

GUIssing game

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1 Introduction

This project is the sequel to the popular `assignment_guessing`, at https://github.com/elterminad0r/assignment_guessing, now featuring a very useful and fluid graphical interface, more object orientation, and cleaner general coding practice.

It uses the same techniques to search both \mathbb{Q} and \mathbb{Z} , but doesn't implement the linear approach to either, as it's not really preferable in any circumstance.

2 Programs

2.1 Interesting

Despite the fact that the same algorithms from last time can be reapplied, their implementations have to be suited to the event-driven idiom. This is reflected in listing 1, which contains the ‘boilerplate’ code. It represents the broad protocol that a component implementing guessing should follow.

This is that a guesser may must implement a method to ask a question, and a separate method that receives the answer. The guesser should appropriately modify its internal state so that it knows what question is being answered, and what to ask next. This is really a kind of poor man’s synchronous coroutine, as implemented for example by Python’s generators, where the internal state is simply a stack frame. However, these do not come with `fpc`.

The other thing to note is that a guesser being able to deduce a number is considered exceptional behaviour, and hence is implemented by an exception, which should carry a message including what the correctly guessed number is, which may then be caught. If the guesser is not sure of the user’s number, it should simply ask a normal question to verify if a guess is correct. This is implemented for example in listing 3.

It is implemented as an abstract class rather than as an interface because the main code also wants to be able to tear the engine down, with a `Free` call to prevent memory leakage. Unfortunately, destructors can’t be included in interfaces, so there is no guarantee that an implementing class can be freed. Because of this, I instead use an object, which is understood to have a `Free` method.

```

1  {$MODE OBJFPC}
2
3  unit UGuesser;
4
5  interface
6
7  uses SysUtils;
8
9  type
10     // base classes
11     TGuesser = class abstract
12         function ask_question: string; virtual; abstract;
13         procedure answer_question(reply: boolean); virtual; abstract;
14     end;
15     EGuessSuccessful = class(Exception);
16
17 implementation
18
19 end.
```

Listing 1: UGuesser.pas: Boilerplate and definitions for guessing objects

Listing 2 shows a class implementing this protocol, namely by performing a binary search. As previously discussed, this version of binary search works on the entirety of \mathbb{Z} , by determining bounds in a similar ‘binary’ manner (at least, it should be able to find sensible bounds in $O(\log_2(n))$ (and then guess the number in $O(\log_2(n))$)).

```

1  {$MODE OBJFPC}
2
3  unit UBinarySearch;
4
5  interface
6
7  uses UGuesser, SysUtils;
8
9  const
10     // Symbolic constant representing the starting upper bound. 64 chosen to
11     // encompass most 2-digit numbers.
12     STARTING_BOUND = 64;
13
14  type
15     // Simple binary search, using the interval $Z & [lo, up)$.
16     // These bounds are determined by continually multiplying up by 2 until the
17     // user's number lies in the range.
18     TBinarySearcher = class(TGuesser)
19     protected
20         // various flags representing current stage of guessing
21         has_bounds, has_sign: boolean;
22         // bounds, and current pivot
23         lo, mid, up: integer;
24     public
25         constructor Create;
26         function ask_question: string; override;
27         procedure answer_question(reply: boolean); override;
28     end;
29
30  implementation
31
32  constructor TBinarySearcher.Create;
33  begin
34     has_bounds := False;
35     has_sign := False;
36     up := STARTING_BOUND;
37     lo := 0;
38  end;
39
40  function TBinarySearcher.ask_question: string;
41  begin
42     if not has_bounds then begin
43         Result := Format('Is %d \le \abs{n} < %d?', [lo, up]);
44     end else if not has_sign then
45         Result := 'Is n \ge 0?'
46     else begin
47         mid := (lo + up) div 2;
48         Result := Format('Is n \ge %d?', [mid]);
49     end;
50  end;
51

```

```

52 procedure TBinarySearcher.answer_question(reply: boolean);
53 var
54     tmp: integer;
55 begin
56     if not has_bounds then
57         if not reply then begin
58             lo := up;
59             up := up * 2;
60         end else
61             has_bounds := True
62     else if not has_sign then begin
63         if not reply then begin
64             tmp := lo;
65             // negate bounds, accounting for (non)?strictness
66             lo := -up + 1;
67             up := -tmp + 1;
68         end;
69         has_sign := True;
70     end else begin
71         if reply then
72             lo := mid
73         else
74             up := mid;
75         if up - lo <= 1 then
76             raise EGuessSuccessful.Create(Format('Your number was %d.', [lo]));
77         end;
78     end;
79
80 end.

