Different Methodological Approaches of Game Theory

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In the last few decades game theory has become one of the most prevalent theories of economic modelling. Modelling economists think of game theory as an abstract mathematical theory which is quite applicable for multi-person strategic situations. This kind of use of game theory leads to normative results. On the other hand, ever since the first days of game theory a smaller group of researchers have been considering positive research of real actors' decisions in situations described in game theory as of capital importance. Initially most of these positive researches had been made by psychologists, and their scientific results had been mainly neglected by economists. This seclusion was more or less due to the methodological gap between the normative economical and the positive psychological approach. However, in the last 15 years a new field has been born called behavioral game theory, which interconnects the deductive modelling methods of economists and the inductive empirically based methods of behavioral sciences. The lecture displays how the methodological gap have inhibited the dialogue between the two sides and how have they succeeded to converge in behavioral game theory.