

3. Loops and if-Statements

Introduction:

for-loops, while-loops, and if-statements allow greater flexibility in writing programs. This lecture covers using these in Micropython. A quick summary of loops is as follows.

```
# for-loops
for i in range(1,6):
    d1 = i
for j in [1,2,3,5,7,9]:
    d2 = j

# while-loops
t = 0
while(t < 10):
    t += 0.01

while(1):
    print('infinte loop')

#if statements
if(a > b):
    print('a > b')

if(a != b):
    print('a is not equal to b')
else:
    print('a is equal to b')

if(a > b):
    print('a is greater than b')
elif(a == b):
    print('a equals b')
else:
    print('a is less than b')
```

For-Loops

for-loops behave about the same as they behave in Matlab:

- A variable is required for the loop (in the example below)
- The variable increments as you go through the loop
- The looping stops once you reach the end

There are some differences, however

- A colon is required - this marks the beginning of the for-loop
- Subsequent lines of code *must* be indented. This indentation marks the lines of code within the loop
- To signify the end of the loop, go back to the original indentation.
- (note: 4 spaces are standard indentation in Micropython - although the compiler accepts anything)

The indentation is important

- Indentation signifies where the loop starts and ends
- Inconsistent indentation will cause an execution error: the compiler doesn't know why the indentation was changed and doesn't know what to do.

For example, the following are two separate for-loops:

- The first for-loop finishes then the second one begins:

```
for i in range(1,6):  
    d1 = i  
for j in range(1,4):  
    d2 = j
```

In contrast, this would be an example of nested loops:

```
for i in range(1,6):  
    d1 = i  
    for j in range(1,4):  
        d2 = j  
        roll = d1 + d2
```


In Micropython, you must have a statement within the loop. If you don't want to do anything, use the *pass* command: it behaves like a *nop* statement. As an example, one way to kill time is to count just for the sake of counting:

```
for i in range(0,100):  
    for j in range(0,100):  
        pass
```

Here, the *pass* command is executed 100x100 times (nested loops)

Another difference with MicroPython and Matlab is the *range()* statement

- The range starts at 0 (same as Matlab), but
- Runs while $i < 5$ (vs. ≤ 5 for Matlab)



```
for i in range(0,5):  
    x = i*i  
    print(i, 'squared = ', x)
```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```
>>>  
0 squared = 0  
1 squared = 1  
2 squared = 4  
3 squared = 9  
4 squared = 16
```

If you want to use Matlab syntax where you stop at 5 (rather than 4.999), change this to 5.01



```
for i in range(0, 5.01):  
    x = i*i  
    print(i, 'squared = ', x)
```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```
>>>  
0 squared = 0  
1 squared = 1  
2 squared = 4  
3 squared = 9  
4 squared = 16  
5 squared = 25
```

If you add a 3rd term in the *range()* statement, the 3rd term is the step size. For example, make the step size equal to two:



```
for i in range(0, 10.1, 2):  
    x = i*i  
    print(i, 'squared = ', x)
```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```
>>>  
0 squared = 0  
2 squared = 4  
4 squared = 16  
6 squared = 36  
8 squared = 64  
10 squared = 100
```

You can also step through an array. For example, to find the squares of prime numbers:



```
prime = [1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9]  
for i in prime:  
    x = i*i  
    print(i, 'squared = ', x)
```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```
>>>  
0 squared = 0  
2 squared = 4  
4 squared = 16  
6 squared = 36  
8 squared = 64  
10 squared = 100
```

For-Loop Example: Timer2 Interrupts

Back in ECE 376, we talked about Timer2 interrupts. To generate a given frequency using Timer2 interrupts, you want to interrupt every N seconds with

$$N = \left(\frac{10,000,000}{2 \cdot Hz} \right) \text{ clocks}$$

N is in turn set with three constants:

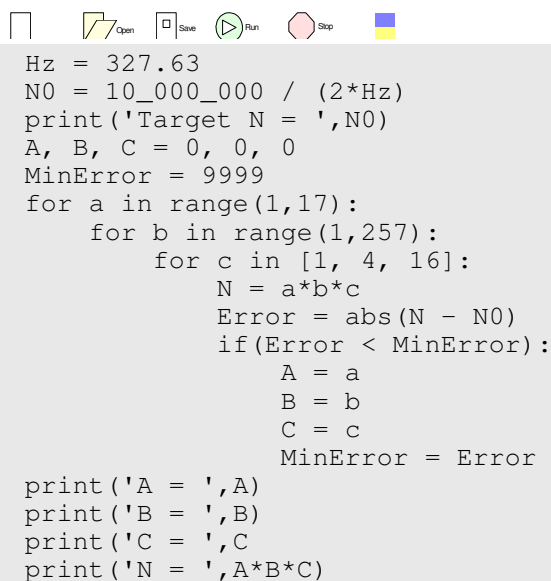
$$N = A \cdot B \cdot C$$

where

- A = 1..16
- B = 1..256
- C = 1, 4, or 16

The challenge is finding {A, B, C} so that N is close to its desired value.

With for-loops, you can go through every combination of {A, B, C} and pick the one with the smallest error. For example, to set the frequency to 327.63Hz:



```

Hz = 327.63
N0 = 10_000_000 / (2*Hz)
print('Target N = ',N0)
A, B, C = 0, 0, 0
MinError = 9999
for a in range(1,17):
    for b in range(1,257):
        for c in [1, 4, 16]:
            N = a*b*c
            Error = abs(N - N0)
            if(Error < MinError):
                A = a
                B = b
                C = c
                MinError = Error

print('A = ',A)
print('B = ',B)
print('C = ',C)
print('N = ',A*B*C)

```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```

>>>
N = 15261.12
A = 6
B = 159
C = 16
N = 15264

```

The closest you can come is $A \cdot B \cdot C = 15,264$ (off by 3.12 clocks)

Option #3: Use a subroutine

something we'll cover shortly

You can also format the output:



```
d4 = [0]*11
for i in range(1,4.01):
    d4[i] = 1/4
d6 = [0]*10
for k in range(1,6.01):
    d6[k] = 1/6

print(' k      d4      d6')
for k in range(0,11):
    print('{: 3.0f}'.format(k), '{: 3.0f}'.format(d4[k]), '{: 3.0f}'.format(d6[k]),
```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```
>>>
k      d4      d6
0      0.000  0.000
1      0.250  0.167
2      0.250  0.167
3      0.250  0.167
4      0.250  0.167
5      0.000  0.167
6      0.000  0.167
7      0.000  0.000
8      0.000  0.000
9      0.000  0.000
10     0.000  0.000
```

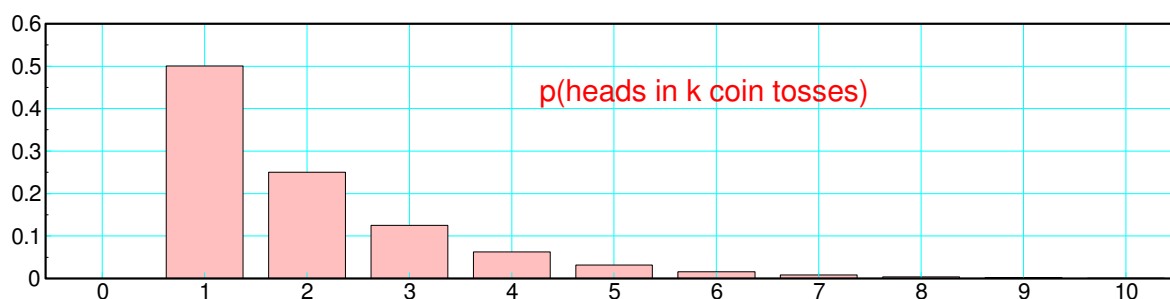
While-Loops

A while loop keeps going

- As long as a condition holds, or
- Until you encounter a *break* statement

For example, the probability of flipping a coin k times before you get a heads (exponential distribution) is:

$$p(k) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{k-1} u(k-1)$$



[This series goes out to infinity - which is a problem. If you truncate the series using a for-loop, you get a fixed number of terms - such as ten terms (below)]

```

k = [0]
p = [0]
for i in range(1,11):
    k.append(i)
    p.append(0.5 * ( 0.5 ** (i-1) ) )
print(' k      p(k) ')
for i in range(0,11):
    print('{: 3.0f}'.format(k[i]), '{: 3.0f}'.format(p[i]))

```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```

>>>
k      p(k)
0      0.000
1      0.500
2      0.250
3      0.125
4      0.063
5      0.031
6      0.016
7      0.008
8      0.004
9      0.002
10     0.001

```

If you use a while loop, you can stop as soon as $p(k) < 0.01$



```
p = [0]
x = 0.5
k = 0
while (x > 0.01):
    k += 1
    x = 0.5 * (0.5 ** (k-1))
    p.append(x)
for k in range(0, len(p)):
    print('{: 3.0f}'.format(k), '{: 3.0f}'.format(p[k]))
```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```
>>>
k      p(k)
0      0.000
1      0.500
2      0.250
3      0.125
4      0.063
5      0.031
6      0.016
7      0.008
```

Another common use of while statements is to set up an infinite loop



```
while(1):
    X = float(input('X = '))
    Y = X*X
    print('The square of ',X,'is ',Y)
```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```
X = 3
The square of 3 is 9
X = 4.2
The square of 4.2 is 17.64
```

Press the Stop symbol to break out of an infinite loop

If Statements

If statements precede a set of commands that are executed one time if a condition is true. Conditional statements are:

$X > Y$	<i>X is greater than Y</i>
$X < Y$	<i>X is less than Y</i>
$X \geq Y$	<i>X is greater than or equal to Y</i>
$X == Y$	<i>X is equal to Y</i>
$X != Y$	<i>X is not equal to Y</i>
$\&$	<i>logical and</i>
$ $	<i>logical or</i>
\wedge	<i>logical xor</i>

Indentation indicates the statements that are within the for loop.

