

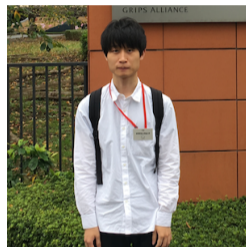
Bayes correlated equilibria and no-regret dynamics

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- I obtained my PhD from Prof. Iwata (UTokyo)
(combinatorial optimization group)
- I joined NII in 2020 and started game theory



Research Topics

Optimization, operations research, machine learning

Goal 1 Computing equilibria efficiently

- Is it possible to compute equilibria of a given game in reasonable time?
- If it is difficult, is it possible to find an evidence for difficulty?

Goal 2 Guaranteeing quality of equilibria (price of anarchy)

- In the worst equilibria, how much does social welfare deteriorate?

This study aims to achieve these two goals for Bayesian games

- ✘ There are various other goals (e.g., computing auctions, cooperative games)

Background 1: Equilibrium computation

Background 2: Price of anarchy

Our results on Bayesian games

Details of the proposed dynamics

Two-player zero-sum games

A game is zero-sum \Leftrightarrow the total payoff is always zero

		👤		
		👊	✌️	✂️
👮	👊	0 0	1 -1	-1 1
	✌️	-1 1	0 0	1 -1
	✂️	1 -1	-1 1	0 0

Example:

rock paper scissors

Nash equilibria:

both players


choose every action



with prob. $1/3$ (unique)

Two-player non-zero-sum games

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 and  at an intersection decide whether to go or to stop



			
		Go	Stop
	Go	0 0 4 3	
	Stop	3 4 1 1	

Nash equilibria:

1. (Go, Stop)
2. (Stop, Go)
3. Both choose Go and Stop with prob. 1/2

Problem

Compute **any** Nash equilibrium given a payoff table

Is there an algorithm that runs in time polynomial in #actions?

- **Two-player zero-sum games:** Yes

Linear-programming-based algorithm [von Neumann 1928, Khachiyan'79]

- **Two-player non-zero-sum games:** No (probably)

This problem is PPAD-complete [Chen–Deng–Teng'09]

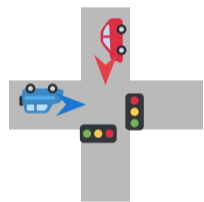


Computer scientists “believe” that solving it in poly-time is impossible

Question

Is there any equilibrium concept easy to compute?

Players' actions can be correlated via a **traffic signal**



The diagram shows a four-way intersection with a traffic light in the center. A blue car is on the left side, and a red car is on the top side. The traffic light has a red light lit. Below the diagram is a payoff matrix for the game between the blue car and the red car.

		Red Car	
		Go	Stop
Blue Car	Go	0, 0	4, 3
	Stop	3, 4	1, 1

Correlated equilibria:

infinitely many including Nash eq.

e.g.) (Go, Stop) with prob. $1/2$

(Stop, Go) with prob. $1/2$

$N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ players

A_i finite set of actions for player $i \in N$

$A = A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$ set of action profiles

$v_i: A \rightarrow [0, 1]$ utility function for player $i \in N$

$N = \{\text{blue car}, \text{red car}\}$

$A_i = \{\text{Go}, \text{Stop}\}$

$u_{\text{blue car}}(\text{Go}, \text{Stop}) = 4$

Definition

A distribution over action profiles $\pi \in \Delta(A)$ is a correlated equilibrium

\Leftrightarrow For any player $i \in N$ and deviation $\phi: A_i \rightarrow A_i$,

$$\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi} [v_i(\phi(a_i), a_{-i})] \leq \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi} [v_i(a)].$$

✘ If π is a product distribution, this definition coincides with Nash equilibria

Definition

A distribution over action profiles $\pi \in \Delta(A)$ is a correlated equilibrium

⇔ For any player $i \in N$ and deviation $\phi: A_i \rightarrow A_i$,

$$\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi} [v_i(\phi(a_i), a_{-i})] \leq \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi} [v_i(a)].$$

