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# Introduction To Computer Problem Solving

## \* Introduction to Computer Problem Solving

### \* 1. Programs and Algorithms:-

The computer solution to a problem each set of explicit and unambiguous instructions express in programming language, this set of instructions is called program.

An algorithm is step by step representation of problem solving steps. An algorithm correspond to a solution to a problem that is independent of any programming language.

To obtain the computer solution to a problem we have to supply the program with input or data. The program then take this input and manipulate it according to its instructions & produces an output which represents the computer solution to the problem.

### 2 Requirements For Solving by Computer:-

After studying even a small sample of computer problem it soon becomes obvious that the conscious depth of understanding is needed to design effective computer algorithm.

### 3. Problem Solving Aspect :-

It is widely recognize that problem solving is a creative process which largely defines systematization and mechanization. There are various ways and steps about the understanding and solution of the problem.

#### 1.1 Problem definition phase :- (Understanding)

Success in solving any problem is possible only when understand the problem at hand. Make useful progress in solving a problem by preliminary investigation which will be taught as problem definition phase. During this phase workout what must be done rather than how to do it that is we must try to extract from the problem statement, set of precisely define task. The development of algorithm for finding square root or greatest common divisor (GCD) are good example of how important it is to carefully define the problem.

#### 1.2. Getting started on a problem :-

There are many ways to solve most problems and also many solutions

to most solution and this situation does not make job of problem solving easy. We get conflict between which part are likely to be fruitless and which part are productive.

In such situation the best advice is not to be too concerned about detail. The details come later when the complexity of that problem brought under control.

### 1.3 The use of specific example:-

A useful strategy is to use some props to try to get a start with the problem with the help of specific example.

### 1.4 Similarities among the problem:-

We have already seen that one way to make a start on a problem is by considering specific examples. The ~~and~~ another thing that we should always try to bring as much past experience as possible, to bear on current problem. In this respect it is important to see, if there is any similarities between the current problem and the other problem, hence it is very important skill that

develop Problem solving from variety of angles once you develop a skill it is possible to get started on any problem.

### 1.5 Working backwards from the solution :-

We should write down as we go along the various steps and explorations made which will help for the investigation and avoid duplication of efforts.

Once we have solved the problem, reflect back on the way we went about discovering the solution. This can help us significantly. In short we said that "We learn most when we have to Invent".

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### 1.6. General Problem Solving Strategies :-

There are no. of general & Powerful Computation Strategies that are repeatedly use in various guises in Computing Science. The most widely known & commonly use strategy is divide & conquer strategy in this strategy the basic idea is to divide the original problem into two or more sub-problems. which can be solved more efficiently by the same technique. This type of solution has wide applica-

