Overview

Lecture P9: WAR Card Game



Write a program to play the card game "War."

Goals.

- Practice with linked lists and pointers.
- . Appreciate the central role played by data structures.
- Learn how to design a "large" program.
- Learn how to read a "large" program.



WAR Demo

Rules of the game.

- . Each player is dealt half of the cards.
- Each player plays top card.
 - whichever is higher captures both cards
 - in event of tie, WAR
- . Repeat until one player has all the cards.







Before You Write Any Code

Determine a high-level view of the code you plan to write.

Break it up into manageable pieces.

- . Create the deck of cards.
- . Shuffle the cards.
- . Deal the cards.
- . Play the game.

Determine how you will represent the data.

- . The cards.
- . The deck.
- . The hands.





Representing The Cards

Represent 52 cards using an integer between 0 and 51.

Clubs		lubs Diamonds Hearts		Spades				
Card	#		Card	#	Card	#	Card	#
2 🜲	0		2 ♦	13	2 ¥	26	2 🔺	39
3 🐥	1		3 ♦	14	3♥	27	3 🔺	40
4 🐥	2		4 🔶	15	4 🛛	28	4 🔺	41
К 🐥	11		K 🔶	24	K 🗸	37	K 🛦	50
А 🜲	12		A 🔶	25	A 🗸	38	A 🛦	51

Representing The Cards

Represent 52 cards using an integer between 0 and 51.

. Warif (rank(c1) == rank(c2))



Card type	
<pre>void showcard(Card c) {</pre>	
<pre>switch (rank(c)) {</pre>	
case 0: printf("Deuce of ")	; break;
<pre>case 1: printf("Three of ")</pre>	; break;
<pre>case 12: printf("Ace of "); }</pre>	break;
<pre>switch (suit(c)) {</pre>	
<pre>case 0: printf("Clubs\n");</pre>	break;
case 1: printf("Diamonds\n")	; break;
<pre>case 2: printf("Hearts\n");</pre>	break;
<pre>case 3: printf("Spades\n");</pre>	break;

resting the	
war.c (test code)	Unix
#include <stdio.h> #define DECKSIZE 52</stdio.h>	% gcc war.c % a.out
<pre>typedef int Card; int rank(Card c) {} int suit(Card c) {} void showCard(Card c) {} int main(void) {</pre>	Deuce of Clubs Three of Clubs Four of Clubs Five of Clubs Six of Clubs Seven of Clubs
<pre>Card c; for (c = 0; c < DECKSIZE; c++) showCard(c); return 0; }</pre>	 King of Spades Ace of Spades

Testing the Code

Representing the Deck and Hands

Use a linked list to represent the deck and hands.



Representing the Deck and Hands

Use a linked list to represent the deck and hands.

Why use linked lists?

- . Draw cards from the top, captured cards go to bottom.
 - need direct access to top and bottom cards
 - no need for direct access to middle cards
- . Gain practice with linked lists.



Showing a Hand

Use printf() method for debugging.

- May need to build supplemental functions to print out contents of data structures.
- Print out contents of player's hand.



Showing a Hand

Use printf() method for debugging.

- May need to build supplemental functions to print out contents of data structures.
- Print out contents of player's hand.
- Count number of cards in player's hand.



Creating the Deck

Goal: create a 52 card deck.

- Need to dynamically allocate memory.
- Good programming practice to write helper function to allocate memory and initialize it.



Creating the Deck

Goal: create a 52 card deck.

. Need to dynamically allocate memory.



war.c	Unix
<pre>#include <stdio.h> #include <stdio.h> #include <stdlib.h> #define DECKSIZE 52 typedef int Card; [rank(), suit(), showCard()] typedef struct node* link link NEWnode(Card card, link next) {} link makePile(int N) {} link showPile(link pile) {}</stdlib.h></stdio.h></stdio.h></pre>	<pre>% gcc war.c % a.out Deuce of Clubs Three of Clubs Four of Clubs Five of Clubs Six of Clubs Seven of Clubs </pre>
<pre>int main(void) { link deck; deck = makePile(DECKSIZE); showPile(deck); return 0; }</pre>	King of Spades Ace of Spades

16





Testing the Code

war.c

. . . as before

link Atop, Abot, Btop, Bbot;

void deal(link d) { ...}

```
int main(void) {
    link deck;
    deck = makePile(DECKSIZE);
    deal(deck);
    printf("PLAYER A\n");
    showPile(Atop);
    printf("\nPLAYER B\n");
    showpile(Btop);
    return 0;
}
```

Unix

% gcc war.c % a.out

PLAYER A Deuce of Clubs Four of Clubs Six of Clubs . . . King of Spades

PLAYER B

Three of Clubs Five of Clubs Seven of Clubs . . . Ace of Spades

Shuffling the Deck

Shuffle the deck.

- . Disassemble linked list elements and put into an array.
- . Shuffle array elements (using algorithm from Lecture P3).
- . Reassemble linked list from shuffled array.











Game Never Ends

"Peace" (war with no wars).

- Starting point for implementation.
- Assume player B wins if a tie.

What should happen?

CLUE C

What actually happens?

an



One Bit of Uncertainty

What actually happens?

. Game "never" ends for many (almost all) deals.

Proper use of randomization is vital in simulation applications.

. Randomly exchange two cards in battle when picked up.

if (randomInteger(2)	==	1)	{
Ttop = Atop;			
Tbot = Btop;			
}			
else {			
Ttop = Btop;			
Tbot = Atop;			
}			J

exchange cards randomly

Ten Typical Games

в	wins	in	446	steps.
А	wins	in	404	steps.
в	wins	in	330	steps.
в	wins	in	1088	steps.
в	wins	in	566	steps.
в	wins	in	430	steps.
А	wins	in	208	steps.
в	wins	in	214	steps.
в	wins	in	630	steps.
в	wins	in	170	steps.



Answer

Q. "So how long does it take?"

- A. "About 10 times through deck (254 battles)."
- Q. "How do you know?"
- A. "I played a million games. . . . "

Ten Typical Games							
в	wins	in	60	steps.			
А	wins	in	101	steps.			
в	wins	in	268	steps.			
А	wins	in	218	steps.			
в	wins	in	253	steps.			
А	wins	in	202	steps.			
в	wins	in	229	steps.			
А	wins	in	78	steps.			
в	wins	in	84	steps.			
Α	wins	in	654	steps.			

Answer Q. "That sounds like fun." A. "Let's try having bigger battles...." Average # of Steps in War 800 600 Steps 400 200 0 0 2 3 1 8 War Size

Problems With Simulation

Doesn't precisely mirror game.

- . Deal allocates piles in reversed order.
- . People pick up cards differently.
- . "Sort-of" shuffle prize pile after war?
- . Separate hand and pile.
 - could have war as pile runs out
- Our shuffling produces perfectly random deck. (modulo "randomness" of rand())

Tradeoffs.

33

- . Convenience for implementation.
- . Fidelity to real game.
- . Such tradeoffs are typical in simulation.
- . Try to identify which details matter.







Summary

How to build a "large" program?

- Use top-down design.
- . Break into small, manageable pieces. Makes code:
 - easier to understand
 - easier to debug
 - easier to change later on
- . Debug each piece as you write it.
- Good algorithmic design starts with judicious choice of data structures.

How to work with linked lists?

. Draw pictures to read and write pointer code.