

Appendix I: Proofs of Technical Results

Proof of Theorem 1: Consider any policy π which is feasible to $\mathcal{P}_{static}^E(\vec{\beta})$. Define the vector (\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) as follows:

$$\tilde{x}_{s,i,l} = \frac{\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_{s,i}} \mathbb{E}_{\vec{U}_{t-1}} [x_{t,l}^\pi(\vec{j}_t^\pi(\vec{U}_{t-1}))]}{\Delta}, \quad (22)$$

$$\tilde{y}_{s,i,l,c} = \frac{\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_{s,i}} \mathbb{E}_{\vec{U}_{t-1}} [y_{t,l,c}^\pi(\vec{j}_t^\pi(\vec{U}_{t-1}))]}{\Delta}. \quad (23)$$

Our proof involves demonstrating the following claims:

- (a) (\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) is feasible to $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{\beta})$.
- (b) $\pi(\vec{\beta})$ is feasible to $\mathcal{P}_{static}^E(\vec{\beta})$.
- (c) $f^\pi \geq \hat{f}(\tilde{x})$.
- (d) $\hat{f}(\tilde{x}) \geq \hat{f}(\hat{x}^*(\vec{\beta}))$.
- (e) $\hat{f}(\hat{x}^*(\vec{\beta})) = f^{\pi(\vec{\beta})}$.

Combining (a) – (e) we obtain the desired result that $f^{\pi(\vec{\beta})} \leq f^\pi$ for any policy π which is feasible for $\mathcal{P}_{static}^E(\vec{\beta})$. Thus, $\pi(\vec{\beta})$ is optimal for $\mathcal{P}_{static}^E(\vec{\beta})$. It only remains to show (a) – (e).

Proof of (a): The feasibility of (\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) for $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{\beta})$ follows from its definition and the feasibility of policy π for problem $\mathcal{P}_{static}^E(\vec{\beta})$.

Proof of (b): The feasibility of $\pi(\vec{\beta})$ for problem $\mathcal{P}_{static}^E(\vec{\beta})$ follows from its definition and the feasibility of $(\hat{x}^*(\vec{\beta}), \hat{y}^*(\vec{\beta}))$ for problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{\beta})$.

Proof of (c): The following two inequalities follow from Jensen's inequality:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\vec{U}_{t-1}} [f_{i,l}(x_{t,l}^\pi(\vec{j}_t^\pi(\vec{U}_{t-1})))] \geq f_{i,l}(\mathbb{E}_{\vec{U}_{t-1}} [x_{t,l}^\pi(\vec{j}_t^\pi(\vec{U}_{t-1}))]), \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}_{s,i}, s \in \mathcal{S}, i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L},$$

and

$$\frac{\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_{s,i}} \mathbb{E}_{\vec{U}_{t-1}} [f_{i,l}(x_{t,l}^\pi(\vec{j}_t^\pi(\vec{U}_{t-1})))]}{\Delta} \geq f_{i,l} \left(\frac{\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_{s,i}} \mathbb{E}_{\vec{U}_{t-1}} [x_{t,l}^\pi(\vec{j}_t^\pi(\vec{U}_{t-1}))]}{\Delta} \right) = f_{i,l}(\tilde{x}_{i,l}), \quad \forall s \in \mathcal{S}, i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L}.$$

Multiplying both sides by $\Delta q_{i,l}$ and summing over $l \in \mathcal{L}$, we obtain

$$\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_{s,i}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} q_{i,l} \mathbb{E}_{\vec{U}_{t-1}} [f_{i,l}(x_{t,l}^\pi(\vec{j}_t^\pi(\vec{U}_{t-1})))] \geq \Delta \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\tilde{x}_{i,l}). \quad \text{Summing over } s \in \mathcal{S}, i \in \mathcal{I}, \text{ we have}$$

$$f^\pi \geq \hat{f}(\tilde{x}).$$

Proof of (d): This claim follows immediately from claim (a) and the optimality of $\hat{x}^*(\vec{\beta})$ for problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{\beta})$.

