

THEORY AND APPLICATIONS OF GAMES
WITH SHARED CONSTRAINTS UNDER
UNCERTAINTY

THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN MANAGEMENT

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT INDORE

BY

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February 2026

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Acknowledgments

This thesis would not have been possible without the support and guidance of many people. My quest for learning led me onto an unplanned path that eventually shaped my life and gave me the opportunity to pursue my doctoral studies at the Indian Institute of Management Indore. Although *game theory* was not my original focus when I began my doctoral journey, everything changed after I enrolled in a course taught by Prof. Nagarajan Krishnamurthy. From that point onward, the subject became one of my strongest academic interests. This transformation was possible only because of his exceptional ability to make the subject engaging and intellectually stimulating. He consistently encouraged my ideas and never once discouraged my efforts, which gave me the confidence to complete this degree in a timely manner. I am deeply grateful to him for being a patient, kind, and supportive advisor. If there is anyone I aspire to emulate in life, it is him.

I am sincerely grateful to Prof. Omkar D. Palsule Desai for his immense contribution to this thesis. His ability to simplify complex problems and structure rigorous arguments inspired me to develop my analytical skills. The work on the sericulture land-allocation scheme was initiated through his guidance. He also helped introduce me to professionals in the sericulture sector, which enabled me to begin modeling a real-world problem. I would also like to thank the sericulture personnel of the Madhya Pradesh Government who provided practical insights essential to this study.

I would like to thank Prof. Sutirtha Bandyopadhyay for his valuable suggestions, which helped me approach this work from an economic perspective. His feedback at each stage of the thesis provided fresh insights, strengthening the overall quality of the research. Beyond academics, his empathetic nature continually motivated

me and helped shape my academic character.

I am grateful to Prof. Yadati Narahari for being part of this thesis. While reading his book *Game Theory and Mechanism Design*, I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to interact with him personally or receive feedback on my work. His precise and insightful comments greatly improved the structure and clarity of this thesis. I am deeply thankful to him for agreeing to be associated with this study. I would like to thank the Thesis Evaluation Committee (TEC) for their constructive feedback, which helped improve the quality of this thesis.

My time at 306, DPM Residence at IIM Indore will always remain special. I made lifelong friends, colleagues, and collaborators there. I thoroughly enjoyed my coursework days with my batchmates Manu, Deepesh, Pankesh, and Abhinay. I also shared many memorable moments with Mahesh, Rohit, Ankit, Minali, Krati, Puloma, and many other friends. I learned greatly from my seniors Umang, Priyam, Manish, Arvind, Sachin, Ankur, Abhinay JPS, and Vignesh. The list is long, and I am thankful to everyone who contributed to making my journey enriching.

I sincerely thank all the faculty members at IIM Indore who taught and motivated me to pursue challenging academic goals. I am also deeply appreciative of the DPM Office for providing continuous academic support, the administrative staff for their assistance, the housekeeping staff for maintaining a positive environment, and all non-academic staff members who were always willing to help.

I also thank Prof. Deeptesh Ghosh, Prof. Sachin Jayaswal, Prof. Ankur Sinha, Prof. Prahalad Venkateshan, Prof. Gautam Dutta, Prof. Tathagatha Bandyopadhyay, and Prof. Karthik Sriram (IIM Ahmedabad) for inspiring me to pursue my PhD.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my parents, who have supported me unconditionally throughout every stage of my life. Their faith in me gave me the strength to pursue my doctoral journey. This thesis is dedicated to their hard work, sacrifices, and unwavering belief. I would also like to thank my partner, Mansi, for standing by me during the final stages of this journey. She has been a wonderful friend and a thoughtful critic. I am also grateful to my extended family members for their continued support.

Abstract

This thesis studies games with shared constraints under uncertainty. Individuals sharing common resources often face interdependent strategy sets, a structural property absent in standard Nash equilibrium problems. Such games are known as Generalized Nash Equilibrium Problems (GNEP). While existence and uniqueness in deterministic GNEPs are well established, their counterparts with stochastic payoffs and strategy sets remain relatively unexplored; we refer to this formulation as the Generalized Nash Equilibrium Problem under Uncertainty (GNEPU). In Chapter 1, we present the motivation and the problem statement, and in Chapter 2, we review the relevant literature.

In Chapter 3, we establish the existence of an equilibrium using measurable selection and random fixed-point theorems and prove uniqueness via (i) contraction properties of best-response mappings and (ii) a risk-adjusted formulation with strict monotonicity. We demonstrate the practical relevance of our theoretical findings through an application to a Tragedy of the Commons (TOC) setting in sugarcane farming in India.

In Chapter 4, we extend the non-cooperative GNEPU framework to a cooperative setting in which players are allowed to form coalitions. Such situations arise in applications where players organize into groups while facing a common public resource. We refer to these problems as shared-constraint cooperative games under uncertainty (SCGU) and show that the core of such games is non-empty under certain conditions. We further extend the sugarcane farming example developed in the previous chapter to the case in which farmers form FPOs, and we identify the conditions under which these FPOs are stable.

In Chapter 5, we examine a real-world application of GNEPU in the sericulture

sector. Sericulture involves rearing silkworms and producing silk from their cocoons. Different types of silk vary substantially in terms of input requirements, skill needs, production costs, and market prices. Focusing on two silk types—mulberry and tussar—we analyze (i) farmers’ crop choices and production quantity decisions and (ii) the firm’s optimal procurement prices when farmers face a shared water-resource constraint. Cultivation of mulberry requires a certain level of skill; therefore, only high-skill farmers can produce it, whereas tussar can be produced by both high- and low-skill farmers. Consequently, low-skill farmers must decide whether to upgrade their skills to cultivate mulberry. Equilibrium outcomes are established using the results developed in Chapter 3 for GNEPU. Our main findings indicate that farmers prefer selling to the firm when water resources are scarce, whereas they sell directly in the open market when resources are abundant. Interestingly, skill upgrading is beneficial only when resources are limited; under high resource availability, increasing skill does not affect equilibrium outcomes.

Our modeling framework is not limited to the agriculture and sericulture sectors. Generalized Nash equilibrium problems under uncertainty (GNEPU) and shared-constraint cooperative games under uncertainty (SCGU) arise in a variety of real-world settings. For instance, fishermen may decide harvest levels without precise knowledge of fish stock, while fishing cooperatives determine collective catch decisions. Another important application is in pollution control, where industries or countries choose production levels while facing shared environmental constraints. Many other applications can be studied within this framework. We believe that our results can assist practitioners and policymakers dealing with similar resource-sharing and uncertainty-driven decision environments.

Keywords: Shared constraint games, generalized Nash equilibrium, tragedy of the commons, cooperative games with shared resources, sericulture.

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yield parameters and their skill levels. Second, the skill differential between high- and low-skill farmers affects equilibrium profits only when water is scarce; when water is abundant, skill differences do not influence equilibrium outcomes. We also find that social welfare—defined as the sum of farmers' profits, the firm's profit, and consumer surplus—initially increases with water availability but declines beyond a threshold level, primarily because the firm's profit decreases as water availability rises. Finally, when water resources are scarce, farmers prefer selling directly in the open market at higher prices, whereas when water availability is sufficient, selling to the firm becomes more beneficial.

We believe that the theoretical and applied results on shared-constraint games developed in this thesis will open several avenues for further research and find applications across multiple fields.

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