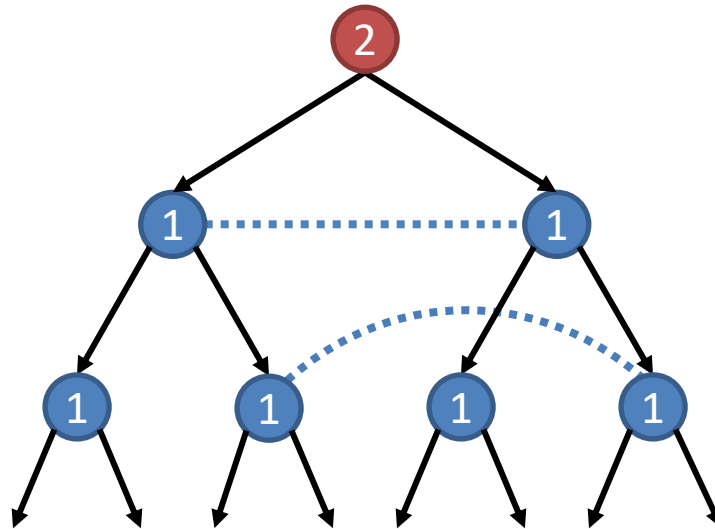


Extensive-Form Games

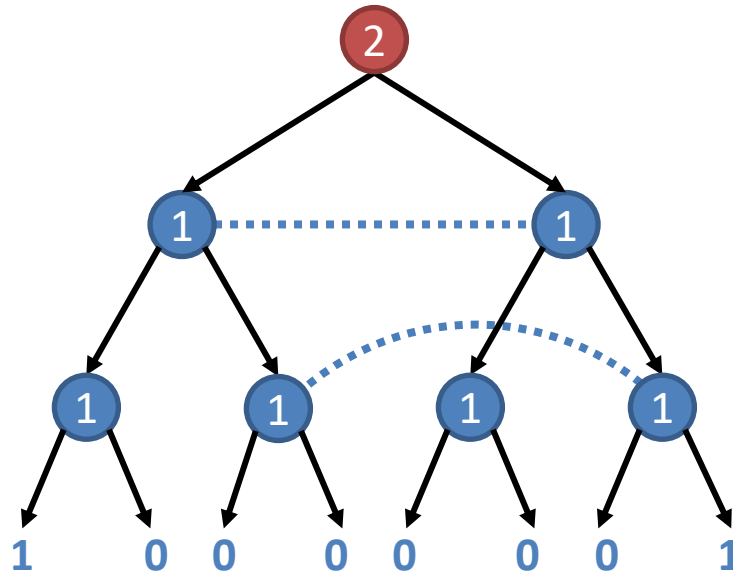
Brian Zhang

Extensive-Form Games

- ▶ Game represented by a **tree**
- ▶ Can capture sequential and simultaneous moves
- ▶ Private information
- ▶ We assume **perfect recall**: no player forgets what the player knew earlier



Perfect Recall and Sequences



P1 doesn't know the action of P2

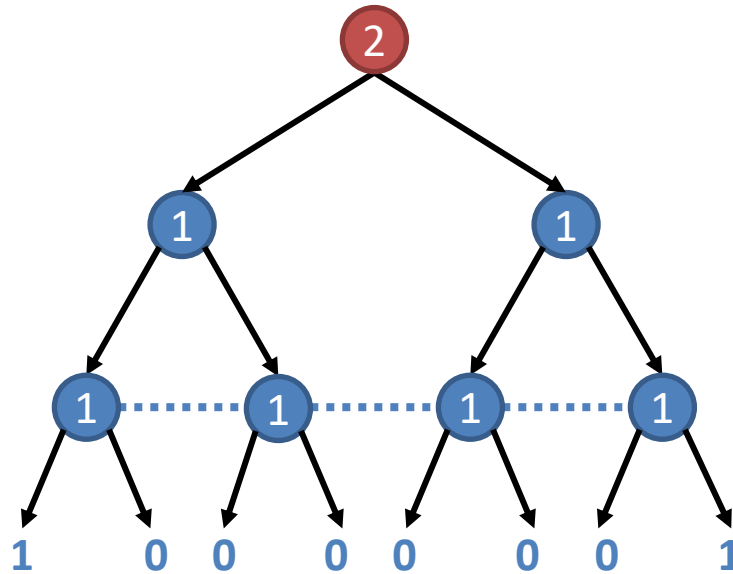
P1 now learns the action of P2
if P1 played left

✓ Perfect recall!

Defn: At a history h , the *sequence* $\sigma_i(h)$ (or *player history*) of player i is the ordered list of previous infosets encountered by that player and actions played at those infosets (conventionally, not including the info set at h itself)

Player i has **perfect recall** if $\sigma_i(h) = \sigma_i(h')$ whenever h, h' share an info set

Perfect Recall and Sequences



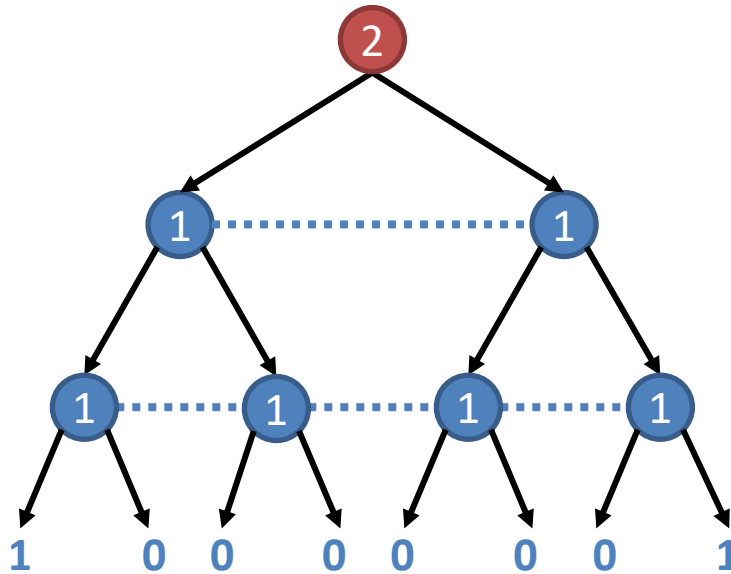
P1 knows the action of P2

✗ P1 has forgotten the action of P2

Defn: At a history h , the *sequence* $\sigma_i(h)$ (or *player history*) of player i is the ordered list of previous infosets encountered by that player and actions played at those infosets (conventionally, not including the infoset at h itself)

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Perfect Recall and Sequences



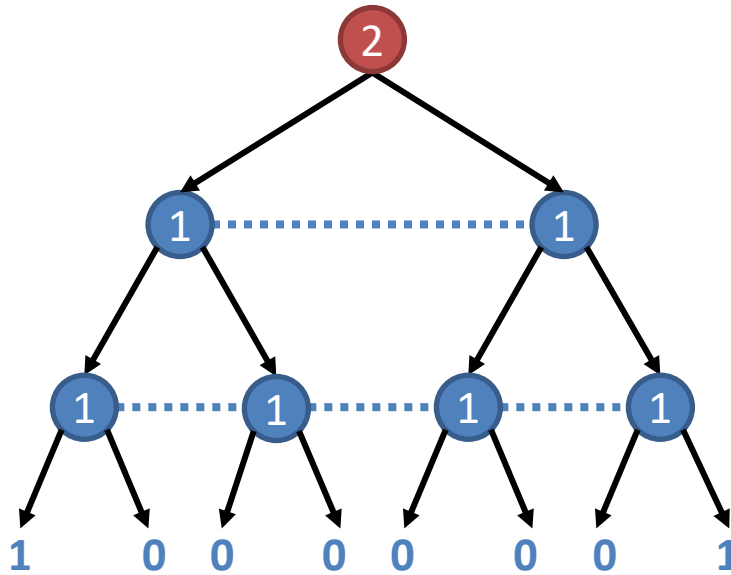
P1 does not know
the action of **P2**

✗ **P1** has forgotten **P1**'s
own action

Defn: At a history h , the *sequence* $\sigma_i(h)$ (or *player history*) of player i is the ordered list of previous infosets encountered by that player and actions played at those infosets (conventionally, not including the infoset at h itself)

Player i has **perfect recall** if $\sigma_i(h) = \sigma_i(h')$ whenever h, h' share an infoset

Strategies and Kuhn's Theorem



P1 does not know
the action of **P2**

✗ **P1** has forgotten **P1**'s
own action

Pure strategy $\pi_i \in \Pi_i$ of player $i = \text{map } \pi_i : \mathcal{J}_i \rightarrow A$

Mixed strategy = distribution $\mu_i \in \Delta(\Pi_i)$

Behavioral strategy = a mixed strategy that mixes **independently** at every info set

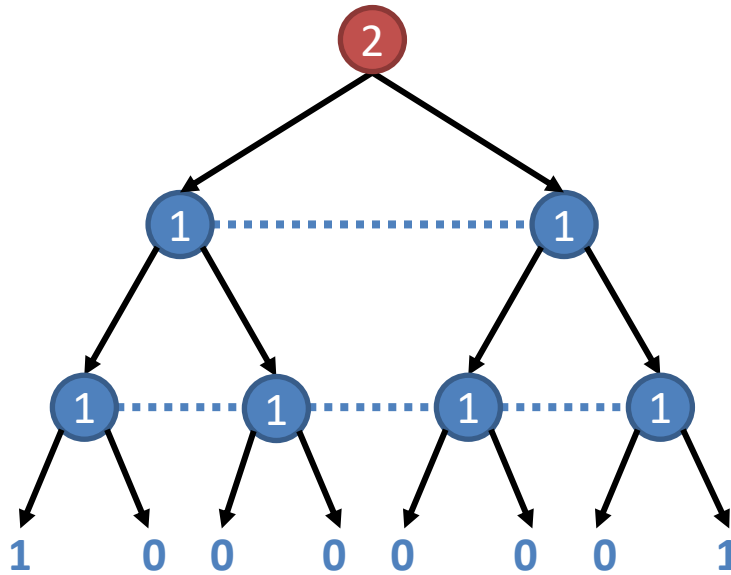
$\text{map } \pi_i : \mathcal{J}_i \rightarrow \Delta(A)$

Q: Are behavioral strategies as expressive as mixed strategies?

A: ("Kuhn's theorem", *Contrib. Theory of Games* 1950) Yes, but *only for players w/ perfect recall*

for all $\mu_i \in \Delta(\Pi_i)$, exists $\pi_i : \mathcal{J}_i \rightarrow \Delta(A)$ s.t. $u_i(\pi_i, \pi_{-i}) = u_i(\mu_i, \pi_{-i}) \forall \pi_{-i} \in \prod_{j \neq i} \Pi_j$

Strategies and Kuhn's Theorem



Mixed strategy

$$\mu_1 = \frac{1}{2}(L, L) + \frac{1}{2}(R, R)$$

has $u_1(\mu_1, \pi_2) = \frac{1}{2} \forall \pi_2$

but *no behavioral strategy* has this

Pure strategy $\pi_i \in \Pi_i$ of player $i = \text{map } \pi_i : \mathcal{J}_i \rightarrow A$

Mixed strategy = distribution $\mu_i \in \Delta(\Pi_i)$

Behavioral strategy = a mixed strategy that mixes **independently** at every info set

map $\pi_i : \mathcal{J}_i \rightarrow \Delta(A)$

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Digression: Why trees?

