

# Higher Order Beliefs and Emotions in Games: Theoretical Framework

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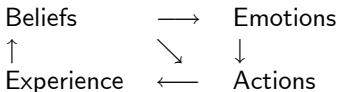
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# Introduction

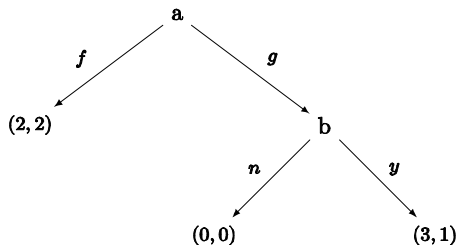
- ▶ Credible promises/threats and reliable communication are essential for cooperation.
- ▶ According to standard theory, credibility (incentive compatibility) is related to the value of future interaction.
- ▶ But often people keep their word and communicate truthfully even when this is not incentivized by future interactions.
- ▶ Emotions like guilt, anger, shame and pride can make people act against their selfish material interests in ways that are often (not always) beneficial to cooperation.
- ▶ Many emotions are triggered by beliefs, including beliefs about the beliefs of others (higher-order beliefs).
- ▶ Emotions affect behavior in two ways:
  - ▶ *direct*: induced action tendencies (e.g., frustration-aggression  $\Rightarrow$  carry out threats);
  - ▶ *indirect*: anticipated feelings (valence) modify material incentives (e.g., keep costly promises to avoid guilt).

- ▶ By letting psychological utility in games depend on beliefs we can model such phenomena.

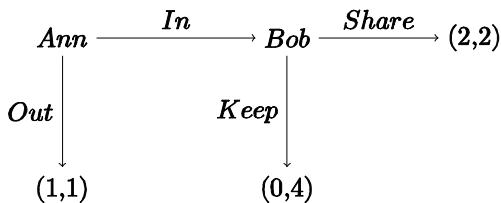


- ▶ We develop a methodology and illustrate it with some examples/applications.
- ▶ We adopt a *subjective* notion of *rationality*: (sequential) best reply to subjective beliefs, with psychological motivations. We do not consider bounded computational abilities, nor do we model how emotions can interfere with cognition.

## Stylized dilemmas with implicit threat or promises



**Ultimatum Minigame**



**Trust Minigame**

# Motivations & Examples

The following is *inconsistent* with standard social preferences (e.g., inequity or lying aversion), but consistent with our framework and model(s):

▶ **Psychology:**

- ▶ desire to live up to others' expectations to avoid guilt feelings (Baumeister *et al.*, 1994; Tangney, 1995);
- ▶ frustration-aggression hypothesis (Dollard *et al.*, 1939; Frijda, 1993);
- ▶ moral behavior to avoid the feeling of shame (Tangney, 1995).

# Motivations & Examples (continue)

## ▶ **Facts (casual evidence, empirics):**

- ▶ Non-returning customers give tips.
- ▶ Low offers are often rejected leaving money on the table.
- ▶ Unexpected losses by home football/soccer teams are associated with increased domestic violence (Card & Dahl, 2011) or violent crime (Munyo & Rossi 2013).

## ▶ **Facts (experimental):**

- ▶ *Trust Minigame*: correlation between sharing and with 2<sup>nd</sup>-order beliefs of sharing; game-form invariant treatments affect beliefs and behavior (Charness & Dufwenberg, 2006; Tadelis, 2011; Attanasi *et al.* 2013).
- ▶ *Ultimatum Game*: Rejections correlate with (manipulated) initially expected offers (Sanfey, 2009; Xiang *et al.*, 2013, with fMRI).
- ▶ *Lying/truth-telling* is not categorical (Fischbacher & Föllmi-Heusi, 2008), it depends on the payoffs of receivers (Gneezy, 2005; Battigalli *et al.* 2013) and on exposure to passive observers (Gneezy *et al.*, 2016).

## Setting: game tree

We consider *finite, multistage game forms with observable actions and incomplete information* (easy cases: leader-follower and dictator games).