Proof of (e): Since $\pi(\vec{\beta})$ is a state independent policy, directly substituting its definition in the expression f^π gives $f^{\pi(\vec{\beta})} = \hat{f}(\hat{x}^*(\vec{\beta}))$. \blacksquare

Proof of Theorem 2: We want to find a bound for the ratio

$$\frac{f^{\pi(\vec{\beta}^*)}}{\text{Opt}(\vec{M}, \alpha)}.$$

Recall that problem $\mathcal{P}_{static}^E(\alpha\vec{M})$ is a relaxation of problem $\mathcal{P}_{static}(\vec{M}, \alpha)$ and that $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\alpha\vec{M})$ is equivalent to $\mathcal{P}_{static}^E(\alpha\vec{M})$. Let $\pi(\alpha\vec{M}) = (\hat{x}^*(\alpha\vec{M}), \hat{y}^*(\alpha\vec{M}))$ be the solution of problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\alpha\vec{M})$, where $\hat{x}^*(\alpha\vec{M}) = (\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha\vec{M}) : s \in \mathcal{S}, i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L})$ and $\hat{y}^*(\alpha\vec{M}) = (\hat{y}_{s,i,l,c}^*(\alpha\vec{M}) : s \in \mathcal{S}, i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L}, c \in \mathcal{C})$. Therefore,

$$\text{Opt}(\vec{M}, \alpha) \geq \hat{f}(\hat{x}^*(\alpha\vec{M})) = \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \Delta q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha\vec{M})). \quad (24)$$

We can obtain a feasible solution for problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{M} + z_\alpha \vec{M}_r)$, where $\vec{M}_r \in \mathbb{R}_+^{|\mathcal{C}|}$ is a vector with elements $\sqrt{M_c}, c \in \mathcal{C}$, by simply multiplying the solution $(\hat{x}^*(\alpha\vec{M}), \hat{y}^*(\alpha\vec{M}))$ of problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\alpha\vec{M})$ by the factor

$$\gamma = \max_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \left[\frac{M_c + z_\alpha \sqrt{M_c}}{\alpha M_c} \right] = \max_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \left[\frac{1}{\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{z_\alpha}{\sqrt{M_c}} \right) \right].$$

Thus, $\pi^\gamma(\alpha\vec{M}) := (\gamma\hat{x}^*(\alpha\vec{M}), \gamma\hat{y}^*(\alpha\vec{M}))$ is a feasible solution for problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{M} + z_\alpha \vec{M}_r)$.

We know that the cost associated with policy $\pi^\gamma(\alpha\vec{M})$ is $f^{\pi^\gamma(\alpha\vec{M})}$. Since $\pi^\gamma(\alpha\vec{M})$ is only a feasible policy for problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{M} + z_\alpha \vec{M}_r)$, the cost corresponding to $\pi^\gamma(\alpha\vec{M})$, i.e., $f^{\pi^\gamma(\alpha\vec{M})}$, is higher than the optimal cost for problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{M} + z_\alpha \vec{M}_r)$, i.e., $f^{\pi(\vec{\beta}^*)}$. Thus, $f^{\pi(\vec{\beta}^*)} \leq f^{\pi^\gamma(\alpha\vec{M})}$. We also know that $f^{\pi^\gamma(\alpha\vec{M})} = \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \Delta q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\gamma\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha\vec{M}))$. Therefore,

$$f^{\pi(\vec{\beta}^*)} \leq \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \Delta q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\gamma\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha\vec{M})). \quad (25)$$

From (24) and (25) we can write,

$$\frac{f^{\pi(\vec{\beta}^*)}}{\text{Opt}(\vec{M}, \alpha)} \leq \frac{\sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \Delta q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\gamma\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha\vec{M}))}{\sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \Delta q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha\vec{M}))}. \quad (26)$$

Now, consider the ratio,

$$\frac{f_{i,l}(\gamma\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha\vec{M}))}{f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha\vec{M}))}.$$

Since $\gamma \geq 1$, $\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}) \geq \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M})$. Further, we know that $f_{i,l}(\cdot)$ is convex. Thus, we can write,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))}{f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))} &\leq \frac{f_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))}{f_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M})) - (\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}) - \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M})) f'_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))}, \\ &= \frac{f_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))}{f_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M})) - (\gamma - 1) \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}) f'_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))}, \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \frac{(\gamma-1) \gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}) f'_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))}{f_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, the above inequality can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))}{f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))} &\leq \frac{1}{1 - \frac{(\gamma-1)}{\gamma} \psi_{i,l}(\gamma \hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\alpha \vec{M}))}, \\ &\leq \frac{1}{1 - \frac{(\gamma-1)}{\gamma} \overline{\psi}}. \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

