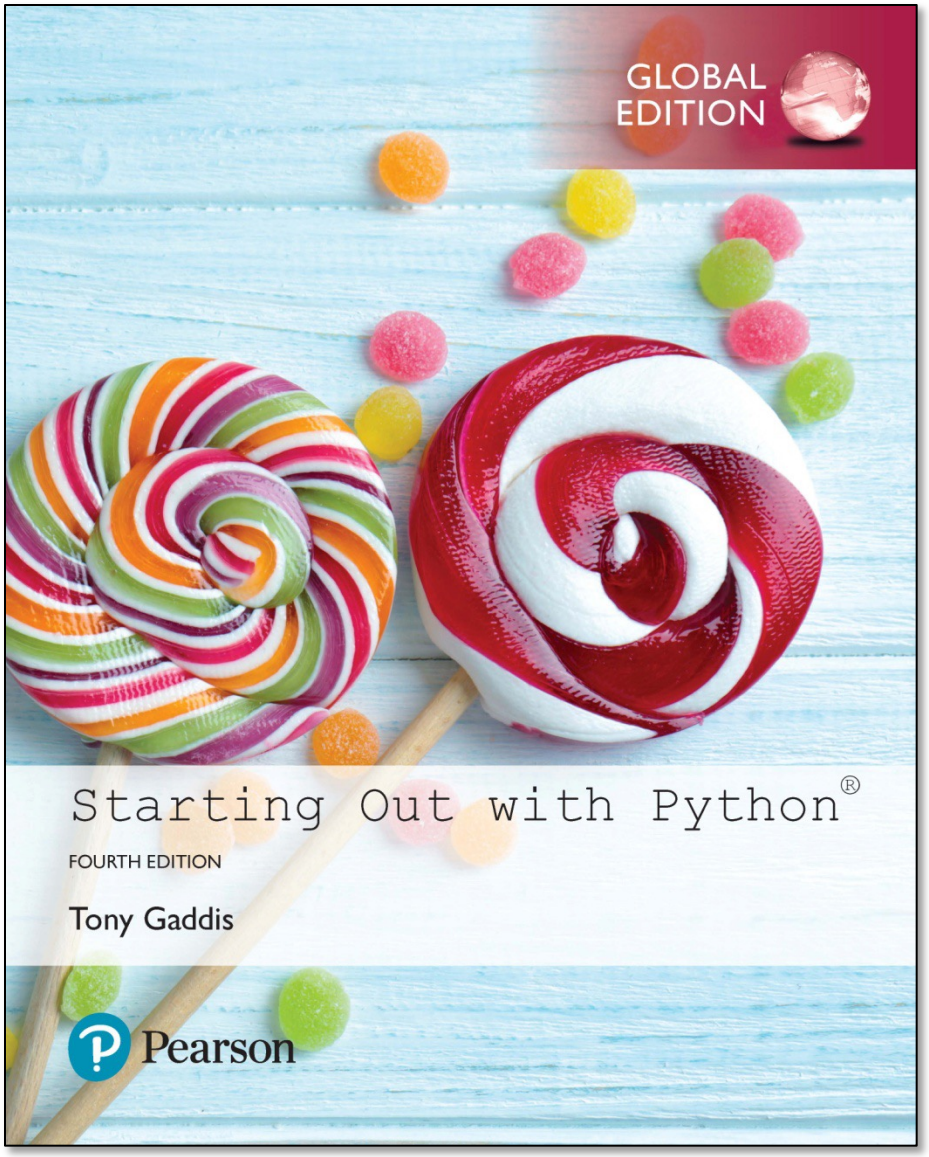
CHAPTER 4

Repetition Structures



Topics

- Introduction to Repetition Structures
- The `while` Loop: a Condition-Controlled Loop
- The `for` Loop: a Count-Controlled Loop
- Calculating a Running Total
- Sentinels
- Input Validation Loops
- Nested Loops
- Turtle Graphics: Using Loops to Draw Designs

Introduction to Repetition Structures

- **Often have to write code that performs the same task multiple times**
  - Disadvantages to duplicating code
    - Makes program large
    - Time consuming
    - May need to be corrected in many places
- **Repetition structure: makes computer repeat included code as necessary**
  - Includes condition-controlled loops and count-controlled loops

