

Antagonistic Properties and n -Person Games

Jean-Pierre Beaud^{1,2}

¹ Institut für Mathematische Wirtschaftsforschung (IMW), Universität Bielefeld,
Postfach 10 01 31, D-33501 Bielefeld, Germany, e-mail: jbeaud@wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de

² Laboratoire d'Econometrie, Ecole Polytechnique, 1 rue Descartes, F-75005 Paris,
France, email: beaud@poly.polytechnique.fr

October 25, 2001

Abstract In this note, we studied some classes of n -person games possessing properties of two person zero-sum games. We extend the definition of a two-person almost strictly competitive game (Aumann 1961) to the n -person case. We show that the Nash equilibria of a n -person almost strictly competitive game induce the same payoff; and we exhibit the connections between almost strictly competitive games and some classes of n -person games introduced by Kats and Thisse in 1992.

Introduction

In a two-person zero-sum game, the gain of one player is equal to the loss of his opponent. This class of games has some important features: when equilibria exist, they induce a unique payoff, the set of Nash equilibria is convex, the equilibria are interchangeable¹...

Some classes of two-person non zero-sum games having some of these nice properties have been introduced by different authors. The definitions of these classes are based on different notions of antagonism. Indeed, zero-sum games correspond to the extreme case of competition between two players: what Player 1 wins is equal to what Player 2 loses. By weakening this notion of antagonism, we get some classes of non zero-sum games which satisfy

¹ Equilibria are interchangeable if for every equilibria (s_1, s_2) and (s'_1, s'_2) , (s_1, s'_2) and (s'_1, s_2) are also equilibria (Nash 1951). Note that for the mixed extension of a finite game, if the equilibria are interchangeable, then the set of Nash equilibria is convex. In fact, these two properties are equivalent for the mixed extension of every finite two-person game but it is no longer true in the n -person case when $n > 2$ (Chin, Parthasarathy and Raghavan 1974).

some properties of zero-sum games.

The definitions of some of these classes are also available for games with finitely many players. The aim is the same as in the two-person case: to define classes of n -person games which possess some properties of two-person zero-sum games, as for example uniqueness of equilibrium payoffs. But the problematic is different: we have to define the notion of antagonism between n players.

In section 1, we recall the definition of n -person game of type A, B and C introduced by Kats and Thisse (1992). In section 2, we define the notions of saddle-point and value of a n -person game. With the help of these definitions, we extend the definitions of games of type I (introduced by Aumann (1961) under the name of almost strictly competitive games(ASC)), II and IV to the n -person case². In section 3, we give some results concerning the connection between these different classes. In section 4, we generalize Aumann's theorem concerning game of type I in extensive form (Aumann 1961) to the n -person case. At last some examples of games are given in section 5.

Notations

We denote by $G = (I, (S_i)_{i \in I}, (u_i)_{i \in I})$ a n -person game where

- $I = \{1, \dots, n\}$ is the set of players, $n \geq 2$.
- S_i is the set of strategies of Player i .
- u_i is the payoff function of Player i ; $u_i : S_1 \times \dots \times S_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ where \mathbb{R} stands for the set of real numbers.

Let $S = \prod_{i \in I} S_i$. For each Player $i \in I$, $-i$ denotes the set $I \setminus \{i\}$ (i.e. $-i$ is the set of opponents of Player i). S_A terms the set $\prod_{i \in A} S_i$ ($A \subseteq I$).

From now, we assume the following property:

Hypothesis 1 The sets S_i and the payoff functions u_i are such that the game $G = (I, (S_i)_{i \in I}, (u_i)_{i \in I})$ has a Nash equilibrium.

For example, Hypothesis 1 is satisfied if each set of strategies is a convex compact subset of an Euclidian space and if the payoff function of each player is continuous and quasi-concave in his own action (Glicksberg 1952). We denote by $NE(G)$ the set of Nash equilibria of G and by $NEP(G)$ the set of its Nash equilibrium payoffs.

1 n -person game of type A, B and C

The antagonism for these three classes of (non zero-sum) games is defined by comparing different n -tuple of strategies according to several evaluation rules (see Figure 1):

² Games of type II and IV are generalizations of ASC games (Beaud 1999).

