Algorithmic Crowdsourcing: Current State and Future Perspective

Jie Wu Dept. of Computer and Info. Sciences Temple University



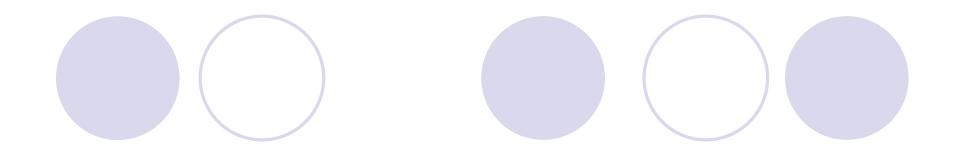
Road Map

Introduction and Motivation

- Mechanical Turk
- Applications
- Paradigms



- Challenges and Opportunities
- Social Crowdsourcing
- Conclusion



What Why Basic components Motivation examples

INTRODUCTION

What is Crowdsourcing?

 Coordinating a crowd (a large group of people online) to do micro-work (small jobs) that solves problems (that software or one user cannot easily do)



• Amazon's Mechanical Turk, and CrowdFlower

The Benefits of Crowdsourcing

Performance

- Inexpensive and fast
- The whole is greater than the sum of its parts
- Human Processing Unit (HPU)
 - More effective than CPU (for some apps)
 - Verification and validation: Image labeling
 - Interpretation and analysis: language translation

Surveys: Social network survey

 High adoption in business (85% of the top global brands) based on eYeka

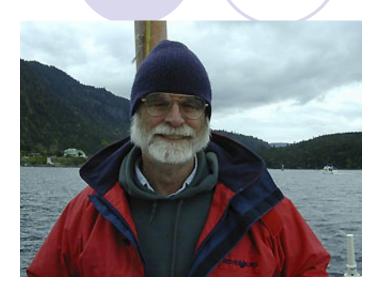
Basic Components

Requester

- People submit jobs
- Human Intelligence Tasks (HITs)
- Worker
 - People work on jobs
- Platform
 - Job management
 - Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk)



Help Find Jim Gray



Jim Gray, Turing Award winner, went missing with his sailboat outside San Francisco Bay in January 2007.

• Use satellite image to search for his sailboat.





Malaysia Airlines Flight MH 370





DigitalGlobe

 Crowdsourcing volunteers comb satellite photos for Malaysia Airlines jet

March 11 (from a CSU prof. email)

I just saw on our local Denver Fox news (KDVR.com) that a local company, DigitalGlobe, has reoriented their satellites to take highres images in the area where the plane may have crashed. Crowdsourcing efforts are on to have people scan these images and find signs of debris. I was reminded of Jie Wu's talk earlier this month.

DARPA Network Challenges

WE HAVE A WINNER!

MIT RED BALLOON CHALLENGE TEAM







- Problem (2009): \$40,000 challenge award for the first team to find 10 balloons.
- MIT team won under 9 hours.
- Winning strategy
 - \$2,000 per balloon to the first person to send the correct location
 - \$1,000 to the person who invited the winner
 - \$500 to whoever invited the inviter
 - ... (or to charity) ...

Tag Challenges



- Problem (March 31, 2012): Find five suspects in Washington, D.C., New York, London, Stockholm, and Bratislava.
 - Winner from UCSD CrowdScanner: located 3 of the 5 suspects.
- Winning strategy: same as MIT. Also, recruiters of the first 2,000 get \$1.

Washington DC



New York City



Bratislava



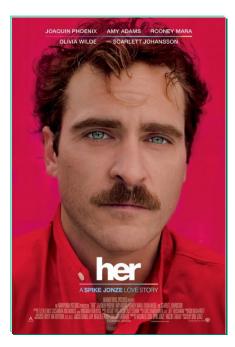
AI Could End Human Race (Stephen Hawking)

Stephen Hawking

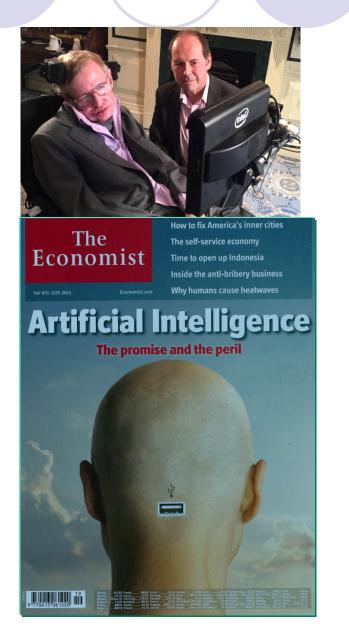
 "Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn't compete, and would be superseded."

