

## Today.

Couple of more induction proofs.  
Stable Marriage.

1 / 20

## Stable Marriage Problem

- ▶ Small town with  $n$  boys and  $n$  girls.
- ▶ Each girl has a ranked preference list of boys.
- ▶ Each boy has a ranked preference list of girls.

How should they be matched?

4 / 20

## Strengthening: need to...

Theorem: For all  $n \geq 1$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} \leq 2$ . ( $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2}$ .)

Base:  $P(1)$ .  $1 \leq 2$ .

Ind Step:  $\sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i^2} \leq 2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \frac{1}{i^2} &= \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i^2} + \frac{1}{(k+1)^2} \\ &\leq 2 + \frac{1}{(k+1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

Uh oh?

Hmmm... It better be that any sum is *strictly less than 2*.

How much less? At least by  $\frac{1}{(k+1)^2}$  for  $S_k$ .

" $S_k \leq 2 - \frac{1}{(k+1)^2}$ "  $\implies$  " $S_{k+1} \leq 2$ "

Induction step works! **No! Not the same statement!!!!**

Need to prove " $S_{k+1} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{(k+2)^2}$ ".

Darn!!!

2 / 20

## Count the ways..

- ▶ Maximize total satisfaction.
- ▶ Maximize number of first choices.
- ▶ Maximize worse off.
- ▶ Minimize difference between preference ranks.

5 / 20

## Strengthening: how?

Theorem: For all  $n \geq 1$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} \leq 2 - f(n)$ . ( $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2}$ .)

**Proof:**

Ind hyp:  $P(k)$  — " $S_k \leq 2 - f(k)$ "

Prove:  $P(k+1)$  — " $S_{k+1} \leq 2 - f(k+1)$ "

$$\begin{aligned} S(k+1) &= S_k + \frac{1}{(k+1)^2} \\ &\leq 2 - f(k) + \frac{1}{(k+1)^2} \text{ By ind. hyp.} \end{aligned}$$

Choose  $f(k+1) \leq f(k) - \frac{1}{(k+1)^2}$ .  
 $\implies S(k+1) \leq 2 - f(k+1)$ .

Can you?

Subtracting off a quadratically decreasing function every time.

Maybe a linearly decreasing function to keep positive?

Try  $f(k) = \frac{1}{k}$

$$\frac{1}{k+1} \leq \frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{(k+1)^2} ?$$

$$1 \leq \frac{k+1}{k} - \frac{1}{k+1} \text{ Multiplied by } k+1.$$

$$1 \leq 1 + \left(\frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{k+1}\right) \text{ Some math. So yes!}$$

Theorem: For all  $n \geq 1$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i^2} \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n}$ .

3 / 20

## The best laid plans..

Consider the couples..

- ▶ Jennifer and Brad
- ▶ Angelina and Billy-Bob

Brad prefers Angelina to Jennifer.

Angelina prefers Brad to BillyBob.

Uh..oh.

6 / 20

So..

Produce a pairing where there is no running off!

**Definition:** A **pairing** is disjoint set of  $n$  boy-girl pairs.

Example: A pairing  $S = \{(Brad, Jen); (BillyBob, Angelina)\}$ .

**Definition:** A **rogue couple**  $b, g^*$  for a pairing  $S$ :  $b$  and  $g^*$  prefer each other to their partners in  $S$

Example: Brad and Angelina are a rogue couple in  $S$ .

7/20

### A stable pairing??

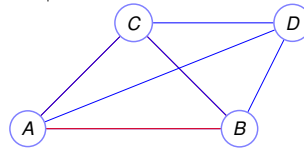
Given a set of preferences.

Is there a stable pairing?

How does one find it?

Consider a single gender version: stable roommates.

A	B	C	D
B	C	A	D
C	A	B	D
D	A	B	C



8/20

### The Traditional Marriage Algorithm.

Each Day:

1. Each boy **proposes** to his favorite girl on his list.
2. Each girl rejects all but her favorite proposer (whom she puts on a **string**.)
3. Rejected boy **crosses** rejecting girl off his list.

Stop when each girl gets exactly one proposal.  
Does this terminate?

...produce a pairing?

....a stable pairing?

Do boys or girls do "better"?

9/20

### Example.

	Boys				Girls		
A	X	2	3	1	C	A	B
B	X	X	3	2	A	B	C
C	X	1	3	3	A	C	B

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
1	A, X	A	X, C	C	C
2	C	B, X	B	A, X	A
3					B

10/20

### Termination.

Every non-terminated day a boy **crossed** an item off the list.

Total size of lists?  $n$  boys,  $n$  length list.  $n^2$

Terminates in at most  $n^2 + 1$  steps!

