



Website: contoureducation.com.au | Phone: 1800 888 300

Email: hello@contoureducation.com.au

VCE Specialist Mathematics ½

Logic & Algorithms I [2.4]

Workbook

Outline:



Algorithms

Pg 02-09

- Introduction to Algorithm
- Assigning Variables
- Flowchart
- Table of Values

Selections and Loops

Pg 10-18

- Selections
- Loops

Pseudocode

Pg 19-30

- Introduction to Pseudocodes
- Pseudocode for Selection
- Pseudocode for Loops
- Functions
- Lists

Learning Objectives:

- ❑ SM12 [2.4.1] - Write and understand basic algorithms
- ❑ SM12 [2.4.2] - Understand and evaluate algorithms that have conditional statements and represent hybrid functions as algorithms
- ❑ SM12 [2.4.3] - Understand and evaluate algorithms with loops
- ❑ SM12 [2.4.4] - Write and evaluate functions using pseudocode



Section A: Algorithms

Sub-Section: Introduction to Algorithm

What is an algorithm?

Algorithm

➤ An algorithm is a clearly specified set of instructions.

Question 1

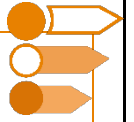
Write down the steps necessary (i.e., create an algorithm) to do proof by contrapositive.

Step 1: Write down the contrapositive Statement

Step 2: Prove the contrapositive Statement

Step 3: Conclude that, if contrapos. is true,
So is original.

Sub-Section: Assigning Variables



Assigning Variables

- To construct algorithms for more mathematical/complex problems, assigning variables will be useful.

❏ E.g., $A \leftarrow 3$ assigns the **value** 3 to the **variable** A .

$$x := 3$$

- We can also update our variables using the arrow.

❏ E.g., $A \leftarrow A + 3$ assigns the value $A + 3$ to the **variable** A .

$$x := x + 3$$

❏ Since the value of A was already 3, its new value will be 6.

6

Question 2 Walkthrough.

For the following algorithm, evaluate the final output of the algorithm.

Step 1. $A \leftarrow 3$

Step 2. $A \leftarrow A + 2$

(5)

Step 3. $A \leftarrow 2A - 1$

(2 × 5 - 1)

Step 4: Print A .

$$\underline{A = 9}$$

Question 3

Construct an algorithm that doubles any input given.

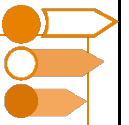
Step ① : Input A

Step ② : $A \leftarrow 2A$

Step ③ : Print A

Space for Personal Notes

Sub-Section: Flowchart



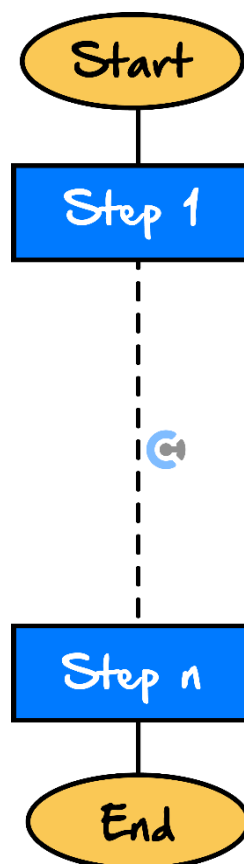
How do we visualise the algorithm?



Flowcharts



- The visual way of representing the algorithm.

