

# A Secure $M + 1st$ Price Auction Protocol based on Bit Slice Circuits

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**Abstract.** This paper presents an efficient secure auction protocol for  $M + 1st$  price auction. In our proposed protocol, bidding prices are represented as binary numbers. Thus, when the bidding price is an integer up to  $p$  and the number of bidders is  $m$ , the complexity of our protocol is a polynomial of  $\log p$  and  $m$ , while in previous secure  $M + 1st$  price auction protocols, the complexity is a polynomial of  $p$  and  $m$ . We apply the Boneh-Goh-Nissim encryption to the mix-and-match protocol to reduce the computation costs.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Recently, as the Internet has expanded, many researchers have become interested in secure auction protocols and various schemes have been proposed to ensure the safe transaction of sealed-bid auctions. A secure auction is a protocol in which each player can find only the highest bid and its bidder (called the first price auction) or the second highest bid and the first price bidder (called the second price auction). There is also a generalized auction protocol called  $M + 1st$  price auction. The  $M + 1st$  price auction is a type of sealed-bid auction for selling  $M$  units of a single kind of goods, and the  $M + 1st$  highest price is the winning price.  $M$  bidders who bid prices higher than the winning price are the winning bidders, and each winning bidder buys one unit of the goods at the winning price.

A simple solution is to assume a trusted auctioneer. Bidders encrypt their bids and send them to the auctioneer, and the auctioneer decrypts them to decide the winner. To remove the trusted auctioneer, some secure multi-party protocols have been proposed. The common essential idea is the use of threshold cryptosystems, where a private decryption key is shared by the players. Jakobsson and Juels proposed a secure MPC protocol to evaluate a function comprising a logical circuit, called mix-and-match [6]. As for a target function  $f$  and the circuit that calculates  $f$ ,  $C_f$ , all players evaluate each gate in  $C_f$  based on their

encrypted inputs and the evaluations of all the gates in turn lead to the evaluation of  $f$ . Based on the mix-and-match protocol, we can easily find a secure auction protocol by repeating the millionaires' problem for two players. Kurosawa and Ogata suggested the "bit-slice auction", which is an auction protocol that is more efficient than the one based on the millionaire's problem [8].

Boneh, Goh and Nissim suggested a public evaluation system for 2-DNF formula based on an encryption of Boolean variables [3]. Their protocol is based on Pallier's scheme [13], so it has additive homomorphism in addition to the bilinear map, which allows one multiplication on encrypted values. As a result, this property allows the evaluation of multivariate polynomials with the total of degree two on encrypted values.

In this paper, we introduce an efficient secure auction protocol for  $M + 1st$  price auction, in which if the bidding price is an integer up to  $p$  and the number of bidders is  $m$ , the complexity of our protocol is a polynomial of  $\log p$  and  $m$ .

## 1.2 Related works

As related works, there are many secure auction protocols, however, they have problems such as those described hereafter. The secure auction scheme for first price auction proposed by Franklin and Reiter [5] does not provide full privacy, since at the end of an auction players can know the other players' bids. Naor, Pinkas and Sumner achieved a secure second price auction by combining Yao's secure computation with oblivious transfer assuming two types of auctioneers [10]. However, the cost of the bidder communication is high because it proceeds bit by bit using the oblivious transfer protocol. Juels and Szydlo improved the efficiency and security of this scheme with two types of auctioneers through verifiable proxy oblivious transfer [7], which still has a security problem in which if both types of auctioneers collaborate they can retrieve all bids. Mitsunaga, Manabe and Okamoto suggested secure auction protocols for first and second price auction. They applied Boneh-Goh-Nissim Encryption to the bit-slice auction protocol to improve computation costs [11].

For  $M + 1st$  price auction, Lipmaa, Asokan and Niemi proposed an efficient secure  $M + 1st$  auction scheme [9]. In their scheme, the trusted auction authority can know the bid statistics. Abe and Suzuki suggested a secure auction scheme for the  $M + 1st$  auction based on homomorphic encryption [1]. However in their scheme, a player's bid is not a binary expression. So, its time complexity is  $O(m2^p)$  for a  $m$ -player and  $p$ -bit bidding price auction.

## 1.3 Our result

This paper presents an efficient secure auction protocol for  $M + 1st$  price auction. In our proposed protocol, bidding prices are represented as binary numbers. Thus, when the bidding price is an integer up to  $p$  and the number of bidders is  $m$ , the complexity of our protocol is a polynomial of  $\log p$  and  $m$ , while in previous secure  $M + 1st$  price auction protocols[1], the complexity is a polynomial of  $p$  and  $m$ .

## 2 Preliminaries

### 2.1 The model of auction and outline of auction protocol

This model involves  $n$  players, denoted by  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_m$  and assumes that there exists a public board. The players agree in advance on the presentation of the target function,  $f$  as a circuit  $C_f$ . For each player  $P_i$ 's bidding price  $Z_i$ , the aim of the protocol is for players to compute  $f(Z_1, \dots, Z_m)$  without revealing any additional information. Its outline is as follows.

1. **Input stage:** Each  $P_i (1 \leq i \leq m)$  computes ciphertexts of the bits of  $Z_i$  and broadcasts them and proves that the ciphertext represents 0 or 1 by using the zero-knowledge proof technique in [3].
2. **Mix and Match stage:** The players blindly evaluate each gate,  $G_j$ , in order.
3. **Output stage:** After evaluating the last gate  $G_M$ , the players obtain  $O_M$ , a ciphertext encrypting  $f(Z_1, \dots, Z_m)$ . They jointly decrypt this ciphertext value to reveal the output of function  $f$ .

### 2.2 Mix and Match protocol

**Requirements for the encryption function** Let  $E$  be a public-key probabilistic encryption function. We denote the set of encryptions for a plaintext  $m$  by  $E(m)$  and a particular encryption of  $m$  by  $c \in E(m)$ .

Function  $E$  must satisfy the following properties.

**1. Homomorphic property** There exist polynomial time computable operations,  $^{-1}$  and  $\otimes$ , as follows. For a large prime  $q$ ,

1. If  $c \in E(m)$ , then  $c^{-1} \in E(-m \bmod q)$ .
2. If  $c_1 \in E(m_1)$  and  $c_2 \in E(m_2)$ , then  $c_1 \otimes c_2 \in E(m_1 + m_2 \bmod q)$ .

For a positive integer  $a$ , define

$$a \cdot e = \underbrace{c \otimes c \otimes \dots \otimes c}_a$$

**2. Random re-encryption** Given  $c \in E(m)$ , there is a probabilistic re-encryption algorithm that outputs  $c' \in E(m)$ , where  $c'$  is uniformly distributed over  $E(m)$ .

**3. Threshold decryption** For a given ciphertext  $c \in E(m)$ , any  $t$  out of  $n$  players can decrypt  $c$  along with a zero-knowledge proof of the correctness. However, any  $t-1$  out of  $n$  players cannot decrypt  $c$ .

**MIX protocol** The MIX protocol [4] takes a list of ciphertexts,  $(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_L)$ , and outputs a permuted and re-encrypted list of the ciphertexts  $(\xi'_1, \dots, \xi'_L)$  without revealing the relationship between  $(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_L)$  and  $(\xi'_1, \dots, \xi'_L)$ , where  $\xi_i$  or  $\xi'_i$  can be a single ciphertext  $c$ , or a list of  $l$  ciphertexts,  $(c_1, \dots, c_l)$ , for some  $l > 1$ . For all players to verify the validity of  $(\xi'_1, \dots, \xi'_L)$ , we use the universal verifiable MIX net protocol described in [14].

**Plaintext equality test** Given two ciphertexts  $c_1 \in E(v_1)$  and  $c_2 \in E(v_2)$ , this protocol checks if  $v_1 = v_2$ . Let  $c_0 = c_1 \otimes c_2^{-1}$ .

1. (Step 1) For each player  $P_i$  (where  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ):  
 $P_i$  chooses a random element  $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$  and computes  $z_i = a_i \cdot c_0$ . He broadcasts  $z_i$  and proves the validity of  $z_i$  in zero-knowledge.
2. (Step 2) Let  $z = z_1 \otimes z_2 \otimes \dots \otimes z_n$ . The players jointly decrypt  $z$  using threshold verifiable decryption and obtain plaintext  $v$ . Then it holds that

$$v = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } v_1 = v_2 \\ \text{random} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Mix and Match Stage** For each logical gate,  $G(x_1, x_2)$ , of a given circuit,  $n$  players jointly computes  $E(G(x_1, x_2))$  from  $c_1 \in E(x_1)$  and  $c_2 \in E(x_2)$  keeping  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  secret. For simplicity, we show the mix-and-match stage for AND gate.

1.  $n$  players first consider the standard encryption of each entry in the table shown below.
2. By applying a MIX protocol to the four rows of the table,  $n$  players jointly compute blinded and permuted rows of the table. Let the  $i$ th row be  $(a'_i, b'_i, c'_i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 4$ .
3.  $n$  players next jointly find the row  $i$  such that the plaintext of  $c_1$  is equal to that of  $a'_i$  and the plaintext of  $c_2$  is equal to that of  $b'_i$  by using the plaintext equality test protocol.
4. For the row  $i$ , it holds that  $c'_i \in E(x_1 \wedge x_2)$ .

