Introduction to Game Theory and Applications

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No side payments Q: Optimal behaviour in conflict situations

binding agreements side payments are possible (sometimes) Q: Reasonable (cost, reward)-sharing

Simple example

Alone, player 1 (singer) and 2 (pianist) canearn $100 \in 200 \in$ respect.Together (duo) $700 \in$

How to divide the (extra) earnings?



Imputation set: $I(v) = \{x \in IR^2 | x_1 \ge 100, x_2 \ge 200, x_1 + x_2 = 700\}$

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COOPERATIVE GAME THEORY

Games in coalitional form

TU-game: (N,v) or v N= $\{1, 2, ..., n\}$ S \subset N 2^N

set of players coalition set of coalitions

<u>DEF.</u> v: $2^{N} \rightarrow IR$ with v(\emptyset)=0 is a Transferable Utility (TU)-game with player set N.

NB: (N,v) \leftrightarrow v

NB2: if n=lNl, it is also called n-person TU-game, game in colaitional form, coalitional game, cooperative game with side payments...

v(S) is the value (worth) of coalition S

Example

(Glove game) N=L \cup R, L \cap R=Ø

 $i \in L$ ($i \in R$) possesses 1 left (right) hand glove

Value of a pair: 1€

v(S)=min{| L \cap S|, |R \cap S|} for each coalition S $\in 2^{N}\setminus\{\emptyset\}$.

Example

(Three cooperating communities)



 $N = \{1, 2, 3\}$

S=	Ø	{1}	{2}	{3}	{1,2}	{1.3}	{2,3}	{1,2,3}
c(S)	0	100	90	80	130	110	110	140
v(S)	0	0	0	0	60	70	60	130

 $v(S) = \sum_{i \in S} c(i) - c(S)$



{1,2,3} **S**= **{1}** {1,2} **{1.3}** {2,3} Ø **{2} {3**} v(S) 0 0 5 0 0 0 4 9

<u>DEF.</u> (N,v) is a <u>superadditive game</u> iff

 $v(S \cup T) \ge v(S) + v(T)$ for all S,T with $S \cap T = \emptyset$

Q.1: which coalitions form?

Q.2: If the grand coalition N forms, how to divide v(N)? (how to allocate costs?)

Many answers! (solution concepts)

One-point concepts: - Shapley value (Shapley 1953)

- nucleolus (Schmeidler 1969)
- *τ*-value (Tijs, 1981)

Subset concepts:

- Core (Gillies, 1954)
- stable sets (von Neumann, Morgenstern, '44)
- kernel (Davis, Maschler)
- bargaining set (Aumann, Maschler)

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Example

(Three cooperating communities)



$$N = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

S=	Ø	{1}	{2}	{3}	{1,2}	{1.3}	{2,3}	{1,2,3}
c(S)	0	100	90	80	130	110	110	140
v(S)	0	0	0	0	60	70	60	130

 $v(S) = \sum_{i \in S} c(i) - c(S)$

Show that v is superadditive and c is subadditive.

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Claim 1: (N,v) is superadditive
We show that v(S \cup T) \ge v(S) + v(T) for all S, T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\} with S \cap T = \emptyset
60 = v(1,2) \ge v(1) + v(2) = 0 + 0
70 = v(1,3) \ge v(1) + v(3) = 0 + 0
60 = v(2,3) \ge v(2) + v(3) = 0 + 0
60 = v(1,2) \ge v(1) + v(2) = 0 + 0
130 = v(1,2,3) \ge v(1) + v(2,3) = 0 + 60
130 = v(1,2,3) \ge v(2) + v(1,3) = 0 + 70
130 = v(1,2,3) \ge v(3) + v(1,2) = 0 + 60
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Claim 2: (N,c) is subadditive
We show that c(S \cup T) \le c(S) + c(T) for all S,T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\} with S \cap T = \emptyset
130 = c(1,2) \le c(1) + c(2) = 100 + 90
110 = c(2,3) \le c(2) + v(3) = 100 + 80
110 = c(1,2) \le c(1) + v(2) = 90 + 80
140 = c(1,2,3) \le c(1) + c(2,3) = 100 + 110
140 = c(1,2,3) \le c(2) + c(1,3) = 90 + 110
140 = c(1,2,3) \le c(3) + c(1,2) = 80 + 130
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Example

(Glove game) (N,v) such that $N=L\cup R$, $L\cap R=\emptyset$ v(S)=10 min{| $L\cap S$ |, $|R\cap S|$ } for all $S \in 2N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$

Claim: the glove game is superadditive.

