

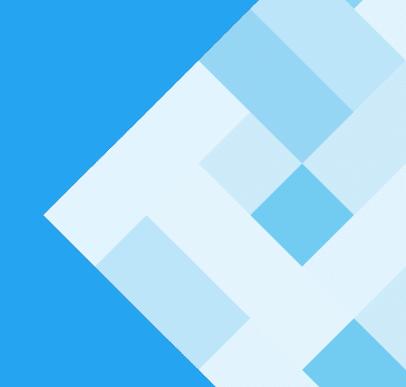
Introduction to Coroutines

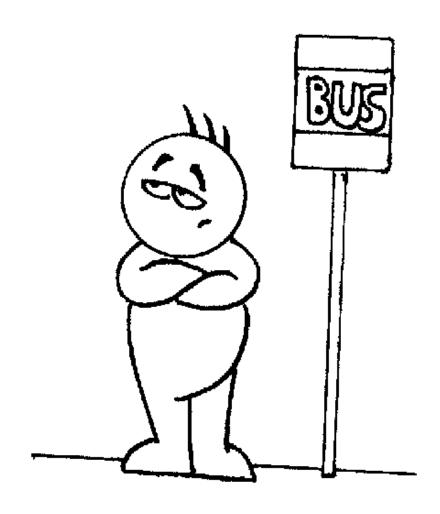


Roman Elizarov elizarov at JetBrains



Asynchronous programming





How do we write code that waits for something most of the time?

```
fun requestToken(): Token { ... }

fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post {
    // sends item to the server & waits
    return post // returns resulting post
}
```

```
fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) {
    // does some local processing of result
}
```

Kotlin

```
fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    val token = requestToken()
    val post = createPost(token, item)
    processPost(post)
}
```

Can be done with threads!

Threads

Is anything wrong with it?

```
fun requestToken(): Token {
   // makes request for a token
    // blocks the thread waiting for result
    return token // returns result when received
fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    val token = requestToken()
    val post = createPost(token, item)
   processPost(post)
```



Callbacks to the rescue

Sort of ...

Callbacks: before

```
1 fun requestToken(): Token {
    // makes request for a token & waits
    return token // returns result when received
}
```

Callbacks: after

callback

```
1 fun requestTokenAsync(cb: (Token) -> Unit) {
      // makes request for a token, invokes callback when done
      // returns immediately
}
```

Callbacks: before

```
fun requestTokenAsync(cb: (Token) -> Unit) { ... }

fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post {
    // sends item to the server & waits
    return post // returns resulting post
}
```

Callbacks: after

Callbacks: before

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    val token = requestToken()
    val post = createPost(token, item)
    processPost(post)
}
```

Callbacks: after

This is simplified. Handling exceptions makes it a real mess

Futures/Promises/Rx to the rescue

Sort of ...

Futures: before

```
1 fun requestTokenAsync(cb: (Token) -> Unit) {
    // makes request for a token, invokes callback when done
    // returns immediately
}
```

Futures: after

future

```
1 fun requestTokenAsync(): Promise<Token> {
      // makes request for a token
      // returns promise for a future result immediately
}
```

Futures: before

Futures: after

Futures: before

```
fun requestTokenAsync(): Promise<Token> { ... }
fun createPostAsync(token: Token, item: Item): Promise<Post> ...
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

Futures: after

```
fun requestTokenAsync(): Promise<Token> { ... }
fun createPostAsync(token: Token, item: Item): Promise<Post> ...
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
                                  Composable &
                                  propagates exceptions
fun postItem(item: Item)
    requestTokenAsync()
        thenCompose { token -> createPostAsync(token, item) }
        thenAccept { post -> processPost(post) }
```

No nesting indentation

Futures: after

```
fun requestTokenAsync(): Promise<Token> { ... }
fun createPostAsync(token: Token, item: Item): Promise<Post> ...
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    requestTokenAsync()
    .thenCompose { token -> createPostAsync(token, item) }
    .thenAccept { post -> processPost(post) }
}
```

But all those combinators...

Kotlin coroutines to the rescue

Let's get real

Coroutines: before

Coroutines: after

```
1 suspend fun requestToken(): Token {
    // makes request for a token & suspends
    return token // returns result when received
}
```

Coroutines: after

natural signature

```
1 suspend fun requestToken(): Token {
    // makes request for a token & suspends
    return token // returns result when received
}
```

Coroutines: before

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }

fun createPostAsync(token: Token, item: Item): Promise<Post> {
    // sends item to the server
    // returns promise for a future result immediately
}
```

Coroutines: after

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }

suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post {
    // sends item to the server & suspends
    return post // returns result when received
}
```

Coroutines: before

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

Coroutines: after

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

```
suspend fun postItem(item: Item) {
   val token = requestToken()
   val post = createPost(token, item)
   processPost(post)
}
```

Coroutines: after

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

```
suspend fun postItem(item: Item) {
   val token = requestToken()
   val post = createPost(token, item)
   processPost(post)
}
```

Like regular code

Coroutines: after

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

suspension points

```
suspend fun postItem(item: Item) {
   val token = requestToken()
   val post = createPost(token, item)
      processPost(post)
}
```

Bonus features

• Regular loops

```
for ((token, item) in list) {
    createPost(token, item)
}
```

Bonus features

Regular exception handing

Bonus features

• Regular higher-order functions

• forEach, let, apply, repeat, filter, map, use, etc



Suspending functions

```
interface Service {
    fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Call<Post>
}
```

```
interface Service {
    fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Call<Post>
}
```

```
interface Service {
    fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Call<Post>
}
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post =
    serviceInstance.createPost(token, item).await()
```

```
interface Service {
    fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Call<Post>
}

natural signature

suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post =
    serviceInstance.createPost(token, item).await()
```

```
interface Service {
    fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Call<Post>
}

suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post =
    serviceInstance.createPost(token, item).await()
```

Suspending extension function from integration library

Composition

Beyond sequential

val post = createPost(token, item)

```
val post = retryIO
{
     createPost(token, item)
}
```

```
val post = retryIO { createPost(token, item) }
suspend fun <T> retryIO(block: suspend () -> T): T {
    var curDelay = 1000L // start with 1 sec
    while (true) {
        try {
            return block()
        } catch (e: IOException) {
            e.printStackTrace() // log the error
        delay(curDelay)
        curDelay = (curDelay * 2) \cdot coerceAtMost(60000L)
```

```
val post = retryIO { createPost(token, item) }
suspend fun <T> retryIO(block: suspend () -> T): T {
    var curDelay = 1000L // start with 1 sec
    while (true) {
        try {
            return block()
        } catch (e: IOException) {
            e.printStackTrace() // log the error
        delay(curDelay)
        curDelay = (curDelay * 2).coerceAtMost(60000L)
```

```
val post = retryIO { createPost(token, item) }
                                suspending lambda
suspend fun <T> retryIO(block: suspend () -> T): T {
    var curDelay = 1000L // start with 1 sec
    while (true) {
        try {
            return block()
        } catch (e: IOException) {
            e.printStackTrace() // log the error
        delay(curDelay)
        curDelay = (curDelay * 2).coerceAtMost(60000L)
```

```
val post = retryIO { createPost(token, item) }
suspend fun <T> retryIO(block: suspend () -> T): T {
    var curDelay = 1000L // start with 1 sec
    while (true) {
        try {
            return block()
        } catch (e: IOException) {
            e.printStackTrace() // log the error
        delay(curDelay)
        curDelay = (curDelay * 2) \cdot coerceAtMost(60000L)
```

```
val post = retryIO { createPost(token, item) }
suspend fun <T> retryIO(block: suspend () -> T): T {
    var curDelay = 1000L // start with 1 sec
    while (true) {
        try {
            return block()
        } catch (e: IOException) {
            e.printStackTrace() // log the error
        delay(curDelay)
        curDelay = (curDelay * 2).coerceAtMost(60000L)
```



Coroutine builders



```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

```
suspend fun postItem(item: Item) {
   val token = requestToken()
   val post = createPost(token, item)
   processPost(post)
}
```

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    val token = requestToken()
    val post = createPost(token, item)
   processPost(post)
```

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    val token = requestToken()
    val post = createPost(token, item)
    processPost(post)
}
```

Error: Suspend function 'requestToken' should be called only from a coroutine or another suspend function

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
                                  Can suspend execution
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    val token = requestToken()
    val post = createPost(token, item)
   processPost(post)
```

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

A regular function *cannot*

Can suspend execution

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    val token = requestToken()
    val post = createPost(token, item)
    processPost(post)
}
```

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

A regular function *cannot*

Can suspend execution

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    val token = requestToken()
    val post = createPost(token, item)
    processPost(post)
}
```



