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- **1980-now:** the notion of individual may also refer to an **artificial agent**: a software / hardware entity that displays a certain degree of autonomy / initiative, and is proactive/goal-directed.
- Academic research studies strategic interaction among agents from an abstract point of view.

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- Game theory is about strategically interacting individuals.
- Therefore, game theory is an important prerequisite of multi-agent learning.

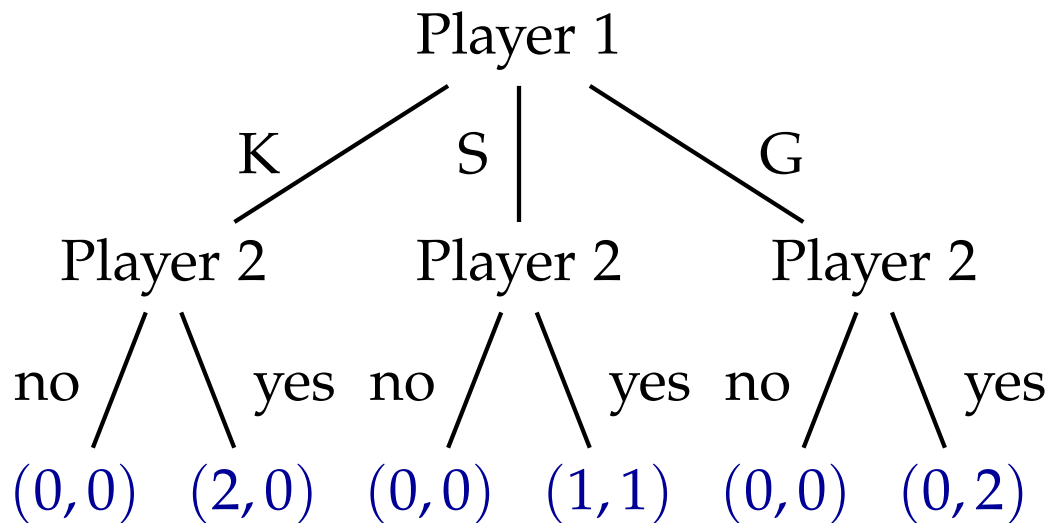
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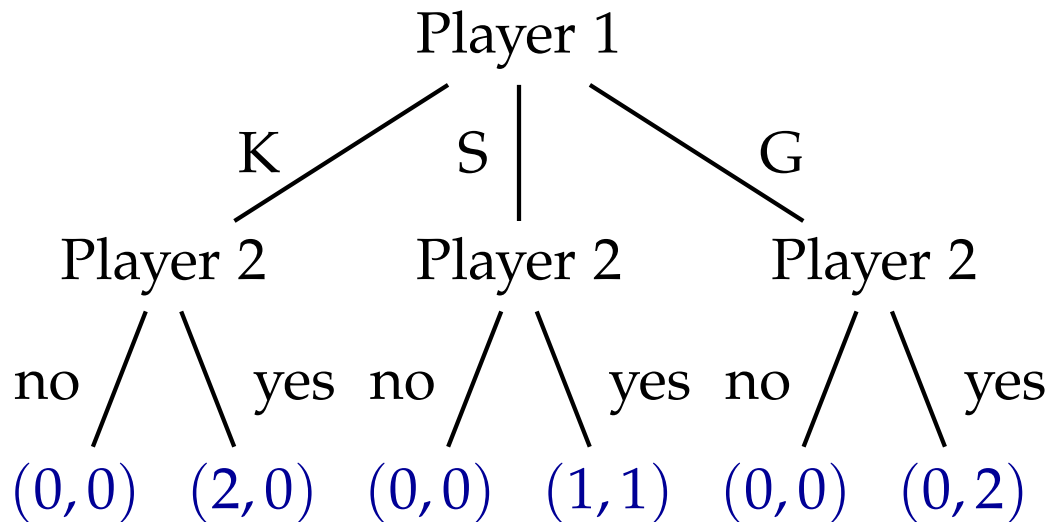
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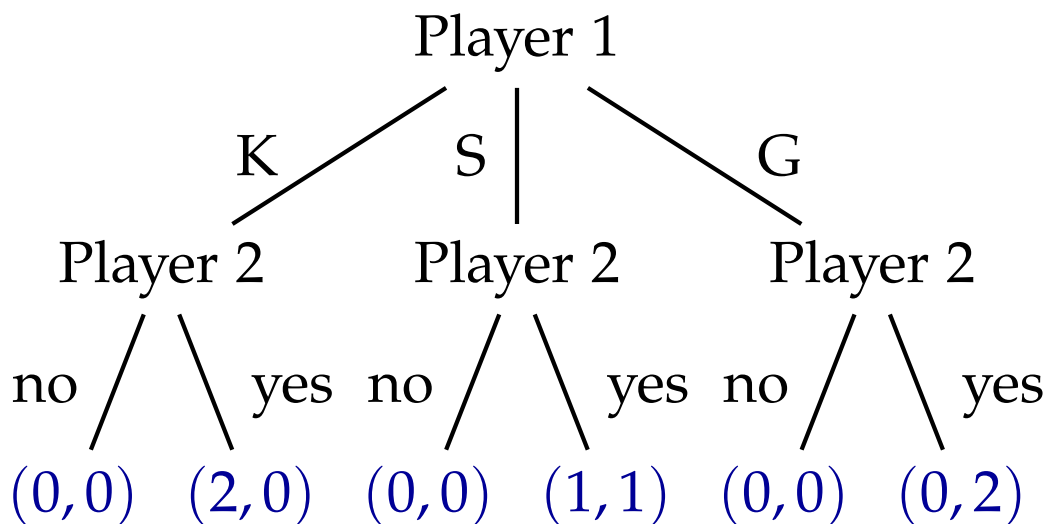
In a normal-form game a.k.a. **matrix game**, actions are taken **simultaneously**:

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		no	yes
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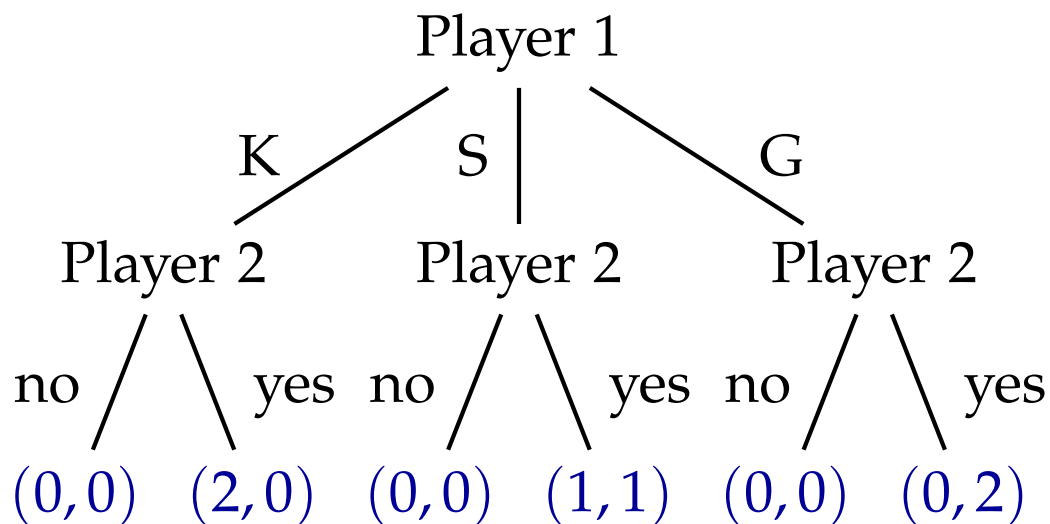
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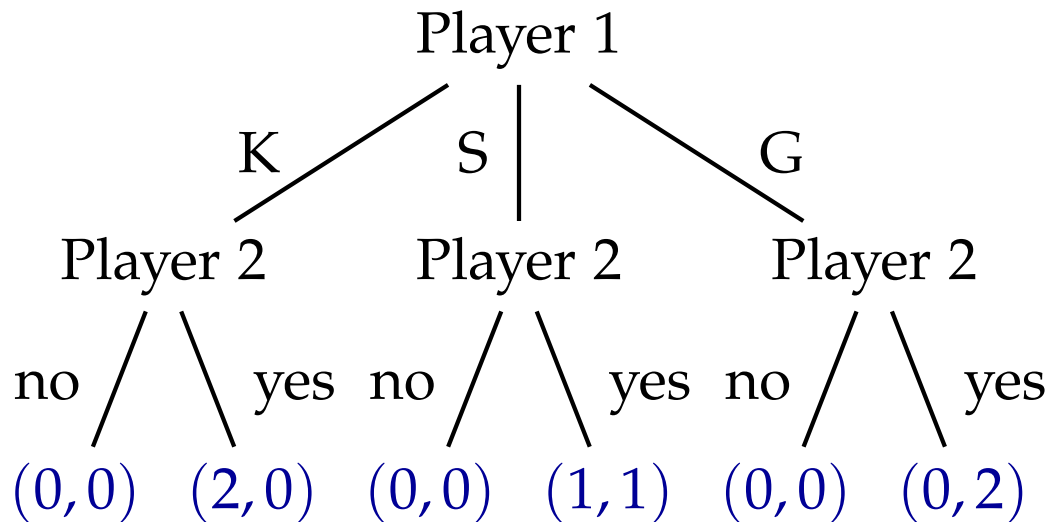
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- It is easy to represent extensive-form games with more than two players. With normal-form games that would not be so easy.

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- Various types of equilibria (correlated, trembling hand, ϵ -Nash, ...).
- Subgame-perfect equilibrium.
- Maxmin and minmax strategies.
- Strategies that are not dominated by other strategies.
- Rationalisable strategies.

Games in normal form

The Prisoner's dilemma

. . . oh no, not again

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The Prisoner's dilemma

	C	D
C	3,3	0,5
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- Full information, common knowledge of rationality (CKR).

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- Pareto front \cap Nash equilibria = \emptyset . That's the dilemma.

Other two-person / two-strategy normal form games

Chicken:

	S	D
S	0, 0	-1, 1
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- $4 \times 3 = 12$ of these games turn out to be symmetric.
- The remaining 132 are a-symmetric and players can be interchanged.
- We end up with $12 + 132/2 = 78$ essentially different games.

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A: 1, 1, 1, 1 indifferent among all 4 outcomes

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C:	1, 1, 2, 2	indifferent between two least and two most	6

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- These 726 distinct games are difficult to order. In 1988, Fraser and Kilgour proposed a **taxonomy** for these 726 distinct games.

Symmetric games

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T	R, R	S, T
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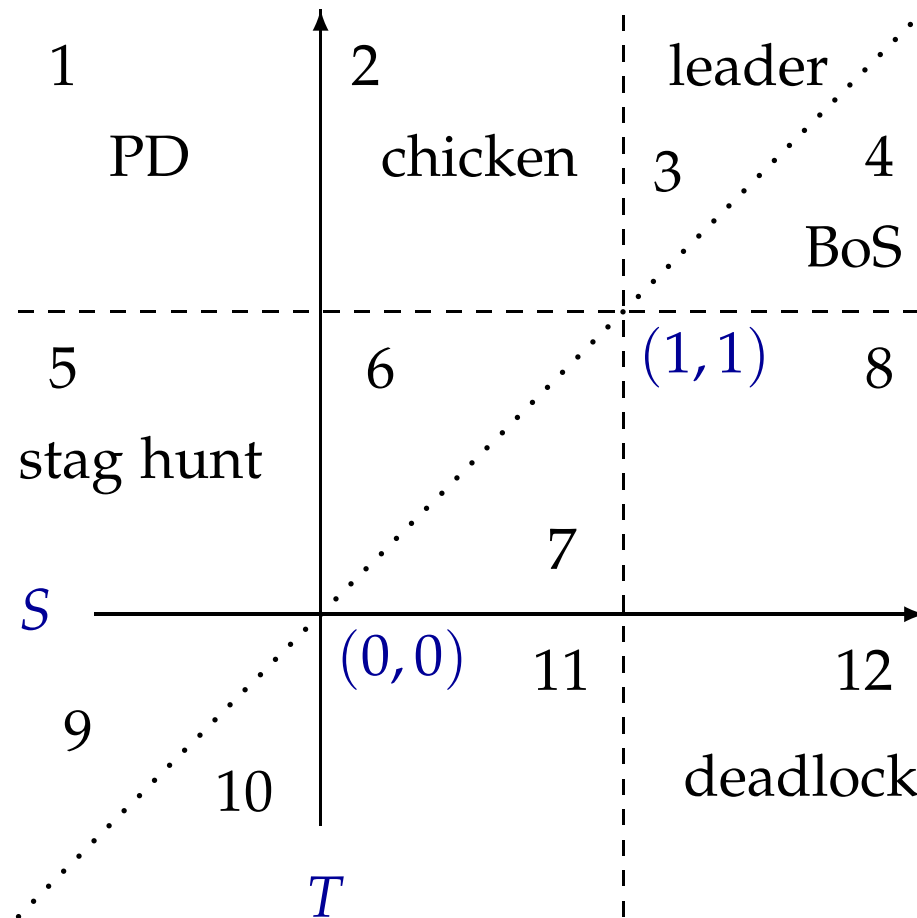
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The (S,T) plane



Partition of the (S, T) plane which displays various symmetric 2×2 games.

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Question: Determine the Pareto front of the following game.

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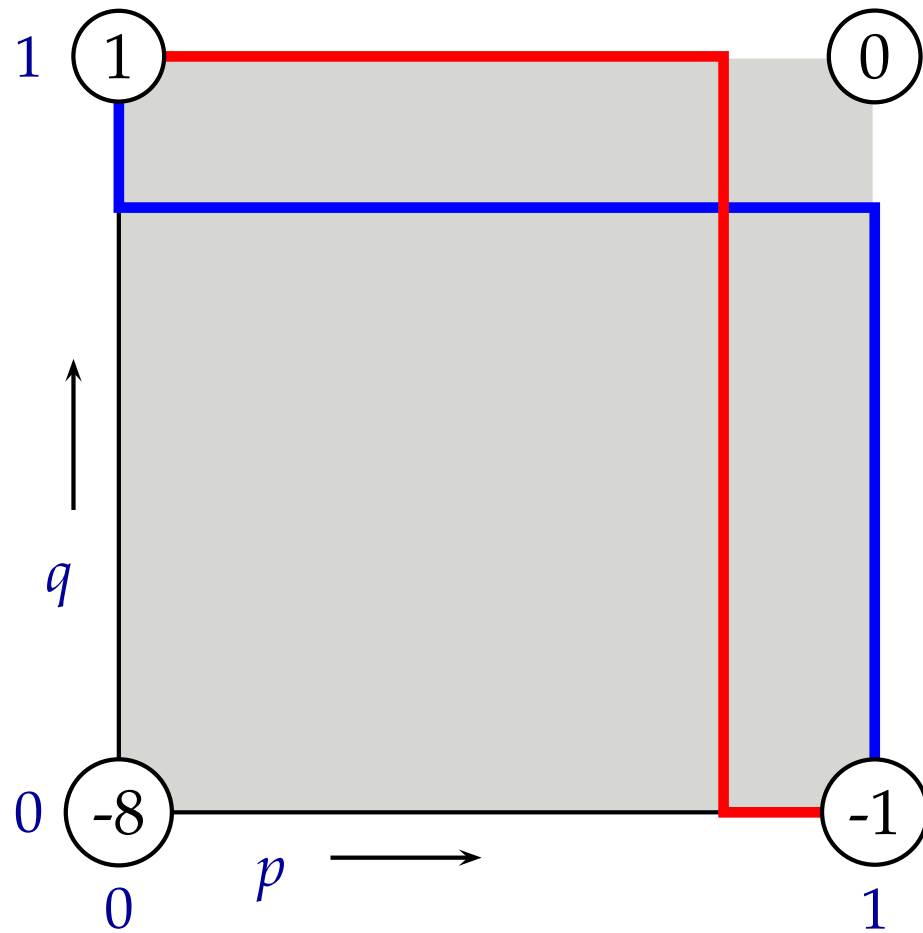
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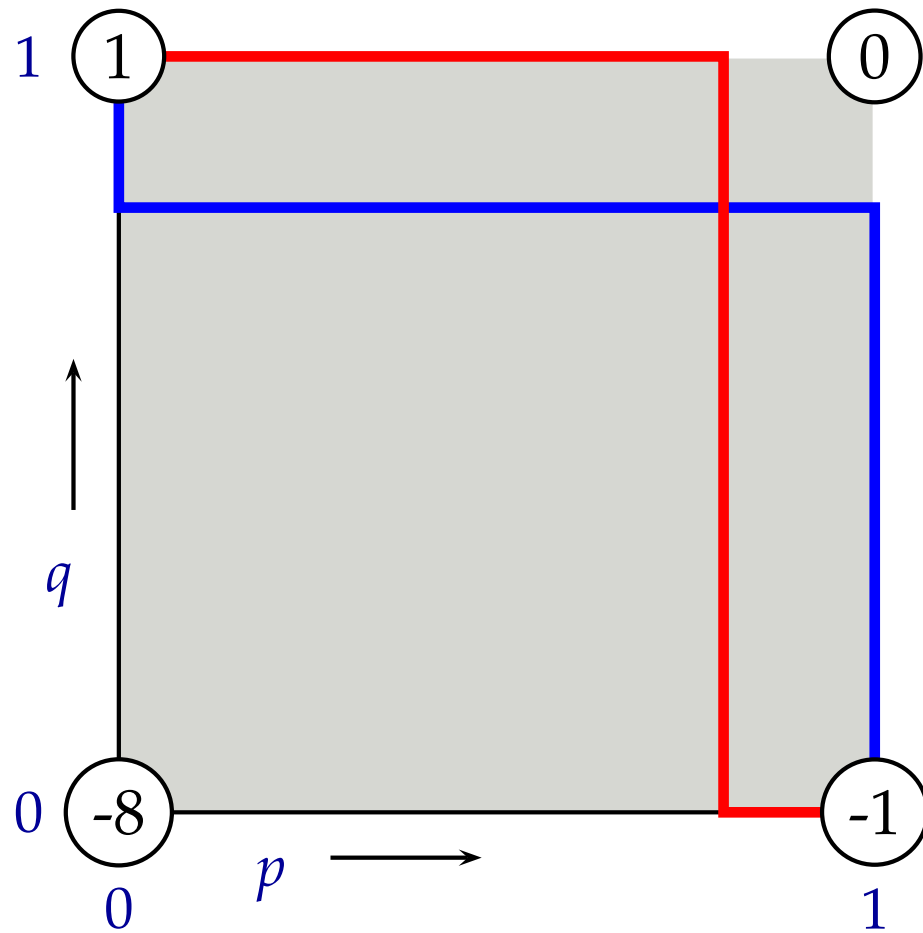
Mixed strategies

Chicken: mixed strategies



	S	D
S	0,0	-1,1
D	1,-1	-8,-8

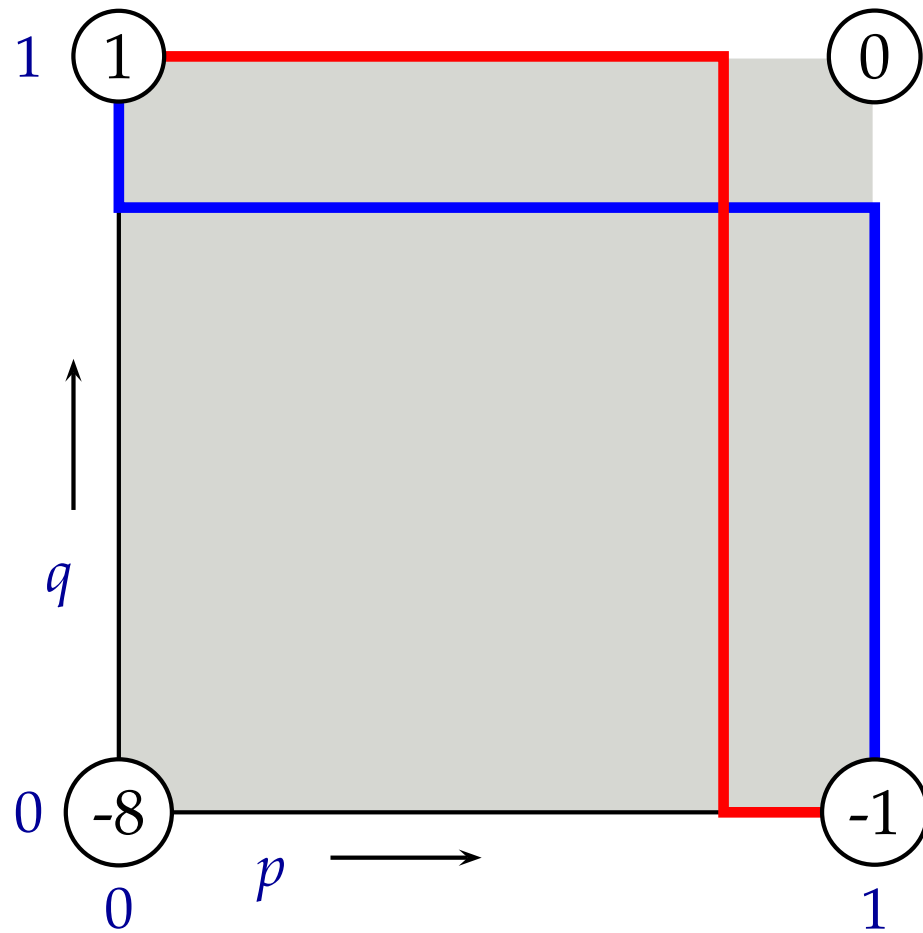
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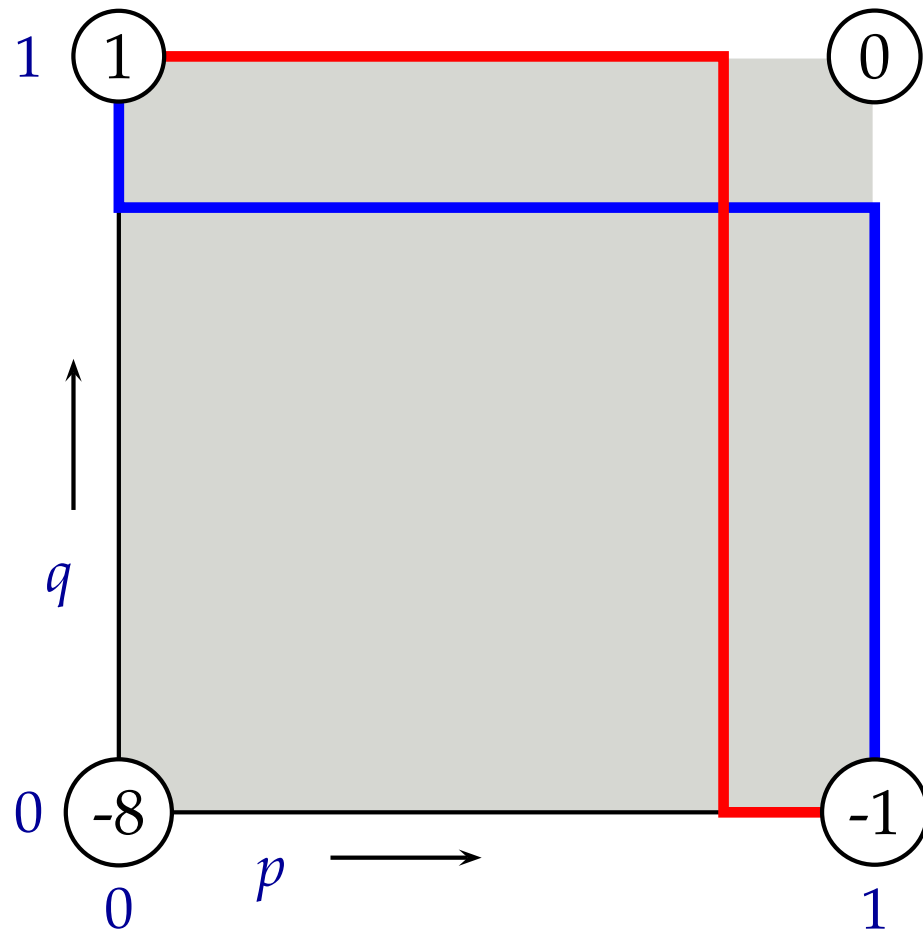


