

July 6, 2024

Two people are employed in a joint project. If every person i = 1, 2 spends an amount of resources x_i , where $0 \le x_i \le 1$, incurring a cost $k_i(x_i)$, the project will have a revenue of $f(x_1, x_2)$. The revenue is equally divided by the two persons, without considering the resources employed by each person.

- write the payoff function of each player;
- formulate this problem as a strategic game and determine the possible Nash equilibria in the cases:
 - 1. $f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1x_2$ and $k_i(x_i) = x_i^1$ for i = 1, 2;

2.
$$f(x_1, x_2) = 4x_1x_2$$
 and $k_1(x_1) = x_1$, $k_2(x_2) = \frac{2}{3}x_2$.

In the prevoius cases can we deduce a priori that a Nash equilibrium exists?

Solution

case a)

i) proceed:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1x_2,$$

the proceed for every single person is:

$$f_i(x_1, x_2) = \frac{3}{2} x_1 x_2.$$

The payoff functions are:

$$u_1(x_1, x_2) = \frac{3}{2}x_1x_2 - x_1^2$$

$$u_2(x_1, x_2) = \frac{3}{2}x_1x_2 - x_2^2.$$

The strategic game $(A_1 \times A_2, (u_1, u_2))$ is such that:

$$A_1 = A_2 = [0, 1]$$

$$u_1(x_1, x_2) = \frac{3}{2}x_1x_2 - x_1^2$$

$$u_2(x_1, x_2) = \frac{3}{2}x_1x_2 - x_2^2.$$

We now need to calculate the best reply:

$$BR_i := A_{-i} \to A_i \qquad \forall i = 1, 2, \cdots, n,$$

that is

$$BR_1 := A_2 \to A_1 \quad \forall x_2 \in [0, 1],$$

given by

$$BR_1(x_2) = \underset{x_1 \in [0,1]}{\arg \max} \, u_1(x_1, x_2) = \underset{x_1 \in [0,1]}{\arg \max} \, \frac{3}{2} x_1 x_2 - x_1^2 = \underset{x_1 \in [0,1]}{\arg \max} (\frac{3}{2} x_2 - x_1) x_1.$$

We have that

$$\frac{\partial u_1(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_1} = \frac{3}{2}x_2 - 2x_1 = 0$$

for

$$x_1 = \frac{3}{4}x_2,$$

so that

$$BR_1(x_2) = \frac{3}{4}x_2.$$

The best reply for the player two is:

$$BR_2 := A_1 \to A_2 \qquad \forall x_1 \in [0, 1]$$

given by

$$BR_1(x_1) = \underset{x_2 \in [0,1]}{\arg\max} \ u_2(x_1, x_2) = \underset{x_2 \in [0,1]}{\arg\max} \ \frac{3}{2} x_1 x_2 - x_2^2$$

so that

$$\frac{\partial u_2(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_2} = \frac{3}{2}x_1 - x_2 = 0$$

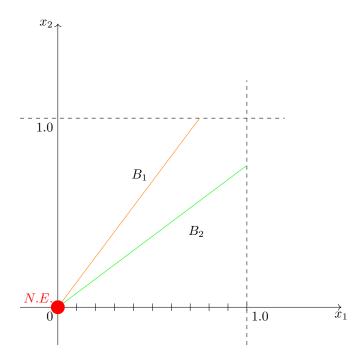
for

$$x_2 = \frac{3}{4}x_1,$$

so that

$$BR_2(x_1) = \frac{3}{4}x_1.$$

We can also solve the following system:



$$\begin{cases} x_1 = \frac{3}{4}x_2 \\ x_2 = \frac{3}{4}x_1 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} x_1 = 0 \\ x_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

(0,0) is the unique Nash Equilibrium.

