Problem Set #1

Quiz, 5 questions

1
point

1.
We are given as input a set of n requests (e.g., for the use of an auditorium), with a known start time s_i and finish time t_i for each request i. Assume that all start and finish times are distinct. Two requests *conflict* if they overlap in time --- if one of them starts between the start and finish times of the other. Our goal is to select a maximum-cardinality subset of the given requests that contains no conflicts. (For example, given three requests consuming the intervals $[0, 3]$, $[2, 5]$, and $[4, 7]$, we want to return the first and third requests.) We aim to design a greedy algorithm for this problem with the following form: At each iteration we select a new request i, including it in the solution-so-far and deleting from future consideration all requests that conflict with i.

Which of the following greedy rules is guaranteed to always compute an optimal solution?

- ( ) At each iteration, pick the remaining request which requires the least time (i.e., has the smallest value of $t_i - s_i$) (breaking ties arbitrarily).
- (●) At each iteration, pick the remaining request with the earliest finish time.
- ( ) At each iteration, pick the remaining request with the earliest start time.
- ( ) At each iteration, pick the remaining request with the fewest number of conflicts with other remaining requests (breaking ties arbitrarily).

1
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2.

We are given as input a set of n jobs, where job j has a processing time p_j and a deadline d_j. Recall the definition of *completion times* C_j from the video lectures. Given a schedule (i.e., an ordering of the jobs), we define the *lateness* l_j of job j as the amount of time $C_j - d_j$ after its deadline that the job completes, or as 0 if $C_j \leq d_j$. Our goal is to minimize the maximum lateness, $\max_j l_j$.

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Which of the following greedy rules produces an ordering that minimizes the maximum lateness? You can assume that all processing times and deadlines are distinct.

- ○ Schedule the requests in increasing order of processing time p_j
- ○ None of the other answers are correct.
- ○ Schedule the requests in increasing order of the product $d_j \cdot p_j$
- ● Schedule the requests in increasing order of deadline d_j

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3.

In this problem you are given as input a graph $T = (V, E)$ that is a tree (that is, T is undirected, connected, and acyclic). A *perfect matching* of T is a subset $F \subset E$ of edges such that every vertex $v \in V$ is the endpoint of exactly one edge of F. Equivalently, F matches each vertex of T with exactly one other vertex of T. For example, a path graph has a perfect matching if and only if it has an even number of vertices.

Consider the following two algorithms that attempt to decide whether or not a given tree has a perfect matching. The *degree* of a vertex in a graph is the number of edges incident to it. (The two algorithms differ only in the choice of v in line 5.)

Algorithm A:

```
1  While T has at least one vertex:
2    If T has no edges:
3      halt and output "T has no perfect matching."
4    Else:
5      Let v be a vertex of T with maximum degree.
6      Choose an arbitrary edge e incident to v.
7      Delete e and its two endpoints from T.
8  [end of while loop]
9  Halt and output "T has a perfect matching."
```

Algorithm B:

```
1  While T has at least one vertex:
2    If T has no edges:
3      halt and output "T has no perfect matching."
4    Else:
5      Let v be a vertex of T with minimum non-zero degree.
6      Choose an arbitrary edge e incident to v.
7      Delete e and its two endpoints from T.
8  [end of while loop]
9  Halt and output "T has a perfect matching."
```

Is either algorithm correct?

- ( ) Algorithm A always correctly determines whether or not a given tree graph has a perfect matching; algorithm B does not.
- ( ) Both algorithms always correctly determine whether or not a given tree graph has a perfect matching.
- (•) Algorithm B always correctly determines whether or not a given tree graph has a perfect matching; algorithm A does not.
- ( ) Neither algorithm always correctly determines whether or not a given tree graph has a perfect matching.

1

point

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4.

Consider an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ where every edge $e \in E$ has a given cost c_e. Assume that all edge costs are positive and distinct. Let T be a minimum spanning tree of G and P a shortest path from the vertex s to the vertex t. Now suppose that the cost of every edge e of G is increased by 1 and becomes $c_e + 1$. Call this new graph G'. Which of the following is true about G'?

- (selected) T must be a minimum spanning tree but P may not be a shortest s-t path.
- T may not be a minimum spanning tree and P may not be a shortest s-t path.
- T is always a minimum spanning tree and P is always a shortest s-t path.
- T may not be a minimum spanning tree but P is always a shortest s-t path.

1 point

5.

Suppose T is a minimum spanning tree of the connected graph G. Let H be a connected induced subgraph of G. (I.e., H is obtained from G by taking some subset $S \subseteq V$ of vertices, and taking all edges of E that have both endpoints in S. Also, assume H is connected.) Which of the following is true about the edges of T that lie in H? You can assume that edge costs are distinct, if you wish. [Choose the strongest true statement.]

- For every G and H, these edges form a minimum spanning tree of H
- For every G and H and spanning tree T_H of H, at least one of these edges is missing from T_H
- For every G and H, these edges form a spanning tree (but not necessary minimum-cost) of H
- (selected) For every G and H, these edges are contained in some minimum spanning tree of H

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