ENGG1003 - Friday Week 1 Algorithms and Pseudocode

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Algorithms

- Informally, an algorithm is a series of steps which accomplishes a task
- More accurately, the steps (instructions) must:
 - Have a strict order
 - Be unambiguous
 - Be executable
- "Executable" means that the *target platform* is capable of performing that task.
 - eg: An industrial welding robot can execute "move welding tip 1 cm left". A mobile phone can't.

Algorithms

- An algorithm exists purely as an abstract concept until it is communicated
- We will use:
 - Pseudocode to communicate algorithms to ourselve's and other people
 - The languages C and MATLAB to communicate algorithms to computers
- Pseudocode can be very formal, as engineers we will be pragmatic and ignore the formal rules

Columns

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| Description |
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