OLIVIA FRANCES EDWARDS

504-717-1997 ⋄ olivia.edwards@tamu.edu

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University *Expected 2026*
3rd Year PhD Student in Economics
Research Interests: Industrial Organization, Applied Microeconomics

Millsaps College *2017-2021*
BS in Economics, Minor in Mathematics & Data Analytics
Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

Lattice Configurations Determining Few Distances *2020*
Integers Volume 20 (with Balaji et al)
We begin by revisiting a paper of Erdos and Fishburn, which posed the following question: given $k \in N$, what is the maximum number of points in a plane that determine at most k distinct distances, and can such optimal configurations be classified? We rigorously verify claims made in remarks in that paper, including the fact that the vertices of a regular polygon, with or without an additional point at the center, cannot form an optimal configuration for any $k \geq 7$. Further, we investigate configurations in both triangular and rectangular lattices studied by Erdos and Fishburn. We collect a large amount of data related to these and other configurations, some of which correct errors in the original paper, and we use that data and additional analysis to provide explanations and make conjectures.

Sets in R^d Determining K Taxicab Distances *2019*
Involve Volume 13, No. 2 (with Balaji et al)
We address an analog of a problem introduced by Erdos and Fishburn, itself an inverse formulation of the famous Erdos distance problem, in which the usual Euclidean distance is replaced with the metric induced by the ℓ^1-norm, commonly referred to as the taxicab metric. Specifically, we investigate the following question: given $d, k \in N$, what is the maximum size of a subset of R^d that determines at most k distinct taxicab distances, and can all such optimal arrangements be classified? We completely resolve the question in dimension $d = 2$, as well as the $k = 1$ case in dimension $d = 3$, and we also provide a full resolution in the general case under an additional hypothesis.

WORKING PAPERS

Minds to Markets: The Role of Accountability and Authorization in School Competition
2024
This paper studies the intricate effects of school accountability and authorization policies on the local market competition dynamics within the education sector, using the transformation of New Orleans' school district into a fully charter-based system. The study takes a structural approach, with models designed to dissect both the demand and supply dimensions influenced by these educational policies. On the demand side, the research employs an exploding logit model to detail family school choice behavior, taking into account a variety of factors including geographical distance to schools, perceived school quality, and the regulatory landscape. This methodology offers insights into family preferences for school attributes in a charter-dominated environment. Conversely, the supply-side analysis focuses on how schools adapt to the possibility of closure and the pressures of accountability standards, shedding light on their strategic decisions and market positioning. By marrying demand-side preferences with supply-side responses, this study aims to unfold the comprehensive effects of accountability and authorization policies on local education market dynamics, competition, and quality using policy counterfactuals to envision different school accountability metrics and policies.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Minimum Wage and Monopsony: Evaluating the Employment Effects Across Time and Industry *2023*
(with Jeff Clemens and Jonathan Meer)

The Causal Impact of Child Support on Parents' Labor Supply Choices *2023*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ECON 285: First-Year Experience *Fall 2023*
Instructor at Texas A&M

ECON 202: Principles of Microeconomics *Spring 2022 - present*
Teaching Assistant for Dr. Jonathan Meer at Texas A&M

ECON 328: Economics of Education *Spring 2022, Fall 2023*
Teaching Assistant for Dr. Jonathan Meer at Texas A&M

ECON 100: Principles of Economics *2020 - 2021*
Teaching Assistant for Dr. Patrick Taylor at Millsaps College

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant
Dr. Jonathan Meer, Texas A&M *Summer 2022, 2023*
Dr. Steve Puller, Texas A&M *Fall 2021*
Dr. Blakely Fender, Millsaps College *2019 - 2021*
Dr. Alex Rice, Millsaps College (Dept. of Mathematics) *2019 - 2020*

Pre-K3 Teacher *2017 - 2019, Summer 2021*
St. Martin's School; New Orleans, LA

Congressional Intern *Summer 2020*
House of Representatives; Washington D.C.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

2024: ASSA Annual Meeting
2023: ASSA Annual Meeting, Southern Economic Association Meeting, Texas A&M Public/Labor Workshop, Texas IO Day
2022: Texas A&M Public/Labor Workshop
2020: Academy of Business Research (presenter), Tri-Beta Symposium (presenter)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

1st-Year Ph.D. Student Mentor, Texas A&M *2022 - present*
Undergraduate Research Advisor, Texas A&M *2022 - present*
Referee: Journal of Human Capital *2024*

AWARDS AND HONORS

Lechner Liberal Arts Scholarship, Texas A&M	*2021-present*
Most Outstanding Else Business School Graduate, Millsaps College	*2021*
Pi Mu Epsilon, Millsaps College	*2020*
Omicron Delta Kappa, Millsaps College	*2020*
Omicron Delta Epsilon, Millsaps College	*2019*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jonathan Meer (Co-Chair)	Texas A&M Department of Economics jmeer@tamu.edu
Steve Puller (Co-Chair)	Texas A&M Department of Economics spuller@tamu.edu
Fernando Luco (Member)	Texas A&M Department of Economics fluco@tamu.edu

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Security Clearances	Special Sworn Status (current), Public Trust (previous)
Programming Languages	R (advanced), Python (beginner), Matlab (beginner), Stata (introductory)
Software & Tools	Git, LaTeX, AI Prompt Engineering, Tableau

Last Updated: March 2024