Homework 3

Amnon Ta-Shma
Dept. of Computer Science
Tel Aviv University

1. Exactly one out of the four values O_1, O_2, O_3, O_4 is one. Show that with two queries you can find *with success probability one*, the index i such that $O_i = 1$.

2.
   - Let $f : \{0,1\}^N \to \{0,1\}$ be a *symmetric* function. Prove that if there exists a degree k multi-variate polynomial $p : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}$ that ε–approximates f, then there exists a degree k *symmetric*, multi-variate polynomial $p' : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}$ that ε–approximates f.
   - Let $p : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}$ be a degree k *symmetric* polynomial. Prove that there exists a degree k *univariate* polynomial $q : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ such that for every $x_1, \ldots, x_N \in \{0,1\}^N$, $p(x_1, \ldots, x_N) = q(\sum x_i)$.
   - Prove that $deg(OR_N) = N$ and conclude that $Q_E(OR_N) \geq \frac{N}{2}$.
   - Prove that for any symmetric, non-trivial function $f : \{0,1\}^N \to \{0,1\}$ we have $\deg(f) \geq \frac{N}{2}$ and conclude that $Q_E(f) \geq \frac{N}{4}$.

3. A quantum black-box algorithm solves the OR function with one-sided unbounded error, if

   - On input $O_1 = O_2, \ldots = O_N = 0$ there is some positive probability of answering 0.
   - On input $O_1, O_2, \ldots, O_N$ such that $OR(O_1, \ldots, O_N) = 1$ the answer is always 1. In other words, whenever the answer is zero, $OR(O_1, \ldots, O_N) = 0$.

   Let us denote by $Q_1(OR)$ the minimal number of queries such an algorithm should make. Prove that $Q_1(OR) \geq \frac{N}{2}$.

4. (a) We are given $O_1, \ldots, O_N$ with the promise that there are exactly R elements with $O_i = 1$. Show an algorithm that finds (with a constant probability) such an i using only $O(\sqrt{\frac{N}{R}})$ queries.

   (b) Now we are given $O : [N] \to [N]$ with the promise that O is two-to-one (i.e., for every i there is exactly one other element having the same value O_i). Devise a quantum black-box algorithm that finds (with a constant probability) a collision (a pair $\{i, j\}$ such that $O_i = O_j$) using only $O(N^{1/3})$ queries.

   (c) Compare with Simon's algorithm.

   (d) Compare with classical algorithms.

5. Let $R_0(f)$ denote the query complexity of a probabilistic black-box algorithm that for every input $x \in \{0,1\}^N$ outputs 'quit' with probability at most half and $f(x)$ otherwise (such an algorithm is called a zero-error algorithm).

   The majority function $MAJ(x_1, x_2, x_3)$ returns 1 if two or three of its inputs are 1, and zero otherwise. The recursive-majority function is defined recursively as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(x_1, x_2, x_3) &= MAJ(x_1, x_2, x_3) \\
f(x_1, \ldots, x_{3^n}) &= f(f(x_1, \ldots, x_{3^{n-1}}), f(x_{3^{n-1}+1}, \ldots, x_{2\cdot 3^{n-1}}), f(x_{2\cdot 3^{n-1}+1}, \ldots, x_{3^n}))
\end{aligned}
$$

Let $N = 3^n$.

Prove that $R_0(f) \leq O(N^{\log_3 8 - 1}) \approx O(N^{0.892})$.

6. (the deterministic communication complexity of the median) Alice holds n elements $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ each from $[m]$ and Bob holds n elements $y_1, \ldots, y_n$ also from $[m]$. Their goal is to compute the median element of $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n, y_1, \ldots, y_n\}$. More generally, they both know some $1 \leq k \leq 2n$, and their goal is to compute the k'th largest element in the set $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n, y_1, \ldots, y_n\}$.

   - Show a deterministic protocol using only $O(\log(m) \cdot \log(n))$ communication bits.
   - Improve that to show a deterministic protocol using only $O(\log(m) + \log(n))$ communication bits.