

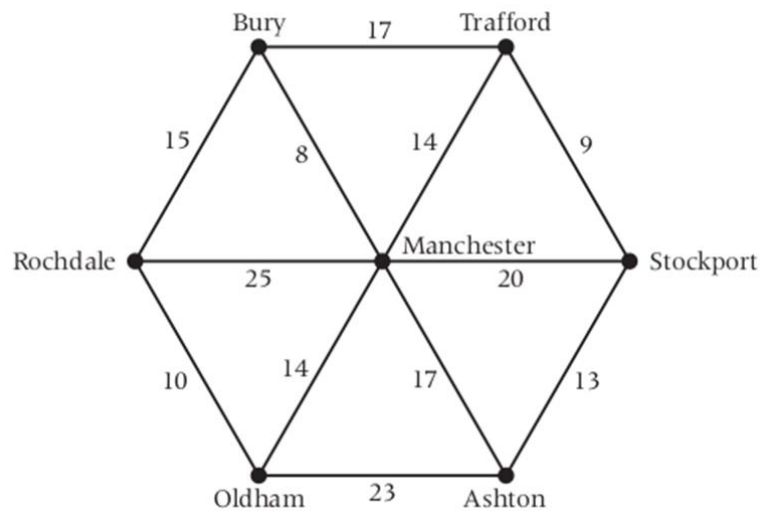
Computer Systems
Sample Examination Paper
January 2023

Answer all questions

Example

Question 1

- a. The diagram below shows roads connecting towns near to Rochdale. The numbers on each arc represent the time, in minutes, required to travel along each road. Peter is delivering books from his base at Rochdale to Stockport. Use Dijkstra's algorithm to find the minimum time for Peter's journey.



[8 Marks]

- b. Consider an environment in which there is a one-to-one mapping between user-level threads and kernel-level threads that allows one or more threads within a process to issue blocking system calls while other threads continue to run. Explain why this model can make multithreaded programs run faster than their single-threaded counterparts on a uniprocessor computer.

[6 Marks]

- c. An interactive system using round-robin scheduling and swapping tries to give guaranteed response to trivial requests as follows:

After completing a round-robin cycle among all ready processes, the system determines the time slice to allocate to each ready process for the next cycle by dividing a maximum response time by the number of processes requiring service.

Is this a reasonable policy? Explain and justify your argument, using examples if necessary.

[6 Marks]

Question 2

- a. Consider that you live in a small town where only dial-up access is available, with a maximum possible speed of 300-Kbps (using V.44 modems). You are interested in uploading a large video file of 2 gigabytes to a server on the Internet.

A bus visits your town every day from the closest city, which is located at 210km away, and stops in front of your house for 5 minutes max (but it can leave as soon you indicate you are done). The bus has a 100-Mbps WiFi connection and it can collect data from users in rural areas and transfer them to the Internet through a 2-Gbps link once it gets back to the city.

Suppose the average speed of the bus is 70 km/h. What is the fastest way the user can transfer the data to the server?

[8 Marks]

- b. Convert the decimal number -92.8828127_{10} to the equivalent 16-bit fixed point notation. Use 1 sign bit, 7 bits for the real part and 8 bits for the fractional part.

Show clearly how you have performed the conversion and clearly state any assumptions that you have made.

[6 Marks]

- c. Your friend Jane needs to run a simulation for her thesis and her adviser wants her to run it for a fixed problem size. Jane can make 80% of the program parallel, with 20% of it being sequential.

- i) What speedup can Jane expect on 5 processors?
- ii) What would the maximum theoretical speedup be on an infinite number of processors?

[6 Marks]

Question 3

- a. You are designing a network for a multinational corporation with offices in 50 different countries. Each office is required to be on a different subnet and the corporation has obtained a Class B network address of 150.32.0.0.

Design subnets for all of the site offices and indicate how many hosts (usable ones) can be assigned to each site office. Also, indicate if there is any room for expansion to 10 more countries, using the same network IP address and subnetting scheme.

You are not required to list all subnets, however, you can mention the subnet addresses, subnet masks and host address ranges for the first three and last subnet.

[6 Marks]

- b. You have a computer system that manages bookings for specific seats in a cinema theatre. The system handles multiple booking requests by allocating each request to a separate thread that:
- gives the customer the list of available seats and obtains the user's seat choice,
 - obtains their personal details,
 - records the seat number that is allocated to the customer.

Unfortunately, occasionally, when people book a seat, their booking is confirmed, but when they arrive in the theatre, their seat has been allocated to someone else.

- What is the likely reason for this error? Explain and justify your answer.
- Explain and justify how you would modify your program to fix this error.
- What are the performance implications of this change? Explain your answer and the causes of this change in performance.

[8 Marks]

- c. In this example you should assume that the function `binarySearch` is $O(\log n)$

```
numberFound = 0
for i = 0..(n-1)
  for j = 0..(n-1)
    if binarySearch(A[i,j])
      numberFound = numberFound + 1
```

- Use the Big-O notation to express the time complexity of this algorithm
- If this algorithm takes 10 seconds to execute when $n=2000$, estimate how long it will take when $n=8000$.

[6 Marks]