

PAC Learning from a Strategic Crowd

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Joint work with

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March 17, 2016

Data is New Natural Resource

- Ginni Rometty, CEO, IBM

Amazon's Mechanical Turk (M-Turk)

The screenshot shows the Amazon Mechanical Turk website in a browser window. The browser's address bar displays the URL `https://www.mturk.com/mturk/welcome`. The page header includes the Amazon Mechanical Turk logo and navigation links for "Your Account", "HITS", and "Qualifications". A navigation bar below the header contains links for "Introduction", "Dashboard", "Status", and "Account Settings". The main content area features a yellow banner with the text: "Mechanical Turk is a marketplace for work. We give businesses and developers access to an on-demand, scalable workforce. Workers select from thousands of tasks and work whenever it's convenient. 355,164 HITS available. View them now." Below this banner are two columns of promotional text and diagrams. The left column, titled "Make Money by working on HITS", defines HITS as Human Intelligence Tasks and lists benefits for workers. It includes a diagram showing the process from finding a task to earning money. The right column, titled "Get Results from Mechanical Turk Workers", describes how requesters can use the platform and lists benefits for requesters. It includes a diagram showing the process from funding an account to getting results. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 8:47 AM.

amazonmechanicalturk
Artificial Intelligence

Your Account HITS Qualifications

Introduction | Dashboard | Status | Account Settings

Mechanical Turk is a marketplace for work.
We give businesses and developers access to an on-demand, scalable workforce.
Workers select from thousands of tasks and work whenever it's convenient.
355,164 HITS available. [View them now.](#)

Make Money
by working on HITS

HITS - Human Intelligence Tasks - are individual tasks that you work on. [Find HITS now.](#)

As a Mechanical Turk Worker you:

- Can work from home
- Choose your own work hours
- Get paid for doing good work

Find an interesting task **Work** **Earn money**

Find HITS Now

Get Results
from Mechanical Turk Workers

Ask workers to complete HITS - Human Intelligence Tasks - and get results using Mechanical Turk. [Get Started.](#)

As a Mechanical Turk Requester you:

- Have access to a global, on-demand, 24 x 7 workforce
- Get thousands of HITS completed in minutes
- Pay only when you're satisfied with the results

Fund your account **Load your tasks** **Get results**

Get Started

Human Intelligence Tasks (HITs)

Find

HITS

containing

that pay at least \$

0.00

- for which you are qualified
- require Master Qualification

GO

HITS containing 'classify'

1-10 of 10 Results

Sort by: HITs Available (most first)



Show all details | Hide all details

Classify Receipt

[View a HIT in this group](#)

Requester: Jon Brelig

HIT Expiration Date: Oct 28, 2015 (6 days 23 hours) **Reward:** \$0.02

Time Allotted: 20 minutes

Find and list craft shows, fairs and festivals in the USA - .25 cent additional bonus PER HIT available

[View a HIT in this group](#)

Requester: Craft Listings

HIT Expiration Date: Oct 6, 2016 (50 weeks 1 day) **Reward:** \$0.20

Time Allotted: 60 minutes

Classify short video for suitability to children: language = GERMAN

[View a HIT in this group](#)

Requester: Amazon-Tahoe

HIT Expiration Date: Nov 4, 2015 (1 week 6 days) **Reward:** \$1.00

Time Allotted: 45 minutes

Draw outlines around businesses on Google Maps (2-3 min/HIT, multiple available)

[View a HIT in this group](#)

Requester: Consumer Survey Research

HIT Expiration Date: Oct 23, 2015 (1 day 18 hours) **Reward:** \$0.20

Time Allotted: 45 minutes

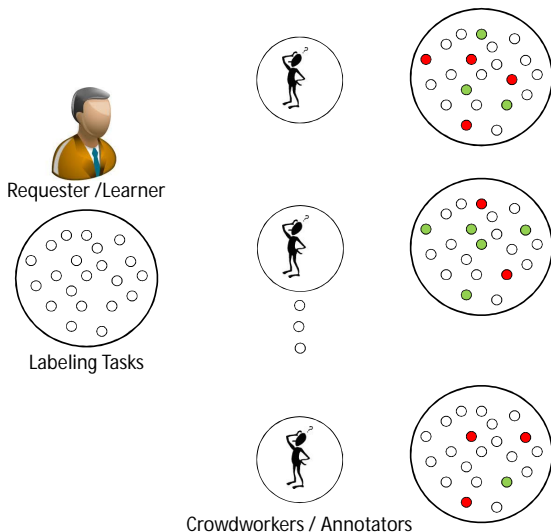
Listen and answer questions about an AUDIO recording and translate from FRENCH

[View a HIT in this group](#)

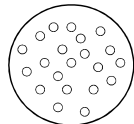
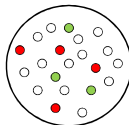
Requester: A Global Media Application

HIT Expiration Date: Oct 23, 2015 (1 day 21 hours) **Reward:** \$0.02

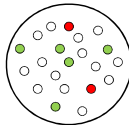
Data Labeling: Not a Child's Play



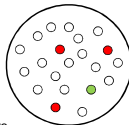
Data Labeling: Not a Child's Play



Labeling Tasks

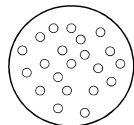
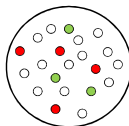


Crowdworkers / Annotators

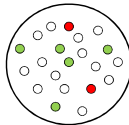


Data Annotators	Data					True Label
	x_1	x_2	...	x_m		
A_1	+1	?	...	-1	?	
A_2	-1	+1	...	-1	?	
A_3	?	+1	...	?	?	
.....	
A_n	?	+1	?	?	

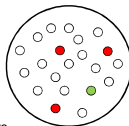
Data Labeling: Not a Child's Play



Labeling Tasks



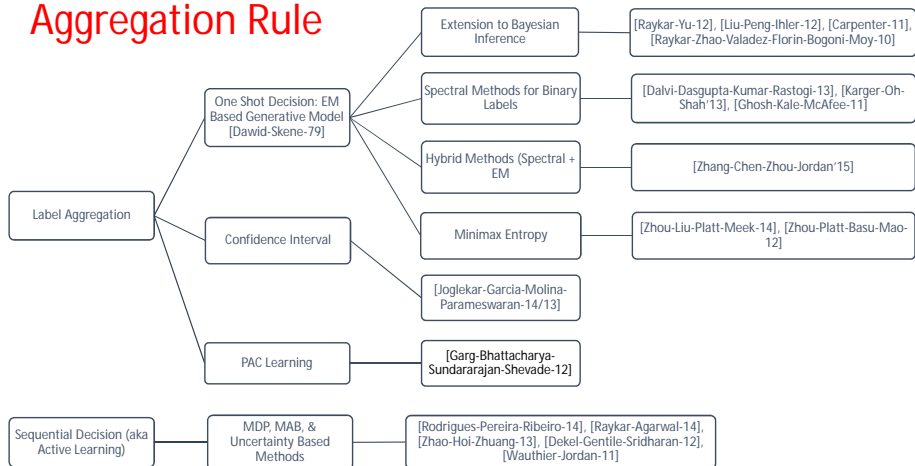
Crowdworkers / Annotators



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	A_1	+1	?	...	-1
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A_3	?	+1	...	?	?
.....
A_n	?	+1	?	?

- How to aggregate the labels ?
- Who should annotate what?
- How much to pay for?

Aggregation Rule

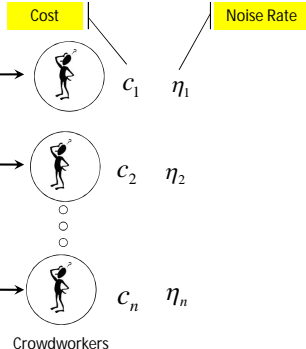
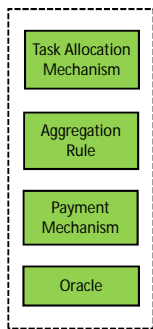
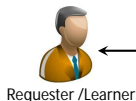
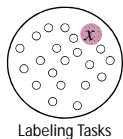


Binary Labeling: A Mental Model

$y :=$ True Label of x

$y^i :=$ Label of x given by annotator i

$\eta_i = \text{Prob}(y^i \neq y)$



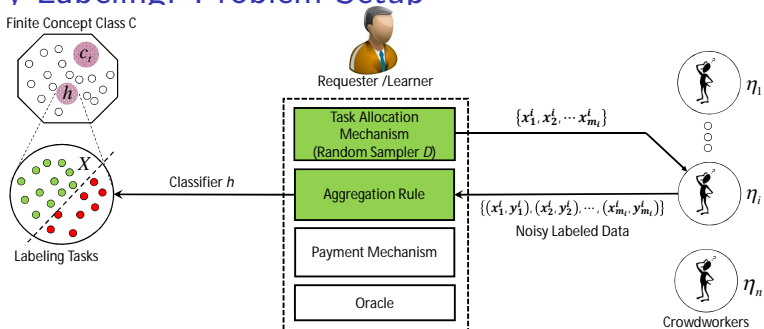
Annotators:

- Multiple **noisy** human annotators
- Noise could be due to **human error**, **lack of expertise**, or even **intentional**
- Expertise level of an annotator can be expressed by its **noise rate**
- Each annotator needs to be **paid**

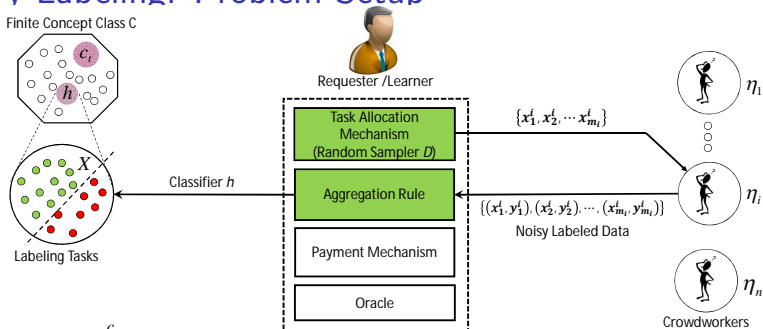
Learner:

- Goal is to obtain good **quality labels** at **minimum cost**

Binary Labeling: Problem Setup

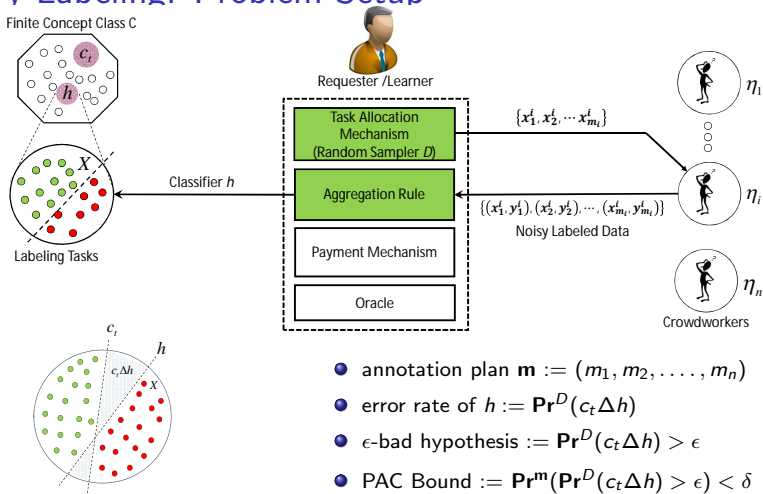


Binary Labeling: Problem Setup



- annotation plan $\mathbf{m} := (m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n)$
- error rate of $h := \Pr^D(c_t \Delta h)$
- ϵ -bad hypothesis $:= \Pr^D(c_t \Delta h) > \epsilon$
- PAC Bound $:= \Pr^m(\Pr^D(c_t \Delta h) > \epsilon) < \delta$

Binary Labeling: Problem Setup



Goal: Design an (1) **Aggregation Rule** and an (2) **Annotation Plan** to ensure PAC bound for the learned classifier h at (3) **Minimum Cost**.

(1) Aggregation Rule: *Minimum Disagreement Algorithm*

Input: Labeled examples from n annotators.

