# Bid Determination in Simultaneous Auctions Lessons from TAC Travel

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## ebay Auctions

#### Simultaneous Auctions

#### **Combinatorial Valuations**

- Complementary Goods
  - $v(A) + v(B) \le v(A \cup B)$
  - camera, flash, and tripod
- Substitutable Goods
  - $v(A) + v(B) \ge v(A \cup B)$
  - Canon AE-1 and Canon A-1

## Overview

- I. TAC Travel
  - (a) Simultaneous Auctions
  - (b) Combinatorial Valuations
- II. Bid Determination Problems
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  - (b) Acquisition
  - (c) Completion
- **III.** Bidding Heuristics
  - (a) Independent Valuations
  - (b) Marginal Valuations
  - (c) Marginal Utilities
- IV. Trading Agent Architectures
  - (a) Price Prediction & Optimization
  - (b) Deterministic & Stochastic Variants

# I. TAC Travel

### An Example

- Simultaneous Auctions
- Combinatorial Valuations

Complementary and Substitutable Goods

- Flights: Inbound and Outbound
- Hotels: Grand Hotel and Le FleaBag Inn
- Entertainment: Red Sox, Symphony, Theatre

#### Simultaneous Auctions

- Flights: infinite supply, prices follow random walk, clear continuously, no resale permitted
- Hotels: ascending, multi-unit, 16th price auctions, random auction closes each minute, no resale permitted
- Entertainment: continuous double auctions, initial endowment, resale is permitted

### Feasible Packages

- arrival date prior to departure date
- $\circ~$  same hotel on all intermediate nights
- $\circ\,$  at most one entertainment event per night
- $\circ\,$  at most one of each type of entertainment

### **Client Preferences**

Client	IAD	IDD	ΗV	R	S	Т
1	1	3	99	134	118	65
2	1	4	131	170	47	49
3	1	2	147	13	55	49
4	3	4	145	130	60	85
5	1	4	82	136	68	87
6	2	4	53	94	51	105
7	1	3	54	156	126	71
8	1	5	113	119	187	143

Valuation = 1000 - travelPenalty + hotelBonus + funBonus

travelPenalty = 100(|IAD - AD| + |IDD - DD|)hotelBonus =  $\begin{cases} HV & \text{if } H = G \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ 

funBonus = entertainment values

# TAC 2000

#### Allocation

Client	AD	DD	Н	Ticket	Valuation
1	1	3	G	S1, R2	1351
2	1	3	G	R1	1201
3	1	2	G		1147
4	3	4	G	R3	1275
5	1	3	F	R1, T2	1123
6	3	4	G	Т3	1058
7	1	3	F	S1, R2	1282
8	1	5	G	T1, S3, R4	1562

Score = Valuation - Cost + Revenue

# II. Bid Determination Problems

## Definitions

- $\circ$  Allocation
- $\circ$  Acquisition
- $\circ$  Completion

#### Theorem

Completion  $\preceq$  Acquisition  $\Rightarrow$  Completion  $\simeq$  Acquisition

# Bid Determination Problems

#### Allocation

 given only the set of goods I already hold, how can I allocate those goods to packages so as to maximize my valuation?

#### Acquisition

 given ask prices in all open auctions, on what set of additional goods should I bid so as to maximize my valuation less procurement costs, subject to the constraint that I can only allocate goods that I buy?

#### Completion

 given ask and bid prices in all open auctions, on what set of additional goods should I place bids or asks so as to maximize my valuation less procurement costs plus sales revenues, subject to the constraint that I can only allocate or sell goods that I buy?

# Winner Determination Problems

### **Combinatorial Auctions**

- $\circ$  WDP  $\cong$  Allocation
- ∘ WDR  $\cong$  Acquisition

### Combinatorial Exchanges

 $\circ$  WDP  $\succeq$  Completion

## Allocation

An agent owns  $n_i$  copies of good i

An agent has valuations of the form  $\langle \vec{q_b}, v_b \rangle$ , where

- $\circ \ ec{q_b}$  denotes a package and  $q_{bi} \in \mathbb{N}$  is the quantity of good i in this package
- $\circ \ v_b \in \mathbb{R}^+$  is the bidder's valuation of this package: the price at below which the bidder is willing to buy this package

$$\max_{\vec{x}} \sum_{b} v_b x_b \tag{1}$$

subject to 
$$\sum_{b} q_{bi} x_b \le n_i \quad \forall i$$
 (2)  
 $x_b \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall b$  (3)

(4)

# Acquisition

### **Buyer Pricelines**

• 
$$\vec{p}_{\hat{i}} = \langle 0, 0, 0, 0, 25, 40, 65, 100, \infty, \infty, \ldots \rangle$$
  
•  $\vec{p}_{\hat{i}} = \langle -2, -1, 25, 40, 65, 100, \infty, \infty, \ldots \rangle$ 

$$\max_{\vec{x},\vec{y}} \sum_{b} v_b x_b - \sum_{i} \sum_{j=1}^{y_i} p_{ij}$$
(5)

subject to 
$$\sum_{b} q_{bi} x_b \leq y_i \quad \forall i$$
 (6)  
 $x_b \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall b$  (7)

 $y_i \in \mathbb{N} \quad \forall i$ 

(8)

# Completion

#### Seller Pricelines

• 
$$\vec{\pi}_{\hat{i}} = \langle 20, 15, 10, 5, 0, 0, ... \rangle$$
  
•  $\vec{\pi}_{\hat{i}} = \langle 3, 1, -2, -4, -\infty, -\infty, ... \rangle$ 

$$\max_{\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z}} \sum_{b} v_b x_b - \sum_{i} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{y_i} p_{ij} - \sum_{j=1}^{z_i} \pi_{ij} \right)$$
(9)

subject to 
$$\sum_{b} q_{bi} x_b \leq y_i - z_i \quad \forall i$$
 (10)

$$x_b \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall b \tag{11}$$

$$y_i, z_i \in \mathbb{N} \quad \forall i$$
 (12)

## Reduction Technique



# Completion $\leq$ Acquisition

### **Obvious Reduction**

- fold seller pricelines into "bids" via singleton packages
- problem size increases

#### Not-so-Obvious Reduction

- fold seller pricelines into buyer pricelines
- problem size decreases

Sandholm, et al. 02: WDP in CE is harder than WDP and WDR in CA Corollary: Completion is no harder than WDR in CA (i.e., Acquisition)

## Notation

G is a set of types of good on the market  $N \in \mathbb{N}^{|G|}$  is a multiset on G with  $N = \langle N_1, \dots, N_{|G|} \rangle$ package M is a submultiset of N: i.e.,  $M_g \leq N_g$  for all  $g \in G$  $X \subseteq Q \subseteq \prod_{g \in G} \mathbb{N}_g \times \mathbb{R}$  is a set of package-value pairs

$$X_g = \sum_{\langle M, v \rangle \in X} M_g \tag{13}$$

$$Valuation(X) = \sum_{\langle M, v \rangle \in X} v$$
(14)

$$\operatorname{Cost}(Y,P) = \sum_{g \in G} \sum_{n=1}^{Y_g} p_{gn}$$
(15)

Revenue
$$(Z, \Pi) = \sum_{g \in G} \sum_{n=1}^{Z_g} \pi_{gn}$$
 (16)

## Definitions

Objective Function:

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathsf{Acquisition}(Q,P) = \max_{X \subseteq Q, Y \subseteq N} (\mathsf{Valuation}(X) - \mathsf{Cost}(Y,P)) \end{aligned} \tag{17} \\ &\mathsf{Constraints:} \ X_g \leq Y_g, \ \forall g \end{aligned}$$

Objective Function:

 $Completion(Q, P, \Pi) = \max_{X \subseteq Q, Y, Z \subseteq N} (Valuation(X) - Cost(Y, P) + Revenue(Z, \Pi))$ (18)

Constraints:  $X_g \leq Y_g - Z_g, \ \forall g$ 

# **Obvious Reduction**

$$(Q, P, \Pi) \longrightarrow (Q, P)$$
  

$$\circ \Pi' = \{ \langle e_g, \pi_{gn} \rangle \mid \forall g \in G, 1 \le n \le N_g \}$$
  

$$\circ Q' = Q \cup \Pi' \text{ and } P' = P$$

$$h(X', Y') = (X, Y, Z)$$
  

$$\circ X = X' \cap Q \text{ and } Y = Y'$$

• 
$$Z_g = (X' \cap \Pi')_g$$
, for all  $g \in G$ 

#### Theorem

# Arbitrage

Objective Function:

Arbitrage
$$(P, \Pi) = \max_{Y, Z \subseteq N} (\text{Revenue}(Z, \Pi) - \text{Cost}(Y, P))$$
 (19)  
Constraints:  $Z_g \leq Y_g, \forall g$ 

#### Lemma

If  $A\subseteq N$  is the multiset of arbitrage opportunities, then

$$\forall P, \Pi \quad \text{Arbitrage}(P, \Pi) = \sum_{g \in G} \sum_{n=1}^{A_g} (\pi_{gn} - p_{gn})$$
 (20)

## Not-so-Obvious Reduction

- $(Q, P, \Pi) \longrightarrow (Q', P)$ 
  - $\circ \ q_{gn} = \max\{\pi_{gn}, p_{gn}\}$
  - $\circ \vec{p}'_g = \operatorname{sort}(\vec{q}_g)$
- h(X',Y') = (X',Y,Z)
  - $\circ \ \text{ for all } g \in G$ 
    - $gn \in Y$  iff  $gn \in A \cup Y'$
    - $gn \in Z$  iff  $gn \in A \setminus Y'$

#### Theorem

- ∘ f'(i(X,Y,Z),P') + Arbitrage $(P,\Pi) \ge f(X,Y,Z,P,\Pi), \forall X \subseteq Q, Y, Z \subseteq N$
- ∘  $f(h(X',Y'),P,\Pi) = f'(X',Y',P') + \text{Arbitrage}(P,\Pi), \forall X' \subseteq Q',Y' \subseteq N$

# **Bid Determination Problems**

### Definitions

- $\circ~\mbox{Allocation}$
- $\circ$  Acquisition
- $\circ$  Completion

#### Theorem

Completion  $\preceq$  Acquisition  $\Rightarrow$  Completion  $\simeq$  Acquisition

# **III.** Bidding Heuristics

### Definitions

- $\circ~$  Independent Valuations
- Marginal Valuations
- Marginal Utilities

#### Theorem

RoxyBot's heuristic is optimal, assuming perfect price prediction

# Environments

#### Auctions

- $\circ$  simultaneous
  - sealed-bid
  - ascending
- $\circ$  second-price
  - payment rule: pay the clearing price
  - winner determination rule: win by bidding at least the clearing price

## 1st Bidding Heuristic

Independent Valuation (IV) given a set of goods Xgiven a valuation function  $v : 2^X \to \mathbb{R}$ for all  $x \in X$ ,

$$\iota(x) = v(\{x\}) \tag{21}$$

• For each good x, bid (up to) its independent valuation  $\iota(x)$ 

# Heuristic IV

Complementary Goods

v(camera + flash) = 500v(camera) = v(flash) = 1

IV: Bid 1 on camera; Bid 1 on flash

p(camera) = 200p(flash) = 100

Agent loses both goods, but wishes it had won both (since 500 > 300)

Heuristic IV

Substitutable Goods

v(Canon) = 300v(Olympus) = 200v(Canon + Olympus) = 400

IV: Bid 300 on Canon; Bid 200 on Olympus

p(Canon) = 275p(Olympus) = 175

Agent wins both goods, but wishes it had lost either (since 400 < 450)

## 2nd Bidding Heuristic

Marginal Valuation (MV) given a set of goods Xgiven a valuation function  $v : 2^X \to \mathbb{R}$ for all  $x \in X$ ,

$$\nu(x) = \max_{Y \subseteq X} v(Y) - \max_{Y \subseteq X \setminus \{x\}} v(Y)$$
(22)

• For each good x, bid (up to) its marginal valuation  $\nu(x)$ 

## Heuristic MV

Complementary Goods

v(camera + flash) = 500v(camera) = v(flash) = 1

MV: Bid 499 on camera; Bid 499 on flash

p(camera) = 500p(flash) = 400

Agent wins one good, but wishes it had won neither (since 1 < 400)

Heuristic MV

Substitutable Goods

v(Canon) = 300v(Olympus) = 200v(Canon + Olympus) = 400

MV: Bid 200 on Canon; Bid 100 on Olympus

p(Canon) = 275p(Olympus) = 175

Agent loses both goods, but wishes it had won either (since 300 > 275 and 200 > 175)