Type	Couples of strategies	Evaluation rule
A	Compare $s = (s_i, s_{-i})$ with $\tilde{s} = (\tilde{s}_i, \tilde{s}_{-i})$	$u_i(s) \geq u_i(\tilde{s}) \Leftrightarrow u_j(s) \leq u_j(\tilde{s}), \forall j \in I \setminus \{i\}$
B	Compare $s = (s_i, s_{-i})$ with $\tilde{s} = (\tilde{s}_i, s_{-i})$	$u_i(s) \geq u_i(\tilde{s}) \Leftrightarrow u_j(s) \leq u_j(\tilde{s}), \forall j \in I \setminus \{i\}$
C	Compare $s = (s_i, s_{-i})$ with $\tilde{s} = (\tilde{s}_i, s_{-i})$	$u_i(s) > u_i(\tilde{s}) \Rightarrow u_j(s) \leq u_j(\tilde{s})$ and $u_i(s) = u_i(\tilde{s}) \Rightarrow u_j(s) = u_j(\tilde{s}), \forall j \in I \setminus \{i\}$

Fig. 1 Definitions of the classes.

This leads to the following definitions:

Definition 1 (Kats-Thisse, 1992) Let $G = (I, (S_i)_{i \in I}, (u_i)_{i \in I})$ be a n -person game.

◦ G is a game of type A if for all $i \in I$, $s, s' \in S$, $u_i(s) \geq u_i(s') \Leftrightarrow u_j(s) \leq u_j(s') \forall j \in I \setminus \{i\}$.

◦ G is a game of type B if for each $i \in I$, for all $s_i, s'_i \in S_i$ and for all $s_{-i} \in S_{-i}$, we have

$$u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \geq u_i(s'_i, s_{-i}) \Leftrightarrow u_j(s_i, s_{-i}) \leq u_j(s'_i, s_{-i}) \forall j \in I \setminus \{i\} \quad (1.1)$$

◦ G is a game of type C if for each $i \in I$, for all $s_i, s'_i \in S_i$ and all $s_{-i} \in S_{-i}$, we have

$$u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(s'_i, s_{-i}) \Rightarrow u_j(s_i, s_{-i}) \leq u_j(s'_i, s_{-i}) \forall j \in I \setminus \{i\} \quad (1.2)$$

and

$$u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) = u_i(s'_i, s_{-i}) \Rightarrow u_j(s_i, s_{-i}) = u_j(s'_i, s_{-i}) \forall j \in I \setminus \{i\} \quad (1.3)$$

Remarks:

1. By definition, every game of type A is of type B and every game of type B is of type C.
2. Two-person games of type A have been introduced under the name of strictly competitive games (Friedman 1983, Moulin 1976). Games of type B and C are also called unilaterally competitive games and weakly unilaterally competitive games (Kats and Thisse 1992).

Kats and Thisse (1992) have shown that every game of type C has a unique equilibrium payoff, and that equilibria of a game of type B are interchangeable under some conditions on the sets of strategies and on the payoff functions.

2 n -person game of type I, II and IV

The classes of games of type A, B and C are defined directly by the preferences of each player without resorting to other concepts. This is no more the case for the classes we introduce now: we compare the strategic behavior of the players with the help of the notion of twisted equilibrium.

2.1 $n = 2$

Let $G = (S_1, S_2, u_1, u_2)$ be a two-person game. We associate to G the game $\bar{G} = (S_1, S_2, -u_2, -u_1)$. \bar{G} is called the twisted game. $s \in S$ is a twisted equilibrium of G if s is a Nash equilibrium of \bar{G} (Aumann 1961).

$e \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is a twisted equilibrium payoff of G if there exists a twisted equilibrium s such that $u_i(s) = e_i$ for each $i = 1, 2$.

Aumann gives the following definition of an almost strictly competitive game when $n = 2$ (Aumann 1961).

Definition 2 G is an almost strictly competitive (ASC) game if

- (i) there exists $s \in S$ which is a Nash and a twisted equilibrium;
- (ii) the set of Nash equilibrium payoffs is equal to the set of twisted equilibrium payoffs.

