

# *Stable Marriage*

*Greedy algorithms*



# Problem

- ▶  $W$  women, each with a rank list

# Problem

- ▶  $W$  women, each with a rank list
- ▶  $M$  men, each with a rank list
- ▶  $|M| = |W| = n$

# Problem

▶  $W$  women, each

▶  $M$  men

▶  $|M| =$

How to assign? Or  
propose?

# Problem

Y  
R  
B  
G



Y  
B  
R  
G



B  
G  
R  
Y



B  
Y  
G  
R



B  
G  
Y  
R



G  
R  
Y  
B



Y  
B  
G  
R



Y  
R  
B  
G



# Matching

- ▶ A mapping from men to women

# Matching

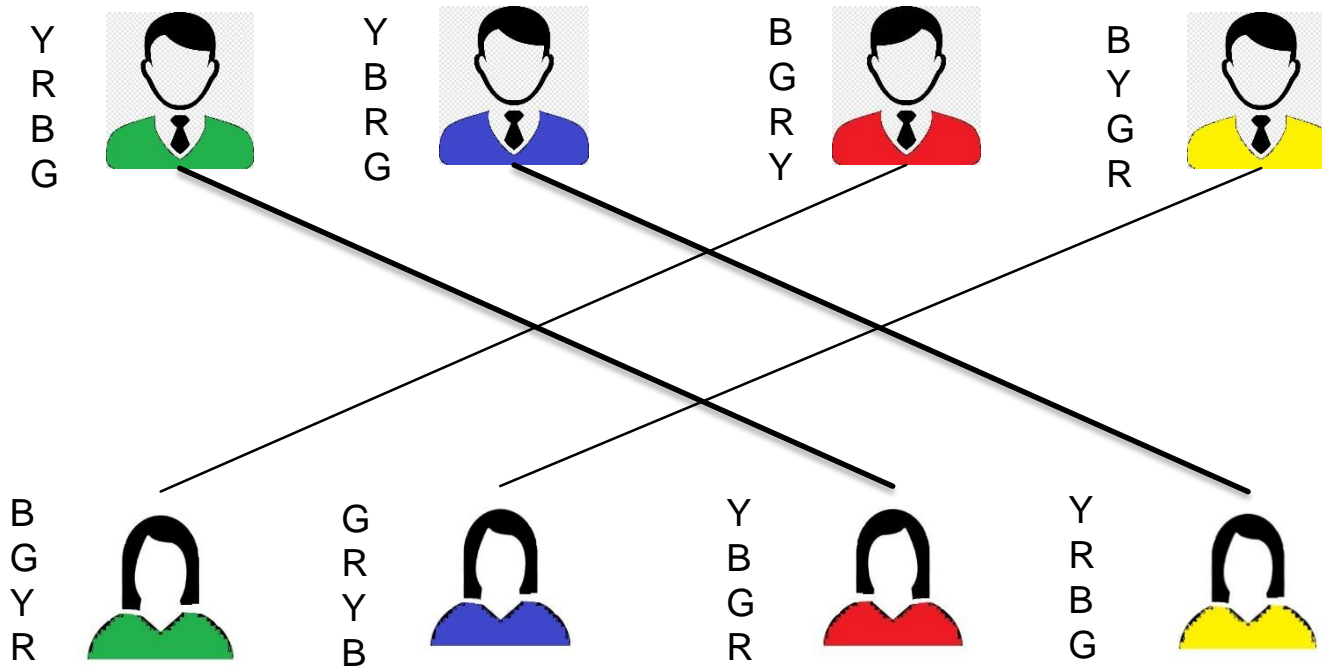
- ▶ A mapping from men to women
  - ▶ Each woman is mapped to exactly one man

# Matching

- ▶ **A mapping from men to women**
  - ▶ Each woman is mapped to exactly one man
  - ▶ Each man is mapped to exactly one woman



# Problem



**A perfect Matching**

# Stable Matching

- ▶ There is no man  $M$  and woman  $W$  such that :

# Stable Matching

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  - ▶ Not mapped to each other
  - ▶  $M$  prefers  $W$  to his current wife
  - ▶  $W$  prefers  $M$  to her current husband

No blocking pair

# Stable Matching

▶ There is

Gale-Shapely  
algorithm

▶

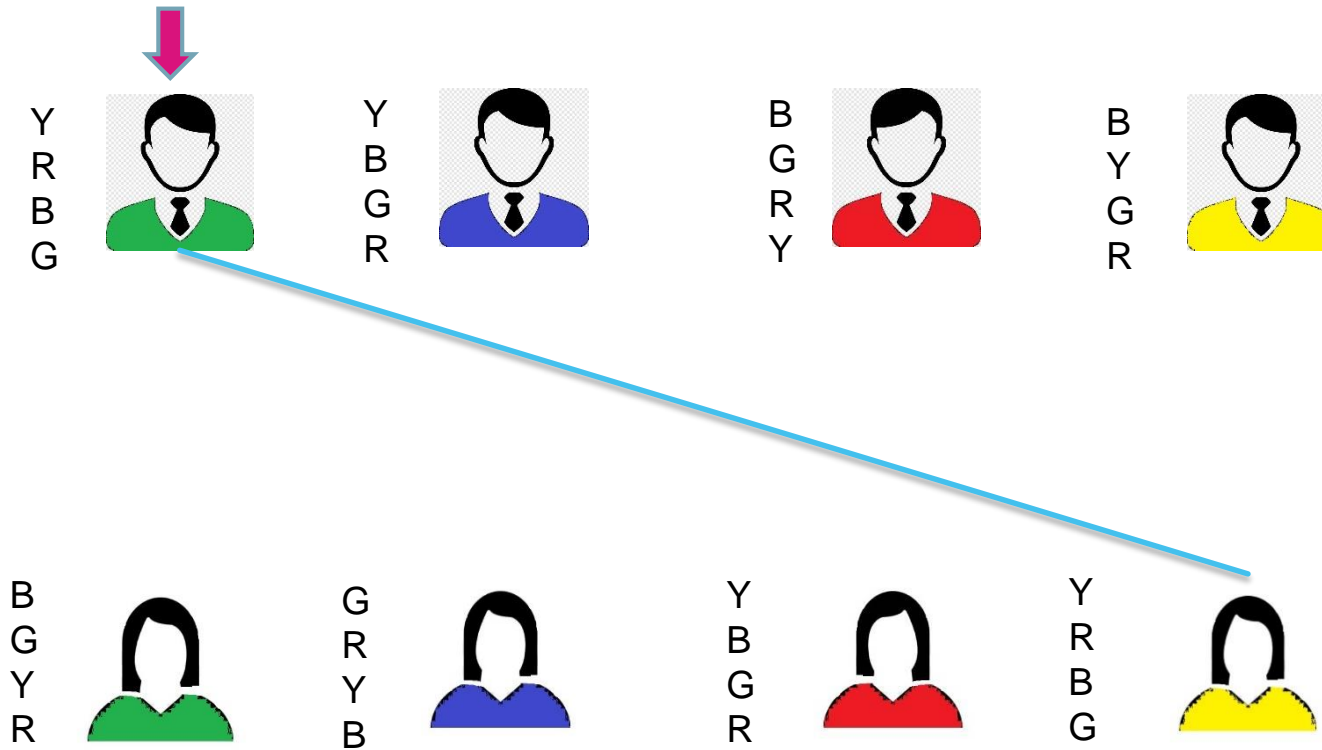
▶

▶

$W$  prefers  $1$  to  $2$  and  $2$  to  $1$

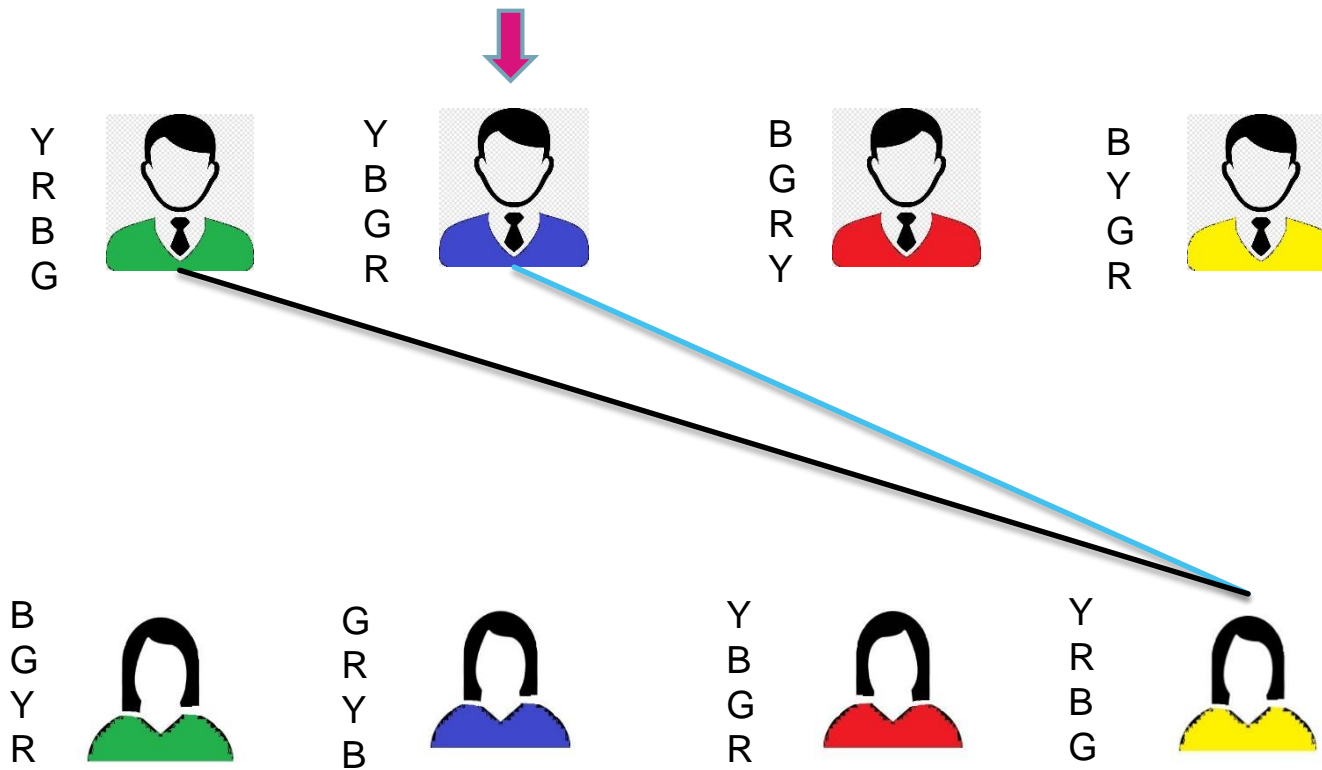
No blocking pair

# Problem



A perfect Matching

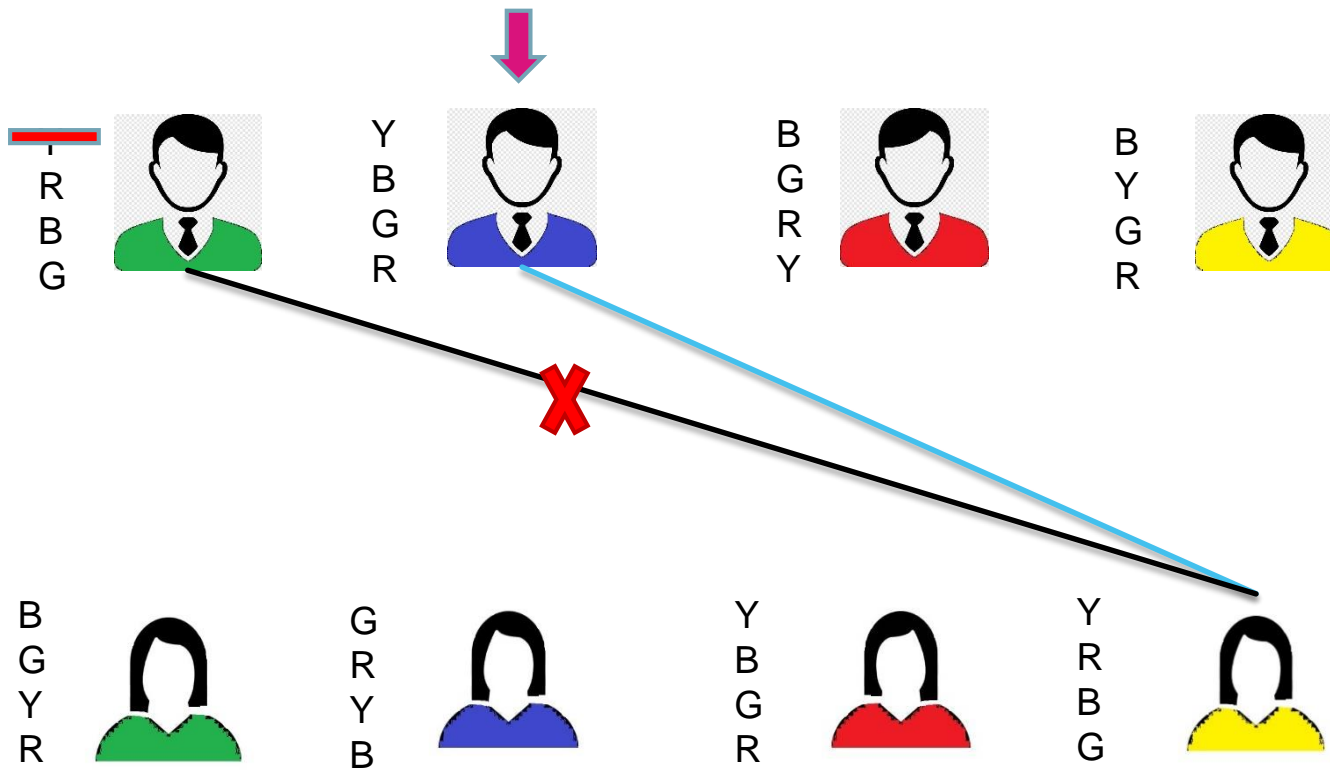
# Problem



A perfect Matching

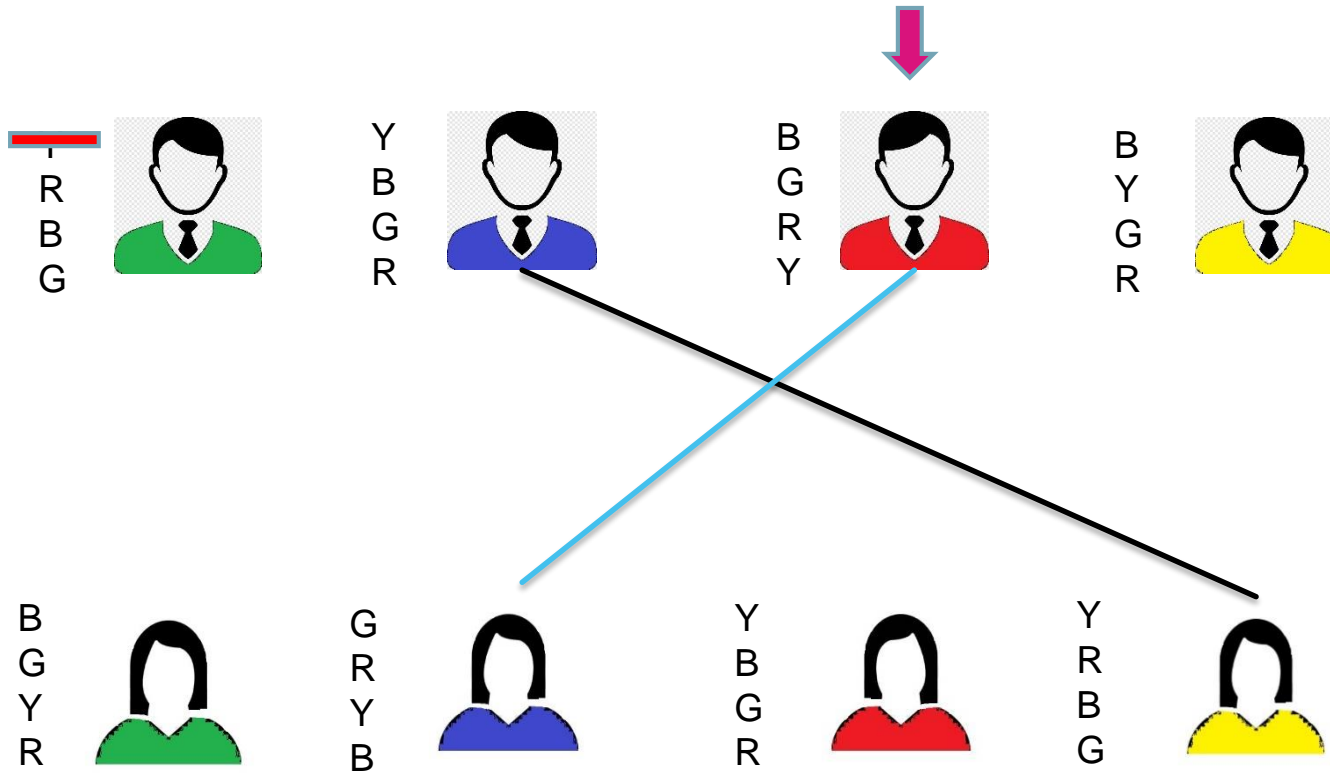


# Problem



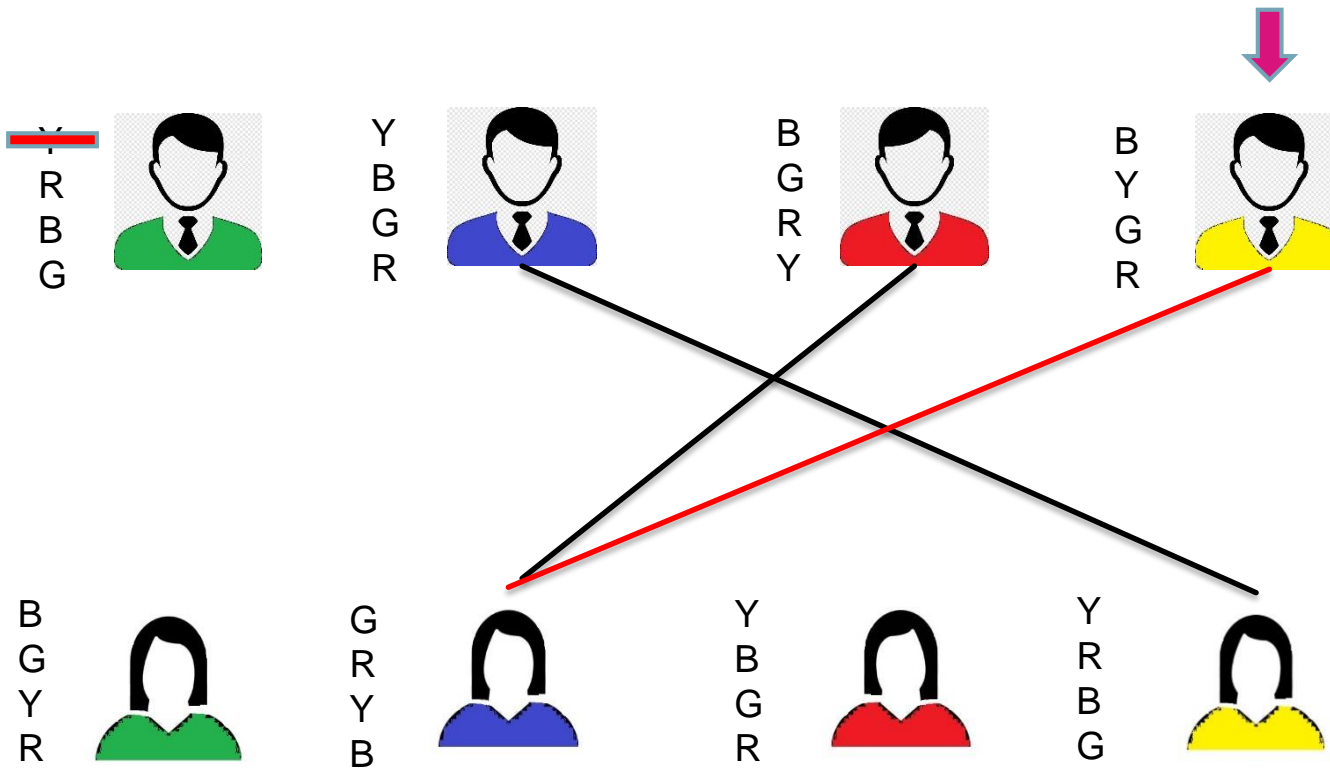
A perfect Matching

# Problem



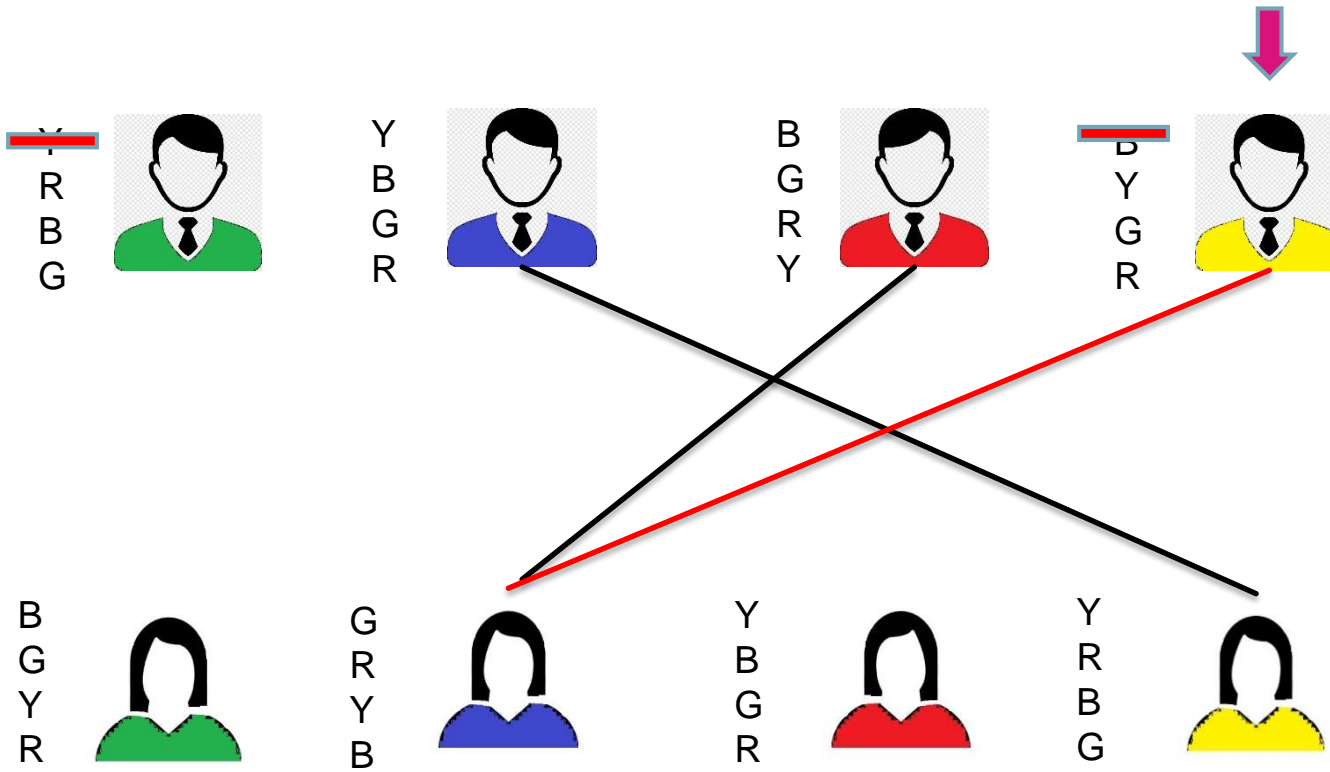
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# Problem



