

Hello Everyone!



I am a Principal Engineer at Microsoft, Senior Interviewer, and Mentor & Career Coach dedicated to helping candidates land offers at top MNCs.

With a wealth of experience in software engineering and a passion for guiding the next generation of tech talent, Bharat empowers aspiring professionals to achieve their career goals.

BHARAT AHUJA: Principal Engineer @Microsoft

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Importance of Coding

If I tell you an idea, can you convert it into the code of your choice of programming language?



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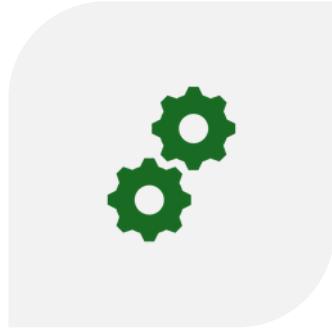
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Coding Paradigms



CONTAINERS



ITERATIONS



COMPUTATION



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Containers



Array(contiguous data)



List (stack, queue)
Noncontiguous data



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Iterations

Traversing containers using loop (for, while, do while, if else)

List of numbers numbers = [10, 20, 30, 40, 50]

Using a for loop to iterate over the list for num in numbers:
print(num)



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Computation

Operators (+, -<=,)

Function call

Recursion , Same Function call



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Recursion

If you mastered recursion,
you have won half of DSA
game already

Every computation
can be converted to a
recursion

- Sorting -> Recursion
- DFS -> Recursion
- Binary Search -> Recursion
- Trees -> Recursion
- LinkedList -> Recursion



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DSA How to start-Step 1

- Learn a language and familiarize yourself with syntax, data types, and best practices. I prefer C for system closeness or Java for simplicity and OOP. Choose one that suits you. Python is also good if you are beginner
- Cover Language Paradigms discussed above(containers, iteration and computation)



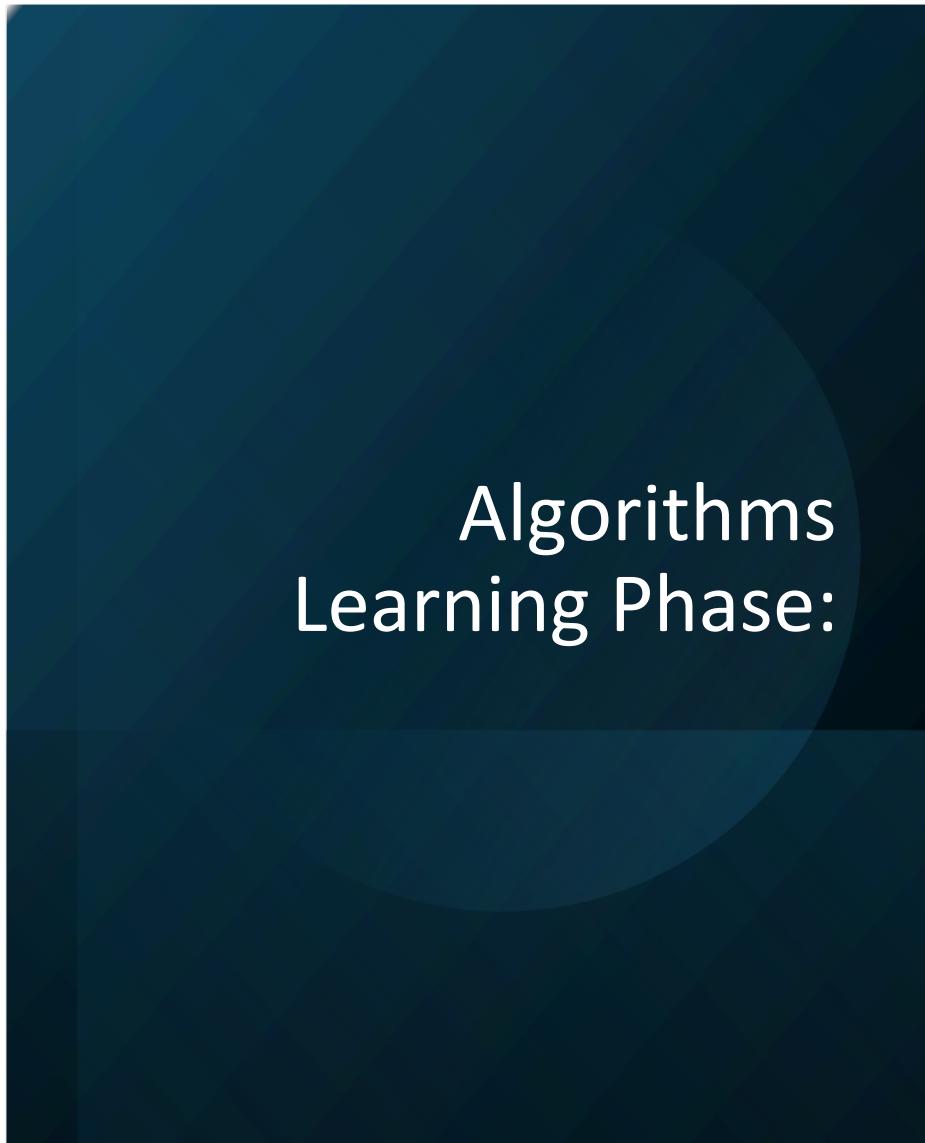
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- Before jumping into Leet Code, master core concepts of algorithms and data structures. Reinforce understanding through courses, books
- Books save you lot of time than watching a video so don't run behind videos
- Don't run behind number of problems 1-2 problems Ito understand algorithm is more than enough
- **Don't read the code, read the idea (follow topics in order from below link)**