```

Listing 2: UBinarySearch.pas: Implementation of unbounded binary search

Listing 3 shows a class implementing a search on \mathbb{Q} . This is separated from listing 2 as when considering the case of integers, this effectively degenerates into a slow linear search (taking the consecutive upper mediant of $\frac{0}{1}$ and $\frac{1}{0}$ results in the sequence $\frac{1}{1}, \frac{2}{1}, \frac{3}{1}, \dots$).

```

1  {$MODE OBJFPC}
2
3  unit USternBrocotSearch;
4
5  interface
6
7  uses UGuesser, SysUtils;
8
9  type
10     // class to descend a Stern-Brocot tree in search of a rational, with added
11     // logic to deal with negative rationals.
12     // Stern-Brocot searching works by taking the mediant of upper and lower
13     // bounds. The median is guaranteed to be strictly between a and b, but also
14     // preserves the property of "lower complexity" - ie the denominator grows
15     // additively rather than multiplicatively. By setting the upper bounds as

```

```

16  // 1/0, we can easily search the entirety of  $Q^+$ , and need only determine sign.
17  TSternBrocotSearcher = class(TGuesser)
18  protected
19      // flags to determine current stage of guessing
20      has_sign, is_nonzero, is_mid: boolean;
21      // numerator and denominator for each fraction
22      lo_n, lo_d, mid_n, mid_d, up_n, up_d: integer;
23  public
24      // user interfacing methods
25      constructor Create;
26      function ask_question: string; override;
27      procedure answer_question(reply: boolean); override;
28  end;
29
30  implementation
31
32  constructor TSternBrocotSearcher.Create;
33  begin
34      has_sign := False;
35      is_nonzero := False;
36      is_mid := True;
37      up_n := 1; up_d := 0;
38      lo_n := 0; lo_d := 1;
39  end;
40
41  function TSternBrocotSearcher.ask_question: string;
42  begin
43      if not is_nonzero then
44          result := 'Is q = 0?'
45      else if not has_sign then
46          result := 'Is q  $\geq$  0?'
47      else if is_mid then begin
48          mid_n := lo_n + up_n;
49          mid_d := lo_d + up_d;
50          result := Format('Is q =  $\frac{\%d}{\%d}$ ?', [mid_n, mid_d]);
51      end else
52          result := Format('Is q >  $\frac{\%d}{\%d}$ ?', [mid_n, mid_d]);
53  end;
54
55  procedure TSternBrocotSearcher.answer_question(reply: boolean);
56  begin
57      if not is_nonzero then
58          if reply then
59              raise EGuessSuccessful.Create('Your number was 0')
60          else
61              is_nonzero := True
62      else if not has_sign then begin
63          // for negative q, set lower bound to -1/0 (acting as -inf)
64          if not reply then begin
65              lo_n := -1; lo_d := 0;
66              up_n := 0; up_d := 1;

```

```

67     end;
68     has_sign := True;
69 end else if is_mid then
70     if reply then
71         raise EGuessSuccessful.Create(Format('Your number was \frac{%d}{%d}', [mid_n,
72             ↪ mid_d]))
73     else
74         is_mid := False
75     else begin
76         if reply then begin
77             lo_n := mid_n; lo_d := mid_d;
78         end else begin
79             up_n := mid_n; up_d := mid_d;
80         end;
81         is_mid := True;
82     end;
83 end;
84 end.

```

Listing 3: USternBrocotSearch.pas: Implementation of unbounded rational search

Listing 4 shows a dummy class that just displays a message whenever it is queried. This is useful for the main form code to show a persistent message to the user while no other searching engine is instantiated.

```

1  {$MODE OBJFPC}
2
3  unit UDummyGuesser;
4
5  interface
6
7  uses UGuesser, SysUtils;
8
9  const
10     STARTING_BOUND = 64;
11
12  type
13     // dummy type to display a message
14     TDummyGuesser = class(TGuesser)
15     protected
16         msg: string;
17     public
18         constructor Create(msg_: string);
19         function ask_question: string; override;
20         procedure answer_question(reply: boolean); override;
21     end;
22
23  implementation
24
25  constructor TDummyGuesser.Create(msg_: string);
26  begin

