### Tensors and Equilibria in Game Theory



#### Technische Universität München

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- 1 Nash equilibrium
- 2 Correlated equilibrium
- 3 Dependency equilibrium

### Example (Bach or Stravinsky)

Two people would like to go to a classical music concert together. The first person prefers to see a *Bach concert* = 1, whereas the second prefers a *Stravinsky concert* = 2.

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Two people would like to go to a classical music concert together. The first person prefers to see a *Bach concert* = 1, whereas the second prefers a *Stravinsky concert* = 2. We consider the following payoff matrices:



### Example $(2 \times 2$ game: Bach or Stravinsky)

Player 2  
Bach Stravinsky  
Player 1 Bach 
$$(3,2)$$
  $(0,0)$   
Stravinsky  $(0,0)$   $(2,3)$   
 $X^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0\\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, X^{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0\\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ 

e.g.  $X_{21}^{(1)} = 0$  represents the payoff of Player 1 when the Player 1 chooses the strategy 2 (Stravinsky concert) and Player 2 chooses the strategy 1 (Bach concert).

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, for all  $j \in [d_i]$  and  $\sum_{j=1}^{d_i} p_j^{(i)} = 1.$  (1)

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(p<sub>1</sub><sup>(i)</sup>,..., p<sub>d<sub>i</sub></sub><sup>(i)</sup>) is a point in the probability simplex Δ<sub>d<sub>i</sub>-1</sub>.
Each Player i has a d<sub>1</sub> × ··· × d<sub>n</sub> payoff tensor X<sup>(i)</sup>.

### Expected payoff of a player

The entry  $X_{j_1,\dots,j_n}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}$  represents the value of the payoff of the Player *i*, when Player 1 selects the pure strategy  $j_1$  and the player 2 selects the pure strategy  $j_2$  etc. The expected payoff for Player *i* is:

$$PX^{(i)} := \sum_{j_1=1}^{d_1} \cdots \sum_{j_n=1}^{d_n} X^{(i)}_{j_1 \dots j_n} p^{(1)}_{j_1} \cdots p^{(n)}_{j_n}$$

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Example (Bach or Stravinsky)



Player 1's expected payoff =  $PX^{(1)} = 3p_1^{(1)}p_1^{(2)} + 2p_2^{(1)}p_2^{(2)}$ Player 2's expected payoff =  $PX^{(2)} = 2p_1^{(1)}p_1^{(2)} + 3p_2^{(1)}p_2^{(2)}$ 

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#### └─Nash equilibrium

### Set up for a n-player game in normal form

### 1 Nash equilibrium

- PolytopesUniversality
- 2 Correlated equilibrium
- 3 Dependency equilibrium

### Definition of Nash equilibria

#### Definition (Nash equilibrium)

A point  $P \in \Delta_{d_1-1} \times \cdots \times \Delta_{d_n-1}$  is called a *Nash equilibrium* for a *n*-player game X, if none of the players can increase their expected payoff  $PX^{(i)}$  by changing their strategy while assuming the other players have fixed mixed strategies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>\*</sup>J. F. Nash. Equilibrium points in n-person games, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 1950.

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- By the result of Nash in 1950<sup>\*</sup>, there exists a Nash equilibrium for any finite game.
- In 2002, Sturmfels\* explores how one can find Nash equilibria by solving a system of polynomial equations.

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∟<sub>Nash</sub> equilibrium

└─Real algebraic varieties

### Nash equilibria and multilinear equations

#### Example (continued)

A point  $(p_1^{(1)}, p_2^{(1)}, p_1^{(2)}, p_2^{(2)}) \in \Delta_1 \times \Delta_1$  is a Nash equilibrium, if and only if for all pairs  $(u_1, u_2)$  with  $u_1, u_2 \ge 0$  and  $u_1 + u_2 = 1$  we have the following inequalities:

$$PX^{(1)} = 3p_1^{(1)}p_1^{(2)} + 2p_2^{(1)}p_2^{(2)} \ge 3u_1p_1^{(2)} + 2u_2p_2^{(2)}$$

$$PX^{(2)} = 2p_1^{(1)}p_1^{(2)} + 3p_2^{(1)}p_2^{(2)} \ge 2p_1^{(1)}u_1 + 3p_2^{(1)}u_2$$
(2)

