CMU 15-781 Lecture 22: Game Theory I

Teachers: Gianni A. Di Caro

GAME THEORY

- Game theory is the formal study of conflict and cooperation in (rational) multi-agent systems
- Decision-making where several players must make choices that potentially affect the interests of other players: **the effect of the actions of several agents are interdependent** (and agents are aware of it)

Psychology: Theory of social situations



ELEMENTS OF A GAME

- The players: how many players are there? Does nature/chance play a role?
- A complete description of what the players can do: the set of all possible actions.
- The information that players have available when choosing their actions
- A description of the payoff / consequences for each player for every possible combination of actions chosen by all players playing the game.
- A description of all players' preferences over payoffs

INFORMATION

- Complete information game: Utility functions, payoffs, strategies and "types" of players are *common knowledge*
- Incomplete information game: players may not possess full information about their opponents (e.g., in auctions, each player knows its utility but not that of the other players)
- Perfect information game: each player, when making any decision, is perfectly informed of all the events that have previously occurred (e.g., chess)
- Imperfect information game: not all information is accessible to the player (e.g., poker, prisoner's dilemma)

STRATEGIES

- Strategy: tells a player what to do for every possible situation throughout the game (complete algorithm for playing the game). It can be deterministic or stochastic
- Strategy set: what strategies are available for the players to play. The set can be finite or infinite (e.g., beach war game)
- Strategy profile: a set of strategies for all players which fully specifies all actions in a game. A strategy profile must include one and only one strategy for every player
- Pure strategy: one specific element from the strategy set, a single strategy which is played 100% of the time
- Mixed strategy: assignment of a probability to each pure strategy. Pure strategy ≡ degenerate case of a mixed strategy

(STRATEGIC-) NORMAL-FORM GAME

- A game in normal form consists of:
 - Set of players $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$
 - \circ Strategy set S
 - For each $i \in N$, a **utility function** u_i defined over the set of all possible *strategy profiles*, $u_i: S^n \to \mathbb{R}$, such that if each $j \in N$ plays the strategy $s_j \in S$, the utility of player i is $u_i(s_1, \dots, s_n)$ (i.e., $u_i(s_1, \dots, s_n)$ is player i's payoff when strategy profile (s_1, \dots, s_n) is chosen)
- Next example created by taking screenshots of http://youtu.be/jILgxeNBK 8





One day your cousin Ted shows up.





You split the beach in half; you set up at 1/4.







One day Teddy sets up at the 1/2 point!





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THE ICE CREAM WARS

- $N = \{1,2\}$
- S = [0,1]
- s_i is the fraction of beach
- $u_i(s_i, s_j) = \begin{cases} \frac{s_i + s_j}{2}, & s_i < s_j \\ 1 \frac{s_i + s_j}{2}, & s_i > s_j \\ \frac{1}{2}, & s_i = s_j \end{cases}$ • To be continued...

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The prisoner's dilemma (1962)

- Two men are charged with a crime
- They can't communicate with each other
- They are told that:
 - If one rats out and the other does not, the rat will be freed, other jailed for 9 years
 - $_{\circ}~$ If both rat out, both will be jailed for 6 years
- They also know that if neither rats out, both will be jailed for 1 year

The prisoner's dilemma (1962)



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PRISONER'S DILEMMA: PAYOFF MATRIX

Don't confess = Cooperate: Don't rat out, cooperate with each other

Confess = Defect: Don't cooperate to each other, act selfishly! Don't Confess **A**

Confess



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What would you do?

PRISONER'S DILEMMA: PAYOFF MATRIX



PRISONER'S DILEMMA

- Confess (Defection, Acting selfishly) is a dominant strategy for *B*: no matters what A plays, the best reply strategy is always to confess
- (Strictly) dominant strategy: yields a player strictly higher payoff, no matter which decision(s) the other player(s) choose. Weakly: ties in some cases
- Confess is a dominant strategy also for A
- A will reason as follows: B's dominant strategy is to Confess, therefore, given that we are both rational agents, B will also Confess and we will both get 6 years.

