

Existence of Nash Equilibria in Games with Incomplete Preferences.

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Paris, 27 Mai 2015.

1) Definitions of the class of games

We first define the class of games we study.

1) a) Strategic Game

A strategic game is $((X_i)_{i \in N}, (u_i)_{i \in N})$ where

- N is the finite set of players, and for every $i \in N$:
- X_i is the strategy space of player i (convex, compact subset of a metric space)
- $u_i : X = \prod_{i \in N} X_i \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is the payoff function of player i .

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1) b) Strategic Game with endogenous sharing rule

Add an ingredient: allow the payoffs to be multivalued (see Simon-Zame, Econometrica (1990)):

1) b) Strategic Game with endogenous sharing rule

A strategic game with endogenous sharing rule is a couple $((X_i)_{i \in N}, \mathcal{U})$ where:

\mathcal{U} is a multi-valued function from $X := \prod_{i \in N} X_i$ to \mathbf{R}^N with non empty values

Interpretation: $\mathcal{U}(x) \subset \mathbf{R}^N$ is the universe of all possible payoff profiles at $x \in X$.

In this talk, we shall be interested in the existence of a selection u of \mathcal{U} for which there is a pure-strategy Nash equilibrium.

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1) c) Interpretations of endogenous sharing rule.

3 interpretations of endogenous sharing rule: the two first by Simon-Zame, the last one (incomplete preferences) is ours.

1) c) First Interpretation: indeterminacy of payoffs

- At each profile x , every $(v_1, \dots, v_N) \in \mathcal{U}(x)$ specifies for each player i his share v_i .
- In particular, a selection u of \mathcal{U} is a sharing rule.
- The use of a multivalued function is because sharing exhibit some indeterminacy (see location game).

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1) c) Second Interpretation: discontinuous games

- This interpretation corresponds to a particular class of endogenous sharing rule.
- Assume there is a payoff-profile function $u = (u_1, \dots, u_N)$
- Define

$$\mathcal{U}(x) = \left\{ \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} u(x^n) : (x^n) \rightarrow x \right\}$$

- i.e., each element of $\mathcal{U}(x)$ is very close to $u(x')$, for some profile x' close to x .
- It's a way to consider trembling-hand strategies.

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1) c) Third Interpretation: strategic games with incomplete preferences

- "Of all axioms of utility theory, the completeness axiom is perhaps the most questionable" (Aumann.)
- A preorder on X is a reflexive and transitive binary relation.
- Recall every preorder \lesssim on X admits a multi-utility representation (see OK 2007), i.e:

There is a family $(v_j)_{j \in J}$ of real-valued functions defined on X such that: $x \lesssim y \Leftrightarrow$ for every $j \in J$, $v_j(x) \leq v_j(y)$.

Thus there is no loss of generality in working with cardinal multi-representations.

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- Note $\mathcal{U}_i(x)$ the projection of $\mathcal{U}(x) \subset \mathbf{R}^N$ on the i -th component.
- Equivalently, $x \lesssim_i y \Leftrightarrow \sup \mathcal{U}_i(x) \leq \inf \mathcal{U}_i(y)$.
- Means: y is not worse than x whatever the indeterminacy of payoffs.
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- Consider a strategic game $((X_i)_{i \in N}, (u_i)_{i \in N})$.
- Let $\varepsilon > 0$.
- Define $\mathcal{U}(x) = u(B(x, \varepsilon))$.
- The preorder induced is $x \lesssim_i y \Leftrightarrow \sup_{\|x' - x\| \leq \varepsilon} u_i(x') \leq \inf_{\|y' - y\| \leq \varepsilon} u_i(y')$.
- Even when only one player $i = 1$, in general no maximal element for \lesssim_1 .
- Remark that the orders induced by u are completions of the order induced by \lesssim_i , in the sense that:
- $x \lesssim_i y \Rightarrow u_i(x) \leq u_i(y)$.
- In general, we could ask the existence of a completion for which there is a maximal element.

