A program without a loop and a structured variable isn't worth writing.

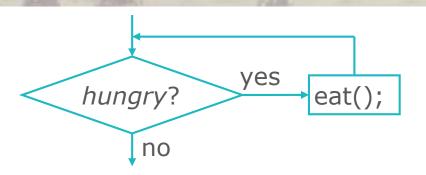
-- Alan Perlis



Lecture 6 -Loops

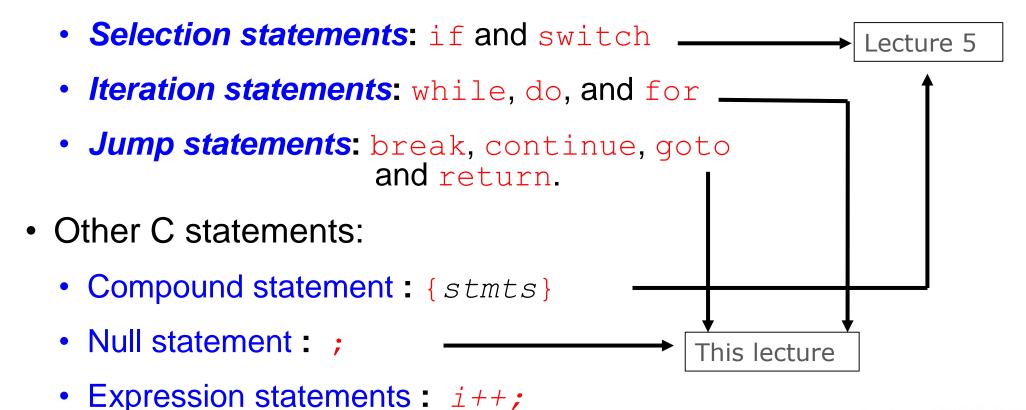
Meng-Hsun Tsai CSIE, NCKU

```
while(hungry) {
   eat();
}
```



Recall on Statements

Most of C's remaining statements fall into three categories:



Iteration Statements

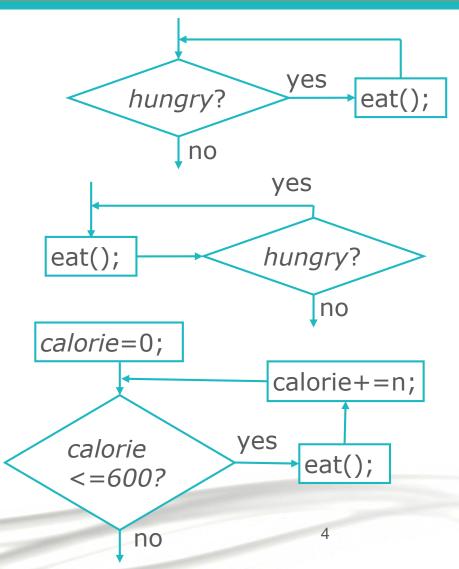
- C's iteration statements are used to set up loops.
- A loop is a statement whose job is to repeatedly execute some other statement (the loop body).
- In C, every loop has a controlling expression.
- Each time the loop body is executed (an *iteration* of the loop), the controlling expression is evaluated.
 - If the expression is true (has a value that's not zero) the loop continues to execute.



```
while(hungry)
{
  eat();
}
controlling expression
loop body
3
```

Iteration Statements (cont.)

- C provides three iteration statements:
 - The while statement is used for loops whose controlling expression is tested before the loop body is executed.
 - The do statement is used if the expression is tested after the loop body is executed.
 - The for statement is convenient for loops that increment or decrement a counting variable.



The while Statement

• The while statement has the form while (expression) statement

```
while (i < n)
i = i * 2;
```

- expression is the controlling expression; statement is the loop body.
- When a while statement is executed, the controlling expression is evaluated first.
- If its value is nonzero (true), the loop body is executed and the expression is tested again.
- The process continues until the controlling expression eventually has the value zero.

