

Generating random numbers

The `<random>` library in C++ provides a number of random number generators and distributions. The random number generators are used to generate random numbers (usually 32 or 64 bit unsigned **int** values), while the distributions are used to convert these numbers to a specific distribution, i.e, uniform, normal, etc. A good tutorial on random number generation in C++ is available at: <https://hackingcpp.com/cpp/std/random.html>. See also https://hackingcpp.com/cpp/std/random_distributions.png for a cheat sheet summary of random number distributions available in `<random>` library.

```
#include <iostream>
#include <random>

int main() {
    // ***** generator *****
    // generate a random seed (possibly slow on some systems)
    auto const seed = std::random_device{}(); // constant int value could be used
        for reproducing the same random numbers in every run of the program

    // declare and seed the psedu-random generator
    auto generator = std::default_random_engine {seed};

    // ***** distributions *****
    // generate uniform int: [1, 100] inclusive
    auto uniform_int = std::uniform_int_distribution<int> {1, 100};

    // generate random floats in [-1.2, 6.25), lower bound inclusive, upper bound
        exclusive
    std::uniform_real_distribution<float> uniform_float {-1.2f, 6.25f};

    // true/false with 60% chance of true
    auto flip = std::bernoulli_distribution {0.6};

    // normal distribution with mean 0.5 and standard deviation 2
    auto norm = std::normal_distribution<double>{0.5, 2};

    // ***** generate random numbers *****
    // generate 10 uniform random ints between 1 and 100
    for(int i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
        std::cout << uniform_int(generator) << " ";
    std::cout << "\n-----\n";

    // generate 10 uniform random floats between -1.2f to 6.25f
```

```
for(int i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
    std::cout << uniform_float(generator) << " ";
std::cout << "\n-----\n";

// generate 10 coin tosses (probability of head is 60%)
for(int i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
    std::cout << ( flip(generator) ? "Head" : "Tail") << " ";
std::cout << "\n-----\n";

// generate 10 normal random numbers with mean 0.5 and standard deviation 2
for(int i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
    std::cout << norm(generator) << " ";
std::cout << "\n-----\n";
}
```

Lecture Review

See the following links for a review of STL algorithms: <https://hackingcpp.com/cpp/std/algorithms.html>

For range-based algorithms, see: https://hackingcpp.com/cpp/std/range_algorithms.html

Or, for more beginner friendly guide, see: https://hackingcpp.com/cpp/beginners_guide.html

Lab Exercises

Exercise 1

Randomly generate a database of properties available for sale in the market. A property has these attributes:

attribute	description	range of values
name : string	random ASCII string	length [5 - 10]
price : int	price in PKR	[10m - 50m]
area : int	property area in m^2	[20 - 200]
rooms : int	number of rooms	[1 - 10]
bfactor : float	brightness factor	[0, 1]
eclass : EClass	energy class	[A, B, C, D, E, F]
garage : bool	garage available?	[true, false]

Write a class **Database** that will implement a method `insert(...)` for inserting the property.

Randomly generate a few thousand records and store them in a **Database** object. Try different distributions.

Exercise 2

Use STL algorithms to do some statistics on them. Implement the following method in the **Database** class:

```
find( Interval<int> price,
      Interval<int> area,
      Interval<int> rooms,
      Interval<float> bright,
      Interval<EClass> eclass,
      bool garage,
      int max_res)
```

It will return at most `max_res` results that match the given query.

Here `Interval<T>` represents inclusive interval [`from`, `to`] of type `T`. You can define `Interval` class yourself or use the following type alias:

```
template <typename T>
using Interval = std::pair<T, T>;
```

Try to avoid manual iteration and use STL algorithms as much as possible.