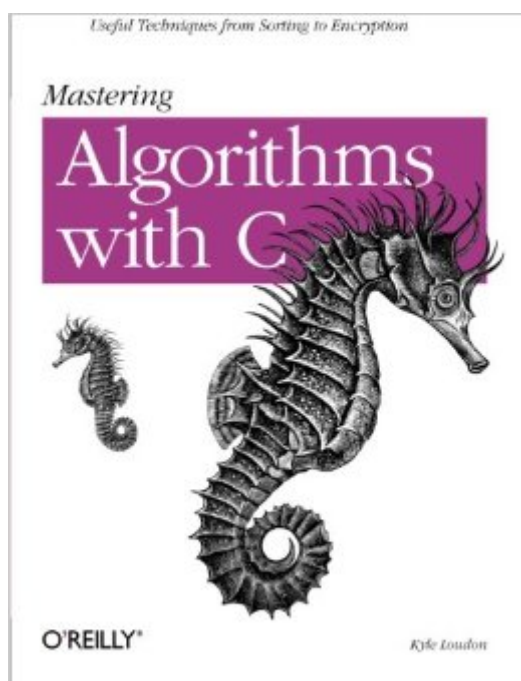


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Mastering Algorithms With C



Synopsis

There are many books on data structures and algorithms, including some with useful libraries of C functions. *Mastering Algorithms with C* offers you a unique combination of theoretical background and working code. With robust solutions for everyday programming tasks, this book avoids the abstract style of most classic data structures and algorithms texts, but still provides all of the information you need to understand the purpose and use of common programming techniques. Implementations, as well as interesting, real-world examples of each data structure and algorithm, are included. Using both a programming style and a writing style that are exceptionally clean, Kyle Loudon shows you how to use such essential data structures as lists, stacks, queues, sets, trees, heaps, priority queues, and graphs. He explains how to use algorithms for sorting, searching, numerical analysis, data compression, data encryption, common graph problems, and computational geometry. And he describes the relative efficiency of all implementations. The compression and encryption chapters not only give you working code for reasonably efficient solutions, they offer explanations of concepts in an approachable manner for people who never have had the time or expertise to study them in depth.

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Customer Reviews

C programming is still with us because of its high performance ability and this book outlines several algorithms using the language. It begins with a classification of algorithms as randomized,

divide-and-conquer, dynamic programming, greedy and approximation. Some algorithms the author states defy classification but he does not give examples. Pointers are discussed in the next chapter, and covers how to avoid dangling pointers, memory allocation, pointers to data structures, function parameters, double pointers, and generic and function pointers. The chapter is clearly written and diagrams are used frequently to illustrate the uses and properties of pointers. The author in particular gives an excellent explanation of how C can simulate call-by-reference parameter passing. This capability in C can be a source of trouble to the newcomer to C. The author does not however discuss triple pointers in this chapter, in spite of their great utility in computational geometry and computational radiology. Void pointers and casting are discussed in detail though, and the author does a good job. Only a cursory discussion of function pointers is given; I would have preferred many more examples to be given. Recursion and tail-recursion are discussed in Chapter 3, with the factorial function used to illustrate the differences. Computational complexity and the O-notation are covered in the next chapter, with the treatment pretty sparse but clear. Linked lists, extremely useful in all areas of engineering and science, are discussed effectively in Chapter 5. Eleven linked list macros, thirteen doubly linked list macros, and eight circular list macros are discussed and the complexity of each given. Virtual memory and paging are given as examples of applications of linked lists.

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