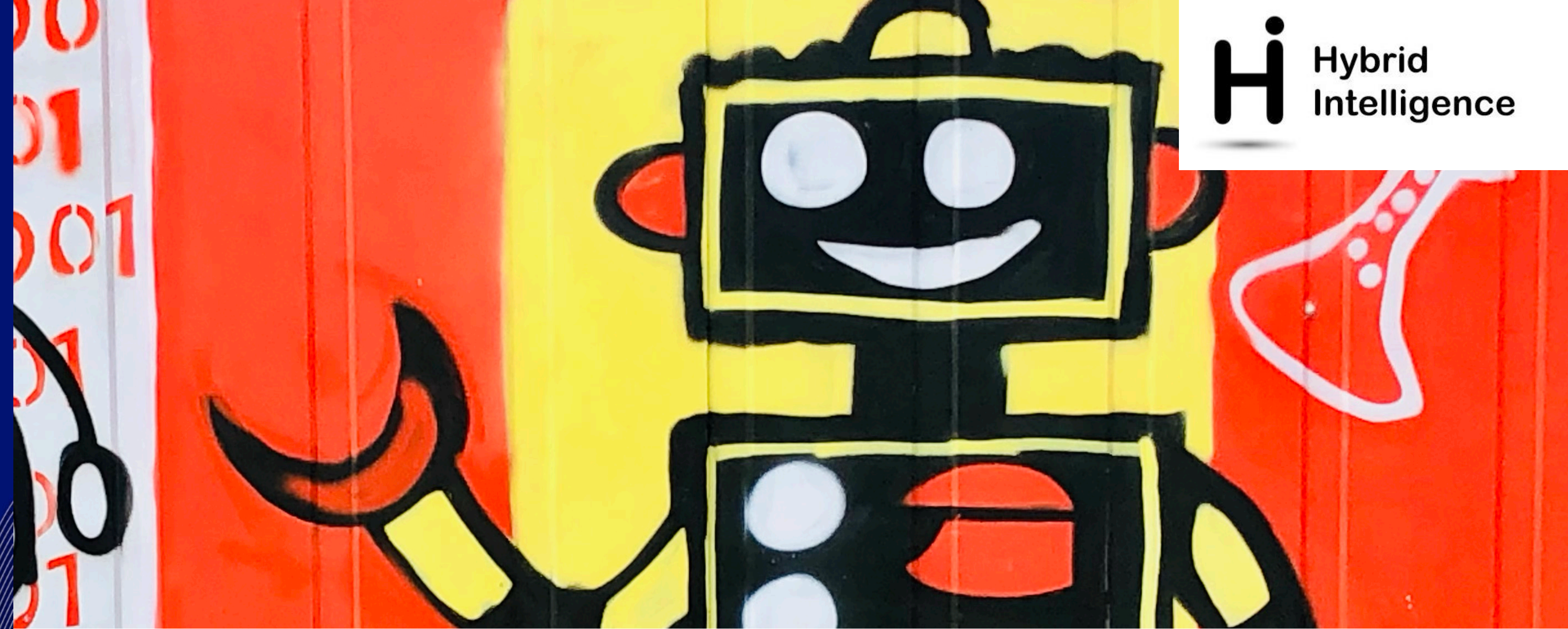


Cooperation Under Uncertain Incentive Alignment

A Multi-Agent
Reinforcement Learning Perspective

Nicole Orzan



Cooperate under Uncertain Incentive Alignment

Niki Orzan

Erman Acar



Daide Grossi

Roxana Radulescu



university of
 groningen



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM



Context

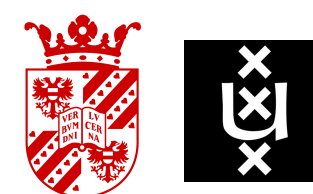
Economic reasoning and artificial intelligence

David C. Parkes^{1*} and Michael P. Wellman^{2*}

Economics is drawn to rational decision models because they directly connect choices and values in a mathematically precise manner. Critics argue that the field studies a mythical species, *homo economicus* (“economic man”) and produces theories with limited applicability to how real humans behave. Defenders acknowledge that rationality is an idealization but counter that the abstraction supports powerful analysis, which is often quite predictive of people's behavior. [...]

Artificial intelligence research is likewise drawn to rationality concepts, because they provide an ideal for the computational artifacts it seeks to create. Core to the modern conception of AI is the idea of designing agents: entities that perceive the world and act in it. The quality of an AI design is judged by how well the agent's actions advance specified goals, conditioned on the perceptions observed. This coherence among perceptions, actions, and goals is the essence of rationality. If we represent goals in terms of preference over outcomes, and conceive perception and action within the framework of decision-making under uncertainty, then the AI agent's situation aligns squarely with the standard economic paradigm of rational choice.

Thus, the AI designer's task is to build rational agents, or agents that best approximate rationality given the limits of their computational resources. In other words, AI strives to construct---out of silicon (or whatever) and information---a synthetic *homo economicus*, perhaps more accurately termed *machina economica*.



COOPERATION WITHOUT COMMUNICATION

Michael R. Genesereth, Matthew L. Ginsberg, and Jeffrey S. Rosenschein*

Logic Group, Knowledge Systems Laboratory,
Computer Science Department, Stanford University,
Stanford, California 94305

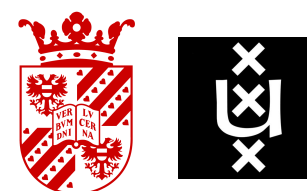
“Intelligent agents will inevitably need to interact flexibly with other entities. The existence of conflicting goals will need to be handled by these automated agents, just as it is routinely handled by humans.”

Open Problems in Cooperative AI :- (

Allan Dafoe¹, Edward Hughes², Yoram Bachrach², Tantum Collins², Kevin R. McKee², Joel Z. Leibo²,
Kate Larson^{2, 3} and Thore Graepel²

¹Centre for the Governance of AI, Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford, ²DeepMind, ³University of Waterloo

“Since machines powered by artificial intelligence are playing an ever greater role in our lives, it will be important to equip them with the capabilities necessary to cooperate and to foster cooperation.”

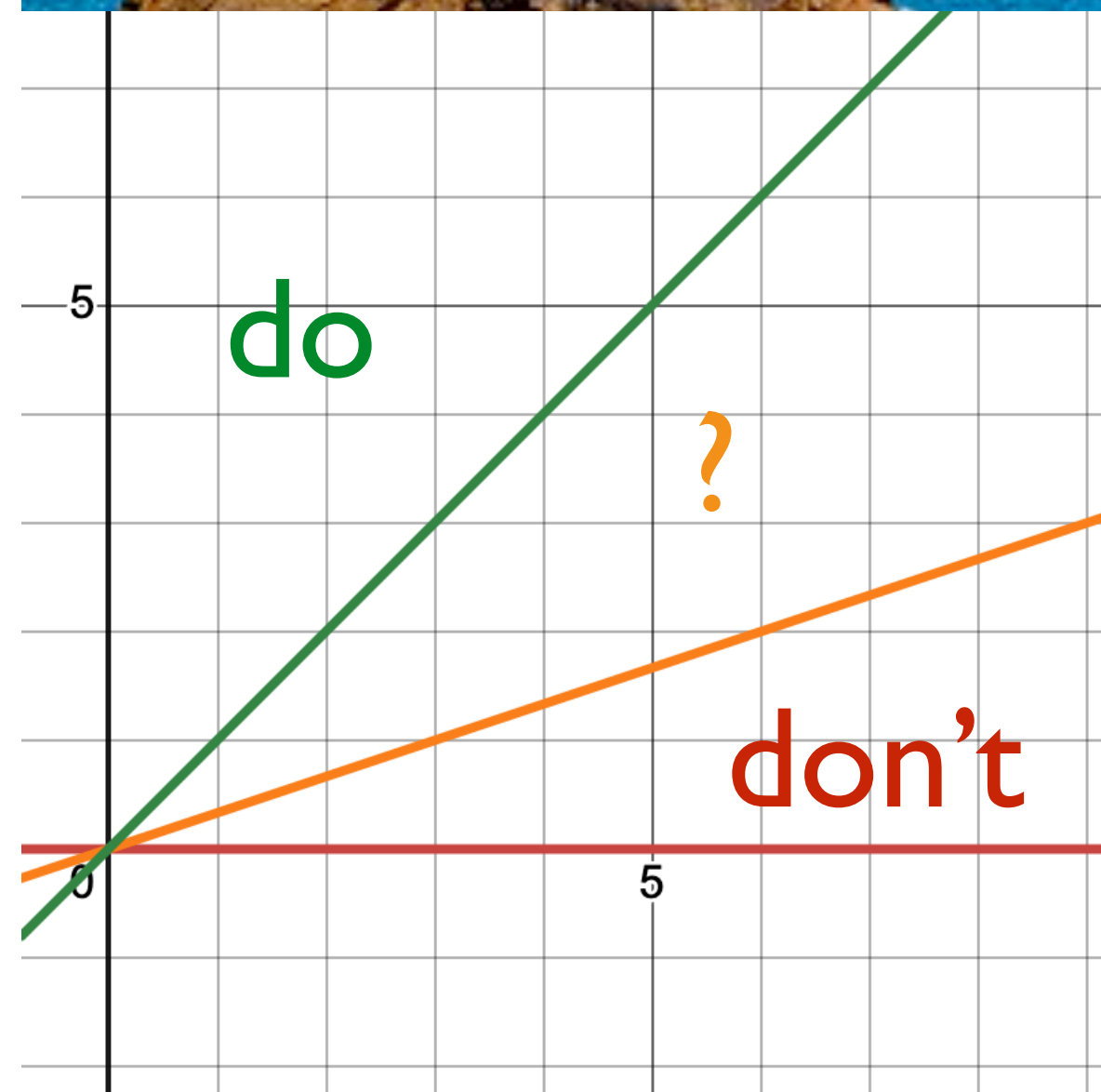


Public Goods Problems

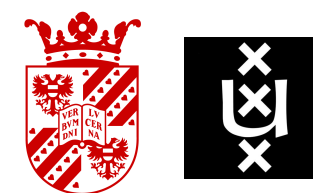
Public Goods Problems



- Each player owns c tokens, and decides whether to invest them (**C**ooperate) or not (**D**efect)
- The return to the total investment is a multiple f of the total investment and is evenly divided among players
- f modulates how attractive the investment is:
 - $f < 1$... obviously better not to invest
 - $n < f$... obviously better to invest
 - $1 < f < n$... better not to invest, but hopefully others do (dilemma)



Pareto dominated Nash equilibria



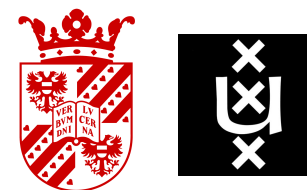
Multiplier Factor Games

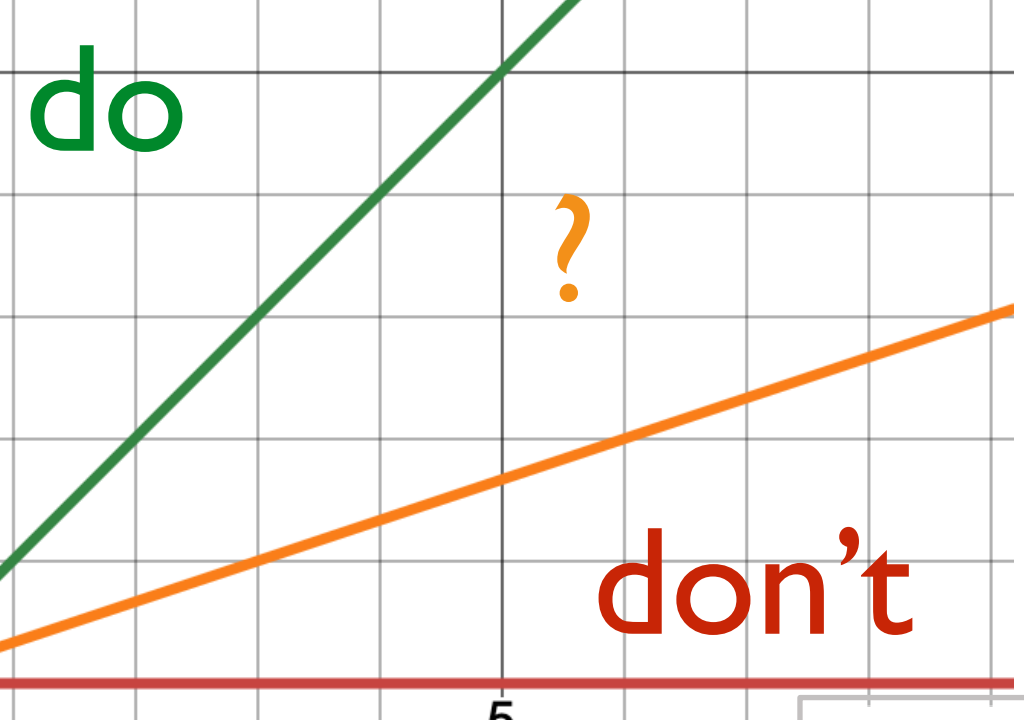
A multiplier factor game is a tuple $\langle N, \mathbf{c}, A, f, \mathbf{r} \rangle$, where:

- N is the set of players, with $|N| = n$ being the number of players
- $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$ with $c_i \in \mathbb{R}$ is the tuple of endowments
- $A = \{C, D\}$ is the action set of each player: cooperate (**C**) or defect (**D**)
- $f \in F \subseteq \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is the multiplier factor all in! all out!
- \mathbf{r} is the tuple of agents' payoffs

$$r_i(\mathbf{a}, f, \mathbf{c}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n c_j I(a_j) \cdot f + c_i(1 - I(a_i))$$

$$I(a_j) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a_j = C \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$





Extended Public Goods Game

Imperfect knowledge of multiplication factor

$$r_i(\mathbf{a}, f, \mathbf{c}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n c_j I(a_j) \cdot f + c_i (1 - I(a_i))$$

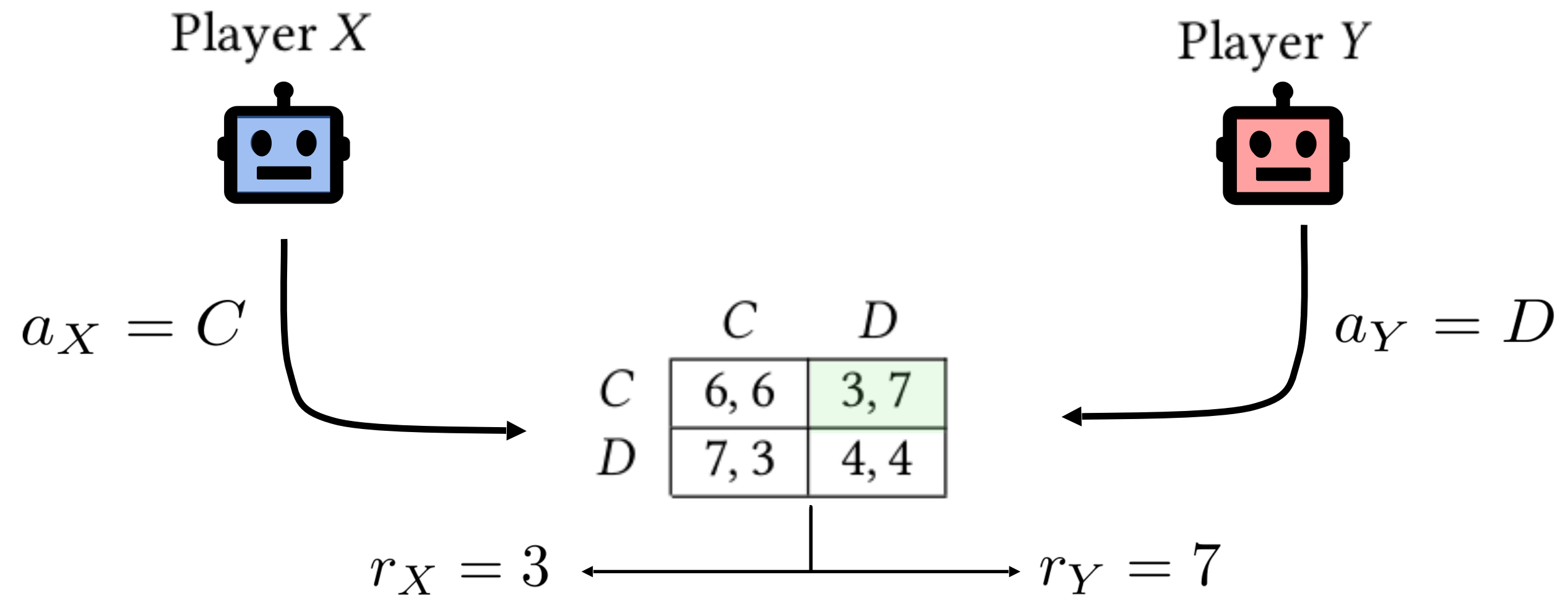
Possible Games

	Competitive	Mixed-Motive	Cooperative																																													
$f = 0.5$	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <th colspan="2">Player X</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> </tr> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Player Y</th> <th>C</th> <td>2, 2</td> <td>1, 5</td> </tr> <tr> <th>D</th> <td>5, 1</td> <td>4, 4</td> </tr> </table>			Player X				C	D	Player Y	C	2, 2	1, 5	D	5, 1	4, 4	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <th colspan="2">Player X</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> </tr> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Player Y</th> <th>C</th> <td>6, 6</td> <td>3, 7</td> </tr> <tr> <th>D</th> <td>7, 3</td> <td>4, 4</td> </tr> </table>			Player X				C	D	Player Y	C	6, 6	3, 7	D	7, 3	4, 4	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <th colspan="2">Player X</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> </tr> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Player Y</th> <th>C</th> <td>10, 10</td> <td>5, 9</td> </tr> <tr> <th>D</th> <td>9, 5</td> <td>4, 4</td> </tr> </table>			Player X				C	D	Player Y	C	10, 10	5, 9	D	9, 5	4, 4
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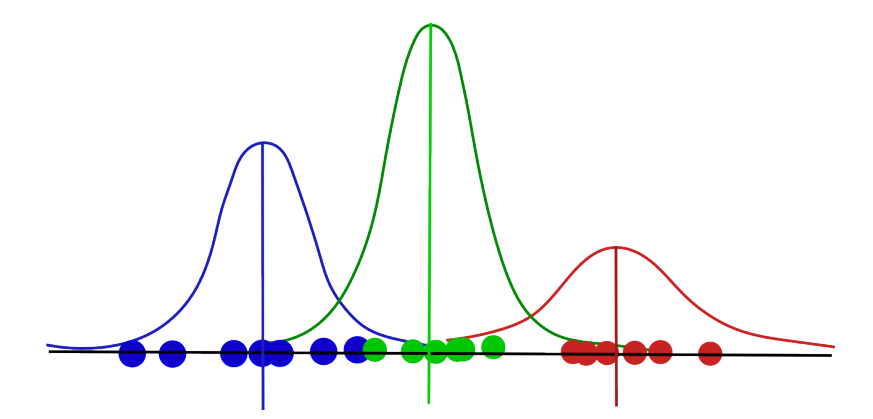
$$\tilde{f}_X = f + N(0, \sigma_X)$$

$$\tilde{f}_Y = f + N(0, \sigma_Y)$$

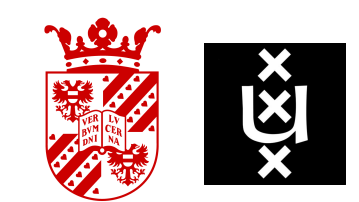
observed with uncertainty



possibly interpreted via a model
Gaussian Mixture Model

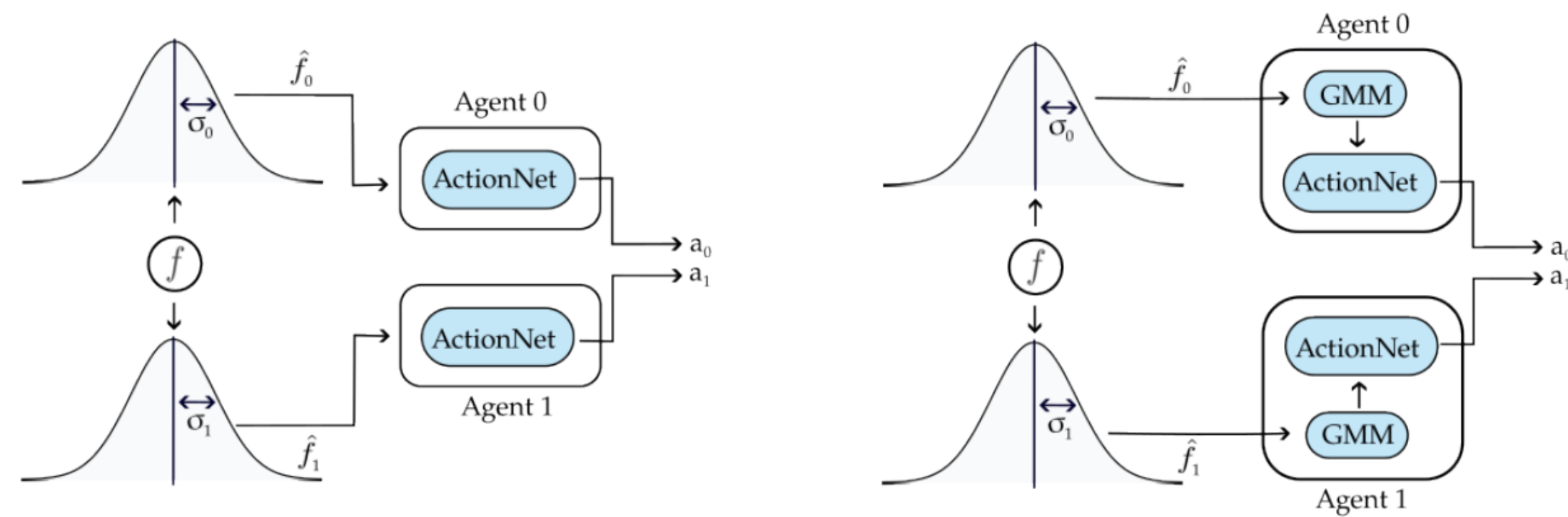


POSG!

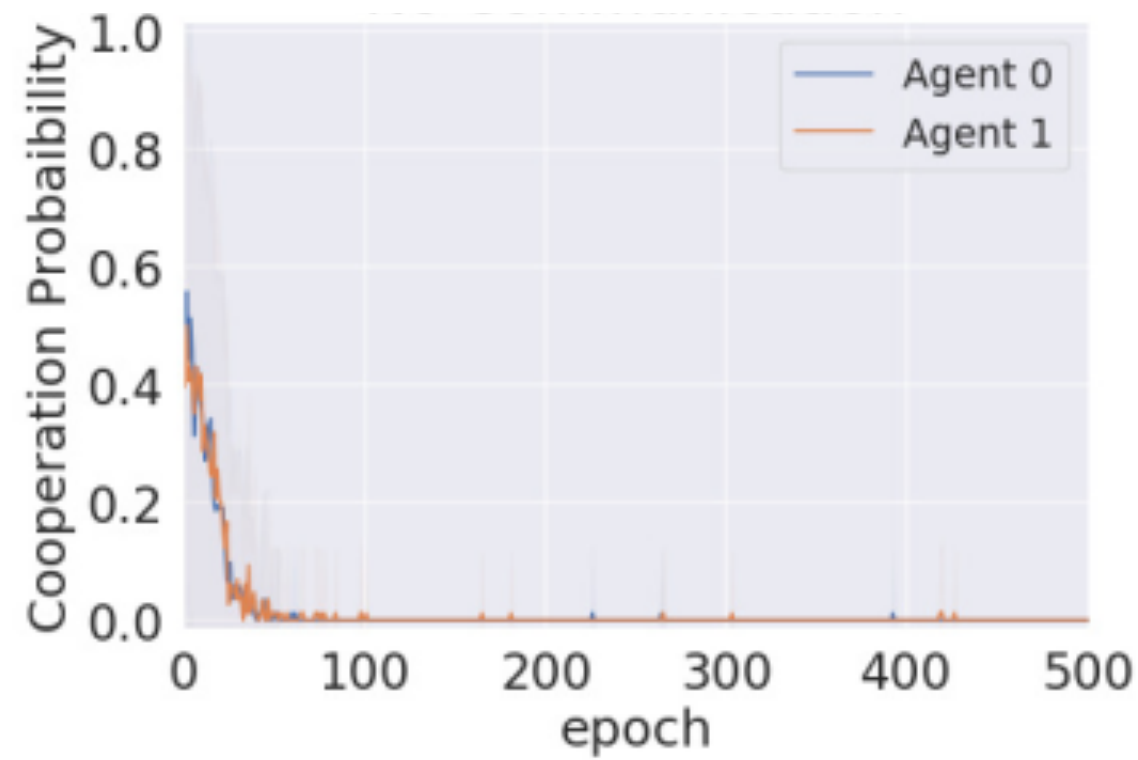


Baseline results with $n = 2$

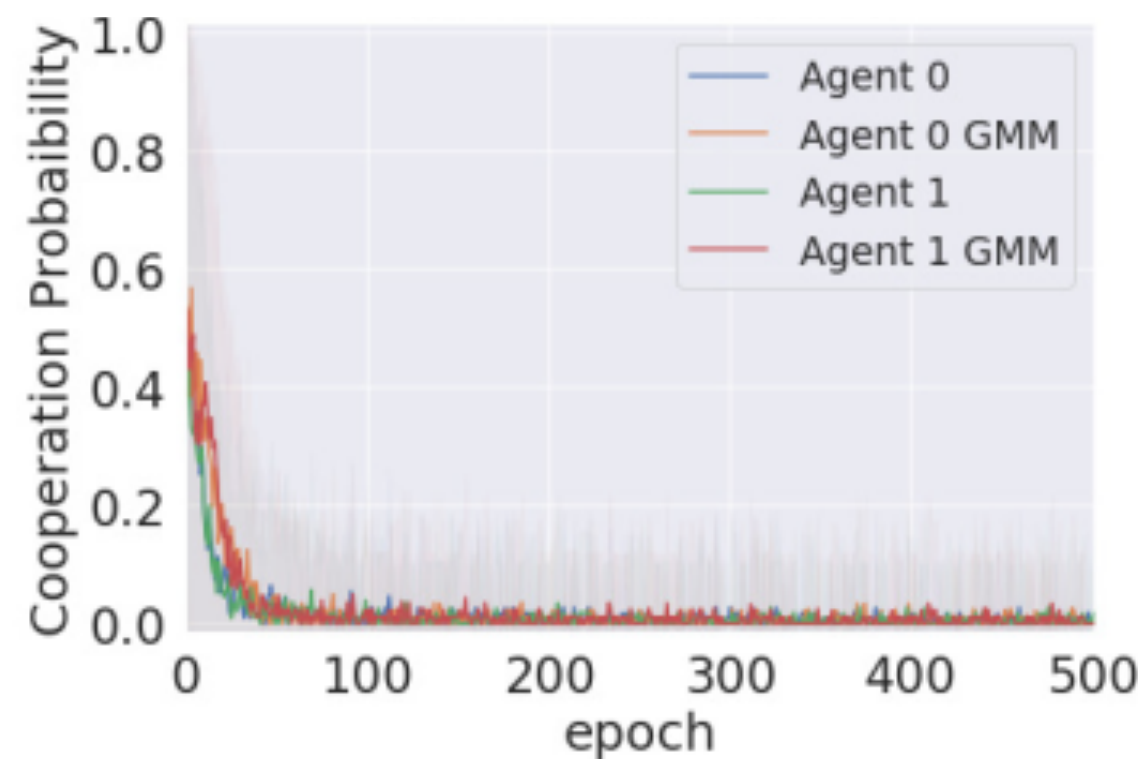
- independent learners
- REINFORCE
- 1-shot games



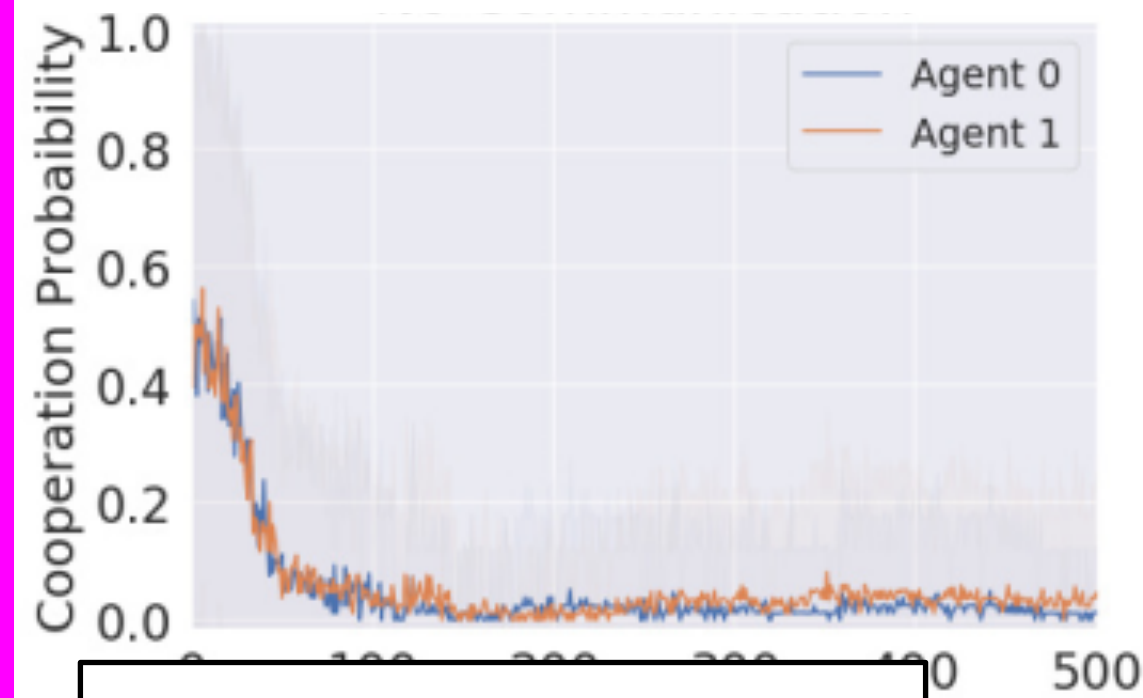
No
Uncertainty



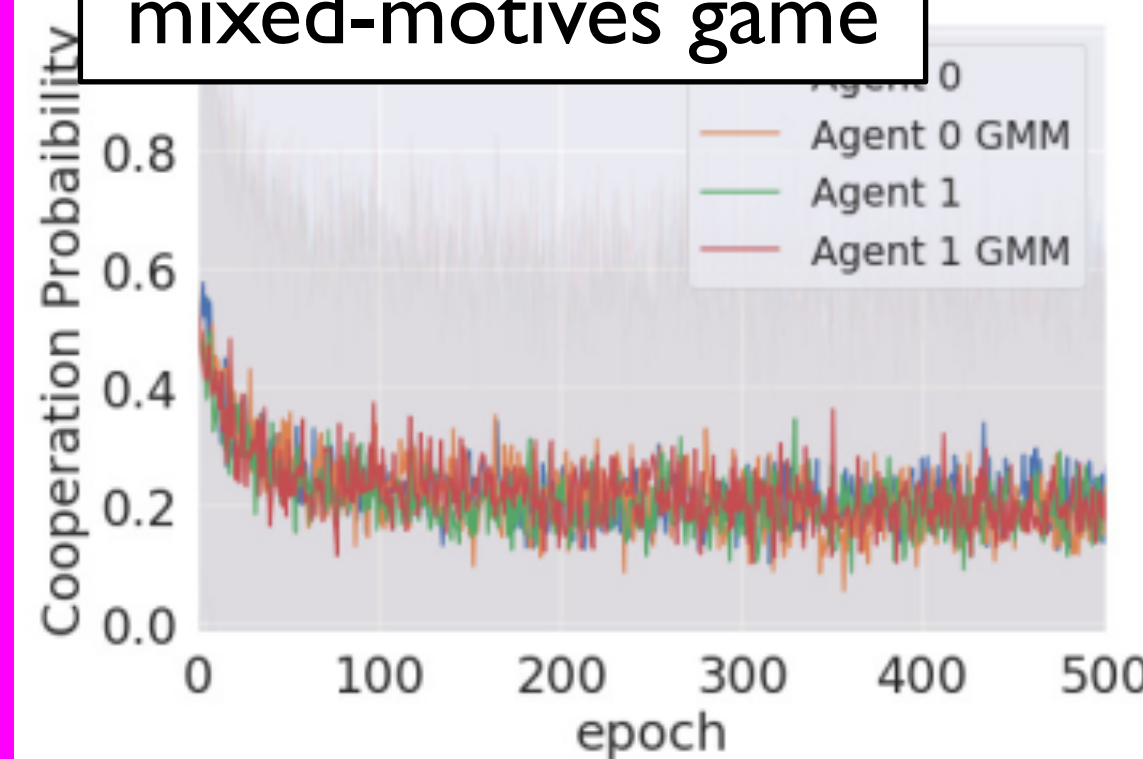
Uncertainty
 $\sigma_i = 0.5$



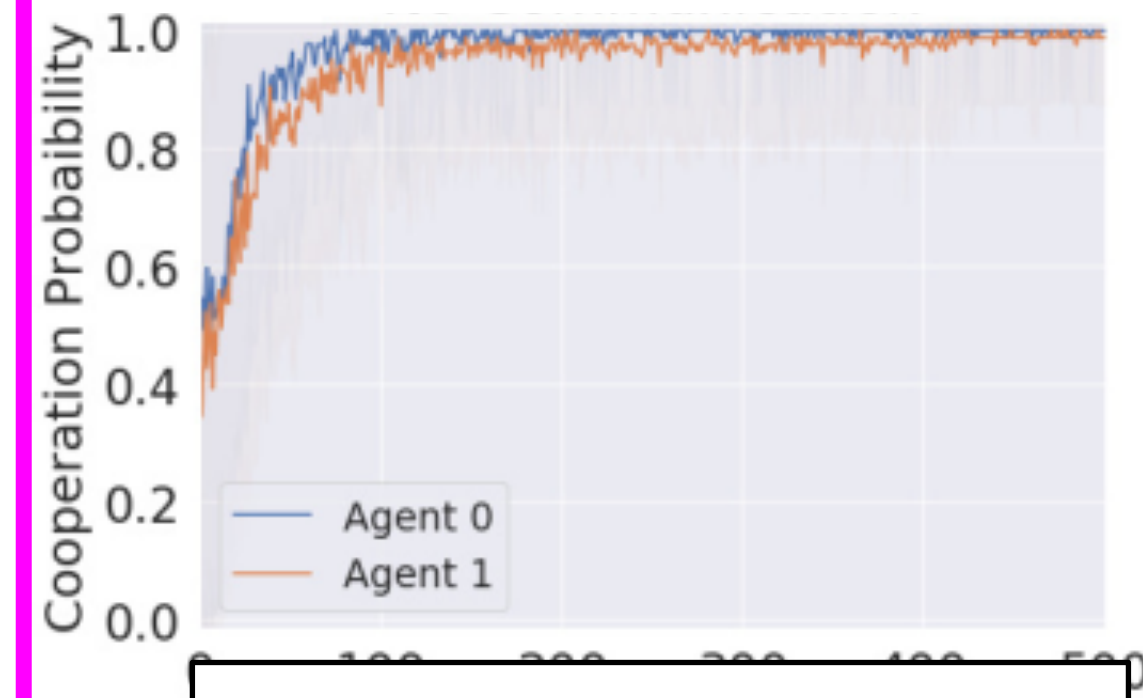
(a) $f = 0.5$



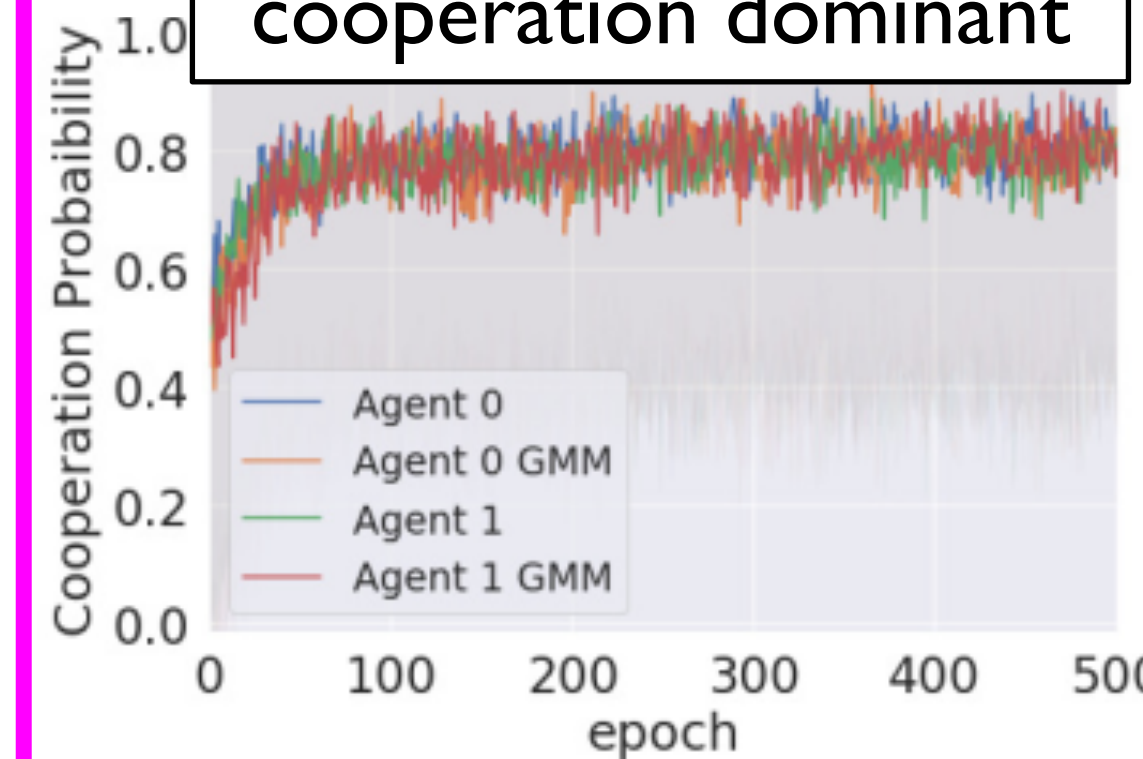
uncertainty leads to
more cooperation in
mixed-motives game



