



Over-contribution in discretionary databases

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Outline



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- Social dilemmas in discretionary databases



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- Utility model



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- Agent behaviour in Usenet



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- Conclusion



Discretionary Databases



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 - (Golle *et al.* 2001) (Buragohain *et al.* 2003) — emphasizing P2P and free-ridership



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- Performance models
 - (Fuqua *et al.* 2003) (Mfeldman *et al.* 2003) — still use incentive models



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- Our goal: analyze over-contribution; reputation



Usenet—Overview



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- 1970 \implies little text traffic
- 2004 \implies 1TB/day binary data contributed



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 - over-contribution



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 - eg., uploading a file
 - $u_i^{UP} \triangleq a_i$'s contributory utility

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- Total utility $u_i \triangleq u_i^{UP} + u_i^{DN}$

Consumption utility (u_i^{DN})



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- Factors:
 - *Content Retrieved* — possibly capped



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 - $u_i^{DN}(C) \propto \text{size}(C)$



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Models:

- Let \mathcal{Q} be all content, $C \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$
- previously, mostly linear:
 - $u_i^{DN}(C) \propto \text{size}(C)$
- problems:
 - doesn't model variety or interest
 - size isn't linear (cd-image 2^{29} vs picture 2^{18})



Consumption utility (framework)



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- Partition \mathcal{Q} into $\{Q_i\}$, pick $C_i \subseteq Q_i$
 - variety through substitutability



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- Partition \mathcal{Q} into $\{Q_i\}$, pick $C_i \subseteq Q_i$
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- Interest matrix W
 - w_{ij} is a_i 's interest in C_j
- Class utility function θ_i
 - ex. \sqrt{x} , $\log(1 + x)$
- Cost function $cost_i^{DN}$
- Through the combination of these, we can model virtually any cost function
 - $u_i^{DN}(C) = -cost_i^{DN}(C) + \sum_{j=1}^m w_{ij}\theta_i(size(C_j))$

Contribution utility (u_i^{UP})



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- Factors:

- Model:



Contribution utility (u_i^{UP})



- Factors:

- *Inherent Cost*

- Model:

- cost function $-cost_i^{UP}$



Contribution utility (u_i^{UP})



- Factors:

- *Inherent Cost*
- *Inherent Contribution Preference*

- Model:

- cost function $-cost_i^{UP}$
- benefit function $gain_i^{UP}$



Contribution utility (u_i^{UP})



- Factors:

- *Inherent Cost*
- *Inherent Contribution Preference*
- *Explicit Reward*

- Model:

- cost function $-cost_i^{UP}$
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Contribution utility (u_i^{UP})



- Factors:

- *Inherent Cost*
- *Inherent Contribution Preference*
- *Explicit Reward*
- *Reputation / Feedback*

- Model:

- cost function $-cost_i^{UP}$
- benefit function $gain_i^{UP}$
- sum of utility provided to other agents: $\sum_{j \neq i}^n v_j(a_i)$



Contribution utility (u_i^{UP})

- Factors:

- Inherent Cost*
- Inherent Contribution Preference*
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- Model:

- cost function $-cost_i^{UP}$
- benefit function $gain_i^{UP}$
- sum of utility provided to other agents: $\sum_{j \neq i}^n v_j(a_i)$
- $\mathbb{E}(u_i^{UP}) = gain_i^{UP}(C) - cost_i^{UP}(C) + \sum_{j \neq i}^n v_j(a_i)$

Usenet utility model



Usenet utility model



- Assumptions:

- Formulæ:

- Consumption:

$$u_i^{DN} = -cost_i^{DN}(C) + \sum_{j=1}^m w_{ij} \theta_i(size(C_j))$$

- Contribution:

$$u_i^{UP} = gain_i^{UP}(C) - cost_i^{UP}(C) + \sum_{j \neq i}^n v_j(a_i)$$



Usenet utility model



- Assumptions:
 - linearity of cost and inherent gain

- Formulæ:

- Consumption:

$$u_i^{DN} = \sum_{j=1}^m (w_{ij} \theta_i(\text{size}(C_j)) - \gamma_i \text{size}(C_j))$$

- Contribution:

$$u_i^{UP} = (\lambda_i - \gamma_i) \text{size}(C) + \sum_{j \neq i}^n v_j(a_i)$$



Usenet utility model



- Assumptions:

- linearity of cost and inherent gain
- symmetry of θ_i

- Formulæ:

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$$u_i^{DN} = \sum_{j=1}^m (w_{ij}\theta(\text{size}(C_j)) - \gamma_i \text{size}(C_j))$$

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Usenet utility model



- Assumptions:

- linearity of cost and inherent gain
- symmetry of θ_i
- per-user partitioning of \mathcal{Q}

- Formulæ:

- Consumption:

$$u_i^{DN} = \sum_{j=1}^n (b_{ij}\theta(c_j) - \gamma_i c_j)$$

- Contribution:

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Usenet utility model



- Assumptions:

- linearity of cost and inherent gain
- symmetry of θ_i
- per-user partitioning of Q
- feedback is simply utility derived from the agent

- Formulæ:

- Consumption:

$$u_i^{DN} = \sum_{j=1}^n \hat{v}_{ij}^{DN}, \quad \hat{v}_{ij}^{DN} = (b_{ij}\theta(c_j) - \gamma_i c_j)$$

- Contribution:

$$u_i^{UP} = (\lambda_i - \gamma_i)c_i + \sum_{j \neq i}^n \hat{v}_{ij}^{DN}$$



Reputation un-motivated agents



Reputation un-motivated agents



- Assume that a_i has a bound on contribution k_i



Reputation un-motivated agents



- Assume that a_i has a bound on contribution k_i
- Then

$$\forall i, c_i = \begin{cases} k_i & \text{if } \lambda_i > \gamma_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is an equilibrium.



Reputation motivated agents



Reputation motivated agents



- For reputation-motivated agents:
 - There exist fixed c_i^* such that $\forall i, c_i = \min \{c_i^*, k_i\}$ is a unique Nash equilibrium.
 - Given θ there exists a threshold τ such that if

$$\sum_{j \neq i}^n b_{ij} \geq \tau \sum_k^n \gamma_k \quad (2)$$

then $c_i^* > 0$. Otherwise, $c_i^* = 0$.



