Blackjack - The Game

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Introduction

Blackjack, or 21, is a popular card game in casinos worldwide. Blackjack was first invented in the 1700s as a royal court game played by French monarchs. Usually, Blackjack is played by around 2-7 players and is meant to be a multiplayer game. It is simple to understand yet offers a thrilling mix of strategy and luck. The objective is to have a hand value closer to 21 than the dealer without exceeding 21. This write-up covers the rules of Blackjack, instructions for playing the game, and details about the project implementation.



Credits for picture - https://github.com/arinda1/blackjack-glearning-rl

Rules of Blackjack

- 1. Card Values:
 - Number cards (2-10) are worth their face value.
 - Face cards (Jack, Queen, King) are worth 10 points each.
 - Aces can be worth 1 or 11 points, depending on which value benefits the hand the most. In this Program, we are setting it to 11 points.
- 2. Gameplay:

- The game is played with one or more standard 52-card decks.
- Each player is dealt two cards, and the dealer is dealt two cards (one face up and one face down).
- Players can see their cards and the dealer's face-up card.

3. Player Options:

- Hit: Draw a card from the deck. Players can continue to hit as many times as they like unless they exceed 21, which is called a "bust."
- Stand: Keep the current hand and end the turn.

4. Dealer's Turn:

- After all players have completed their turns, the dealer reveals the face-down card.
- The dealer must hit until the hand value is at least 17.
- If the dealer busts (exceeds 21), all remaining players win.

5. Winning the Game:

- If the player's hand value is closer to 21 than the dealer's hand value without busting, the player wins.
- The dealer wins if the dealer's hand value is closer to 21 than the player's hand value without busting.
- A tie is a tie if the player and the dealer have the same hand value.

Instructions for Playing Blackjack Program

1. Starting the Game:

- Enter player names and bets for each player.
- Deal two cards to each player and the dealer. Display the player's cards and the dealer's face-up card.

2. Player's Turn:

- Players decide whether to "hit" or "stand" based on their hand value and the dealer's face-up card.
- If a player chooses to hit, draw a card and add it to the player's hand value.
- If a player busts, they lose immediately.
- If a player chooses to stand, their turn ends and the next player takes their turn.

3. Dealer's Turn:

- After all players have completed their turns, the dealer reveals the face-down card.
- The dealer must hit until the hand value is at least 17.
- If the dealer busts, all remaining players win.

4. Determining the Winner:

- Compare each player's hand value with the dealer's hand value.
- If the player's hand value is closer to 21 without busting, the player wins.

- The dealer wins if the dealer's hand value is closer to 21 without busting.
- If the player and the dealer have the same hand value, it is a tie (push).

This Program's features

- We are handling multiple players (1 to 8).
- Random cards dealing with appropriate values and suits.
- Player decisions to hit or stand.
- Dealer's automatic decision to hit or stand based on predefined rules.
- Determination of winners and updating of their balances and total winnings.
- Recording game results in a file.
- Sorting and displaying player scores and winnings.
- Searching for player details by name.

Overall Program Flow

Initialization:

- Seed the random number generator.
- Prompt the user for the number of players and their names.
- Each player places a bet.

Card Dealing:

- Deal two cards to each player and the dealer.
- Display the initial hands of all players and the dealer.

Player Turns:

- Each player decides to hit or stand.
- Update player hands based on their decisions.

Dealer Turn:

Dealer hits until their hand value reaches at least 17.

Determine Winners:

- Compare the player's hands to the dealer's hand.
- Update balances and winnings.
- Record results in a file.

Display Results:

- Show leaderboard.
- Sort and display player totals and winnings.
- Search for specific player details.

End Game:

Display final results and exit the program.

