

# Game theoretic pragmatics

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(based on joint work with Michael Franke)

February 18, 2011

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# Overview

## Structure of the talk

- Signaling games
- Literal meaning and rationality
- Justification of pragmatic decisions
- Examples
- Conclusion

# Signaling games

- sequential game:
  - 1 **nature** chooses a world  $w$ 
    - out of a pool of possible worlds  $W$
    - according to a certain probability distribution  $p^*$
  - 2 nature shows  $w$  to sender **S**
  - 3 S chooses a message  $m$  out of a set of possible signals  $M$
  - 4 S transmits  $m$  to the receiver **R**
  - 5 R chooses an action  $a$ , based on the sent message.
- Both S and R have preferences regarding R's action, depending on  $w$ .
- S might also have preferences regarding the choice of  $m$  (to minimize signaling costs).

# Tea or coffee?

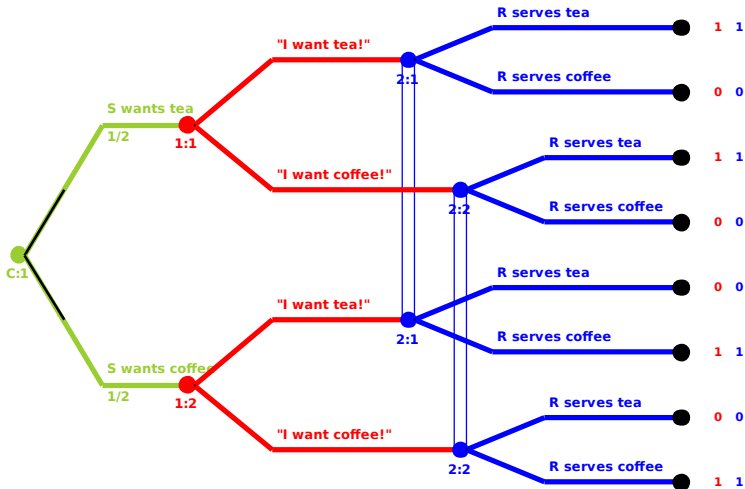
## An example

- Sally either prefers tea ( $w_1$ ) or coffee ( $w_2$ ), with  $p^*(w_1) = p^*(w_2) = \frac{1}{2}$ .
- Robin either serves tea ( $a_1$ ) or coffee ( $a_2$ ).
- Sally can send either of two messages:
  - $m_1$ : *I prefer tea.*
  - $m_2$ : *I prefer coffee.*
- Both messages are costless.

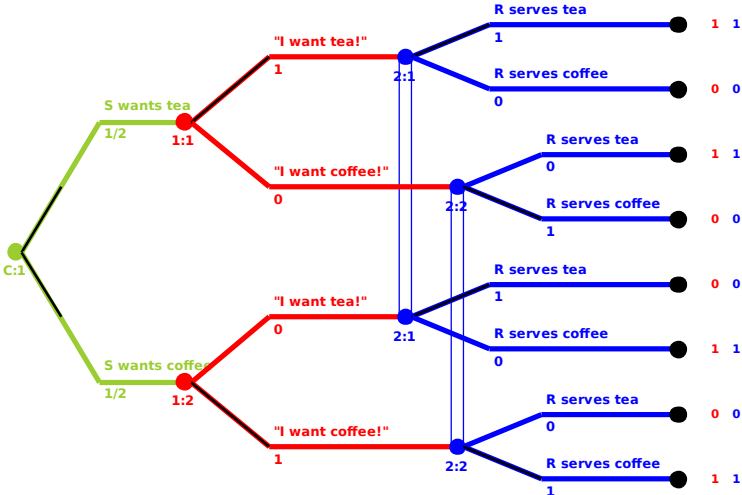
	$a_1$	$a_2$
$w_1$	1, 1	0, 0
$w_2$	0, 0	1, 1

