MS&E 233 Game Theory, Data Science and Al Lecture 5

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(by courtesy) Computer Science and Electrical Engineering

Institute for Computational and Mathematical Engineering

Computational Game Theory for Complex Games

- Basics of game theory and zero-sum games (T)
- Basics of online learning theory (T)
- Solving zero-sum games via online learning (T)
- HW1: implement simple algorithms to solve zero-sum games
- Applications to ML and AI (T+A)
- HW2: implement boosting as solving a zero-sum game
- Basics of extensive-form games
- Solving extensive-form games via online learning (T)
- HW3: implement agents to solve very simple variants of poker
- General games and equilibria (T)

(3)

- Online learning in general games, multi-agent RL (T+A)
- HW4: implement no-regret algorithms that converge to correlated equilibria in general games

Data Science for Auctions and Mechanisms

- Basics and applications of auction theory (T+A)
- Learning to bid in auctions via online learning (T)
- HW5: implement bandit algorithms to bid in ad auctions

- Optimal auctions and mechanisms (T)
- Simple vs optimal mechanisms (T)
- HW6: calculate equilibria in simple auctions, implement simple and optimal auctions, analyze revenue empirically
- Optimizing mechanisms from samples (T)
- Online optimization of auctions and mechanisms (T)
 - HW7: implement procedures to learn approximately optimal auctions from historical samples and in an online manner

Further Topics

- Econometrics in games and auctions (T+A)
- A/B testing in markets (T+A)
- HW8: implement procedure to estimate values from bids in an auction, empirically analyze inaccuracy of A/B tests in markets

Guest Lectures

• TBD

5

• TBD

Extensive Form Games

History and Progress



Historical Challenge in Game Theory and Al

Nash1950

Kuhn1950

Waterman1970

294

JOHN NASH

A Three-Man Poker Game

As an example of the application of our theory to a more or less realistic case we include the simplified poker game given below. The rules are as follows:

- (a) The deck is large, with equally many high and low cards, and a hand consists of one card.
- (b) Two chips are used to ante, open, or call.
- (c) The players play in rotation and the game ends after all have passed or after one player has opened and the others have had a chance to call.
 - (d) If no one bets the antes are retrieved.
- (e) Otherwise the pot is divided equally among the highest hands which have bet

A SIMPLIFIED TWO-PERSON POKER H. W. Kuhn¹

A fascinating problem for the game theoretician is posed by the common card game, Poker. While generally regarded as partaking of psychological aspects (such as bluffing) which supposedly render it inaccessible to mathematical treatment, it is evident that Poker falls within the general theory of games as elaborated by von Neumann and Morgenstern [1]. Relevant probability problems have been considered by Borel and Ville [2] and several variants are examined by von Neumann [1] and by Bellman and Blackwell [3].

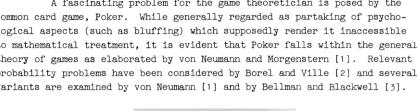
Generalization Learning Techniques for Automating the Learning of Heuristics¹

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

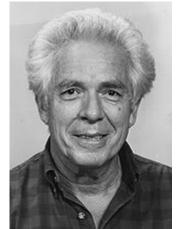
D. A. Waterman

Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

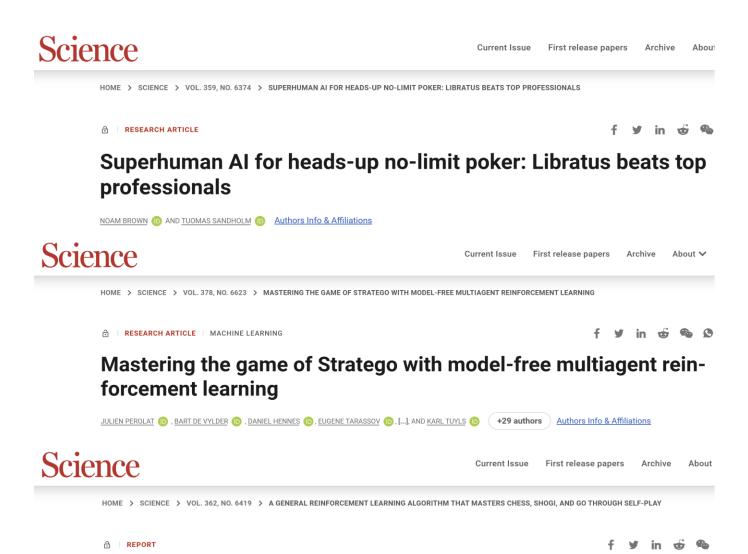
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Many Recent Success Stories



A general reinforcement learning algorithm that masters chess, shogi, and Go through self-play

DAVID SILVER, THOMAS HUBERT, JULIAN SCHRITTWIESER, IOANNIS ANTONOGLOU, [...], AND DEMIS HASSABIS



Authors Info & Affiliations

Key Elements to Success



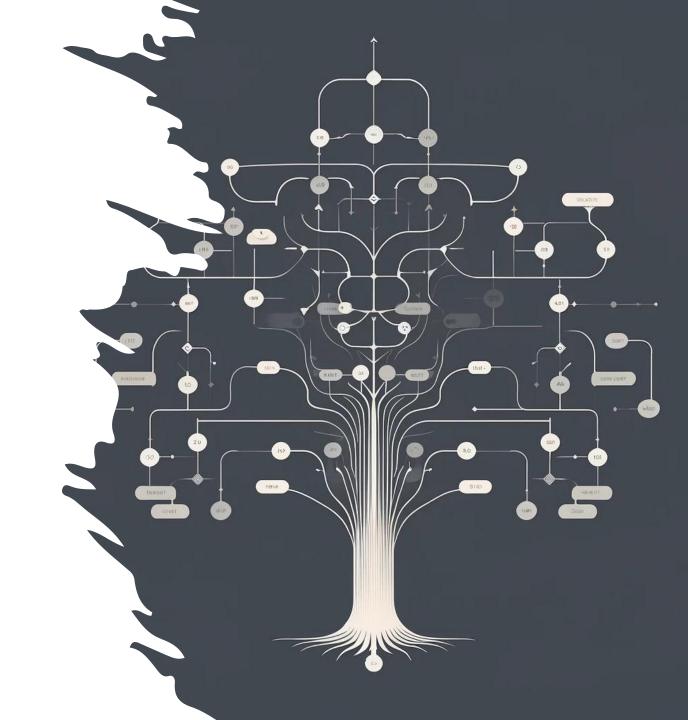
New approaches to approximate the "continuation value of the game" via deep learning and other domain specific techniques



Scalable algorithmic methods to compute approximate Nash equilibria of zero-sum games via learning dynamics

Extensive Form Games

The Basics

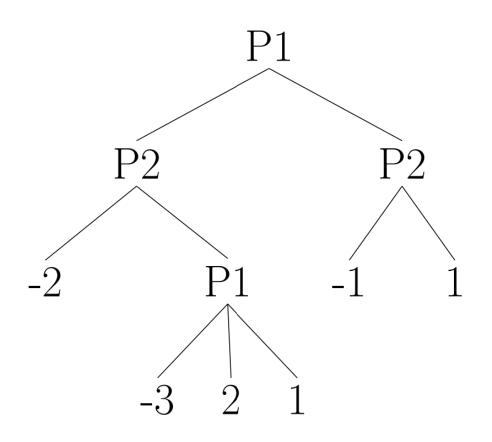


Perfect Information Games

- Players take turns in choosing actions
- All actions are publicly observable
- The "state" of the game is publicly observable
- Some sequence of actions lead to terminal states
- Each player receives some utility/loss at a terminal state
- In zero-sum games: utility of player 1 equals loss of player 2

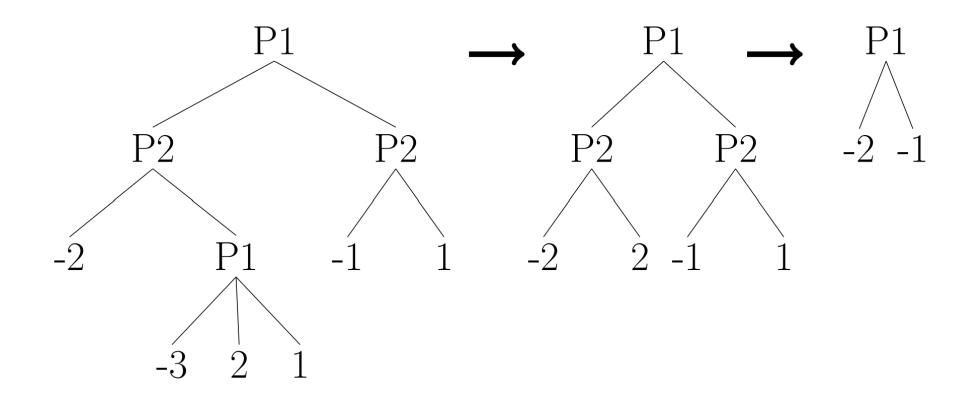


Tree Representation





Solving Games via Backwards Induction

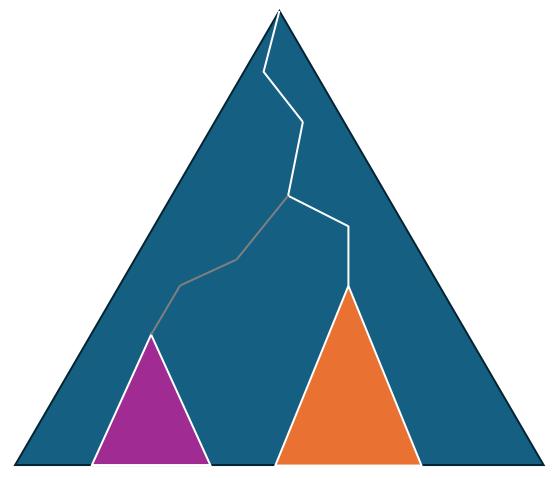


Imperfect Information Games

Players don't have perfect knowledge about the "state" of the game



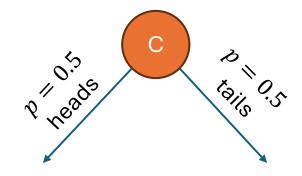
Why are Imperfect Information Games Hard



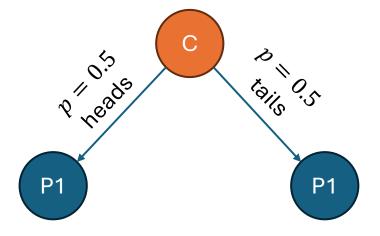
The optimal strategy in the orange sub-tree can depend on how we play and what happens in the purple sub-tree

Rules of the game

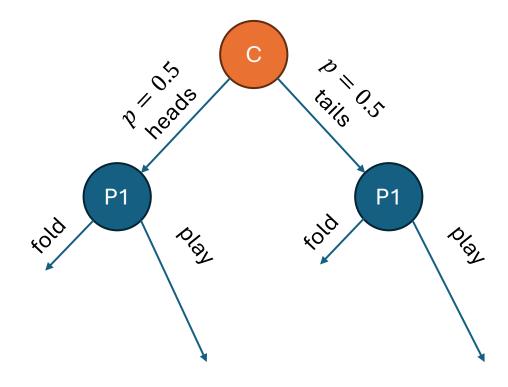
• Nature (chance) flips a coin



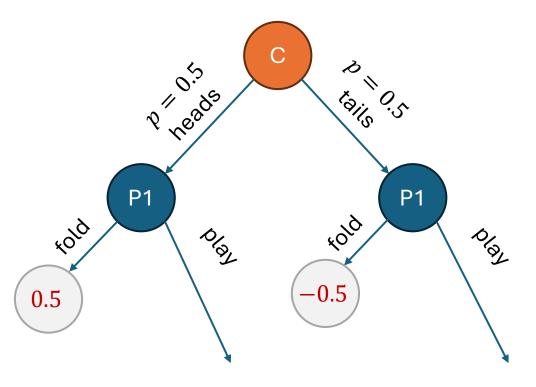
- Nature (chance) flips a coin
- Player one sees the outcome of the coin



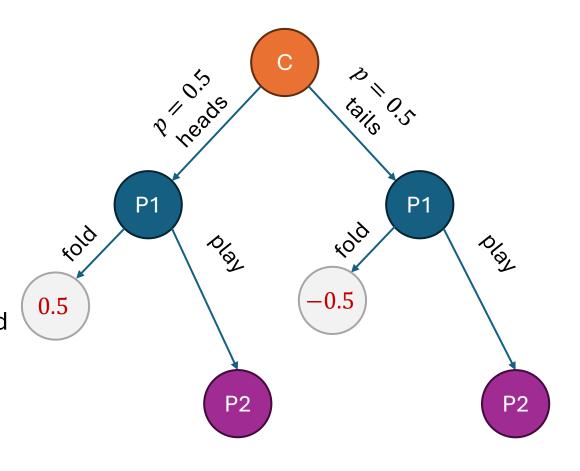
- Nature (chance) flips a coin
- Player one sees the outcome of the coin
- Player one chooses whether to fold or play



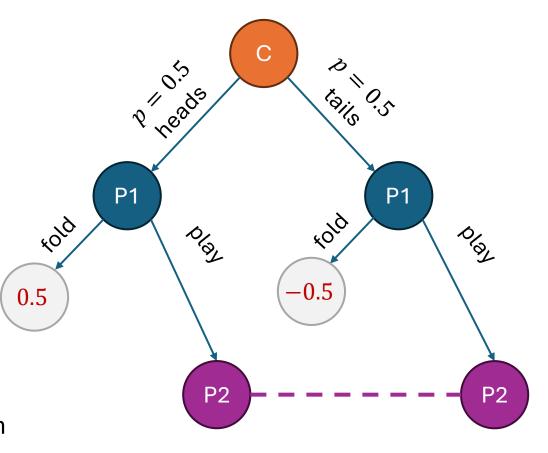
- Nature (chance) flips a coin
- Player one sees the outcome of the coin
- Player one chooses whether to fold or play
- If they fold with heads they win 0.5 if they fold with tails they lose 0.5



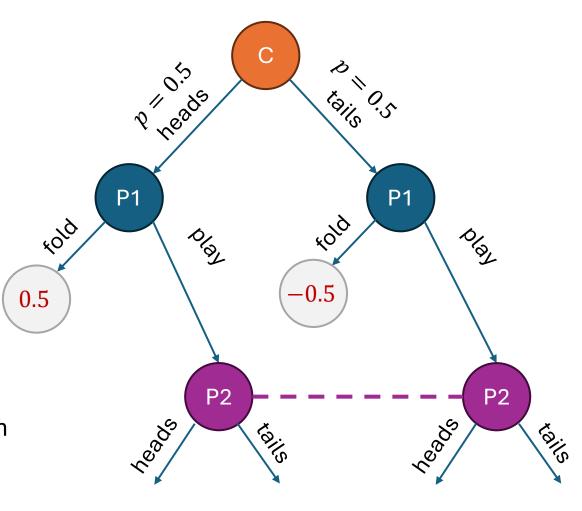
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- If they play then it is player two turn



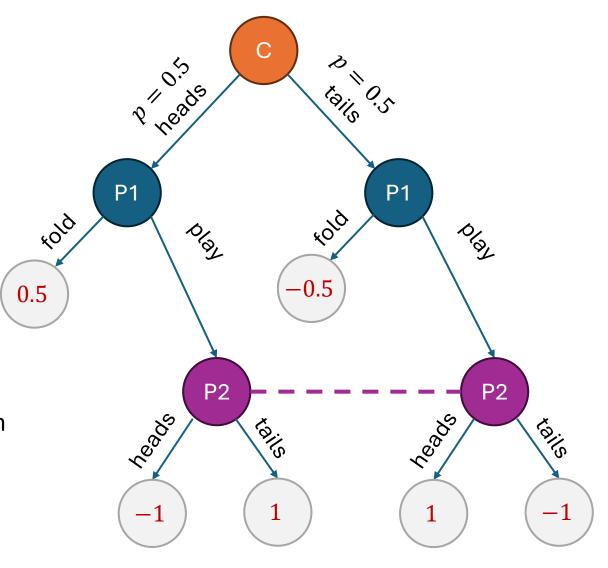
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- Player two doesn't see the outcome of the coin

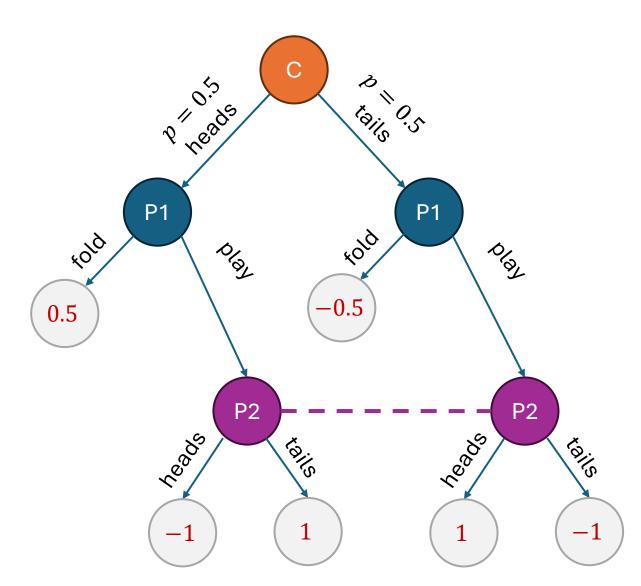


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- They choose either heads or tails



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- Player one sees the outcome of the coin
- Player one chooses whether to fold or play
- If they fold with heads they win 0.5 if they fold with tails they lose 0.5
- If they play then it is player two turn
- Player two doesn't see the outcome of the coin
- They choose either heads or tails
- If they match the coin they win 1 (P1 loses 1) if they don't match they lose 1 (P1 wins 1)





You are P2 and are asked to play. What do you choose?

heads

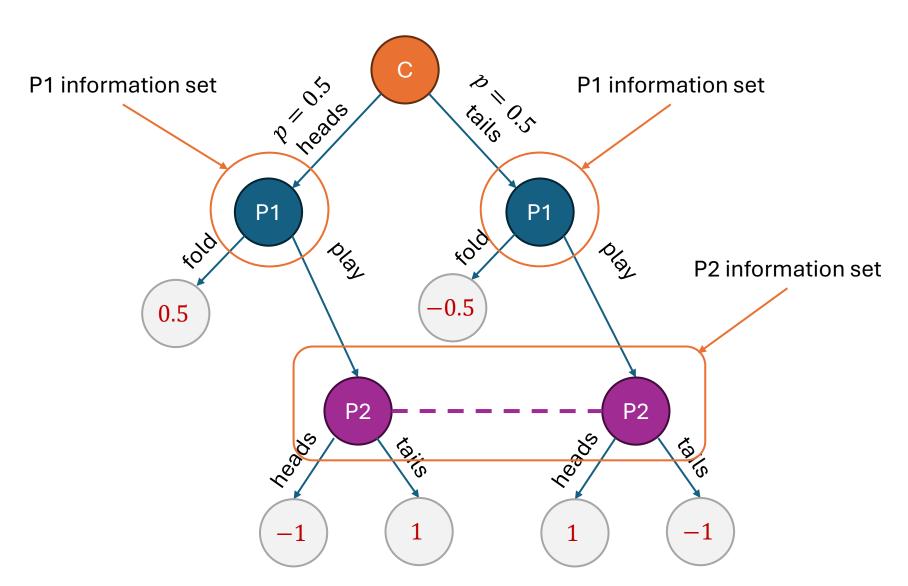
tails

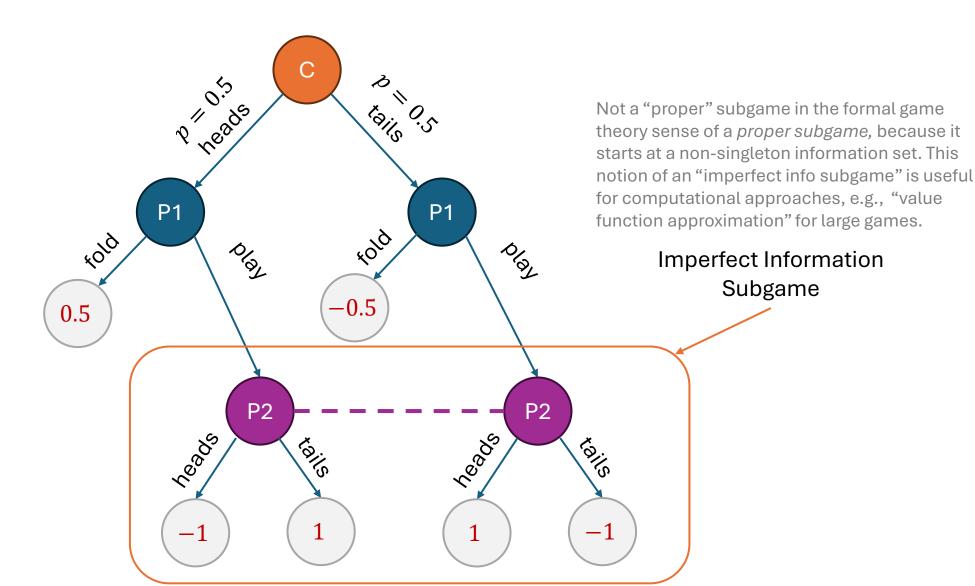
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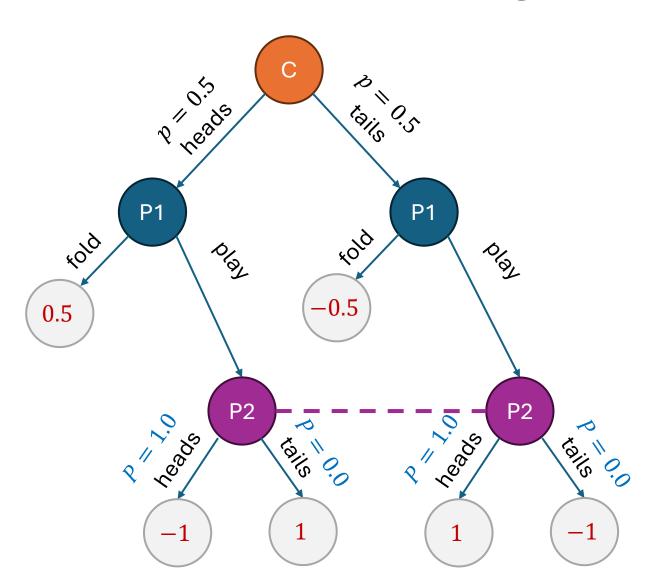
heads	
	0%
tails	
	0%

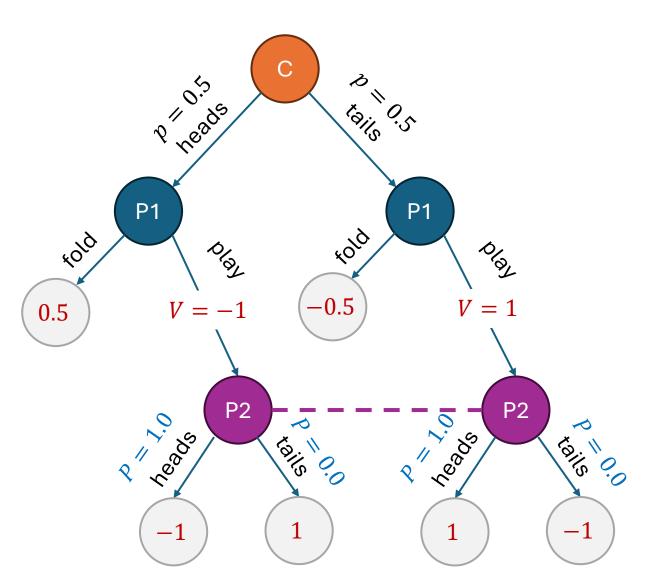
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heads	
	0%
tails	
	0%

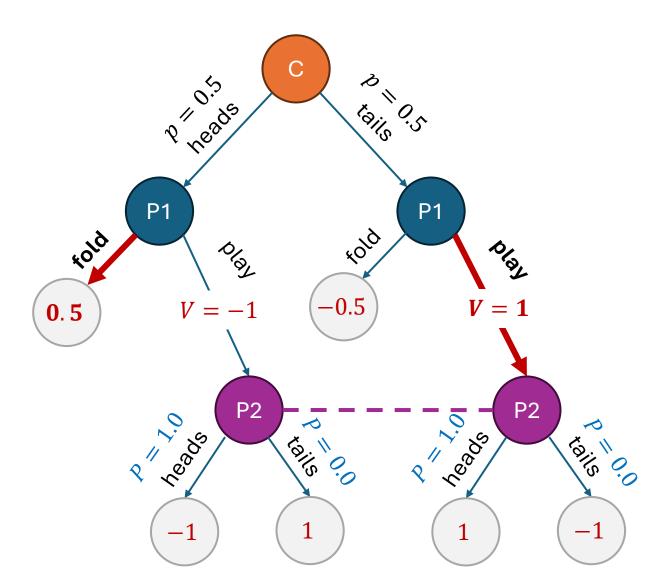


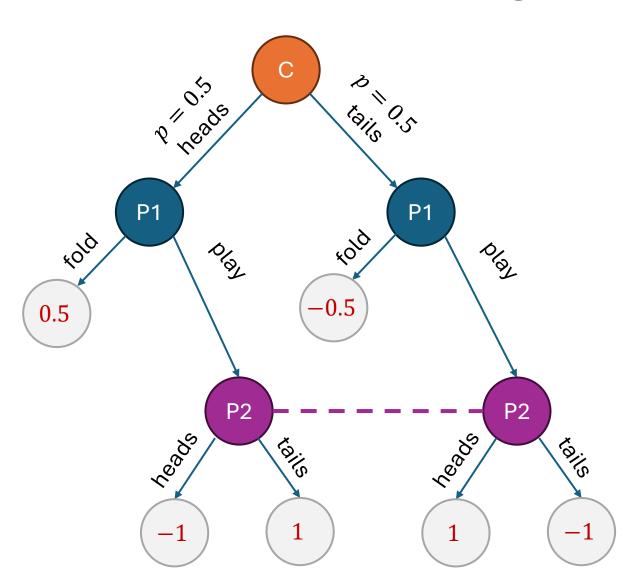


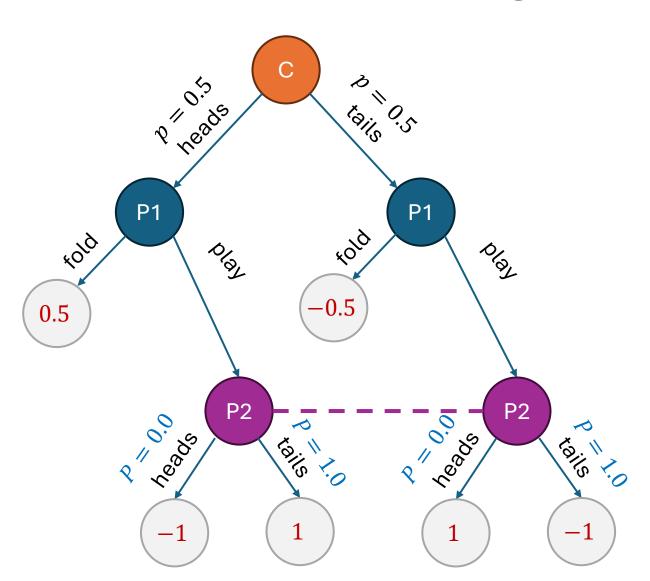


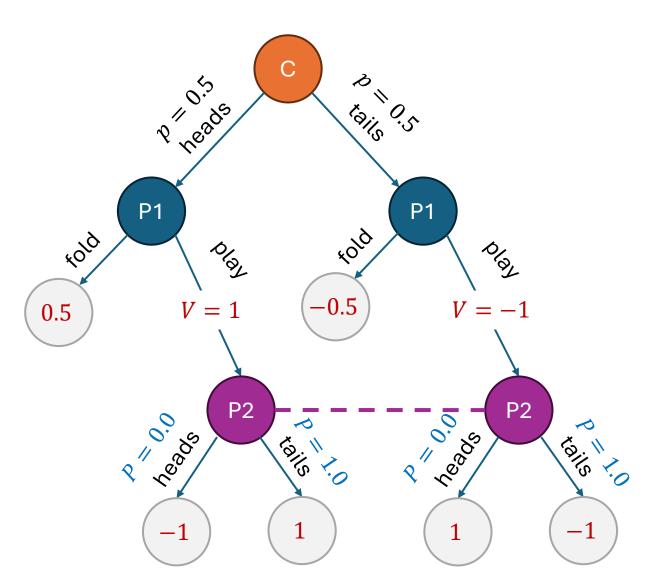


E[V] = .75

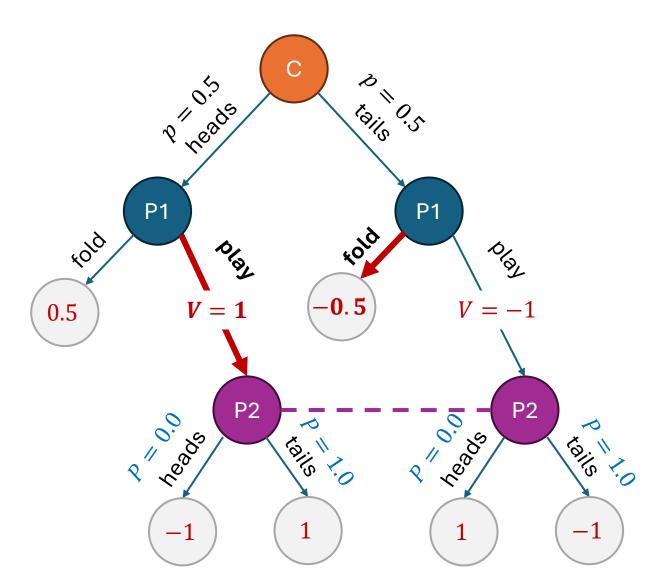


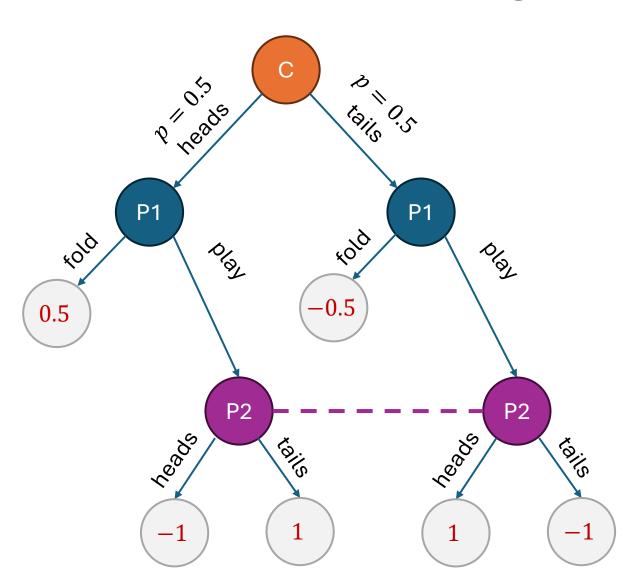


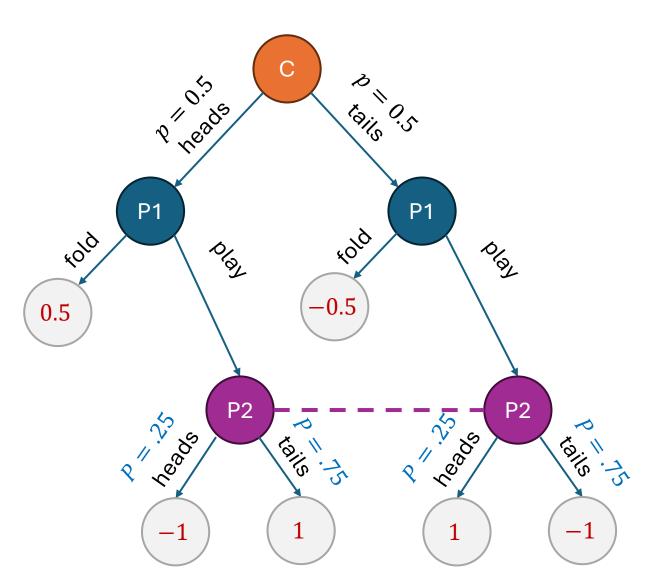


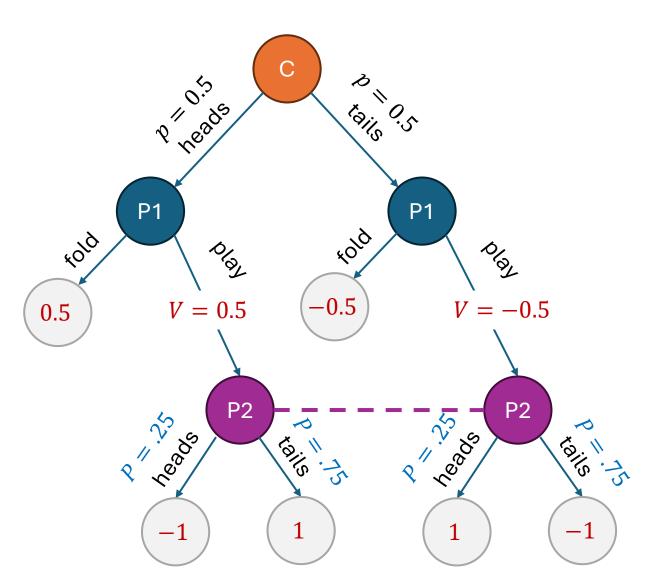


E[V] = .25



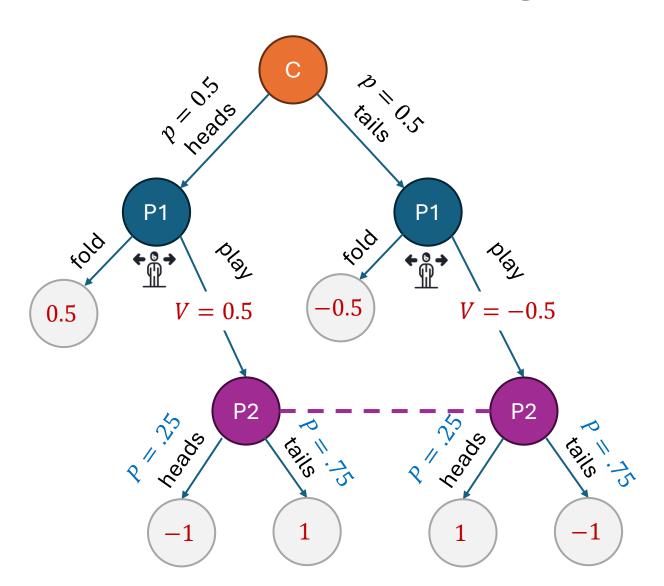




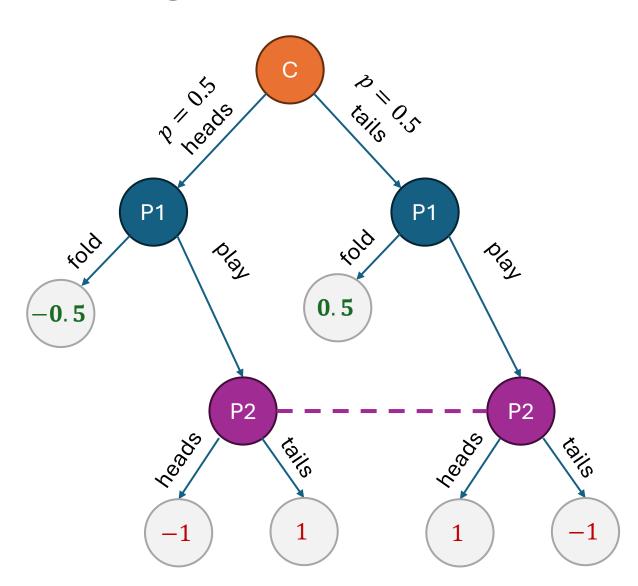


How should P2 play in the sub-game?

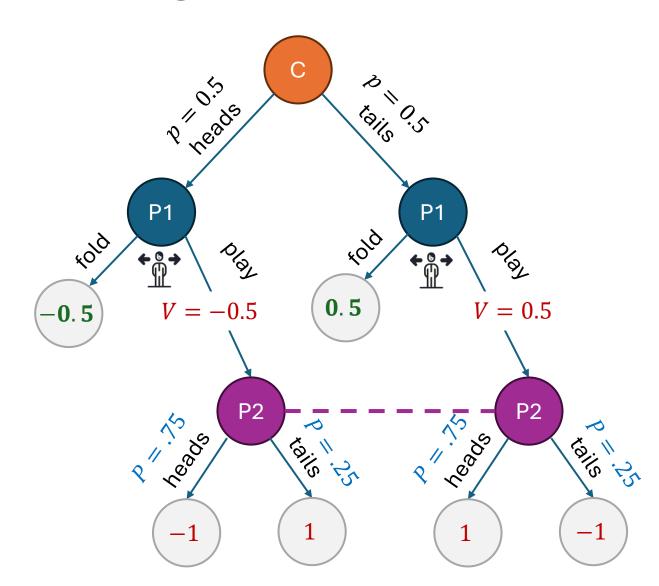
E[V] = 0



What if we change the value of the fold?

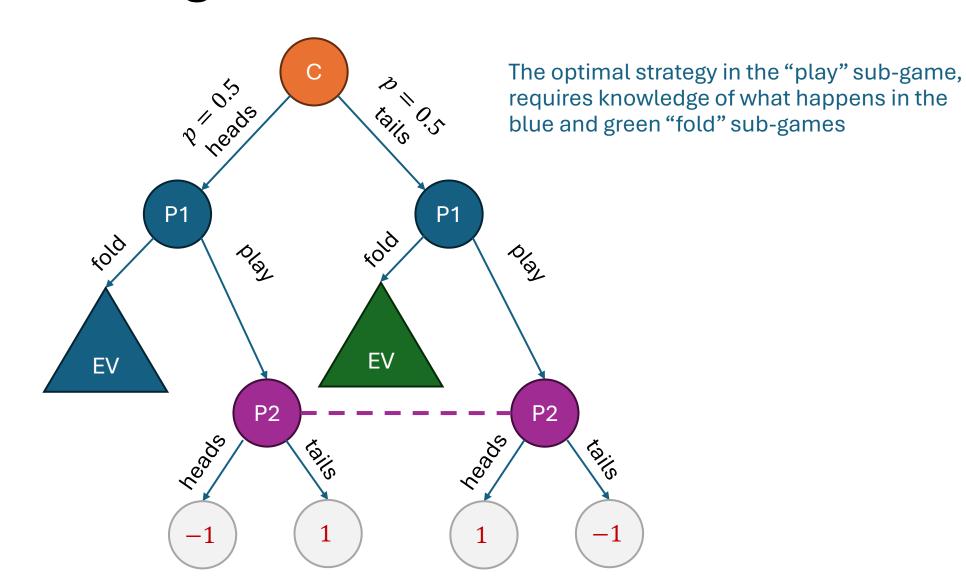


What if we change the value of the fold?



E[V] = 0

What if we change the value of the fold?



The Elements of an Imperfect Information Game Tree

Tree Representation and Information Sets

- Nodes. Each node in the tree is a decision point for some player
- Information sets (infoset). Nodes that belong to player i are partitioned into information sets $I \in \mathcal{I}_i$, with indices $\mathcal{J}_i = \{j_1, \dots, j_{K_i}\}$
- Player does not know which node in the information set is chosen
- Must use the same strategy on all nodes in information set
- Each infoset $j \in \mathcal{J}_i$ has a set of actions A_j that the player can take
- Leaf nodes Z. The set of terminal states. Player 1 gains utility u(z)
- Chance nodes. Chance or Nature moves with a fixed distribution

Perfect Recall

Players remember all the past actions they took

• For each infoset I, there is unique "parent" (infoset, action) pair

• For every node in $I \in \mathcal{I}_i$, the parent pair I', a' was the last infoset visited and action taken by player i before reaching I

ullet Let p_j the last action player took before reaching infoset indexed j

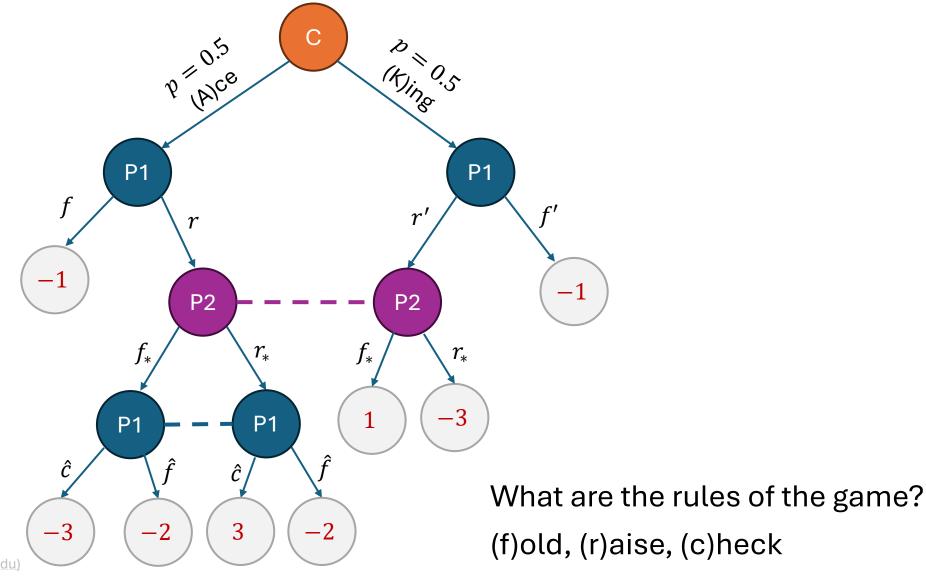
Strategic Form Representation

- Mixed strategy. A distribution over pure strategies
- Behavioral strategy. A set of distributions over actions at each information set

Kuhn's Theorem. For every mixed strategy there is an equivalent behavioral strategy that against all profiles of strategies of opponents induces the same distribution over terminal nodes

We will only be talking about behavioral strategies hereafter

A Simple "Weird" Poker Game



Credits: main_ai_games_markets.pdf (columbia.edu)

Why is Nash Equilibrium a Good Idea?

• In zero-sum games where no player has an a-priori competitive advantage, Nash Equilibrium guarantees no loss in expectation

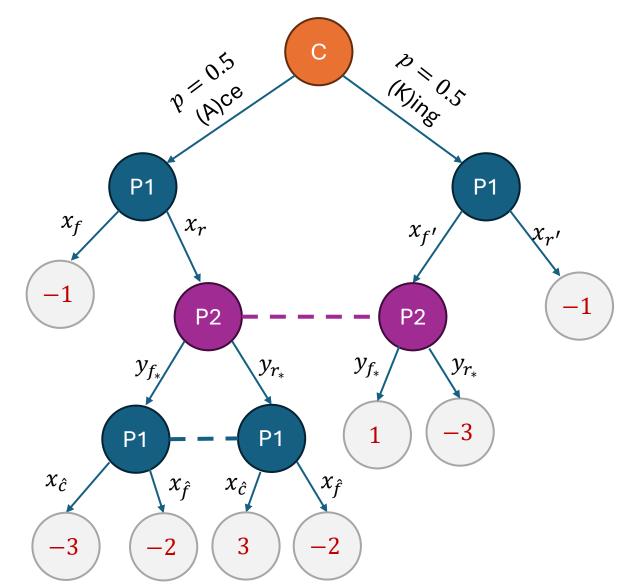
It is a "safe" strategy no matter what the opponent does!

Game Representations Convenient for Computing a Nash Equilibrium

Computing Nash Equilibrium

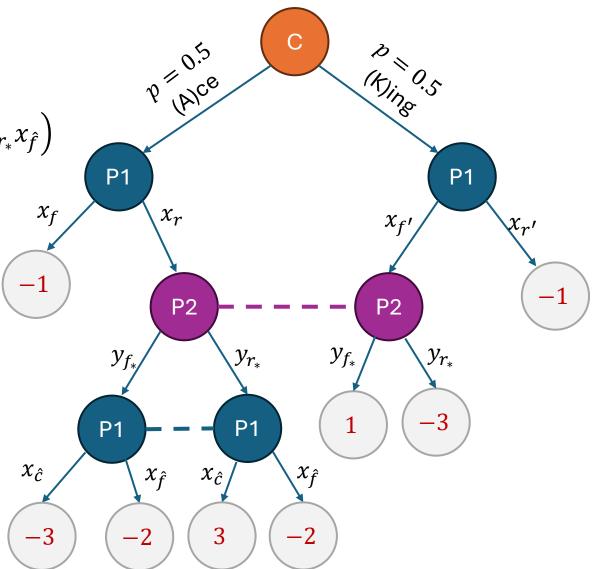
- We know how to compute equilibria of static zero-sum games
- Can we view the extensive form zero-sum game also as min-max $\max_{x \in X} \min_{y \in Y} x^\top Ay$
- What does *x* and *y* encode?
- What if $x=\left(x^{j}\right)_{j\in\mathcal{J}_{1}}$, where x^{j} is mixed strategy at infoset $j\in\mathcal{J}_{1}$
- What if $y=\left(y^j\right)_{j\in\mathcal{J}_2}$, where y^j is mixed strategy at infoset $j\in\mathcal{J}_2$

What is the expected payoff of x?



What is the expected payoff of x?

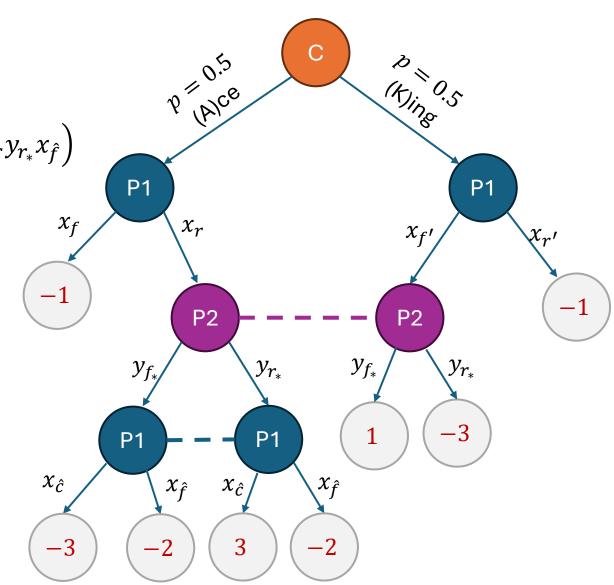
$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-x_f - 3 x_r y_{f_*} x_{\hat{c}} - 2 x_r y_{f_*} x_{\hat{f}} + 3 x_r y_{r_*} x_{\hat{c}} + 2 x_r y_{r_*} x_{\hat{f}} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(x_{f'} y_{f_*} - 3 x_{f'} y_{r_*} - x_{r'} \right)$$



What is the expected payoff of x?

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-x_f - 3 x_r y_{f_*} x_{\hat{c}} - 2 x_r y_{f_*} x_{\hat{f}} + 3 x_r y_{r_*} x_{\hat{c}} + 2 x_r y_{r_*} x_{\hat{f}} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(x_{f'} y_{f_*} - 3 x_{f'} y_{r_*} - x_{r'} \right)$$

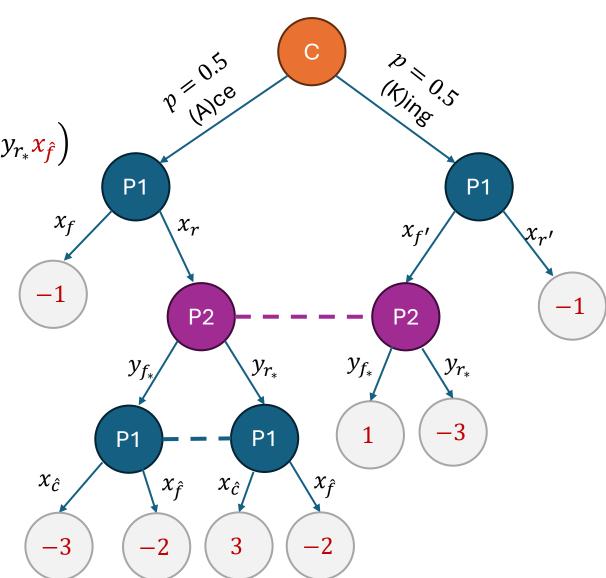
Is it of the form $x^{T}Ay$?



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$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-x_f - 3 x_r y_{f_*} x_{\hat{c}} - 2 x_r y_{f_*} x_{\hat{f}} + 3 x_r y_{r_*} x_{\hat{c}} + 2 x_r y_{r_*} x_{\hat{f}} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(x_{f'} y_{f_*} - 3 x_{f'} y_{r_*} - x_{r'} \right)$$

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 $\chi_{\hat{c}}$

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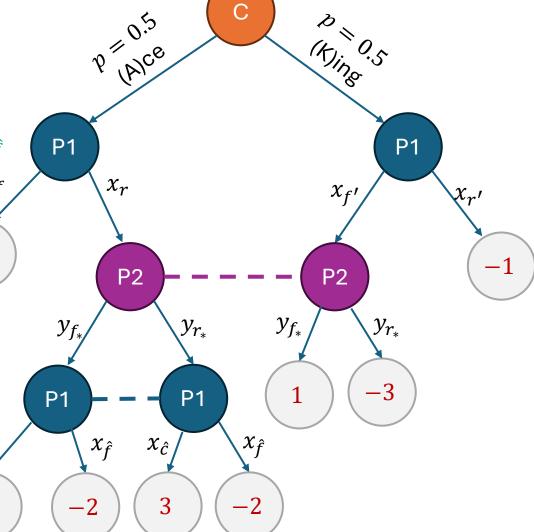
$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-x_{f} - 3 x_{r} y_{f_{*}} x_{\hat{c}} - 2 x_{r} y_{f_{*}} x_{\hat{f}} + 3 x_{r} y_{r_{*}} x_{\hat{c}} + 2 x_{r} y_{r_{*}} x_{\hat{f}} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(x_{f'} y_{f_{*}} - 3 x_{f'} y_{r_{*}} - x_{r'} \right)^{\tilde{\chi}_{r} \hat{f}} \tilde{\chi}_{r} \hat{f} \qquad \tilde{\chi$$

IDEA. Group together products that appear into new "variables"

New variables represent the product of the probabilities of the actions chosen by P1 on the path to the last action in the sequence!

We will annotate them just with the last action

$$\tilde{x}_{r\hat{c}} \equiv \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}}, \qquad \tilde{x}_{r\hat{f}} \equiv \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}}$$



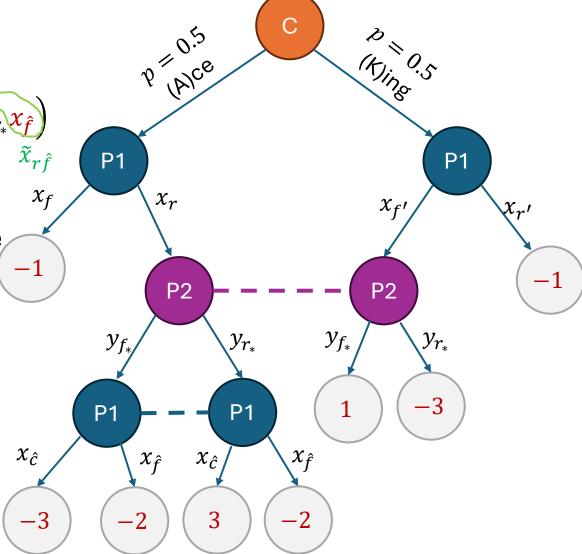
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Sequence form strategies. We can define these new variables \tilde{x}_a for all actions of P1

 \tilde{x}_a : represents product of probabilities of all actions of P1 on the path to a

$$\widetilde{x}_f,\widetilde{x}_r,\widetilde{x}_{f'},\widetilde{x}_{r'},\widetilde{x}_{\hat{c}},\widetilde{x}_{\hat{f}}$$



What is the expected payoff of x?

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-x_{f} - 3 x_{r} y_{f_{*}} x_{\hat{c}} - 2 x_{r} y_{f_{*}} x_{\hat{f}} + 3 x_{r} y_{r_{*}} x_{\hat{c}} + 2 x_{r} y_{r_{*}} x_{\hat{f}} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(x_{f'} y_{f_{*}} - 3 x_{f'} y_{r_{*}} - x_{r'} \right)^{\tilde{x}_{r} \hat{f}} \tilde{x}_{r \hat{f}}$$

$$\tilde{x}_{r \hat{c}} \tilde{x}_{r \hat{c}} \tilde{x}_{r \hat{c}} \tilde{x}_{r \hat{f}} \tilde{x}_{r \hat{c}} \tilde{x$$

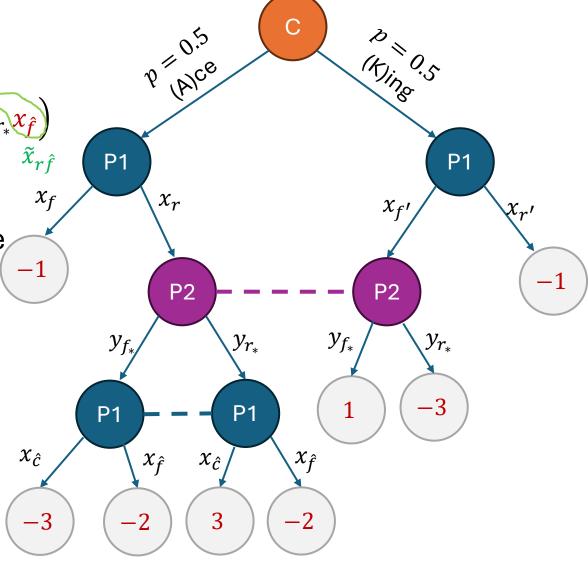
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 \tilde{y}_a : represents product of probabilities of all actions of P2 on the path to a

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}_{f_*}$$
, $\widetilde{\mathcal{Y}}_{r_*}$



What is the expected payoff of x?

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-\tilde{x}_{f} - 3 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{\hat{c}} - 2 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{\hat{f}} + 3 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{\hat{c}} + 2 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{\hat{f}} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{f_{*}} - 3 \tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{r_{*}} - \tilde{x}_{r'} \right)$$

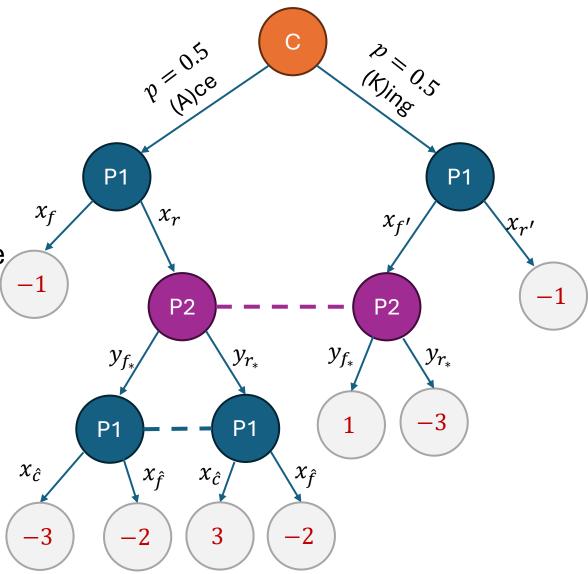
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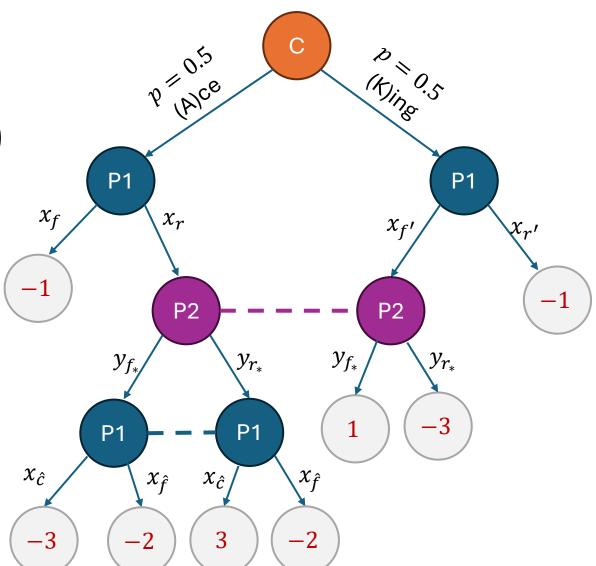


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Observation. This is of the form x^TAy .

What is the dimension of A?



What is the expected payoff of x?

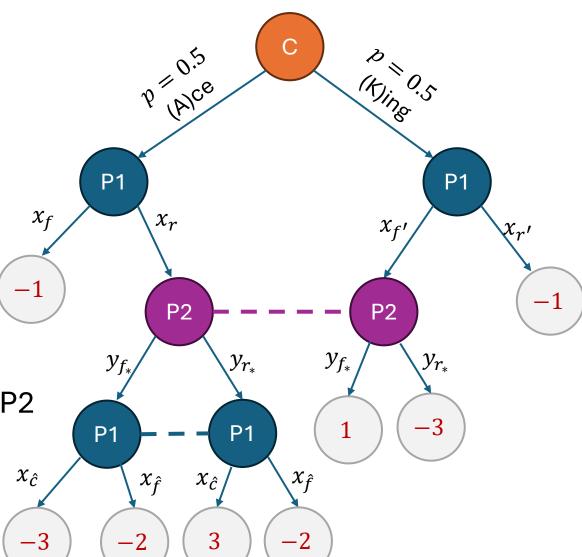
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Observation. This is of the form x^TAy .

What is the dimension of A?

One row for each possible action a of P

One column for each possible action a' of P2



What is the expected payoff of x?

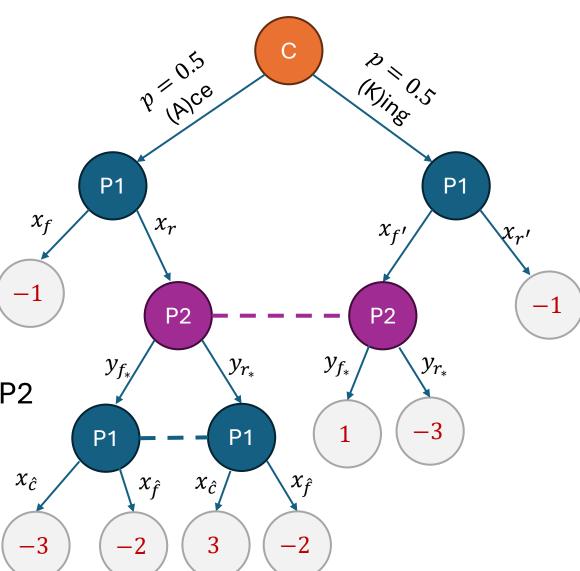
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What is the dimension of A?

One row for each possible action a of P One column for each possible action a^\prime of P2

What is the value $A_{a,a'}$?



What is the expected payoff of x?

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-\tilde{x}_{f} - 3 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} - 2 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} + 3 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} + 2 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{f_{*}} - 3 \tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{r_{*}} - \tilde{x}_{r'} \right)$$

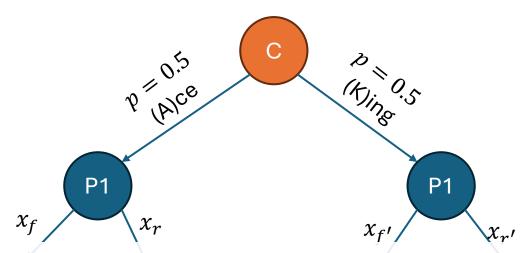
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One row for each possible action a of P One column for each possible action a' of P2

What is the value $A_{a,a'}$?

