

CONCEPTS OF
PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

Chapter 8

Statement-Level Control Structures



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Chapter 8 Topics

- Introduction
- Selection Statements
- Iterative Statements
- Unconditional Branching
- Guarded Commands
- Conclusions

Selection Statements

- Selection statement :
 - provides the means of choosing between two or more paths of execution
- Two general categories:
 - Two-way selectors (e.g., if ... else ...)
 - Multiple-way selectors (e.g., switch ... case...)

Two-Way Selection Statements

- General form:

```
if control_expression
  then clause
  else clause
```

- Design Issues:

- What is the form and type of the control expression?
- How are the then and else clauses specified?
- How should the meaning of nested selectors be specified?

Control Expression

- If the *then* reserved word or some other syntactic marker is not used to introduce the *then* clause
 - the control expression is placed in parentheses
 - E.g., Java: `if (boolean-expression) {...} else {...}`
- In C89, C99, Python, and C++
 - the control expression can be arithmetic
 - E.g., `if (a-b) ... else ...`
- In most other languages
 - the control expression must be Boolean

Clause Form

- The *then* and *else clauses*
 - can be **single** statements or **compound** statements
- In **Perl**, all clauses must be delimited by **braces**

E.g., `if ($age >= 18) {`
 `print "you can vote.\n"; }`
 `else {`
 `print "You are too young to vote\n"; }`

- **Python** uses **indentation** to define clauses

E.g., `var = 100`
 `if var:`
 `print "Got a positive value"`
 `print "Yes"`
 `else:`
 `print "Got a negative value"`

Nesting Selectors : Java

- Java example

```
if (sum == 0)
    if (count == 0)
        result = 0;
    else result = 1;
```

- Which `if` gets the `else`?
- Java's static semantics rule:
 - `else` matches with the nearest previous `if`

Nesting Selectors: Java

- To force an alternative semantics, compound statements may be used:

```
if (sum == 0) {  
    if (count == 0)  
        result = 0;  
}  
else result = 1;
```

- The above solution is used in C, C++, and C#

Nesting Selectors: Ruby

- Statement sequences as clauses: Ruby

```
if sum == 0 then
  if count == 0 then
    result = 0
  else
    result = 1
  end
end
```

Nesting Selectors: Python

- Python: uses indentation

```
if sum == 0 :  
    if count == 0 :  
        result = 0  
    else :  
        result = 1
```

Selector Expressions

- In ML, F#, and Lisp
 - the selector is an expression
- in F#:

```
let y =  
    if x > 0 then x  
    else 2 * x
```

- The types of the values returned by *then* and *else* clauses must be the same.

Multiple-Way Selection Statements

- Allow the selection of **one** of any number of statements or statement groups
- Design Issues:
 1. What is the **form** and **type** of the **control expression**?
 2. How are the **selectable segments** specified?
 3. Is **execution flow** through the structure restricted to **include just a single selectable segment**?
 4. How are **case values** specified?
 5. What is done about **unrepresented expression values**?

Multiple-Way Selection

- C, C++, Java, and JavaScript

```
switch (expression) {  
    case const_expr1: stmt1;  
    ...  
    case const_exprn: stmtn;  
    [default: stmtn+1]  
}
```

Multiple-Way Selection: C

- Design choices for C's **switch** statement
 - Control expression can be **only** an integer type
 - Selectable **segments** could be:
 - Statement sequences (e.g., `a = b + c;`);
 - Blocks (e.g., `{ }`);
 - Compound statements (e.g., `while() {}`)
 - **Any number** of segments can be executed in one execution of the construct
 - **default** clause is for **unrepresented values** (if there is no **default**, the whole statement **does nothing**)
 - E.g. ,

```
switch(input) {  
    case 1: printf("case #1\n"); break;  
    case 2: printf("case #2\n"); break;  
    default: printf( "default case\n" ); break; }
```

Multiple-Way Selection: C#

- C#

- Differs from C in that it has a static semantics rule that **disallows** the implicit execution of more than one segment
- Each selectable segment **must** end with an unconditional branch (**goto** or **break**)
- the control expression and case constants can be **strings**
- E.g. ,

```
int switchCase=1;
switch (switchCase) {
case1: Console.WriteLine("Case 1"); break;
case2: Console.WriteLine("Case 2"); break;
default: Console.WriteLine("Default case"); break;
}
```

Multiple-Way Selection: Ruby

- Ruby case statements:

```
puts case input
```

```
  when 1..10
```

```
    "It's between 1 and 10"
```

```
  when 100
```

```
    "It's 100"
```

```
  when String
```

```
    "You passed a string"
```

```
  else
```

```
    " I have no idea what to do with that."
```

```
end
```


Multiple-Way Selection: Python

- Multiple Selectors can appear as direct extensions to two-way selectors, using **else-if** clauses,
- in Python:

```
if count < 10 :  
    bag1 = True  
elif count < 100 :  
    bag2 = True  
elif count < 1000 :  
    bag3 = True
```

Multiple-Way Selection: Ruby

- The Python example can be written as a Ruby **case**

case

when count < 10 **then** bag1 = **true**

when count < 100 **then** bag2 = **true**

when count < 1000 **then** bag3 = **true**

end

Multiple-Way Selection: Scheme

- General form of a call to **COND**:

(**COND**

(predicate₁ expression₁)

...

