

Algorithms Resource Pack

for OCR GCSE Computer Science (J277)

Sue Wright

Part 1 – Theory

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource explores OCR GCSE Computer Science (J277) specification section **2.1 Algorithms** and looks at each section in depth identifying key terms and their definitions to help your students understand some of the more difficult concepts.

There are detailed examples, using OCR Exam Reference Language, explanations and diagrams which explain the stages of the searching and sorting algorithms and how the Exam Reference Language relates to the process of each algorithm.

Students are shown how to plan algorithms using both flowcharts and OCR specific Exam Reference Language, starting with explanations and examples of how to analyse an algorithm in terms of its inputs, processes and outputs before attempting the algorithm design itself. The resource also includes a range of exercises, as well as crosswords for each section to check students' understanding of the key terms. Solutions to all exercises are included.

The resource is presented in 2 parts:

Part 1: Seven chapters of theory, interspersed with task prompts. Give to students in its entirety or as separate handouts as and when you need them.

Part 2: Worksheets (for completion of the tasks referred to in Part 1), plus solutions

This booklet could be used as a stand-alone resource to deliver this important part of the syllabus, as well as to support the delivery of syllabus section **2.2 Programming Techniques**, where much of the content (such as variables, arrays, subprograms and operators) is covered naturally while looking at algorithms.

This resource will be invaluable in giving students a detailed introduction to the use of the OCR Exam Reference Language and code segments that could form part of their written exams.

About the author

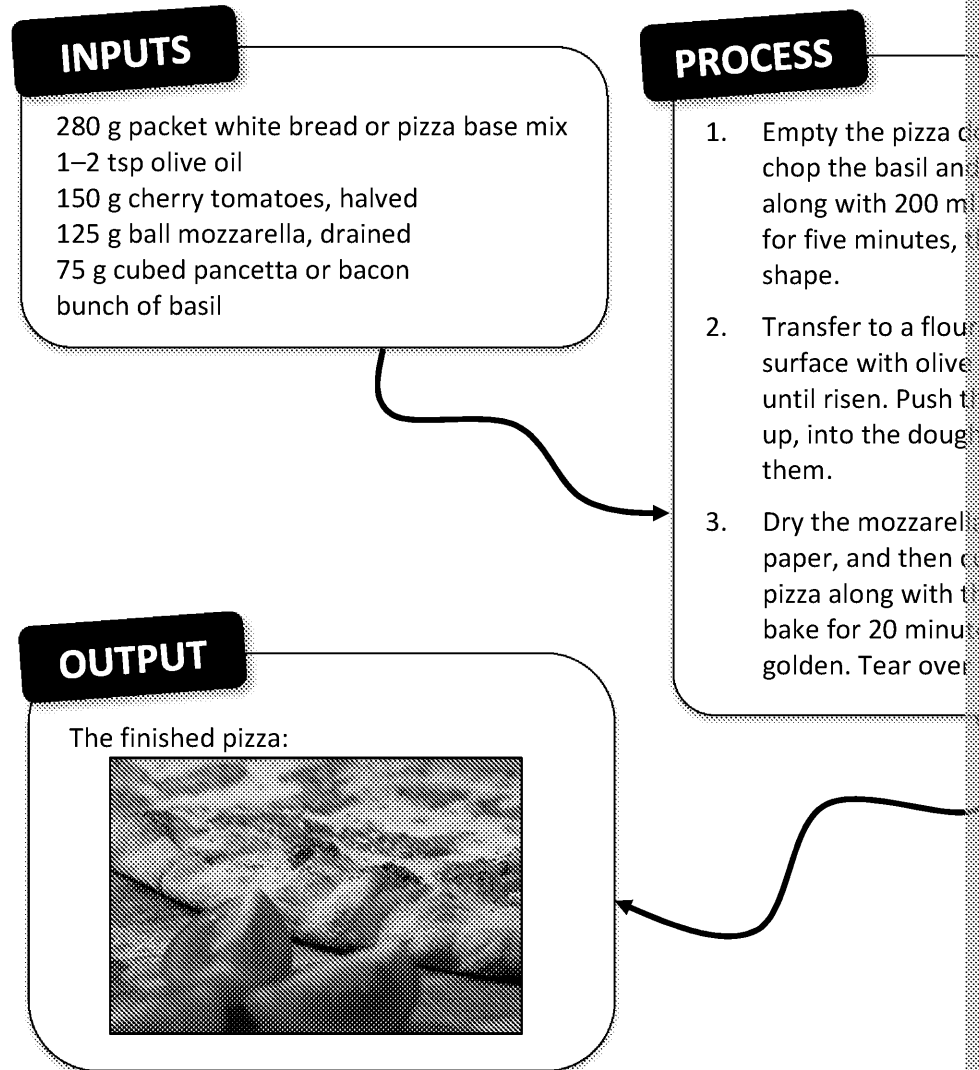
Sue Wright has been teaching for over 25 years and has a B.A., B.Ed. and Undergraduate Diploma in Computing from the Dept. for Continuing Education at Oxford University. She has taught A Level Computing, A Level Computer Science and GCSE Computer Science. In her spare time she enjoys writing, playing in her local brass band, reading crime novels and visiting new places.

Sue Wright, September 2020

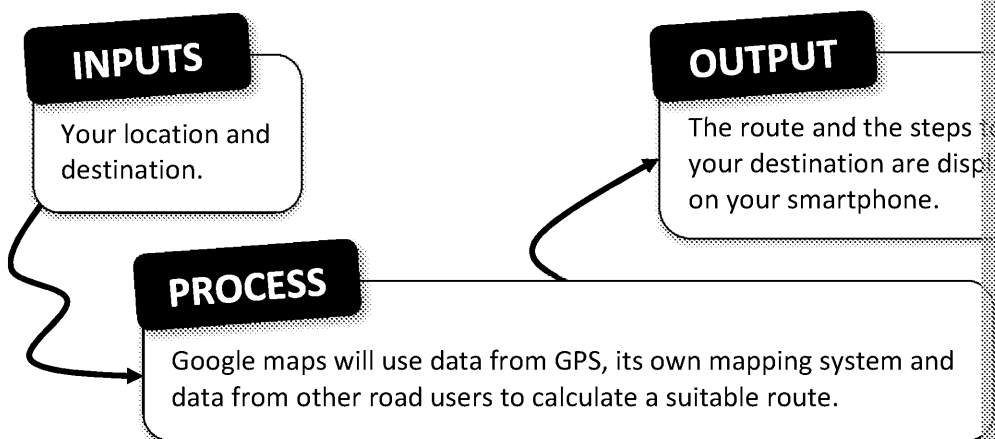
ALGORITHMS: WHAT ARE THEY?

An algorithm is a **series of instructions that solves a problem in a finite number of steps**.

What does that mean? Below is an example of a recipe for making cherry tomato pizza which can be used to explain an everyday algorithm in terms of its **inputs**, **process** and **output**.



Another example uses the ‘shortest path algorithm’ invented by Dutch computer scientist Edsger Dijkstra.



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In both of these examples:

- The steps or instructions must be clear so that they cannot be misunderstood.
- The steps or instructions must follow the correct order, e.g. Step 1 is followed by Step 2.
- They must produce the outputs you want at the end, e.g. the pizza or the location to your destination.
- Each time the instructions are used, the same results must be produced, e.g. the pizza or the location to your destination.

Every **successful algorithm** can be judged using three criteria:

- Accuracy – does it lead to the expected results?
- Consistency – does it produce the same result each time it is run?
- Efficiency – does it solve the problem in the shortest possible time?

Key Terms

Algorithm	A series of instructions that solves a problem in a finite number of steps.
Sequence	An ordered set of steps or instructions.
Unambiguous	Written in a way that makes it completely clear what is meant.

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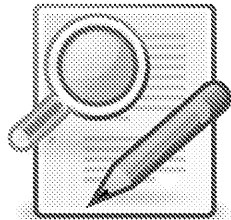


ALGORITHMS VS PROGRAMS

Algorithms and programs are very closely related BUT the important distinction is that to create a program to solve a problem, you have to work out the solution (the algorithm) first.

Example

You have two young cousins who struggle to learn their spellings each week; you decide to help them.



Analyse the problem



Make a game based on the idea of 'Look, cover, write'.

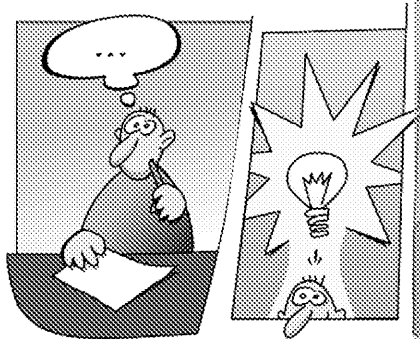
What are the inputs? How do they get into the game?

How will the game show the words to be spelt?

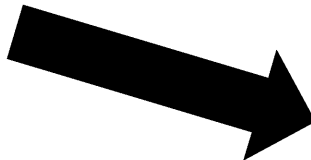
How will the game check the spelling that is entered?

How will the game store the number of right answers?

How will the player know if all have been spelt correctly?



Design and test the algorithm



There are two ways in which we can plan and design algorithms:

- VISUAL – using flow chart symbols
- TEXT – using a written sequence of instructions

In your exam you will need to be able to use and understand both methods.

Complete Exercise 1: Charity Fundraiser – Analyse the Problem

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VARIABLES – WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY DO WE NEED THEM

In order to process data, all computers need to be able to temporarily store data that is accessed and changed as the program runs.

For example, in a simple hangman game the computer needs to store and access:

- the word to be guessed
- which letters in the word have been guessed correctly
- which letters are incorrect guesses
- which parts of the hangman image have been displayed

Variables are locations in memory where the data is stored; each of these locations has an address – a bit like your postal address – so the computer knows where it has stored the data and where to find it again.

When we plan and write algorithms or create programs we name the variables used in our algorithms easier to understand. The name or identifier used should be easy to use in our algorithm or program.

Rules for variable names:

- The name must be written first before a value is **assigned** to it.
- The name cannot start with a number; it must be a letter or an underscore.
- Variable names must not have spaces – use CamelCase.
- Names must be chosen that make sense in the algorithm.

Example:

```
1 WordToGuess = "twelve"
2
3
4 array CorrectGuess [5]
5 CorrectGuess[0] = ["e"]
6
7 array WrongGuess [10]
8
9 WrongGuess [0]= "a"
10 WrongGuess [1]= "o"
11 WrongGuess [2]= "i"
12 WrongGuess [3]= "g"
13 WrongGuess [4]= "s"
```

In OCR pseudocode the equals sign (=) is used to show **assignment** of a value to a variable. The double equals symbol (==) is used to show equality, e.g. 4 == 4 evaluates to True.

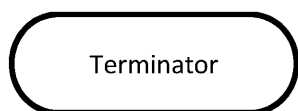
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REPRESENTING ALGORITHMS

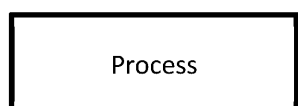
FLOW CHART SYMBOLS

There are many different symbols used in flow charts; you need to be able to recognise the following symbols:



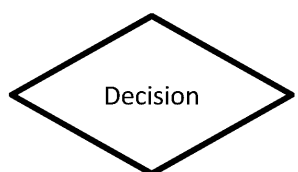
Terminator

Start or end of your algorithm



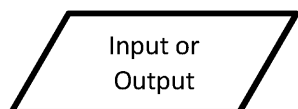
Process

A process in the algorithm, e.g. calculating the price of



Decision

A decision/selection symbol will always have one of two possible outcomes, true or false



Input or
Output

This shows data into the algorithm or outputs from it



Arrows show the sequence of steps in the algorithm. They can be vertical or horizontal.

Key Terms

Flow chart

A flow chart is a visual representation of the **sequence of steps** in the sequence are shown as symbols or shapes which are linked by arrows to show the order.

Variable

A storage location used to store a value; this could be text or a number. A variable may change as the program is run.

Complete Exercise 2: Charity Fundraiser – Put the Symbols in the Correct Order
Complete Crossword One

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PSEUDOCODE

The second way we can plan and design an algorithm is using pseudocode.

PSEUDO means 'pretend' or 'unreal' as it is not a real programming language; it is an algorithm using text. Different textbooks will use different versions of pseudocode, but as long as your meaning is clear and unambiguous, you can use any text to describe your answer.

However, you will also be expected to be able to understand simple algorithms written in pseudocode in your exam; this booklet will use the exam board version in all examples.

Look at the two examples of the same algorithm below.

Flow chart	Pseudocode
<pre> graph TD Start([Start]) --> Input[/Enter circle radius/] Input --> PI[PI = 3.14159] PI --> Area[Area = PI x radius x radius] Area --> Output[/Output Area/] Output --> Stop([Stop]) </pre>	<pre> 1 radius = input() 2 const PI = 3.14159 3 Area = PI * radius * radius 4 print (Area) </pre>

This example uses both a **variable** and a **constant**; each of these has been given a name. Identifiers should make your algorithm easy to understand and they **MUST** be unique; you cannot use the same **identifier** or name for different variables in the same algorithm.

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VARIABLES, CONSTANTS AND ASSIGNMENT

We have already discussed variables and briefly looked at how to **assign** a value to a variable.

On Line 2 of the example, the pseudocode algorithm **assigns** the value entered by the user to a **variable** called **radius**. Each time the algorithm is used the value of 'radius' can change. In our calculation we do not need to change anything when the value of 'radius' changes.

The symbol used to show **assignment** of a value to a **variable** is a backwards arrow (\leftarrow) and 4. It is important that the **identifier** for the variable is created BEFORE any value is assigned to it.

When a variable in a program is NOT going to vary it is known as a **constant**. The value of a constant is set by the **identifier** in capital letters. Values are **assigned** to a **constant** in exactly the same way as a variable; you can see this on Line 3.

Key Terms

Constant	A storage location used to store a value that never changes as the program runs.
Assignment	Giving a variable or constant a value by linking a value to the variable or constant.
Identifier	A unique name given to a variable or constant in your algorithm. It makes your algorithm easier to read and understand.
Pseudocode	A structured, code-like language that can be used to describe an algorithm.

GETTING INPUTS AND OUTPUTS

In pseudocode you will be expected to understand and be able to use **keywords** for getting inputs and outputs. These keywords are always written in capital letters.

```
1 radius = input("Enter Radius")
2 const PI = 3.14159
3 Area = PI * radius * radius
4 print(Area)
```

The two keywords used here are:

- INPUT
 - Getting values into the algorithm from the user (via keyboard).
- PRINT
 - Messages or results displayed on the screen.

Complete Exercise 3: Constants or Variables?
Complete Exercise 4: Holiday Calculations

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ARITHMETIC OPERATORS

You will be familiar with these from your Maths lessons, but there are some slight differences that you will be able to recognise and use in pseudocode.

STANDARD ARITHMETIC OPERATORS	PSEUDOCODE VERSION	PSEUDOCODE EXAMPLE
Addition +	+	5 + 6 evaluates to 11
Subtraction –	–	7 – 3 evaluates to 4
Multiplication ×	*	4 * 2 evaluates to 8
Division ÷	/	12/3 evaluates to 4
Exponentiation	^	5^3 evaluates to (5 × 5 = 25, 5 × 25 = 125) <i>In this example 5 is the base and 3 is the power</i> 2^4 = 16 (2 × 2 = 4, 2 × 4 = 8, 2 × 8 = 16)
Integer division (only evaluates the quotient from the division)	DIV	9 DIV 6 evaluates to 1 <i>This evaluates to 9 ÷ 6 = 1 remainder 3</i> <i>The quotient is the only output</i>
Modulus operator (only evaluates the remainder from the division)	MOD	10 MOD 3 evaluates to 1 <i>This evaluates to 10 ÷ 3 = 3 remainder 1</i> <i>The remainder is the only output</i>

ORDER OF OPERATIONS: BIDMAS

Remember that you may have a question that involves understanding the order of operations.

For example:

$$6 \times (7 + 3) = 6 \times 10 = 60 \quad \checkmark$$

$$6 \times (7 + 3) = 6 \times 7 = 42 + 3 = 45 \quad \times$$

$$4 + 5 \times 6 = 4 + 30 = 34 \text{ (Multiply BEFORE addition or subtraction)} \quad \checkmark$$

1	B rackets
2	I ndices (powers, square roots)
3	D ivision
4	M ultiplication
5	A ddition
6	S ubtraction

Complete Exercise 5: Holiday Temperature Converter

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COMPARISON / RELATIONAL OPERATORS

These are called comparison operators as they are used to compare two values. relational operators will evaluate to either True or False.

OPERATOR	WHAT IT MEANS	EXAMPLE
<	Less than	$5 < 7$
>	Greater than	$3 > 12$
==	Equality operator checks whether both values are the same	$5 == 5$
!=	Not equal to	$7 != 8$
<=	Less than or equal to	$9 <= 10$ $6.2 <= 6.2$
>=	Greater than or equal to	$12 >= 21$ $5.7 >= 5.7$

In a calculation, any arithmetic operators will be evaluated BEFORE relational operators.

Example:

$(5 * 9) < 30$ evaluates to False

$(12 / 4) != (36/9)$ evaluates to True

BOOLEAN OR LOGICAL OPERATORS

Boolean or logical operators are very useful for combining with relational operators to create complex expressions.

OPERATOR	EXPLANATION	
AND	Logical AND checks whether both conditions are true or false	For example, passwords must be $>= 8$ characters
OR	Logical OR checks whether EITHER of the conditions is true	Passwords must include a number
NOT	Logical NOT reverses a Boolean value. In the example $x > y$ evaluates to False, using the logical NOT reverses the evaluation to True.	If a password is NOT including a number

AND OPERATOR

We can start with two statements which could be true or false about your password:

1. The password has eight or more characters.
2. The password includes a number.

If you know the answer to both statements is true, they can be linked with AND

The password has eight or more characters	The password includes a number	
False	False	
False	True	
True	False	
True	True	

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In order to evaluate the overall value of a Boolean expression using the AND operator, both Boolean expressions must evaluate to True. For example:

```
(5 != 12) AND (12 > 8)

True    AND    True

True
```

OR OPERATOR

This is a very common logical operator that you will be familiar with when making fries or chunky chips? The logical OR will evaluate to True if one of the choices evaluates to True.

```
(5 != 12) OR (12 < 8)

True    OR    False

True
```

It does not matter if both choices evaluate to True as the overall expression will still evaluate to True.

NOT OPERATOR

Unlike the AND and OR operators, which compare two Boolean expressions and return a Boolean result, the NOT operator simply reverses the result of the Boolean expression. For example:

```
NOT (12 > 8)

NOT True

False
```

COMBINING BOOLEAN OR LOGICAL OPERATORS

The three Boolean operators can be combined into more complex expressions to check whether the expression will give you the answer you want.

Example 1 (using variables)

```
PwdLen = 8
NumCount = 1
NOT (PwdLen < 8) AND (NumCount >= 2)
```

We can evaluate our expressions ($\text{PwdLen} < 8$) and ($\text{NumCount} \geq 2$) to False, or NOT False, which we can simplify to NOT False and, therefore, True.

Example 2

```
(5 != 12) OR (NOT (12 < 8))
```

The expressions ($5 \neq 12$) and ($12 < 8$) can be evaluated to True and True so we can simplify this to:

```
True OR (NOT (True))
```

This now evaluates to True OR False, which evaluates to True.

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Key Terms

Operator	In maths, an operator is a symbol (such as + * / -) that shows something you want to do with the values.
Quotient	When a number is divided by another, the result is known as the quotient. For $12 \div 3 = 4$, the quotient is 4.
Div	Integer division gives only the quotient and ignores any remainder.
Mod	The modulus operation finds the remainder only after division. $15 \text{ MOD } 6 = 3$.
Exponentiation	This means that a base integer is raised to the power of the exponent. 3^3 evaluates to $3 \times 3 \times 3 = 27$.
Comparison operator	This is used in programming to compare two values, e.g. $4 > 3$. Using comparison operators will evaluate to either True or False.
Boolean operator	A Boolean or logical operator is used to combine conditions and is tested to see whether they evaluate to True or False.

Complete Crossword Two

PROGRAMMING CONSTRUCTS

When we are planning algorithms, there are three basic building blocks or 'constructs' that make algorithms easy to read and easy to understand. These are used to control the order in which instructions are executed.

These building blocks also allow you to break a problem down into smaller blocks. The small blocks can then be joined together to solve a more complex problem.

The three constructs are:

- Sequence
- Selection
- Iteration

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SEQUENCE

Sequence means doing things one after another. For example, when calculating the area of a rectangle:

FLOW CHART	PSEUDO CODE
<pre> graph TD Start([Start]) --> EnterLength[/Enter length/] EnterLength --> EnterWidth[/Enter width/] EnterWidth --> Process[area = length x width] Process --> Output[/area/] Output --> Stop([Stop]) </pre>	<pre> 1 length = input 2 width = input 3 area = length x width 4 print(area) </pre>

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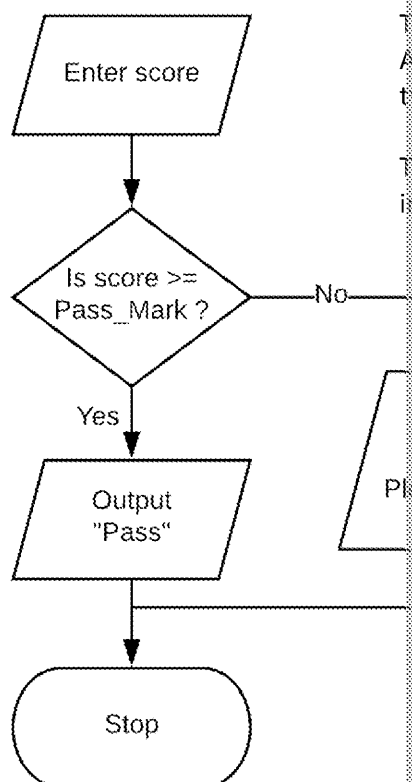
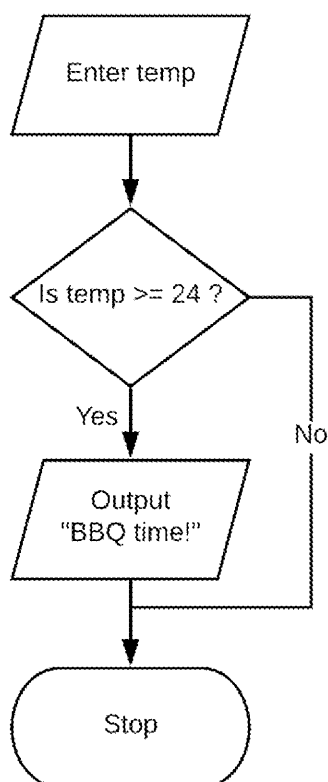
SELECTION

Selection or conditional statements test whether a condition we have set is TRUE or FALSE. We then choose or select what happens next based on whether the condition set evaluates to TRUE or FALSE.

IF STATEMENT	
IF < condition > THEN <statement when condition is true> ENDIF	<pre> 1 temp = 25 2 if temp >= 24 3 print ("bbq time!") 4 endif </pre>

IF- ELSE STATEMENT	
IF < condition > THEN <statement when condition is true> ELSE <statement when condition is false> ENDIF	<pre> 1 pass_mark = 60 2 score = input ("Enter score: ") 3 4 if score >= pass_mark 5 print ("Pass") 6 else 7 print ("Failed") 8 endif </pre>

SELECTION USING FLOW CHARTS



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Complete Exercise 6: Odds or Evens

What happens if you want to check more than one condition?

In the example code shown below the algorithm will check whether one of the conditions is true and then execute the relevant code. If the first condition evaluates to True then the code will be executed; if none of the conditions evaluates to True, then the default **else** code will be executed.

ELSE-IF STATEMENT	
IF <condition> THEN <statement when condition is true> ELSE IF < next condition> THEN <statement when condition is true> ELSE IF <next condition > THEN <statement when condition is true> ELSE <do this> ENDIF	<pre> 1 score = input("Enter score") 2 3 if score >= 80 then 4 print("Levels 7") 5 elseif score <= 79 AND score >= 60 then 6 print("Levels 4") 7 elseif score <= 59 AND score >= 50 then 8 print("Levels 1") 9 else 10 print("Failed. Please try again.") 11 endif </pre>

Example 1:

Line	Score	score >= 80	score <= 79 AND score >= 60	score <= 59 AND score >= 50
1	32			
2				
3		False		
4				
5			False	
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				

Example 2:

Line	Score	score >= 80	score <= 79 AND score >= 60	score <= 59 AND score >= 50
1	60			
2				
3		False		
4				
5			True	
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				

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As you can see in the example trace table above, the **ELSEIF** statement will not evaluate any more conditions if one statement has been evaluated to True; Lines 7 to 10 would be ignored and the next line of code on Line 11.

The same result can also be achieved using a switch/case statement. Again, if the first condition is True then none of the other conditions are tested.

SWITCH/CASE STATEMENT	
SWITCH <input>	1 score = input("enter score")
CASE <condition>:	2
<statement>	3 switch score:
CASE <condition>:	4 case >= 80:
<statement>	5 print("Levels 7 - 8")
DEFAULT:	6 case >= 60:
<statement>	7 print("Levels 4 - 5")
ENDSWITCH	8 case <= 59:
	9 print("Levels 1 - 3")
	10 default:
	11 print("Failed. Please try again.")
	12 endswitch

Complete Exercise 7: Colour Range

TRACE TABLES

A trace table is a useful way of checking the logic of your algorithm BEFORE you write the code. It involves using a range of data to check that the algorithm you have written works for the example table shown on the previous page. This type of checking is always performing a 'dry run' of the algorithm.

Complete Exercise 8: Trace Table 1

Complete Exercise 9: Trace Table 2

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ITERATION

In computer science, iteration means that instructions in your algorithm are repeated. There are two types of iteration or LOOPING that you need to know about:

- Condition- controlled loop (indefinite iteration)
- Count-controlled loop (definite iteration)

CONDITION-CONTROLLED (INDEFINITE ITERATION)

Do... WHILE LOOP	
<p>DO</p> <p> <statements></p> <p>WHILE <Boolean expression></p>	<p>Example 1</p> <pre> 1 password = input("Enter password") 2 3 do 4 confirm = input("confirm password") 5 until confirm == password </pre> <p><i>This will continue to ask for the user to confirm password until it matches</i></p> <p>Example 2</p> <pre> 1 count = 10 2 do 3 print(count) 4 count = count - 1 5 until count == 5 </pre> <p><i>This will print out 10, 9, 8, 7, 6 and then stop</i></p>

WHILE... LOOP	
<p>WHILE <Boolean expression></p> <p> <statements></p> <p>ENDWHILE</p>	<p>Example 1</p> <pre> 1 password = input("Enter password") 2 3 confirm = input("confirm password") 4 5 while confirm != password 6 print("entry does not match") 7 confirm = input("confirm password") 8 endwhile </pre> <p><i>In this example, the condition is checked at the start of the loop. If the password and confirm entries DO match, the loop will stop.</i></p> <p>Example 2</p> <pre> 1 count = 10 2 3 while count > 5 4 print(count) 5 count = count - 1 6 endwhile </pre> <p><i>Again, the condition is checked at the start of the loop. The loop will continue as long as the count is greater than 5. The numbers 10, 9, 8, 7, 6.</i></p>

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COUNT-CONTROLLED (DEFINITE ITERATION)

FOR... NEXT	
FOR identifier = IntExp TO IntExp <condition> next identifier	<pre> 1 for count = 1 to 10 2 print(count) 3 next count </pre> <p><i>This will output 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10.</i></p>
FOR identifier = IntExp TO IntExp STEP <condition> next identifier	<pre> 1 for count = 0 to 20 2 print(count) 3 next count </pre> <p><i>This will output 0,5,10,15,20.</i></p>

Key Terms

Construct	The basic building blocks of an algorithm or program that can be executed.
Sequence	When instructions are executed, in order, one after another.
Selection	Also known as a conditional statement, this allows the algorithm to choose between different instructions based on whether a condition is True or False.
Iteration	Instructions are repeated either until a condition is True or False, or for a fixed number of times.
Trace table	A manual method of testing an algorithm to ensure there are no errors.

COMBINING SEQUENCE, SELECTION AND ITERATION

As you will probably be aware from your knowledge of programming so far, problems can often be solved by a combination of these three building blocks or 'constructs'.

Example 1:

```

1  for x = 1 to 101
2      if x MOD 3 == 0 AND x MOD 5 == 0 then
3          print("FizzBuzz")
4      elseif x MOD 5 == 0 then
5          print("Buzz")
6      elseif x MOD 3 == 0
7          print("Fizz")
8      else
9          print(x)
10     endif
11 next x

```

This is an example of a simple programming task often used in interviews to check if you can solve problems and code a solution that works!

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Example 2:

```
1 //Guess the number game
2
3 guessed = false
4 target = 11
5
6 while guessed != true
7     number = input("enter a number between 1 and 20")
8
9     while number <= 0 OR number > 20
10        number = input("number out of range, please enter a number between 1 and 20")
11    endwhile
12
13    if number == target then
14        print("well done, you guessed it!")
15        guessed = true
16    elseif number > target then
17        print("Too high")
18    else
19        print("Too low")
20    endif
21 endwhile
```

This example uses the variable **guessed** as a 'flag' on Line 3. Variables used as flags. The flag variable will be set with an initial value, either True or False, depending on what you want to do.

When the code on Line 13 evaluates to True then the 'flag' on Line 15 (the variable **guessed**) will be set to True with the result that the condition on Line 6 will now evaluate to False and the loop will end.

Complete Exercise 10: Identify the Constructs

Complete Exercise 11: FizzBuzz

Complete Exercise 12: Dial a Pizza

Complete Crossword Three

Complete Exercise 13: Count until Zero

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DATA STRUCTURES

ARRAYS

An array is a data structure that allows us to store multiple items using just one variable. Each item in an array is usually referred to as an 'element'.

Most modern programming languages start numbering array indexes at 0; this will be the case in your exam **unless the question tells you otherwise**.

ASSIGNMENT (OF A STATIC ARRAY)

array Identifier [size]

identifier [0] = Exp

identifier [1] = Exp

Note: Exp means any expression

A static array size is set at the start and cannot be changed as the algorithm or program runs.

```

1  array shopping[3]
2
3  shopping[0] = "milk"
4  shopping[1] = "bread"
5  shopping[2] = "butter"
6
7  array a[4]
8
9  a[0] = 4
10 a[1] = 32
11 a[2] = 78
12 a[3] = 51
    
```

The shopping array has three elements, starting at index position 0 and finishing at index position 2.

The a array has four elements, starting at index position 0 and finishing at index position 3.

ASSIGNMENT (OF A DYNAMIC ARRAY)

array Identifier []

A dynamic array will change size as the algorithm runs. The size is left blank when the array is created.

```

1  array shopping_list []
2
3  done = false
4
5  while NOT done
6      item = input("What shopping do you need? ")
7      shopping_list = shopping_list + item
8      check = input (" Have you finished? Enter Y or N ")
9      if check == "Y" then
10         done = true
11         print(shopping_list)
12     endif
13 endwhile
    
```

The empty array is created on Line 1.

The WHILE loop will continue to ask for items to be added to the shopping list until the letter Y is entered. It adds each item to the array in the next index position. When the letter Y is entered, it exits the loop and Line 11 prints out the contents of the array.

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ACCESSING AN ELEMENT

Identifier [IntExp]

```
1 shopping[1]
2
3 a[3]
```

Note: shopping [1] will evaluate to the element at index position 1. These are the index positions of each element.

UPDATING AN ELEMENT

Identifier [IntExp] = Exp

```
1 shopping[2]= "eggs"
2
3 a[1] = 94
```

Note: the element at index position 2 of the array 'shopping' is updated from 'butter' to 'eggs'. The array is now ['butter', 'eggs', 'milk', 'apples', 'bananas']

In the integer array the element at index position 1 is updated from 32 to 94. The array is now [4, 94, 56, 78, 12]

ACCESSING AN ELEMENT IN A 2D ARRAY

Identifier [IntExp, IntExp]

```
1 array high_scores
2
3 high_scores[0,0] = 62
4 high_scores[0,1] = 43
5 high_scores[0,2] = 78
6 high_scores[1,0] = 56
7 high_scores[1,1] = 91
8 high_scores[1,2] = 34
9
10 print(high_scores[0,1])
11 print(high_scores[1,2])
```

*Line 1 creates the array **high_scores** like the two rows containing three elements each.*

In this example Line 10 would evaluate to the value 43. Line 11 would evaluate to the value 34. Line 10 evaluates to the second item in the first row (62, 43, 78), i.e. 43.

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You should think of a 2D array as looking like a table:

	Ashley	Raheem	Jamie
Row 1, column 0 high_scores [1, 0]	58	62	43

UPDATING AN ELEMENT IN A 2D ARRAY

Identifier [IntExp] [IntExp] = Exp

```
1 high_scores [1,1] ← 67
```

Note: This results in the 2D array now looking like this:
[['Ashley', 'Raheem', 'Jamie'], [58, 67, 43]]

ARRAY LENGTH

Identifier.length

high_scores.length will evaluate to 2 as there are 2 rows in the array (the player names in row 0 and the player scores in row 1).
shopping.length will evaluate to 3 as there are 3 items in the array.

FOR LOOPS AND ARRAYS

When we use arrays to store multiple data items, a common process is to search whether it contains an item or to perform some other operation on each item.

We know how to use a FOR loop for counting:

```
1 for count = 1 to 10
2   print(count)
3 next count
```

How do we loop through each item in an array using a FOR loop?

Example:

```
array daily_temps [7]
daily_temps = [17, 19, 22, 26, 21, 24, 22]
totalTemps = 0

for i = 0 to 6
  totalTemps = totalTemps + daily_temps[i]
next i

avgTemp = totalTemps/7
print (avgTemp)
```

This example shows our array of daily temperatures, which is declared to contain 7 items. We then add up all the temperatures, assuming (unless the exam question states otherwise) that array counting starts at 0.

The FOR loop looks at the **index position** of each item in the array and then adds the value at that position to the variable **totalTemps**. The total is then divided by 7 to find the average temperature.

What happens if we do not know how large the array will be for setting the condition in the FOR loop?

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We can use the `identifier.length` option to find the length of the array, which = 7. FOR loop at index position 0 we need to subtract 1 from the length to ensure the

This algorithm could then be adapted to calculate the averages over a fortnight or to set the array size by entering a suitable value which would also be used to divide to find the average for each day.

```
// Calculate a weekly average temperature

array daily_temps [7]
daily_temps = [17, 19, 22, 26, 21, 24, 22]
totalTemps = 0

for i = 0 to daily_temps.length -1
    totalTemps = totalTemps + daily_temps[i]
next i

avgTemp = totalTemps/7

print (avgTemp)
```

Another process that can be achieved using arrays, WHILE loops and selection statements. An array includes a data item, e.g. a name:

```
1 // Search for a name of students who sat mock exam
2
3 array examAttendees [10]
4 examAttendees = ["Keiran", "Taisha", "Emily", "Wyatt", "Ryan", "Grace", "Adam"]
5
6
7 index = 0
8 check = ""
9 resits = []
10 found = False
11
12 while check != "X"
13     target = input("Enter name ")
14     index = 0
15     while index <= examAttendees.length -1 AND NOT found
16         if examAttendees[index] != target then
17             index = index + 1
18         else
19             found = True
20         endif
21     if index == examAttendees.length-1 AND NOT found then
22         resits = resits + target
23     endif
24 endwhile
25 check = input("Enter X to exit or C to continue")
26 endwhile
27 print(resits)
```

In this example, the algorithm is searching the array looking for a name entered by the user. The WHILE loop looks at each item in the array; if an item does not match the target name, it moves to the next item. 1. If the end of the array is reached and the target name is not found, then that student's name is added to the dynamic array called **resits**.

When the user has finished entering names and enters 'X', the main loop finishes.

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Complete Exercise 14: Calculate Fares

SUBPROGRAMS

Subprograms are clear, independent blocks of code within a computer program written by the main program. These are divided into procedures and functions. Either can be used depending on their purpose.

PROCEDURE DEFINITION	
PROCEDURE Identifier (parameters) <statements> ENDPROCEDURE	<pre> 1 procedure multiply_nums(a,b) 2 total = a * b 3 print(total) 4 endprocedure 5 6 procedure greetings() 7 n = input("Enter name: ") 8 print("Welcome "+n) 9 endprocedure </pre> <p><i>The first procedure has two parameters. When called, actual values or 'arguments' will replace the parameters. The second procedure has no parameters as it takes input from the user when the procedure is called.</i></p>

FUNCTION DEFINITION	
FUNCTION Identifier (parameters) <statements> ENDFUNCTION	<pre> 1 function CheckPwd() 2 pwd = input("Enter password: ") 3 if pwd == "Turing" 4 return true 5 else 6 return false 7 endif 8 endfunction </pre> <p><i>A function will ALWAYS return a value.</i></p>

CALLING A SUBPROGRAM	
Identifier (parameters)	<pre> multiply_nums (5,12) greetings() pwd_result = CheckPwd() </pre> <p><i>When we need to use or start the subprogram, we write the name of the subprogram and any parameters. For functions, we also write a variable name to store the return value from the function.</i></p>

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PARAMETERS AND ARGUMENTS

The example shows the use of parameters. These are 'placeholders' inside the brackets after the name of the subprogram. In the multiply_nums procedure the placeholders are also used in the calculation.

Not all subprograms will need a parameter value. The CheckPwd () subprogram shown on the previous page has no parameters so the brackets are empty.

The parameters used in the first subprogram are **a, b**; in the second subprogram the parameter is **n**.

Arguments are the actual values we use when we 'call' the function, as shown here.

```
function multiply_nums(a, b)
    total = a + b
    return total
endfunction

procedure print_greetings(n)
    print "Hello " & n
endprocedure

result = multiply_nums(2, 3)
print_greetings("Zig Zag")
```

Key Terms

Nesting	This means combining code together, for example, putting a WHILE loop or an IF statement inside another IF statement.
Array	An array is a data structure that allows us to store multiple values. e.g. vw_cars = ["Up!", "Polo", "Golf", "T-Roc"]
Subprogram	Subprograms are clear, independent blocks of code within a program that can be called and accessed by the main program.
Call	The term used to describe 'starting' the subprogram.
Return	Subprograms that return values (to be used elsewhere in the program). Subprograms that do not return any values (e.g. printing out messages) are called procedures.

Complete Exercise 15: Guessing Game using Subprograms

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STRING HANDLING

A string is a sequence of characters; these could be letters, numbers, punctuation always surrounded by single or double quotation marks.

STRING LENGTH	
StringVar.length	Example: <code>myText = "the quick brown fox"</code> <code>myText.length</code> will evaluate to 19, which is the number of characters in the string.