(b) $f = 1.5$



... but makes it harder
to cooperate when
cooperation dominant



(c) $f = 2.5$

average cooperation rate
of across 80 runs

Communication

uncertainty leads to
more cooperation in
mixed-motives game

no predefined protocol

no predefined meaning

Extended Public Goods Game + Communication

Possible Games

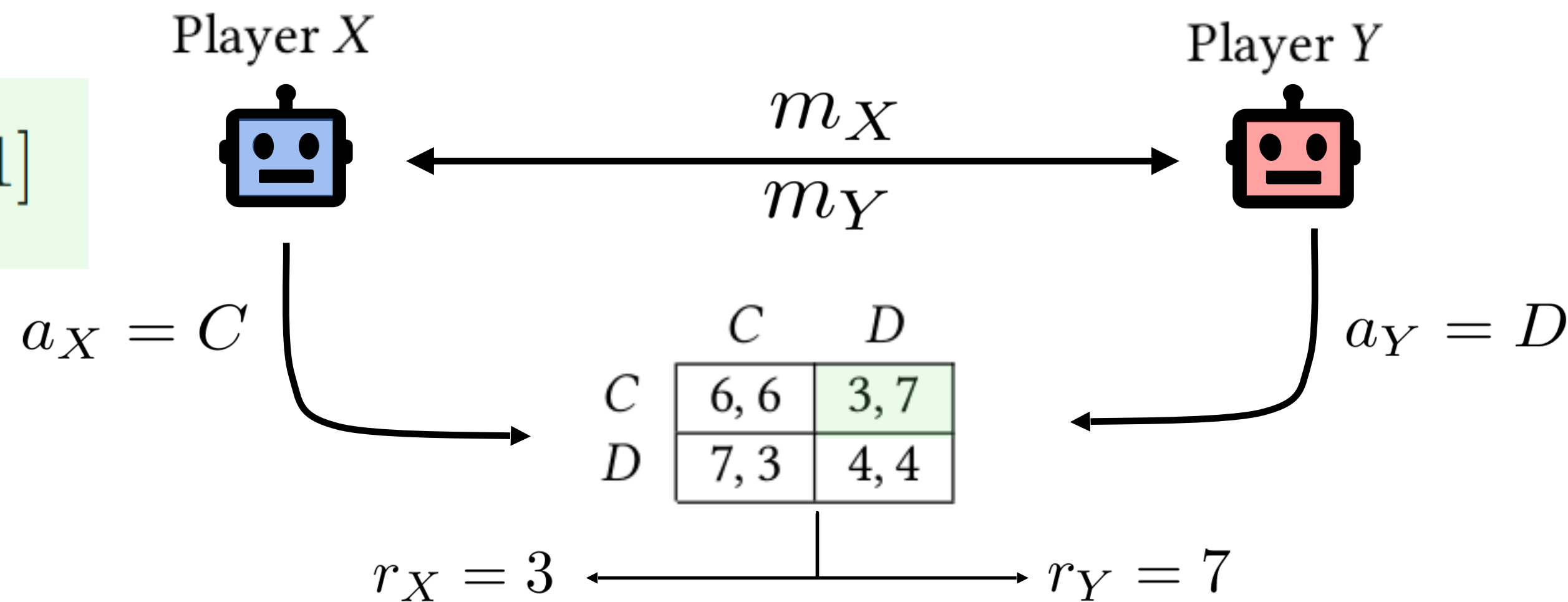
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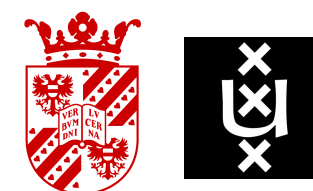
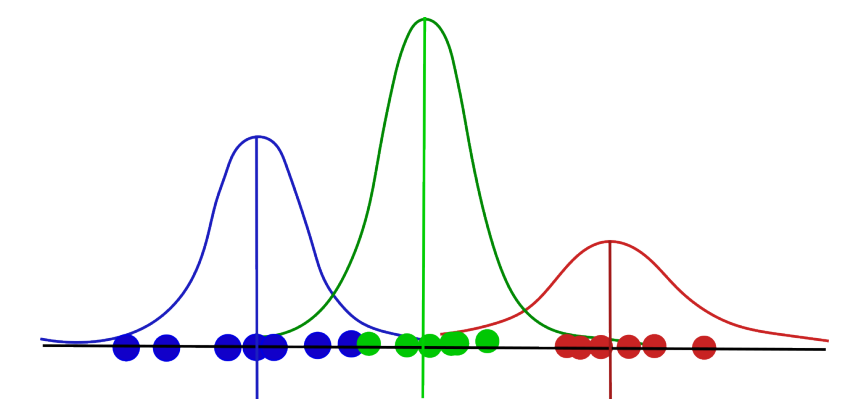
observed with uncertainty

$$\pi_{C_i} : O_i \times M_i \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

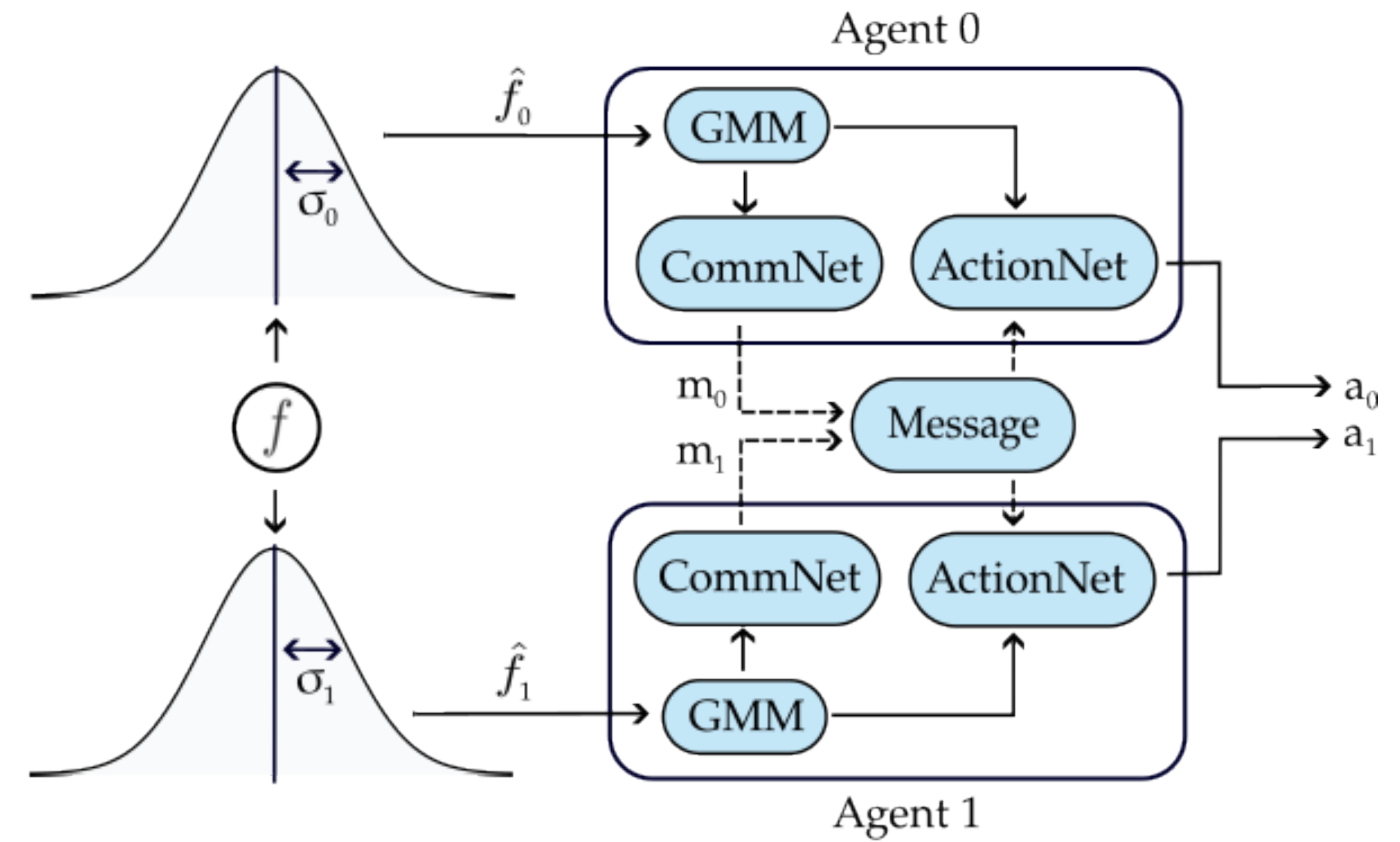
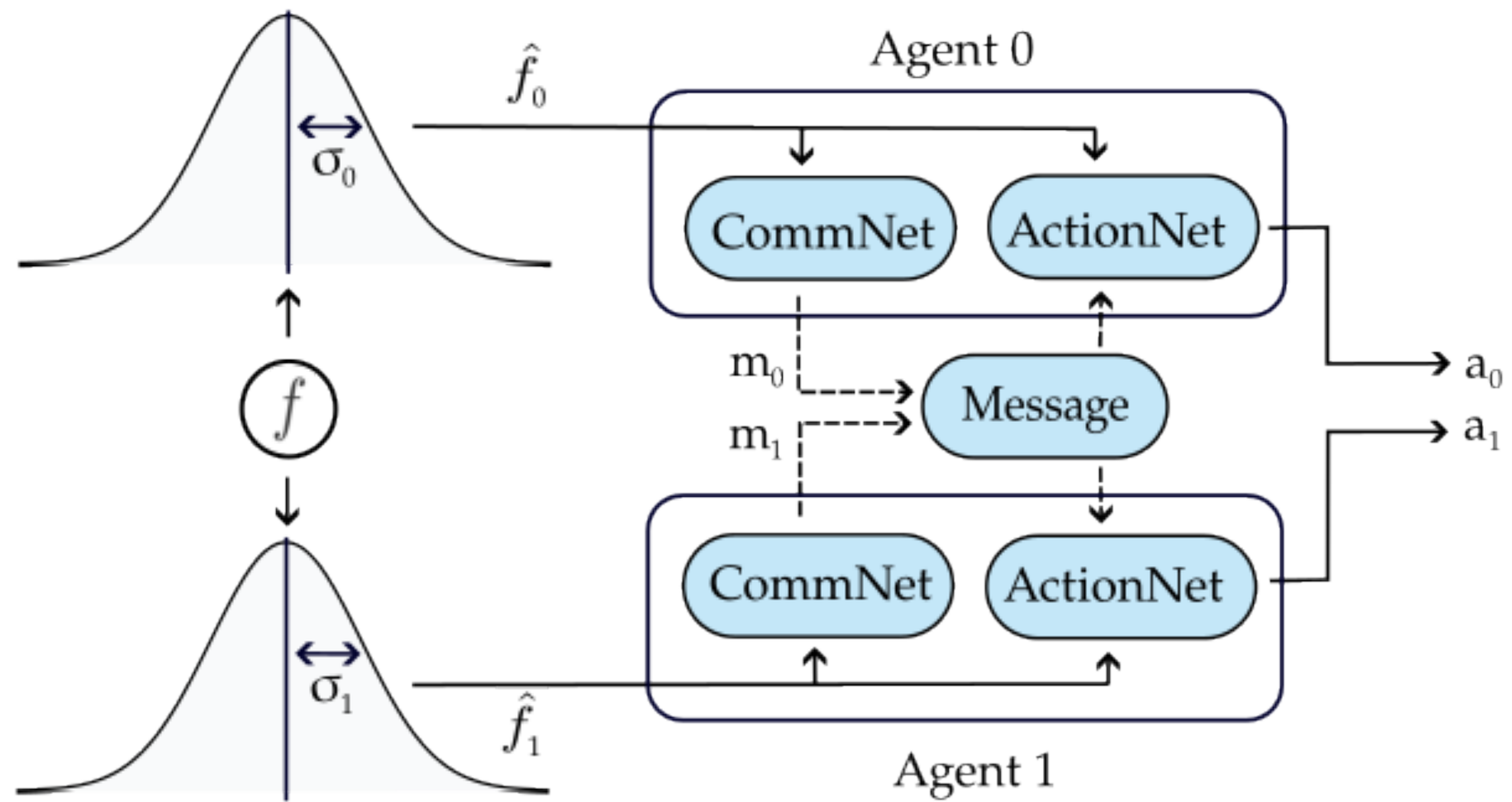