Click Here to
download a
RoadMap



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Resources (Books Preferred)

- **Introduction to Algorithms:** <https://amzn.to/4dHWD9J>
- **Data Structures and Algorithms Made Easy:** <https://amzn.to/4eERoJp>
- **Interview Preparation Repo:** <https://github.com/rgbedin/interview-prep/tree/main>
- **DSA Notes by llTD Naveen Garg:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xRAKJQ0u0zBssPz3r60rGPuqrHFxEtXi?usp=sharing>

- **DSA Playlist on YouTube by Abdul Bari:**

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDN4rrl48XKpZkf03iYFl-O29szjTrs_O



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LeetCode



1. Focus on quality over quantity.

Don't get caught up in counting the number of hours or problems solved daily. Meaningful progress isn't always about numbers.



2. Remember it's a marathon, not a sprint.

Consistency is key. You might not see results immediately, but with steady effort, progress will come. Focus for short hours instead of sitting for long hours



3. Use pen and paper.

Before jumping into code, understand the problem and sketch out your ideas. This helps you visualize the solution and test it with sample cases.



4. Master time and space complexity.

Always pay attention to the problem's constraints. They'll guide you toward the right algorithm. For example, $\backslash(10^5\backslash)$ means you can't go for $O(n^2)$ solutions. Instead, aim for $O(n \log n)$ algorithms like sorting. If it's $\backslash(10^9\backslash)$, $O(\log n)$ algorithms like binary search may be necessary.



5. Hide the difficulty level of the problems.

Sometimes we get intimidated by labels like "hard" or "medium." Try using this Chrome extension to hide the difficulty level and tackle problems with a fresh mindset: LeetCode Difficulty Hider.



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- 6. Use a ‘hint’ extension instead of looking up answers right away.
If you’re stuck, this Chrome extension gives you small hints to guide your thought process without spoiling the solution: LeetCode Buddy.
- 7. Explore different solutions.
Even if you solve a problem, reviewing alternative approaches can introduce you to more efficient tricks or ideas. For instance, a problem solved with $O(n\log n)$ and $O(1)$ space complexity might also have an $O(n)$ and $O(n)$ approach (think hashmaps).
- 8. Practice random problems, not just patterns.
Don’t get too reliant on knowing the pattern the question uses. You also have to practice figuring out which pattern to use when faced with a completely random question. It’s much easier to solve a binary search question when you’re pulling them from the binary search group.
- 9. Keep a personal log.
Maintain a sheet of the problems you’ve solved, categorized by topic. Include brief hints or reminders so that when you revisit them, you can trigger your memory without needing to start from scratch.
- 10. If stuck for >10 mins, review the solution.



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TechXNinjas
Host: Aadil Latif



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