JavaScript: Async Functions

Fetch API, Promises, async/await



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Software University

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#QA-Auto-FrontEnd

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AJAX

Asynchronous JavaScript and XML

What is AJAX?



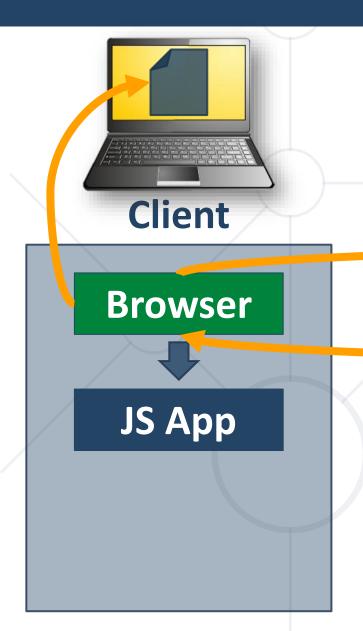


- Background loading of dynamic content/data
- Load data from the Web server and render it
- Some examples of AJAX usage
 - Partial page rendering
 - Load HTML fragment + show it in a <div>
 - JSON service
 - Loads JSON object and displays it



AJAX: Workflow





HTTP request (initial page load)

HTTP response (HTML page)

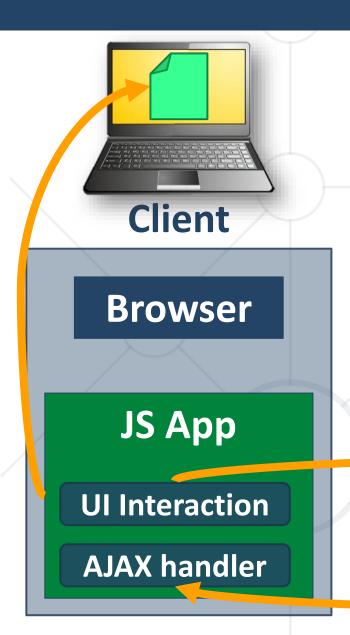


Static

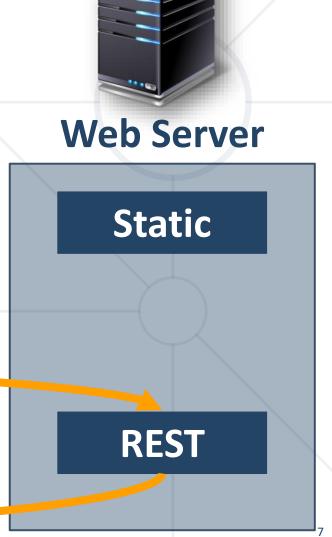
REST

AJAX: Workflow





AJAX request Returns data as JSON





Synchronous vs Asynchronous

Asynchronous Programming

Asynchronous Programming in JS





- In current versions of JS there are
 - Callbacks
 - Promises
 - Async Functions
- Not the same thing as concurrent or multi-threaded
- JS code is generally single-threaded



Asynchronous Programming



Runs several tasks (pieces of code) in parallel, at the same time

Synchronous

System 1 20 seconds 7 seconds 3 10 seconds 4 8 seconds

Asynchronous



Asynchronous Programming – Example



The following commands will be executed as follows

```
console.log("Hello.");

setTimeout(function() {
   console.log("Goodbye!");
}, 2000);

console.log("Hello again!");

//
```

```
// Hello.

// Hello again!

// Goodbye!
```

Callbacks



- Function passed into another function as an argument
- Then invoked inside the outer function to complete some kind of routine or action

```
function running() {
    return "Running";
}
function category(run, type) {
    console.log(run() + " " + type);
}
category(running, "sprint"); // Running sprint
```

