

A Matrix Representation of an n -Person 0-1 Game and Its 0-1 Tail Algorithm to Find (Strictly) Pure Nash Equilibria

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Abstract: An n -person double action game, i.e., an n -person strategy game, i.e., every player has and only has two actions, is a typical and useful game. It has been proved that in an n -person double game, every player's two actions can be denoted by 0 and 1. An n -person double action game, i.e., every player's action set is denoted as $\{0,1\}$, is said to be an n -person 0-1 game. In this paper, we first give a matrix representation of an n -person 0-1 game and then give a new and simpler algorithm to find all the (strictly) pure Nash equilibria for an n -person 0-1 game, called 0-1 tail algorithm. Specially, this algorithm can be simplified if the game is symmetrical. Some examples are given to show the algorithm.

Keywords: n -person Double Action Game, n -person 0-1 Game, Symmetry, Matrix Representation, 0-1 Tail Algorithm, Symmetrical 3-person PD, Symmetrical 3-person Game of Rational Pigs

1. Introduction

Some classical Examples such as prisoners' dilemma, battle of the sexes, hawk-dove game, game of warriors, game of rational pigs, and game of patrolling by poor and rich men occur in many literatures. These games are all 2×2 bi-matrix games. They are the simplest and the most typical. There are only 2 players and each of them has only 2 pure actions in these games. If we extend number of players in a 2×2 bi-matrix game to any natural number to be greater than 1 and every player has exactly 2 actions, then we obtain other simple and typical games, n -person double action games. These games have many backgrounds. For example, the most important and the most typical one of them is famous n -person prisoner's dilemma (See [1-4]). It is obvious that n -person double action games have very strong character and so there are special solving methods not to be contained in that of general n -person strategy games.

Jiang (2015) [5] proved that every double action game can be denoted as a 0-1 game which is simpler and can be easily dealt with by binary numbers. That is, every player's two actions can be denoted as 0 and 1, respectively.

It is an important topic to find all (strictly) pure Nash equilibria for an n -person double action game. Jiang (2015) [5] gives a sieve method, but the method is complex.

In this paper, we have two tasks. First one of them is to give a matrix representation of an n -person 0-1 game and the second one is to give a new algorithm, called 0-1 tail algorithm, to find all (strictly) pure Nash equilibria for an n -person 0-1 game. This paper is divided into four sections. Section 2 gives a matrix representation of n -person 0-1 games. Section 3 gives a 0-1 tail algorithm to find all (strictly) pure Nash equilibria. Finally, section 4 defines symmetrical 0-1 games and simplifies 0-1 tail algorithm.

2. A Matrix Representation of n -person 0-1 Games

An n -person 0-1 game can be written as the formal structure $\Gamma \equiv [\{1, 2, \dots, n\}, \{0, 1\}_i, u_i^{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1}]$, where i is the i -th player's serial number, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, 0 and 1 are the player i 's two actions, $u_i^{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1}$ is the player i 's utility under the situation $b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1$, $b_i \in \{0, 1\}$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. More precisely, when every player i uses his or her action b_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, the player i 's profit is $u_i^{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1}$.

As everyone knows, Schelling (1980) [6] wrote a 2-person 0-1 game $\Gamma \equiv [\{1, 2\}, \{0, 1\}_i, u_i^{b_2 b_1}]$ as

$$\begin{array}{cc} & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \left[\begin{array}{cc} (u_1^{00}, u_2^{00}) & (u_1^{01}, u_2^{01}) \end{array} \right] \\ 1 & \left[\begin{array}{cc} (u_1^{10}, u_2^{10}) & (u_1^{11}, u_2^{11}) \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

Based on Schelling (1980) [6], McCain (2004) [7] wrote a 3-person 0-1 game $\Gamma \equiv [\{1, 2, 3\}, \{0, 1\}_i, u_i^{b_1 b_2 b_3}]$ as two Schelling matrices as follows.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \left[\begin{array}{cc} (u_1^{000}, u_2^{000}, u_3^{000}) & (u_1^{001}, u_2^{001}, u_3^{001}) \end{array} \right], \text{ and} \\ 1 & \left[\begin{array}{cc} (u_1^{010}, u_2^{010}, u_3^{010}) & (u_1^{011}, u_2^{011}, u_3^{011}) \end{array} \right] \\ \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & \left[\begin{array}{cc} (u_1^{100}, u_2^{100}, u_3^{100}) & (u_1^{101}, u_2^{101}, u_3^{101}) \end{array} \right] \\ 1 & \left[\begin{array}{cc} (u_1^{110}, u_2^{110}, u_3^{110}) & (u_1^{111}, u_2^{111}, u_3^{111}) \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

The first matrix denotes the case that when the player 3 uses his or her action 0 and the second does that when the player 3 uses his or her action 1.

