

# Selecting Inequalities for Sharp Identification in Models with Set-Valued Predictions

(work in progress)

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# Outline

Motivation and Literature Review

Random Sets and Core-Determining Classes

Special Case: Discrete Random Sets

Other Tools for Dimensionality Reduction

Further Research

# Motivation

- Many partially identified models have the following structure:
  - $Y$  — outcome,  $X$  — covariates,  $U$  — latent variables.
  - The model gives a **set-valued prediction** such that, by assumption,

$$Y \in G(U|X; \theta) \text{ a.s.}$$

- The **sharp identified set** contains all  $\theta$  such that the observed  $P_{Y|X}$  corresponds to the distribution of some  $Y \in G(U|X; \theta)$ .
- The sharp identified set is characterized by Artstein's inequalities:
  - Using all of the inequalities is often infeasible in practice.
  - But: many of them are actually not informative.

**Question:** Which inequalities should we choose for identification?

# Relevant Applications

- Entry games with multiple equilibria
  - Tamer 2003; Ciliberto and Tamer 2009;
- Network formation models
  - de Paula, Richards-Shubik, Tamer 2018; Sheng 2020;
- Discrete choice with heterogeneous or counterfactual choice sets
  - Barseghyan, Coughlin, Molinari, and Teitelbaum 2021;
  - Manski 2007;
- Discrete choice with endogenous explanatory variables and IVs
  - Chesher and Rosen 2017;
- Auctions
  - Haile and Tamer 2003;

# Related Literature

- Theory of random sets for identification
  - Beresteanu and Molinari 2008;
  - Beresteanu, Molchanov, and Molinari 2011;
- Core-determining classes
  - Galichon and Henry 2011;
  - Chesher and Rosen 2017;
  - Luo and Wang 2018;
- Review articles
  - Ho and Rosen 2015;
  - Molinari 2019;
  - Chesher and Rosen 2019;

# Example 1: Static Entry Game

- $N$  firms choose  $y_j \in \{0, 1\}$  and receive payoffs:

$$\pi_j(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon_j, \theta) = y_j \cdot (\alpha_j + \delta_j(N(\mathbf{y}) - 1) + \varepsilon_j),$$

where  $N(\mathbf{y})$  is the number of firms on the market.

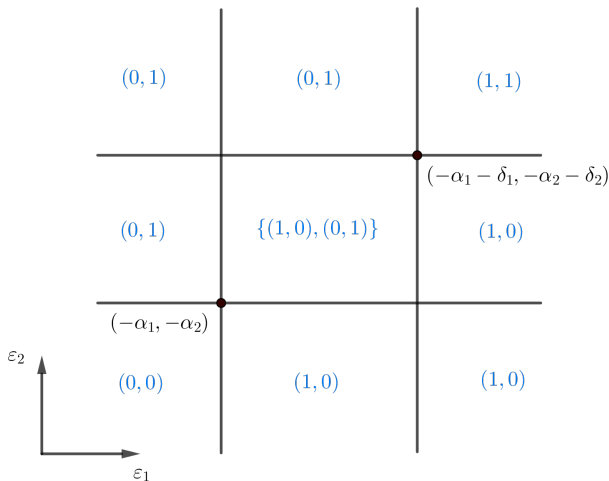
- Assume  $\delta_j < 0$ , and  $U = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_N) \sim F(\cdot; \gamma)$  on  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , observed by the players but not the researcher. Denote  $\theta = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ .
- The set-valued prediction  $G(U; \theta)$  corresponds to the set of pure strategy Nash Equilibria, i.e.,  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_N)$  satisfying

$$y_j = \mathbb{1} \{ \alpha_j + \delta_j(N(\mathbf{y}) - 1) + \varepsilon_j \geq 0 \}$$

for all  $j = 1, \dots, N$ .

