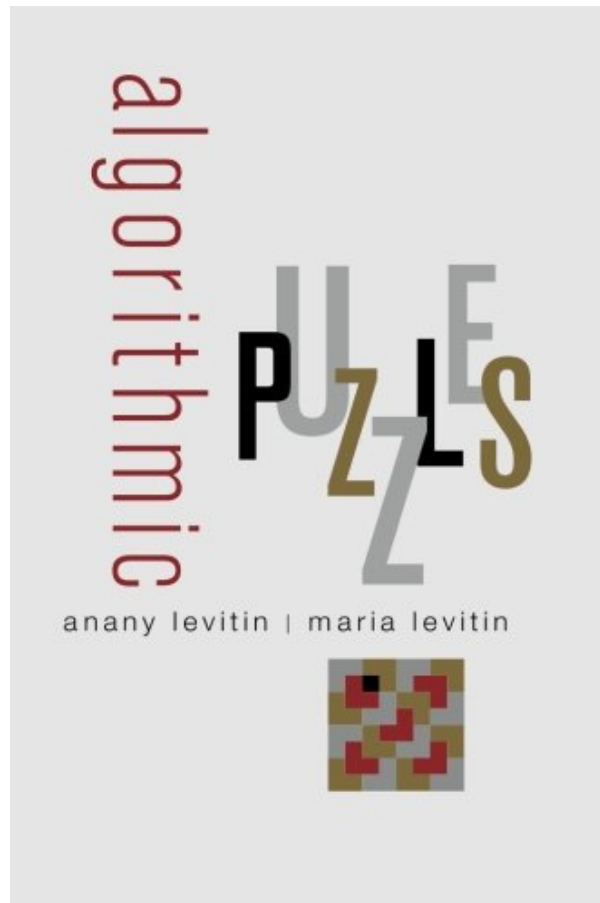
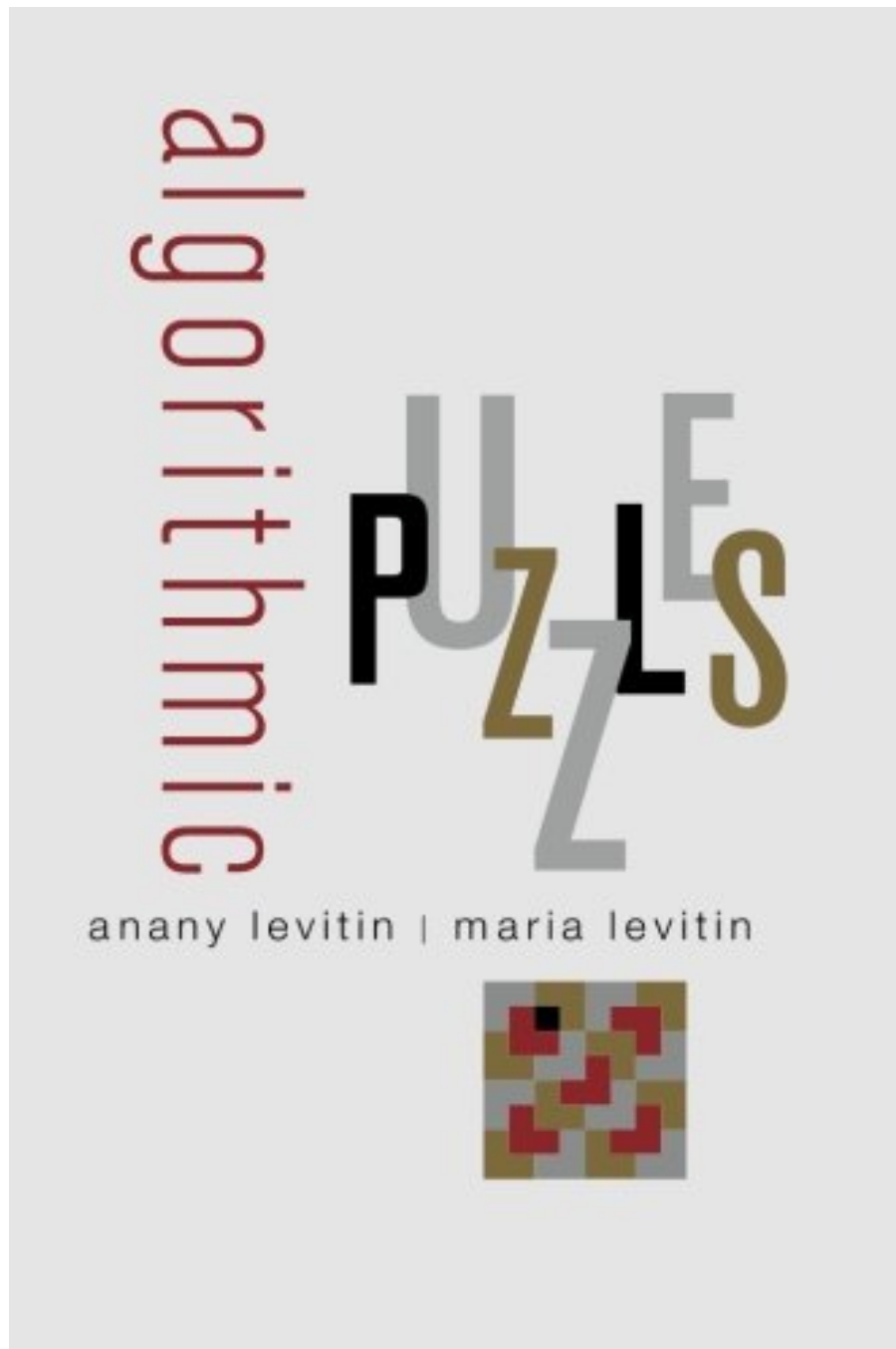