Output: A hypothesis $h^* \in \mathcal{C}$

Algorithm:

- 1 Let $\{(x_j^i, y_j^i) \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, n; j = 1, \dots, m_i\}$ be the labeled examples.
- 2 Output a hypothesis h^* that minimally disagrees with the given labels (use any tie breaking rule). That is,

$$h^* \in \arg \min_{h \in \mathcal{C}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} \mathbf{1}(h(x_j^i) \neq y_j^i)$$

Properties of the MDA

- Does not require the knowledge of annotators' noise rates η_i (Analysis would require !!)
- Does not require the knowledge of sampling distribution D

(2) Annotation Plan for MDA [*Complete Info. Setting*]

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Theorem (Feasible Annotation Plan for MDA)

The MDA will satisfy PAC bound if the annotation plan $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n)$ satisfies:

$$\log(N/\delta) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n m_i \psi(\eta_i) \quad (1)$$

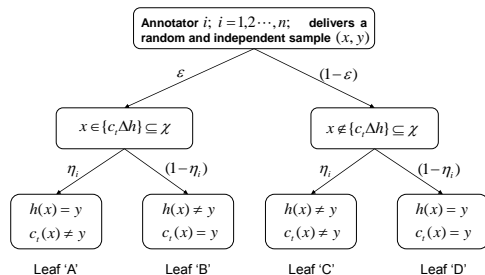
where concept class is finite, i.e. $N = |\mathcal{C}| < \infty$ and $\forall i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, we have

- $0 < \eta_i < 1/3$
- $\psi(\eta_i) = -\log \left[1 - \epsilon \left(1 - \exp \left(\frac{3\eta_i - 1}{8} \right) \right) \right]$.

D. Garg, S. Bhattacharya, S. Sundararajan, S. Shevade, "Mechanism Design for Cost Optimal PAC Learning in the Presence of Strategic Noisy Annotators", *Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI)*, 275-285, 2012.

Proof Sketch

Probability of an ϵ -bad hypothesis h having lower empirical error than c_t

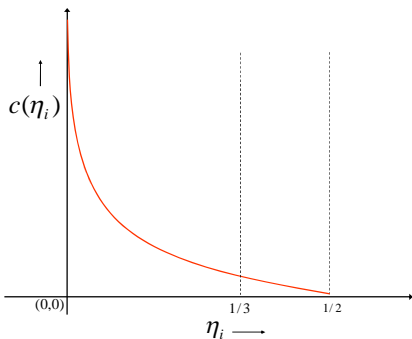


$\Pr^{(m_1, \dots, m_n)}[L_e(h) \leq L_e(c_t)] = \Pr\{\# \text{ samples under leaf A} \geq \# \text{ samples under leaf B}\}$

(3) Cost of Annotation

Assumptions:

- Each annotator i incurs a cost of $c(\eta_i)$ for labeling one data point
- The cost function $c(\cdot)$ is the same for all the annotators
- $c(\cdot)$ is bounded, continuously differentiable, and strictly decreasing function
- Function $c(\cdot)$ is a common knowledge



- A more competitive annotator i means low η_i
- He can earn more by selling his services (time)
- It means his internal cost of annotation is high

(1-2-3) Putting It All Together [*Complete Info Setting*]

Learner's Problem:

- Learner is using MDA as an aggregation rule to learn a binary classifier
- Learner precisely knows the cost (equivalently, noise rates η_i) of each annotator i
- Learner wants to ensure PAC learning with parameters (ϵ, δ)
- Learner wants to minimize the cost of a feasible annotation plan

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Relaxed Primal Problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Minimize}_{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n} \sum_{i=1}^n c(\eta_i) m_i \\ & \text{subject to} \quad \log(N/\delta) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \psi(\eta_i) m_i \\ & \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq m_i \quad \forall i \end{aligned}$$

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Relaxed Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Maximize}_{\lambda} && \lambda \log\left(\frac{N}{\delta}\right) \\ & \text{subject to} && \lambda \leq \frac{c(\eta_i)}{\psi(\eta_i)} \quad \forall i \\ & && 0 \leq \lambda \end{aligned}$$

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Definition (Near Optimal Allocation Rule - NOAR)

Let i^* be the annotator having minimum value for *cost-per-quality* given by $c(\eta_i)/\psi(\eta_i)$. The learner should buy $\lceil \log(N/\delta)/\psi(\eta_{i^*}) \rceil$ number of examples from such an annotator.

(1-2-3) Putting It All Together [Complete Info Setting]

Theorem

Let **COST** be the total cost of purchase incurred by the **Near Optimal Allocation Rule**. Let **OPT** be the optimal value of the ILP. Then,

$$OPT \leq COST \leq OPT \left(1 + \frac{1}{m_0}\right)$$

where $m_0 = \log\left(\frac{1}{1-\epsilon}\right)$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} COST &= c(\eta_{i^*}) \lceil \log(N/\delta) / \psi(\eta_{i^*}) \rceil \\ &\leq \log(N/\delta) c(\eta_{i^*}) / \psi(\eta_{i^*}) + c(\eta_{i^*}) \\ &\leq OPT + c(\eta_{i^*}) \\ &\leq OPT + m_0 c(\eta_{i^*}) / m_0 \\ &\leq OPT + OPT / m_0 \end{aligned}$$

Back to Binary Labeling Problem: *Incomplete Info Setting*

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Let us Face the Reality

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- ▶ Learner **can not** compute the **PAC annotation plan** because $\psi(\eta_i)$ is required for this: $\log(N/\delta) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \psi(\eta_i) m_i$

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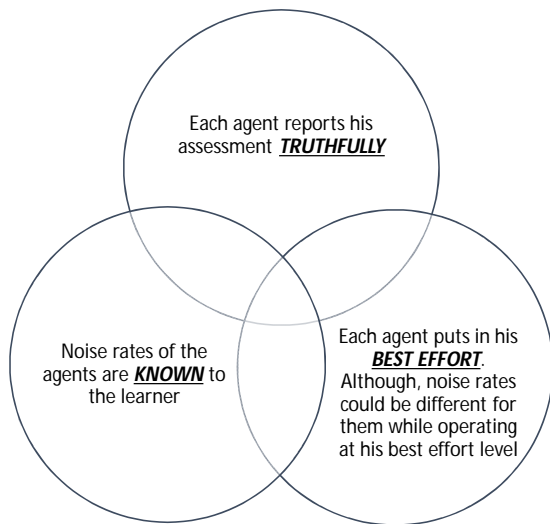
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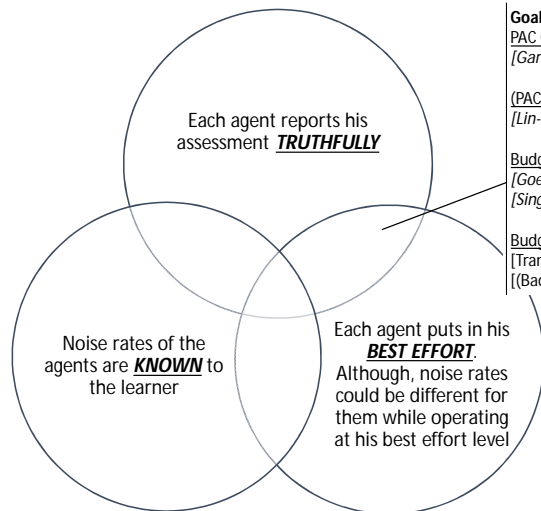
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Goal: Design a **Truthful & Cost Optimal Auction** for **PAC Learning via MDA**.



