

# Non-Standard Models for Participatory Budgeting

Simon Rey

November 25, 2021

# 1. Introduction



# Participatory Budgeting

© Marianne de Heer Kloots



1000€



2000€



2500€



2500€



5000€



: 7000€

# Participatory Budgeting

© Marianne de Heer Kloots



1000€



2000€



2500€



2500€













5000€



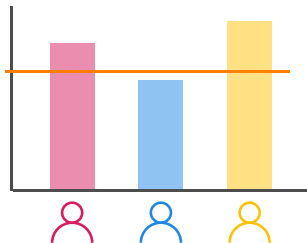
: 7000€

# Standard Model of Participatory Budgeting

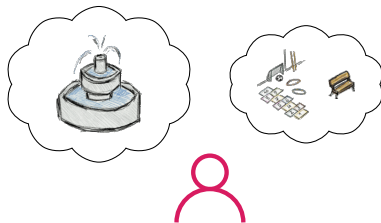
7000€ 	 1000€	 2000€	 2500€	 2500€	 5000€
	✓✓✓	✗✗✗	✗✗✗	✗✗✗	✓✓✓
	✗✗	✓✓	✓✓	✗✗	✗✗
	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗

# Participatory Budgeting in the ComSoC Literature

## Axiomatic Analysis



## Incentive Compatibility



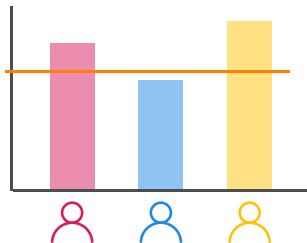
## Algorithmic Perspective

7000€	1000€	2000€	2500€	2500€	5000€
	✓✓	XXX	XXX	XXX	✓✓
	XX	✓✓	✓✓	XX	XX
	X	X	X	X	✓
	✓	X	X	✓	X

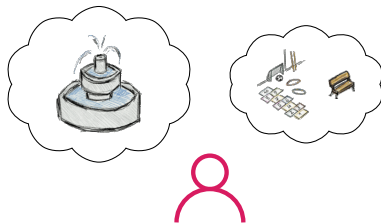


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✓✓✓	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	✓✓✓
✓✓	XX	✓✓	✓✓	XX	XX
X	X	X	X	X	✓
✓	X	X	X	✓	X



↳ But mainly for the standard model of participatory budgeting

# Sometimes Additional Constraints Are Added

## Qu'est-ce que la bonification des projets « quartiers populaires » ?

Certains projets sont estampillés « quartiers populaires ».



© Budget Participatif Paris

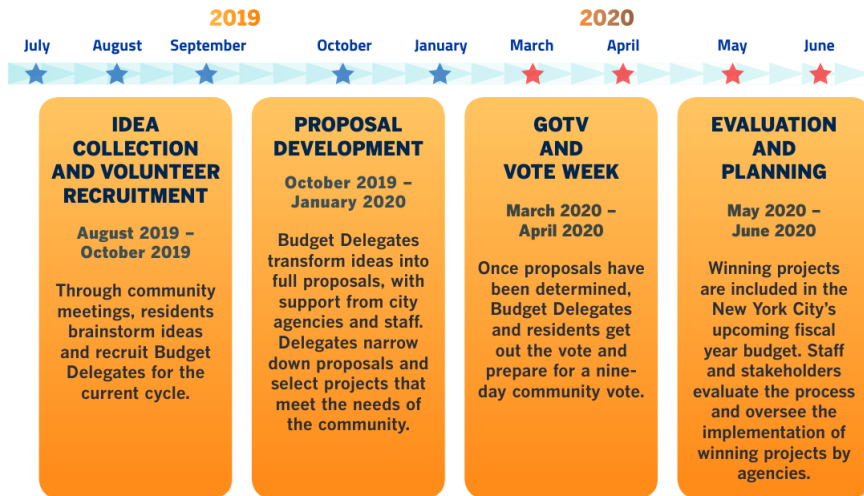
Ceci signifie qu'ils sont localisés dans ces quartiers ou bénéficient largement à leurs habitantes et habitants. Pour les arrondissements concernés par ces projets, un nombre minimum de projets lauréats estampillés « quartiers populaires » est garanti. Ce nombre est fixé en fonction de la population habitant dans ces quartiers.

Concrètement, certains projets « quartiers populaires » pourront être lauréats grâce au bénéfice de cette bonification, et quand bien même ils auraient initialement un moins bon profil de mérite que d'autres projets non « quartiers populaires ». Dans l'exemple ci-dessous, et dans le cas où l'arrondissement a 2 projets lauréats dont au moins 1 projet « quartiers populaires », la bonification permet de faire passer le projet 3 en seconde position sur le classe final, et donc d'être lauréat !





# Sometimes Agents Propose and Vote for the Projects



© New York Participatory Budgeting

# Sometimes the Process is Repeated Over Time

© Cambridge Participatory Budgeting

PB Cycle 1 (October 2014 - April 2015)



PB Cycle 4 (May - December 2017)



PB Cycle 7 (September 2020 - January 2021)



PB Cycle 2 (June - December 2015)



PB Cycle 5 (May - December 2018)



PB Cycle 8 (June 2021 - December 2021)



PB Cycle 3 (May - December 2016)



PB Cycle 6 (May - December 2019)

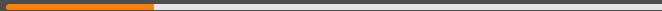


Can we develop the usual social choice toolkit for these non-standard PB models?

Can we develop the usual social choice toolkit for these non-standard PB models?