# ALGORITHMIC PUZZLES BY ANANY LEVITIN, MARIA LEVITIN



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As one of the window to open the brand-new globe, this *Algorithmic Puzzles By Anany Levitin, Maria Levitin* offers its remarkable writing from the writer. Released in one of the prominent publishers, this book *Algorithmic Puzzles By Anany Levitin, Maria Levitin* becomes one of one of the most ideal publications recently. In fact, guide will not matter if that *Algorithmic Puzzles By Anany Levitin, Maria Levitin* is a best seller or otherwise. Every publication will certainly always offer ideal resources to obtain the visitor all finest.

## Review

"Algorithmic Puzzles by Anany Levitin and Maria Levitin is an interesting and novel style of puzzle book. The emphasis lies in training the reader to think algorithmically and develop new puzzle-solving skills: the majority of puzzles are problems where we are asked to find the shortest distance or the fewest moves to get from A to B, or construct a proof that a puzzle has no solution. the book provides plenty of puzzles to keep even the most avid problem-solvers busy for a long time, all with varying levels of difficulty and different styles/contexts. The solutions provided are comprehensive and explain themselves in a friendly, constructive manner, complete with illustrations. In addition to questions and answers, a section of brief hints is also provided to assist the reader in their puzzle-solving endeavours." -- Graham Wheeler, Significance

## About the Author

Anany Levitin is a professor of Computing Sciences at Villanova University. He is the author of a popular textbook on design and analysis of algorithms, which has been translated into Chinese, Greek, Korean, and Russian. He has also published papers on mathematical optimization theory, software engineering, data management, algorithm design, and computer science education.

Maria Levitin is an independent consultant. After some years working for leading software companies and developing business applications for large corporations, she now specializes in web-based applications and wireless computing.

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# ALGORITHMIC PUZZLES BY ANANY LEVITIN, MARIA LEVITIN PDF

While many think of algorithms as specific to computer science, at its core algorithmic thinking is defined by the use of analytical logic to solve problems. This logic extends far beyond the realm of computer science and into the wide and entertaining world of puzzles. In *Algorithmic Puzzles*, Anany and Maria Levitin use many classic brainteasers as well as newer examples from job interviews with major corporations to show readers how to apply analytical thinking to solve puzzles requiring well-defined procedures.

The book's unique collection of puzzles is supplemented with carefully developed tutorials on algorithm design strategies and analysis techniques intended to walk the reader step-by-step through the various approaches to algorithmic problem solving. Mastery of these strategies--exhaustive search, backtracking, and divide-and-conquer, among others--will aid the reader in solving not only the puzzles contained in this book, but also others encountered in interviews, puzzle collections, and throughout everyday life. Each of the 150 puzzles contains hints and solutions, along with commentary on the puzzle's origins and solution methods.

The only book of its kind, *Algorithmic Puzzles* houses puzzles for all skill levels. Readers with only middle school mathematics will develop their algorithmic problem-solving skills through puzzles at the elementary level, while seasoned puzzle solvers will enjoy the challenge of thinking through more difficult puzzles.

- Sales Rank: #57833 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Oxford University Press
- Published on: 2011-10-14
- Released on: 2011-10-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.10" h x .70" w x 9.10" l, .88 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 280 pages

## Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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Maria Levitin is an independent consultant. After some years working for leading software companies and developing business applications for large corporations, she now specializes in web-based applications and wireless computing.

