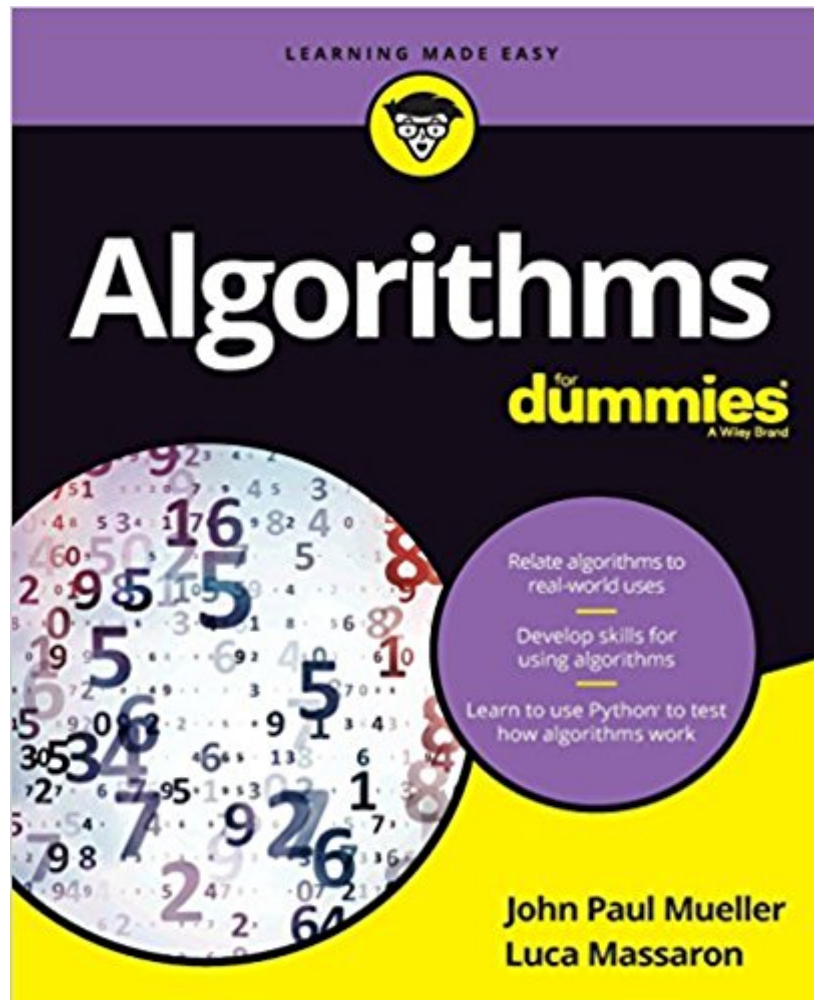




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# Algorithms For Dummies (For Dummies (Computers))



## Synopsis

Discover how algorithms shape and impact our digital world All data, big or small, starts with algorithms. Algorithms are mathematical equations that determine what we see—based on our likes, dislikes, queries, views, interests, relationships, and more—online. They are, in a sense, the electronic gatekeepers to our digital, as well as our physical, world. This book demystifies the subject of algorithms so you can understand how important they are business and scientific decision making. Algorithms for Dummies is a clear and concise primer for everyday people who are interested in algorithms and how they impact our digital lives. Based on the fact that we already live in a world where algorithms are behind most of the technology we use, this book offers eye-opening information on the pervasiveness and importance of this mathematical science—how it plays out in our everyday digestion of news and entertainment, as well as in its influence on our social interactions and consumerism. Readers even learn how to program an algorithm using Python! Become well-versed in the major areas comprising algorithms Examine the incredible history behind algorithms Get familiar with real-world applications of problem-solving procedures Experience hands-on development of an algorithm from start to finish with Python If you have a nagging curiosity about why an ad for that hammock you checked out on is appearing on your Facebook page, you'll find Algorithm for Dummies to be an enlightening introduction to this integral realm of math, science, and business.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Relate algorithms to real-world uses Develop skills for using algorithms Learn to use Python® to test how algorithms work Wrap your mind around algorithms You don't need a PhD to make sense of algorithms. This clear and accessible guide shows you how algorithms influence our daily lives; from online interactions to in-person exchanges. They are also extremely important when it comes to making decisions of all sorts. If you want to know how to use problem-solving procedures in the real world, Algorithms For Dummies is an enlightening introduction to this fascinating, pervasive realm. Inside — | Perform data manipulation Consider algorithm design Learn the history of algorithms Grasp graph basics Manage big data Reduce complex algorithms Guide a robot in a maze Program your own algorithm Visit the companion website at [www.dummies.com/go/algorithmsfd](http://www.dummies.com/go/algorithmsfd) to download all the source code for the examples in this book.