Suppose $S,T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ with $S \cap T = \emptyset$. Then

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\begin{split} v(S)+v(T)&=\min\{|L\cap S|, |R\cap S|\} + \min\{|L\cap T|, |R\cap T|\}\\ &=\min\{|L\cap S|+|L\cap T|, |L\cap S|+|R\cap T|, |R\cap S|+|L\cap T|, |R\cap S|+|R\cap T|\}\\ &\leq\min\{|L\cap S|+|L\cap T|, |R\cap S|+|R\cap T|\}\\ &\operatorname{since} S\cap T=\varnothing\\ &=\min\{|L\cap (S\cup T)|, |R\cap (S\cup T)|\}\\ &=v(S\cup T). \end{split}
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The imputation set

<u>**DEF.**</u> Let (N,v) be a n-persons TU-game. A vector $x=(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n) \in IR^N$ is called an <u>imputation</u> iff

> (1) x is <u>individual rational</u> i.e. $x_i \ge v(i)$ for all $i \in N$

(2) x is <u>efficient</u> $\Sigma_{i \in N} x_i = v(N)$

[interpretation x_i: payoff to player i]

 $I(v) = \{x \in IR^N \mid \sum_{i \in N} x_i = v(N), x_i \ge v(i) \text{ for all } i \in N \}$ Set of imputations



Claim: (N,v) a n-person (n=|N|) TU-game. Then

$$I(v) \neq \emptyset \quad \Leftrightarrow v(N) \ge \sum_{i \in N} v(i)$$
Proof
$$(\Rightarrow)$$
Suppose $x \in I(v)$. Then
$$v(N) = \sum_{i \in N} x_i \geq \sum_{i \in N} v(i)$$
EFF
IR
$$(\Leftarrow)$$
Suppose $v(N) \ge \sum_{i \in N} v(i)$. Then the vector
$$(v(1), v(2), ..., v(n-1), v(N) - \sum_{i \in \{1, 2, ..., n-1\}} v(i))$$
is an imputation.
$$\ge v(n)$$

The core of a game

<u>DEF.</u> Let (N,v) be a TU-game. The core C(v) of (N,v) is the set

$$\begin{split} C(v) = & \{ x \in I(v) \mid \Sigma_{i \in S} \; x_i \geq v(S) \text{ for all } S \in 2^N \setminus \{ \varnothing \} \} \\ & \text{ stability conditions} \\ & \text{ no coalition } S \text{ has the incentive to split off} \\ & \text{ if } x \text{ is proposed} \\ \hline \underline{\text{Note: }} x \in C(v) \text{ iff} \\ & (1) \; \Sigma_{i \in N} \; x_i = v(N) \; efficiency \\ & (2) \; \Sigma_{i \in S} \; x_i \geq v(S) \text{ for all } S \in 2N \setminus \{ \varnothing \} \; stability \end{split}$$

Bad news: C(v) can be empty

Good news: many interesting classes of games have a nonempty core.

Example (N,v) such that $N = \{1, 2, 3\},\$ v(1)=v(3)=0, v(2)=3,v(1,2)=3,v(1,3)=1v(2,3)=4v(1,2,3)=5.

Core elements satisfy the following conditions: $x_1, x_2 \ge 0, x_2 \ge 3, x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 5$ $x_1 + x_2 \ge 3$, $x_1 + x_3 \ge 1$, $x_2 + x_3 \ge 4$ We have that $5-x_3 \ge 3 \Leftrightarrow x_3 \le 2$ $5 - x_2 \ge 1 \Leftrightarrow x_3 \le 4$ $5-x_1 \ge 4 \Leftrightarrow x_1 \le 1$

 $C(v) = \{x \in IR^3 \mid 1 \ge x_1 \ge 0, 2 \ge x_3 \ge 0, 4 \ge x_2 \ge 3, x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 5\}$



Example (Game of pirates) Three pirates 1,2, and 3. On the other side of the river there is a treasure (10 \in). At least two pirates are needed to wade the river...

