

Langstons Ant

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General flow of the program:

1. Start at the menu
 - a. Prompt the user:
 - i. Size of the board (rows and columns)
 - ii. Number of steps to take
 - b. Starting position of the ant?
 - i. User defined
 - ii. If not supplied by the user it needs to be in the middle
 1. Extra credit available for picking a random location for the ant
2. After gathering the information start to move the ant
3. Loop through (based on user input) and move the ant according to the rules
 - a. Turn right if the square is black
 - b. Turn left if the square is white
4. Need to consider what happens at the edge?
 - a. Send the ant to the other side of the board?
 - b. Send him back in the direction that he came from?

Steps for writing the program

- Work on the main/menu first
- Prompt and store the number of rows and columns the user wants
- Validate that the numbers entered are numbers and that they are greater than 0
- If they are valid numbers we can initialize the board
- Create a variable in main for the board using int** pointer
 - Used for creating 2d arrays
- After taking the input call to a function to create the board
- The board should take the arguments of the rows and columns entered by the user
 - The function should then create a new pointer to a 2d array
 - The function should also populate the board to initialize it.
 - For now lets just fill the board with 0's
- Before moving on to the next steps display the board to ensure that everything is being created according to what the user enters
- Need to get input from the user about where to start the ant
 - These can be x and y coordinates
 - Or generated randomly if they decline to choose the starting point
- Once the board has been created an Ant object needs to be created with the position to start as well as a pointer to the board
- The Ant class will need a default constructor to take the x and y variables for a starting position
- The ant is created and placed on the board
- At this point we have a board created in a 2d array and an ant object created and placed on the board
- From we need to start moving the ant based on the rules of the game
- The number of moves will also be determined by the original entry by the player for how many moves to make
- We'll keep looping through with each increment deciding the following:
 - Where to move next
 - What if anything do we need to change on the square
- The above decisions are based on the square that the ant is currently on

Need four classes/groups of functions to complete the project:

1. Main
2. Menu
3. Ant
4. Board

Menu functions

- Checking whether or not it is a number
 - Takes a string as an argument
 - Uses the string to display the message
 - Gets input from the user and validates that it is indeed an int.
 - Returns the int after making sure that it is valid
- Checking whether or not it is a char
 - Takes a string as an argument
 - Uses the string to display the message
 - Gets input from the user and validates that it is a char
 - If it is a char it returns true, if not false

Board functions

- Create the board
 - Pass the x and y limits for the 2d array
 - Fill the board with 0's to initialize
- Display and update the board
 - Loop through to display the board

Ant Class

- Constructor takes the positions and board
- Set the initial positions
 - setX and setY
- Return the positions
 - getX and getY
- Movement
 - Ant will need to know what the color of the current square he is on
 - Move left
 - Update the square before moving
 - Move right
 - Update the square before moving
- May need a function to make sure that our ant is staying within the board
 - maxX and maxY functions to verify