CS 32 – Summer 2022 E. Ambrosio

Project 3 FAQ

1. How do I find all the permutations of a string?

You can use this pseudocode which prints out all permutations of a string to get started:

```
void printPermutations(string prefix, string rest) {
    if (rest is empty) {
        Display the prefix string.
    }
    else {
        For each character in rest {
            Add the character to the end of prefix.
            Remove character from rest.
            Use recursion to generate permutations with the updated values for prefix and rest.
        }
    }
}
```

2. I thought you said that we couldn't use any iteration. Isn't the pseudocode using a loop?

Yes, printPermutations uses iteration (a for loop), which this assignment does not allow. Suppose you have a for loop of the form:

```
for (i = initval; i < maxval; i++) {
    statement;
}</pre>
```

Consider the following recursive function:

```
void Loop(int i, int max) {
    if (i >= max)
        return;
    statement;
    Loop(i + 1, max);
}
```

You can replace the for loop above with the following invocation of Loop:

```
Loop(initval, maxval);
```

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3. My program seems to work for small dictionaries, but crashes when it attempts to read in your large dictionary. What's happening?

You probably didn't increase your stack size enough. Make sure you followed the instructions for increasing it on whatever platform you're using and if that still doesn't help, try a larger stack size.

4. Do I have to use the above algorithm to do this assignment?

No, you can use a different approach, if you like. However, make sure you understand how to break problems down recursively, that's what you'll be tested on during the exams.

5. Why does my program work for small words but not for larger words?

One possibility is that it actually does work for larger words, but just takes a really long time. We're not testing your programs for efficiency yet so it should be OK. If you're consistently having to wait long times for 5 or less letter words, you're probably doing something inefficiently (besides using recursion for this project).