Flowchart

Initialize random seed
Open output file for appending

Prompt user for number of players (1-8) Validate the number of players

For each player:

Prompt for player name Prompt for bet amount Validate bet amount

Deal two cards to each player and the dealer Display initial hands

For each player:

While player chooses to hit:

Deal a new card

Update and display hand

If player busts, break

Dealer hits until total is at least 17 Display dealer's hand

Determine winners:

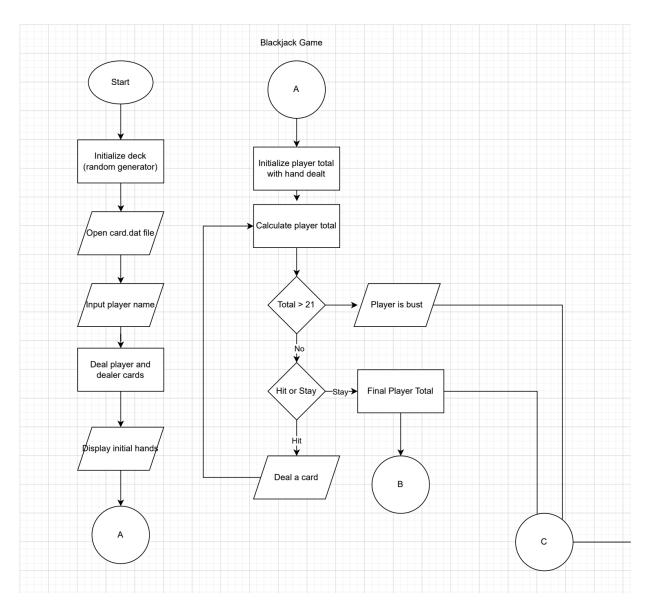
Compare each player's hand to dealer's hand Update balances and winnings Record results in file

Display leaderboard
Sort and display player totals (bubble sort)
Sort and display player winnings (selection sort)
Search for a player by name and display their details

