
Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie BARATTO¹, Yves CRAMA¹, Joao Pedro PEDROSO², Ana VIANA³

April 28th 2023

1. HEC Management School of the University of Liège, Belgium
2. Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto, Portugal
3. Polytechnic of Porto, School of Engineering, Portugal

Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion

Kidney Exchanges

Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison formulations

Comparison Stable - L-stable

Local Strong Stability

Conclusion



Patient 1

Patient with a kidney disease that requires a kidney transplant.

- Dialysis
- Deceased donor waiting list
- Willing donor



Patient 1



Donor 1

Locally stable
kidney
exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

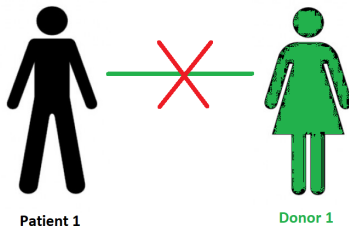
Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion



Might not be compatible with its donor:

- Blood incompatibility
- Antigens incompatibility

Kidney exchange problem

Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

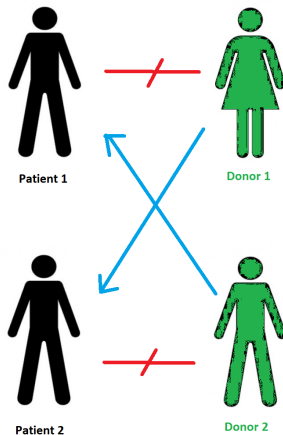
Numerical Tests

Comparison formulations

Comparison Stable - L-stable

Local Strong Stability

Conclusion



Locally stable
kidney
exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

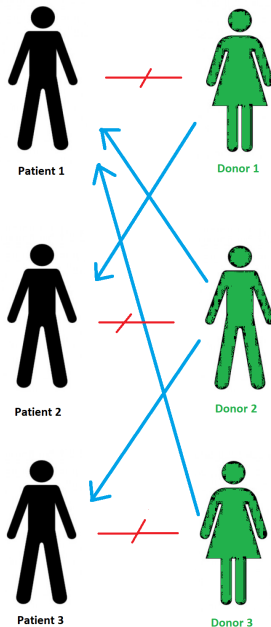
Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion

Kidney exchange problem



Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

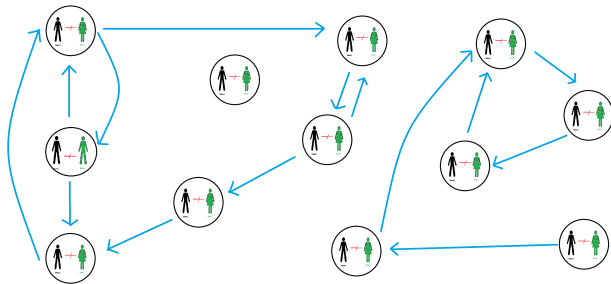
Numerical Tests

Comparison formulations

Comparison Stable - L-stable

Local Strong Stability

Conclusion



Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

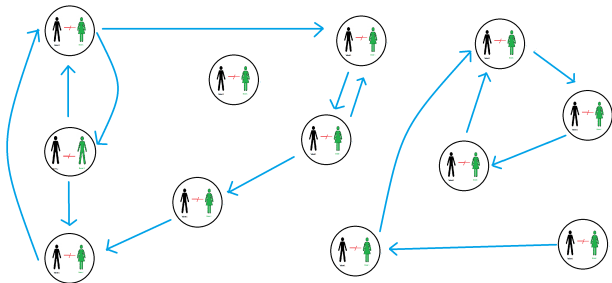
Numerical Tests

Comparison formulations

Comparison Stable - L-stable

Local Strong Stability

Conclusion



$G=(V,A,w)$ where:

- $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$ set of vertices, consisting of all patient-donor pairs.
- A , the set of arcs, designating compatibilities between the vertices. Two vertices i and j are connected by arc (i, j) if the donor in pair i is compatible with the patient in pair j .

