

Basic Syntax

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Rapid tour of the basic
syntax of Kotlin

Defining packages

Package specification should be at the top of the source file:

```
package my.demo  
  
import java.util.*  
  
// ...
```

It is not required to match directories and packages: source files can be placed arbitrarily in the file system.

Defining functions

Function having two `Int` parameters with `Int` return type:

```
1 fun sum(a: Int, b: Int): Int {  
2     return a + b  
3 }
```



Defining functions

Function having two `Int` parameters with `Int` return type:

```
1 fun sum(a: Int, b: Int): Int {  
2     return a + b  
3 }  
4  
5 fun main(args: Array<String>) {  
6     print("sum of 3 and 5 is ")  
7     println(sum(3, 5))  
8 }
```



sum of 3 and 5 is 8



Function with an expression body and inferred return type:

```
1 | fun sum(a: Int, b: Int) = a + b
```



Function with an expression body and inferred return type:

```
1 fun sum(a: Int, b: Int) = a + b
2
3 fun main(args: Array<String>) {
4     println("sum of 19 and 23 is ${sum(19, 23)}")
5 }
```



sum of 19 and 23 is 42

Function returning no meaningful value:

```
1 fun printSum(a: Int, b: Int): Unit {  
2     println("sum of $a and $b is ${a + b}")  
3 }
```



Function returning no meaningful value:

```
1 fun printSum(a: Int, b: Int): Unit {  
2     println("sum of $a and $b is ${a + b}")  
3 }  
4  
5 fun main(args: Array<String>) {  
6     printSum(-1, 8)  
7 }
```

sum of -1 and 8 is 7

Unit return type can be omitted:

```
1 fun printSum(a: Int, b: Int) {  
2     println("sum of $a and $b is ${a + b}")  
3 }
```



Defining variables

Assign-once (read-only) local variable:

```
+  
val a: Int = 1 // immediate assignment  
val b = 2 // `Int` type is inferred  
val c: Int // Type required when no initializer is provided  
c = 3 // deferred assignment
```

Target platform: JVM

Running on kotlin v. 1.2.70

Mutable variable:

```
+  
var x = 5 // `Int` type is inferred  
x += 1
```

Top-level variables:

```
val PI = 3.14
var x = 0

fun incrementX() {
    x += 1
}
```



Comments

Just like Java and JavaScript, Kotlin supports end-of-line and block comments.

```
// This is an end-of-line comment  
  
/* This is a block comment  
   on multiple lines. */
```

Unlike Java, block comments in Kotlin can be nested.

Using string templates



```
var a = 1
// simple name in template:
val s1 = "a is $a"

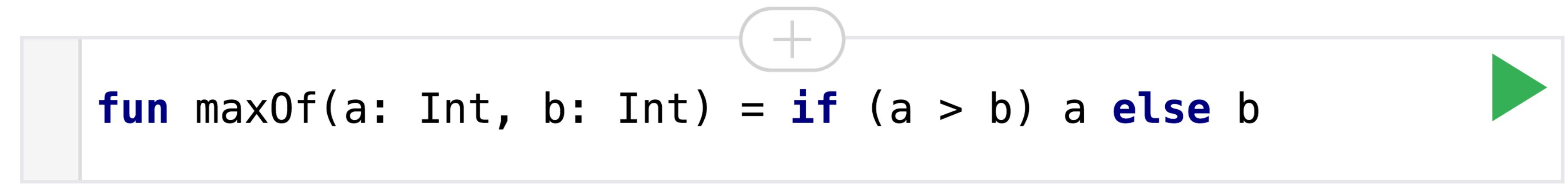
a = 2
// arbitrary expression in template:
val s2 = "${s1.replace("is", "was")}, but now is $a"
```

Using conditional expressions

```
1 fun maxOf(a: Int, b: Int): Int {  
2     if (a > b) {  
3         return a  
4     } else {  
5         return b  
6     }  
7 }  
8  
9 fun main(args: Array<String>) {  
10    println("max of 0 and 42 is ${maxOf(0, 42)}")  
11 }
```



