

# Geometric Aggregation of the Social Welfare in Online Resource Allocation

**Yinyu Ye**

Stanford University

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Joint work with many

**@ The Nanjing U**

# There are many settings when we need to fairly allocate shared resources to users online



Public Good Allocation



Medical materials Allocation

# A key question is how to aggregate society's (linear) utilities to reflect a fair division of resources

## Efficiency Objective

$$\max \sum_i w_i U_i(x_i)$$

Maximize the (weighted) arithmetic sum of agent's utilities, known as **Linear Programming** if  $u$  is linear

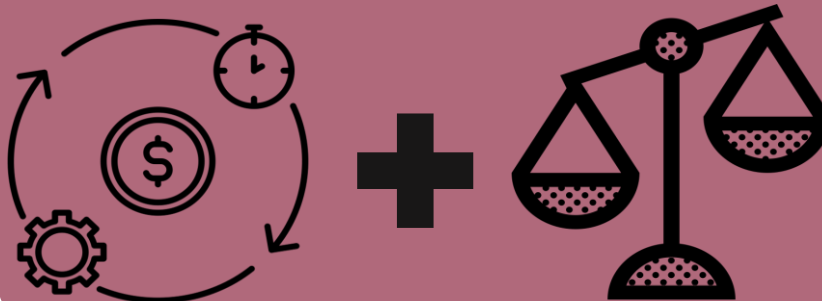


$w_i$ : population size or budget of type- $i$  agent

## Nash Social Welfare (NSW) Objective

$$\max \prod_i U_i(x_i)^{w_i}$$

Maximize the (weighted) geometric sum of agent's utilities



[Nash, 1950], [Kaneko, Nakamura, 1979]

## Egalitarian Objective

$$\max \min_i w_i U_i(x_i)$$

Maximize the minimum (weighted) utility of any agent

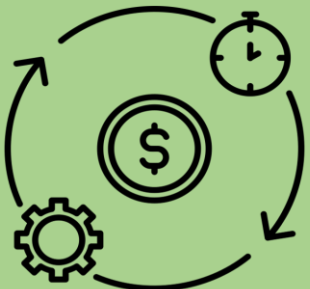


# The NSW objective provides a compromise between the efficiency and egalitarian ideals of society

## Arithmetic Objective

$$\max \sum_i w_i U_i(x_i)$$

Maximize the (weighted) arithmetic sum of agent's utilities, known as Linear Programming if  $u$  is linear

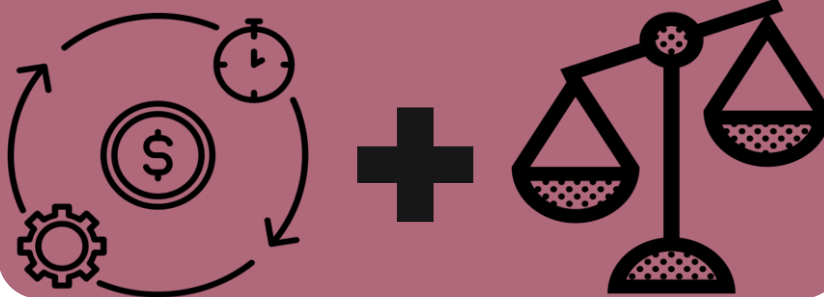


Robustness Property:  
Provides a lower bound for arithmetic mean objective

## Nash Social Welfare (NSW) Objective

$$\max \prod_i U_i(x_i)^{w_i}$$

Maximize the (weighted) geometric sum of agent's utilities



Geometric mean objective has several advantages

## Egalitarian Objective

$$\max \min_i (w_i U_i(x_i))$$

Maximize the minimum (weighted) utility of any agent



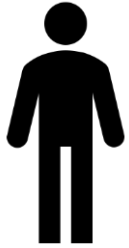
Larger weight (priority) implies higher utility unlike egalitarian objective

# Organization

- **Advantages/Properties of (Weighted) Geometric Mean Objective**
- Online Linear Programming
- Online Fisher Markets
- Summaries

# Fairness: with the geometric mean objective, all users are guaranteed to get at least some fraction of the resources

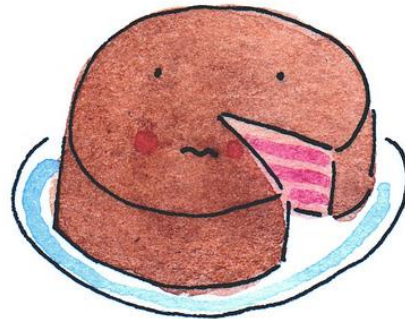
2 Agents



$$u_{11} > u_{12}$$



1 unit of a  
divisible resource



## Arithmetic Allocation:

Under the arithmetic mean objective, the entire resource is allocated to agent 1: “big” takes all

## Nash welfare allocation:

Under the geometric mean objective each agent receives some portion of the resource

$u_{ij}$  : Preference of Agent  $i$  for one unit of good  $j$

# The geometric mean objective retains several computational advantages

Rationality of data implies rationality of solution

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	...
1	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	...
2	$\frac{2}{1}$	$\frac{2}{2}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{4}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{2}{6}$	$\frac{2}{7}$	$\frac{2}{8}$	...
3	$\frac{3}{1}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{3}{3}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{5}$	$\frac{3}{6}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	...
4	$\frac{4}{1}$	$\frac{4}{2}$	$\frac{4}{3}$	$\frac{4}{4}$	$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{4}{6}$	$\frac{4}{7}$	$\frac{4}{8}$	...
5	$\frac{5}{1}$	$\frac{5}{2}$	$\frac{5}{3}$	$\frac{5}{4}$	$\frac{5}{5}$	$\frac{5}{6}$	$\frac{5}{7}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	...
6	$\frac{6}{1}$	$\frac{6}{2}$	$\frac{6}{3}$	$\frac{6}{4}$	$\frac{6}{5}$	$\frac{6}{6}$	$\frac{6}{7}$	$\frac{6}{8}$	...
7	$\frac{7}{1}$	$\frac{7}{2}$	$\frac{7}{3}$	$\frac{7}{4}$	$\frac{7}{5}$	$\frac{7}{6}$	$\frac{7}{7}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	...
8	$\frac{8}{1}$	$\frac{8}{2}$	$\frac{8}{3}$	$\frac{8}{4}$	$\frac{8}{5}$	$\frac{8}{6}$	$\frac{8}{7}$	$\frac{8}{8}$	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Exact computation of optimal solutions is possible

The objective can be formulated as a convex optimization problem

$$\max \prod_i U_i(x_i)^{w_i}$$



$$\max \sum_i w_i \log(U_i(x_i))$$

Computational Complexity is identical to that of a linear program via Interior-Point Method



EFFICIENCY

Optimal solution can be efficiently computed in polynomial time

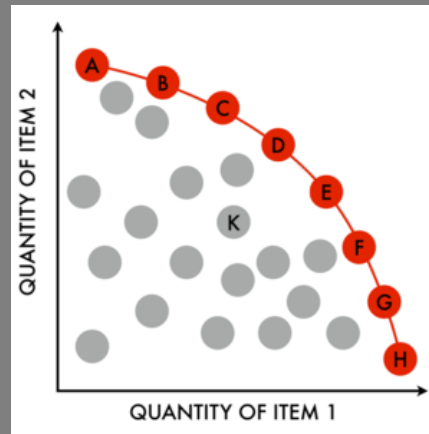
# The geometric mean objective has several additional advantages

