



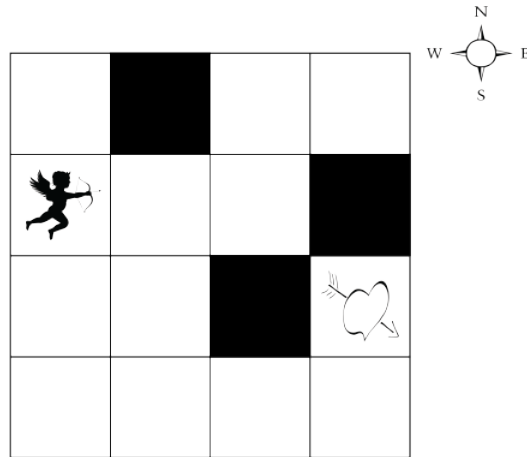
Problem of the Week

Problem B and Solution

Code to Guide Cupid

Problem

In the grid, the black squares represent obstacles to Cupid, who cannot go through them; nor can Cupid step outside the grid boundaries.



Let's play with some *pseudocode* to guide Cupid's path to the heart. The code will use the following instructions:

- **fly1**: moves Cupid one square in the current arrow direction
- **rotc**: turns (rotates) Cupid 90° clockwise
- **rotcc**: turns Cupid 90° counterclockwise

(a) For each set of pseudocode instructions, determine where Cupid ends up, or if an obstacle ends his quest (i.e., the code *crashes*).

(i) fly1
rotc
fly1
fly1
rotc
fly1

(ii) fly1
rotc
fly1
rotcc
fly1

(b) Write pseudocode which guides Cupid to the heart.



Solution

- (a) (i) We go through the pseudocode, moving Cupid as directed.

fly1: Cupid moves one square east

rotc: Cupid turns south

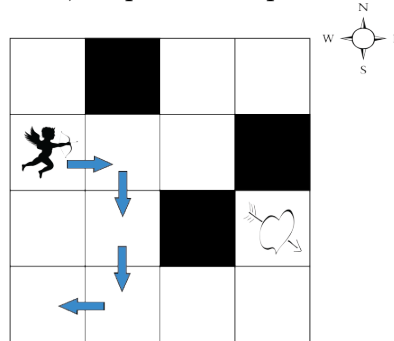
fly1: Cupid moves south one square

fly1: Cupid moves south one square

rotc: Cupid turns west

fly1: Cupid moves one square west

Following this sequence of moves, Cupid ends up in the lower left square on the grid.



- (ii) We go through the pseudocode, moving Cupid as directed.

fly1: Cupid moves one square east

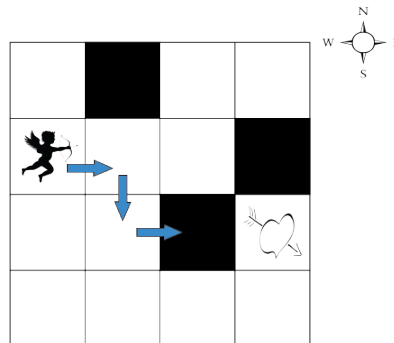
rotc: Cupid turns south

fly1: Cupid moves south one square

rotcc: Cupid turns east

fly1: Cupid moves east one square

Following this sequence of moves crashes the code, since Cupid is attempting to move through an obstacle.



- (b) There are several possible sets of pseudocode. The two with the least number of instructions are given.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| fly1 | rotc |
| rotc | fly1 |
| fly1 | fly1 |
| fly1 | rotcc |
| rotcc | fly1 |
| fly1 | fly1 |
| fly1 | fly1 |
| rotcc | rotcc |
| fly1 | fly1 |