```
if(x>y):
    print('x is greater than y')
if(x<y):
    print('x is less than y')
if(x==y):
    print('x is equal to y')
```

else indicates instructions to execute if the if-statement is false

```
if(x>y):
    print('x is greater than y')
else:
    print('x is less than or equal to y')
```

elif is an else-if statement

```
if(x>y):
    print('x is greater than y')
elif(x<y):
    print('x is less than y')
else(x==y):
    print('x is equal to y')
```


One place where else-if is useful is when you have different bands. For example, the following code is equivalent:

```
# Option 1
if(T>40):
    print('Really hot: T > 40')
if( (T>30)&(T<=40)):
    print('Hot: 30<T<40')
if( (T>20)&(T<=30)):
    print('Comfortable: 20<T<30')
if( (T>10)&(T<=20)):
    print('Cool: 10<T<20')
```

or using else-statements

```
# Option 2
if(T>40):
    print('Really hot: T > 40')
elif( T>30):
    print('Hot: 30<T<40')
elif( T>20):
    print('Comfortable: 20<T<30')
elif( T>10):
    print('Cool: 10<T<20')
else:
    print('Chilly: T < 10')
```

With if-statements, you can create probability density functions more efficiently. For example, another way to create the pdf for rolling a 4-sided and 6-sided die is:



```
d4 = []
d6 = []
for k in range(0,11):
    if( (k>=1) & (k<=4) ):
        d4.append(1/4)
    else:
        d4.append(0)
    if( (k>=1) & (k<=6) ):
        d6.append(1/6)
    else:
        d6.append(0)
for k in range(0,11):
    print('  k      d4      d6')
for k in range(0,11):
    print('{: 3.0f}'.format(k), '{: 3.0f}'.format(d4[k]), '{: 3.0f}'.format(d6[k]),
```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```
>>>
k      d4      d6
0      0.000  0.000
1      0.250  0.167
2      0.250  0.167
3      0.250  0.167
4      0.250  0.167
5      0.000  0.167
6      0.000  0.167
7      0.000  0.000
8      0.000  0.000
9      0.000  0.000
10     0.000  0.000
```

With if-statements, you can also do convolution. The probability of the sum of a 4-sided and 6-sided die are:

$$y = d4 + d6$$

$$p(y = k) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d4(n) \cdot d6(k - n)$$

In Micropython, clipping the summation where the arrays are out of bounds

- $(k-n) < 0$ and $(k-n) \geq 12$

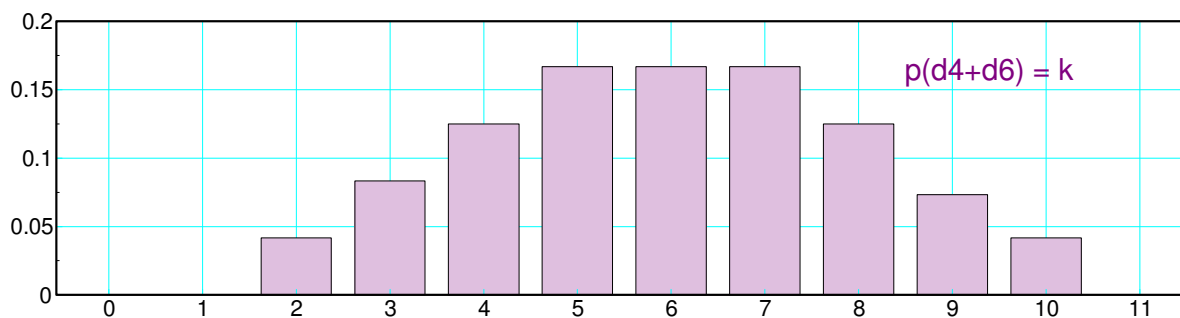


```
d4 = [0]
d6 = [0]
y = [0]
for k in range(0,12):
    y.append(0)
    if(k<=4):
        d4.append(1/4)
    else:
        d4.append(0)
    if(k<=6):
        d6.append(1/6)
    else:
        d6.append(0)
for k in range(0,12):
    y[k] = 0
    for n in range(0,12):
        if( (k-n>0) & (k-n)<12) ):
            y[k] += d4[n]*d6[k-n]
print(' k  d4+d6')
for k in range(0,12):
    print('{: 3.0f}'.format(k), '{: 3.0f}'.format(y[k]) )
```

Thonny Shell (Micropython)

```
>>>
k      d4+d6
0      0.000
1      0.000
2      0.042
3      0.083
4      0.125
5      0.167
6      0.167
7      0.167
8      0.125
9      0.083
10     0.042
11     0.000
```

The probability of the sum of a d4 and d6 is 3 is 0.083



References

Pi-Pico and MicroPython

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- <https://learn.pimoroni.com/article/getting-started-with-pico>
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- <https://wiki.52pi.com/index.php?title=EP-0172>

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