An Intuition for Propagators

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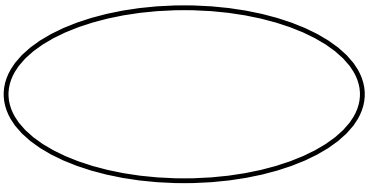
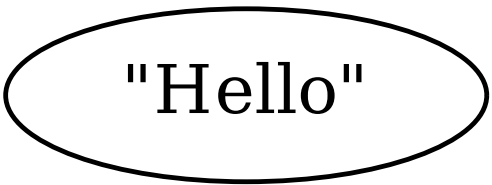
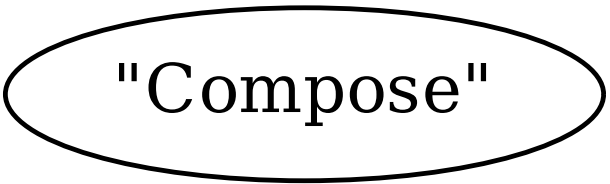
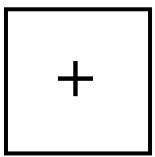
1970s, MIT

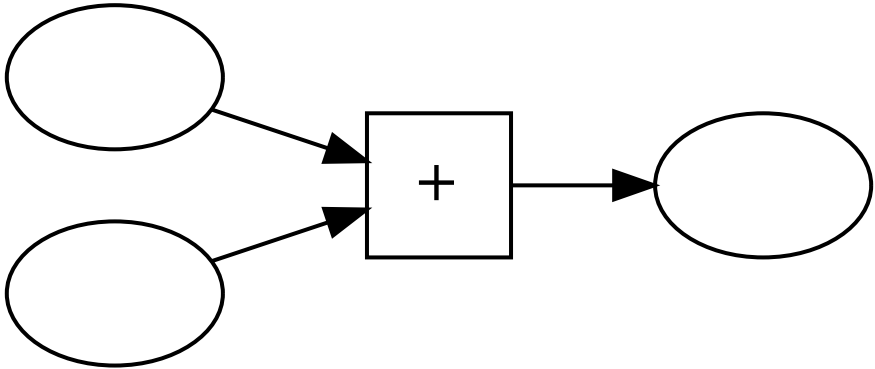
a model of computation for **highly concurrent** machines

