Algorithms



- The sequence of steps carried out during a computation are defined by an ***algorithm***
  - an algorithm can be thought of as a “prescription”
  - “follow these steps and you will solve your problem”
- An algorithm includes a complete description of
  - the set of ***inputs***, or starting conditions
    - a full specification of the problem to be solved
  - the set of ***outputs***
    - descriptions of valid solutions to the problem
  - a sequence of ***operations*** that will eventually produce the output
    - steps must be simple and precise