case b)

i) Payoff functions:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = 4x_1 x_2,$$

then for each player the proceeds is

$$f_i(x_1, x_2) = 2x_1 x_2,$$

so that the payoff functions are:

$$u_1(x_1, x_2) = 2x_1x_2 - x_1$$

$$u_2(x_1, x_2) = 2x_1x_2 - \frac{2}{3}x_1.$$

ii) Now we consider the two players strategic game $(A_1 \times A_2, (u_1, u_2))$ such that

$$A_1 = A_2 = [0, 1]$$

$$u_1(x_1, x_2) = 2x_1x_2 - x_1$$

$$u_2(x_1, x_2) = 2x_1x_2 - \frac{2}{3}x_2.$$

Now we can consider the Best Reply

$$BR_i := A_{-i} \to A_i \qquad \forall i = 1, 2, \cdots, n$$

that are

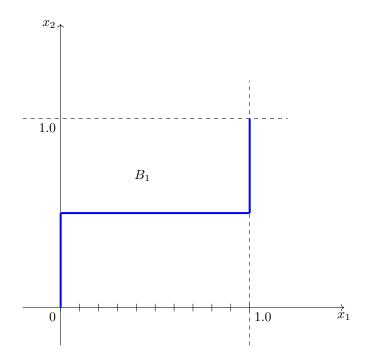
$$BR_1 := A_2 \to A_1$$

$$BR_2 := A_1 \to A_2.$$

From the definition we have

$$BR_i(a_{-i}) = \{a_i \in A_i \quad \text{s.t.} \quad u_i(a_{-i}, a_i) \ge u_i(a_{-i}, \hat{a}_i) \quad \forall \hat{a}_i \in A_i\}$$
$$= \underset{\hat{a}_i \in A_i}{\arg \max} u_i(a_{-i}, \hat{a}_i)$$

$$BR_1(x_2) = \underset{x_1 \in [0,1]}{\arg\max} (2x_1 - 1)x_1 = \begin{cases} \{0\} & \text{if} \quad x_2 < \frac{1}{2} \\ [0,1] & \text{if} \quad x_2 = \frac{1}{2} \\ \{1\} & \text{if} \quad x_2 > \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$$



$$BR_2 := A_1 \to A_2 \qquad \forall x_1 \in [0,1]$$

$$BR_2(x_1) = \mathop{\arg\max}_{x_2 \in [0,1]} (2x_1 - \frac{2}{3})x_2 = \begin{cases} \{0\} & \text{if} \qquad x_1 < \frac{1}{3} \\ [0,1] & \text{if} \qquad x_1 = \frac{1}{3} \\ \{1\} & \text{if} \qquad x_1 > \frac{1}{3} \end{cases}$$

From the definition

$$a^{\star} \in A$$
 is a Nash Equilibrium

if

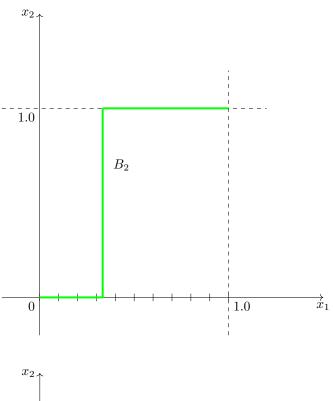
$$a_i^{\star} \in BR_i(a_{-i}^{\star} \quad \forall i$$

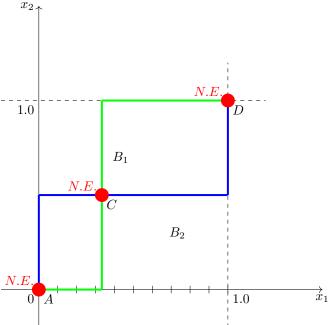
The Nash Equilibrium are

$$B_1 \cap B_2 = \{A, C, D\}$$

where

$$A = (0, 0)$$





$$C = (1./3, 1./2)$$

 $D = (1., 1.)$

The functions $u_i:A_1\times A_2\to\mathbb{R}$ are continuous. The map $x_1\mapsto u_1(x_1,x_2)$ with $x_2\in A$ fixed is linear in x_1 and so it is concave. The same for the map $x_2\mapsto u_2(x_1,x_2)$ with $x_1\in A$ fixed. Then the Nash Theorem guarantees the existence of at least a Nash Equilibrium.