**Game tree**  $(I, (A_i, \mathcal{A}_i(\cdot))_{i \in I})$  where:

- ▶ **Players:**  $i \in I$ .
- ▶ **Actions, action profiles:**  $a_i \in A_i$  finite, wait  $\in A_i$  (trick),  
 $a = (a_i)_{i \in I} \in \times_{i \in I} A_i := A$ .
- ▶ **Histories:**  $\emptyset$  =empty history, and  $h = (a^k)_{k=1}^t \in A^t$ ,  
 $a^t = (a_i^t)_{i \in I}$ ,  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$  ( $h \preceq h'$ , “prefix” relation).

## Setting: game tree

- ▶ **Feasible actions and profiles:**  $h \mapsto \mathcal{A}_i(h) \subseteq A_i$ ,  
 $\mathcal{A}(h) := \times_{i \in I} \mathcal{A}_i(h) \subseteq A$ ;  $\mathcal{A}_i(h) = \{w\}$  if  $i$  **inactive** at  $h$ ;  
 $\mathcal{A}(h) = \emptyset$  (empty set) if **game over**.
- ▶ **Feasible histories:**  $\emptyset$  (empty hist.=root of tree) is feasible,  
 $h = \left(a^k\right)_{k=1}^t$  is feasible if  $a^1 \in \mathcal{A}(\emptyset)$  and  $a^{k+1} \in \mathcal{A}(a^1, \dots, a^k)$ ,  
 $k = 1, \dots, t-1$ .
- ▶ **Nonterminal and terminal:**  $H := \{h : h \text{ feasible}\}$ ; terminal (play paths):  $Z := \{h \in H : \mathcal{A}(h) = \emptyset\}$ ; nonterminal:  $H \setminus Z$ .
- ▶ **Personal histories of  $i$ :**  
 $H_i := H \cup \{(h, a_i) : h \in H \setminus Z, a_i \in \mathcal{A}_i(h)\}$  (as soon as  $i$  chooses  $a_i$  at  $h$  he knows that  $h_i = (h, a_i)$  has occurred; important later).  
Prefix relation  $\preceq$  easily generalized for  $H_i$ , for all  $i \in I$ .
- ▶ **Terminal continuations of  $h_i$ :**  $Z(h_i) = \{z \in Z : h_i \preceq z\}$



## Setting: game form

**Game form**  $(I, (A_i, \mathcal{A}_i(\cdot), \Theta_i, \pi_i(\cdot, \cdot))_{i \in I})$ : add to the game tree information types and the material payoffs/outcome functions:

- ▶ **Type** of  $i$ :  $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$  exogenous trait (finite only for simplicity), private information of  $i$  (ability, degree of altruism, aversion to lying, aversion to guilt, ...); profiles of types  $\theta \in \Theta = \times_{i \in I} \Theta_i$ ,  $\theta_{-i} \in \Theta_{-i} = \times_{j \neq i} \Theta_j$ .
- ▶ **“Monetary” payoffs/outcomes** (material consequences)  
 $(z, \theta) \mapsto \pi(z, \theta) = (\pi_i(z, \theta))_{i \in I} \in \mathbb{R}^I$  ( $\pi_i$  is *not* the *utility* of  $i$ ).

## (Conditional) Beliefs

Beliefs of the first and second order are *conditional probability systems* (CPS's) about paths (including own behavior) and types of others that satisfy obvious *independence* restrictions, and possibly other restrictions deemed plausible in applications (symmetry, positivity, known prob. of chance moves,...). First-order conditional beliefs concern behavior (paths) and information types, and satisfy natural properties relating beliefs conditional on different (personal) histories:

- ▶ **First-order beliefs of  $i$ :** Consider set of CPSs

$B_i^1 \subseteq [\Delta(Z \times \Theta_{-i})]^{H_i}$ , where  $\beta_i^1 = (\beta_i^1(\cdot|h_i))_{h_i \in H_i} \in B_i^1$  only if (with obvious abbreviations for marg. and cond. probabilities): for all  $h_i, h'_i \in H_i \setminus Z$ ,  $z \in Z$  with  $h_i \preceq h'_i \prec z$ ,  $h \in H \setminus Z$ ,  $a \in \mathcal{A}(h)$ ,  $a'_i \in \mathcal{A}_i(h)$ ,  $\theta_{-i} \in \Theta_{-i}$ ,