times in many more real life problem such as Sorting, Selection, Searching etc

#### 4. Top-Down Design :-

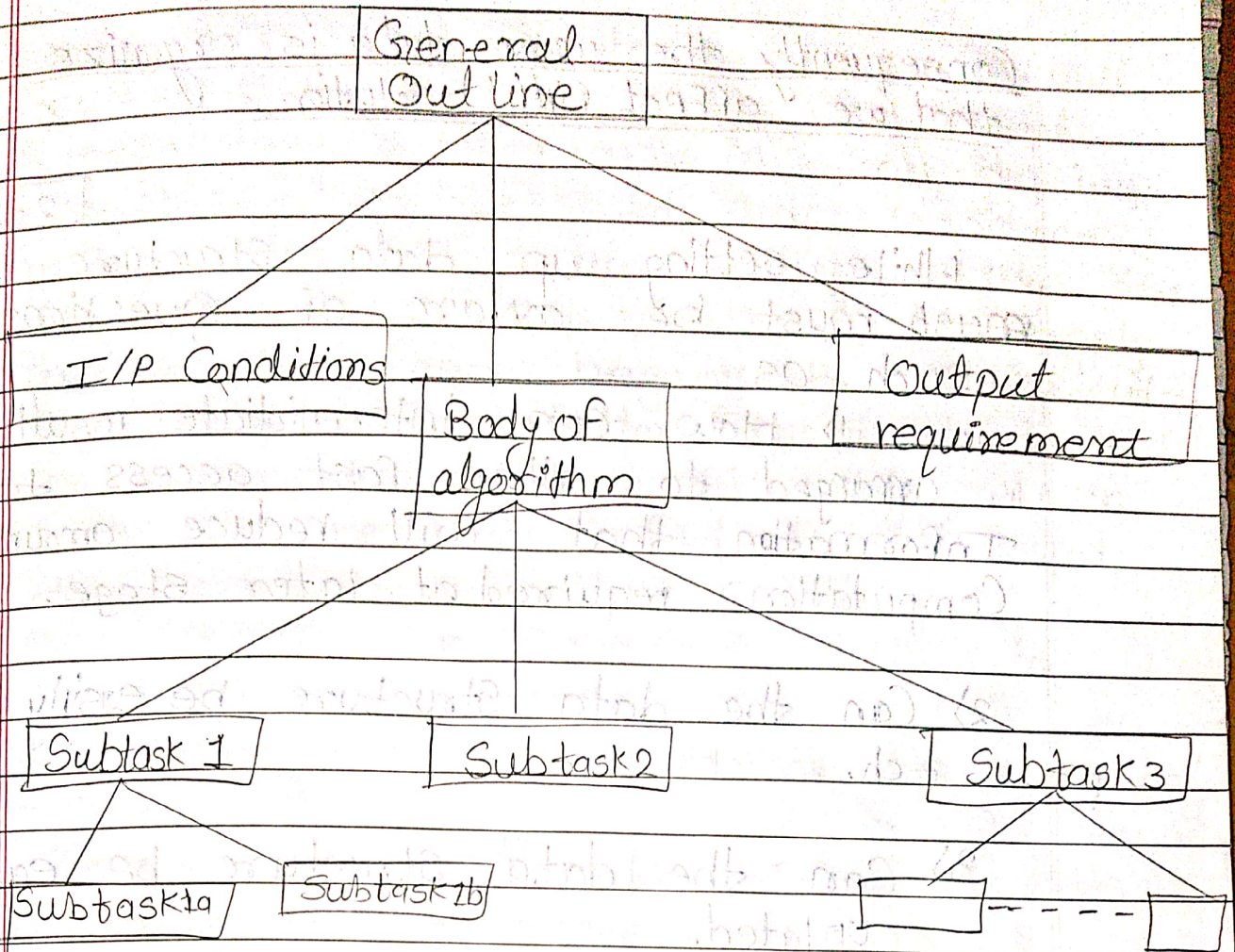
The primary goal in Computer problem Solving is an algorithm which is Capable of being implimented as correct & efficient Computer Program.

A technique for algorithm design that tries to accommodate this human limitation is known as top-Down design or step wise refinement.

Top-Down design is a strategy that we can apply to take the solution of a Computer problem from a ~~vague~~ vague outline to precisely define algorithm & program implimentation

Following are the various steps in top-down design.

1) Breaking a problem into Sub problem.



The figure shows breakdown of Problem in ~~subst~~ Subtasks. The process of breaking down the position into Subtask in the manner describes results implimentable sets.

## ② Choice of Suitable data structure:-

One of the most important ~~disi~~ decision we have to make in Formulating Computer Solution to problem is the choice of appropriate data structure, all programs Operate on data &

Consequently the way data is organize that we affect final solution.

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While setting up data structure we must be aware of questions

such as

1) How can intermediate result be arranged to allow fast access to information that will reduce amount of computation required at later stage.

2) Can the data structure be easily search.

3) Can the data structure be easily updated.

4) Does the data structure provide the way of recovering and ~~at~~ earlier stage in the computation

5) Does the data structure involve the ~~excessive~~ use of storage etc. (accessive)

\* Construction of Loop :-

Loop is ~~at~~ iterative constructs that are conditionally executed these

~~statements~~ <sup>structures</sup> (Loops) together with input output statements, Computable and assignment make up the heart of program implementation. To construct any loop we must take into account three things the initial condition that need to apply before the loop begins to execute, The invariant relation (that is increment or decrement) that must apply after each at iteration of loop, & third the ~~end~~ termination condition.

1) Establishing Initial conditions for loop :-

Consider loop variable say  $i$  & its value in the range  $0 \leq i \leq n$

~~ex:  $i := 0$~~  ~~end~~  
 ~~$i := 0$~~  ~~end~~

For example to calculate sum of  $n$  number initially we have to assign ~~to~~ ( $i := 0$ )

$i := 0 \rightarrow$  assignment symbol

Sum := 0

the value of  $i := 0$  and sum of 0 number is 0.

2) Finding Iterative Constructs :-

Once we have the condition



For solving problem the next step is construct the iterative value, i.e. we built the solution to the problem for  $i := 0$  to get  $i := 1$  for that use the expression as  $i := i + 1$ .

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\* Introduction of Algorithm

3) Implementation of Algorithm :-

The Implementation of an algorithm is mechanical process which should be properly designed. If it is properly designed the path of execution should flow in straight line from top to bottom. Such design is much easier to understand and debug. They there also easy to modify and update.

1) use of procedure to emphasize modularity :-

modularization of the program is helpful for implementation and readability of the main program. This practice allows us to implement set of independent procedure to perform specific and welldefined task.

For eg:- In an algorithm it is required to

Sort a list of name, then a specific Index-  
pendant procedure to be use for the  
sort.

For eg:- ~~prod. procedure, sort~~

procedure sort;

begins

\_\_\_\_\_

write in ("sort called")

end.

2) choice of variable name:-

The program become more mean-  
ingful and easier to be understand and  
if choice of appropriate variable and constant name.

For eg:- If you want to enter day of the week  
we have to use proper variable name  
as -

day - week

week - day

day of week

days etc.

A clear definition of all variables and  
constant at the start of each pro-  
cedure can also be <sup>very</sup> helpful.  
each variable should only have one  
role in the given programme.

### 3) Documentation of program :-

Documentation is the information that the program presents to the user during the execution phase.

A good programming practice is always write a program with documentation so that they can be executed and use by other people who are unfamiliar with working and ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Input <sup>requirement</sup> of the program.

This means program must specify exactly what responses it require from the user.

### 4) Debugging in

#### 4) Debugging Program

To make the task of ~~detecting~~ <sup>detecting</sup> logical errors and syntactical error this is debugging phase. For that it is necessary to go through each and every step of program and also write the addition print statement in the program which helps in removing the error.

## 5) Program testing -

It is often not possible to write a program that handles all input conditions that may be supplied for a given problem. Although it is not always practical to implement a program that can handle all possible input conditions, program testing for various values & types of values is necessary for the smooth execution of the program.

For that some types are there, use fixed numeric constants for the program testing and then generalize it. Proper implementation of algorithm minimize the number of errors.

## \* Program Verification :-

The cost of development of computing software has become a major expense in the application of computers. Experience in working with computers suggest that more efforts and resources are spent in correcting the errors in the program. The best suggestion is for that more care should be taken while creating the code & writing the code at the time of program development.

- program verification refers to the

application of mathematical proofs techniques to establish the results obtain by the execution of program with arbitrary input.

### 1) Computer Model for program execution-

to perceive the goal of program verification we must fully appreciate what happens when a program is executed under the influence of given input condition. There are various paths for execution but for a given set of input condition only one of these path will be followed.

### 2) Input & output assertions:

This is a very first step that need to be taken in order to prove a program correct or not, for that provide a formal statement of specification for of the variables & input & output assertions which can be express in logic notation.

$$x = (q * y + r) \wedge (r < y)$$

\* Implication of Symbolic execution;

To proceed with the verification procedure it is usually to set up ~~to~~ no. of ~~Inter~~ Intermediate Verification Conditions between the Input & output assertion.

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\* The Analysis of Algorithm :-

There are usually many ways to solve any given problem there are often certain aspects which are based on practical level. We are usually ~~Inter~~ Interested in a solution which is economical in the use of Computing and human resources. Good Algorithm usually possesses the following ~~quantity~~ qualities & capabilities.

- 1) They are simple but powerful & General solutions.
- 2) They can be easily understood by others that is the implementation is clear & ~~easy~~ concise without being tricky.
- 3) They can be easily modified if necessary.

- 4) They are correct for clearly defined situations
- 5) They are able to be understood on no. of levels.
- 6) They are economical in the use of computer time, computer storage & peripherals.
- 7) They are well documented & to be use by others who do not have detail knowledge of their inner ~~working~~ working.
- 8) They are not depend on being run on a particular computer.
- 9) They are able to use as a sub procedure for other.
- 10) The solution is pleasing & satisfying to it's designer so that designer feel proud to have created.

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\* What is algorithm:-

Planing a program with involving it's logic. The term algorithm refers to the logic of a program. It is a step by step discription of how to arrive at the solution of given problem.

Algorithm is sequence of ~~Finite~~ Instruction that when executed in the specified sequence gives the desired result.

It must possess following characteristics.

1) Each instruction should be precise & unambiguous.

2) Each instruction should be executed in a finite time.

3) No instruction should repeat infinitely. This ensures that algorithm terminates ultimately.

4) After executing the instruction the desired results are obtained.

\* Sample Algorithm:-

eg:-

Q1. We have mark memo of 50 students with grade on it as first, second, third, & fail. Calculate & print the total no. of student passed in first grade.