PRISONER'S DILEMMA

- But, is the dominant strategy the **best** strategy?
- **Pareto optimality**: an outcome such that there is no other outcome that makes every player at least as well off and at least one player strictly better off → Outcome (-1,-1)
- Being selfish is a dominant strategy
- But the players can do much better by cooperating: (-1,-1), which is the Pareto-optimal outcome
- A strategy profile forms an **equilibrium** if no player can benefit by switching strategies, *given that every other player sticks with the same strategy*, which is the case of (C,C)
- An equilibrium is a **local optimum in** the space of the policies

UNDERSTANDING THE DILEMMA

- Self-interested rational agents would choose a strategy that does not bring the maximal reward
- The *dilemma is* that the equilibrium outcome is worse for both players than the outcome they would get if both refuse to confess
- Related to the tragedy of the commons



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IN REAL LIFE

- Presidential elections
 - \circ Cooperate = positive ads
 - \circ Defect = negative ads
- Nuclear arms race
 - \circ Cooperate = destroy arsenal
 - \circ Defect = build arsenal
- Climate change
 - \circ Cooperate = curb CO₂ emissions
 - \circ Defect = do not curb



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ON TV: GOLDEN BALLS



- If both choose Split, they each receive half the jackpot.
- If one chooses Steal and the other chooses Split, the Steal contestant wins the entire jackpot.
- If both choose Steal, neither contestant wins any money.

http://youtu.be/S0qjK3TWZE8

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THE PROFESSOR'S DILEMMA



Dominant strategies?

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NASH EQUILIBRIUM (1951)

• Each player's strategy is a best response to strategies of others



• Formally, a Nash equilibrium is strategy profile $s = (s_1 \dots, s_n) \in S^n$ such that $\forall i \in N, \forall s'_i \in S, u_i(s)$



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 $\geq u_i(s'_i, s_{-i})$

- In equilibrium, each player is playing the strategy that is a "best response" to the strategies of the other players. No one has an *incentive* to change his strategy given the strategy choices of the others
- A NE is an equilibrium where each player's strategy is optimal given the strategies of all other players.
- A Nash Equilibrium exists when there is no unilateral profitable deviation from any of the players involved
- Nash Equilibria are *self-enforcing*: when players are at a Nash Equilibrium they have no desire to move because they will be worse off \rightarrow **Equilibrium** in the policy space

Equilibrium is *not*:

- The best possible outcome of the game. Equilibrium in the one-shot prisoners' dilemma is for both players to confess, which is not the best possible outcome (not Pareto optimal)
- A situation where players always choose the same action. Sometimes equilibrium will involve changing action choices (*mixed strategy* equilibrium).

• Poll 1: How many Nash equilibria does the Professor's Dilemma have?

1.	0		Listen	Sleep
2.	1			
<i>→ 3.</i>	2	Make effort	$10^{6}, 10^{6}$	-10,0
4.	3			
		Slack off	0,-10	$0,\!0$

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- Nash equilibrium: A play of the game where each strategy is a best reply to the given strategy of the other. Let's examine all the possible pure strategy profiles and check if for a profile (X,Y) one player could improve its payoff given the strategy of the other
- ✓ (M, L)? If Prof plays M, then L is the best reply given M. Neither player can increase its the payoff by choosing a different action
- $\circ(S,L)$? If Prof plays S, S is the best reply given S, not L.
- $\circ(M, S)$? If Prof plays M, then L is the best reply given M, not S
- \checkmark (S,S)? If Prof plays S, then S is the best reply given S. Neither player can increase its the payoff by choosing a different action

NASH EQUILIBRIUM FOR PRISONER'S DILEMMA



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(NOT) NASH EQUILIBRIUM



http://youtu.be/CemLiSI5ox8

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RUSSEL CROWE WAS WRONG



working for 20+ hours a week on the programming exercises of Hebrew U Intro to CS course, which was taught by some guy called Noam Nisan. I didn't know anything about game theory, and Crowe's explanation made a lot of sense at the time.

Home About

PC Chair

a 1940's-style male

I easily found the relevant scene on youtube. In the scene, Nash's friends are trying to figure out how to seduce a beautiful blonde and her less beautiful friends. Then Nash/Crowe has an epiphany. The hubbub of the seedy Princetor bar is drowned by inspirational music, as Nash announces:

January 2012 December 2011 November 2011 October 2011 September 2011 August 2011 July 2011 une 201

WE'RE WITH THE UGLY ONES, THERE'S THREE ARE LEAVING NO INCENTIVE FOR ONE OF US NOT || WITH ONE GUY. TO TRY TO SWITCH TO THE HOT ONE. IT'S NOT A STABLE EQUILIBRIUM.



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END OF THE ICE CREAM WARS



Day 3 of the ice cream wars...



Teddy sets up south of you!







This is why competitors open their stores next to one another!

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ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS



Nash equilibrium? Souther a pure strategy as best response?

