

# COM S 3270, Spring 2025

## Programming Project 1.07

*I've combined two previous assignments into one, here. Formerly, students implemented monster parsing one week, then item parsing the next. The two assignments are very similar, to an extent that most students found the second assignment uninformative. I don't want to bore you with what is essentially a repeated assignment, and by cutting a week out of the old assignments, we can add a week of new functionality at the end.*

*This assignment specification combines monster and item parsing into one document. Your assignment is to implement the "Parsing Monster Definitions" assignment, below.*

*You may, optionally, implement the "Parsing Item Definitions" assignment, as well. I will implement both, and for students not using my code, I will release my solution in a standalone form so that you will not have to implement item parsing if you don't want to or don't have time. You will, however, have to have an item parsing solution, whether you write your own or use mine, as next week's assignment will depend on it.*

### Parsing Monster Definitions

We've been randomly generating our NPCs, and while that's not a totally unworkable way to build a real game, it does have some major disadvantages; for instance, it prevents the player from recognizing monsters and knowing, from previous encounters, what to expect from them. As Roguelikes are primarily tactics games, knowing what to expect is essential to success. We've also been very simplistic, with no concept of hitpoints, attack strength, defensive abilities, etc. It's time to increase the complexity of our NPCs, and later we'll work on the PC.

To create more complex NPCs, we could hard code all of the monsters we want. That's as simple as defining an NPC class or structure, creating an array of them, one for each monster, and assigning values to the fields. Problem solved. And if we think of an interesting, new monster that we want to add to the game? We'll need to increase the size of the array, set the fields in the new slot, and recompile. So, essentially, only a developer can do it. A more flexible method will use a text file in which monster types are defined; the game only needs to know how to parse it, and we can change, add, and remove all the monsters we want without ever recompiling.

We're thinking about defining an editable file format to describe NPCs, so, in fact, we're thinking about defining a (simple, formal) language and implementing a parser for it. Language design and parsing in the general sense are beyond the scope of this course, but we already know enough to be able to scan tokens from the input with clearly defined delimiters, so we'll design our language so that it is simple enough that we can easily parse it with the tools we have. Students who are interested in implementing more complex monster definition files with more complex parsing requirements should look into *lex*, *yacc*, and *recursive descent*. Furthermore, you are welcome to use *lex* and *yacc* in this assignment, if you're looking to learn some other useful tools.

What characteristics do we want our monsters to have? So far, they have a symbol, a speed, and perhaps telepathy, intelligence, tunneling ability, and eraticism. These provide a good start. Let's add a color, a name, a description, hitpoints (health), attack damage, and a general "abilities" field, where *intelligence* and *telepathy* are just two possibilities. Given time we'd add other things, including types of attacks: dragons can breathe fire, basilisks can paralyze with a look, and sorcerers can cast spells.

Many of these things are numeric. We could provide a mean and a standard deviation, then roll for a value from a Gaussian. But this is a role-playing game. Role-playing games traditionally use dice, and we're going to stick with tradition on this. We'll specify our values with the format:

$$\langle base \rangle + \langle dice \rangle \text{ d } \langle sides \rangle$$

where  $\langle base \rangle$  is a constant offset (maybe zero),  $\langle dice \rangle$  is the number of dice to roll (also maybe zero), and  $\langle sides \rangle$  is the number of sides on each of those dice. So a numerical specification of 9+3d8 means to roll a number with a minimum value of 12, a maximum value of 33, and an expected value of 22.5. The distribution of rolls for a 9+3d8 looks like this:

Roll	Probability	Cumulative Probability
12	0.2	0.2
13	0.6	0.8
14	1.2	2.0
15	2.0	3.9
16	2.9	6.8
17	4.1	10.9
18	5.5	16.4
19	7.0	23.4
20	8.2	31.6
21	9.0	40.6
22	9.4	50.0
23	9.4	59.4
24	9.0	68.4
25	8.2	76.6
26	7.0	83.6
27	5.5	89.1
28	4.1	93.2
29	2.9	96.1
30	2.0	98.0
31	1.2	99.2
32	0.6	99.8
33	0.2	100.0

Store these as three values, i.e., *base*, *dice*, and *sides*. They will be used later to instantiate a dice class object.

