

Reactive Thinking in Java

Yakov Fain, Farata Systems



@yfain

Reactive thinking is not new

Reactive thinking is not new

Бди!

Козьма Прутков ©

Reactive thinking is not new

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled "BudgetForecastsXDemoA". The spreadsheet is organized into several sections:

- Header Row:** A1 contains "Happy Valley Farm". Below it, row 2 has "Div./Department" and "Status" with a note "Enter 1 for completed status." Row 3 shows "Cut Flowers" and "Happy Valley Farm". Row 4 contains "Start Date" and "Completed > Complete". Row 5 shows "Jun-06".
- Product Sales Data:** Rows 6 through 14 show unit sales for products like Flowers-Export, Flowers-Local, and Flowers-Eldoret across months Jun-06 to Mar-07.
- Sales Prices:** Rows 15 through 21 show sales prices for these products.
- Costs:** Rows 22 through 27 show direct costs of sales, operating expenses, and profit/loss calculations.
- Margin and Budget:** Rows 28 through 34 show gross margin percentages and variable cost budgets.
- Bottom Row:** Row 35 shows "Variable Costs Budget" with a value of 22.29% and "Totals". Row 36 shows "Variable Costs" with a value of \$262,575 and "Variable %" at 0.00%.

The spreadsheet uses various colors (e.g., green for totals, red for negative values) and bold text for headings. The bottom navigation bar indicates the current sheet is "Year One" of a multi-year forecast.

The reactive style app

- Message-driven - components communicates via notifications
- Non-imperative - the app logic is coded in async, non-blocking, composable functions
- The data moves through your app's algorithm

www.reactivemanifesto.org

Java concurrency

- Blocking I/O is the problem
- `Future.get()`
 - blocks till all threads are complete
- `CompletableFuture.supplyAsync(task).thenAccept(action)`
 - what if the tasks need to fetch millions of records?

Some open-source Rx libraries

<http://reactivex.io>

- RxJava
 - RxAndroid, RxJavaFX, RxSwing
 - Rx.NET, RxCpp, RxJS, Rx.rb, Rx.py, RxSwift, RxScala, RxPHP

JDK 9 will include reactive streams in `java.util.concurrent.Flow`

Main RxJava players

- **Observable** - producer of data
- **Observer** - consumer of observable sequences
- **Subscriber** - connects observer with observable
- **Operator** - en-route data transformation
- **Scheduler** - multi-threading support

Java Iterable: a pull

```
beers.forEach(brr -> {
    if ("USA".equals(brr.country)){
        americanBeers.add(brr);
    }
});
```

Java 8 Stream: a pull

```
beers.stream()
    .skip(1)
    .limit(3)
    .filter(b -> "USA".equals(b.country))
    .map(b -> b.name + ": $" + b.price)
    .forEach(beer -> System.out.println(beer));
```

