Designing Coalition-Proof Mechanisms for Electricity Markets

Orcun Karaca joint work with M. Kamgarpour

Institut für Automatik, ETH Zürich

Nodal versus Zonal Prices Revisited: Lessons from the US Experience and Applicability to Europe Nov 20th, 2019, the CEEM of the Université Paris-Dauphine



- Successful transformation to deregulated competitive markets
- Stability: Supply and demand balance at every instance
- A transition due to renewables



- Successful transformation to deregulated competitive markets
- Stability: Supply and demand balance at every instance
- A transition due to renewables



- Successful transformation to deregulated competitive markets
- Stability: Supply and demand balance at every instance
- A transition due to renewables
- Role of different electricity markets in ensuring stability



- Successful transformation to deregulated competitive markets
- Stability: Supply and demand balance at every instance
- A transition due to renewables
- Role of different electricity markets in ensuring stability



Market design criteria

Efficiency: Immunity to strategic manipulations

Market design criteria

Efficiency: Immunity to strategic manipulations

How can we **eliminate strategic manipulations** to achieve a stable and an efficient grid?

Outline

Electricity market framework

Characterizing coalition-proofness using the core

Design considerations for core-selecting mechanisms/

Numerical results

Outline

Electricity market framework

Characterizing coalition-proofness using the core

Design considerations for core-selecting mechanisms

Numerical results

Procurement (reverse) auction setting

Private true cost of bidder l

$$c_l : \mathbb{X}_l \to \mathbb{R}_+$$
 s.t. $0 \in \mathbb{X}_l \subset \mathbb{R}_+^t$ and $c_l(0) = 0$

Reported cost of bidder l

$$b_l : \hat{\mathbb{X}}_l \to \mathbb{R}_+$$
 s.t. $0 \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}_l \subset \mathbb{R}_+^t$ and $b_l(0) = 0$

Procurement (reverse) auction setting

Private true cost of bidder l

$$c_l : \mathbb{X}_l \to \mathbb{R}_+$$
 s.t. $0 \in \mathbb{X}_l \subset \mathbb{R}_+^t$ and $c_l(0) = 0$

Reported cost of bidder l

 $b_l : \hat{\mathbb{X}}_l \to \mathbb{R}_+ \text{ s.t. } 0 \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}_l \subset \mathbb{R}_+^t \text{ and } b_l(0) = 0$



Procurement (reverse) auction setting

Private true cost of bidder l

$$c_l : \mathbb{X}_l \to \mathbb{R}_+$$
 s.t. $0 \in \mathbb{X}_l \subset \mathbb{R}_+^t$ and $c_l(0) = 0$

Reported cost of bidder l

 $b_l : \hat{\mathbb{X}}_l \to \mathbb{R}_+ \text{ s.t. } 0 \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}_l \subset \mathbb{R}_+^t \text{ and } b_l(0) = 0$



The central operator (CO) solves for

$$J(\mathcal{B}) = \min_{x \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}} \sum_{l \in L} b_l(x_l)$$

s.t. $\sum_{l \in L} x_l \in \mathbb{S}$ (CO)

Constraints S ⊂ R^t₊—e.g., security/reliability constraints
The allocation rule x^{*}(B) is the minimizer





► Utilities:
$$\begin{cases} u_l(\mathcal{B}) = p_l(\mathcal{B}) - c_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) : \text{ linear in payment} \\ u_{CO}(\mathcal{B}) = -\sum_{l \in L} p_l(\mathcal{B}) : -\text{total payment} \end{cases}$$



► Utilities:
$$\begin{cases} u_l(\mathcal{B}) = p_l(\mathcal{B}) - c_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) : \text{ linear in payment} \\ u_{CO}(\mathcal{B}) = -\sum_{l \in L} p_l(\mathcal{B}) : -\text{total payment} \end{cases}$$

Desirable properties in mechanism design

Individually rational: Nonnegative utilities for bidders

Efficient: Sum of all utilities is maximized



► Utilities:
$$\begin{cases} u_l(\mathcal{B}) = p_l(\mathcal{B}) - c_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) : \text{ linear in payment} \\ u_{\mathsf{CO}}(\mathcal{B}) = -\sum_{l \in L} p_l(\mathcal{B}) : -total \text{ payment} \end{cases}$$