# Illustration: Static Entry Game with Two Players

Values of  $G(U; \theta)$



## Example 2: English Auction

- A symmetric ascending auction with  $N$  bidders:
  - $U = (V_{1:N}, \dots, V_{N:N}) \sim F$  on  $[0, \bar{v}]^N$  — ordered valuations.
  - $(B_{1:N}, \dots, B_{N:N})$  — ordered final bids.
  - No reserve price, no minimal bid increment.
- Assume that bidders:
  1. Do not bid above their valuation:  $B_{j:N} \leq V_{j:N}$ .
  2. Do not let the others win at an acceptable price:  $V_{N-1:N} \leq B_{N:N}$ .
- The set-valued prediction corresponds to the set of bids satisfying assumptions 1 and 2:

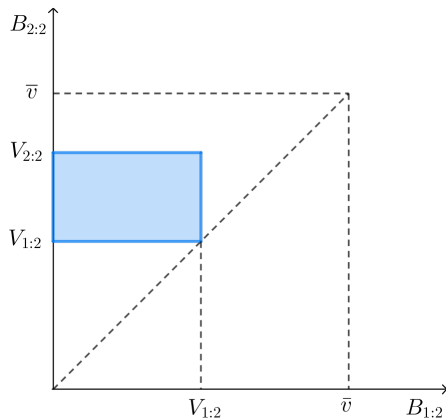
$$G(U; F) = S \cap \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} [\underline{v}, V_{j:N}] \times [V_{N-1:N}, V_N],$$

where  $S = \{x \in [0, \bar{v}]^N : x_1 \leq \dots \leq x_N\}$ .



# Illustration: English Auction with Two Players

Example realization of  $G(U; F)$



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# Formal Setup

- I abstract away from (i.e. condition on) the covariates.
- Basics:
  - $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  a probability space;  $\Theta$  a parameter space;
  - $Y : \Omega \rightarrow (\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A}) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d_Y}$  an observed outcome with  $Y \sim P_Y$ ;
  - $U : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d_U}$  latent variables with  $U \sim F_\theta$ ;
- Set-valued predictions:
  - $G : \mathcal{U} \times \Theta \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  is a measurable correspondence;
  - $Y \in G(U; \theta)$  a.s. by the model's assumptions;
  - The distribution of  $G$  is given by:

$$C_{G(U; \theta)}(A) \equiv P(G(U; \theta) \subseteq A) = \int \mathbf{1}(G(u; \theta) \subseteq A) dF_\theta(u)$$

- I will suppress the dependence of  $G$  and  $C_G$  from  $\theta$ .

## Some Terminology

- Let  $G$  be a **random set** defined on  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ . Its distribution can be characterized by the **containment functional**:

$$C_G(A) = P(G \subseteq A).$$

- A **selection of  $G$**  is a random variable  $Y$  with  $Y(w) \in G(w)$   $P$ -a.s. The set of distributions of all selections of  $G$  is called **the core**.
- A fundamental result due to **Artstein (1983)**:

$$\mu \in \text{Core}(G) \iff \mu(A) \geq C_G(A) \text{ for all } A \in \mathcal{A},$$

where  $\mu$  denotes a probability distribution on  $(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A})$ .

# Identification Via Artstein's Inequalities

- The model produces a set-valued prediction  $G$ , while the researcher observes a single outcome  $Y \in (\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A})$ .
- The sharp identified set contains all  $\theta$  such that the observed  $P_Y$  corresponds to the distribution of a selection of  $G$ :

$$\Theta_I = \{\theta \in \Theta : P_Y(A) \geq C_G(A), \text{ for all } A \in \mathcal{A}\}$$

- Note that:
  - Continuous  $Y \implies$  infinite number of inequalities;
  - Discrete  $Y \implies$  finite number of inequalities;
  - In both cases, many of the inequalities may be not informative.

# Core-Determining Classes

- A class  $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{A}$  of subsets of  $\mathcal{Y}$  is **core-determining** if

$$\mu(A) \geq C_G(A) \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{C} \iff \mu(A) \geq C_G(A) \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{A}$$

for any probability distribution  $\mu$  on  $(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A})$ .

- In words: given  $\mathcal{C}$ , all other subsets of  $\mathcal{Y}$  are not informative.
- Such  $\mathcal{C}$  may have a much smaller cardinality than  $\mathcal{A}$ . To obtain such class, **we need to identify redundant inequalities**.

