



*Air To A Fortune*, Mario Party Franchise

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  - What happens if the car randomly plays  $S$  half the time, and the pedestrian randomly plays  $S$  one third of the time? What happens if we play with these probabilities?

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- ▶ Suppose I have the option that morning to burn a dollar in front of my girlfriend, changing my payoffs by a dollar if I did. How would this change the outcome of the game?

# Matching Pennies

- If the pennies match, I keep them. If not, you keep them:

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  - Fact: Every game with finite players and finite strategies has a solution

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  - Hopefully you can see that decisions can still be structured as games, they can still be interesting, but they lose their quintessential interactive flavor

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- ▶ JFK can threaten nuclear war in order to get missiles out of Cuba, but is that threat believable?<sup>5</sup>

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- ▶ You may have done this when you *asked* your mom to say no to your friend staying the night

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## Basic Overview of Topics (Post-Midterm)

- ▶ PC Markets (Ch 14, skip 14-2d)



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  - What it means, key elements

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