

# Example Generating Prime Numbers using Sieve of Eratosthenes Algorithm

---

 acarlstein.com/

Posted by Alejandro G. Carlstein Ramos Mejia on October 15, 2010 October 15, 2010 About Programming / Algorithms / C++

Example of how to generate prime numbers using Sieve of Eratosthenes algorithm.

NOTIFICATION: These examples are provided for educational purposes. Using this code is under your own responsibility and risk. The code is given 'as is'. I do not take responsibilities of how they are used.

primes.cpp:

```
#include<iostream>
#include<vector>
#include<stdio.h>
#include<ctime>
#include<math.h>
#include<string.h>
using namespace std;

//
// generatePrimesSlow()
// The array arr store the prime numbers up to and including x
// To test if a number i is prime, see if any prime number
// before i divides i evenly. If no prime number does, i is prime
// and is added to our array of prime numbers.
// Note: We should never see a number less than 2 in our array!
//
void generatePrimesSlow(int x, int * arr, int * amount)
{
    int count = 0; // numbers currently in the array

    for(int i=2; i<=x; i++) {
        bool isPrime = true;
        for (int j=0; j<count; j++) {
            if (i % arr[j] == 0) {
                isPrime = false;
                break;
            }
        }
        if (isPrime) {
            arr[count] = i;
            count++;
        }
    }
    *amount = count;
}
```

```

//
// generatePrimesFast()
// The array arr stores our prime numbers up to and including x
// To generate these numbers, we use the the Sieve of Eratosthenes
// Visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sieve\_of\_Eratosthenes
// for the explanation of the algorithm.
//
void generatePrimesFast(int x, int * arr, int * amount)
{
    int num = 2;
    int count = 0;
    bool *boolArr = new bool[x+1];
    //bool boolArr[x];
    memset(boolArr, true, (x+1)*sizeof(bool));
    for(int i=2; i<=x; i++) {
        if (boolArr[i]) {
            arr[count] = i;
            count++;
            int temp = i+i;
            while (temp <= x) {
                boolArr[temp] = false;
                temp += i;
            }
        }
    }
    *amount = count;
}

int main() {
    cout << 'Up to what number would you like to generate primes? ';
    int max;
    cin >> max;
    cout << endl;

    // This will be our array to hold the prime numbers.
    // Notice that this is probably way too much memory, since not every
    // number up to max will be prime
    // In fact, very very few numbers will be, let's try to free up some
    // memory by using some math
    // I think a bound for the number of primes up to N is N/lg(N)
    // Let's try it

    int amount = 0;
    int num_primes;
    if (max > 150) {
        double x = max;
        double actualNumberOfPrimes = x/(log(x)-4);
        //double actualNumberOfPrimes = x/(log(x));
        num_primes = (int) actualNumberOfPrimes;
    }
    else
        num_primes = max;
}

```

```
int arr[num_primes+1];
memset(arr,0,sizeof(arr));
//generatePrimesFast(max, arr, &amount);
generatePrimesSlow(max, arr, &amount);

cout << 'Here are the prime numbers from 2 to ' << max << endl;
for (int i=0; i < amount; i++) {
    cout << arr[i] << endl;
}
}
```

If you encounter any problems or errors, please let me know by providing an example of the code, input, output, and an explanation. Thanks.

© 2010, Alejandro G. Carlstein Ramos Mejia. All rights reserved.