

CSE 830:  
Design and Theory of Algorithms

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Dr. Eric Torng

# Overview

- Administrative stuff...
- Lecture schedule overview
- What is an algorithm? What is a problem?
- How we study algorithms
- Some examples

# What is an Algorithm?

According to the *Academic American Encyclopedia*:

An algorithm is a procedure for solving a usually complicated problem by carrying out a precisely determined sequence of simpler, unambiguous steps. Such procedures were originally used in mathematical calculations (the name is a variant of algorism, which originally meant the Arabic numerals and then "arithmetic") but are now widely used in computer programs and in programmed learning.