



2-2-MixedNash

2020年6月6日 星期六 下午2:39



2-2-MixedNa...



Game Theory Online

strategies
equilibrium
payoffs
best response
mixed strategies
Nash equilibrium

Mixed Strategies and Nash Equilibrium

Game Theory Course:
Jackson, Leyton-Brown & Shoham

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Mixed Strategies

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- It would be a pretty bad idea to play any deterministic strategy in matching pennies

2

HeadsTails

1HeadsTails

1, -1	-1, 1
-1, 1	1, -1

cycle.

no pair of deterministic strategy

we both

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Mixed Strategies

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- It would be a pretty bad idea to play any deterministic strategy in matching pennies
- Idea: confuse the opponent by playing **randomly**
- Define a **strategy** s_i for agent i as any probability distribution over the actions A_i .
 - pure strategy**: only one action is played with positive probability
 - mixed strategy**: more than one action is played with positive probability
 - these actions are called the **support** of the mixed strategy
- Let the set of **all strategies** for i be S_i
- Let the set of **all strategy profiles** be $S = S_1 \times \dots \times S_n$.

$s_i = s_1, \dots, s_n$

$s_i = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$

prob. distri

support

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Utility under Mixed Strategies

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- What is your **payoff** if all the players follow mixed strategy profile $s \in S$?
 - We can't just read this number from the game matrix anymore: we won't always end up in the same cell

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Utility under Mixed Strategies

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- What is your **payoff** if all the players follow mixed strategy profile $s \in S$?
 - We can't just read this number from the game matrix anymore: we won't always end up in the same cell
- Instead, use the idea of **expected utility** from decision theory:
 - $u_i(s) = \sum_{a \in A} u_i(a) Pr(a|s)$ (false expectation over all action profile)
 - $Pr(a|s) = \prod_{j \in N} s_j(a_j)$ (support of strategy profile)
 - prob. cell reach given mixed strategy (action profile as strategy profile)
 - product each player play has part of action profile

sum of all cells

0.5	0.5
0.5	0.5

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Best Response and Nash Equilibrium

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Our definitions of best response and Nash equilibrium generalize from actions to strategies.

Definition (Best response)

$s_i^* \in BR(s_{-i})$ iff $\forall s_i \in S_i, u_i(s_i^*, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s_i, s_{-i})$

Definition (Nash equilibrium)

$s = \langle s_1, \dots, s_n \rangle$ is a **Nash equilibrium** iff $\forall i, s_i \in BR(s_{-i})$

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Best Response and Nash Equilibrium

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Definition (Best response)

$s_i^* \in BR(s_{-i})$ iff $\forall s_i \in S_i, u_i(s_i^*, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s_i, s_{-i})$

Definition (Nash equilibrium)

$s = \langle s_1, \dots, s_n \rangle$ is a **Nash equilibrium** iff $\forall i, s_i \in BR(s_{-i})$

Theorem (Nash, 1950)

Every **finite game** has a Nash equilibrium.

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Example: Matching Pennies

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0.50.5

HeadsTails

0.5HeadsTails

1, -1	-1, 1
-1, 1	1, -1

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Example: Coordination

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0.50.5

LeftRight

0.5LeftRight

1, 1	0, 0
0, 0	1, 1

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Example: Prisoner's Dilemma

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C

D

C

D

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

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