**Table:** utility matrix

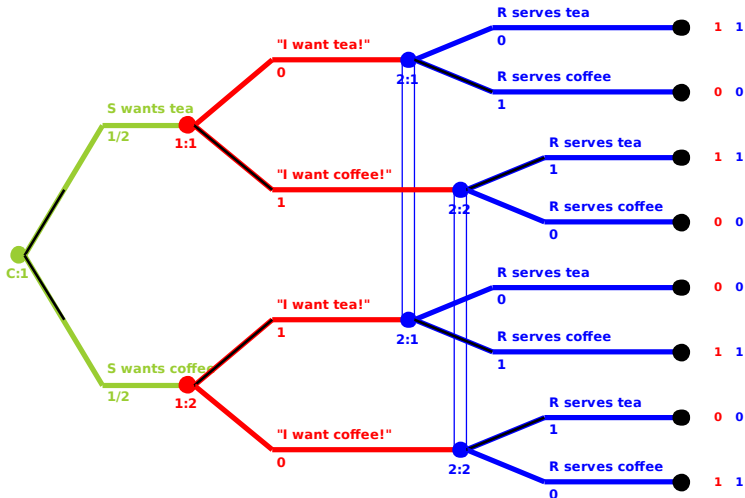
# Extensive form



# Extensive form



# Extensive form



# A coordination problem

- two strict Nash equilibria
  - S always says the truth and R always believes her.
  - S always says the opposite of the truth and R interprets everything ironically.
- Both equilibria are equally rational.
- Still, first equilibrium is more reasonable because it employs exogenous meanings of messages for equilibrium selection.
- Criterion for equilibrium selection:

*Always say the truth, and always believe what you are told!*

- What happens if it is not always rational to be honest/credulous?



# Partially aligned interests

## Rabin's (1990) example

- In  $w_1$  and  $w_2$ , S and R have identical interests.<sup>a</sup>
- In  $w_3$ , S would prefer R to believe in  $w_2$ .
- The propositions  $\{w_1\}$  and  $\{w_2, w_3\}$  are *credible*.
- The propositions  $\{w_2\}$  and  $\{w_3\}$  are *not credible*.

<sup>a</sup>Unless mentioned otherwise, I always assume a uniform distribution  $p^*$  over  $W$ .

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$
$w_1$	10, 10	0, 0	0, 0
$w_2$	0, 0	10, 10	5, 7
$w_3$	0, 0	10, 0	5, 7

**Table:** Partially aligned interests

# Partially aligned interests

## Rabin's (1990) example

- Suppose there are three messages:
  - $m_1$ : We are in  $w_1$ .
  - $m_2$ : We are in  $w_2$ .
  - $m_3$ : We are in  $w_3$ .
- reasonable S will send  $m_1$  if and only if  $w_1$
- reasonable R will react to  $m_1$  with  $a_1$
- nothing else can be inferred

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$
$w_1$	10, 10	0, 0	0, 0
$w_2$	0, 0	10, 10	5, 7
$w_3$	0, 0	10, 0	5, 7

**Table:** Partially aligned interests

## Revised maxim

**Always say the truth,  
and always believe what you are told,  
unless you have reasons to do otherwise!**

But what does this mean?

# Justification and best responses

## Justification of decisions

- decisions must be **justifiable**
- two kinds of justification:

*I use/interpret a message the way I do because:*

- *this is what the literal meaning of the message dictates,*  
*or*
- *because this is the best I can do, given my justifiable belief about the decisions of the other player.*

# Justification and best responses

## Sally's belief states

- (first order) belief of the sender:
  - function  $\rho$  from messages to probability distribution of actions
  - $\rho(a|m)$ : S's subjective probability that R performs action  $a$  if S sends message  $m$

# Justification and best responses

## Robin's belief states

- (first order) belief of the receiver has two components:
  - function  $\sigma$  from worlds to probability distributions over messages
  - $\sigma(m|w)$ : R's subjective probability that S sends messages  $m$  if she is in world  $w$
  - function  $\sigma^*$  from messages to probability distributions over worlds
  - $\sigma^*(w|m)$ : R's posterior probability that  $w$  is the case after observing message  $m$
  - $\sigma$  and  $\sigma^*$  are connected via **Bayes' Rule**

$$\sigma^*(w|m) = \frac{\sigma(m|w)p^*(w)}{\sum_{w'} \sigma(m|w')p^*(w')}$$

## Justification: Rabin's example again

### Utility matrix

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$
$w_1$	10, 10	0, 0	0, 0
$w_2$	0, 0	10, 10	5, 7
$w_3$	0, 0	10, 0	5, 7

### literal meanings

$$\|m_1\| = \{w_1\}$$

$$\|m_2\| = \{w_2\}$$

$$\|m_3\| = \{w_3\}$$

# Justification: Rabin's example again

## The Honest Sender

- Suppose (Robin supposes that) Sally is simply honest, and non-deliberating.
- This means she sends a true message in each world.
- No further criteria about message selection are known.
- Best model  $\sigma_0$  of such a sender is the one that is consistent with the assumptions and **maximizes entropy**.
- This means that in each world  $w$ ,  $\sigma_0(\cdot|w)$  is a uniform distribution:

$$\sigma_0(m|w) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{|\{m|w \models m\}|} & \text{if } w \models m, \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$



## Justification: Rabin's example again

Can be represented in a matrix with worlds as rows and messages as columns.