Jiang (2015) [5] uses the symbols

$$b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1 (u_n^{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1}, u_{n-1}^{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1}, \dots, u_1^{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1}), i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

to write an n -person 0-1 game, where n can be any natural number to be greater than 1.

Now let us give two matrix representations of an n -person 0-1 game as follows. The first one is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & n & \dots & 2 & 1 \\ 00 \dots 00 & \left[\begin{array}{ccc} u_{00 \dots 00, n} & \dots & u_{00 \dots 00, 2} & u_{00 \dots 00, 1} \\ u_{00 \dots 01, n} & \dots & u_{00 \dots 01, 2} & u_{00 \dots 01, 1} \\ \vdots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 11 \dots 11 & \left[\begin{array}{ccc} u_{11 \dots 11, n} & \dots & u_{11 \dots 11, 2} & u_{11 \dots 11, 1} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right], \end{array}$$

and second one is transposition of the first one, i.e.,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & 00 \dots 00 & \dots & 00 \dots 10 & 11 \dots 11 \\ n & \left[\begin{array}{ccc} u_{n, 00 \dots 00} & \dots & u_{n, 00 \dots 10} & u_{n, 11 \dots 11} \\ u_{n-1, 00 \dots 00} & \dots & u_{n-1, 00 \dots 10} & u_{n-1, 11 \dots 11} \\ \vdots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & \left[\begin{array}{ccc} u_{1, 00 \dots 00} & \dots & u_{1, 00 \dots 10} & u_{1, 11 \dots 11} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]. \end{array}$$

As an example, we only explain the first one because the second is similar. Row numbers of the matrix are denoted by binary numbers with the length n according to their size order. Thus the matrix has 2^n rows and their decimal numbers are from 0 to $2^n - 1$. The j -th column denotes the player $n - j$, $j = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$. A row number with binary number denotes a situation. For example, for a 3-person 0-1 game, 010 denotes that the player 1 and 3 use their actions 0 and that the 2 does 1. The element $u_{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1 \dots b_2 b_1, i}$ of the matrix denotes the player i 's utility under the situation

$$b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_i \dots b_2 b_1, \text{ where } b_i = 0, 1, i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

3. A 0-1 Tail Algorithm to Find (Strictly) Pure Nash Equilibria

For a number $b \in \{0, 1\}$, we will write $\bar{b} = 1 - b$, i.e.,

$$\bar{b} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } b = 1, \\ 1, & \text{if } b = 0. \end{cases}$$

For an n -person 0-1 game $\Gamma \equiv [\{1, 2, \dots, n\}, \{0, 1\}_i, u_i^{b_1 b_2 \dots b_n}]$, if there exists a situation

$$b_n^* b_{n-1}^* \dots b_1^*, b_i^* \in \{0, 1\}, i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

such that

$$u_i^{b_n^* b_{n-1}^* \dots b_i^* \dots b_1^*} \geq u_i^{b_n^* b_{n-1}^* \dots \bar{b}_i^* \dots b_1^*}, i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad (3-1)$$

then $b_n^* b_{n-1}^* \dots b_1^*$ is called a pure Nash equilibrium. A set of all the pure Nash equilibria for the n -person 0-1 game Γ is written as PNE(Γ).

When every inequalities in (3-1) is strict, i.e.,

$$u_i^{b_n^* b_{n-1}^* \dots b_i^* \dots b_1^*} > u_i^{b_n^* b_{n-1}^* \dots \bar{b}_i^* \dots b_1^*}, i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad (3-2)$$

then $b_n^* b_{n-1}^* \dots b_1^*$ is called a strictly pure Nash equilibrium. A set of all the strictly pure Nash equilibria for the n -person 0-1 game Γ is written as SPNE(Γ).

The above concepts and marks can be found from Jiang (2015) [5].

As everyone known, Schelling (1980) [6] gave a streak method to find pure Nash equilibria for a bi-matrix game, or 2-person double action game. Jiang (2015) [5] gave a sieve method to find pure strictly Nash equilibria for an n -person 0-1 game. However, the sieve method is complex.

Based on our matrix representation, we can obtain a new algorithm to find (strictly) pure Nash equilibria, called 0-1 tail algorithm.

Theorem 3.1(0-1 Tail Algorithm to Find all Pure Nash Equilibria)

All pure Nash equilibria for an n -person 0-1 game can be found by the following algorithm.

