

# THEORIE DES JEUX ALGORITHMIQUE

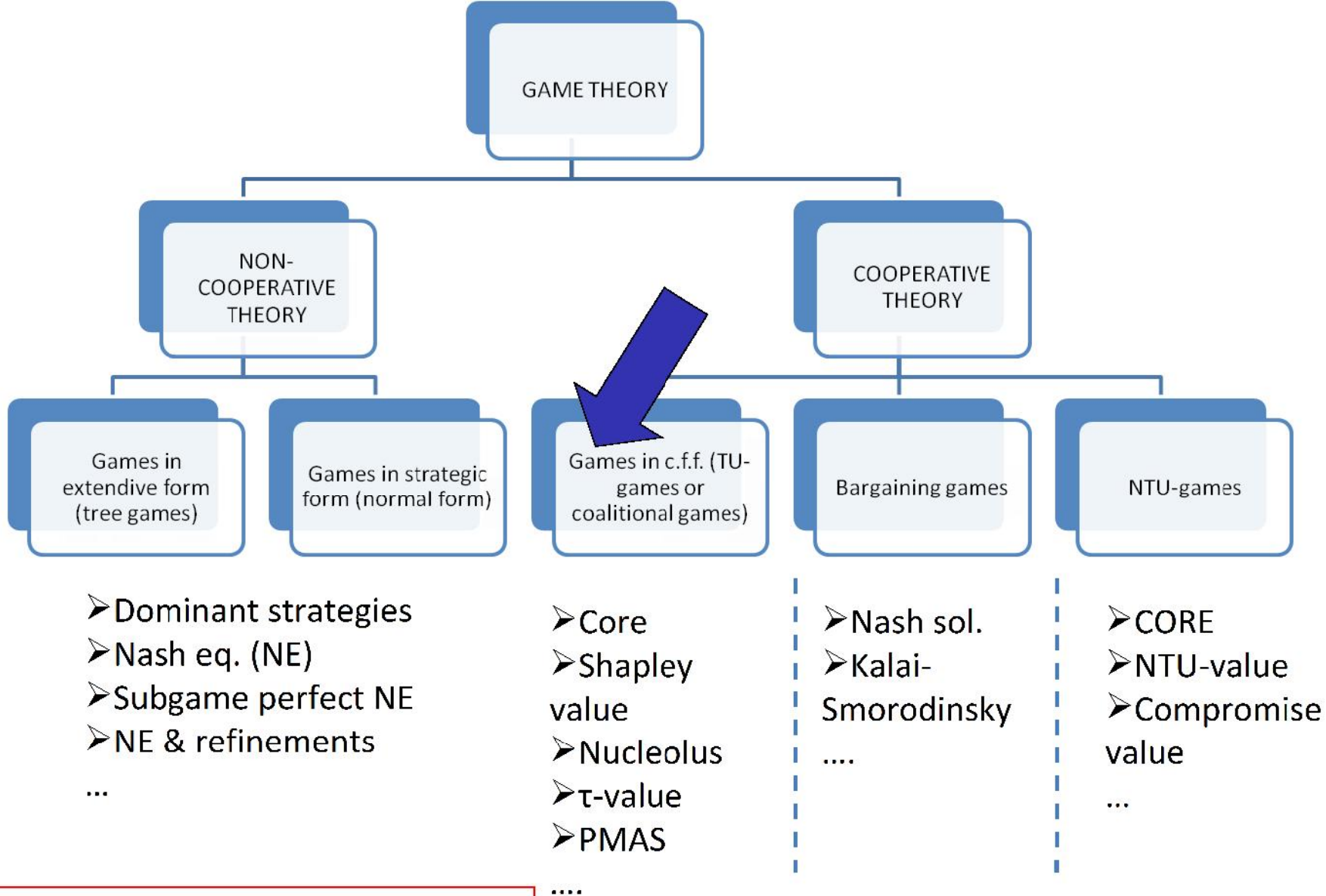
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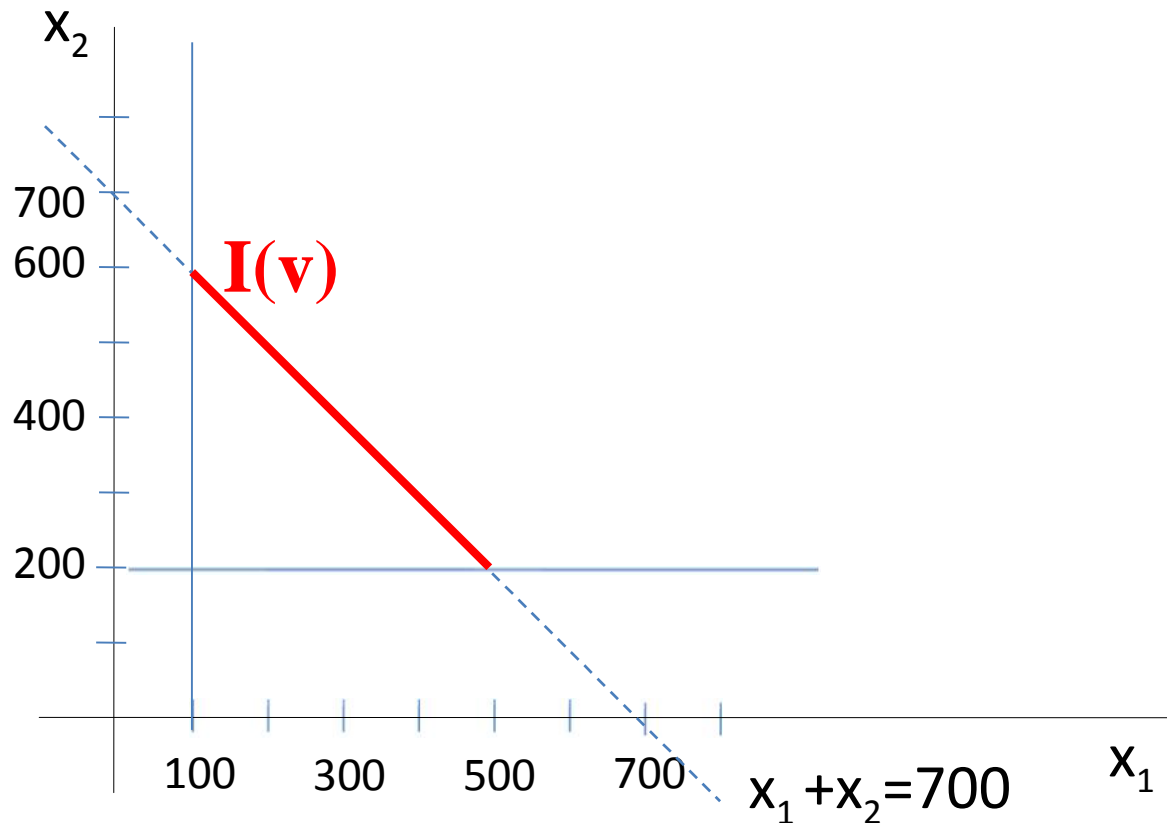
**No binding agreements**  
**No side payments**  
**Q: Optimal behaviour in conflict situations**

