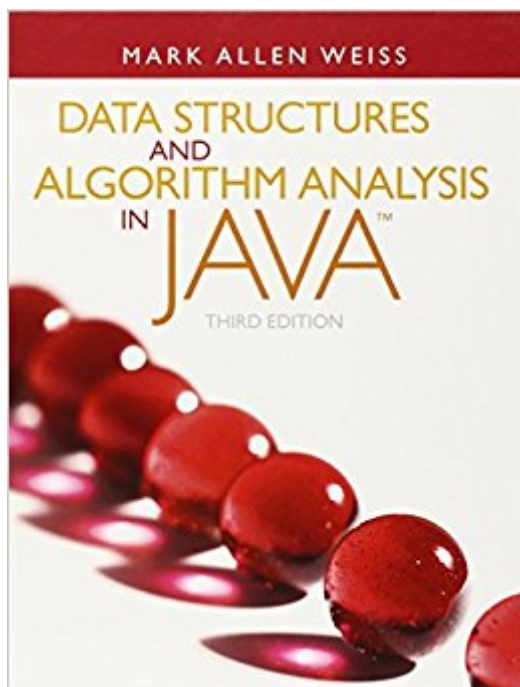


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Data Structures And Algorithm Analysis In Java (3rd Edition)



Synopsis

Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in Java is an advanced algorithms book that fits between traditional CS2 and Algorithms Analysis courses. In the old ACM Curriculum Guidelines, this course was known as CS7. This text is for readers who want to learn good programming and algorithm analysis skills simultaneously so that they can develop such programs with the maximum amount of efficiency. Readers should have some knowledge of intermediate programming, including topics as object-based programming and recursion, and some background in discrete math. As the speed and power of computers increases, so does the need for effective programming and algorithm analysis. By approaching these skills in tandem, Mark Allen Weiss teaches readers to develop well-constructed, maximally efficient programs in Java. Weiss clearly explains topics from binary heaps to sorting to NP-completeness, and dedicates a full chapter to amortized analysis and advanced data structures and their implementation. Figures and examples illustrating successive stages of algorithms contribute to Weiss's careful, rigorous and in-depth analysis of each type of algorithm. A logical organization of topics and full access to source code complement the text's coverage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mark Allen Weiss is Professor and Associate Director for the School of Computing and Information Sciences at Florida International University. He is also currently serving as both Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of Graduate Studies. He received his Bachelor's Degree in

Electrical Engineering from the Cooper Union in 1983, and his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Princeton University in 1987, working under Bob Sedgewick. He has been at FIU since 1987 and was promoted to Professor in 1996. His interests include data structures, algorithms, and education. He is most well-known for his highly-acclaimed Data Structures textbooks, which have been used for a generation by roughly a million students. Professor Weiss is the author of numerous publications in top-rated journals and was recipient of the University's Excellence in Research Award in 1994. In 1996 at FIU he was the first in the world to teach Data Structures using the Java programming language, which is now the de facto standard. From 1997-2004 he served as a member of the Advanced Placement Computer Science Development Committee, chairing the committee from 2000-2004. The committee designed the curriculum and wrote the AP exams that were taken by 20,000 high school students annually. In addition to his Research Award in 1994, Professor Weiss is also the recipient of the University's Excellence in Teaching Award in 1999 and the School of Computing and Information Science Excellence in Teaching Award (2005) and Excellence in Service Award (2007).

This book was required for my undergraduate class on Data Structures, but we almost never used it. I never found it useful when reading it on my own time and actually found it to be detrimental to my understanding of some concepts. Other people I've talked to have felt the same, unless your professor is requiring this for a class, don't bother.

Look, I'll be honest. I'm one of the few students that actually uses and appreciates textbooks. I don't like doing my reading online either because I like having a physical copy to mark, make notes in, and pass through. And I don't often groan about textbooks either. Sure, they're overwhelmingly boring. But for the most part, I find them useful (some more than others) and read them cover to cover. So to get me cranky about a textbook you have to do your fair share. And oh does Mark Allen Weiss deliver. The book is a complete nightmare. A great textbook is able to walk the reader through each part of the field he's learning, teaching it to him one piece at a time. I've always said if a textbook is great, you should be able to learn the subject from it without the aid of a teacher. Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in Java isn't even adequate or below par -- it's straight garbage. It's the sort of book that makes one thankful for the premise of Fahrenheit 451. The author frequently likes to explain things while missing out important steps in the logic -- steps which may be obvious to experts in the field, people who have been studying computer science and mathematics for a long time, or exceptionally keen students, but which will utterly befuddle the rest of us. His English is

clunky. He has a very unique talent for phrasing things in the most non-intuitive way possible. Relatively simple topics become a nightmare. I've spent the semester spending hours on Khan Academy, Google, or in my instructor's office seeking clarification of topics because trying to learn from this book is utterly hopeless. I'm learning Data Structures just fine, but this book has only been an obstacle to that process, not a help. Do not waste your money on this garbage. You won't use it. Even if you're a stickler for textbooks, trust me, this isn't worth it.

Bad bad bad textbook. Glosses over huge amounts of foundational information. Uses worthless pseudo code in many spots. Supporting code from website spurious. Everything that is bad about pernicious professors all rolled up into one lame, expensive book.

I find the concepts presented in my data structures very intuitive, so I haven't had to use this textbook much; however, the language the author uses is clear and concise, and I will likely keep this textbook as a reference after my class is over. Of course, I wish that the language weren't Java -- I'm a Pythonite. Even so, the code is easy to follow regardless of background, and you can always lean on the pseudocode algorithms as necessary. I recommend it strongly for undergrads pursuing a degree in CS who will be referring to these concepts again and again in future classes.

I was required to purchase this book for an undergraduate class in data structures. Many of the sections in the book try to explain data structures using code, rather than concepts. It would make more sense to provide a complete conceptual explanation, then show you the code. After reviewing external material from other sources (which I had to do to learn the material), it is obvious that the concepts are not as hard to learn/understand/apply as the book would make it seem. This book is not written by people that have an aptitude for education.

Good book, intuitive explanations for many commonly used algorithms. The author includes lots of java code where you can implement it on your own and just look it up if you actually do have any trouble. The exercises are good practice, but many of them were much more difficult to do than you would expect after reading a chapter. so the content for the book was very good for me as a student, i always reference back to it to check how some algorithms go and whatnot. I am a student in university by the way. The one problem I had is that at the end of my first semester of ownership, the binding of the book is already falling apart. This is from an official version from Pearson publishing too, not one of those international versions.

kind of hard to understand and learn from

The book is never superfluous and explains concepts comprehensively and succinctly. Requires a reasonable foundation in programming and abstract problem solving.

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