## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties


## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties
- We will consider a division to be fair if every party gets $\geq \frac{1}{n}$ of the goods (according to them)


## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties
- We will consider a division to be fair if every party gets $\geq \frac{1}{n}$ of the goods (according to them)
- Today, considering indivisible goods (of varying values)


## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties
- We will consider a division to be fair if every party gets $\geq \frac{1}{n}$ of the goods (according to them)
- Today, considering indivisible goods (of varying values)
- Albert, Beatrice, Clyde, and Diane are heirs to an estate:


## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties
- We will consider a division to be fair if every party gets $\geq \frac{1}{n}$ of the goods (according to them)
- Today, considering indivisible goods (of varying values)
- Albert, Beatrice, Clyde, and Diane are heirs to an estate:
- House in Tokyo


## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties
- We will consider a division to be fair if every party gets $\geq \frac{1}{n}$ of the goods (according to them)
- Today, considering indivisible goods (of varying values)
- Albert, Beatrice, Clyde, and Diane are heirs to an estate:
- House in Tokyo
- House in Manhattan, Kansas


## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties
- We will consider a division to be fair if every party gets $\geq \frac{1}{n}$ of the goods (according to them)
- Today, considering indivisible goods (of varying values)
- Albert, Beatrice, Clyde, and Diane are heirs to an estate:
- House in Tokyo
- House in Manhattan, Kansas
- Sailboat


## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties
- We will consider a division to be fair if every party gets $\geq \frac{1}{n}$ of the goods (according to them)
- Today, considering indivisible goods (of varying values)
- Albert, Beatrice, Clyde, and Diane are heirs to an estate:
- House in Tokyo
- House in Manhattan, Kansas
- Sailboat
- Painting


## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties
- We will consider a division to be fair if every party gets $\geq \frac{1}{n}$ of the goods (according to them)
- Today, considering indivisible goods (of varying values)
- Albert, Beatrice, Clyde, and Diane are heirs to an estate:
- House in Tokyo
- House in Manhattan, Kansas
- Sailboat
- Painting
- Note that previous methods don't work well


## Fair Division

- Fair division problems are concerned with fairly dividing goods among parties
- We will consider a division to be fair if every party gets $\geq \frac{1}{n}$ of the goods (according to them)
- Today, considering indivisible goods (of varying values)
- Albert, Beatrice, Clyde, and Diane are heirs to an estate:
- House in Tokyo
- House in Manhattan, Kansas
- Sailboat
- Painting
- Note that previous methods don't work well
- Instead, have heirs bid on items


## Method of Sealed Bids

1. Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item

## Method of Sealed Bids

1. Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item

- Bids are hidden until everyone submits their bids


## Method of Sealed Bids

1. Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item

- Bids are hidden until everyone submits their bids

2. Allocation: each item goes to the highest bidder

## Method of Sealed Bids

1. Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item

- Bids are hidden until everyone submits their bids

2. Allocation: each item goes to the highest bidder
3. First Settlement: each player then pays or receives money to make sure they have their fair share

## Method of Sealed Bids

1. Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item

- Bids are hidden until everyone submits their bids

2. Allocation: each item goes to the highest bidder
3. First Settlement: each player then pays or receives money to make sure they have their fair share
4. Division of Surplus: remaining money is divided equally among the parties

## Method of Sealed Bids

Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item (in 1000s)

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Tokyo |  |  |  |  |
| Manhattan |  |  |  |  |
| Boat |  |  |  |  |

## Method of Sealed Bids

Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item (in 1000s)

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |

## Method of Sealed Bids

Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item (in 1000s)

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |

Note: We know how each party values the entire inheritance

## Method of Sealed Bids

Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item (in 1000s)

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 486 | 600 | 464 | 510 |

Note: We know how each party values the entire inheritance

## Method of Sealed Bids

Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item (in 1000s)

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 486 | 600 | 464 | 510 |

Note: We know how each party values the entire inheritance We know what constitutes a fair share for each person

## Method of Sealed Bids

Bidding: each player determines how much each item is worth, then submits a bid on each item (in 1000s)

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 486 | 600 | 464 | 510 |
| Fair Share | 121.5 | 150 | 116 | 127.5 |

Note: We know how each party values the entire inheritance We know what constitutes a fair share for each person

