

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

Rutgers University

1. Algorithmic Thinking and Design



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INTRODUCTION TO
COMPUTER SCIENCE
Rutgers University

1. Algorithmic Thinking

- What is Algorithmic thinking?
- Algorithm development
- A Pseudo Language
- From Algorithm to pseudocode

Styles Adopted from Slides by Sedgewick and Wayne

Why Programming?

Problem solving with a computer

- Take advantage of the computation power of a computer

Process of problem solving

- Develop the algorithm
- Transform the algorithm to a computer program
- A computer program is a set of instructions written in some programming language
- Run and Test the program

Programming: telling a computer what to do

Programming

- Is *not* just for experts.
- *Is* a natural, satisfying and creative experience.
- Enables accomplishments not otherwise possible.
- The path to a new world of intellectual endeavor.

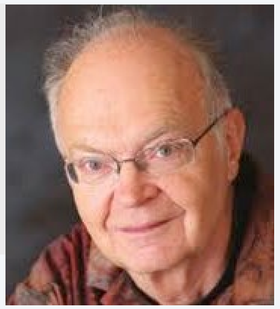
Challenges

- Need to learn what computers *can* do.
- Need to learn a programming *language*.



Telling a computer what to do

> *" Instead of imagining that our main task is to instruct a computer what to do, let us concentrate rather on explaining to human beings what we want a computer to do. "*



– Don Knuth

Telling a computer what to do

Machine language

- Easy for computer.
- Error-prone for human.

```
10: 8A00   RA ← mem[00]
11: 8B01   RB ← mem[01]
12: 1CAB   RC ← RA + RB
13: 9C02   mem[02] ← RC
14: 0000   halt
```

Adding two numbers

Natural language

- Easy for human.
- Error-prone for computer.



Actual newspaper headlines

—Rich Pattis

High-level language

- Some difficulty for both.
- An acceptable tradeoff.

```
for (int t = 0; t < 2000; t++)
{
   a[0] = a[11] ^ a[9];
   System.out.print(a[0]);
   for (int i = 11; i > 0; i--)
      a[i] = a[i-1];
}
```

Simulating an LFSR (see Prologue lecture)

But *which* high-level language?

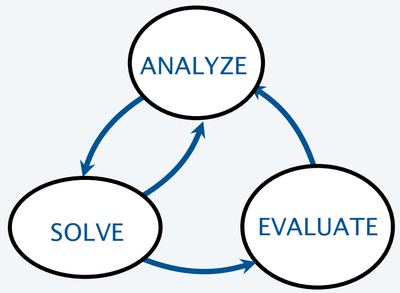


But first: Learn to think algorithmically.

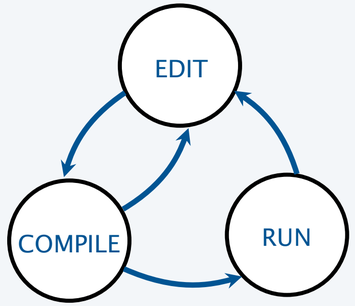
Algorithmic thinking

Learn how to analyze and solve computational problems at a level of abstraction .









A significant difference with coding : *No implementation details required.*

"coding" environment: using a set of pseudocode instructions to express a solution algorithmically.

An algorithm: A step-by-step process of solving a problem

Problem

- Find the sum of two numbers.

What we need: A vocabulary for describing an algorithm,.

Algorithm

READ x

READ y

DISPLAY x + y

What is an Algorithm?

Abstract steps of solving the problem

- That is, the solution to your problem
- Language independent

Similar to a recipe

For example, an algorithm to determine an employee's weekly wage

1. Get the hourly rate
2. Get the number of hours worked
3. Compute the wages, which are the hourly rate times the hours
4. Output the wages

Desirable Characteristics of an Algorithm

- Has finite steps!
- Be specific
- Unambiguous
- Easy to understand

A Valid Algorithm?

