

n -Player Stochastic Games with Additive Transitions

Frank Thuijsman

János Flesch & Koos Vrieze

Maastricht University



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



1/115

n -Player Stochastic Games with Additive Transitions

Frank Thuijsman

János Flesch & Koos Vrieze

Maastricht University

European Journal of Operational Research 179 (2007) 483–497



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris

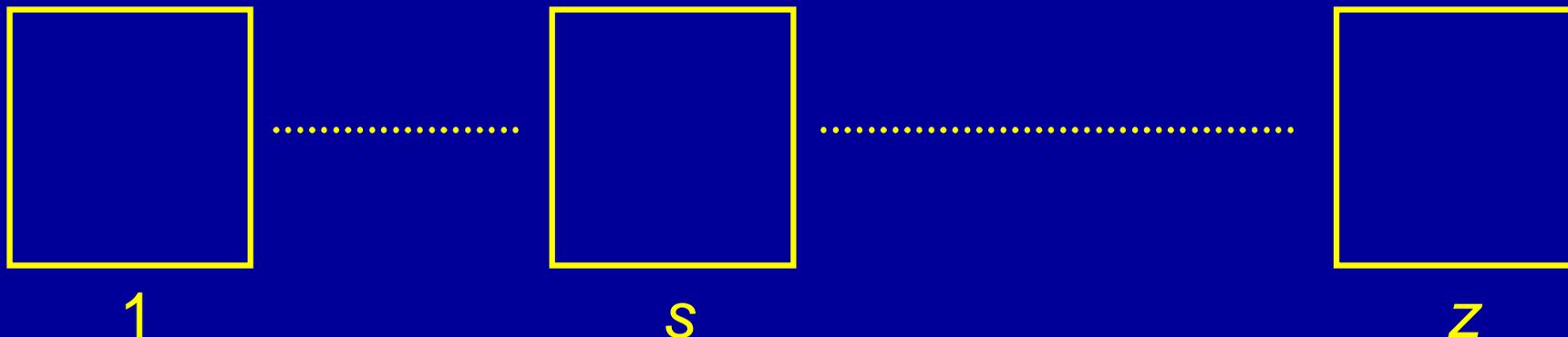


Outline

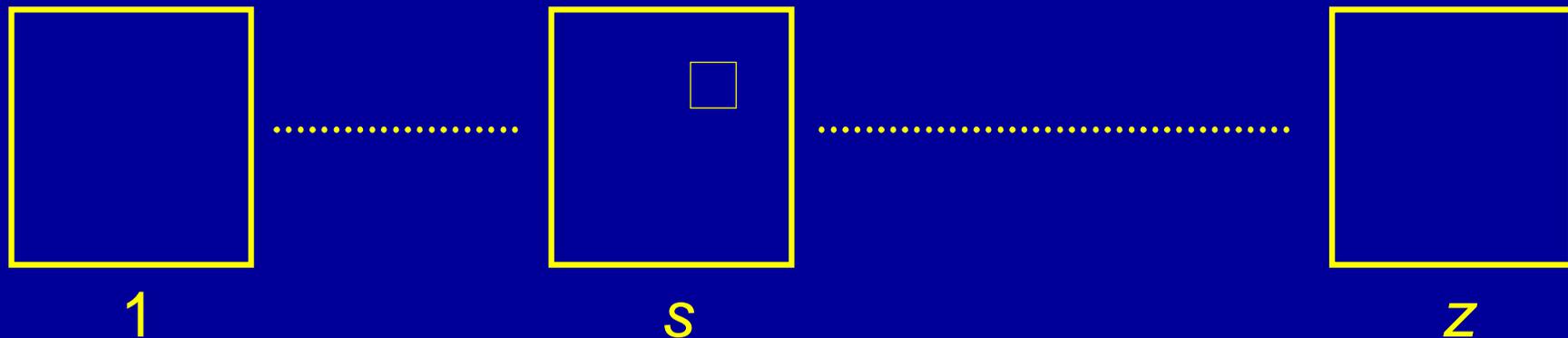
- Model
- Brief History of Stochastic Games
- Additive Transitions
- Examples



Finite Stochastic Game



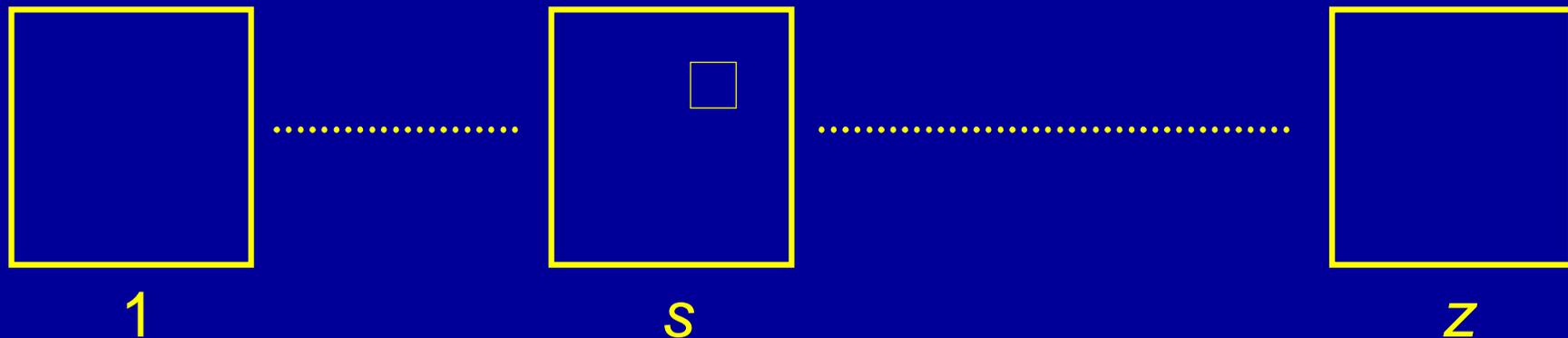
Finite Stochastic Game



$$a_s = (a^1_s, a^2_s, \dots, a^n_s)$$

joint action

Finite Stochastic Game

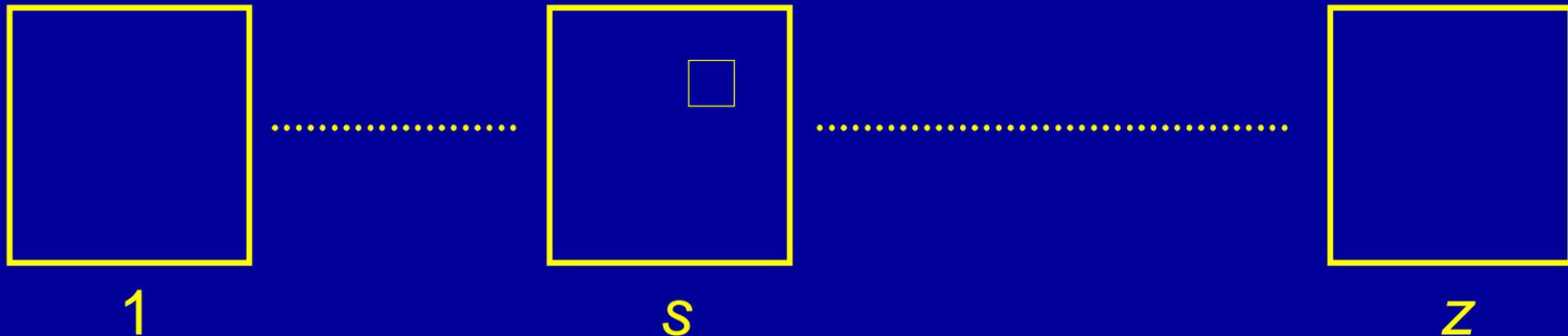


$$\begin{array}{l} r_s(a_s) \\ p_s(a_s) \end{array}$$

$$a_s = (a^1_s, a^2_s, \dots, a^n_s)$$

joint action

Finite Stochastic Game



$$\begin{matrix} r_s(a_s) \\ p_s(a_s) \end{matrix}$$

$$a_s = (a_s^1, a_s^2, \dots, a_s^n)$$

joint action

$$r_s(a_s) = (r_s^1(a_s), r_s^2(a_s), \dots, r_s^n(a_s))$$

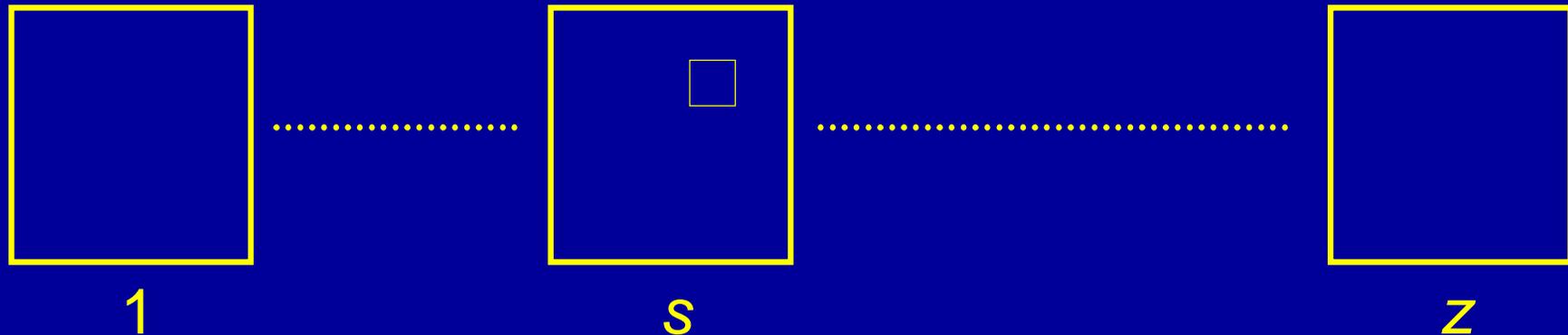
rewards

$$p_s(a_s) = (p_s(1|a_s), p_s(2|a_s), \dots, p_s(z|a_s))$$

transitions



Finite Stochastic Game



- *Infinite horizon*
- *Complete Information*
- *Perfect Recall*
- *Independent and Simultaneous Choices*

3-Player Stochastic Game

3

N

L 2 R

	0, 0, 0 (1, 0, 0, 0)	0, 0, 0 (2/3, 0, 1/3, 0)
T 1 B	0, 0, 0 (2/3, 1/3, 0, 0)	0, 0, 0 (1/3, 1/3, 1/3, 0)

F

0, 0, 0 (2/3, 0, 0, 1/3)	0, 0, 0 (1/3, 0, 1/3, 1/3)
0, 0, 0 (1/3, 1/3, 0, 1/3)	0, 0, 0 (0, 1/3, 1/3, 1/3)

1

1, 3, 0 (0, 1, 0, 0)

2

0, 3, 1 (0, 0, 1, 0)

3

3, 0, 1 (0, 0, 0, 1)

4



Strategies

general strategy $\pi^i : N \times S \times H \rightarrow X^i$
 $(k, s, h) \rightarrow X^i_s$