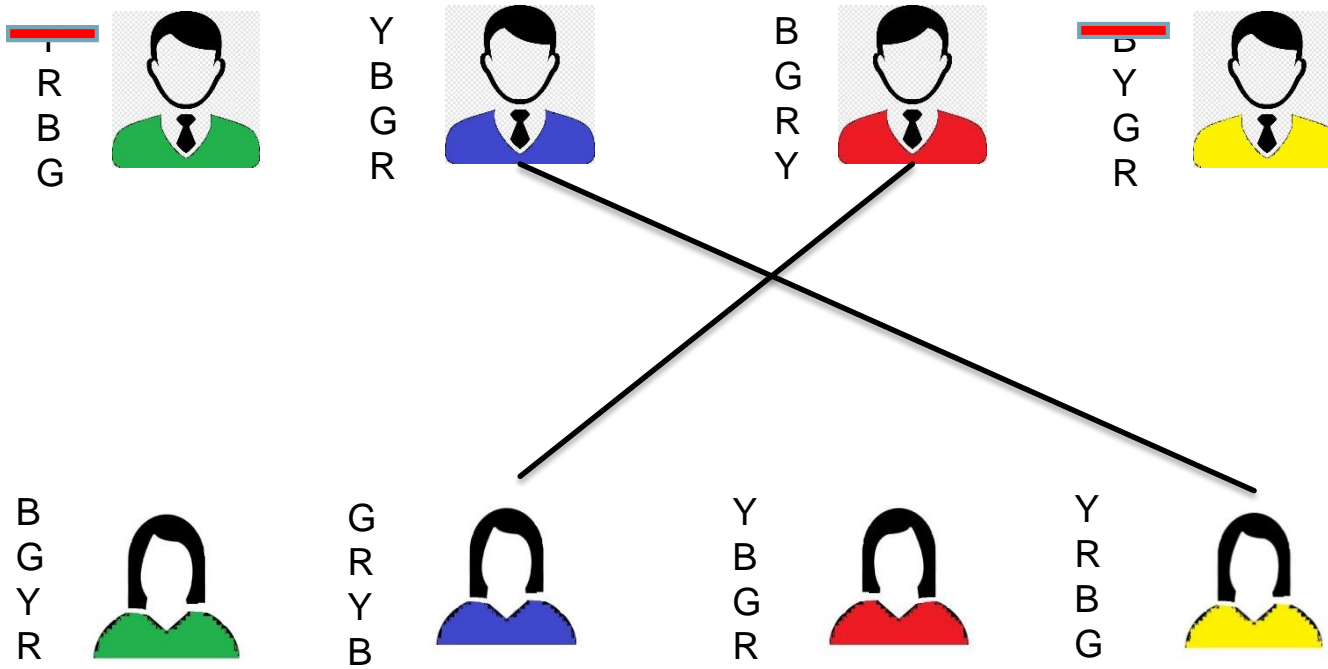
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# Problem