Consider a two player non-cooperative game, in which every player controls a unique variable, which we indicate, respectively with x_1 for the first player and x_2 for the second player. The alternative set for the first player is:

$$X_1 = \{x_1 \quad \text{such that} \quad -6 \le x_1 \le 2\}$$

and for the second player is:

$$X_2 = \{x_2 \quad \text{such that} \quad -2 \le x_2 \le 41\}.$$

The payoff functions for the two players are:

$$C_1(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2}x_1^2 - x_1(2x_2 - 4) + 7x_2$$
$$C_2(x_1, x_2) = (3 - x_2)(1 - x_1).$$

- a. Can be stated "a priori" the existence of a Nash Equilibrium?
- b. Identify for each player the Best Reply functions.
- c. Identify the Nash Equilibrium of the game, if they exist.

Solution

Point a)

The two player strategic game is

$$(A_1 \times A_2, (u_1, u_2))$$

with the alternative sets:

$$A_1 = [-6, 2]$$

$$A_2 = [-2, 4],$$

and payoff functions

$$u_1(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2}x_1^2 - x_1(2x_2 - 4) + 7x_2$$

$$u_2(x_1, x_2) = (3 - x_2)(1 - x_1),$$

where the two players must minimize. Now we verify the hypotheses of the Nash Theorem.

 A_1 and A_2 are closed and bounded sets of $\mathbb R$ so that they are non empty, convex and compact subsets of $\mathbb R$. The functions

$$u_i: A_1 \times A_2 \to \mathbb{R}$$

are continuous. The map

$$x_1 \mapsto u_1(x_1, x_2)$$

with $x_2 \in A_2$ fixed non-linear with respect to the variable x_1 , but since we are considering a minimizing problem the map $x_1 \mapsto u_1(x_1, x_2)$ is convex for every x_2 fixed and so also for the map $x_2 \mapsto u_2(x_1, x_2)$ for every x_1 fixed.

The hypotheses of the Nash Theorem are satisfied so we know that at least a Nash Equilibrium exists. **Point b)**

$$BR_i: A_{-i} \to A_i$$

$$BR_1: A_2 \rightrightarrows A_1 \qquad \forall x_2 \in [-2, 4]$$

is given by

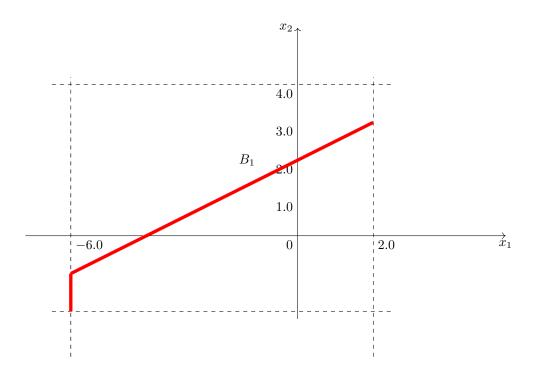
$$BR_1(x_2) = \underset{x_1 \in [-6,2]}{\arg \min} \ u_1(x_1, x_2) = \underset{x_1 \in [-6,2]}{\arg \min} \ \frac{1}{2} x_1^2 - x_1(2x_2 - 4) + 7x_2$$

so that

$$\frac{\partial u_1(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_1} = x_1 - (2x_2 - 4) = 0$$

for

$$x_1 = 2x_2 - 4$$
.



$$BR_1(x_2) = \underset{x_1 \in [-6,2]}{\arg\min} u_1(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} \{-6\} & \text{if} \quad x_2 < -11 \\ \{2x_2 - 4\} & \text{if} \quad -1 < x_2 < 3 \\ \{2\} & \text{if} \quad x_2 > 3 \end{cases}$$

