

COMP590 Problem Solving  
Note for January 29, 2009

We discussed the digital rat programs. Most working programs used the “paw on the wall” concept where the rat always goes right if it can, otherwise straight, otherwise left and then back if there are no other options. Just by chance, the right handed rats did better on the average than the left handed rats. Everyone must now modify their program to support the reset method which logically picks up the mouse at the cheese and places it back at the start of the same maze. Your program must then find its way through the maze, hopefully faster than the first time. Remember that the maze is a tree. Your updated Rat program is due by noon on Wednesday, February 4, 2009.

Students will be making presentations on new technologies starting February 26. By Wednesday next week (February 4) you must send me your topic. The presentations will be 15 minutes in length with time for questions. You should understand the topic well enough to answer reasonable questions. Some topic ideas are cloud computing, quantum computing or virtualization. Mr. Jones is going to teach us how to beam up.

Future topics in the course include:

- Genetic programming
- Using calculus in computing
- Compiler design