- ↳ Using the expressive power of judgment aggregation for participatory budgeting to easily add extra constraints
- ↳ Studying a two-stage model for participatory budgeting where agents propose and vote for the projects to be implemented
- ↳ Developing a framework for repeated participatory budgeting processes

## 2. Judgment Aggregation for Participatory Budgeting



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	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$
	✓	✗	✓
	✓	✗	✗
	✗	✓	✓

Assume the following constraint:

$$\Gamma = (p_1 \rightarrow \neg p_3) \wedge (p_2 \rightarrow \neg p_3)$$

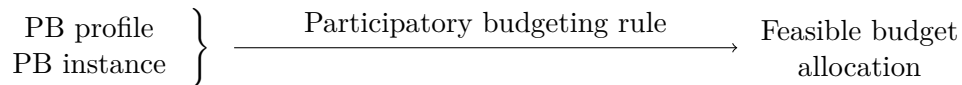
The admissible outcomes are then:

$$\emptyset \quad p_1 \quad p_2 \quad p_3 \quad p_1, p_2$$

# Overall Idea of the Embedding

PB profile }  
PB instance }

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# Overall Idea of the Embedding

JA instance }  
JA profile }

PB profile }  
PB instance }

Participatory budgeting rule

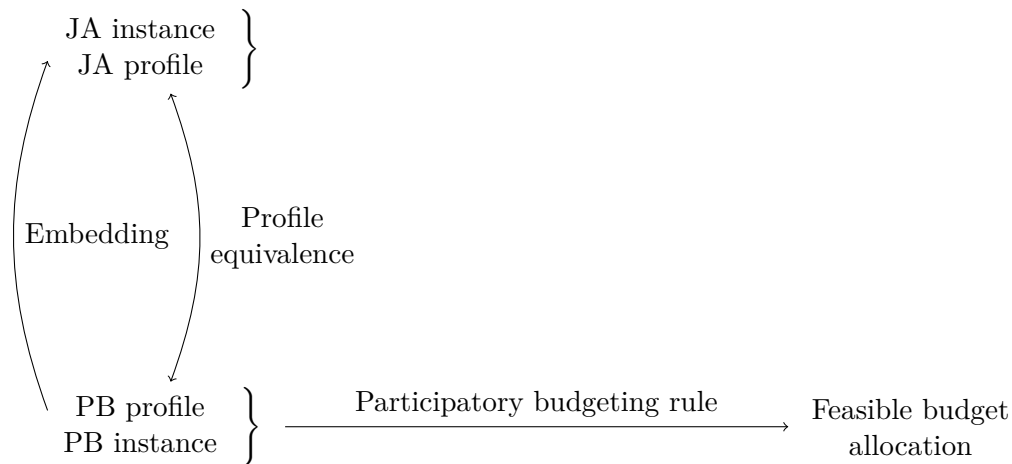


Feasible budget  
allocation

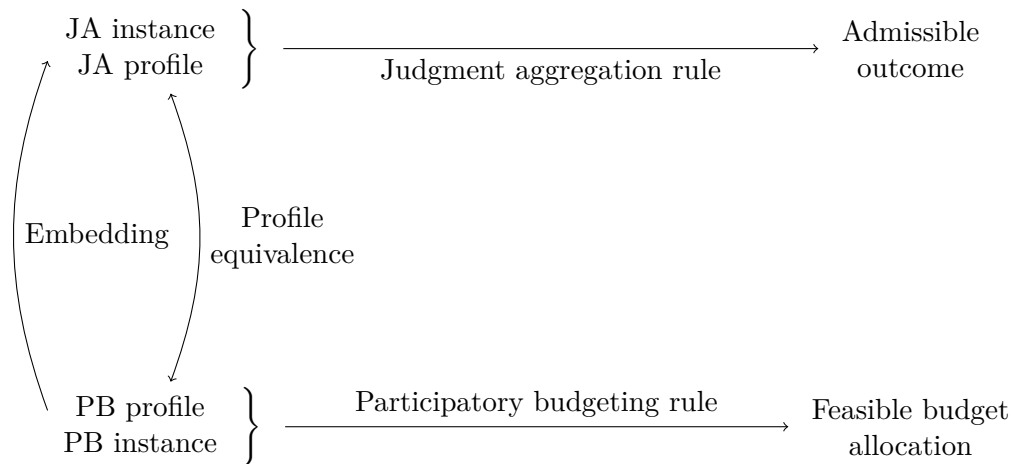
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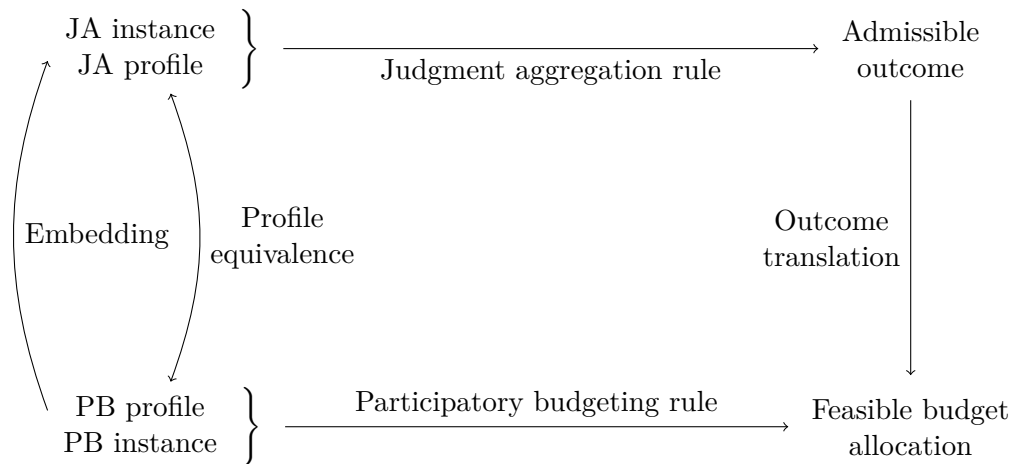


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# The Main Pitfall: Computational Complexity

*Problem:* computing the outcome of judgment aggregation rules usually is  $\Theta_2^P$ -complete.

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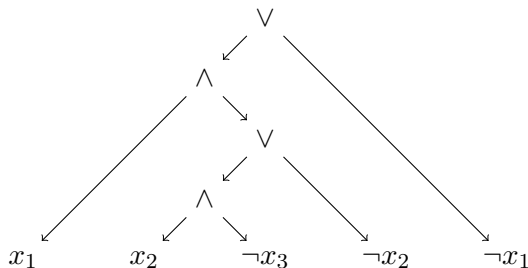
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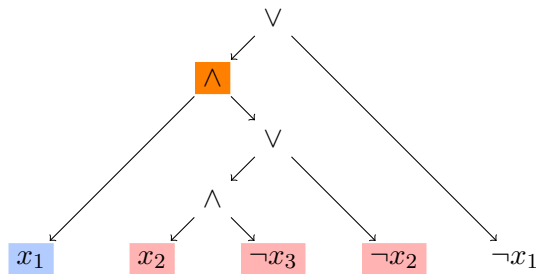
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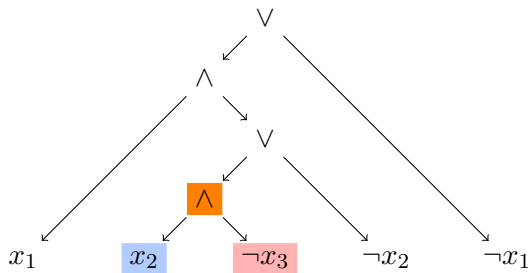
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# Encoding Participatory Budgeting into DNNF Circuits



5000€



2500€



2500€



5000€

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5000€

$N(0,1)$



2500€



2500€



5000€



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5000€



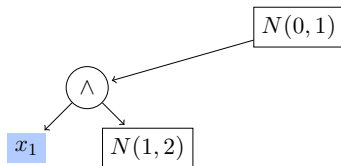
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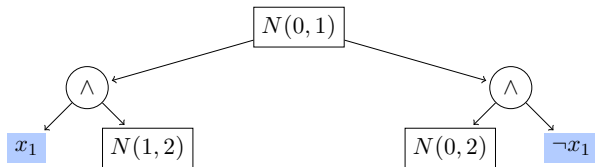
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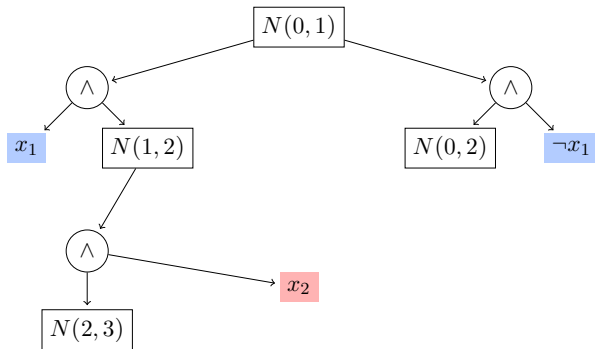
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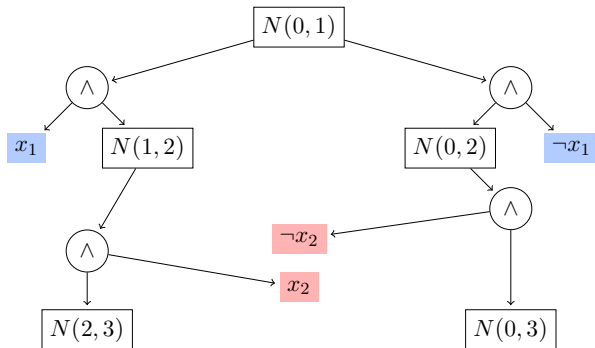
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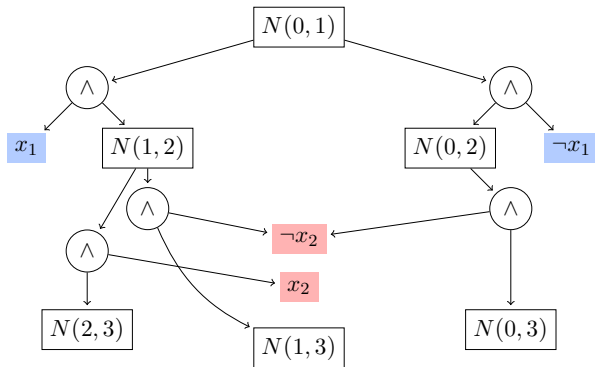
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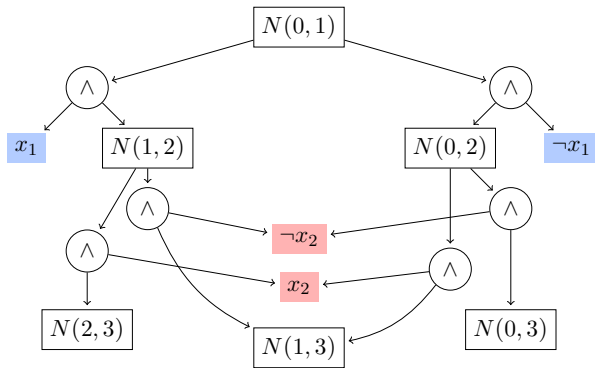
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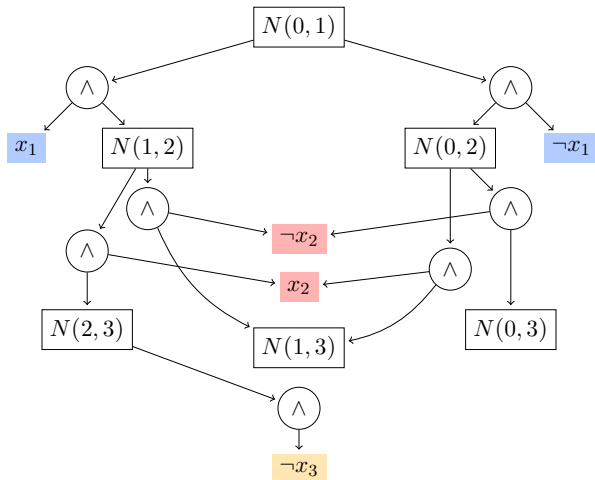
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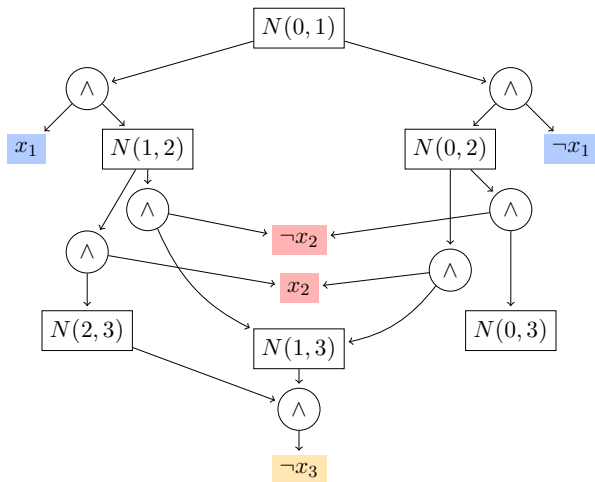
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5000€



