



Course Progress

Course > Readings > Reading 1: Recursion > Questions

 Previous

































Next 

Questions

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Implementing stringValue

1/1 point (graded)

Here is the recursive implementation of `stringValue()` from the reading, with the recursive steps brought together but with the base case still missing:

```
/**
 * @param n integer to convert to string
 * @param base base for the representation. Requires 2<=base<=10.
 * @return n represented as a string of digits in the specified base, with
 *         a minus sign if n<0. No unnecessary leading zeros are included.
 */
public static String stringValue(int n, int base) {
    if (n < 0) { return "-" + stringValue(-n, base); }
    else if (CONDITION) { BASE CASE }
    else { return stringValue(n/base, base) + "0123456789".charAt(n%base); }
}
```

Which of the following lines can be substituted `else if (CONDITION) { BASE CASE }` to make the code correct?

☐ `else if (n == 0) { return "0"; }`

☒ `else if (n < base) { return "" + n; }`

☐ `else if (n == 0) { return ""; }`

☒ `else if (n < base) { return "0123456789".substring(n,n+1); }`



Explanation

The first choice is wrong because it will add a leading 0 to single-digit numbers, i.e. making `stringValue(3, 10)` return "03" instead of just "3".

The second choice works. `return "" + n` is shorthand for converting the single-digit number `n` into a string.

The third choice is wrong because `stringValue(0, 10)` will return "" instead of "0".

The fourth choice works.

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Calling stringValue

1/1 point (graded)

Assuming the code is completed with one of the base cases identified in the previous problem, what does `stringValue(170, 16)` do?

☐ returns "AA"

☐ returns "170"

☐ returns "1010"

☒ throws `StringIndexOutOfBoundsException`

☐ doesn't compile, static error

☐ `StackOverflowError`

☐ infinite loop



Explanation

Note first that using `base=16` violates the precondition of this method, so it doesn't have to satisfy the postcondition. A valid implementation can do anything. The question is what this particular valid implementation will do.

The recursive step will be invoked, which will split the number 170 by computing $170/16=10$ and $170\%16=10$. The `charAt()` call will attempt to get the 11th character of "0123456789", which is past the end of the string. A `StringIndexOutOfBoundsException` will result.

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