

## CoCoALib - Design #1800

### Conversion from SmallPrime to UNSIGNED long?

25 Mar 2024 17:47 - John Abbott

<b>Status:</b>	In Progress	<b>Start date:</b>	25 Mar 2024
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>		<b>% Done:</b>	10%
<b>Category:</b>	Tidying	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	CoCoALib-0.99880	<b>Spent time:</b>	0.30 hour
<b>Description</b>			
<p>Currently there is an "implicit" conversion from SmallPrime to signed long. Should the conversion instead be to <b>unsigned long</b>? SmallPrime can never produce a negative value. One or two places in the code may be a little neater if the conversion were to unsigned long. This does mean relaxing the refusal to use unsigned values...</p>			

#### History

##### #1 - 25 Mar 2024 17:49 - John Abbott

We have long tried to avoid unsigned values because they can cause inconvenient, silent, automatic conversions. But then I realised that overflow for signed values is "undefined behaviour" (which we must avoid). I am increasingly tempted to relax the "veto" on unsigned values...

Discuss. Decide.

##### #2 - 15 Apr 2024 10:09 - John Abbott

- Status changed from New to In Progress

- % Done changed from 0 to 10

I am quite tempted just to try changing the automatic conversion, but this should probably also be done with some other changes perhaps related to redesign of MachineInt?