Thirteen ways of looking at a turtle

(NDC London 2025)



@ScottWlaschin

A taste of many different approaches



A taste of many different approaches

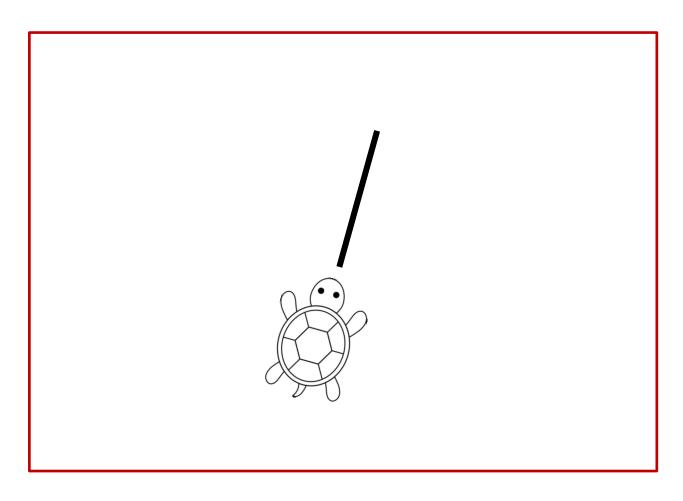
This is a crazy experiment: ~4 mins per topic!



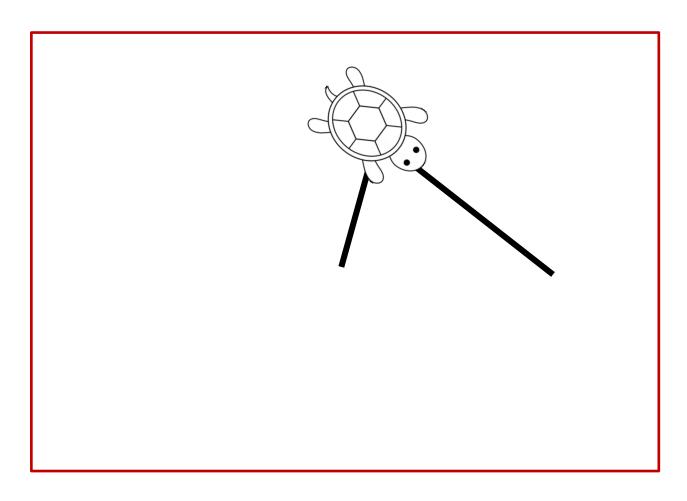
See also fsharpforfunandprofit.com/fppatterns

I'll be using F# code examples, but the concepts will work in most programming languages.

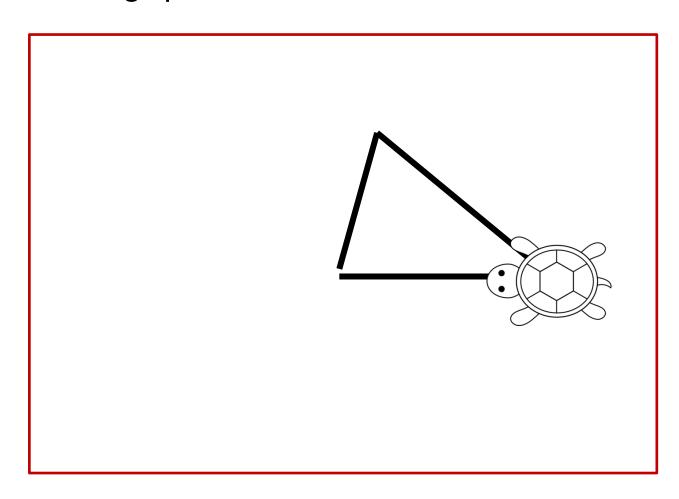
Turtle graphics in action



Turtle graphics in action



Turtle graphics in action



Turtle API

| API | Description |
|------------------|--|
| Move aDistance | Move a distance in the current direction. |
| Turn anAngle | Turn N degrees clockwise |
| PenUp PenDown | Put the pen down or up. |
| Pendown | Moving the turtle draws a line only when pen is down |

All of the following implementations will be based on this interface or some variant of it.

Three fundamental approaches

- I. Object-Oriented
- 2. Abstract Data Type
 - 3. Functional

I. Object Oriented Turtle

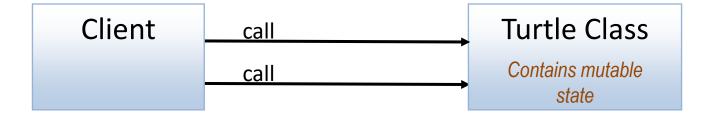
A "Tootle"

Data and behavior are combined

Object Oriented

- Focus on behavior over data
- Encapsulation of state
 - No setters and getters!

Overview



```
// class definition
                                          "mutable" keyword
type Turtle() =
                                            needed in F#
  // internal state
  let mutable position = \{x=0.0; y=0.0\}
  let mutable angle = 0.0
  let mutable penState = Down
  // methods
  member this.Move(distance) = ...
  member this.Turn(angleToTurn) = ...
  member this.PenUp() = ...
  member this.PenDown() = ...
```

No setters or getters

```
// method definition
member this.Move(distance) =
  Logger.info (sprintf "Move %0.1f" distance)
  // do calculation
  let newPos = calcNewPosition(distance,angle,position)
  // draw line if needed
  if penState = Down then
     Canvas.drawLine(position, newPos)
  // update the state
  position <- newPos</pre>
```



```
// method definition
member this.Move(distance) =
  Logger.info (sprintf "Move %0.1f" distance)
  // do calculation
  let newPos = calcNewPosition(distance,angle,position)
  // draw line if needed
  if penState = Down then
     Canvas.drawLine(position, newPos)
  // update the state
  position <- newPos
```

Hard-coded dependencies! (we'll fix this later)

```
// method definition
member this.Turn(angleToTurn) =
  Logger.info (sprintf "Turn %0.1f" angleToTurn)

// do calculation
let newAngle = calcNewAngle(angleToTurn,angle)

// update the state
angle <- newAngle</pre>
```

```
// method definition
member this.PenUp() =
  Logger.info "Pen up"
  // update the state
  penState <- Up
// method definition
member this.PenDown() =
  Logger.info "Pen down"
  // update the state
  penState <- Down
```

OO-style usage example

```
let drawTriangle() =
  let distance = 50.0
  let turtle = Turtle()
  turtle.Move(distance)
  turtle.Turn(120.0)
  turtle.Move(distance)
  turtle.Turn(120.0)
  turtle.Move(distance)
  turtle.Turn(120.0)
  // back home at (0,0) with angle 0
```

OO Turtle demo

Advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Familiar
- Disadvantages
 - Stateful (black box), hard to test
 - Add backdoors? 🙁
 - Can't easily compose
 - How to move two turtles at once?
 - Hard to add user-defined behavior (like "triangle")
 - Need extension methods
 - Hard-coded dependencies (for now)

2. Abstract Data Turtle

Data is separated from behavior

Abstract Data Types

- As with OO
 - Encapsulation of state
 - Focus on behavior over data
- But...
 - Data structure and behavior are separate
 - Client uses an opaque data structure (handle, ptr)

Opaque Data Structure

```
type TurtleHandle = private {
    mutable position : Position
    mutable angle : Angle
    mutable penState : PenState
}
Only turtle functions

can access it
```

Behavior

```
module Turtle =
   let move(handle, distance) = ...
   let turn(handle, angleToTurn) = ...
   let penUp(handle) = ...
   let penDown(handle) = ...
```

Handle passed in explicitly to every function

ADT usage example

```
let drawTriangle(handle) =
  let distance = 50.0
  Turtle.move(handle,distance)
  Turtle.turn(handle,120.0)
  Turtle.move(handle,distance)
  Turtle.turn(handle,120.0)
  Turtle.move(handle,distance)
  Turtle.turn(handle,distance)
  Turtle.turn(handle,120.0)
```



Advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Simple
 - Forces composition over inheritance!
 - Functions free to be moved around project
 - Easy to add user-defined behavior
 - no need for extension methods
- Disadvantages
 - As with OO: stateful, etc

