

Two-Sided Matching

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1 The Model

A *market* is defined by a set of upstream firms \mathcal{U} , a set of downstream firms \mathcal{D} , and a matrix of pairwise productions denoted by A . For now we will focus on markets with equal number of upstream and downstream firms. When an upstream firm $u \in \mathcal{U}$ *matches* with a downstream firm $d \in \mathcal{D}$, their pairwise match production $\pi_{u,d}$ is given by

$$\pi_{u,d} = z_{u,d}^U + e_{u,d}^U + z_{u,d}^D + e_{u,d}^D.$$

We call $z_{u,d}^U$ and $z_{u,d}^D$ observable match-level characteristics of u and d respectively. Similarly, we refer to $e_{u,d}^U$ and $e_{u,d}^D$ as unobservable match-level characteristics of u and d . For now consider each of these term to be a real number.

Upon matching, the two firms divide the pairwise match production by transferring money. Informally, you can think that the upstream firm u owns $z_{u,d}^U + e_{u,d}^U$ units of the match production and the downstream firm owns $z_{u,d}^D + e_{u,d}^D$. When matched, according to some sharing rule, the downstream firm transfers $p_{u,d} \in \mathbb{R}$ units of the production to the upstream firm. Thus, after the transfer is made, the profit of the upstream firm is given by $\pi_{u,d}^U \equiv z_{u,d}^U + e_{u,d}^U + p_{u,d}$ and the profit of the downstream firm is given by $\pi_{u,d}^D \equiv z_{u,d}^D + e_{u,d}^D - p_{u,d}$. We refer to $p_{u,d}$ as transfer or price and $\pi_{u,d}^U$ or $\pi_{u,d}^D$ as individual profits.

An *assignment* is an object that specifies which upstream firm is matched with which downstream firm. A one-to-one assignment or matching is such that each upstream (downstream) firm is matched to at most one downstream (upstream) firm. Since we restricted attention to markets with equal number of upstream and downstream firms, a class of one-to-one matchings where each firm is part of exactly one match is feasible. We will focus on this class of matchings. Note that an assignment in an N by N market can be denoted by an $N \times N$ matrix of zeros and ones X , where $x_{i,j} = 1$ if and only if upstream firm i is matched with downstream firm j .

An outcome is a pair of a one-to-one assignment and a vector of individual profits for each upstream and downstream firm. For further reading on pairwise stable assignments and rigorous definition of these term see Roth and Sotomayor (1990).

2 Simulation Exercise 1

The goal is to simulate data on the outcomes from many markets.

For each market m , let (Z_m^U, Z_m^D) be a realization of a pair of $N \times N$ random matrices that are jointly distributed according to some distribution; this could be a parametric distribution such as Normal distribution. Similarly, draw (E_m^U, E_m^D) according to another joint distribution. The code should allow us to easily modify the underlying distribution.

Given the random draws for the market m , find the optimal one-to-one assignment such that every firm is part of exactly one match. The optimal assignment is an assignment that maximizes (within the class of assignments considered) the sum of the pairwise match production of all *matched* firms. You may use the Gurobi package to solve the linear programming problem. One way to store this assignment would be a matrix of zeros and ones.

Individual Profits

To compute the individual profit of the upstream firm i follow these steps:

1. Compute the sum of the pairwise match production of all *matched* firms according to the *optimal* assignment above. We refer to this as the optimal matching production .
2. Find the optimal assignment in the class of assignments where every upstream firm except i is matched with a downstream firm. Only one downstream firm is to remain unmatched. Again the optimal assignment would maximize the sum of pairwise match production of matched firms. In this case it is the sum of $N - 1$ terms.

Store the profit for upstream firm i as the difference between (1) and (2).

Your code should report for each market:

- The optimal one-to-one assignment.
- The vector of N individual profits, one for each upstream firm calculated according to the steps above.
- The matrices of observable characteristics.
- The matrices of unobservable characteristics.

References

Alvin E Roth and Marilda A Oliveira Sotomayor. Two-sided matching, volume 18 of Econometric Society Monographs. 1990.