

# Dispersed Knowledge, Decentralized Decisions: A Labor Market for Multi-Agent Task Allocation

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## Background

**Problem:** When we face diverse tasks and agents, how can we allocate the tasks to suitable agents, so that they can be completed with high quality and at low cost?

### Challenges of a centralized planner

- Each agent possesses **partial knowledge** about itself, such as its own capability and previous performance.
- Current LLMs have **limited global planning capabilities**, especially as the number of agents and tasks scales up.

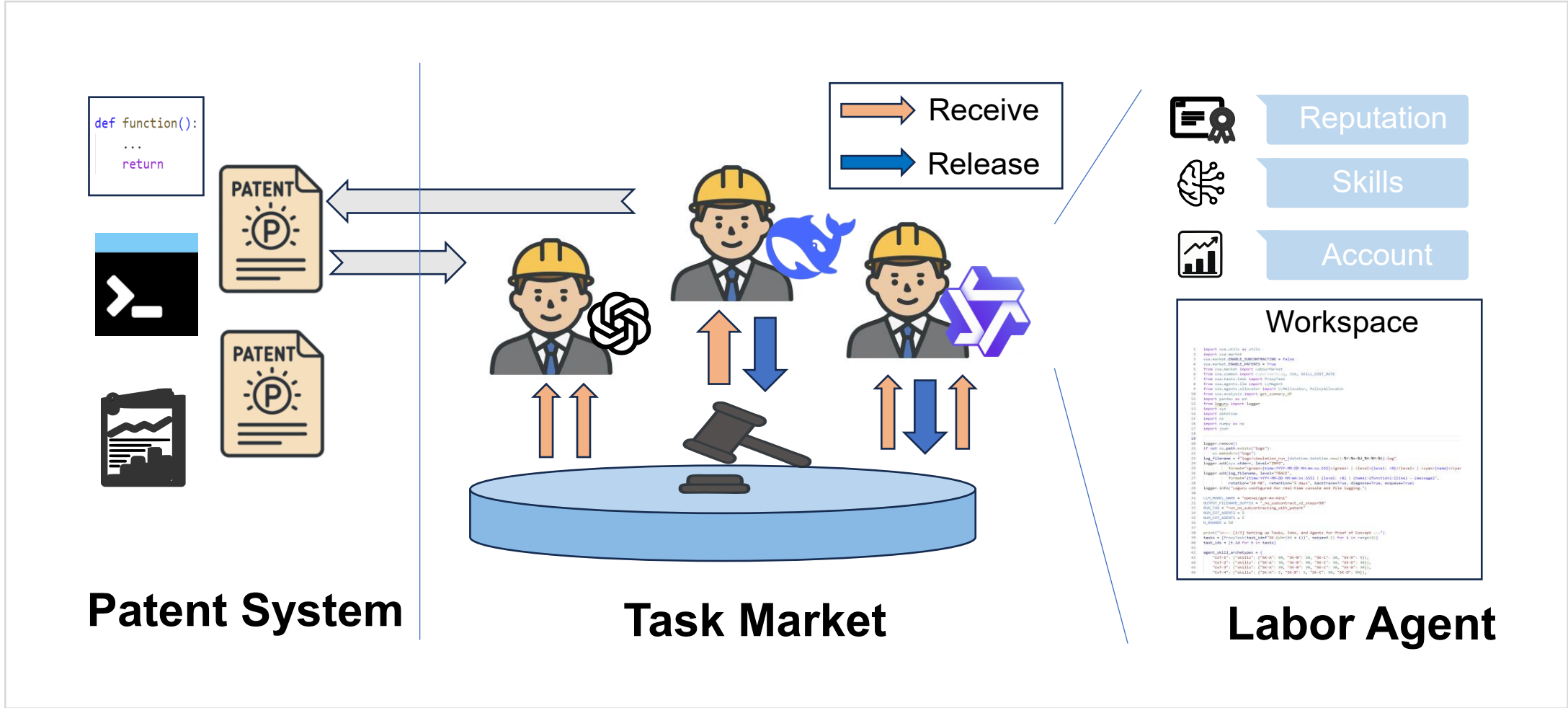
“Fundamentally, in a system in which the knowledge of the relevant facts is dispersed among many people, **prices** can act to coordinate the separate actions of different people.”



Friedrich Hayek

**Solution:** We propose a Decentralized Market of Labor Agents, aiming to reduce the reasoning burden on a single planner and making better use of dispersed knowledge.

- Bids act as information signals: encode advantage (bid for which tasks) and cost (at which prices).



## Design

### Decentralized Allocation

- Jobs are not assigned by a central brain but by **job-specific LLM Allocators**.
- Allocators select winners by balancing **Bid Price** and **Reputation History**.

### Subcontracting System (Task Decomposition)

- Agents act as **Project Managers**. Upon winning a job, they perform a **Make-or-Buy analysis**: decompose tasks and tender subtasks to the market, optimizing their own risk and profit margins.