- ▶ *chain rule* (CR<sup>1</sup>)

$$\beta_i^1(z, \theta_{-i}|h_i) = \beta_i^1(z, \theta_{-i}|h'_i) \beta_i^1(h'_i|h_i) = \beta_i^1(\theta_{-i}|z) \beta_i^1(z|h_i)$$

(note:  $\beta_i^1(h'_i|h_i) = \beta_i^1(Z(h'_i)|h_i)$ );

- ▶ *own-action independence* (OAI<sup>1</sup>):

$$\beta_i^1(a_{-i}, \theta_{-i}|h) = \beta_i^1(a_{-i}, \theta_{-i}|h, a'_i) \text{ (note: } (h, a'_i) \in H_i \text{; beliefs about types and simultaneous actions of others are independent of own action).}$$

## (Conditional) Beliefs

Second-order conditional beliefs concern both behavior-types *and* the first-order CPS's of others:

- ▶ **Second-order beliefs:** Consider set of CPS's

$$B_i^2 \subseteq \left[ \Delta \left( Z \times \Theta_{-i} \times B_{-i}^1 \right) \right]^{H_i}$$

where  $\beta_i^2 = (\beta_i^2(\cdot|h_i))_{h_i \in H_i} \in B_i^2$  only if it satisfies CR and OAI restrictions similar to those for first-order CPS's: for all  $h_i, h'_i \in H_i \setminus Z$  with  $h_i \preceq h'_i$ ,  $z \in Z$ ,  $h \in H \setminus Z$ ,  $a \in \mathcal{A}(h)$ ,  $a'_i \in \mathcal{A}_i(h)$ ,  $\theta_{-i} \in \Theta_{-i}$ , (Borel)  $E_{-i} \subseteq B_{-i}^1$ ,

- ▶ *chain rule* (CR<sup>2</sup>)  $\beta_i^2(\{(z, \theta_{-i})\} \times E_{-i}|h_i) = \beta_i^2(\{(z, \theta_{-i})\} \times E_{-i}|h'_i) \beta_i^2(h'_i|h_i) = \beta_i^2(\{\theta_{-i}\} \times E_{-i}|z) \beta_i^2(z|h_i)$ ,
- ▶ *own-action independence* (OAI<sup>2</sup>)  $\beta_i^2(\{(a_{-i}, \theta_{-i})\} \times E_{-i}|h) = \beta_i^2(\{(a_{-i}, \theta_{-i})\} \times E_{-i}|h, a'_i)$  (beliefs about **simultaneous** actions, types and 1st-ord. beliefs of others are independent of own action).
- ▶ **Result (technical):** For any finite game form and any player  $i \in I$ ,  $B_i^1$  and  $B_i^2$  are compact metrizable (hence Polish) topological spaces.

## Comments and notation about beliefs

- ▶ Interpretation of ( $1^{\text{st}}$ -order) beliefs about one's own behavior: plan of the player, that is,
  - ▶ by OAI,  $\beta_i^1((a_i, a_{-i}) | h) = \beta_i^1(a_i | h) \beta_i^1(a_{-i} | h)$ ,
  - ▶  $\beta_{i,i} = \left( \beta_i^1(a_i | h) \right)_{h \in H \setminus Z, a_i \in \mathcal{A}_i(h)}$  is the **plan** of  $i$ .
- ▶  $1^{\text{st}}$ -order beliefs can be derived from  $2^{\text{nd}}$ -order beliefs by marginalization (conditional on each  $h$ ): e.g.,  $\beta_i^1(\theta_{-i}) = \beta_i^2(\{\theta_{-i}\} \times B_{-i}^1)$ ; we then write

$$\beta_i^1 = \text{marg}_{Z \times \Theta_{-i}} \beta_i^2$$

$$B_i \in B_i = \left\{ \left( \beta_i^1, \beta_i^2 \right) \in B_i^1 \times B_i^2 : \beta_i^1 = \text{marg}_{Z \times \Theta_{-i}} \beta_i^2 \right\}$$

$$B_i \left( \bar{\beta}_i^1 \right) = \left\{ \left( \beta_i^1, \beta_i^2 \right) \in B_i^2 : \beta_i^1 = \bar{\beta}_i^1 \right\}$$

( $B_i$  is isomorphic to  $B_i^2$ ;  $B_i \left( \bar{\beta}_i^1 \right)$  is isomorphic to the section at  $\bar{\beta}_i^1$  of  $B_i$ : it is the set of  $\beta_i$  consistent with  $\bar{\beta}_i^1$ ).

