

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 HashSet.
- 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

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

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

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?