

# APPLIED MECHANISM DESIGN FOR SOCIAL GOOD

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Lecture #12 – 03/06/2018

**CMSC828M**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**9:30am – 10:45am**

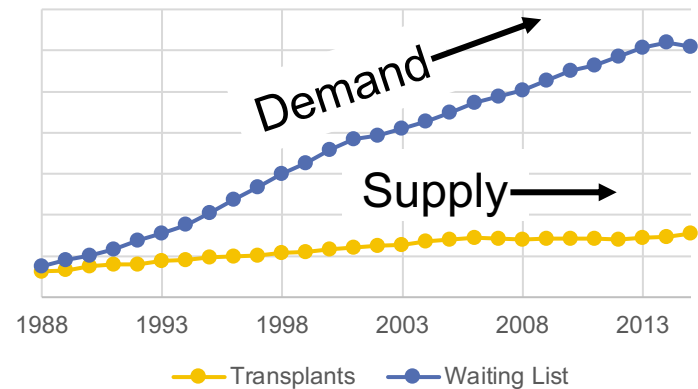


**COMPUTER SCIENCE**  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

**THIS CLASS:  
ORGAN EXCHANGE**

# KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

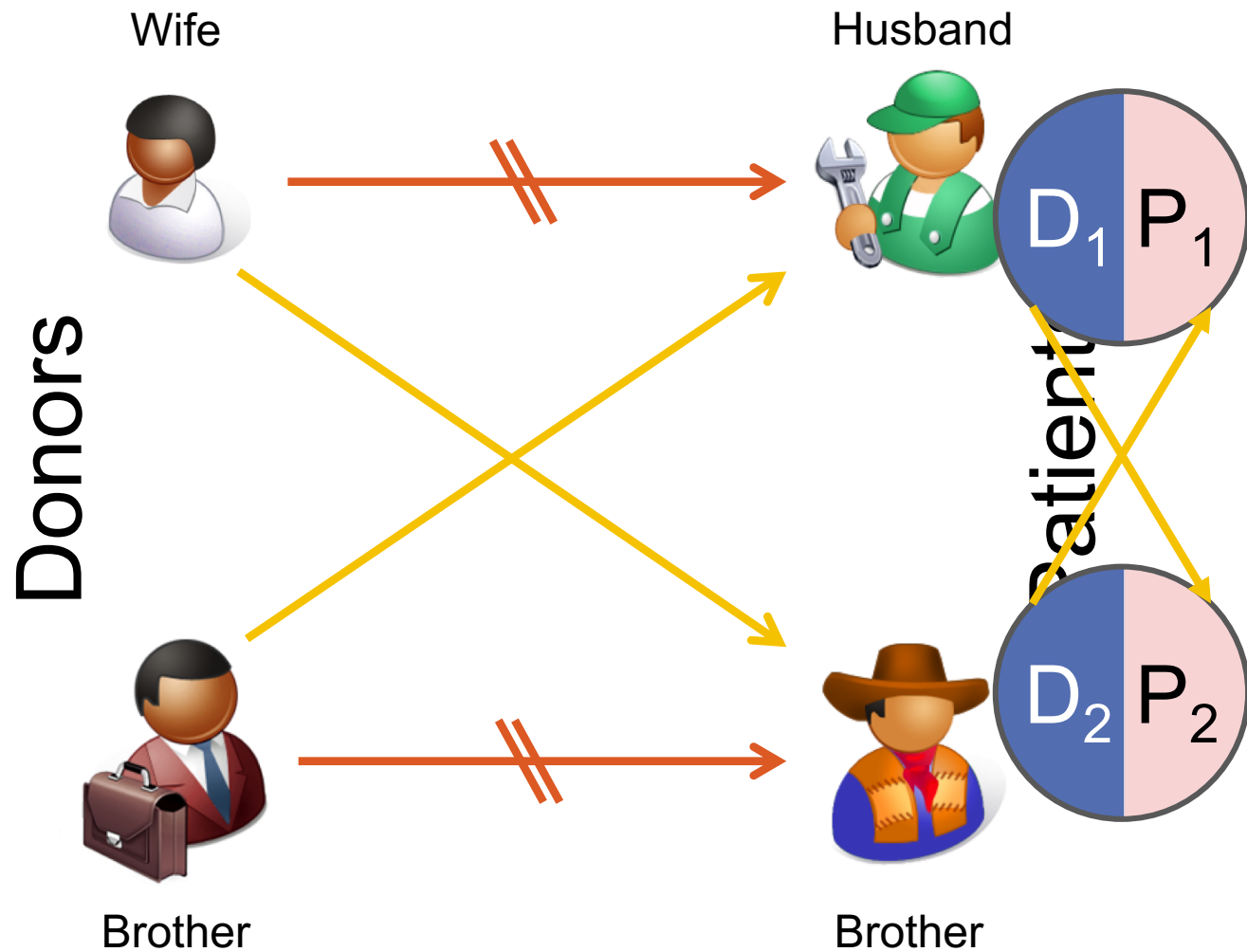
- **US waitlist: over 100,000**
  - 36,157 added in 2014
- **4,537 people died while waiting**
- **11,559 people received a kidney from the deceased donor waitlist**



- (See last class' lecture on deceased donor allocation.)
- **5,283 people received a kidney from a living donor**
  - Some through **kidney exchange**

*Last time,  
I promise!*

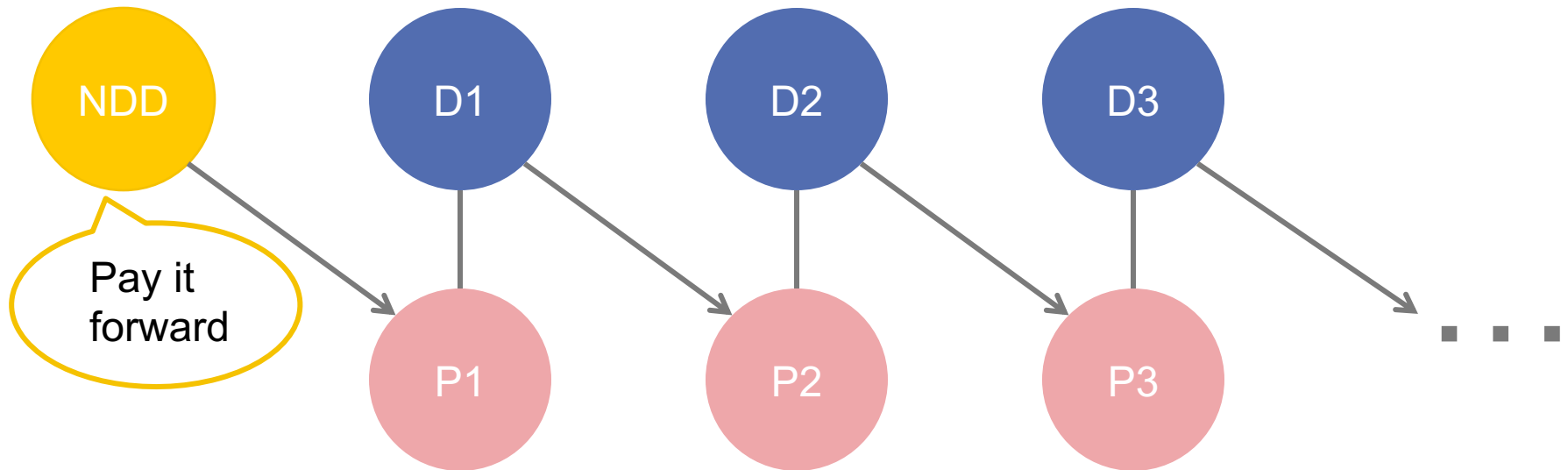
# KIDNEY EXCHANGE



*(2- and 3-cycles, all surgeries performed simultaneously)*

# NON-DIRECTED DONORS & CHAINS

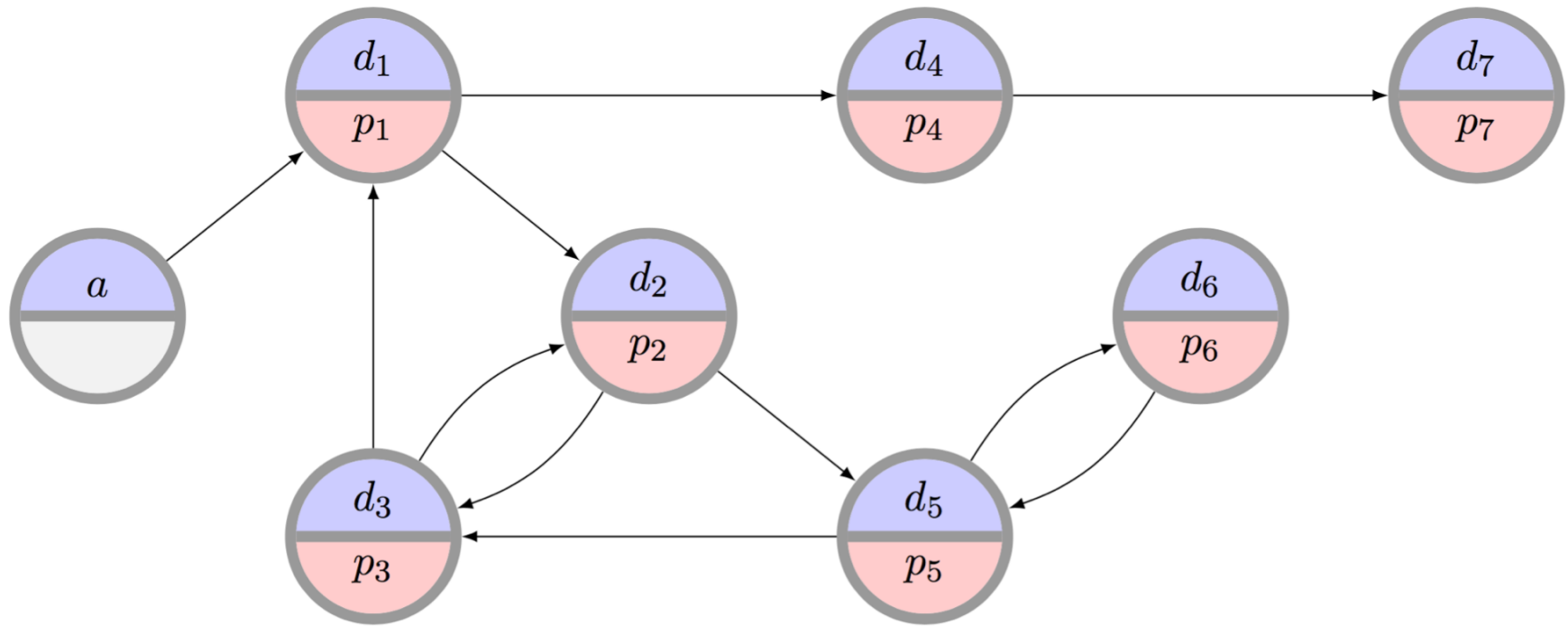
[Rees et al. 2009]



*Not executed simultaneously, so no length cap required based on logistic concerns ...*

**... but in practice edges fail, so often some finite cap is used!**

# THE CLEARING PROBLEM



The **clearing problem** is to find the “best” disjoint set of cycles of length at most  $L$ , and chains (maybe with a cap  $K$ )

- Very hard combinatorial optimization problem that we will focus on in the succeeding two lectures.

# INDIVIDUAL RATIONALITY (IR)

Will I be better off participating in the mechanism than I would be otherwise?

## Long-term IR:

- In the long run, a center will receive at least the same number of matches by participating

## Short-term IR:

- At each time period, a center receives at least the same number of matches by participating

# STRATEGY PROOFNESS

Do I have any reason to lie to the mechanism?

**In any state of the world ...**

- { time period, past performance, competitors' strategies, current private type, etc }

**... a center is not worse off reporting its full private set of pairs and altruists than reporting any other subset**

→ No reason to strategize



# EFFICIENCY

Does the mechanism result in the absolute best possible solution?