# Expectations

- ▶ For all  $h \in H$ ,  $\theta_i$ ,  $\beta_i$ , and (measurable) function  $\tilde{x} : Z \times \Theta \times B_{-i}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (random variable) we can compute the expectation of  $\tilde{x}$  conditional on  $h$  (or  $h_i = (h, a_i)$ ), given  $(\theta_i, \beta_i)$

$$\mathbb{E} [\tilde{x} | h; \theta_i, \beta_i] = \int \tilde{x} (z, \theta_i, \theta_{-i}, \beta_{-i}^1) \beta_i^2 (dz, d\theta_{-i}, d\beta_{-i}^1 | h) .$$

- ▶ For a belief-independent r.v. (e.g.,  $\tilde{x} = \pi_j$ )

$$\mathbb{E} [\tilde{x} | h; \theta_i, \beta_i] = \sum_{z, \theta_{-i}} \tilde{x} (z, \theta_i, \theta_{-i}) \beta_i^1 (z, \theta_{-i} | h) .$$

# Psychological preferences

“Experience utility”

We assume that the “value” or “**experience utility**” of a path  $z$  for  $i$  depends on (some aspects of)  $\theta = (\theta_j)_{j \in I}$  and  $\beta^1 = (\beta_j^1)_{j \in I}$ :

$$v_i : Z \times \Theta \times B^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Examples ( $[x]^+ = \max\{x, 0\}$ ):

▶ *selfish risk neutral*:  $v_i = \pi_i$ ;

▶ *guilt/pity aversion*:

$$v_i(z, \theta, \beta^1) = \pi_i(z) - \theta_i \cdot \left[ \mathbb{E} \left[ \pi_{-i}; \beta_{-i}^1 \right] - \pi_{-i}(z) \right]^+ \text{ (no own-plan dep.)}$$

# Psychological preferences

- ▶ *disappointment aversion*:

$v_i(z, \theta, \beta^1) = \pi_i(z) - \theta_i \cdot \left[ \mathbb{E} \left[ \pi_i; \beta_i^1 \right] - \pi_i(z) \right]^+$  (own-plan dep., see also loss aversion with ref. point=lagged expect. as in Koszegi & Rabin);

- ▶ *pride/shame, ...* :  $v_i(z, \theta, \beta^1) = \pi_i(z) + \theta_i^r \cdot \rho \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{\theta}_i^g | z; \beta_{-i}^1 \right] \right)$ ,  
 $\rho' > 0$ ,  $\theta_i = (\theta_i^g, \theta_i^r)$ ,  $\theta_i^g$  =goodness,  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{\theta}_i^g | z; \beta_{-i}^1 \right]$ =reputation of  $i$  according to  $-i$ ,  $\theta_i^r$ =reputational concern (non-instrumental).

# Psychological preferences

## “Decision utility”

The “utility” of an action  $a_i$  given non-terminal history  $h$  is what drives the decision of the player  $i$  active at  $h$ . It may just be the expected value of  $v_i$  conditional on  $h$  given  $(\theta_i, \beta_i)$ , or a modification of such expectation that captures the action tendencies of an emotion, e.g., desire to harm given anger. Assuming additive separability,

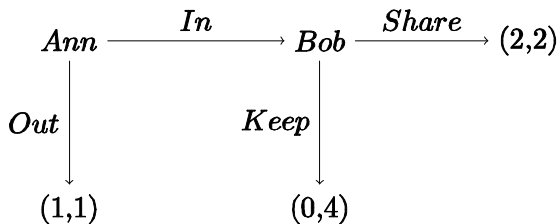
$$u_i(h, a_i; \theta_i, \beta_i) = \mathbb{E}[v_i | h, a_i; \theta_i, \beta_i] + \mathbb{E}\left[\delta_i\left(h, \theta_i, \beta_i^1, \tilde{\pi}_{-i}, \tilde{\theta}_{-i}, \tilde{\beta}_{-i}^1\right) | h, a_i; \beta_i\right]$$

*Examples:* anger of Bob (when frustrated) from blaming Ann’s behavior or intentions (Battigalli *et al.*, 2015); it increases the decision utility of rejecting the greedy offer in the ultimatum game when Bob expected a fair offer, because of the harm inflicted on Ann.