 $(N,v), N=\{1,2,3\}, v(1)=v(2)=v(3)=0, v(1,2)=v(1,3)=v(2,3)=v(1,2,3)=10$

Suppose $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in C(v)$. Then efficiency $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 10$ $x_1 + x_2 \ge 10$ stability $x_1 + x_3 \ge 10$ $x_2 + x_3 \ge 10$

 $20=2(x_1+x_2+x_3) \ge 30$ Impossible. So $C(v)=\emptyset$.

Note that (N,v) is superadditive.

Example

(Glove game with L= $\{1,2\}$, R= $\{3\}$) v(1,3)=v(2,3)=v(1,2,3)=1, v(S)=0 otherwise

Suppose $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in C(v)$. Then $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 1$ $x_2 = 0$ $x_1 + x_3 \ge 1$ $x_1 + x_3 = 1$ $x_2 \ge 0$ $x_2 + x_3 \ge 1$ $x_1 = 0$ and $x_3 = 1$





Min cut $\{I_1, I_2\}$. Corresponding core element (4,5,0)

Non-emptiness of the core

Notation: Let
$$S \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$$
.
 e^S is a vector with $(e^S)_i = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if } i \in S \\ 0 \text{ if } i \notin S \end{cases}$

<u>DEF.</u> A collection $\mathbf{B} \subset 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ is a <u>balanced collection</u> if there exist $\lambda(S) > 0$ for $S \in \mathbf{B}$ such that:

$$e^{N} = \sum_{S \in B} \lambda(S) e^{S}$$

Example: N={1,2,3}, B={{1,2},{1,3},{2,3}}, $\lambda(S)$ = for S∈B $e^{N}=(1,1,1)=1/2$ (1,1,0)+1/2 (1,0,1) +1/2 (0,1,1)

Balanced games

DEF. (N,v) is a <u>balanced game</u> if for all balanced collections $\mathbf{B} \subset 2^{\mathbb{N}} \setminus \{\emptyset\}$

 $\sum_{S \in \mathbf{B}} \lambda(S) v(S) \leq v(N)$

Example: N= $\{1,2,3\}$, v(1,2,3)=10, v(1,2)=v(1,3)=v(2,3)=8 (N,v) is not balanced 1/2v (1,2)+1/2 v(1,3) +1/2 v(2,3)>10=v(N)

Variants of duality theorem



(if both programs feasible)

Bondareva (1963) | Shapley (1967) Characterization of games with non-empty core <u>Theorem</u>

(N,v) is a balanced game $\Leftrightarrow C(v) \neq \emptyset$



(N,v) is a balanced game

Convex games (1)

<u>DEF.</u> An n-persons TU-game (N,v) is convex iff $v(S)+v(T) \le v(S \cup T)+v(S \cap T)$ for each $S,T \in 2^N$.

This condition is also known as *submodularity*. It can be rewritten as

 $v(T)-v(S \cap T) \le v(S \cup T)-v(S)$ for each $S,T \in 2^N$

For each $S,T \in 2^N$, let $C = (S \cup T) \setminus S$. Then we have: $v(C \cup (S \cap T)) - v(S \cap T) \leq v(C \cup S) - v(S)$

Interpretation: the marginal contribution of a coalition C to a disjoint coalition S does not decrease if S becomes larger

Convex games (2)

 \succ It is easy to show that submodularity is equivalent to $v(S \cup \{i\}) - v(S) \leq v(T \cup \{i\}) - v(T)$ for all $i \in N$ and all $S, T \in 2^N$ such that $S \subseteq T \subseteq N \setminus \{i\}$ >interpretation: player's marginal contribution to a large coalition is not smaller than her/his marginal contribution to a smaller coalition (which is stronger than superadditivity) ≻Clearly all convex games are superadditive (S \cap T=Ø...) \blacktriangleright A superadditive game can be not convex (try to find one) An important property of convex games is that they are (*totally*) balanced, and it is "easy" to determine the core (coincides with the Weber set, i.e. the convex hull of all

marginal vectors...)



Operations Research (OR)

- Analysis of situations in which one decision maker, guided by an objective function, faces an optimization problem.
- ➢ OR focuses on the question of how to act in an optimal way and, in particular, on the issues of computational complexity and the design of efficient algorithms.

