## Eliciting Private User Information for Residential Demand Response

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#### (Residential) Demand Response

DR Provider seeks to collect "reductions" of electricity consumption from its customers under contract in exchange for monetary incentives



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#### Challenges

- **How can reduction be measured?**
- How heterogeneous are users in their reduction behavior?
- **•** Can users "game" the system by misreporting their preferences?

#### End Users

- $\bullet$  Each user  $i \in \mathcal{I}$  has estimated baseline consumption  $\hat{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}_+$  and actual, materialized consumption  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}_+$
- $\bullet$  Estimated reduction is  $\delta_i = (\hat{x}_i x_i) \mathbf{1}_{i \in \mathcal{T}}$
- $\bullet$  Demand curve / price elasticity of demand:  $x_i(r_i) = \bar{x}_i \exp(-\alpha_i r_i)$
- $\bullet$  User i's utility function:  $u_i = (r_i[\hat{x}_i x_i]_+ q_i[x_i \hat{x}_i]_+) \mathbf{1}_{i \in \mathcal{T}}$

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\underset{r_1,\ldots,r_n}{\text{minimize}} & \mathbb{E}_{\delta_1,\ldots,\delta_n} \left[ \sum\nolimits_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \delta_i \left( r_i \mathbf{1}_{\delta_i < 0} - q_i \mathbf{1}_{\delta_i \ge 0} \right) \right] \\
\text{subject to} & \mathbb{E}_{\delta_1,\ldots,\delta_n} \left[ \sum\nolimits_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \delta_i \right] \ge M.\n\end{aligned}
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- $\bullet$  Incentivize subset of end-users  $\mathcal{T} \subset \mathcal{I}$  with user-specific, per-unit rewards
- Charge user i per-unit penalty  $q_i \in \mathbb{R}_+$  for increasing consumption
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At  $t = 0$ :

 $\bullet$  User i's type is  $\theta_i = (\alpha_i \sim F_\alpha, \xi_i \sim F_\xi)$ , where  $\bar{x}_i \sim G_{\xi_i} \sim G_{\xi_i \sim F_\xi}$ 

• Elasticity  $\alpha_i$  characterizes willingness to reduce

At  $t = 1$ :

**•** Individual Rationality:  $\mathbb{E}[u_i(f(\theta_i, \mathbf{z}_{-i}))] \geq 0$   $\forall i \in \mathcal{I}, \mathbf{z} \in \Theta$ 

*Incentive Compatibility*:  $\theta_i = \arg \max_{z_i \in \Theta_i} \mathbb{E}_{z_i} [u_i(f(z_i, z_{-i}), \theta_i)] \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{I}, \ z \in \Theta$ 

At  $t = 2$ :

• Social choice function  $f(z)$  consists of allocation and payment rule

- **Settlements between DR Provider and users**
- **•** But: Not considered in Mechanism Design



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Fit F and G from smart meter data in California



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#### Dominant Strategy Equilibrium (DSE)

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\boldsymbol{\theta}_i = \arg \max_{\mathbf{z}_i \in \Theta_i} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}_i} \left[ u_i(f(\mathbf{z}_i, \mathbf{z}_{-i}), \boldsymbol{\theta}_i) \right] \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{I}, \ \mathbf{z} \in \Theta
$$

 $\bullet$  Revelation Principle: Given a DSE, focus on *direct* mechanisms  $\to$  Users report their

Expected payoff (user's utility) must be larger than any outside option:

 $\mathbb{E}[u_i(f(\theta_i, z_{-i}))] \geq \mathbb{E}[(r_i[\hat{x}_i - x_i]_+ - q_i[x_i - \hat{x}_i]_+) \mathbf{1}_{i \notin \mathcal{T}}] = 0 \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{I}, \ z \in \Theta$ 



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#### Individual Rationality Constraints

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#### Social Choice Function

- $f(\theta):\Theta\mapsto \mathcal Y$  maps type  $\theta$  to collective choice  $\mathsf y=(\mathsf d,\mathsf r)\in \mathcal Y=\{0,1\}^n\times \mathbb R_+^n$ 
	- Vector of allocation decisions  $\mathbf{d} \in \{0,1\}^n$
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#### VCG-Style Mechanism

$$
j_{\max} = \min_{j} \left\{ j \in \mathbb{N}_+ \middle| \sum_{i=1}^{j} \delta_i(\tilde{r}_j | \theta_i) \geq M \right\}
$$
  

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j(i) = \min_{k} \left\{ k \in \mathbb{N}_+ \middle| \sum_{s=1, s \neq i}^{k} \delta_s(\tilde{r}_k | \theta_s) \geq M \right\} \qquad \forall i \in \{1, ..., j_{\max}\} =: \mathcal{T}
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### Recall:  $\bm{\theta}_i=(\alpha_i\sim\digamma_\alpha,\bm{\xi}_i\sim\digamma_\bm{\xi})$ , where  $\bar{x}_i\sim\digamma_{\bm{\xi}_i}\sim\digamma_{\bm{\xi}_i\sim\digamma_\bm{\xi}}$ ,  $G$  lognormal

• G is parameterized by shape, location, scale parameters:

**•** Draw user types from hierarchical model

- $n = 500$  users,  $q = 5.0$ ,  $\alpha_i \sim \text{unif}[0.05, 0.06]$
- **Comparison to omniscient DR Provider**

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- Either the outcome under treatment or under control is observed, but not both
- **•** That is, the counterfactual consumption is always unobserved

 $\bullet$   $\hat{\mathsf{x}}_i$  is an estimate of the counterfactual, prone to estimation inaccuracies

- Calculate  $\hat{x}_i$  as the mean of the 10 previous consumptions
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### **Conclusion**

#### Summary

- Modeled Residential Demand Response in Mechanism Design framework
- **Intercept and slope of demand curve are users' private information**
- DR Provider elicits private information with incentive compatible auction
- **•** Practical Issue: "Baseline Gaming"

#### Future Work

- **Improve baseline estimates (counterfactuals)**
- Analyze serial correlation of consumption time series
- Extend one-shot problem to online, sequential auctions

# THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?