

LMNs-Data Structures

Last Updated: 29 Jan, 2025

Data structures are ways to organize and store data so it can be used efficiently. They are essential in computer science for managing and processing information in programs. Common types of data structures include arrays, linked lists, stacks, queues, trees, and graphs. Each structure is designed for specific tasks, such as searching, sorting, or managing hierarchical data. Understanding data structures helps in solving problems faster and writing better algorithms.

Data structures are of two types:

- **1. Linear Data Structures:** In linear data structures, elements are arranged in a sequential order. Each element is connected to its previous and next element, making traversal straightforward.
- 2. Non-Linear Data Structures: In non-linear data structures, elements are not arranged sequentially. They are connected in a hierarchical or network-like structure.

Table of Content

- Arrays
- Stacks
- Queues
- Linked Lists
- Tree
- Graphs
- Hashing

Arrays

An **array** is a data structure used to store multiple elements of the same type in contiguous memory locations. Arrays are simple and widely used for organizing and managing data.

Declaration:

In C, we can declare an array by specifying its and size or by initializing it or by both.

```
// Array declaration by specifying size
int arr[10];

// Array declaration by initializing elements
int arr[] = {10, 20, 30, 40};

// Array declaration by specifying size and
// initializing elements
int arr[6] = {10, 20, 30, 40}
```

Initialization:

```
int arr[5] = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\};
```

Accessing Elements:

```
arr[0] = 10; // Assigns 10 to the first element printf("%d", arr[2]); // Prints the third element
```

Formulas:

Types of Arrays

1. One-Dimensional Array: Stores elements in a single row.

Example:

```
int arr[5] = {10, 20, 30, 40, 50};
```

2. Multi-Dimensional Array: Represents a matrix or table of data.

Example:

```
int matrix[2][3] = {
    {1, 2, 3},
    {4, 5, 6}
};
```

Given the address of first element, address of any other element is calculated using the formula:-

```
Loc (arr [k]) = base (arr) + w * k
w = number of bytes per storage location
of for one element
k = index of array whose address we want
to calculate
```

Elements of two-dimensional arrays (mXn) are stored in two ways:-

• Column major order: Elements are stored column by column, i.e. all elements of first column are stored, and then all elements of second column stored and so on.

```
Loc(arr[i][j]) = base(arr) + w (m * j + i)
```

• Row major order: Elements are stored row by row, i.e. all elements of first row are stored, and then all elements of second row stored and so on.

```
Loc(arr[i][j]) = base(arr) + w (n*i + j)
```

Common Operations on Arrays

• Traversal: Visiting all elements in the array.

```
for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
}</pre>
```

- **Insertion**: Adding an element at a specific position. Requires shifting elements to make space.
- Deletion: Removing an element from a specific position.
 Requires shifting elements to fill the gap.
- **Searching**: Finding an element in the array.

Linear Search: Sequentially check each element.

Time Complexity: 0(n)

Binary Search: Requires the array to be sorted.

Time Complexity: 0(log n)

• **Sorting**: Arranging elements in ascending or descending order. Common algorithms: Bubble Sort, Selection Sort, Quick Sort.

read more about - Arrays

Stacks

A **stack** is a linear data structure that follows the **Last In**, **First Out (LIFO)** principle, meaning the element added last is removed first. It is widely used in programming for tasks such as expression evaluation, backtracking, and function call management.

Basic operations:

1. Push: Adds an item in the stack. If the stack is full, then it is said to be an

Overflow condition. (Top=Top+1). Time Complexity: 0(1).

2. Pop: Removes an item from the stack. The items are popped in the reversed order

in which they are pushed. If the stack is empty, then it is said to be an Underflow

condition.(Top=Top-1). Time Complexity: 0(1).

3. Peek: Retrieves the top element without removing it. Time Complexity: 0(1).

Infix, prefix, Postfix notations

Infix notation: X + Y - Operators are written in-between their operands. This is the usual way we write expressions. An expression such as

$$A*(B+C)/D$$

Postfix notation (also known as "Reverse Polish notation"): X Y + Operators are written after their operands. The infix expression given above is equivalent to

$$ABC + *D/$$

Prefix notation (also known as "Polish notation"): + X Y Operators are written before their operands. The expressions given above are equivalent to

Conversion between these notations: Click here

Implementation of Stack

Stacks can be implemented in C using:

- 1. Arrays
- 2. Linked Lists

Tower of Hanoi

It is a mathematical puzzle where we have three rods and n disks. The objective of the puzzle is to move the entire stack to another rod, obeying the following simple rules:

- 1. Only one disk can be moved at a time.
- 2. Each move consists of taking the upper disk from one of the stacks and placing it on top of another stack i.e. a disk can only be moved if it is the uppermost disk on a stack.
- 3. No disk may be placed on top of a smaller disk.

