

SD400: Problem Solving

Lesson 5: Flow of Control
Repetition (Loops)

Objectives

- Design a loop
- Use **while** and **for** in a program
- Use the **for-each**

JavaScript Loop Statements: Outline

- The **while** statement
- The **for** Statement

Java Loop Statements

- A portion of a program that repeats a statement or a group of statements is called a *loop*.
- The statement or group of statements to be repeated is called the *body* of the loop.
- A loop could be used to compute grades for each student in a class.
- There must be a means of exiting the loop.

The **while** Statement

- Also called a **while** loop
- A **while** statement repeats while a controlling boolean expression remains true
- The loop body typically contains an action that ultimately causes the controlling boolean expression to become false.

The **while** Statement

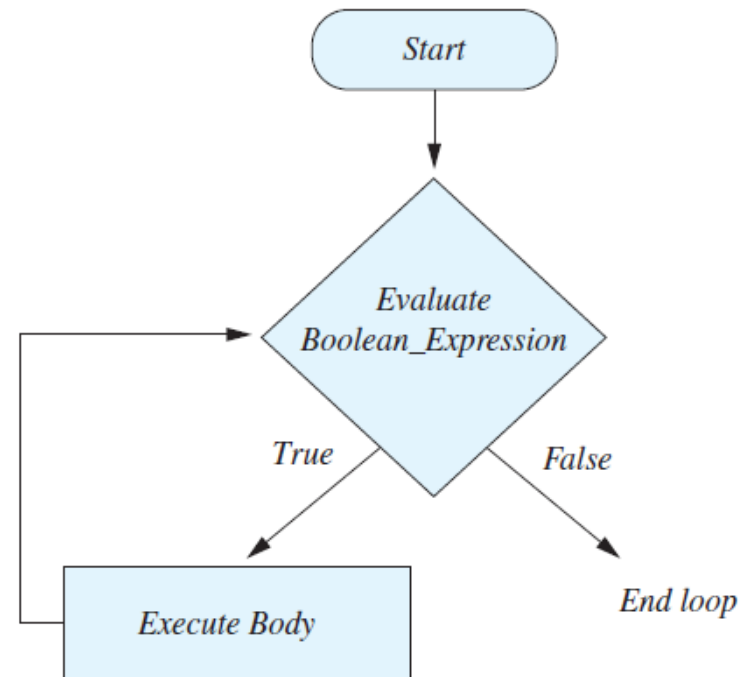
- Syntax

```
while (Boolean_Expression)  
    Body_Statement  
or  
while (Boolean_Expression)  
{  
    First_Statement  
    Second_Statement  
    ...  
}
```

The **while** Statement

Semantics of the **while** statement

while (*Boolean_Expression*)
Body



The **while** Statement

Enter a number:

2

1, 2,

Buckle my shoe.

Enter a number:

3

1, 2, 3,

Buckle my shoe.

Sample
screen
output

Enter a number:

0

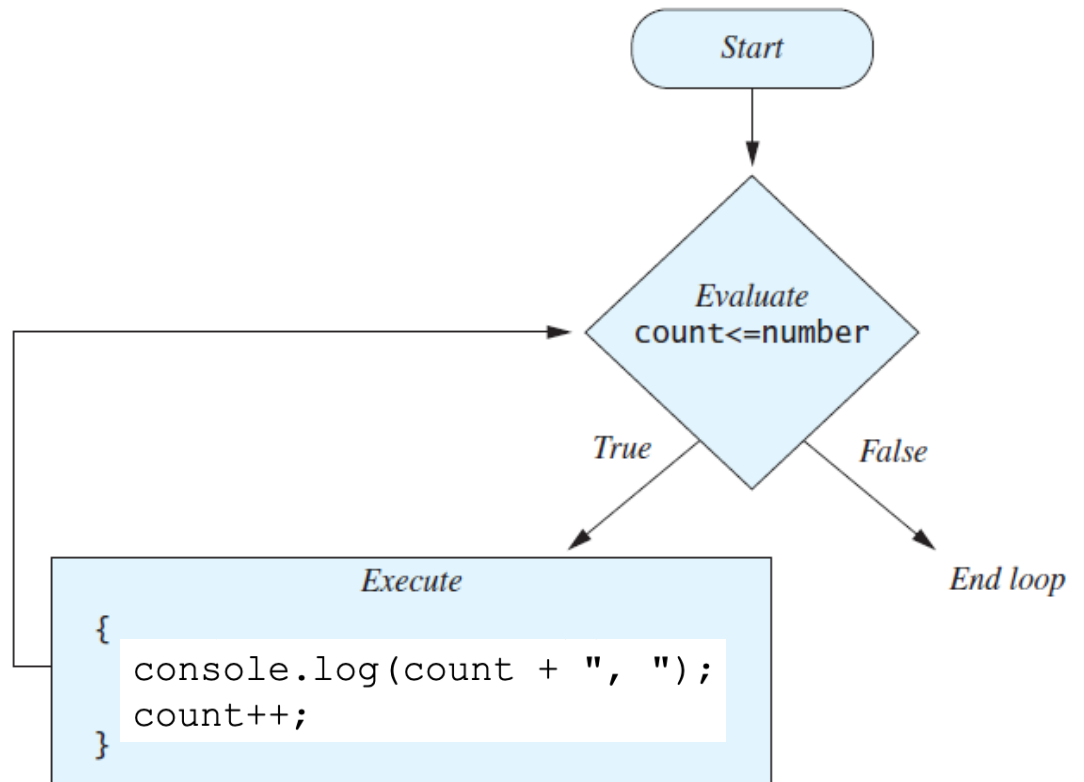
Buckle my shoe.

