

Web3

1. What is Motoko?

- **Motoko** is a statically typed, actor-based programming language.
- Specifically designed for developing smart contracts (called **canisters**) on the **Internet Computer (IC)** by DFINITY.
- It is similar to functional languages like **Haskell**, **OCaml**, or **TypeScript** in syntax but tailored for **web3** and **decentralized applications**.

2. Motoko Basics



File Extension:

- `.mo`



Structure of a Simple Canister:

```
motoko
CopyEdit
import Debug "mo:base/Debug";

actor Hello {
  public func greet(name : Text) : async Text {
    return "Hello, " # name;
  };
};
```



3. Data Types in Motoko



Numbers:

Type	Description	Example
<code>Nat</code>	Natural number (≥ 0)	<code>100</code>
<code>Nat8</code> , <code>Nat16</code> , <code>Nat32</code> , <code>Nat64</code>	Sized natural numbers	
<code>Int</code>	Signed integers (... , -2, -1, 0...)	<code>-5</code>
<code>Int8</code> , <code>Int16</code> , <code>Int32</code> , <code>Int64</code>	Sized signed integers	

Float	Floating point number	3.14
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Text and Characters:

Type	Description	Example
Text	Unicode string	"Hello"
Char	Single character	'A'

Boolean:

Type	Description	Example
Bool	true or false	true

Optional:

Type	Description	Example
?T	Option type, represents null	?42 , null
null	Represents absence of value	—

Compound Types:

Type	Description	Example
Array<T>	Fixed-size array	[1, 2, 3]
Buffer<T>	Growable array	Buffer.Buffer<Int>(0)
Tuple	Group of values	(1, "a", true)
Record	Struct-like data	{ name = "Shivansh"; age = 18 }
Variant	Like enums with values	#ok(100) , #err("Failed")

Other:

Type	Description
Principal	A user's identity on Internet Computer
Blob	Raw binary data
Canister	Reference to another actor
async T	Asynchronous return type
actor	Declares a canister

4. Variable Types

Keyword	Meaning	Example
<code>let</code>	Immutable binding	<code>let x = 5;</code>
<code>var</code>	Mutable variable	<code>var balance = 100;</code>
<code>:=</code>	Reassignment	<code>balance := balance + 10;</code>

5. Functions

◆ Basic Function:

```
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func add(x : Nat, y : Nat) : Nat {
  return x + y;
}
```

◆ Public Function:

```
motoko
CopyEdit
public func greet(name : Text) : async Text {
  return "Hello " # name;
}
```

6. Control Flow

◆ If/Else

```
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if (x > 10) {
  ...
} else {
  ...
}
```

```
}
```

◆ Switch (like match)

```
motoko
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switch(optValue) {
  case (?val) { ... }
  case null { ... }
}
```

7. Importing Modules

Use modules from `mo:base` :

```
motoko
CopyEdit
import Nat "mo:base/Nat";
import Debug "mo:base/Debug";
```

Common modules:

- `Nat` , `Int` , `Float` , `Text`
- `Debug` , `Array` , `Buffer` , `HashMap`

8. Debugging Tools

Function	Description
<code>Debug.print</code>	Prints to terminal (in dev environment)
<code>debug_show(x)</code>	Converts values to string for printing

9. Actor Model

◆ What is an Actor?

- An **actor** is a **canister** (smart contract) that encapsulates:

- **State** (variables)
- **Public methods**
- **Concurrency** model (each actor processes messages one at a time)

```
motoko
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actor MyCanister {
  var count = 0;

  public func increment() {
    count += 1;
  };
};
```

10. Asynchronous Functions

- All `public func` s are **async** by default in Motoko.
- Return type is `async T`

```
motoko
CopyEdit
public func getBalance() : async Nat {
  return balance;
}
```

11. Persistent State

Motoko stores state **in memory**, not persistently, unless you:

- Use `stable var`
- Implement `preupgrade` / `postupgrade` hooks

Example:

```
motoko
CopyEdit
```

```
stable var count : Nat = 0;
```

✓ Example: Your Code Explained

```
motoko
CopyEdit
import Int "mo:base/Int";
import Debug "mo:base/Debug";

actor DBank {
  var currentValue = 1600;
  currentValue := 2000;
```

- `DBank` is an actor (smart contract).
- `currentValue` is a mutable `Nat`, reassigned to 2000.

```
motoko
CopyEdit
public func topUp(amount : Nat) {
  currentValue += amount;
  Debug.print(debug_show (currentValue));
};
```

- Adds the `amount` to the balance.
- Logs the updated balance.

```
motoko
CopyEdit
public func withDrawl(amount : Nat) {
  let temp : Int = currentValue - amount;
  if (temp >= 0) {
    currentValue -= amount;
    Debug.print(debug_show (currentValue));
  } else {
    Debug.print("Amount large,currenvalue <0");
```

```
};
};
};
```

- Converts subtraction to `Int` to prevent underflow.
- If sufficient balance: deducts the amount and logs.
- Otherwise: logs warning.

query vs update in Motoko

On the Internet Computer, there are two main types of public functions you can expose from a canister:

Type	Used For	Modifies State?	Speed	Cost	Requires Consensus?
query	Reading only	✗ No	⚡ Very Fast	💰 Free	✗ No
update	Reading/Writing	✓ Yes	🐢 Slower	✓ Charged	✓ Yes

◆ update Functions

- **Modifies state**
- Requires **network consensus**
- **Slower**, but changes are permanent and consistent
- Example:

```
motoko
CopyEdit
public func topUp(amount: Nat) {
  currentValue += amount;
}
```

◆ query Functions

- **Read-only** access to state
- No consensus needed → served directly from replica memory

- **Cannot call other `update` functions** or change variables
- Used for **reading data only**

Example from Your Code:

```
motoko
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public query func checkBalance() : async Nat {
  return currentValue;
};
```

What is Orthogonal Persistence?

◆ Simple Definition:

Orthogonal Persistence means:

Your program's variables automatically survive canister upgrades without needing to manually save or load them.

In Practice (Motoko/IC):

- On most platforms, when you restart or upgrade a program, you lose all data in memory unless you save it manually (like writing to a file or DB).
- On the **Internet Computer**, if a variable is declared as `stable`, the **Internet Computer takes care of saving it during upgrades**.
- That's why it's called "**orthogonal**" — it's handled automatically by the platform, not tangled in your business logic.

✓ Example in Motoko:

```
motoko
CopyEdit
stable var balance : Nat = 0;
```

- Declared as `stable` → means it will **automatically be saved and restored** during canister upgrade.

- You **don't need to write** extra code to persist or retrieve it.

⚠ Without `stable` :

```
motoko
CopyEdit
var balance : Nat = 0;
```

- This will be **lost** when the canister is upgraded or restarted.
- It lives only in **memory** during runtime.

What is `stable` in Motoko?

✅ `stable` Keyword:

Declares variables that are automatically stored in stable memory, which survives canister upgrades.

◆ Syntax:

```
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stable var yourData : Type = initialValue;
```

Example With Explanation:

```
motoko
CopyEdit
stable var currentValue : Nat = 1000;
```

- `currentValue` is stored in **stable memory**
- When you upgrade the canister:
 - Old version stops
 - New version starts

- Internet Computer **automatically restores** `currentValue`



Arithmetic opr should have same data types