

# STACKELBERG MEAN-PAYOFF GAMES WITH A RATIONALLY BOUNDED ADVERSARIAL FOLLOWER

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# Stackelberg Games

Two (types of) Players:

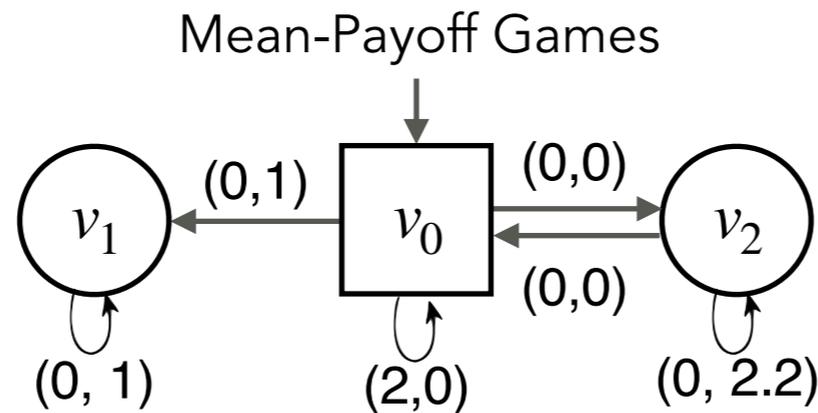
Leader



Follower



Game:



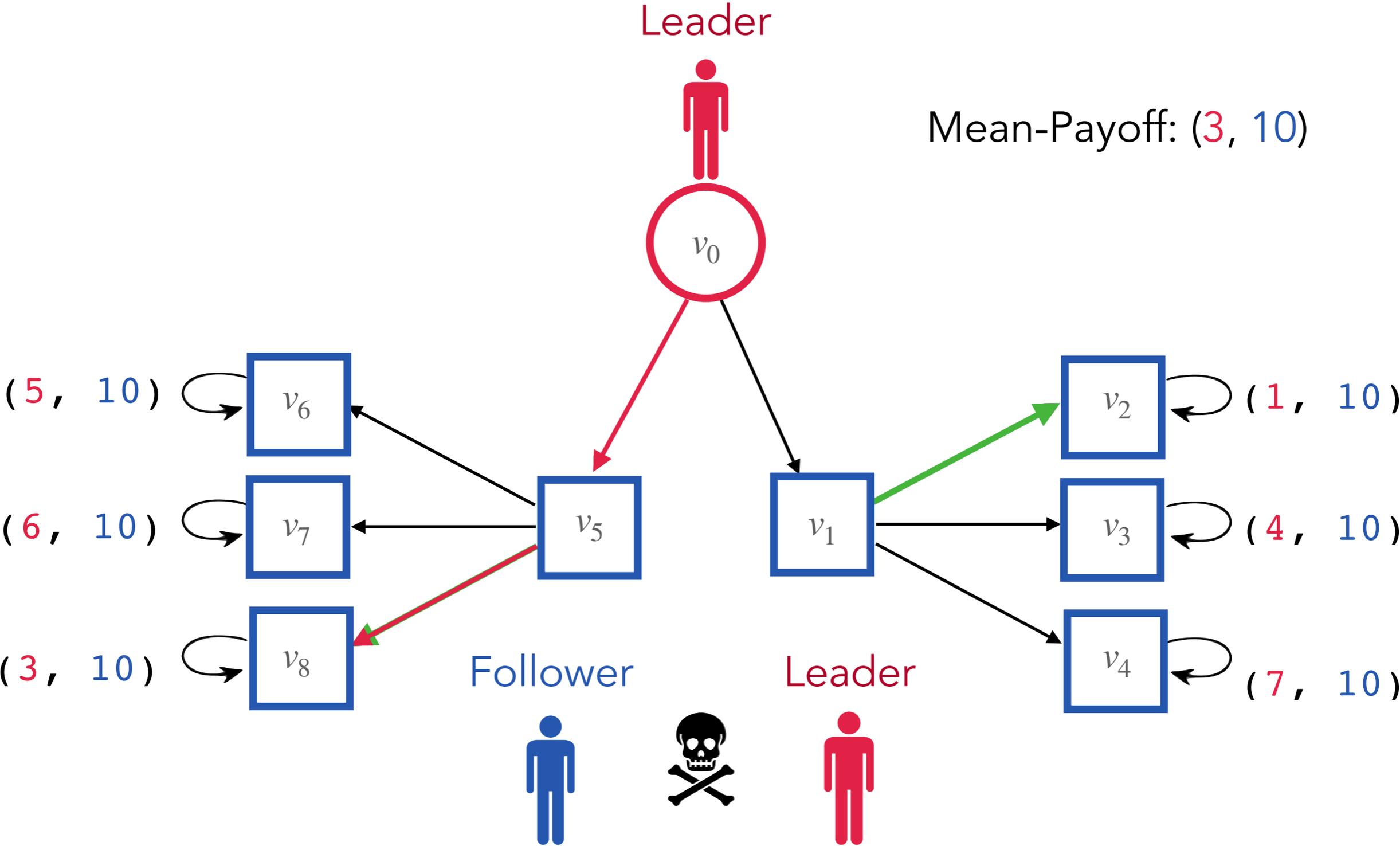
Bi-Matrix Games

	I	II
I	(1,4)	(4,2)
II	(1,3)	(3,5)

Sequential Move:

1. Leader announces her strategy
2. Follower announces his response to leader's strategy

# Cooperative vs Adversarial



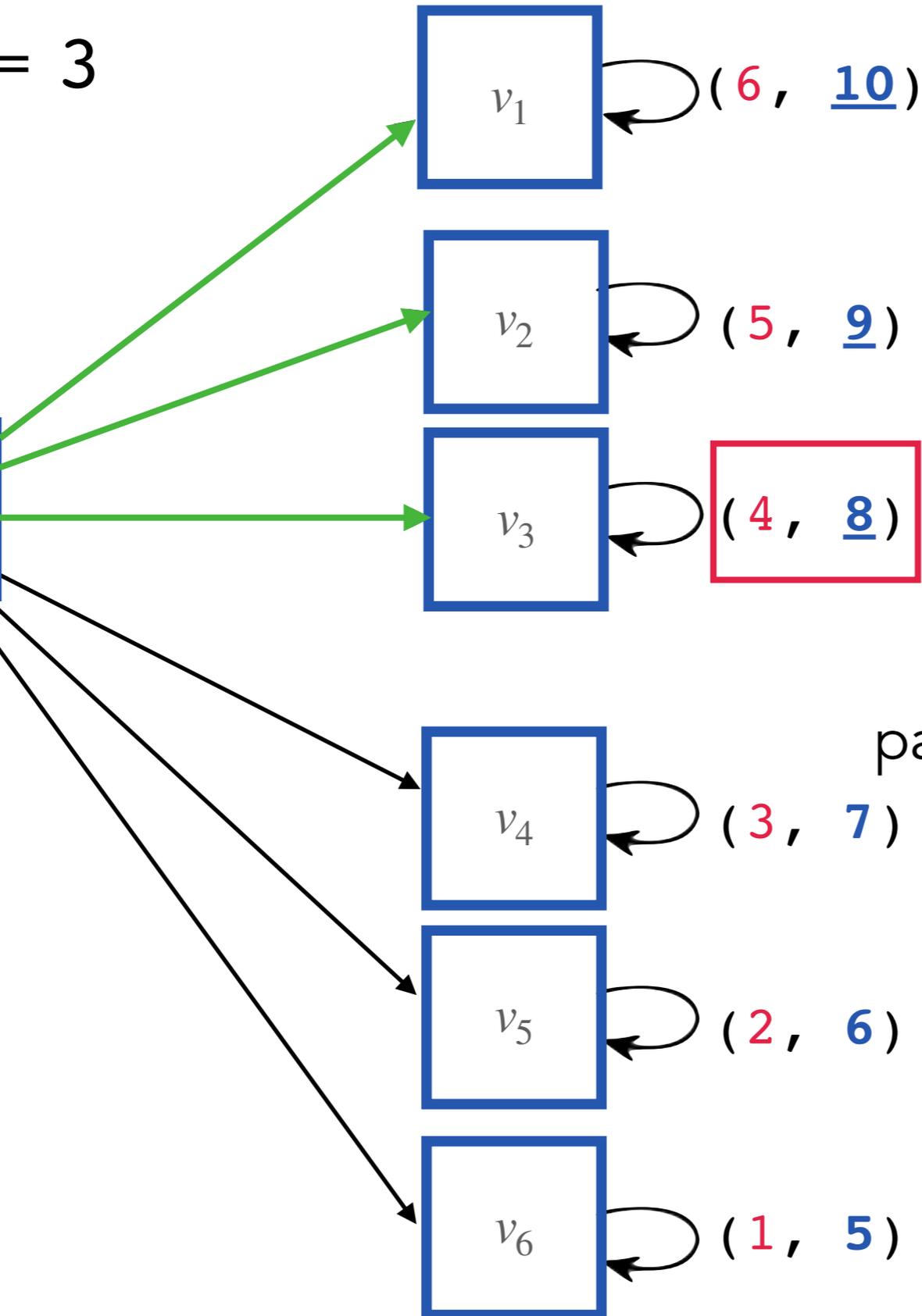
In the adversarial setting, Follower chooses Best-Response which minimises payoff of Leader