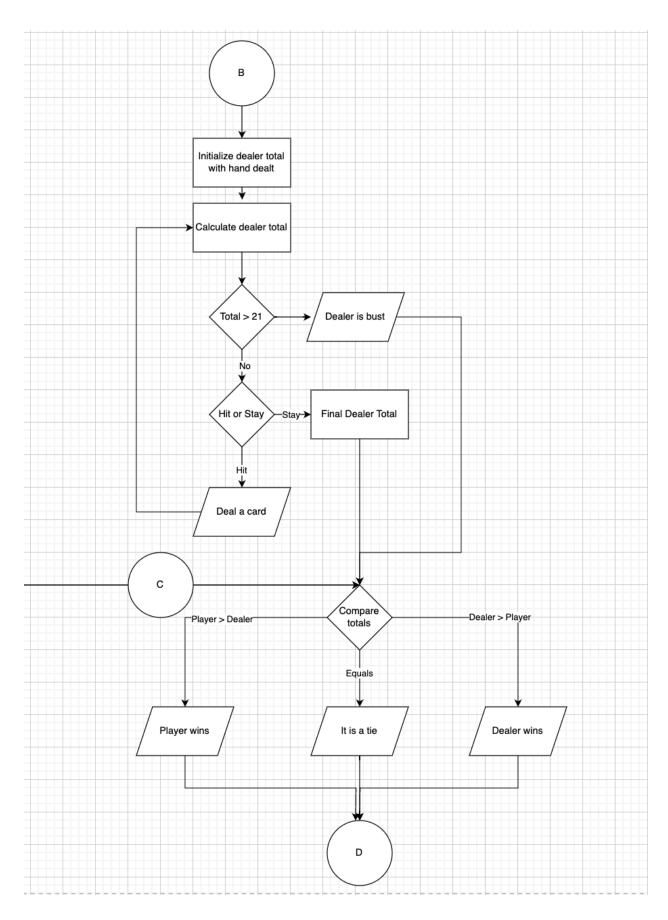
Close the output file Exit program

Diagram

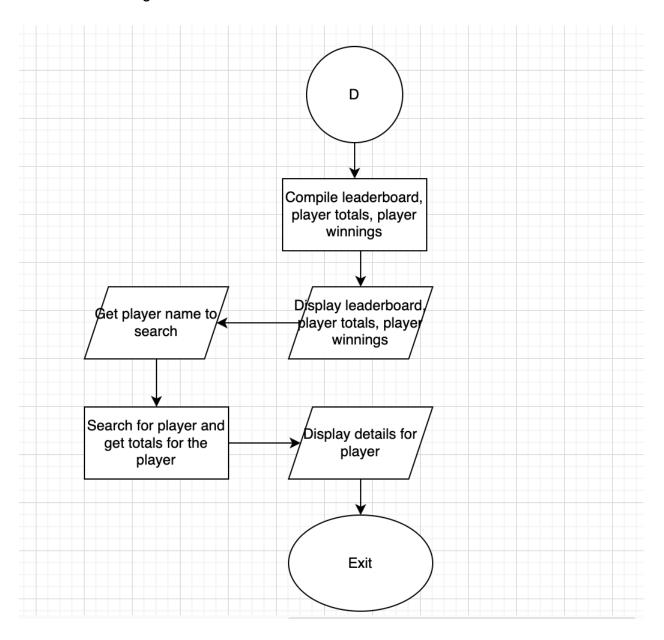
1. Initial sections of the game



2. Middle sections of the game



3. End of the game



Functions in the Program

1. getCard():

Flow: Generates a random card value between 1 and 13. Face cards are converted to 10, and Aces are treated as 11.

Generate a random number between 1 and 13

```
If number > 10, return 10
If number == 1, return 11
Otherwise, return the number
```

2. getSuit():

Flow: Generates a random suit from the four possible suits (Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs, Spades).

```
Generate a random number between 0 and 3 If 0, return "Hearts"
If 1, return "Diamonds"
If 2, return "Clubs"
If 3, return "Spades"
```

3. updFile():

Flow: Updates the file with card details, recording the player's card.

```
If file is open
Write player name, card value, and suit to the file
```

4. updHand():

Flow: Updates the hand array and total for the given player with the new card details.

```
If indices are within bounds

Add card value to player's hand total

Append card value and suit to the player's hand suit string
```

5. recWin():

Flow: Records the winner's details in the file.

```
If file is open
Write player or dealer's hand and total to the file
Write the winner's name to the file
```

6. vallnput():

Flow: Validates the user input for hitting or standing.

While input is invalid
Clear input buffer
Prompt for valid input

7. valBet():

Flow: Validates the bet amount input, ensuring it is a positive number.

While bet is invalid
Clear input buffer
Prompt for valid bet amount

8. showLead():

Flow: Displays the leaderboard showing player winnings.

For each player

If player name is not empty

Display player's name and winnings

9. **exitMsg()**:

Flow: Displays an exit message and terminates the program.

Display the message Exit the program

10. bubbleSort():

Flow: Sorts the players' scores in descending order using the bubble sort algorithm.

Do

Set swapped to false
For each pair of adjacent elements
If first element is less than the second
Swap the elements
Set swapped to true
While swapped is true

11. selectionSort():

Flow: Sorts the players' winnings in descending order using the selection sort algorithm.

For each element in the array
Assume the current element is the largest
For each of the remaining elements
If element is larger than the assumed largest
Update the largest element index
Swap the current element with the largest element found

12. linearSearch():

Flow: Searches for a player's name in the list and returns the index if found.