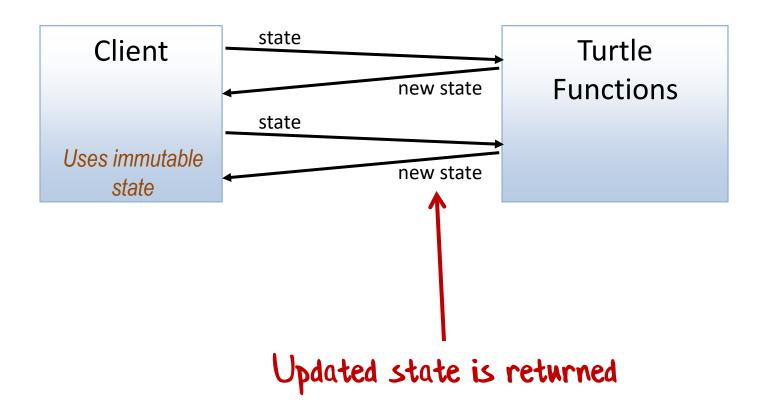
3. Functional Turtle

Data is immutable

Functional style

- Use functions, not methods
- All data is immutable
- No internal state state is tracked by client

Overview



Data

```
type TurtleState = {
  position : Position
  angle : Angle
  penState : PenState
}
```

Behavior

State passed in explicitly

```
module Turtle =
  let move distance state = ... // return new state
  let turn angleToTurn state = ... // return new state
  let penUp state = ... // return new state
  let penDown state = // return new state
```

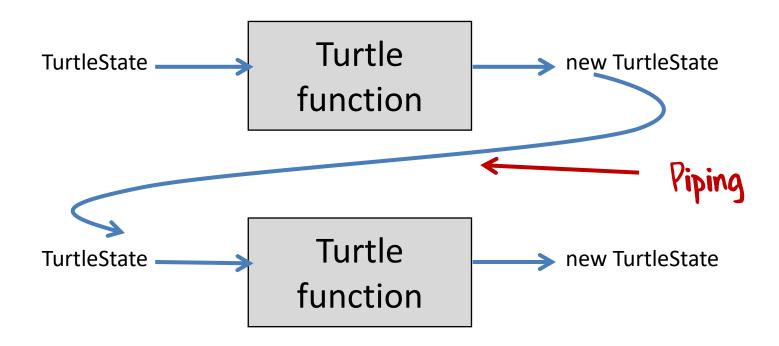
State returned

FP usage example

```
let drawTriangle() =
  let state0 = Turtle.initialTurtleState
  let state1 = Turtle.move 50.0 state0
  let state2 = Turtle.turn 120.0 state1
  let state3 = Turtle.move 50.0 state2
  ...
```

Great for testing!

But passing state around is annoying and ugly!



FP usage example with piping

l> is pipe

Advantages and disadvantages

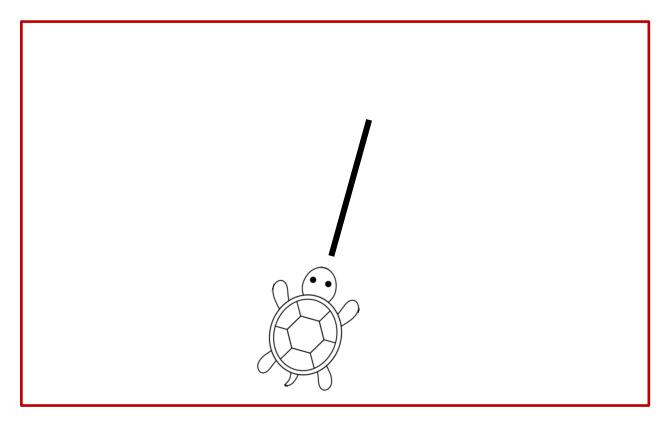
- Advantages
 - Immutability: Easy to reason about
 - Stateless: Easy to test
 - Functions are composable
- Disadvantages
 - Client has to keep track of the state
 - Hard-coded dependencies (for now)

More complex turtles

- 4. Working with state
- 5. Working with errors
- $5\frac{1}{2}$. Working with async

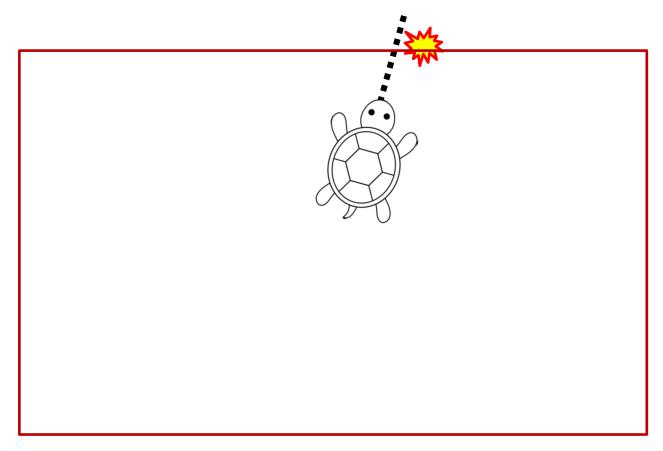
4. State monad

Threading state behind the scenes



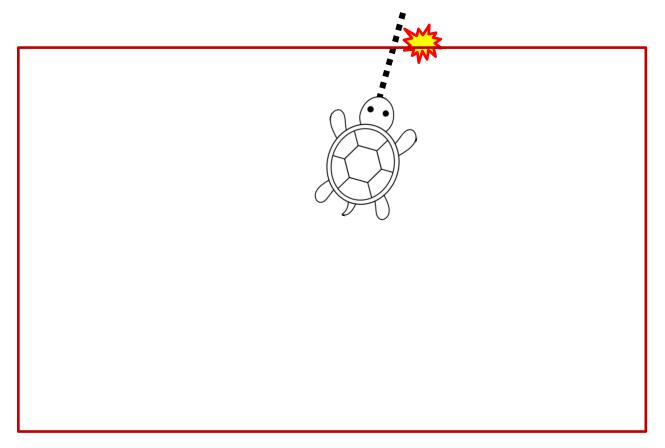
New requirement: there is a boundary that you can bump into.

You need to check the actual distance moved and change your behavior based on that.



New requirement: there is a boundary that you can bump into.

You need to check the actual distance moved and change your behavior based on that.



Fix the implementation to enable the requirement:

The Move function now returns a pair: New state AND actual distance moved

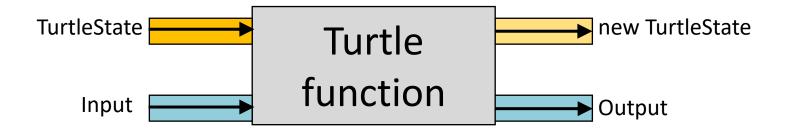
State usage example

The returned pair

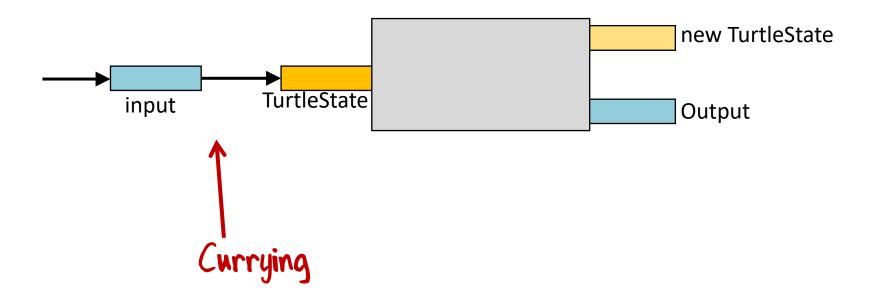
```
let s0 = Turtle.initialTurtleState
let (actualDistA,s1) = Turtle.move 80.0 s0
if actualDistA < 80.0 then
  log "first move failed -- turning"
  let s2 = Turtle.turn 120.0 s1
  let (actualDistB,s3) = Turtle.move 80.0 s2
else
  log "first move succeeded"
  let (actualDistC,s2) = Turtle.move 80.0 s1
```

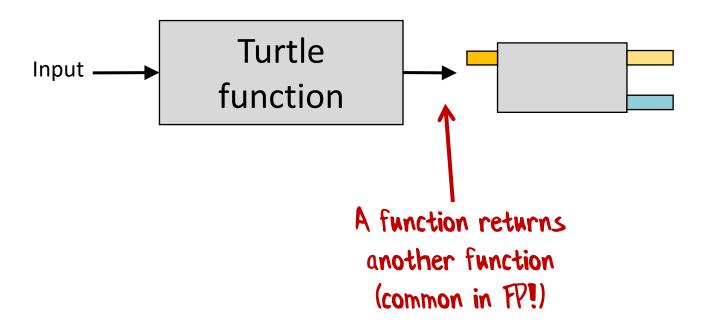
How can we keep track of the state?

