Winter 2016 COMP-250: Introduction to Computer Science

Algorithms

Informal definition

An <u>algorithm</u> is the specification of a <u>sequence</u> of <u>instructions</u> to be carried out by a <u>processor</u>.

- Algorithms can be run on a computer, but they don't have to:
 - Mayas had algorithms to predict solar eclipses centuries in advance
 - Egyptians had algorithms to build pyramids
 - Indians had algorithms for factorizing polynomials
 - Greeks had algorithms to build all kinds of geometric construction using only a compass and straight lines.

Compass and straight-line construction

 Problem: Angle bisection INPUT: An angle defined by three points AOB OUTPUT: A point C such that AOC = BOC

B

В'

C

A

- Algorithm:
- Draw circle centered at O to find A' and B'
- Draw circles centered at A' and B' of the same radius to find C
- Then AOC and BOC bisect AOB

Music SCORE

116 The blessed son of God



BUTTERFLY



Assembly Instruction





LEGO (RoboArm (Machine)) instructions





Indian Chickpeas

From: demers@ere.umontreal.ca (Demers Serge) Date: Sun, 12 Sep 93 14:20:01 -0400

Here is one of our favorite "vegetarian dish". We always include it to our menu for an indian dinner.

 250 gr of chickpeas (1 cup) 2 Tbsp vegetable oil 1 oinon chopped 2 cm cinnamon stick 4 cloves 2 garlic cloves, squashed 2 cm fresh ginger, chopped 1 green chili pepper, finely chopped 2 tsp ground coriander 3/4 cup of chopped tomatoes (from a can) 1 tsp garam massala 1 Tbsp cilantro, chopped 	Soak chickpeas overnight, rince, cook in water until tender. Drain, KEEP THE COOKING LIQUID!
	In a frying pan heat the oil, fry oinon until golden. Add cinnamon and cloves, cook a few seconds. Add garlic, ginger, chili pepper, ground coriander and cook 5 minutes, stirring. Add tomatoes, with the juice and cook until all liquid has evaporated.
	Add the chickpeas to the pan, mixe well, cook 5 minutes. Pour the cooking liquid of the chickpeas and simmer for 25 minutes, until all the liquid is gone.
	Sprinkle with the garam massala and cilantro.
	Can be served hot of cold.
	Serge Demers

Dialling Instructions



Computer Program

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© C program

Abacus 3000 BC

The Abacus, a simple counting aid, was most likely invented in Babylonia.





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CD / DVD / Blu-ray



Smart phones



U S B connectivity



MP3 players



Electronic Tablets



Flat Screens





laptop



scanner

TOMORROW ...???

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Computer Science

Computer Science is the study of algorithms for computing machines.

(Formal) Definition of an Algorithm

A well-ordered collection of unambiguous effectively computable operations that when executed produces a result and halts in a finite amount of time.

What distinguishes computer algorithms ?

- Instructions are executed very fast
- Little or no human interaction is possible
- Algorithm must be fully specified before execution
- Algorithm must be unambiguously specified

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