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function [ cpu_ships ] = Setup()

% the "board" of ships is initially empty: 10 by 10 of zeros
cpu_ships = zeros(10,10);

% length of the ships, ship 1 is the carrier and has length 5,
% ship 2 is the battleship, ship 3 is the submarine, ship 4 is the
% cruiser,
% and ship 5 is the PT boat
ship_length = [5,4,3,3,2];

% loop over each ship
for ship_id = 1:5

    % set a flag for the while loop, we will try random locations
    until we
    % find one that fits
    ship_placed = false;
    while ~ship_placed % continue to try and place the ship until
    successful
        % randomly choose between horizontal and vertical orientation
        by
            % setting the horizontal flag here
            horizontal = randi([0 1]);
            if horizontal
                % set the the row and column of the left end new ship
                randomly
                    % it can be on any row
                    row = randi([1 10]);
                    % but only on a certain range of columns depending on its
                    % length
                    col = randi([1 (11-ship_length(ship_id))]);

                    % check to see if that location is empty by summing the
                    values
                    % on the board where the new ship would go, if it ends up
                    being
                    % zero, then there is room to put the new ship there
                    if sum(cpu_ships(row,col:(col+ship_length(ship_id)-1))) ==
                    0
                        % if it is, fill that part of the board with the ships
                        id
                            % number
                            cpu_ships(row,col:(col+ship_length(ship_id)-1)) =
                            ship_id;
                            % and set the ship_place flag to true so that we exit
                            the
                                % loop
                                ship_placed = true;
                            end
                        else % vertical

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        % if the ship is vertical, do that same thing as above,
but now    % the row and column indicate the top edge of the ship,
and        % only certain rows are allowed
          row = randi([1 (11-ship_length(ship_id))]);
          col = randi([1 10]);

          % this part is same as in the horizontal orientation, but
for a      % range of rows instead of a range of columns
          if sum(cpu_ships(row:(row+ship_length(ship_id)-1),col)) ==
0          cpu_ships(row:(row+ship_length(ship_id)-1),col) =
ship_id;   ship_placed = true;
          end
        end
      end
    end
  end

ans =

    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0
    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    2    0    0
    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    2    0    0
    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    2    0    0
    0    0    0    0    0    0    5    2    0    0
    0    0    0    0    0    0    5    3    3    3
    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0
    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0    0
    0    0    1    1    1    1    1    0    0    0
    0    0    0    0    0    0    4    4    4    0

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