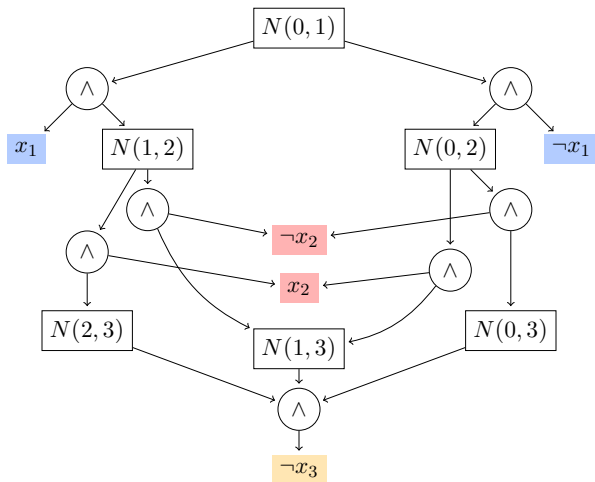
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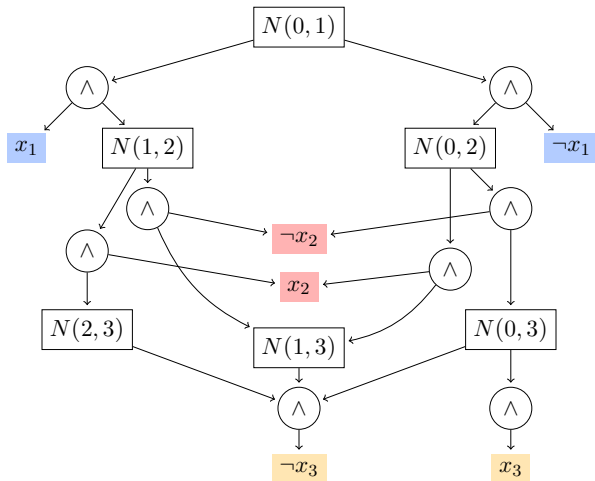
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5000€



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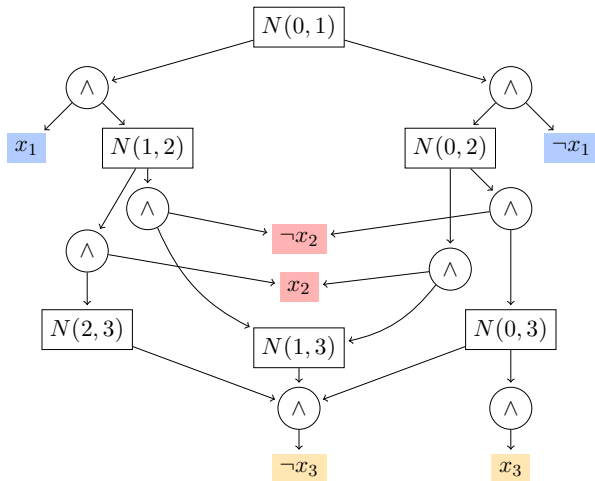
2500€



2500€



5000€



The size of DNNF circuit is in  $\mathcal{O}(m \times B)$ , where  $B$  is the budget limit.

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**Dependencies between the projects:** We add a dependency graph between the projects indicating that some projects can only be realized if some other also are.

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We can encode this setting in a DNNF circuit of size  $\mathcal{O}(m \times B \times 2^k)$ , where  $k$  is the pathwidth of the dependency graph.

**Quotas over types of projects:** Projects are organized into types and we add quotas on the types. A quota indicates a lower and an upper bound on some measure (number of project selected, amount spent on the type, ...) for each type.

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We can encode this setting in a DNNF circuit of size  $\mathcal{O}(m \times B \times Q^k)$ , where  $Q$  is the number of different values the quota can take and  $k$  is the pathwidth of the type overlap graph (equal to 1 when types are not overlapping).

Using judgment aggregation we can:

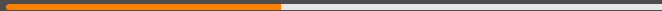
- Reason about PB instances efficiently;
- Introduce additional resources to express the cost of projects;
- Easily introduce new constraints at the only cost of defining new embeddings.

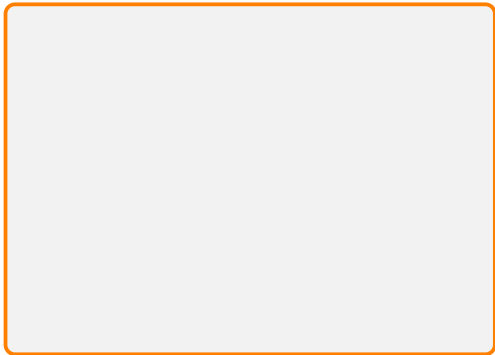
What has been put under the rug:

- Dealing with exhaustiveness on the JA side;
- Assessing the quality of JA rules with regards to PB axioms.

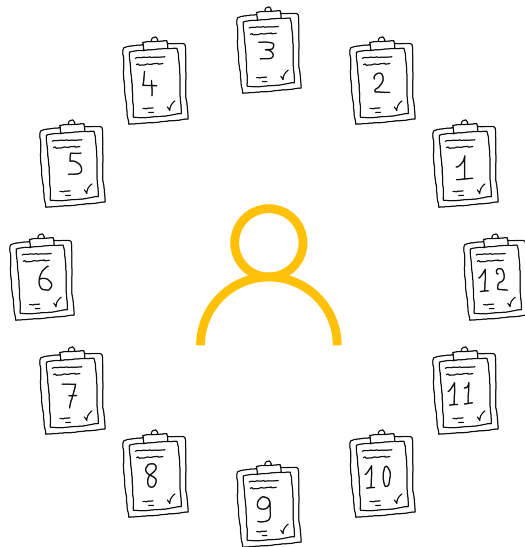
Simon Rey, Ulle Endriss and Ronald de Haan, *Designing Participatory Budgeting Mechanisms Grounded in Judgment Aggregation*, KR 2020.

### 3. End-to-End Model for Participatory Budgeting





For a specific participatory budgeting instance, a gigantic number of projects are conceivable.

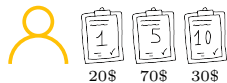


For a specific participatory budgeting instance, a gigantic number of projects are conceivable.