possibly interpreted via a model

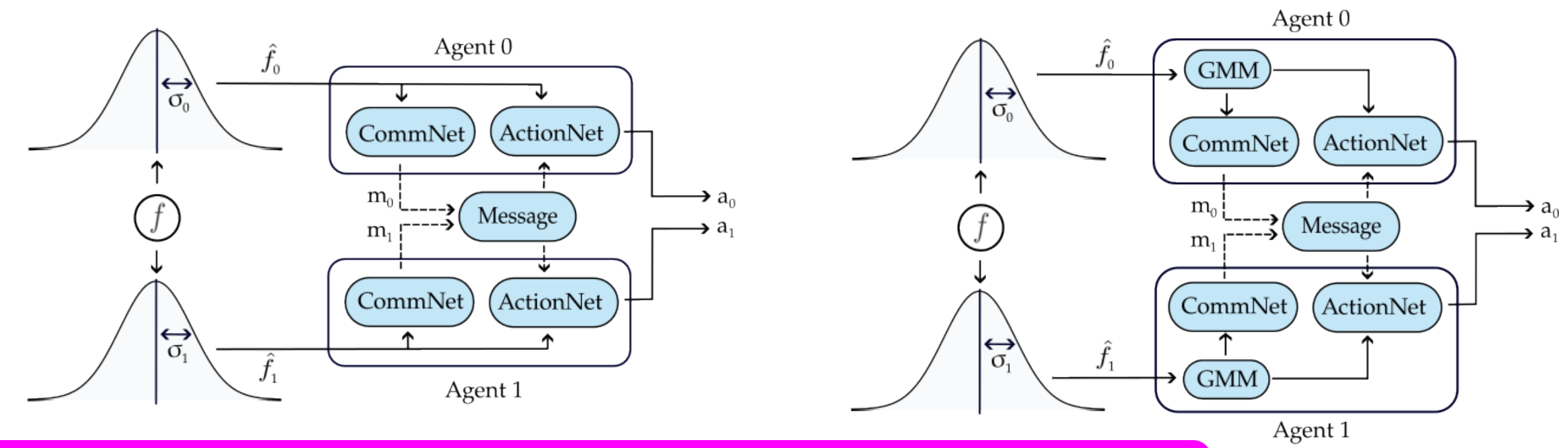
Gaussian Mixture Model



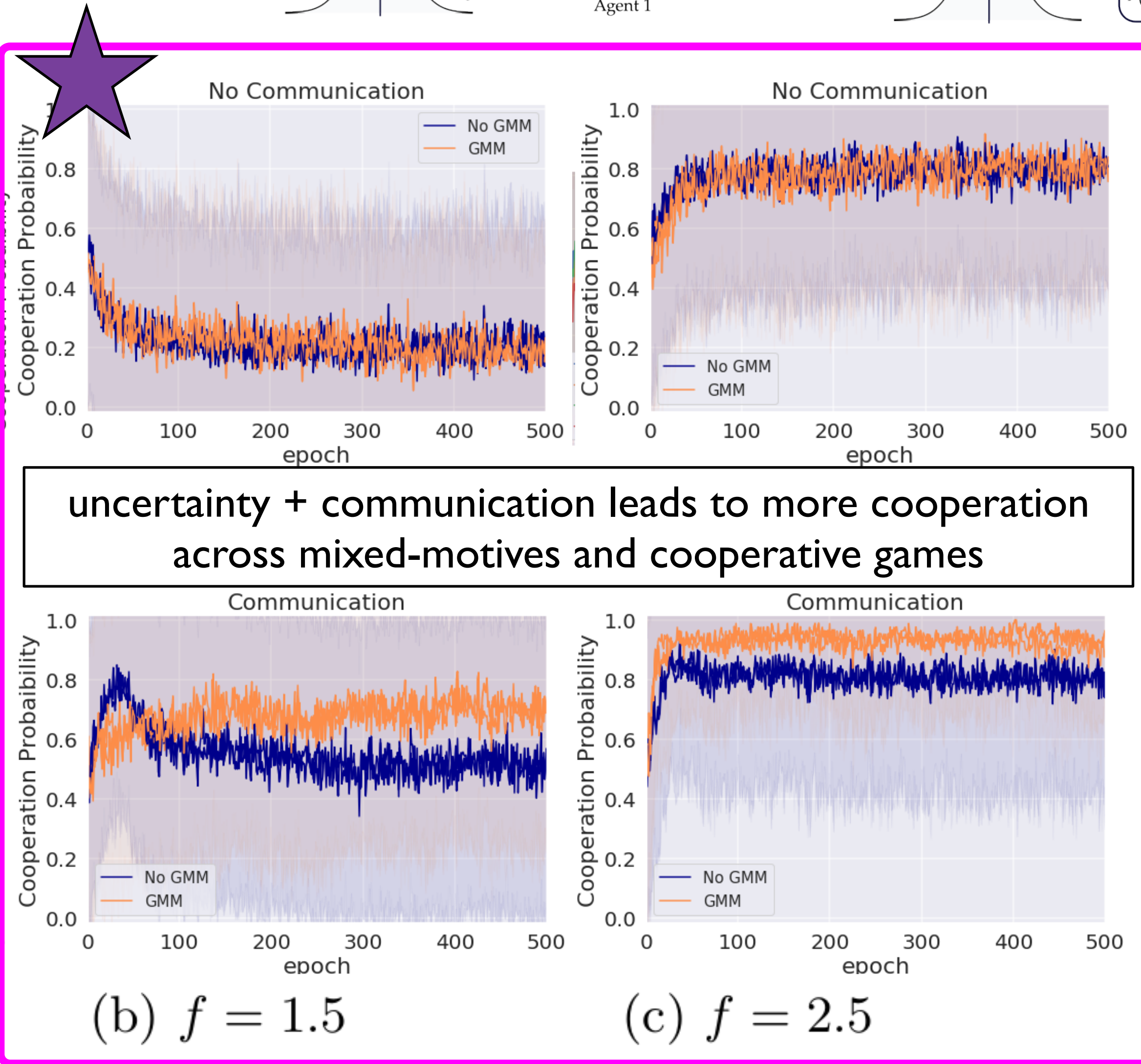
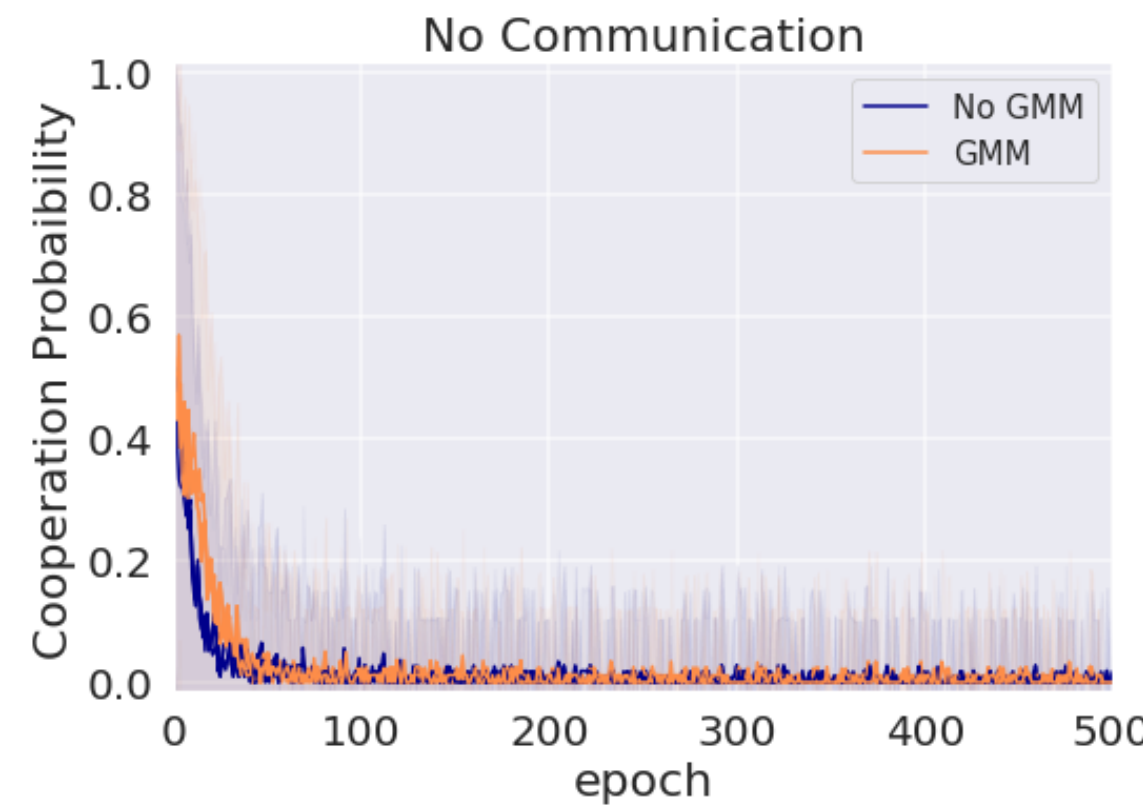
Two Uncertain Agents



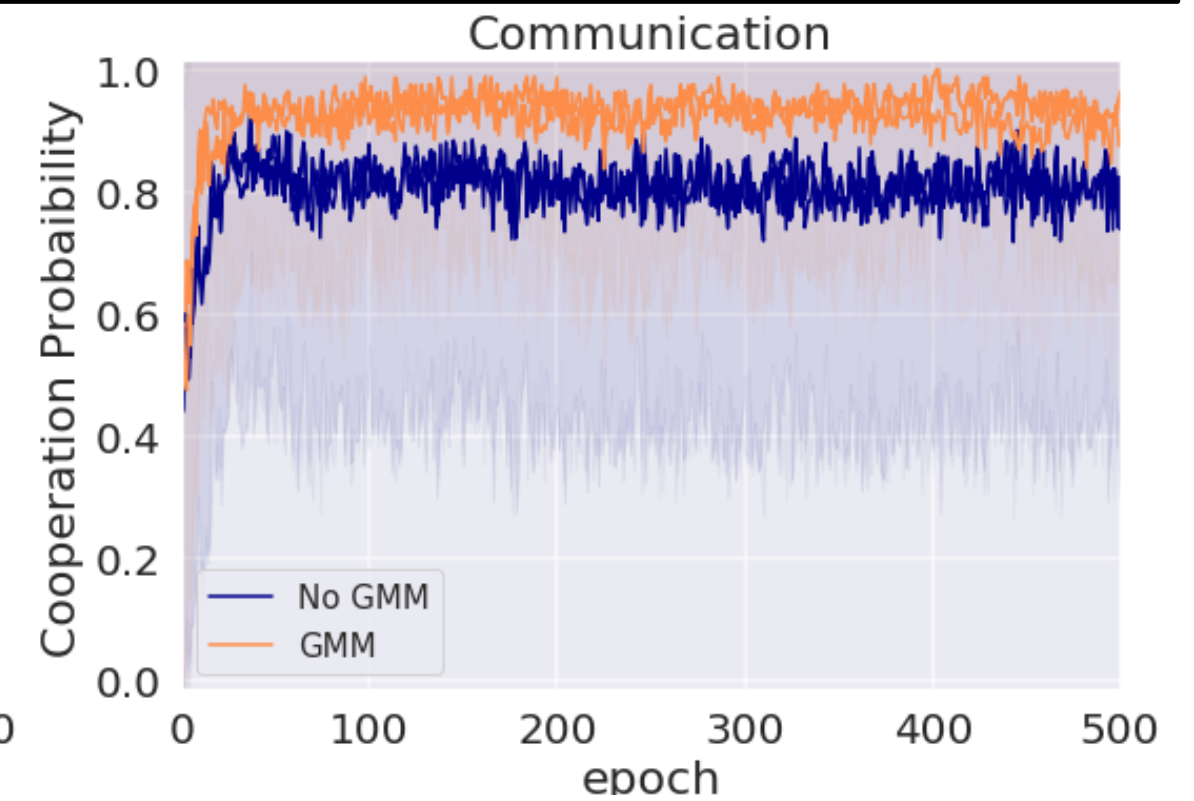
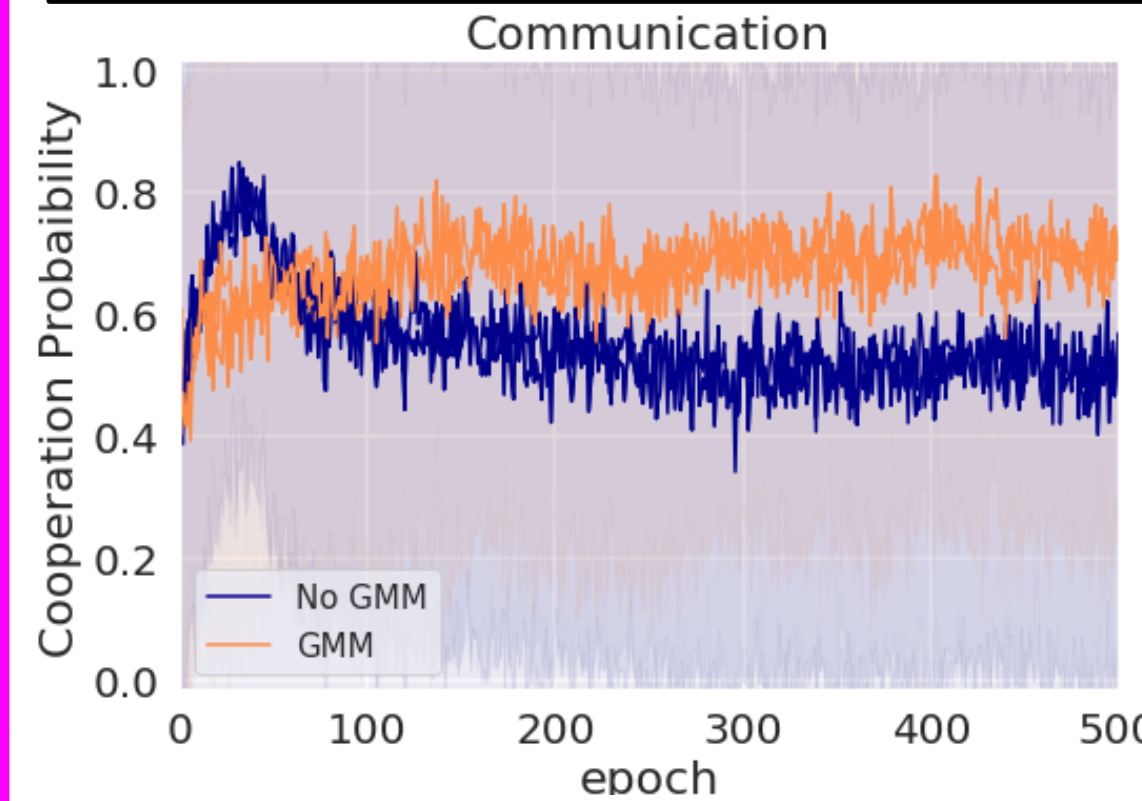
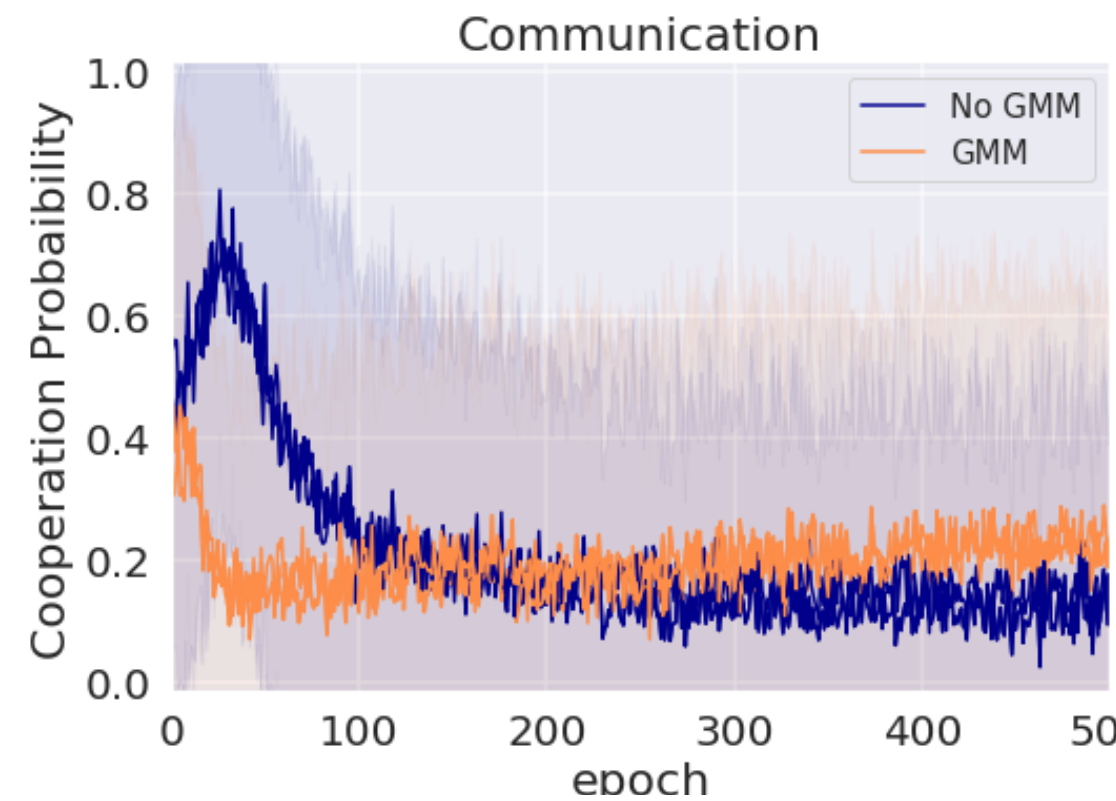
Two Uncertain Agents ($\sigma_i = 0.5$)