SUBSTRING	
StringVar.substring(IntExp, IntExp)	<code>myText.substring(4, 10)</code> will evaluate to "quick brown". Note: the first parameter indicates the start index and the second parameter indicates the number of characters to return.
StringVar.left(IntExp)	<code>myText.left(9)</code> will evaluate to "the quick".
StringVar.right(UntExp)	<code>myText.right(3)</code> will evaluate to "fox".

CONCATENATION	
StringExp + StringExp	<code>"the quick brown fox" + " jumped over the fence"</code> will evaluate to "the quick brown fox jumped over the fence".

Complete Exercise 16: Strings and Substrings

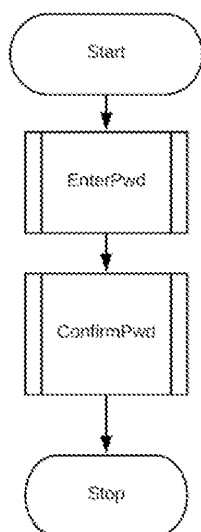
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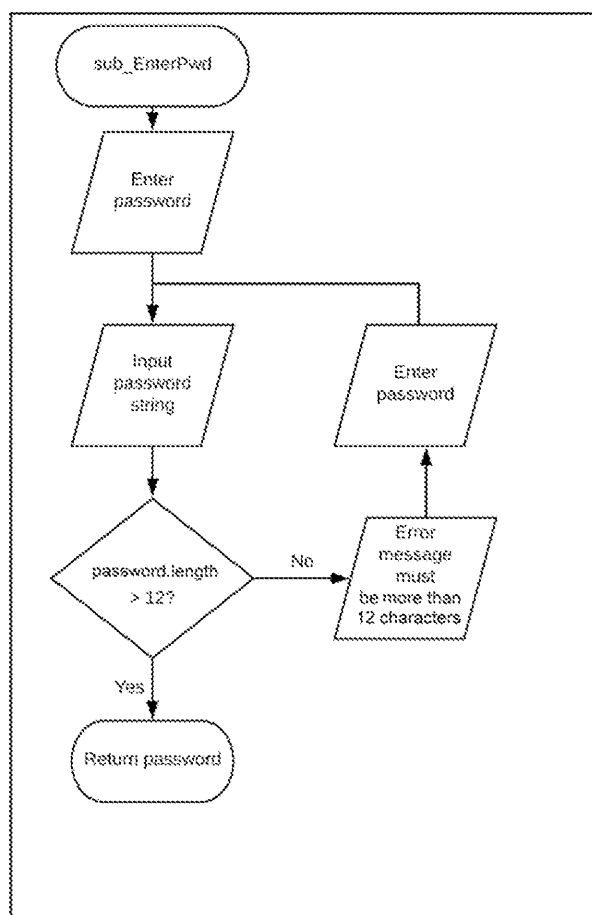
FLOW CHARTS AND SUBPROGRAMS

We have looked in detail at how to write a subprogram in pseudocode and how to show these structures using flow charts.

Main Program



Subprograms



EXPLANATION

The first subprogram, **sub_EnterPwd**, asks for the password and checks that it is not an error message. This is then looped until a password of over 12 characters is entered.

The password is returned from this subprogram and passed as an argument into the next subprogram.

The second subprogram, **sub_ConfirmPwd**, then asks for the password to be confirmed. If the password string and the confirm string do not match, an error message is shown and the user is prompted to re-enter the password. Again, this loops until the correct matching string is entered.

Complete Exercise 17: Area Tester
Complete Crossword Four

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STRING AND CHARACTER CONVERSION

STRING TO INTEGER	
INT (StringExp)	<code>int ("24")</code> evaluates to the integer 24
STRING TO REAL	
REAL (StringExp)	<code>real ("24.25")</code> evaluates to the real 24.25
INTEGER TO STRING	
STR (IntExp)	<code>str (74)</code> evaluates to the string "74"
COMMENTS	
Single line comments	<code>// anything written after th</code> <code>executed</code>
REAL TO STRING	
STR (RealExp)	<code>str (19.56)</code> evaluates to the string "19.5
CHARACTER TO ASCII	
ASC (CharExp)	<code>ASC ('G')</code> evaluates to 71 using ASCII/U
ASCII TO CHARACTER	
CHR(IntExp)	<code>CHR (103)</code> evaluates to 'g' using ASCII/U

SCOPE OF VARIABLES, CONSTANTS AND SUBPROGRAMS

You may have heard of this term in your lessons on programming. The scope of a subprogram is about where that variable, constant or subprogram can be used. If you get the correct type of scope or you may get unexpected results from your code.

There are two types:

- Local
 - This means that the variable, constant or subprogram can only be used where it is defined, e.g. inside a subprogram.
- Global
 - This means that the variable, constant or subprogram can be used anywhere in the program.

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Example:

```

1 // This variable is in GLOBAL scope
2
3 x = 15
4
5 function AddNums()
6
7     // This variable is in LOCAL scope
8     y = 19
9     global x
10    total = x + y
11    return total
12
13 endfunction
14
15 total = AddNums()
16
17 print(total)

```

In this example, the variable **x** is outside the procedure and therefore in GLOBAL scope. The variable **y** is inside the function **AddNums()** and therefore in LOCAL scope.

The variable **y** inside the function is in local scope and only available INSIDE the function. It is a good practice to explicitly label global variables so that anyone reading the code at a later date can find them. If the variable **y** had been created outside the function and assigned a value, running the function would still be 34 as the function will always look for local variables.

Using the same variable name in both the GLOBAL and LOCAL scope will lead to confusion. Try to use different meaningful identifiers/names for your variables as this will make your code clearer and easier to understand.

DEALING WITH ERRORS: VALIDATION TECHNIQUE

When you are planning and designing algorithms it is important to think about what errors could occur in the logic of your design and write solutions that will deal with them without crashing the program. This is called 'validation'.

You have already seen examples and exercises where the code checked the length of the data entered, or continued until the data entered matched a specified minimum length, or in Exercise 10, where the data entered was in a certain range.

In this example, this algorithm expects the user to enter the data in integers, but the user may enter 'fifteen' instead of 15 to make sure our algorithm will not fail.

```
age = input ("Enter your age: ")
```

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CATCHING ERRORS

A common way of dealing with incorrect data types being entered is using error handling 'exceptions', which you may have already encountered in your programming lessons. When an 'exceptional' happens we can 'catch' the error and output a message or write code to deal with it.

In the simple example above we want to:

1. ask the user for data
2. if the data type entered is not an integer, output an error message
3. loop back to No. 1

```
valid = False

do
    age = input ("Enter your age: ")
    try
        ageNumber = int(age) // the type check
        valid = True
        if ageNumber < 16 then
            print("You cannot drive anything yet")
        elseif ageNumber >= 16 AND ageNumber < 21 then
            print("You can drive a moped at 16 and over")
        else
            print("You can now drive any vehicle")
        endif
    catch
        print("Please enter age as a number in years")
until valid == True
```

The
b

The DO... UNTIL loop continues until integers are entered as the age variable. This then changes the Boolean value of the flag variable **valid** to True and the loop ends.

If it fails
an inte

Another simple example is a 'presence check'. This means checking that some data is present. For example, when asking for data such as a password or a name.

```
valid = False

while NOT valid
    name = input ("Enter your name: ")
    if name.length == 0 then
        print ("You have not entered any text")
    else
        valid = True
    endif
endwhile
```

In this example, the length of the input string is checked before the algorithm continues. Another option is to 'cast' the input to the data type you want by wrapping the input command, e.g.

```
age = int (input ("Enter your age: "))
```

Complete Exercise 18: Password Checker Validation

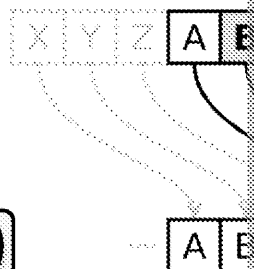
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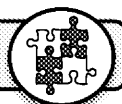
USING CHARACTER TO ASCII AND ASCII TO CHARACTER

A Caesar cipher is a simple way to encrypt messages using the numerical values for each letter in the alphabet. Another way is to shift each letter a set number of places along in the alphabet.

If we know that ASC(A) evaluates to 65 (using the ASCII/Unicode tables) then substituting the letter A with another 11 places further on in the alphabet simply involves adding 65 + 11 and using CHR(76) will evaluate to the letter L.



Complete Exercise 19: Encryption Cipher



In order to solve some problems, it may be important to generate random numbers, such as the roll of a dice in a board game.

RANDOM NUMBER GENERATION

RANDOM(IntExp, IntExp)

```
random(1, 6)
# will generate 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
```

Complete Exercise 20: Simple Battleships

Complete Exercise 20A: Battleships Extension

READING FROM AND WRITING TO FILES

We have used arrays to store data and used iteration to loop through arrays that store data. However, none of the data entered will be available to the algorithm the next time it runs. To store data that can change each time the algorithm runs we need to write the data to a file.

OPEN A FILE

Identifier = [open(Exp)]

Note: Exp means any expression

```
1 myFile = open("myText.txt", "w")
2
3 myFile.writeLine("The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.")
4
5 myFile.close()
```

This will open the specified text file and write to the file.

OPEN A FILE AND READ

Identifier.readLine()

Note: Exp means any expression

```
1 myFile = open("myText.txt", "r")
2
3 myLine = myFile.readLine()
4
5 myFile.close()
```

This will open the specified text file and read the first line into myLine. The final line closes the file after reading.

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CREATE A NEW FILE

newFile(Exp)

Note: Exp means any expression

```
1 newFile("myTextSample.txt")
2
3 myFile = open("myTextSample.txt", "a")
4
5 myFile.writeLine("The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.")
6
7 myFile.close()
```

This will create the new file with the specified name and write the text to the end of the file. The file will be created if it does not exist.

ENDOFFILE()

Identifier.endOfFile()

Note: Exp means any expression

```
1 myFile = open("myTextSample.txt", "a")
2
3 while NOT myFile.endOfFile()
4     print(myFile.readLine())
5 endwhile
6
7 myFile.close()
```

The statement endOfFile () is used in a while loop to check each line of the file until the end is reached.

Example:

```
// Search for a name of students who sat mock exam

array examAttendees []
array mockResits []
index = 0
check = ""
found = False

myFile.openRead("examAttend.txt")
while NOT myFile.endOfFile()
    examAttendees = examAttendees + myFile.readLine()
endwhile

while check != "X"
    target = input("Enter name ")
    index = 0
    while index <= examAttendees.length-1 AND NOT found
        if examAttendees[index] != target then
            index = index + 1
        elseif examAttendees[index] == target then
            found = True
        endif
    if index == examAttendees.length-1 AND NOT found then
        mockResits = mockResits + target
    endif
    endwhile
    check = input("Enter X to exit or C to continue")
endwhile
print(mockResits)
```

This example was used back in the ARRAYS section. This time the data is read from a text file. Each line in the text file is then read into the dynamic array examAttendees. Looping through the array can then occur. The rest of the algorithm works as before and the results printed at the end of the process.

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APPROACHES TO PROBLEM-SOLVING

DECOMPOSITION

One of the most important skills in computer science is problem-solving. Computers do this for themselves and, although it can compute at faster and faster speeds, a computer has always been designed and developed by humans.

The term 'problem-solving' means the ability to analyse problems, consider a range of possible solutions, choose the chosen solution clearly, perhaps in the form of an algorithm that can be translated into code.

An important technique used by computer scientists to analyse a complex problem is to break a problem down into smaller and smaller parts, until each part becomes a problem that has already been solved. We have already done this earlier in this booklet when we split problems up into input, processing and output in order to make them easier to solve.

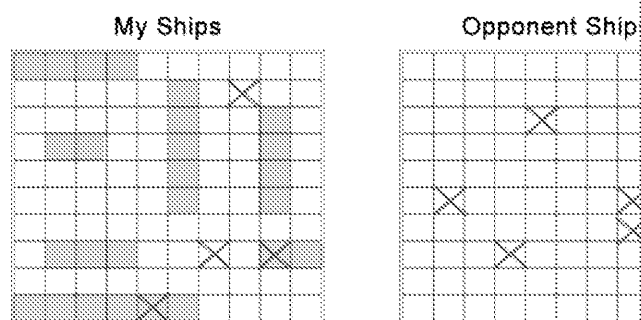
We can look at how we might plan our own battleships game starting with identifying the tasks that need to be done.

1. Create a game board
2. Add ships to the board
3. Record hits on opponent board
4. Record hits on own board
5. Organise player turns
6. How to calculate when a player has won

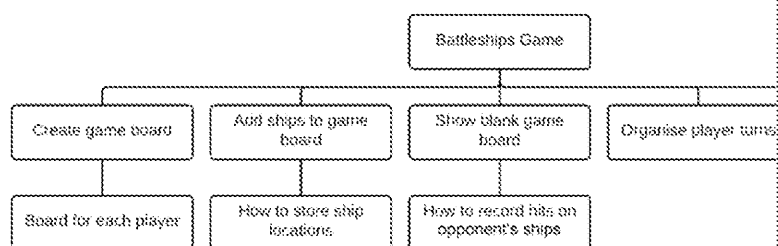
We can then look at each task, and consider: *Can it be solved in one go or does it need to be broken down further?*

1. Create game board

- a. The game board must show hits on opponents and ship position, and hit positions.
 - i. Display must change the game boards with each player turn.
 - ii. Display must show where hits have landed for opponents.
 - iii. Display must show where opponent's hits have landed and whether ships have been sunk.