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Example 2

- Consider a strategic game $((X_i)_{i \in N}, (u_i)_{i \in N})$, where u is ε -continuous.
- Define $\mathcal{U}(x) = \{\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} u(x^n) : (x^n) \rightarrow x\}$
- The preorder induced is $x \lesssim_i y \Leftrightarrow \limsup_x u_i(x) \leq \liminf_y u_i(y)$.
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- Remark that every Nash of some selection of $\mathcal{U}(x)$ will be an 2ε -Nash of u .

Example 3

- Consider a strategic game with one player $i = 1$ (to simplify). Let M_1 is the set of mixed strategies of player 1, u the payoff function.
- Define

$$\mathcal{U}(\sigma) = u(\text{Support } \sigma).$$

- The preorder induced is $\sigma \lesssim_1 \sigma' \Leftrightarrow \sup_{x \in \text{Support}(\sigma)} u(x) \leq \inf_{x' \in \text{Support}(\sigma')} u(x')$.
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1) d) Generalized games with endogenous sharing rule.

Last extension: the strategy space of each player depend on the strategies (see Arrow-Debreu 1954)

1) d) Generalized games with endogenous sharing rule

- A generalized game with endogenous sharing rule is $((X_i)_{i \in N}, (B_i)_{i \in N}, \mathcal{U})$
- Here, player i has to play in $B_i(x_{-i})$ given the strategies x_{-i} of the other players $-i$.
- Assume B_i is a multivalued mapping from X_{-i} to X_i with a closed graph and nonempty convex values (e.g. a Kakutani-type mapping).
- When \mathcal{U} is single-valued, we call the game "generalized game".

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2) Solution concept; existence

We now pass to the solution concept, and its existence.

2) a) Solution of a Generalized games with endogenous sharing rule

Let $\mathcal{E} = ((X_i)_{i \in N}, (\mathcal{B}_i)_{i \in N}, \mathcal{U})$ be a generalized game with endogenous sharing rule.

A solution of \mathcal{E} is a couple (x, u) , where:

(1) $u = (u_i)_{i \in N}$ is a selection of \mathcal{U}

(2) x is a generalized Nash equilibrium of $((X_i)_{i \in N}, (u_i)_{i \in N}, \mathcal{B})$:

(i) For every $i \in N$, $x_i \in \mathcal{B}_i(x_{-i})$.

(ii) For every $d_i \in \mathcal{B}_i(x_{-i})$, $u_i(d_i, x_{-i}) \leq u_i(x)$.

2) a) Solution of a Generalized games with endogenous sharing rule

- A similar notion exist, but (1) for games (2) in mixed strategies (Simon-Zame -Econometrica 1990.)
- It was designed principally to overcome the problem of discontinuity of payoffs.
- Existence of a solution in pure was an open question(Jackson et al. Econometrica 2002)
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- 1) Pure strategies are generally more tractable in economic models.
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2) b) Example of generalized game: Exchange economy

- n consumers and m commodities.
- Consumer i 's consumption set is X_i , initial endowment e_i .
- Utility function $u_i : X_i \rightarrow \mathbf{R}_+$.
- Walrasian equilibrium: $(x, p) \in \prod_{i \in N} X_i \times \Delta(\mathbf{R}_+^m)$ is generalized Nash equilibrium of $N + 1$ -games, where:
- Each player $i = 1, \dots, N$ solve

$$\sup_{x_i \in X_i} \tilde{u}_i(x) = \begin{cases} u_i(x) & \text{if } p \cdot (x_i - e_i) \leq 0, \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Fictive player $N + 1$ solves

$$\sup_{p \in \Delta(\mathbf{R}_+^m)} p \cdot \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i - \sum_{i=1}^N e_i \right).$$

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2) c) Existence of a solution

Any generalized game with endogenous sharing rules $((X_i)_{i \in N}, (B_i)_{i \in N}, \mathcal{U})$ satisfying (A1) to (A5) below admits a solution.

- A1: X is a convex and compact subset of a Hausdorff and locally convex topological vector space;
- A2: \mathcal{U} is bounded;
- A3: The graph of the economy $\Gamma := \{(x, v) : v \in \mathcal{U}(x) \text{ and } \forall i \in N \ x_i \in B_i(x_{-i})\}$ is closed;
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3) Proof.