Condition (i) of Definition 2 may be defined using the notion of a saddle-point of a two-person game (Beaud 1999):

Definition 3 $\tilde{s} \in S$ is a saddle-point of the game G if for all $s \in S$, $i \in I$,

$$u_i(s_i, \tilde{s}_{-i}) \leq u_i(\tilde{s}) \leq u_i(\tilde{s}_i, s_{-i})$$

It is shown that the set of saddle-points of G , denoted by $S(G)$, is equal to the intersection of the sets of Nash and twisted equilibria of G . Hence, condition (i) of Definition 2 is equivalent to: $S(G) \neq \emptyset$.

Aumann has shown that every almost strictly competitive game has a unique Nash equilibrium payoff.

2.2 $n \geq 3$: saddle-point and value of a n -person game

The definition of a twisted game does not extend when the number of players is greater than 2. In this latter case, how can we generalize the notion of a twisted equilibrium? Kats and Thisse suggest the following definition of a twisted equilibrium (Kats and Thisse 1992):

Definition 4 $\bar{s} \in S$ is a twisted equilibrium of a game G if $u_j(\bar{s}) \leq u_j(s_i, \bar{s}_{-i})$ for all $i \in I$, $s_i \in S_i$ and for all $j \in I \setminus \{i\}$.

By using this definition of a twisted equilibrium, the definition of an almost strictly competitive game can be extended to n -person games.

Unfortunately, Kats and Thisse's definition is not satisfactory: we give now an example of a three-person almost strictly competitive game having two different Nash equilibrium payoffs.

Example 1. $n = 3$, $S_i = \{A_i, B_i\}$ for each $i \in I$.

If $s_3 = A_3$:

$$\begin{array}{cc} & \begin{array}{cc} A_2 & B_2 \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} A_1 \\ B_1 \end{array} & \begin{pmatrix} 1, 3, 5 & 1, 3, 5 \\ 1, 4, 5 & 1, 4, 5 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

If $s_3 = B_3$:

$$\begin{array}{cc} & \begin{array}{cc} A_2 & B_2 \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} A_1 \\ B_1 \end{array} & \begin{pmatrix} 1, 4, 5 & 1, 4, 5 \\ 1, 4, 5 & 1, 4, 5 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

There are two Nash equilibria: (A_1, B_2, A_3) and (B_1, B_2, B_3) . Hence $NEP = \{(1, 3, 5), (1, 4, 5)\}$.

(A_1, B_2, A_3) and (B_1, B_2, B_3) are also the only twisted equilibria. Hence, $TEP = \{(1, 3, 5), (1, 4, 5)\}$.

So, there exists a profile of strategies which is a twisted and a Nash equilibrium, and the sets of Nash equilibrium payoffs and twisted equilibrium payoffs coincide: the game is almost strictly competitive and have two distinct Nash equilibrium payoffs contrary to the two-person case.

Let us first generalize the notion of saddle-point to n -person games.

Definition 5 $\tilde{s} \in S$ is a saddle-point of the game $G = (I, (S_i)_{i \in I}, (u_i)_{i \in I})$ if for every $i \in I$, for every $s \in S$,

$$u_i(s_i, \tilde{s}_{-i}) \leq u_i(\tilde{s}) \leq u_i(\tilde{s}_i, s_{-i}) \quad (2.4)$$

We denote by $S(G)$ the set of saddle-points of G .

Equation (2.4) means that for every $i \in I$, \tilde{s} is a saddle-point of the function u_i with respect to maximizing in s_i and minimizing in s_{-i} (Rockafellar 1970).

This leads to the following definition:

Definition 6 $\bar{s} \in S$ is a strong twisted equilibrium of a n -person game G if:

$$\forall i \in I, \forall s_{-i} \in S_{-i}, u_i(\bar{s}) \leq u_i(\bar{s}_i, s_{-i}) \quad (2.5)$$

We denote by $STE(G)$ (resp. $STEP(G)$) the set of strong twisted equilibria (resp. the set of the payoffs induced by the strong twisted equilibria).

Remarks:

1. In definition 4, any (unilateral) deviation of Player i induces a gain for all the other players whereas in definition 6, any deviation of (part of) the other players induces a gain for Player i .
2. Definition 6 is the same as the definition of a twisted equilibrium when $n = 2$.
3. In the above example, $(1, 4, 5)$ is not a strong twisted equilibrium payoff.

Definition 7 $G = (I, (S_i)_{i \in I}, (u_i)_{i \in I})$ is a game of:

◊ type I if

- a) there exists a profile of strategies which is a Nash and a strong twisted equilibrium,
- b) the set of Nash equilibrium payoffs is equal to the set of strong twisted equilibrium payoffs;

◊ type II if

- a) there exists a profile of strategies which is a Nash and a strong twisted equilibrium,
- b') the intersection between the set of Nash equilibrium payoffs and the set of strong twisted equilibrium payoffs is non empty;

◊ type IV if

- b') the intersection between the set of Nash equilibrium payoffs and the set of strong twisted equilibrium payoffs is non empty.

Example 2. Let $n = 3$, $S_i = \{A_i, B_i\}$ for each $i \in I$.

If $s_3 = A_3$:

$$\begin{array}{cc} & \begin{array}{cc} A_2 & B_2 \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} A_1 \\ B_1 \end{array} & \begin{pmatrix} 1, 0, 0 & 0, 1, 0 \\ 0, 0, 1 & 0, 0, 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

If $s_3 = B_3$:

$$\begin{array}{cc} & \begin{array}{cc} A_2 & B_2 \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} A_1 \\ B_1 \end{array} & \begin{pmatrix} 0, 0, 0 & 0, 0, 1 \\ 0, 1, 0 & 1, 0, 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

This game has two Nash equilibria, (B_1, B_2, A_3) and (A_1, A_2, B_3) , which induce a payoff equal to $(0, 0, 0)$. Indeed (B_1, B_2, A_3) and (A_1, A_2, B_3) are saddle-points.

By definition of a Nash and of a strong twisted equilibrium, we get the following property:

Property 21 For every n -person game G , $S(G) = NE(G) \cap STE(G)$.

When $n = 2$, saddle-points are interchangeable (Beaud 1999). This is no more the case when $n > 2$. In the example above, (B_1, B_2, A_3) and (A_1, A_2, B_3) are saddle-points, but not (A_1, A_2, A_3) .

2.2.1 Value of a n -person game

We can associate to each Player i two quantities:

1. The max-min of Player i : $\underline{\nu}_i = \max_{S_i} \min_{S_{-i}} u_i(\cdot, \cdot)$.
2. The min-max of Player i : $\bar{\nu}_i = \min_{S_{-i}} \max_{S_i} u_i(\cdot, \cdot)$.

Note that $\bar{\nu}_i \geq \underline{\nu}_i$ for all $i \in I$.

Definition 8 The n -person game $G = (I, (S_i)_{i \in I}, (u_i)_{i \in I})$ has a vector value $\nu \in \mathbb{R}^n$ if $\bar{\nu}_i = \underline{\nu}_i = \nu_i$ for all $i \in I$.

For example, it is well known that every two-person zero-sum game has a value (recall Hypothesis 1).

De Wolf (1999) generalizes this result to n -person games of type C. In fact, we have this stronger result (see Section 3):

Property 22 Every n -person game of type IV has a value, and this value is the unique Nash equilibrium payoff.

Proof:

Let $i \in I$ and $e \in NEP(G) \cap STEP(G)$.

Consider $s^* \in NE(G)$ and $\bar{s} \in STE(G)$ such that $u_i(\bar{s}) = u_i(s^*) = e_i$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} e_i = u_i(s^*) &\geq \max_{S_i} u_i(s_i, s_{-i}^*) \geq \min_{S_{-i}} \max_{S_i} u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \\ e_i = u_i(\bar{s}) &\leq \min_{S_{-i}} u_i(\bar{s}_i, s_{-i}) \leq \max_{S_i} \min_{S_{-i}} u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\bar{\nu}_i \leq e_i \leq \underline{\nu}_i$.

