

A strategy is a list of choices, one for each decision node of that player. Hence the strategies for each player are

Player 1:  $LW, LE, RW, RE$

Player 2:  $ac, ad, ae, bc, bd, be$

This might be unintuitive. Consider strategy  $LW$ . If  $L$  is played, then the choice between  $W$  and  $E$  seems irrelevant – that node will not be reached. In such a case, think of  $W$  as still being part of the strategy as a *contingency*, just in case that node is reached by some terrible mistake.

The reduced-form then takes all of these strategies and turns it into a payoff matrix. Note that  $LW$  and  $LE$  rows have the same payoffs. This is a consequence of the seeming redundancy that comes from specifying  $LW$  and  $LE$  as unique strategies, even though, again, choosing  $L$  renders the choice between  $W$  and  $E$  irrelevant.

	$ac$	$ad$	$ae$	$bc$	$bd$	$be$
$LW$	2, 1	2, 1	2, 1	4, 0	4, 0	4, 0
$LE$	2, 1	2, 1	2, 1	4, 0	4, 0	4, 0
$RW$	2, 0	3, 2	1, 2	2, 0	3, 2	1, 2
$RE$	2, 0	3, 2	0, 3	2, 0	3, 2	0, 3

The pure-strategy Nash equilibria are:  $(LW, ac)$ ,  $(LW, ae)$ ,  $(LE, ac)$ ,  $(LE, ae)$ ,  $(RW, ad)$ .

Now for backward-induction. Start by comparing terminal nodes.

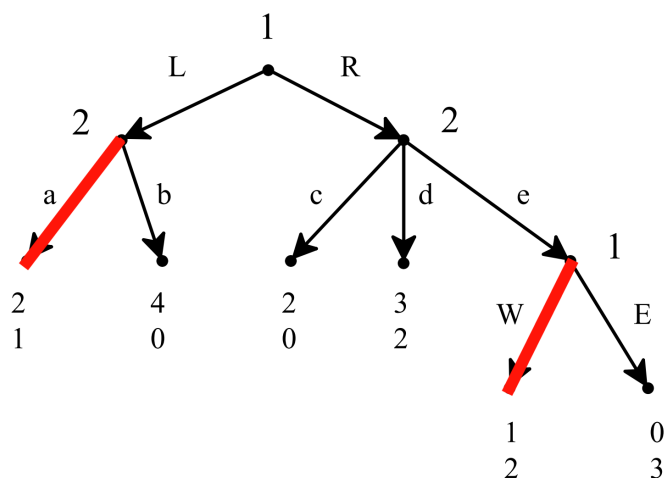


FIGURE 1: Player 2 would rather play  $a$  than  $b$  because  $1 > 0$ ; and Player 1 would rather play  $W$  than  $E$  because  $1 > 0$ .

The  $R$  node for Player 2 is key, because playing either  $d$  or  $e$  is rational for Player 2 (because  $2 > 0$ ). Hence we consider both cases separately.

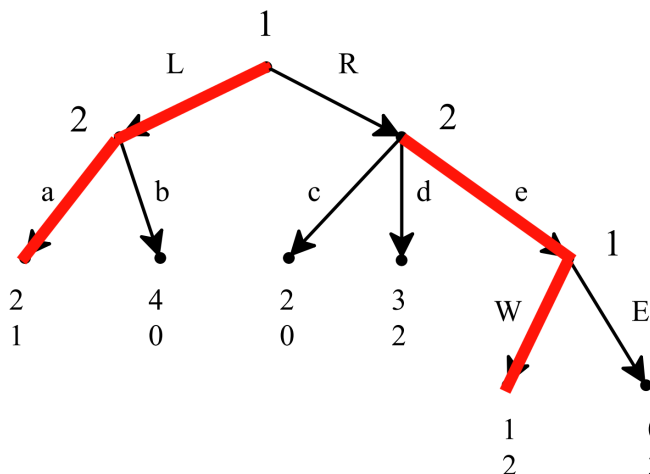


FIGURE 2: Suppose Player 2 plays  $e$ . Then it is rational for Player 1 to choose  $L$  because  $2 > 1$ . Hence one backward-induction solution is  $(LW, ae)$ .

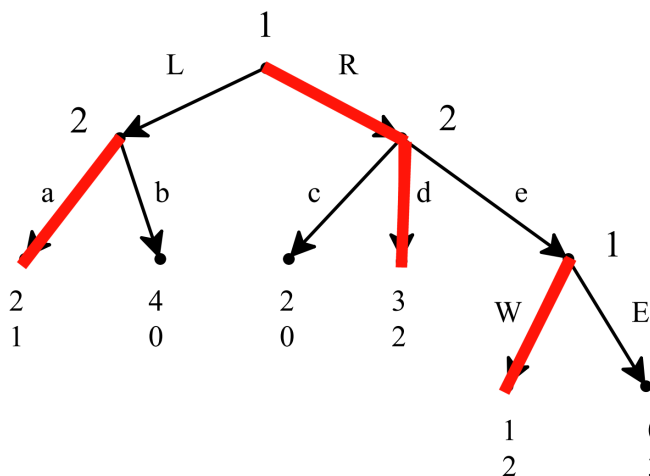


FIGURE 3: Suppose Player 2 plays  $d$ . Then it is rational for Player 1 to choose  $R$  because  $3 > 2$ . Hence the other backward-induction solution is  $(RW, ad)$ .

Note that every backward-induction solution of a perfect-information game is a Nash equilibrium of the associated strategic form; but not all Nash equilibria are backward-induction solutions. Hence we can consider backward-induction solutions to be a *refinement* of Nash equilibrium. The Nash equilibria that are not backward-induction solutions are not *credible*. For example,  $(LW, ac)$  is not credible because Player 2 would never choose  $c$  if Player 1 were to choose  $W$ .