

# Games with misinformed views

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1. Introduction
2. Perception parametrized models
3. Misinformation games
4. Adaptation procedure
5. Conclusions

# Introduction

- ▶ Multi-agent system: a group of autonomous intelligent and individual participants
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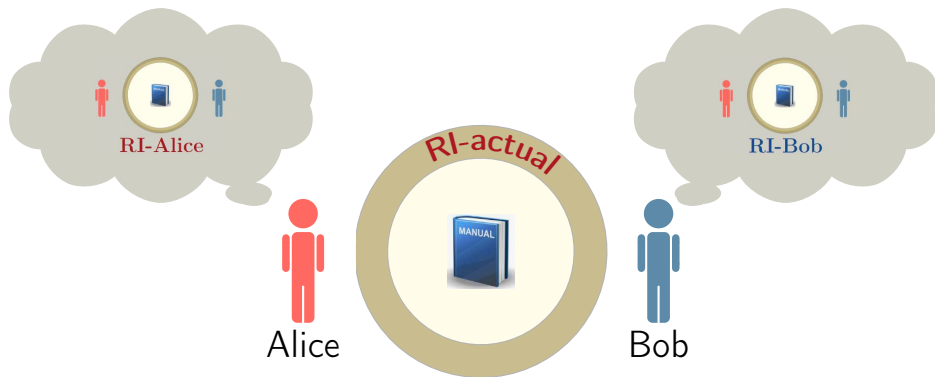
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    - ▶ Subjective views
  - ▶ Agents have individual incentives
- } Game theory



## Cases of subjective views

- ▶ Malicious intervention (e.g., fake news, deception, fraud)
- ▶ Wrong beliefs (e.g., cognitive limitations)
- ▶ Environmental changes (e.g., when the game changes due to external factors, without players' knowledge)
- ▶ Random or undeliberate mistakes (e.g., disconnections, communication jams, noise)
- ▶ Individual attitude (e.g. altruism, spite)



Agents have

- ▶ different attitudes towards the interaction
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- ▶ How do we model the concept of subjective views?
- ▶ How decisive are the subjective views in terms of system's efficiency?
- ▶ How do we study the above in different classes of games?

## Illustrative example I

- ▶ Interactions
- ▶ Agents
- ▶ Choices
- ▶ Gains

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- ▶ Agents ( $N$ )
- ▶ Strategies ( $S$ )
- ▶ Payoffs, utilities ( $P$ )

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$r_1$	(3, 2)	(1, 1)
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Table: Game  $G$ .



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- ! Solution concept, Nash equilibrium (**NE**, [S. Nash, '51]), no agent has incentives to alter her choice
- ! Measure the performance of the system (e.g. use social welfare **SW**)

## Perception parametrized models

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## Motivation

- ▶ Agents interpretation is too restrictive  $\rightsquigarrow$  utilities
- ▶ Solution concepts are questionable  $\rightsquigarrow$  NE
- ▶ Inefficiency in the performance of a system  $\rightsquigarrow$  PoA

- ▶ A set of resources and a set of agents
- ▶ Each resource has a cost function
- ▶ Each agent chooses a subset of resources, and experiences a cost
- ▶ Each agent has a **perceived** cost over the resources  $\leftrightarrow$  **subjective views**

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- ▶ Each agent has a **perceived** cost over the resources  $\rightsquigarrow$  **generalized congestion games**
  - ▶ General class of games in AGT

## Specifications

- ▶ A set of resources ( $m$ ) and a set of agents ( $n$ )
- ▶ Each resource ( $e$ ) has a cost function
- ▶ Each agent chooses a subset of resources, and experiences a cost ( $c_e(x_e)$ , cost only depends on load  $x_e$  on  $e$ )
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- ! Exploit the relationship between the actual interaction and the perceived perceptions to improve the outcome of the interaction
- ▶ Optimize social welfare (**SW**, sum of the individual gains)

altruism in atomic congestion games [[Caragiannis et al, TALG '10](#)]

altruism in social contribution games [[Rahn-Schäfer, WINE '13](#)]

complex underlying social structure and player-specific behavior  
[[Anagnostopoulos et al, TCS '15](#)]

biased perceived utilities [[Meir-Parkes, SIGMETRICS '15](#)]

partially altruistic agents congestion games [[Chen et al, TEAC '17](#)]

plugged in perceived social cost [[Kleer-Schäfer, TCS '19](#)]

generalized weighted congestion games [[Biló, TCS '22](#)]

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▶  $G^\alpha = (\mathbf{N}, \{\mathbf{S}_i\}_{i \in \mathbf{N}}, \{\mathbf{C}_i^\alpha\}_{i \in \mathbf{N}})$ , with  $C_i^\alpha(x) = (1 - \alpha_i)C_i(x) + \alpha_i C(x)$

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II. perception parameters  $\rho \geq 0$  and  $\sigma \geq 0$ , PP-congestion game

- ▶  $G^{\rho, \sigma} = (\mathbb{N}, \{S_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}, \{C_i^\rho\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}})$ , with  $C_i^\rho(x) = \sum_{e \in S_i} c_e(1 + \rho(x_e - 1))$
- ▶ social cost,  $C^*(x) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} C_i^*(s)$



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Interchange between the  $G$  and *perceived* games  $G^*$

## Definition: Price of Anarchy [KP, STACS '99]

A metric that measures the effect of selfishness on social welfare, compared to the optimum of the actual game,

$$\text{PoA} = \frac{f(\text{opt})}{\min_{\sigma \in \text{NE}} f(\sigma)}$$

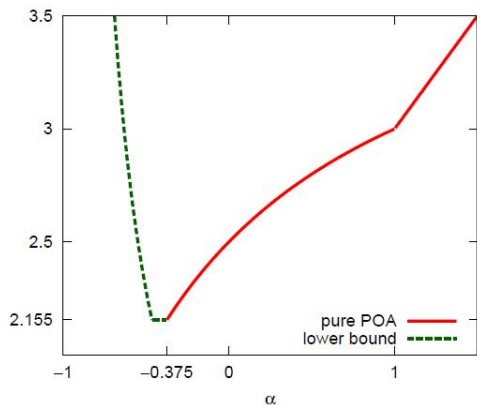
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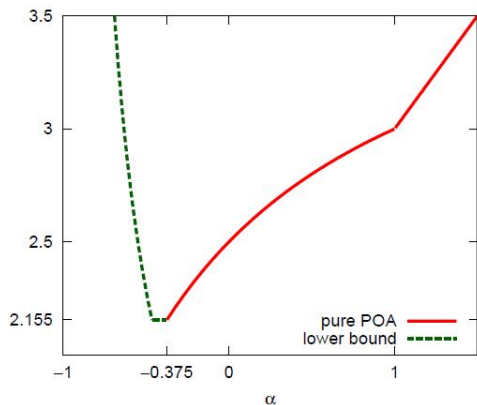
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- ▶ Study the efficiency of equilibria in interactions
- ▶ Can different attitudes be beneficial for the system?

## $\alpha$ -altruistic games

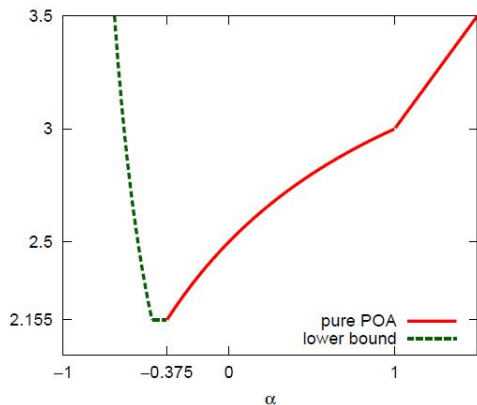


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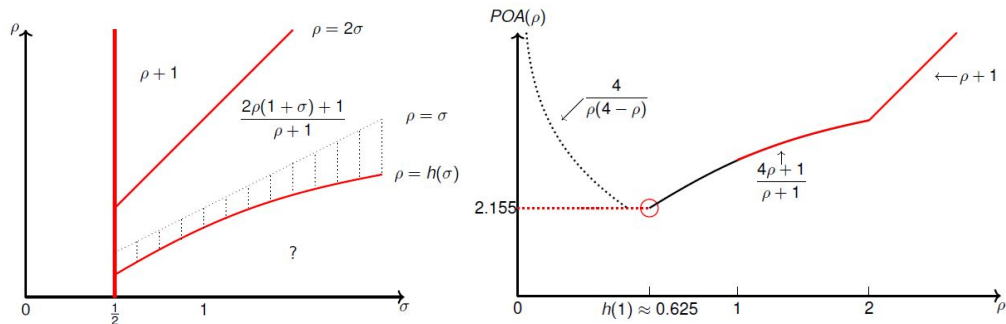
- ▶ Altruistic behavior might be harmful!

## $\alpha$ -altruistic games



- ▶ Altruistic behavior might be harmful!
- ▶ Spite might be beneficial?

## PP-congestion games



**Figure:**  $POA(\sigma, \rho)$  for affine cost functions. (left)  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , (right)  $\sigma = 1$ , see [P. Kleer and G. Schäfer, *Tight inefficiency bounds for perception-parameterized affine cost functions*, TCS '19]

- ▶ Unifying approach for complex games
- ▶ Exploit the relation between game  $G$  and perceived games  $G^*$
- ▶ Study the inefficiency of the interaction
- ▶ Tackle inefficiency using perceived games  $G^*$



# Misinformation games

- ▶ In real life agents may have subjective attitudes
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## Motivation

- ▶ Enhance agents interpretation
- ▶ Solution concepts are questionable
- ▶ Inefficiency in the performance of a system

## Illustrative Example II

*Two criminals, X and Y, are arrested and imprisoned in solitary confinement with no means of communicating with the other. The prosecutors have enough to convict both only on a lesser charge. Simultaneously, the prosecutors offer each prisoner a bargain. Each prisoner can either betray the other, or remain silent. The possible outcomes are:*

- C<sub>1</sub>** If X and Y each betray the other, each of them serves two years in prison.
- C<sub>2</sub>** If X betrays Y but Y remains silent, X will take a minor penalty and Y will serve three years in prison.
- C<sub>3</sub>** If X remains silent but Y betrays X, X will serve three years in prison and Y will take a minor penalty.
- C<sub>4</sub>** If X and Y both remain silent, both of them will serve only one year in prison (on the lesser charge).

Consider the interaction where two agents  $X$ ,  $Y$  have two choices  $A$  and  $B$ . This interaction is presented through the following table,

	S	B
S	$(-1, -1)$	$(-3, 0)$
B	$(0, -3)$	$(-2, -2)$

Now consider that, in reality, prosecutors do not have any evidence about  $X$  and  $Y$ . So  $X$ ,  $Y$  must be compensated, thus in reality it holds

	S	B
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Now this misinformation twist leads both agents to know the following tables,

	S	B
S	$(-1, -1)$	$(-3, 0)$
B	$(0, -3)$	$(-2, -2)$

(a) X's view.

	S	B
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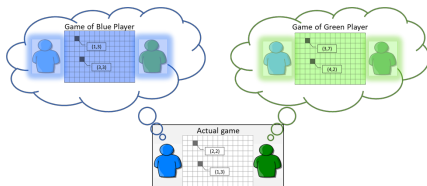
(b) Y's view.

	S	B
S	$(1, 1)$	$(-3, 0)$
B	$(0, -3)$	$(-2, -2)$

(c) actual.

It holds,

- ▶ Agents know the specification of the opponents (**complete**).
- ▶ Agents know wrong game specifications (**incorrect**).





Hypergames

[Bennett, Sasaki, Kovach et al.] etc.

Games with Unawareness

[Copic and Galeotti, Halpern and Rêgo, Schipper] etc.

misspecified models

[Esponda and Pouzo]

1. Agents are rational, intelligent, self-interested and of equal "capabilities"
2. Normal-form games
3. Agents' view of interaction
4. Abstract specifications for misinformation  
One-shot (static) interactions

1. Agents are rational, intelligent, self-interested and of equal "capabilities"
2. Normal-form games
3. Agents' view of interaction
4. Abstract specifications for misinformation
5. Iterative interactions

**Definition: Misinformation games [Varsos et al, PRICAI '19]**

A *misinformation game* is a tuple  $mG = \langle G^0, G^1, \dots, G^{|\mathcal{N}|} \rangle$ , where all  $G^i$  are normal-form games and  $G^0$  contains  $|\mathcal{N}|$  players

- ▶  $G^0$  is called the *actual game*
- ▶  $G^i$  represents the game that player  $i$  thinks that is being played,  $i \in [|\mathcal{N}|]$
- ▶ Special class *canonical misinformation games*
  - ▶ For any  $i$ ,  $G^0, G^i$  differ only in their payoffs
  - ▶ In any  $G^i$ , all players have an equal number of pure strategies
- ▶ Equilibrium concept, **natural misinformed equilibrium** (nme), where no player has incentives to deviate in her view

## Illustrative example II

Consider the mG =  $\langle G^0, G^r, G^c \rangle$ , with payoff matrices.

