

Finding fair and efficient allocations through competitive equilibrium

Jugal Garg



Summer School on Game Theory and Social Choice
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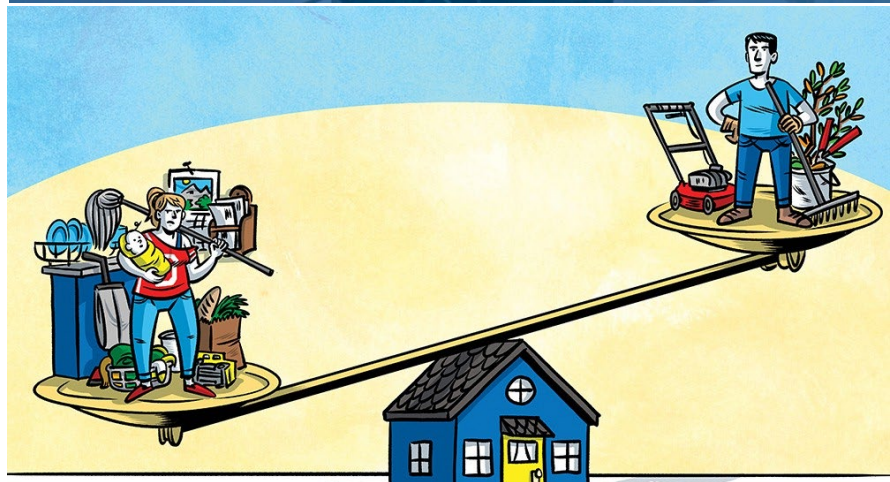
Allocation Problem

- Set $[m]$ of m **items**, each comes in **unit** supply
- Set $[n]$ of n **agents**
- **Allocation** $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$, where X_{ij} is the amount of item j allocated to agent i such that $\sum_i X_{ij} = 1, \forall j$
- Each agent i has **linear (additive) valuation**: $v_i(X_i) = \sum_j v_{ij} X_{ij}$ where v_{ij} is value (utility) from a unit amount of item j

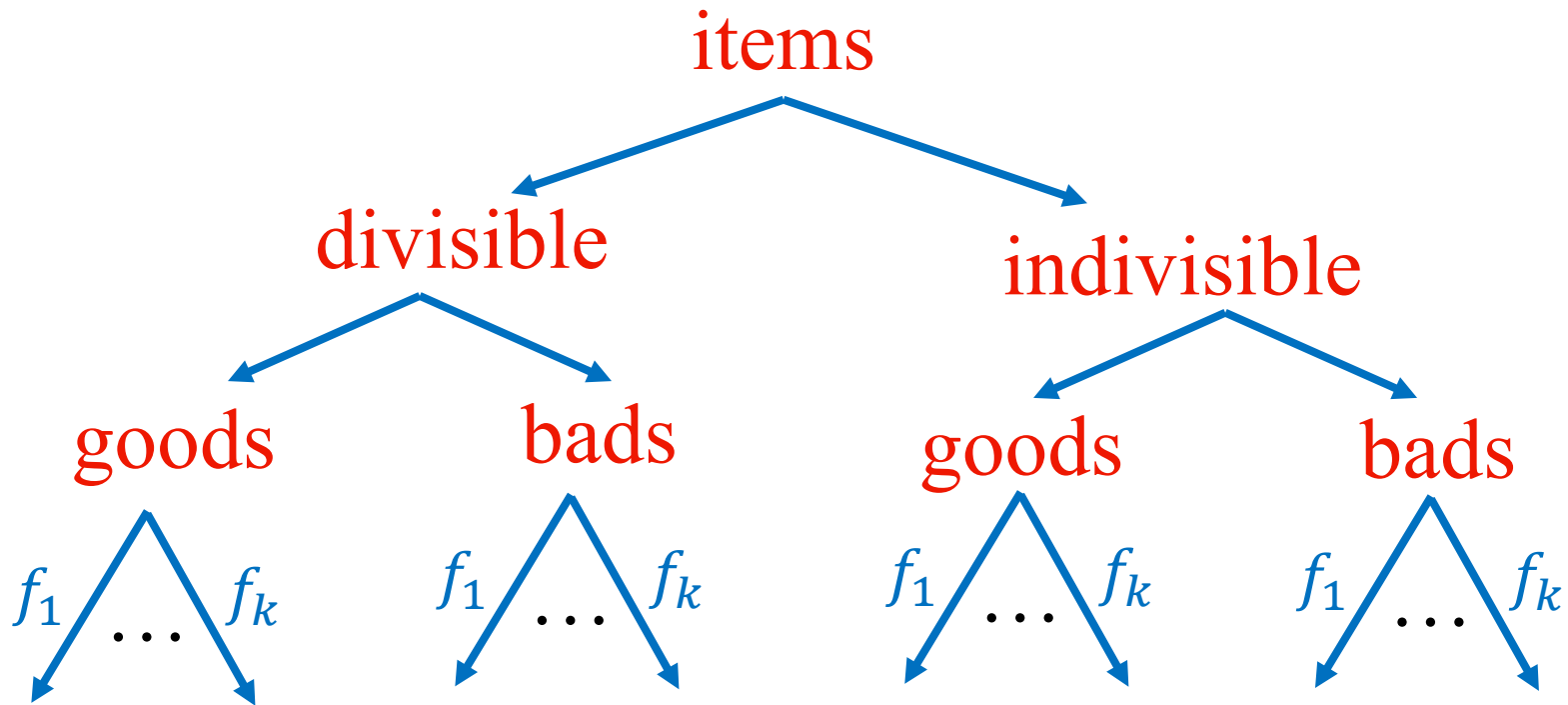
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Question: How to “**fairly**” and “**efficiently**” allocate items to agents?

