

Multi-agent learning

Equilibria

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Equilibria: motivation



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4. Summary

Recap of notation

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- $S = S_1 \times \dots \times S_n$ is the set of all possible **strategy profiles**.
- Profile s is sometimes written as $s = (s_i, s_{-i})$, where s_{-i} is s_i 's **counter-strategy profile**.

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Battle of the sexes:

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Nash equilibria defined in terms of pure strategies

Best response

Definition (Best response). Strategy s_i is said to be a **best response** to the counterprofile s_{-i} if

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$$\begin{aligned} u_i(s) &= \sum_x s(x) u_i(x) \\ &= \sum_{x_i, x_{-i}} s(x_i, x_{-i}) u_i(x_i, x_{-i}) \\ &= \sum_{x_i, x_{-i}} s_i(x_i) s_{-i}(x_{-i}) u_i(x_i, x_{-i}) \\ &= \sum_{x_i} \sum_{x_{-i}} s_i(x_i) s_{-i}(x_{-i}) u_i(x_i, x_{-i}) \\ &= \sum_{x_{-i}} \sum_{x_i} s_i(x_i) s_{-i}(x_{-i}) u_i(x_i, x_{-i}) \end{aligned}$$

- With alternative action x'_i :

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All i maintain some strategy s_i . The strategy profile s is a Nash equilibrium if no one can profit by changing s_i unilaterally.

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Probability distributions over the strategy space

Strategies \Rightarrow strategy profile \Rightarrow joint distribution

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- Suppose n players, strategies s_1, \dots, s_n are given:

s_{-i}		y_1^{-i}	y_2^{-i}	\dots	y_n^{-i}
s_i		q_1	q_2	\dots	q_n
x_1^i	p_1	$p_1 q_1$	$p_1 q_2$	\dots	$p_1 q_n$
x_2^i	p_2	$p_2 q_1$	$p_2 q_2$	\dots	$p_2 q_n$
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\ddots	\vdots
x_m^i	p_m	$p_m q_1$	$p_m q_2$	\dots	$p_m q_n$

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\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\ddots	\vdots
x_m^i	p_m	$p_m q_1$	$p_m q_2$	\dots	$p_m q_n$

where n is the number of different counter-profiles.

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where n is the number of different counter-profiles.

- Players act independently.
- The strategy $s_i = (p_1, \dots, p_m)$ and the counter strategy profile $s_{-i} = (q_1, \dots, q_n)$ together define a **product distribution** $s \in \Delta(X)$:

$$s(x_1, \dots, x_n) =_{Def} s(x_1) \times \dots \times s(x_n).$$

Joint distribution $\not\Rightarrow$ marginal strategies

Suppose a (possibly non-product) distribution $q \in \Delta(X)$ is given.

	q_{-i}	y_1^{-i}	y_2^{-i}	\dots	y_n^{-i}
	q_i	$q_{11} \cdots q_{m1}$	$q_{12} \cdots q_{m2}$	\dots	$q_{1n} \cdots q_{mn}$
x_1^i	$q_{11} \cdots q_{1n}$	q_{11}	q_{12}	\dots	q_{1n}
x_2^i	$q_{21} \cdots q_{2n}$	q_{21}	q_{22}	\dots	q_{2n}
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- If players follow q , they need not act independently. (Example: off-diagonal is zero.)

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- But now generally

$$s(x_i, x_{-i}) \neq s(x_i)s(x_{-i}).$$

Joint distribution vs. joint strategy profile

Example. Consider:

	$L \ (0.2)$	$R \ (0.8)$
$U \ (0.6)$		
$D \ (0.4)$		

Joint distribution vs. joint strategy profile

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	$L \ (0.2)$	$R \ (0.8)$
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	$L \ (0.2)$	$R \ (0.8)$
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Example. Consider:

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In this case the joint distribution, namely $q = (0.12, 0.48, 0.08, 0.32)$, is induced by marginal distributions $s_1 = (0.6, 0.4)$ and $s_2 = (0.2, 0.8)$:
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Contrast this with q' :

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No marginal distributions exist that induce the joint distribution. In particular, s_1 and s_2 don't do it, i.e, $q' \neq s_1 \times s_2$.

Correlated equilibrium

Correlated equilibrium (Intuition)

Chicken game		
You:	Other:	
	Dare	Sway
Dare	$(-10, -10)$	$(5, 0)$
Sway	$(0, 5)$	$(-1, -1)$

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Expected payoff $-5/8$ for both in the last equilibrium.

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a probability distribution

$$q : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

be given. This q can be seen as a **coordinating device**.

