Beyond the Mouse – A Short Course on Programming

4. Fundamental Programming Principles II: Control Structures (flow control)

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"The Uncomfortable Truths Well", http://xkcd.com/568 (April 13, 2009)

Post Assignment 3:

Had fun at
“The Uncomfortable Truths Well”?

Some Comments . . .

- You don't have to start with an empty file – that's intimidating: use old file as 'template'
- For Matlab: make it a habit to include '`clear;`' and '`clc;`' at the beginning of your scripts
- Keep things nice and clean: definition of function in function file; use of function on command line or in script file (for Matlab that is)

For Reference . . .

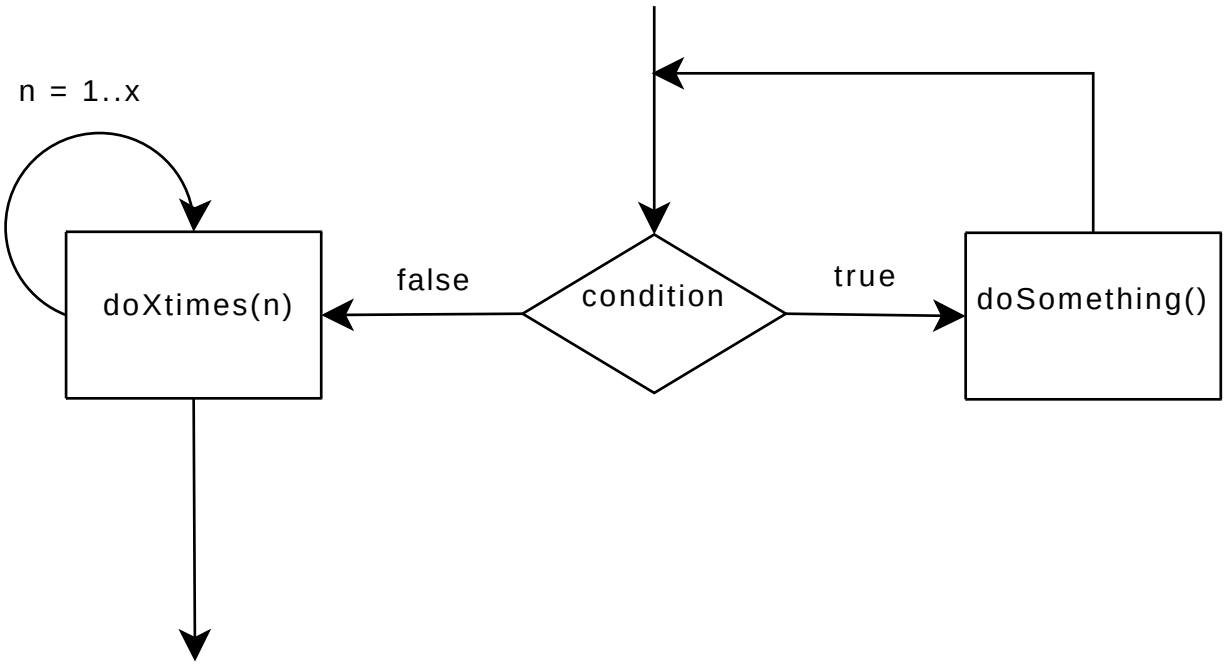
It's usually a good idea to check the rules for operator precedence in the documentation of a programming language.

For **MATLAB** that is:

1. Parentheses ()
2. Transpose (.'), power (.^),
   complex conjugate transpose (\'), matrix power (^)
3. Unary plus (+), unary minus (−), logical negation (~)
4. Multiplication (.∗), right division (./), left division (.\),
   matrix multiplication (∗), matrix right division (/), matrix left division (\)
5. Addition (+), subtraction (−)
6. Colon operator (:)
7. Less than (<), less than or equal to (<=), greater than (>),
   greater than or equal to (>=), equal to (==), not equal to (~=)
8. Element−wise AND (&)
9. Element−wise OR (|)
10. Short−circuit AND (&&)
11. Short−circuit OR (||)

Keep in mind that this may be different for another programming language!