A fool with a tool is still a fool

Американская народная мудрость

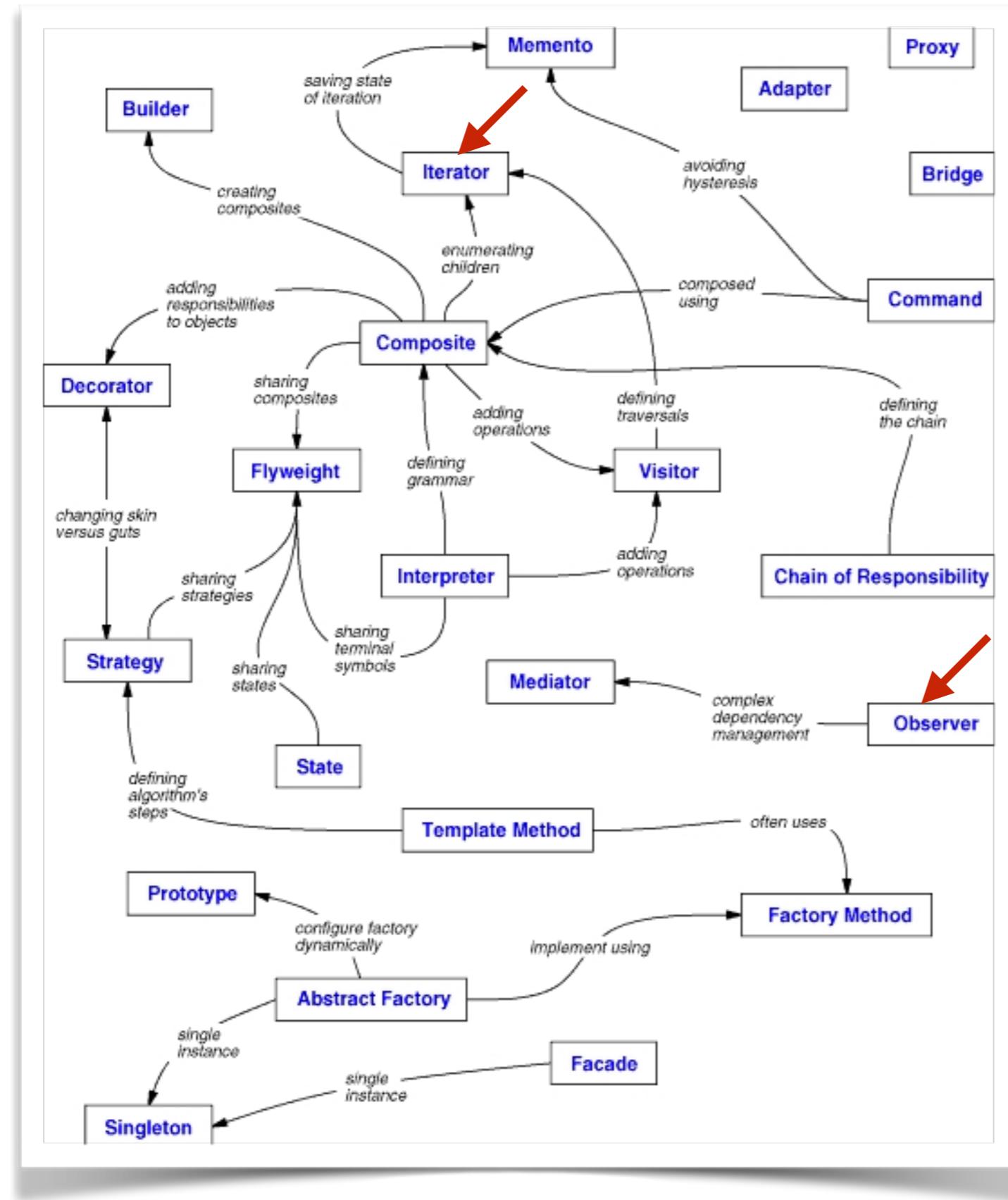
A fool with a tool is still a fool

Американская народная мудрость

A pull with a tool is still a pull

© Yakov Fain

Observable is an Iterable inside out



Word

Antonym

Iterable

Observable

Iterator

Observer

Pull

Push

Data Flow

Data
Source



Data Flow

Observable

Data
Source



Data Flow

Observable

Data
Source



Data Flow

Observer Subscriber



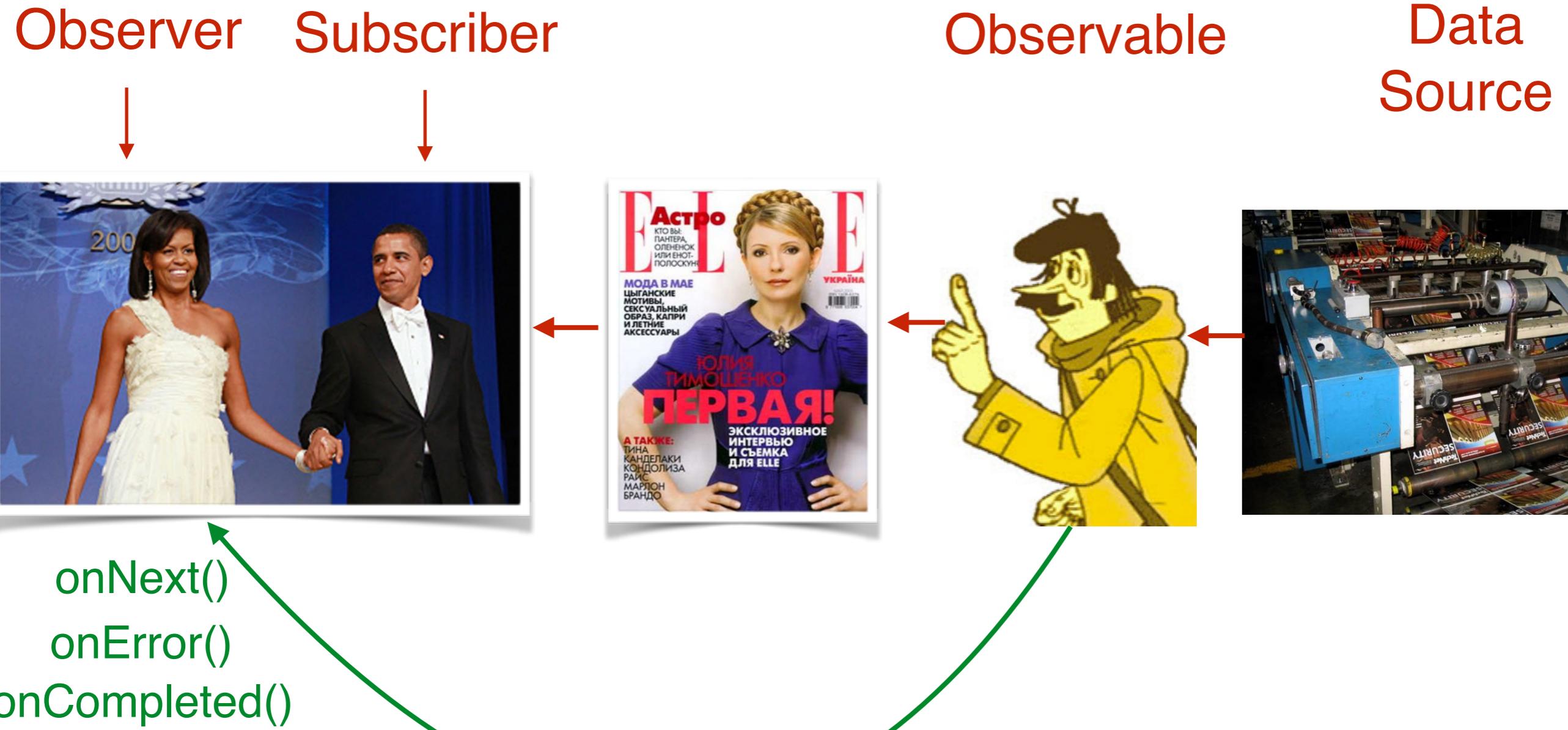
Observable



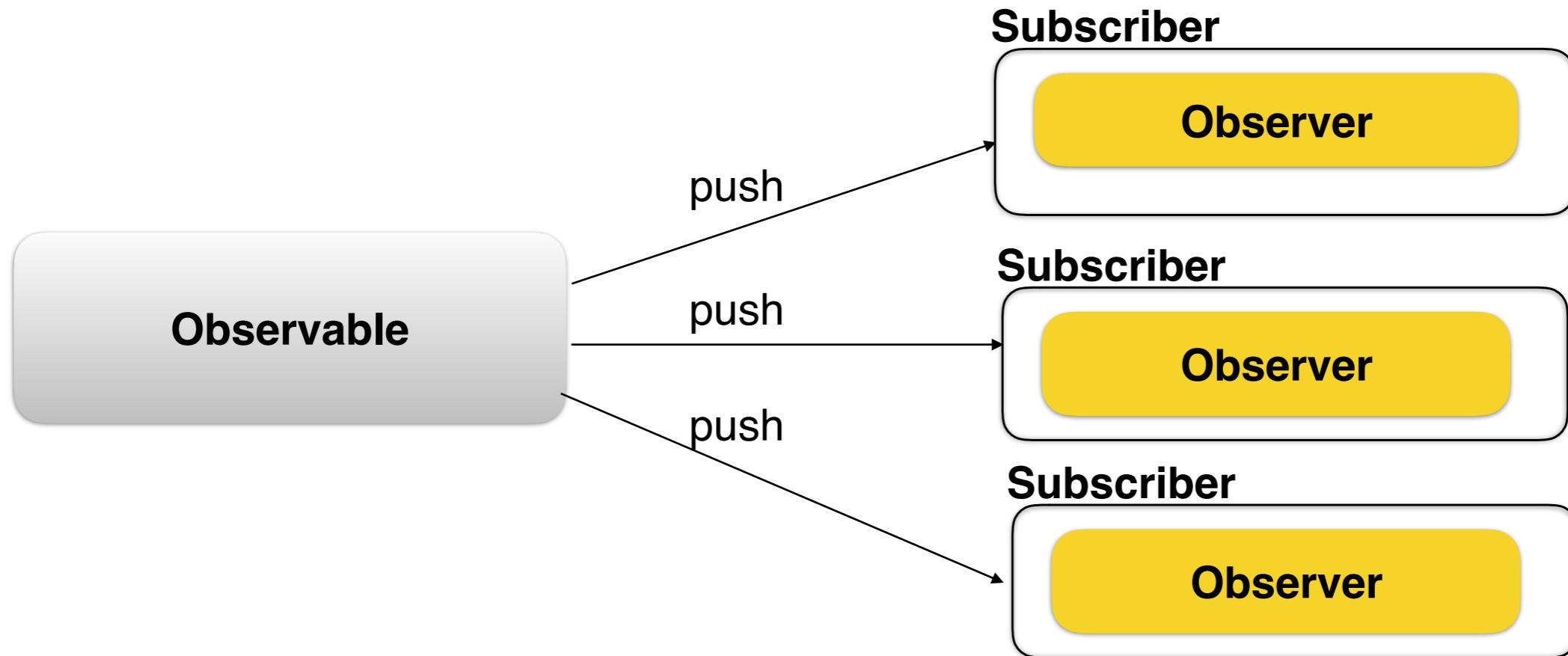
Data
Source



Data Flow



Event-driven push



Subscribe to messages from Observable and handle them by Observer

`Observable.subscribe(Subscriber)`

```
class Subscriber implements Observer { }
```

Method Summary

Modifier and Type	Method and Description
void	onCompleted() Notifies the Observer that the <code>Observable</code> has finished sending push-based notifications.
void	onError(java.lang.Throwable e) Notifies the Observer that the <code>Observable</code> has experienced an error condition.
void	onNext(T t) Provides the Observer with a new item to observe.

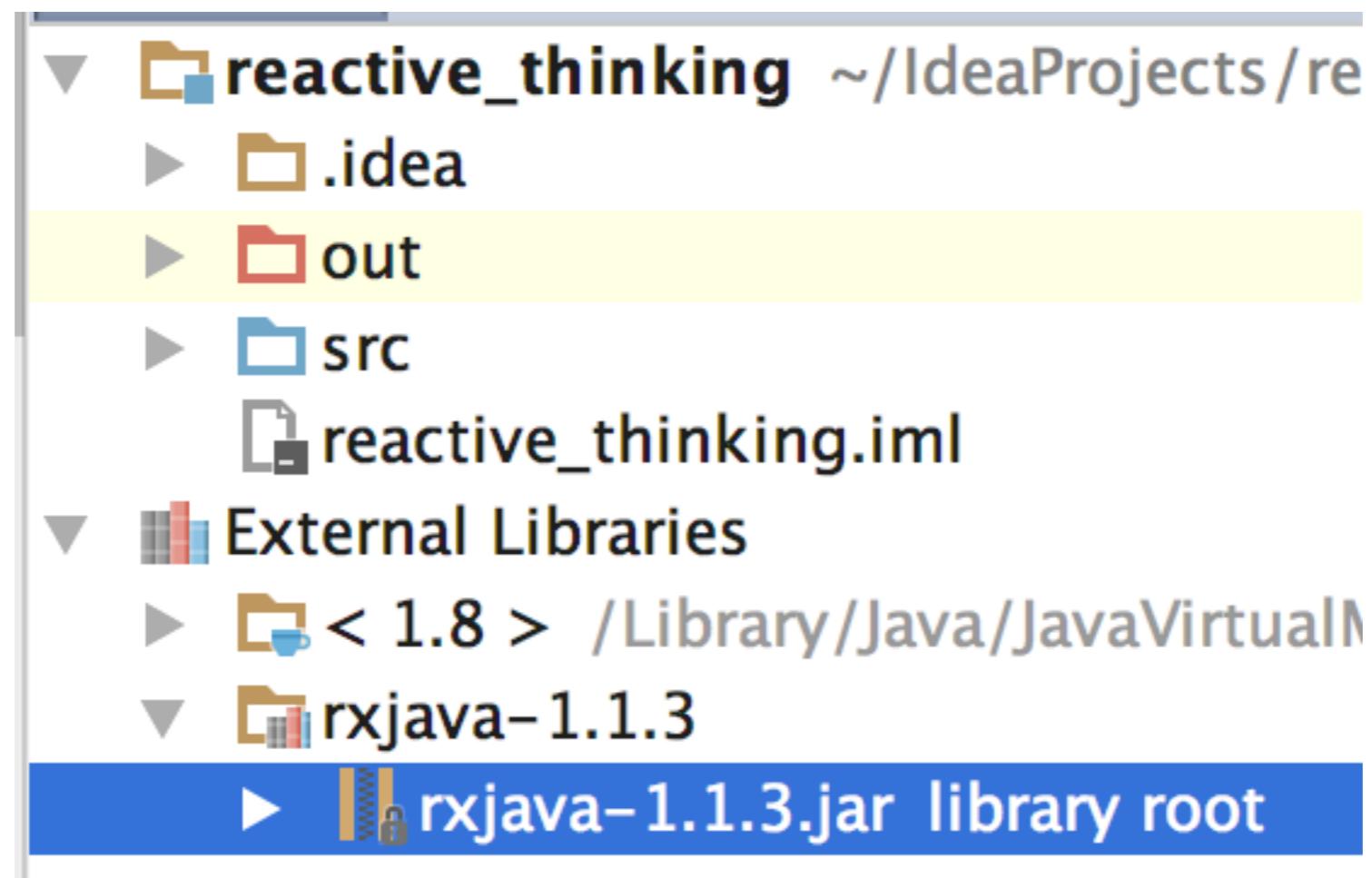
Rx Observable: a push

```
observableBeer
    .skip(1)
    .take(3)
    .filter(b -> "USA".equals(b.country))
    .map(b -> b.name + ": $" + b.price)
    .subscribe(
        beer -> System.out.println(beer),
        err -> System.out.println(err),
        () -> System.out.println("Streaming is complete")
);
```

