

# Markets, Algorithms, Incentives, and Networks

⊖ WS 2020/2021

**Overview Meeting (Vorbesprechung)**

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# Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Let you know more about the **format of the seminar**
- Introduce you to the **topics and material**
- Tell you about the **application process**



# Suitability / Requirements

- This is a **bachelor's level** seminar
- ... that is open for master students as well.
- Suitable for students from
  - ▶ Computer science
  - ▶ Mathematics
  - ▶ Business Administration
  - ▶ ...
- Requirements
  - ▶ no formal requirements
  - ▶ interest in reasoning with mathematical rigor



# Tentative Dates

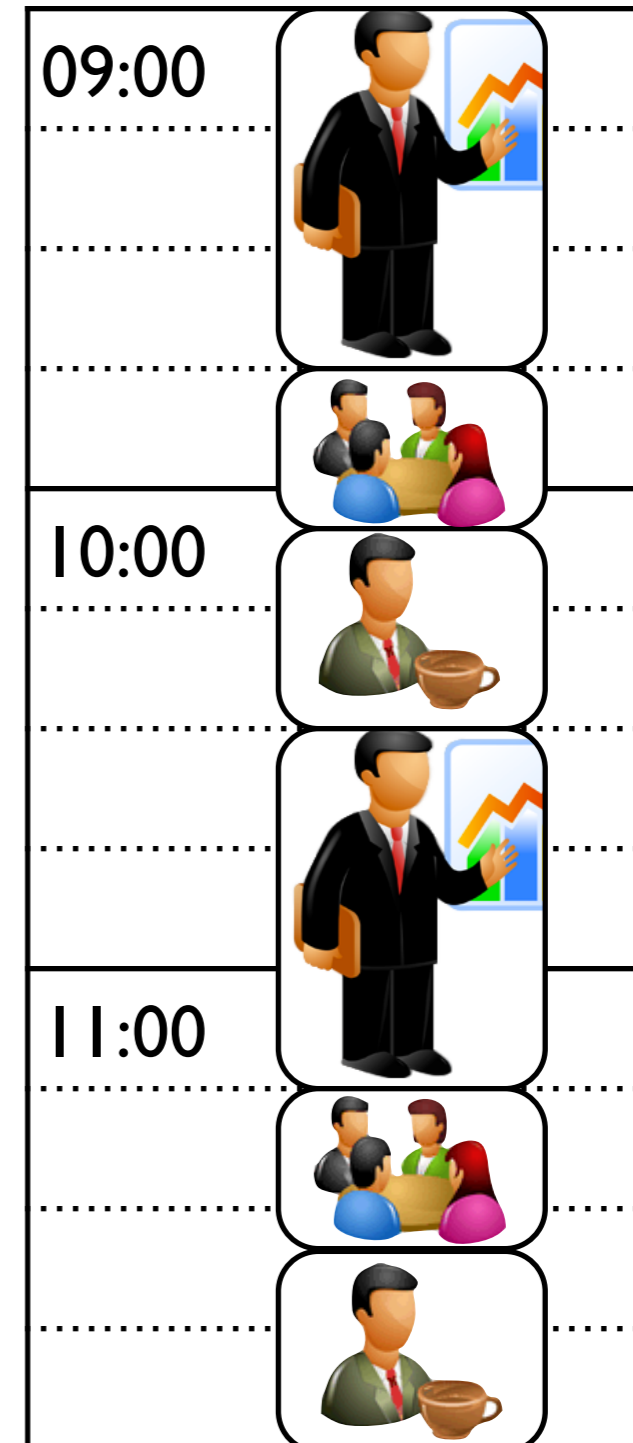
Date	Time	Content	Room
July 20 ✓	14:00 - 15:00	(information)	BBB

Date	Time	Content	Room
October	14:00 - 15:30	(kick off)	?
November	09:00 - 16:30	Presentations	?
December	09:00 - 16:30	Presentations	?



# Rough Schedule

- Two to three morning presentations
- Two to three afternoon presentations
- Presentation:
  - ▶ Talk (at least 30 up to 45 min)
  - ▶ Feedback & Discussions (20 to 25 min)
  - ▶ Break (15 min)



...



# In order to pass you need to ...

- As a regular attendant
  - ▶ attend **all meetings**
  - ▶ read the **handouts** of your peers
  - ▶ prepare **questions**
  - ▶ participate in **discussions**
- As a speaker
  - ▶ prepare a **handout** for your talk (~4 pages)
  - ▶ give a **good talk**
- As a session chair
  - ▶ **consolidate** and **structure** questions (if necessary)
  - ▶ **introduce** the speaker
  - ▶ **moderate** the discussion



# Content

- Based on the books *Economics and Computation* by David C. Parkes and Sven Seuken and the *Handbook of Computational Social Choice*
- “[...] motivated by the consideration of economic incentives within computational systems and by computational considerations in economic systems.”
- 1) Games (Chapters 2, 4)  
2) Auctions (Chapters 6, 7, 8, 11)  
3) Markets (Chapters 12, H11, H12, H13)  
4) Welfare (Chapters 15, 27)  
5) Information (Chapters H18, 29)  
6) Networks (Chapters 24, 25)