Strategies

general strategy $\pi^i : N \times S \times H \rightarrow X^i$

$(k, s, h) \rightarrow X^i_s$ mixed actions



Strategies

general strategy $\pi^i : N \times S \times H \rightarrow X^i$

$(k, s, h) \rightarrow X^i_s$ mixed actions

Markov strategy $f^i : N \times S \rightarrow X^i$

$(k, s) \rightarrow X^i_s$



Strategies

general strategy $\pi^i : N \times S \times H \rightarrow X^i$

$(k, s, h) \rightarrow X^i_s$ mixed actions

Markov strategy $f^i : N \times S \rightarrow X^i$

$(k, s) \rightarrow X^i_s$

stationary strategy $x^i : S \rightarrow X^i$

$(s) \rightarrow X^i_s$



Strategies

general strategy $\pi^i : N \times S \times H \rightarrow X^i$

$(k, s, h) \rightarrow X^i_s$ mixed actions

Markov strategy $f^i : N \times S \rightarrow X^i$

$(k, s) \rightarrow X^i_s$

stationary strategy $x^i : S \rightarrow X^i$

$(s) \rightarrow X^i_s$

opponents' strategy π^{-i} , f^{-i} and x^{-i}



Rewards

β -Discounted rewards (with $0 < \beta < 1$)

$$\gamma_{\beta s}^i(\pi) = E_{s\pi}((1-\beta) \sum_k \beta^{k-1} R_k^i)$$

Limiting average rewards

$$\gamma_s^i(\pi) = E_{s\pi}(\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} K^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^K R_k^i)$$



MinMax Values

β -Discounted minmax

$$v_{\beta s}^i = \inf_{\pi^{-i}} \sup_{\pi^i} \gamma_{\beta s}^i(\pi)$$

Limiting average minmax

$$v_s^i = \inf_{\pi^{-i}} \sup_{\pi^i} \gamma_s^i(\pi)$$



MinMax Values

β -Discounted minmax

$$v_{\beta s}^i = \inf_{\pi^{-i}} \sup_{\pi^i} \gamma_{\beta s}^i(\pi)$$

Limiting average minmax

$$v_s^i = \inf_{\pi^{-i}} \sup_{\pi^i} \gamma_s^i(\pi)$$

Highest rewards player i can defend



ε -Equilibrium

$\pi = (\pi^i)_{i \in N}$ is an ε -equilibrium if

$$\gamma_s^i(\sigma^i, \pi^{-i}) \leq \gamma_s^i(\pi) + \varepsilon$$

for all σ^i , for all i and for all s .



ε -Equilibrium

$\pi = (\pi^i)_{i \in N}$ is an ε -equilibrium if

$$\gamma_s^i(\sigma^i, \pi^{-i}) \leq \gamma_s^i(\pi) + \varepsilon$$

for all σ^i , for all i and for all s .



Question

Any ε -equilibrium?

0, 0
(0, 0, 0, 1)
0, 0
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)

1

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)

2

3, -1
(0, 0, 1, 0)

3

2, 1
(0, 0, 0, 1)

4



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



21/115

Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Shapley, 1953

0-sum, “discounted”



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



22/115

Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Shapley, 1953

0-sum, “discounted”

Everett, 1957

0-sum, recursive, undiscounted



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Shapley, 1953

0-sum, “discounted”

Everett, 1957

0-sum, recursive, undiscounted

Gillette, 1957

0-sum, big match problem



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Fink, 1964 & Takahashi, 1964

n-player, discounted



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



25/115

Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Fink, 1964 & Takahashi, 1964

n-player, discounted

Blackwell & Ferguson, 1968

0-sum, big match solution



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Fink, 1964 & Takahashi, 1964

n -player, discounted

Blackwell & Ferguson, 1968

0-sum, big match solution

Liggett & Lippmann, 1969

0-sum, perfect inf., undiscounted



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Kohlberg, 1974

0-sum, absorbing, undiscounted



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



28/115

Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Kohlberg, 1974

0-sum, absorbing, undiscounted

Mertens & Neyman, 1981

0-sum, undiscounted



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Kohlberg, 1974

0-sum, absorbing, undiscounted

Mertens & Neyman, 1981

0-sum, undiscounted

Sorin, 1986

2-player, Paris Match, undiscounted



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Vrieze & Thuijsman, 1989

2-player, absorbing, undiscounted



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



31/115

Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Vrieze & Thuijsman, 1989

2-player, absorbing, undiscounted

Thuijsman & Raghavan, 1997

n -player, perfect inf., undiscounted



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Vrieze & Thuijsman, 1989

2-player, absorbing, undiscounted

Thuijsman & Raghavan, 1997

n -player, perfect inf., undiscounted

Flesch, Thuijsman, Vrieze, 1997

3-player, absorbing example, undiscounted



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Solan, 1999

3-player, absorbing, undiscounted



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



34/115

Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Solan, 1999

3-player, absorbing, undiscounted

Vieille, 2000

2-player, undiscounted



Highlights from (Finite) Stochastic Games History

Solan, 1999

3-player, absorbing, undiscounted

Vieille, 2000

2-player, undiscounted

Solan & Vieille, 2001

n -player, quitting, undiscounted



Additive Transitions

$$p_s(a_s) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_s^i p_s^i(a_s^i)$$



Additive Transitions

$$p_s(a_s) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_s^i p_s^i(a_s^i)$$

$p_s^i(a_s^i)$ transition probabilities controlled by player i in state s



Additive Transitions

$$p_s(a_s) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_s^i p_s^i(a_s^i)$$

$p_s^i(a_s^i)$ transition probabilities controlled by player i in state s

λ_s^i transition power of player i in state s

$$0 \leq \lambda_s^i \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_i \lambda_s^i = 1 \quad \text{for each } s$$



Example for 2-Player Additive Transitions

$$p_s(a_s) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_s^i p_s^i(a_s^i)$$

$$\lambda_1^2 = 0.7$$

$$p_1^2(1) = (1, 0, 0) \quad p_1^2(2) = (0, 1, 0)$$

$$\lambda_1^1 = 0.3$$

$$p_1^1(1) = (1, 0, 0)$$

$$p_1^1(2) = (0, 0, 1)$$

1

Example for 2-Player Additive Transitions

$$p_s(a_s) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_s^i p_s^i(a_s^i)$$

$$\lambda_1^2 = 0.7$$

$$p_1^2(1) = (1, 0, 0) \quad p_1^2(2) = (0, 1, 0)$$

$$\lambda_1^1 = 0.3$$

$$p_1^1(1) = (1, 0, 0)$$

$$p_1^1(2) = (0, 0, 1)$$

	(1, 0, 0)	(0.3, 0.7, 0)
	(0.7, 0, 0.3)	(0, 0.7, 0.3)

1

Results



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



42/115

Results

1. 0-equilibria for n -player AT games (threats!)



