CSC161 2011S *Imperative Problem Solving*

Class 19: Control Flow: Conditionals (1)

Held: Wednesday, 23 February 2011

Summary: We gain some additional practice with the basic conditional statement in C. We also explore binary search, since K&R introduce it in this section.

Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Lab: Conditionals in C.
- Reading: K&R 3.1-3.3.
- Due: Assignment 4: Fun with Bits, Bytes, and Beyond.

Notes:

- Happy 1/3rd day!
- The soda supply has been restored.
- I've posted answers to your first questions on conditionals.
- We'll cover questions on Assignment 4 after the preliminaries.
- Tonight's reading: K&R 3.4.
- I hear that some of you are stressed that we're moving a bit fast. We can talk about that a bit.
- EC for tomorrow's CS extra.
- EC for Friday's CS table. (Sorry, I'm behind in printing out readings.)

Overview:

- Basics of C's `if` statements.
- Binary search.
- Lab.

Basics

- You know the basics:

```
if (TEST)
  TRUE-PART;
else
  FALSE-PART;
```

- Distinguished from conditionals in Scheme in that the two parts are statements, rather than expressions.
  - You can't use the "result" of a conditional statement.
- The `else` part is important, since
  - It saves work ... we don't have to recheck the previous test

    - It makes it easier to write a final default statement.
- Best learned through practice.
- C also provides a conditional expression and another form of conditional, both of which we'll cover in the next class.

Binary Search

- There were some questions on K&R's binary search implementation.
- We'll go over it a bit in class.
- What's the basic principle of binary search?
- How do we typically implement that idea in code? (Scheme, C, whatever.)
- Let's wrap the function in something that lets us play with it.
- You can find the code in `Examples/KR3/binsearch.c`

Lab

- Do the lab
- Be prepared to discuss your solutions.