No
Communication

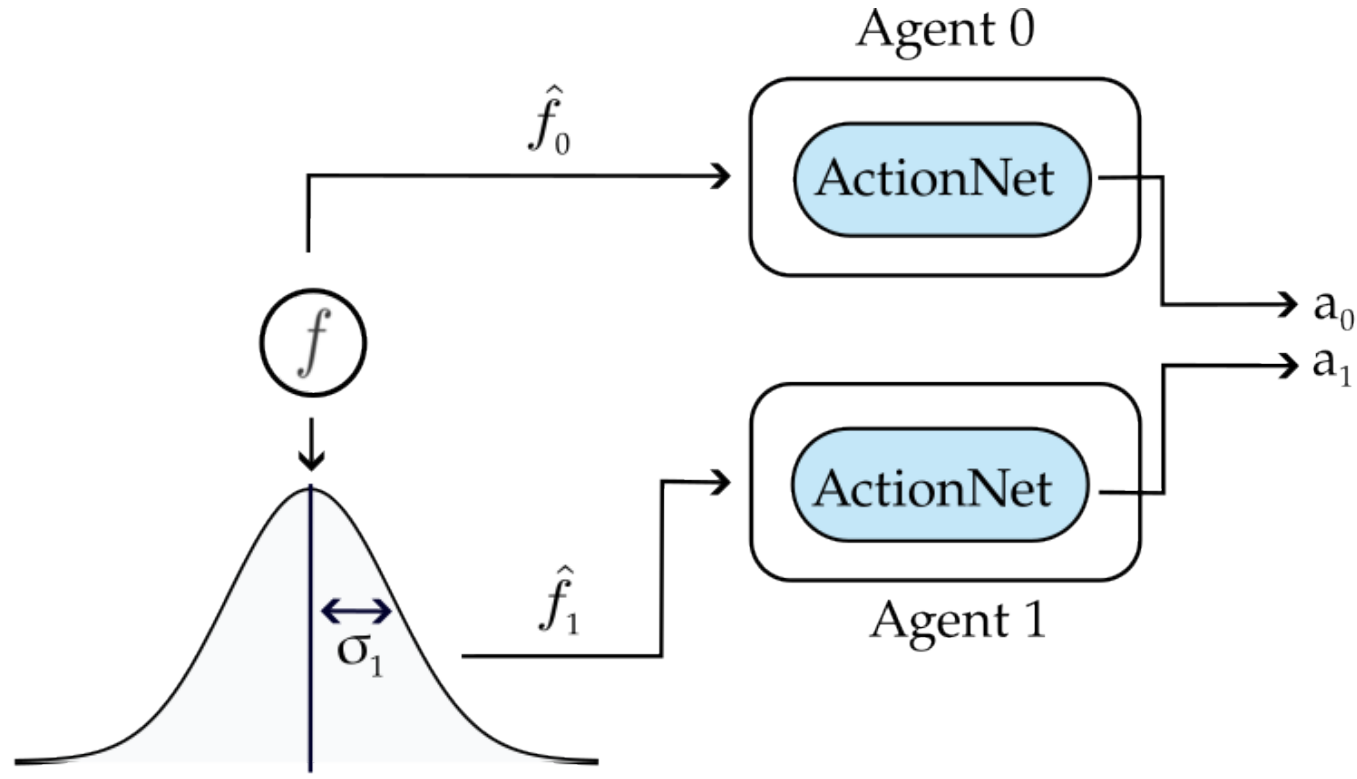


Communication

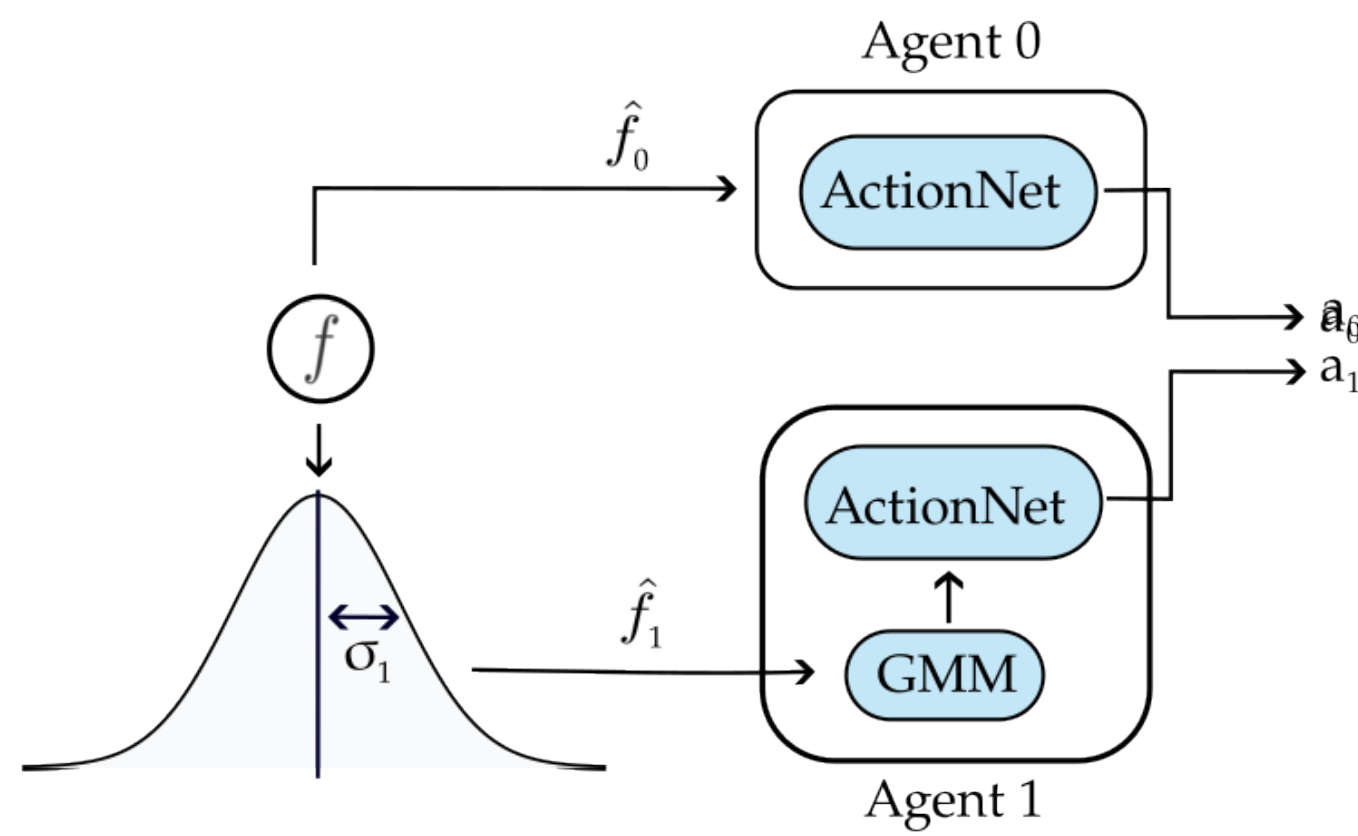


average cooperation rate
across 80 runs

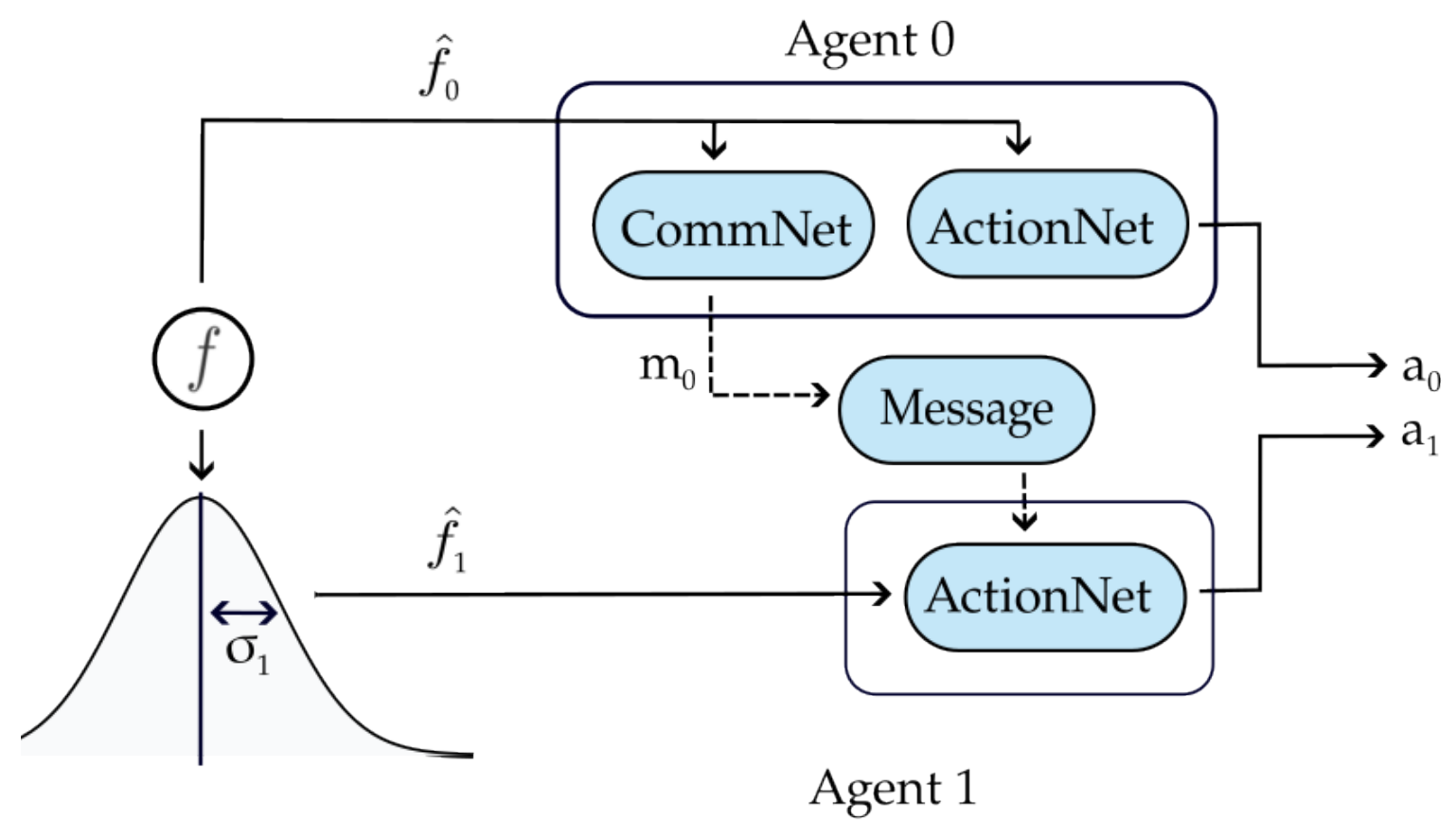
One Uncertain Agent



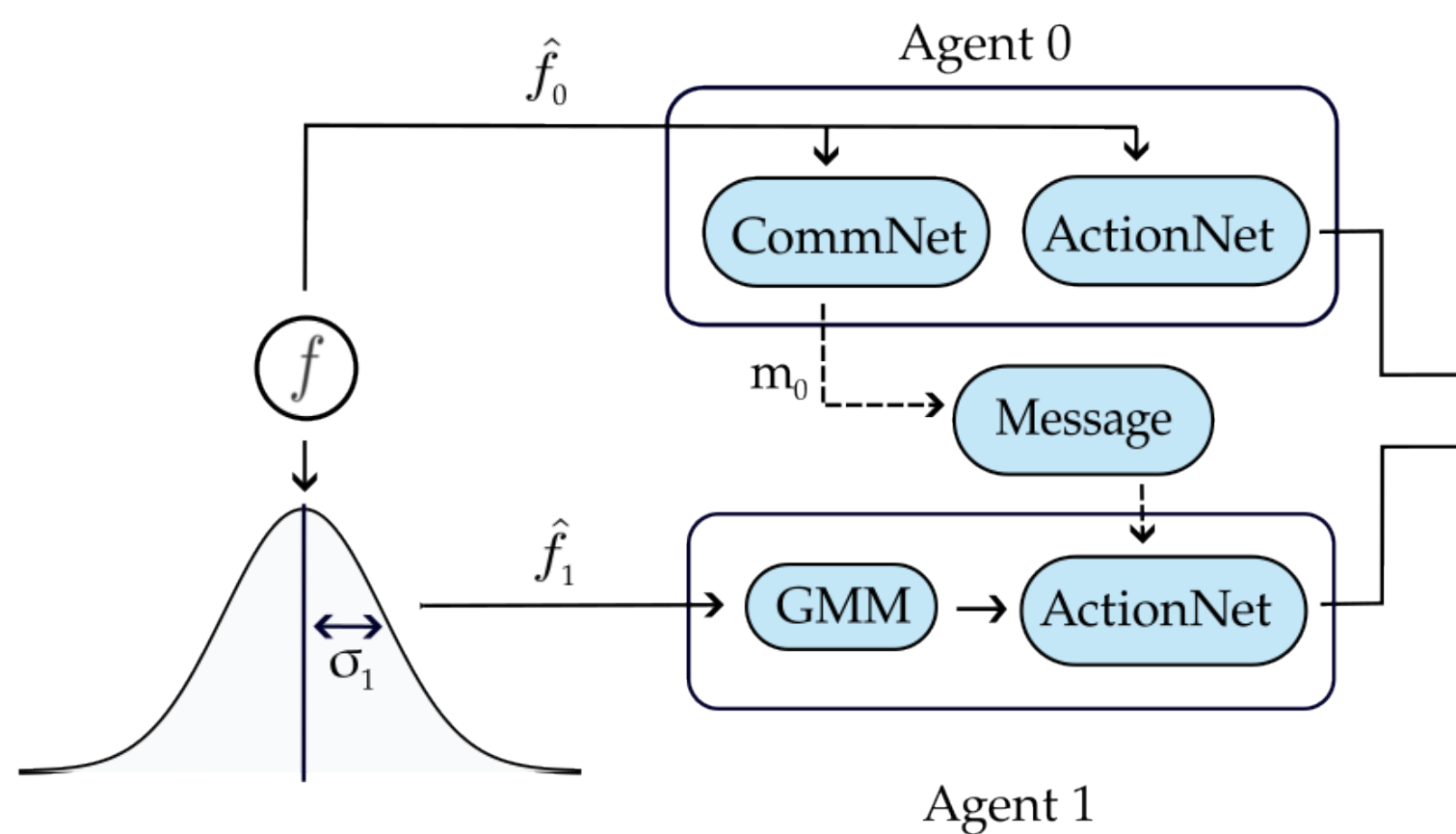
(a)



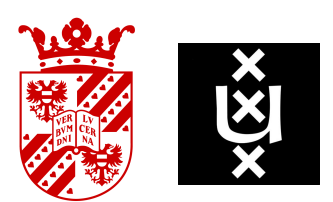
(b)



(c)



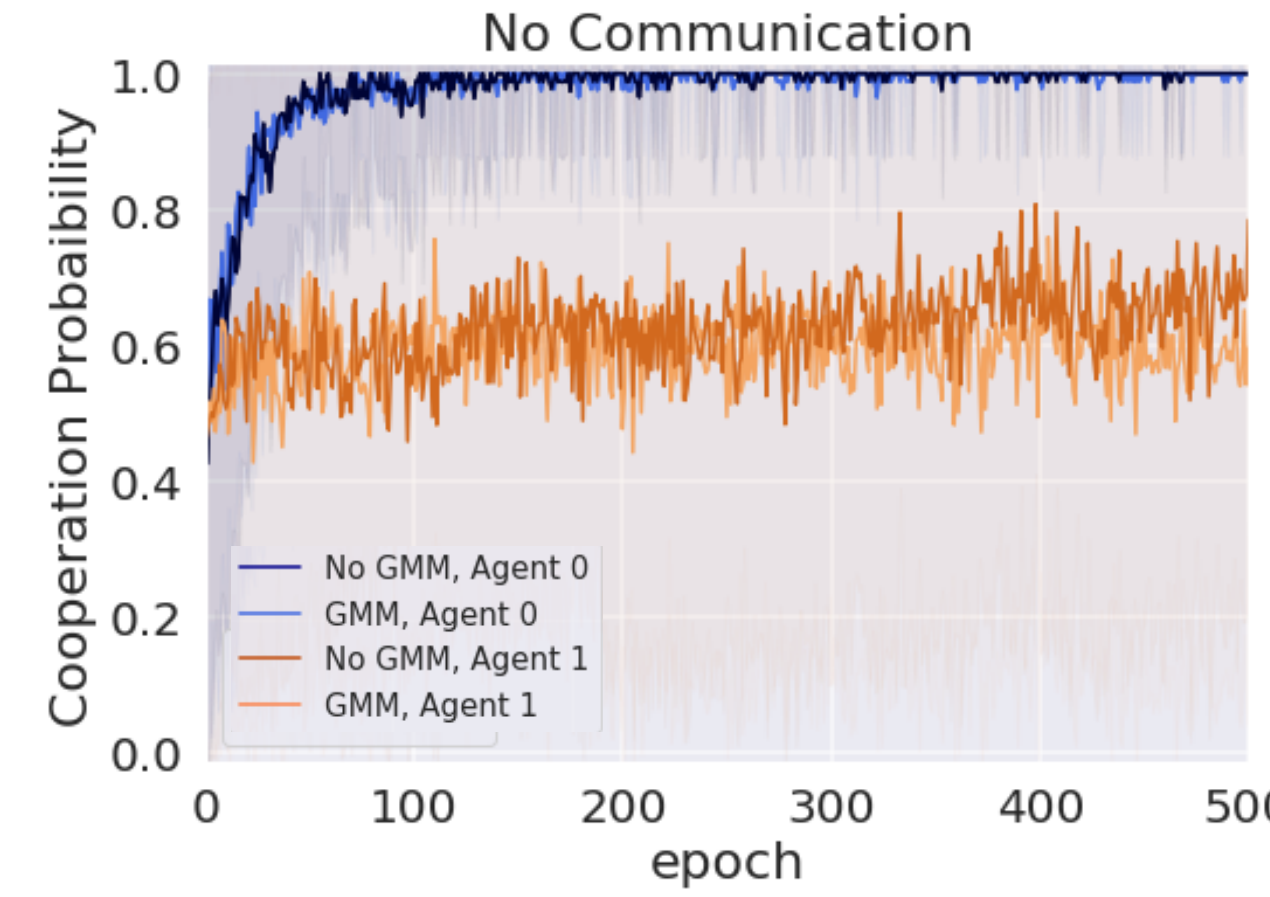
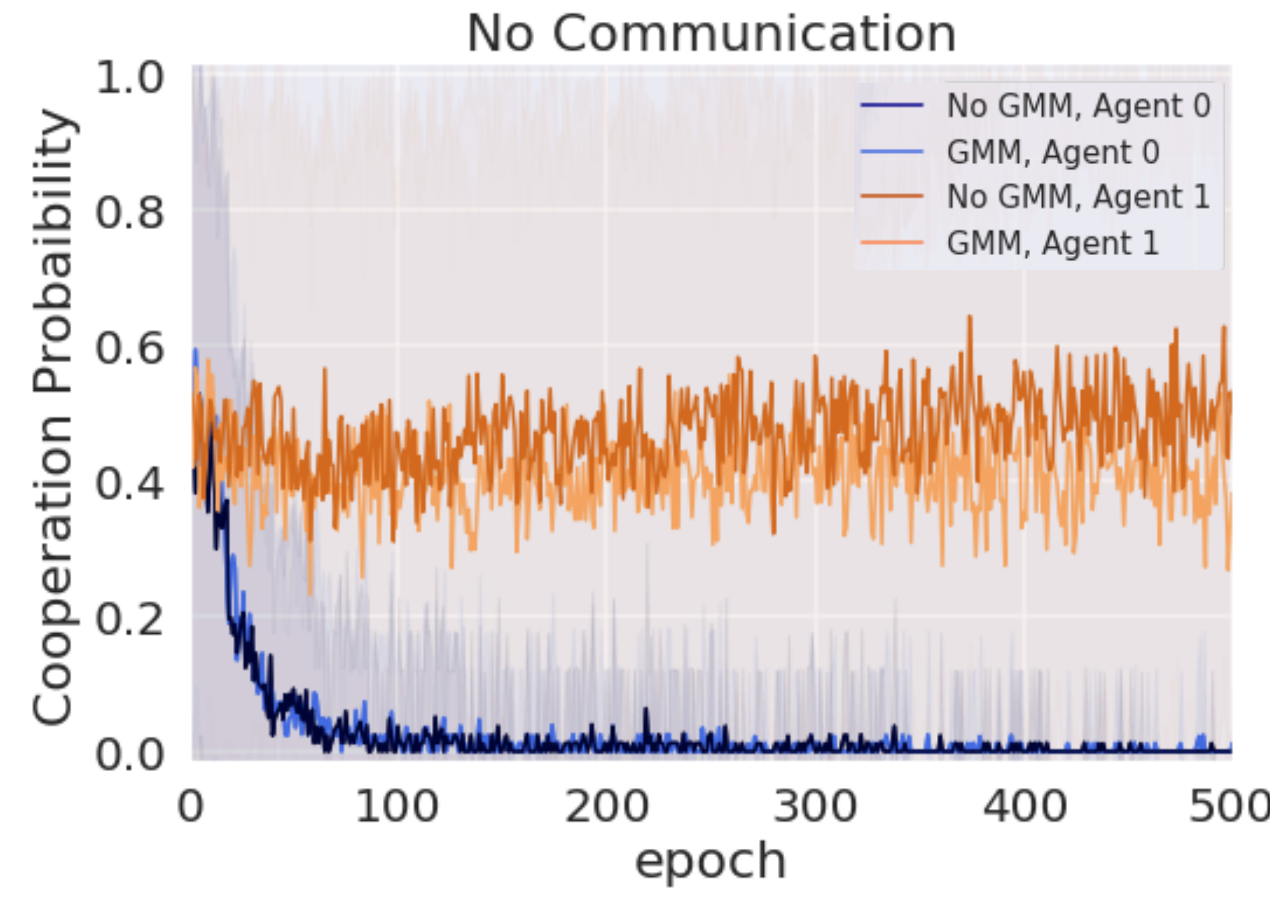
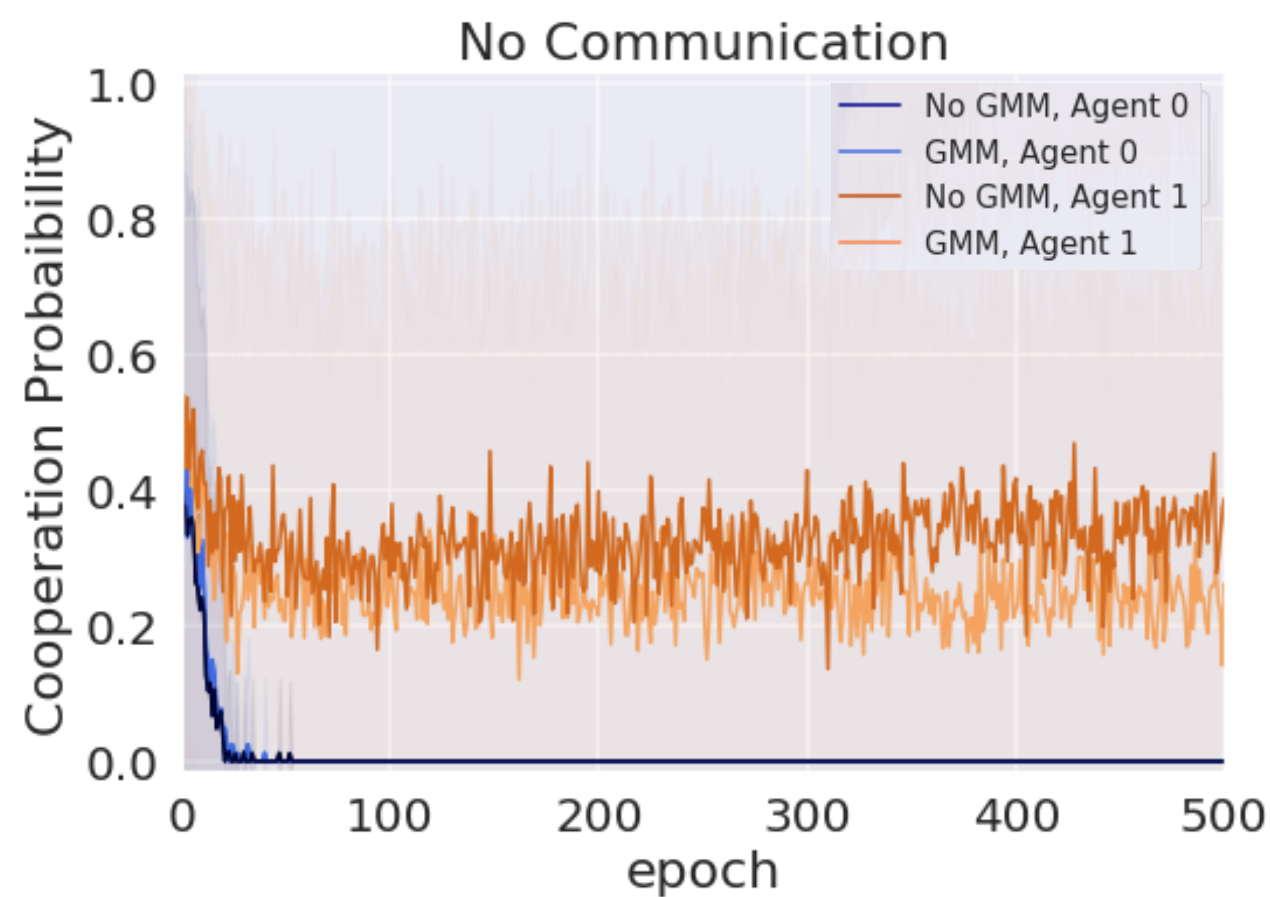
(d)