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



43/115

Results

1. 0-equilibria for n -player AT games (threats!)
2. 0-opt. stationary strat. for 0-sum AT games



Results

1. 0-equilibria for n -player AT games (threats!)
2. 0-opt. stationary strat. for 0-sum AT games
3. Stat. ε -equilibria for 2-player abs. AT games



Results

1. 0-equilibria for n -player AT games (threats!)
2. 0-opt. stationary strat. for 0-sum AT games
3. Stat. ε -equilibria for 2-player abs. AT games
4. Result 3 can not be strengthened,



Results

1. 0-equilibria for n -player AT games (threats!)
2. 0-opt. stationary strat. for 0-sum AT games
3. Stat. ε -equilibria for 2-player abs. AT games
4. Result 3 can not be strengthened, neither to 3-player abs. AT games,



Results

1. 0-equilibria for n -player AT games (threats!)
2. 0-opt. stationary strat. for 0-sum AT games
3. Stat. ε -equilibria for 2-player abs. AT games
4. Result 3 can not be strengthened, neither to 3-player abs. AT games, nor to 2-player non-abs. AT games,



Results

1. 0-equilibria for n -player AT games (threats!)
2. 0-opt. stationary strat. for 0-sum AT games
3. Stat. ε -equilibria for 2-player abs. AT games
4. Result 3 can not be strengthened, neither to 3-player abs. AT games, nor to 2-player non-abs. AT games, nor to give stationary 0-equilibria



The Essential Observation

Additive Transitions
induce
a Complete Ordering of the Actions



The Essential Observation

Additive Transitions
induce
a Complete Ordering of the Actions

If a'_s is “better” than b'_s against some strategy,
then a'_s is “better” than b'_s against any strategy.



“Better”

Consider strategies a'_s and b'_s for player i



“Better”

Consider strategies a^i_s and b^i_s for player i

If, for some strategy a^{-i}_s we have

$$\sum_{t \in S} p_s(t \mid a^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v^i_t \geq \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t \mid b^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v^i_t$$



“Better”

Consider strategies a^i_s and b^i_s for player i

If, for some strategy a^{-i}_s we have

$$\sum_{t \in S} p_s(t \mid a^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v^i_t \geq \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t \mid b^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v^i_t$$

then for all strategies b^{-i}_s we have

$$\sum_{t \in S} p_s(t \mid a^i_s, b^{-i}_s) v^i_t \geq \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t \mid b^i_s, b^{-i}_s) v^i_t$$



Because

$$\text{If } \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v_t^i \geq \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v_t^i$$



Because

$$\text{If } \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v_t^i \geq \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v_t^i$$

Then

$$\lambda^i_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^i_s) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda^j_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^{-j}_s) v_t^i \geq$$

$$\lambda^i_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b^i_s) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda^j_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^{-j}_s) v_t^i$$



Because

If $\sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v_t^i \geq \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v_t^i$

Then

$$\lambda^i_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^i_s) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda^j_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^{-j}_s) v_t^j \geq \lambda^i_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b^i_s) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda^j_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^{-j}_s) v_t^j$$



Because

If $\sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v_t^i \geq \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b^i_s, a^{-i}_s) v_t^i$

Then

$$\lambda^i_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^i_s) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda^j_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^{-j}_s) v_t^i \geq \lambda^i_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b^i_s) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda^j_s \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a^{-j}_s) v_t^i$$

which implies that

$$\lambda_s^i \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a_s^i) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda_s^j \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b_s^j) v_t^j \geq \lambda_s^i \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b_s^i) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda_s^j \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b_s^j) v_t^j$$



which implies that

$$\lambda_s^i \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a_s^i) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda_s^j \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b_s^j) v_t^j \geq \lambda_s^i \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b_s^i) v_t^i + \sum_{j \neq i} \lambda_s^j \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b_s^j) v_t^j$$

And therefore

$$\sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a_s^i, b_s^{-i}) v_t^i \geq \sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b_s^i, b_s^{-i}) v_t^i$$



“Best”

The “best” actions for player i in state s are those that maximize the expression

$$\sum_{t \in \mathcal{S}} p_s(t | a^i_s) v^i_t$$



The Restricted Game

Let G be the original AT game and let G^* be the restricted AT game, where each player is restricted to his “best” actions.



The Restricted Game

Now $v^{*i} \geq v^i$ for each player i .



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



63/115

The Restricted Game

Now $v^{*i} \geq v^i$ for each player i .

In G^* : $\sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a_s^*) v_t^{*i} = v_s^{*i} \quad \forall i, s, a_s^*$



The Restricted Game

Now $v^{*i} \geq v^i$ for each player i .

In G^* : $\sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | a_s^*) v_t^{*i} = v_s^{*i} \quad \forall i, s, a_s^*$

In G : $\sum_{t \in S} p_s(t | b_s^i, a_s^{*-i}) v_t^i < v_s^i \quad \forall i, s,$
 $\forall a_s^{*-i}, b_s^i$



The Restricted Game

*If x^{*j} yields at least v^{*j} in G^* ,*

*then x^{*j} yields at least v^{*j} in G as well.*



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)

1

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)

2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)

3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

		0.5	
		$(1, 0, 0)$	$(0, 1, 0)$
0.5	$(1, 0, 0)$	$0, 0$	$0, 0$
	$(0, 0, 1)$	$0, 0$	$0, 0$
		$(1, 0, 0)$	$(0.5, 0.5, 0)$
		$(0.5, 0, 0.5)$	$(0, 0.5, 0.5)$
		1	2

