ALGORITHMS AND FLOWCHARTS

ALGORITHMS AND FLOWCHARTS

• A typical programming task can be divided into two phases:

Problem solving phase

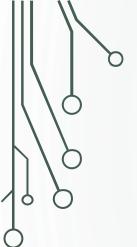
- produce an ordered sequence of steps that describe solution of problem
- this sequence of steps is called an algorithm

Implementation phase

• implement the program in some programming language

STEPS IN PROBLEM SOLVING

- First produce a general algorithm (one can use pseudocode)
- Refine the algorithm successively to get step by step detailed algorithm that is very close to a computer language.
- Pseudocode is an artificial and informal language that helps programmers develop algorithms.
 Pseudocode is very similar to everyday English.



PSEUDOCODE & ALGORITHM

• **Example 1:** Write an algorithm to determine a student's final grade and indicate whether it is passing or failing. The final grade is calculated as the average of four marks.



PSEUDOCODE & ALGORITHM

Pseudocode:

- Input a set of 4 marks
- Calculate their average by summing and dividing by 4
- if average is below 50

Print "FAIL"

else

Print "PASS"

PSEUDOCODE & ALGORITHM

- Detailed Algorithm
- Step 1: Input M1,M2,M3,M4
- Step 2: GRADE $\leftarrow (M1+M2+M3+M4)/4$
 - Step 3: if (GRADE < 50) then

Print "FAIL"

.

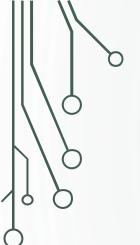
else

Print "PASS"

endif

THE FLOWCHART

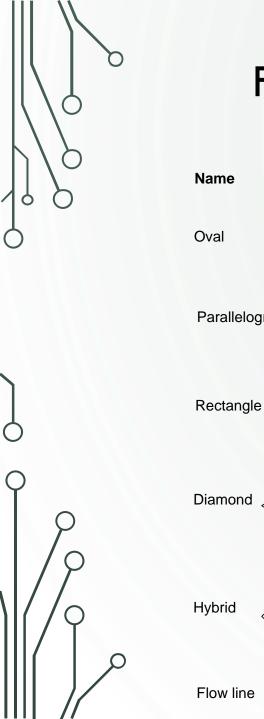
- (Dictionary) A schematic representation of a sequence of operations, as in a manufacturing process or computer program.
- (Technical) A graphical representation of the sequence of operations in an information system or program. Information system flowcharts show how data flows from source documents through the computer to final distribution to users. Program flowcharts show the sequence of instructions in a single program or subroutine. Different symbols are used to draw each type of flowchart.



THE FLOWCHART

A Flowchart

- shows logic of an algorithm
- emphasizes individual steps and their interconnections
- e.g. control flow from one action to the next



FLOWCHART SYMBOLS

Basic

Name Symbol Use in Flowchart

Oval Denotes the beginning or end of the program

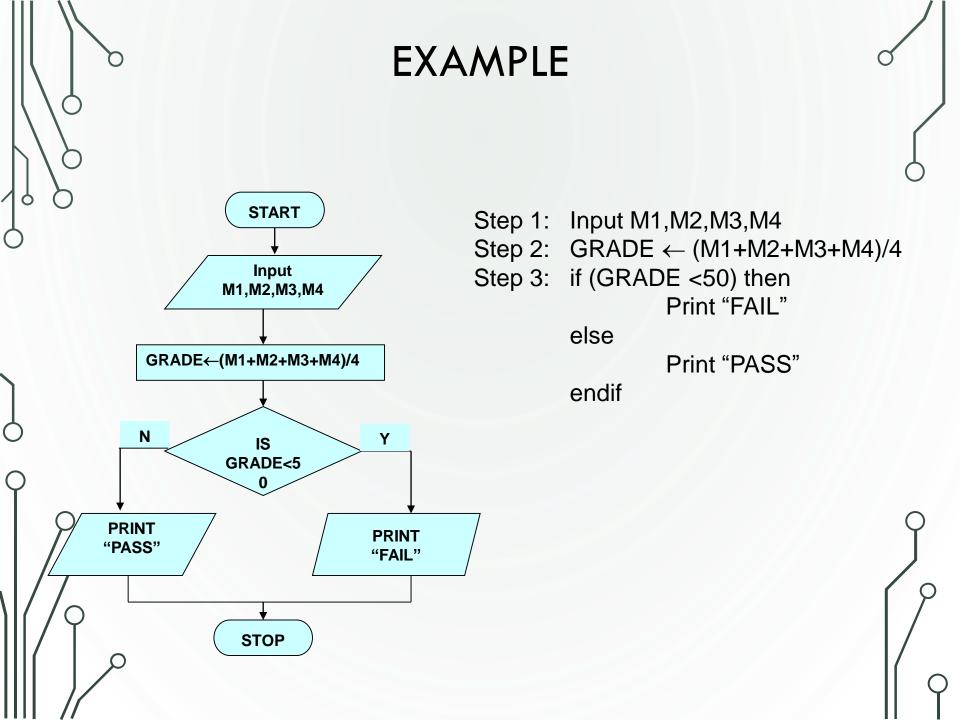
Parallelogram / Denotes an input operation

