COS30019 – Mid-Semester Test

Answering Instructions:

Please do not use a red pen/type in red.

There are 4 problems.

Total marks on paper: 70 marks + 5 bonus marks

The maximum mark you can get for the Mid-Semester Test is 70 (100%). However, if you lose marks in some questions and you get the bonus marks, the bonus marks will be added to your total of the Mid-Semester Test.

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Problem 1 – State True or False (5x2 = 10 marks)

1. A simple-reflex agent will maximise the expected performance measure in a partially observable environment.

   False. A simple reflex agent can only work in a fully observable environment.

2. In a deterministic environment, if you are in state S_0 and you perform action A, the probability of reaching the next state S_1 is 1.

   True. In a deterministic environment, the next state can be obtained just with the current state and action.

3. A program implementing breadth-first search can be easily converted to depth-first search just by changing the frontier implementation from a FIFO queue to a LIFO queue.

   True. A FIFO (first-in-first-out) queues removes nodes that have been added to the frontier first. In other words, it removes the shallowest node, which is how BFS works. On the other hand, a LIFO (last-in-first-out) queue removes the last added node first, meaning the deepest node is removed first, which is how DFS works.

4. Depth-first search with repeated state check can guarantee to find the optimal solution.

   False. DFS is not guaranteed to be optimal.

5. Alpha-beta pruning with a heuristic evaluation function yields an optimal playing strategy against an optimal opponent.

   False. A heuristic evaluation function only provides an estimate of the outcome when a move is chosen, so it cannot guarantee an optimal strategy.

Problem 2 – Multiple-choice questions (12 marks)
(You can choose more than one option.)

1. Consider the maze below for the robot navigation problem, where being at either G1 or G2 satisfies the goal test. Shaded cells represent the wall. The robot can only travel north, south, east or west.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1						
2					▓	G2
3					▓	
4	G1					

Assume that MD(*S1*, *S2*) is the Manhattan Distance between two squares *S1* and *S2*, and max[*x*, *y*] returns the biggest value of *x* and *y*, and min[*x*, *y*] returns the smallest value of *x* and *y*. Which of the following heuristic function for a square *S* is admissible?

    A. $h(S) = MD(S, G1)$
    B. $h(S) = MD(S, G1) + MD(S, G2)$
    C. $h(S) = \max[MD(S, G1), MD(S, G2)]$
    D. $h(S) = \min[MD(S, G1), MD(S, G2)]$

Answer: D. An admissible heuristic never overestimates the actual cost of getting to a goal. Option A will overestimate the cost if S is closer to G2. Option B overestimates the cost regardless of whether S is closer to G1 or G2. Option C will overestimate the cost if S is closer to either G1 or G2.

(4 marks)

2. Consider the Vacuum Cleaner World discussed in the lecture. If the agent does not know the geography of the environment and a room may become dirty again after being cleaned then what type of agent would best be used?
    A. Simple reflex agent
    B. Goal-based agent
    C. Utility-based agent with learning
    D. Rule-based agent with internal states.

Answer: C. A learning agent will be able to predict where dirt will appear in the future.

(4 marks)

3. Which of the following statements can be used to define various paradigms of Artificial Intelligence (AI)?
    A. AI as a system that acts rationally aims to pass the Turing test.
    B. AI as a system that thinks rationally aims to maximise the value of the performance measure.
    C. AI as a system that thinks like a human always follows logical reasoning.
    D. AI as a system that acts like a human aims to create machines that perform functions that require intelligence when performed by people.

Answer: D. Option A is wrong because this is a characteristic of a system that acts like a human. Option B is wrong because this is a characteristic of a system that acts rationally. Option C is wrong because this is a characteristic of a system that thinks rationally.