Because agents have bounded rationality, they are only able to conceive of a finite subset of these, their *awareness set*.

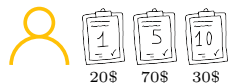


# The Full Model

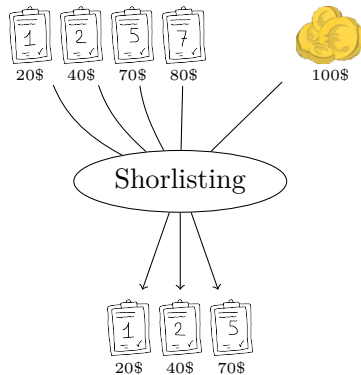


Agents come with  
their awareness sets

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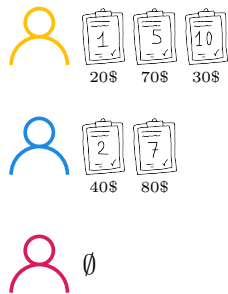
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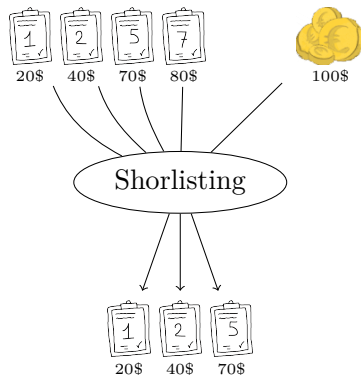
They submit subsets of their awareness sets which are then shortlisted by a *shortlisting rule*.



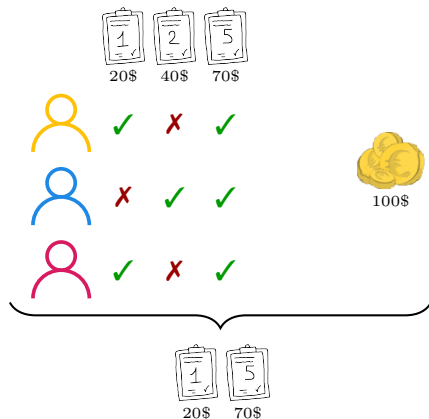
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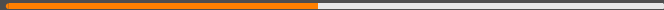
They submit subsets of their awareness sets which are then shortlisted by a *shortlisting rule*.



Using approval ballots, an *allocation rule* determines the final budget allocation.

# End-to-End Model for Participatory Budgeting

└ Shortlisting Rules and Axioms



# Selecting a Representative Shortlist

## DEFINITION: $k$ -EQUAL-REPRESENTATION SHORTLISTING RULE

For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , for all instances  $I = \langle \mathbb{P}, c, B \rangle$ , and all profiles  $\mathbf{P} = (P_1, \dots, P_n)$ :

$$R(I, \mathbf{P}) = \arg \max_{\substack{P \subseteq \bigcup \mathbf{P} \\ c(P) \leq kB}} \sum_{P_i \in \mathbf{P}} \sum_{\ell=0}^{|P_i \cap P|} \frac{1}{n^\ell},$$

i.e., make sure all agents have at least one proposal selected before selecting a second one for some agent, and so on while satisfying the budget constraint.

Non-wastefulness

Representation efficiency

Computational Complexity

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Non-wastefulness

✓  
 $k \geq 2$

Representation efficiency

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Non-wastefulness



$$k \geq 2$$

Representation efficiency



$$k \geq 1$$

Computational Complexity

NP-hard

## DEFINITION: $k$ -MEDIAN SHORTLISTING RULE

Assume proposals are displayed on a metric space, with distance  $\delta$ . The  $k$ -median shortlisting rule proceeds as follows:

- Gather the proposals into any number of clusters;
- Take the geometric median of each cluster to be its representative;
- Select the clustering that:
  - Minimizes the in-cluster distance (largest distance from a proposal to its representative);
  - Does not cost more than  $k \times B$  (the total cost of the representatives is less than  $k \times B$ );
- Shortlist all the representatives.

Non-wastefulness

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$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}$$

Computational Complexity

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Non-wastefulness

✓  
 $k \geq 2$

Representation efficiency

✗  
 $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}$

Computational Complexity

NP-hard  
For most distances

# End-to-End Model for Participatory Budgeting

└ First-Stage Strategyproofness



# Motivation



- Should I propose my fountain even though someone else also proposed one?
- Would it be beneficial for me to submit many proposals to dilute the votes?

# Taxonomy of the First-Stage Strategyproofness Concepts

Shortlisting  
Stage



# Taxonomy of the First-Stage Strategyproofness Concepts



I'm the MANIPULATOR!

Shortlisting  
Stage

# Taxonomy of the First-Stage Strategyproofness Concepts



I'm the MANIPULATOR!



What information  
do I have?

Shortlisting  
Stage

# Taxonomy of the First-Stage Strategyproofness Concepts

Restricted FSSP



I'm the MANIPULATOR!



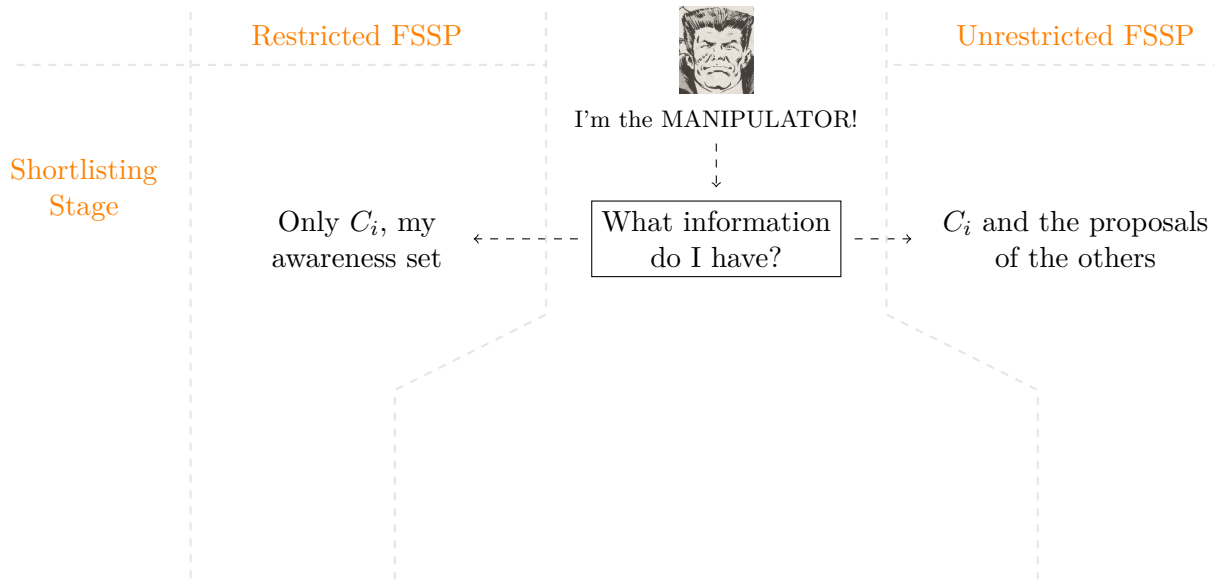
What information  
do I have?