- 
1. Initialise total first & total marksheet to zero.
  2. Take the marks of next student.
  3. Check the division if it is FIRST if no go to step 5.
  4. Add 1 to total first
  5. Add 1 to total marksheet.



6. IF total marksheet = 50? if no go to step 2.
7. Print total first.
8. Stop.

eg:- 2 There are 100 employees in an organization. The organization distributes based on their performance recorded. & this is given by grade of three categories A - outstanding, B - good, C - Average.

IF Grade A - 100% Bonus. (Gross Salary)  
 IF Grade B - 70% (G.S)  
 IF Grade C - 20%

- \*Algorithm →
1. Initialise total Bonus & total emp. to zero.
  2. Take the appreciation or grade.
  3. Check the Gross Salary & grade.
  4. IF grade = "A" bonus = G.S.
  5. IF grade = "B" bonus =  $0.7 \times G.S.$
  6. IF grade = "C" bonus =  $0.2 \times G.S.$
  7. total bonus = G.S + bonus.
  8. Add 1 to total emp.
  9. Print total bonus.
  10. IF total emp. = 100? if no go to step 2.
  11. Stop.

## \* Flow Chart :-


A Flow Chart is pictorial representation of an algorithm. It uses boxes of different shape to denote different types of instructions. Programmers write actual instructions within these boxes using clear & concise statements.


## \* Why use flow chart?

We first represent an algorithm as flow chart & then express the flow chart in programming language to prepare computer program.

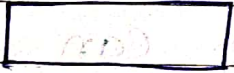
The Advantage of drawing a Flow Chart is that, A Programmer can concentrate fully on the logic of the solution of the problem without paying attention to the syntax & other details of programming language. Because of flow chart a programmer can detect any error in the logic with greater ease than in the case of program. To reduce the no. of errors it is a good practise to draw a flow chart before writing a program.

## \* Different Symbols of Flow Charts :-

1)  → Terminal Symbol  
It indicates beginning (start) & end (stop) in a program. It is first & last symbol & only input & or output flow line is connected.


2)  → Input/Output

This symbol indicates input/output data from any type of input/output devices & storage devices.

3)  → Processing

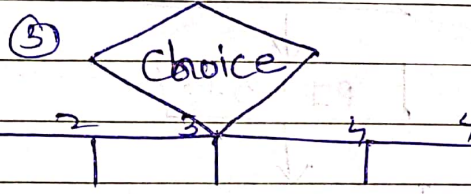
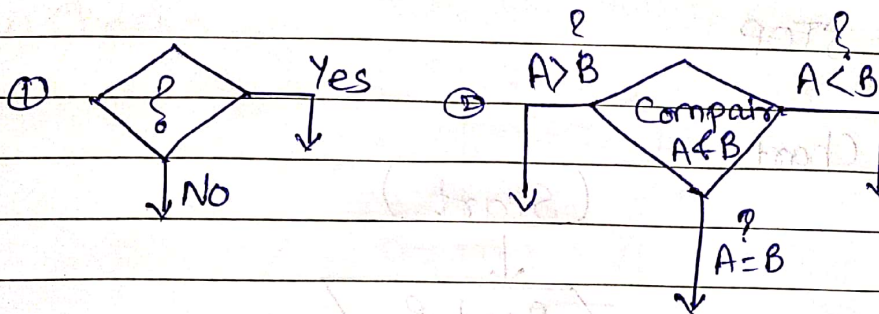

A processing symbol represents all arithmetic & data movement instructions. All arithmetic processes such as addition, subtraction etc. are indicated by this symbol.

They also indicate process of moving data from one memory location to another (such as assignment statement). This symbol has one input & one output flow line.

4)  Decision Symbol

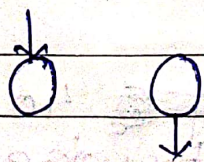
This Symbol Indicates a decision point which is a point at which branch to one of two or more alternative path is possible.

Three different types of Decision box are there

X)  Connector -

When a flow chart become so complex No. of flow lines are confusing & when flow charts spreads more than one page than the Connector are used connect the flow chart

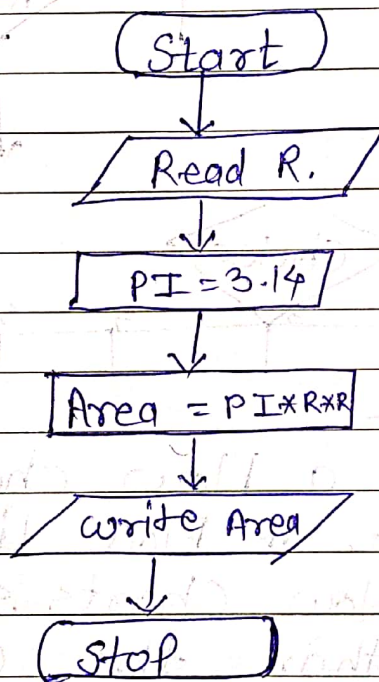
It has either Input line / out-put line.