## Most helpful customer reviews

66 of 75 people found the following review helpful.

### Frustrating Kindle Adaptation

By T Mark W Bottomley

This book contains an excellent collection of algorithmic puzzles. There are lots (150) of puzzles in three difficulty categories. The book itself has 3 parts - the puzzle, the hint(s), and the solution explanation with references and a short history. The conversion to Kindle format was done poorly. You would have thought they could puzzle out that the three parts of the book should be linked so the reader can move back and forth. This is especially problematic as neither of the three sections can stand alone. The Poundstone books, *Are You Smart Enough to Work at Google?: Trick Questions, Zen-like Riddles, Insanely Difficult Puzzles, and Other Devious Interviewing Techniques You Need ... to Get a Job Anywhere in the New Economy* and *How Would You Move Mount Fuji?: Microsoft's Cult of the Puzzle - How the World's Smartest Companies Select the Most Creative Thinkers* are referenced in the book and they got the connectivity correct. I would recommend the paper version of the book with 3 book marks. Fixing this frustration would raise my rating to 5 stars.

The above Poundstone books do have a small overlap with this book, however they are sufficiently different that purchasing all three books is not a bad idea.

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Start with this book if you need to do puzzles for programming interviews

By Amazon Reviewer

My motivation for reading this book: preparing for coding interview puzzles.

This is the perspective from which I evaluate the book.

Conclusion: if you are in the coding interview game do yourself a favor and read at least the first 30 pages. Best return on investment, unless you already have specific training on solving puzzles.

I have at least 5 of the most popular titles specifically dedicated to coding interviews but I find that just the first 30 pages of this book are more valuable than all the other books combined. (This statement is limited to the general problem solving topics and not to technical trivia or dedicated computer science topics like tricky manipulations of a linked list.)

The first pages review very clearly the major strategies for solving "puzzles," which is just another word for problems. If you have a computing or mathematics background then likely nothing on those pages will be new. Regardless, in my case the systematic review of these strategies makes the difference between "I know that I should be able to solve this in minutes but still I run around in loops and getting frustrated" to actually being able to convert the problem space to a graphical representation that helps getting the solution in minutes even with the most simplistic approach of exhaustive search. Of course those 30 pages are about

describing the progression of the more sophisticated strategies that, even though I have been aware of them all, are extremely helpful to see in a system.

Contrast to other books I've seen: other books usually start with the problem, then either provide the solution up front, or demonstrate one example of how you could start looking for the solution. Although such examples are more useful than nothing they still do not provide the key to coming up with the methods that the author does in the style of "let's try this." To me, even just a few 10-s of minutes of investment, many problems changed from "maybe being able to solve in an hour if lucky" to "get straight to the solution in minutes".

It is a pity that the academic education of many of us did not cover these techniques systematically as it results in a) losing out against those who are not inherently more clever but somebody taught them these strategies, possibly at the tender age of early teens b) we may be wasting time and coming up with lousy solutions for problems in our day-jobs as coders.

Now for the puzzles: the books starts with a list of puzzles, then has a list of hints for each problem and then a detailed solution. The solution is again explained in an easy to understand way and refers to the general strategies introduced earlier. Most solutions have a comments section referring to the history of the problem and providing references to other works where the problem has been discussed. Actually, the references section of the book is a treasure mine in itself.

And no, it's not dry and no unnecessary use of mathematical notation. It's something a 12 year old could easily comprehend.

And no, no unnecessary fluff as in so many books I endeavor to read.

Although I had a specific agenda in starting to read this book I'm positive that people with a more genuine interest in puzzles will find it equally valuable.

23 of 26 people found the following review helpful.

Kindle edition needs to be ... kindle-ized! Maybe buy the physical book instead.

By Thomas Ehardt

The content of the book itself is OK; there a lot of rehashing of things that have already been rehashed to death.

However, the Kindle edition is terrible. There is no useful navigation, and it's as if someone took a source document for the book and exported to a Kindle document.

There was a real opportunity here to make an extremely useful document; each puzzle can be linked to the hints and solution, and those in turn could be linked back to each other.

I really hope that the publisher will revisit the Kindle edition and make it useful.

See all 21 customer reviews...

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It will certainly have no doubt when you are going to select this publication. This motivating **Algorithmic Puzzles By Anany Levitin, Maria Levitin** publication could be read totally in particular time depending upon just how frequently you open and review them. One to bear in mind is that every e-book has their very own manufacturing to get by each reader. So, be the excellent reader and be a much better individual after reading this publication *Algorithmic Puzzles By Anany Levitin, Maria Levitin*

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