Strategy-Proofness in Markets with Indivisibilities

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Université de Montréal

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Ehlers SCW Prize Lecture

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Introduction

House Allocation

Priority-Based Allocation

Markets with Indivisibilities

• No monetary transfers



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- No monetary transfers
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 - Hybrid Models
- Applications: Entry-level labor markets, (on-campus) housing, school choice, kidney exchange, etc..

Focus	Introduction	Marriage Markets	House Exchange	House Allocation	Priority-Based Allocation
	Focus				

• Strategy-proofness



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- Other properties: Individual Rationality, (Weak) Efficiency, Non-Bossiness, (Core-)Stability, Consistency, Solidarity, etc..

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- Here: (Strong) Core ⇔ IR + Pairwise Stability (no blocking pair).

House Allocation

Impossibilities

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- Note that T4 \Rightarrow T3 & T2 \Rightarrow T1.

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- Farsighted stable sets: Mauleon, Vannetelbosch and Vergote (2011 TE).

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- Anonymity (AN): Names do not matter.

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Positive	Results			

• μ is a competitive allocation for R if there is $p: N \to \mathbb{R}_+$ such that $jP_i\mu(i)$ implies p(j) > p(i).

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T9 (Ehlers, 2012 CIREQ-WP Appendix): $SP+IR+Weak EFF+CONS \varphi \Leftrightarrow \varphi = Core.$

Weak Preferences

In applications it is restrictive to assume that preference relations are linear orders.

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- Comp(R) is always non-empty and is obtained by breaking ties in R in any manner ST(R) and applying TTC, i.e.

$$Comp(R) = \bigcup_{R' \in ST(R)} TTC(R') = UnionCore(R)$$

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House Exchange with Indifferences

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Introduction	Marriage Markets	House Exchange	House Allocation	Priority-Based Allocation
House A	llocation			

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- $\varphi_i(R)$ is agent *i*'s allotment.

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House Allocation

Priority-Based Allocation

Strict Preferences I

• (Papai, 2000 ECON): SP+NB \Leftrightarrow GSP.



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T18 (Ehlers, Klaus and Papai, 2002 JME, Ehlers and Klaus, 2004 IJGT, 2006 GEB, 2007 ET): For \mathcal{P}^N or \mathcal{P}^N_0 SP+EFF+Solidarity/Consistency $\varphi \Leftrightarrow \varphi$ is a mixed dictator-pairwise exchange rule.

Strict Preferences II

Serial Dictatorship (SD): For each R, using this order let each agent choose his most preferred house from the remaining ones. Below we assume that |H| = |N| (and implicitly that the null object is not available)

T19 (Svensson, 1999 SCW): For \mathcal{P}_0^N SP+NB+NEUTR $\varphi \Leftrightarrow \varphi$ is a serial dictatorship.

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T20 (Abdulkadiroglu and Sönmez, 1998 ECON): For \mathcal{P}_0^N Random serial dictatorship = core from random endowments.



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T21 (Bogomolnaia, Deb and Ehlers, 2005 JET): For \mathcal{W}_0^N SP+(weak) NB+EFF $\varphi \Leftrightarrow \varphi$ is a bi-polar serial dictatorship.

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House Allocation

Priority-Based Allocation

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Priority-Based Allocation

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Stability: For all R \in \mathcal{P}^N,
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- (i) stable+CEFF $\varphi \Leftrightarrow \varphi = Agent-proposing DA$;
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- Note that Agent-proposing DA is not EFF but is WEFF.

Acyclicity of \succ : There are no $a, b \in H$ and $i, j, k \in N$ such $i \succ_a j \succ_a k \succ_b i$.

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House Allocation

Priority-Based Allocation

Weak Priorities I: Special Cases

House Allocation:



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Weak Priorities I: Special Cases

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• For all h, $i \sim_h j$ for all $i, j \in N$.



House Allocation:

- For all $h, i \sim_h j$ for all $i, j \in N$.
- Stability+CEFF=EFF.

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- Ma (1994) rephrased: stable+CEFF+SP $\varphi \Leftrightarrow \varphi = TTC$.

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Weak Priorities II: (Constrained) Efficiency

For (weak) \succeq .



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House Allocation

Priority-Based Allocation

Weak Priorities III: Incentives

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- Of course, $DA^{\succ'}$ is not CEFF.
- When are stable+CEFF+SP compatible? (=solvability of \succeq)

Weak Priorities IV: Solvability

T28 (Ehlers and Westkamp, 2011 CIREQ-WP): If \exists stable+CEFF+SP φ , then \succeq is "acyclic", \succeq has no strong priority reversals, and \succeq has no inconsistent weak priority reversal.



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- Confirming our "nice environments and rules (DA+TTC)".
- T29 (Ehlers and Westkamp, 2011 CIREQ-WP): Let |N| ≥ 4 and for all i, j ∈ N there exist a, b ∈ H such that i ≻_a j and j ≻_b i. If ∃ stable+CEFF+SP φ, then ≿ is strict or ≿ is "house allocation with existing tenants".

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SP MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!

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House Allocation

Priority-Based Allocation

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Other Directions/Agendas

• Random House Allocation (or random assignment)



- Random House Allocation (or random assignment)
- Multiple House Exchange

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- Multiple House Allocation
- Kidney Exchange

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- New applications of matching: military, assignment of landing slots.