Coding in C Control Structures

Antonio Barbalace antonio.barbalace@ed.ac.uk

Index

- Conditional Control
 - if Statement
 - Conditional Expression
 - Switch Statement
- Control Loops
 - While Loop
 - Do .. While Loop
 - For Loop
- Non sequential control
 - Break
 - Continue
 - Goto

If Statements

```
if (<expression>)
  <statement>
if (<expression>) {
  <statement>
  <statement>
if (<expression>) {
  <statement>
  <statement>
else {
  <statement>
  <statement>
if (<expression1>) {
  <statements>
else if (<expression2>) {
  <statements>
```

- Both if, if-else and if-else if are available in C;
- The <expression>
 can be any valid
 expression;
- Parentheses around the expression are required even if it is just a single variable.

If Statements

```
if (<expression>)
  <statement>
if (<expression>) {
 <statement>
  <statement>
if (<expression>) {
  <statement>
 <statement>
else {
  <statement>
 <statement>
if (<expression1>) {
  <statements>
else if (<expression2>) {
  <statements>
```

Example

Find the maximum of two values.

```
int x = 2;
int y = 10
int max = 0;
if (x > y) {
  max = x;
else {
  max = y;
```

if example

Conditional Expression

<expression1> ? <expression2> : <expression3>

- The conditional expression can be used as a shorthand for some if-else statements;
- This is an expression, not a statement, so it represents a value;
- The operator ? evaluates <expression1>:
 if it is true, it evaluates and returns <expression2>;
 otherwise, it evaluates and returns <expression3>.

Conditional Expression

```
<expression1> ? <expression2> : <expression3>
```

Example

Find the maximum of two values.

```
int x = 2;
int y = 10;
int max = 0;

max = (x > y) ? x : y;

conditional expression example
```

Switch Statement

```
switch (<expression>) {
  case <const-expression1>:
    <statement>
   break:
case <const-expression2>:
    <statement>
    <statement>
   break;
case <const-expression3>:
case <const-expression4>:
    <statement>
   break;
  default:
    <statement>
```

- The switch statement is a sort of specialized form of if;
- The switch expression is evaluated and then the flow of control jumps to the matching const-expression;
- Each constant needs its own case keyword and a trailing colon (:);
- Once execution has jumped to a particular case, the program will keep running through all the cases from that point down;
- The explicit break statements are necessary to exit the switch.

Switch Statement

```
switch (<expression>) {
  case <const-expression1>:
    <statement>
   break:
case <const-expression2>:
    <statement>
    <statement>
   break;
case <const-expression3>:
case <const-expression4>:
    <statement>
   break;
  default:
   <statement>
```

Example

Set the output variable to 0 if input is 1, to 1 if input is 2 or 3, otherwise to -1.

```
int input = 11;
int output = 0;
switch(input) {
  case 1:
    output = 0;
    break;
  case 2:
  case 3:
    output = 1;
    break:
  default:
    output = -1;
```

switch example

While Loop

- In the while loop, the test expression is evaluated before each iteration.
- So <statement>
 may be executed zero
 times (if the condition
 is initially false);
- Parenthesis around the expression are required, as with if.

While Loop

Example 1

```
int i=0;
while (i < 100)
   i += 3;
// i is now 102</pre>
```

Example 2

```
int i=0;
while (i < 0) {
   i += 3;
}
// i is now 0</pre>
```

Compare these examples with the Do..While Loop ones.

Do..While Loop

```
do {
      <statement>
    } while (<expression>)

do {
      <statement>
      <statement>
    } while (<expression>)
```

- In the do..while loop, the test expression is evaluated at the end of each iteration;
- The loop body
 (<statement>) will
 be executed at least
 once, in any case.

Do..While Loop

Example 1

```
int i=0;
do {
   i += 3;
} while (i < 100);
// i is now 102</pre>
```

Example 2

```
int i=0;
do {
   i +=3;
} while (i < 0);
// i is now 3</pre>
```

Compare these examples with the While Loop ones.

For Loop

- It is the most general looping construct in C;
- The loop header contains three parts: initialization, continuation condition and action;
- The initialization is executed once before the body of the loop is entered;
- The loop continues to run as long as the continuation condition remains true;
- In each iteration of the loop, the action is executed.

For Loop

Example

Define an array of floating point values and sum its elements.

```
float values[5] = { 3.14f, 5.43f, 18.001f, 101.98f, 34.66f};
float summ = 0.0f;
int i;

for(i=0; i<5; i++)
    summ += values[i];</pre>
```

for example

Break

break

- The break instruction will move control outside a loop or a switch statement;
- Stylistically speaking, it's
 preferable to use a straight
 while with a single test at the
 top whenever possible;
- Sometimes you are forced to use a break, because the test can occur only somewhere in the midst of the statements in the loop body.

Continue

continue

- The continue
 instruction causes control
 to jump to the bottom of
 the loop, effectively
 skipping over all the loop
 body code that follows
 the continue;
- You can almost always get the same effect more clearly, using an if inside the loop.

Goto

```
<statements1>
goto <label>
<statements2>
<label>:
    /* control jump here after
    goto */
    <statements3>
```

- Can be inserted everywhere in the code;
- <label> must exist
 locally (not in another
 function);
- "Real Programmers" don't use the goto.

goto

Exercises

 Write a program that counts the occurrence of the characters 'a', 'b' and 'e' in the following sentence:

"The overwhelming majority of program bugs and computer crashes stem from problems of memory access, allocation, or deallocation. Such memory-related errors are also notoriously difficult to debug."