Denotes a process to be carried out e.g. addition, subtraction, division etc.

Denotes a decision (or branch) to be made. The program should continue along one of two routes. (e.g. IF/THEN/ELSE)

Denotes an output operation

Denotes the direction of logic flow in the program



 Write an algorithm and draw a flowchart to convert the length in feet to centimeter.

Pseudocode:

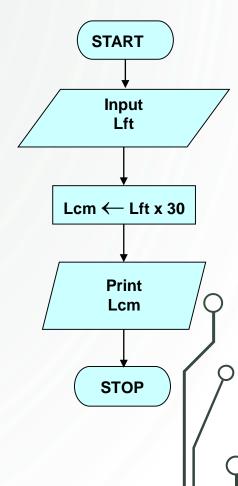
- Input the length in feet (Lft)
- Calculate the length in cm (Lcm) by multiplying LFT with 30
- Print length in cm (LCM)



Flowchart

Algorithm

- Step 1: Input Lft
- Step 2: $Lcm \leftarrow Lft \times 30$
- Step 3: Print Lcm



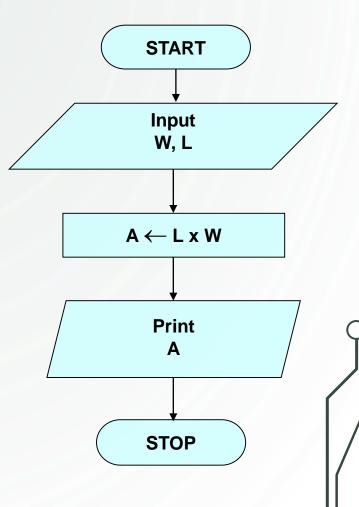
Write an algorithm and draw a flowchart that will read the two sides of a rectangle and calculate its area.

Pseudocode

- Input the width (W) and Length (L) of a rectangle
- Calculate the area (A) by multiplying L with W
- Print A

Algorithm

- Step 1: Input W,L
- Step 2: $A \leftarrow L \times W$
- Step 3: Print A



• Write an algorithm and draw a flowchart that will calculate the roots of a quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

• Hint:
$$d = sqrt$$
 (), and the roots are: $x1 =$

(-b+d)/2a and x2 = (-b-d)/2a

 b^2-4ac

Pseudocode:

- Input the coefficients (a, b, c) of the quadratic equation
- Calculate d
- Calculate x1
- Calculate x2
- Print x1 and x2

 $b \times b - 4 \times a \times c$

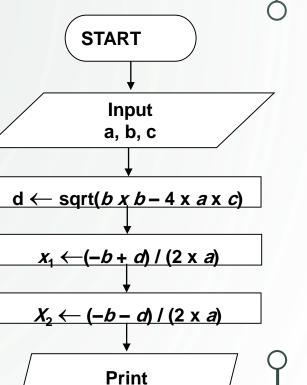
Algorithm:

• Step 3:

- Step 1: Input a, b, c
- Step 2: $d \leftarrow \text{sqrt}$ (
- Step 4: $x2 \leftarrow (-b d) / (2 \times a)$

