# Faster or Slower? Performance Mystery of Python Idioms Unveiled with Empirical Evidence

### APPENDIX A FORMATIVE STUDY

Table I shows representative discussions about performance impact of nine Python idioms on Stack Overflow. #N represents the number of questions we find for each Python idiom and blue text represents the view times that more than 1k times indicates the questions are popular.

- (1) Developers are concerned with the performance of Python idioms. First, developers ask whether idiomatic code is faster or slower than non-idiomatic code. For example, for the star-in-func-call in Table I, developers are interested in whether the star operator affects the performance. Furthermore, developers would like to know how many times idiomatic code may be faster or slower than the non-idiomatic code. For example, for the list-comprehension in Table I, a developer states that the list comprehension is 50% faster than appending to a list with for loop. Finally, developers want to know the reasons why Python idioms causes the performance change. For example, for the for-multiple-targets in Table I, a developer ask why accessing by index slow things down compared to for-multiple-targets.
- (2) Many questions lack clear evidence of the performance impact of Python idioms. Only 49.5% questions list code fragments and corresponding execution time to illustrate the performance of Python idioms. For example, for the chain-comparison in Table I, developers write a toy code pair of x<y<z and x<y and y<z to compare their execution time. Furthermore, for the two questions regarding loop-else and star-in-func-call, they lack code fragments or execution time, but provide only natural language descriptions for the performance of the idioms. For example, for the loop-else in Table I, a developer say "I was introduced to a wonderful idiom in which you can use a for/break/else scheme with an iterator to save both time and lines of code".
- (3) Developers are often confused by the controversial descriptions or evidences of the performance of Python idioms. 33 out of 101 question threads present some contradictory performance results. Among the nine examples in Table I, six questions discuss the contradictory performance results, annotated with a \*. For example, for the assign-multitargets in Table I, a developer states that multiple assignment perform at least 30% better than the individual assignment. However, the developer shows that the Python official wiki states that multiple assignment is slower than of individual assignment. Similarly, for the chain-comparison in Table I, a developer finds the chain comparison is slower, but another developer states that the Python official wiki claims that chained comparisons are faster than using "and" operator. As another

TABLE I: Python Idiom Performance Related SO Ouestions

		Python Idiom Performance Related SO Questions	
Idiom	#N	C	
List- Compre hension*	26	Question: How to speed up list comprehension? my understanding is that for-loop is faster than list comprehension.	
		Comments: In all cases I've measured the time a list comp rehension was always faster than a standard for loop. (2k times)	
		Question: How do python Set Comprehensions work?	
Set- Compre hension*	12	I tried timeit for speed comparisons, there is quite some difference	
		Answer: List/Dict/Set comprehensions tend to be faster than	
		anything else. (2k times)	
Dict-		Question: Why is this loop faster than a dictionary comprehension?	
Compre	15	Comment: I do this with a dictionary with 1000 random keys	
hension*		and values, the dictcomp is marginally slightly faster. (9k times)	
Chain- Compa rison*	6	<b>Question:</b> Is " $x < y < z$ " faster than " $x < y$ and $y < z$ "?	
		In this page, we know that chained comparisons are faster than u-	
		sing the "and" operator. However, I got a different result It seems	
Hison		that $x < y$ and $y < z$ is faster than $x < y < z$ . (11k times)	
Truth- Value- Test*	17	Question: bool value of a list in Python.	
		Answer: 99.9% of the time, performance doesn't matter as suggest-	
		ed Keith. I only mention this because I once had a scenario, using	
		implicit truthiness testing shaved 30% off the runtime. (31k times)	
	7	Question: Pythonic ways to use 'else' in a for loop.	
Loop-		Answer: I was introduced to a wonderful idiom in which you can	
Else		use a for/break/else scheme with an iterator to save both time and	
		LOC. (1k times)  Question: Python assigning two variables on one line	
Assign- Multi-	8	I've been looking to squeeze a little more performance out of my	
		code; While browsing this Python wiki page, I found this claim:	
		Multiple assignment is slower than individual assignment.	
Targets*		I repeated several times, but the multiple assignment snippet perfor-	
		med at least 30% better than the individual assignment. (3k times)	
Star-in-	5	Question: What does the star mean in a function call?	
Fun-Call		Does it affect performance at all? Is it fast or slow? (245k times)	
For-Mul	5	Question: How come unpacking is faster than accessing by	
-Targets	,	index? (3k times)	

example, for the truth-value-test in Table I, it is generally understood that this idiom does not impact the performance largely. However, the developer encounter a scenario that the truth-value-test can shave 30% off runtime.

Python developers are concerned with the performance of Python idioms. However, their evidences of performance improvement or regression are generally anecdotal based on either toy code or individual project experience. This leads to many controversies about if and when developers should or should not use Python idioms.

## APPENDIX B EMPIRICAL STUDY SETUP

#### A. Data Collection

Table II summarizes the number of code pairs (non-idiomatic versus idiomatic) in the synthetic dataset and the real-project dataset. For synthetic list/set/dict-comprehension code pairs, 1600 is computed by multiplying 4 numFor, 5 numIf, 5 numIfElse, 2 and 8 values (local or global) of variable scope and size. For synthetic chained comparison code, 11968 is computed by multiplying 2992 combinations of 2-5 comparisons from CompopSet, 2 and 2 values of variable scope and isTrue. For synthetic assign-multipletargets, when the values are constants, the isSwap can only

ldiom	Synthetic	Real-Project
List Comprehension	1600	734
Set Comprehension	1600	282
Dict Comprehension	1600	194
Chain Comparison	11968	2268
Truth Value Test	336	40116
Loop Else	128	198
Assign Multiple Targets	174	10583
Star in Func Call	1920	170
For Multiple Targets	4800	334
Total	24126	54879

