



Game Theoretical Snapshots

Sergiu Hart

June 2015

Game Theoretical Snapshots

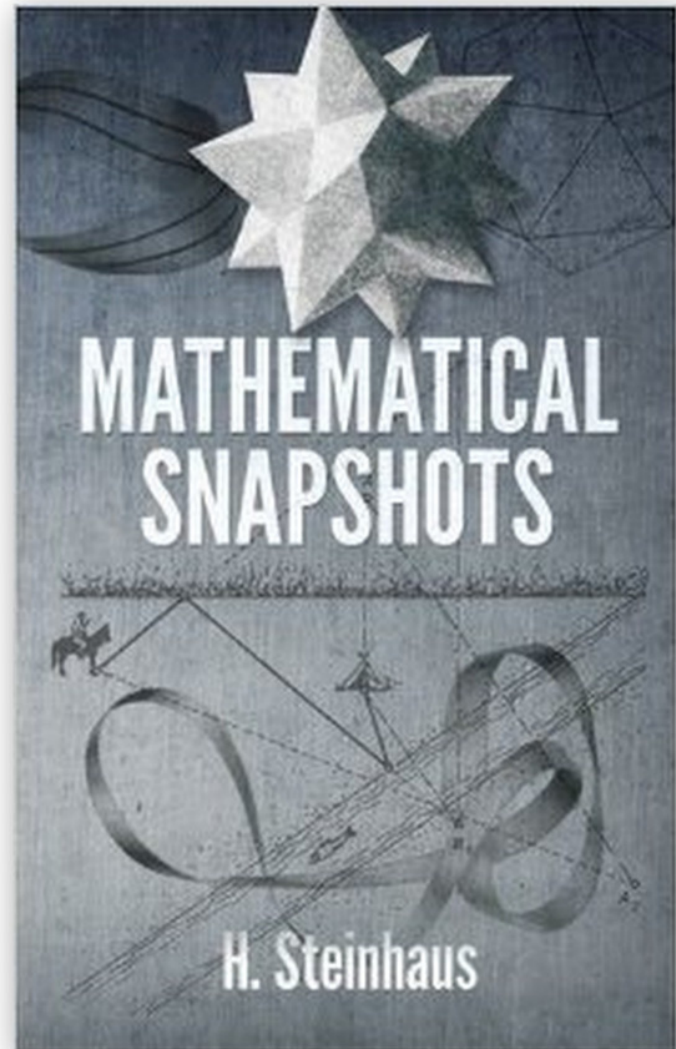
Sergiu Hart

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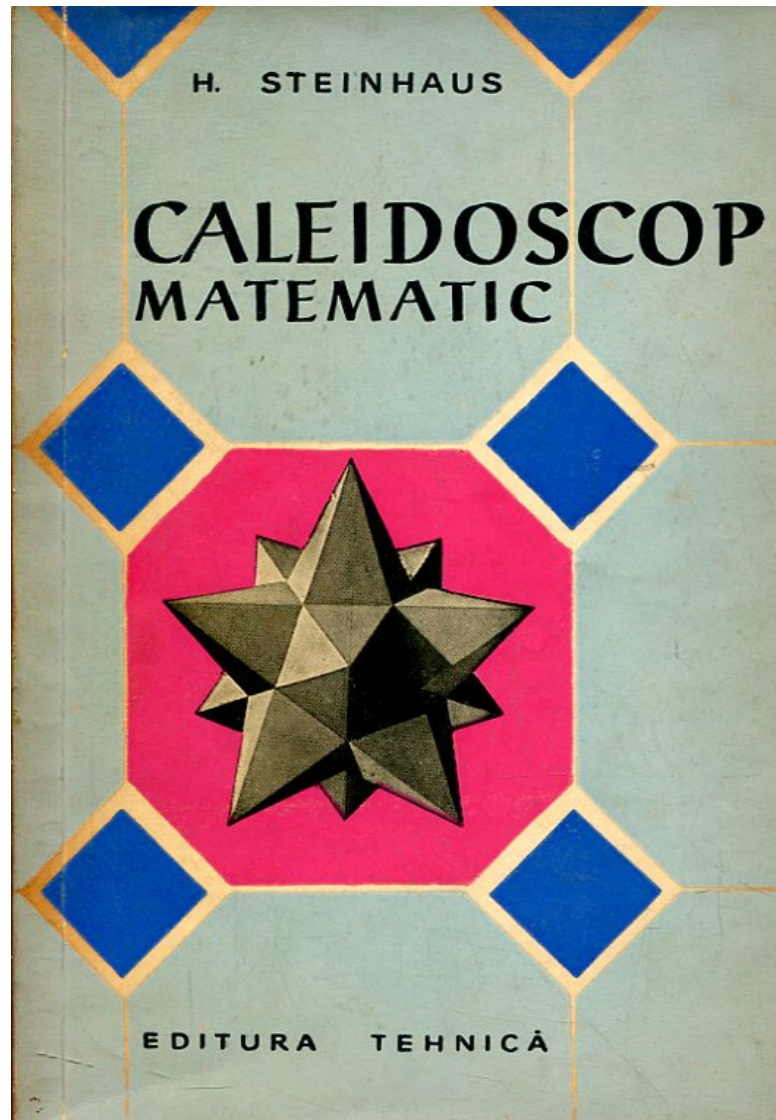
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Mathematical Snapshots (1939)



