CS41 Homework 1

This homework is due at 10AM on Wednesday, September 7. Write your solution using \LaTeX. Submit this homework using github. This is an individual homework. It’s ok to discuss approaches at a high level. In fact, I encourage you to discuss general strategies. However, you should not reveal specific details of a solution, nor should you show your written solution to anyone else. The only exception to this rule is work you’ve done with a lab partner while in lab. In this case, note who you’ve worked with and what parts were solved during lab.

1. **Algorithm Analysis.** Consider the following algorithm for the Road Trip Problem.

   ```
   ROADTrip()
   1  k = 2.
   2  while you haven’t arrived at the Corn Palace:
   3       drive k miles east
   4       return to start
   5       drive k miles west
   6       return to start
   7  k = k^2.
   ```

Describe the distance traveled in `ROADTrip` as a function of the initial distance from the Corn Palace in the worst case. Express your answer in big-Oh notation. How does this algorithm compare to the algorithms we saw in class?

2. **Stable Matching Runtime.** We showed in class (at least after Friday’s class) that the Gale-Shapely Algorithm for stable matching terminates after at most \( n^2 \) iterations of the while loop.

   (a) For two sets \( A \) and \( B \) of size \( n \), can a particular list of rankings actually result in a quadratic number of iterations? If so, describe what the rankings would look like. If not, argue why no set of rankings would ever result in a quadratic number of iterations.

   **Note:** the algorithm need not take exactly \( n^2 \) iterations, but *asymptotically* \( n^2 \) iterations, meaning \( 0.1n^2 \) would be sufficient to show your claim.

   (b) Can a particular set of rankings result in strictly less than a quadratic number of iterations? Can you design an input that requires \( O(n) \) iterations? If so, describe the structure of this input. If not, argue why this is not possible.

   (c) Finally, can you design an input that takes fewer than \( n \) iterations? Why or why not?

Aim for clarity and conciseness in your write up of this problem. You should have all the necessary tools to express your solutions. You do not need formal proofs or pseudocode, but you should be able to clearly articulate your ideas in plain English.

3. **Hipster Coffee Tours.** A group of \( n \) Portland hipsters \( H = \{h_1, \ldots, h_n\} \) are touring a set of local coffee shops \( C = \{c_1, \ldots, c_n\} \) over the course of \( m \geq n \) days. Each hipster \( h_j \) has an itinerary where he/she decides to visit one coffee shop per day (or maybe take a day off if
$m > n$). However, hipsters are fiercely independent and prefer not to share coffee shops with other hipsters. Furthermore, each hipster is looking for a favorite coffee shop to call his or her own. Each hipster $h$ would like to choose a particular day $d_h$ and stay at his/her current coffee shop $c_h$ for the remaining $m - d_h$ days of the tour. Of course, this means that no other hipsters can visit $c_h$ after day $d_h$, since hipsters don’t like sharing coffee shops.

Show that no matter what the hipsters’ itineraries are, it is possible to assign each hipster $h$ a unique coffee shop $c_h$, such that when $h$ arrives at $c_h$ according to the itinerary for $h$, all other hipsters $h'$ have either stopped touring coffee shops themselves, or $h'$ will not visit $c_h$ after $h$ arrives at $c_h$. Describe an algorithm to find this matching.

**Hint:** The input is somewhat like the input to stable matching, but at least one piece is missing. Find a clever way to construct the missing piece(s), run stable matching, and show that the final result solves the hipster problem.

It may be necessary to break ties; i.e., two hipsters might choose to visit the same coffee shop on the same day. You may assume that the tie can be broken by having hipsters arrive at different times of the day such that if $h$ and $h'$ both want to visit $c$ on the same day, that there is some timestamp on their visits such that it is easy to determine who arrived at $c$ first. Thus, for any given day, at any given coffee shop, there is a well-defined ordering to the planned arrival time of the hipsters.

4. **Same-Sex Stable Marriage (Extra Credit).** In class, we discussed a version of the Stable Matching problem where we want to match $n$ men to $n$ women. In this problem, we discuss the single-sex version. The input is a set of people $A = \{p_1, \ldots, p_{2n}\}$ of size $2n$. Each person ranks the others in order of preference. A matching $M = \{(i, j)\}$ is instable if there exists $(i, j), (i', j') \in M$ such that $i$ prefers $j'$ to $j$ and that $j'$ prefers $i$ to $i'$. A matching is stable if it is perfect and there are no instabilities.

(a) Does a same-sex stable matching always exist? Prove that such a matching must always exist, or give an example where no stable matching occurs.

(b) Design and analyze an efficient algorithm that either returns a same-sex stable matching or outputs that no such matching exists.