HANDOUT

What Is an Algorithm?

An algorithm is a clearly given set of step-by-step instructions to solve a problem or accomplish a task.

In computer science, an algorithm is a sequence of precise instructions that tells a computer how to solve a problem or accomplish a task.

A computer algorithm is any well-defined computational procedure that takes some value or set of values, as input and produces some value or set of values, as output. An algorithm is thus a sequence of computational steps that transform the input into the output (Cormen, Leiserson, Rivest & Stein, 2009, p. 5).

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