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# Elements Of Programming Interviews: The Insiders' Guide



## Synopsis

The Python version of EPI is available on ! Search for Elements of Programming Interview in Python, or use the short link [bit.ly/epipython](https://bit.ly/epipython) This is the C++ version. Before you buy this book, please first head over to our sample page - [elementsofprogramminginterviews.com/sample](https://elementsofprogramminginterviews.com/sample) The sampler should give you a very good idea of the quality and style of our book. In particular, be sure you are comfortable with the level and with our C++ coding style. Solutions include code snippets which are primarily in C++. Complete programs are available at [epibook.github.io](https://epibook.github.io). Since different candidates have different time constraints, EPI includes a study guide with several scenarios, ranging from weekend Hackathon to semester long preparation with a recommended a subset of problems for each scenario. All problems are classified in terms of their difficulty level and include many variants to help you apply what you have learned more widely. All problems includes hints for readers who get stuck. This simulates what you will face in the real interview. The version being sold by itself is always current. Some resellers may have older versions, especially if they sell used copies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A practical, fun approach to computer science fundamentals, as seen through the lens of common programming interview questions." Jeff Atwood / Co-founder, Stack Overflow and Discourse "This book prepares the reader for contemporary software interviews, and also provides a window into how algorithmic techniques translate into the workplace. It emphasizes problems that stem

from real-world applications and can be coded up in a reasonable time, and is a wonderful complement to a traditional computer science algorithms and data structures course."Ashish Goel / Professor, Stanford University "A wonderful resource for anyone preparing for a modern software engineering interview: work through the entire book, and you'll find the actual interview a breeze. More generally, for algorithms enthusiasts, EPI offers endless hours of entertainment while simultaneously learning neat coding tricks."Vineet Gupta / Principal Engineer, Google

Have you ever...Wanted to work at an exciting futuristic company?Struggled with an interview problem that could have been solved in 15 minutes?Wished you could study real-world computing problems?If so, you need to read Elements of Programming Interviews (EPI).

This book organizes the domain of interview questions and how to solve them. It provides over 300 questions and ranks them by type and difficulty. It discusses not only the solution, but discusses algorithmic complexity and what should be considered inefficient solution versus an elegant more efficient one. It also gives a study plan based on your time horizon to starting to interview. It really covers all the bases. Finally it discusses C++11 syntax and features in solving it. It also includes non technical advice about resume preparation, the interview process and what not to do. It really covers all the bases for interviewing in the IT industry as a software developer.

1. Great writing style which used precise mathematical definitions and figures which clearly explained concepts.
2. Provides good interviewing tips and completed strategies for how to prepare for a technical interview and how to write a resume.
3. Gives several study schedules based for different time constraints.
4. Explains solutions in details and provides hints.
5. EPI is mainly focus on CS-major and Math-major readers, since it needs solid knowledge about algorithms and data structures. Other readers may have some difficulties on understanding the proofs and concepts.
6. EPI is an advanced book compared with other similar materials such as "Cracking the Coding Interview" and "Programming Interviews Exposed".
7. A little bit hassle for JAVA developer, but authors do provide java codes on the website.
8. I love the quotes in the beginning of each chapter. I am very glad to have this book on my shelf, it's not only just a technical interview preparing material but also a instructor helps readers to think

For short, I really love this book, I started to read it, right after I failed some interviews, even worse, I

had no idea where I can be better. EPI gives me a way. Thanks all of you for it. 1. My story Yes, it sounds wired I love a such practical and specific book, but yes once you create like me: spend many times on preparing a tech interview, you will understand how important that you are in a right track. Started to prepare programming interview two months ago, like everyone else, I learned from glassdoor and careercup, because the problems seems more advanced and practical compare to other interview preparation books. But the thing is, I have no idea whether my solution is good enough. After preparing for the interview couple of months, I thought I was well prepared, but in some interviews (God, I really don't want to recall that nightmares), when the interviewer asked me to improve my solution, I had no idea. This is a big problem. Because maybe you think you are right, but the truth is not. And even worse, you found you were wrong when you were interviewing! This is, from my point of view, the most unique characteristic of Element of Programming Interview:

2. Practical Because the context of tech interview, I want to redefine "Practical": Every round of an onsite/phone interview is roughly one hour, a candidate needs to talk about himself/herself or introduces his/her projects listed on the resume for 10 mins, and has to finish two programming problems also. We just have 25 mins to analysis the problem, figure out which algorithm/data structure we should use. Only 10 mins left for each problem. A good candidate must clarify the problem, explain his/her own approach, write the code on whiteboard and test it within the time limitation. 1). A practical approach must be concise and comprehensive. Talking too much is wasting your time and nonsense words don't count. 2). A practical code must be short enough that you can write it on board in 10 minutes. Someone tends to write 50 - 60 lines of code, but it's not efficient. Base on my observation, the number of lines should not over 30 lines. If you think I'm right, let me invite you read the sample of EPI, it's really practical that could help you improve yourself on the right way. Advanced - yes the problem is hard enough! There is an old Chinese saying: Over prepare is the best. Interview questions are hard enough for those who are not proficient with data structure and algorithm, even for Computer Science majored students. To achieve our target, we need more time to study some harder problem which could lead us to a more deeper understanding of basic data structure. EPI introduces not only poster child of Computer Science like Binary Tree, but also advanced data structure and like augmented binary tree or quick selection algorithm. Yes, definitely, most of us have learned them from textbook, but I think we need more examples to understand when to use them and why to use them. This lead to another good part of EPI I want to share: Topic with exercise We learned many from textbook, but we don't have enough opportunities to practice what

we've learned. Yes, you may never touch those in the future of your career life, but with a high probability, you may encounter them in the interview. EPI also provides some not-so-easy exercises named as Variant.

I would rank the three core programming interview training books as: Elements of Programming Interviews > Cracking the Coding Interview > Programming Interviews Exposed. All three are solid books, and have helped me land a job, but I feel like Elements is the most technically solid and clearly written by top software engineers and interviewing experts. If you are training for an interview, start with this book and consider a leetcode subscription. Expand to the other books if you have more time.

This book is very useful for preparing the coding interview. This book is recommended from a web forum, as an advancement after some training on the online coding judging website. I feel very happy to take this book.1) The first part of the book summarizes the interview strategy and problem-solving patterns in a systematic way, which is very useful and can not be easily found in other coding textbooks. I need to read it multiple times to enhance my understanding on coding skills.2) The second part contains lots of coding puzzles, categorized into different chapters. All the problems are given a nice solution, and some problems have additional variant problems in the answer section in later sections of the book. Besides some common-seen topics such as DP, recursion, alg specific to some data-structure, the book also covers other important but not very common-seen topics such as greedy, parallel computing, and design problems.3) The ninja problems are really difficult, and some of the solutions are really smart and interesting. Taking exercises on these difficult puzzles, and it will help to train the problem-solving ability.

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