1. Wake up
2. Go to school
3. Come home
4. Go to sleep
5. Repeat from the first step

Does the order of steps matter? (Brewing Coffee)

1. Grind coffee beans
2. Pour water into the coffee maker
3. Put the grounded coffee and filter
4. Turn on the coffee maker
5. Brew for two minutes
6. Turn off the coffee maker
7. done and enjoy!

1. Turn on the coffee maker
2. Brew for two minutes
3. Put the grounded coffee and filter
4. Grind coffee beans
5. Pour water into the coffee maker
6. Turn off the coffee maker
7. done and enjoy!

Does the order of steps matter? (Making an Apple Pie)

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F
2. Peel and slice the apples
3. Prepare the pie crust
4. Combine the sugar and cinnamon with the apples
5. Put the apple mixture on the pie crust
6. Bake for 40 minutes
7. done and enjoy!

1. Peel and slice the apples
2. Prepare the pie crust
3. Preheat the oven to 350°F
4. Combine the sugar and cinnamon with the apples
5. Put the apple mixture on the pie crust
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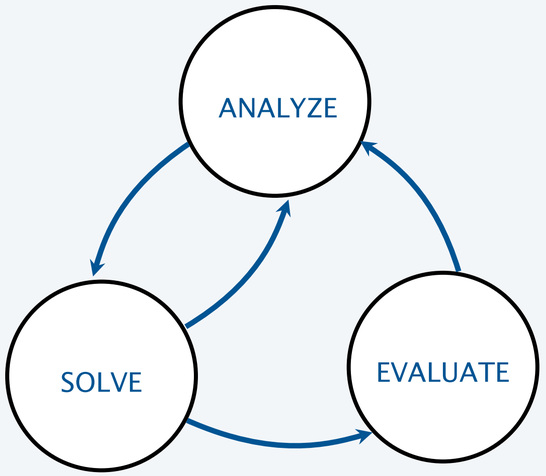
1. Algorithmic Thinking

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Algorithm development

as a three-step process, *with feedback*

1. ANALYZE
   - Understand the problem you are solving.
2. SOLVE
   - Develop a step-by-step algorithm
   - Use a “language” to express it
3. EVALUATE
   - Play a human computer to see how the algorithm works.
   - Mistake? Go back to 1 and/or 2



Analyze, Solve, Evaluate

1. Problem 1 – Finding Duplicates

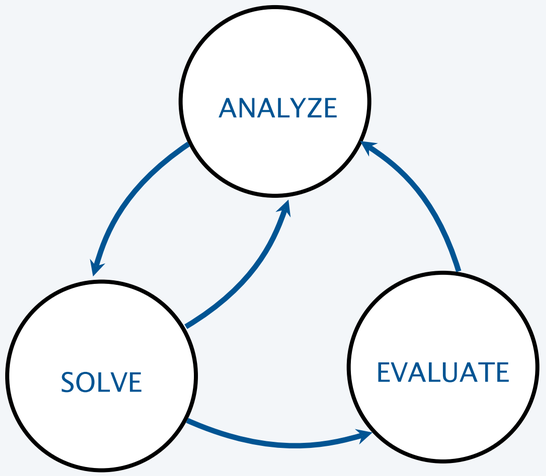
- Given a set of names, find out if there are duplicate names.

2. Problem 2 – sorting a deck

- Sort a card deck by “natural order”

3. Problem 3 – Searching a list

- Find an item in a list

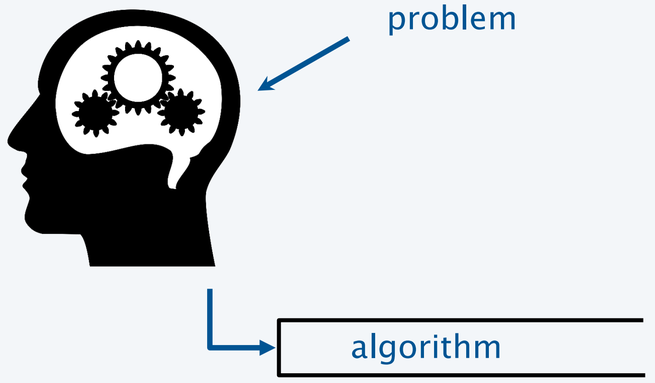


Computational thinking (CT)

is a set of problem-solving methods that involves expressing problems and their solutions.