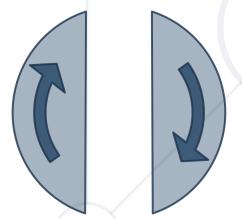




Code executing on the main thread

Event loop is paused during execution

Event Loop



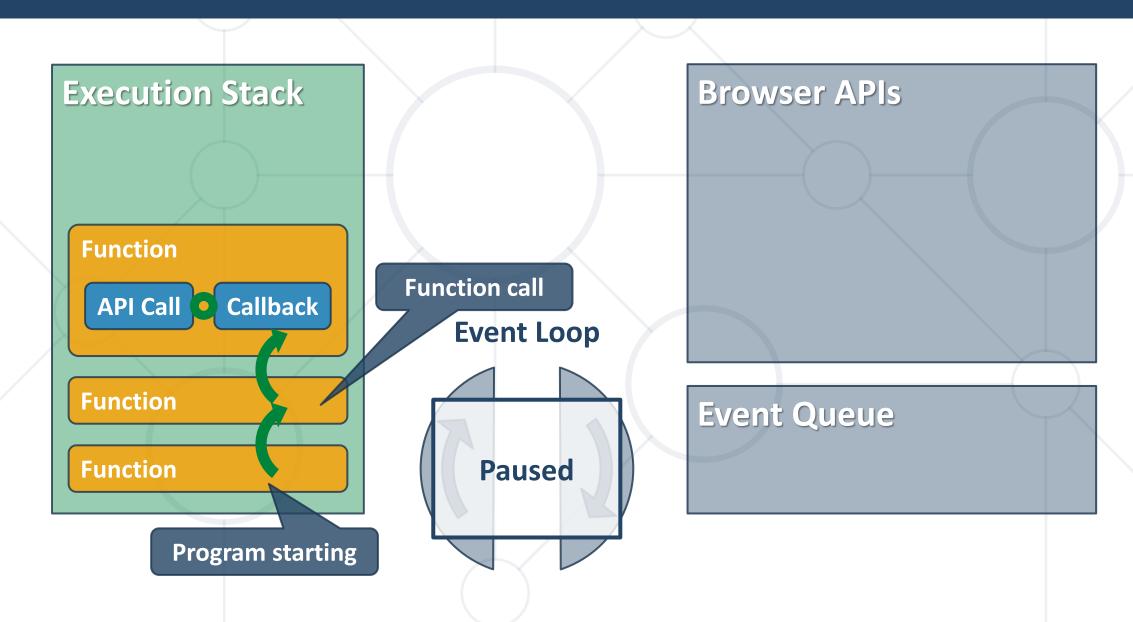
Browser APIs

APIs operate asynchronously

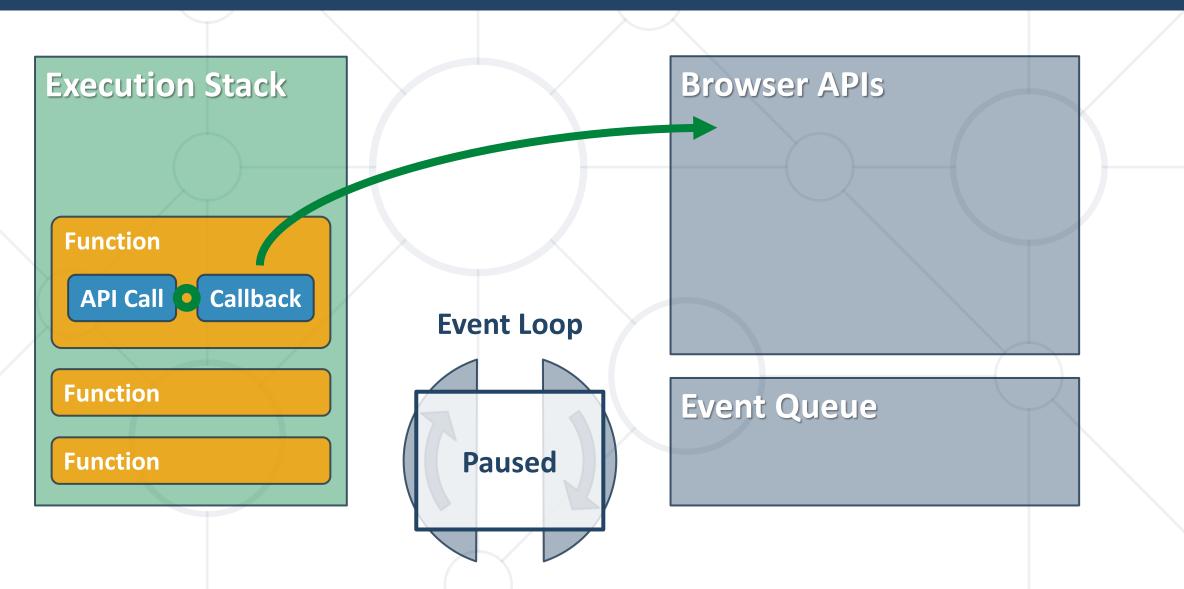