Using (26) and (27), we obtain the desired result that

$$\frac{f^{\pi(\vec{\beta}^*)}}{\text{Opt}(\vec{M}, \alpha)} \leq \frac{1}{1 - \frac{(\gamma-1)}{\gamma} \overline{\psi}}.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 2. ■

Proof of Proposition 1: The simple intuition behind the proof is as follows: Consider the set of active campaigns at location l at any point in time. As time progresses, some campaigns end, resulting in fewer campaigns being active in the later time blocks. Thus, a higher number of active campaigns in the earlier time blocks leads to higher target win-probabilities than those in the later time blocks.

Let $\hat{x}(\vec{\beta}) = \{\hat{x}_{s,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) : s \in \mathcal{S}, i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L}\}$ and $\hat{y}(\vec{\beta}) = \{\hat{y}_{s,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) : s \in \mathcal{S}, i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L}, c \in \mathcal{C}\}$ be an optimal solution of problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{\beta})$. Consider an arbitrary time block $i \in \mathcal{I}$ and location $l \in \mathcal{L}$, and assume, for a contradiction, that there exist two consecutive time periods d and $d+1$ with $\hat{x}_{d,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) < \hat{x}_{d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta})$. That is, in time block i at location l , the target win-probability in the d -th period is strictly less than the target win-probability in the $(d+1)$ -th period. We will construct another feasible solution $(\hat{x}'(\vec{\beta}), \hat{y}'(\vec{\beta}))$ such that (i) $\hat{x}'_{d,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) = \hat{x}_{d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta})$, (ii) $\hat{x}'_{s,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) = \hat{x}_{s,i,l}(\vec{\beta})$, $s \in \mathcal{S} \setminus \{d, d+1\}$, (iii) $\hat{x}'_{s',i',l'}(\vec{\beta}) = \hat{x}_{s',i',l'}(\vec{\beta})$, $(s', i', l') \in \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{L} \setminus \{(d, i, l), (d+1, i, l)\}$, and (iv) the objective function value of the solution $(\hat{x}'(\vec{\beta}), \hat{y}'(\vec{\beta}))$ is strictly less than that of the solution $(\hat{x}(\vec{\beta}), \hat{y}(\vec{\beta}))$.

Let

$$\bar{x}_{d,d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) = \frac{\hat{x}_{d,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) + \hat{x}_{d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta})}{2}.$$

For location l and time block i , define

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{x}'_{d,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) &= \hat{x}'_{d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) = \bar{x}_{d,d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta}), \\ \hat{x}'_{s,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) &= \hat{x}_{s,i,l}(\vec{\beta}), \quad \forall s \in \mathcal{S} \setminus \{d, d+1\}.\end{aligned}\tag{28}$$

For all other time periods, time blocks, and locations define

$$\hat{x}'_{s',i',l'}(\vec{\beta}) = \hat{x}_{s',i',l'}(\vec{\beta}), \quad (s', i', l') \in \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{L} \setminus \{(d, i, l), (d+1, i, l)\}.$$

We now define the allocation probabilities $\hat{y}'(\vec{\beta})$ by adjusting the original allocation probabilities $\hat{y}(\vec{\beta})$. We do this by advancing the procurment for some campaigns from time period $d+1$ to time period d . Let

$$c^* = \min \left\{ \tilde{c} : \sum_{c=1}^{\tilde{c}} \hat{y}_{d+1,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) \geq \hat{x}_{d+1,i,l} - \bar{x}_{d,d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) \right\}.$$

For location l , define

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{y}'_{d,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) &= \hat{y}_{d,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) + \hat{y}_{d+1,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}), & \forall c \in \{1, 2, \dots, c^* - 1\}, \\ \hat{y}'_{d+1,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) &= 0, & \forall c \in \{1, 2, \dots, c^* - 1\}, \\ \hat{y}'_{d,i,l,c^*}(\vec{\beta}) &= \hat{y}_{d,i,l,c^*}(\vec{\beta}) + \left[(\hat{x}_{d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) - \bar{x}_{d,d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta})) - \sum_{c=1}^{c^*-1} \hat{y}_{d+1,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) \right], \\ \hat{y}'_{d+1,i,l,c^*}(\vec{\beta}) &= \hat{y}_{d+1,i,l,c^*}(\vec{\beta}) - \left[(\hat{x}_{d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) - \bar{x}_{d,d+1,i,l}(\vec{\beta})) - \sum_{c=1}^{c^*-1} \hat{y}_{d+1,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) \right], \\ \hat{y}'_{d,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) &= \hat{y}_{d,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) & \forall c \in \{c^* + 1, c^* + 2, \dots, |\mathcal{C}|\}, \\ \hat{y}'_{d+1,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) &= \hat{y}_{d+1,i,l,c}(\vec{\beta}) & \forall c \in \{c^* + 1, c^* + 2, \dots, |\mathcal{C}|\}.\end{aligned}$$

