Practical Guide to Quant interviews Alain Chenier, page 1, August 2, 2017

1 Brain teasers

1.1 Pirates distributing gold

- 5 Pirates distribute 100 gold coins. Senior pirate proposes and all vote, and plan gets approved if 50 % vote ok else senior pirate gets killed and process restarts with 1 fewer pi-
- 1 pirate → not i nteresting 2 pirates → New pirate #2 gets all the gold, since he will vote for himelf and get just enough (50%) vote
- 3 pirates→ pirate #1 will vote with new pirate # 3 since otherwise case above and pirate #1 gets nothing, So let pirate #1=1 and let pirate #3=99 and let pirate #2=0

- 4 pirates → pirate #2 wants to avoid above so pirate #2 votes with new pirate #4. So pirate #4=99, pirate #2=1, pirate #1 = pirate #3 = 0
- 5 pirates → pirate #1,#3 wants to avoid above so pirate #2,#3 votes with new pirate #5. So pirate #5=98, pirate #1=pirate #3=1, pirate #2=pirate #4=0

1.2 Tiger changing to sheep

- 100 tigers + 1 sheep. Tiger \rightarrow Sheep. How many sheep left?
- 1 tiger + 1 sheep \rightarrow 2 sheep ok as last tiger wotn be eaten 2 tigers + 1 sheep \rightarrow 1' Tiger + 2 sheep but last tiger runs risk
- of beign eaten so tiger not mov-• 3 tigers + 1 sheep \rightarrow 2 tigers
- + 2 sheep \rightarrow stays like this else the last tiger will think he might get eaten
- 4 tigers + 1 sheep \rightarrow 3 tigers + 2 sheep \rightarrow might be eaten so

- even number of tigers: no, odd:
- 100 even so: no

1.3 4 people crossing a river

- A,B,C,D crossa river on one bridge, max 2 people at one time, one torch. A(10mns),B(5),C(2),D(1).Quickest way to all cross and how long does it take?
- send 2 slowest A,B together but not on first crossing else one has to come back (slow)
- $C,D(2) \rightarrow D(1) \rightarrow A,B(10) \rightarrow$
- $C(2) \rightarrow C, D(2)$
- $\bullet = 2+1+10+2+2=17$
- note quicker than:
- A,D(10) \rightarrow D(1) \rightarrow B,D(5)
- \rightarrow D(1) \rightarrow C,D(2)
- =10+2+5+1+2=20

Card game, 52 cards, 2R, 2B, 1R+1B.

• 52 cards. $2B \rightarrow Dealer$, $2R \rightarrow$ You, $2R \rightarrow \emptyset$. 100 to you if you win (more or same number of cards), 0 otherwise. How much to pay for the game?,

Always 1R+1B discarded, so always equal number of R,B left, so always ties, so you always win, so pay 100

1.5 Burning rope

 classic - buirn rope at both ends

1.6 Find defective ball

- 12 balls, 1 is lighther or heavier (not sure). You have a balance. Find which one in 3 measure-
- separate in 3 each time: (1,2,3,4),(5,6,7,8),(9,10,11,12)
- compare (1,2,3,4) vs (5,6,7,8).
- Same \rightarrow (9,10,11,12), (1,2,3,4) (L) or (5,6,7,8) (H)
- Same: left with (9,10,11,12) H or L with (5,6,7,8) normal
- (9,10) vs (8,11)