

Integral B2B Debt Netting

Model, Evaluation Metrics, and Experiments

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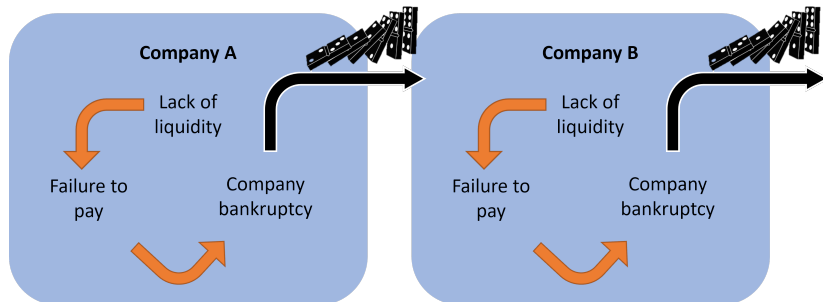
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May 21, 2025



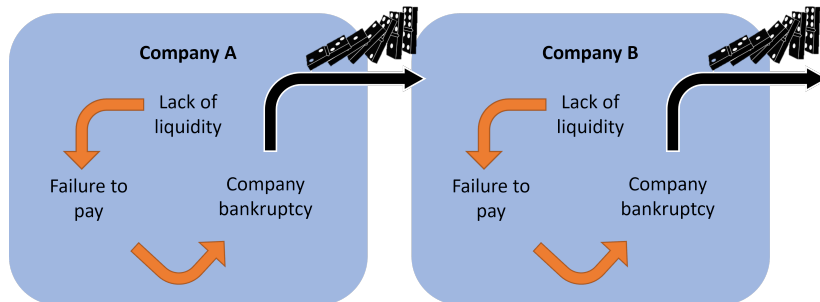
Introduction : Economic fabric

- Companies settle invoices with delays → intertwined debts
- Excessive accumulation of debts can cause financial instability



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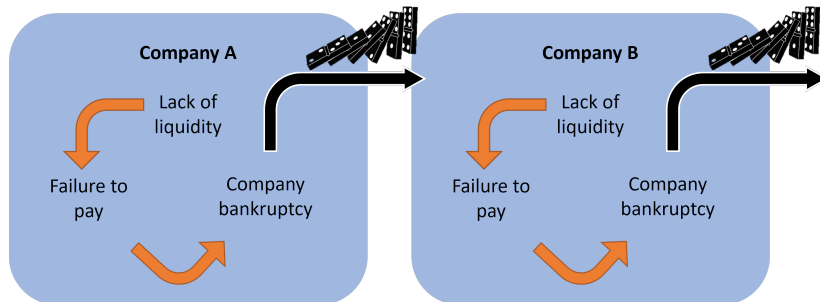
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Debt reduction by netting inside the network

What is netting?

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- **Bilateral** : company A and company B remove common obligations
- **Partial** : reduction of parts of the value of invoices in cycles
- **Integral** : financing is injected at specific points inside the network to reduce chains of debt

Why integral netting?

Systemic view

- Mitigates default cascades by reducing inter-company dependency
- Simpler accounting than partial netting by fully settling invoices
- More possibilities of reduction than without financier

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- NP-hard optimisation if invoices must be settled **integrally**
- Real-world flows are **temporal**: new invoices arrive continuously

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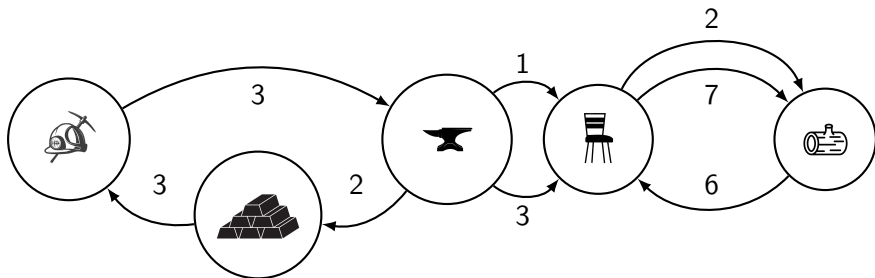
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→ Work on an heuristic for B2B integral netting by invoice selection

Weighted Directed Multi-Graph Representation

- **Nodes:** companies
- **Directed multi-edges:** invoices (debts) between companies
- **Weights:** amounts due

Example of a debt network as a weighted directed multi-graph:



icon images are public domain

Debt, Financing, and Balance Computations

For a given debt graph $G = (V, E)$:

- **Total Debt** D_G :

$$D_G = \sum_{e \in E} w(e)$$

where $w(e)$ is the amount owed on edge e

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$$B_G(v) = \left(\sum_{e \in I_G(v)} w(e) \right) - \left(\sum_{e \in O_G(v)} w(e) \right)$$

where $I_G(v)$ is the set of **incoming** edges to v and $O_G(v)$ is the set of **outgoing** edges from v

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- **External Financing** ϕ_G required to clean all debts in G :

$$\phi_G = \sum_{v \in V} \max(0, -B_G(v))$$

Quality metrics

We need to assess *both* **efficiency** of financing usage and **coverage** of the graph when forming our reduction selection (sub-graph R):

- **Amplification factor:** $\alpha(R) = \frac{D_R}{\phi_R}$
- Total cleared debt over financing

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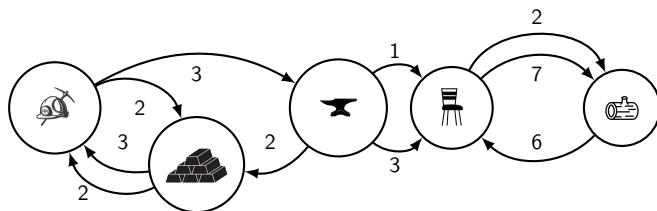
→ **Settlement inclusion:** $\mathcal{I}_G(R) = \frac{D_R}{D_G}$

- Fraction of the total debt that gets cleared

→ **Nettable gain ratio:** $\Gamma_G(R) = \frac{D_R - \phi_R}{D_G - \phi_G}$

- Proportion of netted debt (cleared debt - financing) between our reduction and the complete clearing of the graph

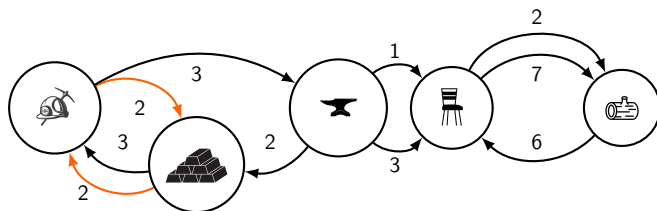
Static Reduction Algorithm



- $D_R = 0$
- $\phi_R = 0$
- $\alpha_R = \infty$
- $\mathcal{I}_G(R) = 0\%$
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Reduction algorithm for a static graph :

Static Reduction Algorithm

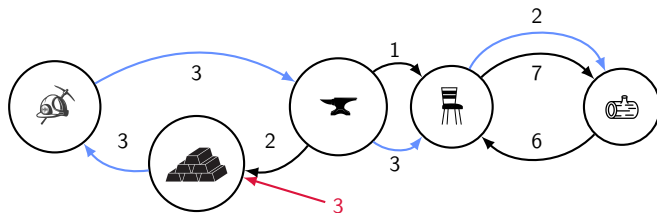


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- **Step 1**: Removal of perfect cycles of length 2

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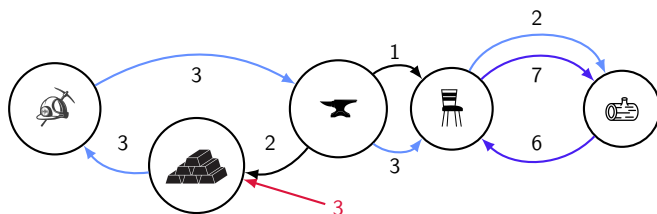


- $D_R = 11$
- $\phi_R = 3$
- $\alpha_R = 3.67$
- $\mathcal{I}_G(R) = 40.74\%$
- $\Gamma_G(R) = 34.78\%$

Reduction algorithm for a static graph :

- **Step 1**: Removal of perfect cycles of length 2
- **Step 2**: Research of *germs* (simple paths with high α), using depth-first search algorithm

Static Reduction Algorithm

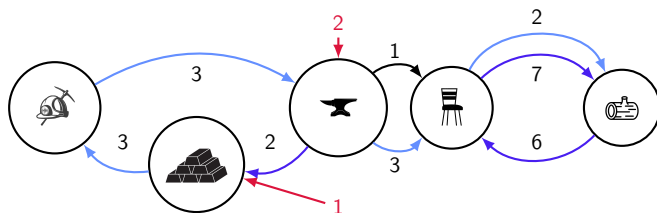


- $D_R = 24$
- $\phi_R = 3$
- $\alpha_R = 8$
- $\mathcal{I}_G(R) = 88.89\%$
- $\Gamma_G(R) = 91.30\%$

Reduction algorithm for a static graph :

- **Step 1**: Removal of perfect cycles of length 2
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- **Step 3**: Extension of the germs by adding a set of connected edges with the highest ratio of debt cleared above the needed financing

