

About the Scott Text: Scott mentions a LOT of PLs. I will only discuss Go, Elixir, Java in detail and will only expect you to know about those. Also probably mention C and Python. (So if you find yourself reading about the details of C++, read this only for key concepts, not details.)

Lec 3: Go Intro

Why? C was designed in 1970 with those machines in mind. Go is C - 40 years later. Biggest change — no explicit memory management (malloc and free). Rather more java-like with new and **garbage collection**.

Green comparison between Go and C numbers from whiteboard.  
factoring:  
C to 1,000,000: 1.8sec  
Go to 1,000,000: 4.6 sec

Go (in PL jargon):  
imperative  
statically scoped  
functions are first class  
static variable types  
strongly typed  
pass-by-by-value  
return-by-value

### Writing Go:

Put every different go program in a different folder.  
put program files in files that end in .go

in the main directory for a program (you will usually only have one directory)  
go mod init aaa/bbb  
aaa/bbb does not matter. (This is used in large team development)

```
package main    // REQUIRED
import "fmt"    // won't compile unless imports exactly match
uses (unlike java).
func main() { // the function to start the program. Should be
    exactly one instance of a main function in a directory
    fmt.Println("hello geoff!") // Do something!!!
}
```

See hw.go

Note semi-colon allowed but not required  
Good/bad/yawn?

Once you have a program file:

```
    go run xxx.go
OR
    go build -o xxx xxx.go
    xxx
```

Go has lots of packages. We will discuss later. (VSC will automatically add imports.)

## Variables

lots of types :: **usually you do not need to know.** Go figures it out

```
    var i = 0
    var i int
    var i int = 7
    i := 0
```

These are all mostly equivalent. Go initializes all integers to 0 (second case). (All types have a “zero” value. Go figures out that i is an int (first and third). := gives “short form” initialization ... “=” does assignment “:=” does initialization and assignment

## Type Coercion:

in Java

```
    int iinntt = 7;
    long lloonngg = 7;
    boolean bboo = iinntt==lloonngg;
perfectly legal
```

## No type coercion in Go

```
    var i int16 = 7
    var j int32 = 7
    kk := i==j // not allowed, will not compile
```

So need to cast

```
    kk := i==int16(j)
```

Why does go not have type coercion??

**Go uses value model of variables** (as does Java for primitive types). As does C. So like C, go has pointers and the complexities of referencing and dereferencing pointers. Will talk about this in ch 6. Unlike C, go has garbage collection (more on that in ch 8.5.3)

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## type inference

```
    k := 5 # infer int (not int32, or int64, ...)
```

```
j := 17.0 (infer float64)
i := "A string"
```

One of the nice things about explicit typing is that it is a form of documentation. With type inference you lose this. What is gain? Is gain worthwhile?

### Go uses pass and return by value

[see pbv.go](#)

Note the way in which Go declares functions

### "Tuple Assignment" and tuple return from procedure

See [tupl\\_go/tuple.go](#)

Note Go does not have an explicit tuple type (elixir does)

```
if and for
no parens required, must have {}
package main
import "fmt"
func main() {
    ii, f1, f2 := 0, 1, 1
    for { // Go does not have a while loop!    Just for with
nothing (or ;;) No Parens MUST {}
        ii++;
        f1, f2 = f2, (f1+f2)
        if f2 < 0 { // no parens must {}
            break
        }
        fmt.Printf("%d %d %d\n", ii, f1, f2)
    }
}
```

See also [fibb\\_go/fibb.go](#)

Scope – very much like java We will discuss scope in great detail

arrays and slices

arrays – homogeneous collection with length **fixed at compile time spaces for all arrays are allocated at compile time**

“the size of an array is a part of its type”

Arrays pass and return by value

DIFFERENT FROM JAVA

Like Java, an error to read off the end of an array

C does not throw an error in this case  
Reading off the end of the array is why Hoare invented

null

see array\_go/array.go

Also, Go had guaranteed zero assignment. Java “definite assignment” errors, C whatever  
see Defin.java

slice – somewhat Java ArrayList  
slice a **run-time allocated** piece of memory. When you make a slice you really have a pointer a memory location.  
see slic.go

also with slices you can get a piece  
slice[start:end]  
for example see remove fun in slice\_go or slisli\_go

When you pass a slice to a function, you pass the memory location pointer.  
see slifunapp

## **structs**

much like java classes, with some different syntax. Structs can have methods!

speed.go

Structs do “inherit” – somewhat

– embedding (embed.go)

– **static method binding** (funcbind\_go/funcbind.go)

contrast with Java funcbind\_go/FuncBind.java

## **Statements and Expressions**

statement = done for side effect only (eg print statement)  
no return value

expression = may have side effect but also returns a value

in Java ++ is an expression (j++)

so order/Order.java compiles and runs. (what is printed?)

In Go ++ is a statement. So the equivalent program does not compile

Was this a good decision by Go designers?

## **Command Line Arguments**

NOT in main function (a la Java / C)

rather in os package  
see comlin\_go  
Advantages/disadvantages?

### **fmt.Printf**

%v the value in a default format  
when printing structs, the plus flag (%+v) adds field names  
%t the word true or false  
%d base 10  
%f decimal point but no exponent, e.g. 123.456  
%s the uninterpreted bytes of the string or slice  
\n CR-LF

### **Strings UTF-8**

1-4 bytes to encode a character  
1 byte for ASCII chars  
if start with:       0 then 1 byte  
                          only 7 usable bits  
          110 2 bytes each byte begins 10  
                          so only 11 usable bits  
          1110 3 bytes then each byte begins 10  
                          so 16 usable bytes  
          11110 3 bytes, each byte begins 10  
                          so 21 usable types

### **Program across multiple files**

In same directory  
UNIX> mkdir AAA  
UNIX cd AAA  
UNIX> go mod init GGT/AAA       /// GGT/AAA can be anything,  
except .  
UNIX> go run .       /// doc says to use everything in current  
directory. If explicitly name file, then all you get is that  
file

```
// a.go
package main

func main() {
    println("aaa")
    aaa("bbc")
}
```

```
// b.go
package main

func aaa(bbb string) {
    println(bbb)
}
```

Encapsulation and multiple directories:

Everything in a package is public to everything in the same package. In other packages, capitalization indicates public to other packages. See `encap_go`

Also note that `fmt.Println`, `fmt` is initial cap, hence is is public from the `fmt` package.

Generics – new in Go 1.18

Later