For n disks, total $2^n - 1$ moves are required Time complexity: $O(2^n)$ [exponential time]

read more about - Stacks

Queues

A queue is a linear data structure that follows the First In, First Out (FIFO) principle. This means the element added first is removed first. Queues are widely used in scenarios like scheduling, buffering, and real-time systems.

Types of Queues

- **Simple Queue**: Follows the standard FIFO principle. Elements are added at the rear and removed from the front.
- **Circular Queue**: The last position connects back to the first position, making the queue circular. Efficient use of memory compared to a simple queue.
- **Priority Queue**: Each element is associated with a priority, and elements with higher priority are dequeued before others.

• Deque (Double-Ended Queue): Elements can be added or removed from both

ends (front and rear).

Common Operations on Queue

• Enqueue: Adds an item to the queue. If t he queue is full, then it is said to be an

Overflow condition.

• **Dequeue**: Removes an item from the queue. The items are popped in the same

order in which they are pushed. If the queue is empty, then it is said to be an

Underflow condition.

• **Peek**:Retrieve the front element without removing it. Time Complexity: 0(1).

• **Traversal**: Iterating through all elements in the gueue. Time Complexity: 0(n).

Front: Get the front item from queue.

Rear: Get the last item from queue.

Implementation of Queue

Queues can be implemented in C using:

1. Arrays

2. Linked Lists

read more about - Queues

Linked Lists

A linked list is a linear data structure where elements (called nodes) are connected

using pointers. Unlike arrays, linked lists do not store elements in contiguous

memory locations, making them dynamic and flexible for insertion and deletion

operations.

Types of Linked Lists

• Singly Linked List: Each node points to the next node. Traversal is unidirectional.

Last node points to NULL.

• Doubly Linked List: Each node contains two pointers: one to the next node and

one to the previous node. Allows bidirectional traversal.

- **Circular Linked List**: The last node points back to the first node, forming a circular structure. Can be singly or doubly linked.
- **Doubly Circular Linked List**: Combines features of doubly and circular linked lists, where both next and previous pointers form a circle.

Common Operations on Linked Lists

- Traversal: Moving through all nodes in the list. Time Complexity: 0(n).
- Insertion: Adding a new node at the beginning, end, or middle. Time Complexity: o(1) for insertion at the beginning, o(n) for insertion at the end or middle.
- **Deletion**: Removing a node from the beginning, end, or middle. Time Complexity: o(1) for deletion at the beginning, o(n) for deletion at the end or middle.
- **Search**: Finding an element in the linked list. Time Complexity: 0(n).

Advantages over arrays

- 1. Dynamic Memory Allocation
- 2. Ease of insertion/deletion
- 3. Flexible Size

Drawbacks

- 1. Random access is not allowed. We have to access elements sequentially starting from the first node. So we cannot do binary search with linked lists.
- 2. Extra memory space for a pointer is required with each element of the list. Representation in C: A linked list is represented by a pointer to the first node of the linked list. The first node is called head. If the linked list is empty, then value of head is NULL.

Each node in a list consists of at least two parts:

- 1. Data
- 2. Pointer to the next node In C, we can represent a node using structures. Below is an example of a linked list node with an integer data.

```
// A linked list node
struct node
{
  int data;
  struct node *next;
};
```

read more about - Linked List

Tree

A **tree** is a non-linear hierarchical data structure consisting of nodes connected by edges. <u>Trees</u> are widely used for organizing data and solving complex computational problems.

Basic Terminology

- Node: Represents data.
- Edge: Connection between two nodes.
- Degree: The number of children a node has.
- Binary Tree: A tree where each node has at most two children.
- Path: A sequence of nodes connected by edges.

Types of Trees

- 1. General Tree: Nodes can have any number of children.
- 2. Binary Tree: Each node has at most two children (left and right).
- 3. **Binary Search Tree (BST)**: A binary tree where the left child contains values less than the parent, and the right child contains values greater than the parent.
- 4. **Balanced Binary Tree**: A binary tree where the height difference between the left and right subtrees of any node is at most one. Examples: AVL Tree, Red-Black Tree.
- 5. **Complete Binary Tree**: A binary tree where all levels are fully filled except possibly the last, which is filled from left to right.
- 6. **Full Binary Tree**: Every node has either 0 or 2 children.
- 7. **Heap**: A complete binary tree used for priority queues. Types: Min-Heap, Max-Heap.
- 8. Trie: A tree used for storing strings or prefixes efficiently.
- 9. **N-ary Tree**: A tree where each node can have up to N children.

Tree Traversal Techniques

Traversal refers to visiting all nodes in a tree. Common techniques are:

1. Inorder Traversal (Left, Root, Right)

- (i) Traverse the left subtree of root in inorder.
- (ii) Process the root.
- (iii) Traverse the right subtree of root in inorder.

Example:

```
void inorder(struct Node* root) {
    if (root != NULL) {
        inorder(root->left);
        printf("%d ", root->data);
        inorder(root->right);
    }
}
```

2. Preorder Traversal (Root, Left, Right)

- (i) Traverse the left subtree of root in post-order.
- (ii) Traverse the right subtree of root in post-order.
- (iii) Process the root.

Example:

```
void preorder(struct Node* root) {
    if (root != NULL) {
        printf("%d ", root->data);
        preorder(root->left);
        preorder(root->right);
    }
}
```

3.Post-order

- (i) Traverse the left subtree of root in post-order.
- (ii) Traverse the right subtree of root in post-order.
- (iii) Process the root.

Example:

```
void postorder(struct Node* root) {
  if (root != NULL) {
```

```
postorder(root->left);
  postorder(root->right);
  printf("%d ", root->data);
}
```

4. Level Order Traversal:

Visits nodes level by level (Breadth-First Search).

Example: Use a queue to implement this traversal.

Common Operations on Trees

- Insertion: Add a node to the tree following specific rules (e.g., BST rules).
- **Deletion**: Remove a node while maintaining tree properties (e.g., replace with inorder successor in a BST).
- **Search**: Find a node in the tree. Time Complexity: $O(\log n)$ in a balanced tree; O(n) in a skewed tree

Binary Search Tree

A **Binary Search Tree (BST)** is a special type of binary tree where each node follows the **binary search property**:

- The value of the **left child** is less than the value of the parent node.
- The value of the **right child** is greater than the value of the parent node.
- Inorder traversal of a binary search tree is ascending order of keys in the BST.

Different Operations on Binary Search Tree are:

- Insertion in a BST O (log n) best case, O (n) worst case
- Deletion of leaf node : can be done directly.
- Deletion of node with one child: copy the child to the node and delete the child.
- Deletion of a node with two children: first find the inorder successor of the node, copy the contents of this successor to the node and delete the inorder successor.

read more about - Binary Search Tree

GATE 2026 DSA Course DSA Tutorial Data Structures Algorithms Array Strings Linked List Stack Queue

Example: 50, 30, 20, 15, 10, 8, 16 (root = 50).

2. **Min-Heap**: The value of each parent node is less than or equal to the values of its children.

Example: 10, 15, 20, 30, 50, 40 (root = 10).

A heap is commonly implemented as a **binary heap**, where it is represented as a binary tree.

Heap Operations

- Insertion: Add the new element to the end of the heap (last position in the array representation). Restore the heap property by **heapifying up** (swap with parent until heap condition is satisfied).
- **Deletion** (Removing the Root): Replace the root with the last element in the heap. Restore the heap property by **heapifying down** (swap with the larger child in Max-Heap or smaller child in Min-Heap).
- **Heapify**: A process of rearranging the elements to maintain the heap property.
- **Heap Sort**: A sorting algorithm that builds a heap from an array, repeatedly removes the root, and stores it in sorted order. Time Complexity: 0(n log n).

Heapify Algorithm

Heapify is an algorithm used to convert a binary tree into a **heap**. A **heap** is a special type of binary tree that satisfies the heap property, which can either be:

- Max-Heap: The value of each node is greater than or equal to its children.
- Min-Heap: The value of each node is less than or equal to its children.