$\sigma_0$	$m_1$	$m_2$	$m_3$
$w_1$	1	0	0
$w_2$	0	1	0
$w_3$	0	0	1

This is justifiable by the literal meaning of the messages.

# Justification: Rabin's example again

## Bayesian reasoning

- Robin assumes  $\sigma_0$ .
- He actually needs  $\sigma_0^*$  (posterior probabilities of worlds given messages)
- $\sigma_0^*(\cdot|m)$ :
  - take column  $m$  in  $\sigma_0$
  - multiply each entry with corresponding value of  $p^*$
  - normalize the column: divide it by its sum, such that it becomes a probability distribution
  - if  $m$  is a zero-column (i.e.  $m$  is a surprise message): assume uniform distribution over  $\|m\|$
  - result is the row in  $\sigma^*$

$\sigma_0^*$	$w_1$	$w_2$	$w_3$
$m_1$	1	0	0
$m_2$	0	1	0
$m_3$	0	0	1

## Justification: Rabin's example again

### Expected utility

- Robin's utility depends on  $w$  and  $a$
- $\sigma_0^*$  gives him a probability distribution over  $W$
- this enables him to assess the expected utility for each action, conditional on each message:

$$EU(a|m) = \sum_w \sigma_0^*(w|m) u_r(w, a)$$

- comes down to matrix multiplication:

$$EU_r = \sigma_0^* \cdot u_r$$

## Justification: Rabin's example again

$$\begin{aligned} EU_r &= \sigma_0^* \cdot u_r \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\overline{\sigma_0^*}} & w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \\ m_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ m_2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ m_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\overline{a_1}} & \overline{\overline{a_2}} & \overline{\overline{a_3}} \\ w_1 & 10 & 0 & 0 \\ w_2 & 0 & 10 & 7 \\ w_3 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\overline{a_1}} & \overline{\overline{a_2}} & \overline{\overline{a_3}} \\ m_1 & 10 & 0 & 0 \\ m_2 & 0 & 10 & 7 \\ m_3 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

## Justification: Rabin's example again

### Best response

- If Robin is rational he will maximize his expected utility after each message
- If he believes in  $\sigma_0$ , he will — for each message  $m$  — pick an action that is maximal within  $m$ 's row in  $EU_r$
- If Sally assumes that this is how Robin thinks, and if she has no further information, her model  $\rho_0$  of Robin's behavior will be the conditional probability distribution that is consistent with these assumptions and maximizes entropy
- Hence:  $\rho_0$  puts equal probability on each action that maximizes  $EU_r$ , and 0 probability elsewhere
- $\rho_0$  is the **best response** to  $\sigma_0$ :

$$\rho_0 = BR_r(\sigma_0)$$

## Justification: Rabin's example again

### Expected utility

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$
$m_1$	10	0	0
$m_2$	0	10	7
$m_3$	0	0	7

### Best response

$\rho_0$	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$
$m_1$	1	0	0
$m_2$	0	1	0
$m_3$	0	0	1

# Justification: Rabin's example again

## Iterated Best Response

- Suppose Sally believes that Robin plays according to  $\rho_0$ .
- Then Sally (if she is rational) will play the best response  $\sigma_1 = BR_s(\rho_0)$  to  $\rho_0$ .
- Calculation goes as follows:
  - Sally's Expected Utility:

$$EU_s(m|w) = \sum_a \rho_0(a|m) u_s(w, a)$$

- boils down to matrix multiplication:

$$EU_s = u_s \cdot \rho_0^T$$

- $\sigma_1$  places row-wise equal probability on each row-maximal value in  $EU_s$ , and 0 elsewhere

## Justification: Rabin's example again

$$\begin{aligned}EU_s &= u_s \cdot \rho_0^T \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \overline{a_1} & \overline{a_2} & \overline{a_3} \\ w_1 & 10 & 0 & 0 \\ w_2 & 0 & 10 & 5 \\ w_3 & 0 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\rho_0} & \overline{a_1} & \overline{a_2} & \overline{a_3} \\ m_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ m_2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ m_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^T \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \overline{m_1} & \overline{m_2} & \overline{m_3} \\ w_1 & 10 & 0 & 0 \\ w_2 & 0 & 10 & 5 \\ w_3 & 0 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \\ BR(\rho_0) &= \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\sigma_1} & \overline{m_1} & \overline{m_2} & \overline{m_3} \\ w_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ w_2 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ w_3 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$



# Justification: Rabin's example again

## Iterated Best Response

- If Robin anticipates this, he will play according to  $\rho_1 = BR_r(\sigma_1)$ .
- Computation is exactly as for  $\rho_0$ , but using  $\sigma_1$  instead of  $\sigma_0$ .
- As the third column of  $\sigma_1$  only contains 0s, the principle

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applies: assume a uniform distribution over  $\|m_3\|$  in  $\sigma_1^*$ .

$$\sigma_1^* = \begin{array}{c|ccc} & w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \\ \hline m_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ m_2 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ m_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$$

## Justification: Rabin's example again

$$\begin{aligned} EU_r &= \sigma_1^* \cdot u_r \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sigma_1^*}{m_1} & \frac{w_1}{1} & \frac{w_2}{0} & \frac{w_3}{0} \\ m_2 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ m_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{a_1}{w_1} & \frac{a_2}{0} & \frac{a_3}{0} \\ w_2 & 10 & 0 & 0 \\ w_3 & 0 & 10 & 7 \\ w_3 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{a_1}{m_1} & \frac{a_2}{10} & \frac{a_3}{0} \\ m_2 & 0 & 5 & 7 \\ m_3 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ BR_r(\sigma_1) &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\rho_1}{m_1} & \frac{a_1}{1} & \frac{a_2}{0} & \frac{a_3}{0} \\ m_2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ m_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

# Justification: Rabin's example again

## Iterated Best Response

- This procedure can be iterated indefinitely.
- General pattern:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_n &= BR_r(\sigma_n) \\ \sigma_{n+1} &= BR_s(\rho_n)\end{aligned}$$

## Justification: Rabin's example again

$$\begin{aligned}EU_s &= u_s \cdot \rho_1^T \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \overline{a_1} & \overline{a_2} & \overline{a_3} \\ w_1 & 10 & 0 & 0 \\ w_2 & 0 & 10 & 5 \\ w_3 & 0 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\rho_1} & \overline{a_1} & \overline{a_2} & \overline{a_3} \\ m_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ m_2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ m_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}^T \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \overline{m_1} & \overline{m_2} & \overline{m_3} \\ w_1 & 10 & 0 & 0 \\ w_2 & 0 & 5 & 5 \\ w_3 & 0 & 5 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \\ BR(\rho_1) &= \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\sigma_2} & \overline{m_1} & \overline{m_2} & \overline{m_3} \\ w_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ w_2 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ w_3 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

## Justification: Rabin's example again

$$\begin{aligned} EU_r &= \sigma_2^* \cdot u_r \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sigma_2^*}{m_1} & \frac{w_1}{1} & \frac{w_2}{0} & \frac{w_3}{0} \\ m_2 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ m_3 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{a_1}{w_1} & \frac{a_2}{0} & \frac{a_3}{0} \\ w_2 & 10 & 0 & 0 \\ w_3 & 0 & 10 & 7 \\ w_3 & 0 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{a_1}{m_1} & \frac{a_2}{10} & \frac{a_3}{0} \\ m_2 & 0 & 5 & 7 \\ m_3 & 0 & 5 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ BR_r(\sigma_2) &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\rho_2}{m_1} & \frac{a_1}{1} & \frac{a_2}{0} & \frac{a_3}{0} \\ m_2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ m_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

## Justification: Rabin's example again

### Fixed point of IBR sequence

- $\rho_2 = \rho_1$
- Hence for all  $n > 2$ :

$$\sigma_n = \sigma_2$$

$$\rho_n = \rho_2$$

- $(\sigma_2, \rho_1)$  is a fixed point for best response calculation
- If Sally and Robin only consider justifiable strategies and are both sufficiently sophisticated — and these facts are common knowledge — they will play according to these fixed point strategies

# IBR sequence for Rabin's example

$\sigma_0$	$m_1$	$m_2$	$m_3$
$w_1$	1	0	0
$w_2$	0	1	0
$w_3$	0	0	1

$\sigma_1$	$m_1$	$m_2$	$m_3$
$w_1$	1	0	0
$w_2$	0	1	0
$w_3$	0	1	0

$\sigma_2$	$m_1$	$m_2$	$m_3$
$w_1$	1	0	0
$w_2$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
$w_3$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

$\rho_0$	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$
$m_1$	1	0	0
$m_2$	0	1	0
$m_3$	0	0	1

$\rho_2$	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$
$m_1$	1	0	0
$m_2$	0	0	1
$m_3$	0	0	1

$\rho_1$	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$
$m_1$	1	0	0
$m_2$	0	0	1
$m_3$	0	0	1

$$F = (\sigma_2, \rho_1)$$

# Interpretation games

- How does this relate to linguistic examples?
- There is a quasi-algorithmic procedure (due to Franke 2009) how to construct a game from an example sentence.

## What is given?

- example sentence
- set of expression alternatives
- jointly form set of messages
- question under discussion QUD
- set of complete answers to QUD is the set of possible worlds

## What do we need?

- interpretation function  $\| \cdot \|$
- prior probability distribution  $p^*$
- set of actions
- utility functions



# Interpretation games

## QUD

- often QUD is not given explicitly
- procedure to construct QUD from expression  $m$  and its alternatives  $ALT(m)$ :
  - Let  $ct$  be the context of utterances, i.e. the maximal set of statements that is common knowledge between Sally and Robin.
  - any subset  $w$  of  $ALT(m) \cup \{\neg m' \mid m' \in ALT(m)\}$  is a possible world iff
    - $w$  and  $ct$  are consistent, i.e.  $w \cup ct \not\vdash \perp$
    - for any set  $X : w \subset X \subseteq ALT(m) \cup \{\neg m' \mid m' \in ALT(m)\}$ ,  $ct \cup X$  is inconsistent

# Interpretation games

## Game construction

- interpretation function:

$$\|m'\| = \{w \mid w \vdash m\}$$

- $p^*$  is uniform distribution over  $W$
- justified by principle of insufficient reason
- set of actions is  $W$
- intuitive idea: Robin's task is to figure out which world Sally is in
- utility functions:

$$u_{s/r}(w, a) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{iff } w = a \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

- both players want Robin to succeed

## Example: Quantity implicatures

- (1)
- a. Who came to the party?
  - b. SOME: Some boys came to the party.
  - c. NO: No boys came to the party.
  - d. ALL: All boys came to the party.

### Game construction

- $ct = \emptyset$
- $W = \{w_{\neg\exists}, w_{\exists\neg\forall}, w_{\forall}\}$
- $w_{\neg\exists} = \{\text{NO}\}, w_{\exists\neg\forall} = \{\text{SOME}\}, w_{\forall} = \{\text{SOME}, \text{ALL}\}$
- $p^* = (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$

- interpretation function:

$$\|\text{SOME}\| = \{w_{\exists\neg\forall}, w_{\forall}\}$$

$$\|\text{NO}\| = \{w_{\neg\exists}\}$$

$$\|\text{ALL}\| = \{w_{\forall}\}$$

- utilities:

	$a_{\neg\exists}$	$a_{\exists\neg\forall}$	$a_{\forall}$
$w_{\neg\exists}$	1, 1	0, 0	0, 0
$w_{\exists\neg\forall}$	0, 0	1, 1	0, 0
$w_{\forall}$	0, 0	0, 0	1, 1

# Interpretation games

- utility functions are identity matrices
- therefore the step *multiply with utility matrix* can be omitted in best response computation
- also, restriction to uniform priors makes simplifies computation of posterior distribution
- simplified IBR computation:

# Interpretation games

## Sally

- 1 flip  $\rho$  along diagonal
- 2 place a 0 in each cell that is non-maximal within its row
- 3 normalize each row

## Robin

- 1 flip  $\sigma$  along diagonal
- 2 if a row contains only 0s, fill in a 1 in each cell corresponding to a true world-message association
- 3 place a 0 in each cell that is non-maximal within its row
- 4 normalize each row

## Example: Quantity implicatures

$\sigma_0$	NO	SOME	ALL
$w_{\neg\exists}$	1	0	0
$w_{\exists\neg\forall}$	0	1	0
$w_{\forall}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

$\sigma_1$	NO	SOME	ALL
$w_{\neg\exists}$	1	0	0
$w_{\exists\neg\forall}$	0	1	0
$w_{\forall}$	0	0	1

$\rho_0$	$w_{\neg\exists}$	$w_{\exists\neg\forall}$	$w_{\forall}$
NO	1	0	0
SOME	0	1	0
ALL	0	0	1

$\rho_1$	$w_{\neg\exists}$	$w_{\exists\neg\forall}$	$w_{\forall}$
NO	1	0	0
SOME	0	1	0
ALL	0	0	1

$$F = (\rho_0, \sigma_1)$$

In the fixed point, SOME is interpreted as entailing  $\neg$ ALL, i.e. exhaustively.

# Lifted games

- So far, it is hard-wired in the model that Sally has complete knowledge (or, rather, complete belief — whether or not she is right is inessential for IBR) about the world she is in.
- corresponds to strong version of **competence assumption**
- Sometimes this assumption is too strong:

# Lifted games

- 1
  - a. Ann or Bert showed up. (= OR)
  - b. Ann showed up. (= A)
  - c. Bert showed up. (= B)
  - d. Ann and Bert showed up. (= AND)

- $w_a$ : Only Ann showed up.
- $w_b$ : Only Bert showed up.
- $w_{ab}$ : Both showed up.

## Utility matrix

	$a_a$	$a_b$	$a_{ab}$
$w_a$	1	0	0
$w_b$	0	1	0
$w_{ab}$	0	0	1



# Lifted games

## IBR sequence

$\sigma_0$	OR	A	B	AND	$\rho_0$	$w_a$	$w_b$	$w_{ab}$
$w_a$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	OR	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
$w_b$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	A	1	0	0
$w_{ab}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	B	0	1	0
					AND	0	0	1
$\sigma_1$	OR	A	B	AND	$\rho_1$	$w_a$	$w_b$	$w_{ab}$
$w_a$	0	1	0	0	OR	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
$w_b$	0	0	1	0	A	1	0	0
$w_{ab}$	0	0	0	1	B	0	1	0
					AND	0	0	1

OR comes out as a message that would never be used!

# Lifted games

- full competence assumption is arguably too strong
- weaker assumption (Franke 2009):
  - Sally's information states are **partial answers to QUD**, ie. **sets** of possible worlds
  - Robin's task is to figure out which information state Sally is in.
  - *ceteris paribus*, Robin receives slightly higher utility for smaller (more informative) states

## Costs

- Preferences that are independent from correct information transmission are captured via *cost functions* for sender and receiver.
- For the sender this might be, *inter alia*, a preference for simpler expressions.
- For the receiver, the *Strongest Meaning Hypothesis* is a good candidate.

# Lifted games

## Formally

- cost functions  $c_s, c_r: POW(W) - \{\emptyset\} \times M \mapsto \mathbb{R}^+$
- costs are **nominal**:

$$0 \leq c_s(i, m), c_r(i, m) < \min\left(\frac{1}{|POW(W) - \emptyset|^2}, \frac{1}{|ALT(m)|^2}\right)$$

- guarantees that cost considerations never get in the way of information transmission considerations
- new utility functions:

$$u_s(i, m, a) = -c_s(i, m) + \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = a, \\ 0 & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$
$$u_r(i, m, a) = -c_r(a, m) + \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = a, \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

# Modified IBR procedure

## Sally

- flip  $\rho$  along the diagonal
- subtract  $c_s$
- place a 0 in each cell that is non-maximal within its row
- normalize each row

## Robin

- flip  $\sigma$  along diagonal
- if a row contains only 0s,
  - fill in a 1 in each cell corresponding to a true world-message association
- else
  - subtract  $c_r^T$
- place a 0 in each cell that is non-maximal within its row
- normalize each row

# The Strongest Meaning Hypothesis

- if in doubt, Robin will assume that Sally is competent
- captured in following cost function:

$$c_r(a, m) = \frac{|a|}{\max(|M|, 2^{|W|})^2}$$

$$c_r(\{w_a\}, \cdot) = \frac{1}{49} \qquad c_r(\{w_a, w_{ab}\}, \cdot) = \frac{2}{49}$$

$$c_r(\{w_b\}, \cdot) = \frac{1}{49} \qquad c_r(\{w_b, w_{ab}\}, \cdot) = \frac{2}{49}$$

$$c_r(\{w_{ab}\}, \cdot) = \frac{1}{49} \qquad c_r(\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}, \cdot) = \frac{3}{49}$$

$$c_r(\{w_a, w_b\}, \cdot) = \frac{2}{49}$$

# Lifted games

## IBR sequence: 1

$\sigma_0$	OR	A	B	AND
$\{w_a\}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0
$\{w_b\}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
$\{w_{ab}\}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
$\{w_a, w_b\}$	1	0	0	0
$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0
$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$	1	0	0	0