*The loop body is
iterated zero times.*

The **while** Statement

- The action of the **while** loop

```
while(count <= number){  
    console.log(count + ", ");  
    count++;  
}
```



Programming Example: Bug Infestation

- Given

- Volume a roach: 0.002 cubic feet
- Starting roach population
- Rate of increase: 95%/week
- Volume of a house

- Find

- Number of weeks to exceed the capacity of the house
- Number and volume of roaches

Programming Example: Bug Infestation

Algorithm for roach population program
(rough draft)

1. Get volume of house.
2. Get initial number of roaches in house.
3. Compute number of weeks until the house is full of roaches.
4. Display results.

Programming Example: Bug Infestation

Variables Needed

GROWTH_RATE —weekly growth rate of the roach population (a constant 0.95)

ONE_BUG_VOLUME —volume of an average roach (a constant 0.002)

houseVolume — volume of the house

startPopulation —initial number of roaches
ctd. ...

Programming Example: Bug Infestation

Variables Needed

countWeeks —week counter

Population —current number of roaches

totalBugVolume —total volume of all the roaches

newBugs —number of roaches hatched this week

newBugVolume —volume of new roaches

Programming Example: Bug Infestation

Sample
screen
output

```
Enter the total volume of your house
in cubic feet: 20000
Enter the estimated number of
roaches in your house: 100
Starting with a roach population of 100
and a house with a volume of 20000.0 cubic feet,
after 18 weeks,
the house will be filled with 16619693 roaches.
They will fill a volume of 33239 cubic feet.
Better call Debugging Experts Inc.
```

Infinite Loops

- A loop which repeats without ever ending is called an *infinite loop*.
- If the controlling boolean expression never becomes false, a **while** loop will repeat without ending.
- A negative growth rate in the preceding problem causes **totalBugVolume** always to be less than **houseVolume**, so that the loop never ends.

Nested Loops

Sample
screen
output

Want to average another exam?

Enter yes or no.

yes

Enter all the scores to be averaged.

Enter a negative number after
you have entered all the scores.

90

70

80

-1

The average is 80.0

Want to average another exam?

Enter yes or no.

no

Nested Loops

- The body of a loop can contain any kind of statements, including another loop.
- In the previous example
 - The average score was computed using a **while** loop.
 - This **while** loop was placed inside a **while** loop so the process could be repeated for other sets of exam scores.

The **for** Statement

- A **for** statement executes the body of a loop a fixed number of times.
- Example

```
for (count = 1; count < 3; count++)  
    console.log(count);
```

The **for** Statement

- Syntax

*for (Initialization, Condition, Update)
 Body_Statement*

- **Body_Statement** can be either a simple statement or a compound statement in **{ }** .