**Table 1.** Mix-and-match table for AND

$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_1 \wedge x_2$
$a'_1 \in E(0)$	$b'_1 \in E(0)$	$c'_1 \in E(0)$
$a'_2 \in E(0)$	$b'_2 \in E(1)$	$c'_2 \in E(0)$
$a'_3 \in E(1)$	$b'_3 \in E(0)$	$c'_3 \in E(0)$
$a'_4 \in E(1)$	$b'_4 \in E(1)$	$c'_4 \in E(1)$

### 2.3 Evaluating 2-DNF formulas on ciphertexts

Given encrypted Boolean variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \{0, 1\}$ , a mechanism for public evaluation of a 2-DNF formula was suggested in [3]. They presented a homomorphic public key encryption scheme based on finite groups of composite order that supports a bilinear map. In addition, the bilinear map allows for one multiplication on encrypted values. As a result, their system supports arbitrary additions and one multiplication on encrypted data. This property in turn allows the evaluation of multivariate polynomials of a total degree of two on encrypted values.

**Bilinear groups** Their construction makes use of certain finite groups of composite order that supports a bilinear map. We use the following notation.

1.  $\mathbb{G}$  and  $\mathbb{G}_1$  are two (multiplicative) cyclic groups of finite order  $n$ .
2.  $g$  is a generator of  $\mathbb{G}$ .
3.  $e$  is a bilinear map  $e : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_1$ .

**Subgroup decision assumption** We define algorithm  $\mathcal{G}$  such that given security parameter  $\tau \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  outputs a tuple  $(q_1, q_2, \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_1, e)$  where  $\mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_1$  are groups of order  $n = q_1 q_2$  and  $e : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_1$  is a bilinear map. On input  $\tau$ , algorithm  $\mathcal{G}$  works as indicated below,

1. Generate two random  $\tau$ -bit primes,  $q_1$  and  $q_2$  and set  $n = q_1 q_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
2. Generate a bilinear group  $\mathbb{G}$  of order  $n$  as described above. Let  $g$  be a generator of  $\mathbb{G}$  and  $e : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_1$  be the bilinear map.
3. Output  $(q_1, q_2, \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_1, e)$ .

We note that the group action in  $\mathbb{G}$  and  $\mathbb{G}_1$  as well as the bilinear map can be computed in polynomial time.

Let  $\tau \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and let  $(q_1, q_2, \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_1, e)$  be a tuple produced by  $\mathcal{G}$  where  $n = q_1 q_2$ . Consider the following problem. Given  $(n, \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_1, e)$  and an element  $x \in \mathbb{G}$ , output '1' if the order of  $x$  is  $q_1$  and output '0' otherwise, that is, without knowing the factorization of the group order  $n$ , decide if an element  $x$  is in a subgroup of  $\mathbb{G}$ . We refer to this problem as the subgroup decision problem.

**Homomorphic public key system** We now introduce the public key system which resembles the Pallier [13] and the Okamoto-Uchiyama encryption schemes [12]. We describe the three algorithms comprising the system.

**1.KeyGen** Given a security parameter  $\tau \in \mathbb{Z}$ , run  $\mathcal{G}$  to obtain a tuple  $(q_1, q_2, \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_1, e)$ .

Let  $n = q_1 q_2$ . Select two random generators,  $g$  and  $u \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{G}$  and set  $h = u^{q_2}$ . Then  $h$  is a random generator of the subgroup of  $\mathbb{G}$  of order  $q_1$ . The public key is  $PK = (n, \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_1, e, g, h)$ . The private key is  $SK = q_1$ .

**2.Encrypt( $PK, M$ )** We assume that the message space consists of integers in set  $\{0, 1, \dots, T\}$  with  $T < q_2$ . We encrypt the binary representation of bids in our main application, in the case  $T = 1$ . To encrypt a message  $m$  using public key  $PK$ , select a random number  $r \in \{0, 1, \dots, n - 1\}$  and compute

$$C = g^m h^r \in \mathbb{G}.$$

Output  $C$  as the ciphertext.

**3.Decrypt( $SK, C$ )** To decrypt a ciphertext  $C$  using the private key  $SK = q_1$ , observe that  $C^{q_1} = (g^m h^r)^{q_1} = (g^{q_1})^m$ . Let  $\hat{g} = g^{q_1}$ . To recover  $m$ , it suffices to compute the discrete log of  $C^{q_1}$  base  $\hat{g}$ .

**Homomorphic properties** The system is clearly additively homomorphic. Let  $(n, \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_1, e, g, h)$  be a public key. Given encryptions  $C_1$  and  $C_2 \in \mathbb{G}_1$  of messages  $m_1$  and  $m_2 \in \{0, 1, \dots, T\}$  respectively, anyone can create a uniformly distributed encryption of  $m_1 + m_2 \bmod n$  by computing the product  $C = C_1 C_2 h^r$  for a random number  $r \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ . More importantly, anyone can multiply two encrypted messages once using the bilinear map. Set  $g_1 = e(g, g)$  and  $h_1 = e(g, h)$ . Then  $g_1$  is of order  $n$  and  $h_1$  is of order  $q_1$ . Also, write  $h = g^{\alpha q_2}$  for some (unknown)  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose we are given two ciphertexts  $C_1 = g^{m_1} h^{r_1} \in \mathbb{G}$  and  $C_2 = g^{m_2} h^{r_2} \in \mathbb{G}$ . To build an encryption of product  $m_1 \cdot m_2 \bmod n$  given only  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , 1) select random  $r \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ , and 2) set  $C = e(C_1, C_2) h_1^r \in \mathbb{G}_1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} C &= e(C_1, C_2) h_1^r = e(g^{m_1} h^{r_1}, g^{m_2} h^{r_2}) h_1^r \\ &= g_1^{m_1 m_2} h_1^{m_1 r_2 + r_2 m_1 + q_2 r_1 r_2 \alpha + r} = g_1^{m_1 m_2} h_1^{r'} \in \mathbb{G}_1 \end{aligned}$$

