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AXIOMATICS OF LEVEL STRUCTURE VALUES

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AXIOMATICS OF LEVEL STRUCTURE VALUES

Abstract

In this paper we develop six values for side payments games when a cooperative description of the players is a priori given. This cooperation description, called a level structure, is made of a sequence of coalition structures. Those values are extensions of values such as the Shapley value (1953), Owen's value (1977) and Winter's level structure value (1989).

KEY WORDS : LEVEL STRUCTURE, VALUE OF TU-GAMES.

VALEURS DE JEUX COOPERATIFS A STRUCTURES COALITIONNELLES

Résumé

Dans cet article, nous proposons six valeurs de jeux coopératifs lorsque les joueurs sont a priori organisés en une suite de structures coalitionnelles. Ces valeurs sont des extensions de valeurs telles que la valeur de Shapley (1953), la valeur d'Owen (1977) et la valeur de Winter (1989).

MOTS CLES : STRUCTURE COALITIONNELLE, VALEUR DE JEUX COOPERATIFS

AXIOMATICS OF LEVEL STRUCTURE VALUES

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Abstract

In this paper we develop six values for side payments games when a cooperation description of the players is a priori given. This cooperation description, called a level structure, is made of a sequence of coalition structures. Those values are extensions of values such as the Shapley value (1953), Owen's value (1977) and Winter's level structure value (1989).

1. Introduction

In this paper we develop six values for side payments games which take into account the possibility that some players may be more likely to act together than others. Actually, in many situations a coalition structure is not an adequate description of the cooperation structure and a more detailed description of the different levels of cooperative agreements is needed. To account for all possible links among the players we can extend the notion of coalition structure value to games in which the players are already organized into a level structure (LS), that is a sequence of coalition structures.

Consider a characteristic function game U with a set of players $N = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ and suppose that these players are organized into two coalitions, say $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ and $B = \{4, 5, 6, 7\}$ and into parties within each coalition, say $C = \{1, 2\}$, $D = \{3\}$, $E = \{4, 5\}$ and $F = \{6, 7\}$. In other words, the players are organized into a level structure (figure 1) $\mathbf{B} = \{\mathcal{B}^1, \mathcal{B}^2\}$, with $\mathcal{B}^1 = \{A, B\}$ the first level of cooperation and $\mathcal{B}^2 = \{C, D, E, F\}$ the second one.

¹I thank Guillermo Owen and Jean-François Laslier for helpful discussions and comments, and Dirk van de gaer for his valuable remarks. The usual caveat applies

Figure 1

Our purpose is to determine the final repartition of the total amount $U(N)$ among the players. If we suppose that the level structure is a priori given, we might expect that each coalition (A and B) will choose a delegate to represent the coalition in a bargaining situation whose formal representation is the quotient game V , which is a two-person side payments game. So, a reasonable expectation for coalition A (resp. B) is the amount $\varphi_A(V)$ (resp. $\varphi_B(V)$) which would normally be expected by player A (resp. B) in game V (where φ denotes the Shapley value). Then, the members of A , e.g., would bargain among themselves to determine the division of the amount $\varphi_A(V)$ which the coalition receives. Again, we might expect that each party (C and D) will choose a delegate to represent the party in a bargaining situation whose formal representation is the subgame W_A defined on the coalition A . This subgame is a two-person side payments game. So, the amount which would normally be expected by player C (resp. D) is the Shapley value of player C (resp. D) in subgame W_A , i.e. $\varphi_C(W_A)$ (resp. $\varphi_D(W_A)$). Finally, player $i \in C$ should expect to receive a fraction equal to $\varphi_i(W_C)$ which is the Shapley value of player i in subgame W_C defined on the party C . Thus, an expectation for player $i \in C \subset A$ in game U , assuming the level structure $\mathbf{B}$, is the product of the Shapley values in the respective subgames and quotient game.

This example gives a simple illustration of the way we proceed to determine the final payoff for each player. At the first level of the level structure, the coalitions bargain among themselves to determine the division of the total amount $U(N)$. At the second level, the parties belonging to the same coalition bargain among themselves to determine the division of the amount the coalition receives. Finally, the players of a party divide among themselves the amount the party receives. This final distribution of payoff reflect the fact that the players are already organized into a level structure.

Obviously, the value of player $i \in C \subset A$ depends crucially on the definition of the subgames W_C and W_A and on the definition of the quotient game V . In section 3, we propose three level structure values based on a bargaining procedure among coalitions and three different bargaining procedures within coalitions. In section 4, we propose three other level structure values by changing the bargaining procedure among coalitions.

2. Notations and definitions

We consider a side payments game U with a set of players $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $P(N)$ the set of all finite partitions of N , where a finite partition, $\mathcal{B}^c$, is a set of coalitions

B_{j^c} such that

$$\mathcal{B}^c = \{B_{1^c}, \dots, B_{j^c}, \dots, B_{m^c}\}, \quad M^c = \{1^c, \dots, m^c\}$$

$$\bigcup_{j^c=1^c}^{m^c} B_{j^c} = N \quad \text{and} \quad B_{q^c} \cap B_{k^c} = \emptyset, \quad q^c \neq k^c \in M^c$$

where $\mathcal{B}^c$ represents the c -th level of cooperation.

