

Back To School

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Agenda

- Mechanism
- In New York
- In Boston
- Spreading the Word

Mechanism

Introduce the mechanism

- Old system

Wasn't safe for students to reveal their true preference

➤ Why?

👉 schools would admit only students who ranked them first

➤ Result

- Black market
- Massive groups of students who couldn't be assigned to any school

Introduce the mechanism

- New system

Based on the deferred acceptance algorithm

➤ How it works?

Students apply to their first-choice school

→ Schools reject those who are in excess of their capacity

→ Rejected students then apply to their second-choice schools

→ Schools keep the applications of the highest-ranked applicants until there are no more rejections

Introduce the mechanism

- New system

- Improvement

- ☞ Students can submit a rank order list of their “true” preference and get into the school that they desire the most

- ☞ The number of students who didn't get assigned to any school decline

In New York

Compare old system with new one

- Assume choices for Amos and Zach are totally the same while Amos under the old system and Zach under the new system
- Choices for them
- First choice: Townsend Harris
- Second choice: Beacon School
- Third choice: Cardozo
- Forth choice: Forest Hills

Compare old system with new one

- Amos's rank order list
- Townsend Harris → Cardozo → Forest Hills
- Amos got into Cardozo

- Zach's rank order list
- Townsend Harris → Beacon School → Cardozo → Forest Hills
- Zach got into Beacon School

What is simplified?

- The author made some simplifications in the explanation of how deferred acceptance algorithm works
- In reality,
- Different schools may put more emphasis on different subjects
- Some schools require interviews
- Students can list only up to twelve

In Boston

What is different in Boston

- The way to decide priority
 - Transportation cost
 - Political consideration

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- In Boston
 - School's walk zone
 - Another child already attending a given school

What is different in Boston

- The way to decide priority
 - Transportation cost
 - Political consideration
- No limit on how many schools can be ranked

Introduce systems

- Old system
 - Immediate acceptance algorithm
 - Priority only to break ties
- New system
 - Deferred acceptance algorithm
 - Priority means a lot

Compare old system with new one

- Imagine young Max, ready to go to kindergarten
 - Has priority in a half-day kindergarten
 - Has no priority in a full-day kindergarten

Compare old system with new one

- Under old system
 - Max would lose his priority to the half-day kindergarten if he did not get his first choice

- Under new system
 - Max will still be accepted to half-day kindergarten if he has high enough priority

Spreading the Word

Schools play a critical role

- From income inequality to intergenerational mobility

What systems do not solve

- School in poor district cannot provide enough education

Why market is flawed?

- Incentive to flee the public school system

Thanks for your attention