Dear Reviewers,

In the following, we would like to highlight some of the major contributions and differences between the accepted conference papers that have been published in the proceedings of the 2012 International Conference on ACM SIGSPATIAL GIS, referred to by GIS’12 hereafter, to that of the current journal paper in submission.

* First, we revisited the taxonomy of spatial crowdsourcing and discussed updates on the constraints of the workers (see Section 2.3).
* Second, this article subsumes GIS’12 by relaxing the assumptions of identical workers and tasks. That is, workers may have different expertise and they are more likely to provide higher quality results when performing a task in their expertise. Therefore, we introduce the concept of score (i.e., indicates how well a worker performs a task) and formally define the maximum score assignment (MSA) problem (see Section 5.1).
* Third, we extend three local optimal strategies in GIS’12, GR, LLEP and NNP to the MSA problem (see Section 5.2).
* Last but not least, to evaluate the approaches, we generate synthetic datasets in a more systematic manner. We also use an additional real-world dataset from Yelp, which is suitable for the purpose of evaluating MSA (see Section 6.1). A new set of experiments shows the superiority of our heuristics LLEP and NNP in maximizing the overall task assignment and minimizing the travel cost, respectively, when compared to the Greedy approach (see Section 6.2). Furthermore, we show the practicality and generality of MSA when compared to the MTA problem in GIS’12 (see Section 6.2.3).

We hope that the above explanations facilitate the understanding of the new contributions of this submitted work.