#### NE and SPE tutorial

Do you want to be able to solve any decision tree for all its Nash Equilibria?

Do you want to be able to solve perfect information decision trees for a single Subgame Perfect Equilibrium?

This tutorial is to show how to use the functions I created for drawing decision trees and solving them for Nash Equilibria and Subgame Perfect Equilibrium. Currently other game theory packages solve specific types of games, but this will work for any game as long as you can figure out how to create a decision tree for it. This will give you a data frame with the equilibria and payoffs and will draw decision trees with those equilibria marked.

The first function, tree.node, is the one used to create the decision trees in R.

```
tree.node<-function(play=NA,node="start.node",act=NA,pay=NA,prob=NA,tree,remove.node=FALSE){
```

The inputs for this are play, node, act, pay, prob, tree, and remove.node. The input take this structure: (play=integer, node="character" or node=c("character", "character"), act=c("character", "character"), pay=c(numeric, numeric), prob=c(numeric, numeric), tree=game, remove.node=FALSE or remove.node=TRUE).

Play takes the number of the player who controls the node; if that player would be a nature node set play to 0 (this function does not accept player names). The default NA is used for nodes that no one controls.

Node is the name of the node which is the action that leads to that node. If you have a multi-node info set use c() to set the location of each node in the info set. The default start.node should only be used for the start node.

Act is used for decision nodes by using c() and inputting all the possible actions the player can choose from at that node. Use the default of NA for terminus nodes.

Pay is used the set the payoff of the terminus node when it is reached and again you use c() and list payoffs in player order. Use the default of NA for non-terminus nodes.

Prob takes c() frequencies between 0 and 1 with the order having to match the order of the actions they are reporting the probabilities of. The default of NA is used for all non-probability nodes.

Tree is the game that you are currently building. This is important because you can only add one node/info set at a time so in order to build most games you have to use this to add nodes to a game.

Remove.node should usually be false; only set it to true if there is a node you want to remove from your game. If that is the case all you need is the node's name and remove.node to be true. Note that is addition to removing nodes this function knows if a node already exist in a decision tree. If you input a node that already exists it will overwrite the old version of the node instead of having two nodes with the same name (i.e. if you want to change a node you don't have to remove it and re-add it; just change the values and the function with overwrite it for you).

```
game<-list(NA,NA,list(NA),list(NA),list(NA))
game<-tree.node(play=1,act=c("cooperate`1","defect`1"),tree=game)
game<-tree.node(play=2,node=c("cooperate`1","defect`1"),act=c("cooperate`2","defect`2"),tree=game)
game<-tree.node(node="cooperate`2~cooperate`1",pay=c(3,3),tree=game)
game<-tree.node(node="cooperate`2~defect`1",pay=c(5,0),tree=game)
game<-tree.node(node="defect`2~cooperate`1",pay=c(0,5),tree=game)
game<-tree.node(node="defect`2~defect`1",pay=c(1,1),tree=game)</pre>
```

Here is how to input the classic prisoner's dilemma. You can see how each line is adding a new node/info set to the game and that if a node does not have a defined feature it is left out and handled by the default value. There are a couple important things to note:

First, the first line is critical as it sets up the structure of the decision tree that is used in R; this line should not be changed (except 'game' can be changed if you want a different name for your game).

Next, all actions from different info sets must have different names. If you want actions to appear to have the same name, use ''' at the end of the action name followed by a unique tag. ''' will tell the other function to drop the end when presenting you with outputs.

Line 3 is an example of how to input an info set with more than one node. Note that when you do this it will print the new name for the actions that originate from each of the nodes. This is important because you must use those names when naming nodes that are produced by those actions as lines 4-7 do. The naming convention is 'action\_a~node\_A'. The '~' that's inserted in the name is very important for the code to understand this is an info set and thus '~' should not be used in another action or node names.

```
> game<-tree.node(play=2,node=c("cooperate`1","defect`1"),act=c("cooperate`2","defect`2"),tree=game)
[1] "cooperate`2~cooperate`1" "defect`2~cooperate`1"
[1] "cooperate`2~defect`1" "defect`2~defect`1"</pre>
```

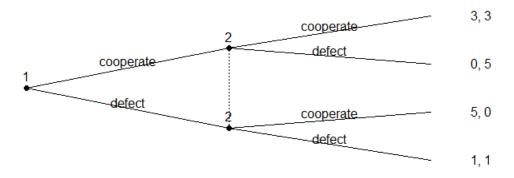
Lastly, the order in which you add nodes to the tree does not matter, but the output of some functions are in the order the nodes were input. This is purely aesthetic but I do recommend adding nodes in the order in which they are reached in the decision tree.