	Go	Stop
Go	0 0	4 3
Stop	3 4	1 1

We can define a CE $\pi \in \Delta(A)$ as follows:

$$\pi(\text{Go}, \text{Stop}) = 1/2, \pi(\text{Stop}, \text{Go}) = 1/2$$

Each player cannot increase the payoff by any ϕ

e.g., $\phi(\text{Go}) = \text{Stop}$, $\phi(\text{Stop}) = \text{Stop}$ decreases it

The set of CEs is expressed by linear constraints with $|A|$ variables

$$\text{CE} = \left\{ \pi \in [0, 1]^A \left| \begin{array}{l} \sum_{\substack{a \in A: \\ a_i = a'_i}} \pi(a) [v_i(a) - v_i(a''_i, a_{-i})] \leq 0 \quad (\forall i \in N, \forall a'_i, a''_i \in A_i) \\ \sum_{a \in A} \pi(a) = 1 \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

If the number of players is a constant, the size of this LP is polynomial

→ The problem of finding (also optimizing) a CE is tractable [Khachiyan'79]

Question

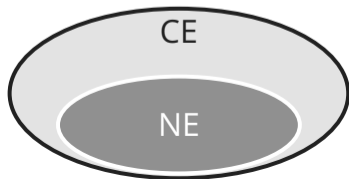
How about cases where the number of players is large?

Theorem [Foster-Vohra'97, Hart-Mas-Colel'00, Blum-Mansour'07]

There exists a poly-time algo. for computing a CE of n -player games

- ✂ Since v_i requires space exponential in n , we assume oracle access to v_i
- ✂ An ϵ -approximate CE is obtained in time polynomial in n , $\max_{i \in N} |A_i|$, and $1/\epsilon$

cf. Computing Nash equilibria is PPAD-complete even for two-player games

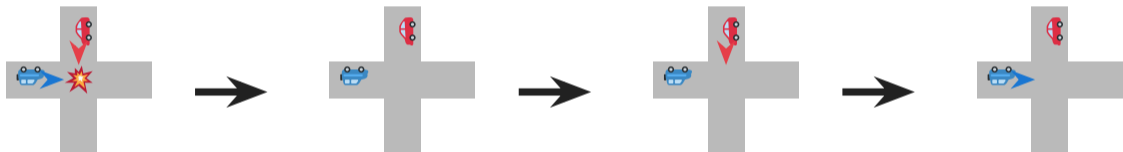


The problem of computing **any** CE is easier than computing **any** NE

Algorithm

Simulate no-regret dynamics converging to a CE

Players learn their strategy in repeated play of the same game



for $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ **do**

Each player $i \in N$ decides a (mixed) strategy $\pi_i^t \in \Delta(A_i)$

All players' strategies $(\pi_i^t)_{i \in N}$ are revealed to each other

Each player i obtains reward $\mathbb{E}[v_i(a^t)]$, where $a_i^t \sim \pi_i^t$ independently ($\forall i$)

$$\text{SwapRegret}_i^T \triangleq \max_{\phi: A_i \rightarrow A_i} \sum_{t=1}^T \underbrace{\mathbb{E} [v_i^t(\phi(a_i^t), a_{-i}^t)]}_{\substack{\text{reward in round } t \text{ if} \\ \text{the actions are replaced} \\ \text{according to } \phi}} - \sum_{t=1}^T \underbrace{\mathbb{E} [v_i^t(a^t)]}_{\text{reward in round } t}$$

Theorem [Blum-Mansour'07]

If swap regret of every player grows sublinearly in T ,

the empirical distribution converges to a correlated equilibrium

↑
The uniform mixture of action profiles of T rounds

❖ Another variant called *internal regret* does not work for Bayes correlated equilibria

Background 1: Equilibrium computation

Background 2: Price of anarchy

Our results on Bayesian games

Details of the proposed dynamics

the social welfare achieved
by the worst equilibrium

$$\text{PoA} \triangleq \frac{\inf_{\pi: \text{equilibrium}} \mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi} [v_{\text{SW}}(a)]}{\max_{a \in A} v_{\text{SW}}(a)}$$

the optimal social welfare

$v_{\text{SW}}: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ social welfare
usually $v_{\text{SW}}(a) \triangleq \sum_{i \in N} v_i(a)$

❖ **PoA depends on the equilibrium concept** (PoA for NE, etc.)

	Coop.	Defect
Cooperate	10 10	0 15
Defect	15 0	1 1

In the prisoners' dilemma game,

the PoA can be close to 0

the worst equilibrium: 2 at (Defect, Defect)

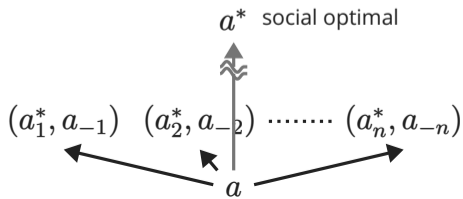
the optimal: 20 at (Cooperate, Cooperate)

Question For what class of games is the PoA lower-bounded?

Definition [Roughgarden'15]

An n -player game is (λ, μ) -smooth

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall a, a^* \in A: \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n v_i(a_i^*, a_{-i})}_{\substack{\text{Player } i \text{ switches} \\ \text{from } a_i \text{ to } a_i^*}} \geq \lambda \underbrace{v_{\text{SW}}(a^*)}_{\substack{\text{social welfare} \\ \text{achieved by } a^*}} - \mu \underbrace{v_{\text{SW}}(a)}_{\substack{\text{social welfare} \\ \text{achieved by } a}}$$



The deviations significantly increase social welfare towards the optimal

Smooth games are a broad class of games with bounded PoA

Theorem [Roughgarden'15]

PoA for correlated equilibria is at least $\frac{\lambda}{1 + \mu}$ in (λ, μ) -smooth games

✳ Roughgarden further proved this bound for *coarse correlated equilibria*

Examples of smooth games

Congestion games, various auctions, competitive facility location, effort market games, competitive information spread, ...

Background 1: Equilibrium computation

Background 2: Price of anarchy

Our results on Bayesian games

Details of the proposed dynamics

Battle of the sexes

 and  independently decide where to go

 prefers sea , while  prefers mountain 

			
			
		4 3	1 1
		0 0	3 4

Players' types are generated from a common prior distribution

Each of  and  prefers  and  with prob. 1/2 for each

(Each player knows the prior distribution only, not the others' types)

w.p. 1/4

		type: 	
			
type: 		4 4	1 0
		0 1	3 3

w.p. 1/4

		type: 	
			
type: 		4 3	1 1
		0 0	3 4

$N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ players

$N = \{\text{👮}, \text{👷}\}$

A_i finite set of actions for player $i \in N$

$A_1 = A_2 = \{\text{👮}, \text{👷}\}$

Θ_i finite set of types for player $i \in N$

$\Theta_1 = \Theta_2 = \{\text{type:👮}, \text{type:👷}\}$

$A = \prod_{i \in N} A_i$ action profiles, $\Theta = \prod_{i \in N} \Theta_i$ type profiles

$\rho \in \Delta(\Theta)$ prior distribution over type profiles

$\rho(\text{type:👮}, \text{type:👮}) = 1/4$

$v_i: \Theta \times A \rightarrow [0, 1]$ utility function for player $i \in N$

$v_1(\text{type:👮}, \text{type:👮}; \text{👮}, \text{👷}) = 1$

- **Equilibrium computation:**

Computing **Bayes Nash equilibria** (BNE) is PPAD-complete

Existing algorithms can compute **weak equilibria** (Bayes coarse CE)

[Hartline–Syrngkanis–Tardos'15]

