

Seminar Approximation Algorithms

Approximating Nash Social Welfare under Submodular Valuations through (Un)Matchings

Based on a paper of the same title by J. Garg, P. Kulkarni, and R. Kulkarni

Zeno Adrian Weil Supervised by Dr Giovanna Varricchio

1st August 2023 · Algorithms and Complexity (Prof. Dr Martin Hoefer)

What is the issue?



What is the issue?



We need to distribute goods amongst recipients

What is the issue?



We need to distribute goods amongst recipients efficiently

What is the issue?



We need to distribute goods amongst recipients *efficiently* and *fairly*.



What is the issue?



We need to distribute goods amongst recipients *efficiently* and *fairly*.

Where is this encountered?

What is the issue?



We need to distribute goods amongst recipients efficiently and fairly.

Where is this encountered?

procurement



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- procurement
- satellites





What is the issue?



We need to distribute goods amongst recipients efficiently and fairly.

Where is this encountered?

- procurement
- satellites
- water withdrawal







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Allocations



Allocations

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Setting:

Allocations



Setting:

recipients: set \mathscr{A} of n agents

Allocations



Setting:

- **recipients**: set \mathcal{A} of n agents
- **goods**: set \mathcal{G} of m items

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An *allocation* is a tuple $x = (x_i)_{i \in \mathcal{A}}$ of bundles $x_i \subset \mathcal{G}$

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An *allocation* is a tuple $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}_i)_{i \in \mathcal{A}}$ of bundles $\mathbf{x}_i \subset \mathcal{G}$ such that each item is element of precisely one bundle.

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Item *j* is *assigned* to agent *i* if $j \in x_i$.

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Item *j* is *assigned* to agent *i* if $j \in x_i$.

But how to measure its efficiency and fairness?

Valuation Functions



Valuation Functions



Requirements:

Valuation Functions



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■ monotonically non-decreasing: $v_i(S_1) \le v_i(S_2)$ if $S_1 \subset S_2$



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additive: $v_i(\mathcal{S}) := \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} v_i(j)$



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- **submodular**: $v_i(S_1 \mid S_2)$





Valuation Functions

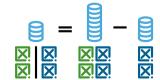


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Valuation Functions



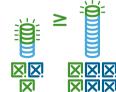
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 - diminishing returns







Asymmetric Maximum Nash Social Welfare Problem





Problem

$$x^* \stackrel{!}{=} \arg \max \{ \text{NSW}(x) \}$$

 $x \in X_{\mathscr{A}}(\mathscr{C})$

■ $X_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{G})$: all possible allocations



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The NSW strikes a middle ground between efficiency and fairness!

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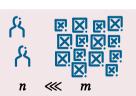
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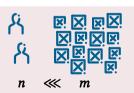
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- ... independent from *m*?

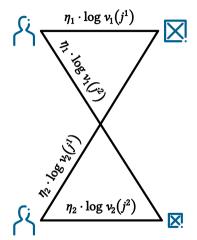




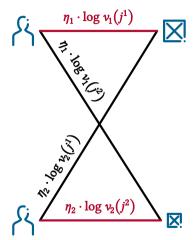














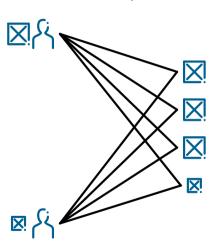




Naïve Approach

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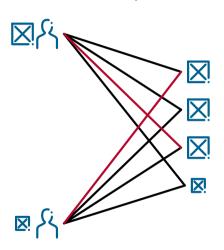
Greedy algorithm:



Naïve Approach

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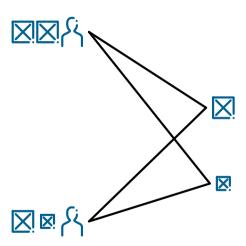
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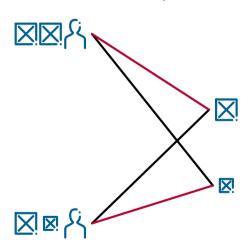
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Naïve Approach

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Naïve Approach

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- repeatedly use maximum weight matchings
- fails because of missing foresight





