

# Applied Cooperative Game Theory

## Topic 1: Basic Definitions

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- Peleg, B. /Sudhölter P.: Introduction to the theory of cooperative games; Springer 2007  
overview of the field of cooperative game theory
- Myerson, R.: Game Theory- Analysis of Conflict; Harvard 1991  
overview of the field of game theory, but main topic is noncooperative game theory
- Wiese, H.: Kooperative Spieltheorie; Oldenbourg 2005  
German text book
- Fischer, G.: Lineare Algebra- Eine Einführung für Studienanfänger  
for repetition of terms like linear mapping, linear independence, basis,...

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- methods of game theory have been used since the 19th century (Bertrand, Cournot), but no general theory, just applications to unique problems
- first real theory based on work of John Neumann (1928) and his book together with Oskar Morgenstern (Theory of Games and Economic Behavior, 1944)
- 8 game theorists won Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences: John Nash, John Harsanyi, Reinhard Selten in 1994 Robert Aumann and Thomas Schelling in 2005 Roger Myerson in 2007 Alvin Roth and Lloyd Shapley in 2012
- Game theory consists of two main theories, non-cooperative game theory and cooperative game theory
- mile stone of non-cooperative game theory: definition of Nash equilibrium by John Nash in 1950
- this theory tries to find optimal actions and strategies, cooperation must be self-enforcing
- in cooperative game theory, cooperation often is self-enforcing. Groups of players and not individual players compete

- cooperative games with **transferable utility**

## Definition

A TU game is a pair  $(N, v)$ , where  $N$  is a non-empty and finite set – the **player set** – and  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N) := \{f : 2^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f(\emptyset) = 0\}$  – the **characteristic function** (or **coalition function**).

- players: persons, institutions, cost centers ...
- subsets of  $N$ / elements of  $2^N$ : **coalitions**
- set of non-empty subsets:  $\mathcal{K}(N) := 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$
- set of all coalition functions on  $N$ :  $\mathbb{V}(N)$
- coalition function assigns the **worth**  $v(K)$  to any coalition  $K$ 
  - can be distributed among the members arbitrarily
  - note, more is not necessarily better, example costs

# Cost Division #1

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- doctors with a common secretary or commonly used facilities
- firms organized as a collection of profit-centers
- universities with computing facilities used by several departments or faculties

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## Definition

For a player set  $N$ , let  $c : 2^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  be a coalition function that is called a cost function. On the basis of  $c$ , the costs-saving game is defined by  $v : 2^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  where for each  $K \subseteq N$

$$v(K) = \sum_{i \in K} c(\{i\}) - c(K).$$

## Cost Division #2

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- Two towns A and B plan a water-distribution system.
- Town A could build such a system for itself at a cost of 11 million Euro
- Town B would need 7 million Euro for a system tailor-made to its needs
- The cost for a common water-distribution system is 15 million Euro.
- The cost function is then given by

$$c(\{A\}) = 11,$$

$$c(\{B\}) = 7,$$

$$c(\{A, B\}) = 15.$$

- The associated cost-savings game is  $v : 2^{\{A, B\}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$v(\{A\}) = v(\{B\}) = 0,$$

$$v(\{A, B\}) = 11 + 7 - 15.$$

# Example: German Federal Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag)

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- distribution of seats (total 631)
  - 1 CDU/CSU (Christian democrats): 311
  - 2 SPD (social democrats): 193
  - 3 DIE LINKE (left party): 64
  - 4 BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN (green party): 63

- simple majority rule: 316 votes required
- player set:  $N = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$
- coalition function:

$$v(K) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{parties in } K \text{ form a majority,} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad K \subseteq N$$

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## Example: Weighted voting games

- given by:  $[q, w_1, \dots, w_n]$ ,  $q, w_1, \dots, w_n \in \mathbb{R}_+$
- player set:  $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$
- coalition function:

$$v(K) = \begin{cases} 1, & \sum_{i \in K} w_i \geq q, \\ 0, & \sum_{i \in K} w_i < q, \end{cases} \quad K \subseteq N$$

- winning coalitions:  $v(K) = 1$
- losing coalitions:  $v(K) = 0$

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# Example: Multiple linear regression