The resulting allocation is envy-free



Each agent prefers their allocation to that of any other agent

The resulting allocation is Pareto efficient



The objective can be formulated as a convex optimization problem

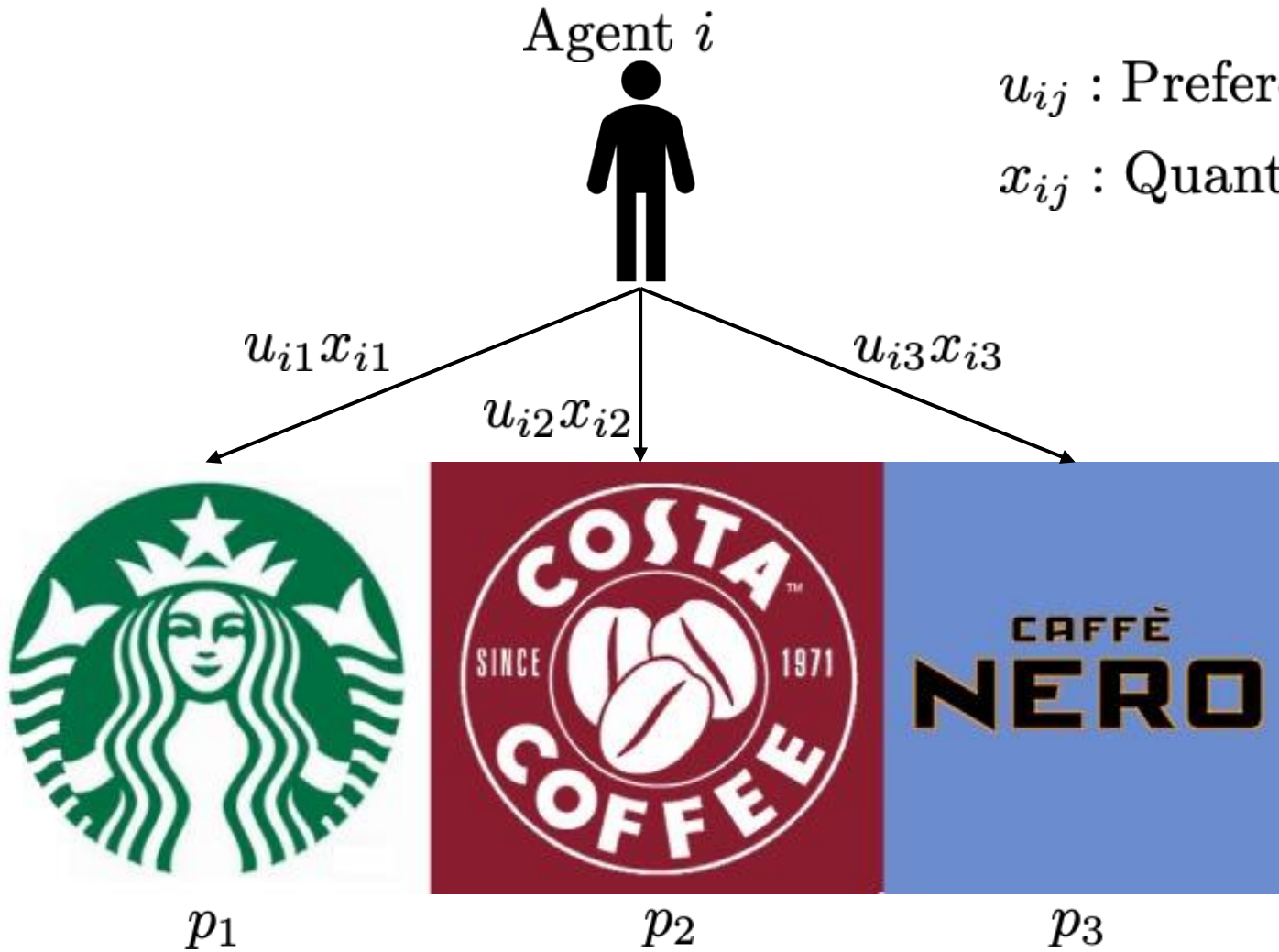
$$\max \prod_i U_i(\mathbf{x}_i)^{w_i}$$

↓

$$\max \sum_i w_i \log(U_i(\mathbf{x}_i))$$



# The NSW objective has a decentralization property captured through the framework of Fisher Markets



$u_{ij}$  : Preference of Agent  $i$  for one unit of good  $j$

$x_{ij}$  : Quantity of good  $j$  purchased by person  $i$

$p_j$  : Price of Good  $j$

$w_i$  : Budget of Agent  $i$

**Individual Optimization Problem:**

$$\max_{\mathbf{x}_i} \sum_j u_{ij} x_{ij}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{x}_i \leq w_i$$

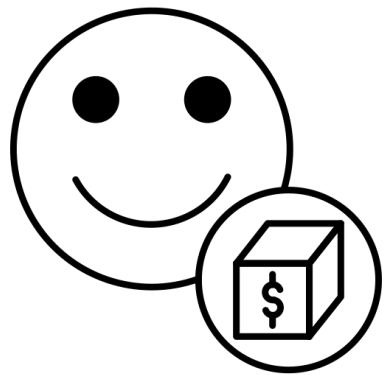
$$\mathbf{x}_i \geq \mathbf{0}$$

$M = \text{Total Number of Goods}$

# The prices can be derived from a centralized optimization problem with a budget weighted geometric mean objective: freedom-of-choice $\Leftrightarrow$ fairness

Individual Optimization Problem:

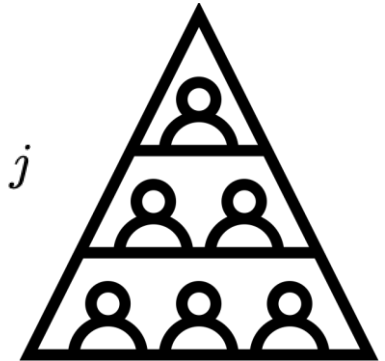
$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{x}_i} \quad & \sum_j u_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{x}_i \leq w_i \\ & \mathbf{x}_i \geq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$



Social Optimization Problem:

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

Capacity Constraints



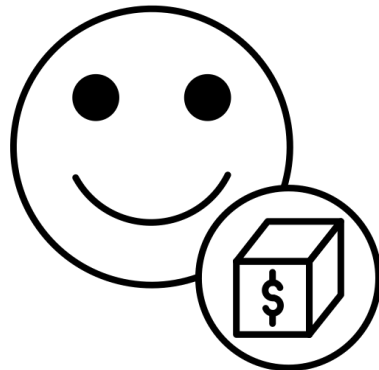
$p_j$  : Price of Good  $j$  = Dual Variable of Constraint  $j$

$$x_{ij^*} = \frac{w_i}{p_{j^*}}, \quad j^* = \operatorname{argmin} \left\{ \frac{p_j}{u_{ij}} : u_{ij} > 0 \right\}$$

# The applicability of Fisher markets is restricted to the “complete information setting”

**Individual Optimization Problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{x}_i} \quad & \sum_j u_{ij} x_{ij} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{x}_i \leq w_i \\ & \mathbf{x}_i \geq \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}$$



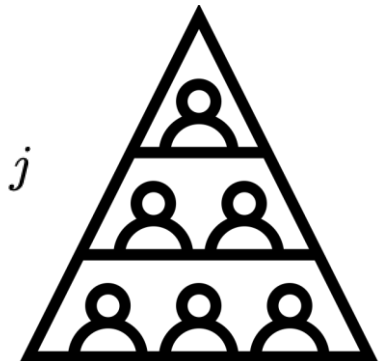
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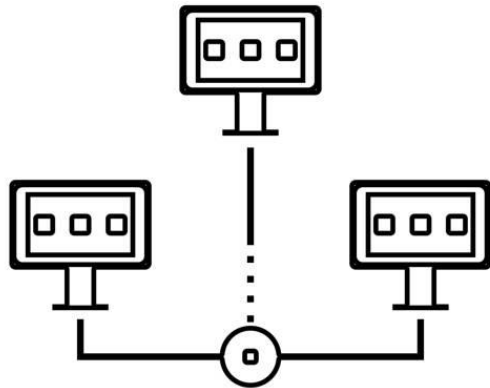
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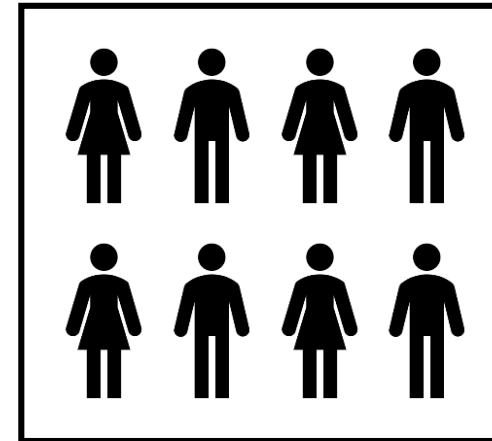


# Can markets be implemented in an **online** setting but still achieve social fairness, efficiency and agent-privacy



Each agent distributedly optimizes their individual objectives in response to the set prices

**Simulated Market:** No trade takes place until equilibrium prices are reached  
[Cole, Fleischer, 2008] [Panageas, Tröbst, Vazirani, 2021], [Jelota et al. 2021]