**binding agreements**  
**side payments are possible (sometimes)**  
**Q: Reasonable (cost, reward)-sharing**

# Cooperative games: a simple example

Alone, player 1 (singer) and 2 (pianist) can  
earn 100€ and 200€ respectively.  
Together (duo) 700€

How to divide the (extra) earnings?



Imputation set:  $I(v) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x_1 \geq 100, x_2 \geq 200, x_1 + x_2 = 700\}$

# COOPERATIVE GAME THEORY

## Games in coalitional form

TU-game:  $(N, v)$  or  $v$

$N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  set of players

$S \subset N$  coalition

$2^N$  set of coalitions

**DEF.**  $v: 2^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $v(\emptyset) = 0$  is a **Transferable Utility (TU)-game** with player set  $N$ .

NB:  $(N, v) \leftrightarrow v$

NB2: if  $n = |N|$ , it is also called  $n$ -person TU-game, game in coalitional form, coalitional game, cooperative game with side payments...

$v(S)$  is the value (worth) of coalition  $S$

### Example

(Glove game)  $N = L \cup R, \quad L \cap R = \emptyset$

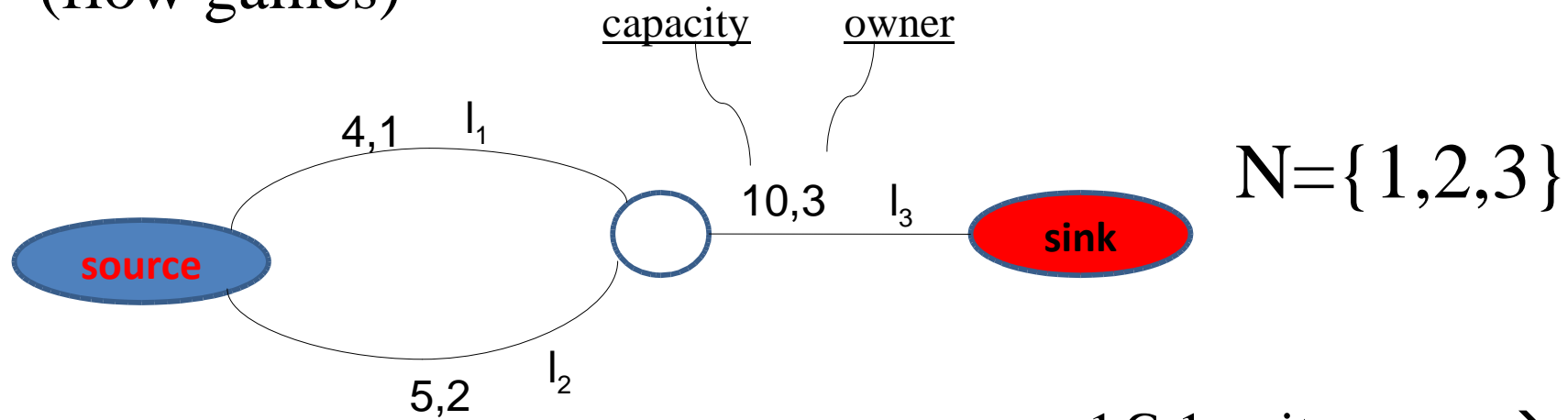
$i \in L$  ( $i \in R$ ) possesses 1 left (right) hand glove

Value of a pair: 1€

$v(S) = \min\{|L \cap S|, |R \cap S|\}$  for each coalition  $S \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$ .

# Example

(flow games)

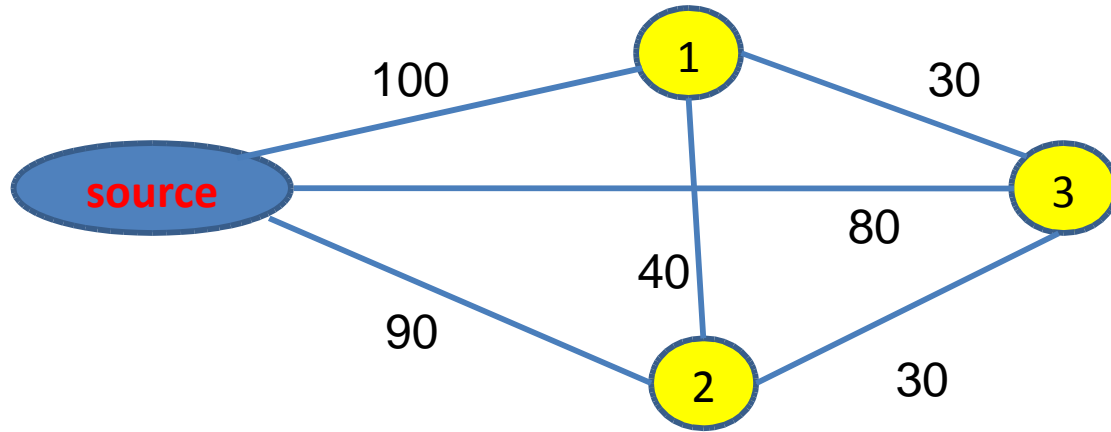


1€ 1 unit source  $\rightarrow$  sink

S=	$\emptyset$	{1}	{2}	{3}	{1,2}	{1,3}	{2,3}	{1,2,3}
v(S)	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	9

