

**Analysis of Algorithms and Heuristic Problem Solving, 2021/22, 08 June 2022, Written exam.**

All questions count equally. Literature, electronic and communication devices are not allowed. It is allowed to use 1 sheet of A4 format paper. You can write your answers in either English or Slovene. Duration: 90 minutes.

Students who wish to look into the written exam results can do so on Monday, 13 June 2022, at 12:00 in the room of Prof Robnik Šikonja (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, room 2.06).

1. Find the solution to the recurrence:

$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + T\left(\frac{n}{4}\right) + T\left(\frac{n}{6}\right) + T\left(\frac{n}{12}\right) + n$$

2. Consider a very simple online auction system that works as follows. There are  $n$  bidding agents; agent  $i$  has a bid  $b_i$ , which is a positive natural number. We will assume that all bids  $b_i$  are distinct from one another. The bidding agents appear in an order chosen uniformly at random, each proposes its bid  $b_i$  in turn, and at all times the system maintains a variable  $b^*$  equal to the highest bid seen so far. Initially,  $b^*$  is set to 0.

What is the expected number of times that  $b^*$  is updated when this process is executed, as a function of the parameters in the problem?

Example. Suppose  $b_1 = 20$ ,  $b_2 = 25$ , and  $b_3 = 10$ , and the bidders arrive in the order 1, 3, 2. Then  $b^*$  is updated for bidders 1 and 2, but not for 3.

3. Given a set of  $m$  linear inequalities on  $n$  variables  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ , the linear inequality feasibility problem asks whether there is a setting of the variables that simultaneously satisfies each of the inequalities. Show that if we have an algorithm for linear programming, we can use it to solve a linear-inequality feasibility problem. The number of variables and constraints that you use in the linear-programming problem should be polynomial in  $n$  and  $m$ .
4. You are given a task to solve the facility assignment problem defined as follows. There is a set  $U$  of users (defined with locations) that need access to a service, and a set of possible server locations  $S$ . For each site  $s \in S$ , there is a fee  $f_s \geq 0$  for placing a server at that location. Users  $u \in U$  can be served from multiple sites, with associated cost  $c_{us}$  for serving user  $u$  from site  $s$ . If cost  $c_{us}$  is high, we will avoid serving user  $u$  from site  $s$ ; in this way we can promote serving users from nearby sites.  
For sets  $U$  and  $S$ , and cost functions  $f$  and  $c$ , you have to select a subset  $A \subseteq S$  at which to place servers and assign each user to the active server where it is cheapest to be served.
  - a) Formally define an objective function that minimizes the total cost of placing the servers and serving the users.
  - b) Propose a data structure to represent the problem and describe a function that generates neighborhood to solve this task with local optimization.