Buyers arrive sequentially with utility and budget parameters in real time

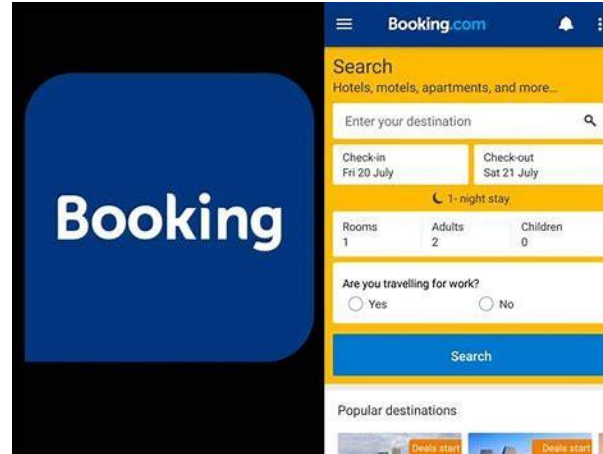
**Real Market:** Market designer learns prices from past buying behavior of users and makes an online decision

# Organization

- Advantages of (Weighted) Geometric Mean Objective
- **Online Linear Programming**
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# Online Resource Allocation & Revenue Management

- $m$  type of resources;  $T$  customers
- Decision maker needs to decide whether and how much resources are allocated to each customer
- Resources are limited!
- **Online setting:**
  - Customers arrive sequentially and the decision needs to be made instantly upon the customer arrival: **Sell or No-sell?**



$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{t=1}^T r_t x_t \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{t=1}^T a_{it} x_t \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & 0 \leq x_t \leq 1 \quad \text{or} \quad x_t \in \{0, 1\}, \quad t = 1, \dots, T \end{aligned}$$

Performance of online algorithm measured with respect to regret from the offline linear objective

[Agrawal et al. 2010, 2014], [Kesselheim et al 2014]

[Li/Ye, 2019], [Li et al. 2020],

# Online Seller's Market: An Illustration Example

<b>Bid #</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Inventory</b>	
<b>Decision</b>	<b>X1=?</b>	<b>X2=?</b>					
<b>Pants</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Shoes</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>50</b>	
<b>T-Shirts</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>500</b>	
<b>Jackets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>200</b>	
<b>Hats</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1000</b>	

# Online Linear Programming

- Agents/Traders come one by one **sequentially, buy or sell, or combination,** with a combinatorial order/bid  $(\mathbf{a}_t, \pi_t)$
- The seller/market-maker has to make an order-fill decision **as soon as an order arrives**
- The seller/market-maker faces:
  - **Sell or No-sell – this is an irrevocable decision**
- Optimal Policy/Mechanism?
- The off-line problem can be an (0 1) linear program

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{t=1}^T r_t x_t \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{t=1}^T a_{it} x_t \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & 0 \leq x_t \leq 1 \quad \text{or} \quad x_t \in \{0, 1\}, \quad t = 1, \dots, T \end{aligned}$$

**Off-Line LP**



# Regret-Ratio for Online Algorithm/Mechanism

$$\begin{aligned} \text{OPT}(A, \pi) = \max \quad & \sum_k \pi_k x_k \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_k a_{ik} x_k \leq b_i \quad \forall i \in S \\ & 0 \leq x_k \leq 1 \quad \forall k \in N \end{aligned}$$

- We know the total number of customers, say  $n$ ;
- Assume customers arrive in a **random order or with i.i.d distributions.**
- For a given online algorithm/decision-policy/mechanism

$$Z(A, \pi) = E_{\sigma} \left[ \sum_1^n \pi_k x_k \right]$$

$$R(A, \pi) = 1 - \frac{Z(A, \pi)}{\text{OPT}(A, \pi)}$$

$$R = \sup_{(A, \pi)} R(A, \pi)$$

# Impossibility Result on Regret-Ratio

**Theorem:** There is no online algorithm/decision-policy/mechanism such that

$$R \leq O\left( \sqrt{\log(m)/B} \right), \quad B = \min_i b_i.$$

**Corollary:** If  $B \leq \log(m)/\epsilon^2$ , then it is impossible to have a decision policy/mechanism such that  $R \leq O(\epsilon)$ .

Agrawal, Wang and Y, "A Dynamic Near-Optimal Algorithm for Online Linear Programming," 2010.

# Possibility Result on Regret-Ratio

**Theorem:** There is an online algorithm/decision-policy/mechanism such that

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**Theorem:** If  $B > \log(mn)/\varepsilon^2$ , then there is an online algorithm/decision-policy/mechanism such that  $R \leq O(\varepsilon)$ .

Kesselheim et al. "Primal Beat the Dual...", 2014, ...

# Online Algorithm and Price-Mechanism: Learning-while-Doing

- Learn “ideal” itemized-prices
- Use the prices to price each bid
- Accept if it is an over bid, and reject otherwise

Bid #	\$100	\$30	....	...	...	Inventory	Price?
Decision	x1	x2					
Pants	1	0	....	...	...	100	45
Shoes	1	0				50	45
T-Shirts	0	1				500	10
Jackets	0	0				200	55
Hats	1	1	...	...	...	1000	15

Such ideal prices exist and they are shadow/dual prices of the offline LP

# How to Learn Shadow Prices Online

For a given  $\varepsilon$ , solve the sample LP at  $t=\varepsilon n, 2\varepsilon n, 4\varepsilon n, \dots$ ; and use the new shadow prices for the decision in the coming period.



$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_{k=1}^t \pi_k x_k \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{k=1}^t a_{ik} x_k \leq (1 - h_t) \frac{t}{n} b_i \quad \forall i \in S \\ & 0 \leq x_k \leq 1 \quad \forall k \in N \end{aligned}$$

# Finite-Customer-Type Based LP formulation

In the original **offline LP formulation**,  $x_t$  represents the decision for the t-th customer,  $\mathbf{a}_t$  represents the request vector of the t-th customer, and  $r_t$  represents the reward of the t-th customer

$$\max \sum_{t=1}^T r_t x_t \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{a}_t x_t \leq b, \quad x_t \in [0, 1]$$

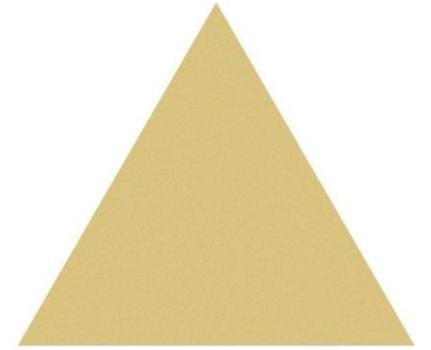
In the **finite-customer-type based** formulation, there are in total J types of customers. The j-th type arrives with a probability  $p_j$  (proportion of type j but unknown); the request vector and reward of the j-th type customer is  $\mathbf{c}_j$  and  $\mu_j$

$$\max \sum_{j=1}^J p_j \mu_j y_j \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{j=1}^J p_j \mathbf{c}_j y_j \leq b/T, \quad y_j \in [0, 1]$$

