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- Agents can be cooperative, competitive or somewhere in between.
- Agents that reason and act autonomously can't be modeled as nature.

Multi-agent framework

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- Each agent's value depends on the outcome.

Normal Form of a Game

The **strategic form of a game** or **normal-form game**:

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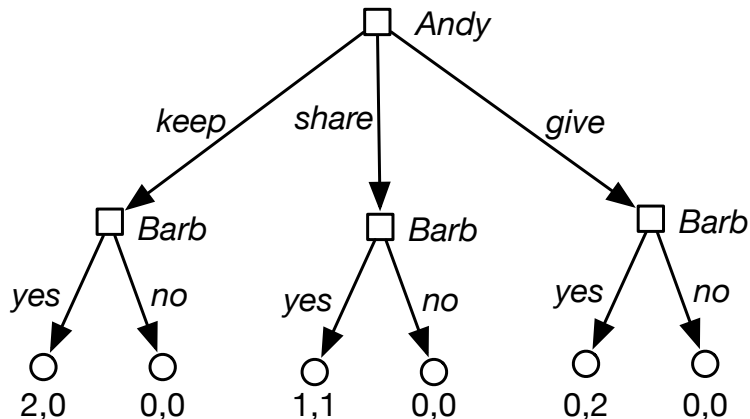
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An **action profile** σ is a tuple $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle$, means agent i carries out a_i .
- a utility function $utility(\sigma, i)$ for action profile σ and agent $i \in I$, gives the expected utility for agent i when all agents follow action profile σ .

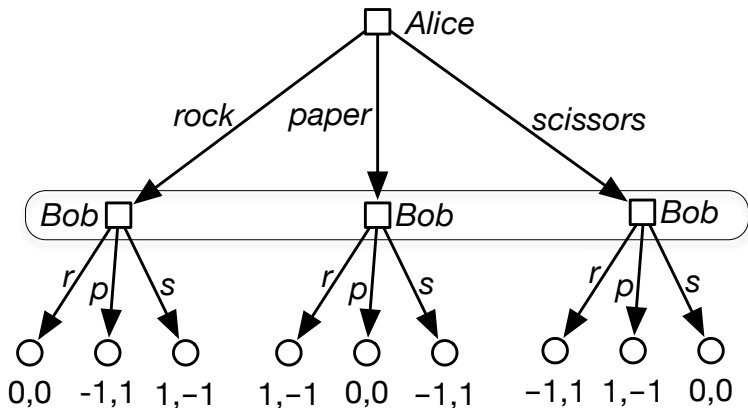
Rock-Paper-Scissors

		Bob		
		<i>rock</i>	<i>paper</i>	<i>scissors</i>
Alice	<i>rock</i>	0, 0	-1, 1	1, -1
	<i>paper</i>	1, -1	0, 0	-1, 1
	<i>scissors</i>	-1, 1	1, -1	0, 0

Extensive Form of a Game

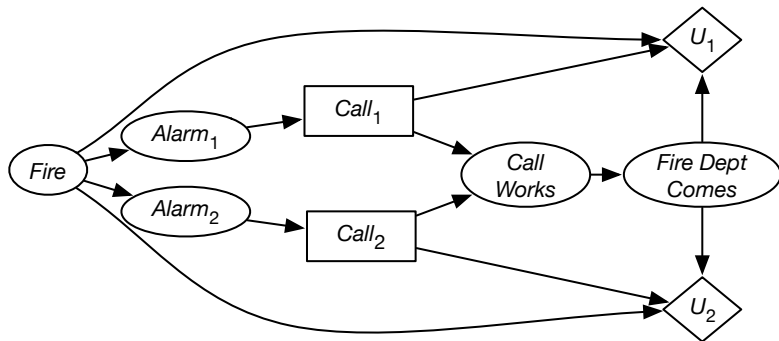


Extensive Form of an imperfect-information Game



Bob cannot distinguish the nodes in an **information set**.

Multiagent Decision Networks

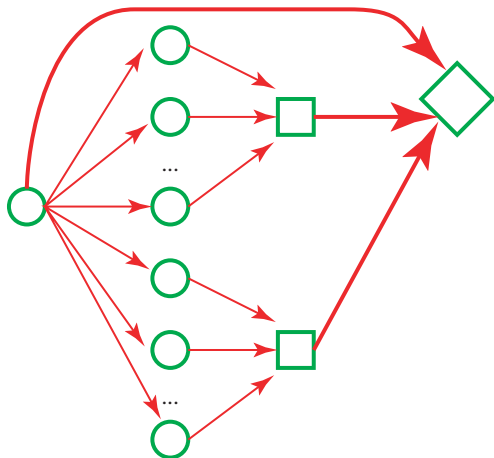


Value node for each agent.

Each decision node is owned by an agent.

The parents of each decision node specify what that agent will observe when making the decision

Multiple Agents, shared value



Complexity of Multi-agent decision theory

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- **Why?** Because dynamic programming doesn't work:
 - ▶ If a decision node has n binary parents, dynamic programming lets us solve 2^n decision problems.
 - ▶ This is much better than policies (where d is the number of decision alternatives).
- Multiple agents with shared values is equivalent to having a single forgetful agent.

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Strategy Profiles

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- A **strategy** for an agent is a probability distribution over the actions for this agent.
- A **strategy profile** is an assignment of a strategy to each agent.
- A strategy profile σ has a utility for each agent.
Let $utility(\sigma, i)$ be the utility of strategy profile σ for agent i .
- If σ is a strategy profile:
 σ_i is the strategy of agent i in σ ,
 σ_{-i} is the set of strategies of the other agents.
Thus σ is $\sigma_i\sigma_{-i}$

- σ_i is a **best response** to σ_{-i} if for all other strategies σ'_i for agent i ,

$$utility(\sigma_i \sigma_{-i}, i) \geq utility(\sigma'_i \sigma_{-i}, i).$$

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- Theorem [Nash, 1950] Every finite game has at least one Nash equilibrium.

Multiple Equilibria

Hawk-Dove Game:

		Agent 2	
		dove	hawk
Agent 1	dove	$R/2, R/2$	$0, R$
	hawk	$R, 0$	$-D, -D$

D and R are both positive with $D \gg R$.

Just because you know the Nash equilibria doesn't mean you know what to do:

		Agent 2	
		shopping	football
Agent 1	shopping	2,1	0,0
	football	0,0	1,2

Prisoner's Dilemma

Two strangers are in a game show. They each have the choice:

- Take \$100 for yourself
- Give \$1000 to the other player

This can be depicted as the payoff matrix:

		Player 2	
		take	give
Player 1	take	100,100	1100,0
	give	0,1100	1000,1000

Tragedy of the Commons

Example:

- There are 100 agents.
- There is a common environment that is shared amongst all agents. Each agent has $1/100$ of the shared environment.
- Each agent can choose to do an action that has a payoff of +10 but has a -100 payoff on the environment or do nothing with a zero payoff

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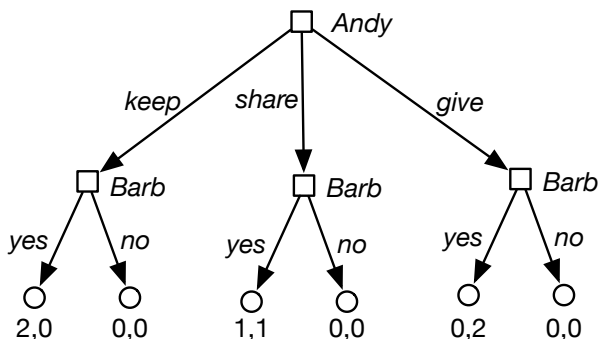
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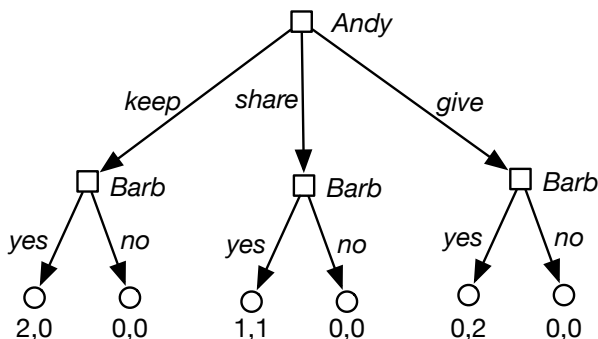
What are the Nash equilibria of:



A strategy for Barb is a choice of what to do in each situation.
Action profile eg 1: Andy: keep, Barb: no if keep, otherwise yes.
Action profile eg 2: Andy: share, Barb: yes always

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What if the $2,0$ payoff was $1.9,0.1$?