

A Quadratic Speedup in Finding Nash Equilibria of Quantum Zero-Sum Games

[arXiv:2311.10859]

Francisca Vasconcelos*

UC Berkeley

Quantum Techniques in Machine Learning Conference 2023

November 21st, 2023

Joint work with:



Emmanouil Vlatakis-Gkaragkounis*

UC Berkeley



Panayotis Mertikopoulos

CNRS Grenoble



Georgios Piliouras

SUTD



Michael I. Jordan

UC Berkeley

Overview of Results

Overview of Results

- We propose a new algorithm (**Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates**) for finding approximate Nash equilibria of quantum zero-sum games.

Overview of Results

- We propose a new algorithm (**Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates**) for finding approximate Nash equilibria of quantum zero-sum games.
 - To do so we leverage a **gradient-based** view of QZSG.

Overview of Results

- We propose a new algorithm (**Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates**) for finding approximate Nash equilibria of quantum zero-sum games.
 - To do so we leverage a **gradient-based** view of QZSG.
 - This allows us to easily leverage optimization techniques from the **classical** games literature.

Overview of Results

- We propose a new algorithm (**Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates**) for finding approximate Nash equilibria of quantum zero-sum games.
 - To do so we leverage a **gradient-based** view of QZSG.
 - This allows us to easily leverage optimization techniques from the **classical** games literature.
- We prove that OMMWU achieves an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon)$ iteration complexity.

Overview of Results

- We propose a new algorithm (**Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates**) for finding approximate Nash equilibria of quantum zero-sum games.
 - To do so we leverage a **gradient-based** view of QZSG.
 - This allows us to easily leverage optimization techniques from the **classical** games literature.
- We prove that OMMWU achieves an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon)$ iteration complexity.
 - This is a **quadratic speedup** relative to the best prior algorithm [JW09].

Overview of Results

- We propose a new algorithm (**Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates**) for finding approximate Nash equilibria of quantum zero-sum games.
 - To do so we leverage a **gradient-based** view of QZSG.
 - This allows us to easily leverage optimization techniques from the **classical** games literature.
- We prove that OMMWU achieves an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon)$ iteration complexity.
 - This is a **quadratic speedup** relative to the best prior algorithm [JW09].
 - We leverage the proof technique of [EN20] for **monotone variational inequalities**.

Overview of Results

- We propose a new algorithm (**Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates**) for finding approximate Nash equilibria of quantum zero-sum games.
 - To do so we leverage a **gradient-based** view of QZSG.
 - This allows us to easily leverage optimization techniques from the **classical** games literature.
- We prove that OMMWU achieves an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon)$ iteration complexity.
 - This is a **quadratic speedup** relative to the best prior algorithm [JW09].
 - We leverage the proof technique of [EN20] for **monotone variational inequalities**.
- We further introduce a design framework for QZSG algorithms.

Overview of Results

- We propose a new algorithm (**Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates**) for finding approximate Nash equilibria of quantum zero-sum games.
 - To do so we leverage a **gradient-based** view of QZSG.
 - This allows us to easily leverage optimization techniques from the **classical** games literature.
- We prove that OMMWU achieves an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon)$ iteration complexity.
 - This is a **quadratic speedup** relative to the best prior algorithm [JW09].
 - We leverage the proof technique of [EN20] for **monotone variational inequalities**.
- We further introduce a design framework for QZSG algorithms.
 - We use this to **unify** the QZSG algorithms landscape and **motivate** OMMWU.

**A Quadratic Speedup in
Finding Nash Equilibria of
Quantum Zero-Sum Games**

What is a Quantum Zero-Sum Game (QZSG)?

What is a Quantum Zero-Sum Game (QZSG)?

- A **two-player** game

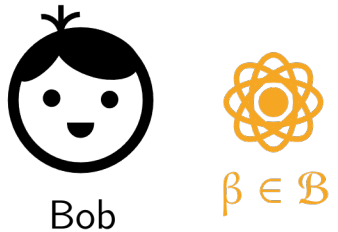
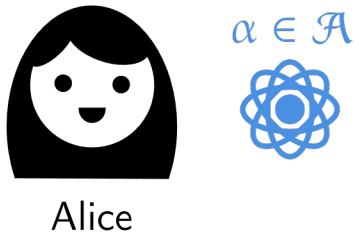


Alice



Bob

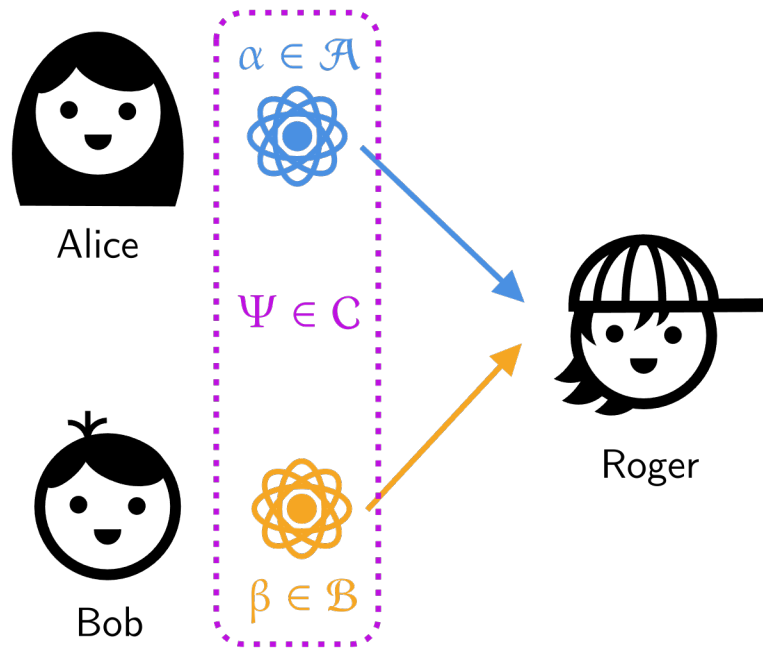
What is a Quantum Zero-Sum Game (QZSG)?



- A **two-player** game
- In each round, players play **unentangled** mixed states (**spectraplex**):

$$\alpha \in \mathcal{A} = \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}, \quad \beta \in \mathcal{B} = \mathbb{C}^{2^m \times 2^m}$$

What is a Quantum Zero-Sum Game (QZSG)?

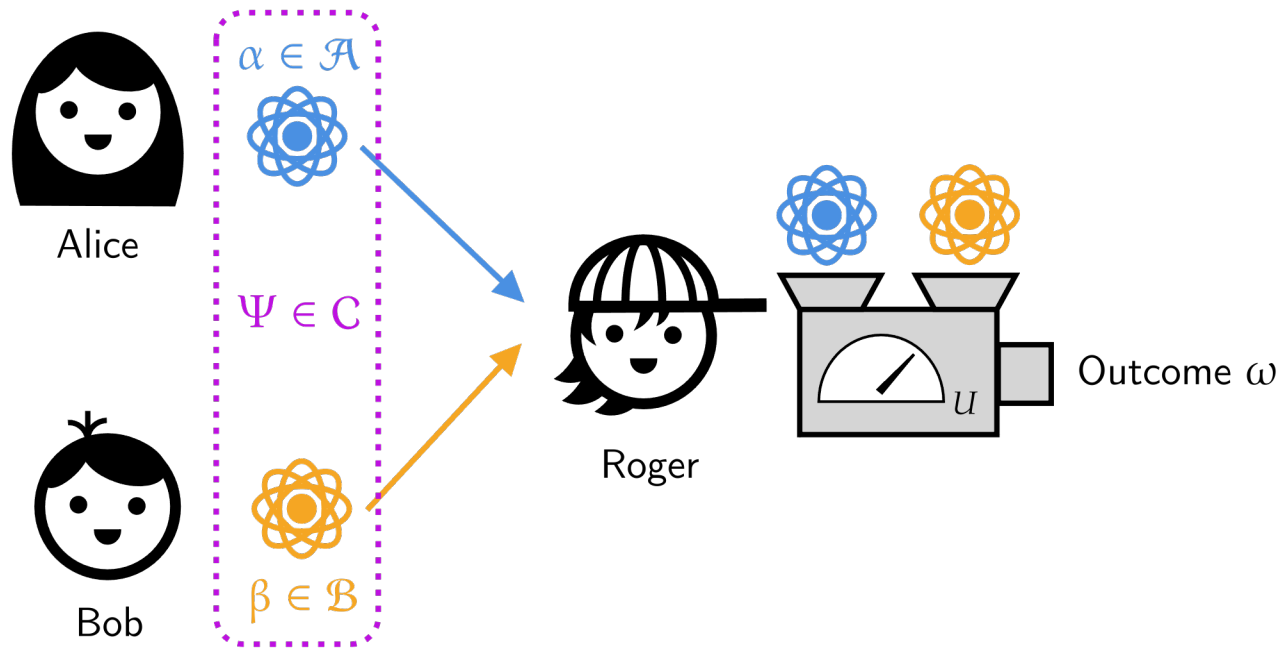


- A **two-player** game
- In each round, players play **unentangled** mixed states (**spectraplex**):

$$\alpha \in \mathcal{A} = \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}, \quad \beta \in \mathcal{B} = \mathbb{C}^{2^m \times 2^m}$$

- They send **joint state** $\Psi = (\alpha, \beta)$ to a referee

What is a Quantum Zero-Sum Game (QZSG)?



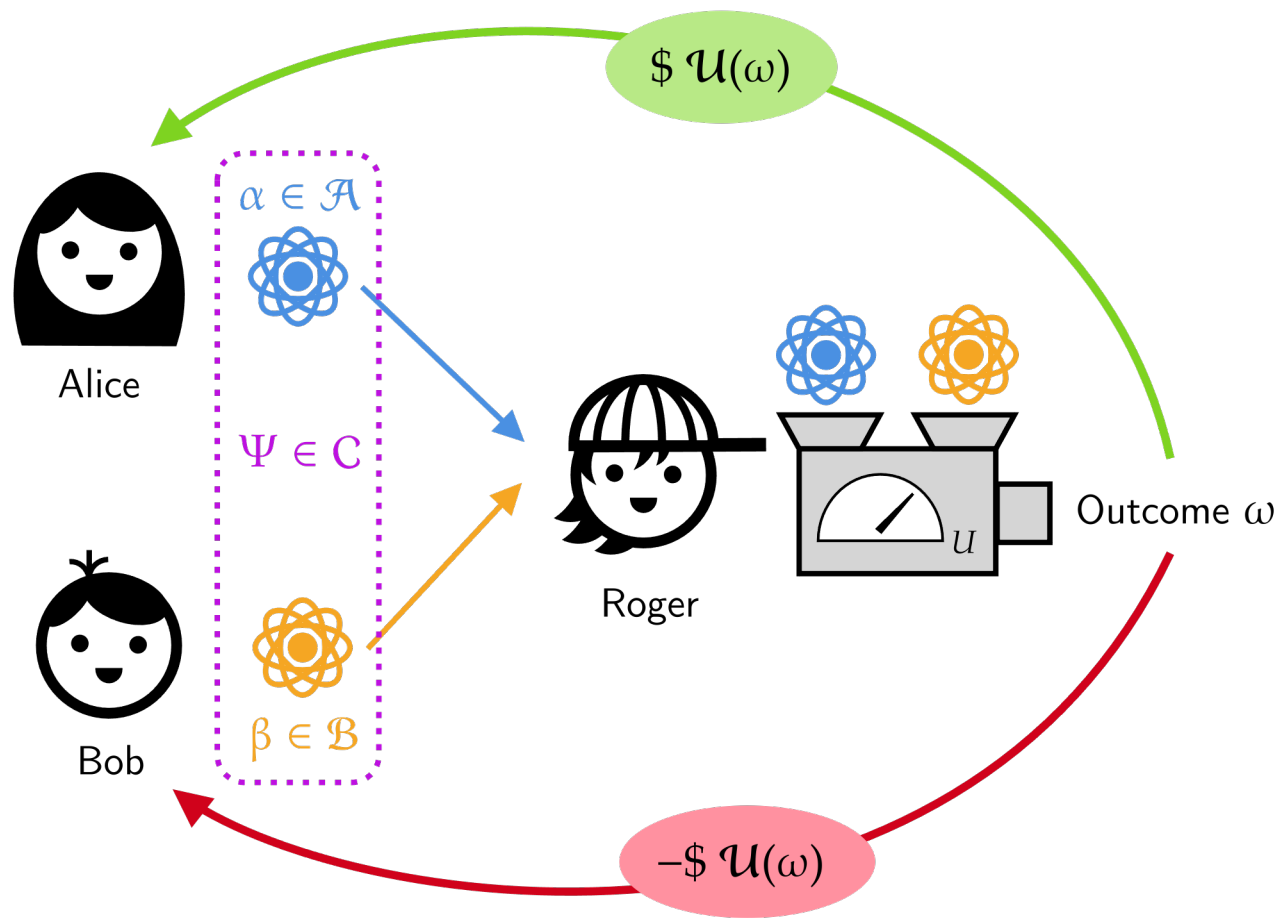
- A **two-player** game
- In each round, players play **unentangled** mixed states (**spectraplex**):

$$\alpha \in \mathcal{A} = \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}, \quad \beta \in \mathcal{B} = \mathbb{C}^{2^m \times 2^m}$$

- They send **joint state** $\Psi = (\alpha, \beta)$ to a referee
- The referee makes a **joint measurement** w.r.t. payoff observable:

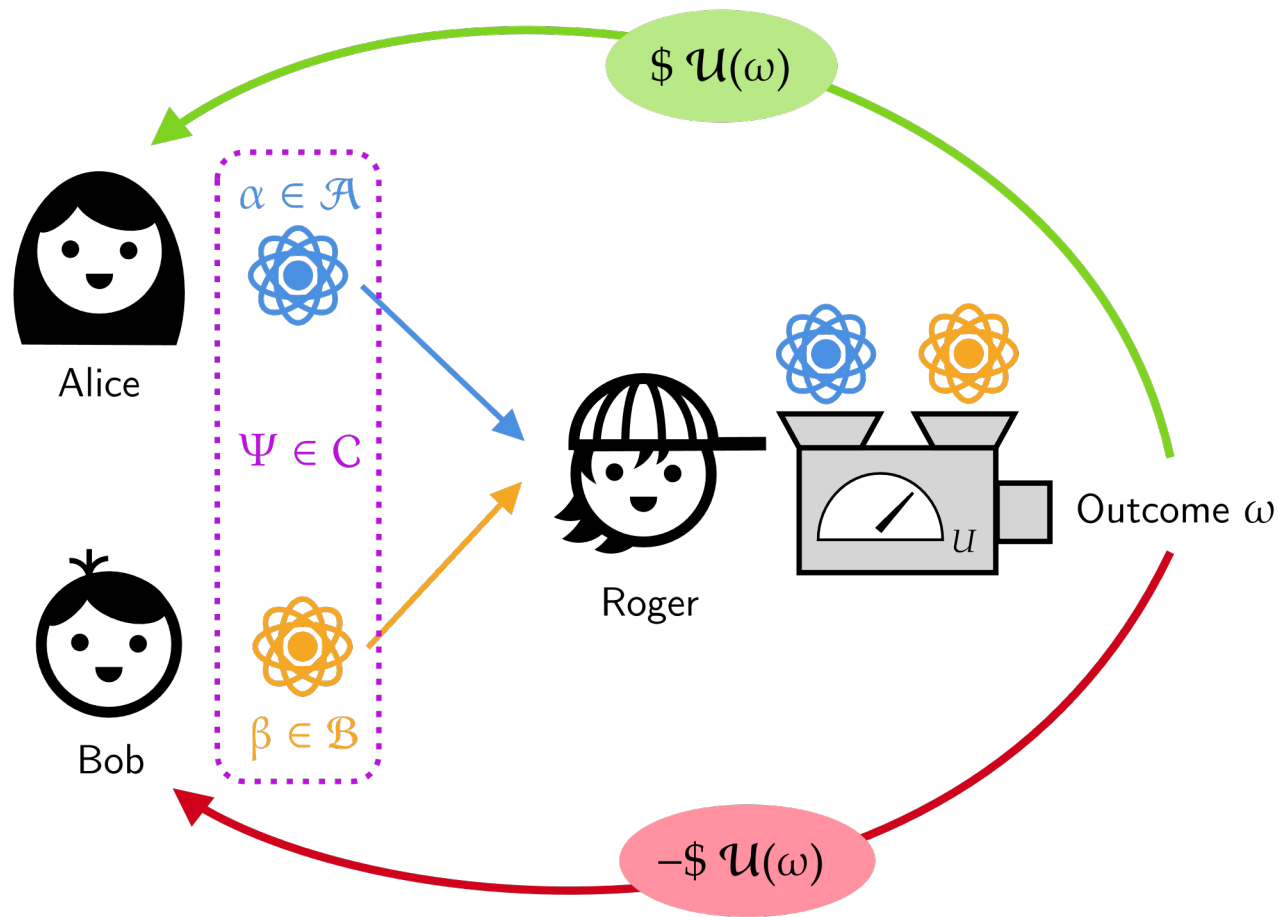
$$U = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} \mathcal{U}(\omega) P_{\omega}$$

What is a Quantum Zero-Sum Game (QZSG)?



