Beyond Classical Fisher Markets: Non-convexity and Uncertainty

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Joint work with Devansh Jalota, Marco Pavone, and Qi Qi

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There are many settings when we need to (fairly) allocate shared resources/goods to users

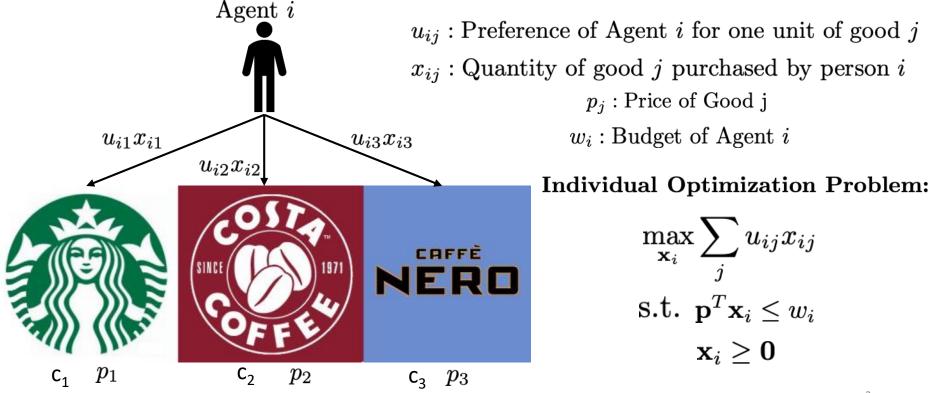




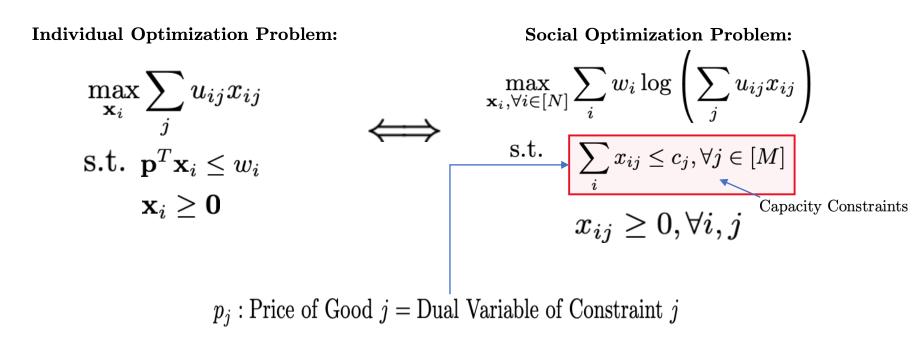
Public Good Allocation

Vaccine Allocation

A key framework to achieve a (fair or envy-free) allocation of resources/goods is Fisher Markets



The prices can be derived from a centralized Eisenberg-Gale social optimization problem



The social problem can be solved in polynomial time (Jain, Vazirazi, Ye 2005; Jalota, Qi et al. GEB 2023)

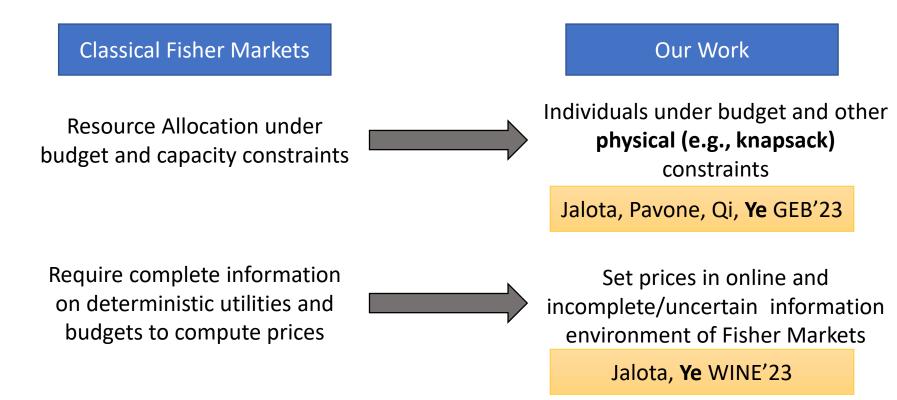
However, the applicability of Fisher Markets may be limited

