Golang Programming Workshop Basics

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1 Agreement

Notice: No copy&paste.

2 Prerequiments

2.1 Audience

Expected background knowledge and skills for the workshop:

- Have 1-year hands-on experience in other programming language;
- Know how to work with the Command Line Interface in Linux or OS.

2.2 Your workstation

In the github repository, you will find the instruction on how to set up your workstation.

- Linux or OSX recommended;
- Basic:
 - Golang;
 - IDE or code editor, vscode is a good start;
 - Git;
 - Docker.
- SQL and noSQL exercise (recommended with docker):
 - Postgres,
 - MongoDB.

Check Go Wiki to see how to configure your favorite editor to write golang programs.

2.3 Verify the setup

Let's run a hello world to check whether you can run go applications on your workstation.

Notice: No copy&paste, please.

Let's create a simple program to verify our setup:

```
# here we will create
# all projects
mkdir workspace
cd workspace

#
mkdir first_project
cd first_project
go mod init
go mod init first_project

# to see
# in the explorer
xdg-open .
```

Create main.go in your code editor in the catalog first_app, it should have the following text:

Now, let's run it:

```
# 1. enforce formatting
# (with IDEs it is automatic):
gofmt -w .

# 2. run with go:
go run main.go

# 3. build and run:
go build .

# notice new binary executable:
ls

main.go first_app

# 3. Run the built binary:
./first_app
```

3 Golang Package Manager

Notice: Golang has a rich standard library, you should first see whether a given functionality is not already provided, before looking for an external library.

Installing new packages, e.g., github.com/logrusorgru/aurora:

```
# you should be
# in ~/workspace/first_project
pwd

go get -u github.com/logrusorgru/aurora/v4

# open also in vscode
# notice the *warnings*
cat go.mod

# cat go.sum
```

```
# download all (used) deps to vendor/
go mod vendor

ls
   vendor/
# good to know:
go mod tidy
```

Let's use the library in our application:

```
package main

import "fmt"
import "github.com/logrusorgru/aurora/v4"

func main() {
        fmt.Println("Hello, ", aurora.Magenta("Natalia"))
}
```

3. Installing golang apps/tools and adding them to PATH:

```
# let's install our *first_app*
go install

# where is it installed?
# Let's find it out.
```

```
go env GOPATH

# do we see the *first_app* binary?
ls $(go env GOPATH)

# do we see the *first_app* binary?
ls $(go env GOPATH)/bin
```

What do you see when you run go env?

```
# to have available your golang tooling
# in your terminal:
export PATH=$PATH:$GOPATH/bin

# run it
# now whereever you are in the terminal
first_app
```

Note down:

- What is GOPATH: . . .
- What is GOBIN: . . .

4 Golang Playground

Open the browser and run our program on golang playground: https://play.golang.org/. Notice: you can generate a link to your code sample.

5 Variable definition

0. Create new program hello-world (directory in workspace/). Copy the main.go from our first_project project. You should start with:

```
package main

import "fmt"

func main() {
    // 1 tabulator
    fmt.Println("Hello! YOUR_NAME")
}
```

1. Please extract your name as a variable, use the following definitions and mark the incorrect ones:

```
// 1
var myName string = "Natalia"
var myName = "Natalia"
// 2
myName := "Natalia"
// 3
var myName
myName = "Natalia"
1/4
var myName string
myName = "Natalia"
// 5
var myName string
myName := "Natalia"
// see which combo works:
fmt.Println("Hello!", myName)
```

Notice: in Golang, we use **camelCase** for variable names (and function names).

- 2. Mark the myName as const.
- $3.\ \,$ Declare a variable for your home country and city, use the following construct:

```
var (
    x = 10
    y = 20
)
```

and print it on the screen.

6 Integers and Floats

No big surprise here, numbers:

```
• int, int8, ..., int64, byte \rightarrow int8, rune \rightarrow int32
```

- unint, uint8, ..., uint64
- float64, float32, float64
- complex

Golang does not support automatic conversion between types. Let's experience it.