Recent movies

Her (2014) & Ex-Machina (2015)





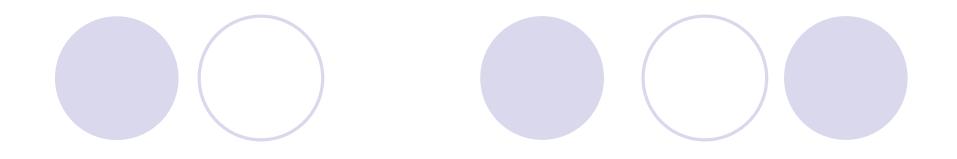


Smarter Than You Think



- Who is smarter
 - Human or computer?
- AI will redefine
 - What it means to be human
 Our Machine Masters
 NY Times, Oct. 31, 2014

- 1997 (Chess)
 - Kasparov vs. Deep Blue
- 1998
 - Kasparov vs. Topalov: 4:0
 - Kasparov + machine vs.Topalov + machine: 3:3
- 2005 (freestyle tournament)
 - Grand-master (>2,500)
 - Machine (Hydra)
 - Grand-master + machine
 - Amateurs (>1,500) + machine *
- 2016 (Go game)
 - AlphaGo vs. Lee Sedol: 4:1
 - AlphaGo vs. Jie Ke: 3:0 (May 2017)



Worker HIT Dashboard Requester

MECHANICAL TURK



Name Account Settings Sign Out Help

HITS Introduction | Dashboard | Status | Account Settings

Qualifications

Your Account

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.

293,089 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



Get Results from Mechanical Turk Workers

Ask workers to complete HITs - Human Intelligence Tasks - and get results using Mechanical Turk. Register Now

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



- As a worker, make an average of \$0.05 per task
- Paid directly to Amazon account
- 130 M tasks posted (2009-2014)

- As requester, set up simple tasks for workers to complete
- Quality control is possible through MTurk services

Worker: Contract for a HIT

Artificial Artificial Intelligence	Your Account HITs Qualifica	tions 293,115 HITs available now
	All HITS HITS Available To You HITS Assig	ned To You
Find HITs 💽 containing	that pa	y at least \$ 0.00 🔲 require Master Qualification 🔞
All HITs		
1-10 of 1982 Results		
Sort by: HIT Creation Date (newest first) 🗨 🚳	Show all details Hide all details	1 <u>2 3 4 5</u> > <u>Next</u> >> <u>Last</u>
Copy Text from Coupon Image		Not Qualified to work on this HIT (Why?) View a HIT in this group

Copy Text from	n Coupon Image			Not Qualified	d to work on this HIT (Why?)	View a HIT in this group
Requester:	Coupon Vision	HIT Expiration Date:	Jun 21, 2014 (51 weeks 2 days)	Reward:	\$0.08	
		Time Allotted:	10 minutes	HITs Available:	14	
Proofread OCR	Data			<u>Ta</u>	ake Qualification test (Why?)	View a HIT in this group
Requester:	Brian Robertson	HIT Expiration Date:	Jul 3, 2013 (6 days 23 hours)	Reward:	\$0.30	
		Time Allotted:	2 hours	HITs Available:	2	
Get product coo	des and prices from receipt image (get bonuses for long rece	aipts)		E	Request Qualification (Why?)	View a HIT in this group
Requester:	Shopping	HIT Expiration Date:	Jul 1, 2013 (4 days 23 hours)	Reward:	\$0.03	
		Time Allotted:	45 minutes	HITs Available:	2	
Click and provi	de fast feedback B-US RHL-003			Not Qualified	d to work on this HIT (Why?)	View a HIT in this group
Requester:	CrowdFlower	HIT Expiration Date:	Jul 3, 2013 (6 days 23 hours)	Reward:	\$0.01	
		Time Allotted:	30 minutes	HITs Available:	219	
Basic Caption R	Requirements					View a HIT in this group
Requester:	Redwood	HIT Expiration Date:	Jun 26, 2014 (52 weeks)	Reward:	\$0.02	
		Time Allotted:	15 minutes	HITs Available:	11	

and an electric (where) is a first or the second

Select a HIT

• By creation date, payment amount, time allotment

Worker: Reviewing a HIT

Timer: 00:00:00 of 10 minutes

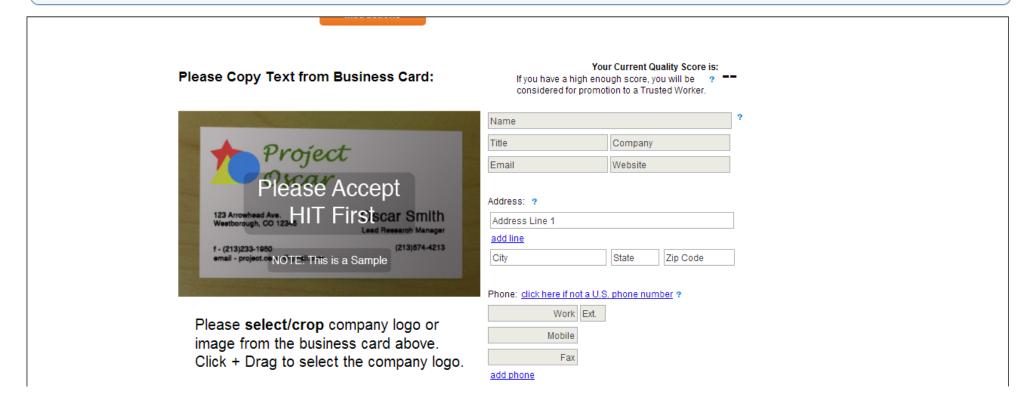
Accept HIT

Want to work on this HIT? Want to see other HITs? Skip HIT

Total Earned: \$4.72 Total HITs Submitted: 7

Copy Text from Business Card Requester: Oscar Smith Qualifications Required: None