# Epsilon-Optimal Best Response

( Best response may not exist: Filiot, Gentilini and Raskin - IICALP 2020 )

epsilon = 3

Follower



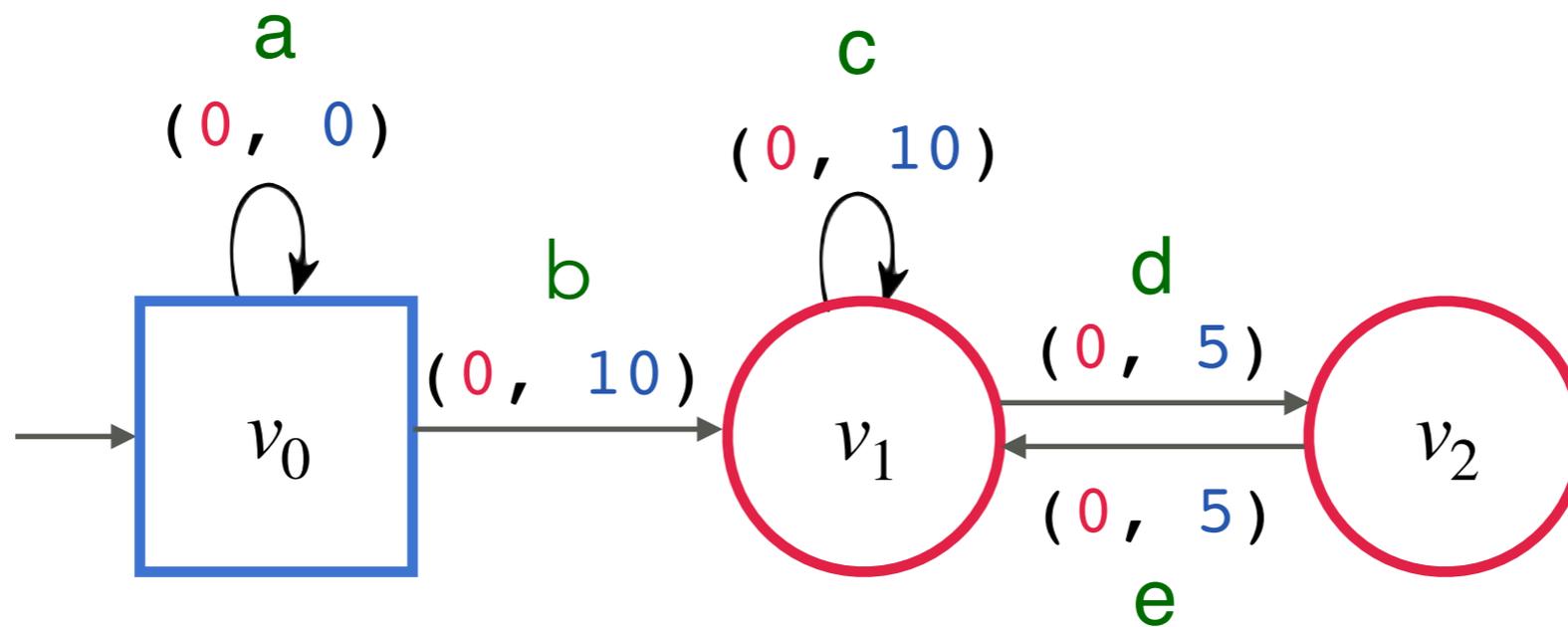
← Best Payoff

Player 1 can choose any strategy that gives him a payoff  $> (\text{best payoff}) - \text{epsilon}$

$> 10 - 3$

# Epsilon-Best Responses Always Exist

( Filiot, Gentilini and Raskin - IICALP 2020 )



Leader strategy: If  $a^k b$ , then  $(c^k d e)^\omega$

Follower strategy: For  $\epsilon = 0.1$ , play  $a^{1000} b$

For  $\epsilon = 0.001$ , play  $a^{100000} b$

Follower is adversarial, bounded rational,  
i.e. chooses the epsilon-optimal best  
response  
 $\epsilon$  is fixed

# Epsilon-Optimal Adversarial Stackelberg Value ( $\mathbf{ASV}^\epsilon$ )

$\mathbf{ASV}^\epsilon$  is the largest mean-payoff value the **Leader** can obtain when the **Follower** plays an **adversarial epsilon-best** response.

$$\mathbf{ASV}^\epsilon(\sigma_0)(v) = \inf_{\sigma_1 \in \mathbf{BR}^\epsilon(\sigma_0)} \text{Mean-Payoff}_0 [\text{Outcome}(\sigma_0, \sigma_1)]$$

$$\mathbf{ASV}^\epsilon(v) = \sup_{\sigma_0} \mathbf{ASV}^\epsilon(\sigma_0)(v)$$

$\sigma_0$  : **Leader** Strategy

$\sigma_1$  : **Follower** Strategy

$\mathbf{BR}^\epsilon(\sigma_0)$  : Epsilon-Best Response of **Follower** to **Leader's** strategy  $\sigma_0$

