

**1. Intro.** The description in (the Romanian translation of) TAoCP of the algorithms for computing the inverse of a permutation in-place is ugly and hard to understand. I try to describe here the method that I came up with after reading the problem. I do not know yet if this is the same as **Algorithm I** in the book.

We will travel cycles in increasing order of their leaders, and the leaders are always the smallest element of the cycle. Whenever we see we see  $p[x] = y$  we set  $p[y] = x$ , but after remembering the old value of  $p[y]$ . Once we set a value in  $p$  we mark it. These markings are used to detect the end of cycles.

```
#include <stdio.h>
int p[100];    /* the permutation */
int m[100];    /* markings */
int n;        /* size of the permutation */
int main()
{
    int x, y, py;
    scanf("%d", &n);
    for (x = 0; x < n; ++x) scanf("%d", &p[x]);
    x = 0;
    while (1) {
        while (x < n ^ m[x]) ++x;
        if (x == n) break;
        y = p[x], py = p[y];
        while (!m[y]) {
            p[y] = x, m[y] = 1;
            x = y, y = py, py = p[y];
        }
    }
    for (x = 0; x < n; ++x) printf("%d", p[x]);
    printf("\n");
}
```

**2.** Note that only one bit of  $m$  is used so the program can be optimized (as it is in TAoCP).

**3. Index.***m*: [1](#).*main*: [1](#).*n*: [1](#).*p*: [1](#).*printf*: [1](#).*py*: [1](#).*scanf*: [1](#).*x*: [1](#).*y*: [1](#).

# INVPERM

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