(4 marks)

Problem 3 – Search (30 marks+ 5 bonus marks)

Consider the search space below, where **A** is the initial state and **both states G and H satisfy the goal test**. Arcs are labelled with the cost of traversing them; for instance, traversing from **B** to **C** costs 2. And the estimated (heuristic) cost to the nearest goal is reported inside nodes. That is, the following heuristic function $h()$ is used: $h(\mathbf{A}) = 15$; $h(\mathbf{B}) = 13$; $h(\mathbf{C}) = 10$; $h(\mathbf{D}) = 8$; $h(\mathbf{E}) = 11$; $h(\mathbf{F}) = 9$; $h(\mathbf{G}) = h(\mathbf{H}) = 0$.

(6x5 = 30 marks) + 5 bonus marks
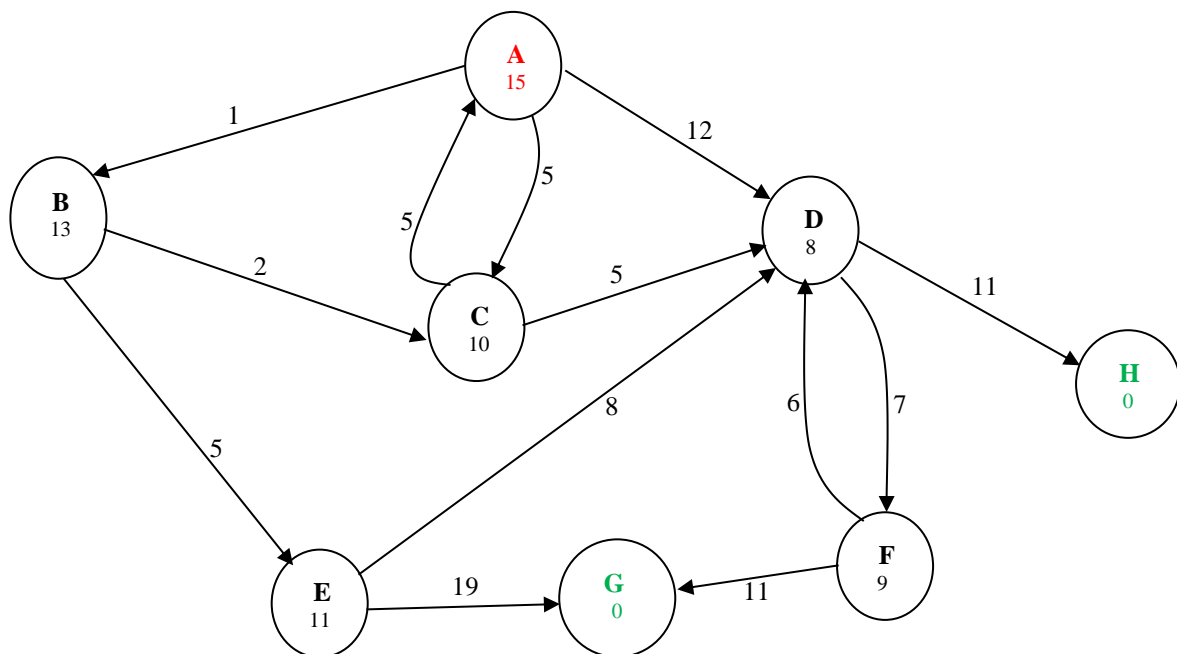
For each of the following **tree-based search strategies**, you are given a list of options. Each option describes, using that search strategy, the solution found (if any) and the sequence of all the states associated with the expanded nodes on the search tree. **When all else is equal**, the agent should try to expand the successor state of a state according to the **alphabetical order**.

Please select one option that correctly describes the search strategy.

Hints: (i) The sequence of expanded nodes is NOT the same as the solution. It is the nodes on your search tree that are expanded, in order, according to the search strategy.

*(ii) You may not always traverse directly from one node to another. For instance, you can directly traverse from **A** to **B**, but you cannot directly traverse from **B** to **A**.*

(iii) If you want to insert extra information to explain your answer (such as the search tree you draw), please feel free to do so.