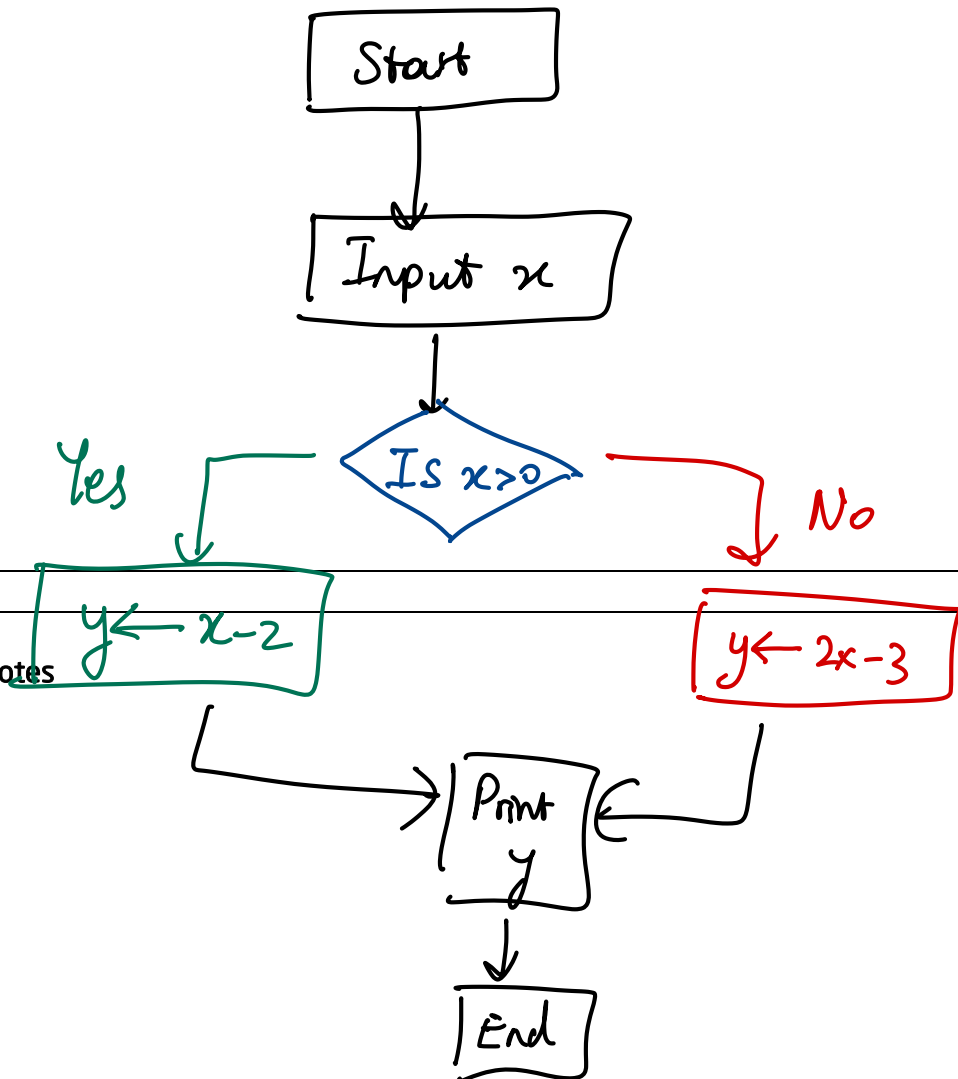


Space for Personal Notes

Question 4 Walkthrough.

Using a flowchart, describe an algorithm of the following hybrid function.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x-2, & x > 0 \\ 2x-3, & x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

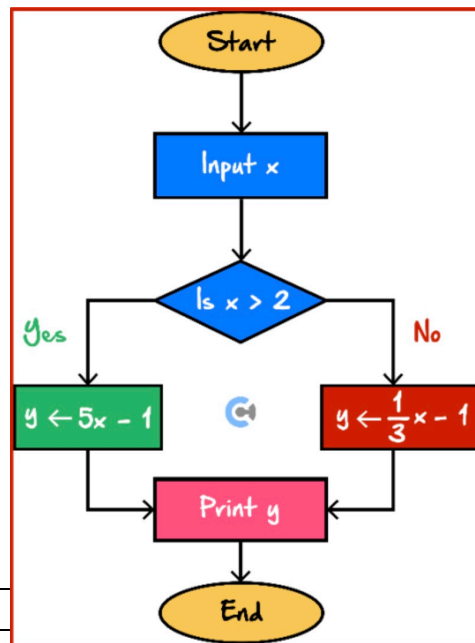


Space for Personal Notes

Question 5

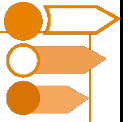
Using a flowchart, describe an algorithm of the following hybrid function.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 5x - 1, & x > 2 \\ \frac{1}{3}x - 1, & x \leq 2 \end{cases}$$



Space for Personal Notes

Sub-Section: Table of Values



How do we track the value of the variables?



Table of Values



► Used to check if the algorithm works by following the steps one by one.

| | Variable (s) |
|----------|--------------|
| Step 1 | Value 1 |
| . | . |
| . | . |
| . | . |
| Step n | Value n |

Question 6 Walkthrough.