A: Because even computing the optimal strategy in a one-player DAG-form games with perfect recall ("finite-horizon POMDPs") is PSPACE-hard [Papadimitriou & Tsitsiklis, *Math of OR* 1987]

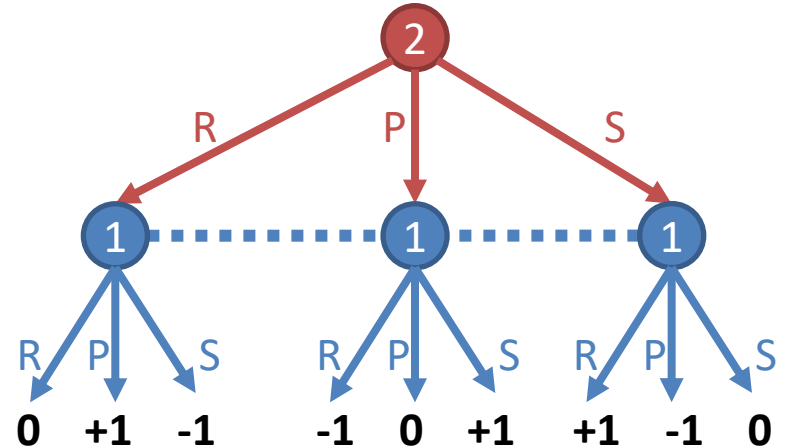
(#histories can be exponentially larger than #states; optimal strategy can be history dependent)

Extensive-form games are

- expressive enough to capture real-world settings (usually sequential & imperfect-information), and yet
- "simple" enough to allow **positive** results

Normal \leftrightarrow Extensive Form

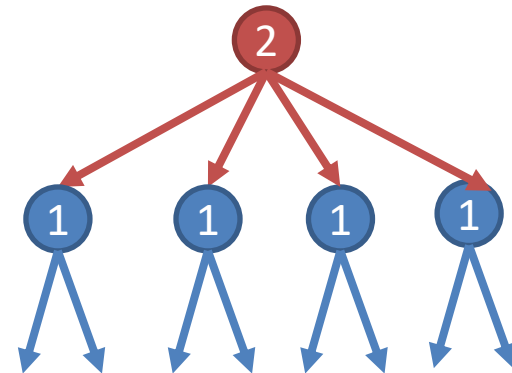
	R	P	S
R	0	-1	1
P	1	0	-1
S	-1	1	0



LLLL				
LLLR				
LLRL				
⋮				
RRRR				



Combinatorial explosion!



Tree-Form Decision Making

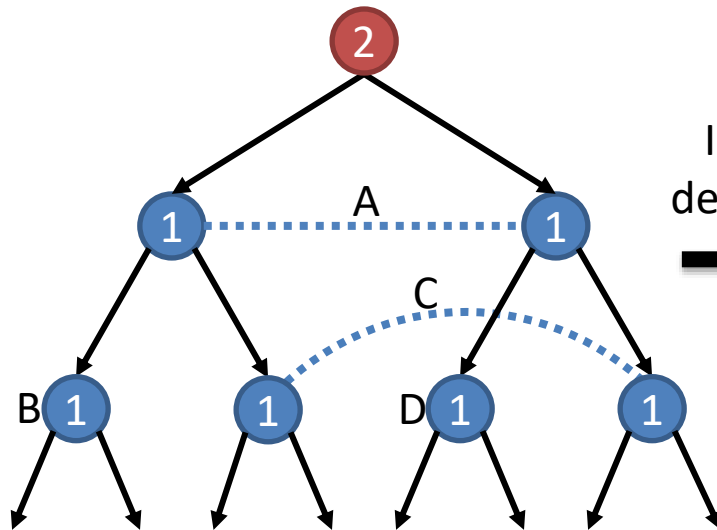
Game tree

Each node belongs to a specific player (or chance, not pictured)

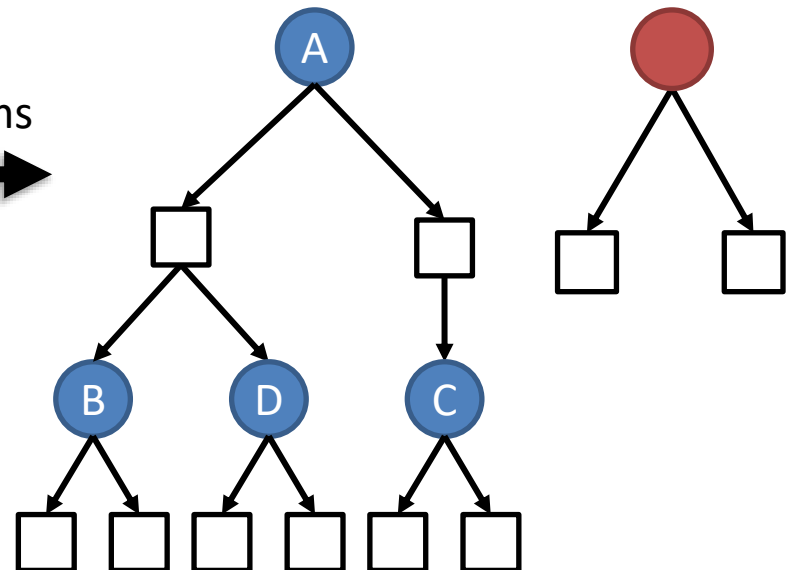
Tree-form (Sequential) decision problems
aka. sequence-form decision problems
aka. treplexes

Represents the game from viewpoint of one player

This is the representation for this lecture



Isolate players'
decision problems



Tree-Form Decision Making

✱ First attempt:

✓ Set of strategies is convex

Assign local probabilities at each decision point

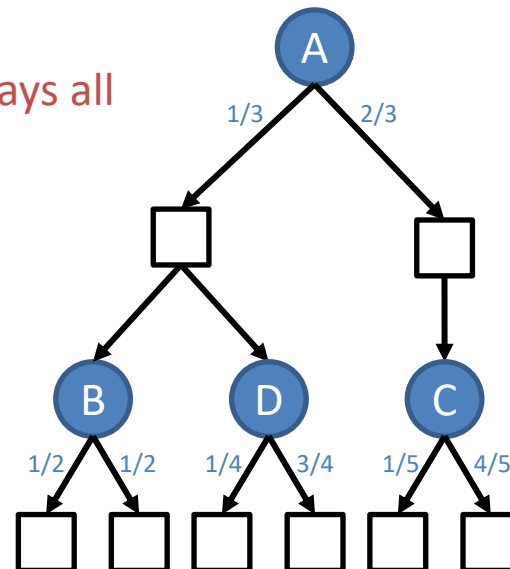
✗ Expected utility of game is **not** bilinear

$$\sum_{z \in Z} u_1(z) c(z) \prod_{i \in [n]} \left(\prod_{\substack{ha \preceq z \\ h \text{ belongs to } i}} \pi_i(a|h) \right)$$

set of terminal nodes (tree leaves)

probability that Player i plays all actions on the path to z

probability that *chance (nature)* plays all actions on the path to z



Sequence Form: A Way to Generate a Polynomial-Sized LP in the Size of the Tree

Given $\pi_i : \mathcal{J}_i \rightarrow \Delta(A)$, the **sequence form** $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{\Sigma_i}$ of π_i is

$$x_i[\sigma] = \prod_{(I,a) \in \sigma} \pi_i(a|I)$$

↑
set of sequences

$$x_1[A\ell] = 1/3, \quad x_1[Ar] = 2/3$$

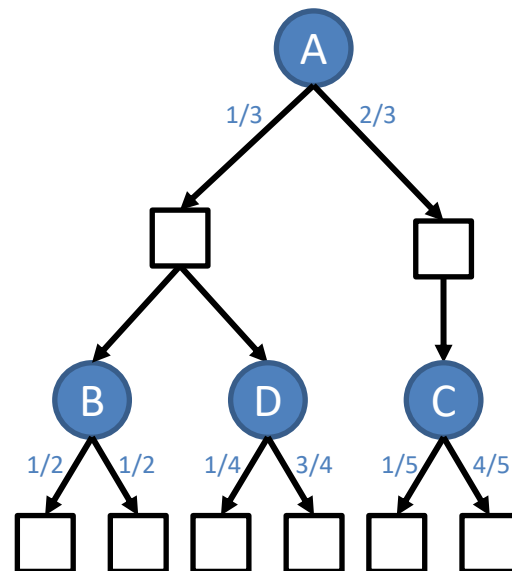
$$x_1[B\ell] = x_1[Br] = 1/3 \cdot 1/2 = 1/6$$

$$x_1[D\ell] = 1/3 \cdot 1/4 = 1/12$$

$$x_1[Dr] = 1/3 \cdot 3/4 = 1/4$$

$$x_1[C\ell] = 2/3 \cdot 1/5 = 2/15$$

$$x_1[Cr] = 2/3 \cdot 4/5 = 8/15$$



Sequence Form: A Way to Generate a Polynomial-Sized LP in the Size of the Tree

The set of sequence-form strategies is a **convex polytope**!

$$X_i := \left\{ \mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{\Sigma_i} : x_i[\emptyset] = 1, \quad \sum_{a \in A} x_i[La] = x_i[\sigma_i(I)] \quad \forall I \in \mathcal{J} \right\}$$

$$= \left\{ \mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{\Sigma_i} : \mathbf{F}_i \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{f}_i \right\}$$

common sequence of all histories in I

The utility of player i is **linear** in i 's sequence-form strategy!

$$u_i(x) = \sum_{z \in Z} u_i(z) \cdot c(z) \cdot \prod_{i \in [n]} x_i[\sigma_i(z)]$$

set of terminal nodes (tree leaves)

probability that *chance (nature)* plays all actions on the path to z

Two-player zero-sum case:

$$u_i(x, y) = \sum_{z \in Z} u_i(z) \cdot c(z) \cdot x[\sigma_1(z)] \cdot y[\sigma_2(z)] = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y}$$

Sequence Form LP

$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \min_{\mathbf{y} \in Y} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y}$$

Two-player zero-sum case:

$$u_i(x, y) = \sum_{z \in Z} u_i(z) \cdot c(z) \cdot x[\sigma_1(z)] \cdot y[\sigma_2(z)] = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y}$$

Sequence Form LP

$$\max_x \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min_y \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y} \\ \text{s.t. } \mathbf{F}_2 \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}_2, \\ \mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{0} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{F}_1 \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}_1, \\ \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$$

LP duality

$$\max_v \mathbf{f}_2^\top \mathbf{v} \\ \text{s.t. } \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{F}_2^\top \mathbf{v}$$

Two-player zero-sum case:

$$u_i(x, y) = \sum_{z \in Z} u_i(z) \cdot c(z) \cdot x[\sigma_1(z)] \cdot y[\sigma_2(z)] = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y}$$

Sequence Form LP

Two-player zero-sum
extensive-form games can be
solved in polynomial time!

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}} \quad & \mathbf{f}_2^\top \mathbf{v} \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \mathbf{F}_1 \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}_1, \\ & \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0} \\ & \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{F}_2^\top \mathbf{v} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{v}} \quad & \mathbf{f}_2^\top \mathbf{v} \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{F}_2^\top \mathbf{v} \end{aligned}$$

Two-player zero-sum case:

$$u_i(x, y) = \sum_{z \in Z} u_i(z) \cdot c(z) \cdot x[\sigma_1(z)] \cdot y[\sigma_2(z)] = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y}$$

Regret Minimization on Sequence-Form Strategy Sets

Recall: Regret Minimization

for $t = 1, \dots, T$:

- Agent chooses a *sequence-form strategy* $\mathbf{x}^t \in X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$
- Environment chooses a *utility vector* $\mathbf{u}^t \in [0, 1]^n$
- Agent observes \mathbf{u}^t and gets utility $\langle \mathbf{u}^t, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle$

Agent goal: Minimize *regret*.