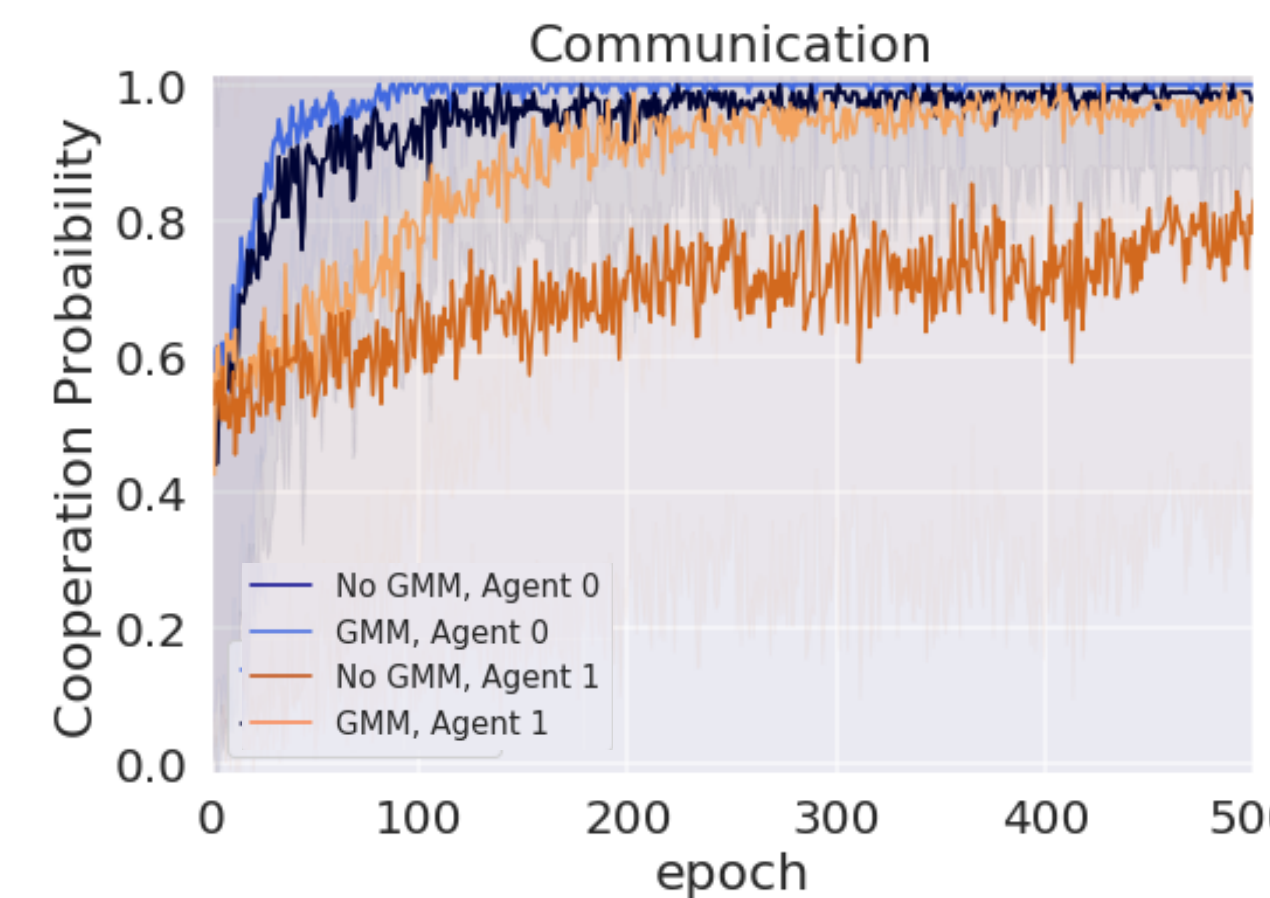
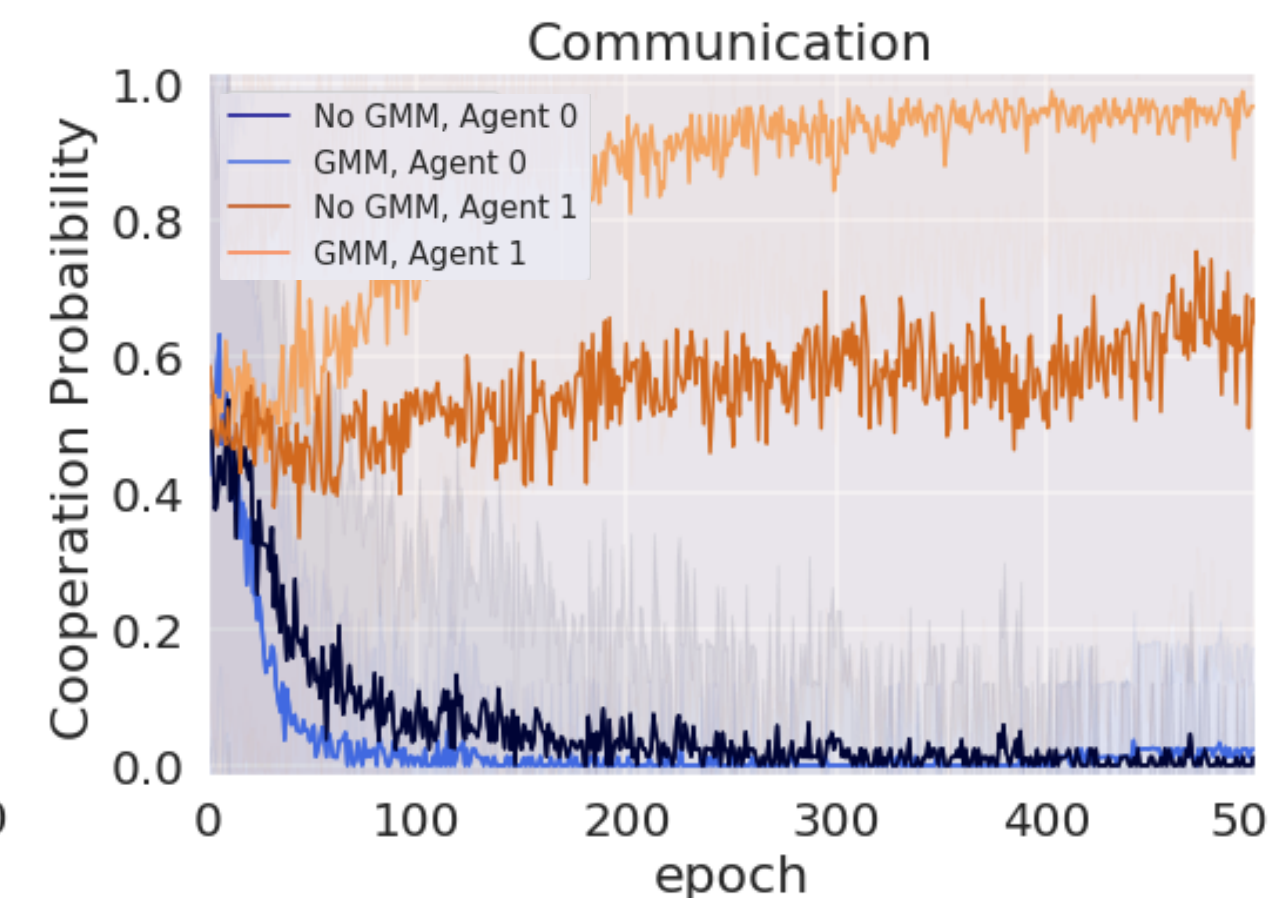
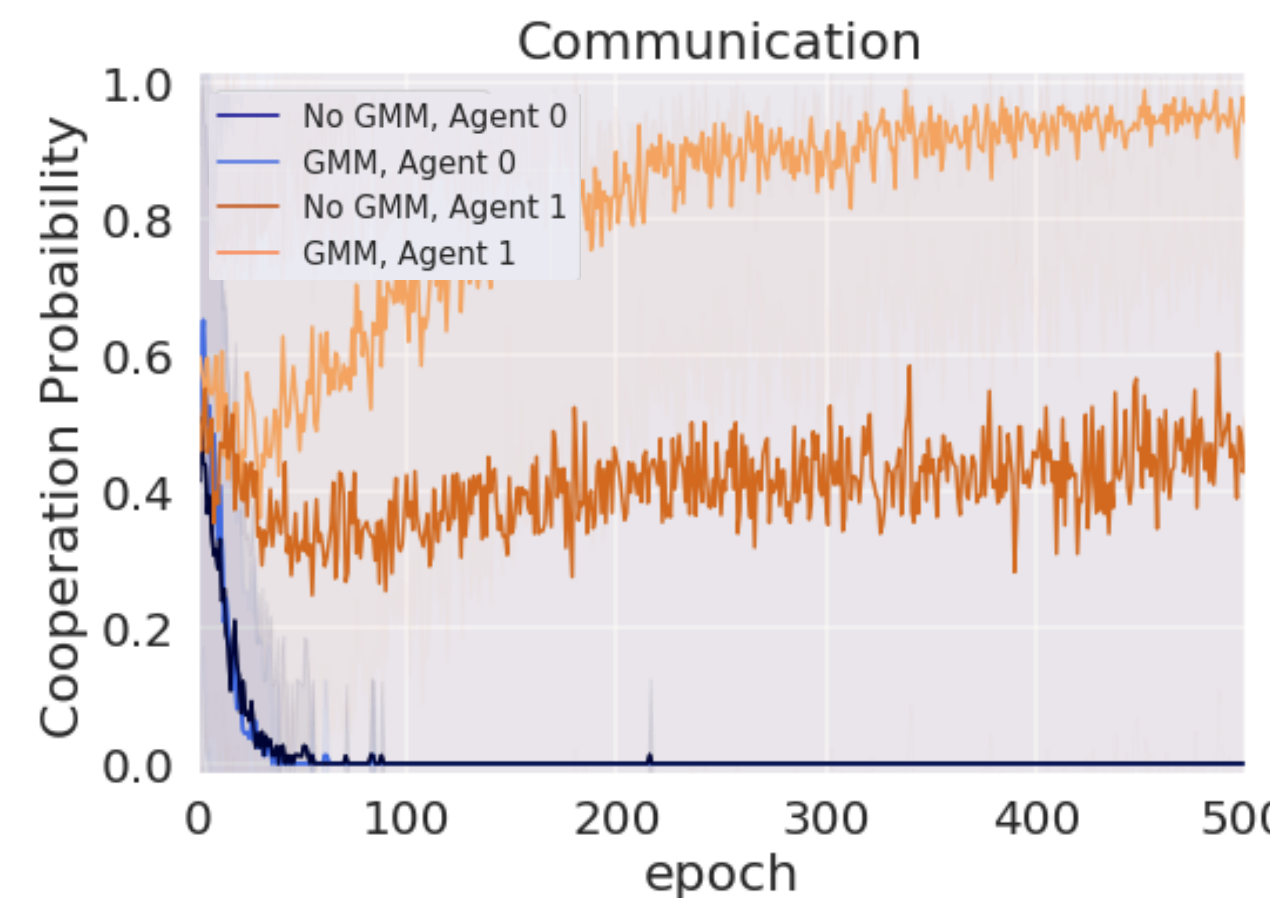
One Uncertain Agent ($\sigma_i = 2$)

The uncertain agent is brought to cooperate more across the board

No Communication



Communication

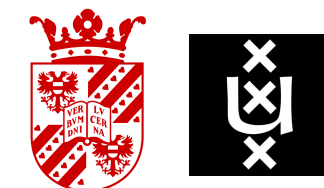


Communication increases the probability of cooperation of the uncertain agent (deception)
low speaker consistency

= 0.5

(b) $f = 1.5$

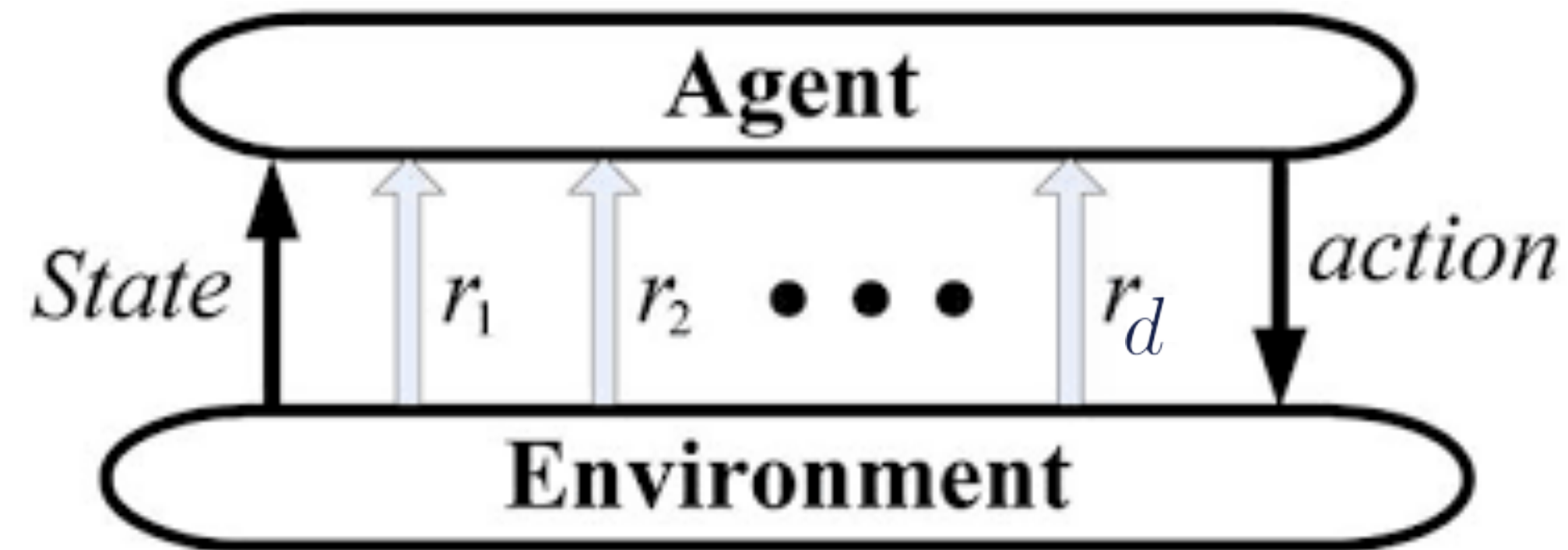
Modeling uncertainty helps the uncertain agent resist deception but not recovering enough information



Risk attitudes

uncertainty leads to
more cooperation in
mixed-motives game

Multi-Objective Reinforcement Learning

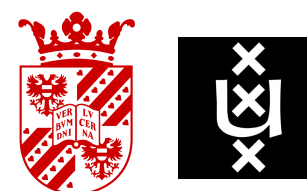


Defined by the tuple $\langle S, A, T, \gamma, \mathbf{R} \rangle$ where:

- S set of states available to the agent
- A set of actions available to the agent
- T transition function (dynamics of the environment)
- \mathbf{R} vectorial reward function
- $\gamma \in [0, 1]$ discount factor

$$\mathbf{R}: S \times A \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{k+1} = \mathbf{R}(s_k, a_k, s_{k+1})$$



Multi-Objective Reinforcement Learning

Utility function maps a **vector reward to a scalar utility**:

$$V_u^\pi = u \left(\mathbb{E}_\pi \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t \mathbf{r}_t \right] \right) \quad \text{SER Optimization Criterion}$$

$$V_u^\pi = \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[u \left(\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t \mathbf{r}_t \right) \right] \quad \text{ESR Optimization Criterion}$$

Defined by the tuple $\langle S, A, T, \gamma, \mathbf{R} \rangle$ where:

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- $\gamma \in [0, 1]$ discount factor

$$\mathbf{R}: S \times A \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\mathbf{r}_{k+1} = \mathbf{R}(s_k, a_k, s_{k+1})$$



Flashback

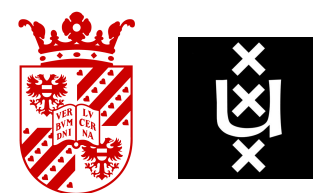
Multiplier Factor Games

A multiplier factor game is a tuple $\langle N, \mathbf{c}, A, f, \mathbf{r} \rangle$, where:

- N is the set of players, with $|N| = n$ being the number of players
- $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$ with $c_i \in \mathbb{R}$ is the tuple of endowments
- $A = \{C, D\}$ is the action set of each player: cooperate (**C**) or defect (**D**)
- $f \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is the (investment) multiplier factor
- \mathbf{r} is the tuple of agents' payoffs $[r_i^C(\mathbf{a}, f, \mathbf{c}), r_i^I(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{c})]$

$$r_i(\mathbf{a}, f, \mathbf{c}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n c_j I(a_j) \cdot f + c_i(1 - I(a_i))$$

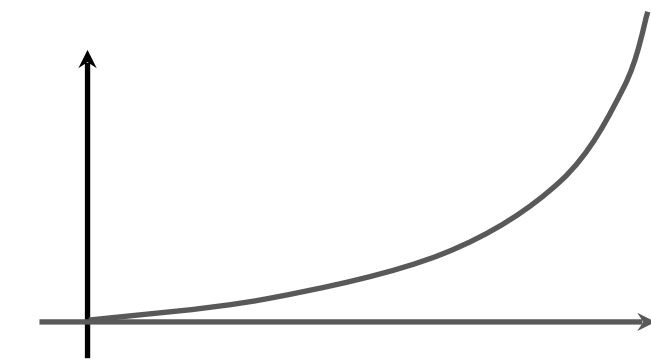
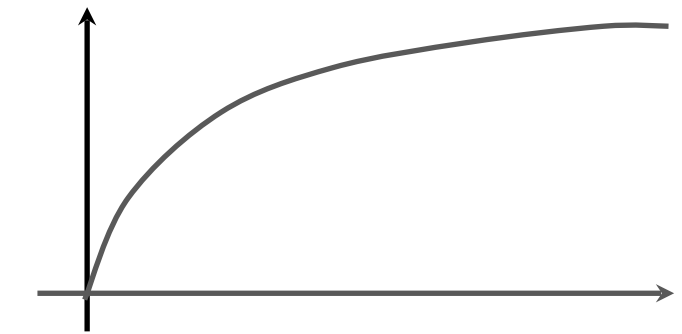
collective return individual return



