

# The E-mail Game Phenomenon\*

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## Abstract

Rubinstein (1989) constructs a simple coordination game showing that mutual knowledge of the payoffs up to any finite order can still result in strategic behaviors substantially different from those in the common knowledge scenario. In this paper, we study the notion of strategic discontinuity that naturally generalizes the idea in Rubinstein's example. Specifically, a (Harsanyi) type  $t$  is said to display strategic discontinuity in a game  $G$ , if there exists a sequence of types whose beliefs match those of  $t$  up to any finite order, but their strategic behaviors are substantially different from those of  $t$  in  $G$ . We first show that almost all types that are commonly used in economic analysis display strategic discontinuity in simple coordination games. In other words, the e-mail game phenomenon is pervasive among these types. We then consider the space of all types and demonstrate that some types display strategic discontinuity only in complicated finite games. Nevertheless, every type displays strategic discontinuity in some infinite-action game.

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# 1 Introduction

Virtually all game-theoretic models are built upon common knowledge assumptions. In particular, a game itself is typically assumed to be commonly known among all players. While such assumptions enhance tractability of the models, they are at best approximately satisfied in reality. It is thus important to understand how a "small departure" from a common knowledge scenario may alter our prediction of strategic behaviors.

The answer to this question clearly hinges on the notion of "small departure." It is by now well known that a natural notion—to assume that players mutually know the game up to any finite level—can drastically change strategic behaviors. A prominent example is the e-mail game proposed by [Rubinstein \(1989\)](#). Rubinstein constructs a simple  $2 \times 2$  coordination game with two strict Nash equilibria, and considers incomplete information scenarios in which players mutually know the payoffs up to any arbitrarily high but finite level  $k$ .<sup>1</sup> When  $k$  is large, the scenario with mutual knowledge up to level  $k$  seems to "approximate" the scenario with common knowledge of the payoffs. However, as long as  $k$  is finite, only one of the equilibria is  $(\varepsilon)$ -rationalizable in the scenario with mutual knowledge.

The e-mail game provides "a useful, if extreme, illustration of the logic by which higher-order beliefs and knowledge might influence outcomes in strategic settings ([Morris, 2002a](#), p.434)." Furthermore, it has by now inspired a large literature trying to explore its different aspects (see [Section 2](#) for the detail). Since it is difficult in practice, if possible, to sort out the precise specification of players' higher-order beliefs, the e-mail game highlights a fundamental caveat on the way we analyze and predict strategic behaviors.

However, many games involved in economic analysis are neither  $2 \times 2$  games nor with complete information. If the e-mail game phenomenon occurs only in such environments, whatsoever it suggests would be less of a concern. For a modeler, an important issue is to understand to what extent should she be worried about the phenomenon. Namely, it would be useful to learn which sort of higher-order beliefs will lead to the e-mail game phenomenon; in which kind of games the e-mail game phenomenon occurs; and above all, whether the e-mail game represents a general phenomenon or is only a special case. These are the questions we attempt to answer in the paper.

To answer these questions, we first use the notion of (Harsanyi) types to formu-

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<sup>1</sup>Throughout the paper, we consider two-player games. An  $m \times n$  game is a game in which player 1 has  $m$  actions and player 2 has  $n$  actions.

late incomplete information scenarios. Each type of a player identifies the player's belief about the payoff-relevant states (i.e., the first-order belief), the player's belief about the other player's beliefs about the payoff relevant states (i.e., the second-order belief), and so on. [Mertens and Zamir \(1985\)](#) construct a *universal type space* which "contains" all types.<sup>2</sup> We consider a natural generalization of the e-mail game approximation. Say a sequence of types  $\{t_m\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  approximates a type  $t$  if for any  $m$ ,  $t_m$  and  $t$  have the same beliefs up to order  $m$ . This notion of proximity strengthens proximity in *product topology* which only requires that  $\{t_m\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  and  $t$  have (*weak\**-)similar beliefs up to any finite order, and both notions are formulated in terms of higher-order beliefs and thus easy to check.<sup>3</sup> The approximation is plausible because "common sense suggests that the players themselves will have their beliefs only partially articulated in their own minds ([Weinstein and Yildiz, 2007](#), p.371)." For example, in the e-mail game, the common knowledge scenario corresponds to a type with complete information about a payoff relevant state, while the mutual knowledge scenarios correspond to a sequence of types which approximates the complete-information type.<sup>4</sup>

We then define a notion called *strategic discontinuity* which generalizes the e-mail game phenomenon. We say that a type  $t$  displays strategic discontinuity in a game  $G$  if there exists a sequence of types  $\{t_m\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  which approximates  $t$ , but for some fixed positive  $\varepsilon$ , some action in  $G$  is rationalizable for  $t$  but not  $\varepsilon$ -rationalizable for any  $t_m$ . For instance, the common knowledge type displays strategic discontinuity in Rubinstein's e-mail game. Strategic discontinuity is a property associated with both types and games; once we fix a class of games  $\mathcal{G}$  and require that  $G$  be found in  $\mathcal{G}$ , it becomes a property of

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<sup>2</sup>Types are usually defined by a type space in which each type specifies a belief about the payoff relevant states and the other player's types. More precisely, [Mertens and Zamir \(1985\)](#) show that every type space can be embedded into the universal type space in a way that preserves higher-order beliefs. In Harsanyi's original paper, a type specifies not only an implicit representation of belief hierarchy but also private information about payoffs, whereas in our paper, which follows [Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris \(2006\)](#) and [Ely and Pęski \(2011\)](#), a type only specifies the former (see ([Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris, 2006](#), p.276) for discussion).

<sup>3</sup>To address the problem exhibited in the e-mail game, [Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris \(2006\)](#) define the *strategic topology* on types. However, the strategic topology is defined using the rationalizable actions of types in games rather the primitives, i.e., the higher-order beliefs of types. Hence, it is often harder to check whether two types are close in the strategic topology than in product topology. As a result, product topology is still commonly adopted.

<sup>4</sup>These types assign probability 1 to the payoffs, assign probability 1 that the other player assigns probability 1 on the payoffs, and so on only up to some finite order. Throughout the paper, we do not distinguish between "knowledge" and "belief with probability 1."

types.

We follow [Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris \(2006\)](#) to consider the natural classification of games according to the number of actions available to the players. Using similar terminology as in [Ely and Peşki \(2011\)](#) (see also [Ely and Peşki \(2007\)](#)), we say a type  $t$  is  $n$ -critical if  $t$  displays strategic discontinuity in an  $n \times n$  game. A type is  $n$ -regular if it is not  $n$ -critical. For instance, the common-knowledge type in Rubinstein's e-mail game is 2-critical. Intuitively, a game with more actions is more complicated and harder to solve. Indeed, an  $n$ -critical type is  $n'$ -critical for any  $n' > n$ . We have in mind a modeler who is analyzing an  $n \times n$  game and cannot rule out any beliefs beyond a finite order. If a type in her model is  $n$ -critical, her prediction of the type's behaviors may be far away from the truth being approximated.

We start by analyzing finite types, i.e., types in a finite type space. Such types appear frequently in both applied and theoretical work. Our first result shows that every finite type displays strategic discontinuity in some  $2 \times 3$  game and hence is 3-critical. We then extend the argument to a class of types that have *common- $p$  belief in a proper first-order event* (see [Definition 3](#)).<sup>5</sup> This class includes all finite types and almost all types in any type space which admits a common prior. We show that every type in this class exhibits strategic discontinuity in some  $2 \times 4$  game. Moreover, this class of types is "strategically" generic in the sense that it contains an open and dense set in the universal type space in the strategic topology defined in [Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris \(2006\)](#). The simple games that we use to demonstrate strategic discontinuity resemble the e-mail game. Consequently, the e-mail game phenomenon arises around essentially all "economic types." In other words, even when the modeler can confine herself to the set of simple games, she cannot be sure that the "true type," which these "economic types" are meant to approximate, behaves similarly.

These results raise the question of whether strategic discontinuity in simple games persists around *any* type. To answer this question, we construct types which display strategic discontinuity *only* in complicated (albeit finite) games. Specifically, for every  $n$ , we construct an  $n'$ -critical type (with  $n' > n$ ) which is  $n$ -regular. Finally, we show that if we allow for games with infinite actions, then every type displays strategic discontinuity. One key step in proving this result is to show that around every type  $t$ , there is a sequence of types which approximates  $t$  but fails to converge to  $t$  in the *uniform strategic topology*

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<sup>5</sup>The notion of common- $p$  belief is first introduced by [Monderer and Samet \(1989\)](#). See [Section 4.4](#) for the formal definition.

defined in [Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris \(2006\)](#).<sup>6</sup>

Our main results can be summarized in two points:

- "Commonly seen types", such as finite types and types admitting common priors, display strategic discontinuity in simple games (Theorems 1 and 2), and moreover, these types are strategically generic (Theorem 3).
- Some types display strategic discontinuity only in complicated games (Theorem 4). Moreover, every type displays strategic discontinuity in some infinite-action game (Theorem 5).

The rest of the paper proceeds as follows. Section 2 surveys the related literature. Section 3 presents a non-technical illustration that the e-mail game phenomenon occurs around any finite type. Section 4 provides formal notations and definitions. Section 5 presents the results for strategic discontinuity in simple games. Section 6 constructs the  $n'$ -critical- $n$ -regular types. Section 7 analyzes strategic discontinuity in infinite games. Section 8 discusses some related issues.

## 2 Related literature

[Rubinstein \(1989\)](#) mentioned that the e-mail game is closely related to the coordinated attack problem in the distributed system literature. The whole literature on the global game initiated by [Carlsson and Van Damme \(1993\)](#) exploits a similar idea to argue that introducing a vanishingly small noisy signal (similar to the approximation of types we study) in a game with multiple equilibria enables selecting a unique outcome. The selection can be interpreted as an alternative form of strategic discontinuity. In a recent paper, [Weinstein and Yildiz \(2007\)](#) substantially generalize the previous selection arguments by showing that when possible payoffs are sufficiently rich, every rationalizable outcome can be selected as the unique rationalizable outcome in a suitably perturbed game.

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<sup>6</sup>Convergence in the uniform strategic topology requires that the speed of convergence of strategic behaviors be uniform over all finite games with a uniform payoff bound and thus is relevant for environments in which the game—both payoffs and action sets—is not a priori fixed. We note that whether this intermediate step (Proposition 5) is true is raised independently by Professor Drew Fudenberg on his class website.

Morris (2002b) is the first to study strategic discontinuity displayed by commonly seen types. In particular, Morris shows that a class of types, which includes all finite types, exhibits discontinuity in rationalizable behaviors in a specific infinite "higher-order expectations" game. Ely and Peşki (2011) advance this idea by defining and studying the notion of critical types, i.e., types which display strategic discontinuity in some finite-action game. Ely and Peşki obtain a surprisingly concise characterization of critical types: a type is critical iff it has common  $p$ -belief in some closed proper subset in the universal type space. Consequently, all types in finite type spaces are critical; all common priors assign probability 1 to critical types; and moreover, regular types are generic in product topology.

In proving their characterization, for each critical type, Ely and Peşki (2011) construct a finite-action game to demonstrate its discontinuity. The game they construct is complicated and involves a large number of actions. This is in sharp contrast to the simple  $2 \times 2$  game employed by Rubinstein (1989). On the one hand, our results for simple games show that if one wants to focus on "economic types," the notion of critical types goes too far by allowing all finite games of which many are complex and rarely-seen. Moreover, their arguments with complicated games make it difficult to see how critical types relate to the e-mail game. On the other hand, our construction of the  $n'$ -critical- $n$ -regular types demonstrates that it is necessary for them to consider all finite games so as to fully characterize *all* critical types. Our results also clarify that even regular types display strategic discontinuity in infinite games and thus can alternatively be viewed as  $\infty$ -critical- $n$ -regular types for any finite  $n$ .

Another line of research inspired by the e-mail game phenomenon seeks for alternative notion of proximity in beliefs that guarantees proximity of strategic behaviors. For different solution concepts and environments, different notions have been considered by, for instance, Monderer and Samet (1989, 1996); Kajii and Morris (1998); Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris (2006); Chen, Di Tillio, Faingold, and Xiong (2010, 2011). In particular, Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris (2006) define the strategic topology in which types are close iff they have similar rationalizable behaviors and show that the strategic topology is finer than product topology. Critical types can be viewed as types around which product topology is strictly coarser than the strategic topology. Contrary to the result in Ely and Peşki (2011) that regular types are generic in product topology, Chen, Di Tillio, Faingold, and Xiong (2008) show that the set of critical types is generic in the strategic topology — it contains an open and dense set in the strategic topology. Here our result shows that even strategic discontinuity in simple games is a generic phenomenon and thereby provide another motivation to study strategic proximity of types.

Finally, we remark that what we mention above is far from a comprehensive list of applications or extensions of the e-mail game phenomenon. For example, there have been numerous works in experimental and behavioral economics using the e-mail game phenomenon to motivate and study new models of reasoning in games (see, e.g., the recent paper by [Strzalecki \(2009\)](#) and references therein).

### 3 The "e-mail game" for finite types

In this section, we analyze the e-mail game phenomenon around finite types. It will be clear that the idea in fact resembles the one in [Rubinstein \(1989\)](#). To ease the comparison, we first recall Rubinstein's idea by considering the following two-player game.

	$a_2$	$b_2$
$a_1$	1, 1	0, 0
$b_1$	0, 0	1, 1

$\theta_0$

	$a_2$	$b_2$
$a_1$	1, 1	-1, 2
$b_1$	2, -1	0, 0

$\theta_1$

There are two states,  $\theta_0$  and  $\theta_1$ . At state  $\theta_0$ , the game is "meeting in New York" and both  $(a_1, a_2)$  and  $(b_1, b_2)$  are Nash equilibria and hence all actions are rationalizable. At state  $\theta_1$ , the game is "prisoner's dilemma" in which  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  are the unique  $\frac{1}{2}$ -rationalizable actions for player 1 (the row player) and player 2 (the column player), respectively. That is, for  $i = 1, 2$ , playing  $b_i$  is better than playing  $a_i$  by a payoff difference of at least  $1/2$ .

Suppose that all players either know the state is  $\theta_0$  or know the state is  $\theta_1$ . First, [Figure 1](#) represents a type space of the common knowledge scenario. In this type space, player 1 has only one type  $t^{\theta_0}$  and player 2 has only one type  $s^{\theta_0}$ . Both players (types) know that the state is  $\theta_0$ , and know that they know the state is  $\theta_0$  (as they assign probability one to the only opponent's type which knows that the state is  $\theta_0$ ), and so on. In this case, both  $a_1$  and  $b_1$  are clearly rationalizable for  $t^{\theta_0}$ .

Second, [Figure 2](#) represents a type space of the mutual knowledge scenarios. For instance,  $s_{2n+2}^{\theta_0}$  assigns probability 1 to  $\theta_0$  and  $t_{2n+1}^{\theta_0}$ ;  $t_{2n+1}^{\theta_0}$  assigns probability 1 to  $\theta_0$  and  $s_{2n}^{\theta_0}$ ; and so on. The set of types for players 1 and 2 are  $\{t^{\theta_1}\} \cup \{t_{2n-1}^{\theta_0}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  and  $\{s^{\theta_1}\} \cup \{s_{2n}^{\theta_0}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  respectively. Like above,  $t^{\theta_1}$  and  $s^{\theta_1}$  represent the scenario of "common knowledge of  $\theta_1$ " and thus only  $b_2$  is the unique  $\frac{1}{2}$ -rationalizable for  $s^{\theta_1}$ . However, all of

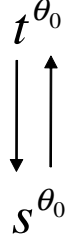


Figure 1: the type space of the common knowledge scenario (an arrow means "assigns probability 1 to")

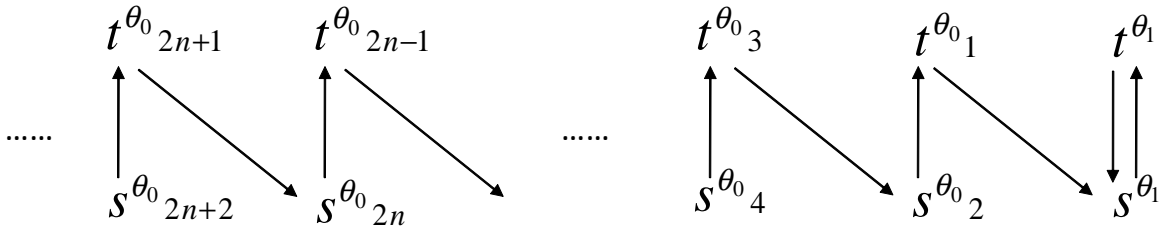


Figure 2: strategic discontinuity for the common-knowledge type  $t^{\theta_0}$

the types  $t_{2n-1}^{\theta_0}$  and  $s_{2n}^{\theta_0}$  know that the state is  $\theta_0$ . Hence,  $t_{2n-1}^{\theta_0}$  represents mutual knowledge of  $\theta_0$  up to level  $2n - 1$ , i.e., it has the same beliefs as  $t^{\theta_0}$  up to order  $2n - 1$ . Thus,  $\{t_{2n-1}^{\theta_0}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  approximates  $t^{\theta_0}$ . Nevertheless, each  $t_{2n-1}^{\theta_0}$  has the unique  $\frac{1}{2}$ -rationalizable action  $b_1$ :  $t_1^{\theta_0}$  has a unique  $\frac{1}{2}$ -rationalizable action  $b_1$  because his opponent's type  $s^{\theta_1}$  has a unique  $\frac{1}{2}$ -rationalizable action  $b_2$ ;  $s_2^{\theta_0}$  has a unique  $\frac{1}{2}$ -rationalizable action  $b_2$  because his opponent  $t_1^{\theta_0}$  has a unique  $\frac{1}{2}$ -rationalizable action  $b_1$ , and so on. To sum up, the common-knowledge type  $t^{\theta_0}$  displays strategic discontinuity in this  $2 \times 2$  game.

We now show that a similar idea proves that all finite types display strategic discontinuity in simple games. Let  $\Theta$  be a set of possible payoff parameters in a  $2 \times 3$  game. Pick any finite type  $\hat{t} \in T$  in a type space  $T \times S$  where  $T$  is the set of player 1's types and  $S$  is the set of player 2's types. Each  $t \in T$  (resp.  $s \in S$ ) is associated with a distribution  $\mu_t \in \Delta(\Theta \times S)$  (resp.  $\mu_s \in \Delta(\Theta \times T)$ ) which specifies all higher-order beliefs of  $t$  (resp.  $s$ ). In particular, all types in  $T$  know their opponent's types are in  $S$  and vice versa, which can be illustrated in Figure 3.

Since  $S$  is finite, there exist some number  $\gamma \in (0, 1)$  and some  $\theta_0 \in \Theta$  such that

$$\text{for any } s \in S, \text{ either } \mu_s[\theta_0] \geq \gamma \text{ or } \mu_s[\theta_0] = 0. \quad (1)$$



Figure 3: the finite type space which contains  $\hat{t}$

Namely, for any  $s \in S$ , the probability that  $s$  attaches to  $\theta_0$  never falls into the interval  $(0, y)$ . Choose  $x_1 > 0$  such that  $\frac{x_1}{1+x_1} = y$ . Define  $y' = \frac{x_1}{2+x_1}$ . Thus,  $0 < y' < y < 1$ .

Consider the following  $2 \times 3$  game  $G$ :

	$a_2$	$b_2$	$c_2$
$a_1$	$0, -1$	$0, -\frac{2}{x_1}$	$1, 0$
$b_1$	$1, 1$	$1, -\frac{2}{x_1}$	$0, 0$

$\theta = \theta_0$

	$a_2$	$b_2$	$c_2$
$a_1$	$0, -x_1$	$0, -1$	$1, 0$
$b_1$	$1, -x_1$	$1, 1$	$0, 0$

$\theta \neq \theta_0$

Observe that

$$\underbrace{1 \cdot \mu_s[\theta_0] + (-x_1) \cdot (1 - \mu_s[\theta_0])}_{\text{the payoff of } s \text{ by choosing } a_2 \text{ when player 1 chooses } b_1} \geq \underbrace{0}_{\text{the payoff of } s \text{ by choosing } c_2} \Leftrightarrow \mu_s[\theta_0] \geq \frac{x_1}{1+x_1} = y; \quad (2)$$

$$\underbrace{\left(-\frac{2}{x_1}\right) \cdot \mu_s[\theta_0] + 1 \cdot (1 - \mu_s[\theta_0])}_{\text{the payoff of } s \text{ by choosing } b_2 \text{ when player 1 chooses } b_1} \geq \underbrace{0}_{\text{the payoff of } s \text{ by choosing } c_2} \Leftrightarrow \mu_s[\theta_0] \leq \frac{x_1}{2+x_1} = y'. \quad (3)$$

By (2) and (3), when player 1 chooses  $b_1$ , player 2's best reply only depends on his belief on  $\theta$  which can be illustrated by Figure 4. Furthermore, by (1), for any  $s \in S$ ,  $\mu_s[\theta_0]$  must be located on the red segment in Figure 4. Then,  $b_1$  is rationalizable for all  $t \in T$  because the following strategy profile constitutes a Bayesian Nash Equilibrium.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{every } t \in T \text{ plays } b_1; \\ \text{every } s \in S \text{ plays } b_2 \text{ if } \mu_s[\theta_0] = 0 \text{ and plays } a_2 \text{ if } \mu_s[\theta_0] \geq y. \end{array} \right]$$

Given this strategy profile, each type  $t \in T$  gets the maximal payoff of this game (=1) by playing  $b_1$ ; it is also optimal for each  $s \in S$  to play  $b_2$  if  $\mu_s[\theta_0] = 0$  and to play  $a_2$  if  $\mu_s[\theta_0] \geq y$  (see Figure 4).

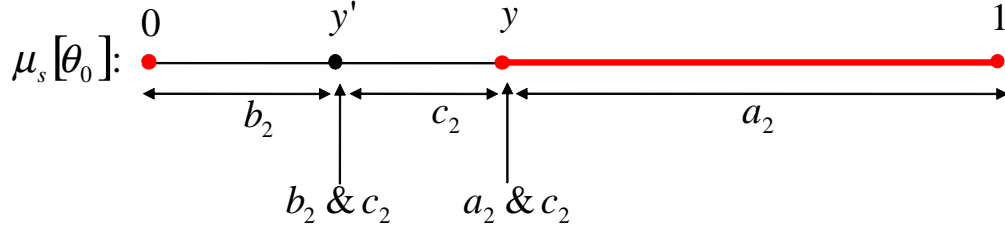


Figure 4: player 2's best reply when player 1 chooses  $b_1$

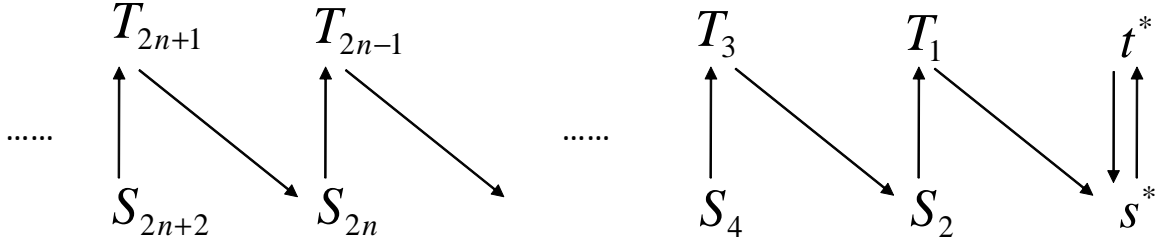


Figure 5: strategic discontinuity for the finite type  $\hat{t}$ .

We are now ready to show that  $\hat{t}$  displays strategic discontinuity in this  $2 \times 3$  game. First, consider the types  $t^*$  and  $s^*$  which commonly know  $\Pr(\theta = \theta_0) = \frac{y+y'}{2}$ .<sup>7</sup> By (2) and (3), there is some  $\gamma \in \left(0, \min\left\{1, \frac{2}{x_1}, x_1\right\}\right)$  such that  $c_2$  is the unique  $\gamma$ -rationalizable action for  $s^*$ .<sup>8</sup>

Then, consider countable copies  $T$  and countable copies of  $S$ . Specifically, let  $t_n$  (resp.  $s_n$ ) denote the  $n$ th copy of  $t \in T$  (resp.  $s \in S$ ). Consider  $T_n = \{t_n : t \in T\}$  and  $S_n = \{s_n : s \in S\}$ . For any  $n \geq 1$ , all types in  $T_{2n+1}$  (resp.  $S_{2n}$ ) know his opponent's types are in  $S_{2n}$  (resp.  $T_{2n-1}$ ), and moreover,  $t_{2n+1}$  (resp.  $s_{2n}$ ) is endowed with the "same" beliefs as  $t$  (resp.  $s$ ). Formally,  $\mu_{t_{2n+1}}[(\theta, s_{2n})] = \mu_t[(\theta, s)]$  for any  $(\theta, s)$  and  $\mu_{s_{2n}}[(\theta, t_{2n-1})] = \mu_s[(\theta, t)]$  for any  $(\theta, t)$ . Furthermore, every  $t_1$  in  $T_1$  is endowed with the same first-order belief as  $t$ , but assigns probability 1 to  $s^*$ . That is,  $\mu_{t_1}[(\theta, s^*)] = \mu_t[\theta]$  for every  $\theta$ . We illustrate this type space using Figure 5.

<sup>7</sup>For example, consider the types  $t^*$  and  $s^*$  defined by  $\mu_{t^*}[(\theta_0, s^*)] = \mu_{s^*}[(\theta_0, t^*)] = \frac{y+y'}{2}$  and  $\mu_{t^*}[(\theta_1, s^*)] = \mu_{s^*}[(\theta_1, t^*)] = 1 - \frac{y+y'}{2}$  for some  $\theta_1 \neq \theta_0$ .

<sup>8</sup>For example, set  $\gamma = \frac{1}{4} \min\left\{1, \frac{2}{x_1}, x_1, \left|1 \cdot \frac{y+y'}{2} + (-x_1) \cdot \left[1 - \frac{y+y'}{2}\right]\right|, \left|\left(-\frac{2}{x_1}\right) \cdot \frac{y+y'}{2} + 1 \cdot \left[1 - \frac{y+y'}{2}\right]\right|\right\}$ . Then, by choosing  $c_2$ ,  $s^*$  always gets 0; by choosing  $a_2$ ,  $s^*$  gets at most  $1 \cdot \frac{y+y'}{2} + (-x_1) \cdot \left[1 - \frac{y+y'}{2}\right] < -\gamma < 0$ ; by choosing  $b_2$ ,  $s^*$  gets at most  $\left(-\frac{2}{x_1}\right) \cdot \frac{y+y'}{2} + 1 \cdot \left[1 - \frac{y+y'}{2}\right] < -\gamma < 0$ .

For any  $t \in T, s \in S$  and  $n \geq 1$ ,  $t_1$  and  $t$  have the same belief about  $\theta$ ,  $s_2$  and  $s$  have the same belief about  $\theta$  and the same belief about player 1's beliefs about  $\theta, \dots$ , and thus inductively,  $t_{2n-1}$  has the same beliefs as that of  $t$  up to order  $(2n - 1)$ . Hence,  $\{\hat{t}_{2n-1}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  approximates  $\hat{t}$ .

However, for any  $n$ , all types in  $T_{2n-1}$  (including  $\hat{t}_{2n-1}$ ) have the unique  $\gamma$ -rationalizable action  $a_1$ , i.e.,  $b_1$  is not  $\gamma$ -rationalizable: all types in  $T_1$  has the unique  $\gamma$ -rationalizable action  $a_1$  because  $\gamma < 1$  and she knows that player 2 has the type  $s^*$  which plays the unique  $\gamma$ -rationalizable action  $c_2$ ; all types in  $S_2$  has a unique  $\gamma$ -rationalizable action  $c_2$  because  $\gamma < \min\left\{1, \frac{2}{x_1}, x_1\right\}$  and she knows that player 1 has the types in  $T_1$  which all play the unique  $\gamma$ -rationalizable action  $a_1$ , and so on. Recall that  $b_1$  is rationalizable for all  $t \in T$  (including  $\hat{t}$ ). Therefore,  $\hat{t}$  displays strategic discontinuity in this  $2 \times 3$  game.