## **Efficiency:**

- Produces a maximum (i.e., max global social welfare) matching given all pairs, regardless of revelation

## **IR-Efficiency:**

- Produces a maximum matching constrained by short-term individual rationality

**FIRST: ONLY CYCLES (NO CHAINS)**

# THE BASIC KIDNEY EXCHANGE GAME

[Ashlagi & Roth 2014, and earlier]

Set of  $n$  transplant centers  $T_n = \{t_1 \dots t_n\}$ , each with a set of incompatible pairs  $V_h$

Union of these individual sets is  $V$ , which induces the underlying compatibility graph

Want: all centers to participate, submit full set of pairs

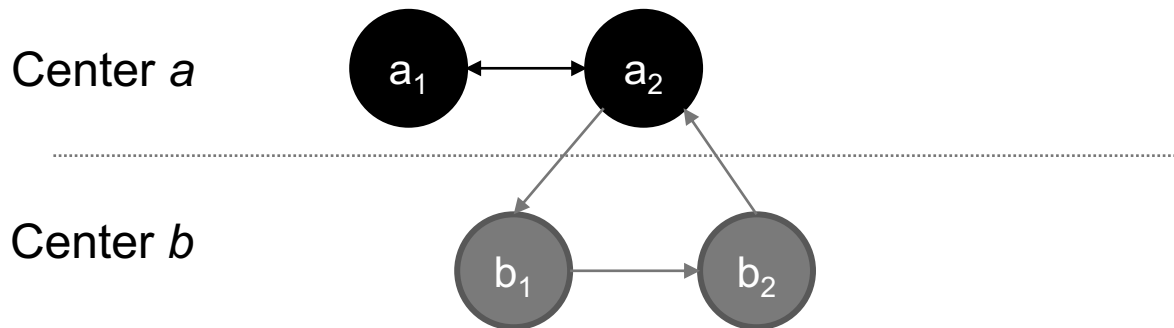
An allocation  $M$  is  **$k$ -maximal** if there is no allocation  $M'$  that matches all the vertices in  $M$  and also more

- Note:  $k$ -efficient  $\rightarrow$   $k$ -maximal, but not vice versa

# INDIVIDUALLY RATIONAL?

[Ashlagi & Roth 2014, and earlier]

- Vertices  $a_1, a_2$  belong to center  $a$ ,  
 $b_1, b_2$  belong to center  $b$
- Center  $a$  could match 2 internally ????????????????????
- By participating, matches only 1 of its own
- Entire exchange matches 3 (otherwise only 2)

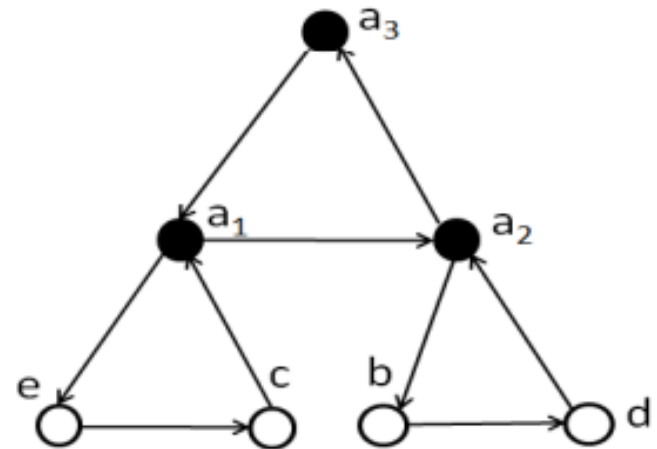


# IT CAN GET MUCH WORSE

[Ashlagi & Roth 2014, and earlier]

**Theorem:** For  $k > 2$ , there exists  $G$  s.t. no IR  $k$ -maximal mechanism matches more than  $1/(k-1)$ -fraction of those matched by  $k$ -efficient allocation

- **Bound is tight**
- **All but one of  $a$ 's vertices is part of another length  $k$  exchange (from different agents)**
- **$k$ -maximal and IR if  $a$  matches his  $k$  vertices (but then nobody else matches, so  $k$  total)**
- **$k$ -efficient to match  $(k-1)*k$**



Example:  $k=3$

# RESTRICTION #1 [Ashlagi & Roth 2014, and earlier]

**Theorem:** For all  $k$  and all compatibility graphs, there exists an IR  $k$ -maximal allocation

**Proof sketch:** construct  $k$ -efficient allocation for each specific hospital's pool  $V_h$

**Repeatedly search for larger cardinality matching in an entire pool that keeps all already-matched vertices matched (using augmenting matching algorithm from Edmonds)**

**Once exhausted, done**

## **RESTRICTION #2** [Ashlagi & Roth 2014, and earlier]

**Theorem:** For  $k=2$ , there exists an IR 2-efficient allocation in every compatibility graph

**Idea: Every 2-maximal allocation is also 2-efficient**

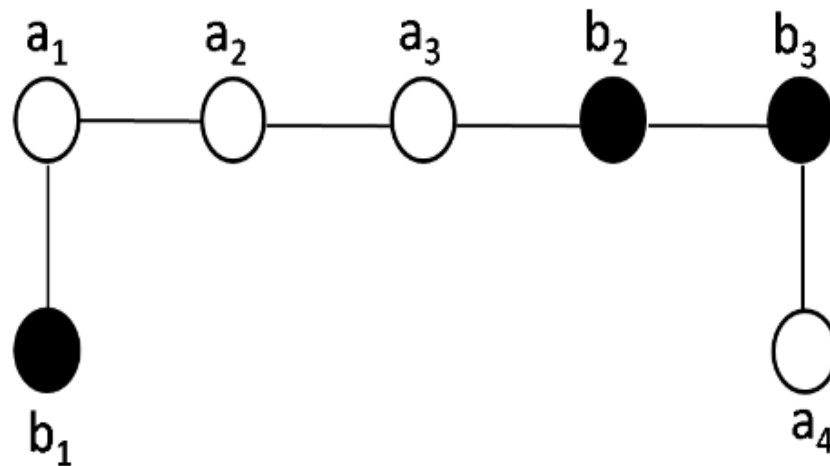
- This is a PTIME problem with, e.g., a standard  $O(|V|^3)$  bipartite augmenting paths matching algorithm

**By Restriction #1, 2-maximal IR always exists  $\rightarrow$  this 2-efficient IR always exists**

# RESTRICTION #3 [Ashlagi et al. 2015]

**Theorem:** No IR mechanism is both maximal and strategyproof (even for  $k=2$ )

**Suppose mechanism is IR and maximal . . .**





# MORE NEGATIVE MECHANISM DESIGN RESULTS

[Ashlagi et al. 2015]

**Just showed IR + strategyproof  $\rightarrow$  not maximal**

**No IR + strategyproof mechanism can guarantee more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ -fraction of efficient allocation**

