

Topic 10
Subroutines
Ch 9 in Scott

return value — function
no return — procedure
associated with structure/class — method (regardless of return)

Skip 9.1 & 9.2 Mostly.
Quickly, What happens when you make a subroutine call

1. Compute (as needed) value of arguments to called subroutine
 - 1a. Hold onto the “dynamic link” ie the place where the program execution returns to when function completes
 2. if a nested subroutine — the “static link” ie what variables are available to nested sub from its surrounding subroutine
 - how is static link distinct from closure? Closures are about functions that are defined, but then executed later. Static link is about functions executed now. So they refer to largely the same thing; but with different uses. Also closures can get outside the function in which they were defined.

the callee — on starting:

3. Pass return location of the calling function
 4. Add all of this to the “call stack”
- How does Elixir differ??

Parameter passing: (sec 9.3)

Define

/ reference param — a param that is a pointer
\ value param — a param that is a value
/ formal param — the thing in the function definition
\ actual param — the value in the function call

Two basics

pass by value
pass by reference

These generally make the most sense in discussion of value-model languages because they determine what gets sent in a function call.

call by sharing

applies to a reference model language, essentially “share” the reference with the called function.

Java — primitive types == pass by value
classes == sharing

Go — values — pass by value
pointers — pass by value

Can change the thing pointed to but if try to change the passed pointer, that change does not survive!

So the pointer itself is passed by value!!

see [passpoint_go/](#)

Java — “call by sharing”
see [passref_java/PassRef.java](#)

Note that in Java, when you cannot change the location of the pointer, you can change what is inside

When pass (or share) a reference
effectively allows function to return multiple values
[mret_go/mreg.go](#)

Why bother?

PbV on large objects can be expensive

Read-only parameters

Java formal parameter marked as final
covariance

Elixir??

Go No

Are read-only params needed?

Closures — again

when functions are passed in Go/Elixir they are passed with their closure (if closure exists) (when will it not?)

Question what happens when change values in closure AFTER function definition
drr clous1_go/2

Java — functions are NOT first class so cannot be passed so closures are not a thing
Instead “Object closures”. Idea, define an object with method and vars. Then pass the objects. The receiver knows to use the method defined within the object. This is used a lot in Android to get “callbacks” and more generally in multithreaded programs.

Illustrative example of callback?

For instance, downloading stuff from web. By rule in Android, this must be done in a separate thread. When download complete, want to notify the “main thread” and have it put up a “complete/fail” message. So, pass in an instance of something like

```
public class Downer {  
    String url = "https://getme.com/123.jpg"  
    CallbackClass cc = xxx;  
    public void onDownloadDone(String res) {  
        xxx.downloadDone(res);  
    }  
}
```

Optional parameters

“Go has no concept of default parameters nor any way to specify arguments by name”

Nor does Java ... exactly

Why not?

Go does not allow overloading of function names

Why Not?

FROM GO DOCUMENTATION

Why does Go not support overloading of methods and operators?

Method dispatch is simplified if it doesn't need to do type matching as well. Experience with other languages told us that having a variety of methods with the same name but different signatures was occasionally useful but that it could also be confusing and fragile in practice. Matching only by name and requiring consistency in the types was a major simplifying decision in Go's type system.

Regarding operator overloading, it seems more a convenience than an absolute requirement. Again, things are simpler without it.

Many languages allow both named parameters and overloading.

Do you really need both?

Java overloading only

Variable number of args

Go — YES

the print statement

see also variadic_go
clever user of functions — but is this clearer??
Elixir — not really

Function returns

1. Should functions allow return statement other than at the end?

Go: multiple return values; see return_go

Go: named return values; see return_go

are these good?

Elixir — EVERYTHING has a return value. So no side effect

“SCOTT in FP chapter — one of the characteristics of FP is “structured function returns” Elixir does not have this! As what does this mean anyway?

Exceptions:

Text — exception Handling

3 methods of dealing with exceptions without explicit exception handling mechanism

1. Return one value with special values indicating that things went wrong. For instance, if function is supposed to return a positive integer, return -1 to indicate an error

2. Return a status in addition to value (in a multiple return language). This is the general approach taken by Go, with the Panic as a bonus

3. Caller returns a closure containing an error handling function. (or null if no error.) This is kind of Java — Object Closures!!!

see **ObjClo_java/ObjClo.java**

From book: 1 is difficult to generalize, 2 and 3 can introduce new errors and obfuscatory ..