For all other time periods, time blocks, and locations define

$$\hat{y}'_{s',i',l',c}(\vec{\beta}) = \hat{y}_{s',i',l',c}(\vec{\beta}), \quad (s', i', l') \in \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{L} \setminus \{(d, i, l), (d+1, i, l)\}, \quad c \in \mathcal{C}.$$

It is easy to verify that $(\hat{x}'(\vec{\beta}), \hat{y}'(\vec{\beta}))$ is a feasible solution of problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{\beta})$. The fact that the cost of $(\hat{x}'(\vec{\beta}), \hat{y}'(\vec{\beta}))$ is strictly less than that of $(\hat{x}(\vec{\beta}), \hat{y}(\vec{\beta}))$ is a direct consequence of the strict convexity of $f_{i,l}(\cdot)$. This completes the proof. \blacksquare

Proof of Proposition 2: Define $\hat{x}^*(\vec{\beta}) = \{\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\vec{\beta}) : s \in \mathcal{S}, i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L}\}$ and $\hat{y}^*(\vec{\beta}) = \{\hat{y}_{s,i,l,c}^*(\vec{\beta}) : s \in \mathcal{S}, i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L}, c \in \mathcal{C}\}$. Let $(\hat{x}^*(\vec{\beta}), \hat{y}^*(\vec{\beta}))$ be an optimal solution of problem $\hat{\mathcal{P}}(\vec{\beta})$. We want to prove that the optimal win-probability in location l during time block i of time period s decreases with an

increase in the impression-arrival probability $q_{i,l}$. That is, we want to show that $\hat{x}_{s,i,l}^*(\vec{\beta})$ decreases with $q_{i,l}$. Without loss of generality, we prove this for $\hat{x}_{1,1,1}^*(\vec{\beta})$, i.e., we prove that $\hat{x}_{1,1,1}^*(\vec{\beta})$ decreases with an increase in $q_{1,1}$. Define $\mathcal{B}_{-1} = \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{L} \setminus (1, 1, 1)$. Let $\hat{x}_{-1}(\vec{\beta}) = \{\hat{x}_{s,i,l}(\vec{\beta}) : (s, i, l) \in \mathcal{B}_{-1}\}$. We now define a new problem in which for a given value of win-probability in location $l = 1$ for time block $i = 1$ and time period $s = 1$, we find all other win-probabilities. For a given value of $\hat{x}_{1,1,1}$, we define $z = \Delta q_{1,1} \hat{x}_{1,1,1}$.

Thus, we solve the following optimization problem to obtain the value of objective function at the optimal values of the other win-probabilities, given $\hat{x}_{1,1,1}$:

$$\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{-1}(\vec{\beta}) : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{F}(z) = \min_{\hat{x}_{-1}, \hat{y}} \sum_{(s,i,l) \in \mathcal{B}_{-1}} \Delta q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{s,i,l}) \\ \text{subject to:} \\ \sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \hat{y}_{s,i,l,c} = \hat{x}_{s,i,l}, \quad \forall (s, i, l) \in \mathcal{B}_{-1}, \\ \Delta q_{1,1} \sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \hat{y}_{1,1,1,c} = z, \\ \sum_{(s,i,l) \in \mathcal{B}_{-1}} \Delta q_{i,l} \hat{y}_{s,i,l,c} + \Delta q_{1,1} \hat{y}_{1,1,1,c} \geq \beta_c, \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}, K_c > 1, \\ \hat{y}_{s,i,l,c} = 0, \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}, l \in \mathcal{L}_c, i \in \mathcal{I}, s > K_c, \\ \hat{x}_{s,i,l} \in [0, 1], \quad \forall (s, i, l) \in \mathcal{B}_{-1}, \\ \hat{y}_{s,i,l,c} \in [0, 1], \quad \forall (s, i, l) \in \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{L}, c \in \mathcal{C}. \end{array} \right. \quad (29)$$

