



# Loops; While Loop

ITP 165 – Fall 2015  
Week 3, Lecture 1

# Problem: 99 Bottles of Beer Song



99 bottles of beer on the wall, 99 bottles of beer.

Take one down, pass it around, 98 bottles of beer on the wall!



# Writing a program to “sing” the song

- Naïve approach would be something like this:

```
std::cout << "99 bottles of beer..." << std::endl;  
std::cout << "98 bottles of beer..." << std::endl;  
std::cout << "97 bottles of beer..." << std::endl;  
// Write out 96 more verses...
```



# Rephrasing the Problem

- Let's think about a better algorithm...
- 1. Start with bottles = 99
- 2. Sing the verse for the current number of bottles
- 3. Subtract one bottle
- 4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until there are 0 bottles left
- What's the key word in this algorithm that makes it so concise?



## Rephrasing the Problem, Cont'd

1. Start with bottles = 99
2. Sing the verse for the current number of bottles
3. Subtract one bottle

**4. *Repeat*** steps 2 and 3 until there are 0 bottles left



# Repetition in a program

- If your algorithm has the word “repeat” in it, it likely means you want to use a loop
- A ***loop*** is a type of statement that allows any number of statements to continue to execute so long as a particular condition is true
- Each time the statements in the body of a loop execute is an ***iteration***



# A simple program with a loop

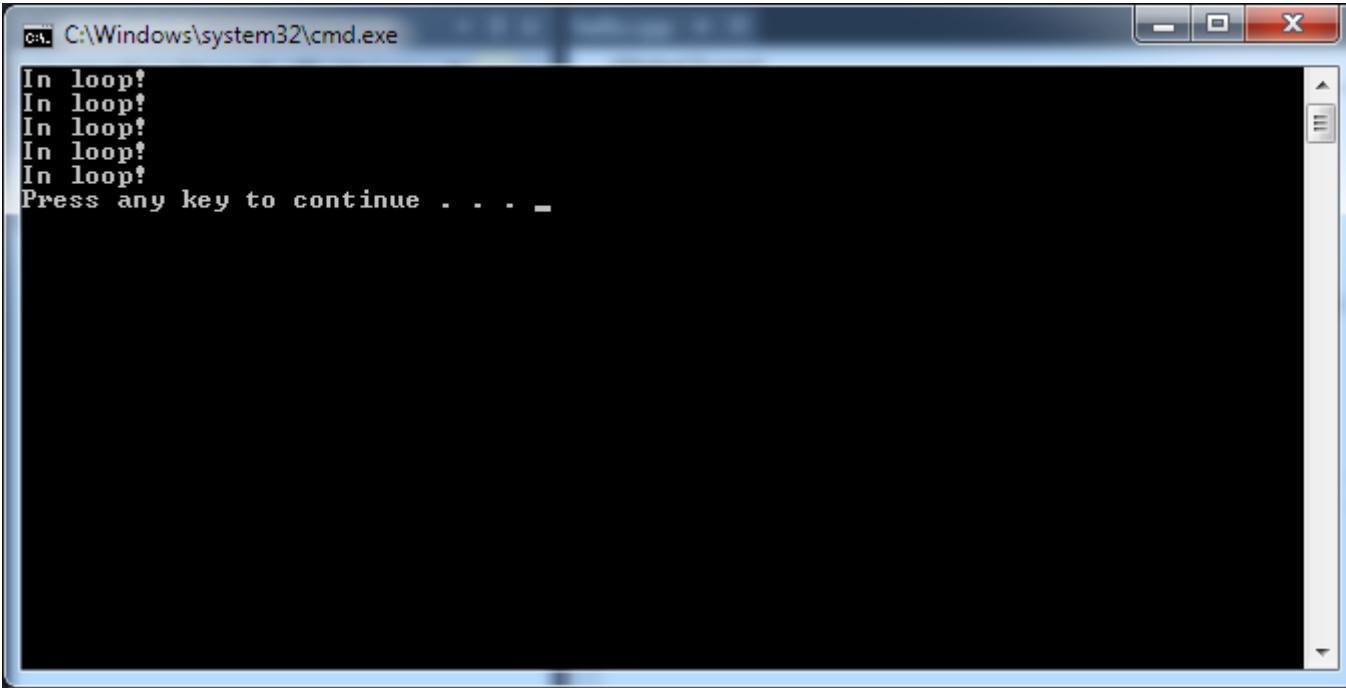
```
#include <iostream>
int main()
{
    int i = 0;
    while (i < 5)
    {
        std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;
        i++;
    }

    return 0;
}
```

- How many iterations does this loop have?