Using **if** as an expression:



```
fun maxOf(a: Int, b: Int) = if (a > b) a else b
```

A screenshot of a code editor window. The window has a light gray header bar with a small circular icon containing a plus sign in the center. The main area of the window contains a single line of Scala code: "fun maxOf(a: Int, b: Int) = if (a > b) a else b". The word "fun" is in blue, indicating it's a function definition. The word "if" is also in blue, highlighting its use as an expression. The code is displayed in a monospaced font. To the right of the code, there is a large green triangular arrow pointing to the right, which is a common icon for a 'next' or 'run' button in software interfaces.

Using nullable values and checking for `null`

A reference must be explicitly marked as nullable when `null` value is possible.

Return `null` if `str` does not hold an integer:

```
fun parseInt(str: String): Int? {  
    // ...  
}
```

Use a function returning nullable value:

```
fun printProduct(arg1: String, arg2: String) {  
    val x = parseInt(arg1)  
    val y = parseInt(arg2)  
  
    // Using `x * y` yields error because they may hold nulls.  
    if (x != null && y != null) {  
        // x and y are automatically cast to non-nullable after null check  
        println(x * y)  
    }  
    else {  
        println("either '$arg1' or '$arg2' is not a number")  
    }  
}
```



```
// ...
if (x == null) {
    println("Wrong number format in arg1: '$arg1'")
    return
}
if (y == null) {
    println("Wrong number format in arg2: '$arg2'")
    return
}

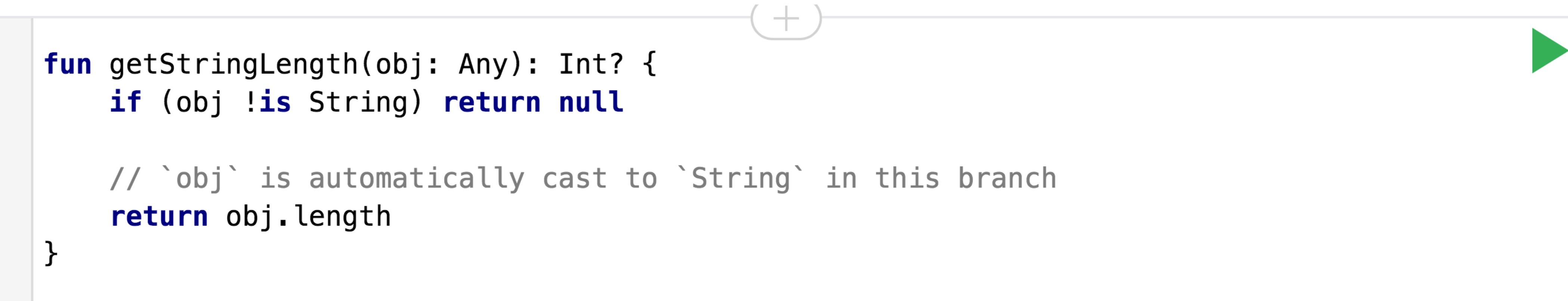
// x and y are automatically cast to non-nullable after null check
println(x * y)
```



Using type checks and automatic casts

The `is` operator checks if an expression is an instance of a type. If an immutable local variable or property is checked for a specific type, there's no need to cast it explicitly:

```
fun getStringLength(obj: Any): Int? {  
    if (obj is String) {  
        // `obj` is automatically cast to `String` in this branch  
        return obj.length  
    }  
  
    // `obj` is still of type `Any` outside of the type-checked branch  
    return null  
}
```



```
fun getStringLength(obj: Any): Int? {
    if (obj !is String) return null

    // `obj` is automatically cast to `String` in this branch
    return obj.length
}
```