Only  $C_i$ , my  
awareness set

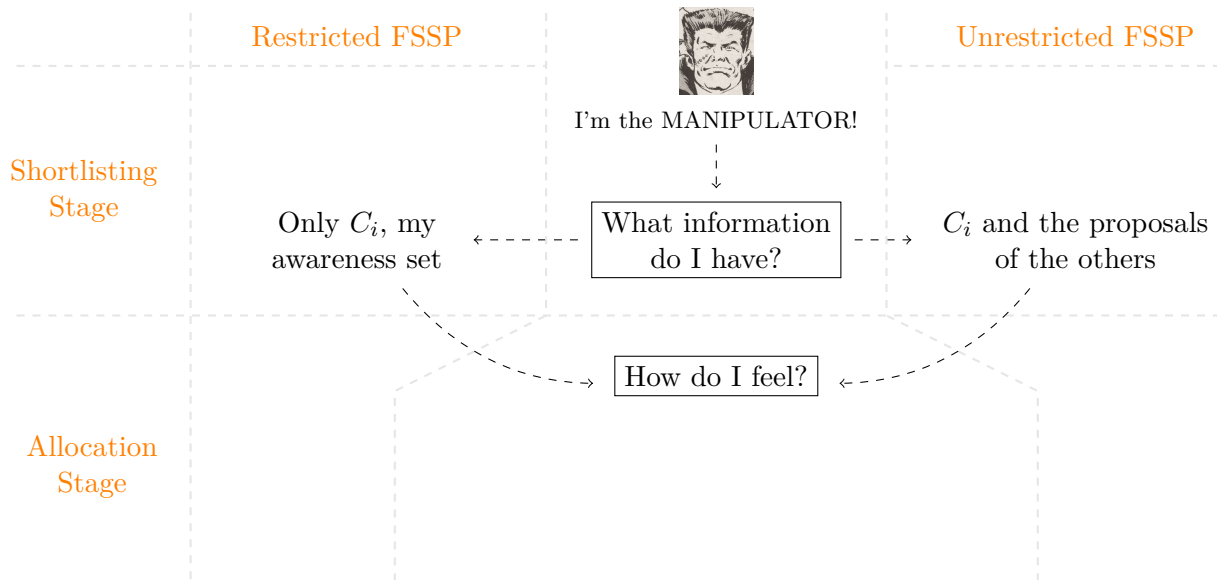
Shortlisting  
Stage



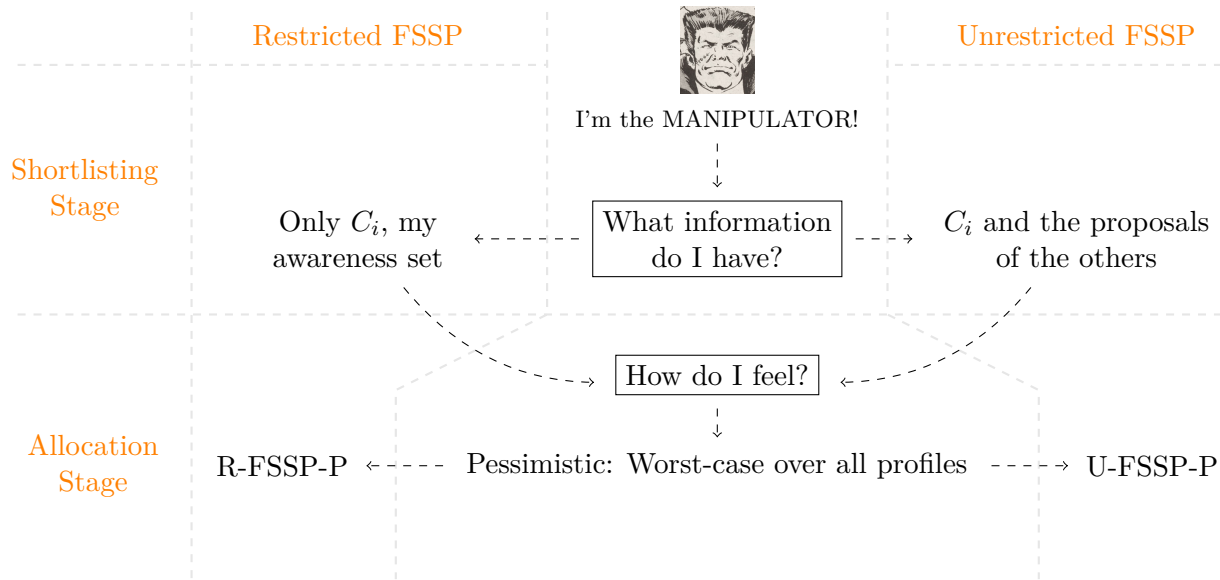
# Taxonomy of the First-Stage Strategyproofness Concepts