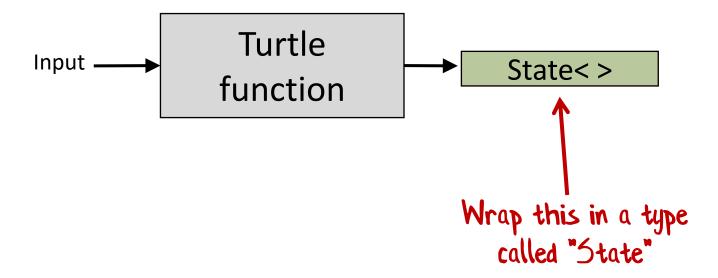
Piping doesn't work now

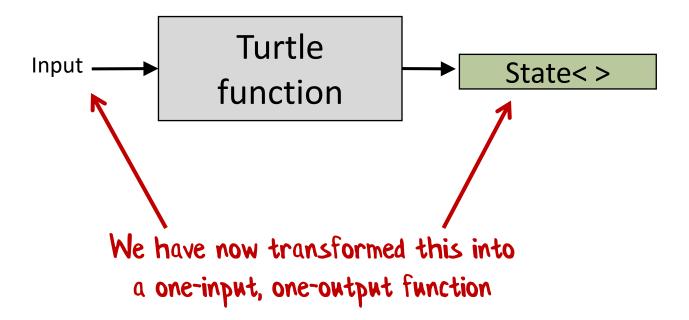


We can transform this into something nicer to work with









Using the State expression

```
let! distA = move 80.0
 if distA < 80.0 then
    log "first move failed -- turning"
    do! turn 120.0
    let! distB = move 80.0
 else
                                  State is threaded
    log "first move succeeded"
                                 through behind the
    let! distB = move 80.0
                                      scenes
```

Haskell has "do" notation. Scala has "for" comprehensions

OO/imperative version

```
let distA = turtle.move 80.0
if distA < 80.0 then
  log "first move failed -- turning"
  turtle.turn 120.0
  let distB = turtle.move 80.0</pre>
```

State-expression version

```
state {
  let! distA = Turtle.move 80.0
  if distA < 80.0 then
    log "first move failed -- turning"
    do! Turtle.turn 120.0
    let! distB = Turtle.move 80.0
    let! distB = Turtle.move 80.0
}</pre>
Looks similar to the
    imperative version!
```

OO/imperative version

```
This is a function that works

let distA = turtle.move 80.0 ← with mutable Turtle class

if distA < 80.0 then Not easily testable ⊕

log "first move failed -- turning"

turtle.turn 120.0

let distB = turtle.move 80.0
```

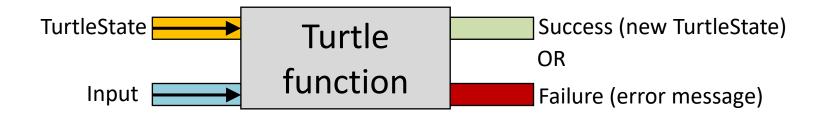
State-expression version

Advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Looks imperative, but preserves immutability
 - Functions are still composable
 - Functions are easy to test
- Disadvantages
 - Harder to implement and use

5. Error handling

How to return errors?



Choice type (aka Sum, aka Piscriminated Union)

Implementation using Result

```
let move distanceRequested state =
  // calculate new position...
  // draw line if needed...
  // return success or failure
  if actualDistanceMoved <> distanceRequested then
    Error "Moved out of bounds"
  else 🔨
   Ok {state with position = endPosition}
```

Two different choices for return value (not easy in 00)

Using Result directly

```
let state0 = Turtle.initialTurtleState
let result1 = Turtle.move 80.0 state0
match result1 with
| Error msg ->
    log $"first move failed - {msg}"
Ok state1 ->
                                           Again Yuck!
    let result2 = Turtle.move 80.0 state1
   match result2 with
    | Error msg ->
        log $"second move failed: {msg}"
    Ok state2 ->
        log "second move succeeded"
```

We will fix this using the same approach as State

Using the Result expression

You can stay focused on the happy path!

For more on how this works, see "Railway Oriented Programming"

Using the Result expression

```
let state0 = Turtle.initialTurtleState
   let! state1 = Turtle.move 80.0 state0
   log "first move succeeded"
   let! state2 = Turtle.move 30.0 state1
   log "second move succeeded"
   let! state3 = Turtle.turn 120.0 state2
   let! state4 = Turtle.move 80.0 state3
   log "third move succeeded"
   return ()
   }
```

Still ugly with the explicit state though

State and Result expressions combined

```
let finalResult = resultState {
    do! Turtle.move 80.0
    log "first move succeeded"
    do! Turtle.move 30.0
    log "second move succeeded"
    do! Turtle.turn 120.0
    do! Turtle.move 80.0
    log "third move succeeded"
    return ()
    }
    Both errors and state
    are now managed behind
    the scenes
```

Advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Errors are explicitly returned (no exceptions)
 - Looks like "happy path" code
 - But errors are being handled properly
- Disadvantages
 - Slightly harder to implement and use

5½. Async turtle

What if the Turtle was a physical object and the calls were async?

What if the Turtle calls were async?

"Pyramid of doom"

Using the Async expression

'async' expression

'let!' is equivalent to 'async await' in C#

Using the Async expression

```
Managing state is still explicit though... 

...but we know how to fix that!
```

Using the combined Async/State expression

Po you see a pattern? (the m-word)

Common FP patterns

- FP likes composition
 - Always an output => you can pipe data
- FP likes explicitness
 - Explicit state management (no mutation)
 - Explicit errors (no exceptions)
- FP has techniques to hide ugliness
 - Can track state/errors/callbacks behind the scenes
 - The m-word!

Decoupled turtles

- 6. Batch Processing
 - 61/2. Actor model
 - 7. Event Sourcing
- 8. Stream Processing

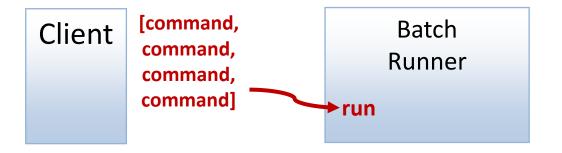
Options for working with state?

- A: Turtle hides mutable state from caller *
 - OO style
- B: Caller keeps track of state everywhere ✓
 - FP style
- C: Someone else handles the state for you 🗸
 - Batching, agents, etc

6. Batch commands

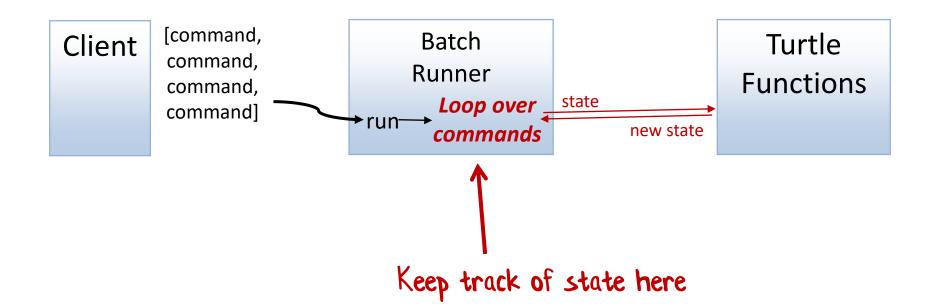
Helps the caller avoid managing state!