We denote by $\mathcal{C}_K(G)$ be the set of feasible cycles of length at most K for $G = (V, A)$.

Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison formulations

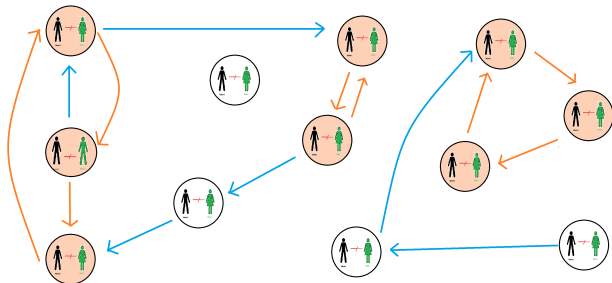
Comparison Stable - L-stable

Local Strong Stability

Conclusion

Definition

An **exchange** is a set of disjoint cycles in the directed graph such that every cycle length does not exceed a given limit K .



Locally stable
kidney
exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

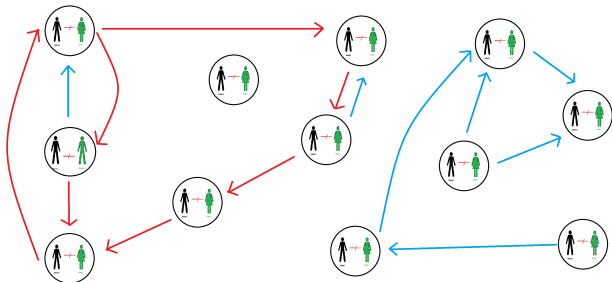
Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion



Locally stable
kidney
exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

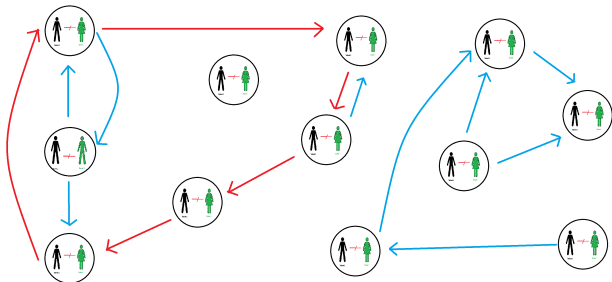
Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion



Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison formulations

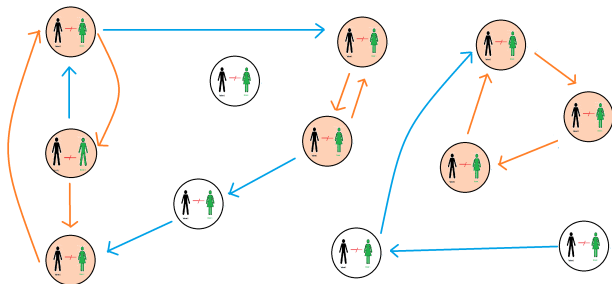
Comparison Stable - L-stable

Local Strong Stability

Conclusion

Definition

An **exchange** is a set of disjoint cycles in the directed graph such that every cycle length does not exceed a given limit K .



→ Objective is to **maximize the number of patients transplanted**

Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison formulations

Comparison Stable - L-stable

Local Strong Stability

Conclusion

- 1 **Arc-based models** with small number of variables but exponentially many constraints
 - Edge formulation
- 2 **Cycle-based models** with a small number of constraints but exponentially many variables
 - Cycle formulation
- 3 **Arc based compact models** that create multiple clones of the directed graph
 - Extended edge formulation
 - EE-MTZ and SPLIT-MTZ formulations
 - Position-indexed formulations (PIEF, PICEF and HPIF)

Let $C_K(K)$ be the set of all cycles in graph $G = (V, A)$ with length at most K .