Definition 1

We define a binary relation $\trianglelefteq$ on $P(N)$, where $\mathcal{B}^c \trianglelefteq \mathcal{B}^h$ means that the finite partition $\mathcal{B}^h$ is identical to $\mathcal{B}^c$ or finer than $\mathcal{B}^c$. This binary relation is a quasi-ordering on $P(N)$.

Definition 2

A level structure (LS) $\mathbf{B}$ is a subset of $P(N)$ such that the binary relation $\trianglelefteq$ is complete on $\mathbf{B}$.

Definition 3

A LS $\mathbf{B} = (\mathcal{B}^1, \dots, \mathcal{B}^c, \dots, \mathcal{B}^g)$ is said to be strict if and only if for all $c=1, \dots, g-1$, $\mathcal{B}^c \triangleleft \mathcal{B}^{c+1}$, where $\triangleleft$ is the asymmetric component of $\trianglelefteq$.

Definition 4

For all coalitions $B_{j^c} \in \mathcal{B}^c$, we note $n(B_{j^c}) = \#\{B_{j^{c+1}} \in \mathcal{B}^{c+1} : B_{j^{c+1}} \subseteq B_{j^c}\}$, for all $c=1, \dots, g-1$.

Definition 5

For every coalition $B_{j^c} \in \mathcal{B}^c$, if $n(B_{j^c}) = 1$, that is if there exists only one coalition $B_{j^{c+1}} \in \mathcal{B}^{c+1}$ such that $B_{j^{c+1}} = B_{j^c}$, then we say that B_{j^c} is a strong coalition for $(\mathcal{B}^c, \mathcal{B}^{c+1})$.

To determine the level structure values we always consider a side payments game with a set of players organized into a strict level structure $\mathbf{B} = \{\mathcal{B}^1, \mathcal{B}^2\}$. So, the players are put into coalitions and into parties within each coalition.

Definition 6

Let $\Pi(N)$ the set of all permutations of the set of players, then

- (i) For all $\pi \in \Pi(N)$, π is a symmetry of U if and only if, for all $S \subseteq N$, $\pi U(S) = U(\pi S)$
- (ii) For all $\pi \in \Pi(N)$, π is a symmetry of $\mathbf{B}$ if and only if, for all $S \subseteq N$, $S \subseteq B_{j^2}$, $\pi(S) \subseteq B_{j^2}$ and, for all $S \subseteq N$, $S \subseteq B_{j^1}$, $\pi(S) \subseteq B_{j^1}$

Definition 7

A Level Structure Value (LSV), φ^2 , is a function which assigns to each pair $(U; \mathbf{B})$, a vector containing the payoffs of each of the n players.

φ^2 is the LSV in a two level game which derives from the Shapley value φ . This function satisfies the following five axioms.

We define a carrier as in Shapley's paper, and let π and ρ^c denote permutations of N and M^c ($c=1,2$) respectively. The game πU is define by $\pi U(S) = U(\pi S)$.

Axiom 1 (Efficiency)

For any carrier H of U , $\sum_{i \in H} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = U(H)$

Axiom 2 (Anonymity)

For any $\pi \in \Pi(N)$, if π is a symmetry of $(U; \mathbf{B})$, then $\varphi_i^2(\pi(U; \mathbf{B})) = \varphi_{(\pi i)}^2(U; \mathbf{B})$

Axiom 3 (Independence)

For any $B_{j1} \in \mathcal{B}^1$, the quantity $\sum_{i \in B_{j1}} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B})$ depends only on the bargaining procedure among coalitions.

For any $B_{j2} \in \mathcal{B}^2$, the quantity $\sum_{i \in B_{j2}} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B})$ depends only on the bargaining procedure within coalitions.

Axiom 4 (Symmetry)

If i and h are two symmetric players in the subgame $W_{B_{j2}}$, then $\varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = \varphi_h^2(U; \mathbf{B})$

If B_{j2} and B_{q2} are two symmetric coalitions in the subgame $W_{B_{j1}}$, then $\varphi_{B_{j2}}^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = \varphi_{B_{q2}}^2(U; \mathbf{B})$

If B_{j1} and B_{q1} are two symmetric coalitions in the quotient game V , then $\varphi_{B_{j1}}^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = \varphi_{B_{q1}}^2(U; \mathbf{B})$

Axiom 5 (Additivity)

$\varphi^2(U; \mathbf{B}) + \varphi^2(V; \mathbf{B}) = \varphi^2(U + V; \mathbf{B})$

The first axiom, usually called the carrier axiom, requires that the sum of LSV values over all players i in any carrier H equals $U(N)$. Since this must hold for any carrier, it implies that the LSV value of player i equal zero if i is a null player. The second axiom requires that the LSV value depends on the strict LS $\mathbf{B}$, but not on the labelling of the unions and the players. The third axiom is an independance condition. It requires that the sum of LSV values over all players $i \in B_{j1}$ equals the Shapley value of player B_{j1} in game V , and that the sum of LSV values over all players $i \in B_{j2}$ equals the Shapley value of player B_{j2} in game W_{j1} . The fourth axiom is an axiom of symmetry among the players. It requires that two players or two coalitions who are identically treated by the characteristic function of the games representing the bargaining procedure among coalitions and within coalitions must be identically treated by the LSV value. The fifth axiom, called the additivity axiom, specifies how the LSV of different games must be related to one another.

