Feedback — Problem Set #4

Help Center

You submitted this quiz on **Mon 20 Apr 2015 11:43 AM IST**. You got a score of **5.00** out of **5.00**.

Question 1

Consider a directed graph with real-valued edge lengths and no negative-cost cycles. Let s be a source vertex. Assume that there is a unique shortest path from s to every other vertex. What can you say about the subgraph of G that you get by taking the union of these shortest paths? [Pick the strongest statement that is guaranteed to be true.]

Your Answer		Score	Explanation
It is a directed acyclic subgraph in which s has no incoming arcs.			
It is a tree, with all edges directed away from s.	✔	1.00	Subpaths of shortest paths must themselves be shortest paths. Combining this with uniqueness, the union of shortest paths cannot include two different paths between any source and destination.
It has no strongly connected component with more than one vertex.			
It is a path, directed away from s.			
Total		1.00 / 1.00	

Question 2

Consider the following optimization to the Bellman-Ford algorithm. Given a graph $G = (V, E)$ with real-valued edge lengths, we label the vertices $V = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$. The source vertex s should be labeled "1", but the rest of the labeling can be arbitrary. Call an edge $(u, v) \in E$ *forward* if $u < v$ and *backward* if $u > v$. In every odd iteration of the outer loop (i.e., when $i = 1, 3, 5, \dots$), we visit the vertices in the order from 1 to n. In every even iteration of the outer loop (when $i = 2, 4, 6, \dots$), we visit the vertices in the order from n to 1. In every odd iteration, we update the value of $A[i, v]$ using only the forward edges of the form (w, v), using the *most recent* subproblem value for w (that from the current iteration rather than the previous one). That is, we compute $A[i, v] = \min\{A[i-1, v], \min_{(w,v)} A[i, w] + c_{wv}\}$, where the inner minimum ranges only over forward edges sticking into v (i.e., with $w < v$). Note that all relevant subproblems from the current round ($A[i, w]$ for all $w < v$ with $(w, v) \in E$) are available for constant-time lookup. In even iterations, we compute this same recurrence using only the backward edges (again, all relevant subproblems from the current round are available for constant-time lookup). Which of the following is true about this modified Bellman-Ford algorithm?

Your Answer	Score	Explanation
It correctly computes shortest paths if and only if the input graph is a directed acyclic graph.		
This algorithm has an asymptotically superior running time to the original Bellman-Ford algorithm.		
It correctly computes shortest paths if and only if the input graph has no negative edges.		

It correctly computes shortest paths if and only if the input graph has no negative-cost cycle.	✔	1.00	Indeed. Can you prove it? As a preliminary step, prove that with a directed acyclic graph, considering destinations in topological order allows one to compute correct shortest paths in one pass (and thus, in linear time). Roughly, pass i of this optimized Bellman-Ford algorithm computes shortest paths amongst those comprising at most i "alternations" between forward and backward edges.
Total		1.00 / 1.00	

Question 3

Consider a directed graph in which every edge has length 1. Suppose we run the Floyd-Warshall algorithm with the following modification: instead of using the recurrence A[i,j,k] = min{A[i,j,k-1], A[i,k,k-1] + A[k,j,k-1]}, we use the recurrence A[i,j,k] = A[i,j,k-1] + A[i,k,k-1] * A[k,j,k-1]. For the base case, set A[i,j,0] = 1 if (i,j) is an edge and 0 otherwise. What does this modified algorithm compute -- specificially, what is A[i,j,n] at the conclusion of the algorithm?

Your Answer		Score	Explanation
None of the other answers are correct.	✔	1.00	Indeed. How would you describe what the recurrence is in fact computing?
The length of a longest path from i to j.			
The number of shortest paths from i to j.			
The number of simple (i.e., cycle-free) paths from i to j.			
Total		1.00 / 1.00	

Question 4

Suppose we run the Floyd-Warshall algorithm on a directed graph $G = (V, E)$ in which every edge's length is either -1, 0, or 1. Suppose further that G is strongly connected, with at least one u-v path for every pair u, v of vertices. The graph G may or may not have a negative-cost cycle. How large can the final entries A[i,j,n] be, in absolute value? Choose the smallest number that is guaranteed to be a valid upper bound. (As usual, n denotes $|V|$.) [WARNING: for this question, make sure you refer to the implementation of the Floyd-Wardshall algorithm given in lecture, rather than to some alternative source.]

Your Answer		Score	Explanation
$n-1$			
2^n	✔	1.00	By induction. Can you prove a sharper (exponential) bound, or is this tight?
n^2			
$+\infty$			
Total		1.00 / 1.00	

Question 5

Which of the following events cannot possibly occur during the reweighting step of Johnson's algorithm for the all-pairs shortest-paths problem? (Assume that the input graph has no negative-cost cycles.)

Your Answer	Score	Explanation
Reweighting strictly increases the length of some s-t path, while strictly decreasing the length of some		

t-s path.

In a directed graph with at least one cycle, reweighting causes the length of every path to strictly increase.	✔	1.00	Consider two "halves" of a cycle. The increase in length of one of these paths equals the decrease in length of the other path.
The length of some edge strictly decreases after the reweighting.			
In a directed acyclic graph, reweighting causes the length of every path to strictly increase.			
Total		1.00 / 1.00	