

Unrestricted Information Acquisition

Tommaso Denti

MIT

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Introduction

- ▶ A theory of information acquisition in games
 - ▶ Endogenize assumptions on players' information
 - ▶ Common extra layer of strategic interaction
- ▶ Flexible learning about state and what others know
 - ▶ \neq Bergemann & Valimaki 2002, Hellwig & Veldkamp 2009, Myatt & Wallace 2012, Yang 2015,...
 - ▶ Expose primitive incentives to acquire information
- ▶ Broad assumptions on cost of information
 - ▶ Costly to learn state and what others know
 - ▶ Example: Shannon mutual information
- ▶ Applications
 - ▶ Investment games: risk-dominance selection
 - ▶ Games on networks: Bonacich centrality
 - ▶ Large games: endogenous informational smallness

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 - ▶ Example: **Shannon mutual information**
- ▶ Applications
 - ▶ **Investment games: risk-dominance selection**
 - ▶ Games on networks: Bonacich centrality
 - ▶ Large games: endogenous informational smallness

Today

Investment games: bank runs, currency crises,...

Exogenous information

- ▶ Common knowledge: multiplicity
 - ▶ Diamond & Dybvig 1983, Obstfeld 1996,...
- ▶ Global games: risk-dominance selection
 - ▶ Carlsson & van Damme 1993, Morris & Shin 1998,...
- ▶ Any perturbation: any selection
 - ▶ Weinstein & Yildiz 2007

Endogenous information **w/ mutual information**

- ▶ Flexible info acquisition about state: multiplicity
 - ▶ Yang 2015
- ▶ **Unrestricted info acquisition: risk-dominance selection**
 - ▶ **Extend to potential games**

Endogenous information w/out mutual information: next talk

Outline

- ▶ Investment game with incomplete information
 - ▶ Basic game: actions, states, utilities
 - ▶ Exogenous Information structure
- ▶ Recap: common knowledge, global games,...
- ▶ Investment game with information acquisition
 - ▶ Basic game: actions, states, utilities
 - ▶ Information acquisition technology
- ▶ Flexible info acquisition about state: multiplicity
- ▶ Unrestricted info acquisition: risk-dominance selection

Basic Game

- ▶ $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$: finite set of *players*
- ▶ $A_i = \{\textit{invest}, \textit{not invest}\}$: set of *i*'s *actions*
- ▶ $\Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}$: closed set of *states*
- ▶ $P_\Theta \in \Delta(\Theta)$: state distribution
- ▶ $\rho(\bar{a}_{-i}, \theta) \in \mathbb{R}$: *i*'s non-decreasing *return*
 - ▶ \bar{a}_{-i} : share of opponents who invest
 - ▶ ρ integrable in θ w.r.t. P_Θ
 - ▶ $P_\Theta(\{\theta : \rho(1, \theta) < 0\}) > 0$: dominance region
 - ▶ $P_\Theta(\{\theta : \rho(0, \theta) > 0\}) > 0$: dominance region
- ▶ $u_i(a, \theta) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\textit{invest}\}}(a_i)\rho(\bar{a}_{-i}, \theta)$: *i*'s *utility*

Today:

	<i>invest</i>	<i>not invest</i>
<i>invest</i>	θ, θ	$\theta - 1, 0$
<i>not invest</i>	$0, \theta - 1$	$0, 0$

Exogenous Information Structure

- ▶ (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) : underlying probability space
- ▶ $\theta : \Omega \rightarrow \Theta$: random variable with $\theta \sim P_\Theta$
- ▶ X_i : Polish space of i 's *messages*
- ▶ $x_i : \Omega \rightarrow X_i$: i 's *signal*, random variable

Recap

Common knowledge: multiplicity

- ▶ $x_i = \theta$ for all i
- ▶ $\theta \in [0, 1]$: equilibrium indeterminacy

Global games: risk-dominance selection

- ▶ $x_i = \theta + \lambda \epsilon_i$ for all i
 - ▶ $\lambda > 0$: scale factor
 - ▶ ϵ_i : idiosyncratic noise
- ▶ $\lambda \rightarrow 0$: perturbation of complete information
- ▶ $1/2$: risk-dominance threshold