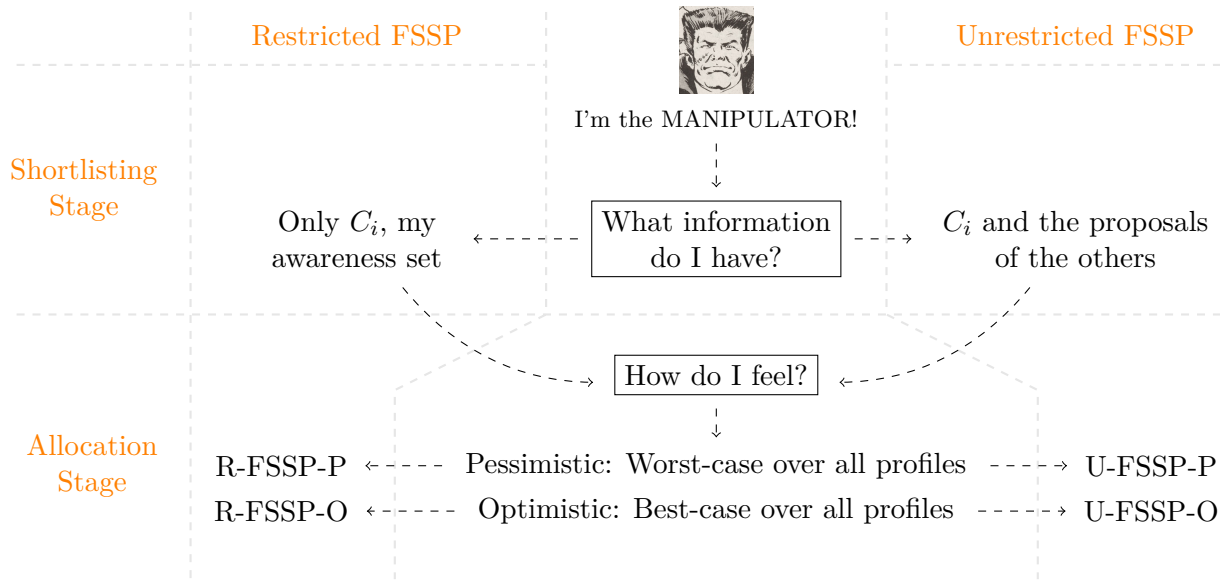
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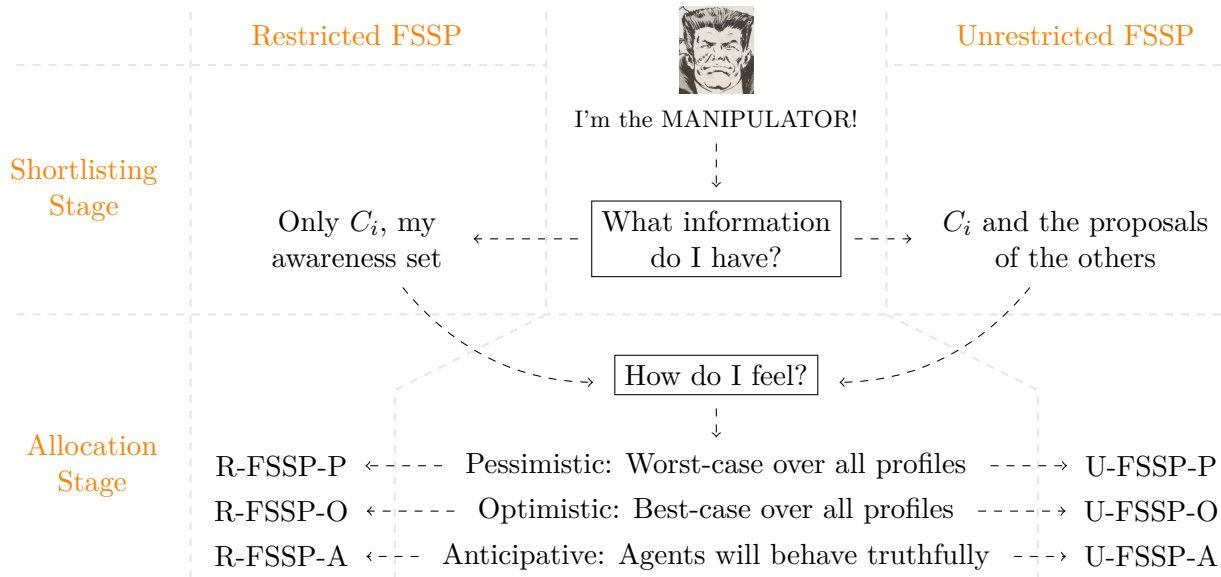
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# Awareness-Restricted Manipulation

## THEOREM:

No pair  $\langle R, F \rangle$  where  $R$  is non-wasteful and  $F$  is exhaustive can be R-FSSP-P, R-FSSP-O or R-FSSP-A.



# Nomination Shortlisting Rule

## THEOREM:

For every  $F$  that is exhaustive and strongly unanimous, the pair  $\langle R, F \rangle$ , where  $R$  is the nomination shortlisting rule, is U-FSSP-P.

**Exhaustive rule:** The budget allocations returned by the rule must be maximal with respect to cost.

**Unanimous rule:** Whenever all agents submit the same feasible ballot  $A$ , then  $A$  should be returned by the rule.

**Strongly unanimous rule:** Whenever all agents but one submit the same feasible ballot  $A$ , then  $A$  should be returned by the rule.



Overall, we have:

- Presented an end-to-end model for participatory budgeting;



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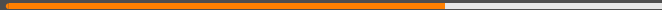
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Simon Rey, Ulle Endriss and Ronald de Haan, *Shortlisting Rules and Incentives in an End-to-End Model for Participatory Budgeting*, IJCAI 2021.

## 4. Long-Term Participatory Budgeting



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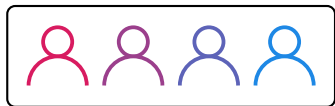
↳ One does not have access to “past satisfaction” of an agent when designing fairness criteria.

# Focusing on Types of Agents

One problem with sequential decisions is that the ballots for each round are anonymous, i.e., it is impossible to know what an agent approved of in previous rounds.

↳ One does not have access to “past satisfaction” of an agent when designing fairness criteria.

We overcome this by partitioning the agents into *types*, i.e., characteristics they share:



First district























Second district



Third district

# The Model

		Year 1  = 10				Year 2  = 10				Year 3  = 10			
													
Cost		6	2	2	4	5	5	3	2	7	7	4/3	29/3
Robot type		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
		✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	
		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Animal type			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
				✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓



# Long-Term Participatory Budgeting

└ Welfare Measures



## DEFINITION: SATISFACTION

Let  $\vec{\pi} = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_k)$  be a solution. The satisfaction of a type  $t$  for round  $j$  is given by:

$$sat_j(\pi_j, t) = \sum_{1 \leq j' \leq j} \frac{1}{|t|} \sum_{i \in t} c(\pi_{j'} \cap A_j(i)).$$

One potential drawback of satisfaction is that approving less projects can yield to lower satisfaction. To tackle this issue, we introduce relative satisfaction.