Classical Fisher Markets

Individual's choice under only budget constraint

Require complete information on utilities and budgets to compute prices

We extend classical Fisher Markets to take into account practical considerations



Organization

- Fisher Markets with Additional Constraints: Non-convexity
- Distributed Algorithms for Fisher Markets
- Online Algorithms in Stochastic Fisher Markets: Uncertainty
- Conclusion/Takeaways

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We consider convex IOP where agents have additional linear constraints beyond budgets

Individual Optimization Problem: IOP $\max_{\mathbf{x}_i} \sum_j u_{ij} x_{ij}$ S.t. $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{x}_i \leq w_i$ $A_t^{(i)} \mathbf{x}_i \leq b_{it}, \forall t \in T_i$ — Physical Constraints Constraint Matrix $\mathbf{x}_i \geq \mathbf{0}$ Fisher markets with additional constraints have different properties from classical Fisher markets

Individual Optimization Problem:

IOP

$$\max_{\mathbf{x}_i} \sum_{j} u_{ij} x_{ij}$$
S.t. $\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{x}_i \leq w_i$

$$A_t^{(i)} \mathbf{x}_i \leq b_{it}, \forall t \in T_i$$
Physical Constraints
Constraint Matrix $\mathbf{x}_i \geq \mathbf{0}$

1. Competitive or Market Equilibrium may not Exist

2. Market Equilibrium may not be Unique

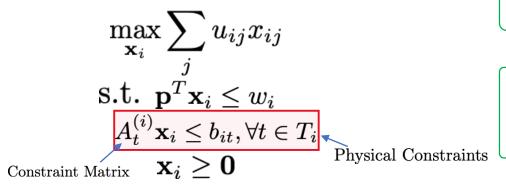
3. **[Giffen Goods]** An increase in the price of a good may result in an increased demand of those goods

4. The set of equilibrium prices is **non-convex**

Under mild conditions, however, the market equilibrium exists

Individual Optimization Problem:

IOP

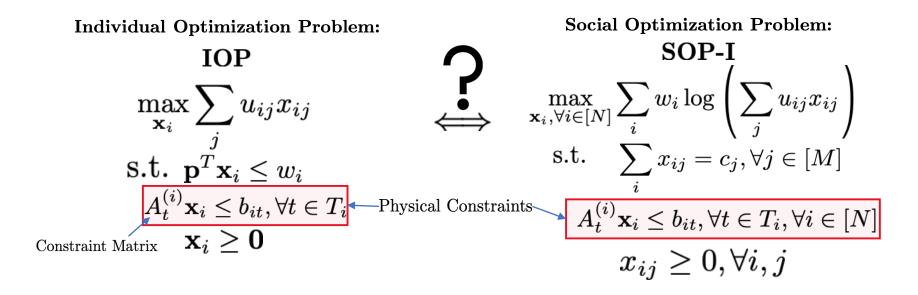


Theorem 1: Market Equilibrium Exists if there under some technical assumptions, such as there is a good that does not belong to any physical constraint

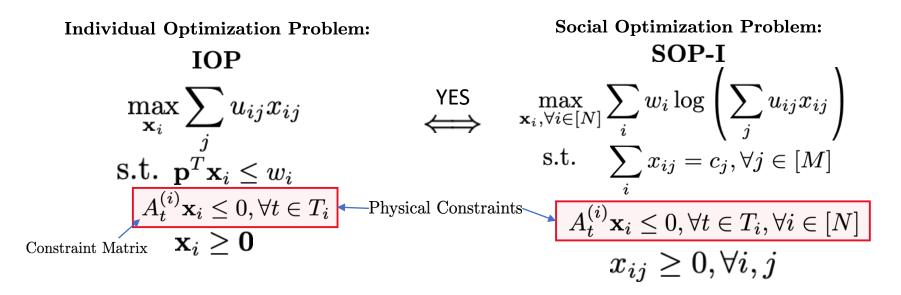
Theorem 2: Market Equilibrium Exists if $b_{it} = 0$ for all i, t.

Can we develop a method to compute equilibria with additional constraints when they exist?

Can the Convex Fisher Market social optimization problem with additional constraints be used to set equilibrium prices?

