Bayes correlated equilibria and no-regret dynamics

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Goals of algorithmic game theory

Goal 1

Computing equilibria efficiently

- Is it possible to compute equilibria of a given game in reasonable time?
- If it is difficult, is it possible to find an evidence for difficulty?

Goal 2 Guaranteeing quality of equilibria (price of anarchy)

• In the worst equilibria, how much does social welfare deteriorate?

This study aims to achieve these two goals for Bayesian games

* There are various other goals (e.g., computing auctions, cooperative games)

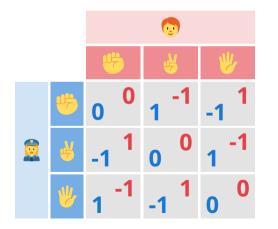
Background 1: Equilibrium computation

Background 2: Price of anarchy

Our results on Bayesian games

Details of the proposed dynamics

A game is zero-sum \Leftrightarrow the total payoff is always zero

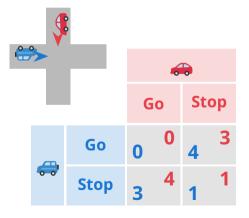


Example:

rock paper scissors

Nash equilibria: both players choose every action with prob. 1/3 (unique)

🚓 and 🚓 at an intersection decide whether to go or to stop



Nash equilibria:

- **1.** (Go, Stop)
- **2.** (Stop, Go)
- **3.** Both choose Go and Stop with prob. 1/2

Problem Compute any Nash equilibrium given a payoff table

Is there an algorithm that runs in time polynomial in #actions?

• Two-player zero-sum games: Yes

Linear-programming-based algorithm [von Neumann 1928, Khachiyan'79]

• Two-player non-zero-sum games: No (probably)

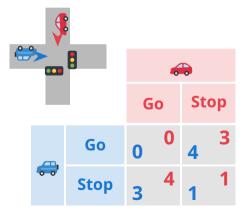
This problem is PPAD-complete [Chen-Deng-Teng'09]

Computer scientists "believe" that solving it in poly-time is impossible

Question Is there any equilibrium concept easy to compute?

Correlated equilibria

Players' actions can be correlated via a traffic signal



Correlated equilibria:

infinitely many including Nash eq.

e.g.) (Go, Stop) with prob. 1/2 (Stop, Go) with prob. 1/2

Correlated equilibria

 $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ players $N = \{\clubsuit, \clubsuit\}$ A_i finite set of actions for player $i \in N$ $A_i = \{\text{Go}, \text{Stop}\}$ $A = A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$ set of action profiles $u_{\clubsuit}(\text{Go}, \text{Stop}) = 4$

Definition

A distribution over action profiles $\pi \in \Delta(A)$ is a correlated equilibrium \Leftrightarrow For any player $i \in N$ and deviation $\phi \colon A_i \to A_i$, $\underset{a \sim \pi}{\mathbb{E}} [v_i(\phi(a_i), a_{-i})] \leq \underset{a \sim \pi}{\mathbb{E}} [v_i(a)].$

% If π is a product distribution, this definition coincides with Nash equilibria

Correlated equilibria

Definition

A distribution over action profiles $\pi \in \Delta(A)$ is a correlated equilibrium

 \Leftrightarrow For any player $i \in N$ and deviation $\phi \colon A_i \to A_i$,

$$\mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a \sim \pi} \left[v_i(\phi(a_i), a_{-i}) \right] \le \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a \sim \pi} \left[v_i(a) \right].$$



We can define a CE $\pi \in \Delta(A)$ as follows:

 $\pi(Go, Stop) = 1/2, \pi(Stop, Go) = 1/2$

Each player cannot increase the payoff by any ϕ e.g., ϕ (Go) = Stop, ϕ (Stop) = Stop decreases it

The set of CEs is expressed by linear constraints with |A| variables

$$\mathsf{CE} = \begin{cases} \pi \in [0,1]^A & \sum_{\substack{a \in A:\\a_i = a'_i \\ a_i = a'_i}} \pi(a)[v_i(a) - v_i(a''_i, a_{-i})] \le 0 \ (\forall i \in N, \forall a'_i, a''_i \in A_i) \\ & \sum_{a \in A} \pi(a) = 1 \end{cases}$$

If the number of players is a constant, the size of this LP is polynomial

 \rightarrow The problem of finding (also optimizing) a CE is tractable [Khachiyan'79]

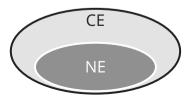
Question How about cases where the number of players is large?

