



Modern patterns of concurrent and parallel programming in .NET

BY RICCARDO TERRELL - @TRIKACE

*“I’ve spent several hours on attempts to parallelize
my code, but it only get slower when I do so”*



- on StackOverflow

*“I’ve parallelize my code, and now it
runs 4x slower”*



- on Twitter

“I asked my team to parallelize the

code... NOT to paralyse the code”



- on Twitter

We need a way to make sure our programs continue to improve their speed and performance as hardware evolves. Have any ideas?



Its about **maximizing** resource use

To get the **best** performance, your application has to partition and divide processing to take full advantage of multicore processors – enabling it to do **multiple** things at the same time, i.e. **concurrently**.

Agenda

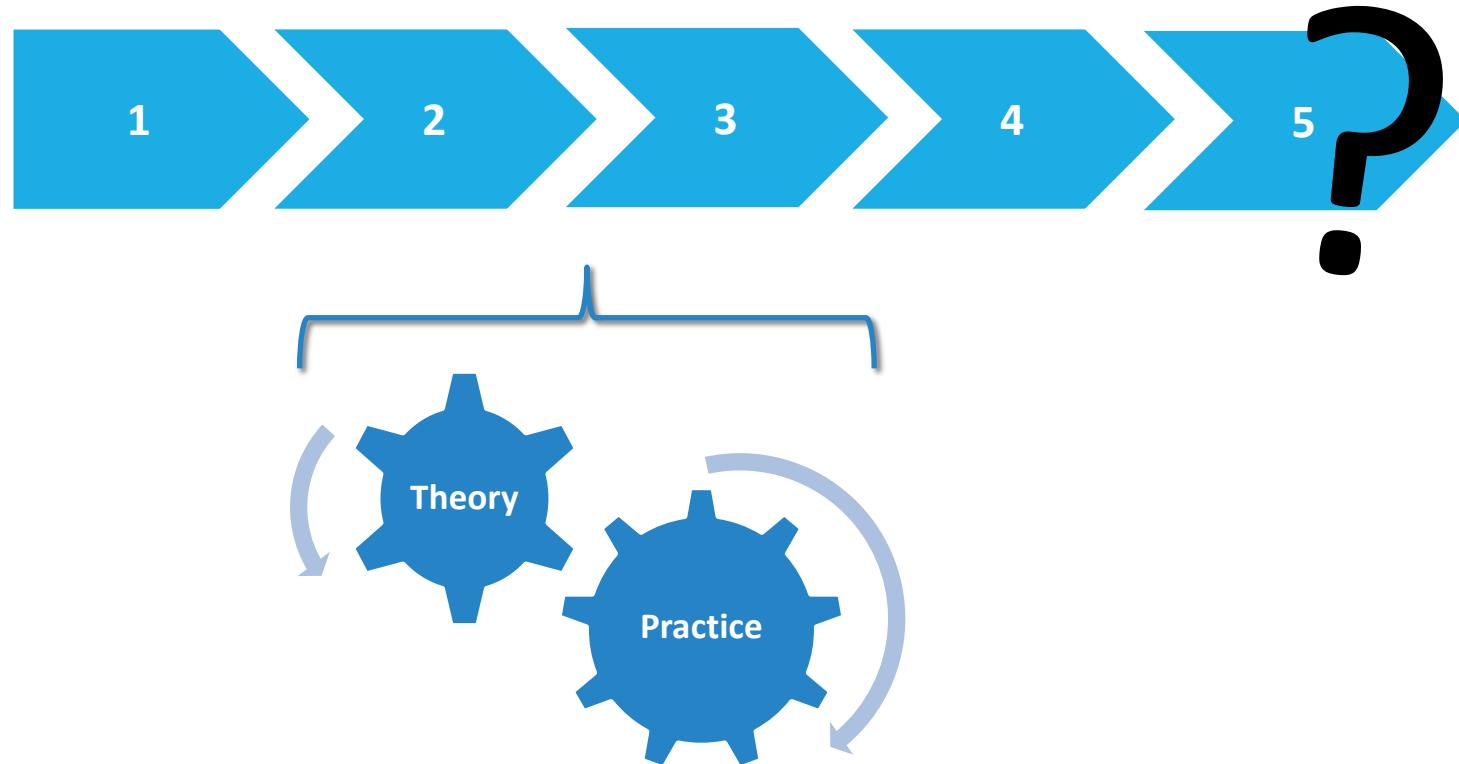
The rise of concurrent programming and slow adoption

Managed parallelism with Task Parallel Libraries

Combinators to compose Tasks and Asynchronous operations deterministically

Message passing programming model

Modules



Pre-requisites

> Windows

- > Visual Studio 2015/2017 Community or
- > Visual Studio Code
- > C# Extensions
- > F# Compiler + Ionide package

> Mac

- > Visual Studio for Mac + Mono or
- > Xamarin Studio 6.x + Mono or
- > Visual Studio Code + Mono + Ionide package

> Linux

- > Visual Studio Code + Mono + Ionide package

Download links:

<https://github.com/rikace/ncrafts-ws>

See README section pre-requisites

Disclaimer

- > Let's keep the session interactive
- > Skipping slides
- > After this class you will need to keep practicing
- > This is just an introduction
- > The code is not production-ready
 - > You can use either C# or F# or both

Introduction - Riccardo Terrell

- ④ Originally from Italy, currently - Living/working in Washington DC
- ④ +/- 20 years in professional programming
 - ④ C++/VB → Java → .Net C# → Scala → Haskell → C# & F# → ??
- ④ Author of the book “Functional Concurrency in .NET” – Manning Pub.
- ④ *Polyglot programmer - believes in the art of finding the right tool for the job*
- ④ *Organizer of the DC F# User Group*



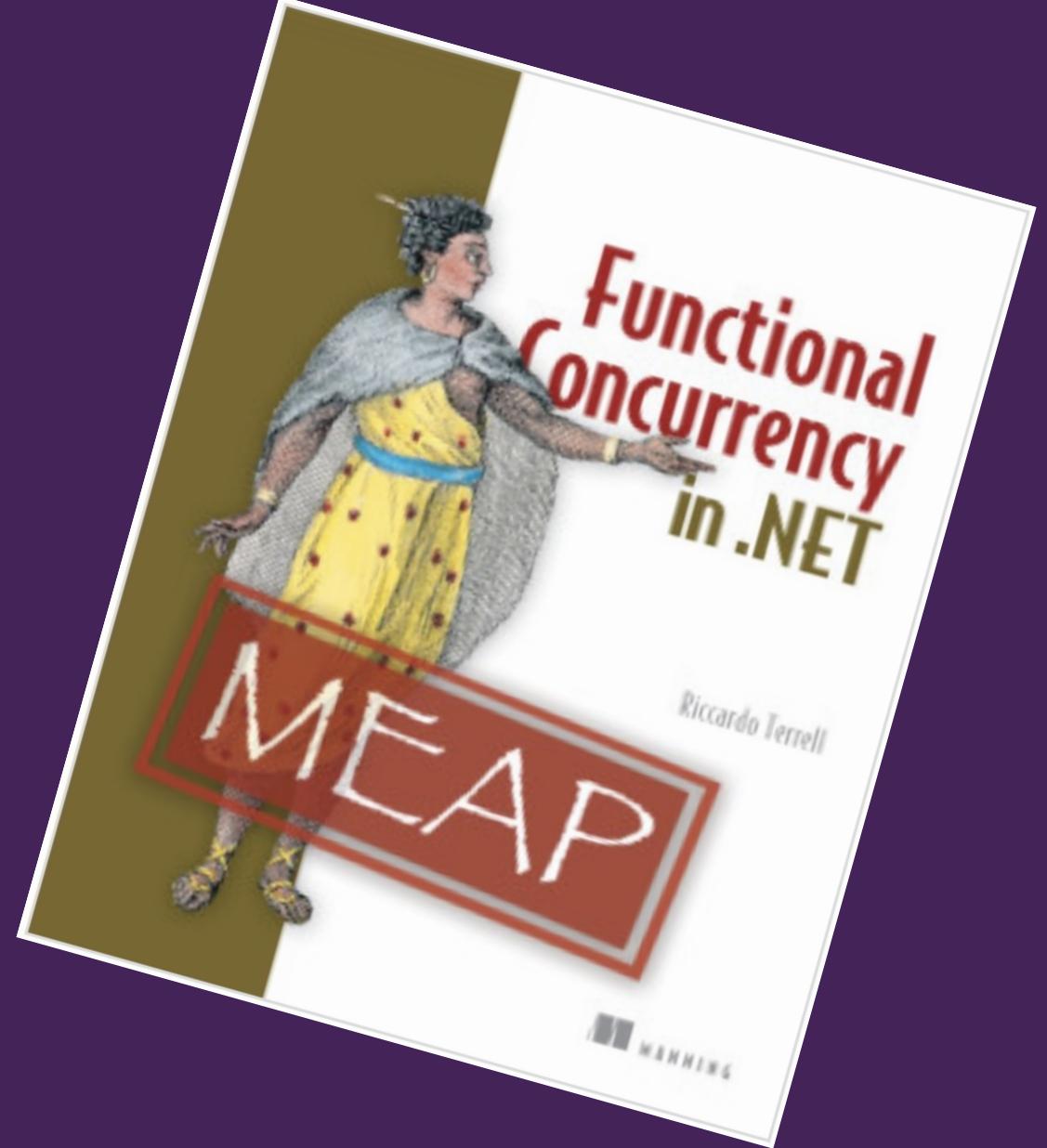
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40% off Functional Concurrency in .NET
(all formats)

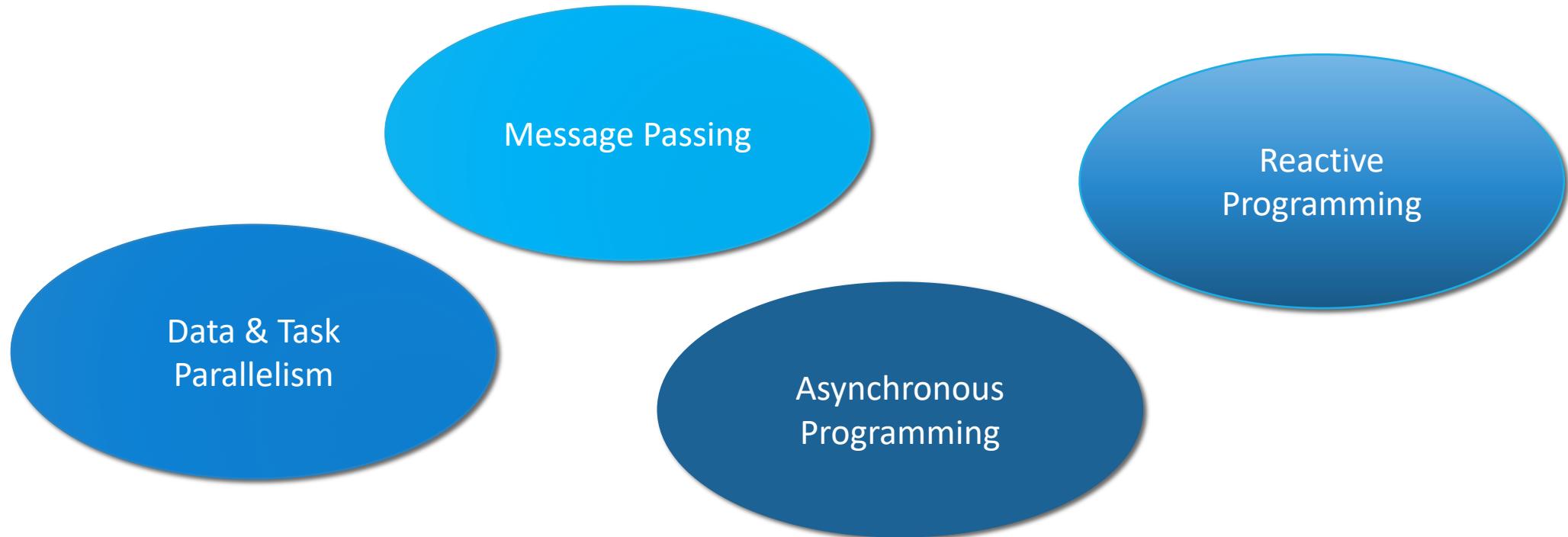


<https://www.manning.com/books/functional-concurrency-in-dotnet>



What about you?

Concurrency Core Concepts

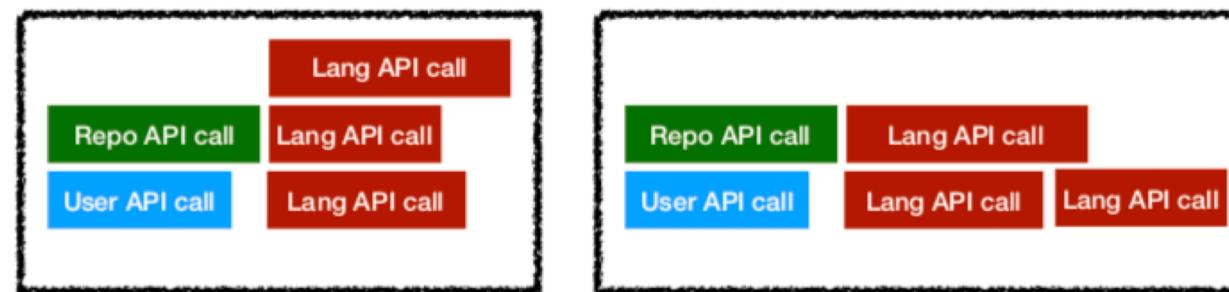


A photograph of a long, straight asphalt road stretching into the distance. The road is flanked by dense green forests on both sides. The sky above is a clear blue with scattered white clouds. In the center of the image, the words "Let's start!" are written in large, bold, red letters.