# Summary of Bidding Heuristics

	Complements	Substitutes
IV	Wins too few goods	Wins too many goods
MV	Wins too many goods	Wins too few goods

Exposure Problem for Complements: Agent bids more on an individual good than its independent valuation of that good [e.g., Milgrom 2000]

Exposure Problem for Substitutes: Agent bids more on a set of goods than its combinatorial valuation of that set of goods

## 3rd Bidding Heuristic

for all Y

Marginal Utility (MU) given a set of goods Xgiven a valuation function  $v : 2^X \to \mathbb{R}$ given a pricing mechanism  $p : X \to \mathbb{R}$ for all  $x \in X$ ,

$$\mu(x) = \left(\max_{Y \subseteq X} v(Y) - p(Y \setminus \{x\})\right) - \left(\max_{Y \subseteq X \setminus \{x\}} v(Y) - p(Y)\right)$$
(23)  
$$\subseteq X,$$

$$p(Y) = \sum_{y \in Y} p(y)$$
(24)

 $\circ$  For each good x, bid (up to) its marginal utility  $\mu(x)$ 

# Environments

#### Auctions

- $\circ$  simultaneous
  - sealed-bid: predict clearing prices
  - ascending: assume clearing prices = current prices
- $\circ$  second-price
  - payment rule: pay the clearing price
  - winner determination rule: win by bidding at least the clearing price

# Environments

#### Auctions

- $\circ$  simultaneous
  - sealed-bid: predict clearing prices
  - ascending: predict clearing prices
- $\circ$  second-price
  - payment rule: pay the clearing price
  - winner determination rule: win by bidding at least the clearing price

## Heuristic MU\*

#### Substitutable Goods

N > 1 goods up for auction, simultaneously value of one or more goods is 2 price of each good is 1

MU: Bid 1 on each good

Agent wins all the goods, but wishes it had won only one (2 - N < 1 since N > 1)

# Heuristic MU\*

#### Theorem

If  $A^* \subseteq X$  is an optimal solution to the acquisition problem  $\alpha(X, v, p)$ , then  $\mu(x) \ge p(x)$  if and only if  $x \in A^*$ .

#### Corollary

If  $A^* \subseteq X$  is the unique solution to the acquisition problem  $\alpha(X, v, p)$ , then the following bidding heuristic is optimal: bid (up to) q(x), where  $q(x) \ge p(x)$ , for all  $x \in A^*$ . In particular, the bidding heuristic MU\* is optimal.

# 4th Bidding Heuristic

### RoxyBot 2000

- 1. predict clearing prices
- 2a. solve completion (as acquisition)
- 2b. bid marginal utilities on goods in completion

#### Theorem

RoxyBot's heuristic is optimal, assuming perfect price prediction

# **Examples Revisited**

Complementary Goods

v(camera + flash) = 500v(camera) = v(flash) = 1

p(camera) = 200p(flash) = 100

Bid to win camera and flash

p(camera) = 500p(flash) = 400

Bid to lose camera and flash

**Examples Revisited** 

Substitutable Goods

v(Canon) = 300v(Olympus) = 200v(Canon + Olympus) = 400

p(Canon) = 275p(Olympus) = 175

Bid to win Canon or Olympus

# Summary of Bidding Heuristics

	Complements	Substitutes
IV	Wins too few goods	Wins too many goods
MV	Wins too many goods	Wins too few goods
MU*	Optimal Bidding	Win too many goods
Roxy*	Optimal Bidding	Optimal Bidding

Exposure Problem for Complements: Agent bids more on an individual good than its independent valuation of that good [e.g., Milgrom 2000]

Exposure Problem for Substitutes: Agent bids more on a set of goods than its combinatorial valuation of that set of goods

# IV. Trading Agents

#### Architecture

- 1. Price Prediction
- 2. Optimization

### Variants

- $\circ$  Deterministic
- $\circ$  Stochastic

# Trading Agent Architecture: Deterministic

### REPEAT

- 0. Update current prices and holdings for each auction.
- 1. Estimate prices, in the form of supply and demand curves, for each good.
- 2a. Determine supply and demand sets: i.e., # of each good to buy and sell.
- 2b. Bid marginal utilities strategically, given the auction designs.