- A **two-player** game
- In each round, players play **unentangled** mixed states (**spectraplex**):
$$\alpha \in \mathcal{A} = \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}, \quad \beta \in \mathcal{B} = \mathbb{C}^{2^m \times 2^m}$$
- They send **joint state** $\Psi = (\alpha, \beta)$ to a referee
- The referee makes a **joint measurement** w.r.t. payoff observable:
$$U = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} \mathcal{U}(\omega) P_{\omega}$$
- Based on the measurement outcome, the referee **rewards** the players

What is a Quantum Zero-Sum Game (QZSG)?



- A **two-player** game
- In each round, players play **unentangled** mixed states (**spectraplex**):

$$\alpha \in \mathcal{A} = \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}, \quad \beta \in \mathcal{B} = \mathbb{C}^{2^m \times 2^m}$$

- They send **joint state** $\Psi = (\alpha, \beta)$ to a referee
- The referee makes a **joint measurement** w.r.t. payoff observable:

$$U = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} \mathcal{U}(\omega) P_{\omega}$$

- Based on the measurement outcome, the referee **rewards** the players
 - **zero-sum** \Rightarrow one player's **win** is the other's **loss**

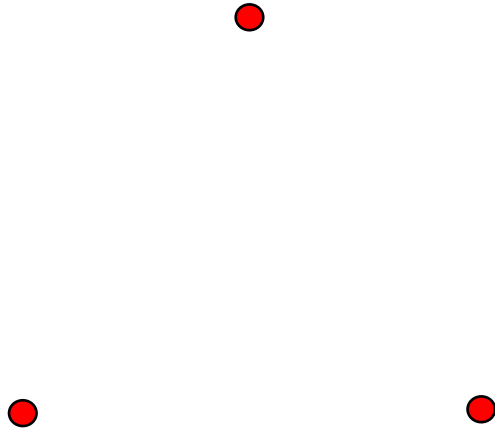
Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

- CZSG are played in the **simplex**

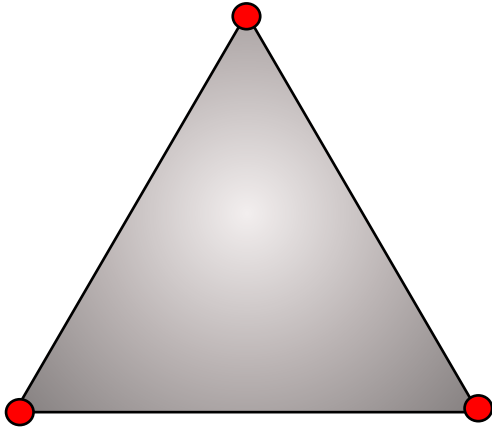
Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

- CZSG are played in the **simplex**:



Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

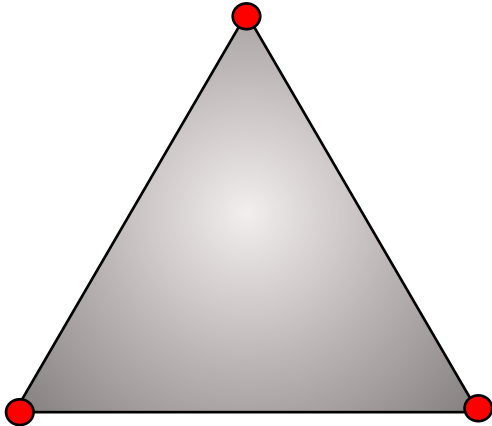
- CZSG are played in the **simplex**:



- Players play **indeterministic strategies**:
 - Probability vectors: $|\alpha\rangle, |\beta\rangle \in [0,1]^n$

Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

- CZSG are played in the **simplex**:

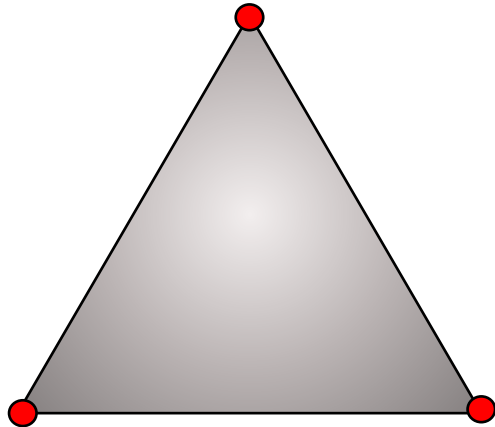


- Players play **indeterministic strategies**:
 - Probability vectors: $|\alpha\rangle, |\beta\rangle \in [0,1]^n$
- **Expected utility** for specific strategies:

$$u(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \beta | U | \alpha \rangle$$

Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

- CZSG are played in the **simplex**:



- QZSG are played in the **spectraplex**

- Players play **indeterministic strategies**:

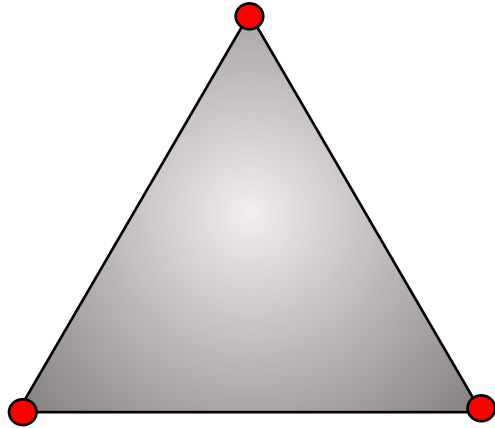
– Probability vectors: $|\alpha\rangle, |\beta\rangle \in [0,1]^n$

- **Expected utility** for specific strategies:

$$u(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \beta | U | \alpha \rangle$$

Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

- CZSG are played in the **simplex**:



- QZSG are played in the **spectraplex**:

• $|0\rangle$

• $|1\rangle$

- Players play **indeterministic strategies**:

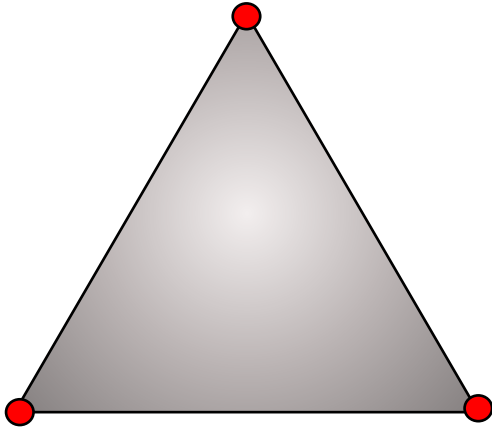
– Probability vectors: $|\alpha\rangle, |\beta\rangle \in [0,1]^n$

- **Expected utility** for specific strategies:

$$u(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \beta | U | \alpha \rangle$$

Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

- CZSG are played in the **simplex**:



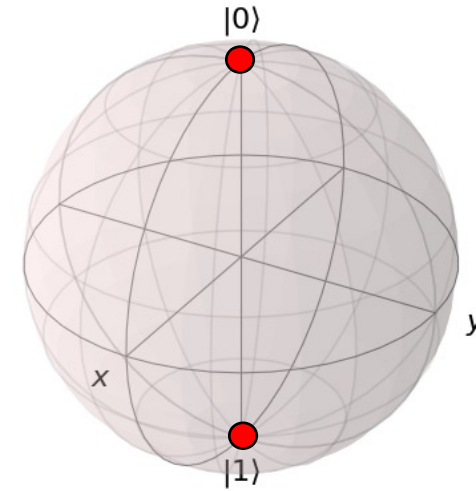
- Players play **indeterministic strategies**:

– Probability vectors: $|\alpha\rangle, |\beta\rangle \in [0,1]^n$

- **Expected utility** for specific strategies:

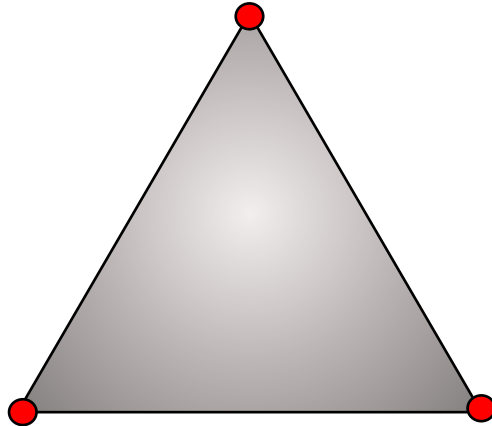
$$u(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \beta | U | \alpha \rangle$$

- QZSG are played in the **spectraplex**:



Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

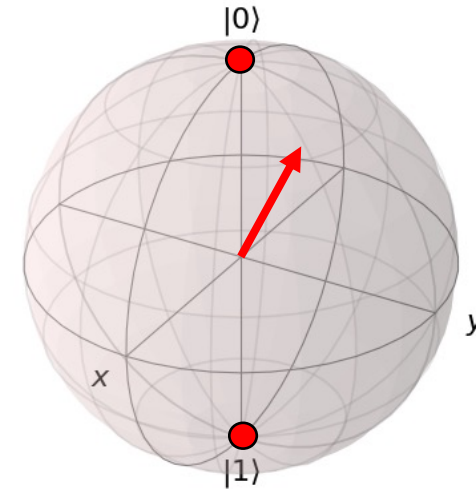
- CZSG are played in the **simplex**:



- Players play **indeterministic strategies**:
 - Probability vectors: $|\alpha\rangle, |\beta\rangle \in [0,1]^n$
- **Expected utility** for specific strategies:

$$u(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \beta | U | \alpha \rangle$$

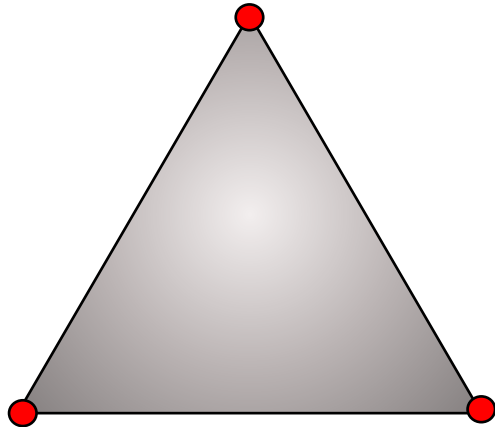
- QZSG are played in the **spectraplex**:



- Players play **mixtures** of indeterministic strategies (**meta-strategies**):
 - Density matrices: $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}$, $\beta \in \mathbb{C}^{2^m \times 2^m}$

Game Strategies & Expected Payoff

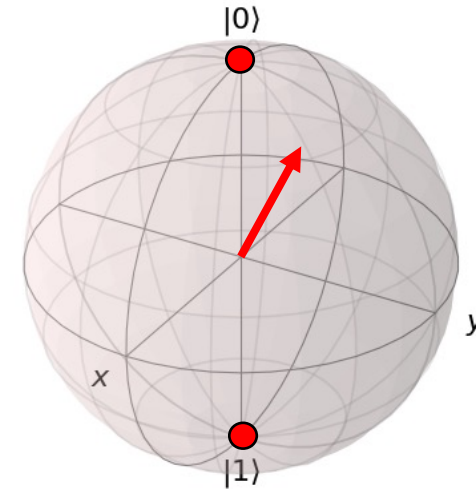
- CZSG are played in the **simplex**:



- Players play **indeterministic strategies**:
 - Probability vectors: $|\alpha\rangle, |\beta\rangle \in [0,1]^n$
- **Expected utility** for specific strategies:

$$u(\alpha, \beta) = \langle \beta | U | \alpha \rangle$$

- QZSG are played in the **spectraplex**:



- Players play **mixtures** of indeterministic strategies (**meta-strategies**):
 - Density matrices: $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}$, $\beta \in \mathbb{C}^{2^m \times 2^m}$
- **Expected utility** for specific strategies:

$$u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[U(\alpha \otimes \beta)]$$

The QZSG Objective

The QZSG Objective

- If Alice's expected payoff is $u(\alpha, \beta)$,
Bob's expected payoff is $-u(\alpha, \beta)$

The QZSG Objective

- If Alice's expected payoff is $u(\alpha, \beta)$,
Bob's expected payoff is $-u(\alpha, \beta)$
- In playing the game, each player wants to **maximize** their expected payoff:

The QZSG Objective

- If Alice's expected payoff is $u(\alpha, \beta)$,
Bob's expected payoff is $-u(\alpha, \beta)$
- In playing the game, each player wants to **maximize** their expected payoff:
 - Alice wants: $\max_{\alpha} u(\alpha, \beta)$

The QZSG Objective

- If Alice's expected payoff is $u(\alpha, \beta)$,
Bob's expected payoff is $-u(\alpha, \beta)$
- In playing the game, each player wants to **maximize** their expected payoff:
 - Alice wants: $\max_{\alpha} u(\alpha, \beta)$
 - Bob wants: $\max_{\beta} -u(\alpha, \beta) = \min_{\beta} u(\alpha, \beta)$

The QZSG Objective

- If Alice's expected payoff is $u(\alpha, \beta)$,
Bob's expected payoff is $-u(\alpha, \beta)$
- In playing the game, each player wants to **maximize** their expected payoff:
 - Alice wants: $\max_{\alpha} u(\alpha, \beta)$
 - Bob wants: $\max_{\beta} -u(\alpha, \beta) = \min_{\beta} u(\alpha, \beta)$
- These are **competing** interests, defining a **minimax** optimization problem:

$$\min_{\beta \in B} \max_{\alpha \in A} u(\alpha, \beta)$$

The QZSG Objective

- If Alice's expected payoff is $u(\alpha, \beta)$,
Bob's expected payoff is $-u(\alpha, \beta)$
- In playing the game, each player wants to **maximize** their expected payoff:
 - Alice wants: $\max_{\alpha} u(\alpha, \beta)$
 - Bob wants: $\max_{\beta} -u(\alpha, \beta) = \min_{\beta} u(\alpha, \beta)$
- These are **competing** interests, defining a **minimax** optimization problem:

$$\min_{\beta \in B} \max_{\alpha \in A} u(\alpha, \beta)$$

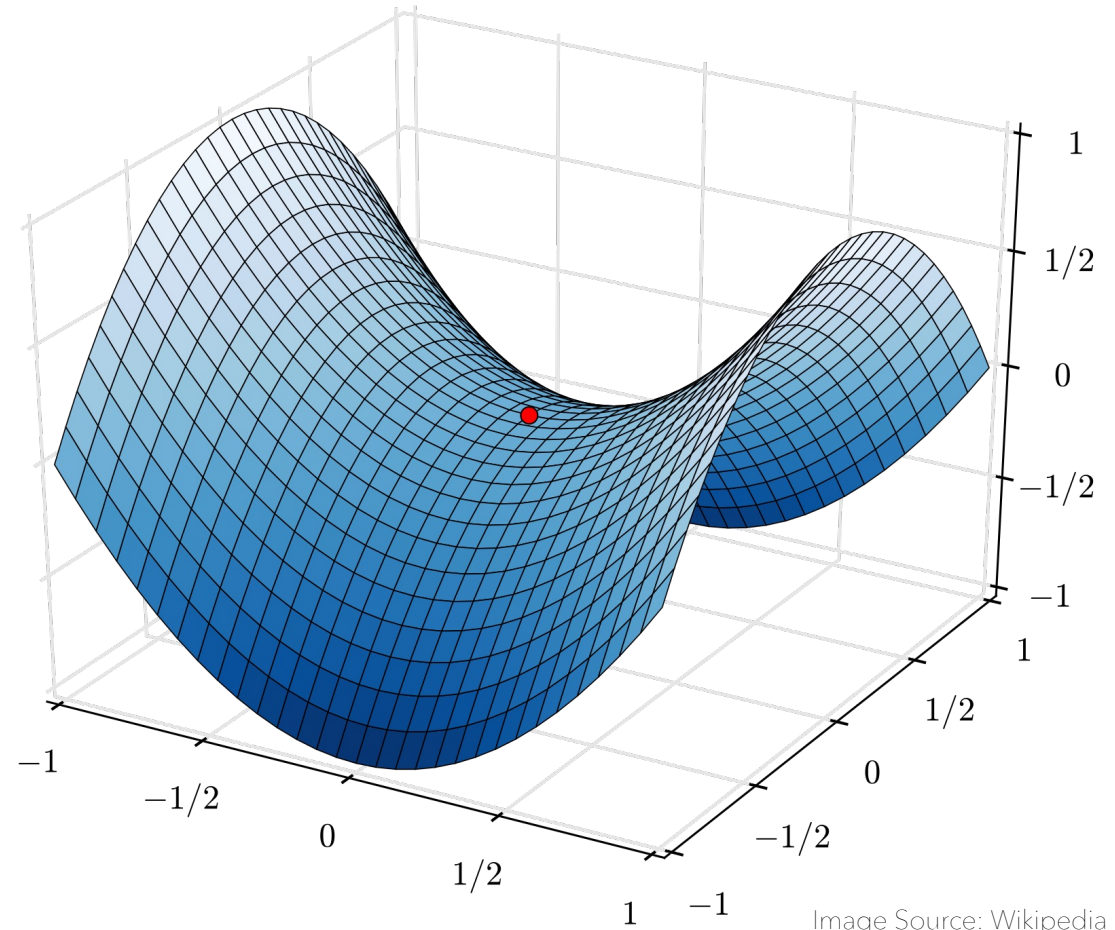


Image Source: Wikipedia

Why Study Quantum Games?