3. Level structure values with a simple quotient game

If we suppose that in each coalition $B_{j1} \in \mathcal{B}^1$ an individual (a delegate) is selected to represent the coalition, then it can be said that the problem of the division of the

gain among the coalitions of the first finite partition of N is a bargaining situation, formally represented by the quotient game $V = U/\mathcal{B}^1$. V is a game with a set of players $M^1 = \{1^1, \dots, j^1, \dots, m^1\}$ and is given by :

$$V(S) = U\left(\bigcup_{B_{j^1} \in S} B_{j^1}\right), \text{ for any } S \in \mathcal{B}^1$$

Thus a reasonable expectation for the j^{th} coalition is the amount $\varphi_{B_{j^1}}(V)$, which is the Shapley value of player B_{j^1} in game V and would be normally expected by this player.

Then, the members of this coalition B_{j^1} would bargain among themselves to determine the division of the quantity the coalition receives. These members are the coalitions of the finite partition $\mathcal{B}^2$ which belong to the coalition B_{j^1} . Note that we also suppose that in each coalition B_{j^2} a selected delegate represents the coalition.

As we argue in the previous example, the division of the quantity the coalition receives depends on the definition of the subgame we can define on this specific coalition. Considering the example given in introduction, the first bargaining procedure within coalitions we consider as the following interpretation. Parties C and D have two pieces of information. They know that they have to divide the amount the coalition A receives among themselves and they know the amount they can obtain on their own in the characteristic function game U .

Hence, this bargaining procedure within coalitions originates when we simply take into account the amount $U(K)$ that every $K \subset B_{j^1}$, $K \in \mathcal{B}^2$ can obtain itself. To do this, we can define the subgame $W_{B_{j^1}}$ on coalition B_{j^1} :

$$W_{B_{j^1}}(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$W_{B_{j^1}}(K) = U(K), \text{ for all } K \subset B_{j^1}, K \in \mathcal{B}^2$$

$$W_{B_{j^1}}(B_{j^1}) = \varphi_{B_{j^1}}(V)$$

Then, a reasonable expectation for coalition $B_{j^2} \subset B_{j^1}$ is the amount $\varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}})$, which is the Shapley value of player B_{j^2} in the subgame $W_{B_{j^1}}$.

To determine the division of the amount $\varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}})$ among the members of the party B_{j^2} , we use the same argument. We define the subgame $W_{B_{j^2}}$ on party B_{j^2} so as to take into account the individual possibilities of each $H \subset B_{j^2}$:

$$W_{B_{j^2}}(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$W_{B_{j^2}}(H) = U(H), \text{ for all } H \subset B_{j^2}$$

$$W_{B_{j^2}}(B_{j^2}) = \varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}})$$

Thus, each player $i \in B_{j^2} \subset B_{j^1}$ can obtain the amount $\varphi_i(W_{B_{j^2}})$, which is the Shapley value of player i in the subgame $W_{B_{j^2}}$.

This bargaining procedure within coalitions can be characterized by the following axiom.

Axiom 6

For all $K \subset B_{j^1}$, $W_{B_{j^1}}(K) = U(K)$ and $W_{B_{j^1}}(B_{j^1}) = \varphi_{B_{j^1}}(V)$

For all $H \subset B_{j^2}$, $W_{B_{j^2}}(H) = U(H)$ and $W_{B_{j^2}}(B_{j^2}) = \varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}})$

This axiom implies that the characteristic function of the subgame $W_{B_{j^1}}$, is determined by giving to all $K \subset B_{j^1}$ the corresponding value of the characteristic function of game U , and to the coalition B_{j^1} the amount which this coalition receives, that is the Shapley value of player B_{j^1} in the quotient game V . By the same token, the characteristic function of the subgame $W_{B_{j^2}}$, is determined by giving to all $H \subset B_{j^2}$ the corresponding value of the characteristic function of game U , and to the coalition B_{j^2} the amount which this coalition receives, that is the Shapley value of player B_{j^2} in the subgame $W_{B_{j^1}}$

Theorem 1

There exists a unique LSV φ^2 satisfying axioms 1-6 for side payments games with a strict LS $\mathbf{B}$. It is given by ²

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = & \sum_{\substack{H \subset B_j^2 \\ i \notin H}} \delta_h(b_j^2) [U(H \cup \{i\}) - U(H)] + \frac{1}{b_j^2} \\ & \left[\sum_{\substack{G \subset B_j^1 \\ B_j^2 \notin G}} \delta_g(n(B_j^1)) [U(G \cup B_j^2) - U(G)] - U(B_j^2) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{n(B_j^1)} \left[\sum_{\substack{S \subset M^1 \\ B_j^1 \notin S}} \delta_s(m^1) [U(S \cup B_j^1) - U(S)] - U(B_j^1) \right] \right] \end{aligned}$$

Return to our example given in introduction, we can consider another interpretation for the bargaining procedure within coalitions. This interpretation is as follow. Parties C and D have not two but three pieces of information. They know that they have to divide the amount the coalition A receives among themselves, they know the amount they can obtain on their own in the characteristic function game U and they know that the amount they have to divide among themselves is the result of negotiations between coalitions A and B .