## 4 Preliminaries

Throughout this paper, we fix a two-player set  $I$ .<sup>9</sup> We also fix a finite set of payoff relevant states  $\Theta$  which contains at least two distinct elements. Given a player  $i \in I$ , we write  $-i$  to denote the other player in  $I$ . For any metric space  $Y$ , let  $\Delta(Y)$  be the space of all probability measures on the Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra of  $Y$  endowed with the weak\*-topology. Let  $\text{supp}\mu$  be the support of a probability measure  $\mu$ , i.e., the smallest closed set with measure 1 under  $\mu$ . For any  $y \in Y$ , let  $\delta_y$  be the Dirac measure on  $y$ . Unless otherwise mentioned, all product spaces are endowed with product topology and subspaces are endowed with relative topology. Every finite or countable set is endowed with discrete topology and  $|E|$  denotes the cardinality of a finite set  $E$ .

### 4.1 Belief hierarchies and proximity of beliefs

Our formulation of incomplete information follows [Mertens and Zamir \(1985\)](#).<sup>10</sup> Let  $Y^0 = \Theta$  and  $Y^1 = Y^0 \times \Delta(Y^0)$ . Then, for  $k \geq 2$  define recursively

$$Y^k = \left\{ \left( \theta, \mu^1, \dots, \mu^k \right) \in Y^0 \times \Delta(Y^0) \times \dots \times \Delta(Y^{k-1}) : \text{marg}_{Y^{l-2}} \mu^l = \mu^{l-1}, \forall l = 2, \dots, k \right\}.$$

<sup>9</sup>For simplicity, we restrict our attention to two-player games. All of our results can be easily extended to  $n$ -player games with  $\infty > n \geq 3$ .

<sup>10</sup>An alternative and equivalent formulation can be found in [Brandenburger and Dekel \(1993\)](#).

Then, define

$$\mathcal{T} = \left\{ \left( \mu^1, \mu^2, \dots \right) \in \times_{k=0}^{\infty} \Delta \left( Y^k \right) : \text{marg}_{Y^{l-2}} \mu^l = \mu^{l-1}, \forall l \geq 2 \right\}.$$

For every player  $i$ , let  $\mathcal{T}_i$  denote a copy of  $\mathcal{T}$ . An element  $t_i \in \mathcal{T}_i$  is a type of player  $i$ . For any  $t_i = (\mu^1, \mu^2, \dots)$  and  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , let  $t_i^k = \mu^k$  be the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -order belief of  $t_i$ . Clearly, if two types have the same  $k^{\text{th}}$ -order belief, they must have the same  $k^{\text{th}}$ -order belief for any  $k' \leq k$ . We say a sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  approximates a type  $t_i$  iff  $t_{i,m}^{k'} = t_i^{k'}$  for every  $m$ . It follows that  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  converges to  $t_i$  in product topology if it approximates  $t_i$ .<sup>11</sup> Mertens and Zamir (1985) show that  $\mathcal{T}_i$  endowed with product topology is a compact metric space, and moreover, is homeomorphic to  $\Delta(\Theta \times T_{-i})$  under a homeomorphism  $\pi_i^*$ . The tuple  $(\mathcal{T}_i, \pi_i^*)_{i \in I}$  is called the (Mertens-Zamir) universal type space.

In general, by a type space we mean a tuple  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$  where  $T_i$  is a metric space and  $\pi_i$  is a continuous mapping which associates each  $t_i \in T_i$  with a belief  $\pi_i(t_i) \in \Delta(\Theta \times T_{-i})$ . Say  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$  is a finite type space if  $T_i \cup T_{-i}$  is a finite set. Given any type space  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$  and  $t_i \in T_i$ , we can compute the belief of  $t_i$  on  $\Theta$  by setting  $t_i^1 = \text{marg}_{\Theta} \pi_i(t_i)$ . We can also compute the second-order belief of  $t_i$  (i.e., his belief about  $(\theta, t_{-i}^1)$ ) by setting

$$t_i^2(F) = \pi_i(t_i) \left( \left\{ (\theta, t_{-i}) : (\theta, t_{-i}^1) \in F \right\} \right) \text{ for each measurable set } F \subseteq \Theta \times \Delta(\Theta).$$

We can similarly compute the entire hierarchy of beliefs  $(t_i^1, t_i^2, \dots, t_i^k, \dots)$  by proceeding in this way. For any type space  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$  and any  $t_i \in T_i$ , there is some  $s_i \in \mathcal{T}_i$  such that  $s_i^k = t_i^k$  for all  $k$ . For the solution concept that we adopt and will be introduced below, only the hierarchy of beliefs of a type matters and hence we often identify a type with its belief hierarchy. We call  $s_i \in \mathcal{T}_i$  a finite type if there exists some type  $t_i$  in a finite type space such that  $s_i^k = t_i^k$  for all  $k$ .

For expositional ease, we simplify our notations as follows.

1. For any  $\mu \in \Delta(\Theta)$ , we use  $t^\mu$  to denote the type which has common knowledge that both players have the first-order belief  $\mu$ , i.e.  $t^\mu$  is contained in the following type space:  $T_1 = T_2 = \{t^\mu\}$  and for all  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  and all  $\theta$ ,  $\pi_i(t^\mu)[(\theta, t^\mu)] = \mu[\theta]$ .
2. We write  $t^\theta$  instead of  $t^{\delta\{\theta\}}$  for the type under which a payoff parameter  $\theta$  is commonly known.

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<sup>11</sup>  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  converges  $t_i$  in product topology iff for every positive integer  $k$ ,  $\{t_{i,m}^k\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  converges to  $t_i^k$  in the weak\*-topology. Since  $t_{i,m}^k = t_i^k$  implies  $t_{i,m}^{k'} = t_i^{k'}$  for any  $k' \leq k$ ,  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  converges to  $t_i$  in product topology if it approximates  $t_i$ .

3. We identify  $t_i \in \mathcal{T}_i$  with its image under the homeomorphism  $\pi_i^*$  and write  $t_i [E]$  instead of  $\pi_i^* (t_i) [E]$  for the probability  $t_i$  assigns to some  $E \subseteq \Theta \times \mathcal{T}_{-i}$ .
4. We write  $t_i [\theta_0]$  instead of  $t_i [\{\theta_0\} \times \mathcal{T}_{-i}]$  for the probability a type  $t_i$  assigns to a payoff parameter  $\theta_0$ .
5. We write  $t_i [E_{-i}]$  instead of  $t_i [\Theta \times E_{-i}]$  for the probability a type  $t_i$  assigns to a set of types  $E_{-i}$ .

## 4.2 Games and the solution concept

Let  $G = \langle A_i, g_i \rangle_{i \in I}$  be a game where  $A_i$  is a finite or countably infinite set of actions for player  $i$  and  $g_i : A_i \times A_{-i} \times \Theta \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  is player  $i$ 's payoff function. Let  $A = A_i \times A_{-i}$  and denote a typical element in  $A$  as  $a = (a_i, a_{-i})$ . We only deal with infinite games in Section 7. Following [Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris \(2006\)](#), we define the set of  $\gamma$ -interim correlated rationalizable ( $\gamma$ -ICR) actions of type  $t_i$  as follows.

Given a type space  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$  and a real number  $\gamma \geq 0$ , we say that  $(\bar{R}_i)_{i \in I}$  with  $\bar{R}_i : T_i \rightarrow 2^{A_i} \setminus \{\emptyset\}$  has the  $\gamma$ -best-reply property iff for every  $i \in I$ , every  $t_i \in T_i$  and every  $a_i \in \bar{R}_i (t_i)$ , there exists a measurable function  $\sigma_{-i} : \Theta \times T_{-i} \rightarrow \Delta (A_{-i})$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{supp} \sigma_{-i} (\theta, t_{-i}) \subseteq \bar{R}_{-i} (t_{-i}) \text{ for } \pi_i (t_i) \text{ - almost all } (\theta, t_{-i}); \\ & \int_{\Theta \times T_{-i}} \sum_{a_{-i} \in A_{-i}} [g_i (a_i, a_{-i}, \theta) - g_i (a'_i, a_{-i}, \theta)] \sigma_{-i} (\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}] \pi_i (t_i) [(d\theta, dt_{-i})] \geq -\gamma, \forall a'_i \in A_i. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

We define the set of  $\gamma$ -ICR actions of a type  $t_i$  in  $G$  by

$$R_i (t_i, G, \gamma) = \bigcup_{(\bar{R}_i, \bar{R}_{-i}) \text{ has the } \gamma\text{-best-reply property}} \bar{R}_i (t_i). \quad (5)$$

Clearly,  $(R_i (\cdot, G, \gamma))_{i \in I}$  also has the  $\gamma$ -best-reply property.

When  $G$  is a finite game,  $R_i (t_i, G, \gamma)$  has an equivalent recursive definition: Let  $R_i^0 (t_i, G, \gamma) = A_i$ . For any integer  $k \geq 1$ ,  $a_i \in R_i^k (t_i, G, \gamma)$  iff there exists a measurable function  $\sigma_{-i} : \Theta \times T_{-i} \rightarrow \Delta (A_{-i})$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{supp} \sigma_{-i} (\theta, t_{-i}) \subseteq R_{-i}^{k-1} (t_{-i}, G, \gamma) \text{ for } \pi_i (t_i) \text{ - almost all } (\theta, t_{-i}); \\ & \int_{\Theta \times T_{-i}} \sum_{a_{-i} \in A_{-i}} [g_i (a_i, a_{-i}, \theta) - g_i (a'_i, a_{-i}, \theta)] \sigma_{-i} (\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}] \pi_i (t_i) [(d\theta, dt_{-i})] \geq -\gamma, \forall a'_i \in A_i. \end{aligned}$$

Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris (2006, 2007) show that  $R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) = \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} R_i^k(t_i, G, \gamma)$ , and moreover,  $R_i^k(t_i, G, \gamma) = R_i^k(s_i, G, \gamma)$  if  $t_i$  and  $s_i$  have the same beliefs up to order  $k$ . Consequently,  $R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) = R_i(s_i, G, \gamma)$  if  $t_i$  and  $s_i$  have the same hierarchy of beliefs. Recall that for any type space  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$  and any  $t_i \in T_i$ , there is one and only one  $s_i \in T_i$  such that  $s_i^k = t_i^k$  for all  $k$ . We will identify  $s_i$  and  $t_i$  since they have the same rationalizable behaviors. When  $G$  is infinite, although it is still true that  $R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) \subseteq \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} R_i^k(t_i, G, \gamma)$ , these two sets are not necessarily equal.<sup>12</sup>

The strategic topology on  $\mathcal{T}_i$  is the coarsest topology such that for each finite game  $G$  and  $\gamma \geq 0$ , the  $\gamma$ -rationalizable correspondence  $R_i(\cdot, G, \gamma)$  is upper hemicontinuous and the *strict*  $\gamma$ -rationalizable correspondence  $\bigcup_{\gamma' < \gamma} R_i(\cdot, G, \gamma')$  is lower hemicontinuous.<sup>13</sup> We conclude the section by recalling a result in Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris (2006) that will be used later.

**Lemma 1 (Dekel, Fudenberg, Morris (2006, Theorem 2))** *For any finite game  $G$  and real number  $\gamma \geq 0$ ,  $R_i(\cdot, G, \gamma)$  is an upper hemicontinuous correspondence on  $\mathcal{T}_i$  when  $\mathcal{T}_i$  is endowed with product topology. That is, for any  $A'_i \subseteq A_i$ ,  $\{t_i \in \mathcal{T}_i : R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) \subseteq A'_i\}$  is a product-open set.*

### 4.3 Strategic discontinuity and $n$ -critical types

By Lemma 1, in a finite game, a product convergent (and in particular an approximating) sequence of types can only exhibit a failure of lower hemicontinuity in the strict  $\gamma$ -rationalizable correspondence. Ely and Peşki (2011) make use of this observation to define the notion of critical types. Here we follow their idea and further partition the set of critical types according to the "size" of the games in which they exhibit strategic discontinuity.

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<sup>12</sup>The definition of rationalizability for infinite games studied here is also adopted by Bergemann, Morris, and Tercieux (2011) when they deal with "integer games" in their study of rationalizable implementation. Furthermore, when  $G$  is infinite, a recursive definition of  $R_i(t_i, G, \varepsilon)$  may involve transfinite induction (see Lipman (1994)).

<sup>13</sup>The definition of strategic topology is different from the original definition in (Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris, 2006, p.287). The original definition is given by a metric on types which compares their  $\gamma$ -rationalizable behaviors in all finite games with a uniform payoff bound. (Ely and Peşki, 2007, Proposition 2 and footnote 15) show that the definition we adopt (which involve neither a metric nor a uniform bound) is equivalent to the original one (see also Chen, Di Tillio, Faingold, and Xiong (2010)).

**Definition 1** A type  $t_i$  displays strategic discontinuity in a game  $G$  if there exist  $\varepsilon > 0$  and a sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  which approximates  $t_i$  such that for every  $m$ , there is some  $a_i \in R_i(t_i, G, 0) \setminus R_i(t_{i,m}, G, \varepsilon)$ .

**Definition 2** For  $n = 1, 2, \dots, \infty$ , a type is  $n$ -critical if it displays strategic discontinuity in an  $n \times n$  game. A type is  $n$ -regular if it is not  $n$ -critical. A type is critical if it is  $n$ -critical for some  $n < \infty$ . A type is regular if it is not critical.

We make two remarks on this definition. First, it is clear that an  $n$ -critical type must be an  $n'$ -critical type for any  $n' > n$ . Namely, types displaying strategic discontinuity in simple games always display strategic discontinuity in complicated games. Second, we define strategic discontinuity in terms of 0-rationalizability instead of  $\gamma$ -rationalizability. We may alternatively define a type  $t_i$  to be  $n$ -critical if there exist  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\gamma \geq 0$  and a sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  which approximates  $t_i$  such that for every  $m$ , there is some  $a_i \in R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) \setminus R_i(t_{i,m}, G, \gamma + \varepsilon)$ . All of our results remain true if we adopt the notion of strategic discontinuity in terms of  $\gamma$ -rationalizability.<sup>14</sup>

#### 4.4 $p$ -beliefs and common $p$ -beliefs

We follow [Ely and Peşki \(2011\)](#) to define the notions of  $p$ -belief and common  $p$ -belief as follows. For any measurable set  $E_{-i} \subseteq \mathcal{T}_{-i}$  and  $p \in (0, 1]$ , let  $B_i^p(E_{-i})$  be the event that player  $i$  assigns at least probability  $p$  to (i.e.,  $p$ -believes)  $E_{-i}$ . That is,

$$B_i^p(E_{-i}) = \{t_i \in \mathcal{T}_i : t_i[E_{-i}] \geq p\}.$$

Say  $E \subseteq \mathcal{T}_i \times \mathcal{T}_{-i}$  is an event if  $E = E_i \times E_{-i}$  for some measurable sets  $E_i \subseteq \mathcal{T}_i$  and  $E_{-i} \subseteq \mathcal{T}_{-i}$ . For any event  $E = E_i \times E_{-i}$ , let  $B_i^p(E) = E_i \cap B_i^p(E_{-i})$  and  $B^p(E) = B_i^p(E) \times B_{-i}^p(E)$ . Consequently,  $B^p(E) \subseteq E$ .

