

## A subsolution for TU games

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### 1. Introduction and Preliminaries

In this paper we consider a subset of the imputation set for cooperative TU games, and examine its properties.

An  $n$ -person cooperative game with side payments (abbreviated as a *game*) is an ordered pair  $(N, v)$ , where  $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  is the set of *players* and  $v$ , called the *characteristic function*, is a real-valued function on the power set of  $N$ , satisfying  $v(\emptyset) = 0$ . For simplicity we express a game  $(N, v)$  as  $v$ . A subset of  $N$  is called a *coalition*. For any set  $Z$ ,  $|Z|$  denotes the cardinality of  $Z$ . For  $S \subseteq N$  and  $x \in \mathbf{R}^N$ , we define  $x(S) = \sum_{i \in S} x_i$  (if  $S \neq \emptyset$ ) and  $= 0$  (if  $S = \emptyset$ ). A *pre-imputation* for a game  $v$  is a vector  $x \in \mathbf{R}^N$  that satisfies

$$x(N) = v(N). \quad (1.1)$$

We denote by  $\mathcal{PI} \equiv \mathcal{PI}(v)$  the set of all pre-imputations for a game  $v$ . A pre-imputation  $x \in \mathcal{PI}$  is said to be *individually rational* if<sup>1</sup>

$$x_i \geq v(i), \quad \forall i \in N. \quad (1.2)$$

An individually rational pre-imputation is called an *imputation*. We denote by  $\mathcal{I} \equiv \mathcal{I}(v)$  the set of all imputations for a game  $v$ , which we call the imputation set. A pre-imputation  $x \in \mathcal{PI}$  is said to be *reasonable* if

$$x_i \leq u_i, \quad \forall i \in N, \quad (1.3)$$

where  $u_i \equiv u_i(v) \equiv \max_{i \in S} \{v(S) - v(S \setminus \{i\})\}$  for all  $i \in N$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{R} \equiv \mathcal{R}(v)$  the set of all reasonable pre-imputations for a game  $v$ . For  $x, y \in \mathcal{I}$  and for a coalition  $S \subset N$ , we say that  $x$  dominates  $y$  via  $S$ , denoted by  $x \succ_S y$ , if

$$\begin{cases} \text{(i) } x_i > y_i, & \forall i \in S, \\ \text{(ii) } x(S) \leq v(S). \end{cases} \quad (1.4)$$

For  $x, y \in \mathcal{I}$ , we say that  $x$  dominates  $y$ , denoted by  $x \succ y$ , if there is an  $S$  such that  $x$

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<sup>1</sup>For simplicity, we write  $v(\{i\}), v(\{i, j\})$  as  $v(i), v(ij)$ .

dominates  $y$  via  $S$ . For  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{I}$ , we denote by  $\text{Dom } \mathcal{X}$  the set of all imputations dominated by some element of  $\mathcal{X}$ . A set of imputations  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{I}$  is called a *stable set* if it satisfies

$$\begin{cases} \text{(i) } \mathcal{X} \cap \text{Dom } \mathcal{X} = \emptyset & \text{(internal stability) ,} \\ \text{(ii) } \mathcal{X} \cup \text{Dom } \mathcal{X} = \mathcal{I} & \text{(external stability) .} \end{cases} \quad (1.5)$$

The *core* of a game  $v$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{C} \equiv \mathcal{C}(v)$ , is defined by

$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom } \mathcal{I}. \quad (1.6)$$

## 2. A Subsolution

In this section we define a subset  $\mathcal{Q}$  of the imputation set and examine properties of it. We assume that for every game in this section the imputation set is not empty,  $\mathcal{I}(v) \neq \emptyset$ , that is,

$$v(N) \geq \sum_{i \in N} v(i). \quad (2.1)$$

**Definition.** A set  $\mathcal{Q} \equiv \mathcal{Q}(v) \subseteq \mathcal{I}$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{Q} \equiv \{x \in \mathcal{I} : \forall y \in \mathcal{I} \text{ s.t. } y \succ x, \exists z \in \mathcal{I} \text{ s.t. } z \succ y \text{ and } z \neq x\}.$$

**Remark.** Let

$$\mathcal{Q}' \equiv \{x \in \mathcal{I} : \forall y \in \mathcal{I} \text{ s.t. } y \succ x, \exists z \in \mathcal{I} \text{ s.t. } z \succ y\}.$$

If  $\mathcal{C} = \emptyset$  then  $\mathcal{I} = \text{Dom } \mathcal{I}$ . And so  $\mathcal{Q}' = \mathcal{I}$ .

