

1116-VF-2187      **Christine T Cheng** and **Will Rosenbaum\*** (wrosenbaum@math.ucla.edu). *Stable Matchings with Bounded Preferences*. Preliminary report.

An instance  $I$  of the Stable Marriage Problem consists of a finite bipartite graph,  $G = (M \cup W, E)$ , where each vertex has *preferences* in the form of a linear order over its neighbors. The goal is to find a matching  $\mu$  which is *stable* in the sense that no pair  $(m, w) \in E$  mutually prefer each other to their partners in  $\mu$ . In their seminal work, Gale and Shapley prove that such a stable matching exists for any instance  $I$ .

The set of all stable matchings forms a distributive lattice, which can be realized as the lattice of order ideals of the *rotation poset*  $\Pi(I)$ . We prove that even if  $G$  is restricted to have maximum degree 3, given any finite poset  $\mathcal{P}$ , one can efficiently construct an instance  $I$  such that  $\Pi(I) \simeq \mathcal{P}$ . Thus, the distributive lattice of stable matchings can be arbitrary for bounded degree graphs. Our construction—which extends a classical result of Irving and Leather—has applications to computational complexity and economics. (Received September 22, 2015)