# Lifted games

## IBR sequence: flipping and subtracting costs

$\rho_0$	$\{w_a\}$	$\{w_b\}$	$\{w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b\}$	$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$
OR	0.48	0.48	0.23	<b>0.96</b>	0.46	0.46	0.94
A	<b>0.48</b>	-0.02	0.23	-0.04	0.46	-0.04	-0.06
B	-0.02	<b>0.48</b>	0.23	-0.04	-0.04	0.46	-0.06
AND	-0.02	-0.02	<b>0.23</b>	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	-0.06

# Lifted games

IBR sequence: 2

$\rho_0$	$\{w_a\}$	$\{w_b\}$	$\{w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b\}$	$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$
OR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
AND	0	0	1	0	0	0	0



# Lifted games

## IBR sequence: 3

$\sigma_1$	OR	A	B	AND
$\{w_a\}$	0	1	0	0
$\{w_b\}$	0	0	1	0
$\{w_{ab}\}$	0	0	0	1
$\{w_a, w_b\}$	1	0	0	0
$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0
$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$	1	0	0	0

# Lifted games

- OR is only used in  $\{w_a, w_b\}$  in the fixed point
- this means that it carries two implicatures:
  - exhaustivity: Ann and Bert did not both show up
  - ignorance: Sally does not know which one of the two disjuncts is true

## Sender costs

- 2
  - a. Ann or Bert or both showed up. (= AB-OR)
  - b. Ann showed up. (= A)
  - c. Bert showed up. (= B)
  - d. Ann and Bert showed up. (= AND)
  - e. Ann or Bert showed up. (= OR)
  - f. Ann or both showed up. (= A-OR)
  - g. Bert or both showed up. (= B-OR)
  
- Message (e) is arguably more efficient for Sally than (a)
- Let us say that  $c_s(\cdot, \text{AB-OR}) = \frac{1}{50}$ ,  $c_s(\cdot, \text{A-OR}) = c_s(\cdot, \text{B-OR}) = \frac{1}{75}$ ,  $c_s(\cdot, \text{OR}) = c_s(\cdot, \text{AND}) = \frac{1}{100}$ , and  $c_s(\cdot, \text{A}) = c_s(\cdot, \text{B}) = 0$ .

## More ignorance implicatures

### IBR sequence: 1

$\sigma_0$	AB-OR	A	B	AND	OR	A-OR	B-OR
$\{w_a\}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0
$\{w_b\}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	$\frac{1}{4}$
$\{w_{ab}\}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$
$\{w_a, w_b\}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0
$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0
$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	$\frac{1}{4}$
$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0

## More ignorance implicatures

IBR sequence: 1

$\rho_0$	$\{w_a\}$	$\{w_b\}$	$\{w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b\}$	$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$
AB-OR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
AND	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
OR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
A-OR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
B-OR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

## More ignorance implicatures

### IBR sequence: 2

$\sigma_1$	AB-OR	A	B	AND	OR	A-OR	B-OR
$\{w_a\}$	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
$\{w_b\}$	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
$\{w_{ab}\}$	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
$\{w_a, w_b\}$	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

# More ignorance implicatures

## IBR sequence: 2

$\rho_1$	$\{w_a\}$	$\{w_b\}$	$\{w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b\}$	$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$
ORBOTH	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{7}$
A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
AND	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
OR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
A-OR	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	0
B-OR	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	0

## More ignorance implicatures

### IBR sequence: 3

$\sigma_2$	AB-OR	A	B	AND	OR	A-OR	B-OR
$\{w_a\}$	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
$\{w_b\}$	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
$\{w_{ab}\}$	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
$\{w_a, w_b\}$	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$	1	0	0	0	0	0	0



## More ignorance implicatures

IBR sequence: 3

$\rho_2$	$\{w_a\}$	$\{w_b\}$	$\{w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b\}$	$\{w_a, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_b, w_{ab}\}$	$\{w_a, w_b, w_{ab}\}$
ORBOTH	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
AND	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
OR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
A-OR	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
B-OR	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

# Conclusion

- IBR model formalizes neo-Gricean program
- Principle of cooperativity: identical preferences of sender and receiver
- Quality: Honesty is default strategy
- Quantity, Relevance: captured in utility function
- Manner: captured in cost function
- further applications
  - free choice implicatures
  - conditional perfection
  - I-implicatures, M-implicatures
  - pragmatics of measure terms
- next project: presuppositions

# I-implicatures

- (2) a. John opened the door. (= OPEN)  
b. John opened the door using the handle. (= OPEN-H)  
c. John opened the door with an axe. (= OPEN-A)

