

# Today's plan:

- ▶ Section 2.4.2. (Discrete–different values–equal rights)

Section 2.4.2.: The discrete case of  
Different Values - Equal Rights:  
Sealed Bids Method.

### Example

Lew and Daira Jones are getting divorced.

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One indivisible item, to be divided among two parties. Impossible. But we can:

- ▶ Transform the problem to continuous:  
**sell the house and split the money**



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- ▶ Sell the house for as much as the market is willing to pay.

## Potential problem:

What if the market value is **lower** than the value assigned by both parties? Maybe they don't want to sell the house.

## Solution

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*Each party bids what she/he considers to be the value of the house.*

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*After the envelopes are opened:*

- ▶ *Daira (the highest bid) gets the house*
- ▶ *She pays \$100K, half the value in her view, to the court*

## Solution

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- ▶ *There is a surplus of \$10K which is then split in equal parts*
- ▶ *The final settlement is: Daira gets the house and pays \$95K; Lew gets \$95K*

## Remarks:

- ▶ Note that the final settlement is equivalent to averaging/splitting the bids: the house is worth \$190K, and each party gets half, namely \$95K; he gets it in cash, she gets the house minus \$95K.

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- ▶ Note that the final settlement is equivalent to averaging/splitting the bids: the house is worth \$190K, and each party gets half, namely \$95K; he gets it in cash, she gets the house minus \$95K.
- ▶ There's a **cash surplus** since the house goes to the highest bidder.

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- ▶ If he bids higher, he may have to pay more than what he considers fair
- ▶ If he bids lower, he may get less money than what he considers his fair share

A house is a typical discrete item.  
You can't cut the house into pieces.

### Example

An estate consisting of a house, a car, and some jewelry is to be divided into equal parts among four heirs. (Even though the jewelry consists of several items, they don't want to split it up.)

The heirs agree to use the method of sealed bids. Here are their bids.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Taisha</b>	<b>Shakira</b>	<b>Moira</b>	<b>Jennifer</b>
House	120,000	125,000	140,000	108,000
Car	40,000	48,000	46,000	35,000
Jewelry	18,200	18,400	15,000	12,000

## Game plan:

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Find what each person thinks the whole estate is worth (add down columns), and calculate what each person believes is her fair share (divide her idea of the total by 4).

For each item, highest bid gets it. Comparing opinions of “fair share,” they pay each other. Finally, give out any surplus.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Taisha</b>	<b>Shakira</b>	<b>Moira</b>	<b>Jennifer</b>
House	120,000	125,000	140,000	108,000
Car	40,000	48,000	46,000	35,000
Jewelry	18,200	18,400	15,000	12,000
Total	178,200	191,400	201,000	155,000
Fair share	44,550	47,850	50,250	38,750
Allocated	0	66,400	140,000	0
Difference	44,550	-18,550	-89,750	38,750
Total surplus = 25,000				
Surplus share	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250

Final allocation summary

	<b>Taisha</b>	<b>Shakira</b>	<b>Moira</b>	<b>Jennifer</b>
Items	none	Car, Jewelry	House	none
Items' Value	0	66,400	140,000	0
Cash	50,800	-12,300	-83,500	45,000
Net total	50,800	54,100	56,500	45,000

## Remarks:

- ▶ Each heir has a different total value of the estate. Therefore, each one has a different value for a fair share.

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- ▶ Each heir has a different total value of the estate. Therefore, each one has a different value for a fair share.
- ▶ Every heir got more than what she considered a fair share. That's because the winner is always the highest bidder.

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- ▶ Jennifer may have bid low trying to get a good deal on the items. However, the net result is that she gets less than the others. It is not to a player's advantage to bid low.

## Sealed Bids Method

- ▶ Each player submits a bid for each item in a sealed envelope.
- ▶ Once all the bids are collected, the envelopes are opened.



## Sealed Bids Method

- ▶ Each player's bids are added up and divided by the number of players, to obtain the fair share for that player.
- ▶ Each item is allocated to the highest bidder.

## Sealed Bids Method

- ▶ If the items allocated to a player are worth more than his fair share, he pays the difference.
- ▶ If items allocated to a player are worth less than his fair share, he gets the difference.

## Sealed Bids Method

- ▶ The surplus cash is divided into equal parts among the players.

End of Chapter 2:  
Section 2.5 (short): Different Values  
- Different Rights.

In the **discrete case** (sealed bids),  
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players,

In the **discrete case** (sealed bids), when each fair share is determined, instead of dividing by the number of players, find the percentage each player is entitled to.

### Example

The four owners of The Kleen Car Wash Co. have unanimously decided to break up the company.

### Example

- ▶ Each one will get the appropriate percentage of assets:

A	B	C	D
40%	30%	20%	10%



### Example

- ▶ Each one will get the appropriate percentage of assets:

A	B	C	D
40%	30%	20%	10%

- ▶ They use the sealed bids method.

### Example

The (discrete) assets of the company include: 3 automatic car washers, an auto parts store and a truck.

<b>Item</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Car Washer 1	130,000	140,000	120,000	135,000
Car Washer 2	150,000	145,000	155,000	120,000
Car Washer 3	165,000	170,000	150,000	160,000
Store	260,000	250,000	250,000	255,000
Truck	45,000	40,000	30,000	35,000

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Car Washer 2	150,000	145,000	<u>155,000</u>	120,000
Car Washer 3	165,000	<u>170,000</u>	150,000	160,000
Store	<u>260,000</u>	250,000	250,000	255,000
Truck	<u>45,000</u>	40,000	30,000	35,000
Total	750,000	745,000	705,000	705,000
Company stock	40%	30%	20%	10%
Fair share	300,000	223,500	141,000	70,500
Allocated	305,000	310,000	155,000	0
Difference	-5,000	-86,500	-14,000	70,500
Total surplus = 35,000				
Surplus share	14,000	10,500	7,000	3,500

## Final allocation summary

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Items	Store, Truck	Washers 1,3	Washer 2	none
Items' value	305,000	310,000	155,000	0
Cash	9,000	-76,000	-7,000	74,000
Net total	314,000	234,000	148,000	74,000

**Remarks:** There were two rows where this differs from the equal-rights case:

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“Fair share” and “Surplus share.”

Don't forget to allocate the surplus at the end, and careful if it's a different-rights problem.



End of Chapter 2.