Payment Mechanisms

Prior Work



Goal: Whom to hire?

PAC Constraints + Solicit Bids:

[Garg-Bhattacharya-Sudararajan-Shevade-12],

(PAC & Budget) Constraint + Same Noise

[Lin-Mausam-Weld-14]

Budget Constraint + Online+ Solicit Bids:

[Goel-Nikzad-Singla-14], [Singla-Krause-13],

[Singer-Mittal-11],

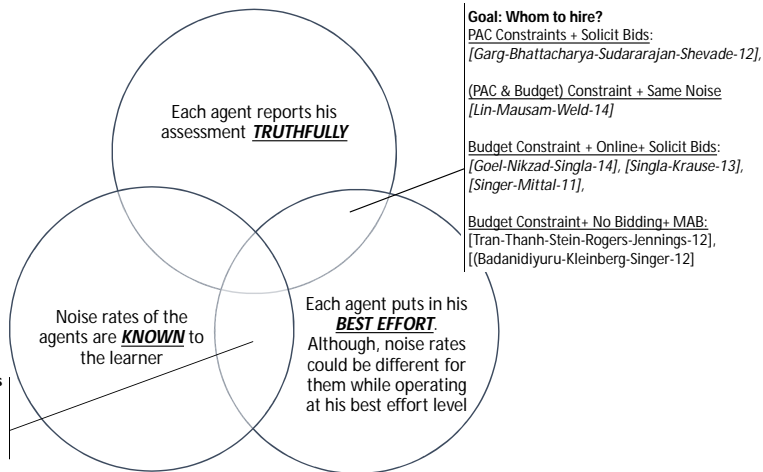
Budget Constraint+ No Bidding+ MAB:

[Tran-Thanh-Stein-Rogers-Jennings-12],

[(Badanidiyuru-Kleinberg-Singer-12)]

Payment Mechanisms

Prior Work



Payment Mechanisms

Prior Work

Goal: Encourage putting more efforts ?

Each agent reports his assessment **TRUTHFULLY**

Goal: Whom to hire?

PAC Constraints + Solicit Bids:

[Garg-Bhattacharya-Sudararajan-Shevade-12],

(PAC & Budget) Constraint + Same Noise

[Lin-Mausam-Weld-14]

Budget Constraint + Online+ Solicit Bids:

[Goel-Nikzad-Singla-14], [Singla-Krause-13],

[Singer-Mittal-11],

Budget Constraint+ No Bidding+ MAB:

[Tran-Thanh-Stein-Rogers-Jennings-12],

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Noise rates of the agents are **KNOWN** to the learner

Goal: Encourage agents to report truthfully

[Jurca-Faltings-09],

[Witkowski-Parkes-12],

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Each agent puts in his **BEST EFFORT**.

Although, noise rates could be different for them while operating at his best effort level

Payment Mechanisms

Prior Work

Goal: Encourage putting more efforts ?

[Dasgupta-Ghosh-13]

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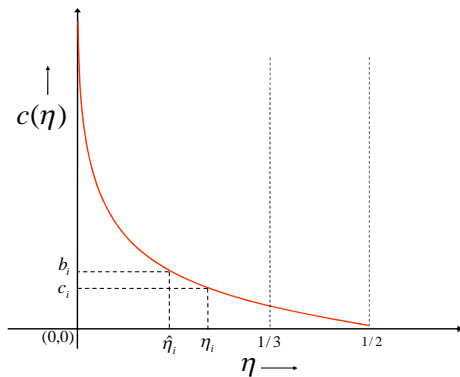
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Payment Mechanisms

Auction Framework for Incomplete Info Setting

Bids

- ▶ Annotator i bids b_i (could be different than his true cost c_i)
- ▶ Bids are translated into equivalent noise rates: $\hat{\eta}_i = c^{-1}(b_i) \in I_i = [0, 1/3]$
- ▶ Let $I = I_1 \times I_2 \dots \times I_n$
- ▶ The bid vector is given by $\hat{\eta} = (\hat{\eta}_1, \hat{\eta}_2, \dots, \hat{\eta}_n) \in I$



Auction Framework for Incomplete Info Setting

- **Task Allocation Mechanism $a(\cdot)$**

- ▶ Learner uses an allocation rule $a : I \mapsto \mathbb{N}_0^n$ to award the contracts

- **Payment Mechanism $p(\cdot)$**

- ▶ Learner uses a payment rule $p : I \mapsto \mathbb{R}^n$ to pay the annotators

- **Mechanism \mathcal{M}**

- ▶ A pair of allocation and payment mechanisms is called mechanism $\mathcal{M} = (a, p)$

- **Utilities**

- ▶ Annotator i accumulates following utility when bid vector is $\hat{\eta}$

$$u_i(\hat{\eta}; \eta_i) = p_i(\hat{\eta}) - a_i(\hat{\eta})c(\eta_i)$$

- ▶ To compute this utility, annotator i must know the bids of others

Common Prior Assumption and Expected Utility

Assumptions (IPV Model):

- Noise rate η_i gets assigned via an independent random draw from interval $[0, 1/3]$
- $\phi_i(\cdot)$ and $\Phi_i(\cdot)$ denote the corresponding prior density and CDF respectively
- The joint prior ($\phi(\cdot) = \prod_{i=1}^n \phi_i(\cdot)$) is a common knowledge

- **Expected Allocation Rule** $\alpha_i(\cdot)$

$$\alpha_i(\hat{\eta}_i) = \int_{I_{-i}} a_i(\hat{\eta}_i, \hat{\eta}_{-i}) \phi_{-i}(\hat{\eta}_{-i}) d\hat{\eta}_{-i}$$

- **Expected Payment Rule** $\pi_i(\cdot)$

$$\pi_i(\hat{\eta}_i) = \int_{I_{-i}} p_i(\hat{\eta}_i, \hat{\eta}_{-i}) \phi_{-i}(\hat{\eta}_{-i}) d\hat{\eta}_{-i}$$

- **Expected Utility** $U_i(\cdot)$

$$U_i(\hat{\eta}_i; \eta_i) = \pi_i(\hat{\eta}_i) - \alpha_i(\hat{\eta}_i) c(\eta_i)$$

Optimal Auction Design for Incomplete Info Setting

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize}_{a(\cdot), p(\cdot)} \quad & \Pi(a, p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_0^{1/3} \pi_i(t_i) \phi_i(t_i) dt_i \quad (\text{Procurement Cost}) \\ \text{Subject to} \quad & \log(N/\delta) \leq \sum_i a_i(\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \psi(\eta_i) \quad \forall (\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \in I \quad (\text{PAC Constraint}) \\ & (a, p) \text{ satisfies BIC} \quad (\text{BIC Constraint}) \\ & \pi_i(\eta_i) \geq \alpha_i(\eta_i) c(\eta_i) \quad \forall \eta_i \in I_i, \forall i \quad (\text{IR Constraint}) \end{aligned}$$

A Mechanism is said to be

- **Bayesian Incentive Compatible (BIC)** if for every annotator i , $U_i(\cdot)$ is maximized when $\hat{\eta}_i = \eta_i$, i.e., $U_i(\eta_i; \eta_i) \geq U_i(\hat{\eta}_i; \eta_i) \quad \forall \hat{\eta}_i \in I_i$.
- **Individually Rational (IR)** if no annotator loses (in expected sense) anything by reporting true noise rates, i.e., $\pi_i(\eta_i) - \alpha_i(\eta_i) c(\eta_i) \geq 0 \quad \forall \eta_i \in I_i$.

BIC Characterization: Myerson's Theorem

An allocation rule a is said to be **Non-decreasing in Expectation (NDE)** if we have $\alpha_i(\eta_i) \geq \alpha_i(\hat{\eta}_i) \forall \eta_i > \hat{\eta}_i$

Theorem (Myerson 1981)

Mechanism $\mathcal{M} = (a, p)$ is a BIC mechanism iff

- 1 Allocation rule $a(\cdot)$ is NDE, and
- 2 Expected payment rule satisfies:

$$U_i(\eta_i) = U_i(0) - \int_0^{\eta_i} \alpha_i(t_i) c'(t_i) dt_i$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi_i(\eta_i) = \alpha_i(\eta_i) c(\eta_i) + U_i(0) - \int_0^{\eta_i} \alpha_i(t_i) c'(t_i) dt_i$$



Roger Myerson

(Winner of 2007 Nobel Prize in Economics)

[1] R. B. Myerson. Optimal Auction Design. Math. Operations Res., 6(1):58 -73, Feb. 1981.

Back to Optimal Auction Design

Minimize $\Pi(a, p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_0^{1/3} \pi_i(t_i) \phi_i(t_i) dt_i$ (Procurement Cost)

Subject to $\log(N/\delta) \leq \sum_i a_i(\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \psi(\eta_i) \forall (\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \in I$ (PAC Constraint)

$\alpha_i(\cdot)$ is non-decreasing (BIC Constraint 1)

$$\pi_i(\eta_i) = \alpha_i(\eta_i) c(\eta_i) + U_i(0) - \int_0^{\eta_i} \alpha_i(t_i) c'(t_i) dt_i \text{ (BIC Constraint 2)}$$

$$\pi_i(\eta_i) \geq \alpha_i(\eta_i) c(\eta_i) \forall \eta_i \in I_i, \forall i \text{ (IR Constraint)}$$

Back to Optimal Auction Design

$$\text{Minimize}_{a(\cdot), p(\cdot)} \quad \Pi(a, p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_0^{1/3} \pi_i(t_i) \phi_i(t_i) dt_i \quad (\text{Procurement Cost})$$

$$\text{Subject to} \quad \log(N/\delta) \leq \sum_i a_i(\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \psi(\eta_i) \quad \forall (\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \in I \quad (\text{PAC Constraint})$$

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$$\pi_i(\eta_i) \geq \alpha_i(\eta_i) c(\eta_i) \quad \forall \eta_i \in I_i, \forall i \quad (\text{IR Constraint})$$

Insights:

- If (BIC Constraint 2) is satisfied then (IR Constraint) is satisfied iff $U_i(0) \geq 0$

Back to Optimal Auction Design

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize}_{a(\cdot), p(\cdot)} \quad & \Pi(a, p) = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_0^{1/3} \pi_i(t_i) \phi_i(t_i) dt_i \quad (\text{Procurement Cost}) \\ \text{Subject to} \quad & \log(N/\delta) \leq \sum_i a_i(\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \psi(\eta_i) \quad \forall (\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \in I \quad (\text{PAC Constraint}) \\ & \alpha_i(\cdot) \text{ is non-decreasing} \quad (\text{BIC Constraint 1}) \\ & \pi_i(\eta_i) = \alpha_i(\eta_i) c(\eta_i) + U_i(0) - \int_0^{\eta_i} \alpha_i(t_i) c'(t_i) dt_i \quad (\text{BIC Constraint 2}) \\ & \pi_i(\eta_i) \geq \alpha_i(\eta_i) c(\eta_i) \quad \forall \eta_i \in I_i, \forall i \quad (\text{IR Constraint}) \end{aligned}$$

Insights:

- If (BIC Constraint 2) is satisfied then (IR Constraint) is satisfied iff $U_i(0) \geq 0$
- Because our goal is to minimize the objective function, we must have $U_i(0) = 0$

Back to Optimal Auction Design

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Insights:

- If **(BIC Constraint 2)** is satisfied then **(IR Constraint)** is satisfied iff $U_i(0) \geq 0$
- Because our goal is to minimize the objective function, we must have $U_i(0) = 0$
- Using **(BIC Constraint 2)**, objective becomes $\Pi(a, p) = \int_I \left(\sum_{i=1}^n v_i(x_i) a_i(x) \right) \phi(x) dx$
- $v_i(\eta_i) := c(\eta_i) - \frac{1 - \Phi_i(\eta_i)}{\phi_i(\eta_i)} c'(\eta_i)$ is **virtual cost function** (Note $v_i(\eta_i) \geq c(\eta_i)$)

Reduced Problem

Overall Problem

Minimize $\Pi(a, p) = \int_I \left(\sum_{i=1}^n v_i(x_i) a_i(x) \right) \phi(x) dx$ (Procurement Cost)

Subject to $\log(N/\delta) \leq \sum_i a_i(\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \psi(\eta_i) \forall (\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \in I$ (PAC Constraint)
 $a_i(\cdot)$ is non-decreasing (BIC Constraint 1)

Insights:

- Keep aside (BIC Constraint 1) for the moment
- It suffices to solve following problem for every possible profile η

Instance Specific ILP

Minimize $\sum_{i=1}^n v_i(\eta_i) a_i(\eta)$ (Procurement Cost for profile η)

Subject to $\log(N/\delta) \leq \sum_i \psi(\eta_i) a_i(\eta) \forall (\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) \in I$ (PAC Constraint)
 $a_i(\eta) \in \mathbb{N}_0 \forall i$

Solution Via Instance Specific ILP

- Instance specific ILP is similar to Primal Problem in complete info setting (replace $c(\eta_i)$ with $v_i(\eta_i)$)
- Instance specific ILP can be relaxed and solved approximately just like NOAR

Definition (Minimum Allocation Rule)

Let i^* be the annotator having minimum value for **cost-per-quality** given by $v_i(\eta_i)/\psi(\eta_i)$. The learner should buy $\lceil \log(N/\delta)/\psi(\eta_{i^*}) \rceil$ number of examples from such an annotator.

