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# Interview Questions: Shortest Paths (ungraded)

TOTAL POINTS 3

1. **Monotonic shortest path.** Given an edge-weighted digraph  $G$ , design an  $E \log E$  algorithm to find a *monotonic* shortest path from  $s$  to every other vertex. A path is *monotonic* if the sequence of edge weights along the path are either strictly increasing or strictly decreasing. 1 / 1 point

Monotonic shortest path.



**Correct**

*Hint:* relax edges in ascending order to find a best monotonically increasing path; relax edges in descending order to find a best monotonically decreasing path.

2. **Second shortest path.** Given an edge-weighted digraph and let  $P$  be a shortest path from vertex  $s$  to vertex  $t$ . Design an  $E \log V$  algorithm to find a path (not necessarily simple) other than  $P$  from  $s$  to  $t$  that is as short as possible. Assume all of the edge weights are strictly positive. 1 / 1 point

Second shortest path.



**Correct**

*Hint:* compute the shortest path distances from  $s$  to every vertex and the shortest path distances from every vertex to  $t$ .

3. **Shortest path with one skippable edge.** Given an edge-weighted digraph, design an  $E \log V$  algorithm to find a shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$  where you can change the weight of any one edge to zero. Assume the edge weights are nonnegative. 1 / 1 point

Shortest path with one skippable edge.



**Correct**

*Hint:* compute the shortest path from  $s$  to every vertex; compute the shortest path from every vertex to  $t$ ; combine.