CSCE 110: Programming I

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Basics of Python

Repetition / Loops (for, while)
What is a loop?

Definition:
A loop is a control flow statement that allows instructions to be executed repeatedly based on a given condition.

Purpose:
A loop is used in programming to repeat a block of instructions based on a given condition.

for Loop

At each iteration var takes on one value in the sequence

Set of values

Body of the loop

If the number of elements of sequence is n, the loop is repeated n times
for loop

The for loop iterates over a sequence or an iterable object.

```python
for iterator in sequence:
    do something
```

*iterator* is a variable representing an item in the sequence at each iteration.

The loop continues until it reaches the last value in *sequence*.

The datatypes for *sequence* are objects that support iteration:

- strings
- lists
- range objects
- tuples

for loop: flowchart

```
for each value in the sequence

last value reached?

Yes

No

Process
Body of the loop

Exit
```
Example

```python
state = "alabama"
# iterate over a string
for letter in state:
    print (f"{letter}"
```

```
>>> [evaluate letters.py]
a
l
a
b
a
m
a
```

for loop: range()

The `range()` function returns an immutable sequence of integers between the given start integer to the stop integer.

```
range(start, stop, step)
```

- **start**: Starting point of the sequence. Defaults to 0.
- **stop**: Endpoint of the sequence. Not included in the sequence.
- **step**: (optional) Step size of the sequence. Defaults to 1
for loop: range()

The range() function uses the start, stop and step to generates the next number.

The list() function outputs the items in the sequence.

```python
>>> print(range(10))
range(0, 10)
>>> print(list(range(10)))
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
>>> print(list(range(2, 8)))
[2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]
>>> print(list(range(2, 20, 3)))
[2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17]
```

for loop: range()

a is the sequence 0, 1, 2, 3, 4

```python
>>> a = range(5)
>>> a
range(0, 5)
>>> a[0]
0
>>> a[1]
1
>>> len(a)
5
>>> a[4]
4
```
for loop: range()

```python
# Print the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4
for x in range(5):
    print(x)

# Print 3, 4, 5
for x in range(3, 6):
    print(x)

# Print 3, 5, 7
for x in range(3, 8, 2):
    print(x)
```

for loop: break, continue, pass

The **break** statement terminates the for loop containing it. Control of the program flows to the statement immediately after the body of the for loop.
for loop: break, continue, pass

The \texttt{break} statement, exits out of the body of the for loop. We put a \texttt{break} statement within the code under the for loop usually after a conditional statement.

```
number = 0
for number in range(10):
    number = number + 1
    if number == 5:
        break  # break here
print(f"{number}")
print('Out of loop!')
```

>>> [evaluate range_example.py]
1
2
3
4
Out of loop!

for loop: break, continue, pass

The \texttt{continue} statement, continues with the next iteration of the loop. It skips the part of a loop based on a given condition.

We put a \texttt{continue} statement within the code under the for loop usually after a conditional statement.

```
for var in sequence:
    # codes inside for loop
    if condition:
        continue
        # codes inside for loop
    # codes outside for loop
```
The `continue` statement skips the rest of the code inside the for loop for the current iteration only. The for loop does not terminate but continues on with the next iteration.

```python
number = 0
for number in range(10):
    number = number + 1
    # continues with the next iteration
    if number == 5:
        continue
    print(f"{number}")
print("Out of loop!")
```

The `pass` statement does nothing. It can be used when a statement is required syntactically but the program requires no action.

Under a given condition, the `pass` statement handles the condition without the loop being impacted.

```python
number = 0
for number in range(10):
    number = number + 1
    if number == 5:
        pass  # pass and do nothing
    print(f"{number}")
print("Out of loop!")
```
for loop: else

The for loop can have an optional else block. The else block executes if the loop reaches the last item in the sequence.

If a break statement stops the for loop the else statement part is ignored.

```python
state = "alabama"
# iterate over the string
for letter in state:
    print (f"{letter}")
else:
    print(f"All {len(state)} letters printed")
```

Nested loop

A nested loop is a loop inside a loop.

The inner loop executes one time for each iteration of the outer loop.

```python
brands = ["samsung", "lg", "sony"]
devices = ["tv", "computer", "phone"]

for brand in brands:
    for device in devices:
        print (f"{brand} {device}")
```

```python
>> [evaluate brands.py]
samsung tv
samsung computer
samsung phone
lg tv
lg computer
lg phone
sony tv
sony computer
sony phone
```
When to use a While loop?

Use a **while loop** to repeat instructions an **unknown** number of times, **until** a condition is met.

e.g.: ask a user for a number between 1 and 10.
We don't know how many times the user may enter a incorrect, so the program keeps asking **while** the number is not between 1 and 10.

If the you know exactly how many times to execute instructions, then use a **for loop**!

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**while loop**

The **while loop** iterates over a block of code as long as the given condition is true.

We generally use this loop when we don't know, the number of times to iterate.

**while condition:**

\[ \text{do something} \]
while loop: flowchart

Example

Write a program to add natural numbers up to n

```python
n = 10
# initialize sum and counter
sum = 0
i = 1

while i <= n:
    sum = sum + i
    i = i+1  # update counter

# print the sum
print("The sum is", sum)
```

> [evaluate sum.py]
The sum is 55

> |
while loop: break, continue, pass

The **break** statement terminates the while loop containing it. Control of the program flows to the statement immediately after the body of the while loop.

```python
while test expression:
    # codes inside while loop
    if condition:
        break
    # codes inside while loop
# codes outside while loop
```

while loop: break, continue, pass

The **break** statement, exits out of the body of the while loop. We put a **break** statement within the code under the while loop usually after a conditional statement.

```python
number = 0
while number <= 10:
    number = number + 1
    if number == 5:
        break       # break here
    print(f"{number}")
print("Out of loop!")
```
while loop: break, continue, pass

The `continue` statement, continues with the next iteration of the loop. It skips the part of a loop based on a given condition.

We put a `continue` statement within the code under the while loop usually after a conditional statement.

```
while test expression:
    # codes inside while loop
    if condition:
        continue
    # codes inside while loop

    # codes outside while loop
```

The `continue` statement skips the rest of the code inside the while loop while the current iteration only. The while loop does not terminate but continues on with the next iteration.

```python
number = 0
while number <= 10:
    number = number + 1
    if number == 5:
        continue  # continue here
    print(f"{number}")
print("Out of loop!")
```
while loop: break, continue, pass

The `pass` statement does nothing. It can be used when a statement is required syntactically but the program requires no action.

Under a given condition, the `pass` statement handles the condition without the loop being impacted.

```python
number = 0
while number <= 10:
    number = number + 1
    if number == 5:
        pass  # pass here
    print(f"{number}")
print("Out of loop!")
```

while loop: else

The while loop can have an optional `else` block. The else part is executed if the condition in the while loop evaluates to False.

If a break statement stops the while loop the `else` statement part is ignored.

```python
counter = 0
while counter <= 3:
    print(f"count: {counter}")
    counter = counter + 1
else:
    print("End of count")
```
References
