Multiagent Systems (BE4M36MAS)

Solving Extensive-Form Games

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Previously ... on multi-agent systems.

- 1 Extensive-Form Games
- 2 Transformations between representations

Strategies in EFGs



What are actions and strategies in this game?

$$S_1 = \{ (A, G), (A, H), (B, G), (B, H) \}$$

$$S_2 = \{ (C, E), (C, F), (D, E), (D, F) \}$$

Induced Normal Form



(2,10) (1,0)

	(C, E)	(C,F)	(D, E)	(D,F)
(A,G)	(3,8)	(3, 8)	(8,3)	(8,3)
(A,H)	(3,8)	(3, 8)	(8,3)	(8,3)
(B,G)	(5,5)	(2, 10)	(5, 5)	(2, 10)
(B,H)	(5,5)	(1, 0)	(5,5)	(1,0)

Nash Equilibria in EFGs



(2,10) (1,0)

	(C, E)	(C,F)	(D, E)	(D,F)
(A,G)	(3,8)	(3 , 8)	(8,3)	(8,3)
(A,H)	(3,8)	(3 , 8)	(8,3)	(8,3)
(B,G)	(5,5)	(2, 10)	(5, 5)	(2, 10)
(B,H)	(5, 5)	(1,0)	(5,5)	(1,0)

Nash Equilibria in EFGs - threats



(2,10)	(1,0)
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	(C, E)	(C,F)	(D,E)	(D,F)
(A,G)	(3,8)	(3 , 8)	(8, 3)	(8,3)
(A,H)	(3,8)	(3 , 8)	(8, 3)	(8,3)
(B,G)	(5,5)	(2, 10)	(5, 5)	(2, 10)
(B,H)	(5, 5)	(1,0)	(5,5)	(1,0)

Not all Nash strategies are entirely "sequentially rational" in EFGs. Off the equilibrium path, the players may use irrational actions.

We use *refinements of NE* in EFGs to avoid this. The best known (for EFGs with perfect information) is **Subgame-perfect** equilibrium.

Definition (Subgame)

Given a perfect-information extensive-form game G, the subgame of G rooted at node h is the restriction of G to the descendants of h. The set of subgames of G consists of all of subgames of G rooted at some node in G.

Definition (Subgame-perfect equilibrium)

The subgame-perfect equilibria (SPE) of a game G are all strategy profiles s such that for any subgame G' of G, the restriction of s to G' is a Nash equilibrium of G'.

```
function BACKWARDINDUCTION(node h)
    if h \in \mathcal{Z} then
        return u(h)
    end if
    best_util \leftarrow \infty
    for all a \in \chi(h) do
         util_at_child \leftarrow BACKWARDINDUCTION(\varphi(h, a))
        if util_at\_child_{\rho(h)} > best\_util_{\rho(h)} then
             best_util \leftarrow util_at child
        end if
    end for
end function
```

This is the same algorithm (in principle) that you know as Minimax (or Alpha-Beta pruning, or Negascout) and works (in general) for n-player games.

Corollary

Every extensive-form game with perfect information has at least one Nash equilibria in pure strategies that is also a Subgame-perfect equilibrium.

Is this correct? We have seen examples of games that do not have pure NE.

Not every game can be represented as an EFG with perfect information.

We introduce a new "player" termed chance (or Nature) that plays using a fixed randomized strategy.

Formal Definition:

- players $\mathcal{N} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \cup \{c\}$
- \blacksquare actions \mathcal{A}
- choice nodes (histories) \mathcal{H}
- action function $\chi: \mathcal{H} \to 2^{\mathcal{A}}$
- player function $\rho: \mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{N}$
- terminal nodes \mathcal{Z}
- successor function $\varphi : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{H} \cup \mathcal{Z}$
- stochastic transitions $\gamma : \Delta\{\chi(h) \mid h \in \mathcal{H}, \rho(h) = c\}$
- utility function $u = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n); u_i : \mathcal{Z} \to \mathbb{R}$

When players are not able to observe the state of the game perfectly, we talk about *imperfect information games*. The states that are not distinguishable to a player belong to a single *information set*.