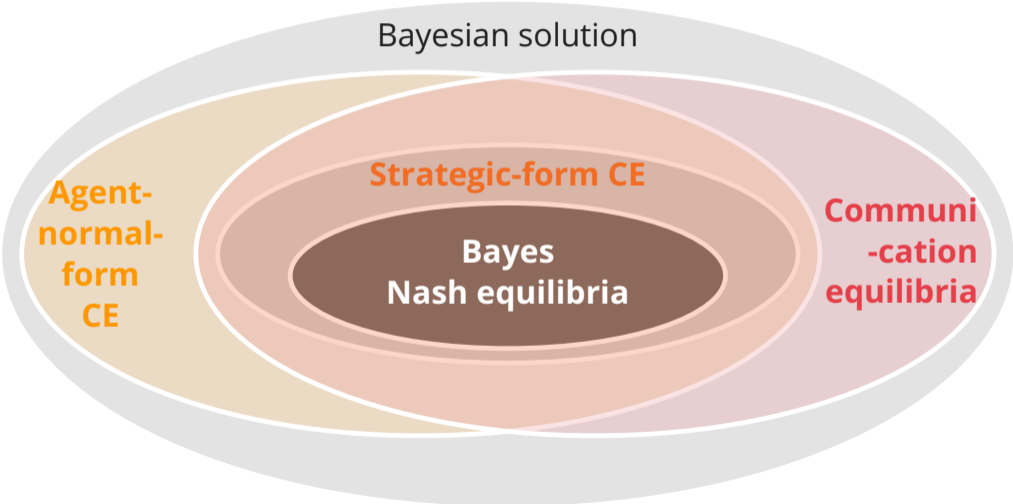
- **Price of anarchy**

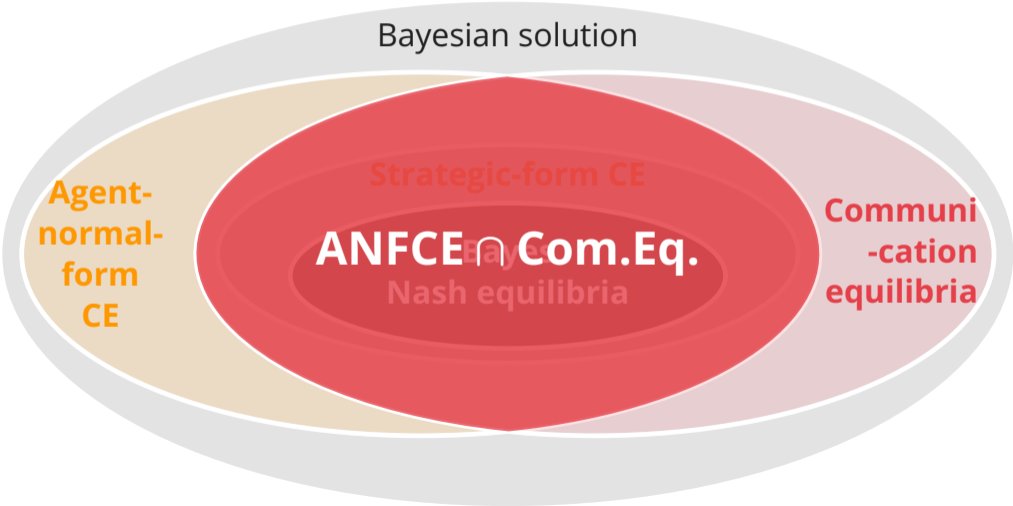
Smoothness framework provides PoA bounds only for **BNE**

[Roughgarden'15b, Syrgkanis–Tardos'13]




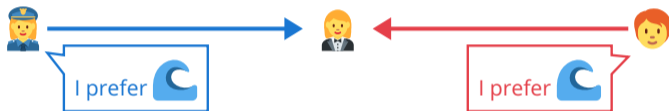
Is there any equilibrium concept that has both merits?