1. Declare a variable devExpDays and msg:

```
package main

import (
    "fmt"
    "reflect"
    "strconv"
)

func main() {
    name := "Natalia"
    devExpDays := 365
    msg := name + " has " + devExpDays + " exp as developer"
    fmt.Println(msg)
}
```

Run it. What error message did you see?

2. To make the code running, we should use strconv.Itoa. Add the following import and call the function:

```
import (
   "strconv"
   "fmt"
)
```

3. Now let's go back from string to integer:

```
// imagine, we got it from the user:
devExpYears := "2"
// does it work?
devExpDays := 365 * devExpYears
```

to convert devExpYears use the following code:

```
// the famous error-return
days, err := strconv.Atoi("12020")
if err != nil {
  fmt.Printf("Cannot convert %v", err)
  return
}
```

You have more functions to convert from basic types to string and back, check Package strconv documentation.

```
Notice: import (_ "strconv").
```

7 Boolean

Just to note: true and false, standard logical operators: &&, !, and | | works.

8 Math

Nothing dramatic here. For more advance mathematical functions, you should check the golang.org/pkg/math:

```
import (
    "math"
)
```

9 Slices and hidden arrays

In Golang, we use slices, seldom we use arrays.

1. If you want to defined an array, you specify the length explicitly:

```
arr1 := [...]string{"pa", "rr", "ot"}
arr2 := [3]string{"pa", "rr", "ot"}
fmt.Print(arr1)
fmt.Printf("%v", arr1)
```

Slice, an interface of the array, on the other hand we create with:

```
arr1 := [...]string{"pa", "rr", "ot"}
slice1 := []string{"pa", "na", "ma"}
slice2 := arr1[:]
```

Notice: relect.TypeOf(arr1) vs relect.TypeOf(slice1). Good to know when reading compilation errors or runtime panics.

2. What is the output?

```
var three [3]int
two := [2]int{10, 20}

three = two

fmt.Println(three)
fmt.Println(two)
```

3. Let's define our hello world messages and add one more:

```
helloWorld := []string{"dzień dobry", "Hallo", "guten Tag"}
fmt.Printf("A: len: %d cap: %d \n", len(helloWorld),
    cap(helloWorld))

czechia := "Ahoj"
helloWorld = append(helloWorld, czechia)

fmt.Printf("B: len: %d cap: %d \n", len(helloWorld),
    cap(helloWorld))

fmt.Printf("%v\n", helloWorld)
```

Note down:

- the len and cap in A and B: . . .
- What has happen when we appended one slice to another?
- 4. Slices of slices. How would you write a one liner to print out:
 - ["dzień dobry"]:
 - middle hallo messages:
 - all except the last one:
 - just 1st element:
 - just 15th element:

Hint: use slice[x], slice[x:], slice[:x], and slice[x:y].

5. Watch out, the slices might bite your head off. Note, slice has *capacity*, *length*, and **pointer to the underlaying array** (see https://golang.org/pkg/reflect/#SliceHeader):

```
package main

import "fmt"

func main() {
  helloWorld := []string{"dzień dobry", "Ahoj", "Goodmorning"}
  centralEuHello := helloWorld[0:2]
  fmt.Printf("len: %d cap: %d \n", len(centralEuHello),
     cap(centralEuHello))

centralEuHello[0] = "Dobry Wieczor"
  fmt.Printf("%v\n", helloWorld)
  fmt.Printf("%v\n", centralEuHello)
}
```

What is the result?

Replace centralEuHello[0] = "Dobry Wieczor" by:

```
centralEuHello = append(centralEuHello, "Dobry Wieczor")
centralEuHello = append(centralEuHello, "Dobry Wieczor")
```

What is the result? What has happend?

It should be not a suprise that:

```
a := []int{1,3,5,7}
b := []int{2,4,6}

a = b

a[0] = 99

// prints the same
fmt.Printf("%+v\n", a)
fmt.Printf("%+v\n", b)
```

6. Let's fix that with the following code snipped:

```
newSlice := make([]string, 2)
copy(newSlice, slice)
```

7. We can also use make to create a slice with desired length and capacity:

```
msgs := make([]string, 2, 20)
msgs[0] = "Ahoj"
msgs[1] = "Goodmorning"

for idx := range msgs {
   fmt.Printf("%s\n", msgs[idx])
```

```
for idx, v := range msgs {
   fmt.Printf("%d, %s\n", idx, v)
}

for _, v := range msgs {
   fmt.Printf("%s\n", v)
}
```

8. Note, when a function returns no result, use a *nil slice*: var nilSlice []string.

10 nil gotchas

What does fmt.Println(nilSlice==nil) prints?

```
func main() {
    var nilSlice []string

fmt.Println(nilSlice==nil)
}
```

9. Let's add a nil value for a pointer to integer:

```
//var nilSlice []string

var i *int = nil
fmt.Println(i==nil)
```

ok, so both variable are nil, let's compare them to each other:

```
fmt.Println(nilSlice==i)
```

What did happen?

[Homework] read golang.org FAQ entry on nill errors and Dave Cheney blog post.

11 Control structure: Loops

The Go for loop is similar to—but not the same as—C's. It unifies for and while and there is no do-while¹. In Golang there is only one loop keyword:

```
for i := 0; i < 10; i++ {
   fmt.Println(i)
}

for i < 10 {
   fmt.Println(i)
   i++
}

// also map
for index, value := range someSlice {
   fmt.Println(index, value)
}</pre>
```

```
// Like a C for
for init; condition; post { }

// Like a C while
for condition { }

// Like a C for(;;)
for { }
```

Gotcha. **Do not do it**. What is this program going to print:

```
package main
import "fmt"
func nameByKey(names map[string]string, key string) *string {
  var result *string
  for k, v := range names {
```

¹go.dev/doc/effective_go#for.

```
if key == k {
    result = &v
}
}
return result
}

func main() {
  names := map[string]string{"12": "mike",
    "34": "joe", "99": "Joanna"}

found := nameByKey(names, "12")

fmt.Printf("%s", *found)
}
```

12 String

String is a read-only **slice** of bytes. Go source code is always in UTF-8. If you want to learn more about UTF-8, this post is a good start Joel On Software on unicode.

1. Run the following code, note down the results:

```
const adress = "ul. Przeskok 2"

fmt.Printf("len: %d\n", len(adress))

fmt.Printf("1: %s\n", adress[0:3])
fmt.Printf("2: %c\n", adress[2])
fmt.Printf("3: %s\n", adress[2:])
fmt.Printf("4: %s\n", adress[5:])

fmt.Printf("5: %s\n", adress[16:])
fmt.Printf("6: %s\n", adress[:16])
```

2. Use the following example to build your own program printing out your 3 favorite emoicons:

3. What does now happen?:

Your task — write a short program (following the above example) that prints runes for: const mixed = "wöjtk\textrm{wx}".

Notice: Important packages are Package strings (pkg.go.dev/strings) and Package unicode/utf8 (pkg.go.dev/unicode/utf8), e.g., utf8.RuneCountInString.

13 Maps

Your task – write a program that displays a hello-world message for different languages. An user will provide language code (two letter) and:

- if we support the language, we should print out the greetings,
- if we do not support the language, we should write language not supported.
- 1. Define the map:

```
helloMsgs := map[string]string{}
helloMsgs["pl"] = "Dzień Dobry"
helloMsgs["en"] = "Good morning"
```

2. Read input from the user:

```
helloMsgs := map[string]string{}
helloMsgs["pl"] = "Dzień Dobry"
helloMsgs["en"] = "Good morning"

var lang string
// read a single world in ASCII
// skip error handling
fmt.Scan(&lang)
```

3. Print the hello message:

```
if val, ok := helloMsgs[lang]; ok {
   // found
} else {
   // not found
}
```

Notice, Golang has a cool feature:

```
helloMsgs := map[string]string{
   "pl": "Dzień Dobry",
   "en": "Good morning",
}
```

You could extend the app and print out different greetings depending on the time of day:

If users get bored with the same greeting, we could randomly pick greetings:

```
helloMsgs := map[string]map[string][]string{
    "pl": {"morning": []string{
        "Dzień Dobry",
        "Piękny poranek",
    }},
    "en": {"morning": []string{
        "Good morning",
        "Morning",
    }},
}
```

Let's make it more readable:

```
type daytimeGreetings = map[string][]string
// type g map[string]daytimeGreetings

helloMsgs := map[string]daytimeGreetings{
    "pl": {"morning": []string{
        "Dzień Dobry",
        "Piękny poranek",
    }},
    "en": {"morning": []string{
        "Good morning",
    }},
}
```

You can use this declarative style to define even the most complex JSON structures.

