Class 20: Control Flow: Miscellaneous

Held: Wednesday, 29 September 2010

Summary: We continue to consider loops in C, trying not to break our understanding.

Related Pages:
- EBoard.
- Lab: Loops in C.
- Reading: K&R 3.7-3.8.
- Due: Exam 1.

Notes:
- Reading for Friday: K&R 4.1-4.3.
- Don’t forget questions on the reading!
- EC for this week’s CS Extra on Drupal.
- EC for this week’s Convocation on Chemistry.
- Office hours shifted until 2:00-4:00ish today.
- Questions on Exam 1?

Overview:
- Modifying loop control.
- More extreme modifications with goto.
- Questions.
- Lab.

Modifying Control with break and continue

- Two new ways to affect the behavior of loops
  - break - exit the loop now!
  - continue - skip the rest of the body.
- Normally used with a conditional
- Neither is necessary.
  - continue can be handled by an if.
  - break can be handled with a sentinel and a continue
Extreme Modifications to Control: \texttt{goto}

- You can label parts of your code with a name and a colon.
- You can then jump to that part of your code with \texttt{goto}.
- Goto was one of the first control structures invented, and it handles most forms of looping (although some recursive procedures are hard to write with goto).
- Unconstrained use of goto leads to unreadable code.
  - “Goto considered harmful” was a famous paper in CS.

Questions

Received: SD, RK, CP


Leftover questions

- How do you decide when to make a function \texttt{void} and when to make a function return \texttt{int}?
- What is \texttt{/=}? Did we learn this and I just forgot?
- \texttt{j-=gap} is in the place that would be occupied by increment things, but I don’t know what \texttt{j-} is. Or perhaps it is \texttt{-=}.
- I don’t quite understand comma operators. They seem to have something to do with two things being connected, or perhaps both true. I don’t understand the advantage of using

  \begin{verbatim}
  c=s[i], s[i]=s[j], s[j]=c;
  \end{verbatim}

  as opposed to

  \begin{verbatim}
  c = s[i];
  s[i] = s[j];
  s[j] = c;
  \end{verbatim}

- I don’t understand ShellSort. Or maybe I just don’t understand nested loops.

New questions

- Why do we use labels?

Lab

- Do the lab.
- Be prepared to reflect.