



Clojure
core.async

@stuarthalloway
stu@cognitect.com

the problems

objects make terrible machines

function chains make poor machines

direct-connect relationships

callback hell

j.u.c queues block real threads

threads are expensive and/or nonexistent

the opportunity

first class conveyance (queue-like)

processes

multi reader/writer

platform integration (JVM, browser)

robust subsystems

Communicating Sequential Processes (CSP)

first class processes

first class channels

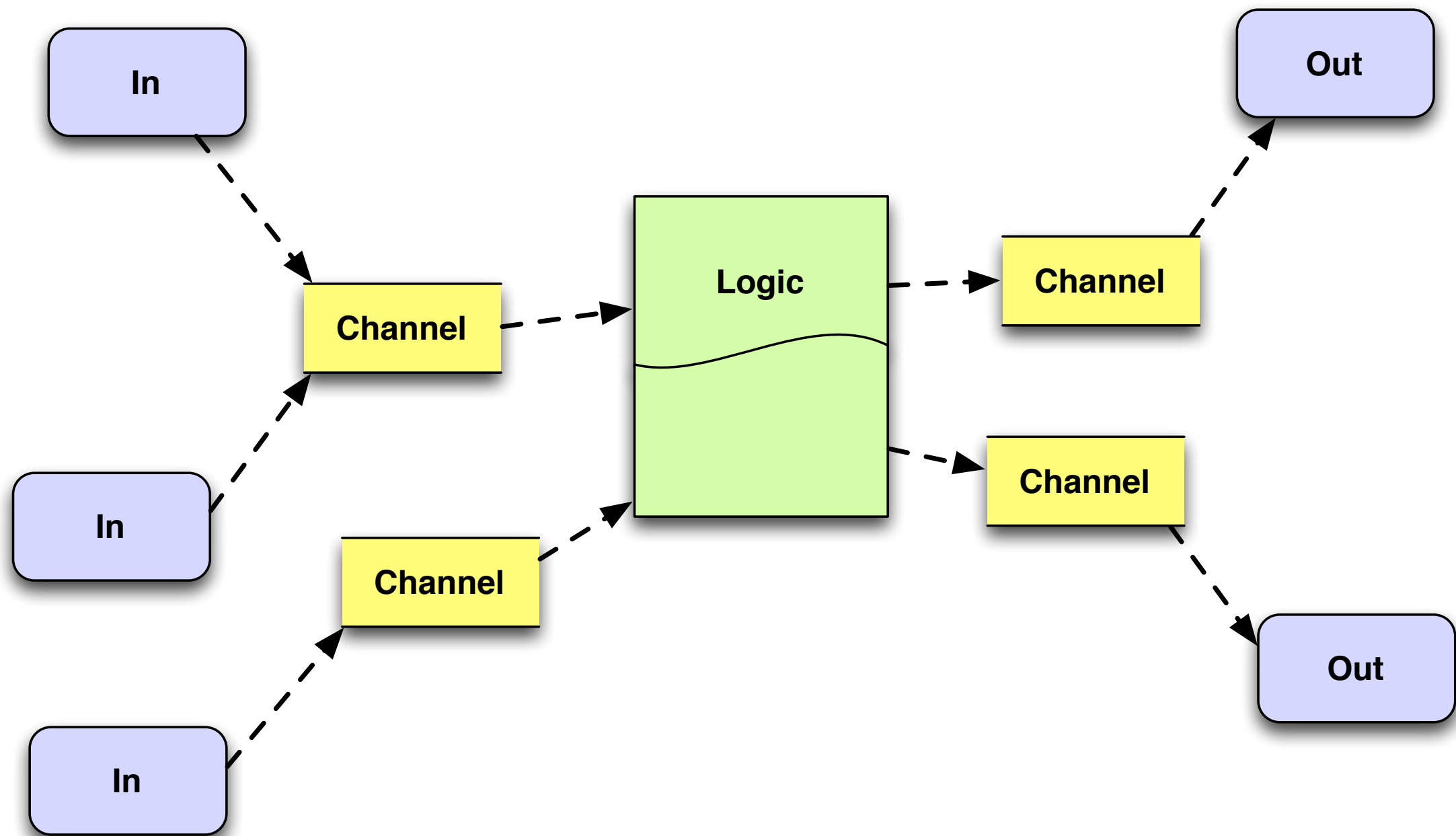
concurrency primitive (coordination)

coherent sequential logic

multi reader/writer

buffering

core.async



first-class processes

(go

IOC 'thread',
state machine,
parking

)

(thread

real thread,
blocking

)

first-class channels

op	go	thread	<i>(external)</i>
put	(>! ch val)	(>!! ch val)	(put! ch val)
take	(<! ch)	(<!! ch)	(take! ch)

single-operation examples

http://go.cognitect.com/core_async_webinar_recording

[https://github.com/cognitect/async-webinar](https://github.com/cognitect/async-webinar-examples) examples 1-5

"Hello World"

"Hello World"

that *is* the program



Everything is Data

```
{ :firstName "John"  
  :lastName "Smith"  
  :age 25  
  :address {  
    :streetAddress "21 2nd Street"  
    :city "New York"  
    :state "NY"  
    :postalCode "10021" }  
  :phoneNumber  
    [ { :type "name" :number "212 555-1234"}  
      { :type "fax" :number "646 555-4567" } ] }
```

type	examples
string	<code>"foo"</code>
character	<code>\f</code>
integer	<code>42, 42N</code>
floating point	<code>3.14, 3.14M</code>
boolean	<code>true</code>
nil	<code>nil</code>
symbol	<code>foo, +</code>
keyword	<code>:foo, ::foo</code>

type	properties	examples
list	sequential	(1 2 3)
vector	sequential and random access	[1 2 3]
map	associative	{:a 100 :b 90}
set	membership	#{:a :b}

Function Call

semantics:

fn call

args

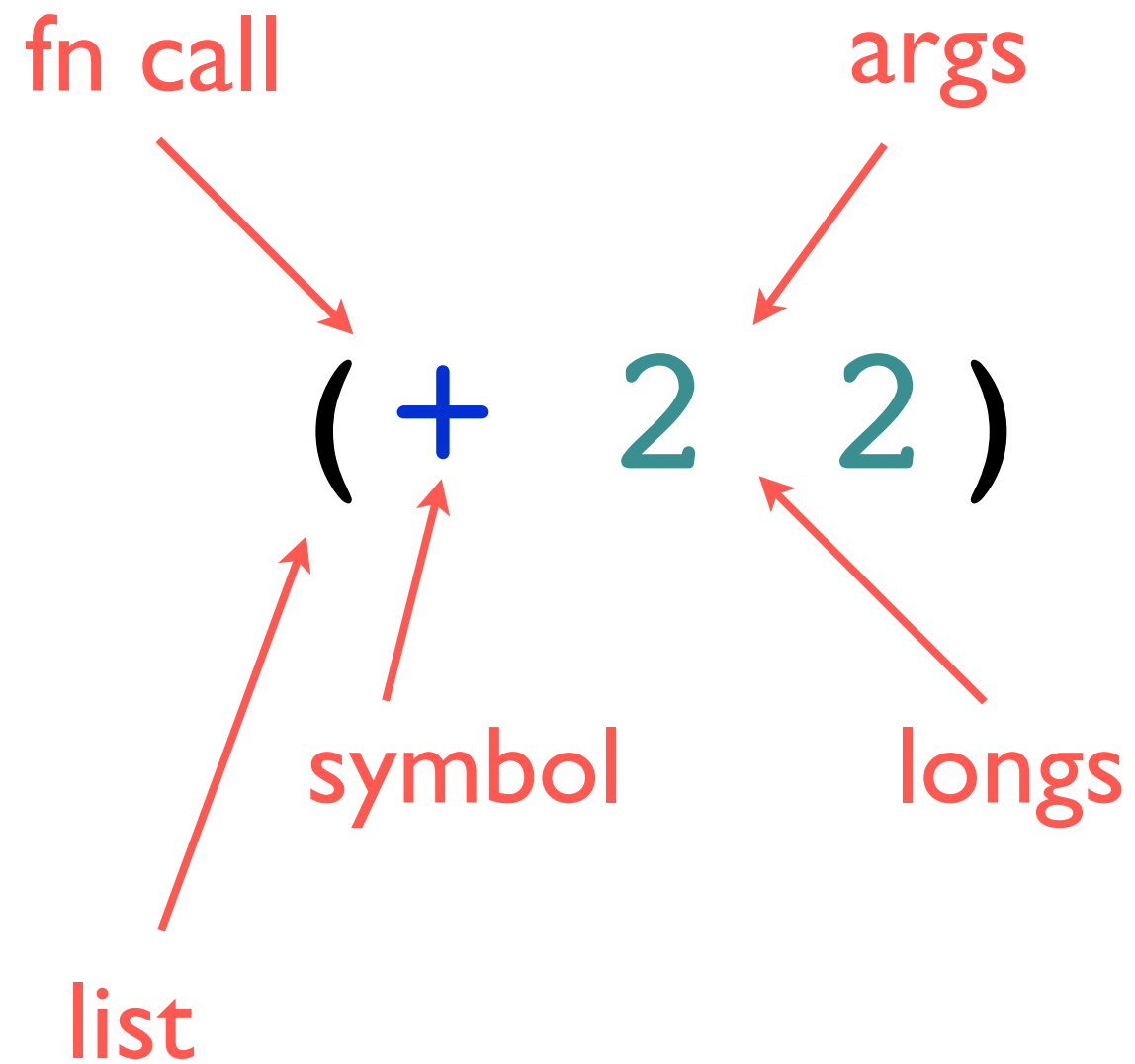
(+ 2 2)

structure:

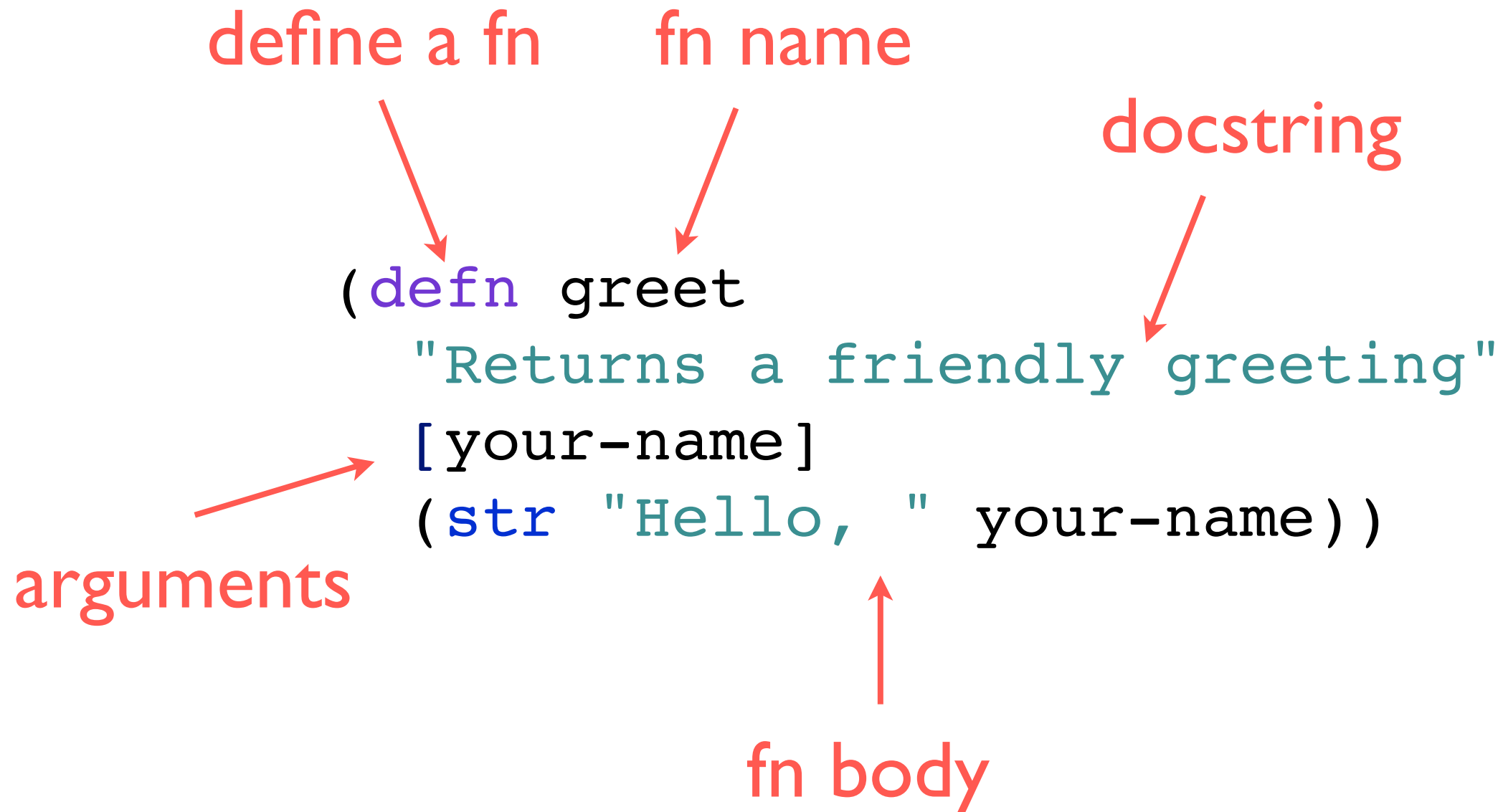
symbol

longs

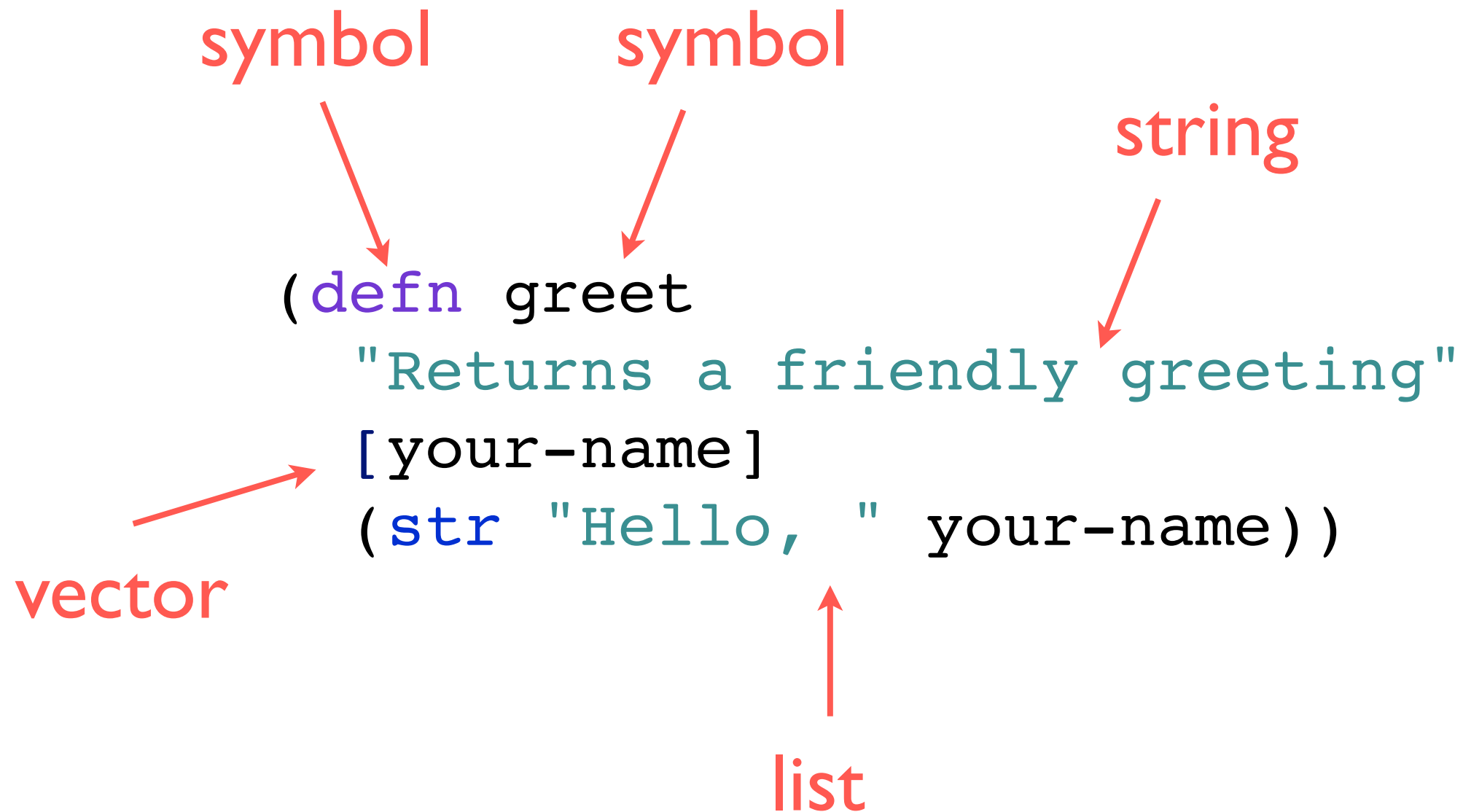
list



Function Definition



...Still Just Data



n separate processes

```
(go (while true (<! (timeout 250)) (>! c 1)))  
(go (while true (<! (timeout 1000)) (>! c 2)))  
(go (while true (<! (timeout 1500)) (>! c 3)))
```

channel put

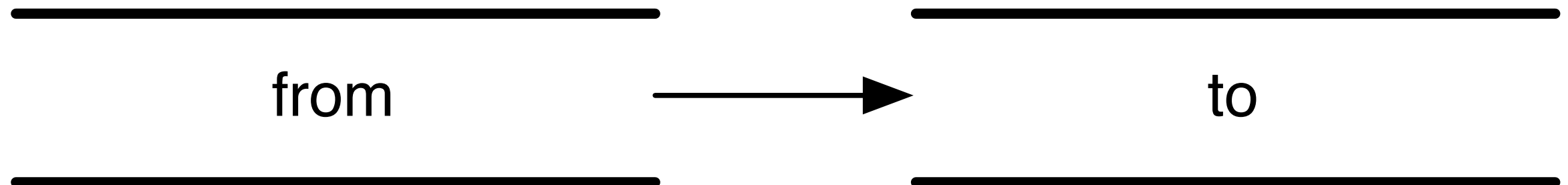
IOC 'thread'

```
(let [out (by-id "ex0-out")]  
  (go (loop [results []]  
        (set-html out (render results))  
        (recur (-> (conj results (<! c)) (peekn 10)))))))
```

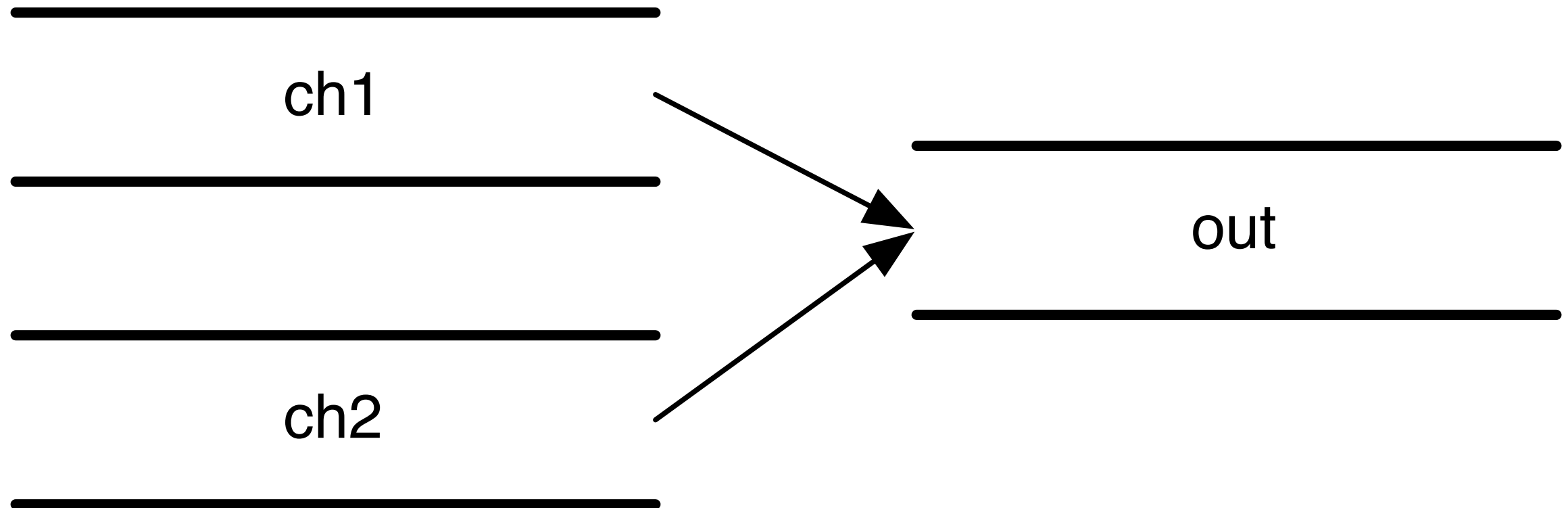
channel get

joint fittings

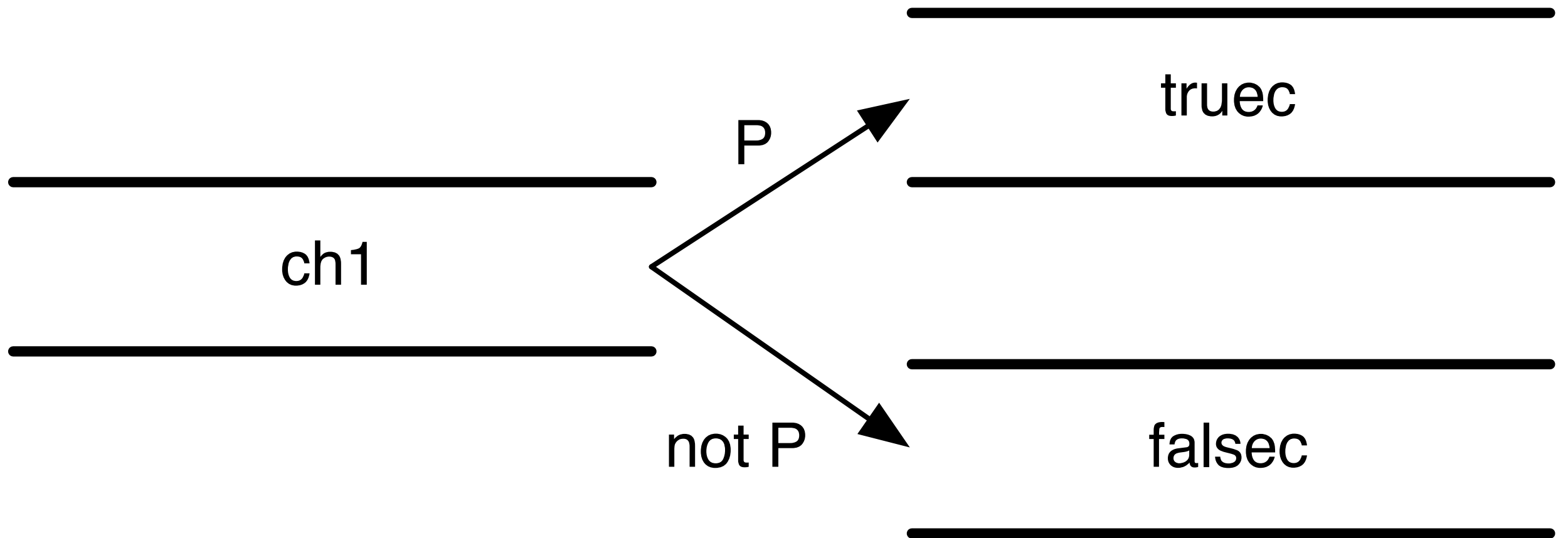
(pipe from to)



