

The underestimated power of KeyPaths

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KeyPaths?

KeyPaths

KeyPaths were introduced with Swift 4

They are a way to defer a call to the getter/setter of a property

```
let countKeyPath: KeyPath<String, Int> = \String.count // or \.count
```

```
let string = "Hello, Swift Heroes!"
```

```
string[keyPath: countKeyPath] // 20
```

They perform the same job than a closure, but with less \$0 hanging around

Underestimated?

Let's look at some examples!

Data Manipulation

```
people.sorted(by: { $0.lastName < $1.lastName })  
    .filter({ $0.isOverEighteen })  
    .map({ $0.lastName })
```

```
people.sorted(by: \.lastName)
        .filter(\.isOverEighteen)
        .map(\.lastName)
```


How to implement it?

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```
extension Sequence {  
    func map<T>(_ attribute: KeyPath<Element, T>) -> [T] {  
        return map { $0[keyPath: attribute] }  
    }  
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}
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```
people.map(\.lastName)
```

How to implement it?

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extension Sequence {  
    func sorted<T: Comparable>(by attribute: KeyPath<Element, T>) -> [Element] {  
        return sorted(by: { (elm1, elm2) -> Bool in  
            return elm1[keyPath: attribute] < elm2[keyPath: attribute]  
        })  
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        })  
    }  
}
```

```
people.sorted(by: \.age)
```

Same idea goes for all classic functions, like `min`, `max`, `sum`, `average`, etc.

**And if you don't want to write
those wrappers...**

You don't even have to!

From KeyPath to getter function

```
func get<Type, Property>(_ keyPath: KeyPath<Type, Property>)  
    -> (Type) -> Property {  
  
    return { obj in obj[keyPath: keyPath] }  
}
```

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From KeyPath to getter function

```
func get<Type, Property>(_ keyPath: KeyPath<Type, Property>)  
    -> (Type) -> Property {  
  
    return { obj in obj[keyPath: keyPath] }  
}  
  
people.filter(get(\.isOverEighteen))
```

**An operator can even make the
syntax shorter!**

Defining an operator

```
prefix operator ^
```

```
prefix func ^ <Element, Attribute>(_ keyPath: KeyPath<Element, Attribute>)  
                                   -> (Element) -> Attribute {
```

```
    return get(keyPath)
```

```
}
```

```
people.map(^\.lastName)
```

It's not always this simple...


```
people.sorted(by: { $0.lastName < $1.lastName })
```

Just build another helper

```
func their<Type, T: Comparable>(_ keyPath: KeyPath<Type, T>,
                                comparedWith comparator: @escaping (T, T) -> Bool = (<))
    -> (Type, Type) -> Bool {
    return { obj1, obj2 in
        return comparator(obj1[keyPath: keyPath], obj2[keyPath: keyPath])
    }
}
```

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    }
}
```

```
people.sorted(by: { $0.lastName < $1.lastName })
```

```
people.sorted(by: their(\.lastName))
```

```
people.sorted(by: their\.lastName, comparedWith: >))
```



Let's take it one step further:
DSLs

Predicates

NSPredicate is great, but it's a stringly-typed API.

```
NSPredicate(format: "firstName = 'Bob'")
```

```
NSPredicate(format: "lastName = %@", userLastName)
```

And it only works with code that is exposed to Objective-C 😞

Wouldn't it be cool to have a
type-safe predicate system?

Predicates

We want to be able to write complex predicates, like this one:

```
people.select(where: \.age <= 22 && \.lastName.count > 10)
```

To do so, we need ways to:

- Define what predicates are
- Construct them
- Combine them
- Evaluate them

Defining Predicates

```
struct Predicate<Element> {  
    private let condition: (Element) -> Bool  
  
    func evaluate(for element: Element) -> Bool {  
        return condition(element)  
    }  
}
```

Constructing Predicates

```
contacts.select(where: \.age <= 22 && \.lastName.count > 10)
```

```
func <= <Element, T: Comparable>(_ attribute: KeyPath<Element, T>,
                                   _ constant: T)
    -> Predicate<Element> {
    return Predicate(condition: { value in value[keyPath: attribute] <= constant })
}
```

Constructing Predicates

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contacts.select(where: \.age <= 22 && \.lastName.count > 10)
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```
func <= <Element, T: Comparable>(_ attribute: KeyPath<Element, T>,
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func > <Element, T: Comparable>(_ attribute: KeyPath<Element, T>,
                                   _ constant: T)
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Constructing Predicates