# Identifying Redundant Sets (1)

- Let  $\text{supp}(G)$  denote the support of  $G$ , and  $U_G$  denote the set of all unions of elements in  $\text{supp}(G)$ .
- For an arbitrary  $A \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ , consider  $\tilde{A} \in U_G$  defined as

$$\tilde{A} = \bigcup \{B \mid B \subseteq A, B \in \text{supp}(G)\}.$$

- Then,  $A$  is redundant given  $\tilde{A}$ , because:

$$\mu(A) \geq \mu(\tilde{A}) \geq C_G(\tilde{A}) = C_G(A).$$

- Therefore,  $U_G$  is core-determining.

## Identifying Redundant Sets (2)

- Denote  $G^-(A) = \{u : G(u) \subseteq A\}$ .
- Suppose that, for some  $A \in \mathcal{U}_G$ , there are  $A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{U}_G$  such that:
  1.  $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$ ;
  2.  $A_1 \cup A_2 = A$ ;
  3.  $G^-(A_1 \cup A_2) = G^-(A_1) \cup G^-(A_2)$ ;
- Then,  $A$  is redundant given  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , because

$$\mu(A) = \mu(A_1) + \mu(A_2) \geq C_G(A_1) + C_G(A_2) = C_G(A)$$

- Therefore, a class  $\mathcal{C}$  such that for every  $A \in \mathcal{U}_G \setminus \mathcal{C}$  there exist  $A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{C}$  satisfying 1, 2, 3 above is core-determining.



# A Core-Determining Class

## Theorem 1

*Let  $U_G$  denote the set of all unions of elements of the support of a random set  $G$ . Let  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq U_G$  be a class of sets such that for every  $A \in U_G \setminus \mathcal{C}$  there exist  $A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{C}$ :*

1.  $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$ ;
2.  $A_1 \cup A_2 = A$ ;
3.  $G^-(A) = G^-(A_1) \cup G^-(A_2)$ ;

*Then,  $\mathcal{C}$  is core-determining.*

## Comments:

- This is a simplified version of [Theorem 3 in Chesher/Rosen 2017](#).
- In words: the unions of “small” sets are redundant.
- Very helpful, but we can do even better.

# Identifying Redundant Sets (3)

- Suppose that, for some  $A \in \mathcal{U}_G$ , there are  $A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{U}_G$  such that:
  1.  $A_1 \cap A_2 = A$ ;
  2.  $A_1 \cup A_2 = \mathcal{Y}$ ;
  3.  $G^-(A) = G^-(A_1) \cap G^-(A_2)$ ;
- Then,  $A$  is redundant given  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , because:

$$1 + \mu(A) = \mu(A_1) + \mu(A_2) \geq C_G(A_1) + C_G(A_2) = 1 + C_G(A).$$

- **Comment:** Denote  $G^{-1}(A) = \{u : G(u) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$ . Then:
  - Condition 3 is equivalent to  $G^{-1}(A^c) = G^{-1}(A_1^c) \cup G^{-1}(A_2^c)$ .
  - If  $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Y}_1 \cup \mathcal{Y}_2$ :  $\mathcal{Y}_1 \cap \mathcal{Y}_2 = \emptyset$ , and  $G^-(\mathcal{Y}) = G^-(\mathcal{Y}_1) \cup G^-(\mathcal{Y}_2)$ , the above argument can be applied within  $\mathcal{Y}_1$  and  $\mathcal{Y}_2$  (or further partitions) separately.

# A New Core-Determining Class

## First Main Result

### Theorem 2

*Suppose that there are no  $\mathcal{Y}_1, \mathcal{Y}_2$  with  $\mathcal{Y}_1 \cup \mathcal{Y}_2 = \mathcal{Y}$ ,  $\mathcal{Y}_1 \cap \mathcal{Y}_2 = \emptyset$ ,  $G^-(\mathcal{Y}) = G^-(\mathcal{Y}_1) \cup G^-(\mathcal{Y}_2)$ . Let  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{U}_G$  be a class of sets such that for each  $A \in \mathcal{U}_G \setminus \mathcal{C}$  there exist  $A_1, A_2 \in \mathcal{C}$  for which at least one of the following sets of conditions holds:*

1.  $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$ ;  $A_1 \cup A_2 = A$ ;  $G^-(A) = G^-(A_1) \cup G^-(A_2)$ .
2.  $A_1 \cap A_2 = A$ ;  $A_1 \cup A_2 = \mathcal{Y}$ ;  $G^-(A) = G^-(A_1) \cap G^-(A_2)$ .

*Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is core-determining.*

### Comments:

- In words: the intersections of “large” sets are also redundant.
- Useful in practice: may not observe data in small subsets of  $\mathcal{Y}$ .
- If  $\mathcal{Y}$  does not satisfy the stated assumption, can work with  $\mathcal{Y}_i$ .

## Example: English Auction

- Recall:  $F$  is the joint distribution of  $U = (V_{1:N}, \dots, V_{N:N})$ .
- The model delivers a set-valued prediction:

$$G(U; F) = S \cap \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} [\underline{v}, V_{j:N}] \times [V_{N-1:N}, V_N].$$

By assumption,  $B = (B_{1:N}, \dots, B_{N:N}) \in G(U; F)$ .

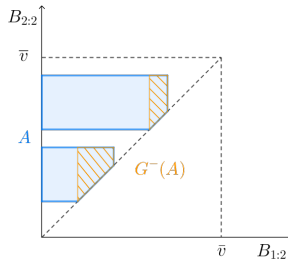
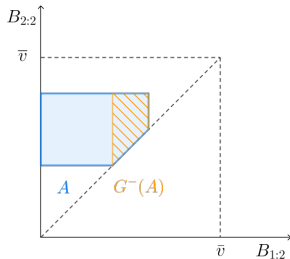
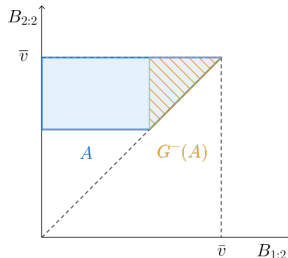
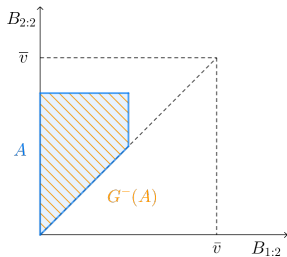
- Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a set of distributions of  $U$  satisfying some assumptions on the information structure (e.g., IPV, affiliated values, etc.)
- The sharp identified set for  $F$  is:

$$\mathcal{F}_I = \{F \in \mathcal{F} : P(B \in A) \geq P(G(U; F) \subseteq A), \text{ for all } A \subseteq S\}$$

where  $S = \{x \in [0, \bar{v}]^N : x_1 \leq \dots \leq x_N\}$ .

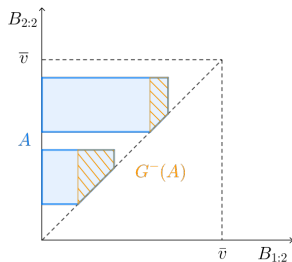
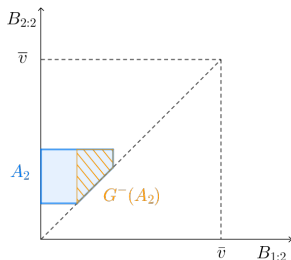
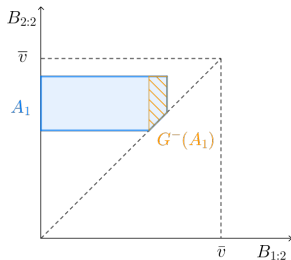
# Illustration: English Auction with 2 Players