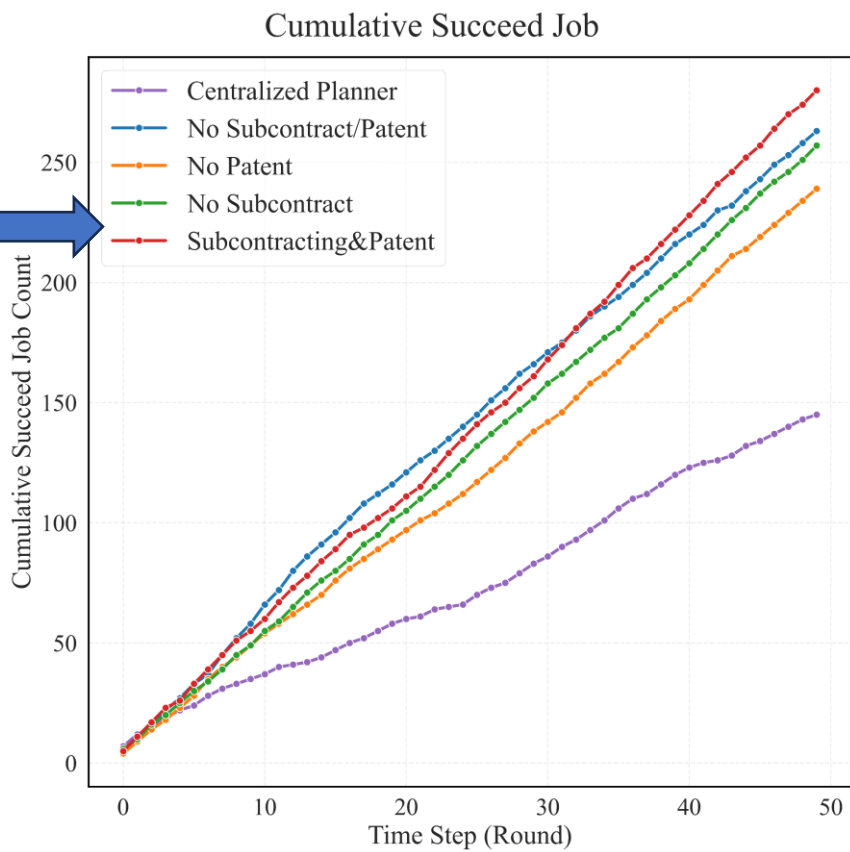
### Patent Mechanism (Knowledge Reuse)

- Publish a patent:** When an agent successfully completes a task, it may choose to publish a patent and set a licensing price.
- Purchase a patent license:** When an agent wins a task bid, it gains access to patents relevant to the task and may decide whether to purchase a one-time patent license.

## Simulation Results (Stay Tunned for Real Tasks!)

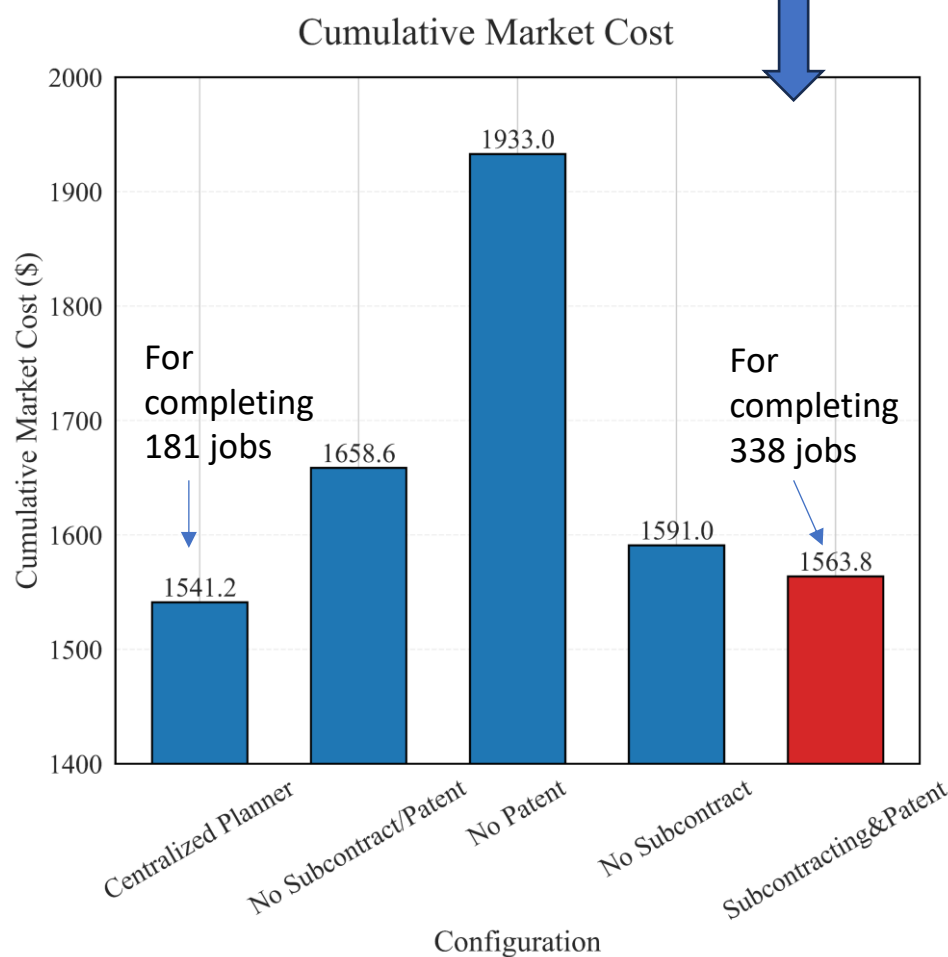
### Market Efficiency

The **Decentralized Market** (with Subcontracting & Patents) achieves a higher cumulative success rate than the **Centralized Planner baseline**, proving that price signals effectively handle dispersed information.



### Cost Optimization

The **Patent Mechanism** significantly reduces the total market execution cost. Agents leverage purchased knowledge (patents) to solve difficult tasks more efficiently than attempting them from scratch.



### Emergent Specialization

Agent rewards diverge based on types. Specialists (e.g., Skill-CD Dual Specialist) accumulate wealth faster, indicating the market correctly incentivizes skill alignment and specialization.