Variables

$$y_u = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if cycle } u \text{ is selected;} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \forall u \in C_K(K)$$

Objective function

$$\max \sum_{u \in C_K(K)} w_u y_u$$

Constraints

$$\sum_{u \in C_K(K): i \in u} y_u \leq 1 \quad \forall i \in V$$

$$y_u \in \{0, 1\} \forall u \in C_K(K)$$

Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

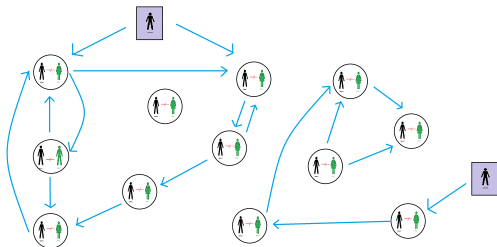
Comparison formulations

Comparison Stable - L-stable

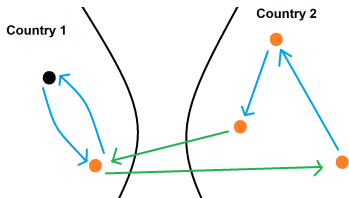
Local Strong Stability

Conclusion

- Altruistic donors



- International exchanges



**Locally stable
kidney
exchanges**

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion

Stable Exchanges

Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison formulations

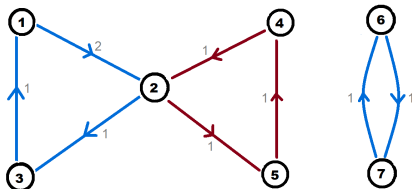
Comparison Stable-L-stable

Local Strong Stability

Conclusion

For each vertex $i \in V$, a preference order is given on the set of its in-neighbors. That is $N^-(i) := \{j : (j, i) \in A\}$.

For a given **node** i , a **preference** p associated to **node** j means that the recipient of the pair i ranks the donor of pair j at position p in its preferences list of acceptable donors.

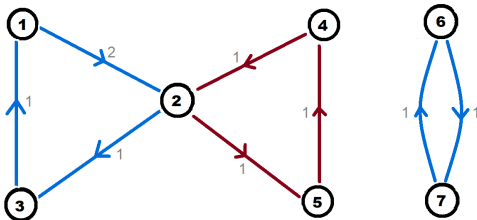


Definition

A **blocking cycle** u for an exchange \mathcal{M} is a cycle that is not included in \mathcal{M} and such that, for every vertex $i \in V(u)$, i prefers u to \mathcal{M} .

We say that vertex i *prefers* the cycle u to the exchange \mathcal{M} if either

- $i \notin V(\mathcal{M})$, or
- $i \in V(\mathcal{M})$, $(k, i) \in A(u)$, $(k', i) \in A(\mathcal{M})$, and i prefers k to k' .

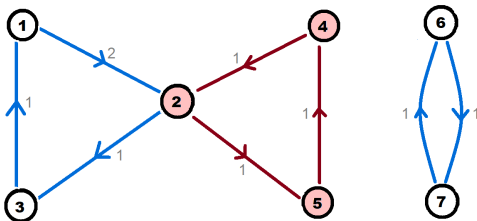


Definition

A **blocking cycle** u for an exchange \mathcal{M} is a cycle that is not included in \mathcal{M} and such that, for every vertex $i \in V(u)$, i prefers u to \mathcal{M} .

We say that vertex i *prefers* the cycle u to the exchange \mathcal{M} if either

- $i \notin V(\mathcal{M})$, or
- $i \in V(\mathcal{M})$, $(k, i) \in A(u)$, $(k', i) \in A(\mathcal{M})$, and i prefers k to k' .

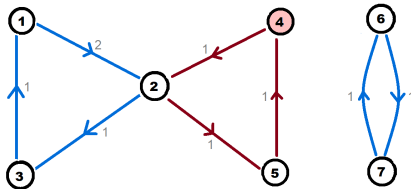


Definition

A **blocking cycle** u for an exchange \mathcal{M} is a cycle that is not included in \mathcal{M} and such that, for every vertex $i \in V(u)$, i prefers u to \mathcal{M} .

