Swift

Introduction to Swift

Swift is C-influenced but not a C-superset, like Objective-C.

Like in Python, the use of rounded parenthesis is not essential to swift. It is just for readability.

To learn Swift syntax, the Swift standard library and Foundation you need to know nothing about iOS or macOS programming

Chris Lattner is the first contributor to several Apple projects like Swift, Clang (the LLVM compiler) and Xcode

Coding Style

CamelCase: programming style where strings obtained by chaining multiple words have all the words but the first one beginning with a capital letter.

Swift line codes doesn't require semicolons. They are allowed but not needed and the standard practice is not to use semicolons at all

Where is the main entry-point?

var dir = Direction.north

All swift files in an app are order-independent.

For example, you can define a enum type in file a.swift enum Direction {
 case north
 case south
 case west
 case est
}

and use it in another file b.swift

In swift a Top-level code is any swift executable statement not written within a function or class body.

Top-level code is not allowed in most of swift source files. The exception is a special file named "main.swift", which behaves much like a playground file, but is built with your app's source code.

Swift doesn't require a main method or function to say where the execution starts. With "main.swift" you can take complete control over initialization. In effect, the first line of code to run in "main.swift" is implicitly defined as the main entry-point for the program. If you add @UIApplicationMain to a regular Swift file, this causes the compiler to synthesize a main entry point for you, and eliminates the need for a "main.swift" file.

This is what happens when you start with a iOS template project.

Exercise

- 1. Create a new project in Xcode
- 2. Comment out the line @UIApplicationMain in AppDelegate.swift
- 3. Add a new source file and call it main.swift, and copy the following code inside

```
import UIKit
print ("I'm using my own main")
UIApplicationMain(0, nil, nil, NSStringFromClass(AppDelegate.self))
```

Playground

Playground is a valuable tool for quickly writing and testing swift code.

Playground files allow top-level code execution.

Code within a playground file is order-dependent.

Playground contain three areas

- code editor
- results
- timeline

Useful buttons in playground



This is the quick Look and it is an API

All variables are declared with keyword var

Type inference means that swift infers the type of a variable from code we have written

Type of a variable can be defined by value assignment var myVariable = "Hello" or by type annotation var myVariable : String

We cannot change the type of a variable

Types are Int, Float, Double, Bool, String, Character.
Float represents a 32-bit floating-point number
Double represents a 64-bit floating-point number.
Other valid types are Int8, Int16, Int32, Int64, Uint, Uint8, Uint16,...

NOTE

Use UInt only when you specifically need an unsigned integer type with the same size as the platform's native word size. If this is not the case, Int is preferred, even when the values to be stored are known to be non-negative. A consistent use of Int for integer values aids code interoperability, avoids the need to convert between different number types, and matches integer type inference, as described in Type Safety and Type Inference.

NOTE

Type aliases are useful when you want to refer to an existing type by a name that is contextually more appropriate, such as when working with data of a specific size from an external source:

typealias AudioSample = UInt16

All constants are declared with keyword let

The value of a constant can be assigned only once. After that it cannot change anymore

In Objective-C a string variable had to be declare of type NSString, while a string constant had to be declared of type NSImmutableString. In Swift we use var and let, both for basic types and for more complex structures.

The print function

The print() function is a global function that prints one or more values to an appropriate output. In Xcode, for example, the print(_:separator:terminator:) function prints its output in

Xcode's console. The separator and terminator parameter have default values, so you can omit them when you call this function (because it is a variadic function). By default, the function terminates the line it prints by adding a line break. To print a value without a line break after it, pass an empty string as the terminator—for example, print(someValue, terminator: "").

```
print("cip", terminator: "")
print("ciop", terminator: "")
```

prints "cipciop"

The separator parameter works as follows

```
print("1","2","ciao","a", separator: "-")
```

prints "1-2-ciao-a"

In many languages, in order to create strings with program dependent contents we use Concatenation

"Congratulation " + name + "." + CRLF + "Your score is " + score.toString() or string Formatting

("Congratulation %@. Your score is %i", name, score)
In swift we use Interpolation, with the notation \(..)
print("Congratulation \((name) \). Your score is \((score + 12) \)

UTF (Unicode Transformation Format)

Some fonts have more than one glyphs for some of their characters.