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ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS



No (pure) Nash equilibria: Best response: randomize!

- For every pure strategy (X,Y), there is a different strategy choice that increases the payoff of a player
- E.g., for strategy (P,R), player B can get a higher payoff playing strategy S instead R
- E.g., for strategy (S,R), player A can get a higher payoff playing strategy P instead S
- No strategy equilibrium can be settled, players have the incentive to keep switching their strategy

MIXED STRATEGIES

- A mixed strategy is a probability distribution over (*pure*) strategies
- The mixed strategy of player $i \in N$ is x_i , where $x_i(s_i) = \Pr[i \text{ plays } s_i]$ (e.g., $x_i(R) = 0.3$, $x_i(P) = 0.5$, $x_i(S) = 0.2$)
- The (expected) **utility** of player $i \in N$ is



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EXERCISE: MIXED NE

- Exercise: player 1 plays $\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0\right)$, player 2 plays $\left(0, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$. What is u_1 ?
- Exercise: Both players play $\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right)$. What is u_1 ?



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EXERCISE: MIXED NE $u_1(x_1(R, P, S), x_2(R, P, S)) =$ $u_1(R, R)p(R, R|x_1, x_2) + u_1(R, P)p(R, P|x_1, x_2) + u_1(R, S)p(R, S|x_1, x_2)$ $u_1(P, R)p(P, R|x_1, x_2) + u_1(P, P)p(P, P|x_1, x_2) + u_1(P, S)p(P, S|x_1, x_2)$ $u_1(S, R)p(S, R|x_1, x_2) + u_1(S, P)p(S, P|x_1, x_2) + u_1(S, S)p(S, S|x_1, x_2)$ $= 0 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 0\right) + (-1) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}\right) + 1 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}\right)$ R Р S $+1 \cdot (\frac{1}{2} \cdot 0) + 0 \cdot (\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}) + (-1) \cdot (\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2})$ -1,11,-1 0,0 R $+(-1)\cdot(0\cdot 0)+1\cdot(0\cdot \frac{1}{2})+0\cdot(0\cdot \frac{1}{2})$ $= -\frac{1}{4}$ 0,0Р 1,-1 -1,1In the second case, because of symmetry, the <u>utility</u> is zero: It's a *zero-sum game* S -1,1 1,-1 0.0

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MIXED STRATEGIES NASH EQUILIBRIUM

- The mixed strategy profile x^* in a strategic game is a mixed strategy Nash equilibrium if $u_i(x_i^*, x_{-i}^*) \ge u_i(x_i^*, x_{-i}^*) \forall x_i$ and i
- $u_i(x)$ is player *i*'s expected utility with mixed strategy profile x
- Same definition as in the case f pure strategies, where u_i was the utility of a pure strategy instead of a mixed strategy

MIXED STRATEGIES NASH EQUILIBRIUM

- Using *best response* functions, x^* is a mixed strategy NE iff x_i^* is the best response for every player *i*.
- If a mixed strategy x^* is a best response, then each of the *pure* strategies in the mix must be best responses: they must yield the same expected payoff (otherwise it would just make sense to choose the one with the better payoff)
- \rightarrow If a mixed strategy is a best response for player *i*, then the player must be indifferent among the pure strategies in the mix
- E.g., in the RPS game, if the mixed strategy of player i assigns non-zero probabilities $p_{\rm R}$ for playing R and $p_{\rm P}$ for playing P, then i's expected utility for playing R or P has to be the same

EXERCISE: MIXED NE



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NASH'S THEOREM

• Theorem [Nash, 1950]: In any game with finite number of strategies there exists at least one (possibly mixed) Nash equilibrium



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This game has no pure strategy Nash equilibria but it does have a Nash equilibrium in mixed strategies. How is it computed?

Example slides from Ted Bergstrom

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In a *mixed strategy:*

Player A plays Up with probability π_U and plays Down with probability $1-\pi_U$ Player B plays Left with probability π_L and plays Right with probability $1-\pi_L$.

Player B L,π_L R,1- π_L Player A $D,1-\pi_U$ 0,5 3,2

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Player B L, π_L R,1- π_L

 $\begin{array}{c} U, \pi_U \\ Player A \\ D, 1-\pi_U \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1, 2 \\ \end{array}$

If B plays Left, its expected utility is

 $0,\!4$

 $3,\!2$

$$2\pi_{U} + 5(1 - \pi_{U})$$

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COMPUTATION OF MS NE

 $0,\!4$

3,2

 $1,\!2$

 $0,\!5$

U, π_U Player A D,1- π_U

If B plays Right, its expected utility is $4\pi_{U} + 2(1 - \pi_{U})$.

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Player B L, π_L R,1- π_L

1,2

 $0,\!5$

U, $\pi_{\rm U}$ Player A

D,1- π_{II}

If $2\pi_U + 5(1 - \pi_U) > 4\pi_U + 2(1 - \pi_U)$ Then

B would play only Left. But there are no (pure) Nash equilibria in which B plays only Left

 $0,\!4$

 $3,\!2$

Player B L, π_L R,1- π_L

 $\begin{array}{c} U, \pi_{U} \\ Player A \\ D, 1-\pi_{U} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1, 2 \\ 0, 4 \end{array} \end{array}$

If $2\pi_U + 5(1 - \pi_U) < 4\pi_U + 2(1 - \pi_U)$ then

B would play only Right. But there are no (pure) Nash equilibria in which B plays only Right

Player B L, π_L R,1- π_L

 $\begin{array}{ccc} U, \pi_{U} & 1, 2 \\ Player A & & \\ D, 1-\pi_{U} & 0, 5 \end{array}$

For there to exist a MS Nash equilibrium, B must be indifferent between playing Left or Right:

$$2\pi_{U} + 5(1 - \pi_{U}) = 4\pi_{U} + 2(1 - \pi_{U})$$

 $0,\!4$

 $3,\!2$

Player B L, π_L R,1- π_L

Player A

$$U, \pi_U$$
 $1, 2$ $0, 4$ $D, 1 - \pi_U$ $0, 5$ $3, 2$

$$2\pi_{U} + 5(1 - \pi_{U}) = 4\pi_{U} + 2(1 - \pi_{U})$$
$$\Rightarrow \pi_{U} = 3/5.$$

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COMPUTATION OF MS NE

 U, $\frac{3}{5}$ 1,2
 0,4

 Player A
 D, $\frac{2}{5}$ 0,5
 3,2

$$\pi_{\rm U} = \frac{3}{5}$$
 $1 - \pi_{\rm U} = \frac{2}{5}$

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COMPUTATION OF MS NE



If A plays Up its expected payoff is $1 \times \pi_L + 0 \times (1 - \pi_L) = \pi_L.$

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COMPUTATION OF MS NE



If A plays Down his expected payoff is $0 \times \pi_L + 3 \times (1 - \pi_L) = 3(1 - \pi_L).$

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COMPUTATION OF MS NE



If $\pi_{L} > 3(1 - \pi_{L})$ then A would play only Up

But there are no Nash equilibria in which A plays only Up

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COMPUTATION OF MS NE



If $\pi_{L} < 3(1 - \pi_{L})$ then A would play only Down

But there are no Nash equilibria in which A plays only Down

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COMPUTATION OF MS NE



For there to exist a Nash equilibrium, A must be indifferent between playing Up or Down:

 $\pi_{\mathsf{L}} = 3(1 - \pi_{\mathsf{L}})$

COMPUTATION OF MS NE



$$\pi_{L} = 3(1 - \pi_{L}) \implies \pi_{L} = 3/4.$$

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Player B
L,
$$\frac{3}{4}$$
 R, $\frac{1}{4}$
Player A
D, $\frac{2}{5}$ 0,5 3,2

$$\pi_{L=\frac{3}{4}}$$
 1- $\pi_{L=\frac{1}{4}}$

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Game's only Nash equilibrium has A playing the mixed strategy $\left(\frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{5}\right)$ and B playing the mixed strategy $\left(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{4}\right)$

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Payoffs:

- (1,2) with probability $\left(\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{3}{4}\right) = \frac{9}{20}$
- (0,4) with probability $\left(\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{3}{20}$
- (0,5) with probability $\left(\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{3}{4}\right) = \frac{6}{20}$
- (3,2) with probability $\left(\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{2}{20}$

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A's expected Nash equilibrium payoff: $1 \times \frac{9}{20} + 0 \times \frac{3}{20} + 0 \times \frac{6}{20} + 3 \times \frac{2}{20} = \frac{3}{4}.$

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B's expected Nash equilibrium payoff: $2 \times \frac{9}{20} + 4 \times \frac{3}{20} + 5 \times \frac{6}{20} + 2 \times \frac{2}{20} = \frac{16}{5}.$

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DOES NE MAKE SENSE?

- Two players, strategies are $\{2,\ldots,100\}$
- If both choose the same number, that is what they get
- If one chooses s, the other t, and s < t, the former player gets s + 2, and the latter gets s - 2
- Poll 3: What would you choose?