Naïve Approach

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Naïve Approach

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 - **submodular valuations:** worst-case valuation approximable only by $\Omega(\sqrt{m/\ln m})$





Naïve Approach

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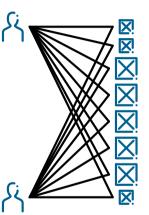




Key Ideas of the Algorithm

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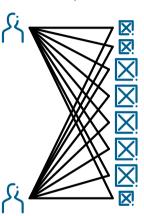
We need change the past in three phases:



Key Ideas of the Algorithm

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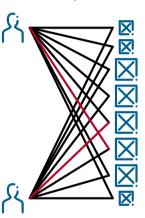
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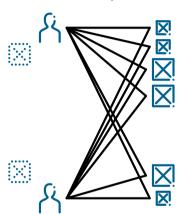
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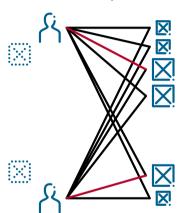
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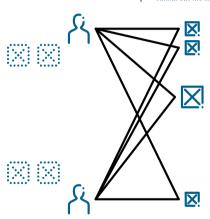
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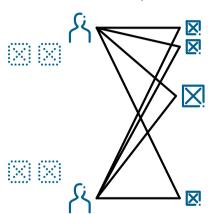


Key Ideas of the Algorithm



We need change the past in three phases:

Phase I Assign enough high-value items temporarily.

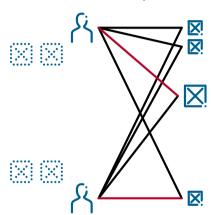


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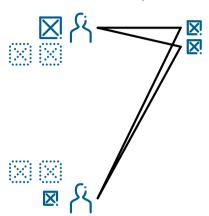


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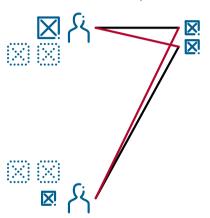


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Key Ideas of the Algorithm

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We need change the past in three phases:

Phase I Assign enough high-value items temporarily.

Phase II Assign the remaining items definitely.

Phase III Re-assign the items of phase I **definitely**.





Key Ideas of the Algorithm

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Theorem

RepReMatch guarantees a $2n(\log_2 n + 3)$ -approximation under submodular valuations.



The Algorithm



The Algorithm

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The Algorithm



Phase I:

■ repeat $\lceil \log_2 n \rceil + 1$ times

The Algorithm



- **1** repeat $\lceil \log_2 n \rceil + 1$ times
 - **1** create bipartite graph $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{G}, E)$ with edge weights $\eta_i \cdot \log v_i(j)$

The Algorithm



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The Algorithm



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The Algorithm



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Phase II:

2 repeat until $\mathcal{G} = \emptyset$

The Algorithm



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 - **1** create bipartite graph $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{G}, E)$ with edge weights $\eta_i \cdot \log v_i(j)$
 - 2 compute maximum weight matching
 - $\mathbf{3}$ update bundles $\mathbf{x}_i^{\mathrm{I}}$ & remove assigned items

- **2** repeat until $\mathcal{G} = \emptyset$
 - **1** create bipartite graph $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{G}, E)$ with edge weights $\eta_i \cdot \log v_i(\mathbf{x}_i^{\mathrm{II}} \cup \{j\})$

The Algorithm



Phase I:

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Phase III:

3 create bipartite graph $(\mathcal{A}, \bigcup_{i \in \mathcal{A}} x_i^{\mathrm{I}}, E)$ with edge weights $\eta_i \cdot \log v_i(x_i^{\mathrm{II}} \cup \{j\})$

The Algorithm



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- 4 compute maximum weight matching
- **5** create bundles x_i^{III}

Analysing Phases I & III (1/2)



Analysing Phases I & III (1/2)

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Phase I reserves 'high-value' items.

Analysing Phases I & III (1/2)



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Let $\mathbf{x}_i^* = \{o_i^1, o_i^2, ...\}$ be an optimal bundle.

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⇒ Are enough outstanding items reserved?