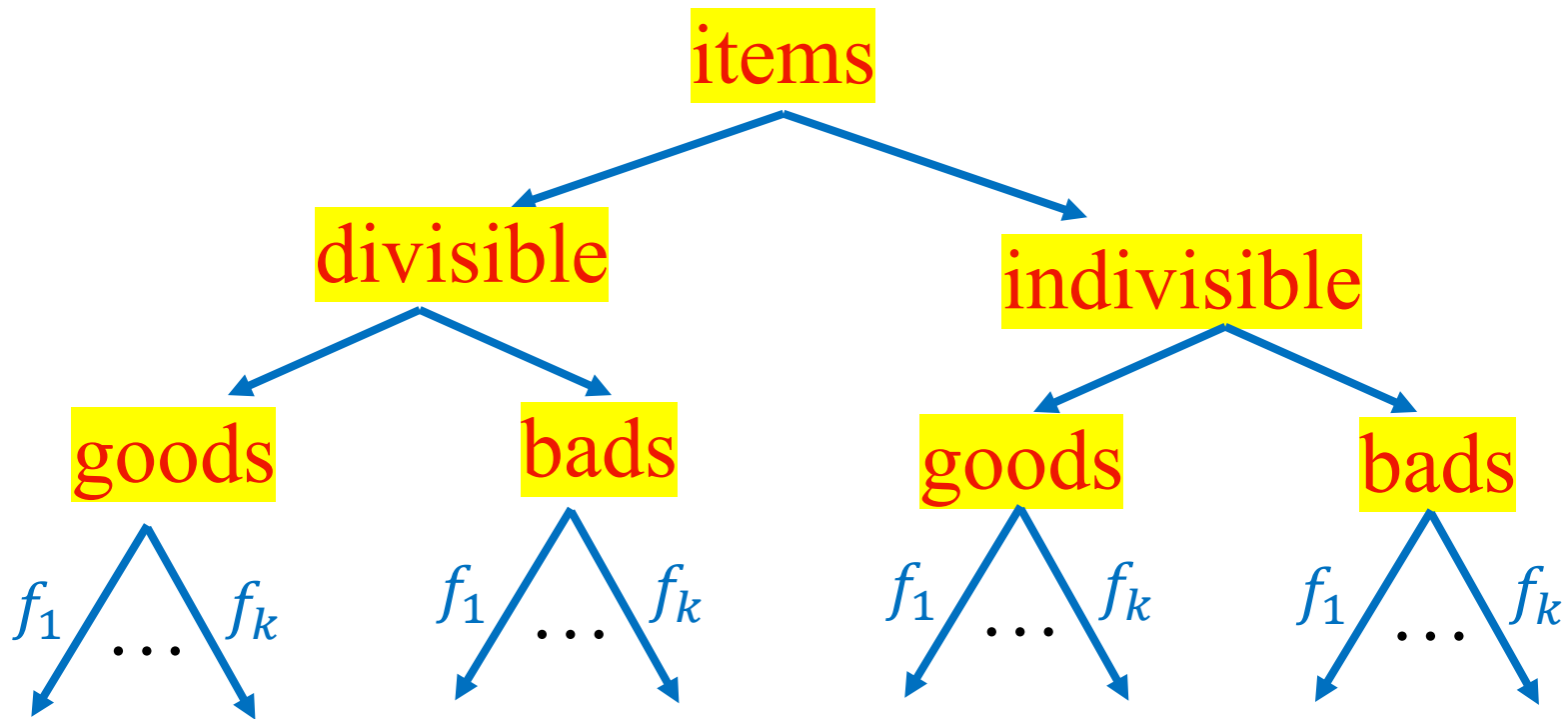


Spectrum of Problems



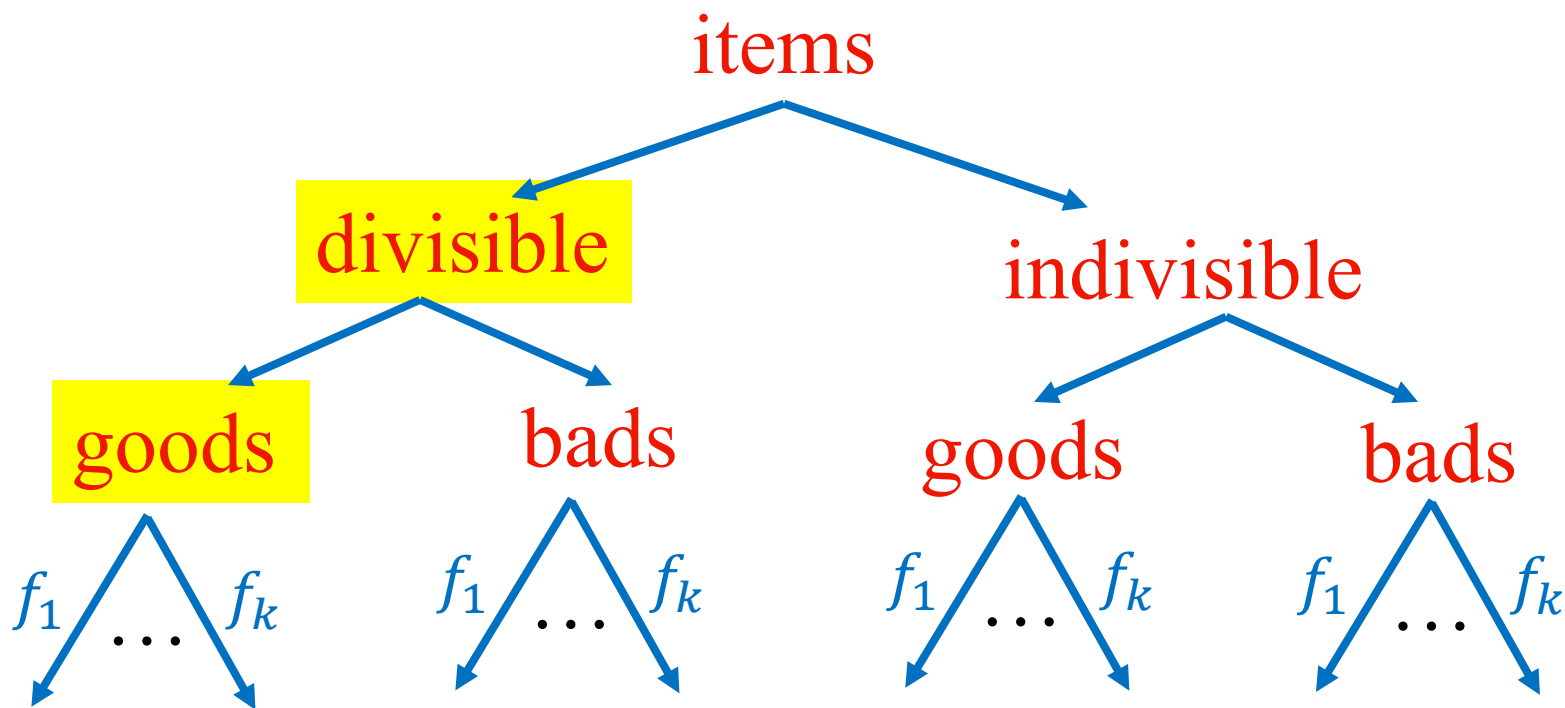
Each f_i = fairness notion

Agenda



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Agenda



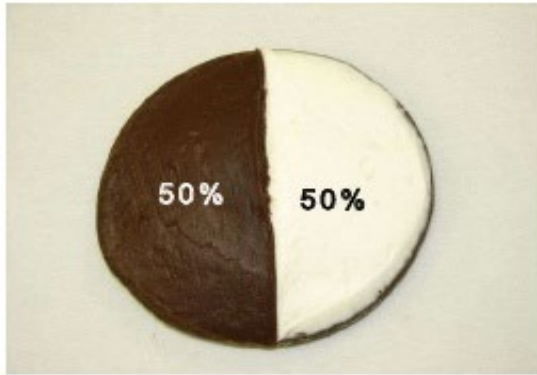
Each f_i = fairness notion

Divisible Goods

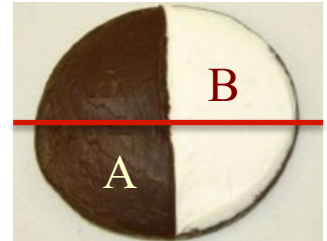
- Set $[m]$ of m **divisible goods**, each comes in **unit** supply
- Set $[n]$ of n **agents**
- **Allocation** $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$, where X_{ij} is the amount of good j allocated to agent i such that $\sum_i X_{ij} = 1, \forall j$
- Each agent i has **linear (additive) valuation**: $v_i(X_i) = \sum_j v_{ij} X_{ij}$ where v_{ij} is value from a unit amount of good j

Question: How to “**fairly**” and “**efficiently**” allocate goods to agents?

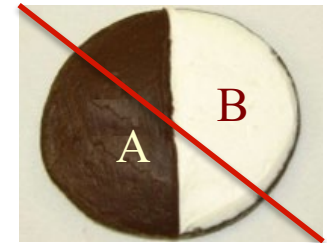
Example: Half moon cookie



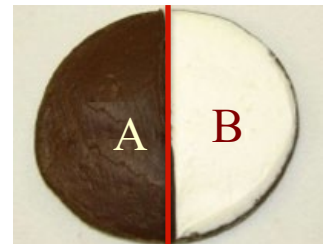
(i)



(ii)



(iii)



Agreeable (Fair)

Envy-free: No agent *envies* other's allocation over their own

Proportional: Each agent i gets value at least $\frac{v_i([m])}{n}$

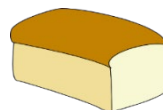
Non-wasteful (Efficient)

Allocation
in red

[3, 2, 0]
[1/2, 1/2, 1/2]



[0, 2, 3]
[1/2, 1/2, 1/2]



Agreeable (Fair)

Envy-free: No agent *envies* other's allocation over their own

Proportional: Each agent i gets value at least $\frac{v_i([m])}{n}$

Allocation
in red

[3, 2, 0]
[1/2, 1/2, 1/2]

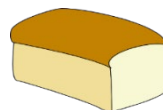
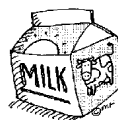


[0, 2, 3]
[1/2, 1/2, 1/2]



Non-wasteful (Efficient)

Pareto-optimal: No other allocation is better for all.



Agreeable (Fair)

Envy-free: No agent *envies* other's allocation over their own

Proportional: Each agent i gets value at least $\frac{v_i([m])}{n}$

Non-wasteful (Efficient)

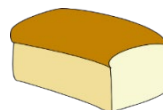
Pareto-optimal: No other allocation is better for all.

Allocation
in red

[3, 2, 0]
[1, 1/2, 0]



[0, 2, 3]
[0, 1/2, 1]



Agreeable (Fair)

Non-wasteful
(Efficient)

Envy-free

Pareto-optimal

Proportional

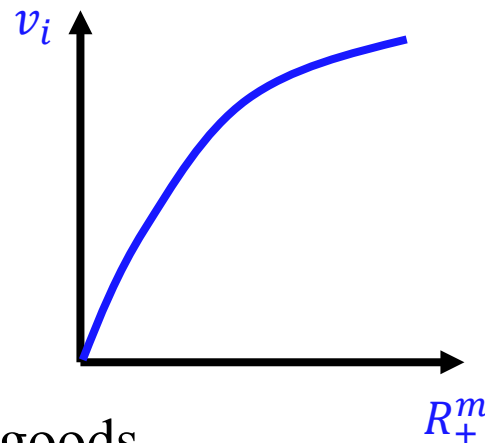
Competitive Equilibrium
(with equal income)

Fisher's Model (1891)

- Set $[m]$ of m **divisible goods**, each comes in **unit** supply
- Set $[n]$ of n **agents**

- Each agent i has

- budget of B_i dollars
- valuation function $v_i: R_+^m \rightarrow R_+$ over bundle of goods
(non-decreasing, non-negative)



Competitive Equilibrium (CE)

Given prices $p = (p_1, \dots, p_m)$ of goods

- Agent i demands an *optimal bundle*, i.e., affordable bundle that maximizes their utility

$$X_i \in \operatorname{argmax}_{x: p \cdot x \leq B_i} v_i(x)$$

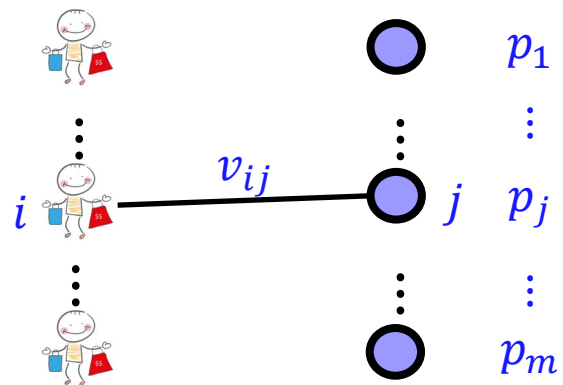
- p is at competitive equilibrium (CE) if *market clears*

$$\text{Demand} = \text{Supply}$$

CE: Linear Valuations

$$v_i(X_i) = \sum_j v_{ij} X_{ij}$$

Utility per unit



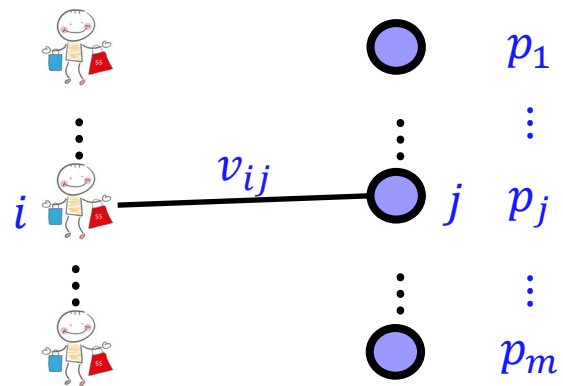
Optimal bundle: can spend at most B_i dollars.

Intuition

spend wisely: on goods that gives max. utility-per-dollar $\frac{v_{ij}}{p_j}$

$$v_i(X_i) = \sum_j v_{ij} X_{ij}$$

Utility per unit



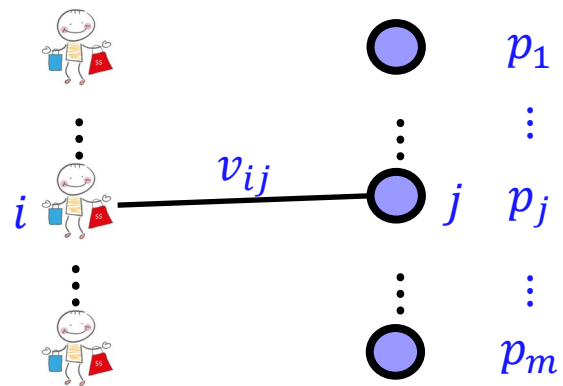
Optimal bundle: can spend at most B_i dollars.

$$\sum_j v_{ij} X_{ij} = \sum_j \left(\frac{v_{ij}}{p_j} \right) (\underbrace{p_j X_{ij}}_{(\$ \text{ spent})}) \leq \left(\max_k \frac{v_{ik}}{p_k} \right) \sum_j p_j X_{ij} \leq \left(\max_k \frac{v_{ik}}{p_k} \right) B_i$$

utility per dollar (bang-per-buck) MBB
Maximum bang-per-buck

$$v_i(X_i) = \sum_j v_{ij} X_{ij}$$

Utility per unit



Optimal bundle: can spend at most B_i dollars.

$$\sum_j v_{ij} X_{ij} = \sum_j \underbrace{\frac{v_{ij}}{p_j}}_{\text{utility per dollar (bang-per-buck)}} \underbrace{(p_j X_{ij})}_{\text{(\$ spent)}} \leq \left(\max_k \frac{v_{ik}}{p_k} \right) \sum_j p_j X_{ij} \leq \underbrace{\left(\max_k \frac{v_{ik}}{p_k} \right)}_{\text{MBB Maximum bang-per-buck}} B_i$$

iff

1. Spends all of B_i .
 $(p \cdot X_i) = B_i$
2. Only on MBB goods
 $X_{ij} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{v_{ij}}{p_j} = MBB$

CE Characterization





Prices $p = (p_1, \dots, p_m)$ and allocation $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ are at equilibrium iff

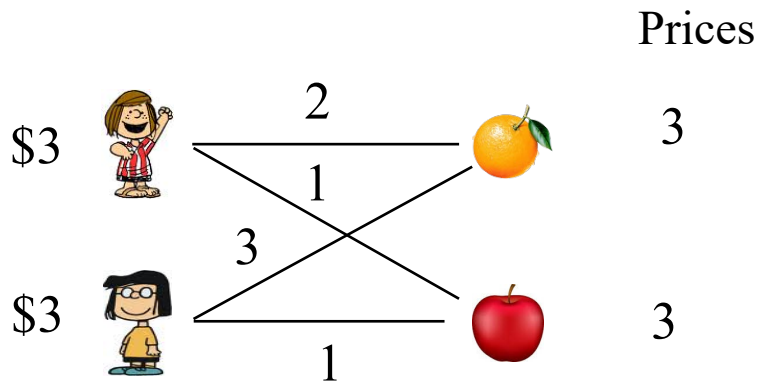
- Optimal bundle: For each agent i
 - $p \cdot X_i = B_i$
 - $X_{ij} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{v_{ij}}{p_j} = \max_k \frac{v_{ik}}{p_k}$, for all good j

- Market clears: For each good j ,

$$\sum_i X_{ij} = 1$$

Example

- 2 Agents (, ) , 2 Goods (, ) with unit supply
- Each agent has budget of \$3 and a linear utility function






Example

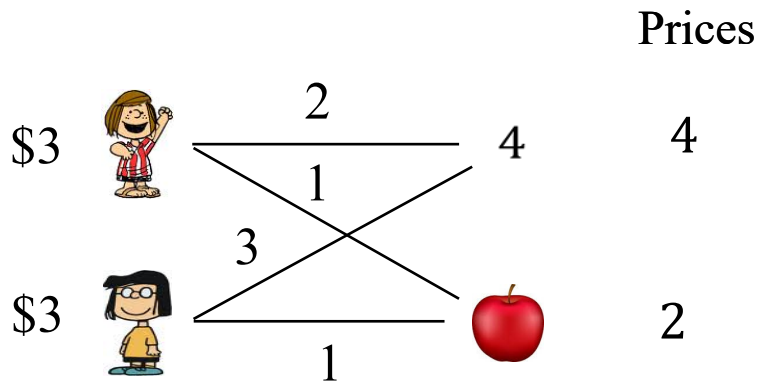
- 2 Agents (👧, 👦), 2 Goods (🍊, 🍎) with unit supply
- Each agent has budget of \$3 and a linear utility function






Not an Equilibrium!

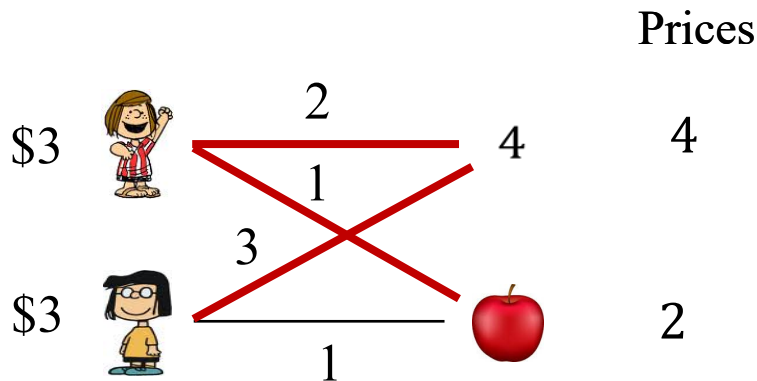
Example

- 2 Agents ( , ), 2 Goods (4 , ) with unit supply
- Each agent has budget of \$3 and a linear utility function



Example

- 2 Agents (, ), 2 Goods (4 , ) with unit supply
- Each agent has budget of \$3 and a linear utility function



Demand = Supply

MBB

Equilibrium!

Efficiency: Pareto optimality

- An allocation $Y = (Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)$ **Pareto dominates** another allocation $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ if
 - $v_i(Y_i) \geq v_i(X_i)$, for all agents i and
 - $v_k(Y_k) > v_k(X_k)$ for some agent k
- X is said to be **Pareto optimal** (PO) if **there is no Y that Pareto dominates it**

First Welfare Theorem

Theorem: Competitive equilibrium outputs a PO allocation

Proof: (by contradiction)

- Let (p, X) be equilibrium prices and allocations
- Suppose Y Pareto dominates X . That is,
 $v_i(Y_i) \geq v_i(X_i), \forall i \in [n]$, and $v_k(Y_k) > v_k(X_k)$ for some k
- Total cost of Y is $\sum_i (p \cdot Y_i) \leq \sum_j p_j$
- k demands X_k at prices p and not Y_k , because?
- Money agent i needs to purchase Y_i ? ■

Competitive Equilibrium with Equal Income (CEEI)

Problem: Fairly allocate a set of goods among agents
without involving money

- Give every agent (*fake*) \$1 and compute competitive equilibrium!

Envy-Free (EF)

Allocation X is **envy-free** if every agent prefers their own bundle than anyone else's. That is, for each agent i ,

$$v_i(X_i) \geq v_i(X_k), \forall k \in [n]$$

Theorem: CEEI is envy-free

Proof: Let (p, X) be a CEEI.

- Since the budget of each agent i is \$1, $(p \cdot X_i) = 1$.
- Can agent i afford agent k 's bundle (X_k)?

- But she demands X_i instead. Why?

$$v_i(X_i) \geq v_i(X_k)$$



Proportionality (Prop)

Allocation X is **proportional** if every agent gets at least the average of their total value of all goods. That is, for each agent i ,

$$v_i(X_i) \geq \frac{v_i([m])}{n}$$

Theorem: CEEI is envy-free

Proof: (EF \Rightarrow Prop)

- Let (p, X) be a CEEI.
- X is EF. That is, $v_i(X_i) \geq v_i(X_k), \forall k \in [n]$. Sum-up over all k

$$n \cdot v_i(X_i) \geq \sum_k v_i(X_k) = v_i\left(\sum_k X_k\right) = v_i([m])$$



Summary

CE allocation is:

- Pareto optimal (PO)

with equal incomes (CEEI)

- Envy-free
- Proportional

Existence of Competitive Equilibrium

- Equilibrium exists under a very general class of utility functions
- For **linear** valuations, Eisenberg-Gale convex program exactly capture all equilibria:

$$\max \sum_{i \in [n]} B_i \log \sum_{j \in [m]} v_{ij} X_{ij}$$

$$\sum_{i \in [n]} X_{ij} = 1, \quad \forall j$$

$$X_{ij} \geq 0, \quad \forall i, j$$



Efficient (Combinatorial) Algorithms

Polynomial time

- Flow based [DPSV08, DM13, DGM16]

Strongly polynomial time

- Scaling + flow [Orlin10, Vegh16, GV19]

CE Characterization

Prices $p = (p_1, \dots, p_m)$ and allocation $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ are at equilibrium iff

- Optimal bundle: For each agent i
 - $p \cdot X_i = B_i$
 - $X_{ij} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{v_{ij}}{p_j} = \max_k \frac{v_{ik}}{p_k}$, for all good j

- Market clears: For each good j ,

$$\sum_i X_{ij} = 1$$

Competitive Equilibrium \rightarrow Flow

Prices $p = (p_1, \dots, p_m)$ and allocation $F = (F_1, \dots, F_n)$

$$F_{ij} = X_{ij}p_j \text{ (money spent)}$$

■ **Optimal bundle:** Agent i demands $X_i \in \operatorname{argmax}_{x: p \cdot x \leq B_i} v_i(x)$

$$\square \sum_j F_{ij} = B_i$$

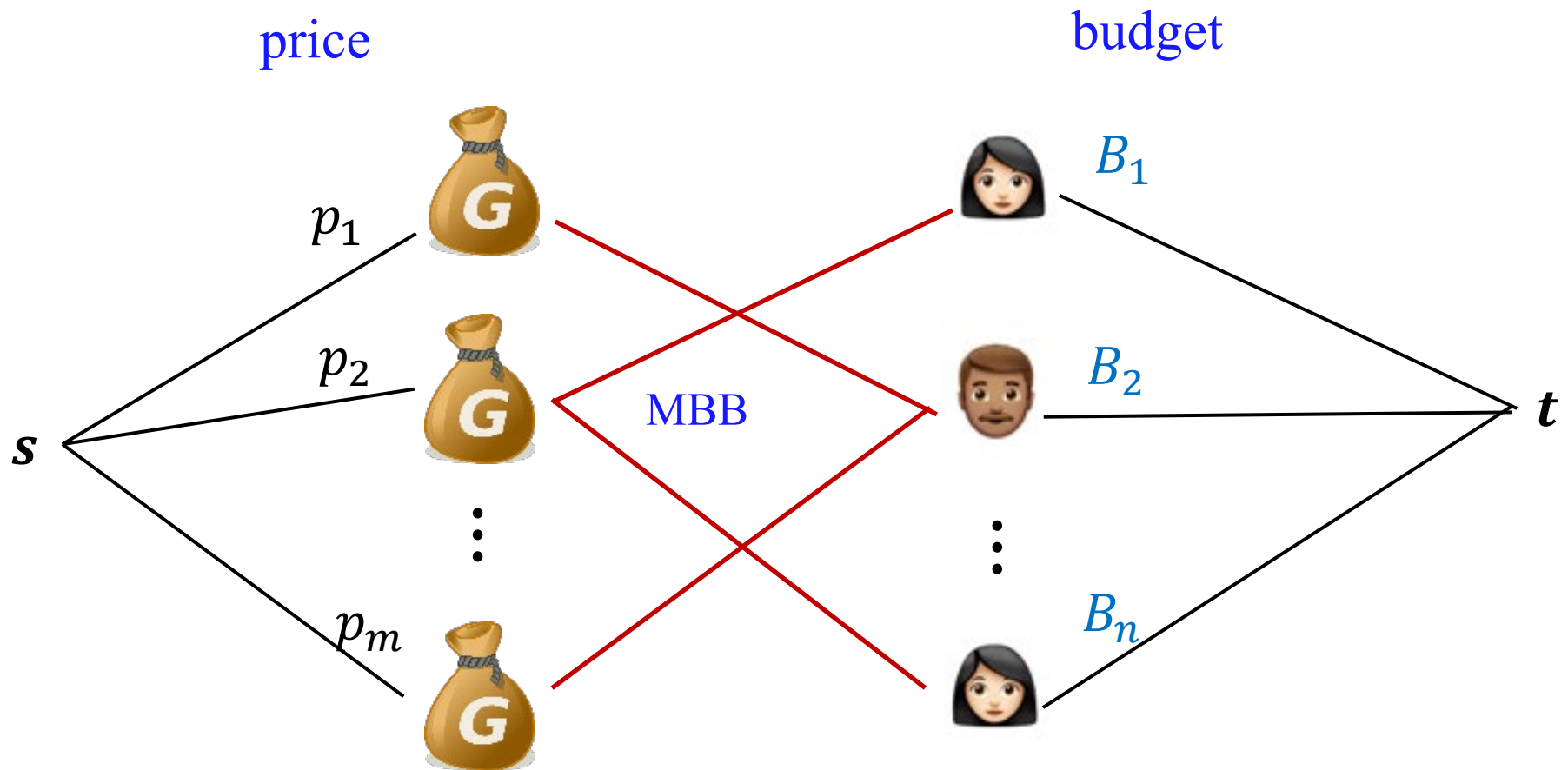
$$\square F_{ij} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{v_{ij}}{p_j} = \max_k \frac{v_{ik}}{p_k} \text{ for all good } j$$

Maximum bang-per-buck (*MBB*)

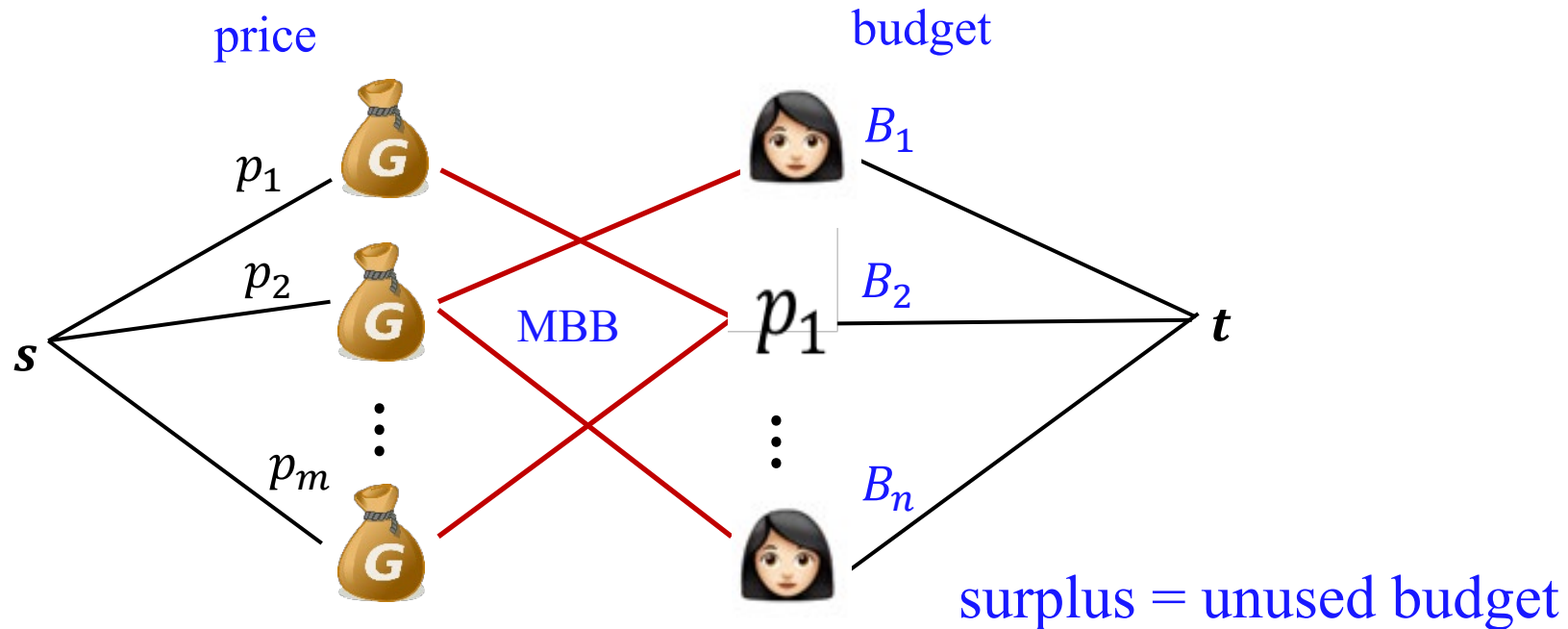
■ **Market clears:** For each good j , demand = supply

$$\sum_i F_{ij} = p_j$$

Network Flow Characterization

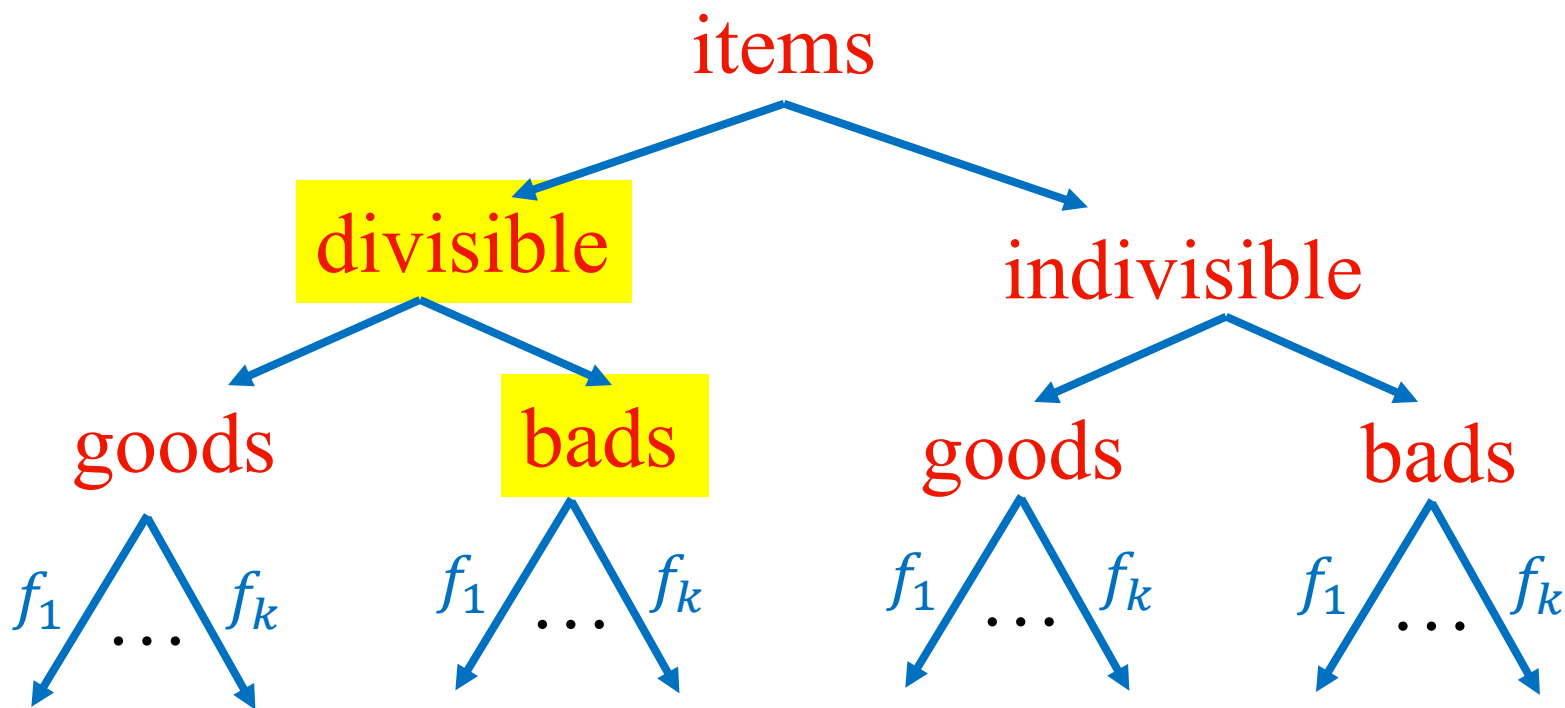


DPSV Algorithm



- Start with tiny p so that $\text{max flow} = \sum_j p_j$
- **Invariants:** prices \uparrow , $\text{max-flow} = \sum_j p_j \Rightarrow \|\text{surplus}\|_1 \downarrow \quad \|\text{surplus}\|_2 \downarrow$
- **Progress:** $\|\text{surplus}\|_2$

Agenda



Each f_i = fairness notion

Divisible Bads

- Set $[m]$ of m **divisible bads**, each comes in **unit** supply
- Set $[n]$ of n **agents**
- **Allocation** $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$, where X_{ij} is the amount of bad j allocated to agent i such that $\sum_i X_{ij} = 1, \forall j$
- Each agent i has **linear (additive) disutility**: $d_i(X_i) = \sum_j d_{ij} X_{ij}$ where d_{ij} is disutility from a unit amount of bad j

Question: How to “**fairly**” and “**efficiently**” allocate bads to agents?

Agreeable (Fair)

Efficient

Envy-free: No agent *envies* other's allocation over their own

Proportional: Each agent i gets disutility at **most** $\frac{d_i([m])}{n}$

Allocation
in red

[100, 1]

[1/2, 1/2]



[1, 100]

[1/2, 1/2]



Agreeable (Fair)

Envy-free: No agent *envies* other's allocation over their own

Proportional: Each agent i gets disutility at most $\frac{d_i([m])}{n}$

Efficient

Pareto-optimal: No other allocation is better for all.

Allocation
in red

[100, 1]
[0, 1]



[1, 100]
[1, 0]



Agreeable (Fair)

Efficient

Envy-free

Pareto-optimal

Proportional

Competitive Equilibrium
(with equal income)

Fisher's Model for bads

- Set $[m]$ of m **divisible bads**, each comes in **unit** supply
- Set $[n]$ of n **agents**

- Each agent i needs to earn
 - at least B_i dollars
 - disutility function $d_i: R_+^m \rightarrow R_+$ over bundle of bads

Competitive Equilibrium (CE)

Given prices $p = (p_1, \dots, p_m)$ of goods

- Agent i demands an *optimal bundle*, i.e., bundle that minimizes their disutility

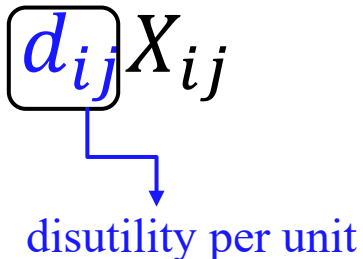
$$X_i \in \operatorname{argmin}_{x: p \cdot x \geq B_i} d_i(x)$$

- p is at competitive equilibrium (CE) if *market clears*

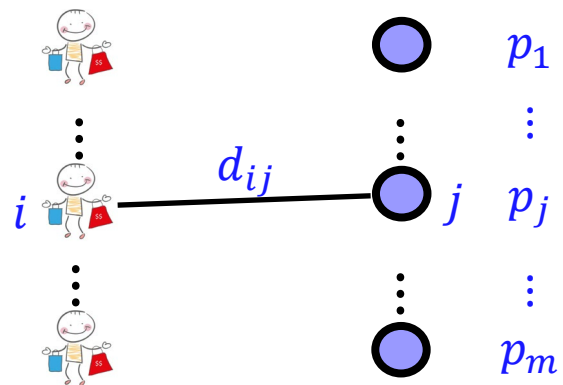
Demand = Supply

CE: Linear Valuations

$$d_i(X_i) = \sum_j d_{ij} X_{ij}$$



disutility per unit



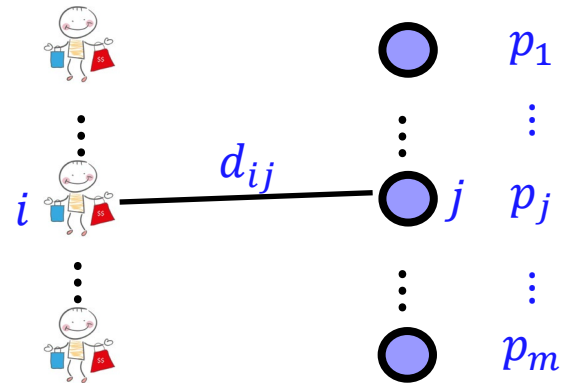
Optimal bundle: needs to earn at least B_i dollar.

Intuition

earn wisely: on bads that gives min. disutility-per-dollar $\frac{d_{ij}}{p_j}$

$$d_i(X_i) = \sum_j d_{ij} X_{ij}$$

Disutility per unit



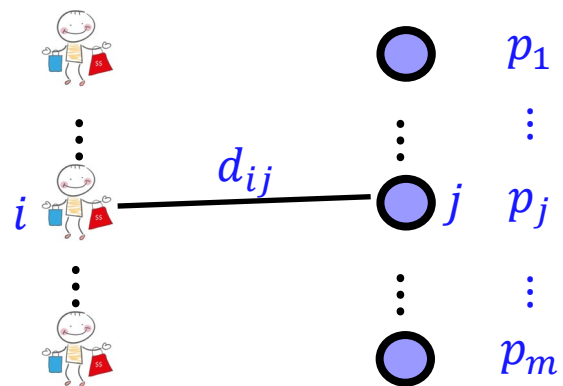
Optimal bundle: needs to earn at least B_i dollar.

$$\sum_j d_{ij} X_{ij} = \sum_j \left(\frac{d_{ij}}{p_j} \right) (\underbrace{p_j X_{ij}}_{(\$ \text{ earned})}) \geq \left(\min_k \frac{d_{ik}}{p_k} \right) \sum_j p_j X_{ij} \geq \left(\min_k \frac{d_{ik}}{p_k} \right) B_i$$

disutility per dollar (pain-per-buck) MPB Minimum pain-per-buck

$$d_i(X_i) = \sum_j d_{ij} X_{ij}$$

Disutility per unit



Optimal bundle: needs to earn at least B_i dollar.

$$\sum_j d_{ij} X_{ij} = \sum_j \underbrace{\frac{d_{ij}}{p_j}}_{\text{disutility per dollar (pain-per-buck)}} \underbrace{(p_j X_{ij})}_{\text{(\$ earned)}} \geq \left(\min_k \frac{d_{ik}}{p_k} \right) \sum_j p_j X_{ij} \geq \underbrace{\left(\min_k \frac{d_{ik}}{p_k} \right)}_{\text{MPB Minimum pain-per-buck}} B_i$$

iff

1. Earns exactly B_i
 $(p \cdot X_i) = B_i$
2. Only on MPB bads

$$X_{ij} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d_{ij}}{p_j} = MPB$$

CE Characterization

Prices $p = (p_1, \dots, p_m)$ and allocation $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ are at equilibrium iff

