

# Game Theory with Applications to Finance and Marketing, I

Homework 0, to be discussed by TA

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1. Players 1 and 2 are bargaining over 1 dollar. The game proceeds in  $2N$  periods. In period  $i$ , where  $i$  is odd, if no concensus has been reached before, then player 1 can make an offer  $(x_i, 1 - x_i)$  to player 2, where  $x_i$  is player 1's share, and player 2 can either accept or reject that offer, and if the offer is accepted, then the dollar is so divided; or else, the game moves on to the  $i + 1$ st period. In period  $j$ , where  $j$  is even, if no concensus has been reached before, then player 2 can make an offer  $(x_j, 1 - x_j)$  to player 1, where  $x_j$  is again player 1's share, and player 1 can either accept or reject that offer, and if the offer is accepted, then the dollar is so divided; or else, the game moves on to the  $j + 1$ st period.

Both players would have zero payoff if no concensus has been reached at the end of period  $2N$ . If instead concensus is reached in period  $k$ , then player 1's payoff is  $\delta_1^{k-1}x_k$  and player 2's payoff is  $\delta_2^{k-1}(1 - x_k)$ .

Now, suppose that  $N = 4$ ,  $\delta_1 = \frac{5}{8}$  and  $\delta_2 = \frac{4}{5}$ . Then player 1's equilibrium payoff is   A   and player 2's equilibrium payoff is   B  .

**Solution.** It can be shown that, using backward induction,

$$x_8 = 0, \quad x_7 = \frac{1}{5}, \quad x_6 = \frac{1}{8}, \quad x_5 = \frac{3}{10},$$
$$x_4 = \frac{3}{16}, \quad x_3 = \frac{7}{20}, \quad x_2 = \frac{7}{32}, \quad x_1 = \frac{3}{8}.$$

Thus we have  $A = \frac{3}{8}$  and  $B = \frac{5}{8}$ .

2. Suppose that firms 1 and 2 must engage in Cournot competition at date 1. The date-1 inverse demand is  $p = 4 - q_1 - q_2$ . Assume that initially

both firms have date-1 marginal cost equal to 2, but firm 1 alone has the chance to decide at date 0 whether to spend  $F$  and reduce its date-1 marginal cost by 1. At date 1, only firm 1 knows whether  $F$  was spent at date 0.

It can be shown that firm 1 would adopt a mixed strategy at date 0 if and only if  $F$  lies in the open interval  $(a, b)$ , where  $a+b = \underline{\text{C}}$ , and in that case two prices  $p^H > p^L$  may appear at date 1, with  $p^H - p^L = \underline{\text{D}}$ . If it is equally likely in equilibrium that firm 1 may or may not spend  $F$ , then we must have  $F = \underline{\text{E}}$ .

**Solution.** Suppose that  $F$  is spent with probability  $1 - \pi$ . Then firm 2 would seek to

$$\max_{q_2} q_2(4 - \bar{q}_1 - q_2 - 2),$$

where

$$\bar{q}_1 \equiv \pi q_1(2) + (1 - \pi)q_1(1),$$

and where  $q_1(c_1)$  is firm 1's supply quantity when firm 1's marginal cost is  $c_1 \in \{1, 2\}$ . Thus we have