$-3, 1$
$(0, 1, 0)$

$-1, 3$
$(0, 0, 1)$



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary 0-equilibrium

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)
1	2

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)
2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)
3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary 0-equilibrium

↓

→

	0, 0 (1, 0, 0)	0, 0 (0.5, 0.5, 0)
	0, 0 (0.5, 0, 0.5)	0, 0 (0, 0.5, 0.5)
	1	2

T, L

0, 0

-3, 1 (0, 1, 0)

2

-1, 3 (0, 0, 1)

3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game



NO stationary 0-equilibrium



0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)

1

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)

2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)

3

T, L	→	T, R
0, 0		-3, 1



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game



NO stationary 0-equilibrium



0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)

1

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)

2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)

3

T, L
0, 0



T, R
-3, 1

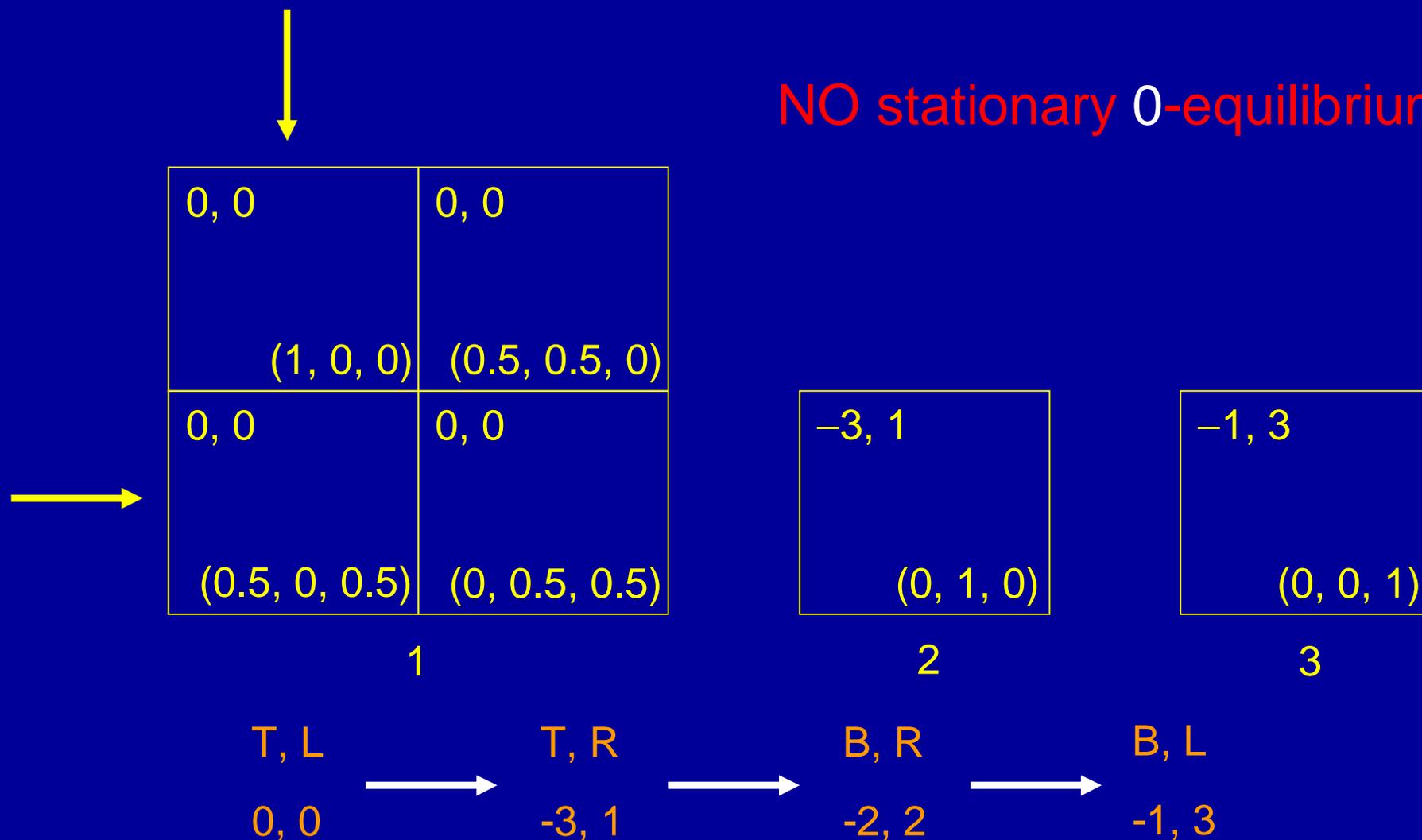


B, R
-2, 2



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary 0-equilibrium



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary 0-equilibrium

↓

→

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)

1

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)

2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)

3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

stationary ε -equilibrium

with $\varepsilon > 0$

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)

1

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)

2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)

3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

	$1-\varepsilon/2$	$\varepsilon/2$
0	$0, 0$ $(1, 0, 0)$	$0, 0$ $(0.5, 0.5, 0)$
1	$0, 0$ $(0.5, 0, 0.5)$	$0, 0$ $(0, 0.5, 0.5)$
	1	2

stationary ε -equilibrium
with $\varepsilon > 0$

$-3, 1$
$(0, 1, 0)$
2

$-1, 3$
$(0, 0, 1)$
3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

	$1-\varepsilon/2$	$\varepsilon/2$
0	$0, 0$ $(1, 0, 0)$	$0, 0$ $(0.5, 0.5, 0)$
1	$0, 0$ $(0.5, 0, 0.5)$	$0, 0$ $(0, 0.5, 0.5)$
	1	2

stationary ε -equilibrium
with $\varepsilon > 0$

$-3, 1$
$(0, 1, 0)$

$-1, 3$
$(0, 0, 1)$

equilibrium rewards $\approx ((-1-\varepsilon, 3-\varepsilon), (-3, 1), (-1, 3))$



