Principles of Distributed Computing
Exercise 11

1 Communication Complexity of Set Disjointness

In the lecture we studied the communication complexity of the equality function. Now we consider
the disjointness function: Alice and Bob are given subsets $X, Y \subseteq \{1, \ldots, k\}$ and need to determine
whether they are disjoint. Each subset can be represented by a string. E.g., we define the $i^{th}$ bit
of $x \in \{0,1\}^k$ as $x_i := 1$ if $i \in X$ and $x_i := 0$ if $i \notin X$. Now define disjointness of $X$ and $Y$ as:

$$DISJ(x, y) := \begin{cases} 
0 & \text{there is an index } i \text{ such that } x_i = y_i = 1 \\
1 & \text{else}
\end{cases}$$

a) Write down $M^{DISJ}$ for the $DISJ$-function when $k = 3$.

b) Use the matrix obtained in a) to provide a fooling set of size 4 for $DISJ$ in case $k = 3$.

c) In general, prove that $CC(DISJ) = \Omega(k)$.

2 Distinguishing Diameter 2 from 4

In the lecture we stated that when the bandwidth of an edge is limited to $O(\log n)$, the diameter of
a graph can be computed in $O(n)$. In this problem, we show that we can do faster in case we know
that all networks/graphs on which we execute an algorithm have either diameter 2 or diameter 4.
We start by partitioning the nodes into sets: Let $s := s(n)$ be a threshold and define the set of high
degree nodes $H := \{v \in V \mid d(v) \geq s\}$ and the set of low degree nodes $L := \{v \in V \mid d(v) < s\}$.
Next, we define: An $H$-dominating set $\mathcal{DOM}$ is a subset $\mathcal{DOM} \subseteq V$ of the nodes such that each
node in $H$ is either in the set $\mathcal{DOM}$ or adjacent to a node in the set $\mathcal{DOM}$. Assume in the
following, that we can compute an $H$-dominating set $\mathcal{DOM}$ of size $\frac{n \log n}{s}$ in time $O(D)$.

a) What is the distributed runtime of Algorithm 2-vs-4 (stated next page)? In case you believe
that the distributed implementation of a step is not known from the lecture, find a distributed
implementation for this step! **Hint: The runtime depends on $s$ and $n$.**

b) Find a function $s := s(n)$ such that the runtime is minimized (in terms of $n$).

c) Prove that if the diameter is 2, then Algorithm 2-vs-4 always returns 2.

Now assume that the diameter of the network is 4 and that we know vertices $u$ and $v$ with distance
4 to each other.
Algorithm 1 “2-vs-4”. Input: $G$ with diameter 2 or 4 Output: diameter of $G$

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1: if $L \neq \emptyset$ then
2:     choose $v \in L$
3:     compute a BFS tree from each vertex in $N_1(v)$
4:   else
5:     compute an $H$-dominating set $DOM$
6:     compute a BFS tree from each vertex in $DOM$
7: end if
8: if all BFS trees have depth 2 or 1 then
9:     return 2
10: else
11:     return 4
12: end if
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d) Prove that if the algorithm performs a BFS from at least one node $w \in N_1(u)$ it decides “the diameter is 4”.

e) In case $L \neq \emptyset$: Prove that the algorithm performs a BFS of depth at least 3 from some node $w$. Hint: use d)

f) In case $L = \emptyset$: Prove that the algorithm performs a BFS of depth at least 3 from some node $w$.

g) Give a high level idea, why you think that this does not violate the lower bound of $\Omega(n/\log n)$ presented in the lecture!

h) Assume $s = \frac{n}{2}$. Prove or disprove: If the diameter is 2, then Algorithm 2-vs-4 will always compute some BFS tree of depth exactly 2.