Then, the second bargaining procedure within coalitions consists in accounting for the amount $U(K)$ that every $K \subset B_{j^1}$, $K \in \mathcal{B}^2$ can obtain itself and the amounts $U(K \cup B_{q^1} \cup \dots \cup B_{h^1})$ that K could obtain if he would defect from coalition B_{j^1} and form a new coalition with one or more of the remaining coalitions of $\mathcal{B}^1$. Remark

²The heuristic determination of the LSV and the proof of theorem 1 are given in appendix

that $\mathbf{B}$ is not supposed to change. The construction only serves to compute the relative payoff of each member of the coalition B_{j1} .

For any $K \subseteq B_{j1}$, and K' its complement relative to B_{j1} , we define a restricted game $V_{B_{j1}/K}$ as representing the quotient game V when K replaces the coalition B_{j1} in the finite partition $\mathcal{B}^1$. $V_{B_{j1}/K}$ is a game with a set of players $M^1|B_{j1}/K$ and is given by :

$$V_{B_{j1}/K}(S) = U\left(\bigcup_{B_{q1} \in S} B_{q1} - K'\right), \text{ for all } S \subseteq M^1$$

Then a reasonable expectation for K in the restricted game $V_{B_{j1}/K}$ is the amount $\varphi_{K1}(V_{B_{j1}/K1})$ which is the Shapley value of player K in this restricted game. This amount also represents the relative payoff, in game U , of K if he would defect from the coalition B_{j1} .

Using the measure of the relative payoff of each member of the coalition B_{j1} , we can define the subgame $W_{B_{j1}}$ on the coalition B_{j1} by :

$$W_{B_{j1}}(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$W_{B_{j1}}(K) = \varphi_K(V_{B_{j1}/K}), \text{ for all } K \subseteq B_{j1}$$

Thus each $B_{j2} \subseteq B_{j1}$ can obtain the amount $\varphi_{B_{j2}}(W_{B_{j1}})$ which is the Shapley value of player B_{j2} in the subgame $W_{B_{j1}}$.

Then we have to determine the division of the amount the coalition B_{j2} receives among its members. We can repeat this procedure to define the restricted game $W_{B_{j1}/H}$ as representing the subgame $W_{B_{j1}}$ when $H \subseteq B_{j2}$ replaces the coalition B_{j2} in the finite partition $\mathcal{B}^2$. So the relative payoff of H if he would defect from B_{j2} is given by the Shapley value of player H in this restricted game. Then we define the subgame $W_{B_{j2}}$ on the coalition B_{j2} by :

$$W_{B_{j2}}(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$W_{B_{j2}}(H) = \varphi_H(W_{B_{j1}/H}), \text{ for all } H \subseteq B_{j2}$$

Thus each $i \in B_{j2}$ can obtain the amount $\varphi_i(W_{B_{j2}})$ which is the Shapley value of player i in this subgame.

This bargaining procedure within coalitions can be characterized by the following axiom.

Axiom 6'

For all $K \subseteq B_{j1}$, $K \in \mathcal{B}^2$, $W_{B_{j1}}(K) = \varphi_K(V_{B_{j1}/K})$

For all $H \subseteq B_{j2}$, $W_{B_{j2}}(H) = \varphi_H(W_{B_{j1}/B_{j2}/H})$

This axiom implies that the characteristic function of the subgame $W_{B_{j1}}$, is determined by giving to all $K \subseteq B_{j1}$ the Shapley value of player K in the restricted quotient game $V_{B_{j1}/K}$. Furthermore, the characteristic function of the subgame

$W_{B_{j_2}}$, is determined by giving to all $H \subseteq B_{j_2}$ the Shapley value of player H in the restraint subgame $W_{B_{j_1}|B_{j_2}/H}$.