DEFINITION: RELATIVE SATISFACTION

Let  $\vec{\pi} = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_k)$  be a solution. The relative satisfaction of a type  $t$  for round  $j$  is given by:

$$sat_j(\pi_j, t) = \sum_{1 \leq j' \leq j} \frac{1}{|t|} \sum_{i \in t} \frac{c(\pi_j \cap A_j(i))}{\max\{c(A) \mid A \subseteq A_j(i) \text{ s.t. } A \text{ is feasible}\}}.$$

Both satisfaction and relative satisfaction are utilitarian concepts. The last welfare measure we introduce—the share—is more distributive in the sense that it aims at spending an equal amount of resources on each type.

DEFINITION: SHARE

Let  $\vec{\pi} = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_k)$  be a solution. The share of a type  $t$  for round  $j$  is given by:

$$sat_j(\pi_j, t) = \sum_{1 \leq j' \leq j} \frac{1}{|t|} \sum_{i \in t} \sum_{p \in \pi_{j'} \cap A_j(i)} \frac{c(p)}{|\{i' \mid p \in A_j(i')\}|}.$$

# Long-Term Participatory Budgeting

└ Achieving Fairness



DEFINITION: EQUAL- $F$

For a welfare measure  $F$ , a solution  $\vec{\pi}$  satisfies equal- $F$  if for every two types  $t, t'$  and every round  $j$ , we have:

$$F(\vec{\pi}, t, j) = F(\vec{\pi}, t', j).$$

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PROPOSITION:

There are instance where equal- $F$  cannot be satisfied for all our welfare measures  $F$ .

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PROPOSITION:

Checking whether a solution can be extended to the next round so that equal- $F$  is satisfied is strongly NP-complete.



DEFINITION: *F*-GINI

The Gini coefficient of an ordered vector  $v = (v_1, \dots, v_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$  is given by:

$$gini(v) = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k (2i - 1)v_i}{k \sum_{i=1}^k v_i}.$$

## DEFINITION: $F$ -GINI

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For a welfare measure  $F$ , the  $F$ -Gini coefficient of a solution  $\vec{\pi}$  at round  $j$  is the Gini coefficient of the ordered vector containing  $F(\vec{\pi}, t, j)$  for all types  $t$ .

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A solution  $\vec{\pi}$  is  $F$ -Gini-optimal at round  $j$  with respect to a set  $S$  of solutions, if there is no solution in  $S$  with a lower  $F$ -Gini coefficient than  $\vec{\pi}$ .

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## PROPOSITION:

Checking whether a solution is  $F$ -Gini-optimal at a given round is weakly co-NP-complete for all of our welfare measures.

Another idea is to require perfect fairness but only in the long run.

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DEFINITION: CONVERGENCE TO EQUAL- $F$

For a welfare measure  $F$ , an infinite solution  $\vec{\pi}$  converges to equal- $F$  if for every two types:

$$\frac{F(\vec{\pi}, t, j)}{F(\vec{\pi}, t', j)} \xrightarrow{j \rightarrow +\infty} 1.$$

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Since this criterion is about infinite sequences, we will not analyze its computational complexity.

PROPOSITION:

When there are two agents, a solution converging towards equal-Satisfaction or equal-Share can always be found (under mild assumptions).



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When there are two agents, a solution converging towards equal-Satisfaction or equal-Share can always be found (under mild assumptions).

However, this result does not extend to three agents.

PROPOSITION:

With three agents, there exists an instance for which no solution converges towards either equal-Satisfaction or equal-Share.

The picture for relative satisfaction is much nicer.

THEOREM:

When there are two types and with non-empty knapsack ballots, a solution converging towards equal-Relative-Satisfaction can always be found (under mild assumptions).

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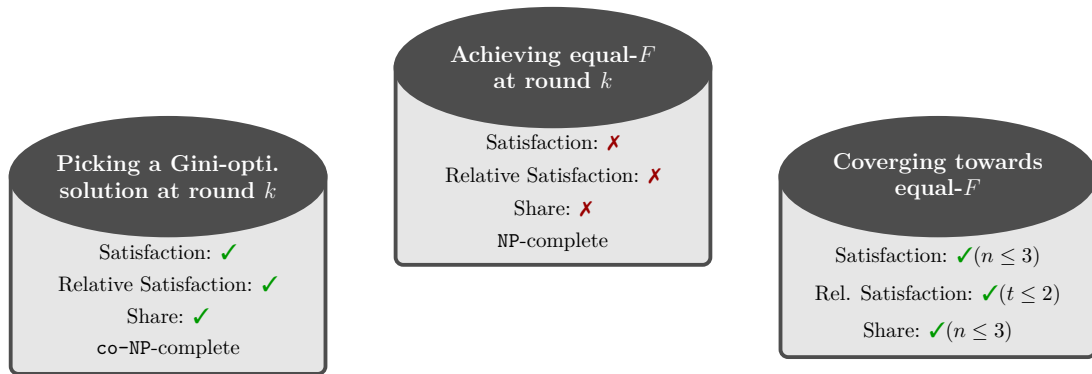
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*Side note:* The proof is constructive, however, the solution constructed solution might not be exhaustive. Assuming exhaustive ballots solves this issue.

*Open problem:* Can this result be extended to three and more types?

# The Return of the Quick Summary



Martin Lackner, Jan Maly and Simon Rey, *Fairness in Long-Term Participatory Budgeting*, IJCAI 2021.



We have seen different models of participatory budgeting designed to capture more closely real-world PB processes:

- Allowing for additional constraints on the outcome;
- Capturing strategic interactions between the two stages of the process;
- Studying fairness concepts for repeated instances of participatory budgeting.

The logo for Fhunts is a stylized, blocky font where the letters are interconnected. The 'F' and 'h' are joined together, and the 'u' and 'n' are also connected. The 't' and 's' are separate but have a similar blocky, geometric appearance.