

# FAIRNESS

based on lectures of

A. Igarashi  
W. Suksompong

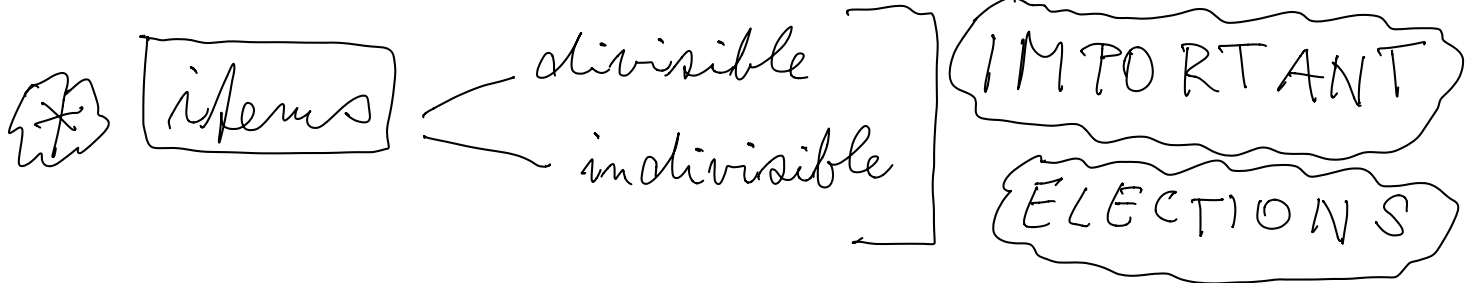
$n$  agents, agent  $i$  has a valuation function  $w_i$  and receives  $M_i \subseteq M$  (resource)

---

⑥ Envy-freeness:  $w_i(M_i) \geq w_i(M_j)$   $\forall i, j$

⑥ Proportionality:  $w_i(M_i) \geq \frac{1}{n} w_i(M)$

⑥ Equitability:  $w_i(M_i) = w_j(M_j)$



(Example) Prime-time presentations of

candidates.		$P$ :	(2222)
Party 1	5	12 :	(3333)
2	7		(2352)
3	10	15 :	(3453)
4	5		

# MODEL

- $N = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  agents
- $M = \{1, \dots, m\}$  indivisible goods (items)
- Allocation : each item goes to at most 1 agent

① Valuation :  $(\forall i \leq n) (u_i : 2^M \rightarrow \mathbb{Q})$

- normalised :  $u(\emptyset) = 0$
- monotonic :  $u(M_1) \leq u(M_2)$  for  $M_1 \subseteq M_2$
- additive :  $u(M_i) = \sum_{j \in M_i} u(j)$

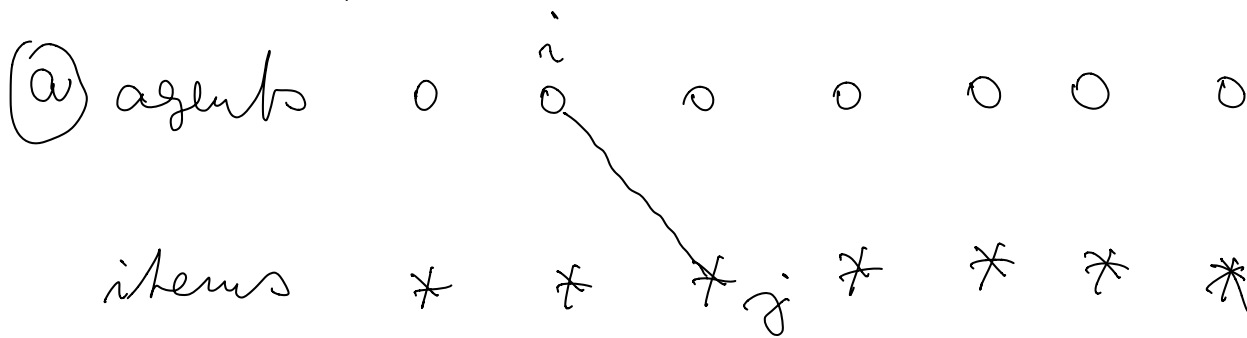
---

② Utilities additive :  $m < n \Rightarrow$  no proportional allocation

Theorem  $m = n$ , each  $u_i$  additive and  $u_i(j)$  drawn independently from a distribution. With high probability there is a proportional distribution.

Proportionality

Proof. [for the case that  $u_i(j)$  are drawn independently from the uniform distribution over  $[0,1]$ ]

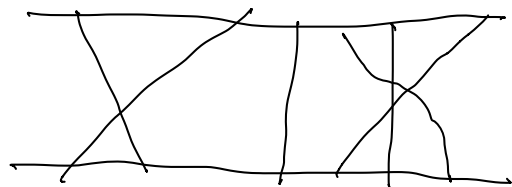


- add edge  $(ij)$  if  $i$  values  $j$  at least  $\frac{2}{3}$
- the probability that each edge present is  $\frac{1}{3}$

Theorem (Erdős-Rényi)

[Random graph model]  $\rightarrow$  each edge drawn independently in random with probability  $p = p(|V|)$ .

$p = \log n / m + o(1/m)$  then with high probability, the graph contains a perfect matching.