Examples of sets in  $U_G$



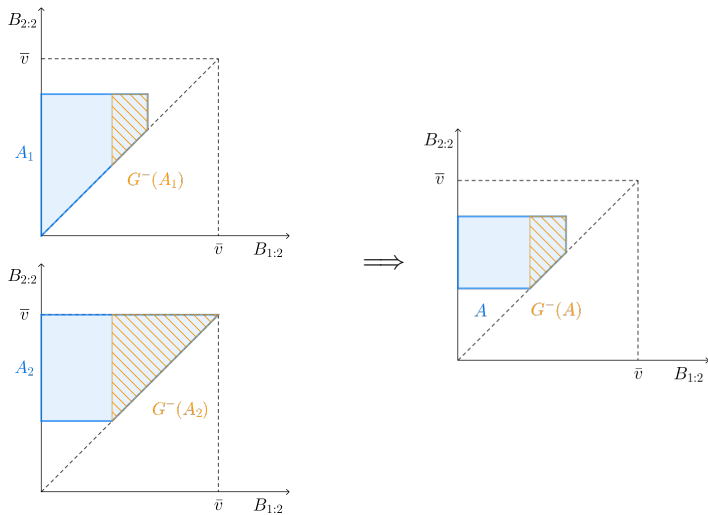
# Illustration: English Auction with 2 Players

Unions of "Small" Sets:  $A$  is redundant given  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ .



# Illustration: English Auction with 2 Players

Intersections of “Large” Sets:  $A$  is redundant given  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ .



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# The Smallest Core Determining Class

- If  $\mathcal{Y}$  is finite, we can find the smallest core-determining class using linear programming.
- For every subset  $A \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ , define the quantity:

$$\lambda(A) = \min_{\mu \in \Delta(\mathcal{Y})} \left\{ \mu(A) \mid \mu(\tilde{A}) \geq C_G(\tilde{A}) \text{ for all } \tilde{A} \neq A \right\}$$

where  $\Delta(\mathcal{Y})$  is the set of probability distributions on  $\mathcal{Y}$ .

- If  $\lambda(A) < C_G(A)$ , then  $A$  must belong to any core-determining class. In fact, the class of all such sets:

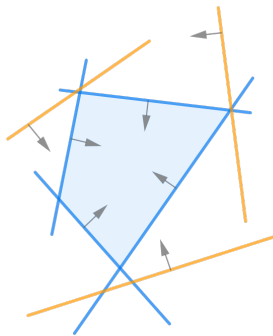
$$\mathcal{C}^* = \{A \subseteq \mathcal{Y} : \lambda(A) < C_G(A)\}$$

is the smallest core-determining class.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Follows from the literature on redundancy in LP, e.g., Telgen 1983.

## Illustration: Redundant Constraints



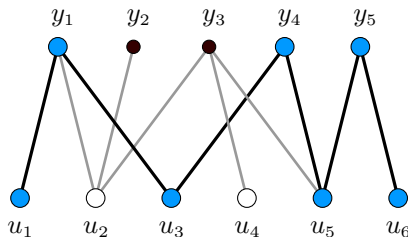
- Intuitively, if  $\lambda(A) \geq C_G(A)$ , we can remove the corresponding constraint without changing the feasible set. Blue constraints are critical, orange constraints are redundant.

# Discrete Random Set as a Bipartite Graph

- The above characterization of  $\mathcal{C}^*$  is nice, but:
  - It seems to depend on  $\theta$  via  $C_G(A) = P(G(U, \theta) \subseteq A)$ . Therefore, we might need to compute  $\mathcal{C}^*$  for each  $\theta$ , which is impractical.
  - How is this related to [Theorem 2](#)?
- If  $\mathcal{Y}$  is finite, so is  $\text{supp}(G) = \{G_1, \dots, G_K\}$ , and we can partition the space of latent variables as  $u_k \equiv \{u \in \mathcal{U} : G(u) = G_k\}$ .
- $G$  can be represented as an undirected bipartite graph  $\mathbf{B}_G$  with two groups of vertices  $\mathcal{U} = \{u_1, \dots, u_K\}$  and  $\mathcal{Y} = \{y_1, \dots, y_S\}$  and edges  $(u_k, y_s)$  if  $y_s \in G(u_k)$ .
- Then, the conditions of [Theorem 2](#) can be translated into the properties of this graph.

