FAQ: Lab1

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Q: Do you mind explaining what argc and argv represent and how to use them?

A: They are variables used to access the arguments passed into a program when it is executed.

int argc = the number of arguments

char *argv[] = an array of strings (character arrays) containing the arguments themselves

The first argument (argv[0]) is always the name of the executable being run.

Try accessing them and printing the results to see how you can use them in your programs.

Q: For the program "fact", is zero considered to be a positive integer.

A: No.

Q: Can you clarify what it means for a point to be smaller or greater than another point? Is it determined by the x value, y value, or something else?

A: The function point_compare() compares the absolute distance of the two points, with respect to the origin (0, 0).

Q: If we get the hash function implementation from somewhere else, do we have to cite where we got it from?

A: It is not required. However, documenting your code with comments, such as where you got an algorithm from, is a good practice.

Q: How can I debug the test_wc program with the big input file:

A: You can pipe the output of test_wc to a file:

```
./test_wc /cad2/ece353s/src/wc-big.txt > wc-big.out
```

The correct results are available in /cad2/ece353s/src/wc-big.res

If you are planning to use valgrind, run:

```
valgrind ./test_wc /cad2/ece353s/src/wc-big.txt > wc-big.out
```

You can also run the program under a debugger:

```
gdb test_wc

# within gdb
r /cad2/ece353s/src/wc-big.txt
```

Q: How do I extract permissions from the mode field of the stat buffer?

A: You need to do the following:

```
st_mode & ~S_IFMT
```