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School of Mathematics & Physics EXAMINATION

Semester Two Final Examinations, 2014

MATH4202 Advanced Topics in Operations Research

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This paper is for St Lucia Campus students.		For Examiner Use Only		
Examination Duration:	90 minutes		Question	Mark
Reading Time:	10 minutes			
Exam Conditions:		1a		
This is a School Examination		1b		
This is an Open Book Examination		1c		
During reading time - writing is not permitted at all		10		
This examination paper will be released to the Library		1d		
Materials Permitted In The Exam Venue:		Total		
No restrictions				

Materials To Be Supplied To Students:

Access to laboratory computers

Instructions To Students:

You will need to submit your Python code by Blackboard.

Question 1

A collection optimisation problem is defined on a grid as follows:

- A set of vehicles V will collect in a grid of cells for a number of time periods T
- Each vehicle may start in any square, then in each time period it moves to a neighbouring square (up, down, left or right)
- Each grid square has an associated value
- A grid square is considered "collected" if a vehicle visits the square
- No square may be visited more than once
- The objective is to maximise the sum of the values of the grid squares collected.

For example, the 10 by 10 grid below (which is the data generated by the code stub for this exam) is shown with two vehicles highlighted, each collecting for 8 time periods.

```
[3, 3, 3, 4, 3, 4, 0, 2, 4, 3]

[4, 0, 2, 1, 2, 2, 0, 1, 1, 4]

[3, 0, 3, 0, 3, 0, 0, 4, 1, 1]

[4, 4, 1, 4, 2, 3, 1, 4, 3, 4]

[4, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 3, 0, 3]

[1, 1, 4, 2, 1, 2, 3, 0, 4, 0]

[3, 4, 0, 3, 1, 2, 0, 0, 0, 4]

[0, 3, 4, 4, 1, 1, 2, 3, 0, 3]

[3, 4, 0, 4, 0, 1, 3, 4, 1, 4]

[2, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 3, 4, 0, 0]
```

Part a (5 marks):

Formulate the problem of generating the optimal collections as an Integer Program. Write your formulation in the space below.

Part b (8 marks):

Using the data generated by the code stub Collect.py, implement your IP formulation in python. You may find the function "Neighbours" useful. Submit your python file via blackboard. Ensure the name of the file includes "PartB".

Part c (4 marks):

If you modify your code so that there are 6 vehicles (V = range(6)) then it may take a very long time to run. In the space below, explain why this is the case and suggest alternative ways to formulate the problem to make it run faster.

Part d (3 marks):

Implement an IP formulation which can quickly solve the case with 6 vehicles. Submit your python file via blackboard. Ensure the name of the file includes "PartD".

The following code may be useful, though it is not part of the critical idea for solving the problem. This code starts with "plist", a list of lists. It uses some python tricks to eliminate any list which contains all the same elements as another list.

```
pSet = set(tuple(sorted(p)) for p in pList)
pList = [list(p) for p in pSet]
```

END OF EXAMINATION