Analysing Phases I & III (2/2)



Lemma

Each agent can be matched with an outstanding item in phase ${\rm I\hspace{-.1em}I\hspace{-.1em}I}.$

Analysing Phases I & III (2/2)



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Each agent can be matched with an outstanding item in phase III.

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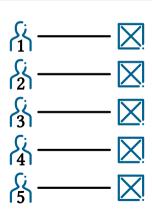
- maximum number of agents without outstanding item halved with each round of phase I
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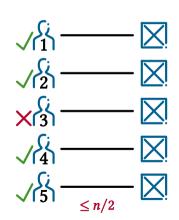
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Base Case: In round 1 of phase I, either

■ $\leq n/2$ many agents without an outstanding item



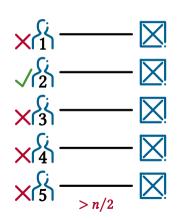


Lemma

Each agent can be matched with an outstanding item in phase III.

- maximum number of agents without outstanding item halved with each round of phase I
 - $[\log_2 n] + 1$ rounds in phase I are enough
- induction on number of rounds in phase I

- $\leq n/2$ many agents without an outstanding item
- > n/2 many agents without an outstanding item



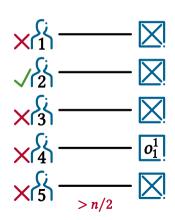


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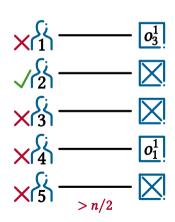


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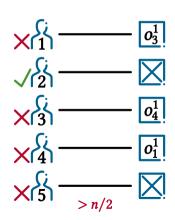


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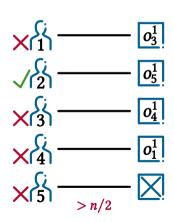


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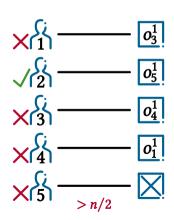


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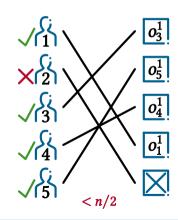


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 - > n/2 many agents matched with outstanding item upon release in phase III



Analysing Phase II (1/2)



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Definition

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Let $\mathbf{x}_i^{\mathrm{II}} = \left\{a_i^1, a_i^2, \ldots\right\}$ be the bundle of agent i.

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Let $x_i^{\text{II}} = \{a_i^1, a_i^2, ...\}$ be the bundle of agent *i*. The set of **optimal and attainable items** is defined as

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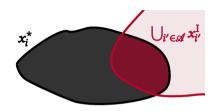
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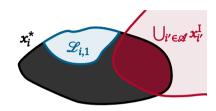
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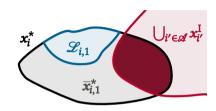
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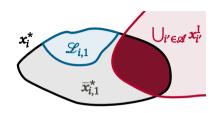


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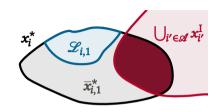


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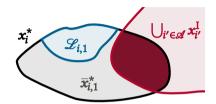


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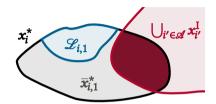


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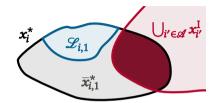


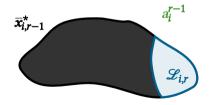
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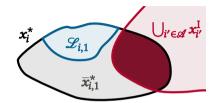


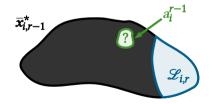
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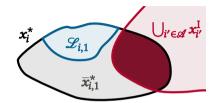


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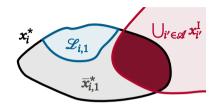


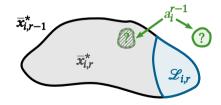
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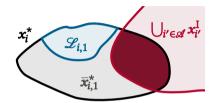


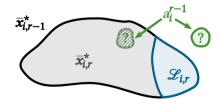
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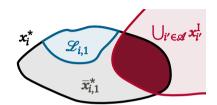
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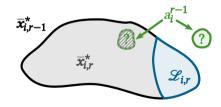
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 \Rightarrow What is the valuation of the remaining items?







