6. Flowchart in C

A **flowchart** is a **diagrammatic representation** of an algorithm, showing the flow of execution step by step. It consists of **symbols** and **arrows** that define the process.

Why Use a Flowchart?

- √ Easy to understand Helps visualize logic before coding.
- ✓ Error detection Identifies problems before implementation.
- ✓ Efficient debugging Helps trace issues logically.
- ✓ **Better communication** Helps explain logic to others.

Flowchart Symbols

Symbol	Meaning	Example
Oval	Start / End	Start, Stop
Parallelogram	Input / Output	Enter a number, Print result
Rectangle	Process / Calculation	sum = a + b
Diamond	Decision (Yes/No or True/False Condition)	If num > 0?
Arrow	Flow of Execution	Indicates direction

Example 1: Flowchart for Finding the Largest of Two Numbers

Problem Statement

Write a flowchart to compare two numbers and print the largest.

Flowchart Explanation

- 1. Start the program.
- 2. Input two numbers (a and b).
- 3. Compare a and b.
- 4. If a > b, print a is larger.
- 5. Else, print b is larger.
- 6. Stop the program.

Flowchart Diagram

Example 2: Flowchart for Checking Even or Odd Number

Problem Statement

Write a flowchart to check if a number is even or odd.

Flowchart Explanation

- 1. Start the program.
- 2. Input a number (num).
- 3. Check if num % 2 == 0.
- 4. If true, print Even.
- 5. Else, print **Odd**.
- 6. Stop the program.

Flowchart Diagram

```
Start
↓
Input num
↓
num % 2 == 0 ?
✓
Yes No
↓
Print Even Print Odd
↓
Stop
```

Example 3: Flowchart for Calculating Factorial of a Number

Problem Statement

Write a flowchart to calculate factorial of a number $(n! = n \times (n-1) \times ... \times 1)$.

Flowchart Explanation

- 1. Start the program.
- 2. Input a number (n).
- 3. Initialize fact = 1.
- 4. Multiply fact by n, decrease n by 1.
- 5. Repeat until n == 1.
- 6. Print the factorial.
- 7. Stop the program.

Flowchart Diagram

```
Start
↓
Input n
↓
fact = 1
↓
n > 1 ?
∠
Yes No
↓
fact = fact * n
n = n - 1
↓
Loop Print fact
↓
Stop
```

How to Draw a Flowchart?

- 1. **Understand the problem** Identify inputs, processing steps, and outputs.
- 2. **Use correct symbols** Ovals for Start/End, parallelograms for I/O, rectangles for processes, diamonds for decisions.
- 3. **Connect with arrows** Show step-by-step logic flow.
- 4. **Keep it simple** Avoid unnecessary complexity.
- 5. **Test it** Walk through the flowchart with test values.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Flowcharts visualize program logic before coding.
- ✓ Use **symbols**: Ovals (Start/End), Parallelograms (I/O), Rectangles (Process), Diamonds (Decision).
- √ Helps in debugging, planning, and understanding algorithms.
- ✓ Always trace the flowchart manually before coding.

Would you like a specific flowchart example in **C code**?