- Idea: same counterexample, note either the # matched for hospital a  $\leq 3$ , or # matched for hospital b  $\leq 2$ . Proof by cases follows

**No IR + strategyproof randomized mechanism can guarantee  $\frac{7}{8}$ -fraction of efficiency**

- Idea: same counterexample, bounds on the expected size of matchings for hospitals a, b

**HOPELESS ...?**



# **DYNAMIC, CREDIT-BASED MECHANISM** [Hajaj et al. AAAI-2015]

**Repeated game**

**Centers are risk neutral, self interested**

**Transplant centers have (private) sets of pairs:**

- Maximum capacity of  $2k_i$
- General arrival distribution, mean rate is  $k_i$
- Exist for one time period

**Centers reveal subset of their pairs at each time period, can match others internally**

# CREDITS

Clearinghouse maintains a credit balance  $c_i$  for each transplant center over time

High level idea:

- **REDUCE**  $c_i$ : center  $i$  reveals fewer than expected
- **INCREASE**  $c_i$ : center  $i$  reveals more than expected
  
- **REDUCE**  $c_i$ : mechanism tiebreaks in center  $i$ 's favor
- **INCREASE**  $c_i$ : mechanism tiebreaks against center  $i$

*Also remove centers who misbehave "too much."*

Credits now → matches in the future

# THE DYNAMIC MECHANISM

## 1. Initial credit update

- Centers reveal pairs
- Mechanism updates credits according to  $k_i$

## 2. Compute maximum global matching

- Gives the utility  $U_g$  of a max matching

## 3. Selection of a final matching

- Constrained to those matchings of utility  $U_g$
- Take  $c_i$  into account to (dis)favor utility given by matching to a specific center  $i$
- Update  $c_i$  based on this round's (dis)favoring

## 4. Removal phase if center is negative for “too long”

# THEORETICAL GUARANTEES

**Theorem:** No mechanism that supports cycles and chains can be both long-term IR and efficient

**Theorem:** Under reasonable assumptions, the prior mechanism is both long-term IR and efficient

# LOTS OF OPEN PROBLEMS HERE

**Dynamic mechanisms are more realistic, but ...**

- Vertices disappear after one time period
- All hospitals the same size
- No weights on edges
- No uncertainty on edges or vertices
- Upper bound on number of vertices per hospital
- Distribution might change over time
- ...

Project?

# WHAT DO EFFICIENT MATCHINGS EVEN LOOK LIKE ...?

**Next class: given a specific graph, what is the “optimal matching”**

**This class: given a **family of graphs**, what do ”optimal matchings” tend to look like?**

**Use a stylized random graph model, like [Saidman et al. 2006]:**

- Patient and donor are drawn with blood types randomly selected from PDF of blood types (roughly mimics US makeup), randomized “high” or “low” CPRA
- Edge exists between pairs if candidate and donor are ABO-compatible and tissue type compatible (random roll weighted by CPRA)



# RANDOM GRAPH PRIMER

**Canonical Erdős-Rényi random graph  $G(m,p)$  has  $m$  vertices and an (undirected) edge between two vertices with probability  $p$**

- Let  $Q$  be the property of “there exists a perfect matching” in this graph

**The convergence rate to 1 (i.e., “there is almost certainly a near perfect matching in this graph) is exponential in  $p$**

- $\Pr(G(m,m,p) \text{ satisfies } Q) = 1 - o(2^{-mp})$
- At least as strong with non-bipartite random graphs

**Early random graph results in kidney exchange are for “in the large” random graphs that (allegedly) mimic the real compatibility graphs**

- All models are wrong, but some are useful?

# A STYLIZED ERDŐS-RÉNYI-STYLE MODEL OF KIDNEY EXCHANGE

In these random (ABO- & PRA-) graphs:

- # of O- $\{A, B, AB\}$  pairs  $>$   $\{A, B, AB\}$ -O pairs
- # of  $\{A, B\}$ -AB pairs  $>$  AB- $\{A, B\}$  pairs
- Constant difference between # A-B and # B-A

**Idea #1: O-candidates are hard to self-match**

**Idea #2:  $\{A, B\}$ -candidates are hard to self-match**

**Idea #3: “symmetry” between A-B and B-A (equally hard to self-match, give or take)**

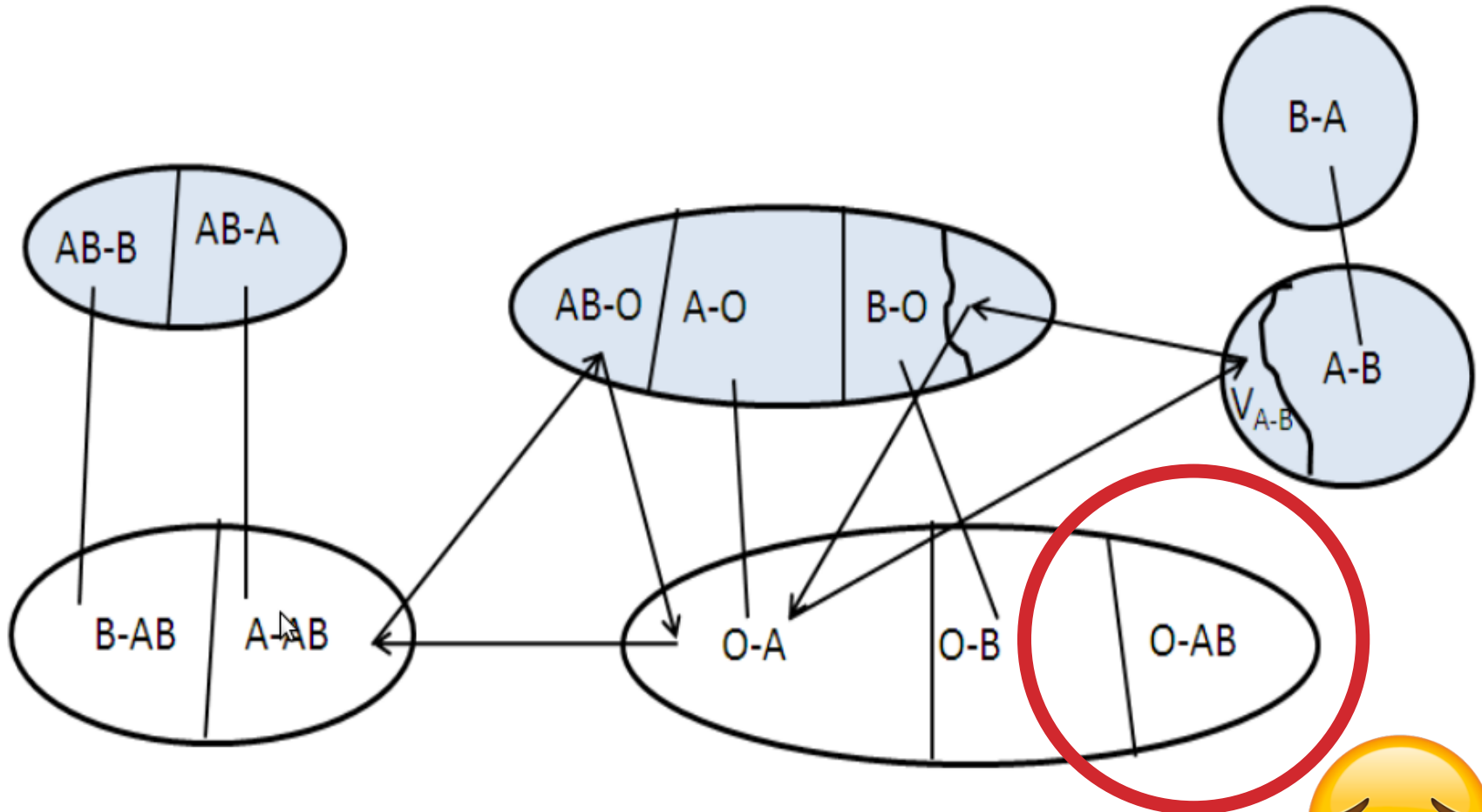
# EFFICIENT MATCHING IN DENSE GRAPHS WITH ONLY CYCLES