Event Queue

Callbacks wait in the queue

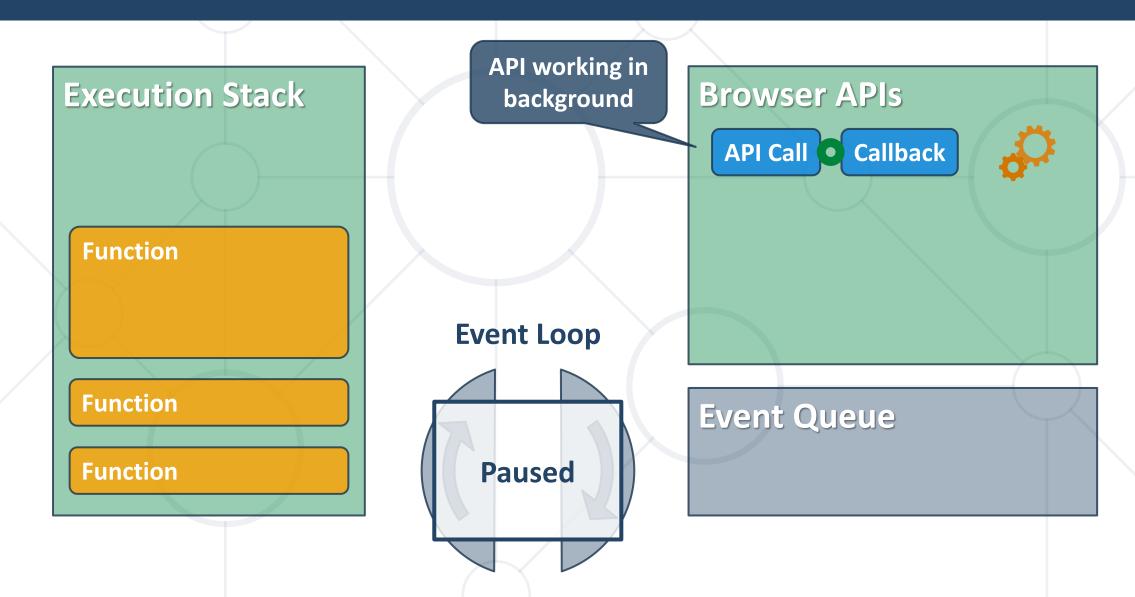




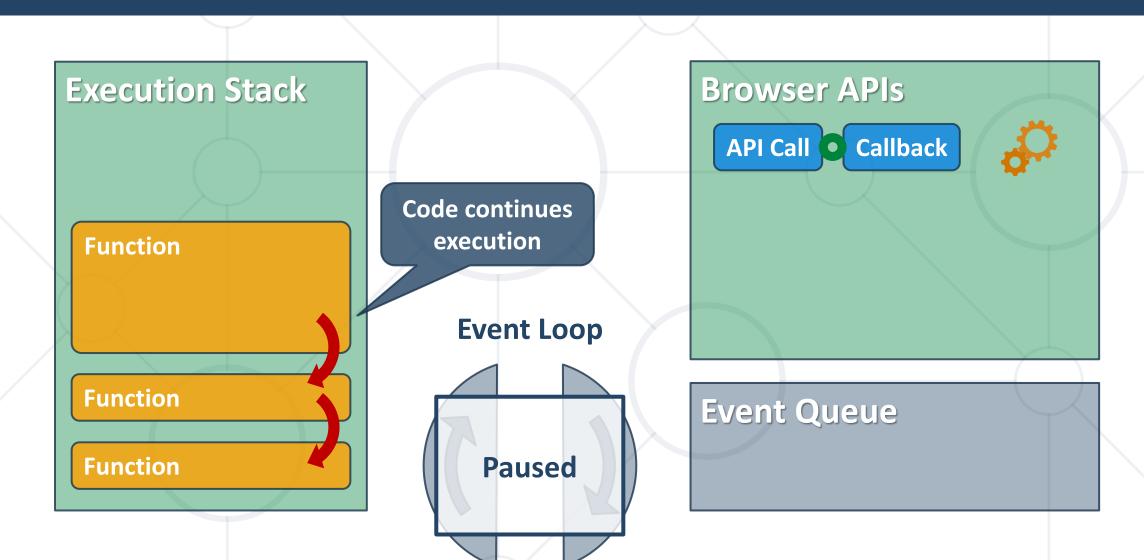




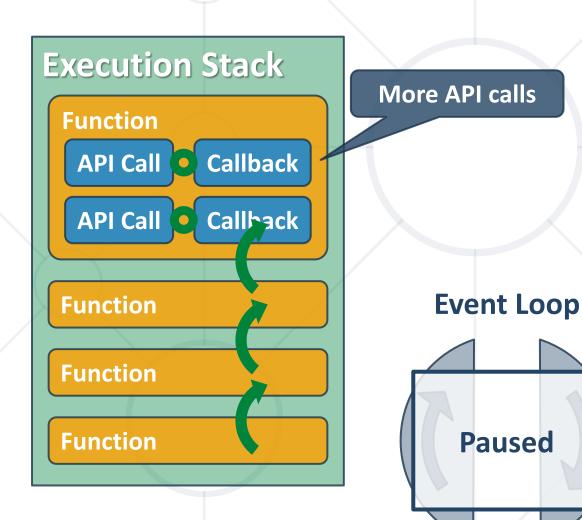


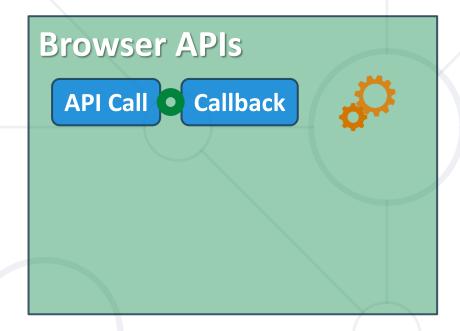






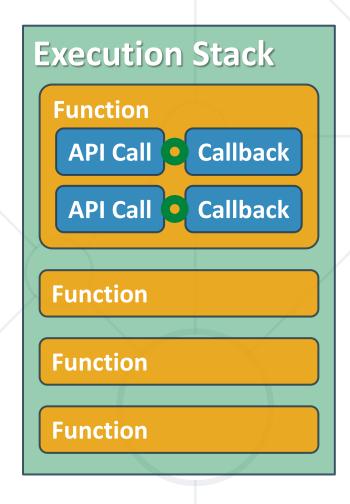