# Discrete Random Set as a Bipartite Graph

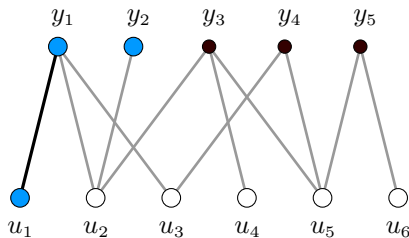
Example to Fix Ideas



- Here,  $\text{supp}(G) = \{\{y_1\}, \{y_1, y_2, y_3\}, \{y_1, y_4\}, \{y_3\}, \{y_3, y_4, y_5\}, \{y_5\}\}$ .
- For example,  $G(u_1) = \{y_1\}$ , and  $G(u_5) = \{y_4, y_5\}$ .
- If  $A = \{y_1, y_4, y_5\}$ ,  $G^-(A) = \{u_1, u_3, u_4, u_5\}$ ,  $G^{-1}(A) = G^-(A) \cup \{u_2\}$ .
- If  $U \sim F$ , then  $C_G(A) = P(G^-(A)) = F(\{u_1, u_3, u_4, u_5\})$ .

# Redundant Sets and Bipartite Graphs

Condition 1: Only Elements of  $U_G$  Matter.



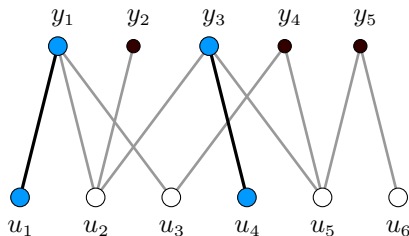
- Consider  $A = \{y_1, y_2\}$ ,  $\tilde{A} = \{y_1\}$ . Then  $A$  is redundant given  $\tilde{A}$ :

$$\mu(A) \geq \mu(\tilde{A}) \geq C_G(\tilde{A}) = C_G(A)$$

- Note: the subgraph induced by  $(A, G^-(A))$  is disconnected.

# Redundant Sets and Bipartite Graphs

Condition 2: Unions of “Small” Sets Are Redundant.



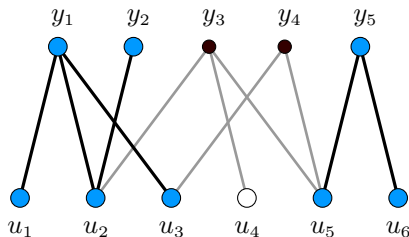
- Consider  $A = \{y_1, y_3\}$ ,  $A_1 = \{y_1\}$ , and  $A_2 = \{y_3\}$ . Then,  $A$  is redundant given  $A_1, A_2$ :

$$\mu(A) = \mu(A_1) + \mu(A_2) \geq C_G(A_1) + C_G(A_2) = C_G(A)$$

- Note: the subgraph induced by  $(A, G^-(A))$  is disconnected.

# Redundant Sets and Bipartite Graphs

Condition 3: Intersections of Large Sets Are Redundant.



- Consider  $A = \{y_3, y_4\}$ ,  $A_1 = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4\}$  and  $A_2 = \{y_3, y_4, y_5\}$ . Note that  $A = A_1 \cap A_2$ ,  $A_1^c = \{y_5\}$  and  $A_2^c = \{y_1, y_2\}$ .
- Condition 2 in Theorem 2 equivalently:  $G^{-1}(A_1^c) \cap G^{-1}(A_2^c) = \emptyset$ . Therefore,  $A$  is redundant given  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ .
- Note: the subgraph induced by  $(A^c, G^{-1}(A^c))$  is disconnected.

# The Smallest Core-Determining Class

## Second Main Result

### Theorem 3

*Let  $G$  be a discrete random set with the bipartite graph  $\mathbf{B}_G$  on  $(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{Y})$ . Suppose that the distribution  $F$  on  $\mathcal{U}$  satisfies  $F(\{u\}) > 0$  for all  $u \in \mathcal{U}$ . Then the class  $\mathcal{C}$  of subsets  $A \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$  such that:*

- 1. The subgraph induced by  $(A, G^-(A))$  is connected.*
- 2. The subgraph induced by  $(A^c, G^{-1}(A^c))$  is connected.*

*is the smallest core-determining class, i.e.  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}^*$ .*