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└─Real algebraic varieties

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(2)

Since the right hand side of each inequality is a linear function in  $(u_1, u_2)$  and since  $(p_1^{(1)}, p_2^{(1)}, p_1^{(2)}, p_2^{(2)}) \in \Delta_1 \times \Delta_1$ , we obtain the following algebraic set from (2) where the expressions in the parenthesis are all non-negative.

∟<sub>Nash</sub> equilibrium

└─Real algebraic varieties

### Nash equilibria and multilinear equations

Example (continued)

$$\begin{split} p_1^{(1)} \left( P.X^{(1)} - \sum_{j_2=1}^2 X_{1,j_2}^{(1)} p_{j_2}^{(2)} \right) &= p_1^{(1)} \left( 3p_1^{(1)} p_1^{(2)} + 2p_2^{(1)} p_2^{(2)} - 3p_1^{(2)} \right) \\ p_2^{(1)} \left( P.X^{(1)} - \sum_{j_2=1}^2 X_{2,j_2}^{(1)} p_{j_2}^{(2)} \right) &= p_2^{(1)} \left( 3p_1^{(1)} p_1^{(2)} + 2p_2^{(1)} p_2^{(2)} - 2p_2^{(2)} \right) \\ p_1^{(2)} \left( P.X^{(2)} - \sum_{j_1=1}^2 X_{j_1,1}^{(2)} p_{j_1}^{(1)} \right) &= p_1^{(2)} \left( 2p_1^{(1)} p_1^{(2)} + 3p_2^{(1)} p_2^{(2)} - 2p_1^{(1)} \right) \\ p_2^{(2)} \left( P.X^{(2)} - \sum_{j_1=1}^2 X_{j_1,2}^{(2)} p_{j_1}^{(1)} \right) &= p_2^{(2)} \left( 2p_1^{(1)} p_1^{(2)} + 3p_2^{(1)} p_2^{(2)} - 3p_2^{(1)} \right) \end{split}$$

where the expressions in the parenthesis are all non-negative.

∟<sub>Nash</sub> equilibrium

└─Real algebraic varieties

### Nash equilibria and multilinear equations

• The Nash equilibria  $(p_1^{(1)}, p_2^{(1)}, p_1^{(2)}, p_2^{(2)}) \in \Delta_1 \times \Delta_1$  are (1, 0, 1, 0), (0, 1, 0, 1) and  $(\frac{3}{5}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{3}{5}).$ 

∟Nash equilibrium

└─Real algebraic varieties

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- Compute Nash equilibria fast: HomotopyContinuation.jl. Check the example online of a 3 × 3 × 3 game and its computation.

www.juliahomotopycontinuation.org/examples/nash/

└─Nash equilibrium

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In the general case, one solves  $d_1 + \ldots + d_n$  multilinear equations:

$$p_k^{(i)}\left(PX^{(i)} - \sum_{j_1=1}^{d_1} \dots \sum_{j_i=1}^{\widehat{d_i}} \dots \sum_{j_n=1}^{d_n} X_{j_1\dots j_n}^{(i)} p_{j_1}^{(1)} \dots p_{j_{i-1}}^{(i-1)} p_{j_{i+1}}^{(i+1)} \dots p_{j_n}^{(n)}\right)$$

where each parenthesized expression is nonnegative.

∟Nash equilibrium

L<sub>Polytopes</sub>

## Polytopes and Nash equilibria

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- For totally mixed Nash equilibria (strictly positive probabilites), we consider the parenthesized expressions.
- Eliminating the unknowns  $PX^{(i)}$  and setting  $p_{d_i}^{(i)} = 1 \sum_{j=1}^{d_i-1} p_j^{(i)}$ ,  $d_1 + \cdots + d_n n$ , we obtain a system of  $d_1 + \cdots + d_n n$  equations in  $d_1 + \cdots + d_n n$  unknowns for  $k = 2, 3, \ldots, d_i$ :

### Polytopes and Nash equilibria

• For totally mixed Nash equilibria (strictly positive probabilites), we consider the parenthesized expressions.

• Eliminating the unknowns  $PX^{(i)}$  and setting  $p_{d_i}^{(i)} = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{d_i-1} p_j^{(i)}$ ,  $d_1 + \cdots + d_n - n$ , we obtain a system of  $d_1 + \cdots + d_n - n$  equations in  $d_1 + \cdots + d_n - n$  unknowns for  $k = 2, 3, \ldots, d_i$ :

$$\sum_{j_{1}=1}^{d_{1}}\cdots \sum_{j_{i}=1}^{d_{i}}\cdots \sum_{j_{n}=1}^{d_{n}} \left(X_{j_{1}\dots k\dots j_{n}}^{(i)}-X_{j_{1},\dots 1\dots j_{n}}^{(i)}\right)p_{j_{1}}^{(1)}\cdots p_{j_{i-1}}^{(i-1)}p_{j_{i+1}}^{(i+1)}\cdots p_{j_{n}}^{(n)}$$

• One may use Bernstein–Khovanskii–Kushnirenko (BKK) theorem theorem for the maximal number of totally mixed Nash equilibria of a game.

└─Nash equilibrium

- Universality

## Universality of Nash equilibria

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#### -Universality

## Universality of Nash equilibria

- One solves multilinear equations of degree n-1 in order to obtain the set of Nash equilibria.
- (Harsanyi, 1973): For the generic case, i.e. generic payoff matrices, the number of Nash equilibria is finite and odd.
- Including the non-generic case, we obtain a strong bridge between Game Theory and (real) Algebraic Geometry.

#### Theorem (Datta $^*$ , 2003)

Every real algebraic variety is isomorphic to the set of totally mixed Nash equilibria of a 3-player game, and also of an n-player game in which each player has two pure strategies.

### 1 Nash equilibrium

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  and Nash equilibrium
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- Aumann<sup>\*</sup> introduced a new concept of equilibria which allows dependency for the choices of strategies between players.
- In this concept, one considers a joint probability distribution  $P = (p_{j_1 \cdots j_n}) \in \Delta_{d_1 d_2 \cdots d_n 1}$  over the pure strategies of the players.
- A joint probability distribution (or a tensor) is called a *correlated equilibrium*, if no player can raise their expected payoff by breaking their part of the (agreed) joint distribution while assuming that the other players adhere to their own recommendations.

• Aumann shows<sup>\*</sup> that this definition is equivalent to the following: A tensor  $P \in \Delta_{d_1 \cdots d_n - 1}$  is a *correlated equilibrium* for a game X if and only if

$$\sum_{j_{1}=1}^{d_{1}} \cdots \sum_{j_{i}=1}^{\widehat{d_{i}}} \cdots \sum_{j_{n}=1}^{d_{n}} \left( X_{j_{1}\cdots j_{i-1}kj_{i+1}\cdots j_{n}}^{(i)} - X_{j_{1}\cdots j_{i-1}lj_{i+1}\cdots ,j_{n}}^{(i)} \right) p_{j_{1}\cdots j_{i-1}kj_{i+1}\cdots j_{n}} \ge 0.$$

for all  $k, l \in [d_i]$ , and for all  $i \in [n]$ . The set of all such equilibria is the *correlated equilibrium polytope*  $P_G$  of the game G.



\*R. J. Aumann. Correlated equilibrium as an expression of bayesian rationality, 1987.