Solution can be translated to an algorithm

Convert the algorithm to a program that can be solved using a computer.



Problem ➔ CT ➔ Algorithm

Thinking Computationally

- Fundamental Skill for everyone, not just computer scientists.
- Integration of computational ideas in other disciplines.

Stages of CT

- Abstraction problem formulation.
- Automation expressing a solution that a machine can execute.
- Analyses solution execution and evaluation.

Stay tuned for examples of computational thinking.



1. Algorithmic Thinking

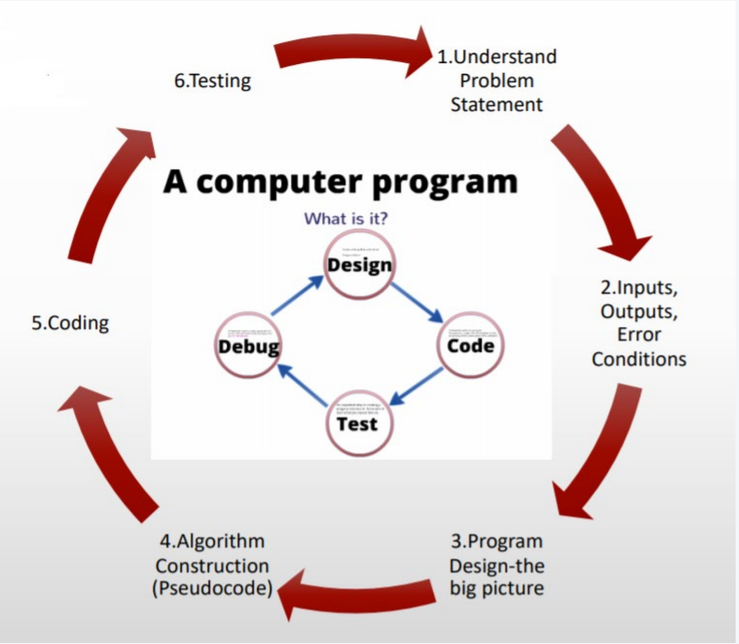
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Pseudo Language

An informal high-level description of a computer program

Structure uses same structural conventions as a programming language.

Readability intended for human reading not machine reading.



Software Design Life Cycle

Software Design Cycle

- Pseudo Language help express the algorithm in the design cycle.
- Coding help avoid expensive errors prior to coding.

High-level components in Program Development

- Input how a program receives input data.
- output how a program returns the results.
- compute how a program performs its tasks.

Stay tuned on how input, output and compute work with a pseudo language and more details on converting an algorithm to pseudocode.

Programming Life Cycle

Problem-Solving Phase (Design)