One cannot simply invoke a suspending function

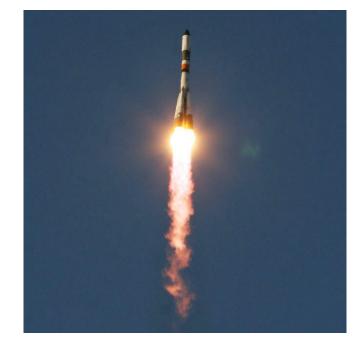
Launch

coroutine builder

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    launch {
       val token = requestToken()
       val post = createPost(token, item)
       processPost(post)
    }
}
```

Returns immediately, coroutine works in **background thread pool**

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    launch {
       val token = requestToken()
       val post = createPost(token, item)
       processPost(post)
    }
}
```



Fire and forget!

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    launch {
       val token = requestToken()
       val post = createPost(token, item)
       processPost(post)
    }
}
```

UI Context

```
Just specify the context
fun postItem(i/tem: Item) {
    launch(UI) {
        val token = requestToken()
        val post = createPost(token, item)
        processPost(post)
```

UI Context

```
fun postItem(item: Item) {
    launch(UI) {
       val token = requestToken()
       val post = createPost(token, item)
       processPost(post)
    }
}
```

And it gets executed on UI thread

Where's the magic of launch?

A regular function

```
fun launch(
    context: CoroutineContext = DefaultDispatcher,
    block: suspend () -> Unit
): Job { ... }
```

```
fun launch(
    context: CoroutineContext = DefaultDispatcher,
    block: suspend () -> Unit
): Job { ... } suspending lambda
```

```
fun launch(
    context: CoroutineContext = DefaultDispatcher,
    block: suspend () -> Unit
): Job { ... }
```



async / await

Kotlin-way

```
suspend fun requestToken(): Token { ... }
suspend fun createPost(token: Token, item: Item): Post { ... }
fun processPost(post: Post) { ... }
```

```
Kotlin suspend fun postItem(item: Item) {
    val token = requestToken()
    val post = createPost(token, item)
    processPost(post)
}
```

```
async Task<Token> requestToken() { ... }
async Task<Post> createPost(Token token, Item item) { ... }
void processPost(Post post) { ... }
```

C# approach to the same problem (also Python, TS, Dart, coming to JS)

```
C# async Task postItem(Item item) {
    var token = await requestToken();
    var post = await createPost(token, item);
    processPost(post);
}
```

```
async Task<Token> requestToken() { ... }
async Task<Post> createPost(Token token, Item item) { ... }
void processPost(Post post) { ... }

mark with async

# async Task postItem(Item item) {
    var token = await requestToken();
```

var post = await createPost(token, item);

processPost(post);

```
async Task<Token> requestToken() { ... }
async Task<Post> createPost(Token token, Item item) { ... }
void processPost(Post post) { ... }
```

```
C# async Task postItem(Item item) {
    var token = await requestToken();
    var post = await createPost(token, item);
    processPost(post);
}
use await to suspend
```

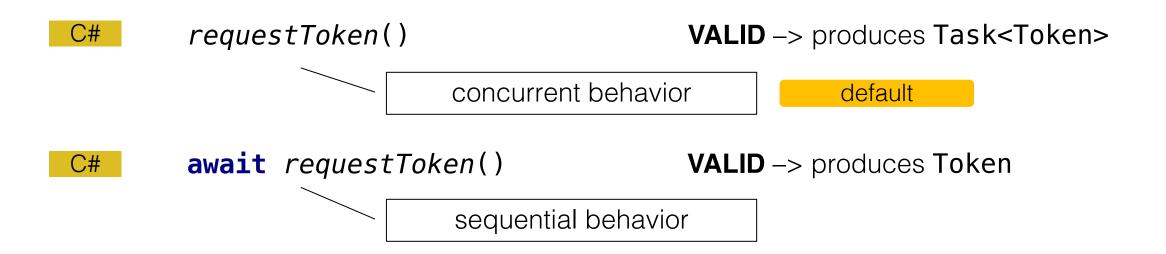
```
async Task<Token> requestToken() { ... }
async Task<Post> createPost(Token token, Item item) { ... }
void processPost(Post post) { ... }

returns a future

async Task postItem(Item item) {
   var token = await requestToken();
   var post = await createPost(token, item);
   processPost(post);
}
```

Why no await keyword in Kotlin?

The problem with async



Kotlin **suspending functions** are designed to imitate sequential behavior by default

Concurrency is hard Concurrency has to be explicit

Kotlin approach to async

Concurrency where you need it

C# async Task<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }

```
C# async Task<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }
```

```
var promise1 = loadImageAsync(name1);
var promise2 = loadImageAsync(name2);
```

Start multiple operations concurrently

C# async Task<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }

```
var promise1 = loadImageAsync(name1);
var promise2 = loadImageAsync(name2);

var image1 = await promise1;
var image2 = await promise2;
```

and then wait for them

```
async Task<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }
var promise1 = loadImageAsync(name1);
var promise2 = loadImageAsync(name2);
var image1 = await promise1;
var image2 = await promise2;
var result = combineImages(image1, image2);
```

```
Kotlin fun loadImageAsync(name: String): Deferred<Image> =
    async { ... }
```

A regular function

Kotlin's future type

```
fun loadImageAsync(name: String): Deferred<Image> =
    async { ... }
    async coroutine builder
```

```
val deferred1 = loadImageAsync(name1)
val deferred2 = loadImageAsync(name2)
```

Start multiple operations concurrently

val image1 = deferred1.await()

val image2 = deferred2.await()

await function

and then wait for them

Suspends until deferred is complete

```
fun loadImageAsync(name: String): Deferred<Image> =
Kotlin
          async { ... }
      val deferred1 = loadImageAsync(name1)
      val deferred2 = loadImageAsync(name2)
      val image1 = deferred1.await()
      val image2 = deferred2.await()
      val result = combineImages(image1, image2)
```

Is defined as suspending function, not async

```
suspend fun loadImage(name: String): Image { ... }
```

```
suspend fun loadImage(name: String): Image { ... }

suspend fun loadAndCombine(name1: String, name2: String): Image {
   val deferred1 = async { loadImage(name1) }
   val deferred2 = async { loadImage(name2) }
   return combineImages(deferred1.await(), deferred2.await())
}
```

```
suspend fun loadImage(name: String): Image { ... }

suspend fun loadAndCombine(name1: String, name2: String): Image {
   val deferred1 = async { loadImage(name1) }
   val deferred2 = async { loadImage(name2) }
   return combineImages(deferred1.await(), deferred2.await())
}
```

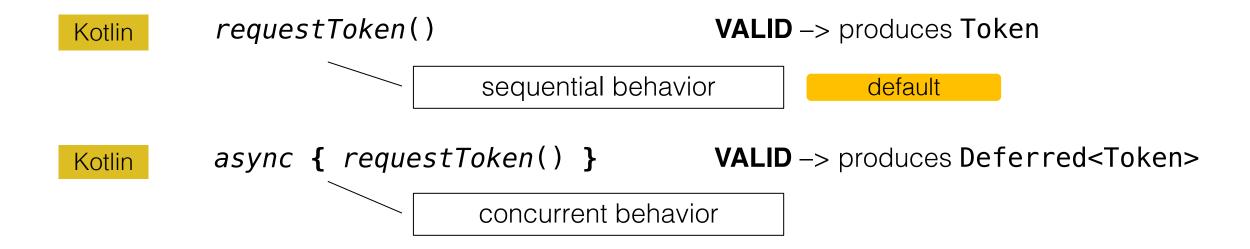
```
suspend fun loadImage(name: String): Image { ... }

suspend fun loadAndCombine(name1: String, name2: String): Image {
  val deferred1 = async { loadImage(name1) }
  val deferred2 = async { loadImage(name2) }
  return combineImages(deferred1.await(), deferred2.await())
}
```

```
suspend fun loadImage(name: String): Image { ... }

suspend fun loadAndCombine(name1: String, name2: String): Image {
  val deferred1 = async { loadImage(name1) }
  val deferred2 = async { loadImage(name2) }
  return combineImages(deferred1.await(), deferred2.await())
}
```

Kotlin approach to async





Coroutines

What are coroutines conceptually?

What are coroutines conceptually?

Coroutines are like *very* light-weight threads

```
fun main(args: Array<String>) = runBlocking<Unit> {
    val jobs = List(100_000) {
        launch {
            delay(1000L)
            print(".")
        }
        jobs.forEach { it.join() }
}
```

This coroutine builder runs coroutine in the context of invoker thread

```
fun main(args: Array<String>) = runBlocking<Unit> {
    val jobs = List(100_000) {
        launch {
            delay(1000L)
            print(".")
        }
        jobs.forEach { it.join() }
}
```