Formal Definition:

- $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{N}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{Z}, \chi, \rho, \varphi, \gamma, u)$ is a perfect-information EFG.
- $\mathcal{I} = (\mathcal{I}_1, \mathcal{I}_2, \dots, \mathcal{I}_n)$ where \mathcal{I}_i is a set of equivalence classes on choice nodes of a player i with the property that $\rho(h) = \rho(h') = i$ and $\chi(h) = \chi(h')$, whenever $h, h' \in I$ for some information set $I \in \mathcal{I}_i$
- we can use $\chi(I)$ instead of $\chi(h)$ for some $h \in I$

Strategies in EFGs with Imperfect Information



What are actions and strategies in this game?

$$\mathcal{A}_1 = \{2 - 0, 1 - 1, 0 - 2\}; \ \mathcal{S}_1 = \{2 - 0, 1 - 1, 0 - 2\}$$
$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \{no, yes\}; \ \mathcal{S}_2 = \{no, yes\}$$

There are no guarantees that a pure NE exists in imperfect information games.

Every finite game can be represented as an EFG with imperfect information.



Mixed strategies are defined as before as a probability distribution over pure strategies.

There are also other types of strategies in EFGs, namely *behavioral strategies*:

• A *behavioral strategy* of player *i* is a product of probability distributions over actions in each information set

$$\beta_i:\prod_{I\in \mathcal{I}_I}\Delta(\chi(I))$$

There is a broad class of imperfect-information games in which the expressiveness of mixed and behavioral strategies coincide – *perfect recall games.* Informally, no player forgets any information she previously knew in these games.

Perfect Recall in EFGs

Definition

Player *i* has perfect recall in an imperfect-information game *G* if for any two nodes h,h' that are in the same information set for player *i*, for any path $h_0, a_0, \ldots, h_n, a_n, h$ from the root of the game tree to *h* and for any path $h_0, a'_0, \ldots, h'_m, a'_m, h'$ from the root to h' it must be the case that:

$$1 \quad n = m$$

- 2 for all $0 \le j \le n$, h_j and h_j' are in the same equivalence class for player i
- 3 for all $0 \le j \le n$, if $\rho(h_j) = i$, then $a_j = a'_j$

Definition

We say that an EFG has a *perfect recall* if all players have perfect recall. Otherwise we say that the game has an *imperfect recall*.

Backward induction does not work, there is a dependence between the information sets.

The algorithms (typically) need to consider the game as a whole:

- We can solve an EFG as a normal-form game.
- We can use so-called *sequence form* to formulate a linear program that has a linear size in the size of the game.

State-of-the-art algorithms:

- Double Oracle for Extensive-Form Games (DOEFG) [Bosansky et al., 2014]
- Counterfactual Regret Minimization (CFR) [Zinkevich et al., 2008, Tammelin, O. 2014]
- Excessive Gap Technique (EGT) [Hoda et al., 2010, Kroer et al., 2018]

LP Algorithms for Extensive-Form Games

Algorithms based on linear programming

Imperfect Information EFG



Induced Normal-Form Game



	XZ	XW	YZ	YW
ACE	3	3	1	1
ACF	3	3	1	1
ADE	-2	-2	3	3
ADF	-2	-2	3	3
BCE	2	0	2	0
BCF	1	3	1	3
BDE	2	0	2	0
BDF	1	3	1	3

Normal form representation is too verbose. The same leaf is stated multiple times in the table.

We can avoid it by using sequences.

Sequences in Extensive-Form Games



Definition

An ordered list of actions of player i executed from the root of the game tree to some node $h \in \mathcal{H}$ is called a *sequence* σ_i . Set of all possible sequences of player i is denoted Σ_i .

Sequences in Extensive-Form Games



$\Delta(\Sigma_1)$	$\nabla(\Sigma_2)$
Ø	Ø
A	X
В	Y
AC	Z
AD	W
BE	
BF	

Definition

An ordered list of actions of player i executed from the root of the game tree to some node $h \in \mathcal{H}$ is called a *sequence* σ_i . Set of all possible sequences of player i is denoted Σ_i .

Extended Utility Function



$\triangle(\Sigma_1)$	$\nabla(\Sigma_2)$
Ø	Ø
A	X
В	Y
AC	Z
AD	W
BE	
BF	

We need to extend the utility function to operate over sequences: $g: \Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2 \to \mathbb{R},$

where $g(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) =$

- u(z) iff z corresponds to a leaf (terminal history) represented by sequences σ_1 and σ_2
- 0 otherwise

Extended Utility Function



$\triangle(\Sigma_1)$	$\nabla(\Sigma_2)$
Ø	Ø
A	X
В	Y
AC	Z
AD	W
BE	
BF	

In games with chance a combination of sequences can lead to multiple nodes/leafs. $g(\sigma_1,\sigma_2)=$

- $\sum_{z \in \mathcal{Z}'} \mathcal{C}(z)u(z)$ iff \mathcal{Z}' is a set of leafs that correspond to history represented by sequences σ_1 and σ_2 , and $\mathcal{C}(z)$ represents the probability of leaf z being reached due to chance
- 0 otherwise

Extended Utility Function



Examples:

- ${\scriptstyle \blacksquare} \ g(\emptyset,W)=0$
- $\bullet \ g(AC,W)=0$
- $\bullet \ g(BF,W) = 3$
- $\bullet \ g(A,X)=0$

. . .

Realization Plans



$\triangle(\Sigma_1)$	$\nabla(\Sigma_2)$
Ø	Ø
A	X
В	Y
AC	Z
AD	W
BE	
BF	

We need to express a mixed strategy using sequences. We need to be prepared for all situations.

Let's assume that the opponent (player 2) will play everything and assign a probability that certain sequence σ_1 will be played.

A realization plan $(r_i(\sigma_i))$ is a probability that sequence σ_i will be played assuming player -i plays such actions that allow actions from σ_i to be executed.

Realization Plans



Examples:

- $\bullet r_1(\emptyset) = 1$
- $\bullet r_1(A) + r_1(B) = r_1(\emptyset)$
- $r_1(AC) + r_1(AD) = r_1(A)$
- $r_1(BE) + r_1(BF) = r_1(B)$

$\triangle(\Sigma_1)$	$\nabla(\Sigma_2)$
Ø	Ø
A	X
B	Y
AC	Z
AD	W
BE	
BF	

•
$$r_2(\emptyset) = 1$$

• $r_2(X) + r_2(Y) = r_2(\emptyset)$
• $r_2(Z) + r_2(W) = r_2(\emptyset)$

Best Response



$\Delta(\Sigma_1)$	$\nabla(\Sigma_2)$
Ø	Ø
A	X
В	Y
AC	Z
AD	W
BE	
BF	

- We now have almost everything a strategy representation and an extended utility function.
- We will have a maximization objective and need a best response for the minimizing player.
- A player selects the best action (the one that minimizes the expected utility) in each information set.
- An expected utility after playing an action in an information set corresponds to a sum of (1) utility values of leafs and (2) information sets that are immediately reached.

Sequence Form Linear Program (SQF)

We are now ready to state the linear program:

$$\max_{r_1,v} v(root) \tag{1}$$

s.t.
$$r_1(\emptyset) = 1$$
 (2)

$$0 \le r_1(\sigma_1) \le 1 \qquad \forall \sigma_1 \in \Sigma_1$$
(3)

$$\sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}(I_1)} r_1(\sigma_1 a) = r_1(\sigma_1) \quad \forall I_1 \in \mathcal{I}_1, \sigma_1 = \mathsf{seq}_1(I_1)$$
 (4)

 $\sum_{I' \in \mathcal{I}_2: \sigma_2 a = \mathsf{seq}_2(I')} v(I') + \sum_{\sigma_1 \in \Sigma_1} g(\sigma_1, \sigma_2 a) r_1(\sigma_1) \ge v(I) \qquad \forall I \in \mathcal{I}_2, \sigma_2 = \mathsf{seq}_2(I), \forall a \in \mathcal{A}(I)$ (5)

- $seq_i(I)$ is a sequence of player *i* to information set,
- $I \in \mathcal{I}_i$, v_I is an expected utility in an information set,
- $\inf_i(\sigma_i)$ is an information set, where the last action of σ_i has been executed,
- $\sigma_i a$ denotes an extension of a sequence σ_i with action a

Sequence Form LP - Example



$$\max_{r_1,v} v(\inf_2(X)) + v(\inf_2(Z))$$
(6)

$$r_1(\emptyset) = 1; r_1(A) + r_1(B) = r_1(\emptyset)$$
 (7)

$$r_1(AC) + r_1(AD) = r_1(A),$$
 (8)

$$r_1(BE) + r_1(BF) = r_1(B)$$
(9)

$$v(\inf_2(X)) \le 0 + g(AC, X)r_1(AC) + g(AD, X)r_1(AD)$$
 (10)

$$v(\inf_2(Y)) \le 0 + g(AC, Y)r_1(AC) + g(AD, Y)r_1(AD)$$
 (11)

 $v(\inf_{2}(Z)) \le 0 + g(BE, Z)r_{1}(BE) + g(BF, Z)r_{1}(BF)$ (12)