# A simple program with a loop, Cont'd

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window titled "C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe". The window contains the following text:

```
In loop!
In loop!
In loop!
In loop!
In loop!
In loop!
Press any key to continue . . .
```

The window has a standard blue title bar and a black body. It includes standard window controls (minimize, maximize, close) and scroll bars on the right side.



# While Loop Syntax

while  
keyword

Condition (must  
be in parenthesis)

while (i < 5)

{

```
std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
i++;
```

}

Required open/close  
braces

Any number of statements to  
execute as long as the  
condition is true.

Called the “body” of the loop.

# A simple program with a loop – step by step



```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

The process the program goes through when running a while loop:

1. Check the condition. If the condition is false, exit the loop.  
Otherwise continue to step 2.
2. Execute the statements inside the braces.
3. Goto step 1



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	0



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	0

1. Check the condition. If the condition is false, exit the loop.  
Otherwise continue to step 2.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	1

2. Execute the statements inside the braces.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	1

3. Goto step 1.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	1

1. Check the condition. If the condition is false, exit the loop.  
Otherwise continue to step 2.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	2

2. Execute the statements inside the braces.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	2

3. Goto step 1.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	2

1. Check the condition. If the condition is false, exit the loop.  
Otherwise continue to step 2.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	3

2. Execute the statements inside the braces.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	3

3. Goto step 1.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	3

1. Check the condition. If the condition is false, exit the loop.  
Otherwise continue to step 2.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	4

2. Execute the statements inside the braces.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	4

3. Goto step 1.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	4

1. Check the condition. If the condition is false, exit the loop.  
Otherwise continue to step 2.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	5

2. Execute the statements inside the braces.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	5

3. Goto step 1.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}
```

Variable	Value
i	5

1. Check the condition. If the condition is false, exit the loop.  
Otherwise continue to step 2.



# A simple program with a loop – step by step

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
    i++;  
}  
  
return 0;
```

Variable	Value
i	5



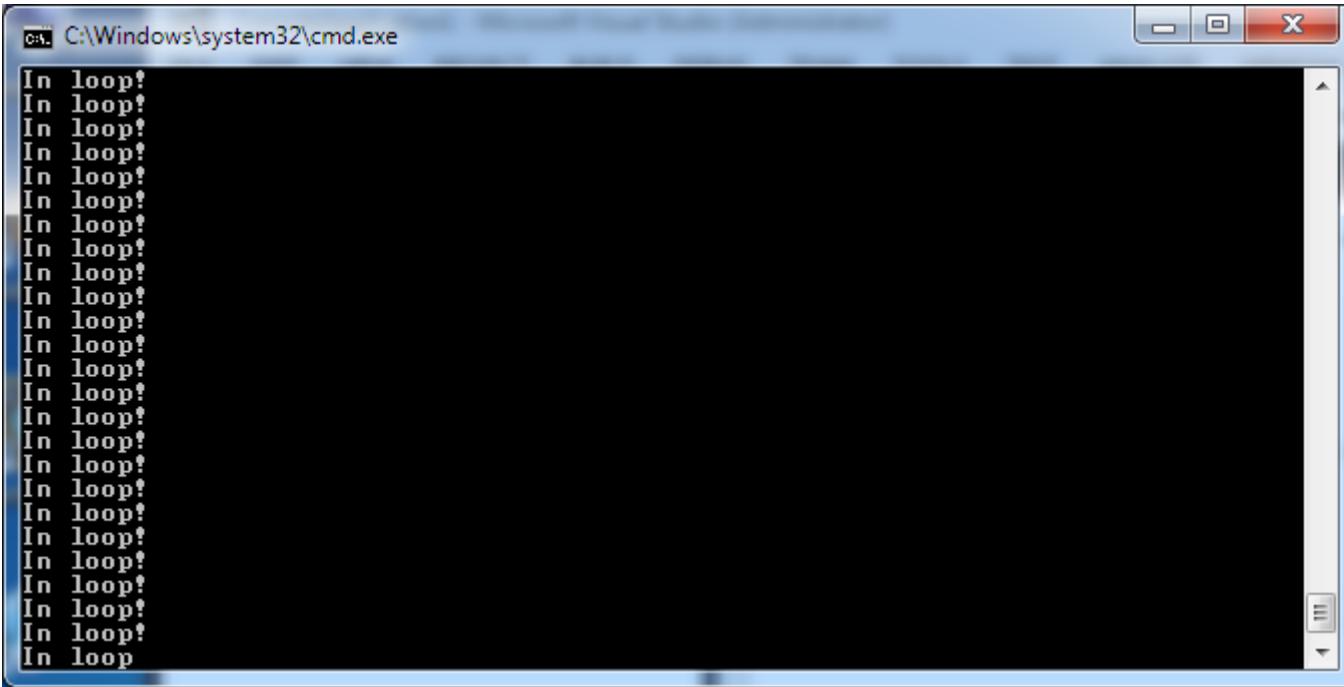
# A slight modification

- What happens if we remove the `i++` line?

