

Design And Analysis Of Algorithms

Assignment : 1

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1 Ques. : 1(A)

Suppose S is a stable matching for a given instance I of the Stable Matching algorithm, not necessarily the one produced by the *Gale – Shapley Algorithm*.

(a) Does the matching S necessarily become unstable if we reverse the preference list of all the women (and keep the men's preferences intact)?

Claim : If we only reverse the preference list of each Women, the Stable Matching S won't **necessarily** become Unstable.

Proof (By Counter-Example) :

- Let's assume, I is an instance of Stable Matching Algorithm, where **Each Men** has **Unique first preference**.
 - Man M_i has first preference Woman W_x ,
 - Man M_j has first preference Woman W_y
 - Then, $i \neq j \implies W_x \neq W_y$
- And S is a **Stable Matching** for instance I , where **Each Men** is **matched** (paired) with his **First Preference**.

Men	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref 3
M1	W1	W2	W3
M2	W2	W3	W1
M3	W3	W1	W2

Women	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref 3
W1	M2	M1	M3
W2	M1	M3	M2
W3	M3	M2	M1

- Now let's reverse the women's preference list.

Women	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref 3
W1	M3	M1	M2
W2	M2	M3	M1
W3	M1	M2	M3

- Now let's assume the pair $M_i - W_j$ is an **unstable pair**
 - So M_i and W_j are **not matched** in Matching S
 - So W_j is **not the first preference** for M_i (As in S each man matched with his first preference)

- As M_i is a Man, and his preference list has not been reversed, So definitely his **current partner is still his first preference**.
- So M_i **prefers his current partner to W_j in S**
- Definitely the pair $M_i - W_j$ is a **stable pair** in S , which yields a **contradiction**. Means, there's no such unstable pair.
- Even after reversing the women's preference list, the matching is still stable
- For the Stable Matching S , that we have taken, we have shown that, the matching is stable even after reversing the preference list of each of the Women. That proves **reversing the Women preference list, won't necessarily make the matching Unstable**. [hence proved]

2 Ques. : 1(B)

Suppose S is a stable matching for a given instance I of the Stable Matching algorithm, not necessarily the one produced by the *Gale – Shapley Algorithm*.

(b) What happens when we reverse the preference lists for all the men as well as all the women – does S necessarily become unstable?

Claim : Even if we reverse the preference list of each Men and Women, the Stable Matching S won't necessarily become Unstable.

Proof (By Counter-Example) :

- Let's assume, I is an instance of Stable Matching Algorithm, where **Each Men has Unique first preference**, and **women** at their first preference **ranked them the worst/last**.

Men	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref 3
M1	W1	W2	W3
M2	W2	W3	W1
M3	W3	W1	W2

Women	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref 3
W1	M2	M3	M1
W2	M3	M1	M2
W3	M1	M2	M3

- And S is a **Stable Matching** for instance I , where **Each Men is matched** (paired) with his **First Preference**. That also means, **each women is matched** with her **last preference**.
- Now let's reverse both the men's and women's preference list.

Men	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref 3
M1	W3	W2	W1
M2	W1	W3	W2
M3	W2	W1	W3

Women	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref 3
W1	M1	M3	M2
W2	M2	M1	M3
W3	M3	M2	M1

- Now what happened due to this is that, each women's preference list has been reversed. So now their last preference becomes the first preference. And for the original instance, in S they were matched with the last preference. Now after reversing they are now paired with their first preference.
- Now if we consider (M_i, W_j) an unstable pair.

- W_j is not paired with M_i
- That means M_i is not her first preference (in the reversed preference list)
- so, W_j prefers her current partner than M_i (as her current partner is her first preference)
- (M_i, W_j) a stable pair, which yields a contradiction
- For the Stable Matching S , that we have taken, we have shown that, there is no Unstable Pair even after reversing the preference list of each of the Men and Women. That proves **reversing the preference list of both men and women, won't necessarily make the matching Unstable**. [hence proved]

3 Ques. : 2

Let I be an instance of the stable matching problem, where M and W denotes the set of men and women respectively. Let S be any perfect matching, not necessarily stable. For a person p in I , where p could be either a man or a woman, define the quantity $c_S(p)$, the cost of S for p to be the ranking of p 's partner q in p 's preference list. For example, if woman w 's preference list is $m3, m2, m1, m4$ and her partner in S is $m1$ then $c_S(w) = 3$ since $m1$ is ranked third in w 's preference list. Then define the regret $r(S)$ of the matching S to be $r(S) = \sum (p \in M \cup W) c_S(p)$, i.e., the sum of all the costs of S for each person. Suppose S is a perfect matching with minimum regret. Is S necessarily a stable matching?

Claim : Perfect Matching with minimum regret does not necessarily be a Stable Matching.

Proof (By Counter-Example) :

- Let's consider the following instance I for the stable matching algorithm.

Men	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref 3
M1	W1	W2	W3
M2	W2	W1	W3
M3	W2	W3	W1

Women	Pref 1	Pref 2	Pref 3
W1	M1	M3	M2
W2	M3	M2	M1
W3	M3	M1	M2

- Now let's consider two perfect matching, $S1$ and $S2$.
 $S1 = (M1, W1), (M2, W2), (M3, W3)$
 $S2 = (M1, W1), (M2, W3), (M3, W2)$
- If we analyse, we can see $S2$ is a stable matching. As there are no unstable pair for $S2$ in I .
- Whereas $S1$ is a perfect matching but not stable.
 - Consider the pair $(M3, W2)$ for $S1$.
 - $M3$ prefers $W2$ to his current partner $W3$, as well as $W2$ prefers $M3$ to her current partner $M2$
 - $(M3, W2)$ is an unstable pair for $S1$
 - $S1$ is not a stable matching
- Now for $S2$, $c(M1) = 1$, $c(M2) = 3$, $c(M3) = 1$, $c(W1) = 1$, $c(W2) = 1$, $c(W3) = 3$ which leads to total regret $r(S2) = (1 + 3 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 3) = 10$.
- Now for $S1$, $c(M1) = 1$, $c(M2) = 1$, $c(M3) = 2$, $c(W1) = 1$, $c(W2) = 2$, $c(W3) = 1$ which leads to total regret $r(S1) = (1 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 + 1) = 8$ which for the given instance I is the minimum regret.
- So we can see $S1$ which leads to the minimum regret, is not actually a Stable Matching. So perfect matching with minimum regret, is not necessarily stable. [hence proved]