# Example

(Three cooperating communities)



$N = \{1, 2, 3\}$

S=	$\emptyset$	{1}	{2}	{3}	{1,2}	{1,3}	{2,3}	{1,2,3}
c(S)	0	100	90	80	130	110	110	140
v(S)	0	0	0	0	60	70	60	130

$$v(S) = \sum_{i \in S} c(i) - c(S)$$

**DEF.**  $(N, v)$  is a superadditive game iff

$$v(S \cup T) \geq v(S) + v(T) \text{ for all } S, T \text{ with } S \cap T = \emptyset$$

**Q.1:** which coalitions form?

**Q.2:** If the grand coalition  $N$  forms, how to divide  $v(N)$ ?  
(how to allocate costs?)

Many answers! (solution concepts)

One-point concepts:

- Shapley value (Shapley 1953)
- nucleolus (Schmeidler 1969)
- $\tau$ -value (Tijs, 1981)

...

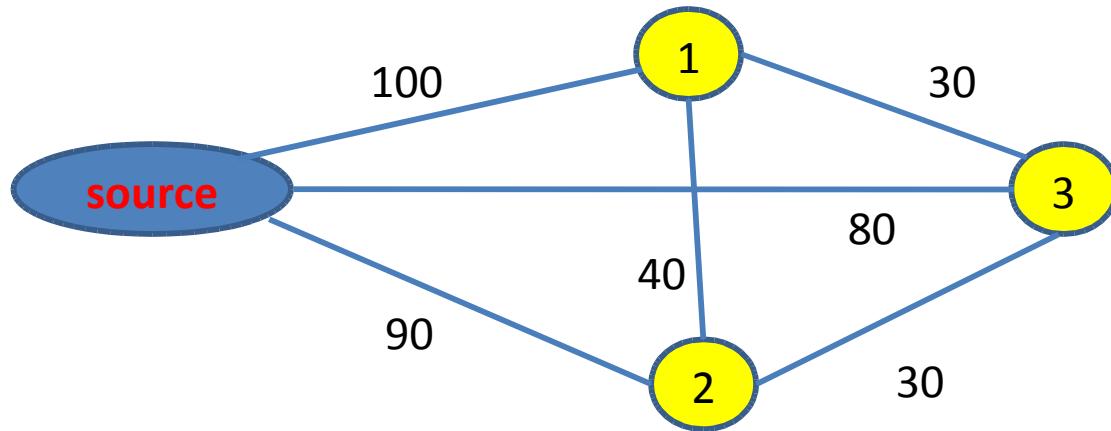
Subset concepts:

- Core (Gillies, 1954)
- stable sets (von Neumann, Morgenstern, '44)
- kernel (Davis, Maschler)
- bargaining set (Aumann, Maschler)

.....

## Example

(Three cooperating communities)



$$N = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

S=	$\emptyset$	{1}	{2}	{3}	{1,2}	{1,3}	{2,3}	{1,2,3}
c(S)	0	100	90	80	130	110	110	140
v(S)	0	0	0	0	60	70	60	130

$$v(S) = \sum_{i \in S} c(i) - c(S)$$

Show that  $v$  is superadditive and  $c$  is subadditive.



**Claim 1:**  $(N, v)$  is superadditive

We show that  $v(S \cup T) \geq v(S) + v(T)$  for all  $S, T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$  with  $S \cap T = \emptyset$

$$60 = v(1, 2) \geq v(1) + v(2) = 0 + 0$$

$$70 = v(1, 3) \geq v(1) + v(3) = 0 + 0$$

$$60 = v(2, 3) \geq v(2) + v(3) = 0 + 0$$

$$60 = v(1, 2) \geq v(1) + v(2) = 0 + 0$$

$$130 = v(1, 2, 3) \geq v(1) + v(2, 3) = 0 + 60$$

$$130 = v(1, 2, 3) \geq v(2) + v(1, 3) = 0 + 70$$

$$130 = v(1, 2, 3) \geq v(3) + v(1, 2) = 0 + 60$$

**Claim 2:**  $(N, c)$  is subadditive

We show that  $c(S \cup T) \leq c(S) + c(T)$  for all  $S, T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$  with  $S \cap T = \emptyset$

$$130 = c(1, 2) \leq c(1) + c(2) = 100 + 90$$

$$110 = c(2, 3) \leq c(2) + c(3) = 100 + 80$$

$$110 = c(1, 2) \leq c(1) + c(2) = 90 + 80$$

$$140 = c(1, 2, 3) \leq c(1) + c(2, 3) = 100 + 110$$

$$140 = c(1, 2, 3) \leq c(2) + c(1, 3) = 90 + 110$$

$$140 = c(1, 2, 3) \leq c(3) + c(1, 2) = 80 + 130$$

## Example

(Glove game)  $(N, v)$  such that  $N=L \cup R$ ,  $L \cap R = \emptyset$   
 $v(S) = \min\{|L \cap S|, |R \cap S|\}$  for all  $S \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$

**Claim:** the glove game is superadditive.

Suppose  $S, T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$  with  $S \cap T = \emptyset$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} v(S) + v(T) &= \min\{|L \cap S|, |R \cap S|\} + \min\{|L \cap T|, |R \cap T|\} \\ &= \min\{|L \cap S| + |L \cap T|, |L \cap S| + |R \cap T|, |R \cap S| + |L \cap T|, |R \cap S| + |R \cap T|\} \\ &\leq \min\{|L \cap S| + |L \cap T|, |R \cap S| + |R \cap T|\} \\ &\text{since } S \cap T = \emptyset \\ &= \min\{|L \cap (S \cup T)|, |R \cap (S \cup T)|\} \\ &= v(S \cup T). \end{aligned}$$

## The imputation set

DEF. Let  $(N, v)$  be a  $n$ -persons TU-game.