So $e_i = \underline{\nu}_i = \bar{\nu}_i = \nu_i$. ■

3 Connection between the indifferent classes

The definitions of the indifferent classes of games imply that every game of type A (respectively B, I, II) is a game of type B (resp. C, II, IV).

When $n = 2$, it is known that every game of type C is of type II (Beaud 1999). When $n > 2$, this is still the case. De Wolf has proved that for a game of type C, for each player $i \in I$, if any players $-i$ deviate from their equilibrium strategy, then Player i 's payoff increases (De Wolf 1999). This implies that for every game of type C, $NE(G)$ is a subset of $STE(G)$. Hence:

Property 31 Every n -person game of type C is a game of type II.

Remark: Example 2 is an example of a game of type I but not of type C: when $s_2 = B_2$ and $s_3 = A_3$, Player 1 is indifferent between A_1 and B_1 , but not Player 2. There exists also game of type C but not of type I (Beaud 1999, Example 2.3)³.

³ A figure showing the connections between the indifferent classes is placed at the end of this paper.

4 Extensive form game

4.1 n -person game of type I

The aim of this section is to generalize Theorem *D* of Aumann (1961) to the n -person case. We refer to Owen (1995) for the definition of an extensive game and its properties.

Theorem 1 Let G be a n -person extensive game which decomposes at a move X and G^X be of type I. Let G^D be the difference game, where the payoff to G^D at (the terminal node) X is the value of G^X . Assume that G^D is of type I. Then G is of type I, $NEP(G) = \nu(G^D)$, and the composition of saddle points in G^X and G^D yields a saddle-point in G .

Proof of the Theorem

Let s be a strategy profile. We denote by s^X the couple of strategies obtained by restricting s to G^X . We define similarly s^D . We denote by u_i^Γ the payoff of player i in the game Γ .

We need the following result

Theorem 2 Let G decomposes at X , and let s be a strategy such that (i) s^X is a strong twisted equilibrium of G^X , and (ii) $s^{G \setminus X}$ is a strong twisted equilibrium of $G \setminus X$ with payoff $u(s^X)$ assigned to the terminal payoff X . Then s is a strong twisted equilibrium of G .

Proof: Let s be an n -tuple of strategies which verifies (i) and (ii), $i \in I$ and $s'_{-i} \in S_{-i}$. From (i), we have

$$u_i(s_i^X, s'_{-i}) \geq u_i(s^X) \quad (4.6)$$

We denote by G_s^D the demand game where the payoff associated to the (terminal) node X is $u(s^X)$. From (ii), we have in the game G_s^D :

$$u_i(s_i^D, s'_{-i}) \geq u_i(s^D) \quad (4.7)$$

But the payoff of player i induced by (s_i, s'_{-i}) is greater in $G_{s_i, s'_{-i}}^D$ than in G_s^D . Hence, $u_i(s_i, s'_{-i}) \geq u_i(s)$ (Owen 1995, Theorem I.4.3). ■

Lemma 1 Let ν be the unique equilibrium payoff of G^D . Then every equilibrium payoff in G is equal to ν .

Proof: The proof in the n -person case is similar as the proof in the 2-person case (Aumann 1961). ■

Let s be a strong twisted equilibrium in G . We denote by s^X the strategy obtained by restricting s to G^X . We denote by P_s the probability over nodes induced by s .

Lemma 2 Every strong twisted equilibrium payo e of G is equal to ν .

Proof: First, we prove that: (A) if $P_s(X) > 0$, then s^X is an strong twisted equilibrium of G^X ; and (B) s^D is an equilibrium of G^D .

(A): The proof of (A) is the same as for Nash equilibrium (Aumann 1961).

(B): If $P_s(X) > 0$, s^X is a strong twisted equilibrium of G^X , then $G_s^D = G^D$ and if s^D is not a twisted equilibrium of G^D , we can construct a strategy such that s is not a strong twisted equilibrium of G .

If $P_s(X) = 0$, the payo e in G_s^D is the same as the one in G^D . Let s'_{-i} be such that (2.5) is not satisfied. Let \tilde{s}^X_{-i} be a saddle-point of G^X . Then

$$\begin{aligned} u_i^G(s_i, (s'_{-i}, \tilde{s}^X_{-i})) &\leq u_i^{G^D}(s_i, (s'_{-i}, \tilde{s}^X_{-i})) \\ &= u_i^{G_s^D}(s_i, (s'_{-i}, \tilde{s}^X_{-i})) \\ &< u_i^{G_s^D}(s^D) = u_i^G(s) \end{aligned}$$

which is impossible. So (B) is true.

Now, we apply Theorem I.4.3 in Owen (1995): for all $i \in I$, $u_i(s) = u_i^{G^D}(s^D) = \nu(G^D) = \nu$. ■

Lemmata 1 and 2 imply that condition b) is satisfied.

Lemma 3 The composition of a Nash (resp. strong twisted) equilibrium of G^X and of G^D yields a Nash (resp. strong twisted) equilibrium of G .

Proof

The proof for the Nash equilibria is the same as in (Aumann 1961). For the strong twisted equilibria, it is a consequence of theorem 2 because $G_s^D = G^D$. ■

Let s^X (resp. s^D) be a Nash and a strong twisted equilibrium of G^X (resp. G^D). By Lemma 3, the composition of s^X and s^D is a Nash and a strong twisted equilibrium of G . Hence, condition a) is satisfied and G is of type I. ■

5 Examples

5.1 Bertrand's model

n firms produce the same item. The marginal cost is the same for each firm and is equal to c . The firms choose simultaneously their prices $p_1, \dots, p_n \geq c$. The demand of the consumers is represented by a function $D(p)$ where $p = (p_1, \dots, p_n)$ is the profile of prices chosen by the firms. (Kreps 1990). The profit of firm i is

$$\Pi_i(p_1, \dots, p_n) = (p_i - c)D_i(p_1, \dots, p_n)$$

where $D_i(p) = \frac{D(p_i)}{|\arg \min\{p_k\}_{k=1,\dots,n}|} \mathbf{1}_{\{p_i \in \arg \min\{p_k\}_{k=1,\dots,n}\}}$, $|L|$ denoting the cardinality of the finite set L .

The aim is to show that Bertrand's model is a game of type I, but not of type C.

Lemma 4 (c, \dots, c) is a Nash equilibrium of this game.

Lemma 5 $(0, \dots, 0)$ is the unique Nash equilibrium payoff.

Proof:

Let p^* be an equilibrium and let us suppose that Player i 's payoff is positive for some $i \in I$. This implies that $p_i^* > c$. But then player i has always incentive to deviate in playing $\min_{j \in I} \{p_j^*\} - \varepsilon$ for some ε sufficiently small, $\varepsilon > 0$. ■

Lemma 6 (c, \dots, c) is a strong twisted equilibrium of this game, and each strong twisted equilibrium induces a payoff of 0 to every player.

Proof:

Let $i \in I$. Then $\Pi_i(c, \dots, c) = \Pi_i(c, p_{-i}) = 0$ for all p_{-i} . Moreover at every strong twisted equilibrium, at least one player plays c . ■

The Bertrand's model is a game of type I: by Lemmas 4 and 6, $NE \cap STE \neq \emptyset$ and by Lemma 5 we have that $NEP = STEP$. But it is not a game of type C: suppose $n = 3$, then $\Pi_1(c, 2c, 2c) = \Pi_1(3c, 2c, 2c) = 0$ and $\Pi_2(c, 2c, 2c) = 0 < \Pi_1(3c, 2c, 2c) = D(2c)/2$.

5.2 Auctions

A divisible item is sold by auction (see for example Wolfstetter (1996)). Player i 's valuation of the item is v_i . We assume that everybody knows the valuation of the other players. The bid of Player i belongs to the set $S_i = \{1, \dots, v_i - 1\}$ ⁴. Player i bids $s_i \in S_i$. The player who has done the greatest bid wins the auction. If there is more than one winner, the item is divided. The payoff function of Player 1 is equal to $u_i(s) = \frac{1}{\varphi(s)}(v_i - s_i) \mathbf{1}_{\{s_i = \max_{j \in I} s_j\}}$ where $\varphi(s) = |\arg \max\{s_1, s_2, s_3\}|$.