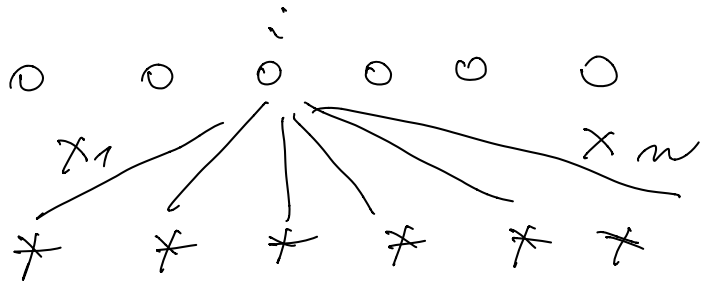


(b) Theorem (Chernoff 52)

$X_1, \dots, X_k$  independent random variables in  $[0, 1]$  and let  $X = X_1 + \dots + X_k$ . Then  
( $\forall \epsilon \in (0, 1)$ )

$$P_n[X \geq (1 + \epsilon) E[X]] \leq e^{-\frac{\epsilon^2 E[X]}{3}}$$

In our case



$$E[X_i] = 1/2$$

$$E[X] = n/2$$

Hence the proportional

share of each agent  $i$  satisfies

$$\frac{1}{n} w_i(t) \sim \frac{1}{2}$$

with high probability

Concluding

In the perfect matching, each edge has value  $> 2/3$  while

$$\frac{1}{n} w_i(t) \sim 1/2.$$



# Envy-Freeness $(\forall_{i,j}) (u_i(M_i) \succsim u_i(M_j))$

- For additive utilities, envy-freeness implies proportionality:  $\circ$

$$n \cdot u_i(M_i) \succsim u_i(M_1) + \dots + u_i(M_m) = u_i(M)$$

- $m < n \Rightarrow$  no envy-free allocation exists

- $m = n$ : each agent receives exactly one item  $\Rightarrow$  all agents need to have different top items: unlikely!!

- Theorem:  $m = \Omega(n \log n)$  (additive)

" $m$  behaves like  $n \log n$  for large  $m, n$ "

Then an allocation maximising social welfare [sum of agents' utilities] is envy-free with high probability.

- $m = n + o(n) \Rightarrow$  allocation unlikely to exist

---

Proof again elementary.

## additive Theorem (Mamvroungsi, Suksumpong 2019)

- $m$  divisible by  $n \Rightarrow$  envy-free allocation exists with high probability as long as  $m \geq 2n$
  - else, envy-free allocation is unlikely even when  $m = \Theta\left(\frac{n \log n}{\log \log n}\right)$ .
- 

## Envy-freeness up to one good (EF1)

Agent  $i$  may envy agent  $j$ , but the envy can be eliminated by removing an item from  $j$ 's bundle.

⊗ Can be satisfied by the round-robin algorithm: (additive)

- the agents take turns choosing their favorite item from the remaining items
- $i$  ahead of  $j$  then in every round,  $i$  does not envy  $j$
- $i$  behind  $j$ , then consider the first round

to start with  $i$ 'th first pick. Then  $i$  does not envy  $j$  up to  $j$ 'th first pick.

---

**Nash welfare** of an allocation is the product of the agents' utilities  $\prod_{i=1}^n u_i(M_i)$

Theorem (Caragiannis et al 2016)

An allocation maximising the **Nash welfare** is EF1.

||

**Pareto optimal** we cannot make some agent better off without making another agent worse off.

---

**Arbitrary monotonic valuations**

Lipton et al 2004

EF1

## Envy-cycle elimination algorithm

1. Allocate one good at a time in arbitrary order
2. Maintain **envy graph** with the agents as its vertices, and an edge  $(i, j) \rightarrow j$  if  $i$  envies  $j$  with respect to the current partial allocation.
3. At each step, the next good allocated to an agent with no incoming edge.

Any cycle that arises is eliminated by giving  $j$ 's bundle to  $i$  for any edge



## Envy-freeness up to any good (EFX)

$i$  may envy  $j$  but the envy eliminated by removing ANY item from  $j$ 's bundle.

Thm (Plaut, Roughgarden 2018)

An EFX allocation always exists for

**identical** monotonic valuations.

**Arbitrary monotonic valuations: existence open for  $\geq 3$  agents**



$K$ : set of resources;  $k_i$ : those available for agent  $i$  [Example: different vaccines]

B. Singh, 2020

$w_i$ : weight of agent  $i$

$\alpha_i \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$  initial coverage of agent  $i$

$\gamma_i \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle$  final coverage of agent  $i$

Agent  $\rightarrow$  a group of people

$F$ : loss function

Allocation is balanced

between agents  $i, i'$  if

$$w_i F(\gamma_i) = w_{i'} F(\gamma_{i'})$$

marginal losses are in inverse proportion to their weights. !!

# Justifiable Complain

- $i'$  has a justifiable complain if
- (1)  $i'$  has coverage less than 100%
  - (2) Another user  $i$  receives a positive allocation from a resource shared with  $i'$
  - (3) coverages of  $i, i'$  are balanced
  - (4)  $i'$  did not receive any allocation of this shared resource or  $i$  received 100% coverage.

---

Allocation satisfying (1), (2), (3) is proportionally fair if :

$$\gamma_{i'} < 1 \text{ and } x_{i'k} > 0 \text{ for } k \in K_i \cap K_{i'}$$



$$\gamma_i < 1 \text{ and } x_{i'k} > 0$$