

Design and Analysis of Computer Algorithms

CMSC 451

Lecture 1

Runzhou Tao

Aug. 31, 2026

Today's Plan

- Information of the course
- Introduction to Algorithm Design

Staff

- Instructor: Runzhou Tao, Assistant Prof. of CS
 - Research Interest: Quantum Computing
 - Email: rztao@umd.edu
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- TAs:
 - Mattias Ehatamm(mehatamm@umd.edu)
 - Hongzheng Zhu (hzhu1238@umd.edu)

Course Website

- <https://www.cs.umd.edu/class/spring2026/cm451-0301/>
 - **Check frequently!**
- Piazza: Discussions, Ask for help, announcements
- ELMS: announcements, solutions, recordings
- GradeScope: Grading exams

Office Hours

- Tao: Wednesday 2-3pm / after class / by appointment
- Ehatamm: Tuesday 2-3pm AVW 4160; Friday 2-3pm Zoom
- Zhu: Monday 11am-12pm AVW 4160; Thursday 4-5pm Zoom
- In general, please send your questions/requests to Piazza or set up appointments via emails with the instructor and the TA. We will act as soon as possible to reply to your requests.

Textbook

- Algorithm Design, by Jon Kleinberg and Eva Tardos, Addison-Wesley, 2005
- Other lecture notes specified on the course website

Grading

- Five in-class Quizzes: 5, 75% total.
- Final Exam: 25%
- Practice problems each week for reference

Please let us know ASAP if

- You cannot access Piazza / Gradescope.
- Time conflicts of exams.
- Concerns about the difficulty of the course.