Theorem 2

There exists a unique LSV φ^2 satisfying axioms 1-5 and 6' for side payments games with a strict LS $\mathbf{B}$; it is given by the formula ³

$$\varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = \sum_{\substack{S \subset M^1 \\ B_{j_1} \notin S}} \sum_{\substack{K \subset B_{j_1} \\ B_{j_2} \notin K}} \sum_{\substack{H \subset B_{j_2} \\ i \notin H}} \frac{s!(m^1 - k - 1)!k![n(B_{j_1}) - k - 1]!h!(b_{j_2} - h - 1)}{m^1! n(B_{j_1})! b_{j_2}!} \\ [U(S \cup K \cup H \cup \{i\}) - U(S \cup K \cup H)]$$

Return to our example, the last bargaining procedure within coalitions we consider has the following interpretation. Parties C and D have more information. They know that the coalition B is decomposed into two parties, E and F . Thus, the third bargaining procedure within coalitions arises when we take into account not only the amount $U(K_1)$ that every $K_1 \subset B_{j_1}$, $K \in \mathcal{B}^2$ can obtain itself but also the amounts $U(K_1 \cup B_{q^1} \cup \dots \cup B_{h^1} \cup \dots \cup B_{q^2} \cup \dots \cup B_{h^2})$ which he could obtain if he would defect from coalition B_{j_1} and form a new coalition with one or more of the remaining coalitions of $\mathcal{B}^2$. So, for all $K \subset B_{j_1}$, $K \in \mathcal{B}^2$, and K' its complement relative to B_{j_1} , we define the game $V_{\mathcal{B}^2|B_{j_1}/K}$ on the coalition structure $\mathcal{B}^2$ when K replaces all the parties B_{j_2} belonging to the coalition B_{j_1} . Thus, $V_{\mathcal{B}^2|B_{j_1}/K}$ is a game with $m^2 - n(B_{j_1}) + 1$ players, and we have :

$$V_{\mathcal{B}^2|B_{j_1}/K}(G) = U\left(\bigcup_{B_{q^2} \in G} B_{q^2}\right), \text{ for all } G \in M^2|B_{j_1}/K$$

Then a reasonable expectation for player K if he replaces B_{j_1} is the amount $\varphi_K(V_{\mathcal{B}^2|B_{j_1}/K})$, which is the Shapley value of player K in the game $V_{\mathcal{B}^2|B_{j_1}/K}$. Using the relative payoff of each subset of B_{j_1} , we can define the subgame $W_{B_{j_1}}$ on coalition B_{j_1} :

$$W_{B_{j_1}}(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$W_{B_{j_1}}(K) = \varphi_K(V_{\mathcal{B}^2|B_{j_1}/K}), \text{ for all } K \subset B_{j_1}, K \in \mathcal{B}^2$$

$$W_{B_{j_1}}(B_{j_1}) = \varphi_{B_{j_1}}(V)$$

Thus, each party $B_{j_2} \subset B_{j_1}$ can obtain the amount $\varphi_{B_{j_2}}(W_{B_{j_1}})$ which is the Shapley value of player B_{j_2} in the subgame $W_{B_{j_1}}$.

To determine the division of the amount $\varphi_{B_{j_2}}(W_{B_{j_1}})$ party B_{j_2} receives, we define for all $H \subseteq B_{j_2}$ the restricted subgame $W_{B_{j_1}|B_{j_2}/H}$ as representing the subgame $W_{B_{j_1}}$ when H replaces the party B_{j_2} in $\mathcal{B}^2$. Then, a reasonable expectation for H is the

³Proofs and the heuristic determinations of the LSV of theorems 2-6 are omitted. Details are available from the author upon request.

Shapley value of player H in this restricted subgame.

Thus, using the relative payoff of each subset H of B_{j^2} , we can define the subgame $W_{B_{j^2}}$ on party B_{j^2}

$$W_{B_{j^2}}(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$W_{B_{j^2}}(H) = \varphi_H(W_{B_{j^1}|B_{j^2}/H}), \text{ for all } H \subseteq B_{j^2}$$

Finally, each player $i \in B_{j^2} \subset B_{j^1}$ can obtain the amount $\varphi_i(W_{B_{j^2}})$, which is the Shapley value of player i in the subgame $W_{B_{j^2}}$.

This bargaining procedure within coalitions can be characterized by the following axiom.

Axiom 6"

For all $K \subset B_{j^1}$, $K \in \mathcal{B}^2$, $W_{B_{j^1}}(K) = \varphi_K(V_{\mathcal{B}^2|B_{j^1}/K})$ and $W_{B_{j^1}}(B_{j^1}) = \varphi_{B_{j^1}}(V)$

For all $H \subseteq B_{j^2}$, $B_{j^2} \subset B_{j^1}$, $W_{B_{j^2}}(H) = \varphi_H(W_{B_{j^1}|B_{j^2}/H})$

This axiom implies that the characteristic function of the subgame $W_{B_{j^1}}$, is determined by giving to all $K \subseteq B_{j^1}$ the Shapley value of player K in the game $V_{\mathcal{B}^2|B_{j^1}/K}$ and to coalition B_{j^1} the amount which the coalition receives, i.e as the Shapley value of player B_{j^1} in the quotient game V . The characteristic function of the subgame $W_{B_{j^2}}$, is determined by giving to all $H \subseteq B_{j^2}$ the Shapley value of player H in the restricted subgame $W_{B_{j^1}|B_{j^2}/H}$.