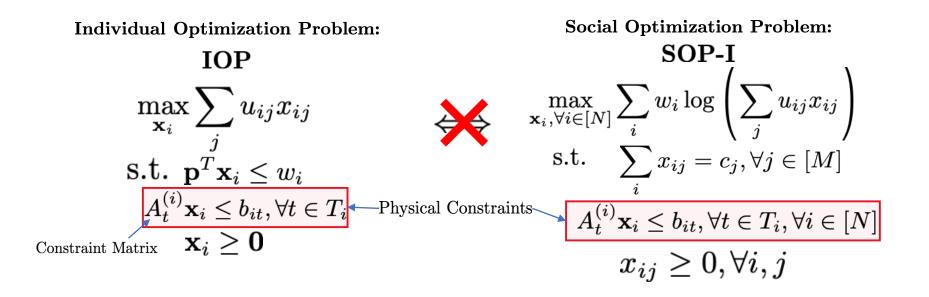


Theorem: The dual variables of the capacity constraint of **SOP-I** is an equilibrium for homogeneous constraints



This gives a polynomial time algorithm to compute market equilibria

Theorem: However, in general, the dual variables of the capacity constraint of **SOP-I** may not be equilibrium prices



A plausible approach to account for physical constraints in Fisher Markets can be achieved through Budget Perturbations

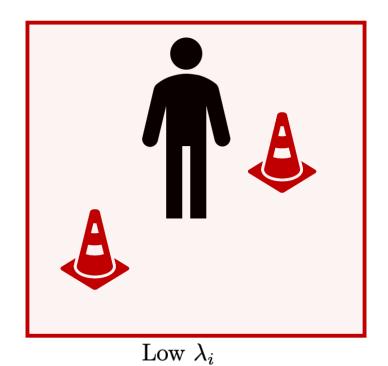
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{SOP-I} \\ \max_{\mathbf{x}_i, \forall i \in [N]} \sum_i w_i \log \left(\sum_j u_{ij} x_{ij} \right) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_i x_{ij} = c_j, \forall j \in [M] \\ A_t^{(i)} \mathbf{x}_i \le b_{it}, \forall t \in T_i, \forall i \in [N] \\ x_{ij} \ge 0, \forall i, j \end{aligned}$$

A plausible approach to account for physical constraints in Fisher Markets can be achieved through Budget Perturbations

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{SOP-I} \\ \max_{\mathbf{x}_i, \forall i \in [N]} \sum_i w_i \log \left(\sum_j u_{ij} x_{ij} \right) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_i x_{ij} = c_j, \forall j \in [M] \\ A_t^{(i)} \mathbf{x}_i \leq b_{it}, \forall t \in T_i, \forall i \in [N] \\ x_{ij} \geq 0, \forall i, j \end{aligned}$$

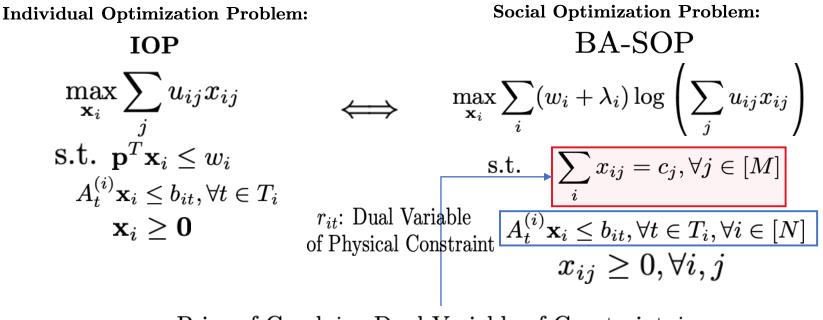
 $\begin{array}{l} \operatorname{BA-SOP}_{\operatorname{Budget Perturbation}}\\ \max_{\mathbf{x}_i} \sum_i (w_i + \lambda_i) \log \left(\sum_j u_{ij} x_{ij} \right) \\ \mathrm{s.t.} \quad \sum_i x_{ij} = c_j, \forall j \in [M] \\ A_t^{(i)} \mathbf{x}_i \leq b_{it}, \forall t \in T_i, \forall i \in [N] \\ x_{ij} \geq 0, \forall i, j \end{array}$

Budget Perturbations allow more constrained agents to have "higher priority" to get their goods





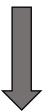
Theorem 4: The dual variables of the capacity constraint of **BP-SOP** are the market equilibrium price iff $\lambda_i = \sum_t r_{it} b_{it}$



 p_j : Price of Good j = Dual Variable of Constraint j

However, determining budget perturbations is PPAD-hard

The problem of finding a market equilibrium in Fisher Markets with linear constraints is **PPAD-hard**

