

COS 423, SPRING 2018

THEORY
of
ALGORITHMS

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**PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY**

Algorithm definition

*“ An algorithm is a finite, definite, effective procedure,
with some input and some output. ”*

— Donald Knuth



COS 226 vs. COS 423

COS 226. **Implementation** and **consumption** of classic algorithms.

- Stacks and queues.
- Sorting.
- Searching.
- Graph algorithms.
- String processing.

```
private static void sort(double[] a, int lo, int hi) {
    if (hi <= lo) return;
    int lt = lo, gt = hi;
    int i = lo;
    while (i <= gt) {
        if (a[i] < a[lo]) swap(a, lt++, i++);
        else if (a[i] > a[lo]) swap(a, i, gt--);
        else i++;
    }

    sort(a, lo, lt - 1);
    sort(a, gt + 1, hi);
}
```

Emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and **code**.

COS 226 vs. COS 423

COS 423. Design and analysis of algorithms.

- Greed.
- Divide-and-conquer.
- Dynamic programming.
- Duality.
- Data structures.
- Intractability.

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i+1}^n \frac{2}{j-i-1} &= 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=2}^{n-i+1} \frac{1}{j} \\ &\leq 2n \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{j} \\ &\sim 2n \int_{x=1}^n \frac{1}{x} dx \\ &= 2n \ln n\end{aligned}$$

Emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and **rigorous analysis**.

Why study algorithms?

*“ Algorithms are the life-blood of computer science...
the common denominator that underlies and unifies the
different branches. ” — Donald Knuth*



Why study algorithms?

Internet. Web search, packet routing, distributed file sharing, ...

Biology. Human genome project, protein folding, ...

Computers. Circuit layout, databases, caching, networking, compilers, ...

Computer graphics. Movies, video games, virtual reality, ...

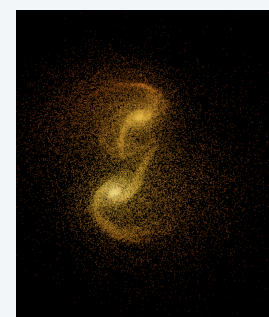
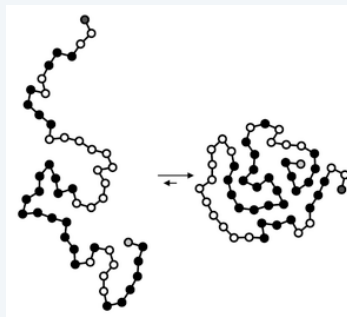
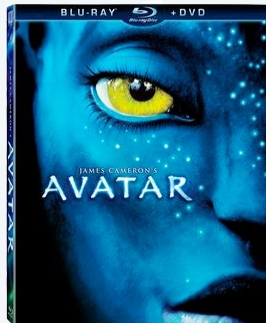
Security. Cell phones, e-commerce, voting machines, ...

Multimedia. MP3, JPG, DivX, HDTV, face recognition, ...

Social networks. Recommendations, news feeds, advertisements, ...

Physics. Particle collision simulation, n -body simulation, ...

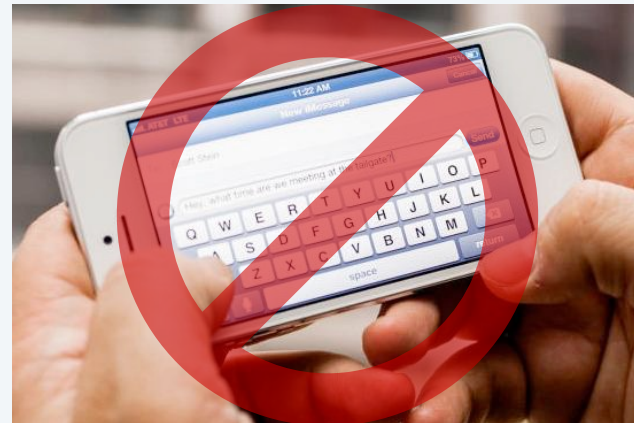
⋮




We emphasize **algorithms** and **techniques** that are **useful in practice**.

