

# PRACTICAL CONCURRENT -&- PARALLEL PROGRAMMING

## MESSAGE PASSING CONCURRENCY II / II



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Head of **SQUARE** Research Group  
((( Department of Computer Science )))  
 **IT University of Copenhagen**

# Recap

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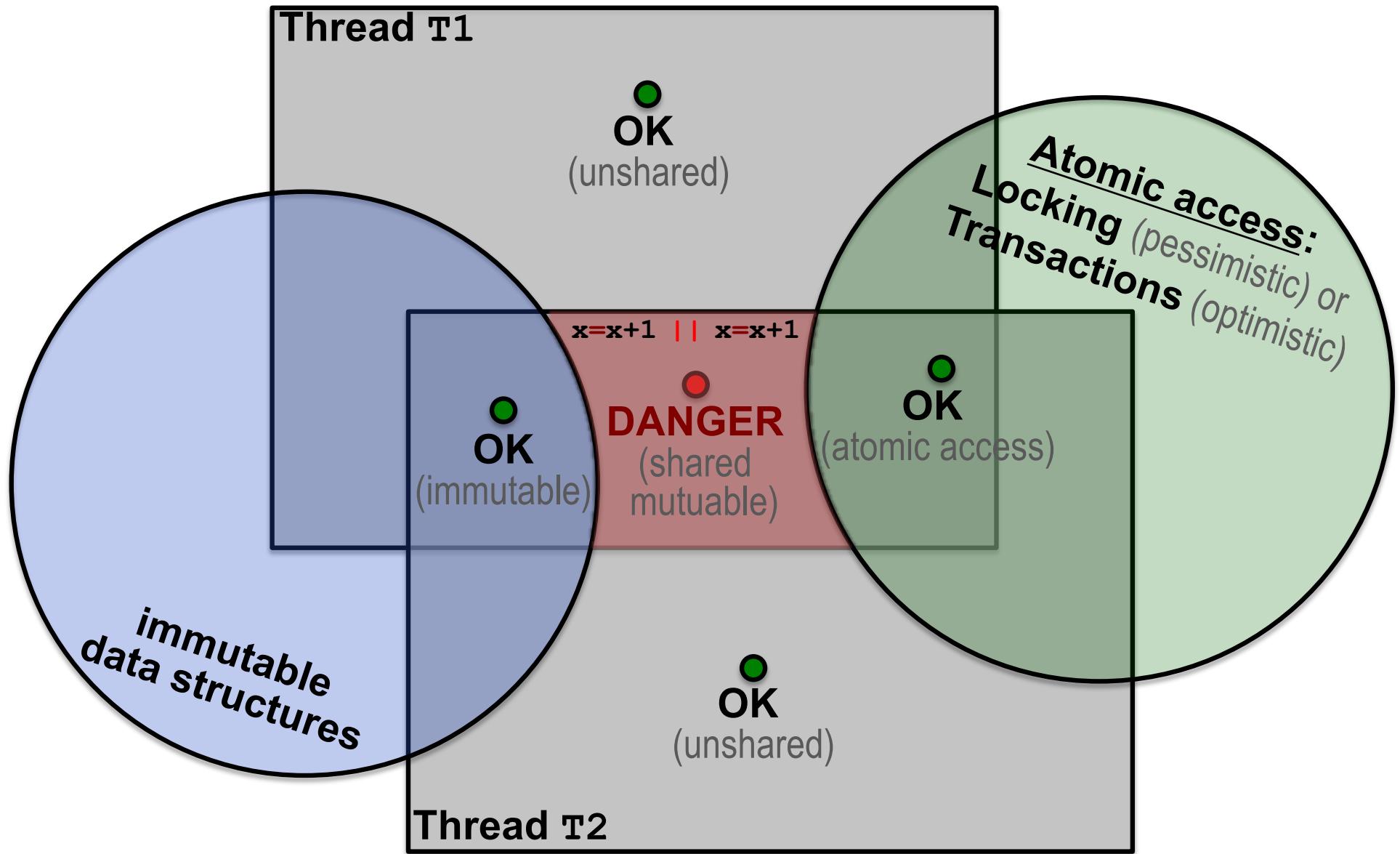
*Introduction to Message Passing*

# PROBLEM:

## Sharing && Mutability!

**SOLUTIONS:**

- 1) atomic access!  
locking or transactions  
NB: avoid deadlock!
- 2) avoid mutability!
- 3) avoid sharing...

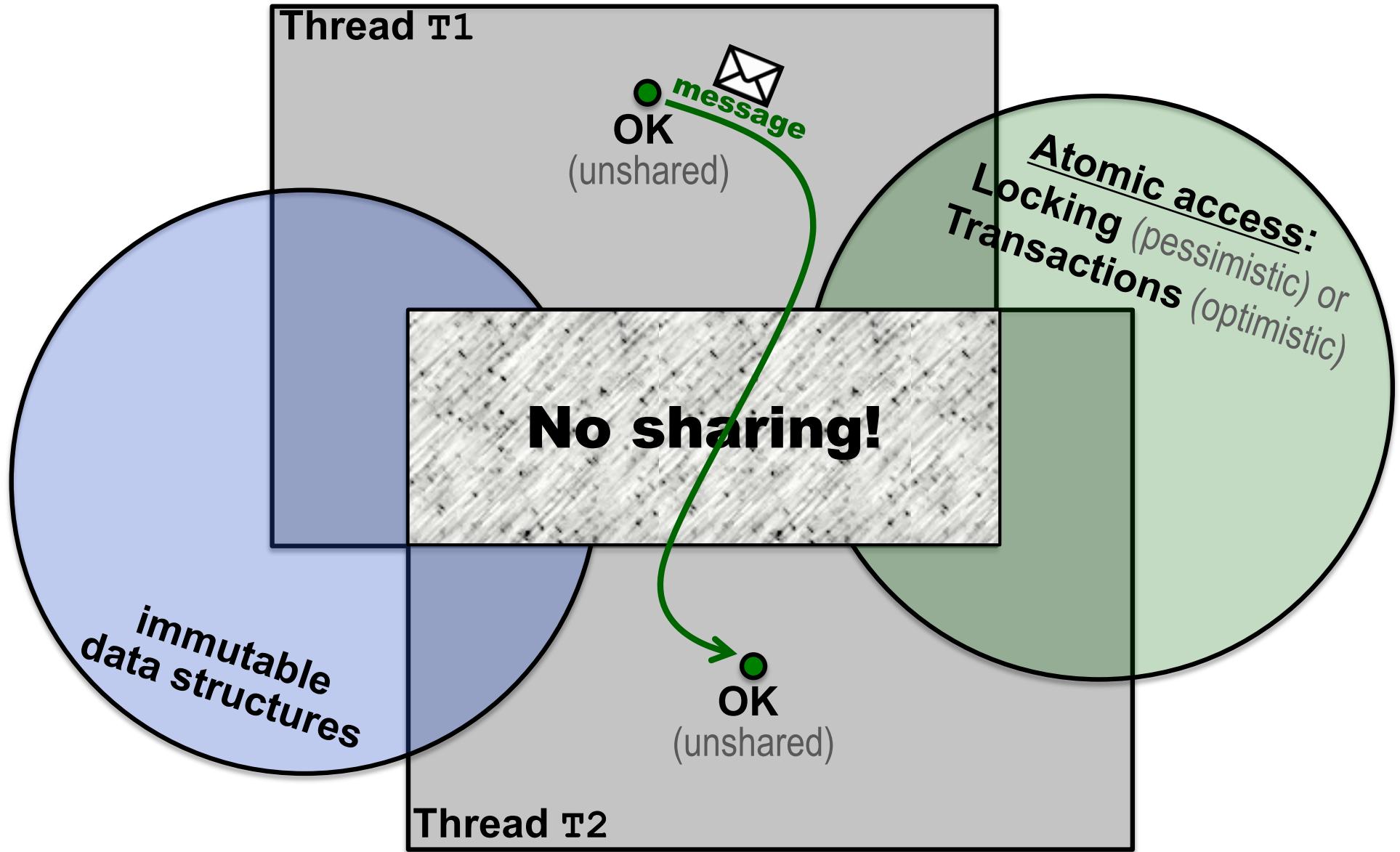


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# Philosophy & Expectations!

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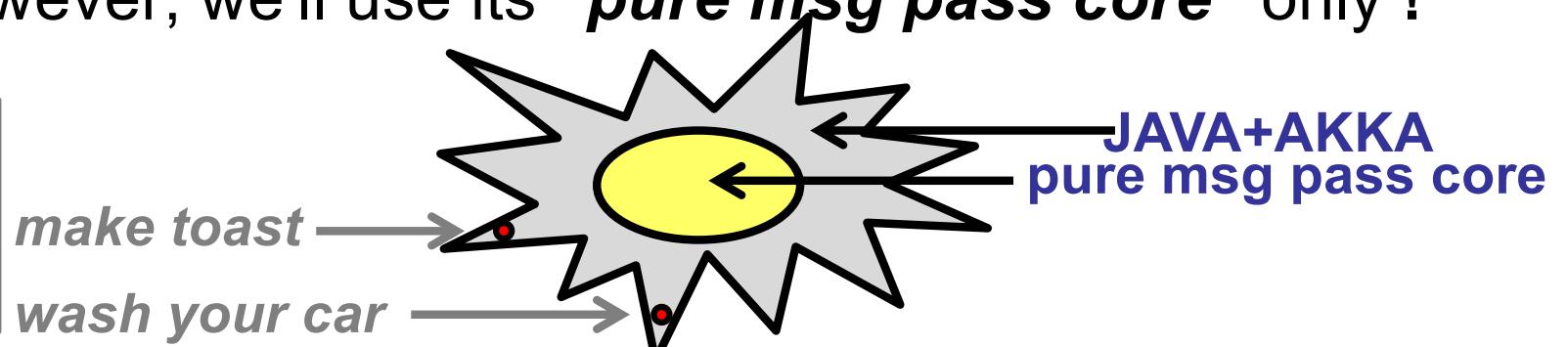
## ■ ERLANG:

- We'll use as message passing *specification language*
- You have to-be-able-to *read* simple ERLANG programs
  - (i.e., not *write*, nor *modify*)

## ■ JAVA+AKKA:

- We'll use as msg passing *implementation language*
- You have 2-b-a-2 *read/write/modify* JAVA+AKKA p's
- However, we'll use its "*pure msg pass core*" only !

NB: we're  
not going to  
use all of its  
fantazilions  
of functions!



# Actor: Send / Receive / Spawn

## ■ Send:

- `Pid ! M` // Message M is sent to process Pid
- `Pid ! {some, {complex, structured, [m,s,g]}, 42}`

## ■ Receive:

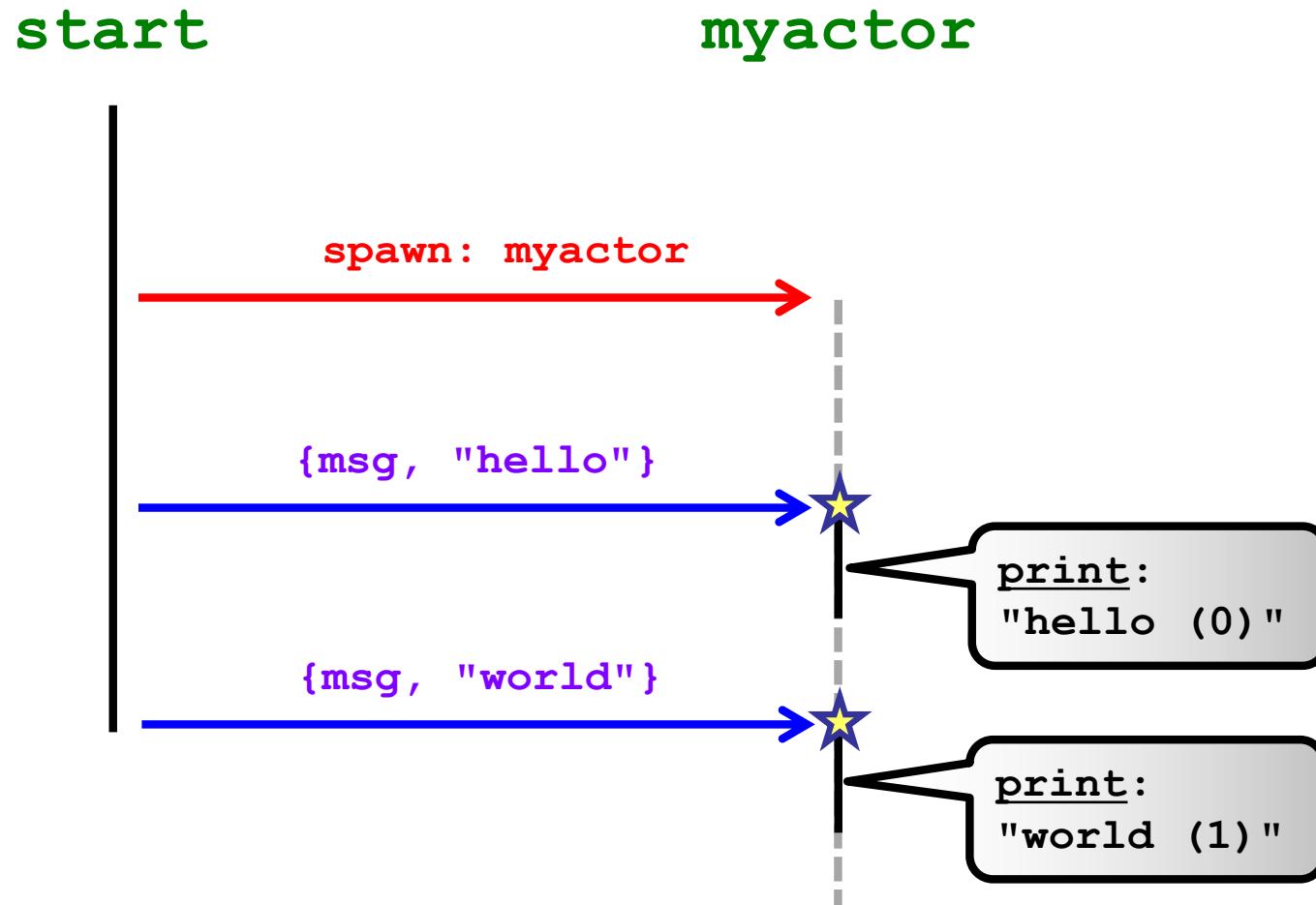
- ```
receive
    pattern1 -> ...
    ;
    pattern2 -> ...
end
```
- ```
receive
    {init,N} when N>0 -> ...
    ;
    {init,N} -> ...
end
```

## ■ Spawn:

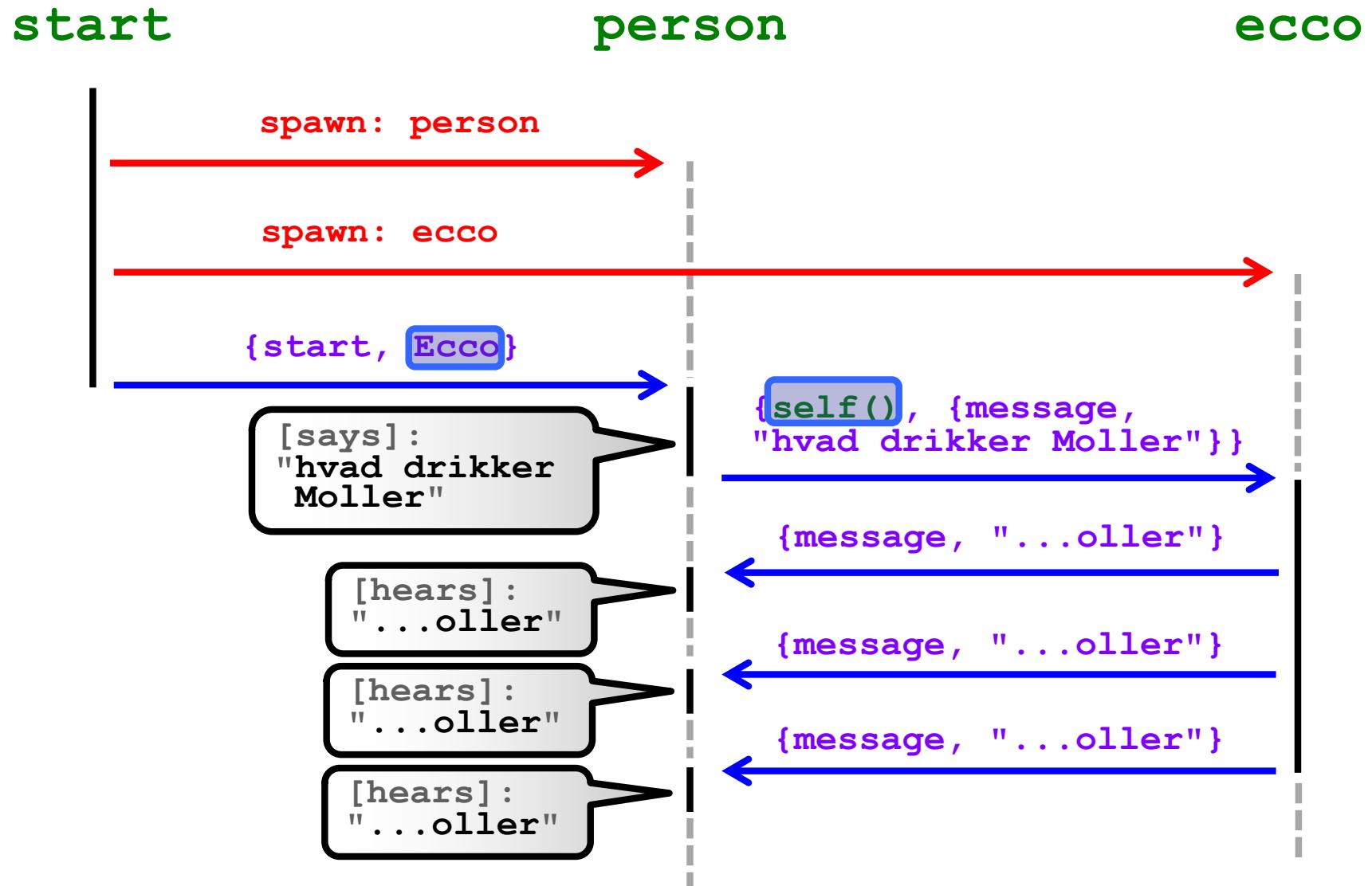
- `MyActorId = 'spawn' (mymodule,myactor,[a,r,g,s])`