Desirable properties in mechanism design

Individually rational: Nonnegative utilities for bidders

Efficient: Sum of all utilities is maximized





► Utilities:
$$\begin{cases} u_l(\mathcal{B}) = p_l(\mathcal{B}) - c_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) : \text{ linear in payment} \\ u_{CO}(\mathcal{B}) = -\sum_{l \in L} p_l(\mathcal{B}) : -\text{total payment} \end{cases}$$

Desirable properties in mechanism design

Individually rational: Nonnegative utilities for bidders

- Efficient: Sum of all utilities is maximized
- Incentive-compatible: Truthfulness is the dominant strategy

- Individually rational: Nonnegative utilities for bidders
- *Efficient:* Sum of all utilities is maximized
- Incentive-compatible: Truthfulness is the dominant strategy

- Individually rational: Nonnegative utilities for bidders
- *Efficient:* Sum of all utilities is maximized
- Incentive-compatible: Truthfulness is the dominant strategy
- Pay-as-bid and Lagrange multiplier-based (e.g., LMP) rules: Not incentive-compatible, not efficient

- ✓ Individually rational: Nonnegative utilities for bidders
- × Efficient: Sum of all utilities is maximized
- X Incentive-compatible: Truthfulness is the dominant strategy
- Pay-as-bid and Lagrange multiplier-based (e.g., LMP) rules: Not incentive-compatible, not efficient

- ✓ Individually rational: Nonnegative utilities for bidders
- × Efficient: Sum of all utilities is maximized
- XIncentive-compatible: Truthfulness is the dominant strategy
- Pay-as-bid and Lagrange multiplier-based (e.g., LMP) rules: Not incentive-compatible, not efficient
- Optimal value of (CO) with $x_l = 0$

 $J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) \ge J(\mathcal{B})$

- ✓ Individually rational: Nonnegative utilities for bidders
- × Efficient: Sum of all utilities is maximized
- × Incentive-compatible: Truthfulness is the dominant strategy
- Pay-as-bid and Lagrange multiplier-based (e.g., LMP) rules: Not incentive-compatible, not efficient
- Optimal value of (CO) with $x_l = 0$

 $J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) \ge J(\mathcal{B})$

The Vickrey-Clarke-Groves (VCG) mechanism:

$$p_l(\mathcal{B}) = \underbrace{b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B}))}_{\text{pay-as-bid}} + \underbrace{(J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) - J(\mathcal{B}))}_{\text{a marginal contribution term}}$$

- Individually rational: Nonnegative utilities for bidders
- ► ✓ Efficient: Sum of all utilities is maximized
- Incentive-compatible: Truthfulness is the dominant strategy
- Pay-as-bid and Lagrange multiplier-based (e.g., LMP) rules: Not incentive-compatible, not efficient
- Optimal value of (CO) with $x_l = 0$

 $J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) \ge J(\mathcal{B})$

The Vickrey-Clarke-Groves (VCG) mechanism:

$$p_l(\mathcal{B}) = \underbrace{b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B}))}_{\text{pay-as-bid}} + \underbrace{(J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) - J(\mathcal{B}))}_{\text{a marginal contribution term}}$$



Table: VCG outcomes for the model (CHF) (p: payment, u: utility)

	Truthful Bidding		
	p (u)	x	
Generator 1	0 (0)	0	
Generator 2	0 (0)	0	
Generator 3	260(120)	20	



Table: VCG outcomes for the model (CHF) (p: payment, u: utility)

	Truthful Bidding		
	p (u)	x	
Generator 1	0 (0)	0	
Generator 2	0 (0)	0	
Generator 3	260(120)	20	

Truthful bidding is the dominant strategy



Table: VCG outcomes for the model (CHF) (p: payment, u: utility)

	Truthful Bidding		1 and 2 collude	
	p (u)	x	p (u)	x
Generator 1	0 (0)	0		
Generator 2	0 (0)	0		
Generator 3	260 (120)	20		



Table: VCG outcomes for the model (CHF) (p: payment, u: utility)

	Truthful Bidding		1 and 2 collude	
	p (u)	x	<i>p</i> (<i>u</i>)	x
Generator 1	0 (0)	0	140 (10)	10
Generator 2	0 (0)	0	140 (10)	10
Generator 3	260(120)	20	0 (0)	0





Coalition-proofness

Bidding with multiple identities is not profitable

Which mechanisms attain the **coalition-proofness** property?

