Problem Analysis Of Stable Match

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Initially all m ∈ M and w ∈ W are free
While there is a man m who is free and hasn't proposed to
every woman w for which (m, w) ∉ F
    Choose such a man m
    Let w be the highest-ranked woman in m's preference list
        to which m has not yet proposed
    If w is free then
        (m, w) become engaged
    Else w is currently engaged to m′
        If w prefers m′ to m then
            m remains free
        Else w prefers m to m′
            (m, w) become engaged
            m′ becomes free
        Endif
    Endif
Endwhile
Return the set S of engaged pairs
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Common Problems

- What data structures are used for input/output?
- How to find unmatched men efficiently?
- How to efficiently query the ranking of a man in a woman's preference list?
- How to test the code sufficiently?

What data structures are used for input/output?

Men's Preference Profile

	0th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Victor	Bertha	Amy	Diane	Erika	Clare
Wyatt	Diane	Bertha	Amy	Clare	Erika
Xavier	Bertha	Erika	Clare	Diane	Amy
Yancey	Amy	Diane	Clare	Bertha	Erika
Zeus	Bertha	Diane	Amy	Erika	Clare

Women's Preference Profile

	0th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Amy	Zeus	Victor	Wyatt	Yancey	Xavier
Bertha	Xavier	Wyatt	Yancey	Victor	Zeus
Clare	Wyatt	Xavier	Yancey	Zeus	Victor
Diane	Victor	Zeus	Yancey	Xavier	Wyatt
Erika	Yancey	Wyatt	Zeus	Xavier	Victor

How to find unmatched men efficiently?

- Initial, all men are free and added to a queue
- In each iteration, get a free man, try to match; if a woman prefers this man over her current provisional partner, the woman will dump her current provisional partner, who becomes free again and is added to the queue.

How to find a man's next preferred woman after being rejected?

In the following case, Victor is dumped by Bertha, go back to queue. We can record the index of Bertha. When he is popped from queue again, he can propose to Amy(the index of Bertha+1).

Men's Preference Profile

	0th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Victor	Bertha	Amy	Diane	Erika	Clare
Wyatt	Diane	Bertha	Amy	Clare	Erika
Xavier	Bertha	Erika	Clare	Diane	Amy
Yancey	Amy	Diane	Clare	Bertha	Erika
Zeus	Bertha	Diane	Amy	Erika	Clare

Women's Preference Profile

	0th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Amy	Zeus	Victor	Wyatt	Yancey	Xavier
Bertha	Xavier	Wyatt	Yancey	Victor	Zeus
Clare	Wyatt	Xavier	Yancey	Zeus	Victor
Diane	Victor	Zeus	Yancey	Xavier	Wyatt
Erika	Yancey	Wyatt	Zeus	Xavier	Victor

Xavier proposes to Bertha.

Men's Preference Profile

	0th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Victor	Bertha	Amy	Diane	Erika	Clare
Wyatt	Diane	Bertha	Amy	Clare	Erika
Xavier	Bertha	Erika	Clare	Diane	Amy
Yancey	Amy	Diane	Clare	Bertha	Erika
Zeus	Bertha	Diane	Amy	Erika	Clare

Women's Preference Profile

	0th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Amy	Zeus	Victor	Wyatt	Yancey	Xavier
Bertha	Xavier	Wyatt	Yancey	Victor	Zeus
Clare	Wyatt	Xavier	Yancey	Zeus	Victor
Diane	Victor	Zeus	Yancey	Xavier	Wyatt
Erika	Yancey	Wyatt	Zeus	Xavier	Victor

Xavier proposes to Bertha.

- Bertha dumps Victor and accepts Xavier.

How to efficiently query the ranking of a man in a woman's preference list?

In the following case, Xavier proposes to Bertha. Bertha is matched. Now Bertha should find the rank of Xavier and her current partner Victor, to determine whether to accept or reject Xavier.

Men's Preference Profile

	0th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Victor	Bertha	Amy	Diane	Erika	Clare
Wyatt	Diane	Bertha	Amy	Clare	Erika
Xavier	Bertha	Erika	Clare	Diane	Amy
Yancey	Amy	Diane	Clare	Bertha	Erika
Zeus	Bertha	Diane	Amy	Erika	Clare

Women's Preference Profile

	0th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Amy	Zeus	Victor	Wyatt	Yancey	Xavier
Bertha	Xavier	Wyatt	Yancey	Victor	Zeus
Clare	Wyatt	Xavier	Yancey	Zeus	Victor
Diane	Victor	Zeus	Yancey	Xavier	Wyatt
Erika	Yancey	Wyatt	Zeus	Xavier	Victor

Xavier proposes to Bertha.

- Simple solution: using a loop to find the rank of a man according the man's Appearance No. in the woman's preference list. O(n)
- More efficiently solution:

1、Maintain a reverse list of a woman's preference list.

Index: man's appearance No. → value: man's rank

Actually, we don't need man's rank → man's appearance No.

2、using map to store man's appearance No. → value: man's rank

Test

- Construct Test Data:
  - Generate random names but do not repetitive:Simple and efficient way：w1,w2, w3 ..or m1,m2, m3 … and so on.
  - Prefer Lists: generate 1 to n for priority. Random swap 2 elements. You can also construct some special cases, for example, all men's preference lists are the same.
- Check Results:
  - Check the pairs number
  - Check every man has no repetition and exists in men list.
  - Check every man's partner has no repetition and exists in women list
  - Check every pair whether satisfy stable match condition.(no unstable pair)

Unstable pair condition

- woman x and man y are unstable if:

x prefers y to its assigned man.

y prefers x to its assigned woman.

Pay Attention

- Object copying
  - deep copy
  - shallow copy