In Swift all strings can also be treated as an array of characters.

However they also have the property .utf16

This is because Swift's strings natively store international characters as individual characters, e.g. the letter "é" is stored as precisely that (like caffè constant above). However, UIKit was written in Objective-C before Swift's strings came along, and it uses a different character system called UTF-16 where the accent and the letter are stored separately (like caffèCorretto).

It's a subtle difference, and often it isn't a difference at all, but it's becoming increasingly problematic because of the rise of emoji – those little images that are frequently used in messages. Emoji are actually just special character combinations behind the scenes, and they are measured differently with Swift strings and UTF-16 strings: Swift strings count them as 1 letter strings, but UTF-16 considers them to be 2 letter strings. This means if you use .count with UIKit methods, you run the risk of miscounting the string length.

Let me try to give you a simple rule: when you're working with UIKit, SpriteKit, or any other Apple framework, use .utf16.count for the character count. If it's just your own code – i.e. looping over characters and processing each one individually – then use .count instead.

Typecasting

For type conversion use builtin functions Int(), Double(), String(), ...

Tuples

Tuples are ordered set of value of any type. They are very useful as return values of function. For example a HTTP status code is returned by a HTTP server whenever you request a web page. This could be given with the following tuple

let http404Error = (404, "Not Found")
..
let (statusCode, statusMessage) = http404Error
Then you can access the single parts of a touple
print ("\(statusCode)")
or
print(http404Error.0)
NOTE

Tuples are useful for temporary groups of related values. They are not suited to the creation of complex data structures. If your data structure is likely to persist beyond a temporary scope, model it as a class or structure, rather than as a tuple. For more information, see Classes and Structures.

Optionals and Unwrapping

You use optionals in situations where a value may be absent.

Here's an example of how optionals can be used to cope with the absence of a value. Swift's Int type has an initializer which tries to convert a String value into an Int value. However, not every string can be converted into an integer.

The example below uses the initializer to try to convert a String into an Int:

let possibleNumber = "123"

let convertedNumber = Int(possibleNumber) // convertedNumber is inferred to be of type
"Int?", or "optional Int"

Once you're sure that the optional *does* contain a value, you can access its underlying value by adding an exclamation mark (!) to the end of the optional's name. The exclamation mark effectively says, "I know that this optional definitely has a value; please use it." This is known as *forced unwrapping* of the optional's value.

You use *optional binding* to find out whether an optional contains a value, and if so, to make that value available as a temporary constant or variable. Optional binding can be used with if and while statements to check for a value inside an optional, and to extract that value into a constant or variable, as part of a single action.

Example:

```
if let newvar = optionalvar {
  //use newvar with the unwrapped value of optionalvar
}
```

When it is clear from a program's structure that an optional will *always* have a value, after that value is first set, it is useful to remove the need to check and unwrap the optional's value every time it is accessed. In this cases use an *implicitly unwrapped optional* by placing an exclamation mark after the optional type.

Example:

@IBOutlet var mmap: MKMapView!

Error Handling

Swift has powerful means to detect, propagate and evaluate error conditions. Example:

func makeASandwich() throws {

```
// ...
}

do {
        try makeASandwich()
        eatASandwich()
} catch Error.OutOfCleanDishes {
        washDishes()
} catch Error.MissingIngredients(let ingredients) {
        buyGroceries(ingredients)
}
```

Using assertions

An assertion is a way to test a variable or expression is true and terminate the app with a message when it is found false.

Example:

```
let age = -3
assert(age >= 0, "Age cannot be negative.")

print(' = Thread 1: Assertion failed: Age cannot be negative. x
```

Use an assertion whenever a condition has the potential to be false, but must *definitely* be true in order for your code to continue execution. Suitable scenarios for an assertion check include:

- An integer subscript index is passed to a custom subscript implementation, but the subscript index value could be too low or too high.
- A value is passed to a function, but an invalid value means that the function cannot fulfil
 its task.
- An optional value is currently nil, but a non-nil value is essential for subsequent code to execute successfully.