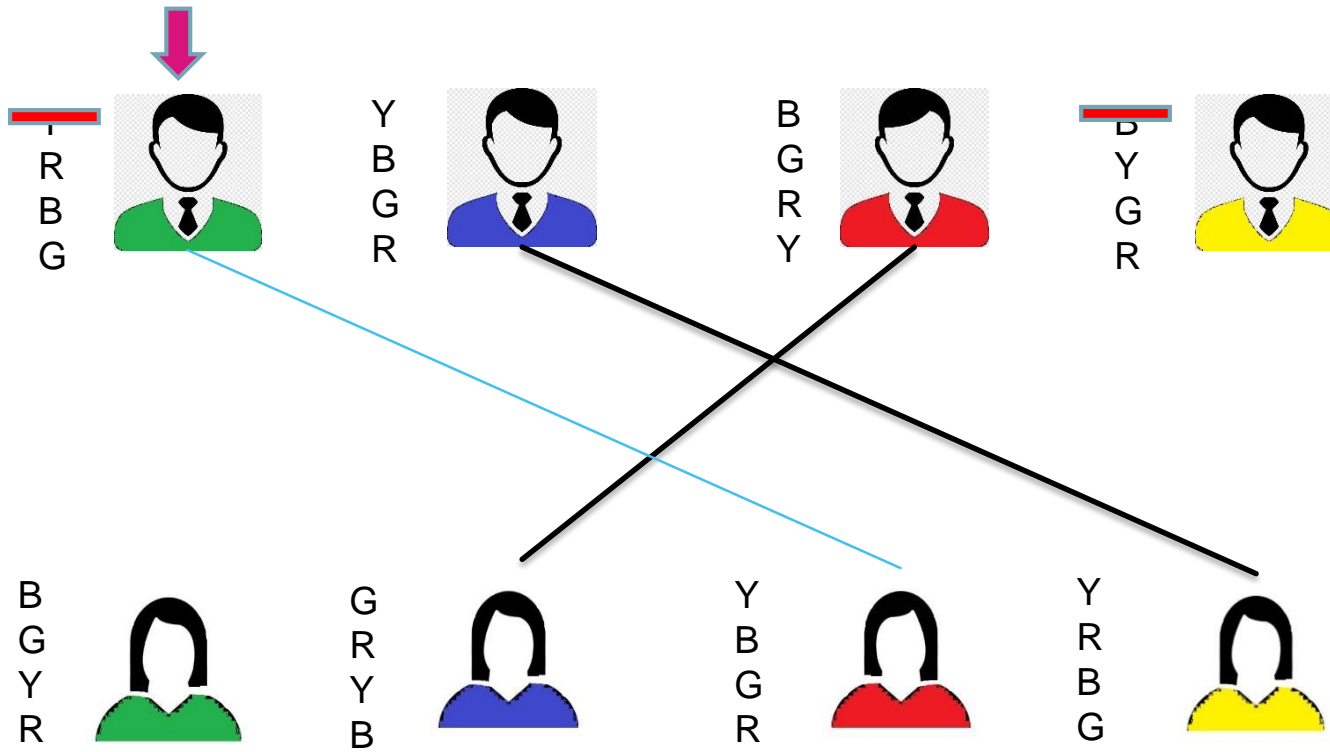
A perfect Matching

# Problem



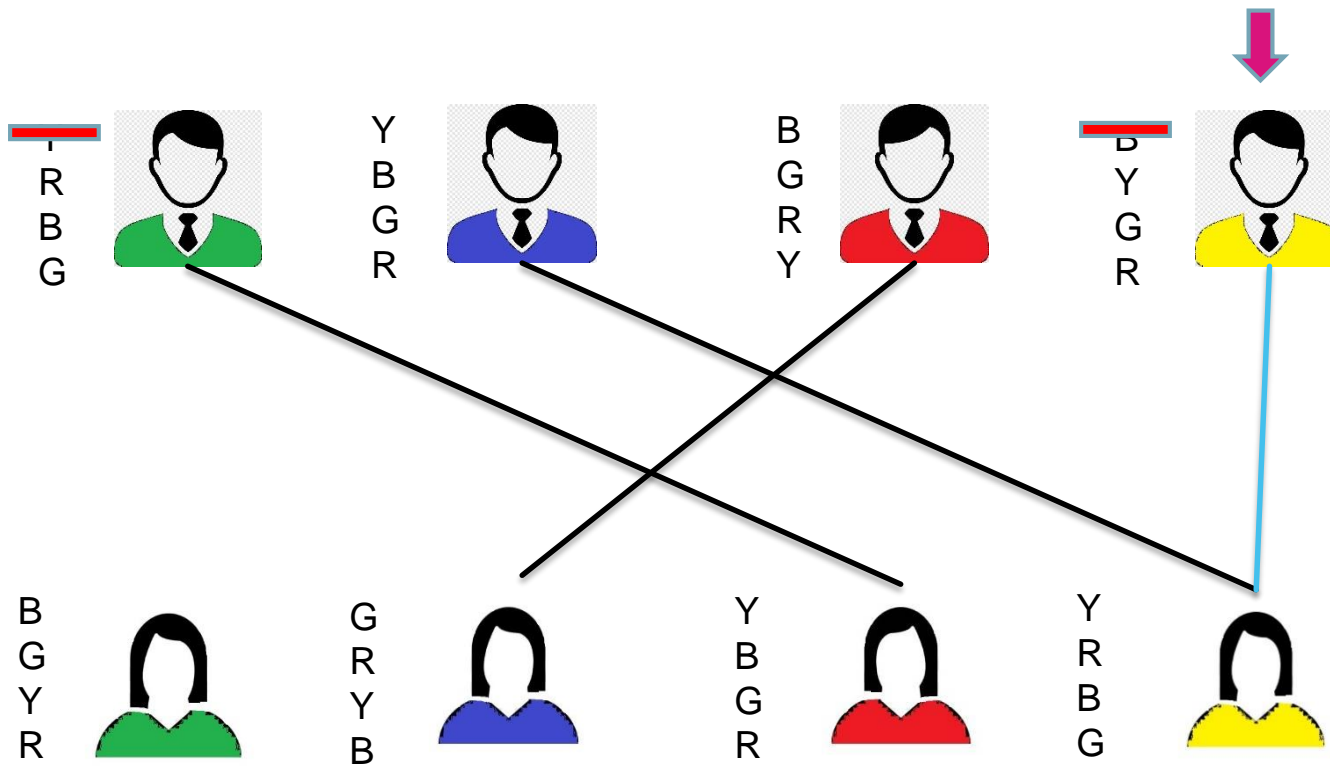
A perfect Matching

# Problem



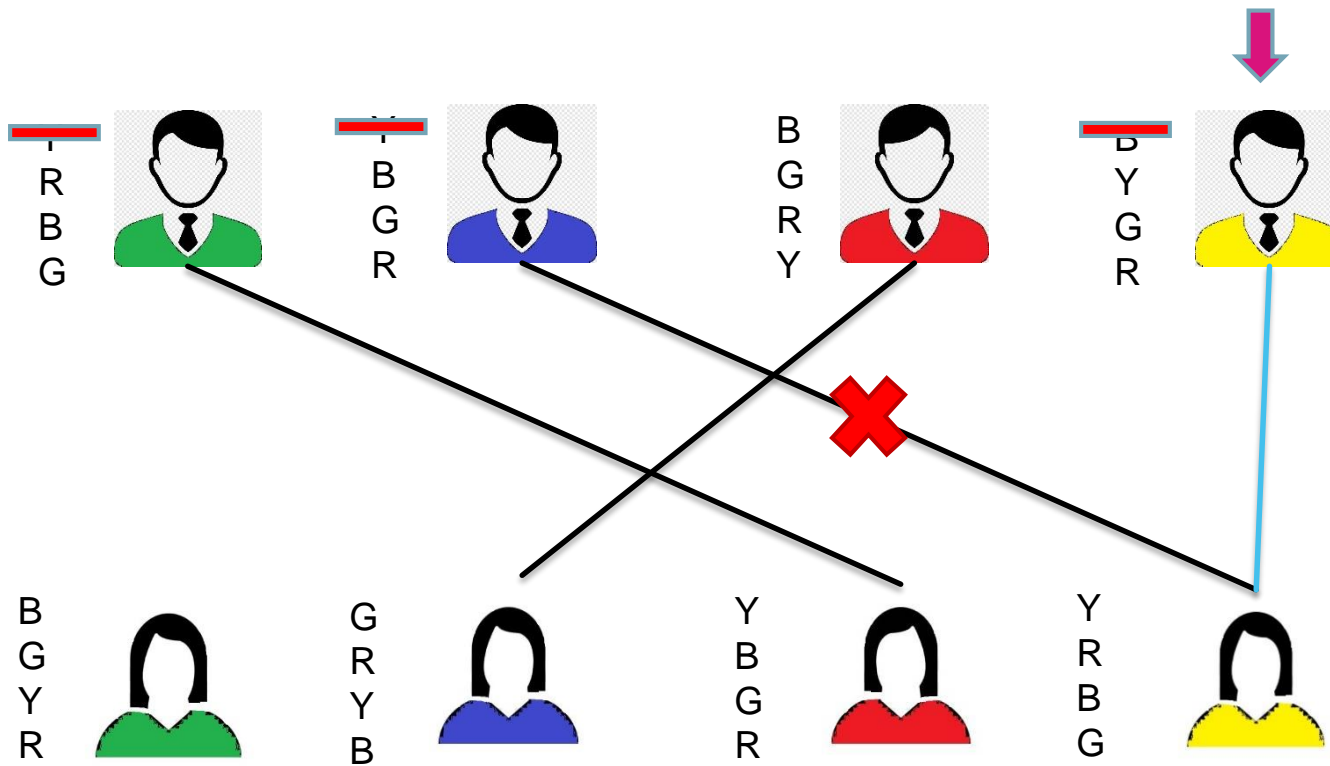
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# Problem