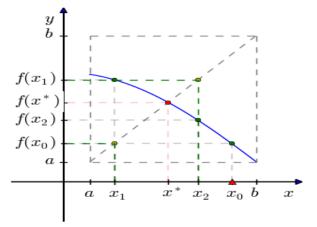


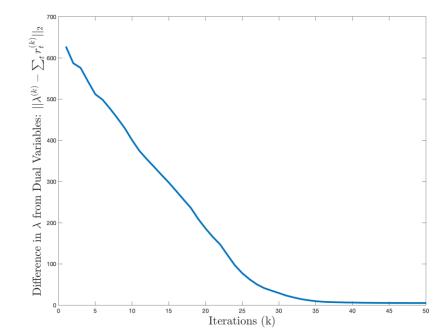
Thus, determining budget perturbations, in general, is a challenging problem

To determine the perturbation constants we test a fixed-point iterative procedure

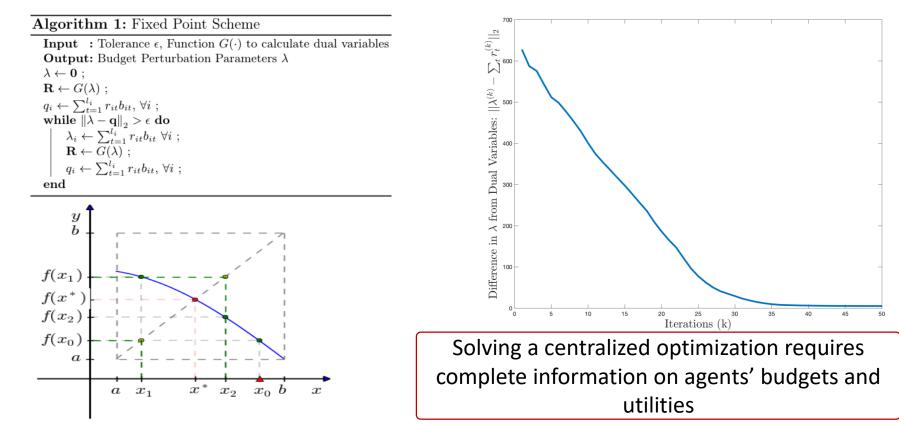
Algorithm 1: Fixed Point Scheme

 $\begin{array}{ll} \textbf{Input} &: \text{Tolerance } \epsilon, \text{ Function } G(\cdot) \text{ to calculate dual variables} \\ \textbf{Output: Budget Perturbation Parameters } \lambda \\ \lambda \leftarrow \textbf{0} \;; \\ \textbf{R} \leftarrow G(\lambda) \;; \\ q_i \leftarrow \sum_{t=1}^{l_i} r_{it} b_{it}, \forall i \;; \\ \textbf{while } \|\lambda - \textbf{q}\|_2 > \epsilon \; \textbf{do} \\ & \left| \begin{array}{c} \lambda_i \leftarrow \sum_{t=1}^{l_i} r_{it} b_{it} \; \forall i \;; \\ \textbf{R} \leftarrow G(\lambda) \;; \\ q_i \leftarrow \sum_{t=1}^{l_i} r_{it} b_{it}, \forall i \;; \\ \textbf{q}_i \leftarrow \sum_{t=1}^{l_i} r_{it} b_{it}, \forall i \;; \\ \textbf{end} \end{array} \right.$





However, determining the budget perturbations requires solving a large-scale centralized optimization



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Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers

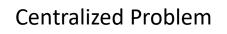
$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}$$
s.t.
$$\begin{aligned} h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) &= f(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{y}) \\ A\mathbf{x} + B\mathbf{y} &= \mathbf{c} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{eta}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{y}) + \lambda^T (A\mathbf{x} + B\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c}) + rac{eta}{2} \|A\mathbf{x} + B\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c}\|^2$$

Algorithm 1: Two Block ADMM

Input : Initial dual multiplier $\lambda^{(0)}$, and initial vector $\mathbf{y}^{(0)}$ for k = 0, 1, 2, ... do $\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{L}_{\beta}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}^{(k)})$; $\mathbf{y}^{(k+1)} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathcal{L}_{\beta}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}, \mathbf{y})$; $\lambda^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \lambda^{(k)} - \beta(A\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} + B\mathbf{y}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{c})$; end ADMM helps break down a large problem into small tractable subproblems

Enables a market Implementation where users solve individual objective Distributed optimization enables a natural market implementation where users optimize individual objectives under given prices



Solve 1 big optimization problem



Split variables to transform the social optimization problem and apply ADMM to this transformed problem

All users solve an individual optimization objective at each iteration



Iteratively solve this problem to update budget perturbation and learn equilibrium prices

We obtain a natural market implementation through ADMM with Classical Fisher Markets

We apply ADMM to the following transformed problem (BA-SOP-ADMM) where we add a variable y

We get a natural market implementation

 $\max_{\mathbf{x}_{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{i}, \mathbf{y}_{i} \in \mathcal{Y}_{i}} \sum_{i} w_{i} \log \left(\sum_{j} u_{ij} x_{ij} \right)$ s.t. $\sum_{i} y_{ij} = c_{j}, \forall j \in [M]$ $\mathbf{x}_{i} = \mathbf{y}_{i}, \forall i \in [N]$

 $x_{ij} \ge 0, \forall i, j$

Repeat until convergence to Equilibrium Price:

- 1. Agents distributedly solve regularized version of IOP based on market price
- Market designer updates baseline demand y based on observed demands x
- 3. Prices are updated in the market using a tatonnement style update with a fixed step-size

We also obtain a natural market implementation through ADMM with Additional Constraints

We apply ADMM to the following transformed problem (BA-SOP-ADMM) where we add a variable y

We get a natural market implementation

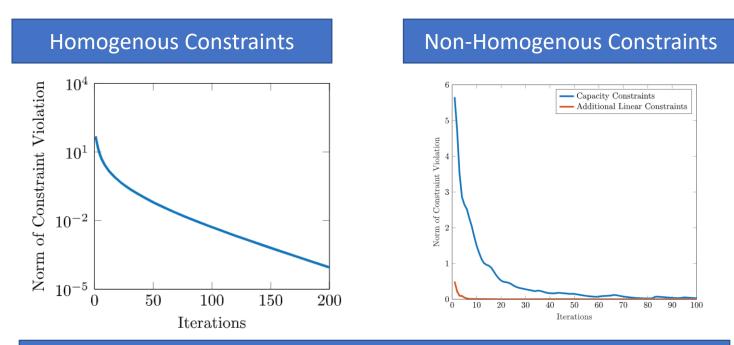
$$\max_{\mathbf{x}_{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{i}, \mathbf{y}_{i} \in \mathcal{Y}_{i}} \sum_{i} \widetilde{w}_{i} \log \left(\sum_{j} u_{ij} x_{ij} \right)$$

s.t.
$$\sum_{i} y_{ij} = c_{j}, \forall j \in [M]$$
$$\mathbf{x}_{i} = \mathbf{y}_{i}, \forall i \in [N]$$
$$A_{t}^{(i)} \mathbf{x}_{i} \leq b_{it}, \forall t \in T_{i}$$
$$x_{ij} \geq 0, \forall i, j$$

Repeat until convergence to Equilibrium Price:

- 1. Agents distributedly solve regularized version of IOP based on market price
- 2. Market designer updates baseline demand **y** based on observed demands **x**
- Prices and perturbations are updated in the market using a tatonnement style update with a fixed step-size

Applying ADMM to our setting achieves good convergence guarantees



Provable Convergence Guarantees for classical Fisher markets and Fisher markets with homogeneous linear constraints Can this distributed implementation be made online where users arrive into the market sequentially with uncertainty?

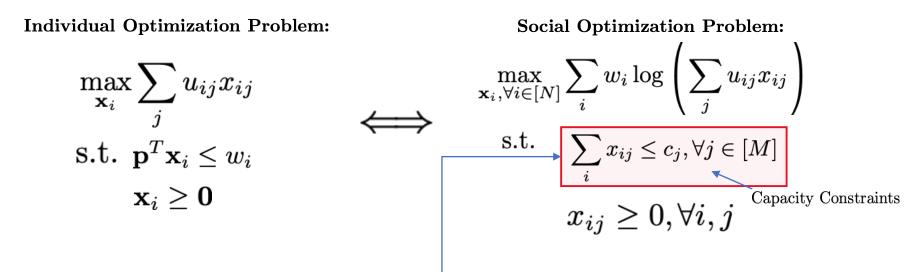
Yes! For classical Fisher markets

Ongoing Work: Extending online implementation to Fisher markets with linear constraints

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Recall the prices can be derived from a centralized optimization problem that requires complete information



 p_j : Price of Good j = Dual Variable of Constraint j

We start by focusing on the problem of online arrivals with incomplete information in a classical Fisher market