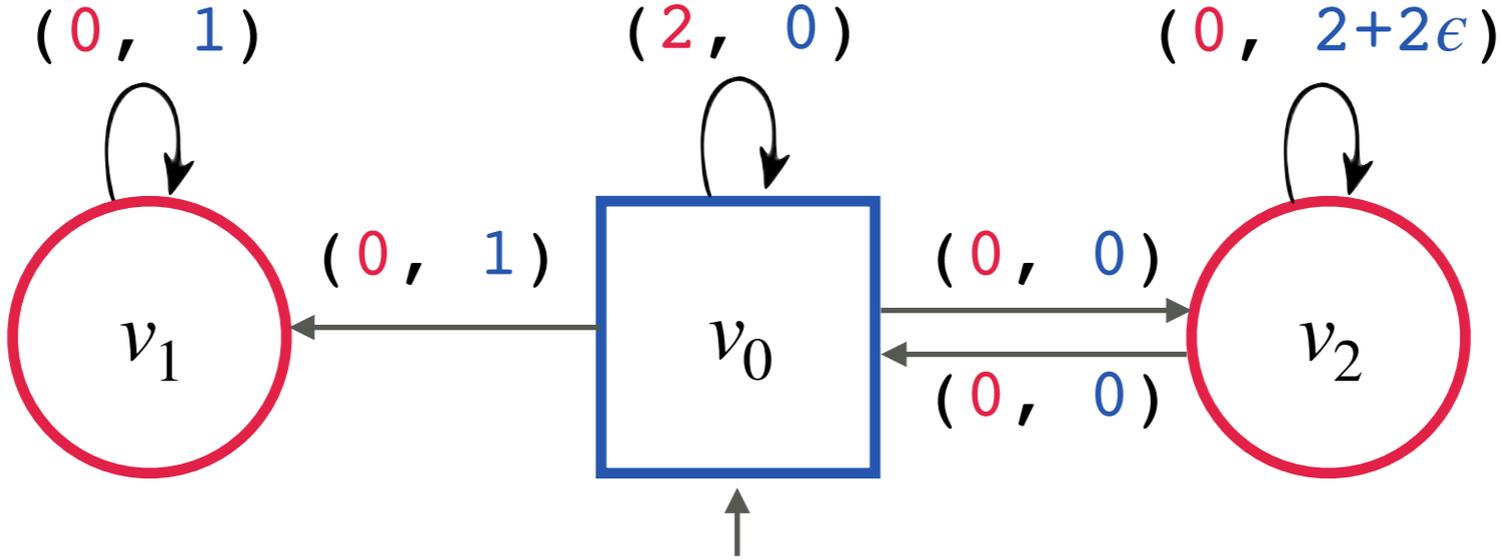
## RESULT 1:

**ASV<sup>ε</sup>** is always achievable

There exists a **Leader** Strategy  $\sigma_0$  such that

$$\mathbf{ASV}^\epsilon(v) = \mathbf{ASV}^\epsilon(\sigma_0)(v)$$

# Infinite Memory Required for Leader



Leader strategy:  
(Finite Memory)

$$\left( (v_0 \rightarrow v_0)^k (v_0 \rightarrow v_2) \cdot (v_2 \rightarrow v_2)^k (v_2 \rightarrow v_0) \right)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$$

If any deviation, then play  $v_2 \rightarrow v_0$

The effects of edges (0, 0) become non-negligible and decrease Leader's mean-payoff

$$\mathbf{ASV}^\epsilon(\text{Leader Strategy})(v_0) = 1$$

## RESULT 2:

Infinite memory might be required for **Leader** strategies to achieve the  $ASV^\epsilon$

## RESULT 3:

Infinite memory might be required for the  
**Follower** to play an  
epsilon-optimal best-response

# Threshold Problem:

Is  $ASV^\epsilon(v) > c$ ?

# Witnesses and Bad Vertices

$$\Lambda^\epsilon(v) = \left\{ (c, d) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{From vertex } v, \text{ the Follower can ensure that} \\ \text{Leader's payoff} \leq c \text{ and Follower's payoff} > d - \epsilon \end{array} \right\}$$

A vertex  $v$  is  $(c, d)^\epsilon$ -bad if  $(c, d) \in \Lambda^\epsilon(v)$

A path  $\pi$  starting from  $v$  is a **witness** for  $\mathbf{ASV}^\epsilon(v) > c$  if Mean-Payoff of  $\pi$  is  $(c', d)$ , where  $c' > c$  and  $\pi$  does not cross a  $(c, d)^\epsilon$ -bad vertex.

## RESULT 4:

$ASV^\epsilon(v) > c$  if and only if  
there exists a witness

## RESULT 6:

We can guess  
a regular-witness  
in NP-Time

# Results

- Results in our work
- Results by Filiot, Gentilini and Raskin, ICALP'20

	Threshold Problem	Computing ASV	Achievability
General Case	NP-Time Finite Memory Strategy	Theory of Reals	No
Fixed Epsilon	NP-Time Finite Memory Strategy	Theory of Reals/ Solving LP in EXPTIME	Yes (Requires Infinite Memory)

Stackelberg Mean-payoff Games with a Rationally Bounded Adversarial Follower: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.07209>