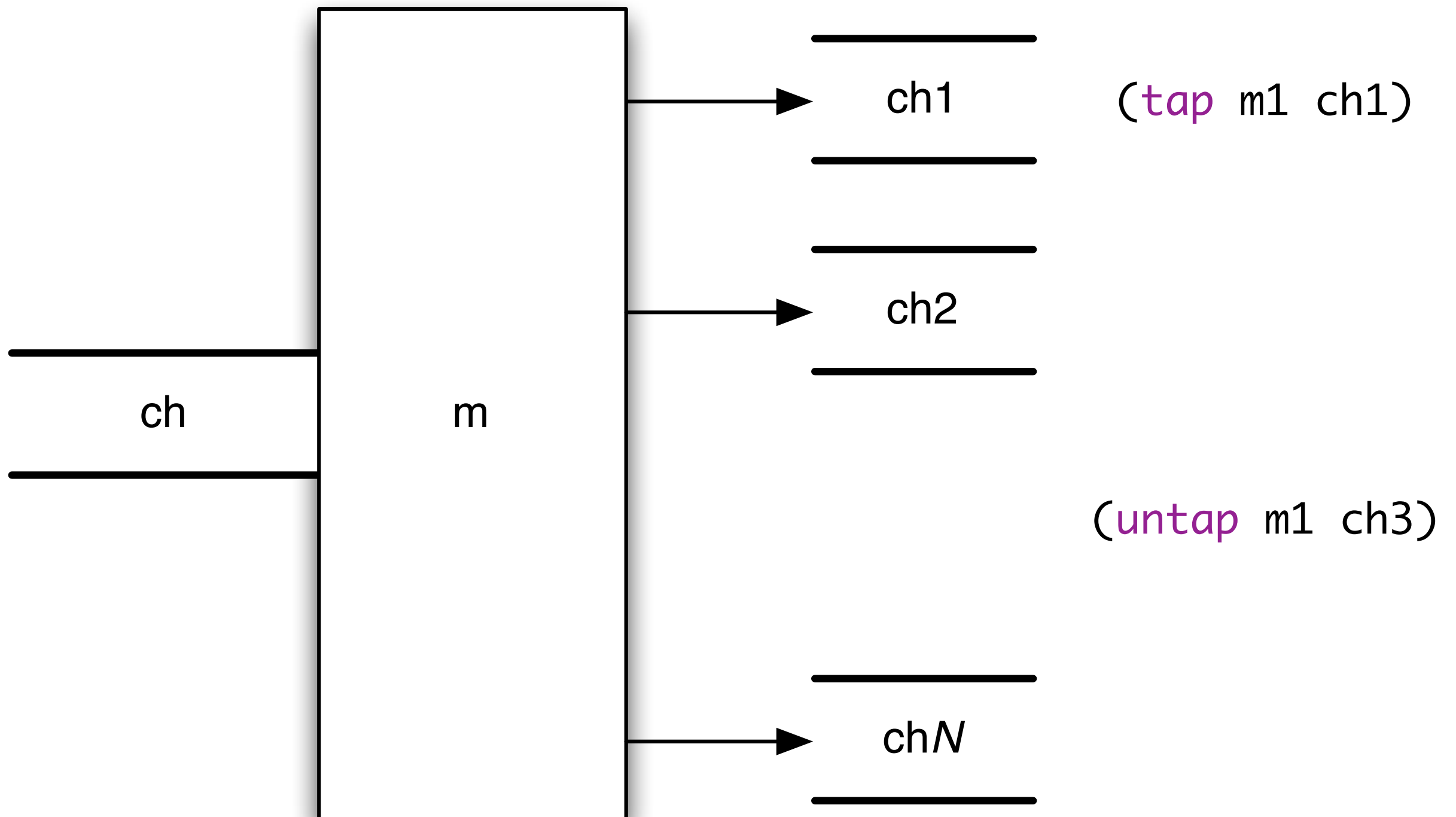
(merge ch1 ch2 out)



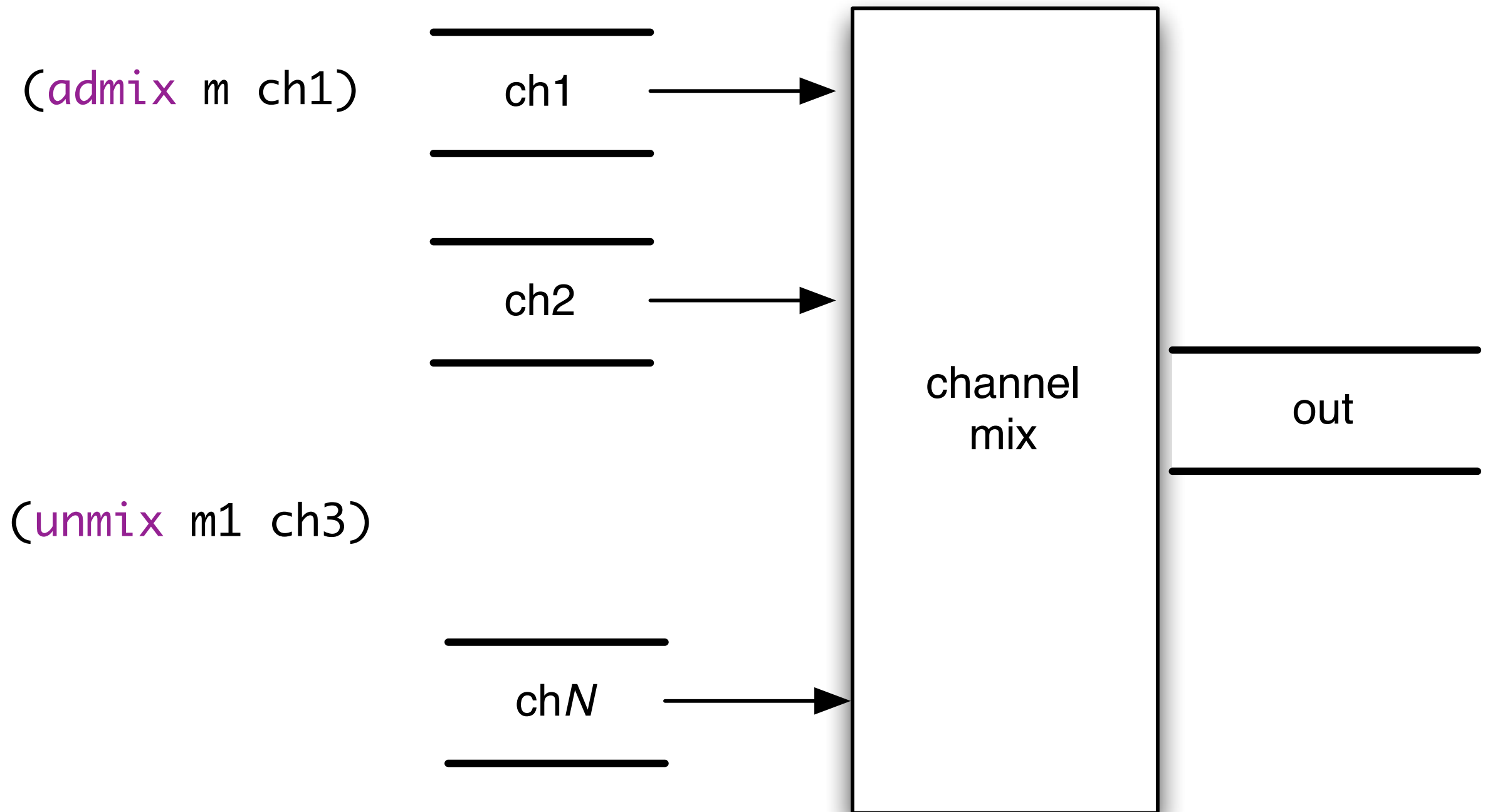
(split p ch1 truec falsec)



(mult ch)

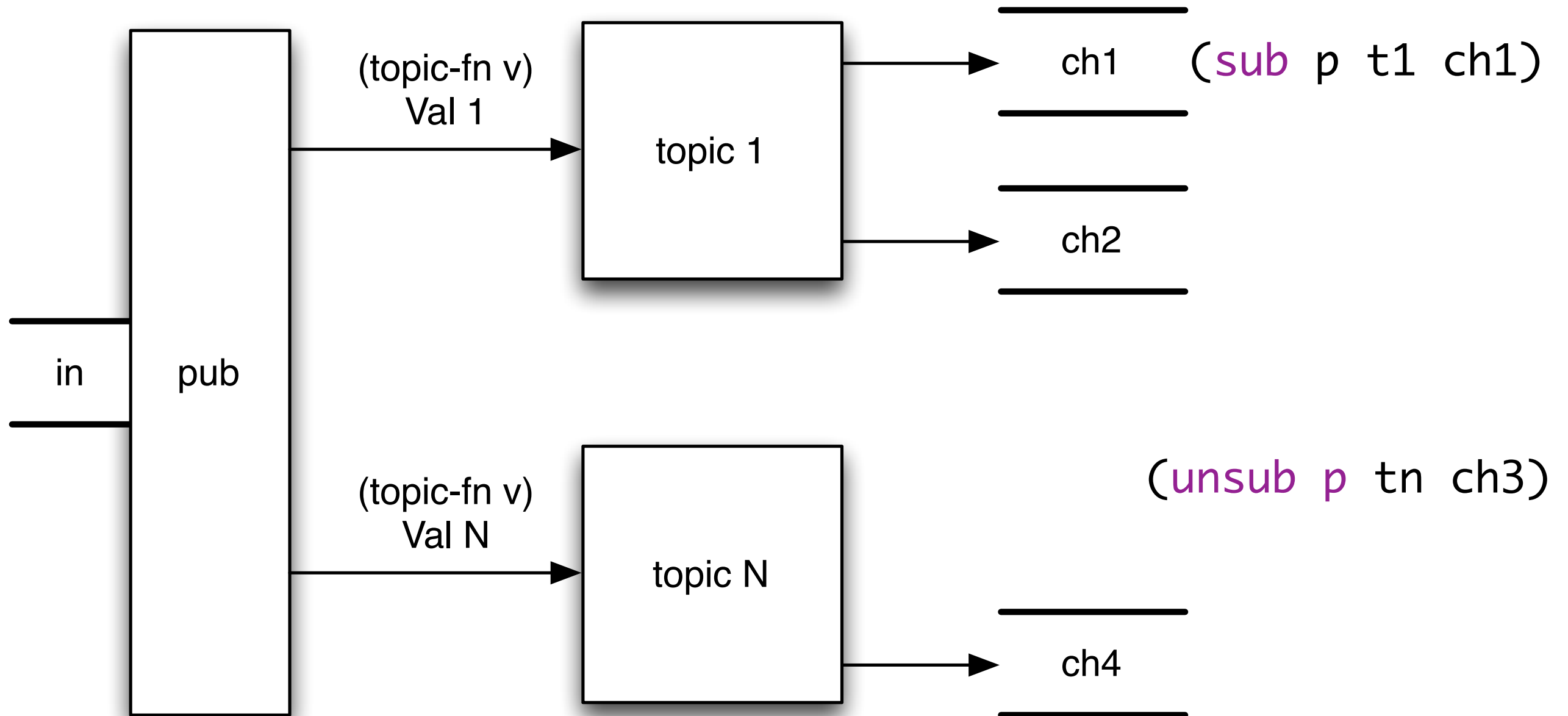


(mix ch)



(also supports soloing, muting, pausing)

(pub ch topic-fn)



multi-ops: alt*

one process, N concurrent inputs/outputs

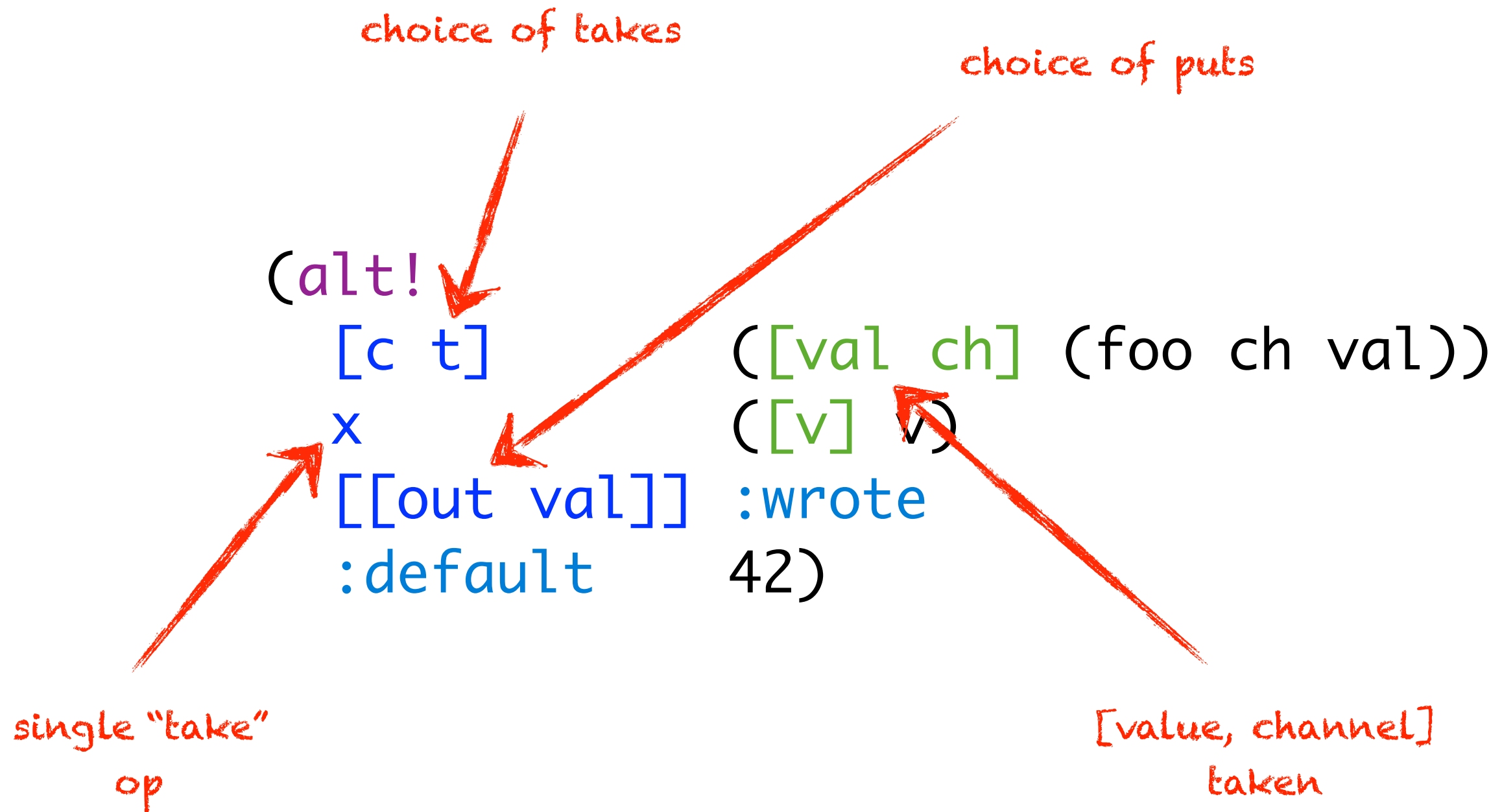
wait on multiple channel operations

puts, takes (timeouts)

compare unix select

works with threads *or go blocks*

alt!, alt!!



multi-operation examples

http://go.cognitect.com/core_async_webinar_recording

[https://github.com/cognitect/async-webinar](https://github.com/cognitect/async-webinar-examples) examples 6-10

search with SLA

```
(defn search [query]
  (let [c (chan)
        t (timeout 80)]
    (go (>! c (<! (fastest query web1 web2))))
    (go (>! c (<! (fastest query image1 image2))))
    (go (>! c (<! (fastest query video1 video2))))
    (go (loop [i 0]
          ret []
          (if (= i 3)
              ret
              (recur (inc i)
                     (conj ret (alt! [c t] ([v] v))))))))))
```

coordinates all
searches and
shared timeout

differences from go

operations are expressions (not statements)

core.async is a library, not a language feature

alts! is a *function*

alt supports priority

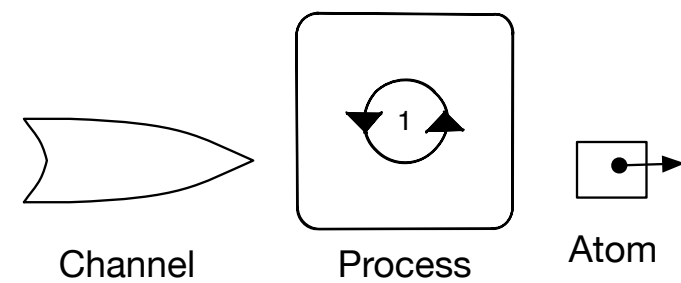
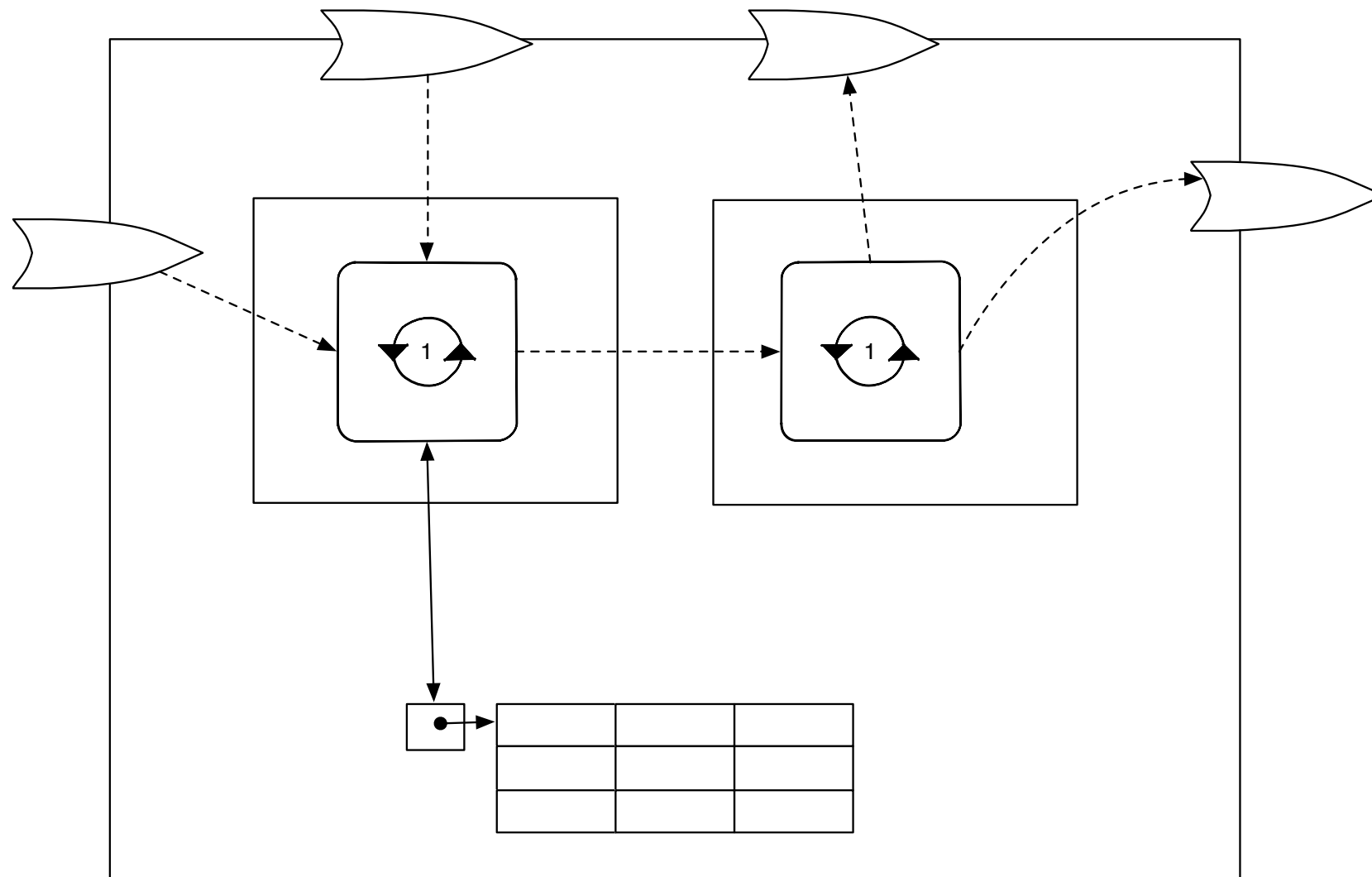
designing subsystems
with `core.async`

	without async	with async
arguments	active objects	maps
abstraction	protocols	maps
invocation	direct	channel put
queues	occasionally for pipelining	primary subsystem boundary
orchestration	pass objects to constructors	pass channels to constructors
errors	exceptions	don't know, don't care
state	functional <i>or</i> unified succession model	functional <i>or</i> unified succession model

control coupling with buffers

strategy	semantics	example
unbuffered	rendezvous	<code>(chan)</code>
fixed	block when full	<code>(chan 10)</code>
sliding	drop oldest when full	<code>(chan (sliding-buffer 10))</code>
dropping	drop newest when full	<code>(chan (dropping-buffer 10))</code>

visual vocabulary



what about actors?

