

Zoom Size: 100% ▼

< Previous

Page: 3 / 9

Next >

Reading Material



The sequence of steps thus developed and usually written in simple language is called an *algorithm*. As you go through the above stages, it will be clear that every algorithm:

- Has one or more known inputs
- An explicit, unambiguous finite set of steps
- Generates one or more Outputs
- Terminates in a fixed amount of time.

The life cycle of an algorithm consists of the phases shown in Figure-1.



FIGURE 1: LIFE CYCLE OF AN ALGORITHM

1.2 Introduction to writing algorithms

The types of instructions in an algorithm are:

- **Sequential:** In a sequential algorithm all the steps are executed one after the other.
- **Conditional:** A conditional algorithm includes a conditional branching wherein one of the two specified steps gets executed based on a conditional evaluation.
- **Iterative:** In an iterative algorithm the set of instructions are repeated in a loop.

3

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