■ Optimal bundle: For each agent i

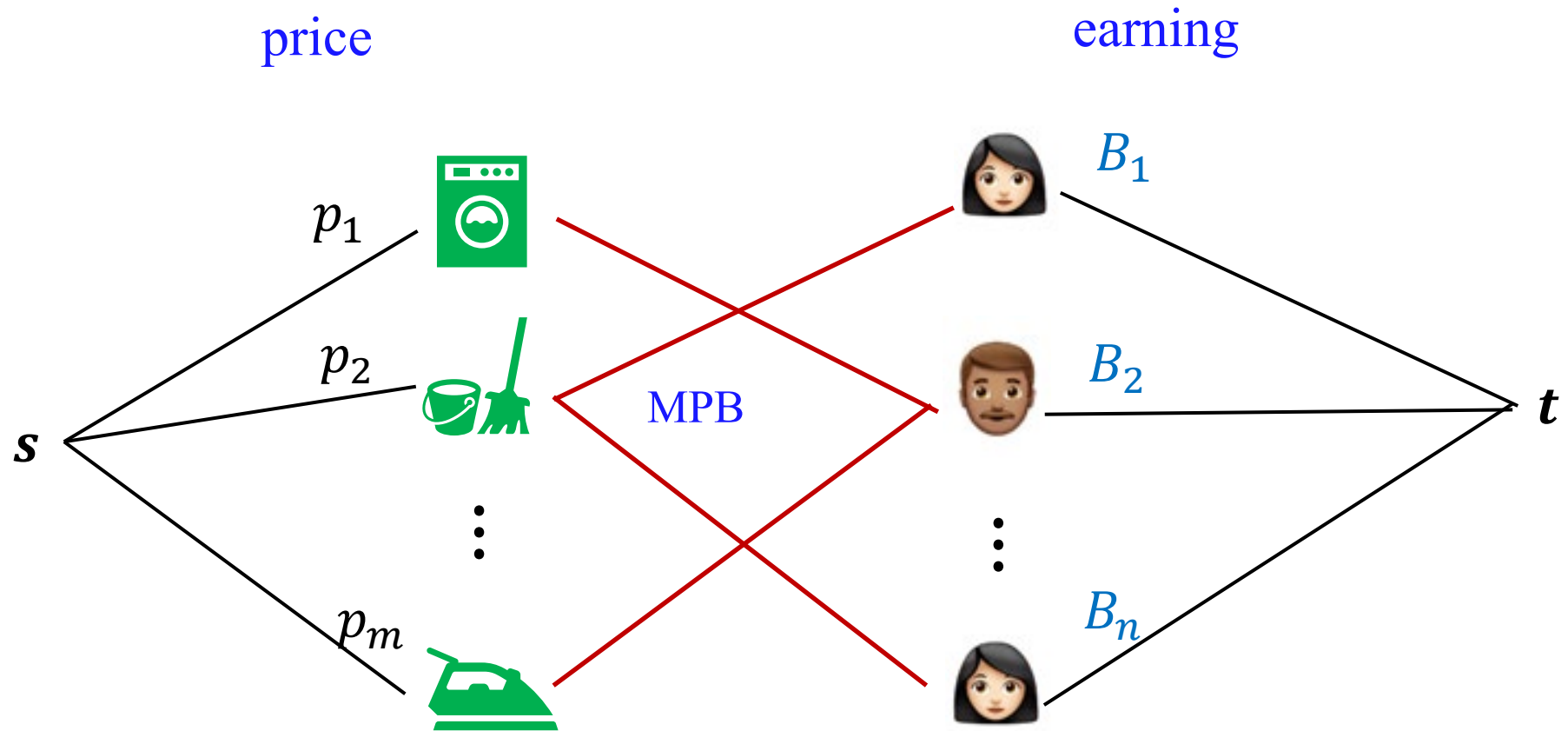
□ $p \cdot X_i = B_i$

□ $X_{ij} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d_{ij}}{p_j} = \min_k \frac{d_{ik}}{p_k}$, for all bads j

■ Market clears: For each bad j ,

$$\sum_i X_{ij} = 1$$

Network Flow Characterization



Like the goods case

CE allocation in bads is:

- Pareto optimal (PO)

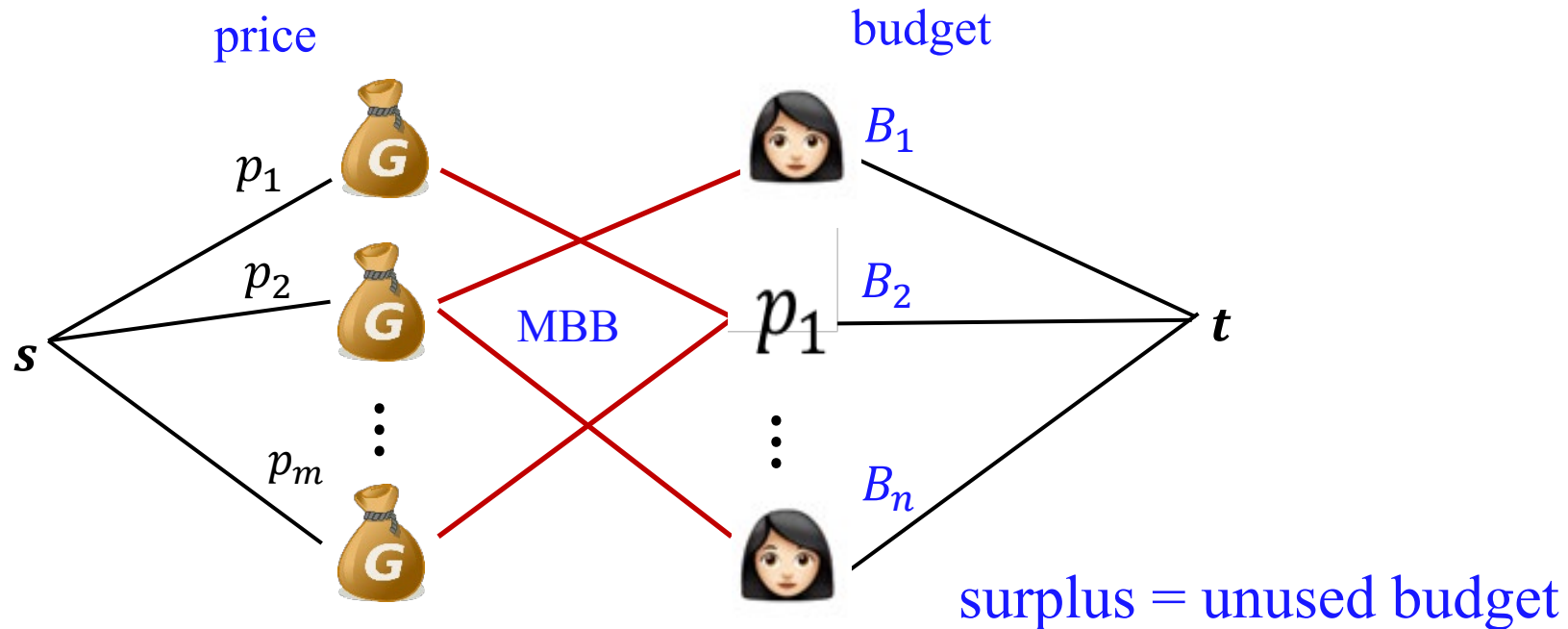
with equal incomes (CEEI)

- Envy-free
- Proportional

Existence: Yes [BMSY17, CGMM21]

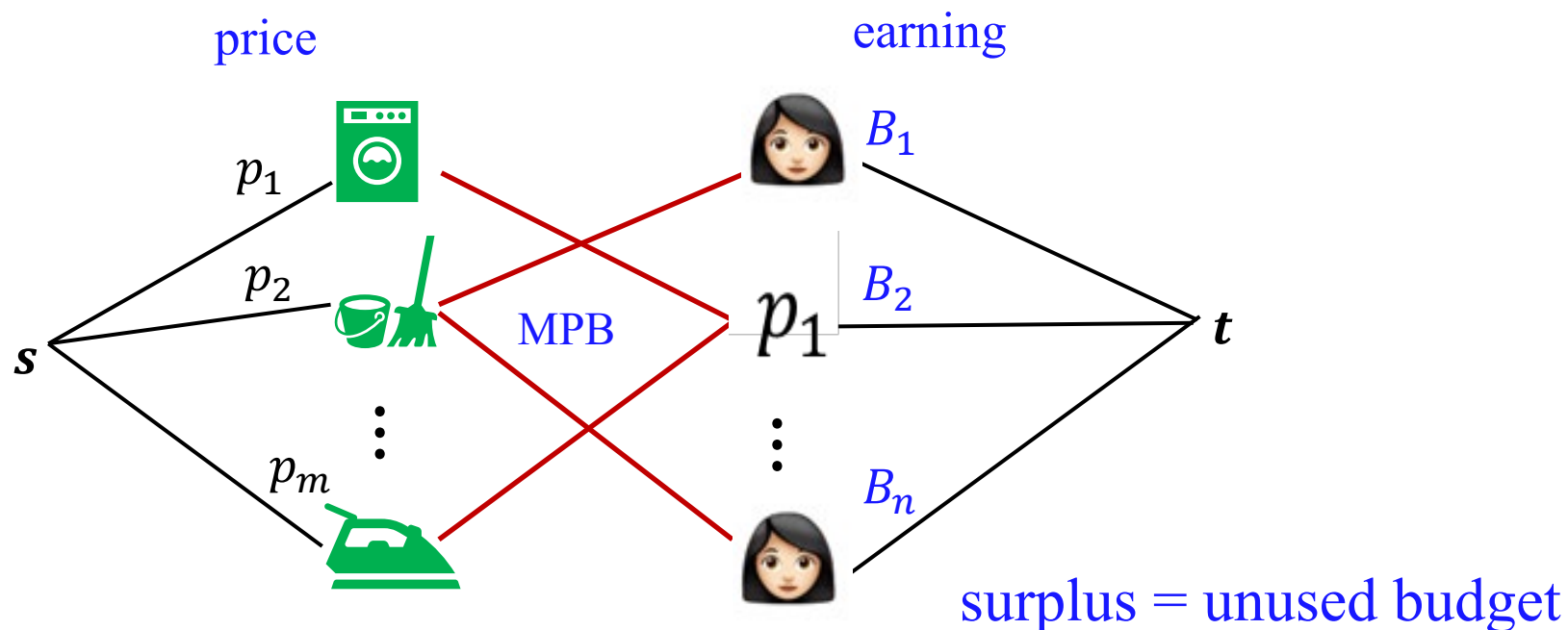
Computation?

DPSV Algorithm [for goods]



- Start with tiny p so that $\text{max flow} = \sum_j p_j$
- **Invariants:** prices \uparrow , $\text{max-flow} = \sum_j p_j \Rightarrow \|\text{surplus}\|_1 \downarrow \quad \|\text{surplus}\|_2 \downarrow$
- **Progress:** $\|\text{surplus}\|_2$

DPSV-type Algorithm for bads?



- Start with tiny p so that $\text{max flow} = \sum_j p_j$
- **Invariants:** prices \uparrow , $\text{max-flow} = \sum_j p_j \Rightarrow \|\text{surplus}\|_1 \uparrow \quad \|\text{surplus}\|_2 \uparrow$
- **Progress:** ?

