

### Problem 1: [25 points]

After the departure of Storm Sandy, the small town of New Town suffered an electricity power shortage. After this experience, the local electricity agent decided to create plans to better handle future events. The idea is to send out immediately after the power failure a truck to investigate the damage along every street in the town. In order to recover the electricity network as soon as possible, they want to find an efficient tour so that the truck visits each street exactly once and then goes back to the town headquarters. Suppose each street in New Town is a two-way street. The task is to find whether there exists a tour that visits each street only once and then goes back to the starting point.

- A. Show that the problem has a solution if and only if there are no dead ends and no  $n$ -way junctions in New Town, where  $n$  is odd, i.e., each intersection in the town has an even degree.
- B. If such tour exists, please describe an efficient algorithm to find the tour in linear time, i.e., in at most  $O(|V| + |E|)$  time, where  $V$  is the set of junctions and  $E$  is the set of streets.

### Problem 2: [25 points]

In a chemistry class, the professor asks you to synthesize products using existing chemicals. For instance, 2 parts of chemical A produces 1 part of chemical B, or 3 parts of chemical C can give us 1 part of chemical D. Lets assume that we have  $n$  different chemicals that we can mix. The production ratio given two chemicals is fixed and does not change. These ratios are given in an  $n \times n$  matrix, between all the chemicals. In particular, using  $x$  parts of chemical  $i$  you will receive  $R_{ij} \cdot x$  parts of chemical  $j$ , or using  $y$  parts of chemical  $j$  you will receive  $R_{ji} \cdot y$  parts of chemical  $i$ . Note that  $R_{ij}$  is not necessarily an integer, it can be a real number.

Because of the principle of mass conservation the ratios have to satisfy the following requirement:  $R_{ij} \cdot R_{ji} < 1$ . This means that converting an amount of chemical  $i$  to chemical  $j$  and then back to chemical  $i$  should result in a smaller quantity of chemical  $i$  relatively to the original one.

- A. The Chemistry professor asks from you the following. Given the  $n \times n$  matrix, find the best sequence of chemical reactions to produce the most of chemical  $D$  given an available quantity of chemical  $A$ . As mentioned before there are  $n$  different chemicals you can use and the matrix specifies the production ratios of all corresponding reactions. Provide an algorithm for finding the best sequence. Argue about the running time of your algorithm.
- B. One of the teams found out that using chemical  $i_1$  to produce chemical  $i_2$ , then chemical  $i_3, \dots$ , then chemical  $i_k$  and back to  $i_1$  results in a bigger quantity of chemical  $i_1$  than the original one, i.e.,  $R_{i_1, i_2} \cdot R_{i_2, i_3} \cdot \dots \cdot R_{i_k, i_1} \geq 1$ . Is this a problem in the ratio matrix or the students did something wrong in their calculations? Provide an efficient algorithm that can detect if such an impossible sequence of chemical reactions seems feasible given the  $n \times n$  production ratio matrix. Argue about the running time of your algorithm.

### Problem 3: [25 points]

Consider a courier company with a big network of transfer stations and trucks. You are responsible for coordinating the routing of packages through the network. You have access to and the database indicating the departure/arrival locations and times for  $m$  trucks among  $n$  transfer locations.

You have to design an algorithm that receives a package's origin and destination location (the location always corresponds to one of the transfer stations), then output the list of trucks that can allow the package to arrive at

the destination as early as possible. Note that in every intermediate transfer station, it takes about an hour for a package to move from a truck to another. You need to take this time into account.

Give an algorithm as efficient as possible to solve this problem, argue its running time, and prove its correctness.

#### Problem 4: [35 points]

The clash of kings has come to an end in the land of Westeros and the winds of winter have passed... The Grand Maester has proposed a series of jousting tournaments to celebrate the events. These tournaments will be used to decide who are the finest knights in the Seven Kingdoms that should be selected as new members of the Kingsguard.

Every town in Westeros wants to host such a tournament. Even Pike at the Iron Islands wants to host a tournament, although the ironborn are not known to hold any love for the peoples of the mainland...

This posed a challenge for the Grand Maester. How should he rank the knights given a large number of tournaments and different outcomes at each tournament? He asked the advice of the Citadel and selected the following strategy.

Each local Maester will be responsible to report a ranking of the knights at each individual tournament. Then, it is possible to define a preference score between two knights:

$$d(A, B) = \{ \text{the number of tournaments knight } A \text{ was ranked higher than knight } B \}$$

Obviously, if  $d(A, B) > d(B, A)$ , then knight  $A$  is preferred as a member of the Kingsguard over candidate  $B$ .