where  $r' = m_1 r_2 + r_2 m_1 + q_2 r_1 r_2 \alpha + r$  is distributed uniformly in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  as required. Thus,  $C$  is a uniformly distributed encryption of  $m_1 m_2 \bmod n$ , but in the group  $\mathbb{G}_1$  rather than  $\mathbb{G}$  (this is why we allow for just one multiplication). We note that the system is still additively homomorphic in  $\mathbb{G}_1$ . For simplicity, in this paper we denote an encryption of message  $m$  in  $\mathbb{G}$  as  $E_G(m)$  and one in  $\mathbb{G}_1$  as  $E_{G_1}(m)$ .

## 2.4 Key sharing

In [2], efficient protocols are presented for a number of players to jointly generate RSA modulus  $N = pq$  where  $p$  and  $q$  are prime, and each player retains a share of  $N$ . In this protocol, none of the players can know the factorization of  $N$ . They then show how the players can proceed to compute a public exponent  $e$  and the shares of the corresponding private exponent. At the end of the computation the players are convinced that  $N$  is a product of two large primes by using zero-knowledge proof. Their protocol was based on the threshold decryption that  $m$  out of  $m$  players can decrypt the secret. The cost of key generation for the shared RSA private key is approximately 11 times greater than that for simple RSA key generation. However the cost for computation is still practical. We use this protocol to share private keys among auction managers. We can assume that auction managers are either a subset of players or a different group such as management group for auctions.

## 3 New efficient auction protocol

In this section, we show an efficient  $M + 1$ st price auction based on bit-slice auction protocols. Compared to previous works on secure  $M + 1$ st price auctions, proposed protocol is more efficient because bidding prices are represent as binary numbers, however it needs high computation costs if a quite large number of players participate an auction. Because complexity of proposed protocol is a polynomial of  $m$  for the  $m$ -player auction.

### 3.1 Proposed $M + 1st$ price auction protocol

We define three types of player's status on  $j$ -th bit as  $W_j$  (*Winner*),  $C_j$  (*Candidate*) and  $S_j$  (*Survivor*) shown as below and the numbers of players in  $W_j$  and  $S_j$  as  $|W_j|$  and  $|S_j|$ . We define the status of players for  $m$ -player and  $k$ -bit bidding price shown as below,

$W_j[1...m]$ :  $W_j[i]=1$  if player  $P_i$  is decided to be a winner by upper  $k - j$  bits of the bids.

$C_j[1...m]$ :  $C_j[i]=1$  if player  $P_i$  is not decided to be a winner but has a possibility of  $M + 1st$  highest bidder by upper  $k - j$  bits of the bids.

$S_j[1...m]$ :  $S_j[i]=1$  if  $C_j[i]=1$  and  $j$ -th bit of  $P_i$ 's bid is 1.

Suppose that  $B_{M+1st} = (b_{M+1st}^{(k-1)}, \dots, b_{M+1st}^{(0)})_2$  is the  $M + 1st$  highest bidding price and  $Z_i = (z_i^{(k-1)}, \dots, z_i^{(0)})_2$  is the bid of player  $i$ , where  $(\ )_2$  is the binary expression. The winners and winning price are found by the following protocol.

As initial setting, we set  $W_k[i]=0$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ) and  $C_k[i]=1$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ).

For  $j = k-1$  to 0

$S_j[i]=C_{j+1}[i] * z_i^{(j)}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ )

if  $|W_{j+1}| + |S_j| > M$  then

$b_{M+1st}^{(j)}=1$

$C_j[i] = S_j[i]$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ )

$W_j[i] = W_{j+1}[i]$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ )

else

$b_{M+1st}^{(j)}=0$

$W_j[i] = W_{j+1}[i] + S_j[i]$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ )

$C_j[i] = C_{j+1}[i] - S_j[i]$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ )

end

end

If the number of Winners on  $(j + 1)$ -th bit and Survivors on  $j$ -th bit is more than  $M$ , we keep Winners remained and update Candidates to eliminate players  $i$  in a set of  $(C_j[i] - S_j[i])$ , because they have no possibility to win the auction. If the number of Winners on  $(j + 1)$ -th bit and Survivors on  $j$ -th bit is less than or equal to  $M$ , Survivors on  $j$ -th bid are determined as Winners, so we update  $W_j$  as  $W_{j+1}[i] + S_j[i]$  and eliminate players  $i$  of  $S_j[i]$  from  $C_{j+1}[i]$ .