Recent breakthroughs

Difficulty: **Non-convex** and **disconnected** set of equilibria

- Enumeration-based algorithm [BS19]
- Simplex-like algorithm [CGMM21]
- FPTAS for CEEI [CGMM22]
- Polynomial-time for bivalued instances ($d_{ij} \in \{1, a\}$) [GMQ22]



Complexity of computing exact equilibrium

Special cases: 2-ary ($d_{ij} \in \{1, a_i\}$)

tri-valued ($d_{ij} \in \{1, a, b\}$)

Summary: Divisible Items

- n agents, m **divisible** items (goods/bads)
- Agent i has linear **valuation** function $v_i(X_i) = \sum_j v_{ij}X_{ij}$
- **Goal:** fair and efficient allocation $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$

Fairness:

Envy-free (EF)

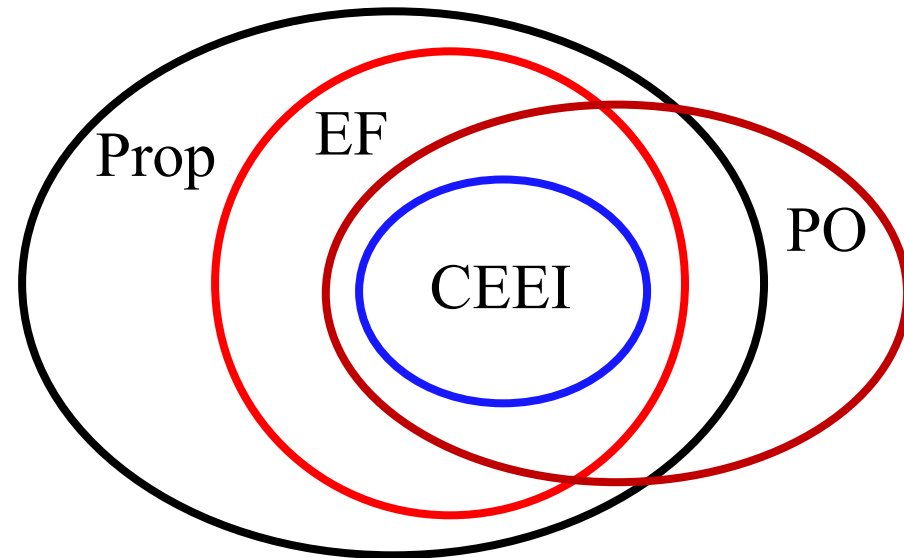
Proportionality (Prop)

Efficiency:

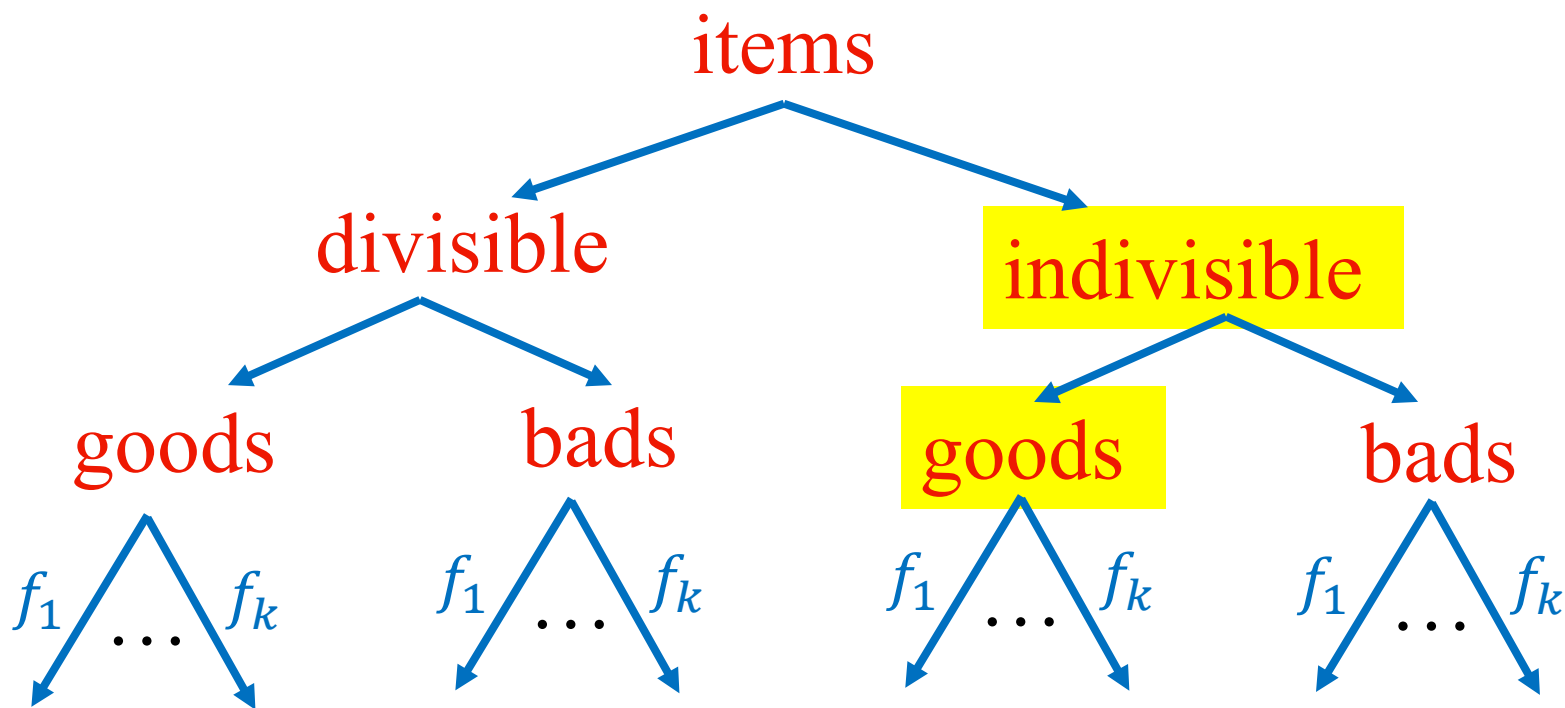
Pareto optimal (PO)

CEEI Existence: Yes

CEEI Complexity: Open for bads!



Agenda



Each f_i = fairness notion

Indivisible Goods

- n agents, m **indivisible** goods (like cell phone, painting, etc.)
- Agent i has additive **valuation** function $v_i(X_i) = \sum_{j \in X_i} v_{ij}$
- **Goal:** fair and efficient allocation $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$

Fairness:

Proportionality (Prop)

Envy-free (EF)

Efficiency:

Pareto optimal (PO)

Indivisible Goods

- n agents, m **indivisible** goods (like cell phone, painting, etc.)
- Agent i has additive **valuation** function $v_i(X_i) = \sum_{j \in X_i} v_{ij}$
- **Goal**: fair and efficient allocation $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$

Fairness:

Proportionality (Prop) \longrightarrow **Prop1**

Envy-free (EF) \longrightarrow **EF1**



Efficiency:

Pareto optimal (PO)

Existence & Computation

Additive Valuations	Existence	Computation
Prop1 + PO	✓	Polynomial time [BK19, AMS20, GM19]
EF1 + PO	✓ [CKMPSW16]	Pseudo-polynomial time [BKV18, GM21]



Complexity of finding an EF1+PO allocation

Indivisible Goods

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Proportionality up to one good (Prop1)

Proportionality (Prop): Allocation $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ is proportional if each agent gets at least $1/n$ share of all goods:

$$v_i(X_i) \geq \frac{v_i([m])}{n}, \quad \forall i$$



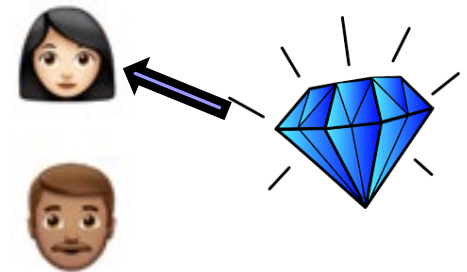
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$$v_i(X_i) \geq \frac{v_i([m])}{n}, \quad \forall i$$

- **Prop1:** X is proportional **up to one good** if each agent gets at least $1/n$ share of all goods **after adding one more good from outside**:

$$v_i(X_i \cup \{g\}) \geq \frac{1}{n} v_i([m]), \quad \exists g \in [m] \setminus X_i, \forall i$$



Prop1 + PO + ... [BK19, GM19]

Input: $[n], [m], v_{ij}'s$

Step 1 (Prop + PO):

- Assume that all goods are divisible
- (p, X) : CEEI
- X is envy-free \Rightarrow proportional
- we can assume that **support** of X is acyclic
 - $Support(X) = \{(i, j) \mid X_{ij} > 0\}$

Prop1 + PO + ... [BK19, GM19]

Input: $[n], [m], v_{ij}'s$

Step 1 (Prop + PO):

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 - $Support(X) = \{(i, j) \mid X_{ij} > 0\}$

Step 2 (Rounding):

- In each component of $Support(X)$:
 - Make some agent the root
 - Assign each good to its parent agent

Analysis

Prop1:

- X : CEEI allocation; Y : rounded allocation
- $v_i(X_i) \geq \frac{v_i([m])}{n}$
- Consider X' where $X'_{ij} = \lfloor X_{ij} \rfloor$
- $v_i(X'_i) \geq v_i(X_i)$
- Relation between Y_i and X'_i ?

PO:

- Consider a market $M = [n], [m], v_{ij}$'s, where agent i has budget $\sum_{j \in Y_i} p_j$

Claim: (p, Y) is a CE of M

Indivisible Goods

- n agents, m **indivisible** goods (like cell phone, painting, etc.)
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Pareto optimal (PO)

Envy-Freeness up to One Good (EF1) [B11]

- An allocation (X_1, \dots, X_n) is EF1 if for every agent i

$$v_i(X_i) \geq v_i(X_j \setminus g), \quad \exists g \in X_j, \quad \forall j$$

That is, agent i may envy agent j , but the envy can be eliminated if we **remove a single good** from j 's bundle

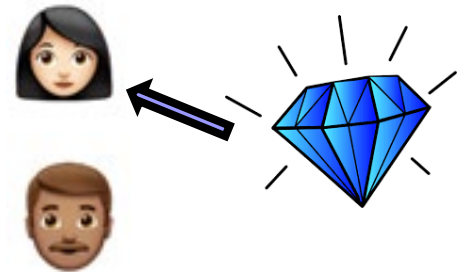
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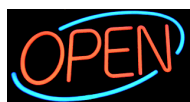
That is, agent i may envy agent j , but the envy can be eliminated if we **remove a single good** from j 's bundle

- Existence?



EF1 + PO

Valuations	Computation
General Additive	Pseudo-polynomial time [BKV18, GM21]
k -ary ($v_{ij} \in \{a_1^i, \dots, a_k^i\}$), k constant	Polynomial time [GM21]
Constantly-many agents	Polynomial time [GM21]



Complexity of finding an EF1+PO allocation

- **Difficulty:** Deciding if an allocation is PO is co-NP-hard [KBKZ09]
- **Approach:** Achieve EF1 while maintaining PO
 - PO **certificate**: competitive equilibrium!