So to summarize, to input a decision tree, break the decision tree into its nodes/info sets. For each node/info set include all information that node controls and leave any information that is not a part of that node as the default value. Make sure your node and action names pair up and are different from all other pairs. And don't forget the first line that sets up the structure.

The next function, tree.draw, is the one used to draw the decision trees in R.

tree.draw<-function(tree,equilibrium=NA)</pre>

The only input you should use is tree run your game through this function. Equilibrium is only for other functions to pass the equilibrium they solved for to tree.draw. Because tree.node does not check to see if all parts of a tree connect or are complete (because of it node by node input), instead all the other function including this one have this check. In the cases where certain nodes don't connect or are not complete you will get an error message telling you only one of the offending nodes or actions.

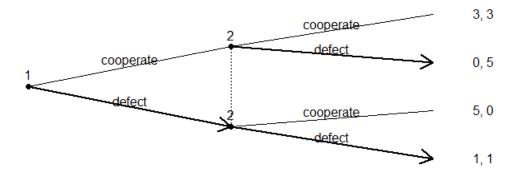


Here is the prisoner's dilemma as depicted by tree.draw. Note that this function is not meant to produce final products but instead to give you a visual representation of the stored game to double check you inputted all your nodes correctly. The dotted line between the two player 2 controlled nodes is how this function represents shared info sets (Warning! the draw.tree function can currently only handle 2 nodes in 1 shared info set). While this function is not meant to produce beautiful decision tree, if you want to modify how far above the line or node the words appear, you can search the code for 'offset' because all text offsets have been commented with that word.

The first solution function, tree.solveNE, solves for Nash Equilibria (the bedrock of game theory) in R.

tree.solveNE<-function(tree){</pre>

It's only input is tree which takes any decision tree. This function outputs all pure Nash Equilibria for a given game. This output will be in the form of a data frame that shows the actions chosen by each player as well as the payoffs received for each Nash Equilibrium. Also it outputs using tree.draw decision trees showing all the Nash Equilibria with chosen action marked with arrows (there is one decision tree per Nash Equilibria). If no pure strategy Nash Equilibrium exists the function will simple print a message telling you so. Here is the output for the prisoner's dilemma.



The last function, tree.solveSPE, is used to solve for Subgame Perfection (a more logically refined Nash Equilibrium) in R.

```
tree.solveSPE<-function(tree)
```

This function's only input is the game you want solved, but this time it will refine the Nash Equilibrium down to its single Subgame Perfect Equilibrium. Because this is a more rigorous Equilibrium it has more restrictions on what games it can handle. It can't solve games with tied nodes and it currently can't solve games with imperfect information, in both cases it will print a message telling you the reason it couldn't solve the game. When it does solve the game this functions output is very similar to the tree.solveNE function. It will return a data frame with the action chosen by each player at SPE and their payoffs, along with a decision tree with the SPE actions marked with arrows. Note that because the prisoner's dilemma has imperfect information if you input it into the tree.solveSPE function you will get the following output.

```
> tree.solveSPE(game)
[1] "There is imperfect information, Can't solve for SPE"
NULL
```

This is end for the main part of the tutorial. It is not recommended for novices to change the function code, but if you wish to modify the code of these functions they have been commented to help give a vague idea about what each part of the code is doing. The codes are at the end of this tutorial and attached in another file. The rest of this tutorial shows how to input 4 more games as a demonstration for those that learn best by seeing examples. It's useful because it shows how the input change based on the type of game.