(predicate_n expression_n)

[(**ELSE** expression_{n+1})]

)

- The **ELSE** clause is **optional**; **ELSE** is a synonym for **true**
- Each predicate-expression pair is a parameter
- Semantics: The value of the evaluation of **COND** is the **value** of the expression associated with the **first** predicate expression that is **true**

Iterative Statements

- The repeated execution of a statement or compound statement is accomplished either by iteration or recursion
- General design issues for iteration control statements:
 1. How is iteration controlled?
 2. Where is the control mechanism in the loop?

Counter–Controlled Loops

- A counting iterative statement has
 - a loop variable
 - a means of specifying the *initial*, *terminal*, and *stepsize* values
- Design Issues:
 1. What are the type, scope of the loop variable?
 2. Should it be legal for the loop variable or loop parameters to be changed in the loop body, and if so, does the change affect loop control?
 3. Should the loop parameters be evaluated only once, or once for every iteration?

Counter-Controlled Loops: C

- C-based languages

`for ([init_expr]; [test_expr]; [update_expr]) statement`

- The **expressions** can be **statements**, or **statement sequences with the statements separated by commas**
 - The value of a multiple-statement expression is the value of the **last statement** in the **expression**
- If the **2nd** expression, **test_expr**, is absent, it is an **infinite loop**
 - E.g., `for (p=0; p+=(a&1)*b, a!=1; a++,b++) { }`
 - `for (p=0; ; a++,b++) { }`

- Design choices:

- There is **no explicit loop variable**
- **Everything** can be **changed in the loop**
- The **first expression** is evaluated **once**, but the other two are evaluated **with each iteration**

Counter-Controlled Loops: C++

- C++ differs from C in two ways:
 1. The control expression can also be Boolean
 2. The initial expression can include variable definitions (scope is from the definition to the end of the loop body)
E.g., `for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++) { ...}`
- Java and C#
 - Differs from C++ in that the control expression must be Boolean

Counter-Controlled Loops: Python

- Python

- `for` loop_variable `in` object:
 - loop body
- `[else:`
 - else clause]
- The **object** is often a **range**, which is either a list of values in brackets (`[2, 4, 6]`), or a call to a **range** function, e.g., `range(5)` returns 0, 1, 2, 3, 4
- The **loop variable** takes on the values specified in the **given range**, one for each iteration
- The **else** clause, which is **optional**, is **executed** only if the **loop exhausted iterating the list**.
- E.g., ... `for n in range(10,15):`
 - `for x in range(2, n):`
 - `if n % x == 0:`
 - `print '%d = %d * %d' % (n, x, n/x)`
 - `break`
 - `else:`
 - `print n, ' is a prime number'`

10 = 2 * 5
11 is a prime number
12 = 2 * 6
13 is a prime number
14 = 2 * 7

Counter-Controlled Loops: F#

- F#

- counter-controlled loops must be simulated with recursive functions
 - counters require variables and functional languages do not have variables, e.g.,

```
let rec forLoop loopBody reps =  
    if reps <= 0 then ()  
    else  
        loopBody()  
        forLoop loopBody, (reps - 1)
```

- recursive function `forLoop` with the parameters:
 - `loopBody`--function defines the loop's body
 - `reps`: number of repetitions
- `()` means do nothing and return nothing

Logically-Controlled Loops

- Repetition control is based on a **Boolean expression**
- Design issues:
 - **Pretest** or **posttest**?
 - Should the **logically controlled loop** be a **special case** of:
 - counting loop statement **OR**
 - separate statement?

Logically-Controlled Loops: C/C++

- C and C++ have both **pretest** and **posttest** forms, in which the control expression can be arithmetic:

while (control_expr)	do
loop body	loop body
	while (control_expr)

- Java is like C and C++, except the control expression must be **Boolean** (and the body can only be entered at the beginning -- Java has **no goto**)

Logically-Controlled Loops: F#

- F#

- As with counter-controlled loops, logically-controlled loops can be simulated with recursive functions

```
let rec whileloop test body =  
    if test() then  
        body()  
        whileLoop test body  
    else  
        () ; ;
```

- This defines the recursive function `whileLoop` with parameters `test` and `body`.