Control Flow – Redirecting the stream



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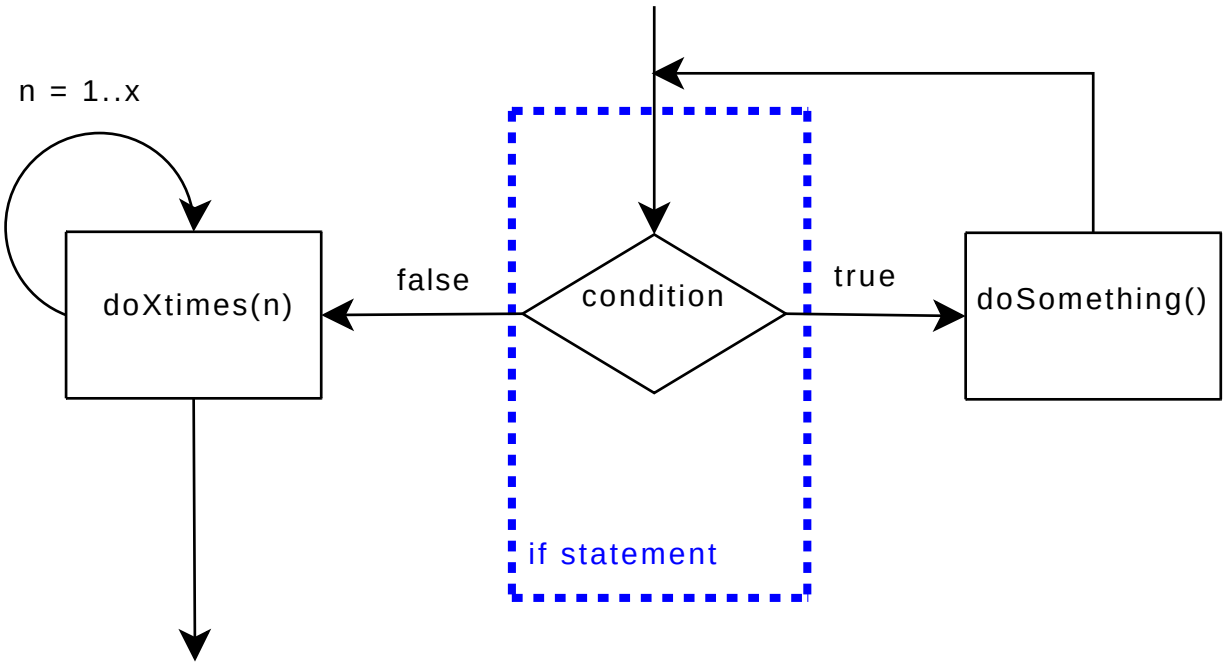

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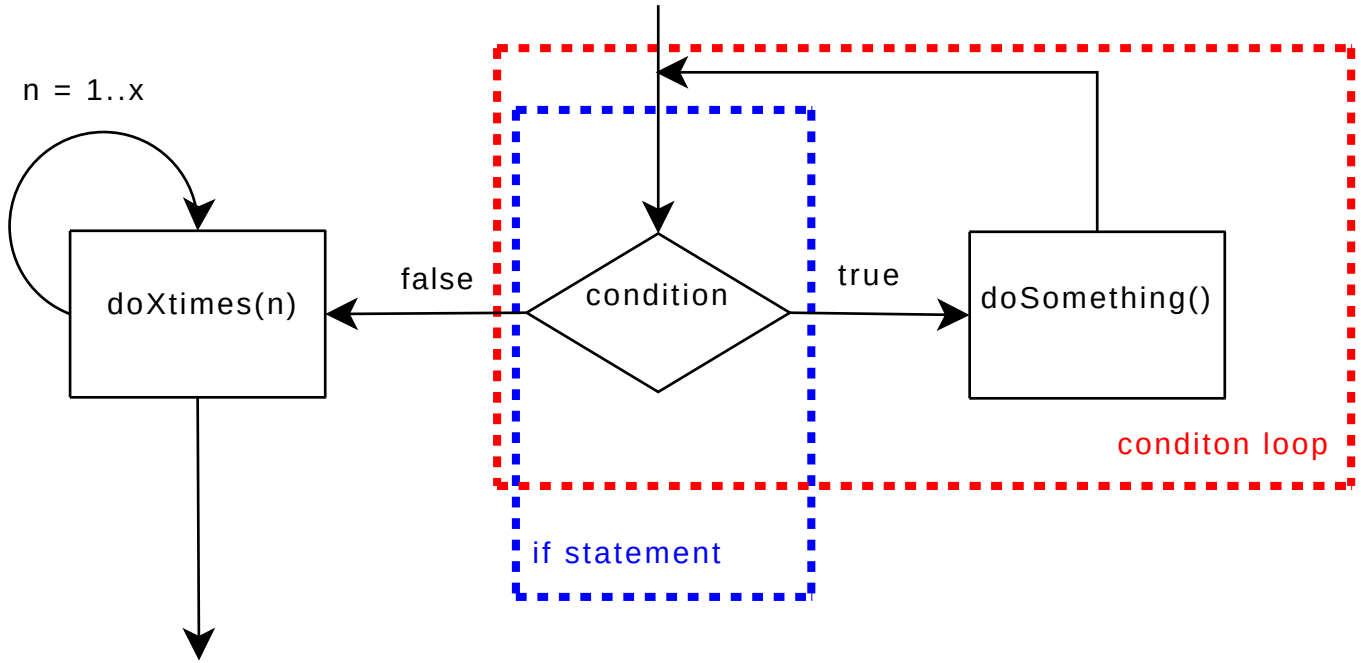

