

# NASH EQUILIBRIUM: THEORY

# PREFERENCES

players = actors  
model  $\rightarrow$  subway

- 
- **Ordinal preferences** compare items, but not the intensity of preferences.
    - For example, I like bananas more than apples.
  - **Cardinal preferences** compare items but, also, the intensity of preferences.
    - For example, I like bananas 2.5 times more than apples.
  - However, cardinal preferences require more assumptions.
  - For now (i.e. chapters 2-3), we will assume preferences are ordinal.

# ORDINAL PREFERENCES

- If person  $i$  strictly prefers item  $A$  to item  $B$ , we write:

$$A \succ_i B.$$

$$u(A) \in \mathbb{R} \\ u(B) \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$u(A) > u(B)$$

payoffs.

- If person  $i$  weakly prefers item  $A$  to item  $B$ , we write:

$$A \succeq_i B$$

$$u(A) \geq u(B)$$

- If person  $i$  is indifferent between item  $A$  to item  $B$ , we write:

$$A \sim_i B$$



$$A \succeq_i B \text{ and } B \succeq_i A.$$

$$u(A) = u(B)$$

We make 2 assumptions on preferences. Specifically,

- that preferences are **complete** (each pair can be compared); that is, either  $A \succeq_i B$  or  $B \succeq_i A$  or both; and
- that preferences are **transitive**; that is, if  $A \succ_i B$  and  $B \succ_i C$ , then  $A \succ_i C$ .

RATIONAL

# PAYOFF FUNCTION

- When using ordinal preferences, we can assign a payoff function to the preferences.
- Example 1: if  $A \succ_i B$ , then, we could assign, for example,
  - $u(A) = 2$  and  $u(B) = 1$ .
  - In fact, any  $u(A)$  and  $u(B)$  such that  $u(A) > u(B)$  would do.
- Example 2: if  $A \succ_i B$  and  $B \succ_i C$ , then, we could assign, for example,
  - $u(A) = 3$ ,  $u(B) = 2$  and  $u(C) = 1$ .
  - In fact, any  $u(A)$ ,  $u(B)$  and  $u(C)$  such that  $u(A) > u(B) > u(C)$  would do.
- Since preferences are ordinal, the payoff function does not convey intensity.

Game : introduction.

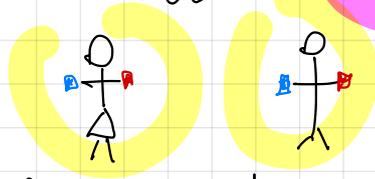
Two players : girls vs boys

player 1 : random girl

player 2 : random boy

Each player may choose between Red or Blue

Simultaneous



payoffs

colors		payoffs.	
girl	Boy	girl	Boy
B	B	7	3
B	R	7	4
R	B	3	4
R	R	10	5

girl  
↑  
Player 1

B

R

7, 3	7, 4
3, 4	10, 5

B Boy → Player 2  
R

# Strategic Games with Ordinal Preferences

Game theory ; study of strategic interactions  
v.s. decision theory.

## Definition

A **strategic game with ordinal preferences** consists of:

- 1 a set of **players**,
- 2 a set of **actions** for each player, and
- 3 **preferences** over the set of action profiles for each player.

- An action profile is a list of specific actions for each player.  
 $u_G(B, B) = 7 \quad u_G(B, R) = 7$

- The game does **not contain time information**, as it assumes players' moves are simultaneous.

# NORMAL-FORM GAME TABLE

Strategic

- A  $2 \times 2$  game is represented with a game table as illustrated below.

Bimatrix

2 players: 1 and 2

Actions pl 1: up or down

Actions pl 2: left or right

$$u_1(U, L) = a_1$$

Player 1

Player 2

L

R

U

$a_1, a_2$

$b_1, b_2$

D

$c_1, c_2$

$d_1, d_2$

	L	R
U	$a_1, a_2$	$b_1, b_2$
D	$c_1, c_2$	$d_1, d_2$

# PRISONER'S DILEMMA

- The game was first posed by Flood and Dresher at RAND in 1950.
- The game consists of the following elements.

- Players:** There are two suspects.

- Actions:** Stay quiet or squeal.

- Preferences:**

- Both squeal  $\rightarrow$  they each get 10 years in prison.
- Both stay quiet  $\rightarrow$  they each get 2 years in prison.
- One squeals, the other stays quiet  $\rightarrow$  the one that squeals gets 0 years, the other gets 15 years.

Handwritten notes: "years in prison", "SQ", "S", "P1", "P2".

	SQ	S
SQ	10, 10	15, 0
S	0, 15	2, 2

$(S, SQ) \succ_1 (S, S)$

$\succ_1 (SQ, SQ)$   
 $\succ_1 (SQ, S)$

~~$(S, SQ) \succ_2 (SQ, SQ) \succ_2 (S, S) \succ_2 (SQ, S)$~~   
 $(SQ, S) \succ_2 (S, S) \succ_2 (SQ, SQ) \succ_2 (S, SQ)$

# PRISONER'S DILEMMA (CONT.)

$u_1(S, SQ) > u_1(SQ, SQ)$   
 $= 3 > 2$   
 0 years      10 years

*pepfs*

Prisoner 1

Prisoner 2

		Prisoner 2	
		Stay Quiet	Squeal
Prisoner 1	Stay Quiet	2, 2	0, 3
	Squeal	3, 0	1, 1

→ these are  
 "positive pepfs"  
 desirable.

# PRISONER'S DILEMMA (EXAMPLES)

Firm 2

	High Price	Low Price
Firm 1 High Price	300, 300	0, 400
Low Price	400, 0	200, 200

Handwritten annotations: A blue circle around 'Firm 1'. Blue arrows point from 'High Price' to 'High Price' and 'Low Price' to 'Low Price'. A blue circle highlights the (300, 300) cell. A pink circle highlights the (200, 200) cell. A blue circle highlights the (0, 400) cell.