Let's define some keywords for all of the parameters of our monsters. In the table below, *numerical* means a descriptor for dice as defined above. If you want a constant, then you have zero dice, e.g., 12+0d1.

Parameter	Keyword	Description
Name	NAME	A name to describe the monster, for example, a “slime”, an “amazon”, a “wyvern”, or “Sauron”. Terminated by a newline
Description	DESC	A textual description of the monster. Beginning on the next line after the keyword, terminated by a period on a line by itself, and limited to a width of 77 characters (the newline must appear at or before byte 78).
Color	COLOR	A list of space-delineated color name keywords (see color information below), used to color the monster in the dungeon (not implemented yet, but curses makes this easy), followed by a newline.
Speed	SPEED	A numerical value (dice, as defined above) describing the speed of a monster, followed by a newline
Abilities	ABIL	List of space-delineated abilities keywords. For now, we’ve got SMART, for smart monsters, TELE, for telepathic monsters, TUNNEL for monsters that can tunnel through rock, ERRATIC for erratic monsters, and let’s add PASS, for non-corporeal monsters, like ghosts, that can pass through matter without damaging it, PICKUP, for monsters that can pick items up from the floor, DESTROY, for monsters that can destroy items on the floor, UNIQ for monsters that are unique (there can be only one of each unique monster in any dungeon, and once it is killed, it cannot be created again), and BOSS (to designate a monster as a “final boss”, the killing of which ends the game), followed by a newline.
Hitpoints	HP	A numerical value describing the amount of damage a monster can take, followed by a newline.
Attack Damage	DAM	A numerical value describing the amount of damage a monster can inflict per attack, followed by a newline.
Symbol	SYMB	A single character giving the in-game, graphical representation of the monster.
Rarity	RRTY	An integer between 1 and 100, inclusive, giving the probability of generating this monster when it is selected (in 1.08).

Ncurses allows us to display in color, assuming it’s supported by the terminal. We’ll define the following colors: RED, GREEN, BLUE, CYAN, YELLOW, MAGENTA, WHITE, BLACK. When we start loading (as opposed to simply reading their descriptions in from a file) these new monsters, we’ll also start rendering them in color.

Let’s also add some keywords to start and end each entry:

BEGIN MONSTER

on a line by itself to mark the start of a new NPC, and

END

on a line by itself to mark the end.

All fields must be present. No field may appear more than once for a given monster. There is no required field order. On any failure (parsing error, duplicate field, missing field, etc.), the monster should be discarded and parsing should continue with the next monster in the file (if it exists). In other words, any parser error discards the current monster, and the parser scans for the next occurrence of START MONSTER and continues processing from there.

We’ll also add some metadata to the start of the file for versioning:

## RLG327 MONSTER DESCRIPTION 1

should be the first line. If it fails to match, you may terminate the program.

We will store our monster descriptions in the same directory where we have been storing our dungeon save files, `$HOME/.rlg327`, in a file named `monster_desc.txt`.

In order for the TAs to verify that your parser works, we'll need you to print out the monster definitions after reading them. We'll print the values of every field, one per line (the description may be printed on several lines), in the order they are given in the above table, with a blank line between each monster.

Your parser should be implemented in C++. Since we're concerned about correctly parsing your monster description files and not about the mechanics of the game, I suggest that you modify `main` to read the monster description files, print the test output, and exit, without ever entering the game proper.

Note that these descriptions are essentially templates for monsters, not instances of actual NPCs. Later, when we use these monster descriptions, we'll treat them as templates to generate NPCs. So when thinking about how to represent these internally, you might consider creating a monster description class that can return instances of `npc` from a `generate` method. An instance of an NPC will still have dice for damage abilities (each attack is a roll), but max hitpoints and speed will be fixed based on rolls when the monster is generated.

An example of a monster description file with two entries is listed on the next page, and on the page following that, the expected output of your program on this file. I will post a larger monster descriptions file to blackboard, as well as start a thread on blackboard for you to post your own monster descriptions.

# RLG327 MONSTER DESCRIPTION 1

## BEGIN MONSTER

NAME Junior Barbarian

SYMB p

COLOR BLUE

DESC

This is a junior barbarian. He--or is it she? You can't tell for sure-- looks like... it should still be in barbarian school. The barbarians are putting them in the dungeons young these days. It's wearing dirty, tattered cloth armor and wielding a wooden sword. You have a hard time feeling intimidated.