 $v(\inf_2(W)) \le 0 + g(BE, W)r_1(BE) + g(BF, W)r_1(BF)$ (13)

Sequence Form LP - Example



$$\min_{r_2,v} v(\inf_1(A)) \tag{14}$$

$$r_2(\emptyset) = 1; r_2(X) + r_2(Y) = r_2(\emptyset)$$
 (15)

$$r_2(Z) + r_2(W) = r_2(\emptyset)$$
 (16)

$$v(\inf_1(A)) \ge v(\inf_1(AC)), \ v(\inf_1(B)) \ge v(\inf_1(BE))$$
(17)

$$v(\inf_1(AC)) \ge g(AC, X)r_2(X) + g(AC, Y)r_2(Y)$$
 (18)

$$v(\inf_1(AD)) \ge g(AD, X)r_2(X) + g(AD, Y)r_2(Y)$$
 (19)

$$v(\inf_1(BE)) \ge g(BE, Z)r_2(Z) + g(BE, W)r_2(W)$$
 (20)

$$v(\inf_1(BF)) \ge g(BF, Z)r_2(Z) + g(BF, W)r_2(W)$$
 (21)

Simple Network Security Scenario - Flip-It Game



Flip-it Game in a network

- players aim to gain control over the hosts in the network
- the defender initially controls all hosts
- both players choose which node to attack/protect simultaneously (in case of a tie, the control of the node does not change)
- players only observe the result of their last move
- there are different rewards/costs for each node

Simple Network Security Scenario – Flip-It Game



SQF for Flip-it Game in a network

Depth	Size ($\#$ Nodes)	Time [s]	LP Time [s]
3	15,685	1	1
4	495,205	23	8
5	16,715,941	-	_

- (+) the fastest exact algorithm (if the LP fits into memory)
 (+) quite easy to implement
- (-) scales poorly due to memory limitations
- (-) very difficult to make it domain-specific

Large linear programs can be solved by an incremental construction of the LP. In game theory, the method has been known as *double-oracle algorithm*. There are 4 steps that repeat until convergence [Bosansky et al., 2014]:

- create a restricted game a simplified game where the players are allowed to choose only from a limited set of sequences of actions,
- Solve the restricted game formalize the restricted game as a sequence-form LP and solve it,
- compute the best response each player computes a best response in the original game to the strategy from the restricted game,
- 4 expand the restricted game if the best responses strictly improve the expected value, they are added as possible actions into the restricted game.

The original game. Sequences that form the restricted game will be highlighted.



Sequences AC and xz are added to the restricted game (as default sequences of actions).



Sequence yu is added to the restricted game as a best response of the minimizing player.



Sequence BE is added to the restricted game as a best response of the maximizing player.



There is no action defined for the node with history ByE. The algorithm turns that node into a temporary leaf and assigns a temporary utility value for that leaf.



The algorithm turns the temporary leaf into a node when an action s or t is added into the restricted game.



Generalization of the double oracle principle to structured strategy spaces (such as sequences/realization plans).

Creating a valid restricted game is more complicated than adding a single strategy (one may need to create temporary leaves).

DOEFG converges in at most linear number of iterations in the size of the game tree (compared to the exponential number of iterations when using strategies).

Simple Network Security Scenario – Flip-It Game

DOEFG for Flip-it Game in a network

Depth	# Nodes	SQF [s]	SQF LP [s]	DOEFG [s]
3	15,685	1	1	1
4	495,205	23	8	9
5	16,715,941	-	—	508

- (+) can solve much larger domains compared to SQF
- (+) in a domain-independent way, the algorithm identifies necessary strategies to consider in a large EFG
- (+) best-response algorithms can be significantly improved for specific domains/problems
- (-) not that easy to implement
- (-) the sequence-form linear program of the restricted game can be a bottleneck

DOEFG with ordered moves for BR algorithm for Flip-it Game in a network

Depth	# Nodes	SQF [s]	SQF LP [s]	DOEFG [s]	DOEFG ordered [s]
3	15,685	1	1	1	1
4	495,205	23	8	9	5
5	16,715,941	-	_	508	168

For depth 6 (size $\approx 4 \times 10^9$ nodes), DOEFG with ordered moves for BR reached error 0.1 in 2 hours.

Approximate Algorithms for Extensive-Form Games

Algorithms based on Counterfactual Regret Minimization

Instead of computing the optimal strategy directly, one can employ learning algorithms and learn the strategy via repeated (simulated, or self-) play.