First, write out the matrix of the given n -person 0-1 game. Then execute the following algorithm.

- (1) Set $00 \dots 0 \Rightarrow b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1$.
- (2) Set $1 \Rightarrow i$.
- (3) If $u_{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_i \dots b_2 b_1, i} > u_{b_n b_{n-1} \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_2 b_1, i}$, then go to (4); else go to (7).
- (4) Write 0 (called a tail) after the matrix elements with the row number $b_n b_{n-1} \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_2 b_1$ (called a head), and then let $i + 1 \Rightarrow i$.
- (5) If $i \leq n$, then go to (3); else go to (6).

- (6) Let tail of $b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_i \dots b_2 b_1$ be 1.
 - (7) Let tail of $b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_i \dots b_2 b_1$ be 0.
 - (8) Taking the top $b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_i \dots b_2 b_1$ of binary numbers without tail and then go to (2) until every binary row number (i.e., head) gets its tail 0 or 1.
- A situation $b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_i \dots b_2 b_1$ is a pure Nash equilibrium if and only if its tail is marked 1.

If every strictly inequality $u_{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_i \dots b_2 b_1, i} > u_{b_n b_{n-1} \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_2 b_1, i}$ in the step (3) is rewritten as the corresponding non-strict one $u_{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_i \dots b_2 b_1, i} \geq u_{b_n b_{n-1} \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_2 b_1, i}$, then a set of strictly pure Nash equilibria can be obtained by the algorithm as well.

Proof: For every situation $b_n \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_1$, it needs be checked that $u_{b_n \dots b_i \dots b_1, i} > u_{b_n \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_1, i}$ from $i=1$. They can be executed by the steps (2) and (3).

If the inequality holds, then the situation $b_n \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_1$ is not a pure Nash equilibrium and so its tail should be marked by 0. If does not, namely, $u_{b_n \dots b_i \dots b_1, i} \leq u_{b_n \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_1, i}$, then the situation $b_n \dots b_i \dots b_1$ is not a pure Nash equilibrium and hence its tail should be marked by 0 as well as. This can be executed by the steps (3), first part of (4) and (7).

When the inequality $u_{b_n \dots b_i \dots b_1, i} > u_{b_n \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_1, i}$ is satisfied, we should check the next player $i+1$, i.e., we need let $i+1 \Rightarrow i$, which is the second part of the step (4). If this new i meets the condition $i \leq n$, then we need recheck the inequality $u_{b_n \dots b_i \dots b_1, i} > u_{b_n \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_1, i}$. When the inequality $i \leq n$ does not hold, i.e., $i > n$, all the inequalities

$$u_{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_i \dots b_2 b_1, i} > u_{b_n b_{n-1} \dots \bar{b}_i \dots b_2 b_1, i}, i=1, 2, \dots, n$$

have been checked. Thus the situation $b_n \dots b_i \dots b_1$ is a pure Nash equilibrium and so its tail should be marked by 1. Those can be executed by the steps (5) and (6).

The other parts of the algorithm are trivial and so they can be omitted. Q. D. E.

Example 3.1 By 0-1 tail algorithm, we can know that the 4-person 0-1 game has two pure Nash equilibria 1100 and 1111.

heads	4	3	2	1	tails
0000	4	7	3	8	0
0001	9	1	2	5	0
0010	4	5	2	4	0
0011	2	4	0	3	0
0100	2	3	1	2	0
0101	3	4	5	1	0
0110	5	4	6	7	0
0111	7	3	4	6	0
1000	6	5	7	2	0
1001	4	6	5	3	0
1010	3	1	2	5	0
1011	2	4	3	4	0
1100	5	6	8	2	1
1101	4	7	3	1	0
1110	3	1	2	5	0
1111	9	8	7	6	1

4. Symmetrical n-person 0-1 Games and Simplified 0-1 Tail Algorithm

Definition 4.1 We will say that a given n-person 0-1 game $\Gamma \equiv [\{1, 2, \dots, n\}, \{0, 1\}_i, u_i^{b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1}]$ is symmetrical if

- (1) for any situation $b_n \dots b_j \dots b_i \dots b_1$, it can be obtained that $b_i = b_j \Rightarrow u_i^{b_n \dots b_i \dots b_1} = u_j^{b_n \dots b_j \dots b_1}, i, j=1, \dots, n$, and
- (2) for any permutation τ , the following relation can be obtained $\tau(u_1^{b_n \dots b_1}, \dots, u_n^{b_n \dots b_1}) = (u_1^{\tau(b_n \dots b_1)}, \dots, u_n^{\tau(b_n \dots b_1)})$.

A 0-1 tail algorithm about a symmetrical 0-1 game can be simplified by the following theorem.

Theorem 4.1 If (1) $b_n \dots b_1 < b_n' \dots b_1'$, (2) $b_n' \dots b_1'$ can be obtained by a permutation on $b_n \dots b_1$, and (3) tail of $b_n \dots b_1$ has been obtained, then the tail of $b_n' \dots b_1'$ is the same as that of $b_n \dots b_1$.

Example 4.1 (Game of collecting oysters, refer to Roger (2004)[7]). Three persons are collecting oysters in Chesapeake Bay. They all know that there is an oyster bed on the northeast coast that has never been collected. If the oysters are not harvested before the next month, they will fetch more money on the market after growing to maturity. These three collectors are currently considering if they would go collecting (action 0) or wait for some days (action 1). (1) Whether is the following game symmetrical? (2) Find all the strictly pure Nash equilibria.

Solution: (1) Payoff matrix of this game can be written as

	3	2	1
000	5	5	5
001	7	7	1
010	7	1	7
011	12	1	1
100	1	7	7
101	1	12	1
110	1	1	12
111	10	10	10

It is trivial that every row satisfies the condition (1) for Theorem 4.1.

Now let us verify the condition (2). Let $\tau_1(001) = 010$, and $\tau_2(001) = 100$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} &\tau_1(u_3^{001}, u_2^{001}, u_1^{001}) = \tau_1(7, 7, 1) = (7, 1, 7) \\ &= (u_3^{010}, u_2^{010}, u_1^{010}) = (u_3^{\tau_1(001)}, u_2^{\tau_1(001)}, u_1^{\tau_1(001)}). \\ &\tau_2(u_3^{001}, u_2^{001}, u_1^{001}) = \tau_2(7, 7, 1) = (1, 7, 7) \\ &= (u_3^{100}, u_2^{100}, u_1^{100}) = (u_3^{\tau_2(001)}, u_2^{\tau_2(001)}, u_1^{\tau_2(001)}). \end{aligned}$$

It is similar for the rows 011, 101 and 110. Thus this game is symmetrical.

(2) We have

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	5	5	<u>5</u>	
001	7	7	<u>1</u>	0
010	7	1	7	
011	12	1	1	
100	1	7	7	
101	1	12	1	
110	1	1	12	
111	10	10	10	

 \Rightarrow

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	5	5	<u>5</u>	
001	7	7	<u>1</u>	0
010	7	1	7	0
011	12	1	1	
100	1	7	7	0
101	1	12	1	
110	1	1	12	
111	10	10	10	

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	1
001	7	7	<u>1</u>	0
010	7	<u>1</u>	7	0
011	12	1	1	
100	<u>1</u>	7	7	0
101	1	12	1	
110	1	1	12	
111	10	10	10	

 \Rightarrow

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	5	5	5	1
001	7	7	1	0
010	7	1	<u>7</u>	0
011	12	1	<u>1</u>	0
100	1	7	7	0
101	1	12	1	
110	1	1	12	
111	10	10	10	

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	5	5	5	1
001	7	7	1	0
010	7	1	7	0
011	12	1	1	0
100	1	7	7	0
101	1	12	1	0
110	1	1	12	0
111	10	10	10	

 \Rightarrow

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	5	5	5	1
001	7	7	1	0
010	7	1	7	0
011	12	1	1	0
100	1	7	7	0
101	1	12	1	0
110	1	1	<u>12</u>	0
111	10	10	<u>10</u>	0

By this computation we can know that they would go collecting early. However, the stable situation about individual rationality is worse than that they wait for some days to collect.

In fact, the game is a symmetrical 3-person prisoner's dilemma. Its general form is the follows.

Example 4.2 (a symmetrical 3-person prisoner's dilemma) Three people 1, 2 and 3, arrested with stolen property in their possession, are being interviewed separately by the police. They know that if they keep quiet there is not enough evidence for them to be convicted of theft, and so every one of them gets a years jail sentence for being in possession of stolen property. If they confess to the theft, every one of them gets c years in prison. If one confesses and both keep quiet, one who confesses will go free, while each of the other two will have d years jail sentence. If one keeps quiet and the other two confess, then one who keeps quiet will have e year jail sentence, while each of the other two will have b year jail sentence. Where $0 < a < b < c < d \leq e$. If we use 1 to

denote keeping quiet and 0 do confess. Then

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	$-c$	$-c$	$-c$	1
001	$-b$	$-b$	$-e$	0
010	$-b$	$-e$	$-b$	0
011	0	$-d$	$-d$	0
100	$-e$	$-b$	$-b$	0
101	$-d$	0	$-d$	0
110	$-d$	$-d$	0	0
111	$-a$	$-a$	$-a$	0

Therefore their stable situation with individual rationality is that everyone confesses. However, the stable situation is worse than everyone chooses keeping quiet, non-stable.

