

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
Faculty of Arts and Science

term test #2, Version 2  
CSC236F

Date: Friday November 16, 11:10–12:00pm or 12:10–1:00pm

Duration: 50 minutes

Instructor(s): Danny Heap

Examination Aids: pencils, pens, erasers, drinks, snacks

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first and last names:

utorid:

student number:

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Please read the following guidelines carefully!

- Please write your name, utorid, and student number on the front of this exam.
  - This examination has 2 questions. There are a total of 5 pages, **DOUBLE-SIDED**.
  - Answer questions clearly and completely.
  - You will receive 20% of the marks for any question you leave blank or indicate “I cannot answer this question.”
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Take a deep breath.  
This is your chance to show us  
How much you’ve learned.

We **WANT** to give you the credit

**Good luck!**

1. [13 marks] ( $\approx 35$  minutes)

Define  $T(n)$  by:

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n < 3 \\ 1 + 2T(n-3) & \text{if } n \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

- (a) [3 marks] Let  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ , and let  $r \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ . Use the method of repeated substitution (unwinding) to find a conjecture for a closed form for  $T(3q+r)$ , that is some function  $c$ , using a fixed number of elementary operations, such that  $c(3q+r) = T(3q+r)$ . You may assume that if  $r \in \mathbb{R}, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $r \neq 1$ , then  $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} r^i = (r^n - 1)/(r - 1)$ , if that assumption turns out to be useful.

**sample solution:** I notice that if  $3q+r-3 = 3(q-1)+r$ , and that  $T(r) = 1$ , so assuming  $q \geq 1$  for the moment:

$$\begin{aligned} T(3q+r) &= 1 + 2T(3(q-1)+r) = 1 + 2(1 + 2T(3(q-2)+r)) && \# \text{ by definition of } T \\ &= 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 T(3(q-2)+r) \\ &= \\ &= \vdots \text{ (I see a pattern)} \\ &= 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 + \cdots + 2^q T(3(q-q)+r) = \sum_{i=0}^{q-1} 2^i = 2^{q+1} - 1 \\ &&& \# \text{ using assumed identity for geometric series} \end{aligned}$$

This form also agrees with  $T(3q+r)$  when  $q = 0$ , so I'll conjecture  $c(q) = 2^{q+1} - 1$

- 2 marks for 2 successful substitutions
- 0.5 marks for successful derivation with summation
- 0.5 marks for replacing the summation with closed form

- (b) [6 marks] Let  $r \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ , and let function  $c$  be your conjecture for a closed form in part (a). Use induction on  $q$  to prove  $\forall q \in \mathbb{N}, c(3q+r) = T(3q+r)$ .

If you did not find a successful conjecture for  $c$  in part (a), for up to 4/6 marks you may show that  $\forall q \in \mathbb{N}, T(3q+r) \geq 2^q$ . If you choose this option we will **not** grade any attempt to earn the full 6/6.

**sample solution:** (with suitable closed form) Define  $P(q) : T(3q+r) = c(3q+r)$ . I will prove  $\forall q \in \mathbb{N}, P(q)$  by simple induction on  $q$ .

**base case(s):**  $c(3(0)+r) = 2^1 - 1 = 1 = T(r)$ , since  $r < 3$ . So  $T(0)$  holds.

**inductive step:** Let  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ . Assume  $P(q)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} T(3(q+1)+r) &= 1 + 2T(3q+r) && \# \text{ by definition, since } 3(q+1) \geq 3 \\ &= 1 + 2c(3q+r) = 1 + 2(2^{q+1} - 1) && \# \text{ by IH} \\ &= 1 + 2^{q+2} - 2 = 2^{(q+1)+1} - 1 = c(2(q+1)+r) \end{aligned}$$

So  $P(n+1)$  follows. ■

- 1 mark for defining, or consistently re-stating, predicate
- 1 mark for verifying base case
- 2 mark for introducing  $q$  and IH
- 1 mark for using the IH, and saying where you use it
- 1 mark for reaching conclusion

**weaker claim:** Define  $P(q) : T(3q + r) \geq 2^q$ . I will prove  $\forall q \in \mathbb{N}, P(q)$  by simple induction on  $q$ .

**base case:** By the definition of  $T(3(0) + r) = 1 \geq 1 = 2^0$ , so  $P(0)$  holds.

**inductive step:** Let  $q \in \mathbb{N}$  and assume  $P(q)$ . I will show that  $P(q + 1)$  follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T(3(q + 1) + r) &= 1 + 2T(3q + r) && \# \text{ by definition, since } 3(q + 1) \geq 3 \\ &\geq 1 + 2 \times 2^q && \# \text{ by } P(q) \\ &= 1 + 2^{q+1} \geq 2^{q+1} \end{aligned}$$

So  $P(q + 1)$  follows ■

- 1 mark for defining, or consistently re-stating, predicate
- 1 mark for verifying base case
- 1 mark for introducing  $q$  and IH
- 1 mark for using the IH and reaching conclusion

(c) [4 marks] Prove that  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}^+, T(n) - T(n - 1) \geq 0$ . In other words, prove that  $T$  is nondecreasing on  $\mathbb{N}$ . You may assume, as a consequence of the Quotient/Remainder Theorem, that  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \exists q, r \in \mathbb{N}, n = 3q + r \wedge 3 > r$ .