Why Study Quantum Games?

- General quantum games have emerged in many areas of quantum information:

Why Study Quantum Games?

- General quantum games have emerged in many areas of quantum information:
 - Non-local games (Bell, CSHS, ..., $MIP^*=RE$)

Why Study Quantum Games?

- General quantum games have emerged in many areas of quantum information:
 - Non-local games (Bell, CSHS, ..., $MIP^*=RE$)
 - Quantum interactive proofs (competitive refereed games)

Why Study Quantum Games?

- General quantum games have emerged in many areas of quantum information:
 - Non-local games (Bell, CSHS, ..., $MIP^*=RE$)
 - Quantum interactive proofs (competitive refereed games)
 - Multi-prover quantum interactive proofs (cooperative games)

Why Study Quantum Games?

- General quantum games have emerged in many areas of quantum information:
 - Non-local games (Bell, CSHS, ..., $MIP^*=RE$)
 - Quantum interactive proofs (competitive refereed games)
 - Multi-prover quantum interactive proofs (cooperative games)
 - Quantum coin-flipping (two player game)

Why Study Quantum Games?

- General quantum games have emerged in many areas of quantum information:
 - Non-local games (Bell, CSHS, ..., $MIP^*=RE$)
 - Quantum interactive proofs (competitive refereed games)
 - Multi-prover quantum interactive proofs (cooperative games)
 - Quantum coin-flipping (two player game)
- However, optimization of general quantum games is **PPAD-complete** [BW22]

Why Study QZSG, Specifically?

Why Study QZSG, Specifically?

- Meanwhile, as classically, QZSG optimization is **computationally tractable**

Why Study QZSG, Specifically?

- Meanwhile, as classically, QZSG optimization is **computationally tractable**
 - [JW09] proposed an explicit QZSG algo that converges to an ϵ -approx soln in $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon^2)$ iterations

Why Study QZSG, Specifically?

- Meanwhile, as classically, QZSG optimization is **computationally tractable**
 - [JW09] proposed an explicit QZSG algo that converges to an ϵ -approx soln in $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon^2)$ iterations
- Uses of QZSG:

Why Study QZSG, Specifically?

- Meanwhile, as classically, QZSG optimization is **computationally tractable**
 - [JW09] proposed an explicit QZSG algo that converges to an ϵ -approx soln in $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon^2)$ iterations
- Uses of QZSG:
 - Game theory: proof that quantum strategies \geq classical strategies [M99]

Why Study QZSG, Specifically?

- Meanwhile, as classically, QZSG optimization is **computationally tractable**
 - [JW09] proposed an explicit QZSG algo that converges to an ϵ -approx soln in $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon^2)$ iterations
- Uses of QZSG:
 - Game theory: proof that quantum strategies \geq classical strategies [M99]
 - Complexity theory: proof that $\text{QRG}(1) \subseteq \text{PSPACE}$ [JW09]

Why Study QZSG, Specifically?

- Meanwhile, as classically, QZSG optimization is **computationally tractable**
 - [JW09] proposed an explicit QZSG algo that converges to an ϵ -approx soln in $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon^2)$ iterations
- Uses of QZSG:
 - Game theory: proof that quantum strategies \geq classical strategies [M99]
 - Complexity theory: proof that $\text{QRG}(1) \subseteq \text{PSPACE}$ [JW09]
 - Machine learning: **Quantum Generative Adversarial Networks** [DK18]

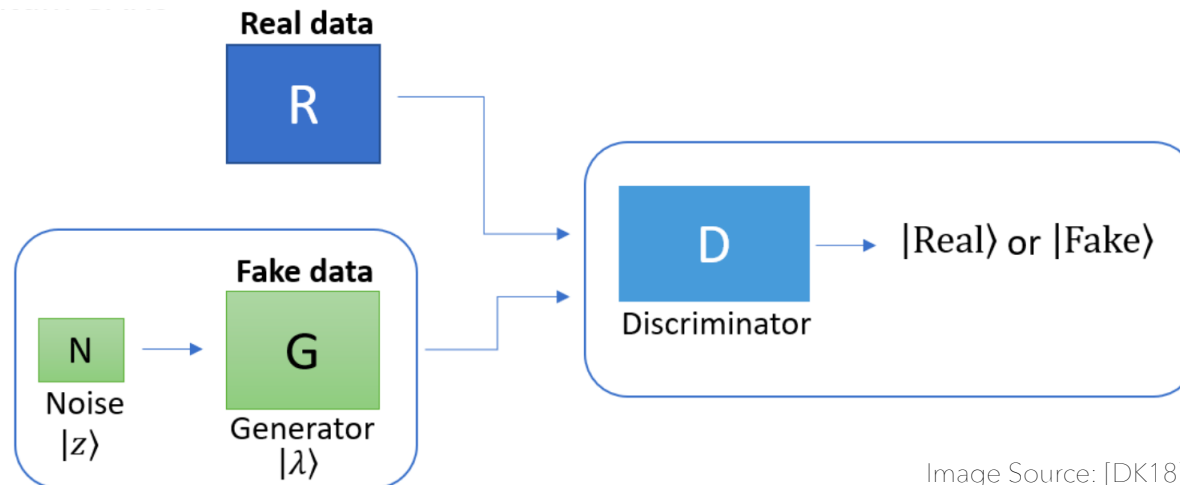
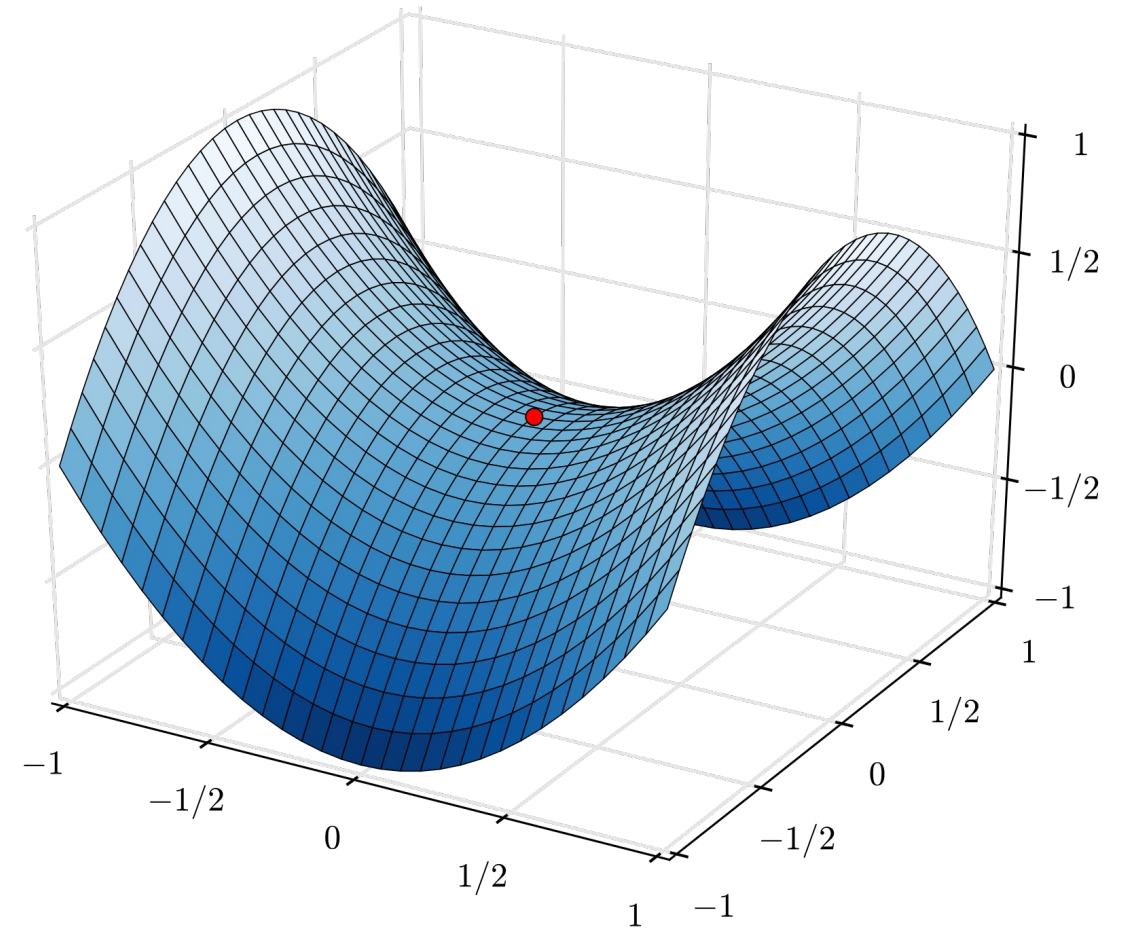


Image Source: [DK18]

**A Quadratic Speedup in
Finding Nash Equilibria of
Quantum Zero-Sum Games**

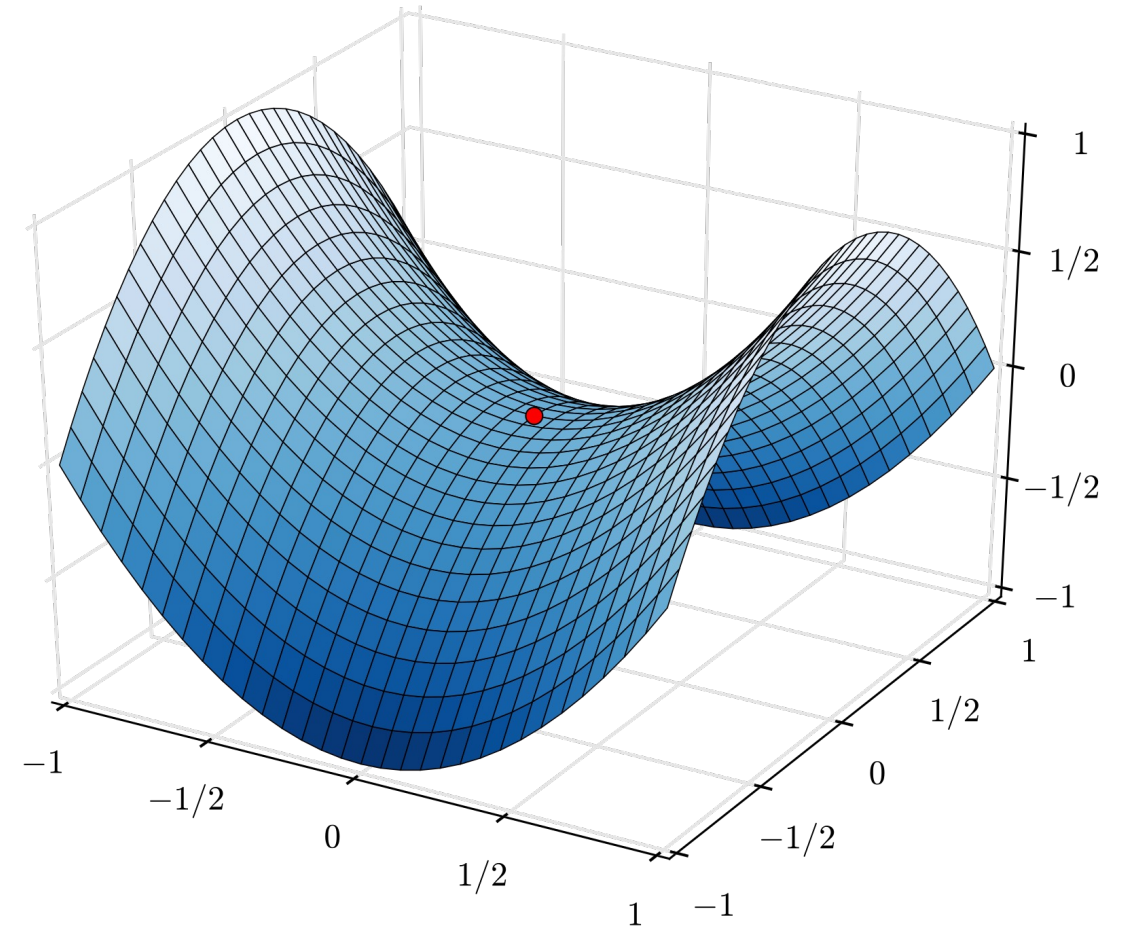
Nash Equilibria of QZSG



Nash Equilibria of QZSG

- The solutions (**fixed points**) of this minimax define the game's value:

$$u(\alpha^*, \beta^*) = \min_{\beta} \max_{\alpha} u(\alpha, \beta) = \max_{\alpha} \min_{\beta} u(\alpha, \beta)$$

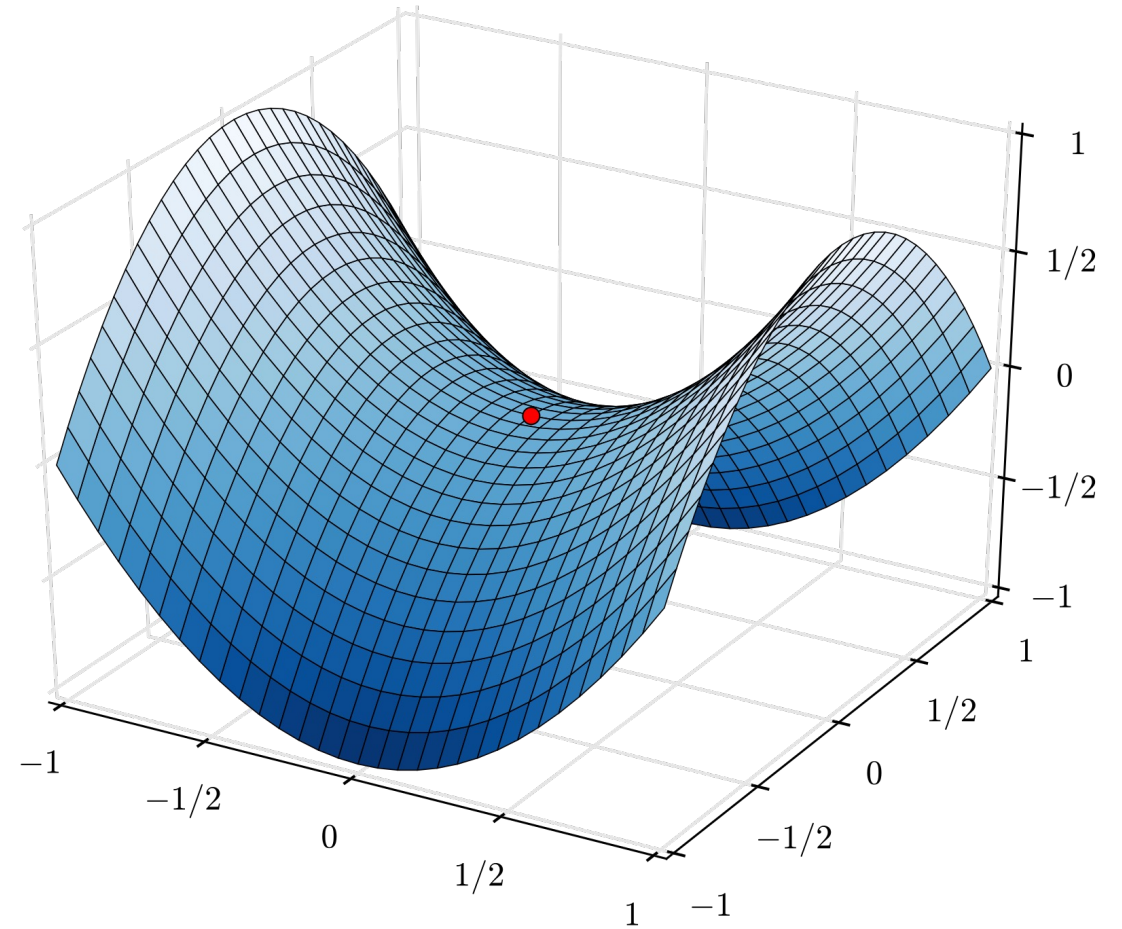


Nash Equilibria of QZSG

- The solutions (**fixed points**) of this minimax define the game's value:

$$u(\alpha^*, \beta^*) = \min_{\beta} \max_{\alpha} u(\alpha, \beta) = \max_{\alpha} \min_{\beta} u(\alpha, \beta)$$