Each problem must be broken down into smaller and smaller sub-problems until it is solved. Some people prefer to break up a problem by using charts like the one below. In gaming software often have different teams of programmers working on different parts of the game. One thing each team needs to know about another part of the game is how to join or connect the parts.



The technical term for this process is **decomposition**.

Complete Exercise 21: RPG Game Inventory

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ABSTRACTION

Abstraction is an important skill that is used when solving complex problems; it is unnecessary detail to focus on what is important in order to solve the problem.

There are many different examples of abstraction in everyday life; for example, when driving I do not need to know how the engine works, how the power from the engine is transmitted – I just need to know how to operate the car.

When you get in from school and need a quick snack, you do not need to know how to use a microwave in order to heat up / cook your snack; just how to operate the microwave.

Here is a classic brain-teaser to demonstrate how details can be removed to make a problem simpler.

ABSTRACTION EXAMPLE 1

You have a fox, a chicken and a sack of grain.

You must cross a river, which is 20 metres wide, using a red rowing boat with only one of them at a time. If you leave the fox with the chicken he will eat it; if you leave the chicken with the grain he will eat it.

How can you get all three across safely?

We will call the side of the river you are on bank A, and the side you want to move to bank B.

There is a simple computational approach for solving this problem. We could try a brute force means trying every possibility, but logical thinking will help us find the solution more efficiently.

We will first remove all the irrelevant detail from the problem:

- *Is the width of the river important?*
- *Is the colour of the boat important?*
- *Is it important that it is a rowing boat?*

We can now start with the following information:

1. River banks are A and B
2. Fox = F
3. Chicken = C
4. Grain = G

At the moment we have this:

A	B
FCG	

We want to end up with this:

A	B
	FCG

Step 1: Take the chicken across to bank B as the fox will not eat the grain but it will eat the chicken.

How many steps are left? What are they?

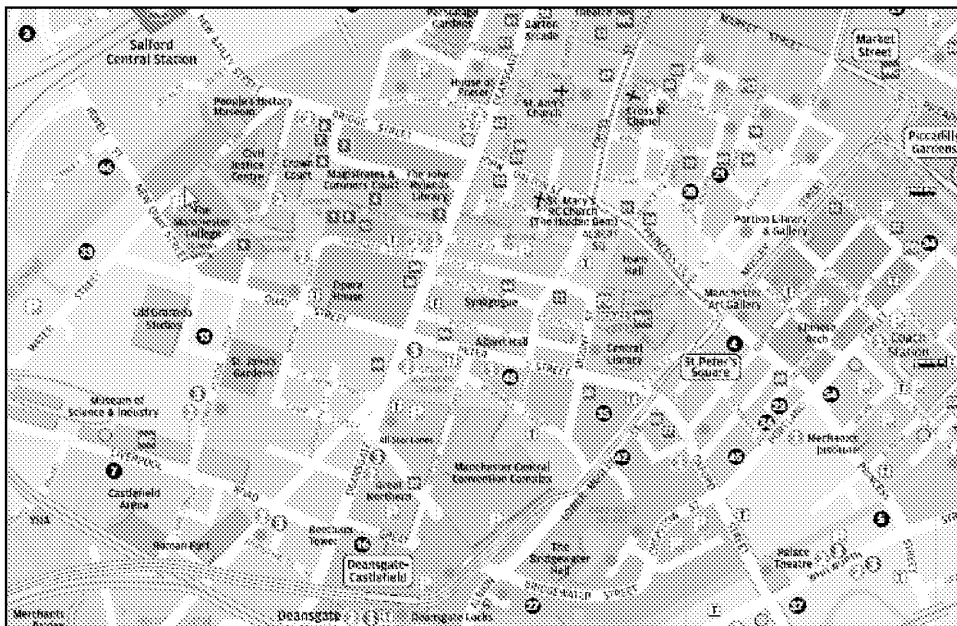
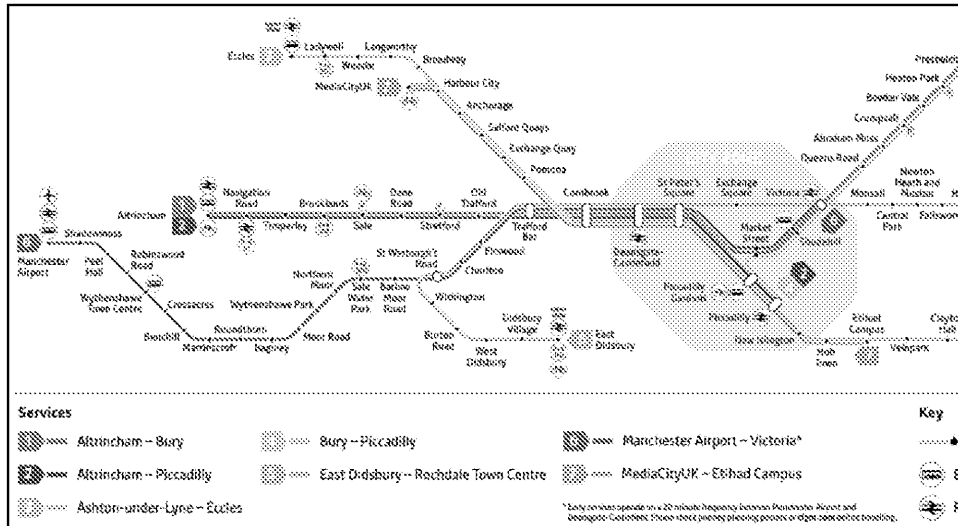
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ABSTRACTION EXAMPLE 2

If you have ever travelled on the London Underground, then you will be familiar with the map below. The original was designed by Henry Beck, an electrical engineer. He created the London Underground in 1933 based on a circuit board layout; now many maps use this style.

Here is a current version of the Metrolink tram system in Manchester. Below you can see how the city centre actually looks like, with some of the stations listed in the first map.



It is obvious that the first map is easier and clearer to read as all the irrelevant details have been removed.

Complete Exercise 22: Music Gig

Key Terms

Decomposition	This means breaking a problem down into smaller sub-problems that can be solved.
String	A sequence of characters, which could be letters, numbers, punctuation, etc., surrounded by single or double quotation marks.
Concatenation	This means merging or joining two strings together using the + operator.
Abstraction	The process of removing unnecessary detail from a problem to focus on the essential elements.

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EFFICIENCY OF ALGORITHMS

You should now be aware that algorithms are a fundamental part of problem-solving. There may be several different algorithms available which will all solve the same problem. How do you choose which is best?

There are two different measures that are used to measure the efficiency of an algorithm:

- Time – the amount of time the algorithm takes to complete.
- Space – the amount of memory that the computer needs to use to complete the algorithm.

For example, if you have to solve a problem of finding a person's details from 50 records, one until you find the record you need, this would not take very long. However, if you have thousands and thousands of data records, the time needed to solve the problem would be very long.

Looking at each record would eventually find the record you are searching for or not in the data. This type of approach is known as a **brute force** approach as it solves the problem by trying every possibility. The number of records is not efficient; the time taken to complete the search grows as the number of records needs to be searched grows.

Some algorithms are suitable for small data sets but can then become very inefficient for large data sets. This can be due to the way the code has actually been written.

Example: The code below will sort the data in the original array into two new arrays based on the condition set in the IF statement.

```
1 array nums [7]
2 nums = [4,7,12,13,17,19,23]
3
4 array odds []
5 array evens []
6
7 for i = 1 to nums.length - 1
8     if i MOD 2 == 0 then
9         evens = evens + i
10    else
11        odds = odds + i
12    endif
13 next i
```

```
1 array nums [7]
2 nums = [4,7,12,13,17,19,23]
3
4 array odds []
5 odds = [next i for i = 1 to nums.length - 1 if i MOD 2 <= 1]
6 array evens []
7 evens = [next i for i = 1 to nums.length - 1 if i MOD 2 > 1]
```

The second example uses less code to achieve the same result, i.e. an array of odd numbers and an array of even numbers.

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EFFICIENT CODE PROOF

If the Exam Reference Language is translated into Python 3 the code can be tested and proven efficient. The examples shown below use a built-in function that enables the two

The code has been amended into functions to make the time comparison easier and the number of items sorted has been increased.

```

1      def sort_odds_evens_lc():
2          """sorts array using list comprehension"""
3
4          nums = [5, 6, 10, 16, 18, 24, 25, 30, 34, 36, 37,
5                  64, 68, 75, 77, 80, 81, 83, 85, 88, 93,
6          evens = [i for i in nums if i % 2 == 0]
7          odds = [i for i in nums if i % 2 != 0]
8
9
10     def sort_odds_evens_loop():
11         """sorts array using a loop"""
12         nums = [5, 6, 10, 16, 18, 24, 25, 30, 34, 36, 37,
13                 64, 68, 75, 77, 80, 81, 83, 85, 88, 93,
14         odds = []
15         evens = []
16         for i in range(0, len(nums)):
17             if nums[i] % 2 == 0:
18                 evens.append(nums[i])
19             else:
20                 odds.append(nums[i])
21
22
23     import timeit
24     print(timeit.timeit(sort_odds_evens_lc, number=10000))
25     print(timeit.timeit(sort_odds_evens_loop, number=10000))

```

The code on Lines 23 to 25 runs each function 10,000 times to get the average speed of execution for each showing the function with less code is more efficient.

We will look at the relative efficiency of the linear search and the binary search in

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SEARCHING ALGORITHM

There are two types of searches that you will need to understand for your exam: linear and binary searches. You will also need to understand the differences between them. We have looked at searching for names in a set of data records to find a telephone number. We will look at this type of search in more detail.

LINEAR SEARCH

A linear search is the simplest type of search; it looks at each data item in your data set until the item you are searching for OR reaches the end of the list.

Here is an example of a linear search using a small array of names.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Keiran	Taisha	Emily	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe	Bethany

Note: The top row shows the INDEX value of each name in the array.

If we are searching to see if the name 'Zoe' is in our list, the algorithm will work like this:

```
1 procedure search
2   found = false
3
4   for index = 0 to list.length - 1
5     if list[index] = name
6       found = true
7     end if
8   end for
9
10  if found
11    print name
12  end if
13 end procedure
```

Step 1:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Keiran	Taisha	Emily	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe	Bethany

The algorithm starts looking at the data in **index** position 0 in the array.

If the data item at that position, 'Keiran', matches the **name** 'Zoe', then the item has been found and the search will stop.

```
for index = 0 to list.length - 1
  if list[index] = name
    found = true
    print name
  end if
end for
```

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Step 2:

We can see that the data at index position 0 does not match the **name** 'Zoe' so the ELSE part of the IF statement and executes Line 9.

The **index** value is now 1. The algorithm loops again and now checks **index** position 1.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Keiran	Taisha	Emily	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe	Bethany

The FOR loop will continue to add 1 onto the **index** value each time the item in the list does not match the **name**.

```

4      for index = 0 to list.length - 1
5          if list[index] = name
6              found = true
7              print name
8          else
9              index = index + 1
10         endif

```

Step 3:

When the index value is equal to 5 the data item at that position in the array will be found flag on Line 6 will be changed to True and the algorithm will output 'Found'.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Keiran	Taisha	Emily	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe	Bethany

```

4      for index = 0 to list.length - 1
5          if list[index] = name
6              found = true
7              print name
8          else
9              index = index + 1
10         endif

```

Step 4:

The algorithm will continue to loop through the rest of the array to complete the FOR loop instructions.

The algorithm will then move to Line 12 and find that the value of **found** is True, and the algorithm will then finish.

Can you spot any inefficiency in this algorithm?

It should be clear that our algorithm should stop searching when the search item has been found and not continue to Step 4.

```

for index = 0 to list.length - 1
    if list[index] = name
        found = true
        print name
    else
        index = index + 1
    endif
next index
if found == true
    print("Name found")
endif
endprocedure

```

Complete Exercise 23: Fill in the Blanks

Complete Exercise 24: Linear Searches and Trace Tables

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BINARY SEARCH

A binary search works by repeatedly reducing, splitting the data set into two halves. The half that cannot contain the search item. This reduces the number of comparisons and the efficiency of the algorithm.

Unlike a linear search algorithm, which will work whether the data is sorted into order, binary search will only work on an ordered list.

Here is our array of names; we are searching for 'Zoe' again.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adam	Bethany	Darryl	Emily	Grace	Keiran	Ryan

Step 1:

The variable values for the search are set up in Lines 18, 19 and 20. This ensures that the search will only look at index positions from 0 to 9.

