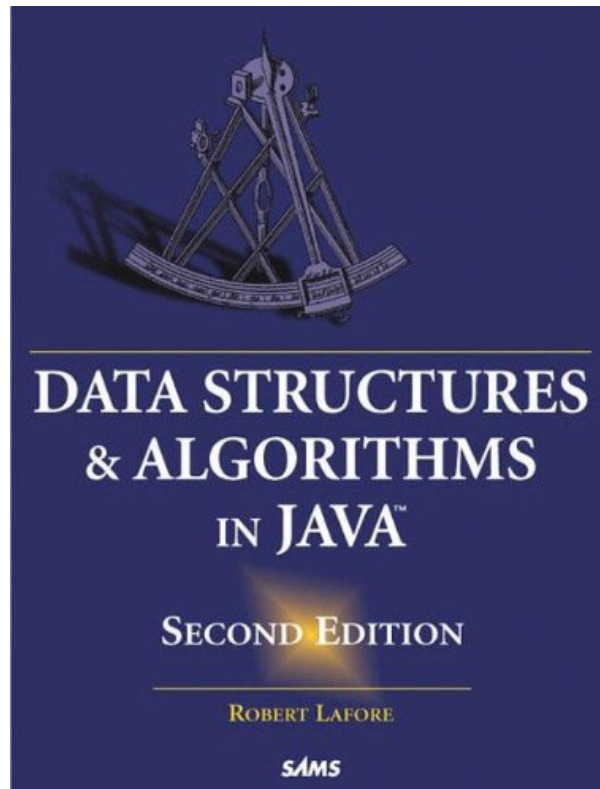
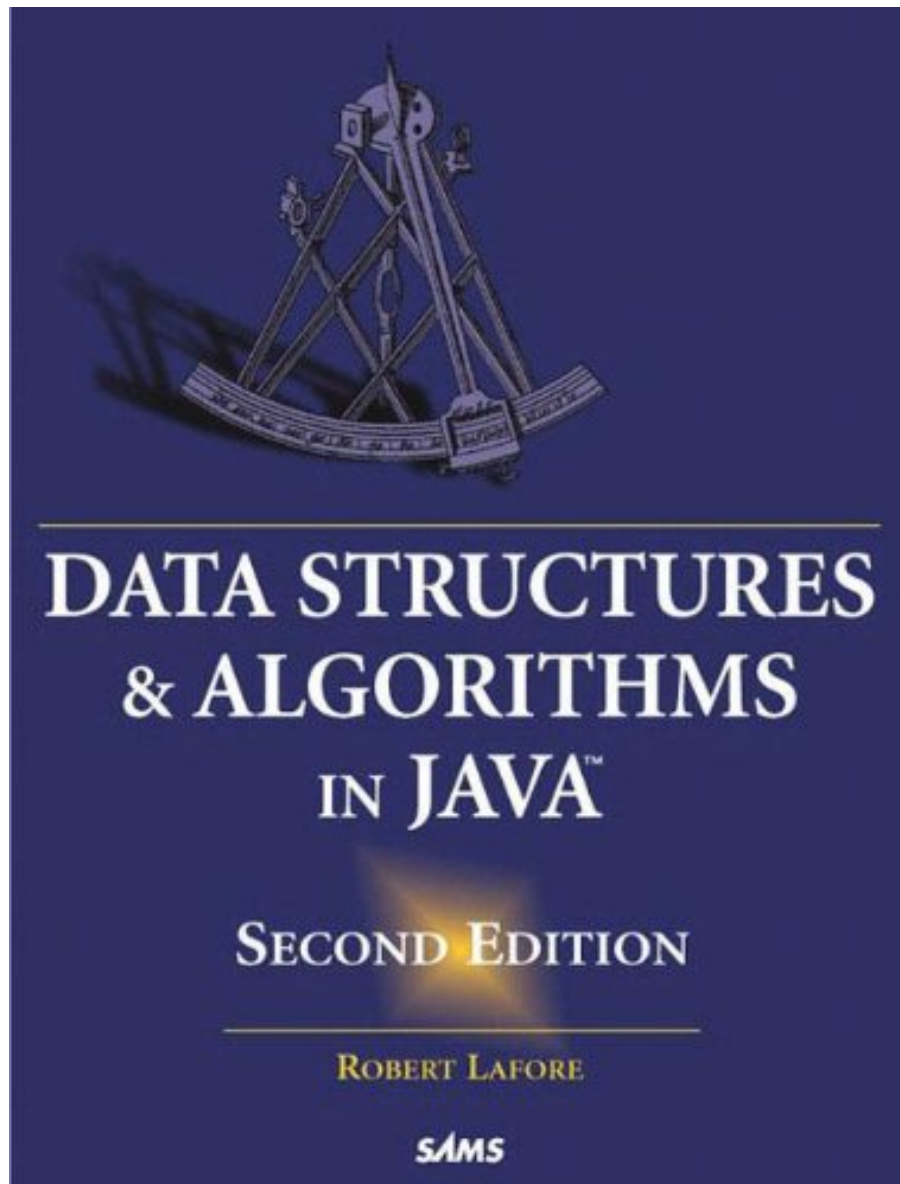