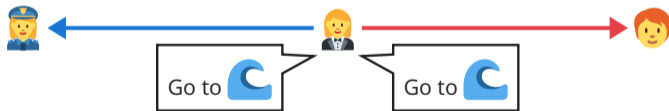


Equilibria realized by a credible mediator

1 Each player tells the mediator  their types



2 The mediator  sends a recommendation to each



Same type → Recommend their preferred place

Different types → Recommend  or  each with prob. 1/2

w.p. 1/4

		type: 	
			
type: 		4 4	1 0
		0 1	3 3

w.p. 1/4

		type: 	
			
type: 		4 3	1 1
		0 0	3 4

Definition

A distribution $\pi \in \Delta(A)^\Theta$ is a communication equilibrium

\Leftrightarrow For any player $i \in N$, $\psi: \Theta_i \rightarrow \Theta_i$, and $\phi: \Theta_i \times A_i \rightarrow A_i$,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi(\psi(\theta_i), \theta_{-i})} [v_i(\theta; \phi(\theta_i, a_i), a_{-i})] \right] \leq \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi(\theta)} [v_i(\theta; a)] \right].$$

Two incentive constraints

- 1 No incentive to **tell an untrue type** (represented by ψ)
- 2 No incentive to **disobey the recommendation** (represented by ϕ)

ANFCE is defined as CE of the agent normal form

Agent normal form of Bayesian games

The same player with different types are regarded as different players

Only (hypothetical) players with realized types play the game

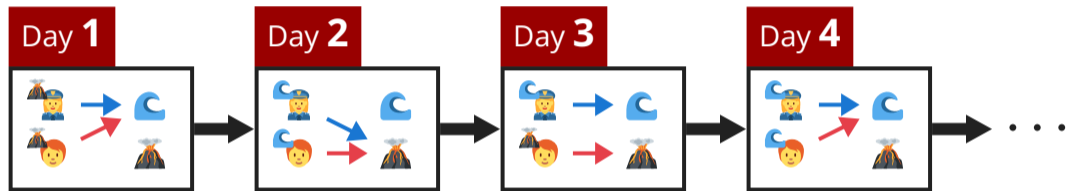
In our example, randomly selected two out of (👤, 🟡), (👤, 🟢), (👤, 🟠), (👤, 🟡) play the game

Difference from communication equilibria:

- No incentive constraint for truthful type telling
- The distribution must satisfy some technical condition

called **strategy representability**

We propose no-regret dynamics converging to $\text{ANFCE} \cap \text{Com.Eq.}$



In repeated play, players aim to minimize untruthful swap regret defined later

Theorem (informal)

Dynamics with $o(T)$ untruthful swap regret converge to $\text{ANFCE} \cap \text{Com.Eq.}$ and can be simulated by the proposed algorithm in polynomial time

PoA bounds for ANFCE \cap Com.Eq. via smoothness arguments

Previous results PoA bounds for **BNE** via smoothness

↓ extend

[Roughgarden'15b, Syrgkanis-Tardos'13]

Our results PoA bounds for **ANFCE \cap Com.Eq.** via smoothness

✘ PoA decreases as equilibria get broader (the worst equilibrium considered)

Theorem (informal)

PoA for ANFCE \cap Com.Eq. is at least $\lambda/(1 + \mu)$
if a game for each fixed $\theta \in \Theta$ is (λ, μ) -smooth

Applications:

$v_{\text{SW}} = \sum_i v_i$ case,
various auctions, ...

