Optimal Menu when Agents Make Mistakes*

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September 4, 2020

Abstract

This paper studies a welfare maximization problem with heterogeneous agents. A social planner designs a menu of choices for agents who misperceive either the properties of options or their own preferences. When agents misperceive the true properties of alternatives, it is optimal to limit a menu when the probability of a mistaken choice is moderately high. Additionally, it could be optimal to construct the menu with more distinct alternatives. However, when agents misperceive their own tastes, it is optimal to limit choice only when agents choose randomly, and to propose alternatives that are more similar when there is a greater probability of agents making a mistake.

Keywords: Discrete choice, Optimal menu, Bounded rationality, Welfare analyses

JEL classification codes: D30, D60, D81, H80

^{*}This project received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 678081) and institutional support RVO 67985998 from the Czech Academy of Sciences. I thank Ole Jann, Marco Mariotti, Andrei Matveenko, Vladimir Novak, Avner Shaked, Jakub Steiner, and Ekaterina Travova for their comments and suggestions. I also thank Jan Zapal for continual support on this project and Filip Matějka for excellent supervision and patient guidance. All remaining errors are my own.

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