Lemma

$$v_i(\overline{\mathbf{x}}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1})$$



Lemma

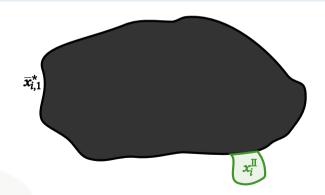
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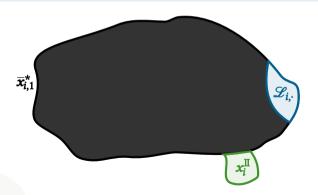
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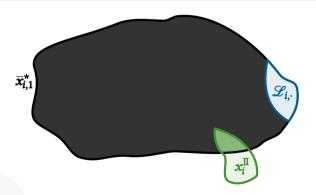
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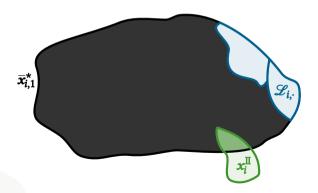
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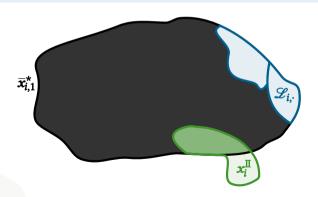




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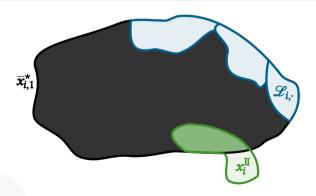




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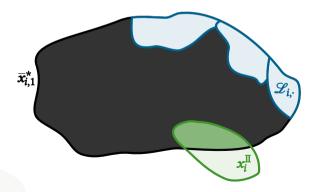






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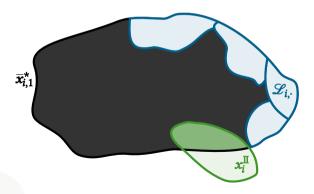






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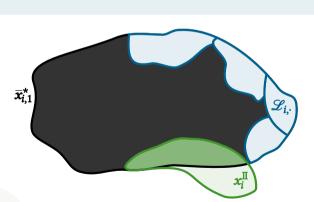






if $r \ge 2$

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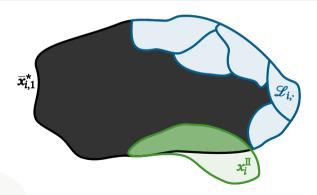




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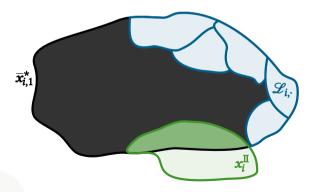






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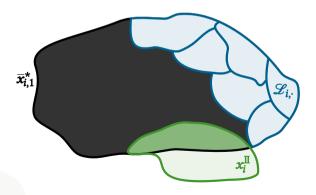




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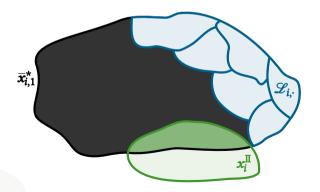






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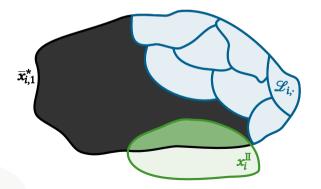






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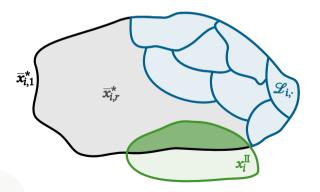






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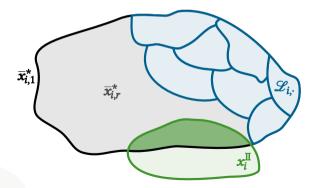






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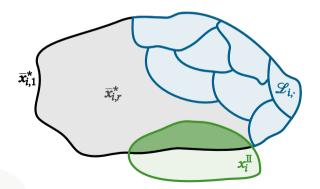
$$v_i\big(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{\star}\mid a_i^1,\dots,a_i^{r-1}\big)=v_i\big(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{\star}\cup\big\{a_i^1,\dots,a_i^{r-1}\big\}\big)-v_i\big(a_i^1,\dots,a_i^{r-1}\big)$$





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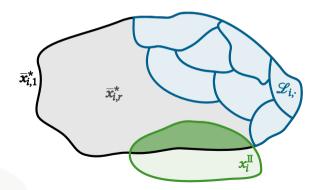
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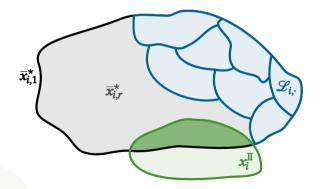
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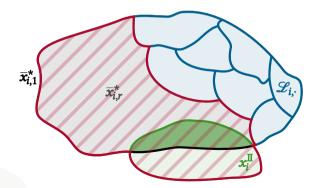
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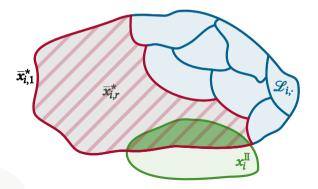
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Lemma

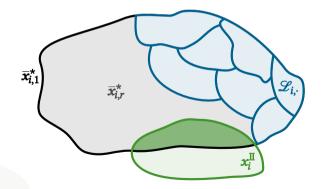
$$v_i(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) = -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{i,r}^* \cup \{a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}\})$$





Lemma

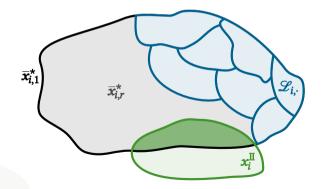
$$v_i\big(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{\star}\mid a_i^1,\dots,a_i^{r-1}\big)\geq -v_i\big(a_i^1,\dots,a_i^{r-1}\big)+v_i\big(\overline{x}_{i,1}^{\star}\big)$$





Lemma

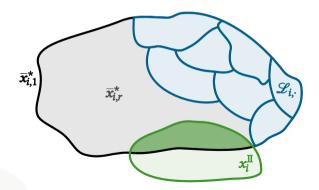
$$v_i(\bar{x}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \ge -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\bar{x}_{i,1}^*) - v_i(\mathcal{L}_{i,2} \mid a_i^1)$$





Lemma

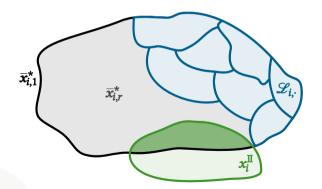
$$v_i(\bar{x}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \ge -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\bar{x}_{i,1}^*) - v_i(\mathcal{L}_{i,2} \mid a_i^1) - v_i(\mathcal{L}_{i,3} \mid a_i^1, a_i^2)$$
 if $r \ge 2$





Lemma

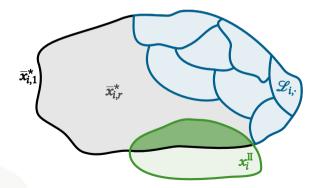
$$v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{\star} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) \geq -v_{i}(a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) + v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,1}^{\star}) - v_{i}(\mathcal{L}_{i,2} \mid a_{i}^{1}) - v_{i}(\mathcal{L}_{i,3} \mid a_{i}^{1}, a_{i}^{2}) - \dots$$
 if $r \geq 2$





Lemma

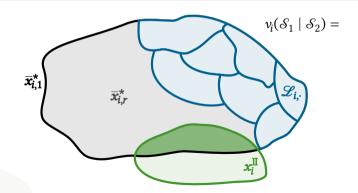
$$v_i(\overline{x}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \ge -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\overline{x}_{i,1}^*) - \sum_{l=2}^r v_i(\mathcal{L}_{i,l} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{l-1})$$





Lemma

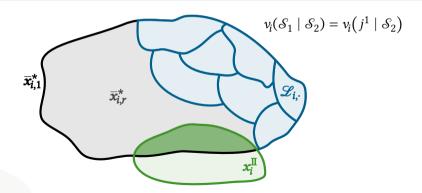
$$v_i(\overline{x}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \ge -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\overline{x}_{i,1}^*) - \sum_{l=2}^r v_i(\mathcal{L}_{i,l} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{l-1})$$