#### FOREVER

# Trading Agent Architecture: Stochastic

### REPEAT

- 0. Update current prices and holdings for each auction.
- 1. Estimate distributions of auction prices.
- 2. Calculate optimal bids.

## FOREVER

## Example

v(camera + flash) = 750v(camera) = v(flash) = 0

p(camera) = 500, with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ p(camera) = 1000, with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ p(flash) = 50, with probability 1

Policy A: (500, 50) is optimal, with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ Policy B: (0,0) is optimal, with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

Value(A) = 
$$\frac{1}{2}(200) + \frac{1}{2}(-50) = 75$$
  
Value(B) = 0

## Expected Value Method

v(camera + flash) = 750v(camera) = v(flash) = 0

p(camera) = 750, with probability 1 p(flash) = 50, with probability 1

Policy B: (0,0) is optimal Value(B) = 0

Value of Stochastic Information = 75

## Stage 2: Allocation

 $v_i$ : value of package i

 $b_{jk} \in \mathbb{R}_+$ : bid on copy k of good j

 $p_{jk} \in \mathbb{R}_+$ : price of the *k*th copy of good *j* 

 $n_{ij} \in \mathbb{N}$ : number of copies of good j in package i

binary decision variables  $a_{ijk} \in \{0, 1\}$ : is copy k of good j is allocated to i?

$$\pi(\vec{a},\vec{b},\vec{p},\vec{v}) = \sum_{i} v_i \left( \prod_{j \in i} \mathbb{1} \left[ n_{ij} \le \sum_k a_{ijk} \mathbb{1}[p_{jk} \le b_{jk}] \right] \right) - \sum_{jk} p_{jk} (\mathbb{1}[p_{jk} \le b_{jk}])$$
(25)

$$\max_{\vec{a}} \pi(\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{p}, \vec{v})$$
(26)

subject to: 
$$\sum_{i} a_{ijk} \leq 1, \quad \forall j,k$$
 (27)

$$a_{ijk} \in \{0,1\}, \quad \forall i,j,k$$
 (28)

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## Stage 1: Bidding

 $f(\vec{p})$ : joint probability distribution over prices  $\vec{p}$ 

continuous decision variables  $b_{jk} \in \mathbb{R}_+$ : bid for copy k of good j binary decision variables  $a_{ijk} \in \{0, 1\}$ : is copy k of good j is allocated to i?

$$\max_{\vec{b}} \int_{\vec{p}} \max_{\vec{a}} \pi(\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{p}, \vec{v}) f(\vec{p}) d\vec{p}$$
(29)

subject to: 
$$\sum_{i} a_{ijk} \leq 1, \quad \forall j,k$$
 (30)

$$a_{ijk} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall i, j, k \tag{31}$$

$$b_{jk} \in \mathbb{R}_+, \quad \forall j,k$$
 (32)

# TAC Travel Offline Experimental Setup

#### **Price Prediction**

- Competitive Equilibrium Prices
  - Walverine: Tatonnement [Cheng, et al. 04]
  - Simultaneous Ascending Auction [Milgrom 00]

#### Optimization

- Sample Average Approximation [Kleywegt, et al. 01]
  - E: evaluations; S: scenarios; P: policies
- Expected Value Method
  - Marginal Utility Bidding [UAI 04]
  - RoxyBot 2000: Completion + MU [EC 01]
- ATTac 2001: Average Marginal Utility Bidding [Stone, et al. 01]

# TAC Travel Offline Experimental Results

Time	Reward	E	S	Ρ
$\begin{array}{c} 1.47\\ 1.48\\ 1.48\\ 1.49\\ 2.45\\ 2.45\\ 2.45\\ 3.38\\ 3.89\\ 4.12\\ 4.16\\ 8.43\\ 10.55\\ 16.75\\ 17.95\\ 18.09\\ 18.12\\ 33.50\\ 38.52\\ 41.26\\ 82.20\\ 84.81\\ 85.99\\ 88.81\\ 115.27\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 3318\\ 3456\\ 3502\\ 3548\\ 3550\\ 3577\\ 3695\\ 3705\\ 3912\\ 3947\\ 3967\\ 4014\\ 4043\\ 4045\\ 4064\\ 4065\\ 4064\\ 4065\\ 4077\\ 4099\\ 4132\\ 4134\\ 4136\\ 4141\\ 4142\\ 4146\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 64\\ 128\\ 2\\ 16\\ 32\\ 2\\ 4\\ 128\\ 32\\ 2\\ 8\\ 32\\ 64\\ 1\\ 32\\ 64\\ 1\\ 32\\ 16\\ 32\\ 16\\ 32\\ 16\\ 32\\ 128\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c}1\\1\\1\\4\\4\\1\\8\\8\\3\\3\\2\\8\\3\\4\\6\\4\\6\\4\\6\\4\\6\\4\\6\\4\\6\\4\end{array}$	$1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ $

TAC Travel Bidding Problem

# TAC Travel Offline Experimental Results

Time	Reward	E	S	Ρ
1.47 1.48 1.49 2.45 2.45 3.38 3.89 4.12 4.16 8.43 10.55 16.75 17.95 18.09 18.12 33.50 38.52 41.26 82.20 84.81 85.99 88.81 115.27	$\begin{array}{c} 3318\\ 3456\\ 3502\\ 3548\\ 3550\\ 3577\\ 3695\\ 3705\\ 3912\\ 3947\\ 3967\\ 4014\\ 4043\\ 4043\\ 4045\\ 4064\\ 4065\\ 4077\\ 4099\\ 4132\\ 4134\\ 4136\\ 4141\\ 4142\\ 4146\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 64\\ 128\\ 2\\ 16\\ 32\\ 2\\ 4\\ 128\\ 32\\ 2\\ 8\\ 32\\ 64\\ 1\\ 32\\ 64\\ 1\\ 32\\ 16\\ 32\\ 16\\ 32\\ 16\\ 32\\ 128\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c}1\\1\\1\\4\\4\\1\\8\\8\\32\\32\\8\\32\\6\\4\\64\\64\\64\\64\end{array}$	$1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ $

TAC Travel Bidding Problem

Time	Lower	Upper	E	S	Ρ
0.03	468310	754507	10	1	1
0.04	517559	688963	10	2	1
0.07	535059	657833	10	3	1
0.11	548218	647722	10	4	1
0.29	550930	639010	10	5	1
0.38	554046	637546	100	5	1
0.40	559796	630666	10	6	1
0.56	561418	628053	100	6	1
1.31	562798	624235	100	7	1
1.36	567807	661136	100	3	8
1.58	575676	647877	100	4	7
2.84	577965	646174	100	4	13
3.06	579369	638006	100	5	9
4.13	581433	636296	100	5	13
5.47	582306	629457	100	6	9
5.65	582504	635982	100	5	17
7.30	583621	637376	100	5	21
8.50	583998	630956	100	6	13
9.44	584043	646170	100	4	43
10.00	584287	636188	100	5	29
10.92	585094	645841	100	4	49
12.63	585543	636626	100	5	37

TAC SCM Scheduling Problem

# TAC Travel Offline Experimental Results



# TAC Travel Experimental Results

Teams	Me	ans	<i>z</i> -test	Wilcoxon	Games
Average MU < MU	964	1908	.999	.999	25
MU < RoxyBot 2000	1508	1612	.793	.803	75
RoxyBot 2000 < RoxyBot 2002	1837	2031	.977	.996	50
Average MU < RoxyBot 2000	1334	2034	.999	.999	25
MU < RoxyBot 2002	1705	1987	.976	.993	50
Average MU < RoxyBot 2002	915	1920	.999	.999	25

# Trading Agent Architecture

## REPEAT

1. Price Prediction

#### 2. Optimization

- (a) Deterministic: Completion Problem + MU
- (b) Stochastic: Bidding Problem

### FOREVER

# Summary

## Theory Completion $\leq$ Acquisition $\Rightarrow$ Completion $\simeq$ Acquisition RoxyBot's heuristic is optimal, assuming perfect price prediction

Experiments Stochastic ≫ Deterministic

# **Future Directions**

Optimal	Simultaneous	Sequential
Deterministic	Roxy	MU
Stochastic	SP	DP

Heuristics	Simultaneous	Sequential
Deterministic	Roxy	MU
Stochastic	SAA	Average MU

Given this set of bidders, what is the preferred auction design?

- $\circ~$  from the point of view of the auctioneer
- $\circ~$  from the point of view of the bidders

## Thank You!

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http://www.sics.se/tac