### 3.2 Example

We show an example 5-player auction for 3 goods ( $M=3$ ). The information we need to find are the first, second and third highest bidders as the winners of the auction and the fourth highest bidding price as the winning price. Assume each player's bid as follows,

$$P_1 = 11 = (1011)_2$$

$$P_2 = 7 = (0111)_2$$

$$P_3 = 5 = (0101)_2$$

$$P_4 = 4 = (0100)_2$$

**Table 2.** Example of 5-player auction for 3 goods

	$C_5$	$W_5$	$K_4$	$S_4$	$C_4$	$W_4$	$K_3$	$S_3$	$C_3$	$W_3$	$K_2$	$S_2$	$C_2$	$W_2$	$K_1$	$S_1$	$C_1$	$W_1$
$P_1$	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
$P_2$	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
$P_3$	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
$P_4$	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
$P_5$	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
$W$ and $S$		0		1		1		3		1		1		2		1		3
$B_{M+1st}$				0				1				0				0		

$$P_5 = 1 = (0001)_2$$

So, the winners are  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$  and  $P_3$  and the winning price is 4. We denote  $K_j$  be the vector of players'  $j$ -th bid as  $K_j = (z_1^{(j)}, z_2^{(j)}, z_3^{(j)}, z_4^{(j)}, z_5^{(j)})$

We also denote  $W_j$ ,  $C_j$  and  $S_j$  be the vector of players' status, Winner, Candidate and Survivors on  $j$ -th bid respectively.

For initial setting  $j = 5$ , all players have possibilities to win the auction, so according to the definition of the player status all players are Candidates and they are not decided to win the auction yet, so none of them are Winners.

Next step  $j = 4$ , only  $P_1$ 's bid is 1, so  $P_1$  is decided to be Survivor and the number of Winner on upper bit and Survivor on 4th bid is 1. Then, by following the protocol,  $P_1$  is the Winner and is removed from Candidate. The other players are kept to be Candidates because they have still possibilities to win the auction.

Next step  $j = 3$ , bids of  $P_2$ ,  $P_3$  and  $P_4$  are 1, so they are decided as Survivors. The number of Winner on upper bit and Survivor on 3rd bid is 4, which means  $P_2$ ,  $P_3$  and  $P_4$  can not be decided to be Winners but kept to be Candidates and  $P_5$  already loses the auction.

Following the protocol, from the 1st bits of the bids  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$  and  $P_3$  are decided to be Winners. The winning price is shown in the row of  $B_{M+1st}$  in the table 2.

### 3.3 Secure $M + 1st$ price auction using 2-DNF scheme and mix-and-match protocol

We assume  $n$  players,  $P_1, \dots, P_n$  and a set of auction managers,  $AM$ . The players bid their encrypted prices and broadcast them. The  $AM$  runs an auction protocol with the encrypted bids and after the auction  $AM$  jointly decrypts the results of the protocol and broadcast it to the players. Players can verify the winning price (the  $M + 1st$  price) and the winners from the encrypted bidding prices by using verification protocols. To maintain secrecy of the players' bidding prices through the protocol, we need to use the mix-and-match protocol. Here, we define two types of new tables,  $MAP_1$  and  $MAP_2$ . In the proposed protocol, the  $MAP_1$  and  $MAP_2$  tables are created among  $AM$  before an auction. The  $AM$  jointly computes values in the mix-and-match table for distributed decryption of plaintext equality test. The function of table  $MAP_1$ , shown in Table 2, is a

mapping  $x_1 \in \{E_{G_1}(0), E_{G_1}(1)\} \rightarrow x_2 \in \{E_G(0), E_G(1)\}$ . The table  $MAP_2$ , shown in Table 3, is the one for mapping  $x_1 \in \{E_{G_1}(0), E_{G_1}(1), \dots, E_{G_1}(m)\} \rightarrow x_2 \in \{E_G(0), E_G(1)\}$ . These tables can be constructed using the mix-and-match protocol because the Boneh-Goh-Nissim encryption has homomorphic properties.

**Setting**  $AM$  jointly generates and shares private keys among themselves using the technique described in [2].

**Bidding Phase** Suppose that  $B_{M+1st} = (b_{M+1st}^{(k-1)}, \dots, b_{M+1st}^{(0)})_2$  is the  $M + 1st$  highest bidding price and a bid of a player  $i$  is  $Z_i = (z_i^{(k-1)}, \dots, z_i^{(0)})_2$ , where  $(\ )_2$  is the binary expression. Each player  $P_i$  computes a ciphertext of his bidding price,  $Z_i$ , as

$$ENC_i = (b_i^{k-1}, \dots, b_i^0)$$

where  $b_i^j \in E_G(z_i^{(j)})$ , and publishes  $ENC_i$  on the bulletin board. He also proves in zero-knowledge that  $z_i^{(j)} = 0$  or 1 by using the technique described in [3].