NOTE

Assertions cause your app to terminate and are not a substitute for designing your code in such a way that invalid conditions are unlikely to arise. Nonetheless, in situations where invalid conditions are possible, an assertion is an effective way to ensure that such conditions are highlighted and noticed during development, before your app is published. NOTE

The advantage to assertions versus print() is that their check code is never executed in a live app. When you build a release version of your app – i.e., when you ship your app to the App Store – Xcode automatically disables your assertions so they won't reach your users.

Switch

In Swift the round braces around the condition statement is not necessary, instead the curly braces around the action statements are mandatory, even you have a single line instruction

The statement

```
if x { .. }
```

works in C even though x is an integer valuje. In swift it is not valid because the conditional expression must be a Bool value

In swift there is not the automatic fall through behaviour in switch statement.

```
For example, in C you can write
```

```
switch myVar {
```

case 1:

case 2:

case 3:

```
x = 1
     break:
     case 4:
          x = 21
     break;
     default:
     break;
}
You can do this because the break keyword holds.
In swift you must write explicitly a statement for each condition
switch myVar {
     case 1:
           x = 1
     case 2:
          x = 1
     case 3:
          x = 1
     case 4:
           x = 21
     default:
           break
}
You can also use the range operator
switch myVar {
     case 1...3:
           x = 1
     case 4:
           x = 21
     default:
           break
}
The swift for loop uses the syntax
for each-item in some-collection
     // use each-item
{
Example
for k in 1..>100 {
     print("current k is \(k)")
}
Example
let myName = "Gabriele"
for eachChar in myName {
     print("next letter in name is current \((eachChar)\)")
}
Functions
Function with no arguments and no return declaration is
func myFunction() {
     print("Hello")
}
//Function call
```

```
myFunction()
A function has a type. The function above has type () -> ()
Function with one argument and no return declaration is
func myFunction( name : String ) {
     println("Hello \(name)")
}
The function type is (String) -> ()
Function call
myFunction("Jane")
In Swift, function parameters are considered constants, so you cannot change them, unless
you add keyword var in front of the parameter inside the function parameters list
func myFunction( name : String, var age : Int ) {
     print("Hello \(name). Next year you will be \(age + 1)" years old)
}
//Function call
myFunction("Jane", 21)
Add a return to the function:
func myFunction( name : String, var age : Int ) -> String {
     return "Hello \(name). Next year you will be \(age + 1)" years old)
}
Function type is (String, Int) -> String
func COSTestExec( name : String, var datarate : Int ) -> Bool {
 switch name {
  case "ergo":
  case "dmc":
  default:
  break
 return False
}
(BOOL)COSTestExec:(String *)name
```

You can assign a function to a variable of the same type.

```
func myFunc (employee emp: String, age: Int?) -> Bool {
   if let a = age {
      print("the age of " + emp + " is \(a)")
      return true
   }
   return false
}

var myVar : (String, Int?) -> Bool
myVar = myFunc
myVar("Pippo", nil)
myVar("Gabriele", 48)
```

• Variadic parameters: You can have function with an arbitrary number of parameters

```
func myFunc (myParam par : Int, words : String...) {
   print (words.count)
}

myFunc(myParam: 22, words: "cippa", "ciuppa", "ciappa")
```

A *variadic function* is a function that accepts any number of parameters. The system print() is a variadic function.

• Existentials: you can combine class type and protocols to create new types

```
class Appliance { .. }
class Hairdryer: Appliance { .. }
protocol CanCook { .. }

class Oven: Appliance, CanCook { .. }

and define function argument types

func makeDinner (using: Appliance & CanCook) { .. }
```

The synthetic way to write a method is to list the external parameter names followed by : For example:

image(_:didFinishSavingWithError:contextInfo:)

Type cast

A as B, returns A with type B A as! B, returns A with type B, forced unwrapped as? is

Any and AnyObject

Any is an alias for any type. Var cassetto = [Any]() è un array di qualsiasi tipo

```
7  var arr = [Any]()
8  arr.append("Hello")
9  arr.append(12)
10  arr.append(0.22)
```