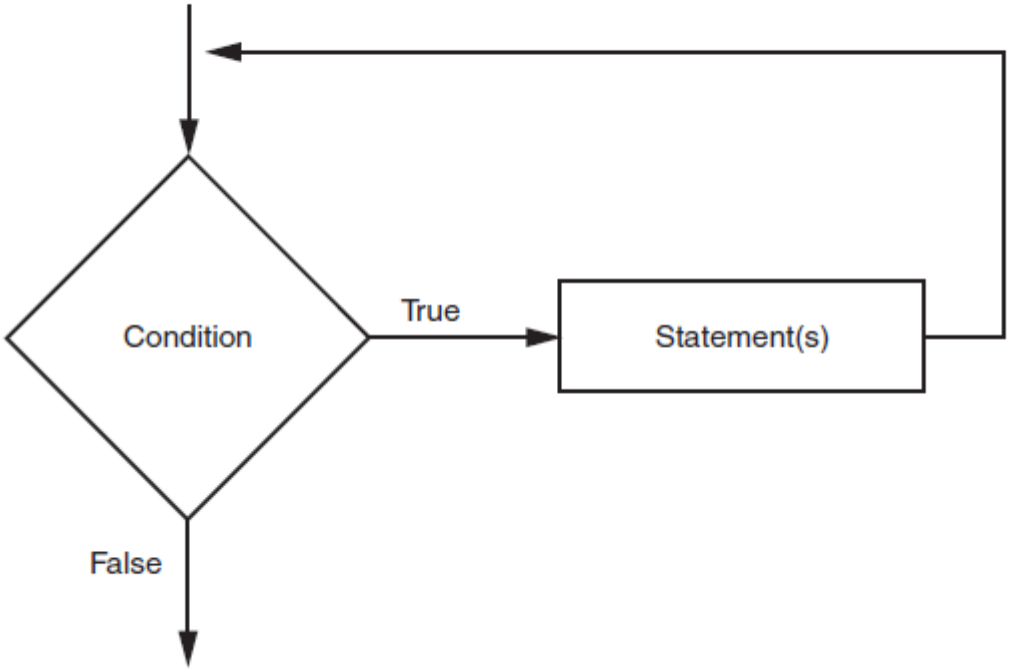
The `while` Loop: a Condition-Controlled Loop

- **`while` loop: while condition is true, do something**
  - Two parts:
    - Condition tested for true or false value
    - Statements repeated as long as condition is true
  - In flow chart, line goes back to previous part
  - General format:

```
while condition:
    statements
```

The `while` Loop: a Condition-Controlled Loop (cont'd.)