Consider the following algorithm.

Step 1: $A \leftarrow 2$ and $B \leftarrow 3$

Step 2: $A \leftarrow 2A + 4$ and $B \leftarrow 2B - 1$

Step 3: $A \leftarrow B$

Perform a desk check (construct the table of values) for the values of A and B .

| | A | B |
|--------|---|---|
| Step 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Step 2 | 8 | 5 |
| Step 3 | 5 | 5 |

Question 7

The following algorithm was intended to swap the values of two variables, A and B .

Step 1: *Input* A, B

Step 2: $A \leftarrow B$

Step 3: $B \leftarrow A$

Step 4: *Print* A, B

- a. Perform a desk check (construct the table of values) for the values of A and B as 2, 4 for the above algorithm.

| | A | B |
|--------|-----|-----|
| Step 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Step 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Step 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Step 4 | 4 | 4 |

- b. Did the algorithm perform what it was designed for?

◦ No, it turned the value of A into the value of B but not the other way
 ◦ This is because B gets saved as the NEW value of A (which was originally B)

- c. Construct a new algorithm that swaps the value of A and B , and performs a desk check.

We need to come up with a variable which can temporarily hold the value of B .

Step 1: *Input* A, B

Step 2: $Temp \leftarrow B$

Step 3: $B \leftarrow A$

Step 4: $A \leftarrow Temp$

Step 5: *Print* A, B .

Step 5: *Print* A, B .

| | A | B | Temp |
|--------|-----|-----|------|
| Step 1 | 2 | 4 | |
| Step 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Step 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Step 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Step 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 |

Section B: Selections and Loops

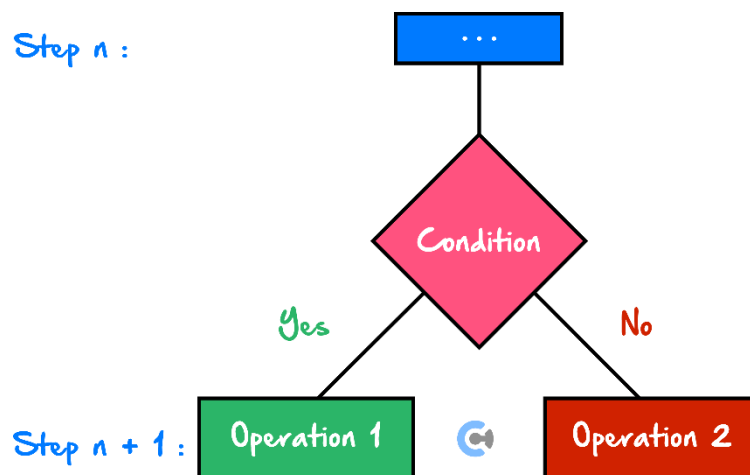
Sub-Section: Selections

Discussion: What could we do if we want to selectively perform an operation?

if - then

Selections

- Allows us to perform different operations at a given step depending on a certain condition.



- In other words, we are selectively performing an operation.

- Keywords for selection:

If, then

Otherwise/Else/Else If

- 'If ... then ...' instructions are used in algorithms to enable logical decision to be made within the algorithm.

- Selection is similar to how hybrid functions work in both Mathematical Methods and Specialist Maths.
- Doing different operations (equations) depending on the condition (domain).

Question 8 Walkthrough.

Construct a table of values for the following algorithm.

Step 1: $\underline{n} \leftarrow 2$

Step 2: ***If*** n ***is even, then*** $T \leftarrow 3n + 5$
Otherwise $T \leftarrow n + 5$

Step 3: $n \leftarrow n + 3$

Step 4: *Print* n, T .

| | n | T |
|--------|-----|-----|
| Step 1 | 2 | - |
| Step 2 | 2 | 11 |
| Step 3 | 5 | 11 |
| Step 4 | 5 | 11 |

Space for Personal Notes

Question 9 Tech-Active.

Following is an algorithm for calculating the Australian tax.

Step 1: *Input income*

Step 2a: *If income ≤ 18200 , then tax $\leftarrow 0$* ~~X~~

Step 2b: *Else If income ≤ 37000 , then tax $\leftarrow 0.19 \times \text{income} - 3458$*

Step 2c: *Else If income ≤ 90000 , then tax $\leftarrow 0.325 \times \text{income} - 8453$*

Step 2d: *Else If income ≤ 180000 , then tax $\leftarrow 0.37 \times \text{income} - 12503$*

Step 2e: *Else If tax $\leftarrow 0.45 \times \text{income} - 26903$*

Step 3: *Print tax*

Calculate the tax for \$75000.

$$0.325(75000) - 8453$$

$$= \$15922$$

Space for Personal Notes

Question 10

Turn the following hybrid function into an algorithm.

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} 1 - 2n, & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ 4, & \text{if } n = 5 \\ 2n + 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Step 1: Input n

Step 2: If n is even then $y \leftarrow 1 - 2n$
 elseif $n = 5$ then $y \leftarrow 4$
 else $y \leftarrow 2n + 1$

Step 3: Print y

Space for Personal Notes

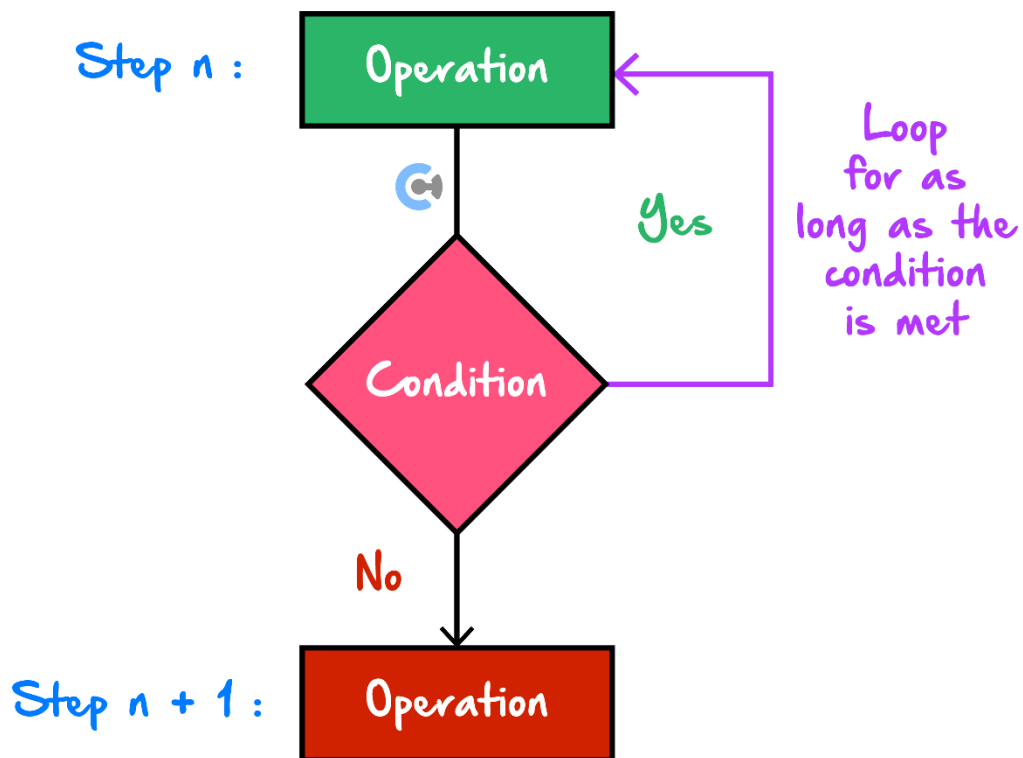
Sub-Section: Loops

Discussion: What do we do if we want to do something repeatedly?

Loop!

Loops (Iterations)

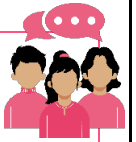
- Iteration (looping) allows us to repeat steps in a controlled way.
- It is controlled by the condition. We only repeat when a condition is met.



- Keywords for iterations:

Repeat ... For...

Repeat ... while...



Discussion: What are the differences between for and while loops?

For — Know # of repetitions
 While — Know a condition where we wish to stop



Analogy: Your parents taking care of you.

➤ Consider the two parents below.

🎯 Parent 1:

I'll take care of you for the next 10 years!

🎯 Parent 2:

I'll take care of you while you are not married!

➤ For which parent do we exactly know how many years they will take care of us?

➤ Hence, which parent is a for loop and which parent is a while loop?