Caleidoscop Mathematic (1961)





Snapshot I

Snapshot I

Game Dynamics

Game Dynamics

Game Dynamics

- Next week (in the Summer School)



Snapshot II

Snapshot II

Two(!) Good To Be True

Two(!) Good ...

Two(!) Good ...

- Haven't heard it yet ?

Two(!) Good ...

- Haven't heard it yet ?
- Two(!) bad ...



Snapshot III

Snapshot III

Blotto, Lotto ...

Snapshot III

**Blotto, Lotto ...
... and All-Pay**

Blotto, Lotto, and All-Pay

Blotto, Lotto, and All-Pay

- Sergiu Hart, *Discrete Colonel Blotto and General Lotto Games*, International Journal of Game Theory 2008
www.ma.huji.ac.il/hart/abs/blotto.html
- Sergiu Hart, *Allocation Games with Caps: From Captain Lotto to All-Pay Auctions*, Center for Rationality 2014
www.ma.huji.ac.il/hart/abs/lotto.html
- Nadav Amir, *Uniqueness of Optimal Strategies in Captain Lotto Games*, Center for Rationality 2015

Colonel Blotto Games

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- Player A has A aquamarine marbles

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(two-person zero-sum game:
win = 1, lose = -1, tie = 0)

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Borel 1921

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- One urn is *selected at random* (uniformly)
- The player who put more marbles in the selected urn **WINS** the game

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- The number of **aquamarine marbles** in the selected urn is a random variable $X \geq 0$ with expectation $a = A/K$

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Colonel Lotto Games

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- The number of **blue marbles** in the selected urn is a random variable $Y \geq 0$ with expectation $b = B/K$
- Payoff function:

$$H(X, Y) = \mathbb{P}[X > Y] - \mathbb{P}[X < Y]$$

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General Lotto Games

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- Player B chooses (the distribution of) a random variable $Y \geq 0$ with expectation b

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Bell & Cover 1980, Myerson 1993, Lizzeri 1999

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Proof. Optimality of X^* :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[Y > X^*] &= \int_0^{2a} \mathbb{P}[Y > x] \frac{1}{2a} dx \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2a} E[Y] = \frac{1}{2a} a = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

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Sahuguet & Persico 2006, Hart 2008

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Hart 2008, Dziubiński 2013

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- **BOTH** players pay their bids

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Hart 2014, Amir 2015

Einav Hart, Avrahami, Kareev, and Todd 2015



Snapshot IV

Snapshot IV

Complexity of Correlated Equilibria

Complexity of Correlated Equilibria

Complexity of Correlated Equilibria

- Sergiu Hart and Noam Nisan
The Query Complexity of Correlated Equilibria
Center for Rationality 2013

www.ma.huji.ac.il/hart/abs/corr-com.html

Correlated Equilibria

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- n -person games

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⇒ There is an algorithm for computing
CORRELATED EQUILIBRIA with
COMPLEXITY = POLY(2^n) = EXP(n)

Correlated Equilibria

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- **QUERY COMPLEXITY (QC)** := maximal number of payoff queries (out of $n \cdot 2^n$)

\Rightarrow There are randomized algorithms for computing ϵ -**CORRELATED EQUILIBRIA** with **QC = POLY(n)**

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Surprise ?