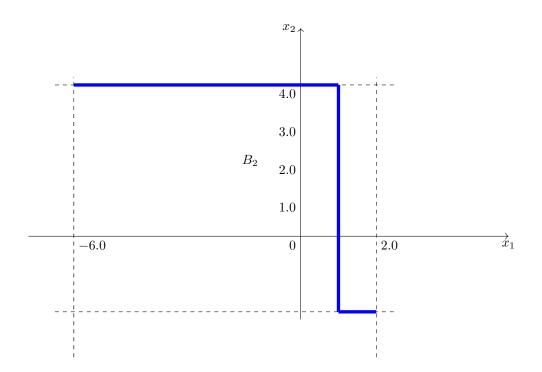
$$BR_2(x_1) = \underset{x_2 \in [-2,4]}{\arg\min} u_2(x_1, x_2) = \underset{x_2 \in [-2,4]}{\arg\min} (3 - x_2)(1 - x_1)$$

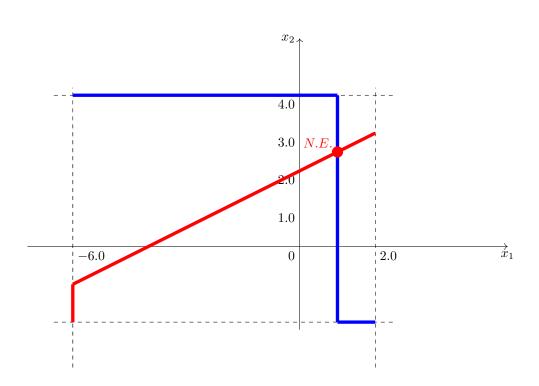
$$\frac{\partial u_2(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_2} = x_1 - 1 = const. = \begin{cases} \{4\} & \text{if} \quad x_1 < 1 \\ \{-2, 4\} & \text{if} \quad x_1 = 1 \\ \{-2\} & \text{if} \quad x_1 > 1 \end{cases}$$

Now to determine the Nash Equilibrium we need to make the intersection $B_1 \cap B_2$. We can also solve the following system:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = 2x_2 - 4 \\ x_1 = 1 \end{cases}$$

The the unique Nash Equilibrium is $(1; \frac{5}{2})$.





Consider the following game:

	Second	Player				
First Player	D		E		F	
A	3	0	0	0	0	3
В	0	0	1	1	0	0
С	0	3	0	0	3	0

- a. Determine the eventual Nash Equilibrium in pure strategy;
- b. Show that there exists an Equilibrium in mixed strategies with the player 1 that plays (A, B, C) with probability $(\frac{1}{5}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{1}{5})$ and the player 2 that plays (D, E, F) with probability $(\frac{1}{5}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{1}{5})$.

Solution

Point a)

- if player 2 plays D player 1 to maximize chooses A;
- if player 2 plays E player 1 to maximize chooses B;
- if player 2 plays F player 1 to maximize chooses C;
- if player 1 plays A player 2 to maximize chooses F;
- if player 1 plays B player 2 to maximize chooses E;
- if player 1 plays C player 1 to maximize chooses D;

Then the unique Nash Equilibrium in pure strategies is (B, E). Point b)

$$A_{1} = \{A, B, C\}$$

$$A_{2} = \{D, E, F\}$$

$$S_{i} := \Delta A_{i}$$

$$S_{1} = \Delta A_{1} = x_{1}A + x_{2}B + (1 - x_{1} - x_{2})C$$

with $x_1 + x_2 = 1$ $x_i \ge 0$.

$$S_2 = \Delta A_2 = y_1 D + y_2 E + (1 - y_1 - y_2) F$$

with $y_1 + y_2 = 1$ $y_i \ge 0$. Now we can construct the payoff functions.

$$u_1(x_1, x_2, x_3, y_1, y_2, y_3) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1, x_2, 1 - x_1 - x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ 1 - y_1 - y_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 3x_1, x_2, 3(1 - x_1 - x_2) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ 1 - y_1 - y_2 \end{bmatrix} = 3x_1y_1 + y_2x_2 + 3(1 - x_1 - x_2)(1 - y_1 - y_2)$$

$$= 3x_1y_1 + y_2x_2 + 3(1 - y_1 - y_2 - x_1 + x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 - x_2 + x_2y_1 + x_2y_2)$$

$$= 6x_1y_1 + 4x_2y_2 + 3x_1y_2 + 3x_2y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1 - 3x_2 - 3y_1 + 3.$$