User-Located Loop Control Mechanisms

- Sometimes it is convenient for the programmers to decide a location for loop control (other than top or bottom of the loop)
- Simple design for single loops (e.g., `break`)
- Design issues for nested loops
 1. Should the conditional be part of the exit?
 2. Should control be transferable out of more than one loop?

User-Located Loop Control Mechanisms

- Java, C , C++, Python, Ruby, C#:
 - have unconditional unlabeled exits—`break`
- Perl
 - have unconditional labeled exits—`last`
- C, C++, Python
 - an unlabeled control statement, `continue`, skips the remainder of the current iteration, but does not exit the loop
- Java, Perl
 - have labeled versions of `continue`
 - E.g., Java, `continue test; // test is a label`

Iteration Based on Data Structures

- The number of elements in a data structure controls loop iteration
- *Iterator*:
 - returns the next element in some chosen order, if there is one
 - else loop is terminate
- C's **for** can be used to build a user-defined iterator:

```
for (p=root; p!=NULL; traverse(p)) {  
    ...  
}
```

Iteration Based on Data Structures

- PHP

- `current` points at **one element of the array**
- `next` moves `current` to the **next** element
- `reset` moves `current` to the **first** element

- Java 5.0 (uses `for`, although it is called `foreach`)

- For `arrays` and any other class that implements the `Iterable` interface, e.g., `ArrayList`

```
for (String myElement : myList) { ... }
```


Iteration Based on Data Structures

- C# and F#:
 - Have generic library classes like Java 5.0
 - E.g., arrays, lists, stacks, and queues
 - Can iterate over these with the **foreach** statement
 - User-defined **collections** can implement the **IEnumerator** interface and also use **foreach**.

```
List<String> names = new List<String>();  
names.Add("Bob");  
names.Add("Carol");  
names.Add("Ted");  
foreach (Strings name in names)  
    Console.WriteLine ("Name: {0}", name);
```

Iteration Based on Data Structures

- Ruby *blocks* are sequences of code, delimited by either **braces** or **do** and **end**
 - **Blocks** can be used with methods to create iterators
 - Predefined iterator **methods** (**times**, **each**, **upto**):

```
3.times {puts "Hey!"}    # run 3 times
```

```
list.each {|value| puts value}
```

```
# list is an array; value is a block parameter
```

```
1.upto(5) {|x| print x, " "}
```

Iteration Based on Data Structures

- Ruby blocks
 - have parameters (in vertical bars)
 - are executed when the method executes a `yield` function

```
def fibonacci(last)
  first, second = 1, 1
  while first <= last
    yield first
    first, second = second, first + second
  end
end

puts "Fibonacci numbers less than 100 are:"
fibonacci(100) {|num| print num, " "} # block
puts
```

output

Fibonacci numbers less than 100 are:

1 1 2 3 5 8 13 21 34 55 89

Unconditional Branching

- Transfers **execution control** to a *specified place* in the program
- Major concern: Readability
- Some languages do **not** support `goto` statement (e.g., Java)
- C# offers `goto` statement (can be used in `switch` statements)

Guarded Commands

- Designed by Dijkstra
- Purpose: to support a new programming methodology that supported verification (correctness) during development
- Basic Idea: if the order of evaluation is not important, the program should not specify one

Selection Guarded Command

- E. W. Dijkstra's Form:

```
if <Boolean expr> -> <statement>
[] <Boolean expr> -> <statement>
...
[] <Boolean expr> -> <statement>
fi
```

, where Boolean expr: a guard

statement (statement sequences): guarded command

[] : fatbar used to separate selection statement

- Semantics: when the **if-block** is reached,
 - Evaluate all Boolean expressions
 - If more than one are **true**, choose one **non-deterministically**, e.g., the first one Or the third one
 - If **none** is true, it is a **runtime error**
 - Force programmer to consider and list all possibilities
 - E.g., if $I = 0 \rightarrow \text{sum} := \text{sum} + I$
 $[] I > J \rightarrow \text{sum} := \text{sum} + J$
 $[] J > I \rightarrow \text{sum} := \text{sum} + I$

fi

Loop Guarded Command

- E. W. Dijkstra's Form

do <Boolean expr> -> <statement>

[] <Boolean expr> -> <statement>

...

[] <Boolean expr> -> <statement>

od

- Semantics: for each iteration

- Evaluate all Boolean expressions on each iteration

- If more than one are true, choose one **non-deterministically**

- If **none** is true, exit loop

- E.g., do q1 > q2 -> t := q1; q1 := q2; q2 := t;

- [] q2 > q3 -> t := q2; q2 := q3; q3 := t;

- [] q3 > q4 -> t := q3; q3 := q4; q4 := t;

od

E.g., Boolean_expr: check service health from one data center