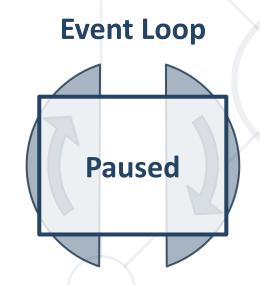


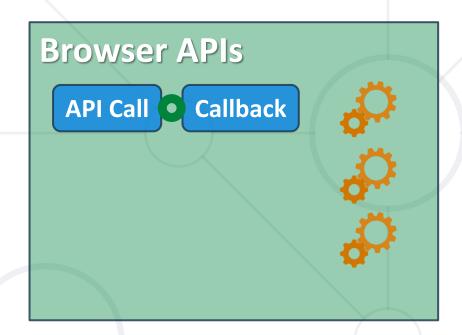


Event Queue



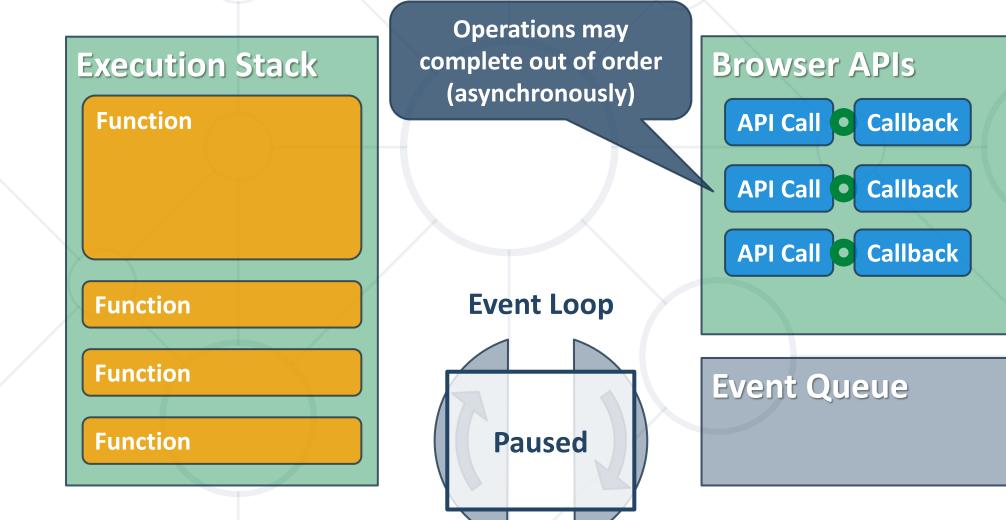




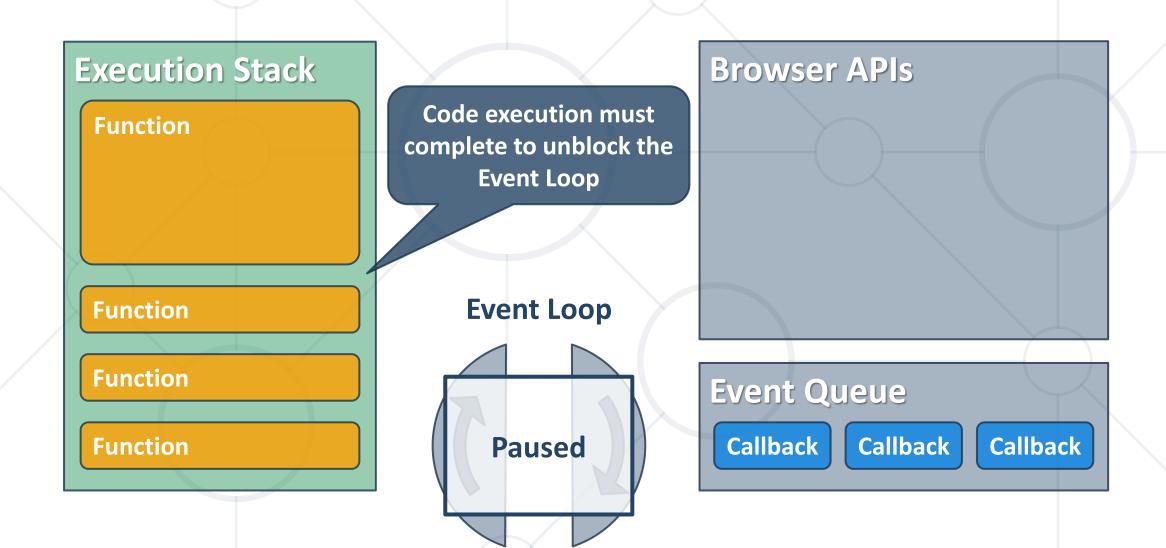


Event Queue

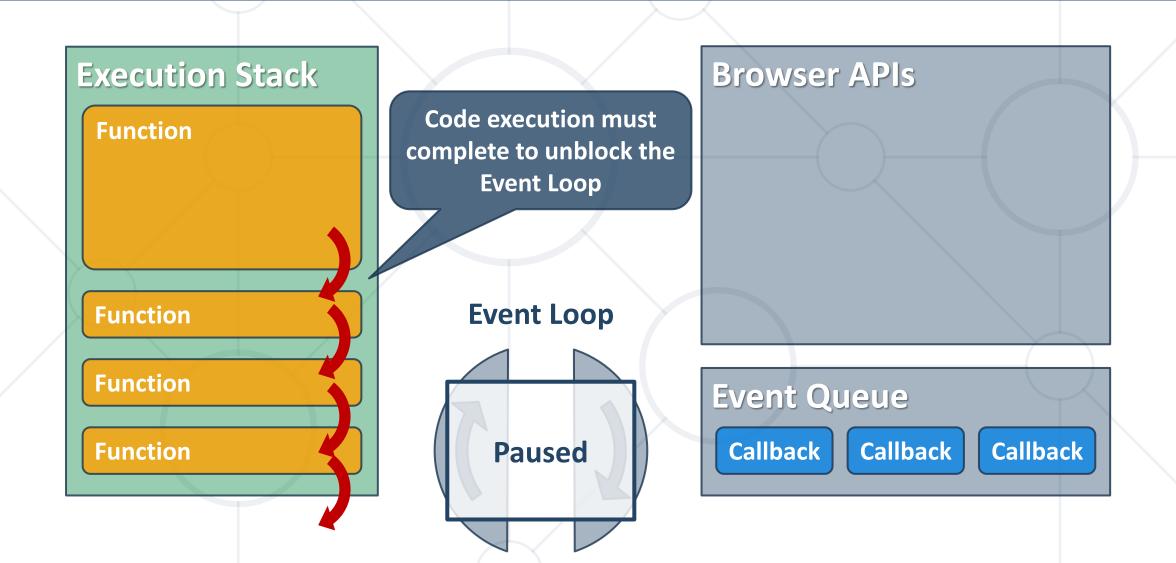