be 0, so there are only 174 code pairs instead of 232. For synthetic truth-value-test, 336 is computed by multiplying 3, 2, 14, 2 and 2 values of TestSet, EqSet, EmptySet, scope and IsTrue. For synthetic loop-else, the 128 is computed by multiplying the 2, 2, 2, 8 and 2 values of LoopSet, ConditionSet, variable scope, size and isBreak. For synthetic star-in-fun-call, the 1920 is computed by multiplying the 30 numSubscript, 2, 2, 2, 2 and 2 values of hasSubscript, hasStep, hasLower, hasUpper, variable scope and isConst. For synthetic for-multi-targets, the 4800 is computed by multiplying 30 numSubscript, 5 numTarget, 2, 2, 8 values of hasStarred, scope and size. For real-project code, the number of code pairs are reported by the refactoring tool (accompanied by at least one test case to execute the before- and after-refactoring code).

#### APPENDIX C EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

A. RQ2: How well can code features explain the performance differences caused by Python idioms?

Data size: Fig. 1 shows the relationship between size and performance speedup for set-comprehension and dict-comprehension. To see the trend clearly, we take the log of data size. For the set-comprehension, the speedup increases fast when the number of elements increases from 1 to  $148(e^5)$ . However, the speedup flattens when the number of elements increases over about  $2981 \ (e^8)$ . For the dict-comprehension, the speedup increases fast when the number of elements increases from 1 to  $20 \ (e^3)$ . However, the speedup flattens when the number of elements increases over about  $2981 \ (e^8)$ .

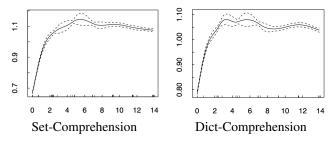
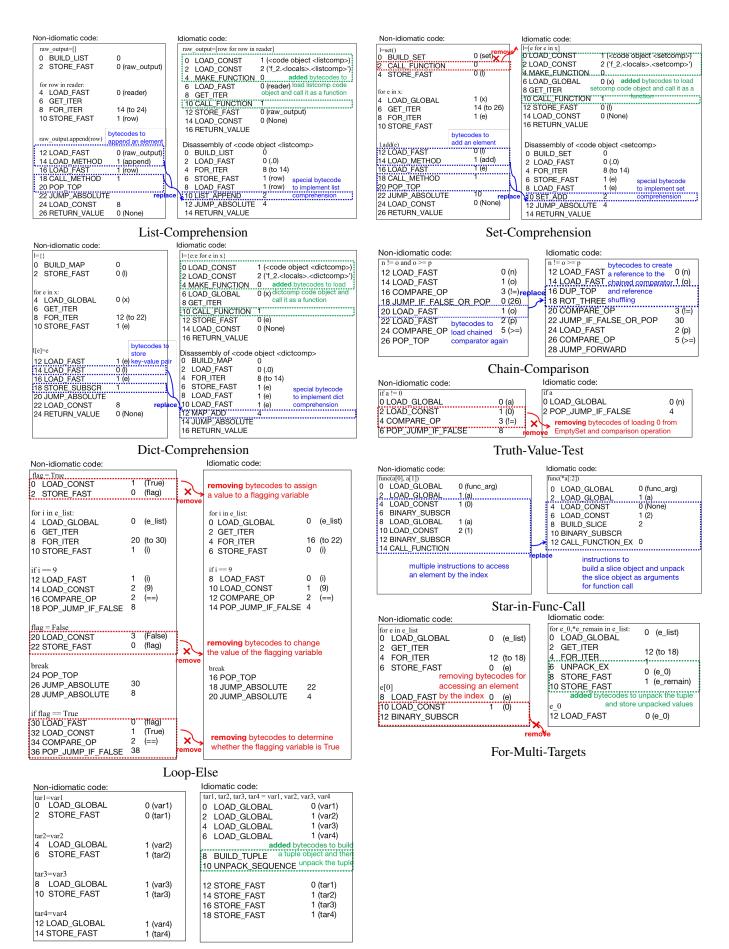


Fig. 1: The Relationship Between size and Performance Speedup for Set Comprehension and Dict Comprehension.

B. RQ3: What are the root causes of performance differences caused by Python idioms and what cause the inconsistencies between synthetic and real-project code?

Fig. 2 shows the differences in bytecode instructions between non-idiomatic code and idiomatic code for nine Python idioms.

- **List-comprehension:** From the green box of List-Comprehension in Fig. 2, we could see that the *list-comprehension* needs to execute additional preparation instructions to load listcomp code object and then call it as function before loop iteration. From the blue box of List-Comprehension in Fig. 2, we could see the non-idiomatic code executes the LOAD\_\* instructions to push data into the stack and then calls the append function to append the element. In contrast, the idiomatic code only executes the LIST\_APPEND instruction to append the element.
- Set-comprehension: Similar to the *list-comprehension*, *set-comprehension* needs to execute additional preparation instructions to load setcomp code object and then call it as function before loop iteration (green box of Set-Comprehension in Fig. 2). For adding elements, its non-idiomatic code needs to execute the LOAD\_\* instructions to push data into the stack and then call the add function to add the element, but the idiomatic code only needs to execute the SET\_ADD instruction to append the element (blue box of Set-Comprehension in Fig. 2). Besides, non-idiomatic needs to call a function to initialize an empty set, but the *set-comprehension* does not need to do it (red box of Set-Comprehension in Fig. 2).
- **Dict-comprehension:** Similar to the *list-comprehension* and *set-comprehension*, the *dict-comprehension* needs to execute additional preparation instructions to load dictcomp code object and then call it as function before loop iteration (green area of Dict-Comprehension in Fig. 2). However, different from the *list-comprehension* and *set-comprehension*, for appending the element, the non-idiomatic code of the *dict-comprehension* does not need to call a function, but only needs to load the object and store a key-value pair. In contrast, the *dict-comprehension* directly executes MAP\_ADD to add the element (blue box of Dict-Comprehension in Fig. 2).
- Chain-comparison: The *chain-comparison* replaces one instruction to load the chained comparator 0 of non-idiomatic code with the instructions to create a reference to the chained comparator o (DUP\_TOP) and reference shuffling (ROT\_THREE) for the three comparators (n, o, p) (blue box of Chain-Comparison in Fig. 2).
- **Truth-value-test:** From the red box of Truth-Value—Test in Fig. 2, we can see The *truth-value-test* removes instructions of loading the object 0 from EmptySet and the comparison operation !=.
- Loop-else: The non-idiomatic code determines whether the code executes a break statement by setting a different value to the flagging variable flag. After the for statement is executed, if the flag is True, code executes the body of the if statement. Operations flagging variables and comparison operation is not concise for developers, so the *loop-else* removes the instruc-



Assign-Multi-Targets

Fig. 2: Bytecode Instructions of Python Idioms (Right) and Corresponding Non-Idiomatic Codes (Left)

tions of setting flagging variables and comparison operation of non-idiomatic code (red box in Loop-Else in Fig. 2).

- Assign-multi-targets: Compared to the non-idiomatic code, the idiomatic code additionally executes the BUILD\_TUPLE instruction to build a tuple and another UNPACK\_SEQUENCE instruction to unpack the sequences to put values onto the stack right-to-left (green box of Assign-Multi-Targets in Fig. 2).
- Star-in-func-call: The *star-in-func-call* replaces multiple instructions to load an element by index (BINARY\_SUBSCR) with instructions to build a slice object and unpack the slice object into arguments (blue box of Star-in-Func-Call in Fig. 2).
- For-multi-targets: In the body of the for statement, the *for-multi-targets* removes instructions to access an element by index (red box of For-Multi-TargetsFig. 2). However, the *for-multi-targets* additionally executes instructions to unpack the object and then store the unpacked values (green box of For-Multi-TargetsFig. 2).

## APPENDIX D CODE EXAMPLES IN TWO DATASETS

Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 show code examples of non-idiomatic code and the corresponding idiomatic code for nine Python idioms in the Synthetic DataSet. And Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 show code examples of non-idiomatic code and the corresponding idiomatic code for nine Python idioms in the Real-Project DataSet. We show the relevant code features in the figures.

```
def func_a():
def func_a():
                                                     def func_a():
                                                                                                            x_0 = list(range(1,101))
                       numFor: 1
 x_0 = []
                                                       x_0 = list(range(1,1000001))
                       numlf: 0
                                                                                                            Non-idiomatic code:
Non-idiomatic code:
                       numIfElse: 0
                                                       Non-idiomatic code:
                                                                                                                                  numFor: 1
                                                                               numFor: 1
                                                                                                            I = dict()
 I = []
                       size: 0
                                                                                                                                  numlf: 0
                                                       I = set0
                                                                               numlf: 1
                                                                                                            for e_0 in x_0:
  for e_0 in x_0:
                       scope: Local
                                                       for e_0 in x_0:
                                                                                                                                  numlfElse: 1
                                                                               numlfElse: 1
                                                                                                               if e_0%2:
     I.append(e_0)
                                                         if e_0//1:
                                                                                                                                  size: 100
                                                                               size: 1000000
                                                                                                                 I[e_0]=e_0
                                                            if e_0%2:
                                                                                                                                  scope: Local
                                                                               scope: Local
                                                                                                               else:
Idiomatic code:
                                                               I.add(e 0)
I = [e_0 \text{ for } e_0 \text{ in } x_0]
                                                                                                                 I[e_0]=e_0
                                                            else:
x_0 = list(range(1, 1001))
                                                               I.add(e_0)
                                                                                                            Idiomatic code:
x_1 = list(range(1, 1001))
                                                                                                            I = {e 0: e 0 if e 0 % 2 else
                                                       Idiomatic code:
                                                                                                          e_0 for e_0 in x_0}
Non-idiomatic code:
                                                       I = {e_0 if e_0 % 2 else e_0
I = []
                          numFor: 2
                                                       for e_0 in x_0 if e_0 // 1}
                                                                                                          x_0 = list(range(1,101))
for e_0 in x_0:
                          numlf:0
                                                                                                          x_1 = list(range(1,101))
                                                     x_0 = list(range(1,101))
  for e_1 in x_1:
                          numlfElse: 2
                                                     x_1 = list(range(1,101))
     if e_0 % 2:
                          size: 1000000
                                                                                                          Non-idiomatic code:
                                                     x_2 = list(range(1,101))
                                                                                                                                     numFor: 2
        I.append(e_0)
                          scope: Global
                                                                                                          I = dict()
                                                                                                                                     numlf: 3
     else:
                                                                                                          for e_0 in x_0:
                                                     Non-idiomatic code:
        if e_0 % 2:
                                                                                                                                     numlfElse: 1
                                                                                                            for e_1 in x_1:
                                                     I = set()
                                                                                                                                     size: 10000
          I.append(e_0)
                                                                                                               if e 0//1:
                                                                                       numFor: 3
                                                     for e_0 in x_0:
                                                                                                                                     scope: Global
        else:
                                                                                                                 if e_0//1:
                                                        for e_1 in x_1:
                                                                                       numlf: 2
           I.append(e_0)
                                                                                                                    if e_0//1:
                                                                                       numlfElse: 1
                                                          for e_2 in x_2:
                                                                                                                       if e_0%2:
                                                                                        size: 1000000
                                                             if e 0//1:
Idiomatic code:
                                                                                                                         I[e_0 * 10000 +e_1]=e_0
                                                               if e_0//1:
                                                                                       scope: Global
I = [e_0 if e_0 % 2 else e_0 if
                                                                                                                       else:
                                                                  if e_0%2:
e_0 % 2 else e_0 for e_0 in x_0
                                                                                                                         I[e_0 * 10000 +e_1]=e_0
                                                                     l.add(e_0 * 100000 +
for e_1 in x_1]
                                                     e_1 * 1000 + e_2)
                                                                                                          Idiomatic code:
x_0 = list(range(1,11))
                                                                  else:
                                                                                                          I = {e_0 * 10000 + e_1: e_0 if e_0 % 2
                                                                     l.add(e_0 * 100000 +
x 1 = list(range(1,11))
                                                                                                          else e_0 for e_0 in x_0 for e_1 in x_1 if
                                                     e_1 * 1000 + e_2)
x 2 = list(range(1.11))
                                                                                                          e_0 // 1 if e_0 // 1 if e_0 // 1}
x_3 = list(range(1,11))
                                                                                                           x = 0 = list(range(1,101))
                                                     Idiomatic code:
                                                     I = {e_0 * 100000 + e_1 * 1000 + e_2 if
                                                                                                           x_1 = list(range(1,101))
Non-idiomatic code:
                                                     e_0 % 2 else e_0 * 100000 + e_1 *
                                                                                                           x_2 = list(range(1,101))
I = \Pi
for e_0 in x_0:
                                                      1000 + e_2 for e_0 in x_0 for e_1 in
                             numFor: 4
                                                     x_1 for e_2 in x_2 if e_0 // 1 if e_0 // 1}
                                                                                                           Non-idiomatic code:
   for e_1 in x_1:
                                                                                                                                     numFor: 3
                             numlf: 3
     for e_2 in x_2:
                                                                                                           I = dict()
                                                     x_0 = []
                                                                                                                                     numlf: 1
                             numlfElse: 1
        for e 3 in x 3:
                                                                                                           for e_0 in x_0:
                                                     x_1 = []
                                                                                                                                     numlfElse: 2
                             size: 10000
                                                                                                             for e_1 in x_1:
          if e_0//1:
                                                     x_2 = []
                                                                                                                                     size: 1000000
                             scope: Global
                                                                                                                for e_2 in x_2:
             if e_0//1:
                                                     x_3 = []
                                                                                                                                     scope: Global
                                                                                                                   if e 0//1:
                if e_0//1:
                                                                                                                     if e_0%2:
                  if e_0%2:
                                                     Non-idiomatic code:
                                                                               numFor: 4
                                                                                                                        I[e_0 * 100000 + e_1 * 1000 +
                     I.append(e_0)
                                                      I = set()
                                                                               numlf: 2
                                                                                                           e_2]=e_0
                   else:
                                                     for e_0 in x_0:
                                                                               numlfElse: 2
                                                                                                                     else:
                     I.append(e_0)
                                                        for e 1 in x 1:
                                                                               size: 0
                                                                                                                        if e_0%2:
                                                          for e_2 in x_2:
                                                                               scope: Global
                                                                                                                          I[e_0 * 100000 + e_1 * 1000 +
Idiomatic code:
                                                             for e_3 in x_3:
I = [e 0 if e 0 % 2 else e 0 for e 0 in
                                                                                                           e_2]=e_0
                                                                if e_0//1:
x_0 for e_1 in x_1 for e_2 in x_2 for
                                                                  if e_0//1:
                                                                                                                          I[e_0 * 100000 + e_1 * 1000 +
e_3 in x_3 if e_0 // 1 if e_0 // 1 if e_0
                                                                     if e_0%2:
                                                                       l.add(e_0 * 1000000 +
                                                                                                           e_2]=e_0
// 1]
                                                     e_1 * 10000 + e_2 * 100 + e_3)
         List-Comprehension
                                                                                                           I = \{e_0 * 100000 + e_1 * 1000 + e_2 : e_0 \text{ if }
                                                                       if e_0%2:
                                                                                                           e_0 % 2 else e_0 if e_0 % 2 else e_0 for e_0
                                                                          l.add(e_0 * 1000000 +
                              numSubscript: 3
                                                                                                           in x_0 for e_1 in x_1 for e_2 in x_2 if e_0 // 1
                                                     e_1 * 10000 + e_2 * 100 + e_3)
e_list=[i for i in range(4)]
                              hasSubscript: 1
```

```
def func_a():
                                    hasStep: 0
  Non-idiomatic code:
                                    hasLower: 1
  func_arg(e_list[i_s],e_list[i_s+1], hasUpper: 1
            e_list[i_s+2])
                                    isConst: 0
                                    scope: Local
  func_arg(*e_list[i_s: i_s+3])
   e_list=[i for i in range(6)]
                                numSubscript: 2
                                hasSubscript: 1
   Non-idiomatic code:
                                hasStep: 1
   func_arg(e_list[1],e_list[3])
                                hasLower: 1
                                hasUpper: 1
   Idiomatic code:
                                isConst: 1
                                scope: Global
   func_arg(*e_list[1: 4: 2])
   e_list = [i for i in range(4)]
                                  numSubscript: 4
   Non-idiomatic code:
                                  hasSubscript: 0
   func_arg(e_list[0], e_list[1],
                                  hasStep: 0
   e_list[2], e_list[3])
                                  hasLower: 0
                                  hasUpper: 0
   Idiomatic code:
                                  isConst: 1
   func_arg(*e_list)
                                 scope: Global
```

```
e_2 in x_2 for e_3 in x_3 if e_0 // 1 if e_0 //
         Set-Comprehension
```

e\_1 \* 10000 + e\_2 \* 100 + e\_3)

 $I = \{e_0 * 1000000 + e_1 * 10000 + e_2 * e_3 * e_4 = 10000 + e_5 * e_6 * e_6$ 

else e\_0 \* 1000000 + e\_1 \* 10000 + e\_2 \*

 $100 + e_3$  for  $e_0$  in  $x_0$  for  $e_1$  in  $x_1$  for

100 + e\_3 if e\_0 % 2 else e\_0 \* 1000000 + e\_1 \* 10000 + e\_2 \* 100 + e\_3 if e\_0 % 2

Idiomatic code:

1}

I.add(e 0 \* 1000000 +

```
Dict-Comprehension
```

Star-in-Func-Call

Fig. 3: Code Examples for List/Set/Dict-Comprehension and Star-in-Func-Call in the Synthetic DataSet

```
var_1 = 1
                                               input_seq = [[j for j in range(3)] for i
                                                                                             e_list=[i for i in range(0)]
                                               in range(100)]
var_2 = 2
                                                                                              Non-idiomatic code:
                                               Non-idiomatic code:
Non-idiomatic code:
                                                                    numSubscript: 3
                                                                                             flag=True
                        numAssian: 2
                                               for e in input_seq:
tmp_1 = var_1
                                                                    numTarget: 3
                                                                                             for i in e_list:
                                                 e[0]
                        isConst: 0
var_1 = var_2
                                                                    hasStarred: 0
                                                                                                if i==0:
                                                 e[1]
                        isSwap: 1
                                                                                                                  LoopSet: For
                                                                    scope: Global
var_2 = tmp_1
                                                                                                   flag=False
                                                 e[2]
                        scope: Global
                                                                                                                  ConditionSet: If
                                                                    size: 100
                                                                                                   break
                                                                                                                  size: 0
Idiomatic code:
                                                                                             if flag==True:
                                               Idiomatic code:
                                                                                                                  isBreak: 0
var_1, var_2 = var_2, var_1
                                               for e_0, e_1, e_2 in input_seq:
                                                                                                pass
                                                                                                                  scope: Global
                                                 e_0
                                                 e_1
Non-idiomatic code:
                                                                                             Idiomatic code:
                                                 e_2
var_1 = 1
                                                                                             for i in e_list:
                    numAssian: 8
var_2 = 2
                                               input_seq=[[j for j in range(2)] for i
                                                                                                if i == 0:
                    isConst: 1
var_3 = 3
                                               in range(1)]
                                                                                                   break
                    isSwap: 0
var_4 = 4
                                                                                             else:
                                                                      numSubscript: 1
                                               Non-idiomatic code:
                    scope: Global
var_5 = 5
                                                                                                pass
                                                                      numTarget: 2
                                               for e in input_seq:
var_6 = 6
                                                                      hasStarred: 1
                                                                                             i = 10000
                                                  e[0]
var 7 = 7
                                                                      scope: Global
var_8 = 8
                                                                      size: 1
                                               Idiomatic code:
                                                                                             Non-idiomatic code:
                                               for e, *e_len in input_seq:
                                                                                             flag = True
Idiomatic code:
                                                 e_0
                                                                                             while i:
var 1.
                                                                                                                  LoopSet: While
                                               def func_a():
                                                                                                i -= 1
var 2,var 3,var 4,var
                                                                                                                  ConditionSet: If
                                                 input_seq=[[j for j in range(4)] for i in
                                                                                                if i == -1:
5, var_6, var_7, var_8 =
                                               range(100000)]
                                                                                                                  size: 1000
                                                                                                   flag = False
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
                                                                                                                  isBreak: 0
                                                                                                   break
                                                  Non-idiomatic code:
                                                                                                                  scope: Global
                                                                                             if flag == True:
def func_a():
                                                  for e in input_seq:
                                                                                                pass
   var_1_{opy} = 1
                                                    e[0]
                                                                      numSubscript: 5
                                                    e[1]
   var_2 copy = 2
                                                                      numTarget: 3
                                                                                             Idiomatic code:
                                                    e[0]
   var_3 copy = 3
                                                                      hasStarred: 1
                                                                                             while i:
                                                    e[1]
                                                                      scope: Local
                            numAssign: 3
                                                                                                i -= 1
                                                    e[0]
                                                                      size: 100000
   Non-idiomatic code:
                                                                                                if i == -1:
                            isConst: 0
   var_1 = var_1_copy
                                                  Idiomatic code:
                            isSwap: 0
                                                                                                   break
   var_2 = var_2_copy
                                                  for e_0, e_1, *e_len in input_seq:
                                                                                             else:
                            scope: Local
   var_3 = var_3_copy
                                                    e_0
                                                                                                pass
                                                    e_1
                                                                                              def func a():
   Idiomatic code:
                                                    e_0
                                                    e_1
                                                                                                e_list=[i for i in range(1000000)]
   var_1, var_2, var_3 = var_1_copy,
                                                    e_0
var_2_copy, var_3_copy
                                                                                                Non-idiomatic code:
                                                          For-Multi-Targets
           Ass-Multi-Targets
                                                                                                flag=True
                                                                                                for i in e list:
                                                                                                   if i==999999: LoopSet: For
a = 0
                                               a = 0
                                                                                                     flag=False ConditionSet: IfElse
                                                                                                     break
                                                                                                                   size: 1000000
Non-idiomatic code:
                                               Non-idiomatic code:
                                                                                                if flag==True:
                                                                                                                  isBreak: 1
while a == 0:
                                               while a == 0:
                  test: While
                                                                 test: While
                                                                                                   pass
                                                                                                                   scope: Local
                  comop: ==
                                                                 comop: ==
                                                                                                else:
Idiomatic code:
                                               Idiomatic code:
                  value: ()
                                                                 value: ()
while not a:
                                               while not a:
                                                                                                   pass
                  isTrue: 1
                                                                 isTrue: 1
                  scope: Global
                                                                 scope: Global
                                                                                                Idiomatic code:
def func_a():
                                               def func_a():
                                                                                                for i in e_list:
  from fractions import Fraction
                                                 from fractions import Fraction
                                                                                                   if i==9999999:
  a = Fraction(0, 1)
                                                 a = Fraction(0, 1)
                                                                                                     pass
                                                                                                     break
  Non-idiomatic code:
                                                 Non-idiomatic code:
  if a == Fraction(0, 1): test: If
                                                 if a == Fraction(0, 1): test: If
                                                                                                else:
                       comop: ==
                                                                      comop: ==
                                                                                                   pass
                       value: Fraction(0, 1)
                                                                      value: Fraction(0, 1)
  Idiomatic code:
                                                 Idiomatic code:
                       isTrue: 0
                                                                      isTrue: 0
                                                                                                             Loop-Else
  if not a:
                                                 if not a:
                       scope: Local
                                                                      scope: Local
a = 'a'
                                               a = 'a'
                    test: Assert
                                                                   test: Assert
Non-idiomatic code:
                                               Non-idiomatic code:
                   comop: !=
                                                                  comop: !=
assert a != "
                    value: "
                                               assert a != "
                                                                   value : "
                   isTrue: 1
                                                                   isTrue: 1
```

Truth-Value-Test

scope: Global

Idiomatic code:

assert a

Chain-Comparison

Idiomatic code:

assert a

Fig. 4: Code Examples for Assign-Multi-Targets, For-Multi-Targets, Loop-Else, Truth-Value-Test and Chain-Comparison in the Synthetic DataSet

scope: Global

Non-idiomatic code: numFor: 1 numFor: 2 kvstore = {} numlf: 1 explicit\_bindings = [] for row in reader: numlfElse: 0 numlfElse: 0 for cls in classes: reader is a reader object from csv libaray kvstore[row[0]] = row[1] Involving function calls, if decorators.is\_explicitly\_injectable(cls): where overload the next method attribute accesses, lambda for arg\_name in **get\_arg\_names\_from\_class\_name(cls.\_\_name\_\_**): explicit\_bindings.append(**new\_binding\_to\_class**( Idiomatic code: expression kvstore = {row[0]: row[1] for row in reader} binding\_keys.new(arg\_name), cls, scoping.DEFAULT\_SCOPE, Non-idiomatic code: numFor: 1 lambda cls=cls: locations.get\_loc(cls)))  $ret = \{\}$ numlf: 0 for (name, entry) in read\_index(f): numlfElse: 0 ret[name] = entry read\_index is a generator function  $explicit\_bindings = [new\_binding\_to\_class(binding\_keys.new(arg\_name), \ cls, \ scoping.DEFAULT\_SCOPE, \ and \ scoping.DEFA$ lambda cls=cls: locations.get\_loc(cls)) for cls in classes if decorators.is\_explicitly\_injectable(cls) for which yield will prevent the function Idiomatic code: from exiting, until the next time next() arg\_name in get\_arg\_names\_from\_class\_name(cls.\_\_name\_\_)]  $ret = \{name: entry for (name, entry) in is called$ read\_index(f)} reader = csv.DictReader(cleandata, dialect=dialect) numFor: 1 Non-idiomatic code: Non-idiomatic code numlf: 0 rc\_dict = {} for row in reader: numIfElse: 0 for section in config.sections(): numFor: 2 raw\_output.append(row) reader is a reader object from csv library for (name, value) in **config.items**(section): numlf: 0 which overloads the  $\_$ next $\_$  method, rc\_dict[name] = \_colon\_split(value) numlfElse: 0 Idiomatic code which is the bottle neck multiple function calls raw\_output = [row for row in reader] Idiomatic code rc\_dict = {name: \_colon\_split(value) for section in config.sections() for Non-idiomatic code (name, value) in config.items(section)} for (it, n) in zip(iterables, offsets): Non-idiomatic code: if n < 0: numFor: 1 equations = {} staggered.append(chain(repeat(fillvalue, -n), it)) numFor: 1 numlf: 0 for col in dependent.pandas: numlf: 0 numlfElse: 2 equations[col] = staggered.append(islice(it, n, None)) invovling 0~2 function calls numIfElse: 0 (dependent.pandas[[col]], multiple attribute accesses else: for each append element exog.pandas, endog.pandas, staggered.append(it) instr.pandas) staggered = [chain(repeat(fillvalue, -n), it) if n < 0 else Idiomatic code equations = {col: (dependent.pandas[[col]], exog.pandas, endog.pandas, islice(it, n, None) if n > 0 else it for (it, n) in zip(iterables, instr.pandas) for col in dependent.pandas} offsets)] Non-idiomatic code: Non-idiomatic code numFor: 3  $filter = {}$ numlf: 1 for cluster in range(2): numlf: 0 for (status, res\_data) in six.iteritems numlfElse: 0 numlfElse: 0 for i in range(length): (responses): multiple function calls for j in range(i + 1, length): 2 function calls if isinstance(status, int) or status.isdigit(): edges.append(('{}:{}'.format(cluster, i), '{}:{}'.format(cluster, j))) filter[int(status)] = dict(headers=res\_data.get('headers'), schema=res\_data.get('schema'))  $edges = \hbox{$[('\{::\}'.format(cluster,\,i),\,'\{::]'.format(cluster,\,j))$ for cluster in range(2) for $i$ in range(length)$} \\$ Idiomatic code for j in range(i + 1, length)]  $filter = \{int(status): \ dict(headers=res\_data.get('headers'), \\$ schema=res data.get('schema')) for (status, res data) in List-Comprehension six.iteritems(responses) if isinstance(status, int) or status.isdigit()}

numFor: 2 Non-idiomatic code: numlf: 0 conjugates = set() numlfElse: 0 for el in group.generate\_dimino(): 1. group.generate dimino() is a generator function for gen in subgr\_gens: which yield will prevent the function from exiting, conjugates.add(gen ^ el) until the next time next() is called 2. Non-Python built-in objects overload the binary expression ^
conjugates = {gen ^ el for el in group.generate\_dimino() for gen in subgr\_gens} Non-idiomatic code: remove = set() for (i, p) in enumerate(N): numFor: 2 for i in range(i + 1, len(N)): numlf: 1 if sdm\_monomial\_divides(p[3], N[j][3]): numlfElse: 0 remove.add(j) Involving function calls  $remove = \{j \text{ for } (i, p) \text{ in } enumerate(N) \text{ for } j \text{ in } range(i + 1, len(N)) \text{ if } i = 1, len(N)\}$ sdm\_monomial\_divides(p[3], N[j][3])} Non-idiomatic code: for x in expr.free\_symbols: numFor: 1 if isinstance(x, CoordinateSym) and numlf: 1 x.frame != frame: numlfElse: 0 frame\_set.add(x.frame) Involving function calls and attribute access Idiomatic code: frame\_set = {x.frame for x in expr.free\_symbols if isinstance(x, CoordinateSym) and x.frame != frame} Non-idiomatic code: numFor: 1 t = set()for n in c: if n in required and all((a in s for (a, b) in connections if b == n): Involving function calls and nest a t.add(n) generation expression which contain for and if nodes Idiomatic code: t = {n for n in c if n in required and all((a in s for (a, b) in connections if b == n))}

#### Dict-Comprehension

Non-idiomatic code numComop: 2 self.n jobs is not None and self.n\_jobs > 1 comop: {is not. >} the chained cimparator is an attribute access None is not self.n\_jobs > 1 Non-idiomatic code: numComop: 4 nx >= 0 and ny >= 0 and (nx <comop: {>=, >=, <, <} size) and (ny < size) Idiomatic code ny >= 0 <= nx < size > nynumComop: 2 status != StatusType.CAPPED and  $self.data[k].status == StatusType.CAPPED^{comop} : \{!=, ==\}$ the chained cimparator is an attribute access and Idiomatic code status != StatusType.CAPPED == the another comparator is cascading attribute self.data[k].status accesses Non-idiomatic code: numComop: 2 20 != len(decoded) and comop: {==, ==} chained cmparator is len(decoded) != 32 a function call Idiomatic code 20 != len(decoded) != 32 Non-idiomatic code: numComop: 2 self.id\_ is not None and self.name is not None comp: {==, ==} non-chained Idiomatic code: mparators are self.id\_ is not None is not self.name attribute accesses Non-idiomatic code: numComop: 2 len(ideas\_idx\_per\_cluster[c1]) > 0 and comop: {==, ==} len(ideas\_idx\_per\_cluster[c2]) > 0 non-chained cmparators are function calls len(ideas\_idx\_per\_cluster[c1]) > 0 < len(ideas idx per cluster[c2])