Computing correlated equilibria

Theorem [Foster-Vohra'97, Hart-Mas-Collel'00, Blum-Mansour'07]

There exists a poly-time algo. for computing a CE of *n*-player games

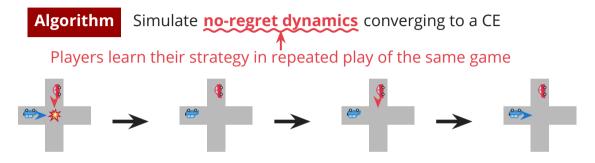
cf. Computing Nash equilibria is PPAD-complete even for two-player games



The problem of computing **any** CE is easier than computing **any** NE

No-regret dynamics

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for t = 1, 2, ..., T do

Each player $i \in N$ decides a (mixed) strategy $\pi_i^t \in \Delta(A_i)$

All players' strategies $(\pi_i^t)_{i \in N}$ are revealed to each other

Each player *i* obtains reward $\mathbb{E}[v_i(a^t)]$, where $a_i^t \sim \pi_i^t$ independently ($\forall i$)

Swap regret [Blum-Mansour'07]

$$\mathbf{SwapRegret}_{i}^{T} \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \max_{\phi: A_{i} \rightarrow A_{i}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left[v_{i}^{t}(\phi(a_{i}^{t}), a_{-i}^{t})\right]}_{\text{reward in round } t \text{ if}} - \sum_{t=1}^{T} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left[v_{i}^{t}(a^{t})\right]}_{\text{reward in round } t}$$

the actions are replaced according to ϕ

Theorem [Blum-Mansour'07]

If swap regret of every player grows sublinearly in T,

the empirical distribution converges to a correlated equilibrium The uniform mixture of action profiles of T rounds

* Another variant called *internal regret* does not work for Bayes correlated equilibria

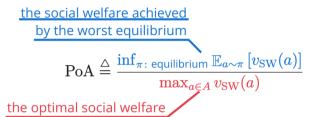
Background 1: Equilibrium computation

Background 2: Price of anarchy

Our results on Bayesian games

Details of the proposed dynamics

Price of anarchy (PoA)



 $v_{\mathrm{SW}} \colon A o \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ social welfare usually $v_{\mathrm{SW}}(a) \stackrel{ riangle}{=} \sum_{i \in N} v_i(a)$

* PoA depends on the equilibrium concept (PoA for NE, etc.)

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In some game,

the PoA can be close to 0

the worst equilibrium: 2 at (D, D)

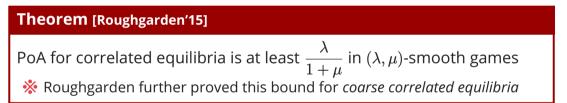
the optimal: 20 at (C, C)

Smoothness framework (1/2) [Roughgarden'15]

Question For what class of games is the PoA lower-bounded? **Definition** [Roughgarden'15] An *n*-player game is (λ, μ) -smooth social welfare social welfare Player *i* switches achieved by a^* achieved by afrom a_i to a_i^* social optimal The deviations significantly increase $(a_1^*, a_{-1}) \ (a_2^*, a_{-2}) \ \cdots \ (a_n^*, a_{-n})$ social welfare towards the optimal

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Smooth games are a broad class of games with bounded PoA



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Examples of smooth games

Congestion games, various auctions, competitive facility location,

effort market games, competitive information spread, ...