- Corresponding **while** statement

*Initialization
while (Condition)
 Body_Statement_Including_Update*

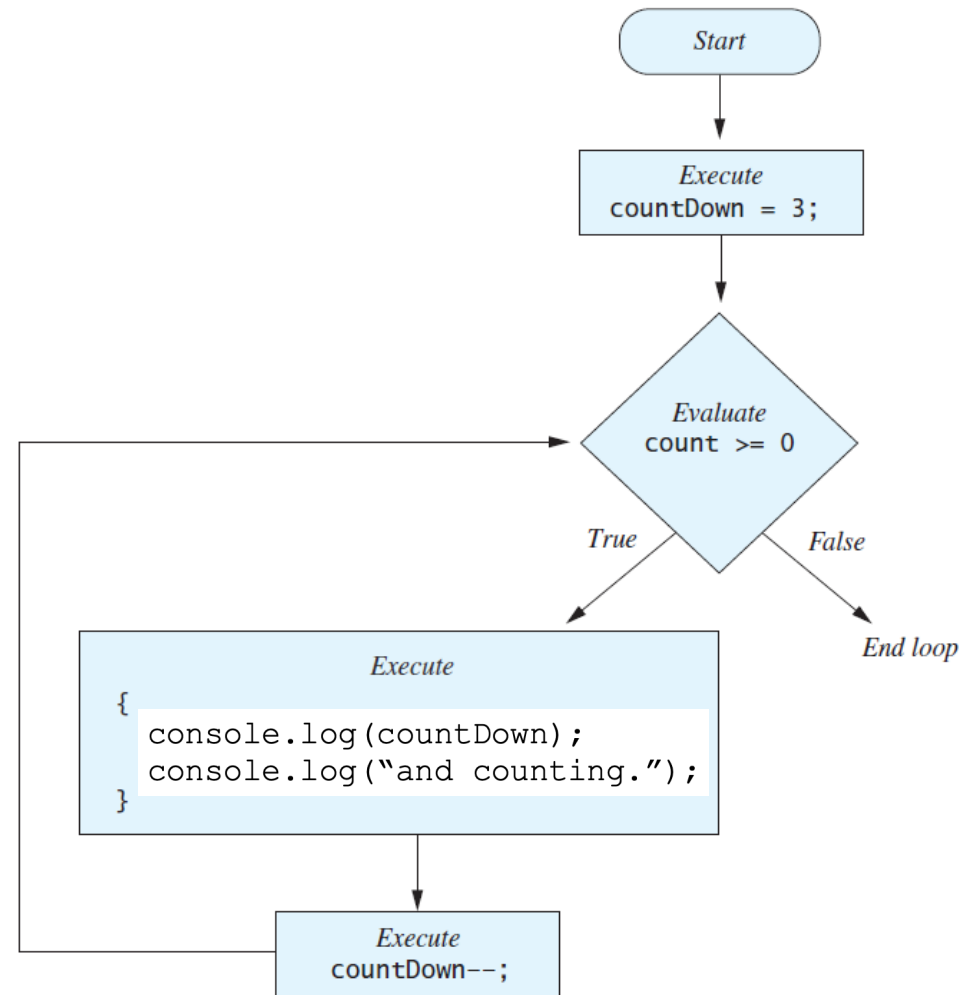
The **for** Statement

Sample
screen
output

```
3  
and counting.  
2  
and counting.  
1  
and counting.  
0  
and counting.  
Blast off!
```

The **for** Statement

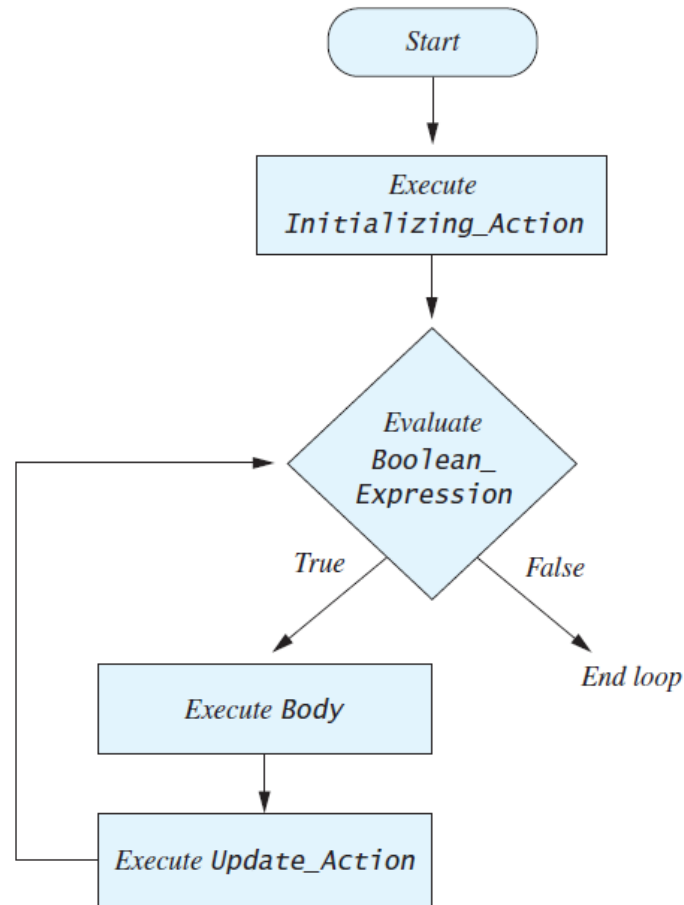
- The action of the **for** loop



The **for** Statement

for (*Initializing_Action*; *Boolean_Expression*; *Update_Action*)
 Body

- Figure 4.6 The semantics of the **for** statement



The **for** Statement

- Possible to declare variables within a **for** statement

```
int sum = 0;  
for (int n = 1 ; n <= 10 ; n++)  
    sum = sum + n * n;
```