18	found = false
19	first = 0
20	last = list.length - 1

```

1  array nameArray[10]
2
3  nameArray[0] = "Adam"
4  nameArray[1] = "Bethany"
5  nameArray[2] = "Darryl"
6  nameArray[3] = "Emily"
7  nameArray[4] = "Grace"
8  nameArray[5] = "Keiran"
9  nameArray[6] = "Ryan"
10 nameArray[7] = "Taisha"
11 nameArray[8] = "Wyatt"
12 nameArray[9] = "Zoe"
13
14 target = input("Enter search term")
15
16 procedure binary_Search(item, list)
17
18     found = false
19     first = 0
20     last = list.length - 1
21     while NOT found AND first <= last
22         Midpoint = (first + last) DIV 2
23         if list[Midpoint] == item then
24             found = true
25             print("Name found at list index " + str(Midpoint))
26         else
27             if item < list[Midpoint] then
28                 last = Midpoint - 1
29             else
30                 first = Midpoint + 1
31             endif
32         endif
33     endwhile
34     if found == false then
35         print("Item not found")
36     endif
37 endprocedure
38 binary_Search(target, nameArray)

```

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Step 2:

The WHILE loop checks that the item has not been found AND that there are still items to be searched before setting the midpoint value.

Line 22 adds 0 + 9 and then uses integer division to find the midpoint index position.

```
21 while NOT found AND there are items to be searched
22     Midpoint = (first + last) DIV 2
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adam	Bethany	Darryl	Emily	Grace	Keiran	Ryan

↑
Midpoint

Step 3:

The next step checks if the item has been found and prints out a suitable message. If the variable found has changed to True, the conditions for the WHILE loop are no longer true and the loop ends.

```
23 if list[Midpoint] == item then
24     found = true
25     print("Name found at list index " + Midpoint)
```

Step 4:

If the search item is not found here, then a check is made to see if the item we are searching for is above or below this starting midpoint value in the ordered list.

The name we are looking for, 'Zoe', is above so Line 30 is executed. The value of last is set to 3.

```
if list[Midpoint] == item then
    found = true
    print("Name found at list index " + Midpoint)
else
    if item < list[Midpoint] then
        last = Midpoint - 1
    else
        first = Midpoint + 1
    endif
endif
```

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adam	Bethany	Darryl	Emily	Grace	Keiran	Ryan

These items are no longer part of the search

Step 5:

The item has not yet been found and there are still items to be searched in the list.

The midpoint now evaluates to 7 ((5 + 9) DIV 2).

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adam	Bethany	Darryl	Emily	Grace	Keiran	Ryan

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Step 6:

Step 3 is repeated again. As the item we are looking for is not in the midpoint, Step 3 is repeated.

The midpoint now evaluates to 8 $((8 + 9) \text{ DIV } 2)$.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adam	Bethany	Darryl	Emily	Grace	Keiran	Ryan

Step 7:

Step 3 is repeated again. As the item we are looking for is not in the midpoint, Step 3 is repeated.

The midpoint now evaluates to 9 $((9 + 9) \text{ DIV } 2)$.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adam	Bethany	Darryl	Emily	Grace	Keiran	Ryan

Step 8:

Step 3 is repeated again. This time the data at index position 9 matches our search term. The WHILE loop as neither condition remains true.

LINEAR SEARCH VS BINARY SEARCH

COMPARISON CRITERIA	LINEAR SEARCH	
Advantages	(1) The data does not need to be sorted. (2) A linear search only needs access to the data to be sorted sequentially so less memory space is needed. (3) A linear search only needs to make equality comparisons.	For a sorted array, a binary search will be more efficient.
Disadvantages	A linear search is a sequential search. As the size of the array to be searched grows, the time taken to search will increase at the same rate.	(1) The time taken to search increases linearly with the size of the array. (2) The time taken to search increases linearly with the size of the array. (3) A linear search is a sequential search. As the size of the array to be searched grows, the time taken to search will increase at the same rate.

Key Terms

Time efficiency	The number of steps to complete the algorithm.
Space efficiency	The amount of memory required to complete the algorithm.
Brute force	A process that tries all possible alternatives to find a solution. It is the most inefficient way to find a solution.
Linear search	Used where data is unsorted. Each item in an array is compared to the search term until the item is found or the end of the array is reached.
Binary search	Can only be used with a sorted array. Divides the array in half each time. Compares the search term with the 'midpoint' each time. The half which cannot contain the search term is discarded. This continues until the item is found or the array is exhausted.

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EFFICIENT SEARCHING PROOF

Again we can convert our search methods into Python to prove which is more efficient. We will compare the two searches perform by running some simple tests and checking the speed of each.

```

1  def search_linear():
2      """linear search of an ordered list"""
3      arr = [11, 22, 33, 44, 55, 66, 77, 88, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150]
4      n = 127
5      found = False
6      comps = 0
7      for i in range(0, len(arr)-1):
8          if arr[i] == n:
9              found = True
10             print("Item found at list position {}".format(i))
11             print("Number of comparisons = {}".format(comps))
12             break
13         else:
14             i += 1
15             comps += 1
16     if not found:
17         print("Item not found")
18
19
20 search_linear()

```

Item found at
Number of comparisons = 12

The function has been modified to count the comparisons made in the search. Every time the item is found the variable on Line 15 is incremented and the number is displayed when the item is found.

```

1  def binary_search():
2      """binary search function"""
3      n = [11, 22, 33, 44, 55, 66, 77, 88, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150]
4      t = 127
5      found = False
6      first = 0
7      last = len(n)-1
8      comps = 1
9
10     while not found and first <= last:
11         mid_pt = (first + last) // 2
12         if n[mid_pt] == t:
13             found = True
14             print("Item found at list index {}".format(mid_pt))
15             print("Number of comparisons = {}".format(comps))
16         else:
17             comps += 1
18             if t < n[mid_pt]:
19                 last = mid_pt - 1
20             else:
21                 first = mid_pt + 1
22     if not found:
23         print("Item not found")
24
25
26 binary_search()

```

Item found at
Number of comparisons = 7

The number of comparisons needed to find the same item in the same array is much less than the linear search. This means that as the size of the array increases the amount of comparisons grow making the linear search slower than a binary search. If we use the **timeit** module to compare the two (Linear = 0.073... vs Binary = 0.024...)

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SORTING ALGORITHMS

There are three sorting methods that you need to understand for your exam: bubble sort, insertion sort.

The simplest type of sorting algorithm is the bubble sort.

BUBBLE SORT: HOW IT WORKS

The bubble sort works on an array of data; these could be integers, real numbers

1. Starting at the beginning of the array (index position 0), the first element
2. If the first element is larger than the next element, the two are swapped
3. Move one element to the right and compare the current element with the
4. Repeat Step 2 and Step 3 until the end of the array is reached.
5. If no swaps have been made in the comparisons of the elements in the array
6. If not, repeat Steps 1 to 5 again.

Simple example:

5	1	12	-5	16	UNSORTED
5	1	12	-5	16	$5 > 1$, SWAP 5 and 1
1	5	12	-5	16	$5 < 12$, OK
1	5	12	-5	16	$12 > -5$, SWAP 12 and -5
1	5	-5	12	16	$12 < 16$, OK
START AGAIN					
1	5	-5	12	16	$1 < 5$, OK
1	5	-5	12	16	$5 > -5$, SWAP 5 and -5
1	-5	5	12	16	$5 < 12$, OK
START AGAIN					
1	-5	5	12	16	$1 > -5$, SWAP 1 and -5
-5	1	5	12	16	$1 < 5$, OK
START AGAIN					
-5	1	5	12	16	$-5 < 1$, OK
-5	1	5	12	16	SORTED

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PSEUDOCODE FOR THE BUBBLE SORT

This example will use an array of names; we will look at how the algorithm works

0	1	2	3	4	5
Keiran	Taisha	Emily	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe

```
1 array nameArray[6]
2
3 nameArray[0] = "Keiran"
4 nameArray[1] = "Taisha"
5 nameArray[2] = "Emily"
6 nameArray[3] = "Wyatt"
7 nameArray[4] = "Ryan"
8 nameArray[5] = "Zoe"
9
10 swapped = true
11
12 while swapped == true
13     count = 0
14     for x = 0 to nameArray.length-1
15         if nameArray[x] > nameArray[x + 1]
16             temp = nameArray[x]
17             nameArray[x] = nameArray [x + 1]
18             nameArray[x + 1] = temp
19             count = count + 1
20         endif
21     next x
22     if count == 0 then
23         swapped = false
24     endif
25 endwhile
```

Step 1:

A **flag** variable called 'swapped' is set on Line 10. This is the condition controlling the WHILE loop.

The variable 'count' is used to check whether the array is sorted. The array will be sorted when Line 15:

if nameArray [x] > nameArray [x + 1] evaluates to False.

The algorithm will then move to Line 22, the flag variable 'swapped' is changed and the loop finishes.

```
10 swapped = true
11
12 while swapped == true
13     count = 0
```

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Step 2:

Line 6 sets the value of the 'flag' swapped to False. This means that if the array is running the WHILE loop is no longer true and the sort will end.

Line 8 starts to compare the array items in index positions 0 and 1. In this example the alphabet so no swap is needed and the code moves to Line 14 and the value is incremented by 1.

0	1	2	3	4	5
Keiran	Taisha	Emily	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe

```

12 while swapped == true
13     count = 0
14     for x = 0 to nameArray.length-1
15         if nameArray[x] > nameArray[x + 1]
16             temp = nameArray[x]
17             nameArray[x] = nameArray [x + 1]
18             nameArray[x + 1] = temp
19             count = count + 1
20         endif
21     next x
22     if count == 0 then
23         swapped = false
24     endif
25 endwhile

```

Step 3:

The WHILE loop iterates again, with x being incremented (increased) to have the next comparison between index items 1 and 2.

As Emily comes before Taisha in the alphabet, Line 16 stores the value at index position 1 into **temp**. Line 17 puts the data at index position 2 into index position 1. Line 18 copies the value in **temp** into index position 2. The 'count' variable is also incremented as a swap has occurred.

The array now looks like this:

0	1	2	3	4	5
Keiran	Emily	Taisha	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe

The process continues until all the pairs have been compared. This is called the first pass of the bubble sort algorithm. The array has changed as shown here:

0	1	2	3	4	5
Keiran	Taisha	Emily	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe

0	1	2	3	4	5
Keiran	Emily	Taisha	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe

0	1	2	3	4	5
Keiran	Emily	Taisha	Wyatt	Ryan	Zoe

0	1	2	3	4	5
Keiran	Emily	Taisha	Ryan	Wyatt	Zoe

0	1	2	3	4	5
Keiran	Emily	Taisha	Ryan	Wyatt	Zoe

Result of first **pass** of the bubble sort

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As you can see, the last two items are now in order in the correct position. The value of our 'flag' **swapped** is still equal to True.

The bubble sort algorithm will need to make several passes or traversals of the array.

SECOND PASS

0	1	2	3	4	5
Emily	Keiran	Taisha	Ryan	Wyatt	Zoe

0	1	2	3	4	5
Emily	Keiran	Taisha	Ryan	Wyatt	Zoe

0	1	2	3	4	5
Emily	Keiran	Ryan	Taisha	Wyatt	Zoe

0	1	2	3	4	5
Emily	Keiran	Ryan	Taisha	Wyatt	Zoe

0	1	2	3	4	5
Emily	Keiran	Ryan	Taisha	Wyatt	Zoe

FINAL PASS

0	1	2
Emily	Keiran	Taisha

0	1	2
Emily	Keiran	Taisha

0	1	2
Emily	Keiran	Ryan

0	1	2
Emily	Keiran	Ryan

0	1	2
Emily	Keiran	Ryan

Why is the final pass needed when the data is all sorted after the second pass?

The second pass involved a swap between Ryan and Taisha which left the 'flag' value as True. The algorithm must run one last time to prove that no more swaps are needed before the array is sorted.

Complete Exercise 25: Bubble Sort Exercises

Complete Exercise 26: Put the Bubble Sort Flow Chart in Order

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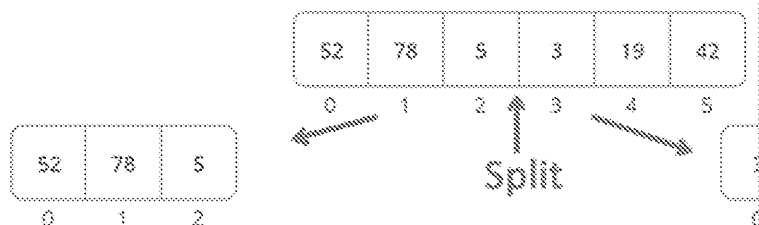


MERGE SORT: HOW IT WORKS

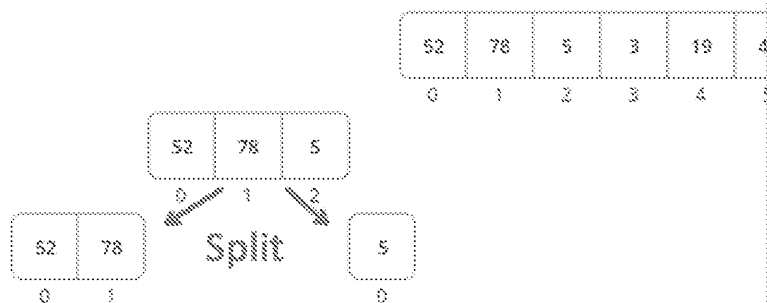
The merge sort is much more complex than the bubble sort and is known as a 'divide and conquer' algorithm. It splits up the data array to be sorted into smaller sub-arrays until the sub-array has only one element. The sub-arrays are then sorted and recombined into a sorted array.

Example:

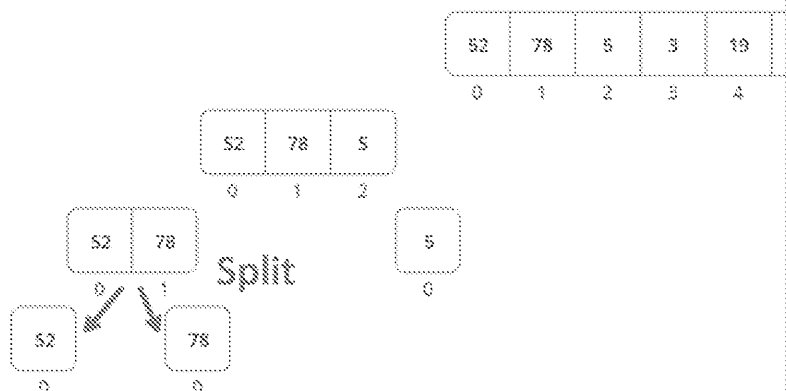
Step 1: Split the array in half at the midpoint.



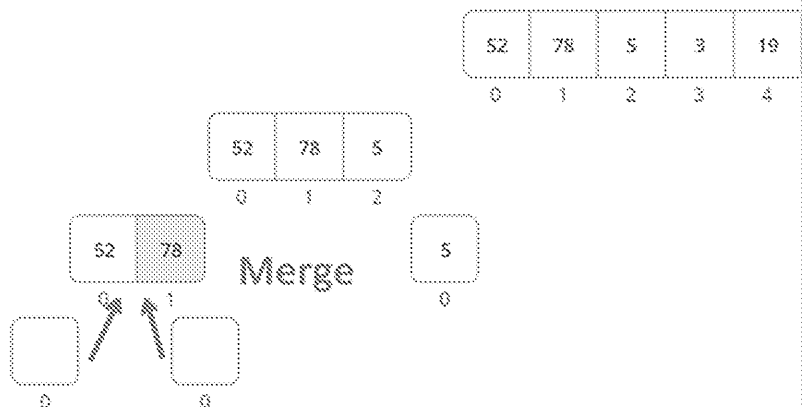
Step 2: Select the left sub-array and split again.



Step 3: Select the left sub-array and split again so that the sub-array has just one element.



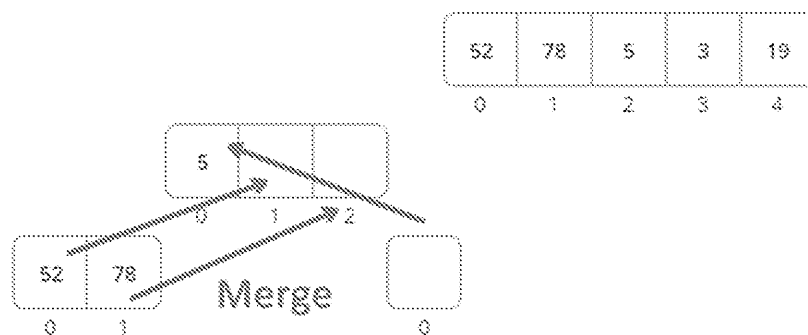
Step 4: Merge the sorted data back into an array.



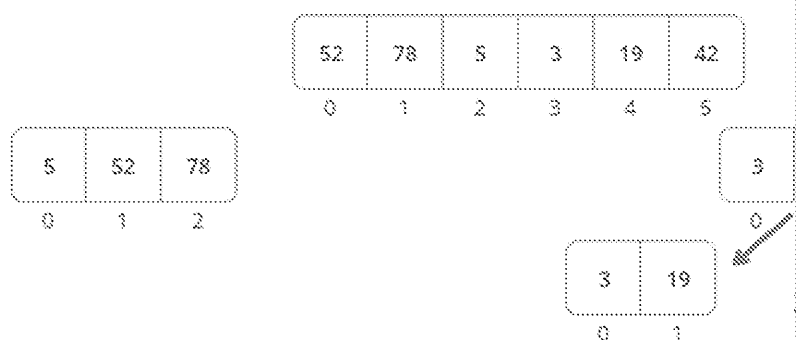
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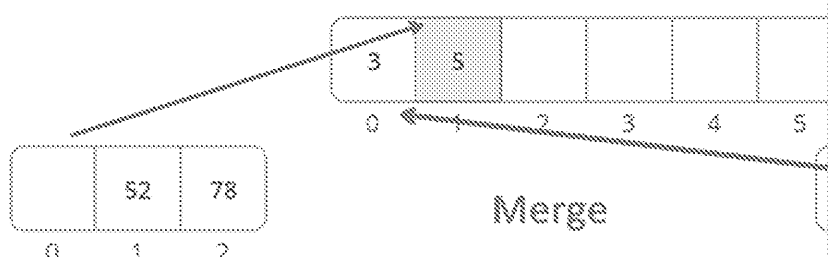
Step 5: Combine the sorted array and merge together with the smallest item first



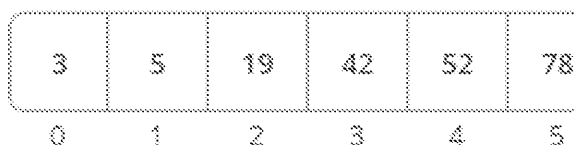
Step 6: Repeat the process with the right sub-array.



Step 7: When each sub-array has been sorted, the sub-arrays are then merged back by comparing the values in each sub-array and choosing the smallest.



Step 8: When all data has been merged back into the original array, the data is sorted



MERGE SORT SUMMARY

1. Divide the original array into two sub-arrays
2. Continue dividing all sub-arrays until they have just one element
3. Compare the element in the left sub-array with the element in the right
4. Add the smallest to the new array
5. Move to the next element in the sub-array you just used
6. If the sub-array is empty, add all elements from the other sub-array in the
7. Otherwise, repeat from 3 until one list is empty

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PSEUDOCODE FOR THE MERGE SORT

We will use a simple array of numbers: [63, 12, 5, 27, 31, 45]

```

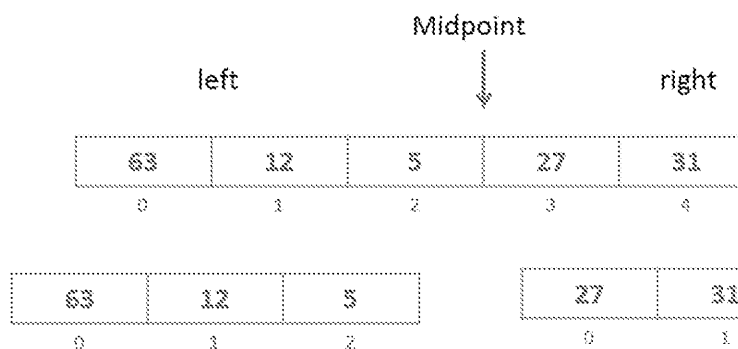
1 function mergeSort(dataArray)
2
3     if dataArray.length > 1 then
4         mid = dataArray.length DIV 2
5         leftHalf = dataArray[:mid]
6         rightHalf = dataArray[mid:]
7         mergeSort(leftHalf)
8         mergeSort(rightHalf)

```

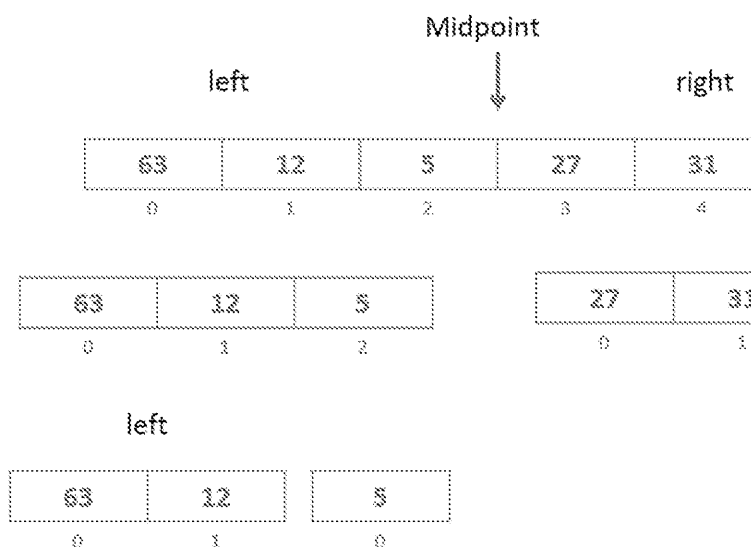
Step 1: Line 3 checks whether the array is larger than one; if it is not, the data is sorted. The code in the IF statement will not be executed. Line 4 finds the midpoint of the array and splits the **dataArray** into a left half and a right half.

Step 2: This example uses a programming construct we have not yet seen called **recursion**, which is splitting a problem down into smaller versions of the same problem by calling the same subprogram. In this case we are making the problem smaller by calling the **mergeSort** subprogram and passing half the variable **dataArray** into the subprogram as the **parameter**.

Here is the current state of our array, **dataArray**:



Step 3: The process is now repeated from Line 2 as the **mergeSort** subprogram is called again, this time using the **left** part of the original **dataArray**. The current state of the array now looks like this:

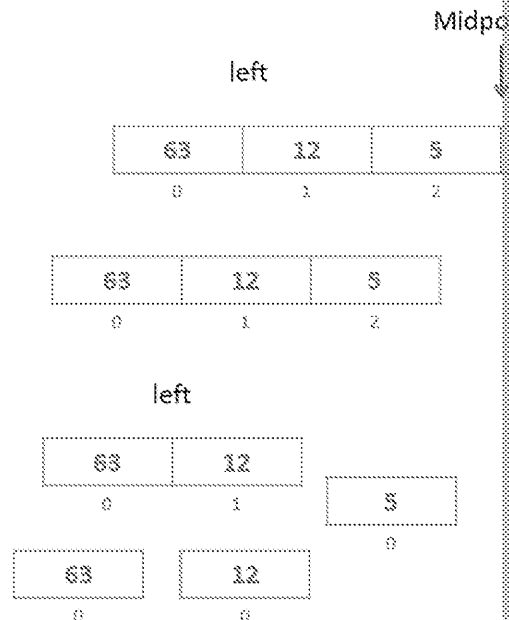


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Step 4: The process is repeated again as the **mergeSort** subprogram is called again in Line 6 now using the new **left** array, which has just two numbers in it.

The data on the **left** is now ready for merging back into order.



Step 5: The next part of the subprogram now sorts the data back into order, starting with the **mergeSort** subprogram. The subprogram uses three index variables, *i*, *j* and *k*, on Lines 9 to 11 to set the starting points for sorting the data back into the original **dataArray**.

The comparison will start with 63 and 12. 63 is greater than 12 (see Line 17) so it is placed back into the **dataArray**. The values of variables *i*, *j* and *k* are also incremented (Line 18).