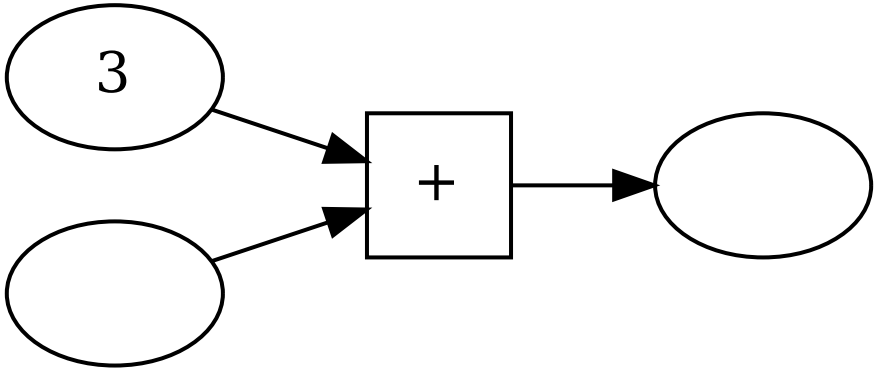


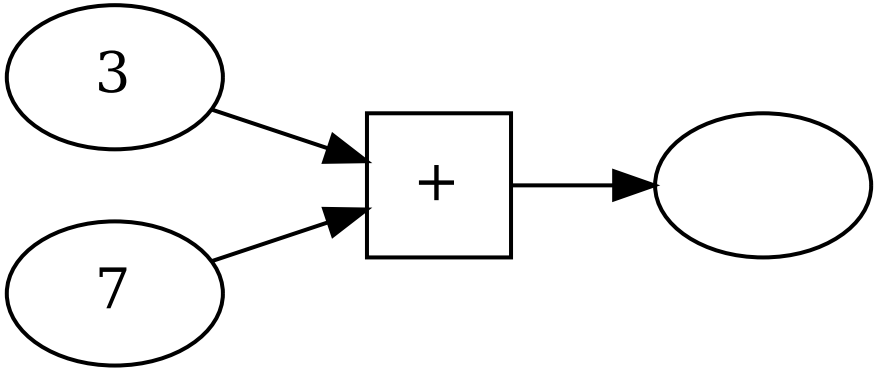

"Hello"

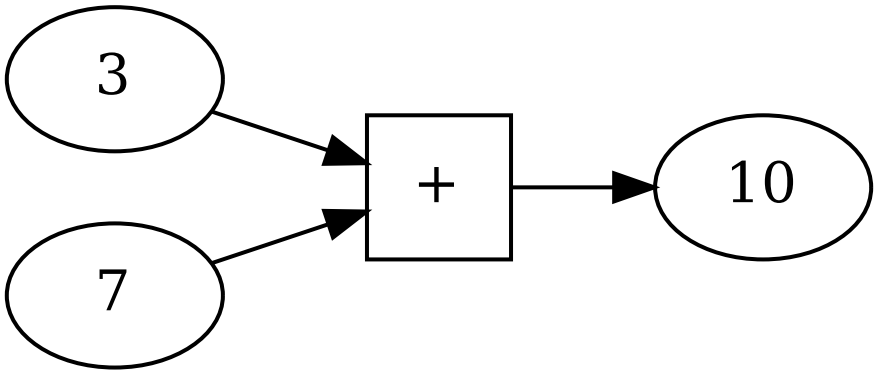

"Compose"

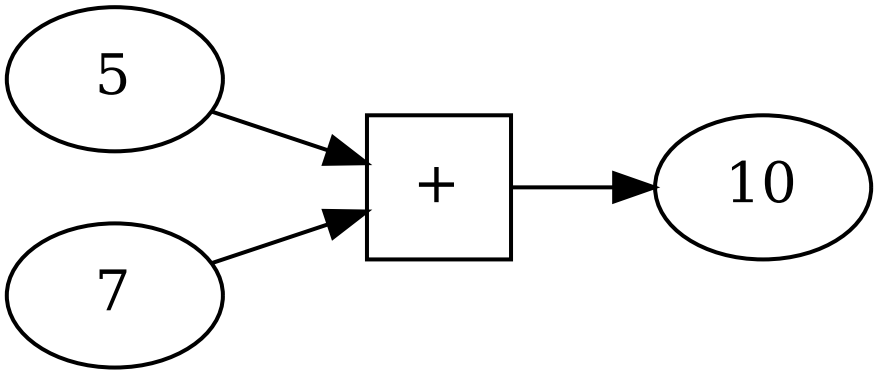


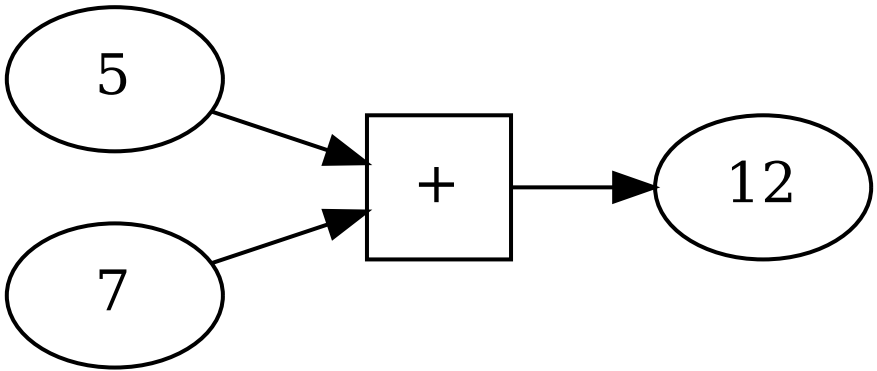



3
+


3
7
+


3
7
+
10


5
7
+
10


5
7
+
12

```haskell
-- types
data Cell a

data Par a
instance Monad Par
```

```haskell
-- types
data Cell a

data Par a
instance Monad Par


-- Creating a cell
cell    :: Par (Cell a)
```