.

SPEED 7+1d4

DAM 0+1d4

HP 12+2d6

RRTY 100

ABIL SMART

END

## BEGIN MONSTER

NAME Amazon Lich Queen

DESC

She was a powerful Amazon warrior in life. Death at the hands of the undead hordes was followed by her resurrection through dark, necromantic arts. Her power in life didn't approach her undead glory. Clad in night-black robes that don't move in the wind, her incorporeal form commands the power of death over life. You may just be her next victim. You fear for your soul as you quake before her malevolent majesty.

.

SYMB p

COLOR BLACK

ABIL SMART PASS

DAM 30+5d9

HP 2999+1d1001

SPEED 10+10d2

RRTY 20

END

### Junior Barbarian

This is a junior barbarian. He--or is it she? You can't tell for sure--looks like... it should still be in barbarian school. The barbarians are putting them in the dungeons young these days. It's wearing dirty, tattered cloth armor and wielding a wooden sword. You have a hard time feeling intimidated.

p

BLUE

7+1d4

SMART

12+2d6

0+1d4

100

### Amazon Lich Queen

She was a powerful Amazon warrior in life. Death at the hands of the undead hordes was followed by her resurrection through dark, necromantic arts. Her power in life didn't approach her undead glory. Clad in night-black robes that don't move in the wind, her incorporeal form commands the power of death over life. You may just be her next victim. You fear for your soul as you quake before her malevolent majesty.

p

BLACK

10+10d2

SMART PASS

2999+1d1001

30+5d9

20

## Parsing Item Definitions

*Optional! You don't have to do this part!*

What fun is crawling through a monster-laden dungeon if all of the monsters are more powerful than you? To even out the odds, we'd like to add attributes and abilities that increase with level to the PC, but for now, let's allow the PC to pick up the leavings of adventurers past. Whenever we generate a new dungeon level, we'll also generate a few objects and scatter them around the dungeon floor. And when we kill a monster, that monster may drop items. We'll start by defining the attributes that we want in our gear and define a file format to specify them. Next week we'll start using them (and the monsters that we defined last week) in our dungeons.

Obviously a breast plate and a spiked mace should have different characteristics, so we might define a class hierarchy for all items; however, there no reason that armor cannot inflict damage on NPCs or that weapons cannot grant defensive bonuses or emit light. Given this, it's premature and probably overly complex to design a polymorphic class structure for dungeon objects (though you are welcome to if either you disagree or you just want to). We can simplify things by defining only one class and deciding which fields to use based on the type of object. Before we start working out the details of objects, let's figure out what kind of equipment our PC will use.

A character can wield a weapon in hand, a shield (or off-hand weapon, or maybe a two-handed weapon) in the other hand, a bow worn on back, helmet on head, armor over body, cloak over shoulders, gloves on hands, boots on feet, rings on fingers (let's hold off on the bells on toes for now), maybe an amulet or necklace around the neck, and a light source, which gives us between 11 and 20 pieces of equipment, depending on the number of rings. In practice, in games of this type, rings tend to be fairly powerful and characters are restricted to one or two of them, so let's go with two. Below is a table listing our item types and giving some keywords that we'll use in the file. We'll also add some item types to this that aren't gear.

Item type	Keyword	Equipment
Main Weapon	WEAPON	✓
Shield, off-hand weapon, or two-handed weapon	OFFHAND	✓
Bow, crossbow, sling	RANGED	✓
Body armor or clothes	ARMOR	✓
Hat, helmet, or crown	HELMET	✓
Cloak	CLOAK	✓
Gloves or gauntlets	GLOVES	✓
Shoes, boots, or greaves	BOOTS	✓
Rings	RING	✓
Amulets, necklaces, or broaches	AMULET	✓
Torch, lantern, or other light source	LIGHT	✓
Scrolls, parchment, paper	SCROLL	✗
Books	BOOK	✗
Flasks, bottles, cups, maybe with something in them	FLASK	✗
Precious metals or gems, Dollars, Pounds, Euros, Kronor, RMB, or Rupees (we're international!)	GOLD	✗
Arrow, bolts, pebbles	AMMUNITION	✗
Food or drink	FOOD	✗
Wands, staves, magical implements	WAND	✗
Chests, safes, bags	CONTAINER	✗

In order to create a two-handed weapon, we'll use both the WEAPON and OFFHAND keywords, so a bitfield would be a good way to store this internally.