Lectures

- Monday and Wednesday 11–12:20pm in Green 0-S-6.
- Attendance is required.
- No electronic devices except to aid in learning. ← viewing lecture slides
taking notes

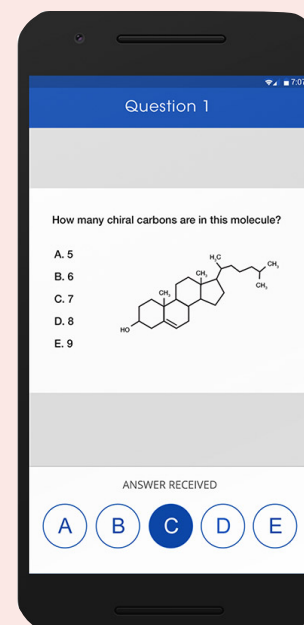


Student response system (required).

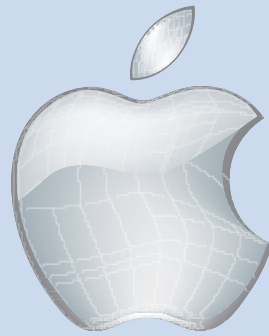
- Register your iClicker in Blackboard. 
- Available at Labyrinth Books (\$30).
- Use only one device per lecture.

Which model of iClicker are you using?

- A. iClicker.
- B. iClicker+.
- C. iClicker 2.
- D. iClicker Reef.

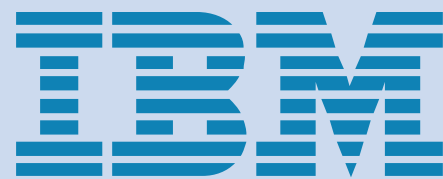
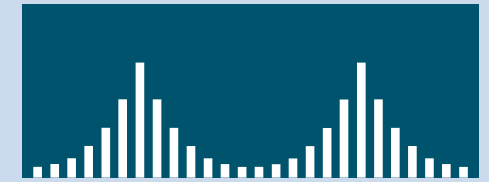


TECHNICAL JOB INTERVIEW QUESTIONS



facebook

CISCO SYSTEMS



Nintendo



Morgan Stanley

NETFLIX



DE Shaw & Co

ORACLE



YAHOO!