The algorithm minimizes so called *regret* and these algorithms are also known as *no-regret learning* algorithms.

Main idea:

- in each iteration, traverse through the game tree and adapt the strategy in each information set according to the learning rule
- this learning rule minimizes the (counterfactual) regret
- the algorithm minimizes the overall regret in the game
- the average strategy converges to the optimal strategy

Player $i\mbox{'s regret for } not \ playing an action \ a'_i \ \mbox{against opponent's action } a_{-i}$

$$u_i(a'_i, a_{-i}) - u_i(a_i, a_{-i})$$

In extensive-form games we need to evaluate the value for each action in an information set *(counterfactual value)*

$$v_i(s,I) = \sum_{z \in \mathcal{Z}_I} \pi^s_{-i}(z[I])\pi^s_i(z|z[I])u_i(z),$$

where

- \mathcal{Z}_I are leafs reachable from information set I
- z[I] is the history prefix of z in I
- $\pi^s_i(h)$ is the probability of player i reaching node h following strategy s

Counterfactual value for one deviation in information set I; strategy s is altered in information set I by playing action $a: v_i(s_{I \rightarrow a}, I)$

at a time step t, the algorithm computes *counterfactual regret* for current strategy

$$r_i^t(I,a) = v_i(s_{I \to a}, I) - v_i(s_I, I)$$

the algorithm calculates the cumulative regret

$$R_i^T = \sum_{t=1}^T r_i^t(I, a), \qquad \qquad R_i^{T,+}(I, a) = \max\{R_i^T(I, a), 0\}$$

strategy for the next iteration is selected using regret matching

$$s_i^{t+1}(I,a) = \begin{cases} \frac{R_i^{T,+}(I,a)}{\sum_{a' \in \mathcal{A}(I)} R_i^{T,+}(I,a')} & \text{if the denominator is positive} \\ \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}(I)|} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Simple Network Security Scenario - Flip-It Game

CFR for Flip-it Game in a network¹



¹With the game tree pre-built in memory (took 1088s).

There are **many** variants of the vanilla CFR algorithm:

- MCCFR CFR updates are not performed in the complete game, but using outcome sampling (faster iterations) [Lanctot, 2013, Brown and Sandholm, 2016]
- CFR-BR the second player performs a best-response (BR) update instead of a CFR update (ideal for games where a domain-specific BR algorithm is available)
 [Johanson et al., 2011]
- CFR-D decomposition of CFR updates by subgames (helpful if the game is too large to keep all information sets in memory) [Burch et al., 2014]
- CFR+ main modification of the baseline CFR algorithm that significantly improves convergence [Tammelin, O. 2014]

CFR+ differs from CFR in three aspects:

- only positive regrets are kept in cumulative regrets R_i^T
- players are alternating in the updates
- in the computation of the average strategy, first d iterations are ignored, later iterations are more important compared to first iterations

Sometimes, even the current strategy reaches low exploitability.

Extensions of Counterfactual Regret Minimization (CFR+)



Figure 2: No Limit Texas Hold'em flop subgame

²Figure from [Tammelin, O. 2014].

(+) practical optimization algorithm

- (+) easy to implement [Lanctot, 2013, p.22]
- (+) memory requirements can be reduced with domain-specific implementation (or CFR-D)
- (-) CFR converges very slowly if a close approximation is required (CFR+ is better)
- (-) performance in other domains than poker is largely unknown (in some cases slower than DOEFG)

Is there no hope for a provably algorithm that behaves similarly to perfect information games?

Recently, new methods that allow limited-lookahead algorithm for imperfect information games for poker [Moravcik et al., 2017, Brown and Sandholm, 2017].

Key properties:

- Use (a more complex) heuristic function to evaluate positions at the end of the depth-limited game tree
- Solve an EFG with a limited lookahead (e.g., using CFR or other algorithm)
- Use a specific gadget construction when advancing to next turn of the game.

One cannot assign a heuristic value just to a state (as in perfect information games), but to all states players consider possible.

Continual Resolving and Deepstack



³Picture from [Moravcik et al., 2017].

Adaptation of continual resolving technique to other (security) domains is not straightforward:

- the actions are generally not observable (the defender does not know which host the attacker infected)
- the size of information sets (in number of possible states) increases exponentially with number of turns in the game
 - the size of the information sets is changing for the heuristic/neural network
 - the size of the information sets becomes impractical for large horizon
- the number of turns can be very large (e.g., Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs))

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