P1: For years from 1 to 10

P2: While you are not married



For v/s While Loop

➤ For Loop

🎯 We know how many iterations will happen.

➤ While Loop

🎯 We don't know how many loops will happen.

Question 11 Walkthrough.

Create a table of values for the following algorithm.

Step 1. $A \leftarrow 10$ and $n \leftarrow 0$

Step 2. $A \leftarrow 2A$ and $n \leftarrow n + 2$

Step 3. **Repeat** from step 2 **while** $n < 5$

| | A | n | |
|---|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| ① | 10 | 0 | |
| ② | 20 | 2 | |
| ③ | 20 | 2 | $(2 < 5) \text{ !!}$ |
| ② | 40 | 4 | |
| ③ | 40 | 4 | $(4 < 5) \text{ !!}$ |
| ② | 80 | 6 | |
| ③ | 80 | 6 | $(6 \geq 5) \text{ Stop}$ |

Space for Personal Notes

3, 9, 27, 81, ...

Question 12

Construct an algorithm that outputs the largest ^{power} ~~number~~ of 3 that is less than 1000.

$A \leftarrow 1$

while $A < 1000$

$A \leftarrow 3A$

print ($\frac{A}{3}$)

NOTE: We use a while loop here as we do not know straight away how many loops this will take.



Space for Personal Notes

Question 13

Consider the following algorithm:

Step 1. $A \leftarrow 87$

Step 2. $A \leftarrow 2A - 1$

Step 3. **Repeat** from step 2 **while** $A > 50$

What is the problem with this algorithm?

- Infinite loop.
- Condition of while loop is always met.

Space for Personal Notes

Section C: Pseudocode

Sub-Section: Introduction to Pseudocodes

Pseudocode

```

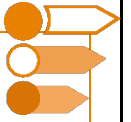
if condition then
    operation 1
else
    operation 2
end if
    
```

- "Pseudo" = fake, so pseudocode = fake code.
- Concise way of representing algorithms.

Pseudocodes: Indentation (Spacing)

- For pseudocodes, the placement of codes is important.
- For every rabbit hole of codes, we fall into, we write out codes more towards the **right direction**.
 - 🔄 For every rabbit hole of codes, we come out of, we write out codes back towards the **left direction**.
 - 🔄 A rabbit hole of codes can be loops, selections, etc.

Space for Personal Notes



Sub-Section: Pseudocode for Selection



Pseudocode: Selections (If, Else, Else if, Then)

- "If-then" allows us to perform operations when a certain condition is met.

```
if condition then
    operation
end if
```

- "Else" provides an opportunity to perform a different operation when a condition is **NOT** met.

```
if condition then
    operation 1
else
    operation 2
end if
```

- "Else if" provides an opportunity to add multiple pathways each with different conditions.

```
if condition 1 then
    operation 1
else if condition 2 then
    operation 2
else
    operation 3
end if
```

Question 14 Walkthrough.

Evaluate the final output from each of the following:

```

x ← 7
if x < 15
    x ← x + 10
print x

```

Handwritten notes: A checkmark is next to the 'if' statement. The assignment 'x ← 17' is written to the right. The original 'x ← x + 10' is crossed out with a large 'X' and '10' is written below it. A box contains 'x = 17'.

Space for Personal Notes

Question 15

Evaluate the final output from each of the following:

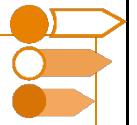
```

a ← 1
b ← 2
if a + b < 5
    b ← b + 5
    a ← a - 1
end if
print a, b
    
```

$a = 0, b = 7$

Space for Personal Notes

Sub-Section: Pseudocode for Loops



Pseudocode: Iterations (For Loops, While Loops, and Nested Loops)

For Loops: It is a loop that increases the variable by 1 each time it loops.

Variable moved from lower bound to upper bound by 1.

```

for variable from lower bound to upper bound
    condition
    operation
end for
    
```

for i from 1 to 5
print Hi
end for

Hi
Hi
:
Hi

➤ **While Loops:** It is a loop that does NOT change the value of a variable by default.

To change the value of the variable, it needs to be described in the operation section.

Without this, we can create an infinite loop.

```

while condition
    operation
end while
    
```

$x \leftarrow 3$
while $x < 5$
print 'Hi'
 $x \leftarrow x + 1$

➤ **Nested Loop:** We can have a loop happening within another loop.

The first pass of the outer loop starts the inner loop, which executes to completion. Then the second pass of the outer loop starts the inner loop again. This repeats until the outer loop finishes.

```

for var 1 from lower 1 to upper 1
    for var 2 from lower 2 to upper 2
        operation 2
    end for
    operation 1
end for
    
```

➤ Example of a Nested Loop: Minutes and seconds.

Declare integer seconds, minutes

For minutes = 0 to 59

For seconds = 0 to 59

Output "", seconds

Next For

Next For

Question 16 Walkthrough.

Evaluate the final output from each of the following:

```
total ← 0
for i from 1 to 3
    total ← total + i
end for
print total
```

$i \leftarrow 1:$

$total \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 2:$

$total \leftarrow 1 + 2 = 3$

$i \leftarrow 3:$

$total \leftarrow 3 + 3 = 6$

$total = 6$

Question 17

Evaluate the final output from each of the following:

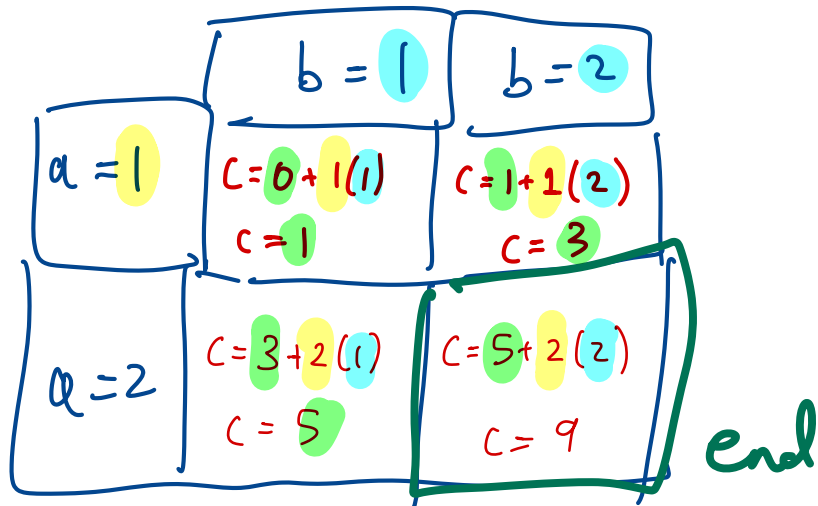
a. $a \leftarrow 5$
 $b \leftarrow 7$
while $a + b < 15$
 $b \leftarrow b - 1$
 $a \leftarrow a + 2$
end while
print a, b

| a | b | $a + b < 15$? |
|-----|-----|----------------|
| 5 | 7 | Yes |
| 7 | 6 | Yes |
| 9 | 5 | Yes |
| 11 | 4 | No |

o o $a = 11, b = 4$

b. $c \leftarrow 0$
for a **from** 1 **to** 2
 for b **from** 1 **to** 2
 $c \leftarrow c + ab$
 end for
end for

Print c



$c = 9$

Sub-Section: Functions



Function

- Think of a function as a bag of algorithms.

Instead of saying "an algorithm for picking the largest prime number smaller than n ", we can save this algorithm as $f(n)$.

- Using functions allows us to easily change the input of the algorithm.
- By incorporating functions within another algorithm, it allows us to have an algorithm within an algorithm.
- 🔄 By simply mentioning the function within the pseudocode, we can incorporate another algorithm.

define *function(input):*

follow these instructions

return *output*

Question 18 Walkthrough.

Construct a pseudocode for a function named "dist" which calculates the distance between two points.

Define $\text{dist}(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2)$

$d \leftarrow \sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2}$
return d

$\text{dist}(1, 2, 3, 4) \rightarrow \sqrt{2}$

```

In[9]:= dist[x1_, x2_, y1_, y2_] := Sqrt[(x1 - x2)^2 + (y1 - y2)^2]
In[10]:= dist[1, 2, 3, 4]
Out[10]=  $\sqrt{2}$ 

In[11]:= dist[3, -9, 1, 41]
Out[11]=  $4\sqrt{169}$ 

In[12]:= dist[a, -3, 4, 1]
Out[12]=  $\sqrt{9 + (3 + a)^2}$ 

In[13]:= Solve[ $\sqrt{9 + (3 + a)^2} = 6, a]$ 
Out[13]= {{a -> 3(-1 -  $\sqrt{3}$ )}, {a -> 3(-1 +  $\sqrt{3}$ )}}
```

NOTE: Within the function, the two points can be defined as any arbitrary value.