- Note that variable **n** is local to the loop

The **for** Statement

- A comma separates multiple initializations
- Example

```
for (n = 1, product = 1; n <= 10; n++)  
    product = product * n;
```

- Only one boolean expression is allowed, but it can consist of **&&**s, **||**s, and **!**s.
- Multiple update actions are allowed, too.

```
for (n = 1, product = 1; n <= 10;  
    product = product * n, n++);
```


Programming with Loops: Outline

- The Loop Body
- Initializing Statements
- Controlling Loop Iterations
- **break** and **continue** statements
- Loop Bugs
- Tracing Variables

The Loop Body

- To design the loop body, write out the actions the code must accomplish.
- Then look for a repeated pattern.
 - The pattern need not start with the first action.
 - The repeated pattern will form the body of the loop.
 - Some actions may need to be done after the pattern stops repeating.

Initializing Statements

- Some variables need to have a value before the loop begins.
 - Sometimes this is determined by what is supposed to happen after one loop iteration.
 - Often variables have an initial value of zero or one, but not always.
- Other variables get values only while the loop is iterating.

Controlling Number of Loop Iterations

- If the number of iterations is known before the loop starts, the loop is called a *count-controlled loop*.
 - Use a **for** loop.
- Asking the user before each iteration if it is time to end the loop is called the *ask-before-iterating technique*.
 - Appropriate for a small number of iterations
 - Use a **while** loop.

Controlling Number of Loop Iterations

- For large input lists, a *sentinel value* can be used to signal the end of the list.
 - The sentinel value must be different from all the other possible inputs.
 - A negative number following a long list of nonnegative exam scores could be suitable.

90

0

10

-1

Controlling Number of Loop Iterations

- Example - reading a list of scores followed by a sentinel value

```
let next = parseInt(prompt("Enter value:"));  
while (next >= 0)  
{  
    // Process_The_Score  
    next = parseInt(prompt("Enter value:"));  
}
```

Controlling Number of Loop Iterations

Sample
screen
output

```
Enter nonnegative numbers.  
Place a negative number at the end  
to serve as an end marker.
```

```
1 2 3 -1
```

```
The sum of the numbers is 6
```

Programming Example

- Spending Spree
 - You have \$100 to spend in a store
 - Maximum 3 items
 - Computer tracks spending and item count
 - When item chosen, computer tells you whether or not you can buy it
- Client wants adaptable program
 - Able to change amount and maximum number of items

Programming Example

Sample
screen
output

```
You may buy up to 3 items  
costing no more than $100.  
Enter cost of item #1: $80  
You may buy this item.  
You spent $80 so far.  
You may buy up to 2 items  
costing no more than $20.  
Enter cost of item #2: $20  
You may buy this item.  
You spent $100 so far.  
You are out of money.  
You spent $100, and are done shopping.
```


The **break** Statement in Loops

- A **break** statement can be used to end a loop immediately.
- The **break** statement ends only the **innermost** loop or switch statement that contains the **break** statement.
- **break** statements make loops more difficult to understand.
- Use **break** statements sparingly (if ever).

The **break** Statement in Loops

- Note program fragment, ending a loop with a **break**

```
while (itemNumber <= MAX_ITEMS)
{
    . . .
    if (itemCost <= leftToSpend)
    {
        . . .
        if (leftToSpend > 0)
            itemNumber++;
        else
        {
            console.log("You are out of money.");
            break;
        }
    }
    else
        . . .
}
```



```
console.log( . . . );
```

The **continue** Statement in Loops

- A **continue** statement
 - Ends current loop iteration
 - Begins the next one
- Text recommends avoiding use
 - Introduce unneeded complications

Tracing Variables

- *Tracing variables* means watching the variables change while the program is running.
 - Simply insert temporary output statements in your program to print of the values of variables of interest
 - Or, learn to use the debugging facility that may be provided by your system.

Loop Bugs

- **Common loop bugs**

- Unintended infinite loops
- Off-by-one errors
- Testing equality of floating-point numbers

- **Subtle infinite loops**

- The loop may terminate for some input values, but not for others.
- For example, you can't get out of debt when the monthly penalty exceeds the monthly payment.

Summary

- A loop is a programming construct that repeats an action
- Java has the **while**, and the **for** statements
- The **while** repeat the loop while a condition is true
- The logic of a **for** statement is identical to the while

Summary

- Loops may be ended using a sentinel value or a boolean value
- Typical loop bugs include infinite loops or loops which are off by 1 iteration
- Variables may be traced by including temporary output statements or a debugging utility