The payoff function for the second player:

$$u_2(x_1, x_2, x_3, y_1, y_2, y_3) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1, x_2, 1 - x_1 - x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ 1 - y_1 - y_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= [3(1-x_1-x_2), x_2, 3x_1] \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ 1-y_1-y_2 \end{bmatrix} = 3y_1 - 6x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 - 3x_2y_1 - 3x_1y_2 + 3x_1$$

Summarize:

$$u_1(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) = 6x_1y_1 + 4x_2y_2 + 3x_1y_2 + 3x_2y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1 - 3x_2 - 3y_1 + 3$$

$$u_2(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) = -6x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 - 3x_2y_1 - 3x_1y_2 + 3y_1 + 3x_1$$

$$BR_i : A_{-i} \Rightarrow A_i$$

$$BR_1 : A_2 \Rightarrow A_1.$$

In terms of a mixed strategic game E(G), we have

$$BR_i: S_{-i} \rightrightarrows S_i$$

$$BR_1: S_2 \rightrightarrows S_1.$$

Now we fix $(y_1, y_2) \in [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{split} BR_1(y_1,y_2) &= \underset{(x_1,x_2) \in [0,1]^2}{\arg\max} \ u_1(x_1,x_2,y_1,y_2) = \underset{(x_1,x_2) \in [0,1]^2}{\arg\max} \ 6x_1y_1 + 4x_2y_2 + 3x_1y_2 + 3x_2y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1y_2 - 3x_1y_2 + 3x_2y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1y_2 + 3x_2y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1y_2 - 3x_1y_2 + 3x_2y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1y_2 - 3x_1y_2 + 3x_2y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1y_2 - 3x_1y_1 - 3y_2 - 3x_1y_1 - 3y_1y_1 - 3y_1y_1$$

with $x_1, x_2 \in [0,1] \times [0,1]$. Considering

$$\frac{1}{5}A + \frac{3}{5}B + \frac{1}{5}C,$$

then we have verified that $S_1^* \in BR_1(S_2^*)$.

$$BR_2: S_1 \rightrightarrows S_2$$

we now fix $x_1, x_2 \in [0,1] \times [0,1]$ so that

$$BR_{2}(x_{1}, x_{2}, 1-x_{1}-x_{2}) = \underset{(y_{1}, y_{2}) \in [0, 1]^{2}}{\arg \max} u_{2}(x_{1}, x_{2}, y_{1}, y_{2}) = \underset{(y_{1}, y_{2}) \in [0, 1]^{2}}{\arg \max} -6x_{1}y_{1}+x_{2}y_{2}-3x_{2}y_{1}-3x_{1}y_{2}+3y_{1}+3x_{1}y_{2}+3y_{1}+3x_{1}y_{2}+3y_{2}+3y_{1}+3x_{1}y_{2}+3y_{2}+3y_{1}+3x_{1}y_{1}+3y_{1}+3y_{1}+3x_{1}y_{1}+3y_{1}+3x_{1}y_{1}+3y_{1}+3x_{1}y_{1}+3y_$$

so that

$$BR_2^{\star}(S_1^{\star}) = y_1D + y_2E + (1 - y_1 - y_2)F$$

with $(y_1, y_2) \in [0, 1]^2$. Since

$$S_2^{\star} = (\frac{1}{5}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{1}{5}),$$

we have

$$\frac{1}{5}D + \frac{3}{5}E + \frac{1}{5}F$$

then $S_2^{\star} \in BR_2(S_1^{\star})$.

 ${\rm Since}$

$$S_1^{\star} \in BR_1(S_2^{\star})$$

 $\quad \text{and} \quad$

$$S_2^{\star} \in BR_2(S_1^{\star})$$

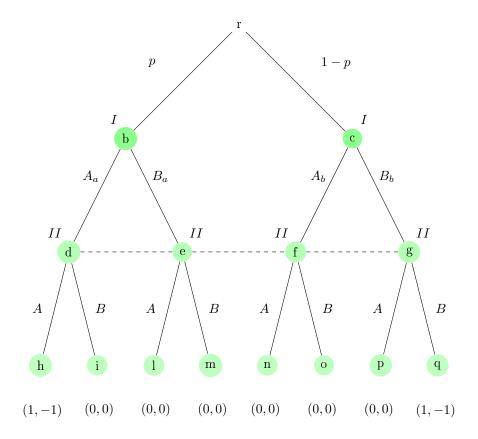
there exists a Nash Equilibrium in mixed strategies with the player 1 that plyas