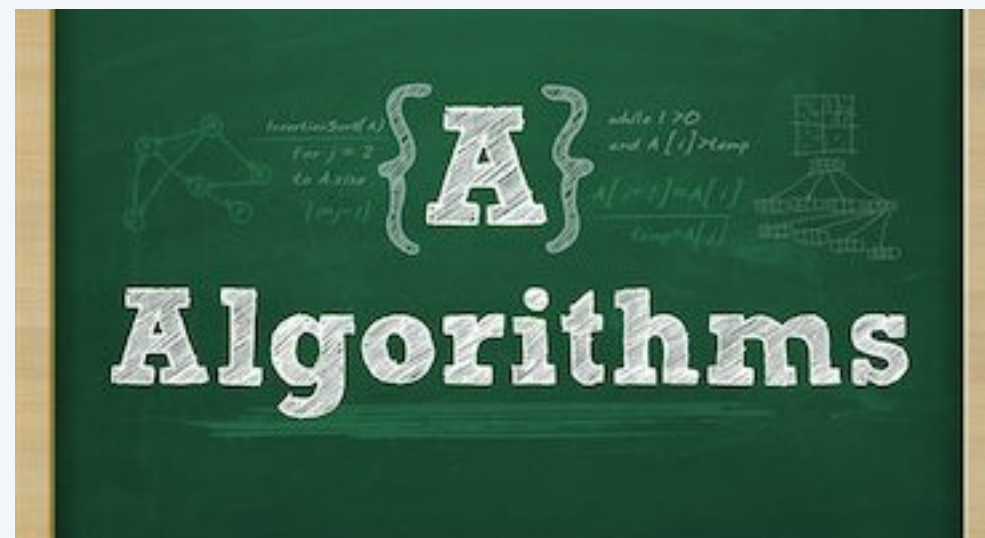
amazon

Microsoft



Precepts

- Friday 11–11:50am in Friend 004 or
Monday 7:30–8:20pm in Friend 006. ← precept begins
Friday/Monday
- Preceptor solves problems and answers questions.
- Attendance is strongly recommended.