AnyObject is an alias for any object

For loop

```
for var k in 0...10 {
    print("\(k)")
}
```

Timer

The stopwatch app

```
class ViewController: UIViewController {
   var time = 0
   var timer = NSTimer()
   @IBOutlet var timerLabel: UILabel!
    func increaseTimer (sender: AnyObject) {
       time += 1
        self.timerLabel.text = String(time)
   @IBAction func play(sender: AnyObject) {
       if timer.valid {
           return
        timer = NSTimer.scheduledTimerWithTimeInterval(1, target: self,
           selector: #selector(ViewController.increaseTimer), userInfo: nil,
            repeats: true)
   }
   @IBAction func stop(sender: AnyObject) {
        timer.invalidate()
        time = 0
        timerLabel.text = "0"
   }
   @IBAction func pause(sender: AnyObject) {
        timer.invalidate()
```

Slider



Tip for quick search of class or protocol methods

to find the method prototype of a protocol, just Cmd+click on protocol name,

```
class ViewController: UIViewController,
    UITableViewDelegate {
    @IBOutlet var sliderValue: UISlider!
```

find and copy the desired methods

then click the left arrow on top bar to go back, and paste



How to automatically update cells of a TableView

Simply create an outlet "myTable" by Ctrl+click and drag the TableVlew from storyboard to ViewController.swift, then call myTable.reloadData()

Note: sometimes you fill an empty cello of a TV and then reload the TV. A better approach is using myTable.insertRows() lets us tell the table view that a new row has been placed at a specific place in the array so that it can animate the new cell appearing. Adding one cell is also significantly easier than having to reload everything! We do that in Project5.

Controlling Keyboard

It is possible to get control of the sw keyboard. For example suppose we want the keyboard disappears when tapping the active view and/or the return button

```
class ViewController: UIViewController, UITextFieldDelegate {
    @IBOutlet var myTextField: UITextField!
    @IBOutlet weak var myLabel: UILabel!
   @IBAction func myHereButton (sender: AnyObject) {
        self.myLabel.text = myTextField.text
    override func viewDidLoad() {
        super.viewDidLoad()
        self.myTextField.delegate = self
    }
    override func didReceiveMemoryWarning() {
        super.didReceiveMemoryWarning()
       // Dispose of any resources that can be recreated.
    override func touchesBegan(touches: Set<UITouch>, withEvent event: UIEvent?) {
        self.view.endEditing(true)
    func textFieldShouldReturn(textField: UITextField) -> Bool {
       myTextField.resignFirstResponder()
        return true
```

Scope of variables

If you want a variable be accessible to all methods of a class, declare it within the class body but outside any method

```
import UIKit
class FirstViewController: UIViewController {
   var classScopeVar = 0
```

If the variable has to a accessed to all project's classes, then declare it outside any class body

```
import UIKit
var projectScopeVar = 0
class FirstViewController: UIViewController {
```

Update the view content

Use the method viewDidAppear to update the content of the view every time the view appears, not just when it is created

```
class FirstViewController: UIViewController, UITableViewDelegate, UITableViewData
@IBOutlet var toDoListTable: UITableView!

override func viewDidAppear(animated: Bool) {
    toDoListTable.reloadData()
}
```

Add the delete function by swipe-left to the cell editing

To add the delete function by swipe left to the table view cell editing use the following method of the UITableViewDelegate protocol

```
//to add the remove function by left swipe
func tableView(tableView: UITableView, commitEditingStyle editingStyle: UITableViewCellEditingStyle, forRowAtIndexPath
indexPath: NSIndexPath} {
   if editingStyle == UITableViewCellEditingStyle.Delete {
        //add here what to do when deleted
   }
}
```

String manipulation

To cycle over all string characters

```
var str = "This is a String"
for c in str.characters {
    print(c)
}
```

get substrings

```
var stringa: String = "vaffanculo"
var s = NSString(string: stringa)
s.substringFromIndex(3)
s.substringToIndex(5)
s.substringWithRange(NSRange(location: 6, length: 4))

"vaffanculo"
"fanculo"
"vaffa"
"vaffanculo"
"fanculo"
"vaffa"
"culo"
```

others

```
aString.componentsSeparatedByString(" ")

aString.uppercaseString

aString.lowercaseString

"CIAO IL MIO NOME È GABRIELE"

"ciao il mio nome è gabriele"
```