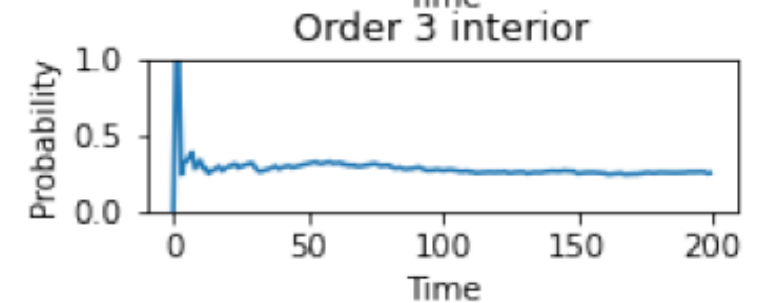
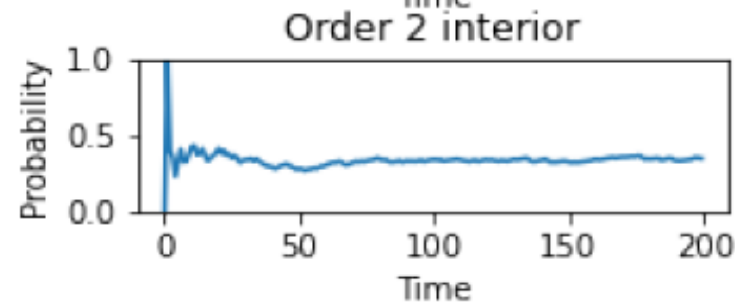
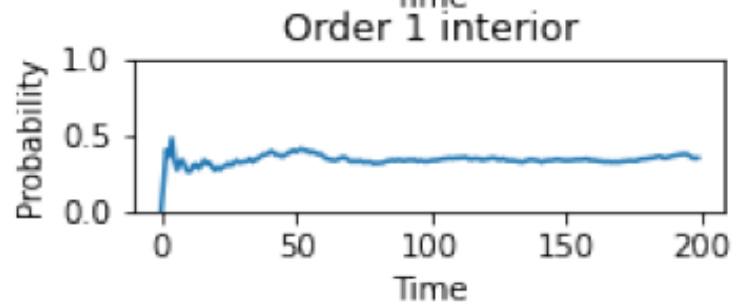
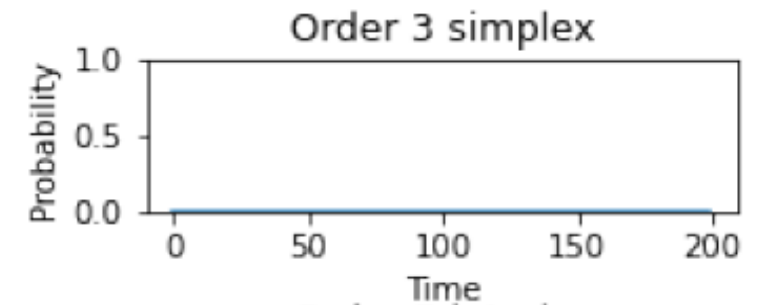
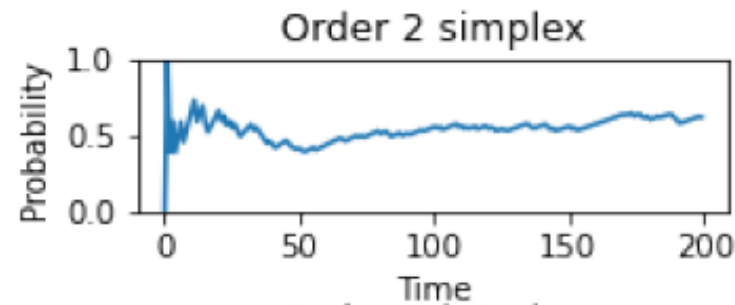
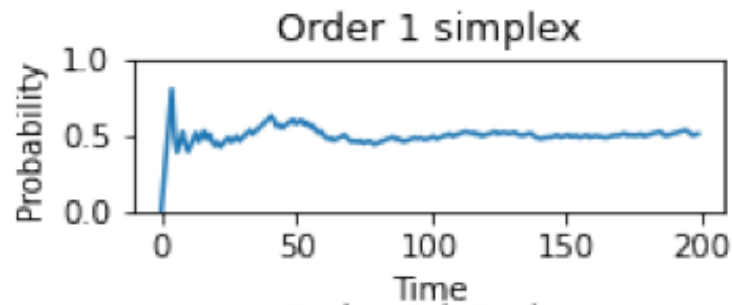
The decision variable  $y_j$  represents the **fraction/probability** of j-th type customer being accepted. But, in real applications, most LPs have **nonunique solutions**...

# A Motivation Example

- Consider an allocation problem: there exists **three types of orders/customers**, where the first two types have the reward/resource characteristics that are considered equivalent from the system.
- The following plots show the **acceptance fraction/probability** of the three types across time by two different online algorithms: the **simplex and interior-point methods** (Jasin 2015, Chen et al 2021).



Acceptance Probability across Time



# Fairness Desiderata



- Technically, **Non-Uniqueness/Degeneracy** degrades the quality of online algorithm since the learning “**targets**” are ambiguous – no **ground-truth**.
- More importantly, **Individual Fairness** needs to be achieved: similar customers should be treated similarly. Since the optimal object value depends on the total resources spent, not on the resources spent on which groups, some individual or group may be ignored by a particular online algorithm/allocation-rule.
- Also, **Time Fairness**: The algorithm may tend to accept mainly the first half (or the second half of the orders), which is unfair or unideal...



# Fair Optimal Solution for Offline Problem

$$\max \sum_{j=1}^J p_j \mu_j y_j \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{j=1}^J p_j c_j y_j \leq b/T, \quad y_j \in [0, 1]$$

- We define  $\mathbf{y}^*$  the fair offline optimal solution of the LP problem as the **analytical center** of the optimal solution set, which represents an “average” of all the optimal corner solutions – their product is **maximized**.
- The **fair solution**  $\mathbf{y}^*$  will treat individuals fairly, based on their similar reward and resource consumption.
- An **online interior-point learning** algorithm would use the data points up to time  $t$  and solve the **sample-based** linear program to decide fair  $\mathbf{y}_t$ .

# Fairness-Performance Measure

- Let  $\mathbf{y}_t$  be the allocation rule at time  $t$  which encodes the accepting probabilities under the online algorithm  $\pi$ . Then we define the **cumulative unfairness** of the online algorithm  $\pi$  as

$$UF_T(\pi) = E[\sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{y}_t - \mathbf{y}^*\|_2^2]$$

- Intuition: If  $UF_T(\pi)$  is sub-linear, we know **Time Fairness** is satisfied since the deviation of the online solution cannot be large. Moreover, **Individual Fairness** is satisfied because we know  $UF_T(\pi)$  being sub-linear implies  $\mathbf{y}_t$  converging to  $\mathbf{y}^*$ .
- Let  $j_t$  denote the incoming customer type at time  $t$ , the **Revenue Regret** is defined as

- $$Reg_T(\pi) = E[\sum_{t=1}^T r_t(\mathbf{y}_{j_t}^* - \mathbf{y}_{t,j_t})]$$

Regret measures the performance loss compared to the optimal policy.

# Our Result

- We develop an algorithm [Chen, Li & Y (2021)] that achieve

$$UF_T(\pi) = O(\log T)$$

$Reg_T(\pi)$  Bounded independent of  $T$

- Key ideas in algorithm design:
  - At each time  $t$ , we use **interior-point method** to obtain the sample analytic-center solution and randomly make decision based on sample solution  $\mathbf{y}_t$ .
  - We also adjust the **right-hand-side resource** of the LP to ensure the depletion of **binding** resources and **non-binding** resources does not affect the **fairness**.
  - This state of the art result removes typical **non-degeneracy or non-uniqueness** assumption in the OLP literature.

# The Online Algorithm can be Extended to Bandits with Knapsack (BwK) Applications

- For the previous problem, the decision maker first wait and observe the customer order/arm and then decide whether to accept/play it or not.
- An alternative setting is that the decision maker first decides which order/arm (s)he may accept/play, and then receive a random resource consumption vector  $a_j$  and yield a random reward  $\pi_j$  of the pulled arm.
- Known as the Bandits with Knapsacks, and it is a tradeoff **exploration** v.s. **exploitation**



$$\max \sum \pi_j x_j \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_j a_j x_j \leq \mathbf{b}, \quad x_j \geq 0 \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, J$$

- The decision variable  $x_j$  represents the **total-times of pulling** the  $j$ -th arm.
- We have developed a two-phase algorithm
  - **Phase I**: Distinguish the optimal **super-basic** variables/arms from the optimal **non-basic** variables/arms with as fewer number of plays as possible
  - **Phase II**: Use the arms in the optimal face to exhaust the resource through an adaptive procedure and achieve **fairness**
- The algorithm achieves a problem dependent regret that bears a **logarithmic** dependence on the horizon  $T$ . Also, it identifies a number of LP-related parameters as the **bottleneck or condition-numbers** for the problem
  - Minimum non-zero **reduced cost**
  - Minimum **singular-values** of the optimal basis matrix.
- **First algorithm** to achieve the  **$O(\log T)$**  regret bound [Li, Sun & Y 2021].

