

Slide 1

Administrivia

- Reminder: Homework 6 due in two weeks (next class day).
- Homework 4 grades mailed (unless I'm still waiting for a revision).
- Sample solutions for Homeworks 4 and 5 posted.

Slide 2

Homework 4 Essays

- Several people said they found the problems interesting or enjoyable. Always a plus, and good to hear!
- Many said the first problem (square root) was easier / more straightforward. A few commented on the algorithm itself — kind of cool if mysterious? Apparently a special case of a general approach to finding roots of an equation. A Web search will likely find an explanation of why it works, with pictures.
- Several people were tripped up by `abs()` versus `fabs()`.

Slide 3

Homework 4 Essays, Continued

- Many people said they had trouble understanding what the second problem (using `rand()`) was asking them to do. One found my long instructions helpful; another found them more hindrance than help.
- Several people mentioned tripping over the fact that C doesn't initialize variables (including arrays) unless you tell it to.
- (Not from the essays.) Several people got "wrong" answers because they weren't applying both methods to the same samples. Every call to `rand()` generates a new sample. (To restart the sequence, call `srand()` again.)

Slide 4

Recap of Video Lectures

- Representing integer data (in C, types `int`, `long`, etc.). Review for most of you? but I hope explanation of some of the tricks was helpful?
- Representing real-number data (in C, types `float`, `double`, etc.). Also review for many?
- Representing text data (in C, `char`).

Slide 5

Recap of Video Lectures, Continued

- A key point: Floating-point numbers are not somehow inherently imprecise — some values *can* be represented exactly — but it has limitations that can result in imprecision.
- One person asked (in video-quiz answer) what people who need really accurate results do?
Sometimes can use integers (e.g., represent money in pennies).
Or get people with real expertise to help? in figuring out which algorithms give accurate results.
- Questions?

Slide 6

“Open Lab” Time

- (Use rest of class period to work on Homework 6.)

Minute Essay

- How are you finding the pace and workload in this class? too much, too little, about right?
- And best wishes for a good spring break!

Slide 7