**sample solution:** (without induction) Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $q, r \in \mathbb{N}, n = 3q + r \wedge 3 > r$ . There are two cases to consider:

**case  $r = 0$ :** Then  $n = 3q + 0$  and  $n - 1 = 3(q - 1) + 2$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) - T(n - 1) &= T(3q + 0) + T(3(q - 1) + 2) = c(3q + 0) + c(3(q - 1) + 2) && \# \text{ by Q1(b)} \\ &= 2^{q+1} - 1 - 2^{q-1+1} + 1 = 2^{q+1} - 2^q = 2^q \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

**case  $r \in \{1, 2\}$ :** Then  $n = 3q + r$  and  $n - 1 = 3q + r - 1$ , where  $3 > r - 1 \geq 0$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) - T(n - 1) &= T(3q + r) - T(3q + r - 1) = c(3q + r) - c(3q + r - 1) && \# \text{ by Q1(b)} \\ &= 2^q - 1 - 2^q + 1 = 0 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

In both possible cases  $T(n) - T(n - 1) \geq 0$  ■

- 1 mark for introducing  $n$  in terms of  $q, r$
- 1 mark for breaking into cases
- 1 mark for applying closed form
- 1 mark for getting inequality

**alternative sample solution:** (with induction) Define  $P(n) : T(n) - T(n - 1) \geq 0$ . I will prove  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}^+, P(n)$  by complete induction

**inductive step:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$  and assume  $\bigwedge_{i=1}^{i=n-1} P(i)$ . I will show that  $P(n)$  follows:

**case  $n \geq 4$ :**

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) - T(n-1) &= 1 + 2T(n-3) - 1 - 2T(n-4) && \# \text{ since } n-1 \geq 3 \\ &= 2(T(n-3) - T(n-4)) \geq 0 && \# \text{ by } P(n-3), 1 \leq n-3 < n \end{aligned}$$

**case  $1 \leq n \leq 3$ :**  $T(1) - T(0) = 1 - 1 = 0 \geq 0$ , and  $T(2) - T(1) = 1 - 1 = 0 \geq 0$ , and  $T(3) - T(2) = 3 - 1 = 2 \geq 0$ , so  $P(1)$ ,  $P(2)$ , and  $P(3)$  hold.

In all possible cases,  $P(n)$  follows ■

- 1 mark for predicate
- 1 mark for three base cases
- 1 mark for assumptions
- 1 mark for inductive step

2. [5 marks] ( $\approx$  15 minutes)

Read over function `pal` below:

```

1 def pal(a_list: list) -> list:
2     """
3     Return a palindrome list based on a_list.
4
5     Precondition: a_list is a Python list.
6
7     Postcondition: Returns a_list[ : ] + a_list[ : : -1], where a_list[ : : -1]
8                     is just a_list[ : ] in reverse order.
9     """
10    if len(a_list) < 1:
11        return a_list[ : ]
12    else:
13        return a_list[0] + pal(a_list[1 : ]) + a_list[0]

```

Use induction on the size of `a_list` to prove that `pal`'s precondition, plus execution, implies its postcondition. Assume that the reverse-stride slice `[1, 2, 3, 4][ : : -1]` returns `[4, 3, 2, 1]`, that is the reverse of the original list.

**sample solution:** Define  $P(n)$  : For any list `a_list` with  $\text{len}(\text{a\_list}) = n$ , `pal(a_list)` returns `a_list[ : ] + a_list[ : : -1]`. I will prove  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, P(n)$  by simple induction on  $n$ .

**base case:** By lines 9&10 `pal([ ])` returns `[ ] = [ ] + [ : : -1]`, so  $P(0)$  holds.

**inductive step:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Assume  $P(n)$ . Let `a_list` be a list with  $\text{len}(\text{a\_list}) = n + 1$ . Then by lines 11&12 `pal(a_list)` returns:

`a_list[0] + pal(a_list[1 : ]) + a_list[0]`

which, by the inductive hypothesis, since  $\text{len}(\text{a\_list}[1 : ]) = n$ , is:

`a_list[0] + a_list[1 : ] + a_list[1 : : -1] + a_list[0]`

... which is `a_list[ : ] + a_list[ : : -1]`. So  $P(n + 1)$  follows.

- 1 mark for defining, or repeatedly re-stating, predicate
- 2 marks for introducing  $n$  and the inductive hypothesis
- 1 mark for using the inductive hypothesis, and making it clear that they have used it
- 1 mark for reaching conclusion