Essays on auctions
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When Prof. Jacob Goeree and Prof. Jan Boone recruited me for a Ph.D. position in late 2005, I had little idea about what exactly I would do—except that I would pursue a career in the intellectual environment of University of Amsterdam and Tinbergen Institute. I then learned about the intriguing “Amsterdam Auctions” published by Prof. Jacob Goeree and Prof. Theo Offerman in *Econometrica*, and about my task to conduct research on issues related to “licence auctions.” Subsequently, my promotor Prof. Theo Offerman and copromoter Dr. Sander Onderstal deftly guided me into the field of auctions. I have especially benefited from Theo’s economic insight, knowledge in auctions and in other related disciplines such as behavioral economics, as well as his strong encouragement for me to push the boundaries.

While working under the excellent supervisions of Theo and Sander, I continued to receive gracious advice from Jacob and Jan as well. I was also fortunate enough to become a coauthor with Dr. Liang Zou, who had been my best teacher for many years during my Bachelor and Master studies.
Liang’s rigorous approach has proven to be a valuable asset in our joint work indeed.

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Looking back over the path I have gone through, and the work done that has now come to fruition, I feel enormously grateful to all these scholars mentioned above. Some other scholars have also given me encouragement and helpful comments on my work along the way, among them are Professors Zaifu Yang, Laixiang Sun, and Arthur Schram, to whom I am indebted as well. In addition, I wish to thank all my teachers who have taught me in the past—in particular, those who sharpened my understanding about incentive theory, auction theory, game theory, advanced calculus, industrial organization and so on in the courses offered at Tinbergen Institute for the MPhil and Ph.D students. From the first-rate teachers, such as Professors Bruno Biais, Chaim Fershtman, and Wen Quan, I acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct independent research. I am also obliged to my teachers of mathematics at Fudan University and the Olympic School, who showed me the fun side of this fundamental and fascinating subject and instigated my passion for scientific discoveries. The warm and supportive research environment of UvA/CREED and Tinbergen Institute, as well as the friendship I enjoyed with my Ph.D colleagues such as Ailko and Michal, are well appreciated, too.

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Audrey X. Hu
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