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)
1	2

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)
2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)
3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1: B, T, T, T,

Player 2: R, R, R, R,

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)

1

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)

2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)

3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game



non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1: B, T, T, T,

Player 2: R, R, R, R,



0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)

1

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)

2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)

3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game




0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)
1	

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1: B, T, T, T,

Player 2: R, R, R, R,

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)

2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)

3



Ex. 1: 2-Player Absorbing AT Game

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1: B, T, T, T,

Player 2: R, R, R, R,

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0)	(0.5, 0.5, 0)
0, 0	0, 0
(0.5, 0, 0.5)	(0, 0.5, 0.5)
	1

-3, 1
(0, 1, 0)
2

-1, 3
(0, 0, 1)
3

equilibrium rewards $((-2, 2), (-3, 1), (-1, 3))$



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary ε -equilibrium
with $\varepsilon > 0$

0, 0
(0, 0, 0, 1)
0, 0
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)

1

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)

2

3, -1
(0, 0, 1, 0)

3

2, 1
(0, 0, 0, 1)

4



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary ε -equilibrium

with $\varepsilon > 0$

		q		$1-q$													
p	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 0, 1)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 0, 0, 1)														
0, 0																	
(0, 0, 0, 1)																	
$1-p$	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(1, 0, 0, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(1, 0, 0, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 1, 0, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 1, 0, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>3, -1</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 1, 0)</td></tr> </table>	3, -1	(0, 0, 1, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2, 1</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 0, 1)</td></tr> </table>	2, 1	(0, 0, 0, 1)		
0, 0																	
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)																	
0, 0																	
(1, 0, 0, 0)																	
0, 0																	
(0, 1, 0, 0)																	
3, -1																	
(0, 0, 1, 0)																	
2, 1																	
(0, 0, 0, 1)																	
	1	2		3	4												



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary ε -equilibrium

with $\varepsilon > 0$

p	$0, 0$	q		$1 - q$			
	$(0, 0, 0, 1)$						
$1 - p$	$0, 0$	$0, 0$	$0, 0$	$3, -1$	$2, 1$		
	$(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)$	$(1, 0, 0, 0)$	$(0, 1, 0, 0)$	$(0, 0, 1, 0)$	$(0, 0, 0, 1)$		
	1	2		3	4		

$q > 0$



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary ε -equilibrium
with $\varepsilon > 0$

		q		$1-q$													
p	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 0, 1)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 0, 0, 1)														
0, 0																	
(0, 0, 0, 1)																	
$1-p$	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(1, 0, 0, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(1, 0, 0, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 1, 0, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 1, 0, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>3, -1</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 1, 0)</td></tr> </table>	3, -1	(0, 0, 1, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2, 1</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 0, 1)</td></tr> </table>	2, 1	(0, 0, 0, 1)		
0, 0																	
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)																	
0, 0																	
(1, 0, 0, 0)																	
0, 0																	
(0, 1, 0, 0)																	
3, -1																	
(0, 0, 1, 0)																	
2, 1																	
(0, 0, 0, 1)																	
	1	2		3	4												

$$q > 0 \rightarrow p < \varepsilon$$



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary ε -equilibrium
with $\varepsilon > 0$

		q		$1-q$													
p	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 0, 1)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 0, 0, 1)														
0, 0																	
(0, 0, 0, 1)																	
$1-p$	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(1, 0, 0, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(1, 0, 0, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 1, 0, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 1, 0, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>3, -1</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 1, 0)</td></tr> </table>	3, -1	(0, 0, 1, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2, 1</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 0, 1)</td></tr> </table>	2, 1	(0, 0, 0, 1)		
0, 0																	
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)																	
0, 0																	
(1, 0, 0, 0)																	
0, 0																	
(0, 1, 0, 0)																	
3, -1																	
(0, 0, 1, 0)																	
2, 1																	
(0, 0, 0, 1)																	
	1	2		3	4												

$$q > 0 \rightarrow p < \varepsilon \rightarrow q = 0$$



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary ε -equilibrium
with $\varepsilon > 0$

		q		$1-q$													
p	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 0, 1)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 0, 0, 1)														
0, 0																	
(0, 0, 0, 1)																	
$1-p$	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(1, 0, 0, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(1, 0, 0, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>0, 0</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 1, 0, 0)</td></tr> </table>	0, 0	(0, 1, 0, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>3, -1</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 1, 0)</td></tr> </table>	3, -1	(0, 0, 1, 0)	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2, 1</td></tr> <tr><td>(0, 0, 0, 1)</td></tr> </table>	2, 1	(0, 0, 0, 1)		
0, 0																	
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)																	
0, 0																	
(1, 0, 0, 0)																	
0, 0																	
(0, 1, 0, 0)																	
3, -1																	
(0, 0, 1, 0)																	
2, 1																	
(0, 0, 0, 1)																	
	1	2		3	4												

$$q > 0 \rightarrow p < \varepsilon \rightarrow q = 0 \rightarrow p > 1 - \varepsilon$$



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

NO stationary ε -equilibrium
with $\varepsilon > 0$

p	$0, 0$ $(0, 0, 0, 1)$	q $1 - q$			
	$0, 0$ $(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)$	$0, 0$ $(1, 0, 0, 0)$	$0, 0$ $(0, 1, 0, 0)$	$3, -1$ $(0, 0, 1, 0)$	$2, 1$ $(0, 0, 0, 1)$
$1 - p$					
	1	2		3	4

$$q > 0 \rightarrow p < \varepsilon \rightarrow q = 0 \rightarrow p > 1 - \varepsilon \rightarrow q > 0$$



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

$0, 0$ $(0, 0, 0, 1)$	$0, 0$ $0, 0$		$3, -1$	$2, 1$
$0, 0$ $(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)$	$(1, 0, 0, 0)$	$(0, 1, 0, 0)$	$(0, 0, 1, 0)$	$(0, 0, 0, 1)$
1	2		3	4



