Introduction to Programming

Week 3

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Week 3: Conditionals and Loops

Monday

- Conditionals
- Loops

Thursday

- For-Loops
- Live programming

Prologue

Quote of the Week

"Typing is no substitute for thinking."

- Richard W. Hamming

Epigram of the Week

"Software and cathedrals are much the same – first we build them, then we pray."

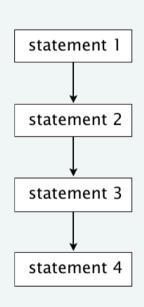
Sam Redwine

Conditionals

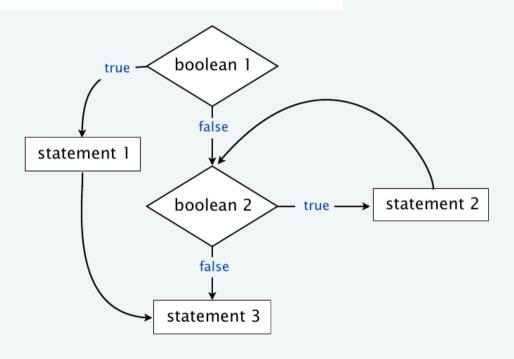
Conditionals and Loops

Control flow

- The sequence of statements that are actually executed in a program.
- Conditionals and loops enable us to choreograph control flow.



straight-line control flow [previous lecture]



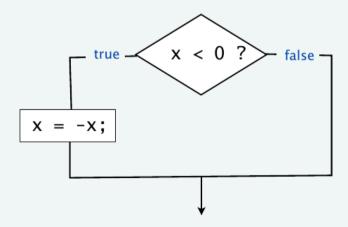
control flow with conditionals and a loop
[this lecture]

The if statement

Execute certain statements depending on the values of certain variables.

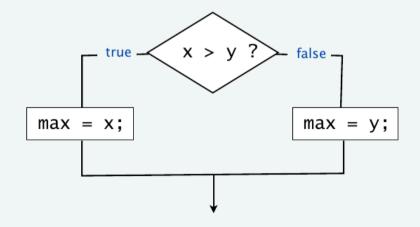
- Evaluate a boolean expression.
- If true, execute a statement.
- The else option: If false, execute a different statement.

Example: if (x < 0) x = -x;



Replaces x with the absolute value of x

Example: if (x > y) max = x; else max = y;



Computes the maximum of x and y

Example of if statement use: simulate a coin flip

```
public class Flip
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
       if (Math.random() < 0.5)
            System.out.println("Heads");
       else
            System.out.println("Tails");
    }
}</pre>
```

- % java Flip Heads
- % java Flip Heads
- % java Flip Tails
- % java Flip Heads



Example: Guessing Game (revisited)

We can **reimplement** the Guessing Game from last week:

```
public class GuessRevised {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        int answer = (int) (Math.random() * 10);
        int guess = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
        System.out.println("The correct answer was: " + answer);
        if (answer == guess) {
            System.out.println("You won!");
        } else {
            System.out.println("You lost!");
```

Example: Drinking age

We can use if-then-else statements to implement an age checker:

```
public class AgeControl {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        int age = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
        if (age < 16) {
            System.out.println("You may buy soda.");
        } else if (age < 18) {</pre>
            System.out.println("You may buy beer.");
        } else {
            System.out.println("You may buy liquor.");
```







Age limits		
Beer	16 years	
Liquor	18 years	

Example: Tax brackets

We can use if-else-statements to compute taxes at different rates:

```
public class TaxCalculator {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        int income = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
        if (income < 100) {
            System.out.println("Tax: " + income * 0.10);
        } else if (income < 400) {</pre>
            System.out.println("Tax: " + income * 0.20);
        } else {
            System.out.println("Tax: " + income * 0.50);
```







Tax brackets	
0-99	10%
100-399	20%
400+	50%

Note: This is not how tax brackets are actually calculated.

Example: Greeting Dracula

We can use if-then-else statements to guard against **Q**:

```
public class FrontDoor {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        String guest = args[0];
        if (!quest.equals("Dracula")) {
            System.out.println("Please come in " + guest + "!");
        } else {
            System.out.println("You are not welcome here.");
```

Note: The negation can be avoided by swapping the branches.

Example: Greeting Dracula



Example: Division by zero check

We can use an if-then-else statement to check for division by zero.

```
if (den == 0) {
    System.out.println("Division by zero");
} else {
    System.out.println("Quotient = " + num / den);
}
```

If the denominator is zero, print an error. Otherwise print the quotient.

Example: Negative root check

We can use an if-then-else statement to check for square-root of a negative value.

```
double discriminant = b * b - 4.0 * c;
if (discriminant < 0.0) {
    System.out.println("No real roots");
} else {
    System.out.println((-b + Math.sqrt(discriminant)) / 2.0);
    System.out.println((-b - Math.sqrt(discriminant)) / 2.0);
}</pre>
```

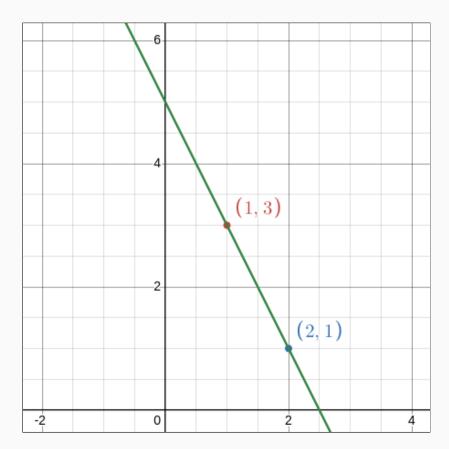
If the discriminant is negative, print an error. Otherwise print the solutions.

Example: Infinite slope

We often use if-statements to handle **special cases**.

Here we rule out vertical slopes, which would result in division by zero in the formula.

```
public class Slope {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        double x1 = Double.parseDouble(args[0]);
        double y1 = Double.parseDouble(args[1]);
        double x2 = Double.parseDouble(args[2]);
        double y2 = Double.parseDouble(args[3]);
        if (x1 == x2) {
            System.out.println("vertical");
        } else {
            double slope = (y2 - y1) / (x2 - x1);
            System.out.println(slope);
```



If and if-else

We can either use if alone, or we can pair it with an else.

If

```
If-Else
```

```
if (a == 0) {
    System.out.println("zero");
}
```

```
if (a == 0) {
    System.out.println("zero");
} else {
    System.out.println("nonzero");
}
```



Program equivalence

An interesting phenomenon is that two programs can have *different* source code, yet have the same *meaning* – i.e. have the same runtime behavior.

We say that the two programs are **equivalent**.

Compare:

Checks whether a is zero.

```
if (a == 0) {
    System.out.println("zero");
} else {
    System.out.println("nonzero");
}
```

Checks whether a is non-zero.

```
if (a != 0) {
    System.out.println("nonzero");
} else {
    System.out.println("zero");
}
```

Are these two programs equivalent?

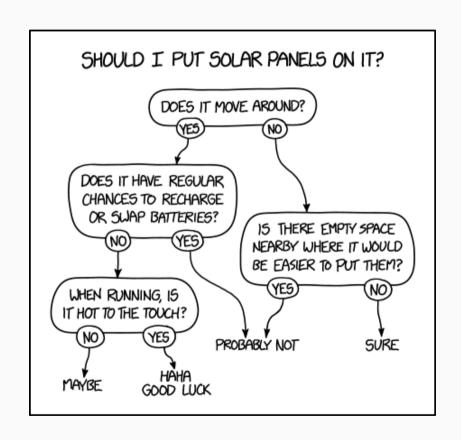
```
public class ComputeMax1 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
       int x = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
        int y = Integer.parseInt(args[1]);
       if (x > y) {
            int z = x;
            System.out.println("max is " + z);
       } else {
            int z = y;
            System.out.println("max is " + z);
```

```
public class ComputeMax2 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
       int x = Integer.parseInt(args[1]);
       int y = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
       int max = 42;
       if (x >= y) {
           max = x;
       } else {
           max = y;
        System.out.println("max is " + max);
```