Outline

Electricity market framework

Characterizing coalition-proofness using the core

Design considerations for core-selecting mechanisms

Numerical results

Core-selecting payment rule

 $p_l(\mathcal{B}) = b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) + \bar{u}_l(\mathcal{B}), \, \forall l, \text{ where } \bar{u}(\mathcal{B}) \in Core(\mathcal{B}) \subset \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$

that is, pay-as-bid + a revealed utility from the core

Core-selecting payment rule

 $p_l(\mathcal{B}) = b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) + \bar{u}_l(\mathcal{B}), \, \forall l, \text{ where } \bar{u}(\mathcal{B}) \in Core(\mathcal{B}) \subset \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$

that is, pay-as-bid + a revealed utility from the core

▶ Objective value under the profile $\mathcal{B}_{-S} = \{b_l\}_{l \in L \setminus S}$, $S \subseteq L$

$$\begin{split} J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) = & \min_{x \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}} \sum_{l \in L \setminus S} b_l(x_l) \\ & \text{s.t. } \sum_{l \in L} x \in \mathbb{S}, \, x_S = 0 \end{split}$$

Core-selecting payment rule

 $p_l(\mathcal{B}) = b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) + \bar{u}_l(\mathcal{B}), \, \forall l, \text{ where } \bar{u}(\mathcal{B}) \in Core(\mathcal{B}) \subset \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$

that is, pay-as-bid + a revealed utility from the core

$$\begin{split} J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) = & \min_{x \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}} \sum_{l \in L \setminus S} b_l(x_l) \\ & \text{s.t. } \sum_{l \in L} x_l \in \mathbb{S}, \, x_S = 0 \end{split}$$

Core-selecting payment rule

 $p_l(\mathcal{B}) = b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) + \bar{u}_l(\mathcal{B}), \, \forall l, \text{ where } \bar{u}(\mathcal{B}) \in Core(\mathcal{B}) \subset \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$

that is, pay-as-bid + a revealed utility from the core

$$\begin{split} J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) = & \min_{x \in \mathbb{X}} \sum_{l \in L \setminus S} b_l(x_l) \\ & \text{s.t. } \sum_{l \in L} x_l \in \mathbb{S}, \ x_S = 0 \end{split}$$

Core-selecting payment rule

 $p_l(\mathcal{B}) = b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) + \bar{u}_l(\mathcal{B}), \ \forall l, \ \text{where} \ \bar{u}(\mathcal{B}) \in Core(\mathcal{B}) \subset \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$

that is, pay-as-bid + a revealed utility from the core

$$Core(\mathcal{B}) = \left\{ \bar{u} \in \mathbb{R}^{|L|}_{+} \mid \sum_{l \in S} \bar{u}_l \leq \underbrace{J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) - J(\mathcal{B})}_{+}, \forall S \subset L \right\}$$

$$\begin{split} J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) = & \min_{x \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}} \sum_{l \in L \setminus S} b_l(x_l) \\ & \text{s.t. } \sum_{l \in L} x_l \in \mathbb{S}, \ x_S = 0 \end{split}$$

Core-selecting payment rule

 $p_l(\mathcal{B}) = b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) + \bar{u}_l(\mathcal{B}), \ \forall l, \ \text{where} \ \bar{u}(\mathcal{B}) \in Core(\mathcal{B}) \subset \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$

that is, pay-as-bid + a revealed utility from the core

$$Core(\mathcal{B}) = \left\{ \bar{u} \in \underbrace{\mathbb{R}^{|L|}_{+}}_{\text{indiv.}} \mid \underbrace{\sum_{l \in S} \bar{u}_{l}}_{l \leq S} \underbrace{J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) - J(\mathcal{B})}_{-S}, \forall S \subset L \right\}$$

$$\begin{split} J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) = & \min_{x \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}} \sum_{l \in L \setminus S} b_l(x_l) \\ & \text{s.t. } \sum_{l \in L} x_l \in \mathbb{S}, \, x_S = 0 \end{split}$$

Core-selecting payment rule

 $p_l(\mathcal{B}) = b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) + \bar{u}_l(\mathcal{B}), \ \forall l, \ \text{where} \ \bar{u}(\mathcal{B}) \in Core(\mathcal{B}) \subset \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$

that is, pay-as-bid + a revealed utility from the core

$$Core(\mathcal{B}) = \left\{ \bar{u} \in \underbrace{\mathbb{R}^{|L|}_{+}}_{\text{indiv.}} \mid \underbrace{\sum_{l \in S} \bar{u}_{l}}_{\text{marg. contribution of } S} \mid \underbrace{J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) - J(\mathcal{B})}_{\text{marg. contribution of } S}, \forall S \subset L \right\}$$

$$\begin{split} J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) = & \min_{x \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}} \sum_{l \in L \setminus S} b_l(x_l) \\ & \text{s.t. } \sum_{l \in L} x_l \in \mathbb{S}, \, x_S = 0 \end{split}$$