We say that vertex i *prefers* the cycle u to the exchange \mathcal{M} if either

- $i \notin V(\mathcal{M})$, or
- $i \in V(\mathcal{M})$, $(k, i) \in A(u)$, $(k', i) \in A(\mathcal{M})$, and i prefers k to k' .



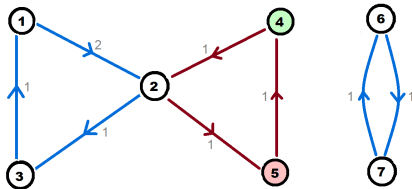
→ Vertex 4 is unmatched in exchange \mathcal{M} in blue

Definition

A **blocking cycle** u for an exchange \mathcal{M} is a cycle that is not included in \mathcal{M} and such that, for every vertex $i \in V(u)$, i prefers u to \mathcal{M} .

We say that vertex i prefers the cycle u to the exchange \mathcal{M} if either

- $i \notin V(\mathcal{M})$, or
- $i \in V(\mathcal{M})$, $(k, i) \in A(u)$, $(k', i) \in A(\mathcal{M})$, and i prefers k to k' .



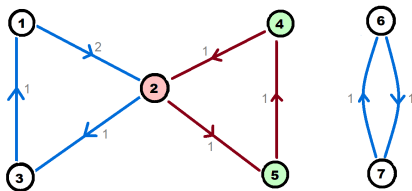
→ Vertex 5 is unmatched in exchange \mathcal{M} in blue

Definition

A **blocking cycle** u for an exchange \mathcal{M} is a cycle that is not included in \mathcal{M} and such that, for every vertex $i \in V(u)$, i prefers u to \mathcal{M} .

We say that vertex i prefers the cycle u to the exchange \mathcal{M} if either

- $i \notin V(\mathcal{M})$, or
- $i \in V(\mathcal{M})$, $(k, i) \in A(u)$, $(k', i) \in A(\mathcal{M})$, and i prefers k to k' .



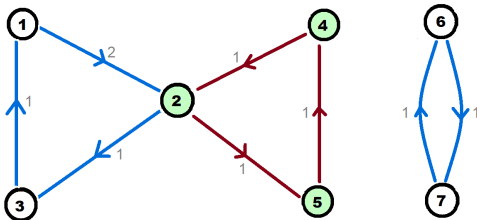
→ Vertex 2 prefers cycle red because the donor of pair 4 is number one on its preference list and donor of pair 1 is at the second position of its preference list.

Definition

A **blocking cycle** u for an exchange \mathcal{M} is a cycle that is not included in \mathcal{M} and such that, for every vertex $i \in V(u)$, i prefers u to \mathcal{M} .

We say that vertex i *prefers* the cycle u to the exchange \mathcal{M} if either

- $i \notin V(\mathcal{M})$, or
- $i \in V(\mathcal{M})$, $(k, i) \in A(u)$, $(k', i) \in A(\mathcal{M})$, and i prefers k to k' .



Definition

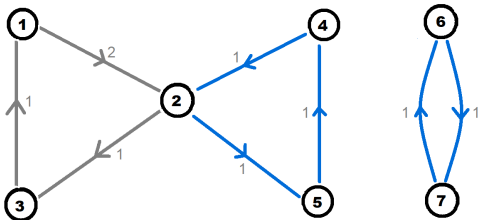
A **blocking cycle** u for an exchange \mathcal{M} is a cycle that is not included in \mathcal{M} and such that, for every vertex $i \in V(u)$, i prefers u to \mathcal{M} .

We say that vertex i *prefers* the cycle u to the exchange \mathcal{M} if either

- $i \notin V(\mathcal{M})$, or
- $i \in V(\mathcal{M})$, $(k, i) \in A(u)$, $(k', i) \in A(\mathcal{M})$, and i prefers k to k' .

