## Game Theory, Breaking Bad \& Ice-cream Wars



## Prisoners Dilemma

## Conditions-

- If you both holdout, they get 1 year in jail
- If both confess, they get 2-year jail
- If only one person confesses, that person goes free, and the other person gets 4 -year jail for holding out


Game theory is the study of mathematical models of strategic interaction among rational decision-makers.

Applications- Psychology, Evolutionary Biology, War Strategy, Politics, Economics, Business, Policy Making

## Agenda

- Nash Equilibrium

- Decision Theory vs Game Theory
- Approach
- Mix Strategy algorithm
- Infinite Games

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Strict Dominance N.EConfess > Holding out


|  | Hold Out | Confess |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hold Out | $-1,-1$ | $-4,0^{*}$ |
| Confess | $0^{*},-4$ | $-2^{*},-2^{*}$ |

Multiple N.E with Various
dimensions in real life

Nash Equilibrium (John Nash)- Optimal outcome of a game where there is no incentive to deviate from the initial strategy(No Regrets Strategy)


Monte Hall problem


Will you switch?


B
C


2/3


# Decision Theory vs Game Theory 

| Decision Theory (Static) | Game Theory (Dynamic) |
| :---: | :---: |
| Make best possible decision from given data | Your actions(or thinking) affect what others will do. <br> Anticipate reaction from others, make best decision |
| Ex- "Will stay up late for faster internet" | "Everyone will stay up late for faster internet and slow it <br> down. Therefore, wake up early instead" |
| 'Sell drugs to make money' | 'Will make enemies while selling drugs. Think <br> strategically at every step to stay ahead and keep his <br> family safe' |

## Scene 1:

Krazy 8 held hostage while trying to kill Walt and Jesse. Walt was deciding what to do


## Scene 2:

Jesse plans to kill Tuco. Walt asks him details of the plan


| Decision Theory (Static) | Game Theory (Dynamic) |
| :---: | :---: | Get gun. Shoot Tuco | How? How will his people |
| :---: |
| react? What if you don't |
| shoot him right? Have you |
| ever used gun before? |$|$

Scene 3:
Mike pays money to prisoners in custody. Hank figures out that the operation is still on-going


## Evil Account

Performance(out of 100)= random. randrange ( 0,80 ) $+X$
You have opportunity to get extra points(X)
Conditions-

- Select whether you want 5 or 20
- If more than $20 \%$ people pick 20 , no one gets any points
- Selections would be completely anonymous to rest of the team


## Strategy-

If we cooperate, everyone can get at least 5 ?


|  | Other's picking 20 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $>20 \%$ | $<20 \%$ | $=20 \%$ |  |
| Your Pick | 5 Points | 0 | 5 | $5^{*}$ |
|  | 20 points | 0 |  |  |


| $5-5$ | 0 extra |
| :--- | :--- |
| $20-5$ | 15 extra |

## Bonus Motivation

Conditions: Employees reaching a target P score of 80 would receive 2 L bonus


Modification: Employees reaching a target P score of 90 would receive 2 L bonus



## Ice-cream Battle

Socially Optimal Solution



Day-2


Day-3


Nash Equilibrium


## Splitting Cake

## Conditions: I cut, you choose



A: Gets min $(x, 100-x)$

## Splitting Cake - 3 people

Conditions: Person A cuts a slice, Person B can reduce it further, Person C can reduce it too. Last person to cut gets the slice


## Last Diminisher method

If anyone makes a portion lesser than 30 g , they end up with less than even split

If anyone makes a portion bigger than 30 g , the last person will get more than an even split

## Matching Pennies

## Conditions-

- You and your friend simultaneously reveal a coin
- If both show head or both show tails, you get Rs. 100 from him
- If one shows heads and other shows tails, you pay him Rs. 100



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$$
\begin{aligned}
& \quad \text { Player 1's Mixed Strategy } \\
& \mathrm{EU}_{L}=\mathrm{EU}_{R} \\
& \mathrm{EU}_{L}=\sigma_{U}(-3)+\left(1-\sigma_{U}\right)(1) \\
& \mathrm{EU}_{R}=\sigma_{U}(2)+\left(1-\sigma_{U}\right)(0) \\
& \sigma_{U}=1 / 6
\end{aligned}
$$

If P1 plays Up $1 / 6$ times and down $5 / 6$ times, P 2 is indifferent to P1s moves

## Player 2's Mixed Strategy

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{EU}_{U}=\mathrm{EU}_{D} \\
& \mathrm{EU}_{U}=\sigma_{L}(3)+\left(1-\sigma_{U}\right)(-2) \\
& \mathrm{EU}_{D}=\sigma_{L}(-1)+\left(1-\sigma_{U}\right)(0) \\
& \sigma_{L}=1 / 3
\end{aligned}
$$

If $P 2$ plays left $1 / 3$ times and right $2 / 3$ times, $P 1$ is indifferent to P 2 s moves

$$
\left.<\left(\sigma_{U}=1 / 6, \sigma_{D}=5 / 6\right),\left(\sigma_{L}=1 / 3, \sigma_{R}=2 / 3\right)\right\rangle
$$

## Infinite Prisoners Dilemma

## Conditions- Goes on for infinite duration

Grim Strategy-Cooperate then defect forever
Grim Trigger- Point after which they would defect forever


| Equilibrium payoff $=3+3 \delta^{1}+3 \delta^{2}+3 \delta^{3} \ldots$. |
| :--- |
| Defection payoff $=4+2 \delta^{1}+2 \delta^{2}+2 \delta^{3} \ldots$. |

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Applications: Businesses, Trade Wars, Military etc.

$$
\text { Eqm. payoff }>=\text { Def payoff } \quad \delta>=1 / 2
$$

## Takeaways

- Strategic decision making when everyone around is smart(Prisoners Dilemma)
- How to stay least affected from other people's strategy(Payoff matrix, Mix strategies)
- Realising when to switch strategies (Grim triggers)

