

## Step 1: Core Foundations (Priority 1)

These are the most common topics you'll encounter in coding interviews. Master these first.

### 1. Arrays and Strings

- Start with basic array manipulations.
- Practice:
  - Traversals, insertions, deletions.
  - Sorting (Bubble, Selection, Merge, Quick Sort).
  - Searching (Linear and Binary Search).
  - String operations (reversal, anagram checks, substring finding).
- **Problems to Solve:**
  - Two Sum
  - Longest Substring Without Repeating Characters
  - Rotate Array
  - Maximum Subarray (Kadane's Algorithm)

### 2. Hashing

- Learn how to use HashMaps and HashSets.
- Practice:
  - Frequency counting.
  - Checking duplicates.
  - Solving problems like two-sum efficiently.
- **Problems to Solve:**
  - Subarray Sum Equals K
  - Longest Consecutive Sequence
  - Group Anagrams

### 3. Stacks and Queues

- Understand their properties and when to use them.
- Practice:
  - Next Greater Element
  - Valid Parentheses
  - Implement Stack Using Queues
- **Problems to Solve:**
  - Min Stack
  - Sliding Window Maximum

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## Step 2: Intermediate Data Structures (Priority 2)

These topics build on the basics and add versatility.

### 4. Linked Lists

- Master operations like insertion, deletion, reversal, and cycle detection.
- Practice:
  - Merge Two Sorted Lists
  - Reverse a Linked List
  - Detect Cycle in a Linked List (Floyd's Algorithm)
  - Remove N-th Node from End of List

## 5. Trees

- Learn basic tree traversals (inorder, preorder, postorder).
- Understand Binary Search Tree (BST) properties.
- Practice:
  - Maximum Depth of Binary Tree
  - Lowest Common Ancestor
  - Serialize and Deserialize Binary Tree
- Gradually move to:
  - Diameter of Binary Tree
  - Balanced Binary Tree

## 6. Recursion and Backtracking

- Practice:
  - Permutations and Combinations
  - N-Queens Problem
  - Sudoku Solver
  - Subset Sum Problem

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## Step 3: Advanced Data Structures (Priority 3)

These are essential for solving complex problems.

## 7. Graphs

- Understand representation (Adjacency Matrix and List).
- Master:
  - BFS and DFS (recursive and iterative).
  - Shortest Path Algorithms (Dijkstra, Bellman-Ford).
  - Minimum Spanning Trees (Prim's and Kruskal's Algorithms).
- **Problems to Solve:**
  - Clone Graph
  - Number of Islands
  - Detect Cycles in Undirected/Directed Graphs

## 8. Tries

- Learn how to use Tries for prefix-based problems.
- **Problems to Solve:**
  - Implement Trie (Prefix Tree)
  - Word Search II
  - Auto-complete System

## 9. Dynamic Programming (DP)

- Start with simple problems:
    - Fibonacci Sequence
    - Climbing Stairs
    - Longest Increasing Subsequence
    - Knapsack Problem
  - Progress to:
    - Longest Palindromic Substring
    - Edit Distance
    - Minimum Path Sum
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#### Step 4: Combination and Optimization (Priority 4)

Start combining multiple concepts and optimizing solutions.

##### 10. Sliding Window and Two Pointers

- Useful for array and string problems.
- **Problems to Solve:**
  - Longest Substring Without Repeating Characters
  - Minimum Window Substring
  - Trapping Rain Water

##### 11. Greedy Algorithms

- Understand when greedy strategies work and when they fail.
- **Problems to Solve:**
  - Activity Selection Problem
  - Huffman Encoding
  - Minimum Number of Platforms

##### 12. Divide and Conquer

- Master solving problems by breaking them into sub-problems.
- **Problems to Solve:**
  - Merge Sort
  - Quick Sort
  - Median of Two Sorted Arrays

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#### Step 5: Master Problem-Solving

Once you've learned individual topics:

1. **Mix Problems:** Solve problems involving multiple data structures and algorithms.
  - Example: Use heaps and graphs together for Dijkstra's Algorithm.
2. **Simulate Interviews:** Solve problems under a time constraint to simulate real interviews.
3. **Analyze Your Code:** Optimize for time and space complexity.

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#### Suggested Weekly Plan

Week	Focus Topic	Goals
1	Arrays, Strings, and Hashing	Solve 20–30 problems.
2	Linked Lists and Recursion	Solve 15–20 problems.
3	Stacks, Queues, and Trees	Solve 20 problems with tree traversals.
4	Graphs and BFS/DFS	Solve 15 graph problems.
5	Dynamic Programming and Tries	Solve 20–30 DP problems.
6	Mixed Problems and Optimization	Practice interview-level problems.

Would you like specific resources or problem recommendations for a particular topic?