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"Data Structures and Algorithms in Java, Second Edition" is designed to be easy to read and understand although the topic itself is complicated. Algorithms are the procedures that software programs use to manipulate data structures. Besides clear and simple example programs, the author includes a workshop as a small demonstration program executable on a Web browser. The programs demonstrate in graphical form what data structures look like and how they operate. In the second edition, the program is rewritten to improve operation and clarify the algorithms, the example programs are revised to work with the latest version of the Java JDK, and questions and exercises will be added at the end of each chapter making the book even more useful. Educational Supplement Suggested solutions to the programming projects found at the end of each chapter are made available to instructors at recognized educational institutions. This educational supplement can be found at [www.prenhall.com](http://www.prenhall.com), in the Instructor Resource Center.

About the Author

Robert Lafore has degrees in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics, has worked as a systems analyst for the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, founded his own software company, and is a best-selling writer in the field of computer programming. Some of his current titles are C++ Interactive Course and Object-Oriented Programming in C++. Earlier best-selling titles include Assembly Language Primer for the IBM PC and XT and (back at the beginning of the computer revolution) Soul of CP/M.

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Suggested solutions to the programming projects found at the end of each chapter are made available to instructors at recognized educational institutions. This educational supplement can be found at [www.prenhall.com](http://www.prenhall.com), in the Instructor Resource Center.

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78 of 78 people found the following review helpful.

Best Data Structure/Algorithm Book on the Market for the Vast Majority of Developers"

By Biebs

As someone who does not come from a computer science background but works as a software engineer, I've had learning data structures and algorithms on my bucket list for quite some time. Working within the Ruby on Rails and SQL worlds has had me heavily shielded from the ideas and concepts of DS&A. My primary goal was to learn enough to pass the stereotypical Google/Amazon/Microsoft/Yahoo coding exam as well as conduct a similar engineering interview from the opposite end of the table. Since textbooks are my preferred way of learning, I set out in search of the DS&A book that would allow me to reach that goal.

Most guru lists will tell you that "Introduction to Algorithms" aka "CLRS" is the book to buy in this field. I would strongly disagree with this notion unless the reader is already very savvy in DS&A as well as mathematics. From my experience interviewing dozens of engineers over the last few months, a very small percentage of engineers are actually at that level. Similar lists recommend Skiena's book as an alternative to CLRS since it is slightly more accessible. Although I didn't look at Skiena's book as thoroughly as I did CLRS, it didn't seem to be much more beginner friendly. I initially ended up buying the "DS&A Made Easy" book--the reviews were good, the pages available via Amazon preview looked good, the book focused on DS&A from an interview perspective rather than mathematical proofs, and I also liked the author's stated approach (get something working, even if its terribly inefficient...then work on efficiency). Then the book came in the mail. After a week of browsing through the text, I actually threw the book in the trash. The English was bad, the code examples weren't well written, and there was a lot of hand waving where there shouldn't have been.