Background 1: Equilibrium computation

Background 2: Price of anarchy

Our results on Bayesian games

Details of the proposed dynamics

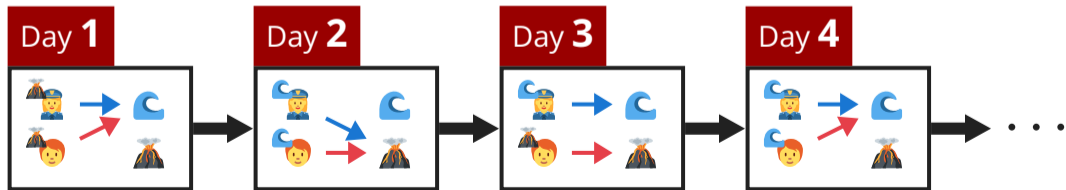
For $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$:

Each player $i \in N$ decides a (mixed) strategy $\pi_i^t \in \Delta(A_i)^{\Theta_i}$

All players' strategies $(\pi_i^t)_{i \in N}$ are revealed to each other

Each player i obtains reward $\mathbb{E}[v_i(\theta; a^t)]$,

where $\theta \sim \rho$ and then $a_i^t \sim \pi_i^t(\theta_i)$ independently for each i



✂ We consider the expected value w.r.t. θ and a in each round

Untruthful swap regret for player $i \in N$

$$R_{\text{US},i}^T = \max_{\substack{\psi: \Theta_i \rightarrow \Theta_i \\ \phi: \Theta_i \times A_i \rightarrow A_i}} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{\theta_i \sim \rho_i} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a_i \sim \pi_i^t(\psi(\theta_i))} \left[u_i^t(\theta_i, \phi(\theta_i, a_i)) \right] \right] \\ - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{\theta_i \sim \rho_i} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a_i \sim \pi_i^t(\theta_i)} \left[u_i^t(\theta_i, a_i) \right] \right],$$

where $u_i^t(\theta_i, a_i) \triangleq \mathbb{E}_{\theta_{-i} \sim \rho_{-i} | \theta_i} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a_{-i} \sim \pi_{-i}^t(\theta_{-i})} [v_i(\theta; a)] \right]$ is the reward vector at round t
(ρ_i the marginal distribution, $\rho_{-i} | \theta_i$ the conditional distribution)

Two incentive constraints for communication equilibria

1. No incentive to **tell an untrue type** (represented by ψ)
2. No incentive to **disobey the recommendation** (represented by ϕ)

Suppose each player minimizes USR against adversarial players

Upper bound Φ -regret minimization framework + decomposition

Theorem

The proposed algo. achieves $R_{\text{US},i} = O\left(\sqrt{T \max\{|A_i| \log |A_i|, \log |\Theta_i|\}}\right)$

Lower bound Analyze a hard instance with optimal stopping theory

Theorem

Any algorithm satisfies $R_{\text{US},i} = \Omega\left(\sqrt{T \max\{|A_i| \log |A_i|, \log |\Theta_i|\}}\right)$

$u^t \in [0, 1]^A$ reward vector in round $t \in [T]$

$\pi^t \in \Delta(A)$ mixed strategy in round $t \in [T]$ ✖ Subscript i is omitted from now on

$$\text{ExternalRegret}^T \triangleq \max_{a^* \in A} \sum_{t=1}^T u^t(a^*) - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{a^t \sim \pi^t} [u^t(a^t)]$$


Multiplicative Weights Update method: Initialize $\pi^1(a) = 1/|A|$ ($\forall a \in A$),

For each $t \in [T]$: Update $\pi^{t+1}(a) \propto \pi^t(a) \exp(\eta u^t(a))$ ($\forall a \in A$)


Theorem [Cesa-Bianchi-Lugosi'07]

If $\eta = \sqrt{\frac{\log |A|}{T}}$, MWU achieves $\text{ExternalRegret}^T = O(\sqrt{T \log |A|})$

$$\text{SwapRegret}^T \triangleq \max_{\phi: A_i \rightarrow A_i} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{a^t \sim \pi^t} [u^t(\phi(a^t))] - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{a^t \sim \pi^t} [u^t(a^t)]$$