MO Multiplier Factor Games

- **Risk aversion**: prefer a sure outcome over a lottery whose expected payoff may be higher than the outcome payoff
- **Risk propensity**: prefer a lottery over a sure outcome whose outcome may be higher than the expected payoff of the lottery.
- **Risk neutrality**: Indifference between lotteries and sure outcomes

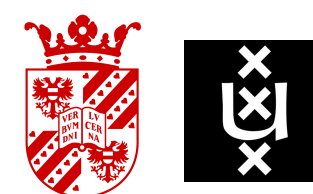
- $0 < \beta < 1$, the function is concave (risk-aversion)
- $\beta > 1$, the function is convex (risk-propension)



$$\left[r_i^C(a, f, c)^\beta, r_i^I(a, c) \right]$$

SER $\left(r_i(a, f, c) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n c_j I(a_j) \cdot f + c_i (1 - I(a_i)) \right)$

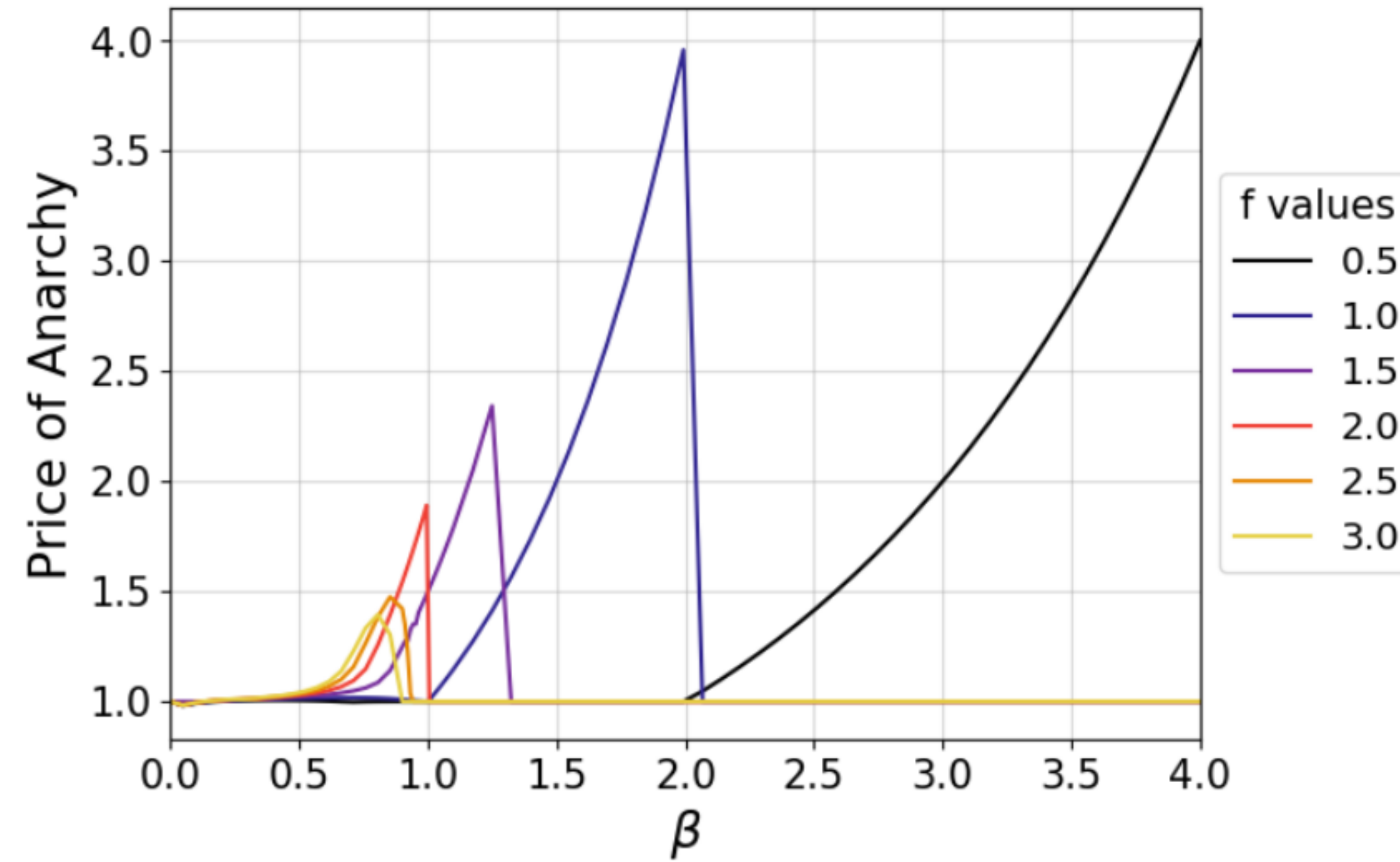
collective return individual return



MO Multiplier Factor Games

$$\sum_{i=0}^n u_i(\mathbf{V}_i^\pi)$$

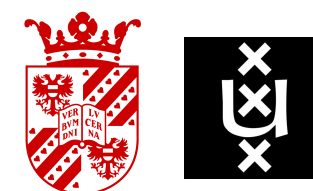
$$PoA = \frac{\max_s W(\pi)}{\min_{\pi \in \text{Nash}} W(\pi)}$$



$$\left[r_i^C(\mathbf{a}, f, \mathbf{c})^\beta, r_i^I(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{c}) \right]$$

$$\text{SER} \left(r_i(\mathbf{a}, f, \mathbf{c}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n c_j I(a_j) \cdot f + c_i (1 - I(a_i)) \right)$$

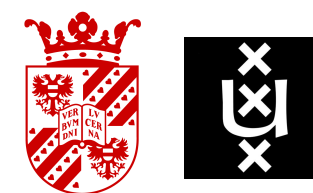
collective return individual return



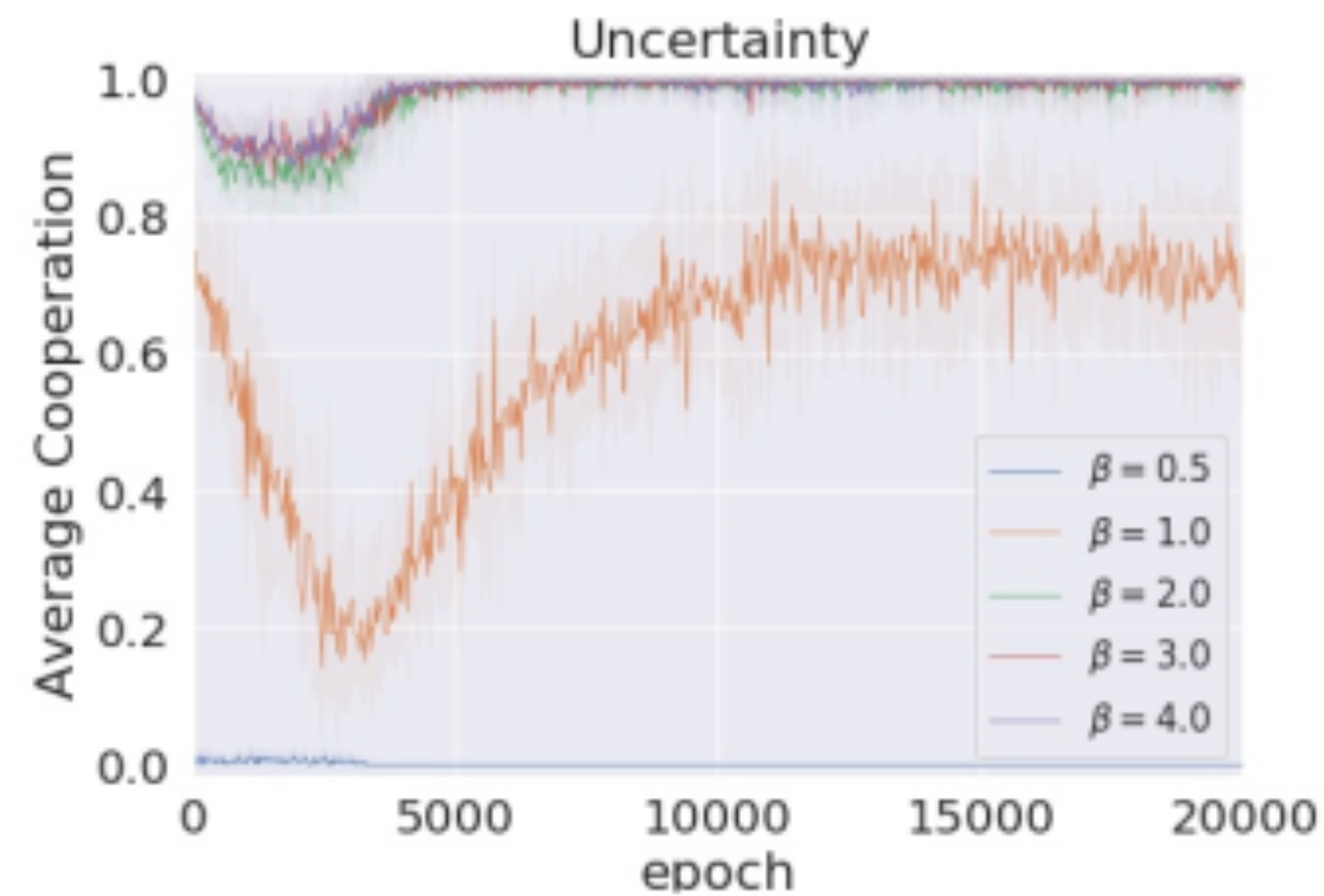
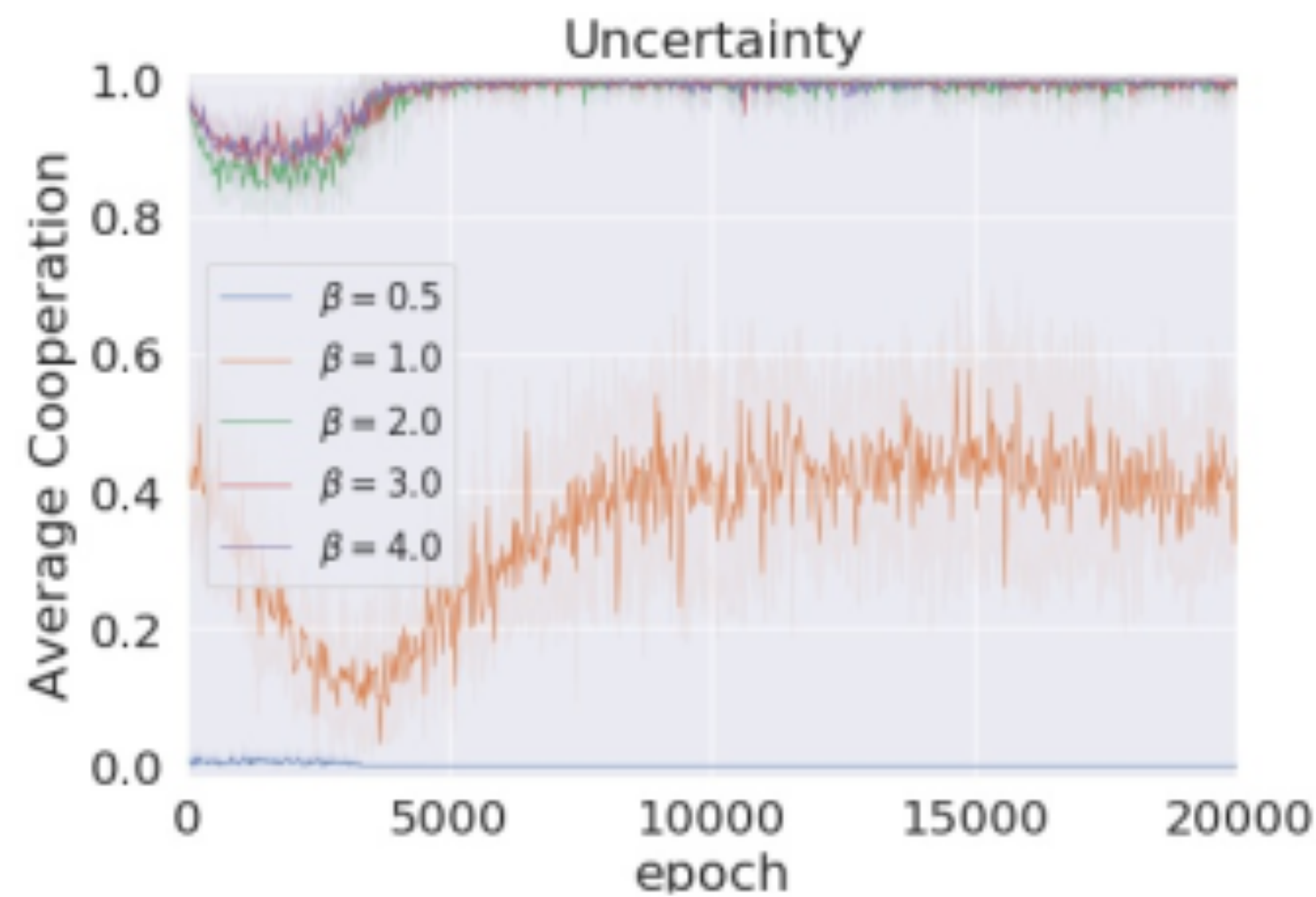
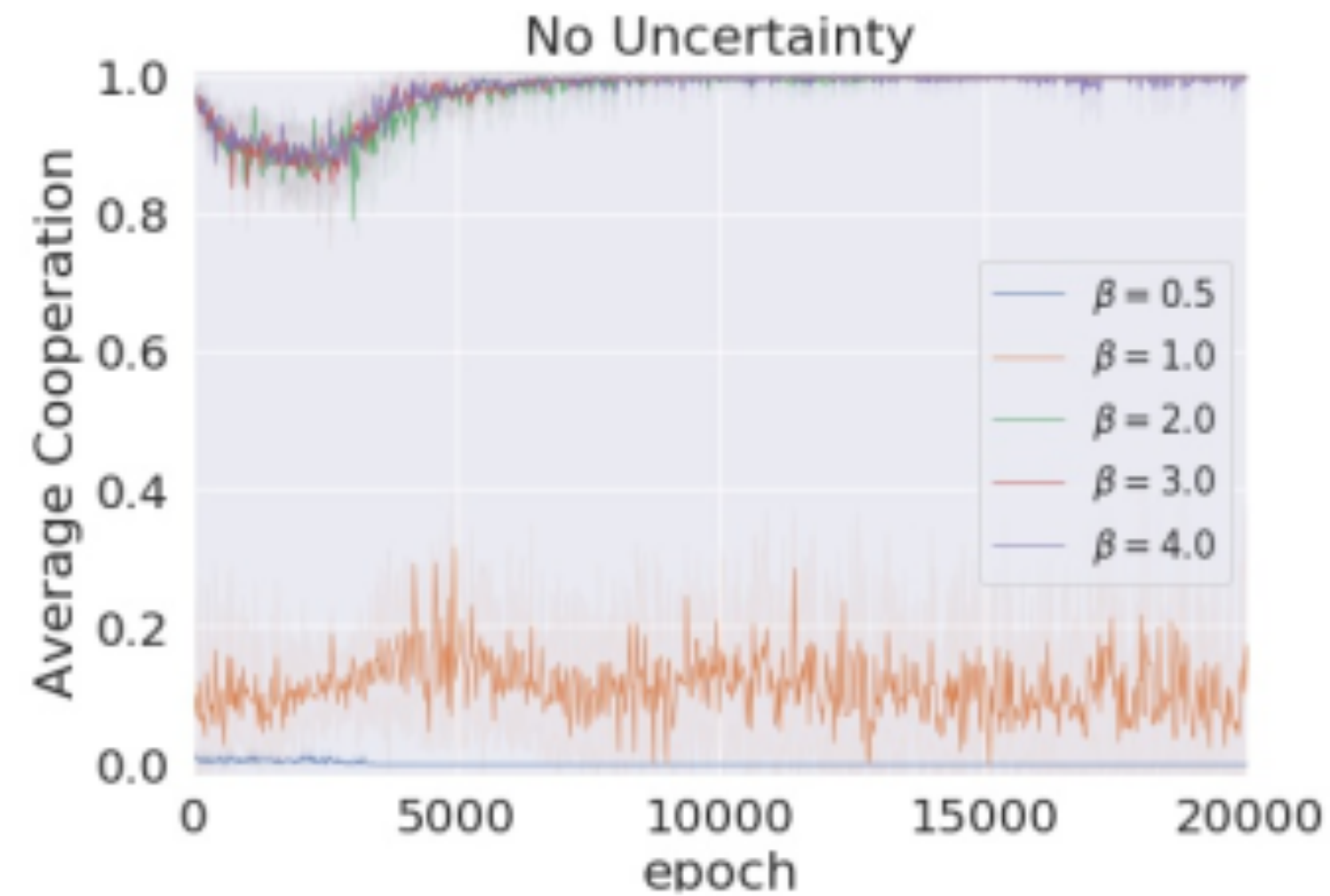
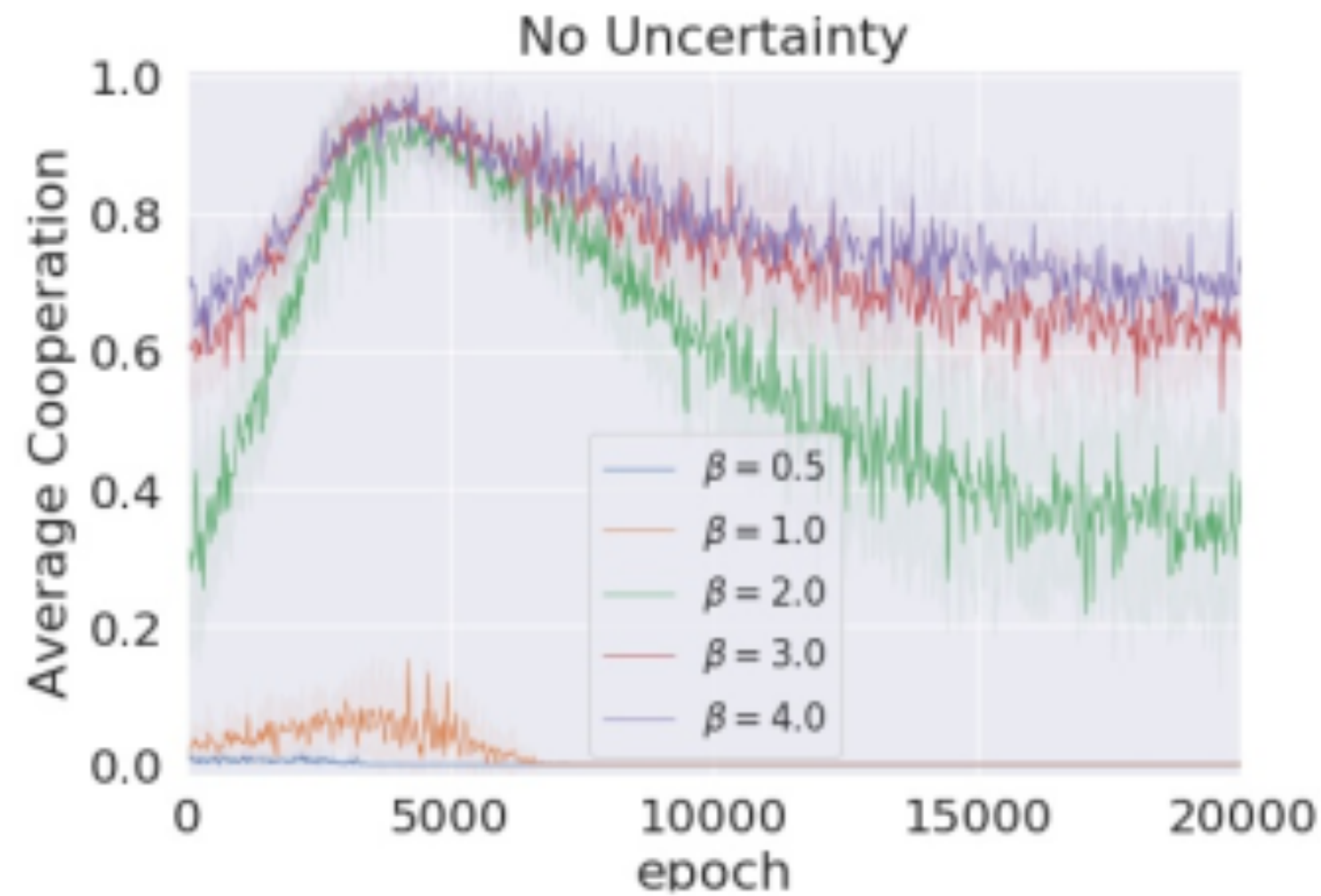
Experimental Setup

$$V_u^\pi = u\left(\mathbb{E}_\pi\left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t \mathbf{r}_t\right]\right) \quad \text{SER Optimization Criterion}$$

