MACM 202 Assignment 3, Spring 2004

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This assignment is worth 10% of your grade. It is due Monday February 23rd at 10:00am. A late penalty of 20% will apply for each day late. Do question 1, either 2 or 3, and 4. Do each question in a separate Maple worksheet and hand in a printout of each worksheet. Note: we intend to mark all (three) questions.

Question 1: Stephen Wolfram's Experiment (20 marks)

Consider a one-dimensional boolean cellular automaton where the value of cell i at time $t+1$ is a function of the values of cells $i-1, i, i+1$ at time t. Wolfram investigated what happens for all 256 boolean functions of three inputs. Write a loop which constructs and prints out all 256 boolean functions. I suggest something like this

```
> for i from 0 to 255 do
>   ...
>   ( f(0,0,0), f(0,0,1), ..., f(1,1,1) ) := ( .... );
>   lprint(i, (0,0,0)=f(0,0,0), (0,0,1)=f(0,0,1), ..., (1,1,1)=f(1,1,1));
> od:
```

Now, using the networks package, construct a cellular automaton with 101 nodes (arranged in a loop) where each function is your boolean function numbered $i = 30$. Run your network for 50 time steps with initial state $S_0 = [0, ..., 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, ..., 0]$. Draw the output using the drawrun command. Is the behaviour chaotic?

Question 2: Forest Fires in 2-Dimensions (40 marks)

Implement in Maple a procedure `run2dca(f,S0,m)` that runs a 2-dimensional cellular automaton on an n by n grid with cyclic boundary conditions where f is a function of the 8 neighbouring nodes and itself in the grid, S0 is the initial state of the cellular automaton (a Maple list of n lists of n numerical values) and $m > 0$ is the number of steps the automaton is run. Your procedure `run2dca` should output a list of $m + 1$ states where each state is a list of lists of numerical data.

Now model a forest fire in two dimensions as a 2-dimensional cellular automaton. A forest fire is an example of an excitable media. In the model you should initially assume that a quiescent state will burn (excite) if any of it's eight neighbours are burning. Moreover, a quiescent state should spontaneously excite (ignite) with low probability e.g. 0.0001. Run the model on a grid of size at least 20 by 20. You will need to run it for 40 or more steps. You can visually look at each state in the output using the plots[listdensityplot] command.

What you will find is that a forest fire will burn outward in a a *square wave* – which is not realistic – and, if there is another fire in another region, when the fires meet they will annihilate each other – which is realistic. Modify your cellular automaton so that the fire will burn outwards in a circular wave. And, if you wish, try to model the effect of the wind blowing from west to east.

Notes: Use the plots[listdensityplot] command to show selected states of runs of the cellular automaton. You may generate uniform random numbers on [0,1) with

```
> R10 := rand(10^10);
> U01 := proc() Float(R10(),-10) end;
> U01();
```

Question 3: Conway's Game of Life (40 marks)

Implement in Maple a procedure `run2dca(f,S0,m)` that runs a 2-dimensional cellular automaton on an n by n grid with cyclic boundary conditions where f is a function of the 8 neighbouring nodes and itself in the grid, S0 is the initial state of the cellular automaton (a Maple list of n lists of n numerical values) and $m > 0$ is the number of steps the automaton is run. Your procedure `run2dca` should output a list of $m + 1$ states where each state is a list of lists of numerical data.

Run the automaton using the game of life boolean function starting from some chosen initial states and some random initial states. Use the plots[listdensityplot] command to display selected states of a run of the cellular automaton.

Note, the rules in the text say that a cell is born (goes from 0 to 1) if exactly 4 neighboors are alive. Try using 3 instead of 4. You will need to use a grid of size 20 by 20 or more. You may generate a random starting state as follows (this generates a 1 with probability 1/3).

```
> r := rand(1..3):
> B := proc() if r()=1 then 1 else 0 fi end:
> S0 := [ seq( [seq(B(),i=1..n)], j=1..n )]:
```

Question 4: Serpinski's Gasket (40 marks)

Consider Serpinski's gasket as shown on page 112. Suppose p, q, r are the vertices of the initial triangle. Let s, t, u be the midpoints of the line segments $\bar{pq}, \bar{qr}$ and $\bar{r,p}$ respectively.

One way to draw Serpinski's gasket it is to draw all the little triangles. You can either draw the triangles in black as shown or just draw the boundaries; either way you'll get a good picture. Write a recursive Maple procedure to to this. For example, we can draw a black triangle p, q, r as a polygon POLYGONS([p, q, r],COLOR(RGB,0,0,0)) or the boundary as CURVES([p, q, r, p],THICKNESS(2)). We can draw the three black triangles as indicated in drawGasket[1] as either

PLOT(POLYGONS([p, s, u],[q, s, t],[r, t, u],COLOR(RGB,0,0,0)))

or

PLOT(CURVES([p, s, u, p],[q, s, t, q],[r, t, u, r],THICKNESS(2)))

A second way is described on pages 121–124 as the "Fractal game". Start with a point u_0 in the triangle p, q, r. Choose one of p, q, r at random. Say we choose q. Now compute $u_1 = (u_0 + q)/2$. Repeat this. Graph the points $u_0, u_1, u_2, \ldots$. You should get a picture of Serpinski's gasket. To generate a plot of the points use

PLOT(POINTS($u_0, u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_n$))

Now try to generalize both of these to 3 dimensions. In three dimensions you will start with a regular tetrahedron instead of an equilateral triangle. A regular tetrahedron has four vertices p, q, r, s. One choice is $p = (1, 1, 1), q = (-1, -1, 1), s = (-1, 1, -1), r = (1, -1, -1)$.