Static Reduction Algorithm



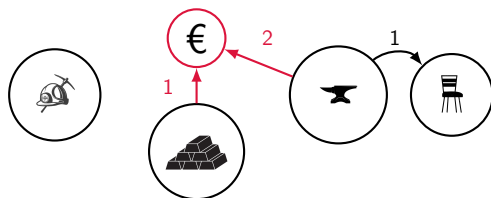
- $D_R = 26$
- $\phi_R = 3$
- $\alpha_R = 8.67$
- $\mathcal{I}_G(R) = 96.30\%$
- $\Gamma_G(R) = 100\%$

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In this process, step 3 is repeated until all starting edges with a potential to cost ratio above a given threshold are taken

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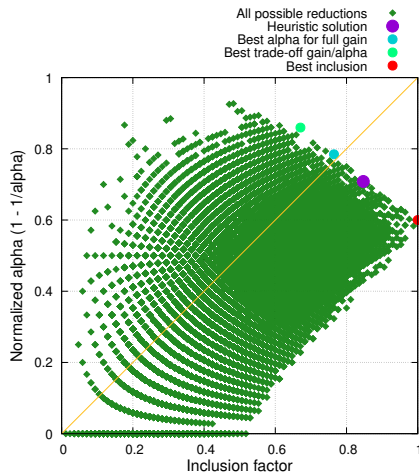
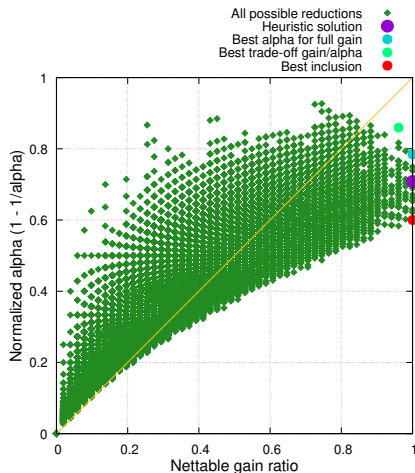
Reduction algorithm for a static graph :

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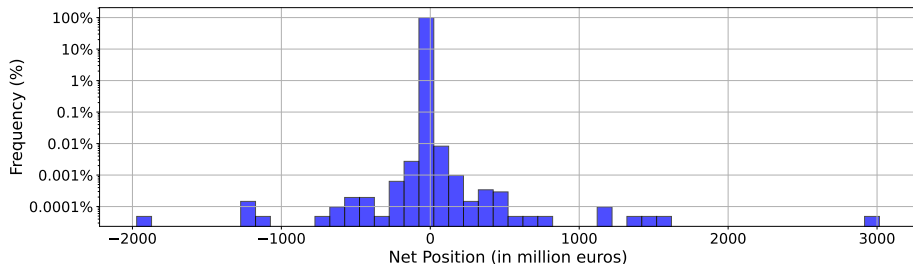
Comparison with Exact Solutions

- Small random graphs of 20 edges
- Exhaustive enumeration of all possible reductions



Overview of our real invoices dataset

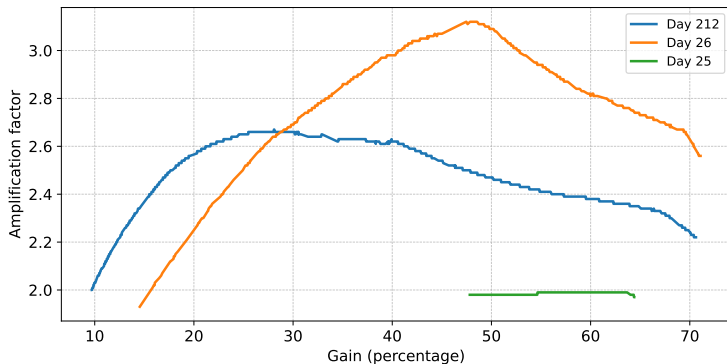
- Electronic invoices from Italy provided by the e-invoicer InfoCert
- 22 million invoices, 2 million companies, €89 billion total over the span year 2019
- Companies are mostly at equilibrium at the end of the year



Repartition of the net position on the overall year for companies in our dataset

Results on different graph sizes

- Partitioning of the year by days
- Coverage of nettable debt $> 50\%$ for an amplification factor of 1.95
- High computation time for large graphs $\Rightarrow$ need for speedup



Amplification factor as a function of the gain for three specific days

Conclusion

Contributions:

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Thank you for your attention!

Any questions or comments?

Results with a simple division strategy

- Split the graph into two sub-graphs, maximising nb of intra-edges
- Reduce each part separately, then merge with a simple greedy algorithm to re-extend
- Mean acceleration factor of 50 and 12% debt clearance loss