Q. Write an algorithm & draw a Flow chart For calculating Area of circle.

- 
- 1) Start
  - 2) Read Radius R of Circle
  - 3) Assign  $\pi$   $PI := 3.14$
  - 4) calculate  $area = PI \times R \times R$
  - 5) Write Area
  - 6) STOP

Flow Chart -

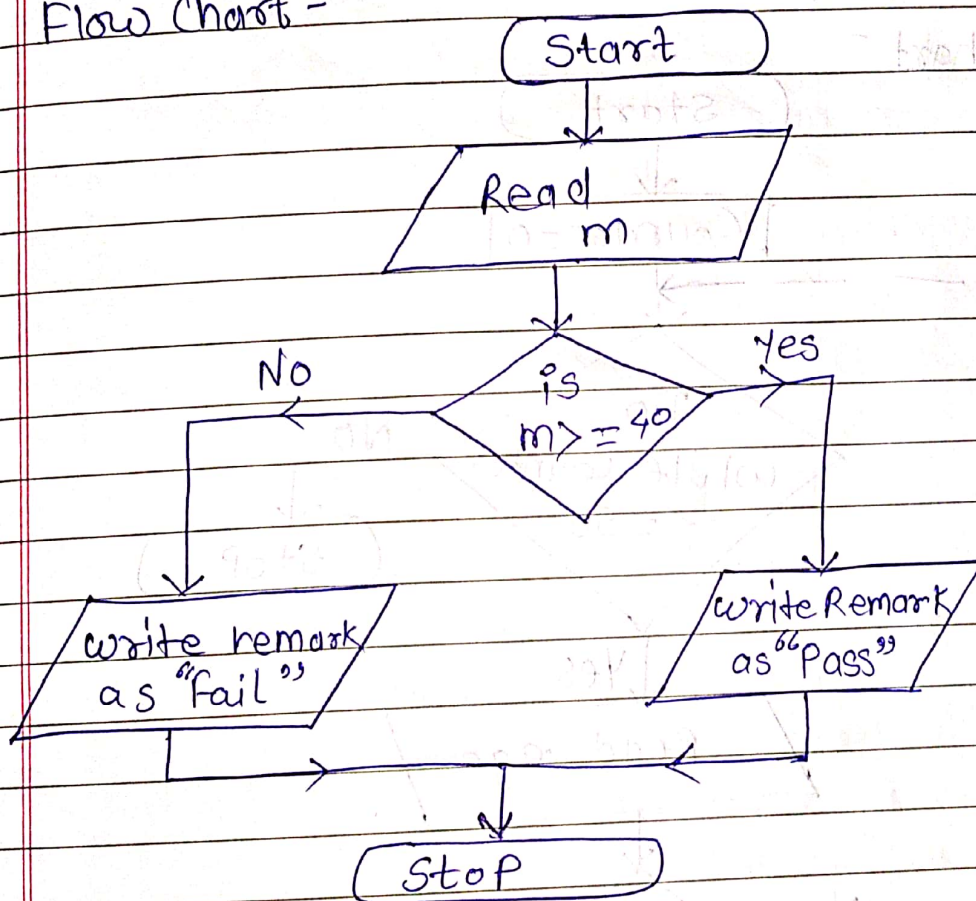


Q. Write an algorithm & draw a Flow chart to Find the Student is Pass or Fail depend on ~~his~~ marks obtain by Student

IF marks  $\geq$  ~~40~~ 40 then Students is Passed otherwise Fail.

- 1) Start the ~~programme~~ Procedure.
- 2) Read marks of student as  $m$ .
- 3) IF  $m \geq 40$  Then go to step 6.
- 4) Write Remark is "fail".
- 5) go to step 7
- 6) write Remark is "Pass"
- 7) Stop.

Flow Chart -



Q.3. Write an algorithm & draw a flow chart to check the person is eligible or not eligible for voting. The procedure is followed for 50 persons in the list.

- 1) Start
- 2) Initially Counter = 0
- 3) Do while Counter  $\leq$  50
- 4) Read age
- 5) IF age  $\geq$  18 then Eligible else Not Eligible
- 6) Counter = Counter + 1
- 7) go to step 3
- 8) Stop

Flow chart -