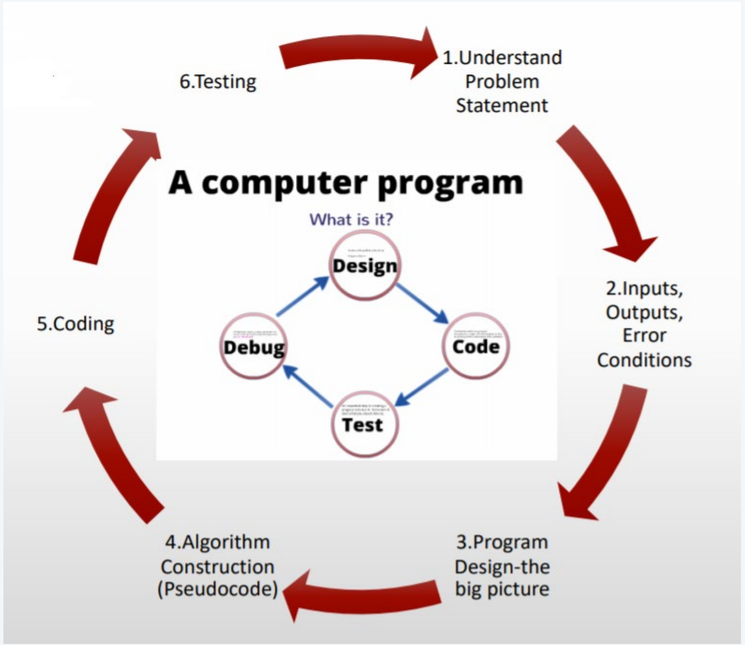
- Analysis and Specification
- General Solution (Algorithm development with pseudocode)
- Verify

Implementation Phase

- Coding (with a specific computer language, such as Java)
- Testing / Debugging

Maintenance Phase

- Use and maintain the program (if the requirement has been changed)



Properties of a Pseudo Language

A pseudo language enables high level description of a language

Implementation Details. Pseudocode ignores implementation details such as programming language.

Complete. Any program written in pseudo code must be complete.

The Complete Program describes the entire logical process of the solution and enables easy translation into actual programming code.

Pseudocode Standards

- Not Universal pseudocode rules are not universal.
- Author-specific they depend on the author of a textbook or designer of the algorithm.
- **Our Standard** for the purpose of this course is that we adopt our “own” pseudo language.

We only use pseudocode as an easy transition into programming in Java.

Definitions

Define. Terms used in programming using a pseudo language

Definitions

<variable> an entity that may change its value (e.g. temperature)

<constant> a value that does not change (e.g. 4)

<expression> variables, constants and operators grouped together to show the value of something (e.g. x*5 + y)

<Boolean expression> an expression that evaluates to TRUE or FALSE (e.g. n > 3)

<statement> a combination of expressions (e.g. COMPUTE x AS x + 3)

A Pseudo language vocabulary

I/O
READ
DISPLAY

Initialization computation
SET
COMPUTE

Flow control
IF-THEN
IF-THEN-ELSE
NESTED IF-THEN-ELSE

Repetition
WHILE-ENDWHILE
DO-WHILE
REPEAT-UNTIL
FOR-ENDFOR

Nested
NESTED-FOR
NESTED-FOR-IF

Increment/decrement
ADD
SUBTRACT

Comparisons
<
<=
>
>=
is
!=

Arithmetic Operations
+
-
*
/
%

Boolean operations
NOT
AND
OR

Terminate Program
HALT

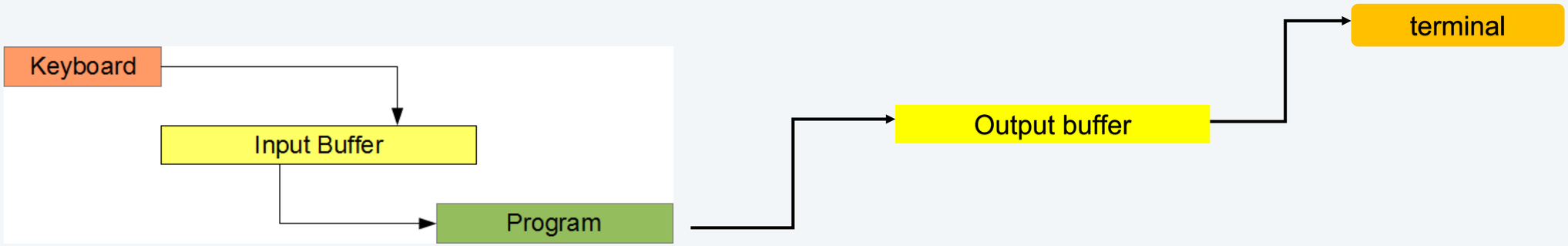
Your pseudocode will primarily consist of these constructs plus identifiers (names) that you make up. A *Pseudocode Reference Sheet* is posted for your use in this course.

