

# Infinite order Lorenz dominance for fair multiagent optimization

Boris GOLDEN



Polytechnique School  
France

[Boris.Golden@polytechnique.edu](mailto:Boris.Golden@polytechnique.edu)

Patrice PERNY

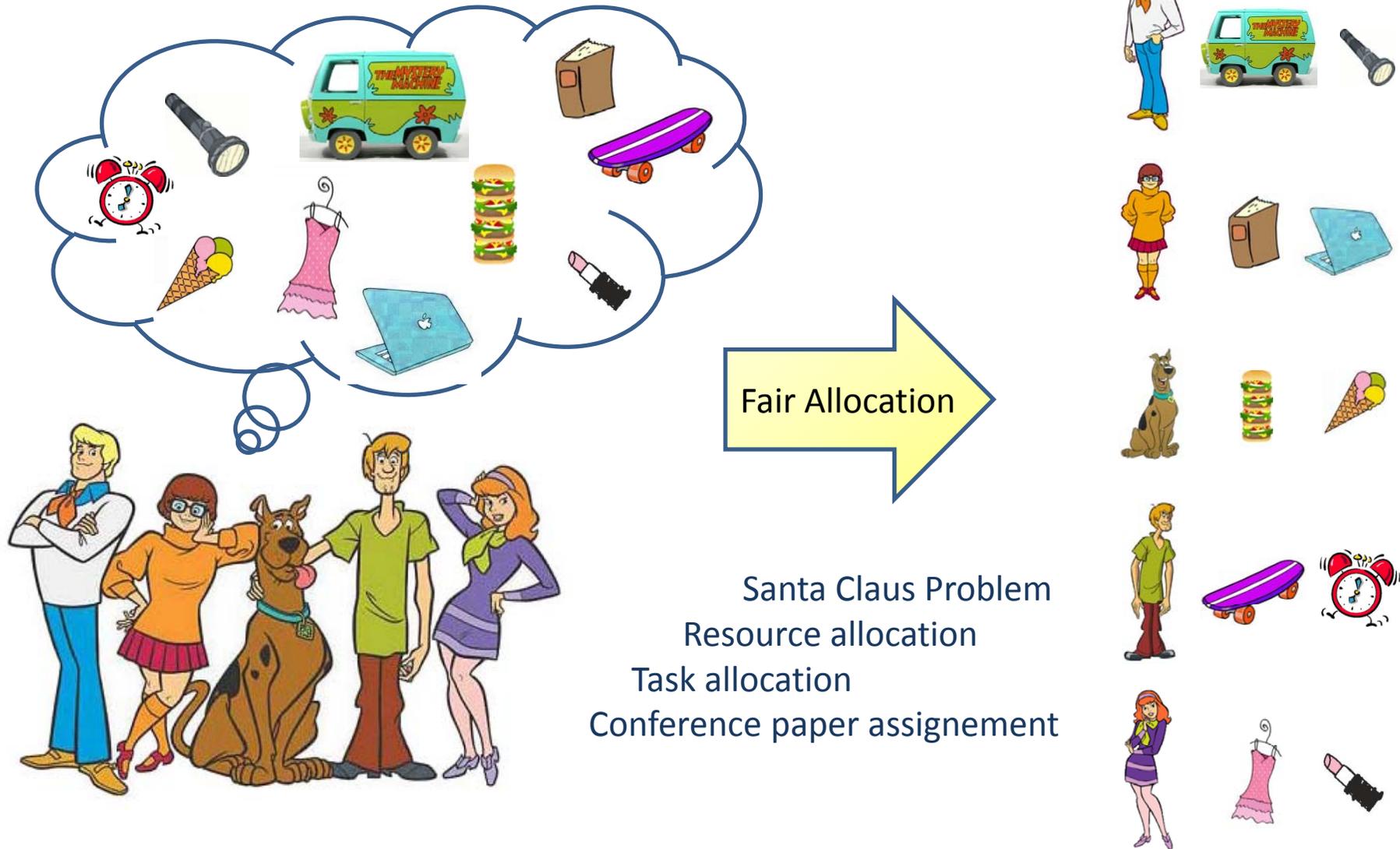


University of Paris 6  
France

[Patrice.Perny@lip6.fr](mailto:Patrice.Perny@lip6.fr)



