INTRODUCTION TO COROUTINES IN KOTLIN



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AGENDA

- What are Coroutines
- Coroutines and Threads
- "suspend" modifier in Kotlin
- Coroutine Builders
- Structured Concurrency- Coroutine Scope
- Demo

WHAT ARE COROUTINES?

• Traditions first!

WHAT ARE COROUTINES?

- First coined in 1958 by Melvin Conway
- As per wikipedia
 - Coroutines are computer-program components that generalize subroutines for nonpreemptive multitasking, by allowing multiple entry points for suspending and resuming execution at certain locations.

WHAT ARE COROUTINES?

- A way of writing non-blocking asynchronous code
- Provide concurrency
- Allow passing control to each other while maintaining state
 - i.e. coroutine can return back to caller while maintaining its own state and allows caller to return back to it and resume its execution

COROUTINES AND THREADS

- Loosely speaking
 - Coroutines are essentially lightweight threads!



COROUTINES AND THREADS

- Coroutines provide concurrency but not parallelism
- Scheduling is non-preemptive and is done by language/programmer
 - Super efficient
 - No context switching
 - No extra stack space
 - No synchronization needed
- Threads are always global, coroutines are scoped

suspend MODIFIER

- suspend modifier allows a method to be launched in a coroutine
- Methods marked with suspend can only be called from a coroutine or a method marked as suspend
- Example
 - https://medium.com/@elye.project/understanding-suspend-function-of-coroutines-de26b070c5ed

COROUTINE BUILDERS

- Coroutine builders are functions that take suspending lambda as arguments create coroutines and then optionally return their result.
- Can be invoked from regular non suspending functions
- Available in kotlinx.coroutines by jetbrains (https://github.com/kotlin/kotlinx.coroutines)
- Example:
 - launch{} executes a coroutine and returns a Job object
 - Async{}- executes a coroutine and returns Deferred<T> object, call await() to get T
 - runBlocking{}- blocks current thread till execution of wrapped block completes

COROUTINE SCOPE

- Each coroutine is scoped, unlike threads
- Can be global or user defined
- Each coroutine builder is an extension function on CoroutineScope
- GlobalScope can be used to launch coroutines in Application Scope
- Having well defined scope and lifecycle brings structure to concurrency provided by coroutines which is not possible for threads.

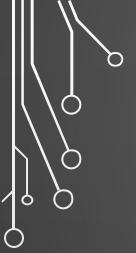


https://github.com/abhishekBansal/coroutine-mvvm-architecture-demo

DEMO

FURTHER READINGS/REFERENCES

- https://kotlinlang.org/docs/reference/coroutines/basics.html
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coroutine
- https://android.jlelse.eu/coroutines-basic-terminologies-and-usage-b4242bd1b2a4
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3agLJQ6vt8
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hfBv0a09Jc
- Useful stackoverflow discussions
 - https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1050222/what-is-the-difference-between-concurrency-and-parallelism
 - https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1934715/difference-between-a-coroutine-and-a-thread
 - https://stackoverflow.com/questions/553704/what-is-a-coroutine
- https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/coroutines-in-c-cpp/



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

Any Feedback?
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