INPUT and OUTPUT (I/O)

Q. How does input and output work?

A. Input. Read data from memory (RAM) or from an input device (keyboard/disk)

Output. Display/Write results to an output device (terminal/disk/printer)



There are variations of input/output that we will discuss later in the course

I/O - READ and DISPLAY

Q. How does READ and DISPLAY work (in pseudo language)?

A. READ. Reads a value into a variable

DISPLAY. Outputs a variable or constant

READ <variable>

DISPLAY <variable/constant>

Syntactical form

READ temperature

DISPLAY temperature

An Example

INITIALIZE

Q. How do we initialize a variable (a placeholder) in a program?

A. Using the SET statement in the pseudo language.

SET <variable> **TO** <constant | variable>

Syntactical Form

SET x **TO** 10

SET x **TO** y

An Example

COMPUTE

Q. How do we compute an expression in a program?

A. Using the COMPUTE statement in the pseudo language.

COMPUTE <variable> **AS** <expression>

Syntactical Form

COMPUTE x **AS** 10 * 12 + 20

COMPUTE x **AS** y + z

An Example

Flow Control - One-way Branching

Q. How does one-way branching work?

A. IF-THEN. One-way branching based on the condition being TRUE

```
IF <Boolean-expression> THEN
    <statement/statements>
ENDIF
```

syntactical form

```
IF (number > 0) THEN
    DISPLAY positive
ENDIF
```

An Example

Flow Control - Two-way Branching

Q. How does two-way branching work?

A. IF-THEN-ELSE. Two-way branching is based on Condition being TRUE or FALSE

```
IF <Boolean-condition> THEN
    <statement/statements>
ELSE
     <statement/statements>
ENDIF
```

Syntactical form

```
IF temperature < 40 THEN
    DISPLAY cold day
ELSE
    DISPLAY mild day
ENDIF
```

An Example

Flow Control - Multi-way Branching

Q. How does multi-way branching works?

A. NESTED IF-THEN-ELSE. multi-way branching based on Condition being TRUE or FALSE and more

```
IF <Boolean-condition> THEN
    <statement/statements>
ELSE
   IF <Boolean-condition> THEN
        <statement/statements>
   ELSE
      <statement/statements>
   ENDIF
ENDIF
```

A syntactical form

```
IF temperature < 40 THEN
   DISPLAY cold day
ELSE
   IF temperature >= 80 THEN
        DISPLAY hot day
   ELSE
        DISPLAY mild day
   ENDIF
ENDIF
```

3-way branching example

Iterations - WHILE loop

Q. How does WHILE loop works?

A. Initialization. (optional)

Boolean Expression. Evaluate a Boolean expression

IF TRUE. Execute a sequence of statements

Repeat

```
<initialization statements>
WHILE <Boolean-expression>
    <statements if Boolean expression is true>
ENDWHILE
```

Syntactical Form

```
SET n TO 5
SET sum TO 0
WHILE n > 0
  COMPUTE sum AS sum + n
  SUBTRACT 1 FROM n
ENDWHILE
```

An example

ADD and SUBTRACT

Q. How do we increment or decrement a variable?

A. Using the ADD or SUBTRACT statement in the pseudo language.

ADD <variable/constant> **TO** <variable>

SUBTRACT <variable/constant> **FROM** <variable>

Syntactical Form

ADD 1 **TO** x

ADD y **TO** x

SUBTRACT 1 **FROM** x

SUBTRACT x **FROM** y

Example

Comparison operators

Fundamental operations that are defined for each primitive type allow us to *compare* values.

- Operands: two expressions of the same type.
- Result: a value of type boolean.

operator	*meaning*	true	false
is	equal	2 is 2	2 is 3
!=	not equal	3 != 2	2 != 2
<	less than	2 < 13	2 < 2
<=	less than or equal	2 <= 2	3 <= 2
>	greater than	13 > 2	2 > 13
>=	greater than or equal	3 >= 2	2 >= 3

Examples

non-negative discriminant?	(b*b - 4.0*a*c) >= 0.0
beginning of a century?	(year % 100) is 0
legal month?	(month >= 1) AND (month <= 12)

% is the modulus operator, the remainder: 15 % 2 = 1



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Inputs, outputs and error conditions

LO 1.1

Problem. Ellen and Ana are moving together. Determine how many cats they will have in total?

Solution Design. Find out how many cats each person have.

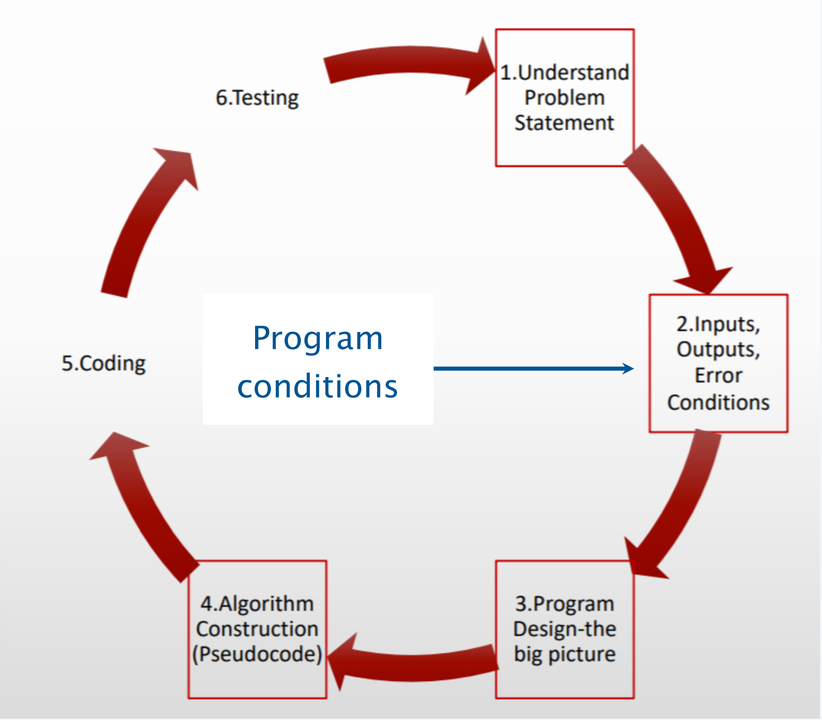
Compute and display the sum.

Identify.

Inputs. Ellen's number of cats, Ana's number of cats

Output. The total cats

Error conditions. Bad input (e.g. Ana's cats is -5)



Example Program 1

Problem. Ellen and Ana are moving together. Determine how many cats they will have in total?

Solution Design. Find out how many cats each person has.
Compute and display the sum.

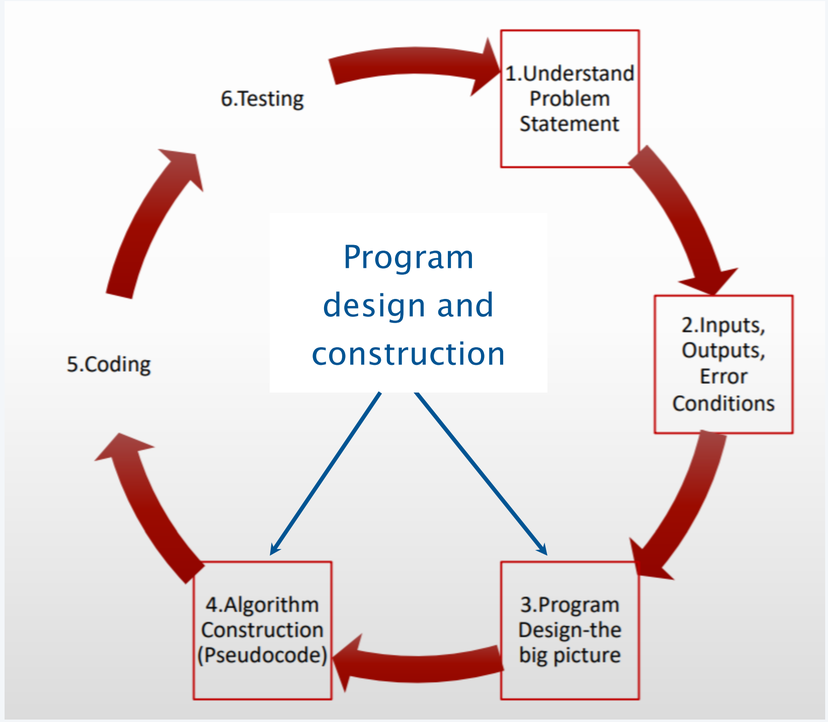
PSEUDOCODE:

READ EllensCats

READ AnasCats

COMPUTE sumOfCats **AS** EllensCats + AnasCats

DISPLAY sumOfCats



Example Program 1 (with error handling)

Problem. Ellen and Ana are moving together. Determine how many cats they will have in total?

Solution Design. Find out how many cats each person has.

Handle error in input

Compute and display the sum.

ALGORITHM:

```
READ EllensCats
READ AnasCats
IF EllensCats < 0 OR AnasCats < 0 THEN
    DISPLAY ERROR
ELSE
    COMPUTE sumOfCats AS EllensCats + AnasCats
    DISPLAY sumOfCats
ENDIF
```

Test Cases

[input][output] pairs

[1, 3][4]

[0, 2][2]

[2, -5][ERROR]

[-3, 2][ERROR]

[-3, -4][ERROR]

Example Program 2

Problem. Calculate salary based on hours worked and hourly rate.

Solution Design. Input: hoursWorked and ratePerHour

Output: totalPay

Error: negative inputs

ALGORITHM:

```
READ hoursWorked
READ ratePerHour
IF hoursWorked < 0 OR ratePerHour < 0 THEN
    DISPLAY ERROR
ELSE
    COMPUTE totalPay AS hoursWorked * ratePerHour
    DISPLAY totalPay
ENDIF
```

Test Cases

[input][output] pairs

[8, 10][80]

[0, 20][0]

[2, 0][0]

[-3, 20][ERROR]

[10, -20][ERROR]

Example Program 3

Problem. Determine if an integer is even or odd.

Solution Design. Input: an integer

Output: even or odd

Error: none

Precondition: input is an integer

ALGORITHM:

READ number	← 1 operation
IF number % 2 is 0 **THEN**	← 1 operation
DISPLAY even	← 1 operation
ELSE	OR
DISPLAY odd	← 1 operation
ENDIF	Total of 3 operations

Test Cases

[input][output] pairs

[-2][even]

[0][even]

[2][even]

[3][odd]

Example Program 4

Problem. A cake up to 6” cost $10, 6”-12” cost $15, greater than 12” cost $20. Given the diameter of the cake, find the cost.

Solution Design. Input: diameter of the cake (integer)

Output: the price

Error: diameters less than or equal to 0

Example Program 4


```
READ cakeSize
IF cakeSize <= 0 THEN
    DISPLAY error
ELSE
    IF cakeSize < 6 THEN
        SET price TO 10
    ELSE
        IF cakeSize >= 6 AND cakeSize <=12 THEN
            SET price TO 15
        ELSE
            SET price TO 20
        ENDIF
    ENDIF
    DISPLAY price
ENDIF
```

Test Cases:

[input][output] pairs

[-3][error]

[0][error]

[5][10]

[6][15] *boundary condition*

[8][15]

[12][15] *boundary condition*

[13][20]

[15][20]

How many operations?

