ChatGPT

Study Plan to Combine Striver's A2Z DSA Sheet with CSES

You already have two parallel resources: **Striver's A2Z DSA Sheet** (455 problems across all major DSA topics) and the **CSES Problem Set** (≈400 algorithmic problems in topic-based sections) [1] [2]. You've finished the Striver basics (31/455) and all CSES *Introductory* problems (25/400) [3] [2]. The goal is to finish the remaining 375 CSES problems in 25 days (≈15 problems/day) and continue Striver more gradually (45–90 days), by **aligning topics** so each resource reinforces the other. In practice, this means: before jumping into a batch of CSES problems (e.g. Sorting), first do the corresponding Striver section (e.g. Arrays/Sorting). This topical alignment ensures you build the necessary skills from Striver before tackling similar CSES problems [4] [5]. Below is a 25-day outline (divided into five 5-day phases) that sequences Striver topics with CSES categories, roughly tapering daily workload as problems get harder.

Overview of Resources

- **Striver A2Z Sheet** – A free, **comprehensive, topic-by-topic guide** covering all DSA fundamentals [1]. Sections include sorting techniques, arrays, binary search, recursion, greedy, graphs, dynamic programming, etc. [4] [6]
- **CSES Problem Set** – An online judge with ~400 problems grouped by topic (Introductory, Sorting & Searching, DP, Graphs, etc.) [2] [5]. You're doing CSES in the given order (Intro ⇒ Sorting ⇒ DP ⇒ Graphs ⇒ ...).
- **Current Status:** CSES Intro done; Striver **Basics** done. 375 CSES problems remain.

Strategy

1. **Topic-by-Topic Alignment:** Tackle DSA topics sequentially. For each topic, **first review/solve Striver problems on that topic**, then solve the matching CSES problems. E.g., do Striver's *Sorting/Arrays* problems before CSES *Sorting & Searching* problems [4] [5]. This leverages Striver's structured lessons so you're "warm" with concepts when CSES questions arrive.

2. **Progressive Scheduling:** Start with easier topics (and more problems per day) and gradually move to harder ones (fewer per day). For instance, begin with ≈20 CSES problems/day during sorting, then taper to ≈10/day by the graph/DP phases. This roughly matches increasing difficulty while totaling ~375 problems over 25 days.

3. **Parallel Work:** Each day (or block of days), do a mix of Striver and CSES. For example, Day 1–5 (Sorting phase) you might spend mornings on Striver *Sorting/Arrays* problems and afternoons on CSES Sorting problems. This keeps concepts fresh.

4. **Review and Buffer:** At the end of each week, reserve time (or days 21–25) for leftover hard problems, review, or overlapping topics (e.g. strings, bitwise), and any Striver sections you missed.

25-Day Plan (by 5-Day Phases)

Phase 1 – Sorting & Searching (Days 1–5, ~100 problems)
- **Striver Prep:** Complete *Sorting Techniques* (bubble, selection, quicksort, etc.) and *Arrays* practice (easy→hard) [4]. Also cover *Binary Search* basics (1D/2D search spaces) [7].
- **CSES Practice:** Solve the first ~30–35 CSES *Sorting & Searching* problems (Distinct Numbers, Apartments, Ferris Wheel, etc. [5]). These are mostly greedy/array-based. Aim for ~20 CSES problems per day at this stage.
- **Goal:** Build comfort with sorting/array patterns so CSES tasks become routine.

Phase 2 – Two-Pointers & Greedy (Days 6–10, ~90 problems)
- **Striver Prep:** Do *Sliding Window & Two Pointers* problems (0/12 tasks [8]) and *Greedy Algorithms* section [9]. Also review *Stacks/Queues* if needed (monotonic queue concepts often help with sliding windows [10]).
- **CSES Practice:** Continue any remaining *Sorting & Searching* problems and start related topics (e.g. *Subarray Sums*, *Nearest Smaller Values*, two-pointer style problems). Also tackle any easy Greedy tasks (Movie Festival, Taxi, Tasks and Deadlines, etc.). Plan ≈18 CSES problems/day.
- **Goal:** Solidify pattern problems (two-sum, interval scheduling, sliding window) using Striver's exercises, then apply them to CSES.

Phase 3 – Dynamic Programming (Days 11–15, ~75 problems)
- **Striver Prep:** Complete *Recursion* and *Basic DP* sections [11] [6]. Focus on Fibonacci, knapsack patterns, subset-sum, LIS, etc. This might include array DP and simple tree DP ideas.
- **CSES Practice:** Now tackle CSES *Dynamic Programming* problems (Dice Combinations, Minimizing Coins, Array Description, etc. [12]). These are medium-difficulty; expect to solve ~15 per day.
- **Goal:** Use Striver's DP problems to master memoization/tabulation patterns. When you switch to CSES DP, many solutions will feel like repeating Striver patterns.

