



<http://algs4.cs.princeton.edu>

ALGORITHMS, PARTS I AND II

- ▶ *overview*
- ▶ *why study algorithms?*
- ▶ *resources*

Course overview

What is this course?

- Intermediate-level survey course.
- Programming and problem solving, with applications.
- **Algorithm:** method for solving a problem.
- **Data structure:** method to store information.

topic	data structures and algorithms	
data types	stack, queue, bag, union-find, priority queue	part 1
sorting	quicksort, mergesort, heapsort	
searching	BST, red-black BST, hash table	
graphs	BFS, DFS, Prim, Kruskal, Dijkstra	part 2
strings	radix sorts, tries, KMP, regexps, data compression	
advanced	B-tree, suffix array, maxflow	

Why study algorithms?

Their impact is broad and far-reaching.

Internet. Web search, packet routing, distributed file sharing, ...

Biology. Human genome project, protein folding, ...

Computers. Circuit layout, file system, compilers, ...

Computer graphics. Movies, video games, virtual reality, ...

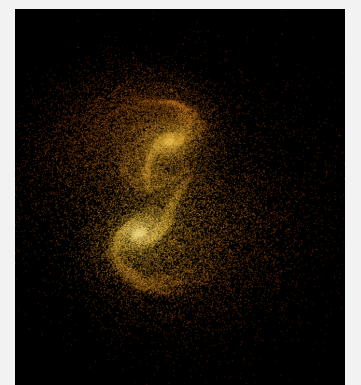
Security. Cell phones, e-commerce, voting machines, ...

Multimedia. MP3, JPG, DivX, HDTV, face recognition, ...

Social networks. Recommendations, news feeds, advertisements, ...

Physics. N-body simulation, particle collision simulation, ...

⋮



Why study algorithms?

Old roots, new opportunities.

- Study of algorithms dates at least to Euclid.
- Formalized by Church and Turing in 1930s.
- Some important algorithms were discovered by undergraduates in a course like this!



Why study algorithms?

To solve problems that could not otherwise be addressed.

Ex. Network connectivity. [stay tuned]



Why study algorithms?

For intellectual stimulation.

“ For me, great algorithms are the poetry of computation. Just like verse, they can be terse, allusive, dense, and even mysterious. But once unlocked, they cast a brilliant new light on some aspect of computing. ” — Francis Sullivan

“ An algorithm must be seen to be believed. ” — Donald Knuth



Why study algorithms?

To become a proficient programmer.

“ I will, in fact, claim that the difference between a bad programmer and a good one is whether he considers his code or his data structures more important. Bad programmers worry about the code. Good programmers worry about data structures and their relationships. ”

— Linus Torvalds (creator of Linux)



“ Algorithms + Data Structures = Programs. ” — Niklaus Wirth



Why study algorithms?

They may unlock the secrets of life and of the universe.

Computational models are replacing math models in scientific inquiry.

$$\begin{aligned} E &= mc^2 \\ F &= ma \qquad F = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2} \\ \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V(r) \right] \Psi(r) &= E \Psi(r) \end{aligned}$$

20th century science
(formula based)

```
for (double t = 0.0; true; t = t + dt)
  for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
  {
    bodies[i].resetForce();
    for (int j = 0; j < N; j++)
      if (i != j)
        bodies[i].addForce(bodies[j]);
  }
```

21st century science
(algorithm based)


“ Algorithms: a common language for nature, human, and computer. ” — Avi Wigderson

Why study algorithms?

For fun and profit.

The Google logo, featuring the word "Google" in its signature multi-colored font.

Apple Computer

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.The Cisco Systems logo, featuring the words "CISCO SYSTEMS" in red above a stylized blue and white bar chart.The Nintendo logo, with the word "Nintendo" in white inside a red rounded rectangle.The Jane Street logo, featuring a stylized yellow circular pattern next to the words "JANE STREET" in yellow.The IBM logo, consisting of the letters "IBM" in a blue, horizontally-striped font.The Morgan Stanley logo, with the words "Morgan Stanley" in white on a dark blue background.The Netflix logo, with the word "NETFLIX" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a red background.The Adobe logo, featuring a stylized red "A" above the word "Adobe" in black.The RSA Security logo, with the letters "RSA" in white on a red square, and the word "SECURITY" in black below it.The D E Shaw & Co logo, featuring the company name in blue serif font with a green line graphic above it.The Oracle logo, with the word "ORACLE" in red, outlined, sans-serif capital letters.The Akamai logo, with a stylized blue wave icon next to the word "Akamai" in yellow.The Yahoo! logo, with the word "YAHOO!" in red, bold, sans-serif capital letters.The Amazon.com logo, with the text "amazon.com" in black, featuring a yellow curved arrow underneath the word "amazon".The Microsoft logo, with the word "Microsoft" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.The Pixar Animation Studios logo, featuring the word "PIXAR" in large letters with a small character between the 'I' and 'X', and "ANIMATION STUDIOS" in smaller letters below.