Athlete 2

	Clean	Steroids
Athlete 1 Clean	5, 5	2, 8-c
Steroids	8-c, 2	5-c, 5-c

Handwritten annotations: A red circle around 'Athlete 1'. Red arrows point from 'Clean' to 'Clean' and 'Steroids' to 'Steroids'. A blue circle highlights the (5, 5) cell. A blue circle highlights the (2, 8-c) cell. A blue circle highlights the (8-c, 2) cell. A blue circle highlights the (5-c, 5-c) cell.

# Battle of the Sexes

- The game was first posed by Luce and Raiffa in 1957. No smartphone → no way to communicate.

- The game consists of the following elements.

- **Players:** There is a man and a woman.

 at work.  
Go out tonight

- **Actions:** Go to boxing or opera.

- **Preferences:**

- Meet at the boxing game → man earns a payoff of 2 and woman of 1.
- Meet at the opera → woman earns a payoff of 2 and man of 1.
- Don't meet each other → they each get a payoff of 0.

$$(B, B) \succ_1 (O, O) \succ_1 (O, B) \sim_1 (B, O)$$

$$(O, O) \succ_2 (B, B) \succ_2 (O, B) \sim_2 (B, O)$$

# Battle of the Sexes (Cont.)

*woman*  
Player 2

*man*

Player 1

		<i>woman</i> Player 2	
		Boxing	Opera
<i>man</i> Player 1	Boxing	2,1 - -	0,0
	Opera	0,0	1,2 - -

# BATTLE OF THE SEXES (EXAMPLES)

		Firm 2	
		Windows	OSX
Firm 1	Windows	20,20-c	10,10
	OSX	10,10	20-c,20

		Firm 2	
		LA	NY
Firm 1	LA	10-c,10	2,2
	NY	2,2	10,10-c

# Chicken Game

- The game was first posed by biologist John Maynard Smith in 1973.
- The game consists of the following elements.
  - **Players:** There are two drivers.
  - **Actions:** Go straight or swerve.
  - **Preferences:**
    - If one goes straight and the other swerves  $\rightarrow$  the one that swerved is the chicken.
    - If both swerve  $\rightarrow$  at least they do not crash.
    - If both go straight  $\rightarrow$  they crash.

$$(S, Sw) \succ_i (Sw, Sw) \succ_i (Sw, S) \succ_i (S, S)$$

# CHICKEN (CONT.)

		Player 2	
		Swerve	Straight
Player 1	Swerve	3,3	2,4
	Straight	4,2	1,1

# CHICKEN (EXAMPLES)

		US	
		Compromise	Escalate
USSR	Compromise	3,3	1,5-c
	Escalate	5-c,1	1-c,1-c

		Democrats	
		Raise Debt Ceiling	Keep Debt Ceiling
Republicans	Cut Spending	3,3	2,4
	Keep Current	4,2	1,1

# Stag Hunt

- The game was first posed by philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau in 1775.
- The game consists of the following elements.
  - **Players:** There are two hunters.
  - **Actions:** Stag or Hare.
  - **Preferences:**
    - Hunt stag solo  $\rightarrow$  the individual gets 0 units of food.
    - Hunt hare solo  $\rightarrow$  the individual gets 1 unit of food.
    - Hunt stag with other player  $\rightarrow$  each gets 2 units of food.

$$(S, S) \succ_i (H, H) \sim_i (H, S) \succ_i (S, H)$$

# STAG HUNT (CONT.)

Player 2

		Player 2	
		Stag	Hare
Player 1	Stag	2,2	0,1
	Hare	1,0	1,1

# STAG HUNT (EXAMPLES)

		Worker 2	
		High Effort	Low Effort
Worker 1	High Effort	$4-c, 4-c$	$1-c, 1$
	Low Effort	$1, 1-c$	$1, 1$

		Depositor 2	
		Deposit	Withdraw
Depositor 1	Deposit	$3, 3$	$0, 1$
	Withdraw	$1, 0$	$1, 1$

# MATCHING PENNIES

- The game was first posed by von Neumann (1928).
- The game consists of the following elements.
  - **Players:** There are two individuals.
  - **Actions:** Choose heads or tails.
  - **Preferences:**
    - Player 1 wins  $\rightarrow$  the actions match.
    - Player 2 wins  $\rightarrow$  the actions do not match.

$$(H, H) \sim_1 (T, T) \succ_1 (H, T) \sim_1 (T, H)$$

$$(H, T) \sim_2 (T, H) \succ_2 (H, H) \sim_2 (T, T)$$

# MATCHING PENNIES (CONT.)

Player 2

		Player 2	
		Heads	Tails
Player 1	Heads	$1, -1$	$-1, 1$
	Tails	$-1, 1$	$1, -1$

# MATCHING PENNIES (EXAMPLES)

		Goalie	
		East	West
Kicker	East	-1,1	1,-1
	West	1,-1	-1,1

		Driver	
		Speed	Obey
Policeman	Check	1,-1	-1,1
	Sleep	-1,1	1,-1

# NASH EQUILIBRIUM

2 players: 1, 2

Actions 1:  $a_1$  example {up, down}  
 2:  $a_2$  example {left, right}

- An equilibrium is a state in which opposing forces or influences are balanced.

vector, a profile

$(a_1, a_2)$  is a profile  
 $(up, right)$  is a profile.

$n$  players

If  $\vec{a}$  is an action profile,  $a = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ , then  $a_{-i}$  is an action profile containing everyone's action except player  $i$ , i.e.,  $a_{-i} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{i-1}, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n)$ .