Theorem 3

There exists a unique LSV φ^2 satisfying axioms 1-5 and 6" for side payments games with a strict LS $\mathbf{B}$. It is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = & \sum_{\substack{H \subset B_j^2 \\ i \notin H}} \sum_{\substack{G \subset B_j^1 \\ B_j^2 \not\subset G}} \sum_{\substack{F \subset M^2 \\ B_j^1 \not\subset F}} \delta_h((b_j^2)\delta_g(n(B_j^1))\delta_f(m^2 - n(B_j^1) + 1)) \\ & [U(F \cup G \cup H \cup \{i\}) - U(F \cup G \cup H)] + \frac{1}{n(B_j^1)b_j^2} \\ & \left[\sum_{\substack{S \subset M^1 \\ B_j^1 \not\subset S}} \delta_s(m^1) [U(S \cup B_j^1) - U(S)] - U(F \cup B_j^1) \right] \end{aligned}$$

4. Level structure values with a large quotient game

The three LSV's we have developed in section 3 have the bargaining procedure among coalitions in common. Assuming the LS $\mathbf{B}$, whatever the LSV used, the value of a coalition B_{j^1} in the game U is the same. This bargaining procedure among

coalitions takes no notice of the possibility for a given coalition to form a new coalition with one or more of the parties belonging to the other coalitions. Actually, the bargaining procedure among coalitions we use takes into account the amount $U(B_{j_1})$ which the coalition can obtain itself and the amounts $U(B_{j_1} \cup B_{q_1} \cup \dots \cup B_{h_1})$, but do not take into account the amounts $U(B_{j_1} \cup B_{q_2} \cup \dots \cup B_{h_2})$. Considering our example, this implies that coalitions A and B ignore that they are both composed of two parties. To integrate this information in the bargaining procedure among coalitions, we can define a game, which we will call a large quotient game, $V_{\langle \mathcal{B}^2, \{T\} \rangle}$, where T is a subset of $\mathcal{B}^1$. This game is the formal representation of the bargaining procedure if the coalition T and the parties $B_{j_2} \notin T$ have to divide the total gain among themselves. So, this large quotient game is defined assuming that the coalition structure $\langle \mathcal{B}^2, \{T\} \rangle = \{B_{j_2}, \dots, T, \dots, B_{h_2}\}$:

$$V_{\langle \mathcal{B}^2, \{T\} \rangle}(S) = U\left(\bigcup_{B_{j_2} \in S} B_{j_2} \cup T\right), \text{ for all } S \in \langle \mathcal{B}^2, \{T\} \rangle$$

Using this argument, we can calculate the Shapley value of each coalition $T \in \mathcal{B}^1$ in the large quotient game $V_{\langle \mathcal{B}^2, \{T\} \rangle}$, which represents the relative payoff of T . Then, due to the measure of the relative payoff of each $T \in \mathcal{B}^1$, we can define the quotient game V which is the formal representation of the bargaining situation among coalitions $B_{j_1} \in \mathcal{B}^1$:

$$V(\emptyset) = 0$$

$$V(S) = \varphi_S(V_{\langle \mathcal{B}^2, \{S\} \rangle}), \text{ for all } S \in \mathcal{B}^1$$

$$V(N) = U(N)$$

Then a reasonable expectation for coalition $B_{j_1} \in \mathcal{B}^1$ is the Shapley value of player B_{j_1} in the quotient game V .

This bargaining procedure among coalitions can be characterized by the following axiom.

Axiom 7

For all $S \in \mathcal{B}^1$, $S \neq N$, $V(S) = \varphi_S(V_{\langle \mathcal{B}^2, \{S\} \rangle})$ and $V(N) = U(N)$

This axiom simply specifies how the large quotient game $V_{\langle \mathcal{B}^2, \{S\} \rangle}$ is defined in order to calculate the relative payoff of each coalition $S \in \mathcal{B}^1$.

To determine the division of the amount the coalition B_{j_1} receives we can use one of the three bargaining procedures within coalitions developed in section 3. This yields the following results.

Theorem 4

There exists a unique LSV φ^2 satisfying axioms 1-7 for side payments games with a strict LS **B**. It is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = & \sum_{\substack{H \subset B_j^2 \\ i \notin H}} \delta_h(b_j^2) [U(H \cup \{i\}) - U(H)] + \frac{1}{B_j^2} \left[\sum_{\substack{G \subset B_j^1 \\ B_j^2 \notin G}} \delta_g(n(B_j^1)) \right. \\ & \left. [U(G \cup B_j^2) - U(G)] - U(B_j^2) + \frac{1}{n(B_j^1)} \left[\sum_{\substack{S \subset M^1 \\ B_j^1 \notin S}} \delta_s(m^1) \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. \left[\sum_{\substack{F \subset M^2 \\ S \cup B_j^1 \notin F}} \delta_f(m^2 - n(S \cup B_j^1) + 1) [U(F \cup S \cup B_j^1) - U(F)] \right. \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. \left. - \sum_{\substack{F \subset M^2 \\ S \notin F}} \delta_f(m^2 - n(S) + 1) [U(F \cup S) - U(F)] - U(B_j^1) \right] \right] \right] \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 5

There exists a unique LSV φ^2 satisfying axioms 1-5, 6' and 7 for side payments games with a strict LS **B**. It is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = & \sum_{\substack{H \subset B_j^2 \\ i \notin H}} \sum_{\substack{G \subset B_j^1 \\ B_j^2 \notin G}} \sum_{\substack{S \subset M^1 \\ B_j^1 \notin S}} \delta_h(b_j^2) \delta_g(n(B_j^1)) \delta_s(m^1) \left[\sum_{S \cup G \cup H \cup \{i\} \notin F} \right. \\ & \delta_f(m^2 - n(S \cup B_j^1) + 1) [U(F \cup S \cup G \cup H \cup \{i\}) - U(F)] \\ & - \sum_{\substack{F \subset M^2 \\ S \notin F, B_j^1 \notin G \cup H \cup \{i\}}} \delta_f(m^2 - n(S) - n(B_j^1) + 2) [U(F \cup S) - U(F)] \\ & - \sum_{\substack{F \subset M^2 \\ S \cup G \cup H \notin F}} \delta_f(m^2 - n(S \cup B_j^1) + 1) [U(F \cup S \cup G \cup H) - U(F)] \\ & \left. + \sum_{\substack{F \subset M^2 \\ S \notin F, B_j^1 \notin G \cup H}} \delta_f(m^2 - n(S) - n(B_j^1) + 2) [U(F \cup S) - U(F)] \right] \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 6

There exists a unique LSV φ^2 satisfying axioms 1-5, 6'' and 7 for side payments games with a strict LS **B**. It is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = & \sum_{\substack{H \subset B_j^2 \\ i \notin H}} \sum_{\substack{G \subset B_j^1 \\ B_j^2 \not\subset G}} \sum_{\substack{F \in M^2 \\ B_j^1 \not\subset F}} \delta_h(b_j^2) \delta_g(n(B_j^1)) \delta_f(m^2 - n(B_j^1) + 1) \\ & [U(F \cup G \cup H \cup \{i\}) - U(F \cup G \cup H)] + \frac{1}{b_j^2 n(B_j^1)} \sum_{\substack{S \subset M^1 \\ B_j^1 \not\subset S}} \delta_s(m^1) \\ & \left[\sum_{T \subset M^2, S \cup B_j^1 \not\subset T} \delta_t(m^2 - n(S \cup B_j^1) + 1) [U(T \cup S \cup B_j^1) - U(T)] \right. \\ & \left. - \sum_{T \subset M^2, S \not\subset T} \delta_t(m^2 - n(S) + 1) [U(T \cup S) - U(T)] - U(F \cup B_j^1) \right] \end{aligned}$$

5. Remarks and extensions

We have obtained six values for games in which the players are already organized into a strict LS, which is a sequence of coalition structures. Each value allows an evaluation of the prospect that might arise as a result of playing a game when the players are organized into a strict LS. Moreover, each value is determined in a static framework. We ignore the problem of a dynamic process of formation of coalitions. This can be motivated by the existence of ideologic, social or other ties between players that allow us to decompose the society into a strict level structure. But the problem of the stability of a strict LS is still open.

We conclude this paper with two further remarks. When we compute the relative payoff of some players, we define a restricted game where $K_1 \subset B_{j1}$ replaces B_{j1} . But we don't say anything about K'_1 , the complement of K_1 relative to B_{j1} . Following Hart and Kurz (1983), we can introduce the following assumption. In defining the restricted game V_{B_{j1}/K_1} , by replacing B_{j1} with K_1 , we can assume that the members of K'_1 stay together or will break apart into singletons. As a consequence, we have to study whether our values have always the same characterization irrespective of the form of K'_1 . Put differently, we have to check if the level structure values have the property of consistency.

The final remark deals with axioms 6, 6', 6'' and 7. Those axioms allow us to determine the characteristic function of the subgames or quotient game which we have to define in order to compute the repartition among the coalitions and among the members of a coalition. In fact, we have defined a level structure value as the product of the Shapley values of the quotient game and the respective subgames. The question we have to answer is : how can we define thoses games? The answers proposed in this paper are entirely described by the four axioms mentioned above but one can easily propose another way to define the subgames and the resulting

different level structure values. Intuitively, if we suppose that the players are already organized into a LS consisting out of three or more coalition structures, one can easily develop an hybrid level structure value.

APPENDIX

a) Heuristic determination of the LSV.

For all $i \in B_{j^2} \subset B_{j^1}$, we have :

$$\varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = \varphi_i(W_{B_{j^2}}) = \sum_{\substack{H \subset B_{j^2} \\ i \notin H}} \frac{h!(b_{j^2} - h - 1)!}{b_{j^2}!} [W_{B_{j^2}}(H \cup \{i\}) - W_{B_{j^2}}(H)] \quad (1.1)$$

With the definition of the subgame $W_{B_{j^2}}$, we can write :

$$W_{B_{j^2}}(H \cup \{i\}) - W_{B_{j^2}}(H) = U(H \cup \{i\}) - U(H) \text{ if } H \cup \{i\} \subset B_{j^2}$$

$$W_{B_{j^2}}(H \cup \{i\}) - W_{B_{j^2}}(H) = \varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}}) - U(H) \text{ if } H \cup \{i\} = B_{j^2}$$

Then, it follows that :