 $x1 \leftarrow (-b+d)/(2 \times a)$

- Siep 4: $\chi_2 \leftarrow (-b a) / (2 \times a)$
- \circ Step 5: Print x1, x2



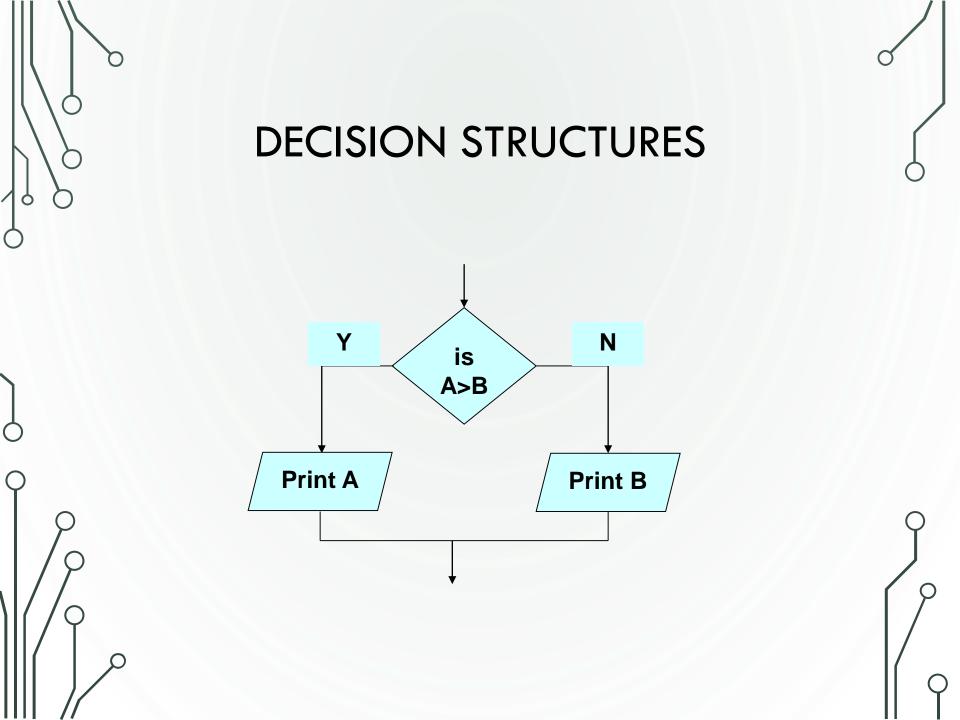
 X_1, X_2

STOP



DECISION STRUCTURES

- The expression A>B is a logical expression
 - it describes a **condition** we want to test •
- if A>B is true (if A is greater than B) we take the action on left
 - print the value of A •
- if A>B is false (if A is not greater than B) we take the action on right
 - print the value of B •





• The structure is as follows

If condition then

true alternative

else

false alternative

endif

IF—THEN—ELSE STRUCTURE • The algorithm for the flowchart is as follows: If A>B then print A

else

endif

print B

Y

Print A

is

A>B

N

Print B

RELATIONAL OPERATORS

Relational Operators	
Operator	Description
>	Greater than
<	Less than
=	Equal to
<u>></u>	Greater than or equal to
<u>≤</u>	Less than or equal to
≠	Not equal to
7()	

 Write an algorithm that reads two values, determines the largest value and prints the largest value with an identifying message.

