Databases

(a) Define the notion of a safe query in the relational calculus. [2 marks]

(b) Suppose that we have schemas $R(A, B)$ and $S(B, C)$, and that the number of tuples in $R$ is $r$ and the number of tuples in $S$ is $s$. Suppose that both $R$ and $S$ are not empty, and that neither contains duplicates.

For each of the following relational algebra queries, state in terms of $r$ and $s$ the minimum possible and maximum possible number of tuples in the result.

(i) $\sigma_p(R \times S)$ [2 marks]
(ii) $\pi_{A, C}(R \times S)$ [2 marks]
(iii) $\pi_B(R) - (\pi_B(R) - \pi_B(S))$ [2 marks]
(iv) $R \bowtie L S$ (left outerjoin) [2 marks]
(v) $R \bowtie S$ (full outerjoin) [2 marks]

(c) Again, suppose that we have schemas $R(A, B)$ and $S(B, C)$. Make no assumptions about functional dependencies. Let $b$ be some value from domain $B$. Consider the following relational algebra queries.

1. $\pi_{A,C}(R \bowtie \sigma_{B=b}(S))$
2. $\pi_A(\sigma_{B=b}(R)) \times \pi_C(\sigma_{B=b}(S))$
3. $\pi_{A,C}(\pi_A(R) \times \sigma_{B=b}(S))$

Two of these queries always return the same result, while one may not. Which one is different? Give a simple database instance in which this query returns a different result. [8 marks]