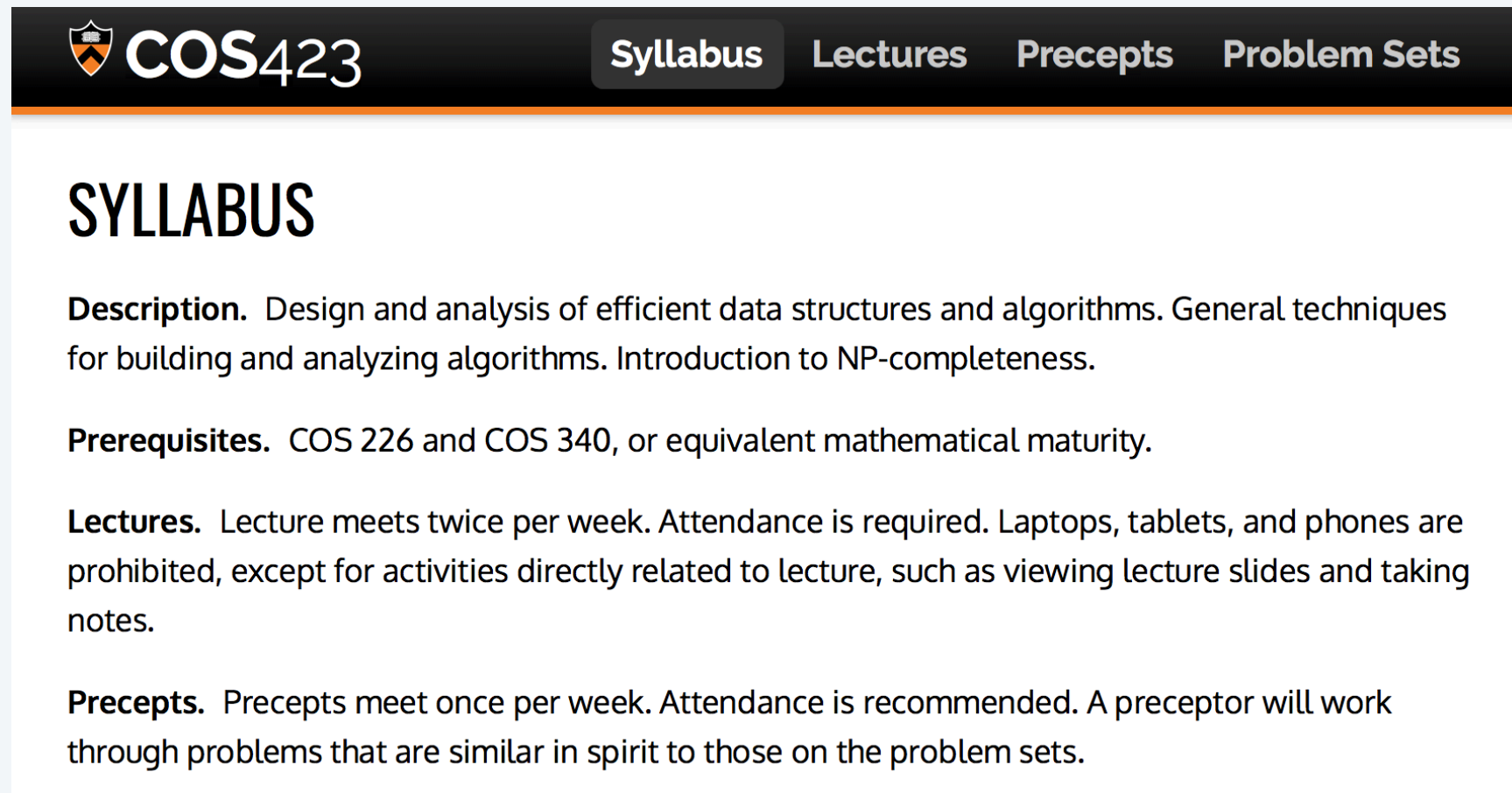
Qasim Nadeem




James Bartusek

Course website

- Office hours.
- Problem sets.
- Lecture slides.
- Course policies.
- Electronic submission.
- ...



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the COS423 course website. The navigation bar is dark with a white border. On the left is the Princeton University logo and the text 'COS423'. To the right are four menu items: 'Syllabus', 'Lectures', 'Precepts', and 'Problem Sets'. Below the navigation bar is a white section with the heading 'SYLLABUS'. Underneath the heading are four paragraphs of text: 'Description', 'Prerequisites', 'Lectures', and 'Precepts', each providing details about the course content and requirements.

 **COS423** **Syllabus** **Lectures** **Precepts** **Problem Sets**

SYLLABUS

Description. Design and analysis of efficient data structures and algorithms. General techniques for building and analyzing algorithms. Introduction to NP-completeness.

Prerequisites. COS 226 and COS 340, or equivalent mathematical maturity.

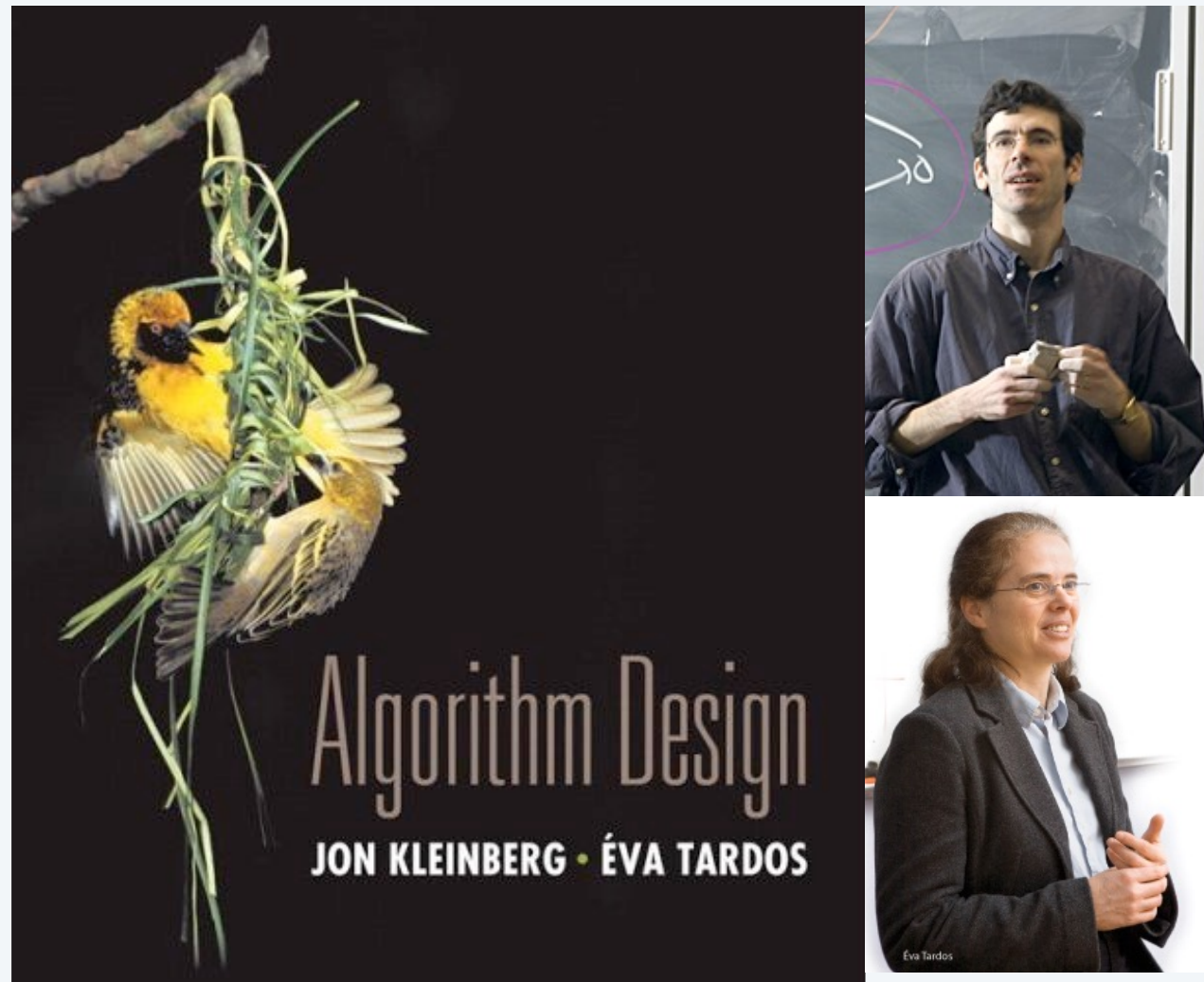
Lectures. Lecture meets twice per week. Attendance is required. Laptops, tablets, and phones are prohibited, except for activities directly related to lecture, such as viewing lecture slides and taking notes.