Download web contents

The simples way to display content from a web site

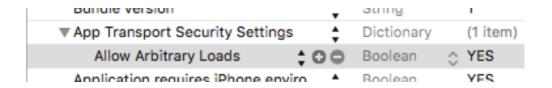
```
@IBOutlet var webView: UIWebView!
override func viewDidLoad() {
    super.viewDidLoad() {
        super.viewDidLoad()

        //define a url string. Because NSURL converter returns an optional we decide to unwrap it right now
        let url = NSURL(string: "https://www.stackoverflow.com")!

//the simplest way to display the web content in the web view
webView.loadRequest(NSURLRequest(URL: url))
```

A more sophisticated way consists in downloading the binary data from the web site, convert it in UTF8 html and then display in in the web view, all that executed within a task

Before running the app, we need to add the following item to the info.plist file



In order to isolate the substring "my substring" from the string "what precedes my substring and what follows it"

- 1. define an array of string myArray
- 2. call method myArray.componentsSeparatedByString("precedes")
- 3. pick myArray[1]
- 4. define an array of string anotherArray = myArray[1]
- 5. call method anotherArray.componentsSeparatedByString(" and")
- 6. pick anotherArray[1]

Example:

GIF Animations

A lot of GIF animations can be downloaded for free from

http://www.heathersanimations.com

Save one of them on mac.

Install GIMP and the export plug-in.

Open the GIF file with GIMP and export the single frames of the animation as frameN.bmp, N=1.2,...

Import the frames in Assets.xcassets and then load the first one in a ImageView

Animate the Ullmage with the frames of a animated GIF

To reproduce a GIF animation we can change the content of a Ullmage on time basis, making use of a timer.

Adding animation at launch time

To create animation at launch time we can override two methods of the UIViewController class.

viewDidLayoutSubviews and viewDidAppear

Shifting a image in the screen

Suppose we want the initial scene appearing form one side of the screen (top, bottom, left, right).

In the example above the image centre is shifted to the left right before it is displayed, then it is shifted to the right of the same amount right after it is displayed, and the transition is made 1 second lasting. The effect is that the alien image move into the scene from the left when the app is launched.

Fading

If we want our image to fade in when the application launches, we proceed as described above, this time leveraging the alpha property of the Ullmage

```
override func viewDidLayoutSubviews() {
    alienImage.alpha = 0
}

override func viewDidAppear(animated: Bool) {
    UIView.animateWithDuration(1.0) {
        self.alienImage.alpha = 1.0
    }
}
```

Moving and scaling

This is another effect we can use. The image appears in a moving rectangle frame

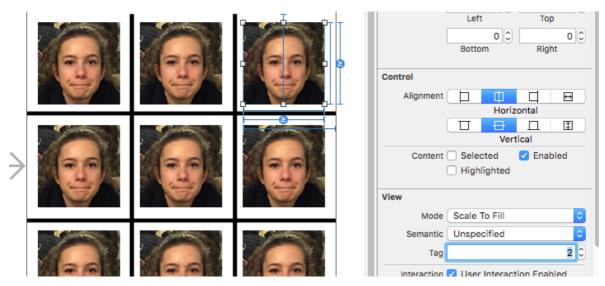
```
override func viewDidLayoutSubviews() {
   alienImage.frame = CGRectMake(100, 20, 0, 0)
}

override func viewDidAppear(animated: Bool) {
   UIView.animateWithDuration(6.0) {
      self.alienImage.frame = CGRectMake(100, 20, 150, 300)
   }
}
```

Using tags

Every view object contained in a screen has a integer that you can change in order to identify the object from code.

In this case we have 9 buttons within the main view and we have assigned them the tags 0 to 8. We also take care to assign a different tag (e.g. 10) to all other objects.