$\rightarrow$  3 players,  $a = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$

$a_{-2} = (a_1, a_3)$     $a_{-1} = (a_2, a_3)$     $a_{-3} = (a_1, a_2)$

## Definition

The action profile  $a^*$  in a strategic game with ordinal preferences is a **Nash equilibrium** (NE) if for every player  $i$ ,

$u_i(a^*) \geq u_i(a_i, a_{-i}^*)$  for every action profile  $a_i$  of player  $i$ ,

EX:  $a^* = (up, left) = (a_1^*, a_2^*)$ .  
 •  $u_1(up, left) > u_1(down, left)$   
 •  $u_2(up, left) > u_2(up, right)$ .

where  $u_i$  is a payoff function that represents player  $i$ 's preferences.  $\rightarrow$  there is no unilateral profitable deviation.

$\underline{a^*}$  is an action profile

With two players 1, 2  $a^* = (a_1^*, a_2^*)$

A Nash equilibrium is an action profile  $a^*$  such that for every player  $i=1, \dots, n$

$$u_i(a_i^*, a_{-i}^*) \geq u_i(a_i, a_{-i}^*) \quad ; \quad a_i \neq a_i^*$$

With two players  $a^* = (a_1^*, a_2^*)$  is a N.E. if

- 1)  $u_1(a_1^*, a_2^*) \geq u_1(a_1, a_2^*)$  with  $a_1 \neq a_1^*$
- 2)  $u_2(a_1^*, a_2^*) \geq u_2(a_1^*, a_2)$  with  $a_2 \neq a_2^*$ .

# Strategic game with ordinal preferences

• players : player 1 and player 2

• set of actions  $A_i$  with  $i=1,2$

$$A_1 = \{ T, D \}$$

$$A_2 = \{ L, R \}$$

• set of preferences :  $u_1(T, L) > u_1(T, R) \dots$

2 players : 1, 2, 3

$$a = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$$

$$a_{-2} = (a_1, a_3)$$

$$(a_2, a_{-2}) = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$$

# BEST RESPONSE = new tool

- The best response for player  $i$  given action(s)  $a_{-i}$  is written as:

$$B_i(a_{-i}) = \{a_i \text{ in } A_i : u_i(a_i, a_{-i}) \geq u_i(a'_i, a_{-i}) \text{ for all } a'_i \text{ in } A_i\}.$$

# BEST RESPONSE

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		player 2	
		L	R
Player 1	U	2,0	3,3
	D	2,5	1,4

$$B_1(R) = \{U\}$$

$$B_1(L) = \{U, D\}$$

$$B_2(U) = \{R\}$$

$$B_2(D) = \{L\}$$

# BEST RESPONSE

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	L	R
U	2,0	3,3
D	2,5	1,4

$$BR_1(L) = \{U, D\}$$

# BEST RESPONSE

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	L	R
U	2,0	3,3
D	2,5	1,4

$$BR_1(L) = \{U, D\}$$

$$BR_1(R) = \{U\}$$

# BEST RESPONSE

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	L	R
U	2,0	3,3
D	2,5	1,4

$$BR_1(L) = \{U, D\}$$

$$BR_1(R) = \{U\}$$

$$BR_2(U) = \{R\}$$

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	L	R
U	2,0	3,3
D	2,5	1,4

$$BR_1(L) = \{U, D\}$$

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$$BR_2(U) = \{R\}$$

$$BR_2(D) = \{L\}$$

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	L	R
U	<u>2</u> , 0	3, 3
D	<u>2</u> , 5	1, 4

$$BR_1(L) = \{U, D\}$$

$$BR_1(R) = \{U\}$$

$$BR_2(U) = \{R\}$$

$$BR_2(D) = \{L\}$$

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	L	R
U	<u>2</u> , 0	<u>3</u> , 3
D	<u>2</u> , 5	1, <u>4</u>

$$BR_1(L) = \{U, D\}$$

$$BR_1(R) = \{U\}$$

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	L	R
U	<u>2</u> ,0	<u>3</u> , <u>3</u>
D	<u>2</u> ,5	1, <u>4</u>

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$$BR_1(R) = \{U\}$$

$$BR_2(U) = \{R\}$$

$$BR_2(D) = \{L\}$$

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	L	R
U	$\begin{matrix} * \\ \underline{2}, 0 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} * * \\ \underline{3}, \underline{3} \end{matrix}$
D	$\begin{matrix} * * \\ \underline{2}, \underline{5} \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} 1, 4 \end{matrix}$

2 N.E.:  $(D, L)$  and  $(U, R)$

$$BR_1(L) = \{U, D\}$$

$$BR_1(R) = \{U\}$$

$$BR_2(U) = \{R\}$$

$$BR_2(D) = \{L\}$$

# ALTERNATIVE DEFINITION OF A NASH EQUILIBRIUM

## Proposition

The action profile  $a^*$  is a **Nash equilibrium** of a strategic game with ordinal preferences if and only if every player's action is a best response to the other players' actions; that is,

$$a_i^* \in B_i(a_{-i}^*) \text{ for every player } i.$$

- An action profile is a Nash equilibrium if every player's action is best responding to each other.

With 2 players  $a^* = (a_1^*, a_2^*)$  a N.E iff

$$a_1^* \in B_1(a_2^*)$$
$$a_2^* \in B_2(a_1^*)$$

# NASH EQUILIBRIUM (EXAMPLE)

- Consider the following game consisting of the following elements.
  - **Players:**  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$
  - **Actions:**  $\{A, B, C, D\}$
  - **Payoffs:** represented with  $u_i$ .

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  - **Payoffs:** represented with  $u_i$ .
- Consider action profile:  $\{A, D, C, D, B, B, A\}$ .