Overview



Turtle Functions

Overview



How to convert a function into data?

```
// Turtle functions
let move distance = ...
let turn angle = ...
let penUp () = ...
let penDown () = ...
```

```
type TurtleCommand =
| Move of Distance
| Turn of Angle
| PenUp
| PenDown
Choice type
```

Usage example

```
// create the list of commands
let commands = [
    Move 100.0
    Turn 120.0
    Move 100.0
    Turn 120.0
    Move 100.0
    Turn 120.0
                                   This is *data* not function calls
// run them
TurtleBatch.run commands
```

"execute" implementation

```
/// Apply a command to the turtle state
let executeCommand state command =
    match command with
    Move distance ->
        Turtle.move distance state
    Turn angleToTurn ->
        Turtle.turn angleToTurn state
      PenUp ->
        Turtle.penUp state
     PenDown ->
        Turtle.penDown state
```

"execute" implementation

```
/// Apply a command to the turtle state
let executeCommand state command =
    match command with
    Move distance ->
        Turtle move distance state
      Turn angleToTurn ->
        Turtle.turn angleToTurn state
      PenUp ->
        Turtle.penUp state
      PenDown ->
        Turtle.penDown state
```

One-to-one correspondence between data and action

"execute" implementation

```
/// Apply a command to the turtle state
let executeCommand state command =
    match command with
    Move distance ->
        Turtle.move distance state
     Turn angleToTurn ->
        Turtle.turn angleToTurn state
      PenUp ->
        Turtle.penUp state
      PenDown ->
        Turtle.penDown state
```

One-to-one correspondence between data and action

"run" implementation

```
/// Run list of commands in one go
let run aListOfCommands =
  let mutable state = Turtle.initialTurtleState
  for command in aListOfCommands do
       state <- executeCommand state command
// return final state
  state</pre>
```



"run" implementation

```
/// Run list of commands in one go
let run aListOfCommands =
  let initialState = Turtle.initialTurtleState
  aListOfCommands
  |> List.fold executeCommand initialState
```

Use built-in collection functions where possible

Advantages and disadvantages

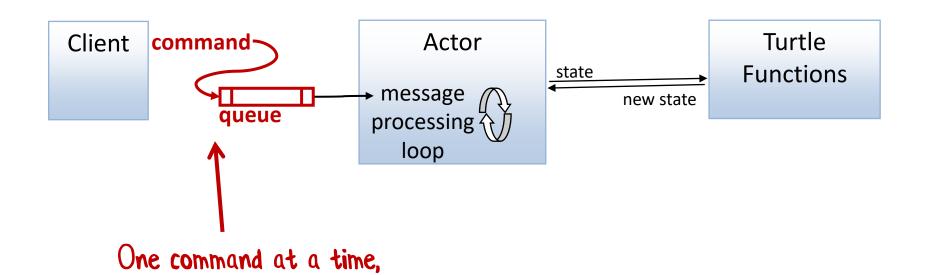
- Advantages
 - Decoupled I don't care how the turtle works
 - Simpler than monads!
- Disadvantages
 - Batch oriented only
 - No control flow inside batch (handle errors, etc)

This can be fixed with the "interpreter" approach.

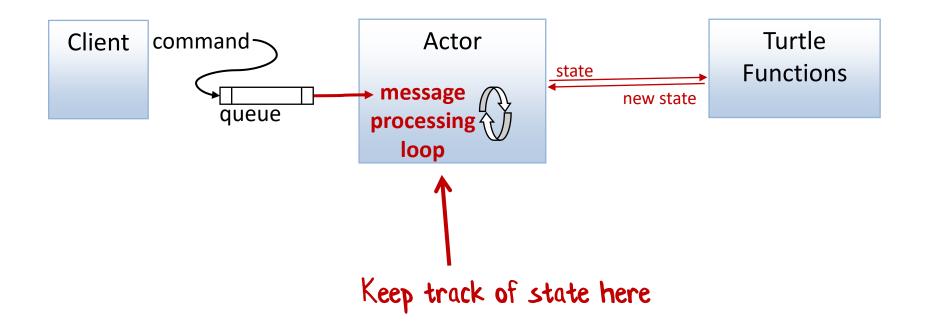
Stay tuned!

6½. Actor model

Real-time rather than batch



rather than a batch



Pulling commands off a queue

Handle commands just like the "batch" implementation

Pulling commands off a queue

```
let rec loop turtleState =
    let command = readFromQueue() // block if empty
let newState =
    match command with
    | Move distance ->
        Turtle.move distance turtleState
    // etc
loop newState
```

Handle the next waiting command, using the new state

Usage example

```
// post a list of commands
let turtleActor = new TurtleActor()
turtleActor.Post (Move 100.0)
turtleActor.Post (Turn 120.0)
turtleActor.Post (Move 100.0)
turtleActor.Post (Turn 120.0)
Again, this is *data*
```

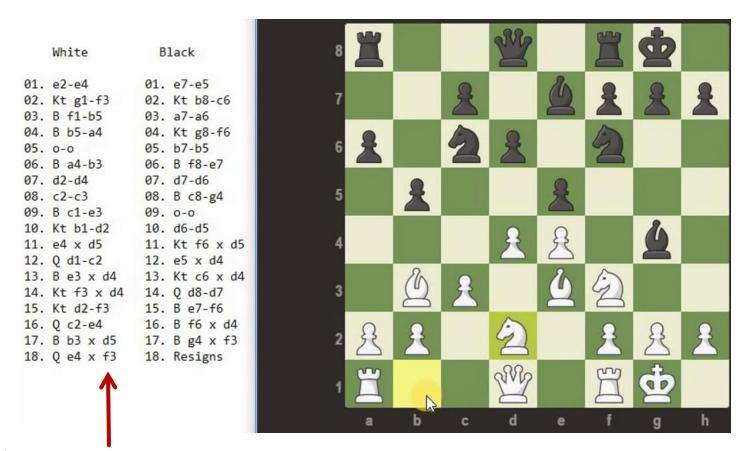
Advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Decoupled in space (remote)
 - Decoupled in time (buffered, async)
 - Simpler than state monad
- Disadvantages
 - Extra boilerplate needed

7. Event Sourcing

What if we crash?
How should we persist state?

Store the journey not the destination



Keep track of events, not just final state

Store the journey not the destination

JOHN JONES 1643 DUNDAS ST W APT 27 TORONTO ON M6K 1V2

| Statement period | Α |
|--------------------------|---|
| 2003-10-09 to 2003-11-08 | |