Competitive Equilibrium (CE)

- m **divisible** goods, n agents
- Each agent has budget of B_i
- Utility of agent i : $\sum_j v_{ij} X_{ij}$
- p_j : price of item j , F_{ij} : money flow from agent i to good j

Equilibrium (p, F) :

1. Optimal bundle: $F_{ij} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{v_{ij}}{p_j} = \max_k \frac{v_{ik}}{p_k}$

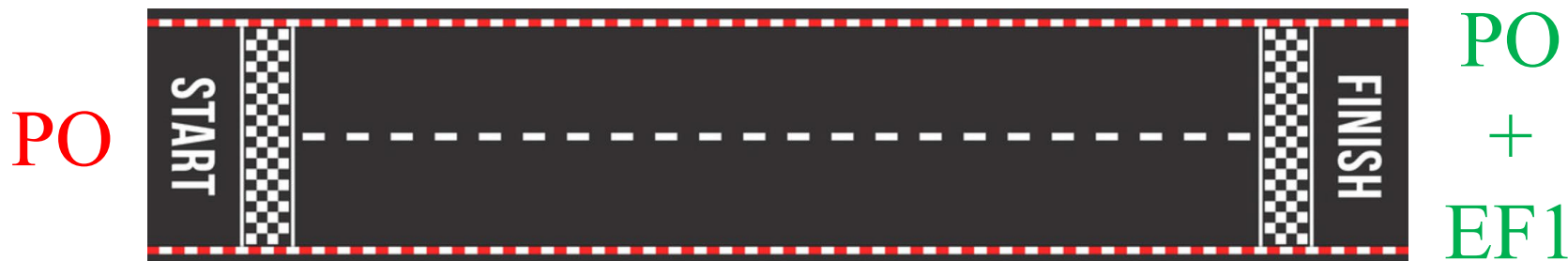
Maximum bang-per-buck (**MBB**) condition

2. Market clearing:

$$\sum_j F_{ij} = B_i, \forall i \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_i F_{ij} = p_j, \forall j$$

EF1+PO [BKV18, GM21]

- **Approach:** Achieve EF1 while maintaining PO



- **Starting allocation** $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$:
 - Each item j is assigned to an agent with the highest valuation
 - Set price of item j as $p_j = \max_i v_{ij}$
- $p(X_i)$: total price of all goods in $X_i \equiv$ total valuation of i

Example

Claim: (X, p) is (integral) CE when agent i has a budget of $p(X_i)$

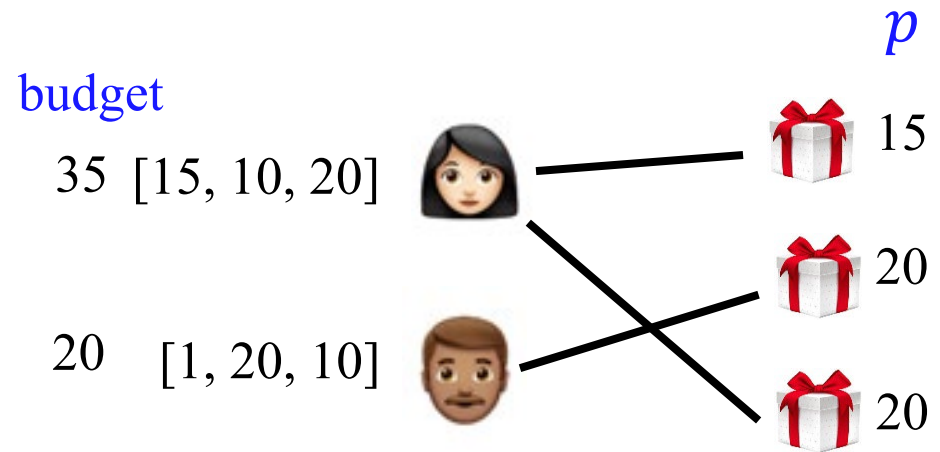
Equilibrium (p, F) :

1. Optimal bundle (MBB):

$$F_{ij} > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{v_{ij}}{p_j} = \max_k \frac{v_{ik}}{p_k}$$

2. Market clearing:

$$\sum_j F_{ij} = p(X_i), \forall i \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_i F_{ij} = p_j, \forall j$$



Scaling Valuations with Prices

- Envy-freeness is **scale-free**

- (X, p) : CE

- Let's scale $v_{ij} \leftarrow v_{ij} \cdot \min_k \frac{p_k}{v_{ik}}$

$$\Rightarrow v_{ij} \leq p_j \text{ and } v_{ij} = p_j \text{ if } j \in X_i$$

Prices can be treated as valuations at CE!

Price-Envy-Free [BKV18]

- (X, p) : **CE**
- X is **Envy-Free (EF)** if

$$\begin{aligned} v_i(X_i) &\geq v_i(X_j), & \forall i, j \\ v_i(X_i) = p(X_i) \quad p(X_j) &\geq v_i(X_j), & \forall i, j \end{aligned}$$

Price-Envy-Free [BKV18]

- (X, p) : **CE**

- X is **Envy-Free (EF)** if

$$v_i(X_i) \geq v_i(X_j), \quad \forall i, j$$

$$v_i(X_i) = p(X_i) \quad p(X_j) \geq v_i(X_j), \quad \forall i, j$$

- X is **Price-Envy-Free (pEF)** if

$$p(X_i) \geq p(X_j), \quad \forall i, j$$

Price-Envy-Free [BKV18]

- (X, p) : **CE**
- X is **Envy-Free (EF)** if $v_i(X_i) \geq v_i(X_j), \quad \forall i, j$
 $v_i(X_i) = p(X_i) \quad p(X_j) \geq v_i(X_j), \quad \forall i, j$
- X is **Price-Envy-Free (pEF)** if $p(X_i) \geq p(X_j), \quad \forall i, j$
- **pEF \Rightarrow EF + PO**

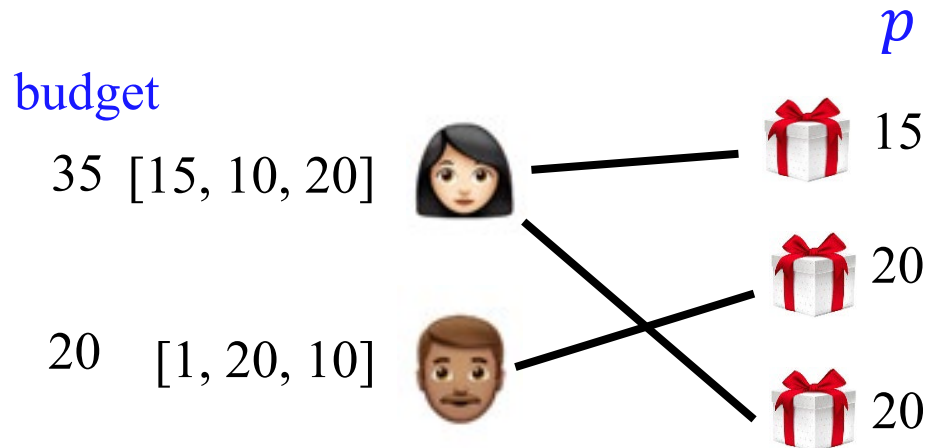
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EF?

$$35 = v_1(A_1) \geq v_1(A_2) = 10$$

$$20 = v_2(A_2) \geq v_2(A_1) = 11$$



Price-Envy-Free [BKV18]

- (X, p) : **CE**
- X is **Envy-Free (EF)** if $v_i(X_i) \geq v_i(X_j), \quad \forall i, j$
 $v_i(X_i) = p(X_i) \quad p(X_j) \geq v_i(X_j), \quad \forall i, j$
- X is **Price-Envy-Free (pEF)** if
 $p(X_i) \geq p(X_j), \quad \forall i, j$
- **pEF \Rightarrow EF + PO**



May not exist!

pEF?

$$35 = p(A_1) \geq p(A_2) = 20$$

$$20 = p(A_2) < p(A_1) = 35$$

budget

35 [15, 10, 20]

20 [1, 20, 10]



15

20

20

p

■ (X, p) : **CE**

■ X is **EF1** if $v_i(X_i) \geq v_i(X_j \setminus g), \quad g \in X_j, \quad \forall i, j$

$$v_i(X_i) = p(X_i) \quad p(X_j \setminus g) \geq v_i(X_j \setminus g), \quad \exists g \in X_j, \quad \forall i, j$$

■ X is **Price-EF1 (pEF1)** if

$$p(X_i) \geq p(X_j \setminus g), \quad \exists g \in X_j, \quad \forall i, j$$

■ **pEF1 \Rightarrow EF1 + PO**

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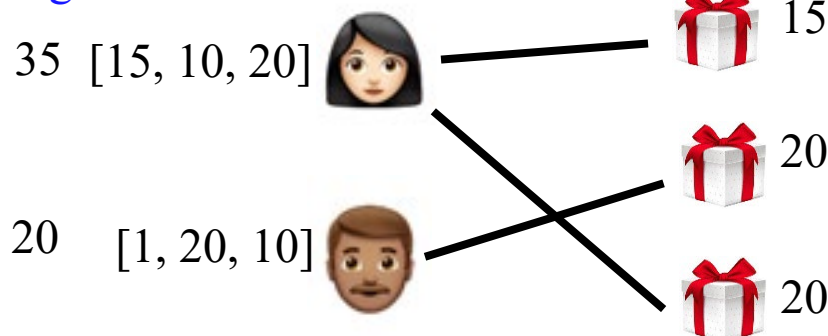
- **pEF1 \Rightarrow EF1 + PO**

pEF1?

$$35 = p(X_1) > p(X_2 \setminus g_2) = 0$$

$$20 = p(X_2) > p(X_1 \setminus g_3) = 15$$

budget



- (X, p) : **CE**

- X is **EF1** if $v_i(X_i) \geq v_i(X_j \setminus g), \quad g \in X_j, \quad \forall i, j$
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budget

35 [15, 10, 20]

20 [1, 20, 10]



p

15

20

20

Theorem [BKV18, GM21]: There exists a pseudo-polynomial time procedure to find a pEF1 allocation. Polynomial-time for special cases

■ (X, p) : **CE**

■ X is **pEF1** if

$$p(X_i) \geq p(X_j \setminus g), \quad \exists g \in X_j, \quad \forall i, j$$

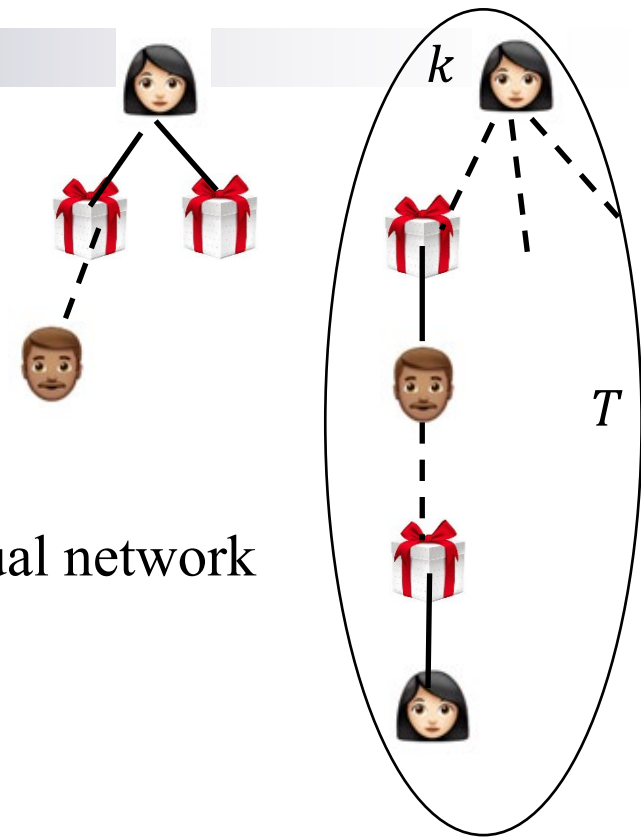
■ If $\min_i p(X_i) \geq \max_j \min_{g \in X_j} p(X_j \setminus g)$ then ?
(least spender) (big spender)