# 1) HelloWorld

**LEGEND:**  
**send, receive, msgs**  
**actors, spawn, rest.**



## 2) Ecco



# AGENDA

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- **3) Broadcast:**

- From ERLANG to JAVA+AKKA
- Communication protocols (one-to-one ⇒ one-to-many)

- **AKKA: A proper introduction**

- Motivations and benefits of Actors & Message Passing
- Recommendations

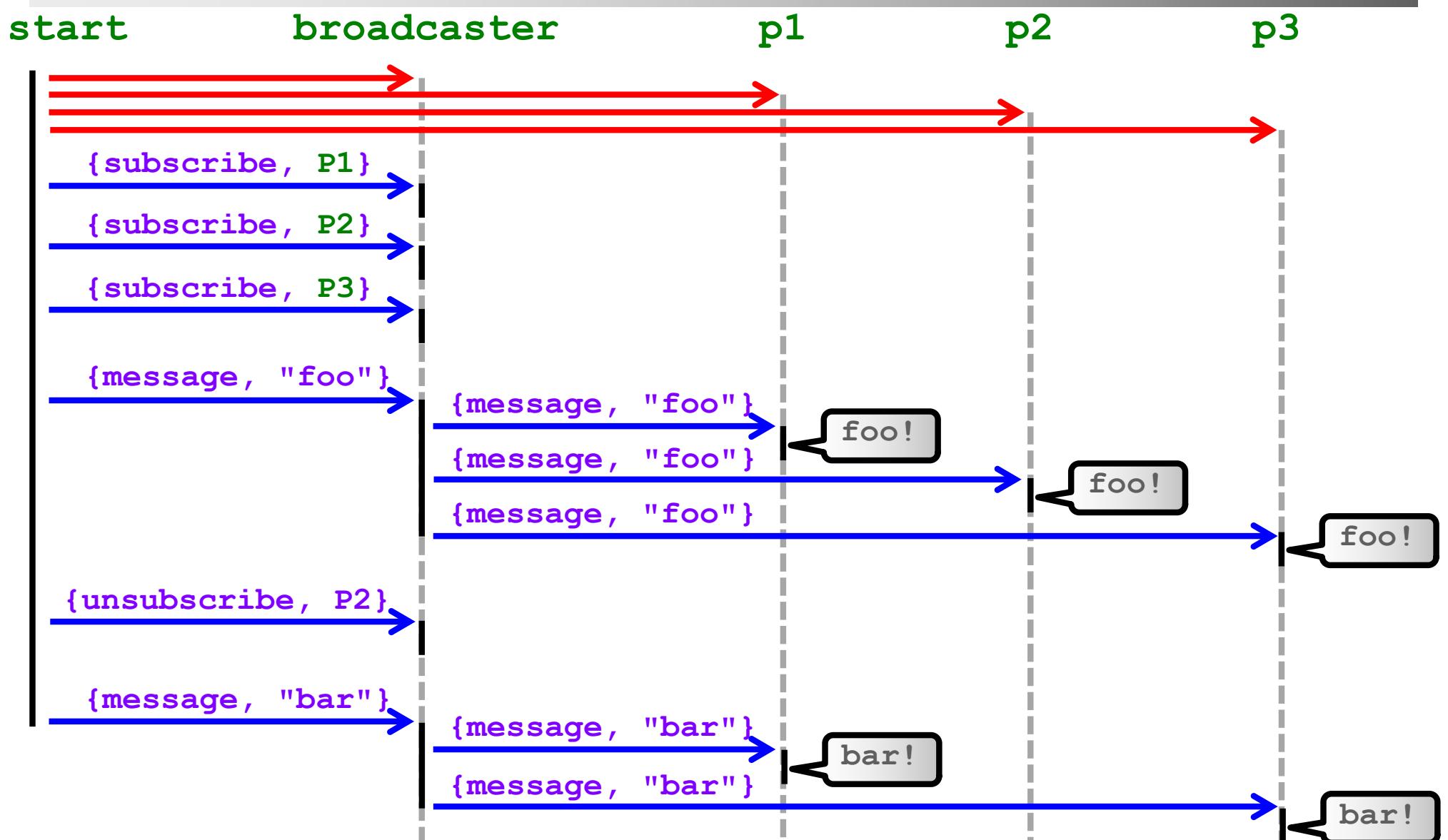
- **4) Primer:**

- Hierarchic organization: managers supervise workers
- Performance: MacBook Air -vs- MTLab Server

- **★ Scatter-Gatherer:**

- Prototypical AKKA Service (dynamic load balancing)
- Extensions...

# 3) Broadcast



# 3) Broadcast.erl

```

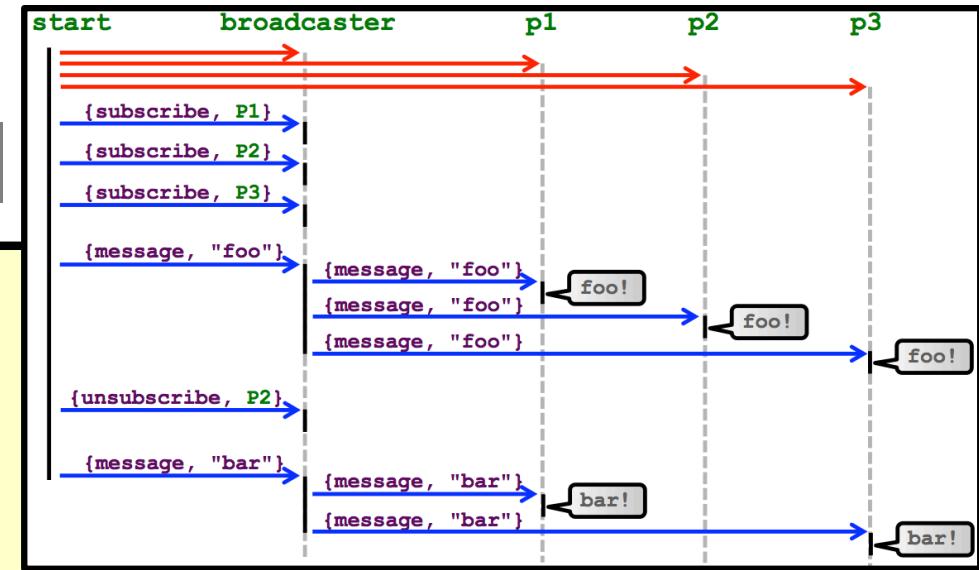
-module(helloworld).
-export([start/0,person/0,broadcaster/1]).

person() ->
    receive
        {message,M} ->
            io:fwrite(M ++ "\n"),
            person()
    end.

% VPEL : send M to P
broadcast([],_) -> true;
broadcast([Pid|L],M) ->
    Pid ! {message,M},
    broadcast(L,M).

broadcaster(L) ->
    receive
        {subscribe,Pid} ->
            broadcaster([Pid|L]);
        {unsubscribe,Pid} ->
            broadcaster(lists:delete(Pid,L)) ; % L \ Pid
        {message,M} ->
            broadcast(L,M),
            broadcaster(L)
    end.

```



```

start() ->
    Broadcaster = 'spawn'(helloworld,broadcaster,[]),
    P1 = 'spawn'(helloworld,person,[]),
    P2 = 'spawn'(helloworld,person,[]),
    P3 = 'spawn'(helloworld,person,[]),
    Broadcaster ! {subscribe,P1},
    Broadcaster ! {subscribe,P2},
    Broadcaster ! {subscribe,P3},
    Broadcaster ! {message,"Purses half price!"},
    Broadcaster ! {unsubscribe,P2},
    Broadcaster ! {message,"Shoes half price!!"}.

```

purses half price!  
purses half price!  
purses half price!  
shoes half price!!  
shoes half price!!

# 3) Broadcast.java

```

import java.util.*;
import java.io.*;
import akka.actor.*;

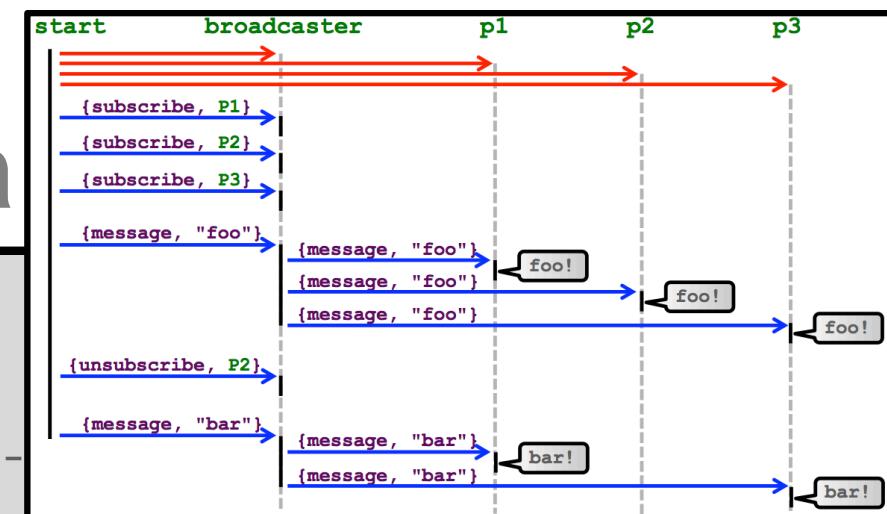
// -- MESSAGES ----

class SubscribeMessage implements Serializable {
    public final ActorRef subscriber;
    public SubscribeMessage(ActorRef subscriber) {
        this.subscriber = subscriber;
    }
}

class UnsubscribeMessage implements Serializable {
    public final ActorRef unsubscribe;
    public UnsubscribeMessage(ActorRef unsubscribe) {
        this.unsubscribe = unsubscribe;
    }
}

class Message implements Serializable {
    public final String s;
    public Message(String s) {
        this.s = s;
    }
}

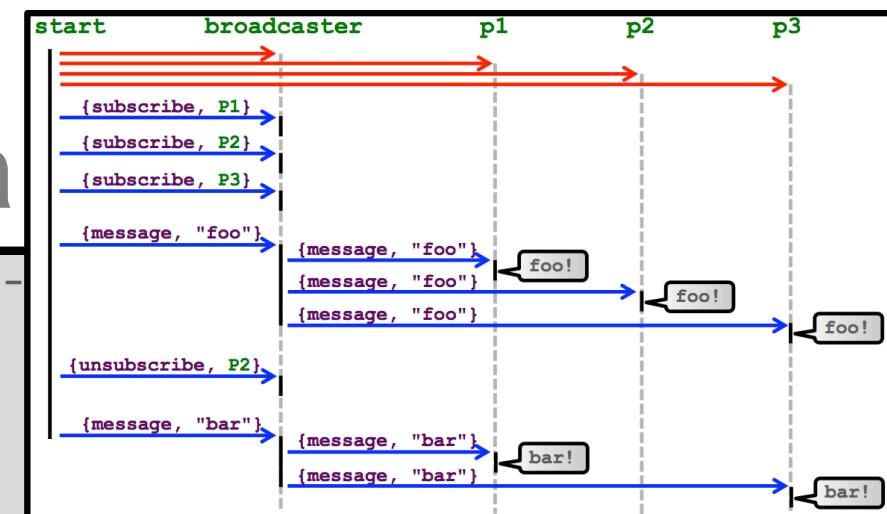
```



purses half price!  
purses half price!  
purses half price!  
shoes half price!!  
shoes half price!!

# 3) Broadcast.java

```
// -- MAIN --
public class Broadcast {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        final ActorSystem system =
            ActorSystem.create("BroadcastSystem");
        final ActorRef broadcaster =
            system.actorOf(Props.create(BroadcastActor.class), "broadcaster");
        final ActorRef p1 = system.actorOf(Props.create(PersonActor.class), "p1");
        final ActorRef p2 = system.actorOf(Props.create(PersonActor.class), "p2");
        final ActorRef p3 = system.actorOf(Props.create(PersonActor.class), "p3");
        broadcaster.tell(new SubscribeMessage(p1), ActorRef.noSender());
        broadcaster.tell(new SubscribeMessage(p2), ActorRef.noSender());
        broadcaster.tell(new SubscribeMessage(p3), ActorRef.noSender());
        broadcaster.tell(new Message("purses half price!"), ActorRef.noSender());
        broadcaster.tell(new UnsubscribeMessage(p2), ActorRef.noSender());
        broadcaster.tell(new Message("shoes half price!!!"), ActorRef.noSender());
        try {
            System.out.println("Press enter to shutdown");
            System.in.read();
        } catch(IOException e) {
            e.printStackTrace();
        } finally {
            system.shutdown();
        }
    }
}
```



```
start() ->
Broadcaster = 'spawn'(helloworld,broadcaster,[]);
P1 = 'spawn'(helloworld,person,[]);
P2 = 'spawn'(helloworld,person,[]);
P3 = 'spawn'(helloworld,person,[]);
Broadcaster ! {subscribe,P1},
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Broadcaster ! {message,"Purses half price!"},
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```

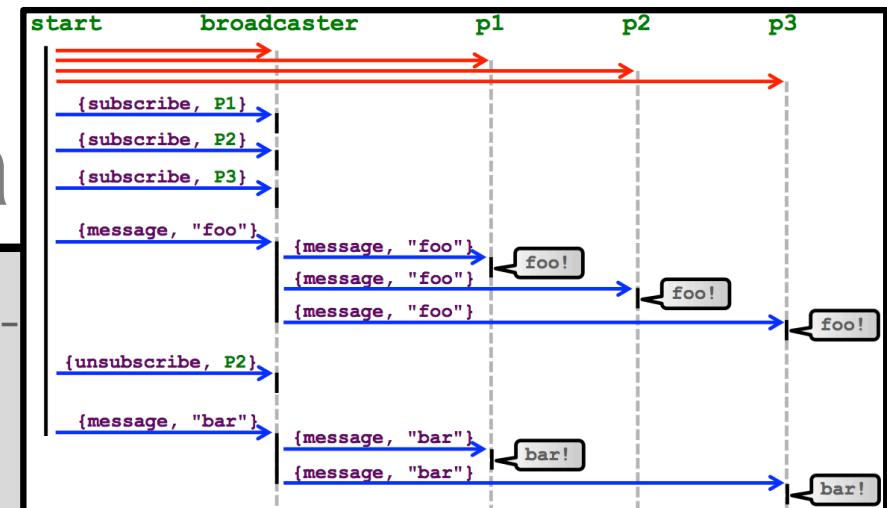
# 3) Broadcast.java

```
// -- ACTORS --

class PersonActor extends UntypedActor {
    public void onReceive(Object o) throws Exc' {
        if (o instanceof Message) {
            System.out.println(((Message) o).s);
        }
    }
}

class BroadcastActor extends UntypedActor {
    private List<ActorRef> list =
        new ArrayList<ActorRef>();

    public void onReceive(Object o) throws Exception {
        if (o instanceof SubscribeMessage) {
            list.add(((SubscribeMessage) o).subscriber);
        } else if (o instanceof UnsubscribeMessage) {
            list.remove(((UnsubscribeMessage) o).unsubscriber);
        } else if (o instanceof Message) {
            for (ActorRef person : list) {
                person.tell(o, getSelf());
            }
        }
    }
}
```



```
person() ->
receive
  {message,M} ->
    io:fwrite(M ++ "\n"),
    person()
end.
```

```
broadcaster(L) ->
receive
  {subscribe,Pid} ->
    broadcaster([Pid|L]);
  {unsubscribe,Pid} ->
    broadcaster( L \ Pid );
  {message,M} ->
    % ∀P ∈ L : send M to P,
    broadcaster(L)
end.
```

# 3) Broadcast.java

---

## ■ Compile:

```
javac -cp scala.jar:akka-actor.jar Broadcast.java
```

## ■ Run:

```
java -cp scala.jar:akka-actor.jar:akka-config.jar:. Broadcast
```

## ■ Output:

```
purses half price!
purses half price!
purses half price!
shoes half price!!
shoes half price!!
```

# AGENDA

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- **3) Broadcast:**

- From ERLANG to JAVA+AKKA
- Communication protocols (one-to-one ⇒ one-to-many)

- **AKKA: A proper introduction**

- Motivations and benefits of Actors & Message Passing
- Recommendations

- **4) Primer:**

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- **★ Scatter-Gatherer:**

- Prototypical AKKA Service (dynamic load balancing)
- Extensions

# AKKA

## ■ Mountain in Sweden:

- Northern Sweden
- (Close to Norway)



## ■ Nordic Goddesses: "Àhkkas"

- From Nordic/Arctic/Saami Mythology
- The Àhkkas: daughters of Mother Sun
- Ancient creator goddesses of the past



## ■ Software runtime middleware:

- For Java Virtual Machine (made in Scala)





Telefonica

csc

htc  
quietly brilliant

BLIZZARD®  
ENTERTAINMENT

UBS

SIEMENS

amazon.com

The HP logo features the lowercase letters "hp" in white inside a blue circle.

W3C®

HSBC

The Cisco logo consists of the word "CISCO" in red with a stylized blue light bar above it.

The Huawei logo is a red stylized flower or leaf design.

KLOUT

The banksimple logo features the word "bank" in black and "simple" in red with a small bank building icon.

The svt logo is a purple five-petaled flower.

Autodesk®

CREDIT SUISSE

The IGN logo features a red four-pointed star shape with the word "IGN" in bold black letters.

Atos

O<sub>2</sub>

The vmware logo consists of the word "vmware" in blue with a blue square icon to its left.

The dialog logo features a blue square with a white "m" inside, followed by the word "dialog" and "Smart Stream Platform" below it.

xerox

The novus logo features a red stylized arrow pointing right.

The DRW TRADING GROUP logo consists of three teal curved bars.

DRW TRADING GROUP

The SEVEN Networks logo features a grey hexagonal grid icon next to the word "SEVEN" and "Networks".

The Ooyala logo consists of a series of colored dots in a grid pattern.

The CARTOMAPIC logo features a yellow speech bubble icon.

BBC

The navirec logo features a green upward-pointing arrow icon next to the word "navirec".

The T8 Webware logo features a blue cube icon.

This row contains a duplicate logo for CARTOMAPIC, which features a yellow speech bubble icon.

The Moshi Monsters logo features the words "moshi monsters" in a green, bubbly font.

JUNIPER  
NETWORKS

ngmoco:)

The Maritime Poker logo features a red compass rose icon.

Answers.com®  
The world's leading Q&A site

The azavea logo features a blue abstract cluster icon.

The zeebox logo features a large red "z" icon with the word "zeebox" in black and "The best thing to happen to TV since TV" in smaller text below it.

# Why the Sudden Popularity?!?

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- Recently, processor speed "hit the wall":
  - **Speed of causality** (*light in vacuum*):
    - $c = 300\ 000\ 000 \text{ m/s}$  meters/second
  - **Processor speed** (about 3 GHz):
    - $p = 3\ 000\ 000\ 000 \text{ x/s}$  instructions/second

- Computers are really really really fast:

$$\frac{c}{p} = \frac{300\ 000\ 000 \text{ m/s}}{3\ 000\ 000\ 000 \text{ x/s}} = \frac{3 \text{ m}}{30 \text{ x}} = 0.1 \text{ m/x}$$

- i.e., *light travels 0.1 m = 10 cm per instruction !*

# Why the Sudden Popularity?!?

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## ■ Before (more speed):



- **Moore's Law:** #Transistors-per-CPU **doubles** every 1.8 years
- **Dennard Scaling:** Performance-per-Watt **doubled** every 1.6 years  
(until ~2006)

## ■ Now (if we want more speed):

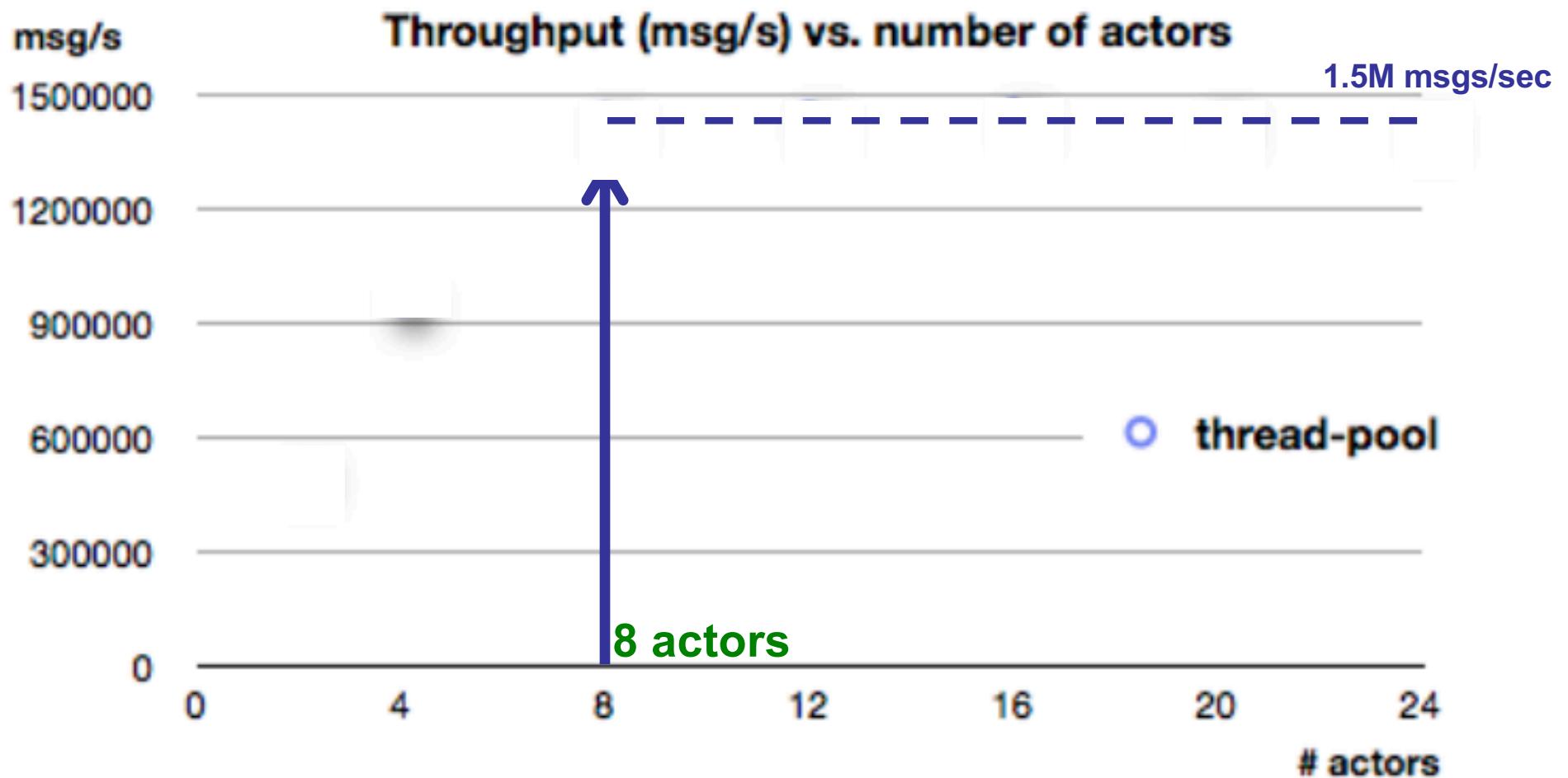
- We have to ***increase parallelism*** !
- Recent developments: "**Work Stealing Queue**"

Chase and Lev: "**Dynamic Circular Work-Stealing Queue**", SPAA 2005  
Michael, Vechev, Saraswat: "**Idempotent Work Stealing**", PPoPP 2009

used for:  
managing  
the actors  
effectively

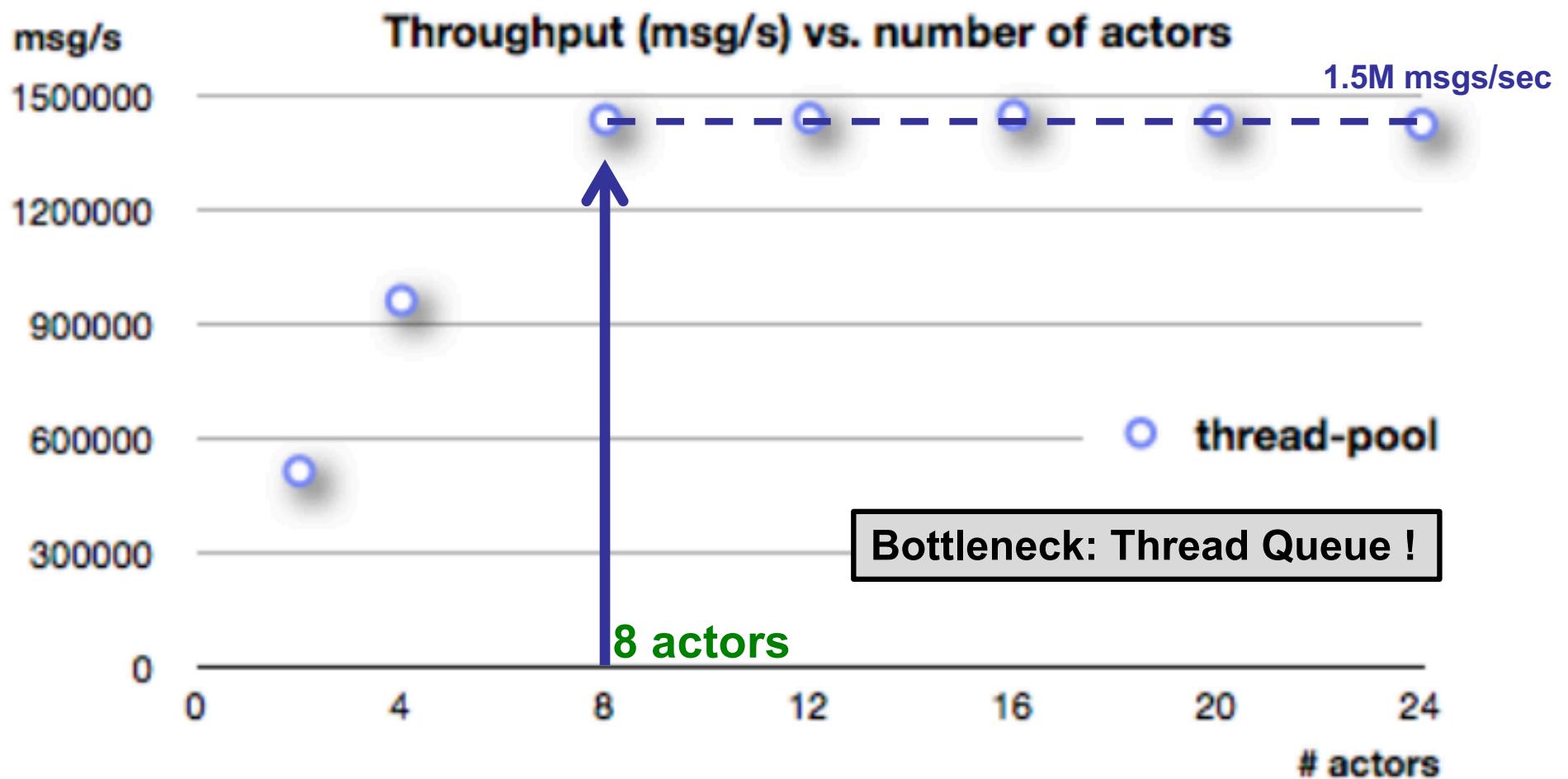
# Scalability? :-)

- Using a conventional "Thread Pool Executor":



# Scalability? :-()

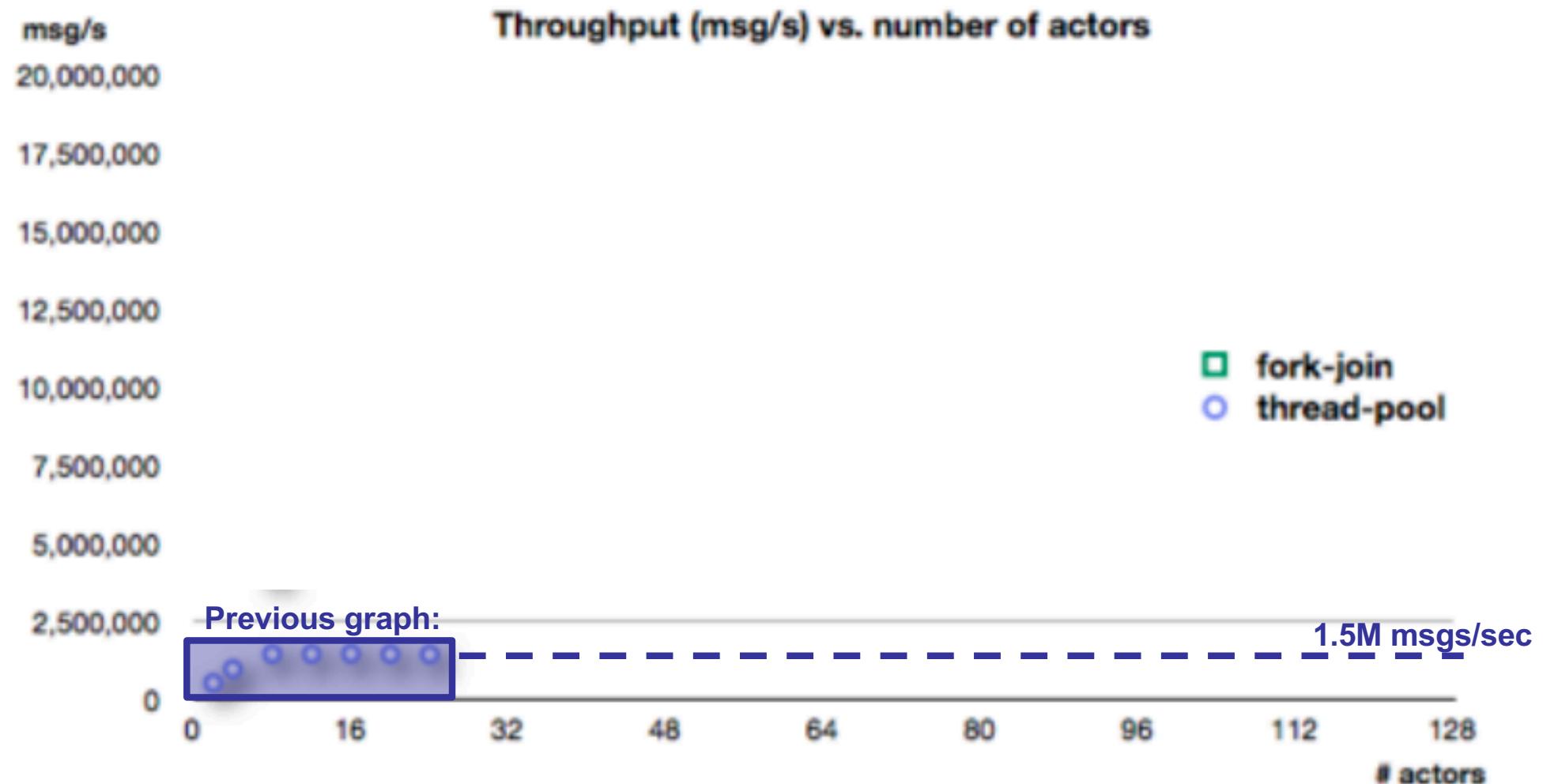
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[ From "UP UP AND OUT: SCALING SOFTWARE WITH AKKA", Jonas Boner, GOTO Conference, Aarhus, Denmark ]

# Scalability!

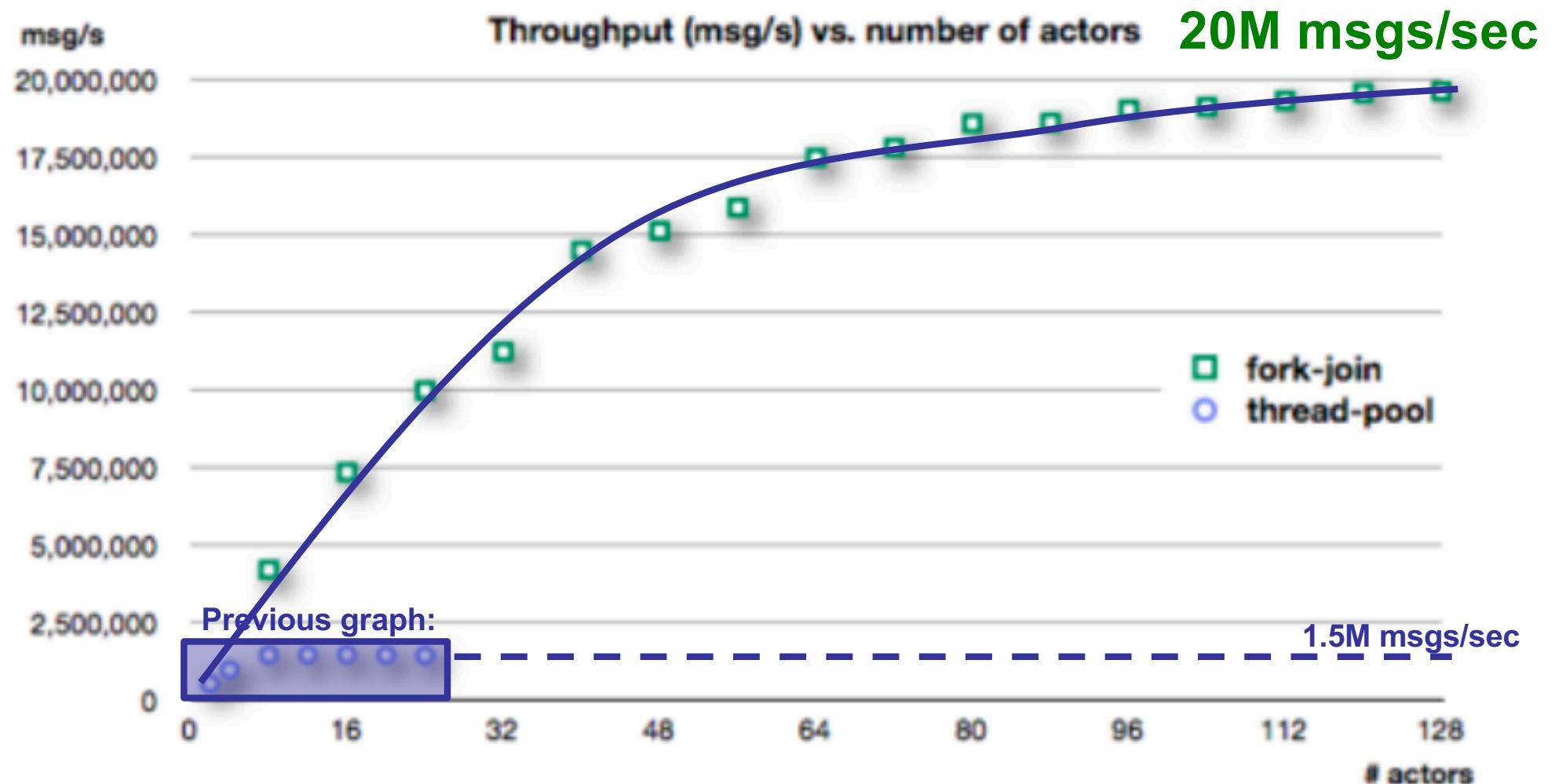
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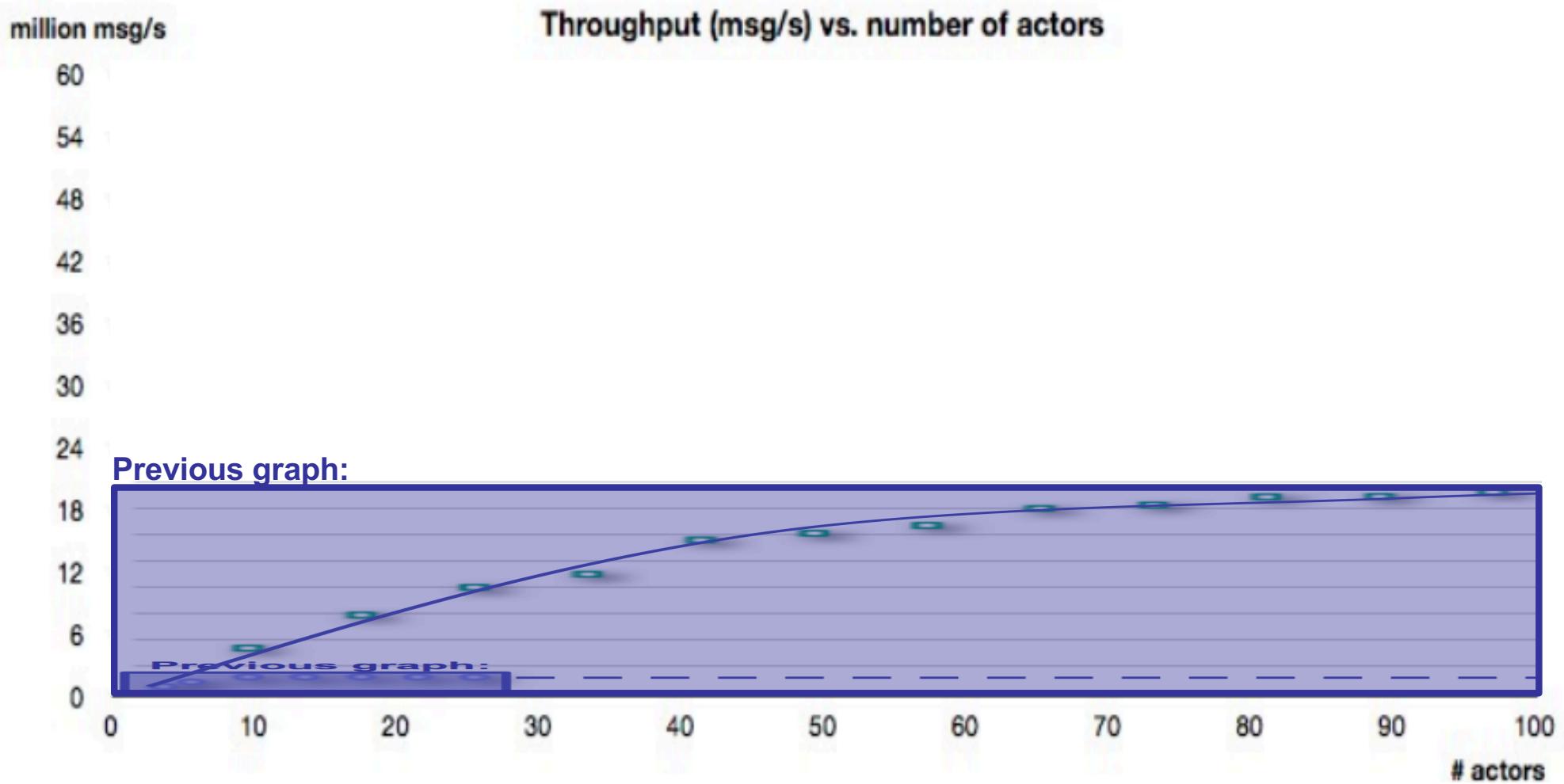
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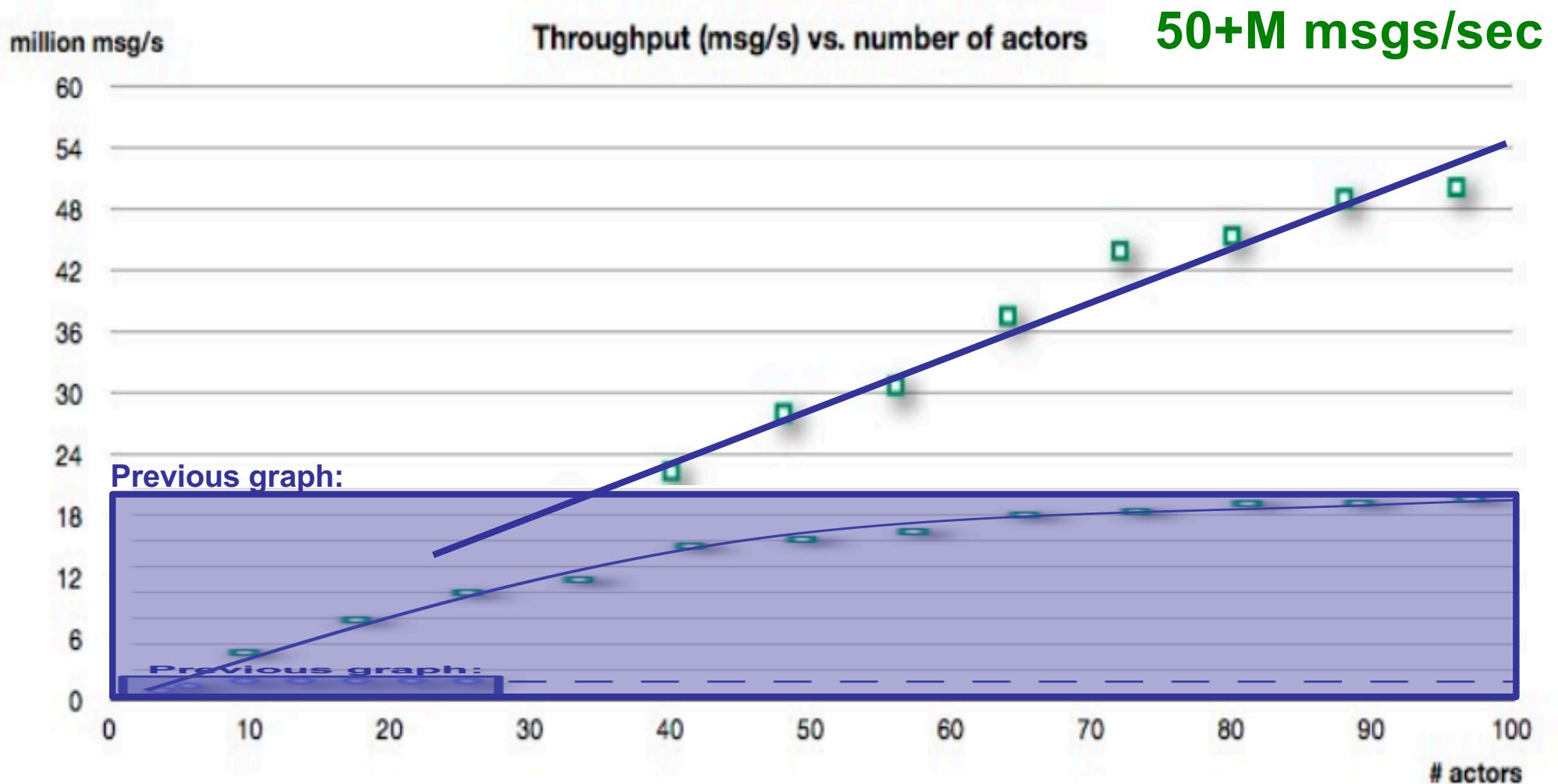
# Scalability! :-)

- ...and after optimizing for throughput:



# Scalability! :-)

- ...and after optimizing for throughput:



# **Actors**

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*Definition of an Actor  
The People Metaphor*

# An Actor is...:

---

- A fundamental *unit of computation* that embodies:
  - 1) Processing (usually simple)
  - 2) State (local)
  - 3) Communication
- In particular: no **shared && mutable state!**
- When an actor receives a message, it can...:
  - 1) perform computation
  - 2) change state
  - 3) send messages to actors it knows
  - +) spawn new actors!





# Actors & Msg Passing: Benefits

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## ■ Correct highly concurrent systems:

- Higher level abstraction (via message passing)
  - coordination (declarative/what) ≠ heap mgmt (imperative/how)
- No low-level locking (no **shared & mutable** state)

## ■ Truly scalable systems:

- Actors are extremely lightweight entities
- Actors are ***location transparent***
  - => Distributable-by-design
- Transparently map MP programs onto given hardware:
  - "Scale up" (more processors), "Scale out" (more machines)

## ■ Self-healing, fault-tolerant systems:

- Adaptive load balancing and actor migration
- "Let it crash" model (deal w/ failure, great success in telecom industry)
- Manage system overload (graceful service degradation)





# Actors & Msg Passing: Drawbacks

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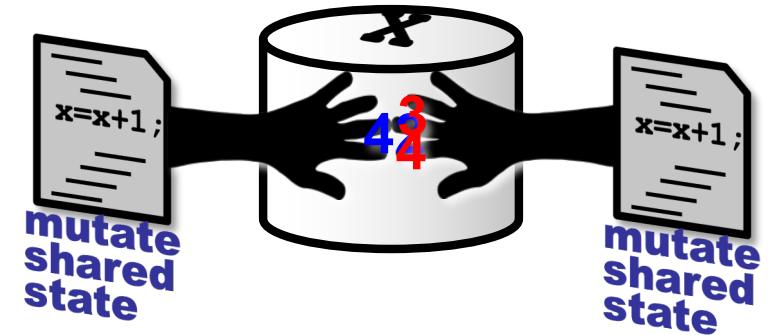
- **New & different paradigm:**
  - Learning curve: programmers unfamiliar with paradigm
- **Overhead of (high level) message passing:**
  - Overhead of sending messages:
    - Less efficient than **shared && mutable state**
    - (Analogy: explicit memory mgmt vs garbage collection)
- **The Correlation problem:**
  - A --what-is-your-favorite-fruit?--> B
  - A --what-is-your-favorite-color?--> B
  - B --orange--> A // now: correlates with which request?!?
- **Hard to identify global state properties:**
  - i.e., computing: **f(global-state)**:
    - e.g., termination condition of a distributed algorithm



# The People Metaphor

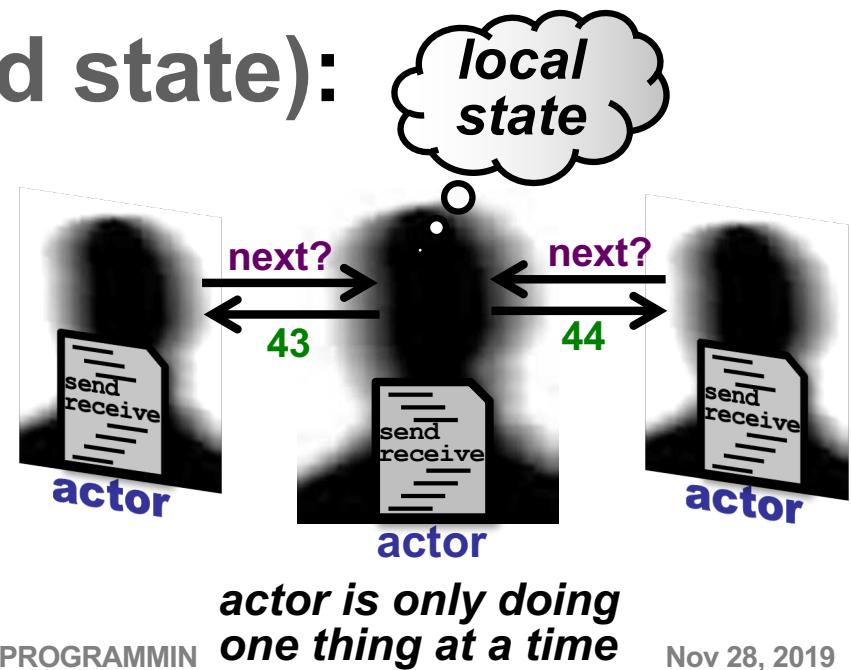
## ■ Shared Mutable state:

- Concurrency problems!
  - Shared && mutable !
- Hard to (later) distribute!



## ■ Actors (with encapsulated state):

- Can't "look inside head" of a living person (actor) !
- Instead: ask questions ?
- ...and get responses !
- ...one at a time !



# The People Metaphor (cont'd)

---

- **Programming Metaphor:**

- "The People Analogy"



- Think of it as "**coordinating lots of people**":

- Each can do simple tasks
  - Consider workflow (of orders/messages in your system)

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- **Programming Metaphor:**

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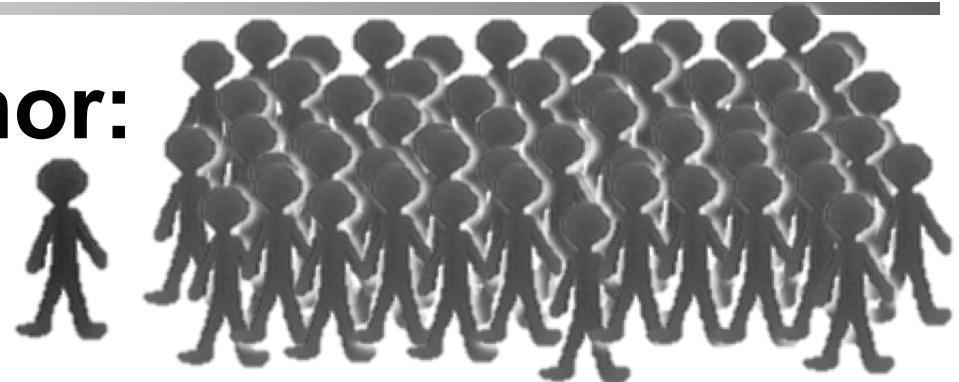
- Each can do simple tasks
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  - Need more work ⇒ hire more people (spawn more actors)

# The People Metaphor (cont'd)

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- **Programming Metaphor:**

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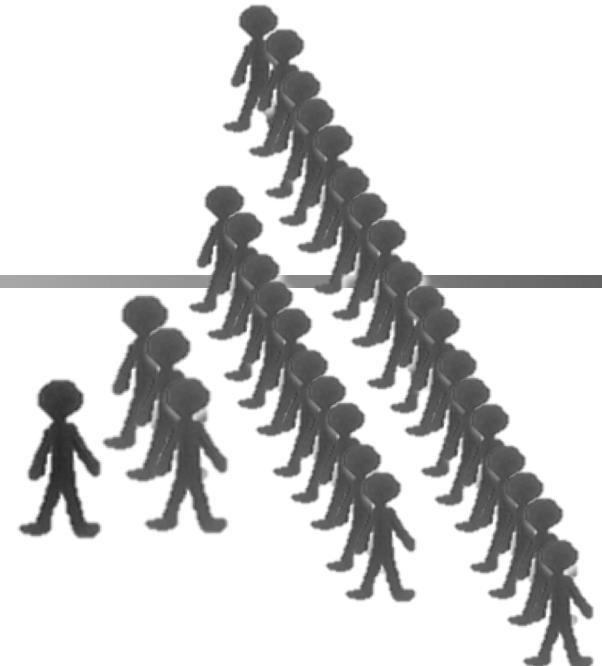


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# The People Metaphor

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- Programming Metaphor:
  - "The People Analogy"
- Think of it as "**coordinating lots of people**":
  - Each can do simple tasks
  - Consider workflow (of orders/messages in your system)
  - Need more work ⇒ hire more people (**spawn more actors**)
  - Hierarchic organization: managers supervise workers
  - Fault tolerance (expect failures and deal with them)

# Recommendations

- **1) Actors should be like nice co-workers:**
  - do their job effectively w/o bothering others needlessly
  - should not roll thumbs (idle or blocking operations)
- **2) Actors should not send mutable objects:**
  - O/w we're back to "shared && mutable" ⇒ problems !
- **3) Actors should send data, not programs:**
  - O/w we're back to "shared && mutable" ⇒ problems !
  - (Note: ERLANG does not have higher-order functions)
- **4) Create few top-level actors:**
  - If these crash, your whole system will crash
  - If their workers die, they just hire (spawn) new ones

# Recommendations

- **5) Managers should supervise Workers:**
  - organization as a hierarchy
  - pass on and schedule tasks for workers
  - "hire" (spawn) more workers by need
  - deal with failure (of your workers)
- **6) Actors should spawn workers for "dangerous operations" (Qatar 2022 ?):**
  - avoid crashing with important data
  - spawn workers for "dangerous operations"
  - deal with failure (of your workers)

# **Scalability & Fault-Tolerance**

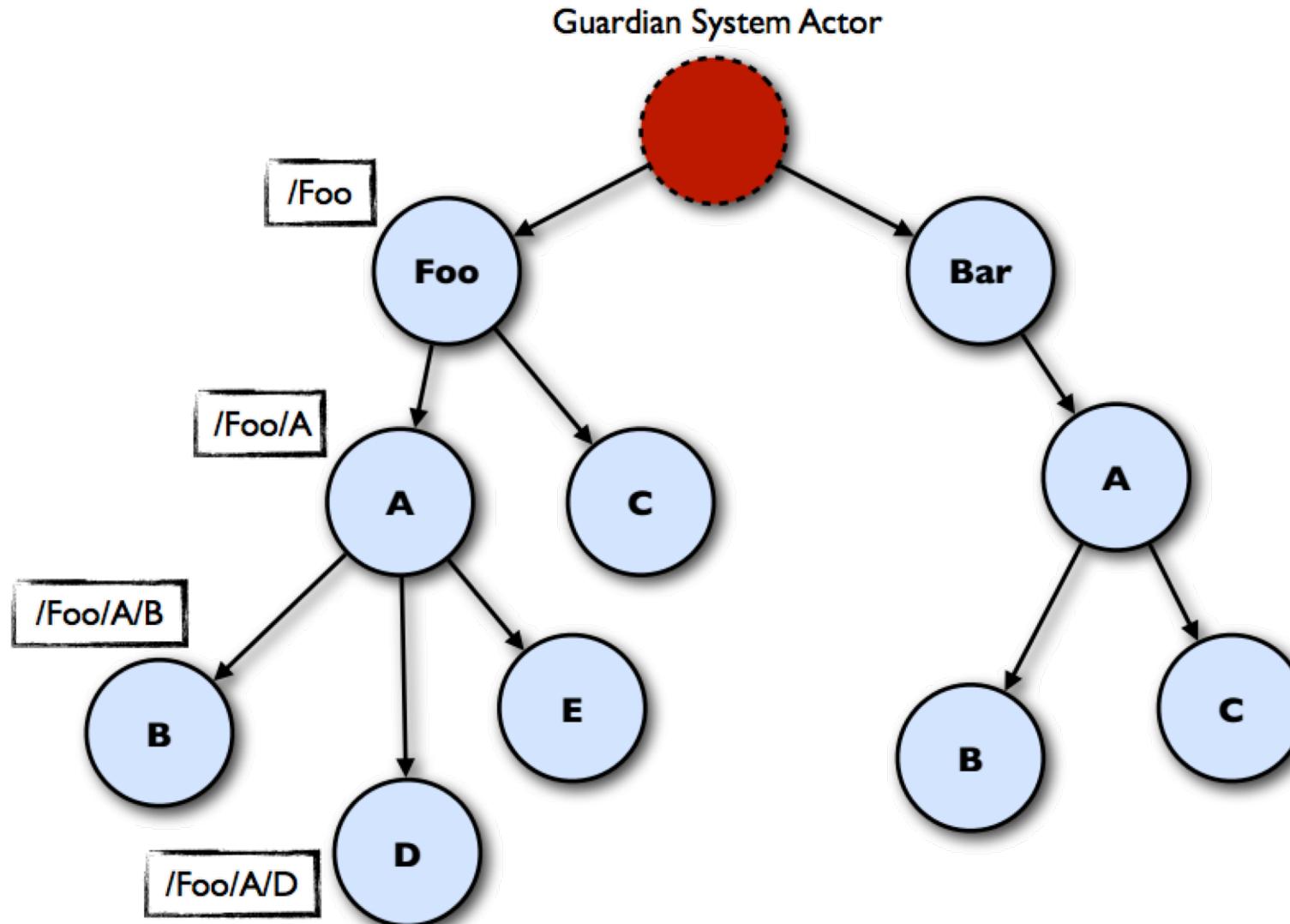
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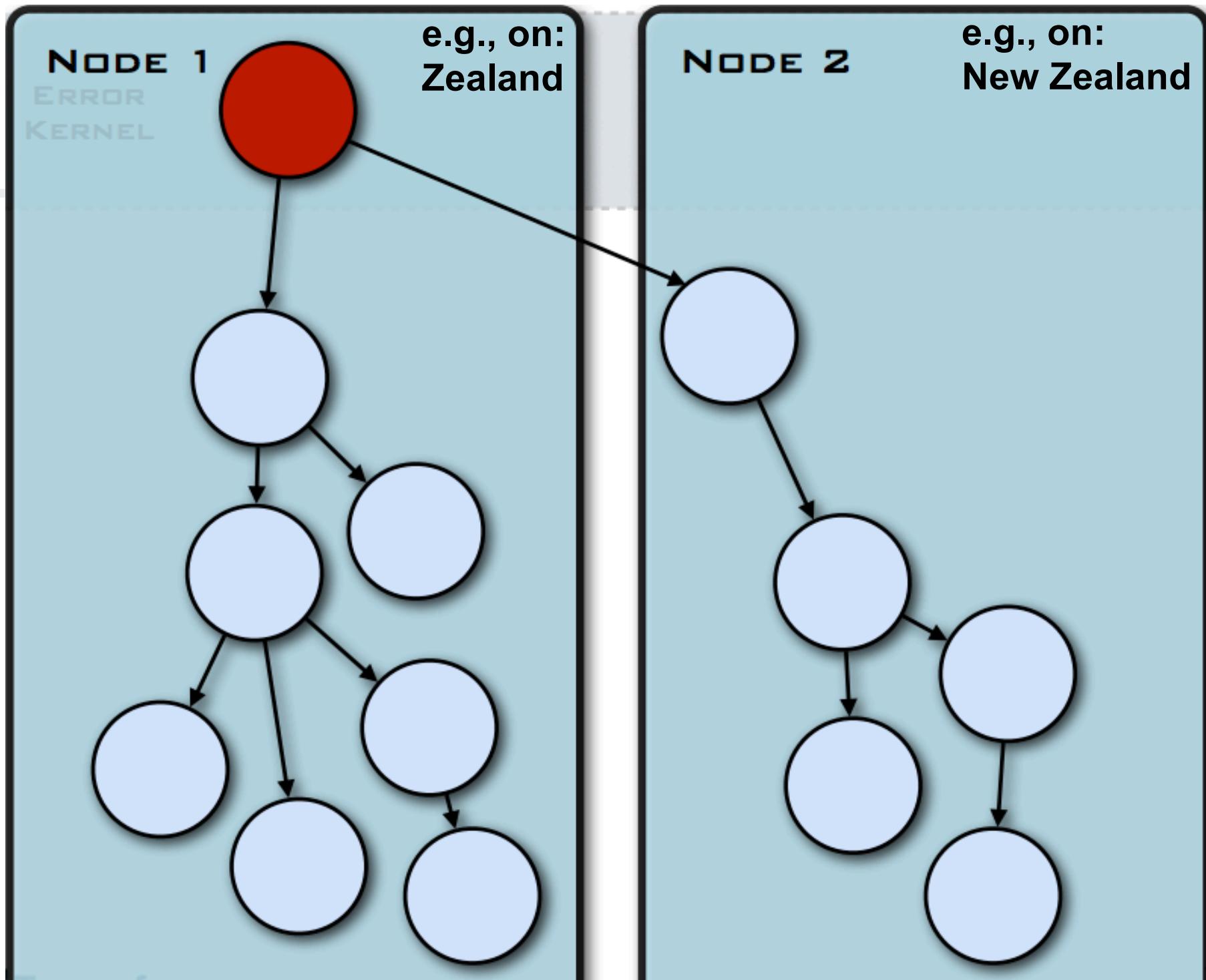
*Scalability for free ("scaling up, up, and out")*

*Fault Tolerance (restart, resume, escalate)*

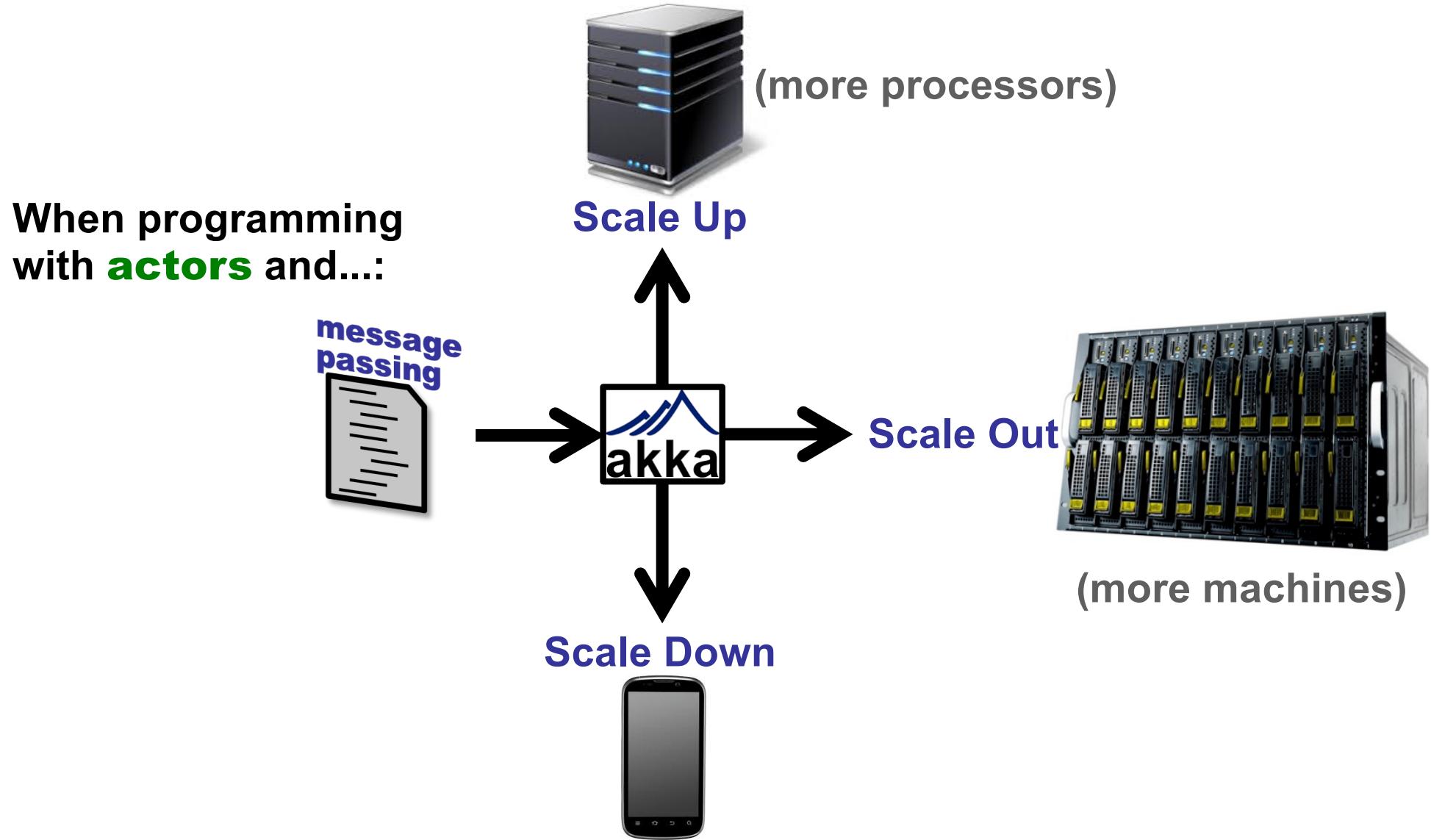
# A Hierarchy of Actors

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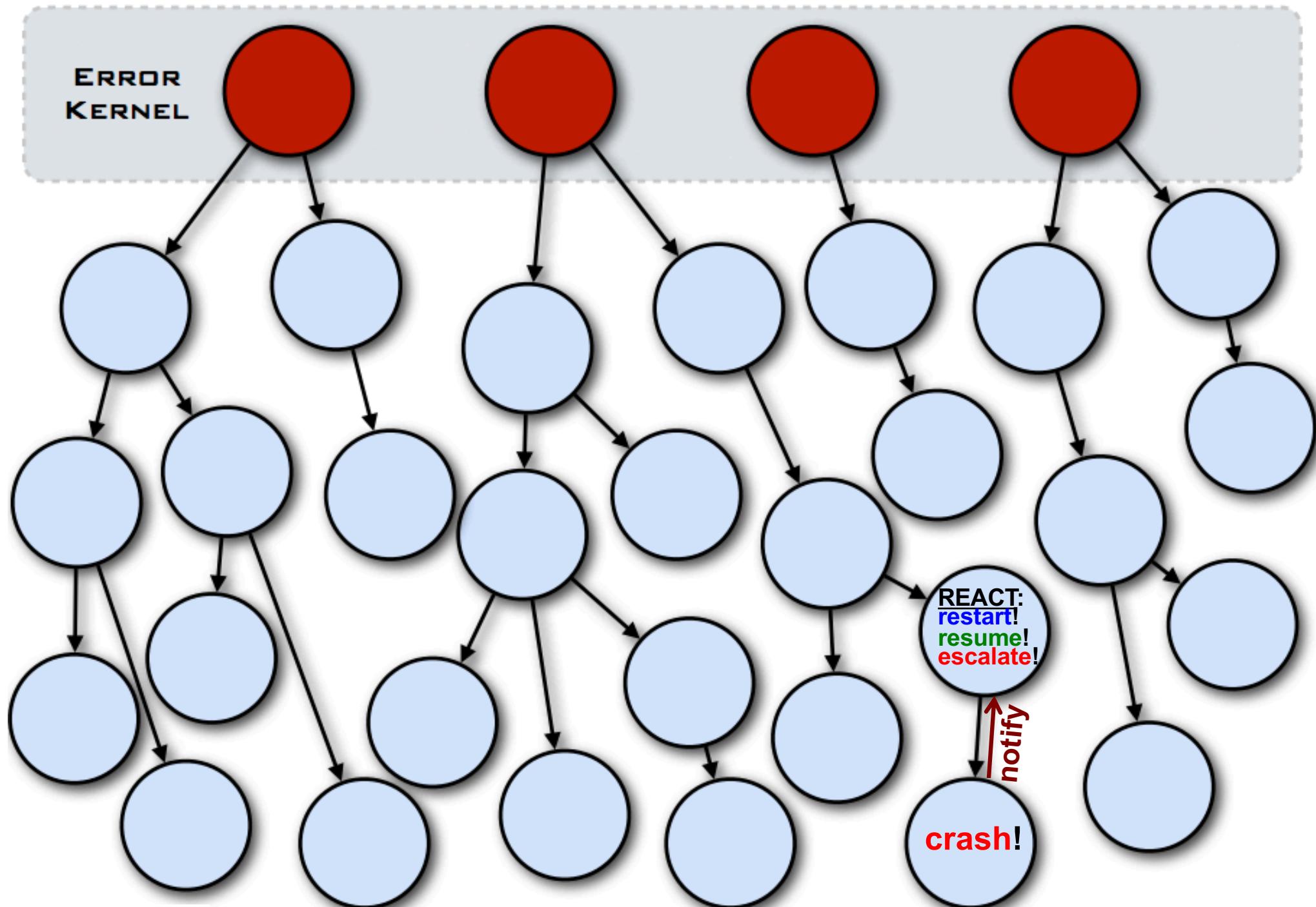
# Scale Down, Scale Up, Scale Out



# Fault Tolerance

---





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- Motivations and benefits of Actors & Message Passing
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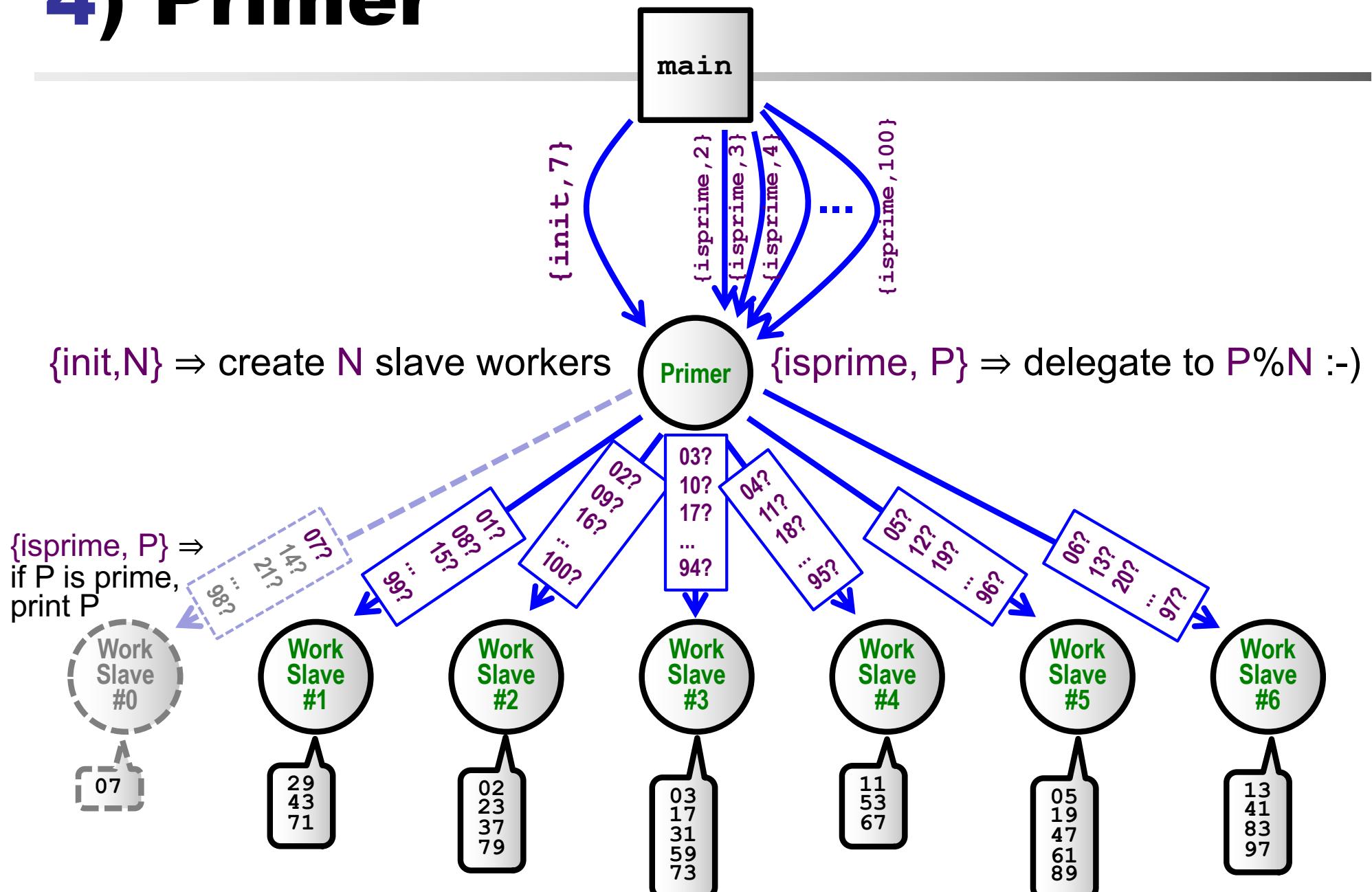
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# 4) Primer



# 4) Primer.erl

```

-module(helloworld).
-export([start/0, slave/1, primer/1]).


is_prime_loop(N,K) ->
    K2 = K * K, R = N rem K,
    case (K2 =< N) and (R /= 0) of
        true -> is_prime_loop(N, K+1);
        false -> K
    end.

is_prime(N) ->
    K = is_prime_loop(N,2),
    (N >= 2) and (K*K > N).

n2s(N) ->
    lists:flatten(io_lib:format("~p", [N])).

slave(Id) ->
    receive
        {isprime, N} ->
            case is_prime(N) of
                true -> io:fwrite("#" ++
n2s(Id) ++ ":" ++ n2s(N) ++ "\n");
                false -> []
            end,
            slave(Id)
    end.

```

**Slave**

OUTPUT	#1:	43	#4:	67	
-----					
#0:	7	#3:	17	#5:	47
#1:	29	#4:	53	#6:	83
#2:	2	#5:	19	#2:	79
#3:	3	#6:	41	#3:	59
#4:	11	#1:	71	#5:	61
#5:	5	#2:	37	#6:	97
#6:	13	#3:	31	#3:	73
				#5:	89

**Primer**

```

create_slaves(Max,Max) -> [];
create_slaves(Id,Max) ->
    Slave = 'spawn'(helloworld, slave, [Id]),
    [Slave|create_slaves(Id+1,Max)].

primer(Slaves) ->
    receive
        {init, N} when N>0 ->
            primer(create_slaves(0,N));
        {init, N} ->
            throw({nonpositive,N});
        {isprime, _} when Slaves == [] ->
            throw({uninitialized});
        {isprime, N} when N=<0 ->
            throw({nonpositive,N});
        {isprime, N} ->
            SlaveId = N rem length(Slaves),
            lists:nth(SlaveId+1, Slaves)
                ! {isprime,N},
            primer(Slaves)
    end.

spam(_, Max, Max) -> true;
spam(Primer, N, Max) ->
    Primer ! {isprime, N},
    spam(Primer, N+1, Max).

start() ->
    Primer =
        'spawn'(helloworld, primer, []),
    Primer ! {init,7},
    spam(Primer, 2, 100).

```

# 4) Primer.java

```
import java.util.*;
import java.io.*;
import akka.actor.*;

// -- MESSAGES ----

class InitMessage implements Serializable {
    public final int n;
    public InitMessage(int n) {
        this.n = n;
    }
}

class IsPrimeMessage implements Serializable {
    public final int n;
    public IsPrimeMessage(int n) {
        this.n = n;
    }
}
```

{init, N}

{isprime, N}



# 4) Primer.java

```
// -- SLAVE ACTOR ----->

class SlaveActor extends UntypedActor {
    private boolean isPrime(int n) {
        int k = 2;
        while (k * k <= n && n % k != 0) k++;
        return n >= 2 && k * k > n;
    }

    public void onReceive(Object o) throws Exception {
        if (o instanceof IsPrimeMessage) {
            int p = ((IsPrimeMessage) o).n;
            if (isPrime(p)) System.out.println("#" + p % Primer.P + ":" + p); // HACK
        }
    }
}
```

```
is_prime_loop(N,K) ->
K2 = K * K, R = N rem K,
case (K2 =< N) and (R /= 0) of
    true -> is_prime_loop(N, K+1);
    false -> K
end.

is_prime(N) ->
K = is_prime_loop(N,2),
(N >= 2) and (K*K > N).
```

```
slave(Id) ->
receive
{isprime, N} ->
case is_prime(N) of
    true -> io:fwrite("#" ++ n2s(Id) ++ ":" ++ n2s(N) ++ "\n");
    false -> []
end,
slave(Id)
end.
```

# 4) Primer.java

```

class PrimeActor extends UntypedActor {
    List<ActorRef> slaves;

    private List<ActorRef> createSlaves(int n) {
        List<ActorRef> slaves =
            new ArrayList<ActorRef>();
        for (int i=0; i<n; i++) {
            ActorRef slave =
                getContext().actorOf(Props.create(
                    SlaveActor.class), "p" + i);
            slaves.add(slave);
        }
        return slaves;
    }

    public void onReceive(Object o) throws Exception
        if (o instanceof InitMessage) {
            int n = ((InitMessage) o).n;
            if (n<=0) throw new RuntimeException("!!! non-positive number!");
            slaves = createSlaves(n);
            System.out.println("initialized (" + n + " slaves ready to work)!");
        } else if (o instanceof IsPrimeMessage) {
            if (slaves==null) throw new RuntimeException("!!! uninitialized!");
            int n = ((IsPrimeMessage) o).n;
            if (n<=0) throw new RuntimeException("!!! non-positive number!");
            int slave_id = n % slaves.size();
            slaves.get(slave_id).tell(o, getSelf());
        }
    }
}

```

```

create_slaves(Max,Max) -> [];
create_slaves(Id,Max) ->
    Slave = 'spawn'(helloworld,slave,[Id]),
    [Slave|create_slaves(Id+1,Max)].

```

```

primer(Slaves) ->
    receive
        {init, N} when N>0 ->
            primer(create_slaves(0,N));
        {init, N} ->
            throw({nonpositive,N});
        {isprime, _} when Slaves == [] ->
            throw({uninitialized});
        {isprime, N} when N<=0 ->
            throw({nonpositive,N});
        {isprime, N} ->
            SlaveId = N rem length(Slaves),
            lists:nth(SlaveId+1, Slaves)
            ! {isprime,N},
            primer(Slaves)
    end.

```

# 4) Primer.java

```

public class Primer {
    public static int P; // HACK
    public static int MAX = 100;

    private static void spam(ActorRef primer, int min, int max) {
        for (int i=min; i<max; i++) {
            primer.tell(new IsPrimeMessage(i), ActorRef.noSender());
        }
    }

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        final ActorSystem system = ActorSystem.create("PrimerSystem");
        final ActorRef primer =
            system.actorOf(Props.create(PrimeActor.class), "primer");
        primer.tell(new InitMessage(P = 7), ActorRef.noSender());
        try {
            System.out.println("Press return to initiate...");
            System.in.read();
            spam(primer, 2, 100);
            System.out.println("Press return to terminate...");
            System.in.read();
        } catch(IOException e) {
            e.printStackTrace();
        } finally {
            system.shutdown();
        }
    }
}

```

```

spam(_, Max, Max) -> true;
spam(Primer, N, Max) ->
    Primer ! {isprime, N},
    spam(Primer, N+1, Max).

```

```

start() ->
    Primer = 'spawn'(helloworld, primer, []),
    Primer ! {init,7},
    spam(Primer, 2, 100).

```

# 4) Primer.java

## ■ Compile:

```
javac -cp scala.jar:akka-actor.jar Primer.java
```

## ■ Run:

```
java -cp scala.jar:akka-actor.jar:akka-config.jar:. Primer
```

## ■ Output:

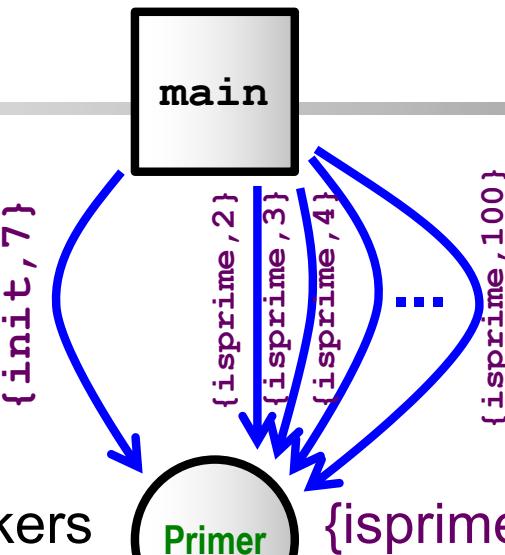
```
press return to initiate...
initialized (7 slaves ready to work)!

#2: 2
#3: 3
Press return to terminate...
#0: 7
#5: 5
#4: 11
#6: 13
#3: 17
#5: 19
#2: 23
#1: 29
```

```
#3: 31
#2: 37
#6: 41
#1: 43
#5: 47
#4: 53
#3: 59
#5: 61
#4: 67
#1: 71
#3: 73
#2: 79
#6: 83
#5: 89
#6: 97
```

# 4) Primer

$\{init, N\} \Rightarrow$  create  $N$  slave workers



Let's assume...:  
SLOW mp & FAST computation  
Q: Which ## output order ??

Let's assume...:  
FAST mp & SLOW computation  
Q: Which ## output order ??

Primer



# ERLANG

-vs-

# JAVA+AKKA

## ■ ERLANG:

### FAST message passing\*

=predicted=effect=>

You would get numbers in  
***slave-worker order:***

- 07, 29, 02, 03, 11, 05, ...

[observed in ERLANG]

#0: 07  
#1: 29  
#2: 02  
#3: 03  
#4: 11  
#5: 05  
#6: 13  
#1: 43  
#2: 23  
#3: 17  
#4: 53  
#5: 19  
#6: 41  
...: ...

#2: 02  
#3: 03  
#5: 05  
#0: 07  
#4: 11  
#6: 13  
#3: 17  
#5: 19  
#2: 23  
#1: 29  
#3: 31  
#2: 37  
#6: 41  
...: ...

-vs-

## ■ JAVA+AKKA:

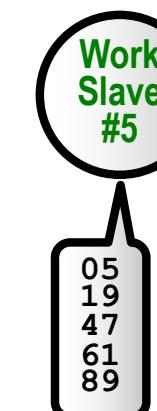
### SLOW message passing\*

=predicted=effect=>

You would get numbers in  
***numerical order:***

- 02, 03, 05, 07, 11, 13, ...

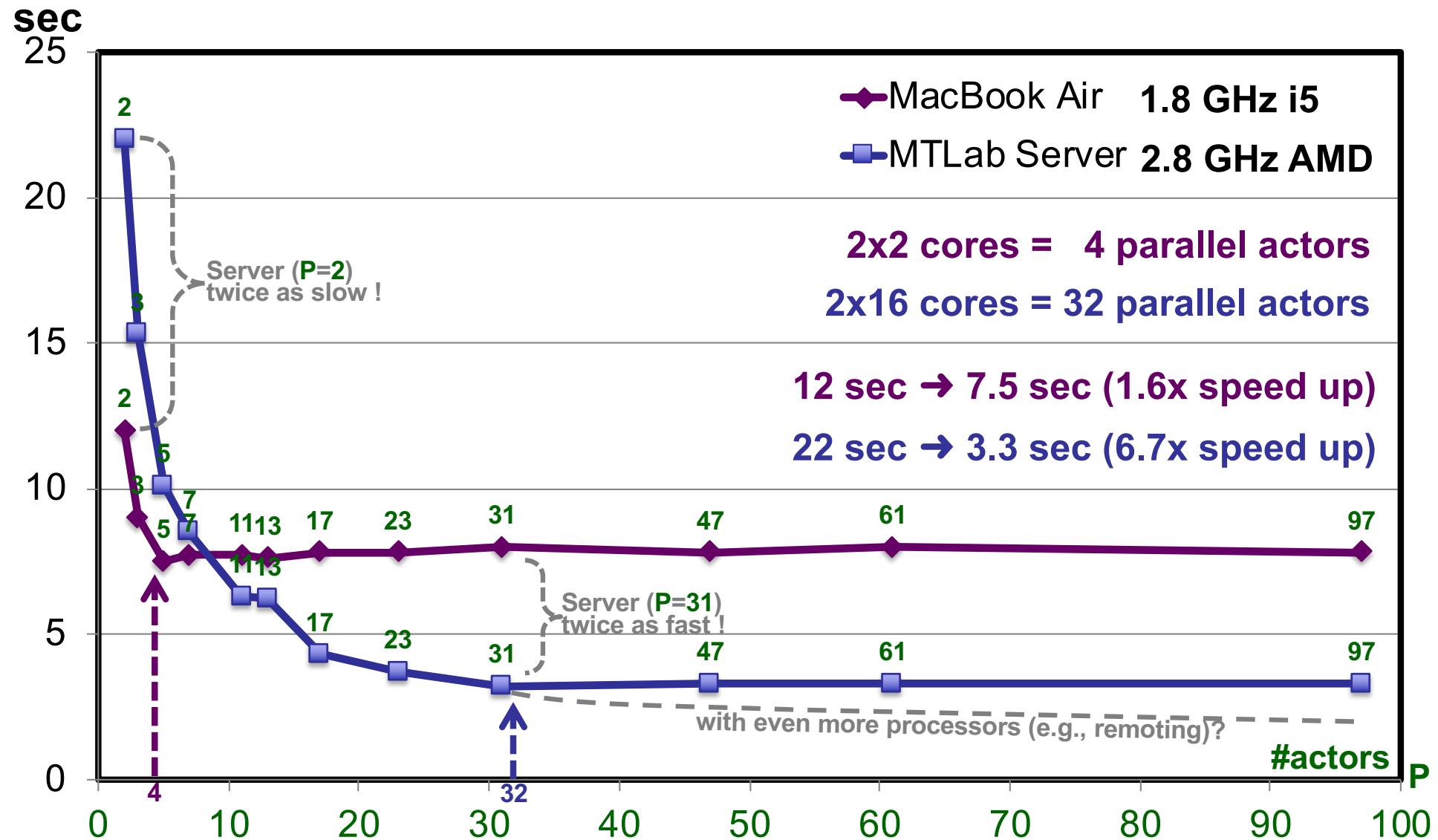
[observed in JAVA+AKKA]



\*) relative to computation and I/O

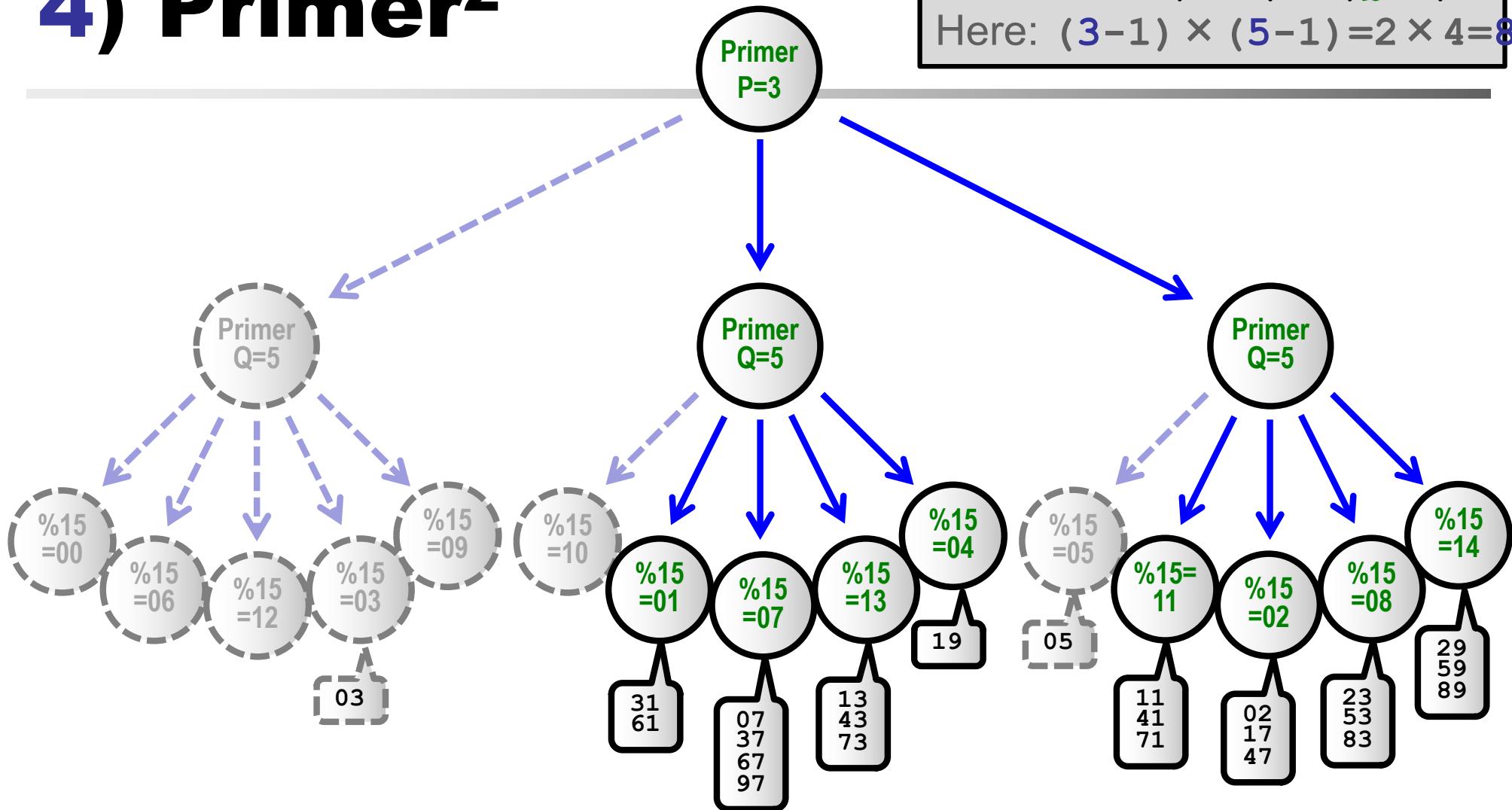
Note: added silly time-consuming computation to every `isPrime()` method call !

# Low -vs- High Parallelization !



# 4) Primer<sup>2</sup>

#Workers:  $P \times Q$   
#Effective:  $(P-1) \times (Q-1)$   
Here:  $(3-1) \times (5-1) = 2 \times 4 = 8$



Note: Two primers with  $P=3 \times Q=5$  is equivalent to one primer with  $P=15$ .  
(Note': This is why you should always use a prime # with a hash function.)

# AGENDA

---

- **3) Broadcast:**

- From ERLANG to JAVA+AKKA
- Communication protocols (one-to-one ⇒ one-to-many)

- **AKKA: A proper introduction**

- Motivations and benefits of Actors & Message Passing
- Recommendations

- **4) Primer:**

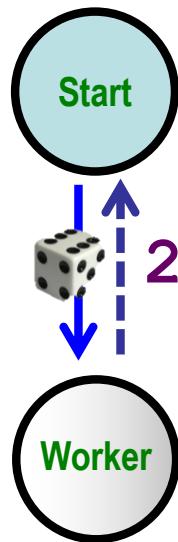
- Hierarchic organization: managers supervise workers
- Performance: MacBook Air -vs- MTLab Server

- **★ Scatter-Gatherer:**

- Prototypical AKKA Service (dynamic load balancing)
- Extensions

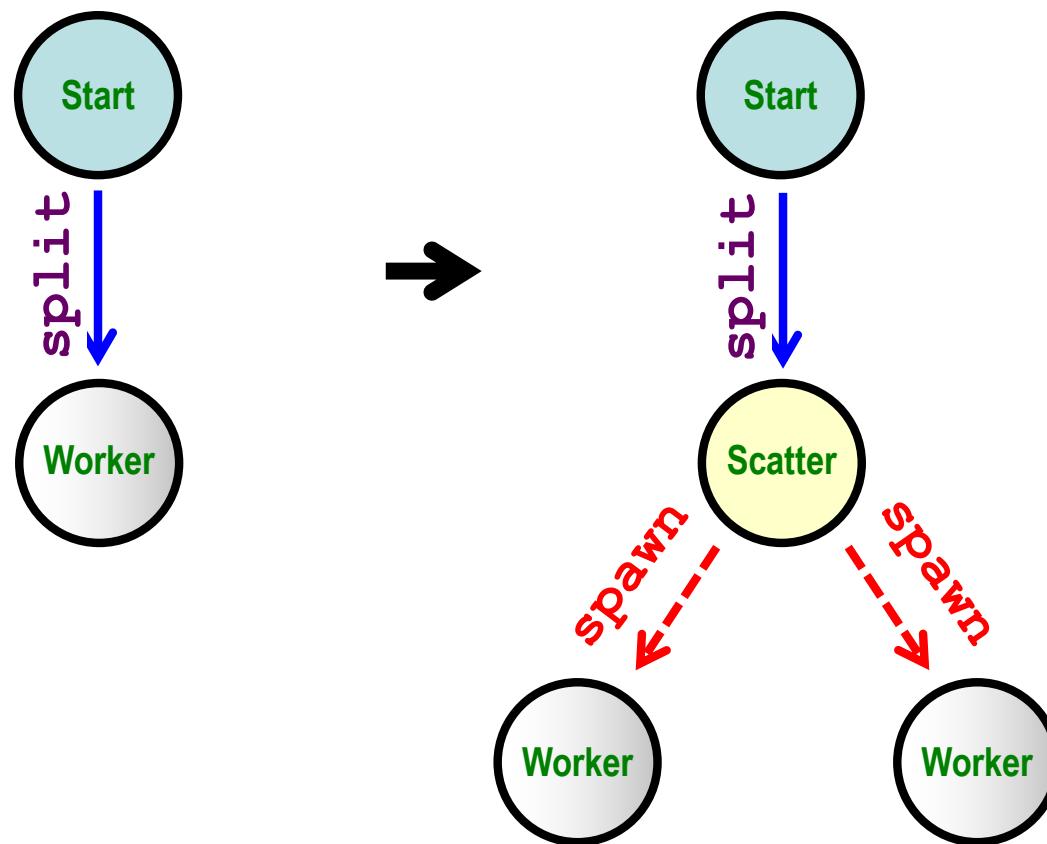
# 6) Scatter-Gather

---



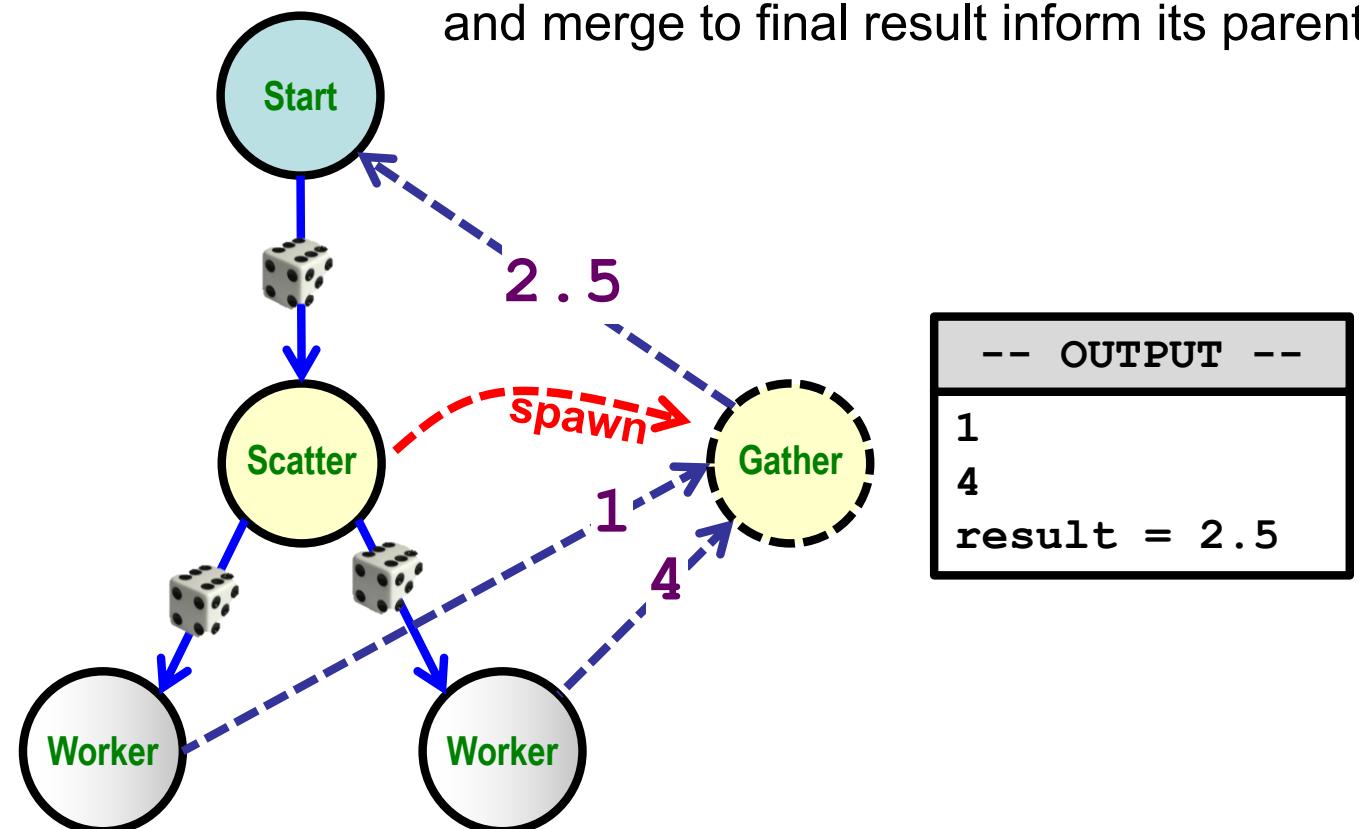
# 6) Scatter-Gather

---



# 6) Scatter-Gather

**Gatherer:**  
collect incoming responses  
and merge to final result inform its parent

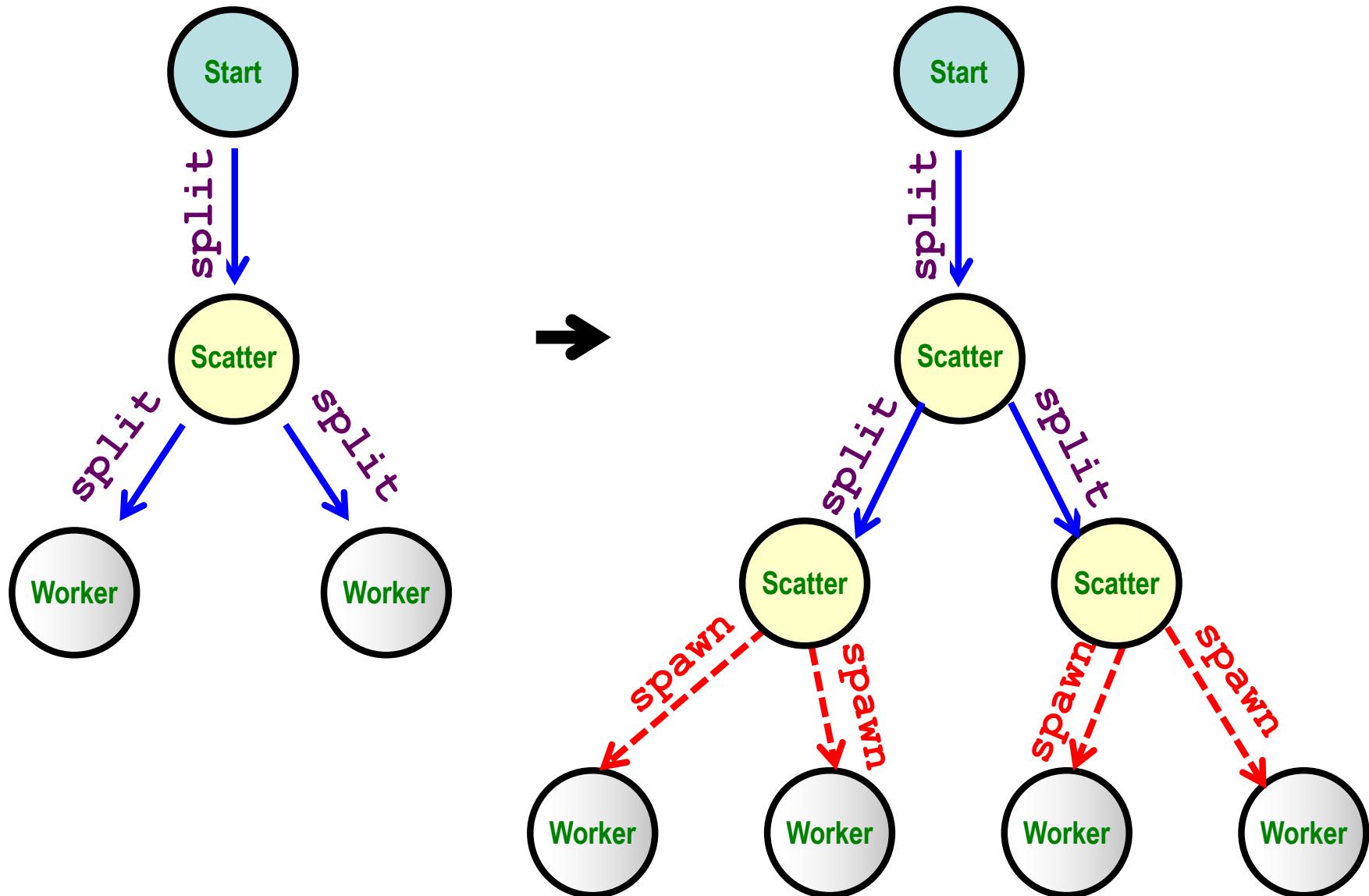


## Scatter:

I don't want the result,  
send it to my gatherer:

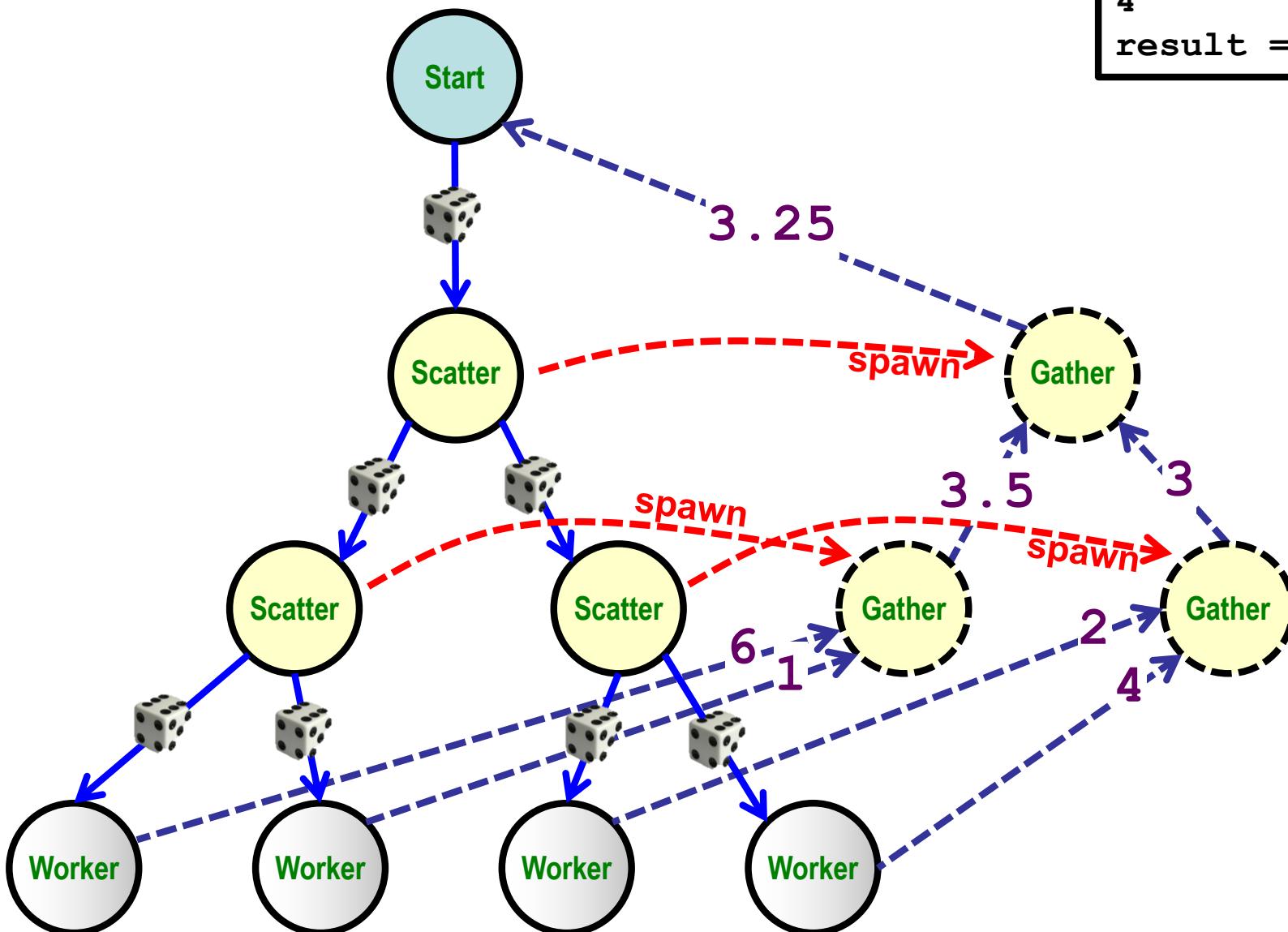
- I'm too busy processing new incoming requests
- besides, it's hard to correlate requests-responses (aka, "the correlation problem")

# 6) Scatter-Gather



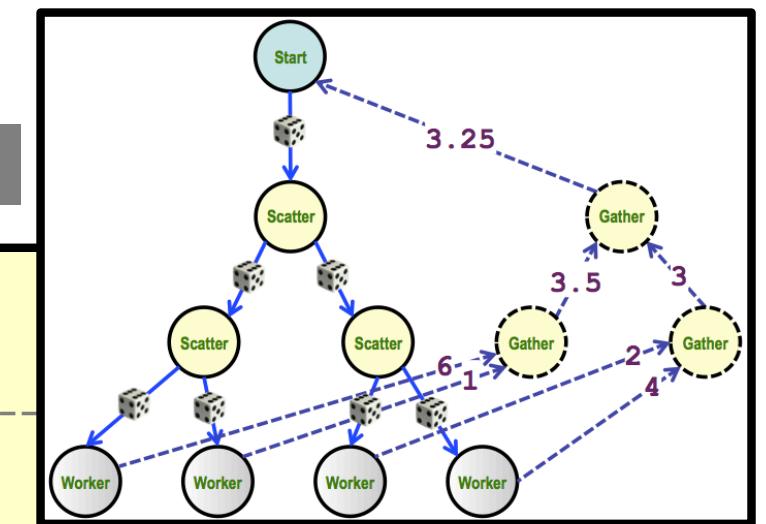
# 6) Scatter-Gather

```
-- OUTPUT --
6
1
2
4
result = 3.25
```



# 6) ScatterGather.erl

```
-module(helloworld).
-export([start/0,worker/0,scatter/2,gather/1]).  
  
%% -- COMPUTE -----  
  
seed() -> {_, A2, A3} = now(), %% Seed wrt Time & Pid !
    random:seed(erlang:phash(node()), 100000),erlang:phash(A2, A3),A3).  
  
n2s(N) -> lists:flatten(io_lib:format("~p", [N])). %% HACK: num to string conversion!  
  
random(N) -> random:uniform(N).  
  
compute(X) -> random(X).  
  
average(X,Y) -> (X + Y) / 2.
```



```
%% -- START -----
```

```
start() ->
    Worker = 'spawn'(helloworld,worker,[]),
    Worker ! split,
    Worker ! split,
    Worker ! {compute,6,self()},
    receive
        {result,R} ->
            io:fwrite("result = " ++ n2s(R) ++ "\n")
    end.
```

-- OUTPUT --	
6	
1	
2	
4	
<b>result = 3.25</b>	

# 6) ScatterGather.erl

```

%% -- WORKER -----
worker() ->
    seed(),
    receive
        split ->
            Left = 'spawn'(helloworld,worker,[]),
            Right = 'spawn'(helloworld,worker,[]),
            scatter(Left, Right);
        {compute,X,Caller} ->
            Res = compute(X),
            io:fwrite(n2s(Res) ++ "\n"),
            Caller ! {result,Res},
            worker()
    end.

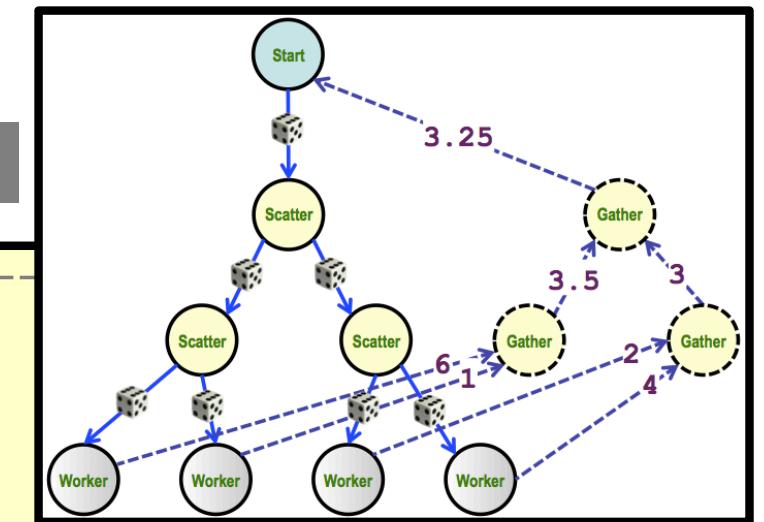
%% -- SCATTER -----
scatter(Left, Right) ->
    receive
        split ->
            Left ! split,
            Right ! split;
        {compute,X,Caller} ->
            Gather = 'spawn'(helloworld,gather,[Caller]),
            Left ! {compute,X,Gather},
            Right ! {compute,X,Gather}
    end,
    scatter(Left, Right).

```

```

%% -- GATHER -----
gather(Caller) ->
    receive
        {result,Res1} ->
            receive
                {result,Res2} ->
                    Res = average(Res1,Res2),
                    Caller ! {result, Res} % die!
            end
    end.

```



-- OUTPUT --

```

6
1
2
4
result = 3.25

```

# Reception (ERLANG vs AKKA)

## ■ In ERLANG:

- Locally nested receives (depending on local state)

## ■ In JAVA+AKKA:

- You only have implicit top-level receive onReceive( ):

## ■ Example ⇒ refactored (ready) for JAVA+AKKA:

```
%% -- GATHER -----
gather(Pid) ->
    receive // State #0 ('Res1' not set)
        {result,Res1} ->
            receive // State #1 ('Res1' set)
                {result,Res2} ->
                    Res = average(Res1,Res2),
                    Pid ! {result, Res} % die.
            end
    end.
```

```
%% -- GATHER '
gather(Pid, Res1) ->
    receive
        {result,Res1} when Res1 = undef ->
            gather(Pid, Res1)
;
        {result,Res2} ->
            Res = average(Res1, Res2),
            Pid ! {result, Res} % die.
    end.
```

[See also ERLANG Book, program 5.3]

# 6) ScatterGather.java

```

import java.util.Random;      import java.io.*;
import akka.actor.*;

// -- MESSAGES ---

class StartMessage implements Serializable { public StartMessage() { } }

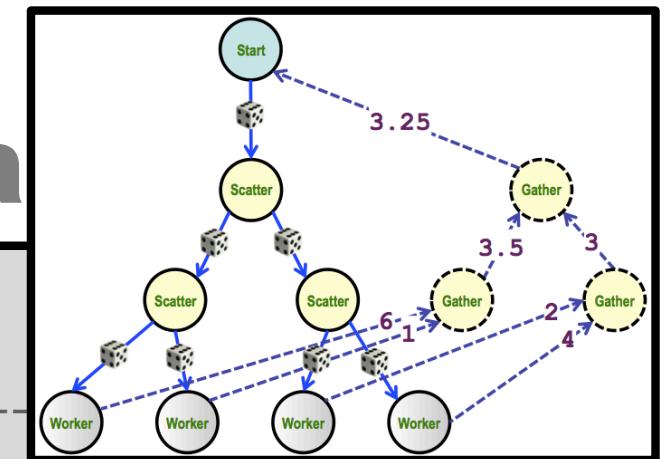
class SplitMessage implements Serializable { public SplitMessage() { } }

class CallerMessage implements Serializable {
    public final ActorRef caller;
    public CallerMessage(ActorRef caller) { this.caller = caller; }
}

class ComputeMessage implements Serializable {
    public final int number;
    public final ActorRef caller;
    public ComputeMessage(int number, ActorRef caller) {
        this.number = number;
        this.caller = caller;
    }
}

class ResultMessage implements Serializable {
    public final double result;
    public ResultMessage(double result) { this.result = result; }
}

```



-- OUTPUT --

```

6
1
2
4
result = 3.25

```

# 6) ScatterGather.java

```

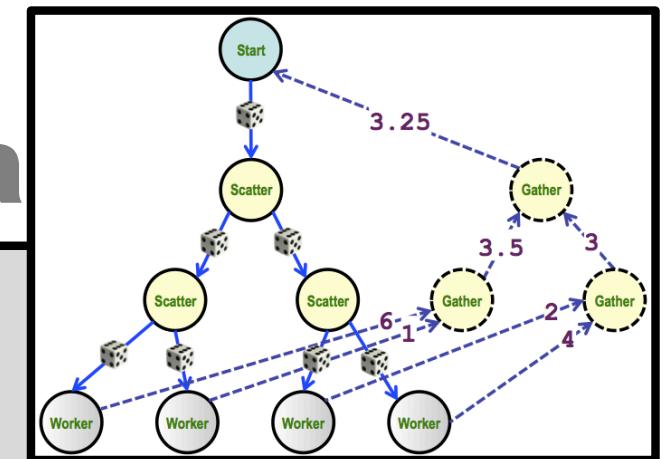
class WorkerScatterActor extends UntypedActor {
    // null => worker , non-null => scatter:
    private ActorRef left, right;
    private final Random rnd = new Random();
    private int random(int n) { return rnd.nextInt(n); }
    private int compute(int n) { return random(n) + 1; }

    public void onReceive(Object o) throws Exception {
        // dispatch according to actor role: 'worker' or 'scatter'
        if (left == null) worker(o);
        else scatter(o);
    }

    private void worker(Object o) throws Exception {
        if (o instanceof SplitMessage) {
            left = getContext().actorOf(Props.create(WorkerScatterActor.class), "left");
            right = getContext().actorOf(Props.create(WorkerScatterActor.class), "right");
        } else if (o instanceof ComputeMessage) {
            ComputeMessage m = (ComputeMessage) o;
            int result = compute(m.number);
            System.out.println(result);
            m.caller.tell(new ResultMessage(result), ActorRef.noSender());
        }
    }

    private void scatter(Object o) throws Exception { [...] }
}

```



-- OUTPUT --

```

6
1
2
4
result = 3.25

```

# 6) ScatterGather.java

```

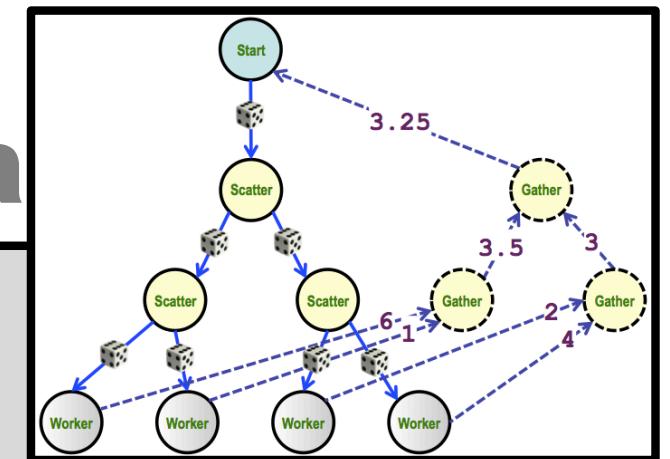
class WorkerScatterActor extends UntypedActor {
    // null => worker , non-null => scatter:
    private ActorRef left, right;
    [...]

    public void onReceive(Object o) throws Exception {
        // dispatch according to actor role: 'worker' or 'scatter'
        if (left == null) worker(o);
        else scatter(o);
    }

    private void worker(Object o) throws Exception { [...] }

    private void scatter(Object o) throws Exception {
        if (o instanceof SplitMessage) {
            left.forward(o, getContext());
            right.forward(o, getContext());
        } else if (o instanceof ComputeMessage) {
            ComputeMessage m = (ComputeMessage) o;
            ActorRef gather = getContext().actorOf(Props.create(GatherA...
                // send message with callter, instead of arguments to gather
                gather.tell(new CallerMessage(m.caller), ActorRef.noSender());
                left.tell(new ComputeMessage(m.number, gather), ActorRef.noSender());
                right.tell(new ComputeMessage(m.number, gather), ActorRef.noSender());
            }
        }
    }
}

```



-- OUTPUT --

```

6
1
2
4
result = 3.25

```

# 6) ScatterGather.java

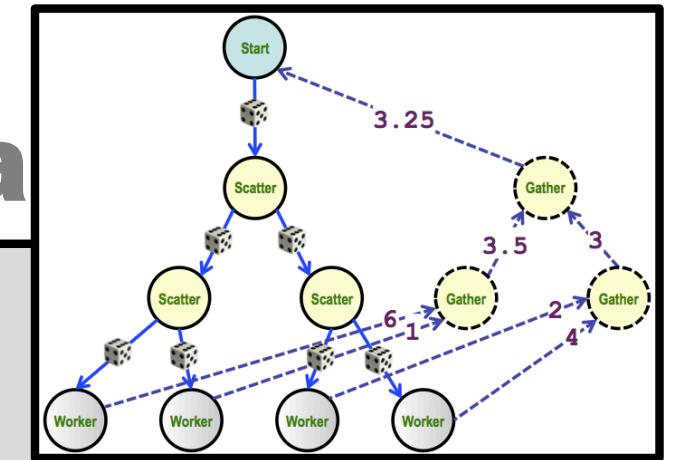
```

class GatherActor extends UntypedActor {
    double res1;
    ActorRef caller;

    private double average(double x, double y) {
        return (x + y) / 2;
    }

    public void onReceive(Object o) throws Exception {
        if (o instanceof CallerMessage) {
            caller = ((CallerMessage) o).caller;
        } else if (o instanceof ResultMessage) {
            if (caller == null) throw new Exception("no caller address!!!!");
            if (res1 == 0) {
                res1 = ((ResultMessage) o).result;
            } else {
                double res2 = ((ResultMessage) o).result;
                double res = average(res1, res2);
                caller.tell(new ResultMessage(res), ActorRef.noSender());
                getContext().stop(getSelf()); // die!
            }
        }
    }
}

```



-- OUTPUT --

```

6
1
2
4
result = 3.25

```

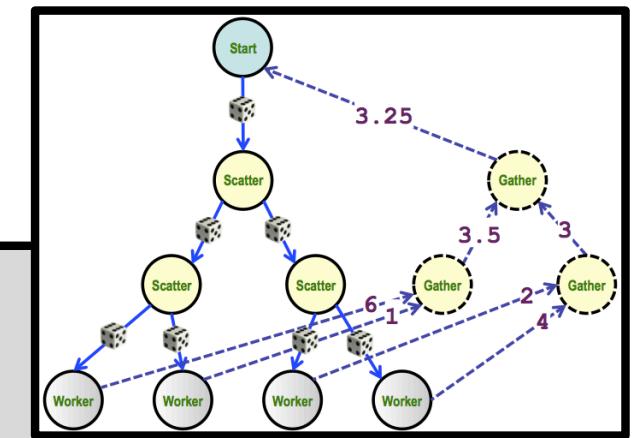
# 6) ScatterGather.java

```

class StartActor extends UntypedActor {
    public void onReceive(Object o) throws Exception {
        if (o instanceof StartMessage) {
            ActorRef worker =
                getContext().actorOf(Props.create(WorkerScatterActor.class), "worker");
            worker.tell(new SplitMessage(), ActorRef.noSender());
            worker.tell(new SplitMessage(), ActorRef.noSender());
            worker.tell(new ComputeMessage(6, getSelf()), ActorRef.noSender());
        } else if (o instanceof ResultMessage) {
            double result = ((ResultMessage) o).result;
            System.out.println("result = " + result);
        }
    }
}

public class ScatterGather {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        final ActorSystem system = ActorSystem.create("HelloWorldSystem");
        final ActorRef starter =
            system.actorOf(Props.create(StartActor.class), "starter");
        starter.tell(new StartMessage(), ActorRef.noSender());
        try { System.out.println("Press return to terminate..."); System.in.read(); }
        catch(IOException e) { e.printStackTrace(); }
        finally { system.shutdown(); }
    }
}

```



-- OUTPUT --

```

6
1
2
4
result = 3.25

```

# Scatter-Gatherer + ...

---

## ■ Adaptive Load balancing:

- Monitor system to extract up-to-date statistics
- Based on statistics, adjust system capacity (cf. our split) or Quality-of-Service ( $ak^2a$ , "graceful degradation")
  - Note: this may be done on **all** nodes in the hierarchy!

## ■ Memoization/Caching:

- Often, memoization is used to "cache" already-performed-computations // `Map<Key ,Val> cache;`
  - Note: this may be done on **all** nodes in the hierarchy!

## ■ Fault Tolerance:

- Supervisors react if workers don't respond or crash
- Then: `resume()`, `subtree.restart()`, `parent.escalate()`

# More information...

---

## ■ ERLANG:

- [ <http://www.erlang.org/download/erlang-book-part1.pdf> ]

## ■ AKKA Video Talks:

- [ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBvtE61Wrto> ]
- [ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4KxWDqGfcs> ]
  - [http://gotocon.com/dl/goto-aar-2012/slides/JonasBonr\\_UpUpAndOutScalingSoftwareWithAkka.pdf](http://gotocon.com/dl/goto-aar-2012/slides/JonasBonr_UpUpAndOutScalingSoftwareWithAkka.pdf)

## ■ JAVA+AKKA Documentation:

- [ <http://doc.akka.io/docs/akka/snapshot/java/untyped-actors.html> ]
- [ <http://doc.akka.io/docs/akka/2.3.7/AkkaJava.pdf> ]

## ■ JAVA+AKKA API:

- [ <http://doc.akka.io/japi/akka/2.3.7/> ]

**Thx!**

---

*Questions?*