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1: T, B, B, B,

Player 2: R, R, R, R,

0, 0
(0, 0, 0, 1)
0, 0
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)

1

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)

2

3, -1
(0, 0, 1, 0)

3

2, 1
(0, 0, 0, 1)

4



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1: T, B, B, B,

Player 2: R, R, R, R,

→

0, 0
(0, 0, 0, 1)
0, 0
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)

1

↓

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)

2

3, -1
(0, 0, 1, 0)

3

2, 1
(0, 0, 0, 1)

4



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1: T, B, B, B,

Player 2: R, R, R, R,

0, 0
(0, 0, 0, 1)
0, 0
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)



0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)

3, -1
(0, 0, 1, 0)

2, 1
(0, 0, 0, 1)

1

2

3

4



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1: T, B, B, B,

Player 2: R, R, R, R,

0, 0
(0, 0, 0, 1)
0, 0
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)

1

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)

2

3, -1
(0, 0, 1, 0)

3

2, 1
(0, 0, 0, 1)

4

equilibrium rewards ((2, 1), (0, 0), (3, -1), 2, 1))



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

alternative 0-equilibrium

Player 1: T, T, T, T,

Player 2: L, R, R, R,

0, 0
(0, 0, 0, 1)
0, 0
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)

1

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)

2

3, -1
(0, 0, 1, 0)

3

2, 1
(0, 0, 0, 1)

4



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

alternative 0-equilibrium

Player 1: T, T, T, T,

Player 2: L, R, R, R,

→

0, 0
(0, 0, 0, 1)
0, 0
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)

1

↓

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)

2

3, -1
(0, 0, 1, 0)

3

2, 1
(0, 0, 0, 1)

4

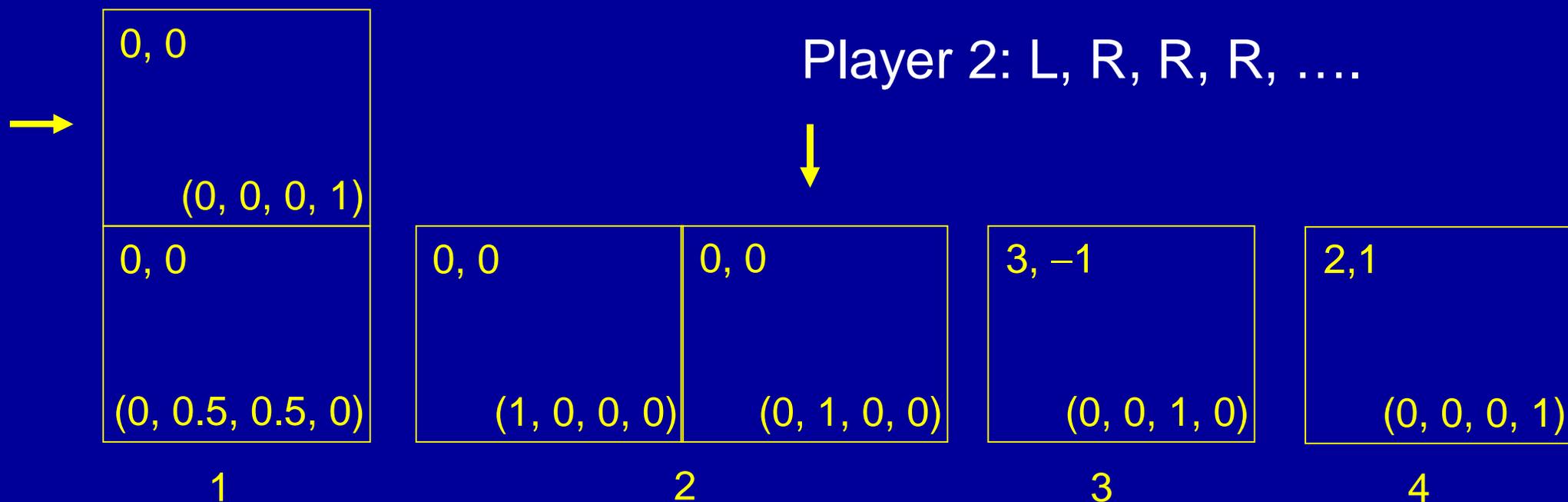


Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

alternative 0-equilibrium

Player 1: T, T, T, T,

Player 2: L, R, R, R,



Ex. 2: 2-Player Non-Absorbing AT Game

alternative 0-equilibrium

Player 1: T, T, T, T,

Player 2: L, R, R, R,

0, 0
(0, 0, 0, 1)
0, 0
(0, 0.5, 0.5, 0)

1

0, 0	0, 0
(1, 0, 0, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)

2

3, -1
(0, 0, 1, 0)

3

2, 1
(0, 0, 0, 1)

4

equilibrium rewards ((2, 1), (2, 1), (3, -1), 2, 1))



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

3

		N	
		L	R
T 1 B	T	0, 0, 0 (1, 0, 0, 0)	0, 0, 0 (2/3, 0, 1/3, 0)
	B	0, 0, 0 (2/3, 1/3, 0, 0)	0, 0, 0 (1/3, 1/3, 1/3, 0)

F

0, 0, 0 (2/3, 0, 0, 1/3)	0, 0, 0 (1/3, 0, 1/3, 1/3)
0, 0, 0 (1/3, 1/3, 0, 1/3)	0, 0, 0 (0, 1/3, 1/3, 1/3)

1

1, 3, 0 (0, 1, 0, 0)

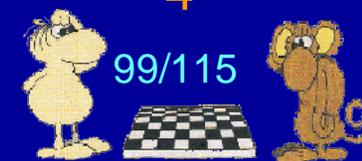
0, 1, 3 (0, 0, 1, 0)

3, 0, 1 (0, 0, 0, 1)

2

3

4



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		3	
		N	F
T 1 B	L	2	R
	0, 0, 0 (1, 0, 0, 0)	0, 0, 0 (2/3, 0, 1/3, 0)	0, 0, 0 (1/3, 0, 1/3, 1/3)
	0, 0, 0 (2/3, 1/3, 0, 0)	0, 0, 0 (1/3, 1/3, 1/3, 0)	0, 0, 0 (0, 1/3, 1/3, 1/3)

0, 0, 0 (2/3, 0, 0, 1/3)	0, 0, 0 (1/3, 0, 1/3, 1/3)
0, 0, 0 (1/3, 1/3, 0, 1/3)	0, 0, 0 (0, 1/3, 1/3, 1/3)

1, 3, 0 (0, 1, 0, 0)

0, 1, 3 (0, 0, 1, 0)

3, 0, 1 (0, 0, 0, 1)

How to share 4 among three people if only 3 solutions are allowed?