$$q_2 = \frac{2 - \bar{q}_1}{2}. \quad (1)$$

On the other hand, after spending  $F$ , firm 1 would seek to

$$\max_{q_1} q_1(4 - q_1 - q_2 - 1),$$

so that we have

$$q_1(1) = \frac{3 - q_2}{2}. \quad (2)$$

Similarly, without spending  $F$ , firm 1 would seek to

$$\max_{q_1} q_1(4 - q_1 - q_2 - 2),$$

so that we have

$$q_1(2) = \frac{2 - q_2}{2}. \quad (3)$$

It follows from (2) and (3) that

$$\bar{q}_1 = \pi q_1(2) + (1 - \pi)q_1(1) = \frac{3 - \pi - q_2}{2},$$

which, together with (1), implies that

$$\bar{q}_1 = \frac{4 - 2\pi}{3}, \quad q_2 = \frac{1 + \pi}{3},$$

and hence by (2) and (3), we have

$$q_1(1) = \frac{8 - \pi}{6}, \quad q_1(2) = \frac{5 - \pi}{6}.$$

It follows that

$$p^H = 4 - q_1(2) - q_2 = \frac{17 - \pi}{6},$$

and

$$p^L = 4 - q_1(1) - q_2 = \frac{14 - \pi}{6}.$$

We conclude that, independent of  $\pi$ , we have

$$p^H - p^L = q_1(1) - q_1(2) = \frac{1}{2},$$

which is part D.

It follows that firm 1 would expect to get

$$q_1(2)(p^H - 2) = \frac{(5 - \pi)^2}{36}$$

if firm 1 decides to not spend  $F$  at date 0; and firm 1 would expect to get

$$q_1(1)(p^L - 1) - F = \frac{(8 - \pi)^2}{36} - F$$

if firm 1 decides to spend  $F$  at date 0. Since firm 1 must feel indifferent about to or not to spend  $F$  in a mixed strategy equilibrium, we have

$$\frac{(5 - \pi)^2}{36} = \frac{(8 - \pi)^2}{36} - F \Rightarrow \pi = \frac{13}{2} - 6F,$$

and since

$$0 < \pi < 1,$$

we have

$$\frac{11}{12} = a < F < b = \frac{13}{12},$$

so that  $a + b = 2$ , which is part C.

In particular, if  $\pi = \frac{1}{2}$ , then we have  $F = 1$ , which is part E.

3. Given a metric space  $(X, d)$ , recall the following definition:

- Given any  $x \in X$  and  $e > 0$ , the set  $B(x, e) = \{y \in X : d(x, y) < e\}$  is an *open ball*.
- $A$  is an *open set* in  $X$  if and only if  $A$  is a (empty or non-empty) union of open balls.
- $A$  is a *closed set* in  $X$  if and only if  $A^c$  is an open set in  $X$ .
- The intersection of all closed sets that contain  $A$  is called the *closure* of  $A$ , and denoted by  $\bar{A}$ . Thus  $\bar{A}$  is the *smallest* closed set containing  $A$ .
- The union of all open sets contained by  $A$  is called the *interior* of  $A$ , and denoted by  $\text{Int}(A)$ . Thus  $\text{Int}(A)$  is the *largest* open subset of  $A$ .
- Given  $A \subset X$  and  $x \in X$ , we say  $x$  is a *limit point* of  $A$  if and only if *every* open ball  $B(x, e)$  with  $e > 0$  contains an element of  $A$  which is not  $x$ .
- Given  $A \subset X$  and  $x \in X$ , we say  $x$  is an *interior point* of  $A$  if and only if we can find *one* open ball  $B$  such that  $x \in B \subset A$ .
- Given  $A \subset X$  and  $x \in X$ , we say  $x$  is an *isolated point* of  $A$  if and only if we can find *one* open ball  $B(x, e)$  (with  $e > 0$ ) such that  $B(x, e) \cap A = \{x\}$ .

Now, prove the following assertions.

- (a) If  $x \in A$ , then  $x$  is an interior point of  $A$  if and only if  $x$  is *not* a limit point of  $A^c$ .

*Proof.* Note that if  $x$  is an interior point of  $A$  so that  $B(x, e) \subset A$  for some  $e > 0$ , then  $B(x, e)$  cannot intersect  $A^c$  at some point  $y \neq x$ , and hence  $x$  is not a limit point of  $A^c$ . Conversely, if  $x$  is *not* an interior point of  $A$  so that for each and every  $e > 0$ ,  $B(x, e)$  would contain some element of  $A^c$ , then that element of  $A^c$  certainly differs from  $x$  (recall that  $x \in A$ ), so that  $x$  is indeed a limit point of  $A^c$ .