↑
von Neumann's Minimax Thm



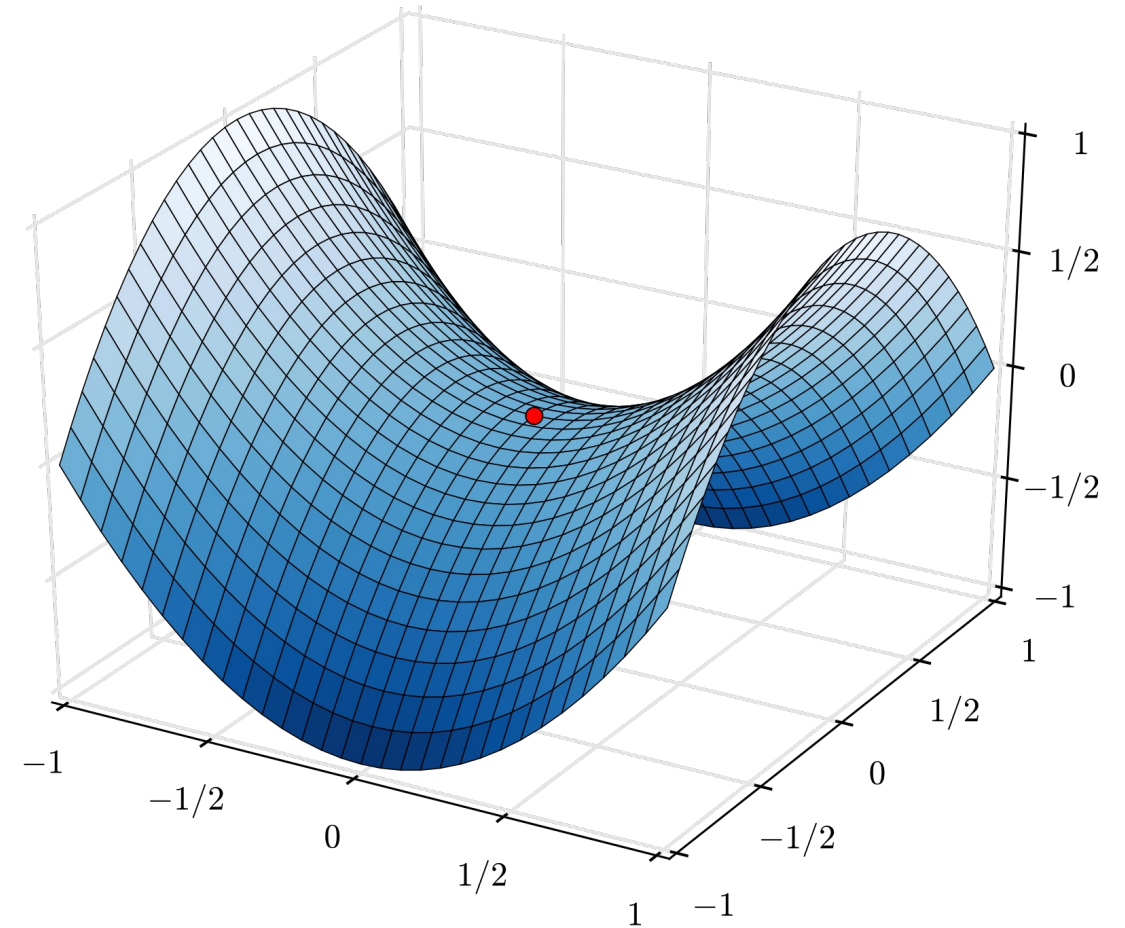
Nash Equilibria of QZSG

- The solutions (**fixed points**) of this minimax define the game's value:

$$u(\alpha^*, \beta^*) = \min_{\beta} \max_{\alpha} u(\alpha, \beta) = \max_{\alpha} \min_{\beta} u(\alpha, \beta)$$

↑
von Neumann's Minimax Thm

- Nash equilibria** are game states (α^*, β^*) such that neither player has an incentive to change to another state unilaterally:



Nash Equilibria of QZSG

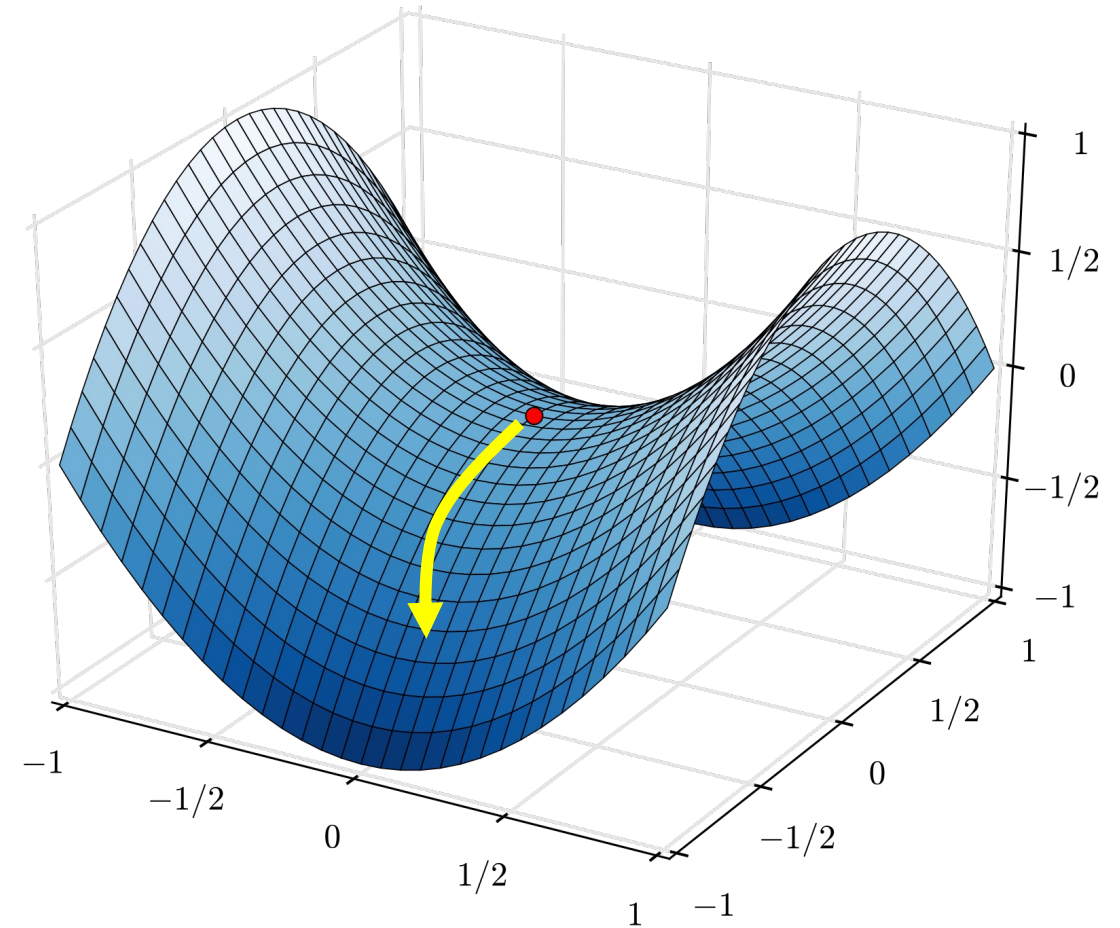
- The solutions (**fixed points**) of this minimax define the game's value:

$$u(\alpha^*, \beta^*) = \min_{\beta} \max_{\alpha} u(\alpha, \beta) = \max_{\alpha} \min_{\beta} u(\alpha, \beta)$$

von Neumann's Minimax Thm

- Nash equilibria** are game states (α^*, β^*) such that neither player has an incentive to change to another state unilaterally:

$$u(\alpha^*, \beta^*) \geq u(\alpha, \beta^*), \quad \forall \alpha \in \mathcal{A}$$



Nash Equilibria of QZSG

- The solutions (**fixed points**) of this minimax define the game's value:

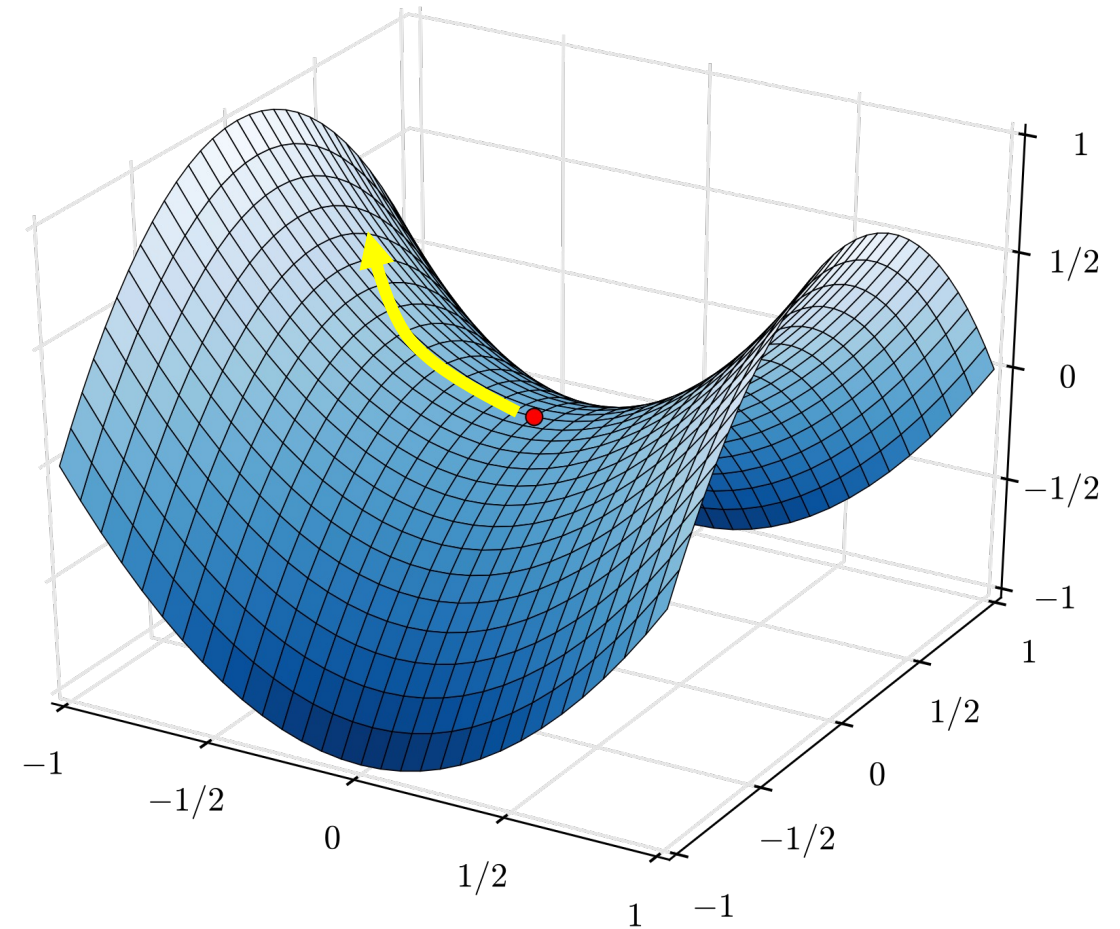
$$u(\alpha^*, \beta^*) = \min_{\beta} \max_{\alpha} u(\alpha, \beta) = \max_{\alpha} \min_{\beta} u(\alpha, \beta)$$

↑
von Neumann's Minimax Thm

- Nash equilibria** are game states (α^*, β^*) such that neither player has an incentive to change to another state unilaterally:

$$u(\alpha^*, \beta^*) \geq u(\alpha, \beta^*), \quad \forall \alpha \in \mathcal{A}$$

$$u(\alpha^*, \beta^*) \leq u(\alpha^*, \beta), \quad \forall \beta \in \mathcal{B}$$

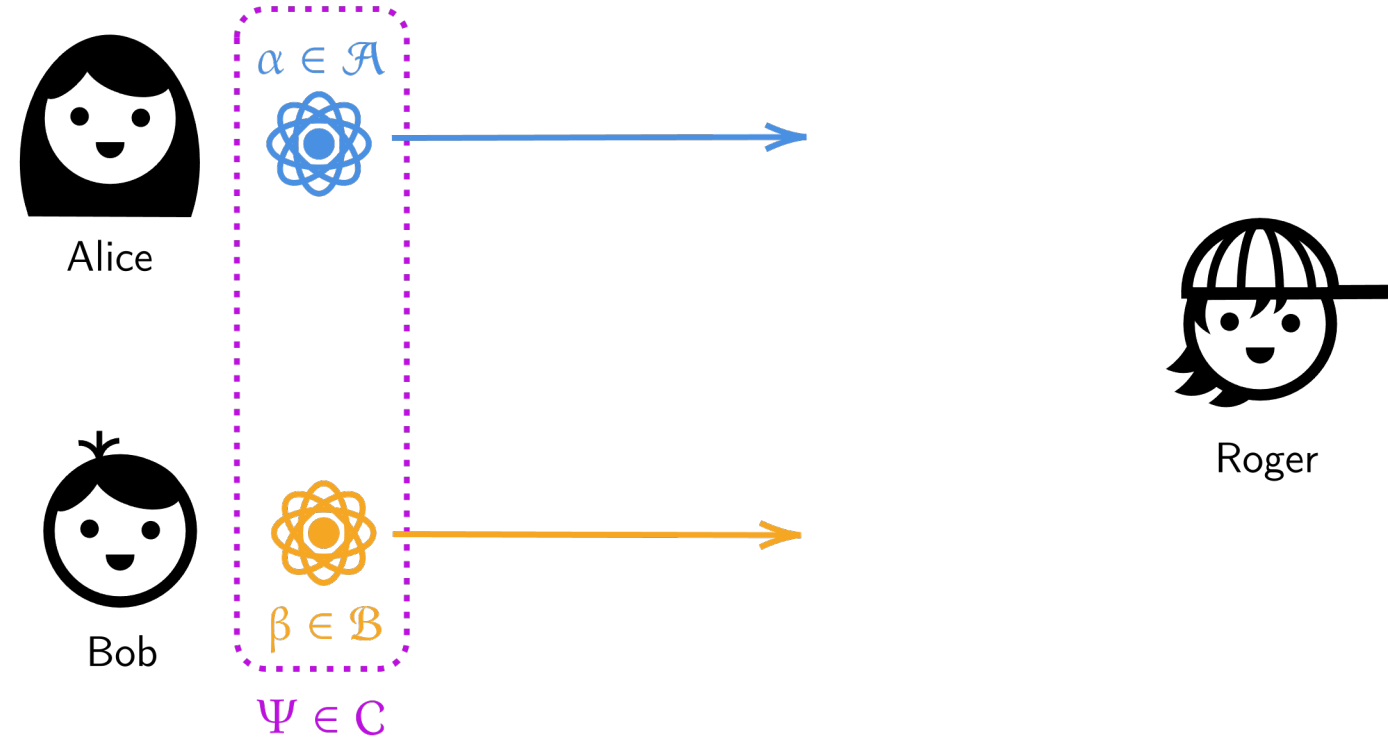


Algorithmic QZSG

- Algorithmically, we will view the game as an **online** learning problem

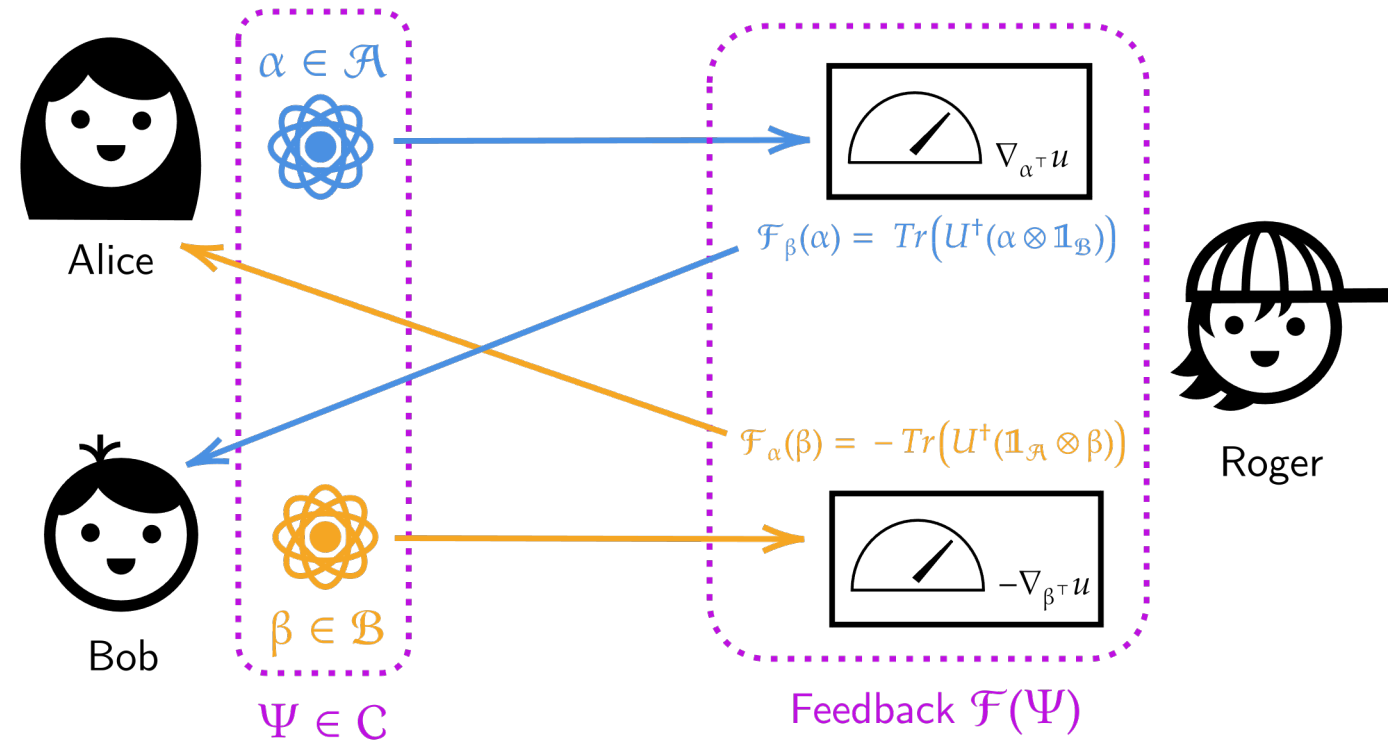
Algorithmic QZSG

- Algorithmically, we will view the game as an **online** learning problem
- In each round, each player **queries** the referee ("oracle") with a state