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0 <small>(1, 0, 0, 0)</small>	0, 1, 3 <small>(2/3, 0, 1/3, 0)</small>
	B	1, 3, 0 <small>(2/3, 1/3, 0, 0)</small>	1/2, 2, 3/2 <small>(1/3, 1/3, 1/3, 0)</small>

		F	
		3, 0, 1 <small>(2/3, 0, 0, 1/3)</small>	3/2, 1/2, 2 <small>(1/3, 0, 1/3, 1/3)</small>
		2, 3/2, 1/2 <small>(1/3, 1/3, 0, 1/3)</small>	4/3, 4/3, 4/3 <small>(0, 1/3, 1/3, 1/3)</small>

1

1, 3, 0 <small>(0, 1, 0, 0)</small>
--

2

0, 1, 3 <small>(0, 0, 1, 0)</small>
--

3

3, 0, 1 <small>(0, 0, 0, 1)</small>
--

4



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			$1/3^*$
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$

F

3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$
2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
$2/3^*$	1^*



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			1/3 *
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		1/3 *	2/3 *

F

3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
1/3 *	2/3 *
2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
2/3 *	1 *

NO stationary ε -equilibrium



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			$1/3^*$
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$

F

3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$
2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
$2/3^*$	1^*

NO stationary ε -equilibrium



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			1/3 *
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		1/3 *	2/3 *

F

3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
1/3 *	2/3 *
2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
2/3 *	1 *

non-stationary 0-equilibrium



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			$1/3^*$
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$

F

3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$
2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
$2/3^*$	1^*

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1 on **B**: 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0,



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			$1/3^*$
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$

F

3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$
2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
$2/3^*$	1^*

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1 on **B**: 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0,

Player 2 on **R**: 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0,

Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			$1/3^*$
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$

		F	
		3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
		$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$
		2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
		$2/3^*$	1^*

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1 on **B**: 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0,

Player 2 on **R**: 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0,

Player 3 on **F**: 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$,



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			1/3 *
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		1/3 *	2/3 *

		F	
		3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
		1/3 *	2/3 *
		2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
		2/3 *	1 *

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1 on B: 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0,

Player 2 on R: 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0,

Player 3 on F: 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$,



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			1/3 *
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		1/3 *	2/3 *

		F	
		3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
		1/3 *	2/3 *
		2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
		2/3 *	1 *

non-stationary 0-equilibrium

Player 1 on B: 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, ...

Player 2 on R: 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, ...

Player 3 on F: 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, ...



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			1/3 *
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		1/3 *	2/3 *

		F	
		3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
		1/3 *	2/3 *
		2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
		2/3 *	1 *

equilibrium rewards (1, 2, 1)

Player 1 on **B**: 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, ...

Player 2 on **R**: 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, ...

Player 3 on **F**: 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, $\frac{3}{4}$, ...



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			$1/3^*$
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$

F

3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
$1/3^*$	$2/3^*$
2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
$2/3^*$	1^*

What is the simple 0-equilibrium using threats?



Ex. 3: 3-Player Absorbing AT Game

		N	
		L	R
T		0, 0, 0	0, 1, 3
			1/3 *
B		1, 3, 0	1/2, 2, 3/2
		1/3 *	2/3 *

F

3, 0, 1	3/2, 1/2, 2
1/3 *	2/3 *
2, 3/2, 1/2	4/3, 4/3, 4/3
2/3 *	1 *

What is the simple 0-equilibrium using threats?

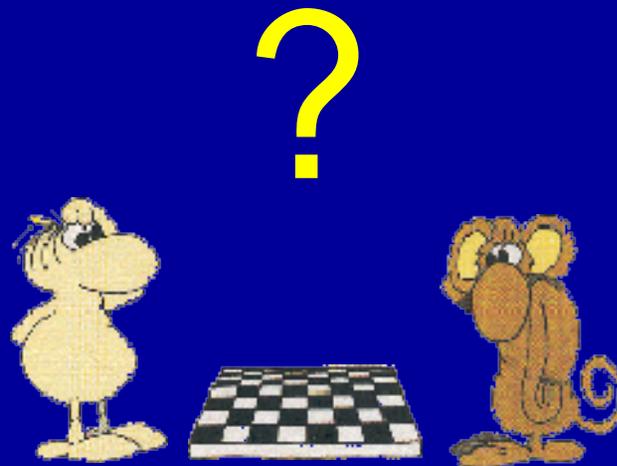
It is **(B, R, F)** with threats (R, N) to 1, (T, F) to 2, (B, L) to 3 !



Results

1. 0-equilibria for n -player AT games (threats!)
2. 0-opt. stationary strat. for 0-sum AT games
3. Stat. ε -equilibria for 2-player abs. AT games
4. Result 3 can not be strengthened, neither to 3-player abs. AT games, nor to 2-player non-abs. AT games, nor to give stat. 0-equilibria





frank@math.unimaas.nl



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



115/115

GAME VER



frank@math.unimaas.nl
February 6, 2009

GT Advances in Game Theory
Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, Paris



116/115