```
contacts.select(where: \.age <= 22 && \.lastName.count > 10)
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```

```
func > <Element, T: Comparable>(_ attribute: KeyPath<Element, T>,
                                   _ constant: T)
    -> Predicate<Element> {
    return Predicate(condition: { value in value[keyPath: attribute] > constant })
}
```

Combining Predicates

```
contacts.select(where: \.age <= 22 && \.lastName.count > 10)
```

```
func && <Element> (_ leftPredicate: Predicate<Element>,
                  _ rightPredicate: Predicate<Element>)
    -> Predicate<Element> {

    return Predicate(condition: { value in
        leftPredicate.evaluate(for: value) && rightPredicate.evaluate(for: value)
    })
}
```

Evaluating Predicates

```
extension Sequence {  
    func select(where predicate: Predicate<Element>) -> [Element] {  
        return filter { element in predicate.evaluate(for: element) }  
    }  
}
```

That's all you need!

```
people.select(where: \.age <= 22 && \.lastName.count > 10)
```

```
people.select(where: 4...18 ~= \.age)
```

```
people.first(where: \.age < 18)
```

```
people.contains(where: \.lastName.count > 10)
```

You can even go for more
fancy stuff...

Switching with Predicates

```
func ~= <Element>(_ lhs: KeyPathPredicate<Element>, rhs: Element) -> Bool {  
    return lhs.evaluate(for: rhs)  
}
```

Switching with Predicates

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}
```

```
switch person {  
case \.firstName == "Charlie":  
    print("I'm Charlie!")  
    fallthrough  
case \.age < 18:  
    print("I'm not an adult...")  
    fallthrough  
default:  
    break  
}
```




**Now, let's look at other
possible applications**

Builder Pattern

Builder Pattern

Provides separation between building and using an object

Builder Pattern

```
let label = UILabel()  
label.textColor = .red  
label.text = "Hello Swift Heroes!"  
label.textAlignment = .center  
label.layer.cornerRadius = 5  
  
// do something with label  
view.addSubview(label)
```

Builder Pattern

```
protocol Buildable {}
```

Builder Pattern

```
protocol Buildable {}

extension Buildable where Self: AnyObject {
    func with<T>(_ property: ReferenceWritableKeyPath<Self, T>,
                setTo value: T) -> Self {
        self[keyPath: property] = value
        return self
    }
}
```

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    func with<T>(_ property: ReferenceWritableKeyPath<Self, T>,
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        return self
    }
}

extension NSObject: Buildable { }
```

Builder Pattern

```
let label = UILabel()  
    .with(\.textColor, setTo: .red)  
    .with(\.text, setTo: "Hello Swift Heroes!")  
    .with(\.textAlignment, setTo: .center)  
    .with(\.layer.cornerRadius, setTo: 5)  
  
// do something with label  
view.addSubview(label)
```

Identifiable Pattern

Identifiable Pattern

Enables equality based on an ID

Identifiable Pattern

```
protocol Identifiable: Equatable {  
    associatedtype ID: Equatable  
    static var idKeyPath: KeyPath<Self, ID> { get }  
}
```

Identifiable Pattern

```
protocol Identifiable: Equatable {  
    associatedtype ID: Equatable  
    static var idKeyPath: KeyPath<Self, ID> { get }  
}  
  
extension Identifiable {  
    static func == (lhs: Self, rhs: Self) -> Bool {  
        return lhs[keyPath: Self.idKeyPath] == rhs[keyPath: Self.idKeyPath]  
    }  
}
```

Identifiable Pattern

```
struct User: Identifiable {  
    static let idKeyPath = \User.id  
    let id: String  
  
    let firstName: String  
    let lastName: String  
}
```

Identifiable Pattern

```
let user1 = User(id: "1", firstName: "John", lastName: "Lennon")
let user2 = User(id: "2", firstName: "Ringo", lastName: "Starr")

user1 == user2 // false

let user3 = User(id: "2", firstName: "Paul", lastName: "McCartney")

user2 == user3 // true
```