Let's start!

Concurrency programming

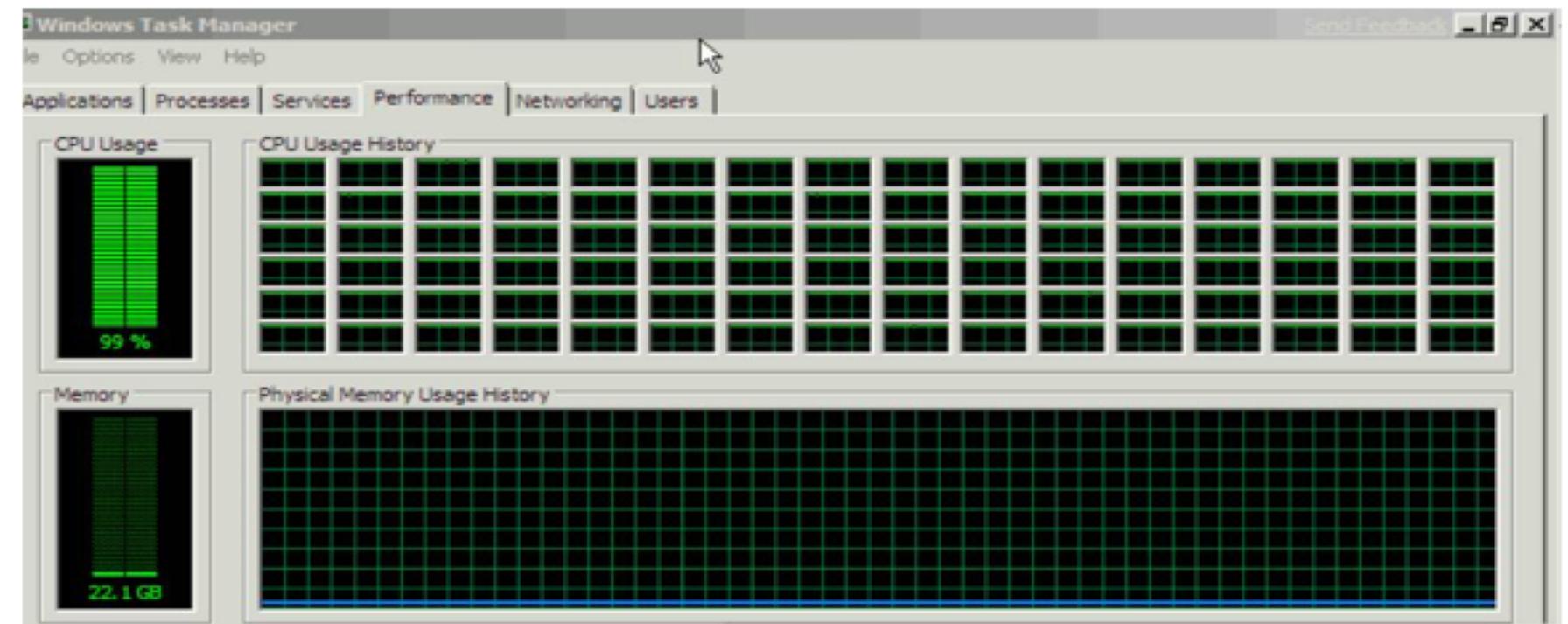
Concurrency provides a way to **structure a solution** to solve a problem that may (but not necessarily) be parallelizable.

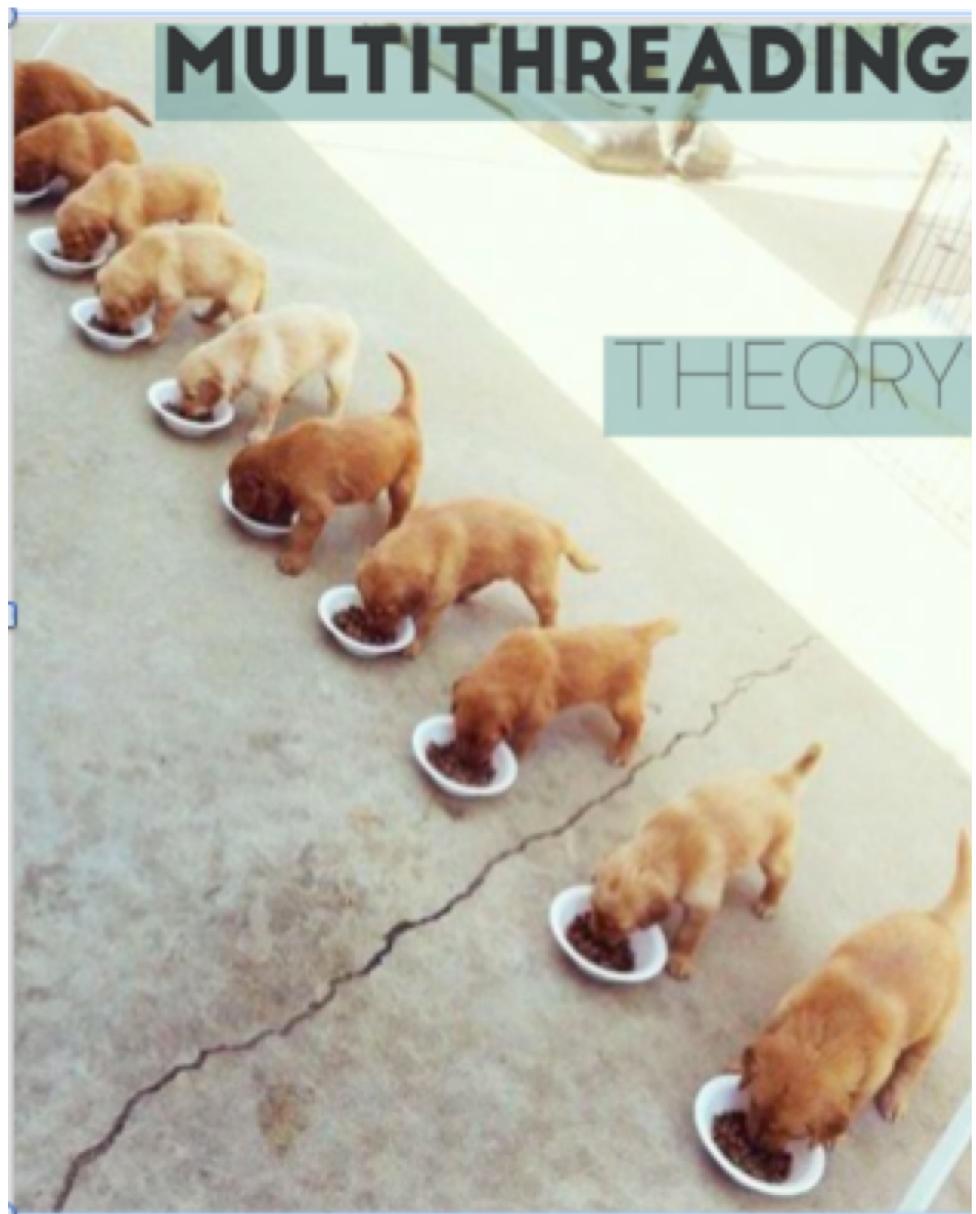


Concurrency is the **composition** of independently executing computations.

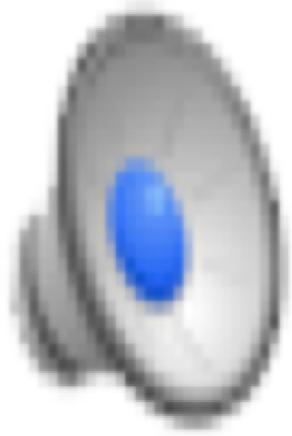
Moore's law - The Concurrency challenge

Modern computers come with multiple processors, each equipped with multiple cores, but the single processor is slower than it used to be!



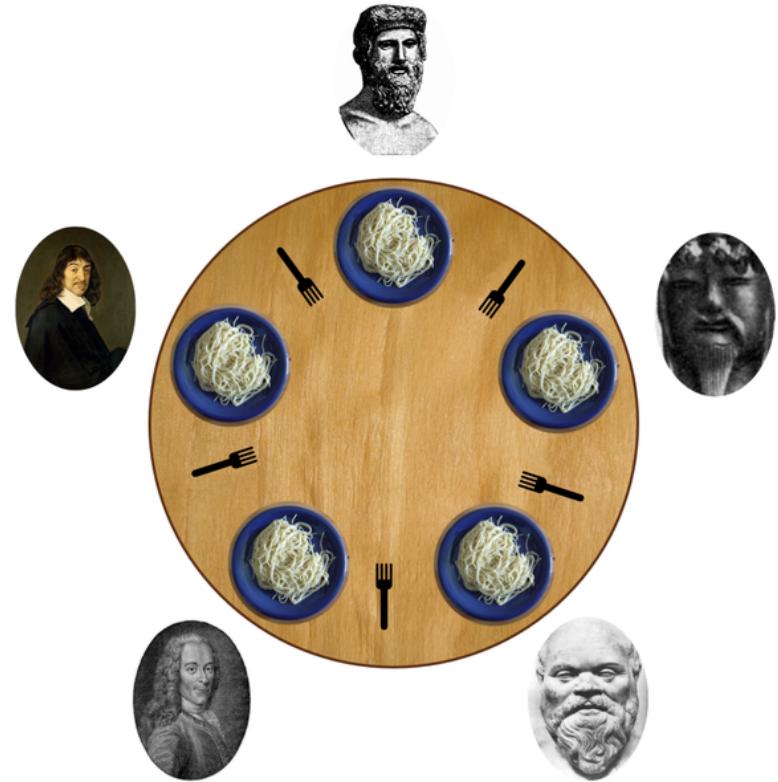


The issue is Shared Memory



- Shared Memory Concurrency
- Data Race / Race Condition
- Works in sequential single threaded environment
- Very difficult to parallelize
- Difficult to maintain and test
- Locking, blocking, call-back hell

Fully Synchronized Objects



Immutability

Like string in C# **everything** is immutable

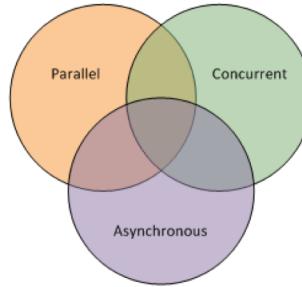
Help in concurrent/parallel code

Immutability is **default** in F#

You can choose to go mutable (**use carefully!**)

Copy-on-Write

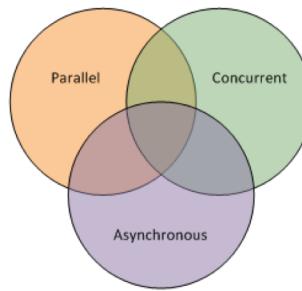




Immutability

```
public class ImmutablePerson
{
    public ImmutablePerson(string firstName, string lastName, int age) {
        FirstName = firstName;
        LastName = lastName;
        Age = age;
    }
    public string LastName { get; }
    public string FirstName { get; }
    public int Age { get; }

    public ImmutablePerson UpdateAge(int age)
    {
        return new ImmutablePerson(this.FirstName, this.LastName, age);
    }
}
```



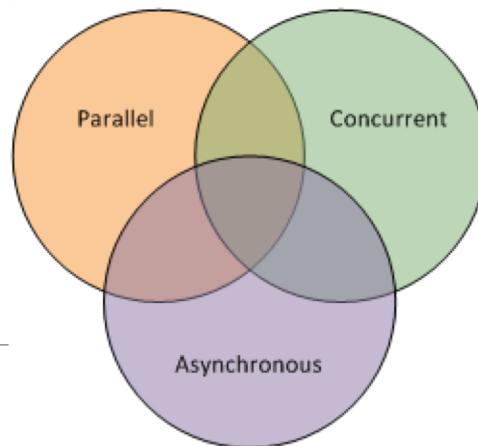
Immutability

```
public class ImmutablePerson
{
    public ImmutablePerson(string firstName, string lastName, int age) {
        FirstName = firstName;
        LastName = lastName;
        Age = age;
    }
    public string LastName { get; }
    public string FirstName { get; }
    public int Age { get; }

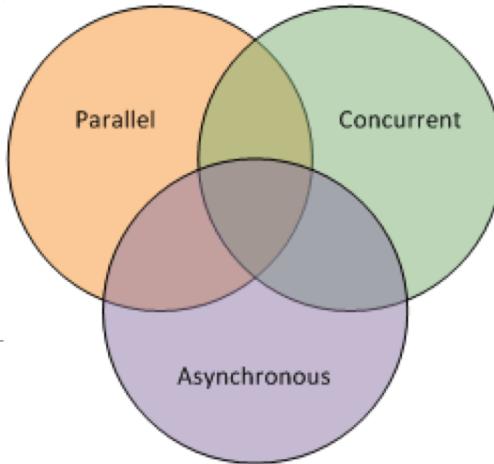
    public ImmutablePerson UpdateAge(int age)
    {
        return new ImmutablePerson(this.FirstName, this.LastName, age);
    }
}

type Person = {FirstName:string; LastName:string; Age:int}
```

Compare And Swap - CAS



Compare And Swap - CAS



```
public class LockFreeStack<T> {  
    private class Node {  
        public T Data;  
        public Node Next;  
    }  
    private Node head;  
  
    public void Push(T element) {  
        Node node = new Node {Data = element};  
        DoWithCAS(ref head, h => {  
            node.Next = h;  
            return node;  
        });  
    }  
}
```

The Solution is Immutability and Isolation

IMMUTABILITY +
ISOLATION =

BEST CONCURRENT PROGRAMMING MODEL

Message Passing Concurrency (Actors)

Avoid Side Effects

Referential transparency

An expression is said to be referentially transparent if it can be **replaced** with its corresponding value **without changing the program's behavior**.

As a result, evaluating a referentially transparent function gives the same value for same arguments.

In general it means that the function **don't have side effect** which may influence its result.

Referential transparency

Which of the following methods are an example of Referential Transparency?

```
DateTime Add(DateTime date, TimeSpan duration) =>  
    date.Add(duration);
```

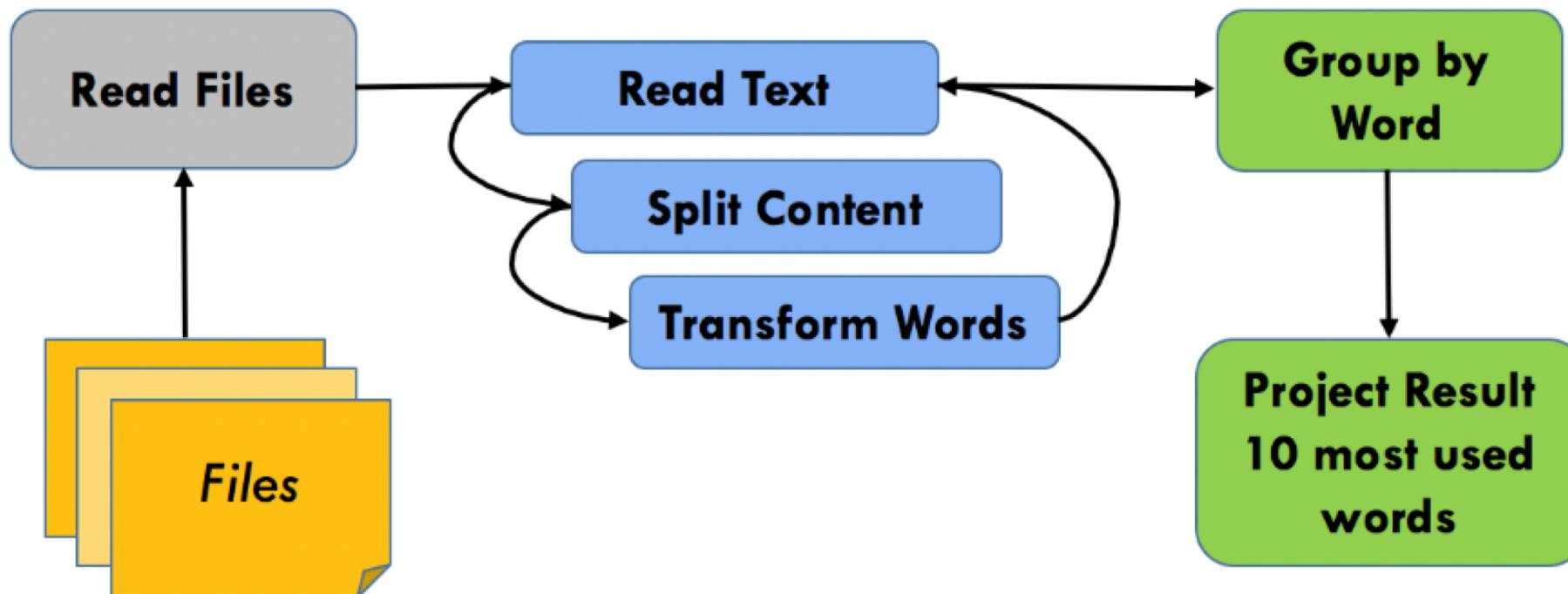
```
DateTime AddDay(DateTime date) =>  
    Add(date, TimeSpan.FromDay(1));
```

```
DateTime Tomorrow() => AddDay (DateTime.Now)
```

```
DateTime AddTrigger(DateTime date, Func<int> f) =>  
    Add(date, TimeSpan.FromDay(f()));
```

C#

Parallel words counter with side effects



Parallel words counter with side effects

```
public static Dictionary<string, int> WordsCounter(string source)
{
    var wordsCount =
        (from filePath in
            Directory.GetFiles(source, "*.txt").AsParallel()
            from line in File.ReadLines(filePath)
            from word in line.Split(' ')
            select word.ToUpper())
        .GroupBy(w => w)
        .OrderByDescending(v => v.Count()).Take(10); //#C
    return wordsCount.ToDictionary(k => k.Key, v => v.Count());
}
```

Why removing without side effects

- Easy to reason about the correctness of your program
- Easy to compose functions for creating new behavior
- Easy to be isolated and, therefore, easy to test and less bug prone
- Easy to be executed in parallel; because pure functions don't have external dependencies, their order of execution (evaluation) doesn't matter

How to tame parallelism

Quick Sort

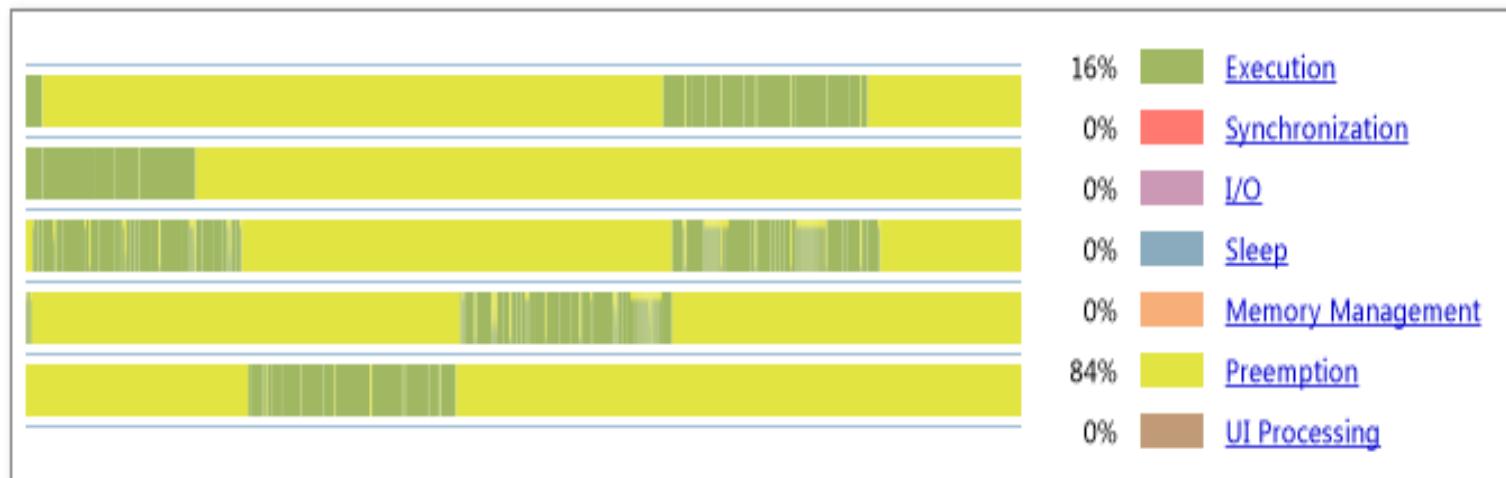
```
static void QuickSort_Parallel<T>(T[] items, int left, int right)
{
    if (right - left < 2)
    {
        if (left+1 == right &&
            items[left].CompareTo(items[right]) > 0)
            Swap(ref items[left], ref items[right]);
        return;
    }

    int pivot = Partition(items, left, right);

    Task leftTask = Task.Run(() => QuickSort_Parallel(items, left, pivot));
    Task rightTask = Task.Run(() => QuickSort_Parallel(items, pivot + 1, right));

    Task.WaitAll(leftTask, rightTask);
}
```

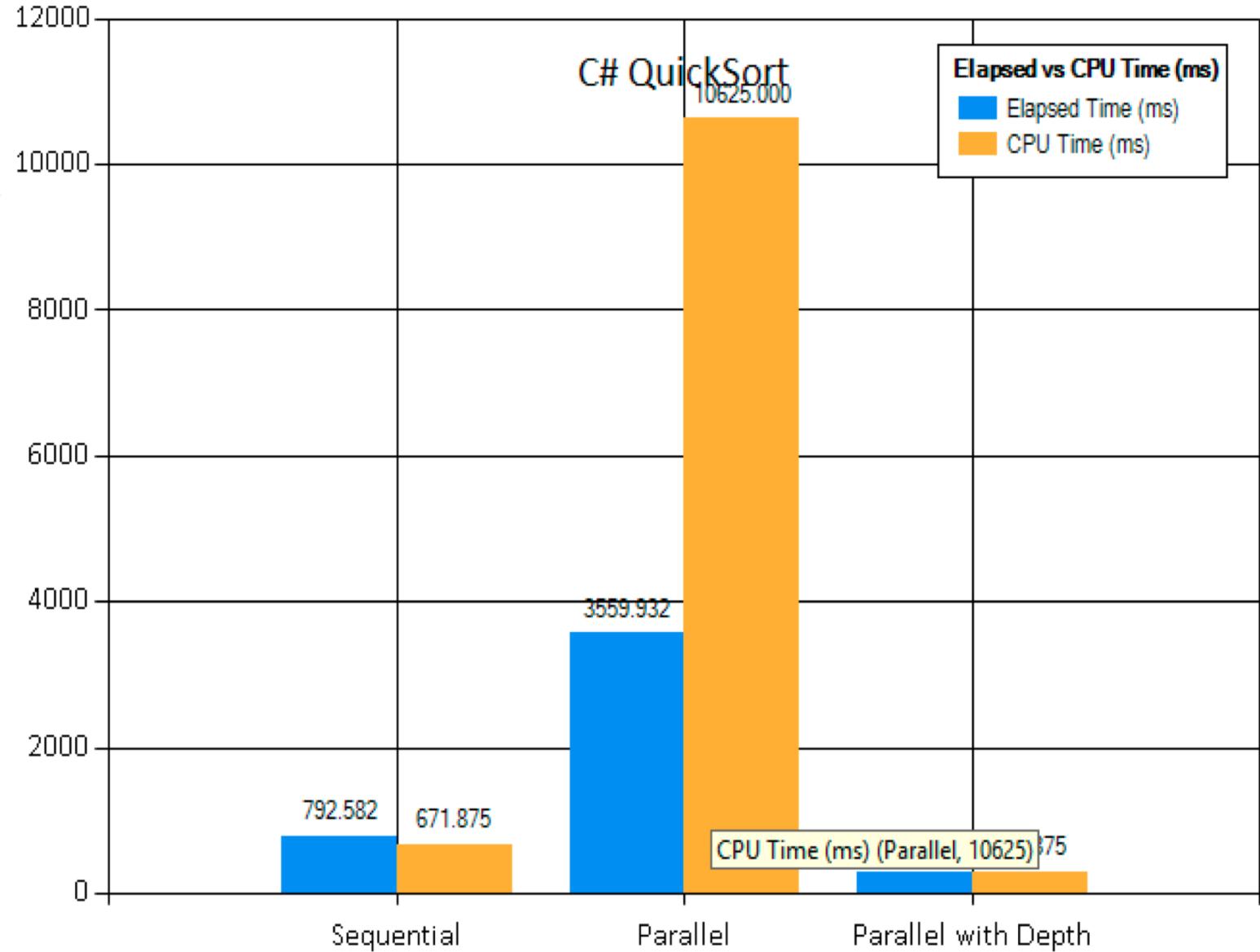
Quick Sort – Oversubscription



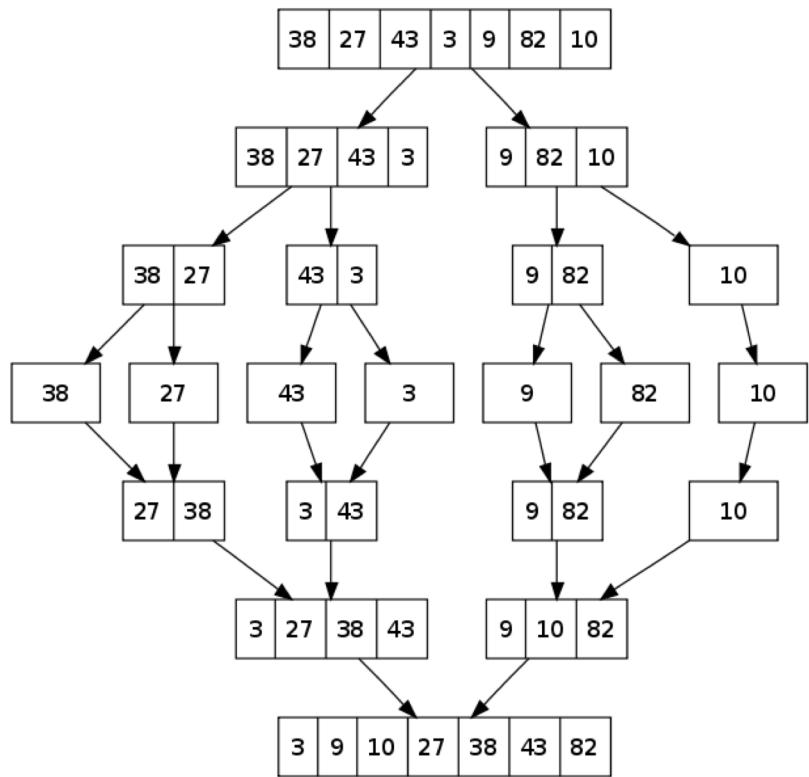
Quick Sort – with depth

```
void QuickSort_Parallel_Threshold<T>(T[ ] items, int left, int right, int depth)
{
    if (left >= right)  return;
    SwapElements(items, left, (left + right) / 2);
    var pivot = Partition(items);
    if (depth >= 0)      {
        QuickSort_Parallel_Threshold(items, left, pivot - 1, depth);
        QuickSort_Parallel_Threshold(items, pivot + 1, right, depth);
    }
    else
    {
        --depth;
        Parallel.Invoke(
            () => QuickSort_Parallel_Threshold(items, left, pivot - 1, depth),
            () => QuickSort_Parallel_Threshold(items, pivot + 1, right, depth)
        );
    }
}
```