Under some other assumptions about PRA ...

Almost every large random (ABO- & PRA-) graph has an efficient allocation that requires exchanges of size at most 3 with the following:

- X-X pairs are matched in 2- or 3-way exchanges with other X-X pairs (so-called “self-demand”)
- B-A pairs are 2-matched with A-B pairs
- The leftovers of {A-B or B-A} are 3-matched with “good” {O-A, O-B} pairs and {O-B, O-A pairs}
- 3-matches with {AB-O, O-A, A-AB}
- All the remaining 2-matched as {O-X, X-O}

# VISUALLY ...



# PRICE OF FAIRNESS

## Efficiency vs. fairness:

- **Utilitarian** objectives may favor certain classes at the expense of marginalizing others
- **Fair** objectives may sacrifice efficiency in the name of egalitarianism

**Price of fairness: relative system efficiency loss under a fair allocation** [Bertismas, Farias, Trichakis 2011]  
[Caragiannis et al. 2009]

# PRICE OF FAIRNESS IN KIDNEY EXCHANGE

[Dickerson et al. AAMAS-14]

- **Clearing problem:** find a matching  $M^*$  that maximizes utility function

$$M^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{M \in \mathcal{M}} u(M)$$

- **Price of fairness:** relative loss of *match efficiency* due to *fair* utility function

$$POF(\mathcal{M}, u_f) = \frac{u(M^*) - u(M_f^*)}{u(M^*)}$$

$V_{\{L,H\}}$  : lowly-, highly-sensitized vertices

$\lambda$  : fraction of pool that is lowly-sensitized

$p_{\{L,H\}}$  : prob. ABO-compatible is tissue-type incompatible

$p = \lambda p_L + (1-\lambda)p_H$  : average level of sensitization

“Most stringent” fairness rule:

$$u_{H \succ L}(M) = \begin{cases} u(M) & \text{if } |M_H| = \max_{M' \in \mathcal{M}} |M'_H| \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

*Theorem*

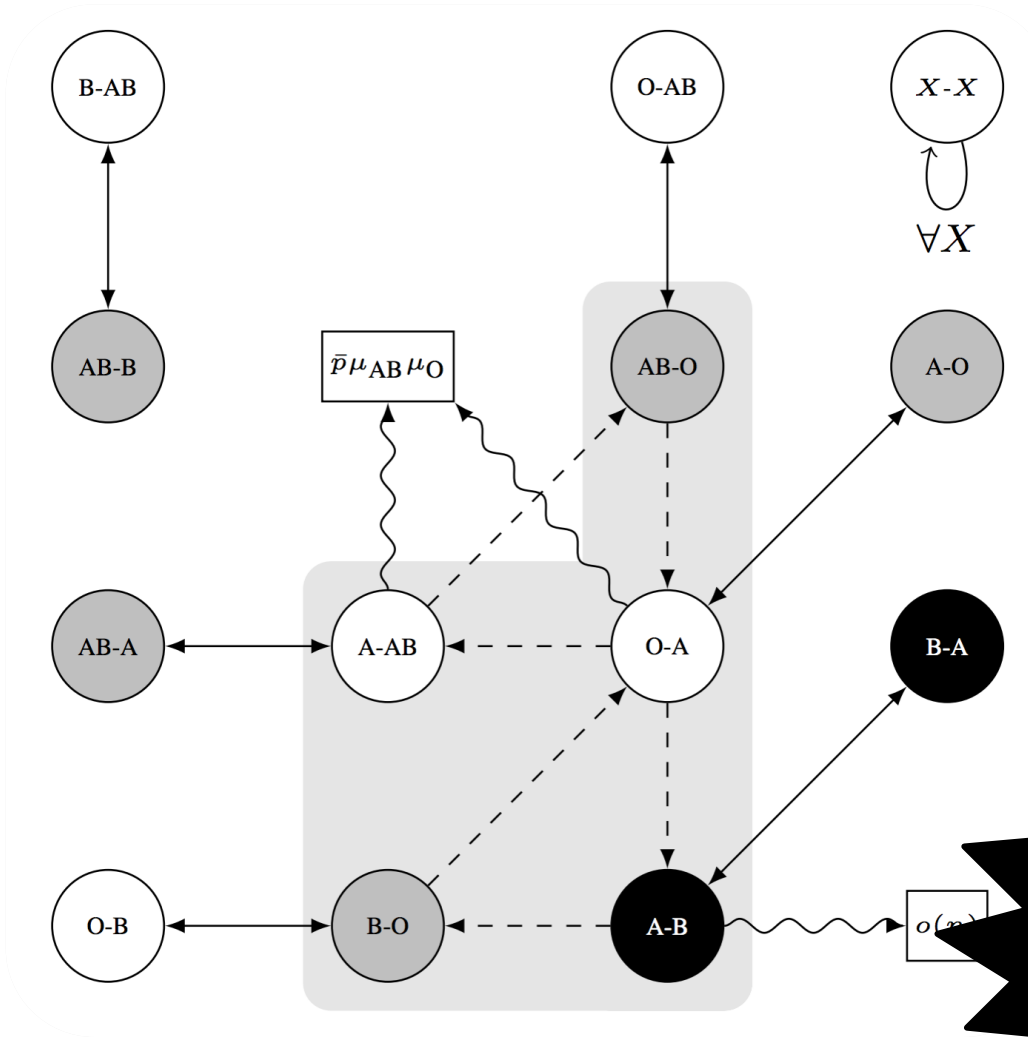
Assume  $p < 2/5$ ,  $\lambda \geq 1-p$ , and “reasonable” distribution of blood types.