Reward: \$0.02 per HIT HITs Available: 39 Duration: 10 minutes



- Review the HIT before accepting
 - Shown full task, allotted time (10 minutes), reward amount (\$0.02)

Worker: Completing a HIT

Timer: 00:00:00 of 10 minutes	Want to work on this HIT?	Want to see other HITs?	Total Earned: Total HITs Submitted:			
Your results have been submitted to Oscar Smith and You can work on this new HIT by clicking the "Accept HIT" button.	will be approved or rejected sh	ortly.				
Copy Text from Business Card						
Requester: Oscar Smith Qualifications Required: None			Reward: \$0.02 per HIT	HITs Available: 3	Duration: 10 minutes	

- Confirmation message in green
- Automatically shows the next HIT submitted by the same requester

• Check Dashboard to see if HIT is accepted

Worker: Sample Dashboard

TUIK Iligence	You	ur Account	н	ITs	Qualificatio		,650 HITs lable now	
	Introduc	tion Da	shboard	Status	Account 9	Settings	_	
Find HITs	containing				that pay a	at least \$		for which yo require Mas
	Dashboard - Name (If you're no	ot Name	, <u>click her</u>	<u>e</u> .)		Your	Worker ID:	_
	Total Earnings (What's this?)							
	Rewards You Have Earned							Value
	Approved HITs							\$4.72
	Bonuses							\$0.00
	Total Earnings							\$4.72
	Your HIT Status (What's th	<u>iis?)</u>						
	Date		St	bmitted	Approved	Rejected	Pending	Earnings
	Today			1	0	0	1	\$0.00
	<u>Jun 3, 2013</u>			7	7	0	0	\$4.72
							⊻	iew more
	HIT Totals (What's this?)							
	HITs You Have Accepted	Value	Rate	HITs \	/ou Have Sι	ubmitted	Value	Rate
	HITs Accepted	9	_	HITS	Submitted		8	_
	Submitted	8	88.9%	Ap	proved		7	
	Returned	1	11.1%		jected		0	0.0%

Avoid Shady Requester

Untrustworthy requesters (or workers)

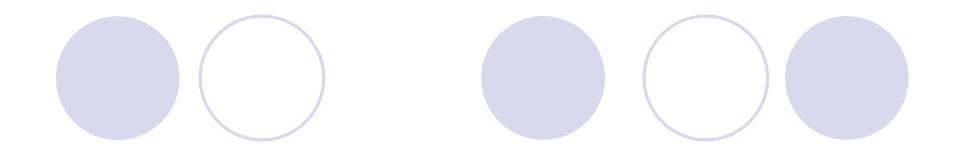
How Turkopticon works:

Turkopticon adds functionality to Amazon Mechanical Turk as you browse for HITs and review status of work you've done. As you browse HITs, Turkopticon places a button next to each requester and highlights requesters for whom there are reviews from other workers. Bad reviews let you avoid shady employers and good



reviews help you find fair ones. You can view reports made against requesters with a quick click.

As you review HITs you've completed, are there HITs you weren't fairly paid for? Turkopticon adds a button that lets you review requesters from your "Status Detail" page.



EteRNA Galaxy Zoo Fine-grained Recognition

APPS: IMAGE PROCESSING

Biology: EteRNA: CMU, Stanford

 Aim: to gain mastery over the way RNA molecules folds.

> **G**-C is the strongest pair. (highest brightness)

U-A is the next strongest. (medium brightness)

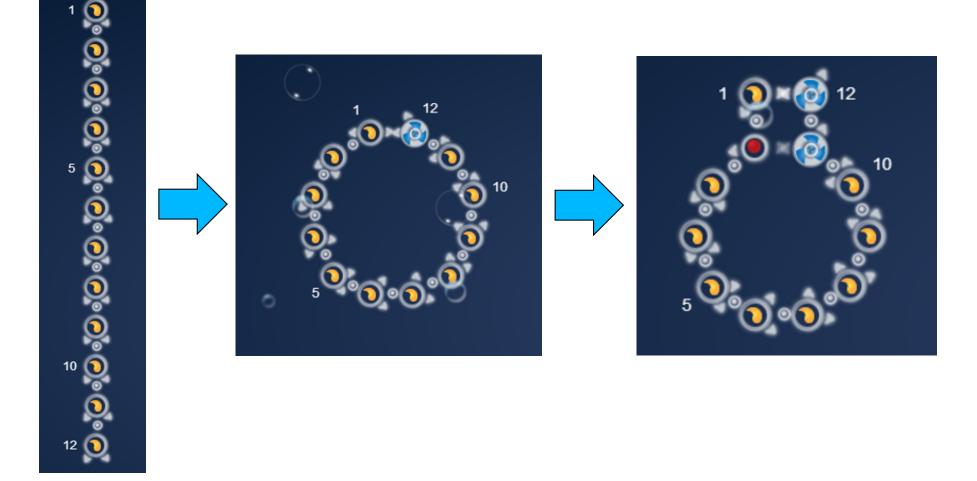
G-U is the weakest. (lowest brightness)