# Multiagent Fair Allocation Problems



Santa Claus Problem  
Resource allocation  
Task allocation  
Conference paper assignment

# Additivity and communication costs

$$v(\text{Laptop } \text{Book}) = v(\text{Laptop}) + v(\text{Book})$$



8 4 5 1 9 2 7 10 3 6

3 9 5 8 2 10 6 1 4 7

CENTRAL  
AUTHORITY

2 6 3 8 10 4 7 9 5 1

2 4 6 10 5 9 1 3 7 8



10 2 5 3 7 1 6 8 4 9



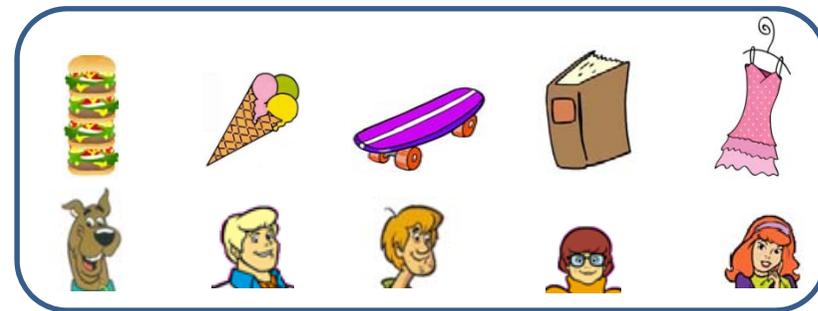
# Fairness in assignment problems

					
	5	8	(4)	9	7
	1	(3)	2	7	8
	(3)	9	2	9	5
	10	1	3	(3)	4
	5	1	7	7	(3)



1      1      2      3      7

$\Sigma=14$    max = 7

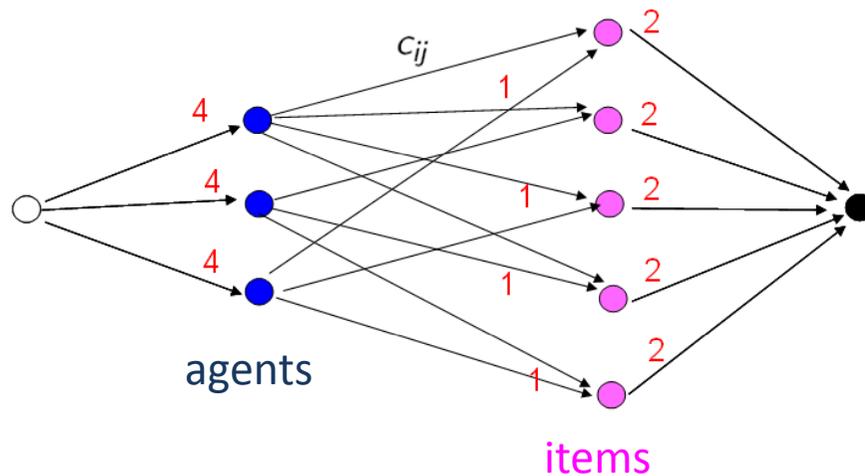


3      3      4      3      3

$\Sigma=16$    max = 4

# Modeling assignment problems

## Network Flow



## Linear Programming

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Min } & x_i = \sum_{j=1}^m c_{ij} z_{ij}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \\ \text{s.t. } & \begin{cases} l'_j \leq \sum_{i=1}^n z_{ij} \leq u'_j & j = 1, \dots, m \\ l_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^m z_{ij} \leq u_i & i = 1, \dots, n \\ z_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} & \forall i, \forall j \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Min Cost Max flow → does not guarantee that optimal solutions will be fair!