“How well do we do against best, fixed strategy in hindsight?”

$$R^T := \max_{\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in X} \left\{ \sum_{t=1}^T \langle \mathbf{u}^t, \hat{\mathbf{x}} \rangle \right\} - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle \mathbf{u}^t, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle$$

Maximum utility that was
achievable by the **best**
fixed strategy in hindsight

Utility that was
actually
accumulated

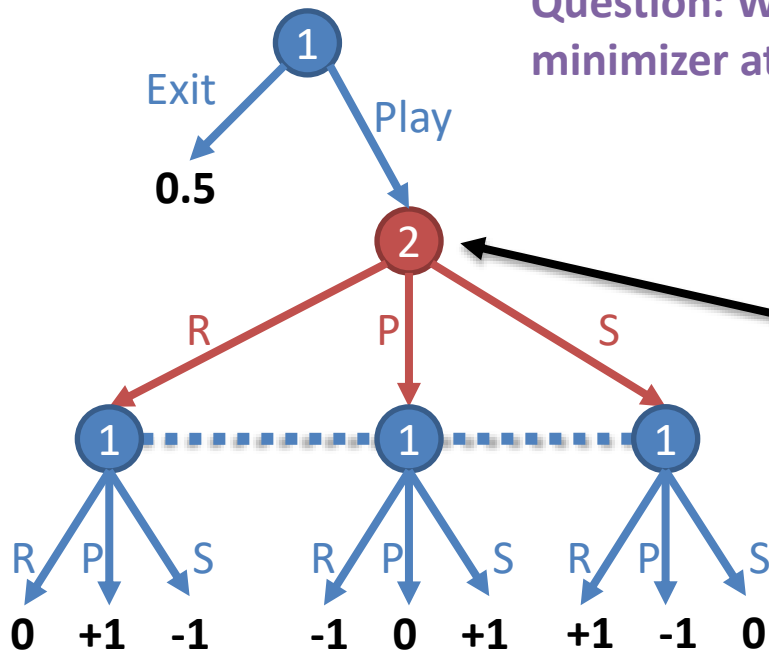
✳ Goal: have R^T grow sublinearly with respect to time T , e.g., $R^T = \text{poly}(n) \cdot \sqrt{T}$

If we can do this, we can learn equilibria!

Counterfactual Regret Minimization (CFR): The Gist

✳ IDEA: Run one regret minimizer at each information set!

Question: What utility should we give to each info set's regret minimizer at each time step?



~~Attempt 1: Use "Q-values" (conditional values upon reaching the information set)~~

Problem: Opponent's strategy can change!

Consider this info set for **P2**, and suppose that **P1** plays

(Exit, Rock) on 90% of timesteps

(Play, Paper) on 10% of timesteps

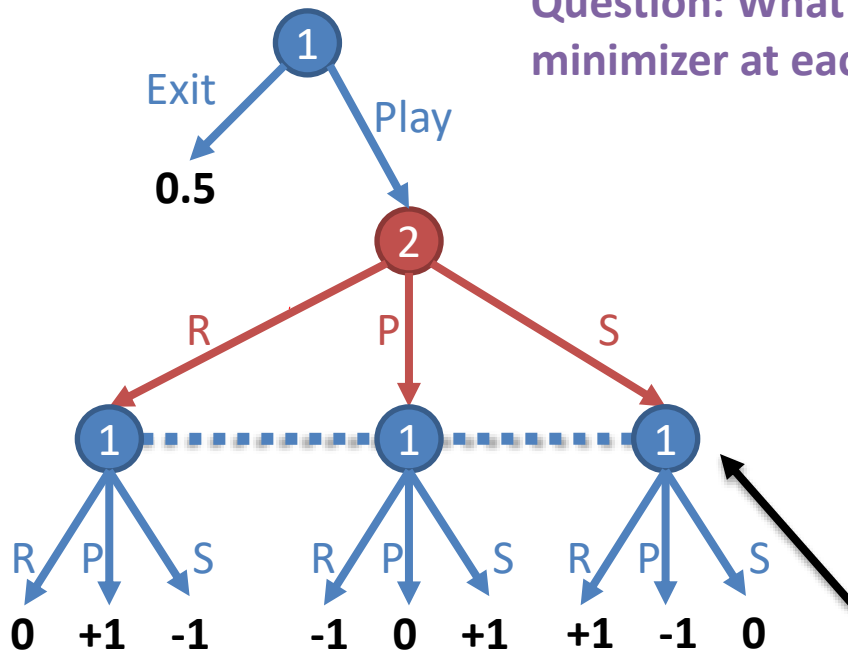
Regret minimizer receiving Q-value losses would play **Paper**, but it should play **Scissors** instead.

We should use some sort of "weighted" value!

Counterfactual Regret Minimization (CFR): The Gist

✳ IDEA: Run one regret minimizer at each information set!

Question: What utility should we give to each info set's regret minimizer at each time step?