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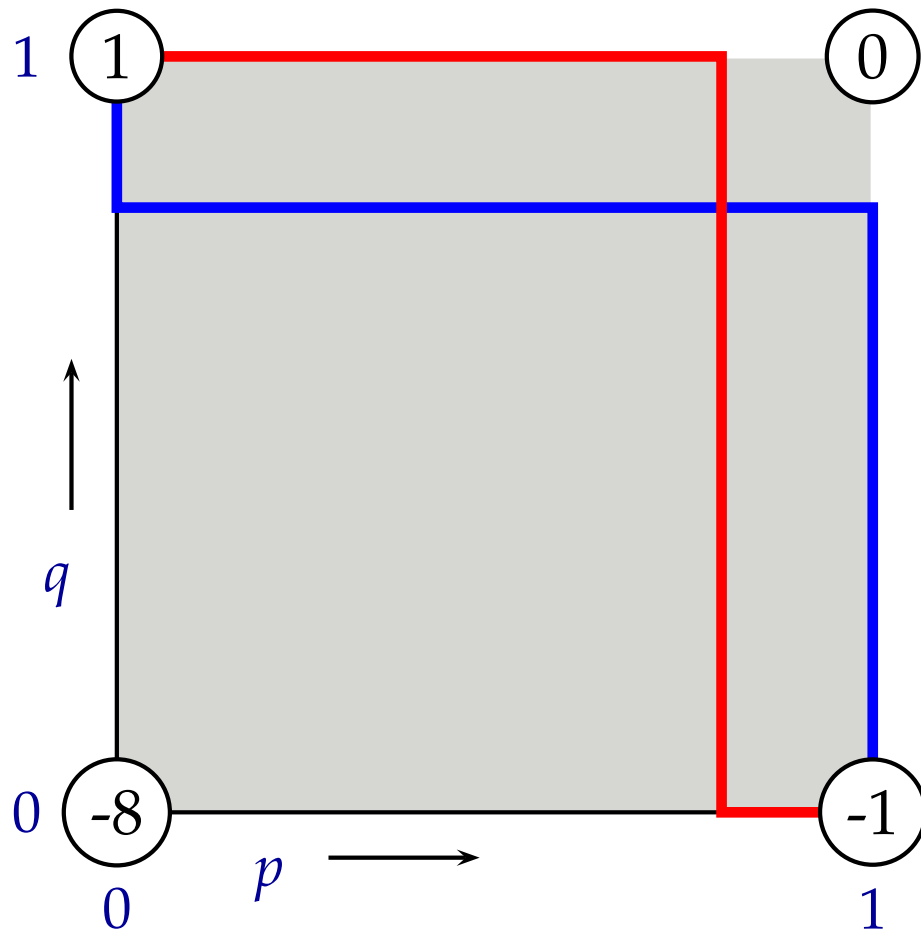


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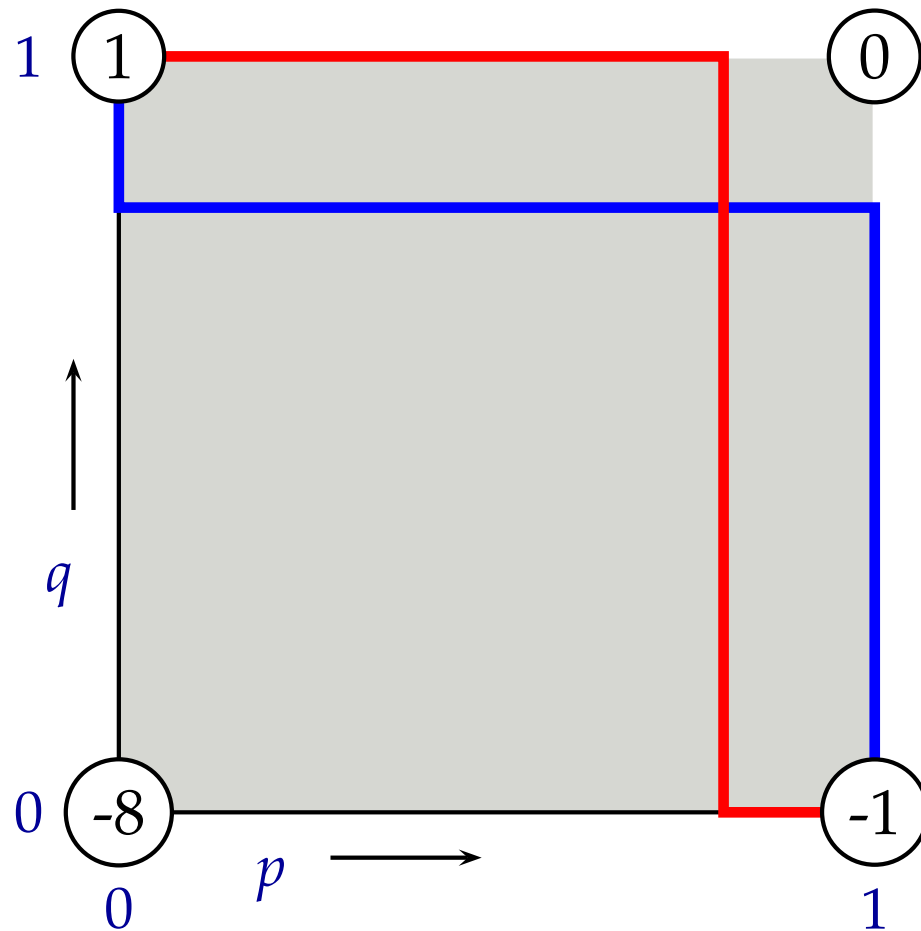


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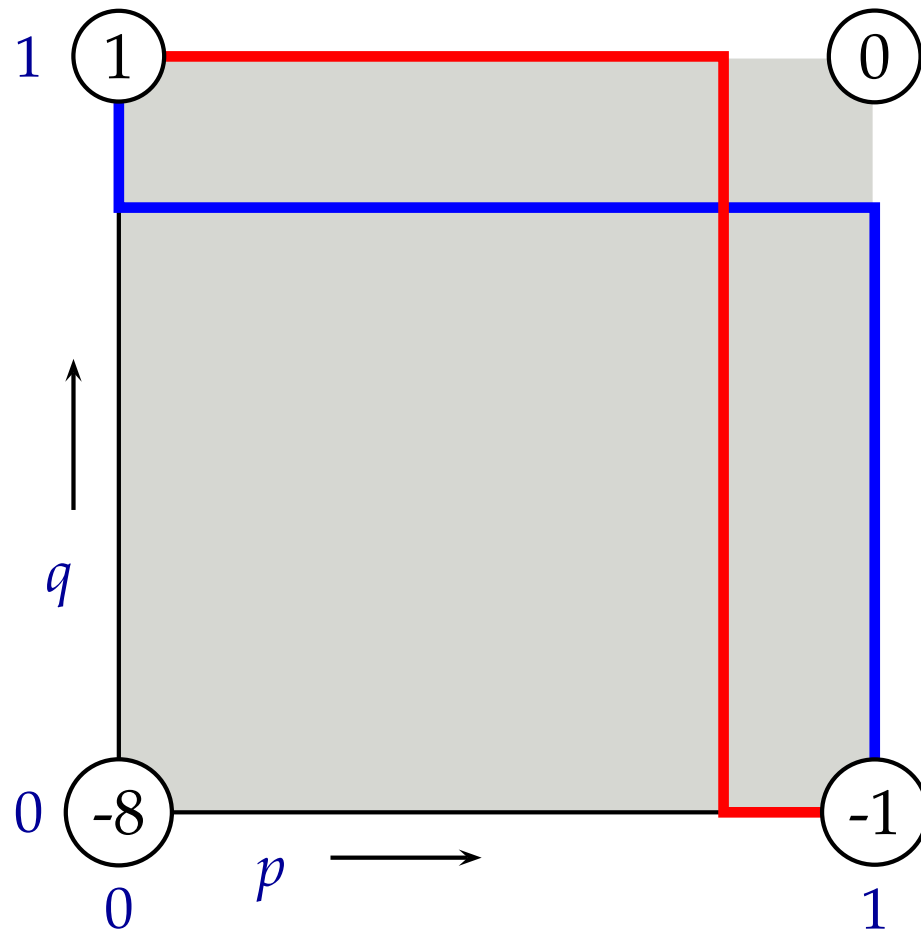


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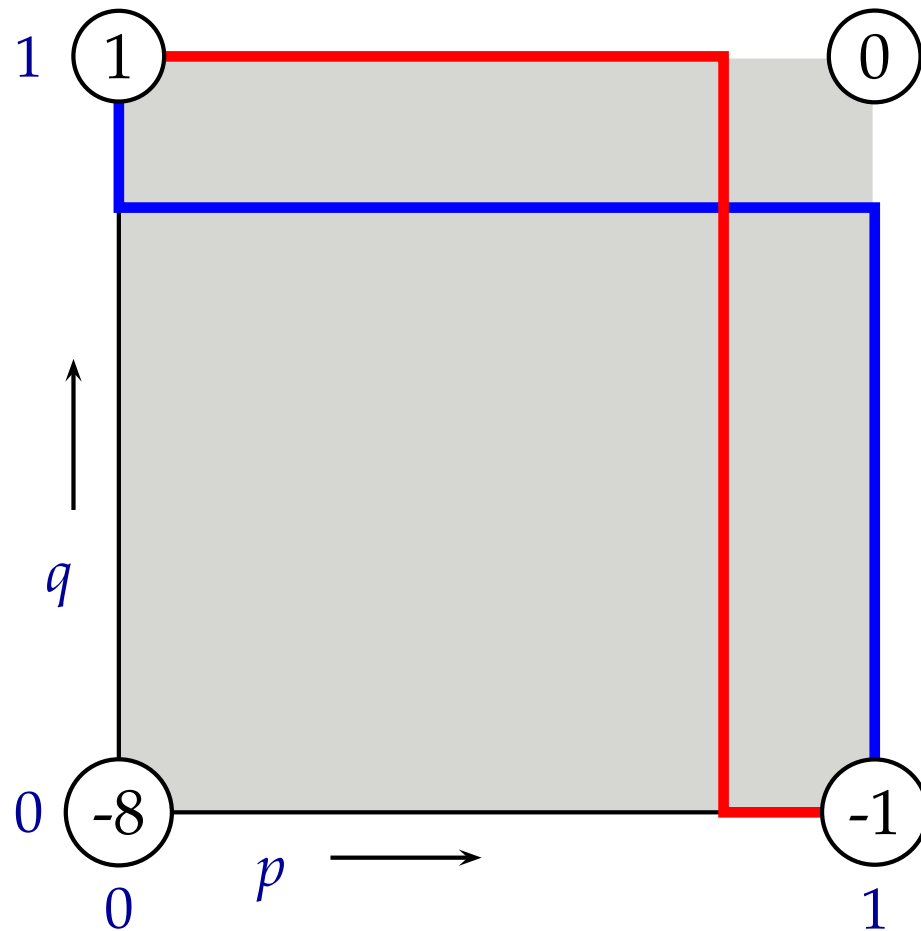


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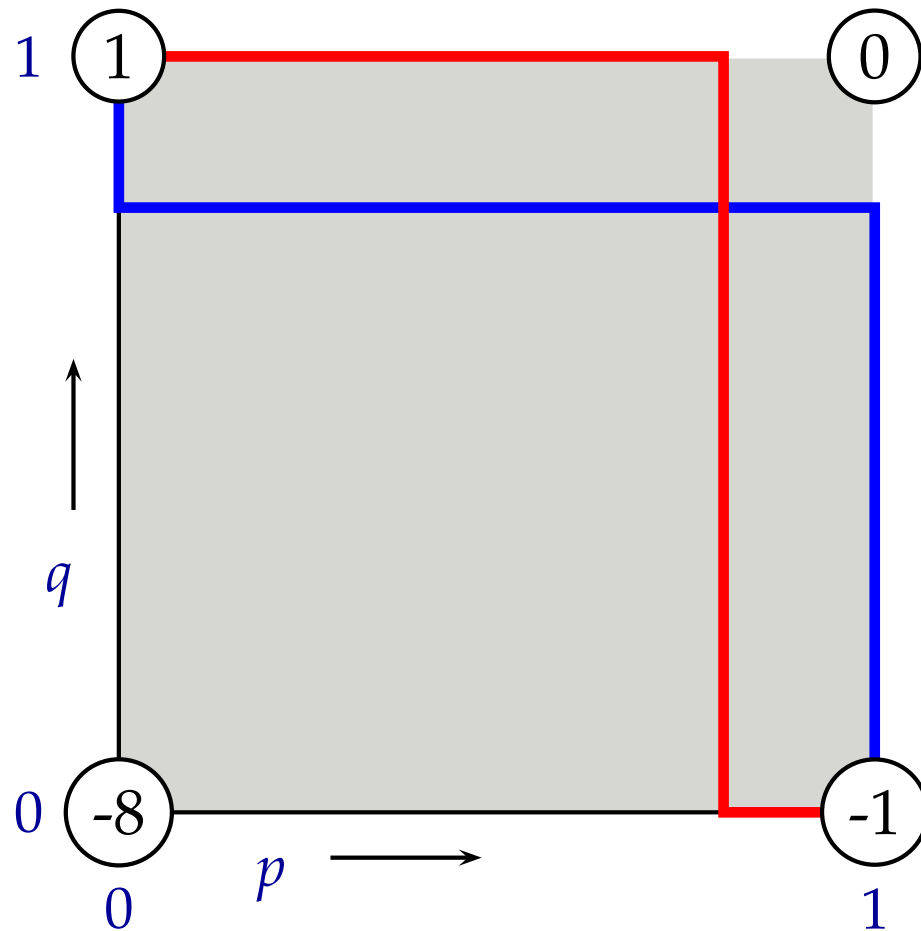


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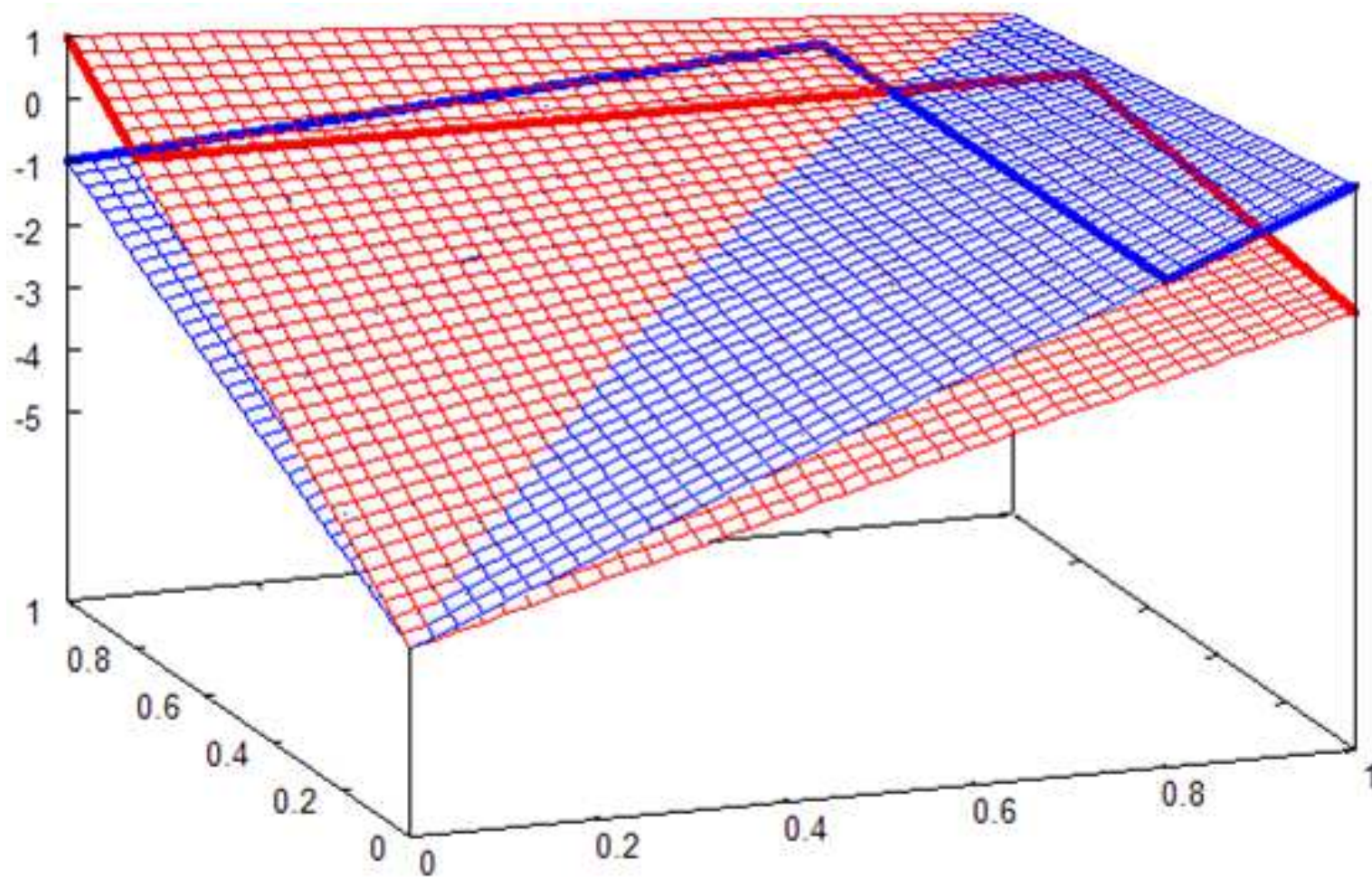
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- Analogous considerations for the column player.

Payoffs for mixed strategies in the chicken game

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Battle of the sexes:

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where A is the set of all action profiles of G .

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It follows that a best response is obtained as long as indices are chosen from s_i 's support. \square

Best responses

Example. Matching pennies:

	H	T
H	$1, -1$	$-1, 1$
T	$-1, 1$	$1, -1$

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Intuitively, this is because the opponent is completely unpredictable. There is nothing to coordinate, it does not matter what you do.

- If your opponent is predictable, i.e, if

$$q \neq \frac{1}{2},$$

there is only one best response.

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Spot a Nash equilibrium

Question:

Spot a Nash equilibrium in the following game. Players may use mixed strategies.

	A	B	C	D
A	1,8	4,7	3,0	1,3
B	1,8	3,0	4,7	4,6
C	3,0	5,8	6,7	1,3
D	4,7	3,0	1,3	1,8

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■ Great!

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- Great!
- How do you know it is a Nash equilibrium?!

I.e., how do you know it is a Nash equilibrium if players may use mixed strategies as well?

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Because all mixed strategies in s'_i 's support are best responses, we have $\text{support}(s'_i) \setminus \text{support}(s_i) \neq \emptyset$. Let the action b be an element of this non-empty set.

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Answer: (D,R) is Nash and ϵ -Nash; (U,L) is ϵ -Nash.

Security level and punishment strategies

Maxmin strategies

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- The **maxmin** or **security level** strategy for player i is a strategy for which the minimum payoff against all counter strategies is maximal:

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- Exercise: give **pure** maxmin strategies for the row player

	A	B	C	D
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B	3, 0	-1, 3	0, -1	1, 3
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For the column player.

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For the column player.

- **Mixed** maxmin strategies may have higher payoffs than pure maxmin strategies.

Minmax strategies

The **minmax** or **punishment** counter strategy profile against player i is a counter strategy **profile** for which the maximum payoff against all counter strategies is minimal:

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■ Exercise: give **pure** minmax strategies for both players

	A	B	C	D
A	-1, 2	2, 0	1, 0	-2, 0
B	3, 0	-1, 3	0, -1	1, 3
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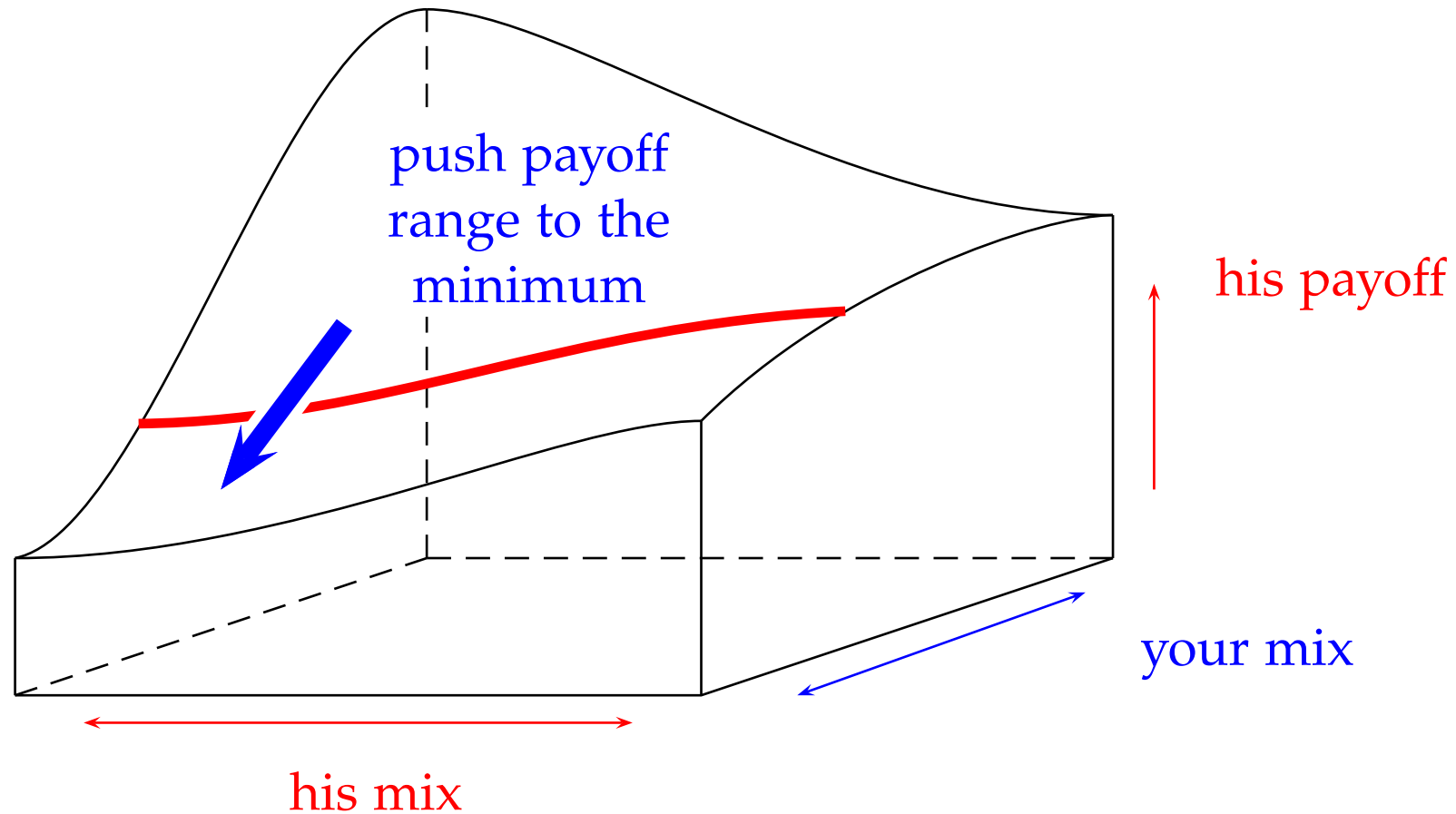
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Minmax theorem (von Neumann, 1928). In any finite two-player zero-sum game, in any Nash equilibrium, each player receives a payoff that is equal to both his maxmin value and his minmax value.

Minmax: payoff surface of the opponent



Domination

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- Strategy s_i strictly dominates s'_i if for all $s_{-i} \in S_{-i}$ we have $u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(s'_i, s_{-i})$.

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- If one strategy dominates all others, we say that it is (strongly, weakly or very weakly) dominant.

Exercise: eliminate dominated actions.

	L	C	R
U	3, 1	0, 1	0, 0
M	1, 1	1, 1	5, 0
D	0, 1	4, 1	0, 0

Removal of dominated actions

	L	C	R
U	3,1	0,1	0,0
M	1,1	1,1	5,0
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Removal of dominated actions

	L	C	R
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M	1,1	1,1	5,0
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Answer: action R is strictly dominated by, for instance, action C:

	L	C
U	3,1	0,1
M	1,1	1,1
D	0,1	4,1

Removal of dominated actions

	L	C	R
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D	0,1	4,1	0,0

Answer: action R is strictly dominated by, for instance, action C:

	L	C
U	3,1	0,1
M	1,1	1,1
D	0,1	4,1

Action M is now strictly dominated by a mix of U and D.