We say that the players have common  $p$ -belief in  $E$  when they  $p$ -believe in  $E$ , and they  $p$ -believe in  $B^p(E)$ , and so on. This concept was first formulated by [Monderer and](#)

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<sup>14</sup>This difference in the definition of strategic discontinuity does not occur in [Ely and Peşki \(2011\)](#) because they consider *all* finite games, and Lemma 4 in [Ely and Peşki \(2007\)](#) (see Appendix A.1) shows that a critical type which exhibits strategic discontinuity in terms of  $\gamma$ -rationalizability in some  $n \times n$  game must exhibit strategic discontinuity in terms of 0-rationalizability in an  $n^2 \times n^2$  game.

Samet (1989). Formally, denote by  $[B^p]^k$  the iteration of the operator  $B^p$  for  $k$  times and define

$$C^p(E) = \bigcap_{k \geq 1} [B^p]^k(E).$$

For any event  $E$ , (Ely and Peşki, 2011, Lemma 2) proves that  $C^p(E)$  is an event that can be written as

$$C^p(E) = C_i^p(E) \times C_{-i}^p(E), \quad (6)$$

and moreover,

$$C_i^p(E) = B_i^p C^p(E). \quad (7)$$

## 4.5 Patching types

In this section, we describe a useful technique of constructing types, which we call "patching types." For simplicity, here we only illustrate the idea of patching finite types, but the idea can be generalized to define patching infinite types (see Appendix A.2).

Let  $t_i$  be a finite type. Define the set of 1-step reachable types from type  $t_i$  as

$$r(t_i) = \text{supp marg}_{\mathcal{T}_{-i}} \pi_i(t_i).$$

That is,  $r(t_i)$  is the set of types on the support of  $\pi_i(t_i)$ . For any  $E_i \subseteq \mathcal{T}_i$ , define  $r(E_i) = \cup_{t_i \in E_i} r(t_i)$ . For any integer  $k \geq 2$ , let  $r^k(t_i)$  denote the iteration of  $r(\cdot)$  for  $k$  times. That is,  $r^k(t_i) = r[r^{k-1}(t_i)]$  and call  $r^k(t_i)$  the  $k$ -step reachable types from  $t_i$ . Furthermore, for notational ease, define  $r^0(t_i) \equiv \{t_i\}$ .<sup>15</sup>

Let  $t_i \rightleftharpoons^m t_j$  denote the type  $s_i$  such that (a)  $s_i^k = t_i^k$  for all  $k = 1, \dots, m$  and (b)  $r^m(s_i) = \{t_j\}$ . In words,  $t_i \rightleftharpoons^m t_j$  is the type whose beliefs match those of  $t_i$  up to order  $m$  and the only  $m$ -step reachable type from the type  $t_i \rightleftharpoons^m t_j$  is  $t_j$ . By definition, the sequence of types  $\{t_i \rightleftharpoons^m t_j\}_{m=1}^\infty$  approximates  $t_i$ .

For example, for  $\theta', \theta'' \in \Theta$ , we can define  $t^{\theta'} \rightleftharpoons^2 t^{\theta''}$  as follows. Let  $T_1 = \{t'_1, t''_1\}$  and  $T_2 = \{t'_2, t''_2\}$ . Define the beliefs of types as follows:  $\pi_1(t'_1)[(\theta', t'_2)] = 1$ ,  $\pi_2(t'_2)[(\theta', t'_1)] = 1$ , and  $\pi_i(t''_i)[(\theta'', t''_{-i})] = 1$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Then,  $t'_1$  is the type  $t^{\theta'} \rightleftharpoons^2 t^{\theta''}$ .

The previous idea can be easily generalized to define patching a countable set of finite types. For any three finite types  $t_{i,1}$ ,  $t_{i,2}$  and  $t_{i,3}$  and positive integers  $k_1$  and  $k_2$

<sup>15</sup>If  $t_i$  is an infinite type, we still use  $r^k(t_i)$  to denote the set of  $k$ -step reachable types from  $t_i$ . See Appendix A.2 for a formal definition.

given, we can patch  $t_{i,1}$ ,  $t_{i,2}$  and  $t_{i,3}$  as follows. First, we construct a new type  $t_{i,1} \Leftarrow^{k_1} t_{i,2}$  by patching  $t_{i,1}$  with  $t_{i,2}$  at order  $k_1$ . Second, we construct  $t_{i,1} \Leftarrow^{k_1} t_{i,2} \Leftarrow^{k_2} t_{i,3}$  by patching  $t_{i,1} \Leftarrow^{k_1} t_{i,2}$  with  $t_{i,3}$  at order  $k_1 + k_2$ . Similarly, given a sequence of finite types  $\{t_l\}_{l=1}^{\infty}$  and positive integers  $\{k_l\}_{l=1}^{\infty}$ , we can patch them altogether and get a type

$$t(1) \equiv t_1 \Leftarrow^{k_1} t_2 \Leftarrow^{k_2} \dots t_l \Leftarrow^{k_l} \dots$$

The proof of following lemma is similar to the proof of Lemma 3 in Appendix A.2 and will also be sketched in Appendix A.2.

**Lemma 2** *Let  $\{t_l\}_{l=1}^{\infty}$  be a sequence of finite types,  $k_0 = 0$ , and  $\{k_l\}_{l=1}^{\infty}$  be a sequence of positive integers. Then, there is a type  $t(1)$  such that for any integers  $l \geq 1$  and  $k(l) = \sum_{m=0}^{l-1} k_m$ ,  $r^{k(l)}(t(1)) = \{t(l)\}$  where for any  $l \geq 1$ ,  $t(l)$  is a type whose beliefs agrees with those of  $t_l$  up to order  $k_l$ , i.e.,  $t(l) = t_l \Leftarrow^{k_l} t_{l+1} \Leftarrow^{k_{l+1}} t_{l+2} \Leftarrow^{k_{l+2}} \dots$ .*

## 5 Strategic discontinuity in simple games

In Section 3, we have proved the following result.

**Theorem 1** *Every finite type is 3-critical.*

We now extend the argument in Section 3 to a larger class of types.

**Definition 3** *An event  $E$  is a proper first-order event if there is some  $i$ , some  $\theta_0 \in \Theta$ , and some  $0 \leq y < z \leq 1$  such that  $t_i[\theta_0] \notin (y, z)$  for all  $t_i \in E_i$ .*

Proposition 1 below provides a useful sufficient condition for strategic discontinuity in simple games. In the proof of Proposition 1 (see Appendix A.3), we show that every type which has common- $p$  belief in some proper first-order event  $E$  must display strategic discontinuity in a  $2 \times 4$  game. The idea is similar to the argument in Section 3.

**Proposition 1** *A type  $t_i$  is 4-critical if  $t_i \in C_i^p(E)$  for some  $p > 0$  and some proper first-order event  $E$ .*

For instance, in a finite type space  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$ ,  $T = T_i \times T_{-i}$  is clearly a proper first-order event, and moreover, every  $t_i \in C_i^1(T)$  is thus 4-critical (while we have shown they are in fact 3-critical in Section 3). In the next two subsections, we will use Proposition 1 to show that every common prior assigns probability 1 to 4-critical types and 4-critical types are generic in the strategic topology.

## 5.1 Common-prior types

Let  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$  be a type space. Following Ely and Pęski (2011), we say that  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$  is a common-prior type space if there exists a prior  $\psi \in \Delta(\Theta \times T_i \times T_{-i})$  such that for any bounded measurable function  $f : \Theta \times T_i \times T_{-i} \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  and any player  $i$ ,

$$\int_{\Theta \times T_i \times T_{-i}} f(\theta, t_i, t_{-i}) d\psi = \int_{T_i} \int_{\Theta \times T_{-i}} f(\theta, t_i, t_{-i}) \pi_i(t_i) [(d\theta, dt_{-i})] \psi_i[dt_i],$$

where  $\psi_i = \text{marg}_{T_i} \psi$ .

The following theorem shows that every common prior assigns probability 1 to 4-critical types.

**Theorem 2** *Suppose that  $\psi$  is a common prior on a type space  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$ . Then,  $\psi_i$  assigns probability 1 to 4-critical types.*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $\psi$  is a common prior on a type space  $(T_i, \pi_i)_{i \in I}$ . Let  $\psi^*$  be the common prior on the universal type space induced by  $\psi$ . Pick any  $\theta_0 \in \Theta$  and any  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Since  $\{t_i \in T_i : t_i[\theta_0] \in (0, z)\} \rightarrow \emptyset$  as  $z \rightarrow 0$ , there is some  $z^* > 0$  such that  $\psi^*(E) \geq 1 - \varepsilon$  where  $E = E_i \times E_{-i}$  with  $E_j = \{t_j \in T_j : t_j[\theta_0] \notin (0, z^*)\}$  for  $j = i, -i$ . Then, (Ely and Pęski, 2011, Lemma 6) (see Appendix A.1) implies that  $\psi^*(C^{1/4}(E)) \geq 1 - \frac{3}{2}\varepsilon$ . Furthermore, by Proposition 1, every type in  $C_i^{1/4}(E)$  is 4-critical. Hence,  $\psi_i^*$  assigns at least probability  $1 - \frac{3}{2}\varepsilon$  to 4-critical types. Since the latter is true for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\psi_i^*$  assigns probability 1 to 4-critical types in  $T_i$ . It follows that  $\psi_i$  assigns probability 1 to 4-critical types. ■

## 5.2 Genericity of 4-critical types

By Theorem 2 in Ely and Pęski (2011), we know that regular types and hence 4-regular types exist and contain a residual set in product topology. In sharp contrast to this re-

sult, we show that 4–critical types contain a set which is open and dense in the strategic topology.<sup>16</sup>

We now formally state and prove this genericity result.

**Theorem 3** *The set of 4–critical types contains a set of types which is open and dense in the strategic topology.*

To prove this result, we need the following proposition in [Chen, Di Tillio, Faingold, and Xiong \(2008\)](#). Recall that  $\mathcal{T}_i$  under product topology is a metric space and for any event  $E$ , denote by  $E_i^\varepsilon$  the  $\varepsilon$ –open ball of  $E_i$  and  $E^\varepsilon = E_i^\varepsilon \times E_{-i}^\varepsilon$ .

**Proposition 2 (Chen, Di Tillio, Faingold, and Xiong (2008))** *If a sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^\infty$  converges to  $t_i$  in the strategic topology, then for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , any  $p \in (0, 1]$  and any product-closed  $E \subset \mathcal{T}_i \times \mathcal{T}_{-i}$  such that  $t_i \in C_i^p(E)$ ,  $t_{i,m} \in C_i^{p-\varepsilon}(E^\varepsilon)$  for any sufficiently large  $m$ .*

**Proof of Theorem 3.** We first prove that the closure of 4–regular types in the strategic topology contains no finite types. Then, since finite types are dense in the strategic topology (Theorem 3 in [Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris \(2006\)](#)), the set of 4–critical types contains an open and dense set in the strategic topology.

Take any finite type  $t_i$  and any sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^\infty$  converging to  $t_i$  in the strategic topology. Since  $t_i$  is a finite type,  $t_i \in C_i^1(T)$  where  $T = T_i \times T_{-i}$  is the finite type space which contains  $t_i$ . Hence,  $T_i$  is a closed set and there exist some  $\theta_0 \in \Theta$  and some  $y \in (0, 1)$  such that  $t_i[\theta_0] \notin (0, y)$  for all  $t_i \in T_i$  and all  $i \in I$ . Thus, for sufficiently small  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $t_i[\theta_0] \notin (\frac{y}{4}, \frac{y}{2})$  for all  $t_i \in T_i^\varepsilon$  and all  $i \in I$ , i.e.,  $T^\varepsilon$  is a proper first-order event. Moreover, since  $t_{i,m} \rightarrow t_i$  in the strategic topology, by Proposition 2,  $t_{i,m} \in C_i^{1-\varepsilon}(T^\varepsilon)$  for any sufficiently large  $m$ , and it is a 4–critical type by Proposition 1. Therefore,  $t_i$  is not in the closure of 4–regular types under the strategic topology. ■

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<sup>16</sup>Of course different topologies can be used to measure proximity of types for different purposes and we do not take a position on which is the "right" topology on the universal type space. The strategic topology is relevant when we are concerned about proximity of types being translated into proximity of strategic behaviors.

## 6 Critical types which are $n$ -regular

Our results in the previous section suggest that almost all types commonly used in the economics literature are 4-critical and the set of 4-critical types is "large" in the strategic topology. This raises the question whether every critical type is in fact 4-critical, or more generally, whether there is some integer  $n$ , such that every critical type is  $n$ -critical. In this section, we prove that for every integer  $n \geq 2$ , there exists a critical type which is  $n$ -regular. That is, some critical types exhibit strategic discontinuity *only* in complicated games and become irrelevant to a modeler who knows the number of actions in the game she analyzes.

**Theorem 4** *For every integer  $n \geq 2$ , there is a critical type which is  $n$ -regular.*

The proof of Theorem 4 is involved and is relegated to Appendix A.4. We provide a sketch here. Our proof crucially relies on a notion called *minimal rationalizable types* studied in Ely and Pęski (2011). A type  $t_i$  is a minimal rationalizable type in a game  $G$  if there is no type whose 0-rationalizable set in  $G$  is a proper subset of the 0-rationalizable set of  $t_i$ .

If  $t_i$  is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G$ , then  $t_i$  does not display strategic discontinuity in  $G$ : Suppose that  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  approximates  $t_i$  and hence converges to  $t_i$  in product topology. First, recall that product convergence implies upper hemicontinuity of the 0-rationalizable correspondence (Lemma 1). Second, if  $t_i$  is a minimal rationalizable type, lower hemicontinuity of the 0-rationalizable correspondence cannot fail either.<sup>17</sup> More generally, Ely and Pęski (2011) provide the insight that a type  $t_i$  does not display strategic discontinuity in  $G$  as long as there is some  $k$  such that the only  $k$ -step reachable type from  $t_i$  is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G$  (see Lemma 5 of Ely and Pęski (2011) in Appendix A.1).

Our key observation are the following two propositions (see Appendices A.4.1 and A.4.2 for the proofs).

**Proposition 3** *For any  $n \times n$  game  $G$ , there exists a finite type  $t_i^*$  which is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G$ , and  $R_i^{2^{n+1}}(t_i^*, G, 0) = R_i(t_i^*, G, 0)$ .*

<sup>17</sup>If  $t_i$  is a minimal rationalizable type,  $R_i(t_{i,m}, G, 0) \subseteq R_i(t_i, G, 0)$  implies  $R_i(t_{i,m}, G, 0) = R_i(t_i, G, 0)$ . Lemma 1 implies that  $\{t'_i : R_i(t'_i, G, 0) \subseteq R_i(t_i, G, 0)\}$  is (product-)open and thus  $t_i$  exhibits strategic continuity in  $G$ .

**Proposition 4** *There exists a countable set of  $n^2 \times n^2$  games  $\{G_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$  such that every  $n$ -critical type displays strategic discontinuity in some  $G_l$ .*

Proposition 3 says that in an  $n \times n$  game, some finite minimal rationalizable type can achieve its rationalizable set in  $2^{n+1}$  steps of iterated elimination of strictly dominated strategies. Proposition 4 says that to show a type is  $n$ -regular, we can restrict our attention to a countable set of  $n^2 \times n^2$  games — if a type does not display strategic discontinuity in any game from this countable set of games, this type is  $n$ -regular.

Consider the countable set of  $n^2 \times n^2$  games  $\{G_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$  in Proposition 4. For each  $l$  by Proposition 3, we can find a finite type  $t_{i,l}$  whose 0-rationalizable set in  $G_l$  is not only minimal but is also fully determined by the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -order belief where  $k^* = 2^{n^2+1}$ . Then, for any integer  $l \geq 1$ , define

$$t(l) \equiv t_{i,l} \xrightarrow{k^*} t^{\theta_0} \xrightarrow{1} t_{i,l+1} \xrightarrow{k^*} t^{\theta_0} \xrightarrow{1} t_{i,l+2} \xrightarrow{k^*} t^{\theta_0} \xrightarrow{1} t_{i,l+3} \xrightarrow{k^*} t^{\theta_0} \xrightarrow{1} \dots\dots\dots$$

Then, the beliefs of  $t(l)$  match those of  $t_{i,l}$  up to order  $k^*$ . We claim that  $t(1)$  is the desired  $n$ -regular critical type. Since each  $t_{i,l}$  is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G_l$  and achieves the minimal 0-rationalizable set in  $k^*$  steps,  $t(l)$  is also a minimal rationalizable type and hence does not display strategic discontinuity in  $G_l$ . Furthermore, by Lemma 5 in Ely and Pęski (2011), since  $r^{(k^*+1) \times (l-1)}(t(1)) = \{t(l)\}$ ,  $t(1)$  does not display strategic discontinuity in any  $G_l$ , which implies that  $t(1)$  is  $n$ -regular by Proposition 4. Finally, it is common 1-believed within the type space containing  $t(1)$  that every type reaches  $t^{\theta_0}$  in at most  $k^*$  steps, which is a closed proper event in the universal type space. Hence,  $t(1)$  is critical by Theorem 1 in Ely and Pęski (2011).

## 7 $\infty$ -critical types

In this section we show that every type is  $\infty$ -critical. As an intermediate step for the proof, Proposition 5 below shows that every type  $t_i$  is "uniform critical" in the sense that there exists a sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^\infty$  which approximates  $t_i$  but does not converge to  $t_i$  in the uniform strategic topology defined in Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris (2006).

To define the uniform strategic topology, let  $\mathcal{G}_{-1,1}$  be the collection of all finite games which assume payoffs in the interval  $[-1, 1]$ , i.e.,  $g_i(a, \theta) \in [-1, 1]$  for any  $i$  and any  $(a, \theta)$  in any game  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{-1,1}$ . For any  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{-1,1}$ , let  $h_i(t_i, G, a_i) = \min\{\varepsilon : a_i \in R_i(t_i, G, \varepsilon)\}$ .<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup>Lemma 1 in Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris (2006) shows that the minimum exists.

The uniform strategic topology is defined to be the topology induced by the following metric

$$d_i^{us}(t_i, s_i) = \sup_{a_i \text{ in } G, G \in \mathcal{G}_{-1,1}} |h_i(s_i, G, a_i) - h_i(t_i, G, a_i)|, \forall t_i, s_i \in \mathcal{T}_i.$$

The uniform strategic topology requires the degree of similarity of strategic behaviors to be uniform over all finite games and thus is finer than the strategic topology.<sup>19</sup> We now formally state the proposition that every type is "uniform critical" (see Appendix A.5 for the proof).

**Proposition 5** *For every type  $t_i$ , there is a sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  which approximates  $t_i$  but does not converge to  $t_i$  in the uniform strategic topology.*

The proposition shows that for every type  $t_i$ , there is some sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  which approximates  $t_i$ , and moreover, there is some positive number  $\varepsilon$  such that for each  $m$ , we can find a finite game  $G^m \in \mathcal{G}_{-1,1}$  in which some action is rationalizable for  $t_i$  but not  $\varepsilon$ -rationalizable for  $t_{i,m}$ . This result is trivial when  $t_i$  is a critical type: if  $t_i$  displays strategic discontinuity in a finite game  $G$ , we can normalize the payoffs to make  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{-1,1}$  and set  $G^m = G$  for every  $m$ . However, this result further shows that even if  $t_i$  is a regular type, we can always find some sequence of types which approximates  $t_i$ , but their strategic behaviors do not converge to those of  $t_i$  uniformly over all finite games. We note that uniform strategic convergence may be relevant for environments where the game—both payoffs and action sets—is not *a priori* fixed.

The following theorem is the main result in this section.

**Theorem 5** *Every type is  $\infty$ -critical.*

In Appendix A.6, we will use Proposition 5 to prove Theorem 5. We briefly describe the intuition here. Recall that Proposition 5 implies that for some sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$  which approximates  $t_i$ , there is some  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that for each  $m$ , we can find a finite game  $G^m$  in which an action  $a_i^m$  is rationalizable for  $t_i$  but not  $\varepsilon$ -rationalizable for  $t_{i,m}$ . We will "combine" these countably many finite games  $\{G^m\}$  to make an infinite-action game  $G$  in such a way that the  $\gamma$ -rationalizable behaviors are preserved (for all types and for all  $\gamma$ ). Consequently, in the game  $G$ ,  $a_i^m$  is still rationalizable for  $t_i$  but not  $\varepsilon$ -rationalizable for  $t_{i,m}$ . That is,  $t_i$  exhibits strategic discontinuity in  $G$ .

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<sup>19</sup>See [Chen, Di Tillio, Faingold, and Xiong \(2010, 2011\)](#) for more discussion and results about the uniform strategic topology.

## 8 Discussion

### 8.1 Interim independent rationalizability

Throughout the paper, we only consider strategic discontinuity in terms of interim correlated rationalizability (ICR). We note that [Ely and Pęski \(2007\)](#) study critical types using an alternative solution concept — interim independent rationalizability (IIR).<sup>20</sup> All of our main results hold if we consider IIR instead of ICR.

### 8.2 Strategic discontinuity in alternative classes of games

In games with incomplete information, players are not certain of their payoffs. Likewise, it might be difficult for a modeler to precisely specify a game. The modeler may only be sure that the game she analyzes comes from some particular family  $\mathcal{G}$ . Moreover, the modeler may be concerned about whether her predictions are robust to slight misspecifications of the higher-order beliefs for some game in  $\mathcal{G}$ . Even if the modeler can precisely specify a game, she may still wish to be able to generalize her predictions from a specific game to all games within a certain family  $\mathcal{G}$  for robustness concerns.

The modeler would then be concerned about the notion of  $\mathcal{G}$ -critical types, i.e., types that display strategic discontinuity in some game in  $\mathcal{G}$ . As long as a type  $t$  is not  $\mathcal{G}$ -critical, we can approximate  $t$  by some simple (e.g. finite) type up to any finite but arbitrarily high order beliefs, and be confident that such an approximation will not change the strategic behavior of  $t$  in any game in  $\mathcal{G}$ . [Ely and Pęski \(2011\)](#) take  $\mathcal{G}$  to be the set of all finite games to study critical types. However, in some situations, the modeler may know more than that the game she analyzes is finite and may be willing to impose further restrictions on  $\mathcal{G}$ .<sup>21</sup> In this paper, we take  $\mathcal{G}$  to be the set of all  $n \times n$  games. We can similarly study the problem by taking  $\mathcal{G}$  to be some other interesting families, such as supermodular games. We leave this for future research.

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<sup>20</sup>The notion of IIR also appears in previous works such as [Morris and Skiadas \(2000\)](#), [Battigalli and Siniscalchi \(2003\)](#) and [Ely and Pęski \(2006\)](#).

<sup>21</sup>Moreover, in some situations while a modeler indeed concerns all finite games, she may also want to guarantee strategic proximity of types to be uniform over all the finite games. Our [Proposition 5](#) sheds some light on these situations.

### 8.3 Selections of rationalizability via perturbations of higher-order beliefs

In Rubinstein’s e-mail game and the global game studied in [Carlsson and Van Damme \(1993\)](#), unique rationalizable outcomes are selected via perturbations of higher-order beliefs. In particular, with the perturbation on the common-knowledge type in the e-mail game, only one of the two Nash equilibria of the common-knowledge type remains rationalizable for the types with mutual knowledge. [Weinstein and Yildiz \(2007\)](#) prove that, in a fixed finite game with rich payoffs, for any rationalizable action  $a$  of any (Harsanyi) type  $t$ , we can slightly perturb (in product topology) the higher-order beliefs of  $t$  to make a new type  $t'$  for which  $a$  is uniquely rationalizable.

Weinstein and Yildiz’s result is usually viewed as a generalization of the e-mail game argument. In [Chen and Xiong \(2011\)](#), we nonetheless point out a difference between the notion of selection highlighted in [Carlsson and Van Damme \(1993\)](#) and [Rubinstein \(1989\)](#) and that studied in [Weinstein and Yildiz \(2007\)](#). To see the difference, consider a rationalizable action  $a$  of a type  $t$  which has multiple rationalizable actions, and a sequence of types  $\{t_n\}$  which converges to  $t$  in product topology. We call the selection in [Weinstein and Yildiz \(2007\)](#) a *WY selection*: an action  $a$  is WY-selected for  $t$  if  $a$  is the only (0–)rationalizable action for any  $t_n$ . However, the selection considered in [Carlsson and Van Damme \(1993\)](#) and [Rubinstein \(1989\)](#) goes beyond this:  $a$  is a *robust selection* for  $t$  if there is some  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $a$  is the only  $\varepsilon$ –rationalizable action for any  $t_n$ . Therefore, strategic discontinuity must be exhibited in a robust selection, but not necessarily in a WY selection. In this vein, [Weinstein and Yildiz \(2007\)](#) is a generalization of the e-mail game regarding WY selections, while this paper complements [Weinstein and Yildiz \(2007\)](#) by generalizing the e-mail game on robust selections.

## A Appendix

### A.1 Some results in Ely and Peski (2007, 2010)

The following results are proved in [Ely and Peşki \(2007, 2011\)](#) and will be used in some of our proofs.

(Ely and Peşki, 2007, Lemma 4) For each  $n \times n$  game  $G = \langle A_i, g_i \rangle$  and each  $\gamma \geq 0$ , there is an  $n^2 \times n^2$  game  $G' = \langle A'_i, g'_i \rangle$  such that  $A'_i = A_i \times A_{-i}$  and for any  $t_i$  and  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ ,  $a_i \in R_i(t_i, G, \gamma + \varepsilon)$  iff  $(a_i, a_{-i}) \in R_i(t_i, G', \varepsilon)$  for any  $a_{-i} \in A_{-i}$ .

(Ely and Peşki, 2011, Lemma 5) Let  $A_i^*$  be a minimal rationalizable set in a finite game  $G$  and  $E_i = \{t_i \in \mathcal{T}_i : R_i(t_i, G, 0) \neq A_i^*\}$ . Let  $E = E_1 \times E_2$ . Then, for any player  $j$  and any  $k \geq 0$ , if  $t_j \notin C_j^p(E)$  for any  $p > 0$ , then  $t_j$  does not display strategic discontinuity in  $G$ .

(Ely and Peşki, 2011, Lemma 6) Let  $\psi^*$  be a common prior on the universal type space. For any event  $E$ ,  $\psi^*(C^{1/4}(E)) \geq \frac{3}{2}\psi^*(E) - \frac{1}{2}$ .

## A.2 Patching types

In this section, we formally define how we patch two types  $t_i$  and  $t_j$  to produce  $t_i \rightleftharpoons^m t_j$ . Say every type reaches itself in 0 step. For any types  $\bar{t}_i$  and  $\bar{s}_i$  and any even number  $m \geq 1$ , say  $\bar{t}_i$  reaches  $\bar{s}_i$  in  $m$  step(s) iff there are measurable sets of types  $T^0, T^1, \dots, T^m, T^{m+1}$  such that (a)  $T^0 = \{\bar{t}_i\}$ ,  $T^{m+1} = \{\bar{s}_i\}$ ; (b)  $T^k \subseteq \mathcal{T}_{-i}$  if  $k$  is odd and  $T^k \subseteq \mathcal{T}_i$  if  $k$  is even, and moreover,

$$t_j [T^k] = 1 \text{ for all } t_j \in T^{k-1} \text{ and } k = 1, \dots, m+1.$$

Similarly, we can define that  $\bar{t}_i$  reaches  $\bar{s}_{-i}$  in  $m$  steps for any  $\bar{t}_i$  and  $\bar{s}_{-i}$  and any odd number  $m \geq 1$ . Clearly,  $\bar{t}_i$  reaches  $\bar{s}_j$  in  $m$  steps implies that there is a set  $T_{-i}$  such that  $\bar{t}_i [T_{-i}] = 1$  and  $t_{-i}$  reaches  $\bar{s}_j$  in  $m-1$  steps for any  $t_{-i} \in T_{-i}$ .

