Programming Languages Control Flow

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Outline

- 1 Control Flow
- 2 Jumps

- 3 Escapes
- 4 Exceptions
- 5 Co-routines

Control Flow

- Usual control flow: a command followed by the other. Executed in sequence. single entrance - single exit
- Commands to change control flow and transfer execution to another point: sequencers
 - Jumps
 - Escapes
 - Exceptions

Jumps

- Jumps transfer control to a point in the code. The destination is marked with labels
- When jumps to arbitrary positions are possible...:

```
L1: x++;
    if (x>10) goto L2;
    j++;
    for (i=0;i<j;j++) {
        x=x*2;
        l2:     if (x>1000) goto L3;
        else goto L1;
    }
L3:    printf("out\n");
```

■ Called spaghetti coding

- Unrestricted jumps ⇒ spaghetti coding.
- GCC extension allows storing labels in variables. Would you like to debug that code? ◎
- Further problems. Which jumps have problems?:

- Lifetime and values of local variables? Values of index variables?
- C: Labels are local to enclosing block. No jumps allowed into the block. Newer languages avoid jumps.
- Single entrance multiple exit is still desirable. → escapes

Escapes

- Restricted jumps to out of textually enclosing block(s)
- Depending on which enclosing block to jump out of:
 - loop: break sequencer.
 - loops: exit sequencer.
 - function: return sequencer.
 - program: halt sequencer.

- break sequencer in C, C++, Java terminates the innermost enclosing loop block.
- continue in C, C++ stays in the same block but ends current iteration.
- exit sequencer in Ada or labeled break in Java can terminate multiple levels of blocks by specifying labels. Java code:

```
L1: for (i=0;i<10;i++) {
    for (j=i;j<i;j++) {
        if (...) break;
        else if (...) continue;
        else if (...) break L1;
        else if (...) continue L1;
        s+=i*j;
    }
}</pre>
```

- return sequencer exist in most languages for terminating the innermost function block.
- halt sequencer either provided by operating system or PL terminates the program.
- Consider jump inside of a block or jump out of a block for the function case:

- Jump out of a function block, jump inside of a function block
- Jumps update current instruction pointer. But what about environment, activation record (run-time stack)?
- Possible only for one direction if stack position can be recovered. Called non-local jumps



■ Are non-local jumps useful? One of the uses: unexpected error occuring inside of many levels of recursion. Jump to the outer-most related caller function. Exceptions

Exceptions

- Controlled jumps out of multiple levels of function calls to an outer control point (handler or catch)
- C does not have exceptions but non-local jumps possible via setjmp(), longjmp() library calls.
- C++ and Java: try $\{\ldots\}$ catch $\{\ldots\}$
- Each try-catch block introduces a non-local jump point. try block is executed and whenever a throw expr command is called in any functions called (even indirectly) inside try block execution jumps to the catch() part.
- try-catch blocks can be nested. Execution jumps to closes catch block with a matching type in the parameters with the thrown expression.

 Conventional error handling. Propagate errors with return values.

```
int searchopen(char *f) { ...
   /* if search fails error occurs here */
    return -5; _____
. . . }
int openparse(char *f) { ...
   if ((r = searchopen(f))<0) ___
       return r; _____
   else ...
int main() { ...
   if ((rv=openparse("file.txt"))<0) {</pre>
      /*handle error here */
   . . .
```

■ Error handling with try-catch. (based on run-time stack)

```
enum Exception { NOTFOUND, ..., PERMS};
void searchopen(char *f) { ...
    /* if open fails error occurs here */
    throw PERMS; _____
. . . }
void openparse(char *f) { ...
   searchopen(f);
   . . .
int main() { ...
   try {...
      openparse("file.txt");
   } catch(Exception e) { __
      /*handle error here*/
```

Nested exceptions are handled based on types. C++:

```
int main() {... try { C1; f(); C2 } catch (double a) {...}}

void f() {...; try {...; g(); ... } catch (int a) {...} }

void g() {...; throw 4; ...; throw 1.5; ...}
```

In case no handlers found a run time error generated. Program halts.

Co-routines

- Sequential flow: local jumps, subroutine calls, exceptions
- Concurrent flow: multiple contexes (stack and instruction pointer). Execution switches between them.
- Multiple uses: callbacks, generators (iterators), threads, fibers, asynchronous, event based, or concurrent programming
- Non-local jumps to different environments guided coordinated programs or a global scheduling mechanism:

