Algorithm design

Python Reference · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
algorithm /ˈælgərɪθəm/	An **algorithm** is a list of steps to solve a problem.
decomposition /ˌdiːkɒmpəˈzɪʃn/	**Decomposition** breaks a big problem into small parts.
abstraction /əbˈstrækʃn/	A map uses **abstraction**: it leaves out small details.
pseudocode /ˈsuːdəʊkəʊd/	Write the algorithm in **pseudocode** first.
flowchart /ˈfləʊtʃɑːt/	A **flowchart** shows the steps as boxes and arrows.
decision /dɪˈsɪʒn/	A **decision** in a flowchart is a diamond with a yes/no question.
recursion /rɪˈkɜːʃn/	**Recursion** means a function calls itself.
base case /beɪs keɪs/	The **base case** stops the recursion.
recursive case /rɪˈkɜːsɪv keɪs/	In the **recursive case**, the function calls itself again.
call stack /kɔːl stæk/	Each function call is added to the **call stack**.

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