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$$q =$$

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Each time, the system is in one of these four states.

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Definition. A distribution $q \in \Delta(X)$ is called a **correlated equilibrium** if no party has an incentive to deviate from its own coordinate x_i , assuming that others do not deviate from x_{-i} as well.

Correlated equilibrium (formula)

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Multiplying by $q(x_i)$ gives, for all i , x_i and x'_i :

$$\sum_{x_{-i}} q(x_i, x_{-i}) u_i(x'_i, x_{-i}) \leq \sum_{x_{-i}} q(x_i, x_{-i}) u_i(x_i, x_{-i}).$$

The latter is often used as the formula to verify a CE.

How to verify a correlated equilibrium

To verify a correlated equilibrium

We will show that

q	$=$	<i>Other:</i>	
		Green	Red
	Green	0.00	0.55
	Red	0.40	0.05

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We will show that

$$q =$$

<i>Player 1:</i>	<i>Other:</i>	
	Green	Red
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is a correlated equilibrium of

<i>Player 1:</i>	<i>Other:</i>	
	Green	Red
Green	$(-10, -10)$	$(5, 0)$
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- Suppose Player 1 sees Green.
Would it be better for him to act
as if he sees Red?

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$$\text{Green : } \frac{0}{0.55}(-10) + \frac{0.55}{0.55}5 = 5$$

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Would it be better for him to act
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Would it be better for him to act
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- Suppose Player 1 sees **Red**.
Would it be better for him to act
as if he sees **Green**?

$$\text{Red} : \frac{0.40}{0.45}0 + \frac{0.05}{0.45}(-1) = -0.11$$

$$\text{Green} : \frac{0.40}{0.45}(-10) + \frac{0.05}{0.45}5 = -8.35$$

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$$\text{Red} : \frac{0.40}{0.45}0 + \frac{0.05}{0.45}(-1) = -0.11$$

$$\text{Green} : \frac{0.40}{0.45}(-10) + \frac{0.05}{0.45}5 = -8.35$$

- $(5 + (-0.11))/2 = 2.45 >$
payoffs from two out of three NE.

The problem to find all correlated equilibria

Find all correlated equilibria

Problem: find all correlated equilibria for

You:	Other:	
	Green	Red
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Solution: set

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	Red	γ	δ

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Problem: find all correlated equilibria for

Of course, first:

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■ $0 \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \leq 1$

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Of course, first:

■ $0 \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \leq 1$

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But also:

■ $u_1(\text{act like } G \mid \text{signal } G) \geq u_1(\text{act like } R \mid \text{signal } G).$

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- Similarly for u_2 (the column player).

Find all correlated equilibria

$$u_1(\text{act like } G \mid \text{signal } G)$$

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$$-10\alpha + 5\beta$$

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Similarly for u_2 (the column player).

Find all correlated equilibria

We end up with:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0 \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \leq 1 & 5\gamma - 3\delta \geq 0 \\ \alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = 1 & -5\alpha + 3\gamma \geq 0 \\ -5\alpha + 3\beta \geq 0 & 5\beta - 3\delta \geq 0 \end{array} \right.$$

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This is a solid convex polyhedron in \mathbb{R}^3 :

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This is a solid convex polyhedron in \mathbb{R}^3 :

$$\Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \geq \alpha, \beta, \gamma \geq 0 \\ -5\alpha + 3\beta \geq 0 \\ 5\gamma - 3(1 - \alpha - \beta - \gamma) \geq 0 \\ -5\alpha + 3\gamma \geq 0 \\ 5\beta - 3(1 - \alpha - \beta - \gamma) \geq 0 \end{array} \right.$$