The first game is matching pennies.

```
game2<-list(NA,NA,list(NA),list(NA),list(NA))
game2<-tree.node(play=1,act=c("heads`1","tails`1"),tree=game2)
game2<-tree.node(play=2,node=c("heads`1","tails`1"),act=c("heads`2","tails`2"),tree=game2)
game2<-tree.node(node="heads`2~heads`1",pay=c(1,0),tree=game2)
game2<-tree.node(node="tails`2~heads`1",pay=c(0,1),tree=game2)
game2<-tree.node(node="heads`2~tails`1",pay=c(0,1),tree=game2)
game2<-tree.node(node="tails`2~tails`1",pay=c(1,0),tree=game2)
game2<-tree.node(node="tails`2~tails`1",pay=c(1,0),tree=game2)

heads

1,0

heads

1,0

heads

1,0

tails

heads

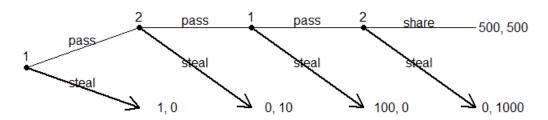
1,0</pre>
```

This game is very similar to the prisoner's dilemma. The main thing to note is because of the changes in payoffs when we run this game through tree.solveNE, we get the following output because there is no pure strategy Nash Equilibrium.

```
> tree.solveNE(game2)
[1] "No pure Nash Equilibrium"
NULL
```

The next game is the centipede game.

This game has perfect information and the actions are marked with ''' because each player can choose the same action over and over. This game has multiple Nash Equilibria, but only one SPE.



The next game is about poker.

```
game4<-list(NA,NA,list(NA),list(NA),list(NA))
game4<-tree.node(play=1,act=c("raise","stay"),tree=game4)
game4<-tree.node(play=2,node=c("raise"),act=c("fold","call"),tree=game4)
game4<-tree.node(play=0,node=c("stay"),act=c("win'stay","lose'stay"),prob=c(0.5,0.5),tree=game4)
game4<-tree.node(node="win'stay",pay=c(1,-1),tree=game4)
game4<-tree.node(node="lose'stay",pay=c(1,-1),tree=game4)
game4<-tree.node(node="fold",pay=c(1,-1),tree=game4)
game4<-tree.node(node="win'call",pay=c(2,-2),tree=game4)
game4<-tree.node(node="win'call",pay=c(-2,2),tree=game4)
game4<-tree.node(node="lose'call",pay=c(-2,2),tree=game4)
game4<-tree.node(node="lose'call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=call",pay=cal
```

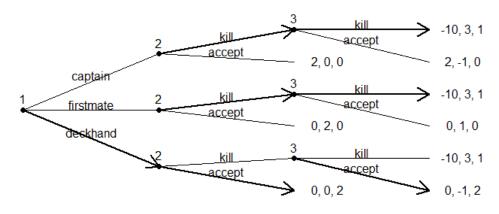
This game shows how to use nature nodes with probabilities controlling their decisions. It is important to note, that it may be tempting to represent nature with as single information set, but don't, since that will interfere with the functions abilities to understand the tree (nature is always considered omnipotent). While this game has two NE it can't be solved for a single SPE since there is a tied node.

The last game is a simplified Dread Pirate Nash game.

```
game5<-list(NA,NA,list(NA),list(NA),list(NA))
game5<-tree.node(play=1,act=c("captain","firstmate","deckhand"),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(play=2,node="captain",act=c("kill`c2","accept`c2"),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(play=2,node="firstmate",act=c("kill`f2","accept`f2"),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(play=2,node="deckhand",act=c("kill`d2","accept`d2"),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(play=3,node="kill`c2",act=c("kill`d3","accept`c3"),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(play=3,node="kill`f2",act=c("kill`f3","accept`f3"),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(play=3,node="kill`d2",act=c("kill`d3","accept`d3"),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`c2",pay=c(2,0,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`f2",pay=c(0,2,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`d2",pay=c(0,0,2),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="kill`c3",pay=c(-10,3,1),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="kill`f3",pay=c(0,1,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`f3",pay=c(0,1,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`f3",pay=c(0,1,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`f3",pay=c(0,1,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`f3",pay=c(0,1,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`f3",pay=c(0,1,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`f3",pay=c(0,1,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`f3",pay=c(0,1,0),tree=game5)
game5<-tree.node(node="accept`f3",pay=c(0,1,0),tree=game5)</pre>
```