Just as we did for monsters, we'll define a set of objects attributes:

Parameter	Keyword	Description
Name	NAME	A name to describe the object, for instance, “a pair of leather mocasins” or “a plain gold ring”.
Description	DESC	A textual description of the item, beginning on the next line after the keyword, terminated by a period on a line by itself, and limited to a width of 77 characters.
Type	TYPE	Item type keyword (above).
Color	COLOR	A color name keyword describing the color used to render the object in the dungeon. Color name keywords are as defined in assignment 1.05.
Hit bonus	HIT	A numerical offensive bonus that is applied to the probability of the wielder hitting an opponent.
Damage bonus	DAM	A numerical offensive bonus that is applied to the damage inflicted by a successful attack.
Dodge Bonus	DODGE	A numerical defensive bonus that reduces a PC’s probability of being hit by an NPC attack.
Defense bonus	DEF	A numerical defensive bonus that reduces the damage incurred by a successful attack from an NPC.
Weight	WEIGHT	The object’s numerical weight in <i>Units</i> (a “unit” is something that people use to measure things).
Speed bonus	SPEED	A numerical bonus to PC speed when equipping the object.
Special Attribute	ATTR	A numerical value specifying the value of any special characteristics—if any—an object may have, for instance the capacity of a container or the radius of a light source.
Value	VAL	A value in <i>Pesos de Ocho</i> .
Artifact status	ART	The string “TRUE” or “FALSE”. Exactly zero or one instances of each artifact object may exist in the game.
Rarity	RRTY	An integer in the range 1 to 100, inclusive, giving the probability of generating this object when selected (in 1.08).

In a similar fashion to our monster description files, we’ll start the file with metadata (some semantics markers and a file version):

RLG327 OBJECT DESCRIPTION 1

And each entry will start with the line

BEGIN OBJECT

and end with the line

END

We will store our object descriptions in the same directory where we have been storing our dungeon save files and monster descriptions, `$HOME/.rlg327`, in a file named `object_desc.txt`.

In order for the TAs to verify that your parser works, we’ll need you to print out the object definitions after reading them. We’ll print the values of every field, one per line (the description may be printed on several lines), in the order they are given in the above table, with a blank line between each object.



Your parser should be implemented in C++. Since we're concerned about correctly parsing your object description files and not about the mechanics of the game, I suggest that you modify main to read the object description files, print the test output, and exit, without ever entering the game proper (just like we did last week).

Note that these descriptions are essentially templates for objects, not instances of actual objects. Next week, we'll use these object descriptions and last week's monster descriptions, generate objects and NPCs in the dungeon. So when thinking about how to represent these internally, keep that in mind. And just like last week, we are not actually generating instances of these things yet, just parsing them and printing them out for verification.

Beginning on the following page, we present an example object description file with several objects. We have not produced output here, because that follows directly from last week's work, so we're confident that you can figure it out.

# RLG327 OBJECT DESCRIPTION 1

BEGIN OBJECT

NAME a NERF(R) dagger

TYPE WEAPON

COLOR MAGENTA

WEIGHT 1+0d1

HIT 0+0d1

DAM 0+0d1

ATTR 0+0d1

VAL 9+1d6

DODGE 10+0d1

DEF 0+0d1

SPEED 0+1d0

ART FALSE

RRTY 100

DESC

This is a totally wicked looking dagger. It's got awesome barbs on the back of the blade, a compass on the hilt, and myriad other embellishments that serve no functional purpose. You could totally be a deadly assassin with a sweet blade like this. Since it's so light, it won't encumber you. It's made out of polyurethane foam.

.

END

BEGIN OBJECT

NAME a vorpal blade

DESC

One, two! One, two! And through and through!

It goes snicker-snack.

.

