

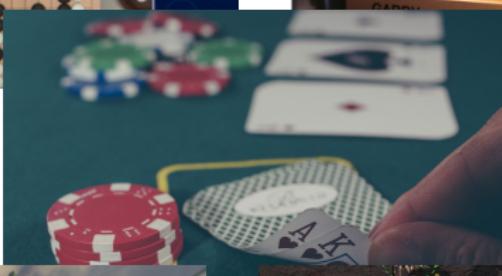


Learning in Zero-Sum Games

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Motivation: a Long-Standing Goal of AI...



...with Potential Applications in Real-World Environments



In 2016, mobile games will generate **\$36.9Bn** or **37%** of the global market.

newzoo

Outline

Learning in Two-Player Zero-Sum Games

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria

The Exp3 Algorithm

From Normal Form to Extensive Form Imperfect Information Games

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria

Counterfactual Regret Minimization

Outline

Learning in Two-Player Zero-Sum Games

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Games

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Games

Normal Form Games

The game

- ▶ Set of players $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$
- ▶ Action sets A_i , joint action set $A = A_1 \times \dots \times A_n$
- ▶ Joint action $a \in A$, player i 's action a_i , all other players a_{-i}
- ▶ Utility (payoff/reward) function $u : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, player i 's utility $u_i : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Mixed strategies

- ▶ Joint strategy $\sigma \in \mathcal{D}(A)$ such that $\sigma(a) = \prod_{i=1}^n \sigma_i(a_i)$
- ▶ Utility of a strategy $u_i(\sigma) = \sum_{a_i} \sum_{a_{-i}} \sigma_i(a_i) \sigma_{-i}(a_{-i}) u_i(a_i, a_{-i})$

Two-Player Zero-Sum Games

The game

- ▶ Set of players $N = \{1, 2\} = \{i, j\}$
- ▶ Action sets A_i , joint action set $A = A_1 \times A_2$
- ▶ Joint action $a \in A$, player i 's action a_i , other player's a_j
- ▶ Utility (payoff/reward) function $u : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, player i 's utility $u_i : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
$$\forall a \in A, \quad u_1(a) = -u_2(a)$$

Solution concept

- ▶ *Nash equilibrium* $(\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*) = \arg \max_{\sigma_1} \min_{\sigma_2} u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$
- ▶ *Value of the game* $V = \max_{\sigma_1} \min_{\sigma_2} u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Game

Action set $A_1 = A_2 = \{(R)\text{ock}, (P)\text{aper}, (S)\text{cissor}\}$

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	1, -1
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Solution (*sketch*)

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	1, -1
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

- If (σ_1^*, σ_2^*) is a Nash equilibrium, then

$$\sigma_1^* = \text{BR}(\sigma_2^*) = \arg \max_{\sigma_1} u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_2^*) = \arg \max_{\sigma_1} \sum_{a_1 \in A_1} \sigma_1(a_1) u_1(a_1, \sigma_2^*)$$

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Solution (*sketch*)

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	1, -1
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

- If (σ_1^*, σ_2^*) is a Nash equilibrium, then

$$\sigma_1^* = \text{BR}(\sigma_2^*) = \arg \max_{\sigma_1} u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_2^*) = \arg \max_{\sigma_1} \sum_{a_1 \in A_1} \sigma_1(a_1) u_1(a_1, \sigma_2^*)$$

$$\Rightarrow \forall a_1 \in A, \quad u_1 = u_1(a_1, \sigma_2^*)$$

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Solution (*sketch*)

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	1, -1
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

- Let $\sigma_2 = (\sigma_2(R), \sigma_2(P), \sigma_2(S))$ the strategy of player *column* then

$$u_1 = u_1(R, \sigma_2) = 0\sigma_2(R) - 1\sigma_2(P) + 1\sigma_2(S)$$

$$u_1 = u_1(P, \sigma_2) = 1\sigma_2(R) + 0\sigma_2(P) - 1\sigma_2(S)$$

$$u_1 = u_1(S, \sigma_2) = -1\sigma_2(R) + 1\sigma_2(P) + 0\sigma_2(S)$$

$$1 = \sigma_2(R) + \sigma_2(P) + \sigma_2(S)$$

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Solution (*sketch*)

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	1, -1
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

- Let $\sigma_2 = (\sigma_2(R), \sigma_2(P), \sigma_2(S))$ the strategy of player *column* then

$$u_1 = u_1(R, \sigma_2) = 0\sigma_2(R) - 1\sigma_2(P) + 1\sigma_2(S)$$

$$u_1 = u_1(P, \sigma_2) = 1\sigma_2(R) + 0\sigma_2(P) - 1\sigma_2(S)$$

$$u_1 = u_1(S, \sigma_2) = -1\sigma_2(R) + 1\sigma_2(P) + 0\sigma_2(S)$$

$$1 = \sigma_2(R) + \sigma_2(P) + \sigma_2(S)$$

- Solving for all variables gives $\sigma_2^* = (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)$ and $u_1 = 0$

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Solution (*sketch*)

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	1, -1
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

- Let $\sigma_2 = (\sigma_2(R), \sigma_2(P), \sigma_2(S))$ the strategy of player *column* then

$$u_1 = u_1(R, \sigma_2) = 0\sigma_2(R) - 1\sigma_2(P) + 1\sigma_2(S)$$

$$u_1 = u_1(P, \sigma_2) = 1\sigma_2(R) + 0\sigma_2(P) - 1\sigma_2(S)$$

$$u_1 = u_1(S, \sigma_2) = -1\sigma_2(R) + 1\sigma_2(P) + 0\sigma_2(S)$$

$$1 = \sigma_2(R) + \sigma_2(P) + \sigma_2(S)$$

- Solving for all variables gives $\sigma_2^* = (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)$ and $u_1 = 0$
- Repeating for player *row* gives $\sigma_1^* = (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)$ and $u_2 = 0$

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Solution (*sketch*)

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	1, -1
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

- Let $\sigma_2 = (\sigma_2(R), \sigma_2(P), \sigma_2(S))$ the strategy of player *column* then

$$u_1 = u_1(R, \sigma_2) = 0\sigma_2(R) - 1\sigma_2(P) + 1\sigma_2(S)$$

$$u_1 = u_1(P, \sigma_2) = 1\sigma_2(R) + 0\sigma_2(P) - 1\sigma_2(S)$$

$$u_1 = u_1(S, \sigma_2) = -1\sigma_2(R) + 1\sigma_2(P) + 0\sigma_2(S)$$

$$1 = \sigma_2(R) + \sigma_2(P) + \sigma_2(S)$$

- Solving for all variables gives $\sigma_2^* = (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)$ and $u_1 = 0$
- Repeating for player *row* gives $\sigma_1^* = (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)$ and $u_2 = 0$
- (σ_1^*, σ_2^*) is a Nash equilibrium and the value of the game is $V = 0$

A Single-Player Perspective

Sequential game

- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player 1 chooses $\sigma_{1,t}$
 - ▶ Player 2 chooses $\sigma_{2,t}$
 - ▶ Players play actions $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$ and $a_{2,t} \sim \sigma_{2,t}$
 - ▶ Players receive payoffs $u_1(a_{1,t}, a_{2,t})$ and $u_2(a_{1,t}, a_{2,t})$

Solution: Nash equilibrium

$$(\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*) = \arg \max_{\sigma_1} \min_{\sigma_2} u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$$