Next



EteRNA: CMU, Stanford

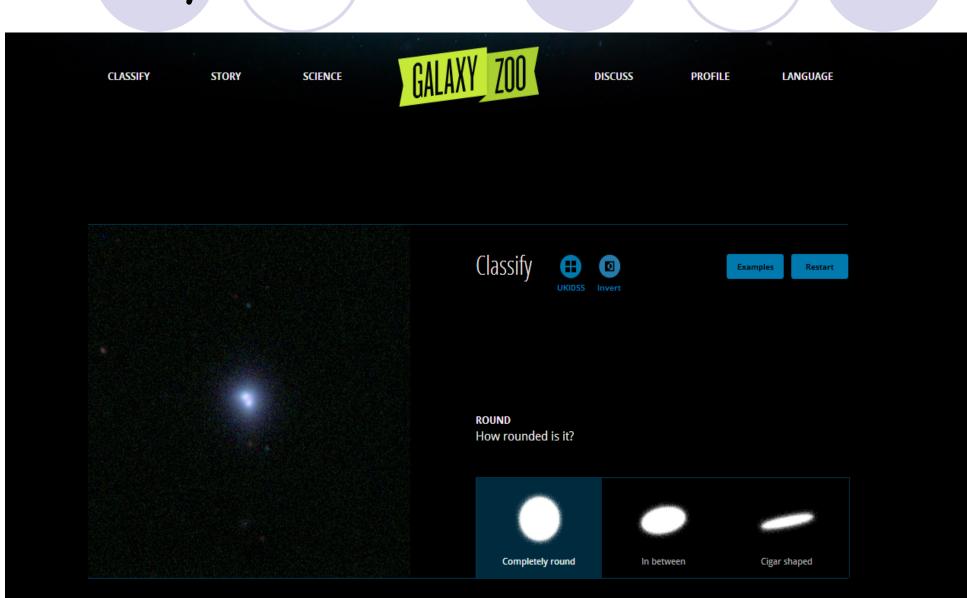
 By assigning different colors (RNA nucleotides), a RNA chain will fold into different structure



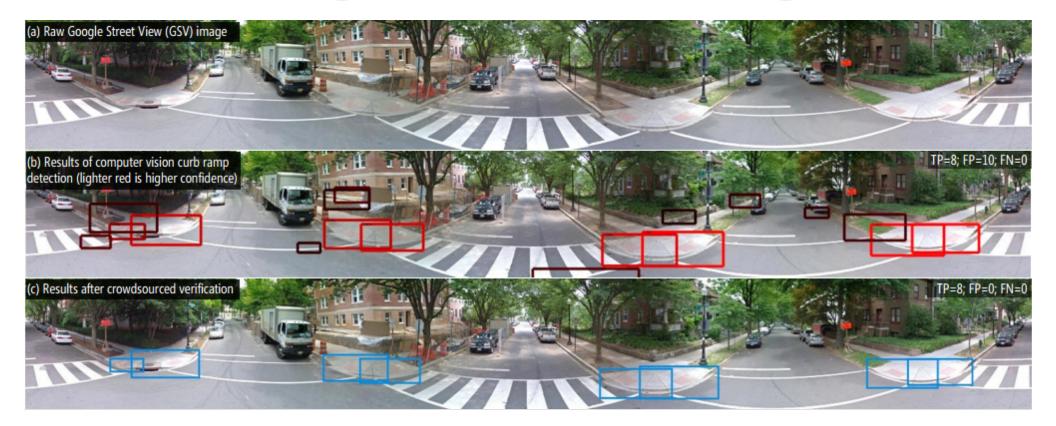
GalaxyZoo: Zooniverse

CLASSIFY	STORY	SCIENCE	GALAX	<u>Z00</u>	ſ	DISCUSS	PROFILE	LANGUAGE
				Classify	UKIDSS	Invert	Exa	mples Restart
				SHAPE Is the galaxy s	imply sm	ooth and round	led, with no si	gn of a disk?
				Smoot	h	Features or	disk	Star or artifact

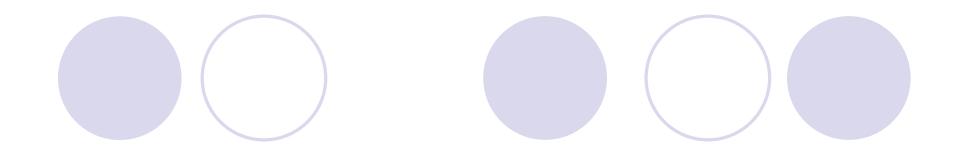
GalaxyZoo: Zooniverse



Fine-Grained Recognition: Tohme



K. Hara et al, "Tohme: Detecting Curb Ramps in Google Street View Using Crowdsourcing, Computer Vision, and Machine Learning," UIST 2014



GWAP.com OnToGalaxy reCAPTCHA Waze Crowrdsourcing

APPS: COMMONSENSE KNOWLEDGE

GWAP.com: CMU

ESP GameLabeling images

Tag a TuneLabeling tunes



OnToGalaxy: University of Bremen

- Given a keyword
 e.g., "tourism"
- Collect pods with words related to keyword
 - e.g., "voyage"
- Shoot down pods with unrelated words
 - e.g., "resist"
- An experimental game platform



reCAPTCHA: CMU

ReCAPTCHA

- → WHAT IS reCAPTCHA
- → GET reCAPTCHA
- → PROTECT YOUR EMAIL
- ➡ MY ACCOUNT
- → RESOURCES: DOCS & PLUGINS

reCAPTCHA IS A FREE ANTI-BOT SERVICE THAT HELPS DIGITIZE BOOKS.



