

Short-circuit Evaluation



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Logical Operators

and

Logical conjunction

operand_a and operand_b

True if, and only if,
both operands are true

or

Logical disjunction

operand_a or operand_b

True if either or both operands are true

False if, and only if,
both operands are false

What Is True

Truthy

Objects for which `bool(obj)` returns True

Non-zero numbers: 42, True, 3.142

Non-empty collections:
[1, 2, 3], "Not empty"

Objects for which
`obj.__bool__()` returns True

Any object which does not define
`__len__` or `__bool__`

Falsy

Objects for which `bool(obj)` returns False

Zero: 0, False, 0.0

Empty collections: [], "", {}

Objects for which `obj.__bool__()` returns
False

None

Logical and Operator

a	b	a and b
False	False	False
False	True	False
True	False	False
True	True	True

a	b	a and b
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

a	b	a and b
0	0	0
0	42	0
37	0	0
19	23	23

If a is falsy, the result must be falsy, so return a

If a is **truthy**, the result depends on whether b is **truthy**, so return b

b only needs to be evaluated if a is truthy

a	b	a and b
''	[]	''
()	1	()
True	None	None
{1, 2}	'Yes'	'Yes'

Logical or Operator

a	b	a and b
False	False	False
False	True	True
True	False	True
True	True	True

If a is falsy, the result depends on whether b is truthy, so return b

If a is truthy, return a

b only needs to be evaluated if a is falsy

a	b	a and b
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

a	b	a and b
0	0	0
0	42	42
37	0	37
19	23	19

a	b	a and b
''	[]	''
()	1	1
True	None	True
{1, 2}	'Yes'	{1, 2}

Logical Operators

and

Returns an operand

Only evaluates right if
left is **truthy**

or

Returns an operand

Only evaluates right if
left is **falsy**

not

Always returns True or
False

Always evaluates
operand

Coalescing Nulls

Logical-or as a Null-coalescing Operator

`possibly_null_value or value_if_null`

Logical-or as a Null-coalescing Operator

`possible_none_value` **or** `value_if_none`

images.py x

```
1  """Image size functions."""
2
3
4  def image_width(num_pixels=None):
5      return num_pixels if (num_pixels is not None) else 1280
6
7
8  def image_height(num_pixels=None):
9      if num_pixels is None:
10         num_pixels = 720
11     return num_pixels
12
13
14  def num_image_pixels(h=None, v=None):
15     return image_width(h) * image_height(v)
16
```



**WRONG
WAY**

Fallbacks Using Logical-or

`integer_divisors or [1]`

`scale_factor or 1.0`

`text or "<empty>"`

Guarding Expressions

Share out Laptop Stickers



```
guard.py x
1 """Sharing marketing loot."""
2
3 def share_stickers(num_stickers, num_developers):
4     return num_developers and num_stickers // num_developers
5
```

num_developers (0) is falsy

Python Console

```
>>> from guard import *
>>> share_stickers(6, 2)
3
>>> share_stickers(10, 0)
0
>>>
```

```
def share_stickers(num_stickers, num_developers):  
    if num_developers == 0:  
        return 0  
    return num_stickers // num_developers
```

```
def share_stickers(num_stickers, num_developers):  
    try:  
        return num_stickers // num_developers  
    except ZeroDivisionError:  
        return 0
```

```
def share_stickers(num_stickers, num_developers):  
    return num_developers and num_stickers // num_developers
```

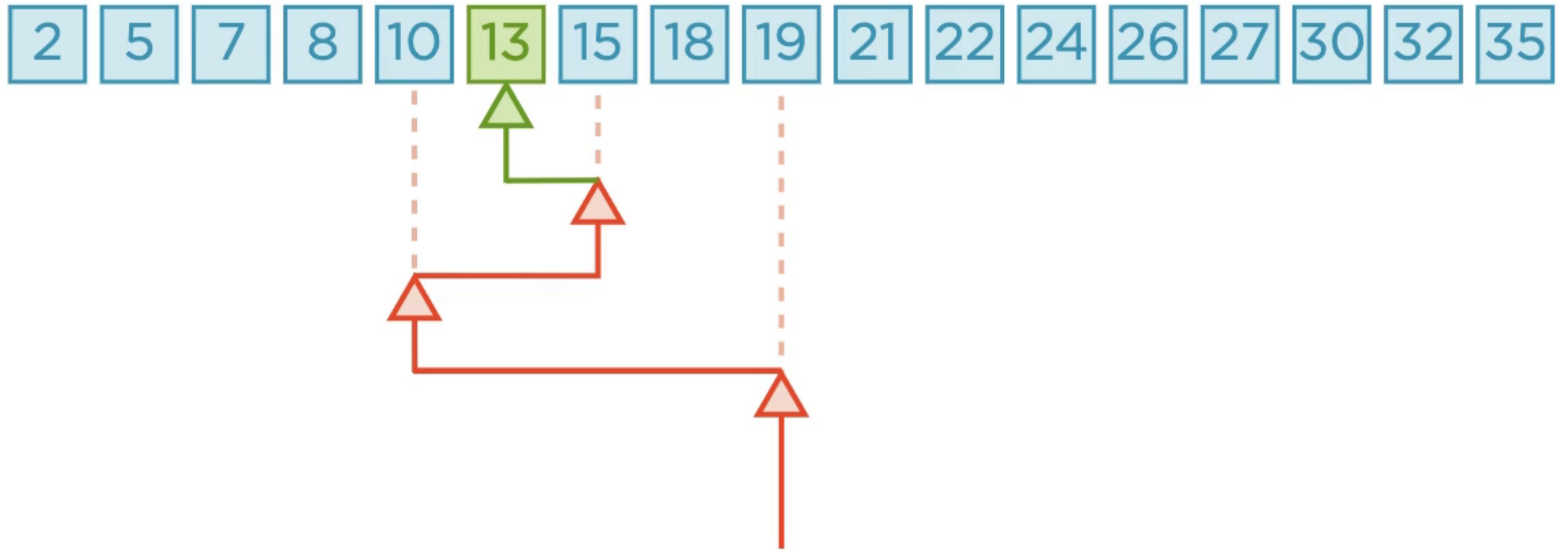
◀ **Look before you leap:**
Rule in plain sight.

◀ **Easier to ask
forgiveness than
permission:**
More Pythonic?

◀ **Shortcut-evaluation:**
**Concise. But
obvious?**

Safe Binary Search

Search by Repeated Bisection



Sorted Sequence

$s = [5, 8, 19, 34, 35, 53]$

Computational Complexity



Linear search: 1 000 000 comparisons
for 1 000 000 elements



Binary search: 20 comparisons for
1 000 000 elements

```
1 from bisect import bisect_left
2
3 s = [5, 8, 19, 34, 35, 53]
4
5
6 def contains(sequence, value):
7     index = bisect_left(sequence, value)
8     return (index != len(sequence)) and (sequence[index] == value)
9
```

Python Console

```
False
>>> contains(s, 8)
True
>>> contains(s, 12)
False
>>> contains(s, 70)
False
>>>
```

Shortcut Logical Operators

Logical-or based **fallbacks**

Logical-and based **guards**

If-statements are an alternative

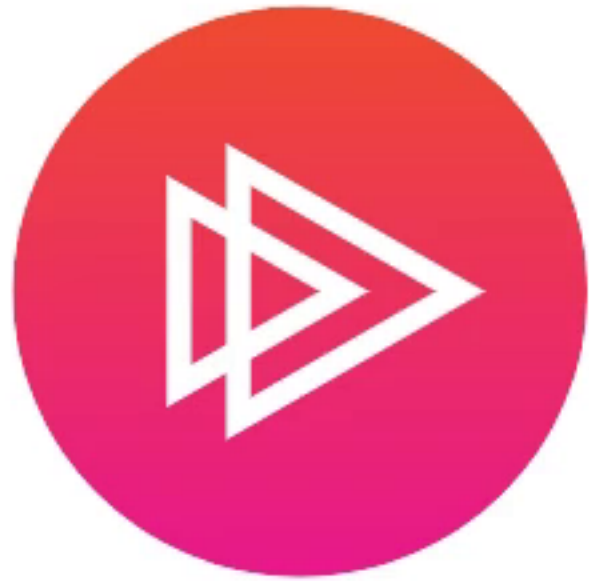
Conditional expressions are an alternative

Shortcut-evaluation is a common language feature

Logical operators returning operands is an unusual language feature

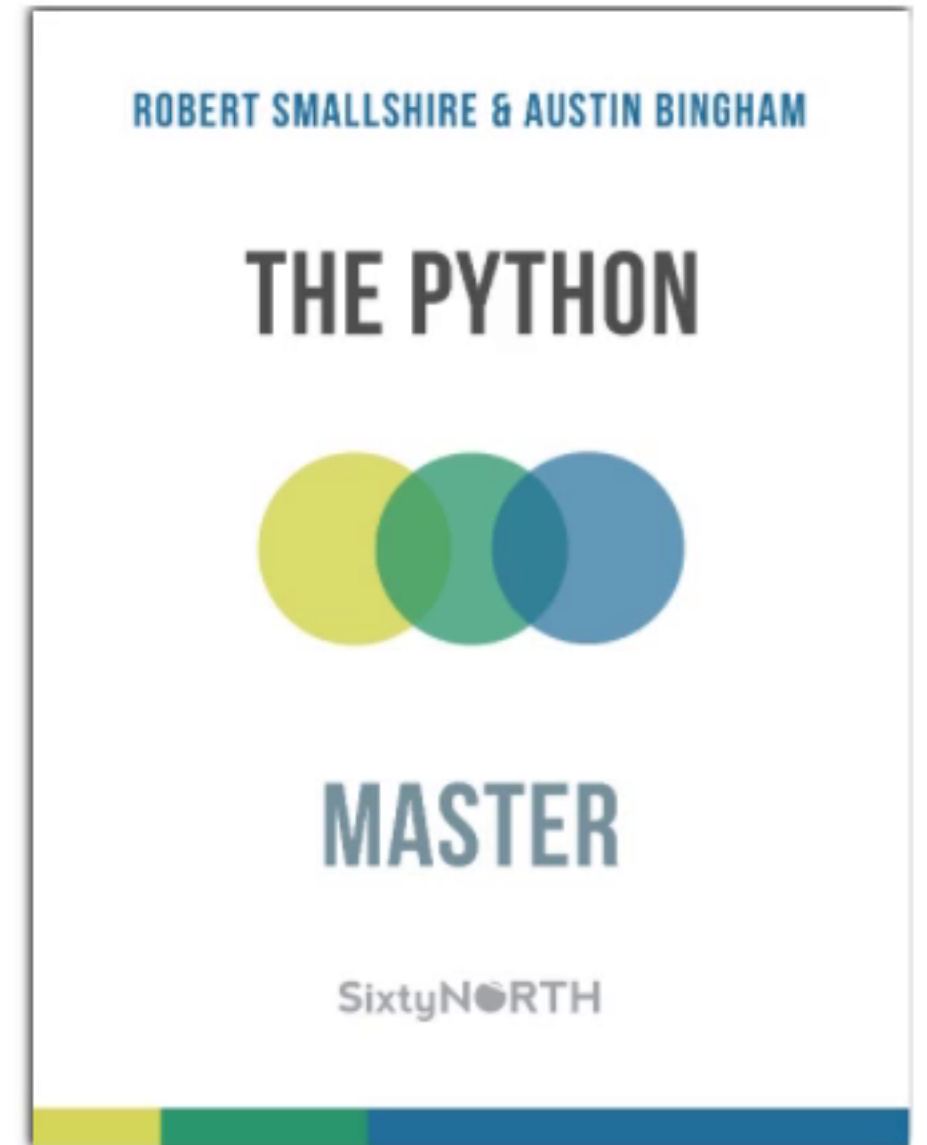
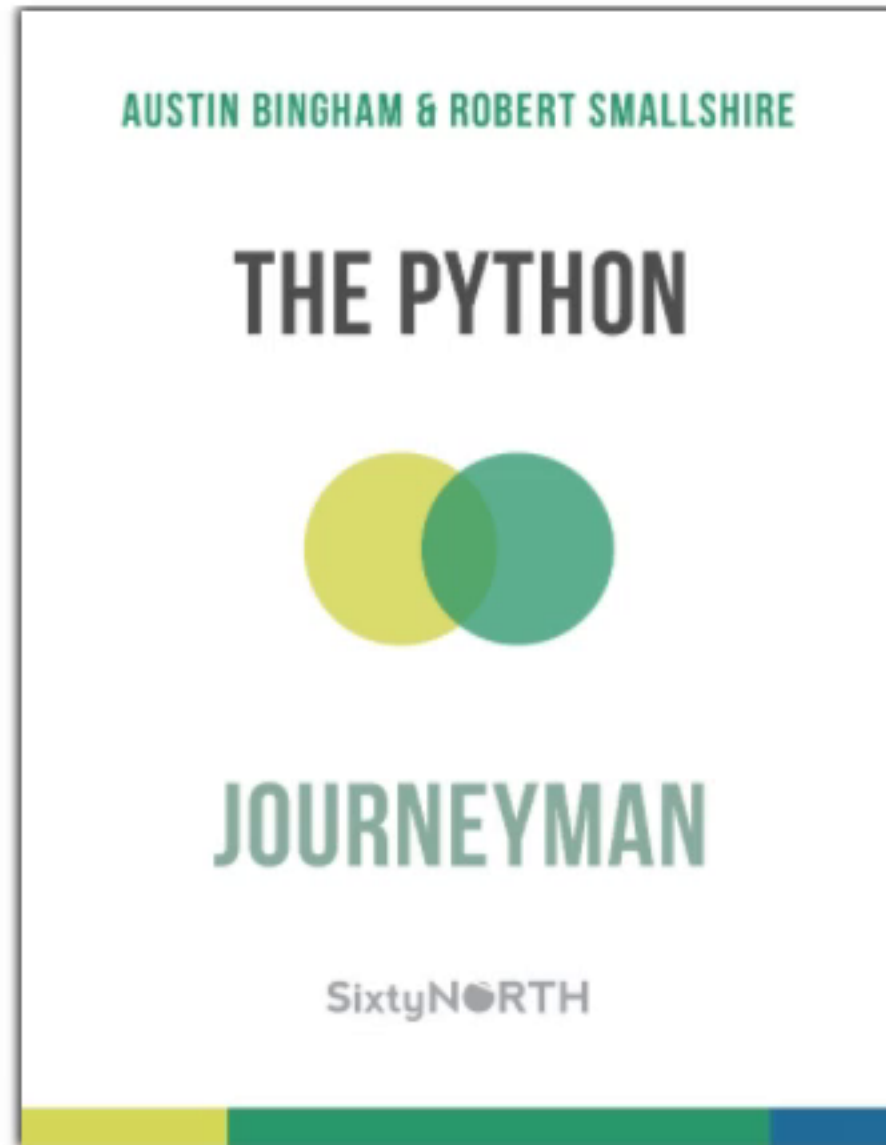
Core Python