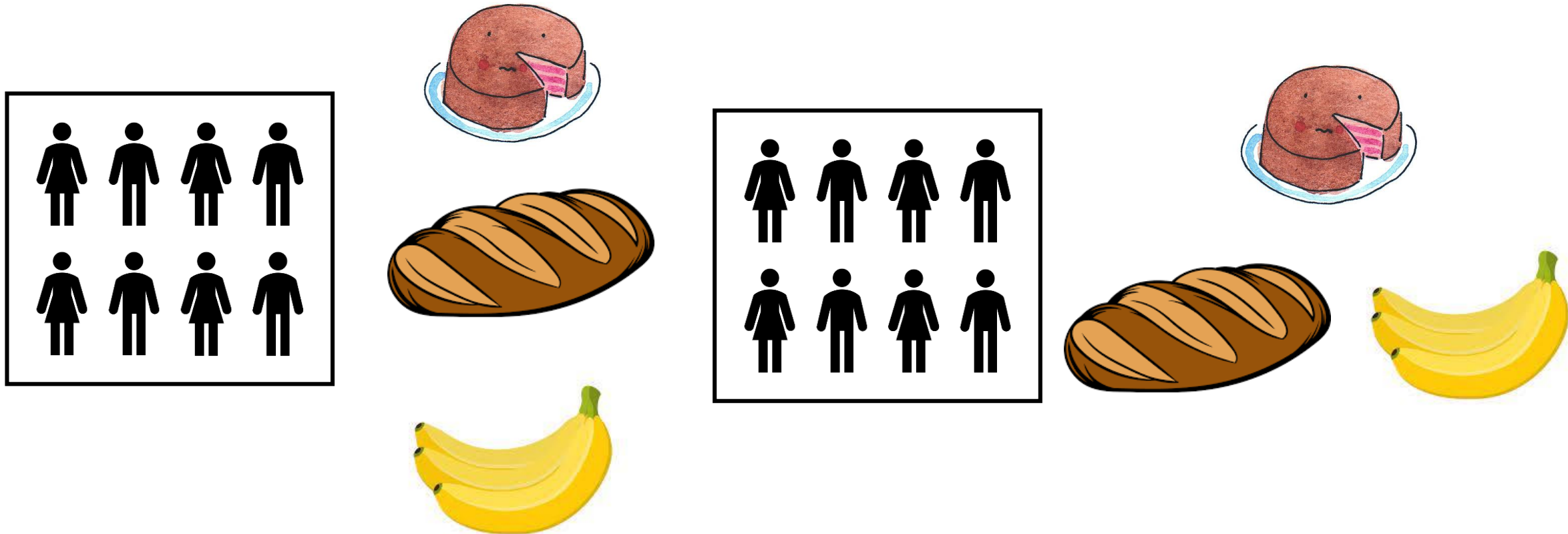
**Takeaway:**

**Stochastic data are learnable and partial social fairness is achievable for online linear programming**

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- Online Linear Programming
- **Online Fisher Markets (Real Market)**
- Summaries

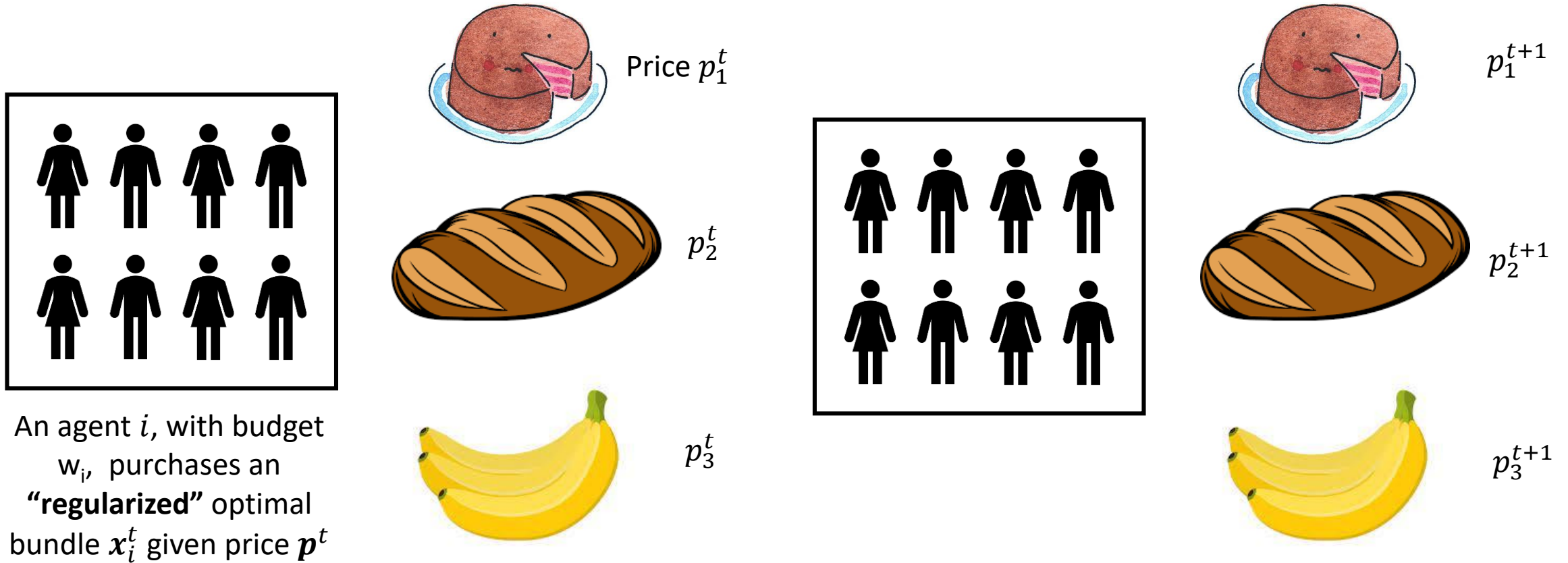
# Prior work on online variants of Fisher markets have considered the setting of goods arriving sequentially



Prior Work: Goods Arrive Online  
[Gorokh, Banerjee, Iyer, 2021]

This Work: Agents arrive Online and an irrevocable allocation has to be made:  
**How much the objective value degraded from offline version?**

# Agents maximize individual utilities based on posted prices that are adjusted based on discrepancy between supply & demand – Buyers' market in real time



Then prices at time  $t + 1$  are updated based on observed consumptions  $x_i^t$  at time  $t$

Increase Prices:  $p_j^{t+1} > p_j^t$  if  $\sum_i x_{ij}^t > c_j$   
Decrease Prices:  $p_j^{t+1} < p_j^t$  if  $\sum_i x_{ij}^t < c_j$



# Online for Geometric Objective: evaluate algorithms through the absolute regret of social welfare and capacity violation

## Regret (Optimality Gap)

Difference in the Optimal Social Objective of the online policy  $\pi$  to that of the optimal offline social value

$$R_n(\pi) =$$

$$\sum_i w_i \log \left( \sum_j u_{ij} x_{ij}^* \right) - \sum_i w_i \log \left( \sum_j u_{ij} x_{ij}(\pi) \right)$$

Optimal Offline Objective

Objective of online policy

Prior Work on concave objectives [Agrawal/Devanur 2014; Lu, Balserio, Mirrkoni, 2020] assume non-negativity and boundedness of utilities, none of which are true for the NSW

## Constraint Violation

Norm of the violation of capacity constraints of the online policy  $\pi$

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

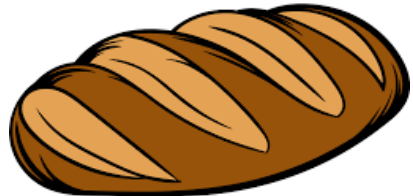
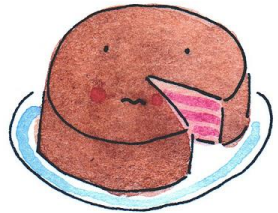
Violation of Capacity Constraint of good  $j$

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

Norm of the expected constraint violation

For any static pricing policy (including the optimal expected prices), either the expected regret or constraint violation is  $\Omega(\sqrt{n})$ , where  $n$  is the number of total agents

2 goods, each with a capacity of  $n$



Two agent types specified by (Utility for Good 1, Utility for Good 2)

Type I: (1, 0)

Type II: (0, 1)



Arrival Probability = 0.5

Arrival Probability = 0.5

Expected Optimal Objective  $\approx n \log(2)$

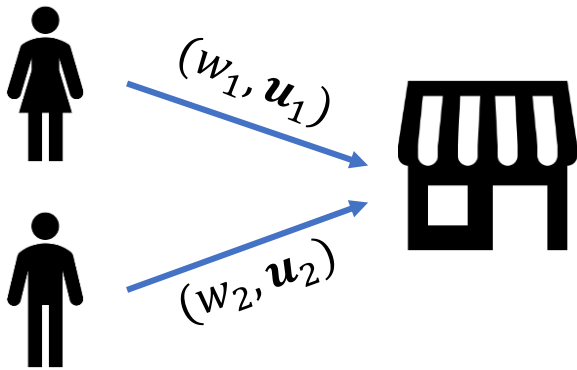
Since Type I users receive two units of good one, while type two receive two units of good two

While  $\frac{n}{2}$  users of Type I arrive in expectation, the realized arrivals of type I users deviates by  $O(\sqrt{n})$

$$\sqrt{n} - \text{regret of NSW means: } \frac{\text{SW optimal geometric mean}}{\text{SW geometric mean of online algorithm}} \leq e^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}}$$

# Primal algorithms are often computationally expensive and do not preserve user-privacy

User parameters  $(w, \mathbf{u})$  are revealed



Such algorithms require information on user parameters, which may not be known in practice