Precepts. Precepts meet once per week. Attendance is recommended. A preceptor will work through problems that are similar in spirit to those on the problem sets.

www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spring18/cos423

Textbook

Required reading. *Algorithm Design* by Jon Kleinberg and Éva Tardos. Addison-Wesley 2005, ISBN 978-0321295354.



Grades

Problem sets.

- “Weekly” problem sets, due via electronic submission. ← problem set 1 is due due Wednesday 2/14
- Graded for correctness, efficiency, rigor, clarity, and conciseness.
- Use $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ template for writing solutions.

Course grades.

- Primarily based on problem sets.
- iClicker participation.
- Staff discretion used to adjust borderline cases.

A B C

Collaboration

Collaboration policy. [see course website for full details; ask if unsure]

- Course materials (textbook and lecture slides) are always permitted.
- No external resources, e.g., can't Google for solutions.

“Collaboration permitted” problem sets.

- You may discuss ideas with classmates.
- You must write up solutions on your own, in your own words.

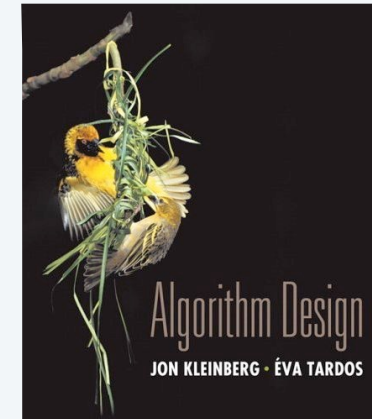
“No collaboration” problem sets.

- You may discuss ideas with course staff only.



Where to get help?

Textbook. Read the textbook—it's good!



Piazza. Online discussion forum.

- Low latency, low bandwidth.
- Mark as private any solution-revealing questions.

PIAZZA

www.piazza.com/princeton/spring2018/cos423

Office hours.

- High bandwidth, high latency.
- See course website for schedule.



www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spring18/cos423

Questions?

Not registered? Get registered.

Haven't taken COS 226 and COS 340? See me.