(i < n)?

false



i=i*2;

 A while statement that computes the smallest power of 2 that is greater than or equal to a number n:

A trace of the loop when n has the value 10:

Iteration	Controlling expression	Loop body
1	1 < 10 (true)	i = 1 * 2 (= 2)
2	2 < 10 (true)	i = 2 * 2 (= 4)
3	4 < 10 (true)	i = 4 * 2 (=8)
4	8 < 10 (true)	i = 8 * 2 (= 16)
5	16 < 10 (false)	



 If multiple statements are needed, use braces to create a single compound statement:

```
while (i > 0) {
   printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i);
   i--;
}
```

 Some programmers always use braces, even when they're not strictly necessary:

```
while (i < n) {
  i = i * 2;
}</pre>
```



 The following statements display a series of "countdown" messages:

```
i = 10;
while (i > 0) {
  printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i);
  i--;
                    T minus 10 and counting
                    T minus 9 and counting
                    T minus 8 and counting
                    T minus 7 and counting
                    T minus 6 and counting
                    T minus 5 and counting
                    T minus 4 and counting
                    T minus 3 and counting
                    T minus 2 and counting
                    T minus 1 and counting
```



- Observations about the while statement:
 - The controlling expression is false when a while loop terminates. Thus, when a loop controlled by i > 0 terminates, i must be less than or equal to 0.
 - The body of a while loop may not be executed at all, because the controlling expression is tested before the body is executed.
 - A while statement can often be written in a variety of ways. A more concise version of the countdown loop:

```
while (i > 0)
  printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i--);
```

Infinite Loops

- A while statement won't terminate if the controlling expression always has a nonzero value.
- C programmers sometimes deliberately create an infinite loop by using a nonzero constant as the controlling expression:

```
while (1) ...
```

• A while statement of this form will execute forever unless its body contains a statement that transfers control out of the loop (break, goto, return) or calls a function that causes the program to terminate.



Program: Printing a Table of Squares

```
square.c
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void)
 int i, n;
 printf("This program prints a table of squares.\n");
 printf("Enter number of entries in table: ");
  scanf("%d", &n);
                              This program prints a table of squares.
  i = 1;
                              Enter number of entries in table: 5
 while (i \le n) {
    printf("%10d%10d\n", i,
         i * i);
    i++;
                                                        16
  return 0;
                                                        25
```

Program: Summing a Series of Numbers

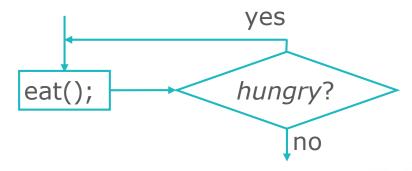
```
sum.c
#include <stdio.h>
int main (void)
  int n, sum = 0;
 printf("This program sums a series of integers.\n");
 printf("Enter integers (0 to terminate): ");
  scanf("%d", &n);
                         This program sums a series of integers.
 while (n != 0) {
                         Enter integers (0 to terminate): 8 23 71 5 0
    sum += n;
                         The sum is: 107
    scanf("%d", &n);
 printf("The sum is: %d\n", sum);
 return 0;
```

The do Statement

General form of the do statement:

```
do statement while ( expression ) ;
```

- When a do statement is executed, the loop body is executed first, then the controlling expression is evaluated.
- If the value of the expression is nonzero, the loop body is executed again and then the expression is evaluated once more.





The do Statement (cont.)

• The countdown example rewritten as a do statement:

```
i = 10;
do {
  printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i);
  --i;
} while (i > 0);
```

- The do statement is often indistinguishable from the while statement.
- The only difference is that the body of a do statement is always executed at least once.



The do Statement (cont.)

• It's a good idea to use braces in all do statements, whether or not they're needed, because a do statement without braces can easily be mistaken for a while statement:

```
do
  printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i--);
while (i > 0);
```

• A careless reader might think that the word while was the beginning of a while statement.



Program: Calculating the Number of Digits in an Integer

 The numdigits.c program calculates the number of digits in an integer entered by the user:

```
Enter a nonnegative integer: 60 The number has 2 digit(s).
```

- The program will divide the user's input by 10 repeatedly until it becomes 0; the number of divisions performed is the number of digits.
- Writing this loop as a do statement is better than using a while statement, because every integer—even 0—has at least one digit.



Program: Calculating the Number of Digits in an Integer (cont.)

```
numdigits.c
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void)
  int digits = 0, n;
 printf("Enter a nonnegative integer: ");
  scanf("%d", &n);
 do {
   n /= 10;
   digits++;
  \} while (n > 0);
 printf("The number has %d digit(s).\n", digits);
  return 0;
```



The for Statement

General form of the for statement:

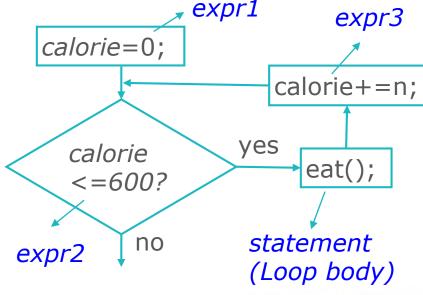
```
for ( expr1; expr2; expr3) statement
```

expr1 is an initialization step that's performed only once, before

the loop begins to execute.

• expr2 controls loop termination (the loop continues executing as long as the value of expr2 is nonzero).

 expr3 is performed at the end of each loop iteration.





The for Statement (cont.)

- The for statement is ideal for loops that have a "counting" variable, but it's versatile enough to be used for other kinds of loops as well.
- Except in a few rare cases, a for loop can always be replaced by an equivalent while loop:

```
expr1;
while ( expr2 ) {
    statement
    expr3;
}
i = 10;
while (i > 0) {
    printf("T minus %d and counting\n",i);
i--;
}
```

for (i = 10; i > 0; i--)printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i);

The for Statement (cont.)

- Since the first and third expressions in a for statement are executed as statements, their values are irrelevant—they're useful only for their side effects.
- Consequently, these two expressions are usually assignments or increment/decrement expressions.



for Statement Idioms

- The for statement is usually the best choice for loops that "count up" (increment a variable) or "count down" (decrement a variable).
- A for statement that counts up or down a total of n times will usually have one of the following forms:

```
Counting up from 0 to n-1: for (i = 0; i < n; i++) ...

Counting up from 1 to n: for (i = 1; i <= n; i++) ...

Counting down from n-1 to 0: for (i = n - 1; i >= 0; i--) ...

Counting down from n to 1: for (i = n; i > 0; i--) ...
```



for Statement Idioms (cont.)

- Common for statement errors:
 - Using < instead of > (or vice versa) in the controlling expression. "Counting up" loops should use the < or <= operator. "Counting down" loops should use > or >=.
 - Using == in the controlling expression instead of <, <=, >, or >=.
 - "Off-by-one" errors such as writing the controlling expression as i <= n instead of i < n.



Omitting Expressions in a for Statement

- C allows any or all of the expressions that control a for statement to be omitted.
- If the *first* expression is omitted, no initialization is performed before the loop is executed:

```
i = 10;
for ((;)i > 0; --i)
  printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i);
```

 If the third expression is omitted, the loop body is responsible for ensuring that the value of the second expression eventually becomes false:

```
for (i = 10; i > 0; )

printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i--);
```

Omitting Expressions in a for Statement (cont.)

 When the first and third expressions are both omitted, the resulting loop is nothing more than a while statement in disguise:

```
for ((;)i > 0;)
  printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i--);
is the same as
while (i > 0)
  printf("T minus %d and counting\n", i--);
```

• The while version is clearer and therefore preferable.

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If the second expression is missing, it defaults to a true value, so the for statement doesn't terminate (unless stopped in some other fashion).

for Statements in C99

- In C99, the first expression in a for statement can be replaced by a declaration.
- This feature allows the programmer to declare a variable for use by the loop.
- A variable declared by a for statement can't be accessed outside the body of the loop (we say that it's not visible outside the loop):

```
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
   printf("%d", i); /* legal; i is visible here */
}
printf("%d", i); /*** WRONG ***/</pre>
```



for Statements in C99 (cont.)

- Having a for statement declare its own control variable is usually a good idea: it's convenient and it can make programs easier to understand.
- However, if the program needs to access the variable after loop termination, it's necessary to use the older form of the for statement.
- A for statement may declare more than one variable, provided that all variables have the same type:

```
for (int i = 0, j = 0; i < n; i++)
```



The Comma Operator

- On occasion, a for statement may need to have two (or more) initialization expressions or one that increments several variables each time through the loop.
- This effect can be accomplished by using a comma expression as the first or third expression in the for statement.
- A comma expression has the form

where expr1 and expr2 are any two expressions.



The Comma Operator (cont.)

- A comma expression is evaluated in two steps:
 - First, expr1 is evaluated and its value discarded.
 - Second, expr2 is evaluated; its value is the value of the entire expression.
- Evaluating expr1 should always have a side effect; if it doesn't, then expr1 serves no purpose.
- When the comma expression ++i, i + j is evaluated, i is first incremented, then i + j is evaluated.
 - If i and j have the values 1 and 5, respectively, the value of the expression will be 7, and i will be incremented to 2.

The Comma Operator (cont.)

The comma operator is left associative, so the compiler interprets

$$i = 1$$
, $j = 2$, $k = i + j$

as

$$((i = 1), (j = 2)), (k = (i + j))$$

• Since the left operand in a comma expression is evaluated before the right operand, the assignments i=1, j=2, and k=i+j will be performed from left to right.



The Comma Operator (cont.)

- The comma operator makes it possible to "glue" two expressions together to form a single expression.
- Certain macro definitions can benefit from the comma operator.
- The for statement is the only other place where the comma operator is likely to be found.
- Example:

```
for (sum = 0, i = 1; i <= N; i++)
sum += i;
```

 With additional commas, the for statement could initialize more than two variables.

Program: Printing a Table of Squares (Revisited)

• The square.c program can be improved by converting its while loop to a for loop.

#include <stdio.h>

square2.c

```
int main(void)
 int i, n;
 printf("This program prints a table of squares.\n");
 printf("Enter number of entries in table: ");
  scanf("%d", &n);
  for (i = 1; i \le n; i++)
                                            while (i \le n) {
   printf("%10d%10d\n", i, i * i);
                                              printf("%10d%10d\n", i,
                                                             i * i);
 return 0;
                                              i++;
```

Program: Printing a Table of Squares (Revisited) (cont.)

- C places no restrictions on the three expressions that control the behavior of a for statement.
- Although these expressions usually initialize, test, and update the same variable, there's no requirement that they be related in any way.
- The square3.c program is equivalent to square2.c, but contains a for statement that initializes one variable (square), tests another (i), and increments a third (odd).
- The flexibility of the for statement can sometimes be useful, but in this case the original program was clearer.

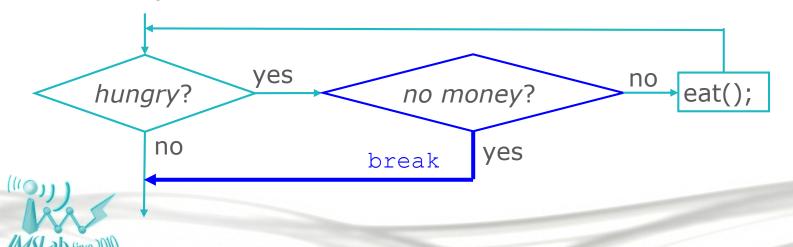


Program: Printing a Table of Squares (Revisited) (cont.)

```
square3.c
                                          (x+1)^2 - x^2 = x^2 + 2x + 1 - x^2 = 2x + 1
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void)
  int i, n, odd, square;
 printf("This program prints a table of squares.\n");
 printf("Enter number of entries in table: ");
  scanf("%d", &n);
 i = 1;
 odd = 3;
  for (square = 1; i \le n; odd += 2) {
   printf("%10d%10d\n", i, square);
   ++i;
   square += odd;
                                   for (i = 1, odd = 3, square = 1; i <= n;
                                          ++i, square += odd, odd += 2)
  return 0;
                                      printf("%10d%10d\n", i, square);
```

Exiting from a Loop

- The normal exit point for a loop is at the beginning (as in a while or for statement) or at the end (the do statement).
- Using the break statement, it's possible to write a loop with an exit point in the middle or a loop with more than one exit point.
- The break statement can transfer control out of a switch statement, but it can also be used to jump out of a while, do, or for loop.



The break Statement

 A loop that checks whether a number n is prime can use a break statement to terminate the loop as soon as a divisor is found:

```
for (d = 2; d < n; d++)
  if (n % d == 0)
    break;</pre>
```

 After the loop has terminated, an if statement can be used to determine whether termination was premature (hence n isn't prime) or normal (n is prime):

```
if (d < n)
  printf("%d is divisible by %d\n", n, d);
else
  printf("%d is prime\n", n);</pre>
```

The break Statement (cont.)

