

CISC-365*
2009
Lab # 1
Week of September 14

It is often useful to generate all permutations of a set of objects (as we will discuss in class). Your task in this lab is to implement a particular non-recursive algorithm for generating the permutations of the set of integers $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ where n is a positive integer provided as input to your program.

In this algorithm, each integer in the set is assigned a “facing direction” which can be either “left” or “right”. Initially, the integers are in ascending order (i.e. the first permutation is $1, 2, \dots, n$) and all the integers are facing “left”.

An integer is “mobile” if it is larger than the neighbour it is facing.

The algorithm can be expressed in just a few lines:

```
Output the initial permutation
While there is at least one mobile integer in the set {
    let k be the largest mobile integer
    swap k with the neighbour it is facing
    for each integer m that is larger than k, reverse the facing direction of m
    output the new permutation
} // while
```

Implement this algorithm in the language of your choice. The integer n should be entered by the user, and the full set of permutations of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ should be displayed on the screen.

For further consideration: This is not formally part of the lab assignment, but it is an important question. What is the computational complexity of this algorithm?