Background 1: Equilibrium computation

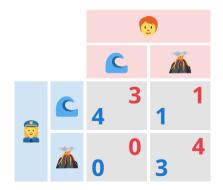
Background 2: Price of anarchy

Our results on Bayesian games

Details of the proposed dynamics







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Players' types are generated from a common prior distribution

Each of 🚊 and 😨 prefers \subseteq and \widetilde{A} with prob. 1/2 for each

(Each player knows the prior distribution only, not the others' types)



 $N = \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ players $N = \{ \underline{2}, \mathbf{0} \}$ A_i finite set of actions for player $i \in N$ $A_1 = A_2 = \{ \subseteq, \check{A} \}$ Θ_i finite set of types for player $i \in N$ $\Theta_1 = \Theta_2 = \{ \text{type:} \subseteq, \text{type:} \check{\boxtimes} \}$ $A = \prod_{i \in N} A_i$ action profiles, $\Theta = \prod_{i \in N} \Theta_i$ type profiles $\rho \in \Delta(\Theta)$ prior distribution over type profiles $\rho(\text{type:} \underline{\mathbb{C}}, \text{type:} \underline{\mathbb{C}}) = 1/4$ $v_i: \Theta \times A \rightarrow [0, 1]$ utility function for player $i \in N$ v_1 (type: \subseteq , type: \subseteq ; \subseteq , \checkmark) = 1

Computational studies on Bayesian games 22/39

• Equilibrium computation:

Computing Bayes Nash equilibria (BNE) is PPAD-complete Existing algorithms can compute weak equilibria (Bayes coarse CE) [Hartline-Syrgkanis-Tardos'15]

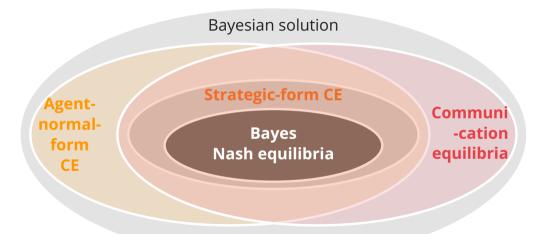
• Price of anarchy

Smoothness framework provides PoA bounds only for BNE

[Roughgarden'15b, Syrgkanis–Tardos'13]

Q Is there any equilibrium concept that has both merits?

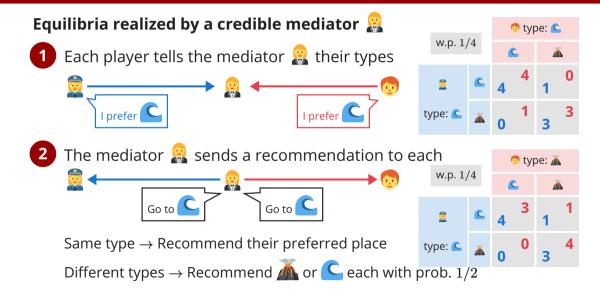
Various Bayes correlated equilibria [Forges'93] 23/39



Various Bayes correlated equilibria [Forges'93] 23/ 39



Communication equilibria [Myerson'82, Forges'86]



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Definition

A distribution $\pi \in \Delta(A)^{\Theta}$ is a communication equilibrium $\stackrel{A}{\Leftrightarrow}$ For any player $i \in N$, $\psi \colon \Theta_i \to \Theta_i$, and $\phi \colon \Theta_i \times A_i \to A_i$, $\mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi(\psi(\theta_i), \theta_{-i})} \left[v_i(\theta; \phi(\theta_i, a_i), a_{-i}) \right] \right] \leq \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \rho} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi(\theta)} \left[v_i(\theta; a) \right] \right].$

Two incentive constraints

No incentive to **tell an untrue type** (represented by ψ)

No incentive to **disobey the recommendation** (represented by ϕ)

Agent-normal-form correlated equilibria

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ANFCE is defined as CE of the agent normal form

Agent normal form of Bayesian games

The same player with different types are regarded as different players

Only (hypothetical) players with realized types play the game

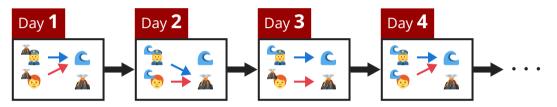
In our example, randomly selected two out of (⊆, ⊆), (⊆, ∡), (☉, ⊆), (☉, ∡) play the game

Difference from communication equilibria:

- No incentive constraint for truthful type telling
- The distribution must satisfy some technical condition

called strategy representability

We propose no-regret dynamics converging to ANFCE \cap Com.Eq.