Hereafter we fix a game  $(N, v)$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** For a game  $v$ , let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a stable set. Then  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$ .

**Proof:** Let  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and suppose  $y \succ x$  where  $y \in \mathcal{I}$ . By the internal stability, we have  $y \notin \mathcal{X}$ , and so by the external stability, there exists  $z \in \mathcal{X}$  such that  $z \succ y$ . By the internal stability,  $z \neq x$ . Hence  $x \in \mathcal{Q}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.2.** For a game  $v$ , it holds  $\mathcal{Q} \subseteq \mathcal{R}$ .

**Proof:** Let  $x \in \mathcal{Q}$  and assume  $x \notin \mathcal{R}$ . There exists  $i \in N$  such that  $x_i > u_i$ . This implies  $x_i > v(N) - v(N \setminus \{i\})$ , which implies  $x(N \setminus \{i\}) < v(N \setminus \{i\})$ . Hence we can take  $y \in \mathcal{I}$  such that  $y \succ x$  via  $N \setminus \{i\}$  and  $y_i \geq u_i$ . Since  $x \in \mathcal{Q}$ , there exists  $z \in \mathcal{I}$  such that  $z \succ y$  via a coalition  $S$  and  $z \neq x$ . If  $i \notin S$  then  $z \succ x$  via  $S$ , which is a contradiction. If  $z(S \setminus i) \leq v(S \setminus i)$  then  $z \succ x$  via  $S \setminus \{i\}$ , which is a contradiction. So we must have  $i \in S$  and  $z(S \setminus \{i\}) > v(S \setminus \{i\})$ . Then  $y_i < z_i = z(S) - z(S \setminus \{i\}) < v(S) - v(S \setminus \{i\}) \leq u_i$ , which is a contradiction.  $\square$

From this proposition we see that if  $v(S \cup \{i\}) = v(S) + v(i)$  for all  $S : i \notin S$  and  $x \in \mathcal{Q}$  then it must hold  $x_i = v(i)$  since  $u_i = v(i)$ .

**Proposition 2.3.** For a game  $v$ , it holds  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{Q} \subseteq \mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom}\mathcal{C}$ .

**Proof:** By Proposition 2.1, we have  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$ . If  $x \in \text{Dom}\mathcal{C}$ , then there exists  $y \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $y \succ x$  and  $y \notin \text{Dom}\mathcal{I}$ . Hence  $x \in \mathcal{Q}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.4.** For a game  $v$ , the core  $\mathcal{C}$  is a stable set if and only if  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{Q}$ .

**Proof:** Assume that  $\mathcal{C}$  is a stable set. By Proposition 2.3, we have  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$ . Let  $x \in \mathcal{Q} \setminus \mathcal{C}$ . Since  $\mathcal{C}$  is a stable set, by the external stability there exists  $y \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $y \succ x$ . But there exists no imputation which dominates  $y$  because  $y$  is in the core. This is a contradiction. Hence  $\mathcal{Q} \setminus \mathcal{C} = \emptyset$ .