- Population of N=20 agents
- M=4 agents sampled at each epoch, playing for 10 rounds
- f in $[f_{\min}, f_{\max}]$, with $f_{\min} = 0.5$ and $f_{\max} = 6.5$
- Agents implemented as MO-DQN
- 2000 epochs



Learning with homogeneous preferences



$$f_{obs}^i = f + \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_i^2)$$

$$\sigma_i = 2 \quad \forall i \in N$$

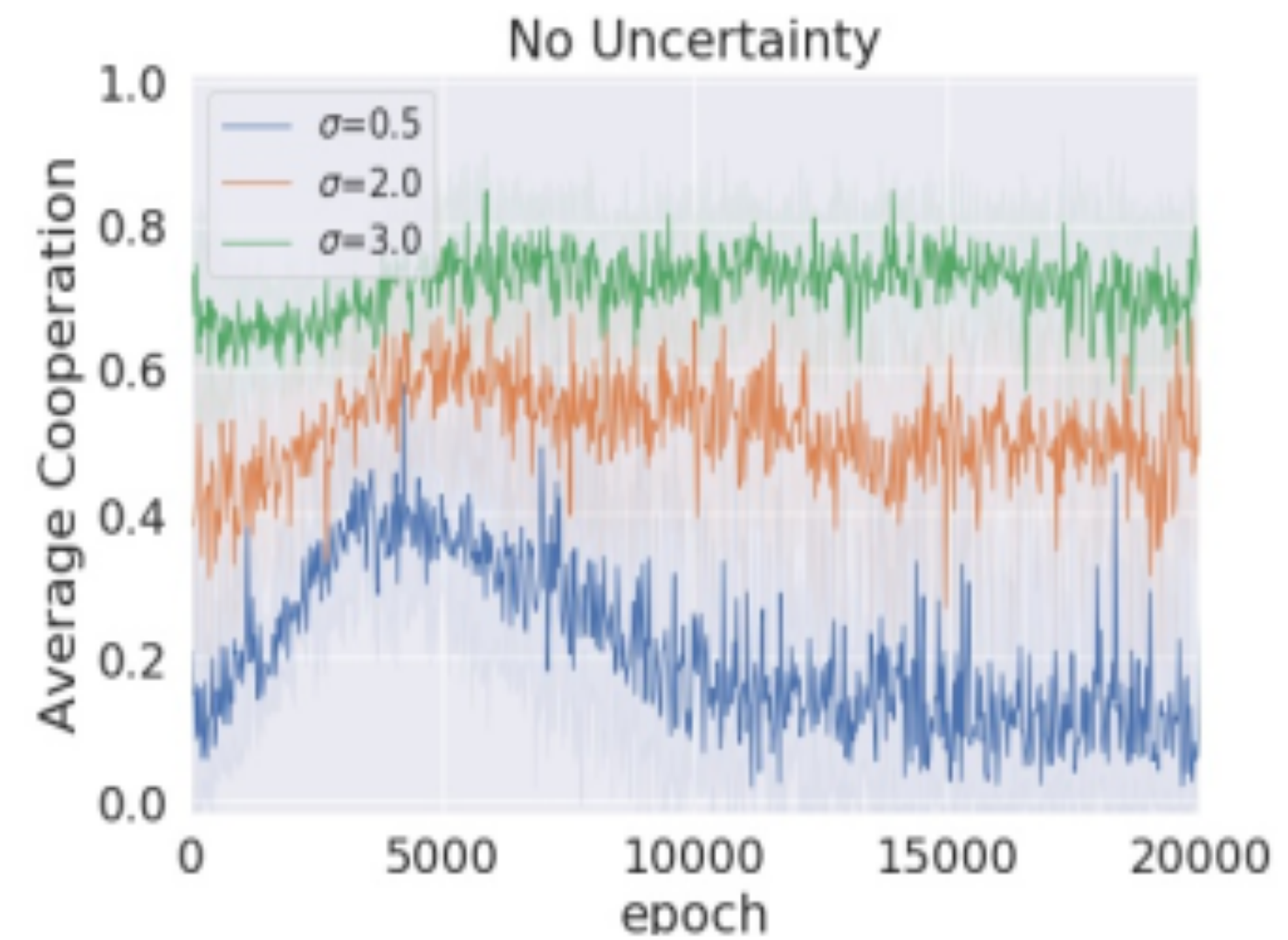
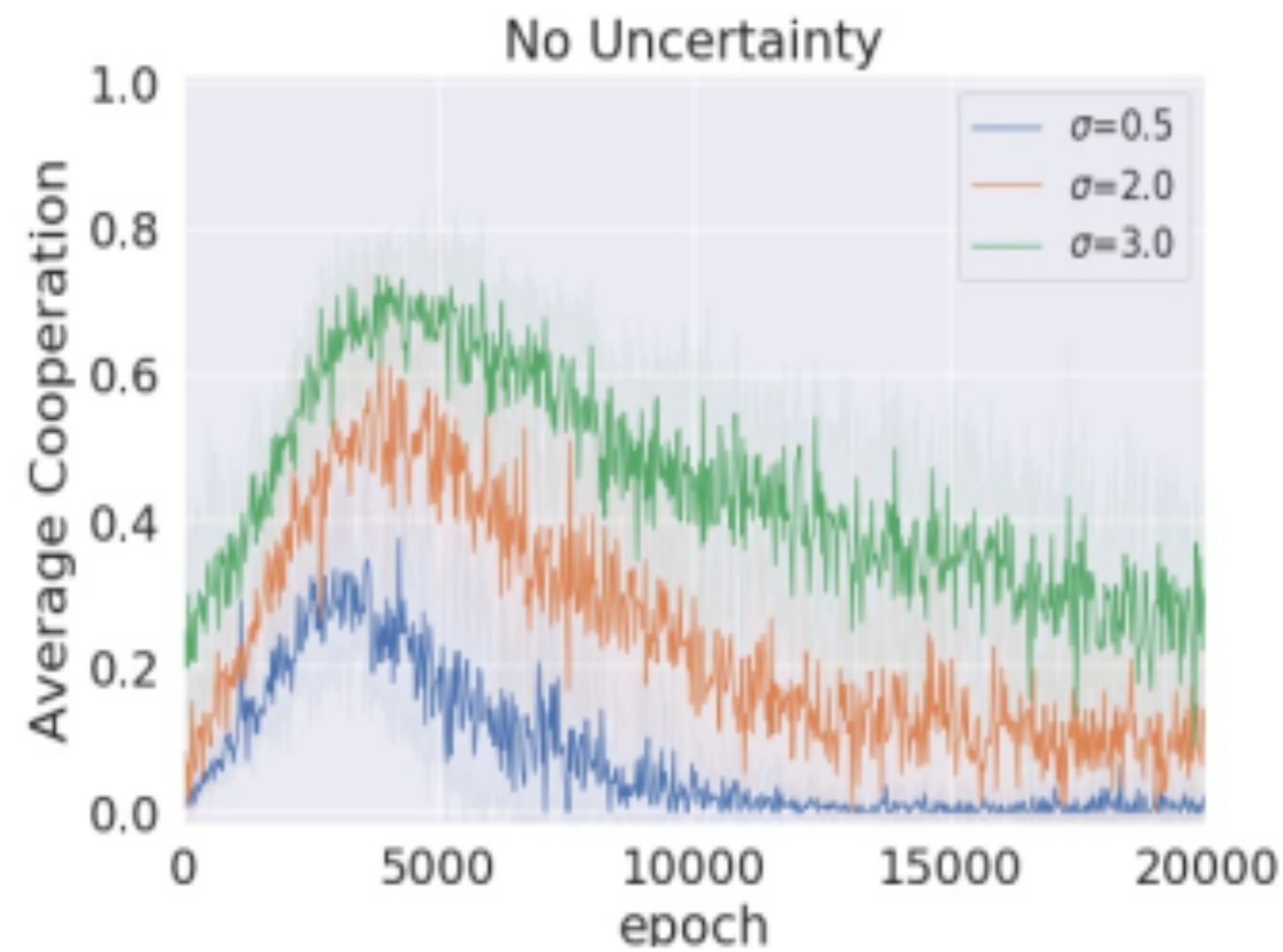
uncertainty leads to more cooperation across the board for risk-neutral and risk-seeking agents

(a) $f = 0.5$

(b) $f = 1.5$

for active agents, over last 50 epochs, over 20 runs

Learning with heterogeneous preferences

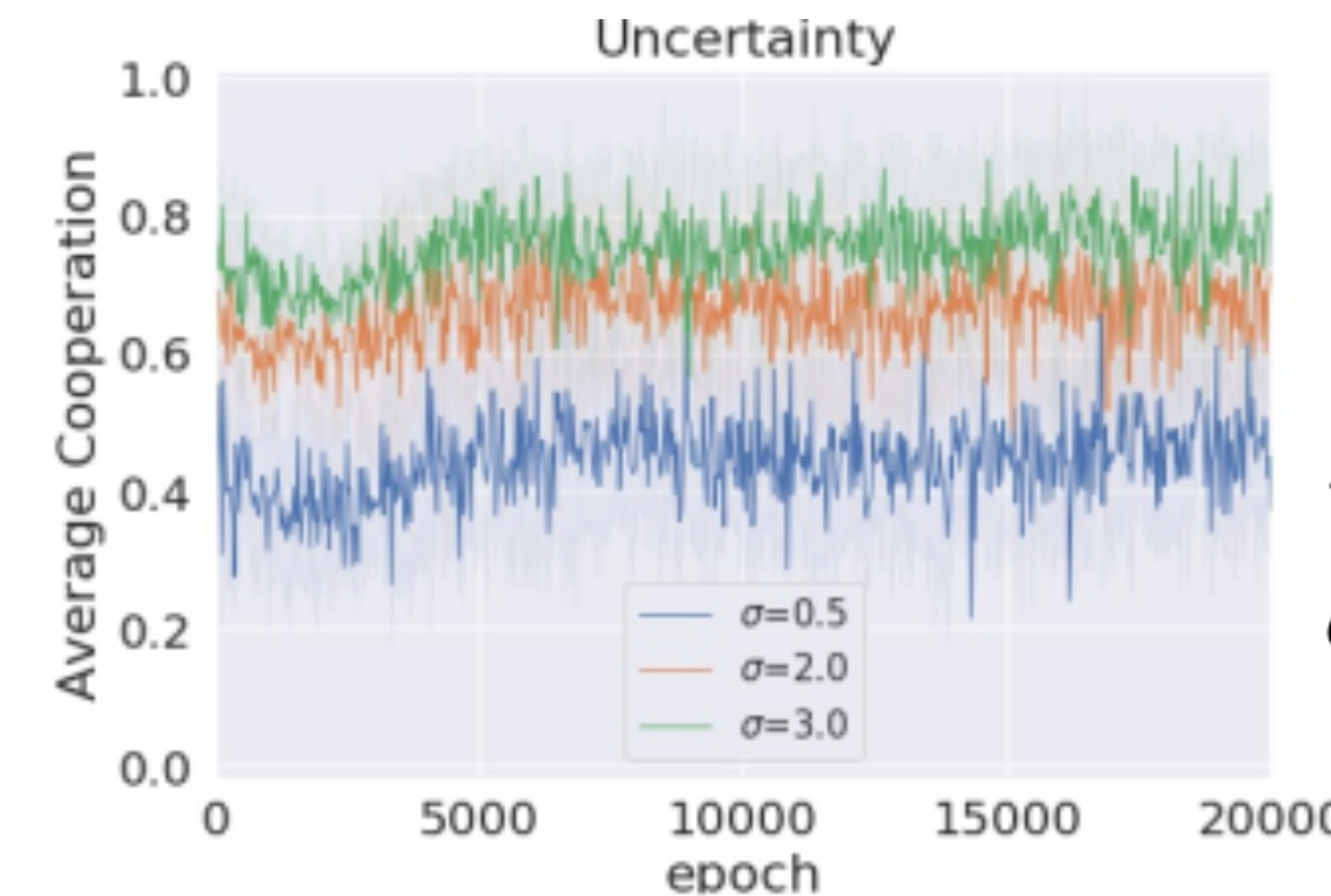
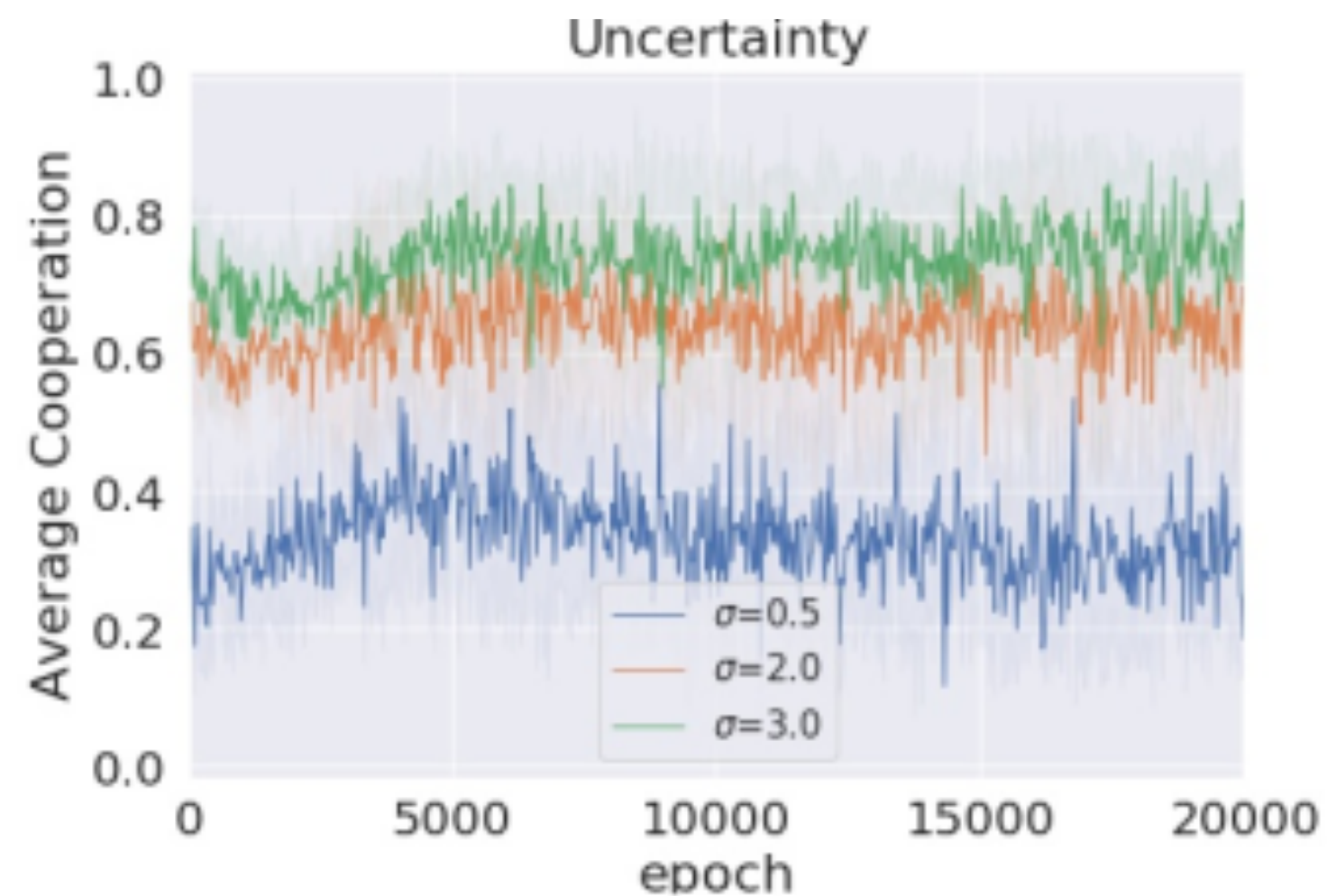


$$\beta_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_\beta, \sigma_\beta^2) \quad \forall i \in N$$

$$\mu_\beta = 1$$

uncertainty leads to more cooperation across the board

the higher the risk propensity the better



$$f_{obs}^i = f + \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_i^2)$$

$$\sigma_i = 2 \quad \forall i \in N$$

but dominated choices are played with fairly high probability in the competitive game

(a) $f = 0.5$

(b) $f = 1.5$

for active agents, over last 50 epochs, over 20 runs

Conclusions

- Simple environment for MARL when agents are uncertain about the game they play
 - Uncertainty appears to have a positive impact on levels of cooperation
 - ... with potential drawbacks (deception, dominated choices)
-
- All results are empirical, it would be desirable to have a more fundamental understanding of the exact conditions under which uncertainty positively impact cooperation, the extent of such improvement, and its tradeoffs



Nash equilibria under SER