# Discussion

- Note that  $\mathcal{C}$  is the same class of sets as in Theorem 2:
  - Much simpler characterization than that of Luo and Wang 2018 for discrete random sets.
  - Often dramatically smaller than  $2^{\mathcal{Y}}$  and the class in Theorem 1.
- Provides a simple and practical characterization:
  - Recall that  $F = F_\theta$ , so that the values of  $C_G(A)$  depend on  $\theta$ .
  - However,  $\mathcal{C}$  does not depend on  $\theta$ , provided that  $F_\theta$  is non-degenerate. By definition,  $\mathcal{C}$  also does not depend on  $P_Y$ .
  - Therefore: the smallest core-determining class is the same in population and in finite samples.
- $\mathcal{C}$  is fully determined by simple properties of the bipartite graph:
  - It can be efficiently computed by parsing  $\mathbf{B}_G$ .
  - Note that we only need to compute it once.

# Implications (1)

## Corollary 3.1

Let  $G$  be a discrete random set with the bipartite graph  $\mathbf{B}_G$  on  $(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{Y})$ . Suppose that the distribution  $F$  on  $\mathcal{U}$  is non-degenerate, and the outcome space can be partitioned as  $\mathcal{Y} = \bigcup_{k=1}^K \mathcal{Y}_k$  with (i)  $\mathcal{Y}_i \cap \mathcal{Y}_j = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ , and (ii)  $G^{-1}(\mathcal{Y}_j) \cap G^{-1}(\mathcal{Y}_i) = \emptyset$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}_i$  be the class of all subsets  $A \subseteq \mathcal{Y}_i$  such that:

1. The subgraph induced by  $(A, G^{-1}(A))$  is connected.
2. The subgraph induced by  $(\mathcal{Y}_i \setminus A, G^{-1}(\mathcal{Y}_i \setminus A))$  is connected.

Then,  $\mathcal{C} = \bigcup_{k=1}^K \mathcal{C}_k$  is the smallest core-determining class.

## Example: Entry Game with Substitutes

- $N$  firms choosing  $y_j \in \{0, 1\}$ , so that  $\mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1\}^N$ , with payoffs:

$$\pi_j(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon_j, \theta) = y_j \cdot (\alpha_j + (N(\mathbf{y}) - 1)\delta_j + \varepsilon_j),$$

where  $N(\mathbf{y})$  is the number of entrants. Assume that  $\delta_j < 0$ ,  $\varepsilon \sim F_\varepsilon(\cdot; \gamma)$  with full support.

- The set of Nash Equilibria can not contain two equilibria with different numbers of entrants  $\implies$  partition  $\mathcal{Y}$  accordingly.
- Characterizing sharp identified sets (same as in CR17):
  - $N = 3$ : 254 inequalities in total / 15 in the new class.
  - $N = 4$ : 65534 inequalities in total / 94 in the new class.
  - $N = 5$  is infeasible;

## Example: Entry Game with Complementarities

- $N$  firms choose  $y_j \in \{0, 1\}$  and receive payoffs:

$$\pi_j(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon_j, \theta) = y_j \cdot (\alpha_j + \delta_j(N(\mathbf{y}) - 1) + \varepsilon_j),$$

where  $N(\mathbf{y})$  is the number of entrants. Assume that  $\delta_j > 0$ ,  $\varepsilon \sim F_\varepsilon(\cdot; \gamma)$  with full support.

- The set of Nash Equilibria only contains equilibria with different number of entrants.
- Characterizing sharp identified sets:
  - $N = 3$ : 254 in total / 85 in CR17 / 36 in the new class;
  - $N = 4$ : 65534 in total / 18667 in CR17 / 553 in the new class;
  - $N = 5$  is infeasible;

# Implications (2)

## Corollary 3.2

Let  $G$  be a discrete random set with the bipartite graph  $\mathbf{B}_G$  on  $(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{Y})$ , and  $\mathcal{U}_G$  denote the set of all unions of elements of  $\text{supp}(G)$ . Suppose that there are linear orders  $\succsim_{\mathcal{Y}}$  and  $\succsim_{\mathcal{U}}$  such that:

$$u_j \succsim_{\mathcal{U}} u_i \implies \begin{cases} \min\{y \mid y \in G(u_j)\} \succsim_{\mathcal{Y}} \min\{y \mid y \in G(u_i)\} \\ \max\{y \mid y \in G(u_j)\} \succsim_{\mathcal{Y}} \max\{y \mid y \in G(u_i)\} \end{cases},$$

Then:

$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{U}_G \cap \{\{y_1, \dots, y_k\}, \{y_k, \dots, y_K\} : k = 1, \dots, K\}$$

is the smallest core-determining class.