ALGORITHM

Step 1: Input VALUE1, VALUE2

Step 2: if (VALUE1 > VALUE2) then

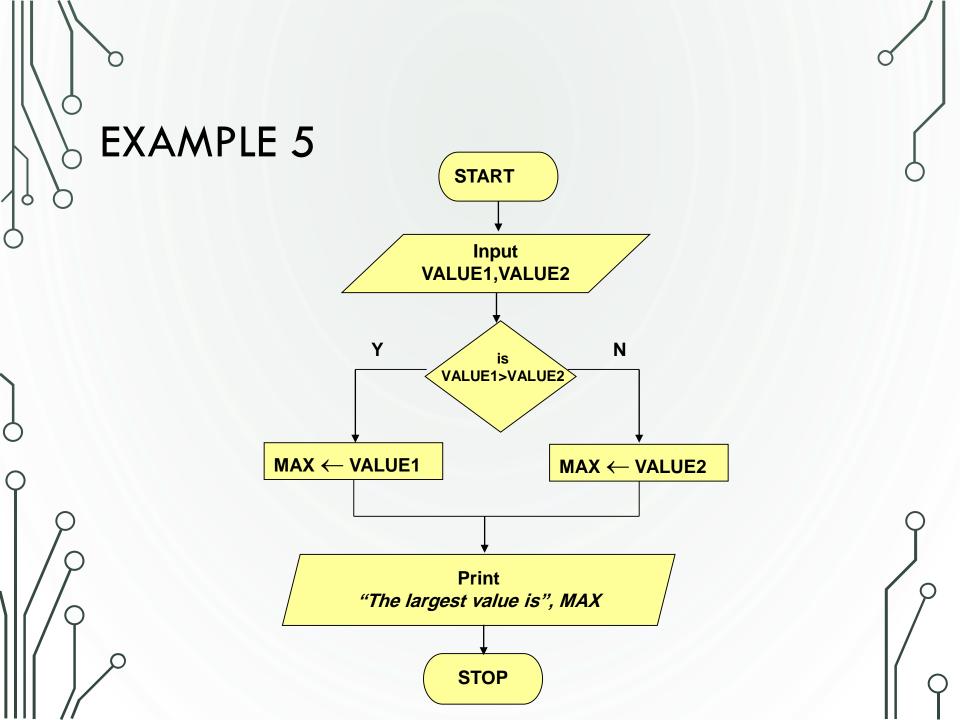
 $MAX \leftarrow VALUE1$

else

 $MAX \leftarrow VALUE2$

endif

Step 3: Print "The largest value is", MAX

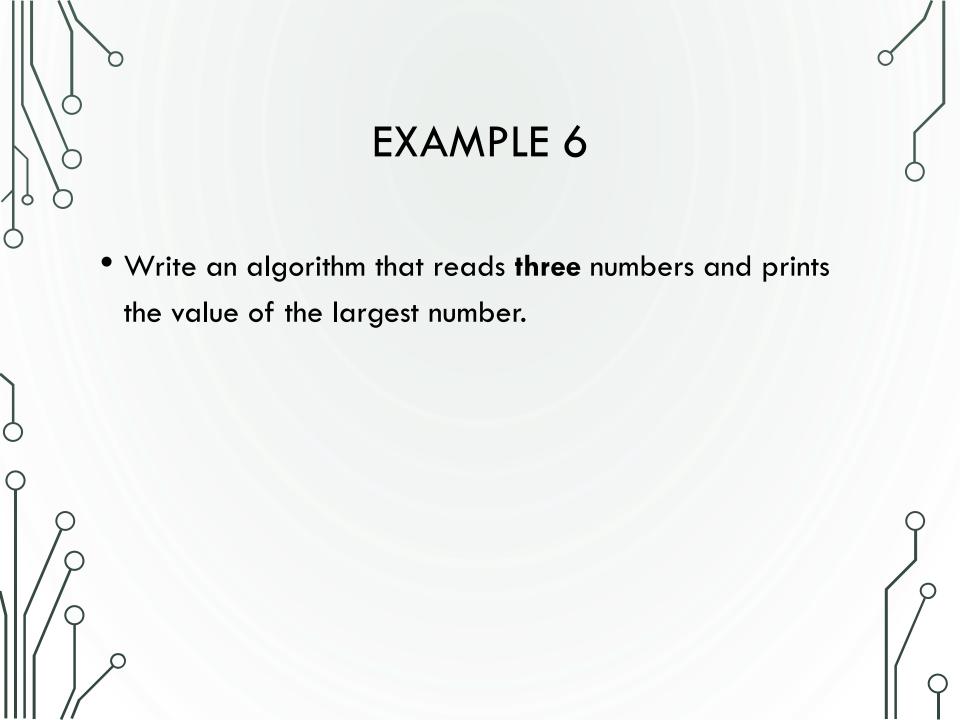




NESTED IFS

- One of the alternatives within an IF-THEN-ELSE statement
 - may involve further IF—THEN—ELSE statement





[N1>N2, N1>N3]

[N3>N1>N2]

[N3>N2>N1]

Step 1: Input N1, N2, N3 Step 2: if (N1>N2) then

if (N1>N3) then $MAX \leftarrow N1$

else

endif

else

if (N2>N3) then

 $MAX \leftarrow N2$

 $MAX \leftarrow N3$

 $MAX \leftarrow N3$

[N2>N1, N2>N3]

else

endif

endif

Step 3: Print "The largest number is", MAX