A perfect Matching

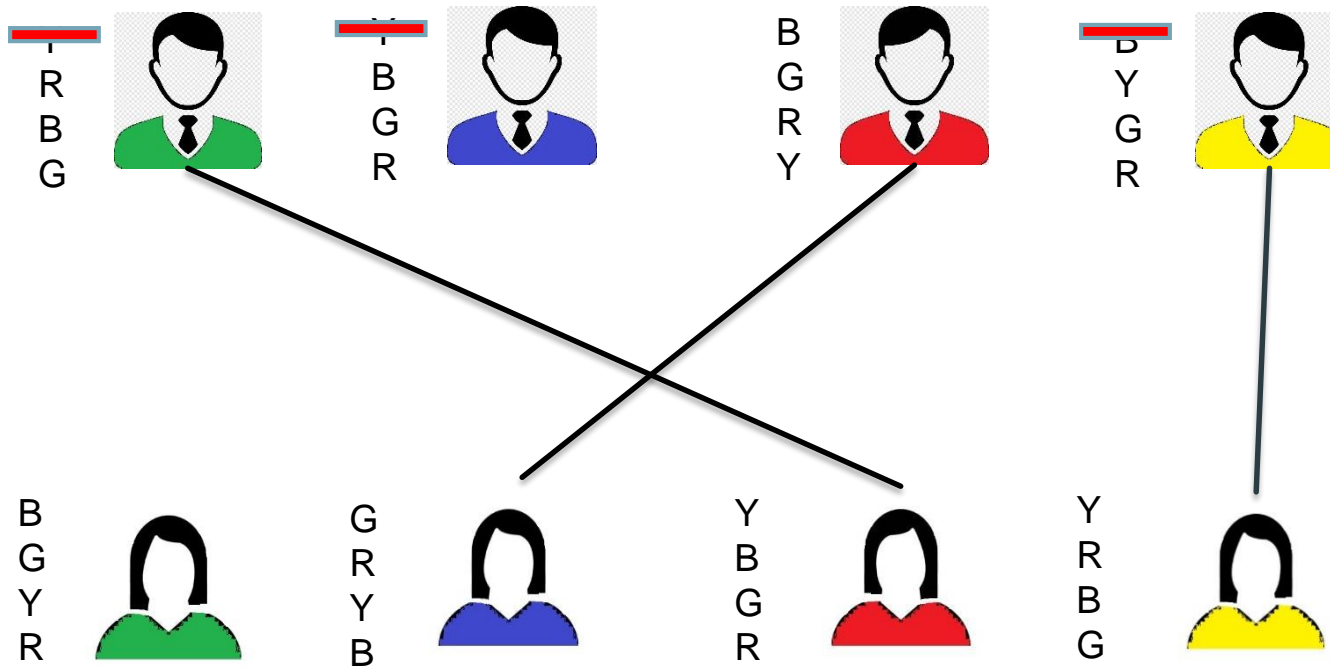
# Problem



A perfect Matching

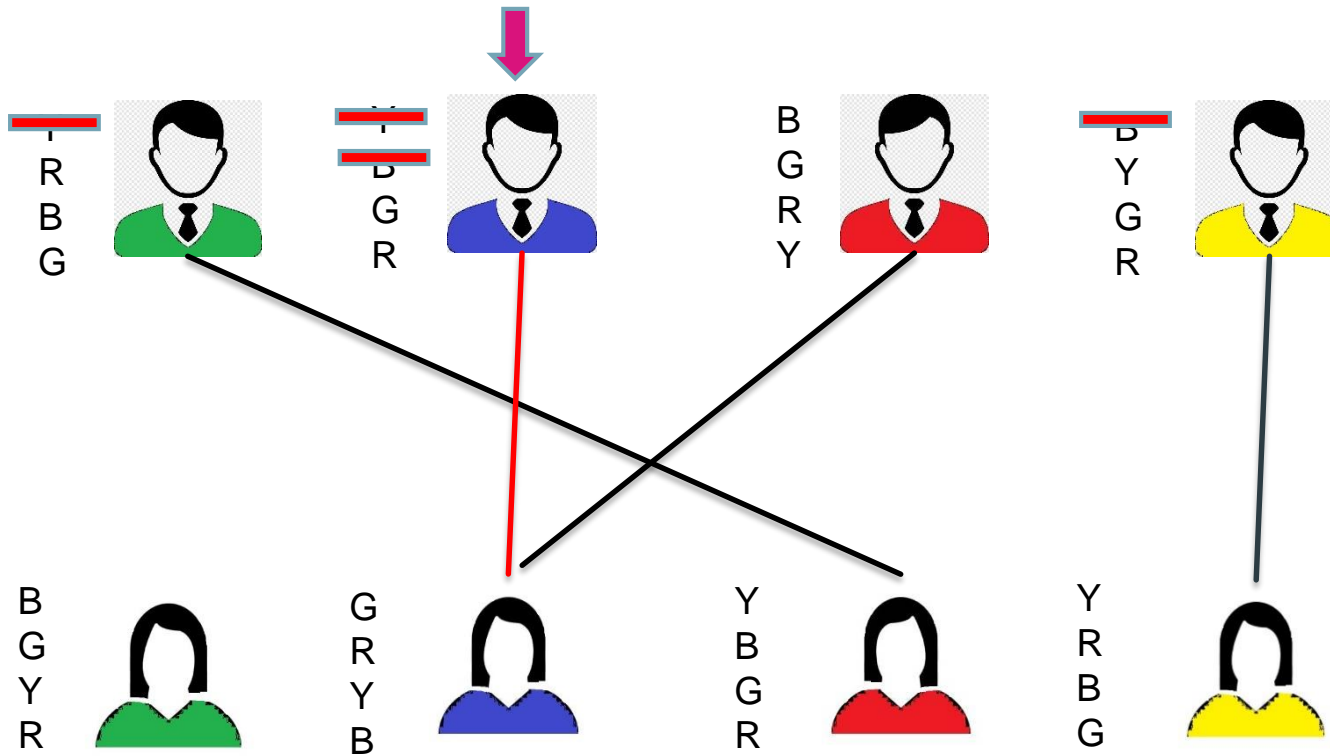


# Problem



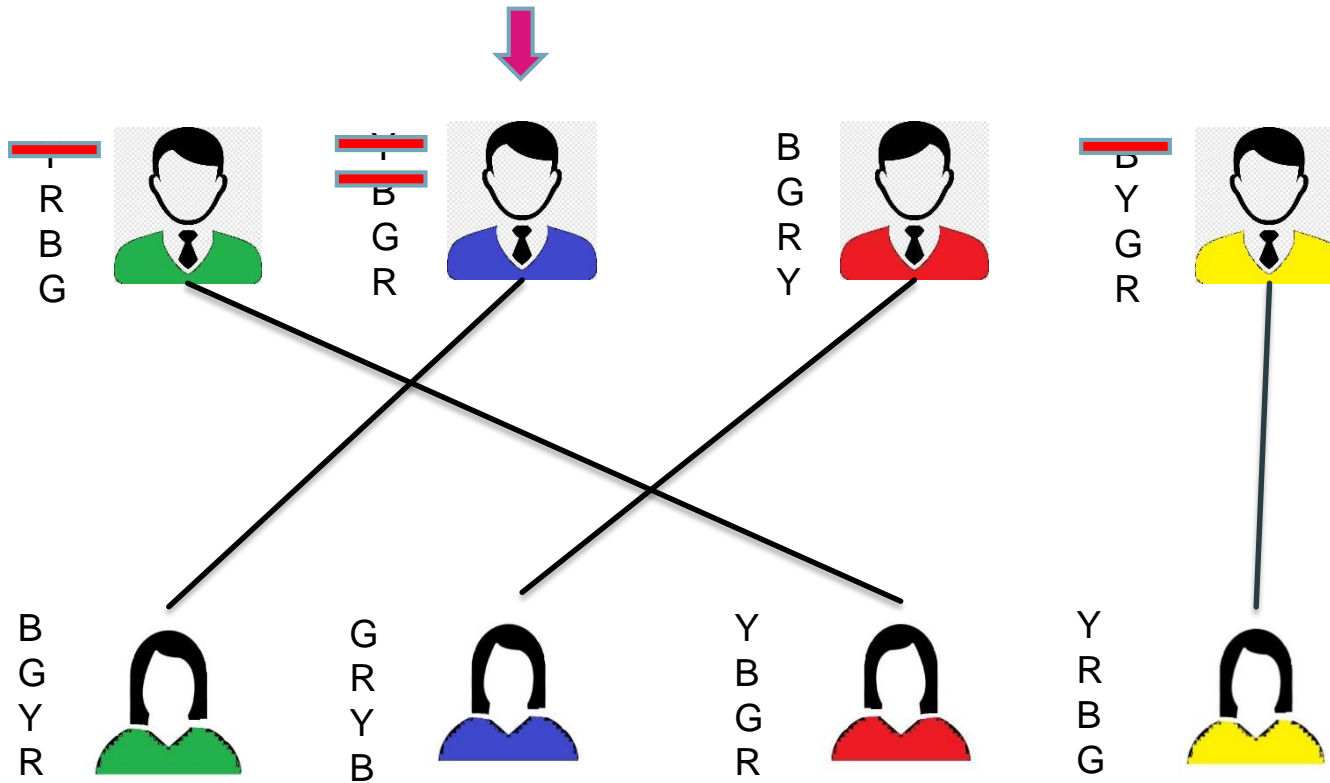
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# Proven Properties

(in class)

1. The algorithm ends at most after  $n^2$  rounds of proposal

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1. The algorithm ends at most after  $n^2$  rounds of proposal
2. The final matching is perfect
3. The final matching is stable

# Optimal & Pessimal

Men	Women			
1	A	B	C	D
2	A	D	C	B
3	A	C	B	D
4	A	B	C	D

Women	Men			
A	1	3	2	4
B	4	3	2	1
C	2	3	1	4
D	3	4	2	1



Men	Women			
1	A	B	C	D
2	A	D	C	B
3	A	C	B	D
4	A	B	C	D

W	Men			
A	1	3	2	4
B	4	3	2	1
C	2	3	1	4
D	3	4	2	1

$$S = \{(1, A), (2, D), (3, C), (4, B)\}$$

$$T = \{(1, A), (2, C), (3, D), (4, B)\}$$

**So there could be more than one stable pairing!**

# Best Possible Partner

- ▶ Best possible partner for man 2 ?
- ▶ (2,A) → Not Stable!
- ▶ Best possible realistic outcome for man 2 → (2,D)

$S = \{(1,A), (2,D), (3,C), (4,B)\}$

$T = \{(1,A), (2,C), (3,D), (4,B)\}$

Men	Women			
1	A	B	C	D
2	A	D	C	B
3	A	C	B	D
4	A	B	C	D

W	Men			
A	1	3	2	4
B	4	3	2	1
C	2	3	1	4
D	3	4	2	1

# Optimal Woman for a Man

- ▶ The highest woman on his list whom he is paired with in **any** stable pairing.
- ▶ The optimal woman is the best that a man can do under the condition of stability.
- ▶ Can men achieve optimality **simultaneously** ?

# Optimal Pairing

- ▶ **Male Optimal Pairing:**  
the pairing in which each man is paired with his optimal woman.
- ▶ **Female Optimal Pairing:**  
the pairing in which each woman is paired with her optimal man.

# Pessimal Pairing

- ▶ **Pessimal Partner:**  
for a person is the lowest ranked partner whom (s)he is ever paired with in some stable pairing.
- ▶ **Male Pessimal Pairing:**  
the pairing in which each man is paired with his pessimal woman.
- ▶ **Female Pessimal Pairing:**  
the pairing in which each woman is paired with her pessimal man.

**Traditional propose & reject algorithm  
is male optimal !**

# Proof:

- ▶ Suppose for the sake of contradiction that the pairing is not male optimal.
- ▶ Consider  $M$  to be the first man who got rejected by his optimal woman called  $W^*$  in favor of  $M^*$  who proposed to her.
- ▶  $T = \{..., (M, W^*), (M^*, W'), ...\}$
- ▶  $M^*$  likes  $W^*$  at least as much as his optimal woman.
- ▶  $(M^*, W^*) \rightarrow \text{rogue couple}$
- ▶ Contradiction!

**If a pairing is male optimal, then it is also  
female pessimal !**



# Proof:

- ▶  $T = \{ \dots, (M, W), \dots \} \rightarrow$  male optimal pairing
- ▶ Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exists a stable pairing  $S$ :
- ▶  $S = \{ \dots, (M^*, W), (M, W'), \dots \}$  that  $M^*$  is lower on  $W$  list than  $M$
- ▶  $W$  prefers  $M$  to  $M^*$  and  $M$  prefers  $W$  to his partner  $W'$
- ▶ So  $(M, W)$  is a rouge couple in  $S \rightarrow S$  is not stable
- ▶ Contradiction!



**In conclusion,  
Make The First Move!!!**