Your task – extend your program to offer multiple greetings per language (without the support for the time of the day). You should pick the greeting randomly. For this purpose, use math/rand and time packages to initialize random seed.

Idea for the homework – use the current time to find out which part of the day we have.

14 User defined type

You can define types over the basic and composite types:

14.1 Type Definitions

```
package main

import "fmt"

type myInt int

func display(i int) {
   fmt.Printf("%d", i)
}

func main() {
   var i myInt = 12
   i = i + 12
   // how to fix it?
   display(i)
}
```

14.2 Type Alias Declarations

Since Go 1.9, we can declare custom type aliases by using the following syntax:

```
package main

import "fmt"

type myInt = int

func display(i int) {
  fmt.Printf("%d", i)
}

func main() {
  var i myInt = 12
  i = i + 12
  display(i)
}
```

15 fmt.Printf

Check the https://gobyexample.com/string-formatting.

16 Functions

1. Let's move the logic for displaying the hello message to a function. We will return false if we do not support a given language:

```
func displayHello(lang string) (bool) {
   helloMsgs := map[string]string{
   "pl": "Dzień Dobry",
   "en": "Good morning",
   }
   // here code
   return false
}
```

2. In Golang, we do not have exceptions, we return errors for unexpected scenarios. The error is usually the last returned value from a function:

```
func displayHello(lang string) (err error) {
    // put code here
    err = fmt.Errorf("Unsupported language")
    // .. and here
    return err
}

func main() {
    err := displayHello()
    if err != nil {
        fmt.Printf("Not found!!! %v", err)
        return
    }
}
```

3. The functions are the first class citizens in Golang and we often use them as arguments. Let's write new program:

```
func printThings(msg []string, decorator func(string) string) {
  for _, l := range msg {
    d := decorator(l)
    fmt.Println(d)
  }
}

func main() {
  things := []string{"mleko", "cars", "programming"}

  likeThat := func(s string) string {
    return "Ania likes " + s
  }
  printThings(alphabet, likeThat)
}
```

Now something more complicated, defining a function in-place:

```
type letterDecorator func(string) string
//func printLetters(msg []string, decorator func(string) string)
func printLetters(msg []string, decorator letterDecorator) {
 for _, 1 := range msg {
   d := decorator(1)
   fmt.Println(d)
 }
}
func main() {
 alphabet := []string{"a", "b", "c", "d", "d"}
 printLetters(alphabet, func(s string) string {
   return strings.ToUpper(s)
 printLetters(alphabet, func(s string) string {
   return "::" + strings.ToLower(s) + "::"
 })
}
```

4. Notice: we have support for variadic parameters in functions: func printSymbols(msg ...string):

```
printSymbols()
printSymbols("a", "z")
printSymbols(alphabet...)
```

5. We can move the execution of a function to the end of the scope with defer:

```
package main
import "fmt"

func main() {
  defer fmt.Println("booom!")

  for i := 0; i < 10; i++ {
     fmt.Println("tick...")
  }
}</pre>
```

We will come back to defer later in this workshop.

17 Control structure: if and switch

17.1 switch

The switch can work on any data type, you do not need to switch on a value, see: https://github.com/golang/go/wiki/Switch.