Nested ifs

By nesting ifs, we can create a decision tree.

```
if (movesAround) {
    if (chanceToRecharge) {
        System.out.println("probably not");
    } else {
        if (hotWhenRunning) {
            System.out.println("haha good luck");
        } else {
            System.out.println("maybe");
} else {
    if (emptySpace) {
        System.out.println("probably not");
    } else {
        System.out.println("sure");
```



Unnesting ifs

Sometimes nested-ifs are redundant and can be expressed more simply with &&.

```
if (pinaColadas && caughtInRain) {
   if (!yoga) {
     if (brain >= 0.5) {
        if (loveAtMidnight) {
            System.out.println("Write to me and escape.");
        }
     }
   }
}
```

is the same as

```
if (pinaColadas && caughtInRain && !yoga && brain >= 0.5 && loveAtMidnight) {
    System.out.println("Write to me and escape.");
}
```

What does this program print?

```
Q:
```

```
boolean a = true;
boolean b = false;
boolean c = true;
if (a) {
    if (b) {
        System.out.println("X");
    } else {
        if (c) {
            System.out.println("Y");
    System.out.println("Z");
```

What happens when you evaluate 1.0 / 0?

Loops

The while loop

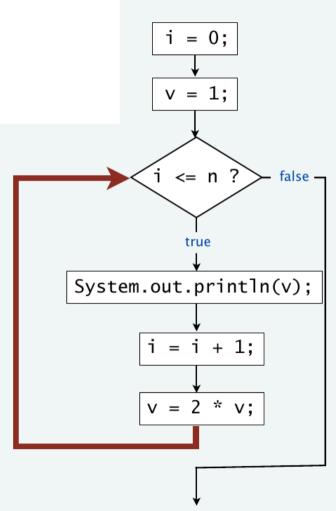
Execute certain statements repeatedly until certain conditions are met.

- Evaluate a boolean expression.
- If true, execute a sequence of statements.
- Repeat.

```
Example:
    int i = 0;
    int v = 1;
    while (i <= n)
    {
        System.out.println(v);
        i = i + 1;
        v = 2 * v;
    }
}</pre>
```

Prints the powers of two from 2^0 to 2^n .

[stay tuned for a trace]



Don't repeat yourself (DRY)

This program does the same thing many times, printing "Nth Hello".

```
public class TenHellosLong {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("1st Hello");
        System.out.println("2nd Hello");
        System.out.println("3rd Hello");
        System.out.println("4th Hello");
        System.out.println("5th Hello");
        System.out.println("6th Hello");
        System.out.println("7th Hello");
        System.out.println("8th Hello");
        System.out.println("9th Hello");
        System.out.println("10th Hello");
```

```
$ java TenHellosLong
```

```
1st Hello
2nd Hello
3rd Hello
4th Hello
5th Hello
6th Hello
7th Hello
8th Hello
9th Hello
```

Ten hellos

We can avoid a lot of repetition by using a loop instead.

```
public class TenHellos {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("1st Hello");
        System.out.println("2nd Hello");
        System.out.println("3rd Hello");
        int i = 4:
        while (i <= 10) {
            System.out.println(i + "th Hello");
            i = i + 1;
```

\$ java TenHellos

```
1st Hello
2nd Hello
3rd Hello
4th Hello
5th Hello
6th Hello
7th Hello
8th Hello
9th Hello
```

Example: A While and If

What pattern does this program print?

```
int size = 5;
int row = 0;
while (row < size) {</pre>
    int col = 0;
    while (col < size) {</pre>
        if ((row + col) % 2 == 0) {
            System.out.print("* ");
        } else {
             System.out.print(" ");
        col++;
    System.out.println();
    row++;
```

Example: Answer

And the answer is:

```
int size = 5;
int row = 0;
while (row < size) {</pre>
    int col = 0;
    while (col < size) {</pre>
        if ((row + col) % 2 == 0) {
            System.out.print("* ");
        } else {
            System.out.print(" ");
        col++;
    System.out.println();
    row++;
```

```
* * * *

* * *

* * *

* * *
```

Control flow



Control flow is "the order in which individual statements, instructions, or function calls of an imperative program are executed or evaluated."