Phase 4 – Graphs & Trees (Days 16–20, ~60 problems)
- **Striver Prep:** Work on *Graphs* (BFS/DFS, shortest paths, connectivity) [6] and *Binary Trees* (traversals, depth-first problems) [13]. If time allows, touch *Binary Search Trees* (insertion, in-order, etc.).
- **CSES Practice:** Solve *Graph Algorithms* problems (Counting Rooms, Maze, Shortest Routes, etc. [14]). Also begin *Tree Algorithms* (Company Queries, Tree Distances, Subordinates, etc. [15]). These are harder tasks – plan only ~10–12 per day.
- **Goal:** After Striver's graph/tree drills, CSES graph/tree problems (flood fill, BFS, LCA) will follow known solutions.

Phase 5 – Advanced Topics & Review (Days 21–25, ~30 problems)
- **Striver Prep:** Cover *Bit Manipulation* [11] (important for bitwise CSES tasks), plus any skipped sections like *Heaps*. (You may skip *Tries* unless focusing on advanced string queries.)
- **CSES Practice:** Finish remaining problems: *Range Queries*, *Miscellaneous Math*, *String Algorithms* (e.g. string matching, substring queries), *Bitwise Operations*, and any *Interactive* or *Geometry* if desired. These are the toughest/specialized, so plan ~6–7 per day.
- **Goal:** Tackle leftover CSES problems by applying all learned patterns. Use Striver bitwise lessons for XOR questions, and recall algorithms from prior phases.

Workload Tips

- **Daily Problem Count:** In early phases (sorting/arrays), you can handle ~18–20 CSES problems/day. As difficulty rises, drop to ~12–15/day in DP phase, and ~6–10/day in final phase. This declining pace (roughly 20→12→10 per day blocks) still hits ~375 total [16].
- **Combine Learning and Doing:** Each day start with a few Striver problems on the current topic, then switch to CSES problems on that topic. For example, learn quicksort via Striver, then solve the next CSES sorting problem. This "pre-loads" your brain with patterns.
- **Weekly Review:** Every 5 days, quickly review what was learned. Ensure you understand core techniques (e.g. two-pointer sliding window) rather than just memorizing answers.
- **Resource Balance:** Since Striver sheet is longer-term (45–90 days), you can afford to not complete all Striver problems now. Focus Striver work only on sections that directly help upcoming CSES topics. Later, you can return to Striver to fill gaps.

Example Schedule (Summary)

- **Days 1–5 (Phase 1):** Striver *Sorting/Arrays/Binary Search* + 100 CSES sorting/searching problems.
- **Days 6–10 (Phase 2):** Striver *Two-Pointers/Greedy* + 90 CSES greedy/two-pointer problems.
- **Days 11–15 (Phase 3):** Striver *Recursion/DP* + 75 CSES DP problems.
- **Days 16–20 (Phase 4):** Striver *Graphs/Binary Trees* + 60 CSES graph/tree problems.
- **Days 21–25 (Phase 5):** Striver *Bitwise & extras* + 30 remaining CSES problems (strings, math, queries).

Each day's mix keeps topics linked: e.g. sorting tasks always follow Striver's sorting drills [4] [5]. This systematic alignment of learning and practice mimics recommended plans that focus on one topic per week [16]. By Day 25, you will have covered all CSES topics in depth, with Striver providing the conceptual "scaffolding."

References: Striver's A2Z DSA Sheet topic list [4] [6] and CSES problem categories [2] [5] inform this plan, which sequences topics to build smoothly from easy to hard. The Tech Interview Handbook also advocates structuring study by topic each week (sorting in week 2, graphs in week 3, etc.) [16], a principle we follow here. Each day's targets assume steady 2–4 hours of focused work, adjusting as problems get trickier. With consistent effort on this schedule, you can complete ~375 CSES problems in ~25 days while concurrently advancing through Striver's topics.

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[1] [3] [4] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [13] Strivers A2Z DSA Course/Sheet - Crack Any FAANG or PBCs
https://takeuforward.org/dsa/strivers-a2z-sheet-learn-dsa-a-to-z

[2] [5] [12] [14] [15] CSES - CSES Problem Set - Tasks
https://cses.fi/problemset/

[16] Coding interview study plan - what to study and practice based on time left | Tech Interview Handbook
https://www.techinterviewhandbook.org/coding-interview-study-plan/