~~Attempt 2: Use reach-weighted values:
utility of playing a at info set I
= conditional value of a at I
* probability of reaching I~~

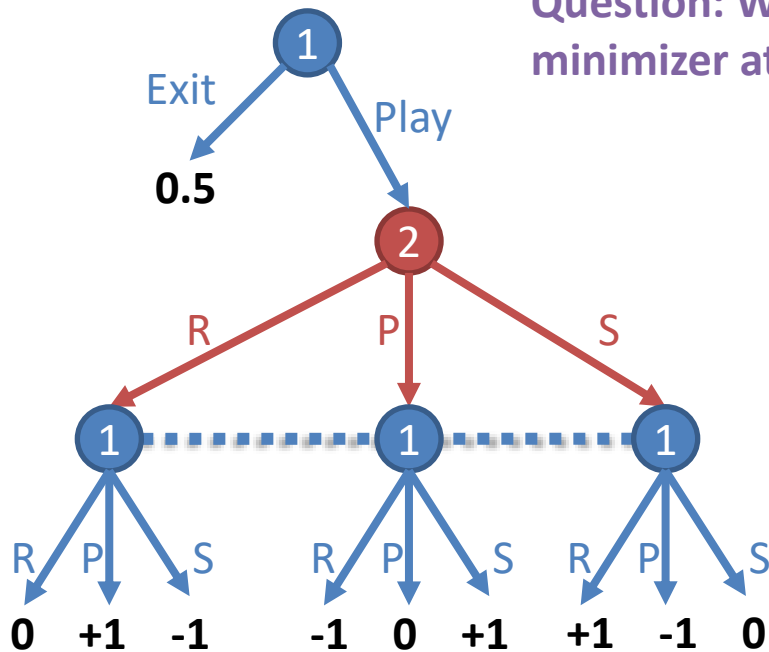
Problem: Our strategy can change before I

Suppose that **P2** always plays **Rock**
and **P1** is currently playing (Exit, Scissors)
This info set isn't reached
⇒ its regret minimizer observes utility 0
⇒ **P1** never learns to play the correct best response (Play, Paper)!

Counterfactual Regret Minimization (CFR): The Gist

✳️ **IDEA:** Run one regret minimizer at each information set!

Question: What utility should we give to each info set's regret minimizer at each time step?



Attempt 3: Use "counterfactual values":
 utility of playing a at info set I
 = conditional value of I
 * probability of all **other** players
 (including chance) reaching I

$$= \sum_{z \succcurlyeq Ia} x_i(\sigma_i(z) | Ia) \cdot x_{-i}(\sigma_{-i}(z)) \cdot c(z) \cdot u_i(z)$$

Pr[i plays all actions on $Ia \rightarrow \sigma_i(z)$ path]

✳️ **THIS WORKS!**

This is the algorithm called *counterfactual regret minimization (CFR)*

Proving the Correctness of CFR

Simple proof in this lecture due to G Farina, CK Ling, F Fang, T Sandholm (*NeurIPS* 2019),
“Efficient Regret Minimization Algorithm for Extensive-Form Correlated Equilibrium”

e.g., FTRL, RM, RM+, ...

Theorem: when using CFR in self-play in a 2p0s EFG with any regret minimizers whose regrets are bounded by $|A|\sqrt{T}$, the average strategy profile after T rounds is an ϵ -NE, where

$$\epsilon = \frac{|\Sigma_1| + |\Sigma_2|}{\sqrt{T}}$$

set of sequences

Scaled Extensions

Def: Given

- set $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$
- vector $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$ with $0 \leq \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \leq 1$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$
- integer $m > 0$

Idea: Construct a sequence-form strategy set **recursively**

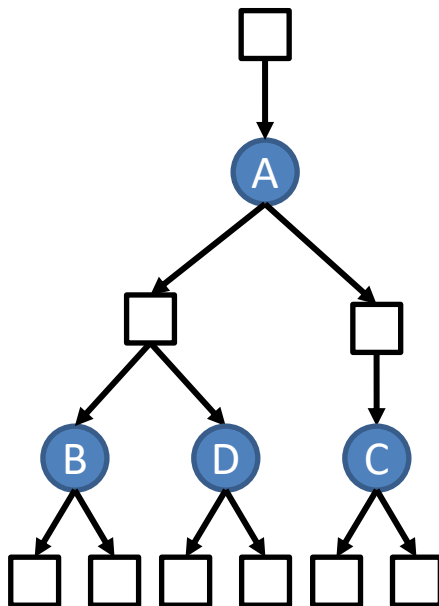
the **scaled extension** of X by the m -simplex under \mathbf{f} is

$$X \triangleleft (\mathbf{f}, m) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{s} \end{pmatrix} \in X \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^m : \langle \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{s} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \right\}$$

$e_\sigma =$ basis vector at coordinate σ

$$X = \{1\} \triangleleft (e_\emptyset, 2) \triangleleft (e_{A\ell}, 2) \triangleleft (e_{Ar}, 2) \triangleleft (e_{A\ell}, 2)$$

\cap
 \mathbb{R}



Suffices (by induction) to construct regret minimizer on $X \triangleleft (\mathbf{f}, m)$ given regret minimizer on X

CFR via Scaled Extensions

$$X \triangleleft (f, m) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{s} \end{pmatrix} \in X \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^m : \langle \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{s} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \right\}$$

\mathcal{R}_X : regret minimizer on $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^n$

\mathcal{R}_Δ : regret minimizer on Δ^m (e.g., MWU, RM, RM+, ...)

Goal: Construct regret minimizer for $Y := X \triangleleft (f, m)$

at each timestep t :

$\mathbf{x}^t \leftarrow$ next strategy from \mathcal{R}_X

$\mathbf{s}^t \leftarrow$ next strategy from \mathcal{R}_Δ

play $\mathbf{y}^t := (\mathbf{x}^t, \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle \cdot \mathbf{s}^t) \in Y$

receive utility $\mathbf{u}^t := (\mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$

pass utility \mathbf{u}_Δ^t to \mathcal{R}_Δ

pass utility $\mathbf{u}_X^t + \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \cdot \mathbf{f}$ to \mathcal{R}_X

Exercise: Check that this is equivalent to using counterfactual values (defined earlier).