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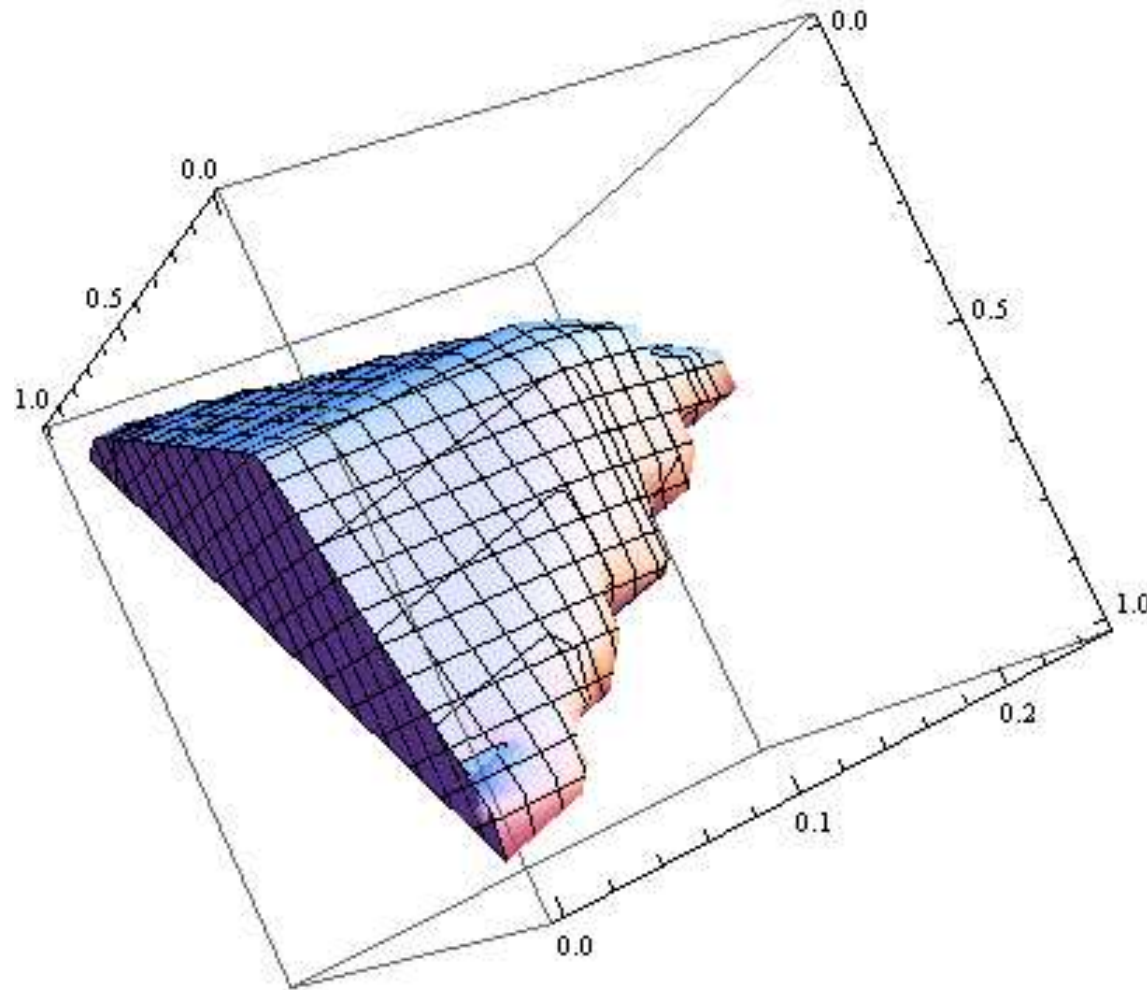
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Correlated equilibrium

Admissible values for α , β and γ in the traffic light problem:



Find **specific** correlated equilibria

Find specific correlated equilibria

What is the longest proportion of time both traffic lights can be red simultaneously before drivers start to ignore them?

Find specific correlated equilibria

What is the longest proportion of time both traffic lights can be red simultaneously before drivers start to ignore them?

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Maximize:} & \delta \\ \text{Subject to:} & \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \alpha \geq 0, \beta \geq 0, \gamma \geq 0, \delta \geq 0 & 5\gamma - 3\delta \geq 0 \\ \alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = 1 & -5\alpha + 3\gamma \geq 0 \\ -5\alpha + 3\beta \geq 0 & 5\beta - 3\delta \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$

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Gives:

$$(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) = \left(0, \frac{3}{11}, \frac{3}{11}, \frac{5}{11}\right).$$

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Gives:

$$(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) = \left(0, \frac{3}{11}, \frac{3}{11}, \frac{5}{11}\right).$$

Answer: at most $5/11 = 45\%$ of the time.

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Is it possible to let the row driver wait all the time without compromising a correlated equilibrium?

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Find specific correlated equilibria

Is it possible to let the row driver wait all the time without compromising a correlated equilibrium?

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Minimize:} & \beta \\ \text{Subject to:} & \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \alpha \geq 0, \beta \geq 0, \gamma \geq 0, \delta \geq 0 & 5\gamma - 3\delta \geq 0 \\ \alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta = 1 & -5\alpha + 3\gamma \geq 0 \\ -5\alpha + 3\beta \geq 0 & 5\beta - 3\delta \geq 0 \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$

Gives:

$$(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) = (0, 0, 1, 0).$$

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Answer: yes

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$$(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) = (0, 0, 1, 0).$$

Answer: yes, in that case $\gamma = 1$, i.e., the column driver then has to be given green light all of the time.

Find specific correlated equilibria

Is it possible to let the row driver wait all the time while letting the column driver pass no more than 50% of the time

Find specific correlated equilibria

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Gives:

$$(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) = \left(\frac{9}{98}, \frac{15}{98}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{25}{98} \right).$$

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Gives:

$$(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) = \left(\frac{9}{98}, \frac{15}{98}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{25}{98} \right).$$

Answer: no.

Find specific correlated equilibria

Is it possible to let the row driver wait all the time while letting the column driver pass no more than 50% of the time, without compromising a correlated equilibrium?

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Gives:

$$(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) = \left(\frac{9}{98}, \frac{15}{98}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{25}{98} \right).$$

Answer: no. To maintain an equilibrium, the row driver has to give way $15/98 \approx 15\%$ of the time.

Coarse correlated equilibria

Coarse correlated equilibrium (definition)

$$q =$$

You:	Other:	
	Green	Red
Green	0.00	0.55
Red	0.40	0.05

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Definition. A distribution $q \in \Delta(X)$ is called a **coarse correlated equilibrium** or **Hannan set**, if, **prior to announcing** $x \in X$, no party has an incentive to deviate from its own coordinate x_i , assuming that others do not deviate from x_{-i} as well.

Coarse correlated equilibrium (formula)

Idea:

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Suppose $q \in \Delta(X)$ is given

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Now, in a CEE, everyone blindly accepts what is given. (Think traffic light.)

For all players i and alternative actions x'_i :

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{x_{-i}} q_{-i}(x_{-i}) u_i(x'_i, x_{-i}) &\leq \sum_{x_i, x_{-i}} q(x_i, x_{-i}) u_i(x_i, x_{-i}) \\ &= \sum_x q(x) u_i(x) \\ &= u_i(q).\end{aligned}$$

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This is the same formula as for a Nash equilibrium, only the joint distribution q is not necessarily a distribution induced by strategies $\{s_i\}_i$.

Find CCE for the traffic light problem

For all i and x'_i : $\sum_{x_{-i}} q_{-i}(x_{-i}) u_i(x'_i, x_{-i}) \leq u_i(q)$.

Find CCE for the traffic light problem

For all i and x'_i : $\sum_{x_{-i}} q_{-i}(x_{-i}) u_i(x'_i, x_{-i}) \leq u_i(q)$. So:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sum_{x_{-1}} q_{-1}(x_{-1}) u_1(\textcolor{red}{G}, x_{-1}) \leq u_1(q), \\ \sum_{x_{-1}} q_{-1}(x_{-1}) u_1(\textcolor{red}{R}, x_{-1}) \leq u_1(q), \\ \sum_{x_{-2}} q_{-2}(x_{-2}) u_2(x_{-2}, \textcolor{red}{G}) \leq u_2(q), \\ \sum_{x_{-2}} q_{-2}(x_{-2}) u_2(x_{-2}, \textcolor{red}{R}) \leq u_2(q). \end{array} \right.$$

Find CCE for the traffic light problem

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Which is

$$\begin{cases} q_{-1}(G) u_1(\textcolor{red}{G}, G) + q_{-1}(R) u_1(\textcolor{red}{G}, R) \leq u_1(q), \\ q_{-1}(G) u_1(\textcolor{red}{R}, G) + q_{-1}(R) u_1(\textcolor{red}{R}, R) \leq u_1(q), \\ q_{-2}(G) u_2(G, \textcolor{red}{G}) + q_{-2}(R) u_2(R, \textcolor{red}{G}) \leq u_2(q), \\ q_{-2}(G) u_2(G, \textcolor{red}{R}) + q_{-2}(R) u_2(R, \textcolor{red}{R}) \leq u_2(q). \end{cases}$$

Find CCE for the traffic light problem

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We will have to solve

$$\begin{cases} (\alpha + \gamma) \cdot -10 + (\beta + \delta) \cdot 5 \leq -10\alpha + 5\beta + 0\gamma - 1\delta, \\ (\alpha + \gamma) \cdot 0 + (\beta + \delta) \cdot -1 \leq -10\alpha + 5\beta + 0\gamma - 1\delta, \\ (\alpha + \beta) \cdot -10 + (\gamma + \delta) \cdot 5 \leq -10\alpha + 0\beta + 5\gamma - 1\delta, \\ (\alpha + \beta) \cdot 0 + (\gamma + \delta) \cdot -1 \leq -10\alpha + 0\beta + 5\gamma - 1\delta. \end{cases}$$

Find CCE for the traffic light problem (continued)

We end up with the same system of inequalities as with the computation of all correlated equilibria, see Slide 25.