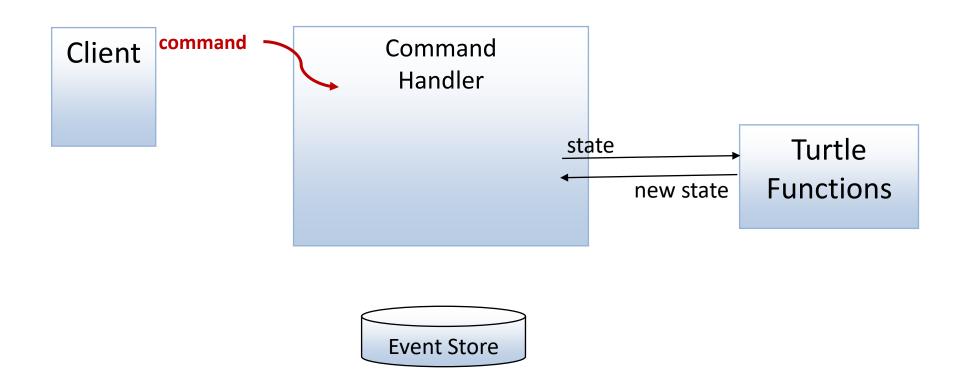
00005-123-456-7

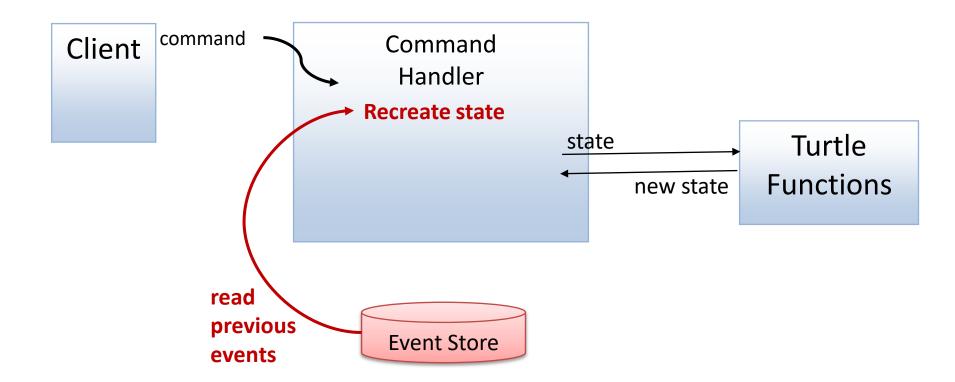
| Date | Description | Ref. \ | Withdrawals | Deposits | Balance |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------|----------|---------|
| 2003-10-08 | Previous balance | | | | 0.55 |
| 2003-10-14 | Payroll Deposit - HOTEL | | | 694.81 | 695.36 |
| 2003-10-14 | Web Bill Payment - MASTERCARD | 9685 | 200.00 | | 495.36 |
| 2003-10-16 | ATM Withdrawal - INTERAC | 3990 | 21.25 | | 474.11 |
| 2003-10-16 | Fees - Interac | | 1.50 | | 472.61 |
| 2003-10-20 | Interac Purchase - ELECTRONICS | 1975 | 2.99 | | 469.62 |
| 2003-10-21 | Web Bill Payment - AMEX | 3314 | 300.00 | | 169.62 |
| 2003-10-22 | ATM Withdrawal - FIRST BANK | 0064 | 100.00 | | 69.62 |
| 2003-10-23 | Interac Purchase - SUPERMARKET | 1559 | 29.08 | | 40.54 |
| 2003-10-24 | Interac Refund - ELECTRONICS | 1975 | | 2.99 | 43.53 |
| 2003-10-27 | Telephone Bill Payment - VISA | 2475 | 6.77 | | 36.76 |
| 2003-10-28 | Payroll Deposit - HOTEL | | | 694.81 | 731.57 |
| 2003-10-30 | Web Funds Transfer - From SAVINGS | 2620 | | 50.00 | 781.57 |
| 2003-11-03 | Pre-Auth. Payment - INSURANCE | | 33.55 | | 748.02 |
| 2003-11-03 | Cheque No 409 | | 100.00 | | 648.02 |
| 2003-11-06 | Mortgage Payment | | 710.49 | | -62.47 |
| 2003-11-07 | Fees - Overdraft | | 5.00 | | -67.47 |
| 2003-11-08 | Fees - Monthly | | 5.00 | | -72.47 |
| | • | | | | |
| | *** Totals *** | | 1,515.63 | 1,442.61 | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

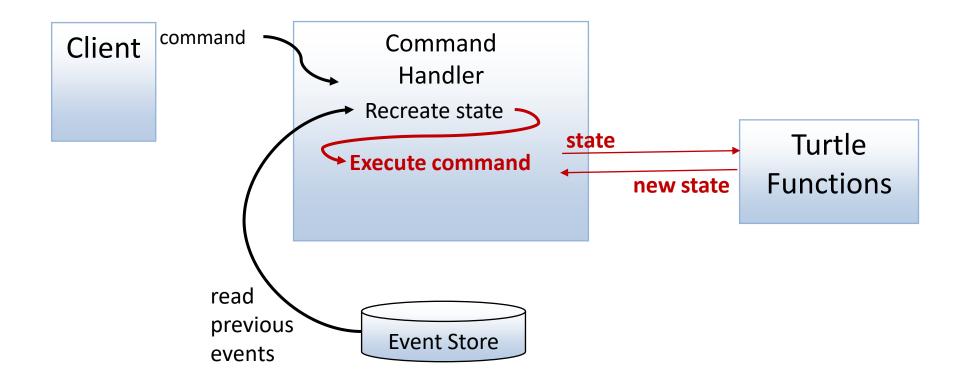
Keep track of events, not just final state

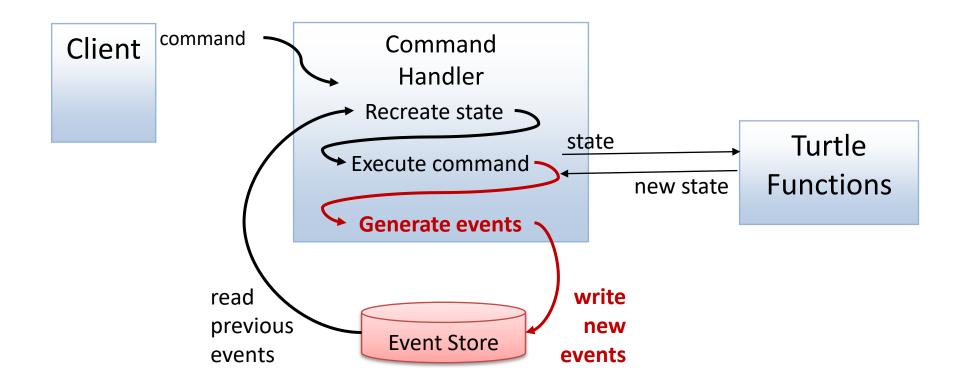
Event sourcing

- Store events not just final state
- Rebuild state from stored events
- After processing a command, store a new event









Command vs. Event

What *actually* happened (past tense)
This is what gets stored in the event-store

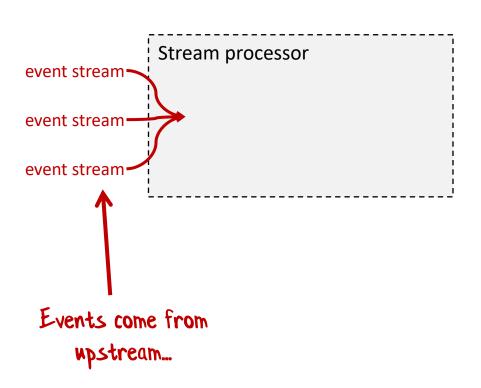
Advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Decoupled
 - Stateless in memory (can crash and recover)
 - Supports replay of events
 - Good for audit trails, compliance, traceability
- Disadvantages
 - More complex
 - Versioning events can be tricky

8. Stream Processing

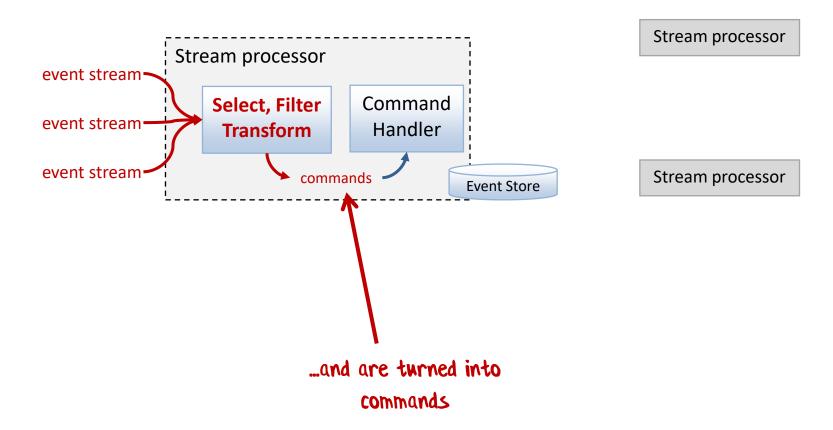
Event sourcing

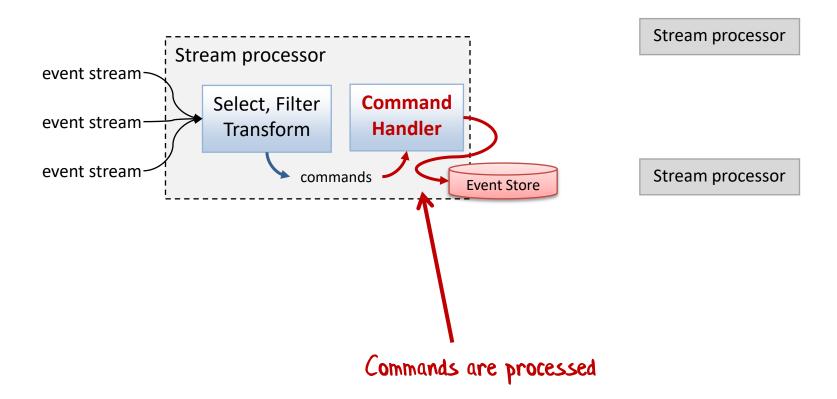
- Events are published on a stream
- Separate decision-making from actions
 - Event generators create events
 - Event consumers do actions

