



**SINCLAIR**



# COOPERATIVE GAME THEORY AND IMPORTANCE QUANTIFICATION

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## Context

Given **random inputs**  $X_1, \dots, X_d$  and a **random output**  $G(X_1, \dots, X_d)$ , how much each **input contribute** to  $\mathbb{V}(G(X_1, \dots, X_d))$  ?

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- **Learned ML/DL models** (e.g., post-hoc interpretations).

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In this talk:

- **Dive into how cooperative game theory can be useful**, and what the Shapley values are.
- Draw a **link** between **cooperative game theory** and the field of **combinatorics**.
- Open on the **interpretation challenges** of the resulting decomposition.

# Cooperative game theory

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Formally, given:

- A **set of players**  $D = \{1, \dots, d\}$ , and the subsequent **set of coalitions**  $\mathcal{P}(D)$ .
- A **value function**  $v : \mathcal{P}(D) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  quantifying the **value produced** by each **coalition**.

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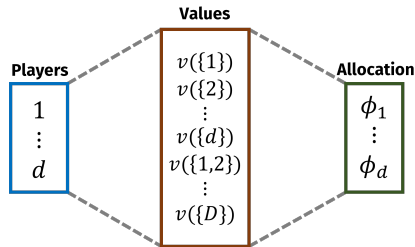
Using **allocations** !

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Allocating “the **whole cake** and **nothing but the cake**” is ensured by two criteria:

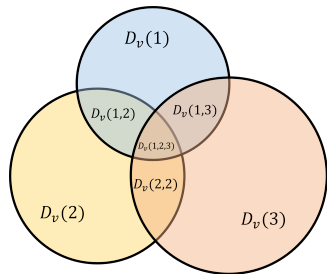
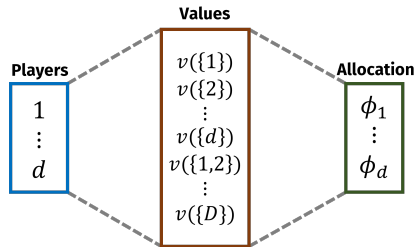
- **Efficiency:**  $\sum_{i=1}^d \phi_i = v(D)$  (The whole cake).
- **Nonnegativity:**  $\forall i \in D, \phi_i \geq 0$  (Nothing but the cake).



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The **Harsanyi (1963) dividends**  $\mathcal{D}_v$  of a cooperative game  $(D, v)$  are defined,  $\forall A \in \mathcal{P}(D)$  as:

$$\mathcal{D}_v(A) = \sum_{B \in \mathcal{P}(A)} (-1)^{|A|-|B|} v(B)$$

and can be interpreted as **the surplus due to a coalition of players**:  $\sum_{A \in \mathcal{P}(D)} \mathcal{D}_v(A) = v(D)$ .

## Egalitarian redistribution: Shapley values

The **Shapley (1951) values** are an **egalitarian redistribution of the Harsanyi dividends**, defined, for  $i = 1, \dots, d$  as:

$$\text{Sh}_i = \phi_i = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{P}(D): i \in A} \frac{\mathcal{D}_v(A)}{|A|},$$

where  $|\cdot|$  denotes the cardinality of sets.

# The Harsanyi set

The **Harsanyi set** is the collection of allocations that can be written, for  $i = 1, \dots, d$  as:

$$\phi_i = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{P}(D): i \in A} \lambda_A(i) \mathcal{D}_v(A).$$

under the constraint that,  $\forall A \in \mathcal{P}(D)$ ,

$$\sum_{i \in D} \lambda_A(i) = 1.$$

These allocations are:

- **Always efficient** (the whole cake).
- If  $v$  is monotonic, they are **non-negative** (nothing but the cake).

**Monotonicity:** A bigger coalition has a greater value than a smaller one:

$$\forall A \in \mathcal{P}(D), \forall B \subseteq A, \quad v(B) \leq v(A).$$

## Importance quantification

By **analogy between players and inputs**, Owen (2014) proposed to study the game:

$$(D, S^T), \quad \text{where } \forall A \in \mathcal{P}(D), \quad S_A^T = \frac{\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{V}(G(X) \mid X_{\bar{A}})]}{\mathbb{V}(G(X))}.$$

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**They can be interpreted as shares of variance allocated to each input.** They are a **suitable solution** for importance quantification with dependent inputs.

However, **they do not detect exogenous inputs:**

$$G(X) = X_1 + X_2, \quad X = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \rho \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \rho & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right),$$

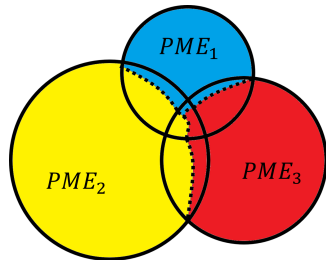
$$\text{Sh}_1 = 0.5 - \rho^2/4, \quad \text{Sh}_2 = 0.5, \quad \text{Sh}_3 = \rho^2/4 > 0 \text{ if } \rho \neq 0.$$

# Proportional redistribution and exogeneity detection

The **proportional values** (Ortmann 2000) can be interpreted as a redistribution such that

*"[...] each player gains in **equal proportion** to that which could be obtained by each alone."* - B. Feldman (1999)

They are based on a **proportional allocation principle** of the **Harsanyi dividends**.



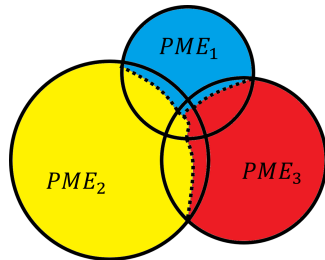
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For the game  $(D, \mathbf{s}^T)$ , they result in the **proportional marginal effects** (PME) (Herin et al. 2022). They **discriminate more** than the Shapley effects in **highly correlated situation**, and...

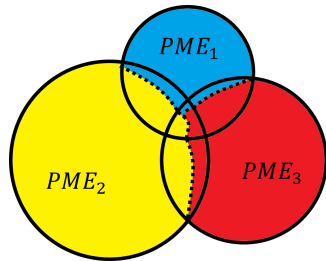


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**Proposition** (Exogeneity detection (Herin et al. 2022)). Suppose that any different subset of the inputs cannot be expressed as functions of each other. Then, for any  $i \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ :

$$PME_i = 0 \iff X_i \text{ is exogenous.}$$

Estimating the PME/Shapley effects  $\iff$  Estimating  $S_A^T$  for every  $A \in \mathcal{P}(D)$ .

It can be achieved:

- Via **Monte Carlo sampling**: Requires a number proportional to  $d!(d-1)$  model evaluations (Song, Nelson, and Staum 2016).
- **Given-data** (i.i.d. input-output sample) via a **nearest-neighbor procedure**: Requires  $2^d$  estimates (Broto, Bachoc, and Depecker 2020).

**These methods are time-consuming and scale exponentially with the number of inputs**, but the **estimates can be recycled to compute both indices at once**.

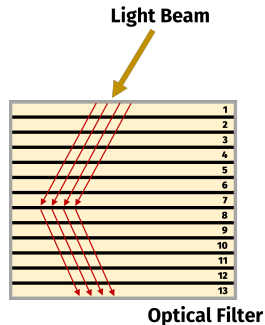
# Optical filter transmittance - Feature selection

Quantification of the **transmittance performance** of an **optical filter** composed of 13 consecutive layers (Vasseur et al. 2010).

The inputs  $I_1, \dots, I_{13}$  represent the **refractive index error** of each filter ( $\mathcal{U}([-0.05, 0.05])$ )

These errors are (highly) correlated due to the manufacturing process (Gaussian copula,  $\rho = 0.95$ ).

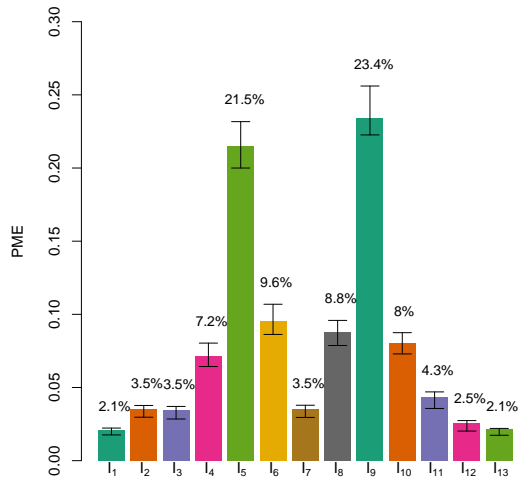
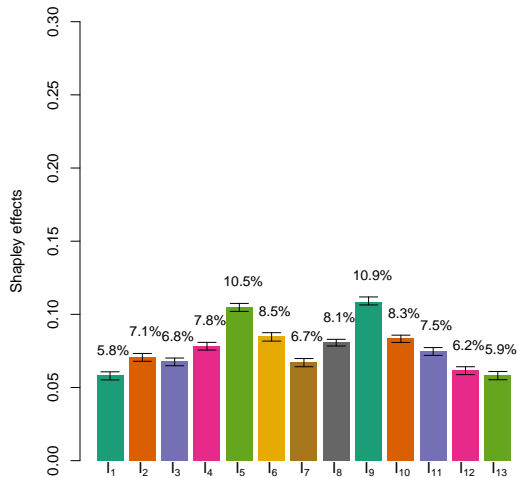
The black-box model computes the **transmittance error w.r.t. the “perfect filter”** over several wavelengths.



We can only access an i.i.d. input-output sample ( $n = 1000$ ).

The indices are computed using the nearest-neighbors approach (6 neighbors).

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**Scenario:** We want to build a surrogate model (Gaussian process\*) of this numerical model.

**Using the whole dataset:**  $Q^2 = 99.48\%$ .

**Feature selection:**

- First threshold: 2.5% importance.
  - **Shapley effects:** No features removed.
  - **PME:**  $I_1$  and  $I_3$  are removed,  $Q^2 = 99.14\%$ .
- Second threshold: 5% importance.
  - **Shapley effects:** No features removed.
  - **PME:** 7 inputs are removed,  $Q^2 = 98.79\%$ .

\* 5/2 Matérn covariance kernel, constant trend.



## Links with combinatorics

To define suitable indices, recall that we went through the following steps:

1. We **chose of a value function**  $v : \mathcal{P}(D) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
2. We defined the **Harsanyi dividends** of  $v$  as:  $\forall A \in \mathcal{P}(D), \mathcal{D}_v(A) = \sum_{B \in \mathcal{P}(A)} (-1)^{|A|-|B|} v(B)$ .

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This approach is **intimately linked to a well-known equivalence in the field of combinatorics**.

**Corollary** (*Möbius inversion on power-sets (Rota 1964; Kung, Rota, and Hung Yan 2012)*).

Let  $D = \{1, \dots, d\}$ , and any two set functions:

$$\varphi : \mathcal{P}(D) \rightarrow \mathbb{A}, \quad \psi : \mathcal{P}(D) \rightarrow \mathbb{A},$$

where  $\mathbb{A}$  is an **abelian group**. Then the following equivalence holds:

$$\forall A \in \mathcal{P}(D), \quad \varphi(A) = \sum_{B \in \mathcal{P}(A)} \psi(B) \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{P}(D), \quad \psi(A) = \sum_{B \in \mathcal{P}(A)} (-1)^{|A|-|B|} \varphi(B).$$

We went from the **right-hand side** to the **left-hand side** of the equivalence: the **input-centric approach**.

## Illustration: Linear model with interaction and Gaussian inputs

$$G(X) = X_1 + X_2 X_3, \quad X = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \rho \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \rho & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) \quad (1)$$

Let,  $\forall A \subseteq \{1, 2, 3\}$ :

$$\mathbf{v}(A) = S_A^T, \quad S(A) = \sum_{B \in \mathcal{P}(A)} (-1)^{|A|-|B|} S_B^T \times \mathbb{V}(G(X))$$

**Independent case** ( $\rho = 0$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{v}}(1) &= \mathbb{V}(G(X))/2, & \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{v}}(2) &= 0, & \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{v}}(3) &= 0, \\ \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{v}}(12) &= 0, & \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{v}}(13) &= 0, \\ \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{v}}(23) &= \mathbb{V}(G(X))/2, & \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{v}}(123) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

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**Correlated case** ( $\rho \neq 0$ )

$$\text{In both cases } \sum_{A \in \mathcal{P}(D)} \psi(A) = \mathbb{V}(G(X)).$$

What is due to the correlation? What is due to the interaction?

# Shapley effects with dependent inputs

Hence, the precise interpretation of

$$\mathcal{D}_v(A) = \frac{1}{\mathbb{V}(G(X))} \sum_{B \in \mathcal{P}(A)} (-1)^{|A|-|B|} s_B^T$$

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**Choosing  $v(A) = s_B^T$ , leads to an uncharacterized quantification when the inputs are dependent.**

# Conclusion

## Key messages:

- **Cooperative game theory:** Resourceful for building interpretable importance indices.
- **Harsanyi dividends:** Links the field to **combinatorics** through Möbius inversion.
- **Shapley values:** Egalitarian redistribution ( $\neq$  fair).
- **PME:** Allow to detect exogenous inputs, more discriminative.
- **Estimation:** VERY time-consuming (but embarrassingly parallel).



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## Challenges and open questions:

- **Estimation:** Is it possible to drive the cost down?
- **Interpretation:** Model-centric approach, **FANOVA with dependent inputs**.
- **Allocations:** Properties of other allocations ? (e.g., weighted Shapley)

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## More on the Proportional Marginal Effects (PME) (HAL/arXiv/ResearchGate)

Proportional marginal effects for global sensitivity analysis

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## More about the links with combinatorics (HAL/arXiv/ResearchGate)

On the coalitional decomposition of parameters of interest

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

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