	S	B
S	(3, 2)	(1, 1)
B	(1, 1)	(2, 3)

(a)  $G^0, G^c$  payoff matrices.

	S	B
S	(2, 2)	(0, 3)
B	(3, 0)	(1, 1)

(b)  $G^r$  payoff matrix.

NE  $G^c$  ( $G^0$ ):  $\{((1, 0), (1, 0)), ((0, 1), (0, 1)), ((2/3, 1/3), (1/3, 2/3))\}$

NE  $G^r$ :  $\{((0, 1), (0, 1))\}$

nme  $\{(0, 1)\} \times \{(1, 0), (0, 1), (1/3, 2/3)\}$

## Lemma

We can transform any non-canonical mG into a canonical mG without affecting its strategic behaviour.

## Proposition: Existence

Any canonical mG has at least one nme.

## Proposition: Complexity

The computation of a nme of a mG is **PPAD**-complete.

## Definition: Price of Misinformation [Varsos et al, PRICAI'19]

A metric that measures the effect of misinformation on social welfare, compared to the optimum of the actual game,

$$\text{PoM} = \frac{f(\text{opt})}{\min_{\sigma \in \mathcal{N}_{me}} f(\sigma)}$$

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►  $\frac{\text{PoM}}{\text{PoA}} = \frac{\min_{\sigma \in \text{NE}} f(\sigma)}{\min_{\sigma \in \text{NME}} f(\sigma)}$ .

e.g. PoA:  $15/10 = 3/2$ , PoM:  $15/12 = 5/4$  and  $\text{PoM} < \text{PoA}$



## Adaptation procedure

- ▶ Iterative interaction
- ▶ Agents *adapt* and *reconsider* their views

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Consider a game played in *multiple turns*:

- ▶ We start from a *root* mG
- ▶ In each turn the agents pick a *nme*
- ▶ The agents rewards derived from the  $G^0$
- ▶ After receiving their payments, the agents *update*  $G^i$ 's
- ▶ We call this process **Adaptation procedure**

## Position Vectors:

- ▶ Consider a nme  $\sigma$
- ▶  $\chi(\sigma)$  denotes the positions of the strategies, played with *positive probability*
- ▶ We call  $\vec{v} \in \chi(\sigma)$  *position vectors*

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## Update Operation:

1. Let a position vector  $\vec{v}$
2. Let  $u = P^0(\vec{v})$  be the *objective* payment of the players
3. We *update* the *subjective* payoff matrices of the players  $P^i$ , i.e.  $P^i(\vec{v}) \leftarrow u$
4. We denote the *resulting* misinformation game with  $mG_{\vec{v}}$

## Running example

	$s_1$	$s_2$
$s_1$	(4, 9)	(3, 1)
$s_2$	(4, 5)	(1, 0)

(a) X's view.

	$s_1$	$s_2$
$s_1$	(3, 6)	(0, 6)
$s_2$	(3, 4)	(5, 3)

(b) Y's view.

	$s_1$	$s_2$
$s_1$	(5, 1)	(3, 1)
$s_2$	(5, 4)	(1, 7)

(c) actual.

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(c) actual.

$$G^X \text{ NE} = \{((1, 0), (1, 0)), ((0, 1), (0, 1))\}$$

$$G^Y \text{ NE} = \{((1/3, 2/3), (2/3, 1/3))\}$$

$$\text{nme} \text{ NME}(\text{mG}) = \{((1, 0), (2/3, 1/3)), ((1, 0), (2/3, 1/3))\}$$

$$\chi(\text{NME}(\text{mG})) = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2)\}$$

## Running example

Update at  $\vec{v} = (1, 1)$

	s <sub>1</sub>	s <sub>2</sub>
s <sub>1</sub>	(5, 1)	(3, 1)
s <sub>2</sub>	(4, 5)	(1, 0)

(a) X's view.

	s <sub>1</sub>	s <sub>2</sub>
s <sub>1</sub>	(5, 1)	(0, 6)
s <sub>2</sub>	(3, 4)	(5, 3)

(b) Y's view.

	s <sub>1</sub>	s <sub>2</sub>
s <sub>1</sub>	(5, 1)	(3, 1)
s <sub>2</sub>	(5, 4)	(1, 7)

(c) actual.