In repeated play, players aim to minimize **<u>untruthful swap regret</u>** defined later

Theorem (informal)

Dynamics with o(T) untruthful swap regret converge to ANFCE \cap Com.Eq. and can be simulated by the proposed algorithm in polynomial time

PoA bounds for ANFCE \cap Com.Eq. via smoothness arguments

Previous results PoA bounds for **BNE** via smoothness

 \downarrow extend

[Roughgarden'15b, Syrgkanis–Tardos'13]

Our results PoA bounds for **ANFCE** \cap **Com.Eq.** via smoothness

* PoA decreases as equilibria get broader (the worst equilibrium considered)

Theorem (informal)

PoA for ANFCE \cap Com.Eq. is at least $\lambda/(1 + \mu)$

if a game for each fixed $\theta \in \Theta$ is (λ, μ) -smooth

Applications:

$$v_{
m SW} = \sum_i v_i$$
 case,

various auctions, ...

Background 1: Equilibrium computation

Background 2: Price of anarchy

Our results on Bayesian games

Details of the proposed dynamics

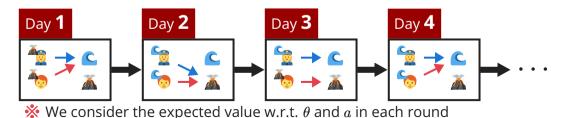
No-regret dynamics in Bayesian games

For t = 1, 2, ..., T:

Each player $i \in N$ decides a (mixed) strategy $\pi_i^t \in \Delta(A_i)^{\Theta_i}$ All players' strategies $(\pi_i^t)_{i \in N}$ are revealed to each other Each player i obtains reward $\mathbb{E}[v_i(\theta; a^t)]$,

where $\theta \sim \rho$ and then $a_i^t \sim \pi_i^t(\theta_i)$ independently for each *i*

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Untruthful swap regret

Untruthful swap regret for player $i \in N$

$$R_{\mathrm{US},i}^{T} = \max_{\substack{\psi: \Theta_{i} \to \Theta_{i} \\ \phi: \Theta_{i} \times A_{i} \to A_{i}}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E}_{\theta_{i} \sim \rho_{i}} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a_{i} \sim \pi_{i}^{t}(\psi(\theta_{i}))} \left[u_{i}^{t}(\theta_{i}, \phi(\theta_{i}, a_{i})) \right] \right] \\ - \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E}_{\theta_{i} \sim \rho_{i}} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a_{i} \sim \pi_{i}^{t}(\theta_{i})} \left[u_{i}^{t}(\theta_{i}, a_{i}) \right] \right],$$
where $u_{i}^{t}(\theta_{i}, a_{i}) \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \mathbb{E}_{\theta_{-i} \sim \rho_{-i} \mid \theta_{i}} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a_{-i} \sim \pi_{-i}^{t}(\theta_{-i})} \left[v_{i}(\theta; a) \right] \right]$ is the reward vector at round t
 $(\rho_{i}$ the marginal distribution, $\rho_{-i} \mid \theta_{i}$ the conditional distribution

Two incentive constraints for communication equilibria

- 1. No incentive to **tell an untrue type** (represented by ψ)
- 2. No incentive to **disobey the recommendation** (represented by ϕ)

Suppose each player minimizes USR against adversarial players

 Φ -regret minimization framework + decomposition

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Theorem

Upper bound

The proposed algo. achieves
$$R_{\text{US},i} = O\left(\sqrt{T \max\{|A_i| \log |A_i|, \log |\Theta_i|\}}\right)$$

Lower bound Analyze a hard instance with optimal stopping theory
Theorem
Any algorithm satisfies
$$R_{\text{US},i} = \Omega\left(\sqrt{T \max\{|A_i| \log |A_i|, \log |\Theta_i|\}}\right)$$

External regret minimization algo.