The game $(I, (S_i)_{i \in I}, (u_i)_{i \in I})$ fulfills hypothesis 1: (98,97,97) is an equilibrium.

Lemma 7 This game is a game of type C.

Proof: Let $i \in I$, $s \in S$ and $s'_{-i} \in S_i$. We denote $W(s) = \{i \in \arg \max_{i \in I} s_i\}$.

1. Suppose that $u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) = u_i(s'_i, s_{-i}) = \alpha$.

⁴ Note that we restrict here the bids available to Player i .

- (a) $\alpha > 0$. Then $i \in W(s)$, and $s_i = s'_i$ and $u_j(s) = u_j(s'_i, s_{-i})$ for all $j \neq i$.
- (b) $\alpha = 0$. This implies that i does not belong to $W(s)$ and $W(s'_i, s_{-i})$. $W(s) = W(s'_i, s_{-i})$, hence $u_j(s) = u_j(s'_i, s_{-i})$ for all $j \neq i$.
2. Suppose that $u_i(s_i, s_{-i}) > u_i(s'_i, s_{-i})$. Then $i \in W(s)$ and $u_j(s_i, s_{-i}) \leq u_j(s'_i, s_{-i}) = \alpha$ for all j . ■

For other economical examples, see De Wolf (1999).

5.3 "Perturbation" of two-person zero-sum games

Let $\Gamma = (S_1, S_2, u, -u)$ be a two-person zero-sum game and let $\delta_i : S_{-i} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for $i = 1, 2$.

We associate to Γ the non-zero sum game $G = (S_1, S_2, \mathcal{U}_1, \mathcal{U}_2)$ where $\mathcal{U}_1(s_1, s_2) = u(s_1, s_2) - \delta_1(s_2)$ and $\mathcal{U}_2(s_1, s_2) = -u(s_1, s_2) - \delta_2(s_1)$. G may be considered as a perturbation of the zero-sum game Γ .

It is easy to check that G is a game of type B, and that G and Γ have the same set of Nash equilibria.

Acknowledgements I would like to thank my PhD advisor Sylvain Sorin for the time he spent on this article and for his numerous comments. I thank also James W. Friedman for his advice and for pointing out an error in a first draft of this paper. This work was prepared under the financial support of the TMR network.

Fig. 2 Connection between the dicœrent classes

References

- Aumann, R. J. (1961). Almost strictly competitive games, *Journal of the SIAM* 9: 544~550.
- Beaud, J. P. (1999). Antagonistic games, *Cahiers du Laboratoire d'Econometrie de l'Ecole Polytechnique* 495.
- Chin, H., Parthasarathy, T. and Raghavan, T. (1974). Structure of equilibria in N -person non-cooperative games, *International Journal of Game Theory* 3: 1~19.
- De Wolf, O. (1999). Optimal strategies in n -person unilaterally competitive games, C.O.R.EDP 9949.
- Friedman, J. (1983). On characterizing equilibrium points in two-person strictly competitive games, *International Journal of Game Theory* 12: 245~247.
- Glicksberg, I. (1952). A further generalization of the Kakutani fixed point theorem, with application to Nash equilibrium points, *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, number 3, pp. 170~174.
- Kats, A. and Thisse, J. (1992). Unilaterally competitive games, *International Journal of Game Theory* 21: 291~299.
- Kreps, D. (1990). *A course in microeconomic theory*, Princeton University Press.
- Moulin, H. (1976). Cooperation in mixed equilibrium, *Mathematics of Operations Research* 1: 273~286.
- Nash, J. (1951). Non-cooperative games, *Annals of Mathematics* 54: 286~295.
- Owen, G. (1995). *Game Theory*, Academic Press.
- Rockafellar, R. T. (1970). *Convex Analysis*, Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Wolfstetter, E. (1996). Auctions: an introduction, *Journal of Economic Surveys* 10: 367~420.