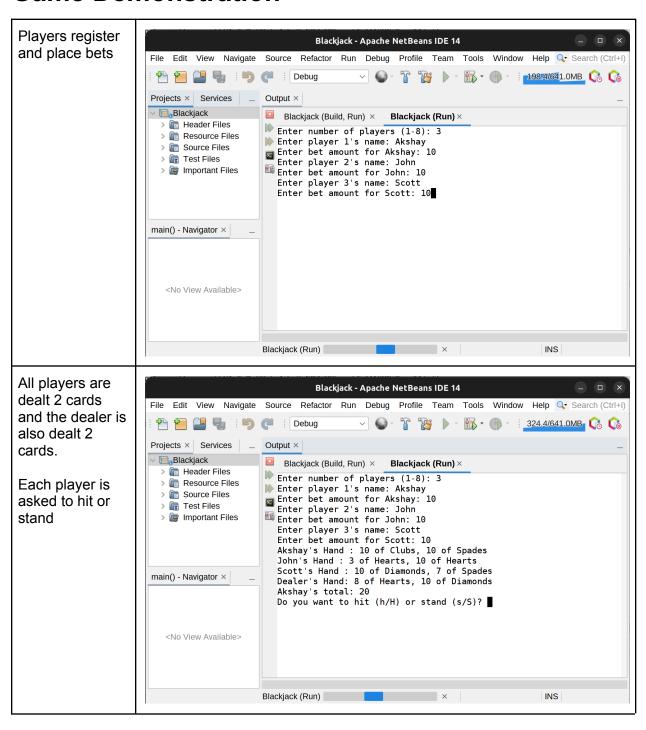
For each name in the list

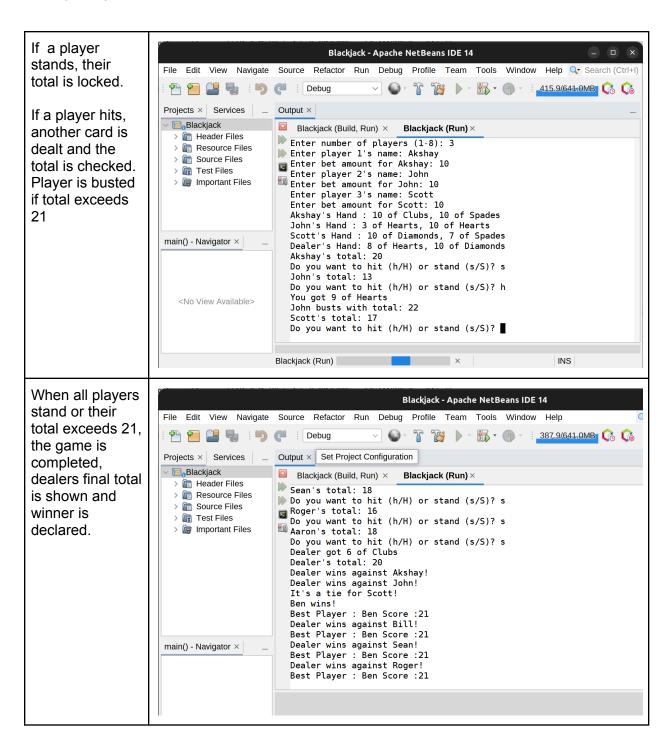
If name matches the target

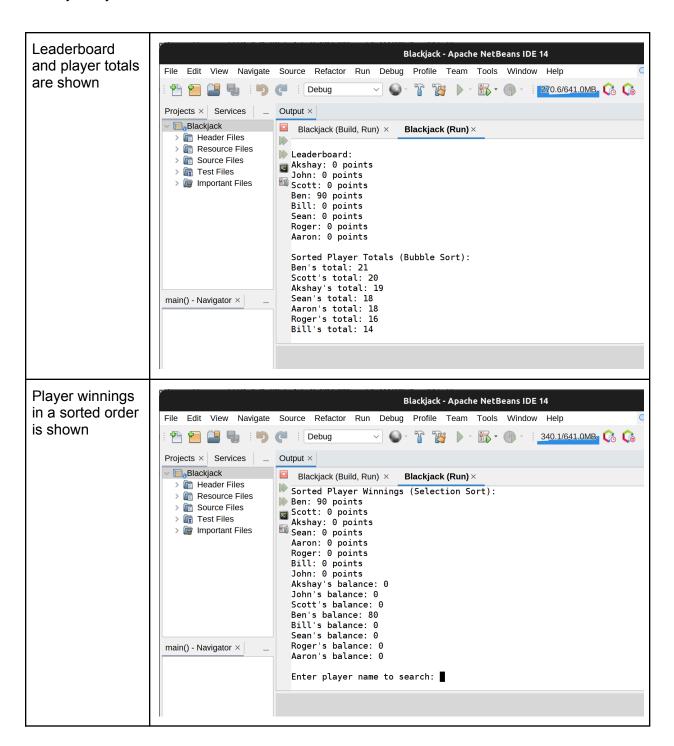
Return the index

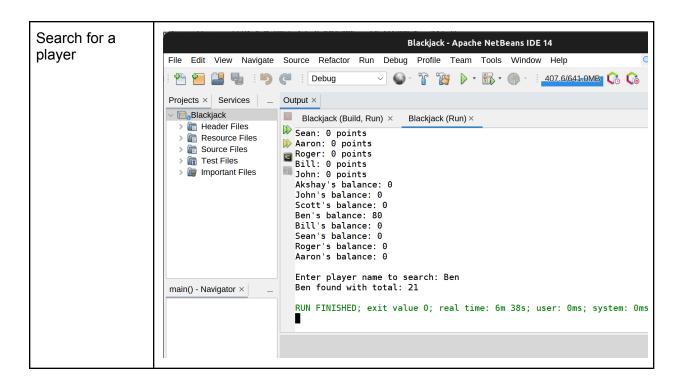
Return -1 if not found

Game Demonstration









Appendix-1: The Code

```
* File: main.cpp
* Author: Akshay Balaji
* Created: 7/21/2024
* Purpose: Blackjack game
*/
// System Libraries
#include <iostream>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <ctime>
#include <string>
#include <fstream>
#include <vector>
#include <limits>
using namespace std;
// User Libraries
// Global Constants, no Global Variables are allowed
// Math/Physics/Conversions/Higher Dimensions - i.e. PI, e, etc...
const int MAX SCORE = 21;
const int DEALER LIMIT = 17;
const int MIN PLAYERS = 1;
const int MAX PLAYERS = 8;
const int MAX CARDS = 10:
// Structure to hold player information
struct Player {
  string name;
  int total;
  int wnngs;
};
// Function Prototypes
int getCard();
                // Get a random card value
string getSuit();
                   // Get a random card suit
void updFile(ofstream&, const string&, int, const string& = "Unknown"); // Update file
with card details
void updHand(int[][MAX CARDS], int[], int, int, vector<string>&, const string&); //
Update hand with card details
void recWin(ofstream&, const vector<string>&, int[][MAX_CARDS], int[], int, const
```

```
string&); // Record the winner in the file
void valInput(char&); // Validate user input for hit or stand
void valBet(int&):
                     // Validate bet input
void showLead(const vector<Player>&, int); // Display the leaderboard
void exitMsg(const string& msg); // Exit function with a message
void bubbleSort(vector<Player>&); // Bubble sort for player scores
void selectionSort(vector<Player>&); // Selection sort for player winnings
int linearSearch(const vector<string>&, const string&); // Linear search for player
names
int getCard(int multiplier); // Overloaded function to get a random card value with a
multiplier
// Execution Begins Here!
int main() {
  // Declare Variables
  int nPlyrs;
  vector<string> pNames; // Declare vector without initializing size
  int pBets[MAX_PLAYERS]:
  int pBlns[MAX PLAYERS] = {0}; // Player balances initialized to 0
  int tWngs[MAX PLAYERS + 1] = {0}; // Total wnngs (last index for dealer)
  vector<string> winnrs(MAX PLAYERS + 1); // Names of winners
  int pTotals[MAX PLAYERS + 1] = {0}; // +1 for the dealer
  int dTotal;
  int dCard1. dCard2:
  string dSuit1, dSuit2;
  int hands[MAX PLAYERS + 1][MAX CARDS] = {0}; // +1 for the dealer
  vector<string> hSuits: // Vector for hand suits based on number of players
  srand(static cast<unsigned int>(time(0)));
  ofstream outFile("card.dat", ios::app);
  if (!outFile.is open()) {
     exitMsg("Error opening file!");
  while (true) {
     cout << "Enter number of players (1-8): ";
     cin >> nPlyrs;
     // Check if the input is an integer
     if (cin.fail()) {
       cin.clear();
       cin.ignore(numeric limits<streamsize>::max(), '\n');
```

```
cout << "Invalid input. Please enter a number between 1 and 8." << endl;
