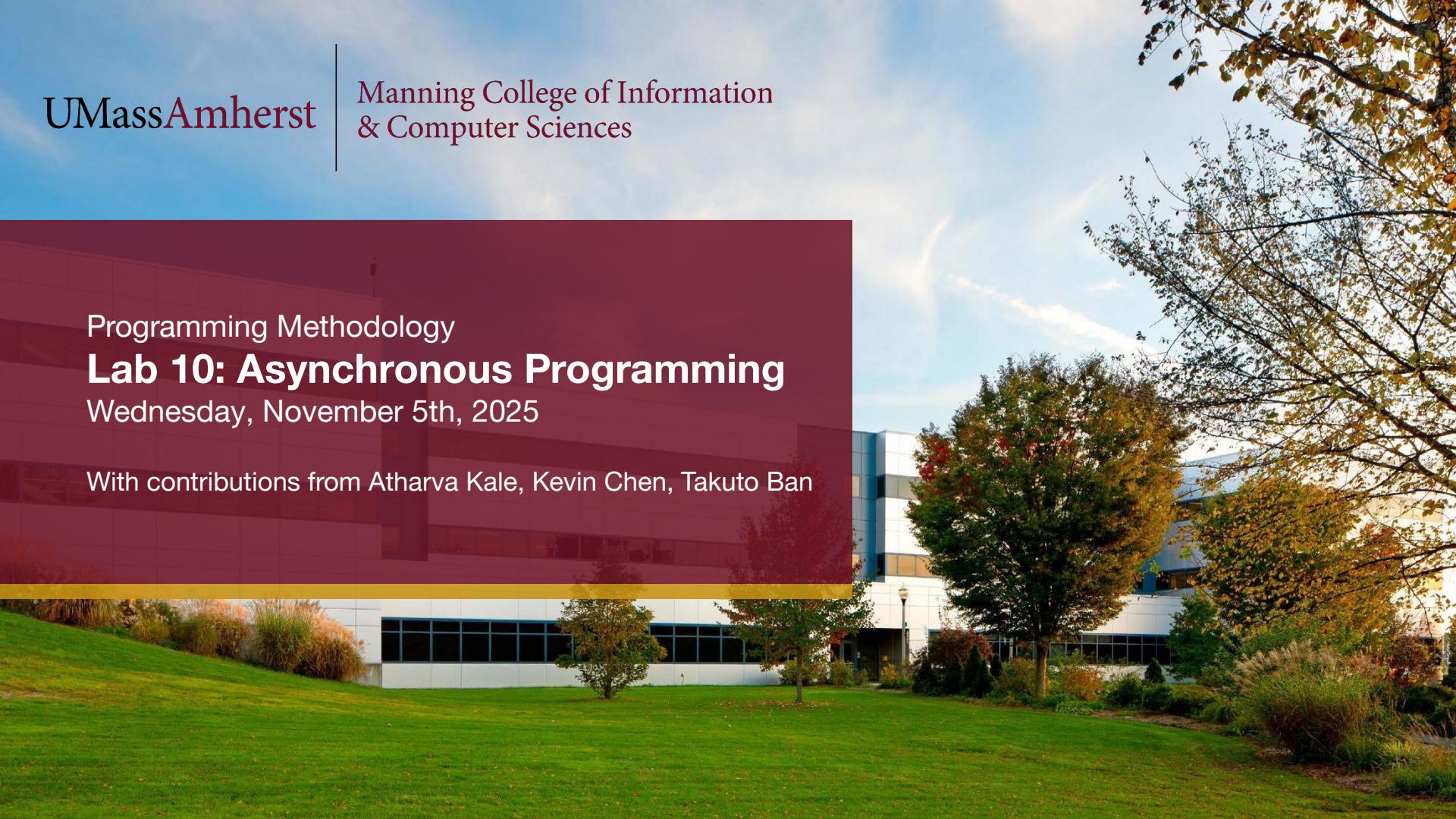


Programming Methodology

## Lab 10: Asynchronous Programming

Wednesday, November 5th, 2025

With contributions from Atharva Kale, Kevin Chen, Takuto Ban



# Agenda



**Weekly  
Reminders**



**Motivate  
Async  
Programming**

**then**



**Exercise 1**  
Get hands-on with  
Promise API

**Exercise 2**  
Scavenger Hunt

**Use  
Gradescope**

# Reminders

- Midterm 2 is being graded; we are aiming to have grades ready Friday!
- Next homework will be released by the end of the week
  - Will be due Sunday, November 16th
  - No homework due this Sunday (11/9)
  - Come to office hours for help!
- If you need to miss lab and have a valid reason according to the syllabus (medical, other personal) please fill out the questionnaire on Canvas before the start time of your lab.
  - Waking up late, bus was late are NOT valid reasons to miss lab.

# New Lab Format for Today

We have some questions on  
Gradescope today :)

The screenshot shows a Gradescope assignment interface. The top bar displays '0/10 Questions Answered'. The question title is 'Q1.2' with '1 Point'. The question text asks: 'What does the expression `new Promise(...)` expression do here?'. Below the question is a code snippet:

```
1 function orderPizza() {  
2   return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {  
3     // Simulate a check: is the pizza available? (50/50 chance)  
4     const isAvailable = Math.random() > 0.5;  
5  
6     if (isAvailable) {  
7       const orderId = sendOrderToKitchen(); // a random order id number  
8       resolve({ orderId, status: "on the way" });  
9     } else {  
10       reject(new Error("Pizza is not available at the moment."));  
11     }  
12   });  
13 }
```

Below the code are three options for the question:

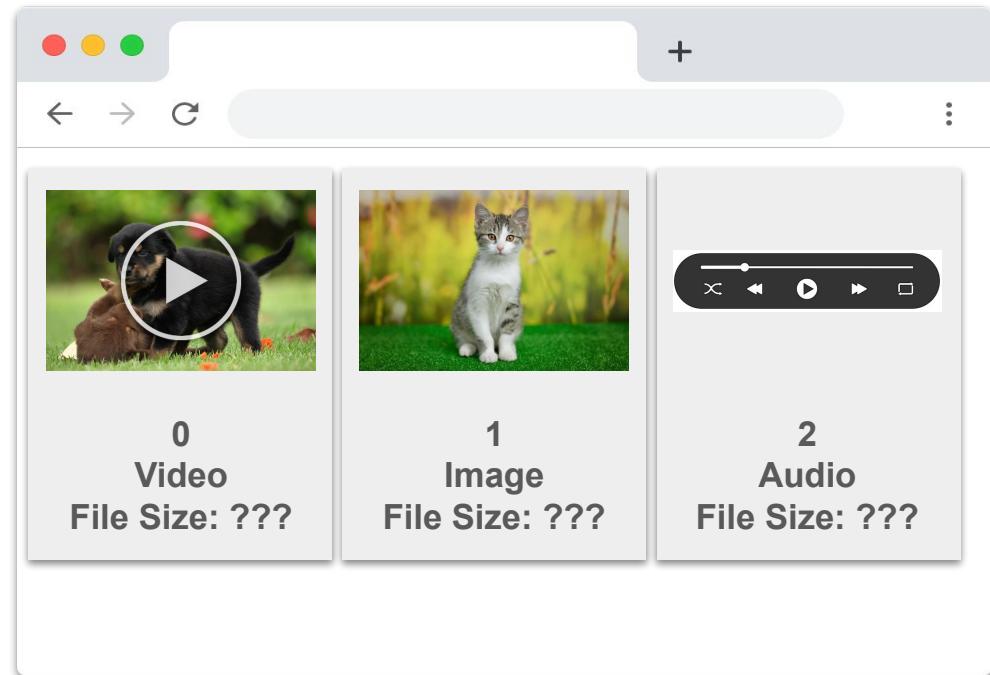
- Immediately executes the provided code synchronously, blocking the rest of the code.
- Creates a container for managing an asynchronous operation.
- Cancels the asynchronous operation.