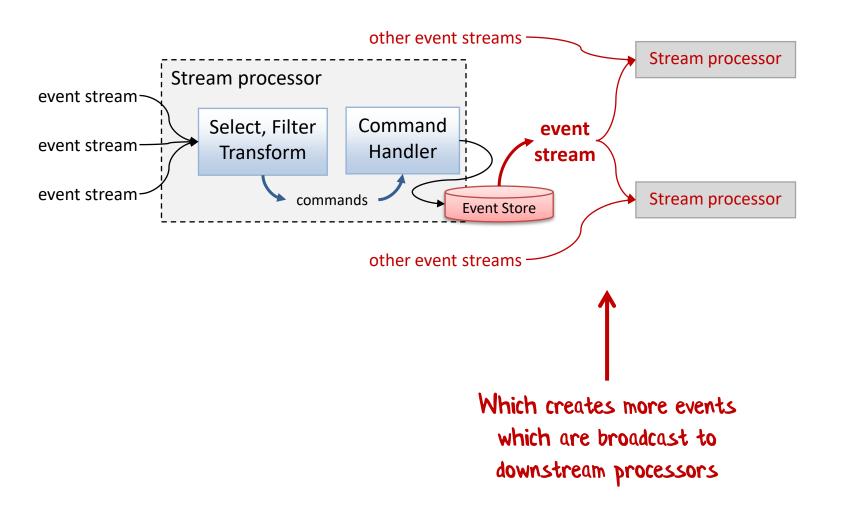


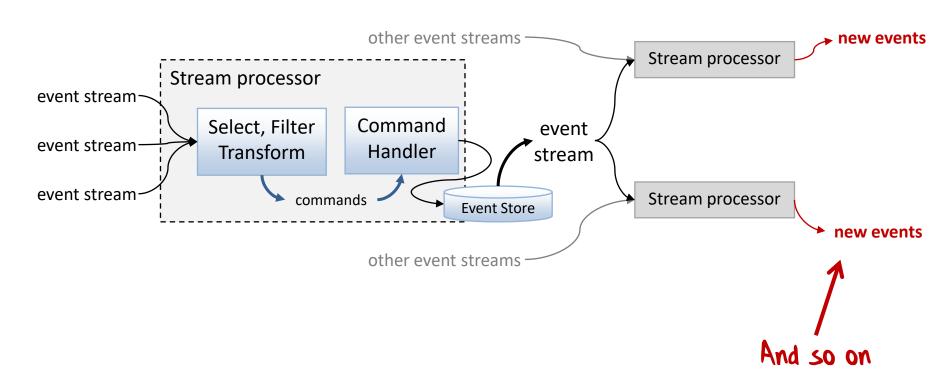
Stream processor

Stream processor

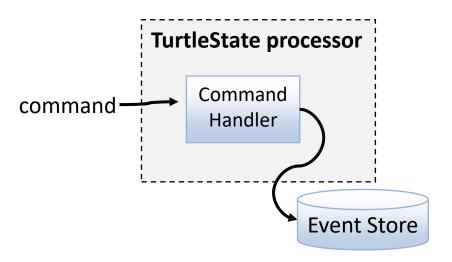




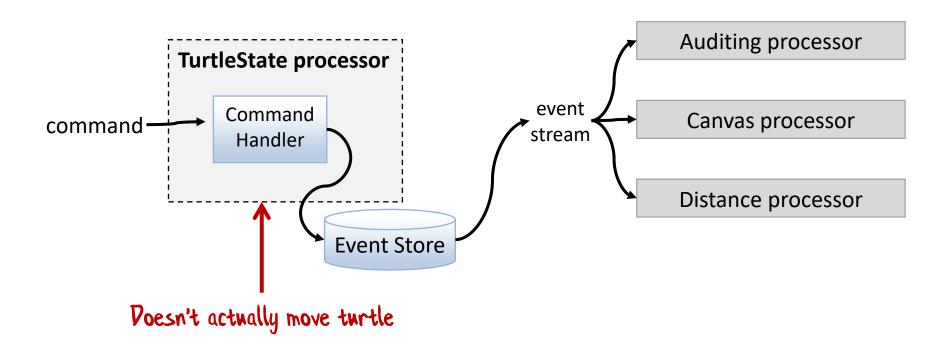




Turtle stream processing example



Turtle stream processing example



Stream processing demo

Auditing Processor

Canvas Processor

Distance Travelled Processor

Advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Same as Event Sourcing, plus
 - Separates state management from actions
 - Microservice friendly!
- Disadvantages
 - Even more complex!

We're not done making things complex yet! ©

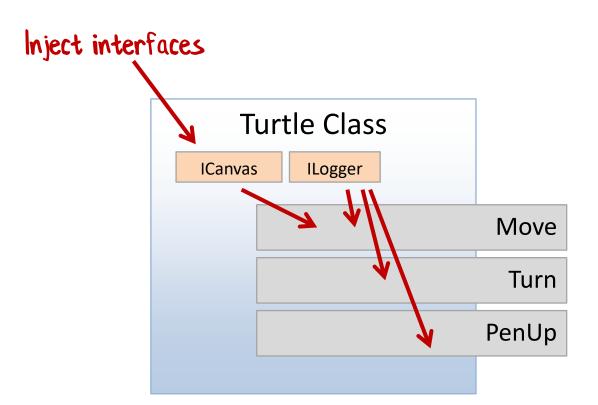
Review of turtles 6-8

- "Conscious decoupling"
 - Passing data instead of calling functions
- Immutable data stores
 - Append to event history rather than mutating a database record

Dependent turtles

- 9. Dependency injection
- 10. Dependency parameterization
 - 11. Dependency rejection

9. Dependency injection



Advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

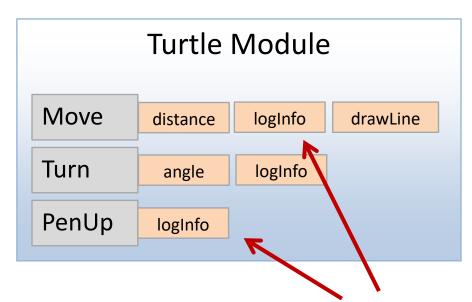
- Well understood
- Constructor injection used by many frameworks

Disadvantages

- Interfaces often not fine grained (hence ISP, SRP)
- Unintentional dependencies & coupling
- Often requires IoC container or similar

10. Dependency parameterization

Overview



Inject functions as parameters (not interfaces)

No accidental dependencies!

