

# Markets, Algorithms, Incentives, and Networks

Seminar WS 2025/2026

Kick-Off  
October 16, 2025

Satya Rammohan and Alexander Schlenga



# Plan for Today

- Round of introduction
- Scheduling of talks
- Tasks
  - As a speaker
  - As a regular attendant
  - As a session chair
- Road to a solid seminar talk
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Grading

# Round of Introduction

- Introduce yourself to the whole group
- Please make sure you include
  - **Name**, field of study, semester, and where you are from
  - Your assigned **topic** in a two sentence summary
  - Your **expectations** towards the seminar
- Afterwards, we play a round of “Pictionary”
  - You will draw an **object or activity** that starts with the same letter as your first name and the group has to guess it
  - Guess the solution and the name of the presenter

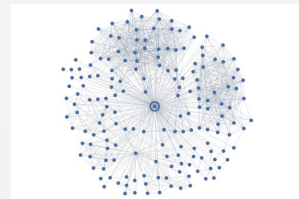
# The Big Picture

- Five key topics at the intersection of economics and computation

## Games

- ▶ Simultaneous-Move Games
- ▶ Sequential-Move Games

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



## Networks

- ▶ Network Formation Games
- ▶ Networks, Cascades, and Influence

## Welfare

- ▶ Price of Anarchy
- ▶ Social Choice



## Markets

- ▶ Matching Markets
- ▶ Prediction Markets



## Auctions

- ▶ Auction Design
- ▶ Combinatorial Auctions



# Dates and Roles

| Date                           | Speaker   | Chair     | Topic                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| November 27<br>(10.00 - 17.30) | Tim       | Fabian    | Simultaneous-Move Games           |
|                                | Hsu       | Dhurim    | Sequential-Move Games             |
|                                | Jakob     | Alexander | Auction Design                    |
|                                | Alihan    | Yazeed    | Combinatorial Auctions            |
| December 5<br>(10.00 - 16.00)  | Kacper    | Alihan    | Prediction Markets                |
|                                | Peter     | Jakob     | Network-Formation Games           |
|                                | Yazeed    | Hsu       | Networks, Cascades, and Influence |
| December 11<br>(10.00 - 16.00) | Alexander | Tim       | Social Choice                     |
|                                | Dhurim    | Peter     | Matching Markets                  |
|                                | Fabian    | Kacper    | Price of Anarchy                  |

# Rough Schedule

- Two morning presentations
- One/two afternoon presentations
- Presentation:
  - Talk (35-45 min)
  - Feedback & Discussion (25-30 min)
  - Break (15 min)



# Tasks as a Speaker

- **Before talk**
  - Discuss outline with supervisor
    - ~2-3 weeks before talk
    - Schedule time by email
  - Prepare presentation and handout (3-5 pages)
    - Goal of handout: prepare participants for your talk and help them understand the topic
  - Practice presentation
  - Post handout in Moodle forum
    - Deadline: one week before talk

# Tasks as a Speaker

- **During talk**
  - Ask at least one insightful (!) question or interaction
  - Give the audience some time (~1-2 min) to think about and to discuss it
- **After talk**
  - Answer questions of the audience (possibly also during talk)
  - Participate in discussion
  - Upload your final slides (if applicable)

# Tasks as a Regular Attendant

- **Before talk**
  - Read handout (and paper if helpful)
  - Post questions and comments in Moodle forum
    - Deadline: two days before talk
- **During talk**
  - Pay attention
- **After talk**
  - Participate in discussion (part of the grade!)
  - Give qualitative feedback (**not** part of the grade)

# Tasks as a Session Chair

- **Before talk**
  - Consolidate questions and comments from Moodle forum
  - Briefly introduce speaker
- **During talk**
  - Keep track of time and give signals to the speaker
- **After talk**
  - Ask audience for feedback
    - Take feedback notes for the speaker
  - Actively lead discussion
    - Use questions and comments if appropriate

# Deadlines (Reminder)

- To be done before the presentation
  - **2-3 weeks** (speaker): discuss outline with supervisor
  - **1 week** (speaker): post handout in Moodle forum
  - **2 days** (everyone): post questions and comments in Moodle forum

# Road to a Solid Seminar Talk

- Study your material thoroughly; **you** are the expert!
- Think about **which material** you want to present and discuss it with your supervisor (we may give you additional material)
- Decide **how** you want to present the material
  - E-Course in Moodle: Cite It Right
- Discuss with supervisor if something is unclear
- (Possibly) **coordinate** with students who speak about a related topic
- Think of **questions** you can ask to the audience during the talk
- **Practice** your presentation several times

# A General Note on Feedback

- To improve, you have to find out where your strengths and weaknesses are
- While you can try to observe yourself (recommended!), there are things that only others notice or that you would have misjudged, e.g.,
  - ‘speaking’: too fast/slow? clearly enough? monotonous? etc.
  - Did something on purpose, but the effect was not as intended?
- There are few occasions where you actually get feedback
- Therefore, **appreciate** it whenever someone makes the effort to give you feedback!

# Providing/Receiving Feedback

- Unfortunately, neither giving nor receiving feedback is easy

|           | Step 1                       | Step 2                              | Step 3                              | Step 4                     |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Providing | State<br><b>observations</b> | Explain <b>impressions/feelings</b> | Check for<br><b>understanding</b>   | Make<br><b>suggestions</b> |
| Receiving | Listen!                      | Listen!                             | Ask <b>clarifying (!) questions</b> | Listen!                    |

- Given the difficulty: Step 0 - **Think and reflect**
- Feedback “rules” can help us (see sheet on Moodle for details)
  - Stay “on the right track”
  - Tell us what to look out for

# Grading

- **Performance as a speaker** (~60%)
  - Choice of material
  - Presentation
  - Coping with questions
- **Handout** (~20%)
- **Performance as a regular attendant and session chair** (~20%)
  - Questions and comments posted in Moodle forum
  - Discussions (quality, frequency)
  - Leading of discussion

# Questions about the seminar?

See you on November 27!\*

\*Hopefully sooner to discuss the talk and handout ;)