Question 19

Using pseudocode, define a function for finding each of the following:

- a. The gradient of the line through two points (a, b) and (c, d) .

```

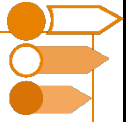
Define grad(a, b, c, d)
    m ← (d - b) / (c - a)
    return m
    
```

- b. Number of solutions for a quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$.

```

Define NumSol(a, b, c)
    d ← b² - 4ac
    If d > 0 then
        return 2
    Else if d = 0 then
        return 1
    Else
        return 0
    
```

Sub-Section: Lists



Lists

- Lists are merely a collection of values. More formally, it is defined as a finite sequence of values.

$A \leftarrow [1, 3, 5, 7, 9]$: Defines A as a list of odd numbers up to 10.

- The notation $A[n]$ spits out the " n^{th} " value in the list. E.g., $A[3] = 5$.

- To add more values to the list we can append.


Append 11 to A (From above)

Result: $A = [1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11]$

~~$A \leftarrow A + 1$~~ X

- Index:

$\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow$
 $0 \ 1 \ 2 \ \dots$

-  The position of an entry in a list is called its index. In this book, we use 1 as the index of the first entry. However, most programming languages use 0 as the index of the first entry.

Space for Personal Notes

Question 20 Walkthrough.

Consider the algorithm below and evaluate the output.

```

A ← []
for i from 1 to 10
    if i < 8 then
        append i to A
    end if
end for
return A

```

$A = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]$

Space for Personal Notes

Question 21

Consider the algorithm below and evaluate the output.

```

A ← []
for i from 1 to 8
    if i < 4 then
        append 2i to A
    else
        append i - 2 to A
    end if
end for
return A

```

Handwritten annotations:

- Red bracket next to "append 2i to A" with text "3 iterations" and a set notation $\left\{ \begin{matrix} i=1 \\ i=2 \\ i=3 \end{matrix} \right\}$
- Green bracket next to "append i - 2 to A" with text "i = 4, ..., 8"

$$A = [2, 4, 6, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]$$

Space for Personal Notes



Contour Checklist

☐ Learning Objective: [2.4.1] - Write and Understand Basic Algorithms

Key Takeaways

Algorithm

- ☐ An algorithm is a clearly specified set of simple instructions.

Assigning Variables

- ☐ To construct algorithms for more mathematical/complex problems, assigning variables will be useful.

○ E.g., $A \leftarrow 3$ assigns the **value 3** to the **variable A**.

- ☐ We can also update our variables using the arrow.

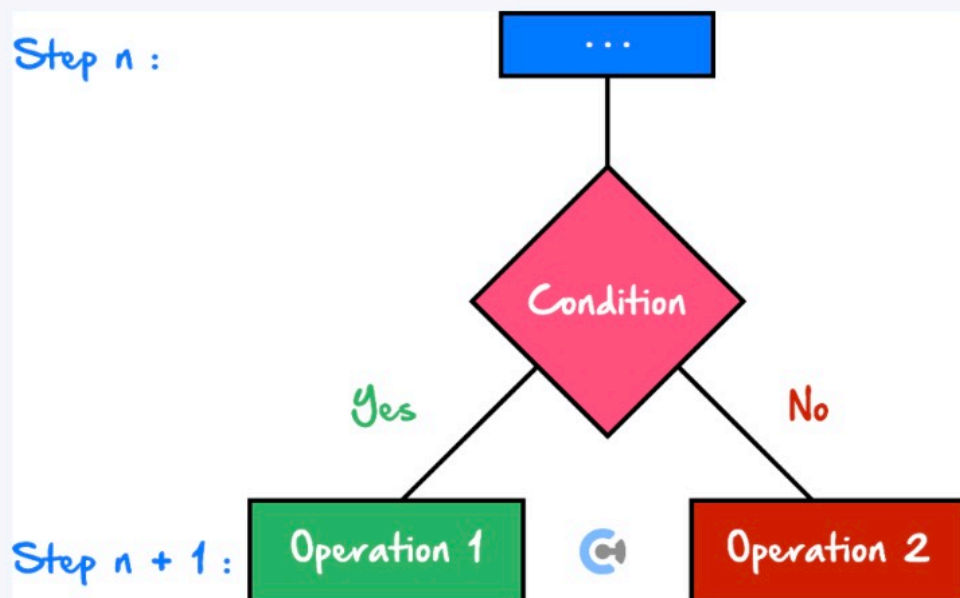
○ E.g., $A \leftarrow A + 3$ assigns the value $A + 3$ to the **variable A**.