CFR via Scaled Extensions

at each timestep t :

- $\mathbf{x}^t \leftarrow$ next strategy from \mathcal{R}_X
- $\mathbf{s}^t \leftarrow$ next strategy from \mathcal{R}_Δ
- play $\mathbf{y}^t := (\mathbf{x}^t, \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle \cdot \mathbf{s}^t) \in Y$
- receive utility $\mathbf{u}^t := (\mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$
- pass utility \mathbf{u}_Δ^t to \mathcal{R}_Δ
- pass utility $\mathbf{u}_X^t + \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \cdot \mathbf{f}$ to \mathcal{R}_X

$$X \triangleleft (\mathbf{f}, m) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{s} \end{pmatrix} \in X \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^m : \langle \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{s} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \right\}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_Y^T &= \max_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \in X \\ \mathbf{s} \in \Delta^m}} \sum_{t=1}^T [\langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \cdot \mathbf{s} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle \cdot \mathbf{s}^t \rangle] \\
 &= \max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T [\langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle] + \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \max_{\mathbf{s} \in \Delta^m} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s} \rangle \right] \\
 &= \max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T [\langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle] + \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \left(R_\Delta^T + \sum_{t=1}^T \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \right) \right] \\
 &= \max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \left[\sum_{t=1}^T [\langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle] + \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle R_\Delta^T \right] \\
 &\leq \underbrace{\phantom{\sum_{t=1}^T [\langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle - \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle]}_{R_X^T} + \max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle R_\Delta^T \leq R_X^T + [R_\Delta^T]^+
 \end{aligned}$$

CFR via Scaled Extensions

at each timestep t :

- $\mathbf{x}^t \leftarrow$ next strategy from \mathcal{R}_X
- $\mathbf{s}^t \leftarrow$ next strategy from \mathcal{R}_Δ
- play $\mathbf{y}^t := (\mathbf{x}^t, \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x}^t \rangle \cdot \mathbf{s}^t) \in Y$
- receive utility $\mathbf{u}^t := (\mathbf{u}_X^t, \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$
- pass utility \mathbf{u}_Δ^t to \mathcal{R}_Δ
- pass utility $\mathbf{u}_X^t + \langle \mathbf{u}_\Delta^t, \mathbf{s}^t \rangle \cdot \mathbf{f}$ to \mathcal{R}_X

$$X \triangleleft (\mathbf{f}, m) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{s} \end{pmatrix} \in X \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^m : \langle \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{s} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \rangle \right\}$$

$$R_Y^T \leq R_X^T + [R_\Delta^T]^+$$

induction



with RM or RM+

set of sequences

CFR Regret Bound:

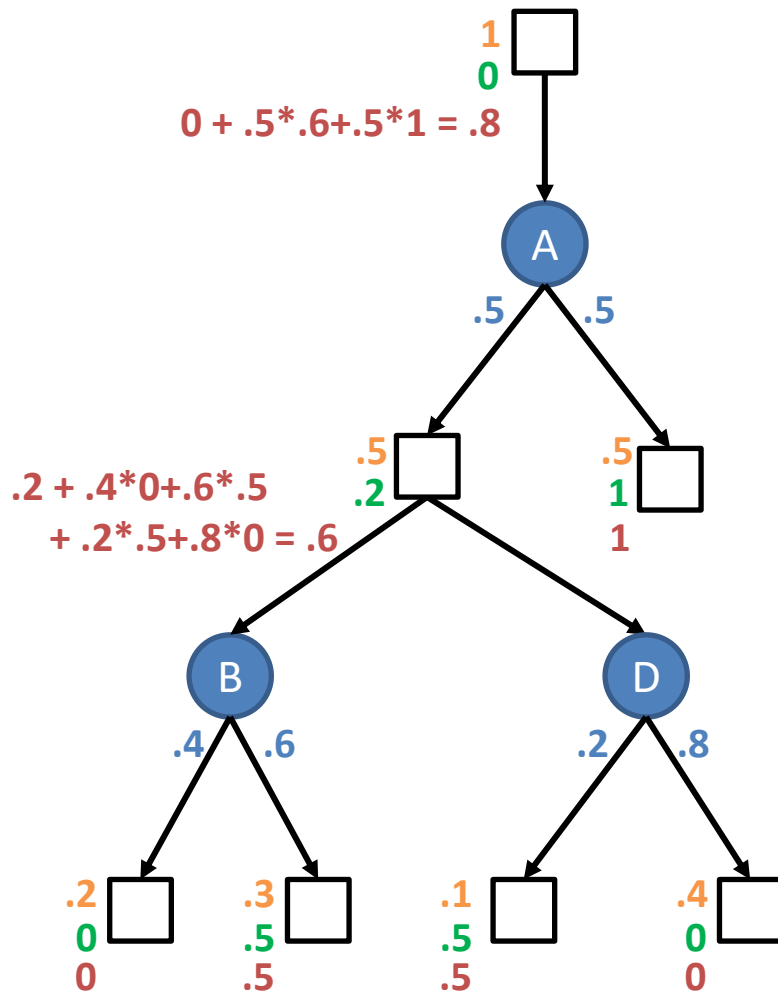
$$R_{X_i}^T \leq \sum_{I \in \mathcal{J}_i} [R_I^T]^+ \leq |\mathcal{J}_i| \cdot \sqrt{|A|T} \leq |\Sigma_i| \sqrt{T}$$

Theorem: when using CFR in self-play in a 2p0s EFG with any regret minimizers whose regrets are bounded by $|A|\sqrt{T}$, the average strategy profile after T rounds is an ϵ -NE, where

$$\epsilon = \frac{|\Sigma_1| + |\Sigma_2|}{\sqrt{T}}$$



Efficient Implementation



1. Query all local regret minimizers to get **behavioral strategies** π_1^t, π_2^t
2. Multiply down the tree to get **sequence-form strategies** x^t
3. Compute **utility vector** $u^t := Ay^t$
4. Compute **counterfactual values**
(and pass them to local regret minimizers)

Time per iteration:
 $O(\text{mul}(A) + |\Sigma_1| + |\Sigma_2|)$

time complexity of computing Ay^t .
 Trivially bounded by game tree size.

