

SECOND HIGHEST DIFFERENCE IN AN ASCENDING SERIES (ALGORITHM)

Alternative 1

```
//read  $a_n$  : 1 to n

if  $(a_2 - a_1) > (a_3 - a_2)$  then
    high  $\leftarrow (a_2 - a_1)$ 
    sec_high  $\leftarrow (a_3 - a_2)$ 
elseif  $(a_2 - a_1) = (a_3 - a_2)$  then
    high  $\leftarrow (a_2 - a_1)$ 
    sec_high  $\leftarrow 0$ 
else
    high  $\leftarrow (a_3 - a_2)$ 
    sec_high  $\leftarrow (a_2 - a_1)$ 

for  $i \leftarrow 4$  to  $n$  do
    if  $(a_i - a_{i-1}) > \text{sec\_high}$  then
        if  $(a_i - a_{i-1}) < \text{high}$  then
            sec_high  $\leftarrow (a_i - a_{i-1})$ 
        elseif  $(a_i - a_{i-1}) > \text{high}$  then
            sec_high  $\leftarrow \text{high}$ 
            high  $\leftarrow (a_i - a_{i-1})$ 
if sec_high = 0
    print 'all elements are equal'
else
    print sec_high, 'is the second highest.'
```

Alternative 2

```
high  $\leftarrow 0$ 
sec_high  $\leftarrow 0$ 
for  $i \leftarrow 2$  to  $n$  do
    if  $(a_i - a_{i-1}) > \text{sec\_high}$  then
        if  $(a_i - a_{i-1}) < \text{high}$  then
            sec_high  $\leftarrow (a_i - a_{i-1})$ 
        elseif  $(a_i - a_{i-1}) > \text{high}$  then
            sec_high  $\leftarrow \text{high}$ 
            high  $\leftarrow (a_i - a_{i-1})$ 
```