**Note:** If there is own-plan dependence of experience utility, or if decision utility is different from the conditional expectation of experience utility, then maximization of decision utility may differ from what  $i$  would like to *covertly commit to* ex ante (dynamic inconsistency of preferences).



# Trust Minigame with Guilt Aversion



## Trust Minigame

- ▶ Ann is commonly known to be selfish:  $u_1(In; \beta_1) = 2\beta_1^1(Share|In)$ ,  
*In* only if  $\beta_1^1(Share|In) \geq 1/2$ .
- ▶ Bob is guilt averse:  
 $u_2(In, Keep; \theta_2, \beta_2) = 4 - 2\theta_2 \mathbb{E} \left[ 2\tilde{\beta}_1^1(Share|In)|In; \beta_2^2 \right]$ .

## “Psychological” equilibrium?

- ▶ Geanakoplos *et al.* 1989 (GPS), with indirect methods, and Battigalli & Dufwenberg 2009 (BD), with direct methods, define adapted notions of “psychological” Nash and sequential equilibrium.
- ▶ One can show that it is enough to apply Harsanyi’s method of Bayesian games, which complements information types  $\theta_i$  with “epistemic types”  $e_i$  to obtain “Harsanyi types”  $t_i = (\theta_i, e_i)$  which implicitly determine exogenous hierarchies of beliefs, and then look at Bayesian equilibrium decision functions  $t_i \mapsto \sigma_i(t_i)$ . This generates endogenous hierarchies of beliefs in equilibrium. When  $T_i \cong \Theta_i$  we get back the equilibria defined “ad hoc” by GPS and BD (see Attanasi, Battigalli, & Manzoni, 2016).
- ▶ Problem of this “rational-expectations” equilibrium approach: NO FOUNDATIONS after several decades since its introduction in GT and Theoretical Economics!

# Rationalizability

- ▶ **Rationality (subjective!):**  $i$  is rational if he plans rationally given his subjective beliefs (one-shot dev. property) and his action on path is one he planned to choose with positive probability.
- ▶ **Strong belief** (informal):  $i$  strongly believes an event  $E$  if he is certain of  $E$  conditional on each  $h \in H$  consistent with  $E$ .
- ▶  **$k$ -rationalizability** ( $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ): set of tuples  $(z, \theta, \beta^1)$  consistent with *rationality and  $(k - 1)$ -mutual strong belief in rationality* (see Battigalli, Corrao & Sanna, 2017); *note*: we look at possible values of the variables that affect  $v_i$  and  $\delta_i$ , because the relevant expectations are taken with respect to beliefs about such variables [with non-belief-dependent preferences we look at  $(z, \theta)$ ].

## Rationalizability (continues)

*Rationality*: Recall, plan of  $i$  at  $h$ :  $\beta_{i,j}(\cdot|h) = \arg_{\mathcal{A}_i(h)} \beta_i(\cdot|h)$   
 ( $h \in H \setminus Z$ ). Belief  $\beta_i$  satisfies **rational planning** if, for each  $h$  where  $i$  is active

$$\beta_{i,j}(a_i|h) > 0 \Rightarrow \arg \max_{a_i \in \mathcal{A}_i(h)} u_i(h, a_i; \theta_i, \beta_j).$$

Given “prediction set”  $P \subseteq Z \times \Theta \times B^1$  and type-belief  $(\bar{\theta}_i, \bar{\beta}_i^1)$ ,  $P_{\bar{\theta}_i, \bar{\beta}_i^1}$  is the **section** of  $P$  at  $(\bar{\theta}_i, \bar{\beta}_i^1)$ :

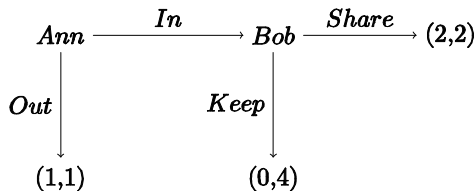
- ▶  $P_{\bar{\theta}_i, \bar{\beta}_i^1} = \left\{ (z, \theta, \beta^1) \in P : \theta_i = \bar{\theta}_i, \beta_i^1 = \bar{\beta}_i^1 \right\}$ ;
- ▶ similarly,  $P_h = \left\{ (z, \theta, \beta^1) \in P : h \preceq z \right\}$  for each  $h \in H$ .