Reputation motivated agents

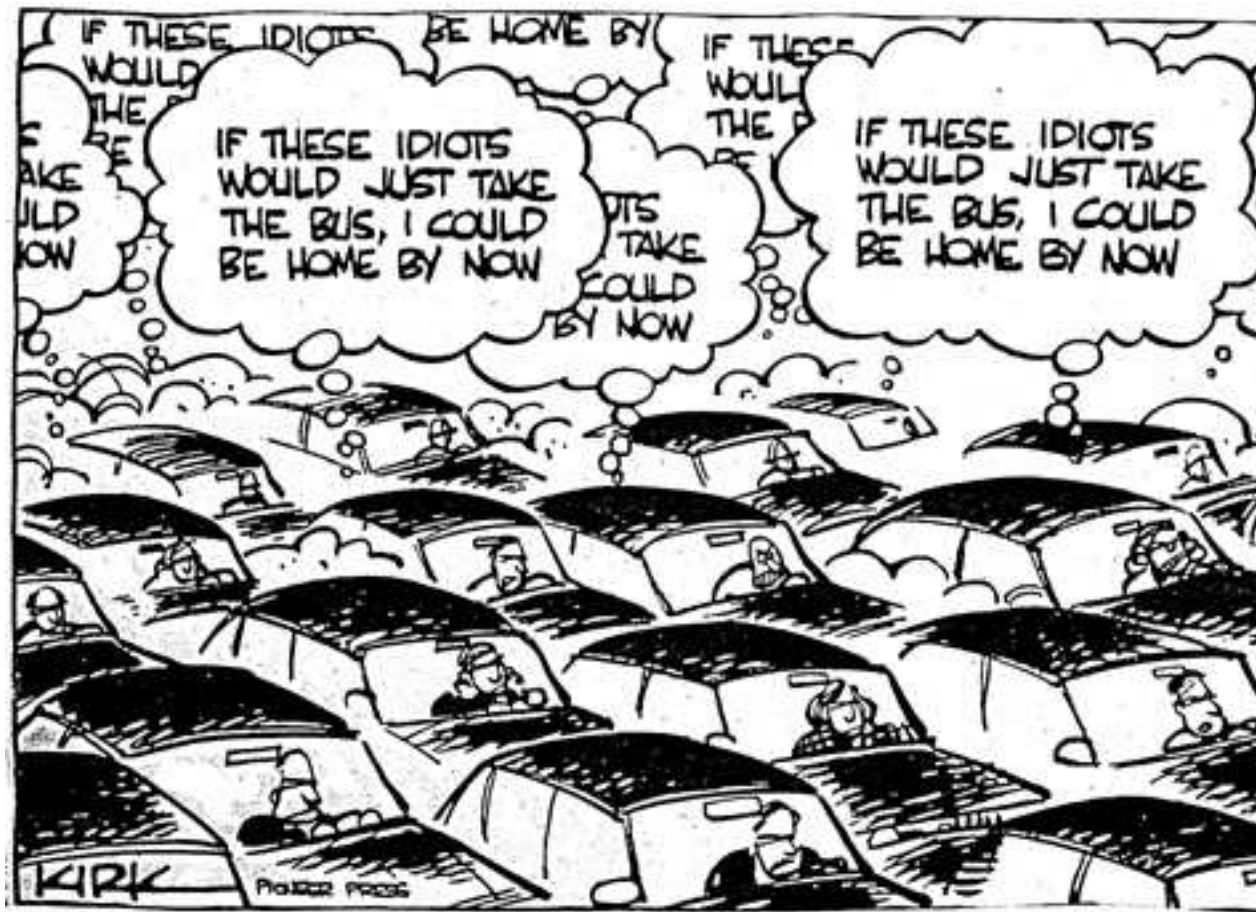
- For reputation-motivated agents:
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- Feedback in a group of users can regulate individual action to maximize collective welfare.

Congestion



Resource competition game



Resource competition game



- Benefit matrix B has structure

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} \blacksquare & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \blacksquare & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \blacksquare \end{pmatrix}$$



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- Collective action breaks down over entire system



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- Collective action breaks down over entire system
- Assume we have some finite resource with limit κ :
 - if sum of content less than κ , no change
 - otherwise, drop content until sum is less than κ



Resource competition (cont)



Resource competition (cont)

- Consider *groups* as players
 - action: upload $c_i \in [0, k_i]$ of content
 - utility: proportional to *non-dropped* content

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... regardless of κ

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- $\{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n\}$ is a Bayes-Nash equilibrium
... regardless of κ
- Significant problem currently for Usenet servers

Contribution valuation



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- Difficult to quantify eg., how to measure w_{ij} ?, partitioning $\{Q_i\}$?



Contribution valuation



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- What *can* be measured?
 - contributions: f_{up}
 - consumptions: f_{down}
 - size: f_{size}



Contribution valuation



- Difficult to quantify eg., how to measure w_{ij} ?, partitioning $\{Q_i\}$?
- What *can* be measured?
 - contributions: f_{up}
 - consumptions: f_{down}
 - size: f_{size}
- All contributions of f are in the same class, so
 - $$v(f) = \int \frac{f_{down}}{f_{up}} \cdot \theta(f_{size}) dt$$



Global resource allocation



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- Proposed: value over size

$$v(f) / f_{size}$$



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 - reputation can mitigate the effects of social dilemmas
 - reputation is inadequate globally
- Explicit methods based on item value
- Future directions:
 - analysis of mix of reputation-sensitivity
 - non-stationary repeated setting



Questions?