```

```
27     msg := msg_;
28 end;
29
30 function TDummyGuesser.ask_question: string;
31 begin
32     result := msg;
33 end;
34
35 procedure TDummyGuesser.answer_question(reply: boolean);
36 begin
37 end;
38
39 end.
```

Listing 4: UDummyGuesser.pas: Dummy message-displaying object

2.2 Boring

Listings 5 and 6 contains abridged versions of the lfm (Lazarus Forms) files, serving as a brief summary of all that I did in the object inspector.

```
1 object ComputerGuessing: TComputerGuessing
2     Caption = 'Guessing game'
3     KeyPreview = True
4     OnClose = FormClose
5     OnCreate = FormCreate
6     OnKeyPress = KeyIntercept
7     object YesBtn: TButton
8         Caption = 'Yes'
9         OnClick = YesBtnClick
10    end
11    object NoBtn: TButton
12        Caption = 'No'
13        OnClick = NoBtnClick
14    end
15    object QuestionLbl: TLabel
16        Caption = 'This is where the question goes'
17    end
18    object IntBtn: TButton
19        Caption = 'n \in \mathbb{Z}'
20        OnClick = SetIntSearch
21    end
22    object FracBtn: TButton
23        Caption = 'q \in \mathbb{Q}'
24        OnClick = SetFracSearch
25    end
26    object ExplanationLbl: TLabel
27        Caption = 'The GUI-ssing game'
28    end
29    object SwitchBtn: TButton
30        Caption = 'Switch to user guessing'
```

```

31    OnClick = SwitchBtnClick
32 end
33 end

```

Listing 5: (Heavily redacted) UComputerGuessing.lfm: Layout and programmatic properties of Form elements

```

1  object UserGuessing: TUserGuessing
2      Caption = 'Guessing game'
3      KeyPreview = True
4      OnCreate = FormCreate
5      OnKeyPress = KeyIntercept
6      object LoLbl: TLabel
7          Caption = 'Lower Bound'
8      end
9      object UpLbl: TLabel
10         Caption = 'Upper Bound'
11     end
12     object GenerateBtn: TButton
13         Caption = 'Generate Number'
14         OnClick = GenerateBtnClick
15     end
16     object AnswerLbl: TLabel
17         Caption = 'This is where the answers go'
18     end
19     object GuessLbl: TLabel
20         Caption = 'Guess:'
21     end
22     object SwitchBtn: TButton
23         Caption = 'Back to computer guessing'
24         OnClick = SwitchBtnClick
25     end
26     object LoEdt: TEdit
27         MaxLength = 8
28         Text = '0'
29     end
30     object UpEdt: TEdit
31         MaxLength = 8
32         Text = '128'
33     end
34     object GuessEdt: TEdit
35         MaxLength = 8
36         OnEditingDone = GuessEdtEditingDone
37         Text = ''
38     end
39 end