A vector  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is called an imputation iff

(1)  $x$  is individual rational i.e.

$$x_i \geq v(i) \text{ for all } i \in N$$

(2)  $x$  is efficient

$$\sum_{i \in N} x_i = v(N)$$

[interpretation  $x_i$ : payoff to player  $i$ ]

$$I(v) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N \mid \sum_{i \in N} x_i = v(N), x_i \geq v(i) \text{ for all } i \in N\}$$

Set of imputations

## Example

(Glove game)  $(N, v)$  such that  $N=L \cup R$ ,  $L \cap R = \emptyset$   
 $v(S) = \min\{|L \cap S|, |R \cap S|\}$  for all  $S \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$

**Claim:** the glove game is superadditive.

Suppose  $S, T \in 2^N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$  with  $S \cap T = \emptyset$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} v(S) + v(T) &= \min\{|L \cap S|, |R \cap S|\} + \min\{|L \cap T|, |R \cap T|\} \\ &= \min\{|L \cap S| + |L \cap T|, |L \cap S| + |R \cap T|, |R \cap S| + |L \cap T|, |R \cap S| + |R \cap T|\} \\ &\leq \min\{|L \cap S| + |L \cap T|, |R \cap S| + |R \cap T|\} \\ &\text{since } S \cap T = \emptyset \\ &= \min\{|L \cap (S \cup T)|, |R \cap (S \cup T)|\} \\ &= v(S \cup T). \end{aligned}$$

## Example

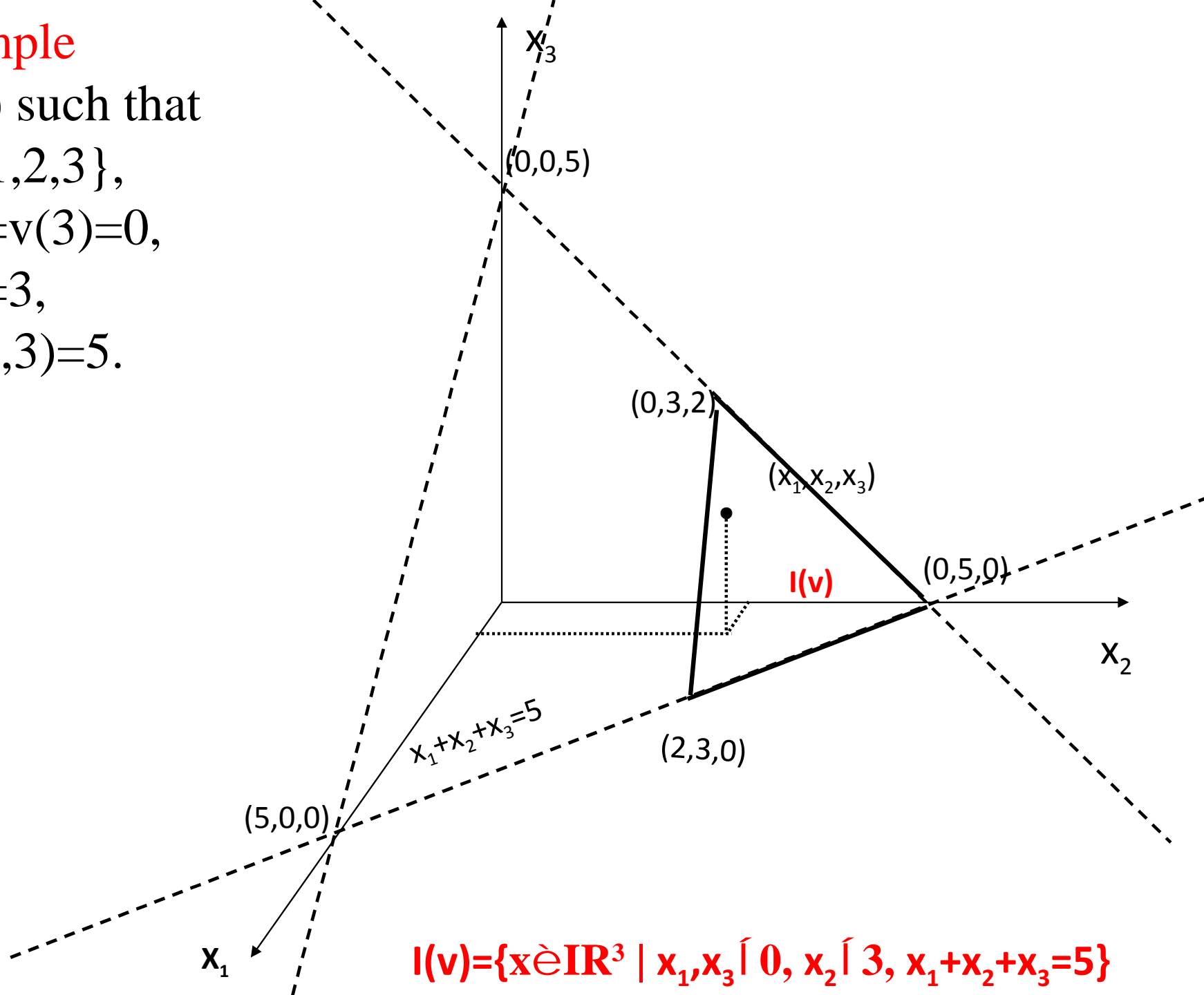
$(N, v)$  such that

$N = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,

$v(1) = v(3) = 0$ ,

$v(2) = 3$ ,

$v(1, 2, 3) = 5$ .



**Claim:**  $(N, v)$  a  $n$ -person ( $n=|N|$ ) TU-game. Then

$$I(v) \neq \emptyset \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad v(N) \geq \sum_{i \in N} v(i)$$

**Proof**

$(\Rightarrow)$

Suppose  $x \in I(v)$ . Then

$$v(N) = \sum_{i \in N} x_i \quad \geq \quad \sum_{i \in N} v(i)$$

**EFF** **IR**

$(\Leftarrow)$

Suppose  $v(N) \geq \sum_{i \in N} v(i)$ . Then the vector

$(v(1), v(2), \dots, v(n-1), \underbrace{v(N) - \sum_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}} v(i)}}_{\geq v(n)})$

is an imputation.

$$\geq v(n)$$

## The core of a game

**DEF.** Let  $(N, v)$  be a TU-game. The core  $C(v)$  of  $(N, v)$  is the set

$$C(v) = \{x \in I(v) \mid \sum_{i \in S} x_i \geq v(S) \text{ for all } S \in 2N \setminus \{\emptyset\}\}$$

stability conditions

no coalition  $S$  has the incentive to split off if  $x$  is proposed

Note:  $x \in C(v)$  iff

(1)  $\sum_{i \in N} x_i = v(N)$  *efficiency*

(2)  $\sum_{i \in S} x_i \geq v(S)$  for all  $S \in 2N \setminus \{\emptyset\}$  *stability*

**Bad news:**  $C(v)$  can be empty

**Good news:** many interesting classes of games have a non-empty core.

## Example

$(N, v)$  such that

$$N = \{1, 2, 3\},$$

$$v(1) = v(3) = 0,$$

$$v(2) = 3,$$

$$v(1, 2) = 3,$$

$$v(1, 3) = 1$$

$$v(2, 3) = 4$$

$$v(1, 2, 3) = 5.$$

Core elements satisfy the following conditions:

$$x_1, x_3 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 3, x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 5$$

$$x_1 + x_2 \geq 3, x_1 + x_3 \geq 1, x_2 + x_3 \geq 4$$

We have that

$$5 - x_3 \geq 3 \Leftrightarrow x_3 \leq 2$$

$$5 - x_2 \geq 1 \Leftrightarrow x_2 \leq 4$$

$$5 - x_1 \geq 4 \Leftrightarrow x_1 \leq 1$$

$$C(v) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid 1 \geq x_1 \geq 0, 2 \geq x_3 \geq 0, 4 \geq x_2 \geq 3, x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 5\}$$



## Example

$(N, v)$  such that

$N = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,

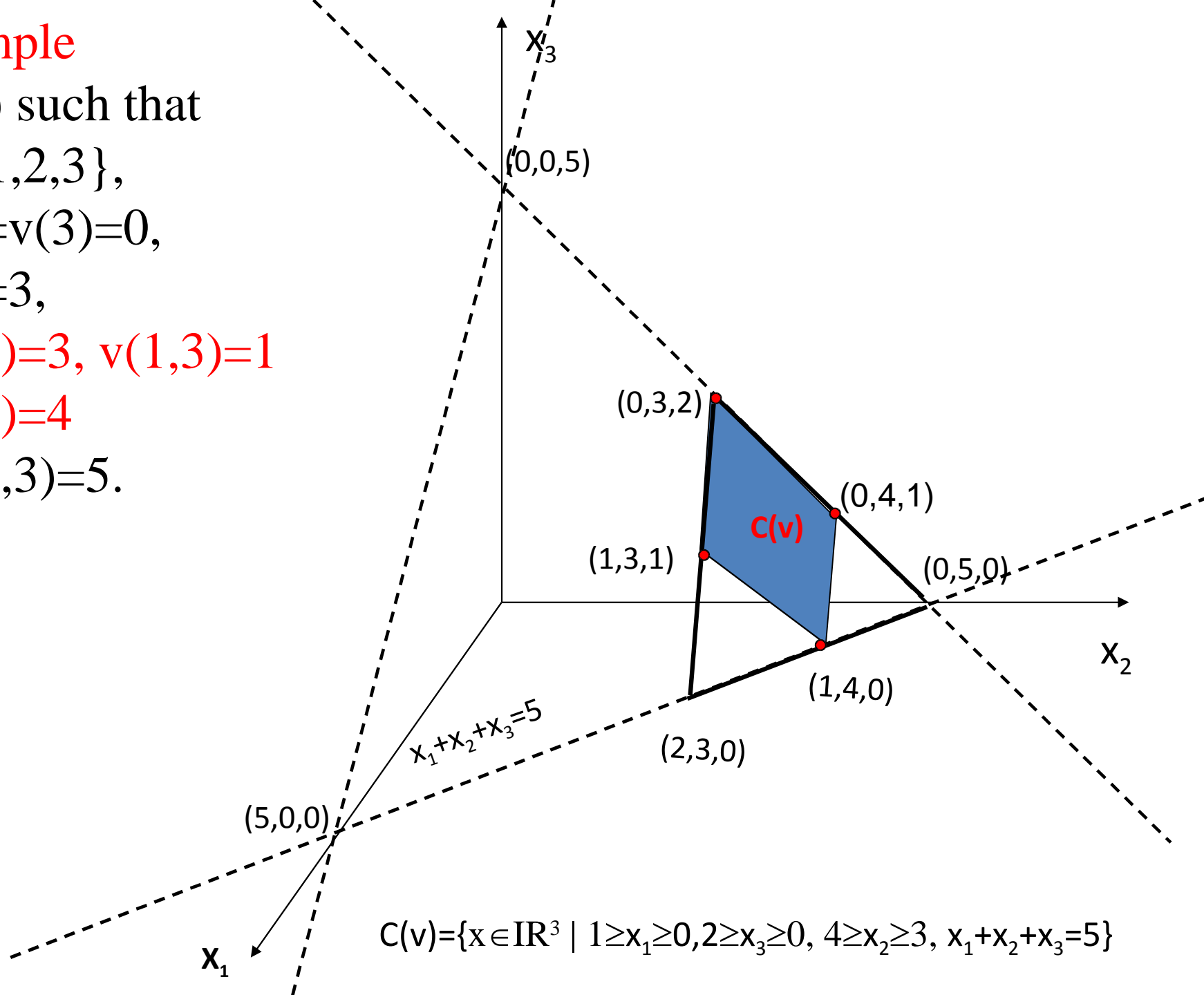
$v(1) = v(3) = 0$ ,

$v(2) = 3$ ,

$v(1, 2) = 3$ ,  $v(1, 3) = 1$

$v(2, 3) = 4$

$v(1, 2, 3) = 5$ .