Theorem

Let **COST** be the total cost of purchase incurred by the **Minimum Allocation Rule**. Let **OPT** be the optimal procurement cost. Then,

$$OPT \leq \text{COST} \leq OPT + c(\eta_{i^*}) \leq OPT(1 + 1/m_0)$$

where $m_0 = \log[1 - \epsilon]^{-1}$

What About (BIC Constraint 1) ?

Regularity Condition: $v_i(\cdot)/\psi(\cdot)$ is a non-increasing function.

If **Regularity Condition** is satisfied, then under the **minimum allocation rule**

- As η_i increases, the annotator i remains the winner if he/she is already the winner (with an increased contract size) or becomes the winner
- The allocation rule satisfies ND property (hence, NDE)
- The payment of annotator i is given by

$$p_i(\eta_i, \eta_{-i}) = a_i(\eta_i, \eta_{-i})c(\eta_i) - \int_0^{\eta_i} a_i(t_i, \eta_{-i})c'(t_i)dt_i$$

- Winning annotator gets positive payment and others get zero payment

Near Optimal Auction Mechanism for PAC Learning

Under regularity condition of $v_i(\cdot)/\psi(\cdot)$ being a non-increasing function of η_j

$$a_i(\eta) = \begin{cases} \lceil \log(N/\delta)/\psi(\eta_i) \rceil & : \text{ if } \frac{v_i(\eta_i)}{\psi(\eta_i)} \leq \frac{v_j(\eta_j)}{\psi(\eta_j)} \forall j \neq i \\ 0 & : \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$p_i(\eta) = \begin{cases} \lceil \frac{\log(N/\delta)}{\psi(\eta_i)} \rceil c(q_i(\eta_{-i})) & : \text{ for winner} \\ 0 & : \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$q_i(\eta_{-i}) = \inf \left\{ \hat{\eta}_i \mid \frac{v_i(\hat{\eta}_i)}{\psi(\hat{\eta}_i)} \leq \frac{v_j(\eta_j)}{\psi(\eta_j)} \forall j \neq i \right\}$$

= smallest bid value sufficient to win the contract for annotator i

Theorem

Suppose *Regularity Condition* holds. Then, above mechanism is an *approximate optimal mechanism* satisfying *BIC*, *IR*, and *PAC* constraints. The approximation guarantee of this mechanism is given by $ALG \leq OPT + v_{i^*}(\eta_{i^*}) \leq OPT(1 + 1/m_0)$.

Conclusions

- Analyzed the PAC learning model for noisy data from multiple annotators
- Analyzed complete and incomplete information scenarios
- Essentially, we identify the annotator whose (cost/quality) ratio is the least
- Surprisingly, greedily buying all the examples from such an annotator is near optimal

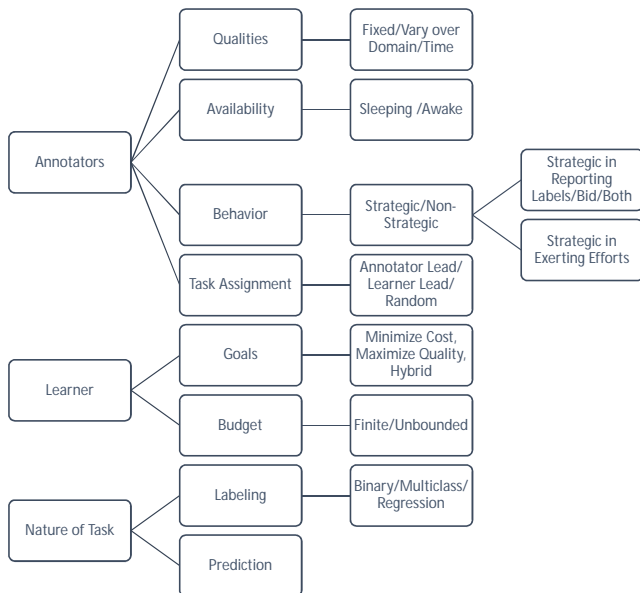
Future Extensions

- What if the cost function $c(\cdot)$ is not a common knowledge?
- What if the cost function $c(\cdot)$ is different for different annotators?
- Annotators having a capacity constraint and/or learner having a budget constraint
- Work with general hypothesis class (e.g. linear models of classification)
- Other learning tasks - *multiclass/multilabel classification*, *regression*
- What about *sequentially deciding the tasks assignments*?

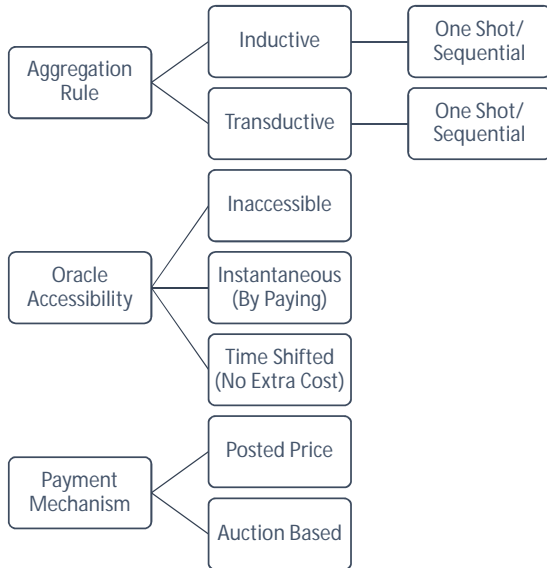
Thank You!!