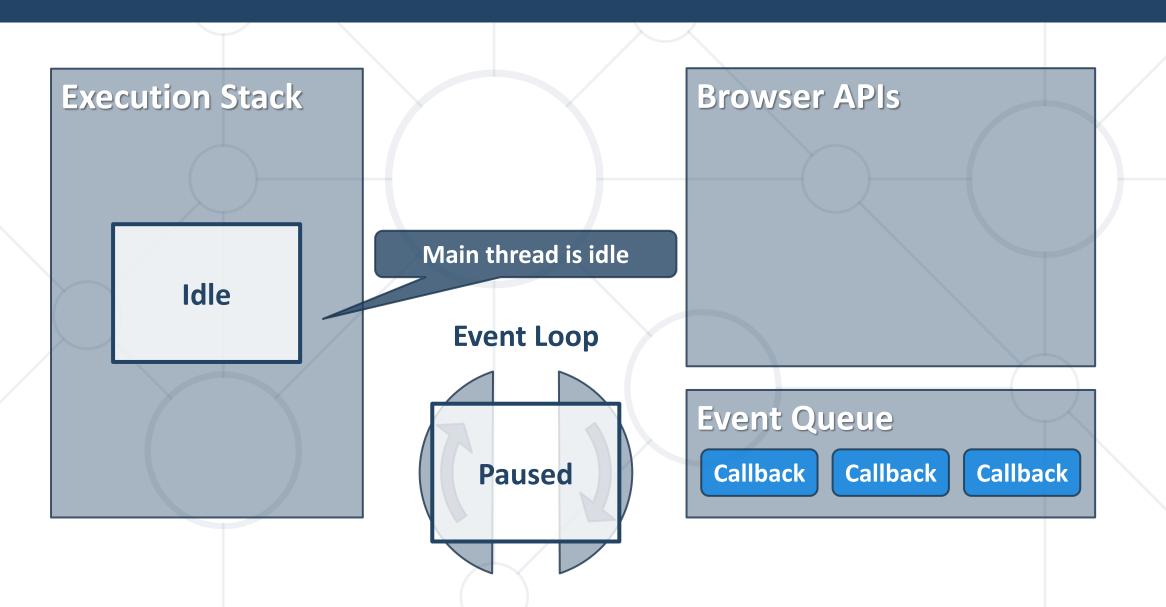




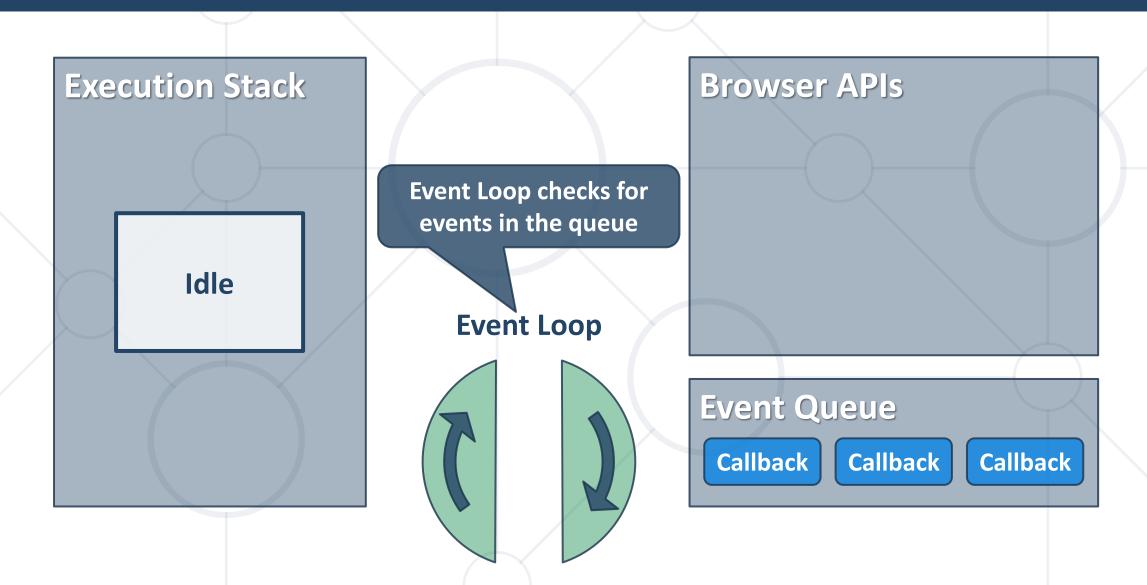




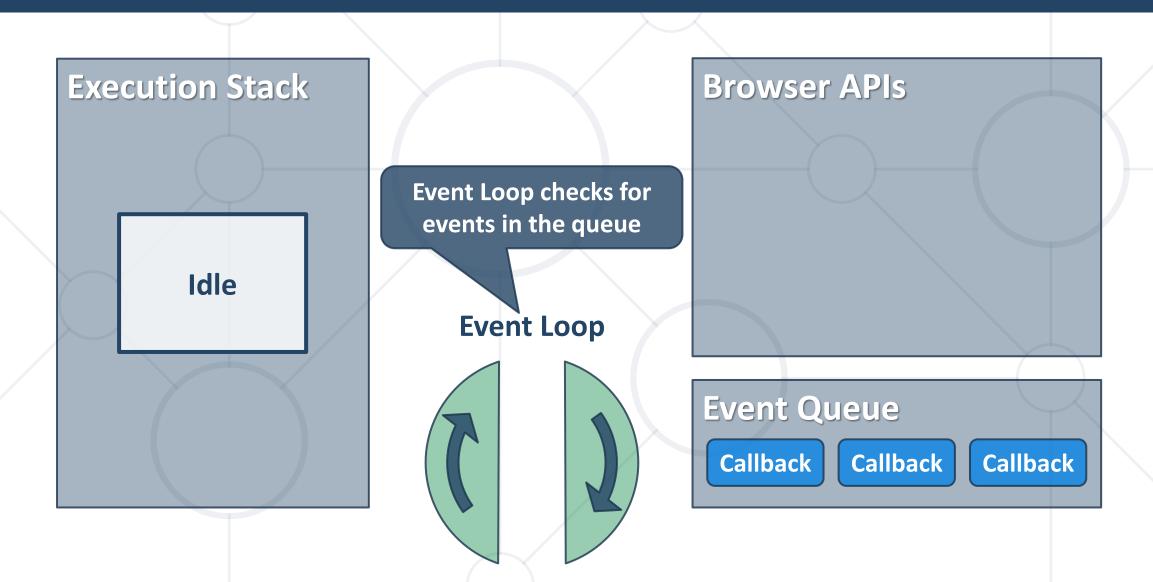




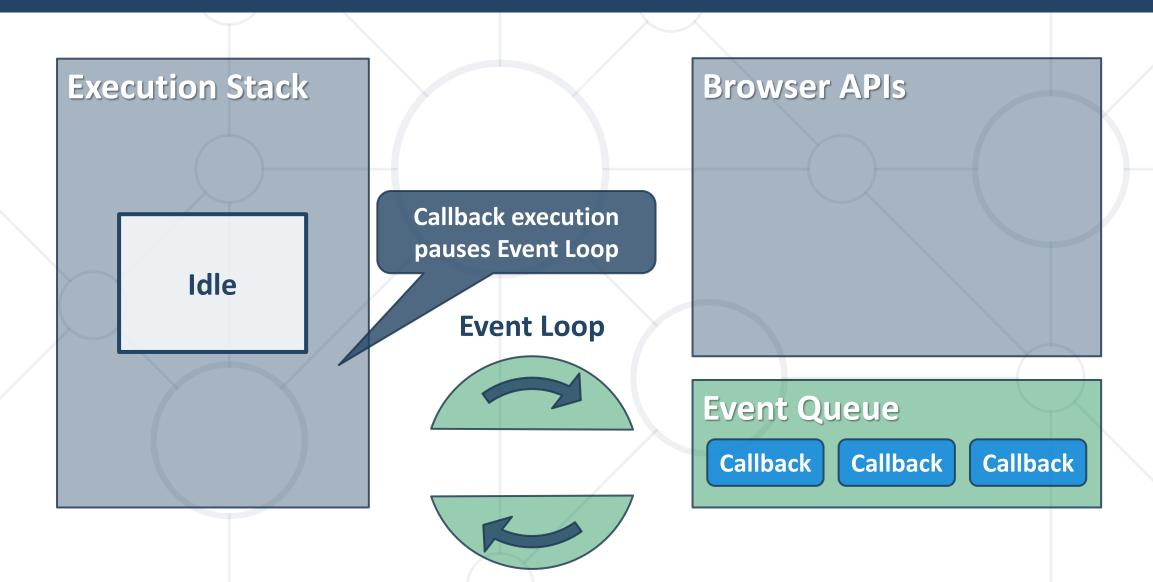




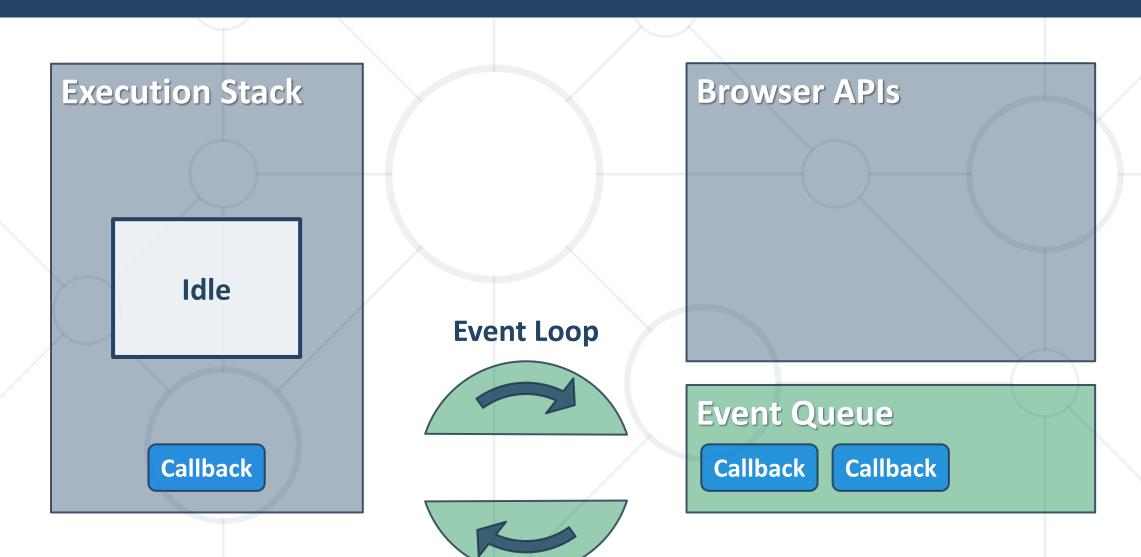




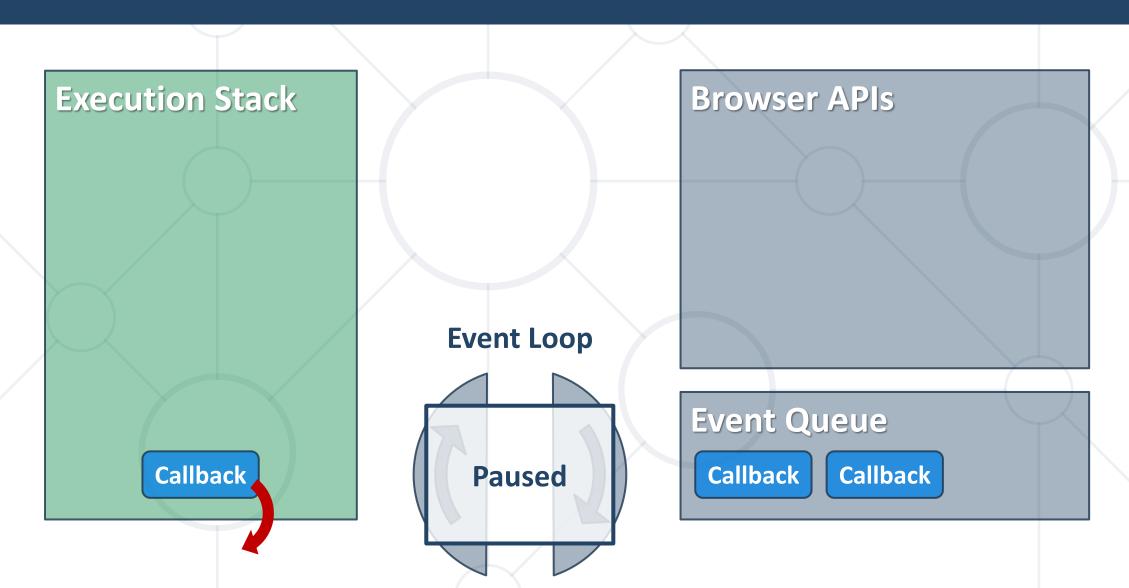