Chain-Comparison

Set-Comprehension

```
numAssign: 5
 Non-idiomatic code
                                                                                                    Non-idiomatic code
                                                                                                                                      numSubscript: 4
                                                                                                                                                                       Non-idiomatic code
                                                                                                                                                                                                         numSubscript: 4
 spikeyness = clip(0.5, 0, 1) * aveRadius
                                                            isConst: 0
                                                                                                    func(sentence[i - 3],
                                                                                                                                                                      func(sentence[i - 3],
                                                                                                                                                                                                         hasSubscript: 1
                                                                                                                                      hasSubscript: 1
 angleSteps = []
                                                             isSwap: 0
                                                                                                    sentence[i - 2], sentence[i - 1],
                                                                                                                                     hasStep: 0
hasLower: 1
                                                                                                                                                                      sentence[i - 2], sentence[i - 1],
sentence[i]])
                                                                                                                                                                                                        hasStep: 0
lower = 2 * math.pi / numberVertices - irregularity
upper = 2 * math.pi / numberVertices + irregularity,
                                                            the values of assignments
                                                                                                    sentence[i]])
                                                                                                                                                                                                         hasLower: 1
                                                            contain binary expression,
                                                                                                                                      hasUpper:
                                                                                                                                                                                                         hasUpper: 1
sum = 0
                                                            function calls attribute
                                                                                                    func(*sentence[i - 3:i + 1])
                                                                                                                                                                      func(*sentence[i - 3:i + 1])
                                                            accesse and constant
                                                                                                                                         numSubscript: 3
                                                                                                                                                                                                            numSubscript: 3
                                                                                                    Non-idiomatic code
                                                                                                                                                                      Non-idiomatic code
                                                                                                   func(points[0], points[1], points[2]) hasSubscript: 0 hasStep: 0
                                                                                                                                                                     func(points[0], points[1], points[2]) hasSubscript: 0 hasStep: 0
spikeyness , angleSteps , lower , upper , sum = clip(0.5, 0, 1) * aveRadius, [], 2 * math.pi / numberVertices - irregularity, 2 * math.pi / numberVertices + irregularity,
                                                                                                                                          hasLower: 0
                                                                                                                                                                                                            hasLower: 0
                                                                                                                                          hasUpper: 0
                                                                                                                                                                                                            hasUpper: 0
                                                                                                   Idiomatic code:
                                                                                                                                          isConst: 1
                                                                                                                                                                      Idiomatic code:
                                                                                                                                                                                                            isConst: 1
 Non-idiomatic code
                                                    numAssign: 2
                                                                                                                               points is an array object
                                                                                                                                                                      func(*points)
                                                                                                                                                                                                 points is an array object
                                                                                                   func(*points)
self.grams =
                                                    isConst:
                                                                                                                                                                                                 from the Numpy library
self.capitalword = False
                                                                                                                               from the Numpy library
                                                    isSwap: 0
                                                                                                   Non-idiomatic code:
                                                                                                                                    numSubscript: 2
                                                                                                                                                                      Non-idiomatic code:
                                                                                                                                                                                                       numSubscript: 2
                                                    the targets of
                                                                                                   func(self._udp_port_range[0], hasSubscript: 0
                                                                                                                                                                     func(self._udp_port_range[0], hasSubscript: 0
 Idiomatic code
                                                    assignment are
 self.grams, self.capitalword = '', False
                                                                                                   self._udp_port_range[1])
                                                                                                                                    hasStep: 0
                                                                                                                                                                      self._udp_port_range[1])
                                                                                                                                                                                                       hasStep: 0
                                                    attribute accesse
                                                                                                                                                                                                      hasLower: 0
                                                                                                                                    hasLower: 0
                                                                                                                                                                      Idiomatic code
Non-idiomatic code:
                                           numAssign: 2
                                                                                                                                    hasUpper: 0
                                                                                                                                                                                                       hasUpper: 0
                                                                                                   func(*self._udp_port_range)
                                                                                                                                                                     func(*self._udp_port_range)
tempory_1=space.agents[i]
                                           isConst: 0
                                                                                                                                    isConst: 1
                                                                                                                                                                                                      isConst: 1
                                                                                                                                   self._udp_port_range is 
an attribute access
                                                                                                                                                                                                      self._udp_port_range is 
an attribute access
space.agents[i]=space.agents[0]
                                           isSwap: 1
space.agents[0]=tempory_1
                                           the targets of
                                           assignment are
                                                                                                                  Star-in-Func-Call
                                                                                                                                                                                    For-Multi-Targets
                                           attribute accesses
(space.agents[i], space.agents[0]) = (space.agents[0], space.agents[i])
```

#### Ass-Multi-Targets

```
Non-idiomatic code:
 if inter != 0
                      comop: !=
                      value: 0
                      inter is array object from numpy
 Idiomatic code:
                      library, which overloads
 if inter
                      comparison operation
 Non-idiomatic code
                        test: If
 if xpath_results == [] comop: ==
                        value : []
 Idiomatic code:
                        HtmlElement object from the
 if not xpath_results
                        lxml library , which overloads
                          _bool__ method
Non-idiomatic code:
                          test: Assert
assert len(cfg_list) %
                          comop: ==
                          value: 0
2 == 0
                          the comparator is a binary
Idiomatic code not
                          expression with a function
assert not len(cfg_list)
% 2
 Non-idiomatic code: test: If
 if dic.__len__() == 0 comop: ==
                      value: 0
 Idiomatic code:
                      the comparator is a
 if not dic.__len__() function call
                                 test: While
 Non-idiomatic code:
                                 comop: !=
 while value & 4294967168 != 0
                                 value: 0
                                 the comparator is
 Idiomatic code
                                 a binary
 while value & 4294967168
```

Truth-Value-Test

```
Non-idiomatic code:
good = True
for column in range(image.width):
                                       LoopSet: For
  pos = (column, top_border)
                                       ConditionSet: If
  pixel = image.getpixel(pos)
                                       contain multiple
  if pixel[3] != 0:
                                       assign
     good = False
                                       statements and
    break
                                       function calls
if good:
  top_border += 1
for column in range(image.width):
  pos = (column, top_border)
  pixel = image.getpixel(pos)
  if pixel[3] != 0:
    break
else:
  top_border += 1
Non-idiomatic code
is_bad = False
while start < len(chars):
  end = len(chars)
  cur_substr = None
  while start < end:
substr = ".join(chars[start:end])
    if start > 0:
       substr = '##' + substr
    if substr in self.vocab:
       cur substr = substr
                                       LoopSet: While
                                       ConditionSet: IfElse
       break
    end -= 1
                                       the for satement
                                       nests while
  if cur_substr is None:
    is_bad = True
    break
  sub_tokens.append(cur_substr)
if is_bad:
  output_tokens.append(self.unk_token)
  output_tokens.extend(sub_tokens)
Idiomatic code:
while start < len(chars):
  end = len(chars)
  cur_substr = None
  while start < end:
    substr = ''.join(chars[start:end]) if start > 0:
       substr = '##' + substr
    if substr in self.vocab:
       cur substr = substr
       break
    end -= 1
  if cur substr is None:
    output_tokens.append(self.unk_token)
  sub_tokens.append(cur_substr)
  output tokens.extend(sub tokens)
```

Loop-Else

Fig. 6: Code Examples for Assign-Multi-Targets, Star-in-Func-Call, For-Multi-Targets, Truth-Value-Test and Loop-Else int the Real-Project DataSet