### Correlated equilibrium for $2 \times 2$ -games

Example (Bach or Stravinsky)



The Nash equilibria are (1, 0, 0, 0), (0, 0, 0, 1) and  $(\frac{6}{25}, \frac{9}{25}, \frac{4}{25}, \frac{6}{25})$ . A mediator is giving recommendation  $(p_{11}, p_{12}, p_{21}, p_{22})$  to the players given their payoff matrices.

$$(X_{11}^{(1)} - X_{21}^{(1)})p_{11} + (X_{12}^{(1)} - X_{22}^{(1)})p_{12} \ge 0$$

$$(X_{21}^{(1)} - X_{11}^{(1)})p_{21} + (X_{22}^{(1)} - X_{12}^{(1)})p_{22} \ge 0$$

$$(X_{21}^{(2)} - X_{22}^{(2)})p_{21} + (X_{11}^{(2)} - X_{12}^{(2)})p_{11} \ge 0$$

$$(X_{22}^{(2)} - X_{21}^{(2)})p_{22} + (X_{12}^{(2)} - X_{11}^{(2)})p_{12} \ge 0$$
(3)

Nonlinear Algebra in Game Theory Correlated equilibrium Land Nash equilibrium

### Correlated equilibrium

#### Example (Bach or Stravinsky)

The correlated equilibrium polytope for the Bach or Stravinsky game is

$$C_G = \operatorname{conv}\left(\left(0, 0, 0, 1\right), \left(\frac{6}{25}, \frac{9}{25}, \frac{4}{25}, \frac{6}{25}\right), (1, 0, 0, 0), \left(\frac{3}{8}, 0, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{8}\right), \left(\frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, 0, \frac{2}{7}\right)\right)$$

which has 6 facets where Nash equilibria are all vertices of this polytope shown in black. In particular these vertices intersect with the Segre embedding  $p_{11}p_{22} - p_{12}p_{21}$  in the probability simplex.

Combinatorial types

### Combinatorics of correlated equilibrium polytope<sup>\*</sup>

• The correlated equilibrium polytope  $P_G$  for  $2 \times 2$ -games is either a point or a 3-dimensional bipyramid with 5 vertices and 6 facets.

Nonlinear Algebra in Game Theory Correlated equilibrium

└─Combinatorial types

# Combinatorics of correlated equilibrium polytope<sup>\*</sup>

• The correlated equilibrium polytope  $P_G$  for  $2 \times 2$ -games is either a point or a 3-dimensional bipyramid with 5 vertices and 6 facets.

Theorem (Brandenburg, Hollering,  $\bigcirc$ , 2022)

Let G be a  $(2 \times 3)$ -game and  $P_G$  be the associated correlated equilibrium polytope. Then one of the following holds:

- $\square$   $P_G$  is a point,
- $\blacksquare$   $P_G$  is of maximal dimensional 5 and of a unique combinatorial type,
- There exists a  $(2 \times 2)$ -game G' such that  $P_{G'}$  has maximal dimensional 3 is and combinatorially equivalent to  $P_G$ .

<sup>\*</sup>M.-C. Brandenburg, B. Hollering, and I. Portakal. Combinatorics of correlated equilibria, 2022. イロト 不同 トイヨト イヨト ヨー ろくつ

Correlated equilibrium

└─Combinatorial types

### Combinatorics of correlated equilibrium polytope

Unique Combinatorial Types by Dimension								
Dimension	0	3	5	7	9			
$(2 \times 2)$	1	1	0	0	0			
$(2 \times 3)$	1	1	1	0	0			
$(2 \times 4)$	1	1	1	3	0			
$(2 \times 5)$	1	1	1	3	4			

Table: The number of unique combinatorial types of  $P_G$  of each dimension for a  $(2 \times n)$ -game in a random sampling of size 100 000.

Correlated equilibrium

Combinatorial types

### Combinatorics of correlated equilibrium polytope

Unique Combinatorial Types by Dimension								
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$(2 \times 4)$	1	1	1	3	0			
$(2 \times 5)$	1	1	1	3	4			

Table: The number of unique combinatorial types of  $P_G$  of each dimension for a  $(2 \times n)$ -game in a random sampling of size 100 000.

