Chapter 2: Understanding Structure

Programming Logic and Design, 4th Edition Introductory

Objectives

- After studying Chapter 2, you should be able to:
- Describe the features of unstructured spaghetti code
- Describe the three basic structures of sequence, selection, and loop
- Use a priming read
- Appreciate the need for structure
- Recognize structure
- Describe two special structures—case and do until

Understanding Unstructured Spaghetti Code

- The popular name for snarled program statements is spaghetti code
- The reason for the name should be obvious—the code is as confusing to read as following one noodle through a plate of spaghetti



Understanding the Three Basic Structures

- A structure is a basic unit of programming logic; each structure is a sequence, selection, or loop
- The first of these structures is a sequence, as shown in Figure 2-3
- With a sequence structure, you perform an action or event, and then you perform the next action, in order



- The second structure is called a selection structure or decision structure (if-then-else)
 - You ask a question
 - depending on the answer,
 - you take one of two courses of action
- no matter which path you follow, you continue with the next event

- selection structure or decision structure (else-if)
 - You ask a series of questions
 - Each question has a separate answer
- If none of the conditions are met, the last answer is chosen.



- The selection structure is sometimes called an ifthen-else because it fits the following statement:
 - if someCondition is true then

do oneProcess

else

do theOtherProcess



- In a loop structure, you ask a question; if the answer requires an action, you perform the action and ask the original question again
- If the answer requires that the action be taken again, you take the action and then ask the original question again
- Continues until the answer to the question is such that the action is no longer required; then you exit the structure

• You may hear programmers refer to looping as repetition or iteration



- All logic problems can be solved using only these three structures—sequence, selection, and looping
- The three structures can be combined in an infinite number of ways
- Attaching structures end-to-end is called stacking structures



 Placing a structure within another structure is called nesting the structures



Using the Priming Read

- A priming read or priming input is the first read or data input statement in a program
- If a program will read 100 data records, you read the first data record in a statement that is separate from the other 99
- You must do this to keep the program structured
- With a selection structure, the logic goes in one of two directions after the question, and then the flow comes back together; the question is not asked a second time

- In a loop, if an answer results in the loop being entered and loop statements executing, then
 - the logic returns to the question that started the loop
- when the body of a loop executes, the question that controls the loop is always asked again















Understanding the Reasons for Structure

- Until you have some programming experience, it might be difficult to appreciate the reasons for using only the three structures—sequence, selection, and loop
- However, staying with these three structures is better for the following reasons:
 - Clarity Professionalism
 - Efficiency Maintenance
 - Modularity

Flowchart and Pseudocode of Structured College Admission Program



Flowchart and Pseudocode of Structured College Admission Program (continued)

Figure 2-19 (continued)

if testSc	ore $>= 90$ then	
	if classRank $>= 25$ then	
	print "Accept"	
	else	
	print "Reject"	
	endif	
else		
	if testScore >= 80 then	
	if classRank $>= 50$ then	
	print "Accept"	
	else	
	print "Reject"	
	endif	
	else	
	if testScore >= 70 then	
	if classRank >= 75 then	
	print "Accept"	
	else	
	print "Reject"	
	endif	
	else	
	print "Reject"	
	endif	
	endif	

Recognizing Structure

- Any set of instructions can be expressed in a structured format
- If you can teach someone how to perform any ordinary activity, then you can express it in a structured way

Pseudocode for the Rock, Paper, Scissors Game

Any task with applied rules can be expressed logically using only combinatio ns of sequence, selection, and looping



Two Special Structures—Case and Do Until

- Many programming languages allow two more structures: the case structure and the do until loop
- Never needed to solve any problem though sometimes are convenient
- Programmers consider them both to be acceptable, legal structures

The Case Structure



The Case Structure (continued)



The Do Until Loop

- In a do while loop, you ask a question and, depending on the answer, you might or might not enter the loop to execute the loop's procedure
- Conversely, in a do until loop, you ensure that the procedure executes at least once; then, depending on the answer to the controlling question, the loop may or may not execute additional times

The Do Until Loop (continued)

- Because programmers understand that a do until can be expressed with a sequence followed by a do while, most languages allow the do until
- Again, you are never required to use a do until; you can always accomplish the same events with a sequence followed by a do while

The Do Until Loop (continued)



The Do Until Loop (continued)



The Do While Loop (continued)

Summary

- The popular name for snarled program statements is spaghetti code
- A priming read or priming input is the first read or data input statement prior to beginning a structured loop
- The last step within the loop gets the next, and all subsequent, input values

Summary (continued)

- You can use a case structure when there are several distinct possible values for a variable you are testing
- In a do while loop, you ask a question and, depending on the answer, you might never enter the loop to execute the loop's procedure
- In a do until loop, you ensure that the procedure executes at least once