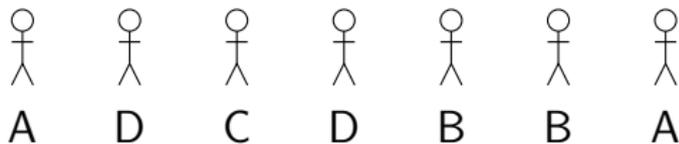
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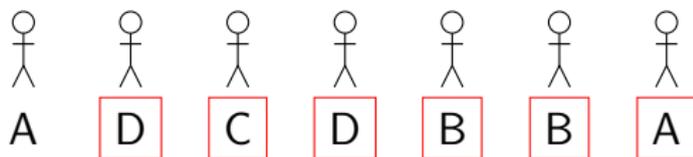
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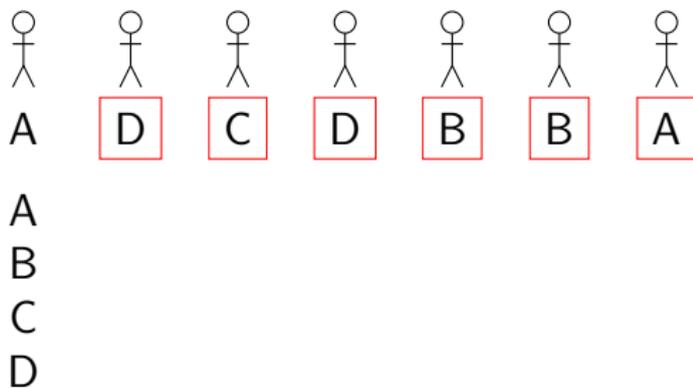
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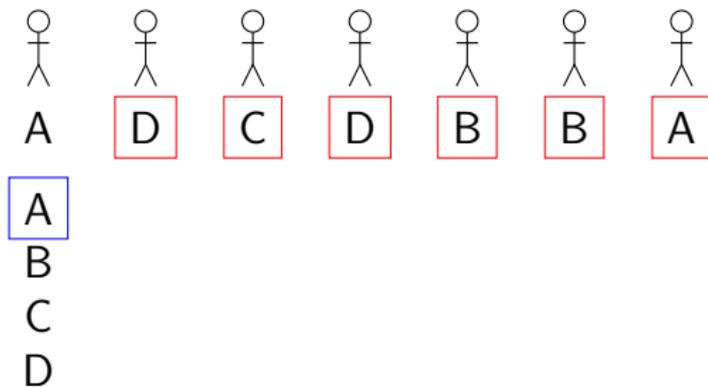
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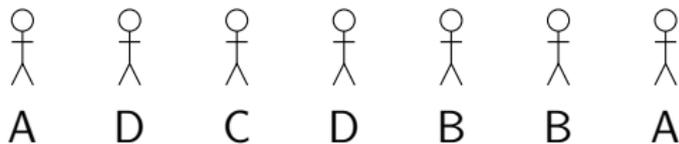
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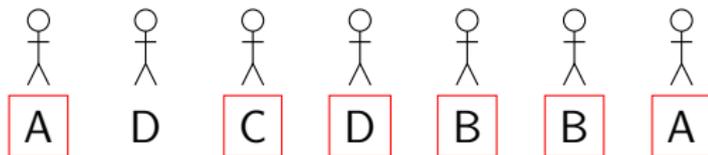
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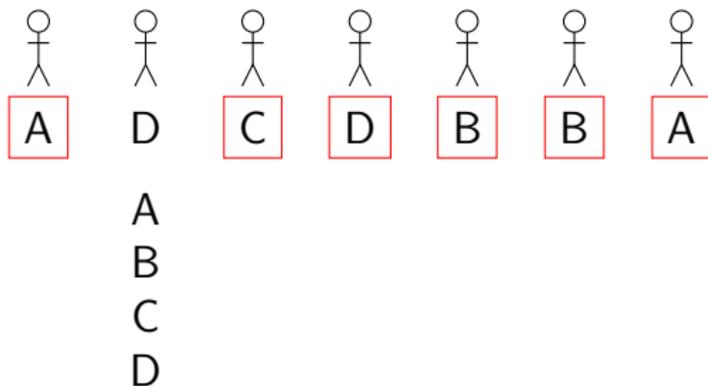
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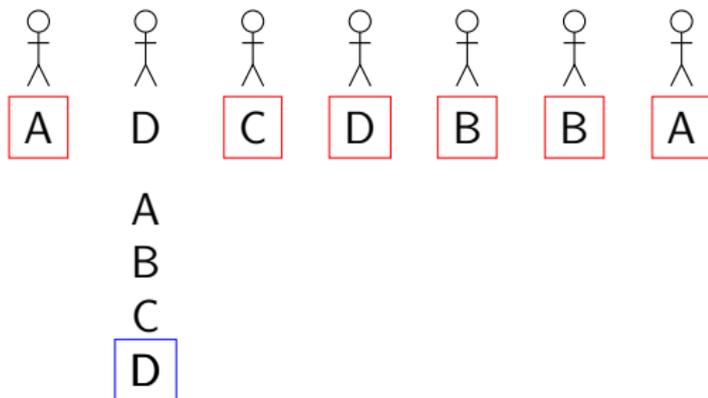
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- Consider the following game consisting of the following elements.
  - **Players:**  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$
  - **Actions:**  $\{A, B, C, D\}$
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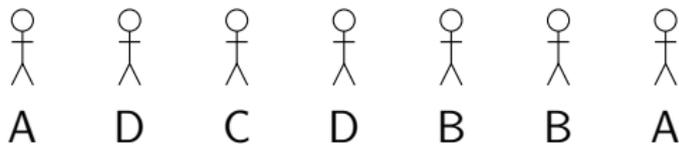