```
fun main(args: Array<String>) = runBlocking<Unit> {
    val jobs = List(100_000) {
        launch {
            delay(1000L)
            print(".")
        }
        jobs.forEach { it.join() }
}
```

```
fun main(args: Array<String>) = runBlocking<Unit> {
    val jobs = List(100_000) {
        launch {
            delay(1000L)
            print(".")
        }
     }
     jobs.forEach { it.join() }
}
```

```
fun main(args: Array<String>) = runBlocking<Unit> {
    val jobs = List(100_000) {
        launch {
            delay(1000L)
            print(".")
        }
        jobs.forEach { it.join() }
}
Suspends for 1 second
```

just like a thread

Demo

Try that with 100k threads!

Example

Demo

Example

Exception in thread "main" java.lang.OutOfMemoryError: unable to create new native thread



Java interop



Java CompletableFuture<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }

Java CompletableFuture<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }

Imagine implementing it in Java...

```
Java
```

```
CompletableFuture<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }
CompletableFuture<Image> loadAndCombineAsync(String name1,
                                              String name2)
    CompletableFuture<Image> future1 = loadImageAsync(name1);
    CompletableFuture<Image> future2 = loadImageAsync(name2);
    return future1.thenCompose(image1 ->
        future2.thenCompose(image2 ->
            CompletableFuture_supplyAsync(() ->
                combineImages(image1, image2))));
```

```
Java
```

```
CompletableFuture<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }
CompletableFuture<Image> loadAndCombineAsync(String name1,
                                              String name2)
    CompletableFuture<Image> future1 = loadImageAsync(name1);
    CompletableFuture<Image> future2 = loadImageAsync(name2);
    return future1.thenCompose(image1 ->
        future2.thenCompose(image2 ->
            CompletableFuture_supplyAsync(() ->
                combineImages(image1, image2))));
```

```
Java CompletableFuture<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }
```

```
fun loadAndCombineAsync(
    name1: String,
    name2: String
): CompletableFuture<Image> =
    future {
       val future1 = loadImageAsync(name1)
       val future2 = loadImageAsync(name2)
       combineImages(future1.await(), future2.await())
    }
```

```
CompletableFuture<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }
Java
      fun loadAndCombineAsync(
Kotlin
          name1: String,
          name2: String
      ): CompletableFuture<Image> =
          future {
              val future1 = loadImageAsync(name1)
              val future2 = loadImageAsync(name2)
              combineImages(future1.await(), future2.await())
```

```
CompletableFuture<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }
Java
      fun loadAndCombineAsync(
Kotlin
                                      future coroutine builder
          name1: String,
          name2: String
      ): CompletableFuture<Image> =
          future {
               val future1 = loadImageAsync(name1)
               val future2 = loadImageAsync(name2)
               combineImages(future1.await(), future2.await())
```

```
CompletableFuture<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }
Java
      fun loadAndCombineAsync(
Kotlin
          name1: String,
          name2: String
      ): CompletableFuture<Image> =
          future {
              val future1 = loadImageAsync(name1)
              val future2 = loadImageAsync(name2)
               combineImages(future1.await(), future2.await())
```

```
CompletableFuture<Image> loadImageAsync(String name) { ... }
Java
      fun loadAndCombineAsync(
Kotlin
          name1: String,
          name2: String
      ): CompletableFuture<Image> =
          future {
              val future1 = loadImageAsync(name1)
               val future2 = loadImageAsync(name2)
               combineImages(future1.await(), future2.await())
```

Extension for Java's CompletableFuture



Beyond asynchronous code



Fibonacci sequence

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
   var cur = 1
   var next = 1
   while (true) {
      yield(cur)
      val tmp = cur + next
      cur = next
      next = tmp
   }
}
```

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
  var cur = 1
  var next = 1
  while (true) {
     yield(cur)
     val tmp = cur + next
     cur = next
     next = tmp
  }
}
```

A coroutine builder with restricted suspension

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
  var cur = 1
  var next = 1
  while (true) {
     yield(cur)
     val tmp = cur + next
     cur = next
     next = tmp
  }
}
```

The same building blocks

```
fun <T> buildSequence(
    builderAction: suspend SequenceBuilder<T>.() -> Unit
): Sequence<T> { ... }
```

```
fun <T> buildSequence(
    builderAction: suspend SequenceBuilder<T>.() -> Unit
): Sequence<T> { ... }
```