## Definition: Adaptation procedure [Papamichail et al, SETN '22]

For a set  $M$  of misinformation games, we set:

$$\mathcal{AD}(M) = \{mG_{\vec{u}} \mid mG \in M, \vec{u} \in \chi(\sigma), \sigma \in \text{NME}(mG)\}$$

We define as Adaptation procedure of a set of misinformation games  $M$  to be the iterative process such that:

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{AD}^{(0)}(M) = M \\ \mathcal{AD}^{(t+1)}(M) = \mathcal{AD}^{(t)}(\mathcal{AD}(M)) \end{cases}$$

for  $t \in \mathbb{N}_0$ .

- ▶ **End Criterion**,  $\mathcal{AD}^{\ell+1}(M) = \mathcal{AD}^{\ell}(M)$ , for some  $\ell < \infty$

## Theorem

For ever finite  $mG$ , the procedure terminates after a finite number of steps.

- ▶ We call  $\sigma$  a *stable misinformed equilibrium* (sme) the nme that produces the same  $mG$

## Theorem

Every finite  $mG$  has a sme.

## Running example

	s <sub>1</sub>	s <sub>2</sub>
s <sub>1</sub>	(5, 1)	(3, 1)
s <sub>2</sub>	(5, 4)	(1, 0)

(a) X's view.

	s <sub>1</sub>	s <sub>2</sub>
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(b) Y's view.

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## Running example

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(c) actual.

We have the NMEs:

- ▶  $\sigma_1 = ((1, 0), (1, 0)), \sigma_2 = ((0, 1), (1, 0))$

## Running example

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We have the NMEs:

- ▶  $\sigma_1 = ((1, 0), (1, 0)), \sigma_2 = ((0, 1), (1, 0))$
- ▶  $\chi(\sigma_1) = \{(1, 1)\}, \chi(\sigma_2) = \{(2, 1)\}$ .

## Running example

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$s_2$	(5, 4)	(1, 0)

(a)  $X$ 's view.

	$s_1$	$s_2$
$s_1$	(5, 1)	(0, 6)
$s_2$	(5, 4)	(5, 3)

(b)  $Y$ 's view.

	$s_1$	$s_2$
$s_1$	(5, 1)	(3, 1)
$s_2$	(5, 4)	(1, 7)

(c) actual.

We have the NMEs:

- ▶  $\sigma_1 = ((1, 0), (1, 0)), \sigma_2 = ((0, 1), (1, 0))$
- ▶  $\chi(\sigma_1) = \{(1, 1)\}, \chi(\sigma_2) = \{(2, 1)\}$ .
- ▶  $\sigma_1$  is a sme

**mG** A proposed unifying model for complex games

**mG** Study the inefficiency caused by misinformation

**Ap** Analyse interaction between  $G^0$  and  $G^i$ s

**Ap** nmes and smes capture a more "realistic" behavior

## Conclusions



- Ppm** How should we design utilities based on the different attitudes?
- Ppm** Can a combination of attitudes improve performance?
- mG** How should we design subjective views to achieve optimal performance?
- mG** What happens in cases where "subjectivity" has a structure?
- Ap** Can a more sophisticated update rule improve performance?

- Ppm** How should we design utilities based on the different attitudes?
- Ppm** Can a combination of attitudes improve performance?
- mG** How should we design subjective views to achieve optimal performance?  
[Varsos et al., *Coordination Mechanisms with Misinformation*, ICAART '22]
- mG** What happens in cases where "subjectivity" has a structure?  
[Bitsaki, Varsos et al, *upcoming*]
- Ap** Can a more sophisticated update rule improve performance?

**Ppm** Implement new techniques, e.g. LP [Biló, '22]

**mG** Derive tighter bounds regarding PoM

**mG** Transfuse the idea to different classes of games

**mG/Ap** Approximate methods for computing the outcome

**mG/Ap** Adaptation vs Learning

**mG/Ap** Integrate Epistemic theory, reasoning, and knowledge representation

∨ Utilize the information structure of the interactions

- + Ppms and mGs are more realistic
- + Subjectivity may improve the performance of a system
- + Interactions are hardly ever one-shot, thus adaptation is desired

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- + Subjectivity may improve the performance of a system
- + Interactions are hardly ever one-shot, thus adaptation is desired
- Some counterintuitive results, e.g. altruism and PoA in Ppms
- In general, computational hardness in  $A_p$ , e.g. computation of smes

Thank you!

# Discussion