The
Pragmatic
Programmers

Seven Concurrency Models in Seven Weeks

When Threads Unravel



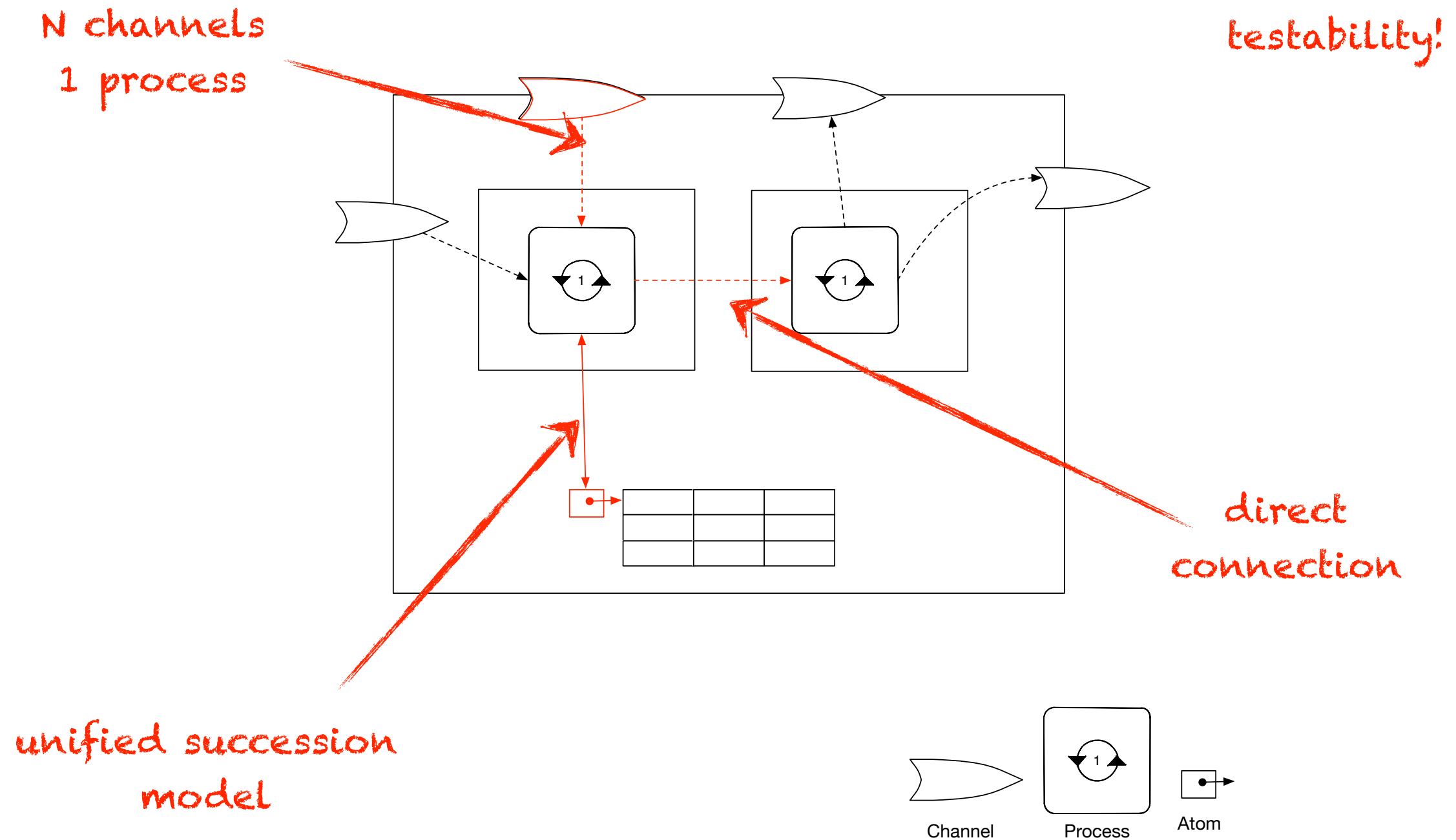
Paul Butcher

Series editor: *Bruce A. Tate*

Development editor: *Jacquelyn Carter*

<http://pragprog.com/book/pb7con/seven-concurrency-models-in-seven-weeks>

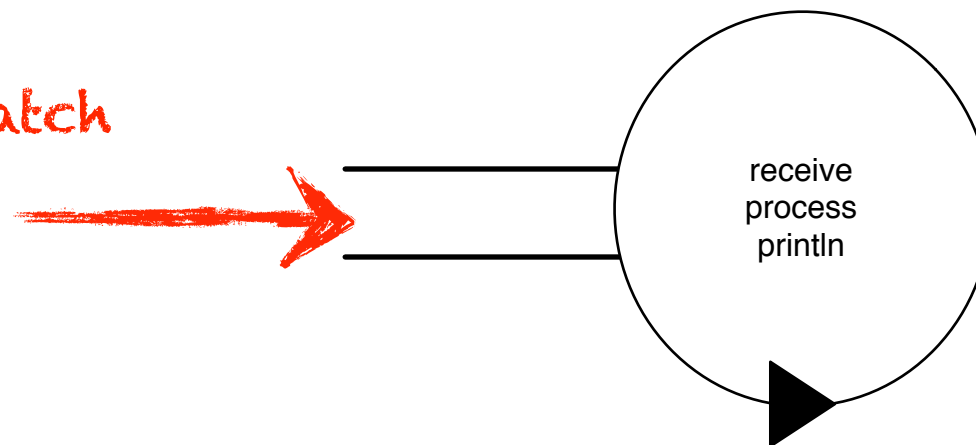
challenges for actors



hello actors

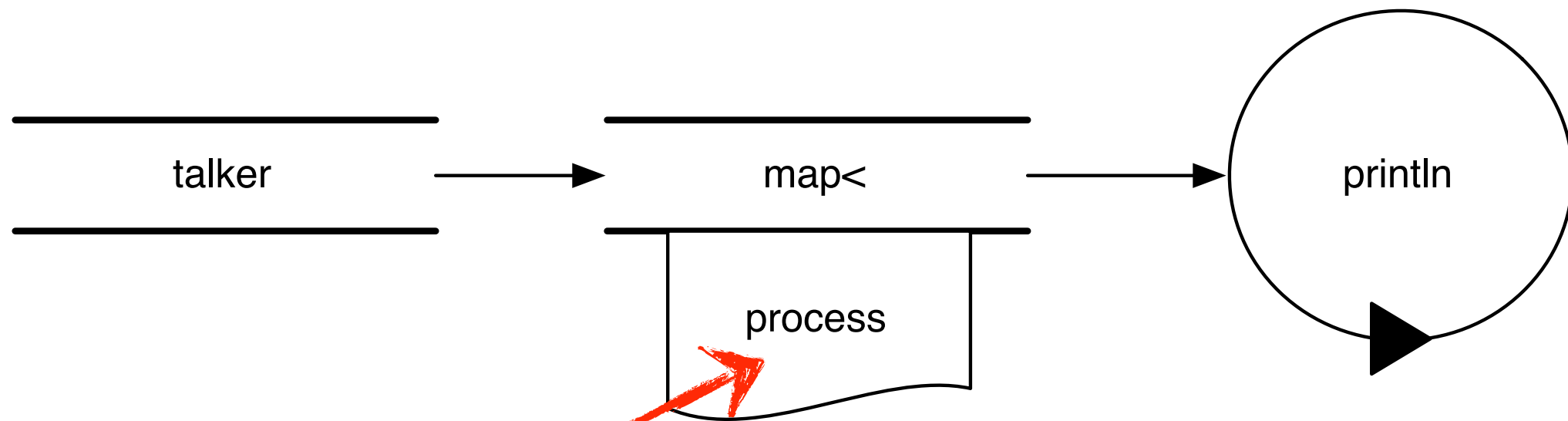
```
defmodule Talker do
  def loop do
    receive do
      {:greet, name} -> IO.puts("Hello #{name}")
      {:praise, name} -> IO.puts("#{name}, you're amazing")
      {:celebrate, name, age} -> IO.puts("Here's to another #{age} years, #{name}")
    end
  end
end
```

channel, process, & dispatch
fused together



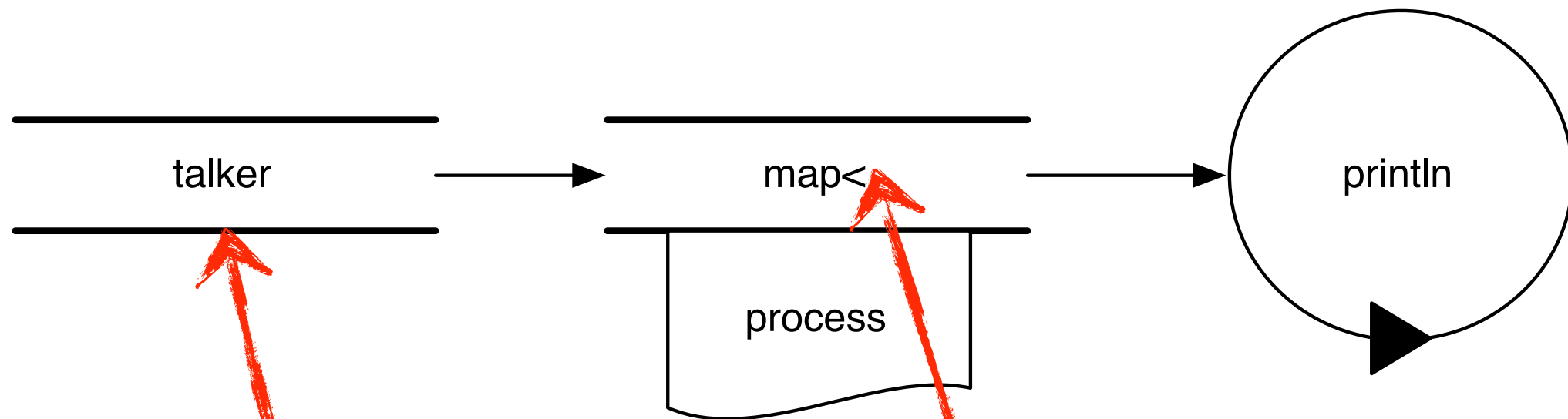
```
pid <- {:greet, "Huey"}
pid <- {:praise, "Dewey"}
pid <- {:celebrate, "Louie", 16}
```

closed (pattern) dispatch



```
(defn process-1
  [item]
  (match
    [item]
    [[:greet & [name]]] (str "Hello " name)
    [[:praise & [name]]] (str name ", you're amazing")
    [[:celebrate & [name age]]] (str "Here's to another " age " years, " name))))
```

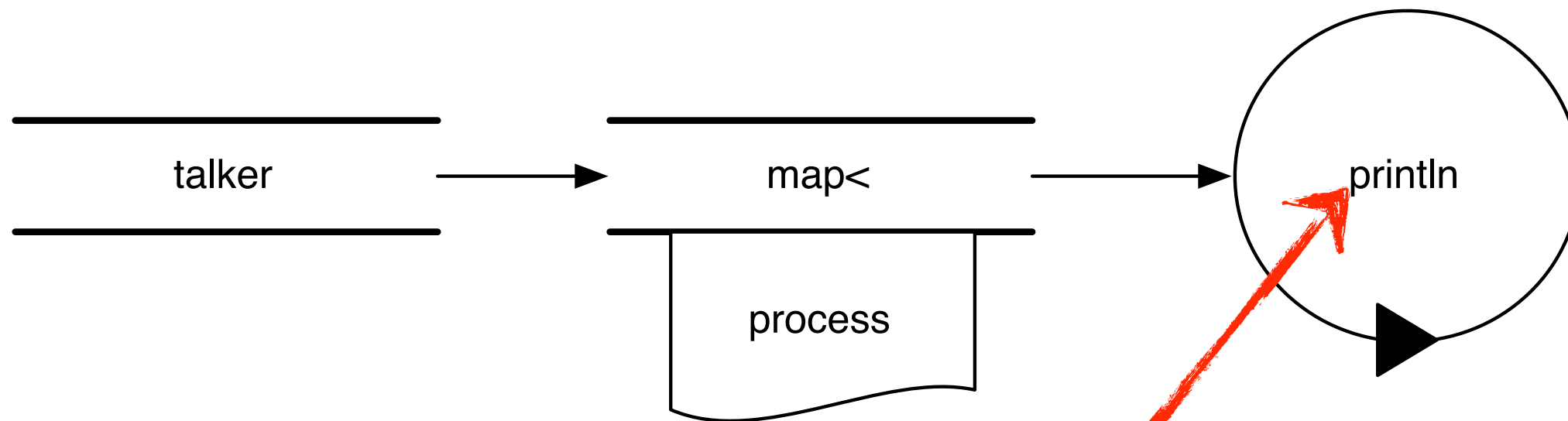
+channels



```
(def talker-ch-1 (chan))
```

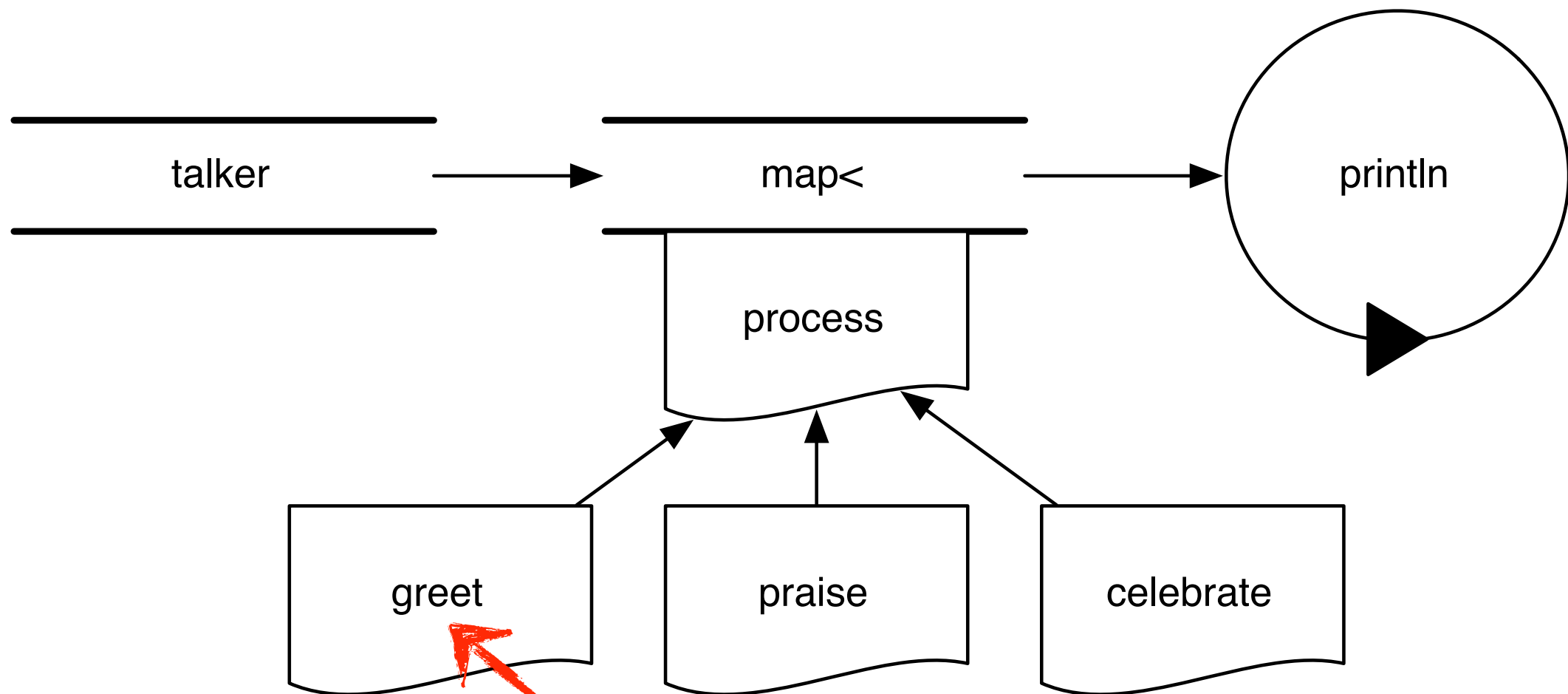
```
(def composed-ch-1  
  (->> talker-ch-1 (map< process-1)))
```

+processes



```
(def loop-1
  (go-loop [msg (<! composed-ch-1)]
    (when msg
      (println msg)
      (recur (<! composed-ch-1)))))
```

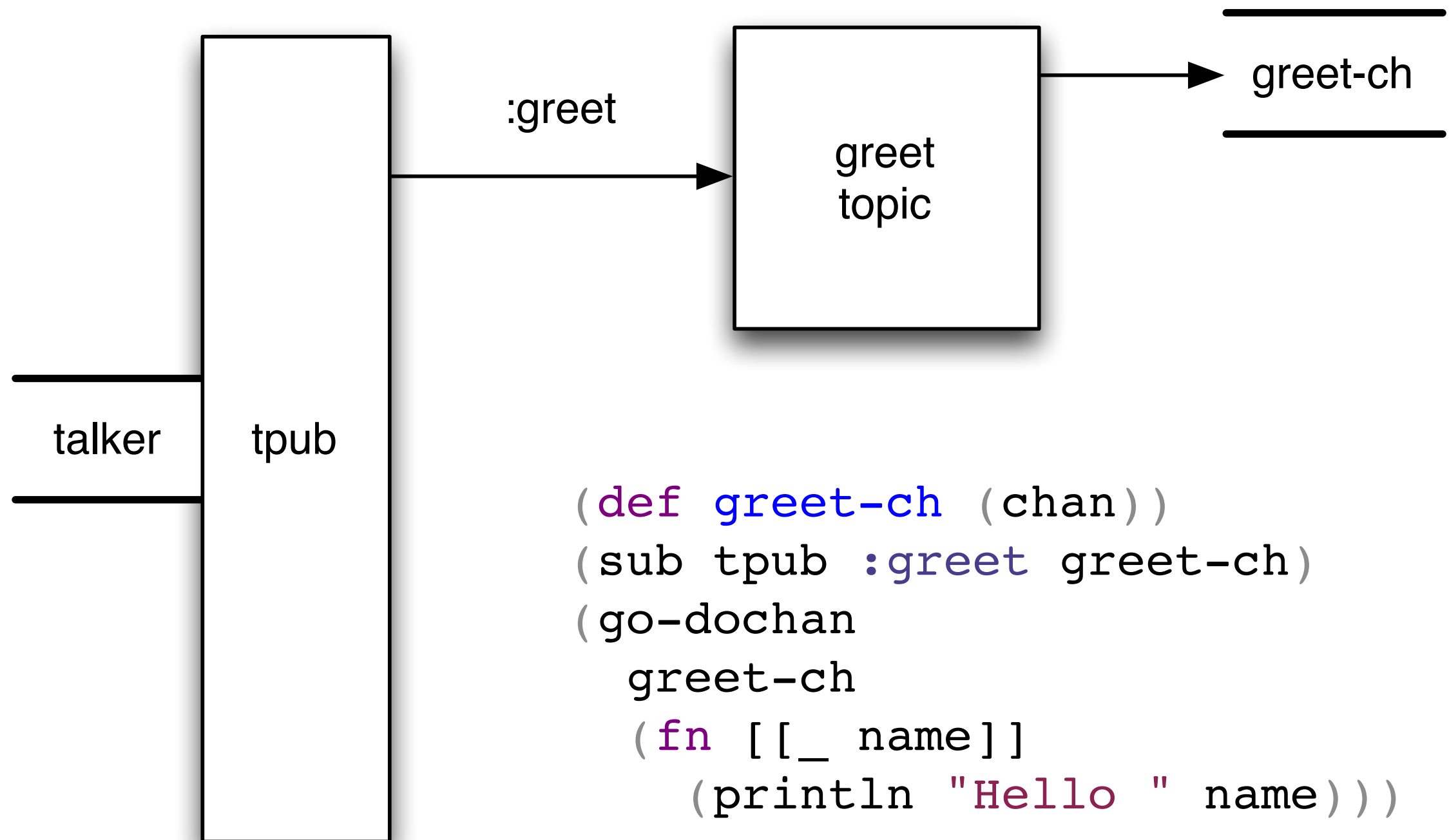
substitute open dispatch



```
(defmulti process-2 (fn [[k & more]] k))
```

```
(defmethod process-2 :greet  
  [[_ & [name]]]  
  (str "Hello " name))
```


substitute pub/sub



om: ClojureScript + React

app	live server	code
Netrunner	http://www.jinteki.net/	https://github.com/mtgred/netrunner
Goya (pixel editor)	http://jackschaedler.github.io/goya/	https://github.com/jackschaedler/goya
Wordsmith (markdown editor)	http://wordsmith.variadic.me/	https://github.com/eakron/wordsmith

resources

core.async and CSP

<http://clojure.com/blog/2013/06/28/clojure-core-async-channels.html>

<https://github.com/clojure/core.async>

<http://www.cs.kent.ac.uk/projects/ofa/jcsp/>

<http://www.usingcsp.com/>

@stuarthalloway

<https://github.com/stuarthalloway/presentations/wiki>

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/stu-halloway/0/110/543/>

<https://twitter.com/stuarthalloway>

<mailto:stu@cognitect.com>

cognitect



Datomic