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data Cell a

data Par a
instance Monad Par


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cell    :: Par (Cell a)


-- Working with Cells
content :: Cell a -> Par (Maybe a)
write   :: Cell a -> a -> Par ()
```

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data Cell a

data Par a
instance Monad Par


-- Creating a cell
cell    :: Par (Cell a)


-- Working with Cells
content :: Cell a -> Par (Maybe a)
write   :: Cell a -> a -> Par ()


-- Creating a propagator
watch   :: Cell a -> (a -> Par ()) -> Par ()
```
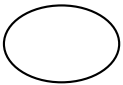
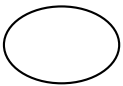
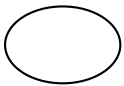
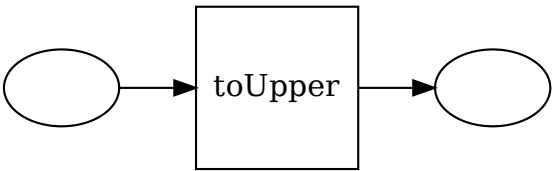

```
do
  input  <- cell
```



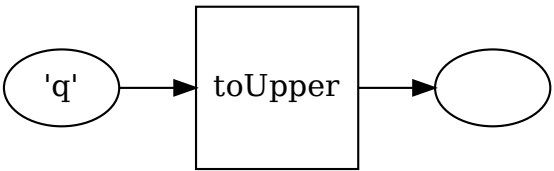




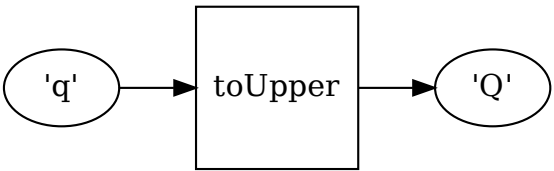
```
do
  input  <- cell
  output <- cell
```




```
do
  input  <- cell
  output <- cell
  watch input (\c ->
    write output (toUpper c))
```




```haskell
do
  input  <- cell
  output <- cell
  watch input (\c ->
    write output (toUpper c))

  write input 'q'
  content output   -- Just 'Q'
```

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  input  <- cell
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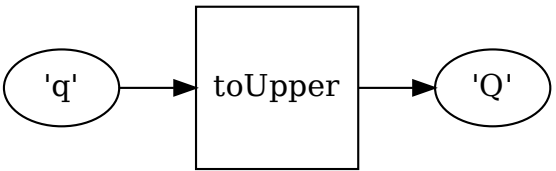
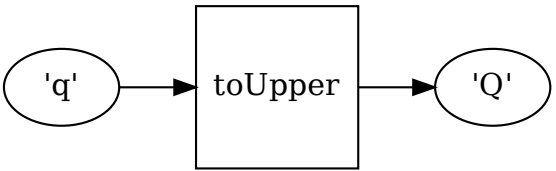


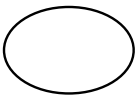

```
do
  input  <- cell
  output <- cell
  watch input (\c ->
    write output (toUpper c))

  write input 'q'
  content output   -- Just 'Q'
```

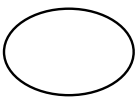
```
lift :: (a -> b) -> Cell a -> Cell b -> Par ()
lift f input output =
  watch input (\a ->
    write output (f a))
```

