

pico-Céu:

*A minimalist, visual, and interactive
programming environment
focusing on education.*

Francisco Sant'Anna

`francisco@ime.uerj.br`

`https://github.com/fsantanna/pico-ceu`

“Hello World!”

```
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(25,25);
```

```
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(25,25);  
await KEY_PRESS;  
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(26,26);
```

```
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(25,25);  
await 1s;  
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(26,26);  
await 1s;  
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(27,27);  
await 1s;  
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(28,28);
```

Goals

- Concrete problems
 - avoid abstract/mathematical problems
 - fibonacci, primes, gcd, sort
 - seek visual and playful applications
 - focus on input/output, **time**
 - propose modifications that require maths
- Project oriented
 - portfolio building, creativity
 - individualization
 - no best/single/correct solution
 - make exams optional and reduces plagiarism
- Multiple target audiences
 - computer science, engineering, visual arts, schools, kids

Approach

- Straightforward graphics
 - immediate feedback
 - pixel-level manipulation and visualization
- Simple development cycle
 - minimalist API
 - easy installation and execution
- Explicit I/O operations
 - `await` for input
 - `emit` for output
- Structured synchronous programming model
 - sequential execution, no callbacks
 - logical parallelism, deterministic concurrency

Inspirations

- Basic
 - simple/immediate graphics API
- pico8
 - 8-bit “fantasy console”
- Scratch
 - “constructionist learning”
 - “creative computing”



Input & Output

```
var integer x ← 25;
var integer y ← 25;
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x,y);

loop do
  var integer key ← await KEY_PRESS;

  if key = KEY_LEFT then
    x ← x - 1;
  else/if key = KEY_RIGHT then
    x ← x + 1;
  else/if key = KEY_UP then
    y ← y - 1;
  else/if key = KEY_DOWN then
    y ← y + 1;
  end

  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x,y);
end
```

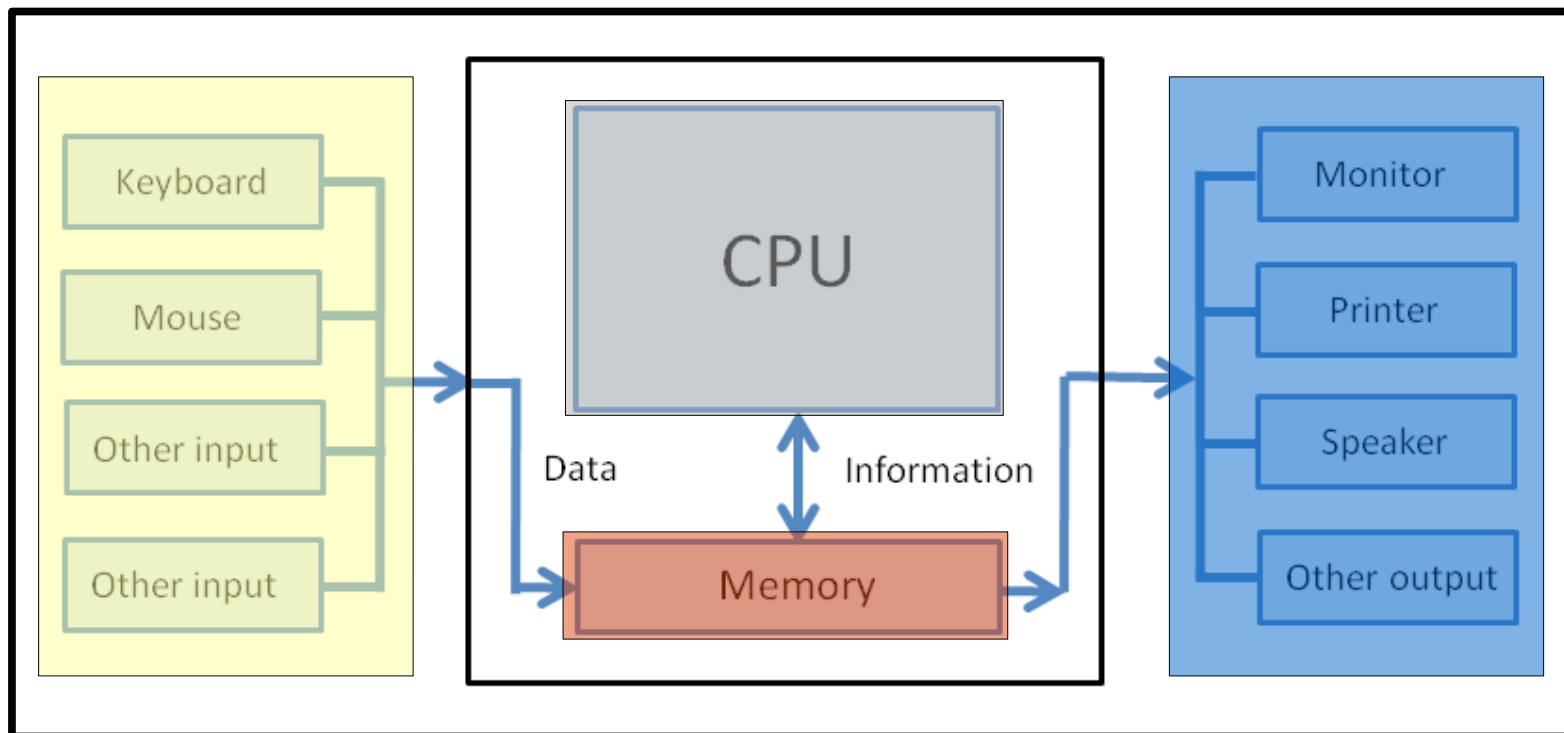
Escrita

$x \leftarrow$

```
var integer x ← 25;  
var integer y ← 25;  
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x,y);  
loop do  
  var integer key ← await KEY_PRESS;  
  if key = KEY_LEFT then  
    x ← x - 1;  
  else/if key = <...> then  
    <...>  
  end  
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x,y);  
end
```

Leitura

x

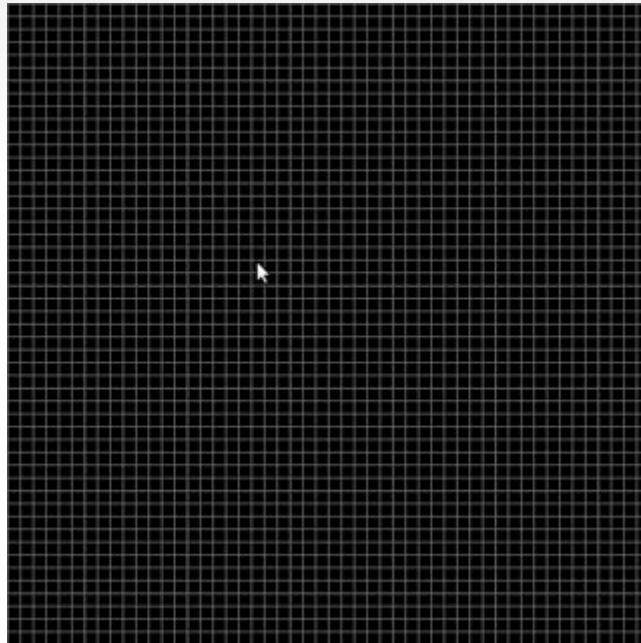


Exercises / Projects

- Add a new feature
 - erase the moving trail
 - use different colors
 - draw other geometric shapes (circles, figures)
 - write text
- Explore the API

Concurrency

- Drawing an **X** on the screen:



Concurrency

```
var integer p;  
loop p in [0 -> 50[ do  
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(p,p);  
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(49-p,p);  
  await 100ms;  
end
```

par do

```
var integer p1;  
loop p1 in [0 -> 50[ do  
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(p1,p1);  
  await 100ms;  
end
```

with

```
var integer p2 = 0;  
loop p2 in [0 -> 50[ do  
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(49-p2,p2);  
  await 100ms;  
end
```

end

Concurrency and Parallelism

- Early approach to the theme
- What means “at the same time”?
 - to the application user
 - to the application programmer
 - to the computer
 - experience, specification, implementation
 - concurrency, logical parallelism, real parallelism

