

Introduction to Programming

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- Computation in STEM and Humanities
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- Computing is a **process** of counting or performing calculation.

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 - History of computing is *older* than the history of computing technology

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- Computing **technology** may include various **tools** such as: sticks & stones, paper & pencil, abacus, straight edge & compass, calculator, computer
 - History of computing is *older* than the history of computing technology
 - One of the oldest algorithms – Euclid's method to compute gcd

Computation in STEM and Humanities

- **Mechanical/Applied Mechanics:** Autonomous vehicles, 3D printing

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- **Humanities/Management:** Linguistics, Cognitive science, Politics, etc.

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Example of a Computation: The Computation Tool

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**Example of a
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- Pick a tool for computation: Straight-edge and Compass

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- Pick a tool for computation: Straight-edge and Compass
 - **Straight-edge**: It is **unmarked**! Therefore, **cannot** specify lengths, but can specify lines rays and line segments.

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- Pick a tool for computation: Straight-edge and Compass
 - **Straight-edge**: It is **unmarked**! Therefore, **cannot** specify lengths, but can specify lines rays and line segments.
 - **Compass**: Can define **arcs** and **circles**; Can specify **arbitrary non-zero** lengths.

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- Doubling a Square: Given a square **ABCD** of side $a > 0$

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- Computation steps:
 - 1 Draw a diagonal \overline{AC} .

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- Doubling a Square: Given a square $ABCD$ of side $a > 0$
- Computation steps:
 - 1 Draw a diagonal \overline{AC} .
 - 2 Complete the square $ACEF$.

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- Doubling a Square: Given a square $ABCD$ of side $a > 0$
- Computation steps:
 - 1 Draw a diagonal \overline{AC} .
 - 2 Complete the square $ACEF$.
- Step (1) above is a **primitive** operation.

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- Doubling a Square: Given a square **ABCD** of side $a > 0$
- Computation steps:
 - 1 Draw a diagonal \overline{AC} .
 - 2 Complete the square **ACEF**.
- Step (1) above is a **primitive** operation.
- However step (2) is a **complex** operation that requires further computation (called the **refinement** of the computational process).

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- **Square**: Given a line segment \overline{PQ} , s.t. $|\overline{PQ}| = b$, construct a square of length b .

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- **Square:** Given a line segment \overline{PQ} , s.t. $|\overline{PQ}| = b$, construct a square of length b .
 - 1 Construct two lines l_1 and l_2 perpendicular to \overline{PQ} passing through P and Q , respectively.

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 - 1 Choose a length $c > 0$.

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- This time step (1) is **complex** and step (2) is **primitive**.
- **Perpendiculars**: Subsequent refinement of step (1)
 - 1 Choose a length $c > 0$.
 - 2 With P as a centre mark off arcs Y and Z on either side of P .

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 - 1 Choose a length $c > 0$.
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 - 3 Draw circles of radius $2c$ from centre points Y and Z .
 - 4 Join the points of intersection of the two circles.

Example of a Computation: Correctness?

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■ Diagonal \overline{AC} length = $\sqrt{2}a$

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- Diagonal \overline{AC} length = $\sqrt{2}a$
- Area of $ACEF = 2a^2$
- Where the two circles drawn from Y and Z of radius $2c$ is perpendicular to YZ .

Understanding the Computational Process: Essential Ingredients

- **Primitive operations & expressions:** These represent the simplest objects of the computational process. Eg: Drawing a line, drawing an arc etc.

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- **Primitive operations & expressions:** These represent the simplest objects of the computational process. Eg: Drawing a line, drawing an arc etc.
- **Methods of combination:** This specifies how primitive expressions and objects can be combined to form **compound** expressions and objects. Eg: Drawing a perpendicular.

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- **Methods of abstraction:** **Naming** compound objects be named and used/manipulated as a unit. Eg: square-construction process from the diagonal of a given square. It is useful in:

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 - 1 **separating logical subproblems.** Eg: drawing a perpendicular from a point is logically separate from drawing a square on a line segment.

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 - 1 **separating logical subproblems.** Eg: drawing a perpendicular from a point is logically separate from drawing a square on a line segment.
 - 2 **Avoiding repetitions in specifying solutions.** Eg: drawing perpendiculars from two separate points are instances of the same computational process.

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- **Computer:** Yet another tool for performing computation.

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- **Algorithm:** It is a **finite** sequence of **well-defined** instructions (Eg: combination of **primitives** of a computation tool) to solve a problem.

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1 It works with a definite input and output

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- **Algorithm:** It is a **finite** sequence of **well-defined** instructions (Eg: combination of **primitives** of a computation tool) to solve a problem.
 - 1 It works with a definite input and output
 - 2 It is unambiguous (Eg: How would one evaluate $E_1 + E_2 * E_3$)

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 - 1 It works with a definite input and output
 - 2 It is unambiguous (Eg: How would one evaluate $E_1 + E_2 * E_3$)
 - 3 The number of steps executed to arrive at a solution is **finite**

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 - 1 It works with a definite input and output
 - 2 It is unambiguous (Eg: How would one evaluate $E_1 + E_2 * E_3$)
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- **Programming Language:** It is a **vocabulary** (with a **syntax** – also called the **grammar** of the language), which is used to

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- Thus, each program uses *only* the primitives of the computing tool.