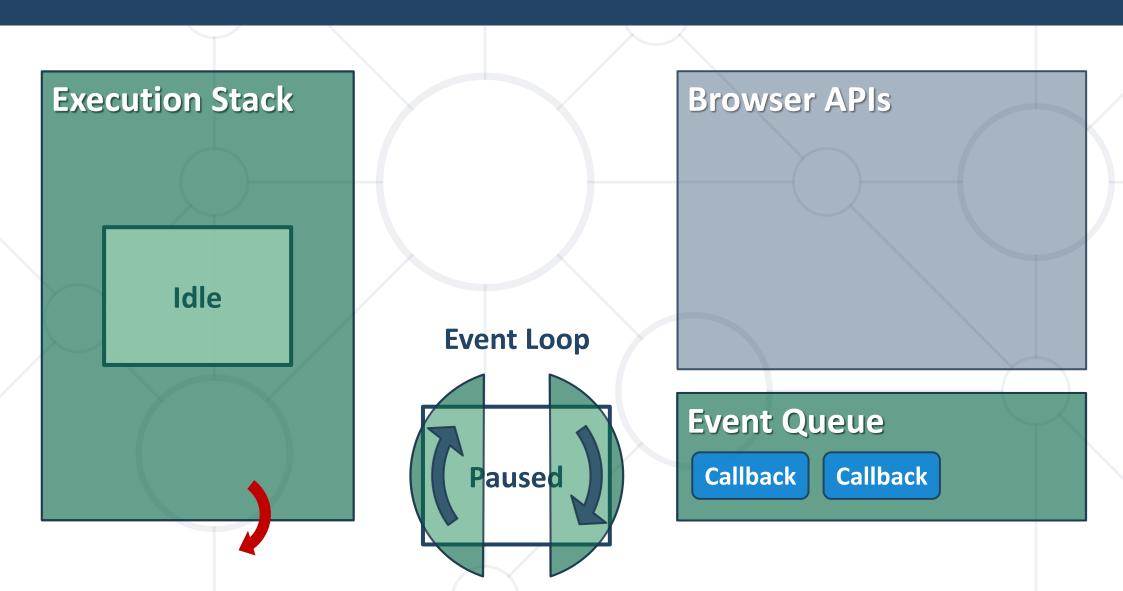




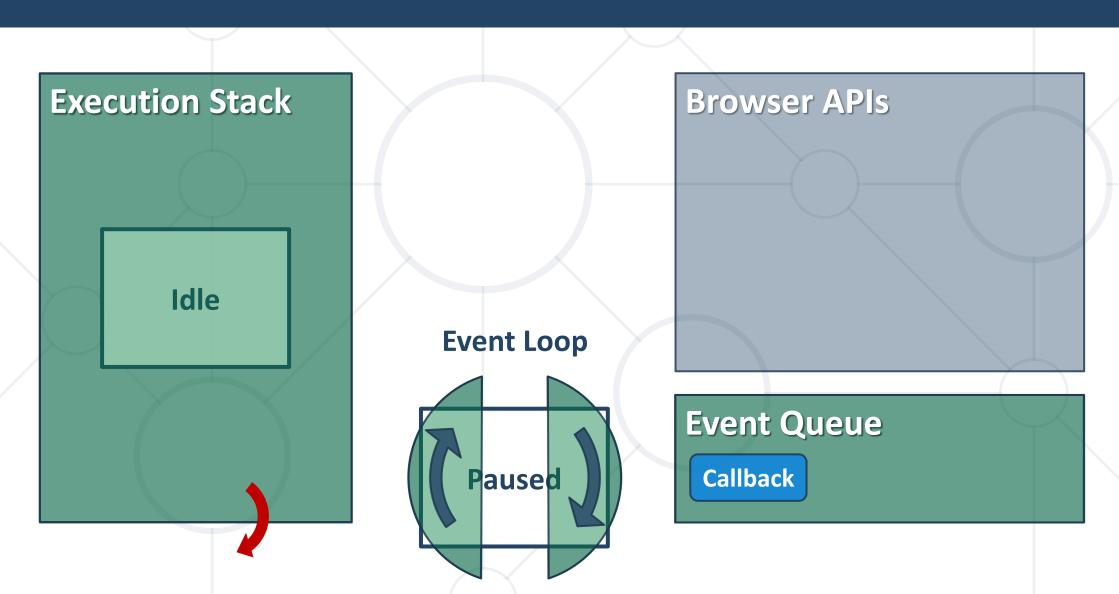




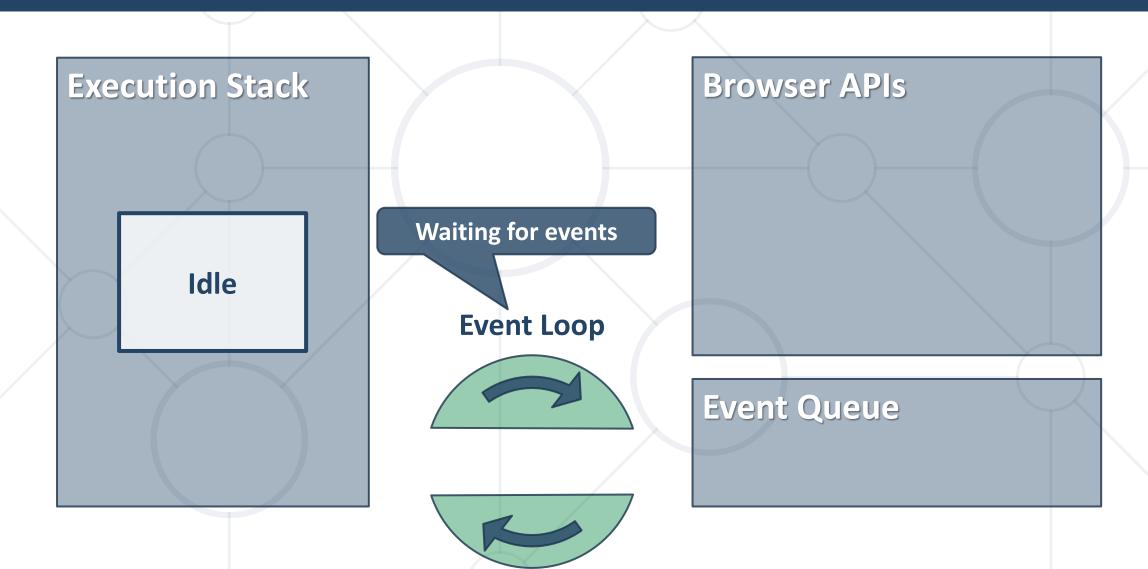














Promises

Objects Holding Asynchronous Operations

What is a Promise?