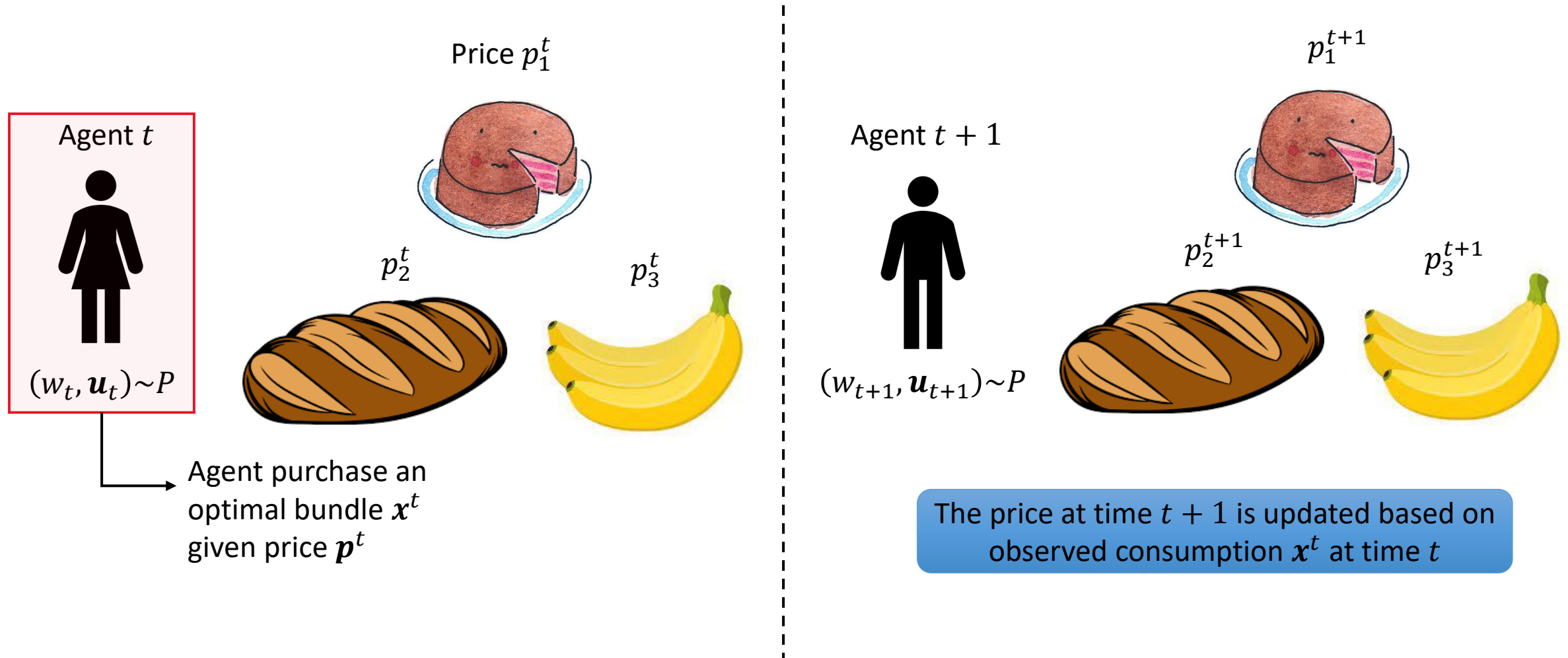
With parameters until user  $t$  arrives, we can solve the following primal problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^m, \forall i \in [t]} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^t w_i \log \left( \sum_{j=1}^m u_{ij} x_{ij} \right) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^t x_{ij} \leq \frac{t}{n} c_j, \quad \forall j \in [m] \\ & x_{ij} \geq 0, \quad \forall i \in [t], j \in [m] \end{aligned}$$

Prices can be set based on dual of capacity constraints

At each time instance, we solve a larger convex program, which may become computationally expensive in real time

We design a dual based algorithm, wherein users see posted prices at each time they arrive and make buy decisions (no need to worry truthfulness)



# 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  $p_j$

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

Equivalent Sample Average Approximation (SAA) of Dual Problem

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

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

$$\partial_{\mathbf{p}} \left( \sum_{j \in [m]} p_j \frac{c_j}{n} + w \log(w) - w \log\left(\min_{j \in [m]} \frac{p_j}{u_j}\right) - w \right) \Big|_{\mathbf{p}=\mathbf{p}^t} = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{x}_t$$

Difference between market share of each agent and goods purchased

# The privacy-preserving algorithm has sub-linear regret and constraint violation guarantees

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## Algorithm 1: Privacy Preserving Online Algorithm

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**Input** : Number of users  $n$ , Vector of good capacities  $\mathbf{c}$

Initialize  $\mathbf{p}^1 > \mathbf{0}$  ;

**for**  $t = 1, 2, \dots, n$  **do**

**Phase I: User Optimization**

    Each agent purchases an optimal bundle of goods  $\mathbf{x}_t$  given the price  $\mathbf{p}^t$  ;

**Phase II: Price Update**

$\mathbf{p}^{t+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{p}^t - \gamma_t \left( \frac{\mathbf{c}}{n} - \mathbf{x}_t \right)$  ;

**end**

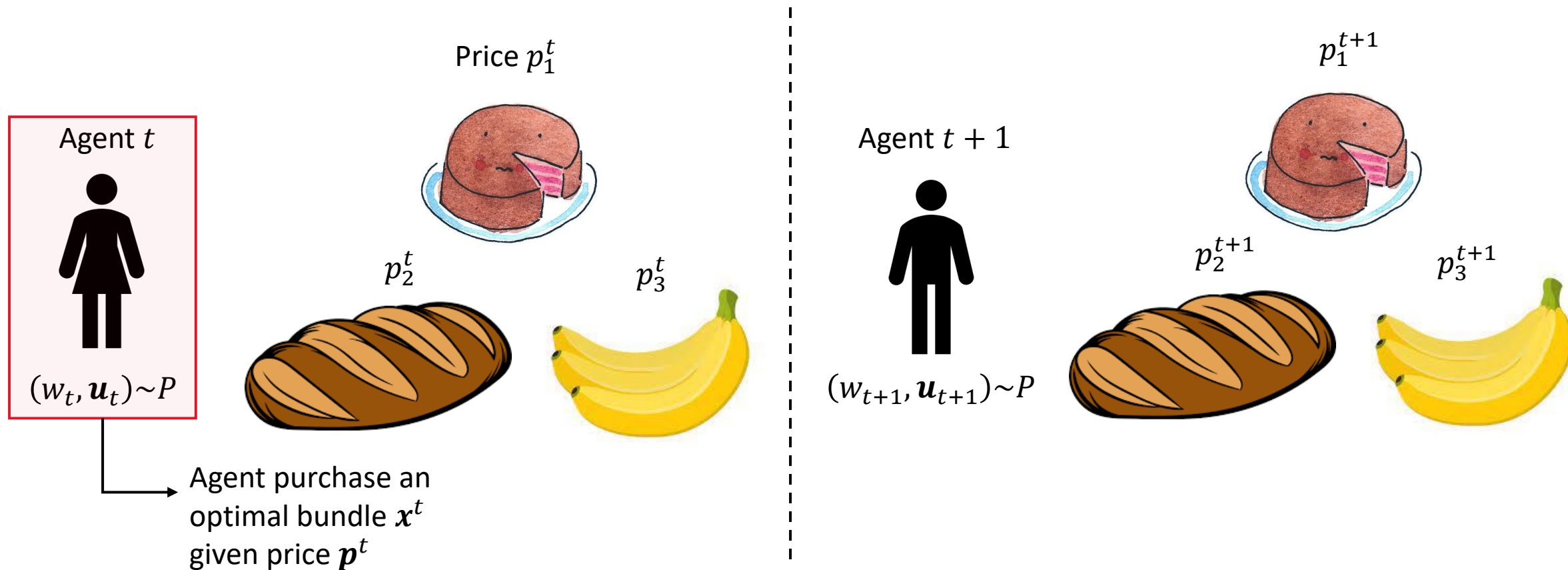
Difference between market share of  
each agent and goods purchased

Step-size:  $1/\sqrt{n}$

Only requires knowledge of user consumption  
(and not their budgets or utilities) to update prices

