1 Databases (TGG)

(a) In the database context, what do we mean by redundant data? [1 mark]

(b) Why might it be a good idea to have redundant data in a database? [2 marks]

(c) Why might it be a bad idea to have redundant data in a database? [2 marks]

(d) Suppose a database has tables $R(A, B)$ and $S(B, C)$. Explain how using an index could improve performance when joining $R$ and $S$. Is there a downside to using an index? [4 marks]

(e) In SQL, what could be returned when evaluating the following expression?

$$\text{NOT (a OR (NOT a))}$$

[2 marks]

(f) Suppose $R(\text{start}, \text{end})$ is a table in a relational database representing arcs in a directed graph. That is, each record $(x, y) \in R$ represents an arc from node $x$ to node $y$.

(i) Write an SQL query that returns the start and end of all 3-hop paths in the directed graph represented by $R$. Your query should return columns named $\text{start}$, $\text{end}$. Each row $(x, y)$ in the result of your query should indicate that there exists a path in $R$

$$x \rightarrow z \rightarrow u \rightarrow y$$

for some nodes $z$ and $u$. [4 marks]

(ii) What is the transitive closure of $R$? Why is this difficult to compute in SQL if we ignore recursive query constructs? [5 marks]