- (b)  $A$  is closed if and only if  $A$  contains all its limit points.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $A$  is closed and  $x$  is a limit point of  $A$ . If  $x \in A^c$ , where note that  $A^c$  is open, then by Fact 8  $x$  is an interior point of  $A^c$ , so that  $x$  cannot be a limit point of  $A$ , which is a contradiction. We conclude that a closed set must contain all its limit points.

Now, suppose that  $A$  contains all its limit points. If  $x \in A^c$  and  $x$  is not an interior point of  $A^c$  (so that  $A$  is not a closed set), then  $x$  is a limit point of  $A$ , and hence  $x \in A$ , which is a contradiction. Thus a set containing all its limit points must be closed.

- (c) If  $A \subset X$  and  $A$  is a finite set, then  $A$  has no limit points and is automatically a closed set. Moreover, every element of  $A$  is an isolated point.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $A = \{x_j \in X : j = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , where  $x_i \neq x_j$  whenever  $j \neq i$ . Define

$$e \equiv \min\{d(x_i, x_j) : i \neq j, i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$

Then  $x_k \in B(x_i, \frac{e}{2}) \Rightarrow x_k = x_i$ , proving that all  $x_i$ 's are isolated points of  $A$ , and that none of them are limit points.

If  $y \in A^c$  and  $y$  is a limit point of  $A$ , then for all  $n$ ,  $B(y, \frac{1}{n})$  must contain some  $x_n \in A$  with  $x_n \neq y$ , proving that  $A$  cannot be a finite set. Thus  $A^c$  does not contain any of  $A$ 's limit points either. Since the set of limit points for  $A$  is empty,  $A$  is closed.

- (d) Suppose that  $X = \Re$  and  $d(x, y) = |x - y|$ . Suppose that the sequence  $\{x_n; n \in \mathbf{Z}_+\}$  converges to  $x_0$ . Let  $A$  contains exactly each and every  $x_n$ . Then  $x_0$  is a limit point of  $A$  if and only if  $A$  is *not* a finite set.

*Proof.* If  $x_0$  is a limit point of  $A$  then for all  $m \in \mathbf{Z}_+$  the open ball  $B(x_0, \frac{1}{m})$  must contain some  $x_m \in A$  with  $x_m \neq x_0$ .  $A$  cannot be a finite set in this case.

If  $x_0$  is *not* a limit point of  $A$  then there exists  $e > 0$  such that  $B(x_0, e)$  does not contain any  $y \in A$  with  $y \neq x_0$ , but then  $x_0$  cannot be the limit of the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  unless there exists  $m \in \mathbf{Z}_+$  such that  $x_k = x_0$  for all  $k \geq m$ , proving that  $A$  is a finite set.

- (e) Suppose that  $X = \Re$  and  $d(x, y) = |x - y|$ . Suppose that  $A$  is a non-empty subset of  $X$  and  $u$  is an upper bound for  $A$ . Then  $\sup A$  exists, and there exists a sequence in  $A$  that converges to  $\sup A$ . In particular, if  $A$  does not contain  $\sup A$ , then there exists an increasing sequence in  $A$  that converges to  $\sup A$ .

*Proof.* There exists  $x_0 \in A$  because  $A \neq \emptyset$ . Define  $d_1 \equiv x_0$  and  $u_1 \equiv u$ . Suppose that we have defined  $u_j$  and  $d_j$  for all  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , then define  $u_{k+1}$  and  $d_{k+1}$  as follows:

If  $\frac{u_k + d_k}{2}$  is an upper bound for  $A$ , then define  $u_{k+1} \equiv \frac{u_k + d_k}{2}$  and  $d_{j+1} \equiv d_k$ ; otherwise, define  $u_{k+1} \equiv u_k$  and  $d_{k+1}$  as some element of  $A$  such that  $d_{k+1} \geq \frac{u_k + d_k}{2}$ . Thus  $\{d_k\}$  is an increasing sequence<sup>1</sup> contained in  $A$ , and  $\{u_k\}$  is a decreasing sequence of upper bounds for  $A$ .