Using a for loop

```
val items = listOf("apple", "banana", "kiwifruit")
for (item in items) {
    println(item)
}
```



Target platform: JVM Running on kotlin v. 1.2.70

or

```
val items = listOf("apple", "banana", "kiwifruit")
for (index in items.indices) {
    println("item at $index is ${items[index]}")
}
```



Using a while loop

```
val items = listOf("apple", "banana", "kiwifruit")
var index = 0
while (index < items.size) {
    println("item at $index is ${items[index]}")
    index++
}
```



Using when expression

```
fun describe(obj: Any): String =  
    when (obj) {  
        1              -> "One"  
        "Hello"       -> "Greeting"  
        is Long       -> "Long"  
        !is String    -> "Not a string"  
        else           -> "Unknown"  
    }
```



Using ranges

Check if a number is within a range using `in` operator:

```
val x = 10
val y = 9
if (x in 1..y+1) {
    println("fits in range")
}
```



Check if a number is out of range:

```
val list = listOf("a", "b", "c")  
  
if (-1 !in 0..list.lastIndex) {  
    println("-1 is out of range")  
}  
if (list.size !in list.indices) {  
    println("list size is out of valid list indices range too")  
}
```



Using collections

Iterating over a collection:

```
for (item in items) {  
    println(item)  
}
```



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Checking if a collection contains an object using `in` operator:

```
when {  
    "orange" in items -> println("juicy")  
    "apple" in items -> println("apple is fine too")  
}
```

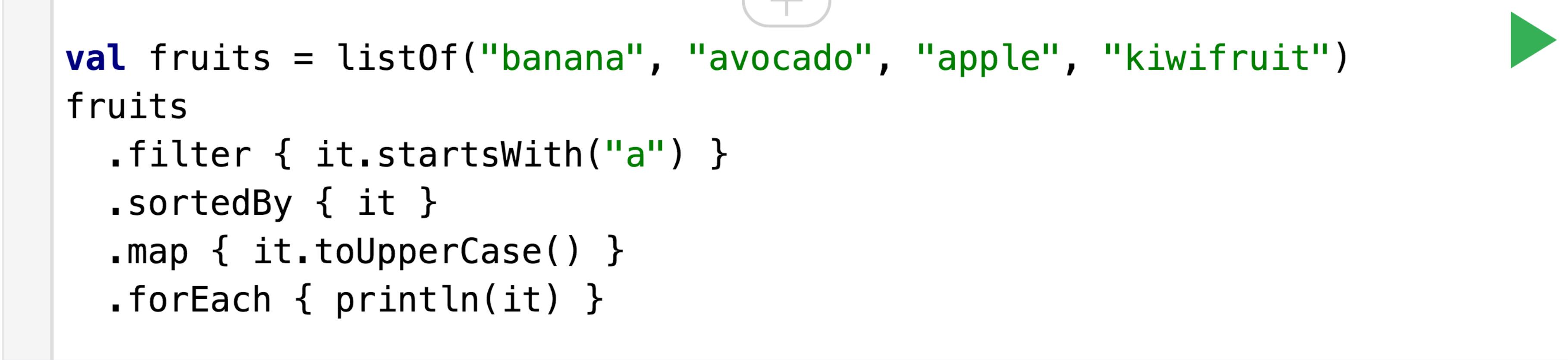


Checking if a collection contains an object using **in** operator:

```
when {  
    "orange" in items -> println("juicy")  
    "apple" in items -> println("apple is fine too")  
}
```



Using lambda expressions to filter and map collections:



```
val fruits = listOf("banana", "avocado", "apple", "kiwifruit")
fruits
    .filter { it.startsWith("a") }
    .sortedBy { it }
    .map { it.toUpperCase() }
    .forEach { println(it) }
```

Creating basic classes and their instances:



```
val rectangle = Rectangle(5.0, 2.0) //no 'new' keyword required  
val triangle = Triangle(3.0, 4.0, 5.0)
```