We study an online incomplete information variant of Fisher markets



Buyers arrive sequentially with utility and budget parameters drawn i.i.d. from a distribution



Establish performance limits of static pricing algorithms, including one that sets expected equilibrium prices

Develop a revealed preference algorithm with sub-linear regret and capacity violation

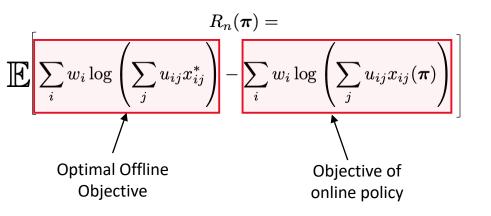
Develop an adaptive expected equilibrium pricing approach with strong performance guarantees



Online Pricing Market: evaluate algorithms through the absolute regret of social welfare and capacity violation

Regret (Optimality Gap)

 $\frac{Difference \ in \ the \ Optimal \ Social}{Objective \ of \ the \ online \ policy \ \pi \ to} \\ \frac{That \ of \ the \ optimal \ offline \ social \ value}{That \ of \ the \ optimal \ offline \ social \ value}$



Constraint Violation or Market Clearance

Norm of the violation of capacity constraints of the online policy π

$$V_j(oldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_j x_{ij}(oldsymbol{\pi}) - c_j$$

Violation of Capacity Constraint of good *j*

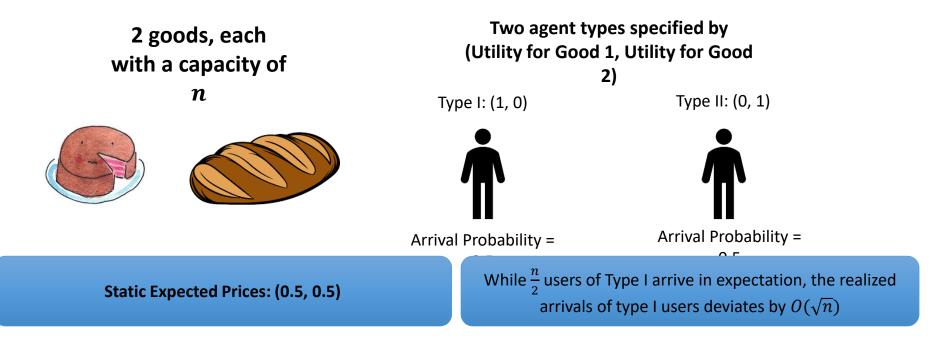
 $V_n(oldsymbol{\pi}) = ||\mathbb{E}[V(oldsymbol{\pi})^+]||_2$

Norm of the expected constraint violation

Limitations of Static Pricing

Theorem: No static pricing algorithm can achieve either a regret or capacity violation of better than $\Omega(\sqrt{n})$, where n is the number of arriving users

Problem with static pricing: Using optimal expected prices, the capacity violation is $\Omega(\sqrt{n})$, with n agents



Can we develop adaptive pricing algorithms with improved performance guarantees?

We overcome problem of static expected equilibrium pricing by dynamically adjusting prices of over or under consumed goods

Our adaptive expected equilibrium pricing approach achieves constant constraint violation and log regret

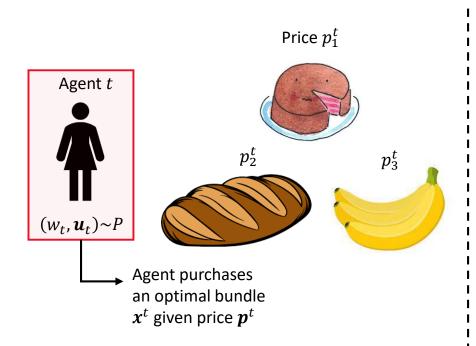
Algorithm 1: Adaptive Expected Equilibrium Pricing