Recall: Expressions and statements

Remember these two fundamental concepts:

- An **expression** evaluates to a *value*.
- A **statement** executes an *action*.

Expression	Statement
x + 5	int $x = 5$;
Math.random()	<pre>System.out.println("Hello");</pre>

If, if-else, while

We can describe the **grammar** of if-then-else and while statements as:

If	<pre>if (<expression>) { <statements> }</statements></expression></pre>
If-else	<pre>if (<expression>) { <statements> } else { <statements> }</statements></statements></expression></pre>
While	<pre>while (<expression>) { <statements> }</statements></expression></pre>

How they work:

- If: Execute statements once if condition is true.
- **If-else**: Execute **one branch** based on condition (true \rightarrow first, false \rightarrow second).
- While: Execute statements repeatedly while condition stays true.

While loop: Terminating

This while loop counts from 0 to 4, then terminates:

```
public class CountToFive {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      int i = 0;
      while (i < 5) {
            System.out.println("Count: " + i);
            i++;
      }
      System.out.println("Done!");
   }
}</pre>
```

```
$ java CountToFive
```

```
Count: 0
Count: 1
Count: 2
Count: 3
Count: 4
Done!
```

While loop: Non-terminating

This while loop **runs forever** because **i** never changes:

```
$ java CountForever
```

```
Count: 0
Count: 0
Count: 0
Count: 0
Count: 0
...
(continues forever)
```

While loop: Immediate termination

This while loop **never executes** because the condition is initially false:

```
public class NeverRuns {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      int i = 10;
      while (i < 5) {
            System.out.println("Count: " + i);
            i++;
      }
      System.out.println("Done!");
   }
}</pre>
```

\$ java NeverRuns

Done!

While true

We commonly use while(true) to specify an **infinite loop**.

```
public class Forever {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      int n = 0;
      while (true) {
            System.out.println(n);
            n++;
      }
      System.out.println("Done!");
   }
}
```

```
$ java Forever
```

```
0
1
2
...
1594367
1594368
```

Why would we ever want **Q**: to *deliberately* write an infinite loop?

An ode to an infinite loop

What does this print?

```
while (true) {
    System.out.println("This is the program that never ends.");
    System.out.println("Yes, it goes on and on, my friends.");
    System.out.println("A student started running it, not knowing what it was,");
    System.out.println("and it's still running to this very day because:");
}
```

Escaping infinite loops

We can stop an infinite-looping program from the outside.

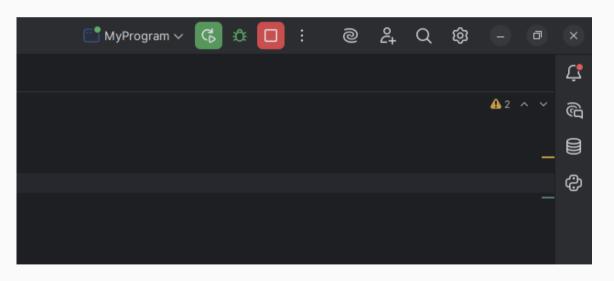
In the terminal,

Pressing Ctrl-c can exit most programs.

This is the program that never ends.
Yes it goes on and on, my friends.
A student started running it, not knowing what it was, and it's still running to this very day because:
This is the program that never ends.
Yes it goes on and on, my friends.
A student started running it, not knowing what it was, and it's still running to this very day because:
This is the program that never ends.
Yes it goes on and on, my friends.
A student started running it, not knowing what it was, and it's still running to this very day because:
^C

In IntelliJ,

The stop button (\Box) ends a program.



The pause button (triggers the debugger!

Program trace



A **program trace** is a record of the values of variables and paths taken in a program when it runs.

This program counts how many random numbers (0.0 - 1.0) are needed to add to 10.

