Home Assignment 4

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Question 1

A kite is a graph on an even number of vertices, say $2n$, in which n of the vertices form a clique and the remaining n vertices are connected in a *tail* that consists of a path joined to one of the vertices of the clique. Given a graph and a goal g, the kite problem asks for a subgraph which is a kite and which contains $2g$ vertices. Prove that kite is NP-complete.

Question 2

Consider two problems:

1) Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and integer k, find an independent set of size at least k.
2) Given a graph $G = (V, E)$, compute the size of maximum independent set.
3) Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ and integer k, decide whether graph G has an independent set of size k.

Prove that these three problems are equally hard. That is, show that if one of them admits an efficient algorithm, then all of them do.

Question 3

In the EXACT 4SAT problem, the input is a set of clauses, each of which is a disjuction of exactly four literals, and such that each variable occurs at most once in each clause. The goal is to find a satisfying assignment, if one exists. Prove that EXACT 4SAT is NP-complete.

Question 4

Consider the following two problems:

1) **Problem X**: Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ and integer k, find a cut $(C, V - S)$ such that there are at least k edges across the cut, i.e. $|\{(u, v) \in E : u \in S, v \in V - S\}| \geq k$.

2) **Problem Y**: Given a collection of m equations over n variables $x_1, ..., x_n$ under modulo 2:

$$x_1 + x_2 = 1 \mod 2$$
$$x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = 0 \mod 2$$
$$...$$
$$x_i + x_j + x_l = 1 \mod 2$$

The goal is to decide whether there is an assignment $\sigma : \{x_1, x_2, ..., x_n\} \to \{0, 1\}$ that satisfies at least k equations.

Part 1: Describe a reduction from Problem X to Problem Y. Since Problem X is NP-hard, this reduction implies that Problem Y is NP-hard.

Part 2: Consider a special case of problem Y where each equation involves at most 2 variables. Present an $O(n + m)$ time algorithm that decides whether all m equations can be simultaneously satisfied.

Does the existence of this algorithm contradict Part 1 where we just proved that Problem Y is NP-hard?

Question 5

This question tis taken directly from Ericson's chapter. Please use the definitions of universal, uniform and pairwise independent hash functions from his book.

Each of the following question is worth one point:

a) Describe a set of hash functions that is uniform but no (near-)universal.
b) Descrive a set of hash functions that is universal but not (near)uniform.
c) Describe a set of hash functions that is universal but (near-)3-universal.
d) Describe a set of hash functions that is uniform but not pairwise independent.
e) Describe a set of hash functions that is pairwise independent but not (near-)uniform.
f) Describe a set of hash functions that is universal but not pairwise independent.
g) Describe a set of hash functions that is pairwise independent but not (near-)uniform.
h) Describe a set of hash functions that is universal and pairwise independent but not uniform, or prove no such set exists.

Note: For this particular question, an answer without proof will not receive any point.

Question 6

In a student chess competition, there are n students (we call these students by numbers $1, 2, 3, ..., n$) who played one-on-one decisive matches against each other (i.e. each game only ends in win/loss but not a draw). There were m matches in total.

The competition is over. To encourage a more fierceful competition among students in the next year, an evil coach wants to group these students into two groups: He calls the groups, the elite and the sucker groups respectively. The coach wants to group the students in such a way that the grouping is as *consistent* with the competition results as possible. In particular, each match record of the form i *lost to* j is said to be consistent with the grouping if student i is placed in the sucker group and student j is placed in the elite group. The coach aims at maximizing the number of consistent match results.

Part 1: A randomized algorithm picks a partition into two groups at random. Prove that the expected number of consistent matches is at least 1/4 of the total number of matches.

Part 2: Describe an efficient deterministic algorithm that partitions students into two groups such that the number of consistent matches is at least 1/4 of the total number of matches.

Part 3: Now, instead of partitioning into only two groups, the coach wants to rank the students (no ties are allowed). A ranking is said to be consistent with the match i *lost to* j if the rank of student i is worse than the rank of student j. The objective of the coach is to produce a ranking that is as consistent as possible.

A randomized algorithm picks a random ranking, i.e. pick a random permutation σ and uses this as a ranking. Prove that the expected number of consistent match results is at least 1/2 of the total number of matches.

Part 4: Describe a deterministic algorithm that, on an input, produces a ranking that is always consistent with at least 1/2 of the total number of matches.