TYPE WEAPON

COLOR RED

WEIGHT 15+0d1

HIT 12+3d4

ATTR 0+0d1

VAL 198+2d51

DAM 12+3d4

DODGE 0+0d1

DEF 0+0d1

SPEED 0+1d0

ART TRUE

RRTY 5

END

BEGIN OBJECT  
NAME a prom dress  
HIT 0+2d3  
DAM 0+2d3  
DODGE 0+0d1  
SPEED -5+0d1  
ATTR 0+0d1  
VAL 449+0d1  
DEF 0+0d1  
DESC

This dress is totes fab! It's off-the-shoulder with an A-line waste, sequins, and lavender chiffon. It fits tight to mid-calf and you totally can't take full steps in it, but who cares? You'll be the hit of the party as long as Shirley doesn't show up wearing the same thing again.

.  
TYPE ARMOR  
COLOR MAGENTA  
WEIGHT 0+2d2  
ART FALSE  
RRTY 40  
END

BEGIN OBJECT  
NAME a chainmail coif  
WEIGHT 8+0d1  
HIT 0+0d1  
DAM 0+0d1  
ATTR 0+0d1  
DODGE 0+0d1  
VAL 48+2d11  
DEF 10+2d6  
SPEED 0+1d0  
DESC

A heavy chainmail head covering.

.  
TYPE HELMET  
COLOR BLACK  
ART FALSE  
RRTY 75  
END

BEGIN OBJECT  
NAME the Aegis  
DESC

A very high-quality shield. Nobody knows what it looks like, except for

maybe--now--you, but you're not telling. The back side is inscribed with the words: "If found, please return to Zeus, Mount Olympus".

.  
TYPE OFFHAND  
WEIGHT 3+0d1  
HIT 0+0d1  
DAM 0+0d1  
VAL 17000+0d1  
DODGE 20+2d8  
ATTR 0+0d1  
DEF 20+3d8  
SPEED 10+1d0  
COLOR YELLOW  
ART TRUE  
RRTY 30  
END

BEGIN OBJECT  
NAME a cloak of invisibility  
TYPE CLOAK  
VAL 10000+5d1000  
DESC  
One of the Deathly Hallows, this cloak grants the wearer invisibility. Last know to be the property of the Boy Who Lived.

.  
WEIGHT 1+0d1  
DODGE 24+5d4  
DEF 0+0d1  
HIT 0+0d1  
ATTR 0+0d1  
DAM 0+0d1  
SPEED 0+1d0  
COLOR CYAN  
ART FALSE  
RRTY 40  
END

BEGIN OBJECT  
NAME the One Ring  
TYPE RING  
WEIGHT 1+0d1  
COLOR YELLOW  
DODGE 50+6d8  
VAL 1000000+2d1000000  
DEF 50+6d8

ATTR 0+0d1  
HIT 10+2d5  
DAM 10+2d5  
SPEED 12+1d0  
ART TRUE  
RRTY 2  
DESC

The One Ring to rule them all... and in the darkness bind them. Created by Sauron as a tool in his quest to dominate Middle Earth. It draws the dark sorcerer's eye upon its wearer.

.  
END

BEGIN OBJECT  
NAME a torch  
TYPE LIGHT  
WEIGHT 2+1d2  
COLOR BLACK  
DODGE 0+0d1  
VAL 0+1d3  
DAM 0+0d1  
DEF 0+0d1  
HIT 0+0d1  
SPEED 0+0d1  
DESC

A short wooden stick topped with an oil-soaked cloth, perfect for lighting your way through the dungeon.

.  
ATTR 3+2d3  
ART FALSE  
RRTY 90  
END

BEGIN OBJECT  
NAME a Wicked Lasers(R) Torch  
TYPE LIGHT  
WEIGHT 1+1d2  
COLOR BLACK  
DODGE 0+0d1  
VAL 199+0d1  
DAM 0+0d1  
DEF 0+0d1  
HIT 0+0d1  
SPEED 0+0d1  
DESC

From the makers of the world's most refined lasers, comes the ultimate in handheld flashlights. The Flashtorch is a compact, portable searchlight that is capable of producing an incredible 4100 lumens of intense white light. Use this power to guide your way home, light a fire, or even fry an egg!

.

ATTR 5+3d4

ART FALSE

RRTY 30

END