

Class 19: Control Flow: Loops

Held: Tuesday, 28 September 2010

Summary: We consider the three main forms of looping in C.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Reading: K&R 3.5-3.6.

Notes:

- Preparation for today's class got a bit derailed, so it may go differently than normal.
- I was surprised to get so few questions on the reading. (Don't worry, I'm pretty sure that the questions I got will take a bit of time.)
- Reading for tomorrow: K&R 3.7-3.8.
- There are certainly questions on exam 1.

Overview:

- Loop Basics.
- Questions from the Reading.

Loop Basics

- The standard loop: A while loop.
- Form

```
while (TEST)
    BODY;
```

- Meaning:
 - Evaluate the test
 - If the test does not hold (that is, has a value of 0), you're done
 - Otherwise, evaluate the body and go back to the start.
- The For loop

```
for (INIT; TEST; INCREMENT)
    BODY;
```

- An alternate syntax for

```
INIT;  
while (TEST)  
{  
    BODY;  
    INCREMENT;  
}
```

- The Do-While Loop

```
do  
    BODY;  
while (TEST);
```

- An alternate syntax for

```
BODY;  
while (TEST)  
    BODY;
```

Questions on the Reading

- I'm not sure what's going on when it talks about comma operators in 3.5, as I find the example code too confusing to be helpful.
 - I found the shellsort example on page 62 the most confusing part of the reading. So, nested for loops are somewhat confusing.
 - The do-while loop I understand conceptually but a few more examples on how it's implemented would be helpful.
 - What I found most confusing was actually the syntax of the atoi function on page 61. I can't understand where the for loops start and end, or how they interact with each other - especially the first one which seems to do nothing. This could be because it's written with a different coding standard than what we're using though....
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