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***Surprise ?
perhaps not so much ...***

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 - basic solutions of Linear Programming

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 - use Lipton and Young 1994

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Correlated Equilibria (recall)

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Correlated Equilibria

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- **Exact CORRELATED EQUILIBRIA ?**
- **Deterministic** algorithms ?

Query Complexity of CE

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	<i>Algorithm</i>	
	<i>Randomized</i>	<i>Deterministic</i>
ϵ -CE		
<i>exact CE</i>		

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[1] = Regret-Matching, No Regret

Query Complexity of CE

	<i>Algorithm</i>	
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ϵ -CE	POLY (n) [1]	
exact CE		EXP (n) [2]

[1] = Regret-Matching, No Regret

[2] = Babichenko and Barman 2013

Query Complexity of CE

	<i>Algorithm</i>	
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ϵ -CE	POLY (n) [1]	EXP (n) [3]
exact CE	EXP (n) [3]	EXP (n) [2]

[1] = Regret-Matching, No Regret

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[3] = this paper

Complexity of CE

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 - dual decomposes into n problems

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 - "UNCOUPLED"
- **Question:** Why does this help *only* for approximate CE and randomized algorithms ?
- **Question:** Complexity of *Nash Equilibria* ?



Snapshot V

Smooth Calibration

Smooth Calibration and Leaky Forecasts

Smooth Calibration and Leaky Forecast

Smooth Calibration and Leaky Forec

- Dean Foster and Sergiu Hart
*Smooth Calibration, Leaky Forecasts, and
Finite Recall*
2012 (in preparation)

www.ma.huji.ac.il/hart/abs/calib-eq.html

Calibration

Calibration

- Forecaster says: "The chance of rain tomorrow is p "

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- Forecaster is **CALIBRATED** if for every p : the proportion of rainy days among those days when the forecast was p equals p (or is close to p in the long run)

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Dawid 1982

Calibration

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(e.g.: with probability $1/2$ forecast = 30%
with probability $1/2$ forecast = 60%)

Calibration

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Foster and Vohra 1998

No Calibration

No Calibration

- **CALIBRATION** *cannot* be guaranteed when:

No Calibration

- **CALIBRATION** *cannot* be guaranteed when:
 - Forecast is known before the rain/no-rain decision is made
("LEAKY FORECASTS")

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Oakes 1985

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- **SMOOTH CALIBRATION**: combine together the days when the forecast was *close to* p

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- **Main Result:**

There exists a **deterministic** procedure that is **SMOOTHLY CALIBRATED**.

Smooth Calibration

- **SMOOTH CALIBRATION**: combine together the days when the forecast was **close to p** (*smooth* out the calibration score)
- **Main Result**:

There exists a **deterministic** procedure that is **SMOOTHLY CALIBRATED**.

Deterministic \Rightarrow result holds also when the forecasts are **leaked**

Calibration

Calibration

- Set of **ACTIONS**: $A \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ (finite set)
- Set of **FORECASTS**: $C = \Delta(A)$
 - Example: $A = \{0, 1\}$, $C = [0, 1]$

Calibration

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$$K_T = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\bar{a}_t - c_t\|$$

where

$$\bar{a}_t := \frac{\sum_{s=1}^T \mathbf{1}_{c_t=c_s} a_s}{\sum_{s=1}^T \mathbf{1}_{c_t=c_s}}$$