Another example is te xylophone application, in which we have 7 buttons all connected to the same IBAction. They have assigned a different tag, in such a way we'll be able to emit a different note when tapped

Using maps

To add a map pointing in a specific location

- 1. add a Map Kit View object to the storyboard
- 2. import UIMapKit in ViewController.swift and add the MKMapViewDelegate protocol to the class definition
- 3. Create an outlet for the map view in the ViewController.swift
- 4. Point the map on a specific location. To do that declare the following constants and then call the setRegion method

```
override func viewDidLoad() {
    super.viewDidLoad()
    let latitude: CLLocationDegrees = 41.688959
    let longitude: CLLocationDegrees = 12.642983
    let location: CLLocationCoordinate2D = CLLocationCoordinate2DMake(latitude, longitude)

let latDelta: CLLocationDegrees = 0.001
    let lonDelta: CLLocationDegrees = 0.001
    let span: MKCoordinateSpan = MKCoordinateSpanMake(latDelta, lonDelta)

let region: MKCoordinateRegion = MKCoordinateRegionMake(location, span)
    map.setRegion(region, animated: true)
```

Using a dictionary

To declare a empty dictionary for storing String: String key-value pairs

```
var places = [Dictionary<String,String>()]
```

To append a new triple of pairs:

```
21 places.append(["Name":"Taj Mahal","Lat":"27.175277","Lon":"70.042128"])
```

or, in another example,

```
//add a new item to the list of memorable places
places.append(["Name":title,"Lat":"\(coordinateOnMap.latitude)","Lon":"\(coordinateOnMap.longitude)"])
```

To access the value string associated to the "Name" key:

```
cell.textLabel?.text = places[indexPath.row]["Name"]
```

Making the code compatible with different iOS versions

May be that some versions of iOS support different versions of Swift.

Swift 3.0 is a major release that is *not* source-compatible with Swift 2.2.

In these cases you could use the #available in an if or guard to protect code that should only be run on certain systems

The correct way to proceed is this

Using guard statement

With the guard statement you can avoid nesting multiple if-else statements.

```
override func viewWillAppear(_ animated: Bool) {
    guard let hexColor = selectedCategory?.color else {return}
    guard let categoryName = selectedCategory?.name else {return}
    guard let navBar = navigationController?.navigationBar else {return}
    title = categoryName
    navBar.barTintColor = UIColor(hexString: hexColor)
}
```

Bug reporting

If you see other errors, file a bug report at https://bugreport.apple.com, including details

Swift Migration Assistant

To make a Swift 2.2 project a Swift 3 project: Edit>Convert>ToCurrentSwiftSyntax.. Eventually you will be presented with all the changes. The changes will be applied once you click on 'Save'.

Warning: some changes may not be suggested automatically, for example NSURL into URL

Running Swift from terminal

One possibility is to use REPL (Read Evaluate Print Loop)

- 1. Open .bash_profile and add the line swift="/Applications/<Xcode_version>.app/Contents/ Developer/Toolchains/XcodeDefault.xctoolchain/usr/bin/swift"
- 2. Open a terminal and type swift. Then enter instructions

```
gfmacmini:~ gabrielefilosofi$ swift
Welcome to Apple Swift version 2.1.1 (swiftlang-700.1.101.15 clang-700.1.81). Type :help for assistance.
1> var myVar = 21
myVar: Int = 21
2> func increment(aVar: Int) -> Int {
3. return aVar + 1
4. }
5>
6> increment(myVar)
$R0: Int = 22
```

To see LLDB debugging commands type :help To escape from REPL mode type Cmd+d, or :q

Another possibility is

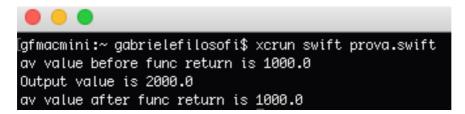
- 1. Edit the swift file, <filename>.swift
- 2. Open a terminal and type
 - \$ xcrun swift <filename>.swift

\$ swift <filename>.swift

Example

Edit prova.swift

then



Swift script

Another possibility is to use swift script files. Add the following *shebash* line on top of the script file

#!/usr/bin/xcrun swift

0

#!/usr/bin/env swift

Example

```
∢▶
       firstPrimesSwiftScript ×
     #! /usr/bin/env swift
     import Foundation
     func isPrime(n: Int) -> Bool {
        if n <= 2 {
             return true
         let d = Int(sqrt(Double(n)))
         if d < 2 {
             return true
11
12
13
         for i in 2...d {
             if n % i == 0 {
14
15
                 return false
17
         return true
19
     }
20
21
     print("first primes: ")
22
     for s in 2...100000000 {
23
         if isPrime(n: s) == true {
24
             print("\(s)", terminator: ", ")
25
```