The Josephus problem. (Das Josefspiel.)

This algorithm is named for a historian of the first century, Flavius Josephus, who survived the Jewish-Roman war due to his mathematical talents. Legend has it that he was one out of 41 Jewish rebels trapped by the Romans. His companions preferred suicide to escape, so they decided to form a cycle and to kill every third person and to proceed around the circle until no one was left. Josephus wasn’t excited by the idea of killing himself, so he calculated where he has to stand to survive the vicious circle. The presented implementation demands the input of how many people will stand around a circle and how many shall be passed over before the next one is killed.

Classification: P50