We create a trace of the program by adding println calls.



Adding print statements to a program to understand its execution is called *print-debugging*.

Is there a better way?

For-loops

What is a for-loop?

A **for-loop** is a control-flow construct that repeats a block of statements a **specific number of times**.

- Unlike while-loops, for-loops are designed for **counting-based iteration**.
- They combine **initialization**, **condition checking**, and **increment** in one line.
- Useful when you know **how many times** to repeat something.

A quality of life feature.

The for loop

- Evaluate an initialization statement.
- Evaluate a boolean expression.
- If true, execute a sequence of statements, then execute an increment statement.
- Repeat.

Why use a for-loop?

For-loops *can* make code more **clean** and **readable**, especially when counting:

While Loop

```
int i = 0;
while (i < 10) {
    System.out.println(i);
    i++;
}</pre>
```

Benefits of for-loops:

- Shorter code all loop control in one line
- **Fewer bugs** harder to forget the increment
- Clear intent obviously counting-based
- Local scope loop variable i is contained within the loop

For Loop

```
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
    System.out.println(i);
}</pre>
```

Downsides of for-loops:

- Less flexible awkward for complex patterns
- Less natural for non-counting tasks

What does this program print?

```
Q:
```

```
public class Main {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        for (int i = 1; i <= 3; i++) {
            for (int j = 1; j <= 4; j++) {
                System.out.print(i * j + " ");
            }
            System.out.println();
        }
    }
}</pre>
```



For-loops can take many different forms by varying their three parts:

Standard counting:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
    System.out.println(i);
}</pre>
```

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}</pre>
```

Counting backwards:

```
for (int i = 10; i > 0; i--) {
    System.out.println(i);
}
```

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Standard counting:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
    System.out.println(i);
}</pre>
```

Counting backwards:

```
for (int i = 10; i > 0; i--) {
    System.out.println(i);
}
```

Skip counting:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 20; i += 2) {
    System.out.println(i);
}</pre>
```

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for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
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for (int i = 10; i > 0; i--) {
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}
```

Skip counting:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 20; i += 2) {
    System.out.println(i);
}</pre>
```

Multiple variables:

```
for (int i = 0, j = 10; i < j; i++, j--) {
    System.out.println(i + " " + j);
}</pre>
```

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```
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
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```

Multiple variables:

```
for (int i = 0, j = 10; i < j; i++, j--) {
    System.out.println(i + " " + j);
}</pre>
```

Using existing variables:

```
int x = 5;
for (; x > 0; x--) {
    System.out.println(x);
}
```

For-loops can take many different forms by varying their three parts:

Standard counting:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
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}</pre>
```

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for (int i = 10; i > 0; i--) {
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}
```

Skip counting:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 20; i += 2) {
    System.out.println(i);
}</pre>
```

Multiple variables:

```
for (int i = 0, j = 10; i < j; i++, j--) {
    System.out.println(i + " " + j);
}</pre>
```

Using existing variables:

```
int x = 5;
for (; x > 0; x--) {
    System.out.println(x);
}
```

Empty parts (infinite loop):

```
for (;;) {
    System.out.println("Hi!");
}
```

When not to use for-loop

Here is a while-loop where it would be inelegant to use a for-loop:

Using while-loop (elegant):

```
int flips = 0;
while (Math.random() < 0.5) {
    System.out.println("Heads!");
    flips++;
}
System.out.println("Tails!");
System.out.println("Took " + flips + " flips");</pre>
```

Using for-loop (awkward):

```
int flips;
for (flips = 0; Math.random() < 0.5; flips++) {
    System.out.println("Heads!");
}
System.out.println("Tails!");
System.out.println("Took " + flips + " flips");</pre>
```

The while-loop is more natural because we need to access flips after the loop ends.

Increment, decrement, and re-assignment

Java has several operators for modifying variables:

Operator	Example	Equivalent to
++	i++	i = i + 1
	i	i = i - 1
+=	i += 2	i = i + 2
-=	i -= 3	i = i - 3
*=	i *= 4	i = i * 4
/=	i /= 5	i = i / 5

Whether these operators make code easier to read is debatable.

What does this program print?