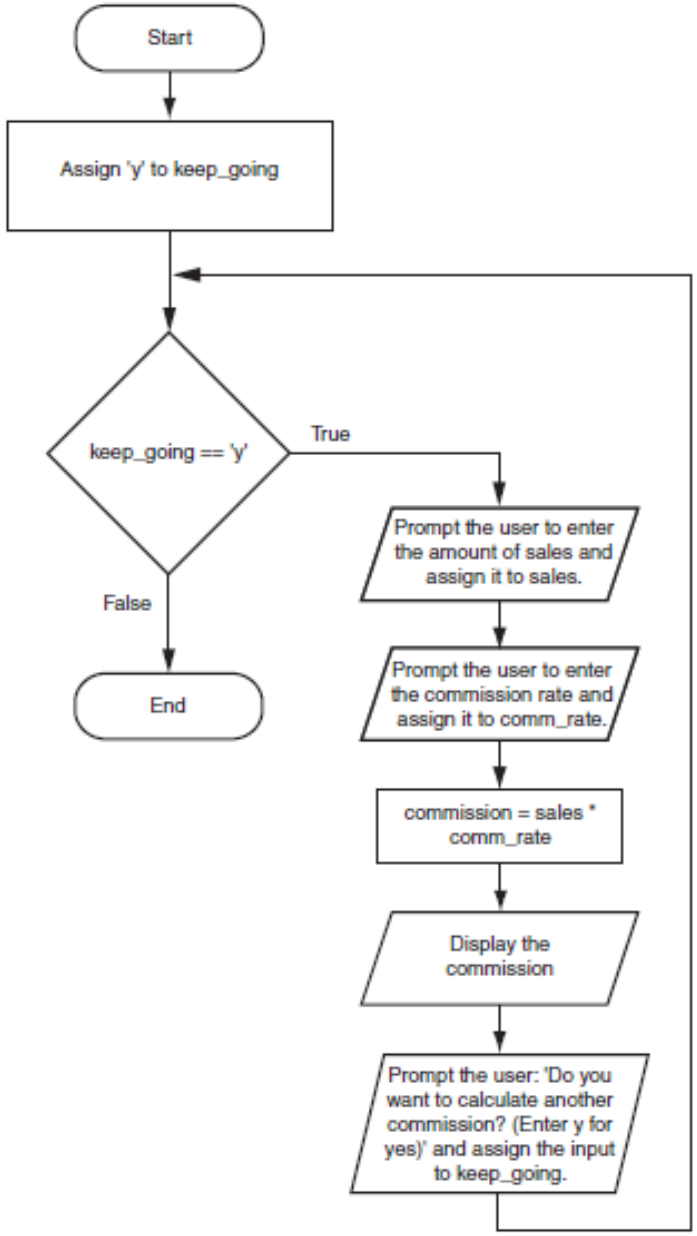
Figure 4-1 The logic of a `while` loop



The `while` Loop: a Condition-Controlled Loop (cont'd.)

- **In order for a loop to stop executing, something has to happen inside the loop to make the condition false**
- **Iteration: one execution of the body of a loop**
- **`while` loop is known as a *pretest* loop**
  - Tests condition before performing an iteration
    - Will never execute if condition is false to start with
    - Requires performing some steps prior to the loop

Figure 4-3 Flowchart for Program 4-1



Infinite Loops

- **Loops must contain within themselves a way to terminate**
  - Something inside a `while` loop must eventually make the condition false
- **Infinite loop: loop that does not have a way of stopping**
  - Repeats until program is interrupted
  - Occurs when programmer forgets to include stopping code in the loop

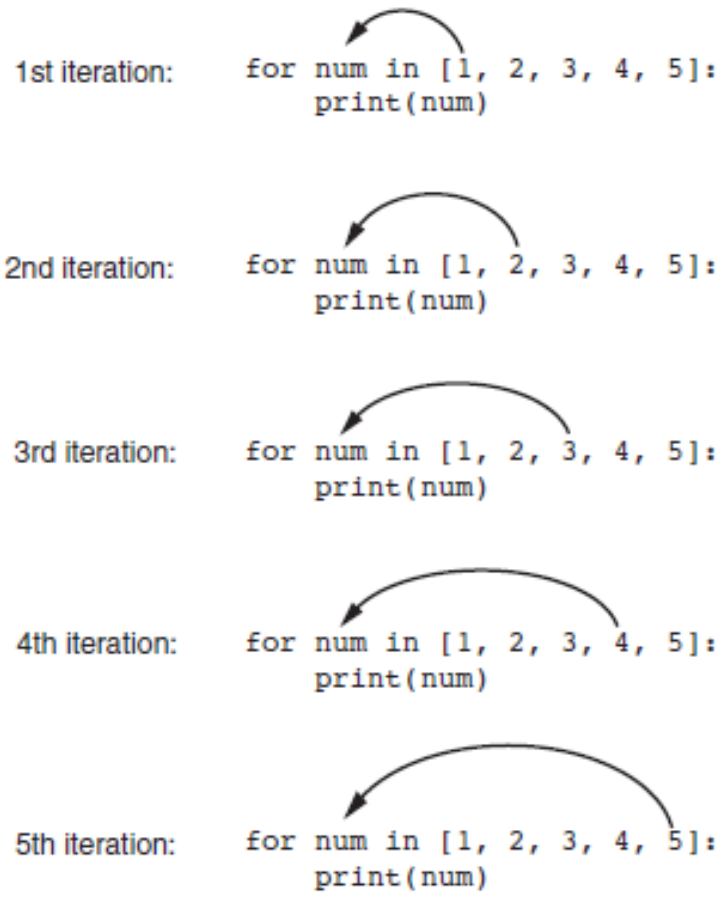
The `for` Loop: a Count-Controlled Loop

- **Count-Controlled loop: iterates a specific number of times**
  - Use a `for` statement to write count-controlled loop
    - Designed to work with sequence of data items
      - Iterates once for each item in the sequence
    - General format:

```
for variable in [val1, val2, etc]:
    statements
```

    - Target variable: the variable which is the target of the assignment at the beginning of each iteration

Figure 4-4 The `for` loop



Using the `range` Function with the `for` Loop

- **The `range` function simplifies the process of writing a `for` loop**
  - `range` returns an iterable object
    - Iterable: contains a sequence of values that can be iterated over
- **`range` characteristics:**
  - One argument: used as ending limit
  - Two arguments: starting value and ending limit
  - Three arguments: third argument is step value

Using the Target Variable Inside the Loop

- **Purpose of target variable is to reference each item in a sequence as the loop iterates**
- **Target variable can be used in calculations or tasks in the body of the loop**
  - Example: calculate square root of each number in a range

Letting the User Control the Loop Iterations

- **Sometimes the programmer does not know exactly how many times the loop will execute**
- **Can receive range inputs from the user, place them in variables, and call the `range` function in the for clause using these variables**
  - Be sure to consider the end cases: `range` does not include the ending limit

Generating an Iterable Sequence that Ranges from Highest to Lowest

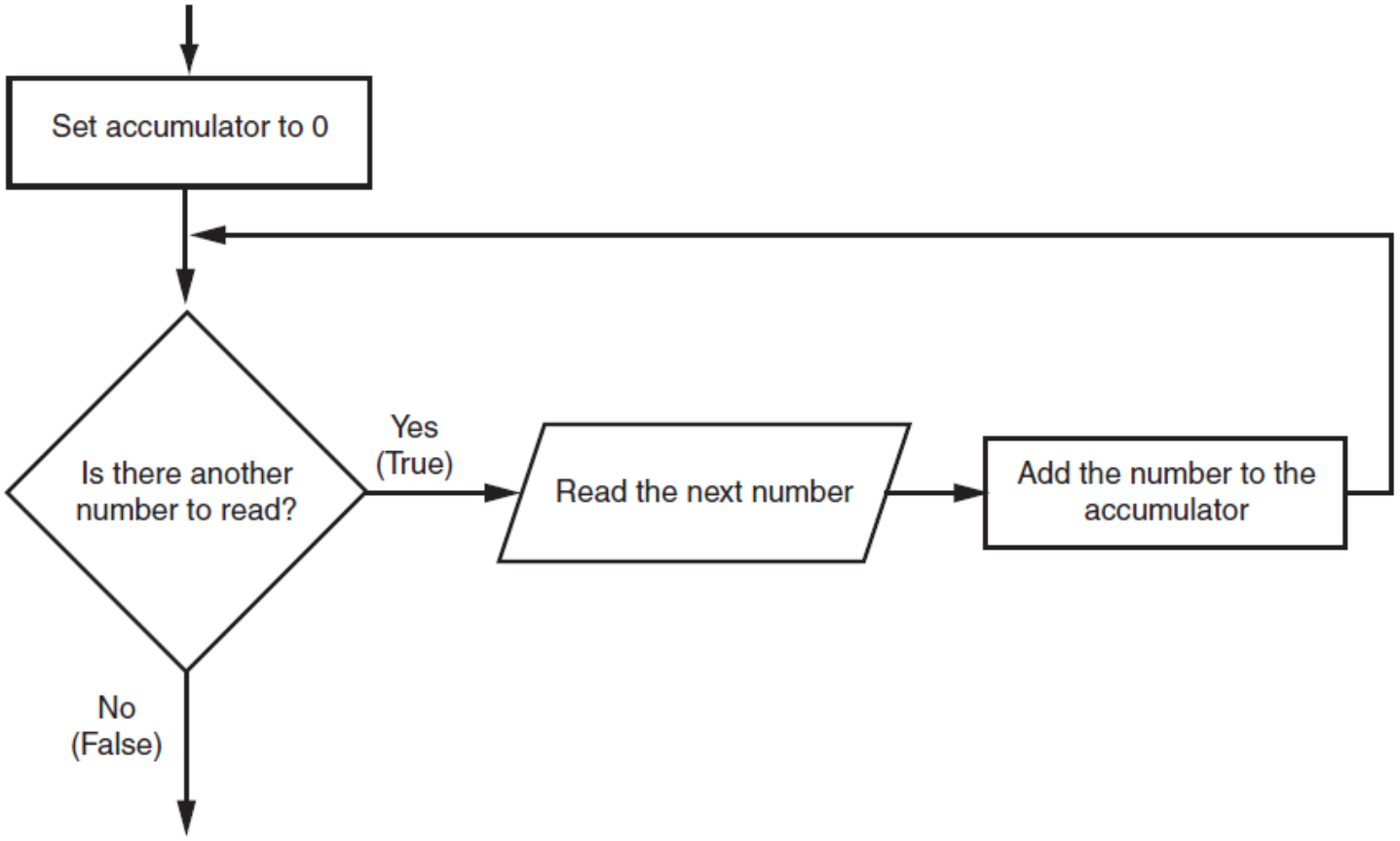
- **The `range` function can be used to generate a sequence with numbers in descending order**
  - Make sure starting number is larger than end limit, and step value is negative
  - Example: `range (10, 0, -1)`