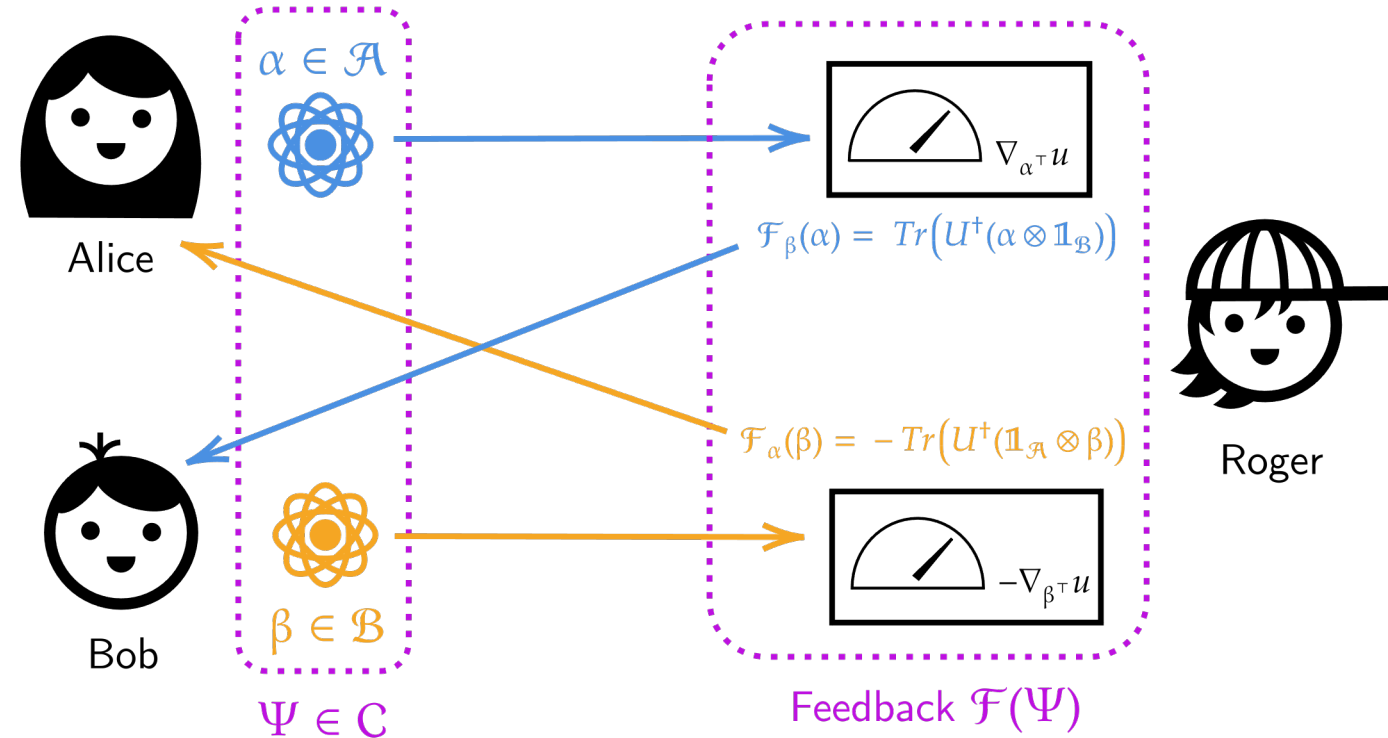
Algorithmic QZSG

- Algorithmically, we will view the game as an **online** learning problem
- In each round, each player **queries** the referee ("oracle") with a state
- The ref returns **feedback** to each player



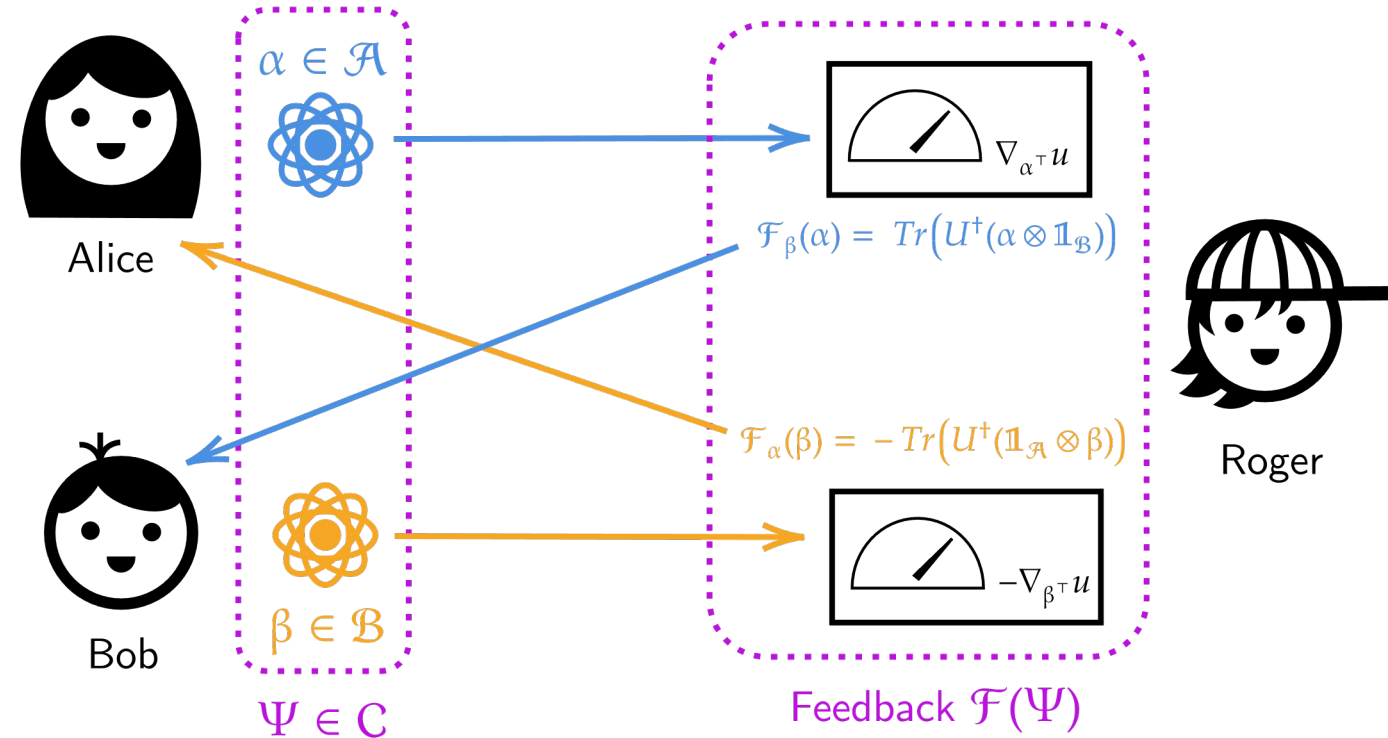
Algorithmic QZSG

- Algorithmically, we will view the game as an **online** learning problem
- In each round, each player **queries** the referee ("oracle") with a state
- The ref returns **feedback** to each player
- The players use this feedback to update and **improve** their states



Algorithmic QZSG

- Algorithmically, we will view the game as an **online** learning problem
- In each round, each player **queries** the referee ("oracle") with a state
- The ref returns **feedback** to each player
- The players use this feedback to update and **improve** their states
- **Goal**: minimize the number of rounds until the players reach an ϵ -approx Nash equilibrium



Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta^{\text{T}})]$

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta^{\text{T}})]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}^*(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\alpha^{\text{T}} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{B}})]$

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta^{\text{T}})]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}^*(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\alpha^{\text{T}} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{B}})]$
- We instead characterize the game's feedback via **gradient-based** operators:

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta^{\text{T}})]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}^*(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\alpha^{\text{T}} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{B}})]$
- We instead characterize the game's feedback via **gradient-based** operators:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta) = \nabla_{\alpha^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta^{\text{T}})]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}^*(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\alpha^{\text{T}} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{B}})]$
- We instead characterize the game's feedback via **gradient-based** operators:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta) = \nabla_{\alpha^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\beta}(\alpha) = -\nabla_{\beta^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta^{\text{T}})]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathbb{E}^*(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\alpha^{\text{T}} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{B}})]$
- We instead characterize the game's feedback via **gradient-based** operators:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta) = \nabla_{\alpha^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\beta}(\alpha) = -\nabla_{\beta^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$
- The two characterizations are **equivalent**:

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\Xi(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta^{\text{T}})]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\Xi^*(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\alpha^{\text{T}} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{B}})]$
- We instead characterize the game's feedback via **gradient-based** operators:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta) = \nabla_{\alpha^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\beta}(\alpha) = -\nabla_{\beta^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$
- The two characterizations are **equivalent**:
 - Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta) = \Xi(\beta^{\text{T}}), \quad \mathcal{F}_{\beta}(\alpha) = -\Xi^*(\alpha^{\text{T}})$

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\Xi(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta^{\text{T}})]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\Xi^*(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\alpha^{\text{T}} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{B}})]$
- We instead characterize the game's feedback via **gradient-based** operators:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta) = \nabla_{\alpha^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\beta}(\alpha) = -\nabla_{\beta^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$
- The two characterizations are **equivalent**:
 - Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta) = \Xi(\beta^{\text{T}}), \quad \mathcal{F}_{\beta}(\alpha) = -\Xi^*(\alpha^{\text{T}})$
 - Alice's expected payoff: $u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[\alpha \mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta)] = \text{Tr}[\alpha \Xi(\beta^{\text{T}})]$

Superoperator vs Gradient-Based Feedback

- Previous work on QZSG characterized the game's feedback via **superoperators**:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\Xi(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta^{\text{T}})]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\Xi^*(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\alpha^{\text{T}} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{B}})]$
- We instead characterize the game's feedback via **gradient-based** operators:
 - Alice's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta) = \nabla_{\alpha^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{B}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$
 - Bob's Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\beta}(\alpha) = -\nabla_{\beta^{\text{T}}} u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}[U(\mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \beta)]$
- The two characterizations are **equivalent**:
 - Feedback: $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta) = \Xi(\beta^{\text{T}}), \quad \mathcal{F}_{\beta}(\alpha) = -\Xi^*(\alpha^{\text{T}})$
 - Alice's expected payoff: $u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[\alpha \mathcal{F}_{\alpha}(\beta)] = \text{Tr}[\alpha \Xi(\beta^{\text{T}})]$
 - Bob's expected payoff: $-u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[\beta \mathcal{F}_{\beta}(\alpha)] = -\text{Tr}[\beta \Xi^*(\alpha^{\text{T}})]$

Formulating QZSG as a Variational Inequality

Formulating QZSG as a Variational Inequality

- With gradient-based feedback, the expected payoff is a **directional derivative**:

Formulating QZSG as a Variational Inequality

- With gradient-based feedback, the expected payoff is a **directional derivative**:
 - In Alice's direction: $u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[\alpha \mathcal{F}_\alpha(\beta)] = \text{Tr}[\alpha \nabla_{\alpha^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)]$

Formulating QZSG as a Variational Inequality

- With gradient-based feedback, the expected payoff is a **directional derivative**:
 - In Alice's direction: $u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[\alpha \mathcal{F}_\alpha(\beta)] = \text{Tr}[\alpha \nabla_{\alpha^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)]$
 - In Bob's direction: $u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}[\beta \mathcal{F}_\beta(\alpha)] = \text{Tr}[\beta \nabla_{\beta^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)]$

Formulating QZSG as a Variational Inequality

- With gradient-based feedback, the expected payoff is a **directional derivative**:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{– In Alice's direction: } u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[\alpha \mathcal{F}_\alpha(\beta)] = \text{Tr}[\alpha \nabla_{\alpha^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)] \\ \text{– In Bob's direction: } u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}[\beta \mathcal{F}_\beta(\alpha)] = \text{Tr}[\beta \nabla_{\beta^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)] \end{array} \right\} u(\Psi) = \text{Tr}[\Psi \mathcal{F}(\Psi)] = \text{Tr}[\Psi \nabla_{\Psi^\top} u(\Psi)]$$

Formulating QZSG as a Variational Inequality

- With gradient-based feedback, the expected payoff is a **directional derivative**:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{– In Alice's direction: } u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[\alpha \mathcal{F}_\alpha(\beta)] = \text{Tr}[\alpha \nabla_{\alpha^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)] \\ \text{– In Bob's direction: } u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}[\beta \mathcal{F}_\beta(\alpha)] = \text{Tr}[\beta \nabla_{\beta^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)] \end{array} \right\} u(\Psi) = \text{Tr}[\Psi \mathcal{F}(\Psi)] = \text{Tr}[\Psi \nabla_{\Psi^\top} u(\Psi)]$$

- With a directional derivative, we can characterize the game's equilibria as solutions of the **variational inequality (VI)**:

$$\text{Tr}[(\Psi - \Psi^*) \mathcal{F}(\Psi^*)] \leq 0, \quad \forall \Psi \in \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{B}$$

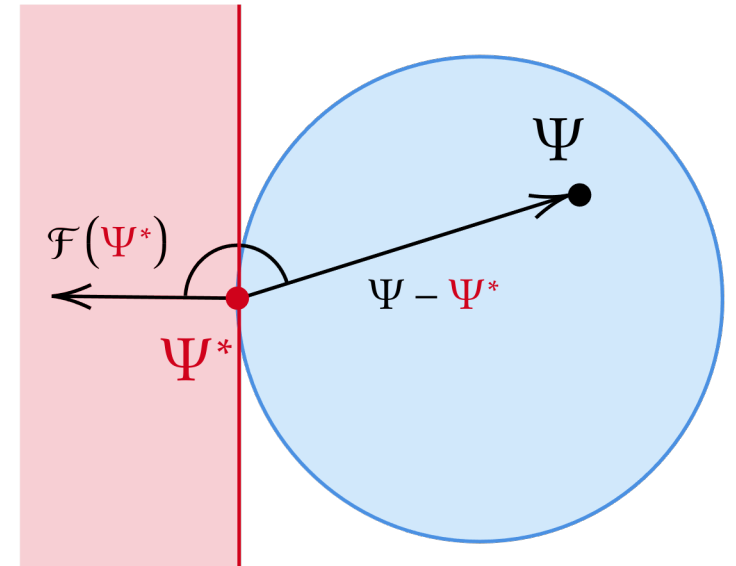
Formulating QZSG as a Variational Inequality

- With gradient-based feedback, the expected payoff is a **directional derivative**:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{– In Alice's direction: } u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[\alpha \mathcal{F}_\alpha(\beta)] = \text{Tr}[\alpha \nabla_{\alpha^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)] \\ \text{– In Bob's direction: } u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}[\beta \mathcal{F}_\beta(\alpha)] = \text{Tr}[\beta \nabla_{\beta^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)] \end{array} \right\} u(\Psi) = \text{Tr}[\Psi \mathcal{F}(\Psi)] = \text{Tr}[\Psi \nabla_{\Psi^\top} u(\Psi)]$$

- With a directional derivative, we can characterize the game's equilibria as solutions of the **variational inequality (VI)**:

$$\text{Tr}[(\Psi - \Psi^*) \mathcal{F}(\Psi^*)] \leq 0, \quad \forall \Psi \in \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{B}$$



Formulating QZSG as a Variational Inequality

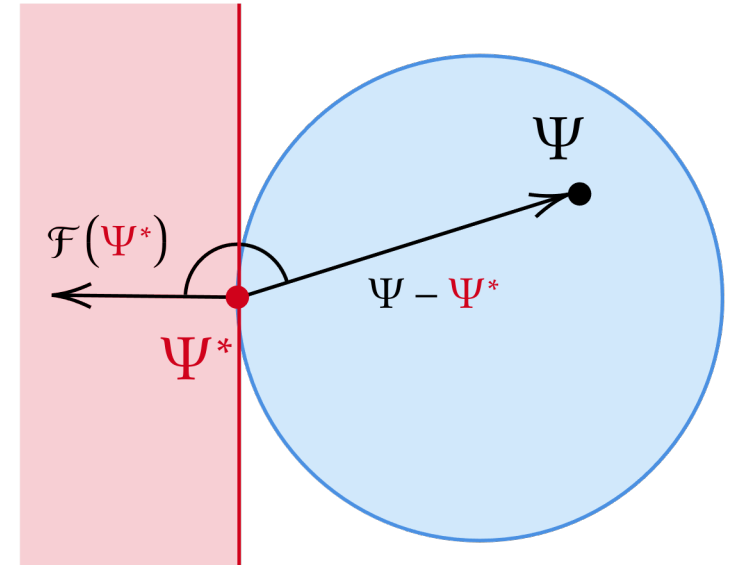
- With gradient-based feedback, the expected payoff is a **directional derivative**:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{– In Alice's direction: } u(\alpha, \beta) = \text{Tr}[\alpha \mathcal{F}_\alpha(\beta)] = \text{Tr}[\alpha \nabla_{\alpha^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)] \\ \text{– In Bob's direction: } u(\alpha, \beta) = -\text{Tr}[\beta \mathcal{F}_\beta(\alpha)] = \text{Tr}[\beta \nabla_{\beta^\top} u(\alpha, \beta)] \end{array} \right\} u(\Psi) = \text{Tr}[\Psi \mathcal{F}(\Psi)] = \text{Tr}[\Psi \nabla_{\Psi^\top} u(\Psi)]$$

- With a directional derivative, we can characterize the game's equilibria as solutions of the **variational inequality (VI)**:

$$\text{Tr}[(\Psi - \Psi^*) \mathcal{F}(\Psi^*)] \leq 0, \quad \forall \Psi \in \mathcal{A} \oplus \mathcal{B}$$

- We further prove that $\mathcal{F}(\Psi)$ is **monotone** and **Lipschitz**, which offers additional structure about the game that we can use to **leverage efficient classical algorithms** for solving such VIs.