 $u^t \in [0,1]^A$ reward vector in round $t \in [T]$

 $\pi^t \in \Delta(A)$ mixed strategy in round $t \in [T]$ 🛛 🔆 Subscript i is omitted from now on

$$\text{ExternalRegret}^T \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{a^* \in A} \sum_{t=1}^T u^t(a^*) - \sum_{t=1}^T \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{a^t \sim \pi^t} \left[u^t(a^t) \right]$$

Multiplicative Weights Update method: Initialize $\pi^1(a) = 1/|A|$ ($\forall a \in A$),

For each $t \in [T]$: Update $\pi^{t+1}(a) \propto \pi^t(a) \exp(\eta u^t(a))$ ($\forall a \in A$)

Theorem [Cesa-Bianchi-Lugosi'07]

If
$$\eta = \sqrt{rac{\log |A|}{T}}$$
, MWU achieves $\operatorname{ExternalRegret}^T = O\left(\sqrt{T \log |A|}
ight)$

Swap regret minimization algo. [Blum-Mansour'07] 34/ 39

$$SwapRegret^{T} \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \max_{\boldsymbol{\phi}: A_{i} \rightarrow A_{i}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E}_{a^{t} \sim \pi^{t}} \left[u^{t}(\boldsymbol{\phi}(a^{t})) \right] - \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E}_{a^{t} \sim \pi^{t}} \left[u^{t}(a^{t}) \right]$$

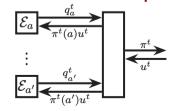
$$SwapRegret^{T} \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \langle Q \pi^{t}, u^{t} \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^{T} \langle \pi^{t}, u^{t} \rangle,$$
where $\mathcal{Q} = \left\{ Q \in [0, 1]^{A \times A} \mid \mathbf{1}Q = \mathbf{1} \right\}$

$$SwapRegret^{T} \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \langle Q, \pi^{t} \otimes u^{t} \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^{T} \langle Q^{t}, \pi^{t} \otimes u^{t} \rangle$$
 if $Q^{t}\pi^{t} = \pi^{t}$ for all $t \in [T]$

Swap regret minimization algo. [Blum-Mansour'07] 35/ 39

$$\mathrm{SwapRegret}^T \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^T \langle Q^t, \pi^t \otimes u^t \rangle \text{ if } Q^t \pi^t = \pi^t \text{ for all } t \in [T]$$

- 1: Initialize subroutines $(\mathcal{E}_a)_{a \in A}$ for external regret minimization with actions A
- 2: for t = 1, 2, ..., T do
- 3: Let $q_a^t \in \Delta(A)$ be the output of subroutine \mathcal{E}_a for each $a \in A$
- 4: Let Q^t be an $|A| \times |A|$ matrix with each column q_a^t
- 5: Find $\pi^t \in \Delta(A)$ such that $\pi^t = Q^t \pi^t$
- 6: Observe u^t and feed $\pi^t(a)u^t$ to subroutine \mathcal{E}_a



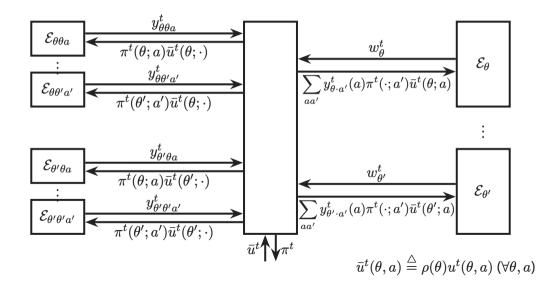
Untruthful swap regret minimization algo. 36/39

$$R_{\mathrm{US},i}^{T} = \max_{\substack{\psi: \Theta \to \Theta \\ \phi: \Theta \times A \to A}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi^{t}(\psi(\theta))} \left[u^{t}(\theta, \phi(\theta, a)) \right] \right] - \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E}_{a \sim \pi^{t}(\theta)} \left[u^{t}(\theta, a) \right] \right]$$