The very common case for switch is to check types:

```
func do(v interface{}) string {
  switch u := v.(type) {
  case int:
    return strconv.Itoa(u*2) // u has type int
  case string:
    mid := len(u) / 2 // split - u has type string
    return u[mid:] + u[:mid] // join
```

```
}
return "unknown"
}
```

17.2 if

The *If* and *else* works as in other programming languages, except that you can put a language expression:

```
if err := dec.Decode(&val); err != nil {
   // handling error
}
// happy path
```

Example from the Package net:

```
if nerr, ok := err.(net.Error); ok && nerr.Temporary() {
   // here nerr is an instance of net.Error
   // and the error is Temporary
}
```

Let's build an app for writing and reading a file:

```
package main

import (
    "io/ioutil"
    "fmt"
)

func main() {
    // change to /dat1
    fPath := "/tmp/dat1"
    inD := []byte("hello\nWorld\n")
    if err := ioutil.WriteFile(fPath, inD, 0644); err != nil {
        panic(err) // failfast
    }
    fmt.Println("Write was successful!")
```

```
outData, err := ioutil.ReadFile(fPath)
if err != nil {
   panic(err) // failfast
}
fmt.Print(string(outData))
}
```

If it works, change ioutil.ReadFile(fPath) to ioutil.ReadFile(fPath + "x"). What does happen?

18 Pointers

Remember:

- Because of the Golang design, your code will work usually faster if you pass small data types by value;
- Do not be overzealous with the pointers;
- Maps, slices, and pointers are reference types.

Write the following program:

```
package main
import "fmt"
func tryAnswerEverything(i int) {
   i = 45
}
func answerEverything(i *int) {
   *i = 42
}
func main() {
   i := 33
   fmt.Println(i)
   tryAnswerEverything(i)
```

```
fmt.Println(i)

answerEverything(&i)
fmt.Println(i)
}
```

Notice, we can return in functions pointers to local variables: func Answer() *int. Later, you should read about the analysis 2 and its impact on the Golang apps performance.

 $^{^2} github.com/golang/go/wiki/CompilerOptimizations\#escape-analysis$

19 Enums

Enums in Golang:

Enums in Golang with methods (example from stackoverflow):

```
type Base int

const (
    A Base = iota
    C
    T
    G
)

func(b Base) AnyMethod() {
}
```

20 Structures

In Golang, we do not have *classes*, instead *struct* with *methods*. The language does not support inheritance, favors composition instead.

20.1 Structures and Methods

1. Write a program to manage employees go mod init employee_app:

```
package main
type Employee struct {
   FirstName
              string
   LastName
                string
    leavesAllowed int
    LeavesTaken int
}
func (empl *Employee) TakeHolidays(days int) bool {
  // write an implementation
func (empl *Employee) limitExceeded(days int) bool {
  // write an implementation
func main() {
  empl := new(Employee)
 // fmt.Println(reflect.TypeOf(empl))
  empl.FirstName = "Laste"
  empl.LastName = "BB"
  empl.leavesAllowed = 26
 fmt.Println(empl.FirstName)
 // simulate here taking day offs
 // and printing the new value.
  // try to call limitExceeded on empl
```

2. Refactor our application and move implementation of the employee to a separate package. To do it, create a directory employee and create inside employee.go:

```
package employee

type Employee struct {
  FirstName string
  LastName string
  leavesAllowed int
}

// ... the functions
// ...
```

Create an instance of Employee in main.go.

3. What if, we do not want to expose the implementation details to the code in the main. Change the name of the type from Employee to employee:

```
package employee

type employee struct {
  FirstName string
  LastName string
  leavesAllowed int
}

// ... rest of the code
```

Does your app works? How we should solve this problem.

3. Implement the solution.

20.2 Pointer receiver vs value receiver

What is the difference?

```
func (empl *Employee) TakeHollidays(taken int) bool {
  empl.leavesTaken = empl.leavesTaken + taken
  return true
}
```

and:

```
func (empl Employee) TakeHollidays(taken int) bool {
   empl.leavesTaken = empl.leavesTaken + taken
   return true
}
```

Write a new app to find out.

20.3 Structures and Interfaces

In Golang, we have duck typing interfaces, it means that the structure has to implement the functions from the interface.