	L	C
U	3,1	0,1
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	L	C	R
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M	1,4	2,1	4,1
D	2,1	4,4	3,2

Exercise: remove strictly

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M	1,4	2,1	4,1
D	2,1	4,4	3,2

	L	C		L	C
M	1,4	2,1			
D	2,1	4,4	D	2,1	4,4
				L	
			D	4,4	

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- Strategies **from** a NE are rational, and are correct **in** a NE.

Rationalisability (example)

Matching pennies

	H	T
H	1, -1	-1, 1
T	-1, 1	1, -1

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Rationalisability (example)

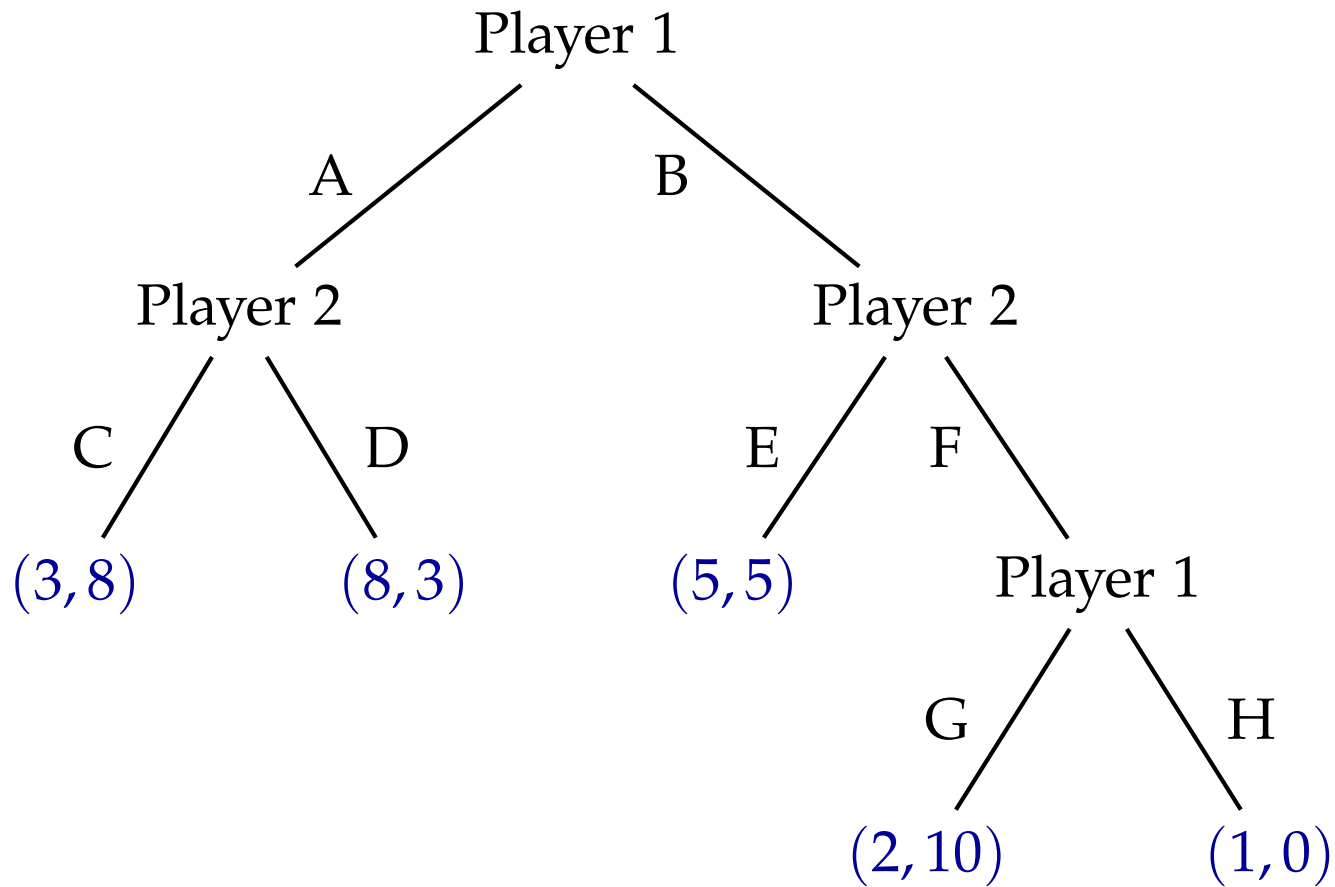
Matching pennies

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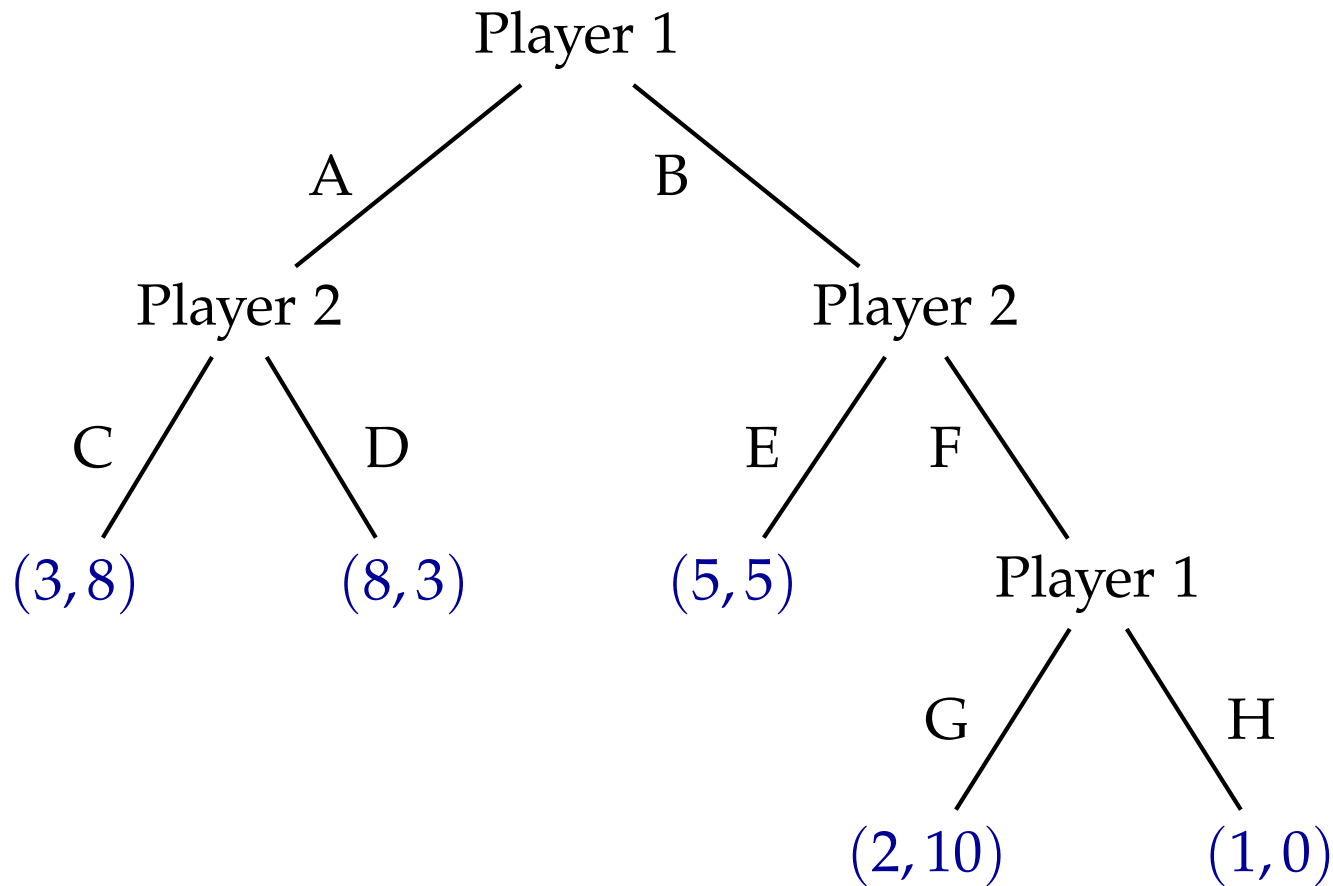
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- ...

Games in extensive form

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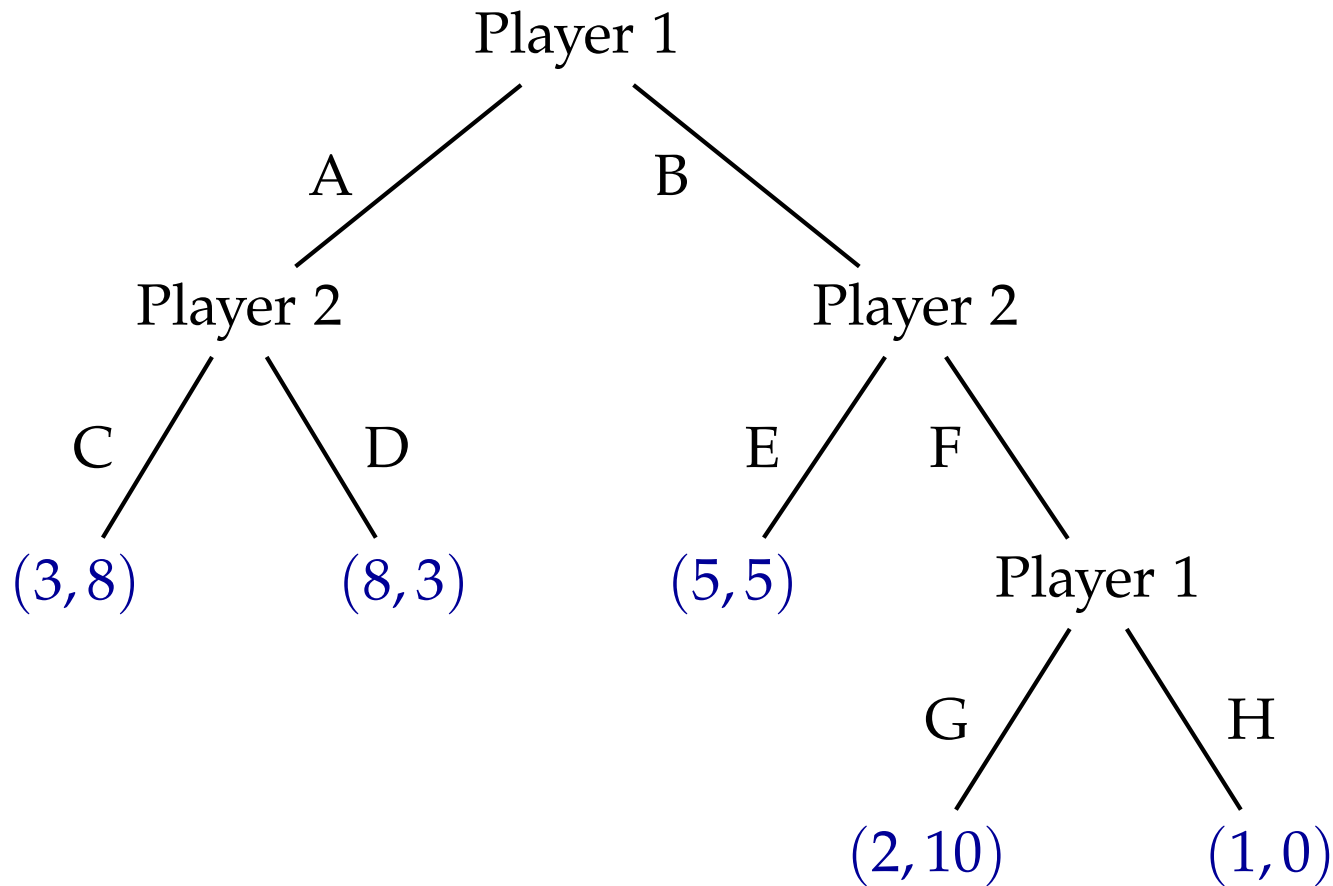


Games in extensive form



- A pure strategy for Player 1 could be: B, H.

Games in extensive form



- A pure strategy for Player 1 could be: B, H.
- A pure strategy for Player 2 could be: D, E.

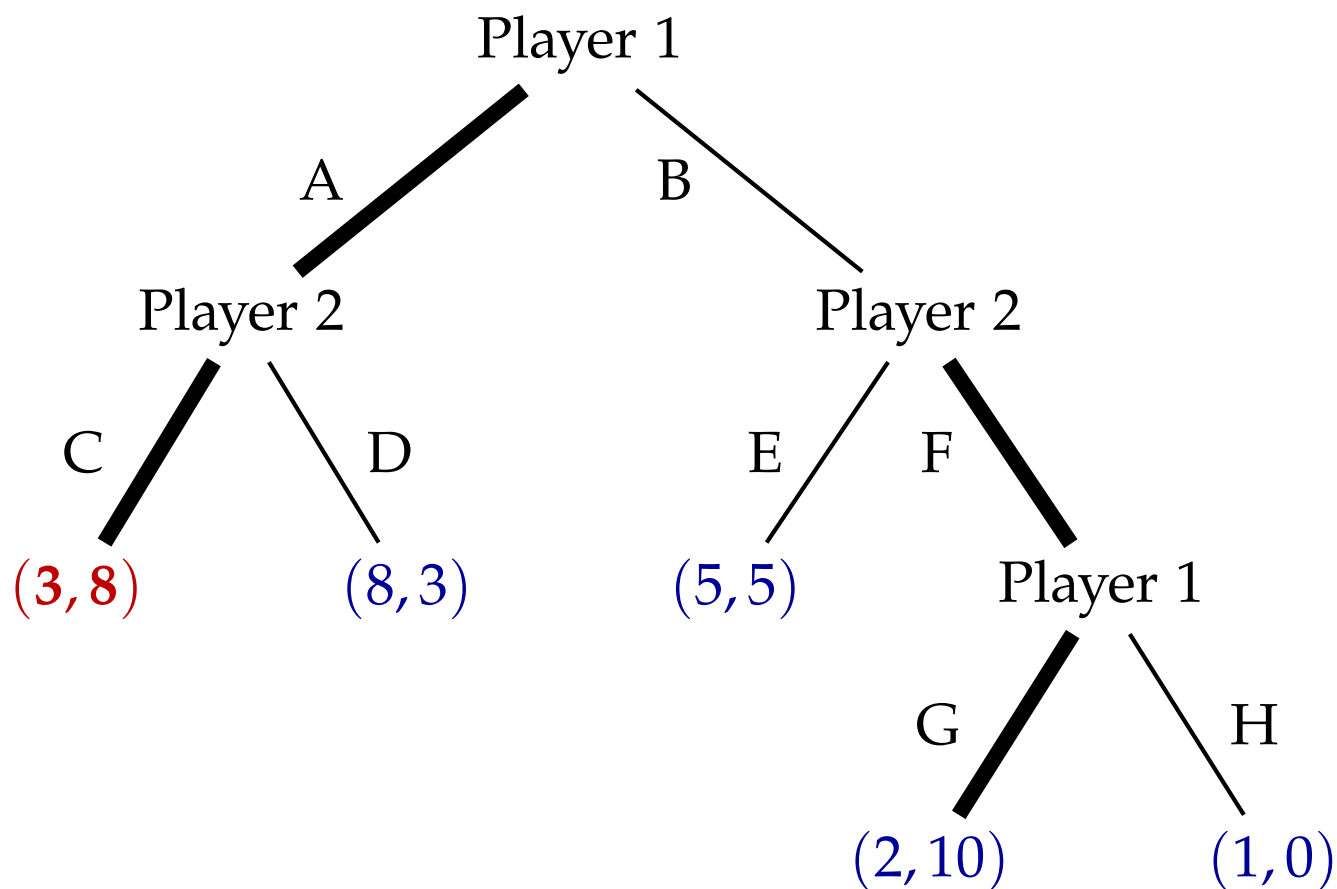
Backward induction

Theorem (Kuhn, 1952). Every finite game in extensive form has a pure strategy Nash equilibrium.

Backward induction

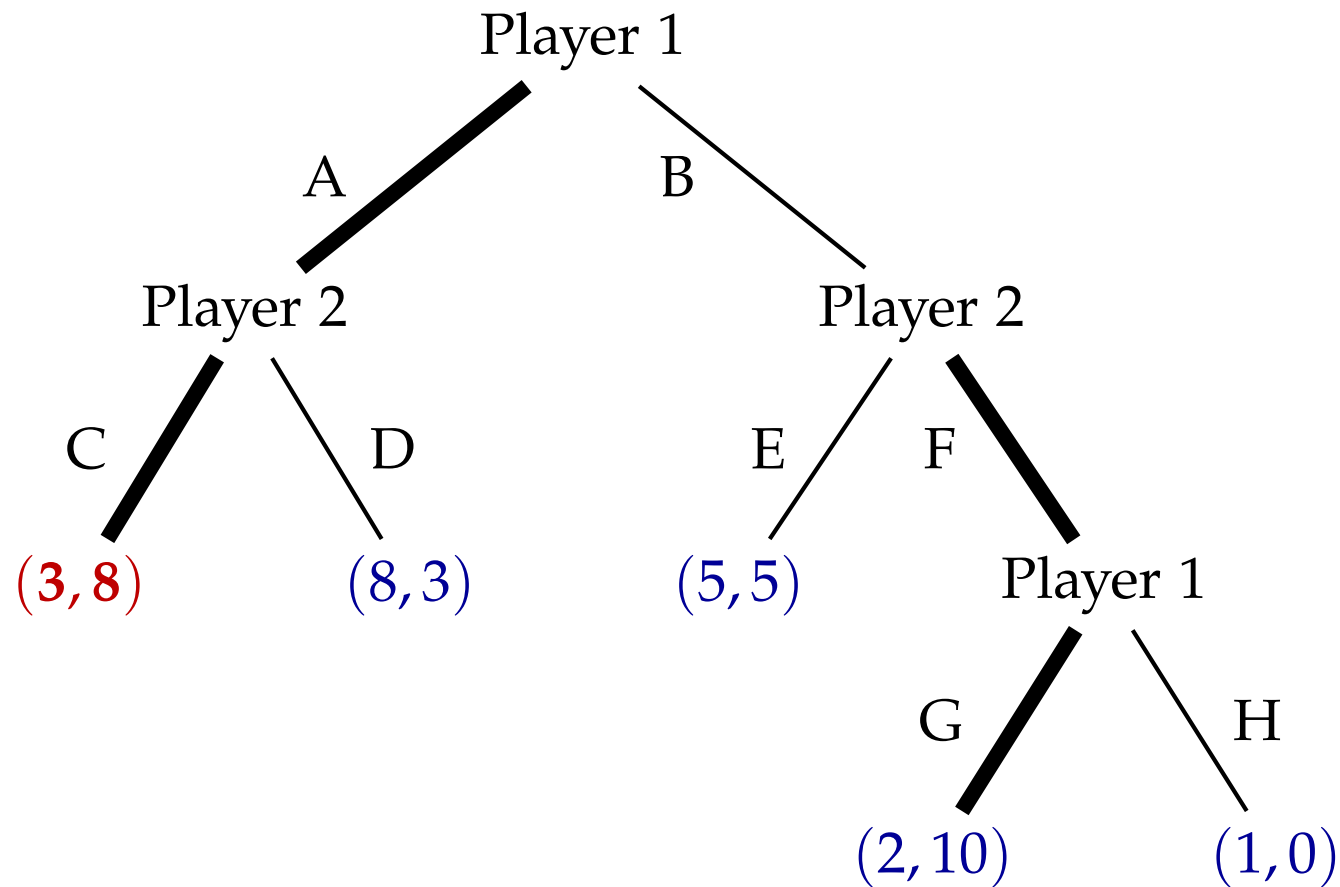
Theorem (Kuhn, 1952). Every finite game in extensive form has a pure strategy Nash equilibrium.

Proof: by means
of so-called
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induction.



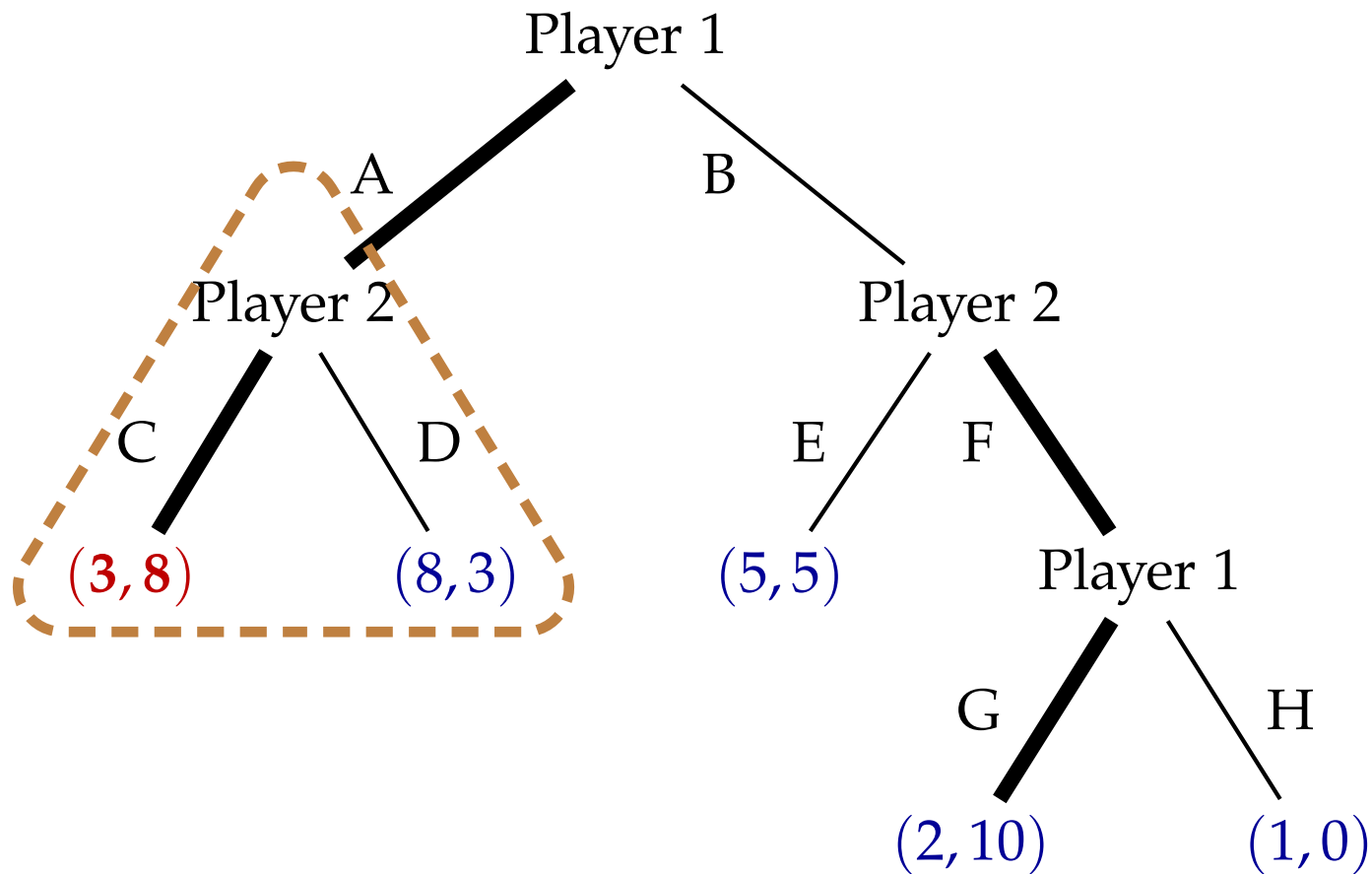
Subgames, and subgame-perfect equilibrium

Consequence of backward induction: **subgame-perfectness**: the main NE restricted to subgames are NE for those subgames as well.