Calculating a Running Total

- **Programs often need to calculate a total of a series of numbers**
  - Typically include two elements:
    - A loop that reads each number in series
    - An *accumulator* variable
  - Known as program that keeps a running total: accumulates total and reads in series
  - At end of loop, accumulator will reference the total

Calculating a Running Total (cont'd.)

Figure 4-6 Logic for calculating a running total



The Augmented Assignment Operators

- **In many assignment statements, the variable on the left side of the = operator also appears on the right side of the = operator**
- **Augmented assignment operators: special set of operators designed for this type of job**
  - Shorthand operators

The Augmented Assignment Operators (cont'd.)

Table 4-2 Augmented assignment operators

Operator	Example Usage	Equivalent To
`+=`	`x += 5`	`x = x + 5`
`-=`	`y -= 2`	`y = y - 2`
`*=`	`z *= 10`	`z = z * 10`
`/=`	`a /= b`	`a = a / b`
`%=`	`c %= 3`	`c = c % 3`

Sentinels

- **Sentinel: special value that marks the end of a sequence of items**
  - When program reaches a sentinel, it knows that the end of the sequence of items was reached, and the loop terminates
  - Must be distinctive enough so as not to be mistaken for a regular value in the sequence
  - Example: when reading an input file, empty line can be used as a sentinel