<https://radio-weblogs.com/0122027/stories/2003/04/01/JavasCheckedExceptionsWereAMistake.html>

Handling in Go

basic approach, lots of functions return two values

desired value, error

see **basicexcep_go/basicexcept.go**

when normal, err value is 0 (nil).

when problem, normal value is 0 (possibly) and error value is non-0

So, how does func set that non-nil error?

1. error prevention — do not just open a file and try to read, then get exception when file does not exist. First check that file exists. Yes, programmer has to do this.

2. PANIC. panics are the equivalent of a thrown exception in Java if not “caught”, program dies. BUT catch without try catch???

Note: “giving up is usually the right response to a panic, but not always”

More generally, problems. Answer, catch with a function that is guaranteed to run at the end of a function kind of like try {} finally{} in Java

in Go “defer” == run just before function completes.

So defer is part of the language

inside deferred function call “recover()”. If execute while NOT in panic, return null. if return NOT null, then panicing!!!

So, how do you get a func to return an error value is the only way to catch the error val is done by a function that must run as the last thing in a function??? A By having the actual work done in an inner function!! **see `except_go/except1.go .. basicPanic()`**
`except_go/except1.go .. betterPanic()`

OR

use go named return values and set the value of the named returns inside the deferred fun see **`except1/betterPanic2()`**

This use case may be logic behind named returns

ELIXIR – TRY/RESCUE

<https://elixir-lang.org/getting-started/try-catch-and-rescue.html>

In practice, Elixir developers rarely use the `try/rescue` construct. For example, many languages would force you to rescue an error when a file cannot be opened successfully. Elixir instead provides a `File.read/1` function which returns a tuple containing information about whether the file was opened successfully

One saying that is common in the Erlang community, as well as Elixir's, is “fail fast” / “let it crash”. The idea behind let it crash is that, in case something *unexpected* happens, it is best to let the exception happen, without rescuing it.

The second approach also works because, as discussed in the [Processes](#) chapter, all Elixir code runs inside processes that are isolated and don't share anything by default. Therefore, an unhandled exception in a process will never crash or corrupt the state of another process. This allows us to define supervisor processes, which are meant to observe when a process terminates unexpectedly, and starts a new one in its place.

Elixir: try/after

Sometimes it's necessary to ensure that a resource is cleaned up after some action that could potentially raise an error. The `try/after` construct allows you to do that. For example, we can open a file and use an `after` clause to close it—even if something goes wrong:

This is essentially identical to `try..finally` in Java and `defer` in Go. However, Not clear that it is really needed since this is usually used for cleanup. What needs cleanup in Elixir??

Elixir try/catch

I like to use the analogy:

You either **catch** a thrown ball or **rescue** someone from a mountain.

- **catch** - is expected and used for control flow (e.g. Java-like error handling)
- **rescue** - for unexpected errors (e.g. runtime errors)

So what does Go take option 2?

it does not/ fully. It also kind of does option 3 —

Programmer should do stuff to prevent problems. If unable to prevent, only then, maybe, panic and die.

Problems with catching exceptions someplace other than the func in which they occurred — need to unwind the stack!!!!

3 goals of exception handlers:

- A. compensate for exception to allow program to recover
- B. Clean up and re-throw so someone else can handle
- C. Print an error message.

Events

also “event-driven programming”

Point — the program might be doing other things, it is NOT just waiting on the event events are “something to which a running program needs to respond, but which occurs outside the program, at an unpredictable time.”

GUI input

Network events (read URL)

Synchronous handlers

program is single threaded, event interrupts whatever the program had been doing; does its work, then is gone. Can be handled kind of like any subroutine call.

Threaded Handlers

most modern programming languages (except Javascript!!!!)

Problem, how to handle data structure use clashes between threads.

Java synchronized. ArrayList vs Vector. All the methods of

Vector is synchronized. But, the methods of ArrayList is not synchronized.

rewrite this in Java??

For example

events_java/SD.java

Java GUI Idea is that we have a background thing that is listening for “events” and the program tells the background thing what events it is interested in. In this case 2 events

button push

window close

handling is much like the Object closure That is, define an instance of a class with a customized function

events_java/GTReeder.java

Here we have our own event and handler Idea is that we want to read from the internet. But we want to keep doing stuff. So do the read in a separate thread. When complete, tell the main thread that reading is complete.