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- exotic example
- observations of the dependent variable:  $(y_1, \dots, y_T)$
- set of independent variables  $N$
- observations of independent variables:  $(x_1^i, \dots, x_T^i), i \in N$
- perform linear regression using the independent variables in  $K \subseteq N$
- coalition function using the coefficient of determination  $R^2$

$$v(K) = \begin{cases} R^2(K), & K \neq \emptyset, \\ 0 & K = \emptyset, \end{cases} \quad K \subseteq N$$

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# Example: Strategic form games

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- strategic form game:  $(N, (S_i)_{i \in N}, (u_i)_{i \in N})$ 
  - players set  $N$ , non-empty, finite
  - strategy sets  $S_i$ ,  $i \in N$ , non-empty, finite
  - $K \subseteq N$ ,  $S_K := \prod_{i \in K} S_i$ ,  $S := S_N$
  - payoff functions  $u_i : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $i \in N$
  - coalition function:

$$v(K) = \max_{s_K \in S_K} \min_{s_{N \setminus K} \in S_{N \setminus K}} \sum_{i \in K} u_i(s_K, s_{N \setminus K}), \quad K \subseteq N$$

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# Null game, standard games, unanimity games

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- Null game:  $\mathbf{0} \in \mathbb{V}(N)$ ,  $\mathbf{0}(K) = 0$  for all  $K \subseteq N$
- standard game:  $e_T \in \mathbb{V}(N)$ ,  $T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$

$$e_T(K) = \begin{cases} 1, & K = T, \\ 0, & K \neq T, \end{cases} \quad K \subseteq N$$

- unanimity games:  $u_T \in \mathbb{V}(N)$ ,  $T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$

$$u_T(K) = \begin{cases} 1, & T \subseteq K, \\ 0, & T \not\subseteq K, \end{cases} \quad K \subseteq N$$

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# The vector space of coalition functions on $N$

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- $\mathbb{V}(N)$  is a finite-dimensional real vector space
  - addition:  $v + w \in \mathbb{V}(N) : (v + w)(K) = v(K) + w(K)$  for all  $K \subseteq N$ ,  $v, w \in \mathbb{V}(N)$
  - scalar multiplication:  $\alpha \cdot v \in \mathbb{V}(N) : (\alpha \cdot v)(K) = \alpha \cdot v(K)$  for all  $K \subseteq N$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$
- dimension:  $|2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}| = 2^{|N|} - 1$
- bases:

- standard basis:  $(e_T)_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)}$  (obviously:  $v = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)} v(T) \cdot e_T$ )
- unanimity basis:  $(u_T)_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)}$  (to be shown!)
- of course, there are many more, among them the following (interesting) one:

$$w_T(K) = \begin{cases} \binom{|K|}{|T|}^{-1}, & T \subseteq K, \\ 0, & T \not\subseteq K, \end{cases} \quad K \subseteq N, T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$$

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# Unanimity basis (1)—Harsanyi dividends

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- $(u_T)_{T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}}$  is a basis  $\mathbb{V}(N)$
- any  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  has a unique representation

$$v = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)} \lambda_T(v) \cdot u_T, \quad \lambda_T(v) \in \mathbb{R}$$

- define the so-called **Harsanyi dividends**  $\lambda_T(v)$  inductively

$$\lambda_T(v) = v(T), \quad |T| = 1$$

$$\lambda_T(v) = v(T) - \sum_{S \in \mathcal{K}(T) \setminus \{T\}} \lambda_S(v), \quad |T| > 1$$

- or explicitly

$$\lambda_T(v) = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{K}(T)} (-1)^{|T|-|S|} v(S)$$

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# Harsanyi dividends: Equivalence #1

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■ both approaches uniquely define the  $\lambda_T(v)$

■ **Induction basis:** for  $|T| = 1$ :

$$\lambda_T(v) = v(T) = (-1)^{1-1} v(T) = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{K}(T)} (-1)^{|T|-|S|} v(S)$$

■ **Induction hypothesis (H):**  $\lambda_T(v) = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{K}(T)} (-1)^{|T|-|S|} v(S)$  for all  $T \in \mathcal{K}(N)$ ,  $|T| \leq t$

