

4.4 Construct and trace algorithms with explicit input conditions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 24 marks

KEY WORDS algorithm 算法 • flowchart 流程图 • pseudocode 伪代码

Objective

Construct and trace algorithms with explicit input conditions. Original GAC004-aligned practice, not an official assessment. Show the method as well as the result. All applied scenarios are invented classroom problems.

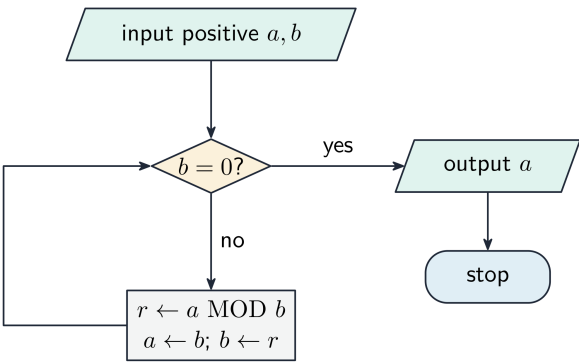
1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ Key knowledge: a correct trace follows the stated step order and loop bounds

An **algorithm** 算法 states unambiguous steps for a task over defined allowed inputs. To solve the stated task it must produce the required result and terminate under those input conditions. A **flowchart** 流程图 uses labelled flow arrows, process boxes and decision branches; input/output uses a parallelogram.

Pseudocode 伪代码 describes the procedure without promising a particular language’s exact syntax. On this sheet, assignment updates the left-hand variable, FOR bounds are inclusive, and MOD is the nonnegative remainder for nonnegative integers and a positive divisor. Trace variables after each stated update. Binary search requires an ordered list and consistent index/bound conventions; linear search can stop at an early match and does not always inspect every item.

■ Worked example: repeat a remainder step until the second number is zero



Known: start with positive integers a equal to 10 and b equal to 6. While b is nonzero, compute r as a MOD b, then set a to b and b to r. Pairs after complete iterations are (6,4), (4,2), (2,0), giving output 2. Temporary r preserves the remainder before a and b change. Each nonzero remainder is smaller than the previous positive b, supporting termination.

2 Practice

2.1 Start total at 0. For i equal to 1, 2 and 3, update total by adding i. List the total after each update and the final output. [2]

2.2 A linear minimum-finding procedure starts smallest at the first value of [5, 1, 4], then compares each remaining value with smallest. List the two later smallest values and the final minimum. [2]

2.3 Draw a flowchart that inputs one real number n , outputs “nonnegative” if n is at least zero and “negative” otherwise, then stops. Label the decision branches. [3]

2.4 Binary search uses zero-based indices, inclusive low/high bounds and $\text{floor}((\text{low}+\text{high})/2)$. Trace its middle indices while finding 14 in the sorted list $[2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20]$, starting $\text{low} = 0$ and $\text{high} = 6$. [3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A procedure is intended to add integers 1 through n for a nonnegative integer n . It starts $\text{total} = 0$ and $i = 1$, repeats while $i < n$, adds i to total , then increments i . (a) Trace it for $n = 4$. (b) Identify the boundary error and correct the condition. (c) State the correct outputs for $n = 4$ and $n = 0$. [6]

[8]