 Loops that read user input, terminating when a particular value is entered, can use break to exit:

```
for (;;) {
  printf("Enter a number (enter 0 to stop): ");
  scanf("%d", &n);
  if (n == 0)
     break;
  printf("%d cubed is %d\n", n, n * n * n);
}
```



The break Statement (cont.)

- A break statement transfers control out of the innermost enclosing while, do, for, or switch.
- When these statements are nested, the break statement can escape only one level of nesting.
- Example:

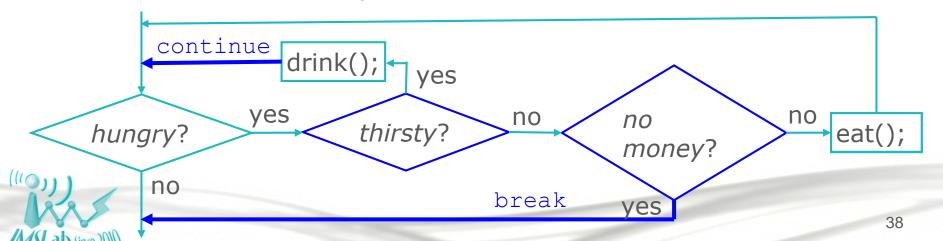
```
while (...) {
    switch (...) {
          ...
          break;
          ...
}
```

break transfers control out of the switch statement, but not out of the while loop.



The continue Statement

- The continue statement is similar to break:
 - break transfers control just past the end of a loop.
 - continue transfers control to a point just before the end of the loop body.
- With break, control leaves the loop; with continue, control remains inside the loop.



The continue Statement (cont.)

- There's another difference between break and continue: break can be used in switch statements and loops (while, do, and for), whereas continue is limited to loops.
- A loop that uses the continue statement:

```
n = 0;
sum = 0;
while (n < 10) {
    scanf("%d", &i);
    if (i == 0)
        continue;
    sum += i;
    n++;
}</pre>
```

without-continue version

```
n = 0;
sum = 0;
while (n < 10) {
    scanf("%d", &i);
    if (i != 0) {
        sum += i;
        n++;
    }
}</pre>
```

The goto Statement

- The goto statement is capable of jumping to any statement in a function, provided that the statement has a label.
- A label is just an identifier placed at the beginning of a statement:
 identifier: statement
- A statement may have more than one label.
- The goto statement itself has the form goto identifier;
- Executing the statement goto L; transfers control to the statement that follows the label L, which must be in the same function as the goto statement itself.

The goto Statement (cont.)

 If C didn't have a break statement, a goto statement could be used to exit from a loop:

```
for (d = 2; d < n; d++)
   if (n % d == 0)
      goto done;
done:
if (d < n)
   printf("%d is divisible by %d\n", n, d);
else
   printf("%d is prime\n", n);</pre>
```



The goto Statement (cont.)

- The goto statement is rarely needed in everyday C programming.
- The break, continue, and return statements—which are essentially restricted goto statements—and the exit function are sufficient to handle most situations that might require a goto in other languages.
- Nonetheless, the goto statement can be helpful once in a while.



The goto Statement (cont.)

- Consider the problem of exiting a loop from within a switch statement.
- The break statement doesn't have the desired effect: it exits from the switch, but not from the loop.
- A goto statement solves the problem:

The goto statement is also useful for exiting from nested loops.

Program: Balancing a Checkbook

- Many simple interactive programs present the user with a list of commands to choose from.
- Once a command is entered, the program performs the desired action, then prompts the user for another command.
- This process continues until the user selects an "exit" or "quit" command.

```
for (;;) {
  prompt user to enter command;
  read command;
  switch (command) {
    case command_1: perform operation_1; break;
    ...
    case command_exit: exit loop;
    default: print error message; break;
  }
}
```



Program: Balancing a Checkbook (cont.)

