

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: 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 `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

Missing: BB, CB, DB, MD, MH, SH, RK, MM, TM, WM, AW

Leftover questions

- How do you decide when to make a function `void` and when to make a function return `int`?
- What is `/=`? Did we learn this and I just forgot?
- `j-=gap` is in the place that would be occupied by increment things, but I don't know what `j-` is. Or perhaps it is `-=`.
- 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

```
c=s[i], s[i]=s[j], s[j]=c;
```

as opposed to

```
c = s[i];  
s[i] = s[j];  
s[j] = c;
```

- 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.
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