A Single-Player Perspective

Sequential game \Rightarrow Single-player game

- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player 1 chooses $\sigma_{1,t}$
 - ▶ ~~Player 2 chooses $\sigma_{2,t}$~~
 - ▶ Players play actions $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$ and $a_{2,t} \sim \sigma_{2,t}$
 - ▶ Players receive payoffs $u_1(a_{1,t}, a_{2,t})$ and $u_2(a_{1,t}, a_{2,t})$

Solution: Nash equilibrium \Rightarrow Maximize the (average) utility

$$(\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*) = \arg \max_{\sigma_1} \min_{\sigma_2} u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (a_{1,1}^*, \dots, a_{1,n}^*) &= \arg \max_{(a_{1,1}, \dots, a_{1,n})} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(a_{1,t}, a_{2,t}) \\ &= \arg \max_{(a_{1,1}, \dots, a_{1,n})} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(a_{1,t}) \end{aligned}$$

The (Multi-Armed Bandit) Problem

A learning problem

- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player 1 chooses $\sigma_{1,t}$
 - ▶ Player 1 plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
 - ▶ Player 1 receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$

Remarks

- ▶ No information about $a_{2,t}$ and utility u_2
- ▶ Utility function $u_{1,t}$ is only observed for $a_{1,t}$ (i.e., $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$)

The (Multi-Armed Bandit) Problem

- ▶ *Regret in hindsight* w.r.t. any fixed action a_1

$$R_n(a_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(a_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$$

The (Multi-Armed Bandit) Problem

- ▶ *Regret in hindsight* w.r.t. any fixed action a_1

$$R_n(\textcolor{red}{a}_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{red}{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{blue}{a}_{1,t})$$

- ▶ *Objective:* find actions $(a_{1,1}, \dots, a_{1,n})$ that maximize average utility
 \approx *minimize the regret* w.r.t. the best action a_1

Utility: $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{blue}{a}_{1,t})$

Regret: $R_n = \max_{\textcolor{red}{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{red}{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{blue}{a}_{1,t})$

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria

Theorem

A learning algorithm is *Hannan's consistent* if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n = 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Given a two-player zero-sum game with value V , if players choose strategies $\sigma_{1,t}$ and $\sigma_{2,t}$ using a Hannan's consistent algorithm, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(a_{1,t}, a_{2,t}) = V$$

Furthermore, let empirical frequency strategies be

$$\widehat{\sigma}_{1,n}(a_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbb{I}\{a_{1,t} = a_1\} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{\sigma}_{2,n}(a_2) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbb{I}\{a_{2,t} = a_2\}$$

then the joint empirical strategy

$$\widehat{\sigma}_{1,n} \times \widehat{\sigma}_{2,n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \{(\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*)\}_{\text{Nash}}$$

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria [proof]

- ▶ [Hannan's consistency]

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n = 0 \iff \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\max_{\textcolor{red}{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{red}{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{blue}{a}_{1,t}) \right) = 0$$

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria [proof]

- ▶ [Hannan's consistency]

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n = 0 \iff \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\max_{\textcolor{red}{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{red}{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{blue}{a}_{1,t}) \right) = 0$$

- ▶ [linearity of utility function]

$$\max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\sigma_1) = \max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \sum_{a_1 \in A_1} \sigma_1(a_1) u_{1,t}(a_1) = \max_{\textcolor{red}{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{red}{a}_1)$$

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria [proof]

- ▶ [Hannan's consistency]

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n = 0 \iff \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\max_{\textcolor{red}{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{red}{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{blue}{a}_{1,t}) \right) = 0$$

- ▶ [linearity of utility function]

$$\max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\sigma_1) = \max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \sum_{a_1 \in A_1} \sigma_1(a_1) u_{1,t}(a_1) = \max_{\textcolor{red}{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{red}{a}_1)$$

- ▶ [definition] $u_{1,t}(\sigma_1) = u_1(\sigma_1, a_{2,t})$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\sigma_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \sum_{\textcolor{brown}{a}_2 \in A_2} \mathbb{I}\{a_{2,t} = \textcolor{brown}{a}_2\} u_1(\sigma_1, \textcolor{brown}{a}_2) = \sum_{\textcolor{brown}{a}_2 \in A_2} u_1(\sigma_1, \textcolor{brown}{a}_2) \underbrace{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbb{I}\{a_{2,t} = \textcolor{brown}{a}_2\}}_{\widehat{\sigma}_{2,n}(\textcolor{brown}{a}_2)}$$

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria [proof]

- ▶ [Hannan's consistency]

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n = 0 \iff \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\max_{\mathbf{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\mathbf{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\mathbf{a}_{1,t}) \right) = 0$$

- ▶ [linearity of utility function]

$$\max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\sigma_1) = \max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \sum_{a_1 \in A_1} \sigma_1(a_1) u_{1,t}(a_1) = \max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\mathbf{a}_1)$$

- ▶ [definition] $u_{1,t}(\sigma_1) = u_1(\sigma_1, a_{2,t})$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\sigma_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \sum_{a_2 \in A_2} \mathbb{I}\{a_{2,t} = a_2\} u_1(\sigma_1, a_2) = \sum_{a_2 \in A_2} u_1(\sigma_1, a_2) \underbrace{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbb{I}\{a_{2,t} = a_2\}}_{\widehat{\sigma}_{2,n}(a_2)}$$

- ▶ [one-side of the result]

$$\max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\sigma_1) = \max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_1, \widehat{\sigma}_{2,n}) \geq \max_{\sigma_1} \min_{\sigma_2} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) = V$$

[or player 2] ⇒ desired result.

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria

Corollary

If

$$R_n \leq \epsilon$$

then the joint empirical strategy is ϵ -Nash, i.e.,

$$u_1(\widehat{\sigma}_{1,n} \times \widehat{\sigma}_{2,n}) \geq V - \epsilon$$

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Hannan's Consistent Algorithms

A learning problem

- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player 1 chooses $\sigma_{1,t}$
 - ▶ Player 1 plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
 - ▶ Player 1 receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$

Objective

- ▶ Regret

$$R_n = \max_{\textcolor{red}{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{red}{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\textcolor{blue}{a}_{1,t})$$

- ▶ Hannan's consistent algorithm

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n = 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 1: fictitious play full information (aka follow-the-leader)

- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Compute greedy action

$$a_t^* = \arg \max_{a \in A_1} \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} u_{1,t}(a)$$

- ▶ Player chooses $\sigma_{1,t} = \delta(a_t^*)$
- ▶ Player plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$

Remarks

- ▶ This strategy is easily exploitable $R_n = O(1)$
- ▶ Self play *does not converge* in general

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 2: exponentially weighted forecaster (EWF)

- ▶ *Initialize weights* $w_0(a) = 0$ for all $a \in A_1$
- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player chooses

$$\sigma_{1,t}(a) = \frac{w_{t-1}(a)}{\sum_{b \in A_1} w_{t-1}(b)}$$

- ▶ Player plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$ and $u_{1,t}(a)$ for all a
- ▶ Update weights

$$w_t(a) = w_{t-1}(a) \exp(\eta_t u_{1,t}(a))$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 2: exponentially weighted forecaster (EWF)

- ▶ *Initialize weights* $w_0(a) = 0$ for all $a \in A_1$
- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player chooses

$$\sigma_{1,t}(a) = \frac{w_{t-1}(a)}{\sum_{b \in A_1} w_{t-1}(b)} \quad [\text{prop. to weights}]$$

- ▶ Player plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$ and $u_{1,t}(a)$ for all a
- ▶ Update weights

$$w_t(a) = w_{t-1}(a) \exp(\eta_t u_{1,t}(a))$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 2: exponentially weighted forecaster (EWF)

- ▶ *Initialize weights* $w_0(a) = 0$ for all $a \in A_1$
- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player chooses

$$\sigma_{1,t}(a) = \frac{w_{t-1}(a)}{\sum_{b \in A_1} w_{t-1}(b)} \quad [\text{prop. to weights}]$$

- ▶ Player plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$ and $u_{1,t}(a)$ for all a *[full info]*
- ▶ Update weights

$$w_t(a) = w_{t-1}(a) \exp(\eta_t u_{1,t}(a))$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 2: exponentially weighted forecaster (EWF)

- ▶ *Initialize weights* $w_0(a) = 0$ for all $a \in A_1$
- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player chooses

$$\sigma_{1,t}(a) = \frac{w_{t-1}(a)}{\sum_{b \in A_1} w_{t-1}(b)} \quad [\text{prop. to weights}]$$

- ▶ Player plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$ and $u_{1,t}(a)$ for all a *[full info]*
- ▶ Update weights

$$w_t(a) = w_{t-1}(a) \exp(\eta_t u_{1,t}(a)) \quad [\text{exponentiated utility}]$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Theorem

If EWF is run over n steps with $\eta_t = \eta$, then with probability $1 - \delta$

$$R_n = \max_{\mathbf{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\mathbf{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\mathbf{a}_{1,t}) \leq \frac{\log(A_1)}{n\eta} + \frac{\eta}{8} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \log(1/\delta)}$$

Setting $\eta = \sqrt{8 \log(A_1)/n}$ we obtain

$$R_n \leq \sqrt{\frac{\log(A_1)}{2n}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \log(1/\delta)}$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Theorem

If EWF is run over n steps with $\eta_t = \eta$, then with probability $1 - \delta$

$$R_n = \max_{\mathbf{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\mathbf{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\mathbf{a}_{1,t}) \leq \frac{\log(A_1)}{n\eta} + \frac{\eta}{8} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \log(1/\delta)}$$

Setting $\eta = \sqrt{8 \log(A_1)/n}$ we obtain

$$R_n \leq \sqrt{\frac{\log(A_1)}{2n}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \log(1/\delta)}$$

Remarks

- ▶ $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n \leq 0 \Rightarrow$ Hannan's consistency
- ▶ Rate of convergence $O(1/\sqrt{n})$
- ▶ In self-play EWF “converges” to the Nash equilibrium

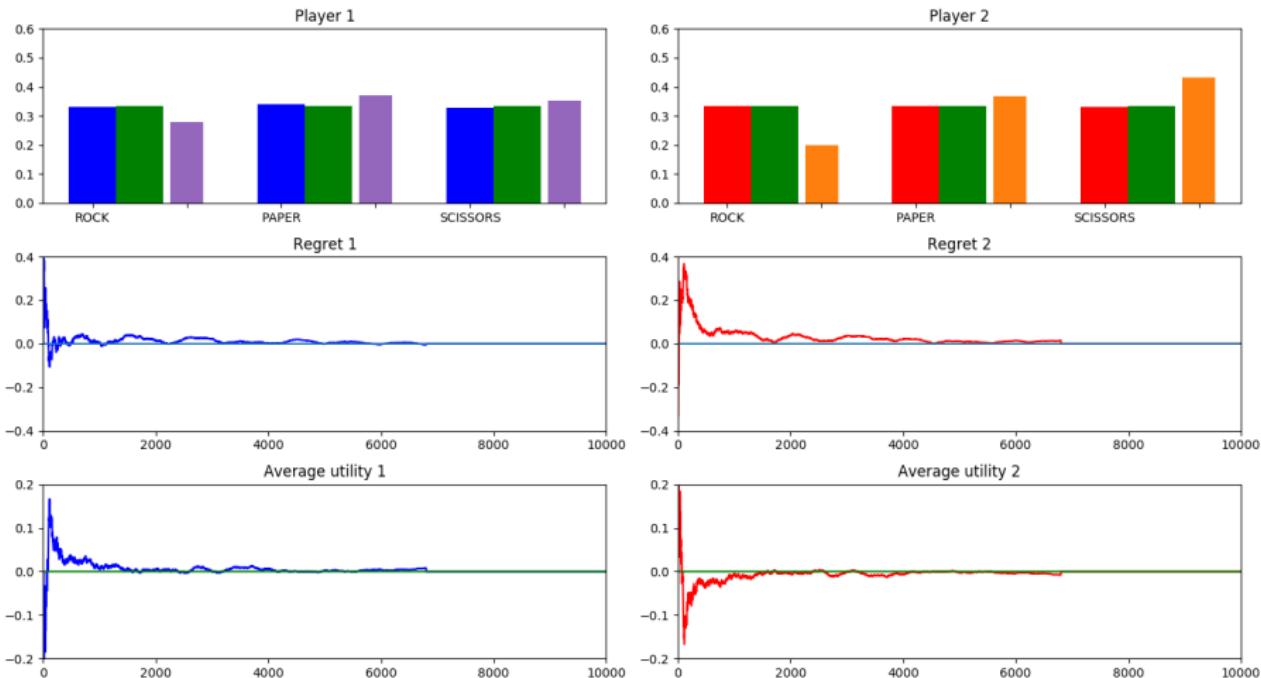
Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Simulation

Action set $A_1 = A_2 = \{(R)\text{ock}, (P)\text{aper}, (S)\text{cissor}\}$

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	1, -1
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

- ▶ Equilibrium $\sigma_1^* = \sigma_2^* = (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)$
- ▶ Value of the game $V = 0.0$

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Simulation



Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Simulation *Mod*

Action set $A_1 = A_2 = \{(R)\text{ock}, (P)\text{aper}, (S)\text{cissor}\}$

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	2, -2
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

- ▶ Equilibrium $\sigma_1^* = (1/4, 5/12, 1/3)$
- ▶ Value of the game $V = 1/12 (\approx 0.833)$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 2: exponentially weighted forecaster (EWF)

- ▶ *Initialize weights* $w_0(a) = 0$ for all $a \in A_1$
- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player chooses

$$\sigma_{1,t}(a) = \frac{w_{t-1}(a)}{\sum_{b \in A_1} w_{t-1}(b)} \quad [\text{prop. to weights}]$$

- ▶ Player plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$ and $u_{1,t}(a)$ for all a *[full info]*
- ▶ Update weights

$$w_t(a) = w_{t-1}(a) \exp(\eta_t u_{1,t}(a)) \quad [\text{exponentiated utility}]$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

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Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Problem:

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Learning the Nash Equilibrium

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- ▶ Player plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$
- ▶ Update weights

$$w_t(a) = w_{t-1}(a) \exp(\eta_t u_{1,t}(a)) \quad [\text{exponentiated utility}]$$

Solution:

- ▶ Importance sampling

$$\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a) = \begin{cases} \frac{u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})}{\sigma_{1,t}(a_{1,t})} & \text{if } a = a_{1,t} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ Unbiased estimator

$$\forall a \in A_1 \quad \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \sigma_{1,t}} [\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a)] = \sigma_{1,t}(a) \frac{u_{1,t}(a)}{\sigma_{1,t}} + (1 - \sigma_{1,t}(a)) \times 0 = u_{1,t}(a)$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 3: EWF for Exploration-Exploitation (EXP3)

- ▶ Initialize weights $w_0(a) = 0$ for all $a \in A_1$

- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$

- ▶ Player chooses

$$\sigma_{1,t}(a) = \frac{w_{t-1}(a)}{\sum_{b \in A_1} w_{t-1}(b)} \quad [\text{prop. to weights}]$$

- ▶ Player plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$
- ▶ Compute *pseudo-payoffs*

$$\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a) = \begin{cases} \frac{u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})}{\sigma_{1,t}(a_{1,t})} & \text{if } a = a_{1,t} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ Update weights

$$w_t(a) = w_{t-1}(a) \exp(\eta_t \tilde{u}_{1,t}(a))$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Theorem

If EXP3 is run over n steps with $\eta_t = \sqrt{2 \log(A_1) / (nA_1)}$, then its **pseudo-regret** is bounded as

$$\bar{R}_n = \max_{\textcolor{red}{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbb{E}[u_{1,t}(\textcolor{red}{a}_1)] - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbb{E}[u_{1,t}(\textcolor{blue}{a}_{1,t})] \leq \sqrt{\frac{2A_1 \log(A_1)}{n}}$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

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Remarks

- ▶ $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \bar{R}_n \leq 0 \Rightarrow$ Hannan's consistency?
- ▶ Rate of convergence $O(1/\sqrt{n})$
- ▶ Regret larger by a factor $\sqrt{A_1}$ (observing 1 vs A_1 payoffs)

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Simulation *Mod2*

Action set $A_1 = A_2 = \{(R)\text{ock}, (P)\text{aper}, (S)\text{cissor}\}$

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
<i>R</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	5, -5
<i>P</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
<i>S</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

- ▶ Equilibrium $\sigma_1^* = (1/7, 11/21, 1/3)$
- ▶ Value of the game $V = 4/21 (\approx 0.1904)$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Problem:

- ▶ Importance sampling is unbiased

$$\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a) = \begin{cases} \frac{u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})}{\sigma_{1,t}(a_{1,t})} & \text{if } a = a_{1,t} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}; \quad \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \sigma_{1,t}} [\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a)] = u_{1,t}(a)$$

- ▶ Variance

$$\mathbb{V}_{a \sim \sigma_{1,t}} [\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a)] \xrightarrow{\sigma_{1,t}(a) \rightarrow 0} \infty$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Problem:

- ▶ Importance sampling is unbiased

$$\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a) = \begin{cases} \frac{u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})}{\sigma_{1,t}(a_{1,t})} & \text{if } a = a_{1,t} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}; \quad \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \sigma_{1,t}} [\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a)] = u_{1,t}(a)$$

- ▶ Variance

$$\mathbb{V}_{a \sim \sigma_{1,t}} [\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a)] \xrightarrow{\sigma_{1,t}(a) \rightarrow 0} \infty$$

Solution:

- ▶ *Bias* both pseudo-payoff

$$\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a) = \frac{u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})\mathbb{I}\{a = a_{1,t}\} + \beta_t}{\sigma_{1,t}(a_{1,t})}$$

- ▶ Mix strategy with *uniform* exploration

$$\sigma_{1,t}(a) = (1 - \gamma_t) \frac{w_{1,t}(a)}{\sum b \in A_1 w_{1,t}(b)} + \frac{\gamma_t}{A_1}$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 3: EWF for Exploration-Exploitation w.h.p. (EXP3.P)

- ▶ Initialize weights $w_0(a) = 0$ for all $a \in A_1$
- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player chooses

$$\sigma_{1,t}(a) = (1 - \gamma_t) \frac{w_{1,t}(a)}{\sum b \in A_1 w_{1,t}(b)} + \frac{\gamma_t}{A_1}$$

- ▶ Player plays action $a_{1,t} \sim \sigma_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player receives payoff $u_{1,t}(a_{1,t})$
- ▶ Compute *pseudo-payoffs*

$$\tilde{u}_{1,t}(a) = \frac{u_{1,t}(a_{1,t}) \mathbb{I}\{a = a_{1,t}\} + \beta_t}{\sigma_{1,t}(a_{1,t})}$$

- ▶ Update weights

$$w_t(a) = w_{t-1}(a) \exp(\eta_t \tilde{u}_{1,t}(a))$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Theorem

If EXP3.P is run over n steps with $\beta_t \approx \eta_t = \sqrt{2 \log(A_1)/(nA_1)}$,
 $\gamma_t = \sqrt{A_1 \log(A_1)/n}$, then with probability $1 - \delta$ its **regret** is bounded as

$$R_n = \max_{\mathbf{a}_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\mathbf{a}_1) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_{1,t}(\mathbf{a}_{1,t}) \leq 6 \sqrt{\frac{A_1 \log(A_1/\delta)}{n}}$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Theorem

If EXP3.P is run over n steps with $\beta_t \approx \eta_t = \sqrt{2 \log(A_1)/(nA_1)}$, $\gamma_t = \sqrt{A_1 \log(A_1)/n}$, then with probability $1 - \delta$ its **regret** is bounded as

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Remarks

- ▶ $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n \leq 0 \Rightarrow$ Hannan's consistency!
- ▶ EXP3.P in self-play converges to Nash equilibrium

Rock-Paper-Scissors – The Simulation *Mod2*

Action set $A_1 = A_2 = \{(R)\text{ock}, (P)\text{aper}, (S)\text{cissor}\}$

	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>S</i>
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- ▶ Equilibrium $\sigma_1^* = (1/7, 11/21, 1/3)$
- ▶ Value of the game $V = 4/21 (\approx 0.1904)$

Summary

- + EXP3.P minimizes regret in adversarial environments
- + EXP3.P converges to Nash equilibria in self-play
- + No need to know
 - ▶ Utility function (i.e., the rules of the game)
 - ▶ Actions performed by the adversary

Summary

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- ≈ Some of this can be extended to learn correlated equilibria

Summary

- + EXP3.P minimizes regret in adversarial environments
- + EXP3.P converges to Nash equilibria in self-play
- + No need to know
 - ▶ Utility function (i.e., the rules of the game)
 - ▶ Actions performed by the adversary
- ≈ Some of this can be extended to learn correlated equilibria
- Exponential may be tricky to manage
- Convergence is only in the empirical frequency
- Convergence is relatively slow