First idea: find good behaved selections of \mathcal{U} (continuous, quasiconcave) and apply general existence result for games or generalized games.

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Second idea (the good one)

- Step 1: Consider the quasiconcave selection u ; associate to the generalized game define by u a discontinuous game.
- Step 2: For this discontinuous game, existence of "weak" generalized Nash equilibrium \bar{x} , for which players play optimally up to infinitesimal modifications of their strategies.
- Step 3: Modify "slightly" the game at every (d_i, \bar{x}_{-i}) , $d_i \in X_i, i \in I$, so that \bar{x} is a generalized Nash of the new generalized game associated.

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3) Proof. Step 1: Associate to generalized game a discontinuous game.

Following an idea of Reny (Econometrica 1999), we associate to $(G = ((X_i)_{i \in N}, u, (B_i)_{i \in N}))$ a strategic game G' as follows:

- Let $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $u_i(x) \geq \Lambda + 1$ for every $i \in N$ and every profile $x \in X$.
- The game G' has N players.
- In G' , strategy set of player i is X_i , and his payoff is

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3) Proof. Step 2: Weak notion of generalized Nash equilibrium.

Theorem (Bich-Laraki): Every quasiconcave game $(G = ((X_i)_{i \in N}, v))$ admits a weak equilibrium: it is $(x, \alpha) \in \overline{(x, v(x)) : x \in X}$ such that for every $i \in N$,

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$\mathcal{V}(x_{-i})$ is the set of open neighborhood of x_{-i}

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Theorem (Bich-Laraki): Every quasiconcave game $(G = ((X_i)_{i \in N}, v))$ admits a weak equilibrium: it is $(x, \alpha) \in \overline{(x, v(x)) : x \in X}$ such that for every $i \in N$,

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$$\underline{v}_i(x) := \sup_{U \in \mathcal{V}(x_{-i})} \sup_{d_i \in W_U(x)} \inf_{x'_{-i} \in U, x'_i \in d_i(x'_{-i})} v_i(x').$$

$\mathcal{V}(x_{-i})$ is the set of open neighborhood of x_{-i}

$W_U(x_i, x_{-i})$ is set of Kakutani-type multivalued mappings $d_i(\cdot)$ from U to X_i such that $x_i \in d_i(x_{-i})$.

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The proof is by contradiction:

- otherwise, the game is generalized-secure, one can apply Barelli-Soza (Econometrica 2014) to get a Nash.
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3) Proof. Step 3: Existence of a solution.

Let (x, α) weak equilibrium of $G' = ((X_i)_{i \in N}, (v_i)_{i \in N})$

Define $q : X \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^N$ by

$$q(y) = \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } y = x, \\ \text{any limit point of } v(x^n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}} & \text{if } y = (d_i, x_{-i}) \text{ for some } i \in N, d_i \neq x_i, (x^n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}} \in \underline{S}_i(d_i, x_{-i}), \\ q(y) = v(y) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

where $\underline{S}_i(x) =$ space of sequences $(x^n)_{n \in \mathbf{N}}$ of X converging to x such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} v_i(x^n) = \underline{v}_i(x)$.

One can prove easily that q provides a solution, i.e. a selection of \mathcal{U} , with x generalized Nash of q .

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Interpretation with incomplete preferences.

Let $\mathcal{E} = ((X_i)_{i \in N}, (\lesssim_i)_{i \in N})$ be an ordered game, i.e. preferences \lesssim_i are preorders.

A Nash equilibrium of \mathcal{E} is a profile $x \in \prod_{i \in N} X_i$ such that there is no player $i \in N$ and no $y_i \in X_i$ with $x \not\lesssim_i (y_i, x_{-i})$.

Consider again the preorders $x \lesssim_i y \Leftrightarrow$ for every selection $u = (u_1, \dots, u_N)$ of \mathcal{U} , $u_i(x) \leq u_i(y)$.

Under assumption (A1)-(A4) on \mathcal{U} , \mathcal{E} admits a completion v such that $((X_i)_{i \in N}, v)$ has a Nash equilibrium.

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Thank you.