**Lemma 3 (patching two types)** For any types  $\bar{t}_i \in \mathcal{T}_i$  and  $\bar{s}_{-i} \in \mathcal{T}_{-i}$  (resp.  $\bar{s}_i \in \mathcal{T}_i$ ) and any odd (resp. even) integer  $m$ , there is a type  $\bar{t}_i \rightleftharpoons^m \bar{s}_{-i}$  (resp.  $\bar{t}_i \rightleftharpoons^m \bar{s}_i$ ) such that (a) the beliefs of  $\bar{t}_i \rightleftharpoons^m \bar{s}_{-i}$  (resp.  $\bar{t}_i \rightleftharpoons^m \bar{s}_i$ ) agree with the beliefs of  $t_i$  up to order  $m$ ; (b)  $\bar{t}_i \rightleftharpoons^m \bar{s}_{-i}$  (resp.  $\bar{t}_i \rightleftharpoons^m \bar{s}_i$ ) reaches  $\bar{s}_{-i}$  (resp.  $\bar{s}_i$ ) in  $m$  steps.

**Proof.** We only construct  $\bar{t}_i \rightleftharpoons^m \bar{s}_{-i}$  and the construction of  $\bar{t}_i \rightleftharpoons^m \bar{s}_i$  is similar. Let  $(T_j^1, \pi_j^1)$  be a type space containing  $\bar{t}_i$ , and  $(T_j^2, \pi_j^2)$  be a type space containing  $\bar{s}_{-i}$  (e.g. we may set  $(T_j^1, \pi_j^1) = (T_j^2, \pi_j^2) = (T_j, \pi_j^*)$ ). To define  $\bar{t}_i \rightleftharpoons^m \bar{s}_{-i}$ , we first define a type space as follows. If  $m = 1$ , let  $T_{-i}^{1,-1} = \emptyset$ . If  $m \geq 3$ , for any odd  $k = 1, 3, \dots, m-2$ , let  $T_{-i}^{1,k}$  be an identical copy of  $T_{-i}^1$  indexed by  $k$ , and similarly, for even  $k = 0, 2, \dots, m-1$ , let  $T_i^{1,k}$  be an identical copy of  $T_i^1$  indexed by  $k$ . Moreover, for any  $j \in I$  and  $k \leq m-1$ , let  $I_{\odot}$  be

the identity mapping on  $\Theta$  and  $\varphi_{j,k} : T_j^1 \rightarrow T_j^{1,k}$  be the identity embedding of  $T_j^1$  on  $T_j^{1,k}$ . Let  $\varphi_{-i,m} : T_{-i}^1 \rightarrow T_{-i}^2$  be defined as  $\varphi_{-i,m}(t_{-i}) = \bar{s}_{-i}$  for all  $t_{-i} \in T_{-i}^1$ .

Let  $T_i = \left[ \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} T_i^{1,k} \right] \cup T_i^2$  and  $T_{-i} = \left( \bigcup_{k=-1}^{m-2} T_{-i}^{1,k} \right) \cup T_{-i}^2$  and define for  $j = i, -i$ ,

$$\pi_j(t_j) = \begin{cases} \pi_j^1 \left[ \varphi_{j,k}^{-1}(t_j) \right] \circ \left[ I_\Theta \times \varphi_{-j,k+1} \right]^{-1}, & \text{if } t_j \in T_j^{1,k}, 0 \leq k \leq m-1; \\ \pi_j^2(t_j), & \text{if } t_j \in T_j^2. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\bar{t}_i \stackrel{m}{\Leftarrow} \bar{s}_{-i}$  be the type  $\bar{t}_i \in T_i^{1,0}$ . Then, property (b) follows directly from our construction and the proof of property (a) is identical to the proof of Lemma 3 in [Ely and Peski \(2011\)](#). ■

We also sketch the proof of Lemma 2.

**Lemma 2 (patching a sequence of finite types)** *Let  $\{t_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$  be a sequence of finite types,  $k_0 = 0$ , and  $\{k_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$  be a sequence of positive integers. Then, there is a type  $t(1)$  such that for any integers  $l \geq 1$  and  $k(l) = \sum_{m=0}^{l-1} k_m$ ,  $r^{k(l)}(t(1)) = \{t(l)\}$  where for any  $l \geq 1$ ,  $t(l)$  is a type whose beliefs agrees with those of  $t_1$  up to order  $k_l$ , i.e.,  $t(l) = t_1 \stackrel{k_1}{\Leftarrow} t_{l+1} \stackrel{k_{l+1}}{\Leftarrow} t_{l+2} \stackrel{k_{l+2}}{\Leftarrow} \dots$ .*

**Proof.** We only construct  $t(1)$  for the case that  $\{t_{i,l}\}_{l=1}^\infty$  are types of player  $i$  and  $\{k_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$  are positive even integers. Other cases are similar. Let  $(T_j^l, \pi_j^l)$  be the finite type space containing  $t_{i,l}$ . We define a type space as follows. For any  $j \in I$  and odd integer  $m$ , let  $T_{-i}^{(m)}$  be an identical copy of  $T_{-i}^l$  indexed by  $m$  if  $k(l) \leq m \leq k(l+1) - 1$ , and similarly, for even integer  $m \geq 0$ , let  $T_i^{(m)}$  be an identical copy of  $T_i^l$  indexed by  $m$  if  $k(l) \leq m \leq k(l+1) - 1$ . Moreover, for any  $j \in I$ ,  $l \geq 1$ , and  $k(l) \leq m \leq k(l+1) - 1$ , let  $I_\Theta$  be the identity mapping on  $\Theta$  and  $\varphi_{j,m} : T_j^l \rightarrow T_j^{(m)}$  be the identity embedding of  $T_j^l$  on  $T_j^{(m)}$ . Let  $\varphi_{i,k(l+1)} : T_i^l \rightarrow T_i^{l+1}$  be defined as  $\varphi_{i,k(l+1)}(t_i) = t_{i,l+1}$  for all  $t_i \in T_i^l$ .

Let  $T_i = \bigcup_{m=0}^\infty T_i^{(2m)}$  and  $T_{-i} = \bigcup_{m=0}^\infty T_{-i}^{(2m+1)}$  and define

$$\pi_j(t_j) \equiv \pi_j^1 \left[ \varphi_{j,m}^{-1}(t_j) \right] \circ \left[ I_\Theta \times \varphi_{-j,m+1} \right]^{-1}, \forall j \in I, t_j \in T_j^{(m)}, k(l) \leq m \leq k(l+1), l \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Let  $t(1)$  be the type  $\bar{t}_i \in T_i^{(0)}$ . ■

### A.3 Proof of Proposition 1

**Proposition 1** A type  $t_i$  is 4-critical if  $t_i \in C_i^p(E)$  for some  $p > 0$  and some proper first-order event  $E$ .

**Proof.** It is without loss of generality to consider  $i = 2$ . Pick any player 2's type  $t^* \in C_2^p(E)$ . Since  $E$  is a proper first-order event, there is some  $\theta_0 \in \Theta$ , some  $0 \leq y < z \leq 1$ , and some player, say player 2 (the case with player 1 is similar), such that  $t_2[\theta_0] \notin (y, z)$  for all  $t_2 \in E_2$ . Consider the following  $2 \times 4$  game  $G$  with two positive numbers,  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  to be determined later.

$\theta = \theta_0$	$a_2$	$b_2$	$c_2$	$d_2$
$a_1$	$0, -x_2$	$0, 1$	$\frac{1}{1-p}, 0$	$\frac{1}{1-p}, \frac{1}{1-p}$
$b_1$	$\frac{1}{p}, -x_2$	$\frac{1}{p}, 1$	$0, 0$	$0, -\frac{1}{p}$

$\theta = \theta_0$

$\theta \neq \theta_0$	$a_2$	$b_2$	$c_2$	$d_2$
$a_1$	$0, 1$	$0, -x_1$	$\frac{1}{1-p}, 0$	$\frac{1}{1-p}, \frac{1}{1-p}$
$b_1$	$\frac{1}{p}, 1$	$\frac{1}{p}, -x_1$	$0, 0$	$0, -\frac{1}{p}$

$\theta \neq \theta_0$

First, choose  $x_1, x_2 > 0$  such that  $\frac{1}{1+x_2} = y$  and  $\frac{x_1}{x_1+1} = z$ . By choosing  $a_2$ , type  $s$  of player 2 gets  $s[\theta_0] \cdot (-x_2) + (1 - s[\theta_0]) \cdot 1$ , regardless player 1's strategy, and moreover,

$$s[\theta_0] \cdot (-x_2) + (1 - s[\theta_0]) \cdot 1 < 0 \Leftrightarrow s[\theta_0] > \frac{1}{1+x_2} = y. \quad (8)$$

Similarly, by choosing  $b_2$ , type  $s$  of player 2 gets  $s[\theta_0] \cdot 1 + (1 - s[\theta_0]) \cdot (-x_1)$ , regardless player 1's strategy, and moreover,

$$s[\theta_0] \cdot 1 + (1 - s[\theta_0]) \cdot (-x_1) < 0 \Leftrightarrow s[\theta_0] < \frac{x_1}{x_1+1} = z. \quad (9)$$

Let  $\mu \in \Delta(\Theta)$  be a first-order belief such that  $\mu[\theta_0] \in (y, z)$ . By (8) and (9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu[\theta_0] \cdot (-x_2) + (1 - \mu[\theta_0]) \cdot 1 &< 0; \\ \mu[\theta_0] \cdot 1 + (1 - \mu[\theta_0]) \cdot (-x_1) &< 0. \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \min \left\{ \frac{1}{1-p}, |\mu[\theta_0] \cdot (-x_2) + (1 - \mu[\theta_0])|, |\mu[\theta_0] + (1 - \mu[\theta_0]) \cdot (-x_1)| \right\} > 0.$$

Recall that  $t^h$  is the type which has common knowledge that both players have the first-order belief  $\mu$ . By choosing  $c_2$ , type  $t^h$  always gets 0, while he gets at most  $-\gamma$  by choosing either  $a_2$  or  $b_2$ . Hence

$$a_2, b_2 \notin R_2(t^h, G, \gamma). \quad (10)$$

Define a sequence of types  $t_{2,m} \equiv (t^* \stackrel{2m}{\Leftarrow} t^\mu)$ . Clearly,  $\{t_{2,m}\}$  approximates  $t^*$ . Claims 1 and 2 below complete the proof of Proposition 1.

**Claim 1**  $a_2, b_2 \notin R_2(t_{2,m}, G, \gamma)$  for any  $m$ .

**Proof.** Since  $\gamma < \frac{1}{1-p}$ , given that player 2 chooses  $c_2$  or  $d_2$ , player 1 has the unique  $\gamma$ -best reply  $a_1$ , regardless her belief about  $\theta$ ; given that player 1 chooses  $a_1$ , player 2 has a unique  $\gamma$ -best reply  $d_2$ , regardless his belief about  $\theta$ . Then,  $R_2(t_{2,m}, G, \gamma) = \{d_2\}$  by the usual infection argument: since  $r^{2m}(t_{2,m}) = \{t^\mu\}$  and  $a_2, b_2 \notin R_2(t^\mu, G, \gamma)$  by (10), all types in  $r^{2m-1}(t_{2,m})$  have the unique  $\gamma$ -rationalizable action  $a_1$ , which then imply that all types in  $r^{2m-2}(t_{2,m})$  have the unique  $\gamma$ -rationalizable action  $d_2$ , and so on. Therefore,  $R_2(t_{2,m}, G, \gamma) = \{d_2\}$ . ■

**Claim 2**  $\{a_2, b_2\} \cap R_2(t^*, G, 0) \neq \emptyset$ .

**Proof.** First, observe that in any type space, it is a Bayesian Nash Equilibrium for player 1 to play  $a_1$  and player 2 to play  $d_2$ . Hence,  $a_1 \in R_1(t_1, G, 0)$  and  $d_2 \in R_2(t_2, G, 0)$  for any  $(t_1, t_2) \in \mathcal{T}_1 \times \mathcal{T}_2$ . Note that  $t_2 \in C_2^p(E)$  implies  $t_2[\theta_0] \notin (y, z)$ . Then, define  $(\bar{R}_i)_{i \in I}$  with  $\bar{R}_i : \mathcal{T}_i \rightarrow 2^{A_i} \setminus \{\emptyset\}$  as follows.

$$\bar{R}_1(t_1) = \begin{cases} \{b_1\}, & \text{if } t_1 \in C_1^p(E); \\ \{a_1\}, & \text{if } t_1 \notin C_1^p(E); \end{cases}$$

$$\bar{R}_2(t_2) = \begin{cases} \{a_2\}, & \text{if } t_2 \in C_2^p(E) \text{ and } t_2[\theta_0] \leq y; \\ \{b_2\}, & \text{if } t_2 \in C_2^p(E) \text{ and } t_2[\theta_0] \geq z; \\ \{d_2\}, & \text{if } t_2 \notin C_2^p(E). \end{cases}$$

We establish our claim by showing that  $(\bar{R}_i)_{i \in I}$  satisfies the 0-best-reply property.

First, consider  $t_1 \in C_1^p(E)$ . Suppose that  $t_1$  believes that player 2 chooses  $a_2$  if  $t_2 \in C_2^p(E)$  and  $t_2[\theta_0] \leq y$ ; player 2 chooses  $b_2$  if  $t_2 \in C_2^p(E)$  and  $t_2[\theta_0] \geq z$ , and player 2 chooses  $d_2$  otherwise. Since  $t_1 \in C_1^p(E)$ , we have  $t_1[C_2^p(E)] \geq p$  by (7). Hence,  $t_1$  believes that player 2 plays  $a_2$  or  $b_2$  with at least probability  $p$ . Then, by choosing  $a_1$ ,  $t_1$  gets at most  $p \cdot 0 + (1-p) \cdot \frac{1}{1-p}$ , while by choosing  $b_1$ ,  $t_1$  gets at least  $p \cdot \frac{1}{p} + (1-p) \cdot 0$ . Therefore,  $b_1$  is a 0-best reply for  $t_1$ .

Second, consider  $t_2 \in C_2^p(E)$  with  $t_2[\theta_0] \leq y$  (and recall that  $y < z$ ). Suppose  $t_2$  believes that player 1 chooses  $b_1$  if  $t_1 \in C_1^p(E)$  and chooses  $a_1$  otherwise. By (8) and (9),

$t_2$  gets at least 0 by choosing  $a_2$  and he gets at most 0 by choosing  $b_2$ . Further,  $t_2$  always gets 0 by choose  $c_2$ . Finally, by (7),  $t_2 [C_1^p(E)] \geq p$ , the payoff of choosing  $d_2$  is at most  $p \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{p}\right) + (1-p) \cdot \frac{1}{1-p} = 0$ . Therefore,  $a_2$  is a 0–best reply for  $t_2$ . Similarly, for any  $t_2 \in C_2^p(E)$  with  $t_2[\theta_0] \geq z$ ,  $b_2$  is a 0–best reply for  $t_2$  under the belief of  $t_2$  specified above. ■

## A.4 Proof of Theorem 4

### A.4.1 Proof of Proposition 3

**Proposition 3** For any  $n \times n$  game  $G$ , there exists a finite type  $t_i^*$  which is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G$ , and  $R_i^{2^{n+1}}(t_i^*, G, 0) = R_i(t_i^*, G, 0)$ .

