

- Previous Lecture:
  - Nesting **if**-statements
  - Boolean operations (relational, logical)
  - Logical operators short-circuit
- Today's Lecture:
  - Iteration using **for**
- Announcements
  - Submit Project 2 in CMS tonight before 11pm
  - Use office hours or consulting hours if you have questions
  - Register your clicker!

## Question

A stick of unit length is split into two pieces. The breakpoint is randomly selected. On average, how long is the shorter piece?

Physical experiment? ♦

Thought experiment? → analysis

Computational experiment! → simulation ♦

♦ Need to repeat many trials!

Lecture 5

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Simulation:  
use code to imitate the physical experiment

```
% one trial of the experiment
breakPt= rand(1);
if breakPt<0.5
    shortPiece= breakPt;
else
    shortPiece= 1-breakPt;
end
```

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```
% one trial of the experiment
breakPt= rand(1);
shortPiece= min(breakPt, 1-breakPt);
```

Want to do many trials, add up the lengths of the short pieces, and then divide by the number of trials to get the average length.

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Repeat n times

```
% one trial of the experiment
breakPt= rand(1);
shortPiece= min(breakPt, 1-breakPt);
```

Take average

Print result

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```
n= 10000; % number of trials
total= 0; % accumulated length so far
```

```
for k= 1:n
```

```
% one trial of the experiment
breakPt= rand(1);
shortPiece= min(breakPt, 1-breakPt);
total= total + shortPiece;
```

```
end
```

```
aveLength= total/n;
fprintf('Average length is %f\n', ...
        aveLength)
```

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## Example: "Accumulate" a solution

```
% Average 10 numbers from user input

n= 10;      % number of data values

for k= 1:n
    % read and process input value
    num= input('Enter a number: ');
    total= total + num;
end
ave= total/n; % average of n numbers
fprintf('Average is %f\n', ave)
```

How many passes  
through the loop will  
be completed?

A:	0
B:	1
C:	9
D:	10
E:	11

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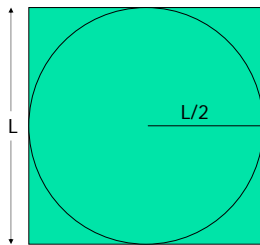
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## Important Features of Iteration

- A task can be accomplished if some steps are repeated; these steps form the **loop body**
- Need a **starting point**
- Need to know **when to stop**
- Need to keep track of (and measure) progress—**update**

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Monte Carlo Approximation of  $\pi$ 

Throw  $N$  darts

Sq. area =  $N = L \times L$

Circle area =  $N_{in}$   
 $= \pi L^2 / 4$

$\pi = 4 N_{in} / N$

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Monte Carlo Approximation of  $\pi$ 

For each of  $N$  trials

Throw a dart

If it lands in circle  
add 1 to total # of hits

Pi is  $4 \cdot \text{hits} / N$

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Monte Carlo  $\pi$  with  $N$  darts on  $L$ -by- $L$  board

```
for k = 1:N
    % Throw kth dart

    % Count it if it is in the circle

end
myPi = 4*hits/N;
```

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Syntax of the **for** loop

```
for <var>= <start value>:<incr>:<end bound>
```

statements to be executed repeatedly

```
end
```

Loop body

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Syntax of the **for** loop

```
for <var>= <start value>:<incr>:<end bound>
```

*statements to be executed repeatedly*

```
end
```

Loop header specifies all the values that the index variable will take on, one for each pass of the loop.

E.g. **k= 3:1:7** means **k** will take on the values 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, *one at a time*.

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Pattern for doing something *n* times

```
n= _____
```

```
for k= 1:n
```

```
    % code to do
```

```
    % that something
```

```
end
```

*Definite iteration*

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```
% What will be printed?
```

```
for k= 1:2:6
```

```
    fprintf('%d ', k)
```

```
end
```

A: 1 2 3 4 5 6

B: 1 3 5 6

C: 1 3 5

D: error  
(incorrect bounds)

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**for** loop examples

```
for k= 2:0.5:3
```

```
    disp(k)
```

```
end
```

```
for k= 1:4
```

```
    disp(k)
```

```
end
```

```
for k= 0:-2:-6
```

```
    disp(k)
```

```
end
```

```
for k= 0:-2:-7
```

```
    disp(k)
```

```
end
```

```
for k= 5:2:1
```

```
    disp(k)
```

```
end
```

**k** takes on the values \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-integer increment is OK

**k** takes on the values \_\_\_\_\_  
Default increment is 1

**k** takes on the values \_\_\_\_\_  
"Increment" may be negative

**k** takes on the values \_\_\_\_\_  
Colon expression specifies a bound

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```
% What will be printed?
```

```
for k= 10:-1:14
```

```
    fprintf('%d ', k)
```

```
end
```

```
fprintf('!')
```

A: error  
(incorrect bounds)

B: 10 (then error)

C: 10 !

D: 14 !

E: !

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What will be displayed when you run the following script?

```
for k = 4:6
```

```
    disp(k)
```

```
    k= 9;
```

```
    disp(k)
```

```
end
```

4

9

or

4

4

or

Something else ...

A

B

C

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```

for k = 4:6
    disp(k)
    k= 9;
    disp(k)
end

```

With this loop header, k "promises" to be these values, one at a time

4 5 6

Output in Command Window

k 4

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```

for k = 4:6
    disp(k)
    k= 9;
    disp(k)
end

```

4 5 6

Output in Command Window

4

k 4

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```

for k = 4:6
    disp(k)
    k= 9;
    disp(k)
end

```

4 5 6

Output in Command Window

4

k 9

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```

for k = 4:6
    disp(k)
    k= 9;
    disp(k)
end

```

4 5 6

Output in Command Window

4  
9

k 9

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```

for k = 4:6
    disp(k)
    k= 9;
    disp(k)
end

```

4 5 6

Output in Command Window

4  
9

k 5

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```

for k = 4:6
    disp(k)
    k= 9;
    disp(k)
end

```

Not a condition (boolean expression) that checks whether k<=6.

It is an expression that specifies values:

4 5 6

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