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[BCT-A]

1. What are computer programs & computer programming?
Explain the steps that are required to build a computer program for solving a certain problem.

⇒ A computer program is a collection of instruction that can be executed by a computer to perform a specific task.

Alternatively, a computer program may be executed with the aid of an interpreter.

Computer programming is the process that professionals use to write code that instructs how a computer application or software program performs.

To create a program that solves a certain problem we need to follow the steps specified below

i) Identify the problem

This is the most crucial step in writing a program without a clear vision of the problem we need to solve, building a program can become a very hard process. Identifying the problem helps us follow certain execution plan to effectively & efficiently build the required program.

Finding a suitable solⁿ for the problem.

To find the solⁿ for a new problem, we need to write algorithm & flowchart systematically. In a development work space for a program, Developers will usually make algorithm & flowcharts to find the logic to solve the problem before writing source code for it.

Writing the source code

After completing the algorithm & flowchart developer write the source code following it. Writing the source code includes various phases including better versions to ultimately get an efficient executable program.

Testing the program.

This step include testing if the program works or not its accuracy & making improvement to make it faster & more optimized.

2. Define software. Explain its type
⇒ A software essentially a type of program which enable the users to perform some particular specific task or basically used to operate their computer.

Its types

a) System Software

In case of a system software, it helps the user as well as the hardware to function & even interact with each other easily.

Essentially, it is a software which is used to manage the behaviour of the computer hardware in order to offer basic functionalities which are needed by the user. e.g.: i) Operating system ii) Device Driver iii) Firmware iv) utility.

b) Application Software

They are also popularly known as end-user programs or even productivity programs which assist the user in completing various tasks like conducting online research, making notes, designing graphic, carrying out calculations or even playing game.

e.g.: i) word processor

ii) Data base software

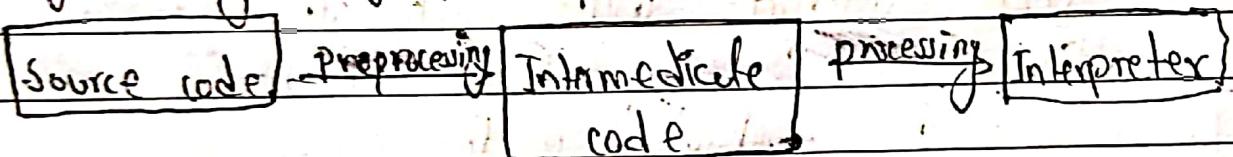
iii) Multimedia Software

iv) Web browser

Q) What do you mean by compilation? What do you mean by interpretation? How do these two processes differ?

Ans: Compilation is the computer software that translates source code written in high-level language into a set of machine-language instructions that can be understood by a digital computer's CPU.

Interpretation is a computer program that is used to directly execute programs. instruction written using one of the many high-level programming languages.



Interpretation

compilation

→ Translates program one statement at a time → Scans the entire program & translates it as a whole into machine code

→ No object code is generated → Generates object code which hence are memory efficient further required linking hence requires more memory.

→ Programming language like Java Script, Python, Ruby we use Interpretation → Programming language like C, C++, Java we use compilation.

Explain in brief the steps involved during compilation process along with block diagram.

The compilation is a process of converting the source code into object code. It is done with the help of the compiler. The preprocessor takes the source code as an input, & it removes all the comments from the source code. The preprocessor takes the preprocessor directive & interprets it. The following are the phases through which our program passes before transformed into an executable form :-

Preprocessor.

The source code is the code which is written in a text editor & the source code file is given as extension 'c'. This source code is first passed to the preprocessor, & then the preprocessor expands this code. After expanding the code, the expanded code is passed to the compiler.

Compiler

The code which is expanded by the preprocessor is passed to the compiler. The compiler converts this code into assembly code. Or we can say that the C compiler converts the pre-processed code into assembly code.

Assembler

The assembly code is converted into object code by using C/C++ assembler. The name of the object file generated by the assembler is the same as the source file. The extension of the object file in DOS is ".obj" & in UNIX, the extension is ".o". If the name of the source file is "hello.c" then the name of the object file would be "hello.o".

Linker

Mainly, all the program written in C use library function. These library function are pre-compiled & the object code of these library files is stored, with ".lib" (or ".a") extension. The main working of the linker is to combine the object code of library file with the object code of our program. In DOS, the extension of the executable file is ".exe" & in UNIX, the executable file can be named as ".a.out". For example, if we are using printf() function in a program, then the linker adds its associated code in output file.

5. Explain different generation of programming language?

⇒ The generation of programming language are:

(1) low-level languages (LLL)

* A language that is machine-dependent & that offers few control instruction & data type.
low level language can be divided into two type

(a) Machine language (MLL)

The language that is called the language of CPU & written in binary code (0 & 1) called Machine language. The program written in machine language does not need any translation.

(b) Assembly language

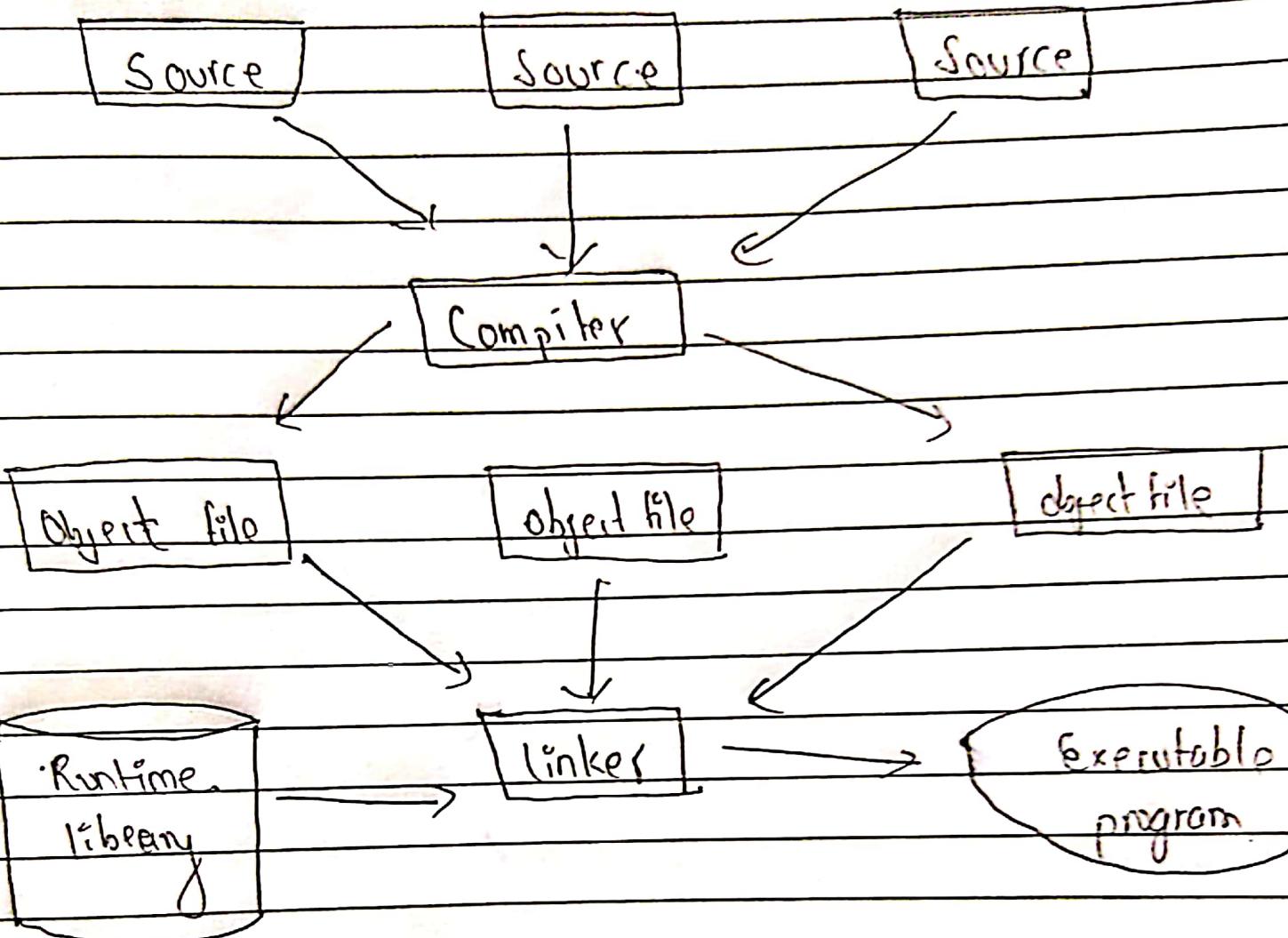
The language in which a program is written in shortcodes like ADD, MUL or SUB instead of writing instruction in a binary number (0 & 1) is called assembly language. It is easier to understand as compared to machine language.

(2) High-level language

* The language which are quite similar to written English & are therefore very easier to write in compared to machine language & assembly language & called High-level language

(a) Procedural oriented language

Procedural Oriented language are the general purpose programming language. It is also known as the 3rd generation language. These are designed to express the logic of the procedure of a program. e.g.: Pascal, C etc



(b) Problem-oriented language.

These language are non-procedural language which allows the user to specify what the output should be. Problem-oriented language are one step ahead of PGL & they don't describe all the details of how the data are manipulated to produce the result.
eg:- C++, PHP, etc.

(c) Natural language.

Also known as 5th generation language these are still in the developing stage. In completion, we could write statement that would look like normal sentence. Natural language such as English, Nepali & other language would be used in the computer making them more intelligent & user-friendly.