1. Which of the following options correctly describes Breadth First Search (BFS) <u>**without**</u> repeated state check?

b

    (a) Solution found: **A-B-E-G**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, E, G**
    (b) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, C, E, A, D, F, H**
    (c) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, C, E, D, F, H**
    (d) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, E, F, H**
    (e) Solution found: **A-B-E-G**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, C, E, D, G**

Explanation:
Initial frontier: (A)
Removing A and expanding it results in 3 new nodes B, C, D, which do not contain the goal state.
Frontier: (B, C, D)
Removing B and expanding it results in 2 new nodes C and E, which do not contain the goal state.
Frontier: (C, D, C, E)
Removing C and expanding it results in 2 new nodes A and D, which do not contain the goal state.
Frontier: (D, C, E, A, D)
Removing D and expanding it results in 2 new nodes F and H. H is a goal state, so we stop.

The resulting solution is **A-D-H**.
If one interprets "expanding" as merely the act of generating new nodes, which seems to be the interpretation followed by the question, the list of expanded nodes will be **A, B, C, D, C, E, A, D, F, H.**
If one follows the definition of expansion given in the AI: A Modern Approach book, which states that expansion means applying valid actions to a node to generate new nodes, the list of expanded nodes will be just **A, B, C, D**. Nodes **C, E, A, D, F, H** have not been expanded but only discovered.

(5 marks)

2. Which of the following options correctly describes Breadth First Search (BFS) <u>**with**</u> repeated state check?

d

    (a) Solution found: **A-B-E-G**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, E, G**
    (b) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, C, E, A, D, F, H**
    (c) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, C, E, D, F, H**
    (d) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, E, F, H**
    (e) Solution found: **A-B-E-G**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, C, E, D, G**

Explanation:
Initial frontier: (A)
Removing A and expanding it results in 3 new unencountered nodes B, C, D, which do not contain the goal state.
Frontier: (B, C, D)
Removing B and expanding it results in 2 new nodes C and E, which do not contain the goal state. C is a repeated state, so we discard it.
Frontier: (C, D, E)
Removing C and expanding it results in 2 new nodes A and D, which do not contain the goal state. Both of these nodes contain repeated states, so they are discarded.
Frontier: (D, E)
Removing D and expanding it results in 2 new nodes F and H. H is a goal state, so we stop.

The resulting solution is **A-D-H**.
If one interprets "expanding" as merely the act of generating new nodes, which seems to be the interpretation followed by the question, the list of expanded nodes will be **A, B, C, D, E, F, H.**
If one follows the definition of expansion given in the AI: A Modern Approach book, which states that expansion means applying valid actions to a node to generate new nodes, the list of expanded nodes will be just **A, B, C, D**. Nodes **E, F, H** have not been expanded but only discovered.

(5 marks)

3. Which of the following options correctly describes Depth First Search (DFS) **without** repeated state check?

d

   (a) Solution found: **A- D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, C, E, A, D, F, H**
   (b) Solution found: **A-B-C-D-F-G**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, F, G**
   (c) Solution found: **A-B-C-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, F, H**
   (d) Solution found: **No**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, A, B, C, ... Infinite loop**
   (e) Solution found: **No**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, A, C, A, C, …. Infinite loop**

(5 marks)

4. Which of the following options correctly describes Depth First Search (DFS) **with** repeated state check?

c

   (a) Solution found: **A-B-C-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, H**
   (b) Solution found: **A- D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, C, E, A, D, F, H**
   (c) Solution found: **A-B-C-D-F-G**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, F, G**
   (d) Solution found: **A-B-C-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, F, H**
   (e) Solution found: **No**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, A, B, C, ... Infinite loop**

(5 marks)

5. Which of the following options correctly describes Greedy Best First Search (GBFS) **with** repeated state check?

c

   (a) Solution found: **A-B-E-G**; expanded nodes: **A, B, E, G**
   (b) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, D, B, C, H**
   (c) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, F, H**
   (d) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, D, H**
   (e) Solution found: **A-B-C-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, H**

Explanation:
Initial frontier: [A (h = 15)]
Removing A and expanding it results in 3 new nodes B, C, D, which do not contain the goal state.
Frontier: [B (h = 13), C (h = 10), D (h = 8)]
Removing D and expanding it results in 2 new nodes F and H. H is a goal state, so we stop.