$$\frac{1}{5}A + \frac{3}{5}B + \frac{1}{5}C$$

and the player 2 that plays $\,$

$$\frac{1}{5}D + \frac{3}{5}E + \frac{1}{5}F.$$

Consider the following game Γ in the extended form.



- 1. as p varies in (0,1) determine the Nash Equilibrium in pure strategy;
- 2. with $p \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$] determine the Nash Equilibrium in mixed strategy for $E(G_{\Gamma})$ and the eventuals Nash Equilibrium in behavioral strategies.

Solution

This is a zero sum game. First of all we construct the information set.

$$W = \{W_1, W_2\}$$

$$W_1 = \{w_1^1 = \{b\}, w_1^2 = \{c\}\}$$

$$W_2 = \{w_2^1 = \{d, e, f, g\}\}$$

 w_2^1 is not a singleton then the game is not a perfect information game. Furthermore we have two different paths

$$\pi_1 = \{a, b, e\} \qquad \pi_2 = \{a, c, f\}$$

reach the same information set w_2^1 , then the problem is not a perfect memory game.

Pure Strategies

$$a_i: W_i \rightrightarrows C_a$$

$$a_1(w) = \begin{cases} \{A_a, B_a\} & \text{if} \quad w = w_1^1 \\ \{A_b, B_b\} & \text{if} \quad w = w_1^2 \end{cases}$$

$$A_1 = \{A_a, B_a\} \times \{A_b, B_b\} = \{A_a A_b, A_a B_b, B_a A_b, B_a B_b\}$$

$$a_2(w) = a_2(w_1) = \{A, B\}$$

 $A_2 = \{A, B\}$

G_{Γ}	A	В
A_aA_b	p	0
A_aB_b	p	1-p
$B_a A_b$	0	0
B_aB_b	0	1-p

with $p \in (0,1)$. For $p < \frac{1}{2}$, 1 - p > p.

G_{Γ}	A	В
A_aA_b	\underline{p}	0
A_aB_b	$\underline{\underline{p}}$	1-p
B_aA_b	0	0
B_aB_b	0	1-p

so that the Nash Equilibrium in pure strategies is (A_aB_b, A) . For $p = \frac{1}{2}, 1 - p = p$.

G_{Γ}	A	В
A_aA_b	\underline{p}	<u>0</u>
A_aB_b	$\underline{\underline{p}}$	$\frac{1-p}{}$
$B_a A_b$	0	0
B_aB_b	0	1-p

so that the Nash Equilibrium in pure strategies are (A_aB_b, A) , (A_aB_b, B) . For $p > \frac{1}{2}$, 1 - p < p.

G_{Γ}	A	В
A_aA_b	\underline{p}	<u>0</u>
A_aB_b	\underline{p}	$\frac{1-p}{}$
B_aA_b	0	<u>0</u>
B_aB_b	0	1-p

so that the Nash Equilibrium in pure strategies is (A_aB_b, B) . Now we consider the mixed strategies for $p \in (0, \frac{1}{2}]$.

$$S_i := \Delta A_i$$

$$S_1 = \Delta A_1 = \overline{x}_1 A_a A_b + \overline{x}_2 A_a B_b + \overline{x}_3 B_a A_b + \overline{x}_4 B_a B_b$$

with $\sum \overline{x}_i = 1$, $\overline{x}_i \geq 0$.

$$S_2 = \Delta A_2 = \overline{y}A + (1 - \overline{y})B$$

with $\overline{y} \in [0, 1]$.

$$u_1(x,y) = ?$$

This is a $m \times 2$ game, we need to tranform it in a $2 \times m$ game.

$$S_1^N = xA + (1-x)B \qquad x \in [0,1]$$

$$S_2^N = y_1 A_a A_b + y_2 A_a B_b + y_3 B_a A_b + (1-y_1 - y_2 - y_3) B_a B_b$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -p & -p & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & p-1 & 0 & p-1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u_1(x,y) = \begin{bmatrix} x & x-1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -p & -p & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & p-1 & 0 & p-1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ 1-y_1-y_2-y_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} x & 1-x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -p \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = -px$$

with $p \in (0, \frac{1}{2}]$.

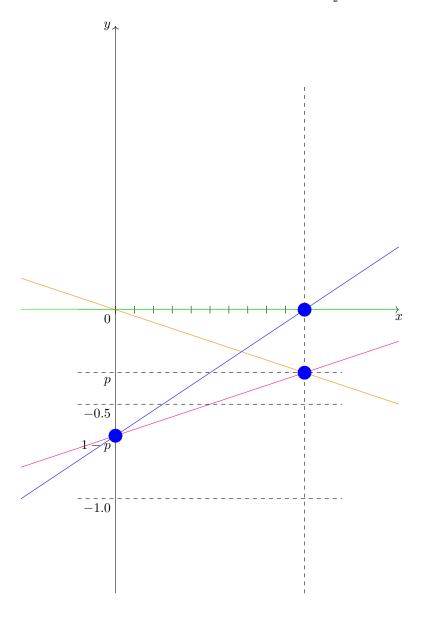
$$y = \begin{bmatrix} x & 1-x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -p \\ p-1 \end{bmatrix} = -px + (1-x)(p-1) = x(1-2p) + p - 1$$

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} x & 1-x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} x & 1-x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ p-1 \end{bmatrix} = (1-x)(p-1) = x(1-p) + p - 1$$

$$\overline{\Lambda}(xA + (1-x)B) = \overline{\Lambda}(x).$$

Now with a graphical method we determine $(S_1^N)^*$ and V^N . For $p \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$.



$$V^N = -p$$
 with $p \in (0,1)$
$$(S_1^N)^* = A.$$

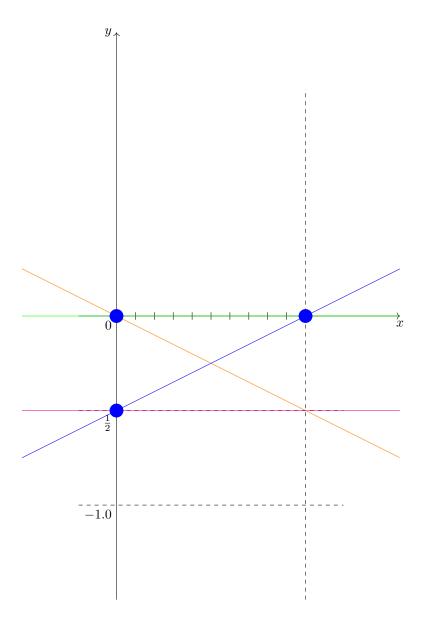
For $p = \frac{1}{2}$:

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$y = 0$$

$$y = \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{2}.$$



$$V^N = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$(S_1^N)^\star = xA + (1-x)B \qquad x \in [0,1]$$

for $p \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ we have:

$$(S_2^N)^* = y_1 A_a A_b + y_2 A_a B_b + y_3 B_a A_b + (1 - y_1 - y_2 - y_3) B_a B_b.$$

It must be

$$\mathcal{S}((S_1^N)^*) \subseteq PBR_1((S_2^N)^*)$$

$$PBR_1((S_2^N)^*) = \{a_1 \in A_1^N : u_1^N(a_1, (S_2^N)^*) \ge u_1^N(\hat{a}_1, (S_2^N)^*), \quad \forall \hat{a}_1 \in A_1^N \}$$

$$u_1^N(1, y_1, y_2, y_3) \ge u_1^N(0, y_1, y_2, y_3)$$

$$u_1^N(0, y_1, y_2, y_3) \ge u_1^N(1, y_1, y_2, y_3)$$

then

$$u_1^N(1, y_1, y_2, y_3) = u_1^N(0, y_1, y_2, y_3)$$