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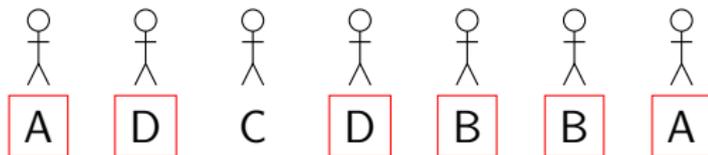
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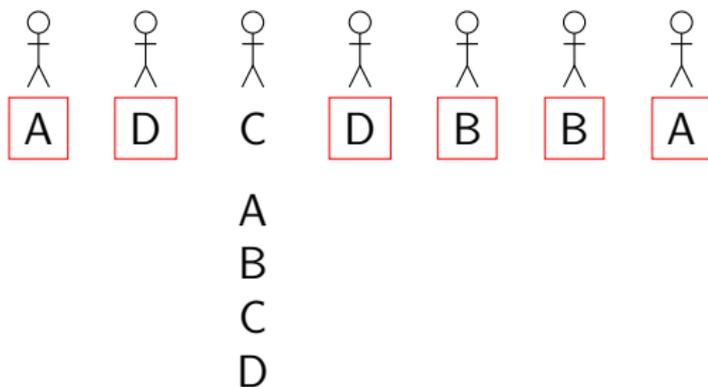
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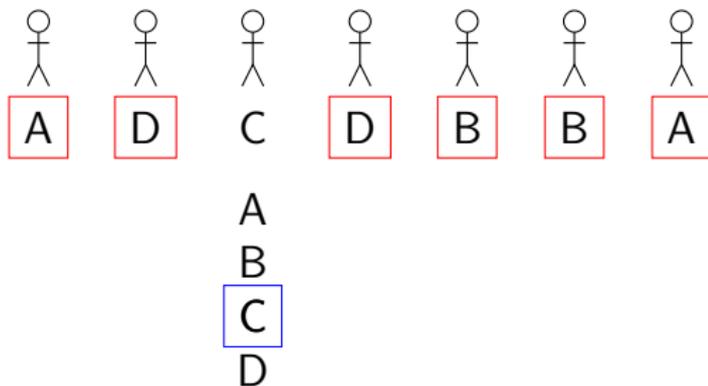
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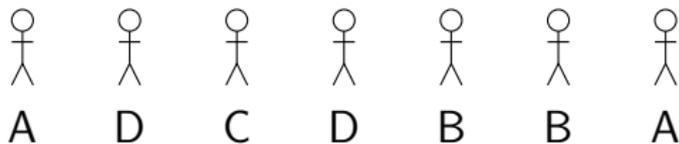
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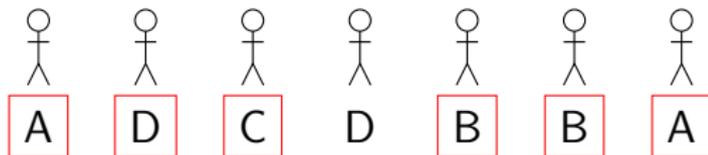
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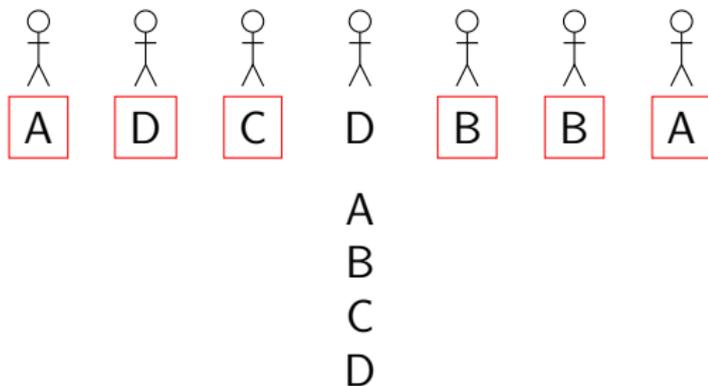
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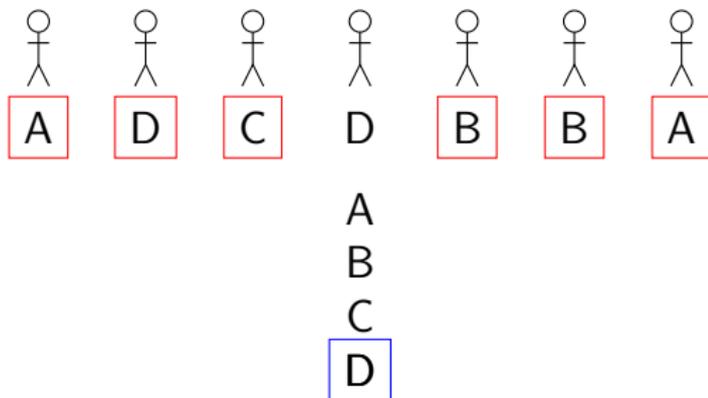
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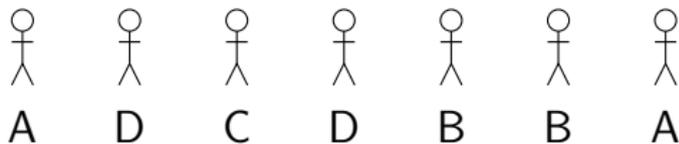
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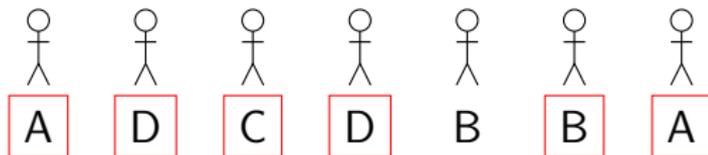
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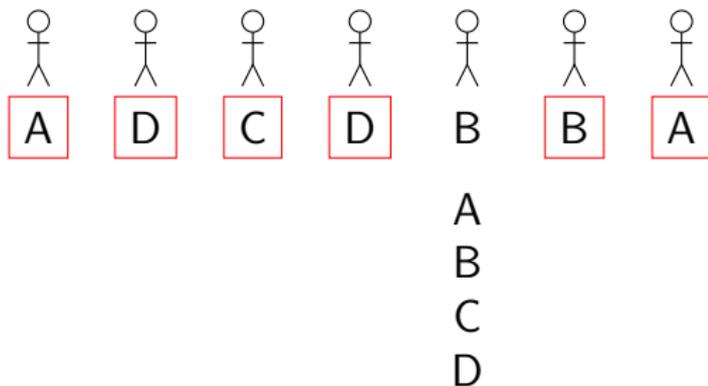
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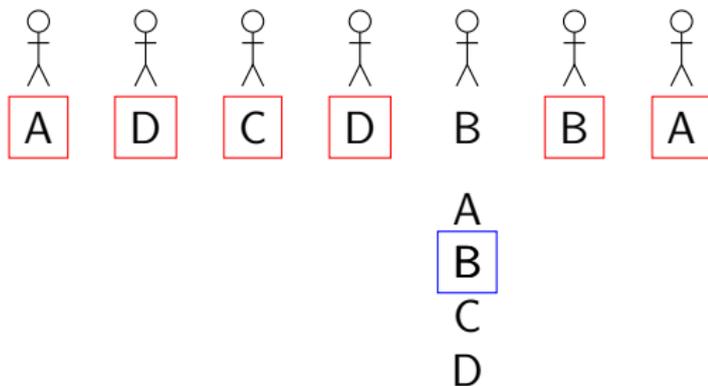