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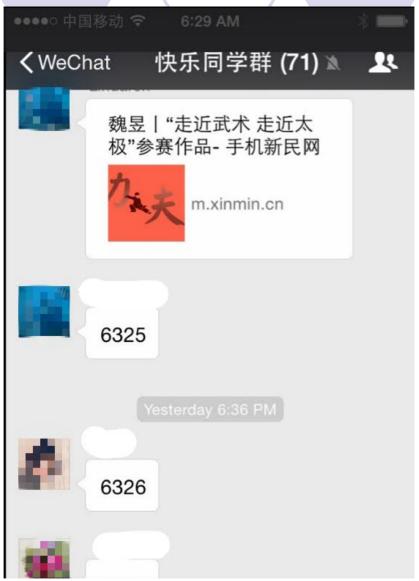
Waze Social GPS, Maps & Traffic

Waze is the world's largest community-based traffic and navigation app.



Social Networks: WeChat

- Online voting
- Crowd-funding
- Example
 - Classmate group
 - Friendship as incentive



Smartphone-based Crowdsensing

Smart city

Public information reposting

B. Guo et al, "FlierMeet: A Mobile Crowdsensing System for Corss-Space Public Info. Reposting, Tagging, and Sharing," IEEE TMC, Oct. 2015.

Public transportation

Z. He et al, "High Quality Participant Recruitment in Vehicle-based Crowdsourcing using Predicatable Mobility," INFOCOM 2015

Indoor map construction

X. Guo et al, "ShopProfiler: Profiling Shops with Crowdsourcing Data," INFOCOM 2014

Speaker counting

C. Xu et al, "Crowdsensing the Speaker Count in The Wild: Implications and Applications," IEEE communications magazine 2014

Some challenges

GPS-less (energy efficient)

X. Sheng et al, "Leveraging GPS-less sensing Scheduling for Green Mobile Crowd Sensing," JIoT 2014

Trustfulness & Game

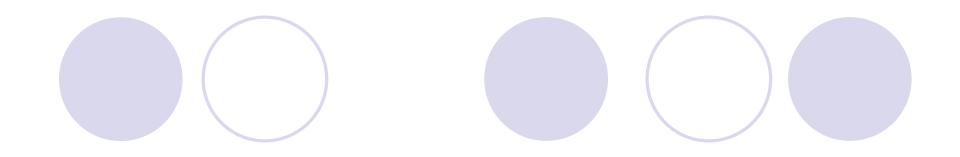
- Z. Feng et al, "TRAC: Truthful Auction for Locationaware Collaborative Sensing in Mobile Crowdsourcing," INFOCOM 2014
- T. Luo et al, "Crowdsourcing with Tullock Contests: a New Perspective," INFOCOM 2015

Coverage

M. Karliopoulos et al, "User Recruitment for Mobile Crowdsensing over Opportunistic Networks," INFOCOM 2015

Privacy

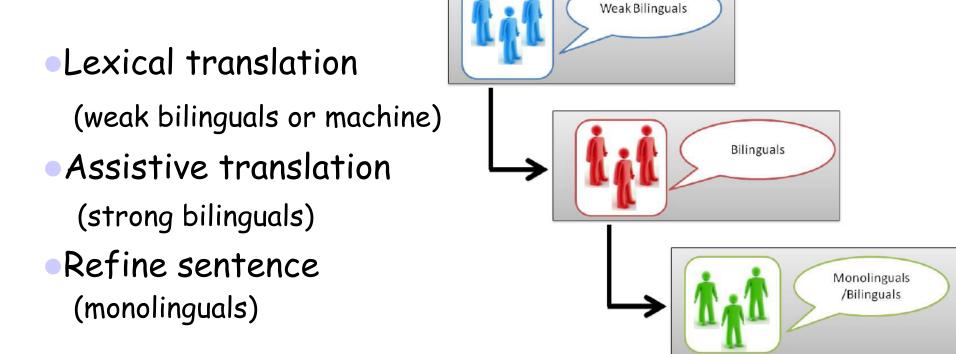
L. Pournajaf et al, "Spatial Task Assignment for Crowd Sensing with Cloaked Locations," MDM 2014



Sequential Iterative and Parallel Divide-and-Conquer and Aggregate Map and Reduce: a Special Case Publish/Subscribe