$$\sum_{(s,i,l) \in \mathcal{B}_{-1}} \Delta q_{i,l} \hat{y}_{s,i,l,c} + \Delta q_{1,1} \hat{y}_{1,1,1,c} \geq \beta_c, \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}, K_c > 1, \quad (30)$$

$$\hat{y}_{s,i,l,c} = 0, \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}, l \in \mathcal{L}_c, i \in \mathcal{I}, s > K_c, \quad (31)$$

$$\hat{x}_{s,i,l} \in [0, 1], \quad \forall (s, i, l) \in \mathcal{B}_{-1},$$

$$\hat{y}_{s,i,l,c} \in [0, 1], \quad \forall (s, i, l) \in \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{I} \times \mathcal{L}, c \in \mathcal{C}.$$

Since $f_{i,l}(\cdot)$ is a convex function and minimization preserves convexity, function $\mathcal{F}(z)$ is a convex function of z . For a given value of the z , we can obtain the value of $\mathcal{F}(z)$ by solving the above optimization problem. Thus, we can find the optimal value of $\hat{x}_{1,1,1}$ by solving the following problem:

$$\min_{0 \leq \hat{x}_{1,1,1} \leq 1} \Delta q_{1,1} f_{1,1}(\hat{x}_{1,1,1}) + \mathcal{F}(\Delta q_{1,1} \hat{x}_{1,1,1}).$$

Let $\hat{x}_{1,1,1}^*(\vec{\beta})$ be an optimal solution of the above problem. Then, the first-order condition for the above optimization problem results in

$$f'_{1,1}(\hat{x}_{1,1,1}^*(\vec{\beta})) + \mathcal{F}'(\Delta q_{1,1} \hat{x}_{1,1,1}^*(\vec{\beta})) = 0. \quad (32)$$

Since $f_{1,1}(\cdot)$ and $\mathcal{F}(\cdot)$ are convex functions, $f'_{1,1}(\cdot)$ and $\mathcal{F}'(\cdot)$ are increasing functions. It now immediately follows that $\hat{x}_{1,1,1}^*(\vec{\beta})$ decreases with an increase in $q_{1,1}$. \blacksquare

Proof of Corollary 3: We want to find a bound for the ratio

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}[G(\bar{\mathbf{M}})]}{G(\alpha \mathbf{M})}. \quad (33)$$

Recall that $G(\bar{\mathbf{M}})$ is the objective function of problem $\mathcal{P}_1(\bar{\mathbf{M}})$ and $G(\alpha\mathbf{M})$ is the objective function of problem $\mathcal{P}_1(\alpha\mathbf{M})$. Let $\pi(\alpha\mathbf{M}) = (\hat{x}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}), \hat{y}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}))$ be the solution of problem $\mathcal{P}_1(\alpha\mathbf{M})$, where $\hat{x}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}) = (\hat{x}_{i,l}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}) : i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L})$ and $\hat{y}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}) = (\hat{y}_{i,l,c}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}) : i \in \mathcal{I}, l \in \mathcal{L}, c \in \mathcal{C})$.

We can obtain a feasible solution for problem $\mathcal{P}_1(\bar{\mathbf{M}})$ by simply multiplying the solution $(\hat{x}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}), \hat{y}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}))$ of problem $\mathcal{P}_1(\alpha\mathbf{M})$ by a factor

$$\gamma^r = \max_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \left[\frac{\bar{M}_c}{\alpha M_c} \right],$$

where r stands for our rolling-horizon policy. Since \bar{M}_c is a random variable, γ^r is also a random variable. Therefore, we have

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}[G(\bar{\mathbf{M}})]}{G(\alpha\mathbf{M})} \leq \frac{\Delta \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \mathbb{E}_{\gamma^r} \left[q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\gamma^r \hat{x}_{i,l}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M})) \right]}{\Delta \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \left[q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{i,l}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M})) \right]}. \quad (34)$$

We know that

$$\bar{M}_{s,c} = \sum_{\hat{s}=s-K+1}^s \frac{\tilde{M}_{\hat{s},c}}{K} + z_\alpha \sqrt{\frac{\tilde{M}_{s,c}}{K}}.$$

We know that the support of the random variable $\tilde{M}_{s,c}$ is $[0, M_c^{max}]$. Thus, we have $\bar{M}_{s,c} \leq M_c^{max} + z_\alpha \sqrt{K M_c^{max}}$.

