COMPUTER SCIENCE TRIPOS Part IA – 2016 – Paper 1

2 Foundations of Computer Science (LCP)

(*a*) A *prime number sieve* is an algorithm for finding all prime numbers up to a given limit n. The algorithm maintains a list, which initially holds the integers from 2 to n. The following step is then repeated: remove the head of this list, which will be a prime number, and remove all its multiples from the list. Write code for the algorithm above as an ML function of type `int -> int list`.

[4 marks]

(*b*) Consider the problem of eliminating all duplicates from a list of strings. Write code for a function of type `string list -> string list` such that the output contains the same elements as the input, possibly reordered, but where every element occurs exactly once. The worst-case performance must be better than quadratic in the length of the list.   [6 marks]

(*c*) Consider the task of determining whether a given *word* (a string) can be expressed by joining together various *chunks* (non-empty strings). If the chunks are *abra*, *cad* and *hal*, then the word *abracadabra* can be expressed as *abra|cad|abra*. Note that if the available chunks are *ab*, *bra*, *cad* and *abra*, then the first two are no good for expressing *abracadabra*, and yet a solution can be found using *cad* and *abra*. The chunks can be used any number of times and in any order.

Write code for a function that takes a list of chunks along with a word, and returns a list of chunks that yield the word when concatenated. For the examples above, the result should be `["abra", "cad", "abra"]`. Exception `Fail` should be raised if no solution exists.   [10 marks]

Note: You are given a function `delPrefix` for removing an initial part of a string. For example, `delPrefix ("abra", "abracadabra")` returns `"cadabra"`, but `delPrefix ("bra", "abracadabra")` raises exception `Fail`.

All ML code must be explained clearly and should be free of needless complexity. Well-known utility functions may be assumed to be available.