Why study algorithms?

- Their impact is broad and far-reaching.
- Old roots, new opportunities.
- To solve problems that could not otherwise be addressed.
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- To become a proficient programmer.
- They may unlock the secrets of life and of the universe.
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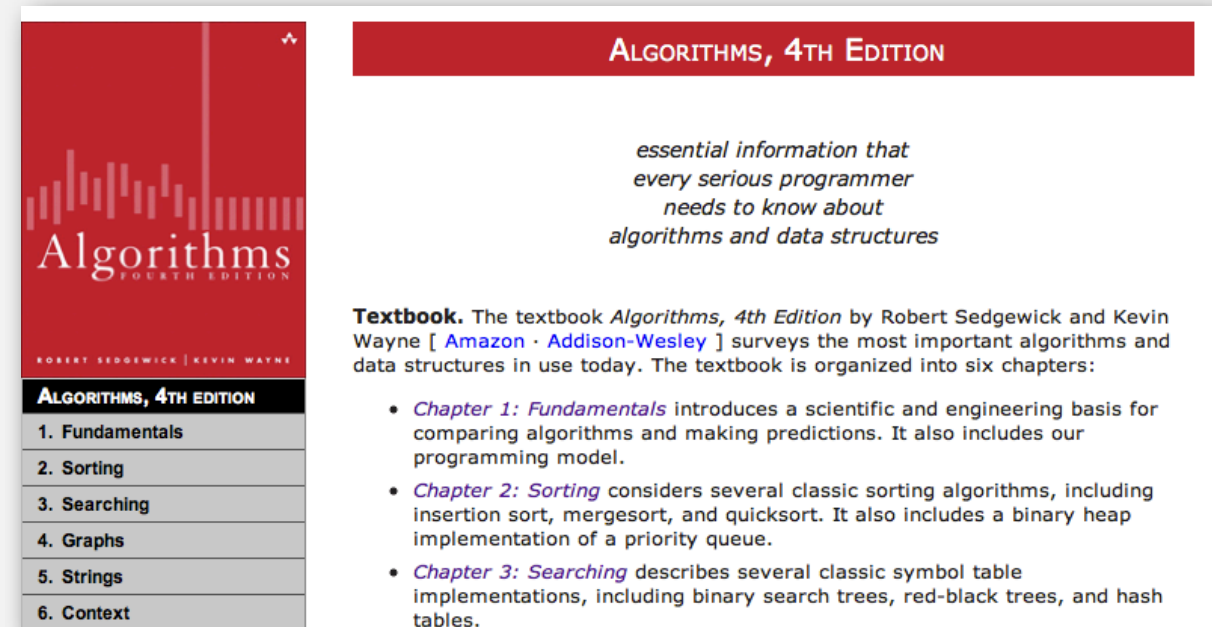
Why study anything else?



Resources

Booksite.

- Lecture slides.
- Download code.
- Summary of content.



<http://algs4.cs.princeton.edu>

Textbook (optional).

- *Algorithms, 4th edition* by Sedgwick and Wayne.
- More extensive coverage of topics.
- More topics.



ISBN 0-321-57351-X

Prerequisites

Prerequisites.

- Programming: loops, arrays, functions, objects, recursion.
- Java: we use as expository language.
- Mathematics: high-school algebra.

Review of prerequisite material.

- Quick: Sections 1.1 and 1.2 of *Algorithms, 4th edition*.
- In-depth: *An Introduction to programming in Java: an interdisciplinary approach* by Sedgewick and Wayne.

Programming environment.

- Use your own, e.g., Eclipse.
- Download ours (see instructions on web).

Quick exercise. Write a Java program.



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