Definition

Given a directed graph $G = (V, A)$, an exchange is called **stable** if no blocking cycle c exists for \mathcal{M} .

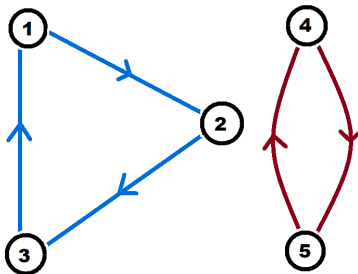


Definition

A **blocking cycle** u for an exchange \mathcal{M} is a cycle that is not included in \mathcal{M} and such that, for every vertex $i \in V(u)$, i prefers u to \mathcal{M} .

We say that vertex i *prefers* the cycle u to the exchange \mathcal{M} if either

- $i \notin V(\mathcal{M})$, or
- $i \in V(\mathcal{M})$, $(k, i) \in A(u)$, $(k', i) \in A(\mathcal{M})$, and i prefers k to k' .



Definition

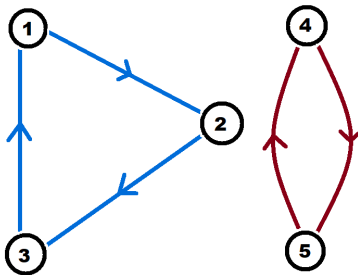
A **locally blocking cycle** u for an exchange \mathcal{M} is a cycle that is not included in \mathcal{M} **but has a vertex in common with** \mathcal{M} and such that, for every vertex $i \in V(u)$, i prefers u to \mathcal{M} .

We say that vertex i *prefers* the cycle u to the exchange \mathcal{M} if either

- $i \notin V(\mathcal{M})$, or
- $i \in V(\mathcal{M})$, $(k, i) \in A(u)$, $(k', i) \in A(\mathcal{M})$, and i prefers k to k' .

Definition

Given a directed graph $G = (V, A)$, an exchange is called **locally stable (L-stable)** if no L-blocking cycle c exists for \mathcal{M} .



**Locally stable
kidney
exchanges**

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

**Locally stable
exchanges**

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulationsComparison Stable -
L-stableLocal Strong
Stability

Conclusion

Stability

known notion, stable marriage problem, stable roommate problem

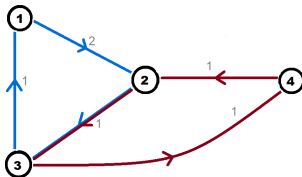
VS.

Local Stability ...

- In the context of KE, local stability seems more relevant
- Our aim is to better know that notion
- Formulation(s)
- Comparison with stability
- ...

For each cycle u , one can define two sets of cycles:

- $\mathcal{B}(u) :=$ the set of cycles blocking $\{u\}$
- $\mathcal{F}(u) :=$ the set of cycles not blocking u and not blocked by $\{u\}$.



If two cycles u and v intersect, three situations can occur:

- u is blocking $\{v\} := u \in \mathcal{B}(v)$
- v is blocking $\{u\} := v \in \mathcal{B}(u)$
- u is not blocking v and v is not blocking $u := u \in \mathcal{F}(v)$ and $v \in \mathcal{F}(u)$

Variables

$$y_u = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if cycle } u \text{ is selected;} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \forall u \in C(K)$$

Objective function

$$\max \sum_{u \in C(K)} w_u y_u$$

Constraints

$$y_u + y_v \leq 1 \quad \forall u \in C_K(G), \forall v \in B(u) \cup F(u) \quad (1)$$

$$y_u \leq \sum_{w \in B(v) \cup F(v)} y_w \quad \forall u \in C_K(G), \forall v \in B(u) \quad (2)$$

$$y_v \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall v \in C_K(G) \quad (3)$$

- ① Constraints (4) ensure the independence of the cycles selected
- ② Constraints (5) ensure the local stability of the exchange