Any perturbation: any selection

- ▶ Weinstein & Yildiz 2007

Information Acquisition Technology

- ▶ (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) : underlying probability space
- ▶ $\theta : \Omega \rightarrow \Theta$: random variable with $\theta \sim P_\Theta$
- ▶ X_i : Polish space of i 's messages
- ▶ X_i : nonempty set of i 's signals $x_i : \Omega \rightarrow X_i$
- ▶ $C_i : \Delta(X \times \Theta) \rightarrow [0, \infty]$: i 's cost of information

Game with Information Acquisition

Basic game + info technology = strategic form game:

- ▶ Set of players: N
- ▶ i 's strategy: signal $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbf{X}_i$, contingency plan $s_i \in S_i$
 - ▶ S_i : set of all measurable $s_i : X_i \rightarrow A_i$
- ▶ i 's payoff: $E[u_i(s(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta})] - \lambda C_i(P_{(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})})$
 - ▶ $\lambda > 0$: scale factor
 - ▶ $P_{(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})} \in \Delta(X \times \Theta)$: joint distribution of \mathbf{x} and $\boldsymbol{\theta}$

Solution concept: pure-strategy Nash equilibrium

To ease notation: $C_i(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = C_i(P_{(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})})$

$\lambda \rightarrow 0$: multiplicity/selection of equilibria?

Flexible Info Acquisition about State

Yang 2015: for all players i

Assumption 0. $|X_i| \geq |A_i|$. Moreover, if random variable $x'_i : \Omega \rightarrow X_i$ is measurable w.r.t. some $x_i \in \mathbf{X}_i$, then $x'_i \in \mathbf{X}_i$.

Assumption 1. Take any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}$. Then $(x_i \perp x_{-i}) | \theta$.

Assumption 2. Take any $P_{X_i \times \Theta} \in \Delta(X_i \times \Theta)$.

If $\theta \sim \text{marg}_{\Theta}(P_{X_i \times \Theta})$, then $(x_i, \theta) \sim P_{X_i \times \Theta}$ for some $x_i \in \mathbf{X}_i$.

Assumption 3. For all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}$, $C_i(\mathbf{x}, \theta) = I(x_i; x_{-i}, \theta)$.

Mutual information: for X_i finite, p p.m.f. of x_i ,

$$I(x_i; x_{-i}, \theta) = E \left[\log \frac{p(x_i | x_{-i}, \theta)}{p(x_i)} \right].$$

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Revelation Principle

Direct technology: $X_i = A_i$ for all i

Basic game + direct technology = strategic form game:

- ▶ Set of players: N
- ▶ i 's strategy: *direct signal* $x_i \in X_i$
- ▶ i 's payoff: $E[u_i(\mathbf{x}, \theta)] - \lambda C_i(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$

Solution concept: pure-strategy Nash equilibrium

Revelation principle (Yang 2015):

"A0-A3 \Rightarrow w.l.o.g. technology and signals are direct."

Multiplicity

Theorem (Yang 2015)

Assume A0-A3.

Let P_{Θ} be abs. continuous w.r.t. Lebesgue measure.

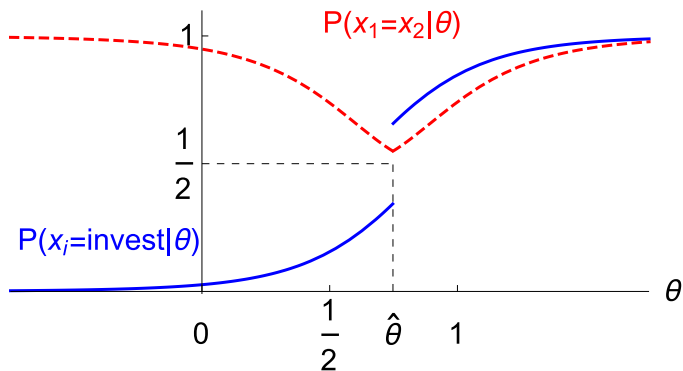
Then $\forall \hat{\theta} \in [0, 1]$, \exists equilibria $(\mathbf{x}_{\lambda} : \lambda > 0)$: $\forall i \in N$

$$P(\mathbf{x}_{i,\lambda} = \text{invest} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \boldsymbol{\theta} \geq \hat{\theta}, \\ 0 & \text{if } \boldsymbol{\theta} < \hat{\theta}. \end{cases}$$

Remark. Also non-monotone equilibria

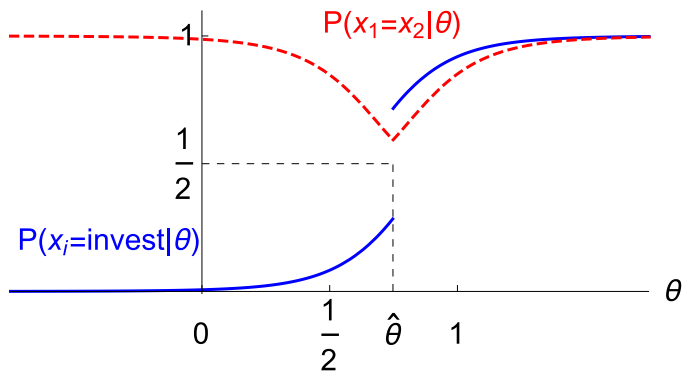
Monotone Equilibria

$\lambda > 0$:



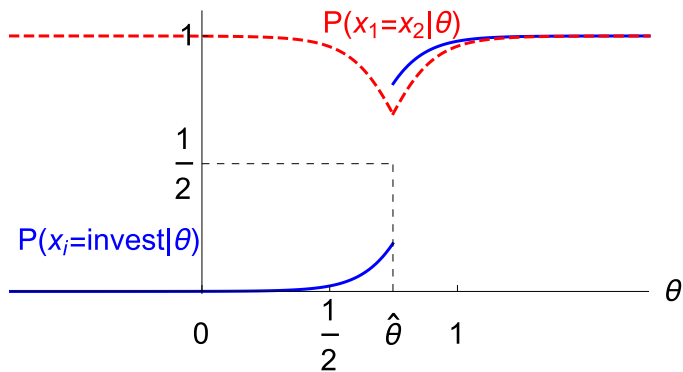
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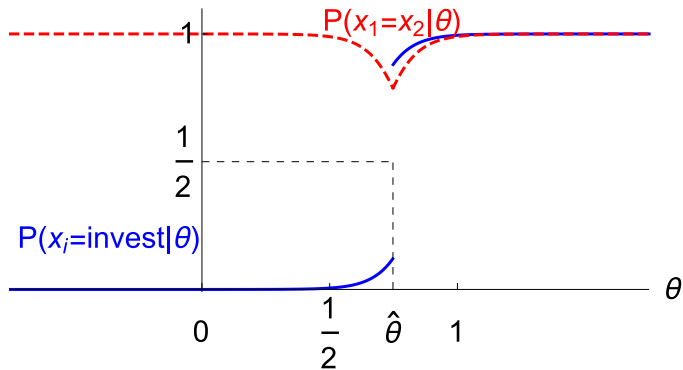
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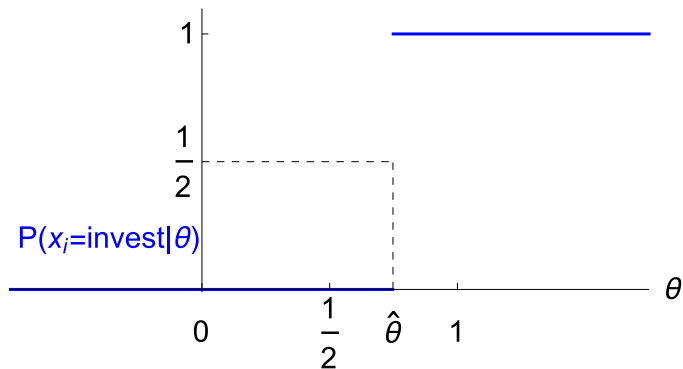
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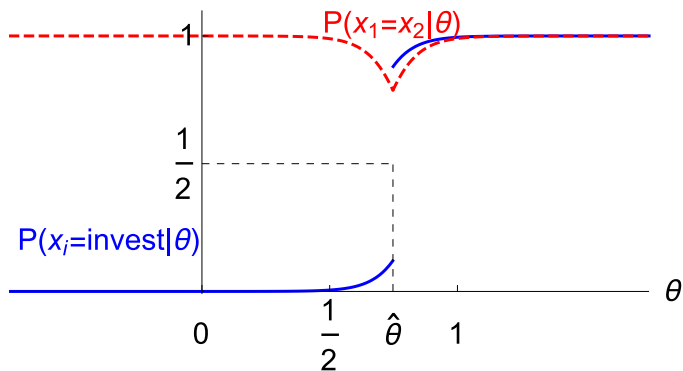
Monotone Equilibria

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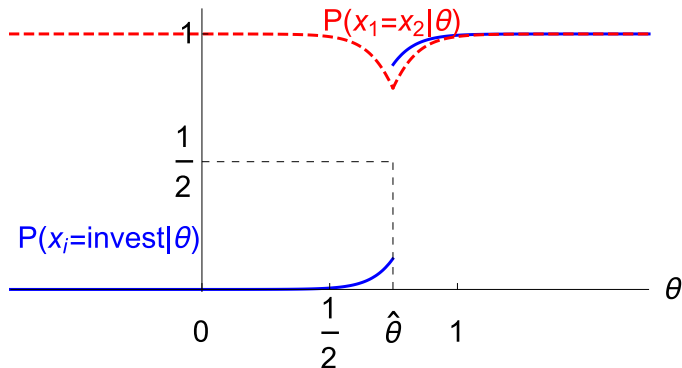
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Monotone Equilibria

$\lambda > 0$:



- ▶ i 's primitive incentive: learn $\{\rho(\bar{x}_{-i}, \theta) \geq 0\}$
- ▶ $\{\rho(\bar{x}_{-i}, \theta) \geq 0\} \neq \{\theta \geq \hat{\theta}\}$ since $\text{Var}(\bar{x}_{-i}|\theta) \neq 0$

Unrestricted Info Acquisition

For all players i :

Assumption 0. $|X_i| \geq |A_i|$. Moreover, if random variable $x'_i : \Omega \rightarrow X_i$ is measurable w.r.t. some $x_i \in X_i$, then $x'_i \in X_i$.

Assumption 3. For all $x \in X$, $C_i(x, \theta) = I(x_i; x_{-i}, \theta)$.

Assumption 4. Take any $x_{-i} \in X_{-i}$ and $P_{X \times \Theta} \in \Delta(X \times \Theta)$. If $(x_{-i}, \theta) \sim \text{marg}_{X_{-i} \times \Theta}(P_{X \times \Theta})$, then $(x, \theta) \sim P_{X \times \Theta}$ for some $x_i \in X_i$.

▶ Finite-game Construction

▶ General Construction

Unrestricted Info Acquisition

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▶ Finite-game Construction

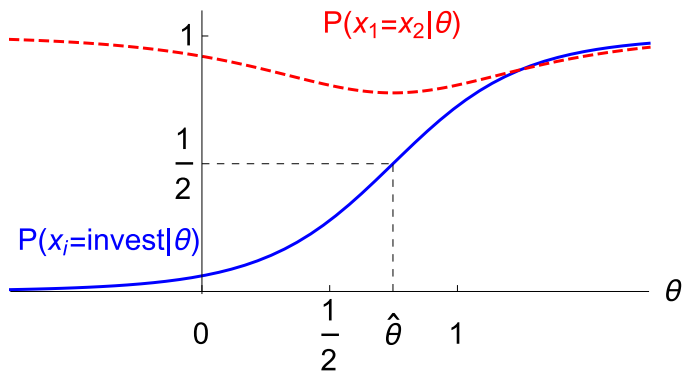
▶ General Construction

Revelation principle:

“A0, A3, A4 \Rightarrow w.l.o.g. technology and signals are direct.”