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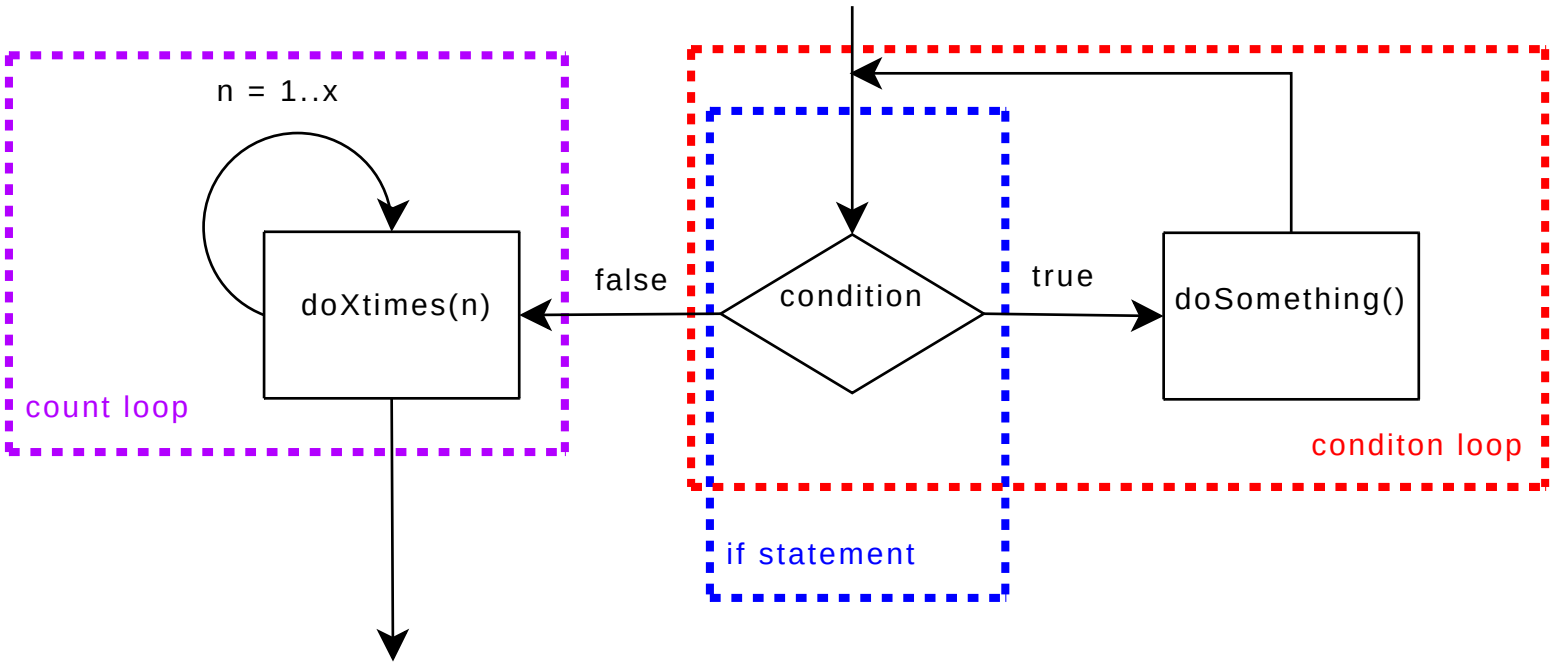

Control Flow – Redirecting the stream

Flow control turns batch processing into programming:

- (high level) programming languages allow different behavior based on conditions **you** define – **flow control**
- A condition can be `true` (1) or `false` (0).
- You test a condition using the operators: `<`, `<=`, `>`, `>=`, `==`, `!=` (find equiv. in each respective language)
- Function often give numeric return values as answer to a test. In Matlab `strcmp('compare', 'strings')` will return `false`.

Logic 101

Use logic to connect multiple conditions and test for certain cases:

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‘OR’ (‘||’):

a	b	a || b
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0	1	1
1	0	1
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Examples

- ‘Friday Beer’: **not** younger than 21 **and** it must be Friday. Beer today?

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0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
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Examples

- ‘Friday Beer’: **not** younger than 21 **and** it must be Friday. Beer today?
- ‘Game of life’: heart beat **or** self perception. Still alive?

Control flow (0) – `statements` and such

We need a little bit of a formal definition for the following slides. Bear with me

Formal language definitions

```
1 <block> ::= { <statement list> }.

3 <statement list> ::=
          <statement>
5       | <statement list> <statement>.

7 <statement> ::=
          <block>
9       | <assignment statement>
        | <if statement>
11      | <for loop>
        | <while loop>
13      | <do statement>
        | . . .
```

Listing 2.1: bnf.txt

Control flow (1) – `if - then - else`

Formal

```
<if statement> ::= if (<condition>) <statement> [else <statement>].
```

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```

Matlab

```
% if ( CONDITION ) STATEMENT
% [elseif STATEMENT ]
% [else STATEMENT ]
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: What are we gonna
% do today?
%

day=weekday(now);

if (day == 5 )
    disp('PUB!')
elseif (day == 1 || day == 7)
       disp('sleep')
else
    disp('duh.')
end
```

Control flow (1) – `if - then - else`

Formal

```
<if statement> ::= if (<condition>) <statement> [else <statement>].
```

Matlab

```
% if ( CONDITION ) STATEMENT
% [elseif STATEMENT ]
% [else STATEMENT ]
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: What are we gonna
% do today?
%

day=weekday(now);

if (day == 5 )
   disp('PUB!')
elseif (day == 1 || day == 7)
      disp('sleep')
else
   disp('duh.')
end
```

C-Shell

```
#!/bin/tcsh
# if ( <condition> ) then <statement>
# [else <statement> ]
# endif
#
# Example: What are we gonna do today?

set day = `date | awk '{print $1}'`

if ($day == 'Fri' ) then
   echo 'PUB!'
else
   if ($day == 'Sat' || \
       $day == 'Sun') then
      echo 'sleep.'
   else
      echo 'duh.'
   endif
endif
```

Control flow (2) – condition controlled loop: `while`

Formal

```
<while loop> ::= while (<condition>) <block>.
```

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Formal

```
<while loop> ::= while (<condition>) <block>.
```

Matlab

```
% while ( CONDITION )
%   STATEMENT
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: Tell me when a new minute starts
%
clc;                %clear screen
c=clock;            %get time vector

% 6th element of c is seconds
while ( c(6) < 59.9)
    c=clock;
end
disp('start new minute of your life');
```

Control flow (2) – condition controlled loop: `while`

Formal

```
<while loop> ::= while (<condition>) <block>.
```

Matlab

```
% while ( CONDITION )
%   STATEMENT
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: Tell me when a new minute starts
%
clc;              %clear screen
c=clock;          %get time vector

% 6th element of c is seconds
while ( c(6) < 59.9)
    c=clock;
end
disp('start new minute of your life');
```

C-Shell

```
#!/bin/tcsh
# while ( <condition> ) <block>
#
# Example: Tell me when a new minute starts

#figure out actual second value ...
set sec = ` date | \
      awk '{ split($4, x, ":"); print x[3]}'`

#do that until we're starting a new minute
while ( $sec < 59 )
   set sec = ` date | \
         awk '{ split($4, x, ":"); print x[3]}'`
   echo $sec
end

echo 'start new minute of your life';
```

Control flow (3) – count controlled loop: `for`

Formal

```
<for loop> ::= for (<assignment>; <condition>; <assignment>) <block>.
```

Control flow (3) – count controlled loop: `for`

Formal

```
<for loop> ::= for (<assignment>; <condition>; <assignment>) <block>.
```

Matlab

```
% for variable = expression
%   STATEMENT
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: count from 1 to 10
%
clc;              %clear screen
for n=1:10
    disp(sprintf('n=%d', n));
end
disp('done.');
```

Control flow (3) – count controlled loop: `for`

Formal

```
<for loop> ::= for (<assignment>; <condition>; <assignment>) <block>.
```

Matlab

```
% for variable = expression
%   STATEMENT
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: count from 1 to 10
%
clc;                %clear screen
for n=1:10
    disp(sprintf('n=%d', n));
end
disp('done.');
```

C-Shell

```
#!/bin/tcsh
# foreach variable ( <list> ) <block>
#
# Example: list files in current
# directory (yeah, I know).

foreach x (`ls ./`)
  echo $x
end
```

Control flow (4) – breaking out and continuing loops: `break, continue`

Matlab

```
% for variable = expression
%   STATEMENT
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: count from 1 to 10
%
clc;              %clear screen
for n=1:10
    if(n==2)
        disp(sprintf('ZWEI␣IST␣PRIM!'));
        continue;
    end
    if(n==5)
        disp( ... %note the dots !!!
            sprintf('Well,␣that''s␣enough!'));
        break;
    end
    disp(sprintf('n=%d', n));
end
disp('done.');
```

Control flow (4) – breaking out and continuing loops: `break, continue`

Matlab

```
% for variable = expression
%   STATEMENT
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: count from 1 to 10
%
clc;                %clear screen
for n=1:10
    if(n==2)
        disp(sprintf('ZWEI IST PRIM!'));
        continue;
    end
    if(n==5)
        disp( ... %note the dots !!!
            sprintf('Well, that''s enough!'));
        break;
    end
    disp(sprintf('n=%d', n));
end
disp('done.');
```

C-Shell

```
#!/bin/tcsh
# foreach variable ( <list> ) <block>
#
# Example: list files in current
# directory (yeah, I know).

foreach x (`ls ./`)
    if ($x == foreach_example.csh) then
        echo 'this is boring:' $x
        continue
    endif

    if ($x == 'while_example.csh') then
        echo 'I could be a while: ' $x
        break
    endif

    echo $x
end
```

Control flow (5) – `for` as `while`

Matlab – `for`

```
% for variable = expression
%   STATEMENT
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: count from 1 to 10
%
clc;              %clear screen
for n=1:10
    disp(sprintf('n=%d', n));
end
disp('done.');
```

Control flow (5) – `for` as `while`

Matlab – `for`

```
% for variable = expression
%   STATEMENT
% end.
%
% EXAMPLE: count from 1 to 10
%
clc;                %clear screen
for n=1:10
    disp(sprintf('n=%d', n));
end
disp('done.');
```

Matlab – `while`

```
% for variable = expression
%   STATEMENT
% end.
%
% Can be translated into a while loop.
%
% EXAMPLE: count from 1 to 10
%
clc;                %clear screen

n=1;

while(n<=10)
    disp(sprintf('n=%d', n));
    n = n+1;
end
disp('done.');
```

Control flow (6) – Error control: `try-catch`

Formal

```
try_catch> ::= try <block> catch <block>.
```

Control flow (6) – Error control: `try-catch`

Formal

```
try_catch> ::= try <block> catch <block>.
```

Matlab

```
% try, STATEMENT, catch ME, STATEMENT, end.
%
% EXAMPLE: file opening

try
    fid  = fopen('whatever.txt', 'r'); % open a non-existing file
    data = fread(fid);                 % now try to get its data
catch myException                      % any name for error message object
    %let the user know, implement graceful program termination ...
    disp(myException);                 % display full error object
    disp(myException.message);         % actual message is more accessible
    disp(myException.stack);           % where did things occur?
end

disp('We do get here!')

%now without try-catch ...
fid  = fopen('whatever.txt', 'r');
data = fread(fid);

disp('We cannot get here!')
```

Don’t you ever dare to `goto`!

“GOTO”, http://xkcd.com/292

Good Practice

How to make your code readable (language independent)

- use indentations to structure your code (align comments etc)
- use meaningful variable and function names (`sec` instead of `i` and `listFiles()` instead of `lfls()`)
- decide for one formatting and naming scheme and stick to it; no matter which one it is.
- comment your code
- do not over comment your code!
- `try` and `catch` errors
- selfstudy:
  http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=good+programming+style&btnG=Search