Input Validation Loops

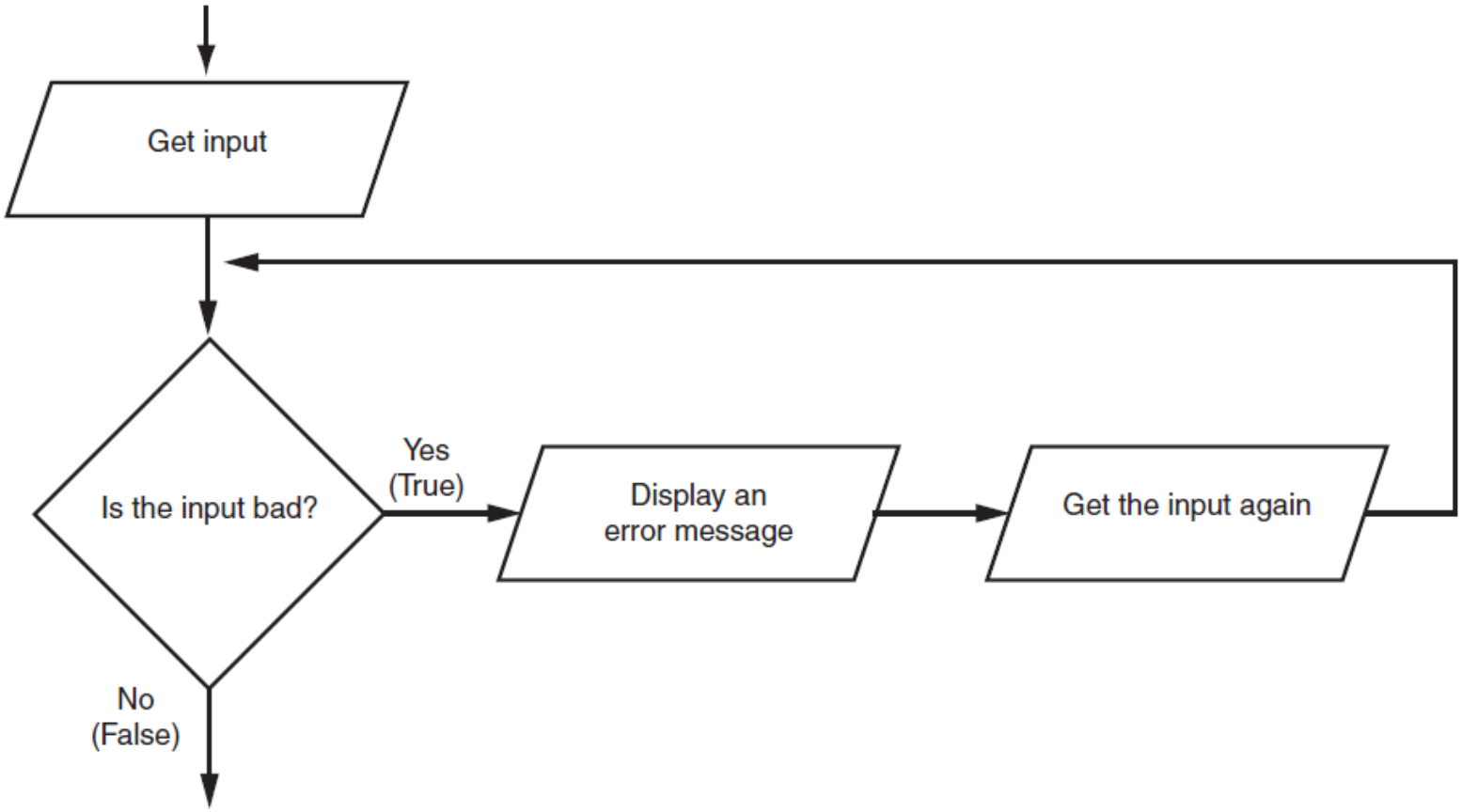
- **Computer cannot tell the difference between good data and bad data**
  - If user provides bad input, program will produce bad output
  - GIGO: garbage in, garbage out
  - It is important to design program such that bad input is never accepted

Input Validation Loops (cont'd.)

- **Input validation: inspecting input before it is processed by the program**
  - If input is invalid, prompt user to enter correct data
  - Commonly accomplished using a `while` loop which repeats as long as the input is bad
    - If input is bad, display error message and receive another set of data
    - If input is good, continue to process the input

Input Validation Loops (cont'd.)