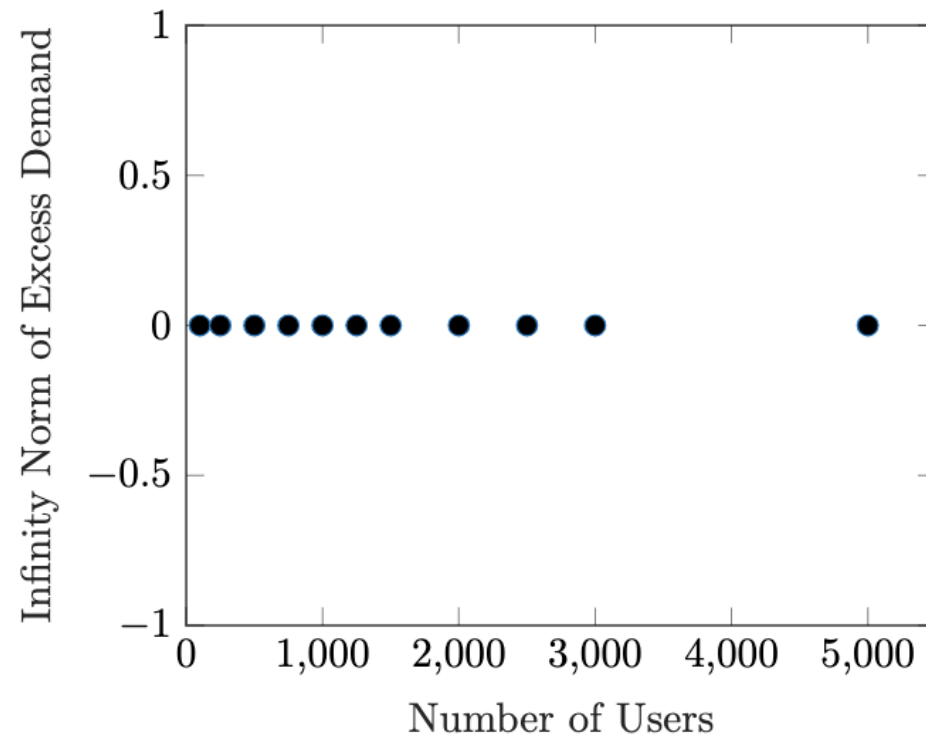
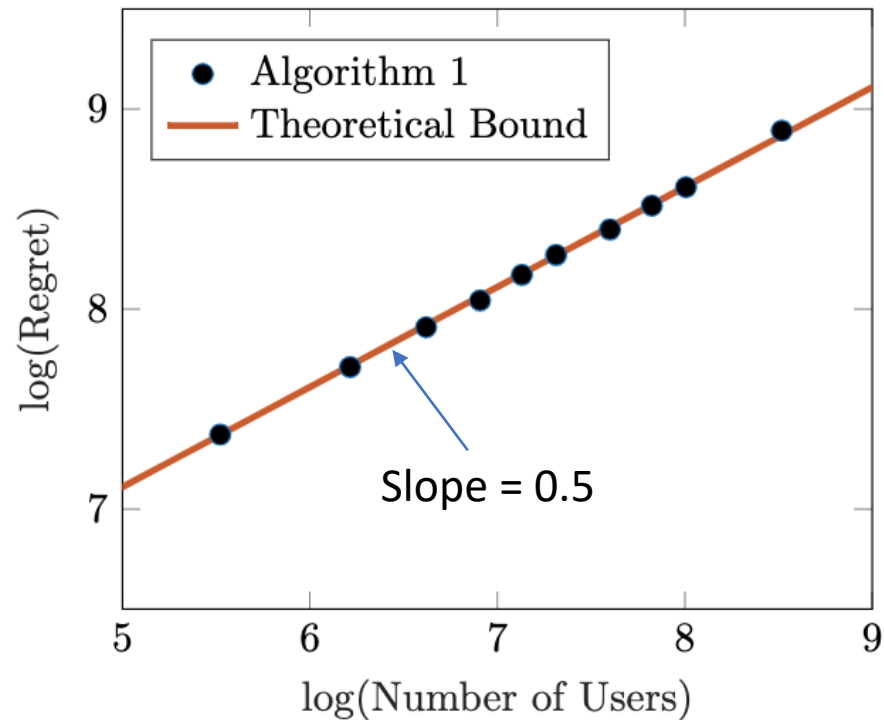
**Theorem** [Jelota & Y 2022]: Under i.i.d. budget and utility parameters and when good capacities are  $O(n)$ , Algorithm 1 achieves an expected regret  $R_n(\boldsymbol{\pi}) \leq O(\sqrt{n})$  and the expected constraint violation  $V_n(\boldsymbol{\pi}) \leq O(\sqrt{n})$ , where  $n$  is the number of arriving users.

Again, the price of a good is increased if the arriving user purchase more than its market share of the good



Increase Prices:  $p_j^{t+1} > p_j^t$  if  $x_j^{t+1} > \frac{c_j}{n}$   
Decrease Prices:  $p_j^{t+1} < p_j^t$  if  $x_j^{t+1} < \frac{c_j}{n}$

# Our numerical results verify the obtained theoretical guarantee





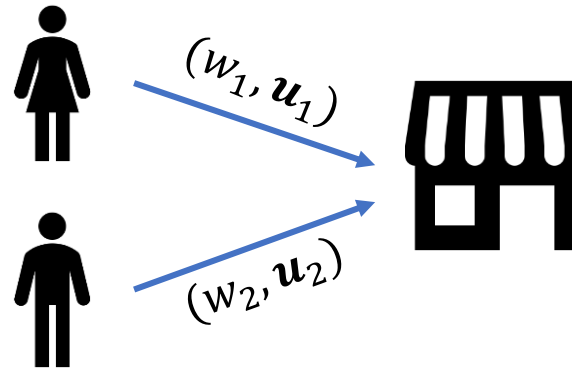
# We also develop benchmarks that have access to more information to compare our algorithm's performance

Known Probability Distribution



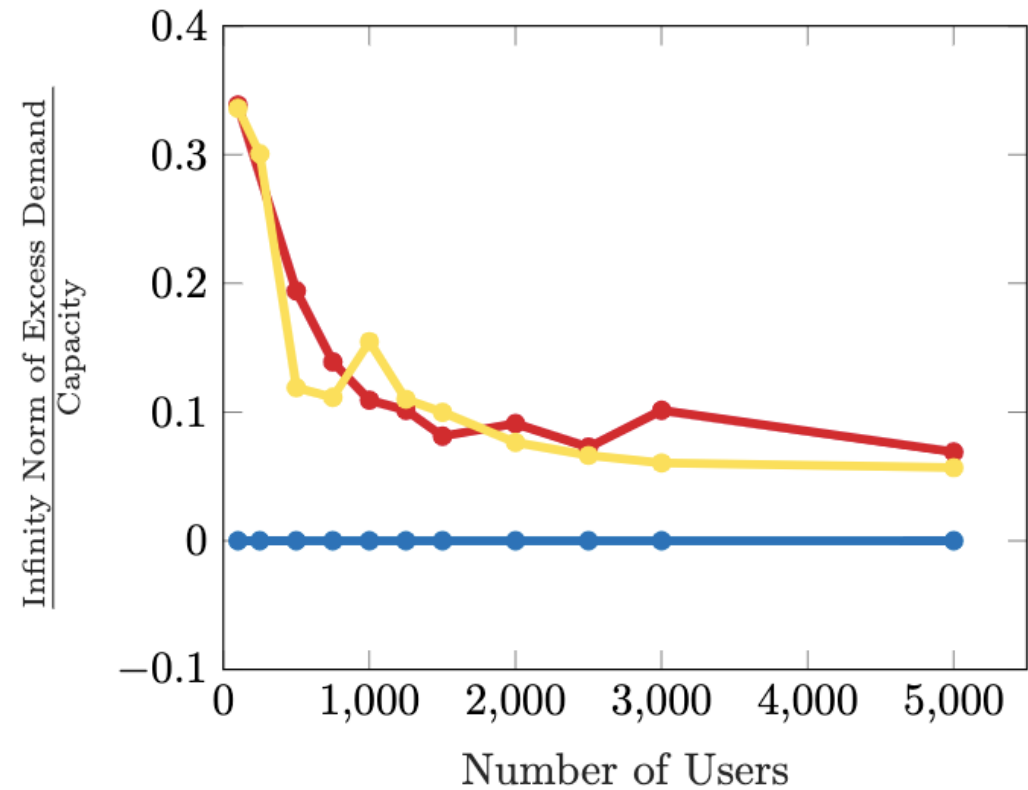
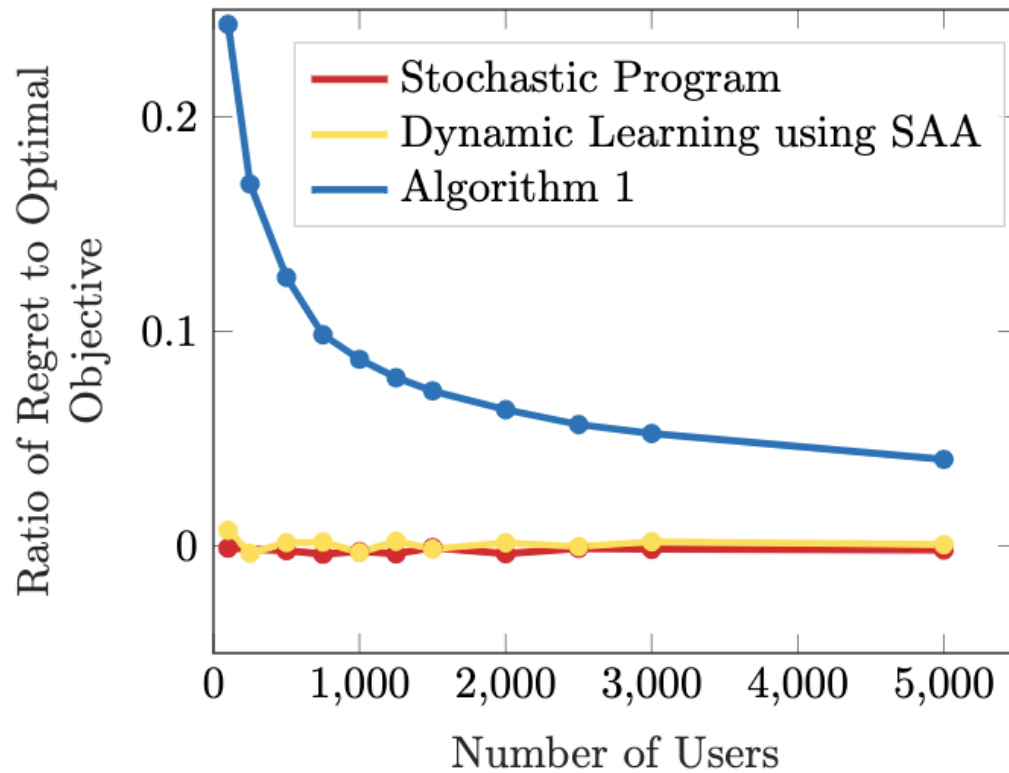
**Benchmark 1:** Set price based on solution of Stochastic Program