This game is to show that while all the other games are ones that are easy to do by hand, it is possible to solve games that would take forever to do by hand. This game has 26 NE but only one SPE

```
> tree.solveNE(game5)
                                                           p1 p2 p3
1
     captain
                kill
                       kill
                              kill
                                      kill
                                             kill
                                                    kill
                                                          -10
                                                                  1
   firstmate
                       kill
               kill
                              kill.
                                      kill
                                             kill.
                                                    kill.
                                                          -10
                                                                  1
3
     captain accept
                       kill
                              kill.
                                   accept
                                             kill.
                                                    kill
     captain accept accept
                              kill
                                   accept
                                             kill
                                                    kill
     captain accept
                       kill accept accept
                                             kill
                                                    kill
     captain accept
                     accept
                            accept
                                   accept
                                             kill
                                                    kill
   firstmate
                ki]]
                     accept
                              kill.
                                      ki 11
                                           accept
                                                    kill
8
                kill
                                                    kill
   firstmate
                            accept
                                      kill accept
                     accept
                       ki 11
                              ki]]
                                                    kill
9
     captain accept
                                   accept accept
10
                                                               0
     captain accept accept
                              kill
                                   accept accept
                                                    kill.
                                                                  0
11
     captain accept
                       kill
                            accept accept accept
                                                    kill
                                                               0
                                                                  0
12
     captain accept
                     accept accept accept
                                                    kill
13
    deckhand
                       ki]]
                                      ki]]
                                                   accept
                kill
                            accept
                kill
                                      kill
                                             kill accept
14
    deckhand
                     accept
                            accept
15
     captain accept
                       ki]]
                              ki]]
                                   accept
                                             kill
                                                  accept
16
     captain accept
                     accept
                              kill accept
                                             kill accept
                       ki 11
                                             kill.
                                                               0
                                                                  0
17
     captain accept
                            accept accept
                                                  accept
                                                               0
                                                                  0
18
     captain accept accept
                            accept accept
                                             kill accept
19 firstmate
                                                            0
                kill.
                     accept
                              kill.
                                      kill accept accept
                                                                  0
20
    deckhand
                kill
                       kill
                            accept
                                      kill accept accept
                                                            0
21 firstmate
                kill
                     accept accept
                                      kill accept accept
                                                            0
               kill
                                      kill accept accept
22
    deckhand
                    accept
                            accept
23
     captain accept
                       ki]]
                              kill accept accept accept
                              kill
                                                               0
24
     captain accept accept
                                                                  0
                                   accept accept accept
                       kill accept accept accept
25
                                                               0
     captain accept
     captain accept accept accept accept accept
> tree.solveSPE(game5)
                                               3 p1 p2 p3
1 deckhand accept kill kill accept kill kill 0 0
```



You can see a wide variety of games in this tutorial but it is nothing compared to the infinite number of complex games these functions can solve. The next section goes over what large chunks of the function code do.

### Function: tree.node

The first part is for removing nodes.

The second part is for adding or changing nodes.

```
}else{ # if adding nodes
   outcome<-NA
   for(node.i in 1:length(node)){ # cycles through nodes that are being added
   if(!is.na(act[1])){ # checks if node has actions
      if(length(node)>1){ # checks to see if more than one node is being added
           for(act.i in 1:length(act))
             outcome[act.i]<-paste(act[act.i],node[node.i],sep="~") # creates unique action names for multi-node info sets</pre>
           print(outcome) # prints unique actions so they can be used for the next node
           outcome<-act # if only one node it transfers act to outcome
      if(length(which(tree[[2]]==node[node.i]))>0){  # if node already exist it will overwrite that node
        tree[[1]][which(tree[[2]]==node[node.i])]<-play
tree[[3]][[which(tree[[2]]==node[node.i])]]<-outcome
tree[[4]][[which(tree[[2]]==node[node.i])]]<-pay</pre>
        tree[[5]][[which(tree[[2]]==node[node.i])]]<-prob
        if(length(which(is.na(tree[[2]])))>0){  # if a node is NA this will overwrite it
           tree[[1]][which(is.na(tree[[2]]))[1]]<-play</pre>
           tree[[3]][[which(is.na(tree[[2]]))[1]]]<-outcome
tree[[4]][[which(is.na(tree[[2]]))[1]]]<-pay
tree[[5]][[which(is.na(tree[[2]]))[1]]]<-prob</pre>
           tree[[2]][which(is.na(tree[[2]]))[1]]<-node[node.i]</pre>
        }else{
           tree[[1]][length(tree[[1]])+1]<-play # if there is no node to overwite this will create node to add to the list
           tree[[2]][length(tree[[1]])]<-node[node.i]</pre>
           tree[[3]][[length(tree[[1]])]]<-outcome
tree[[4]][[length(tree[[1]])]]<-pay</pre>
           tree[[5]][[length(tree[[1]])]]<-prob
return(tree) # returns the decision tree
```

### Function: tree.draw

The first part checks to see if the function can work with this tree.

The next part figures out the order of the nodes and stores important characteristic about the structure.

```
order<-list("start.node")
connections<-list(NA)
round.i<-0
while(round.i<-length(order)){ # builds list for determining structure of the tree
round.i<-round.i<-length(order)[round.i]]){
    if(orde.i in 1:length(order[[round.i]])){
        if(is.na(ree[[3]][[which(tree[[2]]==order[[round.i]]])]){ # this is for dead end nodes
        connections[[round.i]]</pre>
    connections[[round.i]]
    info.set[[round.i]]
    connections[[round.i]]
    info.set[[round.i]]
    info.set[[round.i]]
```

The last part actually plots the decision trees.

```
plot(0,x1im=c(1,length(order)+0.5),y1im=c(1,0),col=0,axes=FALSE) # creates empty plot, note that the y axis is flipped info.set.i<-0 for(round.i in 1:(length(order))) # cycles through slices of the tree segment.i<-1 for(round.i line) # cycles through slices of the tree segment.i<-1 for(round.i line) # cycles through slices of the tree segment.i<-1 for(round.i line) # cycles through slices of the tree segment.i<-1 for(round.i line) # cycles through slices of the tree segment.i<-1 for(round.i line) # cycles through slices in a slice if (ins.mac(ornection) # cycles for ond the slice in your segments (cound.i) # cycles for ond the slice in your segments (cound.i) # cycles for part of info set for(ins.mac(ornection) # cycles for part of info set if (info.set.loo) # cycles for part of info set if (info.set.loo) # cycles for part of info set if (info.set.loo) # cycles for part of info set info.set.node[1],yl=info.set.node[2],ity=3) # connects nodes in info set if (info.set.loo) # cycles for part of info.set.node.c(cycles f
```

# Function: tree.solveNE

The first part checks to see if the function can work with this tree.

This part finds all possible combination of decisions possible

This part finds the payoff for each combination of decisions.

# This next part finds the NE.

### This last part makes the output more presentable and passes the equilibria to tree.draw.

# Function: tree.solveSPE

The first part checks to see if the function can work with this tree.

### The next part solves for SPE.

The last part makes the output more presentable and passes the equilibrium to tree.draw.

```
tree.draw(tree=tree,equilibrium=SPE[[1]]) # pass decided action to draw function
for(SPE.i in 1:length(SPE[[1]])){
    text.i<-strsplit(SPE[1])|SPE.i],""") # this removes unique action markers that are unwanted in the output
    SPE[[1]][SPE.i]<-text.i([1]][1]

SPE.table<-as.data.frame(matrix(data=Na,nrow=1,ncol=length(SPE[[1]))+max(tree[[1]],na.rm=TRUE))) # create table for output

SPE.table[1,length(SPE[[1]):1]<-SPE[[1]] # adds decisions to table

SPE.table[1,(length(SPE[[1]):1):length(SPE.table[1,])<-tree[[4]][[which(tree[[2]]=="start.node")]] # adds payoff

colnames(SPE.table)<-c(SPE[[2]][length(SPE[[2]]):1],paste("p",1:max(tree[[1]],na.rm=TRUE),sep="")) # adds players who control each decision and recieve each payoff

return(SPE.table) # return SPE and it's payoff</pre>
```