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Smooth Calibration

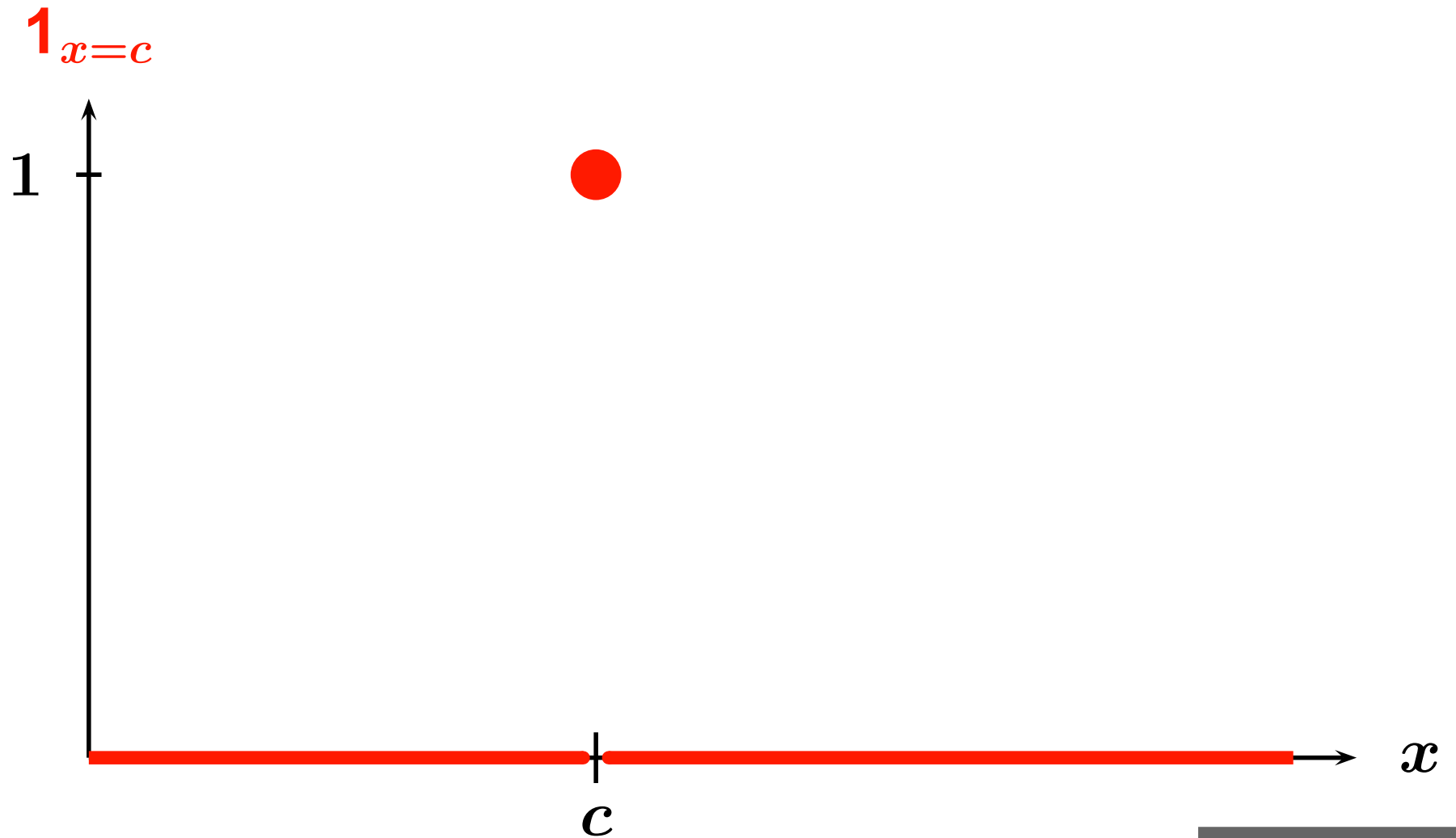
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 - Example: $\Lambda(x, c) = [\delta - ||x - c||]_+ / \delta$