     } else if (nPlyrs < MIN PLAYERS || nPlyrs > MAX PLAYERS) {
       cout << "Invalid number of players. Enter a number between 1 and 8." << endl;
    } else {
       break; // Valid input
  }
  pNames.resize(nPlyrs); // Resize vector to the number of players
  vector<Player> players(nPlyrs); // Vector of Player structures
  hSuits.resize(nPlyrs + 1); // Resize handSuits for the number of players and one for
the dealer
  for (int i = 0; i < nPlyrs; ++i) {
     cout << "Enter player " << i + 1 << "'s name: ";
     cin.ignore();
     getline(cin, pNames[i]);
     players[i].name = pNames[i];
     cout << "Enter bet amount for " << pNames[i] << ": ";
     cin >> pBets[i]:
     valBet(pBets[i]);
  }
  for (int i = 0; i < nPlyrs; ++i) {
     // Deal two cards to each player
    for (int j = 0; j < 2; ++j) {
       int crd = getCard();
       string sut = getSuit();
       updHand(hands, pTotals, i, j, crd, hSuits, sut);
     players[i].total = pTotals[i];
     cout << pNames[i] << "'s Hand: " << hSuits[i] << endl;
  // Initial card dealing for the dealer
  dCard1 = getCard();
  dSuit1 = getSuit():
  updHand(hands, pTotals, nPlyrs, 0, dCard1, hSuits, dSuit1);
  dCard2 = getCard();
  dSuit2 = getSuit();
  updHand(hands, pTotals, nPlyrs, 1, dCard2, hSuits, dSuit2);
  dTotal = dCard1 + dCard2;
  cout << "Dealer's Hand: " << hSuits[nPlyrs] << endl;</pre>
```

```
// Player's Turn: Each player can hit or stand
for (int i = 0; i < nPlyrs; ++i) {
  char choice;
  int cardIndex = 2;
  do {
     cout << pNames[i] << "'s total: " << pTotals[i] << endl;
     cout << "Do you want to hit (h/H) or stand (s/S)? ";
     cin >> choice;
     valInput(choice);
     if (choice == 'h' || choice == 'H') {
       int newCrd = getCard();
       string newSut = getSuit();
       if (cardIndex < MAX CARDS) {
          updHand(hands, pTotals, i, cardIndex, newCrd, hSuits, newSut);
          cardIndex++:
          cout << "You got " << newCrd << " of " << newSut << endl;
          cout << "Maximum cards reached for " << pNames[i] << endl:
          break;
       }
       if (pTotals[i] > MAX SCORE) {
          cout << pNames[i] << " busts with total: " << pTotals[i] << endl;
          break:
       }
  } while (choice == 'h' || choice == 'H');
  players[i].total = pTotals[i];
// Dealer's Turn: Dealer hits until reaching DEALER LIMIT
int dealerCardIndex = 2:
while (dTotal < DEALER LIMIT && dealerCardIndex < MAX CARDS) {
  int newCrd = getCard();
  string newSut = getSuit();
  dTotal += newCrd:
  cout << "Dealer got " << newCrd << " of " << newSut << endl:
  updHand(hands, pTotals, nPlyrs, dealerCardIndex, newCrd, hSuits, newSut);
  dealerCardIndex++;
}
cout << "Dealer's total: " << dTotal << endl;
string bPlyr = "";
```

```
int bTotal = 0;
// Determine winners
for (int i = 0; i < nPlyrs; ++i) {
  if (pTotals[i] > MAX SCORE) {
     cout << pNames[i] << " busts and cannot win!" << endl;
     tWngs[nPlyrs] += pBets[i];
     winnrs[nPlyrs] = "Dealer";
  } else if (dTotal > MAX_SCORE || pTotals[i] > dTotal) {
     cout << pNames[i] << " wins!" << endl;
     recWin(outFile, pNames, hands, pTotals, i, pNames[i]);
     tWngs[i] += pBets[i] * (nPlyrs + 1);