How Heapify Works

- Heapify works by making sure that every subtree of a given node follows the heap property.
- The algorithm starts at a node and checks if it satisfies the heap property with respect to its children.

• If a node violates the heap property, it is swapped with the larger (for max-heap) or smaller (for min-heap) of its children, and the process continues recursively.

Example of Heapify (Max-Heap)

- 1. If the root is smaller than one of its children, swap it with the larger child.
- 2. Then, apply the same process recursively for the swapped child until the heap property is restored.

Complexity

• The time complexity of heapify is **O(log n)**, where nnn is the number of nodes.

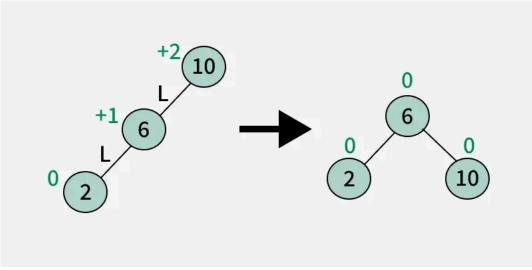
read more about - Heap

AVL Tree

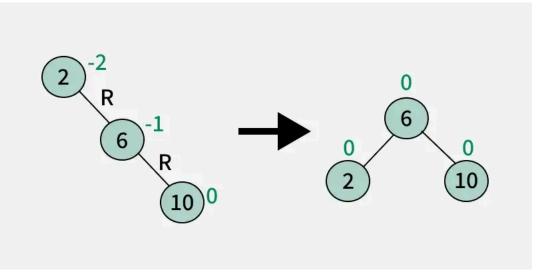
An **AVL Tree** is a type of self-balancing binary search tree (BST). Named after its inventors, Adelson-Velsky and Landis, it ensures that the height difference (balance factor) between the left and right subtrees of every node is at most 1. This balancing helps maintain efficient operations such as insertion, deletion, and searching

Rotations in AVL Tree

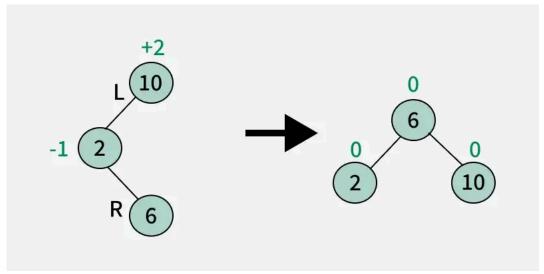
1. Left-Left (LL) Rotation:



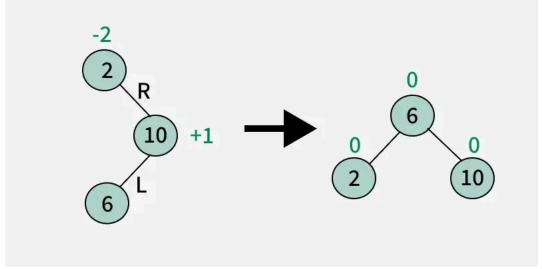
2. Right-Right (RR) Rotation:



3. Left-Right (LR) Rotation:



4. Right-Left (RL) Rotation:



Here's a table that outlines various tree operations (like insertion, deletion, etc.) for different types of trees, along with their time complexities:

Operation	Binary Tree	Binary Search Tree (BST)	Неар	AVL Tree
Insertion	O(1) (if position is given)	O(log n)	O(log n)	O(log n)
Deletion	O(1) (if node is given)	O(log n)	O(log n)	O(log n)
Search	O(n)	O(log n)	O(n) (for unsorted)	O(log n)
Traversal	O(n)	O(n)	O(n)	O(n)
Balance Check	O(n)	O(n)	N/A	O(log n)
Height Calculation	O(n)	O(n)	O(n)	O(log n)

read more about - AVL Tree

Graphs

A graph is a non-linear data structure consisting of vertices (nodes) and edges that connect pairs of vertices. Graphs are widely used to represent relationships between objects in various real-world scenarios like social networks, road maps, and web pages.

Graph Traversal Techniques

1. Depth First Search (DFS): Traverses as deep as possible along a branch before backtracking. Uses a stack (recursion or explicit).