Then, almost surely as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\text{POF}(\mathcal{M}, u_{H \succ L}) \leq \frac{2}{33}.$$

(And this is achieved using cycles of length at most 3.)

# IN THEORY, THE PRICE OF FAIRNESS IS LOW



More on 10/6!



# PROBLEMS WITH THIS TYPE OF MODEL

## Dense model [Saidman et al. 2006, etc.]

- Constant probability of edge existing
- Less useful in practice [Ashlagi et al. 2012+, Dickerson et al. 2014+]

## Better? **Sparse model** [Ashlagi et al. 2012]

- $1-\lambda$  fraction is *highly-sensitized* ( $p_H = c/n$ )
- $\lambda$  fraction is *lowly-sensitized* ( $p_L > 0$ , constant)

## But still:

- Random graph models tend to be “in the large”, no weights, no uncertainty, fairly homogeneous ... **so not perfect!**

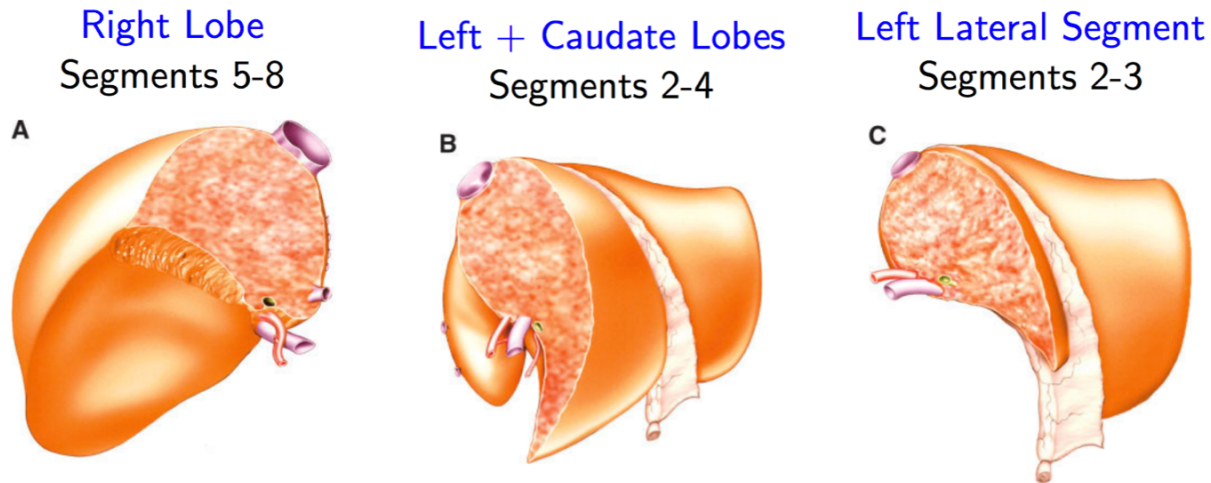
# A TASTE OF THE SPARSE MODEL ...



# MOVING BEYOND KIDNEYS: LIVERS

[Ergin, Sönmez, Ünver *w.p.* 2015]

Similar matching problem (mathematically)



Right Lobe  
Segments 5-8  
A  
Donor Mortality: 0.5%  
Size: 60%  
Most risky!

Left + Caudate Lobes  
Segments 2-4  
B  
Donor Mortality: 0.1%  
Size: 40%  
Often too small

Left Lateral Segment  
Segments 2-3  
C  
Donor Mortality: Rare  
Size: 20%  
Only pediatric [Sönmez 2014]

Right lobe is **biggest** but **riskiest**; exchange may reduce right lobe usage and increase transplants

# MOVING BEYOND KIDNEYS: MULTI-ORGAN EXCHANGE

[Dickerson Sandholm AAAI-14, JAIR-16]

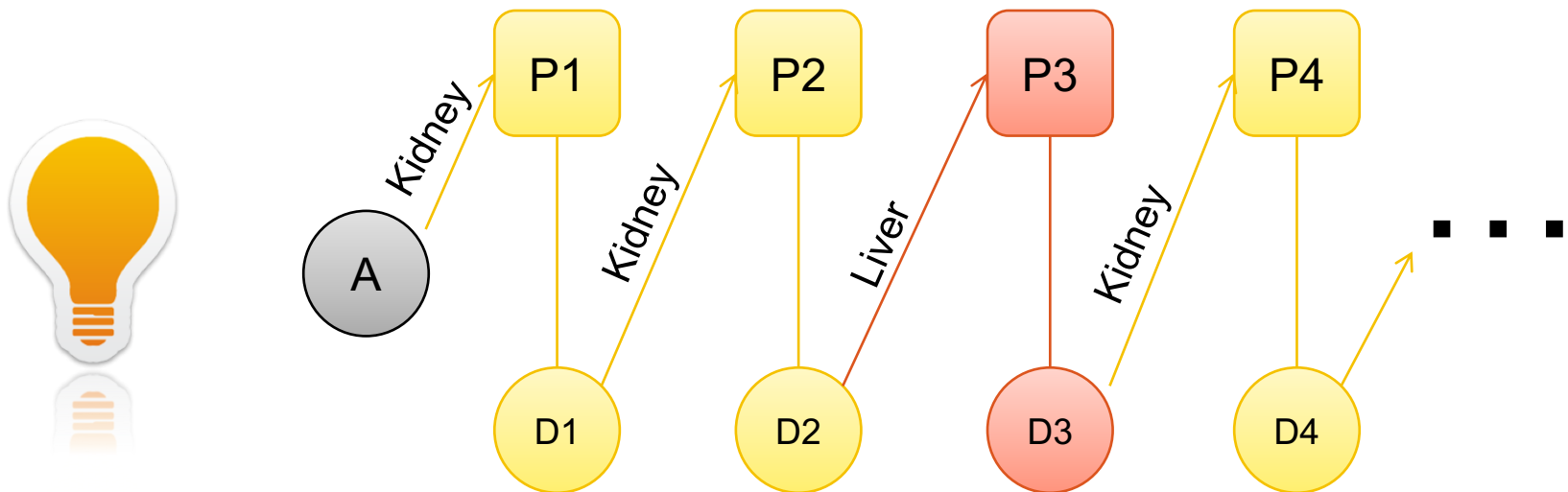
**Chains are great!** [Anderson et al. 2015, Ashlagi et al. 2014, Rees et al. 2009]

