

## Introduction to CS - Terms

### CHAPTER 1

- **Algorithm:** Informally, a set of steps that describe how to perform a task; formally, a well ordered collection of unambiguous and effectively computable operations that, when executed, produces a result and halts in a finite amount of time.
- **Computer science:** The study of algorithms, including their formal and mathematical properties, their hardware realizations, their linguistic realizations, and their applications.
- **Computing agent:** The machine, robot, person, or thing carrying out the steps of an algorithm.
- **Conditional operation:** An operation that chooses between multiple actions based on some specified criteria.
- **Effectively computable operation:** An operation that a given computing agent can perform, often called a primitive operation.
- **Iterative operation:** An operation that specifies that a particular set of operations be repeated multiple times.
- **Sequential operation:** An operation that performs some calculation and exists in sequence with other operations in describing an algorithm.
- **Unambiguous operation:** An operation that has only one meaning and is understood well.