Demo

HelloObservable

Get rxjava.jar on <http://search.maven.org>



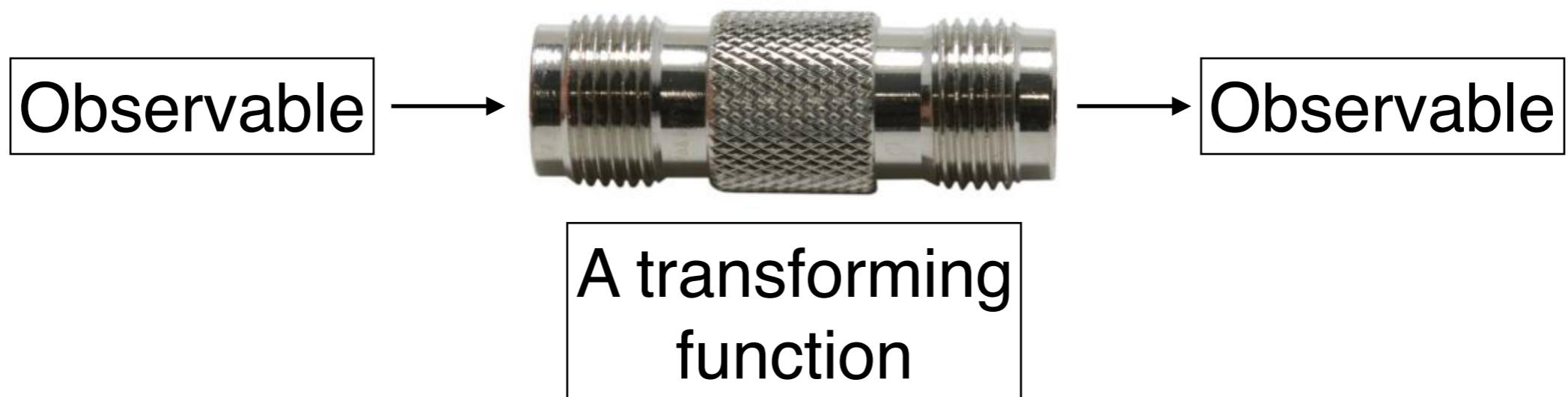
A pure function

- Produces no side effects
- The same input always results in the same output
- Doesn't modify the input
- Doesn't rely on the external state

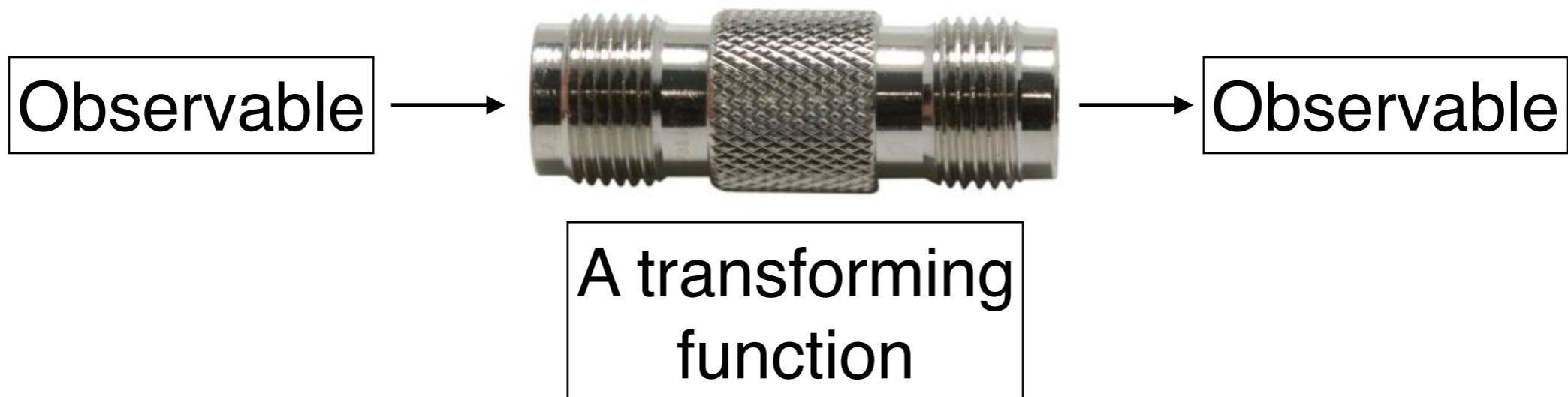
A higher-order function can:

- Take one or more functions as argument(s)
- Return a function

An Operator



An Operator



```
observableBeer  
    .filter(b -> "USA".equals(b.country))
```

An Operator



A transforming
function

```
observableBeer  
  .filter(b -> "USA".equals(b.country))
```

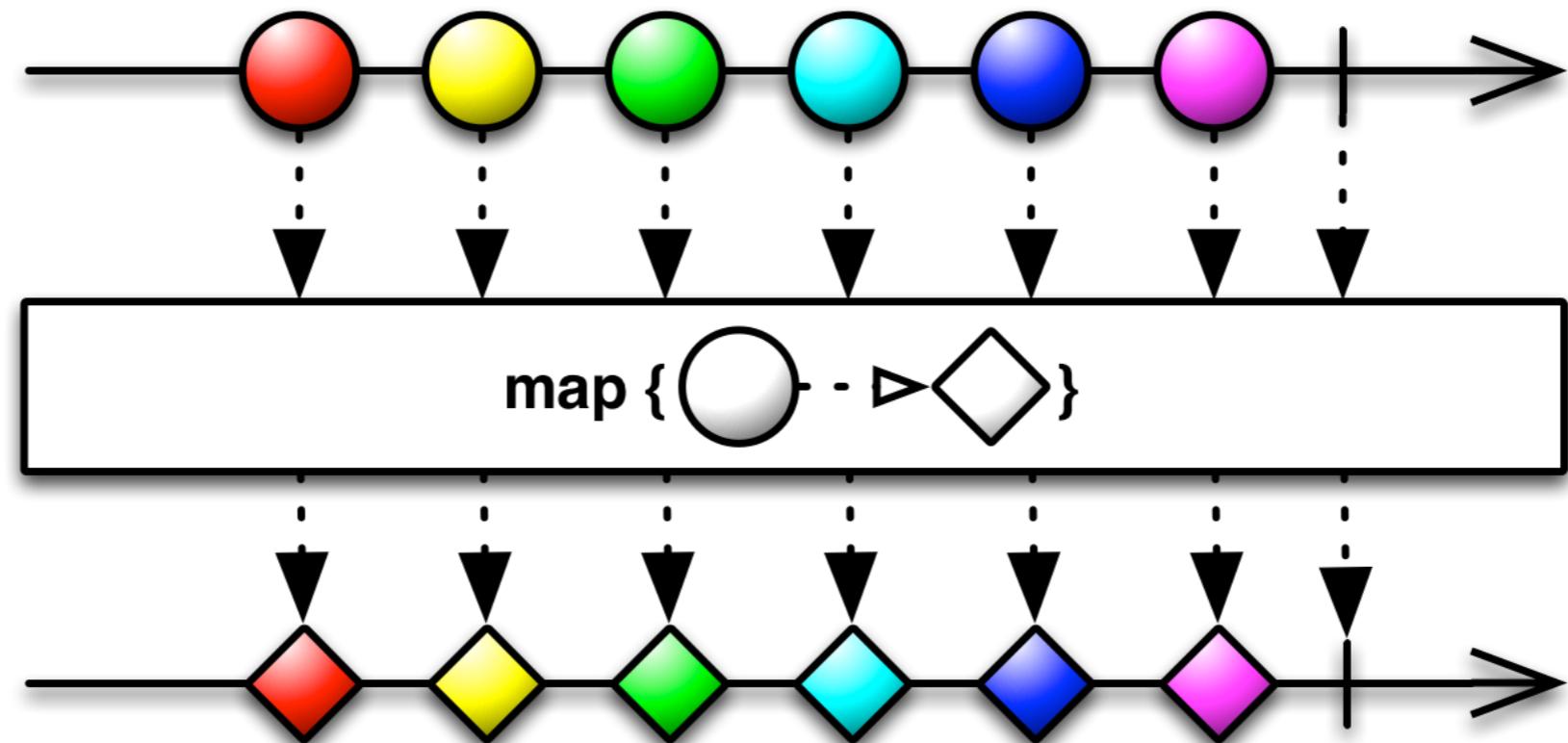
pure function

An operator is a higher-order function

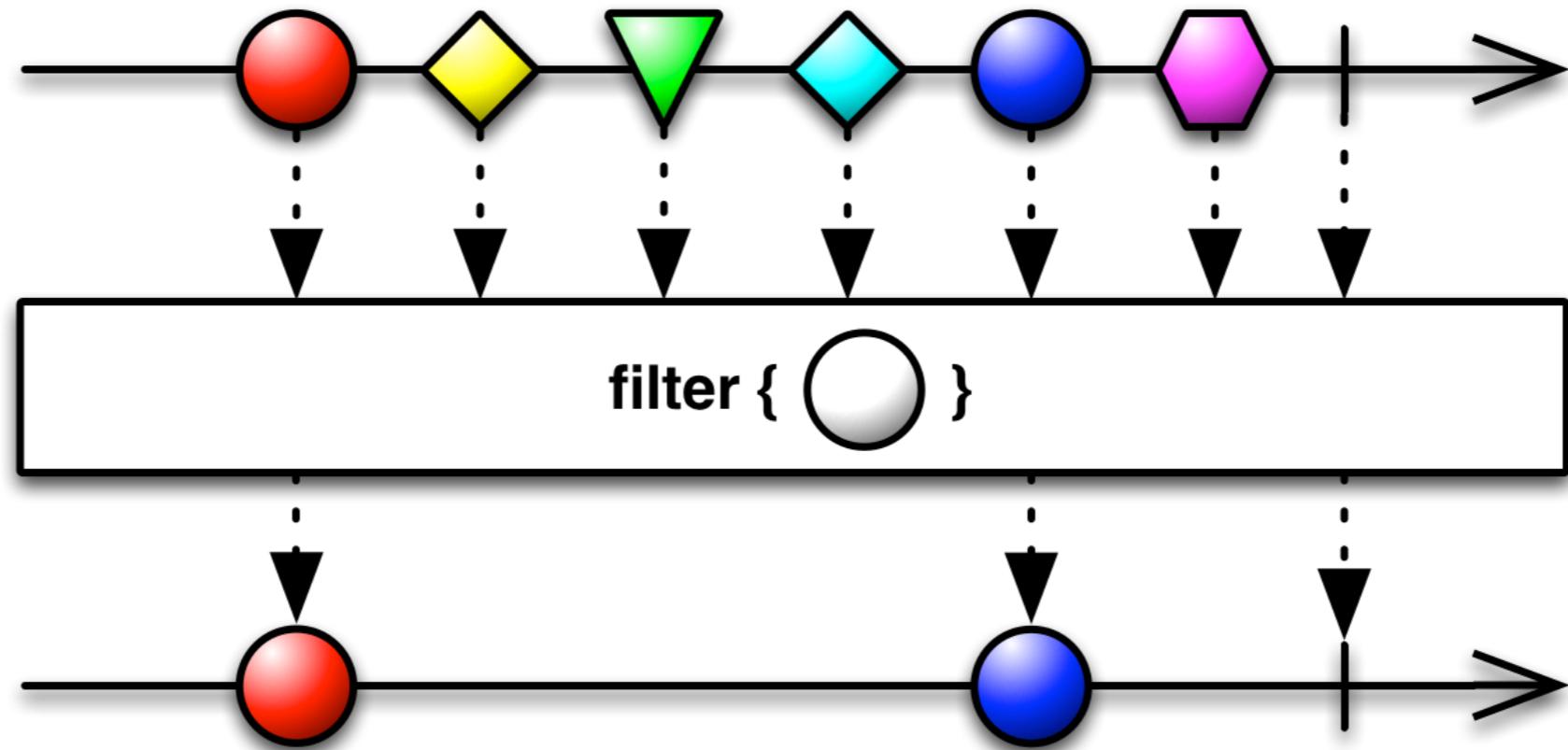
Marble Diagrams

<http://rxmarbles.com>

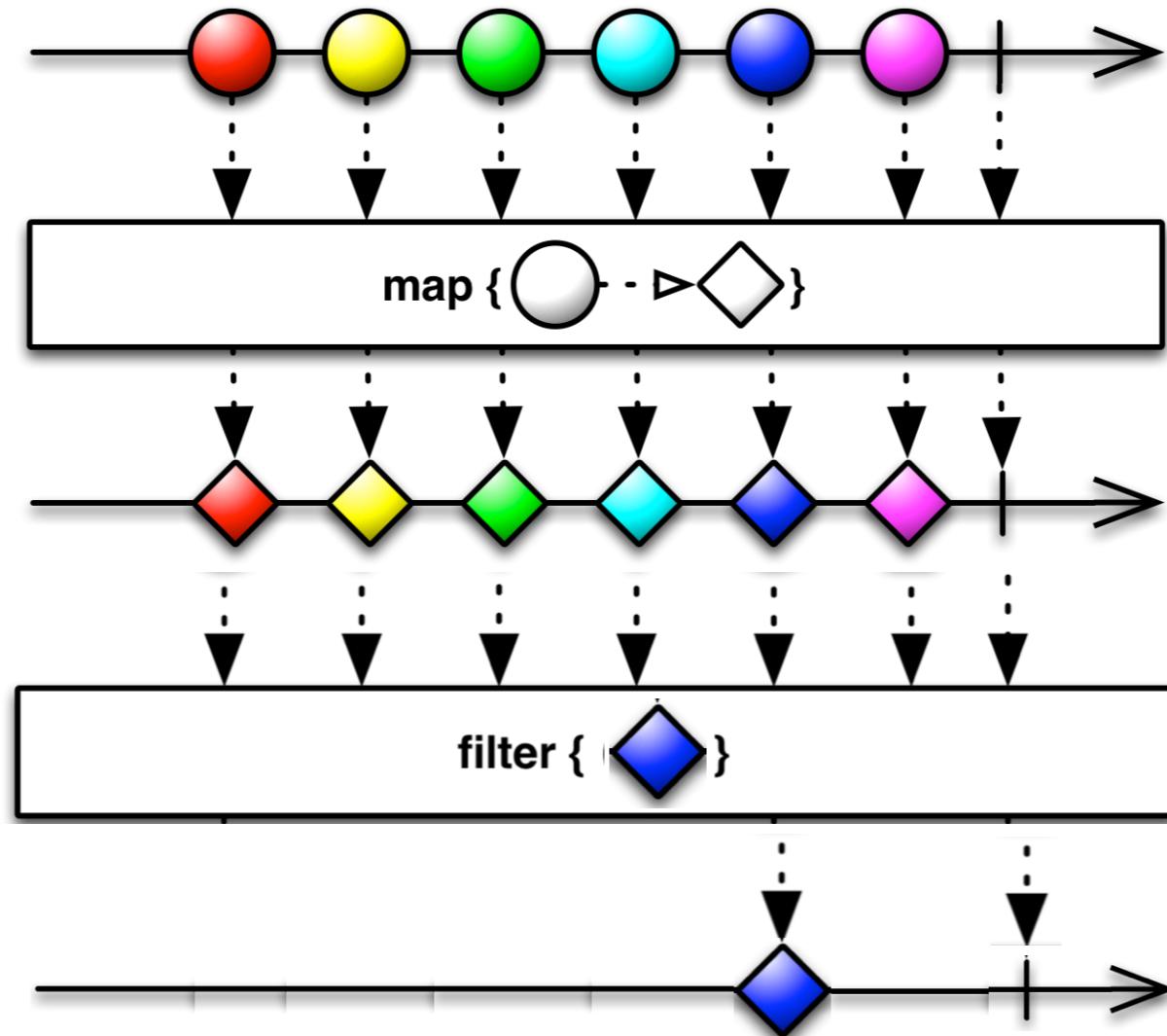
Observable map (function) { }



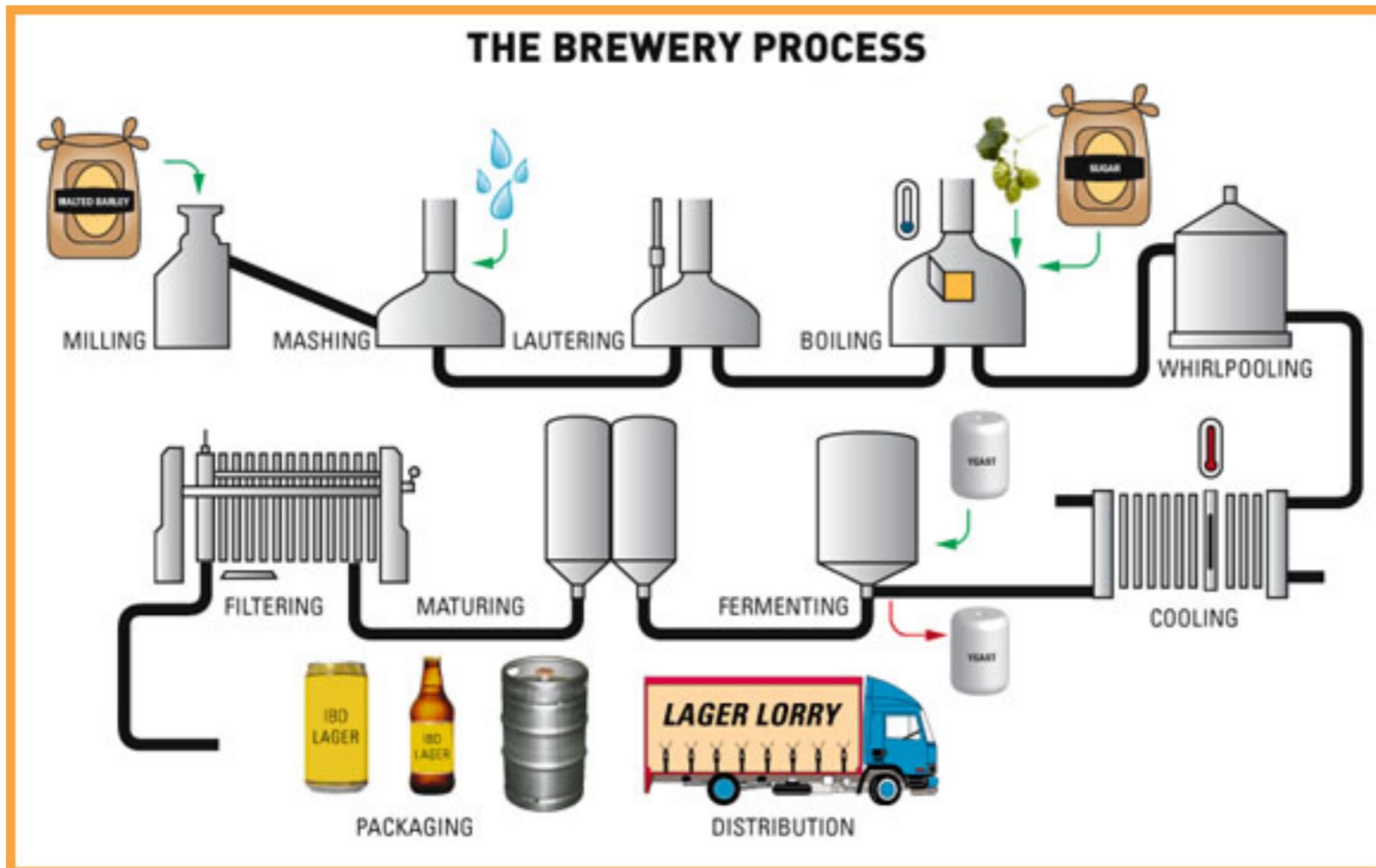
Observable filter(function) { }

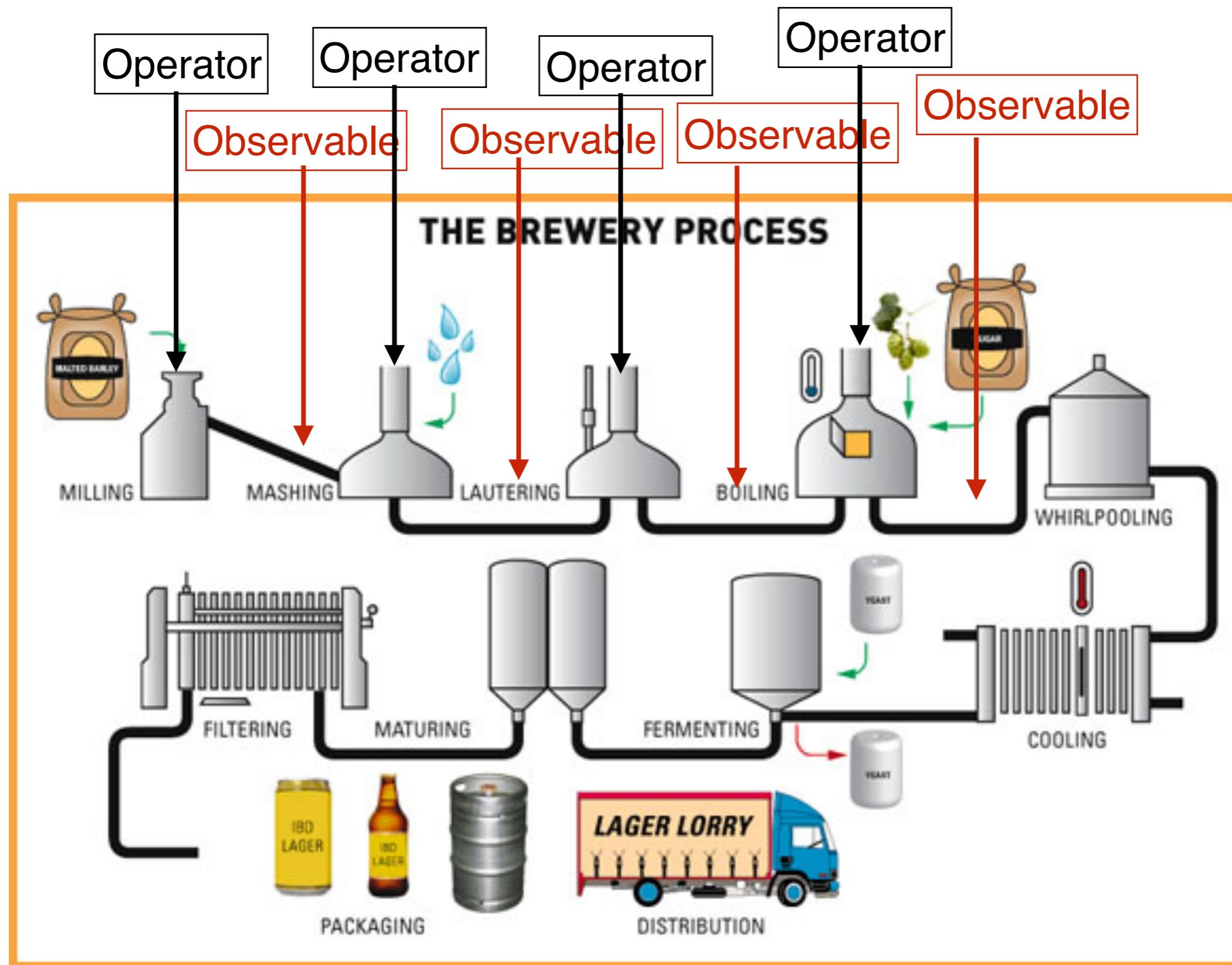


Operator chaining: map and filter



RX: the data moves across your algorithm





Creating an Observable

- **Observable.create()** - returns Observable that can invoke methods on Observer
- **Observable.from()** - converts an Iterable or Future into Observable
- **Observable.fromCallable()** - converts a Callable into Observable
- **Observable.empty()** - returns empty Observable that invokes onCompleted()
- **Observable.range()** - returns a sequence of integers in the specified range
- **Observable.just()** - converts up to 10 items into Observable

Demo

BeerClient

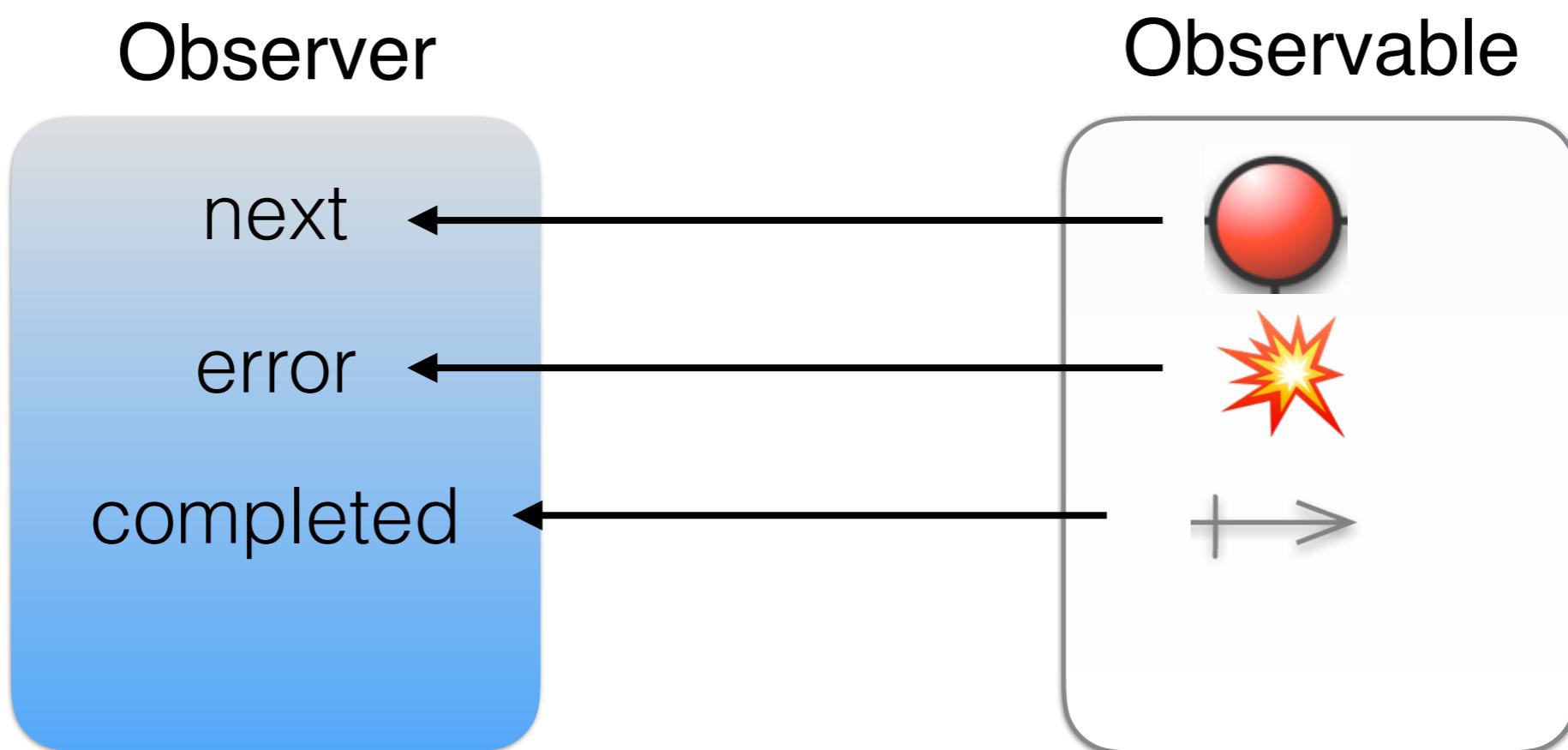
Functions with side effects

Affect environment outside the function.

- doOnNext()
- doOnError()
- doOnCompleted()
- doOnEach()
- doOnSubscribe()



Error Handling



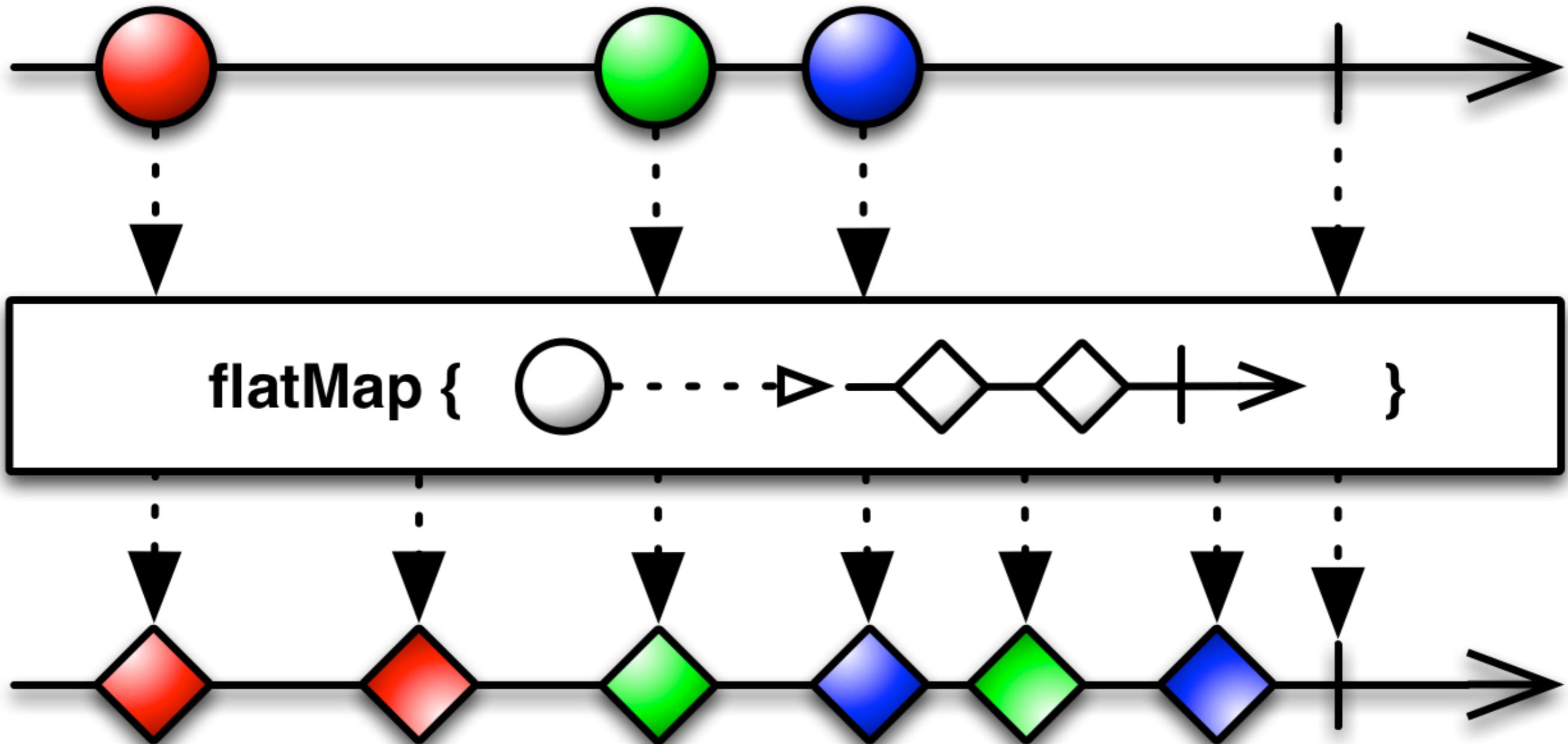
Error-handling operators

- Errors sent using `onError()` kill the subscription
- `retryWhen()` - intercept, analyze the error, resubscribe
- `onErrorResumeNext()` - used for failover to another Observable
- `onResumeReturn()` - returns an app-specific value

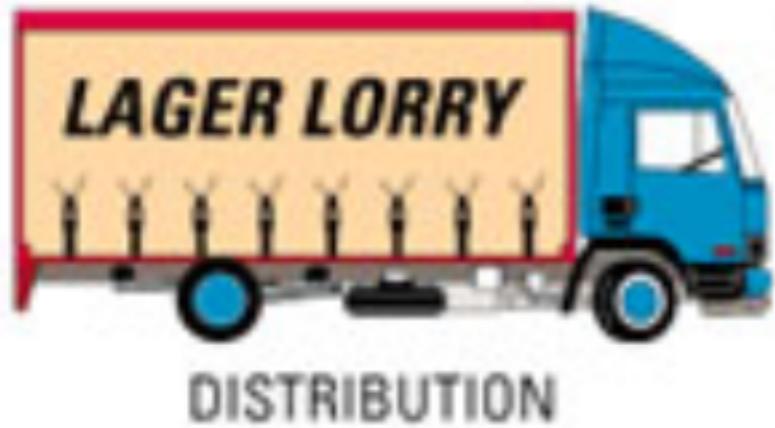
Demo

BeerClientWithFailover

The flatMap() operator



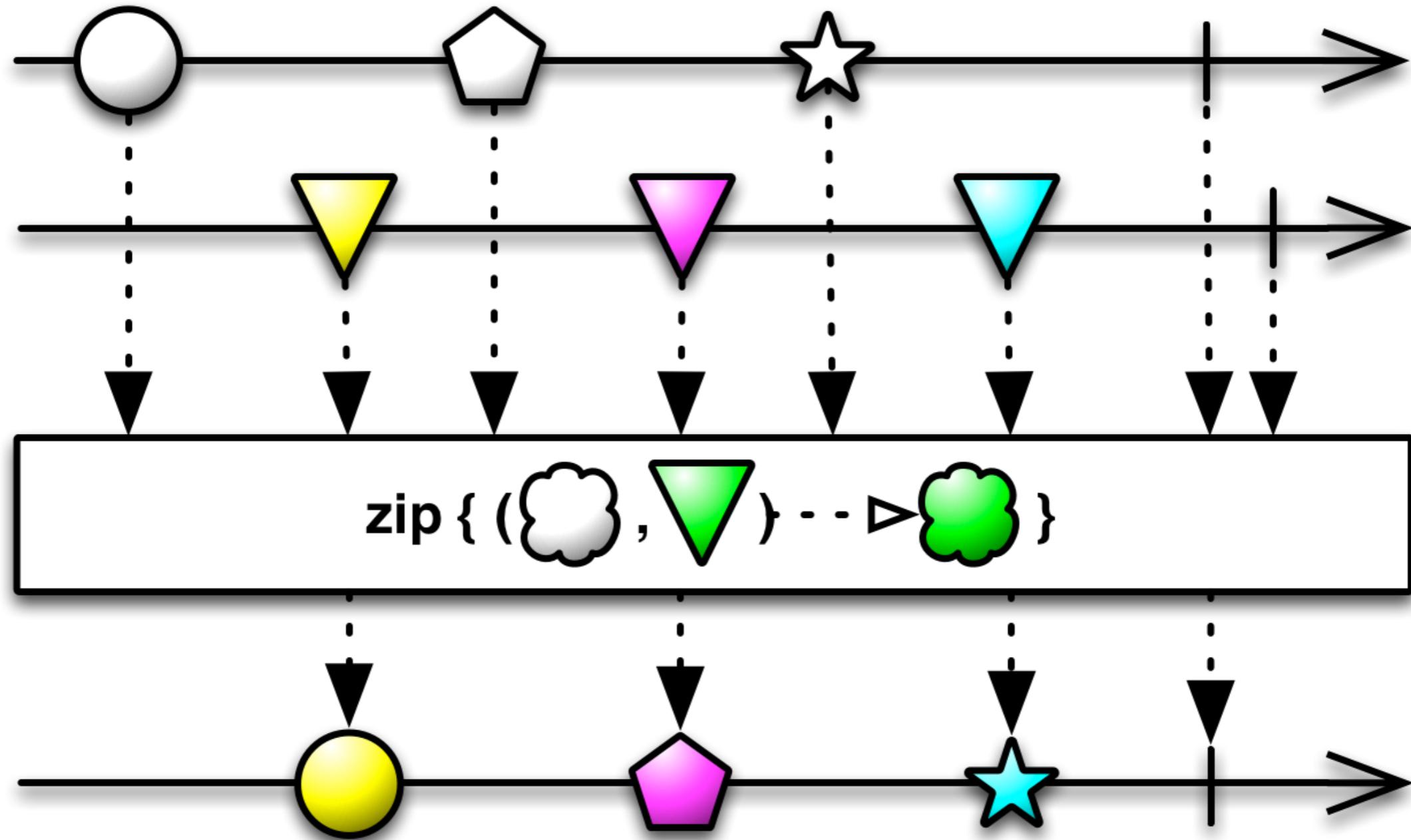
Observable.flatMap()



Demo

composingObservables
ObservableDrinks

The zip() operator



Think Netflix

- `take(10)` - get a list of lists of videos (the first 10)
- `flatMap()` - turn them into one list of videos
- `map()` - for each video make nested calls to get some observable metadata (ratings, reviews, etc.)
- `zip()` - combine observables into a a video object
- `observeOn()` - switch to the UI thread and render the videos

Schedulers

Schedulers

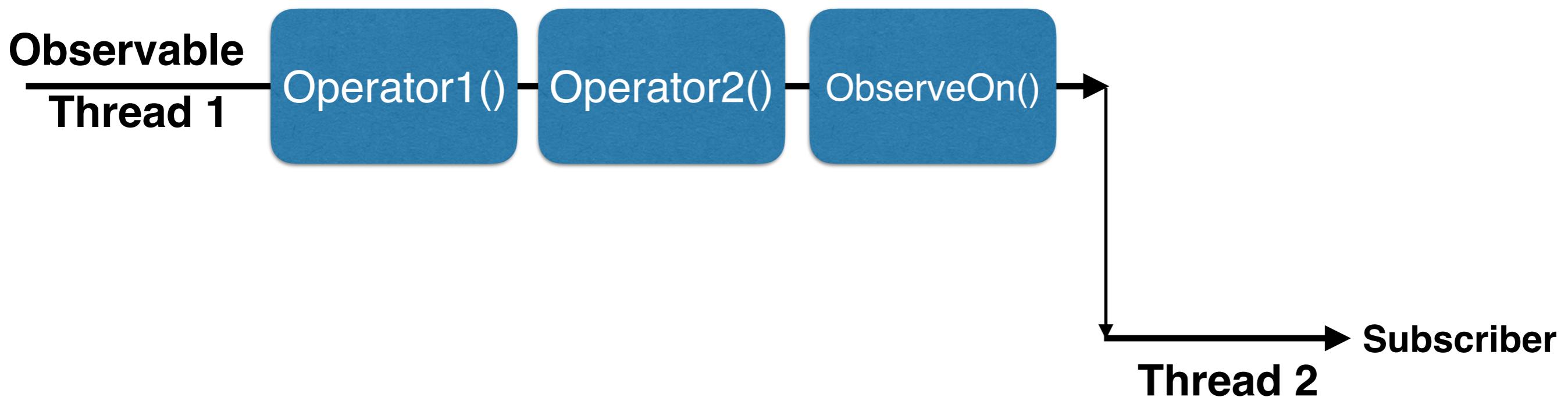
Concurrency with Schedulers

- An observable stream is single-threaded by default
- `subscribeOn (strategy)` - run **Observable** in a separate thread
- `observeOn (strategy)` - run **Observer** in a separate thread