# Motivation - Asynchronous Programming

Let's say you are developing a browser responsible for displaying three items:

- 1) A video
- 2) An image
- 3) Some audio

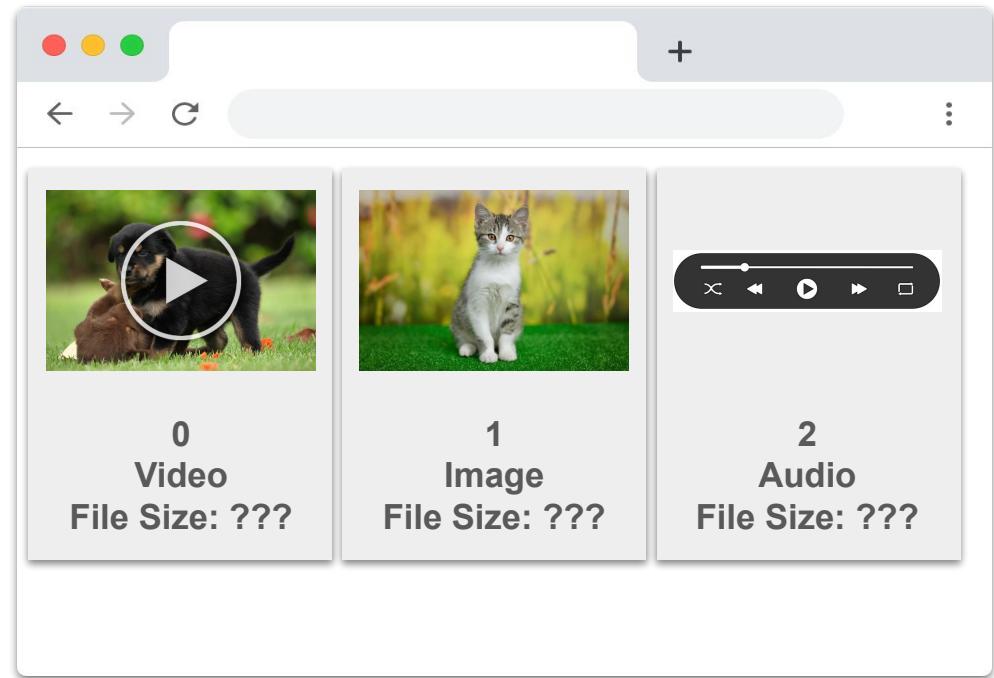
**Goal:** Give user best user experience



# Motivation - Asynchronous Programming

We have three URLs:

```
1 const urls = [  
2   "http://catsanddogs.com/video.mp4",  
3   "http://catsanddogs.com/image.png",  
4   "http://catsanddogs.com/audio.mp3",  
5 ]
```



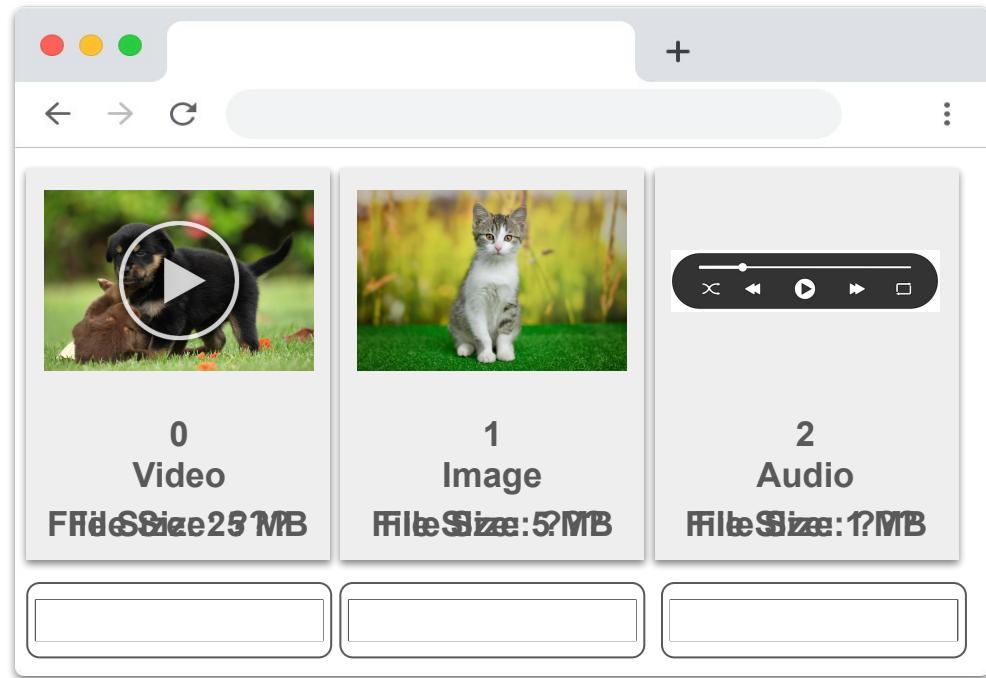
# Motivation - Asynchronous Programming

With a basic implementation,  
we could:

- 1) Download all assets sequentially and then display them all at once to the user

or....

- 1) Download an asset and display it sequentially



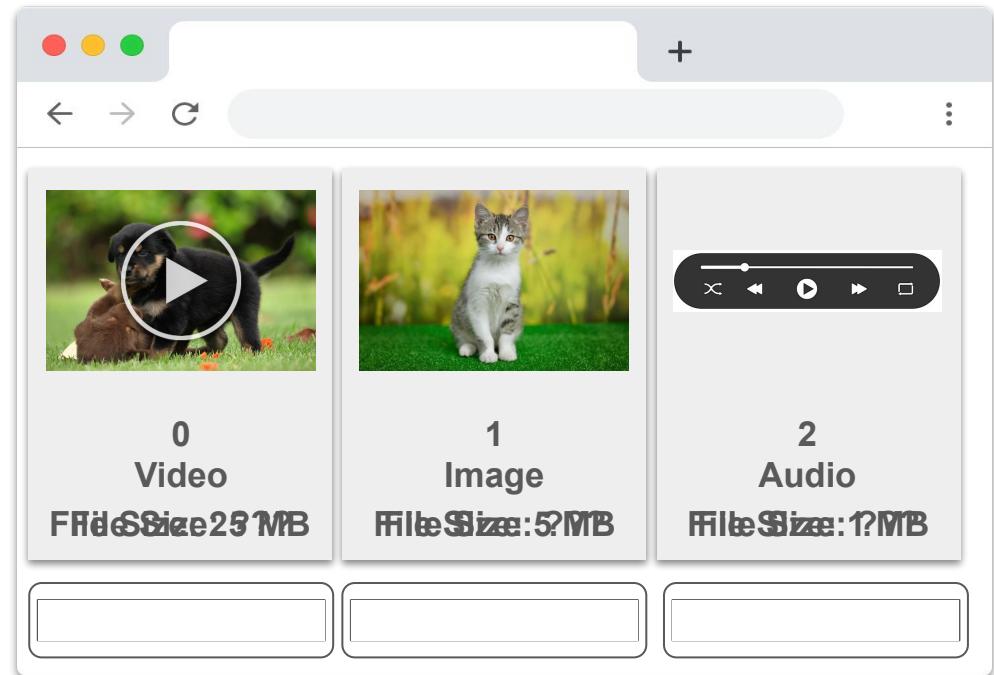
# Motivation - Asynchronous Programming

But what if we could start  
downloading them all at once

**AND**

Display each right after they  
finish downloading?

**The Promise API lets us do  
that!**



# Review: Asynchronous Programming

So far, we have mainly dealt with **synchronous** programming in this class. In general, this means our code runs line by line, and each line will **only** run once the previous line has finished running.

However, in JavaScript/TypeScript (and many other languages), we can also have asynchronous code, which we don't need to wait for before we execute other code.

We can see how asynchronous programming fits in with the example from the previous slides, where we want to download several different files for a website. Instead of waiting for each download to complete, we can begin downloading multiple files all at once!

# Review: Promises

The **Promise** class is very useful for asynchronous programming in JS/TS. A Promise object typically represents the results of some asynchronous task.

At any point, a Promise object will be in one of three states:

- **Pending**: no value or result is available yet from the Promise
- **Fulfilled**: the task has completed and the Promise has resolved to a result
- **Rejected**: the task failed and the Promise rejects (usually with an error)

Note: once the Promise objects fulfills or rejects, the object is still a Promise. It does not turn directly into the result of the asynchronous task or the resulting error.