Indicator

Function

Indicator

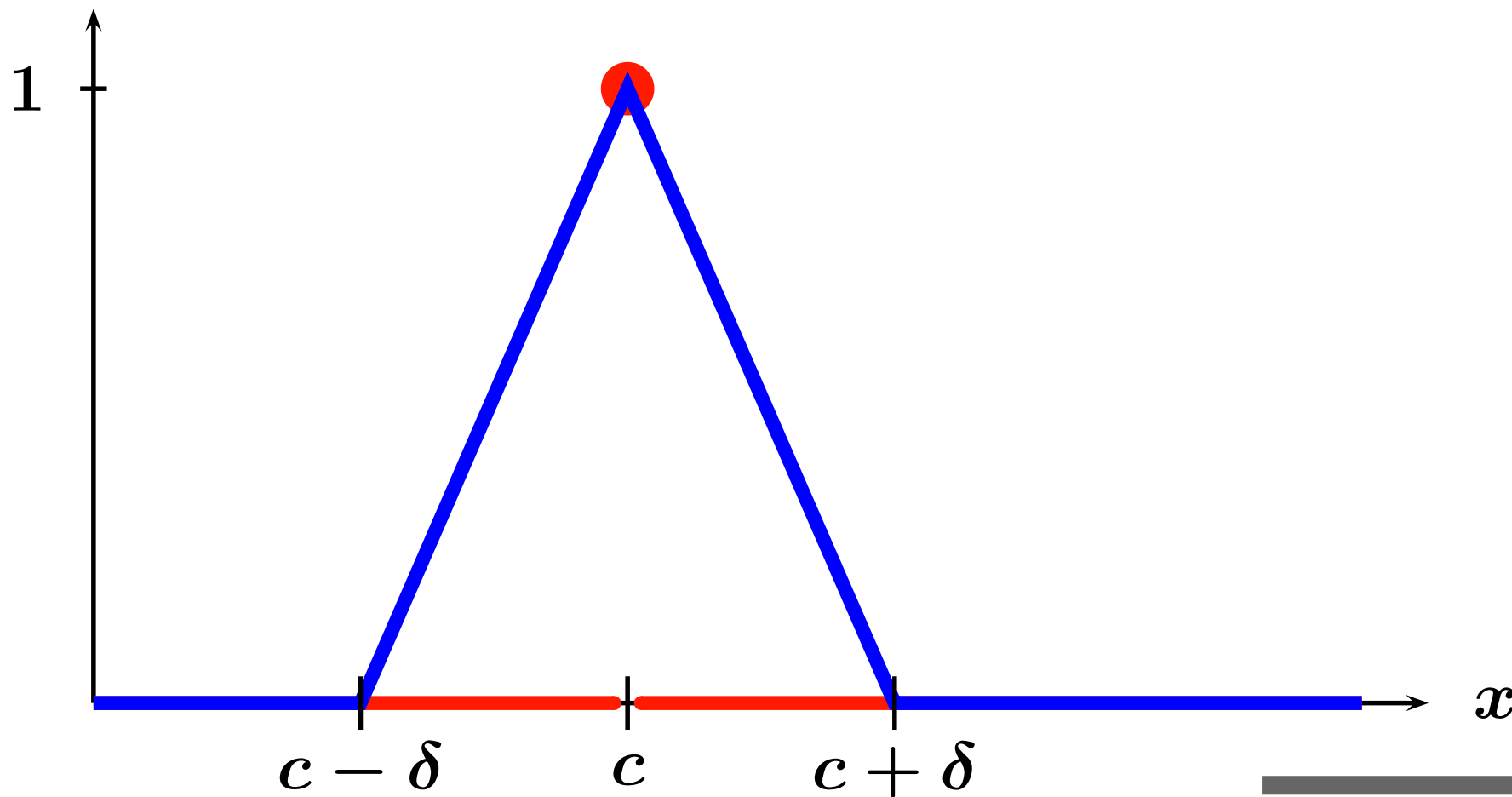
Function



Indicator and Λ Functions

$$\Lambda(x, c)$$

$$\mathbf{1}_{x=c}$$



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$$\bar{a}_t^\Lambda = \frac{\sum_{s=1}^T \Lambda(c_s, c_t) a_s}{\sum_{s=1}^T \Lambda(c_s, c_t)}, \quad c_t^\Lambda = \frac{\sum_{s=1}^T \Lambda(c_s, c_t) c_s}{\sum_{s=1}^T \Lambda(c_s, c_t)}$$

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REGULAR setup

The Calibration Game

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 - a_t and c_t chosen **simultaneously**:
REGULAR setup
 - a_t chosen **after** c_t is disclosed:
LEAKY setup

The Calibration Game

- At each period $t = 1, 2, \dots$:
 - Player C ("forecaster") chooses $c_t \in C$
 - Player A ("action") chooses $a_t \in A$
 - a_t and c_t chosen **simultaneously**:
REGULAR setup
 - a_t chosen **after** c_t is disclosed:
LEAKY setup
- Full monitoring, perfect recall

Smooth Calibration

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A strategy of Player C is

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ϵ -SMOOTHLY CALIBRATED

Smooth Calibration

A strategy of Player C is

ε -SMOOTHLY CALIBRATED

if there is T_0 such that $K_T^\Lambda \leq \varepsilon$ holds for:

- every $T \geq T_0$,
- every strategy of Player A, and
- every smoothing function Λ with Lipschitz constant $\leq 1/\varepsilon$

Smooth Calibration: Result

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For every $\varepsilon > 0$
there exists a procedure
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Moreover:

- it is ***deterministic***,
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(= finite window, stationary),
- it uses a fixed ***finite grid***, and
- forecasts may be ***leaked***.

Smooth Calibration: Implications

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- For *forecasting*:
 - nothing good ... (easy to pass the test)

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 - Uncoupled, finite recall, dynamics that converge to the set of **CORRELATED EQUILIBRIA**

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- For *forecasting*:
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- For *game dynamics*:
 - Uncoupled, finite recall, dynamics that converge to the set of **CORRELATED EQUILIBRIA**
 - Uncoupled, finite recall, dynamics that are close most of the time to **NASH EQUILIBRIA**

Previous Work

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- Weak Calibration (deterministic):

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 - Kakade and Foster 2004 / 2008
 - Foster and Kakade 2006

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 - Kakade and Foster 2004 / 2008
 - Foster and Kakade 2006
- Online Regression Problem:
 - Foster 1991, 1999
 - Vovk 2001
 - Azoury and Warmuth 2001
 - Cesa-Bianchi and Lugosi 2006



Snapshot VI

Snapshot VI

Evidence Games:

Evidence Games: Truth and Commitment

Evidence Games

Evidence Games

- Sergiu Hart, Ilan Kremer, and Motty Perry
Evidence Games: Truth and Commitment
Center for Rationality 2015

www.ma.huji.ac.il/hart/abs/st-ne.html





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- How can one determine the "right" reward, or punishment?
- How can one "separate" and avoid "unraveling" (Akerlof 70)?

Evidence Games: General Setup

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- **AGENT** who is informed

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- **AGENT** who is informed
- **PRINCIPAL** who takes decision but is uninformed

Evidence Games: General Setup

- **AGENT** who is informed
- **PRINCIPAL** who takes decision but is uninformed
- Agent **TRANSMITS** information to Principal (costlessly)

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Two Setups

- **GAME**: Principal decides *after* receiving Agent's message
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Main Result

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In **EVIDENCE GAMES**

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the **GAME EQUILIBRIUM** outcome
(obtained *without commitment*)

Main Result

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and the **OPTIMAL MECHANISM** outcome
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COINCIDE

Main Result: Equivalence

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*Differs from signalling, screening,
cheap-talk, ...*

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⇒ Agent can ***pretend*** to be a type that has ***less information (less evidence)***

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**Revealing *the whole truth* gets a slight
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Evidence Games: Truth-Leaning

Revealing *the whole truth* gets a slight (= infinitesimal) boost in payoff and probability

(T1) Revealing *the whole truth* is preferable when the reward is the same (lexicographic preference)

(T2) *The whole truth* is revealed with infinitesimal positive probability (by mistake, or because the agent may be non-strategic, or ... [UK])

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In **EVIDENCE GAMES**

the **GAME EQUILIBRIUM** outcome
(obtained *without commitment*)

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COINCIDE

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 - Grossman 1981
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 - Dye 1985
 - Shin 2003, 2006, ...
- Mechanism
 - Green–Laffont 1986
- Persuasion games
 - **Glazer and Rubinstein 2004, 2006**

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- ⇒ **EQUILIBRIUM** is *constrained efficient*
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Evidence Games: Summary

- **EVIDENCE GAMES** model very *common* setups
- In **EVIDENCE GAMES** there is *equivalence* between **EQUILIBRIUM** (without commitment) and **OPTIMAL MECHANISM** (with commitment)
 - ⇒ **EQUILIBRIUM** is *constrained efficient* (in the canonical case)
- The conditions of **EVIDENCE GAMES** are *indispensable* for this equivalence





"Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in the most entertaining way possible?"

Thanks !!



"Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in the most entertaining way possible?"