

Inner Mongolia Centralized College Admissions Mechanism

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Motivation

- ▶ Over 10 million high school graduates join in the National College Entrance Examination (gaokao) competing for about 7 million seats. The largest centralized matching market in the world.
- ▶ Parallel mechanism (PA): ranked list of colleges and majors. Hebei province 5 colleges 5 majors under each college. Option of agreeing to be allocated to another major not in the list.
- ▶ Dynamic mechanism beginning from 2006: report choice on the online system, know your ranking in that major as well as the capacity. Unlimited times of reporting, but have time constraints. 8am, 11am (above 670), 12pm (640-669)...20pm (below 460)
- ▶ 2023 gaokao Inner Mongolia 185K applicants. Hebei province 753K. Henan province 1.25 million. Ordos has the highest GDP per capita.

Research Question

- ◀ Which mechanism results in better assignment outcomes? Parallel mechanism or dynamic matching?
- ◀ Is there good compromise between the computational burden of dynamic matching and matching efficiency?
- ◀ Existing literature: one working paper

Data

- ◀ Ideally, student-major pairs.
- ◀ Full distribution of the exam grades. 651-13, 650-10, 649-30.
- ◀ Admission results: college (major) maximum grade, minimum grade, number of students admitted.