Lemma

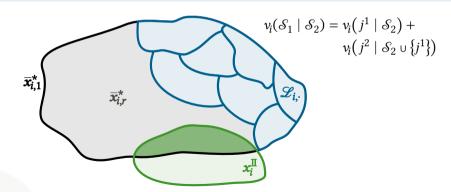
$$v_i(\bar{x}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \ge -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\bar{x}_{i,1}^*) - \sum_{l=2}^r v_i(\mathcal{L}_{i,l} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{l-1})$$





Lemma

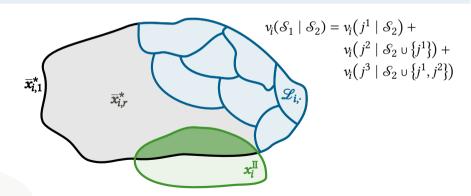
$$v_i(\bar{x}_{i,r}^{\star} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \ge -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\bar{x}_{i,1}^{\star}) - \sum_{l=2}^r v_i(\mathscr{L}_{i,l} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{l-1})$$





Lemma

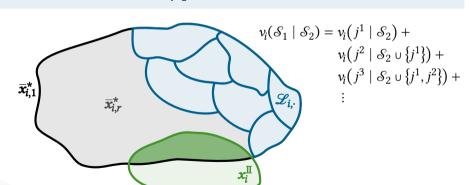
$$v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{*} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) \geq -v_{i}(a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) + v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,1}^{*}) - \sum_{l=2}^{r} v_{l}(\mathcal{L}_{i,l} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{l-1})$$





Lemma

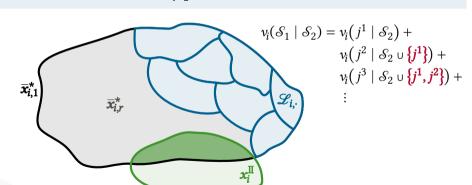
$$v_i(\overline{x}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \ge -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\overline{x}_{i,1}^*) - \sum_{l=2}^{r} v_i(\mathcal{L}_{i,l} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{l-1})$$





Lemma

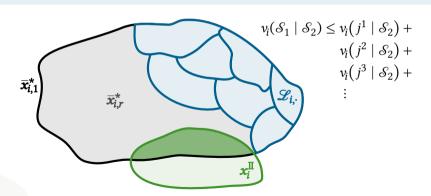
$$v_i(\bar{x}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \ge -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\bar{x}_{i,1}^*) - \sum_{l=2}^r v_i(\mathscr{L}_{i,l} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{l-1})$$





Lemma

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if r > 2

Lemma

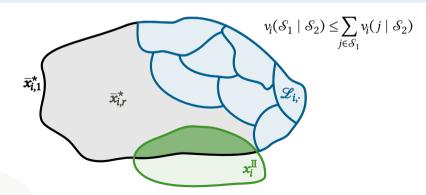
$$v_iig(ar{x}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}ig) \geq -v_iig(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}ig) + v_iig(ar{x}_{i,1}^*ig) - \sum_{l=2}^r v_iig(\mathscr{L}_{i,l} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{l-1}ig)$$

 $v_i(\mathcal{S}_1 \mid \mathcal{S}_2) \leq \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}_1} v_i(j \mid \mathcal{S}_2)$ $\overline{x}_{i.r}^*$



Lemma

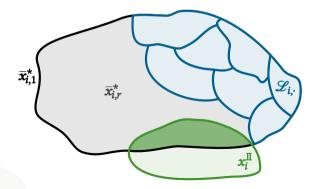
$$v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{*} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) \geq -v_{i}(a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) + v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,1}^{*}) - \sum_{l=2}^{r} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{L}_{i,l}} v_{i}(j \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{l-1})$$
 if $r \geq 2$