PARADIGMS

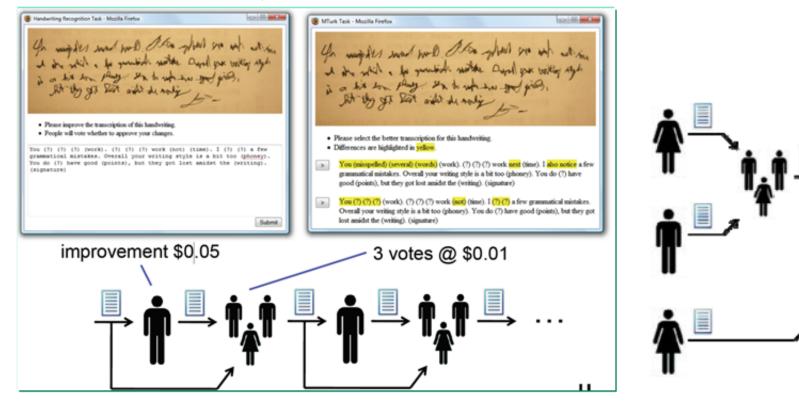
Sequential: Collaborative Workflow



V. Ambati et al, "Collaborative Workflow for Crowdsourcing Translation," CSCW 2012

Iterative and Parallel

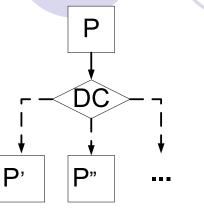
Iterative improve and vote

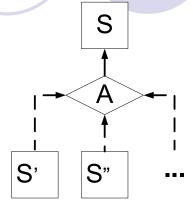


G. Little et al, "Exploring Iterative and Parallel Human Computation Processes," HCOMP 2010

Divide-and-Conquer and Aggregate

- Divide-and-Conquer and Aggregate
 - Decompose a problem statement and aggregate the results

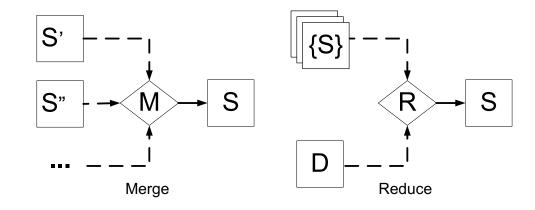




Divide and Conquer

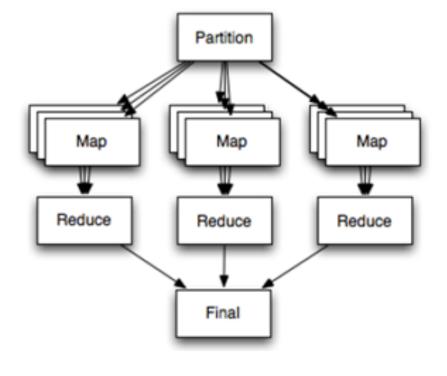
Aggregate

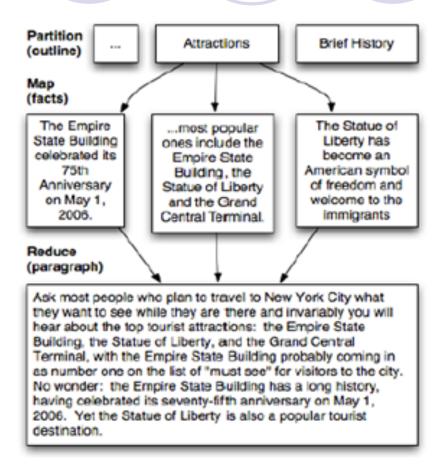
- Two special aggregates
 - Merge
 - Reduce



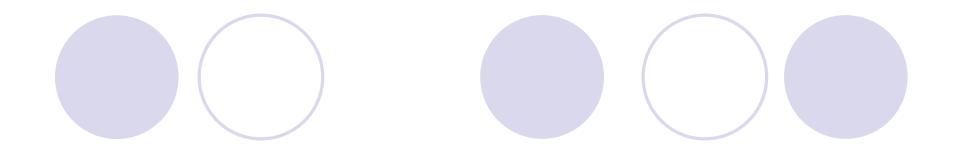
P. Minder et al, "Crowdlang - First Steps Towards Programmable Human Computers for General Computation," AAAI 2011.

Map and Reduce: A Special Case





A. Kittur et al, "Crowdforge: Crowdsourcing Complex Work," UIST 2011



Challenges Opportunities

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges

Each set has S/2 items									
r workers r									
Each set has S/10 items									
r r r r r r r r r r									

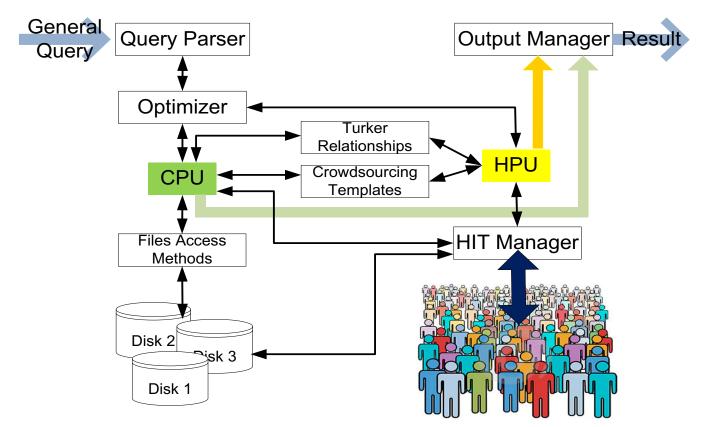
Trade-offs: time, cost, and quality
 Max algorithm with human error (with a probability)
 Maximize quality (via redundancy) subject to cost and time

 P. Venetis et al, "Max Algorithms in Crowdsourcing Environments," WWW 2012
 R. Kawajiri et al. "Steered Crowdsensing: Incentive Design Towards Qualityoriented Place-centric Crowdsensing", UBICOMP 2014

- Incentive: money, glory, and friendship
 Platform-centric: a Stackelberg game
 User-centric: auction-based incentive mechanism
 - D. Yang et al, "Crowdsourcing to Smartphones: Incentive Mechanism Design for Mobile Phone Sensing," MobiCom 2012.

