

# Introduction to Programming

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Introduction to  
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Understanding the  
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- Computing is a **process** of counting or performing calculation.

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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

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

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- **Textile:** wearable electronic textiles – information gathering garments, Smart textiles responding to the environment, etc.
- **Humanities/Management:** Linguistics, Cognitive science, Politics, etc.

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# Example of a Computation: The Computation Tool

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  - **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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- Step (1) above is a primitive operation.

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- 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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  - 3 Draw circles of radius  $2c$  from centre points  $Y$  and  $Z$ .
  - 4 Join the points of intersection of the two circles.

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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.

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

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- **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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  - 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
  - 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
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  - 3 The number of steps executed to arrive at a solution is **finite**
- **Programming Language:** It is a **vocabulary** (with a **syntax** – also called the **grammar** of the language), which is used to

NOTE: The “form” is usually a **Program**. The program is developed by conforming to the grammatical rules of the language.

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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  $E_1 + E_2 * E_3$ )
  - 3 The number of steps executed to arrive at a solution is **finite**
- **Programming Language:** It is a **vocabulary** (with a **syntax** – also called the **grammar** of the language), which is used to
  - 1 Translate the algorithm into a ‘form’

NOTE: The “form” is usually a **Program**. The program is developed by conforming to the grammatical rules of the language.

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Introduction to Programming

Subodh Sharma

Course Logistics

Introduction to Computing

What is computing?

Computation in STEM and Humanities

Example of a Computation

Understanding the Computational Process

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