

APPENDIX A

PROOF OF THEOREM 2

Proof: We first give the recursive equation for $p(\mathbf{S}^r, q^r)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
& p(\mathbf{S}^r, q^r) \\
&= p(\mathbf{S}^r | q^r) p(q^r) \\
&= p(\mathcal{S}^r | q^r) p(\mathbf{S}^{r-1} | q^r) p(q^r) \\
&= p(\mathcal{S}^r | q^r) p(\mathbf{S}^{r-1}, q^r) \\
&= p(\mathcal{S}^r | q^r) \int p(\mathbf{S}^{r-1}, q^{r-1}, q^r) dq^{r-1} \\
&= p(\mathcal{S}^r | q^r) \int p(\mathbf{S}^{r-1}, q^r | q^{r-1}) p(q^{r-1}) dq^{r-1} \\
&= p(\mathcal{S}^r | q^r) \int p(\mathbf{S}^{r-1} | q^{r-1}) p(q^r | q^{r-1}) p(q^{r-1}) dq^{r-1} \\
&= p(\mathcal{S}^r | q^r) \int p(\mathbf{S}^{r-1}, q^{r-1}) p(q^r | q^{r-1}) dq^{r-1}.
\end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

On the other hand, we have

$$p(\mathbf{S}^r, q^r) = p(q^r | \mathbf{S}^r) p(\mathbf{S}^r) = \hat{\alpha}(q^r) \prod_{t=1}^r p(\mathcal{S}^t | \mathbf{S}^{t-1}). \tag{26}$$

Substituting terms $p(\mathbf{S}^r, q^r)$ and $p(\mathbf{S}^{r-1}, q^{r-1})$ in Eq. (25) using Eq. (26), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \hat{\alpha}(q^r) \prod_{t=1}^r p(\mathcal{S}^t | \mathbf{S}^{t-1}) \\
&= p(\mathcal{S}^r | q^r) \int \hat{\alpha}(q^{r-1}) \prod_{t=1}^{r-1} p(\mathcal{S}^t | \mathbf{S}^{t-1}) p(q^r | q^{r-1}) dq^{r-1}.
\end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

After eliminating identical terms from both sides of Eq. (27) we can prove Theorem 2. \square

APPENDIX B

PROOF OF THEOREM 3

Before proving Theorem 3, we first give a lemma of marginal distribution for Gaussian variables:

Lemma 5. *Given a Gaussian distribution for \mathbf{x} and a conditional Gaussian distribution for \mathbf{y} given \mathbf{x} in the form: $p(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda})$, $p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}; \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{L})$, the marginal distribution of \mathbf{y} is given by $p(\mathbf{y}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}; \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\mu} + \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{A}^T + \mathbf{L})$.*

The proof of Lemma 5 can be found in [19]. We then give the proof of Theorem 3 as follows:

Proof: Substituting the terms in Eq. (16) using Eq. (12), (13), and (14), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& p(\mathcal{S}^r | \mathbf{S}^{r-1}) \mathcal{N}(q^r; \hat{\mu}^r, \hat{\sigma}^r) = \prod_j \mathcal{N}(s_j^r; q^r, \eta) \\
& \int \mathcal{N}(q^{r-1}; \hat{\mu}^{r-1}, \hat{\sigma}^{r-1}) \mathcal{N}(q^r; aq^{r-1}, \gamma) dq^{r-1}.
\end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

Applying Lemma 5 to the integral item in Eq. (28) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& p(\mathcal{S}^r | \mathbf{S}^{r-1}) \mathcal{N}(q^r; \hat{\mu}^r, \hat{\sigma}^r) \\
&= \prod_j \mathcal{N}(s_j^r; q^r, \eta) \mathcal{N}(q^r; a\hat{\mu}^{r-1}, a^2\hat{\sigma}^{r-1} + \gamma).
\end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

Taking logarithm of both sides of Eq. (29):

$$-\frac{(q^r - \hat{\mu}^r)^2}{2\hat{\sigma}^r} = -\sum_j \frac{(s_j^r - q^r)^2}{2\eta} - \frac{(q^r - a\hat{\mu}^{r-1})^2}{2(a^2\hat{\sigma}^{r-1} + \gamma)} + C, \tag{30}$$

where C contains terms independent of q^r . Compare the first-order and second-order coefficients of q^r on both sides of Eq. (30) we have

$$\eta(a^2\hat{\sigma}^{r-1} + \gamma) = \hat{\sigma}^r | \mathcal{S}^r | (a^2\hat{\sigma}^{r-1} + \gamma) + \hat{\sigma}^r \eta, \tag{31}$$

$$\eta(a^2\hat{\sigma}^{r-1} + \gamma)\hat{\mu}^r = \hat{\sigma}^r (a^2\hat{\sigma}^{r-1} + \gamma) \sum_j s_j^r + \hat{\sigma}^r \eta a\hat{\mu}^{r-1}. \tag{32}$$

Solving the above two equations we derive formula (17) and (18).

Applying Lemma 5 to Eq. (3) we can easily prove formula (19). \square

APPENDIX C

DESCRIPTION OF OPT-UB

OPT-UB is given as the largest i such that $\sum_{j \leq i} Q_j \leq Q_a$ (all Q_j are sorted in ascending order), where Q_a is the total available quality of workers with respect to budget constraint bounded by following three ways:

- If $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{W}} n_i c_i \leq B$, then all bids are possibly acceptable and $Q_a = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{W}} n_i \mu_i$ is the corresponding estimated quality of all workers contributed to all bidding tasks.
- If $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{W}} n_i c_i > B$, then we can modify the above Q_a by subtracting a correction item $(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{W}} n_i c_i - B) \cdot \min_{i \in \mathcal{W}} \frac{\mu_i}{c_i}$, which is the least loss of total available quality due to the budget constraint.
- $Q_a = B \cdot \max_{i \in \mathcal{W}} \frac{\mu_i}{c_i}$ is an estimated total available quality considering the budget constraint directly.

Overall, OPT-UB is the largest i such that $\sum_{j \leq i} Q_j \leq \min \left\{ \sum_{i \in \mathcal{W}} n_i \mu_i - [\sum_{i \in \mathcal{W}} n_i c_i - B]^+ \cdot \min_{i \in \mathcal{W}} \frac{\mu_i}{c_i}, B \cdot \max_{i \in \mathcal{W}} \frac{\mu_i}{c_i} \right\}$, where $[x]^+$ returns the larger value between x and 0.

APPENDIX D

PROOF OF TRUTHFULNESS OF RANDOM

Note that although RANDOM is a randomized mechanism, worker i cannot increase the probability of being selected into the set of $k + 1$ workers by bidding untruthfully. Therefore, we prove that RANDOM is strongly truthful for workers under any circumstance.

Proof:

1) *Cost-truthfulness:* We prove that $u_{i,j}(\bar{c}_i) \geq u_{i,j}(c_i)$ holds for the following two cases.

Case 1: Worker i is not selected into the set of $k + 1$ workers for task j . In this case, $u_{i,j}(\bar{c}_i) = u_{i,j}(c_i) = 0$.

Case 2: Worker i is selected into the set of $k + 1$ workers. The proof in this case is the same as in Theorem 4.

In summary, we have $u_{i,j}(\bar{c}_i) \geq u_{i,j}(c_i)$ for all task t_j . Therefore, $u_i(\bar{c}_i) \geq u_i(c_i)$.

2) *Frequency-truthfulness:* The proof is the same as in Theorem 4. \square