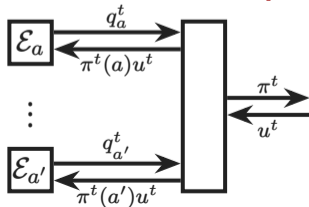

$$\text{SwapRegret}^T \triangleq \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q \pi^t, u^t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle \pi^t, u^t \rangle,$$

where $\mathcal{Q} = \{Q \in [0, 1]^{A \times A} \mid \mathbf{1}Q = \mathbf{1}\}$


$$\text{SwapRegret}^T \triangleq \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q^t, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle \text{ if } Q^t \pi^t = \pi^t \text{ for all } t \in [T]$$

$$\text{SwapRegret}^T \triangleq \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q^t, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle \text{ if } Q^t \pi^t = \pi^t \text{ for all } t \in [T]$$

- 1: Initialize subroutines $(\mathcal{E}_a)_{a \in A}$ for external regret minimization with actions A
- 2: **for** $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ **do**
- 3: Let $q_a^t \in \Delta(A)$ be the output of subroutine \mathcal{E}_a for each $a \in A$
- 4: Let Q^t be an $|A| \times |A|$ matrix with each column q_a^t
- 5: Find $\pi^t \in \Delta(A)$ such that $\pi^t = Q^t \pi^t$
- 6: Observe u^t and feed $\pi^t(a)u^t$ to subroutine \mathcal{E}_a



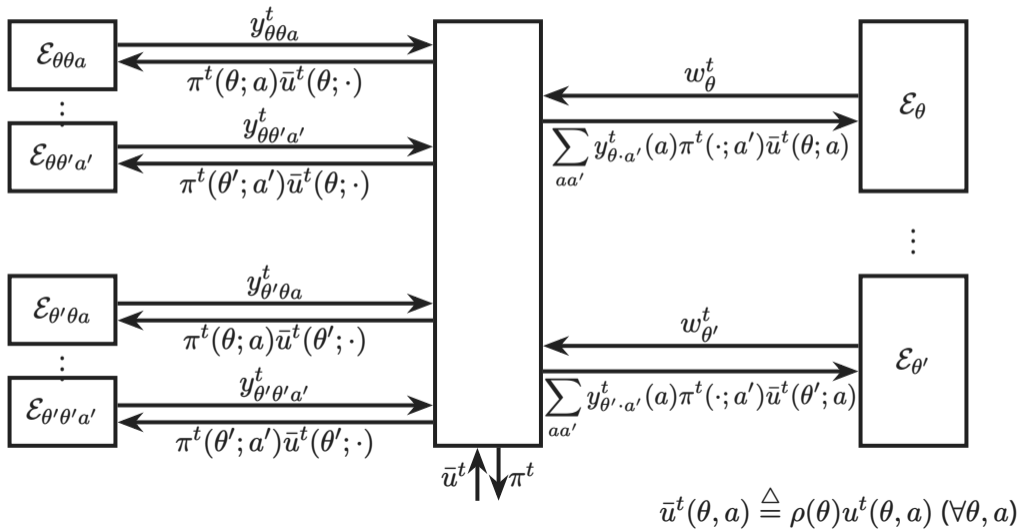
$$R_{\text{US},i}^T = \max_{\substack{\psi: \Theta \rightarrow \Theta \\ \phi: \Theta \times A \rightarrow A}} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi^t(\psi(\theta))} [u^t(\theta, \phi(\theta, a))] \right] - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi^t(\theta)} [u^t(\theta, a)] \right]$$



$$\text{SwapRegret}^T \triangleq \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q \pi^t, u^t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle \pi^t, u^t \rangle, \text{ where}$$

$$\mathcal{Q} = \left\{ Q \in [0, 1]^{(\Theta \times A) \times (\Theta \times A)} \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{there exists some } W \in [0, 1]^{\Theta \times \Theta} \text{ such that} \\ \sum_{\theta' \in \Theta} W(\theta, \theta') = 1 \ (\forall \theta \in \Theta) \text{ and} \\ \sum_{a \in A} Q((\theta, a), (\theta', a')) = W(\theta, \theta') \ (\forall \theta, \theta' \in \Theta, a' \in A) \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

✳ π^t and u^t are flattened to be a $|\Theta| \times |A|$ dimensional vector



The set of types Θ_i and the set of actions A_i are specified in advance. The reward vector $u_i^t \in [0, 1]^{\Theta_i \times A_i}$ is given at the end of each round $t \in [T]$.

