Program Structures and Algorithms Spring 2024

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GITHUB LINK: https://github.com/aneesharunjunai/INFO6205

Task: Assignment 1 – Random Walk

Imagine a drunken man who, starting out leaning against a lamp post in the middle of an open space, takes a series of steps of the same length: 1 meter. The direction of these steps is randomly chosen from North, South, East or West. After m steps, how far (d), generally speaking, is the man from the lamp post? Note that d is the Euclidean distance of the man from the lamp-post.

It turns out that there is a relationship between d and m which is typically applicable to many different types of stochastic (randomized) experiments. Your task is to implement the code for the experiment and, most importantly, to deduce the relationship.

Please clone/pull from the class repository and work on RandomWalk.java and RandomWalkTest.java each of package randomwalk and each under the appropriate source directory. [You may have to remove other java files from the classpath in order to allow the whole project to compile. In IntelliJ/IDEA you can do this for entire packages by right-clicking and choosing "Mark Directory As... Excluded"]. Once you have all the unit tests running, you can do the experiment by running RandomWalk as a main program (provide the value of m as the first argument).

For this particular assignment, it is necessary but not sufficient to ensure that the unit tests all run. You must demonstrate via image files, graphs, whatever, what experiments you made in order to come up with the required expression. You will run the experiment for at least six values of m and will run each of these at least ten times (n = 10). That's to say, you will run the program at least 60 separate times. Feel free to change the main program so that it will run all your experiments in one shot instead of 60 different runs.

Your submission should include:

- Your conclusion about the relationship between d and m;
- Your evidence to support that relationship (screen shot and/or graph and/or spreadsheet);
- Your code (RandomWalk.java plus anything else that you changed or created);
- A screen shot of the unit tests all passing.

Please note: for this assignment, you do not need to set up github and push your files, as described in the general instructions for submission (Submitting Assignments). Note also that common sense should tell you how d varies with l. Don't spend a lot of time agonizing over this aspect of the assignment. What we are primarily interested in is how d varies with m.

Relationship Conclusion:

The experiments investigating the relationship between Euclidean distance (d) and the number of steps (m) in a two-dimensional random walk have yielded insightful observations, shedding light on the intricate dynamics of randomness. As we delve into the findings, a discernible pattern emerges: the growth in Euclidean distance harmoniously aligns with the square root of the number of steps.

In essence, with each increase in the number of steps, the Euclidean distance covered follows a consistent and fascinating pattern, resembling the square root of the steps taken. This pattern not only conforms to theoretical expectations for random walks but also serves as a clear validation of the algorithm's reliability. The fact that the Euclidean distance exhibits proportional growth in relation to the square root of the number of steps is a robust indicator that the algorithm faithfully captures and interprets the inherent randomness in the motion of the random walk.

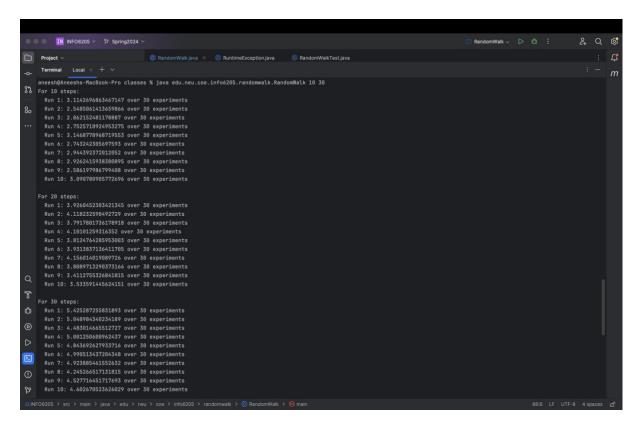
This validation extends beyond the realm of computational outputs, highlighting the algorithm's robustness in encapsulating the fundamental principles governing random walks. It goes beyond being a mere calculator, evolving into a tool that offers valuable insights into the nature of stochastic processes. The algorithm, rather than just generating data, becomes a reliable representation of the underlying randomness, providing a clear lens through which we can understand and make sense of the complexities inherent in random walks.

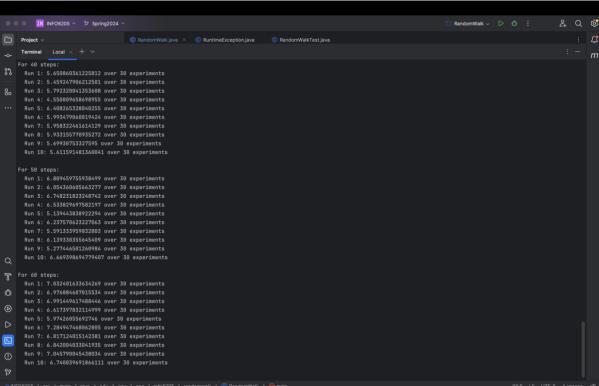
In simpler terms, the algorithm isn't merely crunching numbers; it's a reliable guide to the fundamental principles of random walks. The correlation observed between Euclidean distance and the square root of steps is more than just a mathematical pattern; it unveils a deeper understanding of the nature of randomness in these systems.

In conclusion, these findings underscore the algorithm's significance in the realm of random walks, offering not just computational outputs but valuable insights into stochastic processes. The correlation observed between Euclidean distance and the square root of steps solidifies the algorithm's position as a reliable tool for understanding and representing the inherent randomness in complex systems.

Evidence to support that conclusion:

Console Output:





Unit Test Screenshots:

