



Chance constrained zero sum stochastic games

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We consider a two-person zero-sum discounted stochastic game [5] with random rewards and known transition probabilities. The players have opposite objectives and are interested in optimizing the expected discounted reward which they can obtain with a given confidence level when both the players play the worst possible move against each other.

Following the approach in [2], we model such a game problem by defining the chance-constrained optimization problem of each player, denoted by (P1) and (P2), and call this new formulation a chance-constrained stochastic game (CCSG). When the reward vector follows a multivariate elliptically symmetric distribution [4], the CCSG is equivalent to a minimax formulation. We consider CCSG with risk seeking and risk averse players separately.

We show that the risk-seeking problem is equivalent to a constrained optimization of a parameterized zero-sum stochastic game and the optimal payoff of player 1 and optimal cost of player 2 can be computed using algorithms based on a fixed point iteration. Later we can use the fixed point solutions to compute players' optimal strategies by solving linear programming problems.

We reformulate the risk averse problem as a discrete minimax problem. We propose an algorithm based on a linearization method [1] and discuss its convergence properties. Alternatively, we reformulate the risk averse problem as a second-order cone programming problem with bilinear constraints. This reformulation is an extension of [3]. We illustrate the theoretical results with numerical experiments. The CCSG takes the following form :

$$\delta^*(p_1) := \max_{f \in F_S, \delta \in R} \delta$$

s.t.
$$\min_{g \in G_S} P(\tilde{V}(m, f, g) \ge \delta) \ge p_1.$$
 (P1)

$$\eta^*(p_2) := \min_{g \in G_S, \eta \in R} \eta$$

s.t.
$$\min_{f \in F_S} P(\tilde{V}(m, f, g) \le \eta) \ge p_2.$$
 (P2)

Here, f, g are stationary strategies, respectively, for players 1 and 2. $\tilde{V}(m, f, g)$ is a random discounted value function corresponding to strategies f, g, initial measure m, and a random reward function.

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