Given this preference score, however, it may not always be possible to select a global ranking for all the knights. For instance, Jamie Lannister may have ranked higher than Barristan Selmy in more tournaments, and Barristan Selmy may have ranked higher than Loras Tyrell in more tournaments but Loras Tyrell may still have ranked higher than Jamie Lannister in more tournaments. For instance, consider the following outcomes for the three knights in three tournaments:

	King's Landing Tourney	Winterfell Tourney	Casterly Rock Tourney
Jamie (J)	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Barristan (B)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Loras (L)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>

In this case,  $d(J, B) = d(B, L) = d(L, J) = 2$ , and we have a rock/paper/scissors situation in terms of preference: Jamie  $>$  Barristan  $>$  Loras  $>$  Jamie.

To address such issues and provide a global ranking for the knights given their rankings in individual events, the idea of the Grand Maester and the Citadel is the following:

For each pair of knights  $A$  and  $B$  it is possible to identify a “preference sequence”  $s[A, B]$  of knights that might imply that  $A$  is more powerful than  $B$ . Such a sequence of size  $m$  has the following properties:

- $s_1 = A$  and  $s_m = B$
- $\forall i \in [1, m - 1] : d[s_i, s_{i+1}] > d[s_{i+1}, s_i]$

The “strength of a preference sequence is defined as the minimum preference score along the sequence:

$$t(s[A, B]) = \min_{\forall i \in [1, m-1]} d[s_i, s_{i+1}].$$

The “strongest preference sequence”  $s^*[A, B]$  is the preference sequence between the two knights  $A$  and  $B$  that has the maximum strength:

$$s^*[A, B] = \operatorname{argmax}_{\forall s[A, B]} t(s[A, B]).$$

The strength of the strongest preference sequence between two candidates is denoted as  $t^*[A, B]$ . If there is no preference sequence between candidates  $A$  and  $B$ , then:  $t^*[A, B] = 0$ . It can be shown that  $t^*$  satisfies the transitive property (i.e., if  $t^*[X, Y] > t^*[Y, X]$  and  $t^*[Y, Z] > t^*[Z, Y]$ , then  $t^*[X, Z] > t^*[Z, X]$ ). Then it is possible to define a global preference function between two knights, as follows:

$$T(A, B) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } t^*[A, B] > t^*[B, A] \\ -1 & \text{if } t^*[A, B] < t^*[B, A] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Given the Grand Maester’s approach, there is at least one knight  $X$  that has better or equal global preference versus all other knights  $Y$ , i.e.,  $\forall Y : T(X, Y) = 1$  or  $T(X, Y) = 0$ . Then knight  $X$  is the “global winner” of all the tournaments and becomes the Lord Commander of the Kingsguard. In order to generate the global ranking, the approach of the Grand Maester is to compute the strength of the strongest preference sequence for every pair of knights and rank the knights by finding first the Lord Commander, then removing him from the list, finding the next winner, etc.

- A. The Grand Maester argues that he has an efficient algorithm for computing the reliability of the strongest preference sequences for every pair of knights. What do you believe is this efficient algorithm? In this process, describe the underlying data structure needed to compute these values. What is the running time of the efficient solution?
- B. Assume that there are 5 knights that participated in the tournaments: Barristan Selmy, Sandor Clegane, Loras Tyrell, Brienne of Tarth and Jamie Lannister. There were 45 different tournaments that took place:

In 8 tournaments the ranking was:

Jamie Lannister > Brienne of Tarth > Sandor Clegane > Loras Tyrell > Barristan Selmy

In 5 tournaments the ranking was:

Loras Tyrell > Barristan Selmy > Jamie Lannister > Brienne of Tarth > Sandor Clegane

In 7 tournaments the ranking was:

Sandor Clegane > Barristan Selmy > Brienne of Tarth > Jamie Lannister > Loras Tyrell

In 2 tournaments the ranking was:

Barristan Selmy > Jamie Lannister > Loras Tyrell > Sandor Clegane > Brienne of Tarth

In 8 tournaments the ranking was:

Brienne of Tarth > Jamie Lannister > Loras Tyrell > Sandor Clegane > Barristan Selmy

In 5 tournaments the ranking was:

Loras Tyrell > Sandor Clegane > Brienne of Tarth > Barristan Selmy > Jamie Lannister

In 7 tournaments the ranking was:

Barristan Selmy > Loras Tyrell > Brienne of Tarth > Jamie Lannister > Sandor Clegane

In 3 tournaments the ranking was:

Barristan Selmy > Loras Tyrell > Jamie Lannister > Brienne of Tarth > Sandor Clegane

- i) Compute all the preference values. Does an undisputed winner arise in this case and why yes or no?
- ii) Compute the strengths of the strongest preference sequences for all pairs of knights with the efficient algorithm of the Grand Maester.
- iii) Provide the final ranking according to the strengths of the strongest preference sequences.