

2 Part : Path-finding in a grid

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In this exercise you will implement a class representing a terrain in the form of a rectangular grid. The cells of the grid are indexed with pairs of integers, where $(0, 0)$ represents the lower left cell of the grid, and $(m - 1, n - 1)$ represents the top right cell of the grid, where m is the width and n is the height of the grid. For example, a grid of width 4 and height 3 is indexed in the following way:

$(0, 2)$	$(1, 2)$	$(2, 2)$	$(3, 2)$
$(0, 1)$	$(1, 1)$	$(2, 1)$	$(3, 1)$
$(0, 0)$	$(1, 0)$	$(2, 0)$	$(3, 0)$

Some of the cells of the grid are *blocked by obstacles*. We are interested in determining whether there is a path to reach a given *goal cell* from a given *start cell* by moving one cell at a time in each of the four cardinal directions: **North, East, West, South**, and never entering a blocked cell or stepping outside of the grid. You will write functions that compute and output such a path if one exists, or otherwise report that there is none.

In the example above, suppose that cells $(3, 0)$, $(3, 2)$, $(0, 1)$ and $(1, 1)$ are blocked. We will represent grids in a textual form, denoting blocked cells with **x**, and denoting cells that are not blocked by **o**. Thus, the grid with these blocked cells is represented as:

o	o	o	x
x	x	o	o
o	o	o	x

If the start cell is $(0, 0)$ and the goal is $(0, 2)$, then a path from start to goal is

$(0, 0), (1, 0), (2, 0), (2, 1), (2, 2), (1, 2), (0, 2)$.

We can represent this path in our textual representation as follows:

g	*	*	x
x	x	*	o
s	*	*	x

Here, **s** denotes the start, **g** denotes the goal, and the * symbols denote the cells visited in this path from start to goal. Note that the letters **s** and **g** overwrite the * symbols from the corresponding cells of the path. If the start and the goal are the same cell, then the cell should be marked with **g**.

Alternatively, we can represent this path as a sequence of directions as follows:

Move from $(0, 0)$ to $(2, 0)$.

Turn North.

Move from $(2, 0)$ to $(2, 2)$.

Turn West.

Move from $(2, 2)$ to $(0, 2)$.

You have arrived at your destination.

You will have to implement functions for reading the description of a grid from a given file and computing a path for the start to the goal location in the grid, or determining

that there is no such path. Recall that a path should not enter blocked cells or exit the grid. You will also have to implement functions for outputting a computed path, in each of the two formats above: as the textual representation on the grid, and as a sequence of move and turn directions. Finally, you also have to implement functions for getting and changing the state of the grid (blocked cells, and start and goal locations).

A detailed description of the functions of the class is given in `Grid.h`.