

Missing bit from the proof of Nash's theorem using Brouwer's fixed-point theorem

Recall the following definitions from lecture.

$$D = \Delta_{S_1} \times \Delta_{S_2} \times \dots \times \Delta_{S_n}$$

$$\delta_{it}(x) = \mathbb{E}_{s_{-i} \sim x^{-(i)}} [u_i(t, s_{-i})] - \mathbb{E}_{s \sim x} [u_i(s)] \quad \text{for all } i, t \in S_i \text{ and } x \in D$$

$$f(x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n)}) = (y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(n)}), \quad \text{where } y_t^{(i)} = \frac{x_t^{(i)} + \max\{\delta_{it}(x), 0\}}{\sum_{t' \in S_i} [x_{t'}^{(i)} + \max\{\delta_{it'}(x), 0\}]}$$

Claim 1 *If $\bar{x} = f(\bar{x})$, then $\delta_{it}(\bar{x}) \leq 0$ for all $i, t \in S_i$, which implies that \bar{x} is a mixed NE.*

Proof : We observed in lecture that if $\delta_{it}(\bar{x}) > 0$, then by the definition of f , we have $\bar{x}_t^{(i)} = f(\bar{x})_t^{(i)} > 0$. We also observed that $\sum_{t \in S_i} \delta_{it}(\bar{x}) \cdot \bar{x}_t^{(i)} = 0$. To complete the proof, the preceding two observations imply that we cannot have $\delta_{it}(\bar{x}) > 0$ for *all* $t \in S_i$. So there is some $t \in S_i$ with $\delta_{it}(\bar{x}) \leq 0$. Now since $\bar{x}_t^{(i)} = f(\bar{x})_t^{(i)}$, by definition of f , this means that we must have

$$1 = \sum_{t' \in S_i} [\bar{x}_{t'}^{(i)} + \max\{\delta_{it'}(\bar{x}), 0\}] = 1 + \sum_{t' \in S_i} \max\{\delta_{it'}(\bar{x}), 0\}.$$

This implies that $\delta_{it'}(\bar{x}) \leq 0$ for all $t' \in S_i$. ■