In contrast,  $(2 \times 2 \times 2)$ -games exhibit a much wider variety of distinct combinatorial types. In a sample of 100 000 random payoff matrices for  $(2 \times 2 \times 2)$ -games, we found 14 949 distinct combinatorial types which are of maximal dimension. Amongst these 7-dimensional polytopes, the number of vertices can range from 8 to 119, the number of facets from 8 to 14, and the number of total faces from 256 to 2338.

- 1 Nash equilibrium
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  - Spohn variety
  - Geometry
  - Algebraic statistics meets Game Theory

 Recall that for Nash equilibrium, there is a causal independence for the strategies of the players: each player acts independently, without communication and collobaration with the other players.

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- Prisoners' dilemma. C= Cooperate, D = Defect. Both prisoners defecting is the only Nash and correlated equilibrium.

Prisoner 2  
C D  
Prisoner 1 C 
$$(-1, -1)$$
  $(-3, -0)$   
D  $(0, -3)$   $(-2, -2)$ 

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• In contrast, Spohn introduced in 2003 the concept of *dependency equilibria* where the players simultaneously maximize their *conditional expected payoffs*; appending communication between players.

\*W. Spohn. Dependency equilibria and the causal structure of decision and game stituations. 2003.  $(\Box \rightarrow \langle \Box \rangle \land \langle \Xi \land \langle \Xi \rangle \land \langle \Xi \rangle \land \langle \Xi \land \langle \Xi \rangle \: \langle \Xi \land \langle \Xi \rangle \: \langle \Xi \land \langle \Xi \rangle \land \langle \Xi \rangle \: \langle \Xi \land \land \langle \Xi \land \langle$ 

Conditional expected payoff of Player *i*, in case they choose strategy  $k \in [d_i]$ :

$$\sum_{j_1=1}^{d_1} \cdots \sum_{j_i=1}^{\widehat{d_i}} \cdots \sum_{j_n=1}^{d_n} X_{j_1 \cdots k \cdots j_n}^{(i)} \frac{p_{j_1 \cdots k \cdots j_n}}{p_{+\dots+k+\dots+}}.$$
 (4)

where  $p_{+\dots+k+\dots+}$  is the sum of all probabilities  $p_{j_1j_2\dots j_n}$  where  $j_i = k$ .

# Dependency equilibrium

Conditional expected payoff of Player *i*, in case they choose strategy  $k \in [d_i]$ :

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 (4)

where  $p_{+\dots+k+\dots+}$  is the sum of all probabilities  $p_{j_1j_2\dots j_n}$  where  $j_i = k$ . Definition (Dependency equilibrium)

A tensor P in  $\Delta := \Delta_{d_1 \cdots d_n - 1}^{\circ}$  is a *dependency equilibrium* for X if the conditional expected payoff of each Player i is independent of their choice  $k \in [d_i]$ .

This specifies equations among ratios of linear forms:

$$\sum_{j_{1}=1}^{d_{1}} \cdots \widehat{\sum_{j_{i}=1}^{d_{i}}} \cdots \sum_{j_{n}=1}^{d_{n}} X_{j_{1}\cdots k\cdots j_{n}}^{(i)} \frac{p_{j_{1}\cdots k\cdots j_{n}}}{p_{+\cdots+k+\cdots+}}$$

$$= \sum_{j_{1}=1}^{d_{1}} \cdots \widehat{\sum_{j_{i}=1}^{d_{i}}} \cdots \sum_{j_{n}=1}^{d_{n}} X_{j_{1}\cdots k'\cdots j_{n}}^{(i)} \frac{p_{j_{1}\cdots k'\cdots j_{n}}}{p_{+\cdots+k'+\cdots+}}$$
We require this for all  $i \in [n]$  and all  $k, k' \in [d_{i}]_{\mathbb{H}}$ 

Dependency equilibrium

└─Spohn variety

### Determinantal varieties

• By clearing denominators, we obtain quadratic equations in P. They define the *Spohn variety*  $\mathcal{V}_X \subset \mathbb{P}(V)$ . Here  $V = \mathbb{C}^{d_1 \times d_2 \times \cdots \times d_n}$ .

Dependency equilibrium

└Spohn variety

### Determinantal varieties

- By clearing denominators, we obtain quadratic equations in P. They define the *Spohn variety*  $\mathcal{V}_X \subset \mathbb{P}(V)$ . Here  $V = \mathbb{C}^{d_1 \times d_2 \times \cdots \times d_n}$ .
- For i = 1, 2, ..., n, define a matrix with  $d_i$  rows and two columns:

$$M_i = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots \\ p_{+\dots+k+\dots+} & \sum_{j_1=1}^{d_1} \cdots \widehat{\sum_{j_i=1}^{d_i}} \cdots \sum_{j_n=1}^{d_n} X_{j_1\dots k\dots j_n}^{(i)} p_{j_1\dots k\dots j_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

Dependency equilibria for X are tensors  $P \in \Delta$  where each  $M_i$  has rank one.

Nonlinear Algebra in Game Theory Dependency equilibrium Spohn variety

# Spohn variety

Example (Bach or Stravinsky)

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_{11} + p_{12} & X_{11}^{(1)} p_{11} + X_{12}^{(1)} p_{12} \\ p_{21} + p_{22} & X_{21}^{(1)} p_{21} + X_{22}^{(1)} p_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} p_{11} + p_{21} & X_{11}^{(2)} p_{11} + X_{21}^{(1)} p_{21} \\ p_{12} + p_{22} & X_{12}^{(2)} p_{12} + X_{22}^{(1)} p_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

The Spohn variety a quartic curve which is defined by  $3p_{11}p_{21} + p_{11}p_{22} - 2p_{12}p_{22}$  and  $2p_{11}p_{12} - p_{11}p_{22} - 3p_{21}p_{22}$  with three irreducible components.



Nonlinear Algebra in Game Theory └─Dependency equilibrium

└─Spohn variety

### Motivational quote

• One obtains Nash equilibria by intersecting the dependency equilibria with the Segre variety  $\mathbb{P}^{d_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{P}^{d_n}$ . or imposing the rank 1 condition i.e.

$$p_{j_1\dots j_n} = p_{j_1}^{(1)} \cdots p_{j_n}^{(n)}$$

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• Spohn explains the difficulty about dependency equilibria as following:

The computation of dependency equilibria seems to be a messy business. Obviously it requires one to solve quadratic equations in two-person games, and the more persons, the higher the order of the polynomials we become entangled with. All linear ease is lost. Therefore, I cannot offer a well developed theory of dependency equilibria.

Geometry

## Geometry of dependency equilibria<sup>\*</sup>

Theorem (<sup>•</sup>), Sturmfels, 2022)

If the payoff tables X are generic then the Spohn variety  $\mathcal{V}_X$  is irreducible of codimension  $d_1 + d_2 + \cdots + d_n - n$  and degree  $d_1 d_2 \ldots d_n$ . The intersection of  $\mathcal{V}_X$  with the Segre variety in the open simplex  $\Delta$  is precisely the set of totally mixed Nash equilibria for X.

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Theorem (0, Sturmfels, 2022)

If  $n = d_1 = d_2 = 2$  then the Spohn variety  $\mathcal{V}_X$  is an elliptic curve. In all other cases, the Spohn variety  $\mathcal{V}_X$  is rational, represented by a map onto  $(\mathbb{P}^1)^n$  with linear fibers.

<sup>\*</sup>I. Portakal and B. Sturmfels. Geometry of dependency equilibria, 2022.