**Opening phase** Let  $C_k = (c_1^k, \dots, c_m^k)$ , where each  $c_i^k \in E_G(1)$  and  $W_k = (w_1^k, \dots, w_m^k)$ , where each  $w_i^k \in E_{G_1}(0)$ .

**(Step 1)** For  $j = k - 1$  to 0, perform the following.

**(Step 1-a)** For  $C_j = (c_1^j, \dots, c_m^j)$ ,  $AM$  computes  $s_i^j = Mul(b_i^j, c_i^j)$  for each player  $i$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} S_j &= (Mul(c_1^j, b_1^j), \dots, Mul(c_m^j, b_m^j)) \\ h_j &= Mul(b_1^j, c_1^j) \otimes \dots \otimes Mul(b_m^j, c_m^j) \\ d_j &= w_1^j \otimes \dots \otimes w_m^j \end{aligned}$$

**(Step 1-b)** The  $AM$  uses table  $MAP_1$  for  $s_i^j$  for each  $i$  and finds the values of  $\tilde{s}_i^j$ . Let  $\tilde{S}_j = (\tilde{s}_1^j, \dots, \tilde{s}_m^j)$ .

**(Step 1-c)**  $AM$  uses table  $MAP_2$  for  $d_j \otimes h_j$  and decrypts the output value. The reason  $MAP_2$  is used here is to prevent  $AM$  finding any other information except  $d_j \otimes h_j$  is more than  $M + 1$  or not. If the output value is 0, the number of winners and survivors are less than  $M + 1$ . Then,  $AM$  updates

$$\begin{aligned} W_j &= W_{j+1} + S_j = (w_1^{j+1} \otimes s_1^j, \dots, w_m^{j+1} \otimes s_m^j) \\ C_{j-1} &= C_j - \tilde{S}_j = (c_1^j \otimes (\tilde{s}_1^j)^{-1}, \dots, c_m^j \otimes (\tilde{s}_m^j)^{-1}) \\ b_{M+1st}^{(i)} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

If the output value is 1, then

$$\begin{aligned} W_j &= W_{j+1} = (w_1^{j+1}, \dots, w_m^{j+1}) \\ C_{j-1} &= \tilde{S}_j = (\tilde{s}_1^j, \dots, \tilde{s}_m^j) \\ b_{M+1st}^{(i)} &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

**(Step 2)** For the final  $W_0 = (w_1^0, \dots, w_m^0)$ ,  $AM$  decrypts each  $w_i^0$  with verification protocols and obtains the winners of the auction.  $P_i$  is the winners if and only

**Table 3.** Table for  $MAP_1$ 

$x_1$	$x_2$
$a_1 \in E_{G_1}(0)$	$b_1 \in E_G(0)$
$a_2 \in E_{G_1}(1)$	$b_2 \in E_G(1)$

**Table 4.** Table for  $MAP_2$ 

$x_1$	$x_2$
$a_1 \in E_{G_1}(0)$	$b_1 \in E_G(0)$
$a_2 \in E_{G_1}(1)$	$b_2 \in E_G(0)$
$\dots$	$b_i \in E_G(0)$
$a_{M+1} \in E_{G_1}(M)$	$b_{M+1} \in E_G(0)$
$a_{M+2} \in E_{G_1}(M+1)$	$b_{M+2} \in E_G(1)$
$\dots$	$b_i \in E_G(1)$
$a_{m+1} \in E_{G_1}(m)$	$b_{m+1} \in E_G(1)$

if plaintexts of  $w_i^0 = 1$  and  $\sum w_i^0 = M$ . The  $M + 1st$  highest price is obtained as  $B_{M+1st} = (b_{M+1st}^{(k-1)}, \dots, b_{M+1st}^{(0)})_2$ .

If more than  $M$  players bid the same price which is  $M + 1st$  highest, such as a case four players bid the same price for 5-player auction for 3 goods, this protocol does not work well. At the end of auction, winners and winning price can not be decided.

#### Verification protocols

Verification protocols are the protocols for players to confirm that  $AM$  decrypts the ciphertext correctly. By using the protocols, each player can verify the results of the auction are correct. We denote  $b$  as a plaintext and  $C$  as a BGN encryption of  $b$  ( $C = g^b h^r$ ), where  $g, h$  and  $r$  are elements used in BGN scheme and  $f = C(g^b)^{-1}$ . Before a player verifies whether  $b$  is the plaintext of  $C$ , the player must prove that a challenge ciphertext  $C' = g^x f^r$  is created by himself with zero-knowledge proof that he has the value of  $x$ .