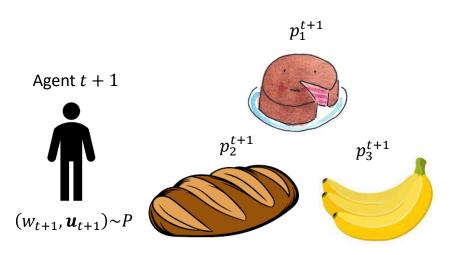
Input : Initial Good Capacities c, Number of Users n, Threshold Parameter Vector Δ , Support of Probability Distribution $\{\tilde{w}_k, \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_k\}_{k=1}^K$, Occurrence Probabilities $\{q_k\}_{k=1}^K$ Initialize $\mathbf{c}_1 = \mathbf{c}$ and the average remaining good capacity to $\mathbf{d}_1 = \frac{\mathbf{c}}{n}$; for t = 1, 2, ..., n do Phase I: Set Price if $\mathbf{d}_{t'} \in [\mathbf{d} - \Delta, \mathbf{d} + \Delta]$ for all $t' \leq t$ then Set price \mathbf{p}^t as the dual variables of the capacity constraints of the certainty equivalent Set price based on dual problem $CE(\mathbf{d}_t)$ with capacity \mathbf{d}_t ; variable of capacity else constraints of certainty Set price \mathbf{p}^t using the dual variables of the capacity constraints of the certainty equivalent problem $CE(\mathbf{d})$ with capacity $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{d}_1$; equivalent problem \mathbf{end} Phase II: Observed User Consumption and Update Available Good Capacities Users consume optimal User purchases optimal bundle of goods \mathbf{x}_t given price \mathbf{p}^t ; bundle of goods Update the available good capacities $\mathbf{c}_{t+1} = \mathbf{c}_t - \mathbf{x}_t$; Compute the average remaining good capacities $\mathbf{d}_{t+1} = \frac{\mathbf{c}_{t+1}}{n-t}$; Update average remaining resource capacities end

Theorem: Under i.i.d. budget and utility parameters with a discrete probability distribution and when good capacities are O(n), Algorithm 1 achieves an expected regret of $R_n(\pi) \le O(\log(n))$ and expected constraint violation of $V_n(\pi) \le O(1)$

However, this algorithm required knowledge of the distribution from which users' utility and budgets are drawn

We design a dual based algorithm, wherein users see prices at each time they arrive





The price at time t + 1 is updated based on observed consumption x^t at time t

Applying gradient descent to the dual of the social optimization problem motivates a natural algorithm

Dual of social optimization problem with Lagrange multiplier of the capacity constraints p_i

$$\min_{\mathbf{p}} \quad \sum_{t=1}^{n} w_t \log(w_t) - \sum_{t=1}^{n} w_t \log\left(\min_{j \in [m]} \frac{p_j}{u_{tj}}\right) + \sum_{j=1}^{m} p_j c_j - \sum_{t=1}^{n} w_t$$

Equivalent Sample Average Approximation (SAA) of Dual Problem

> (Sub)-gradient descent of dual problem for each agent: O(m)complexity of price update

$$\begin{split} \min_{\mathbf{p}} \quad D_n(\mathbf{p}) &= \sum_{j=1}^m p_j \frac{c_j}{n} + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \left(w_t \log(w_t) - w_t \log(\min_{j \in [m]} \frac{p_j}{u_{tj}}) - w_t \right) \\ \partial_{\mathbf{p}} \left(\sum_{j \in [m]} p_j \frac{c_j}{n} + w \log(w) - w \log\left(\min_{j \in [m]} \frac{p_j}{u_j}\right) - w \right) \bigg|_{\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{p}^t} = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{x}_t \end{split}$$

Difference between market share of each agent and goods purchased

We develop a revealed preference algorithm with sublinear regret and constraint violation

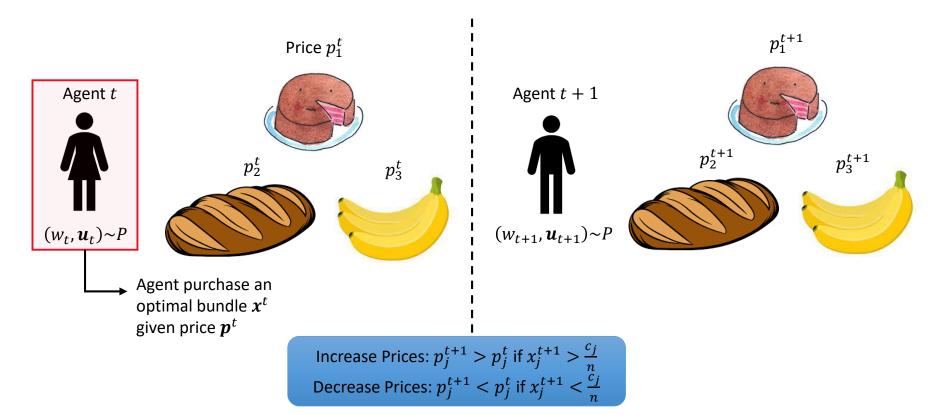
Algorithm 2: Revealed Preference Algorithm for Online Fisher Markets