L Dependency equilibrium

LAlgebraic statistics meets Game Theory

### Spohn Conditional Independence Variety

• Drawback of dependency equilibria is that they are abundant:  $\mathcal{V}_X \cap \Delta$  of all dependency equilibria has dimension  $\prod_{i=1}^n d_i - \sum_{j=1}^n d_j + n - 1.$ 

Dependency equilibrium

└─Algebraic statistics meets Game Theory

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- Hence, we restrict to intersections of  $\mathcal{V}_X$  with statistical models in  $\Delta$ . Natural candidates are the conditional independence models.
- Each CI statement translates into a system of homogeneous quadratic constraints in the entries  $p_{j_1j_2\cdots j_n}$ . We denote the projective variety in  $\mathbb{P}(V)$  defined by these quadrics arising from all statements in  $\mathcal{C}$  by  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{C}}$ .

Dependency equilibrium

LAlgebraic statistics meets Game Theory

### Spohn Conditional Independence Variety

 Suppose X is any game in normal form, and C is any collection of CI statements. We define the *Spohn CI variety* to be the intersection of the Spohn variety with the CI model:

$$\mathcal{V}_{X,\mathcal{C}} = \mathcal{V}_X \cap \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{C}}.$$
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Dependency equilibrium

└─Algebraic statistics meets Game Theory

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• We focus on the case where all random variables are binary, i.e.  $d_1 = d_2 = \cdots = d_n = 2$ .

└─Algebraic statistics meets Game Theory

### Dependencies between the strategies of the players

Example (Nash points)

• Let C be the set of all CI statements on [n]:  $\mathcal{M}_C = \mathbb{P}^1 \times \cdots \times \mathbb{P}^1$ and the Spohn CI variety is the set of all Nash points in the Spohn variety  $\mathcal{V}_X$ . This variety is finite, and its cardinality is the number of derangements of [n], which is  $1, 2, 9, 44, 265, \ldots$  for  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \ldots$ 

└─Algebraic statistics meets Game Theory

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- Let  $\mathcal{C} = \emptyset$ :  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{C}} = \mathbb{P}^{2^n 1}$  and the Spohn CI variety is the Spohn variety  $\mathcal{V}_X$ .

└─Algebraic statistics meets Game Theory

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- Let  $\mathcal{C} = \emptyset$ :  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{C}} = \mathbb{P}^{2^{n-1}}$  and the Spohn CI variety is the Spohn variety  $\mathcal{V}_X$ .

Question (mostly open) What happens in between?

L Dependency equilibrium

Algebraic statistics meets Game Theory

### Nash conditional independence curve\*

Conjecture (**b**, Sturmfels, 2022)

For every conditional independence models C on n binary random variables, the Spohn CI variety  $\mathcal{V}_{X,C}$  has the expected codimension n inside the model  $\mathcal{M}_C$  in  $\mathbb{P}^{2^n-1}$ . The variety  $\mathcal{V}_{X,C}$  is positive-dimensional and irreducible whenever the network has at least one edge.

<sup>\*</sup>I. Portakal and J. Sendra-Arraz. Nash conditional independence curve, 2022.  $(\Box \mapsto \langle \Box \rangle \land \exists \Rightarrow \langle \exists \Rightarrow \rangle \exists \Rightarrow \rangle \exists \Rightarrow \rangle$ 

L Dependency equilibrium

└─Algebraic statistics meets Game Theory

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L Dependency equilibrium

└─Algebraic statistics meets Game Theory

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(•, Sendra-Arranz, 2022): We prove the conjecture for one edge-models where we call the Spohn CI variety Nash CI curve. Moreover we prove a similar universality theorem as Datta's.

Theorem (**b**, Sendra-Arranz, 2022)

Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  be a real affine algebraic variety defined by m polynomials with m < n. Then, there exists a N-person game with binary choices such that an affine open subset of the Spohn CI variety for the one-edge model is isomorphic to S.

\*I. Portakal and J. Sendra-Arraz. Nash conditional independence curve, 2022.  $\langle \Box \rangle \langle \Box \rangle$ 

-References

### Thank you for your time!

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