Procedure

While X is not pEF1

$k \leftarrow \arg \min_i p(X_i)$ //least spender

$T \leftarrow$ Agents and items, k can reach in MBB residual network



While X is not pEF1

$k \leftarrow \arg \min_i p(X_i)$ //least spender

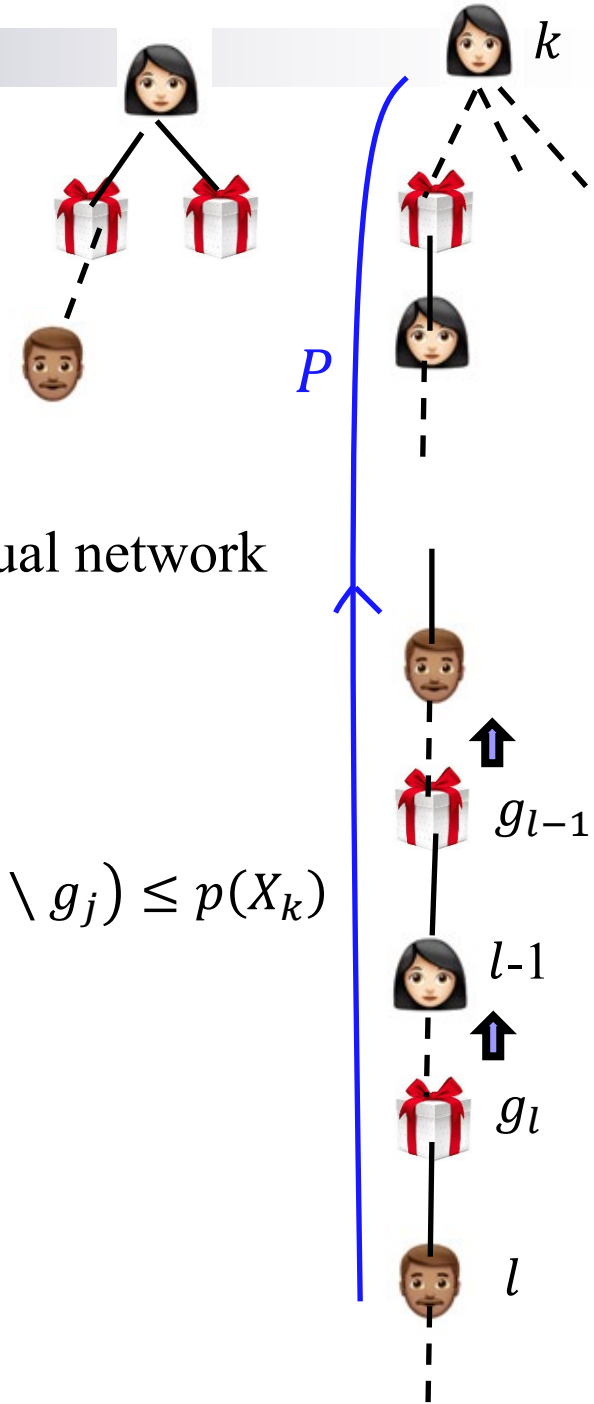
$T \leftarrow$ Agents and items, k can reach in MBB residual network

If k can reach l in T such that $p(X_l \setminus g_l) > p(X_k)$

Pick the nearest such l

$P \leftarrow$ Path from l to k

$X \leftarrow$ Reassign items along P until $p((X_j \cup g_{j+1}) \setminus g_j) \leq p(X_k)$



While X is not pEF1

$k \leftarrow \arg \min_i p(X_i)$ //least spender

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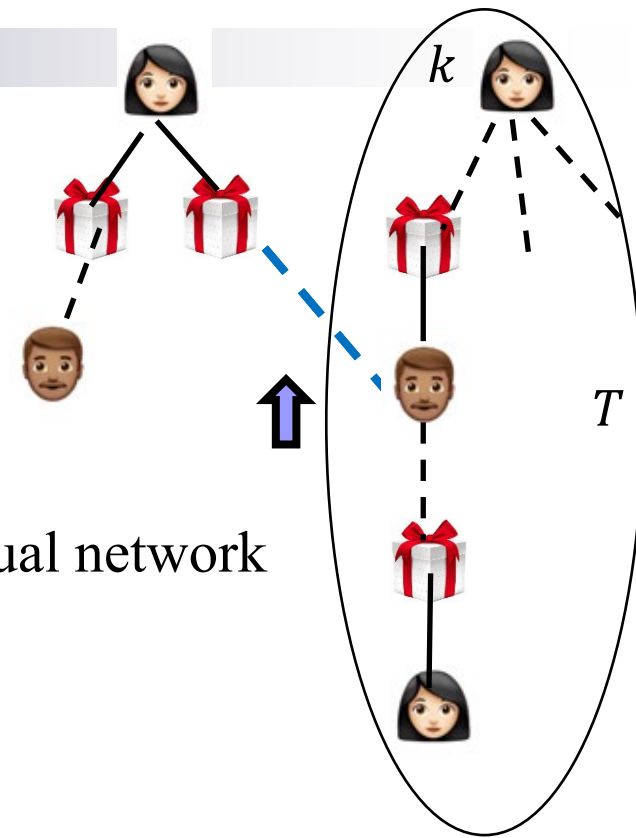
$X \leftarrow$ Reassign items along P until $p((X_j \cup g_{j+1}) \setminus g_j) \leq p(X_k)$

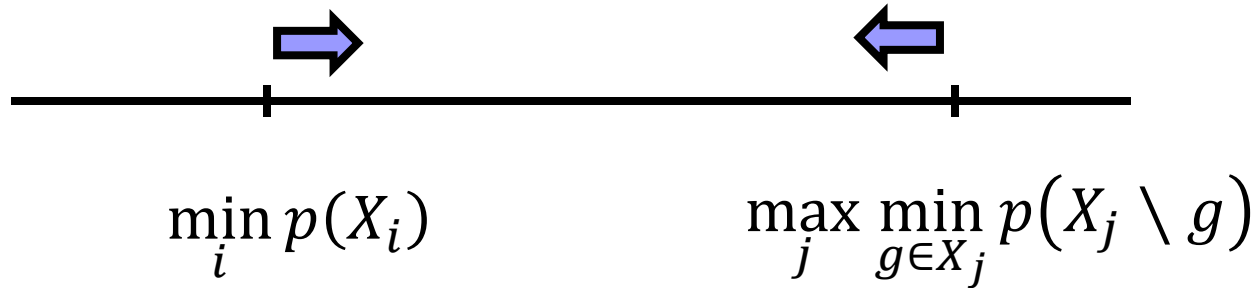
else increase prices of items in T by **a same factor** until

Event 1: new MBB edge

Event 2: k is not least spender anymore

Event 3: A becomes pEF1



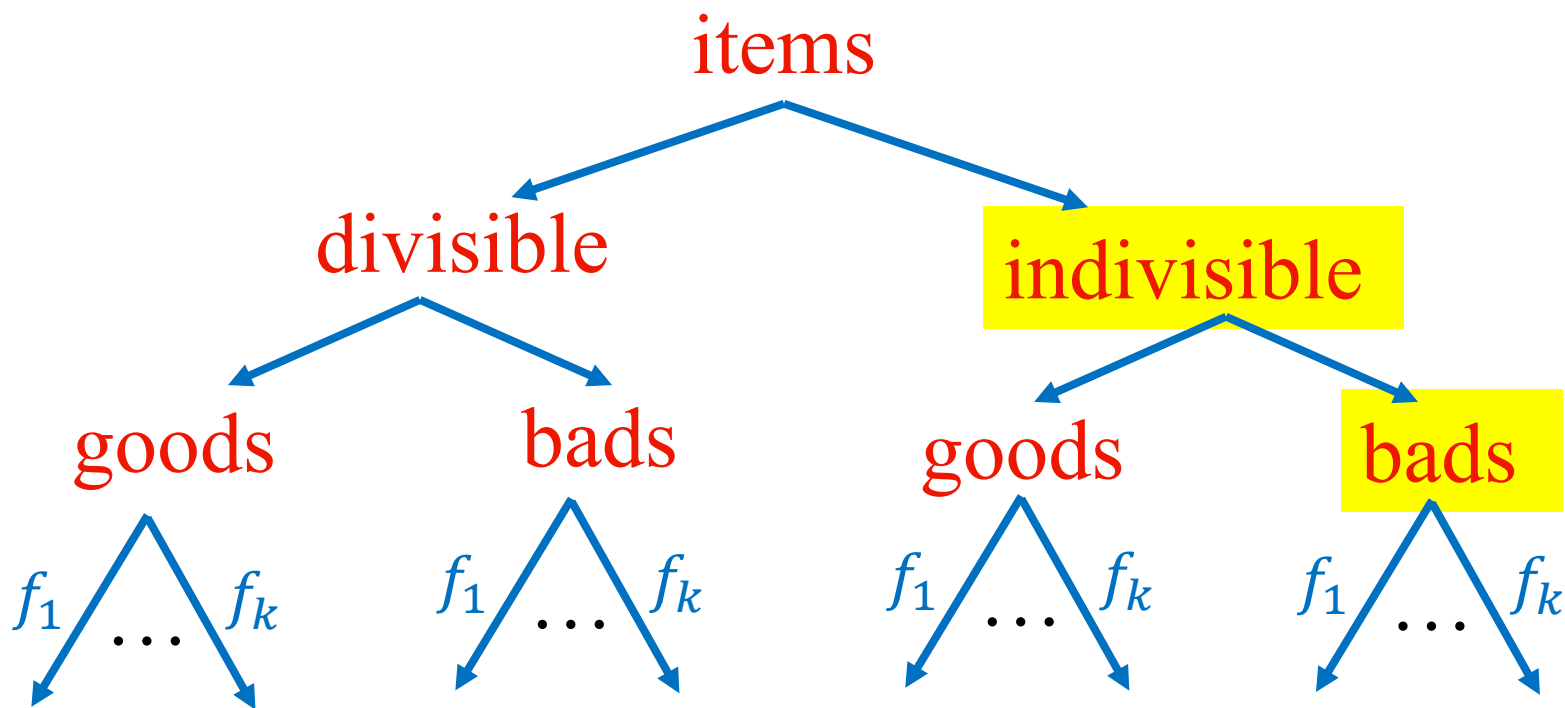


Claim: The procedure converges to a pEF1 allocation in pseudo-polynomial time!



Complexity of finding an EF1+PO allocation!

Agenda



Each f_i = fairness notion

Indivisible Bads

- n agents, m **indivisible** bads
- Agent i has additive **disutility** function $d_i(X_i) = \sum_{j \in X_i} d_{ij}$
- **Goal**: fair and efficient allocation $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$

Fairness:

Proportionality (Prop)

Envy-free (EF)

Efficiency:

Pareto optimal (PO)

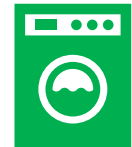
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Proportionality up to One Good (Prop1)

Proportionality (Prop): Allocation $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ is proportional if each agent gets at most $1/n$ share of all bads:

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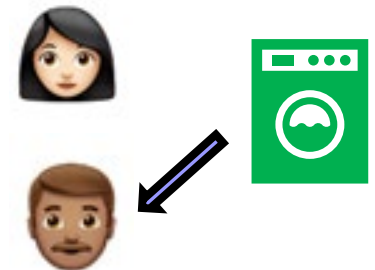
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- **Prop1:** X is proportional **up to one bad** if each agent gets at most $1/n$ share of all bads **after removing one bad from their bundle:**

$$d_i(X_i \setminus \{c\}) \leq \frac{1}{n} d_i([m]), \quad \exists c \in X_i, \forall i$$

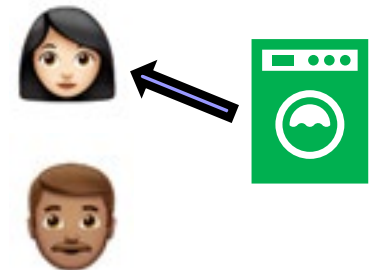


Envy-Freeness up to One Bad (EF1)

- An allocation (X_1, \dots, X_n) is EF1 if for every agent i

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That is, agent i may envy agent j , but the envy can be eliminated if we **remove a single bad** from i 's bundle



Existence & Computation

Additive Valuations	Existence	Computation
Prop1 + PO	✓	Polynomial time [AMS20]
EF1 + PO	?	
EF1	✓	Polynomial time

EF1 + PO

Valuations	Existence	Computation
General Additive	?	?
Bivalued ($d_{ij} \in \{1, a\}$)	✓	Polynomial time [GMQ22, EPS22]
Tri-valued ($d_{ij} \in \{1, a, b\}$) 2-ary ($d_{ij} \in \{1, a_i\}$) 3 agents	?	?

Summary

Fairness:

Proportionality (Prop)	→	Prop1	PropM	PropX	MMS
Envy-free (EF)	→	EF1	EFX		

Efficiency:


Pareto optimal (PO)	Maximum (Nash) welfare
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Major Open Questions

- CEEI for bads: exact complexity
- EF1+PO: exact complexity for goods
- EF1+PO: Existence/Computation for bads

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