```

Listing 6: (Heavily redacted) UUserGuessing.lfm: See 5

Listing 7 shows the ‘main’ code that deals with the TForm. This part implements all the callbacks specified for each form component, and relays the user’s actions to the TGuesser currently in action.


```
1  unit UComputerGuessing;
2
3  {$mode objfpc}{$H+}
4
5  interface
6
7  uses
8      // Lazarus forms units
9      Classes, SysUtils, FileUtil, Forms, Controls, Graphics, Dialogs, StdCtrls,
10     ExtCtrls,
11     // Other form
12     UUserGuessing,
13     // Custom units from project
14     UGuesser, UBinarySearch, USternBrocotSearch, UDummyGuesser;
15
16  type
17
18     { TComputerGuessing }
19     // Main form - where the computer guesses the user's number
20     TComputerGuessing = class(TForm)
21         SwitchBtn: TButton;
22         FracBtn, IntBtn: TButton;
23         YesBtn, NoBtn: TButton;
24         ExplanationLbl: TLabel;
25         QuestionLbl: TLabel;
26         procedure FormClose(Sender: TObject; var CloseAction: TCloseAction);
27         procedure FormCreate(Sender: TObject);
28         procedure SwitchBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
29         procedure YesBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
30         procedure NoBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
31         procedure SetIntSearch(Sender: TObject);
32         procedure SetFracSearch(Sender: TObject);
33         procedure KeyIntercept(Sender: TObject; var Key: char);
34         procedure AnsQn(reply: boolean);
35         procedure AskQn;
36     private
37         Guesser: TGuesser;
38     end;
39
40  var
41     ComputerGuessing: TComputerGuessing;
42
43  implementation
44
45     {$R *.lfm}
46
47     { TComputerGuessing }
48
49     procedure TComputerGuessing.FormCreate(Sender: TObject);
50  begin
```

```
51  writeln('Initialising game');
52  ExplanationLbl.Font.Size := 30;
53  Guesser := TDummyGuesser.Create(
    ↪  'Welcome to the guessing game! Think of a number and select its domain. ');
54  AskQn;
55  end;
56
57  procedure TComputerGuessing.SwitchBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
58  begin
59      writeln('Switching to user guessing mode');
60      UserGuessing.Show;
61  end;
62
63  procedure TComputerGuessing.FormClose(Sender: TObject; var CloseAction:
    ↪  TCloseAction);
64  begin
65      writeln('Closing application');
66      Guesser.Free;
67  end;
68
69  procedure TComputerGuessing.SetIntSearch(Sender: TObject);
70  begin
71      writeln('Entering unbounded integer binary search');
72      Guesser.Free;
73      Guesser := TBinarySearcher.Create;
74      AskQn;
75  end;
76
77  procedure TComputerGuessing.SetFracSearch(Sender: TObject);
78  begin
79      writeln('Entering Stern-Brocot search');
80      Guesser.Free;
81      Guesser := TSternBrocotSearcher.Create;
82      AskQn;
83  end;
84
85  procedure TComputerGuessing.YesBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
86  begin
87      writeln('Answer Yes');
88      AnsQn(true);
89  end;
90
91  procedure TComputerGuessing.NoBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
92  begin
93      writeln('Answer No');
94      AnsQn(False);
95  end;
96
97  procedure TComputerGuessing.KeyIntercept(Sender: TObject; var Key: char);
98  begin
99      write(Format('Pressed key %s ', [Key]));
```

```

100  case Key of
101      'y':
102          YesBtnClick(Sender);
103      'n':
104          NoBtnClick(Sender);
105      'z':
106          SetIntSearch(Sender);
107      'q':
108          SetFracSearch(Sender);
109      's':
110          SwitchBtnClick(Sender);
111  end;
112 end;
113
114 procedure TComputerGuessing.AnsQn(reply: boolean);
115 begin
116     try
117         Guesser.answer_question(reply);
118     except
119     on e: EGuessSuccessful do begin
120         writeln('Guessed: ', e.Message);
121         Guesser.Free;
122         Guesser := TDummyGuesser.Create(e.Message +
123             ↪ ' Think of another number, and select its domain. ');
124     end;
125     end;
126     AskQn;
127 end;
128
129 procedure TComputerGuessing.AskQn;
130 begin
131     QuestionLbl.Caption := Guesser.ask_question;
132     writeln('Question: ', QuestionLbl.Caption);
133 end;
134 end.

```

Listing 7: UComputerGuessing.pas: Implementing the Forms functionality

Listing 8 contains similar code but for the mode where the user must guess the computer's number. This is perhaps even more mundane as really all it does is handle a lot of conversions and check a couple of cases.

```

1  unit UUserGuessing;
2
3  {$mode objfpc}{$H+}
4
5  interface
6
7  uses
8      Classes, SysUtils, FileUtil, Forms, Controls, Graphics, Dialogs, StdCtrls,

```

```

9   MaskEdit, LCLType;
10
11  type
12
13    { TUserGuessing }
14    // Auxiliary form letting a user guess the computer's number
15    TUserGuessing = class(TForm)
16      GuessEdt: TEdit;
17      LoEdt: TEdit;
18      SwitchBtn: TButton;
19      GenerateBtn: TButton;
20      AnswerLbl: TLabel;
21      GuessLbl: TLabel;
22      LoLbl: TLabel;
23      UpEdt: TEdit;
24      UpLbl: TLabel;
25      procedure FormCreate(Sender: TObject);
26      procedure GenerateBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
27      procedure GuessEdtEditingDone(Sender: TObject);
28      procedure KeyIntercept(Sender: TObject; var Key: char);
29      procedure SwitchBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
30    private
31      Num: integer;
32    end;
33
34  var
35    UserGuessing: TUserGuessing;
36
37  implementation
38
39    {$R *.lfm}
40
41    { TUserGuessing }
42
43    procedure TUserGuessing.FormCreate(Sender: TObject);
44    begin
45      writeln('Initialising user-guessing game');
46      randomize;
47      GenerateBtnClick(Sender);
48    end;
49
50    procedure TUserGuessing.GenerateBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
51    var
52      lo, up: integer;
53      success: boolean = True;
54    begin
55      success := success and TryStrToInt(LoEdt.Text, lo);
56      success := success and TryStrToInt(UpEdt.Text, up);
57      if success then begin
58        Num := random(up - lo) + lo;
59        writeln(Format('Generated %d between %d, %d', [Num, lo, up]));