Note: h refers to the heuristic value.

The resulting solution is **A-D-H**.
If one interprets "expanding" as merely the act of generating new nodes, which seems to be the interpretation followed by the question, the list of expanded nodes will be **A, B, C, D, F, H.**
If one follows the definition of expansion given in the AI: A Modern Approach book, which states that expansion means applying valid actions to a node to generate new nodes, the list of expanded nodes will be just **A and D**. Nodes **B, C, F, and H** have not been expanded but only discovered.

(5 marks)

b

6. Which of the following options correctly describes A* **with** repeated state check?

(a) Solution found: **A-B-E-G**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, E, G**
(b) Solution found: **A-B-C-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, E, D, H**
(c) Solution found: **A-B-C-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, C, D, E, D, H**
(d) Solution found: **A-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, D, H**
(e) Solution found: **A-B-C-D-H**; expanded nodes: **A, B, C, D, H**

Explanation:

Note: g refers to the path cost from the initial state to that node, f refers to the f-cost.

Initial frontier: [A (g = 0, f = 15)]
Removing A and expanding it results in 3 new nodes B, C, D, which do not contain the goal state.

Frontier: [B (g = 1, f = 14), C (g = 5, f = 15), D (g = 12, f = 20)]
Removing B, which has the lowest f-cost, and expanding it results in 2 new nodes C (g = 3, f = 13) and E, which do not contain the goal state. C (g = 5, f = 15) in the frontier is replaced by C (g = 3, f = 13).

Frontier: [C (g = 3, f = 13), D (g = 12, f = 20), E (g = 6, f = 17)]
Removing C, which has the lowest f-cost, and expanding it results in 2 new nodes A (g = 8, f = 23) and D (g = 8, f = 16), which do not contain the goal state. D (g = 12, f = 20) in the frontier is replaced by D (g = 8, f = 16).

Frontier: [D (g = 8, f = 16), E (g = 6, f = 17), A (g = 8, f = 23)]
Removing D, which has the lowest f-cost, and expanding it results in 2 new nodes F and H.

Frontier: [E (g = 6, f = 17), A (g = 8, f = 23), F (g = 15, f = 23), H (g = 19, f = 19)]
Removing E, which has the lowest f-cost, and expanding it results in 2 new nodes D (g = 14, f = 22) and G (g = 25, f = 25).

Frontier: [A (g = 8, f = 23), F (g = 15, f = 23), H (g = 19, f = 19), D (g = 14, f = 22), G (g = 25, f = 25)]
Removing H, which has the lowest f-cost, we find ourselves in the goal state, so we stop.

The resulting solution is **A-B-C-D-H.**
If one interprets "expanding" as merely the act of generating new nodes, the list of expanded nodes will be **A, B, C, D, C, E, D, A, F, H, D, G.**
If one follows the definition of expansion given in the AI: A Modern Approach book, which states that expansion means applying valid actions to a node to generate new nodes, the list of expanded nodes will be just **A, B, C, D, E.** Other nodes, even H, have not been expanded but only discovered. However, this is closest to answer B.
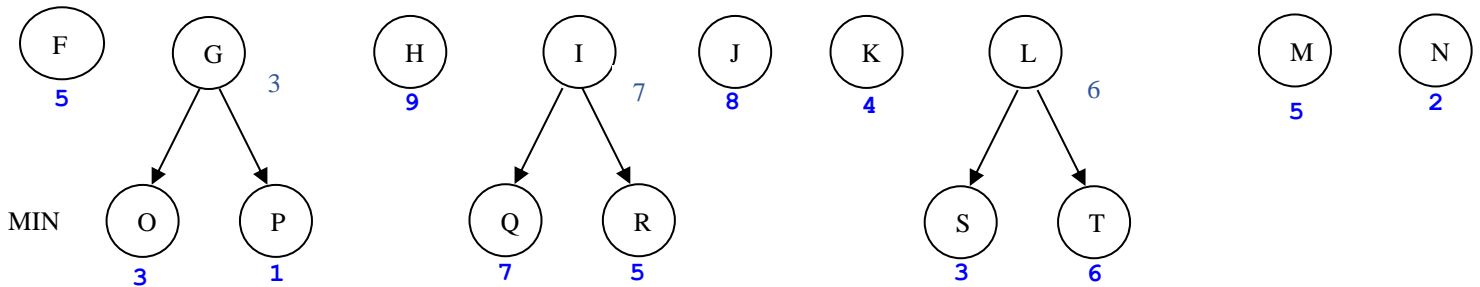
(5 marks + 5 bonus marks)