Quick Sort benchmark



Divide and Conquer



```
void QuickSort_Parallel<T>(T[] items, int left, int right)
{
    int pivot = left;

    SwapElements(items, left, pivot);

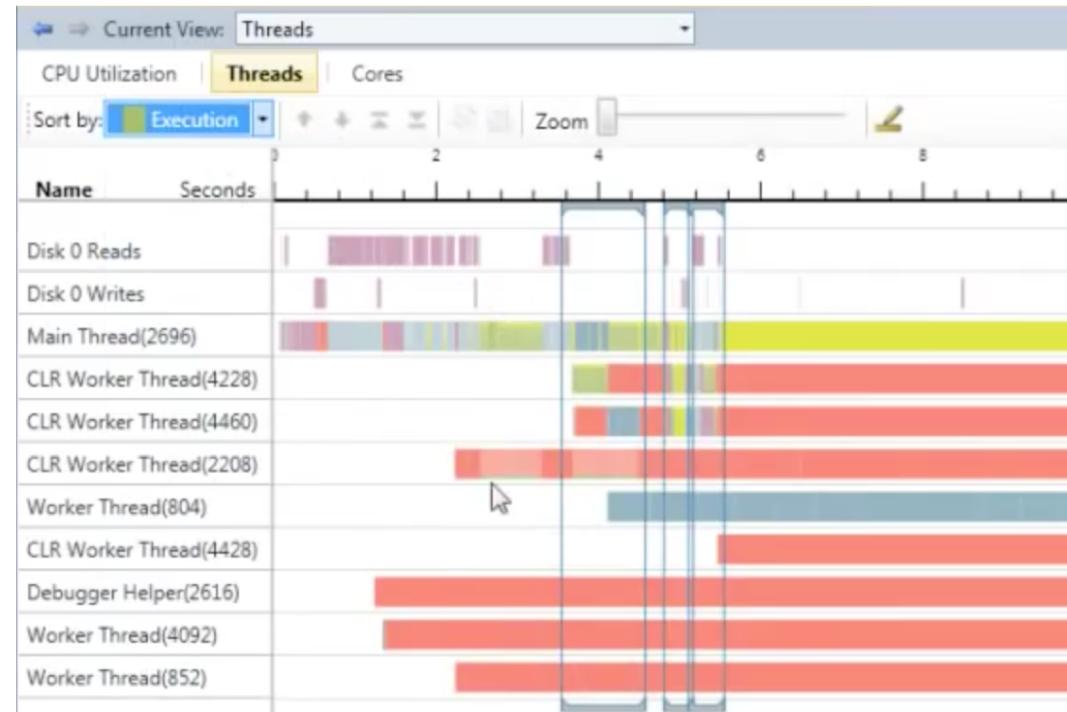
    Parallel.Invoke(
        () => QuickSort_Parallel(items, left, pivot - 1),
        () => QuickSort_Parallel(items, pivot + 1, right)
    );
}
```

Measure twice and cut once



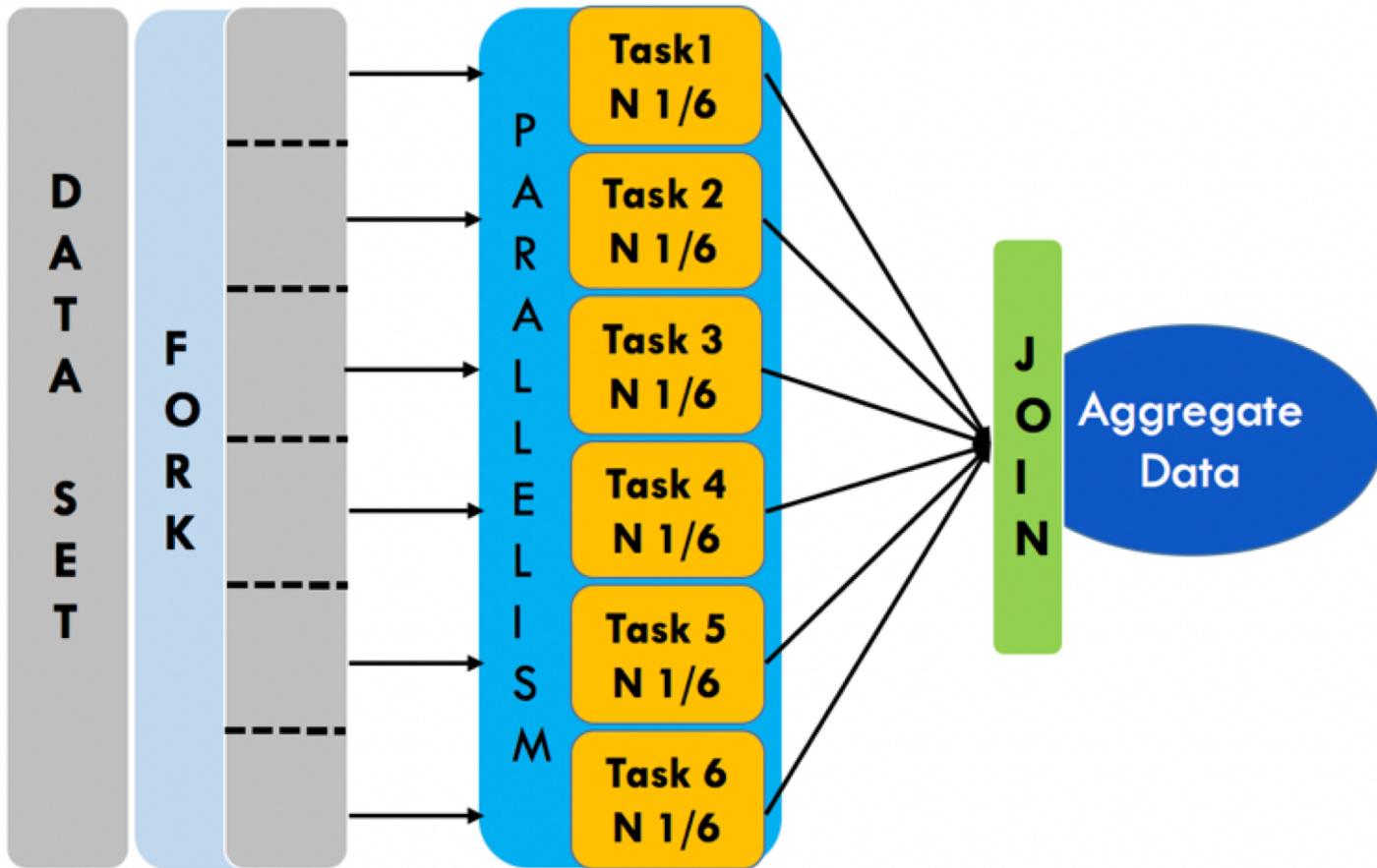
Assume nothing – Profile everything

- Be scientific
- Do test multiple implementations
- Don't set out to confirm your bias
- Instrument and profile your code



Task parallel programming in action

The Fork/Join pattern



Sequential Fuzzy Match

```
List<string> matches = new List<string>();  
  
foreach (var word in WordsToSearch)  
{  
    var localMathes = JaroWinklerModule.bestMatch(Words, word);  
    matches.AddRange(localMathes.Select(m => m.Word));  
}
```

Fuzzy match 7 words against 13.4 Mb of text

Time execution in 4 Logical cores – 6 Gb Ram : **23,167 ms**

Multi Thread Fuzzy Match

```
List<string> matches = new List<string>();
var threads = new Thread[Environment.ProcessorCount];

for (int i = 0; i < threads.Length; i++) {
    var index = i;
    threads[index] = new Thread(() => {
        var take = WordsToSearch.Count / (Math.Min(WordsToSearch.Count, threads.Length));
        var start = index == threads.Length - 1 ? WordsToSearch.Count - take : index * take;

        foreach (var word in WordsToSearch.Skip(start).Take(take)) {
            var localMatches = FuzzyMatch.JaroWinklerModule.bestMatch(Words, word);
            lock (matches)
                matches.AddRange(localMatches.Select(m => m.Word));
        }
    });
}

for (int i = 0; i < threads.Length; i++)
    threads[i].Start();
for (int i = 0; i < threads.Length; i++)
    threads[i].Join();
```

Time execution : **7,731 ms**

Parallel Loop Fuzzy Match

```
List<string> matches = new List<string>();
object sync = new object();

Parallel.ForEach(WordsToSearch,
    // thread local initializer
    () => { return new List<string>(); },
    (word, loopState, localMatches) => {
        var localMathes = FuzzyMatch.JarowinklerModule.bestMatch(Words, word);
        localMatches.AddRange(localMathes.Select(m => m.Word));// same code
        return localMatches;
    },
    (finalResult) =>
{
    // thread local aggregator
    lock (sync) matches.AddRange(finalResult);
}
);
```

Time execution : **7,429 ms**

Parallel Loop ... no for I/O

```
Task ForEachAsync<T>(this IEnumerable<T> source, int dop,
                        Func<T, Task> body)
{
    return Task.WhenAll(
        from partition in Partitioner.Create(source).GetPartitions(dop)
        select Task.Run(async delegate {
            using (partition)
                while (partition.MoveNext())
                    await body(partition.Current);
        }));
}
```

PLINQ Fuzzy Match

```
ParallelQuery<string> matches =  
  
    (from word in WordsToSearch.AsParallel()  
  
        from match in JarowinklerModule.bestMatch(Words, word)  
  
        select match.Word);
```

Time execution : **6,347 ms**

PLINQ options

```
var parallelQuery = from t in source.AsParallel()
    select t;

var cts = new CancellationTokenSource();
cts.CancelAfter(TimeSpan.FromSeconds(3));

parallelQuery
    .WithDegreeOfParallelism(Environment.ProcessorCount)
    .WithExecutionMode(ParallelExecutionMode.ForceParallelism)
    .WithMergeOptions(ParallelMergeOptions.Default)
    .WithCancellation(cts.Token)
    .ForAll(Console.WriteLine);
```

Partitioning



Partitioning in PLINQ

Range Partitioning



Chunk Partitioning



Striped Partitioning



Hash Partitioning



PLINQ Fuzzy Match

Create a load-balancing partitioner, specify `false` for static partitioning.

```
Partitioner<string> partitioner = Partitioner.Create(WordsToSearch, false);

ParallelQuery<string> matches =
    (from word in partitioner.AsParallel()
     from match in JarowinklerModule.bestMatch(Words, word)
     select match.Word);
```

Time execution : **4,217 ms**

PLINQ Fuzzy Match

Create a load-balancing partitioner, specify `false` for static partitioning.

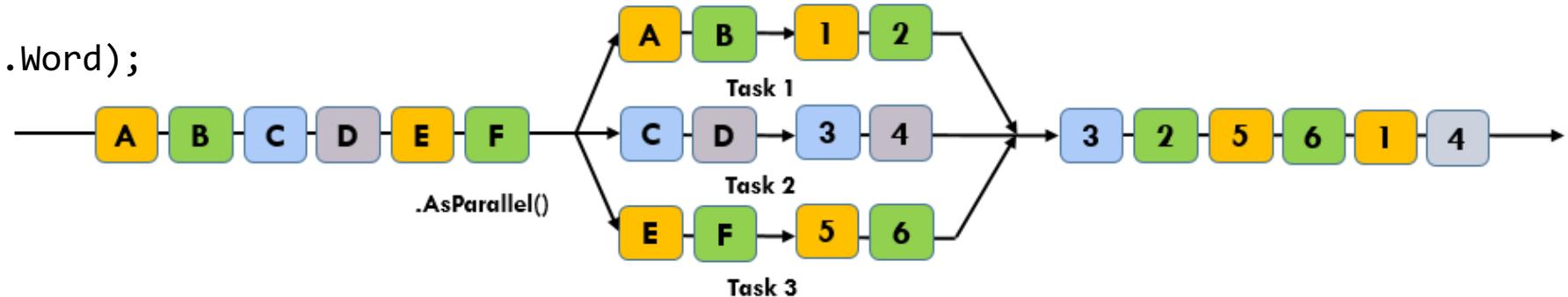
```
Partitioner<string> partitioner = Partitioner.Create(WordsToSearch, false);
```

```
ParallelQuery<string> matches =
```

```
(from word in partitioner.AsParallel()
```

```
    from match in JarowinklerModule.bestMatch(Words, word)
```

```
    select match.Word);
```