1. A player proves that he has random element  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_n^*$  with zero-knowledge proof.
2. The player computes  $f = C(g^b)^{-1}$  from the published values,  $h, g$  and  $b$ , and select a random integer  $r \in \mathbb{Z}_n^*$ . He sends  $C' = g^x f^r$  to  $AM$ .
3. The  $AM$  decrypts  $C'$  and sends value  $x'$  to the player.
4. The player verifies whether  $x = x'$ .  $AM$  can decrypt  $C'$  correctly only if  $\text{order}(f) = q_1$ , which means that the  $AM$  correctly decrypts  $C$  and publishes  $b$  as the plaintext of  $C$ .

### 3.4 Security

#### 1. Privacy for bidding prices

Each player can not retrieve any information except for the winners and the

$(PK, SK) \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}$ $(m_0, m_1, s) \leftarrow A_1^{O_1}(PK)$ $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$ $c \leftarrow \text{Encrypt}(PK, m_b)$ $b' \leftarrow A_2^{O_1}(c, s)$ $\text{return } 1 \text{ iff } b = b'$
---

**Fig. 1.**  $EXPT_{A, \Pi}$

$M + 1$ st highest price. An auction scheme is secure if there is no polynomial time adversary that breaks privacy with non-negligible advantage  $\epsilon(\tau)$ . We prove that the privacy for bidding prices in the proposed auction protocols under the assumption that BGN encryption with the mix-and-match oracle is semantically secure. Given a message  $m$ , the mix-and-match oracle receives an encrypted value  $x_1 \in E_{G_1}(m)$  and returns the encrypted value  $x_2 \in E_G(m)$  according to the mix-and-match table shown in Table 3. (which has the same function as  $MAP_2$ ). Given a message  $m$  and the ciphertext  $x_1 \in E_{G_1}(m)$ , the function of mix-and-match table is to map  $x_1 \in E_{G_1}(m) \rightarrow x_2 \in E_G(m)$ . The range of the input value is supposed to be  $\{0, 1, \dots, m\}$  and the range of the output is  $\{0, 1\}$ . We do not consider cases where the input values are out of the range. Using this mix-and-match oracle, an adversary can compute any logical function without the limit where BGN encryption scheme can use only one multiplication on encrypted values.  $MAP_1$  can also be computed if the range of the input value is restricted in  $\{0, 1\}$ . Here, we define two semantic secure games and advantages for BGN encryption scheme and the proposed auction protocols. We also show that if there is adversary  $\mathcal{B}$  that breaks the proposed auction protocol, we can compose adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  that breaks the semantic security of the BGN encryption with the mix-and-match oracle by using  $\mathcal{B}$ .

**Definition 1**

Let  $\Pi = (\text{KeyGen}, \text{Encrypt}, \text{Decrypt})$  be a BGN encryption scheme, and let  $A^{O_1} = (A_1^{O_1}, A_2^{O_1})$ , be a probabilistic polynomial-time algorithm, that can use the mix-and-match oracle  $O_1$ .

$$\text{BGN-Adv}(\tau) = \Pr[EXPT_{A, \Pi}(\tau) \Rightarrow 1] - 1/2$$

where,  $EXPT_{A, \Pi}$  is a semantic security game of the BGN encryption scheme with the mix-and-match oracle shown in Fig. 1.

We then define an adversary  $\mathcal{B}$  for an auction protocol and an advantage for  $\mathcal{B}$ .

**Definition 2**

Let  $\Pi = (\text{KeyGen}, \text{Encrypt}, \text{Decrypt})$  be a BGN encryption scheme, and

$(PK, SK) \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}$ $(b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{m-1}, b_{m_0}, b_{m_1}, s) \leftarrow B_1(PK)$ $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$ $c \leftarrow (\text{Encrypt}(PK, b_1), \text{Encrypt}(PK, b_2), \dots, \text{Encrypt}(PK, b_{m-1}), \text{Encrypt}(PK, b_{m_b}))$ <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"> <i>execute auction protocols using <math>c</math> as players' bids</i>  <i>and <math>x</math> is transcript of the auction protocol.</i> </p> $b' \leftarrow B_2(c, s, x)$ $\text{return } 1 \text{ iff } b = b'$
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**Fig. 2.**  $EXPT_{B,\Pi}$

let  $B$  be two probabilistic polynomial-time algorithm  $B_1$  and  $B_2$ .

$$\text{Auction-Adv}(\tau) = \Pr[EXPT_{B,\Pi} = 1] - 1/2$$

where  $EXPT_{B,\Pi}$  is a semantic security game of the privacy of the auction protocol shown in Fig. 2.

