

The Art of Writing Reasonable Concurrent Code

Pre-Conference Workshop ACCU 2017

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Felix Petriconi

2017-04-25

The [C++] language is too large for *anyone* to master

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So *everyone* lives within a subset

The [C++] language is too large for *anyone* to master
So *everyone* lives within a subset

Sean Parent, C++Now, 2012

- ▶ School (UCSD Pascal, Turbo Pascal)
- ▶ Studied electrical engineering (Modula 2, Ada, C++)
- ▶ Student research assistant (1992-1996) (Turbo Pascal, C++, C)
- ▶ Freelance programmer 1996-2003 (Ericsson, Siemens-VDO, etc.)
 - ▶ Development of test software for embedded devices (Perl, C)
- ▶ Programmer and development manager 2003-today at MeVis Medical Solutions AG, Bremen, Germany
 - ▶ Development of medical devices in the area of mammography and radio therapy (C++, Ruby, Python)
- ▶ Programming activities:
 - ▶ Blog editor of ISO C++ website
 - ▶ Active member of C++ User Group Bremen
 - ▶ Contributor to Sean Parent's concurrency library
 - ▶ Member of ACCU conference committee
- ▶ Married with Nicole, having three children, living near Bremen, Germany
- ▶ Other interests: Classic film scores, composition

Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

Why are we here?

Why am I here?

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

Why am I here?

I saw how we developed multi threaded code in the past.
I saw how easy it is to make mistakes.
I saw and still see how difficult it is to maintain this code.

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I was impressed.

I wanted to learn more.

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I watched recordings from Sean Parent's talks about "Better Code".

I was impressed.

I wanted to learn more.

I'm collaborating in his open source project for a new library.

I'm continuously learning there a lot.

I care about sharing my knowledge, here at the ACCU conference.

Why are you here?

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Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

What is your motivation to be here?

Problems from my domain

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Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

Problems from my
domain

- ▶ Loading of huge images blocks UI
- ▶ Storing of files blocks UI
- ▶ Re-coding of huge images takes very long
- ▶ DB accesses takes too long
- ▶ ...

Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

Problems from my
domain

Why do we have to talk about concurrency?

Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

Problems from my
domain

The free lunch is over!

The free lunch is over!

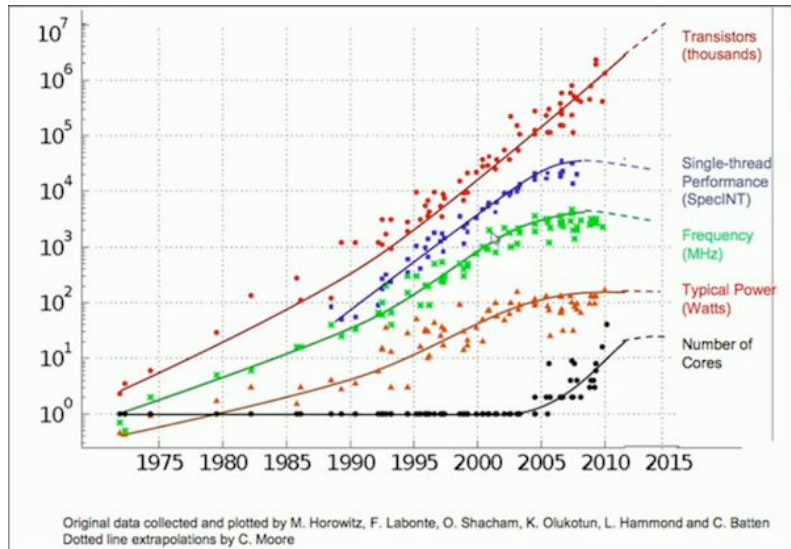
Herb Sutter, 2005¹

The free lunch is over!

Herb Sutter, 2005¹

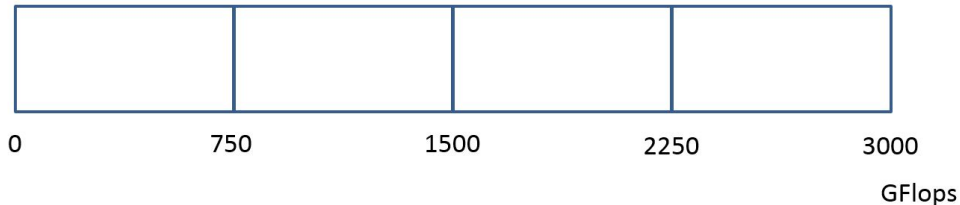
¹The Free Lunch Is Over: A Fundamental Turn Toward Concurrency in Software
<http://www.gotw.ca/publications/concurrency-ddj.htm>

The free lunch is over



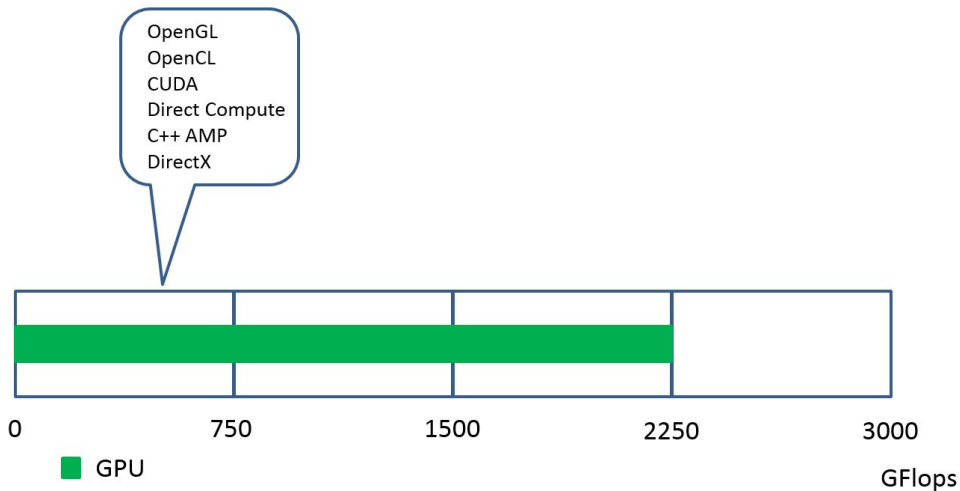
Desktop Compute Power

8-core 3.5GHz (Sandy Bridge + AMD Radeon 6950)



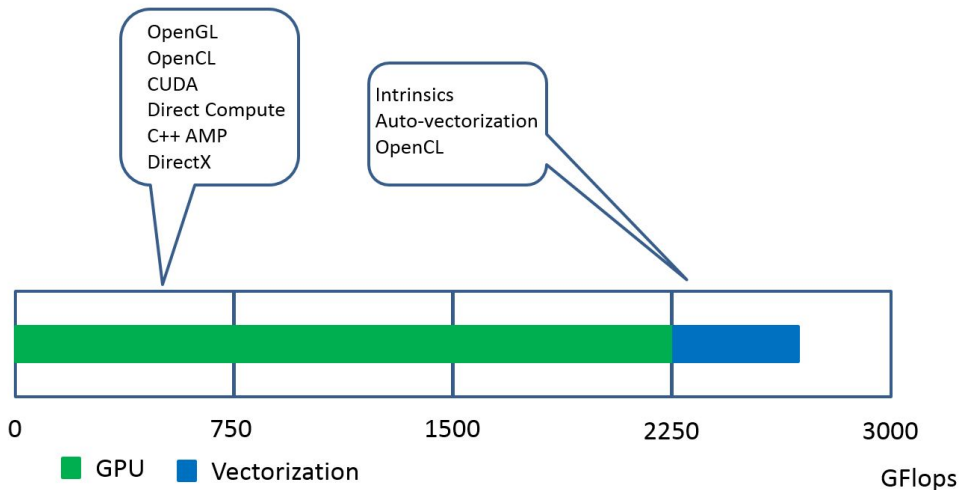
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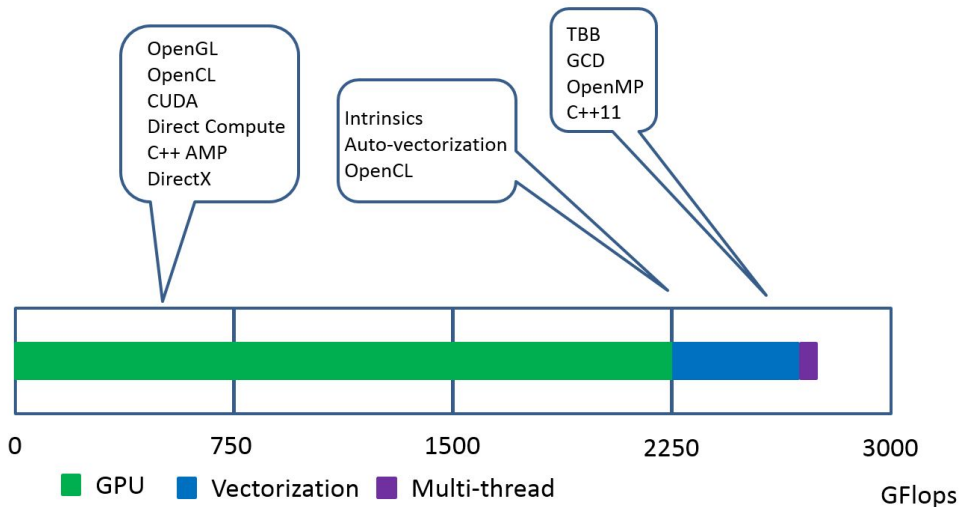
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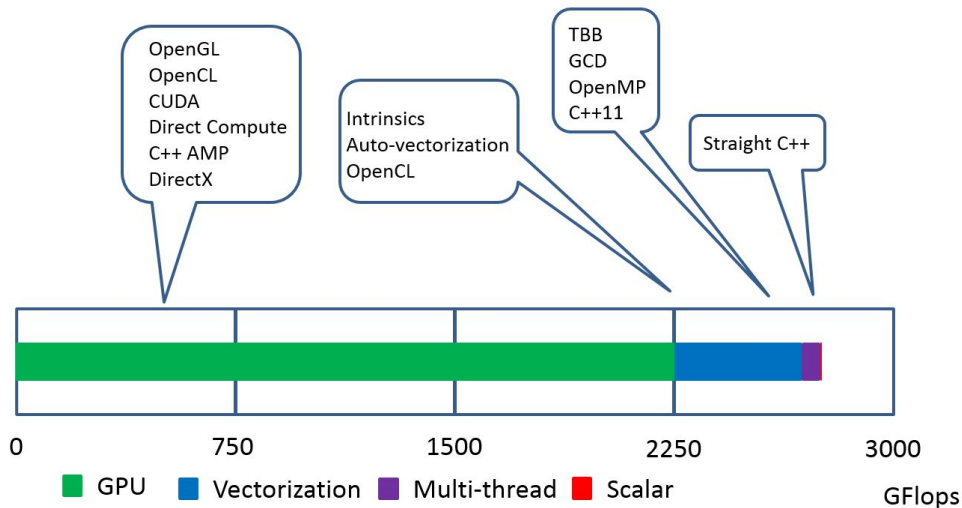
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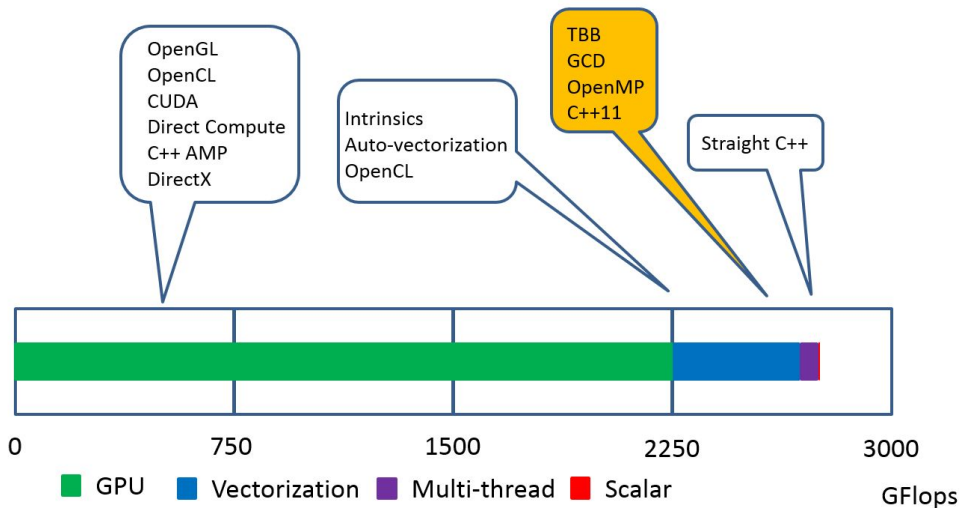
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$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$

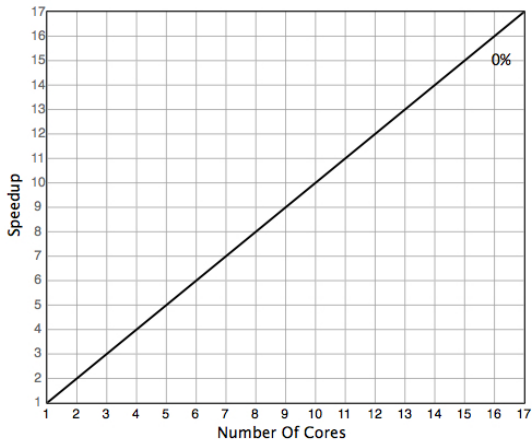
P : Synchronization $[0 - 1]$

N : Number of Cores

Amdahl's Law

0% Synchronization

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$
$$P = 0$$



Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

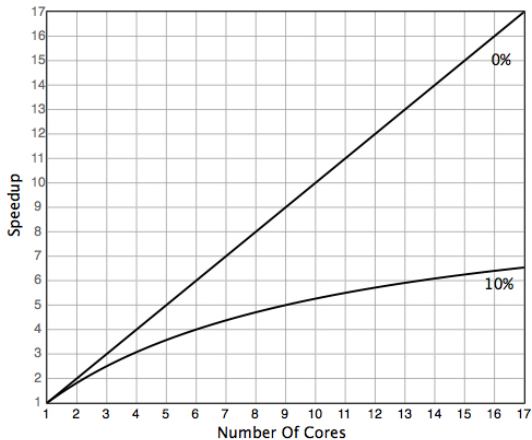
Problems from my
domain

Amdahl's Law

10% Synchronization

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$

$P = 0.1$



Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

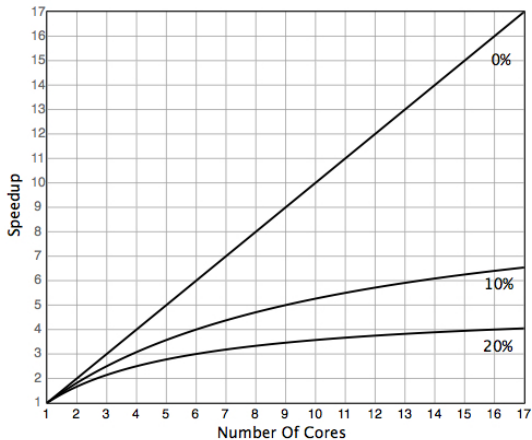
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domain

Amdahl's Law

20% Synchronization

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$

$P = 0.2$



Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

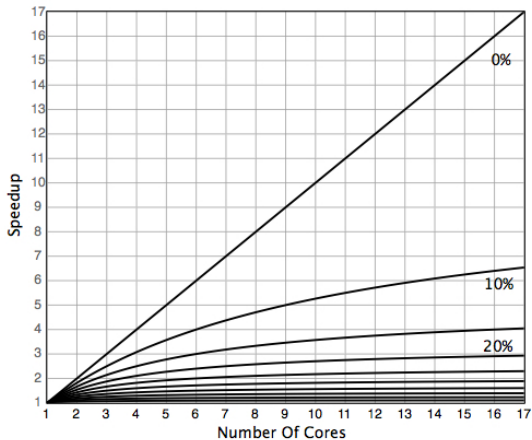
Problems from my
domain

Amdahl's Law

90% Synchronization

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$

$P = 0.9$



Why am I here?

Why are you here?

Motivation

Problems from my
domain

Futures

- Why Futures?

- Introduction

- C++ Standard - Futures

 - Exceptions

 - Deficiencies

- Boost - Futures

 - Deficiencies

 - Future Continuation

 - Future Join

- stlab - Futures

 - Executors

 - Error Recovery

 - Join

 - Splits

- Exercise 1

Futures

Why Futures?

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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Why using futures?

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

Why Futures?

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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Why using futures?

Aren't threads, mutex, atomics great?

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

Why Futures?

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

Why using futures?

Aren't threads, mutex, atomics great?

They are great tools "to shot yourself into the foot!"

Why Futures?

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

Why using futures?

Aren't threads, mutex, atomics great?

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It is so easy

- ▶ having race conditions
- ▶ having dead locks
- ▶ wasting CPU cycles through contention

Why Futures?

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

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Do you program your application in assembly?

Why Futures?

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

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It is so easy

- ▶ having race conditions
- ▶ having dead locks
- ▶ wasting CPU cycles through contention

Do you program your application in assembly?

Only if it absolute time critical.

Then don't use tools from the level of assembly!



- ▶ Futures provide a mechanism to separate a function from its result



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- ▶ After the function is called the result appears "magically" in the future

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1



- ▶ Futures provide a mechanism to separate a function from its result
- ▶ After the function is called the result appears "magically" in the future
- ▶ A future is a token to the result of a function



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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1



- ▶ Futures provide a mechanism to separate a function from its result
- ▶ After the function is called the result appears "magically" in the future
- ▶ A future is a token to the result of a function
- ▶ Added with C++11
- ▶ Futures, resp. promises were invented 1977/1978 by Daniel P. Friedman, David Wise, Henry Baker and Carl Hewitt

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

**C++ Standard -
Futures**

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

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2 #include <iostream>
3
4 using namespace std;
5
6 int main() {
7
8     auto getTheAnswer = [] {
9         this_thread::sleep_for(chrono::milliseconds(815));
10        return 42;
11    };
12
13    future<int> f2 = async(launch::async, getTheAnswer);
14
15    // Do other stuff, getting the answer may take longer
16    cout << f2.get() << '\n';           // access the value
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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

**C++ Standard -
Futures**

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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C++ Standard - Futures

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

**C++ Standard -
Futures**

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

**C++ Standard -
Futures**

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

**C++ Standard -
Futures**

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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Output

42

C++ Standard - Futures - Exceptions

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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C++ Standard - Futures - Exceptions

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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C++ Standard - Futures - Exceptions

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

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C++ Standard - Futures - Exceptions

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

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C++ Standard - Futures - Exceptions

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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Output

Bad things happened: Vogons appeared!

C++ Standard - Futures - Exceptions

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

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C++11/14 Future Deficiencies

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

C++11/14 Future Deficiencies

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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- ▶ No continuation – `.then()` **X***

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

* Comes with C++17(TS)

C++11/14 Future Deficiencies

- ▶ No continuation – `.then()` **X***
- ▶ No join – `.when_all()` and `.when_any()` **X***

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- ▶ No custom executor **X**

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- ▶ Blocks on destruction (may even blocks until termination of used thread) **X**

* Comes with C++17(TS)

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

C++11/14 Future Deficiencies

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

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- ▶ Blocks on destruction (may even blocks until termination of used thread) **X**
- ▶ `.get()` has two problems:

* Comes with C++17(TS)

C++11/14 Future Deficiencies

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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- ▶ No progress monitoring (except `ready`) **X**
- ▶ No custom executor **X**
- ▶ Blocks on destruction (may even blocks until termination of used thread) **X**
- ▶ `.get()` has two problems:
 1. One thread resource is consumed which increases contention and possibly causing a deadlock **X**

* Comes with C++17(TS)

C++11/14 Future Deficiencies

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

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- ▶ No custom executor **X**
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- ▶ `.get()` has two problems:
 1. One thread resource is consumed which increases contention and possibly causing a deadlock **X**
 2. Any subsequent non-dependent calculations on the task are also blocked **X**

* Comes with C++17(TS)

C++11/14 Future Deficiencies

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Exceptions

Deficiencies

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

- ▶ No continuation – `.then()` **X***
- ▶ No join – `.when_all()` and `.when_any()` **X***
- ▶ No split – continuation in different directions **X**
- ▶ No cancellation (but can be modelled) **X**
- ▶ No progress monitoring (except `ready`) **X**
- ▶ No custom executor **X**
- ▶ Blocks on destruction (may even blocks until termination of used thread) **X**
- ▶ `.get()` has two problems:
 1. One thread resource is consumed which increases contention and possibly causing a deadlock **X**
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- ▶ Don't behave as a regular type **X**

* Comes with C++17(TS)

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

- ▶ Continuation – `.then()` ✓
- ▶ Join – `.when_all()` and `.when_any()` ✓

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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- ▶ Continuation – `.then()` ✓
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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Future Continuation

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

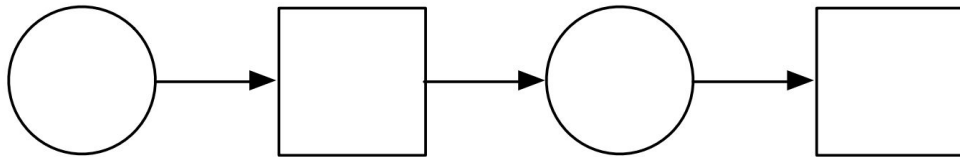
Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1



C++17(TS) / Boost - Continuation

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

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C++17(TS) / Boost - Continuation

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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C++17(TS) / Boost - Continuation

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Output

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Future Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

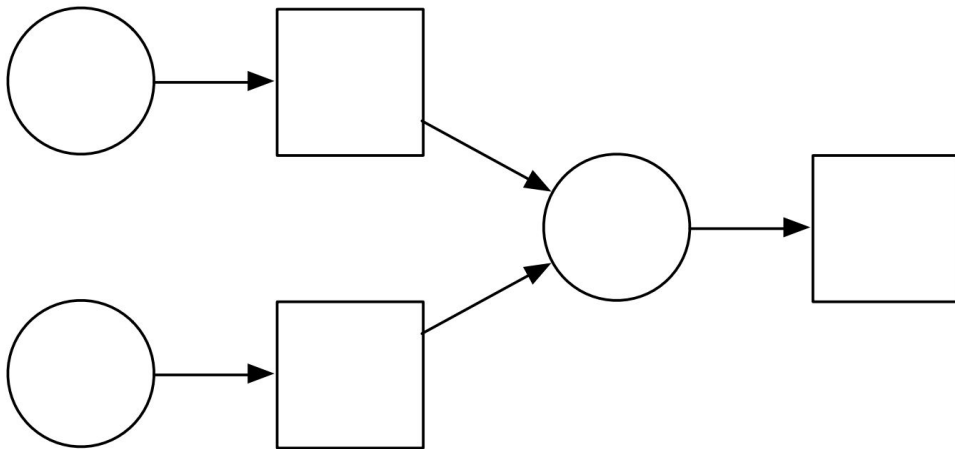
Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1



Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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Output

42

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

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What is the type of f?

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

Deficiencies

Future Continuation

Future Join

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

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```

What is the type of f?

f is a future tuple of futures: `future<tuple<future<int>, future<int>>>`



stlab::future

Source: <https://github.com/stlab/libraries>

Documentation: <http://www.stlab.cc/libraries>

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

- ▶ Continuation – `.then()` ✓

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

- ▶ Continuation – `.then()` ✓
- ▶ Join – `.when_all()` and `.when_any()` ✓

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

- ▶ Continuation – `.then()` ✓
- ▶ Join – `.when_all()` and `.when_any()` ✓
- ▶ Split – continuation in different directions ✓

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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- ▶ Cancellation ✓

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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- ▶ No progress monitoring (except ready), more planned ✗
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- ▶ Do not block on destruction ✓
- ▶ Behave as a regular type ✓
- ▶ Additional dependencies:
 - ▶ C++14: boost (optional, variant)
 - ▶ C++17: none

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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23                                     // throws exception .value() if not ready
24 }
```

Output

stlab::future - Exceptions

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

```
1 #include <stlab/future.hpp>
2 #include <stlab/default_executor.hpp>
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include <exception>
5
6 int main() {
7     auto getTheAnswer = [] {
8         throw std::runtime_error("Bad thing happened: Vogons appeared!");
9         return 42;
10    };
11    auto f = stlab::async(stlab::default_executor, getTheAnswer);
12
13    try {
14        while (!f.get_try()) { // try accessing the value
15                               // may rethrow a stored exception
16            // Do other stuff, getting the answer may take longer
17        }
18
19        std::cout << f.get_try().value() << '\n';
20    }
21    catch (const std::runtime_error& ex) {
22        std::cout << ex.what() << '\n';
23    }
24 }
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stlab::future - Exceptions

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Exceptions

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Exceptions

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Exceptions

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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21    catch (const std::runtime_error& ex) {
22        std::cout << ex.what() << '\n';
23    }
24 }
```

Output

Bad things happened: Vogons appeared!

stlab::future - Continuation

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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10         [](int a)                // pass by value and not by future
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stlab::future - Continuation

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Continuation

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Continuation

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Continuation

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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16         // do something in the meantime
17     }
18 }
```

Output

42

stlab::future - Continuation

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Output

42

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

- ▶ Executors are needed to customize where the task shall be executed

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

- ▶ Executors are needed to customize where the task shall be executed
- ▶ Executors can be general thread pools, serial queues, main queues, dedicated task groups, etc.

stlab::future - Continuation with Custom Executor

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

```
1 #include <stlab/future.hpp>
2 #include <stlab/default_executor.hpp>
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include <QLineEdit>
5 #include "QtScheduler.h"
6
7 int main() {
8     QLineEdit theAnswerEdit;
9
10    auto answer =
11        stlab::async(stlab::default_executor, []{ return 42; } );
12
13    stlab::future<void> done = answer.then(
14        QtScheduler(), // different scheduler
15        [&](int a) { theAnswerEdit.setValue(a); } // here update in main thread
16    );
17
18    while (!done.get_try()) {
19        // do something in the meantime
20    }
21 }
```

stlab::future - Continuation with Custom Executor

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Continuation with Custom Executor

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Continuation with Custom Executor

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

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Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

- ▶ In boost, executors derive from a common base class

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

- ▶ In boost, executors derive from a common base class
- ▶ In stlab the executors must provide

```
template <typename F> void operator()(F f)
```

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

- ▶ In boost, executors derive from a common base class
- ▶ In stlab the executors must provide

```
template <typename F> void operator()(F f)
```
- ▶ Let's build exemplary a custom executor for the Qt GUI, that allows to perform updates in the Qt main event loop

stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

```
1 #include <QApplication>
2 #include <Event>
3
4 class QtExecutor
5 {
6     using result_type = void;
7
8     class ExecutorEvent : public QEvent
9     {
10     };
11
12 public:
13     template <typename F>
14     void operator()(F f) {
15         auto event = new ExecutorEvent(std::move(f));
16         QApplication::postEvent(event->receiver(), event);
17     }
18 };
```

stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. I

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

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1 #include <QApplication>
2 #include <Event>
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5 {
6     using result_type = void;
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8     class EventReceiver;
9
10    class ExecutorEvent : public QEvent
11    {
12    public:
13        std::function<void()> _f;
14        std::unique_ptr<EventReceiver> _receiver;
15
16        ExecutorEvent(std::function<void()> f)
17            : QEvent(QEvent::User)
18            , _f(std::move(f))
19            , _receiver(new EventReceiver()) {
20            _receiver()->moveToThread(QApplication::instance()->thread());
21        }
22
23        void execute() { _f(); }
24
25        QObject *receiver() const { return _receiver.get(); }
26    };
27
28    public:
29    };
```

stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. I

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. I

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. I

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. I

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. I

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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13        std::function<void()> _f;
14        std::unique_ptr<EventReceiver> _receiver;
15
16        ExecutorEvent(std::function<void()> f)
17            : QEvent(QEvent::User)
18            , _f(std::move(f))
19            , _receiver(new EventReceiver()) {
20            _receiver()->moveToThread(QApplication::instance()->thread());
21        }
22
23        void execute() { _f(); }
24
25        QObject *receiver() const { return _receiver.get(); }
26    };
27
28    public:
29    };
```


stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. I

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

```
1 #include <QApplication>
2 #include <Event>
3
4 class QtExecutor
5 {
6     using result_type = void;
7
8     class EventReceiver;
9
10    class ExecutorEvent : public QEvent
11    {
12    public:
13        std::function<void()> _f;
14        std::unique_ptr<EventReceiver> _receiver;
15
16        ExecutorEvent(std::function<void()> f)
17            : QEvent(QEvent::User)
18            , _f(std::move(f))
19            , _receiver(new EventReceiver()) {
20            _receiver()->moveToThread(QApplication::instance()->thread());
21        }
22
23        void execute() { _f(); }
24
25        QObject *receiver() const { return _receiver.get(); }
26    };
27
28 public:
29     };
```

stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. II

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

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1 #include <QApplication>
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13     public:
14         bool event(QEvent *event) override {
15             auto myEvent = dynamic_cast<ExecutorEvent*>(event);
16             if (myEvent) {
17                 myEvent->execute();
18                 return true;
19             }
20             return false;
21         }
22     };
23
24     public:
25         template <typename F>
26         void operator()(F f) {
27             auto event = new ExecutorEvent(std::move(f));
28             QApplication::postEvent(event->receiver(), event);
29         }
30 };
```

stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. II

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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31    };
32 }
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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. II

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. II

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. II

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Custom Executor - Qt cont. II

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Error Recovery

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

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1 int main() {
2     auto getTheAnswer = [] {
3         throw std::runtime_error("Bad thing happened: Vogons appeared");
4         std::cout << "I have got the answer\n"; return 42;
5     };
6     auto handleTheAnswer = [](int v) {
7         if (v == 0) std::cout << "We have a problem!\n";
8         else std::cout << "The answer is " << v << '\n';
9     };
10
11    auto f = stlab::async(stlab::default_executor, getTheAnswer)
12        .recover([](stlab::future<int> result) {
13            if (result.error()) {
14                std::cout << "Listen to Vagon poetry!\n";
15                return 0;
16            }
17            return result.get_try().value();
18        }).then(handleTheAnswer);
19
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21 }
```


stlab::future - Error Recovery

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

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stlab::future - Error Recovery

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Error Recovery

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Error Recovery

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

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stlab::future - Error Recovery

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Error Recovery

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -

Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Error Recovery

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Error Recovery

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Output

Listen to Vagon poetry!
We have a problem!

stlab::future - Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1

```
1 #include <stlab/future.hpp>
2 #include <stlab/default_executor.hpp>
3 #include <iostream>
4
5 using namespace stlab;
6
7 int main() {
8     auto a = async(default_executor, []{ return 40; });
9     auto b = async(default_executor, []{ return 2; });
10
11     auto answer = when_all(
12         default_executor,
13         [](int x, int y) { return x + y; },
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stlab::future - Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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stlab::future - Join

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

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Output

42

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

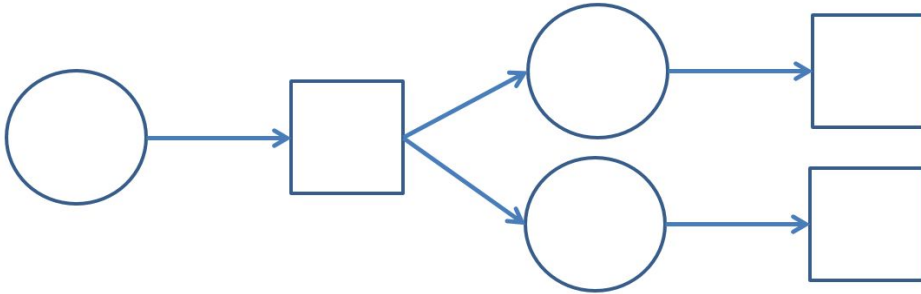
Executors

Error Recovery

Join

Splits

Exercise 1



stlab::future - Split

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

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Join

Splits

Exercise 1

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1 #include <stlab/future.hpp>
2 #include <stlab/default_executor.hpp>
3 #include <iostream>
4
5 using namespace stlab;
6
7 int main() {
8     auto answer = async(default_executor, []{ return 42; });
9
10    auto dent = answer.then([](int a) {
11        std::cout << "Tell the answer " << a << " Arthur Dent\n";
12    });
13
14    auto marvin = answer.then([](int a) {
15        std::cout << "May the answer " << a << " shear up Marvin\n";
16    });
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19        // wait for something else
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Executors

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Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Executors

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stlab::future - Split

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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Boost - Futures

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Executors

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42 shear up Marvin

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Futures

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Executors

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```

Output

Tell the answer May the answer 42 Arthur Dent

42 shear up Marvin ⇒ Race condition by using std::cout

Demo Exercise 1

Exercise 1

Futures

Why Futures?

Introduction

C++ Standard -
Futures

Boost - Futures

stlab - Futures

Exercise 1

Change the application in a way that

- ▶ using `Start` does not block the UI,
- ▶ it is possible to cancel the running operation,
- ▶ it is possible to restart it.

Futures are a great concept to structure the code so that it runs with minimal contention.

Futures are a great concept to structure the code so that it runs with minimal contention.

After a single execution the graph cannot be used any more.

Channel Motivation

Channel - Stateless Process

- Channel - Split

- Channel - Join

- Exercise 2

Channel Stateful Process

- Exercise 3

Channel Introduction

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Channel
Motivation

Channel - Stateless
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Channel Stateful
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Channel Introduction



- ▶ Each change triggers a notification to the sink values

Channel Introduction



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Channel Introduction



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- ▶ Channels allow the creation of persistent execution graphs
- ▶ This is also known as reactive programming model
- ▶ First published by Tony Hoare 1978

Channel - Stateless Process

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1 #include <stlab/channel.hpp>
2 #include <stlab/default_executor.hpp>
3 #include <iostream>
4 int main() {
5     stlab::sender<int> send;           // sending part of the channel
6     stlab::receiver<int> receiver;     // receiving part of the channel
7     std::tie(send, receiver) =        // combining both to a channel
8         stlab::channel<int>(stlab::default_executor);
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10    auto printer =
11        [](int x){ std::cout << x << '\n'; }; // stateless process
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13    auto printer_process =
14        receiver | printer;             // attaching process to the receiving
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16    receiver.set_ready();               // no more processes will be attached
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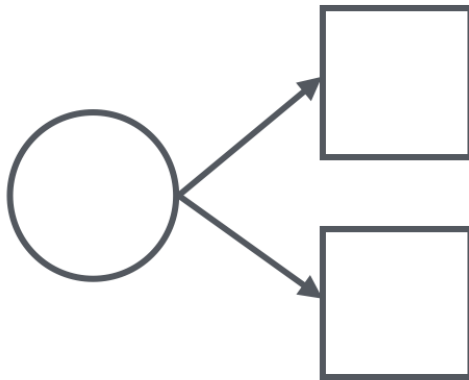
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Output

```
1
2
3
```

Channel - Split



Channel - Split Process

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2 int main() {
3     sender<int> send;
4     receiver<int> receiver;
5     std::tie(send, receiver) = channel<int>(default_executor);
6
7     auto printerA = [](int x){ printf("Process A %d\n", x); };
8     auto printerB = [](int x){ printf("Process B %d\n", x); };
9
10    auto printer_processA = receiver | printerA;
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Channel - Split Process

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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Channel
Motivation

Channel - Stateless
Process

Channel - Split
Channel - Join
Exercise 2

Channel Stateful
Process

```
1 using namespace stlab;
2 int main() {
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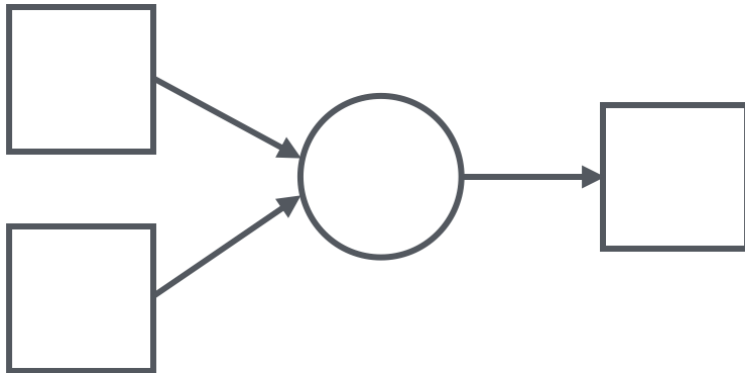
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Output

```
Process A 1
Process B 1
Process A 2
Process B 2
Process B 3
Process A 3
```


Channel - Join



Channel - Joined Processes

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Concurrent Code

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Channel
Motivation

Channel - Stateless
Process

Channel - Split
Channel - Join
Exercise 2

Channel Stateful
Process

```
1 using namespace stlab;
2
3 int main() {
4     sender<int> sendA, sendB;
5     receiver<int> receiverA, receiverB;
6     std::tie(sendA, receiverA) = channel<int>(default_executor);
7     std::tie(sendB, receiverB) = channel<int>(default_executor);
8
9     auto printer = [](int x, int y){ printf("Process %d %d\n", x, y); };
10
11     auto printProcess = join(default_executor, printer,
12                             receiverA, receiverB);
13
14     receiverA.set_ready();
15     receiverB.set_ready();
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17     sendA(1); sendA(2); sendB(3); sendA(4); sendB(5); sendB(6);
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19     int end; std::cin >> end;
20 }
```

Channel - Joined Processes

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Channel
Motivation

Channel - Stateless
Process

Channel - Split
Channel - Join
Exercise 2

Channel Stateful
Process

```
1 using namespace stlab;
2
3 int main() {
4     sender<int> sendA, sendB;
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8
9     auto printer = [](int x, int y){ printf("Process %d %d\n", x, y); };
10
11     auto printProcess = join(default_executor, printer,
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Channel - Joined Processes

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```

Channel - Joined Processes

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Channel - Joined Processes

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Exercise 2

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5     receiver<int> receiverA, receiverB;
6     std::tie(sendA, receiverA) = channel<int>(default_executor);
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11     auto printProcess = join(default_executor, printer,
12                             receiverA, receiverB);
13
14     receiverA.set_ready();
15     receiverB.set_ready();
16
17     sendA(1); sendA(2); sendB(3); sendA(4); sendB(5); sendB(6);
18
19     int end; std::cin >> end;
20 }
```

Output

Process 1 3
Process 2 5
Process 4 6

Beside `join()` there are:

- ▶ `zip()` The process takes the passed values in a round-robin manner, starting with the result from the first receiver.
- ▶ `merge()` The process takes the values in an arbitrary order.

Demo Exercise 2

Exercise 2

Create a process chain with

- ▶ the inputs
 - ▶ one `int` input
 - ▶ one `std::string` input
 - ▶ one `double` input
- ▶ all inputs are joined to a process that concatenates all the results into a string and
- ▶ the result is split into
 - ▶ one process that prints the result into console,
 - ▶ one process that stores the result into a file
- ▶ show with two value triplets, that the implementation works
- ▶ don't use any synchronization primitive

- ▶ Stateless processes (from the point of view of the channel) have a 1:1 relationship from input to output

Channel Stateful Process - Motivation

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Concurrent Code

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Channel
Motivation

Channel - Stateless
Process

Channel Stateful
Process

Exercise 3

- ▶ Some problems need a processor with state
- ▶ Some problems have an $n : m$ relationship from input to output
- ▶ The picture becomes more complicated with states:
 - ▶ When to proceed?
 - ▶ How to handle situations when less than expected values come downstream?

Channel - Stateful Process Signature

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Channel
Motivation

Channel - Stateless
Process

Channel Stateful
Process
Exercise 3

```
1 #include <stlab/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::system_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17 };
```

Stateful Process Signature - await

```
1 #include <stlab/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::system_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17};
```

The `await` method is called on the process whenever a new value was received from upstream. The type `T` stands here for any semi regular or move-only type. The number of arguments depends on the number of attached upstream sender. Potential state changes from awaitable to yieldable should happen while this method is invoked.

Stateful Process Signature - yield

```
1 #include <stlab/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::system_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17 };
```

The `yield` method is called on the process whenever the `process_state_scheduled.first` is `process_state::yield` or a timeout was provided with the recent call to `state()` and that has elapsed.

Stateful Process Signature - state

```
1 #include <stlab/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::system_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17};
```

This method must return the current state of the process. Typical return values are `await_forever` and `yield_immediate`. By explicitly using the second part of the return type, one can set a possible timeout. Subsequent calls *without* an intermittent `await()`, `close()`, or `yield()` must return the same values. Otherwise the result is undefined.

Stateful Process Signature - close

```
1 #include <stlab/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::system_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17 };
```

The optional `close()` method is called on the process whenever the process state is `await_forever` and the incoming queue went dry. As well it is called when an exception is thrown while calling `await()` or `yield()` and no `set_error()` is available.

Stateful Process Signature - set_error

```
1 #include <stlab/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::system_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17 };
```

The method `set_error()` is optional. It is called if either on calling `await()` or `yield()` an exception was thrown. The pointer of the caught exception is passed. In case that the process does not provide this method, `close()` is called instead of.

Channel - Stateful Process Example

The Art of Writing
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Concurrent Code

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Channel
Motivation

Channel - Stateless
Process

Channel Stateful
Process

Exercise 3

```
1  #include <stlab/channel.hpp>
2  #include <stlab/default_executor.hpp>
3  #include <iostream>
4  using namespace stlab;
5
6  struct adder
7  {
8  };
9
10 int main() {
11     sender<int> send;
12     receiver<int> receiver;
13     std::tie(send, receiver) = channel<int>(default_executor);
14
15     auto calculator = receiver | adder{} |
16         [](int x) { std::cout << x << '\n'; };
17
18     receiver.set_ready();
19
20     while (true) {
21         int x;
22         std::cin >> x;
23         send(x);
24     }
25 }
```

Channel - Stateful Process Example

```
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```

Channel - Stateful Process Example

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Channel
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22         std::cin >> x;
23         send(x);
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25 }
```

Channel - Stateful Process Example

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Channel
Motivation

Channel - Stateless
Process

Channel Stateful
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Exercise 3

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18     receiver.set_ready();
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21         int x;
22         std::cin >> x;
23         send(x);
24     }
25 }
```


Channel - Stateful Process Example cont.

```
1 struct adder
2 {
3     int _sum = 0;
4     process_state_scheduled _state = await_forever;
5
6     void await(int x) {
7         _sum += x;
8         if (x == 0) {
9             _state = yield_immediate;
10        }
11    }
12
13    int yield() {
14        int result = _sum;
15        _sum = 0;
16        _state = await_forever;
17        return result;
18    }
19
20    auto state() const { return _state; }
21 };
22
23 int main() {
24     auto calculator = receiver | adder{} |
25     [](int x) { std::cout << x << '\n'; };
26     while (true) {
27         int x;
28         std::cin >> x;
29         send(x);
30     }
31 }
```

Channel - Stateful Process Example cont.

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17        return result;
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```

Channel - Stateful Process Example cont.

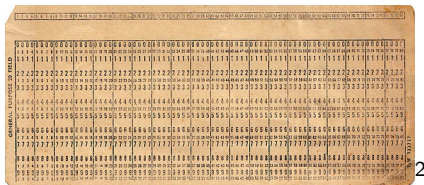
```
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Demo Exercise 3

Exercise 3



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Channel
Motivation

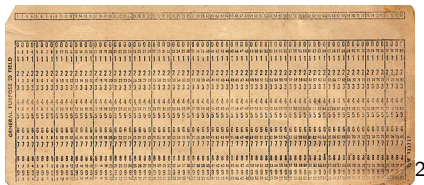
Channel - Stateless
Process

Channel Stateful
Process

Exercise 3

²By Ventriloquist - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32753387>

Exercise 3



A process which inputs cards of eighty characters and outputs their text, tightly packed into lines of 125 characters each.

- ▶ Write one process - unpack - that collect 80 chars in a bunch and yields them one after the other
- ▶ Write one process - pack - that packs 125 chars and yields them.
- ▶ Concatenate unpack - pack as a process chain.
- ▶ In a next step write one process - filter - that drops all newlines from the stream
- ▶ Concatenate now unpack - filter - pack as a process chain.

²By Ventriloquist - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32753387>

- ▶ Are there performance or usability problems?
- ▶ Identify the overall critical part
- ▶ Disassemble this part into individual processes
- ▶ Chain the processes with futures or channels

Use case example I

Problem within our mammography application:

Use case example I

Problem within our mammography application:

- ▶ Medical device shall open every case in < 1 s

Problem within our mammography application:

- ▶ Medical device shall open every case in < 1 s
- ▶ Loading of patient data and first images takes about 0.6 s

Problem within our mammography application:

- ▶ Medical device shall open every case in < 1 s
- ▶ Loading of patient data and first images takes about 0.6 s
- ▶ Reading of additional data structures (CAD³reports) may take more than 0.4 s

³Computer **A**ided **D**etection

Problem within our mammography application:

- ▶ Medical device shall open every case in < 1 s
- ▶ Loading of patient data and first images takes about 0.6 s
- ▶ Reading of additional data structures (CAD³reports) may take more than 0.4 s
- ▶ Direct access to any CAD report might be required

³Computer **A**ided **D**etection

Problem within our mammography application:

- ▶ Medical device shall open every case in < 1 s
- ▶ Loading of patient data and first images takes about 0.6 s
- ▶ Reading of additional data structures (CAD³reports) may take more than 0.4 s
- ▶ Direct access to any CAD report might be required
- ▶ If the user skips this case and advances to the next one, outstanding load operations should be cancelled or at least be ignored

³Computer **A**ided **D**etection

Demo Exercise 4

Improve the application that the UI is always responsible

- ▶ On Reset the reports are newly read
- ▶ If one presses 1 or 2 while the reset is running, the reports shall be displayed as soon as they become available.

High level concurrency sessions at ACCU 2017:

- ▶ Thinking Outside the Synchronisation Quadrant by Kevlin Henney (Wed.)
- ▶ Coroutines in Python by Robert Smallshire (Thur.)
- ▶ Coroutines in C++ by Dominic Robinson (Fr.)
- ▶ Concurrency / Coroutines by Anthony Williams (Sat.)

Synchronization Motivation

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Synchronization

Synchronization
with Mutex

Synchronization
without Mutex

Why do we have to synchronize?

Synchronization Motivation

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

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Synchronization

Synchronization
with Mutex

Synchronization
without Mutex

Why do we have to synchronize?

Because we have to ensure sequential consistency.

Synchronization Motivation

Why do we have to synchronize?

Because we have to ensure sequential consistency.

What synchronization mechanism do you know?

Why do we have to synchronize?

Because we have to ensure sequential consistency.

What synchronization mechanism do you know?

- ▶ *Synchronization primitives (mutex, atomic, memory fence, ...)*

Why do we have to synchronize?

Because we have to ensure sequential consistency.

What synchronization mechanism do you know?

- ▶ *Synchronization primitives (mutex, atomic, memory fence, ...)*
- ▶ *Guaranteed sequential access*

Synchronization with Mutex

```
1 template <typename K, typename V>
2 class registry
3 {
4     map<K, V> _data;
5     mutex _guard;
6 public:
7     void insert(const K& key, const V& value) {
8         unique_lock<mutex> lock(_guard);
9         _data.insert(
10             make_pair("What is the answer?", 42)
11         );
12     }
13
14     V operator[](const K& key) {
15         unique_lock<mutex> lock(_guard);
16         return _data[key];
17     }
18 };
19
20 int main() {
21     registry<string, int> my_registry;
22     auto work = [&] { my_registry.insert("What is the answer?", 42); };
23     auto f1 = async(launch::async, work);
24     auto f2 = async(launch::async, work);
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Synchronization with Mutex

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Synchronization with Mutex

The Art of Writing
Reasonable
Concurrent Code

Felix Petriconi

Synchronization

Synchronization
with Mutex

Synchronization
without Mutex

Mutex - What would be a better name for it?

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*Bottleneck!*⁴

⁴Kevlin Henney, NDC London 2017

Synchronization without Mutex

How can the code be transformed into something without a mutex in the client code?

Synchronization without Mutex

How can the code be transformed into something without a mutex in the client code?

What is needed to perform that transformation? Which tools do we have in our tool box?

Synchronization without Mutex

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1 template <typename K, typename V>
2 class registry
3 {
4     std::shared_ptr<map<K, V>> _data;
5     serial_queue _queue;
6 public:
7     void insert(K key, V val) {
8         _queue.async([_d = _data,
9                     _key = std::move(key),
10                    _val = std::move(val)] {
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So we try to avoid mutexes wherever it is possible.

All computer wait at the same speed

Image Preparation Pipeline

- ▶ A medial device shall display multi-frame image data sets
- ▶ Each incoming data set is JPEG 2000 compressed
- ▶ The slices must be decompressed and then compressed in FELICS⁵ format for fast decompression and display
- ▶ Reading and writing to disk takes a reasonable amount of time

⁵Special compression algorithm for 16bit grayscale images

- ▶ Concurrency library <https://github.com/stlab/libraries>
- ▶ Documentation <http://www.stlab.cc/libraries>
- ▶ Communicating Sequential Processes by C. A. R. Hoare
<http://usingcsp.com/cspbook.pdf>
- ▶ The Theory and Practice of Concurrency by A.W. Roscoe <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/people/bill.roscoe/publications/68b.pdf>

Software Principles and Algorithms

- ▶ Elements of Programming by Alexander Stepanov, Paul McJones, Addison Wesley
- ▶ From Mathematics to Generic Programming by Alexander Stepanov, Daniel Rose, Addison Wesley

Concurrency and Parallelism

- ▶ HPX <http://stellar-group.org/libraries/hpx/>
- ▶ C++CSP <https://www.cs.kent.ac.uk/projects/ofa/c++csp>
- ▶ CAF_C++ Actor Framework <http://actor-framework.org/>
- ▶ C++ Concurrency In Action by Anthony Williams, Manning (2nd edition coming soon)

- ▶ Goals for better code by Sean Parent:
<http://sean-parent.stlab.cc/papers-and-presentations>
- ▶ Goals for better code by Sean Parent: Concurrency:
<https://youtu.be/au0xX4h8SCI?t=16354>
- ▶ Thinking Outside the Synchronization Quadrant by Kevlin Henney:
<https://vimeo.com/205806162>

- ▶ My family, who gave me the freedom to develop over months the library, prepare this tutorial and let me travel to the ACCU.
- ▶ Sean Parent, who taught me over time lots about concurrency and abstraction. He gave me the permission to use whatever I needed from his presentations for my own.
- ▶ My company MeVis Medical Solutions AG, that released me from work during the ACCU.

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