Minimax optimization → focuses on the least satisfied agent  $(9,9,9,9,9) < (10,1,1,1,1)$

Multiobjective optimization → too much Pareto-optimal solutions

What else? → Fairness in Social Choice

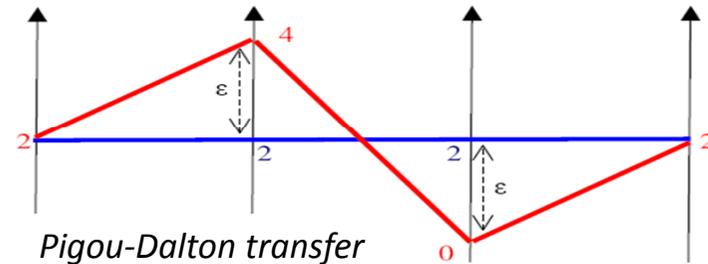
# Fairness and Lorenz Dominances

## Lorenz vector

For any cost vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ , we define :  
 $L(x) = (x_{(1)}, x_{(1)} + x_{(2)}, \dots, x_{(1)} + x_{(2)} + \dots + x_{(n)})$   
 where  $x_{(1)} \geq x_{(2)} \geq \dots \geq x_{(n)}$

## Generalized Lorenz Dominance [Shorrocks, 83]

$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}_+^n, x \prec_L y \iff L(x) \prec_P L(y)$



$(10, 10, 10) \prec_L (12, 9, 10)$  because  
 $(10, 20, 30) \prec_P (12, 22, 31)$

## Théorème [Hardy, Littlewood and Polya 29, Chong 76]

For all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ , if  $x \prec_P y$ , or if  $x$  obtains from  $y$  by a Pigou-Dalton transfer, then  $x \prec_L y$ . Conversely, if  $x \prec_L y$ , then there exists a sequence of admissible transfers and/or Pareto-improvements to transform  $y$  into  $x$ .

$\prec_L$  refines Pareto dominance

$\prec_L$  favours well-balanced solutions

$(10, 10, 10) \prec_L (12, 9, 10)$   
  
 $(11, 9, 10)$

## Problem

As for Pareto-optimal solutions, the number of Lorenz-optimal solutions grows (in worst case) exponentially with the size of the problem

# Refining Lorenz Dominance

I) Gini Social Evaluation Function [Gini 21, Weymark 81]

$$G(x) = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (2(n-i) + 1)x_{(i)} = \frac{2}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n L_i(x)$$

II)  $k$ -th order Lorenz Dominance :  $\prec_L^k$

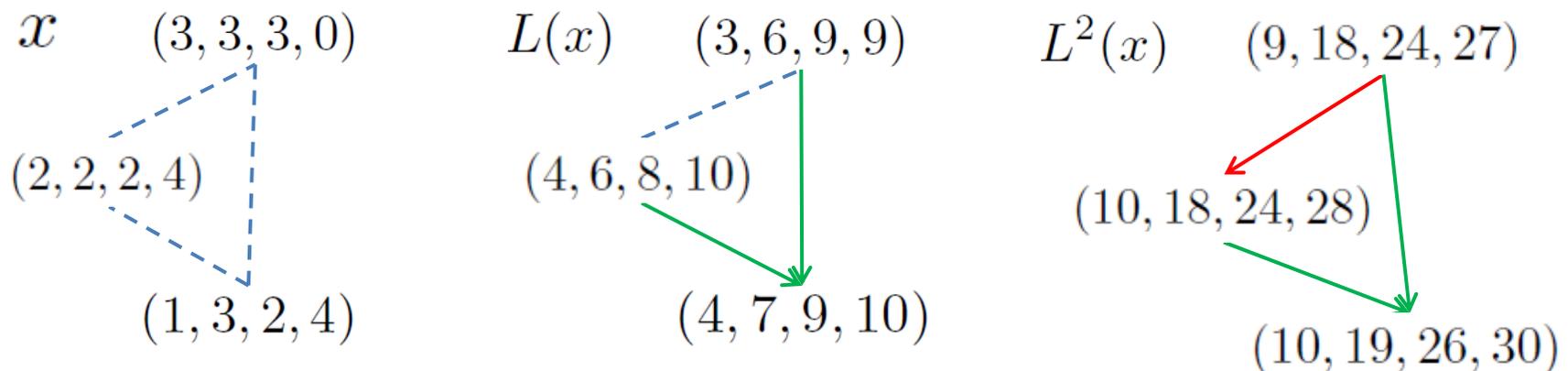
$$L^k(x) = \begin{cases} L(x) & \text{if } k = 1 \\ L(L^{k-1}(x)) & \text{if } k > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}_+^n, x \prec_L^k y \iff L^k(x) \prec_P L^k(y)$$

Infinite order

$$\prec_L^\infty = \bigcup_{k \geq 1} \prec_L^k$$

( $\prec_L^k \subseteq \prec_L^{k+1}$ , nested orders)



L-iteration mechanism

- i) Progressive refinements    ii) preserves Pigou-Dalton transfers    iii) Decisive?

