Introduction to Computer Programming

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Algorithms

• **Algorithm** is a procedure or step by step process for solving a problem.

• Any problem can be **expressed** using different kinds of notations, including algorithm, pseudocode, flowcharts, programming languages and natural languages.

• Computer algorithm is a kind of logic written in computer software by the programmer to solve a specific problem.

Properties of Algorithms

- It is written in simple English.
- Each step of an algorithm is unique and should be self explanatory.
- An algorithm must have at least one input.
- An algorithm must have at least one output.
- An algorithm has finite number of steps. **OR** Should have an end point
- It should be unambiguous, precise and clear.
- It should provide the correct solutions.

Algorithms

- 1. Problem Definition: Write an algorithm to add given two numbers.
 - Step 1: Start.
 - Step 2: Read two numbers A and B from user.
 - Step 3: Calculate Answer = A + B.
 - Step 4: Display Answer.
 - Step 5: Stop.

Algorithms

| Symbol | Symbol Name |
|--------|----------------|
| | Terminal |
| | Process |
| | Decision |
| | Input / Output |
| | Connector |
| | Flow line |

A flowchart is a graphical representation of algorithms, workflow or process.

Each flowchart represents a solution to a given problem definition.

Psuedocode

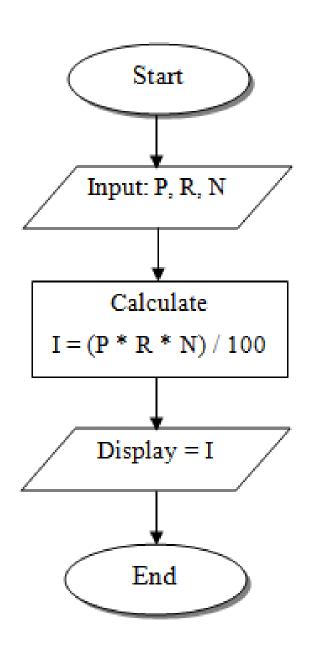
• Pseudocode is an artificial and informal language that helps programmers develop algorithms.

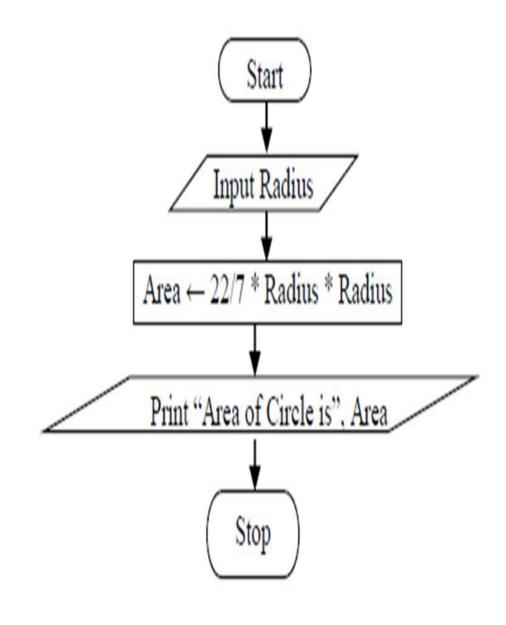
Pseudocode is a "text-based" detail (algorithmic) design tool.

Eg Simple Pseudo Code

```
If student's grade is greater than or equal to 60
Print "passed"
Otherwise
Print "failed"
```

Flow Chart





Algorithm Example

Algorithm to find largest number from given three numbers.

- Step1: Start
- Step2: Read three numbers into A, B and C variables
- Step3: If (A>=B) and (A>=C) then Max=A
- Step4: If (B>=A) and (B>=C) then Max=B
- Step5: If (C>=A) and (C>=B) then Max=C
- Step6: Print Max
- Step7: End