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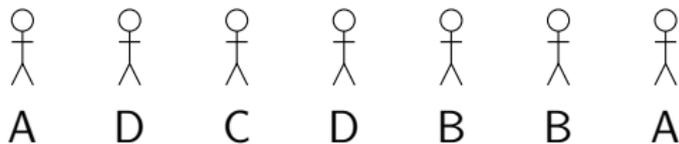
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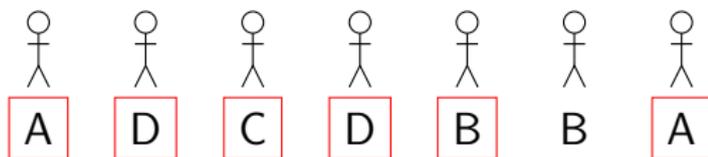
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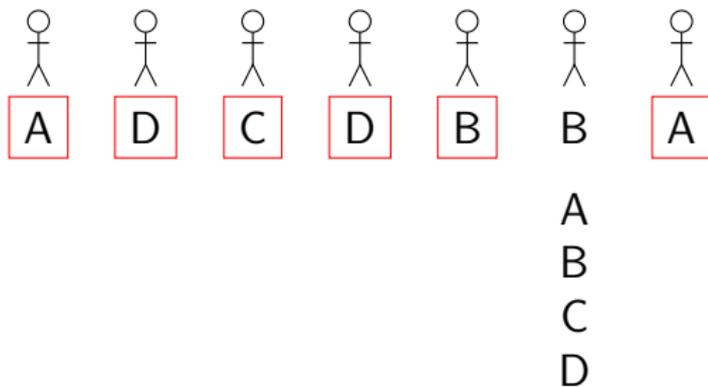
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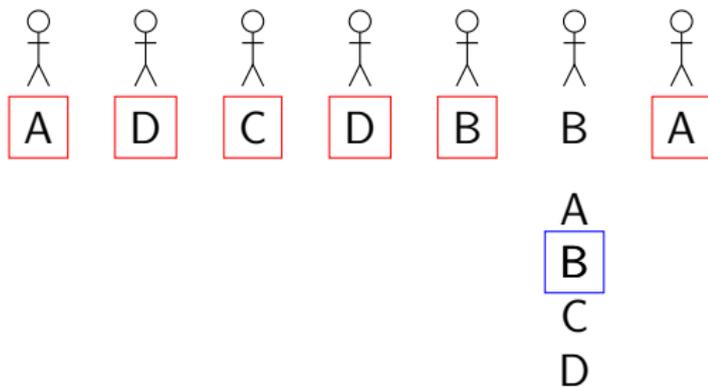
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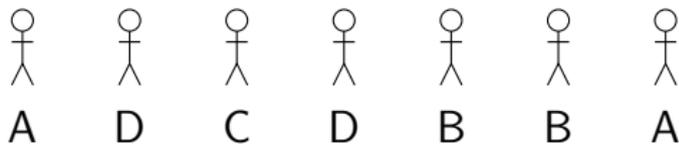
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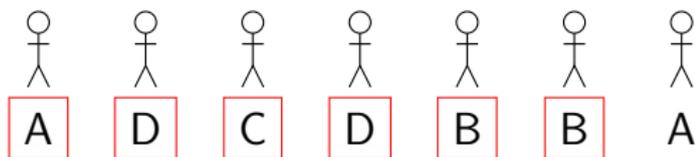
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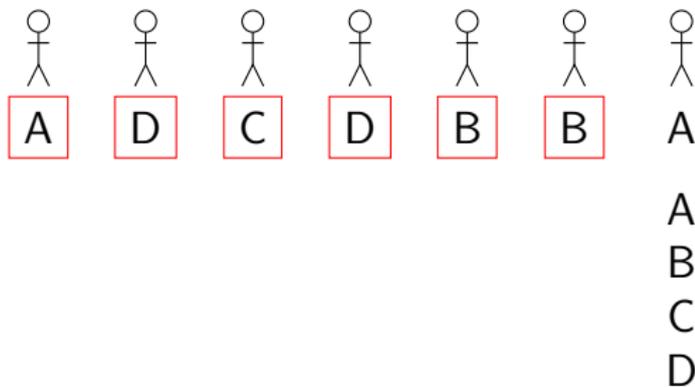
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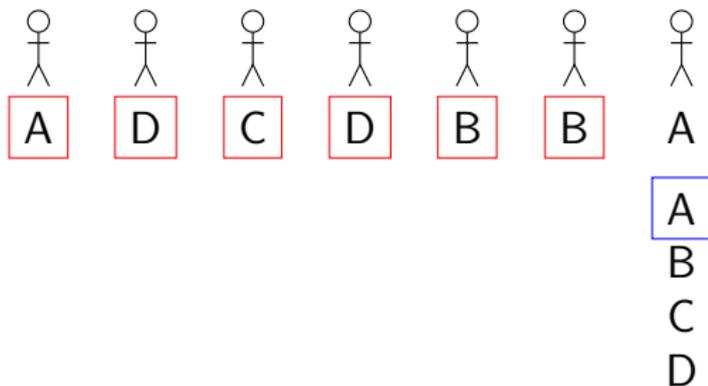
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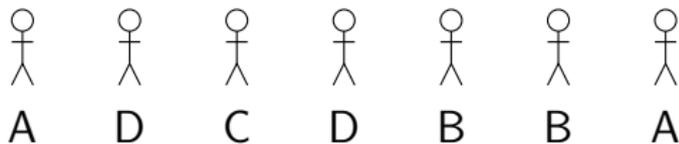
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- Consider action profile:  $\{A, D, C, D, B, B, A\}$ .