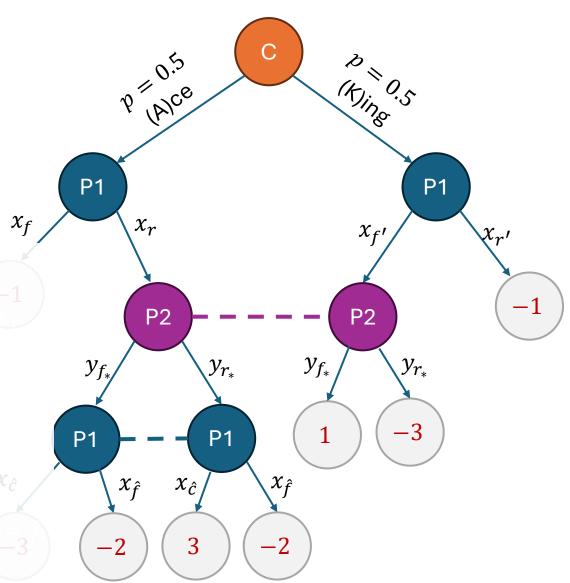
If there exists a terminal node, such that a was the last action chosen by P1 and a' was the last action chosen by P2 then it is the value of the leaf multiplied by all "chance" probabilities on the path to the leaf



What is the expected payoff of x?

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-\tilde{x}_{f} - 3 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} - 2 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} + 3 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} + 2 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} \right)
+ \frac{1}{2} \left(\tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{f_{*}} - 3 \tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{r_{*}} - \tilde{x}_{r'} \right)$$

What constraints does \tilde{x} need to respect?



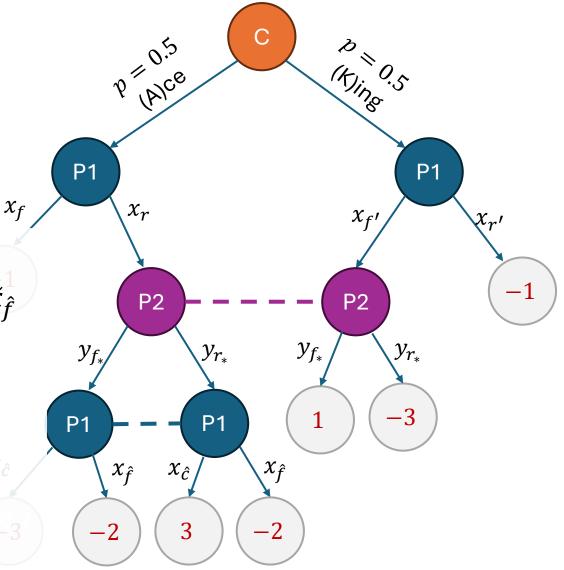
What is the expected payoff of x?

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-\tilde{x}_{f} - 3 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} - 2 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} + 3 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} + 2 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} \right)
+ \frac{1}{2} \left(\tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{f_{*}} - 3 \tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{r_{*}} - \tilde{x}_{r'} \right)$$

What constraints does \tilde{x} need to respect?

Since $\tilde{x}_{\hat{c}}$ is supposed to represent $x_r x_{\hat{c}}$ and $\tilde{x}_{\hat{f}}$ is supposed to represent $x_r x_{\hat{f}}$

$$\tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} + \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} = x_r \left(x_{\hat{c}} + x_{\hat{f}} \right) = x_r$$



What is the expected payoff of x?

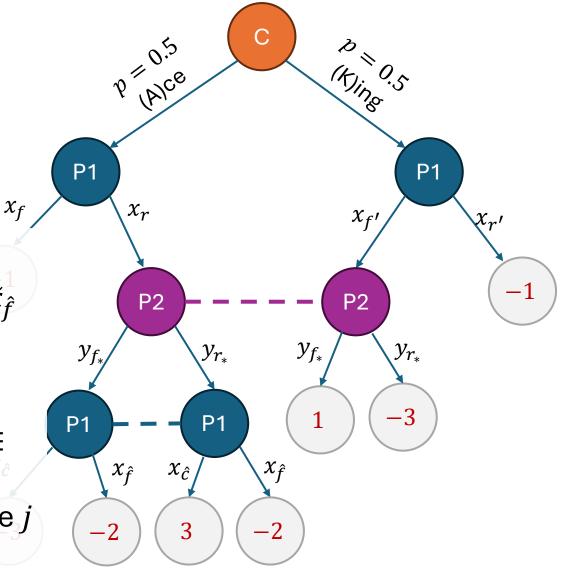
$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-\tilde{x}_{f} - 3 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} - 2 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} + 3 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} + 2 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} \right)
+ \frac{1}{2} \left(\tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{f_{*}} - 3 \tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{r_{*}} - \tilde{x}_{r'} \right)$$

What constraints does \tilde{x} need to respect?

Since $\tilde{x}_{\hat{c}}$ is supposed to represent $x_r x_{\hat{c}}$ and $\tilde{x}_{\hat{f}}$ is supposed to represent $x_r x_{\hat{f}}$

$$\tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} + \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} = x_r \left(x_{\hat{c}} + x_{\hat{f}} \right) = x_r$$

The sum of \tilde{x}_a for all actions at an info set $j \in \mathcal{J}_i$ must be matching \tilde{x}_{p_j} , i.e., variable associated with the last action chosen before j



What is the expected payoff of x?

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(-\tilde{x}_{f} - 3 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} - 2 y_{f_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} + 3 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} + 2 y_{r_{*}} \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} \right)
+ \frac{1}{2} \left(\tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{f_{*}} - 3 \tilde{x}_{f'} \tilde{y}_{r_{*}} - \tilde{x}_{r'} \right)$$

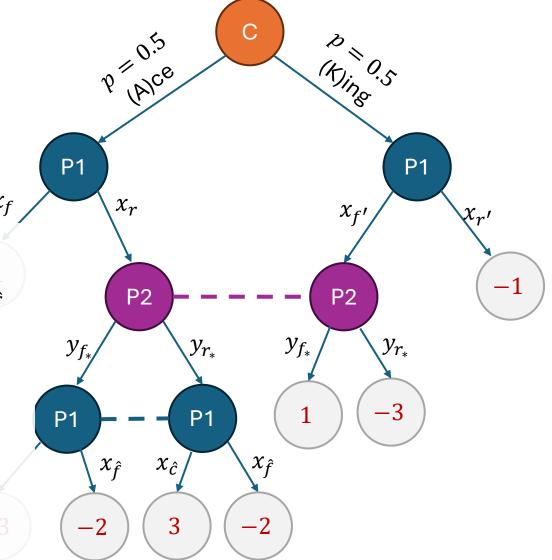
Are these all?

Since $\tilde{x}_{\hat{c}}$ is supposed to represent $x_r x_{\hat{c}}$ and $\tilde{x}_{\hat{f}}$ is supposed to represent $x_r x_{\hat{f}}$

$$\tilde{x}_{\hat{c}} + \tilde{x}_{\hat{f}} = x_r \left(x_{\hat{c}} + x_{\hat{f}} \right) = x_r = \tilde{x}_r$$

For every, \tilde{x} , we can find a valid behavioral x

$$\frac{\widetilde{x}_c}{\widetilde{x}_r} = x_{\hat{c}}, \qquad \frac{\widetilde{x}_{\hat{f}}}{\widetilde{x}_r} = x_{\hat{f}}$$



Recap: Sequence Form Representation

- The strategies of the player can be represented as $\tilde{x} \in X$, $\tilde{y} \in Y$
- \tilde{x}_a : product of probabilities of all actions of P1 on the path to a
- \tilde{y}_a : product of probabilities of all actions of P2 on the path to a

$$X \coloneqq \left\{ \forall j \in \mathcal{J}_1 \colon \sum_{a \in A_j} \tilde{x}_a = \tilde{x}_{p_j} \right\}, \qquad Y \coloneqq \left\{ \forall j \in \mathcal{J}_2 \colon \sum_{a \in A_j} \tilde{y}_a = \tilde{y}_{p_j} \right\}$$

- The payoff to P1 under sequence strategies $\tilde{x} \in X$, $\tilde{y} \in Y$ is $\tilde{x}^{\top}A\tilde{y}$
- $A_{a,a'}=$ **if** a was the last action of P1 and a' the last action of P2 before some leaf z, **then** payoff to P1 at z times product of chance probabilities on path to z **else** zero

Recap: From Sequence to Behavioral

• Every sequence form strategy \tilde{x} can be transformed into a behavioral form strategy as (recursively bottom up):

$$\forall a \in A_j \colon x_a = \frac{\tilde{x}_a}{\tilde{x}_{p_j}}$$

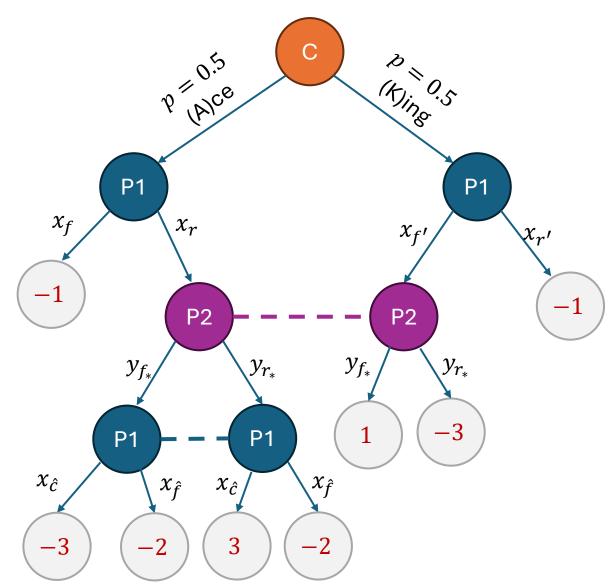
if info-set is un-reachable, i.e. $\tilde{x}_{p_j} = 0$, then use any behavioral

• Every behavioral strategy x can be transformed into a sequence form strategy as (recursively top down):

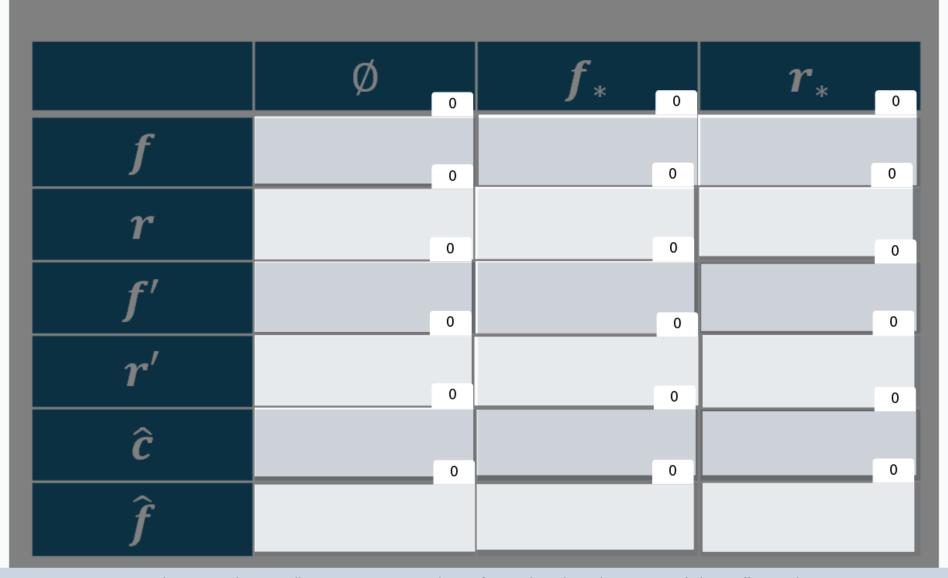
$$\forall a \in A_j : \tilde{x}_a = \tilde{x}_{p_i} \cdot x_a$$

	Ø	$m{f}_*$	r_*
f			
r			
f'			
r'			
\hat{c}			
\hat{f}			

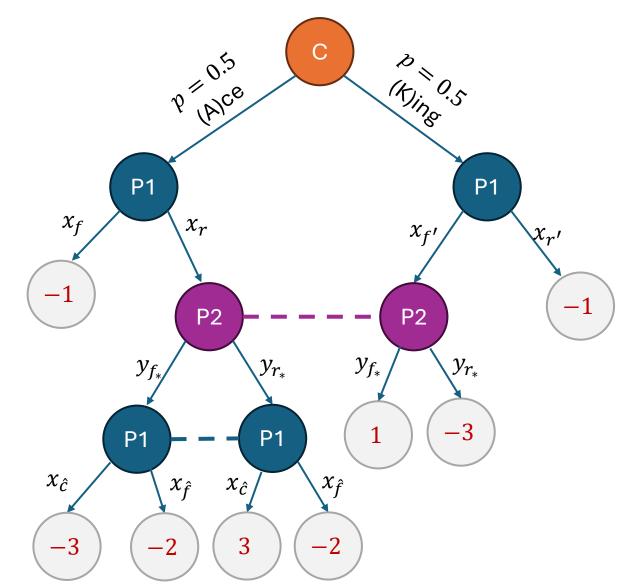
Let's fill it in!



Click on the table entries that are non-zero.



	Ø	$m{f}_*$	r_*
f	-1/2		
r			
f'		1/2	-3/2
r'	-1/2		
\hat{c}		-3/2	3/2
\hat{f}		-2/2	-2/2



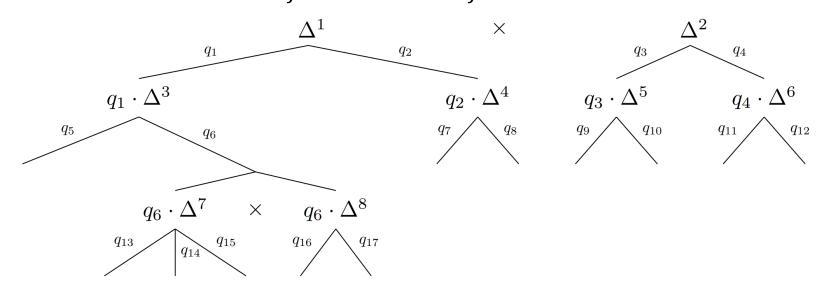
TreePlex Representation of Strategy Space

The strategy space of each player is a set of interconnected "scaled" simplices

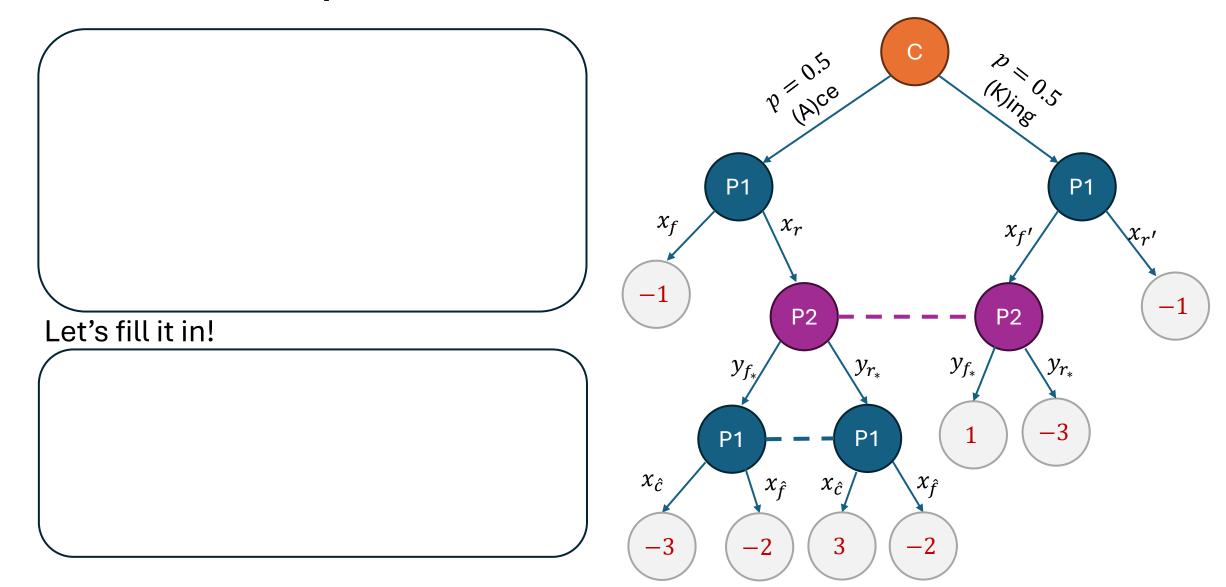
$$\forall j \in \mathcal{J}_1: \sum_{a \in A_j} \tilde{x}_a = \tilde{x}_{p_j}$$

To generate \tilde{x}_a

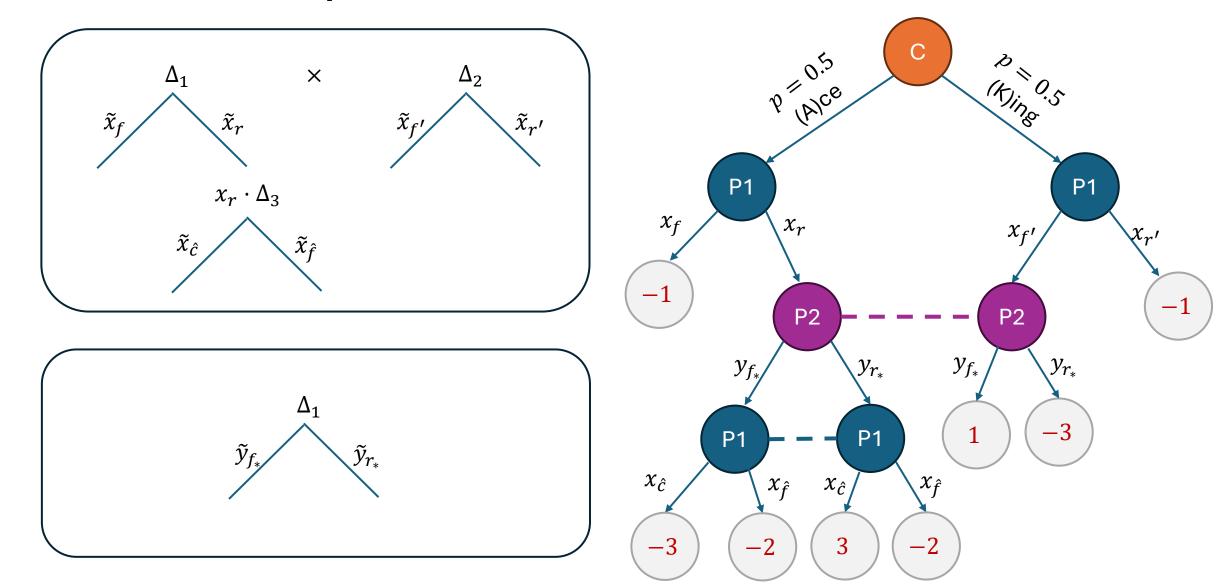
- Generate an element of the simplex (i.e. a behavioral strategy x_a)
- Scale all its coordinates by \tilde{x}_{p_j} , i.e. $\tilde{x}_a = \tilde{x}_{p_j} \cdot x_a$



TreePlex Representation



TreePlex Representation



Summarizing!

 We have successfully turned imperfect information extensive form zero-sum games into a familiar object

$$\max_{\tilde{x} \in X} \min_{\tilde{y} \in Y} \tilde{x}^{\top} A \tilde{y}$$

• X, Y are convex sets, i.e., sequence-form strategies

- We can invoke minimax theorem to prove existence of equilibria
- We can calculate equilibria via LP duality
- We can calculate equilibria via no-regret learning!