Constraints

Locally stable kidney exchanges

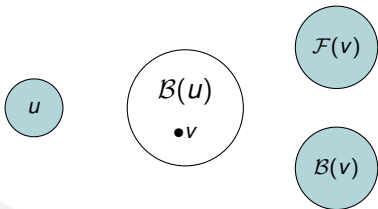
Marie Baratto

$$y_u + y_v \leq 1 \quad \forall u \in \mathcal{C}_K(G), \forall v \in \mathcal{B}(u) \cup \mathcal{F}(u) \quad (4)$$

$$y_u \leq \sum_{w \in \mathcal{B}(v) \cup \mathcal{F}(v)} y_w \quad \forall u \in \mathcal{C}_K(G), \forall v \in \mathcal{B}(u) \quad (5)$$

$$y_v \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{C}_K(G) \quad (6)$$

- 1 Constraints (4) ensure the independence of the cycles selected
- 2 Constraints (5) ensure the local stability of the exchange

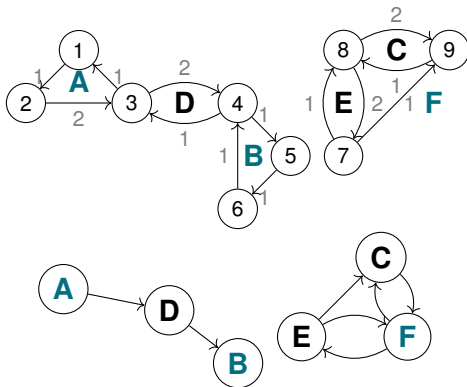


Definition

Starting from the initial directed graph $G = (V, A)$, let's construct a directed graph $G' = (V', A')$ such that:

- For each $v \in \mathcal{C}_K(G)$ there is a vertex v in V' representing that cycle.
- An arc $(u, v) \in A'$ if $v \in \mathcal{B}(u)$ or if $v \in \mathcal{F}(u)$.

G' is the **blocking directed graph** associated to G .

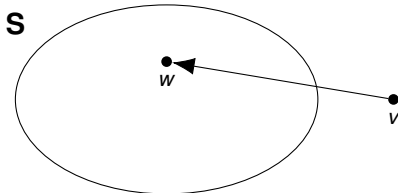


- Independent
- Absorbing

Definition

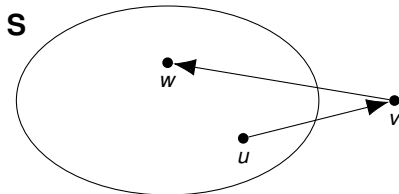
Given a directed graph $G' = (V', A')$, subset $S \subseteq V'$ is a **kernel** of G' if it is independent and absorbing. That is:

- for all $(u, v) \in A'$ either $u \notin S$ or $v \notin S$
- for every $v \notin S$ there exists a vertex $u \in S$ such that $(v, u) \in A'$



Definition

A **local kernel** of G is an independent subset S of vertices such that every neighbor (or out-neighbor) of S is absorbed by S .



Locally stable
kidney
exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

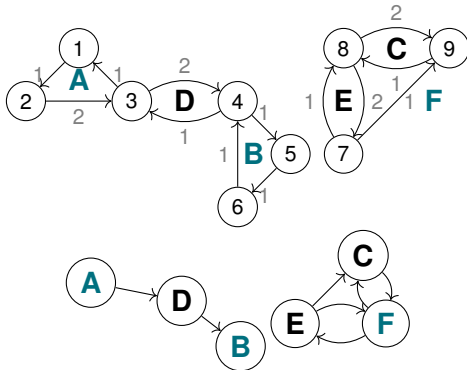
Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion



Result

A L-kernel in G' defines a L-stable exchange in G .

and a kernel in G' defines a stable exchange in G .

Result

The empty set $S = \emptyset$ is an L-kernel. So, every directed graph has an L-kernel (but not necessarily a not empty one).

