

Feb 6

Stable Matching

$n=2$   
 $M = \{BP, BBT\}$   
 $W = \{JA, AS\}$

Preference list  $\circ$

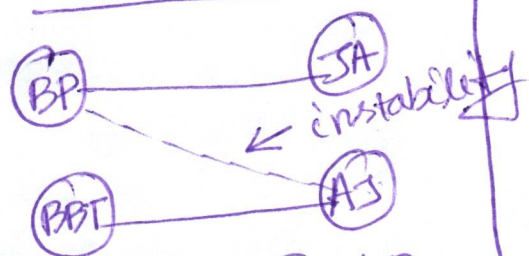
$L_{BP}: AS \succ JA$

$L_{BBT}: AS \succ JA$

$L_{JA}: BP \succ BBT$

$L_{AS}: BP \succ BBT$

Def (Pref. list)  $\circ$



Stable? NO

$\forall m \in M, L_m$ : a total ranking of all  $n$  women

$\forall w \in W, L_w$ : a total ranking of all  $n$  men.

Def (Stable Matching): A perfect matching

with no instability. General  $n$ :

(Q1) How many pref. lists if  $n$  men and  $n$  women?

A1:  $2n$

(Q2) How many elements in total across all pref. lists?

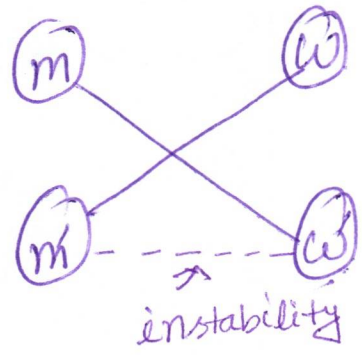
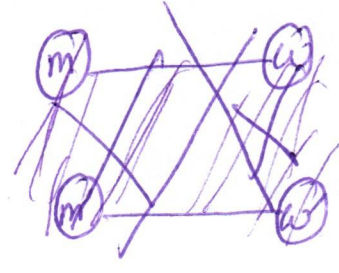
[How many memory slots do you need to store all pref. lists?]

A2:  $\# \text{ pref. lists} \times |\text{pref. list}|$   
 $= 2n \times n = 2n^2 = \Theta(n^2)$

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Def (Instability) Given  $2n$  pref. lists and a perfect matching  $S \subseteq M \times W$ , an <sup>unmatched</sup> pair  $(m', w')$  is an instability I F

- (i)  $m' > m$  in  $L_{w'}$  AND
- (ii)  $w' > w$  in  $L_{m'}$



$$S = \{ (m, w), (m', w) \}$$

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# Gale-Shapley Algorithm

(0) Initially, all  $n$  men and  $n$  women are free

(1) In a loop: <sup>in textbook: men propose</sup>  
a free woman proposes to a man  
(things happen)

(2) you have  $n$  matched pairs

Initial State: all  $n$  men +  $n$  women are free

(1) let  $w$  be a free woman  
(Q1) which man  $m$  should  $w$  propose to?

A1: the man  $m$  on top of  $w$ 's list

(Q2) what should  $m$  do?

Accept?

Reject?

$n=2$ ;  $M=\{BP, BBT\}$ ;  $W=\{JA, AJ\}$

$L_{JA}: BP > BBT$ ;  $L_{BP}: AJ > JA$

$L_{AJ}: BBT > BP$ ;  $L_{BBT}: JA > AJ$

F: Free

AJ	(JA)	BP	BBT
F	F	F	F

(Q1) who should JA propose to?

A1: BP

(JA  $\rightarrow$  BP) proposed

(Q2) what should BP do?

Accept?

Reject?