MULTIAGENT SYSTEMS



Algorithmic, Game-Theoretic, and Logical Foundations

YOAV SHOHAM KEVIN LEYTON-BROWN

CAMERIDGE

SECOND EDITION

An Introduction to MultiAgent Systems

MICHAEL WOOLDRIDGE

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MULTIAGENT SYSTEMS

Chapters of the Shoham and Leyton-Brown book:

- 1. Distributed constraint satisfaction
- 2. Distributed optimization
- 3. Games in normal form
- 4. Computing solution concepts of normal-form games
- 5. Games with sequential actions
- 6. Beyond the normal and extensive forms
- 7. Learning and teaching

- 8. Communication
- 9. Social choice
- 10. Mechanism design
- 11. Auctions
- 12. Coalitional game theory
- 13. Logics of knowledge and belief
- 14. Probability, dynamics, and intention

Legend:

- "Game theory"
- Not "game theory"

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MULTIAGENT SYSTEMS

Mike Wooldridge's 2014 publications:

	2014			
	[j111]		r ¢	Anthony Hunter, Simon Parsons, Michael Wooldridge: Measuring Inconsistency in Multi-Agent Systems. KI 28(3): 169-178 (2014)
-	📕 [j110]		<u>r</u> \$	John Grant, Sarit Kraus, Michael Wooldridge, Inon Zuckerman: Manipulating Games by Sharing Information. Studia Logica 102(2): 267-295 (2014)
	[c191]		T ¢	Javier Morales, Maite López-Sánchez, Juan Antonio Rodriguez-Aguilar, Michael Wooldridge, Wamberto Vasconcelos: Minimality and simplicity in the on-line automated synthesis of normative systems. AAMAS 2014: 109-116
-	[c190]		£ ¢	Oskar Skibski, Tomasz P. Michalak, Talal Rahwan, Michael Wooldridge: Algorithms for the shapley and myerson values in graph-restricted games. AAMAS 2014: 197-204
-	[c189]	Î	£ ¢	Liat Sless, Noam Hazon, Sarit Kraus, Michael Wooldridge: Forming coalitions and facilitating relationships for completing tasks in social networks. AAMAS 2014: 261-268
	[c188]	Ê	T ¢	Enrico Marchioni, Michael Wooldridge: Lukasiewicz games. AAMAS 2014: 837-844
\rightarrow	[c187]		T 6	Paul Harrenstein, Paolo Turrini, Michael Wooldridge: Hard and soft equilibria in boolean games. AAMAS 2014: 845-852
	[c186]	Ê	T &	S. Shaheen Fatima, Michael Wooldridge: Majority bargaining for resource division. AAMAS 2014: 1393-1394
	[c185]		T 4	Shaheen Fatima, Tomasz P. Michalak, Michael Wooldridge: Power and welfare in noncooperative bargaining for coalition structure formation. AAMAS 2014: 1439-1440
	[c184]		£ ¢	Javier Morales, Iosu Mendizabal, David Sanchez-Pinsach, Maite López-Sánchez, <mark>Michael Wooldridge</mark> , Wamberto Vasconcelos : NormLab: a framework to support research on norm synthesis. AAMAS 2014: 1697-1698
	[c183]	Ē	T ¢	Julian Gutierrez, Michael Wooldridge: Equilibria of concurrent games on event structures. CSL-LICS 2014: 46
	[c182]	Ē	T 6	S. Shaheen Fatima, Michael Wooldridge: Multilateral Bargaining for Resource Division. ECAI 2014: 309-314
	[c181]	Ē	T &	S. Shaheen Fatima, Tomasz P. Michalak, Michael Wooldridge: Bargaining for Coalition Structure Formation. ECAI 2014: 315-320
-	[c180]		£ ¢	Piotr L. Szczepanski, Tomasz P. Michalak, Michael Wooldridge: A Centrality Measure for Networks With Community Structure Based on a Generalization of the Owen Value. ECAI 2014: 867-872
	[c179]	Ē	T ¢	Julian Gutierrez, Paul Harrenstein, Michael Wooldridge: Reasoning about Equilibria in Game-Like Concurrent Systems. KR 2014

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SUMMARY

- Terminology:
 - Normal-form game
 - Nash equilibrium
 - Mixed strategies
- Nobel-prize-winning ideas:
 - $_{\circ}$ Nash equilibrium $\textcircled{\odot}$



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