John Paul Mueller has produced 102 books and more than 600 articles to date on topics ranging from networking to machine learning. Luca Massaron is a data scientist specializing in organizing and interpreting big data and transforming it into smart data by means of the simplest and most effective data mining and machine learning techniques.

Excellent Explanation of Second Course "Algorithms + Data Structures" & Introduction to Advanced Programming. This is an essential skill for anyone who is attempting to build complex programs or wishes to learn skills in Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence or Financial Analysis Software. I believe other reviewers who have commented on the relative complexity of this book as opposed to an "Introduction to Programming" in a particular language such as BASIC are confusing the purpose of this book. It is a "For Dummies" book in the same sense as "Differential Equations for Dummies" — Differential Equations For Dummies, it is a clear introduction to a complex skill which must be mastered for progress in a professional or academic field, not a book for "any Dummy". As to the choice of Python as the language of instruction this is the current standard language of instruction for serious programming whether at MIT or your local Hackerspace. It is widely used in other books on Algorithms and Data Structures such as "Grokking Algorithms" — Grokking Algorithms: An illustrated guide for programmers and other curious people — and is almost the simplest language which is currently used for advanced programming. An excellent resource for anyone who desires to learn the skills of serious programming.

I hold a master's degree in computer science - with a focus in algorithms and computational complexity. But I received that degree 18 years ago, and most of the specific knowledge is long

forgotten. I find this to be a generally useful book for me to have, despite my not being a beginner or dummy. For example, I can recognize when I'm encountering a traveling salesman problem, but I certainly don't remember how to optimally approach it. That's when this book comes in handy. I can pick this book up and get the dummy overview on implementation approaches - as a refresher. I think this book works for people who have already studied algorithms formally in a computer science program, or who are in a highly related field - stats, math, whatever. Skim/skip the first couple of chapters ... or, really, just keep it as a reference rather than as a book to be read. It's not the best reference around but it's actually got its place. The focus is more practical than academic. This might be for you, then, if you've already done the academics. And if you can laugh at how you spend your days with neural networks and deep learning, but you don't remember the difference between quicksort and bubblesort?

Algorithms textbooks, necessarily, must put heavy emphasis on theoretical aspects. As a result, getting the "big picture" of what algorithms are about can get lost in the details. Algorithms for Dummies nicely remedies this. It certainly talks about theory, but its primary focus is on the practical. Various algorithm theories are accompanied by Python code for the reader to type and test...code that demonstrates how the algorithms work, and how they perform as the problem size grows. I really appreciate the lab approach to learning about algorithms in somewhat broad strokes. I also appreciate that, in addition to algorithms one would expect (Dijkstra's algorithm, greedy algorithms, various sorting algorithms, and so on), there are chapters that focus on the cutting edge of algorithms: Chapter 21 focuses on "Ten Algorithms That Are Changing the World" (such as those related to data compression and cryptography), and chapter 22 is "Ten Algorithmic Problems Yet to Solve" (multiplying really large number, reducing edit distance calculation time, and more). This book assumes some basic understanding of what computer programming is about. Don't worry if you don't know Python though....the examples are already written for you. If you plan to take a formal algorithms course in school, you might consider this as a warm up: it will help you get a handle on the big ideas, and then your course can get into the nitty gritty details. Or, if you know programming but just wondered about why algorithms are important in computer science, this is a great way to learn.

This book is too smart for a dummy like me. Joking aside, as an algorithm novice, I need a book that presents algorithms, in a simple and easy to understand format. I apologize to the author, but this book is a little on the boring side to me. I think it would hold my interest much more if it explained

algorithms in an easier to understand way, and at the same time, gave real life examples of how such algorithms can be used. A good example is the second edition of "Data Structures & Algorithms in Java" by Robert Lafore. I bought that book when I took an introductory class to computer programming. I have never programmed in Java (to this day), but Lafore's book explained the algorithms that we covered, in an easy to understand way. If you are a real dummy like me, I can tell you that there are simpler algorithm books out there. That is the only reason that I can't recommend this book more strongly.

This book is an excellent introduction for those who wanted to get started with algorithms, but were afraid of math. It gently introduces all the important aspects and right away demonstrates how to code them. Very hands-on.

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