

# Re: Simple Question

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.basics/2006-09/msg01623.html>

---

- *From:* Jonathan Kirwan <jkirwan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Wed, 27 Sep 2006 23:12:55 GMT
- 

On Wed, 27 Sep 2006 21:49:32 GMT, Rich Grise <rich@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Fri, 22 Sep 2006 00:23:28 +0000, Jonathan Kirwan wrote:

On 21 Sep 2006 18:06:05 GMT, Chris Foster <edolan@xxxxxx> wrote:

I have a simple question. This is a question that I was asked in a job interview.

If there existed an infinite two dimensional array of 1 ohm resistors, what is the resistance between two points separated by a knight's move (i.e. up two, over one, or over two and up one.....etc...)

If I'm not slipping up, the resulting equation would be:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{PI PI} \\
 & // \\
 & 1 \int \int 1 - \cos(2u + v) \\
 R = & \frac{1}{4 * \text{PI}^2} \int \int 2 - \cos(u) - \cos(v) \, du \, dv \\
 & // \\
 & -\text{PI} -\text{PI}
 \end{aligned}$$

But thinking as a programmer, I'd probably just solve it numerically, not through numerical or closed integration of the above, but instead by:

- create a matrix  $V[]$  to represent the node voltages
- select some central point for A, call it  $V[x,y]$
- arbitrarily initialize the matrix node values to 0.5

Re: Simple Question

- (d) initialize matrix element  $V[x,y]$  to 0.0.
- (e) initialize matrix element  $V[x+2,y+1]$  to 1.0.
- (f) divide the grid into a checkerboard arrangement with white and black (or red and black) squares
- (g) process all the black squares, those not  $V[x,y]$  or  $V[x+2,y+1]$ , so that their new value is the mean of the surrounding four nodes.
- (h) process all the white squares, those not  $V[x,y]$  or  $V[x+2,y+1]$ , so that their new value is the mean of the surrounding four nodes.
- (i) until satisfied, go back to (g).
- (j) add up the four node voltages adjacent to  $V[x,y]$  into 'sum'
- (k) print  $1/(\text{sum}-4*V[x,y])$  as the resistance.

Which looking at the near center of a 80x80 grid (probably close enough) comes out to 0.7728 ohms.

As long as you're writing the program, how about a sort of chart, or graph, of the node-to-node resistance for a whole family of matrix sizes – 4 x 4, 9 x 9, 10 x 10, 100 x 100, and so on, and see if it approaches a limit – it might be interesting to see the difference between, say, 80 x 80 vs. say, 1000 x 1000.

Trivial to do, actually. It's just that the run time right now using interpreted basic is painful. I may get around to it. But I've posted my code, too, so anyone else can try a hack at it if they want to.

Jon

.