

## A Precedence Graph for the Physical Examination of Children

Syed Arif Kamal\* , Shah Jamal Alam<sup>§</sup> and Syed Firdous<sup>¶</sup>

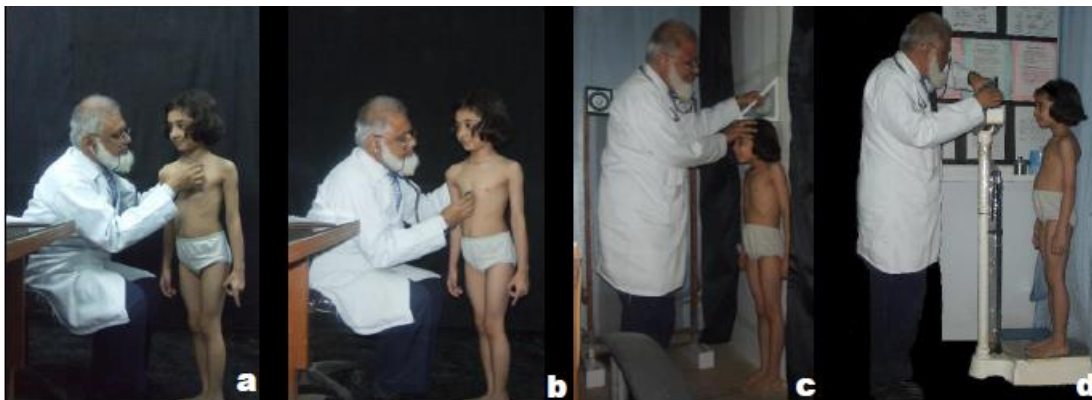
Departments of \*Mathematics and <sup>§</sup>Computer Science, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan; <sup>¶</sup>Department of Mathematics, S. M. Government Science College, Karachi, Pakistan; \*[profdrakamal@gmail.com](mailto:profdrakamal@gmail.com)

In the field of pediatrics, physical examination is the most important part of any intervention (Fig. 1, 2a-d). Some checks must be performed before the others. Otherwise, an undiscovered



**Fig. 1. Stethoscope and history form**

condition may affect adversely on a patient's health. Everyone knows that an examination of the resting heart must be performed *before* treadmill testing. Similarly, hernia check must *precede* cardiac function testing in the squatting position. 'Precedence Graphs' were presented showing the procedures, which must precede the others. Some of the procedures can be performed, concurrently. For example, cardiac function in the standing position, and check for undescended testicles could be performed, concurrently. Examples were brought up where 'Concurrent Processing' was allowed in the physical examination of children. This software might be a useful training tool for the students and the residents, alike.



**Fig. 2a-d. Auscultation of heart sounds at PMI, (a) pulmonary and (b) tricuspid valves as well as measurements of (c) height and (d) mass of a girl**

**Keywords:** Concurrent processing • Pediatrics • Physical-examination sequence

**Web address of this document:** <https://www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/Precedence.pdf>