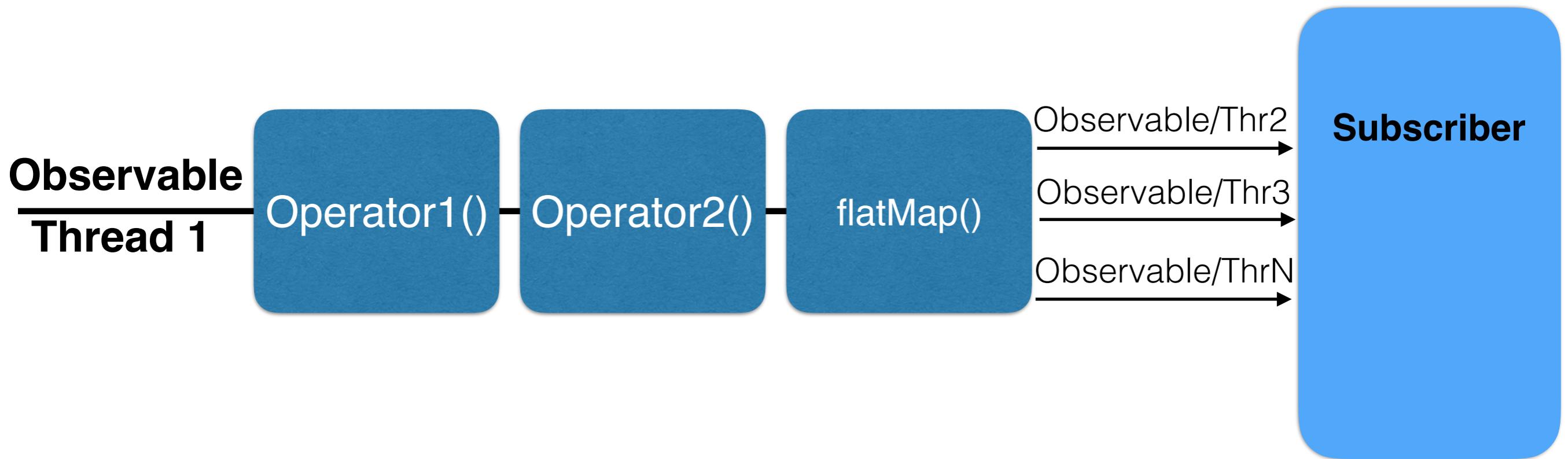
Multi-threading strategies

- `Schedulers.computation()` - for computations: # of threads <= # of cores
- `Schedulers.io()` - for long running communications; backed by a thread pool
- `Schedulers.newThread()` - new thread for each unit of work
- `Schedulers.from(Executor)` - a wrapper for Java Executor
- `Schedulers.trampoline()` - queues the work on the current thread
- `AndroidSchedulers.mainThread()` - handle data on the main thread (RxAndroid)

Switching threads



Parallel processing



Demo

schedulers/SubscribeOnObserveOn
schedulers/ParallelStreams

Hot and cold observables

- Cold: emits items only when someone subscribes to it
- Hot: emits items when it's created regardless if there is a subscriber or not

Backpressure

- Throttling: sample(), throttleFirst(), debounce()
- Buffers: buffer()
- Window: window(n)
- Reactive pull: Subscriber.request(n)



<https://github.com/ReactiveX/RxJava/wiki/Backpressure>

Http and Observables

```
class AppComponent {  
  products: Array<string> = [];  
  
  constructor(private http: Http) {  
  
    this.http.get('http://localhost:8080/products')  
      .map(res => res.json())  
      .subscribe(  
        data => {  
          this.products = data;  
        },  
        err =>  
          console.log("Can't get products. Error code: %s, URL: %s ",  
                     err.status, err.url),  
        () => console.log('Product(s) are retrieved')  
      );  
  }  
}
```

A vertical red box on the left contains the word "Observer" vertically, with each letter connected by a red arrow pointing right towards the corresponding part of the code. The letters are O, b, s, e, r, v, e, r.

Http and Observables

```
class AppComponent {  
  products: Array<string> = [];  
  
  constructor(private http: Http) {  
  
    this.http.get('http://localhost:8080/products')  
      .map(res => res.json())  
      .subscribe(  
        data => {  
          this.products = data;  
        },  
        err =>  
          console.log("Can't get products. Error code: %s, URL: %s ",  
                     err.status, err.url),  
        () => console.log('Product(s) are retrieved')  
      );  
  }  
}
```



This code is from an Angular 2 app written in TypeScript

The switchMap operator

The diagram illustrates the `switchMap` operator. It shows two Observables: **Observable 1** (the source Observable) and **Observable 2** (the result Observable). A red arrow points from the `.switchMap` method call to **Observable 2**, indicating that Observable 1 is mapped to Observable 2.

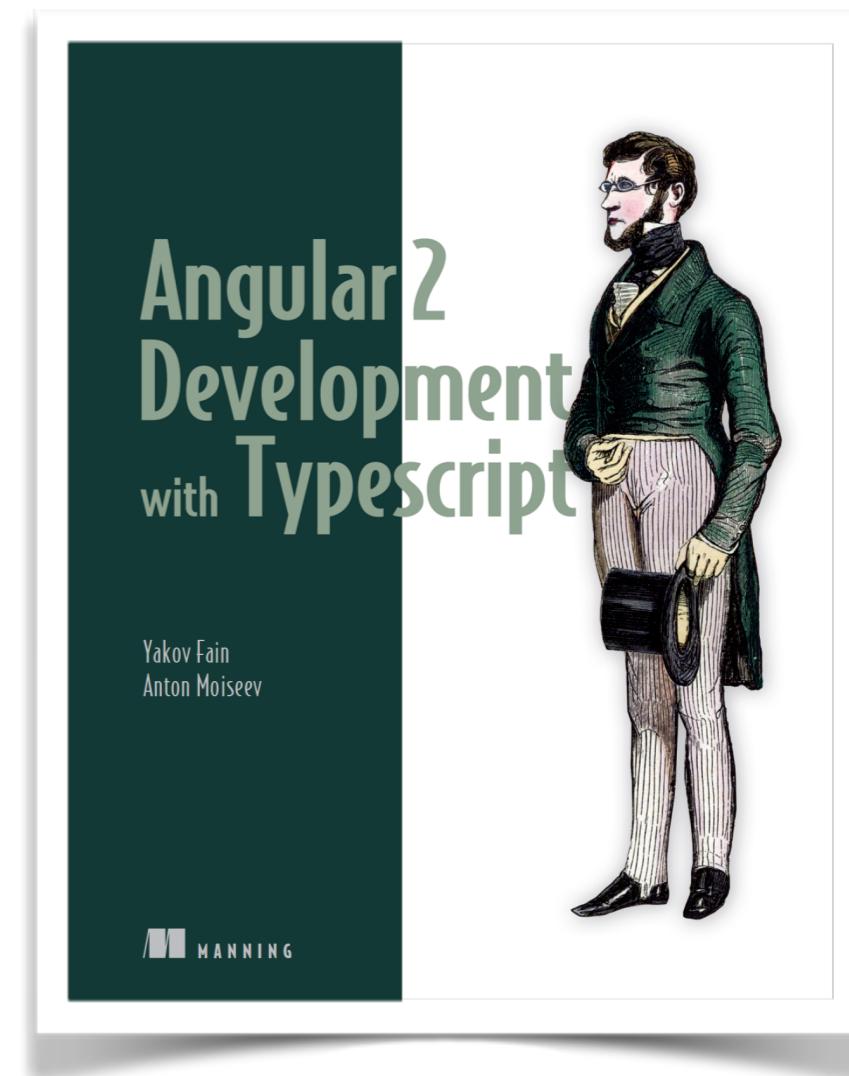
```
this.searchInput.valueChanges
  .debounceTime(200)
  .switchMap(city => this.getWeather(city))
  .subscribe(
    res => {
      if (res['cod'] === '404') return;
      if (!res.list[0]) {
        this.temperature = 'City is not found';
      } else {
        this.temperature =
          `Current temperature is ${res.list[0].main.temp}F, +
          humidity: ${res.list[0].main.humidity}%`;
      }
    },
    err => console.log(`Can't get weather. Error code: ${err.code}, URL: ${err.url}`, err.message, err.url),
    () => console.log('Weather is retrieved')
  );
}

getWeather(city): Observable<Array> {
  return this.http.get(this.baseWeatherURL + city + this.urlSuffix)
    .map(res => res.json());
}
```

This code is from an Angular 2 app written in TypeScript

Links

- Code samples and slides:
<https://github.com/yfain/rxjava>
- Our company: faratasystems.com
- Blog: yakovfain.com
- Twitter:@yfain



discount code: **faindz**