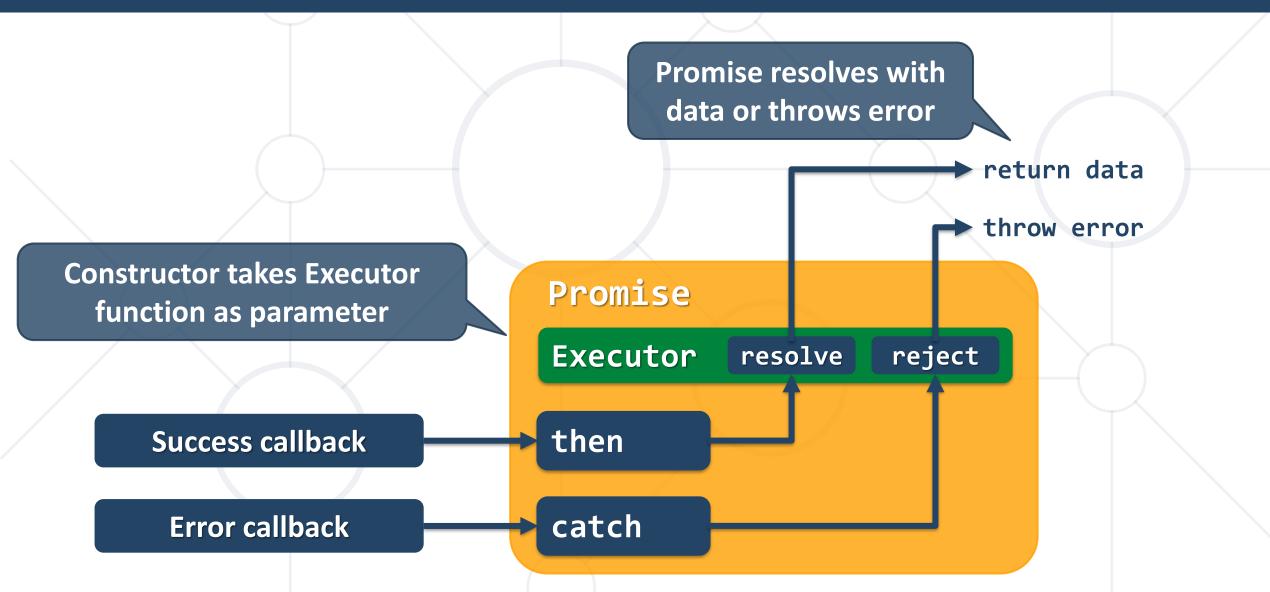
- States
 - Pending
 - Operation still running (unfinished)
 - Fulfilled
 - Operation finished (the result is available)
 - Failed
 - Operation failed (an error is present)
- Promises use the Promise class

new Promise(executor);