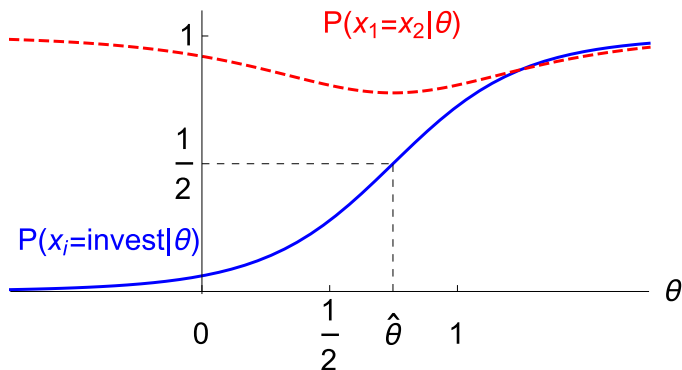
All Equilibria

$\lambda > 0$:



All Equilibria

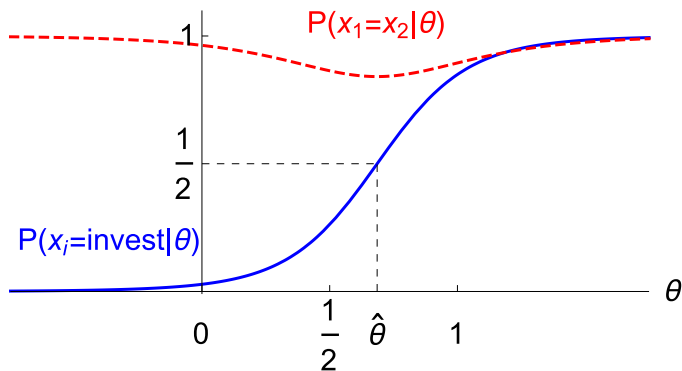
$\lambda > 0$:



$$\hat{\theta} = \frac{1}{2} - \lambda \log \frac{P(x_i = \text{invest})}{P(x_i = \text{not invest})}$$

All Equilibria

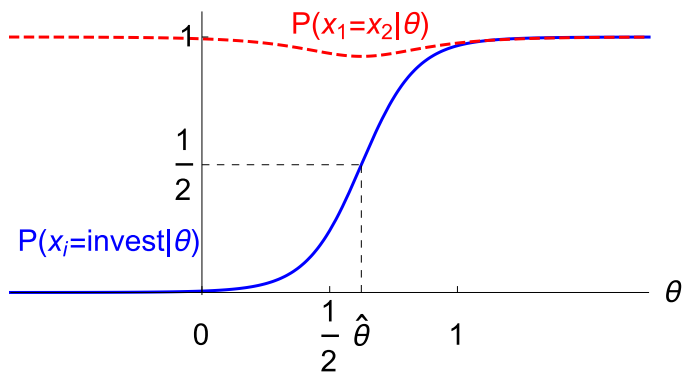
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All Equilibria

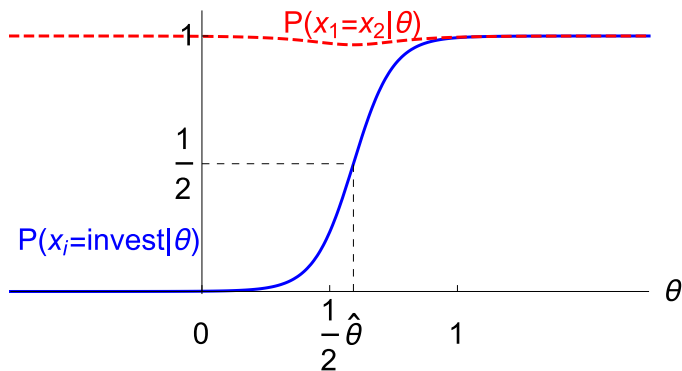
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All Equilibria

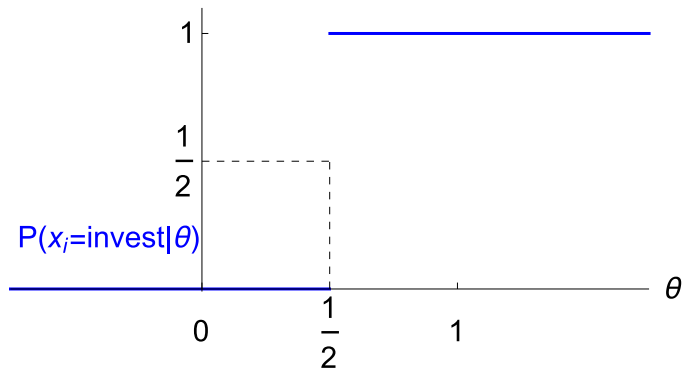
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All Equilibria

$\lambda \rightarrow 0$:



Risk-dominance Selection

Theorem

Assume A0, A3, and A4.

Then \forall equilibria $(\mathbf{x}_\lambda : \lambda > 0)$: $\forall i \in N$

$$P(\mathbf{x}_{i,\lambda} = \text{invest} | \theta) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \theta > \frac{1}{2}, \\ 0 & \text{if } \theta < \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases}$$

Theorem extends to potential games.

Proof

- ▶ (x_λ) : family of equilibria
- ▶ $v : A \times \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$: **potential** s.t. for all i , a_i , and a'_i

$$u_i(a_i, \cdot) - u_i(a'_i, \cdot) = v(a_i, \cdot) - v(a'_i, \cdot)$$

- ▶ Investment games: for all a and θ

$$v(a, \theta) = \sum_{m=0}^{|a|-1} \rho \left(\frac{m}{n-1}, \theta \right)$$

with $|a|$ number of players who invest

- ▶ a^* risk-dominant at θ : $v(a^*, \theta) > v(a, \theta)$ for all $a \neq a^*$
- ▶ Info acquisition w/ mutual information, $\lambda > 0$:
 - ▶ Static 1-player: Csiszar 1974, Matejka & McKay 2016
 - ▶ Dynamic 1-player: previous talk
 - ▶ **Static n -player: next slide**

Key Lemma

$P_{(x_\lambda, \theta)}$: joint distribution of x_λ and θ

1. **Quality.** Almost surely,

$$\frac{dP_{(x_\lambda, \theta)}}{d(P_\theta \times_{i \in N} P_{x_{i, \lambda}})}(a, \theta) = \frac{e^{\frac{v(a, \theta)}{\lambda}}}{\int_A e^{\frac{v(a', \theta)}{\lambda}} (\times_{i \in N} P_{x_{i, \lambda}})(da')}.$$

2. **Quantity.** $P_{x_{1, \lambda}}, \dots, P_{x_{n, \lambda}}$ eq. of potential game V :

$$V(P_{A_1}, \dots, P_{A_n}) = \int_{\Theta} \log \left(\int_A e^{\frac{v(a, \theta)}{\lambda}} (\times_{i \in N} P_{A_i})(da) \right) P_{\Theta}(d\theta).$$

P_{A_1}, \dots, P_{A_n} : equilibrium of V ▶ Existence

▶ There is equilibrium x_λ s.t. $x_{i, \lambda} \sim P_{A_i}$ for all $i \in N$.

Key lemma: for all θ and $a \neq a^*$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dP_{(\mathbf{x}_\lambda, \theta)}}{d(P_\theta \times_{i \in N} P_{\mathbf{x}_{i,\lambda}})}(a, \theta) &= \frac{e^{\frac{v(a, \theta)}{\lambda}}}{\int_A e^{\frac{v(a', \theta)}{\lambda}} (\times_{i \in N} P_{\mathbf{x}_{i,\lambda}})(da')} \\ &\leq \frac{e^{\frac{v(a, \theta)}{\lambda}}}{e^{\frac{v(a^*, \theta)}{\lambda}} (\times_{i \in N} P_{\mathbf{x}_{i,\lambda}})(\{a^*\})} \\ &= \frac{1}{e^{\frac{v(a^*, \theta) - v(a, \theta)}{\lambda}} (\times_{i \in N} P_{\mathbf{x}_{i,\lambda}})(\{a^*\})} \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Recall: $v(a^*, \theta) > v(a, \theta)$ for all $a \neq a^*$
- ▶ Dominance regions: $\liminf_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} P_{\mathbf{x}_{i,\lambda}}(\{a_i^*\}) > 0$ for all i

$\Rightarrow P(\mathbf{x}_\lambda = a^* | \theta = \theta) \rightarrow 1$. □ ▶ Extension ▶ Infinite N

Conclusion

Today: multiplicity/selection of eq. in coordination games

- ▶ Exogenous: info players have about others' info
- ▶ Endogenous: info players want about others' info

Unrestricted info acquisition

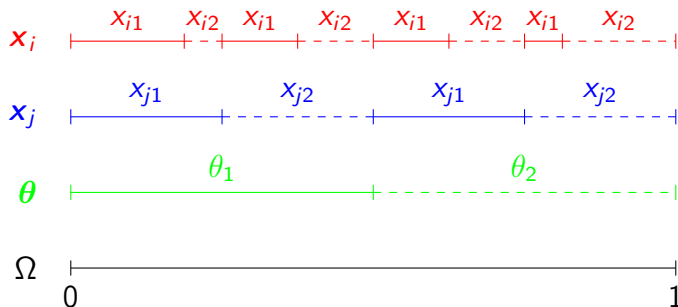
- ▶ Broad assumptions on cost of information: ▶ A5, ▶ A6
- ▶ Games on networks, Bonacich centrality
- ▶ Large games, endogenous informational smallness

⇒ Rich yet tractable language for info acquisition in games

Appendix

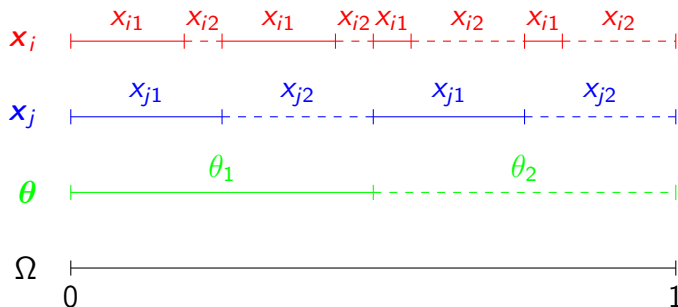
Finite-game Construction

- ▶ Θ and X finite
- ▶ (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) : **nonatomic** probability space
- ▶ X_j : all measurable functions $x_j : \Omega \rightarrow X_j$



Finite-game Construction

- ▶ Θ and X finite
- ▶ (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) : **nonatomic** probability space
- ▶ X_j : all measurable functions $x_j : \Omega \rightarrow X_j$



General Construction

T : **uncountable** set.

(Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) :

- ▶ $\exists \theta : \Omega \rightarrow \Theta: \theta \sim P_\Theta$.
- ▶ $\exists \mathbf{z}_t : \Omega \rightarrow [0, 1], t \in T$:
 - ▶ θ and $\mathbf{z}_t, t \in T$, independent
 - ▶ $\mathbf{z}_t, t \in T$, uniformly distributed

$\forall i \in N, \mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbf{X}_i$ iff \exists **countable** $Q \subset T$:

- ▶ \mathbf{x}_i measurable w.r.t. θ and $\mathbf{z}_t, t \in Q$.

◀ Back

Existence

- ▶ A_i, Θ : Polish spaces
- ▶ $v : A \times \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$: measurable function s.t.

$$-\infty < \int_{\Theta} \inf_{a \in A} v(a, \theta) P_{\Theta}(d\theta) < \int_{\Theta} \sup_{a \in A} v(a, \theta) P_{\Theta}(d\theta) < \infty$$

- ▶ $V : \Delta(A_1) \times \cdots \times \Delta(A_n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

$$V(P_{A_1}, \dots, P_{A_n}) = \int_{\Theta} \log \left(\int_A e^{v(a, \theta)} (\times_{i \in N} P_{A_i})(da) \right) P_{\Theta}(d\theta)$$

Fact

Function V has a maximum if:

- ▶ A_i is compact for all $i \in N$.
- ▶ v is upper semi-continuous in a .

◀ Back

Unique Selection for Potential Games

- ▶ $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$: finite set of *players*
- ▶ A_i : Polish space of *i*'s *actions*
- ▶ Θ : Polish space of *states*
- ▶ $P_\Theta \in \Delta(\Theta)$: state distribution
- ▶ $v : A \times \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$: *potential*

Integrability: $\int_\Theta \sup_{a \in A} v(a, \theta) P_\Theta(d\theta) < \infty$

Theorem

Assume A0, A3, and A4.

Take any $a \in A$ s.t. $\forall i \in N \exists \Theta_{a_i} \subseteq \Theta$:

- ▶ $P_{\Theta}(\Theta_{a_i}) > 0$
- ▶ $\inf_{\theta \in \Theta_{a_i}} \inf_{a'_i \neq a_i} \inf_{a_{-i} \in A_{-i}} v(a, \theta) - v(a'_i, a_{-i}, \theta) > 0$

Then \forall equilibria $(x_{\lambda} : \lambda > 0)$: almost surely

$$v(a, \theta) > \sup_{a' \neq a} v(a', \theta) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} P(x_{\lambda} = a | \theta = \theta) = 1.$$

Infinite N : Multiplicity

Theorem

Assume A0, A3, and A4.

Let $N = \{1, 2, \dots\}$.

Let P_Θ be abs. continuous w.r.t. Lebesgue measure.

Then $\forall \hat{\theta} \in [0, r]$, \exists equilibria $(\mathbf{x}_\lambda : \lambda > 0)$: $\forall i \in N$

▶ $(\mathbf{x}_i \perp \mathbf{x}_{-i}) | \theta$

▶ $P(\mathbf{x}_{i,\lambda} = \text{invest} | \theta) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \theta \geq \hat{\theta} \\ 0 & \text{if } \theta < \hat{\theta} \end{cases}$

Proof

- ▶ Assume $(\mathbf{x}_i \perp \mathbf{x}_{-i})|\boldsymbol{\theta}$ for all $i \in N$.
- ▶ Law of large numbers: $\text{Var}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = 0$.
- ▶ Hence, $\text{Var}(\rho(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \boldsymbol{\theta})|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = 0$.
- ▶ Independent information acquisition is optimal.
- ▶ Multiplicity as in Yang 2015. [◀ Back](#)

Assumption 5

Take any $i \in N$, $\mathbf{x}_{-i} \in \mathbf{X}_{-i}$, and $\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}'_i \in \mathbf{X}_i$.

Assume that $(\mathbf{x}'_i \perp (\mathbf{x}_{-i}, \boldsymbol{\theta})) | \mathbf{x}_i$.

Then $C_i(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_{-i}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \geq C_i(\mathbf{x}'_i, \mathbf{x}_{-i}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$.

Equality holds only if $(\mathbf{x}_i \perp (\mathbf{x}_{-i}, \boldsymbol{\theta})) | \mathbf{x}'_i$.

◀ Back

Assumption 6

Take any $i \in N$, $\mathbf{x}_{-i} \in \mathbf{X}_{-i}$, and $\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}'_i \in \mathbf{X}_i$.

Assume there is measurable $f : X_{-i} \times \Theta \rightarrow Z$:

- ▶ $(\mathbf{x}_i, f(\mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta)) \sim (\mathbf{x}'_i, f(\mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta))$
- ▶ $(\mathbf{x}'_i \perp (\mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta)) | f(\mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta)$

Then $C_i(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta) \geq C_i(\mathbf{x}'_i, \mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta)$.

Equality holds only if $(\mathbf{x}_i \perp (\mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta)) | f(\mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta)$. [◀ Back](#)

Proof

Set $z = f(\mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta)$:

$$I(\mathbf{x}'_i; \mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta) = I(\mathbf{x}'_i; z) = I(\mathbf{x}_i; z) \leq I(\mathbf{x}_i; \mathbf{x}_{-i}, \theta). \quad \square$$