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) &= \sum_{\substack{H \subset B_{j^2} \\ i \notin H}} \delta_h(b_{j^2}^2) [U(H \cup \{i\}) - U(H)] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{b_{j^2}^2} [\varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}}) - U(B_{j^2})] \quad (1.2) \end{aligned}$$

but,

$$\varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}}) = \sum_{\substack{K \subset B_{j^1} \\ B_{j^2} \notin K}} \frac{k![n(B_{j^1}) - k - 1]!}{n(B_{j^1})!} [W_{B_{j^1}}(K \cup B_{j^2}) - W_{B_{j^1}}(K)]$$

and the definition of the subgame $W_{B_{j^1}}$, implies that :

$$W_{B_{j^1}}(K \cup B_{j^2}) - W_{B_{j^1}}(K) = U(K \cup B_{j^2}) - U(K) \text{ if } K \cup B_{j^2} \subset B_{j^1}$$

$$W_{B_{j^1}}(K \cup B_{j^2}) - W_{B_{j^1}}(K) = \varphi_{B_{j^1}}(V) - U(K) \text{ if } K \cup B_{j^2} = B_{j^1}$$

So we can deduce that :

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}}) &= \sum_{\substack{G \subset B_{j^1} \\ B_{j^2} \notin G}} \delta_g(n(B_{j^1}^1)) [U(G \cup B_{j^2}) - U(G)] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{n(B_{j^1}^1)} [\varphi_{B_{j^1}}(V) - U(B_{j^1}^1)] \quad (1.3) \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we have :

$$\varphi_{B_{j^1}}(V) = \sum_{\substack{S \subset M^1 \\ B_{j^1} \notin S}} \frac{s!(m^1 - s - 1)!}{m^1!} [V(S \cup B_{j^1}) - V(S)] \quad (1.5)$$

Then assuming the LS $\mathbf{B}$, with equations (1.2), (1.3), (1.4) and (1.5), we can deduce that the LSV of player $i \in B_{j^2} \subset B_{j^1}$ is :

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_i^2(U; \mathbf{B}) = & \sum_{\substack{H \subset B_j^2 \\ i \notin H}} \delta_h(b_j^2) [U(H \cup \{i\}) - U(H)] + \frac{1}{b_j^2} \\ & \left[\sum_{\substack{G \subset B_j^1 \\ B_j^2 \notin G}} \delta_g(n(B_j^1)) [U(G \cup B_j^2) - U(G)] - U(B_j^2) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{n(B_j^1)} \left[\sum_{\substack{S \subset M^1 \\ B_j^1 \notin S}} \delta_s(m^1) [U(S \cup B_j^1) - U(S)] - U(B_j^1) \right] \right] \end{aligned}$$

b) Proof of theorem 1

Axioms 1-6 are trivially satisfied by the LSV value. To see that φ^2 is the only value which satisfies the six axioms, we note that any game can be written as a linear combination of games of the form U_R , where :

$$U_R(S) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } R \subset S \\ 0 & \text{if } R \not\subset S \end{cases}$$

For the game U_R and the partition $\mathcal{B}^1 = \{B_{1^1}, \dots, B_{m^1}\}$, we define

$$R'_1 = \{j | B_{j^1} \cap R \neq \emptyset\}$$

Then $V = U/\mathcal{B}^1$ has the form

$$V(T) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } R'_1 \subset T \\ 0 & \text{if } R'_1 \not\subset T \end{cases}$$

Thus V is the symmetric game U_R , which has the carrier R'_1 , and by Axioms 1, 2, 3 and 4 we must have

$$\sum_{i \in B_{j^1}} \varphi_i^2(U_R) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{r'_1} & \text{if } j \in R' \\ 0 & \text{if } j \notin R' \end{cases}$$

so $\sum_{i \in B_{j^1}} \varphi_i^2(U_R)$ is unique.

Hence, by axiom 6, the subgame $W_{B_{j^1}}$ defined on coalition B_{j^1} is uniquely determined, and we have :

$$W_{B_{j^1}}(X) = \begin{cases} U_R(X), & \text{for all } X \subset B_{j^1} \\ \frac{1}{r^j}, & \text{if } X = B_{j^1} \end{cases}$$

Then, we can deduce that $\varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}}) = \sum_{i \in B_{j^2}} \varphi_i^2(U_R)$ is uniquely determined, and so, by axiom 6, the subgame $W_{B_{j^2}}$ defined on the party B_{j^2} too.

Hence, we have :

$$W_{B_{j^2}}(T) = \begin{cases} U_R(T), & \text{for all } T \subset B_{j^2} \\ \varphi_{B_{j^2}}(W_{B_{j^1}}), & \text{if } T = B_{j^2} \end{cases}$$

Finally, we can assert that $\varphi_i^2(U_R) = \varphi_i(W_{B_{j^2}})$ is uniquely determined.

Thus, our axioms 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 uniquely determine a LSV for a game of the form U_R , and for multiples of these, with a strict LS. Axiome 5, together with the fact that these U_R form a basis for the game space, guarantees the uniqueness for all games.

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