```
Q:
```

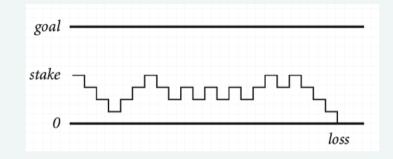
```
public class Main {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
       int x = 5;
       int i = 0;
        for (; i < 3; i++) {
           x += i;
            System.out.print(x + " ");
       x *= 2;
       System.out.println(x);
```

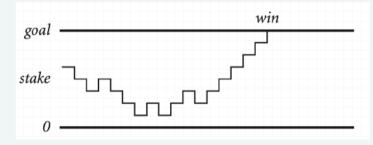
Gambler's ruin problem



A gambler starts with \$stake and places \$1 fair bets.

- Outcome 1 (loss): Gambler goes broke with \$0.
- Outcome 2 (win): Gambler reaches \$goal.





- Q. What are the chances of winning?
- Q. How many bets until win or loss?

One approach: Monte Carlo simulation.

- Use a simulated coin flip.
- Repeat and compute statistics.



Example of nesting conditionals and loops: Simulate gamber's ruin

Gambler's ruin simulation

Get command-line arguments.

- · Run all the experiments.
 - Run one experiment.
 - Make one bet.
 - If goal met, count the win.
- Print #wins and # trials.

```
public class Gambler
    public static void main(String[] args)
                  = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
      int stake
                  = Integer.parseInt(args[1]);
      int goal
      int trials = Integer.parseInt(args[2]);
      int wins
      for (int t = 0; t < trials; t++)
                                                          for loop
         int cash = stake;
                                                          while loop
          while (cash > 0 && cash < goal)
                                                          within a for loop
             if (Math.random() < 0.5) cash++;</pre>
                                                          if statement
             else
                                        cash--
                                                          within a while loop
                                                          within a for loop
          if (t == goal) wins++;
      System.out.println(wins + " wins of " + trials);
                                            % java Gambler 5 25 1000
                                            191 wins of 1000
```

Digression: simulation and analysis

Facts (known via mathematical analysis for centuries)

- Probability of winning = stake ÷ goal.
- Expected number of bets = stake \times desired gain.



Early scientists were fascinated by the study of games of chance.

stake goal trials

Christiaan Huygens 1629-1695

Example

- 20% chance of turning \$500 into \$2500.
- Expect to make 1 million \$1 bets.





500/2500 = 20%

500*(2500 - 500) = 1,000,000

uses about 1 billion coin flips — 197 wins of 1000

- % java Gambler 5 25 1000 191 wins of 1000
- % java Gambler 5 25 1000 203 wins of 1000
- % java Gambler 500 2500 1000 197 wins of 1000

Remarks

- · Computer simulation can help validate mathematical analysis.
- For this problem, mathematical analysis is simpler (if you know the math).
- For more complicated variants, computer simulation may be the best plan of attack.

What does this program print?

```
Q:
```

```
int height = 6;
for (int i = 1; i <= height; i++) {</pre>
    for (int j = 1; j \le height - i; j++) {
        System.out.print(" ");
    for (int j = 1; j \le (2 * i - 1); j++) {
        System.out.print("*");
    System.out.println();
}
for (int i = 1; i <= 2; i++) {
    for (int j = 1; j \le height - 2; j++) {
        System.out.print(" ");
    System.out.println("|||");
```

And the answer is:

```
int height = 6;
for (int i = 1; i <= height; i++) {</pre>
    for (int j = 1; j \le height - i; j++) {
        System.out.print(" ");
    for (int j = 1; j \le (2 * i - 1); j++) {
        System.out.print("*");
    System.out.println();
for (int i = 1; i \le 2; i++) {
    for (int j = 1; j \le height - 2; j++) {
        System.out.print(" ");
    System.out.println("|||");
}
```

For vs. While

For vs. while (1/2)

These two programs both perform a countdown to rocket liftoff:

While Loop:

```
public class CountdownWhile {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      int count = 10;
      while (count > 0) {
         System.out.print(count + "...");
         count--;
      }
      System.out.println("Liftoff! ?");
   }
}
```

For Loop:

```
public class CountdownFor {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      for (int count = 10; count > 0; count--) {
          System.out.print(count + "...");
      }
      System.out.println("Liftoff! **\textit{"}");
   }
}
```

Both programs output:

```
10... 9... 8... (...) 2... 1... Liftoff! 🚀
```

For vs. while (2/2)

For-loops and while-loops are *equivalent*.

Every for-loop can be rewritten as a while-loop and vice-versa.

Program	For-loop	While-loop
Print 0 - 9	<pre>for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) { System.out.println(i); }</pre>	<pre>int i = 0; while (i < 10) { System.out.println(i); i++; }</pre>
Count flips until tails	<pre>int c = 0; for (double n = 0.0; n < 0.5; n = Math.random()) { c++; } System.out.println(c);</pre>	<pre>double n = 0.0; int c = 0; while (n < 0.5) { n = Math.random(); c++; } System.out.println(c);</pre>

Rewrite the program below to use for-loops:

public static void main(String[] args) {

```
int j = 1;
while (i <= 3) {
   j = 1;
    while (j <= i) {
        System.out.print("*");
        j++;
        if (j > i) {
            i++;
    System.out.println();
```

int i = 1;

public class Main {



Scope

What is scoping?

The **scope** of a variable is the region where it can be accessed.

- Variables are created when they are **declared**.
- Variables are destroyed when their **block ends**.
- A block is delimited by curly braces: { }.
- Variables declared inside a block are **not accessible** outside of the block.

Example: Scope (1/2)

We can use variables in scope, but not variables out of scope:

```
int x = 1;
if (true) {
    int y = 3;
}
System.out.println(x);
```

OK: x is in scope

```
int x = 1;
if (true) {
    int y = 3;
    System.out.println(y);
}
```

OK: y is in scope

```
int x = 1;
if (true) {
    int y = 3;
}
System.out.println(y);
```

ERROR: y is out of scope

Example: Scope (2/2)

Variables have different scopes in different blocks:

```
public class Main {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
       int a = 1:
                   // Scope: entire main method
       if (a > 0) {
          int b = 2;
                      // Scope: if block only
          System.out.println(b);
       // System.out.println(b); // ERROR: b is out of scope
       for (int i = 0, j = 10; i < j; i++, j--) { // i and j scope: for block only
          int sum = i + j;  // sum scope: for block only
          System.out.println(sum); // OK: sum in scope
       // System.out.println(i); // ERROR: i is out of scope
       // System.out.println(j); // ERROR: j is out of scope
       System.out.println(a);  // OK: a is still in scope
```

Prologue

Compiler error of the week

What is the problem here?

```
int sum = 0;
int i = 0;
while (i < 10){
   int tmp = 0;
   if (i % 2 == 0){
   for (int j = 0; j < 10; j += 2){
     tmp -= j;}} else {
   for (int j = 0; j < 10; j += 2){
     tmp += j; }}
   sum += tmp * j; i++; }</pre>
```

Compiler error of the week

What is the problem here?

```
int sum = 0;
int i = 0;
while (i < 10){
   int tmp = 0;
   if (i % 2 == 0){
   for (int j = 0; j < 10; j += 2){
     tmp -= j;}} else {
   for (int j = 0; j < 10; j += 2){
     tmp += j; }}
   sum += tmp * j; i++; }</pre>
```

java: cannot find symbol
 symbol: variable j

Live Programming

Live Programming

- An equivalent while and for-loop.
- Using a loop as an if-statement.
- Flattening nested-ifs.
- Flattening nested-loops.
- Debugging infinite loops.
- Simulate Gambler's Ruin

Sources for slides and images

- https://introcs.cs.princeton.edu/java/lectures/
- https://xkcd.com/1924/
- $\bullet\ https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Moai_Rano_raraku.jpg$