

Q1. Recall the 8-queen problem discussed in class and reduce it to a 4-queen problem and consider the following:

- **State:** 4 queens on the board. One queen per column.
  - **Variables:**  $x_0; x_1; x_2; x_3$  where  $x_i$  is the row position of the queen in column  $i$ . Assume that there is one queen per column.
  - **Domain** for each variable:  $x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}, \forall i$ .
- Initial state: a random state.
- Goal state: 4 queens on the board. No pair of queens are attacking each other.
- Neighbour relation:
  - Version A: Move a single queen to another square in the same column.
  - Version B: Swap the row positions of two queens.
- Cost function: The number of pairs of queens attacking each other, directly or indirectly.

For the following questions, consider **version B** of the neighbour relation: *swap the row positions of two queens*.

- i. [2 pts] How many neighbors are there for a state?
- ii. [10 pts] Start with the initial state  $x_0 = 3$ ;  $x_1 = 1$ ;  $x_2 = 2$ ;  $x_3 = 0$ . Show the steps of executing the hill climbing algorithm until it terminates. State the cost at the current state and then compute cost at each step.

			Q
	Q		
		Q	
Q			

Note, if multiple neighbours have the same cost, choose the neighbour where the pair of queens swapped has the smallest subscript/column number. For example, when we can swap either  $(x_0; x_4)$  or  $(x_2; x_3)$ , we will swap  $(x_0; x_4)$ . When we can swap either  $(x_2; x_3)$  or  $(x_2; x_4)$  we will swap  $(x_2; x_3)$ .

- iii. [5 pts] Consider the following configuration and let the current state be  $x_0 = 0$ ;  $x_1 = 0$ ;  $x_2 = 0$ ;  $x_3 = 0$ . What is the cost of this state? Is this a local optimum?

Q	Q	Q	Q