

Conference Announcement: The Conference on Auctions, Market Mechanisms, and Their Applications (AMMA)

SANMAY DAS

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

and

MICHAEL OSTROVSKY

Stanford University

We announce a new conference series, the Conferences on Auctions, Market Mechanisms, and Their Applications (AMMA), and the first edition of this conference, to be held in Boston in May 2009.

Categories and Subject Descriptors: I.2.1 [**Artificial Intelligence**]: Applications—*Electronic Commerce*

General Terms: Design, Economics

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Auctions, Markets

The AMMA Conference series aims to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in the design and use of market mechanisms. Like the ACM Conferences on e-Commerce (EC), AMMA will provide a forum where economists, computer scientists, and practitioners have the opportunity to interact, but the conferences will focus more on the practical aspects of mechanism design, on case studies, and on empirical analysis of deployed markets. Theoretical papers are also welcome.

Good mechanism design requires an understanding of the economic and game-theoretic issues, the ability to design protocols and algorithms for realizing desired outcomes, and the knowledge of specific institutional details that are important in practical applications. It is this synergy that AMMA seeks to explore in more depth.

The scope of the conference includes, but is not limited to, theoretical and empirical examination of questions such as:

—Is a market the right mechanism for the problem? What are the externalities involved? What are the issues with central planning?

Authors' addresses: sanmay@cs.rpi.edu, ostrovsky@gsb.stanford.edu

Permission to make digital/hard copy of all or part of this material without fee for personal or classroom use provided that the copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage, the ACM copyright/server notice, the title of the publication, and its date appear, and notice is given that copying is by permission of the ACM, Inc. To copy otherwise, to republish, to post on servers, or to redistribute to lists requires prior specific permission and/or a fee.

© 2008 ACM 1529-3785/2008/0700-0001 \$5.00

- How should novel markets be organized? What is the “right” micro-structure for a given problem?
- What is the best way to provide incentives? Is (real) money necessary?
- Will the use of markets lead to the creation of artificial economies (cf. the recent bank run in Second Life) and what can we say about these economies?
- What new problems arise because of the special nature of these markets (e.g., from everyone wanting to use a cluster around the time of a conference deadline)?
- What protocols need to be in place for agents to participate in such markets (including everything from practical matters like integrating bidding protocols into the system to theoretical questions like incentive compatibility)?
- Is there a need for new mechanisms for specific applications (e.g., auctions used in sponsored search were never used in other settings)? If so, what properties of applications warrant such mechanisms?

In addition to more traditional academic papers, we are also interested in experiences from the real world (case studies, new applications, and analysis of data). Below are some potential areas, but the list is illustrative rather than exhaustive – we welcome papers in all areas of market design.

- Content delivery networks
- Resource allocation in networks and distributed computing
- Sponsored search auctions
- Prediction markets
- Allocation of landing slots in congested airports
- Road pricing
- Student-school matching
- Kidney exchanges
- Combinatorial auctions

In order to accommodate people from different disciplinary traditions, the conference will feature both an archival and a non-archival track. Accepted papers will be either be presented orally or as posters. The conference will also feature two or three keynote addresses. We hope the format and the focus of the conference will engage practitioners, theorists, and empiricists from across disciplines and allow for cross-fertilization across these fields in a more practice-oriented framework.

Papers are due by November 28, 2008, and should be submitted electronically. We welcome submission to both (1) an archival track, with full publication in the conference proceedings of papers up to 12 pages in length (the proceedings will be published by Springer, and thus the format must conform to the Springer template available on the conference website), and, (2) a working-paper track. Papers submitted to the working paper track will be considered for presentation but will not be published in the proceedings. These papers are not subject to format or length restrictions. For more information, please visit <http://www.ammaconference.org>