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

```c
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

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

- An alternate syntax for
The Do-While Loop

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

An alternate syntax for

```c
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....