First of all,  $B_1$  generates  $k$ -bit integers,  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{m-1}$  as plaintexts of bidding prices for player 1 to  $m-1$ , and two challenge  $k$ -bit integers as  $b_{m_0}, b_{m_1}$  where  $b_{m_0}$  and  $b_{m_1}$  are the same bits except for  $i$ -th bit  $m_0^i$  and  $m_1^i$ . We assume  $b_{m_0}$  and  $b_{m_1}$  are not the  $M+1$ st highest price. Then the auction is executed with  $(\text{Encrypt}(PK, b_1), \text{Encrypt}(PK, b_2), \dots, \text{Encrypt}(PK, b_{m-1}), \text{Encrypt}(PK, b_{m_b}))$  as the players' encrypted bidding prices where  $b \xleftarrow{r} \{0, 1\}$ . After the auction,  $B_2$  outputs  $b' \in \{0, 1\}$  as a guess for  $b$ .  $\mathcal{B}$  wins if  $b = b'$ .

**Theorem 1** *The privacy of the auction protocols is secure under the assumption that the BGN encryption is semantically secure with a mix-and-match oracle.*

We show if there is adversary  $\mathcal{B}$  that breaks the security of the proposed auction protocol, we can compose adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  that breaks the semantic security of the BGN encryption with the mix-and-match oracle.  $\mathcal{A}$  receives two challenge  $k$ -bit integers as  $b_{m_0}$  and  $b_{m_1}$  from  $\mathcal{B}$  and then  $\mathcal{A}$  uses  $m_0^i$  and  $m_1^i$  as challenge bits for the challenger of the BGN encryption. Then  $\mathcal{A}$  receives  $\text{Encrypt}(PK, m_b^i)$  and executes a secure auction protocol with the mix-and-match oracle. When calculation of plain equality test or mix-and-match is needed such as checking whether  $h_j$  is 0 and updating  $\widetilde{W}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  uses mix-and-match oracle to transfer encrypted value over  $E_{G_1}$  to  $E_G$ .  $b_{m_0}$  and  $b_{m_1}$  are not the winning bidding prices and  $\mathcal{A}$  knows all the input values,  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{m-1}$  except the  $i$ -th bit of  $b_{m_b}$ . So,  $\mathcal{A}$  with mix-and-match oracle can simulate an auction for the adversary of auction  $\mathcal{B}$ . Through the auction,  $\mathcal{B}$  observes the calculation of the encrypted values and the results of the auction. After the auction,  $\mathcal{B}$  outputs  $b'$ , which is the guess for  $b$ .  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $b'$ , which is the same guess with  $\mathcal{B}$ 's output for  $b_{m_b}$ . If  $\mathcal{B}$  can break the privacy

of the bidding prices in the proposed auction protocol with advantage  $\epsilon(\tau)$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  can break the semantic security of the BGN encryption with the same advantage.

## 2. Correctness

For correct players' inputs, the protocol outputs the correct winner and price. From Theorem 1 introduced in Section 1.4, the bit-slice auction protocol obviously satisfies the correctness.

## 3. Verification of the evaluation

To verify whether the protocol works, players need to validate whether the  $AM$  decrypts the evaluations of the circuit on ciphertexts through the protocol. We use the verification protocols introduced above so that each player can verify whether the protocol is computed correctly.

## 4 Comparison of auction protocols

The protocol proposed in [1] based on homomorphic encryption. Each player encrypts his bidding price  $k$  as an integer. When  $m$  players and the bidding prices are in the range of  $[1, p]$ ,  $AM$  calculates multiplications of ciphertexts  $2mp$  times. Mixing and decrypting is used for PET (plain equality test) in the opening phase to check whether the number of  $i$ -th bid is more than  $M + 1$  or not for each price  $i$  in  $[1, p]$  using binary search. Binary search for  $p$  needs  $\log p$  comparisons and one comparison needs  $M+1$  PETs for each bid to check whether it is more than  $M + 1$ . And  $m$  decryptions are used to decide the winner of the auction. In our protocol each player's bidding price is represented as a binary expression. We use PET  $Mp$  times when  $AM$  calculates  $\tilde{s}_i^j$  from player  $j$ 's  $i$ -th bid for all  $i$  and  $j$ . We also use PET when  $AM$  detects whether  $b_{M+1st}^{(i)}$  is more than  $M$  or not. And  $\log p$  decryptions are used to open the winning price and  $m$  decryptions are used to to open the winners of auction.

## 5 Conclusion

We introduced new efficient secure  $M + 1st$  price auction protocols based on the mix-and-match protocol and the BGN encryption. As a topic of future work, we

**Table 5.** The Comparison of computational complexity.

	[AS02]	Proposed
Bidding(per one bidder)	$p$ encryptions	$\log p$ encryptions
Running auction (Calculation over group)	$2mp$ multiplications	$m \log p$ multiplications $m \log p$ pairing
Running auction(Mix and Match)	$\log p$ times on $M + 1$ inputs	$\log p$ times on $M + 1$ inputs
Decrypting to decide the winners	$m$	$m$
Decrypting to decide the winning price	$\log p$	$\log p$

will try to compose a secure auction protocol without using the mix-and-match protocol.

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