Learning Objective: [2.4.2] - Understanding and Evaluate Algorithms that have Conditional Statements and Represent Hybrid Functions as Algorithms

Key Takeaways

Selections

- Allows us to perform different operations at a given step depending on a certain condition.



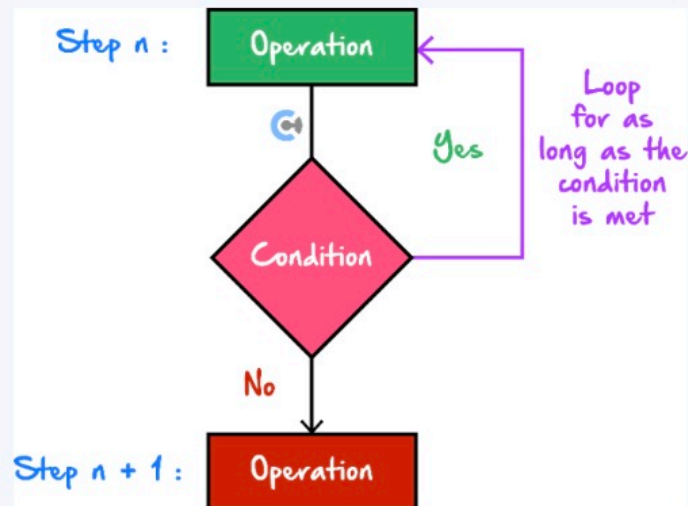
- In other words, we are selectively performing an operation.
- Keywords for selection:
 - If, then*
 - Otherwise/Else/Else If*
- 'If ... then ...' instructions are used in algorithms to enable logical decisions to be made within the algorithm.
- Selection is similar to how hybrid functions work in both Mathematical Methods and Specialist Maths.
- Doing different operations (equations) depending on the condition (domain).

□ Learning Objective: [2.4.3] - Understand and Evaluate Algorithms with Loops

Key Takeaways

Loops (Iterations)

- Iteration (looping) allows us to repeat steps in a controlled way.
- It is controlled by the condition. We only repeat when a condition is met.



- Keywords for iterations:

Repeat ... For...

Repeat ... while...

□ Learning Objective: [2.4.4] - Write and Evaluate Functions Using Pseudocode

Key Takeaways

Pseudocode

```

if condition then
    operation 1
else
    operation 2
end if
    
```

- "Pseudo" = fake, so pseudocode = fake code.
- Concise way of representing algorithms.

Function

- Think of a function as a bag of algorithms.

Instead of saying "an algorithm for picking the largest prime number smaller than n ", we can save this algorithm as $f(n)$.

- Using functions allows us to easily change the input of the algorithm.

- By incorporating functions within another algorithm, it allows us to have an _____
 _____ algorithm within algorithms _____

- By simply mentioning the function within the pseudocode, we can incorporate another algorithm.

```

define function(input):
    follow these instructions
    return output
    
```



Website: contoureducation.com.au | Phone: 1800 888 300 | Email: hello@contoureducation.com.au

VCE Specialist Mathematics ½

Free 1-on-1 Consults



What are 1-on-1 Consults?

- **Who Runs Them?** Experienced Contour tutors (45 + raw scores and 99 + ATARs).
- **Who Can Join?** Fully enrolled Contour students.
- **When Are They?** 30-minute 1-on-1 help sessions, after-school weekdays, and all-day weekends.
- **What To Do?** Join on time, ask questions, re-learn concepts, or extend yourself!
- **Price?** Completely free!
- **One Active Booking Per Subject:** Must attend your current consultation before scheduling the next. :)

SAVE THE LINK, AND MAKE THE MOST OF THIS (FREE) SERVICE!



Booking Link

bit.ly/contour-specialist-consult-2025