**Kidney transplants are “easy” and popular:**

- Many altruistic donors

**Liver transplants: higher mortality, morbidity:**

- (Essentially) no altruistic donors



# SPARSE GRAPH, MANY ALTRUISTS

$n_K$  kidney pairs in graph  $D_K$ ;  $n_L = \gamma n_K$  liver pairs in graph  $D_L$

Number of altruists  $t(n_K)$

Constant  $p_{K \rightarrow L} > 0$  of kidney donor willing to give liver

Constant cycle cap  $z$

## *Theorem*

Assume  $t(n_K) = \beta n_K$  for some constant  $\beta > 0$ . Then, with probability 1 as  $n_K \rightarrow \infty$ ,

Any efficient matching on  $D = \text{join}(D_K, D_L)$  matches  $\Omega(n_K)$  more pairs than the aggregate of efficient matchings on  $D_K$  and  $D_L$ .

*Building on [Ashlagi et al. 2012]*

# INTUITION

Find a linear number of “good cycles” in  $D_L$  that are length  $> z$

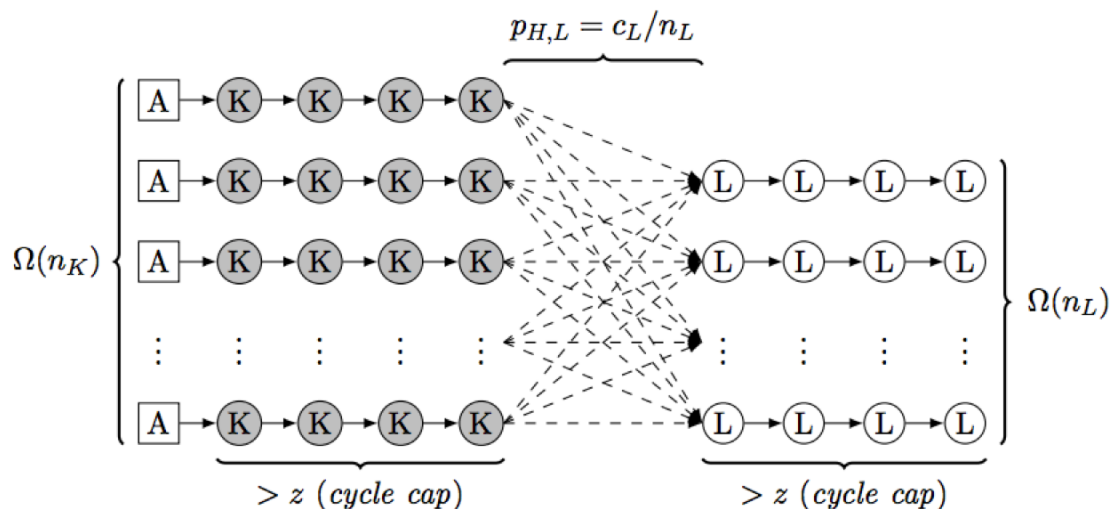
- Good cycles = isolated path in highly-sensitized portion of pool and exactly one node in low portion

Extend chains from  $D_K$  into the isolated paths (aka can't be matched otherwise) in  $D_L$ , of which there are linearly many

- Have to worry about  $p_{K \rightarrow L}$ , and compatibility between vertices

Show that a subset of the dotted edges below results in a linear-in-number-of-altruists max matching

- $\rightarrow$  linear number of  $D_K$  chains extended into  $D_L$
- $\rightarrow$  linear number of previously unmatched  $D_L$  vertices matched



# SPARSE GRAPH, FEW ALTRUISTS

$n_K$  kidney pairs in graph  $D_K$ ;  $n_L = \gamma n_K$  liver pairs in graph  $D_L$

Number of altruists  $t$  – no longer depends on  $n_K$ !

$\lambda$  is frac. lowly-sensitized

Constant cycle cap  $z$

## *Theorem*

Assume constant  $t$ . Then there exists  $\lambda' > 0$  s.t. for all  $\lambda < \lambda'$

Any efficient matching on  $D = \text{join}(D_K, D_L)$  matches  $\Omega(n_K)$  more pairs than the aggregate of efficient matchings on  $D_K$  and  $D_L$ .

With constant positive probability.