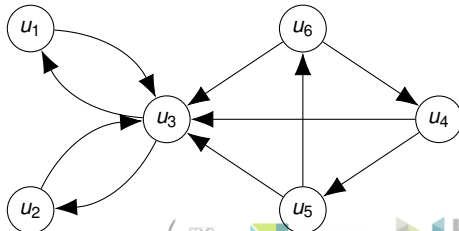
Result

Given a directed graph $G = (V, A)$, deciding whether G has a nonempty local kernel is NP-complete.

Reduction from SAT

Result

Given a directed graph, the cardinality of its maximum L-kernel is greater or equal than the cardinality of its maximum kernel (if there is one).



Locally stable
kidney
exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

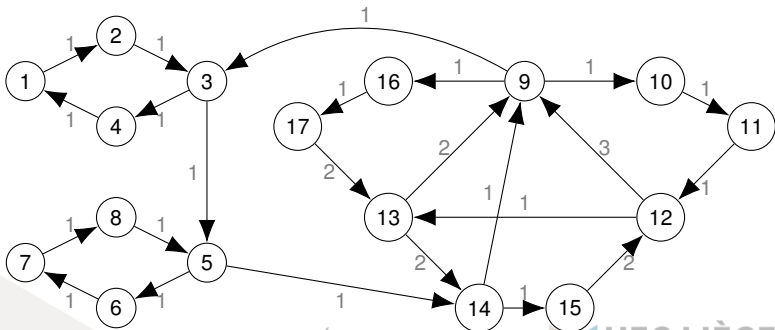
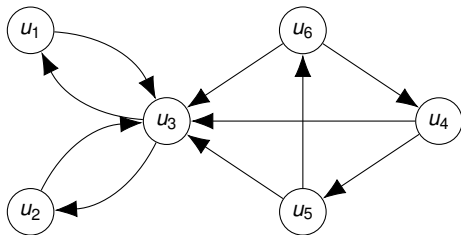
Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion



Formulation (bis)

$$y_u + y_v \leq 1 \quad \forall (u, v) \in A' \quad (7)$$

$$y_u \leq \sum_{w \in N^+(v)} y_w \quad \forall (u, v) \in A' \quad (8)$$

$$y_v \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall v \in V' \quad (9)$$

- **Independence** constraint (7) can be replaced by

$$\sum_{u \in C_K(\mathcal{G}): i \in V(u)} y_u \leq 1 \quad \forall i \in V \quad (10)$$

- **Stability/Absorbing** constraint (8) can be replaced by fixing v and adding each constraint above for all $(u, v) \in A'$:

$$\sum_{w \in N^-(v)} y_w \leq |N^-(v)| \sum_{w \in N^+(v)} y_w \quad \forall v \in V' \quad (11)$$

where $N^-(v) = |\{(w, v) \in A'\}|$.

Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion

Numerical Tests

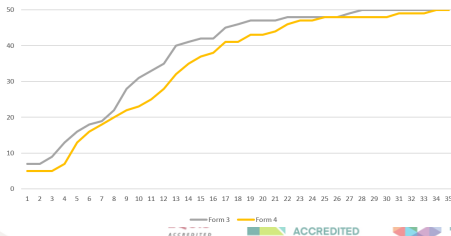
Comparison between 4 formulations:

- ① Initial formulation for L-stable exchange (Form-LS) (7)-(8)
- ② Form-LS with stability constraints modified (7)-(11)
- ③ Form-LS with independence constraints modified (10)-(8)
- ④ Form-LS with independence constraints and stability constraints modified (10)-(11)

Integrity gap:

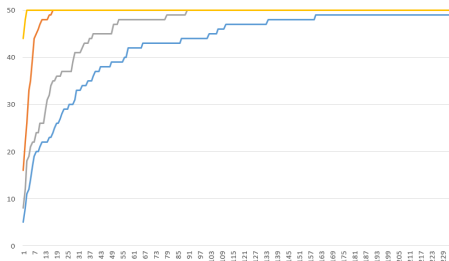
$$Gap_{LP}^k = 100 \times \frac{z_{LP}^k - z^*}{z^*}, \quad \in [0; +\infty[$$