 The program allows the user to clear the account balance, credit money to the account, debit money from the account, display the current balance, and exit the program.

```
*** ACME checkbook-balancing program
Commands: 0=clear, 1=credit, 2=debit, 3=balance, 4=exit
Enter command: 1
Enter amount of credit: 1042.56
Enter command: 2
Enter amount of debit: 133.79
Enter command: 1
Enter amount of credit: 1754.32
Enter command: 2
Enter amount of debit: 1400
Enter command: 2
Enter amount of debit: 68
Enter command: 2
Enter amount of debit: 50
Enter command: 3
Current balance: $1145.09
Enter command: 4
```

Program: Balancing a Checkbook (cont.)

checking.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main (void)
  int cmd;
  float balance = 0.0f, credit, debit;
 printf("*** ACME checkbook-balancing program ***\n");
 printf("Commands: 0=clear, 1=credit, 2=debit, ");
 printf("3=balance, 4=exit\n\n");
  for (;;) {
   printf("Enter command: ");
    scanf("%d", &cmd);
    switch (cmd) {
      case 0: /* clear */
        balance = 0.0f;
        break;
```



Program: Balancing a Checkbook (cont.)

```
case 1: /* credit */
 printf("Enter amount of credit: ");
  scanf("%f", &credit);
 balance += credit;
 break;
case 2: /* debit */
 printf("Enter amount of debit: ");
  scanf("%f", &debit);
 balance -= debit;
 break;
case 3: /* display */
 printf("Current balance: $%.2f\n", balance);
 break;
case 4: /* exit */
 return 0:
default:
 printf("Commands: 0=clear, 1=credit, 2=debit, ");
 printf("3=balance, 4=exit\n\n");
 break;
```

The Null Statement

- A statement can be *null*—devoid of symbols except for the semicolon at the end.
- The following line contains three statements:

```
i = 0; ; j = 1;
```

 The null statement is primarily good for one thing: writing loops whose bodies are empty.



The Null Statement (cont.)

Consider the following prime-finding loop:

```
for (d = 2; d < n; d++)
  if (n % d == 0)
    break;</pre>
```

 If the n % d == 0 condition is moved into the loop's controlling expression, the body of the loop becomes empty:

```
for (d = 2; d < n && n % d != 0; d++)
  /* empty loop body */;</pre>
```

 To avoid confusion, C programmers customarily put the null statement on a line by itself.



The Null Statement (cont.)

- Accidentally putting a semicolon after the parentheses in an if, while, or for statement creates a null statement.
- Example 1:

The call of printf isn't inside the if statement, so it's performed regardless of whether d is equal to 0.

• Example 2:

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The extra semicolon creates an infinite loop.

The Null Statement (cont.)

Example 3:

The loop body is executed only once; the message printed is:

```
T minus 0 and counting
```

• Example 4:

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Again, the loop body is executed only once, and the same message is printed as in Example 3.

A Quick Review to This Lecture

```
    while statement (the most general)

                                                        true
  while ( expression ) statement
                                                expr?
                                                              stmt;

    do statement (execute at least once)

                                                   false
                                                           true
  do statement while ( expression ) ;

    for statement (with counting variable)

                                                             expr?
                                               stmt;
  for ( expr1; expr2; expr3) statement
                                                                false
                           expr1;
                                            expr3;
                                      true
                           expr2?
                                            stmt;
```

false

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A Quick Review to This Lecture (cont.)

• Infinite Loop (needs break, goto, return or exit() to leave)

```
while (1) ...
do ... while (1); /* rarely used */
for(;;) ...
```

for statement with declaration (variable not visible outside)

```
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) ...

for (int i = 0, j = 0; i < n; i++) ...
```

Comma operator (used in macro definition and for statement)

expr1 , expr2 should have side effect

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value of the entire expression

A Quick Review to This Lecture (cont.)

- break jumps out one level of switch, while, do or for
- (carefully used) continue jumps to the end (inside) of while,
 do or for
- (rarely used) goto jumps to any statement with specified label (inside function)

```
while (hungry) {
    if(thirsty) {
        drink();
        continue;
    } else if (phone_ring) {
        answer_the_phone();
        goto LOOP_END;
    } else if (nomoney) break;
    else eat();
LOOP_END: ;
}
```



A Quick Review to This Lecture (cont.)

Null statement (useful for loops with empty body)

```
for (d = 2; d < n && n % d != 0; d++)
```

Careless usage (body missing)

```
• if (d == 0);
    printf("always executed (once, of course)\n");
• while (i > 0);
    printf("never executed (infinite loop) i=%d\n", i++);
• while (--i > 0);
    printf("executed only once\n", i);
• for (i = 10; i > 0; i--);
    printf(" executed only once\n", i);
```