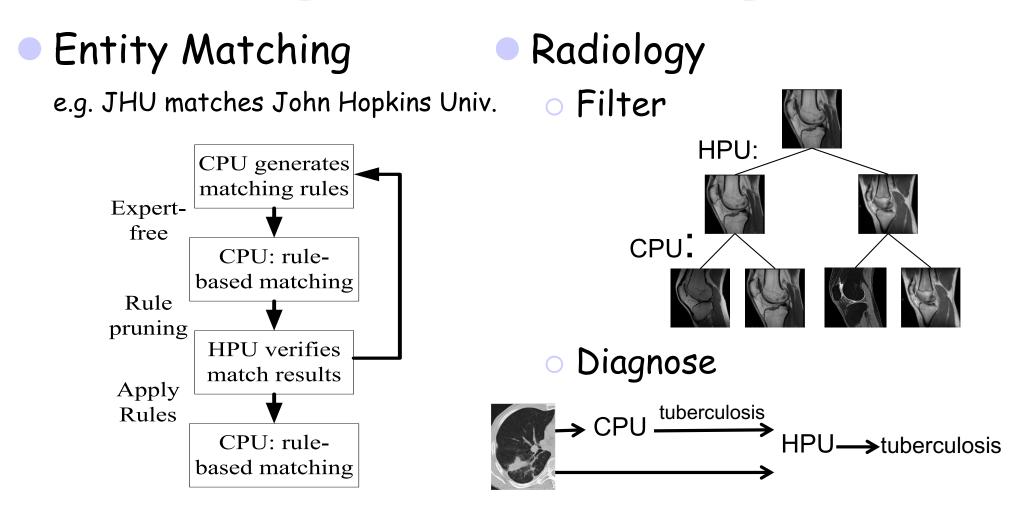
Challenges: HPU + CPU

CrowdDB:



M. Franklin et al, "CrowdDB: Answering Queries with Crowdsourcing," SIGMOD 2011

CPU-assisted HPU

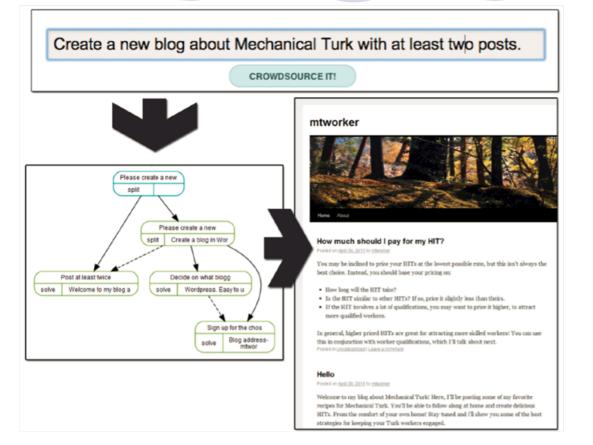


C. Gokhale etal, "Corleone: Hands-off Crowdsourcing for Entity Matching," SIGMOD 2014

Challenges: Collaborative Workflows

Turkomatic

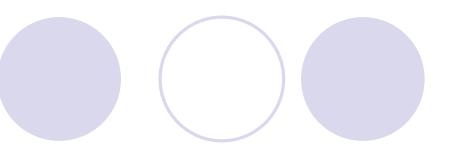
- Complex works require careful and accurate design workflow
- Problems:
 - Loop subtasks
 - Task starvation
 - Multi-stage task with limited budget



Kulkarni et al, "Collaboratively Crowdsourcing Workflows with Turkomatic," CSCW 2012

C. Fofi et al, "Design Patterns for Hybrid Algorithmic-Crowdsourcing Workflows," CBI 2014

Opportunities



Beyond simple workflows
 Graph search
 Graph match

Beyond simple worker selection
Opnamic procurement

Beyond independent workers
Social networks

Beyond Simple Workflows

Graph search

O Human-assisted graph search

O Best sequence of questions with simple Y/N answers

A. Parameswaran et al, "Human-Assisted Graph Search: It's Okay to Ask Questions," VLDB 2010

Graph match

- OPeople graph (who knows and/or communicates with whom)
- OPuzzle graph (ideas are compatible and can merge)
- Natural dynamic for people to merge their compatible ideas
- C. Brummitt et al, "Jigsaw Percolation: What Social Networks Can Collaboratively Solve a Puzzle," 2012

Beyond Simple Worker Selection

Dynamic Procurement (multi-armed bandit)

• A gambler facing a row of slot machines

 Which one to play, how many times, and in which order

 Each machine having a random reward from a fixed distribution

•Objective: maximizing the sum of rewards earned through a sequence of lever pulls

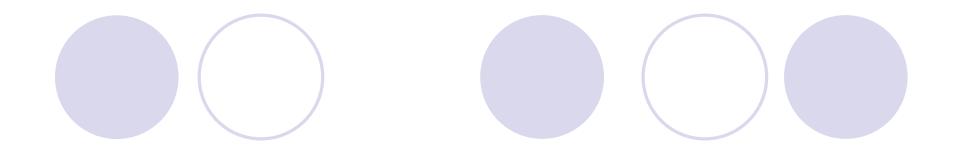


A. Badanidiyuru et al, "Bandits with Knapsacks: Dynamic Procurement for Crowdsourcing," 2013

Beyond Independent Workers

- Social network of workers
- Iterative recruitment of workers through social ties
- Challenges
 - Graph searching
 - Timeliness of responses
 - Stoppage condition