- **Note:** This extends Theorem 4 in Galichon and Henry (2011) who also assume that that  $G(u)$  is a connected segment.

# Outline

Motivation and Literature Review

Random Sets and Core-Determining Classes

Special Case: Discrete Random Sets

Other Tools for Dimensionality Reduction

Further Research

# Main Idea

- Using the above results is helpful for many finite games, but sometimes even the smallest core-determining class is infeasible.
- Therefore, In practice, we will have to switch to some outer set. Which one?
- Approach: impose assumptions on the underlying selections in a way that if they are wrong, we still get a sensible outer set.
- Below, I focus on finite games.

# Dimensionality Reduction

## Local Games

- Suppose that a game  $\Gamma$  can be split into local games  $\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_S$  according to the rule that “what happens in  $\Gamma_s$  stays in  $\Gamma_s$ :”
  - Payoffs from  $\Gamma_s$  depend only on the outcome of  $\Gamma_s$ .
  - Equilibrium in  $\Gamma \iff$  Equilibria in all  $\Gamma_s$ .
- Example: [Gualdani \(2019\)](#)
  - Directed network formation /  $N$  players / Nash Equilibrium;
  - $\Gamma_s$  is a “market entry” game with complementarities, in which  $(N - 1)$  players decide whether to link to player  $s$ ;
  - Payoffs are appropriately separable;
- In a general network formation game:  $\approx 2^{2^{N^2}}$  inequalities.



# Dimensionality Reduction

## Local Games

- Assuming that the local games are statistically independent, including equilibrium selection rules, simplifies the analysis:
  - [Gualdani 2019](#) shows that:  $|\mathcal{C}(\Gamma)| = \sum_{s=1}^S |\mathcal{C}(\Gamma_s)|$  but eventually selects the inequalities by hand.
  - [This paper](#): can identify and use the smallest  $\mathcal{C}(\Gamma_s)$ .
- Characterizing sharp identified sets:
  - $N = 3$ : 254 inequalities in total / 15 in the smallest class.
  - $N = 4$ :  $\approx 2^{64}$  inequalities in total / 144 in the smallest class.
  - $N = 5$ :  $\approx 2^{1024}$  inequalities in total / 2765 in the smallest class.
- Side note: for inference with many inequalities, one can use the procedure from [Chernozhukov/Chetverikov/Kato 2018](#).

# Dimensionality Reduction

## Some Thoughts on Exchangeability

- When  $N$  is moderate or large, it is common to label players with several known/observable types (e.g.,  $\delta = \delta(x_j)$  below).
- Consider an entry game with **symmetric** firms:

$$\pi_j(\mathbf{y}, \varepsilon_j, \theta) = y_j \cdot (\alpha + (N(\mathbf{y}) - 1)\delta + \varepsilon_j)$$

Assume  $\delta < 0$ ,  $\varepsilon \sim F(\cdot; \gamma)$  with full support, and  $\theta = (\alpha, \delta, \gamma)$ .

- **Is observing  $\mathbf{y} = (1, \dots, 0)$  more informative than  $N(\mathbf{y}) = 1$ ?**
  - If  $F(\cdot)$  and the equilibrium selection mechanism are appropriately exchangeable, it should not be.
  - Aggregating outcomes this way dramatically simplifies the analysis.
  - **Exchangeability is testable; If it fails, we get an outer set for  $\Theta_I$ .**

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# Conclusion / Further Research

- This paper:
  - Provided a simpler characterization for sharp identified set in a class of models with set-valued predictions.
  - Proposed a new and simpler core-determining class;
  - Derived the smallest possible core-determining class for discrete random sets, which can be efficiently computed.
  - Discussed other tools for dimensionality reduction.
- Further Research:
  - An R package to compute the smallest core-determining class;
  - The smallest core-determining class for continuous random sets?
  - Can we aggregate outcomes by types without losing information?