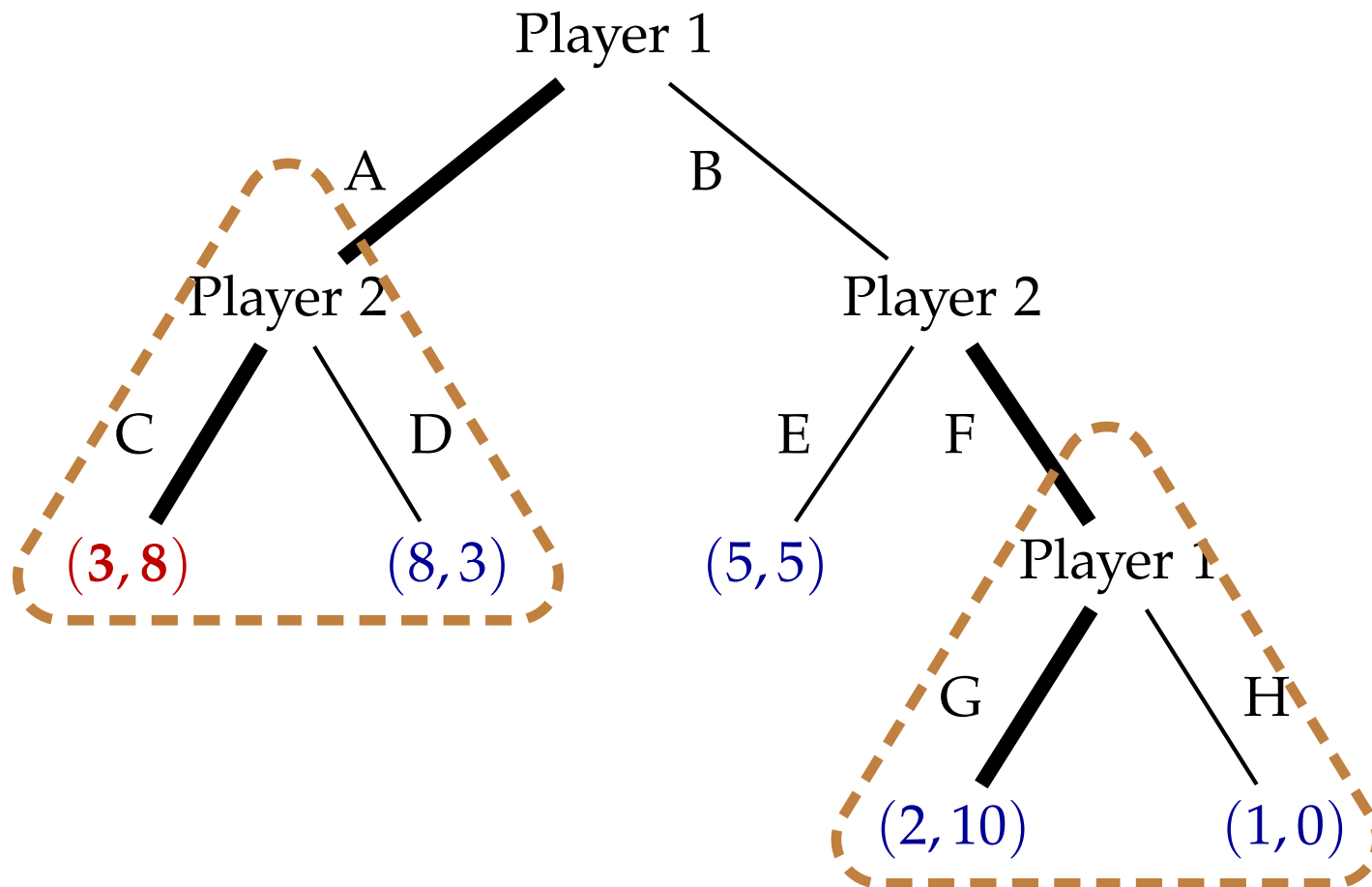
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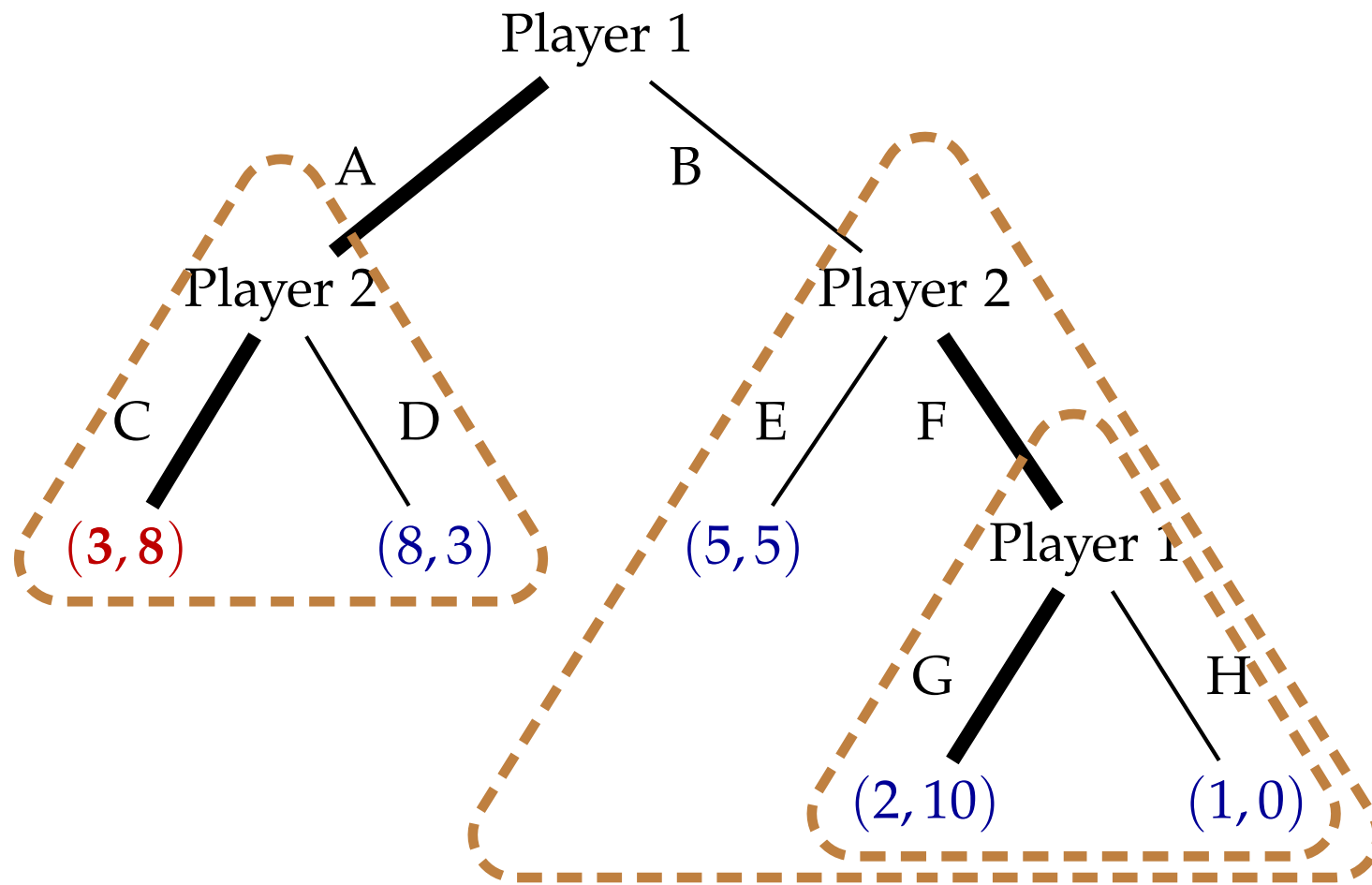
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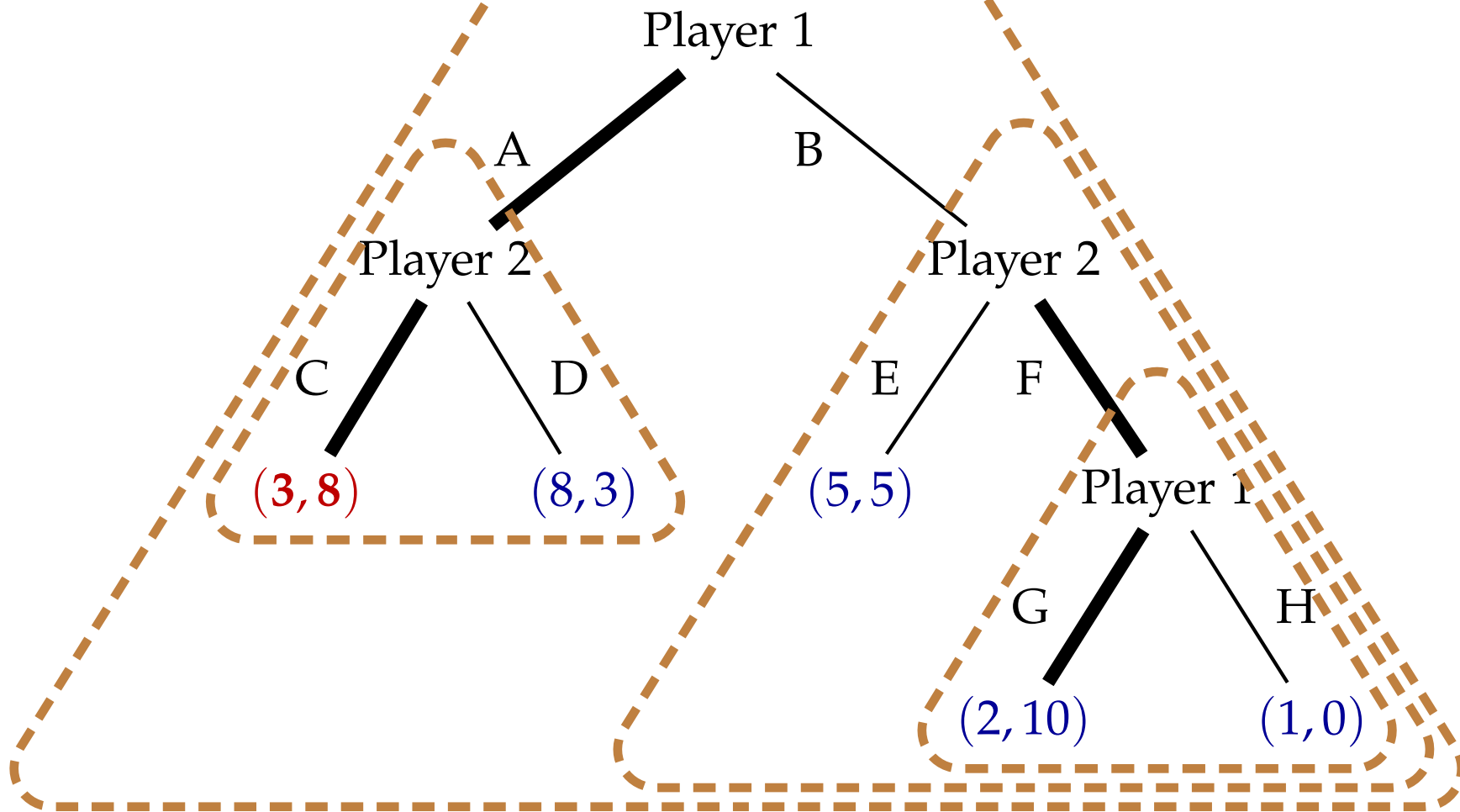
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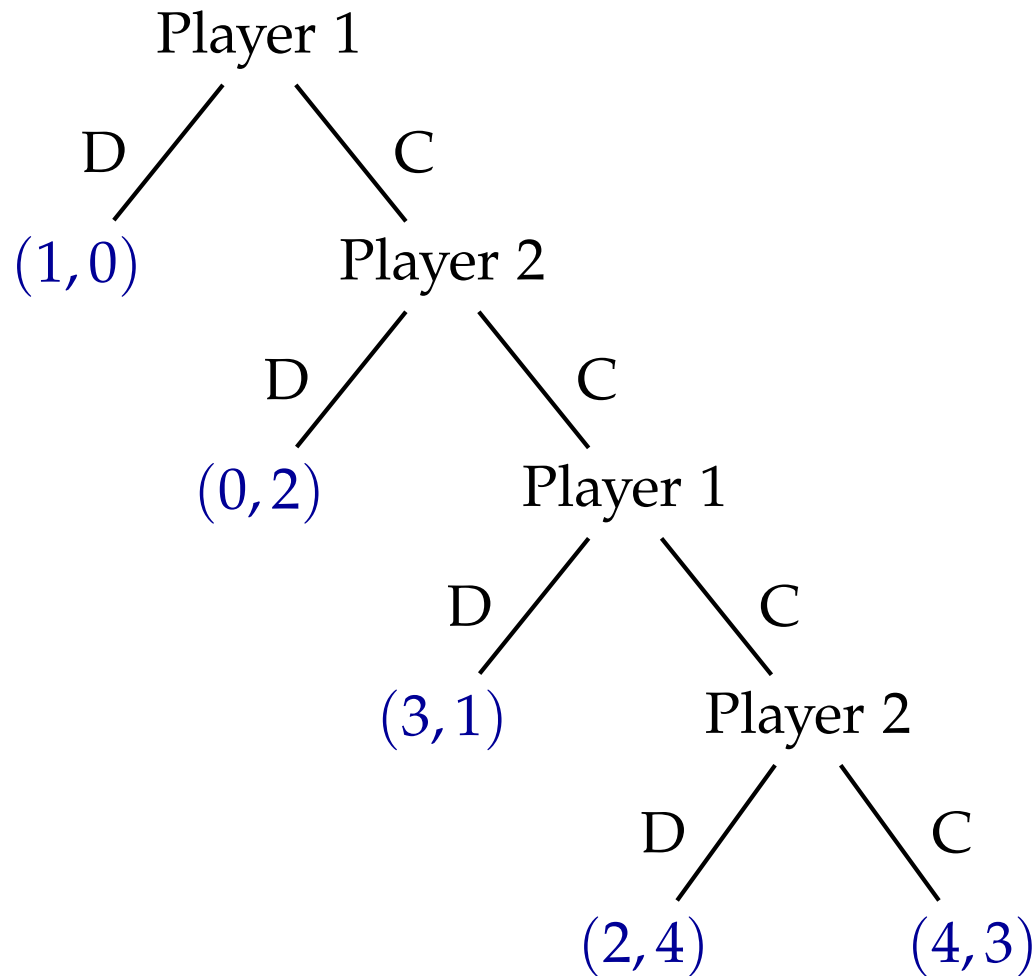
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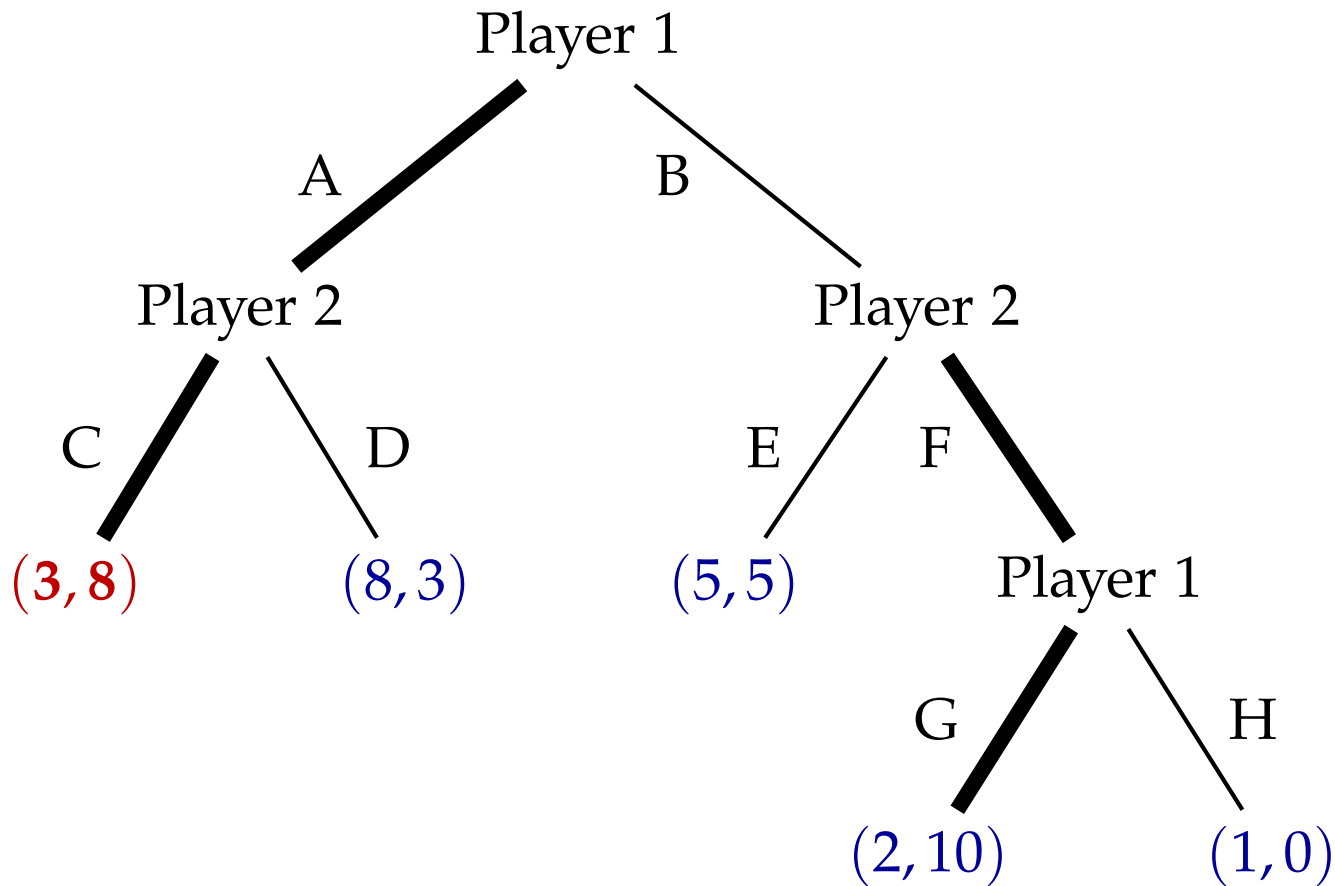


Backward induction is not always intuitive

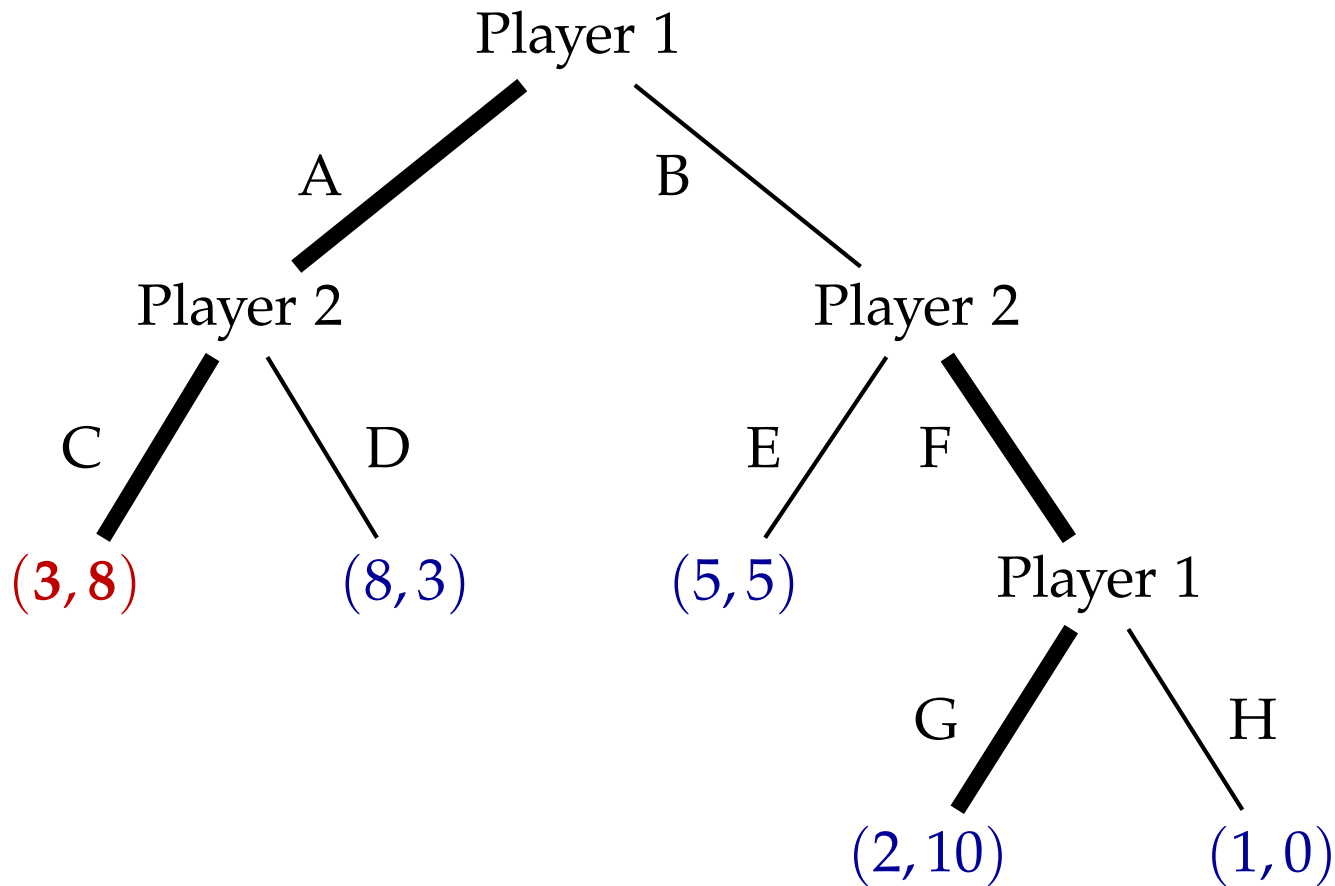
The centipede game:



Nash equilibrium through backward induction

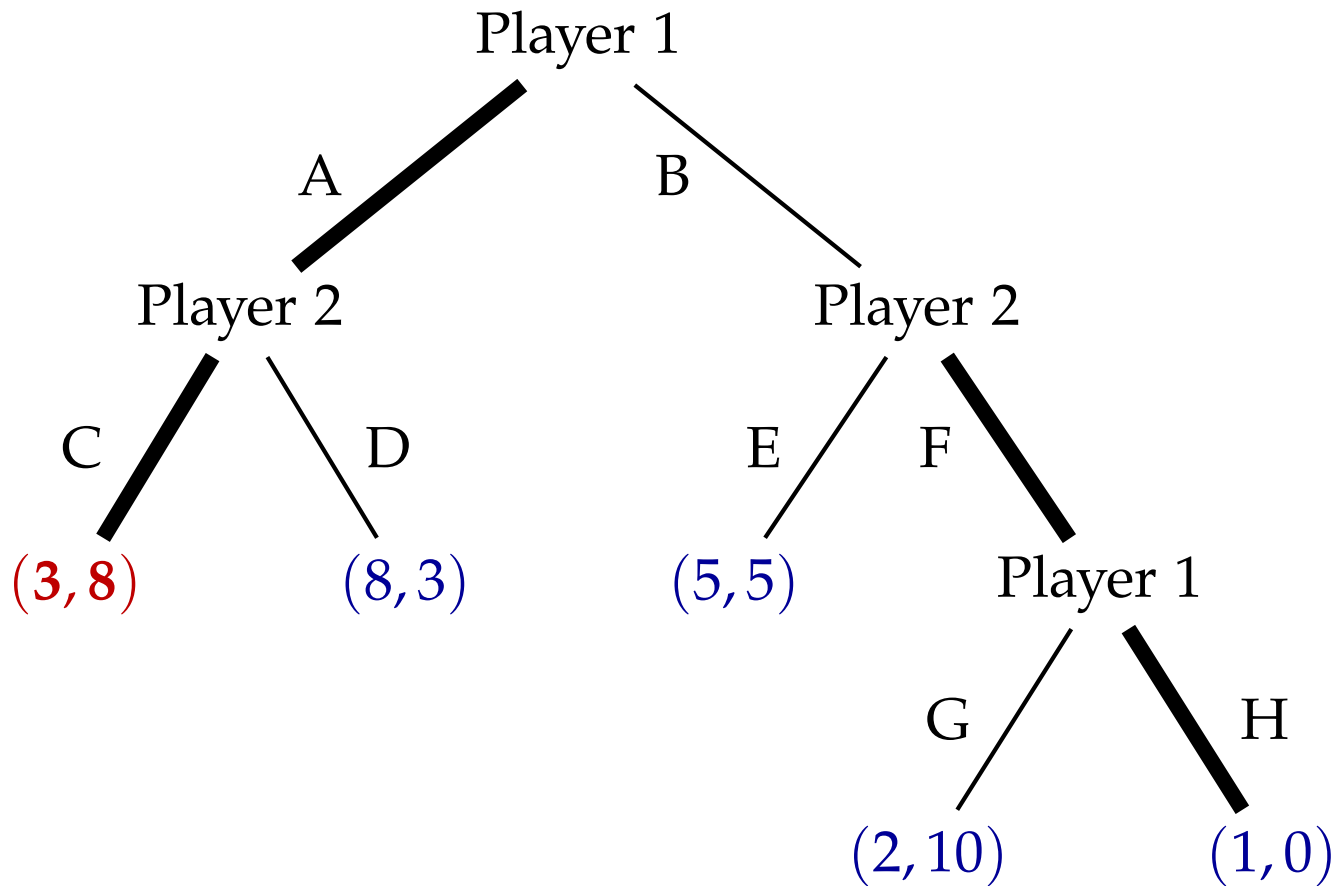


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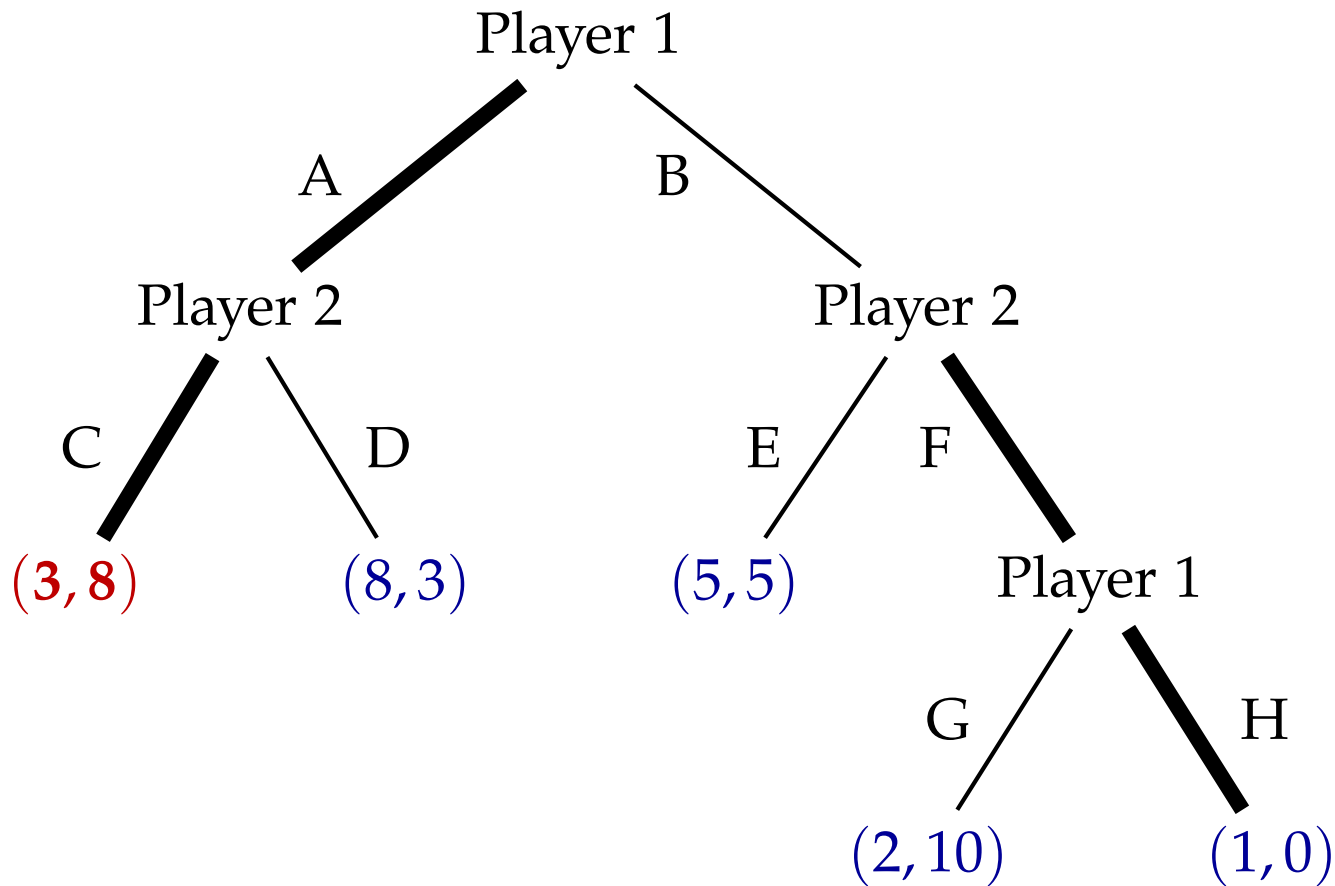


The action profile $\{(A,H), (C,F)\}$ is a Nash equilibrium.

Nash equilibrium in an extensive game

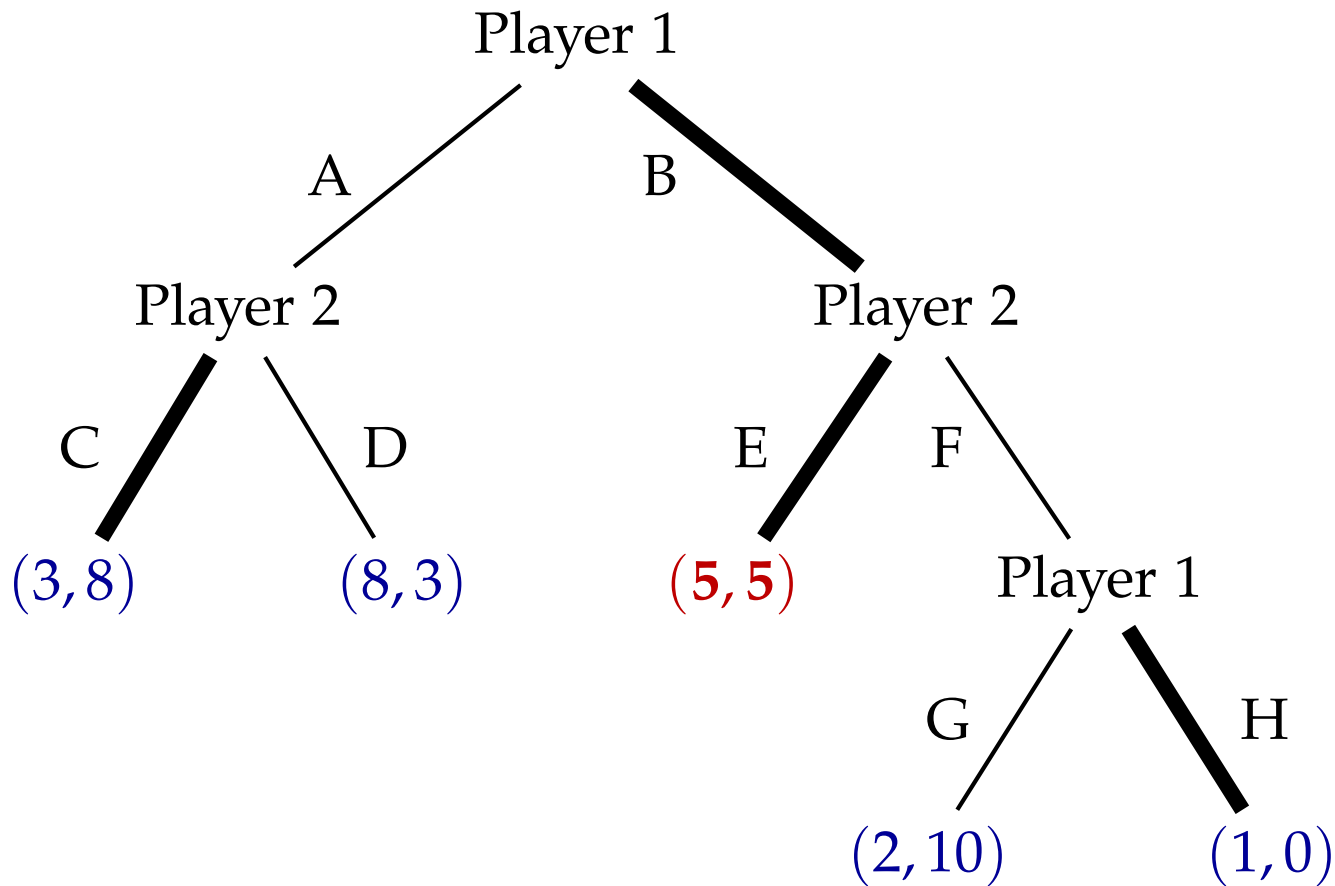


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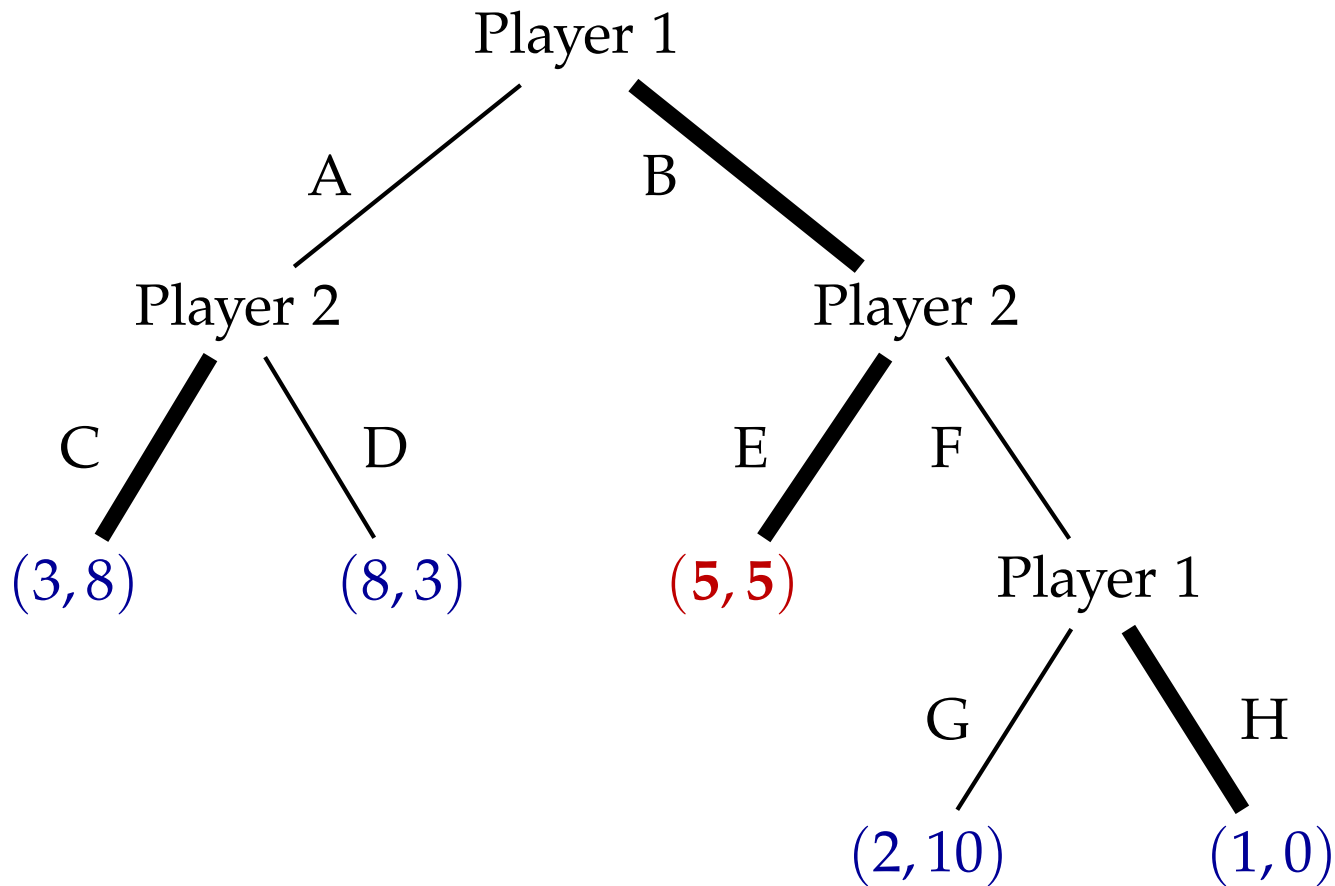


The action profile $\{(A,H), (C,F)\}$ is also a valid Nash equilibrium.

Nash equilibrium in an extensive game

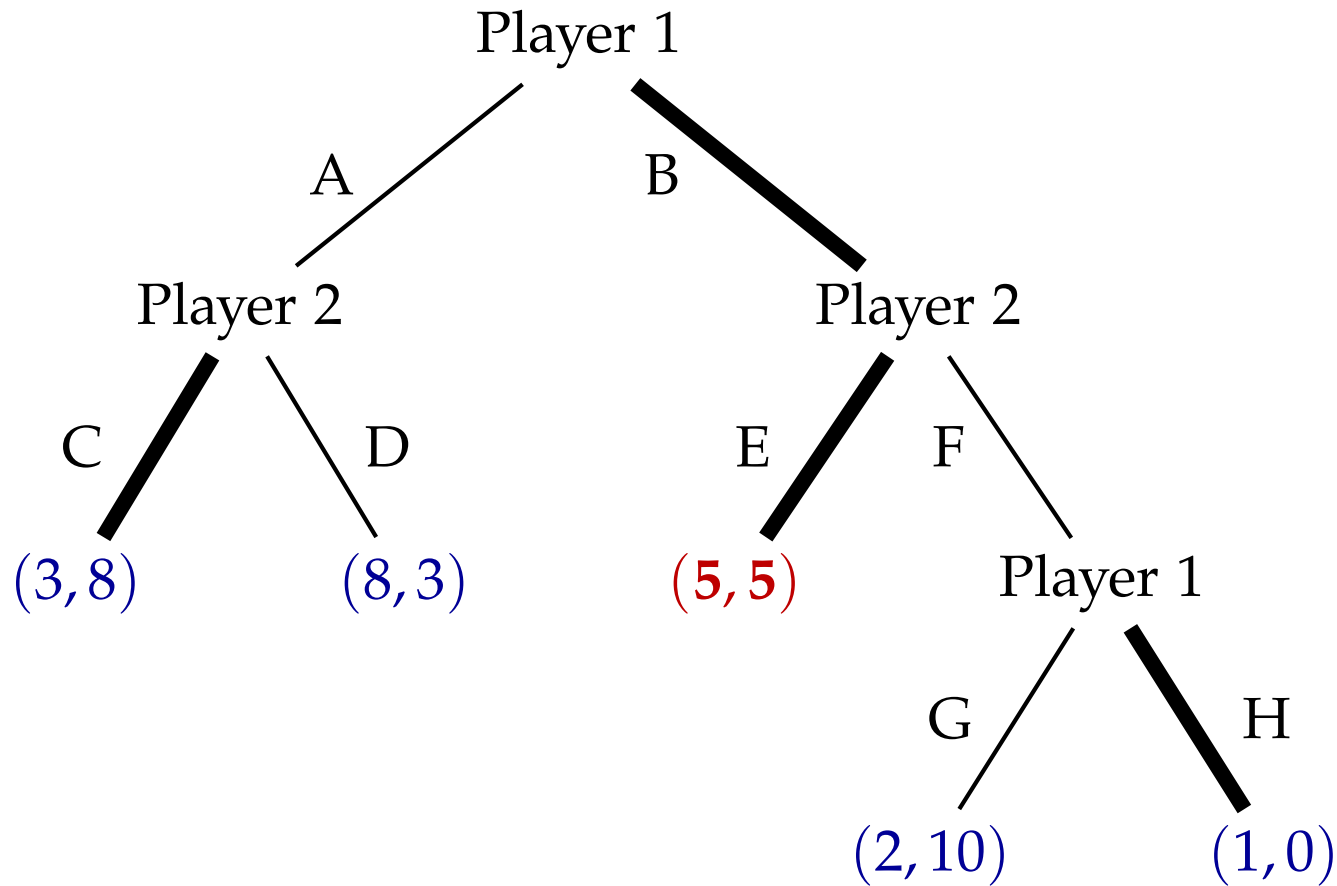


Nash equilibrium in an extensive game

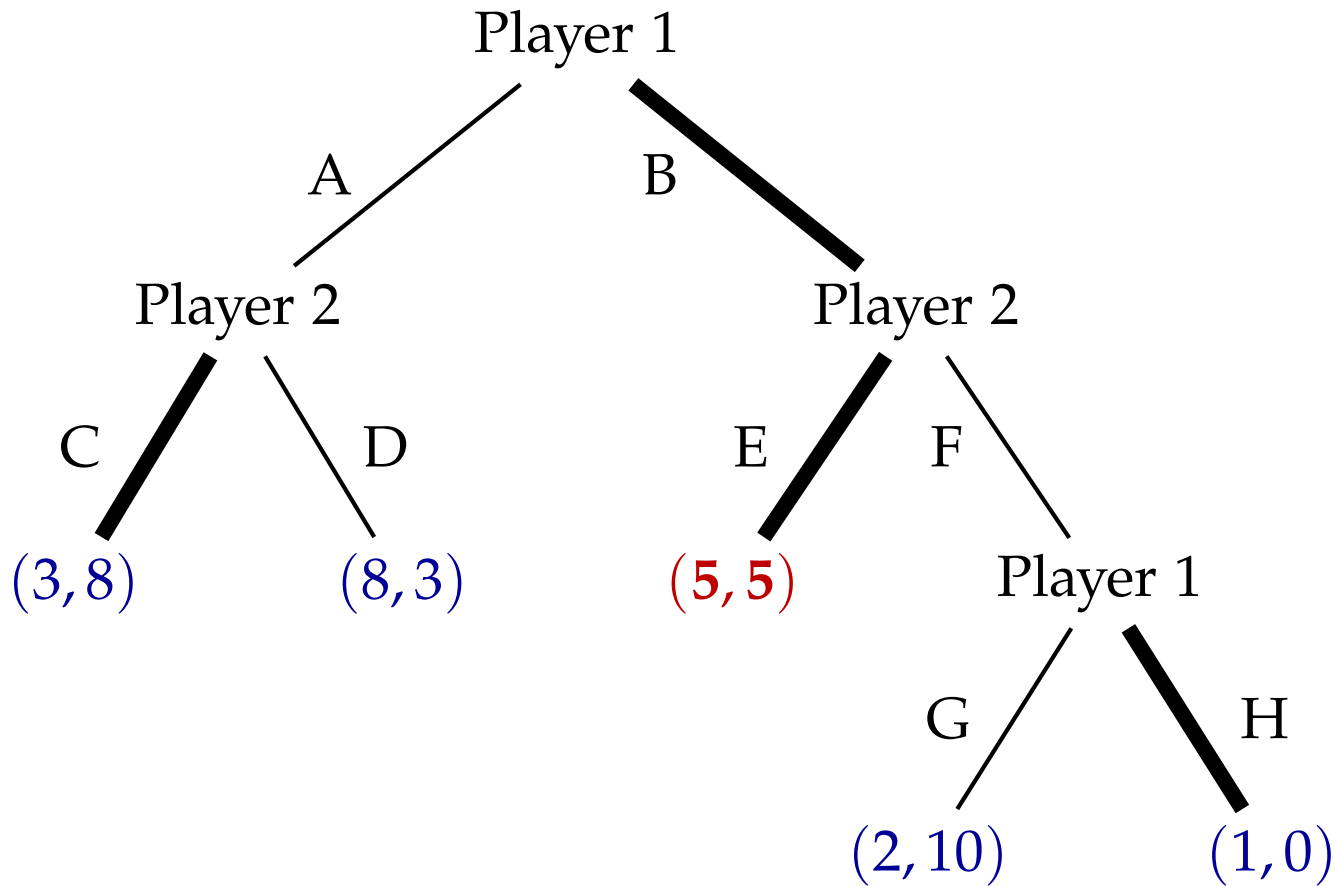


The action profile $\{(B,H), (C,E)\}$ is also a Nash equilibrium.