We now define

$$\gamma_{max}^r = \max_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \left[\frac{M_c^{max} + z_\alpha \sqrt{K M_c^{max}}}{\alpha M_c} \right].$$

It is easy to see that $\gamma^r \leq \gamma_{max}^r$ with probability 1. Thus, from (34) we have

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}[G(\bar{\mathbf{M}})]}{G(\alpha\mathbf{M})} \leq \frac{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \left[q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\gamma_{max}^r \hat{x}_{i,l}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M})) \right]}{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \left[q_{i,l} f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{i,l}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M})) \right]}. \quad (35)$$

Now, consider the ratio,

$$\frac{f_{i,l}(\gamma_{max}^r \hat{x}_{i,l}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}))}{f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{i,l}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}))}.$$

By following an analysis identical to that in the proof of Theorem 2, we obtain

$$\frac{f_{i,l}(\gamma_{max}^r \hat{x}_{i,l}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}))}{f_{i,l}(\hat{x}_{i,l}^*(\alpha\mathbf{M}))} \leq \frac{1}{1 - \frac{(\gamma_{max}^r - 1)}{\gamma_{max}^r} \bar{\psi}_r}. \quad (36)$$

Using (33) and (36), we obtain the desired result that

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}[G(\bar{\mathbf{M}})]}{G(\alpha\mathbf{M})} \leq \frac{1}{1 - \frac{(\gamma_{max}^r - 1)}{\gamma_{max}^r} \bar{\psi}_r}.$$

This completes the proof of Corollary 3. ■

Appendix II: Details of the Regression for Estimating the Win-Curves Using Real Data (Section 4.2)

Here we provide the details of our logistic regression to estimate the win-curves. A few fields in our dataset are: (a) winning status (binary variable taking value 1 when the bid is won, 0 otherwise), (b) click status (binary variable taking value 1 if the impression is clicked, 0 otherwise), (c) bid amount, (d) zip-code, (e) device maker (Apple, Samsung, etc.), (f) operating system (iOS, android, etc.). In the data set, we have 52,460 records corresponding to 5 different zip-codes in the Boston area. We ran five different regressions, corresponding to each of the five zip-codes, to estimate the win-curves in the respective locations. The bid amount is the independent variable and the winning status is the dependent variable. After estimating the regression coefficients, we also applied the chi-square test to check the goodness-of-fit of the regression model. For location $l \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$, (locations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, corresponding to zip-codes 02110, 02114, 02116, 02118, and 02119, respectively) we estimate the win-probability for a bid b as $x_l(b) = \frac{e^{\beta_0^l + \beta_1^l b}}{1 + e^{\beta_0^l + \beta_1^l b}}$. Then, we obtain the expected-cost function for location l using the relation $f_l(x) = x_l b_l(x)$, where $b_l(\cdot)$ is the inverse function of $x_l(\cdot)$. The estimated function $f_l(\cdot)$ is convex at each location, as is assumed in our theoretical analysis (see Figure 5). The results of the regression and the goodness-of-fit test for each zip-code are in Table 1.

Table 1 Results of the Regression

Zip Code	Number of Records	Regression Constant (β_0^l)	Regression Coefficient for Bid (β_1^l)	Chi-Square Test Statistic
02110	1086	-2.281*** (std. error: 0.2141)	0.7051*** (std. error: 0.1290)	31.23302***
02114	27693	-2.291*** (std. error: 0.03693)	1.04294*** (std. error: 0.02224)	2415.644***
02116	6794	-1.905*** (std. error: 0.07184)	0.87651*** (std. error: 0.04388)	426.4403***
02118	2833	-1.936*** (std. error: 0.11432)	0.76762*** (std. error: 0.06958)	128.1244***
02119	14054	-2.193*** (std. error: 0.05212)	0.97615*** (std. error: 0.03133)	1053.156***

Significance codes: '***' $p < 0.001$, '**' $p < 0.01$, '*' $p < 0.05$, '.' $p < 0.1$. The chi-square test with p-value of less than 0.001 tells us that our model as a whole fits significantly better than an empty model.