# Review: Promises

An example of an asynchronous function in JS/TS is `setTimeout`. If we start a stopwatch when we run the following code, the code will print “two” after 1 second, “three” after 2 seconds, and then “one” after 4 seconds.

```
setTimeout(() => console.log("one"), 4000);           Outputs      'two'  
setTimeout(() => console.log("two"), 1000);           →          'three'  
setTimeout(() => console.log("three"), 2000);         'one'
```

Now, suppose we have an asynchronous function `timerPromise(n)`, which returns a Promise that resolves to “hi!” after n seconds. Then, in the first 5 seconds, `myPromise` is **pending**. After those 5 seconds, `myPromise` **fulfills**.

```
const myPromise = timerPromise(5); // after fulfilling, myPromise is  
                                still a Promise, just resolved to "hi!"
```

## Creating Promises

```
1 // main.js
2
3 const p1 = new Promise((resolve) => {
4     // <an operation that takes 10 secs to complete>
5     console.log("p1 completed");
6 });
7
8 const p2 = new Promise((resolve) => {
9     // <an operation that takes 5 secs to complete>
10    console.log("p2 completed");
11 });
12
13 console.log("main.js can continue work here");
14
```

```
1 // Console
2
3 main.js can continue work here
4 p2 completed
5 p1 completed
```

## Resolving Promises

```
1 // Promises can "resolve" to a value
2
3 const p1 = new Promise((resolve) => {
4     console.log("p1 completed");
5     resolve("p1 resolved");
6 });
7
```

**What can we do with  
the fulfillment value?**

## Resolving Promises

```
1 // We can chain promises using `.then`  
2  
3 const p1 = new Promise((resolve) => {  
4   console.log("p1 completed");  
5   // NOTE: resolve is a function that  
6   // accepts the fulfilled value  
7   resolve("p1 resolved");  
8 })  
9  
10 const p2 = p1.then(  
11   // NOTE: fulfilledValue is the SAME  
12   // as the value we resolved with  
13   (fulfilledValue) => {  
14     console.log(fulfilledValue);  
15   },  
16 );  
17 // NOTE: p2 is ALSO a promise
```

```
1 // Console  
2  
3 p1 completed  
4 p1 resolved
```

Read the [MDN docs](#) for the full specification  
of `Promise.prototype.then`

## Promises that “reject”

```
1 // Promises can also "reject" with an error
2
3 const p1 = new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
4   console.log("p1 completed");
5   reject("p1 rejected");
6 });
7
8 const p2 = p1.then(
9   (fulfilledValue) => {
10   // NEVER runs
11   console.log("fulfilledValue:", fulfilledValue);
12 }
13 ).catch((rejectedValue) => {
14   // THIS WILL RUN
15   console.log("rejectedValue:", rejectedValue);
16 });
```

```
1 // Console
2
3 p1 completed
4 rejectedValue: p1 rejected
```

Read the [MDN docs](#) for the full specification  
of `Promise.prototype.catch`

# Review: Promise API

In summary, we can access the result of a Promise using **.then()** or **.catch()**. Suppose we have a variable `myPromise` storing a Promise.

- If `myPromise` **rejects**, then `myPromise.catch(myFunc)` will call the function `myFunc` on the value that `myPromise` rejected with.
- If `myPromise` **fulfills**, then `myPromise.then(myFunc)` will call the function `myFunc` on the value that `myPromise` fulfilled with.

**.then()** can accept 2 functions, where `myPromise.then(myFunc1, myFunc2)` will call `myFunc1` if `myPromise` **fulfills**, and `myFunc2` if `myPromise` **rejects**.

Also, `.then()` and `.catch()` return a Promise as well, allowing you to chain these methods together.

# Exercise 1: Promises

Analyze the behavior of asynchronous code:

- Get the starter code from the website
- Open Exercise 1 in ex1.js
- In your groups, discuss the behavior of the code
- Answer the questions (1.1 - 1.6) on **Gradescope**

TAs will walk around to help ensure  
you are on the right track!

# Basic Promise API

We know how to:



Create Promises



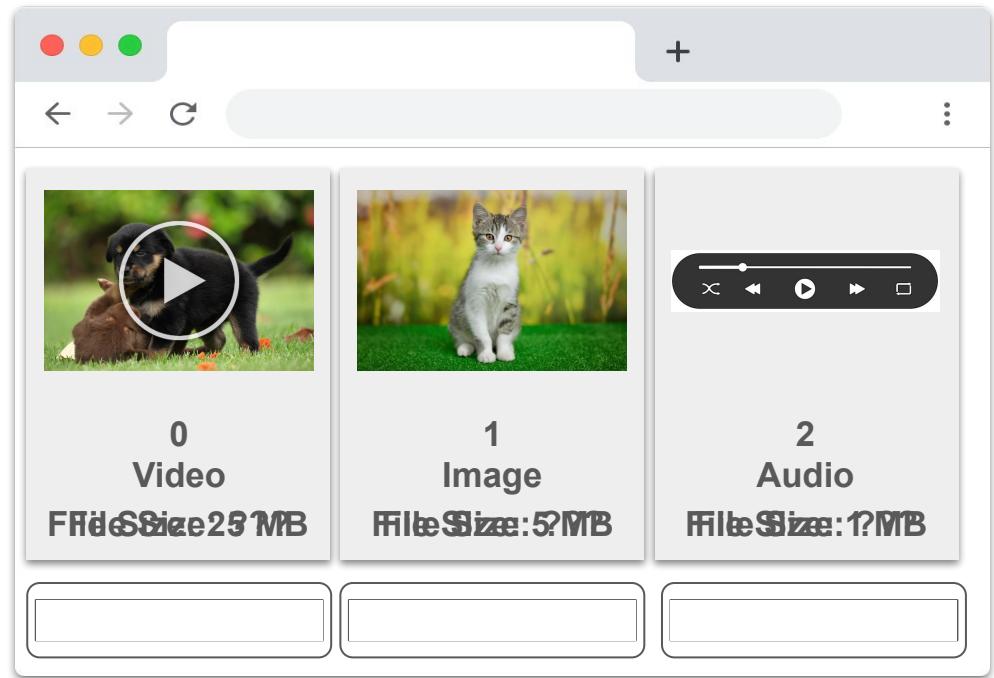
Chain Promises



Handle rejected Promises



But how do we **start several asynchronous tasks** at once and then **combine the result?**



## Combining Promises

**Task:** Write a function `countSucc` that **accepts an array of promises** and returns a Promise that fulfills with the number of successful promises from the input array

```
10 // countSucc: (Promise<T>[]) => Promise<number>
11 function countSucc(promiseArr) { ... }
```

**Definition from the docs:**

`Promise.allSettled(promiseArr)`: returns a Promise that always fulfills with an array of objects describing the outcome of each input promise:

```
{ status: "fulfilled" | "rejected", value?: someType, reason?: errType }
```

**Discuss:** Using `Promise.allSettled`, how would you implement `countSucc`? Briefly discuss with your group for 3-5 minutes. No need to submit any code!

# Exercise 2: More Promises

## Scavenger Hunt!

- You are tasked with **finding a password** hidden across campus. Time is limited!
- Use Promise API to search for password pieces in a number of locations asynchronously.
- Assemble the password to *save the day!*



# Exercise 2: More Promises

UMassAmherst

Manning College of Information  
& Computer Sciences

## Scavenger Hunt!



You are given the function `searchClueAtLocation`.

Calling this function on certain locations on campus will produce a Promise. This Promise fulfills to a password part and its index in the entire password.

You will be given an array of locations to search for password parts at.

```
38 const promise = searchClueAtLocation("LGRT")
39 // returns Promise<{ part: "geese", index: 3 }>
```

# Exercise 2: More Promises

## Scavenger Hunt!

- **Get the starter code** from the website
- Open Exercise 2 in ex2.js
- In your groups, **find the password**
- Answer the questions on Gradescope



TAs will walk around to help ensure you  
are on the right track

# Lab Feedback

## Q3 Anonymous Feedback

0 Points

Since this is a relatively new lab, we would like to hear your anonymous feedback at:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCDqrqdlf69Z2gV7ImLOULz5imO6inky-o5yGD80McOq2gjw/viewform?usp=header>

Please give us feedback! It's very short!

[Save Answer](#)



[Anonymous Feedback](#)