```

```

60     AnswerLbl.Caption := Format('I'm thinking of a number between %d and %d', [lo,
    ↪ up]);
61 end else
62     AnswerLbl.Caption := 'Invalid boundary';
63 end;
64
65 procedure TUserGuessing.GuessEdtEditingDone(Sender: TObject);
66 var
67     guess: integer;
68 begin
69     if TryStrToInt(GuessEdt.Text, guess) then begin
70         if guess = Num then
71             AnswerLbl.Caption := 'Correct! You guessed it'
72         else if guess < Num then
73             AnswerLbl.Caption := 'Too low!'
74         else
75             AnswerLbl.Caption := 'Too high!';
76         end else
77             AnswerLbl.Caption := 'Invalid number';
78     end;
79
80 procedure TUserGuessing.KeyIntercept(Sender: TObject; var Key: char);
81 begin
82     write(Format('Pressed key %s ', [Key]));
83     case Key of
84         'g':
85             GenerateBtnClick(Sender);
86         'b':
87             SwitchBtnClick(Sender);
88     end;
89 end;
90
91 procedure TUserGuessing.SwitchBtnClick(Sender: TObject);
92 begin
93     writeln('Closing user-guessing game');
94     Close;
95 end;
96
97 end.

```

Listing 8: UUserGuessing.pas: Implementing the Forms functionality

My favourite part of the form code is `KeyIntercept`, which enables the user not to have to press any buttons or really use the GUI at all, upgrading its usefulness to near CLI levels.

3 Result

Screenshots of the application are shown in fig 1. The colouring is not specifically set for this game, but is just my personal GTK theme (Arc-Dark), which is used as Lazarus implement Forms with GTK2.

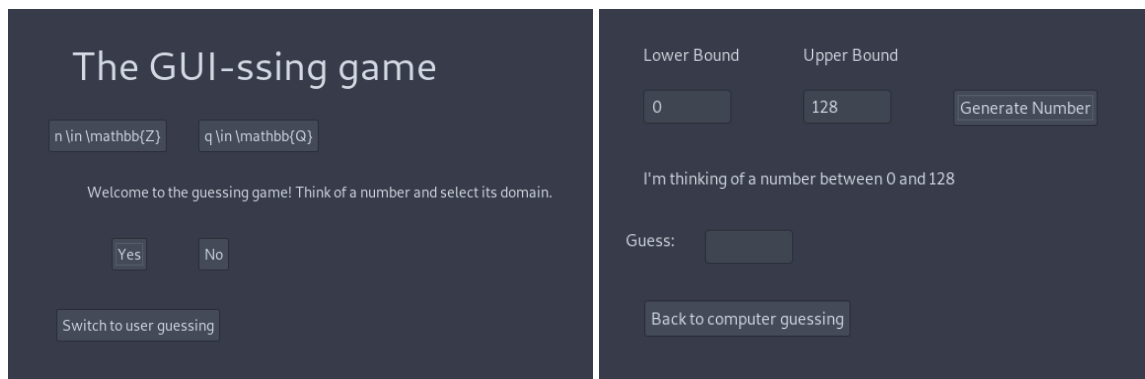


Figure 1: Screenshots of the game

You may notice that all of the mathematics is formatted in the form of \LaTeX source. This is the second best¹ way to format maths, beside rendered \LaTeX .

The program can be interacted with by clicking the buttons, or, as covered earlier, by pressing the appropriate keys. I have also chosen `TLabel` to communicate with the user rather than a `TListBox` as it is more compact, and I feel better represents the spirit of a guessing game (I consider it a vital component that your internal state should be kept in your head, and would be furious if my opponent were to write anything down).