## Method of Sealed Bids

Allocation: each item goes to the highest bidder

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 486 | 600 | 464 | 510 |
| Fair Share | 121.5 | 150 | 116 | 127.5 |

## Method of Sealed Bids

Allocation: each item goes to the highest bidder

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 486 | 600 | 464 | 510 |
| Fair Share | 121.5 | 150 | 116 | 127.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |

## Method of Sealed Bids

First Settlement: each player then pays or receives money to make sure they have their fair share

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 486 | 600 | 464 | 510 |
| Fair Share | 121.5 | 150 | 116 | 127.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |
| Settlement |  |  |  |  |

## Method of Sealed Bids

First Settlement: each player then pays or receives money to make sure they have their fair share

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 486 | 600 | 464 | 510 |
| Fair Share | 121.5 | 150 | 116 | 127.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |
| Settlement | 71.5 | -370 | 56 | 127.5 |

## Method of Sealed Bids

- Summary:


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Summary:
- Albert gets the boat, and receives $\$ 71,500$


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Summary:
- Albert gets the boat, and receives $\$ 71,500$
- Beatrice gets the Tokyo house, the painting, and has to pay the estate $\$ 370,000$


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Summary:
- Albert gets the boat, and receives $\$ 71,500$
- Beatrice gets the Tokyo house, the painting, and has to pay the estate $\$ 370,000$
- Clyde gets the Manhattan house, and receives \$56,000


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Summary:
- Albert gets the boat, and receives $\$ 71,500$
- Beatrice gets the Tokyo house, the painting, and has to pay the estate $\$ 370,000$
- Clyde gets the Manhattan house, and receives \$56, 000
- Diane receives $\$ 127,500$


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Summary:
- Albert gets the boat, and receives $\$ 71,500$
- Beatrice gets the Tokyo house, the painting, and has to pay the estate $\$ 370,000$
- Clyde gets the Manhattan house, and receives \$56, 000
- Diane receives $\$ 127,500$
- Are we done?


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Summary:
- Albert gets the boat, and receives $\$ 71,500$
- Beatrice gets the Tokyo house, the painting, and has to pay the estate $\$ 370,000$
- Clyde gets the Manhattan house, and receives \$56,000
- Diane receives $\$ 127,500$
- Are we done?
- No - there is $\$ 115,000$ in the estate


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Summary:
- Albert gets the boat, and receives $\$ 71,500$
- Beatrice gets the Tokyo house, the painting, and has to pay the estate $\$ 370,000$
- Clyde gets the Manhattan house, and receives \$56, 000
- Diane receives $\$ 127,500$
- Are we done?
- No - there is $\$ 115,000$ in the estate
- Split this equally


## Method of Sealed Bids

Division of Surplus: remaining money is divided equally among the parties

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 486 | 600 | 464 | 510 |
| Fair Share | 121.5 | 150 | 116 | 127.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |
| Settlement | 71.5 | -370 | 56 | 127.5 |
| Surplus | 28.75 | 28.75 | 28.75 | 28.75 |

## Method of Sealed Bids

Division of Surplus: remaining money is divided equally among the parties

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 400 | 500 | 360 | 420 |
| Manhattan | 30 | 50 | 60 | 40 |
| Boat | 50 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Painting | 6 | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 486 | 600 | 464 | 510 |
| Fair Share | 121.5 | 150 | 116 | 127.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |
| Settlement | 71.5 | -370 | 56 | 127.5 |
| Surplus | 28.75 | 28.75 | 28.75 | 28.75 |
| Final Settlement | 100.25 | -341.25 | 84.75 | 156.25 |

## Method of Sealed Bids

- Do the bids need to be secret?


