While Statements

- We often need to execute code (statements) many times.
- **if** statements only allow us to execute or not execute code. In other words, they allow us to execute code 0 or 1 times. **while** statements allow us to execute code 0 or more times.
- Like **if**, **while** statements have a controlling expression, but **while** statements execute their body until the controlling expression is false.

```c
while (EXPRESSION) {
    stmt1;
    stmt2;
    ...
    stmtn;
}
```

While Statements

- C has other looping constructs - but **while** is all you need.
- **for** loops can be a little more concise/convenient; we'll see them later - for now use **while**.
- Often use a **loop counter** variable to count loop repetitions.
- Can then have a **while** loop execute **n** times.

While Loop - Loop Counter Pattern

Here is the programming pattern for a while that executes **n** times:

```c
loop_counter = 0;
while (loop_counter < n) {
    // statements the loop needs to perform
    loop_counter = loop_counter + 1;
}
```

While Loop - Loop Counter Example

```c
// read an integer n
// print n asterisks
int loop_counter, n;
printf("How many asterisks? ");
scanf("%d", &n);
loop_counter = 0;
while (loop_counter < n) {
    printf("*");
    loop_counter = loop_counter + 1;
}
printf("\n");
```
### While Statements - Termination

- Can control termination (stopping) of while loops in many ways.
- Easy to write `while` loop that do not terminate.
- Often a sentinel variable is used to stop a while loop when a condition occurs in the body of the loop.

### while Loop - Sentinel Variable Example

```c
// read numbers printing whether even or odd
// stop if zero read
int stop_loop, numbers;

stop_loop = 0;
while (stop_loop != 1) {
    scanf("%d", &number);
    if (number == 0) {
        stop_loop = 1;
    } else if (number % 2 == 1) {
        printf("%d is odd.\n", number);
    } else {
        printf("%d is even.\n", number);
    }
}
```

### while Loop - Sentinel Variable Pattern

Here is the programming pattern for a while that executes \( n \) times:

```c
stop_loop = 0;
while (stop_loop != 1) {
    // statements the loop needs to perform
    //
    if (........) {
        stop_loop = 1;
    }
    //
    // perhaps more statements
    //
}
```

### Nested While Loops

- Often need to nest while loops.
- Need a separate loop counter variable for each nested loop.

```c
// print a square of 10x10 asterisks
int i, j;

i = 0;
while (i < 10) {
    j = 0;
    while (j < 10) {
        printf("* ");
        j = j + 1;
    }
    printf("\n");
    i = i + 1;
}