Lecture 04: Control Flow in Python
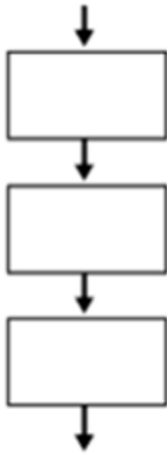
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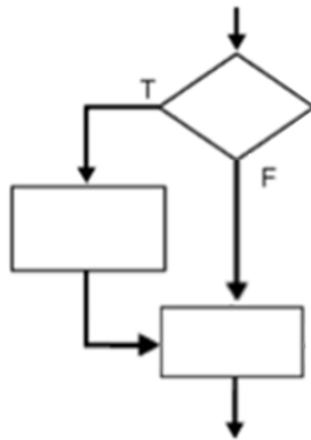# 1 Control Flow in Python

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2 Definition of Control Flow

- Control flow is the order in which statements and instructions are executed in a program
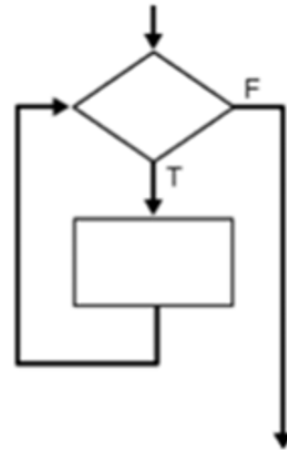- Control flow can be affected by decision-making statements, loops, and function calls.

Sequence	Selection	Iteration

3 Code blocks and indentation

- Code blocks are a group of statements that are executed together.
- In Python, code blocks are defined by their indentation level.

```
[4]: %%script echo
     if condition:
         # This code is indented, so it's part of the if block
         print('The condition is true.')

     # This code is not indented, so it's not part of the if block
     print('This code runs regardless of the condition.')
```

4 If-else statements:

- If-else statements are used to execute code based on a condition.
- If the condition is true, the code within the if block is executed.
- If the condition is false, the code within the else block is executed.

Syntax:

```
[5]: %%script echo
     if condition:
         # Code to execute if the condition is true
     else:
```

```
    # Code to execute if the condition is false
```

5   If-else statements - Example

```
[6]: age = 25
     if age >= 18:
         print("You are an adult")
     else:
         print("You are a minor")
```

```
You are an adult
```

You can also use a shorthand notation for assigning a value to a variable based on a condition:

```
[7]: x = 10
     y = 20
     max_value = x if x > y else y
     print(max_value)
```

```
20
```

6   Boolean Operators

- Boolean operators are used to combine multiple conditions in an `if`-statement
- Python provides the operators `and`, `or`, and `not`

```
[8]: x = 5
     y = 10
     if x > 0 and y < 20:
         print("Both conditions are true")
     if x > 0 or y < 20:
         print("At least one condition is true")
     if not x == y:
         print("x is not equal to y")
```

```
Both conditions are true
At least one condition is true
x is not equal to y
```

7 Truth Table

NOT

x	x'
0	1
1	0

AND

x	y	xy
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

OR

x	y	x+y
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

XOR

x	y	$x \oplus y$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Source [Princeton's Introduction to CS: Boolean Logic](#)

8 Boolean Operators with Non-boolean Values

Boolean operators can also be used with non-boolean values. In Python, any non-zero or non-empty value is considered true, while zero or empty values are considered false:

```python
[10]: name = ""
      if not name:
          print("The name is not set")
```

```
The name is not set
```

9 Nested If Statements

- Nested if statements allow for more complex conditions to be checked
- Multiple conditions can be checked using `if`, `elif`, and `else` statements inside of each other

Syntax:

```python
[11]: %%script echo
      if condition1:
          if condition2:
              # Code to execute if both conditions are true
          else:
              # Code to execute if condition1 is true and condition2 is false
      else:
          # Code to execute if condition1 is false
```

10   Nested If Statements - Example

```
[12]: grade = 85
      if grade >= 90:
          print("You got an A")
      elif grade >= 80:
          print("You got a B")
      elif grade >= 70:
          print("You got a C")
      else:
          print("You failed the course")
```

```
You got a B
```

11   Loops: `for`

`for` loops are used to iterate over a sequence of items. Syntax:

```
[13]: %%script echo
      for item in sequence:
          # Code to execute for each item in the sequence
```

```
[14]: fruits = ['apple', 'banana', 'cherry']
      for fruit in fruits:
          print(fruit)
```

```
apple
banana
cherry
```

12   Loops: `while`

- `while` loops are used to repeat a block of code while a certain condition is true.

Syntax:

```
[15]: %%script echo
      while condition:
          # Code to execute as long as the condition is true
```

13 Loops: `while` - Example

```
[16]: x = 0
      while x < 5:
          print(x)
          x += 1
```

```
0
1
2
3
4
```

14 Continue and Break Statements

- `continue` statements are used to skip to the next iteration of a loop.
- `break` statements are used to exit a loop early.

```
[17]: %%script echo
      for item in sequence:
          if condition:
              continue # Skip to the next iteration
          if other_condition:
              break # Exit the loop early
          # Code to execute for each item in the sequence
```

```
[18]: fruits = ['apple', 'banana', 'cherry']
      for fruit in fruits:
          if fruit == 'banana':
              continue # Skip printing "banana"
          if fruit == 'cherry':
              break # Exit the loop
          print(fruit)
```

```
apple
```

15 Exercise: Fibonacci Sequence

Write a program that generates the first 20 numbers in the Fibonacci sequence.

Hints: - The Fibonacci sequence is a sequence of numbers where each number is the sum of the two preceding numbers. - The first two numbers in the sequence are 0 and 1. - Use a for loop to generate the sequence.

Example output:

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, 233, 377, 610, 987, 1597, 2584, 4181