Initialize subroutines as follows:

- let \mathcal{E}_{θ_i} be a multiplicative weights algorithm with decision space Θ_i for each $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$
- let $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}$ be AdaHedge with decision space A_i for each $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$ and $a'_i \in A_i$

for each round $t = 1, \dots, T$ **do**

Let $w_{\theta_i}^t \in \Delta(\Theta_i)$ be the output of \mathcal{E}_{θ_i} in round t for each $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$

Let $y_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}^t \in \Delta(A_i)$ be the output of $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}$ in round t for each $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$ and $a'_i \in A_i$

Define $Q^t \in [0, 1]^{(\Theta_i \times A_i) \times (\Theta_i \times A_i)}$ by $Q^t((\theta_i, a_i), (\theta'_i, a'_i)) = w_{\theta_i}^t(\theta'_i) y_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}^t(a_i)$ for each $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$ and $a_i, a'_i \in A_i$

Compute an eigenvector $x^t \in \mathbb{R}^{\Theta_i \times A_i}$ of Q^t such that $Q^t x^t = x^t$ and $(x^t)^\top \mathbf{1} = |\Theta_i|$

Decide the output $\pi_i^t \in \Delta(A_i)^{\Theta_i}$ by $\pi_i^t(\theta_i; a_i) = x^t(\theta_i, a_i)$ for each $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$ and $a_i \in A_i$

Observe reward vector $u_i^t \in [0, 1]^{\Theta_i \times A_i}$ and feed reward vectors to subroutines as follows:

- feed $\sum_{a_i, a'_i \in A_i} y_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}^t(a_i) \pi_i^t(\theta'_i; a'_i) \rho_i(\theta_i) u_i^t(\theta_i, a_i)$ as the reward for decision $\theta'_i \in \Theta_i$
to subroutine \mathcal{E}_{θ_i} for each $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$
- feed $\pi_i^t(\theta'_i; a'_i) \rho_i(\theta_i) u_i^t(\theta_i, a_i)$ as the reward for decision $a_i \in A_i$ to subroutine $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}$
for each $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$ and $a'_i \in A_i$

ANFCE \cap Com.Eq. in Bayesian games satisfies the following goals

Goal 1 Efficient computation

- No-regret dynamics converging to ANFCE \cap Com.Eq.
- Algorithm for simulating the dynamics with the optimal convergence rate

Goal 2 PoA bounds

- Extension of the smoothness framework from BNE to ANFCE \cap Com.Eq.

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Definition

We call a type-wise distribution $\pi \in \Delta(A)^\Theta$ *strategy-representable* if there exists $\sigma \in \Delta(S)$ such that $\pi(\theta; a) = \Pr_{s \sim \sigma}(s(\theta) = a)$ for each $\theta \in \Theta$ and $a \in A$.

Definition

For any $\epsilon \geq 0$, a distribution $\sigma \in \Delta(S)$ is an ϵ -approximate agent-normal-form correlated equilibrium if for any $i \in N$ and $\phi: \Theta_i \times A_i \rightarrow A_i$, it holds that

$$\mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[\mathbb{E}_{s \sim \sigma} [v_i(\theta; s(\theta))] \right] \geq \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[\mathbb{E}_{s \sim \sigma} [v_i(\theta; \phi(\theta_i, s_i(\theta_i)), s_{-i}(\theta_{-i}))] \right] - \epsilon. \quad (1)$$