Outline

Learning in Two-Player Zero-Sum Games

From Normal Form to Extensive Form Imperfect Information Games

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria

Counterfactual Regret Minimization

Outline

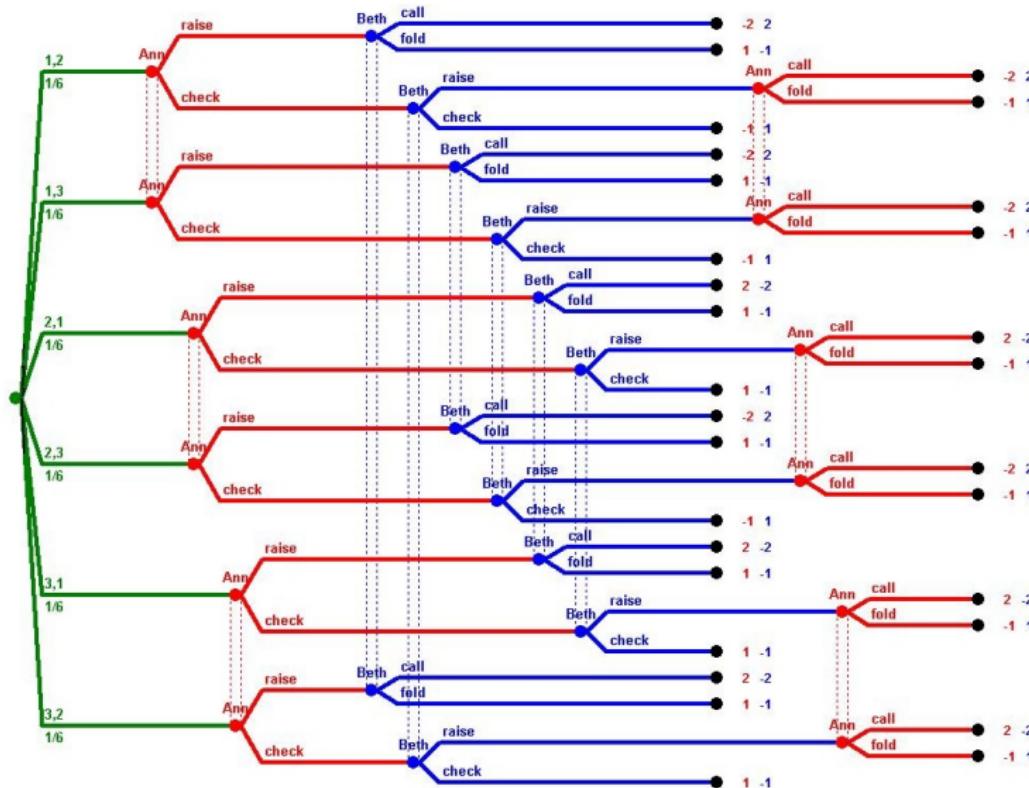
Learning in Two-Player Zero-Sum Games

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Counterfactual Regret Minimization

Kuhn Poker – The Game



Imperfect Information Extensive Form Games

The game

- ▶ Set of players $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$ and c chance player (e.g., deck)
- ▶ Set of possible sequences of actions H , $Z \subseteq H$ set of terminal histories
- ▶ Player function $P : H \rightarrow N \cup \{c\}$
- ▶ Set of information sets $\mathcal{I} = \{I\}$ (i.e., I is a subset of histories that are not “distinguishable”)
- ▶ Utility of a terminal history $u_i : Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- ▶ Strategy $\sigma_i : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(A)$ (in all $h \in I$ such that $P(h) = i$)

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- ▶ Strategy $\sigma_i : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(A)$ (in all $h \in I$ such that $P(h) = i$)

Two-Player Zero-Sum Extensive Form Game

- ▶ $N = \{1, 2\}$
- ▶ $u_1 = -u_2$

Extensive Form Games

Histories

- ▶ Prob. of reaching history $h \in H$ following joint strategy σ , $\pi^\sigma(h)$
- ▶ Prob. of reaching information set $I \in \mathcal{I}$ following joint strategy σ ,
 $\pi^\sigma(I) = \sum_{h \in I} \pi^\sigma(h)$
- ▶ Prob. of reaching history $h \in H$ following joint strategy σ_{-i} , except player i following actions in h w.p. 1, $\pi_{-i}^\sigma(h)$
- ▶ Prob. of reaching history $h \in H$ following player i 's actions, except others,
 $\pi_i^\sigma(h)$
- ▶ Replacement of $\sigma(I)$ to $\delta(a)$, $\sigma_{I \rightarrow a}$

Solution concept

- ▶ *Nash equilibrium* $(\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*) = \arg \max_{\sigma_1} \min_{\sigma_2} u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$
- ▶ *Value of the game* $V = \max_{\sigma_1} \min_{\sigma_2} u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$
- ▶ *Remark:* other concepts exist in this case, NE

The Regret View

- ▶ *Regret in hindsight* w.r.t. any fixed strategy σ_1

$$R_n(\sigma_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_{2,t}) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_{1,t}, \sigma_{2,t})$$

- ▶ Regret against the best strategy in hindsight

$$R_n = \max_{\sigma_1} R_n(\sigma_1)$$

The Regret View

- ▶ *Regret in hindsight* w.r.t. any fixed strategy σ_1

$$R_n(\sigma_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_{2,t}) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_{1,t}, \sigma_{2,t})$$

- ▶ Regret against the best strategy in hindsight

$$R_n = \max_{\sigma_1} R_n(\sigma_1)$$

- ▶ *Empirical strategy:*

$$\widehat{\sigma}_{1,n}(I, a) = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n \pi_i^{\sigma_t}(I) \sigma_t(I, a)}{\sum_{t=1}^n \pi_i^{\sigma_t}(I)}$$

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria

Theorem

A learning algorithm is Hannan's consistent if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n = 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Given a two-player zero-sum extensive-form game with value V , if players choose strategies $\sigma_{1,t}$ and $\sigma_{2,t}$ using a Hannan's consistent algorithm, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_{1,t}, \sigma_{2,t}) = V$$

Furthermore, the joint empirical strategy

$$\widehat{\sigma}_{1,n} \times \widehat{\sigma}_{2,n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \{(\sigma_1^*, \sigma_2^*)\}_{\text{Nash}}$$

Outline

Learning in Two-Player Zero-Sum Games

From Normal Form to Extensive Form Imperfect Information Games

Regret Minimization and Nash Equilibria

Counterfactual Regret Minimization

Regret Matching Algorithm

- ▶ Back to Rock-Paper-Scissors
- ▶ Let $a_1 = \text{rock}$ and $a_2 = \text{paper}$
- ▶ Then the **counterfactual** regret

$$r(a_1 \rightarrow \text{rock}) = u_1(\text{rock}, a_{2,t}) - u_1(a_{1,t}, a_{2,t}) = -1 - (-1) = 0$$

$$r(a_1 \rightarrow \text{paper}) = u_1(\text{paper}, a_{2,t}) - u_1(a_{1,t}, a_{2,t}) = 0 - (-1) = 1$$

$$r(a_1 \rightarrow \text{scissors}) = u_1(\text{scissors}, a_{2,t}) - u_1(a_{1,t}, a_{2,t}) = 1 - (-1) = 2$$

- ▶ Regret matching idea

$$\sigma(a) = \frac{r(a_1 \rightarrow a)}{\sum_{b \in A_1} r(a_1 \rightarrow b)}$$

Sequential Problem

A learning problem

- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player 1 chooses $\sigma_{1,t}$
 - ▶ Player 1 executes actions prescribed by $\sigma_{1,t}$ through a full game
 - ▶ Player 1 receives payoff $u_{1,t}$

Counterfactual Regret

- ▶ Counterfactual value of a history

$$v_i(\sigma, h) = \sum_{z \in Z, h \sqsubset z} \pi_{-i}^\sigma(h) \pi^\sigma(h, z) u_i(z)$$

- ▶ Counterfactual regret of not taking a in h

$$r_i^\sigma(h, a) = v_i(\sigma_{I \rightarrow a}, h) - v_i(\sigma, h), \quad I \ni h$$

- ▶ Counterfactual regret of not taking a in an information set I

$$r_i^\sigma(I, a) = \sum_{h \in I} r_i^\sigma(h, a)$$

- ▶ Cumulative counterfactual regret

$$R_{i,t}(I, a) = \sum_{s=1}^t r_i^{\sigma_s}(I, a)$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 1: Counterfactual Regret Minimization (CFR)

- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ Player 1 chooses strategy

$$\sigma_{1,t}(I, a) = \begin{cases} \frac{R_{1,t}^+(I, a)}{\sum_{b \in A_1} R_{1,t}^+(I, b)} & \text{if } \sum_{b \in A_1} R_{1,t}^+(I, b) > 0 \\ \frac{1}{A_1} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ Player 1 executes actions prescribed by $\sigma_{1,t}$ through a *full game*
- ▶ Player 1 receives payoff $u_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player 1 computes instantaneous regret $r_i^{\sigma_t}$ over information sets *observed over the game*

$$R^+ = \max\{0, R\}$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Theorem

If CFR is run over n steps, then the regret is bounded as

$$R_n = \max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_{2,t}) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_{1,t}, \sigma_{2,t}) \leq |\mathcal{I}_i| \sqrt{\frac{A_1}{n}}$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Theorem

If CFR is run over n steps, then the regret is bounded as

$$R_n = \max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_{2,t}) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_{1,t}, \sigma_{2,t}) \leq |\mathcal{I}_i| \sqrt{\frac{A_1}{n}}$$

Remarks

- ▶ $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n \leq 0 \Rightarrow$ Hannan's consistency
- ▶ Rate of convergence $O(1/\sqrt{n})$
- ▶ Linear dependence on the number of information sets
- ▶ In self-play EWF “converges” to the Nash equilibrium

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Version 2: Counterfactual Regret Minimization+ (CFR⁺)

- ▶ For $t = 1, \dots, n$
 - ▶ *At t even* player 1 chooses strategy

$$\sigma_{1,t}(I, a) = \begin{cases} \frac{Q_{1,t}(I, a)}{\sum_{b \in A_1} Q_{1,t}(I, b)} & \text{if } \sum_{b \in A_1} Q_{1,t}(I, b) > 0 \\ \frac{1}{A_1} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ *At t odd* player 1 chooses strategy $\sigma_{1,t} = \sigma_{1,t-1}$
- ▶ Player 1 executes actions prescribed by $\sigma_{1,t}$ through a full game
- ▶ Player 1 receives payoff $u_{1,t}$
- ▶ Player 1 computes instantaneous regret $r_i^{\sigma_t}$ over information sets
observed over the game
- ▶ Return

$$\widehat{\sigma}_{1,n} = \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{2t}{n^2 + n} \sigma_{1,t}$$

$$Q_{1,t} = (Q_{1,t-1} + r_i^{\sigma_{t-1}})^+ \text{ instead of } R_{1,t}^+ = (\sum_{s=1}^{t-1} r_i^{\sigma_s})^+$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Theorem

If CFR⁺ is run over n steps, then the regret is bounded as

$$R_n = \max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_{2,t}) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_{1,t}, \sigma_{2,t}) \leq |\mathcal{I}_1| \sqrt{\frac{A_1}{n}}$$

Learning the Nash Equilibrium

Theorem

If CFR^+ is run over n steps, then the regret is bounded as

$$R_n = \max_{\sigma_1} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_1, \sigma_{2,t}) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n u_1(\sigma_{1,t}, \sigma_{2,t}) \leq |\mathcal{I}_i| \sqrt{\frac{A_1}{n}}$$

Remarks

- ▶ Same performance as CFR
- ▶ Empirically is more “reactive”
- ▶ Empirically $\hat{\sigma}_{1,t}$ tends to converge

CFR in Large Problems: Heads-up Limit Texas Hold'em

The problem

- ▶ Four rounds of cards, four rounds of betting, *discrete bets*
- ▶ About 10^{18} states, 3.2×10^{14} information sets

CFR in Large Problems: Heads-up Limit Texas Hold'em

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Abstraction: cluster together “similar” histories

- ▶ Symmetries (reducing to 10^{13} information sets)
- ▶ Clustering
 - ▶ Buckets based on (roll-out) hand strength
 - ▶ “Hierarchical” buckets (e.g., second hand is indexed by the first bucket as well)
 - ▶ About 1.65×10^{12} states, 5.73×10^7 information sets

CFR in Large Problems: Heads-up Limit Texas Hold'em

The problem

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- ▶ About 10^{18} states, 3.2×10^{14} information sets

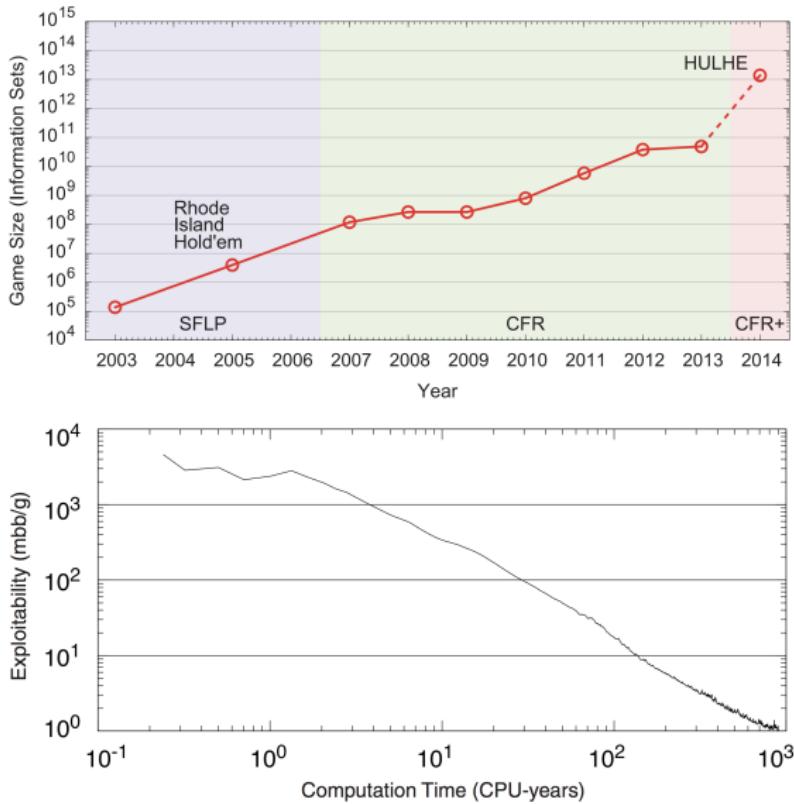
Abstraction: cluster together “similar” histories

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- ▶ Clustering
 - ▶ Buckets based on (roll-out) hand strength
 - ▶ “Hierarchical” buckets (e.g., second hand is indexed by the first bucket as well)
 - ▶ About 1.65×10^{12} states, 5.73×10^7 information sets

Engineering:

- ▶ Rounding: $\sigma(a) = 0.0$ if smaller than threshold, fixed-point arithmetic
- ▶ Dynamic compression regret and strategy (from 262 TiB to 10.9 TiB)
- ▶ Distribute recursive computation of regret and strategy over rounds

CFR in Large Problems: Heads-up Limit Texas Hold'em



Heads-up No-Limit Texas Hold'em

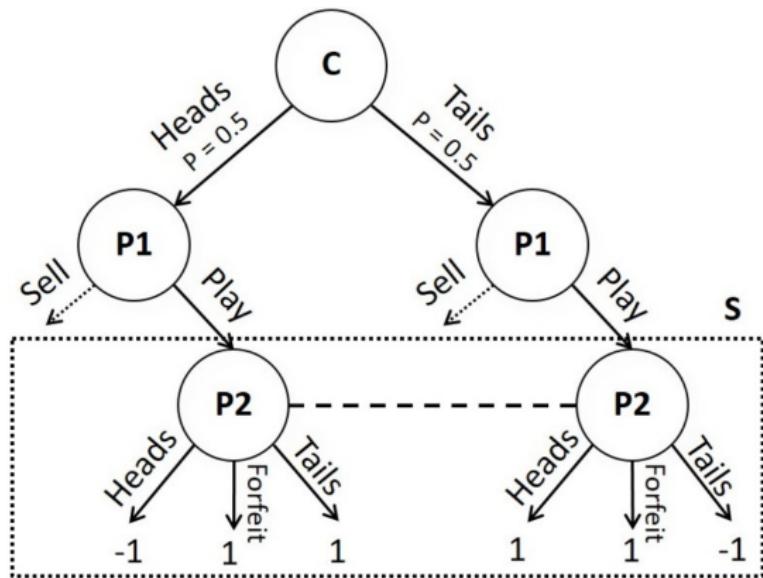
The problem

- ▶ In *no-limit* bets are arbitrary
- ▶ With standard discretized bets (1\$ up to 20,000\$) 10^{160} decision points!

The Learning problem

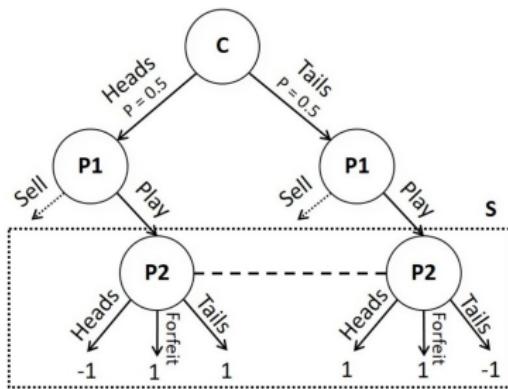
- ▶ “Simple” abstraction techniques no longer work
- ▶ Safe subgame solving

Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games



$$P1(\text{head}, \text{sell}) = 0.5\$, \quad P1(\text{tail}, \text{sell}) = -0.5\$$$

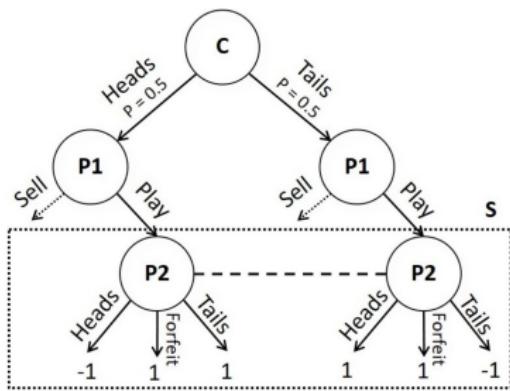
Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games



$$P1(\text{head}, \text{sell}) = 0.5\$, P1(\text{tail}, \text{sell}) = -0.5\$$$

- ▶ $\sigma_2 = \text{head} \Rightarrow \sigma_1(\text{head}) = \text{"Sell"}, \sigma_1(\text{tail}) = \text{"Play"}$
 $\Rightarrow u_1 = 0.5 \times 0.5 + 0.5 \times 1 = 0.75$
- ▶ $\sigma_2 = \text{tail} \Rightarrow \sigma_1(\text{head}) = \text{"Play"}, \sigma_1(\text{tail}) = \text{"Sell"}$
 $\Rightarrow u_1 = 0.5 \times 1 + 0.5 \times (-0.5) = 0.25$
- ▶ Optimal strategy $\sigma_2 = (0.25, 0.75)$

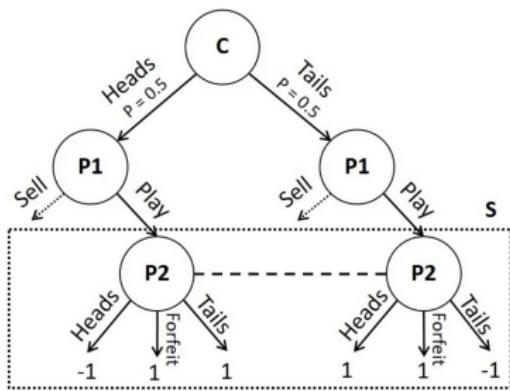
Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games



$$P1(\text{head}, \text{sell}) = -0.5\$, \quad P1(\text{tail}, \text{sell}) = 0.5\$$$

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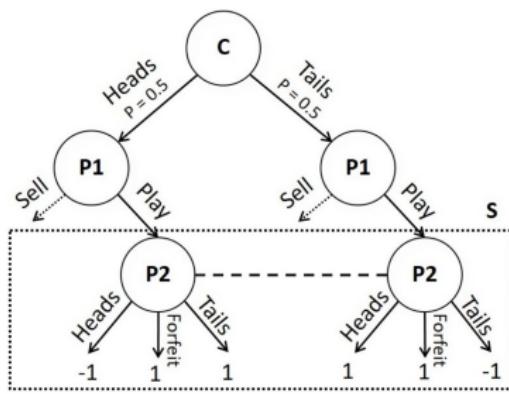
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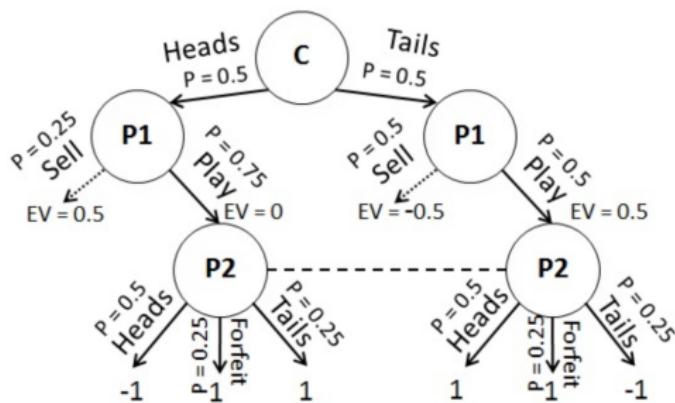
$$P1(\text{head}, \text{sell}) = -0.5\$, P1(\text{tail}, \text{sell}) = 0.5\$$$

- Optimal strategy $\sigma_2 = (0.75, 0.25)$
- ⇒ the optimal solution of the subgame depends on “things” *outside* the subgame itself!

Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games

Version 1: unsafe subgame solving

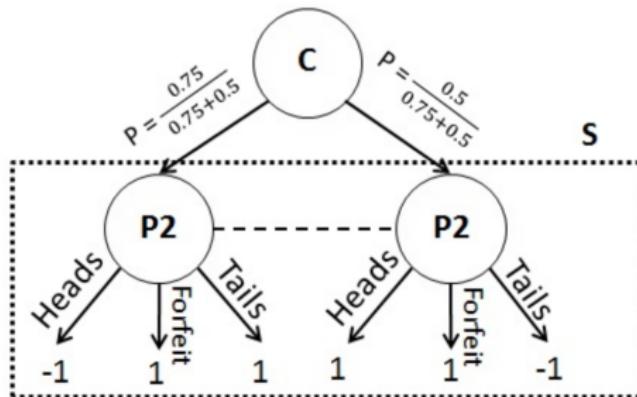
1. Start with a pre-computed solution (e.g., through abstraction)



Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games

Version 1: unsafe subgame solving

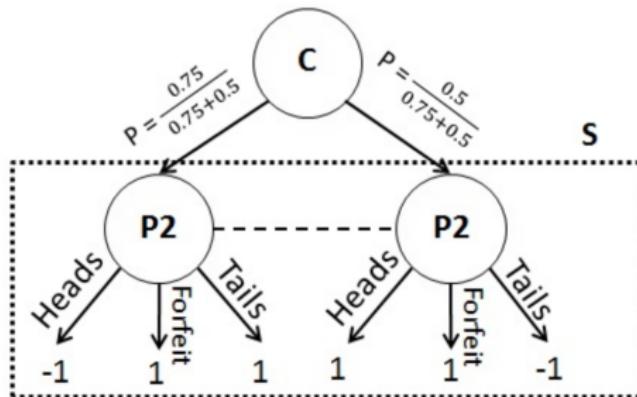
1. Start with a pre-computed solution (e.g., through abstraction) called *trunk*
2. Solve the subgame *as-if* everything else was as in the *trunk*



Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games

Version 1: unsafe subgame solving

1. Start with a pre-computed solution (e.g., through abstraction) called *trunk*
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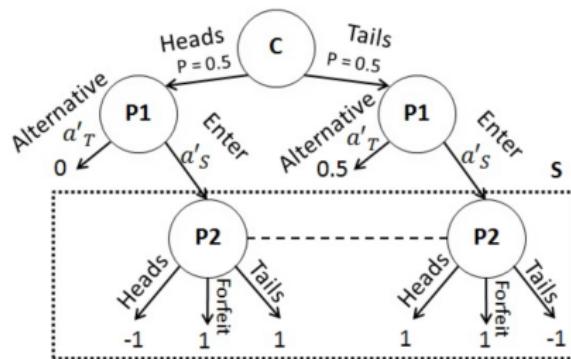


⇒ subgame strategy can be *arbitrarily bad*

Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games

Version 2: subgame re-solving

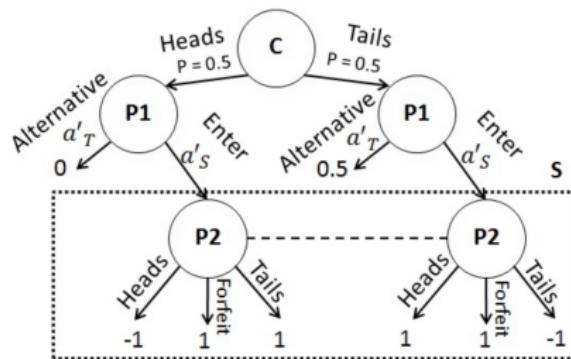
1. Start with a pre-computed solution (e.g., through abstraction) called *trunk*
2. Construct an augmented subgame giving $P1$ the chance to *opt-out* from the subgame and play in the trunk
3. Solve the augmented subgame with *maxmargin*



Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games

Version 2: subgame re-solving

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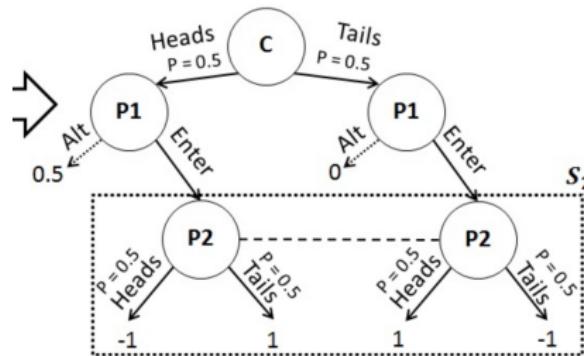


⇒ subgame strategy better but potentially far from optimal

Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games

Version 3: reach subgame solving

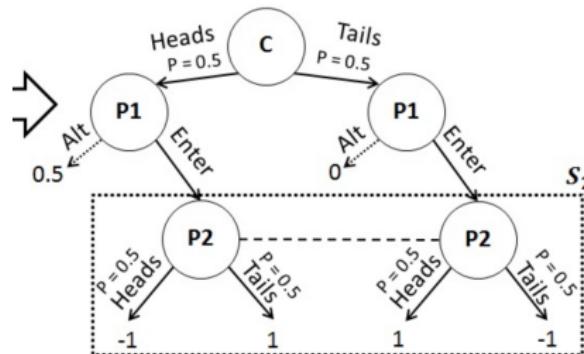
1. Start with a pre-computed solution (e.g., through abstraction) called **trunk**
2. Construct an augmented subgame considering the *gift* given to P_2 (i.e., consider *any* possible action *not leading* to the subgame)
3. Solve the augmented subgame



Subgame Solving in Imperfect Information Games

Version 3: reach subgame solving

1. Start with a pre-computed solution (e.g., through abstraction) called *trunk*
2. Construct an augmented subgame considering the *gift* given to P_2 (i.e., consider *any* possible action *not leading* to the subgame)
3. Solve the augmented subgame



⇒ provably reduce exploitability

Brains vs. AI

Libratus

- ▶ Monte-Carlo CFR + abstraction to compute the trunk
- ▶ Reach subgame solving with no abstraction (using CFR⁺ to solve subgames) in-game

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Comptetition

- ▶ January 2017, over 20 days
- ▶ About 120,000 hands
- ▶ 4 top human players
- ▶ \$200,000 prize

Brains vs. AI

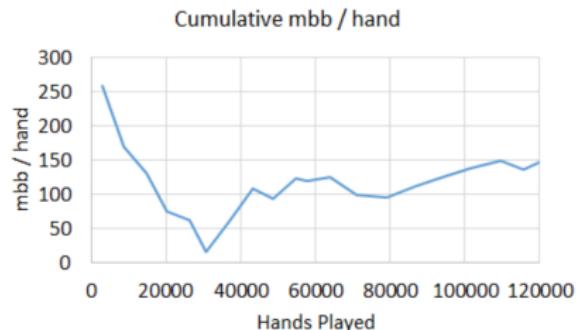
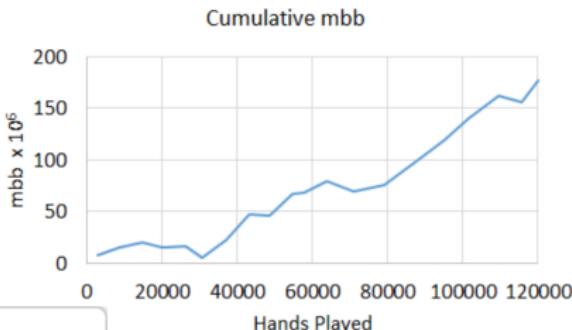
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Results



Summary

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- + Efficient and (somehow) general purpose implementation
- + Beyond games: risk-averse planning

Summary

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 - + REACHSUBGAME provides a tool for safely decomposing the game
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 - + Beyond games: risk-averse planning
-
- ? Do we really care about (normal form) Nash?
 - ? Beyond two-player games
 - ? Opponent modeling
 - ? Stochastic games (SG) / partially observable stochastic games (POSG)

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Learning in Zero-Sum Games



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