An example, we will build an application that supports two storage types - postgres and mongo (go mod init db-example-app):

```
package main

import "db-example-app/postgres"

type DataStore interface {
   GetEmployee(id int) string
}

type App struct {
   ds DataStore
}

func main() {
   app1 := App{ds: &postgres.PsqlStore{}}
   fmt.Print(app1.ds.GetEmployee(12))
}
```

We might have two configurable stores, one psql:

```
package postgres

type PsqlStore struct {
}

func (ps *PsqlStore) GetEmployee(id int) string {
  return "psql"
}
```

and one, mongodb:

```
package mongo

type MongoStore struct {
}

func (ps *MongoStore) GetEmployee(id int) string {
  return "mongo"
}
```

Run the app and verify that the mongoStore works as well. When it works, break it, for e.g., change the type of args in MongoStore.

Notice: a good rule of tumb for methods – accept an interface, return a struct. However. Don't over complicate code until it's needed.

20.4 Composition instead of Inheritance

Golang does not support inheritance. Instead, it supports the composition. We achieve the composition by embedding one struct type into another:

```
type person struct {
  firstName string
}
func (p *person) name() string {
  return p.firstName
}
```

```
type employee struct {
   EmployeeID string
   person
}

func main() {
   empl := employee{}
   empl.firstName = "Natalia"
   empl.person.firstName = "Christof"
   fmt.Println(empl.firstName)
}
```

Notice: For polymorphism, you need to use *interface*.

20.5 Interfaces vs Functions

If you get high on interface, do not forget that you can use functions instead. See an example from net/http:

```
type HandlerFunc func(ResponseWriter, *Request)

// ServeHTTP calls f(w, r).
func (f HandlerFunc) ServeHTTP(w ResponseWriter, r *Request) {
   f(w, r)
}
```

Let's see it on an example:

```
package main

// employee package
type PolicyHandler func(employee *Employee) bool

func (f PolicyHandler) canTakeHolidays(empl *Employee) bool {
  return f(empl)
}

func (f PolicyHandler) HolidayFreeze() bool {
  return true
```

```
type Employee struct {
  totalLeaves int
  leavesTaken int
  PolicyHandler PolicyHandler
}

func (empl *Employee) TakeHolidays() bool {
  if empl.PolicyHandler.canTakeHolidays(empl) != true {
    return false
  }
  return true
}
```

```
import "fmt"

func main() {
   var newPolicy PolicyHandler = func(empl *Employee) bool {
      return empl.totalLeaves > empl.leavesTaken
   }
   freeze := newPolicy.HolidayFreeze()
   fmt.Println(freeze)

employee := Employee{12, 20, newPolicy}
   employee.TakeHolidays()
}
```

21 First Web App

Now, we will build our first web app before going to the 2nd part of the basics. We will use github.com/go-chi/chi.

- 1. Create an app: first_web_app, install the chi package.
- 2. Start with the example from the github:

```
package main

import (
    "net/http"

    "github.com/go-chi/chi/v5"
    "github.com/go-chi/chi/v5/middleware"
)

func main() {
    r := chi.NewRouter()
    r.Use(middleware.Logger)
    r.Get("/", func(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {
        w.Write([]byte("welcome"))
    })
    http.ListenAndServe(":3000", r)
}
```

Test whether it works with, for example curl:

```
curl '127.0.0.1:3000/'
```

- 3. Tasks test after every iteration:
 - 1. add endpoint /hello, that returns world;
 - add support for adding name: /hello?name=natalia, should return: Hello Natalia!;

```
curl '127.0.0.1:3000/hello?name=natalia'
```

3. add support for language as a GET parameter;

- 4. move all the logic to a separate package greetings;
- 5. Use one of the middlewares, e.g., SetHeader or BasicAuth.

22 Linters

Linters are a part of the language:

- gofmt Gofmt's style is no one's favorite, yet gofmt is everyone's favorite. (go proverb)
- goimport gofmt + sorting imports
- govet now executed with tests

To apply the fixes, use -w flag:

```
$ gofmt -w .
$ goimports -w *.go && goimports -w */*.go
```

There are many linters out there, check, for e.g., awesome-go-linter page. You should call the linters as part of your CI/CD pipeline:

- linter
- test
- integration-test

23 References

- golang.com/doc/effective_go.html;
- devs.cloudimmunity.com/gotchas-and-common-mistakes-in-go-golang.