User parameters  $(w, u)$  are revealed

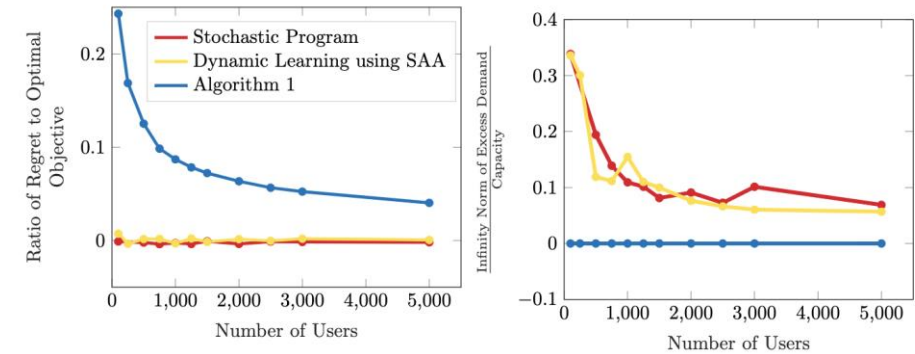
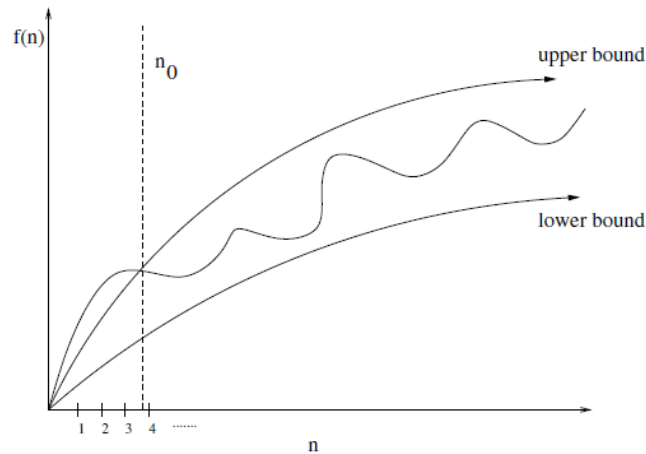
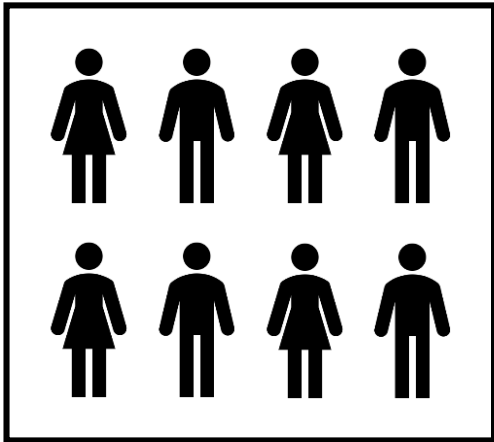


**Benchmark 2:** Set prices based on a sequence of dual problems using revealed parameters

# Our numerical results demonstrate a tradeoff between regret and constraint violation



# Summary: online algorithms are applicable to Fisher markets with geometric aggregation of social welfare and sub-linear regret guarantees



Buyers arrive sequentially with utility and budget parameters drawn as

$$(w, \mathbf{u}) \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mathcal{P}$$

There is a fundamental trade-off between regret and constraint violation metrics

Online Algorithm with sub-linear regret and constraint violation guarantees

# Organization

- Advantages of (Weighted) Geometric Mean Objective
- Distributed ADMM Algorithm for Fisher Markets (Simulated Market)
- Online Fisher Markets (Real Market)
- **Summaries**

# Geometrically aggregated welfare optimization: it is as easy as linear programming and more desirable in many social/economical settings

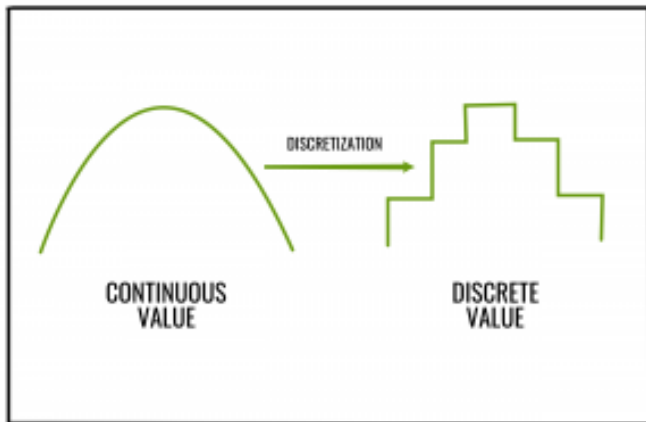
The weighted geometric average objective has several advantages including fairness, computational complexity, and the resulting allocation can be distributed using prices through Fisher markets

The Nash social welfare maximizing allocations can be computed in a distributed fashion by using the primal-dual and/or ADMM methods while preserving the privacy of individual utilities

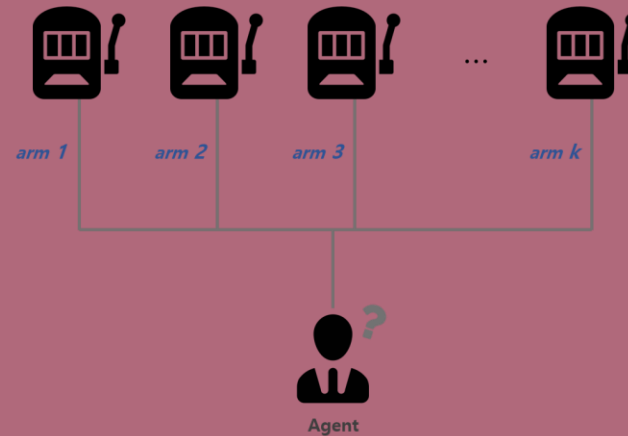
The corresponding allocations can be implemented in the online setting with a sublinear regret

# Future Work

Loss in social objective under integral allocations



Extensions of geometric social objective for online allocation in bandit and reinforcement learning problems



Extension of online Fisher markets under general concave utility functions and tight regret bounds