Core-selecting payment rule

 $p_l(\mathcal{B}) = b_l(x_l^*(\mathcal{B})) + \bar{u}_l(\mathcal{B}), \ \forall l, \ \text{where} \ \bar{u}(\mathcal{B}) \in Core(\mathcal{B}) \subset \mathbb{R}_+^{|L|}$

that is, pay-as-bid + a revealed utility from the core

$$Core(\mathcal{B}) = \left\{ \bar{u} \in \mathbb{R}^{|L|}_{+} \mid \underbrace{\sum_{l \in S} \bar{u}_{l} \leq \underbrace{J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) - J(\mathcal{B})}_{\text{marg. contribution of } S}, \forall S \subset L \right\}$$

cannot be disputed by coalition $L \setminus S$

$$\begin{split} J(\mathcal{B}_{-S}) = & \min_{x \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}} \sum_{l \in L \setminus S} b_l(x_l) \\ & \text{s.t. } \sum_{l \in L} x_l \in \mathbb{S}, \, x_S = 0 \end{split}$$

Theorem 1 Core-selecting mechanism \iff Coalition-proof mechanism

► Generalizes a result from [Day and Milgrom 2006] to continuous goods

Theorem 1

Core-selecting mechanism \iff Coalition-proof mechanism

- ► Generalizes a result from [Day and Milgrom 2006] to continuous goods
- Remark: Core-selecting payments are upper bounded by the VCG payments

$$\bar{u}_l^{\mathsf{VCG}}(\mathcal{B}) = J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) - J(\mathcal{B}) = \max\left\{\bar{u}_l \,|\, \bar{u} \in Core(\mathcal{B})\right\}$$

Theorem 1

Core-selecting mechanism \iff Coalition-proof mechanism

- ► Generalizes a result from [Day and Milgrom 2006] to continuous goods
- Remark: Core-selecting payments are upper bounded by the VCG payments

$$\bar{u}_{l}^{\mathsf{VCG}}(\mathcal{B}) = J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) - J(\mathcal{B}) = \max\left\{\bar{u}_{l} \mid \bar{u} \in Core(\mathcal{B})\right\}$$

Theorem 1

Core-selecting mechanism \iff Coalition-proof mechanism

- ► Generalizes a result from [Day and Milgrom 2006] to continuous goods
- Remark: Core-selecting payments are upper bounded by the VCG payments

$$\bar{u}_l^{\mathsf{VCG}}(\mathcal{B}) = J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) - J(\mathcal{B}) = \max\left\{\bar{u}_l \,|\, \bar{u} \in Core(\mathcal{B})\right\}$$

An alternative characterization

Theorem 1

 $\textit{Core-selecting mechanism} \Longleftrightarrow \textit{Coalition-proof mechanism}$

- ► Generalizes a result from [Day and Milgrom 2006] to continuous goods
- Remark: Core-selecting payments are upper bounded by the VCG payments

$$\bar{u}_l^{\mathsf{VCG}}(\mathcal{B}) = J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) - J(\mathcal{B}) = \max\left\{\bar{u}_l \,|\, \bar{u} \in Core(\mathcal{B})\right\}$$

Theorem 2

Core-selecting mechanisms are those that attain a competitive equilibrium if we allow nonlinear prices

Theorem 1

 $\textit{Core-selecting mechanism} \Longleftrightarrow \textit{Coalition-proof mechanism}$

- ► Generalizes a result from [Day and Milgrom 2006] to continuous goods
- Remark: Core-selecting payments are upper bounded by the VCG payments

$$\bar{u}_l^{\mathsf{VCG}}(\mathcal{B}) = J(\mathcal{B}_{-l}) - J(\mathcal{B}) = \max\left\{\bar{u}_l \,|\, \bar{u} \in Core(\mathcal{B})\right\}$$

An alternative characterization

Theorem 2

Core-selecting mechanisms are those that attain a competitive equilibrium if we allow nonlinear prices

Corollary: Lagrange multiplier-based mechanisms are core-selecting

Summary so far:



Core-selecting is in general **not incentive-compatible** and there are **many points** to choose from the core...

Can core-selecting mechanisms **approximate incentive-compatibility**?

Outline

Electricity market framework

Characterizing coalition-proofness using the core

Design considerations for core-selecting mechanisms/

Numerical results

Orcun Karaca 12 / 17

Approximating incentive-compatibility using core-selecting

Lemma 1

The maximum gain of bidder l by a unilateral deviation from its true cost is tightly upperbounded by

$$p_l^{\textit{VCG}}(\mathcal{C}_l, \mathcal{B}_{-l}) - p_l^{\textit{Core-Selecting}}(\mathcal{C}_l, \mathcal{B}_{-l})$$

Approximating incentive-compatibility using core-selecting

Lemma 1

The maximum gain of bidder l by a unilateral deviation from its true cost is tightly upperbounded by

$$p_l^{\textit{VCG}}(\mathcal{C}_l, \mathcal{B}_{-l}) - p_l^{\textit{Core-Selecting}}(\mathcal{C}_l, \mathcal{B}_{-l})$$

Maximum payment core-selecting (MPCS) mechanism:

$$\bar{u}^{\mathsf{MPCS}}(\mathcal{B}) = \underset{u \in \mathsf{Core}(\mathcal{B})}{\arg \max} \sum_{l \in L} u_l - \epsilon \left\| u_l - \bar{u}_l^{\mathsf{VCG}}(\mathcal{B}) \right\|_2^2$$

Theorem 3

The MPCS mechanism minimizes the sum of maximum gains from unilateral deviations

► Generalizes proposals from [Day and Raghavan 2007] to continuous goods

Comparison of revealed utilities under different mechanisms



Comparison of revealed utilities under different mechanisms



The MPCS mechanism:

- + Approximate incentive-compatibility + Coalition-proofness \implies Higher efficiency!
- + Applicable to the general **nonconvex** setting
- $+\,$ Extends to two-stage markets and two-sided markets

Outline

Electricity market framework

Characterizing coalition-proofness using the core

Design considerations for core-selecting mechanisms

Numerical results

Swiss reserve procurement auctions

- Two-stage stochastic weekly market for secondary and tertiary reserves [Abbaspourtobati and Zima 2016]
- Mutually exclusive bids are submitted

$$J(\mathcal{B}) = \min_{x \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}, y} \sum_{l \in L} b_l(x_l) + d(y)$$

s.t. $g(x, y) \le 0$

- $x \in \hat{\mathbb{X}}$: Power to be purchased in the weekly market
- ▶ $y \in \mathbb{R}^{p}_{+}$: Power to be purchased in the daily market
- $d: \mathbb{R}^p_+ \to \mathbb{R}$: Expected daily market cost
- Reserves ensure a deficit probability of less than 0.2%

Comparison of different mechanisms

Based on 2014 data—67 bidders

Table: Total payments under truthful bidding

Total Pay-as-bid payment	2.293 million CHF
Total MPCS payment	2.437 million CHF
Total VCG payment	2.529 million CHF

- ▶ If the bidders were to inflate their true costs by 11%, total pay-as-bid payment would have been 2.545 million CHF
- Computation times for different mechanisms
 - ▶ VCG: 580.6 seconds
 - ► MPCS: 659.2 seconds

Conclusion

Summary

- Mechanism design is essential for future electricity markets if we want to achieve stable and efficient grid
- In this talk, we designed core-selecting mechanisms that achieve coalition-proofness, and approximate incentive-compatibility for electricity markets
- Results were verified with the Swiss reserve market and OPF test systems

Outlook

- Coalitional games for spatial and intertemporal market coordination
- Ways to reallocate budget surplus in core-selecting mechanisms

Thank you for your attention

My questions to you

- What are acceptable changes for electricity markets?
- What are the problems to address in pricing from your perspective?

You may contact me: okaraca@ethz.ch

The results from this talk appear in

- Karaca, Sessa, Walton, and Kamgarpour, "Designing coalition-proof reverse auctions over continuous goods", IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, 2019
- Karaca and Kamgarpour, "Core-selecting mechanisms in electricity markets", under review, ArXiv:1811.09646, 2019
- Karaca, Sessa, Leidi, and Kamgarpour, "No-regret learning from partially observed data in repeated auctions", under review, 2019