

COM S 327, Spring 2022

Programming Project 1.02

Path Finding

Next week we'll be introducing adversary trainers to our game. We'll have trainers who just stand by the road and don't move. We'll have trainers who walk back and forth within a region, and we'll have trainers that chase the PC¹. We'll have two different kinds of trainers that pathfind: *hikers*, who can go anywhere, and *rivals*, who can't walk over rocks or trees. If you've introduced other types of terrain in your maps, treat it logically; probably even hikers can't cross lakes, but if you were to introduce *swimmers*, they could.

This week we'll calculate movement paths for hikers and rivals. Both of these trainer classes can see the PC wherever it is and take the shortest path to the PC so they can engage in a Pokémon battle. Shortest time is defined in terms of travel time. We'll define travel times through terrain in *game turns*—where a *game turn* is the smallest length of time that can pass in the game—as follows:

Terrain↓\Trainer→	Hiker	Rival	PC	Others
Boulder	∞	∞	∞	∞
Tree	∞	∞	∞	∞
Path	10	10	10	10
Pokémart	∞	∞	10	∞
Pokémon Center	∞	∞	10	∞
Tall Grass	15	20	20	20
Clearing	10	10	10	10
Mountain	15	∞	∞	∞
Forest	15	∞	∞	∞

In my maps, I have mountains and forests which are separate entities from boulders and trees. There was no requirement that you do this, and there is no requirement that you add it now. However, You will want to prevent NPCs from accessing the border of a map. By making boulders impassible (∞), and marking my border with boulders, I implicitly prevent NPCs from entering the border. As a result, I also get a random terrain element that stops all characters. I use trees the same way, and could use them in my map borders if I wanted to. By having separate mountain and forest terrain (using the same symbols but different internal representation, I have a terrain that those hardy hikers can cross (at a small movement penalty) but nobody else can, including the PC. If you have boulders but not mountains and you don't want to add mountains, probably the easiest change is to create a *border* terrain which is displayed using your boulder symbol and has infinite movement cost.

Given these movement costs, we're going to calculate shortest paths from all locations to the PC. This implies that the PC will have to appear in the map as well. To generate the PC, choose a random location anywhere on a road and not on the border. Use an @ to represent the PC when you draw it. It would probaly be wise to add a placeholder *pc* datatype at this point and put the PC's position data inside it.

Movement can occur in all 8 directions. Use Dijkstra's Algorithm (or A*) to calculate the distance to the PC from every location in the map for hikers and rivals.

Dijkstra's Algorithm is described here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dijkstra%27s_algorithm. Scroll down to find the pseudocode under "Using a priority queue". Obviously, you'll need a priority queue,

¹I think I've used this before without defining it. In case you're not hip to all the lingo the gamer kids are using, the *PC* is the *player character*, while *NPCs* and *non-player characters*.

one with a decrease priority operation. You may use the Fibonacci queue that I provided with my solution to 1.01, or you may implement (or use a properly-attributed third party implementation of) any other priority queue you like.

My corridor building code uses Dijkstra's algorithm, so you may start with that (it won't require much modification) or start from scratch.

Your program should display the hiker and rival distance maps. Use two digits per distance and display distance mod 100 with a space between each distance (example output to follow, after I've implemented it).

All code is to be written in C.