# $\infty$ -order Lorenz Dominance

Convergence and decisiveness of the L-iteration mechanism?

A representation theorem for  $L^\infty$ -dominance

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}_+^n, x \prec_L^\infty y \iff W(x) < W(y)$$

$$\text{where } W(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n \sin\left(\frac{(n+1-k)\pi}{2n+1}\right) x_{(k)}$$

$W(x)$  is a **Generalized Gini Social Evaluation Function** (Weymark, 86)

Ordered average operation with *decreasing weights*

$W(x) = w' L(x)$  with positive coefficients

$W(x)$  is Schur convex (Transfer principle)

Fair Assignment  
problem

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Min } W(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n \sin\left(\frac{(n+1-k)\pi}{2n+1}\right) x_{(k)} \\ \text{s.t. } \begin{cases} x_i = \sum_{j=1}^m c_{ij} z_{ij} & i = 1, \dots, n \\ l'_j \leq \sum_{i=1}^n z_{ij} \leq u'_j & j = 1, \dots, m \\ l_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^m z_{ij} \leq u_i & i = 1, \dots, n \\ z_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} & \forall i, \forall j \end{cases} \end{array}$$

NP-Hard

Linear reformulation  
as a MIP

# A MIP formulation for fair optimization

$$y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \quad y(1) \geq y(2) \dots \geq y(n)$$

$$\text{OWA}(y) = \sum_{k=1}^n w_k y(k) = \sum_{k=1}^n w'_k L_k(y) \quad w' = (w_1 - w_2, \dots, w_{n-1} - w_n, w_n) > 0$$

$$L_k(y) = \begin{array}{ll} \text{Max } \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i^k y_i & \text{Min } kr_k + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i^k \\ \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i^k = k & r_k + b_i^k \geq y_i \\ 0 \leq \alpha_i^k \leq 1 \quad i = 1 \dots n & b_i^k \geq 0 \quad i = 1 \dots n \end{array} \quad \text{dual}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Min } \sum_{k=1}^p w'_k \left( kr_k + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i^k \right) \\ r_k + b_i^k \geq y_i \\ b_i^k \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Final MIP Formulation

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Min } \sum_{k=1}^n w'_k \left( k \times r_k + \sum_{i=1}^n b_{ik} \right) \\ \text{s.t. } \begin{cases} l_j \leq \sum_{i=1}^n z_{ij} \leq u_j & j = 1, \dots, m \\ l_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^m z_{ij} \leq u_i & i = 1, \dots, n \\ r_k + b_{ik} \geq \sum_{j=1}^m c_{ij} z_{ij} & \forall i, k = 1, \dots, n \\ b_{ik} \geq 0 & \forall i, k \\ z_{ij} \in \{0, 1\} & \forall i, \forall j \end{cases} \end{array}$$

# Numerical Tests

with CPLEX 11.1(times in s)

## Assignment 1

$n = m$

Scale = [1..1000]

$l_i = u_i = l'_i = u'_i = 1$

m	t
10	.01
20	.09
30	.33
40	1.52
50	5.14
60	16.1
70	34.0
80	81.8
90	136
100	275

## Assignment 2

$n = m$

Scale = [1..20]

$l_i = u_i = l'_i = u'_i = 1$

m	t
100	.93
200	3.65
300	17.4
400	52.8
500	104
600	161
700	390
800	482
900	843
1000	>1000

## Paper assignment

$n = m/4$

Scale = [1, 5]

$l_i = 0, u_i = 9 \quad l'_i = u'_i = 2$

m	t
200	3.51
300	5.63
400	13.9
500	35.7
600	79.4
700	148
800	303
900	478
1000	904
1100	>1000

$n$  : number of agents

$m$  : number of items