Conversely assume  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{Q}$ . Since  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{X}$  for any stable set  $\mathcal{X}$ , we have  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  from Proposition 2.1. Hence  $\mathcal{C}$  is a unique stable set.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.5.** Suppose  $(N, v)$  is symmetric, that is,  $v$  depends on only the number of members in a coalition. For every  $S \subseteq N$ , let  $v(s) = v(S)$  where  $s = |S|$ . Assume  $v(1) = 0$ . Then

$$x^* \equiv \left( \frac{v(n)}{n}, \dots, \frac{v(n)}{n} \right) \in \mathcal{Q}.$$

**Proof:** Suppose  $y \succ x^*$  via  $S$  and  $y \not\succeq x^*$  via every  $T$  such that  $T \subset S, T \neq S$ . Then

$$y_j > \frac{v(n)}{n}, \forall j \in S, \quad y(S) \leq v(S), \quad \text{and} \quad y(T) > v(T), \forall T \subset S, T \neq S.$$

Then

$$v(n) = y(N) = y(N \setminus S) + y(S) > y(N \setminus S) + \frac{|S|}{n}v(n).$$

This implies  $\frac{n-|S|}{n}v(n) > y(N \setminus S)$ , and so there exists  $i \in N \setminus S$  such that  $y_i < \frac{v(n)}{n}$ . For some  $j_0 \in S$ , let  $S^0 = (S \setminus \{j_0\}) \cup \{i\}$ . Define  $z \in \mathcal{PI}$  by

$$z_j = \begin{cases} y_j + \epsilon, & j \in S^0 = (S \setminus \{j_0\}) \cup \{i\}; \\ \frac{v(n)}{n} - \delta, & j \in N \setminus S^0. \end{cases}$$

Then  $y(S^0) < y(S) \leq v(S) = v(S^0)$ , and so for sufficiently small  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have

$$z(S^0) = y(S^0) + \epsilon|S^0| \leq v(S^0), \quad z_j > y_j, \forall j \in S^0.$$

Hence  $z \succ y$  via  $S^0$ , and  $z \not\succeq x^*$  since  $z_i = y_i + \epsilon \leq \frac{v(n)}{n}$  and  $z(T) = y(T) + \epsilon|T| > y(T) > v(T)$  for every  $T \subset S^0 \setminus \{j_0\}$ . It remains to see that it is possible to find  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that  $z \in \mathcal{I}$  and  $z(S^0) \leq v(S^0)$ .  $z(N) = v(n)$  if and only if

$$y(S^0 \setminus \{i\}) - \frac{|S^0| - 1}{n}v(n) + \epsilon|S^0| = \frac{v(n)}{n} - y_i + \delta(n - |S^0|). \quad (2.2)$$

$0 < \delta \leq \frac{v(n)}{n}$  if and only if

$$\frac{v(n)}{n} - \frac{y(S^0)}{|S^0|} < \epsilon \leq \frac{v(n) - y(S^0)}{|S^0|}. \quad (2.3)$$

$z(S^0) \leq v(S^0)$  if and only if

$$\epsilon \leq \frac{v(S^0) - y(S^0)}{|S^0|}. \quad (2.4)$$

Since  $x^*(S) < y(S) \leq v(S) = v(S^0)$ , we have  $\frac{v(n)}{n} < \frac{v(S^0)}{|S^0|}$ . Hence there exist  $\epsilon$  and  $\delta$  which satisfy (2.2) – (2.4).  $\square$

Proposition 2.5 implies that  $\mathcal{Q} \neq \emptyset$  when  $v$  is symmetric.

**Definition.** (Roth (1976)) A set  $\mathcal{Y} \subseteq \mathcal{I}$  is called a *subsolution* if

$$\begin{cases} (i) \mathcal{Y} \subseteq \mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom}\mathcal{Y}, & \text{(internal stability)} \\ (ii) \mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom}(\mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom}\mathcal{Y}). \end{cases}$$