- Formulation 1 and 2 $Gap_{LP} \in [112; 6094]$
- Formulation 3 and 4 $Gap_{LP} < 35\%$



Comparison IP formulations

- ① Initial formulation for L-stable exchange (Form-LS) (7)-(8)
- ② Form-LS with stability constraints modified (7)-(11)
- ③ Form-LS with independence constraints modified (10)-(8)
- ④ Form-LS with independence constraints and stability constraints modified (10)-(11)



Best IP formulation for L-stable exchanges in terms of computation time:

$$\sum_{v \in C_K(G): i \in V(c)} y_v \leq 1 \quad \forall i \in V$$

$$\sum_{w \in N^-(v)} y_w \leq |N^-(v)| \sum_{w \in N^+(v)} y_w$$

$$y_v \in \{0, 1\}$$



**Locally stable
kidney
exchanges**

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulationsComparison Stable -
L-stableLocal Strong
Stability

Conclusion

Stability

VS.

Local Stability ...

Locally stable kidney exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion

- Problem of maximum stable exchange(SE) and problem of maximum L-stable exchange (LSE) are not the same problems (not the same set of feasible solutions) **BUT** we can compare the objective value of both problems
 - ◇ **SE** problem: Some instances do not have an optimal solution ($K = 2$, 72 out of 600 tested - 12%)
 - ◇ **LSE** problem: All instances have an optimal solution. ($K = 2$, 1 out of 600 tested has a solution of cardinality zero 0.2%)
 - for $N=200$,
 - 1 45 out of 50 instances have a stable exchange
 - 2 50 out of 50 instances have a locally stable exchange > 0
 - 3 45 instances stable exchange = locally stable exchange
 - 4 45: average optimal value is 105.8
 - 5 5: average optimal value is 43.8

Locally stable
kidney
exchanges

Marie Baratto

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

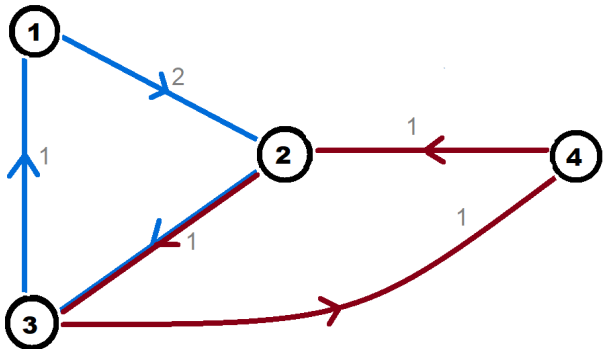
Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulations

Comparison Stable -
L-stable

Local Strong
Stability

Conclusion



Locally stable
kidney
exchanges

Marie Baratto

New notion of stability: **Local stability**

- Relevant in the context of kidney exchanges
- IP Formulations
- Link between (local) stable exchanges and (local) kernels in an associated digraph
- Many digraphs have a local stable exchange (> 0) without having a stable exchange

Further research

- Investigate the relevance of local stability for different classes of matching problems
- Strengthen the formulations
- ...

Kidney exchanges

Stable exchanges

Locally stable
exchanges

IP formulation

Blocking Digraph

Local Kernels

Numerical Tests

Comparison
formulationsComparison Stable -
L-stableLocal Strong
Stability

Conclusion

Locally stable exchanges

Marie BARATTO¹, Yves CRAMA¹, Joao Pedro PEDROSO², Ana VIANA³

marie.baratto@uliege.be

1. HEC Management School of the University of Liège, Belgium
2. Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto, Portugal
3. Polytechnic of Porto, School of Engineering, Portugal