Example:

```
void DFS(int vertex, int visited[], int graph[][V]) {
    printf("%d ", vertex);
    visited[vertex] = 1;
    for (int i = 0; i < V; i++) {
        if (graph[vertex][i] == 1 && !visited[i]) {
            DFS(i, visited, graph);
        }
    }
}</pre>
```

2. Breadth First Search (BFS): Traverses all neighbors of a vertex before moving to the next level.

Example:

```
0
                                                                                      0
void BFS(int start, int graph[][V]) {
   int visited[V] = {0};
   int queue[V], front = 0, rear = 0;
   queue[rear++] = start;
   visited[start] = 1;
   while (front != rear) {
        int current = queue[front++];
        printf("%d ", current);
        for (int i = 0; i < V; i++) {</pre>
            if (graph[current][i] == 1 && !visited[i]) {
                queue[rear++] = i;
                visited[i] = 1;
           }
       }
   }
}
```

read more about - Graphs

Hashing

Hashing is a technique used to map data of arbitrary size to fixed-size values, called hash values or hash codes, using a hash function. It is widely used in computer science for quick data retrieval and efficient storage.

Hashing Terminology

- 1. **Key**: The input value to the hash function.
- 2. **Hash Value**: The output of the hash function.
- 3. **Bucket**: The location in the hash table where the key-value pair is stored.
- 4. Load Factor: The ratio of the number of elements to the table size.

Collision Resolution Techniques

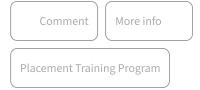
- **1. Chaining:** Uses linked lists to store multiple elements in the same bucket. Each bucket points to a linked list of elements with the same hash value.
- **2. Open Addressing:** All elements are stored directly in the hash table. On collision, the algorithm probes the table to find an empty slot.

Probing Techniques:

- Linear Probing: Search sequentially for the next available slot. index = (hash + i) % table_size
- Quadratic Probing: Use quadratic intervals to find the next slot. index = (hash + i^2) % table_size
- Double Hashing: Use a second hash function to find the next slot. index = (hash1
 + i * hash2) % table_size

read more about - Hashing

Master Data Structures and Algorithms at your own pace with our <u>DSA Self-Paced course</u>. In just 90 days, you'll cover core concepts, solve real-world problems, and sharpen your problem-solving skills. Take the Three 90 Challenge: complete 90% of the course in 90 days and get a 90% refund. Stay motivated, track progress, and achieve DSA mastery. Start today!



Next Article

Algorithms Tutorial

Similar Reads

LMNs- Algorithms

An algorithm is a step-by-step procedure or set of rules to solve a specific problem. It is a logical sequence of instructions designed to achieve a desired output for given...

10 min read

Data Structures and Algorithms | Set 36

Que - 1. The function shiftNode() which takes as input two linked lists- destination and source. It deletes front node from source and places it onto the front of destination....

4 min read

Data Structures and Algorithms | Set 37

Que - 1. For 8 keys and 6 slots in a hashing table with uniform hashing and chaining, what is the expected number of items that hash to a particular location. (A) 2.33 (B)...

4 min read

Data Structures and Algorithms | Set 38

This topic contains basic questions of Algorithm which can be helpful for GATE CS Preparation. So, it is recommended to solve each of these questions if you are...

3 min read

Data Structures and Algorithms Online Courses: Free and Paid

Data Structures and Algorithms is one of the most important skills that every computer science student must-have. It is often seen that people with good knowledge of these...

7 min read

Introduction to Data Structures

What is Data Structure? A data structure is a particular way of organising data in a computer so that it can be used effectively. The idea is to reduce the space and time...

7 min read

Understanding "Efficiency" when working with Data Structures and Algorithms

What is Efficient Programming? Efficient programming is programming in a manner that, when the program is executed, uses a low amount of overall resources pertainin...

8 min read

Why Every Developer Should Learn Data Structures and Algorithms?

Software developers are regarded as the unknown heroes who design, execute, deploy and manage software programs. It is indeed a lucrative career option that promises...

7 min read

What Should I Learn First: Data Structures or Algorithms?

Data structure and algorithms are an integral part of computer science. All the enthusiasts, at some point in time, learn these two important topics. They are differen...

10 min read

What is an in-memory Queue in Data Structures

What is an in-memory Queue? An in-memory queue is a queue that stores data in memory. In-memory queues are used to improve application performance by providin...