**$k$ -rationalizable set**: trivial prediction  $P^0 = Z \times \Theta \times B^1$ .

For  $k > 0$ , require rational planning, *strong belief* in (the section of)  $P^{k-1}$ , and on-path choice of planned actions:

$$P^k = \left\{ \left( \bar{z}, \bar{\theta}, \bar{\beta}^1 \right) \in P^{k-1} : \begin{array}{l} \forall i, \exists \beta_i \in B_i \left( \bar{\beta}_i^1 \right) \text{ s.t. rational planning} \\ \forall h \in H, P_h^{k-1} \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \beta_i^2 \left( P_{\bar{\theta}_i, \bar{\beta}_i^1}^{k-1} | h \right) = 1 \\ \forall \bar{h} \prec \bar{z}, \beta_{i,j}(\bar{a}_i | \bar{h}) > 0 \end{array} \right\}.$$

# Rationalizability in Trust Game with Guilt Aversion



## Trust Minigame

- ▶ Ann (pl. 1) commonly known to be selfish:  
 $u_1(In; \beta_1) = 2\beta_1^1(Share|In)$ , *In* only if  $\beta_1^1(Share|In) \geq 1/2$ .
- ▶ Bob (pl. 2) guilt averse:  
 $u_2(In, Keep; \theta_2, \beta_2) = 4 - \theta_2 \mathbb{E} \left[ 2\tilde{\beta}_1^1(Share|In) | In; \beta_2^2 \right]$ .
- ▶ Step 2:  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{\beta}_1^1(Share|In) | In; \beta_2^2 \right] \geq 1/2$  (strong belief in rationality)
  - ▶ (*In, Share*) if  $\beta_1^1(Share|In) > 1/2$  and  $\theta_2 > 2$ ,
  - ▶ (*In, Keep*) if  $\beta_1^1(Share|In) > 1/2$  and  $\theta_2 < 1$ , etc.
- ▶ Step 3: *In* if  $\beta_1^1(\tilde{\theta}_2 > 2) > 1/2$ , *Out* if  $\beta_1^1(\tilde{\theta}_2 < 1) > 1/2$ .

# Application: Guilt and Reciprocity in Trust Game

Attanasi, Battigalli & Nagel (2013, rev. 2017):

- ▶ Clever way to elicit  $\theta_2$  (sensitivity to both guilt and reciprocity) and make it “common knowledge” *via* disclosure of filled-in questionnaire.
- ▶ Correlation in strategies and beliefs induced *via* disclosure predicted (partially) by rationalizability, steps 1-3.
- ▶ With incomplete information (no disclosure), Steps 1-2 are still valid, Step 3 is silent: no further implication on top of step 2.
- ▶ Meaningful qualitative predictions across treatments, data move in the predicted direction.

# Sequential Equilibrium

Assume for simplicity that  $\theta = (\theta_i)_{i \in I}$  is common knowledge ( $\forall i \in I, \Theta_i = \{\theta_i\}$ )  $\Rightarrow$  suppress  $\theta$ .

Let

$$\sigma_i = (\sigma_i(\cdot|h))_{h \in H \setminus Z} \in \times_{h \in H \setminus Z} \Delta(\mathcal{A}_i(h))$$

denote a **behavioral strategy** of  $i$ .

## Definition

A profile  $(\sigma, \beta) = (\sigma_i, \beta_i)_{i \in I}$  is a **sequential equilibrium** if for all  $i, j \in I$ , for all  $h \in H \setminus Z$  and  $a = (a_i)_{i \in I} \in \mathcal{A}(h)$ ,

▶ **(agreement, independence & correct beliefs)**

▶  $\beta_i^1(a|h) = \prod_{j \in I} \sigma_j(a_j|h)$ ,

▶  $\text{marg}_{B_{-i}^1} \beta_i^2(\cdot|h) = \delta_{\beta_{-i}^1}$  ( $\delta_{\beta_{-i}^1}$  is the degenerate measure that assigns probability 1 to  $\beta_{-i}^1$ );

▶ **(rational planning)**

$$\sigma_i(a_i|h) > 0 \Rightarrow a_i \in \arg \max_{a'_i \in \mathcal{A}_i(h)} u_i(h, a_i; \beta_i).$$

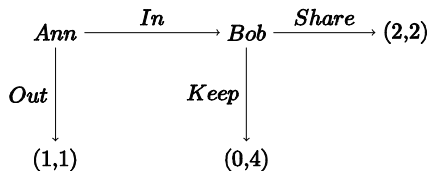
# Sequential Equilibrium: Comments

The psychological games framework requires higher-order (conditional) beliefs. Introducing higher-order beliefs allows to uncover (undesirable) conceptual features of Sequential Equilibrium (SE) in both psychological and standard games:

- ▶ SE is a notion of equilibrium in beliefs.  $2^{nd}$ -order beliefs are always correct, hence they cannot change  $\Rightarrow$  *beliefs about plans of others never change!*
- ▶ Trembling-hand interpretation: Deviations from equilibrium plans/strategies are always interpreted as *unintentional mistakes*, no future mistakes are ever expected.
- ▶ Consistency of behavior with plans  $\sigma$  yields possible paths  $Z(\sigma) \subseteq Z$ .
- ▶ If  $\sigma$  is interpreted as a profile of truly randomized strategies (at each  $h$  players spin roulette wheels to decide what to do), then it makes sense to look at the distribution  $\zeta(\sigma) \in \Delta(Z)$  induced by  $\sigma$ .



# Seq. Equil. in the Trust Game with Guilt Aversion



## Trust Minigame

Suppose  $\theta_2 > 2$  (commonly known), is  $(Out, Keep)$  part of a SE? No!

- ▶ Bob is always certain that Ann's plan is *Out*  $\Rightarrow$  after *In* Bob would still believe that Ann expected  $\text{€}1$ .
- ▶  $u_2(In, Keep; \beta_2) = 4 - \theta_2 \cdot (1 - 0) < 2 = u_2(In, Share; \beta_2)$ .
- ▶ **Exercise:** Prove that
  - ▶ If  $\theta_2 < 1$ , unique SE outcome and unique rationalizable outcome is *Out*.
  - ▶ If  $1 < \theta_2 < 2$ , both *Out* and  $(In, Share)$  are SE as well as rationalizable outcomes (nonexhaustive list).
  - ▶ If  $\theta_2 > 2$ , then the unique SE as well as the unique rationalizable outcome is  $(In, Share)$ .
- ▶ Compare with the analysis in BD (2009), why is it different?

# Self-confirming equilibrium







- ▶ Characterization of stable distributions in population games played recurrently with feedback about outcomes (see Battigalli et al. 2015).
- ▶ Players are subjectively rational, their beliefs may be incorrect, but each player's beliefs are confirmed by what he observes (feedback), e.g., the frequencies of monetary payoffs given the chosen actions.
- ▶ Concept to be used to analyze stable pattern of behavior in empirical data, or stabilized behavior in experiments with repeated play and random matching in each period.
- ▶ Trust Minigame (feedback=own payoff):
  - ▶ a fraction of agents in pop. 1 stay *Out*, and their beliefs may be incorrect,
  - ▶ the complementary fraction of agents go *In*, and their beliefs of the conditional frequency of Share must be *correct*,
  - ▶ the fraction of agents in pop. 2 who Share (given In) is determined by the distribution of types and (with belief-dependent preferences) the distribution of 2<sup>nd</sup>-order beliefs, which may be incorrect.







# Conclusions





- ▶ These notes draw on joint work with G. Attanasi, G. Charness, R. Corrao, M. Dufwenberg, E. Manzoni, R. Nagel, F. Sanna, and A. Smith.
- ▶ We introduce a framework to model belief-dependent emotions in games.
- ▶ Several experiments are driven by such framework and yield interesting evidence supporting the assumption that preferences are belief-dependent.
- ▶ Standard equilibrium (even of the “psychological” variety) is inadequate to organize experimental results.
- ▶ Rationalizability (2, 3 steps) and self-confirming equilibrium should be used more often, as appropriate to the design, to obtain predictions about behavior and elicited beliefs, and to organize data.

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