Find CCE for the traffic light problem (ctd)

And the same polyhedron, see Slide 26.

For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

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For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

Suppose

	Left	Right
Up	(a, a')	(b, c')
Down	(c, b')	(d, d')

For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

Suppose

	Left	Right			Left	Right
Up	(a, a')	(b, c')	and $q =$	Up	α	β
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CE means for all players i , actions x_i and alternative actions x'_i :

$$\sum_{x_{-i}} q(x_i, x_{-i}) u_i(x'_i, x_{-i}) \leq \sum_{x_{-i}} q(x_i, x_{-i}) u_i(x_i, x_{-i}).$$

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So

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} D \text{ for } U: \quad q(U, L) u_1(D, L) + q(U, R) u_1(D, R) \leq q(U, L) u_1(U, L) + q(U, R) u_1(U, R) \end{array} \right.$$

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For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

So

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For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

So

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha c + \beta d \leq \alpha a + \beta b \\ \gamma a + \delta b \leq \gamma c + \delta d \\ \alpha c' + \gamma d' \leq \alpha a' + \gamma b' \end{array} \right.$$

For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

So

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For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

So

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For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

So

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha c + \beta d \leq \alpha a + \beta b \\ \gamma a + \delta b \leq \gamma c + \delta d \\ \alpha c' + \gamma d' \leq \alpha a' + \gamma b' \\ \beta a' + \delta b' \leq \beta c' + \delta d' \end{array} \right. \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha(c - a) + \beta(d - b) \leq 0 \\ \gamma(a - c) + \delta(b - d) \leq 0 \\ \alpha(c' - a') + \gamma(d' - b') \leq 0 \end{array} \right.$$

For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

So

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha c + \beta d \leq \alpha a + \beta b \\ \gamma a + \delta b \leq \gamma c + \delta d \\ \alpha c' + \gamma d' \leq \alpha a' + \gamma b' \\ \beta a' + \delta b' \leq \beta c' + \delta d' \end{array} \right. \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha(c - a) + \beta(d - b) \leq 0 \\ \gamma(a - c) + \delta(b - d) \leq 0 \\ \alpha(c' - a') + \gamma(d' - b') \leq 0 \\ \beta(a' - c') + \delta(b' - d') \leq 0. \end{array} \right.$$

For 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide

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CCE means for all players i and alternative actions x'_i :

$$\sum_{x_{-i}} q_{-i}(x_{-i}) u_i(x'_i, x_{-i}) \leq \sum_{x_i, x_{-i}} q(x_i, x_{-i}) u_i(x_i, x_{-i})$$

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So for 2x2 games, CE and CCE coincide.

CCE that aren't CE

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- CE consists of all $q \in \Delta(X)$ that give equal probability, say x , to green profiles, and probability $y_i \leq x$ to blue profiles, such that $6x + y_1 + y_2 + y_3 = 1$.
- CCE consists of much more, viz. all $q \in \Delta(X)$ where each column sum does not supersede row's payoff

$$q(R, R) + q(Y, Y) + q(B, B)$$

and each row sum does not supersede cols's payoff

$$q(R, B) + q(Y, R) + q(B, Y).$$

See also PY, SLaiL, Ch. 3, p. 34.

CCE that aren't CE

- With only two actions, CE and CCE coincide

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CCE that aren't CE

- With only two actions, CE and CCE coincide, because probabilities of counter strategy profiles are complementary.
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- With only two actions, CE and CCE coincide, because probabilities of counter strategy profiles are complementary.
- Consider the fashion game

	Red	Yellow	Blue
Red	(1, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 1)
Yellow	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(0, 0)
Blue	(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)

where row wants to copy col,
and col wants to be one color
ahead of row: $Y < R < B < Y$.

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- CE consists of all $q \in \Delta(X)$ that give equal probability, say x , to green profiles, and probability $y_i \leq x$ to blue profiles, such that $6x + y_1 + y_2 + y_3 = 1$.
- CCE consists of much more, viz. all $q \in \Delta(X)$ where each column sum does not supersede row's payoff

$$q(R, R) + q(Y, Y) + q(B, B)$$

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See also PY, SLaiL, Ch. 3, p. 34.

Hierarchy of equilibria

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Therefore, every Nash equilibrium is a correlated equilibrium.

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2. It is more easy to obtain results regarding performance.

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Good luck!