11/20

### It gets better every day for girls..

**Improvement Lemma: It just gets better for girls.**

If on day  $t$  a girl  $g$  has a boy  $b$  on a string, any boy,  $b'$ , on  $g$ 's string for any day  $t' > t$  is at least as good as  $b$ .

**Proof:**

$P(k)$  - "boy on  $g$ 's string is at least as good as  $b$  on day  $t+k$ "

$P(0)$  - true. Girl has  $b$  on string.

Assume  $P(k)$ . Let  $b'$  be boy **on string** on day  $t+k$ .

On day  $t+k+1$ , boy  $b'$  comes back.

Girl can choose  $b'$ , or do better with another boy,  $b''$

That is,  $b \leq b'$  by induction hypothesis.

And  $b''$  is better than  $b'$  by algorithm.

$\Rightarrow$  Girl does at least as well as with  $b$ .

$P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$ . And by principle of induction.  $\square$

12/20

## Pairing when done.

**Lemma:** Every boy is matched at end.

**Proof:**

If not, a boy  $b$  must have been rejected  $n$  times.

Every girl has been proposed to by  $b$ ,  
and **Improvement lemma**

$\implies$  each girl has a boy on a string.

and each boy is on at most one string.

$n$  girls and  $n$  boys. Same number of each.

$\implies b$  must be on some girl's string!

Contradiction. □

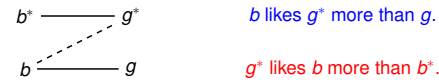
13/20

## Pairing is Stable.

**Lemma:** There is no rogue couple for the pairing formed by traditional marriage algorithm.

**Proof:**

Assume there is a rogue couple;  $(b, g^*)$



Boy  $b$  proposes to  $g^*$  before proposing to  $g$ .

So  $g^*$  rejected  $b$  (since he moved on)

By improvement lemma,  $g^*$  likes  $b^*$  better than  $b$ .

Contradiction! □

14/20

## Good for boys? girls?

Is the TMA better for boys? for girls?

**Definition:** A pairing is  $x$ -optimal if  $x$ 's partner is its best partner in any stable pairing.

**Definition:** A pairing is  $x$ -pessimal if  $x$ 's partner is its worst partner in any stable pairing.

**Definition:** A pairing is boy optimal if it is  $x$ -optimal for all boys  $x$ .

..and so on for boy pessimal, girl optimal, girl pessimal.

**Claim:** The optimal partner for a boy must be first in his preference list.

True? False? False!

Subtlety here: Best partner in any stable pairing.

As well as you can be in a globally stable solution!

**Question:** Is there a boy or girl optimal pairing?

Is it possible:

$b$ -optimal pairing different from the  $b'$ -optimal pairing!

Yes? No? □

15/20

## TMA is optimal!

For boys? For girls?

**Theorem:** TMA produces a boy-optimal pairing.

**Proof:**

Assume not: there are boys who do not get their optimal girl.

Let  $t$  be first day a boy  $b$  gets rejected  
by his optimal girl  $g$  who he is paired with  
in stable pairing  $S$ .

$b^*$  - knocks  $b$  off of  $g$ 's string on day  $t \implies g$  prefers  $b^*$  to  $b$

By choice of  $t$ ,  $b^*$  prefers  $g$  to optimal girl.

$\implies b^*$  prefers  $g$  to his partner  $g^*$  in  $S$ .

Rogue couple for  $S$ .

So  $S$  is not a stable pairing. Contradiction. □

Notes:  $S$  - stable.  $(b^*, g^*) \in S$ . But  $(b^*, g)$  is rogue couple!

Used Well-Ordering principle...Induction.

16/20

## How about for girls?

**Theorem:** TMA produces girl-pessimal pairing.

$T$  - pairing produced by TMA.

$S$  - worse stable pairing for girl  $g$ .

In  $T$ ,  $(g, b)$  is pair.

In  $S$ ,  $(g, b^*)$  is pair.

$g$  likes  $b^*$  less than she likes  $b$ .

$T$  is boy optimal, so  $b$  likes  $g$  more than his partner in  $S$ .

$(g, b)$  is Rogue couple for  $S$

$S$  is not stable.

Contradiction. □

Notes: Not really induction.

Structural statement: Boy optimality  $\implies$  Girl pessimality.

17/20

## Quick Questions.

How does one make it better for girls?

SMA - stable marriage algorithm. One side proposes.

TMA - boys propose.

Girls could propose.  $\implies$  optimal for girls. □

18/20

## Residency Matching..

The method was used to match residents to hospitals.

Hospital optimal....

..until 1990's...Resident optimal.

Another variation: couples.

19/20

## Don't go!

Summary.

[▶ Link](#)

20/20