**Proof.** In this proof, say a type  $t_i$  is  $k$ -minimal for  $A_i' (\subseteq A_i)$  if  $R_i^k(t_i, G, 0) = A_i'$  and there is no  $t_i' \in \mathcal{T}_i$  such that  $R_i^{k-1}(t_i', G, 0) \subseteq A_i'$ . We divide the proof into two steps.

**Step 1** For any finite type  $t_i$  and integer  $k > 1$ , if  $t_i$  is  $k$ -minimal for  $R_i^k(t_i, G, 0)$ , then there exists  $t_{-i} \in \text{supp marg}_{\mathcal{T}_{-i}} t_i$  and  $t_{-i}$  is  $(k-1)$ -minimal for  $R_{-i}^{k-1}(t_{-i}, G, 0)$ .

Suppose that every  $t_{-i} \in \text{supp marg}_{\mathcal{T}_{-i}} t_i$  is not  $(k-1)$ -minimal for  $R_{-i}^{k-1}(t_{-i}, G, 0)$ . Then, for every  $t_{-i} \in \text{supp marg}_{\mathcal{T}_{-i}} t_i$ , there exists a type  $s_{-i}^{t_{-i}}$  such that  $R_{-i}^{k-2}(s_{-i}^{t_{-i}}, G, 0) \subseteq R_{-i}^{k-1}(t_{-i}, G, 0)$ . Consider a new type  $t_i'$  defined as follows.

$$t_i' \left[ \left( \theta, s_{-i}^{t_{-i}} \right) \right] = t_i \left[ \left( \theta, t_{-i} \right) \right] \text{ for all } \theta \in \Theta \text{ and } t_{-i} \in \text{supp marg}_{\mathcal{T}_{-i}} t_i.$$

Then,  $R_i^{k-1}(t_i', G, 0) \subseteq R_i^k(t_i, G, 0)$  and hence  $t_i$  is not  $k$ -minimal for  $R_i^k(t_i, G, 0)$ , which is a contradiction. Hence, some  $t_{-i} \in \text{supp marg}_{\mathcal{T}_{-i}} t_i$  is  $(k-1)$ -minimal for  $R_{-i}^{k-1}(t_{-i}, G, 0)$ .

**Step 2** There exists a finite type  $t_i^*$  which is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G$ , and  $R_i^{2^{n+1}}(t_i^*, G, 0) = R_i(t_i^*, G, 0)$ .

Let  $A_i^*$  be a minimal 0–rationalizable set, i.e., there is no  $t_i' \in \mathcal{T}_i$  such that  $R_i(t_i', G, 0) \subsetneq A_i^*$ . Then, there exists a finite type  $s_i$  such that  $R_i(s_i, G, 0) = A_i^*$ .<sup>22</sup> Consider the number

$$k^* = \min \left\{ k \geq 0 : \exists \text{ a finite type } s_i \text{ s.t. } R_i^k(s_i, G, 0) = A_i^* \right\}. \quad (11)$$

<sup>22</sup>By Lemma 1,  $\{t_i \in \mathcal{T}_i : R_i(t_i, G, 0) \subseteq A_i^*\}$  is a product-open set. Since finite types are dense in product topology (cf. Mertens and Zamir (1985)),  $R_i(s_i, G, 0) \subseteq A_i^*$  for some finite type  $s_i$ , and moreover, since  $A_i^*$  is minimal,  $R_i(s_i, G, 0) = A_i^*$ .

Suppose that  $t_i^*$  is a finite type achieving the minimum in (11), i.e.,  $R_i^{k^*}(t_i^*, G, 0) = A_i^*$ . Then, since  $A_i^*$  is minimal,  $t_i^*$  is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G$ , and  $t_i^*$  is  $k^*$ -minimal for  $R_i^{k^*}(t_i^*, G, 0) = R_i(t_i^*, G, 0) = A_i^*$ .

We now prove that  $k^* \leq 2^{n+1}$ , which implies  $R_i^{2^{n+1}}(t_i^*, G, 0) = R_i(t_i^*, G, 0)$ . Suppose instead  $k^* > 2^{n+1}$ . Without loss of generality suppose  $k^*$  is even.

Since  $t_i^*$  is  $k^*$ -minimal for  $R_i^{k^*}(t_i^*, G, 0)$ , we can apply step 1 ( $k^* - 1$ ) times and construct a finite sequence of types  $t^{k^*} (= t_i^*), t^{k^*-1}, \dots, t^1$  such that for every  $k$ ,  $t^{k-1} \in \text{supp marg}_{\mathcal{T}_{-i}} t^k$  and

$$\begin{cases} t^k \text{ is } k\text{-minimal for } R_i^k(t^k, G, 0), & \text{if } k \text{ is even;} \\ t^k \text{ is } k\text{-minimal for } R_{-i}^k(t^k, G, 0), & \text{if } k \text{ is odd.} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

Since  $G$  is an  $n \times n$  game,  $A_i$  only has  $2^n - 1$  distinct nonempty subsets. Since  $k^* > 2^{n+1}$ , there are at least  $2^n$  types of player  $i$  in the finite sequence  $t^{k^*}, t^{k^*-2}, \dots, t^2$ . Hence, there are two even integers  $k, k'$  with  $k > k'$  such that

$$R_i^k(t^k, G, 0) = R_i^{k'}(t^{k'}, G, 0).$$

Thus,  $t^k$  cannot be  $k$ -minimal for  $R_i^k(t^k, G, 0)$ , which is a contradiction to (12). Therefore,  $k^* \leq 2^{n+1}$  and  $R_i^{2^{n+1}}(t_i^*, G, 0) = R_i(t_i^*, G, 0)$ . ■

#### A.4.2 Proof of Proposition 4

**Proposition 4** *There exists a countable set of  $n^2 \times n^2$  games  $\{G_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$  such that every  $n$ -critical type displays strategic discontinuity in some  $G_l$ .*

**Proof.** For any  $m$ , we use  $\mathcal{G}^m$  to denote the set of all  $m \times m$  games. First, take a countable dense set  $\{G^k\}_{k=1}^\infty$  with  $G^k = \langle A_i^k, g_i^k \rangle$  in  $\mathcal{G}^n$  under the supmetric  $d_g$  where

$$d_g(G, G') \equiv \sup_{j \in I, (a, \theta) \in A \times \Theta} |g_j(a, \theta) - g'_j(a, \theta)|. \quad (13)$$

Second, let  $\mathbb{Q}_+$  be that set of all nonnegative rational numbers. By (Ely and Pęski, 2007, Lemma 4), for each positive integer  $k$  and  $q \in \mathbb{Q}_+$ , we can find  $G^{k,q} = \langle A_i^{k,q}, g_i^{k,q} \rangle \in \mathcal{G}^{n^2}$  such that  $A_i^{k,q} = A_i^k \times A_{-i}^k$  and for any  $t_i$  and  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ ,

$$a_i \in R_i(t_i, G^k, q + \varepsilon) \text{ iff } (a_i, a_{-i}) \in R_i(t_i, G^{k,q}, \varepsilon) \text{ for any } a_{-i} \in A_{-i}^k. \quad (14)$$

Since  $\{G^{k,q} : k \in \mathbb{N}, q \in \mathbb{Q}_+\}$  is also a countable set, we can enumerate  $\{G^{k,q}\}$  as  $\{G_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$ .

We now show that  $\{G_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$  is the desired countable set of  $n^2 \times n^2$  games in this proposition. Suppose that  $t_i$  is  $n$ -critical. That is,  $t_i$  displays strategic discontinuity in some  $n \times n$  game  $G$ , i.e., there exist some action  $a_i$  in  $G$ , some  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$  and a sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^\infty$  which approximates  $t_i$  such that  $a_i \in R_i(t_i, G, 0)$  but  $a_i \notin R_i(t_{i,m}, G, \varepsilon)$  for all  $m$ . Since  $\{G^k\}_{k=1}^\infty$  is dense in  $\mathcal{G}^n$  under the supmetric  $d_g$  defined in (13), we can pick some  $G^k$  such that  $d_g(G, G^k) < \frac{q}{2} < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$  for some  $q \in \mathbb{Q}_+$ . By (Dekel, Fudenberg, and Morris, 2006, Lemma 10),  $a_i \in R_i(t_i, G^k, q)$  but  $a_i \notin R_i(t_{i,m}, G^k, \varepsilon - q)$  for all  $m$ . Finally, by (14), for any  $m$ , there is some  $a_{-i} \in A_{-i}^k$ ,  $(a_i, a_{-i}) \in R_i(t_i, G^{k,q}, 0)$  but  $(a_i, a_{-i}) \notin R_i(t_{i,m}, G^{k,q}, \varepsilon - 2q)$ . That is,  $t_i$  displays strategic discontinuity in  $G^{k,q} \in \{G^{k,q} : k \in \mathbb{N}, q \in \mathbb{Q}_+\} = \{G_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$ . ■

#### A.4.3 Proof of Theorem 4

**Theorem 4** *For every integer  $n \geq 2$ , there is a critical type which is  $n$ -regular.*

**Proof.** We divide the proof into three steps.

**Step 1** *Construction of the  $n$ -regular type.*

Consider the countable set of  $n^2 \times n^2$  game  $\{G_l\}_{l=1}^\infty$  in Proposition 4. By Proposition 3, for each  $l$ , there is a finite minimal rationalizable type  $t_{i,l}$  in  $G^l$  such that  $R_i^{k^*}(t_{i,l}, G_l, 0) = R_i(t_{i,l}, G_l, 0)$  where  $k^* = 2^{n^2+1}$ . Now define

$$t(l) \equiv t_{i,l} \xLeftrightarrow{k^*} t^{\theta_0} \xLeftrightarrow{1} t_{i,l+1} \xLeftrightarrow{k^*} t^{\theta_0} \xLeftrightarrow{1} \dots, \forall l \geq 1.$$

**Step 2**  *$t(1)$  is  $n$ -regular.*

We prove the step in the following two substeps:

(2.1) *For any  $l$ ,  $t(l)$  is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G_l$ .*

By Lemma 2, the beliefs of  $t(l)$  agree with those of type  $t_{i,l}$  up to order  $k^*$ . Hence,  $R_i^{k^*}(t(l), G, 0) = R_i^{k^*}(t_{i,l}, G, 0)$ . Since  $R_i^{k^*}(t_{i,l}, G_l, 0) = R_i(t_{i,l}, G_l, 0)$ , we have  $R_i(t(l), G_l, 0) \subseteq R_i(t_{i,l}, G_l, 0)$ . Moreover, since  $t_{i,l}$  is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G_l$ , we have  $R_i(t(l), G_l, 0) = R_i(t_{i,l}, G_l, 0)$ , i.e., the type  $t(l)$  is also a minimal rationalizable type in  $G_l$ .

(2.2) *For any  $l$ ,  $t(1)$  does not display strategic discontinuity in  $G_l$ .*

By Lemma 2,  $r^{(l-1)(k^*+1)}(t(1)) = \{t(l)\}$ . Since the type  $t(l)$  is a minimal rationalizable type in  $G^l$ , by (Ely and Pęski, 2011, Lemma 5) in Appendix A.1,  $t(1)$  does not display

strategic discontinuity in any  $G_i$ . Therefore,  $t(1)$  is  $n$ -regular by Proposition 4.

**Step 3** The  $n$ -regular type  $t(1)$  is critical.

Let  $(T_j^*, \pi_j^*)$  be the type space defined in the proof of Lemma 2 which contains  $t(1)$ . First, define

$$E_i = \left\{ t_i \in \mathcal{T}_i : \text{there exists some } k \leq k^* + 1 \text{ such that } r^k(t_i) = \{t^{\theta_0}\} \right\}.$$

Clearly,  $E_i$  is a product-closed set. Second,  $T_i^* \subset E_i$  and hence  $t(1) \in C_i^1(E_i \times \mathcal{T}_{-i})$ . Third,  $E_i \times \mathcal{T}_{-i}$  is a proper subset of  $\mathcal{T}_i \times \mathcal{T}_{-i}$  because for any  $\theta \neq \theta_0$ ,  $t^\theta \notin E_i$ . Therefore,  $t(1)$  is critical by (Ely and Pęski, 2011, Theorem 1). ■

## A.5 Proof of Proposition 5

**Proposition 5** For every type  $t_i$ , there is a sequence of types  $\{t_{i,m}\}_{m=1}^\infty$  which approximates  $t_i$  but does not converge to  $t_i$  in the uniform strategic topology.

The proof of Proposition 5 relies on the following lemma.

**Lemma 4** Let  $\theta_0$  and  $\theta_1$  be two distinct parameters in  $\Theta$ . For every  $m \geq 0$  and  $i \in I$ , there exists a finite game  $G = \langle A_j, g_j \rangle_{j \in I} \in \mathcal{G}_{-1,1}$  with some  $a_i^*$  and  $(\bar{a}_j)_{j \in I}$  such that

- (1)  $g_j(\bar{a}_j, a_{-j}, \theta) = 1$  for any  $j \in I$ , any  $\theta$  and any  $a_{-j}$ ;
- (2)  $a_i^* \in R_i(t_i, G, 0)$  and  $a_i^* \notin R_i(s_i, G, 1/2)$  for any types  $t_i$  and  $s_i$  such that  $r^m(t_i) = \{t^{\theta_0}\}$  and  $r^m(s_i) = \{t^{\theta_1}\}$ .

**Proof.** We prove the proposition by induction on  $m$ . For  $m = 0$ , define  $G = \langle A_j, g_j \rangle_{j \in I}$  by the matrix:

$$\begin{array}{cc|cc} & & \bar{a}_{-i} & \bar{a}_{-i} \\ \hline a_i^* & 1, 1 & a_i^* & 0, 1 \\ \hline \bar{a}_i & 1, 1 & \bar{a}_i & 1, 1 \\ \hline & \theta = \theta_0 & & \theta \neq \theta_0 \end{array}$$

Clearly, for every player  $j$ ,  $g_j(\bar{a}_j, a_{-j}, \theta) = 1$  for any  $\theta$  and  $a_{-j}$ . Moreover, by choosing  $a_i^*$ , player  $i$  with type  $t^{\theta_0}$  gets the payoff  $t^{\theta_0}[0] = 1$  and player  $i$  with type  $t^{\theta_1}$  gets 0. Since

player  $i$  always gets the payoff 1 by choosing  $\bar{a}_i$ , we conclude that  $a_i^* \in R_i(t^{\theta_0}, G, 0)$  and  $a_i^* \notin R_i(t^{\theta_1}, G, 1/2)$ .

Now assume that our claim holds for some integer  $m - 1 \geq 0$  and we prove the case for  $m$ . By the induction hypothesis, there is a game  $G' = \langle A'_j, g'_j \rangle_{j \in I}$  with actions  $a_{-i}^*$  and  $(\bar{a}_j)_{j \in I}$  such that properties (1) and (2) hold for  $m - 1$ . Define  $G = \langle A_j, g_j \rangle_{j \in I}$  as follows. Let  $A_i = \{b_i^*, \bar{b}_i\} \times A'_i$  and  $A_{-i} = A'_{-i}$  and for any  $j \in I$  and any  $((b, a'_i), a'_{-i}, \theta) \in A_i \times A_{-i} \times \Theta$

$$g_j((b, a'_i), a'_{-i}, \theta) = \min \{g''_j(b, a'_{-i}), g'_j(a'_i, a'_{-i}, \theta)\}$$

where  $g''_j : \{\bar{b}_i, b_i^*\} \times A'_{-i}$  is defined using the following matrix:

	$a'_{-i} = a_{-i}^*$	$a'_{-i} \neq a_{-i}^*$
$b_i^*$	1, 1	0, 1
$\bar{b}_i$	1, 1	1, 1

**Claim 3**  $R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G, \gamma) = R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G', \gamma)$  for any  $\gamma \geq 0$  and any  $t_{-i} \in T_{-i}$ .

**Proof.** First, we prove that  $R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G', \gamma) \subseteq R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G, \gamma)$ . Define  $\bar{R}_{-i}(t_{-i}) = R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G', \gamma)$  and  $\bar{R}_i(t_i) = \{b_i\} \times R_i(t_i, G', \gamma)$  for all  $(t_i, t_{-i}) \in T_i \times T_{-i}$ . Observe that

$$\min \{g''_j(\bar{b}_i, a'_{-i}), g'_j(a'_i, a'_{-i}, \theta)\} = g'_j(a'_i, a'_{-i}, \theta), \forall (a'_i, a'_{-i}, \theta).$$

Thus,  $(\bar{R}_j)_{j \in I}$  has the  $\gamma$ -best-reply property in  $G$ . Hence,  $R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G', \gamma) \subseteq R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G, \gamma)$ .

Second, we prove that  $R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G', \gamma) \supseteq R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G, \gamma)$ . Define  $\hat{R}_{-i}(t_{-i}) = R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G, \gamma)$  and  $\hat{R}_i(t_i) = \{a'_i \in A'_i : (\bar{b}_i, a'_i) \in R_i(t_i, G, \gamma)\}$ . Then,  $(\hat{R}_j)_{j \in I}$  has the  $\gamma$ -best-reply property in  $G'$ . Hence,  $R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G, \gamma) \subseteq R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G', \gamma)$ . ■

$G$  satisfies property (1) by setting  $\bar{a}_i = (\bar{b}_i, \bar{a}'_i)$  and  $\bar{a}_{-i} = \bar{a}'_{-i}$ . We now show that  $G$  satisfies property (2). Since  $r^m(t_i) = \{t^{\theta_0}\}$ , there is a set  $T_{-i}^{t_i}$  such that  $t_i [T_{-i}^{t_i}] = 1$  and  $r^{m-1}(t_{-i}) = \{t^{\theta_0}\}$  for every  $t_{-i} \in T_{-i}^{t_i}$ . Similarly, since  $r^m(s_i) = \{t^{\theta_1}\}$ , there is a set  $T_{-i}^{s_i}$  such that  $s_i [T_{-i}^{s_i}] = 1$  and  $r^{m-1}(s_{-i}) = \{t^{\theta_1}\}$  for every  $s_{-i} \in T_{-i}^{s_i}$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $a_{-i}^* \in R_i(t_{-i}, G', 0)$  for every  $t_{-i} \in T_{-i}^{t_i}$  and  $a_{-i}^* \notin R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G', 1/2)$  for every  $t_{-i} \in T_{-i}^{s_i}$ . Moreover, by Claim 3,  $a_{-i}^* \in R_i(t_{-i}, G, 0)$  for every  $t_{-i} \in T_{-i}^{t_i}$  and  $a_{-i}^* \notin R_{-i}(s_{-i}, G, 1/2)$  for every  $s_{-i} \in T_{-i}^{s_i}$ .

Let  $a_i^* = (b_i^*, \bar{a}_i')$ . First, since  $a_{-i}^{*'} \in R_i(t_{-i}, G, 0)$  for every  $t_{-i} \in T_{-i}^{t_i}$  and  $t_i [T_{-i}^{t_i}] = 1$ , we define the following conjecture:  $\sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) = \delta_{a_{-i}^{*'}}$  for any  $\theta$  and any type  $t_{-i} \in T_{-i}^{t_i}$ . Moreover,  $a_i^* = (b_i^*, \bar{a}_i')$  is a 0–best reply to  $\sigma_{-i}$  for  $t_i$ . Therefore,  $a_i^* \in R_i(t_i, G, 0)$ . Second, since  $a_{-i}^{*'} \notin R_{-i}(s_{-i}, G, 1/2)$  for every  $s_{-i} \in T_{-i}^{s_i}$  and  $s_i [T_{-i}^{s_i}] = 1$ ,  $a_i^* = (b_i^*, \bar{a}_i')$  is not an  $1/2$ –best reply to any conjecture  $\sigma_{-i}$  with  $\text{supp}\sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) \subseteq R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G, 0)$  for  $s_i$ -almost all  $(\theta, t_{-i})$ . Therefore,  $a_i^* = (b_i^*, \bar{a}_i') \notin R_i(s_i, G, 1/2)$ . ■

**Proof of Proposition 5.** First,  $\{t_i \rightrightarrows^m t^{\theta_0}\}$  and  $\{t_i \rightrightarrows^m t^{\theta_1}\}$  both approximate  $t_i$ . Then, by Lemma 4 and the triangle inequality, we have

$$1/2 \leq d^{us} \left( t_i \rightrightarrows^m t^{\theta_0}, t_i \rightrightarrows^m t^{\theta_1} \right) \leq d^{us} \left( t_i \rightrightarrows^m t^{\theta_0}, t_i \right) + d^{us} \left( t_i, t_i \rightrightarrows^m t^{\theta_1} \right), \forall m.$$

Hence, there is either a subsequence of  $\{t_i \rightrightarrows^m t^{\theta_0}\}_m$  or a subsequence of  $\{t_i \rightrightarrows^m t^{\theta_1}\}_m$  such that our claim holds. ■

## A.6 Proof of Theorem 5

**Theorem 5** *Every type is  $\infty$ –critical.*

**Proof.** Without loss of generality, consider some type  $t_1$  of player 1. By Proposition 5 and Lemma 4, we can find some  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$  and a sequence of types  $\{t_{1,m}\}$  which approximates  $t_1$ , and furthermore, for every  $m$ , there is a finite game  $G^m = \langle A_i^m, g_i^m \rangle_{i \in I} \in \mathcal{G}_{-1,1}$ , an action  $a_1^m$  in  $A_1^m$ , and action profile  $(\bar{a}_i^m)_{i \in I}$  such that (1)  $a_1^m$  is 0–rationalizable for  $t_1$  but  $a_1^m$  is not  $\varepsilon$ –rationalizable for  $t_{1,m}$  in  $G^m$ ; (2)  $g_i(\bar{a}_i^m, a_{-i}, \theta) = 1$  for any  $i \in I$ , any  $\theta$  and any  $a_{-i}$ . Note that for any  $m$ , 1 is the maximal payoff in  $G^m$  and hence  $\bar{a}_i^m$  is 0–rationalizable in  $G^m$  for any type of player  $i$ .

We now define a new game  $G = \langle A_i, g_i \rangle_{i \in I}$  such that

$$A_i = \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} A_i^m \text{ and } g_i(a_i, a_{-i}, \theta) = \begin{cases} g_i^m(a_i, a_{-i}, \theta), & \text{if } a_i \in A_i^m, a_{-i} \in A_{-i}^m; \\ g_i^m(a_i, \bar{a}_{-i}^m, \theta) - 3, & \text{if } a_i \in A_i^m, a_{-i} \notin A_{-i}^m. \end{cases}$$

We divide the rest of the proof into two steps.

**Step 1**  $R_i(t_i, G^m, \gamma) = R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) \cap A_i^m, \forall m, \forall t_i \in \mathcal{T}_i, \forall \gamma \in [0, 1)$ .

Fix a positive integer  $m$ . First, since  $G^m \in \mathcal{G}_{-1,1}$ , deviation to any  $a_i \notin A_i^m$  under a conjecture in  $G^m$  will deliver at most a payoff  $-2$ , while choosing any  $a_i \in A_i^m$  guarantees some payoff at least  $-1$ . Since  $\gamma \in [0, 1)$ , it follows that  $(\hat{R}_i)_{i \in I}$  with  $\hat{R}_i(t_i) =$

$R_i(t_i, G^m, \gamma)$  for every  $t_i \in \mathcal{T}_i$  has the  $\gamma$ -best-reply property in  $G$ . Hence,  $R_i(t_i, G^m, \gamma) \subseteq R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) \cap A_i^m$ .

We now prove that  $R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) \cap A_i^m \subseteq R_i(t_i, G^m, \gamma)$  by showing that  $(\tilde{R}_i)_{i \in I}$  with  $\tilde{R}_i(t_i) \equiv R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) \cap A_i^m$  satisfies  $\gamma$ -best-reply property in  $G^m$ . Note that  $\bar{a}_i^m \in \tilde{R}_i(t_i)$  because  $\bar{a}_i^m \in R_i(t_i, G^m, \gamma) \subseteq R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) \cap A_i^m$  as showed above. Consider any  $a_i \in \tilde{R}_i(t_i)$ . Then, there exists a conjecture  $\sigma_{-i}$  in  $G$  such that  $\text{supp}\sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) \subseteq R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G, \gamma)$  for  $t_i$ -almost all  $(\theta, t_{-i})$  and

$$\int \sum_{a_{-i} \in A_{-i}} [g_i(a_i, a_{-i}, \theta) - g_i(a'_i, a_{-i}, \theta)] \sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}] dt_i[(\theta, t_{-i})] \geq -\gamma, \forall a'_i \in A_i^m. \quad (15)$$

Define a new conjecture  $\sigma_{-i}^m$  in  $G^m$  as

$$\sigma_{-i}^m(\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}] \equiv \begin{cases} \sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}], & \text{if } a_{-i} \in A_{-i}^m \setminus \{\bar{a}_{-i}^m\}; \\ 1 - \sum_{a_{-i} \in A_{-i}^m \setminus \{\bar{a}_{-i}^m\}} \sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}], & \text{if } a_{-i} = \bar{a}_{-i}^m. \end{cases}$$

I.e., for  $a_{-i} \in A_{-i}^m \setminus \{\bar{a}_{-i}^m\}$ ,  $\sigma_{-i}^m$  assigns the same probability as  $\sigma_{-i}$ ;  $\sigma_{-i}^m$  assigns the rest of the probability to  $\bar{a}_{-i}^m$ . Since  $\bar{a}_{-i}^m \in \tilde{R}_{-i}(t_{-i})$  and  $\text{supp}\sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) \subseteq R_{-i}(t_{-i}, G, \gamma)$  for  $t_i$ -almost all  $(\theta, t_{-i})$ ,  $\text{supp}\sigma_{-i}^m(\theta, t_{-i}) \subseteq \tilde{R}_{-i}(t_{-i})$  for  $t_i$ -almost all  $(\theta, t_{-i})$ . Then, for any  $(\theta, t_{-i})$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{a_{-i} \in A_{-i}} [g_i(a_i, a_{-i}, \theta) - g_i(a'_i, a_{-i}, \theta)] \sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}] \\ = & \sum_{a_{-i} \in A_{-i}^m \setminus \{\bar{a}_{-i}^m\}} [g_i^m(a_i, a_{-i}, \theta) - g_i^m(a'_i, a_{-i}, \theta)] \sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}] \\ & + [g_i^m(a_i, \bar{a}_{-i}^m, \theta) - g_i^m(a'_i, \bar{a}_{-i}^m, \theta)] \sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) [\bar{a}_{-i}^m] \\ & + \sum_{a_{-i} \notin A_{-i}^m} [(g_i^m(a_i, \bar{a}_{-i}^m, \theta) - 3) - (g_i^m(a'_i, \bar{a}_{-i}^m, \theta) - 3)] \sigma_{-i}(\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}] \\ = & \sum_{a_{-i} \in A_{-i}^m} [g_i^m(a_i, a_{-i}, \theta) - g_i^m(a'_i, a_{-i}, \theta)] \sigma_{-i}^m(\theta, t_{-i}) [a_{-i}] \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Then, (15) and (16) imply that  $a_i$  is a  $\gamma$ -best reply to  $\sigma_{-i}^m$  for  $t_i$ . Thus,  $(\tilde{R}_i)_{i \in I}$  has the  $\gamma$ -best-reply property in  $G^m$  and  $R_i(t_i, G, \gamma) \cap A_i^m \subseteq R_i(t_i, G^m, \gamma)$ .

**Step 2**  $a_1^m \in R_1(t_1, G, 0)$  and  $a_1^m \notin R_1(t_{1,m}, G, \varepsilon)$ .

Recall that  $a_1^m \in R_1(t_1, G^m, 0)$  and  $a_1^m \notin R_1(t_{1,m}, G^m, \varepsilon)$ . Then, by " $\subseteq$ " in Step 1,  $a_1^m \in R_1(t_1, G, 0)$ ; by " $\supseteq$ " in Step 1,  $a_1^m \notin R_1(t_{1,m}, G, \varepsilon)$  for every  $m$ . Therefore,  $t_1$  is  $\infty$ -critical. ■

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