CSCI 350 Spring 2005

QUIZ 1

Assigned Thursday, 05-01-13

According to your text, an algorithm is a sequence of unambiguous instructions for solving a problem, i.e., for obtaining a required output for any legitimate input in a finite amount of time.

According to Donald Knuth, an algorithm has the following five important features: finiteness (termination), definitiness (precise definition of each step), input (zero or more), output (one or more), effectiveness (an algorithm's "operations must be sufficiently basic that they can in principle be done exactly and in a finite length of time by someone using pencil and paper").

1. Knuth goes on to define computational method as something that is just like an algorithm, except for one of the five features. Which one?

   Answer: finitness

2. In class, we said that a recipe (typically) lacks another one of the five features. Which one?

   Answer: definitness