**Proposition 2.6.** Let  $\mathcal{Y}$  be a subsolution. Then  $\mathcal{Y} \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\mathcal{Y}$  be a subsolution and suppose  $x \in \mathcal{Y}$ . For any  $y \in \mathcal{I}$  such that  $y \succ x$ , it holds  $y \notin \mathcal{Y}$  since  $\mathcal{Y}$  is internally stable. So  $y \notin \mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom}(\mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom}\mathcal{Y})$  by the definition of subsolution. Hence  $y \in \text{Dom}(\mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom}\mathcal{Y})$ . This implies that there exists  $z \in \mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom}\mathcal{Y}$  such that  $z \succ y$ . Since  $x \notin \text{Dom}(\mathcal{I} \setminus \text{Dom}\mathcal{Y})$ , it holds that  $z \not\succeq x$ . Hence  $x \in \mathcal{Q}$ .  $\square$

The next example says that the set  $\mathcal{Q}$  is different from the union of all stable sets. A remaining problem is whether the set  $\mathcal{Q}$  coincides or not with the union of all stable sets when there exists a stable set.

**Example 2.1.** The 10-Person Game (Lucas (1969)). Let us consider the 10-person game:

$$\begin{aligned} v(N) &= 5, v(13579) = 4, v(3579) = v(1579) = v(1379) = 3, \\ v(1479) &= v(3679) = v(2579) = 2, v(357) = v(157) = v(137) = 2, \\ v(359) &= v(159) = v(139) = 2, v(12) = v(34) = v(56) = v(78) = v(90) = 1, \\ v(i) &= 0 \quad \forall i \in N \end{aligned}$$

and, for other  $S$ ,  $v(S) = 0$ . Let

$$\mathcal{B} = \{x \in \mathcal{I} : x(12) = x(34) = x(56) = x(78) = x(90) = 1, \quad x_i \geq 0, \forall i \in N\}.$$

It is easy to check that the core  $\mathcal{C}$  of this game is :

$$\mathcal{C} = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x(13579) \geq 4\}.$$

Define the following subsets of  $\mathcal{B}$  :

$$\mathcal{E}_1 = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x_3 = x_5 = 1, x_1 < 1, x(79) < 1\},$$

$$\mathcal{E}_3 = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x_5 = x_1 = 1, x_3 < 1, x(79) < 1\},$$

$$\mathcal{E}_5 = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x_1 = x_3 = 1, x_5 < 1, x(79) < 1\},$$

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_1 \cup \mathcal{E}_2 \cup \mathcal{E}_3,$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{35} = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x(35) = 1, x_1 < 1, x(79) \geq 1\} \setminus \mathcal{C},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{51} = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x(15) = 1, x_3 < 1, x(79) \geq 1\} \setminus \mathcal{C},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{13} = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x(13) = 1, x_5 < 1, x(79) \geq 1\} \setminus \mathcal{C},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_7 = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x_7 = 1, x_9 < 1, x(359) \geq 2, x(159) \geq 2, x(139) \geq 2\} \setminus \mathcal{C},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_9 = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x_9 = 1, x_7 < 1, x(357) \geq 2, x(157) \geq 2, x(137) \geq 2\} \setminus \mathcal{C},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{79} = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x_7 = x_9 = 1\} \setminus \mathcal{C},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{135} = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x_1 = x_3 = x_5 = 1\} \setminus \mathcal{C},$$

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_{13} \cup \mathcal{F}_{35} \cup \mathcal{F}_{51} \cup \mathcal{F}_7 \cup \mathcal{F}_9 \cup \mathcal{F}_{79} \cup \mathcal{F}_{135}.$$

It is well-known that

$$\mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{B}, \quad \mathcal{B} \setminus (\mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{F}), \quad \mathcal{C}, \quad \mathcal{E}, \quad \mathcal{F}$$

constitute a partition of  $\mathcal{I}$ . It is known that

$$\mathcal{I} \setminus (\mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{F}) \subset \text{Dom } \mathcal{C},$$