It is in no player's interest to unilaterally deviate from a Nash Equilibrium.

# HOW TO FIND THE NASH EQUILIBRIUM?

Find all Nash Equilibria in the following games.

Player 2

		C	D
Player 1	B	2,2	0,3*
	A	3,0*	1,1**

NE: (A, D)

(a) Prisoner's Dilemma

Player 2

		C	D
Player 1	B	** 4,4	1,3
	A	3,1	** 3,3

NE: (B, C) and (A, D)

(b) Stag Hunt

Player 2

		C	D
Player 1	B	4,4	** 2,5
	A	** 5,2	0,0

NE: (A, C) and (B, D)

(c) Chicken

Player 2

		C	D
Player 1	B	4,3	0,0
	A	0,0	3,4

(d) Battle of the Sexes

Player 2

		H	T
Player 1	H	4,0 ^, -^	0,4 -^, ^
	T	0,4 -^, ^	4,0 ^, -^

(e) Matching Pennies

# HOW TO FIND THE NASH EQUILIBRIUM?

Find all Nash Equilibria in the following games.

		Player 2	
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Player 1	B	2,2	0,3
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(a) Prisoner's Dilemma

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	4,4	1,3
	A	3,1	3,3

(b) Stag Hunt

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	4,4	2,5
	A	5,2	0,0

(c) Chicken

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	4,3	0,0
	A	0,0	3,4

(d) Battle of the Sexes

		Player 2	
		H	T
Player 1	H	4,0	0,4
	T	0,4	4,0

(e) Matching Pennies

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		Player 2	
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(c) Chicken

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	4,3	0,0
	A	0,0	3,4

(d) Battle of the Sexes

		Player 2	
		H	T
Player 1	H	4,0	0,4
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(d) Battle of the Sexes

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		C	D
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	A	0,0	3,4

(d) Battle of the Sexes

		Player 2	
		H	T
Player 1	H	4,0	0,4
	T	0,4	4,0

(e) Matching Pennies

# HOW TO FIND THE NASH EQUILIBRIUM?

Find all Nash Equilibria in the following games.

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	2,2	0,3
	A	3,0	1,1*

(a) Prisoner's Dilemma

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	4,4*	1,3
	A	3,1	3,3*

(b) Stag Hunt

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	4,4	2,5
	A	5,2	0,0

(c) Chicken

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	4,3	0,0
	A	0,0	3,4

(d) Battle of the Sexes

		Player 2	
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Player 1	H	4,0	0,4
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		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	4,4	2,5 *
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(c) Chicken

		Player 2	
		C	D
Player 1	B	4,3 *	0,0
	A	0,0	3,4 *

(d) Battle of the Sexes

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# Strictly Dominated Strategy

## Definition

In a SGWOP, player  $i$ 's action  $a_i''$ , strictly dominates her actions  $a_i'$ , if  $u_i(a_i'', a_{-i}) > u_i(a_i', a_{-i})$  for every list  $a_{-i}$  of the other players' actions, where  $u_i$  is player  $i$ 's payoff function. We say that the action  $a_i'$  is **strictly dominated**.

	$P_2$ L	$P_2$ R
$P_1$ U	2, 3	1, 1
$P_1$ D	4, 1	2, 2

action U is strictly dominated by D for player 1.

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U	3, 3	1, 1
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U	3, 3	1, 1
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	L	R
U	3, <u>3</u>	1, 1
D	<u>4</u> , 1	<u>2</u> , <u>2</u>

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In a SGWOP, player  $i$ 's action  $a_i''$ , strictly dominates her actions  $a_i'$ , if  $u_i(a_i'', a_{-i}) > u_i(a_i', a_{-i})$  for every list  $a_{-i}$  of the other players' actions, where  $u_i$  is player  $i$ 's payoff function. We say that the action  $a_i'$  is **strictly dominated**.

	L	R
U	3, <u>3</u>	1, 1
D	<u>4</u> , 1	<u>2</u> , <u>2</u>

- U is strictly dominated by D.

# Strictly Dominated Strategy

## Definition

In a SGWOP, player  $i$ 's action  $a_i''$ , strictly dominates her actions  $a_i'$ , if  $u_i(a_i'', a_{-i}) > u_i(a_i', a_{-i})$  for every list  $a_{-i}$  of the other players' actions, where  $u_i$  is player  $i$ 's payoff function. We say that the action  $a_i'$  is **strictly dominated**.