**Example** (Game of pirates) Three pirates 1,2, and 3. On the other side of the river there is a treasure (10€). At least two pirates are needed to wade the river...

$$(N,v), N=\{1,2,3\}, v(1)=v(2)=v(3)=0, \\ v(1,2)=v(1,3)=v(2,3)=v(1,2,3)=10$$

Suppose  $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in C(v)$ . Then

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{efficiency} \\ \text{stability} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 10 \\ x_1 + x_2 \geq 10 \\ x_1 + x_3 \geq 10 \\ x_2 + x_3 \geq 10 \end{array} \right.$$

$$20 = 2(x_1 + x_2 + x_3) \geq 30 \quad \text{Impossible. So } C(v) = \emptyset.$$

**Note** that  $(N,v)$  is superadditive.

## Example

(Glove game with  $L=\{1,2\}$ ,  $R=\{3\}$ )

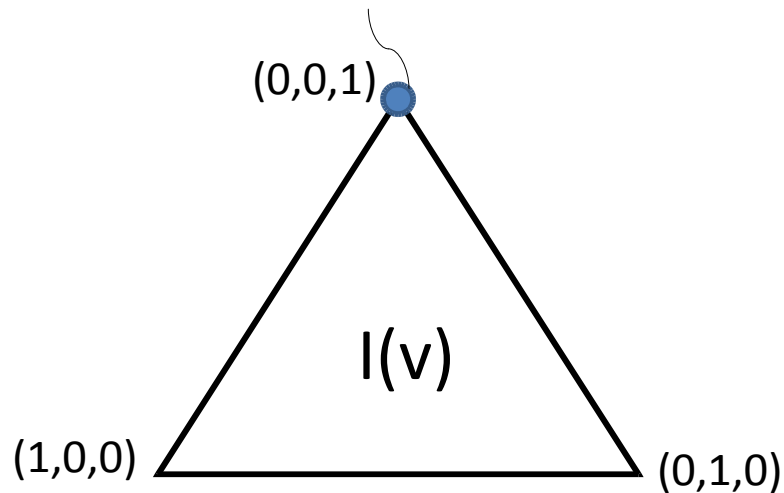
$$v(1,3)=v(2,3)=v(1,2,3)=1, \quad v(S)=0 \text{ otherwise}$$

Suppose  $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in C(v)$ . Then

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 1 \\ x_1 + x_3 \geq 1 \\ x_2 \geq 0 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} x_2 = 0 \\ x_1 + x_3 = 1 \end{array}$$

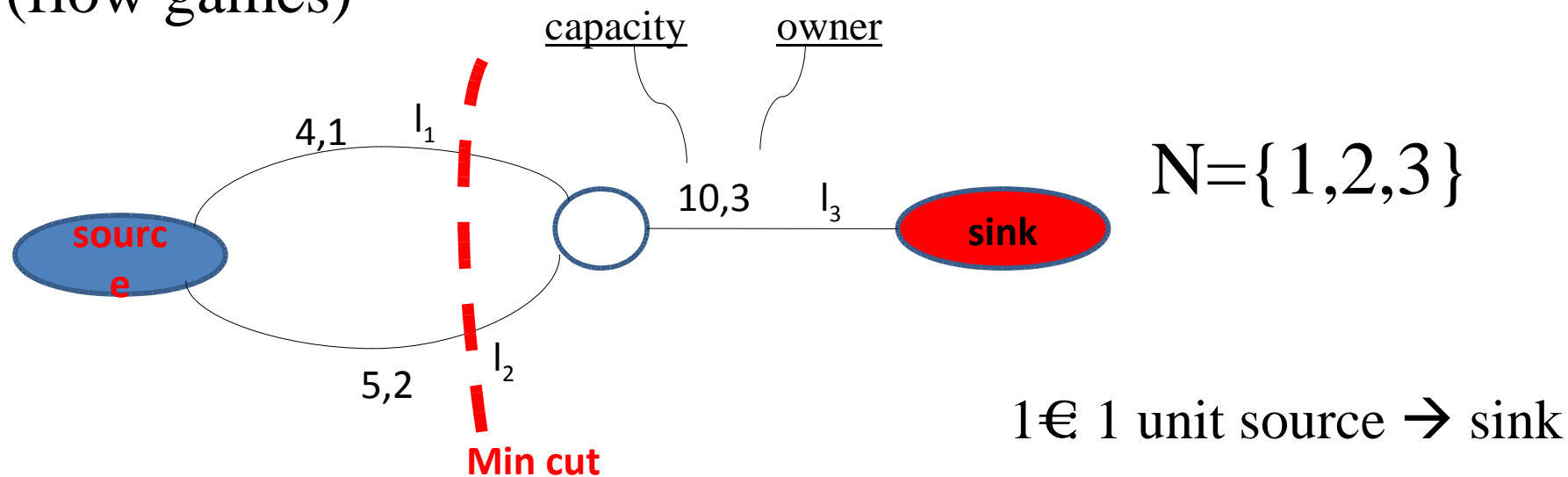
$$x_2 + x_3 \geq 1 \quad x_1 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad x_3 = 1$$

So  $C(v) = \{(0,0,1)\}$ .



# Example

(flow games)



S=	$\emptyset$	{1}	{2}	{3}	{1,2}	{1,3}	{2,3}	{1,2,3}
v(S)	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	9

Min cut  $\{l_1, l_2\}$ . Corresponding core element (4,5,0)

# Convex games (1)

**DEF.** An  $n$ -persons TU-game  $(N, v)$  is convex iff  
$$v(S) + v(T) \leq v(S \cup T) + v(S \cap T) \quad \text{for each } S, T \in 2^N.$$

This condition is also known as *supermodularity*. It can be rewritten as

$$v(T) - v(S \cap T) \leq v(S \cup T) - v(S) \quad \text{for each } S, T \in 2^N$$

For each  $S, T \in 2^N$ , let  $C = (S \cup T) \setminus S$ . Then we have:

$$v(C \cup (S \cap T)) - v(S \cap T) \leq v(C \cup S) - v(S)$$

**Interpretation:** the marginal contribution of a coalition  $C$  to a disjoint coalition  $S$  does not increase if  $S$  becomes smaller

## Convex games (2)

➤ It is easy to show that supermodularity is equivalent to

$$v(S \cup \{i\}) - v(S) \leq v(T \cup \{i\}) - v(T)$$

for all  $i \in N$  and all  $S, T \in 2^N$  such that  $S \subseteq T \subseteq N \setminus \{i\}$

➤ **interpretation**: player's marginal contribution to a large coalition is not smaller than her/his marginal contribution to a smaller coalition (which is stronger than superadditivity)

➤ Clearly all convex games are superadditive ( $S \cap T = \emptyset \dots$ )

➤ A superadditive game can be not convex (try to find one)

➤ An important property of convex games is that they are (*totally*) balanced, and it is “easy” to determine the core (coincides with the Weber set, i.e. the convex hull of all marginal vectors...)

