# Lec 05: WHILE-Loops

# Pop Quiz

#### Question 1

How many lines of output are produced by the following script?

```
for k = 100:200
     disp(k)
end
```



B 100

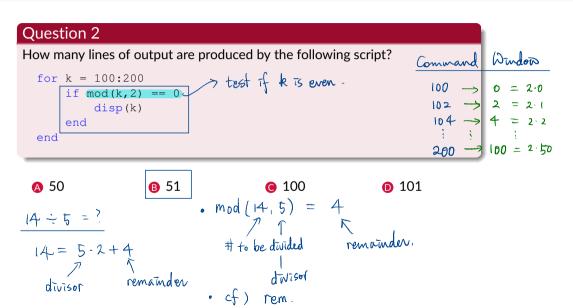


200

200-100 +1

= 101

# Pop Quiz



#### FOR-Loop: Tips

Basic loop header:

```
for <loop var> = 1:<ending value>
```

To adjust starting value:

```
for <loop var> = <starting value>:<ending value>
```

To adjust step size:

#### **Examples**

• To iterate over 1, 3, 5, ..., 9:

[ step size = 2 ]

for 
$$k = 1:2:9$$

or



• To iterate over 10, 9, 8, ..., 1:

for k = 1:2:10

[ negative step size ]

for 
$$k = 10:-1:1$$

#### **Need for Another Loop**

 For-loops are useful when the number of repetitions is known in advance.

"Simulate the tossing of a fair coin 100 times and print the number of Heads."

It is not very suitable in other situations such as

"Simulate the tossing of a fair coin until the gap between the number of Heads and that of Tails reaches 10."

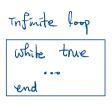
We need another loop construct that terminates as soon as

$$|N_{
m H}-N_{
m T}|=10.$$
 H.T.H.T. .... N.T. 0 | 1 2 2 ---- Gap | 0 | 0 ---

#### WHILE-Loop Basics

WHILE-loop is used when a code fragment needs to be executed repeatedly while a certain condition is true.

```
while <continuation criterion> logical expression (T/F) <code fragment> end
```



- The number of repetitions is not known in advance.
- The continuation criterion is a boolean expression, which is evaluated at the start of the loop.
  - If it is true, the loop body is executed. Then the boolean expression is evaluated again.
  - If it is false, the flow of control is passed to the end of the loop.

# Simple WHILE-Loop Examples

```
k = 1; n = 10;
while k <= n
    fprintf('k = %d\n', k)
    k = k+1;
end</pre>
```

```
k = 1;
while 2^k < 5000
    k = k+1;
end \( \frac{1}{2} \)
fprintf('k = %d\n', k)</pre>
```

```
k becomes 11:

"K <= 10" evaluates to F.

Skip loop body

come outside of white.
```

```
k=0: 2^{10} = 1024

k=11: 2^{11} = 2046

k=12: 2^{12} = 4096 < 5000

k=13: 2^{13} > 5000

• Skep the Loop body
• the value of k will be printed.
```

#### FOR-Loop to WHILE-Loop

A for-loop can be written as a while-loop. For example,

## FOR Find 1+2+3+4

```
fprintf('%2d %2d\n', k, s)
end
```

#### WHILE

```
hile k < 4

k = k + 1; s = s + k;

fprintf('%2d %2d\n', k, s)
end
```

- Note that k needed to be initialized before the while-loop.
- The variable k needed to be updated inside the while-loop body.

# **Up/Down Sequence**

#### **Ouestion**

Pick a random integer between 1 and 1,000,000. Call the number n and repeat the following process:

• If n is even, replace n by n/2.

• If n is odd, replace n by 3n + 1.

· 7, 22, 11, 34, 17, ....

Does it ever take more than 1000 updates to reach 1?



• To generate a random integer between 1 and k, use randi, e.g.,

• To test whether a number n is even or odd, use mod, e.g.,

$$\sqrt{\mod(n, 2)} == 0$$

#### Attempt Using FOR-Loop

```
for step = 1:1000
    if mod(n,2) == 0
        n = n/2;
    else
        n = 3*n + 1;
    end
    fprintf(' %4d %7d\n', step, n)
end
```

 Note that once n becomes 1, the central process yields the following pattern:

$$1, 4, 2, 1, 4, 2, 1, \dots$$

ullet This program continues to run even after n becomes 1.

### Solution Using WHILE-Loop

```
step = 0; while n > 1

if mod(n,2) == 0

n = n/2; else

n = 3*n + 1; end

step = step + 1; fprintf(' %4d %7d\n', step, n)

end
```

This shuts down when n becomes 1!

#### Exercise: Gap of 10

Try out yourself!

#### Question

Simulate the tossing of a fair coin until the gap between the number of Heads and that of Tails reaches 10.

#### Summary

• For-loop is a programming construct to execute statements repeatedly.

While-loop is another construct to repeatedly execute statements.
 Repetition is controlled by the termination criterion.