Looping

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spring 2017

Looping

Repeat statement

Sometimes you need to repeat a statement a number of times. That's where the *loop* comes in. A loop has a counter, called a *loop variable*, which (usually) ranges from a lower bound to an upper bound.

Here is the syntax in the simplest case:

```
for (int var=low; var<upper; var++) {
  // statements involving var
  cout << "The square of " << var << " is " << var*var << e
}
```

C difference: Use compiler flag `-std=c99`.

Exercise 1

Read an integer value, and print 'Hello world' that many times.

Loop syntax

- The loop variable can be defined outside the loop:

```
int var;
for (var=low; var<upper; var++) {
```

- The stopping test be any test; can even be empty.
- The increment can be a decrement or something like `var*=10`
- Any and all of initialization, test, increment can be empty:
  `for(;;) ...`

Nested loops

Traversing a matrix:

```
for (int i=0; i<m; i++)
  for (int j=0; j<n; j++)
    ...
```

Indefinite looping

Sometimes you want to iterate some statements not a predetermined number of times, but until a certain condition is met. There are two ways to do this.

First of all, you can use a 'for' loop and leave the upperbound unspecified:

```
for (int var=low; ; var=var+1) { ... }
```

Break out of a loop

This loop would run forever, so you need a different way to end it. For this, use the *break* statement:

```
for (int var=low; ; var=var+1) {
  statement;
  if (some_test) break;
  statement;
}
```

Skip iteration

```
for (int var=low; var<N; var++) {
  statement;
  if (some_test) {
    statement;
    statement;
  }
}
```

Alternative:

```
for (int var=low; var<N; var++) {
  statement;
  if (!some_test) continue;
  statement;
  statement;
}
```

While loop

The other possibility is a *while* loop, which repeats until a condition is met. Syntax:

```
while ( condition ) {
  statements;
}
```

or

```
do {
  statements;
} while ( condition );
```

The while loop does not have a counter or an update statement; if you need those, you have to create them yourself.

While syntax 1

```
cout << "Enter a positive number: " ;
cin >> invar;
while (invar>0) {
  cout << "Enter a positive number: " ;
  cin >> invar;
}
cout << "Sorry, " << invar << " is negative" << endl;
```

Problem: code duplication.

While syntax 2

```
do {
  cout << "Enter a positive number: " ;
  cin >> invar;
} while (invar>0);
cout << "Sorry, " << invar << " is negative" << endl;
```

More elegant.

Exercise 2

Find all triples of integers u, v, w under 100 such that $u^2 + v^2 = w^2$. Make sure you omit duplicates of solutions you have already found.

Exercise 3

One bank account has 100 dollars and earns a 5 percent per year interest rate. Another account has 200 dollars but earns only 2 percent per year. In both cases the interest is deposited into the account.

After how many years will the amount of money in both accounts be the same?

Exercise 4

The integer sequence

$$u_{n+1} = \begin{cases} u_n/2 & \text{if } u_n \text{ is even} \\ 3u_n + 1 & \text{if } u_n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

leads to the Collatz conjecture: no matter the starting guess u_1, the sequence $n \mapsto u_n$ will always terminate.

For $u_1 < 1000$ find the values that lead to the longest sequence: every time you find a sequence that is longer than the previous maximum, print out the starting number.

Project Exercise 5

Read an integer and determine whether it is prime by testing for the smaller numbers whether they are a divisor of that number.

Print a final message

```
Your number is prime
```

or

```
Your number is not prime: it is divisible by ....
```

where you report just one found factor.