

Conditional Execution

Decision making with `if-else` statements

Alwin Tareen

Boolean Expressions

The Boolean Data Type

- ▶ A **boolean expression** is an expression that is evaluated to either True or False.
- ▶ In Python, the boolean data type can only take the values True or False.
- ▶ Note that True or False must begin with a capital letter. These are special values which are not strings.
- ▶ Python specifies this data type as: bool

Comparison Operators

- ▶ The following comparison operators compare two numbers, and give back a boolean value.

Comparison Operator	Description
>	greater than
>=	greater than or equal to
<	less than
<=	less than or equal to
==	equal to
!=	not equal to

- ▶ Note that == denotes logical equality, while = is the assignment operator.
- ▶ Confusing these two items is a common source of errors.

Logical Operators

- ▶ There are three logical operators in Python.

Rank	Operator	Example	Result
1	not	not a	True if a is False, and False if a is True.
2	and	a and b	True if a and b are both True, and False otherwise.
3	or	a or b	True if either a or b are True, and False otherwise.

- ▶ Logical operators must be evaluated in the following order of precedence: not, and, or.

Truth Tables

- ▶ A logical operation can be described by a **truth table** that lists all of the possible combinations of values for the input variables involved in an expression.
- ▶ The following is a two-valued truth table. It shows the outputs for the and, or operators.

a	b	logical and	logical or
a	b	a and b	a or b
False	False	False	False
False	True	False	True
True	False	False	True
True	True	True	True

The not Operator

- ▶ The not operator gives the logical complement of a boolean value.
- ▶ It does not alter the variable upon which it acts.
- ▶ The following is the truth table for the not operator:

		logical not
		not a
a		
False		True
True		False

```
if (not lights):  
    print("The room is dark.")
```

The and Operator

- ▶ The result of a logical and operation is True if both operands are True, but False otherwise.

```
if (chips > 0 and soda > 0):  
    print("You have snacks.")
```

The or Operator

- ▶ The result of a logical or operation is True if one or the other or both of the operands are True, but False otherwise.

```
if (money > 1000 or creditcard == True):  
    print("You can buy an iPhone.")
```

The if Statement

Conditional Execution

Conditional statements give us the ability to check a condition, and change the behaviour of the program accordingly.

The if Statement

- ▶ This allows us to perform actions only when certain conditions are met, and to skip the block of code otherwise.
- ▶ The structure of the if statement consists of the following:

```
if condition:  
    code block of statements
```

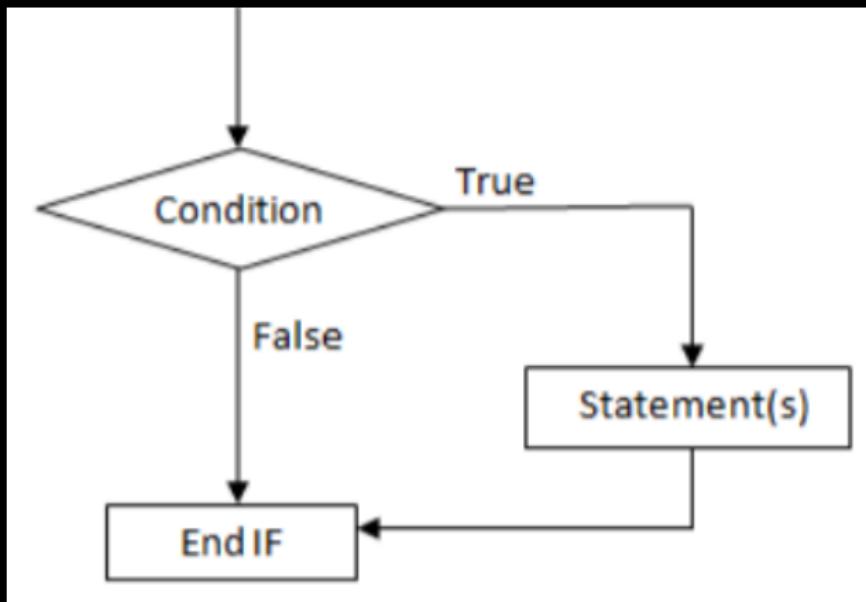
The if Statement

- ▶ The first line has the keyword `if`, then a **condition** which must be True or False expression, then a colon.
- ▶ Then, there is the body of the `if` statement, which consists of one or more indented lines.
- ▶ According to good programming practice, there should be 4 spaces of indent.

```
if age >= 18:  
    print("You can drive.")
```

- ▶ If the logical condition is True, then the indented block of code gets executed. If the logical condition is False, then the indented block of code is skipped.

