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**CS 186 Assignment 7: Programming the Crowd**

**Question 1**

a)

According to the AMT Requester website, the name Mechanical Turk comes from the "Turk", a chess-playing automaton of the 18th century made by Wolfgang von Kempelen. It toured Europe and beat almost every opponent it faced. It was later revealed that this "machine" was not an automaton at all, but was in fact a chess master hidden in a special compartment controlling its operations. Likewise, the Mechanical Turk web service allows humans to help the machines of today perform tasks for which they are not suited for (e.g. identifying objects in photographs).

According to *The Economist* (http://www.economist.com/node/7001738?story\_id=7001738), the slogan “Artificial Artificial Intelligence” refers to the idea that now instead of a human requesting computer to do the computation for a task, the computer calls a human to perform a task.

b)

The last task involved improving the text description of an image (rather than solving independent tasks). After the HIT is first completed, the TurKit reruns the program. Importantly, TurKit remembers what it does each iteration. However, it does not have to create a new HIT of the original task as it remembers the ID of the initial HIT. At the same time, TurKit creates a new HIT to ask other users to verify that the description is good.

c)

<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/video-turking-for-respect>  
This New Yorker article and video explores what exactly AMT is and the human motivations behind being a “worker.” There seems to be some exasperation and irritation at the low payments, but it seems (at least out of those that were included in the video) there are a variety of reasons why the workers continue solving HITs. These include a way to make extra money, medical conditions that would limit a typical job, criminal record, and other factors that cause unemployment at typical jobs.

**Question 2**

a) b) c) See primer.html

d) It will return *n* factorial, or *1\*2\*3\*…\*(n-1)\*n*

**Question 3**

b)