Because of the various `writeln` statements I had included, I can easily capture the actions executed by the user and program without needing multiple screenshots. I first compiled using `lazbuild` or `Lazarus`, and then ran `./GUIssing > writeup/output.txt`. This produced the file in listing 9, after I executed a guess for $\forall S \in \{\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}\}$.

```

1 Initialising game
2 Question: Welcome to the guessing game! Think of a number and select its domain.
3 Initialising user-guessing game
4 Generated 114 between 0, 128
5 Pressed key z Entering unbounded integer binary search
6 Question: Is 0 \le \abs{n} < 64?
7 Pressed key n Answer No
8 Question: Is 64 \le \abs{n} < 128?
9 Pressed key y Answer Yes
10 Question: Is n \ge 0?
11 Pressed key n Answer No
12 Question: Is n \ge -95?
13 Pressed key n Answer No
14 Question: Is n \ge -111?
15 Pressed key y Answer Yes
16 Question: Is n \ge -103?
17 Pressed key y Answer Yes
18 Question: Is n \ge -99?
19 Pressed key n Answer No
20 Question: Is n \ge -101?
21 Pressed key y Answer Yes
22 Question: Is n \ge -100?
23 Pressed key n Answer No

```

¹For example, it beats straight utf-8 because it allows a user to render the maths using whatever font they like in their head

```

24 Guessed: Your number was -101.
25 Question: Your number was -101. Think of another number, and select its domain.
26 Pressed key q Entering Stern-Brocot search
27 Question: Is  $q = 0$ ?
28 Pressed key n Answer No
29 Question: Is  $q \geq 0$ ?
30 Pressed key y Answer Yes
31 Question: Is  $q = \frac{1}{1}$ ?
32 Pressed key n Answer No
33 Question: Is  $q > \frac{1}{1}$ ?
34 Pressed key y Answer Yes
35 Question: Is  $q = \frac{2}{1}$ ?
36 Pressed key n Answer No
37 Question: Is  $q > \frac{2}{1}$ ?
38 Pressed key n Answer No
39 Question: Is  $q = \frac{3}{2}$ ?
40 Pressed key n Answer No
41 Question: Is  $q > \frac{3}{2}$ ?
42 Pressed key n Answer No
43 Question: Is  $q = \frac{4}{3}$ ?
44 Pressed key y Answer Yes
45 Guessed: Your number was  $\frac{4}{3}$ 
46 Question: Your number was  $\frac{4}{3}$  Think of another number, and select its
    ↪ domain.
47 Pressed key s Switching to user guessing mode
48 Closing application

```

Listing 9: Example log of session with program

This demonstrates the program correctly feeding information between the user and the underlying search engine. I have performed several more tests, including the cases

```

in  $\mathbb{Z}$ : 0 1 -1 200 -130 16
in  $\mathbb{Q}$ : 0 1 3 -3  $\frac{4}{3}$   $\frac{5}{2}$   $-\frac{5}{2}$ 

```

These were not included as entire logs as this would be a serious waste of paper.

Note that this program will fail if the user decided on a number not representible by a Pascal integer, as shown in listing 10. To solve this problem permanently would require an implementation of some kind of BigInteger. This would require lots more memory management and boilerplate, which in turn needs time. I'm currently mildly strapped for time so I've opted to let it break.

This is not a problem for the computer-generated guessing mode as each TEdit limits its input to 8 characters, leaving the user to input at largest $10^8 - 1$. This is well within the range of a signed 32-bit integer ($|n| \lesssim 2.1 \cdot 10^9$). Another non-bug in this part is if the user enters a lower bound larger than the upper bound (let $a > b$). In this case, a random number in the interval $[a, 2a - b) \cap \mathbb{Z}$ is generated. For example, $a = 100, b = 50$ results in a number in $\{100..149\}$. This is due to the fact that Pascal's random function treats its input as an absolute value. This is ideal behaviour².

```

1 Question: Is 536870912  $\leq \text{abs}\{n\} < 1073741824$ ?
2 Pressed key n
3 Answer No

```

²Users trying to mess with the program get messed with instead

```
4 Question: Is 1073741824 \le \abs{n} < -2147483648?
5 Pressed key n
6 Answer No
7 Question: Is -2147483648 \le \abs{n} < 0?
8 Pressed key n
9 Answer No
10 Question: Is 0 \le \abs{n} < 0?
11 Pressed key n
12 Answer No
13 Question: Is 0 \le \abs{n} < 0?
```

Listing 10: Overflow leading to critical failure

4 Source

The full project in its directory structure, including this document (as a full-colour PDF and \TeX file), can be found at <https://github.com/elterminad0r/GUIssing>.

I would also like to take this moment to apologise for the aesthetics of my previous PDFs, including the usage of the Computer Modern font, but especially the fact that the code listings didn't use a proper fixed-width font.