Backup Slides

Aspects of Crowdsourcing Systems



Aspects of Crowdsourcing Systems



Proof Sketch

Events

- $E_1(h, m_1, \dots, m_n)$: The empirical error of a given hypothesis $h \in \mathcal{C}$ is no more than the empirical error of the true hypothesis c_t , i.e. $L_e(h) \leq L_e(c_t)$.
- $E_2(h, m_1, \dots, m_n)$: The empirical error of a given hypothesis $h \in \mathcal{C}$ is the minimum across all hypotheses in the class \mathcal{C} , i.e. $L_e(h) \leq L_e(h') \forall h' \in \mathcal{C}$.
- $E_3(h, m_1, \dots, m_n)$: MDA outputs a given hypothesis h .
- $E_4(\epsilon, m_1, \dots, m_n)$: MDA outputs an ϵ -bad hypothesis.

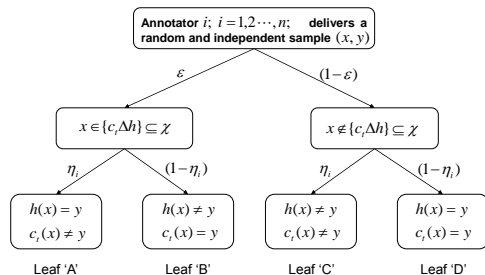
Observations

- $E_3(h, m_1, \dots, m_n) \subseteq E_2(h, m_1, \dots, m_n) \subseteq E_1(h, m_1, \dots, m_n)$
- $\Pr^{(m_1, \dots, m_n)}[E_4(\epsilon)] \leq (N - 1) \times \left[\max_{h \in \mathcal{C}, h \text{ is } \epsilon\text{-bad}} \Pr^{(m_1, \dots, m_n)}[E_1(h)] \right]$
- If annotation plan (m_1, \dots, m_n) satisfies the following condition, then MDA will satisfy PAC bound.

$$\left[\max_{h \text{ is } \epsilon\text{-bad}} \Pr^{(m_1, \dots, m_n)}[E_1(h)] \right] \leq \delta / N \quad (2)$$

Proof Sketch

Probability of an ϵ -bad hypothesis h having lower empirical error than c_t



$\Pr^{(m_1, \dots, m_n)}[L_e(h) \leq L_e(c_t)] = \Pr\{\# \text{ samples under leaf A} \geq \# \text{ samples under leaf B}\}$

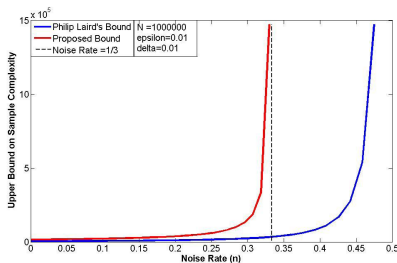
Special Case: Single Annotator

When $\eta = 0$

- Easy to show that sample complexity m_0 satisfies $m_0 \leq \log(N/\delta)/\log[1 - \epsilon]^{-1}$
- The range of η_i in previous theorem can be extended to include $\eta_i = 0$ by having $\psi(0) = \log[1 - \epsilon]^{-1}$

When $\eta = 1/3$

- Angluin and Laird proposed following bound for single annotator, for $0 \leq \eta < 1/2$
 $\psi(\eta_i) = \log [1 - \epsilon (1 - \exp(-(1 - 2\eta_i)^2/2))]^{-1}$
- The range of η_i in previous theorem can be extended to include $\eta_i = 1/3$ by having $\psi(1/3) = \log[1 - \epsilon(1 - \exp(-1/18))]^{-1}$



[1] Dana Angluin and Philip Laird. Learning from noisy examples. Machine Learning, 2(4):343-370, 1988.

Understanding Myerson's Theorem

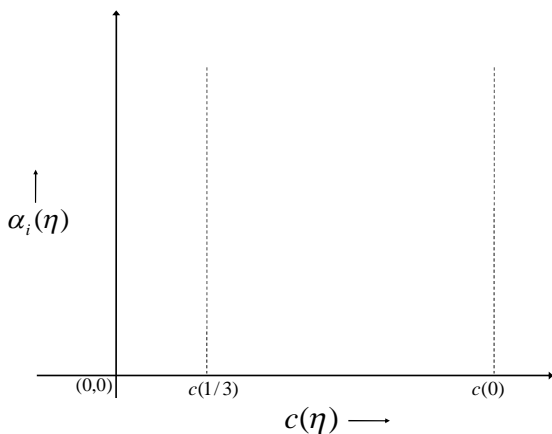
$$\pi_i(\eta_i) = \alpha_i(\eta_i)c(\eta_i) + U_i(0) + \int_{\eta_i}^0 \alpha_i(t_i)c'(t_i)dt_i$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi_i(\eta_i) = \alpha_i(\eta_i)c(\eta_i) + \pi_i(0) - \alpha_i(0)c(0) + \int_{\eta_i}^0 \alpha_i(t_i)d[c(t_i)]$$