on



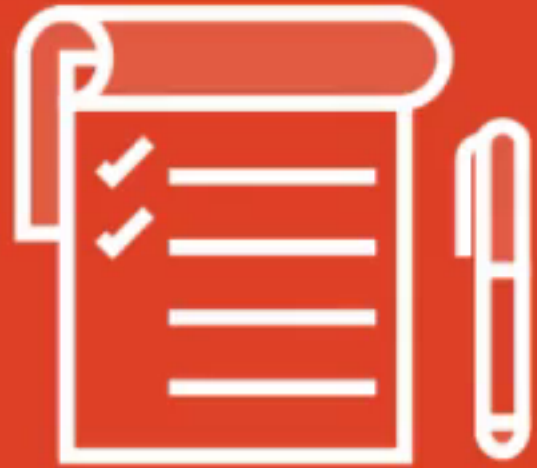
PLURALSIGHT

The Python Craftsman



leanpub.com/b/python-craftsman

Summary



While-else executed when condition becomes false

Loop-else commented "no-break"

For-else executed when iterable is exhausted

Extract loops using else blocks

Try-else for non-exceptional cases

Mappings of callables emulate switch

Overload functions using
`singledispatch`

**Shortcut logical operators for
conditional evaluation**

Well done!

Happy Programming!