Parameterization in practice

```
let move = Turtle.move Logger.info Canvas.drawLine
let turn = Turtle.turn Logger.info
Turtle.initialTurtleState
                                        Use new
> move 50.0
                                      functions here
> turn 120.0
> move 50.0
> turn 120.0
> move 50.0
> turn 120.0
```

Demo: Dependency parameterization

Advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

- Dependencies are explicit
- Functions, not interfaces
- Counterforce to having too many dependencies (ISP for free!)
- Built in! No special libraries needed

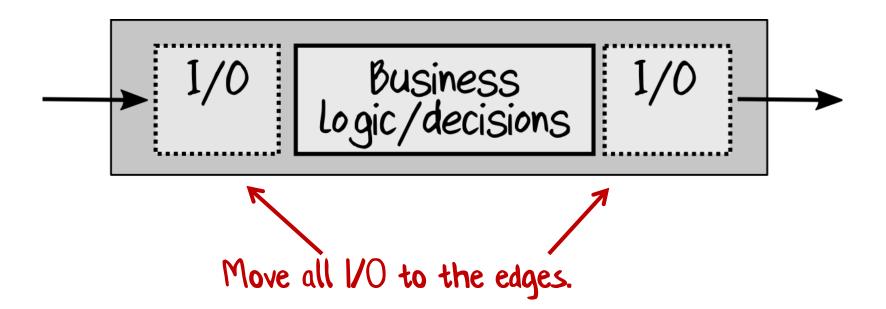
Disadvantages

- Hard to work with deep nesting
- Use in conjunction with "dependency rejection"

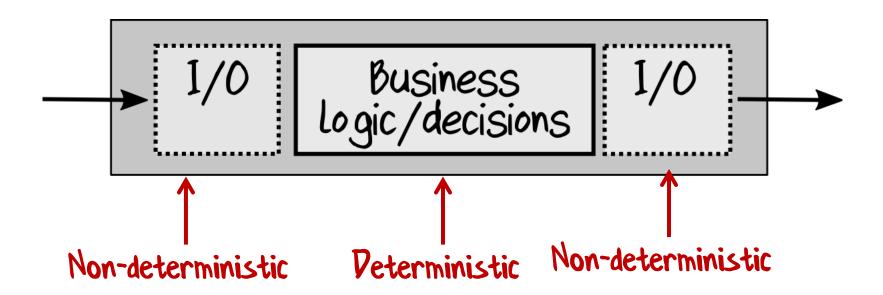
11. Dependency rejection

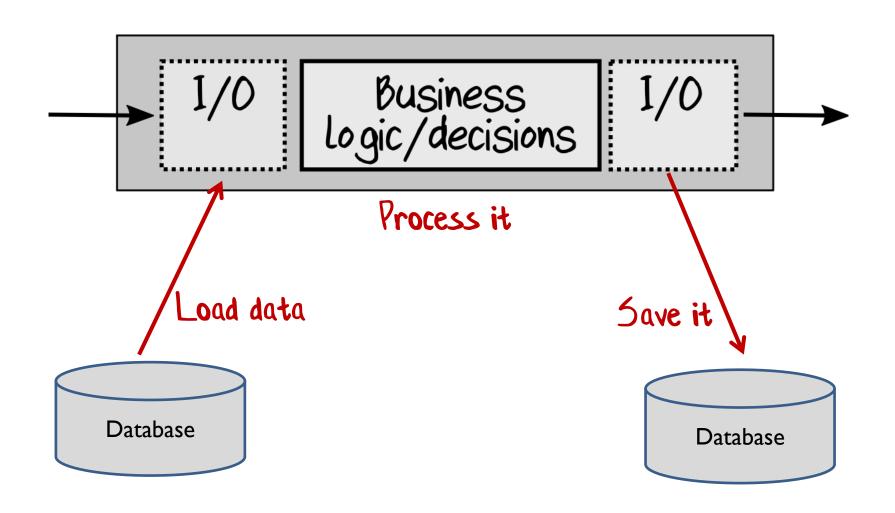
What does "rejection" mean?

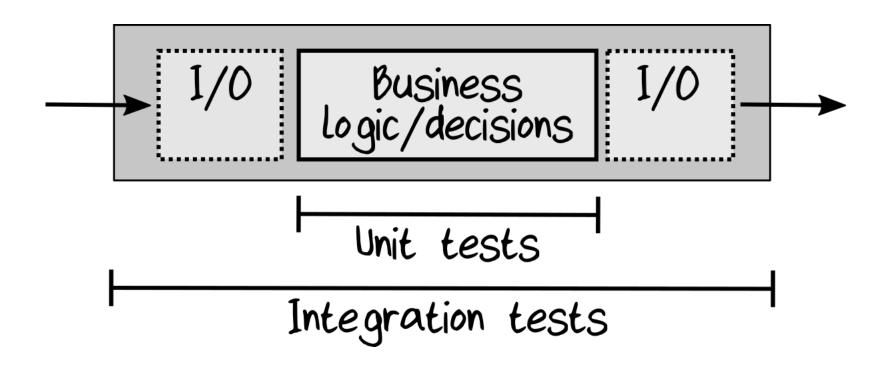
Keep dependencies away from business logic



Keep dependencies away from business logic







Original "move" implementation

```
member this.Move(distance) =
 Logger.info (sprintf "Move %0.1f" distance)
   let newPos = calcNewPosition(distance,angle,position)
   if penState = Down then <
     Canvas.drawLine(position,newPos)
   // update the state
   position <- newPos
                                                  Peterministic code
```

Pecisions and 1/0 are interleaved *

The pure "decision"

```
member this.MoveDecision(distance) =
  let logMessage = sprintf "Move %0.1f" distance
   let newPos = calcNewPosition(distance,angle,position)
   let drawDecision =
      if penState = Down then
          Some(position, newPos)
      else
          None
   position <- newPos
   {logMessage=logMessage; draw=drawDecision}
  replaced with decisions
                                                  Return the decisions
```

Completely deterministic. No dependencies <

The impure wrapper with I/O

```
member this.Move(distance) =
    // decision
    let decision = this.MoveDecision(distance)
    // I/O stuff
    Logger.info decision.logMessage
    match decision.draw with
     Some (position, newPos) ->
        Canvas.drawLine(position, newPos)
     None ->
        () // do nothing
                                                       Pecision
```

Demo: Dependency rejection

12. Interpreter

APIs create coupling

```
module TurtleAPI =
  move : Distance * (current)State -> Distance * (new)State
  turn : Angle * (current)State -> (new)State
  penUp : (current)State -> (new)State
  penDown : (current)State -> (new)State
```

Fine, but what if the API changes to return Result?

APIs create coupling

```
module TurtleAPI =
  move : Distance * State -> Result<Distance * State>
  turn : Angle -> State -> Result<State>
  penUp : State -> Result<State>
  penDown : State -> Result<State>
```

Fine, but what if it needs to be Async as well?

APIs create coupling

```
module TurtleAPI =
  move : Distance * State -> AsyncResult<Distance * State>
  turn : Angle -> State -> AsyncResult<State>
  penUp : State -> AsyncResult<State>
  penDown : State -> AsyncResult<State>
```

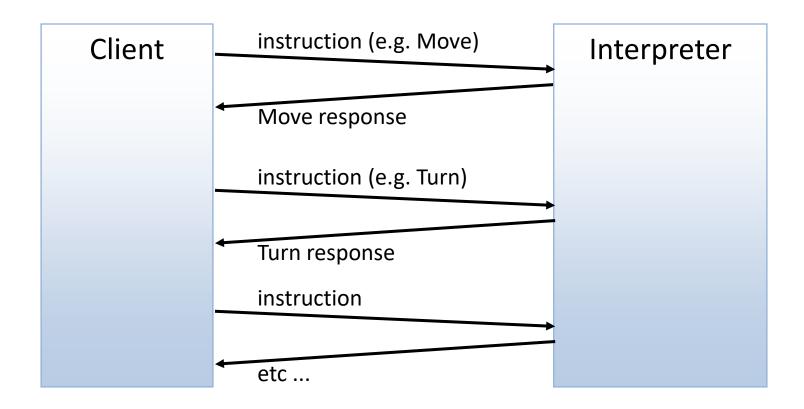
Each change breaks the caller 😊

Solution: decouple using data instead of functions!

We saw how to do this with batch/actors...

But how to manage control flow?