from which and from Proposition 2.3, we have  $\mathcal{Q} \subseteq \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{F}$ . It is known that the set  $\mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{F}$  is a subsolution, and so  $\mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$ . Let's see  $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathcal{Q}$ . Assume  $x \in \mathcal{E}_1$ . If  $y \succ x$  then  $y \notin \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{F}$  since  $\mathcal{E} \cap \text{Dom}(\mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{F}) = \emptyset$ . So  $y \in \mathcal{E} \cup \text{Dom } \mathcal{C}$ . Suppose  $y \in \text{Dom } \mathcal{C}$ . Then there exists  $z \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $z \succ y$ , but  $z \not\succeq x$  since  $\mathcal{E} \cap \text{Dom } \mathcal{C} = \emptyset$ . Hence  $x \in \mathcal{Q}$ . Suppose  $y \in \mathcal{E}$ . Then  $y \in \mathcal{E}_3 \cup \text{Dom } \mathcal{E}_5$ . There exists  $z \in \mathcal{E}_5$  such that  $z \succ y$ , but  $z \not\succeq x$  since  $\mathcal{E}_1 \cap \text{Dom}(\mathcal{E}_1 \cup \mathcal{E}_5) = \emptyset$ . Hence  $x \in \mathcal{Q}$ . So  $\mathcal{E}_1 \subset \mathcal{Q}$ . By permutation, we see  $\mathcal{E}_3 \cup \mathcal{E}_5 \subset \mathcal{Q}$ . Consequently we have that  $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{F}$ . Note that the set  $\mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{F}$  is a subsolution and it is the supercore<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup>See Roth (1976), esp. p.48.

The next example says that the set  $\mathcal{Q}$  is not always a convex set.

**Example 2.2.** (Lucas 1969) Let  $n = 8$  and

$$v(N) = 4, v(1467) = 2, v(12) = v(34) = v(56) = v(78) = 1$$

and  $v(S) = 0$  for all other  $S$ . Let

$$\mathcal{B} = \{x \in \mathcal{I} : x(12) = x(34) = x(56) = x(78) = 1\}.$$

For  $i = 1, 4, 6, 7$ , let

$$\mathcal{F}_i = \mathcal{B} \cap \{x \in \mathcal{I} : x_i = 1\}.$$

The core is

$$\mathcal{C} = \{x \in \mathcal{B} : x(1467) \geq 2\}.$$

It is known that

$$\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{F}_1 \cup \mathcal{F}_4 \cup \mathcal{F}_6 \cup \mathcal{F}_7$$

is a unique solution which is nonconvex. Let's see  $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{K}$ . It is known that  $\mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{B} \subseteq \text{Dom } \mathcal{C}$ , which implies  $\mathcal{Q} \subseteq \mathcal{B}$ . Let  $x \in \mathcal{B} \setminus \mathcal{K}$ . Then  $x(1467) < 2$  and  $x_i < 1$  for  $i = 1, 4, 6, 7$ . Define  $y \in \mathcal{B}$  by

$$x_i < y_i < 1, \text{ for } i = 1, 4, 6, 7, y(1467) = 2, \text{ and } y(i, i+1) = 1, \text{ for } i = 1, 2, 3, 4.$$

Then  $y \succ x$  via  $\{1, 4, 6, 7\}$  and  $y \in \mathcal{C}$ . So  $x \in \text{Dom } \mathcal{C}$  and  $x \notin \mathcal{Q}$ . Hence  $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{K}$ .

### 3. A Subsolution and the Nucleolus

In this section we examine an inclusion relation between the nucleolus and the  $\mathcal{Q}$ .

Let  $v$  be a game. For  $x \in \mathcal{I}(v)$  let  $\theta(x)$  be the  $2^n$ -vector whose components are the numbers  $e(S, x)$ ,  $S \subseteq N$ , arranged in nonincreasing order, i.e.,  $\theta(x)_i \geq \theta(x)_j$  whenever  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2^n$ . We say that  $\theta(x)$  is lexicographically smaller than  $\theta(y)$ , denoted  $\theta(x) <_L \theta(y)$ , if and only if there is an index  $k$  such that  $\theta(x)_i = \theta(y)_i$  for all  $i < k$ , and  $\theta(x)_k < \theta(y)_k$ . We write  $\theta(x) \leq_L \theta(y)$  for not  $\theta(y) <_L \theta(x)$ . The *nucleolus* for  $v$  is the set  $\mathcal{N}$  of vectors in  $\mathcal{I}$  that minimizes  $\theta$  in the lexicographic ordering, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{N} = \{x \in \mathcal{I} : \theta(x) \leq_L \theta(y) \text{ for all } y \in \mathcal{I}\}.$$

It is known that the nucleolus is included in the core whenever the core is non-empty. So the nucleolus is included in the set  $\mathcal{Q}$  by Proposition 2.3 whenever the core is non-empty. Since the nucleolus satisfies the symmetry, Proposition 2.5 implies that the nucleolus is included in the set  $\mathcal{Q}$  when the game is symmetric.

**Proposition 3.1.** Assume  $v(S) = 0$  for  $S$  such that  $|S| \leq n - 2$ . The nucleolus  $\mathcal{N}$  is included in the set  $\mathcal{Q}$ .

**Proof:** If  $\mathcal{C} \neq \emptyset$  it holds  $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$  by Proposition 2.3 since it is known that  $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ . Assume that  $\mathcal{C} = \emptyset$ . Let  $\mathcal{N} = \{x^*\}$ . Without loss of generality assume

$$e(N \setminus \{1\}, x^*) \geq \dots \geq e(N \setminus \{n\}, x^*).$$

Since  $x^* \notin \mathcal{C}$  there exists  $y \in \mathcal{I}$  such that  $y \succ x^*$  via  $N \setminus \{i\}$  for  $i \in N$ . Then

$$\begin{cases} e(N \setminus \{j\}, y) > e(N \setminus \{1\}, x^*), & \forall j \neq i; \\ e(N \setminus \{i\}, x^*) > e(N \setminus \{i\}, y) \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

Assume  $i \geq 2$ . Define  $z \in \mathcal{I}$  by

$$e(N \setminus \{j\}, z) = \begin{cases} e(N \setminus \{j\}, y) + \epsilon, & j \neq 1; \\ e(N \setminus \{j\}, x^*) - (n - 1)\epsilon, & j = 1, \end{cases}$$

so that  $e(N \setminus \{1\}, x^*) - (n - 1)\epsilon \geq 0$  and  $e(N \setminus \{i\}, y) + \epsilon \leq e(N \setminus \{i\}, x^*)$ . That is,

$$0 < \epsilon \leq \min\left\{\frac{e(N \setminus \{1\}, x^*)}{n - 1}, e(N \setminus \{i\}, x^*) - e(N \setminus \{i\}, y)\right\}.$$

We have  $z \succ y$  via  $N \setminus \{1\}$ . In order for  $z$  to dominate  $x^*$ , it must dominate only via  $N \setminus \{1\}$ . This is impossible because  $e(N \setminus \{i\}, z) \leq e(N \setminus \{i\}, x^*)$ . So  $z \not\succeq x^*$ .

Next assume  $i = 1$ . Assume  $e(N \setminus \{1\}, x^*) > e(N \setminus \{2\}, x^*)$ . Since the nucleolus satisfies, what is called, Property I<sup>3</sup>, we must have  $x_1^* = v(1) = 0$ . Then  $e(N \setminus \{1\}, x^*) > e(N \setminus \{1\}, y) \geq 0$ , which implies  $y_1 < 0$  contradicting  $y \in \mathcal{I}$ . Hence we have  $e(N \setminus \{1\}, x^*) = e(N \setminus \{2\}, x^*)$ . Exchange  $e(N \setminus \{2\}, x^*)$  with  $e(N \setminus \{1\}, x^*)$ . Then it reduces to the case  $i = 2$ .  $\square$

#### 4. Remarks

For 3-person games, by Proposition 3.1, the nucleolus is included in the set  $\mathcal{Q}$  and also the reader could see that the set  $\mathcal{Q}$  coincides with the union of all stable sets.

It is interesting to examine whether the nucleolus is included in the set  $\mathcal{Q}$  or not for broader classes of games.

<sup>3</sup>See, for example, pp.328-332 of Owen (1995).

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