Promise Flowchart





Promise.then() – Example



```
console.log('Before promise');
```

```
new Promise(function(resolve, reject) {
  setTimeout(function() {
    resolve('done');
  }, 500);
           Resolved after 500 ms
.then(function(res) {
  console.log('Then returned: ' + res);
});
```

```
// Before promise

// After promise

// Then returned: done
```

```
console.log('After promise');
```

Promise Methods



- Promise.reject(reason)
 - Returns an object that is rejected with the given reason
- Promise.resolve(value)
 - Returns an object that is resolved with the given value
- Promise.all(iterable)
 - Returns a promise
 - Fulfills when all of the promises have fulfilled
 - Rejects as soon as one of them rejects

Promise Methods



- Promise.allSettled(iterable)
 - Wait until all promises have settled
- Promise.race(iterable)
 - Returns a promise that fulfills or rejects as soon as one of the promises in an iterable is settled
- Promise.prototype.finally()
 - The handler is called when the promise is settled

What is Fetch?



- The fetch() method allows making network requests
- It is similar to XMLHttpRequest (XHR). The main difference is that the Fetch API
 - Uses Promises
 - Enables a simpler and cleaner API
 - Makes code more readable and maintainable

```
fetch('./api/some.json')
  .then(function(response) {...})
  .catch(function(err) {...})
```

Basic Fetch Request



- The response of a fetch() request is a Stream object
- The reading of the stream happens asynchronously
- When the json() method is called, a Promise is returned
 - The response status is checked (should be 200) before parsing the response as JSON

```
if (response.status !== 200) {
   // handle error
}
response.json()
   .then(function(data) { console.log(data)})
```

Requests



 Fetch API uses the GET method so that a direct call would be like this

```
fetch('https://api.github.com/users/testnakov/repos')
  .then((response) => response.json())
  .then((data) => console.log (data))
  .catch((error) => console.error(error))
```

 To make a POST request, we can set the method and body parameters in the fetch() options

```
fetch('/url', {
    method: 'post',
    headers: { 'Content-type': 'application/json' },
    body: JSON.stringify(data),
})
```

Body Methods



- clone()
 - Create a clone of the response
- json()
 - Resolves the promise with JSON
- redirect()
 - Create new promise but with different URL
- text()
 - Resolves the promise with string

Body Methods



- arrayBuffer()
 - resolve body with ArrayBuffer
- blob()
 - Resolve body with Blob (file, image, etc.)
- formData()
 - Resolve body with FormData

Response Types



Basic

Normal, same origin response

cors

Response was received from a valid cross-origin request

Error

Error network

opaque

Response for "no-cors" request to cross-origin resource

opaqueredirect

The fetch request was made with redirect: "manual"

Chaining Promises



- When working with a JSON API, you can
 - Define the status and JSON parsing in separate functions
 - The functions return promises which can be chained

```
fetch('users.json')
   .then(status)
   .then(json)
   .then(function(data) {...})
   .catch(function(error) {...});
```



Simplified Promises

Async Functions



- Returns a promise, that can await other promises in a way that looks synchronous
- Operate asynchronously via the event loop
- Contains an await expression that
 - Is only valid inside async functions
 - Pauses the execution of that function
 - Waits for the Promise's resolution



Async Functions



```
function resolveAfter2Seconds() {
  return new Promise(resolve => {
    setTimeout(() => {
      resolve('resolved');
    }, 2000);
  });
}
```

```
Expected output:
// calling
// resolved
```

```
async function asyncCall() {
  console.log('calling');
  let result = await resolveAfter2Seconds();
  console.log(result);
}
```

Async Functions



- Do not confuse await with Promise.then()
 - await is always used for a single promise
 - To await two or more promises in parallel, use Promise.all()
- If a promise resolves normally, then await promise returns the result
- In case of a rejection, it throws an error

Async / Await vs Promise.then



Promise.then

```
function logFetch(url) {
  return fetch(url)
    .then(response => {
      return response.text()
    .then(text => {
      console.log(text);
    .catch(err => {
      console.error(err);
    });
```

Async / Await

```
async function logFetch(url) {
  try {
    const response =
       await fetch(url);
    console.log(
      await response.text()
  catch (err) {
    console.log(err);
```



Error Handling



```
async function f() {
  try {
    let response = await fetch();
    let user = await response.json();
  } catch (err) {
    // catches errors both in fetch andresponse.json
    alert(err);
  }}
```

```
async function f() {
  let response = await fetch();
}
// f() becomes a rejected promise
f().catch(alert);
```

Sequential Execution



To execute various promise methods one by one, use Async /Await

```
function execute(x,sec) {
  return new Promise(resolve => {
  console.log('Start: ' + x);
   setTimeout(() => {
    console.log('End: ' + x);
    resolve(x);
  }, sec *1000); }); }
```

```
async function serialFlow() {
  let result1 = await execute(1, 1);
  let result2 = await execute(2, 2);
  let result3 = await execute(3, 3);
  let finalResult = result1 + result2 + result3;
  console.log(finalResult);
}
```

```
// Start: 1
// End: 1
// Start: 2
// End: 2
// Start: 3
// End: 3
// End: 3
// 6
```

Concurrent Execution



```
async function parallelFlow() {
  let result1 = execute(1,1);
 let result2 = execute(2,2);
 let result3 = execute(3,3);
  let finalResult = await result1 +
                    await result2 +
                    await result3;
  console.log(finalResult);
```

```
// Expected output:
// Start: 1
// Start: 2
// Start: 3
// End: 1
// End: 2
// End: 3
// 6
```

Summary



- Asynchronous programming
 - Runs several tasks in parallel, at the same time
- Promises hold operations
 - Can be resolved or rejected
- Async functions contain an await expression
 - Yields the execution
 - Waits for the promise's resolution



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