■ **Induction step:**  $|T| = t + 1$

$$\lambda_T(v) = v(T) - \sum_{S \in \mathcal{K}(T) \setminus \{T\}} \lambda_S(v)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{H}}{=} v(T) - \sum_{S \in \mathcal{K}(T) \setminus \{T\}} \sum_{K \in \mathcal{K}(S)} (-1)^{|S|-|K|} v(K)$$

$$= v(T) - \sum_{K \in \mathcal{K}(T) \setminus \{T\}} v(K) \sum_{s=|K|}^{|T|-1} \binom{|T|-|K|}{s-|K|} (-1)^{s-|K|}$$

$$= v(T) - \sum_{K \in \mathcal{K}(T) \setminus \{T\}} v(K) \sum_{s=0}^{|T|-1-|K|} \binom{|T|-|K|}{s} (-1)^s$$

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## Harsanyi dividends: Equivalence #2

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- the binomial formula implies

$$0 = (1 - 1)^t = \sum_{k=0}^t \binom{t}{k} (-1)^k$$

- this gives

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_T(v) &= v(T) - \sum_{K \in \mathcal{K}(T) \setminus \{T\}} v(K) \left( - \binom{|T| - |K|}{|T| - |K|} \right) (-1)^{|T| - |K|} \\ &= v(T) + \sum_{K \in \mathcal{K}(T) \setminus \{T\}} (-1)^{|T| - |K|} v(K) \\ &= \sum_{K \in \mathcal{K}(T)} (-1)^{|T| - |K|} v(K) \end{aligned}$$

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## Unanimity basis #2: System of generators

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- if  $w = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)} \lambda_T(v) \cdot u_T$ , for all  $K \subseteq N$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}w(K) &= \sum_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)} \lambda_T(v) \cdot u_T(K) = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{K}(K)} \lambda_T(v) \\ &= \lambda_K(v) + \sum_{T \in \mathcal{K}(K) \setminus \{K\}} \lambda_T(v) \\ &= v(K) - \sum_{T \in \mathcal{K}(K) \setminus \{K\}} \lambda_T(v) + \sum_{T \in \mathcal{K}(K) \setminus \{K\}} \lambda_T(v) \\ &= v(K)\end{aligned}$$

- indeed,  $(u_T)_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)}$  generates  $\mathbb{V}(N)$

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# Unanimity basis #3: Linear independence

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- $\mathbb{V}(N)$  has dimension  $2^{|N|} - 1$  and the generating system  $(u_T)_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)}$  also has  $2^{|N|} - 1$  elements  $\Rightarrow (u_T)_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)}$  is a basis of  $\mathbb{V}(N)$
- direct proof:  $(u_T)_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)}$  is linearly independent
- to show:  $\mathbf{0} = \sum_{T \in \mathcal{K}(N)} \alpha_T \cdot u_T$ ,  $\alpha_T \in \mathbb{R}$  implies  $\alpha_T = 0$  for all  $T \in \mathcal{K}(N)$
- induction on  $|T|$

- **Induction basis:** for  $|T| = 1$ , i.e.,  $T = \{i\}$  for some  $i \in N$  we have

$$0 = \mathbf{0}(\{i\}) = \sum_{T' \in \mathcal{K}(N)} \alpha_{T'} \cdot u_{T'}(\{i\}) = \sum_{T' \in \mathcal{K}(\{i\})} \alpha_{T'} = \alpha_{\{i\}}$$

- **Induction hypothesis (H):**  $\alpha_T = 0$  for all  $T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ ,  $|T| \leq t$
- **Induction step:**  $|T| = t + 1$

$$0 = \mathbf{0}(T) = \sum_{T' \in \mathcal{K}(N)} \alpha_{T'} \cdot u_{T'}(T) = \sum_{T' \in \mathcal{K}(T)} \alpha_{T'} \stackrel{\mathbf{H}}{=} \alpha_T$$

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# Properties of TU games #1

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- **Simplicity:**  $v(K) \in \{0, 1\}$  for all  $K \subseteq N$
- **Non-negativity:**  $v(K) \geq 0$  for all  $K \subseteq N$
- **Monotonicity:**  $v(K) \geq v(S)$  for all  $K, S \subseteq N$ ,  $S \subseteq K$ 
  - monotonicity  $\Rightarrow$  non-negativity
- **0-normedness:**  $v(\{i\}) = 0$  for all  $i \in N$
- **0-normalization:** for  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  define  $v^0 \in \mathbb{V}(N)$ ,