     pBlns[i] += pBets[i] * nPlyrs;
     winnrs[i] = pNames[i];
     players[i].wnngs = pBets[i] * (nPlyrs + 1);
     if (pTotals[i] > bTotal) {
        bTotal = pTotals[i];
        bPlyr = pNames[i];
     }
  } else if (dTotal > pTotals[i]) {
     cout << "Dealer wins against " << pNames[i] << "!" << endl;
     recWin(outFile, pNames, hands, pTotals, i, "Dealer");
     tWngs[nPlyrs] += pBets[i];
     winnrs[nPlyrs] = "Dealer";
  } else {
     cout << "It's a tie for " << pNames[i] << "!" << endl;
     recWin(outFile, pNames, hands, pTotals, i, "Tie");
     winnrs[i] = pNames[i];
  }
  if (bTotal > 0)
     cout << "Best Player: " << bPlyr << " Score: " << bTotal << endl;
}
// Record dealer's final hand
recWin(outFile, pNames, hands, pTotals, nPlyrs, "Dealer");
// Close the card.dat file
outFile.close();
// Show Leaderboard
showLead(players, nPlyrs);
// Sort player totals using bubble sort
bubbleSort(players);
```

```
// Display sorted player totals
  cout << "\nSorted Player Totals (Bubble Sort):" << endl;</pre>
  for (int i = 0; i < nPlyrs; ++i) {
     cout << players[i].name << ": " << players[i].total << endl;
  }
  // Sort player wnngs using selection sort
  selectionSort(players);
  // Display sorted wnngs
  cout << "\nSorted Player Winnings (Selection Sort):" << endl;</pre>
  for (int i = 0; i < nPlyrs; ++i) {
     cout << players[i].name << ": " << players[i].wnngs << " points" << endl;
  }
  // Display player balances
  for (int i = 0; i < nPlyrs; ++i) {
     cout << pNames[i] << "'s balance: " << pBlns[i] << endl;
  // Search for a player by name
  string srchNm;
  cout << "\nEnter player name to search: ";
  cin.ignore();
  getline(cin, srchNm);
  int srchldx = linearSearch(pNames, srchNm);
  if (srchldx != -1) {
     cout << srchNm << " found with total: " << pTotals[srchldx] << endl;
  } else {
     cout << srchNm << " not found." << endl;
  return 0;
// Static variable to count number of cards dealt
static int cardCount = 0:
// Get a random card value
int getCard() {
  cardCount++:
  // get a random card
  int card = rand() \% 13 + 1;
  // all face cards get value 10
```

```
if (card > 10) return 10;
  // Ace gets value 11
  if (card == 1) return 11;
  // return card value otherwise
  return card:
}
// Overloaded function to get a random card value with a multiplier
int getCard(int multiplier) {
   cardCount++:
   int card = (rand() % 13 + 1) * multiplier;
  if (card > 10 * multiplier) return 10 * multiplier;
   if (card == 1 * multiplier) return 11 * multiplier;
  return card;
// Get a random card suit
string getSuit() {
  // get a random suite
  int suit = rand() \% 4;
   switch (suit) {
     case 0: return "Hearts";
     case 1: return "Diamonds";
     case 2: return "Clubs";
     case 3: return "Spades";
  return "":
// Update file with card details
void updFile(ofstream &file, const string &plyr, int val, const string &suit) {
  file << plyr << ": " << val << " of " << suit << endl;
}
// Record the winner in the file
void recWin(ofstream &file, const vector<string> &pNames, int
hands[][MAX_CARDS], int pTotals[], int idx, const string &wnr) {
  if (file.is open()) {
     // Write the accumulated hand for the player or dealer
     if (idx < pNames.size()) {</pre>
        file << pNames[idx] << ": ";
     } else {
```

```
file << "Dealer: ";
     }
     for (int i = 0; i < MAX CARDS; ++i) {
        if (hands[idx][i] == 0) break;
        file << hands[idx][i] << " ";
     }
     file << "\nTotal: " << pTotals[idx] << endl;
     file << "Winner: " << wnr << endl;
  } else {
     ofstream outFile("card.dat", ios::app);
     if (idx < pNames.size()) {
        outFile << pNames[idx] << ": ";
     } else {
        outFile << "Dealer: ";
     for (int i = 0; i < MAX CARDS; ++i) {
        if (hands[idx][i] == 0) break;
        outFile << hands[idx][i] << " ";
     }
     outFile << "\nTotal: " << pTotals[idx] << endl;
     outFile << "Winner: " << wnr << endl;
     outFile.close();
  }
// Validate user input for hit or stand
void valInput(char &choice) {
  while (cin.fail() || (choice != 'h' && choice != 'H' && choice != 's' && choice != 'S')) {
     cin.clear();
     cin.ignore(numeric limits<streamsize>::max(), '\n');
     cout << "Invalid choice. Please enter 'h/H' to hit or 's/S' to stand: ";
     cin >> choice;
// Update hands in array
void updHand(int hands[][MAX CARDS], int pTotals[], int idx, int cardIdx, int crd,
vector<string> &hSuits, const string &suit) {
  if (idx >= MAX_PLAYERS + 1 || cardIdx >= MAX_CARDS) {
     cout << "Index out of bounds. Skipping hand update." << endl;
     return;
```

```
hands[idx][cardIdx] = crd;
  pTotals[idx] += crd;
  if (hSuits[idx].empty()) {
     hSuits[idx] = to string(crd) + " of " + suit;
  } else {
     hSuits[idx] += ", " + to string(crd) + " of " + suit;
// Validate bet input
void valBet(int &bet) {
  while (cin.fail() || bet <= 0) {
     cin.clear();
     cin.ignore(numeric limits<streamsize>::max(), '\n');
     cout << "Invalid bet amount. Please enter a positive number: ";
     cin >> bet:
// Display the leaderboard
void showLead(const vector<Player> &players, int nPlyrs) {
  cout << "\nLeaderboard:" << endl;
  for (int i = 0; i < nPlyrs; ++i) {
     if (!players[i].name.empty()) {
        cout << players[i].name << ": " << players[i].wnngs << " points" << endl;
// Exit function with a message
void exitMsg(const string &msg) {
  cout << msg << endl;
  exit(1);
// Bubble sort for player scores
void bubbleSort(vector<Player> &players) {
  bool swapped;
  do {
     swapped = false;
     for (size t i = 0; i < players.size() - 1; ++i) {
        if (players[i].total < players[i + 1].total) {
          swap(players[i], players[i + 1]);
          swapped = true;
```

```
} while (swapped);
// Selection sort for player wnngs
void selectionSort(vector<Player> &players) {
  for (size_t i = 0; i < players.size() - 1; ++i) {
     size t maxldx = i;
     for (\text{size\_t } j = i + 1; j < \text{players.size}(); ++j) {
        if (players[j].wnngs > players[maxldx].wnngs) {
           maxldx = i;
        }
     swap(players[i], players[maxldx]);
// Linear search for player names
int linearSearch(const vector<string> &names, const string &target) {
  for (size t i = 0; i < names.size(); ++i) {
     if (names[i] == target) {
        return i;
     }
  return -1; // Not found
```