```
int i = 0;  
while (i < 5)  
{  
    std::cout << "In loop!" << std::endl;  
}
```



# A slight modification, cont'd

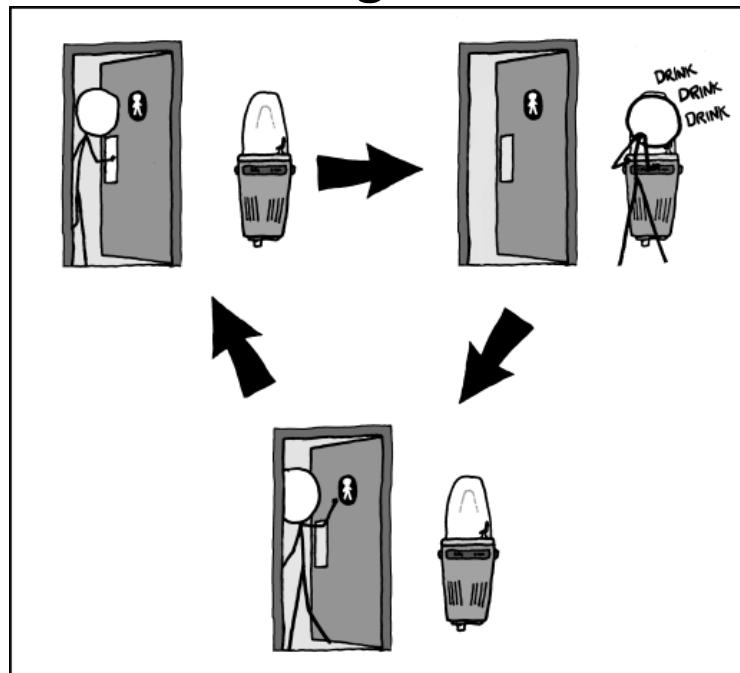
A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window titled "C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe". The window contains a single line of text: "In loop!" repeated 25 times, demonstrating a simple infinite loop or a stuck state.

```
In loop!
```



# Infinite Loop

- A loop is considered **infinite** if there is no way the condition can ever be false
- Generically, it can also just mean the algorithm will get stuck doing the same thing over and over again:



I AVOID DRINKING FOUNTAINS OUTSIDE BATHROOMS  
BECAUSE I'M AFRAID OF GETTING TRAPPED IN A LOOP.

# 99 Bottles of Beer, Revisted



- Recall that our better algorithm was:
  1. Start with bottles = 99
  2. Sing the verse for the current number of bottles
  3. Subtract one bottle
  4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until there are 0 bottles left
- How can we rewrite this as a loop?

# 99 Bottles of Beer, Code



```
int bottles = 99;  
while (bottles > 0)  
{  
    std::cout << bottles << " bottles of beer..." << std::endl;  
    bottles--;  
}
```

# 99 Bottles of Beer, In Action



