

CS Bridge Module 5: Branching Statements Part 2

- Another Control Flow we can use in C++ is the Branching Statement; "Switch"

Switch Statement

Syntax: `switch (numeric-expression) {`
 `case constant:`

`...`
 `break;`

`case constant:`

`...`
 `break;`

`default:`

`...`
 `break;`

`}`

- "switch" keyword with a numeric expression to be evaluated
 - "case" cases with constant values
 - statement / instructions to be performed
 - "break" stops the Evaluation

Semantics:

- When execution reaches a "switch statement"
- First, numeric expression is evaluated
- Secondly the numeric expression is compared to "constant one"
- if the numeric expression and constant are equal, then the case expression / instructions will be executed
- Lastly, After the expression is evaluated, "break" keyword is evaluated, and would "break" out of the Switch statement.

Switch Statement - Syntactic Notes

- "Switch" statements are LESS powerful than the "if-else, if, else" statement
- Stuff that can be done with an multi-way "if" can't necessarily be done with a "switch"
- The condition in an "if" statement can be a complex boolean expression
- The "switch" statement is only comparing numeric values
- Switch statements are useful when we want to implement menus,

Syntactic Notes :

- Numeric expression must be either : int (short int, long int, int), char, or bool
 - Cannot be double, float or complex defined types
- The "case" labels MUST be Constants (literals or named constants)
 - Cannot be expressions, variable names
- If no "case" label matches the value of the "numeric expression", control branches to the default label.
 - If no "default" label, nothing is executed in the "switch" statement and control passes to the following statement after "switch"
- After a branch is taken, the control proceeds until a "break" is reached
 - If there is no "break" statement, control falls to the next switch statement UNTIL we reach the next "break"