Subgame-imperfect equilibrium

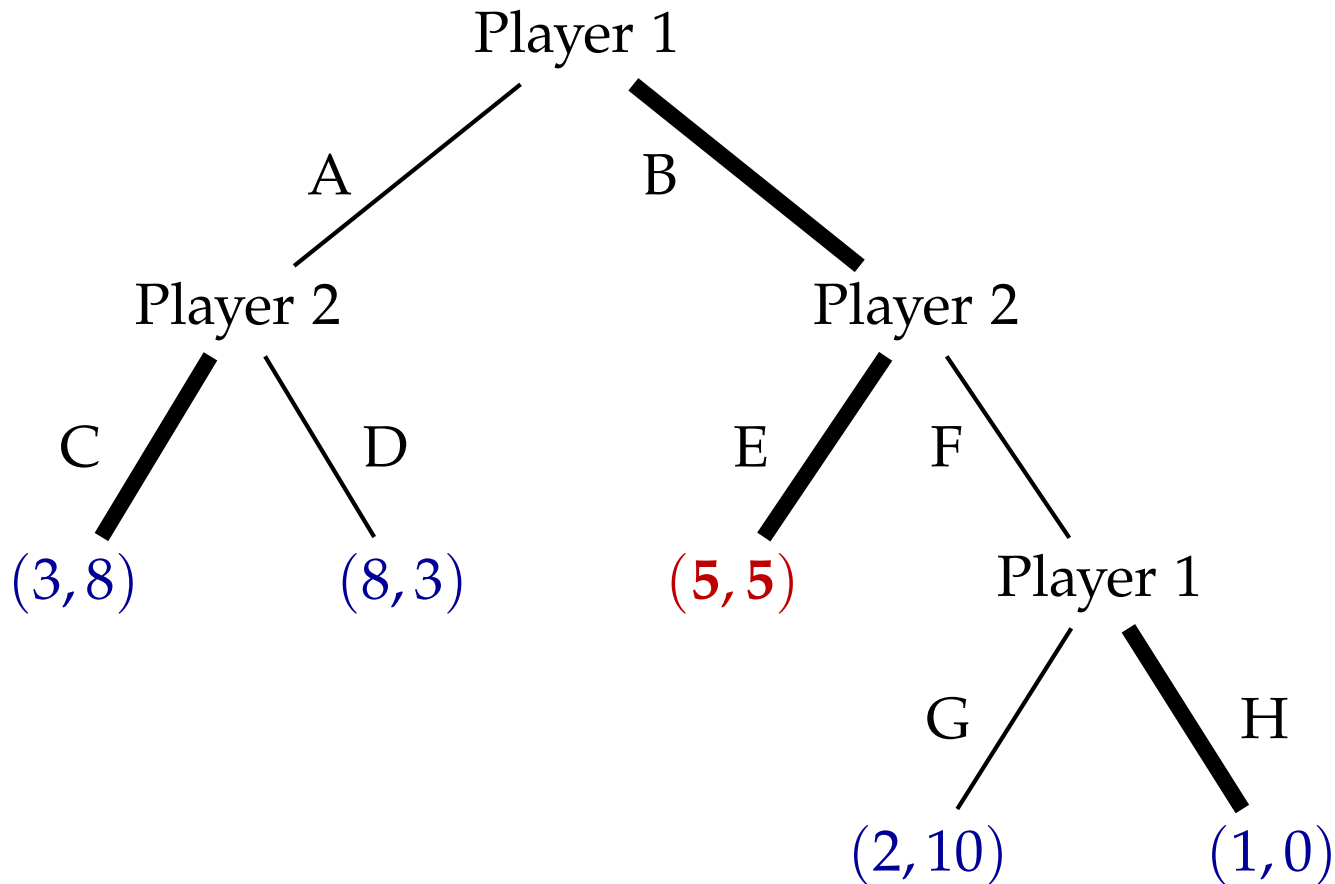


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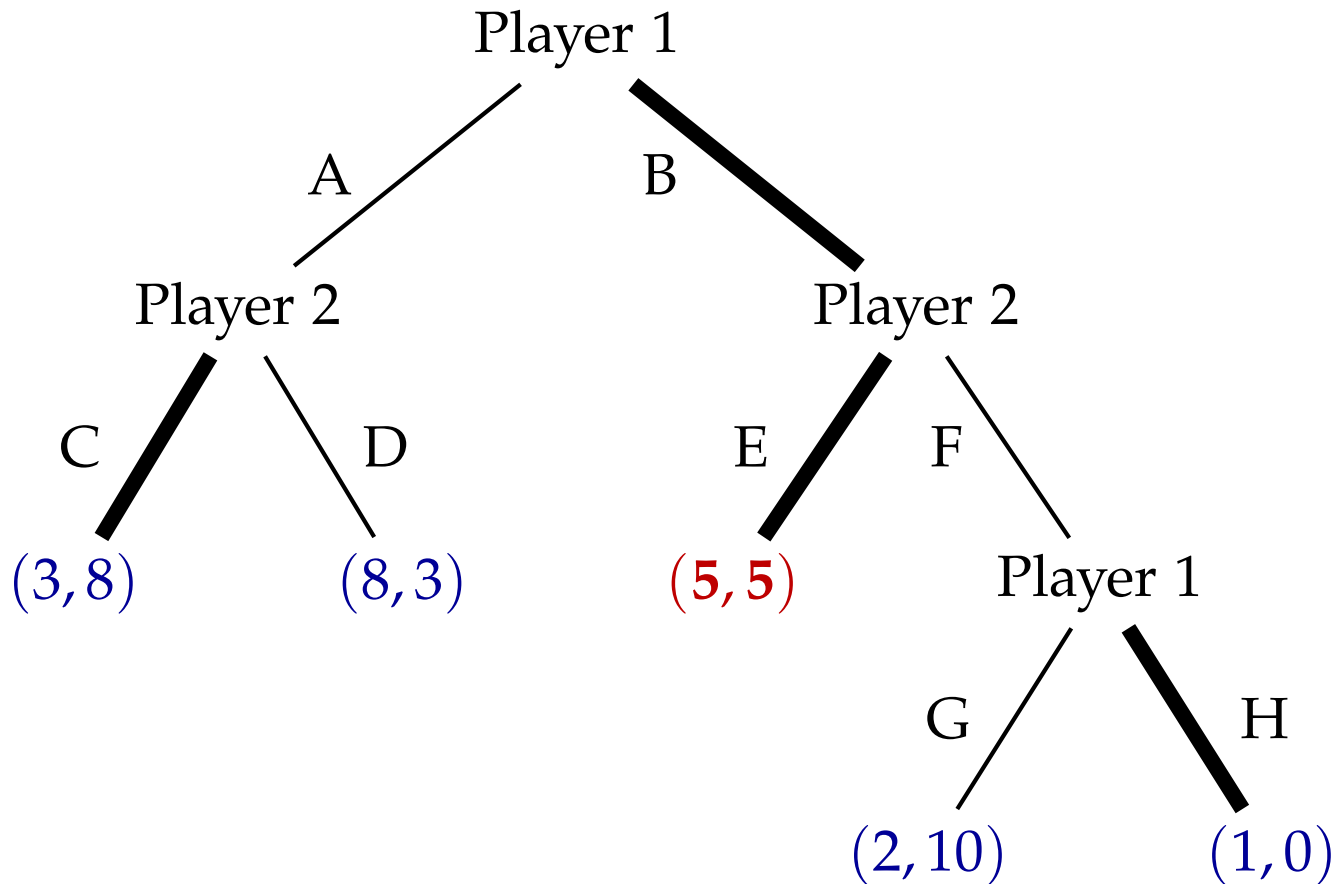
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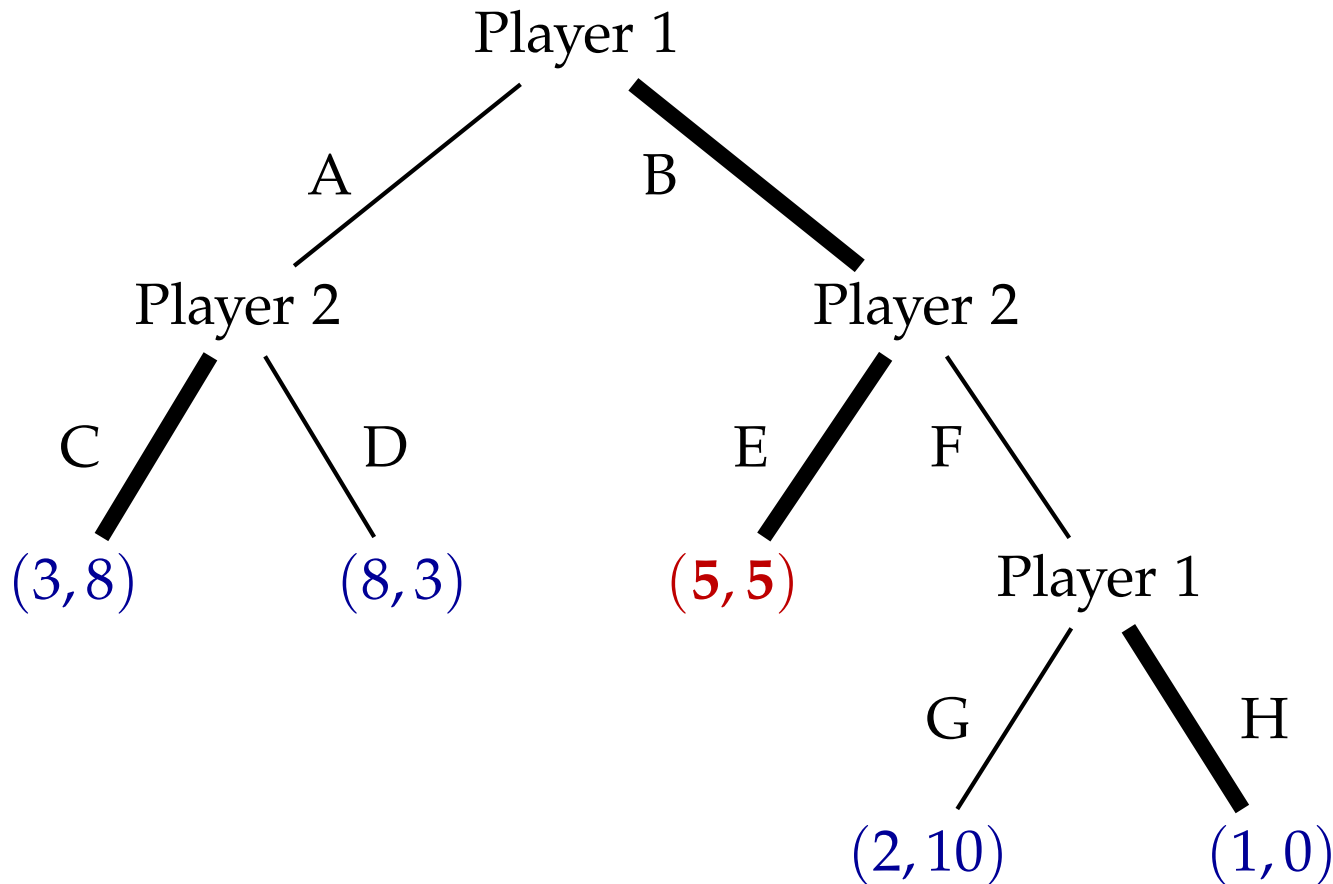
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Subgame-imperfect equilibrium



The action profile $\{(B, H), (C, E)\}$ is a Nash equilibrium, but it does not induce a NE on all subgames. H is a **non-credible threat**.

Subgame-imperfect equilibrium



The action profile $\{(B, H), (C, E)\}$ is a Nash equilibrium, but it does not induce a NE on all subgames. **H** is a **non-credible threat**. We have a **subgame-imperfect Nash equilibrium**.

From extensive form to normal form

Handy fact. Every extensive-form game can be put into normal-form with (evidently) identical pure and mixed Nash equilibria.

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	(C,E)	(C,F)	(D,E)	(D,F)
(A,G)	3, 8	3, 8	8, 3	8, 3
(A,H)	3, 8	3, 8	8, 3	8, 3
(B,G)	5, 5	2, 10	5, 5	2, 10
(B,H)	5, 5	1, 0	5, 5	1, 0

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- There are exactly three pure Nash equilibria.

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(A,H)	3,8	3,8	8,3	8,3
(B,G)	5,5	2,10	5,5	2,10
(B,H)	5,5	1,0	5,5	1,0

- There are exactly three pure Nash equilibria. All weak (= non-strict).

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(A,G)	3, 8	3, 8	8, 3	8, 3
(A,H)	3, 8	3, 8	8, 3	8, 3
(B,G)	5, 5	2, 10	5, 5	2, 10
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- Exactly one pure NE is obtained by backward induction.

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- There are exactly three pure Nash equilibria. All weak (= non-strict).
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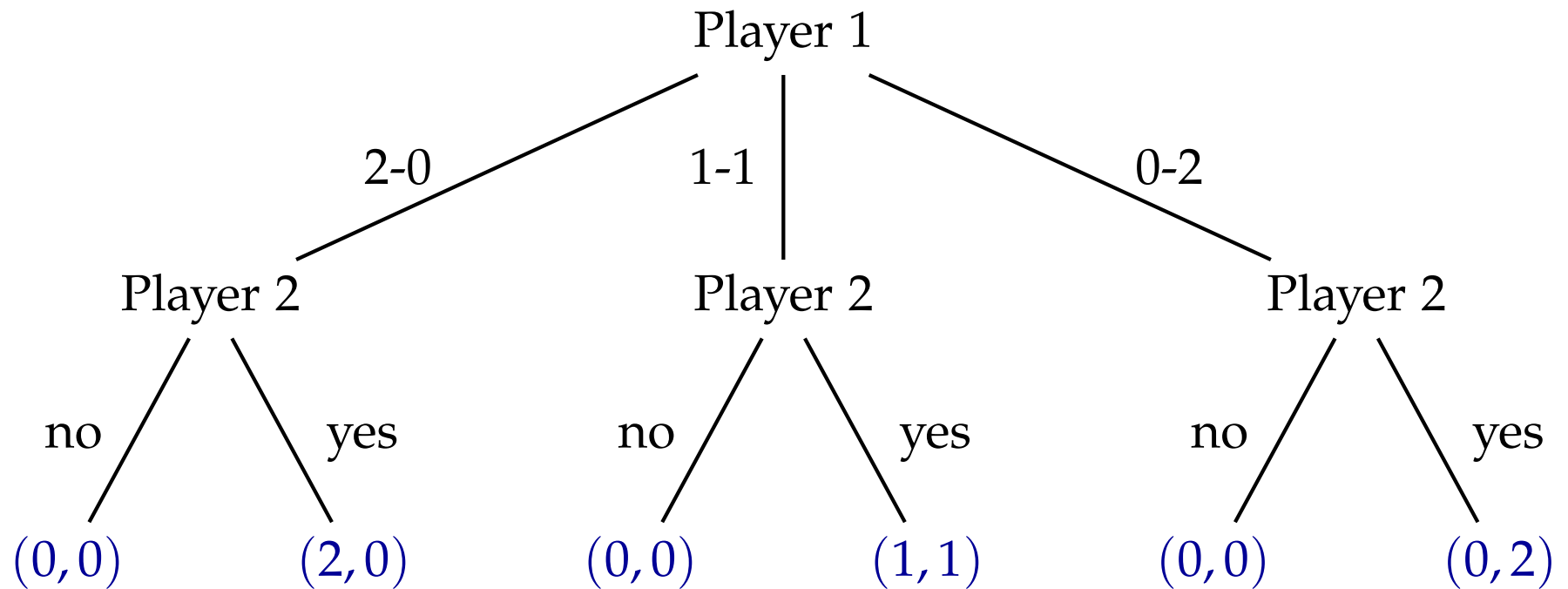
- There are exactly three pure Nash equilibria. All weak (= non-strict).
- Exactly one pure NE is obtained by backward induction.
- Exactly two pure NE are subgame-perfect.
- There are five more NE! (Found with <http://banach.lse.ac.uk/>.)

Games in extensive form

Example: the sharing game.

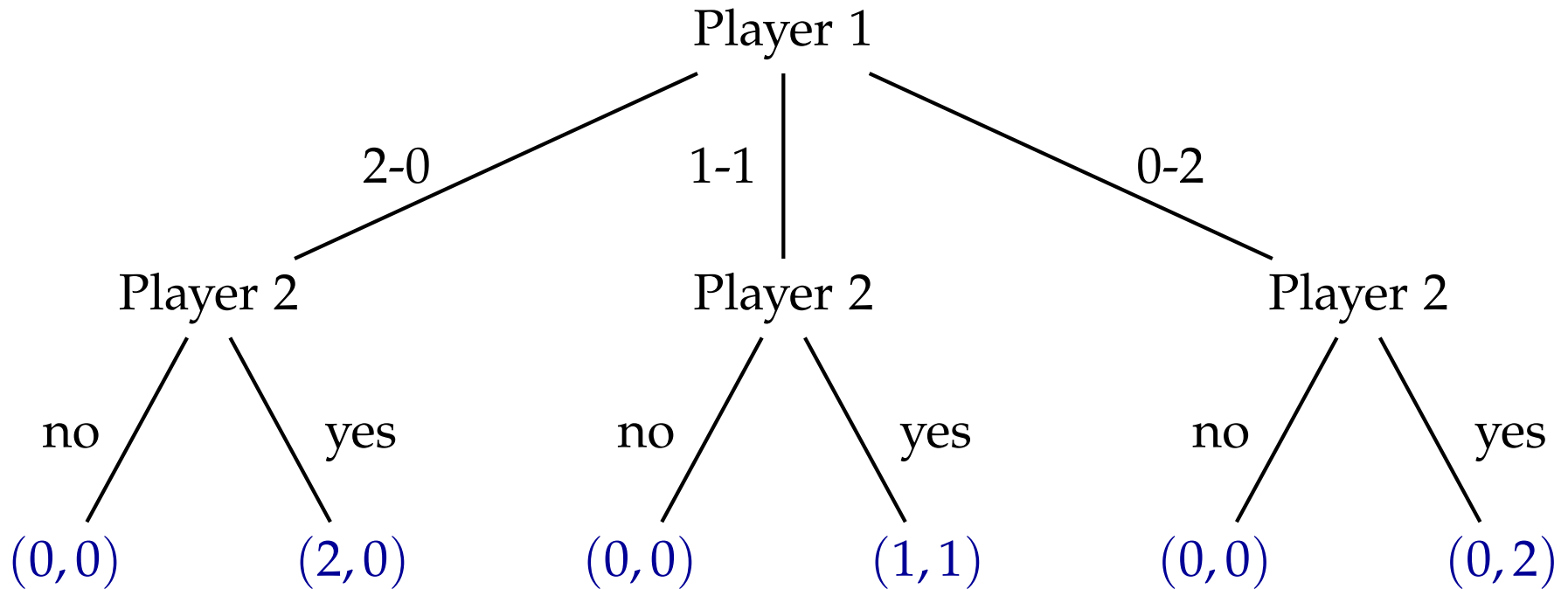
Games in extensive form

Example: the sharing game. Player 1 distributes two entities, then Player 2 accepts or not.



Games in extensive form

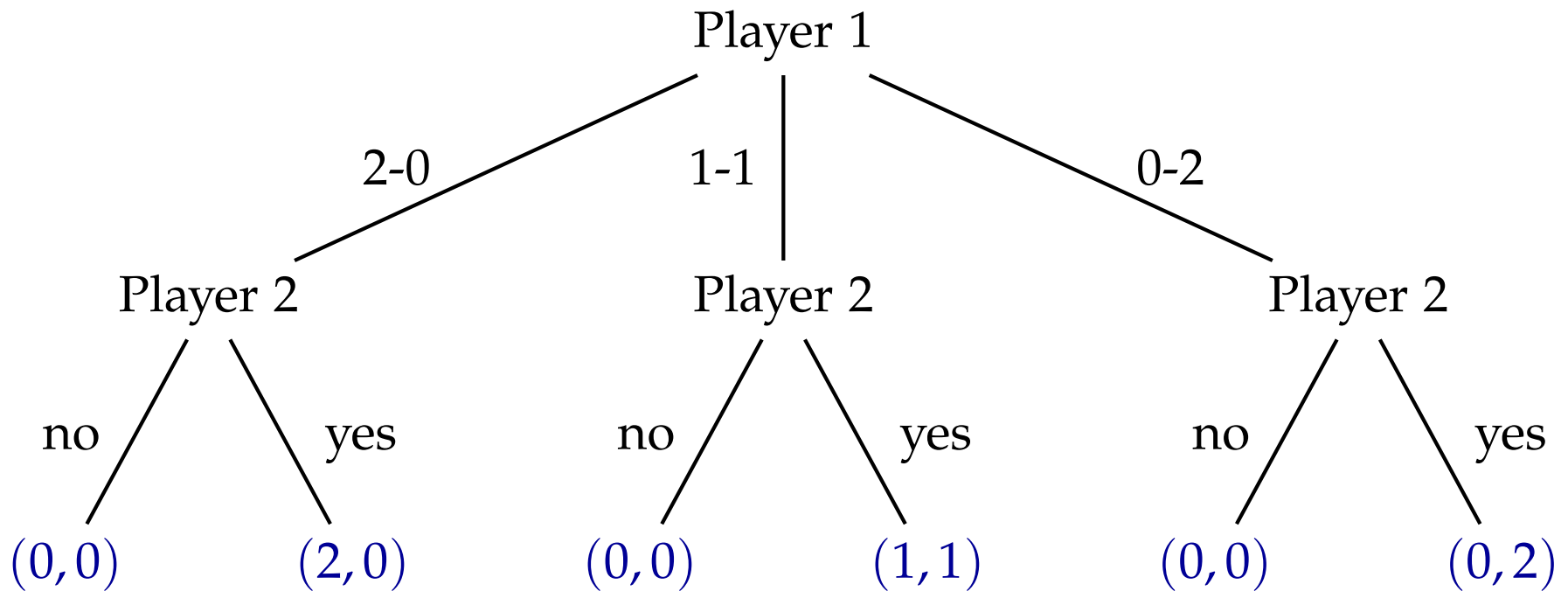
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■ A pure strategy for Player 1 could be: 1-1.

Games in extensive form

Example: the sharing game. Player 1 distributes two entities, then Player 2 accepts or not.



- A pure strategy for Player 1 could be: 1-1.
- A pure strategy for Player 2 could be: no, yes, yes.

From extensive form to normal form

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

Pure Nash equilibria:

From extensive form to normal form

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

Pure Nash equilibria:

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

From extensive form to normal form

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

Pure Nash equilibria:

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

- Then there are twelve (partially / fully) mixed equilibria.

From extensive form to normal form

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yy n	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

Pure Nash equilibria:

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yy n	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

- Then there are twelve (partially / fully) mixed equilibria.
- Some (not all) are obtained by backward induction.

From extensive form to normal form

	nnn	nnny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

Pure Nash equilibria:

	nnn	nnny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

- Then there are twelve (partially / fully) mixed equilibria.
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	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

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2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

- Then there are twelve (partially / fully) mixed equilibria.
- Some (not all) are obtained by backward induction.
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Conclusion: extensive games allow for an embarrassing richness of NE.

Behavioural strategies

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

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	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

- It is possible to search for all NE in the corresponding normal-form representation

Behavioural strategies

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
0-2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,2

- It is possible to search for all NE in the corresponding normal-form representation, but the actions in those strategies are **correlated among nodes**

Behavioural strategies

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
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- It is possible to search for all NE in the corresponding normal-form representation, but the actions in those strategies are **correlated among nodes**, which is a somewhat unnatural assumption.

Behavioural strategies

	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyn	yyy
2-0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
1-1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,1
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- An alternative is work with so-called *behavioural strategies*.

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Behavioural strategy. A **behavioural strategy** for Player i puts a probability distribution on actions on all the nodes that i owns.

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	nnn	nny	nyn	nyy	ynn	yny	yyyn	yyy
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- Pure strategy profiles and pure behavioural strategies coincide.

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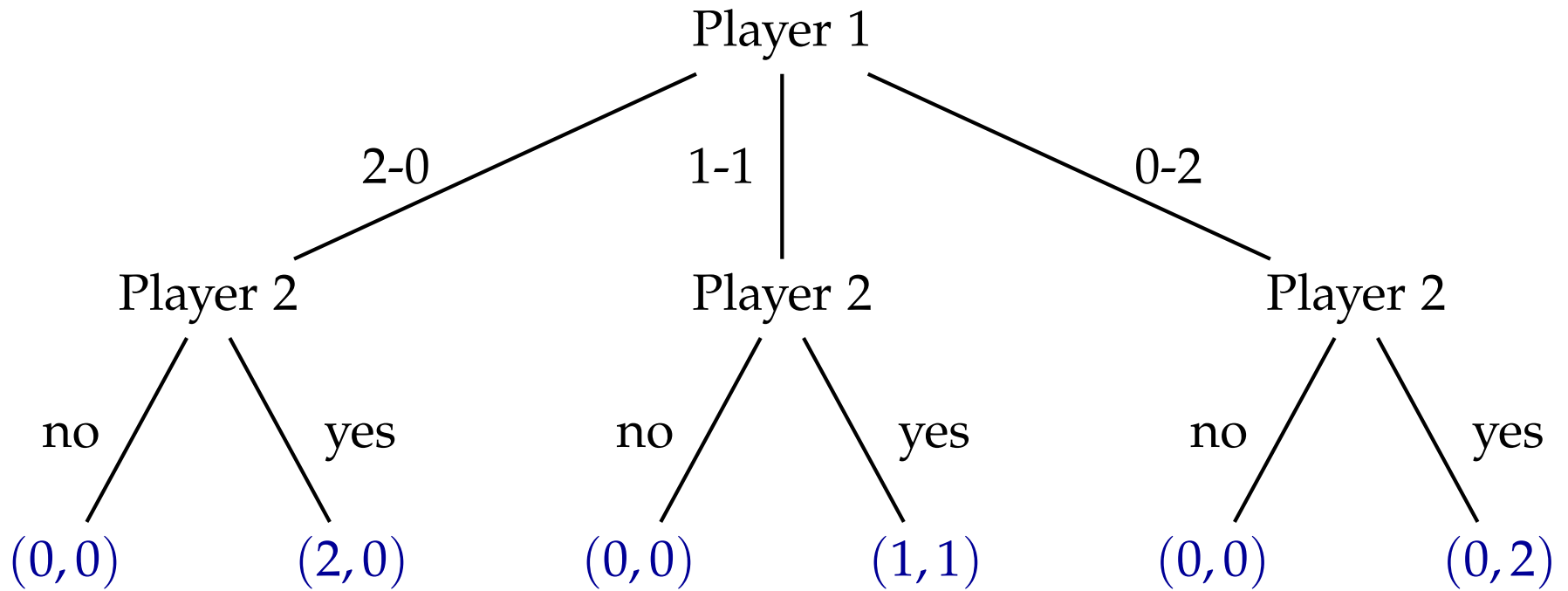
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- Pure strategy profiles and pure behavioural strategies coincide.
However, mixed strategy profiles \neq mixed behavioural strategies.

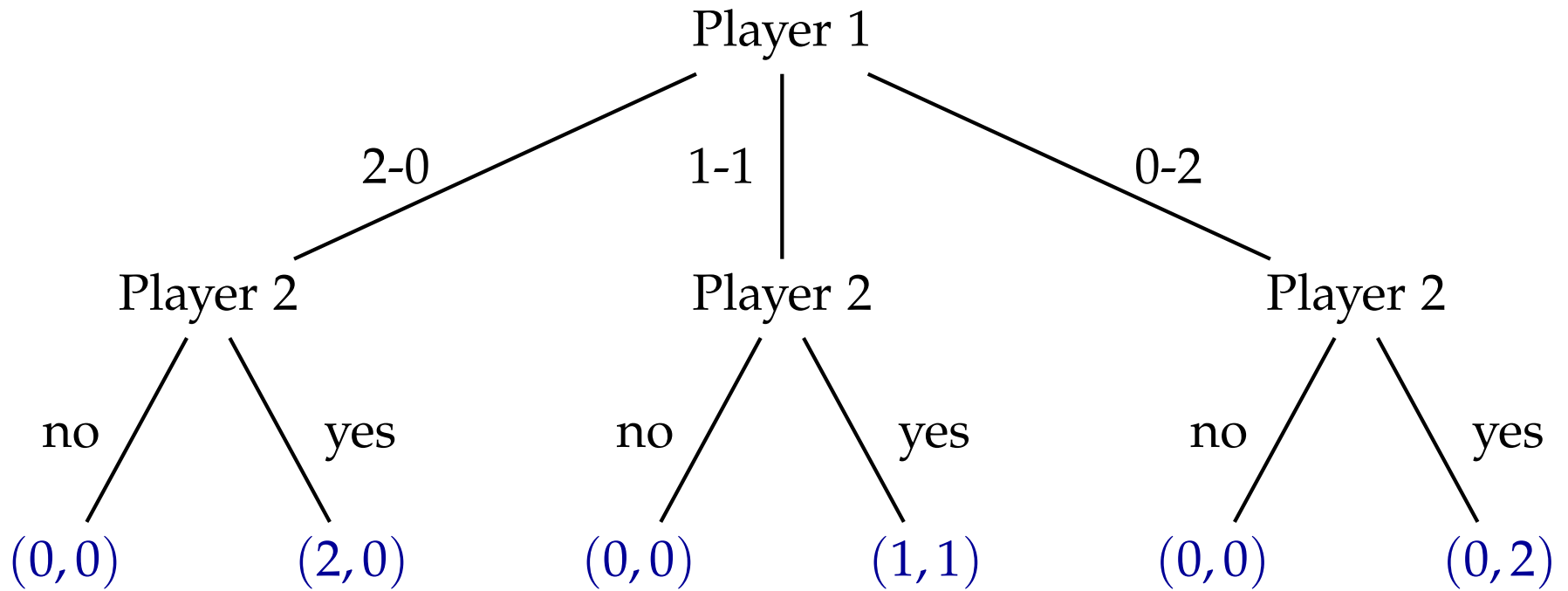
Behavioural strategies

Example: the sharing game.



Behavioural strategies

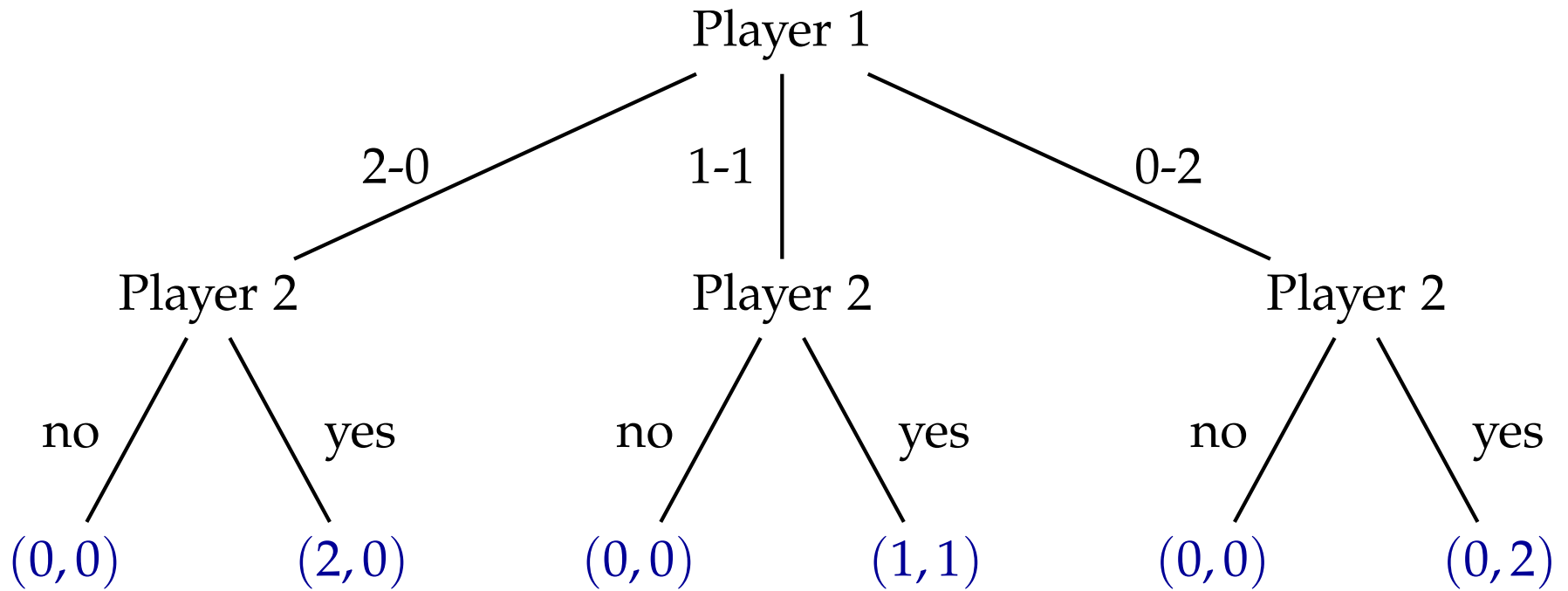
Example: the sharing game.



- A behavioural strategy for Player 1 could be: $(0.2, 0.3, 0.5)$.

Behavioural strategies

Example: the sharing game.



- A behavioural strategy for Player 1 could be: $(0.2, 0.3, 0.5)$.
- A behavioural strategy for Player 2 could be: $(0.4, 0.6)$, $(0.7, 0.3)$, $(0.1, 0.9)$.

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Theorem (Kuhn, 1953). In an extensive-form game with perfect information,

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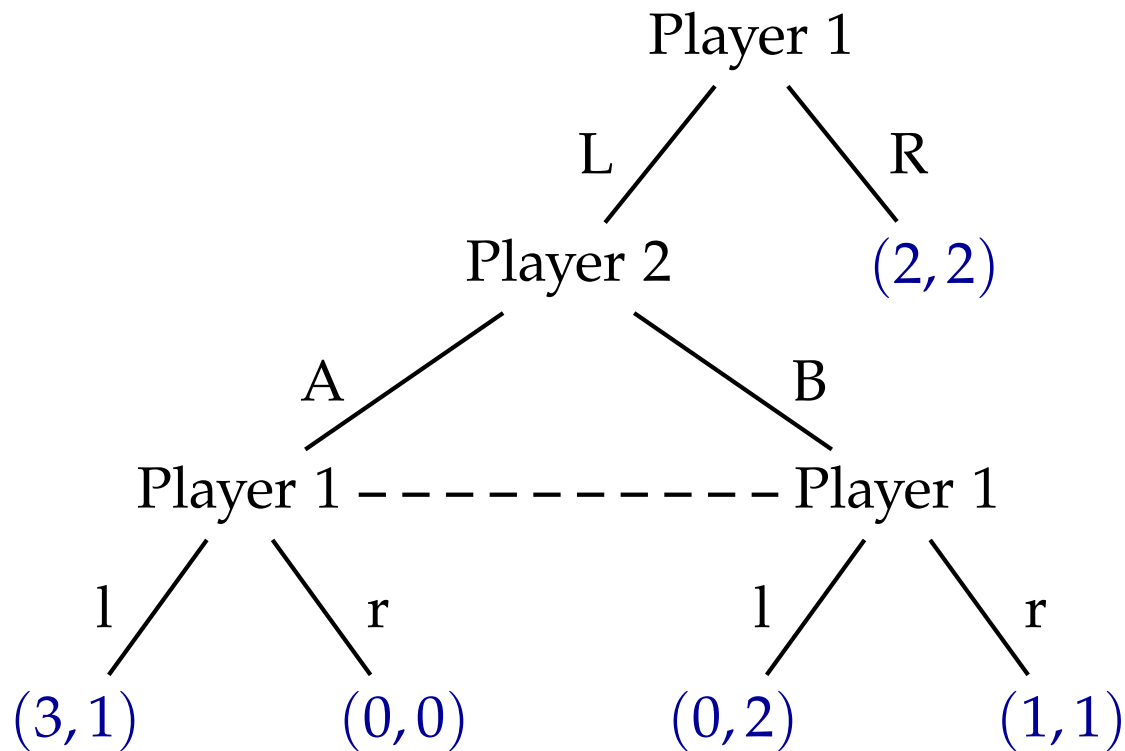
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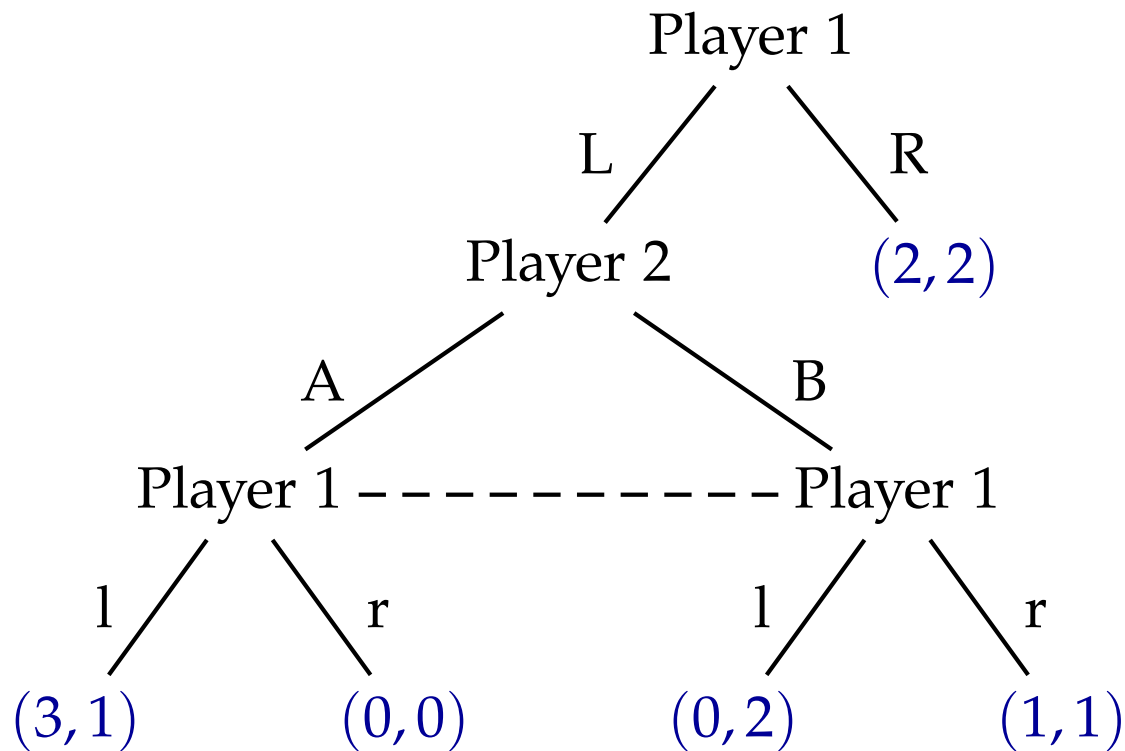
1. Two strategies are considered equivalent if they induce the same probabilities on outcomes, for every fixed counter strategy profile.
2. Induces the same equilibria.

Imperfect information games

An imperfect information game

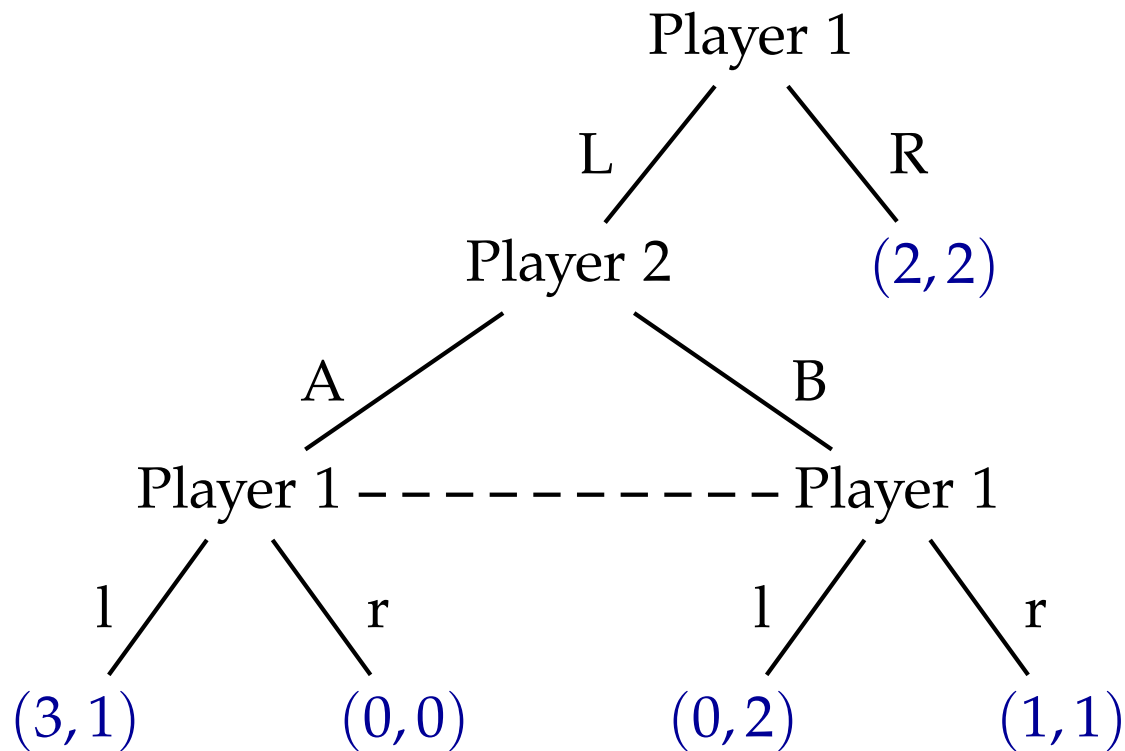


An imperfect information game



	A	B
Ll	3, 1	0, 2
Lr	0, 0	1, 1
Rl	2, 2	2, 2
Rr	2, 2	2, 2

An imperfect information game



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Ll	3, 1	0, 2
Lr	0, 0	1, 1
Rl	2, 2	2, 2
Rr	2, 2	2, 2

The Nash equilibrium concept (both pure and mixed) remains the same for imperfect-information extensive-form games.

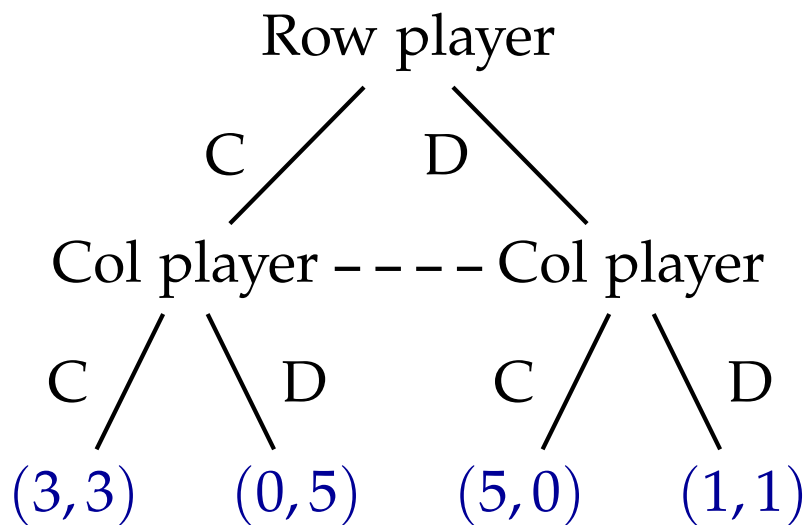
The prisoner's dilemma

Exercise: represent the prisoner's dilemma as an imperfect information game.

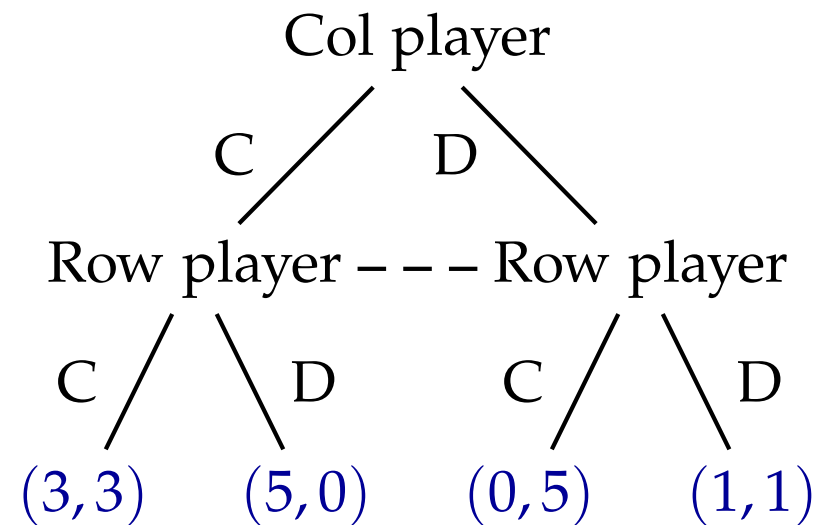
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Solution:



or:



Mixed strategies differ from behavioural strategies

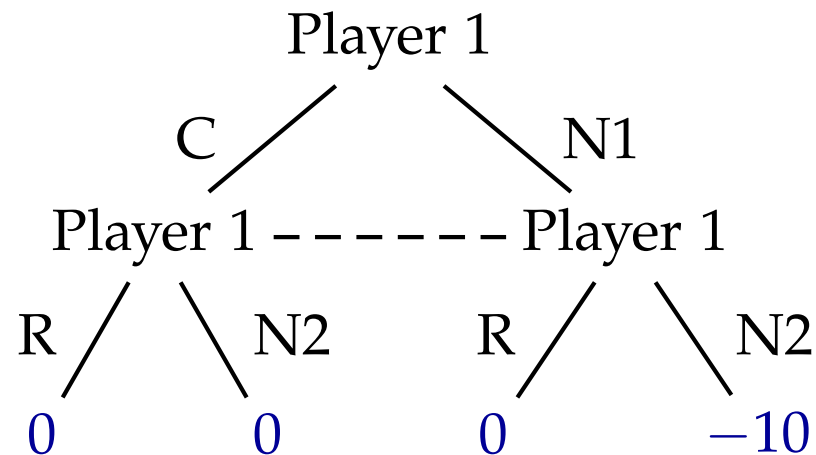
Player 1 has bad memory. He must make two decisions: whether to Check his front door after leaving the house, whether to **Re-check** his front door.

Mixed strategies differ from behavioural strategies

Player 1 has bad memory. He must make two decisions: whether to **C**heck his front door after leaving the house, whether to **R**e-check his front door. There is also the option to **N**ot check the door.

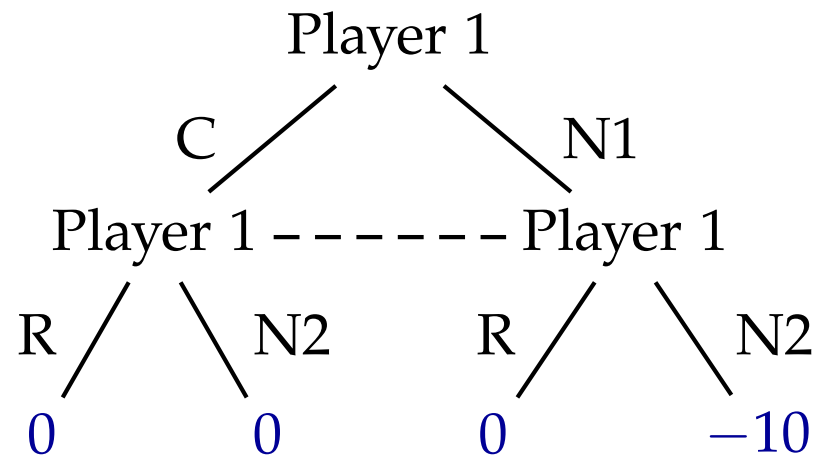
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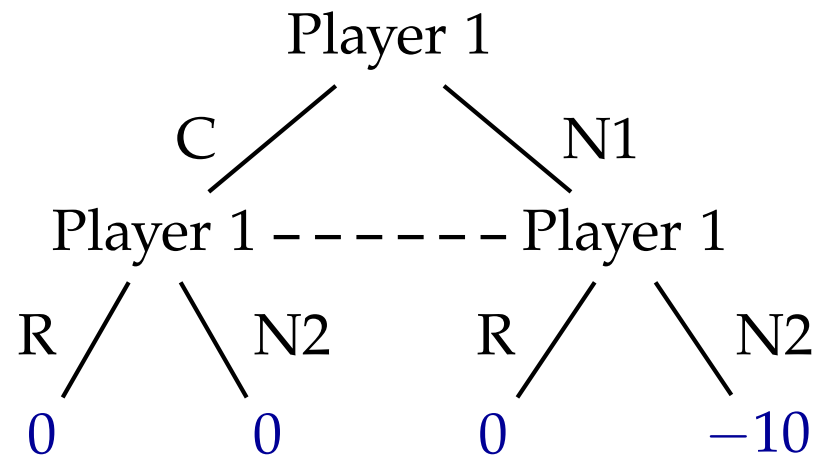
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Pure (mixed and behavioural) strategies: CR, CN2, N1R, N1N2.

Mixed strategies differ from behavioural strategies

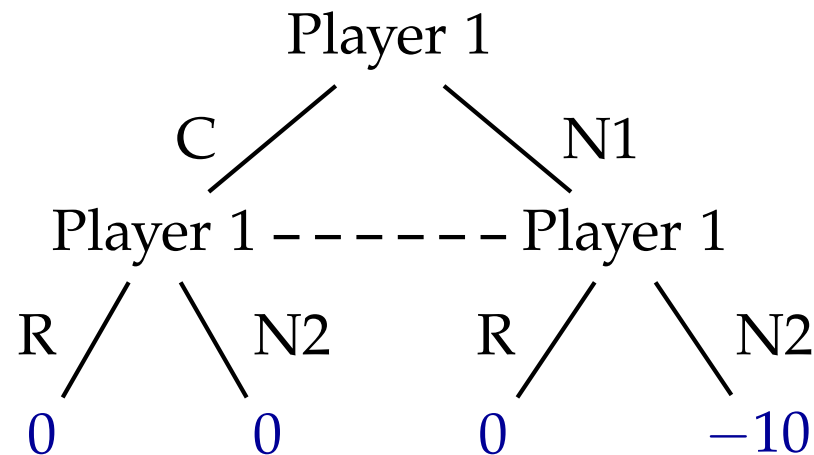
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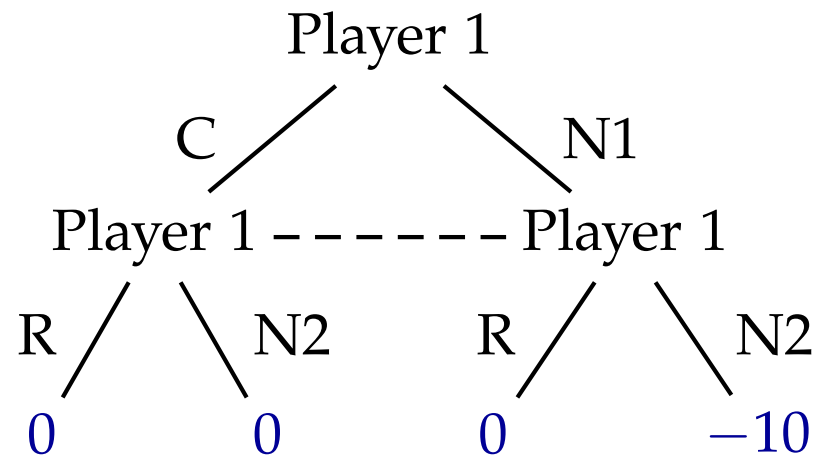


Pure (mixed and behavioural) strategies: CR, CN2, N1R, N1N2. Suppose we want a truly mixed strategy that maximises expected utility:

- **Mixed strategy.** For any $0 < p < 1$ the mix $(p, 1 - p, 0, 0)$ does the job: $EU = p \cdot 0 + (1 - p) \cdot 0 = 0$.

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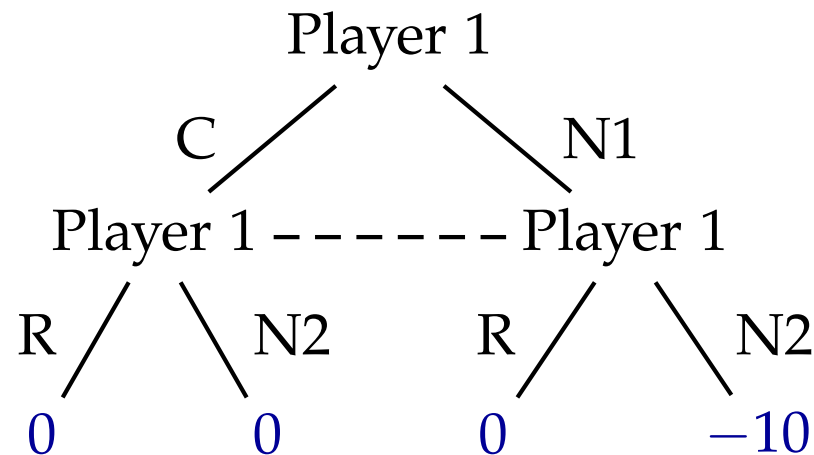


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Mixed strategies differ from behavioural strategies

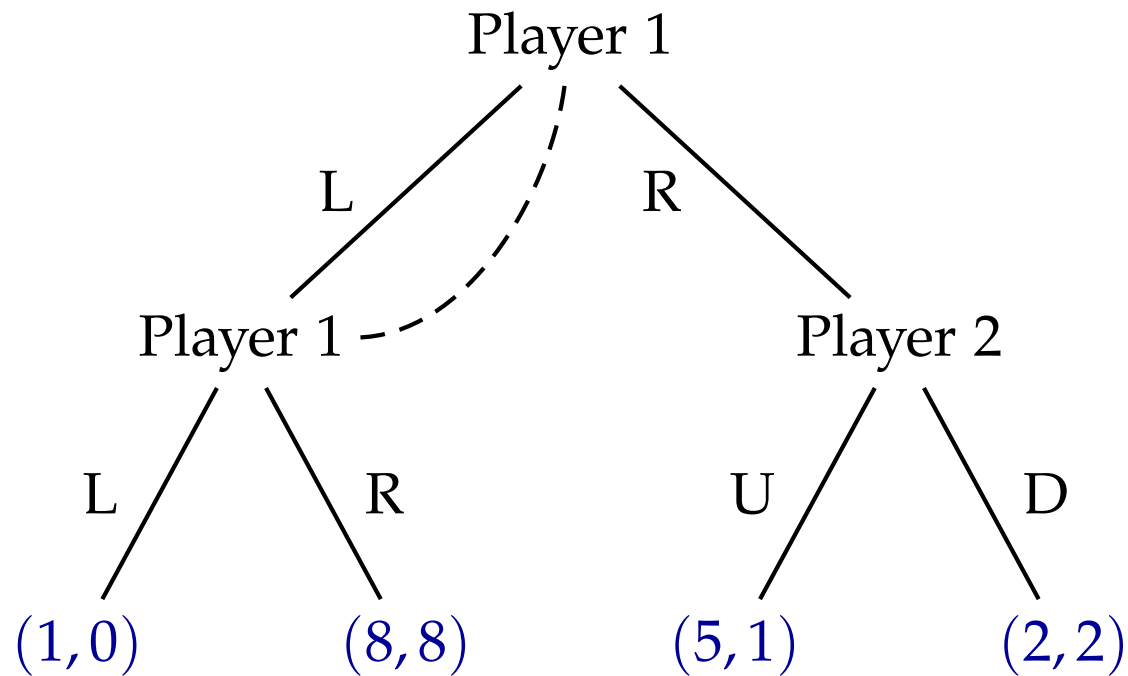
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- **Behavioural strategy.** Check with prob p and re-check second time with prob q . For $0 < p, q < 1$ we have $EU = (1 - p)(1 - q) \cdot -10 < 0$.

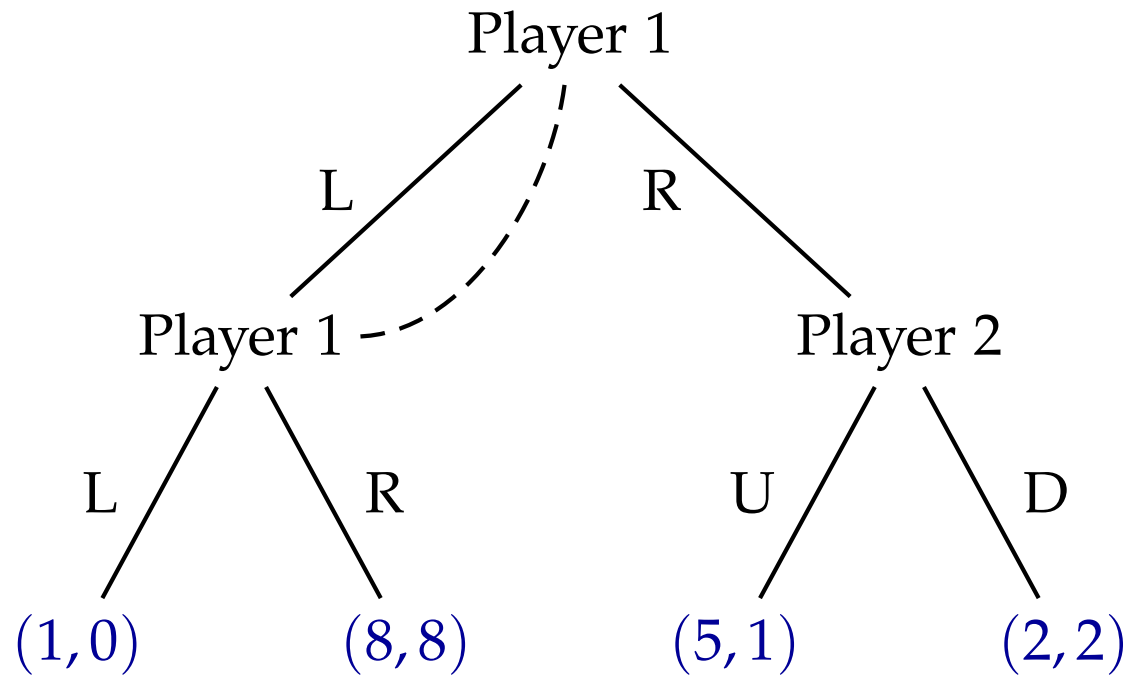
A game with imperfect recall



	L	R
U	1,0	5,1
D	1,0	2,2

Considering **mixed strategies**:

A game with imperfect recall

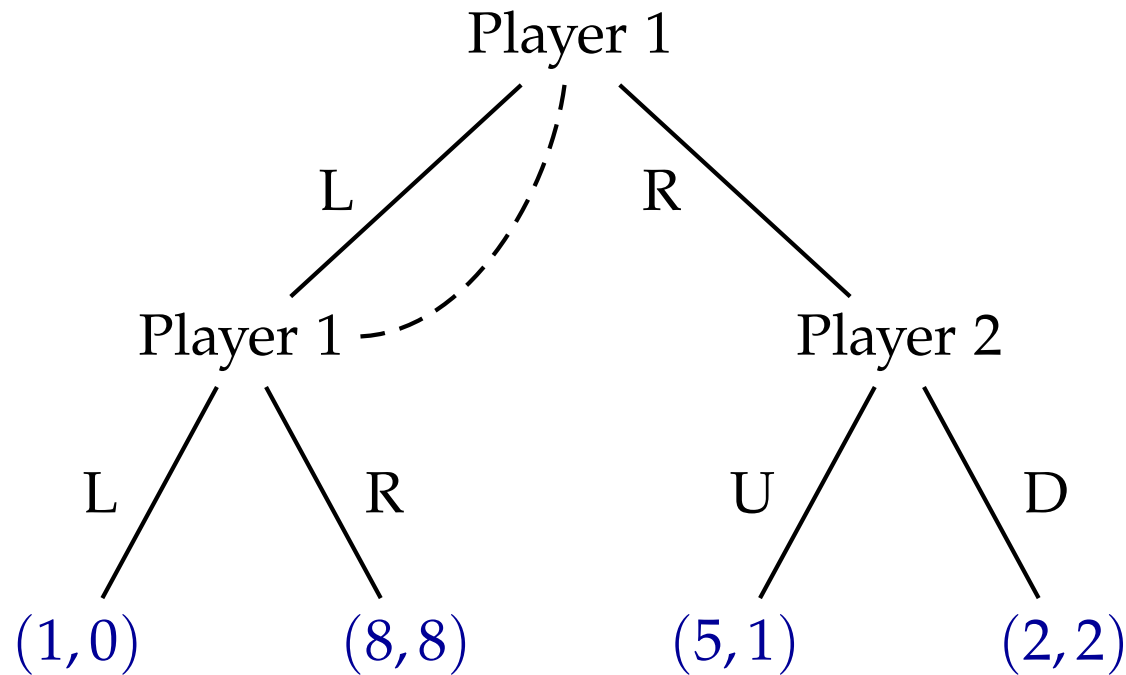


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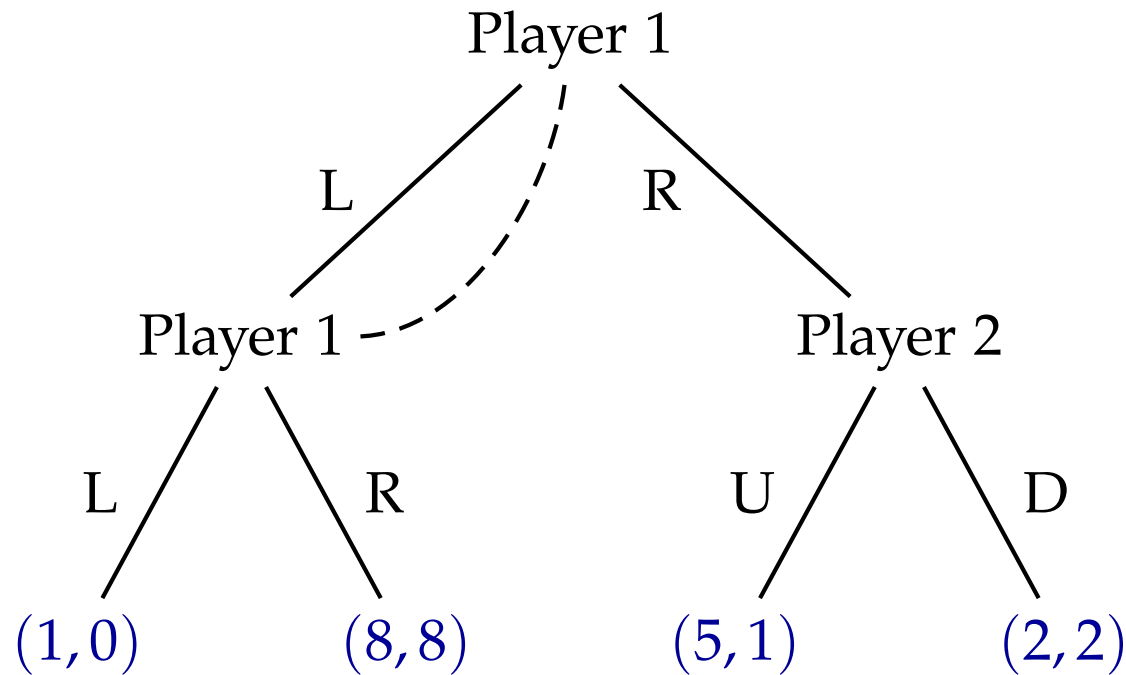


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- D is Player 2's best response.

A game with imperfect recall

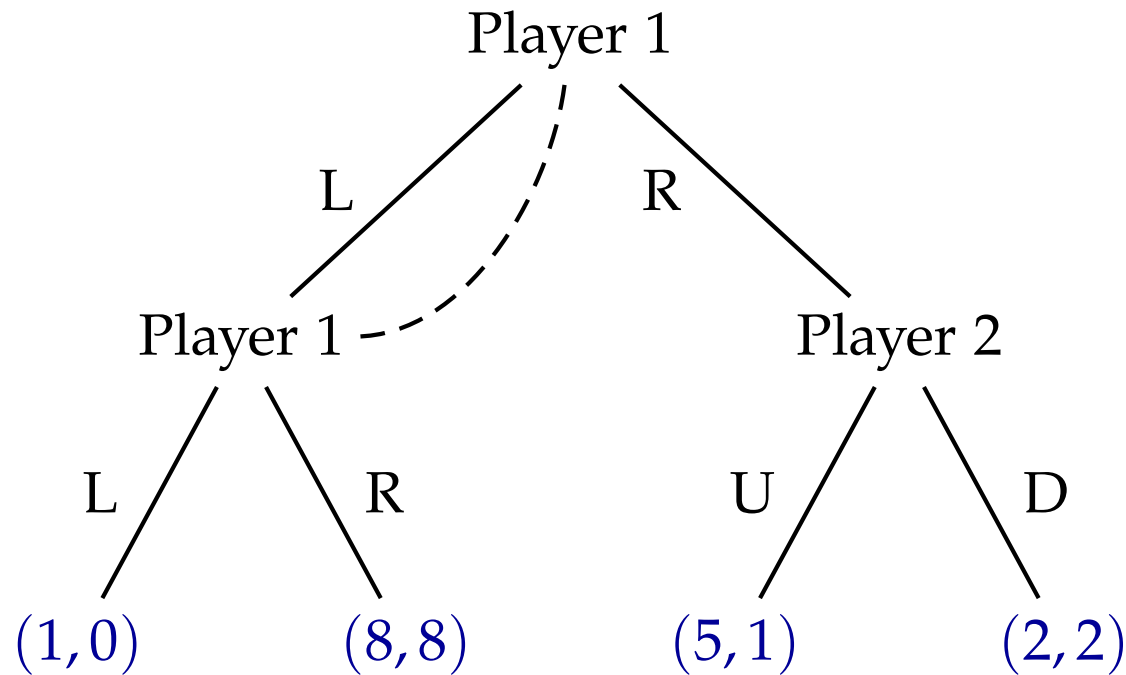


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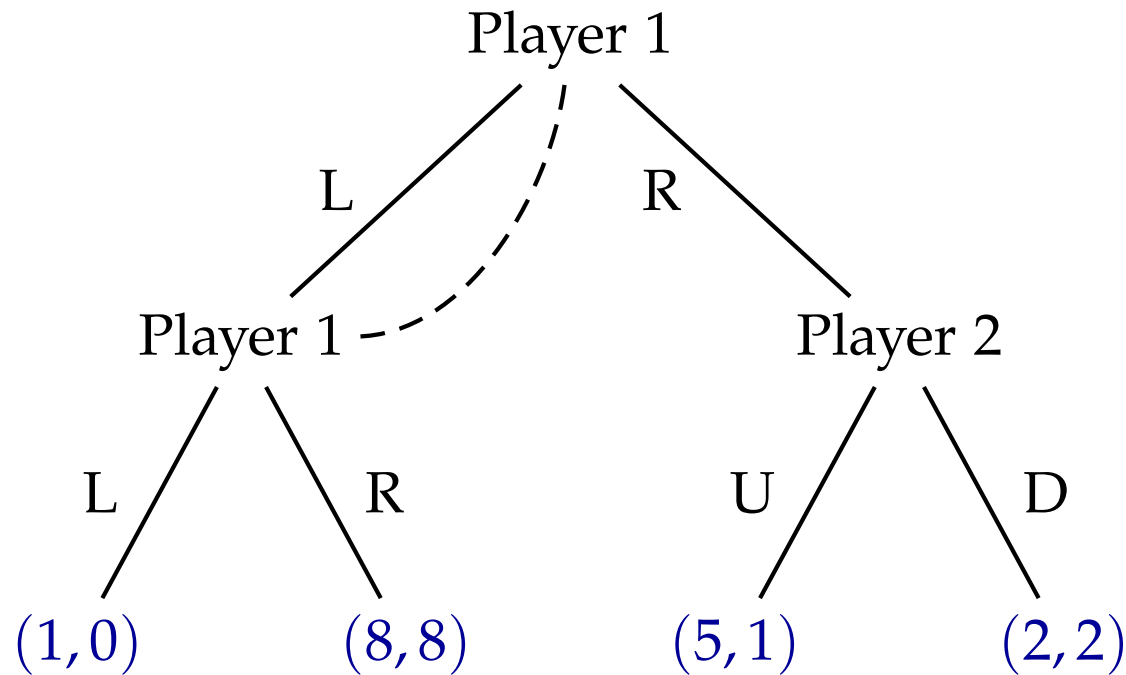
- R is the dominant strategy for Player 1.
- D is Player 2's best response.
- So (R, D) is the unique Nash equilibrium.

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Considering **behavioural strategies**, suppose Player 1 chooses L with probability p .

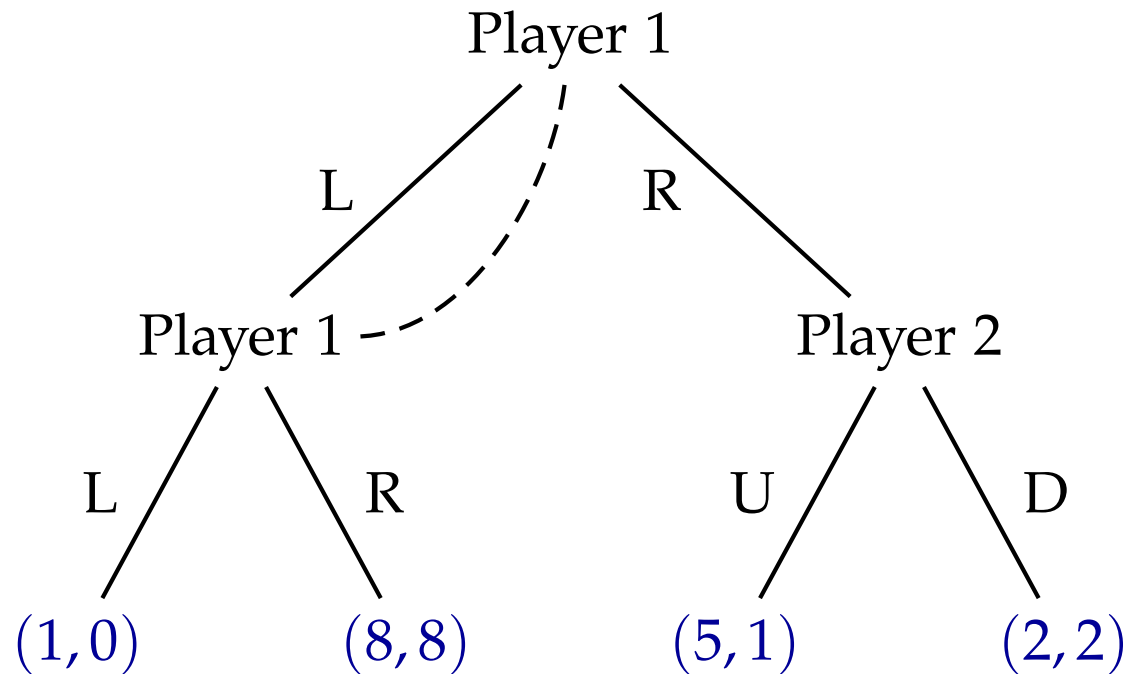
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Considering **behavioural strategies**, suppose Player 1 chooses L with probability p .

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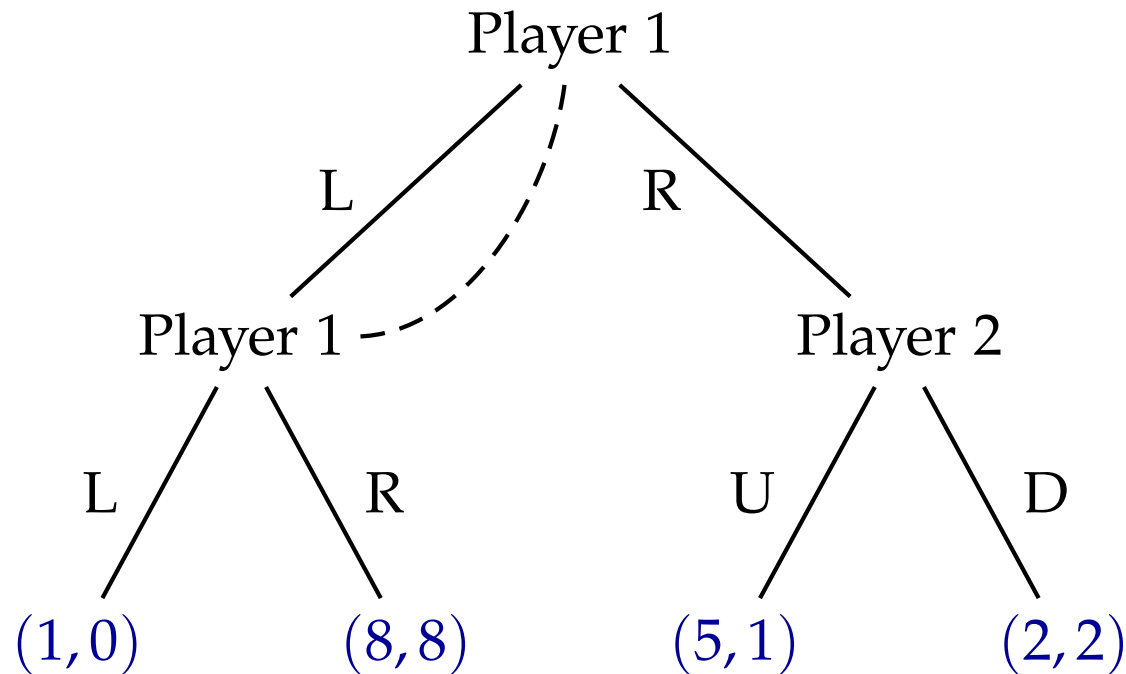
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Considering **behavioural strategies**, suppose Player 1 chooses L with probability p .

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- Player 1's expected payoff: $1p^2 + 8p(1 - p) + 2(1 - p)$.

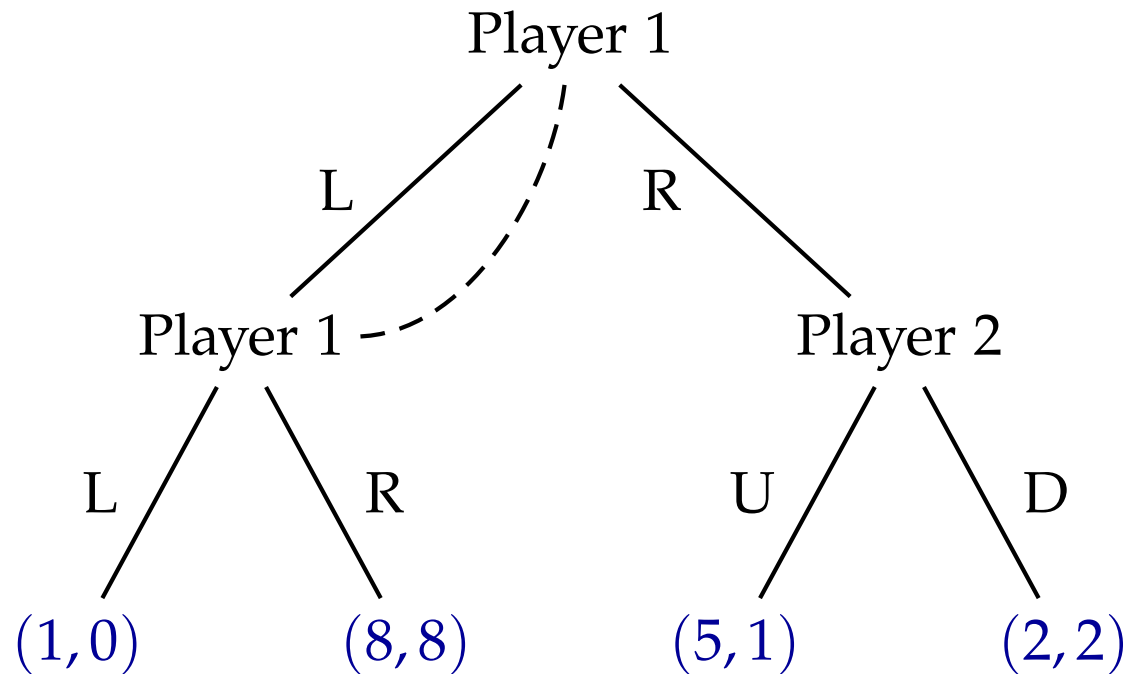
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- So $((3/7, 4/7), (0, 1))$ is the unique behavioural equilibrium.

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2. The translation works because conditional probabilities depend on information sets and not on the particular moves therein.

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- Learning in games \sim to adapt strategies in time \sim multi-agent learning.