Now, we have an increasing sequence  $\{d_k\}$  bounded above by  $u_1$  and a decreasing sequence  $\{u_k\}$  bounded below by  $x_0$ . By Axiom of Continuity,<sup>2</sup> the two sequences are convergent sequences, and

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<sup>1</sup>Here, increasing means weakly increasing or non-decreasing. I would say strictly increasing if the sequence is not just weakly increasing.

<sup>2</sup>This axiom says that a decreasing real-valued sequence which is bounded below has a limit, and so does an increasing real-valued sequence which is bounded above.

they share the same limit, which is easy to show to be  $\sup A$ .<sup>3</sup>

If  $\sup A \in A$ , then  $\sup A$  is the limit of the constant sequence  $\{\sup A\}$ ; otherwise,  $\sup A$  is the limit of the increasing sequence  $\{d_k\}$ .

4. We now state a generalized version of the Kuhn-Tucker Theorem.

Consider the following maximization problem:

$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathfrak{R}^n} f(\mathbf{x})$$

subject to

$$\begin{aligned} g_i(\mathbf{x}) &\leq 0, \quad \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, m; \\ h_j(\mathbf{x}) &= 0, \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, l. \end{aligned}$$

This maximization problem involves  $m$  inequality constraints and  $l$  equality constraints. The associated Slater condition is as follows: there exists  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathfrak{R}^n$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} g_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) &< 0, \quad \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, m; \\ h_j(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) &= 0, \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, l. \end{aligned}$$

When the Slater condition holds, the following Kuhn-Tucker necessary conditions must hold: at an optimal solution  $\mathbf{x}^*$ , where  $\{Dh_j(\mathbf{x}^*); j = 1, 2, \dots, l\}$  consists of a set of linearly independent vectors, there must exist  $(\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_m)^T \in \mathfrak{R}_+^m$  and  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_l)^T \in \mathfrak{R}^l$  such that

$$\text{(Stationarity)} \quad Df(\mathbf{x}^*) = \sum_{i=1}^m \mu_i Dg_i(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{j=1}^l \lambda_j Dh_j(\mathbf{x}^*);$$

$$h_j(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0, \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, l;$$

$$\text{(Complementary Slackness)} \quad \mu_i g_i(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0, \quad \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Conversely, when the Slater condition holds,  $f$  is concave,  $g_i$ 's are convex, and  $h_j$ 's are affine, if  $\mathbf{x}^*$ ,  $(\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_m)^T \in \mathfrak{R}_+^m$ , and  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_l)^T \in$

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<sup>3</sup>Show that  $\lim d_k \leq \lim u_k$ , and if the inequality were strict, then a contradiction would arise. Moreover, show that  $\lim u_k$  is one upper bound for  $A$ , and  $u'$  cannot be an upper bound for  $A$  if  $u' < \lim u_k$ .

$\mathfrak{R}^l$  satisfy the above Kuhn-Tucker necessary conditions, then  $\mathbf{x}^*$  must be an optimal solution.<sup>4</sup>

Now, consider the following exercises.

- (a) Consider the following maximization problem: for some constant  $a \in \mathfrak{R}_+$ ,

$$\max_{x \in \mathfrak{R}} f(x; a) \equiv 2a - (x - a)^2$$

subject to

$$g(x) = (x - 3)^2 - 1 \leq 0.$$

Given  $a$ , let  $x^*(a)$  be the unique optimal solution and  $\pi(a)$  the Lagrange multiplier associated with the constraint  $g \leq 0$ .

(i) Show that in the above maximization problem the Slater condition is satisfied, and that  $f$  and  $g$  are respectively concave and convex.

(ii) Show that there exist  $\underline{a}, \bar{a} \in \mathfrak{R}_+$  with  $\underline{a} < \bar{a}$  such that  $\pi(a) > 0$  if and only if either  $a < \underline{a}$  or  $a > \bar{a}$ . Find  $\underline{a}$  and  $\bar{a}$ .

