

A Scenario

To give an idea of what **could go wrong**, suppose that you have a **Radiation Therapy Machine** like the Therac-25. If the software controlling the machine used a **Time** object to specify **how long a therapy session should last**, the machine would be **intrinsically unsafe**. Think about what will happen if you write the following code using the (non-buggy) **run()** function:



```
Time treatmentTime = {0, -2};
run(treatmentTime);
. . .
void run(Time& t)
{
    auto elapsed = t.hours * 360 + t.minutes * 60;
    while (elapsed > 0)
    {
        pulseBeam();
        --elapsed;
    }
}
```

As Peg and Cat point out, you now have a fairly serious problem. Even though the **run()** function is reasonable, it relies on the **Time& t** parameter **being correctly initialized**. Because **minutes** was, (accidentally), set to a negative number, the loop will supply **not** two minutes of radiation, but **billions of pulses** instead.



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