

Programming Languages Course Project Proposal

Comparing Concurrent Programming Models: Prime Number Finding in Go, Python, and Java

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Team: Individual Project

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1 Executive Summary

This project will compare concurrent programming approaches by implementing a prime number finder in three languages: Go (goroutines), Python (threading vs asyncio), and Java (threads vs CompletableFuture). The implementation will find all prime numbers in a given range using different concurrency models, allowing for direct performance and complexity comparison.

2 Project Topic and Scope

2.1 Overview

Implement a concurrent prime number finder that:

- Divides a number range into chunks
- Processes chunks concurrently
- Compares different concurrency approaches
- Measures performance and resource usage

2.2 Objectives

- Understand different concurrency models
- Implement the same algorithm in three languages
- Compare performance metrics
- Document best practices for each approach
- Provide practical recommendations

2.3 Scope

- Simple prime checking algorithm (trial division)
- Range: 1 to 1,000,000
- Concurrent chunk processing
- Performance measurement

- Results aggregation

3 Tools and Development Environment

3.1 Programming Languages

- **Go 1.22:** Using goroutines and channels
- **Python 3.12:** Comparing threading and multiprocessing
- **Java 21:** Using Thread pools and CompletableFuture

3.2 Development Tools

- **IDE:** Visual Studio Code with language extensions
- **Version Control:** GitHub repository
- **Testing:** Built-in testing frameworks for each language

4 Libraries and APIs

4.1 Topic 1: Language Selection

- **Go:** Native concurrency with goroutines
- **Python:** Threading and multiprocessing libraries
- **Java:** java.util.concurrent package

4.2 Topic 2: Development Tools

- **Git/GitHub:** Version control
- **VS Code:** Cross-language development
- **Docker:** Optional containerization

4.3 Topic 3: Required Libraries

- **Go:** Standard library only
- **Python:** threading, multiprocessing, time
- **Java:** java.util.concurrent.*

5 Main Tasks and Timeline

5.1 Week 1: Setup and Basic Implementation (25%)

Milestone 1: Single-threaded implementations

- Set up development environment
- Implement basic prime checking in all languages

- Create project structure
- **Deliverable:** Working single-threaded versions

5.2 Week 2: Go Concurrent Implementation (20%)

Milestone 2: Go with goroutines

- Implement worker pool with goroutines
- Add channels for communication
- Benchmark different worker counts
- **Deliverable:** Concurrent Go implementation

5.3 Week 3: Python Implementations (20%)

Milestone 3: Python threading vs multiprocessing

- Implement with threading
- Implement with multiprocessing
- Compare GIL impact
- **Deliverable:** Two Python implementations

5.4 Week 4: Java Implementation (20%)

Milestone 4: Java concurrency

- Implement with ExecutorService
- Try CompletableFuture approach
- Compare thread pool sizes
- **Deliverable:** Concurrent Java implementation

5.5 Week 5: Analysis and Report (15%)

Milestone 5: Final analysis

- Run comprehensive benchmarks
- Create comparison charts
- Write final report
- **Deliverable:** 5+ page report with analysis

6 Deliverables

6.1 Final Report (5+ pages)

1. **Introduction** (1 page)

- What is concurrent programming
- Why it matters
- Prime number finding as a test case

2. **Implementation Details** (2 pages)

- Go: Goroutines and channels
- Python: GIL and workarounds
- Java: Thread pools
- Code snippets showing key differences

3. **Performance Analysis** (1 page)

- Execution time comparisons
- CPU and memory usage
- Scalability with worker count

4. **Developer Experience** (1 page)

- Ease of implementation
- Debugging challenges
- Error handling

5. **Conclusions** (0.5 pages)

- Best language for CPU-bound tasks
- Recommendations

6.2 **Source Code**

- Complete implementations
- README with instructions
- Benchmark scripts
- Test cases

7 **Expected Learning Outcomes**

- Deep understanding of concurrency models
- Practical experience with three languages
- Performance analysis skills
- Best practices for concurrent programming

8 References

- Donovan, A., & Kernighan, B. (2015). *The Go Programming Language*. Addison-Wesley.
- Goetz, B. et al. (2006). *Java Concurrency in Practice*. Addison-Wesley.
- Beazley, D. (2012). *Understanding the Python GIL*. PyCon Talk.
- Additional resources to be added during research.

GitHub Repository: <https://github.com/jnanakris/concurrent-prime-finder>