

Algorithms and Data Structures Cheatsheet

extracted from <https://algs4.cs.princeton.edu/cheatsheet/> (Sedgewick's Algorithms book)

We summarize the performance characteristics of classic algorithms and data structures for sorting, priority queues, symbol tables, and graph processing. We also summarize some of the mathematics useful in the analysis of algorithms, including commonly encountered functions; useful formulas and approximations; properties of logarithms; asymptotic notations; and solutions to divide-and-conquer recurrences.

Sorting.

The table below summarizes the number of compares for a variety of sorting algorithms, as implemented in this textbook. It includes leading constants but ignores lower-order terms.

| ALGORITHM | IN PLACE | STABLE | BEST | AVERAGE | WORST | REMARKS |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| selection sort | ✓ | | $\frac{1}{2} n^2$ | $\frac{1}{2} n^2$ | $\frac{1}{2} n^2$ | n exchanges; quadratic in best case |
| insertion sort | ✓ | ✓ | n | $\frac{1}{4} n^2$ | $\frac{1}{2} n^2$ | use for small or partially-sorted arrays |
| bubble sort | ✓ | ✓ | n | $\frac{1}{2} n^2$ | $\frac{1}{2} n^2$ | rarely useful; use insertion sort instead |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|---|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| shellsort | ✓ | | $n \log^3 n$ | unknown | $c n^{3/2}$ | tight code; subquadratic |
| mergesort | | ✓ | $\frac{1}{2} n \lg n$ | $n \lg n$ | $n \lg n$ | $n \log n$ guarantee; stable |
| quicksort | - ✓ | | $n \lg n$ | $2 n \ln n$ | $\frac{1}{2} n^2$ | $n \log n$ probabilistic guarantee; fastest in practice |
| heapsort | ✓ | | n^\dagger | $2 n \lg n$ | $2 n \lg n$ | $n \log n$ guarantee; in place |

$^\dagger n \lg n$ if all keys are distinct

Priority queues.

The table below summarizes the order of growth of the running time of operations for a variety of priority queues, as implemented in this textbook. It ignores leading constants and lower-order terms. Except as noted, all running times are worst-case running times.

| DATA | INSERT | DEL-MIN STRUCTURE | MIN | DEC-KEY | DELETE | MERGE |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------------|-----|-------------|------------------|----------|
| array | 1 | n | n | 1 | 1 | n |
| binary heap | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | 1 | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | n |
| d-way heap | $\log_d n$ | $d \log_d n$ | 1 | $\log_d n$ | $d \log_d n$ | n |
| binomial heap | 1 | $\log n$ | 1 | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\log n$ |
| Fibonacci heap | 1 | $\log n^\dagger$ | 1 | 1^\dagger | $\log n^\dagger$ | 1 |

† amortized guarantee

Symbol tables.

The table below summarizes the order of growth of the running time of operations for a variety of symbol tables, as implemented in this textbook. It ignores leading constants and lower-order terms.

| DATA | SEARCH | worst case | | average case | | |
|--|----------|------------|----------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | INSERT | DELETE | SEARCH | INSERT | DELETE |
| sequential search (in an unordered list) | n | n | n | n | n | n |
| binary search (in a sorted array) | $\log n$ | n | n | $\log n$ | n | n |
| binary search tree (unbalanced) | n | n | n | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\text{sqrt}(n)$ |
| red-black BST (left-leaning) | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\log n$ |
| AVL | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\log n$ | $\log n$ |
| hash table (separate-chaining) | n | n | n | 1^\dagger | 1^\dagger | 1^\dagger |
| hash table (linear-probing) | n | n | n | 1^\dagger | 1^\dagger | 1^\dagger |

† uniform hashing assumption

Graph processing.

The table below summarizes the order of growth of the worst-case running time and memory usage (beyond the memory for the graph itself) for a variety of graph-processing problems, as implemented in this textbook. It ignores leading constants and lower-order terms. All running times are worst-case running times.

| PROBLEM | ALGORITHM | TIME | SPACE |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| path | DFS | $E + V$ | V |
| shortest path (fewest edges) | BFS | $E + V$ | V |
| cycle | DFS | $E + V$ | V |

| | | | |
|--|-----|---------|-----|
| directed path | DFS | $E + V$ | V |
| shortest directed path (fewest edges) | BFS | $E + V$ | V |
| directed cycle | DFS | $E + V$ | V |

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| topological sort | DFS | $E + V$ | V |
| bipartiteness / odd cycle | DFS | $E + V$ | V |
| connected components | DFS | $E + V$ | V |
| strong components | Kosaraju–Sharir | $E + V$ | V |
| strong components | Tarjan | $E + V$ | V |
| strong components | Gabow | $E + V$ | V |
| Eulerian cycle | DFS | $E + V$ | $E + V$ |
| directed Eulerian cycle | DFS | $E + V$ | V |
| transitive closure | DFS | $V(E + V)$ | V^2 |
| minimum spanning tree | Kruskal | $E \log E$ | $E + V$ |
| minimum spanning tree | Prim | $E \log V$ | V |
| minimum spanning tree | Boruvka | $E \log V$ | V |
| shortest paths (nonnegative weights) | Dijkstra | $E \log V$ | V |
| shortest paths (no negative cycles) | Bellman–Ford | $V(V + E)$ | V |
| shortest paths (no cycles) | topological sort | $V + E$ | V |
| all-pairs shortest paths | Floyd–Warshall | V^3 | V^2 |
| maxflow–mincut | Ford–Fulkerson | $E V(E + V)$ | V |
| bipartite matching | Hopcroft–Karp | $V^{1/2}(E + V)$ | V |
| assignment problem | successive shortest paths | $n^3 \log n$ | n^2 |

Last modified on September 12, 2020.

Copyright © 2000–2019 [Robert Sedgewick](#) and [Kevin Wayne](#). All rights reserved.