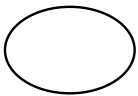


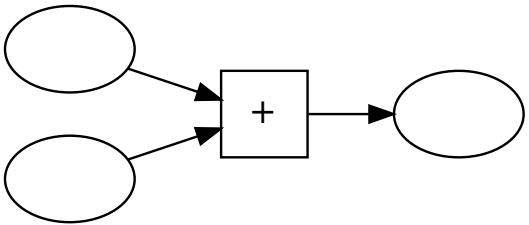

```
do
  input  <- cell
  output <- cell
  lift toUpper input output

  write input 'q'
  content output   -- Just 'Q'
```

```
do
  inL  <- cell
  inR  <- cell
  out  <- cell
```

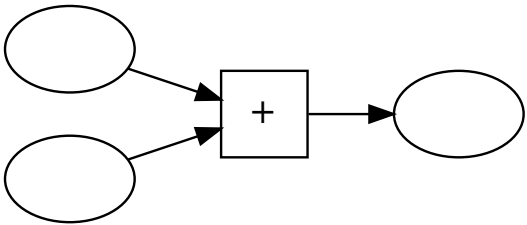






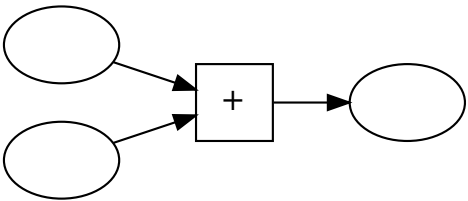



```
do
  inL  <- cell
  inR  <- cell
  out  <- cell

  watch inL (\x -> do
    maybeY <- content inR
    case maybeY of
      Nothing -> pure ()
      Just y  -> write out (x+y)
```

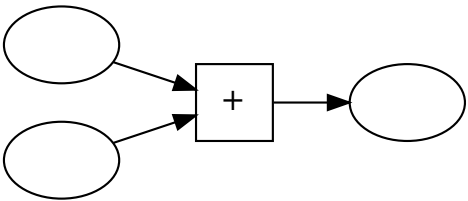



```
do
  inL  <- cell
  inR  <- cell
  out  <- cell

  watch inL (\x -> do
    maybeY <- content inR
    case maybeY of
      Nothing -> pure ()
      Just y  -> write out (x+y)

  watch inR (\y -> do
    maybeX <- content inL
    case maybeX of
      Nothing -> pure ()
      Just x  -> write out (x+y)
```

```
with :: Cell a -> (a -> Par ()) -> Par ()
with theCell callback = do
  maybeA <- content theCell
    case maybeA of
      Nothing -> pure ()
      Just a  -> callback a
```



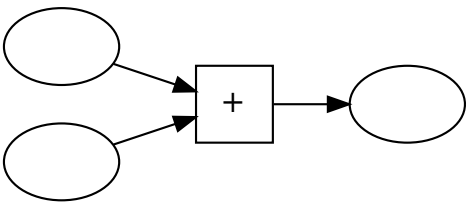

```
do
  inL  <- cell
  inR  <- cell
  out  <- cell


  watch inL (\x ->
    with inR (\y ->
      write out (x+y)
```




```
do
  inL  <- cell
  inR  <- cell
  out  <- cell


  watch inL (\x ->
    with inR (\y ->
      write out (x+y)


  watch inR (\y ->
    with inL (\x ->
      write out (x+y)
```

```
lift2 :: (a -> b -> c)
      -> Cell a -> Cell b -> Cell c
      -> Par ()
```

```
lift2 :: (a -> b -> c)
      -> Cell a -> Cell b -> Cell c
      -> Par ()

lift2 f inL inR out = do
  watch inL (\a ->
    with inR (\b ->
      write out (f a b)))
  watch inR (\b ->
    with inL (\a ->
      write out (f a b)))
```




```
do
  inL  <- cell
  inR  <- cell
  out  <- cell


  adder inL inR out

    where
      adder l r o = do
        lift2 (+) l r o
        lift2 (-) o l r
        lift2 (-) o r l
```

?!

Thanks for listening!