Validable Pattern

Validable Pattern

Performs property-wise checks

Validable Pattern

```
struct Validator<T> {  
    let validee: T  
    let validator: (T) -> Bool  
  
    func validate() -> Bool {  
        return validator(validee)  
    }  
}
```


Validable Pattern

```
protocol Validable { }
```

Validable Pattern

```
protocol Validable { }

extension Validable {
    func add<Property>(validation: @escaping (Property) -> Bool,
                      for property: KeyPath<Self, Property>)
                      -> Validator<Self> {

        return Validator<Self>(validee: self,
                               validator: { validation($0[keyPath: property]) })
    }
}
```

Validable Pattern

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protocol Validable { }

extension Validable {
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Validable Pattern

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extension Validator {  
    func add<Property>(validation: @escaping (Property) -> Bool,  
                      for property: KeyPath<T, Property>)  
                      -> Validator<T> {  
  
        return Validator<T>(validee: self.validee,  
                             validator: { self.validate() &&  
                                           validation($0[keyPath: property]) })  
    }  
}
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Validable Pattern

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extension User: Validable { }
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Validable Pattern

```
let user1 = User(id: "1", firstName: "John", lastName: "Lennon")
let user2 = User(id: "2", firstName: "Ringo", lastName: "Starr")

extension User: Validable { }

user1.add(validation: { !$0.isEmpty }, for: \.id)
      .add(validation: { $0 == "Lennon" }, for: \.lastName)
      .validate() // true
```

Validable Pattern

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let user1 = User(id: "1", firstName: "John", lastName: "Lennon")
let user2 = User(id: "2", firstName: "Ringo", lastName: "Starr")

extension User: Validable { }

user1.add(validation: { !$0.isEmpty }, for: \.id)
    .add(validation: { $0 == "Lennon" }, for: \.lastName)
    .validate() // true

user2.add(validation: { !$0.isEmpty }, for: \.id)
    .add(validation: { $0 == "Lennon" }, for: \.lastName)
    .validate() // false
```

(Of course, you could also use predicates instead of closures 🤔)

Binding Pattern

Binding Pattern

Sets up a data-flow

Binding Pattern

```
class Binding<Destination: AnyObject>: NSObject {  
    weak var source: UITextField?  
    weak var destination: Destination?  
    var property: WritableKeyPath<Destination, String?>  
}
```

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[illegible]

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    weak var destination: Destination?
    var property: WritableKeyPath<Destination, String?>

    init(source: UITextField,
         destination: Destination,
         property: WritableKeyPath<Destination, String?>) {
        self.source = source
        self.destination = destination
        self.property = property

        super.init()

        self.source?.addTarget(self,
                               action: #selector(textFieldDidChange),
                               for: .editingChanged)
    }

    @objc func textFieldDidChange() {
        destination?[keyPath: property] = source?.text
    }
}
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Binding Pattern

```
extension UITextField {  
    func bindText<Destination>(to destination: Destination,  
                               on property: WritableKeyPath<Destination, String?>)  
                               -> Binding<Destination> {  
        return Binding(source: self, destination: destination, property: property)  
    }  
}
```

Binding Pattern

```
class ViewController: UIViewController {  
  
    lazy var viewModel: ViewModel = { ViewModel() }()  
    lazy var nameTextField: UITextField = { UITextField() }()  
  
    var bindings: [Binding<ViewModel>] = []  
  
    override func viewDidLoad() {  
        super.viewDidLoad()  
  
        setupUI()  
  
        let binding = nameTextField.bindText(to: viewModel, on: \.name)  
        bindings.append(binding)  
    }  
}
```


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Recap

Recap

KeyPaths offer deferred reading/writing to a property

They work very well with generic algorithms

They allow for a very clean, declarative and expressive syntax

They are a great tool to build DSLs

They bring some nice sugar syntax to many patterns

Conclusion

Conclusion

KeyPaths are great, use them!

Big thank you to Marion Curtil and Jérôme Alves for their valuable inputs.

You liked what you saw, and you want some of it in your app?

<https://github.com/vincent-pradeilles/KeyPathKit>



The underestimated power of KeyPaths

Vincent Pradeilles ([@v_pradeilles](#)) – Worldline 