(iii) Compute  $x^*(\underline{a}-1)$ ,  $\pi(\underline{a}-1)$ ,  $Df(x^*(\underline{a}-1))$  and  $Dg(x^*(\underline{a}-1))$ .

(iv) Compute  $x^*(\bar{a}+1)$ , and  $\pi(\bar{a}+1)$ ,  $Df(x^*(\bar{a}+1))$  and  $Dg(\bar{a}+1)$ .

- (b) Suppose that  $f : \mathfrak{R} \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  is twice continuously differentiable and strictly concave. Let  $x^*$  attain the maximum value of  $f$ . Show that if  $f'(x) > 0$  then  $x^* > x$ , and if  $f'(x) < 0$  then  $x^* < x$ .

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<sup>4</sup>Visit for example

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karush%E2%80%93Kuhn%E2%80%93Tucker\\_conditions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karush%E2%80%93Kuhn%E2%80%93Tucker_conditions) to see a list of regularity conditions (or constraint qualification conditions) including the Slater condition. After Harold W. Kuhn and Albert W. Tucker published the Kuhn-Tucker conditions in 1951, scholars discovered that these necessary conditions had been stated by William Karush in his master's thesis in 1939. Hence nowadays people also refer to the Kuhn-Tucker conditions as Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions.



(c) Consider the following maximization problem:

$$\max_{(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2} x,$$

subject to

$$g(x, y) = (x + 1)^2 + (y - 2)^2 - 4 \leq 0;$$

$$h(x, y) = y - 3 = 0.$$

Let  $\mu_g$  and  $\mu_h$  denote the Lagrange multipliers associated with respectively  $g \leq 0$  and  $h = 0$ . Let  $(x^*, y^*)$  denote *the* optimal solution.

(i) Are constraint qualification conditions stated in section 48 of Lecture 0 satisfied?

(ii) Find  $\mu_g$ ,  $\mu_h$ , and  $(x^*, y^*)$ .

(d) Consider the following maximization problem:

$$\text{Problem (P): } \max_{T_1, T_2, q_1, q_2} \frac{1}{2}[T_1 - cq_1] + \frac{1}{2}[T_2 - cq_2]$$

subject to

$$\theta_1 V(q_1) - T_1 \geq 0, \tag{4}$$

$$\theta_2 V(q_2) - T_2 \geq 0, \tag{5}$$

$$\theta_1 V(q_1) - T_1 \geq \theta_1 V(q_2) - T_2, \tag{6}$$

$$\theta_2 V(q_2) - T_2 \geq \theta_2 V(q_1) - T_1. \tag{7}$$

The interpretation is as follows. A large bank is facing a small borrowing firm, which is equally likely to be of type  $\theta_1$  or type  $\theta_2$ . By borrowing  $q$  dollars from the bank today (date 0), a type- $\theta_j$  borrowing firm will generate a cash flow  $\theta_j V(q)$  tomorrow (date 1). The bank cannot tell the borrowing firm's type, and hence it offers a menu of choices to the borrowing firm, and asks the firm

to pick one. The menu says that, for  $j \in \{1, 2\}$ , if the firm would borrow  $q_j$  dollars today, then it has to repay the bank  $T_j$  dollars tomorrow.

In designing the menu of bank loan contracts, the bank must make sure that the borrowing firm is willing to accept the deal, regardless of its type (so that (1) and (2) must hold); and the bank must also make sure that a type- $\theta_j$  borrowing firm would rather accept the deal  $(q_j, T_j)$  than accept  $(q_i, T_i)$ , which is designed for the other type  $\theta_i$  (and hence (3) and (4) must hold). (We are assuming zero interest rates, so that there is no discounting.)

Finally, note that the objective function in (P) says that the bank considers both types of the borrowing firm equally likely, and that for each dollar lent to the firm, the bank must incur a cost  $c > 0$ . The bank thus seeks to maximize its expected profit from lending to the firm.