OR and GT→ORG OPERATIONS RESEARCH GAMES

- Basic (discrete) structure of a graph, network or system that underlies various types of combinatorial optimization problems.
- Assumes that at least two players are located at or control parts (e.g., vertices, edges, resource bundles, jobs) of the underlying system.
- A cooperative game can be associated with this type of optimization problem.

Scheduling problems

In this category: sequencing game, permutation game, assignment game.

- Games whose characteristic function depends from the position of players in a queue.
- Players can be seen as sellers of their initial position and buyers of their final position.

Permutation situation <N,A>

- N={1,...,n} set of agents and A processing cost matrix NxN;
- Each agent has one job and one machine that can process a job
- > Each machine is <u>allowed</u> to process at most one job
- \succ Each machine is <u>able</u> to process every possible job
- If player *i* processes its own job on the machine of player *j*, then the cost of the process is a_{ij} (element of A row *i* and column *j*).

Permutation problem

Optimization problem:

- Which job must be assigned to which machine in order to minimize the cost of the process?
- In other words, how to maximize the savings with respect the situation in which each agent processes its job on its own machine?

Permutation game

- Given a permutation situation <N,A>
- > The permutation game (N,v) is defined as the TU-game with
 - > N as the set of players

And the characteristic function is such that

$$v(S) = \sum_{i \in S} a_{ii} - \min_{p \in \Pi^{S}} \sum_{i \in S} a_{ip(i)}$$

for each $S \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ (obviously by definition $v(\emptyset)=0$) and Π_S is the set of all permutations of the lements of S.

The worth v(S) represents the maximum saving that S can obtain thanks to an optimal program with respect the program where each agents works with its own machine. **Example**: Consider a permutation situation where $N=\{1,2,3\}$ and A is such that

$$\mathsf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 8 & 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 & 10 \\ 5 & 6 & 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

The corresponding permutation game (N,v) is represented in the following table

S	{1}	{2}	{3}	{1,2}	{1,3}	{2,3}	{1,2,3}
v(S)	0	0	0	6	11	0	12
Optimal permutation-	→ p*=(1)	p*=(2)	p*=(3)	p*=(2,1)	p*=(3,1)	p*=(2,3)	p*=(3,1,2)
	8-8=0	4-4=0	10-10=0	12-6=6	18-7=11	14-14=0	22-10=12

Note that $v(\{1,2,3\})-v(\{1,3\})=1<6=v(\{1,2\})-v(\{1\})$ which implies that permutation games are not convex.

Notes on Permutation games

➢ permutation games are totally balanced.

- A particular class of permutation games are the assignment game introduced by Shapley e Shubik in 1971.
 - ➢ Such games are inspired to two-sided markets in which non-divisible goods are exchanged with money (model used for private market of used cars, auctions etc.)

Production problems (Owen (1975))

- In this category: linear production games, flow games.
- Players may produce a product.
- Each coalition can use a set of technologies (linear) which allow the coalition to transform a resource bundle in a vector of products.
- The market can absorbs whatever amount of products at a given price (which is independent of the quantities produced).

Linear Production Situation <N,P,G,A,B,c> where

- ➢ N={1,...,n} player set
- G=(G₁, G₂,..., G_q) vector of resources that can be used to produce consumption goods (products)
- \succ P=(P₁, P₂,..., P_m) vector of products
- ➤ A≥0 production matrix with *m* rows and *q* columns: for the production of α≥0 units of product P_j it is required αa_{j1} units of resource G₁, αa_{j2} units of resource G₂ etc.
- ➤ B=(b¹, b²,..., bⁿ) where bⁱ∈ IR^q for each i∈ N is the *resource bundle* of player i (quantity of each resource in G own by player i).
- \succ c^T=(c₁, c₂,..., c_m) vector of fixed market price of products.