5 min read



Corporate & Communications Address:

A-143, 7th Floor, Sovereign Corporate Tower, Sector- 136, Noida, Uttar Pradesh (201305)

Registered Address:

K 061, Tower K, Gulshan Vivante Apartment, Sector 137, Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 201305





Advertise with us

Company

About Us

Legal

Privacy Policy

Careers

In Media

Contact Us

GFG Corporate Solution

Placement Training Program

Languages

Python

Java

C++

PHP

GoLang

SQL

R Language

Explore

Job-A-Thon Hiring Challenge

Hack-A-Thon

GfG Weekly Contest

Offline Classes (Delhi/NCR)

DSA in JAVA/C++

Master System Design

Master CP

GeeksforGeeks Videos

Geeks Community

DSA

Data Structures

Algorithms

DSA for Beginners

Basic DSA Problems

DSA Roadmap

DSA Interview Questions

Competitive Programming

Data Science & ML

Data Science With Python
Data Science For Beginner

Machine Learning

ML Maths

Data Visualisation

Pandas

NumPy

NLP

Deep Learning

Python Tutorial

Python Programming Examples

Django Tutorial

Python Projects

Python Tkinter

Web Scraping

OpenCV Tutorial

Python Interview Question

DevOps

Git

AWS

Docker

Kubernetes

Azure

GCP

DevOps Roadmap

School Subjects

Mathematics

Physics

Chemistry

Biology

Social Science

English Grammar

Databases

SQL

MYSQL

PostgreSQL

PL/SQL

MongoDB

Web Technologies

HTML

CSS

JavaScript

TypeScript

ReactJS

NextJS

NodeJs

Bootstrap

Tailwind CSS

Computer Science

GATE CS Notes

Operating Systems

Computer Network

Database Management System

Software Engineering

Digital Logic Design

Engineering Maths

System Design

High Level Design

Low Level Design

UML Diagrams

Interview Guide

Design Patterns

OOAD

System Design Bootcamp

Interview Questions

Commerce

Accountancy

Business Studies

Economics

Management

HR Management

Finance

Income Tax

Preparation Corner

Company-Wise Recruitment Process

Resume Templates

Aptitude Preparation

Puzzles

Company-Wise Preparation

Companies

Colleges

More Tutorials

JEE Advanced

UGC NET

UPSC

SSC CGL

SBI PO

SBI Clerk

IBPS PO

IBPS Clerk

Free Online Tools

Typing Test

Image Editor

Code Formatters

Code Converters

Currency Converter

Random Number Generator

Random Password Generator

DSA/Placements

DSA - Self Paced Course

DSA in JavaScript - Self Paced Course

DSA in Python - Self Paced

C Programming Course Online - Learn C with Data Structures

Complete Interview Preparation

Master Competitive Programming

Core CS Subject for Interview Preparation

Mastering System Design: LLD to HLD

Tech Interview 101 - From DSA to System Design [LIVE]

DSA to Development [HYBRID]

Placement Preparation Crash Course [LIVE]

Machine Learning/Data Science

Complete Machine Learning & Data Science Program - [LIVE]

Data Analytics Training using Excel, SQL, Python & PowerBI - [LIVE]

Data Science Training Program - [LIVE]

Mastering Generative AI and ChatGPT

Data Science Course with IBM Certification

Clouds/Devops

DevOps Engineering

AWS Solutions Architect Certification

Salesforce Certified Administrator Course

Software Development

Software Testing

Product Management

Project Management

Linux

Excel

All Cheat Sheets

Recent Articles

Write & Earn

Write an Article

Improve an Article

Pick Topics to Write

Share your Experiences

Internships

Development/Testing

JavaScript Full Course

React JS Course

React Native Course

Django Web Development Course

Complete Bootstrap Course

Full Stack Development - [LIVE]

JAVA Backend Development - [LIVE]

Complete Software Testing Course [LIVE]

Android Mastery with Kotlin [LIVE]

Programming Languages

C Programming with Data Structures

C++ Programming Course

Java Programming Course

Python Full Course

GATE

GATE CS & IT Test Series - 2025

GATE DA Test Series 2025

GATE CS & IT Course - 2025

GATE DA Course 2025

GATE Rank Predictor