Overview



Create a set of instructions

```
type TurtleProgram =
                          // [-----callback--
              (input params) (response) (next step)
     Move
            of Distance * (Distance -> TurtleProgram)
                           * (unit ^ -> TurtleProgram)
     Turn of Angler
     PenUp of (* none *) (unit
                                       -> TurtleProgram)
     PenDown of (* nome *) (unit
                                       -> TurtleProgram)
     Stop
                              Output from
                                           Next step for
                     Input
                               interpreter
                                           the interpreter
       New case
                                              to run
        needed!
```

Usage example

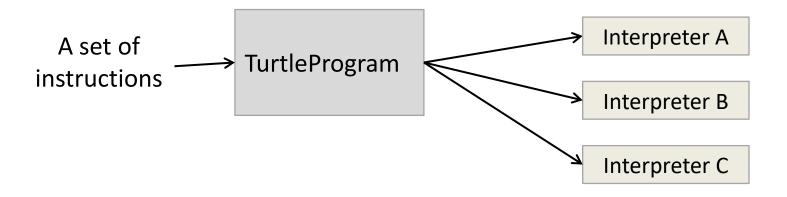
Can we hide the continuations behind the scenes?

Yes. we can!

Usage example

```
let drawTriangle = turtleProgram {// We've seen this before!
    let! actualDistA = move 100.0
    do! turn 120.0
    let! actualDistB = move 100.0
    do! turn 120.0
    let! actualDistC = move 100.0
    do! turn 120.0
    }
```

Overview



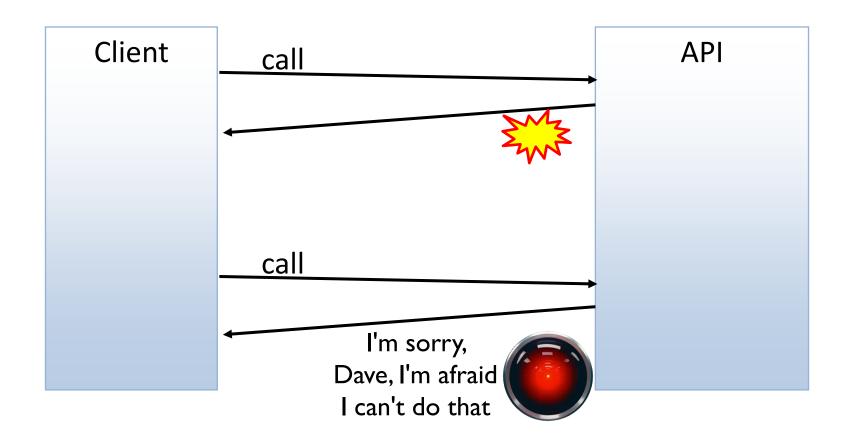
Interpreter demo

Advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Completely decoupled
 - Pure API
 - Optimization possible
- Disadvantages
 - Complex
 - Best with limited set of operations

13. Capabilities

Overview

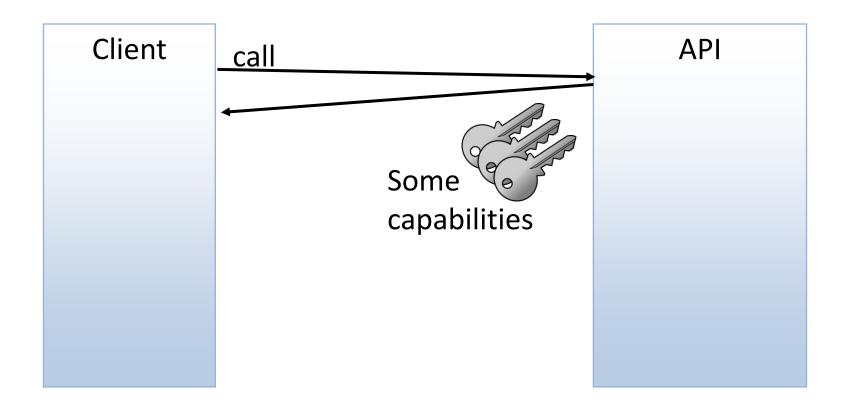


Rather than telling me what I can't do, why not tell me what I can do?

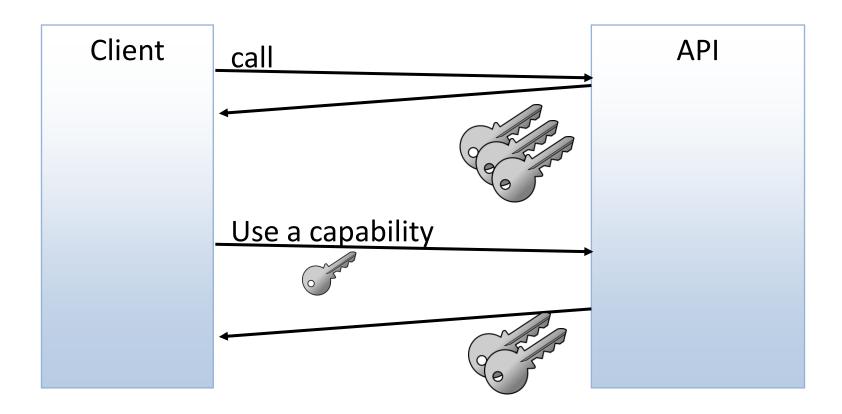
Capability-based API



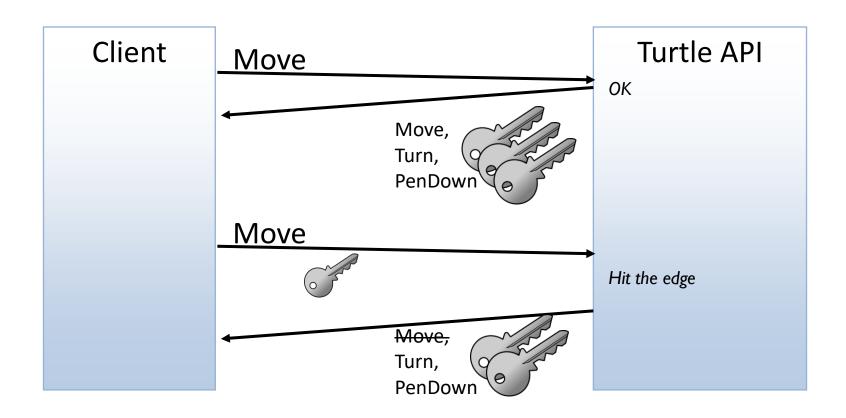
Overview



Overview



Turtle API capabilities



Turtle Capabilities

```
type TurtleCapabilities = {
    move : MoveFn option
    turn : TurnFn
    penUp : PenUpDownFn
    penDown: PenUpDownFn
}

and MoveFn = Distance -> TurtleCapabilities
and TurnFn = Angle -> TurtleCapabilities
and PenUpDownFn = unit -> TurtleCapabilities
```

Capabilities demo

Advantages and disadvantages

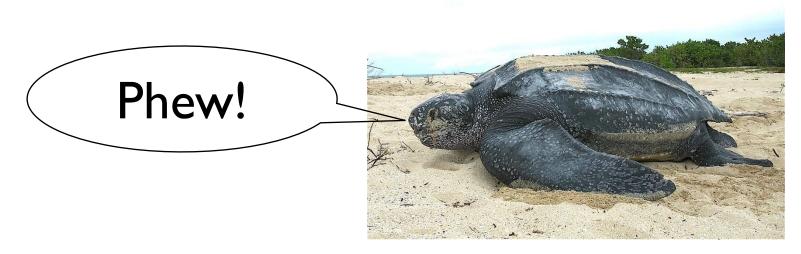
- Advantages
 - Client doesn't need to duplicate business logic
 - Better security
 - Capabilities can be transformed for business rules
- Disadvantages
 - Complex to implement
 - Client has to handle unavailable functionality

 Example of cap-based design: HATEOAS

Hypermedia as the Engine of Application State

Turtle HATEOAS

```
[ { "rel": "Move", "href": "/turtle/ec03def5-7ea8-4ac3-baf7-b290582cd3f2" }, { "rel": "Turn", "href": "/turtle/d4532ca0-4e61-4fae-bbb1-fc11d4e173df" }, { "rel": "PenUp", "href": "/turtle/fe1bfa98-e77b-4331-b99b-22850d35d39e" } .... ]
```



Thanks!