Example Program 5

Problem. Convert Fahrenheit to Celsius.

Solution Design. Input: a temperature in Fahrenheit

Output: equivalent in Celsius

Error: temperature below absolute zero (-459.67F)

ALGORITHM:

```
READ tempF
IF tempF < -459.67 THEN
    DISPLAY ERROR: Temperature must be greater than -459.67
ELSE
    COMPUTE tempC AS (tempF – 32) * 5/9
    DISPLAY tempC
ENDIF
```

Test Cases

[input][output] pairs

[32][0]

[-459.68][error]

[-459.67][273.15]

[65][18.33]

Exercise

Problem:

Given an exercise heart rate, determine the heart rate zones; heart rate must be greater than 100. If the heart rate is below 120, output Zone 1; between 120 and 130, output Zone 2; greater than 130, output Zone 3.

Solution Design

Input?

Output?

Error?

Additional Exercise

```
READ heartrate
IF heartrate > 100 THEN
        DISPLAY ERROR
ELSE
        IF heartrate < 120 THEN
            DISPLAY Zone 1
        ELSE
            IF heartrate >= 120 AND heartrate <=130
                DISPLAY Zone 2
            ELSE
                DISPLAY Zone 3
            ENDIF
        ENDIF
ENDIF
```

Test Cases

[input][output] pairs



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Extra slides

quiz

Identify each of the following as a variable, a constant, an arithmetic expression, a Boolean expression, or a statement.

1. (x > 2)
2. 2 * temperature
3. myGrade
4. AnaHouse
5. (temp < 0) or (temp > 10)
6. COMPUTE x AS x - 3

quiz

Write an algorithm, using pseudocode, to solve the following problems. Identify input, output, and error conditions.

1. Display “Hello world.”
2. Add two numbers
3. Add two positive numbers
4. Find the larger of the two numbers
5. Find the larger of the three negative numbers
6. Find the area of a circle given the radius
7. Print all even numbers from 1 to 100
8. Simulate an ATM machine that accepts deposits and withdrawals

Pseudocode

- **Display “hello world”**

```
DISPLAY “hello world”
```

- **Add two numbers**

```
READ num1
READ num2
COMPUTE sum AS num1 + num2
DISPLAY sum
```

Pseudocode

- **Add two positive numbers**

```
READ num1
READ num2
IF (num1 <= 0) OR (num2 <= 0) THEN
    DISPLAY “ERROR”
ELSE
    COMPUTE sum AS num1 + num2
    DISPLAY sum
ENDIF
```

5 or 6 operations

Pseudocode

- **Find (and display) the larger of two numbers**

```
READ num1
READ num2
IF num1 > num2 THEN
   DISPLAY num1
ELSE
   DISPLAY num2
ENDIF
```

Pseudocode

- **Find (and display) the largest of three negative numbers**

```
READ num1
READ num2
READ num3
IF (num1 >= 0) OR (num2 >= 0) OR (num3 >= 0) THEN
        DISPLAY ERROR
ELSE
        SET largest TO num1
        IF (num2 > largest) THEN
            SET largest TO num2
        ENDIF
        IF (num3 > largest) THEN
            SET largest TO num3
        ENDIF
        DISPLAY largest
ENDIF
```

Pseudocode

- **Find (and display) the area of a circle given the radius**

```
READ radius
IF (radius <= 0) THEN
        DISPLAY ERROR
ELSE
        COMPUTE area AS 3.1415 * radius * radius
        DISPLAY area
 ENDIF
```

Pseudocode

Display all even numbers from 1 to 100

```
SET num TO 2
WHILE (num <= 100)
    DISPLAY num
    ADD 2 TO num
END WHILE
```

```
SET num TO 1
WHILE (num <= 100)
    IF num % 2 = 0 THEN
            DISPLAY num
     ENDIF
     ADD 1 TO num
END WHILE
```