	L	R
U	3, <u>3</u>	1, 1
D	<u>4</u> , 1	<u>2</u> , <u>2</u>

- U is strictly dominated by D.
- Neither L nor R are strictly dominated.

# Strictly Dominated Strategy

## Definition

In a SGWOP, player  $i$ 's action  $a_i''$ , strictly dominates her actions  $a_i'$ , if  $u_i(a_i'', a_{-i}) > u_i(a_i', a_{-i})$  for every list  $a_{-i}$  of the other players' actions, where  $u_i$  is player  $i$ 's payoff function. We say that the action  $a_i'$  is **strictly dominated**.

	L	R
U	3, <u>3</u>	1, 1
D	<u>4</u> , 1	<u>2</u> , <u>2</u>

- U is strictly dominated by D.
- Neither L nor R are strictly dominated.
- A strictly dominated ~~strategy~~ <sup>action</sup> will never be played in a Nash equilibrium.

# WEAKLY DOMINATED STRATEGY

## Definition

In a SGWOP, player  $i$ 's action  $a''_i$ , weakly dominates her actions  $a'_i$ , if  $u_i(\underbrace{a''_i, a_{-i}}) \geq u_i(\underbrace{a'_i, a_{-i}})$  for every list  $a_{-i}$  of the other players' actions, and,

$u_i(a''_i, a_{-i}) > u_i(a'_i, a_{-i})$  for at least one list  $a_{-i}$  of the other players' actions, where  $u_i$  is player  $i$ 's payoff function. We say that the action  $a'_i$  is **weakly dominated**.

! in a N.E. a weakly dominated action can be played.

# EXAMPLE

	A	B	C
Z	  3, 4	6, 3	 5, 2
Y	 3, 2	5, 1	2, 3 
X	2, 2	2, 2	2, 1

A thick red vertical line is drawn through the B column. A thick red horizontal line is drawn through the X row. A black circle is drawn around the (Z, A) cell.

Find all:

- (i) weakly dominated strategies,
- (ii) strictly dominated strategies,
- (iii) Nash Equilibria.

$\mathcal{R}_1$

		$\mathcal{R}_2$	
	$B$	$B$	$R$
$B$		7, 3	7, 4
$R$		3, 4	10*, 5*

$$B_1(B) = \mathcal{R}_1$$

$$B_1(R) = \mathcal{R}_1'$$

70%

Example 39.1. a synergistic relationship.

players: 1, 2

actions:  $a_i \in \mathbb{R}^+$ . The effort devoted to the joint project.

preferences:  $u_i(a_i, a_j) = a_i(c + a_j - a_i)$  with  $c > 0$   
a constant.

best response:  $B_1(a_2) \rightarrow$  we need to maximize  $u_1(a_1, \bar{a}_2)$

$$\max_{a_1} u_1(a_1).$$

$$u_1 = a_1 c + a_1 a_2 - a_1^2 \quad u_2 = a_2 c + a_1 a_2 - a_2^2$$

$$u_1' = c + a_2 - 2a_1 = 0 \Leftrightarrow a_1 = \frac{c + a_2}{2}$$

$$B_1(a_2) = \frac{c + a_2}{2} = a_1^*$$

Now  $B_2(a_1)$ .

$$u_2 = a_2(c + a_1 - a_2)$$

$$= a_2c + a_1a_2 - a_2^2$$

$$u'_2 = \frac{du_2}{da_2} = c + a_1 - 2a_2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow B_2(a_1) = \frac{c+a_1}{2} = a_2^*$$

$$a_1^* = B_1(a_2^*)$$

$$a_2^* = B_2(a_1^*)$$

$$\begin{cases} a_1^* = \frac{c}{2} + \frac{a_2^*}{2} \\ a_2^* = \frac{c}{2} + \frac{a_1^*}{2} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} a_1 - \frac{a_2}{2} = \frac{c}{2} & (1) \\ -\frac{a_1}{2} + a_2 = \frac{c}{2} & (2) \end{cases}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a_1^* = c = a_2^*$$

# STRICT NASH EQUILIBRIUM

## Definition

The action profile  $a^*$  in a SGWOP is a **strict Nash equilibrium**, if for every player  $i$ ,

$$u_i(a^*) > u_i(a_i, a_{-i}^*) \text{ for every action profile } a_i \text{ of player } i,$$

where  $u_i$  is a payoff function that represents player  $i$ 's preferences.

# STRICT NASH EQUILIBRIUM (EXAMPLE)

	L	R
U	0, 0	2, 1
D	3, 2	0, 2

- The game has 2 Nash equilibria.
- Only 1 Nash equilibrium is strict.
- A Nash equilibrium might consist of weakly dominated strategies.
- The non-strict Nash equilibrium is less stable.

# STRICT NASH EQUILIBRIUM (EXAMPLE)

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U	0, 0	2, 1
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U	0, 0	<u>2</u> , <u>1</u>
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# SYMMETRIC GAMES

## Definition

A two-player SGWOP is **symmetric** if the players' set of actions are the same and the players' preferences are represented by payoff function  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  for which  $u_1(a_1, a_2) = u_2(a_2, a_1)$  for every action pair  $(a_1, a_2)$ .

- Players are all homogeneous and no roles are assigned.

## Definition

An action profile  $a^*$  in a symmetric SGWOP is a **symmetric Nash equilibrium** if it is a Nash equilibrium and  $a_i^*$  is the same for every player  $i$ .

# EXAMPLE

	A	B	C
Z	1, 1	2, 1	4, 1
Y	1, 2	5, 5	3, 6
X	1, 4	6, 3	0, 0

Find all:

(i) Nash Equilibria,

(ii) symmetric Nash Equilibria.