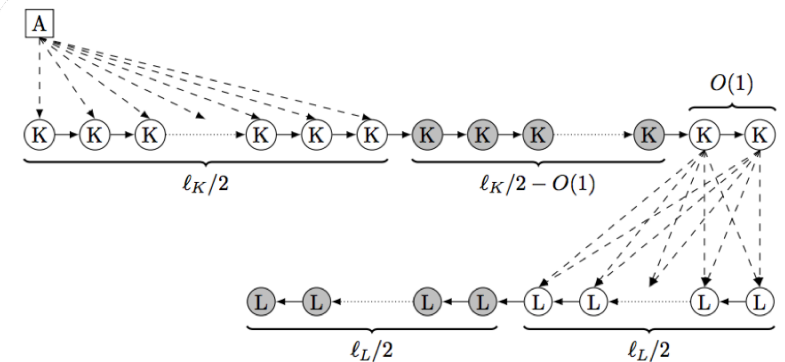
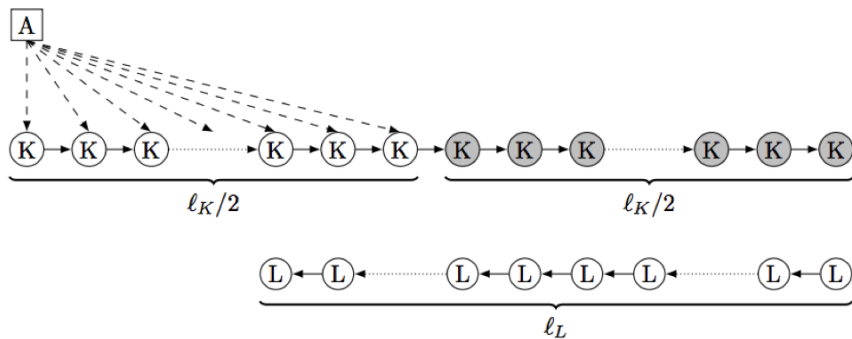
*Building on [Ashlagi et al. 2012]*

# INTUITION

For large enough  $\lambda$  (i.e., lots of sensitized patients), there exist pairs in  $D_K$  that can't be matched in short cycles, thus only in chains

- Same deal with  $D_L$ , except there are no chains

Connect a long chain (+altruist) in  $D_K$  into an unmatchable long chain in  $D_L$ , such that a linear number of  $D_L$  pairs are now matched



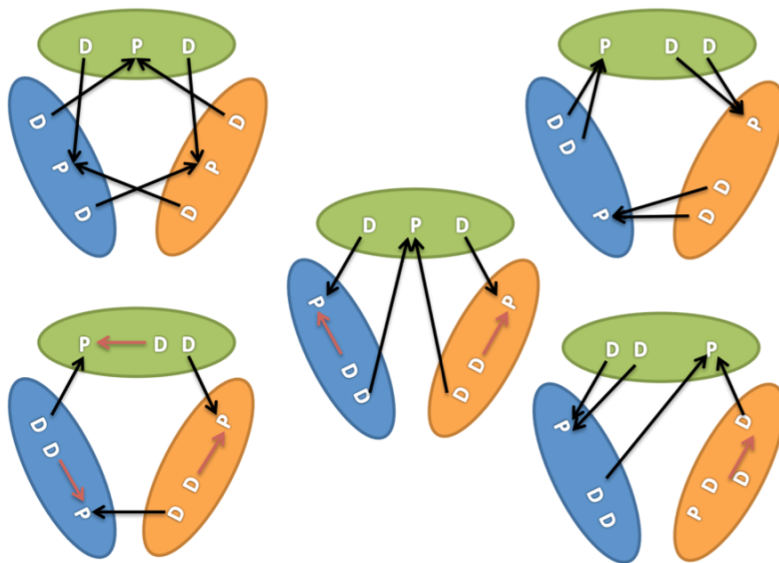


# MOVING BEYOND KIDNEYS: LUNGS

[Ergin, Sönmez, Ünver w.p. 2014]

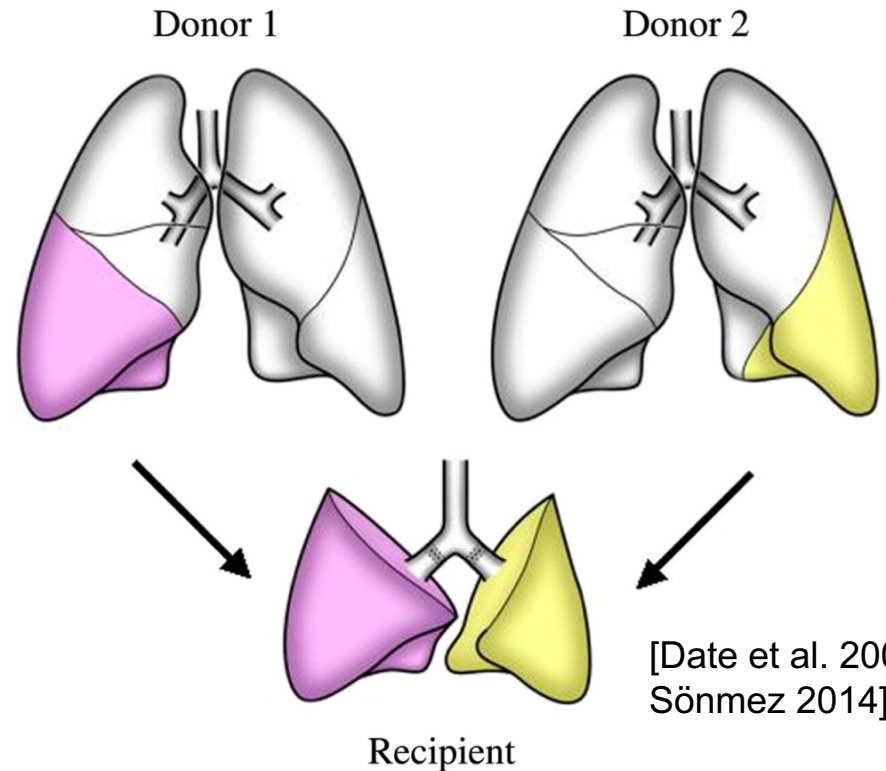
## Fundamentally different matching problem

- **Two** donors needed



3-way lung exchange configurations

(Compare to the single configuration for a “3-cycle” in kidney exchange.)



[Date et al. 2005;  
Sönmez 2014]

# OTHER RECENT & ONGOING RESEARCH IN THIS SPACE

## Dynamic matching theory with a kidney exchange flavor:

- Akbarpour et al., “Thickness and Information in Dynamic Matching Markets”
- Anderson et al., “A dynamic model of barter exchange”
- Ashlagi et al., “On matching and thickness in heterogeneous dynamic markets”
- Das et al., “Competing dynamic matching markets”

## Mechanism design:

- Blum et al. “Opting in to optimal matchings”

## Not “in the large” random graph models:

- Ding et al., “A non-asymptotic approach to analyzing kidney exchange graphs”

**NEXT CLASS:  
OPTIMAL BATCH CLEARING OF ORGAN  
EXCHANGES**