**A Quadratic Speedup in
Finding Nash Equilibria of
Quantum Zero-Sum Games**

Gradient to Mirror Descent

Gradient to Mirror Descent

- Classical **gradient descent (GD)**:

$$x_{t+1} = x_t - \eta \nabla F(x_t)$$

Gradient to Mirror Descent

- Classical **gradient descent (GD)**: $x_{t+1} = x_t - \eta \nabla F(x_t)$
- Equivalently, GD minimizes the 1st-order approx of F with **Euclidean regularizer** :

$$x_{t+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_x \left(F(x_t) + \nabla F(x_t)^T (x - x_t) + \frac{1}{2\eta} \|x - x_t\|^2 \right)$$

Gradient to Mirror Descent

- Classical **gradient descent (GD)**: $x_{t+1} = x_t - \eta \nabla F(x_t)$

- Equivalently, GD minimizes the 1st-order approx of F with **Euclidean regularizer** :

$$x_{t+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_x \left(F(x_t) + \nabla F(x_t)^T (x - x_t) + \frac{1}{2\eta} \|x - x_t\|^2 \right)$$

- To generalize GD to other regularizers h , perform **mirror descent (MD)**:

$$x_{t+1} = (\nabla h)^{-1} [\nabla h(x_t) - \eta \nabla F(x_t)]$$

Gradient to Mirror Descent

- Classical **gradient descent (GD)**:

$$x_{t+1} = x_t - \eta \nabla F(x_t)$$

- Equivalently, GD minimizes the 1st-order approx of F with **Euclidean regularizer** :

$$x_{t+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_x \left(F(x_t) + \nabla F(x_t)^T (x - x_t) + \frac{1}{2\eta} \|x - x_t\|^2 \right)$$

- To generalize GD to other regularizers h , perform **mirror descent (MD)**:

$$x_{t+1} = (\nabla h)^{-1} [\nabla h(x_t) - \eta \nabla F(x_t)]$$

For $h(y) = \frac{1}{2} \|y\|^2$,
 $\nabla h(y) = y$

Gradient to Mirror Descent

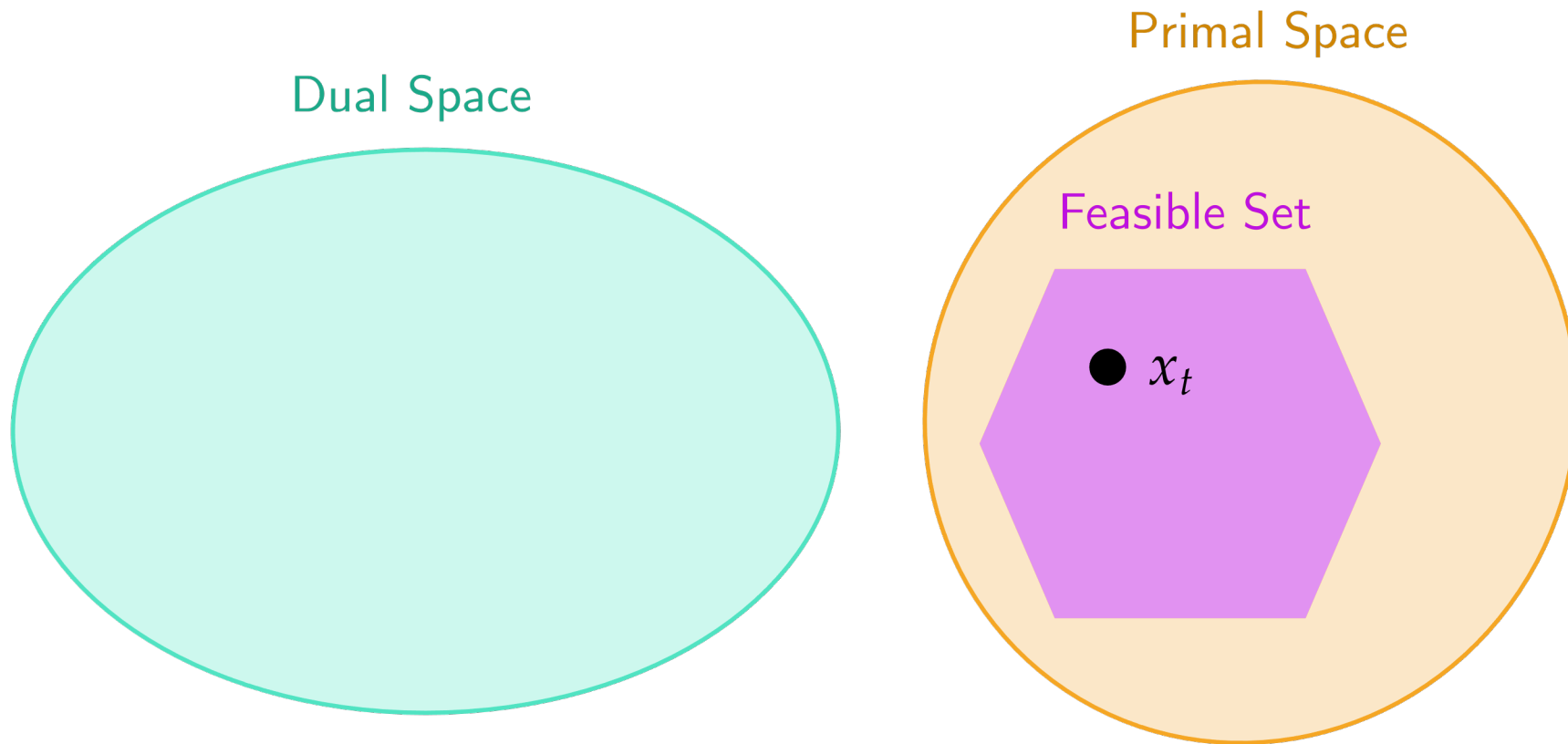
- To generalize GD to other regularizers h , perform **mirror descent (MD)**:

$$x_{t+1} = (\nabla h)^{-1}[\nabla h(x_t) - \eta \nabla F(x_t)]$$

Gradient to Mirror Descent

- To generalize GD to other regularizers h , perform **mirror descent (MD)**:

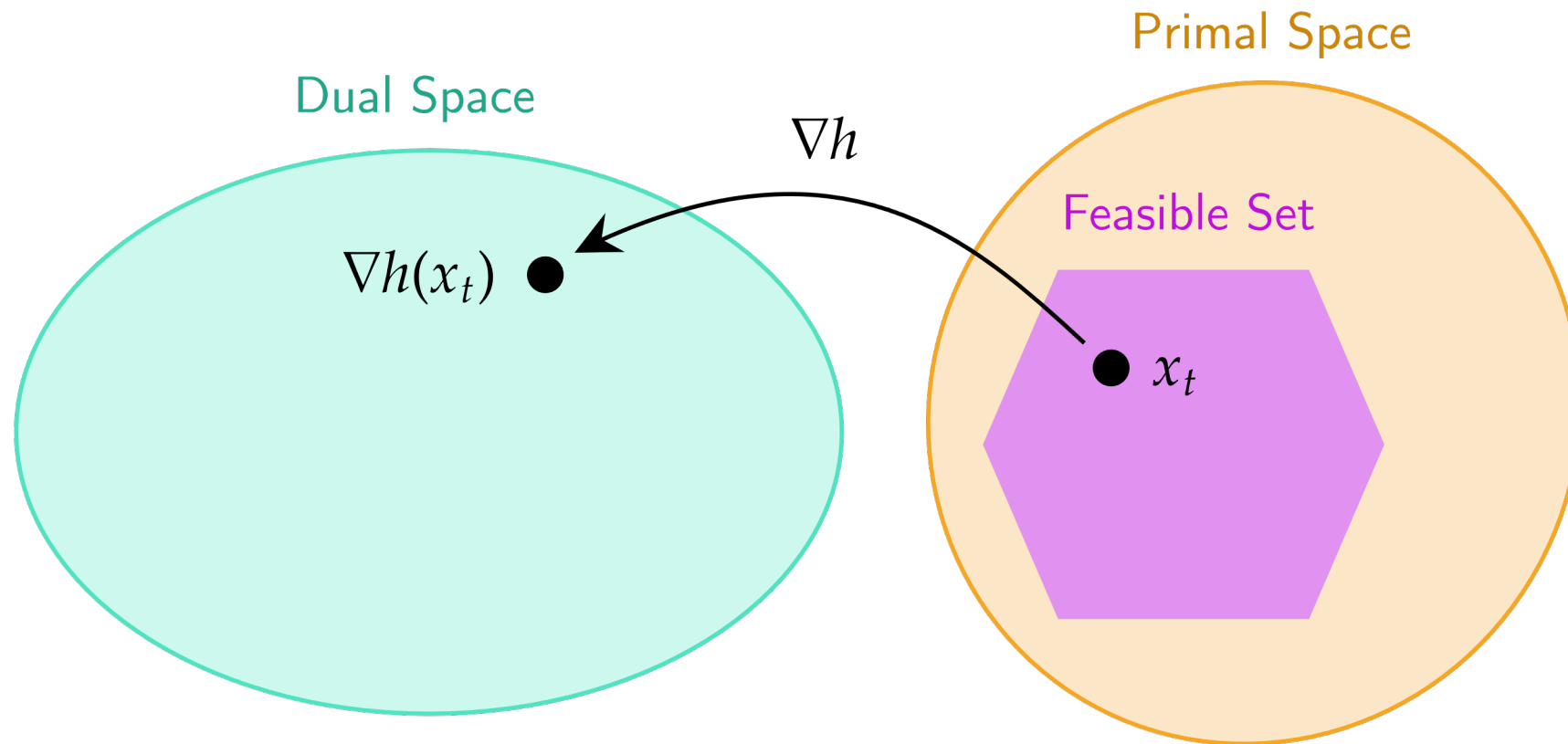
$$x_{t+1} = (\nabla h)^{-1}[\nabla h(x_t) - \eta \nabla F(x_t)]$$



Gradient to Mirror Descent

- To generalize GD to other regularizers h , perform **mirror descent (MD)**:

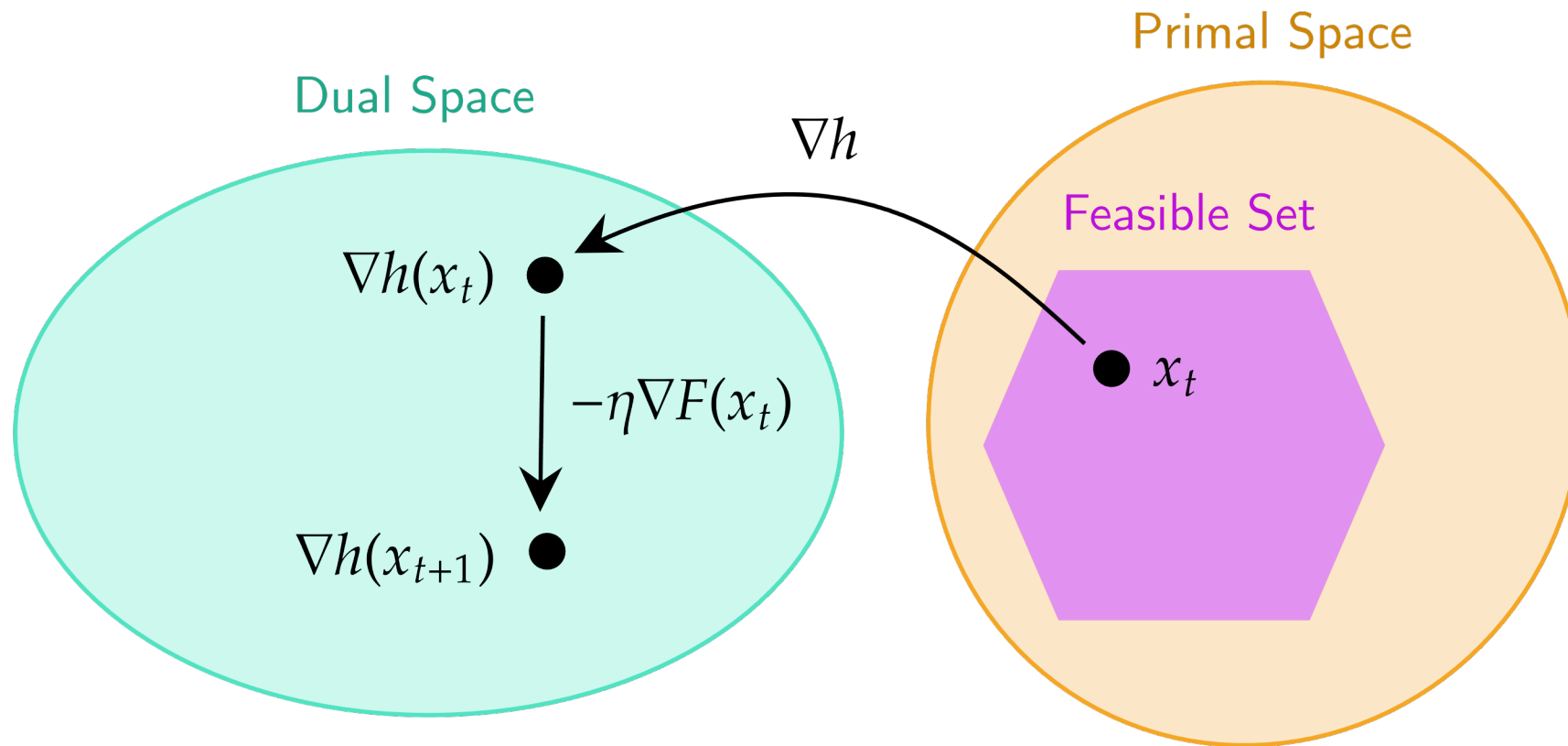
$$x_{t+1} = (\nabla h)^{-1}[\nabla h(x_t) - \eta \nabla F(x_t)]$$



Gradient to Mirror Descent

- To generalize GD to other regularizers h , perform **mirror descent (MD)**:

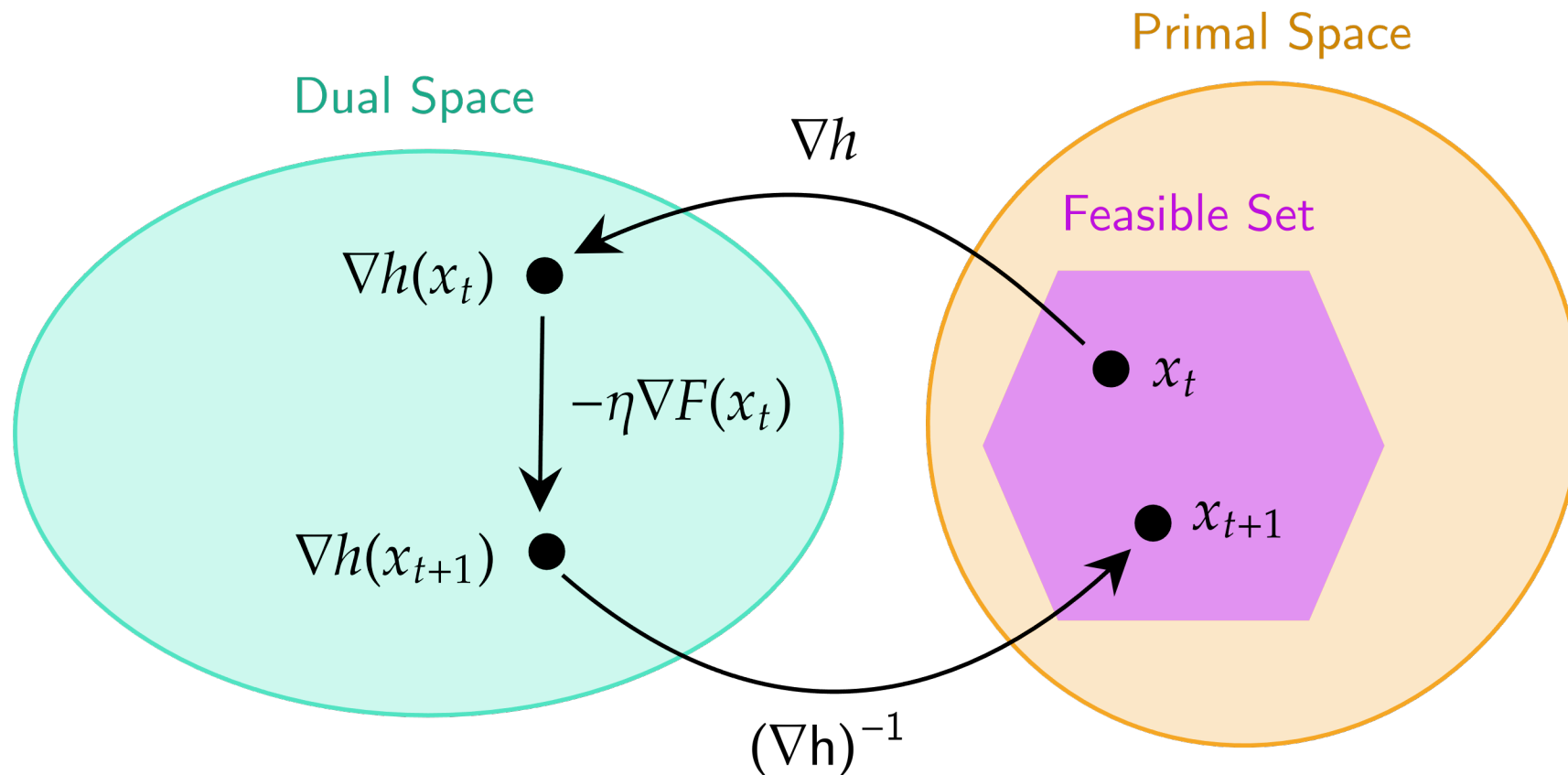
$$x_{t+1} = (\nabla h)^{-1}[\nabla h(x_t) - \eta \nabla F(x_t)]$$



Gradient to Mirror Descent

- To generalize GD to other regularizers h , perform **mirror descent (MD)**:

$$x_{t+1} = (\nabla h)^{-1}[\nabla h(x_t) - \eta \nabla F(x_t)]$$



Prior Work: The Jain-Watrous Algorithm [JW09]

Prior Work: The Jain-Watrous Algorithm [JW09]

- In 2009, Jain and Watrous proposed the **Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (MMWU)** algorithm, with the following update in each round t :

$$\alpha_t = \Lambda \left(\eta \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} \Xi(\beta_i^T) \right), \quad \beta_t = \Lambda \left(-\eta \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} \Xi^*(\alpha_i^T) \right), \quad \text{where } \Lambda(x) = \frac{\exp(x)}{\text{Tr}(\exp(x))}$$

Prior Work: The Jain-Watrous Algorithm [JW09]

- In 2009, Jain and Watrous proposed the **Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (MMWU)** algorithm, with the following update in each round t :

$$\alpha_t = \Lambda \left(\eta \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} \Xi(\beta_i^T) \right), \quad \beta_t = \Lambda \left(-\eta \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} \Xi^*(\alpha_i^T) \right), \quad \text{where } \Lambda(x) = \frac{\exp(x)}{\text{Tr}(\exp(x))}$$

- We show MMWU is **"Lazy" Mirror Descent**, with a von Neumann **entropy** regularizer:

$$h(\psi) = \text{Tr}[\psi \log \psi]$$

Prior Work: The Jain-Watrous Algorithm [JW09]

- In 2009, Jain and Watrous proposed the **Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (MMWU)** algorithm, with the following update in each round t :

$$\alpha_t = \Lambda \left(\eta \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} \mathbb{E}(\beta_i^T) \right), \quad \beta_t = \Lambda \left(-\eta \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} \mathbb{E}^*(\alpha_i^T) \right), \quad \text{where } \Lambda(x) = \frac{\exp(x)}{\text{Tr}(\exp(x))}$$

- We show MMWU is **"Lazy" Mirror Descent**, with a von Neumann **entropy** regularizer:

$$h(\psi) = \text{Tr}[\psi \log \psi]$$

- Like classical MWU, they prove an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon^2)$ convergence.

Prior Work: The Jain-Watrous Algorithm [JW09]

- In 2009, Jain and Watrous proposed the **Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (MMWU)** algorithm, with the following update in each round t :

$$\alpha_t = \Lambda \left(\eta \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} \Xi(\beta_i^T) \right), \quad \beta_t = \Lambda \left(-\eta \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} \Xi^*(\alpha_i^T) \right), \quad \text{where } \Lambda(x) = \frac{\exp(x)}{\text{Tr}(\exp(x))}$$

- We show MMWU is **"Lazy" Mirror Descent**, with a von Neumann **entropy** regularizer:

$$h(\psi) = \text{Tr}[\psi \log \psi]$$

- Like classical MWU, they prove an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon^2)$ convergence.
 - However, in classical games, while this is optimal for classical **black-box** optimization, Nemirovski [N04] showed that $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon)$ can be achieved for monotone VIs.

Achieving Speedup: Proximal Steps and Optimism

Achieving Speedup: Proximal Steps and Optimism

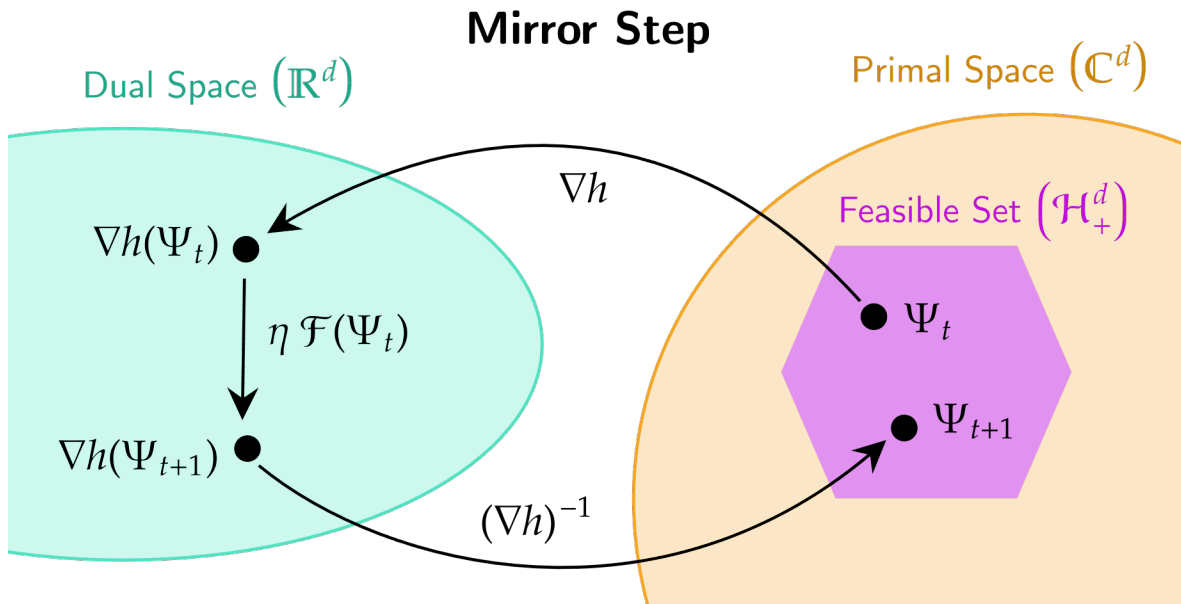
- To improve upon the MMWU, we leverage **proximal** instead of mirror steps

Achieving Speedup: Proximal Steps and Optimism

- To improve upon the MMWU, we leverage **proximal** instead of mirror steps
 - Proximal steps introduce “**momentum**”

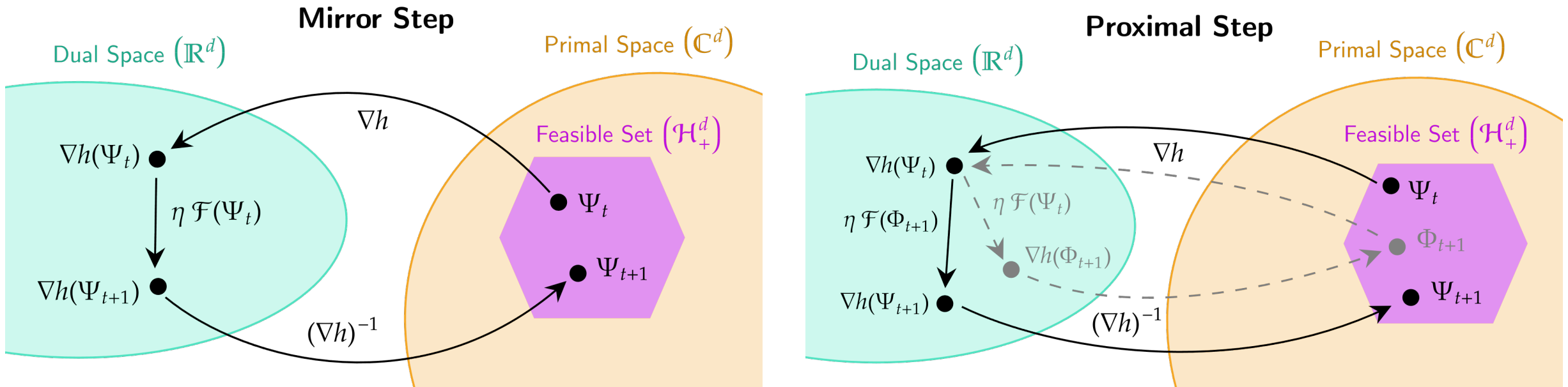
Achieving Speedup: Proximal Steps and Optimism

- To improve upon the MMWU, we leverage **proximal** instead of mirror steps
 - Proximal steps introduce "**momentum**"



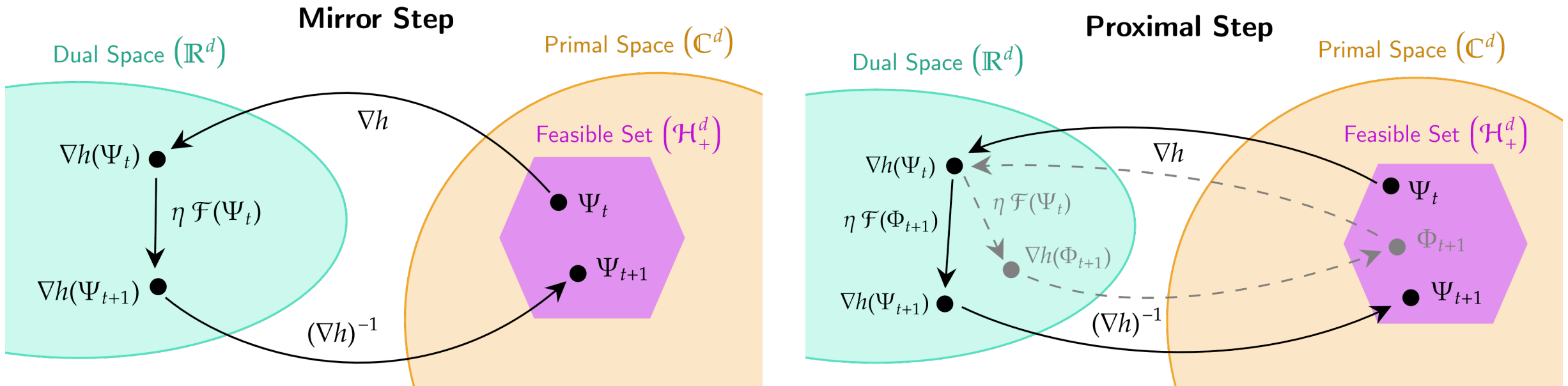
Achieving Speedup: Proximal Steps and Optimism

- To improve upon the MMWU, we leverage **proximal** instead of mirror steps
 - Proximal steps introduce "**momentum**"



Achieving Speedup: Proximal Steps and Optimism

- To improve upon the MMWU, we leverage **proximal** instead of mirror steps
 - Proximal steps introduce "**momentum**"



- We further leverage "**optimism**" to reduce the total number of oracle calls from 2 to 1

Our Proposal: Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates

Our Proposal: Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates

- We leverage proximal maps and optimism in our proposal of **Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (OMMWU)** :

Our Proposal: Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates

- We leverage proximal maps and optimism in our proposal of **Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (OMMWU)** :

OMMWU

$$\Phi_{t+1} = \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_t))$$

$$\Psi_{t+1} = \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_{t+1}))$$

Our Proposal: Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates

- We leverage proximal maps and optimism in our proposal of

Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (OMMWU) :

OMMWU

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{t+1} &= \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_t)) \\ \Psi_{t+1} &= \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_{t+1}))\end{aligned}$$

MMWU

$$\Psi_{t+1} = \Lambda\left(\eta \sum_{i=0}^t \mathcal{F}(\Psi_i)\right)$$

Our Proposal: Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates

- We leverage proximal maps and optimism in our proposal of

Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (OMMWU) :

OMMWU

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{t+1} &= \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_t)) \\ \Psi_{t+1} &= \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_{t+1}))\end{aligned}$$

MMWU

$$\Psi_{t+1} = \Lambda\left(\eta \sum_{i=0}^t \mathcal{F}(\Psi_i)\right)$$

- Like classical OMWU, we prove an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon)$ convergence.

Our Proposal: Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates

- We leverage proximal maps and optimism in our proposal of

Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (OMMWU) :

OMMWU

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{t+1} &= \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_t)) \\ \Psi_{t+1} &= \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_{t+1}))\end{aligned}$$

MMWU

$$\Psi_{t+1} = \Lambda\left(\eta \sum_{i=0}^t \mathcal{F}(\Psi_i)\right)$$

- Like classical OMWU, we prove an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon)$ convergence.
 - The proof follows the proof structure of [EN20] for monotone VIs.

Our Proposal: Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates

- We leverage proximal maps and optimism in our proposal of

Optimistic Matrix Multiplicative Weight Updates (OMMWU) :

OMMWU

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{t+1} &= \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_t)) \\ \Psi_{t+1} &= \Lambda(\log \Phi_t + \eta \mathcal{F}(\Psi_{t+1}))\end{aligned}$$

MMWU

$$\Psi_{t+1} = \Lambda\left(\eta \sum_{i=0}^t \mathcal{F}(\Psi_i)\right)$$

- Like classical OMWU, we prove an $\mathcal{O}(1/\epsilon)$ convergence.
 - The proof follows the proof structure of [EN20] for monotone VIs.
 - We leverage notions of strong convexity, smoothness, and Fenchel conjugacy.

QZSG Algorithm Design

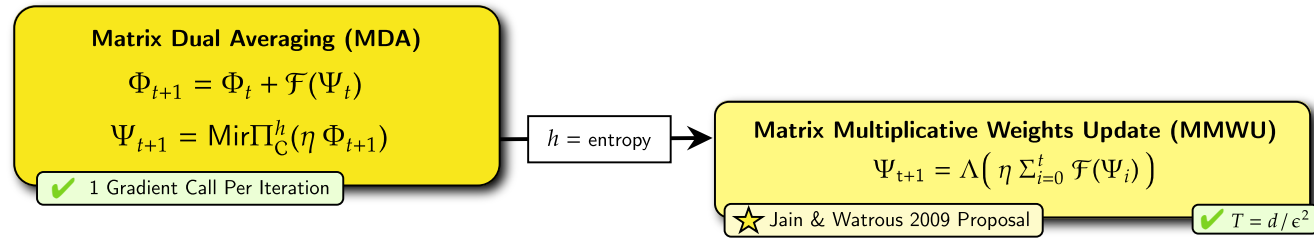
QZSG Algorithm Design

Matrix Multiplicative Weights Update (MMWU)

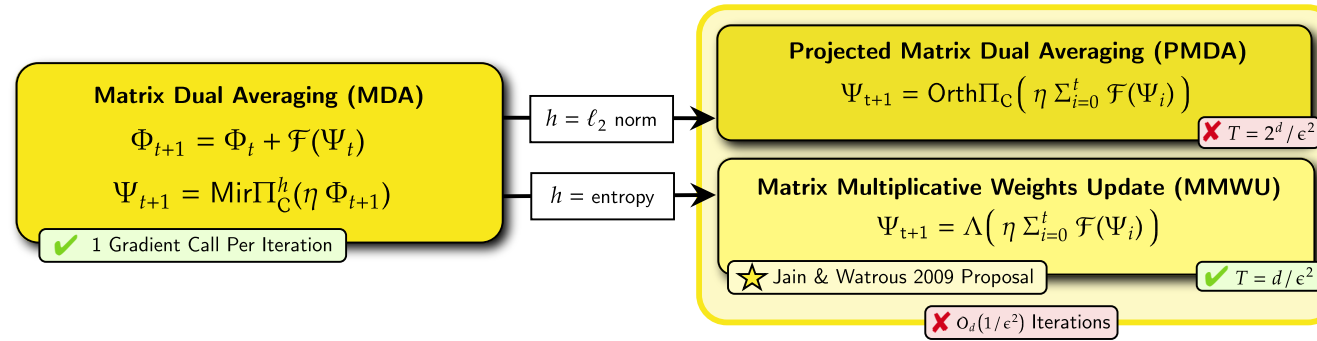
$$\Psi_{t+1} = \Lambda\left(\eta \sum_{i=0}^t \mathcal{F}(\Psi_i)\right)$$

★ Jain & Watrous 2009 Proposal

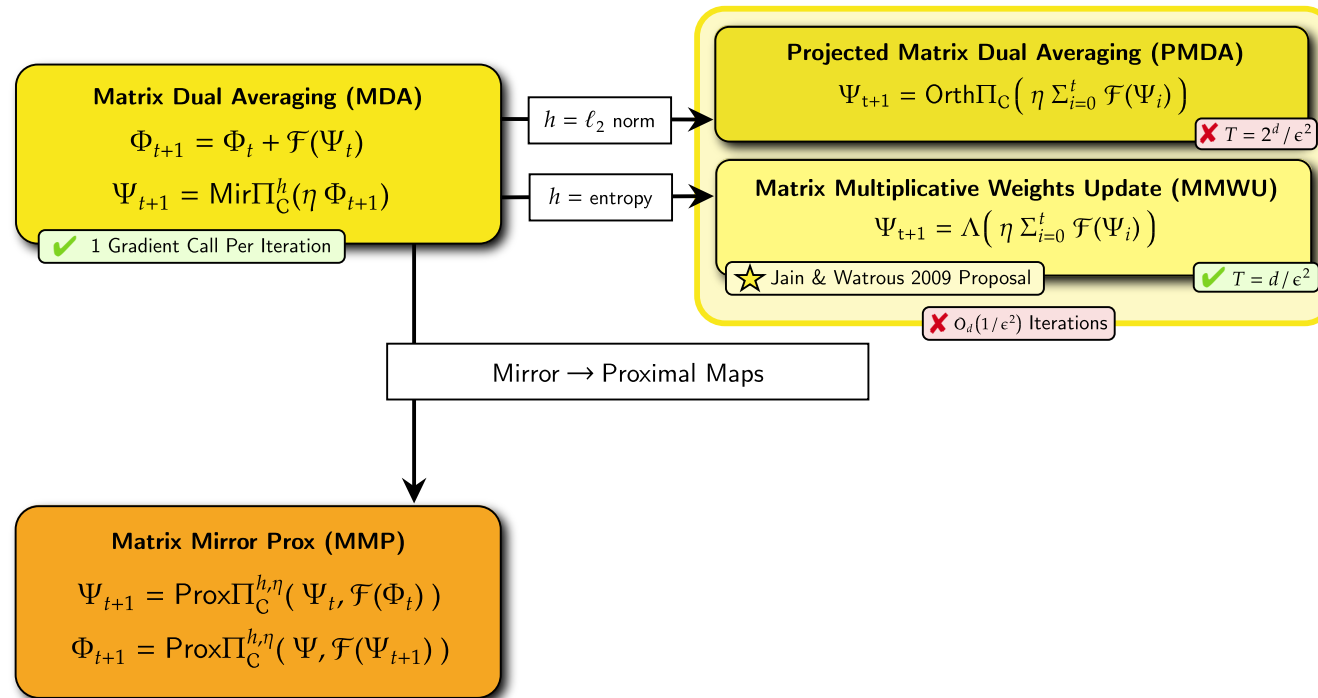
QZSG Algorithm Design



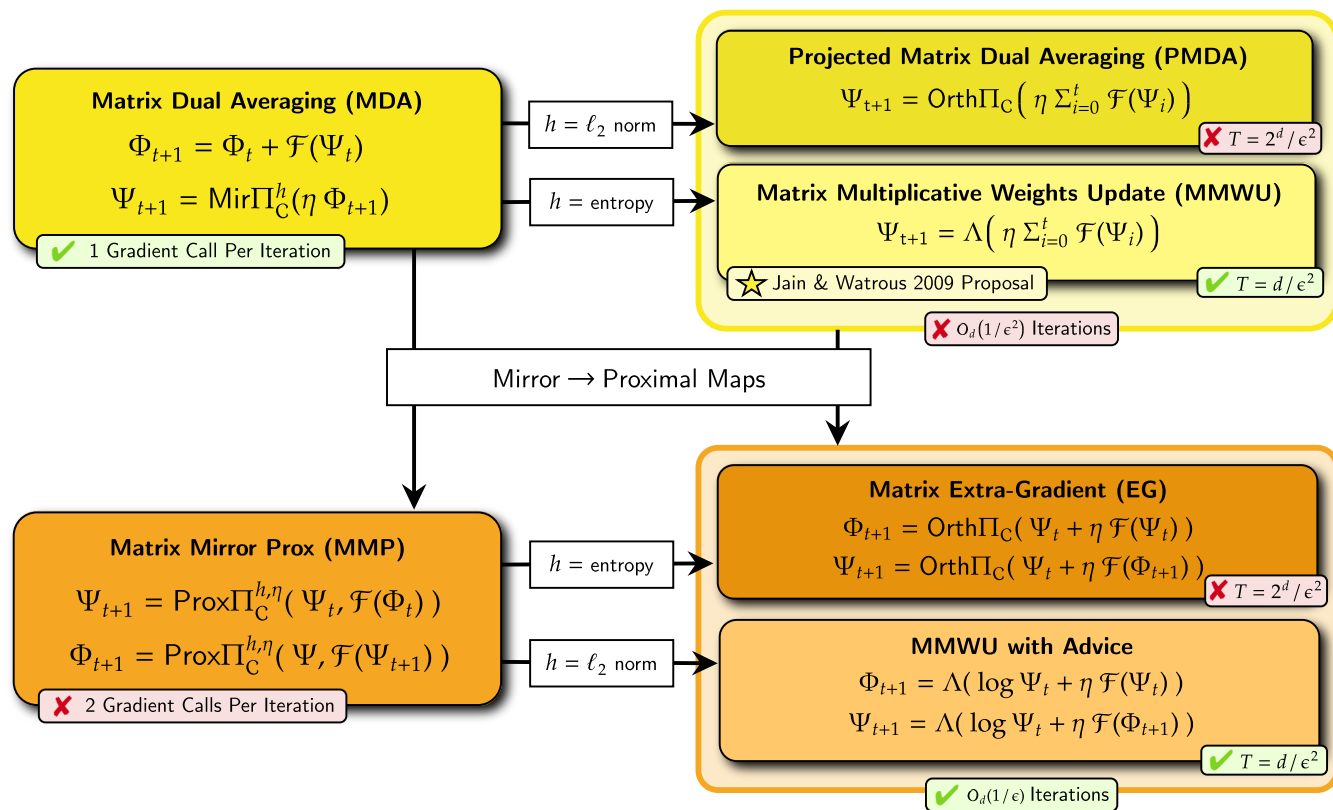
QZSG Algorithm Design



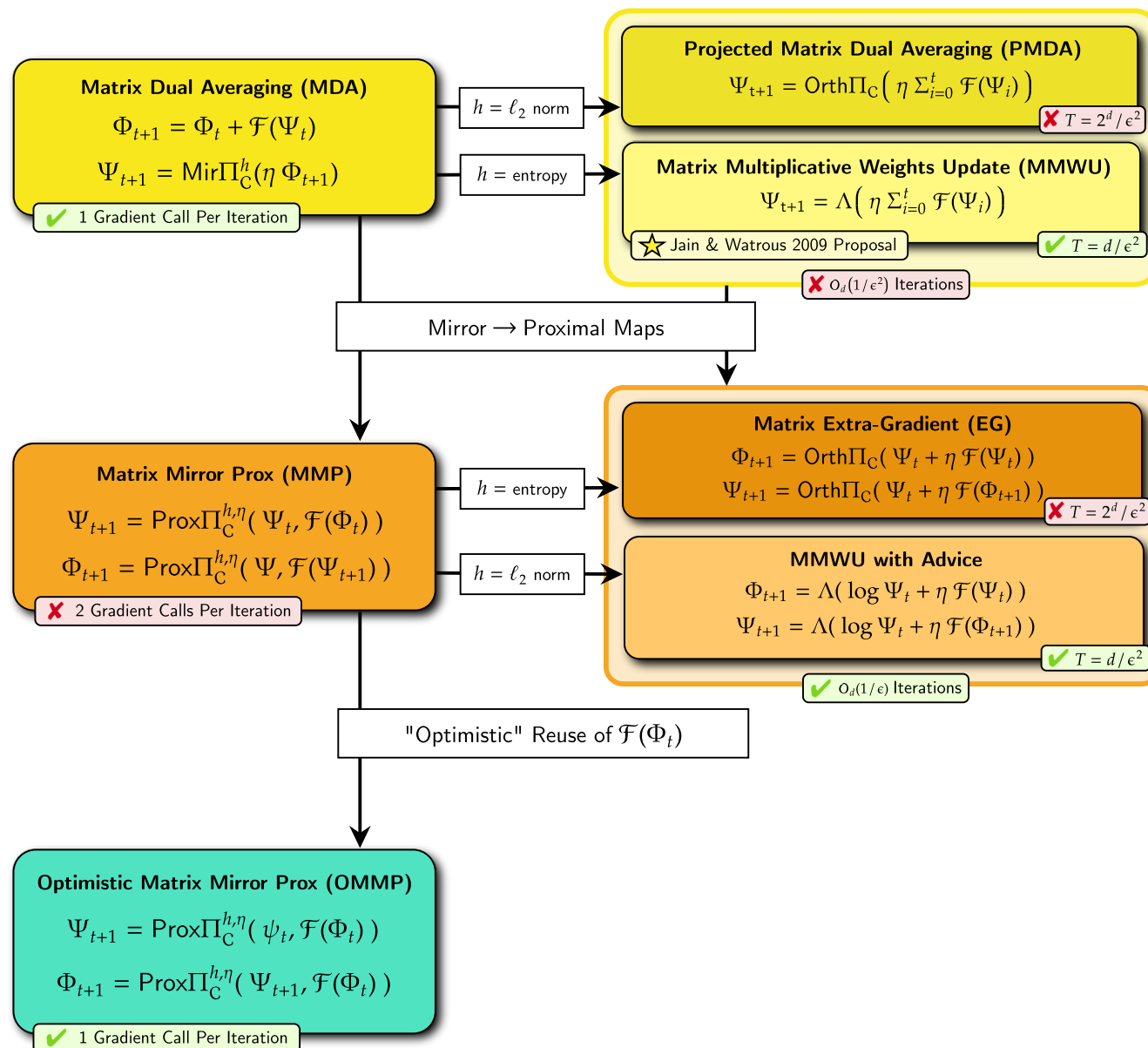
QZSG Algorithm Design



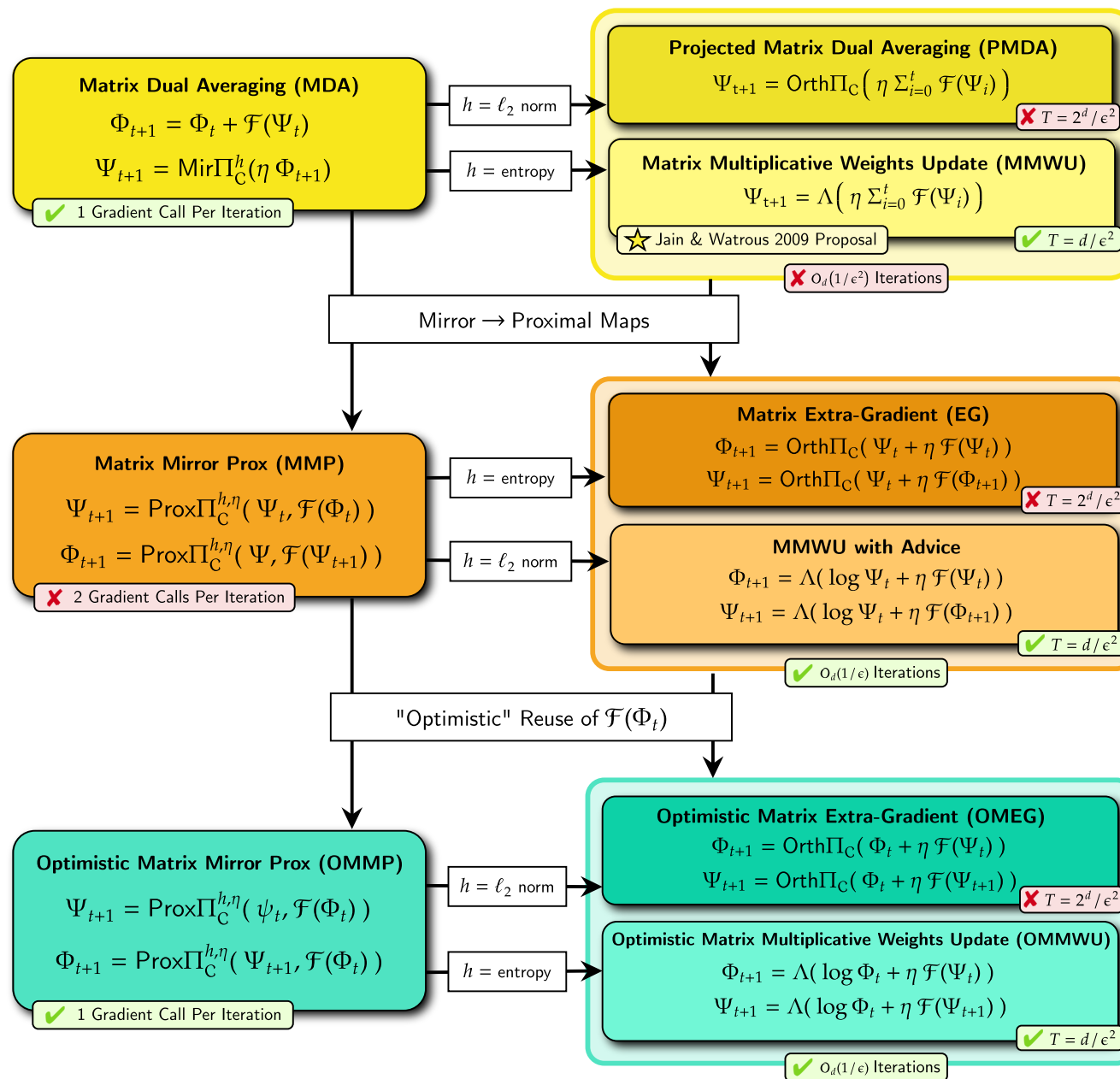
QZSG Algorithm Design



QZSG Algorithm Design



QZSG Algorithm Design



A Quadratic Speedup in Finding Nash Equilibria of Quantum Zero-Sum Games

[arXiv:2311.10859]



Thank you! Questions?

References

- [BW22]** John Bostanci and John Watrous. "Quantum game theory and the complexity of approximating quantum Nash equilibria". *Quantum* 6, 882 (2022).
- [DK18]** Pierre-Luc Dallaire-Demers and Nathan Killoran. "Quantum generative adversarial networks". *Phys. Rev. A* 98, 012324 (2018).
- [EN20]** Alina Ene and Huy Lê Nguyễn. "Adaptive and Universal Algorithms for Variational Inequalities with Optimal Convergence". *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence* 36, 6559–6567 (2022).
- [JW09]** Rahul Jain and John Watrous. "Parallel Approximation of Non-interactive Zero-sum Quantum Games". In *2009 24th Annual IEEE Conference on Computational Complexity*. Pages 243–253. (2009).
- [M99]** David A. Meyer. "Quantum Strategies". *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 82, 1052–1055 (1999).