

COMP1021
Introduction to Computer Science

Loops

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Outcomes

- After completing this presentation, you are expected to be able to:
 1. Write loops using the while command
 2. Work with conditions using logical operators
 3. Write code using nested loops

Loops

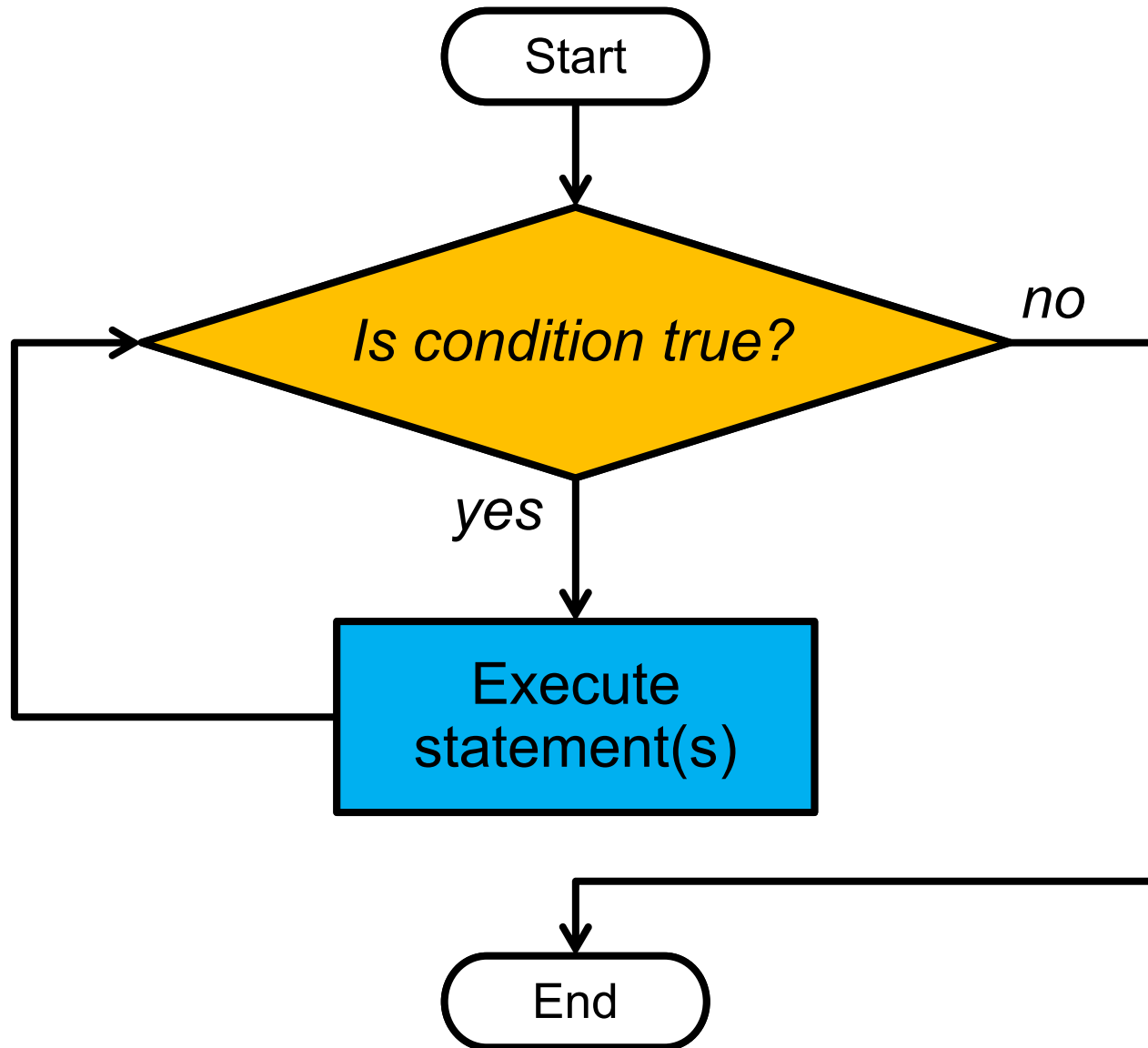
- Using loops in programming is very useful because it makes repetitive work easy
- In this presentation we look at *while* loops
- We will use both graphics and non-graphics examples

While Loops

```
while ...condition... :  
    ...statement(s)...
```

- While *condition* is true, repeatedly execute *statement(s)*
 - A statement simply means a Python instruction
- When *condition* is false, the while loop finishes

The Flow of a While Loop



Reminder - Comparison

- You can do the following comparisons:
 - < less than
 - <= less than or equal to
 - > greater than
 - >= greater than or equal to
 - == equal to
 - != not equal to

Counting Up

- This example counts from 1 to 10
- Each time it prints the number

```
count = 1
```

```
while count <= 10:
```

```
    print(count)
```

```
    count = count + 1
```

*When the
program is
executed,
this is what
you see*

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

*Like the Python `if` statement, we
need to use indentation for everything
inside the `while`*

1. The value 1 is put in the control variable `count`

2. If the value in `count` is `<= 10` then do the things inside the loop

Result:

`count = 1`

`while count <= 10:`

`print(count)`

`count = count + 1`

3. Inside the loop the number inside the variable is printed, then it is increased by 1

4. When Python has finished doing the things inside the while loop, it will automatically jump back to the `while` and check whether to do the things inside the loop again

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Counting Down

- This example does the opposite to the previous example
- This time it counts down, from 10 to 1

```
count = 10
```

```
while count >= 1:
```

```
    print(count)
```

```
    count = count - 1
```

*When the
program is
executed,
this is what
you see*

10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

What Happens When a Loop Finishes?

- When a loop finishes Python simply goes to the next line of code after the loop, and carries on

```
count = 10
while count >= 1:
    print(count)
    count = count - 1
```

*When the
program is
executed,
this is what
you see*

10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
finished!

```
print("finished!")
```

← *You know this is not in the loop
because there's no indentation*

Writing Comments

- Python will ignore anything on the right of #
- So you can use it to make notes, like this:

```
# This is an example of a loop
```

```
# It will count down from 10 to 1
```

```
count=10 # Start with the number 10
```

```
while count>=1:
```

```
    print(count) # Show the number
```

```
    count=count-1 # Decrease the variable
```

Another Way to Do Comments

- When you want to write a big comment, you can use `"""` at the start and end, instead of starting every line of your comment with a `#`

```
"""
```

```
This is an example of a loop.
```

```
It counts down from 10 to 1.
```

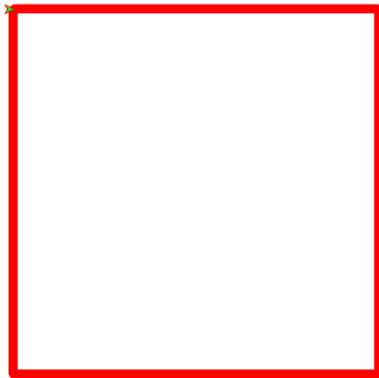
```
Each time it prints the number.
```

```
"""
```

- (However, sometimes Python gets a bit confused when you use this method, the `#` method is safer)

Using Loops For Graphics

- Loops are very useful for graphics because many graphical structures are created by repeating code
- For example, to draw a square you can *move forward and change angle 90 degrees* four times, as shown here:



```
import turtle  
  
.  
.  
.  
turtle.forward(200)  
turtle.right(90)  
turtle.forward(200)  
turtle.right(90)  
turtle.forward(200)  
turtle.right(90)  
turtle.forward(200)  
turtle.right(90)
```

Drawing a Square

- This code uses a loop to create the same square

```
side = 0
```

```
while side < 4:
```

```
    turtle.forward(200)
```

```
    turtle.right(90)
```

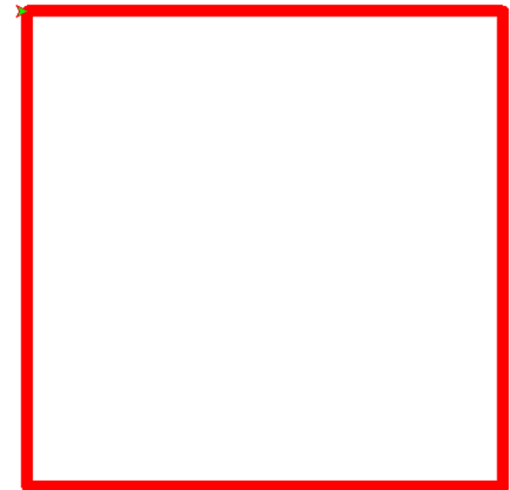
```
    side = side + 1
```

Run the loop four times

i.e. the loop will be executed with the variable side containing 0, 1, 2, and 3

In this presentation we are focused on loops so we don't show the first few turtle commands e.g.

```
import turtle  
turtle.color("red")
```



Drawing a Star Shape

- Similarly you can use a loop to draw a star shape with five sides, i.e.:

```
side = 0
```

```
while side < 5:
```

```
    turtle.forward(200)
```

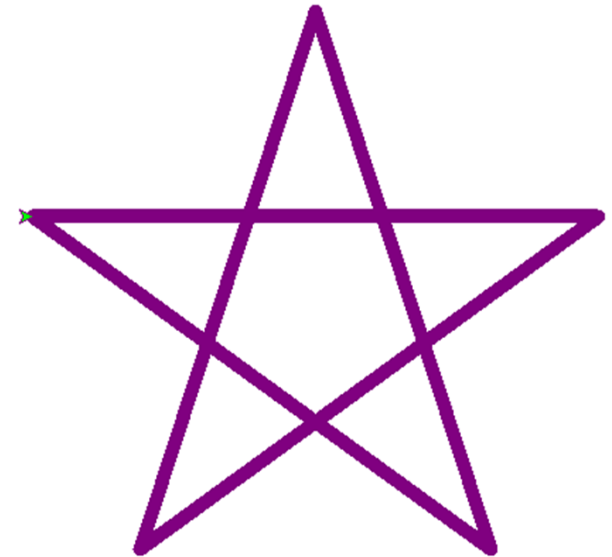
```
    turtle.right(144)
```

```
    side = side + 1
```

Run the loop five times

i.e. the loop will be executed with the

variable side containing 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4



- In this example the value in a variable called *radius* is reduced each time
- The variable is used to control the radius of a circle
- So the circle gets smaller each time

```
radius = 100
```

```
while radius > 0:
```

```
    turtle.circle(radius)
```

```
    radius = radius - 10
```

Another Example

Repeat the loop while the radius is greater than zero



An Eating Candy Example

- The program below uses a while loop to repeatedly buy candy bars while there's enough money

*Start with this much
money in the pocket*

```
money_in_pocket = 30  
cost_of_candy_bar = 7
```

*The loop runs while there is
enough money to buy a candy bar*

```
while money_in_pocket >= cost_of_candy_bar:  
    print("I have $", money_in_pocket)  
    print("I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!")  
  
    money_in_pocket = money_in_pocket - cost_of_candy_bar  
  
print("Now, I only have $", money_in_pocket, "left.")  
print("I don't have enough money for any more candy :(")
```

Running the Eating Candy Example

- Here is the result of running the program

In this example, \$7 has been used to buy one candy bar each time, inside the while loop

>>>

I have \$ 30

I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!

I have \$ 23

I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!

I have \$ 16

I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!

I have \$ 9

I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!

Now, I only have \$ 2 left.

I don't have enough money for any more candy :(

>>>

Improving the Example

- Let's improve the eating candy example to include the number of candy bars that are bought
- First, a variable to count the number of candy bars is added at the top of the program, like this:

```
candyBars_eaten = 0
```

- Then inside the while loop, the variable is increased by one, like this:

```
candyBars_eaten = candyBars_eaten + 1
```

The Improved Program

```
money_in_pocket = 30
cost_of_candy_bar = 7
```

```
candyBars_eaten = 0
```

These are newly added code

```
while money_in_pocket >= cost_of_candy_bar:
    print("I have $", money_in_pocket)
    print("I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!")
    money_in_pocket = money_in_pocket - cost_of_candy_bar
```

```
candyBars_eaten = candyBars_eaten + 1
```

```
print("I have eaten", candyBars_eaten, "candy bars.")
```

```
print("Now, I only have $", money_in_pocket, "left.")
```

```
print("I don't have enough money for any more candy :(")
```

Running the Improved Example

>>>

I have \$ 30

I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!

I have \$ 23

I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!

I have \$ 16

I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!

I have \$ 9


I am buying and eating a delicious candy bar!

I have eaten 4 candy bars.

Now, I only have \$ 2 left.

I don't have enough money for any more candy :(

>>>

 *A new message*

A Math Question Example

- Here a math question is created and shown
- The user has to answer it correctly

```
import random
```

```
number1 = random.randint(1, 99)  
number2 = random.randint(1, 99)
```

*Generate two
random numbers
between 1 and 99*

```
answer = number1 + number2  
guess = 0
```

*The user guesses
the answer inside
the while loop*

```
while guess != answer:  
    print("What is", number1, "+", number2)  
    guess = input("? ")  
    guess = int(guess)
```

```
print("You are right!")
```

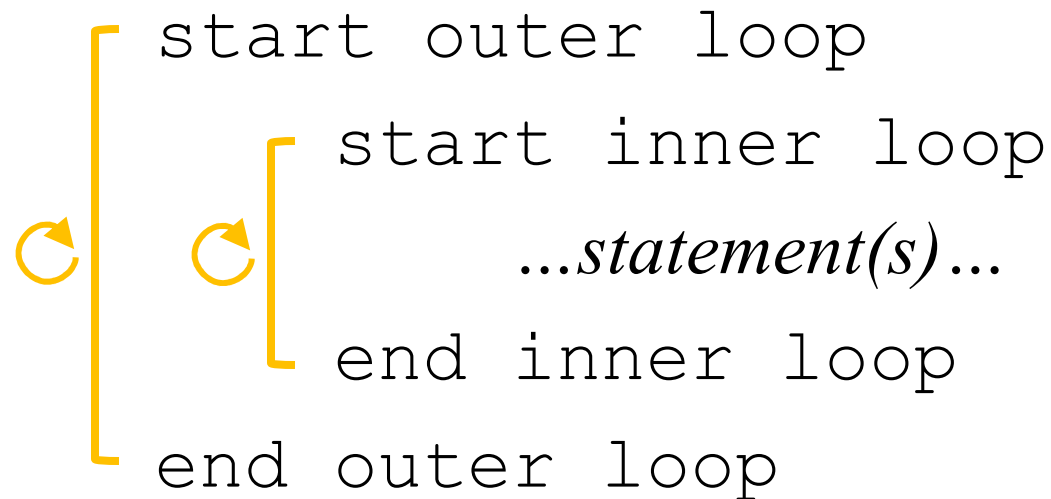
Running the Math Question Example

- To finish the program the user has to enter the correct answer
- This is because the while loop continues when `guess` is not equal to `answer`
- In other words, `guess` must be equal to `answer` to finish the program
- Here is an example of running the program:

```
>>>
What is 28 + 75
? 100
What is 28 + 75
? 110
What is 28 + 75
? 103
You are right!
>>>
```

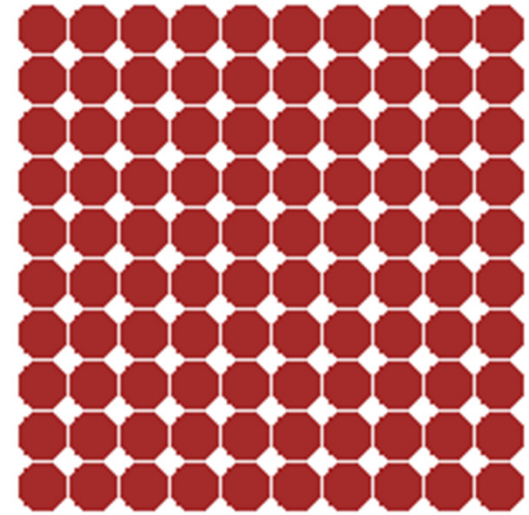
Using a Loop Inside a Loop

- You can put a loop inside a loop



- For example, you can put a while loop inside another while loop
- A loop inside a loop is called a *nested* loop

This is the target result



- Let's imagine we need to create this 10*10 pattern
- We could use two loops, one inside the other:
 - The outside loop goes from bottom to top
 - The inside loop goes from left to right, creating a circle each time
- An example implementation is shown on the next slide

y=0

while y<10:

```
import turtle
turtle.color("brown")
turtle.speed(0) # Fast
turtle.up() # No lines
```

x=0

while x<10:

display_x=x*20

display_y=y*20

turtle.goto(display_x, display_y)

turtle.dot(20)

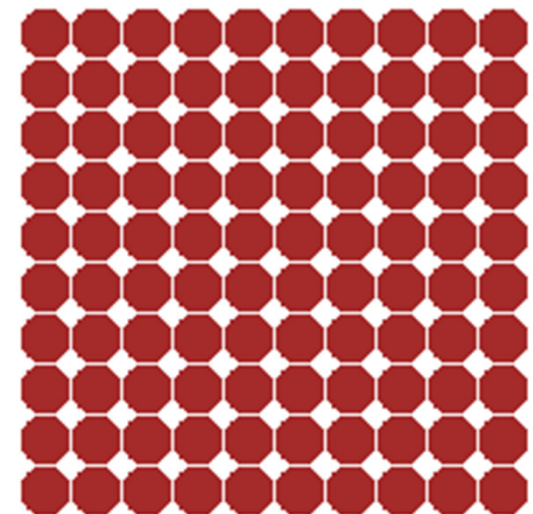
x=x+1

y=y+1

print("finished!")

- turtle.dot() makes a filled circle
- The turtle position is the circle center
- It works even if the pen is up

Result:



*The result
is a 10*10
display of
circles*

Using an Infinite While Loop

- The previous math question program asks a question only once
- Now we change the program so that it asks math questions indefinitely
- We do this by using an *infinite loop*
- An infinite loop is a loop that never stops, e.g. the condition is always true, like this:

```
while True :  
    ...statement(s)...
```

A Nested Loop Example

```
import random
```

This code asks random math questions indefinitely, because this outside loop never stops

```
while True:
```

```
    number1 = random.randint(1, 99)
```

```
    number2 = random.randint(1, 99)
```

```
    answer = number1 + number2
```

```
    guess = 0
```

```
        while guess != answer:
```

```
            print("What is", number1, "+", number2)
```

```
            guess = input("? ")
```

```
            guess = int(guess)
```

```
        print("You are right!")
```

What is $10 + 63$
? 74
What is $10 + 63$
? 73
You are right!
What is $52 + 79$
? 132
What is $52 + 79$
? 130
What is $52 + 79$
? 131
You are right!
What is $3 + 2$
? 4
What is $3 + 2$
? 5
You are right!
What is $85 + 98$
? 185
What is $85 + 98$
? 183
You are right!



Running the Program

What is $77 + 27$
? 97
What is $77 + 27$
? 107
What is $77 + 27$
? 104
You are right!
What is $3 + 54$
? 57
You are right!
What is $37 + 13$
? 49
What is $37 + 13$
? 50
You are right!
What is $97 + 41$
?




Stopping the Example

- The program will not stop asking you math questions (because of the infinite loop!)
- One way to stop the program is by pressing *Control-C*, like this:

```
>>>
What is 78 + 50
? 128
You are right!
What is 55 + 42
? 97
You are right!
What is 8 + 97
? 105
You are right!
What is 19 + 77
?
```

Instead of answering the question, the user pressed *Control-C* here



```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "C:\06_while_loop_math_question_repeat_indefinite.py", line 21, in <module>
    guess = input("? ") # Get the user input and store it
KeyboardInterrupt
>>>
```

Improving the Example

- It is not very nice when the user has to use *Control-C* to stop a program
- Let's use more sensible control in the outer loop
- Now we will only ask three different math questions in the program
- To do that, we use a variable to keep track of the number of questions the user has answered correctly so far

The Improved Example

```
import random
```

```
number_of_questions_so_far = 0
```

```
while number_of_questions_so_far < 3:
```

```
    number1 = random.randint(1, 99)
```

```
    number2 = random.randint(1, 99)
```

```
    answer = number1 + number2
```

```
    guess = 0
```

```
    while guess != answer:
```

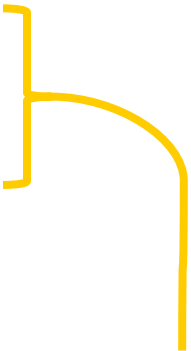
```
        print("What is", number1, "+", number2)
```

```
        guess = input("? ")
```


```
        guess = int(guess)
```

```
    print("You are right!")
```

```
    number_of_questions_so_far = number_of_questions_so_far + 1
```



*Keep track of the number of
questions answered so far*



*Increase the number of
questions answered so far*


```
>>>  
What is 27 + 20  
? 47  
You are right!  
What is 30 + 30  
? 60  
You are right!  
What is 44 + 37  
? 77  
What is 44 + 37  
? 71  
What is 44 + 37  
? 81  
You are right!  
>>>
```

Running the Improved Example