Example 4.3(A symmetrical 3-person game of rational pigs) Three pigs with the same sizes are put in a Skinner box with a special panel at one end and a food dispenser at the other. It needs pay c units of cost to press the panel. When the panel is pressed, 3 units of food are dispensed and every pig can eat some food. When the three pigs press the panel at the time, every pig can eat 1 unit of food. When two pigs press the panel, each of them can eat a units of food and so the other one can eat $3-2a$ units. When one presses the panel, it can eat $3-2b$ units and so each one of the other two pigs can eat b units. When none presses the panel, every pig cannot eat anything. Let us find set of strictly pure Nash equilibria.

Solution: We have known that when the panel is pressed, 3 units of food are dispensed and every pig can eat some food. Then when one pig presses or two pigs press the panel, there is at least one pig first to eat and can get more than 1 unit of food and so every pig who presses the panel can eat food which is smaller than 1 unit. Thus $0 < a < 1$ and $0 < 3-2b < 1$ (i.e., $1 < b < 3/2$). Since

$$3-2a-(1-c) = 2(1-a)+c > 0 \Rightarrow 3-2a > 1-c,$$

we can obtain

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	0	0	0	
001	b	b	$3-2b-c$	
010	b	$3-2b-c$	b	
011	$3-2a$	$a-c$	$a-c$	0
100	$3-2b-c$	b	b	
101	$a-c$	$3-2a$	$a-c$	0
110	$a-c$	$a-c$	$3-2a$	0
111	$1-c$	$1-c$	$1-c$	0

Case 1. When $c \leq 3-2b$, then

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	0	0	0	0
001	\underline{b}	\underline{b}	$\underline{3-2b-c}$	1
010	b	$3-2b-c$	b	1
011	$3-2a$	$\underline{a-c}$	$a-c$	0
100	$3-2b-c$	b	b	1
101	$\underline{a-c}$	$3-2a$	$a-c$	0
110	$a-c$	$a-c$	$3-2a$	0
111	$1-c$	$1-c$	$1-c$	0

It can be obtained that the set of strictly pure Nash equilibria is $SPNE(\Gamma) = \{001, 010, 100\}$. In words, when one pig who press the panel is profitable, the stable situation is that exact one of the three pigs would go to press the panel.

Case 2. When $c > 3 - 2b$, then

heads	3	2	1	tails
000	0	0	0	1
001	b	b	$3-2b-c$	0
010	b	$3-2b-c$	b	0
011	$3-2a$	$a-c$	$a-c$	0
100	$3-2b-c$	b	b	0
101	$a-c$	$3-2a$	$a-c$	0
110	$a-c$	$a-c$	$3-2a$	0
111	$1-c$	$1-c$	$1-c$	0

Thus, should one pig pressing the panel lose more than gain, none would press the panel.

In any case, it is impossible for more than one pig to press the panel, or equivalently, at most one pig would go to press the panel.

Fabac, Radošević and Magdalenic (2014) [8] created a rational pigs game extended (briefly, RPGE), in which the introduction of a third pig entails significant structural changes. In fact, this article is the first 3-rational pigs game. Jiang (2015b) [9] established L -system of axiomatic theory of boxed pigs and its deductive sub-systems were obtained from it, such as simple K -systems, instant K -systems and timing K -systems, $K=0,1$. Finally, the method to change a game among many pigs (can be infinitely many) into a game between a big pig and a small pig and applicable degree of the method are given. However, the game among many rational pigs is an approximate description that rational pigs must be sufficiently many. Jiang(2015c) [10] defines that each of two n -person strategy games is said to be a negative game of the other one if sum of their utilities is equal to zero. Since games based on traditional boxed pigs story, such as Jiang

(2015b) [9], are called boxed pigs games or rational pigs games, it means that they should be positive, such as 3 means +3. Therefore negative game of a boxed pigs (or rational pigs) game should be called a negative boxed pigs (or rational pigs) game. Li, et al (2015) [11] gives a special rational pigs game. Jiang, et al (2016) [12] researches the negative game of the game given by Li, et al (2015) [11] and gives an application to website management.

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