$$v^0(K) = v(K) - \sum_{i \in K} v(\{i\}), \quad K \subseteq N$$

$$v^0 = v - \sum_{i \in N} \lambda_{\{i\}}(v) \cdot u_{\{i\}}$$

## Properties of TU games #2

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- **Superadditivity:**  $v(S \cup K) \geq v(S) + v(K)$  for all  $K, S \subseteq N, S \cap K = \emptyset$
- **Subadditivity:**  $v(S \cup K) \leq v(S) + v(K)$  for all  $K, S \subseteq N, S \cap K = \emptyset$ 
  - $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  is subadditive  $\iff -v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  is superadditive
- **Modularity:**  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  is superadditive and subadditive
  - $\iff$  for all  $K \subseteq N: v(K) = \sum_{i \in K} v(\{i\})$
- **Symmetry:**  $v(K) = v(S)$  for all  $S, K \subseteq N, |S| = |K|$ 
  - exists  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $v(K) = f(|K|)$  for all  $K \subseteq N$

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# Convexity #1

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## ■ Convexity:

- Def (i):  $v(S \cup K) + v(S \cap K) \geq v(S) + v(K)$  for all  $K, S \subseteq N$
- Def (ii):  $v(K \cup \{i\}) - v(K) \geq v(S \cup \{i\}) - v(S)$  for all  $i \in N \setminus K$  and  $K, S \subseteq N, S \subseteq K$

■ We have to check that both definitions are equivalent:

- (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii):  $S' \subseteq K'$ , set in (i)  $K = K'$  and  $S = S' \cup \{i\}$ :

$$v(S' \cup \{i\} \cup K') + v(S' \cup \{i\} \cap K') \geq v(S' \cup \{i\}) + v(K')$$

$$v(\{i\} \cup K') + v(S') \geq v(S' \cup \{i\}) + v(K')$$

- (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i):  $S \setminus K = \{i_1, \dots, i_n\}$

$$v(K \cup \{i_1\}) - v(K) \geq v((S \cap K) \cup \{i_1\}) - v(S \cap K)$$

$$v(K \cup \{i_1, i_2\}) - v(K \cup \{i_1\}) \geq v((S \cap K) \cup \{i_1, i_2\}) - v((S \cap K) \cup \{i_1\})$$

$$\vdots \quad \quad \quad - v((S \cap K) \cup \{i_1\})$$

$$v(K \cup S \setminus K) - \dots \geq v((S \cap K) \cup S \setminus K) - \dots$$

$$\text{sum up:} \quad v(K \cup S) - v(K) \geq v(S) - v(S \cap K)$$

## Convexity #2

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- let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be convex, i.e.,  
 $f(\alpha \cdot x + (1 - \alpha) \cdot y) \leq \alpha \cdot f(x) + (1 - \alpha) \cdot f(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$
- let  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$ ,  $v(K) = f(|K|)$ ,  $K \subseteq N$ , i.e.,  $v$  is symmetric
- then  $v$  is convex
- to show:  $v$  exhibits non-decreasing “marginal contributions”
- to see it suffices to establish

$$f(x+2) - f(x+1) \geq f(x+1) - f(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

- proof:

$$\frac{1}{2}f(x+2) + \frac{1}{2}f(x) \geq f\left(\frac{1}{2}(x+2) + \frac{1}{2}x\right) = f(x+1)$$

$$f(x+2) + f(x) \geq 2 \cdot f(x+1)$$

$$f(x+2) - f(x+1) \geq f(x+1) - f(x)$$

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- 1 Show that  $(w_T)_{T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}}$ ,

$$w_T(K) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{|K|}{|T|}\right)^{-1}, & T \subseteq K, \\ 0, & T \not\subseteq K, \end{cases} \quad K \subseteq N, T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\},$$

is a basis of  $\mathbb{V}(N)$ !

- 2 For  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  and  $K \subseteq N$ , express  $v(K)$  in terms of Harsanyi dividends!
- 3 Show the following statements are equivalent:
- 1  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  is modular.
  - 2  $v(K) = \sum_{i \in K} v(\{i\})$  for all  $K \subseteq N$ .
  - 3  $v = \sum_{i \in N} x_i \cdot u_{\{i\}}$  for some  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ .
- 4 Show that superadditivity does not imply monotonicity!
- 5 Show that superadditivity and non-negativity imply monotonicity!
- 6 Show that for any  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  one can find a modular game  $w \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  such that  $v + w$  is monotonic!
- 7 Show that for any  $v \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  one can find a convex game  $w \in \mathbb{V}(N)$  such that  $v + w$  is convex!