Input : Number of users n, Vector of good capacities per user $\mathbf{d} = \frac{\mathbf{c}}{n}$ Initialize $\mathbf{p}^1 > \mathbf{0}$; We believe our results for t = 1, 2, ..., n do in the online setting Phase I: ; for classical Fisher markets may also hold User purchases an optimal bundle of goods \mathbf{x}_t given the price \mathbf{p}^t ; for homogenously Phase II (Price Update): ; constrained Fisher $\mathbf{p}^{t+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{p}^t - \gamma_t \left(\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{x}_t\right);$ **Difference between market share** of each agent and goods purchased end Only requires knowledge of user consumption (and Step-size: $O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}}\right)$ not their budgets or utilities) to update prices

Theorem: Under i.i.d. budget and utility parameters with strictly positive support and when good capacities are O(n), Algorithm 2 achieves an expected regret of $R_n(\pi) \leq O(\sqrt{n})$ and expected constraint violation of $V_n(\boldsymbol{\pi}) \leq O(\sqrt{n})$, where *n* is the number of arriving users.

markets

Again, a good's price is increased if the user purchases more than its market share of the good and vice versa



We can design algorithms that satisfy the resource capacity constraints

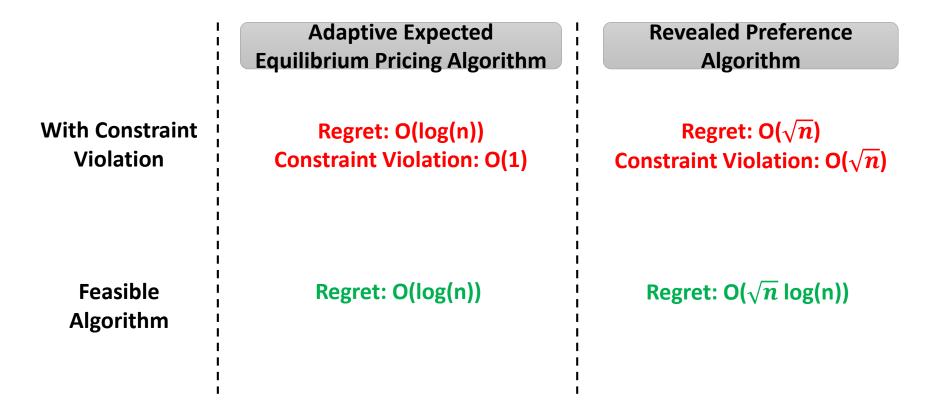
Step 1: Apply algorithm sub-routine until ϵ units of a given resource are remaining

 au^{π} - Stopping time of algorithm

Step 2: Give all remaining users $\frac{\epsilon}{n}$ of the remaining resources

Theorem: The expected regret of the above feasible algorithm π^f is $R_n(\pi^f) \le R_{\tau^{\pi}}(\pi) + O(n - \tau^{\pi})\log(n)$

We can design algorithms that satisfy the resource constraints without much additional loss in regret



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Takeaways: we extended classical Fisher Markets to take into account practical considerations

Resource Allocation under budget, capacity **and physical** (e.g., knapsack) constraints

Jalota, Pavone, Qi, Ye GEB'23

Additional constraints introduce **nonconvexities**

Yet we derive a social optimization problem and distributed algorithms to compute prices Set prices in **Online and Uncertain** variants of Fisher Markets

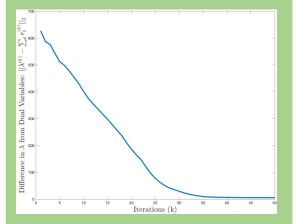
Jalota, Ye WINE'23

Static Pricing has performance limitations

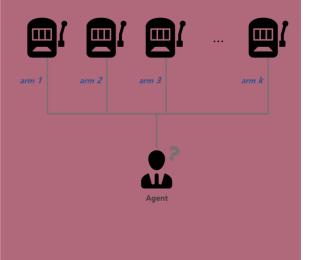
We derive **adaptive/dynamic pricing** approaches with improved performance guarantees

Ongoing and Future Work

Convergence of Fixed Point Scheme



Online Algorithms with Linear Constraints and a Batch Size



Integral Allocations