Exercise: Check that this actually implements CFR, i.e., check that the values in Step 4 are actually the counterfactual values

Why is CFR Superior in Practice?

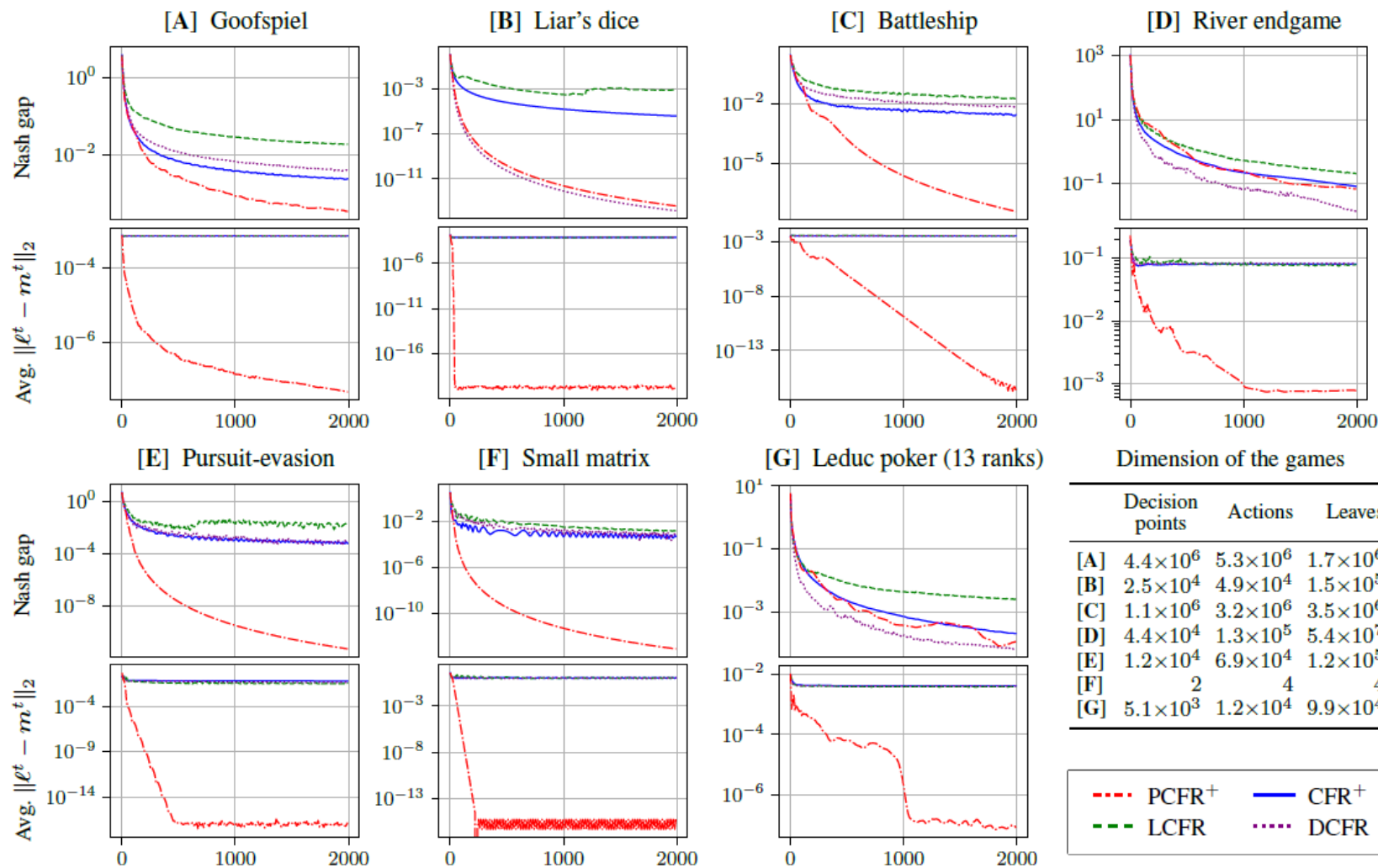
✿ ... to second-order methods
(which can offer convergence rate $e^{-\Omega(T)}$)?

- Does not require solving large linear systems
- Second-order methods (interior point, ...) don't fit in memory for large games

✿ ... to general-purpose regret minimizers (e.g., FTRL)?

- CFR uses an approach local to each decision point (easier to parallelize, warm-start, etc.) (*more on this next lecture!*)
 - [Brown & Sandholm, [Reduced Space and Faster Convergence in Imperfect-Information Games via Pruning](#), ICML-17]
 - [Brown & Sandholm, [Strategy-based warm starting for regret minimization in games](#), AAAI 2016]
- No need for expensive projections onto feasible strategy polytope (think projected gradient descent)
- **Scale-invariant!** (with RM/RM+)

CFR Framework + Predictivity (aka optimism)



Important Takeaways

- ✱ You can construct a regret minimizer for **sequential** decision making problems by combining regret minimizers for individual decision points
 - ⇒ Improvements on simplex domains carry over to extensive-form domains!
- ✱ Predictivity works well also in extensive-form domains

References

Kuhn's theorem:

- HW Kuhn (*Contrib. Theory of Games* 1950), "Extensive games and the problem of information"

Sequence form LP:

- B von Stengel (*GEB* 1996), "Efficient Computation of Behavior Strategies"

CFR:

- M Zinkevich, M Johanson, M Bowling, C Piccione (*NeurIPS* 2007), "Regret Minimization in Games with Incomplete Information"
- **Simple proof in this lecture due to** G Farina, CK Ling, F Fang, T Sandholm (*NeurIPS* 2019), "Efficient Regret Minimization Algorithm for Extensive-Form Correlated Equilibrium"