Problem 4 – Game Playing and Expected Values (18 marks)

Consider the following game tree in which the utility values are shown below each leaf node.
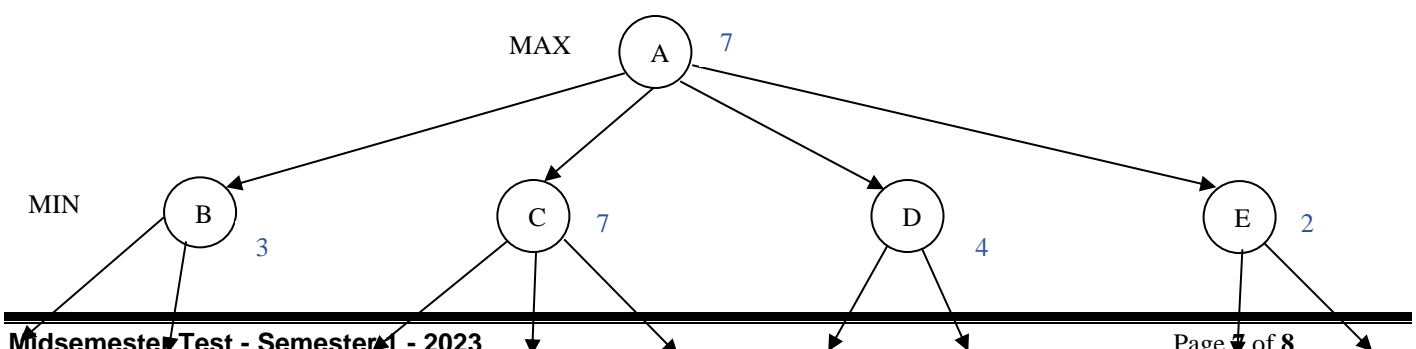
MAX

MIN

Assume that the root node corresponds to the maximising player. That is, **the first player (MAX)** is trying to maximise the final score. Assume that **the search always visits children left-to-right**.

Hints: If you want to insert extra information to explain your answer (such as game tree with details of alpha and beta), please feel free to do so.

For each of the following questions, choose one option:

1. According to **minimax**, the best first move for player MAX at node **A** is: [2]

    1) MAX moves from node **A** to node **B** with the expected final score being 5
    2) MAX moves from node **A** to node **C** with the expected final score being 7
    3) MAX moves from node **A** to node **D** with the expected final score being 6
    4) MAX moves from node **A** to node **E** with the expected final score being 2

    Explanation: Identifying nodes as either MAX or MIN, then calculating the MINIMAX value for each node, we get that the first move player MAX should take is to node C.

    (6 marks)

2. Using **alpha-beta pruning**, the following nodes will be pruned from the search tree during the search process: [3]

    1) **R, T, N** will be pruned.
    2) **J, L, S, T, N** will be pruned.
    3) **L, S, T, N** will be pruned.
    4) **R, J, L, S, T, N** will be pruned.
    5) **P, J, L, S, T, N** will be pruned.
    6) **P, R, J, T, N** will be pruned.

    (12 marks)