

iOS Application Development

Lecture 10: Introducing SwiftUI



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Recap

- Swift Generics
 - How to specify type constraints?
 - How to use generic types in protocols?
- Diffable Data Sources
 - How to create smooth animations in `CollectionView`s?
- `CollectionView`s
 - What are the three components?



A Brief History of SwiftUI



- 2014 Apple releases the Swift language as successor to Objective-C
- 2015 Development of SwiftUI begins at Apple
- 2019 SwiftUI is introduced officially with iOS 13
- 2022 Apple ships several new parts and entire apps on iOS and macOS using SwiftUI

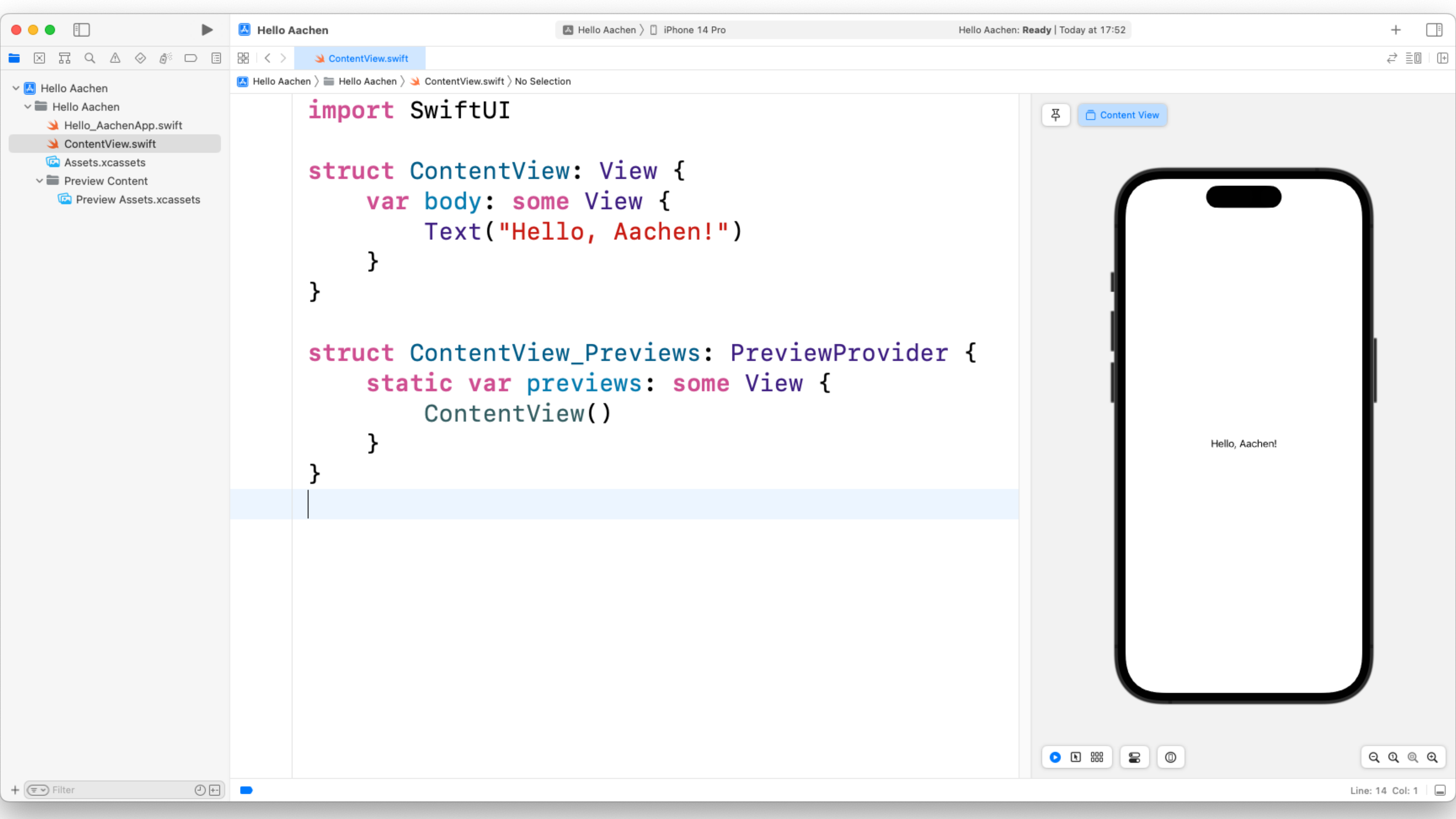
SwiftUI: the Big Messages

1. Object-Oriented Programming is Dead, Long Live **Declarative Programming!**
2. **MVVM** is the corresponding modern improvement over MVC
3. Modern universal languages can describe UIs like **domain-specific languages**
4. You can design a UI **graphically and in code simultaneously**
5. The best app languages must **evolve together** with a UI library and IDE
6. Declarative Programming simplifies development across **mobile and desktop**
7. SwiftUI is a current **case study of a paradigm shift** across a major OS family



Hello SwiftUI!





```
import SwiftUI

struct ContentView: View {
    var body: some View {
        Text("Hello, Aachen!")
    }
}

struct ContentView_Previews: PreviewProvider {
    static var previews: some View {
        ContentView()
    }
}
```

Content View



Looking at the Code: the Shortest SwiftUI App

```
import SwiftUI

struct ContentView: View {
    var body: some View {
        Text("Hello, Aachen!")
    }
}

struct ContentView_Previews: PreviewProvider {
    static var previews: some View {
        ContentView()
    }
}
```

Composing Views

- The **body** property can only return **one** view
- To compose views, they need to be embedded into layout views like **VStack**
- Their initializers use **trailing closures** for multiple child views (max. 10)
- Note that this makes the code begin to look like a hierarchical UI **layout tree!**
 - *"Modern universal languages can describe UIs like **domain-specific languages**"*

```
import SwiftUI

struct ContentView: View {
    var body: some View {
        VStack {
            Image(systemName: "globe")
            Text("Hello, Aachen!")
        }
    }
}

...
```


Modifiers



Modifiers

- Modifiers allow us to adjust Views
- They are View methods returning another View
- Have (optional) parameters
 - E.g., `spacing` for `VStack`
- Order matters
 - Executed first to last
- If applied to containers, they are also applied to children (unless property is overridden)

```
Text("Label")  
  .padding()  
  .background(Color.red)  
  .cornerRadius(16.0)
```



```
Text("Label")  
  .cornerRadius(16.0)  
  .background(Color.red)  
  .padding()
```



Common Modifiers

- `.font`
 - Applies font to all text in a view
 - Predefined fonts such as `.largeTitle`
- `.foregroundColor`
- `.background`
 - Sets the background to a style
 - Adds a layer behind the view
 - Must conform to `ShapeStyle`
- `.frame`
 - Positions view within an invisible frame having the specified size constraints
 - `.frame(maxWidth: .infinity)` extends view to device edges
- `.padding`
 - Adds space around a view

Xcode Preview and Inspector

Preview

- Lets you preview your layout in the **Canvas**, without launching the simulator
- Changes instantly while editing code
- Provides dummy data to test your layout
 - Useful if data is not static
- Can preview different devices and different modes (dark mode, dynamic text size,...)

```
import SwiftUI

struct ContentView: View {

    var myText: String = ""

    var body: some View {
        VStack {
            Text(myText)
                .font(.largeTitle)
                .foregroundColor(Color.orange)
                .padding([.top, .leading, .bottom], 20.0)
                .padding([.trailing], 10.0)
                .bold()
            Image(systemName: "globe")
                .imageScale(.large)
                .foregroundColor(.accentColor)
        }
        .padding()
    }
}

struct ContentView_Previews: PreviewProvider {
    static var previews: some View {
        ContentView(myText: "Hello, iOS!") // dummy data
    }
}
```

Common Preview Options

- `.preferredColorScheme`
 - Sets the color scheme (e.g., dark mode)
- `.previewDevice`
 - Allows us to set the device
- `.environment`
 - Sets properties of the used environment such as a dynamic type size or truncation mode

Attribute Inspector

- Powerful tool to adjust properties of views
- Set, change, enable, or disable modifiers and other properties
- Changes affect the code and vice versa
- Smartly adapts the code
 - E.g., combines `.top` and `.bottom` padding to `.vertical`
- *"You can design a UI **graphically** and **in code simultaneously**"*
- *"The best app languages must **evolve together** with a UI library and IDE"*