CYSE 6200 Lab 2 – Assignment 1

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Problem 1 description:

The objective in this task is to verify a credit card number using predetermined guidelines.

To maintain the accuracy of their numbers, credit cards adhere to specific patterns.

A legitimate credit card number needs to:

have thirteen to sixteen digits.

Prefixes like 4 (Visa), 5 (MasterCard), 37 (American Express), or 6 (Discover) are good places t o start.

To solve a crucial component of this issue, my program applies the Luhn algorithm, a complex yet refined technique for validating credit card numbers.

As I worked on this assignment, I came to understand that creating a trustworthy first line ofdefe nse in financial transactions is more important than simply verifying figures.

What fascinates me about this topic is how a seemingly simple mathematical algorithm may prevent costly errors.

Examine the following situations:

- When entering their card number, a consumer unintentionally swaps two digits (for exam ple, typing 1234 as 1334).
- When a card reader malfunctions, a digit is interpreted incorrectly. For fraudulent purposes, a random credit card number is created by someone.

Why This Issue Is Important:

As I worked on this solution, I learned that this validation mechanism is not limited to credit card use; it also supports other real-world applications.

The same ideas could be used for:

- Routing numbers for banks
- Government identification numbers
- Package tracking numbers.
- Digital payment systems

The difficulty lay not just in putting the algorithm into practice but also in building a solid syste m that can manage a range of edge circumstances and give consumers unambiguous feedback.

Analysis:

Algorithm Implementation and Overall Design: I took a systematic approach to implementing the credit card validation:

1. Core Validation Logic:

- First phase: Process even-positioned digits
 - Start from right side
 - o Double each digit
 - o Handle two-digit results by adding individual digits
- Second phase: Handle odd-positioned digits
- Final phase: Combine results and verify divisibility by 10
- 2. Design Principles:
- Used String manipulation for easier digit processing
- Implemented robust error checking
- Separated concerns into distinct methods
- Focused on maintainable, readable code

Difficulties Encountered

Algorithm Logic Challenges:

When constructing sumOfDoubleEvenPlace, I first had trouble with the even/odd position proce ssing. We had to process from right to left, thus we had to be careful with the indexing. had to make sure that doubled digits, which produced two-digit numbers, were handled correctly.

Problems with Technical Implementation:

Number integrity remains intact while converting between String and long data formats. Making sure that edge cases (minimum/maximum card lengths) are handled correctly Effectively implementing prefix matching without requiring numerous string conversions.

Future Improvements

The following enhancements could be done with further time:

- Improved Error Handling: Incorporate a more thorough user feedback mechanism for incorrect inputs.
- Performance Optimization: While the software functions well for this use case, there is ro om for improvement when it comes to larger datasets.
- Enhancements to the User Experience: Create a more engaging interface that allows users to enter and verify several credit card numbers.

Source Code:

```
/** Sum of odd place digits */
public static int sum0f0ddPlace(long number) {
    int sum = 0;
    String numStr = Long.toString(number);

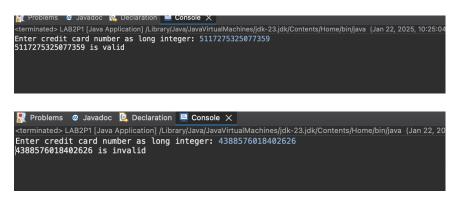
// Traverse digits from the last digit, adding odd-place digits
    for (int i = numStr.length() - 1; i >= 0; i -= 2) {
        sum += Character.getNumericValue(numStr.charAt(i));
    }
    return sum;
}

/** Check if the card starts with a valid prefix */
public static boolean prefixMatched(long number, int d) {
        return getPrefix(number, getSize(d)) == d;
}

/** Get the number of digits in a long value */
public static int getSize(long d) {
        return Long.toString(d).length();
}

/** Get the first k digits of a number */
public static long getPrefix(long number, int k) {
        String numStr = Long.toString(number);
        return numStr.length() < k ? number : Long.parseLong(numStr.substring(0, k));
}
</pre>
```

Screenshots of Sample run:



Problem 2 description:

The objective of this task is to process student grades from a file and calculate how each grade deviates from the class average. This problem focuses on file handling in Java and performing statistical calculations on the data.

The program needs to:

- Read grades from a file named "csye6200.txt"
- Process up to the first 15 grades
- Calculate the average of these grades
- Display each grade's deviation from the average

What makes this problem interesting is its real-world applicability in educational settings. As I worked on this solution, I realized this type of analysis is crucial for:

- Understanding grade distributions in a class
- Identifying outliers in student performance
- Helping educators adjust their teaching methods
- Providing students with context for their performance

Analysis:

Algorithm Implementation and Overall Design:

- The grade analysis system was created with an organized plan that covered a number of important design and implementation facets.
- I created an ArrayList for dynamic grade storage and used the Scanner class for file proce ssing to guarantee effective file reading activities. Only the first 15 grades in the dataset w ere processed in accordance with the specifications.

Design Principles:

- With separate approaches managing the primary logic and average calculation independe ntly, thedesign principles prioritized preserving a clear separation of concerns.
 I made sure that decimal output was formatted correctly and included strong error handling for file operations.
- To improve readability and maintainability, I kept the code structure tidy and the variable names descriptive throughout the development process.

Difficulties Encountered

A number of difficulties surfaced in several areas during development. It was challenging to handle possible file format problems with non-numeric data, ensure correct file path resolution across various IDE settings, and efficiently manage file resource cleanup using try-with-resources blocks.

Data processing issues included maintaining precision in floating-point calculations, implementing suitable rounding for display purposes, and assuring accurate average computations with varied number of grades. To smoothly address missing file scenarios, empty file cases, and improper data types, error handling must be precise.

Future Improvements

- Looking toward future improvements, several enhancements could be implemented given additional development time.
- Additional statistical measures including median, mode, and standard deviation, as well
 as visualrepresentations of grade distribution and grade categorization in relation to the
 class average, could be included in enhanced data analysis capabilities.
- File handling enhancements could enable batch processing for several class sections, ena ble dynamic file path specification, and extend support to multiple file formats, such as C SV and Excel.
- Enhancements to the user interface can include data export capabilities, options for vario us output formats, and interactive grade input possibilities.

Source code:

Screenshots of Sample run: