Nested While Loops and Example Problems

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Objectives

- To write nested loops (§5.9).
- To learn loops from a variety of examples (GCD, FutureTuition, Dec2Hex, Monte Carlo Simulation) (§5.10 - §5.11).

Outline

- Discussed
  - Loops and While loops
  - Design while loops
    - Design strategy, controlling loop (user confirmation, sentinel value)
    - Algorithm. Compute the sum
    - Operating system tricks. Using input/output redirection
  - while Loop vs. do-while Loop vs. for Loop
  - Pitfalls and Errors
- Nested Loops
- Algorithms and Example Programs
  - Finding the Greatest Common Divisor
  - Finding the root of an equation
  - Converting hexadecimal numbers to decimal numbers
  - Simple Monte Carlo simulations

Nested Loops

- Loops can be nested, i.e., in the loop body, we can have another loop, like,

```
while (outer_loop_continuation_condition) { // outer loop
  // statements
   while (inner_loop_continuation_condition) { // inner loop
     // statements
    }
   // statements
}
```

Problem. Print a multiplication table

- Write a program that uses nested for loops to print a multiplication table

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	0	0	…							
1	0	1	2	…						
2	…	…	4	6	8	…				
3				9	12	…				
4										
5										
6										
…										

Questions?

Examples using Nested While Loops

- (Discuss selected examples from below if time permits)
  - Problem 1. Finding the Greatest Common Divisor
  - Problem 2. Predicting Future Tuition
  - Problem 3. Converting Decimals to Hexadecimals
  - Problem 4. Estimating π using Monte Caro Simulation

Problem. Finding the Greatest Common Divisor

- Problem: Write a program that prompts the user to enter two positive integers and finds their greatest common divisor

Solution. Finding the Greatest Common Divisor

- Suppose you enter two integers 4 and 2, their greatest common divisor is 2. Suppose you enter two integers 16 and 24, their greatest common divisor is 8.
- So, how do you find the greatest common divisor?
- Let the two input integers be n1 and n2. You know number 1 is a common divisor, but it may not be the greatest commons divisor. So you can check whether k (for k = 2, 3, 4, and so on) is a common divisor for n1 and n2, until k is greater than n1 or n2

Problem. Predicting Future Tuition

- Problem: Suppose that the tuition for a university is $10,000 this year and tuition increases 7% every year. In how many years will the tuition be doubled?
- This is in fact a root finding problem, i.e., find x such that y = f(x).
- For this problem, we need to find n, such that, $20,000 = 10,000 * (1 + 0.07)^n$

Solution. Predicting Future Tuition

- Compute tuition repeatedly for year 1, 2, …, until the tuition is greater than or equal to 20,000

Problem. Converting Decimals to Hexadecimals

- Hexadecimals are often used in computer systems programming (see Appendix for an introduction to number systems). Write a program to convert a hexadecimal number to the decimal number.

Solution. Converting Decimals to Hexadecimals

- To convert a decimal number *d* to a hexadecimal number is to find the hexadecimal digits h_n, h_{n-1}, h_{n-2}, ... , h_2, h_1, and h_0 such that

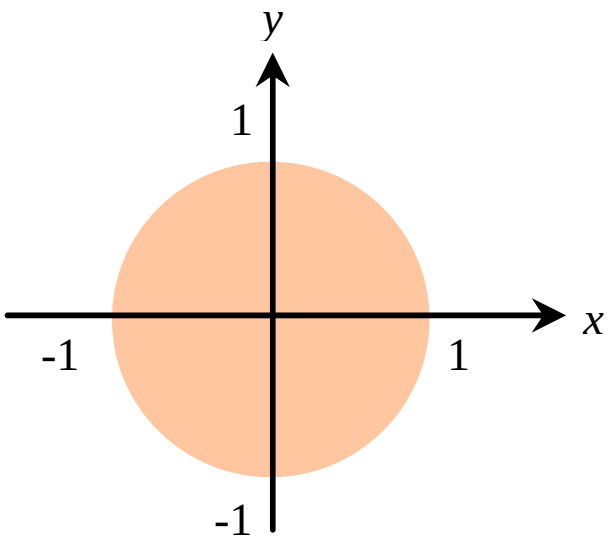
$$d = h_n \times 16^n + h_{n-1} \times 16^{n-1} + h_{n-2} \times 16^{n-2} + \ldots + h_2 \times 16^2 + h_1 \times 16^1 + h_0 \times 16^0$$

- These hexadecimal digits can be found by successively dividing *d* by 16 until the quotient is 0. The remainders are h_0, h_1, h_2, ... , h_{n-2}, h_{n-1}, and h_n.

Problem. Estimating π using Monte Caro Simulation

- The Monte Carlo simulation refers to a technique that uses random numbers and probability to solve problems.
- This method has a wide range of applications in computational mathematics, physics, chemistry, and finance.
- Let's consider to use the Monto Carlo simulation for estimating π

Solution. Estimating π using Monte Caro Simulation



circleArea / squareArea = π / 4.

π can be approximated as 4 * numberOfHits / numberOfTrials

Questions