Understanding Myerson's Theorem

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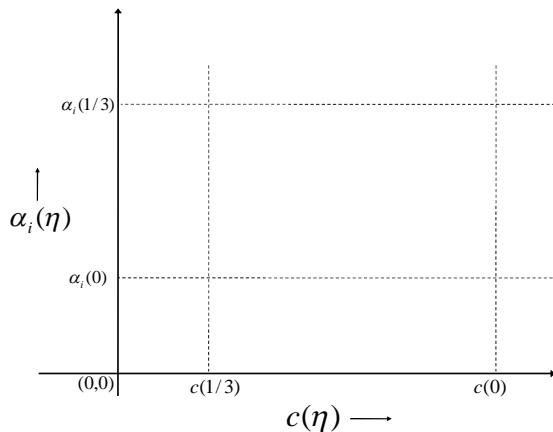
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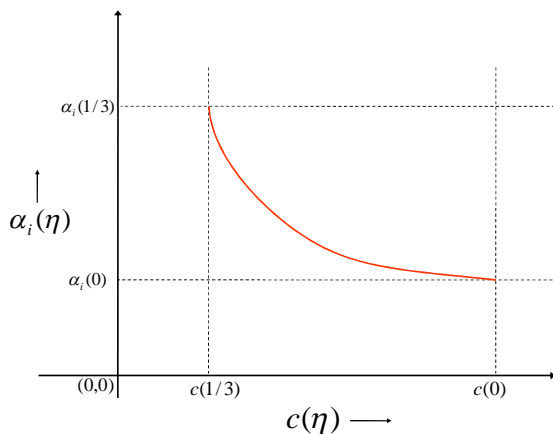
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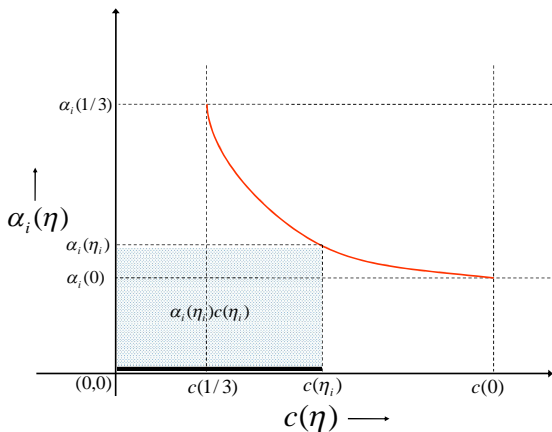
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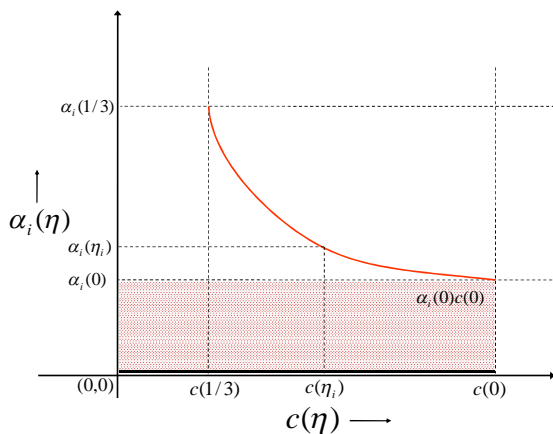
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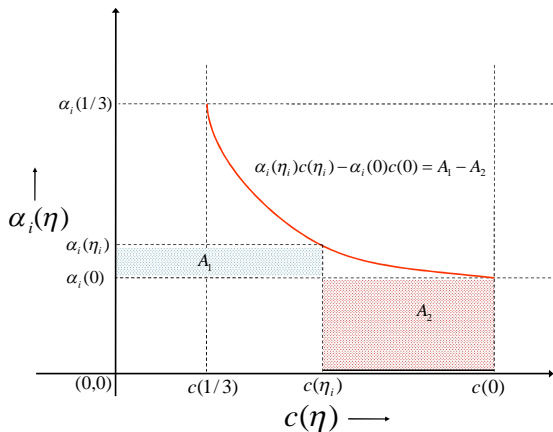
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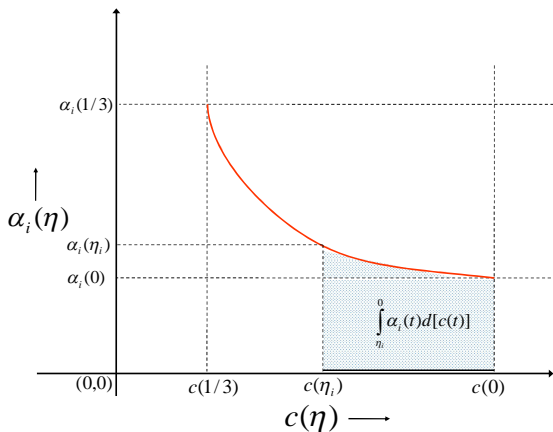
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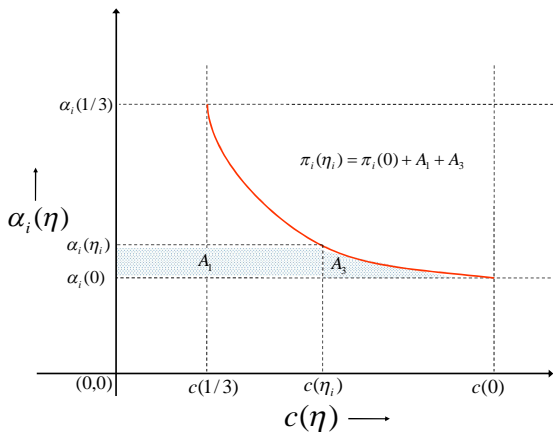
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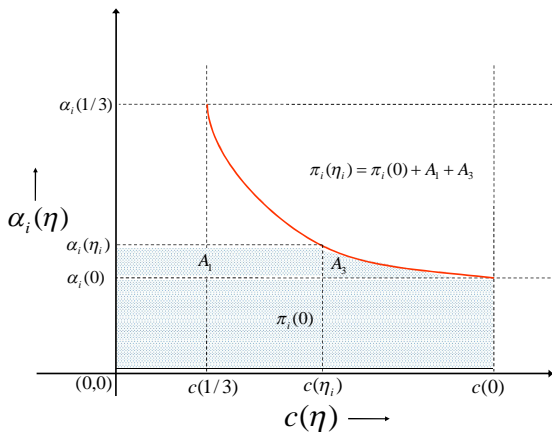
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Understanding Myerson's Theorem

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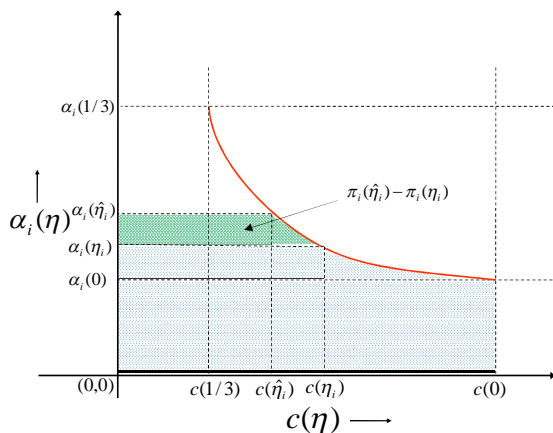
$$\Rightarrow \pi_i(\eta_i) = \alpha_i(\eta_i)c(\eta_i) + \pi_i(0) - \alpha_i(0)c(0) + \int_{\eta_i}^0 \alpha_i(t_i)d[c(t_i)]$$



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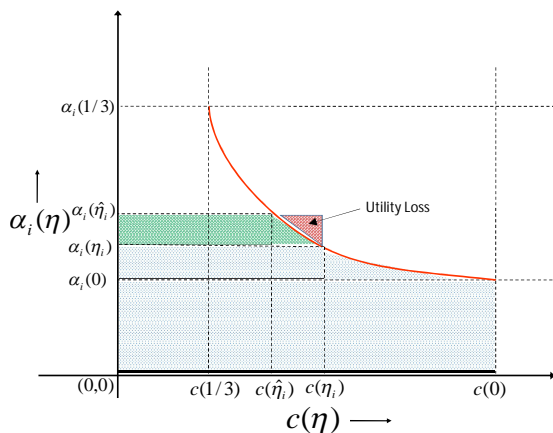
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