## Example

$(N, v)$  such that

$N = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,

$v(1) = v(3) = 0$ ,

$v(2) = 3$ ,

$v(1, 2) = 3$ ,  $v(1, 3) = 1$

$v(2, 3) = 4$

$v(1, 2, 3) = 5$ .

Check it is convex

Marginal vectors

123  $\rightarrow$  (0, 3, 2)

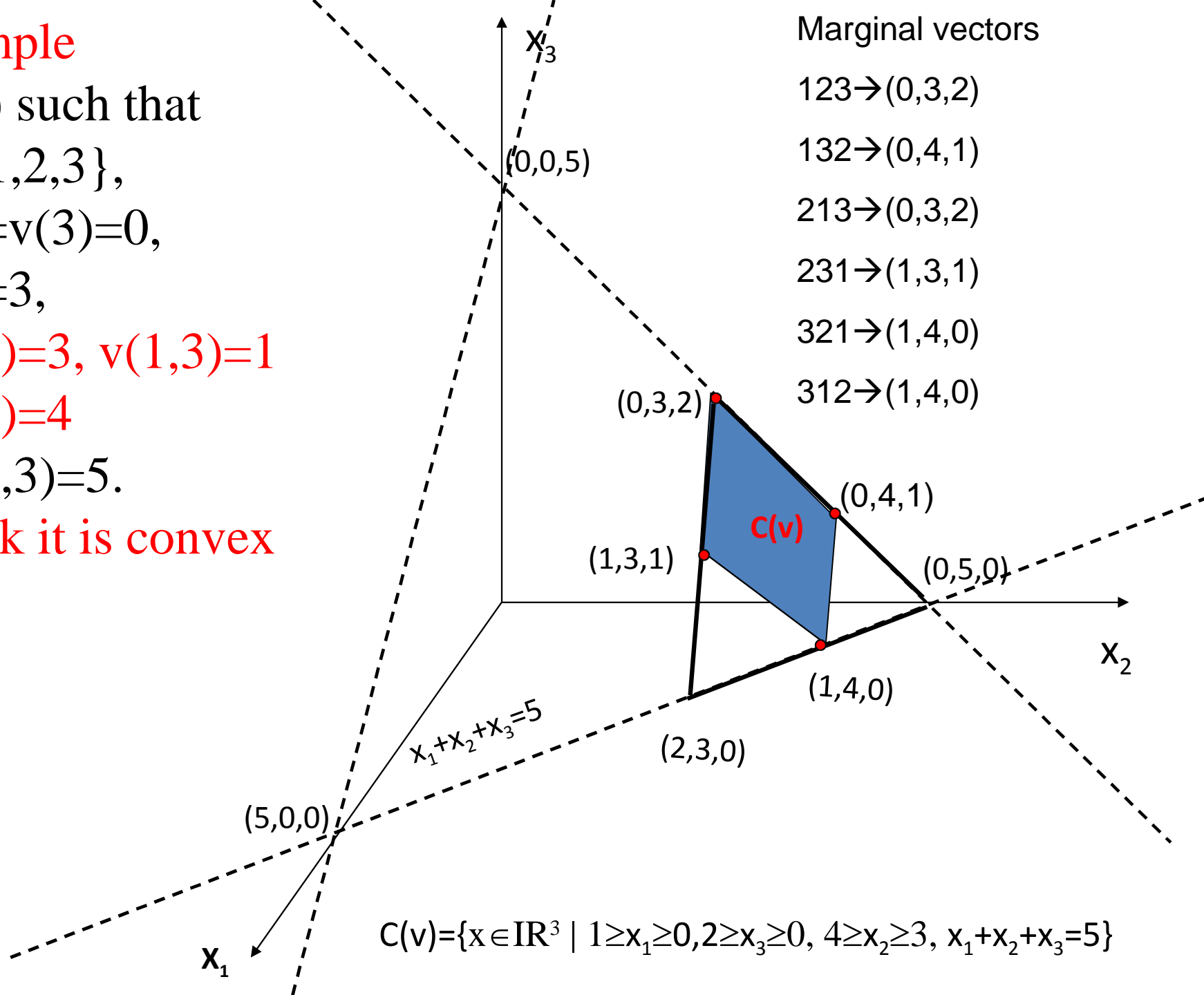
132  $\rightarrow$  (0, 4, 1)

213  $\rightarrow$  (0, 3, 2)

231  $\rightarrow$  (1, 3, 1)

321  $\rightarrow$  (1, 4, 0)

312  $\rightarrow$  (1, 4, 0)



## How to share $v(N)$ ...

- The Core of a game can be used to exclude those allocations which are *not stable*.
- But the core of a game can be a bit “*extreme*” (see for instance the glove game)
- Sometimes the core is *empty* (pirates)
- And if it is not empty, there can be many allocations in the core (*which is the best?*)



# An axiomatic approach (Shapley (1953))

- Similar to the approach of Nash in bargaining:  
*which properties an allocation method should satisfy in order to divide  $v(N)$  in a reasonable way?*
- Given a subset  $\mathbf{C}$  of  $\mathbf{G}^N$  (class of all TU-games with  $N$  as the set of players) a *(point map) solution* on  $\mathbf{C}$  is a map  $\phi : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ .
- For a solution  $\phi$  we shall be interested in various properties...

# Symmetry

PROPERTY 1(SYM) Let  $v \in G^N$  be a TU-game.

Let  $i, j \in N$ . If  $v(S \cup \{i\}) = v(S \cup \{j\})$  for all  $S \in 2^{N \setminus \{i,j\}}$ ,  
then  $\phi_i(v) = \phi_j(v)$ .

## EXAMPLE

We have a TU-game  $(\{1,2,3\}, v)$  s.t.  $v(1) = v(2) = v(3) = 0$ ,  
 $v(1, 2) = v(1, 3) = 4$ ,  $v(2, 3) = 6$ ,  $v(1, 2, 3) = 20$ .

Players 2 and 3 are symmetric. In fact:

$$v(\emptyset \cup \{2\}) = v(\emptyset \cup \{3\}) = 0 \text{ and } v(\{1\} \cup \{2\}) = v(\{1\} \cup \{3\}) = 4$$

If  $v$  satisfies SYM, then  $\phi_2(v) = \phi_3(v)$

# Efficiency

**PROPERTY 2 (EFF)** Let  $v \in \mathbf{G}^N$  be a TU-game.

$\sum_{i \in N} x_i(v) = v(N)$ , i.e.,  $x(v)$  is a *pre-imputation*.

## Null Player Property

**DEF.** Given a game  $v \in \mathbf{G}^N$ , a player  $i \in N$  s.t.

$v(S \cup i) = v(S)$  for all  $S \in 2^N$  will be said to be a null player.

**PROPERTY 3 (NPP)** Let  $v \in \mathbf{G}^N$  be a TU-game. If  $i \in N$  is a null player, then  $x_i(v) = 0$ .

**EXAMPLE** We have a TU-game  $(\{1,2,3\}, v)$  such that  $v(1) = 0$ ,  $v(2) = v(3) = 2$ ,  $v(1, 2) = v(1, 3) = 2$ ,  $v(2, 3) = 6$ ,  $v(1, 2, 3) = 6$ . Player 1 is null. Then  $x_1(v) = 0$

**EXAMPLE** We have a TU-game  $(\{1,2,3\}, v)$  such that  $v(1) = 0$ ,  $v(2) = v(3) = 2$ ,  $v(1, 2) = v(1, 3) = 2$ ,  $v(2, 3) = 6$ ,  $v(1, 2, 3) = 6$ . On this particular example, if  $\varphi$  satisfies NPP, SYM and EFF we have that

$$\varphi_1(v) = 0 \text{ by NPP}$$

$$\varphi_2(v) = \varphi_3(v) \text{ by SYM}$$

$$\varphi_1(v) + \varphi_2(v) + \varphi_3(v) = 6 \text{ by EFF}$$

$$\text{So } \varphi = (0, 3, 3)$$

But our goal is to characterize  $\varphi$  on  $\mathbf{G}^N$ . One more property is needed.

# Additivity

PROPERTY 4 (ADD) Given  $v, w \in \mathbf{G}^N$ ,

$$(v) + (w) = (v + w).$$

EXAMPLE Two TU-games  $v$  and  $w$  on  $N = \{1, 2, 3\}$

$v(1) = 3$		$w(1) = 1$		$v+w(1) = 4$
$v(2) = 4$		$w(2) = 0$		$v+w(2) = 4$
$v(3) = 1$		$w(3) = 1$		$v+w(3) = 2$
$v(1, 2) = 8$	<b>+</b>	$w(1, 2) = 2$	<b>=</b>	$v+w(1, 2) = 10$
$v(1, 3) = 4$		$w(1, 3) = 2$		$v+w(1, 3) = 6$
$v(2, 3) = 6$		$w(2, 3) = 3$		$v+w(2, 3) = 9$
$v(1, 2, 3) = 10$		$w(1, 2, 3) = 4$		$v+w(1, 2, 3) = 14$

## Theorem 1 (Shapley 1953)

There is a unique map  $\phi$  defined on  $\mathbf{G}^N$  that satisfies EFF, SYM, NPP, ADD. Moreover, for any  $i \in N$  we have that

$$w_i(v) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\tau \in \Pi} m_i^\tau(v)$$

Here  $\Pi$  is the set of all permutations  $\tau: N \rightarrow N$  of  $N$ , while  $m_i^\tau(v)$  is the marginal contribution of player  $i$  according to the permutation  $\tau$ , which is defined as:

$v(\{ \tau(1), \tau(2), \dots, \tau(j) \}) - v(\{ \tau(1), \tau(2), \dots, \tau(j-1) \})$ ,  
where  $j$  is the unique element of  $N$  s.t.  $i = \tau(j)$ .

## Probabilistic interpretation: (the “room parable”)

- Players gather one by one in a room to create the “grand coalition”, and each one who enters gets his marginal contribution.
- Assuming that all the different orders in which they enter are equiprobable, the Shapley value gives to each player her/his expected payoff.

### Example

$(N, v)$  such that

$N = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,

$v(1) = v(3) = 0$ ,

$v(2) = 3$ ,

$v(1, 2) = 3$ ,

$v(1, 3) = 1$ ,

$v(2, 3) = 4$ ,

$v(1, 2, 3) = 5$ .

Permutation	1	2	3
1,2,3	0	3	2
1,3,2	0	4	1
2,1,3	0	3	2
2,3,1	1	3	1
3,2,1	1	4	0
3,1,2	1	4	0
Sum	3	21	6
$\phi(v)$	3/6	21/6	6/6

# Example

$(N, v)$  such that

$N = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,

$v(1) = v(3) = 0$ ,

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$v(1, 2) = 3$ ,  $v(1, 3) = 1$

$v(2, 3) = 4$

$v(1, 2, 3) = 5$ .

Marginal vectors

$123 \rightarrow (0, 3, 2)$

$132 \rightarrow (0, 4, 1)$

$213 \rightarrow (0, 3, 2)$

$231 \rightarrow (1, 3, 1)$

$321 \rightarrow (1, 4, 0)$

$312 \rightarrow (1, 4, 0)$