Time execution : 4,217 ms

Lab – Faster Fuzzy Match

Composing Tasks

Task continuation

Think Continuations, not Callbacks

Task continuation

```
void RunContinuation<T>(Func<T> input, Action<T> rest)
    => ThreadPool.QueueUserWorkItem(new WaitCallback(o => rest(input())));

Action<string> printMsg = msg =>
    Console.WriteLine($"ThreadID = {Thread.CurrentThread.ManagedThreadId}, Url = {url}, {msg}");

RunContinuation(() => {
    printMsg("Creating webclient...");
    return new System.Net.WebClient();
}, (webclient) => RunContinuation(() => {
    printMsg("Downloading url...");
    return webclient.DownloadString(url);
}, (html) => RunContinuation(() => {
    printMsg("Extracting urls...");
    return Regex.Matches(html, @"http://\S+");
}, (matches) =>
    printMsg("Found " + matches.Count.ToString() + " links")
))));
```

Task continuation

```
ThreadId = 19, Url = http://www.google.com/, Creating webclient...
ThreadId = 21, Url = http://microsoft.com/, Creating webclient...
ThreadId = 16, Url = http://www.wordpress.com/, Creating webclient...
ThreadId = 16, Url = http://www.wordpress.com/, Downloading url...
ThreadId = 19, Url = http://www.google.com/, Downloading url...
ThreadId = 21, Url = http://microsoft.com/, Downloading url...
ThreadId = 16, Url = http://www.wordpress.com/, Extracting urls...
ThreadId = 16, Url = http://www.wordpress.com/, Found 15 links
ThreadId = 16, Url = http://www.peta.org, Creating webclient...
ThreadId = 16, Url = http://www.peta.org, Downloading url...
ThreadId = 19, Url = http://www.google.com/, Extracting urls...
ThreadId = 19, Url = http://www.google.com/, Found 14 links
ThreadId = 20, Url = http://www.peta.org, Extracting urls...
ThreadId = 20, Url = http://www.peta.org, Found 60 links
ThreadId = 21, Url = http://microsoft.com/, Extracting urls...
ThreadId = 21, Url = http://microsoft.com/, Found 1 links
```

Task continuation

```
Task.Run( () =>
{
    printMsg("Creating webclient...");
    return new System.Net.WebClient();
}).ContinueWith(taskWebClient =>
{
    var webclient = taskWebClient.Result;
    printMsg("Downloading url...");
    return webclient.DownloadString(url);
}).ContinueWith(htmlTask =>
{
    var html = htmlTask.Result;
    printMsg("Extracting urls...");
    return Regex.Matches(html, @"http://\S+");
}).ContinueWith(rgxTask =>
{
    var matches = rgxTask.Result;
    printMsg("Found " + matches.Count.ToString() + " links");
});
```

Continuation Passing Style



```
void GetMaxCPS(int x, int y, Action<int> f)
{
    if (x > y)
        f(x);
    else
        f(y);
}
```

Task continuation

```
var matches = from webclient in Task.Run(() => new System.Net.WebClient())
              from html in Task.Run(() => webclient.DownloadString(url))
              from rgx in Task.Run(() => Regex.Matches(html, @"http://\S+"))
              select rgx;
```

Mathematical patterns for better composition

Task is a Monad

How can we compose Tasks?

```
Task<int> RunOne() => // ...
```

```
Task<decimal> RunTwo(int input) => // ...
```

```
var result = RunTwo(RunOne()); // Error!!
```

C#

```
Task<string> RunOne(int input) => // ...
```

```
Task<bool> RunTwo(string input) => // ...
```

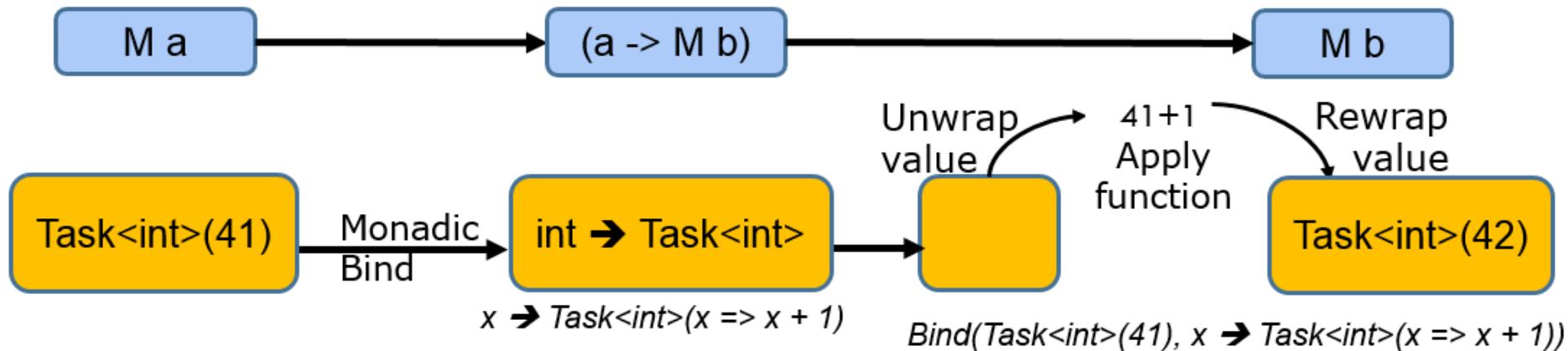
```
var result = RunOne(42).Compose(RunTwo); // Error!!
```

C#

Composing Tasks

```
Task<R> Bind<T, R>(this Task<T> m, Func<T, Task<R>> k) ...
```

```
Task<T> Return(T value) ...
```

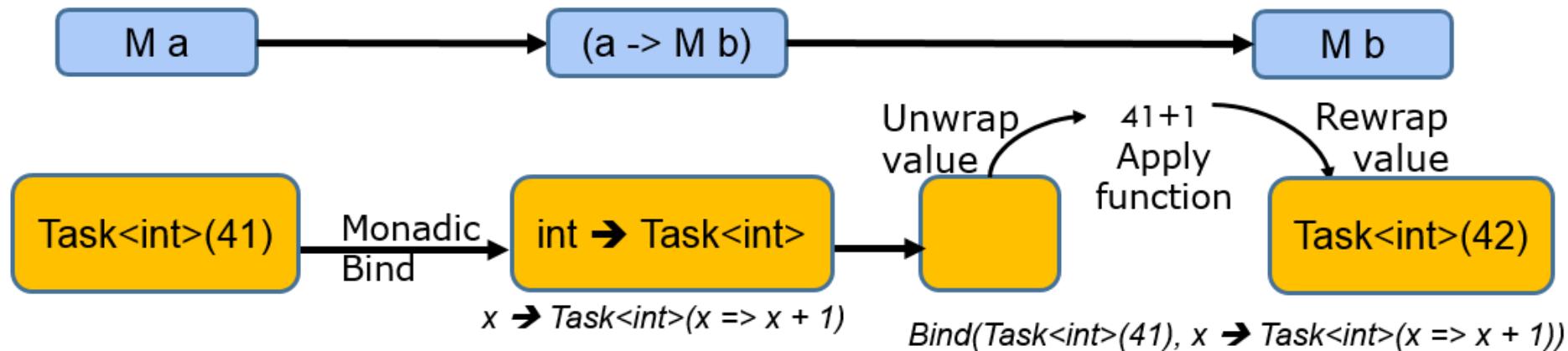


Functional Design Patterns – Monad

Generic type

With function ($>>=$): bind : $M<'a> \rightarrow ('a \rightarrow M<'b>) \rightarrow M<'b>$

With function: return : $'a \rightarrow M<'a>$



Task Bind and Task Return

```
// 'T -> M<'T>
static member Return (value : 'T) : Task<'T>

// M<'T> * ('T -> M<'U>) -> M<'U>
static member Bind (input : Task<'T>, binder : 'T -> Task<'U>) : Task<'U>

// M<'T> * ('T -> M<'U>) -> M<'U>
static member SelectMany (input : Task<'T>, binder : 'T -> Task<'U>) : Task<'U>
```

SelectMany

```
// M<T> * (T -> M<U>) -> M<U>
IEnumerable<R> SelectMany<T, R>( this IEnumerable<T> source,
                                         Func<T, IEnumerable<R>> selector )

// M<T> * (T -> M<U>) -> (T -> M -> U) -> M<U>
IEnumerable<R> SelectMany<T, M, R>( this IEnumerable<T> source,
                                         Func<T, IEnumerable<M>> collectionSelector, Func<T, M, R> selector )

// M<T> * (T -> M<U>) -> M<U>
IEnumerable<R> Select<T, R>( this IEnumerable<T> source, Func<T, R> selector )
```

The hidden Functor – Map

Map : $(T \rightarrow R) \rightarrow [T] \rightarrow [R]$

Select(this IEnumerable<T> task, Func<T , R> map) ...

Select(this Task<T> task, Func<T , R> map) ...

Composing Tasks

```
from image in Task.Run<Emgu.CV.Image<Bgr, byte>()
from imageFrame in Task.Run<Emgu.CV.Image<Gray, byte>>()
from faces in Task.Run<System.Drawing.Rectangle[ ]>()
select faces;
```

LAB : SelectMany Tasks
&
Run Tasks as they complete

Task Bind and Task Return

```
// 'T -> M<'T>
static member Return value : Task<'T> = Task.FromResult<'T>(value)

// M<'T> * ('T -> M<'U>) -> M<'U>
static member Bind (input : Task<'T>, binder : 'T -> Task<'U>) =
    let tcs = new TaskCompletionSource<'U>()
    input.ContinueWith(fun (task:Task<'T>) ->
        if (task.IsFaulted) then
            tcs.SetException(task.Exception.InnerException)
        elif (task.IsCanceled) then tcs.SetCanceled()
        else
            try
                (binder(task.Result)).ContinueWith(fun
                    (nextTask:Task<'U>) -> tcs.SetResult(nextTask.Result)) |> ignore
            with
                | ex -> tcs.SetException(ex)) |> ignore
    tcs.Task
```

Task SelectMany

```
// M<'T> * ('T -> M<'U>) -> M<'U>
static member SelectMany(input : Task<'T>, binder : 'T -> Task<'U>) =
    let tcs = new TaskCompletionSource<'U>()
    input.ContinueWith(fun (task:Task<'T>) ->
        if (task.IsFaulted) then
            tcs.SetException(task.Exception.InnerException)
        elif (task.IsCanceled) then tcs.SetCanceled()
        else
            try
                (binder(task.Result)).ContinueWith(fun
(nextTask:Task<'U>) -> tcs.SetResult(nextTask.Result)) |> ignore
                with
                | ex -> tcs.SetException(ex)) |> ignore
    tcs.Task
```

Task async/await is a monad

```
static Task<T> Return<T>(T task) => Task.FromResult(task);
```

```
static async Task<R> Bind<T, R>(this Task<T> task,  
Func<T, Task<R>> cont)  
=> await cont(await task.ConfigureAwait(false))  
                .ConfigureAwait(false);
```

```
static async Task<R> Map<T, R>(this Task<T> task, Func<T, R> map)  
=> map(await task.ConfigureAwait(false));
```

Task async/await is a monad

```
static async Task<R> SelectMany<T, R>(this Task<T> task,  
    Func<T, Task<R>> then) => await Bind(await task);  
  
static async Task<R> SelectMany<T1, T2, R>(this Task<T1> task,  
    Func<T1, Task<T2>> bind, Func<T1, T2, R> project)  
{  
    T taskResult = await task;  
    return project(taskResult, await bind(taskResult));  
}  
  
static async Task<R> Select<T, R>(this Task<T> task, Func<T, R> project)  
=> await Map(task, project);  
  
static async Task<R> Return<R>(R value) => Task.FromResult(value);
```

Task Inline - ExecuteSynchronously

```
public static Task<TOut> SelectMany<TIn, TOut>(this Task<TIn> first, Func<TIn, Task<TOut>> next)
{
    var tcs = new TaskCompletionSource<TOut>();
    first.ContinueWith(delegate
    {
        if (first.IsFaulted) tcs.TrySetException(first.Exception.InnerExceptions);
        else if (first.IsCanceled) tcs.TrySetCanceled();
        else
        {
            next(first.Result).ContinueWith(t =>
            {
                if (t.IsFaulted) tcs.TrySetException(t.Exception.InnerExceptions);
                else if (t.IsCanceled) tcs.TrySetCanceled();
                else tcs.TrySetResult(t.Result);
            }, TaskContinuationOptions.ExecuteSynchronously);
        }, TaskContinuationOptions.ExecuteSynchronously);
    return tcs.Task;
}
```

Handle Tasks as they complete

```
string[] stocks = new[] { "MSFT", "FB", "AAPL", "GOOG", "ORCL" };

List<Task<Tuple<string, StockData[]>>> stockHistoryTasks =
    stocks.Select(ProcessStockHistory).ToList();

while (stockHistoryTasks.Count > 0)
{
    Task<Tuple<string, StockData[]>> stockHistoryTask =
        await Task.WhenAny(stockHistoryTasks);

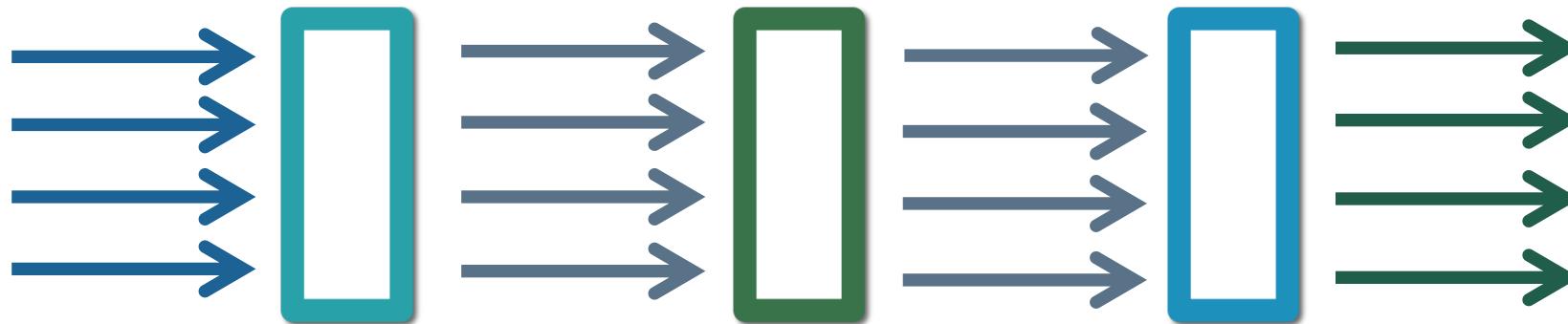
    stockHistoryTasks.Remove(stockHistoryTask);

    Tuple<string, StockData[]> stockHistory = await stockHistoryTask;

    ShowChartProgressive(stockHistory);
}
```

Lab : Task Pipeline

Pipeline Processing



- A pipeline is a set of data processing elements connected in series, so that the output of one element is the input of the next one. The elements of a pipeline are often executed in parallel or in time-sliced fashion; in that case, some amount of buffer storage is often inserted between elements

Message Passing Concurrency

Agent motivations

- You can manage **shared data** and resources **without locks**.
- You can easily follow the **SRP**, because each **agent** can be designed to **do only one thing**.
- It encourages a "pipeline" model of programming with "producers" sending messages to decoupled "consumers"
- It is straightforward to **scale**
- Errors can be handled gracefully, because the decoupling means that agents can be created and destroyed without affecting their clients.

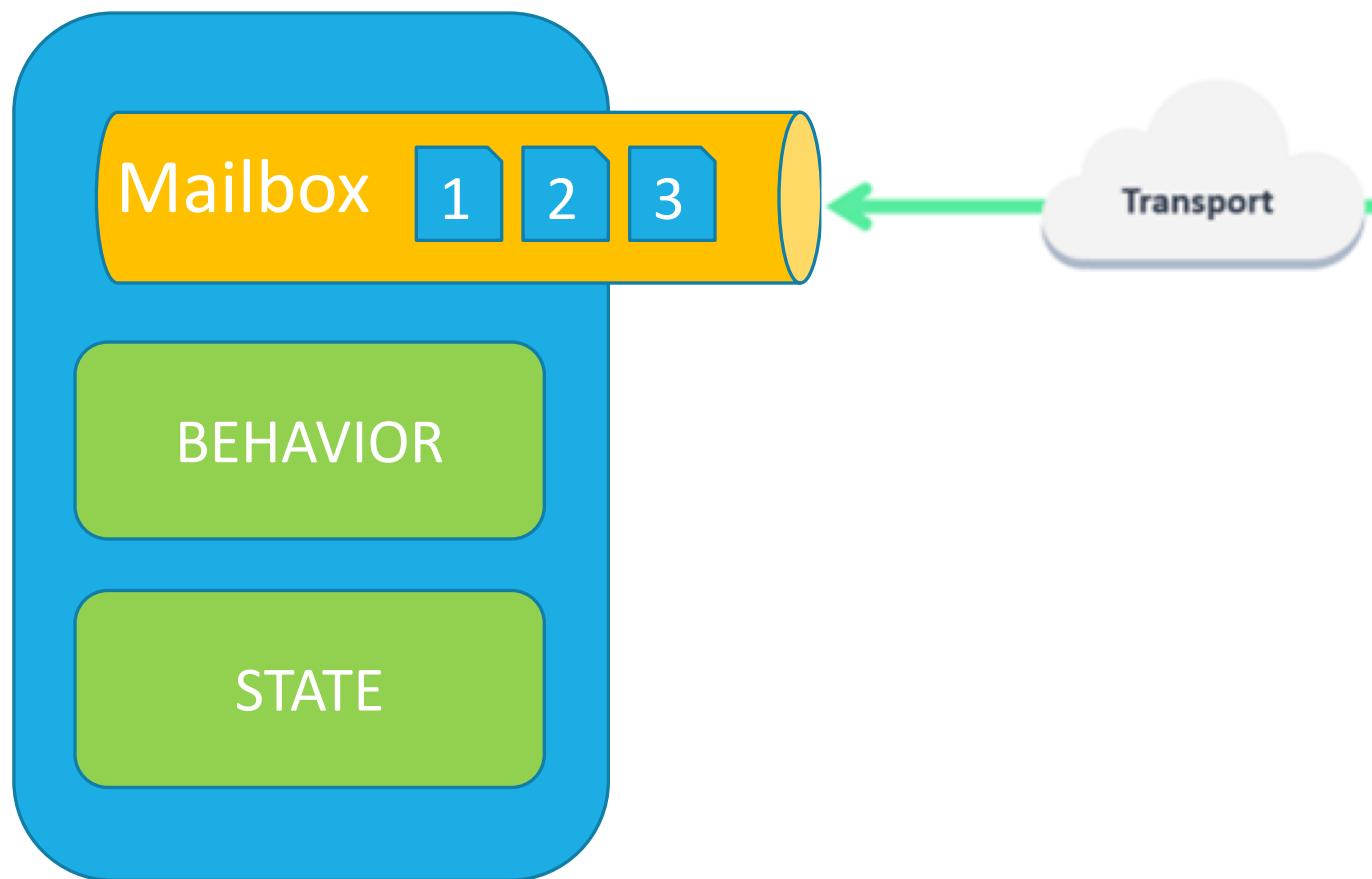
Agent is a single and independent unit of computation



Message-Driven

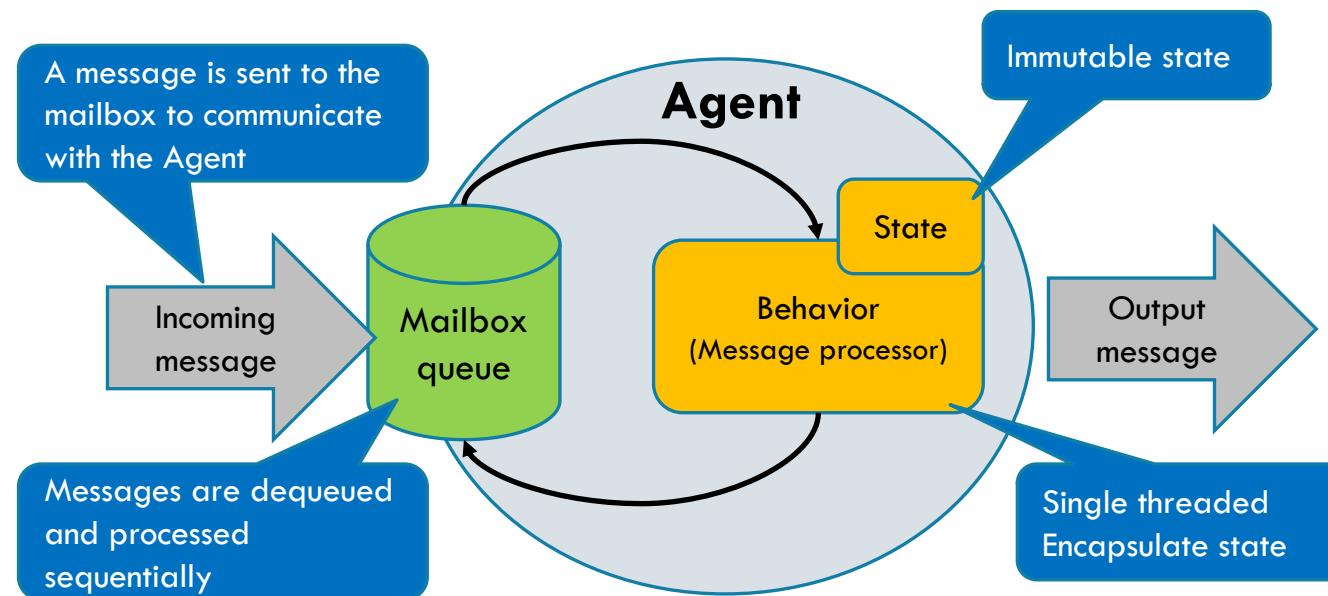


Message Passing based concurrency



- Processing
- Storage – State
- Communication only by messages
- Share Nothing
- Message are passed by value
- Lightweight object
- Running on it's own thread
- No shared state
- Messages are kept in mailbox and processed in order
- Massively scalable and lightening fast because of the small call stack

Agent anatomy

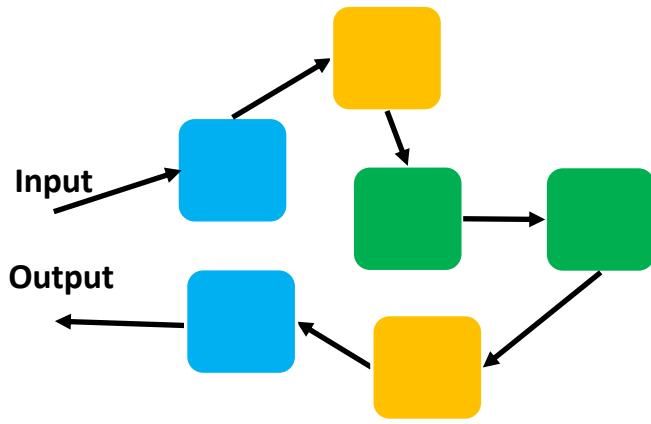


Share Nothing, Async Message Passing

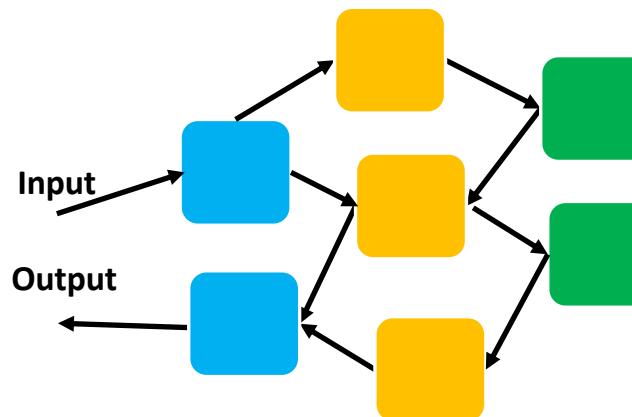
- » Encourages shared-nothing process abstractions
 - mutable state - private
 - shared state - immutable
- » Asynchronous message passing
- » Pattern matching

Comparison between Sequential, Task-based and Message passing programming

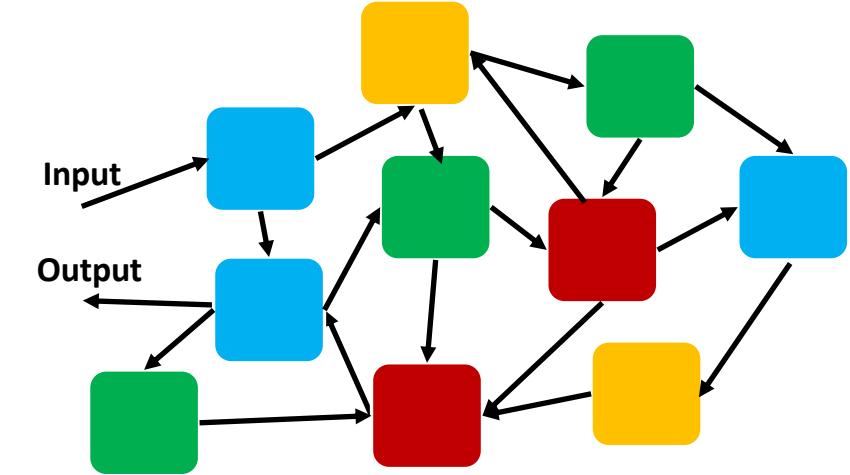
Sequential Programming



Task-Based Programming



Message-Passing Programming



Simple agent in F#

Receive message and say “Hello”

```
let hello = Agent.Start(fun agent -> async {
    while true do
        let! name = agent.Receive()
        printfn "Hello %s" name
        do! Async.Sleep 500 })

hello.Post("World!")
```

- Single instance of the body is running
- Waiting for message is asynchronous
- Messages are queued by the agent

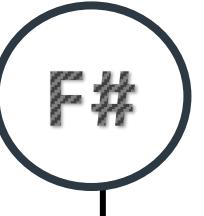
Immutability OR Isolation

```
let printerAgent = MailboxProcessor.Start(fun inbox->
    let list = new List<string>()
    // the message processing function
    let rec messageLoop() = async{
        // read a message
        let! msg = inbox.Receive()
        // process a message
        printfn "message is: %s" msg
        // loop to top
        list.Add(msg)
        return! messageLoop()
    }
    // start the loop
    messageLoop()
)
```

F#

Send message to agent

```
printerAgent.Post "hello"  
printerAgent.Post "hello again"  
printerAgent.Post "hello a third time"
```

A circular icon containing the F# logo, which consists of the letters 'F' and '#' stacked vertically.

F#

Agent-based architecture

Lots of things going on!

- How to keep a big picture?

Using loosely coupled connections

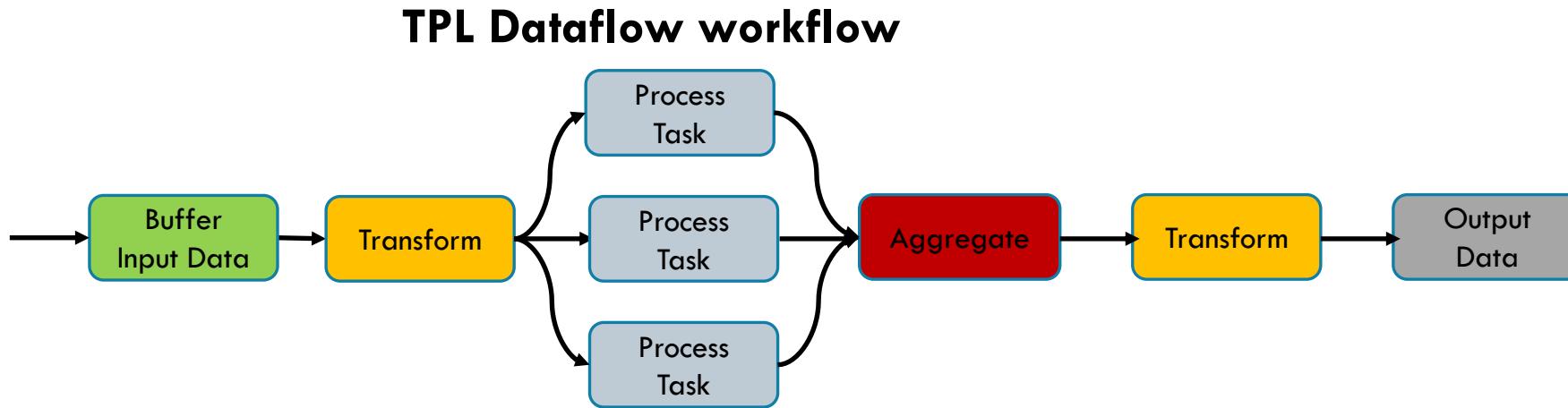
- Agents don't reference each other directly

Common ways of organizing agents

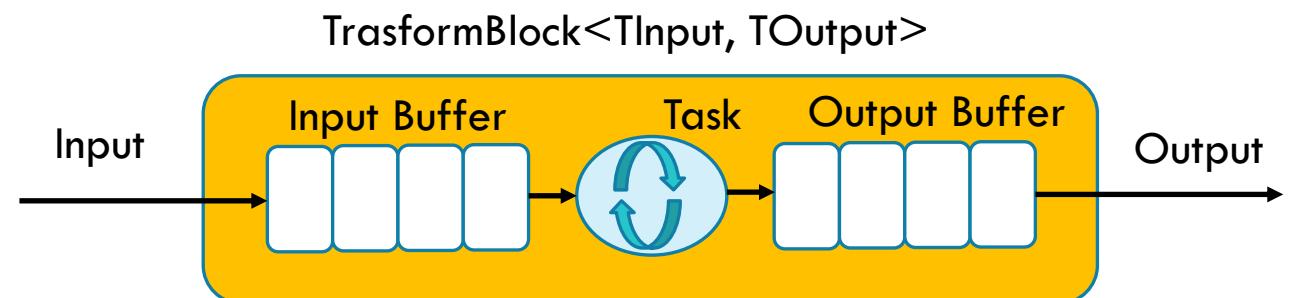
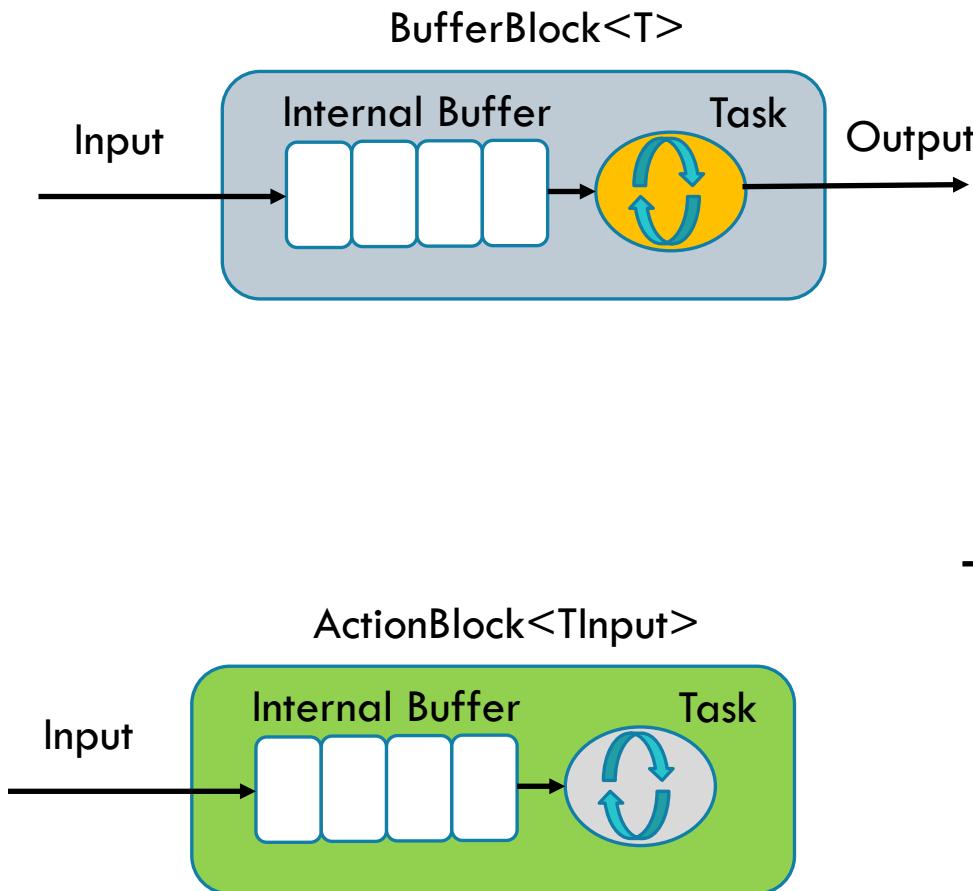
- **Worker agent** – Single agent does work in background
- **Layered network** – Agent uses agents from lower level
- **Pipeline processing** – Step-by-step processing

Agent in .NET and C#

TPL DataFlow blocks –design to compose



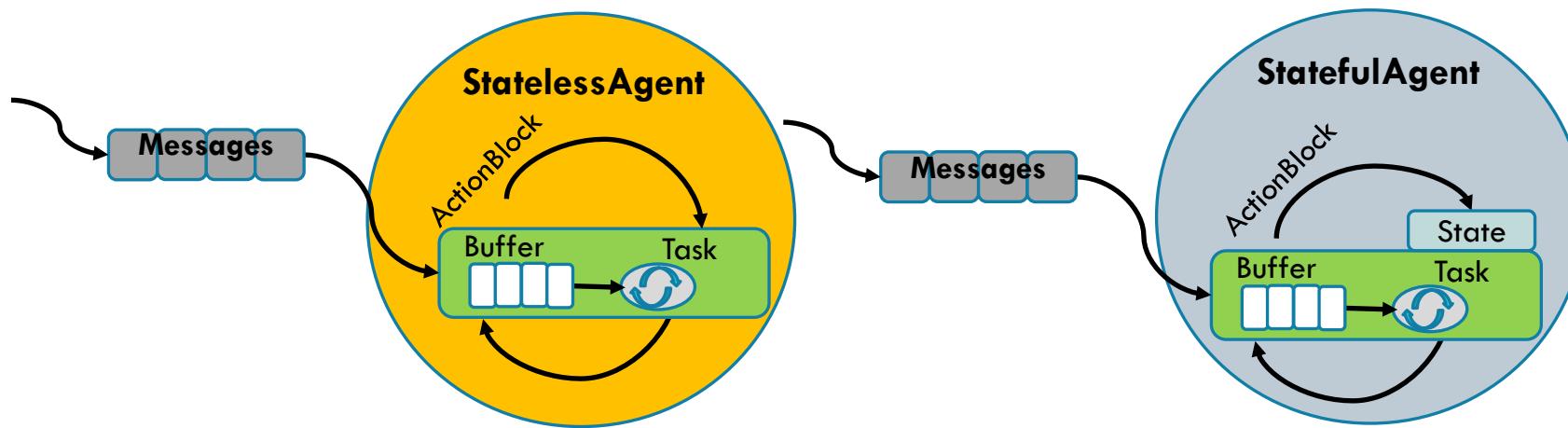
Some Dataflow blocks



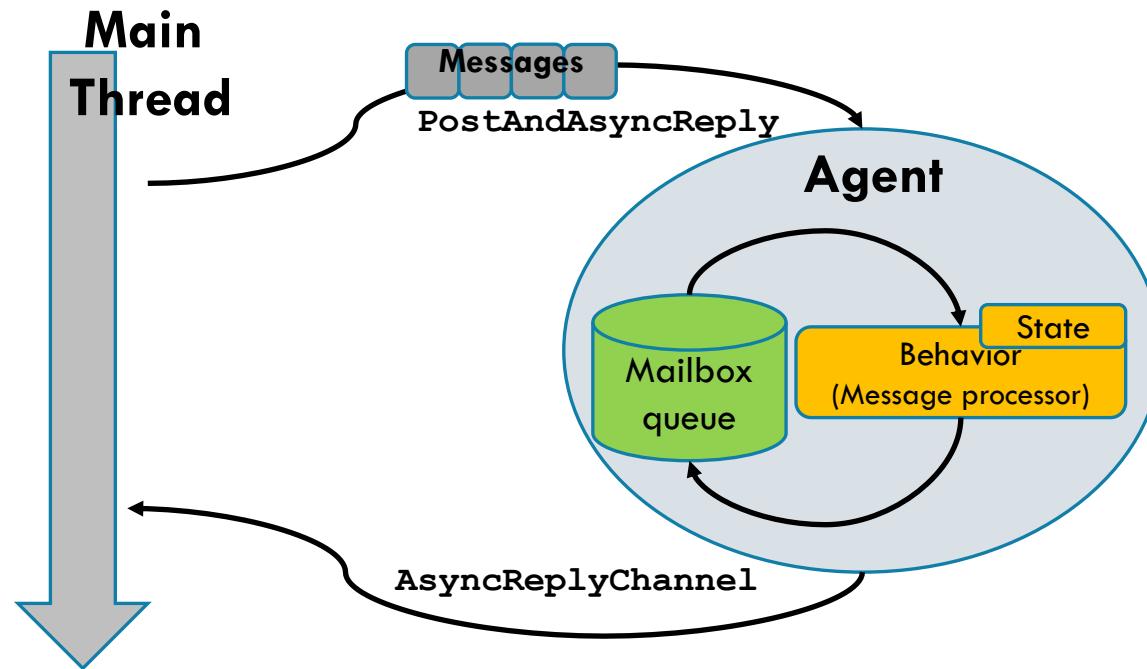
Simple producer-consumer

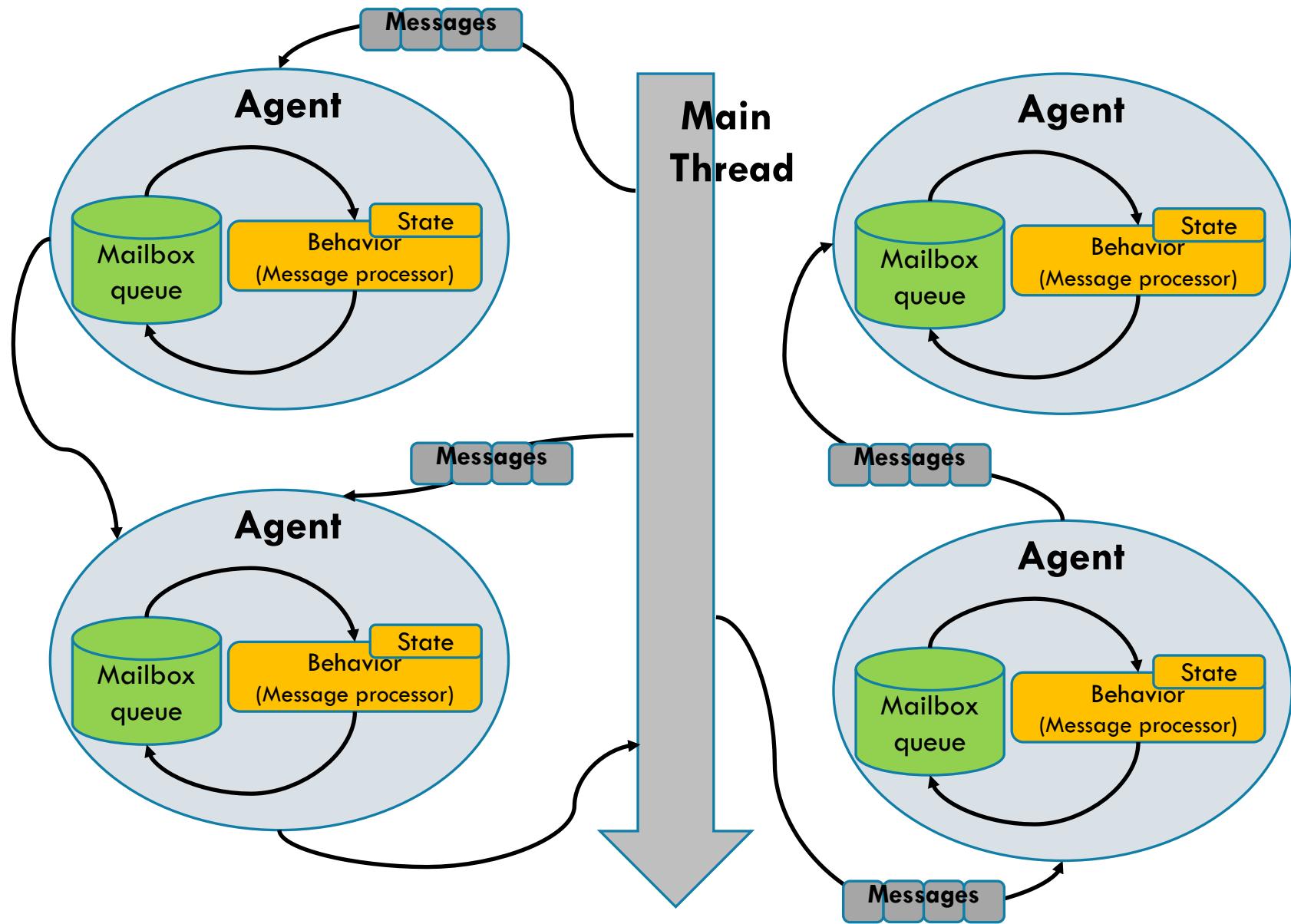
```
BufferBlock<int> buffer = new BufferBlock<int>();  
  
async Task Producer(IEnumerable<int> values) {  
    foreach (var value in values)  
        buffer.Post(value);  
    buffer.Complete();  
}  
async Task Consumer(Action<int> process) {  
    while (await buffer.OutputAvailableAsync())  
        process(await buffer.ReceiveAsync());  
}  
async Task Run() {  
    IEnumerable<int> range = Enumerable.Range(0, 100);  
    await Task.WhenAll(Producer(range), Consumer(n =>  
        Console.WriteLine($"value {n}")));  
}
```