Result is a *synchronous* sequence

```
fun <T> buildSequence(
     builderAction: suspend SequenceBuilder<T>.() -> Unit
): Sequence<T> { ... }

Suspending lambda with receiver
```

```
fun <T> buildSequence(
    builderAction: suspend SequenceBuilder<T>.() -> Unit
): Sequence<T> { ... }

@RestrictsSuspension
abstract class SequenceBuilder<in T> {
    abstract suspend fun yield(value: T)
}
```

Coroutine is restricted only to suspending functions defined here

Synchronous

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
    var cur = 1
    var next = 1
    while (true) {
        yield(cur)
        val tmp = cur + next
        cur = next
        next = tmp
val iter = fibonacci.iterator()
```

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
    var cur = 1
    var next = 1
    while (true) {
        yield(cur)
        val tmp = cur + next
        cur = next
        next = tmp
val iter = fibonacci.iterator()
println(iter.next())
```

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
    var cur = 1
    var next = 1
    while (true) {
        yield(cur)
        val tmp = cur + next
        cur = next
        next = tmp
val iter = fibonacci.iterator()
println(iter.next())
```

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
    var cur = 1
    var next = 1
    while (true) {
        yield(cur)
        val tmp = cur + next
        cur = next
        next = tmp
val iter = fibonacci.iterator()
println(iter.next()) // 1
```

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
    var cur = 1
    var next = 1
    while (true) {
        yield(cur)
        val tmp = cur + next
        cur = next
        next = tmp
val iter = fibonacci.iterator()
println(iter.next()) // 1
println(iter_next())
```

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
    var cur = 1
    var next = 1
    while (true) {
        yield(cur)
        val tmp = cur + next
        cur = next
        next = tmp
val iter = fibonacci.iterator()
println(iter.next()) // 1
println(iter.next())
```

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
    var cur = 1
    var next = 1
    while (true) {
        yield(cur)
        val tmp = cur + next
        cur = next
        next = tmp
val iter = fibonacci.iterator()
println(iter.next()) // 1
println(iter_next()) // 1
```

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
    var cur = 1
    var next = 1
    while (true) {
        yield(cur)
        val tmp = cur + next
        cur = next
        next = tmp
val iter = fibonacci.iterator()
println(iter.next()) // 1
println(iter_next()) // 1
println(iter_next()) // 2
```

```
val fibonacci = buildSequence {
    var cur = 1
    var next = 1
    while (true) {
        yield(cur)
        val tmp = cur + next
        cur = next
        next = tmp
val iter = fibonacci.iterator()
println(iter_next()) // 1
println(iter.next()) // 1
println(iter_next()) // 2
```

Synchronous with invoker



Library vs Language

Classic async

async/await generate/yield

Keywords

Kotlin coroutines

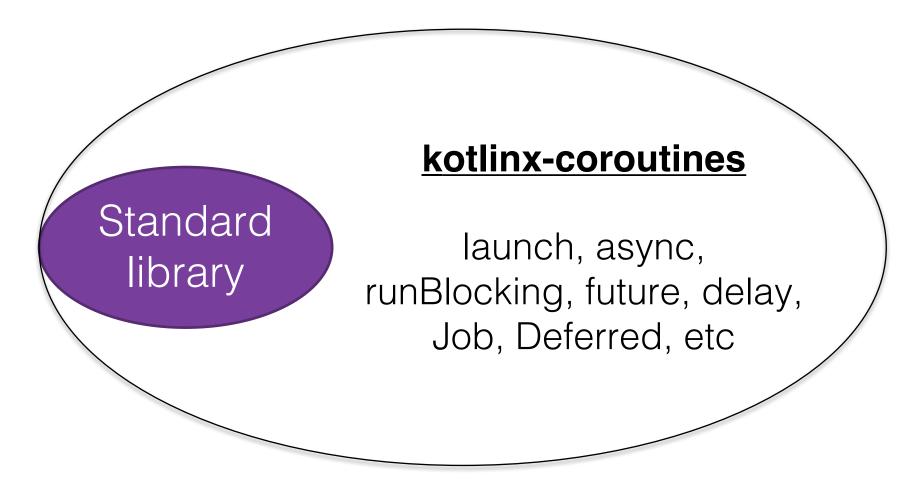
suspend

Modifier

Kotlin coroutines



Kotlin coroutines



Experimental status

Coroutines are here to stay

Backwards compatible inside 1.1 & 1.2

To be finalized in the future

Thank you



Any questions?