$$\operatorname{SwapRegret}^{T} \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \max_{\substack{Q \in \mathcal{Q} \\ t=1}} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \langle Q \pi^{t}, u^{t} \rangle - \sum_{t=1}^{T} \langle \pi^{t}, u^{t} \rangle, \text{ where}$$

$$\mathcal{Q} = \left\{ Q \in [0, 1]^{(\Theta \times A) \times (\Theta \times A)} \middle| \begin{array}{c} \text{there exists some } W \in [0, 1]^{\Theta \times \Theta} \text{ such that} \\ \sum_{\theta' \in \Theta} W(\theta, \theta') = 1 \left(\forall \theta \in \Theta \right) \text{ and} \\ \sum_{a \in A} Q((\theta, a), (\theta', a')) = W(\theta, \theta') \left(\forall \theta, \theta' \in \Theta, a' \in A \right) \end{array} \right\}$$

Untruthful swap regret minimization algo. 37/39



Full description of the algorithm

The set of types Θ_i and the set of actions A_i are specified in advance. The reward vector $u_i^t \in [0, 1]^{\Theta_i \times A_i}$ is given at the end of each round $t \in [T]$. Initialize subroutines as follows:

- let \mathcal{E}_{θ_i} be a multiplicative weights algorithm with decision space Θ_i for each $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$
- let $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i,\theta',a'_i}$ be AdaHedge with decision space A_i for each $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$ and $a'_i \in A_i$

for each round $t = 1, \ldots, T$ do

Let
$$w_{\theta_i}^t \in \Delta(\Theta_i)$$
 be the output of \mathcal{E}_{θ_i} in round t for each $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$
Let $y_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}^t \in \Delta(A_i)$ be the output of $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}$ in round t for each $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$ and $a'_i \in A_i$
Define $Q^t \in [0, 1]^{(\Theta_i \times A_i) \times (\Theta_i \times A_i)}$ by $Q^t((\theta_i, a_i), (\theta'_i, a'_i)) = w_{\theta_i}^t(\theta'_i) y_{\theta_i, \theta'_i, a'_i}^t(a_i)$ for each $\theta_i, \theta'_i \in \Theta_i$ and $a_i, a'_i \in A_i$
Compute an eigenvector $x^t \in \mathbb{R}^{\Theta_i \times A_i}$ of Q^t such that $Q^t x^t = x^t$ and $(x^t)^\top \mathbf{1} = |\Theta_i|$
Decide the output $\pi_i^t \in \Delta(A_i)^{\Theta_i}$ by $\pi_i^t(\theta_i; a_i) = x^t(\theta_i, a_i)$ for each $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$ and $a_i \in A_i$
Observe reward vector $u_i^t \in [0, 1]^{\Theta_i \times A_i}$ and feed reward vectors to subroutines as follows:

$$\text{feed} \sum_{a_i, a_i' \in A_i} y_{\theta_i, \theta_i', a_i'}^t(a_i) \pi_i^t(\theta_i'; a_i') \rho_i(\theta_i) u_i^t(\theta_i, a_i) \text{ as the reward for decision } \theta_i' \in \Theta$$

to subroutine \mathcal{E}_{θ_i} for each $\theta_i \in \Theta_i$

- feed $\pi_i^t(\theta_i'; a_i') \rho_i(\theta_i) u_i^t(\theta_i, a_i)$ as the reward for decision $a_i \in A_i$ to subroutine $\mathcal{E}_{\theta_i, \theta_i', a_i'}$ for each $\theta_i, \theta_i' \in \Theta_i$ and $a_i' \in A_i$



$\textbf{ANFCE} \cap \textbf{Com.Eq.}$ in Bayesian games satisfies the following goals

Goal 1 Efficient computation

- No-regret dynamics converging to ANFCE \cap Com.Eq.
- Algorithm for simulating the dynamics with the optimal convergence rate

Goal 2 PoA bounds

• Extension of the smoothness framework from BNE to ANFCE \cap Com.Eq.

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