Let us assume from now on that

$$\theta_1 = 3, \theta_2 = 4, V(q) = \ln(1 + q), c = \frac{1}{4}.$$

Let  $(q_2^{**}, q_1^{**}, T_2^{**}, T_1^{**})$  denote the optimal solution to the above maximization problem. Show that  $q_2^{**} = 15$  and  $q_1^{**} = 7$ . What are the associated  $T_2^{**}$  and  $T_1^{**}$ ?<sup>5</sup>

5. Let us now practice the concept of common knowledge.

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<sup>5</sup>To apply the Kuhn-Tucker Theorem, first define  $h(x_j) \equiv e^{x_j} - 1$ , and re-write the maximization problem as

$$\text{Problem (P): } \max_{T_1, T_2, x_1, x_2} f(T_1, T_2, x_1, x_2) \equiv T_1 - ch(x_1) + T_2 - ch(x_2)$$

subject to

$$\begin{aligned} g_1 &\equiv T_1 - \theta_1 x_1 \leq 0; \\ g_2 &\equiv T_2 - \theta_2 x_2 \leq 0; \\ g_3 &\equiv T_1 - T_2 + \theta_1(x_2 - x_1) \leq 0; \\ g_4 &\equiv T_2 - T_1 + \theta_2(x_1 - x_2) \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mu_j$  be the associated Lagrange multiplier for constraint  $g_j \leq 0$ .

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Then, show that  $f$  is strictly concave and  $g_j$ 's are convex, with

$$Df = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -ch'(x_1) \\ -ch'(x_2) \end{bmatrix}, \quad Dg_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -\theta_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad Dg_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -\theta_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$Dg_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -\theta_1 \\ \theta_1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad Dg_4 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ \theta_2 \\ -\theta_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

It is useful to gain some insights before computing.

- Note that the  $\theta_2$  type can always pretend to be the  $\theta_1$  type and take the deal  $(T_1, x_1)$ , which would allow the  $\theta_2$ -buyer to obtain a payoff

$$\theta_2 x_1 - T_1 \geq \theta_1 x_1 - T_1 \geq 0,$$

and the first inequality would be strict if  $x_1 > 0$  (or equivalently  $q_1 > 0$ ). Thus  $x_1 > 0$  together with  $g_4 \leq 0$  would imply  $g_2 \leq 0$ . That is, if we conjecture that  $x_1 > 0$  then removing the second constraint would not alter the optimal solution to (P).

- Following the removal of  $g_2 \leq 0$ , we can further conjecture that the first constraint  $g_1 \leq 0$  must be binding at an optimal solution, for otherwise we could raise  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  by the same tiny positive amount without violating  $g_1, g_3,$  and  $g_4$ , but this would increase  $f$ !
- The removal of  $g_2 \leq 0$  and the conjecture that  $g_1 = 0$  at optimum now allow us to further conjecture that  $g_4$  must be binding at an optimal solution, for otherwise we could raise  $T_2$  alone by a tiny positive amount without violating the other constraints, but this would increase  $f$ !
- Now, following  $g_1 = 0 = g_4$  and following the removal of  $g_2 \leq 0$ , we can re-state  $g_3 \leq 0$  as

$$(\theta_1 - \theta_2)(x_2 - x_1) \leq 0,$$

but this last inequality would not be binding so long as  $x_2 > x_1$ .

Thus if we conjecture that  $x_2 > x_1 > 0$  at optimum then we would also conjecture that

$$\mu_2 = \mu_3 = 0, \quad T_1 = \theta_1 x_1, \quad T_2 = T_1 + \theta_2(x_2 - x_1) = \theta_2 x_2 - (\theta_2 - \theta_1)x_1.$$

Now, by the fact that  $f$  is concave and  $g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4$  are all convex, the sufficiency of Kuhn-Tucker Theorem applies, and hence we only need to find  $\mu_1, \mu_4 \geq 0$  such that

$$Df = \mu_1 Dg_1 + \mu_4 Dg_4 \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -ch'(x_1) \\ -ch'(x_2) \end{bmatrix} = \mu_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -\theta_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \mu_4 \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ \theta_2 \\ -\theta_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

Suppose that there are two players (i.e.,  $I = \{1, 2\}$ ) and 5 possible uncertain states of the world, and we denote by  $\Omega = \{\omega_i; i = 1, 2, \dots, 5\}$  the set of possible true states. Let  $H_i$  denote player  $i$ 's information, which is formally a partition of  $\Omega$ . For example, assume that  $H_1$  is depicted as

$$\boxed{\omega_1 | \omega_2, \omega_3 | \omega_4, \omega_5}$$

and  $H_2$  is depicted as

$$\boxed{\omega_1, \omega_2 | \omega_3 | \omega_4 | \omega_5}$$

In this example, if the true state is  $\omega_1$ , then player 1's information would tell him that the true state is exactly  $\omega_1$ , but player 2's information only shows that the true state is not  $\omega_3, \omega_4$ , or  $\omega_5$ . If instead the true state is  $\omega_2$ , then player 1 only knows that the true state is not  $\omega_1, \omega_4$ , or  $\omega_5$ ; and player 2 only knows that the true state is not  $\omega_3, \omega_4$ , or  $\omega_5$ . In other words, when the true state is  $\omega_j$ , the element in  $H_i$  that contains  $\omega_j$  is the set of  $\omega$ 's that player  $i$  considers possible to be the true state.

Consider three random variables  $\tilde{x}$ ,  $\tilde{y}$ , and  $\tilde{z}$ , whose realizations in true state  $\omega$  are denoted respectively by  $x(\omega)$ ,  $y(\omega)$ , and  $z(\omega)$ . Suppose that

	$\omega_1$	$\omega_2$	$\omega_3$	$\omega_4$	$\omega_5$
$x(\cdot)$	5	4	4	3	1
$y(\cdot)$	1	1	0	0	0
$z(\cdot)$	2	2	2	4	5

Assume that the above 3 tables regarding  $H_1$ ,  $H_2$ , and  $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}, \tilde{z})$  are the two players' common knowledge.<sup>6</sup>

(i) Suppose that the true state is  $\omega_2$ . Do both players know the realization of  $\tilde{x}$ ? If your answer is yes, do they also know that they both

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and if a solution to this system of equations exists and if the solution implies that  $x_2 > x_1 > 0$  and  $g_2, g_3 < 0$ , then we are done. Moreover, because  $f$  is strictly concave in  $(x_1, x_2)$ , the solution would be unique!

<sup>6</sup>To answer the following questions, we obviously must assume that they have *some* common knowledge!

know the realization of  $\tilde{x}$ ? If your answer is again yes, do they know that they both know that they both know the realization of  $x$ ? Do you think that the realization of  $\tilde{x}$  is the two players' common knowledge in state  $\omega_2$ ?

(ii) Suppose that the true state is  $\omega_1$ . Do both players know the realization of  $\tilde{y}$ ? If your answer is yes, do they also know that they both know the realization of  $\tilde{y}$ ? If your answer is again yes, do they know that they both know that they both know the realization of  $y$ ? Do you think that the realization of  $\tilde{y}$  is the two players' common knowledge in state  $\omega_1$ ?

(iii) Suppose that the true state is  $\omega_3$ . Do both players know the realization of  $\tilde{z}$ ? If your answer is yes, do they also know that they both know the realization of  $\tilde{z}$ ? If your answer is again yes, do they know that they both know that they both know the realization of  $z$ ? Do you think that the realization of  $\tilde{z}$  is the two players' common knowledge in state  $\omega_3$ ?

**Solution.** In part (i), in state  $\omega_2$  player 1 knows the realization of  $\tilde{x}$  but player 2 does not.

In part (ii), in state  $\omega_1$  both players know the realization of  $\tilde{y}$ , and player 1 knows that player 2 knows the realization of  $\tilde{y}$ . Player 2, however, is not sure whether player 1 knows the realization of  $\tilde{y}$ .

In part (iii), in state  $\omega_3$  the realization of  $\tilde{z}$  is indeed the two players' common knowledge.