Then I found LaFore. His writing is extremely clear and never pretentious. The order in which he tackles DS&A topics is much more logical than the other texts I've seen. The Java code in each of the in-chapter exercises works perfectly. The charts and drawings are very helpful. The author knows exactly how far to take the discussion so that the reader is learning a concept thoroughly but not being beaten over the head with it or taken too far down the rabbit hole. I became more comfortable with the Java language itself working through the coding problems in this book than I did using a pure "Learn Java"-type book in the past. I read this book cover to cover over the course of a few months and can't say enough good things about it. No longer are DS&A intimidating to me.

The chapters are as follows:

- 1 Overview
- 2 Arrays
- 3 Simple Sorting
- 4 Stack and Queues
- 5 Linked Lists
- 6 Recursion
- 7 Advanced Sorting
- 8 Binary Trees
- 9 Red-Black Trees

10 2-3-4 Trees  
11 Hash Tables  
12 Heaps  
13 Graphs  
14 Weighted Graphs  
15 When to Use What

For me, the most difficult subjects by far were recursion and red-black trees. In fact, unlike any of the other topics listed above, coding a red-black tree is beyond the scope of this book.

In summary, this book may be the best technical text I have ever read (and I usually read 3-4 per year). I've read a handful of technical textbooks that were about simpler topics, were more complex reads, and I would still consider them good to great books. In fact, LaFore's DS&A book is so exceptional that I even considered buying his 11 year old C++ book to learn C++, even though learning C++ isn't on my bucket list.

My recommendation list for DS&A related works is as follows:

-If you are a DS&A beginner, choose LaFore's DS&A in Java book (most people fall into this category).

-If you are looking for more formal technical interview prep, buy one of Gayle Laakman's books as a companion piece. Laakman's works typically don't teach you DS&A themselves but prepare you for how you'll typically see them in an interview.

-If you are already very strong in DS&A and are looking for something beyond what you'd see in a typical technical interview, look into CLRS, Skiena, Sedgewick (who LaFore strongly recommends for further reading) or if you're really an expert--(gulp) Donald Knuth.

46 of 47 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent book  
By Thomas Paul

Just about every Computer Science program requires a course called "Data Structures and Algorithms". In order to become a programmer you must understand the information provided in this course. This book was written as a textbook for a "Data Structures and Algorithms" course and all the expected topics are covered; arrays, queues, stacks, linked lists, trees, hash tables, heaps, sorting, recursion, and searching. Whether you are a teacher looking for a text, a student who wants a better text than the required one, or just someone who wants to learn more about programming, this book is a very good choice. By using Java, all the complications of C++ are eliminated and the author's crystal clear explanations come shining through. And the author's explanations and examples are excellent. For example, the chapter on link lists explains what a linked list is, what problems it is supposed to solve and what problems it fails to solve, and then shows how to implement your own link list. The author provides a set of applets to visually illustrate the topics covered in the book. There are questions at the end of each chapter and answers are provided. This book is not going to explain the Collection classes or help you learn the API. What this book will do is help you get a deeper understanding of what data structures are, how they work, and what performance sacrifices must be made in order to achieve better overall performance in your programs.

52 of 56 people found the following review helpful.

Great Book on Data Structures  
By seamusmc

This is an excellent book on data structures and algorithms and would be a great addition to a student's text book. Fortunately Lafore does not dwell on the algorithm analysis as many data structures books do. This is

a plus for me, as most texts on the subject get the reader bogged down in the analysis portion of the subject matter. Note: algorithm analysis is a very important subject I just don't believe it should be taught in parallel with data structures to the extent it is. Its easier for me and many others to first learn how to implement data structures and get a feel for their performance then move on to in-depth analysis.

In this book you'll learn the more important data structures without the heavy mathematics many algorithm and data structure books torture readers with. The book is written in very accessible language and the applets really help the inexperienced see the algorithms in action.

As I mentioned this book does not cover algorithm analysis in detail. A step up from this book would be one of Sedgewick's books which provides more detail on the analysis front and some really 'tight' implementations. A good book that focuses on Algorithm Analysis is Intro to Algorithms by Cormen. You better have your math skills up to snuff for the Cormen book however.

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