Editors’ Introduction

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This issue of SIGecom Exchanges contains a letter from the SIGecom executive committee, the job candidate profiles for 2021, four research letters and a short note.

The 2021 SIGecom Job Candidates Profiles are compiled by Jason Hartline and Vasilis Gkatzelis. This is the sixth year of this annual tradition, and this year their contribution is especially welcome given the COVID-19 challenges facing the job market.

Paul Dütting, Thomas Kesselheim and Brendan Lucier contributed a letter on a novel subadditive prophet inequality and the posted-price mechanism based on it, which achieves an $O(\log \log m)$ approximation to the optimal welfare. These results appeared recently in FOCS’20. Tomer Ezra, Michal Feldman and Ophir Friedler contributed a letter on new formulations of the behavioral endowment effect and the existence of market equilibria under them, which appeared in EC’20. Jon Kleinberg and Manish Raghavan contributed a letter on harnessing strategic classification to incentivize desired behavior; their EC’19 paper already inspired much follow-up work. Hongyao Ma, Fei Fang and David Parkes contributed a letter on a mechanism they name Spatio-Temporal Pricing for ridesharing platforms, which avoids misincentives resulting in drivers “chasing the surge”. The insights in their paper have been adopted in the field, and are expanded upon in Ma’s award winning doctoral thesis.

Katrina Ligett contributed a short announcement on the new FORC (Foundations of Responsible Computing) conference, explaining its relevance to the EC community.

Finally, we are happy to report the winner of the EC’20 Best Presentation by a Student or Postdoctoral Research Award: Kira Goldner for her talk “Optimal Mechanism Design for Single-Minded Agents”. Yannai Gonczarowski earned an honorable mention for his talk “To Infinity and Beyond: Scaling Economic Theories via Logical Compactness”.

We would like to thank all authors for sharing their insights with the community.

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