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Do the bids need to be secret?
- Auction theory says expected values would equal (with open bids)


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Do the bids need to be secret?
- Auction theory says expected values would equal (with open bids)
- If bids were open, would want to just undercut highest bidder:


## Open Bidding

Suppose bids were open:

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 499 | 500 | 499 | 499 |
| Manhattan | 59 | 59 | 60 | 59 |
| Boat | 50 | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| Painting | 19 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| Total | 627 | 628 | 627 | 626 |

## Open Bidding

Suppose bids were open:

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 499 | 500 | 499 | 499 |
| Manhattan | 59 | 59 | 60 | 59 |
| Boat | 50 | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| Painting | 19 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| Total | 627 | 628 | 627 | 626 |
| Fair Share | 156.75 | 157 | 156.75 | 156.5 |

## Open Bidding

Suppose bids were open:

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 499 | 500 | 499 | 499 |
| Manhattan | 59 | 59 | 60 | 59 |
| Boat | 50 | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| Painting | 19 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| Total | 627 | 628 | 627 | 626 |
| Fair Share | 156.75 | 157 | 156.75 | 156.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |
| Settlement |  |  |  |  |

## Open Bidding

Suppose bids were open:

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 499 | 500 | 499 | 499 |
| Manhattan | 59 | 59 | 60 | 59 |
| Boat | 50 | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| Painting | 19 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| Total | 627 | 628 | 627 | 626 |
| Fair Share | 156.75 | 157 | 156.75 | 156.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |
| Settlement | 106.75 | -363 | 96.75 | 156.5 |

## Open Bidding

Suppose bids were open:

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 499 | 500 | 499 | 499 |
| Manhattan | 59 | 59 | 60 | 59 |
| Boat | 50 | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| Painting | 19 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| Total | 627 | 628 | 627 | 626 |
| Fair Share | 156.75 | 157 | 156.75 | 156.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |
| Settlement | 106.75 | -363 | 96.75 | 156.75 |
| Surplus | .75 | .75 | .75 | .75 |

## Open Bidding

Suppose bids were open:

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 499 | 500 | 499 | 499 |
| Manhattan | 59 | 59 | 60 | 59 |
| Boat | 50 | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| Painting | 19 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| Total | 627 | 628 | 627 | 626 |
| Fair Share | 156.75 | 157 | 156.75 | 156.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |
| Settlement | 106.75 | -363 | 96.75 | 156.75 |
| Surplus | .75 | .75 | .75 | .75 |
| Final Settlement | 107.5 | -362.25 | 97.5 | 157.5 |

## Open Bidding

Suppose bids were open:

|  | Albert | Beatrice | Clyde | Diane |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tokyo | 499 | 500 | 499 | 499 |
| Manhattan | 59 | 59 | 60 | 59 |
| Boat | 50 | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| Painting | 19 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| Total | 627 | 628 | 627 | 626 |
| Fair Share | 156.75 | 157 | 156.75 | 156.5 |
| Item Value | 50 | 520 | 60 | 0 |
| Settlement | 106.75 | -363 | 96.75 | 156.75 |
| Surplus | .75 | .75 | .75 | .75 |
| Final Settlement | 107.5 | -362.25 | 97.5 | 157.5 |

Open bidding encourages false bids (can get more \$\$)

## Method of Sealed Bids

- Perks:


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Perks:
- Parties receive more than their fair share (by $\$ 28,750$ in the example


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Perks:
- Parties receive more than their fair share (by $\$ 28,750$ in the example
- Works well when goods consist of a few items of varying values


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Perks:
- Parties receive more than their fair share (by $\$ 28,750$ in the example
- Works well when goods consist of a few items of varying values
- Encourages honesty


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Perks:
- Parties receive more than their fair share (by $\$ 28,750$ in the example
- Works well when goods consist of a few items of varying values
- Encourages honesty
- If you underbid, your "fair share" decreases


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Perks:
- Parties receive more than their fair share (by $\$ 28,750$ in the example
- Works well when goods consist of a few items of varying values
- Encourages honesty
- If you underbid, your "fair share" decreases
- If you overbid, you'll pay a lot of money for something you don't want


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Perks:
- Parties receive more than their fair share (by $\$ 28,750$ in the example
- Works well when goods consist of a few items of varying values
- Encourages honesty
- If you underbid, your "fair share" decreases
- If you overbid, you'll pay a lot of money for something you don't want
- Problems?


## Method of Sealed Bids

- Perks:
- Parties receive more than their fair share (by $\$ 28,750$ in the example
- Works well when goods consist of a few items of varying values
- Encourages honesty
- If you underbid, your "fair share" decreases
- If you overbid, you'll pay a lot of money for something you don't want
- Problems?
- Requires players to have enough cash to cover bids


## Method of Sealed Bids

- See Handout \#7