TPL DataFlow as Agent



Agent two-way communication





Lab :

Implement a state full agent using
TPL DataFlow

Agent in C#

```
class StatefulDataflowAgent<TState, TMessage> : IAgent<TMessage>
{
    private TState state;
    private readonly ActionBlock<TMessage> actionBlock;

    public StatefulDataflowAgent(
        TState initialState,
        Func<TState, TMessage, Task<TState>> action,
        CancellationTokenSource cts = null)
    {
        state = initialState;
        var options = new ExecutionDataflowBlockOptions
        {
            CancellationToken = cts != null ?
                cts.Token : CancellationToken.None
        };
        actionBlock = new ActionBlock<TMessage>(
            async msg => state = await action(state, msg), options);
    }

    public Task Send(TMessage message) => actionBlock.SendAsync(message);
    public void Post(TMessage message) => actionBlock.Post(message);
}
```

Agent two-way communication in C#

```
public Task<TReply> Ask(TMessage message)
{
    var tcs = new TaskCompletionSource<TReply>();
    actionBlock.Post((message, Some(tcs)));
    return tcs.Task;
}

public StatefulReplyDataflowAgent(TState initialState,
Func<TState, TMessage, Task<TState>> projection,
Func<TState, TMessage, Task<(TState, TReply)>> ask,
CancellationTokenSource cts = null)
{
    state = initialState;
    actionBlock = new ActionBlock<(TMessage, Option<TaskCompletionSource<TReply>>)>(
        async message =>
    {
        (TMessage msg, Option<TaskCompletionSource<TReply>> replyOpt) = message;
        await replyOpt.Match(
            none: async () => state = await projection(state, msg),
            some: async reply => {
                (TState newState, TReply replyresult) = await ask(state, msg);
                state = newState;
                reply.SetResult(replyresult);
            });
    });
}
```

TPL DataFlow caching web-sites downloaded

```
List<string> urls = new List<string> {
    "http://www.google.com",
    "http://www.microsoft.com",
    "http://www.bing.com",
    "http://www.google.com"
};

var agentStateful = Agent.Start(ImmutableDictionary<string, string>.Empty,
    async (ImmutableDictionary<string, string> state, string url) => {
        if (!state.TryGetValue(url, out string content))
            using (var webClient = new WebClient())
                content = await webClient.DownloadStringTaskAsync(url);
        await File.WriteAllTextAsync(createFileNameFromUrl(url), content);
        return state.Add(url, content);
    }
    return state;
}) ;

urls.ForEach(url => agentStateful.Post(url));
```

Agent fold-over state and messages (Aggregate)

```
Agent<ImmutableDictionary<string, string>, Empty> = agent =>
    agent.Add(url, content) => {
        if (!state.TryGetValue(url, out string content))
            using (var webClient = new WebClient())
            {
                content = await webClient.DownloadStringTaskAsync(url);
                await File.WriteAllTextAsync(createFileNameFromUrl(url), content);
            }
        return state.Add(url, content);
    };
};
```

Agent fold-over state and messages (Aggregate)

```
urls.Aggregate(ImmutableDictionary<string, string>.Empty,  
    async (state, url) => {  
    if (!state.TryGetValue(url, out string content))  
        using (var webClient = new WebClient())  
    {  
        content = await webClient.DownloadStringTaskAsync(url);  
        await File.WriteAllTextAsync(createFileNameFromUrl(url), content);  
        return state.Add(url, content);  
    }  
    return state;  
});
```

Lab :

Implement a state full agent using
TPL DataFlow

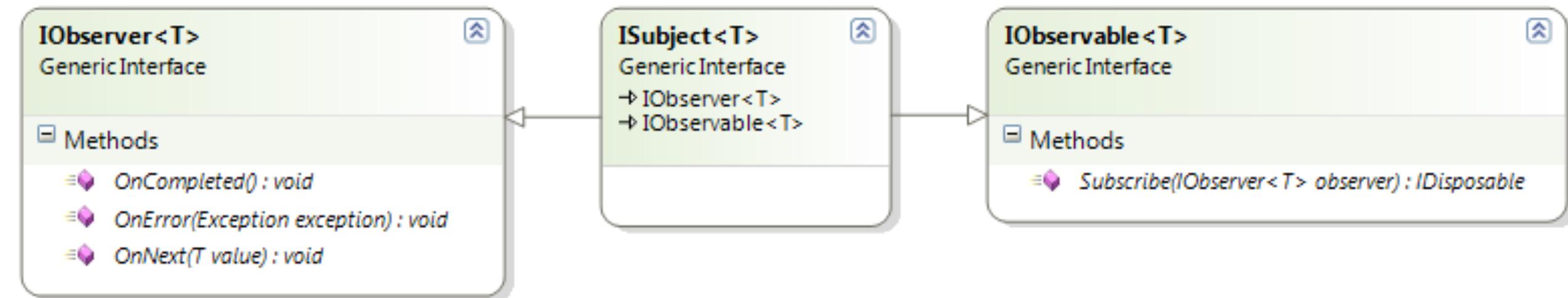
TPL Dataflow & Reactive Extension



Reactive Extensions

What are Reactive Extensions

Rx is a library for composing asynchronous and event-based programs using observable sequences and LINQ-style query operators



IObserver & IObservable

```
type IObserver<'a> = interface
    abstract OnCompleted : unit -> unit
    abstract OnError : exn -> unit
    abstract OnNext : 'a -> unit
end
```

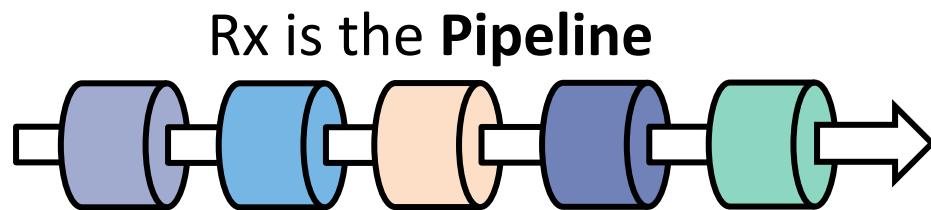


```
type IObservable<'a> = interface
    abstract Subsribe : IObserver<'a> -> IDisposable
end
```

What is Rx?

Rx **compose pipeline** of operations over **single or multiple event's source**

Focus on what happens **between** the **Producer** and the **Consumer**



Rx = Async Data Stream Composition

Rx = LINQ to Async Data Stream

TPL Dataflow & Reactive Extension

```
IPropagatorBlock<int, string> source =
    new TransformBlock<int, string>(i => (i + i).ToString());

IObservable<int> observable = source.AsObservable().Select(int.Parse);

IDisposable subscription =
    observable.Subscribe(i => $"Value {i} - Time
{DateTime.Now.ToString("hh:mm:ss.ffff")}" .Dump());

for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
    source.Post(i);
```

TPL Dataflow & Reactive Extension

```
IPropagatorBlock<string, int> target =
    new TransformBlock<string, int>(s => int.Parse(s));

IDisposable link = target.LinkTo(new ActionBlock<int>(i => $"Value {i} - Time
{DateTime.Now.ToString("hh:mm:ss.fff")}" .Dump())

IObserver<string> observer = target.AsObserver();
IObservable<string> observable = Observable.Range(1, 20)
    .Select(i => (i * i).ToString());
observable.Subscribe(observer);

for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
    target.Post(i.ToString());
```

TPL DataFlow and Rx

```
inputBuffer.LinkTo(compressor, linkOptions);
compressor.LinkTo(encryptor, linkOptions);

encryptor.AsObservable()

    .Scan((new Dictionary<int, EncryptDetails>(), 0),
(state, msg) => Observable.FromAsync(async() => {
    Dictionary<int,EncryptDetails> details, int lastIndexProc) = state;
    details.Add(msg.Sequence, msg);

    return (details, lastIndexProc);
}) .SingleAsync())
.SubscribeOn(TaskPoolScheduler.Default).Subscribe();
```

Lab :

TPL DataFlow & Reactive Extensions

Summary

- » The free lunch is over
- » Applications must be built for concurrency
- » Shared state concurrency is hard
- » Alternative concurrency models
 - Message passing concurrency
 - Divide and Conquer

Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6BPKBHJ>

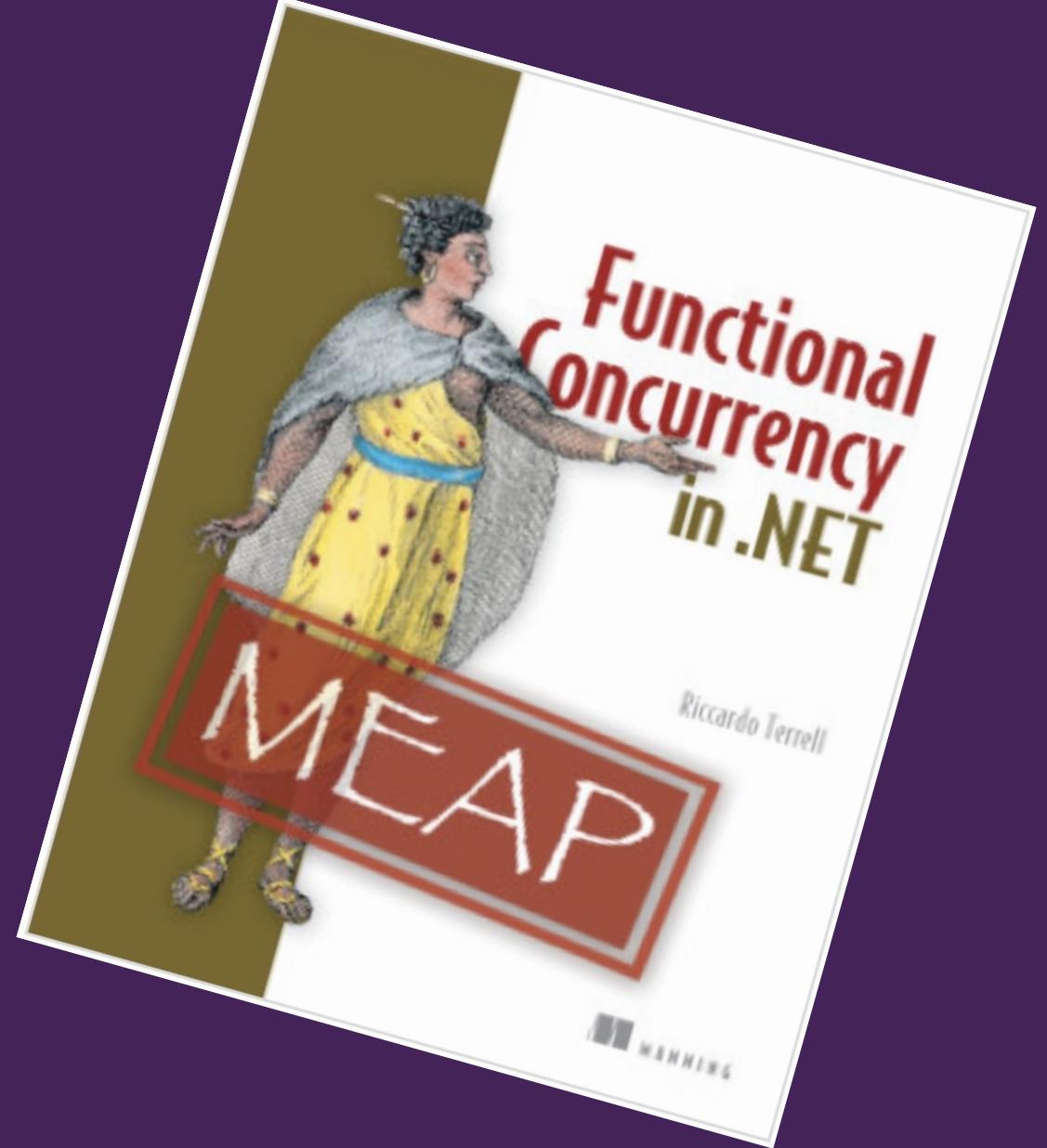


The tools we use have a profound (and devious!) influence on our thinking habits, and, therefore, on our thinking abilities.

-- Edsger Dijkstra

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That's all Folks!