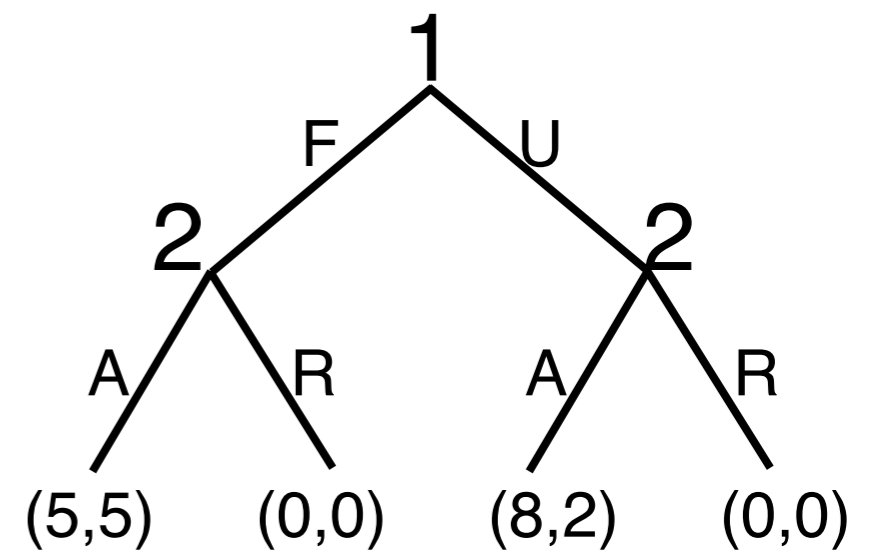


# Games

		P <sub>2</sub>	
		C	D
P <sub>1</sub>	C	(3,3)	(1,4)
	D	(4,1)	(2,2)

- Players have various actions at their disposal
- Every possible outcome is assigned a utility value
- Goal: Examine strategic behavior

- **Chapters**
  - 2) Simultaneous-Move Games
  - 4) Sequential-Move Games







# Auctions

- Different flavors, different solutions:
  - ▶ Single-item: English Auction, Dutch Auction, First Price, Second Price
  - ▶ Combinatorial Auctions
- Issues include the following:
  - ▶ Which protocol is better for the auctioneer?
  - ▶ Lying, cheating and strategic issues in auctions
- **Chapters**
  - 6) Auction Design
  - 7) Mechanism Design
  - 9) Revenue Optimal Auctions
  - 11) Combinatorial Auctions





# Markets

- A market contains different groups of agents (e.g. buyers-sellers, issuers-clients, men-women, students-houses, ...)
- Goal: Match agents subject to additional considerations:
  - ▶ Maximize revenue
  - ▶ Ensure satisfaction/stability
  - ▶ Maximize trust

- **Chapters**

12) Matching Markets

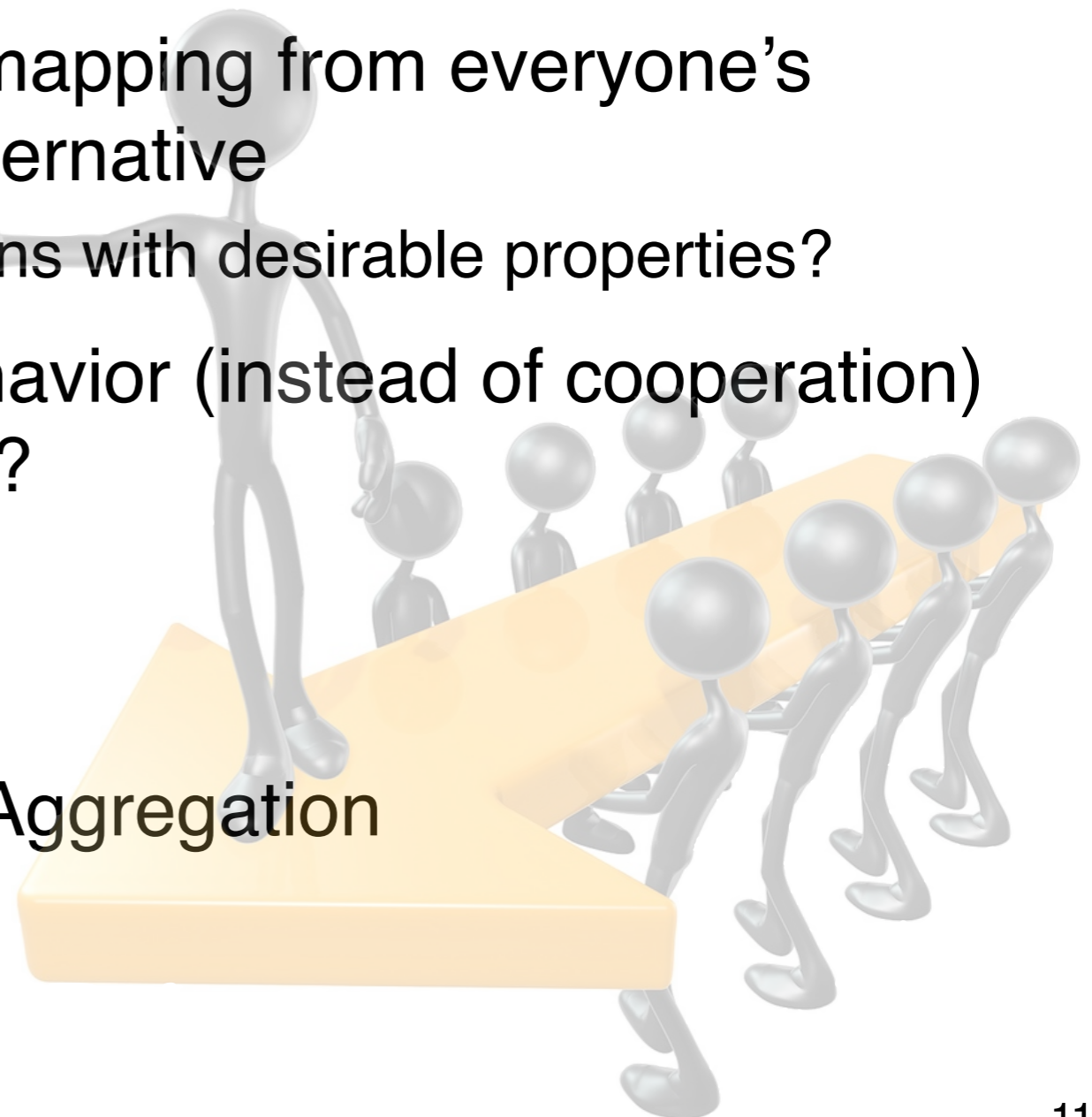
H11) - H13) Fair Allocation





# Welfare

- Agents have preferences over alternatives
- A social choice function is a mapping from everyone's preferences to a particular alternative
  - Goal: How to pick such functions with desirable properties?
- What effects does selfish behavior (instead of cooperation) have on the society's welfare?
- **Chapters**
  - 15) Social Choice and Rank Aggregation
  - 26) Price of Anarchy





# Information

- Designing a reward scheme that incentivizes people to provide high quality information
  - ▶ Assess the accuracy of Google translate and measure the quality of the assessment
- Releasing useful information without causing individual harm
  - ▶ Gain societal value from data, while learning little about an individual

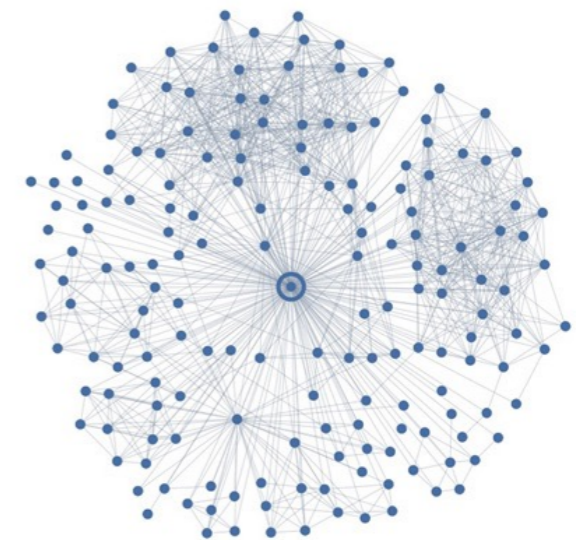
- **Chapters**  
H18) Page Rank  
29) Privacy





# Networks

- Understand networks from the perspective of economics and computer science
- Analyze structural regularities in real-world networks
  - ▶ Small-world property
  - ▶ High edge-clustering
- Information propagation over networks
- **Chapters**
  - 24) Network-Formation Games
  - 25) Games on Networks





# Where to get the EC book?

- **Caution:** the guest key will not be published on the course homepage

<http://go.tum.de/612829>



- ▶ Guest key: provided in overview meeting  
write us an email in case you need it
- Do not distribute, only for use in this seminar!



# Registration

- Send an email to [martin.bullinger@tum.de](mailto:martin.bullinger@tum.de) with:
  - ▶ subject: 'MAIN: <your name>',
  - ▶ background: program, semester, relevant lectures you had,
  - ▶ your three most preferred topics (chapters) (1. ..., 2. ..., 3. ...),
  - ▶ a short summary of **each** of your selected topics (up to ~200 words in total).
- **Deadline:** Sunday, July 19, 23:59 pm
- For CS students: Use the [matching system](#) to rank the seminar between July 16 and July 21
  - ▶ You can check whether you were assigned to this seminar by July 30
- [Seminar homepage](#)



See you in October!