Appendix 2: GitHub Repository Information

- Repository: https://github.com/abalaji05/cis-5
- Folder: Blackjack
- Code Line Count: 408 lines (excluding comments and blank lines)

Appendix 3: Cross Reference of Concepts

Chapter	Section	Topic	Line Numbers	Notes
6	3	Function Prototypes	40, 41, 42, 43, 44	Always use prototypes
6	5	Pass by Value	254, 258, 263, 271, 278	Functions with value passing
6	8	return	254, 258, 263, 271, 278	Returning a value from a function
6	9	returning boolean	244, 245, 246, 247, 248	Function validation
6	10	Global Variables	N/A	Not used, following project rules
6	11	static variables	554, 555	Used to count the number of cards dealt
6	12	defaulted arguments	128, 129, 130, 131, 132	Default arguments in updFile
6	13	pass by reference	255, 262, 271, 298, 325	Passing vectors and arrays by reference
6	14	overloading	574, 581	Overloaded getCard function
6	15	exit() function	98	Used to exit on file open failure
7	1 to 6	Single Dimensioned Arrays	111, 112, 113, 114, 115	Arrays for player hands and totals
7	7	Parallel Arrays	82, 83, 84, 85, 86	Parallel arrays for player data
7	8	Single Dimensioned as Function Args	126, 135, 137, 172, 177	Arrays passed to functions

7	9	2 Dimensioned Arrays	111, 112, 113, 114, 115	2D array for card hands
7	12	STL Vectors	79, 80, 81, 82, 83	Vectors for dynamic player data
7		Passing Arrays to and from Functions	126, 135, 137, 172, 177	Arrays passed to functions
7		Passing Vectors to and from Functions	255, 262, 271, 298, 325	Passing vectors by reference
8	3	Bubble Sort	481, 482, 483, 484, 485	Bubble sort for player totals
8	3	Selection Sort	503, 504, 505, 506, 507	Selection sort for player winnings
8	1	Linear or Binary Search	535, 536, 537, 538, 539	Linear search for player names