

Editor's Introduction

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Issue 16.1 of SIGecom Exchanges experiments with a couple of new forms of contribution, while keeping other by-now time-tested traditions.

Within the established tradition, we have a survey/position paper by Brendan Lucier on an economic view of prophet inequalities, two research letters, and the job candidate profiles this year which Vasilis Gkatzelis and Jason Hartline again volunteered to collect and edit. Besides these, we have a mini-survey by Shaddin Dughmi, Jason Hartline, Robert Kleinberg and Rad Niazadeh on black-box reductions in mechanism design, and a letter by Hayden Melton on the recent mechanism refinement on Thomson Reuters Matching (a major interbank electronic trading venue for spot foreign exchange).

Brendan's survey presents many prophet inequalities in the recent literature in a unified framework which draws nice connections to the extension theorems in the price of anarchy literature. The mini-survey, counting 13 pages, is somewhere between a letter and a full-length survey. The authors did a great job reviewing a line of research on black-box reduction culminating in their STOC 16 paper. The history is necessary for the exposition and appreciation of the paper, and I think a mini-survey is a great format for more technically involved contributions such as this. On the other hand, Hayden's letter, while covering related academic works in the literature, emphasizes the practical issues addressed by the new market design, which I believe will interest many members of the community.

I hope you enjoy the issue. Please continue to volunteer contributions, both in the traditional formats and in whichever new format that befits the content.

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