Moving two pixels

- Early approach to the theme
- What means “at the same time”?
 - to the application user
 - to the application programmer
 - to the computer
 - experience, specification, implementation
 - concurrency, logical parallelism, real parallelism

```

var integer x1 = 25;
var integer y1 = 25;
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x1,y1);

var integer x2 = 24;
var integer y2 = 24;
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x2,y2);

loop do
  var integer key = await KEY_PRESS;

  if key == KEY_LEFT then
    x1 = x1 - 1;
  else/if <...> then
    <...>
  end
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x1,y1);

  if key == KEY_a then
    x2 = x2 - 1;
  else/if <...> then
    <...>
  end
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x2,y2);
end

```

```

par do
  var integer x1 = 25;
  var integer y1 = 25;
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x1,y1);
  loop do
    var integer key = await KEY_PRESS;
    if key == KEY_LEFT then
      x1 = x1 - 1;
    else/if <...> then
      <...>
    end
    emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x1,y1);
  end

  with
    var integer x2 = 24;
    var integer y2 = 24;
    emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x2,y2);
    loop do
      var integer key = await KEY_PRESS;
      if key == KEY_a then
        x2 = x2 - 1;
      else/if <...> then
        <...>
      end
      emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x2,y2);
    end
  end
end

```

Exercises / Projects

- Create a simple game or application
 - how to track the moving trails?
 - how to detect collisions?

Structured/Imperative Programming

- Input and Output
- Assignment
- Control Flow
 - Sequence
 - Choice
 - Repetition
 - *Parallelism (logical)*
- Abstractions
 - Code
 - Data

Abstractions

par do

```
var integer x1 = 25;  
var integer y1 = 25;  
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x1,y1);  
loop do  
  var integer key = await KEY_PRESS;  
  if key == KEY_LEFT then  
    x1 = x1 - 1;  
  else/if <...> then  
    <...>  
  end  
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x1,y1);  
end
```

with

```
var integer x2 = 24;  
var integer y2 = 24;  
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x2,y2);  
loop do  
  var integer key = await KEY_PRESS;  
  if key == KEY_a then  
    x2 = x2 - 1;  
  else/if <...> then  
    <...>  
  end  
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x2,y2);  
end
```

end

```
code Pix (var integer x, y,  
          var integer key_left, key_right,  
          key_up, key_down)
```

-> FOREVER

do

```
emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x,y);  
loop do  
  var integer key = await KEY_PRESS;  
  if key == key_left then  
    x = x - 1;  
  else/if <...> then  
    <...>  
  end  
  emit GRAPHICS_DRAW_PIXEL(x,y);  
end
```

end

par do

```
await Pix(25,25,  
          KEY_LEFT,KEY_RIGHT,  
          KEY_UP,KEY_DOWN);
```

with

```
await Pix(24,24,  
          KEY_a,KEY_d,  
          KEY_w,KEY_s);
```

end

Network

- API for unreliable broadcast
 - uses UDP

```
par do
  var integer n;
  var byte&& buf;
  every (n,buf) in NET_RECEIVE do
    emit GRAPHICS_WRITE("recv: ");
    emit GRAPHICS_WRITELN(buf);
  end
with
  loop do
    await 1s;
    emit NET_SEND(4, "ola");
    emit NET_SEND(6, "mundo");
  end
end
```

Other Subjects

- Classical Problems

- dining philosophers
- shortest path
 - traveling salesman
- two generals
 - three-way handshake

- “Physical computing”

- Arduino, RPi

- Céu is “scalable”

- sufficiently general purpose and integrates with C
- other domains (SDL, Arduino, libuv, multimedia, WSNs, ...)

Arduino

- Ambiente ainda mais concreto

```
input  onoff PIN_02;  
output onoff PIN_13;  
  
emit PIN_13(on);  
  
loop do  
    var onoff v = await PIN_02;  
    emit PIN_13(v);  
end
```

TODO

- Documentação em Português
- Linguagem em Português?
- Debugger