Flowchart of the if Statement



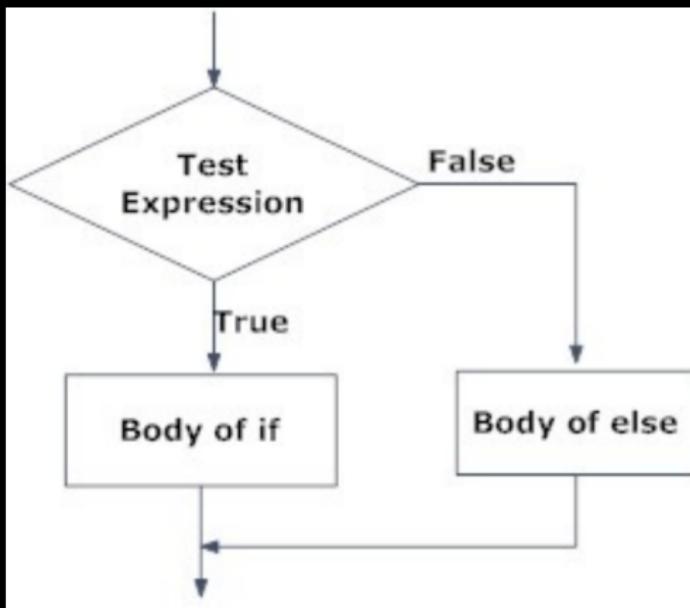
The if-else Statement

- ▶ Often, you want to test some condition, and take either one action or another action, depending upon whether the condition is True or False.
- ▶ With an if-else statement, there are two possibilities, and the condition determines which one is executed.
- ▶ The structure of the if-else statement consists of the following:

```
if condition:  
    code block if the condition is True  
else:  
    code block if the condition is False
```

Flowchart of the if-else Statement

- ▶ Since the condition must be either True or False, exactly one of the possible branches must be executed.



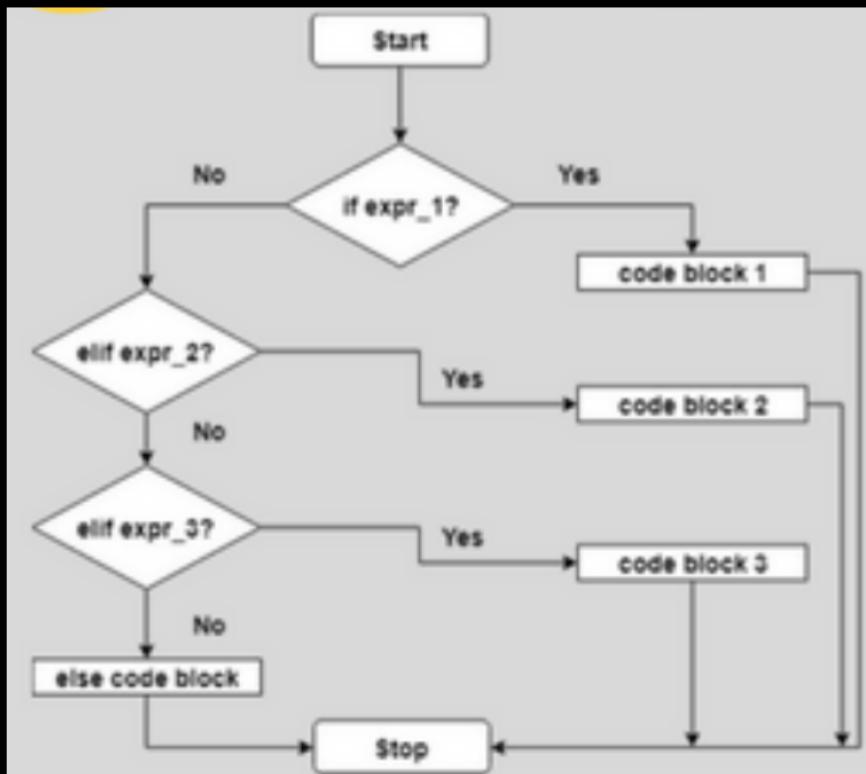
The if-elif-else Statement

- ▶ Sometimes, there are more than two possibilities which can be selected, so we need more than two logical branches.
- ▶ We can use an `if-elif-else` statement, which allows us to check several conditions in a row.
- ▶ The keyword `elif` is an abbreviation for `else if`, since it is the same as putting an `if` statement inside an `else` block.
- ▶ You can combine any number of `elif` statements in your structure.
- ▶ The `else` statement at the end is optional. If you include an `else` statement, then it must come at the very end of the structure.

The if-elif-else Statement

```
if first_condition:  
    code block if first_condition is True  
elif second_condition:  
    code block if second_condition is True  
elif third_condition:  
    code block if third_condition is True  
else:  
    code block if all other conditions are False
```

Flowchart of the if-elif-else Statement



Short-Circuit Evaluation

- ▶ The and and or operators are short-circuited.
- ▶ If the left operand is enough to decide the boolean result of the operation, then the right operand is not evaluated.

and

If the left operand is False, then the result of the entire expression will be False, no matter what the right operand is.

```
sh = False and (False and (True or False) or True)
```

or

If the left operand is True, then the result of the entire expression will be True, no matter what the right operand is.

```
cr = True or (False and (True or False) or True)
```