

10/12/09

2 person, zero sum games

$$i \begin{bmatrix} & j \\ & a_{ij} \end{bmatrix}$$

2 players A, B

A chooses  $i$ , B chooses  $j$  (without each other's knowledge)  
B pays A,  $a_{ij}$

# Rock, Paper, Scissors

|   | R  | P  | S  |
|---|----|----|----|
| R | 0  | -1 | 1  |
| P | 1  | 0  | -1 |
| S | -1 | 1  | 0  |

# Penalty Kicks in Soccer



shooter ↗

|   | L  | C  | R  |
|---|----|----|----|
| L | -2 | 1  | 1  |
| C | 2  | -1 | 2  |
| R | 1  | 1  | -2 |

← keeper

Games arise anywhere there is conflict: economics, war, animal behavior.

Assume an unending sequence of plays of the game

Strategy is some rule for playing the game.

$S_A = \{ A's \text{ strategies} \}$

$S_B = \{ B's \text{ strategies} \}$

Pure strategy for A : (i)

Always play i

We expand set of strategies beyond just pure strategies

$$u \in S_A$$

$$v \in S_B$$

$$PAY(u, v) = \text{average payoff to A}$$

$$P(i, j) = a_{ij}$$

Two ways of viewing:

(i) Stable Solution:

$(u_0, v_0)$  is stable if

$$PAY(u, v_0) \leq PAY(u_0, v_0) \leq PAY(u_0, v)$$

?? Does  $\exists$  a stable solution??

$$1) \quad S_A = \{ (1), (2), \dots, (n) \}$$

$$2) \quad S_B = \{ (1), (2), \dots, (n) \}$$

then there may not be a stable solution.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

(1) Both players are cautious:  
if A plays  $u$ , can definitely get

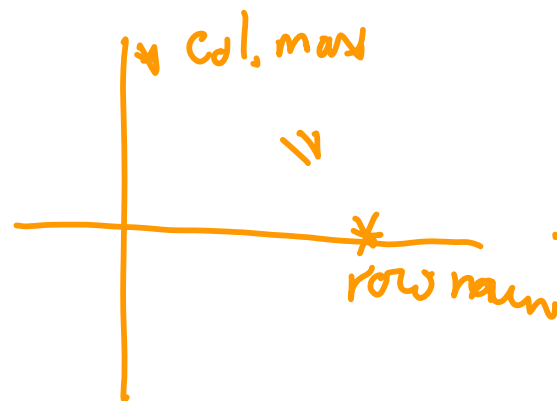
$$\text{ROWMIN}(u) = \min_v P_A(u, v)$$

A choose  $\max_u \text{ROWMIN}(u) \leftarrow P_A$

B chooses  $\min_v \text{COLMAX}(v) \leftarrow P_B$

Both notions lead to same strategy  
here.

$$P_A \leq P_B$$



We show next

$$P_A = P_B \iff \exists \text{ stable solution.}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textcircled{2} & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & S & 8 \\ 1 & - & - \end{bmatrix}$$

Mixed Strategy

A chooses a vector  $p = p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m \geq 0, p_1 + \dots + p_m = 1$

B chooses a vector  $q = q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n \geq 0, q_1 + \dots + q_n = 1$

Next play for A is  $i$  with prob.  $p_i$ , etc.

$$PAY(\underline{p}, \underline{q}) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} p_i q_j$$

$$S_A = \{ \underline{p} \}$$

$$S_B = \{ \underline{q} \}$$