```

9      i = 0
10     j = 0
11     k = 0
12     while i < leftHalf.length AND j < rightHalf.length
13         if leftHalf[i] < rightHalf[j] then
14             dataArray[k] = leftHalf[i]
15             i = i+1
16         else
17             dataArray[k] = rightHalf[j]
18             j = j+1
19             k = k+1
20         endif
21     endwhile
22
23     while i < leftHalf.length
24         dataArray[k]=leftHalf[i]
25         i = i+1
26         k = k+1
27     endwhile
28
29     while j < rightHalf.length
30         dataArray[k]= rightHalf[j]
31         j = j+1
32         k = k+1
33     endwhile
34     endif
35     return dataArray
36
37 endfunction
38
39 array dataArray[6]
40
41 dataArray = {63, 12, 5, 27, 31, 45}
42
43 results = mergeSort(dataArray)
44 print(results)

```

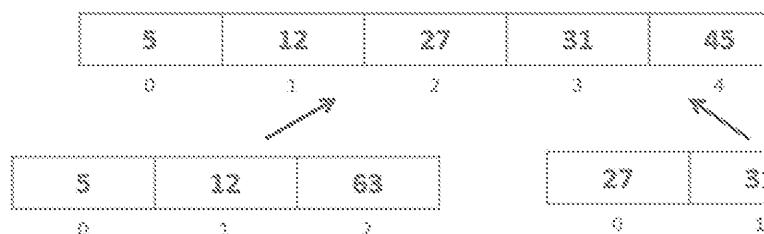
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Step 6: When the data on the left is sorted, the process of splitting and sorting will be repeated on the right.

Note: Even though it looks as if the data array on the right is already sorted (the array just happened to be in order), the whole process must be repeated.

Step 7: The left and right arrays are now finally sorted into order by running the process to the end by comparing each item in the two arrays before copying them into the main array.



INSERTION SORT: HOW IT WORKS

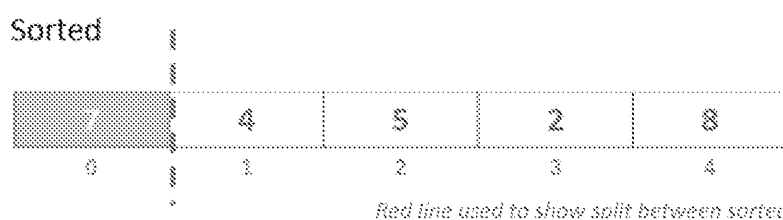
The insertion sort is another simple sorting algorithm which uses two types of iteration. It works by assuming the first item in the array is already sorted (index position 0) and the rest of the array is unsorted (index position 1). The first element in the unsorted array (index position 1) is then compared with the sorted array and its position is determined.

The first item in the unsorted array is then compared with the sorted array and its position is determined. The next element in the unsorted array is then stored in the key, and the process is repeated until the array is sorted.

Example:

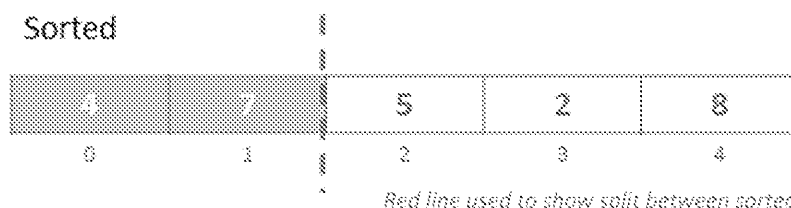
Step 1:

The first item in the array is assumed to be sorted and the first item in the unsorted array is stored in the key variable.



Step 2:

The item in the 'key' variable is now compared with the sorted array and moved to its correct position. In this example the value of 'key' will now be 5.

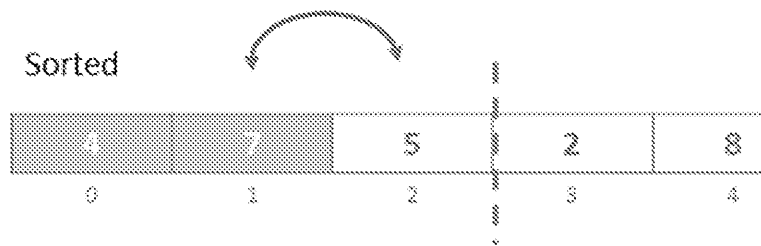


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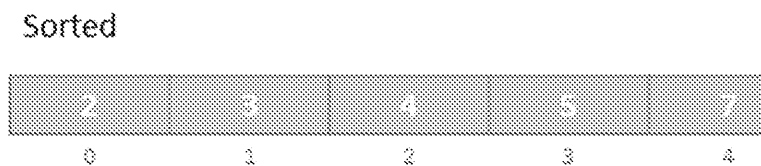


Step 3:

The process is repeated for each element in the unsorted array; each time the new data elements on the left and swapped until it is sorted.

**Step 4:**

This continues until the end of the array is reached and the data is sorted.



PSEUDOCODE FOR THE INSERTION SORT

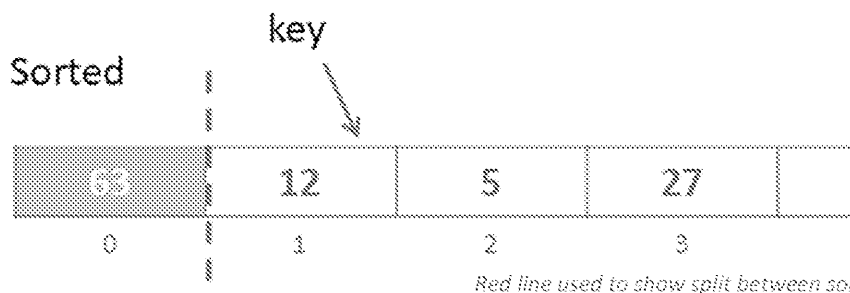
We will use a simple array of numbers: [63, 12, 5, 27, 31, 45]

```

1  array myArray[6]
2  myArray = [63, 12, 5, 27, 31, 45]
3
4  function insertionSort(arr)
5
6      for index = 1 to arr.length - 1
7          key = arr[index]
8          currentPos = index - 1
  
```

Step 1:

Line 6 sets the length of the unsorted array from index position 1 to the end of the array. The element at index position 1 in the unsorted array into the variable **key** so that it can be moved into the sorted array. The variable **currentPos** is used to control the position of the variable stored in the sorted array.

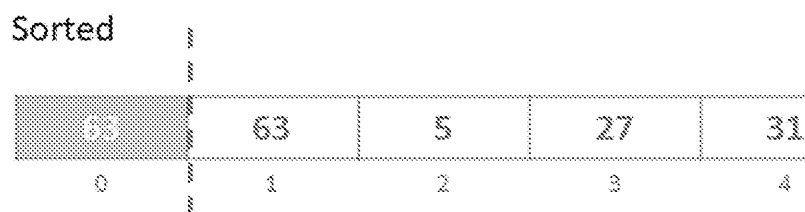


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Step 2:

The WHILE loop runs between Lines 9 and 13. At this point **currentPos** = 0 and **k** is less than arr [0], which contains the integer value 63. Line 10 now puts whatever **k** is into the array at the **currentPos** index. Since **k** is 1 so the array now looks like this temporarily:



On Line 11 the value of **currentPos** is changed. Now **currentPos = currentPos -1**, running the WHILE loop false.

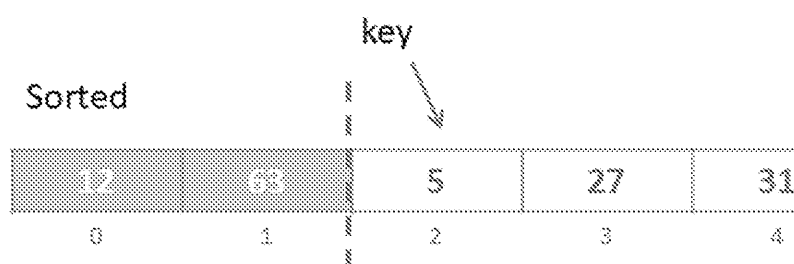
Line 14 now puts the value of **key** into the first index position in the array ($-1 + 1$).

```

9      while currentPos >= 0 AND key < arr[currentPos]
10          arr[currentPos + 1] = arr[currentPos]
11          currentPos = currentPos - 1
12
13      endwhile
14      arr[currentPos + 1] = key
15  next index

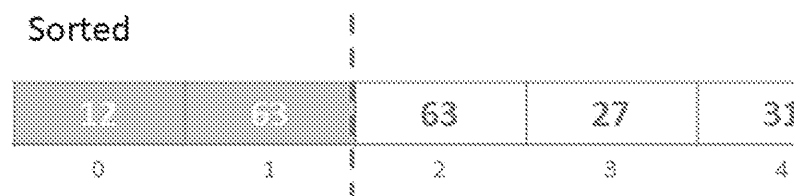
```

The array now looks like this:

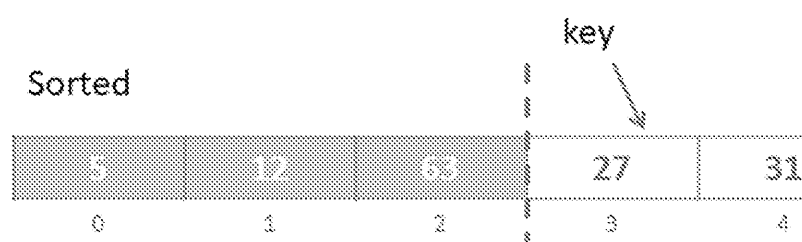


Step 3:

Line 15 increments the value of **index** = 2. The value of **key** is now 5 and **current** entered as both conditions are true and the array now looks like this:



Line 11 decrements the value of **currentPos = currentPos – 1** and Line 14 puts the position 0 and the while loop finishes again. The array now looks like this:



The **FOR** loop continues until the end of the array has been reached and the array

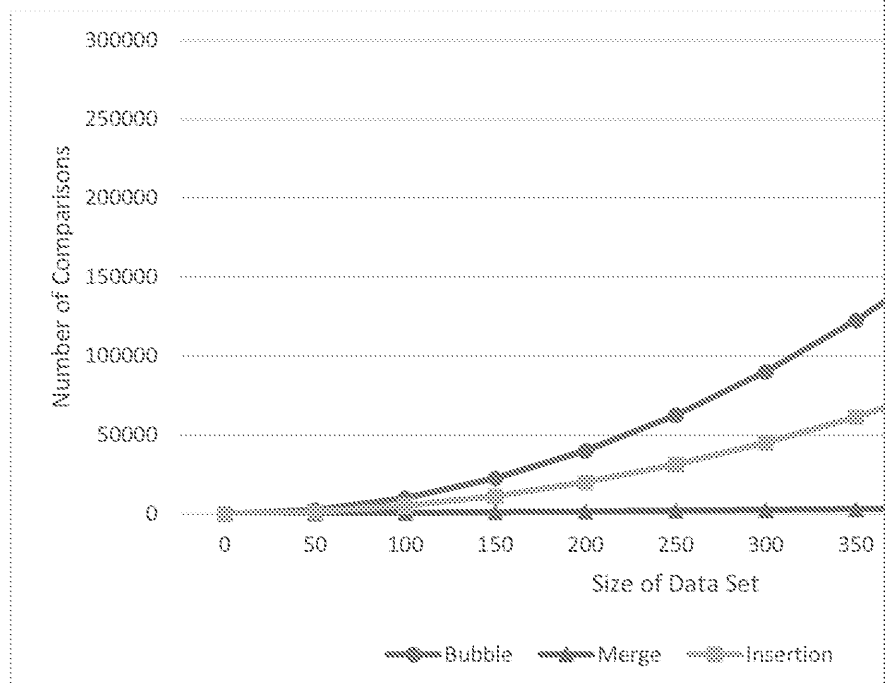
```

1 array myArray[6]
2 myArray = [63, 12, 5, 27, 31, 45]
3
4 function insertionSort(arr)
5
6     for index = 1 to arr.length - 1
7         key = arr[index]
8         currentPos = index - 1
9         while currentPos >= 0 AND key <
10             arr[currentPos + 1] = arr[
11                 currentPos + 1
12             ]
13             currentPos = currentPos - 1
14         endwhile
15         arr[currentPos + 1] = key
16     next index
17     return arr
18 endfunction
19 sorted = insertionSort(myArray)
20 print(sorted)

```

CHART: COMPARE BUBBLE, MERGE AND INSERTION

This chart compares the bubble sort, the merge sort and the insertion sort for the size of the data set. The merge sort is very efficient, regardless of the size of the data being sorted. The bubble sort quickly becomes very inefficient as the size of the data to be sorted grows. The insertion sort is efficient for small data sets, but still much less efficient than the merge sort.



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BUBBLE SORT VS MERGE SORT VS INSERTION SORT

COMPARISON CRITERIA	BUBBLE SORT	MERGE SORT
Advantages	(1) Very simple algorithm, easy to code. (2) Uses much less memory than a merge sort.	Much faster than the bubble sort, regardless of the amount of data.
Disadvantages	Slowest algorithm of the three.	(1) The merge sort is much more complex to code. (2) Uses more memory as copies of the arrays are made when the original array is split up.

Key Terms

Bubble sort	The sort works by comparing and swapping each pair of items until they are in order. This may take several passes through the array.
Pass	Each process of working through an array is known as a 'pass'.
Merge sort	This sort divides an array into smaller and smaller sub-arrays until only one element remains. The sub-arrays are then merged back in the correct order.
Insertion sort	This sort assumes the first element in the array is already sorted. It compares each new element to the sorted elements and inserts it into the correct position.
Divide and conquer	This is the term given to algorithms (searches and sorts) which divide a problem into smaller sub-problems which are easier to solve by using recursion. The solution is then built up by combining the solutions to the sub-problems.

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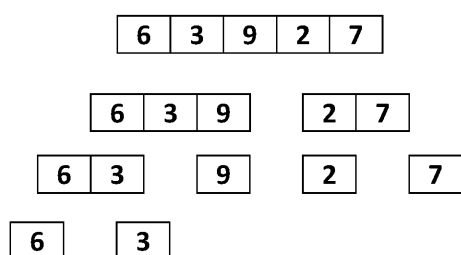
EXAMPLE EXAM QUESTION & SOLUTION:

Using the data array [6, 3, 9, 2, 7], demonstrate how the data would be sorted using bubble sort, showing each stage in the sorting process.

Bubble Sort: Solution

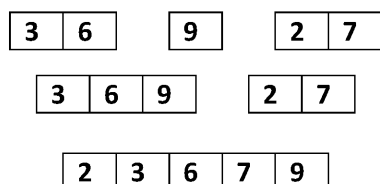
6	3	9	2	7
3	6	9	2	7
3	6	2	9	7
3	6	2	7	9
3	2	6	7	9
2	3	6	7	9

Merge Sort: Solution



Split the array into smallest elements

Merge the smallest elements back in order



Complete Exercise 27: Sorting and Searching
Complete Crossword Five

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