

Mastering Algorithms with Perl: Practical Programming Through Computer Science

By Jarkko Hietaniemi, John Macdonald, Jon Orwant

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Many programmers would love to use Perl for projects that involve heavy lifting, but miss the many traditional algorithms that textbooks teach for other languages. Computer scientists have identified many techniques that a wide range of programs need, such as:

- Fuzzy pattern matching for text (identify misspellings!)
- Finding correlations in data
- Game-playing algorithms
- Predicting phenomena such as Web traffic
- Polynomial and spline fitting

Using algorithms explained in this book, you too can carry out traditional programming tasks in a high-powered, efficient, easy-to-maintain manner with Perl. This book assumes a basic understanding of Perl syntax and functions, but not necessarily any background in computer science. The authors explain in a readable fashion the reasons for using various classic programming techniques, the kind of applications that use them, and -- most important -- how to code these algorithms in Perl. If you are an amateur programmer, this book will fill you in on the essential algorithms you need to solve problems like an expert. If you have already learned algorithms in other languages, you will be surprised at how much different (and often easier) it is to implement them in Perl. And yes, the book even has the obligatory fractal display program. There have been dozens of books on programming algorithms, some of them excellent, but never before has there been one that uses Perl. **The authors include the editor of *The Perl Journal* and master librarian of CPAN; all are contributors to CPAN and have archived much of the code in this book there.** "This book was so exciting I lost sleep reading it." Tom Christiansen

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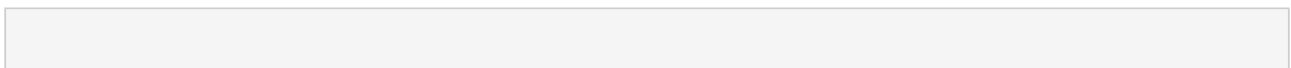
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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Written for readers with at least some Perl programming experience, *Mastering Algorithms in Perl* delivers a solid library of algorithms written in Perl for business and mathematical computing. From data structures to cryptography and more advanced mathematical algorithms, this book provides a worthwhile guide to extending Perl's coding capabilities.

The best thing about *Mastering Algorithms in Perl* is the scope at which it covers the universe of algorithms while refraining from getting bogged down in academic detail. Besides basic data structures--a lynchpin of books on algorithms--the authors provide dozens and dozens of algorithms for sorting, searching, and doing mathematical computations of all kinds. While they discuss "Big-O" notation and assume a general familiarity with math, they don't overwhelm the reader. (You can even borrow the code without needing a math degree to understand it.) The focus is on efficient, reusable Perl subroutines written and compiled by three Perl experts.

Standout chapters include extending Perl's already powerful string processing abilities, game programming, and cryptography. Generally, the authors achieve a good mix of more advanced (and less well-known) algorithms, along with the basics. Chances are you won't need to use all the dozen or so sorting algorithms presented here, but the authors include them all, just in case. As a reference and tutorial, readers can pick and choose what they need for real-world Perl development.

There hasn't been a book dedicated exclusively to Perl algorithms prior to the publication of this one. In all, *Mastering Algorithms in Perl* fills a useful niche by compiling a powerful library of Perl algorithms that will be useful for anyone who works with this programming language, whether in business or academic computing. --Richard Dragan

Topics covered: Perl data types, Big-O notation, data structures, queues, deques, linked lists, binary trees, sorting and searching algorithms, game and dynamic programming, sets and multisets, matrices and graphs, string matching and parsing, 2-D geometry, number systems, cryptography (including DES and RSA), probability, statistics, and numerical analysis.

From Library Journal

Perl is very similar to C in syntax, and while Perl doesn't have the speed of compiled C, it has been getting much faster. It also is one of the most portable languages, available for most hardware with no changes in code. It is free, which makes it very attractive to developers. This guide covers everything from data structures, sorting and searching, to sets and matrices, to cryptography, probability, and statistics. Readers must already know Perl, so this is recommended for advanced programming collections.

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Review

'An O'Reilly book, and what a good one it is. And what a fun one too: a book on algorithms for Perl. Yowza! As far as I know, this is a first. But otherwise this standard O'Reilly fare: well written, well edited, well designed (note the wolf on the cover), all you will expect and get from this publisher time and time again. And no, I don't have shares in O'Reilly!' - Julian Bucknall, Developers Review, June 2000. '...and the authors show every sign of enjoying themselves in writing it. It's a great read, as much for the byways it

opens up as for the possibility of using it to attack real-world problems. It marks a sort of coming of age for the language and most people who use Perl as a day to day 'Swiss army chainsaw' will enjoy it.' - Fiachra O Marcaigh, Irish Times, February 21st 2000

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