

1. A strategy improvement algorithm for stopping SSGs starts with an arbitrary pair of strategies for Max and Min. At each iteration, the algorithm modifies the currently obtained strategies  $(\sigma, \tau)$  (for Max, Min respectively) to a new pair  $(\sigma', \tau')$  based on the values  $\bar{v}_{\sigma, \tau}$ . Which of the following modification schemes are correct? Justification is not necessary.
  - (i)  $\sigma'$  is obtained from  $\sigma$  by switching all  $\bar{v}_{\sigma, \tau}$  switchable max nodes,  $\tau'$  is the Min strategy that is optimal with respect to  $\sigma'$
  - (ii)  $\tau'$  is obtained from  $\tau$  by switching all  $\bar{v}_{\sigma, \tau}$  switchable min nodes,  $\sigma'$  is the Max strategy that is optimal with respect to  $\tau'$
  - (iii)  $\sigma'$  is obtained by switching all  $\bar{v}_{\sigma, \tau}$  switchable max nodes,  $\tau'$  is obtained by switching all  $\bar{v}_{\sigma, \tau}$  switchable min nodes
  - (iv)  $\sigma'$  is the optimal Max strategy with respect to  $\tau$ , and  $\tau'$  is the optimal Min strategy with respect to  $\sigma'$
2. Consider the translation of a discounted payoff game to an SSG as discussed in class. Does this translation give a stopping SSG? Justify.
3. Show that the value iteration method for a stopping SSG converges to its value vector if the initial vector assigns 1 to all nodes.
4. Let  $G$  be a stopping SSG, with vertex  $x$  as the 0-sink and vertex  $y$  as the 1-sink. Let  $G'$  be the SSG obtained from  $G$  by interchanging the sinks: vertex  $x$  becomes the 1-sink and vertex  $y$  becomes the 0-sink. The rest of the graph is the same. Suppose the value of a vertex  $a$  in  $G$  equals  $v_a$ . Is the value of  $a$  in  $G'$  equal to  $1 - v_a$ ? Justify.
5. Consider a generalized SSG.
  - (i) If the value of a sink vertex is decreased by  $\kappa$ , how does the value vector change?
  - (ii) If the value of some sink vertices are decreased by  $\kappa_1$  and some are increased by  $\kappa_2$ , what can you say about the new value vector?