Lemma

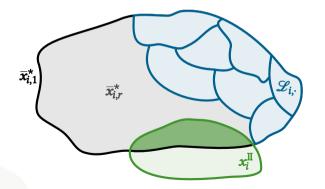
$$v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{*} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) \geq -v_{i}(a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) + v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,1}^{*}) - \sum_{l=2}^{r} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{L}_{i,l}} v_{i}(j \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{l-1})$$





Lemma

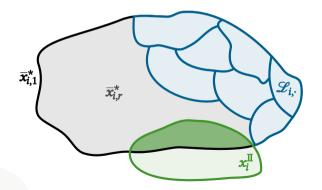
$$v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{*} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) \geq -v_{i}(a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) + v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,1}^{*}) - \sum_{l=2}^{r} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{L}_{i,l}} v_{i}(j \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{l-1})$$





Lemma

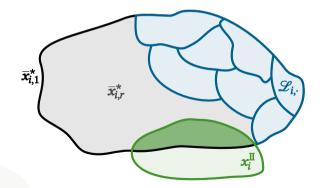
$$v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{*} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) \geq -v_{i}(a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) + v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,1}^{*}) - \sum_{l=2}^{r} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{L}_{i,l}} v_{i}(j \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{l-2})$$





Lemma

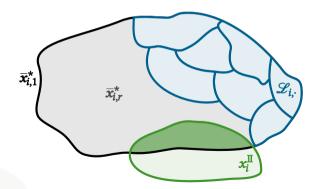
$$v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{*} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) \geq -v_{i}(a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) + v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,1}^{*}) - \sum_{l=2}^{r} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{L}_{i,l}} v_{i}(j \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{l-2})$$





Lemma

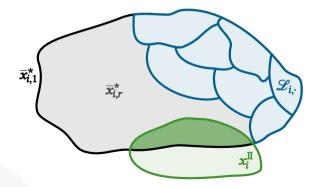
$$v_i(\overline{x}_{i,r}^* \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \ge -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\overline{x}_{i,1}^*) - \sum_{l=2}^r \sum_{j \in \mathcal{L}_{i,l}} v_i(a_i^{l-1} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{l-2})$$





Lemma

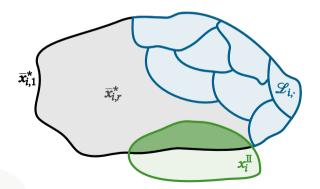
$$v_i(\bar{x}_{i,r}^{\star} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) \geq -v_i(a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{r-1}) + v_i(\bar{x}_{i,1}^{\star}) - \sum_{l=2}^{r} |\mathscr{L}_{i,l}| \cdot v_i(a_i^{l-1} \mid a_i^1, \dots, a_i^{l-2})$$





Lemma

$$v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,r}^{*} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) \geq -v_{i}(a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{r-1}) + v_{i}(\overline{x}_{i,1}^{*}) - \sum_{l=2}^{r} (n-1) \cdot v_{i}(a_{i}^{l-1} \mid a_{i}^{1}, \dots, a_{i}^{l-2})$$
 if $r \geq 2$











Summary & Outlook

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- valuation through submodular functions



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- valuation through submodular functions
- approximation factor independent from *m*?









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- simple matching failing because of missing foresight









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- RepReMatch: $2n(\log n + 3)$ -approximative

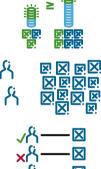






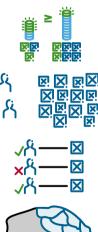


- valuation through submodular functions
- approximation factor independent from *m*?
- simple matching failing because of missing foresight
- RepReMatch: $2n(\log n + 3)$ -approximative Phase I finding enough outstanding items



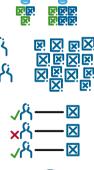


- valuation through submodular functions
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 Phase I finding enough outstanding items
 Phase II assigning remaining items





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- \blacksquare approximation factor independent from m?
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 Phase III re-assigning outstanding items





Summary & Outlook



- valuation through submodular functions
- \blacksquare approximation factor independent from m?
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 Phase II assigning remaining items

 Phase III re-assigning outstanding items

Any room for improvement? Lower bound of $\frac{e}{e-1} \approx 1.58!$