## formally

- $W = \{w_h, w_a\}$
- $p^*(w_1) = \frac{2}{3}, p^*(w_2) = \frac{1}{3}$
- $\|\text{OPEN-H}\| = \{w_h\}, \|\text{OPEN-A}\| = \{w_a\},$   
and  $\|\text{OPEN}\| = \{w_h, w_a\}$
- $c(m_1) = c(m_2) \in \frac{1}{20}, c(m_3) = 0$

	$a_h$	$a_a$
$w_h$	1, 1	0, 0
$w_a$	0, 0	1, 1

# I-implicatures

$\sigma_0$	OPEN	OPEN-H	OPEN-A
$w_h$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
$w_a$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$

$\rho_0$	$w_h$	$w_a$
OPEN	1	0
OPEN-H	1	0
OPEN-A	0	1

$\sigma_1$	OPEN	OPEN-H	OPEN-A
$w_h$	1	0	0
$w_a$	0	0	1

$\rho_1$	$w_h$	$w_a$
OPEN	1	0
OPEN-H	1	0
OPEN-A	0	1

$$F = (\sigma_1, \rho_0)$$

## Measure terms

Krifka (2002,2007) notes that measure terms can be used in a precise or in a vague way, and that more complex expressions are less likely to be used in a vague way. Here is a schematic analysis:

- $w_1, w_3$ : 100 meter,  $w_2, w_4$ : 101 meter
- $m_{100}$ : “one hundred meter”  
 $m_{101}$ : “one hundred and one meter”  
 $m_{ex100}$ : “exactly one hundred meter”
- $\|m_{100}\| = \|m_{ex100}\| = \{w_1, w_3\}$ ,  
 $\|m_{101}\| = \{w_2, w_4\}$
- $c(m_{100}) = 0$ ,  
 $c(m_{101}) = c(m_{ex100}) = 0.15$
- $a_1, a_3$ : 100,  $a_2, a_4$ : 101

- in  $w_1, w_2$  precision is important
- in  $w_3, w_4$  precision is not important

	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	$a_4$
$w_1$	1	0.5	1	0.5
$w_2$	0.5	1	0.5	1
$w_3$	1	0.9	1	0.9
$w_4$	0.9	1	0.9	1

# Measure terms

$\sigma_0$	$m_{100}$	$m_{101}$	$m_{ex100}$
$w_1$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
$w_2$	0	1	0
$w_3$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
$w_4$	0	1	0

$\sigma_1$	$m_{100}$	$m_{101}$	$m_{ex100}$
$w_1$	1	0	0
$w_2$	0	1	0
$w_3$	1	0	0
$w_4$	1	0	0

$\sigma_2$	$m_{100}$	$m_{101}$	$m_{ex100}$
$w_1$	0	0	1
$w_2$	0	1	0
$w_3$	1	0	0
$w_4$	1	0	0

$\rho_0$	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	$a_4$
$m_{100}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
$m_{101}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
$m_{ex100}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0

$\rho_1$	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	$a_4$
$m_{100}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
$m_{101}$	0	1	0	0
$m_{ex100}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0

$\rho_2$	$a_1$	$wa_2$	$a_3$	$a_4$
$m_{100}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
$m_{101}$	0	1	0	0
$m_{ex100}$	1	0	0	0

# M-implicatures

- 3
- a. John stopped the car. (= STOP)
  - b. John made the car stop. (= MAKE-STOP)

- $w_1$ : John used the foot brake.

- $w_2$ : John drove the car against a wall.

- $\| \text{STOP} \| =$   
 $\| \text{MAKE-STOP} \| =$   
 $\{w_1, w_2\}$

- $c(\text{STOP}) = 0;$   
 $c(\text{MAKE-STOP}) = 0.1$

- $p^*(w_1) = .8;$   
 $p^*(w_2) = .2.$

## Utility matrix

	$a_1$	$a_2$
$w_1$	1	0
$w_2$	0	1

# M-implicatures

## IBR sequence

$\sigma_0$	STOP	MAKE-STOP
$w_1$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
$w_2$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

$\sigma_1$	STOP	MAKE-STOP
$w_1$	1	0
$w_2$	1	0

$\sigma_2$	STOP	MAKE-STOP
$w_1$	1	0
$w_2$	0	1

$\rho_0$	$a_1$	$a_2$
STOP	1	0
MAKE-STOP	1	0

$\rho_1$	$a_1$	$a_2$
STOP	1	0
MAKE-STOP	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

$\rho_2$	$a_1$	$a_2$
STOP	1	0
MAKE-STOP	0	1