```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
24 bottles of beer...
23 bottles of beer...
22 bottles of beer...
21 bottles of beer...
20 bottles of beer...
19 bottles of beer...
18 bottles of beer...
17 bottles of beer...
16 bottles of beer...
15 bottles of beer...
14 bottles of beer...
13 bottles of beer...
12 bottles of beer...
11 bottles of beer...
10 bottles of beer...
9 bottles of beer...
8 bottles of beer...
7 bottles of beer...
6 bottles of beer...
5 bottles of beer...
4 bottles of beer...
3 bottles of beer...
2 bottles of beer...
1 bottles of beer...
Press any key to continue . . .
```



# Using loops to validate input

- This loop will not exit until you enter a number  $\geq 0$ :

```
int number = -1;
while (number < 0)
{
    std::cout << "Enter a number >= 0: ";
    std::cin >> number;
    if (number < 0)
    {
        std::cout << "Invalid number." << std::endl;
    }
}
```



# Using loops to validate input, cont'd

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window titled "C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe". The window contains the following text:

```
Enter a number >= 0: -50
Invalid number.
Enter a number >= 0: -11
Invalid number.
Enter a number >= 0: 27
Press any key to continue . . .
```

The window has a standard blue title bar and a black background for the text area. It includes standard window controls (minimize, maximize, close) and scroll bars on the right side.



# Using loops to validate input, another way

- We could also have written that code as:

```
bool validNumber = false;  
int number = -1;  
while (!validNumber)  
{  
    std::cout << "Enter a number >= 0: ";  
    std::cin >> number;  
    if (number < 0)  
    {  
        std::cout << "Invalid number." << std::endl;  
    }  
    else  
    {  
        validNumber = true;  
    }  
}
```



# break Statement

- The **break** statement immediately exits the current loop
- For example:

```
while (true)
{
    break;
}
```



# Using loops to validate input, a third way

```
int number = -1;  
while (true)  
{  
    std::cout << "Enter a number >= 0: ";  
    std::cin >> number;  
    if (number >= 0)  
    {  
        break;  
    }  
  
    std::cout << "Invalid number." << std::endl;  
}
```



# continue Statement

- The continue statement skips the remainder of the body for the current iteration

```
// Output even numbers from 1-10, multiplied by 5
int i = 1;
while (i <= 10)
{
    // If this is true, it means
    // the number is not divisible by 2
    // (aka it's odd)
    if (i % 2 != 0)
    {
        i++;
        continue;
    }

    std::cout << i * 5 << std::endl;
    i++;
}
```

# Previous Code in Action

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window titled "C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe". The window contains the following text:

```
10
20
30
40
50
Press any key to continue . . .
```

The window has a standard blue title bar and a black body. It includes scroll bars on the right side and a status bar at the bottom.



# A caveat on continue/break

- Oftentimes, it is cleaner to write code that **does not** use **continue** or **break**. For example, the code for the previous loop could be rewritten as:

```
// Output even numbers from 1-10, multiplied by 5
int i = 1;
while (i <= 10)
{
    // i % 2 is 0 when even
    if (i % 2 == 0)
    {
        std::cout << i * 5 << std::endl;
    }

    i++;
}
```

# Nesting Loops



- Since a loop can contain any statements inside of its body...
- You can nest loops, just like you can nest conditionals.



# Nesting Loops – A complex example

```
bool tryAgain = true;
while (tryAgain) {
    int x = -1;
    while (x < 0) {
        std::cout << "Enter a number >= 0: ";
        std::cin >> x;
        if (x < 0) {
            std::cout << "Invalid number." << std::endl;
        }
    }

    int y = 1;
    while (y > 0) {
        std::cout << "Enter a number <= 0: ";
        std::cin >> y;
        if (y > 0) {
            std::cout << "Invalid number." << std::endl;
        }
    }

    std::string select;
    std::cout << "Would you like to try again (y/n):";
    std::cin >> select;
    if (select == "n" || select == "no") {
        tryAgain = false;
    }
}
```



# The complex example in action

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Enter a number >= 0: -10
Invalid number.
Enter a number >= 0: -20
Invalid number.
Enter a number >= 0: 5
Enter a number <= 0: 5
Invalid number.
Enter a number <= 0: 0
Would you like to try again (y/n):y
Enter a number >= 0: 20
Enter a number <= 0: -6
Would you like to try again (y/n):n
Press any key to continue . . .
```



# Nesting Loops and continue/break

- Remember that continue and break only operate on the current loop
- So for example, in the code below, the outer loop will continue to run:

```
while (true)
{
    while (true)
    {
        break;
    }
}
```

# Lab Practical #4



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