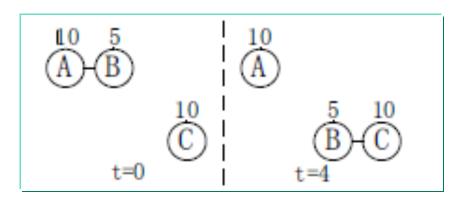


Computational Surplus Around QQ Example

SOCIAL CROWDSOURCING

Computational Surplus Around

- Friends help friends
 - Fixed individual capability
 - Probabilistic friends' capability
- Makes dissemination decisions
 - Based on the estimations of the fixed and potential computational capacities



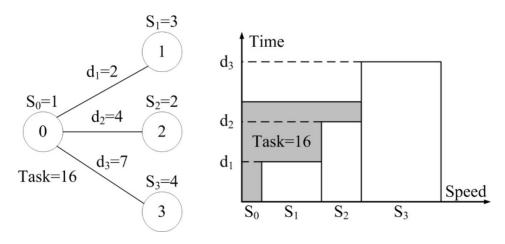
S. Zhang et al, "Minimum Makespan Workload Dissemination in DTNs: Making Full Utilization of Computational Surplus Around ," MobiHoc 2013

Water Filling Schedule

- Response delay
- Computation (by a friend)
- Reply delay

M. Xiao et al, "Multi-task Assignment for Crowdsensing in Mobile Social Networks," INFOCOM 2015

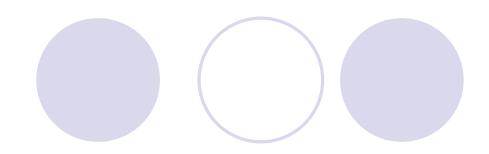
d_i: response + reply



Scheduling across time: assign jobs to workers

J. Bragg et al, "Parallel Task Routing	Tasks	Easy	Medium	n I	Hard				
for Crowdsourcing," AAAI 2014	1 40110							-	
	W1: smart	Avai	lable						
	W2: dumb] [-
								-	

QQ Example



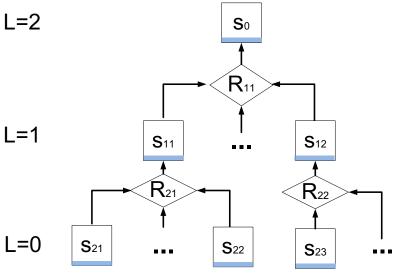
- Tencent QQ, or QQ
 - Instant messaging
- As of March 2013
 - 798.2 million active QQ accounts
 - Peak of 176.4 million simultaneous online users
- QQ experiment
 - Exploring social status of QQ users by responses



Recursive Doubling (reduce)

Initial label is L = "2" (subtract L by 1 when forwarding this request to QQ friends)

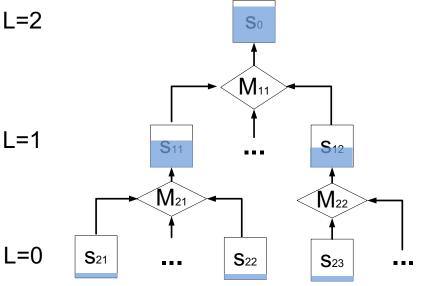
 When L = 0, return the total number of QQ friends



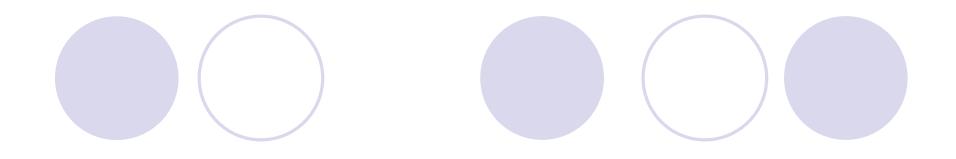
- When L > 0, do the following:
 - Forward this request to all QQ friends
 - After receiving the first 10 replies, compute the average number of friends, and send them back to me

Recursive Doubling (merge)

- Initial label is L = "2" (subtract L by 1 when forwarding this request to QQ friends)
- When L = 0, return the following:
 - Basic information (B)
 - Number of friends (N)
 - Timestamps (T)



- When L > 0, do the following:
 - Forward this request to all QQ friends
 - Pack the first 10 replies, together with your own information (B, N, T), and send them back to me



Summary Acknowledgements

CONCLUSION

Summary

- HPU as a new paradigm to compliment the traditional CPU-based computing for big data
- Many un(der)explored algorithmic problems
 Social connections and proper training of workers
 - Workflow design
 - Cost-time-quality-uncertainty trade-offs
 - Incentive, gamification, and satisfaction mechanisms
 - Mobile crowdsourcing: energy consumption, communication cost, truthfulness, and privacy

K. Han et al, "Truthful scheduling mechanisms for powering mobile crowdsensing," IEEE TC, Jan. 2016

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