Linear Production Problem

- Given a resource bundle b∈ IR^q, a *feasible production plan* may be described as a vector x∈ IR^m such that x^TA≤b
 interpretation: produce for each j∈ {1,2,...,m} x_j units of product P_j.
- The profit of a production plan is then given by the product x^Tc;
- Problem: find the feasible production plan that maximize the profit, given the resource bundle b

profit(b)=max{ $x^{T}c | x \ge 0, x^{T}A \le b$ }

Linear Production (LP) game

DEF. Let <N,P,G,A,B,c> be a a linear production situation. The associated LP game is the n-person TU-game (N,v) such that the worth v(S) of coalition S is given by the solution of the LP problem where the resource bundle is the sum of the resource bundles of players in S, in formula

v(S)= profit($\sum_{i \in S} b_i$)=max{x^Tc | x≥0, x^TA≤ $\sum_{i \in S} b_i$ } for each S<u>2</u>^N\{Ø} (by convention v(Ø)=0). **Example**: Consider an LP situation with three players $N=\{1,2,3\}$, two resources, two products and A,B and c as in the following: (1,2), (5), (5), (0)

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \ \mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 8 \end{pmatrix}, \ \mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \ \mathbf{b}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{c}^{\mathrm{T}} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

The corresponding LP game is the one shown in the following table

S	{1}	{2}	{3}	{1,2}	{1,3}	{2,3}	{1,2,3}
v(S)	23	14	0	40	25	19	42
Resource bun	profit	profit	profit	profit	profit	profit	profit
of b Coalition S	$=\left(\begin{array}{c}5\\8\end{array}\right)$	$\mathbf{b}_{-} = \begin{pmatrix} 5\\2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{b}$	$= \left(\begin{array}{c} 0\\2\end{array}\right) b$	$0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 5\\1 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\mathbf{b} = \left(\begin{array}{c} 5\\4 \end{array}\right)$	$\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

Results on LP games

- It is possible to prove that LP games are totally balanced.
- ➤ To find a core allocation, first solve the dual problem of the LP problem, that is find the vector y* (shadow) which solves the dual problem $min\{(\sum_{i \in S} b_i)y | y \ge 0, Ay \ge c\}$

➤The allocation obtained as z_i= b_iy* for eavh i∈ N is in the core of LP game (N,v).

Example: in the previous example $y^*=(3,1)$, and therefore $z_1=5\times3+8\times1=23$, $z_2=17$ and $z_3=2$.

Sometimes there is nothing to divide...



- Each owner in the jointly-owned building has a weight (in thousandths)
- Decision rule: to take a decision concerning the common facilities (e.g. to build an elevator) a group with at least 667 thousandths is winning
- How to measure the power of each owner?



Which properties should a power index satisfy?







Null player property:

The power of the owners who never contribute to make a winning group must be zero.



Anonimity property:

The power index should not depend on the names of the owners



Efficiency property: the sum of the powers must be 1



UN Security Council decisions

• Decision Rule: substantive resolutions need the positive vote of at least nine Nations but...

...it is sufficient the negative vote of one among the permanent members to reject the decision.

- How much decision power each Nation inside the ONU council to force a substantive decision?
- Game Theory gives an answer using the Shapley-Shubik power index:

UN Security Council

- 15 member states:
 - 5 Permanent members: China, France, Russian
 Federation, United Kingdom, USA
 - 10 temporary seats (held for two-year terms) (http://www.un.org/)





temporary seats since January 1st 2007 until January 1st 2009

Simple games

<u>DEF.</u> A TU-game (N,v) is a *simple* game iff $v(S) \in \{0,1\}$ for each coalition $S \in 2^N$ and v(N)=1

Example (weighted majority game)

The administration board of acompany is formed by three stockholders 1,2, and 3 with 55%, 40% and 5% of shares, respectively.

To take a decision the majority is required.

We can model this situation as a simple game({1,2,3},v) where v(N)=1, v(1)=v(1,2)=v(1,3)=1, and v(S)=0 for the remaining coalitions.

Unanimity games

- An important subclass of *simple* games is the class of unanimity games
- DEF Let T∈ 2^N\{Ø}. The unanimity game on T is defined as the TU-game (N,u_T) such that

 $u_{T}(S) = \begin{cases} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{cases}$

0 otherwise

- ➢ Note that the class G^N of all n-person TU-games is a vector space (obvious what we mean for v+w and αv for v,w∈ G^N.
- \succ the dimension of the vector space G^{N} is $2^{n}-1$
- \succ {u_T | T∈ 2^N\{Ø}} is an interesting basis for the vector space G^{N} .