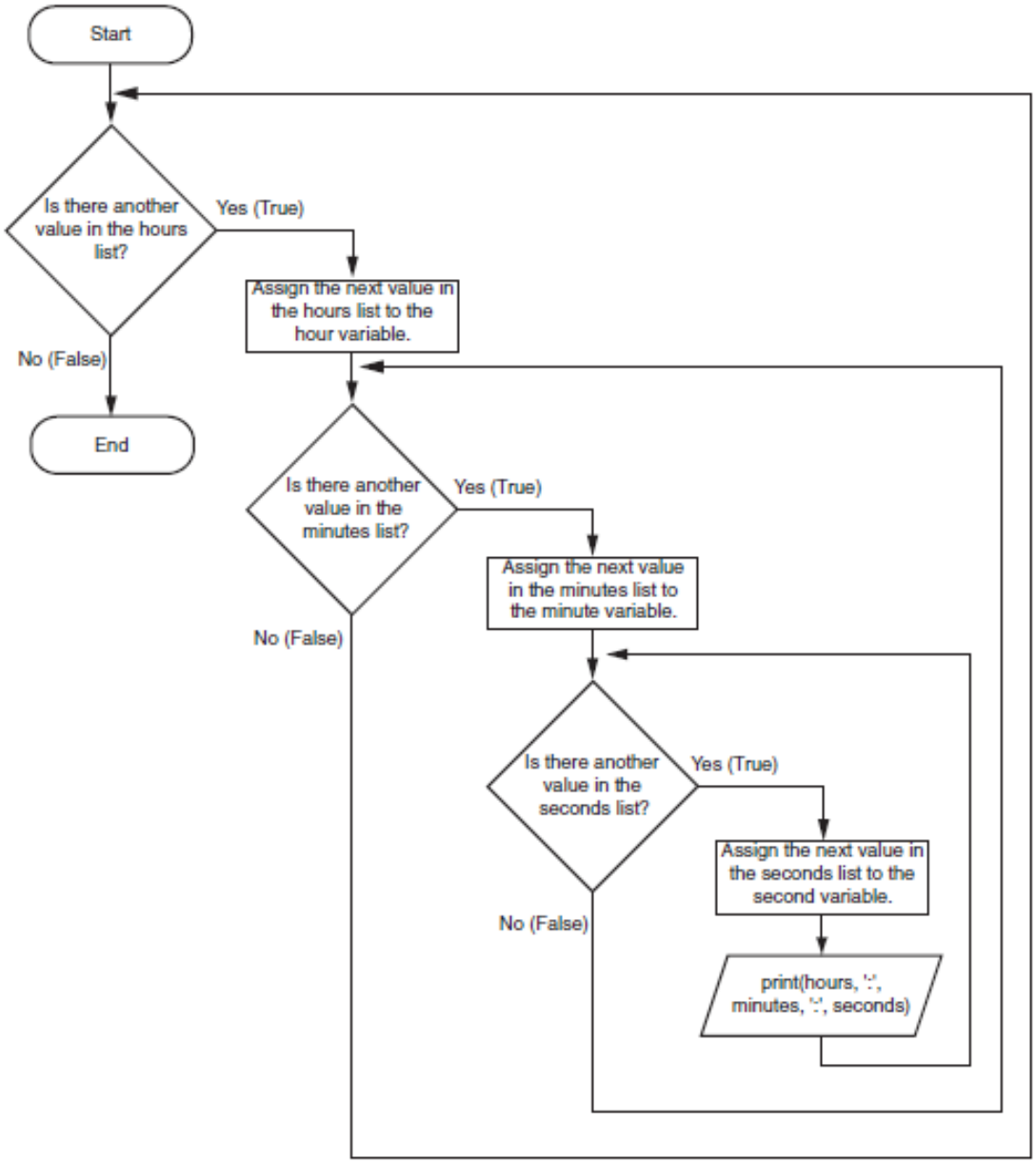
Figure 4-7 Logic containing an input validation loop



Nested Loops

- **Nested loop: loop that is contained inside another loop**
  - Example: analog clock works like a nested loop
    - Hours hand moves once for every twelve movements of the minutes hand: for each iteration of the “hours,” do twelve iterations of “minutes”
    - Seconds hand moves 60 times for each movement of the minutes hand: for each iteration of “minutes,” do 60 iterations of “seconds”

Figure 4-8 Flowchart for a clock simulator



Nested Loops (cont'd.)

- **Key points about nested loops:**
  - Inner loop goes through all of its iterations for each iteration of outer loop
  - Inner loops complete their iterations faster than outer loops
  - Total number of iterations in nested loop:

```
number_iterations_inner  x
number_iterations_outer
```

Summary

- **This chapter covered:**
  - Repetition structures, including:
    - Condition-controlled loops
    - Count-controlled loops
    - Nested loops
  - Infinite loops and how they can be avoided
  - `range` function as used in `for` loops
  - Calculating a running total and augmented assignment operators
  - Use of sentinels to terminate loops
  - Using loops to draw turtle graphic designs