

# Module 23: "Observer"



**TEKNOLOGISK**  
**INSTITUT**

# Agenda

- ▶ Introductory Example: Stock Market
- ▶ Challenges
- ▶ Pattern: Observer
- ▶ Original Observer Pattern
- ▶ Observer Pattern in .NET: Events
- ▶ Implementing the Observer Pattern
- ▶ Overview of Observer Pattern
- ▶ Discussion

# Introductory Example: Stock Market

```
class StockMarket
{
    public StockMarket() { ... }

    private void OnStockTraded( string ticker, decimal latest )
    {
        Console.WriteLine( $"{ticker} traded at USD {latest:f2}");
    }
}
```

```
class StockObserver
{
    // ???
}
```

```
class OtherStockObserver
{
    // ???
}
```

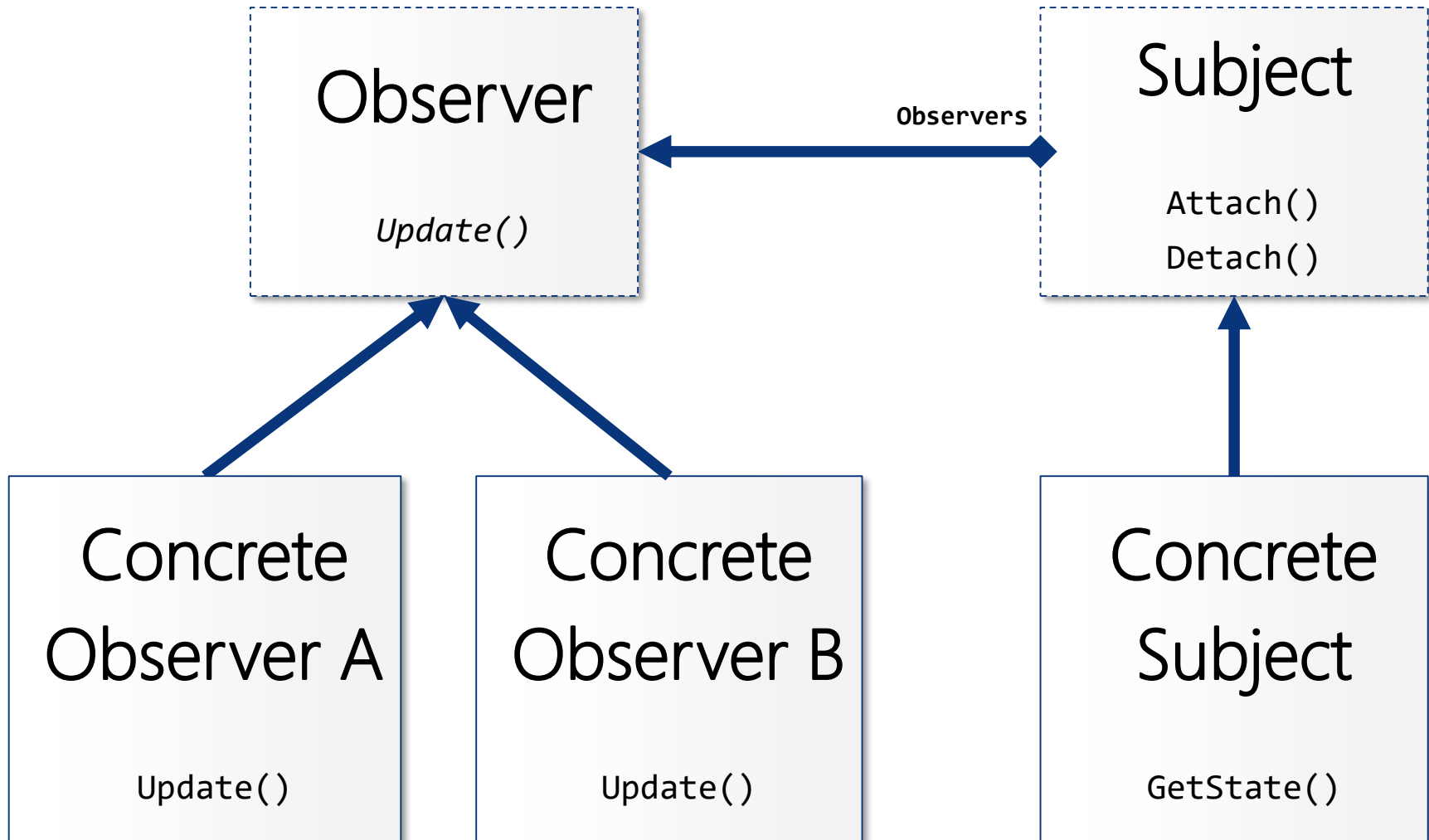
# Challenges

- ▶ How do stock observers get the new stock prices as soon as they happen at the stock market?
  - ...without repeatedly polling?
  - ...without too tight coupling?

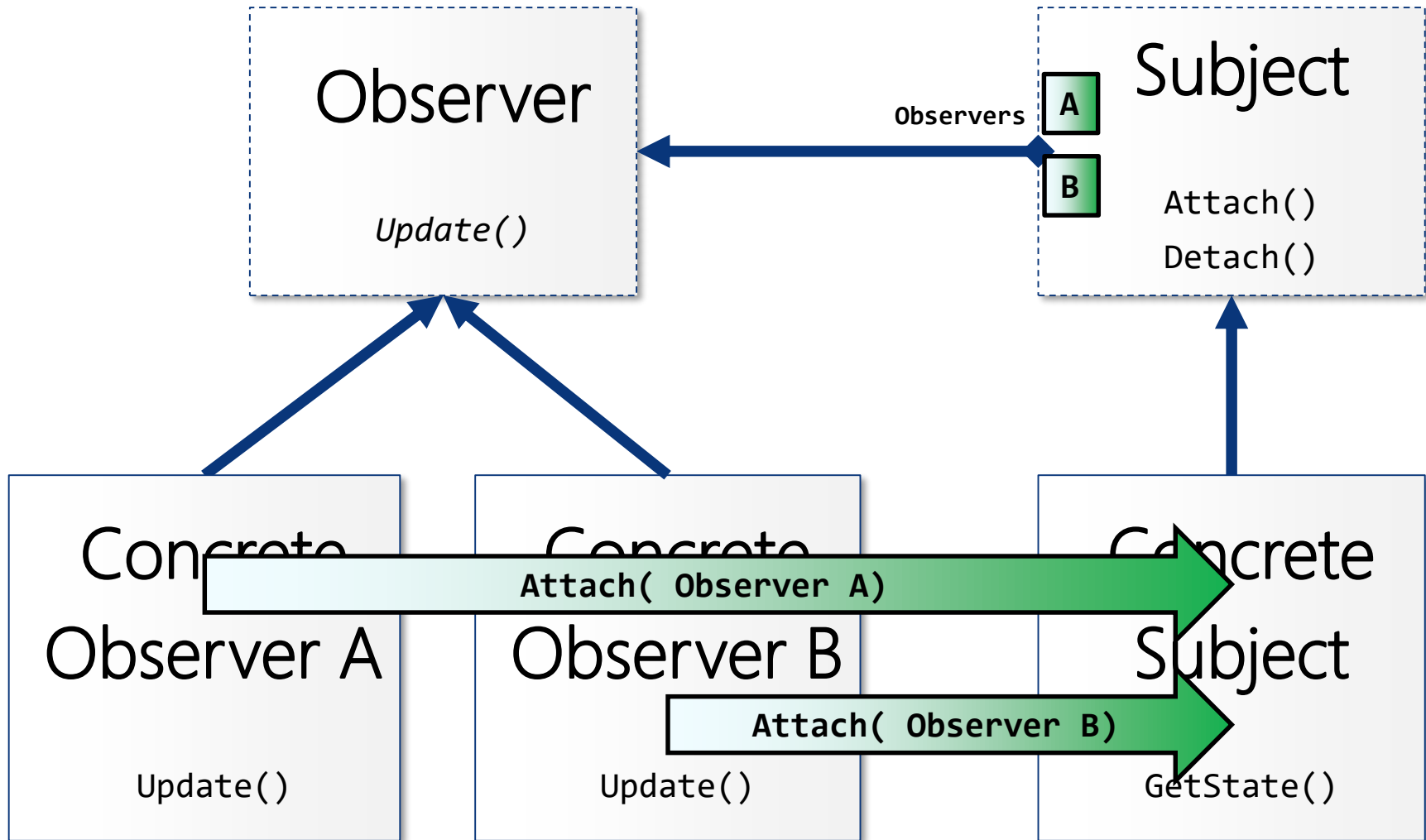
# Pattern: Observer

- ▶ *Define a one-to-many dependency relation between objects so that when one object changes state, all its dependents are notified and updated automatically.*
- ▶ Outline
  - Define Subject and Observer objects
  - Let observers register and deregister with Subject
  - Ensure that when a Subject changes state, it will notify all registered Observers
- ▶ Origin: Gang of Four

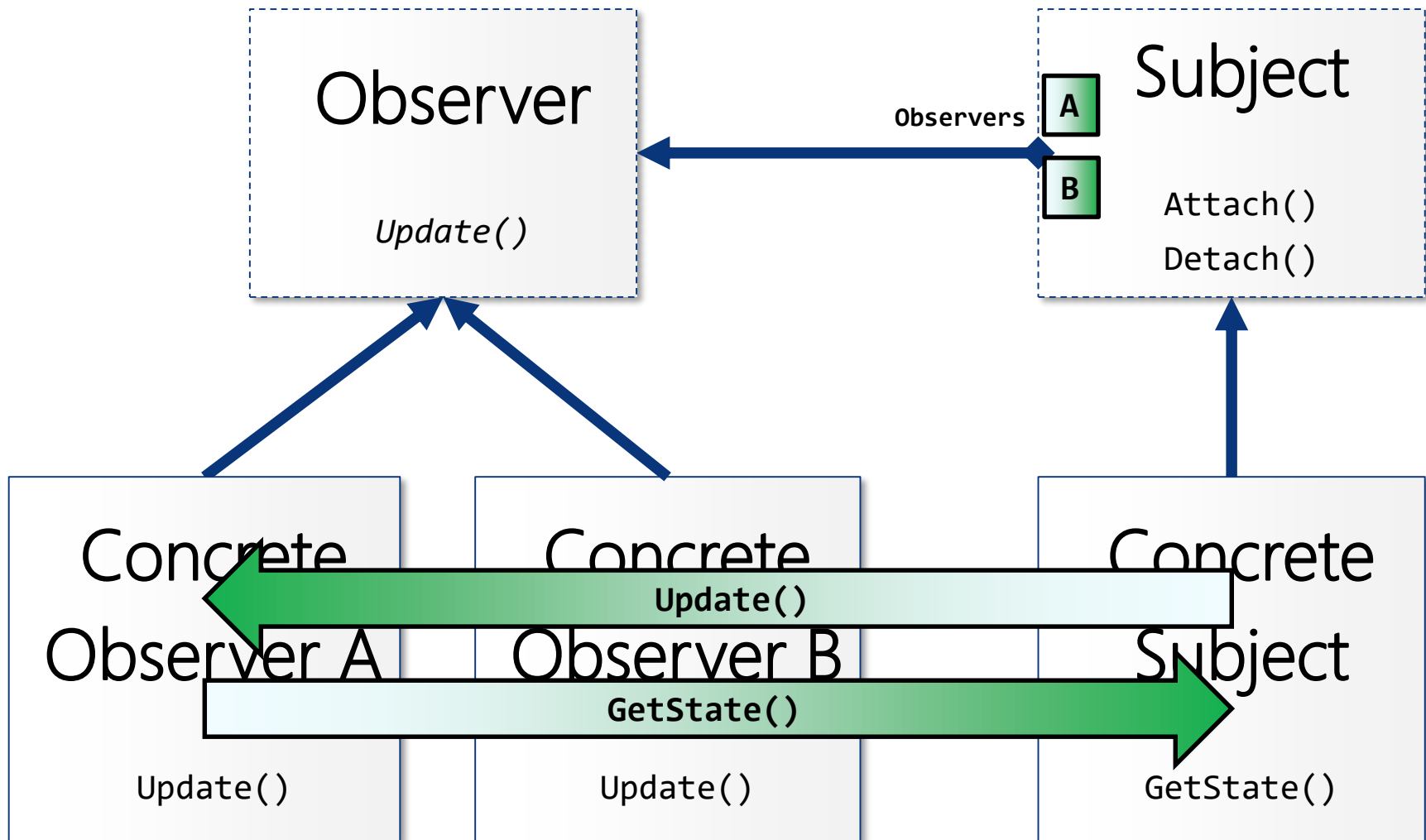
# Original Observer Pattern



# Original Observer (Registration)

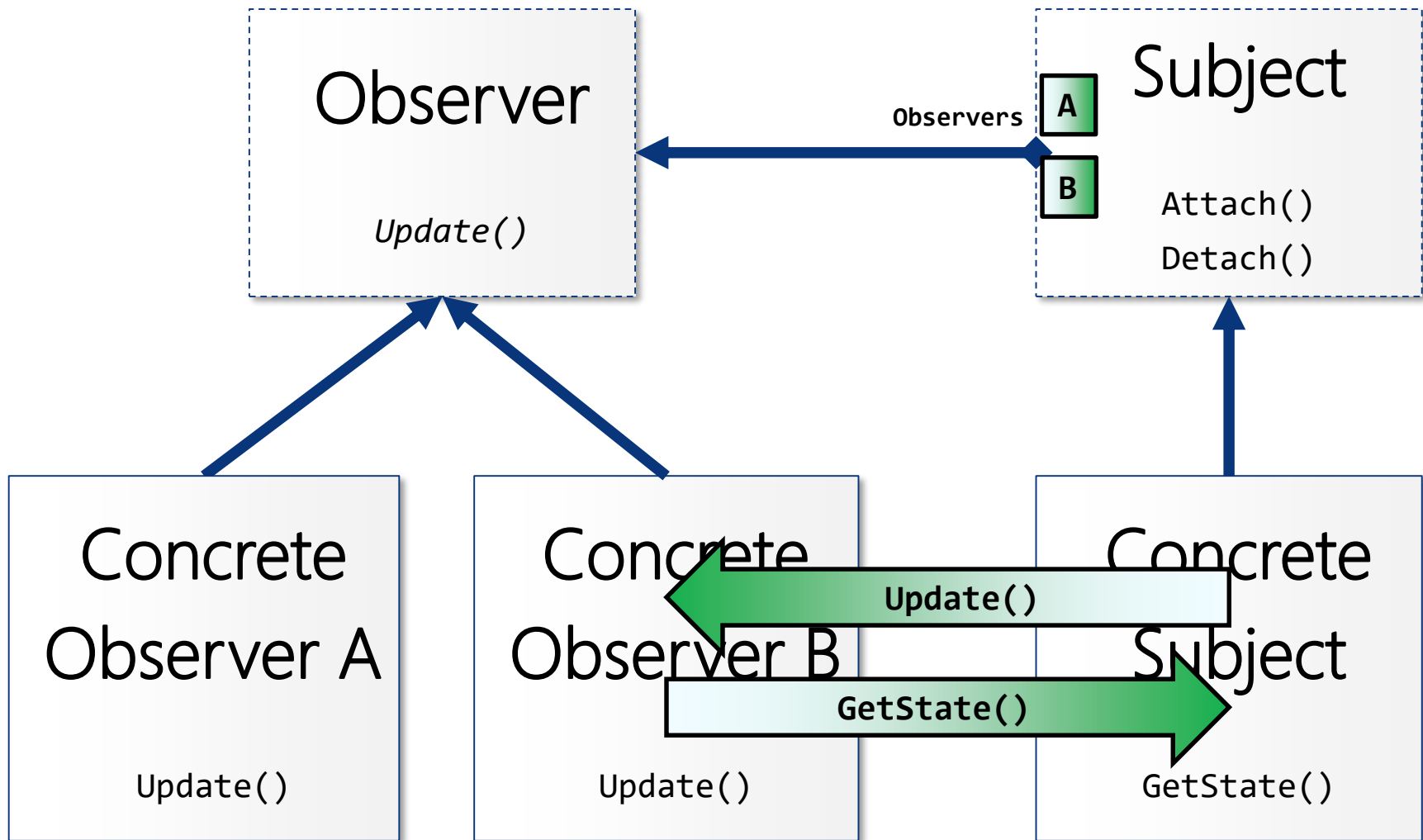


# Original Observer (Update)

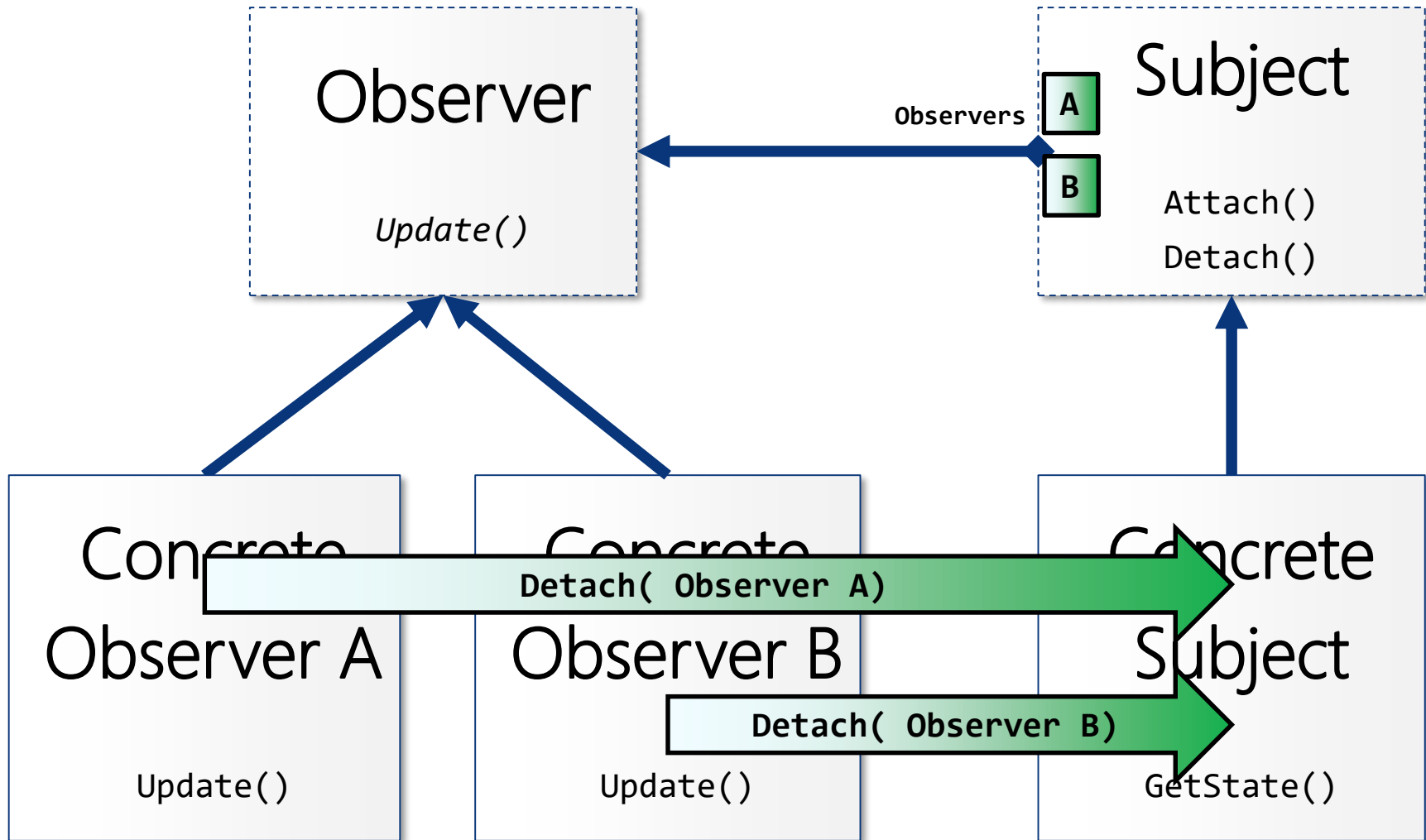




# Original Observer Pattern (Update)

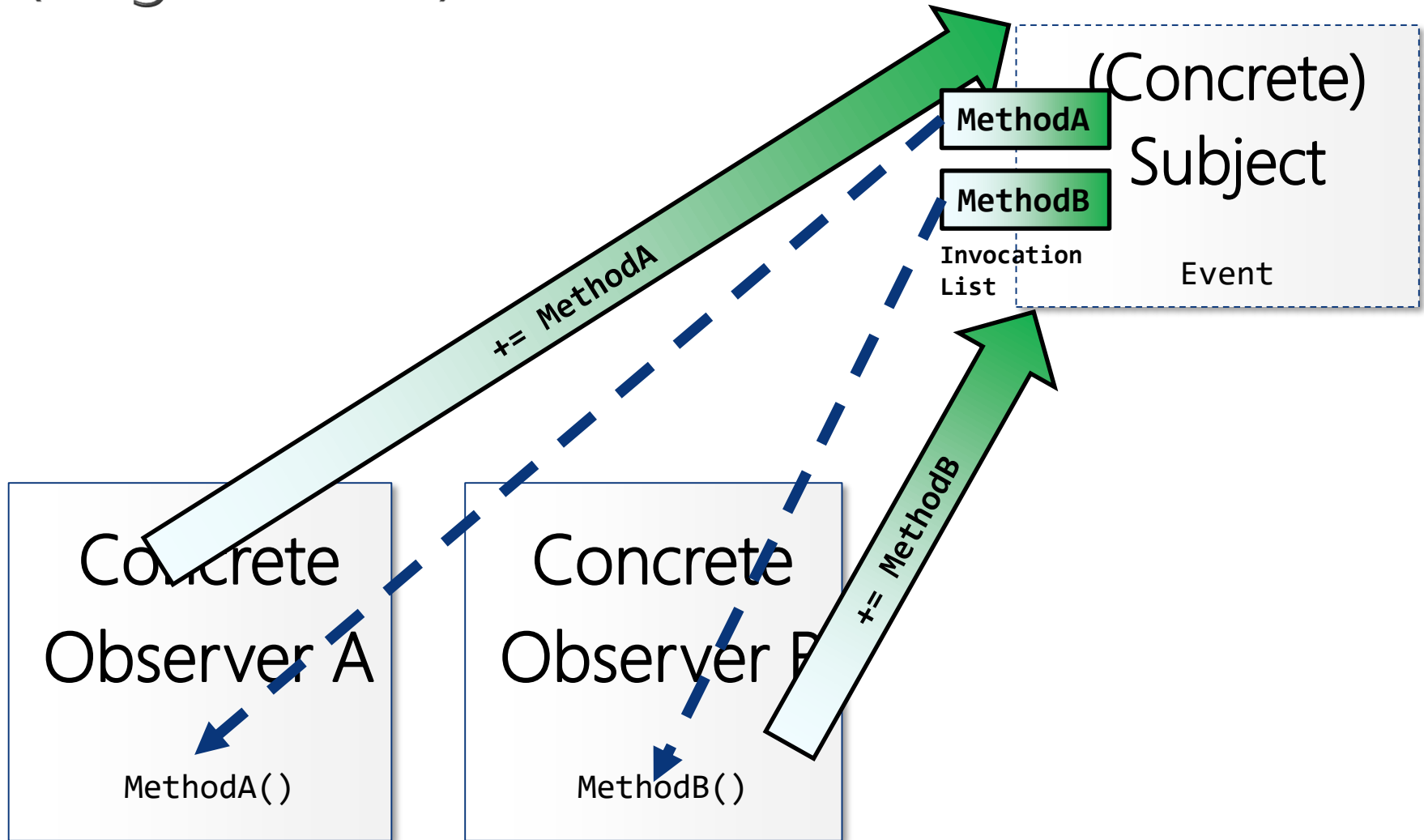


# Original Observer (Deregistration)



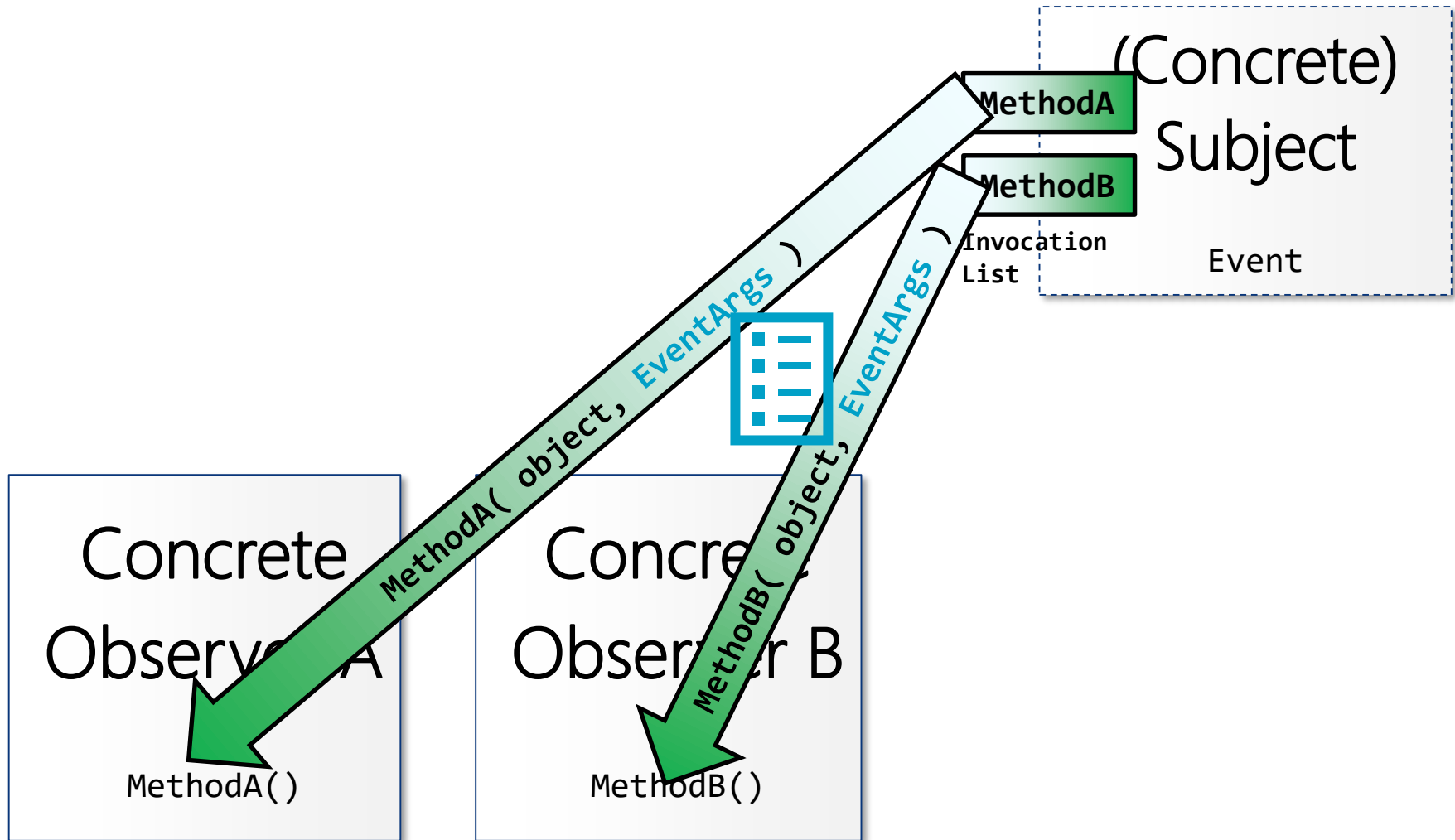


# .NET Observer Pattern: Events (Registration)



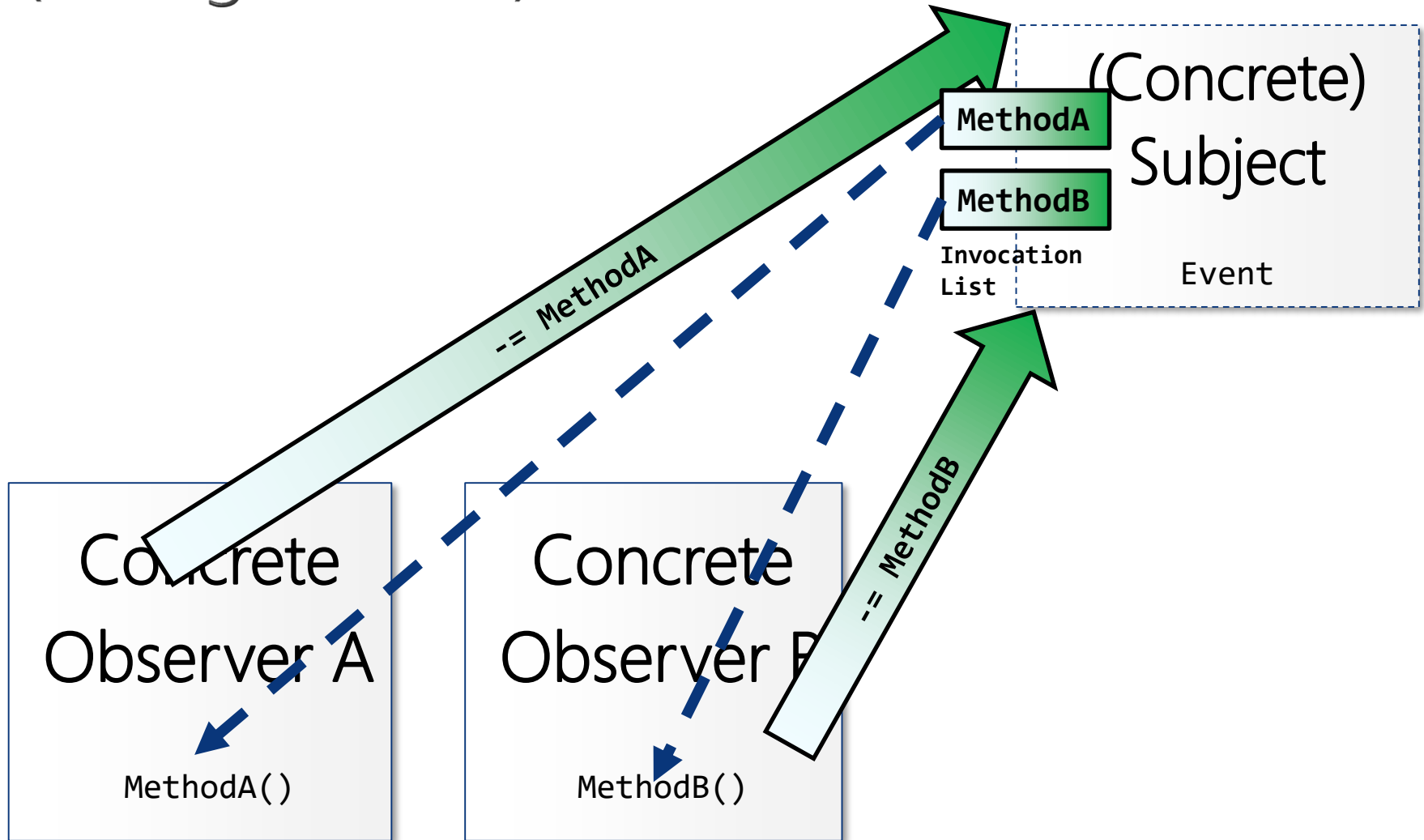


# .NET Observer Pattern: Events (Update)





# .NET Observer Pattern: Events (Deregistration)



# Overview of Observer Pattern

- ▶ (Concrete) Subject
  - Class with event **Event** defined
    - Specifies **EventArgs** class with state
  - Raises event when there is new state (**EventArgs** object) to notify observers
- ▶ Concrete Observer
  - Concrete class with **Method()** of same signature as **Event**
  - Registers with **+=**
  - Receives state from Subject through **EventArgs** object
  - Deregisters with **-=**

# Pros and Cons of Observer

## ► Pros

- Very easy to use
- Supported by native syntax in C#
- Used extensively throughout all of .NET
- Much simpler, nicer, and cleaner than original Observer Pattern
- Works elegantly with many-to-many relationships

## ► Cons

- Danger of resource leaks
  - Consider deregistering observer! Maybe IDisposable? But...
  - Cannot deregister lambda expressions and anonymous methods
- Be careful about multi-threading and serialization
- No obvious way of propagating Subject errors to Observer

# **IObservable<T> and IObservable<T>**

- ▶ More modern Observer Pattern interfaces were added in .NET 4.0 (See Lab 23.1)

```
public interface IObservable<out T>
{
    IDisposable Subscribe( IObservable<T> observer );
}
```

```
public interface IObservable<in T>
{
    void OnCompleted();
    void OnError( Exception error );
    void OnNext( T value );
}
```





WINCUBATE

Jesper Gulmann Henriksen

PhD, MCT, MCSD, MCPD

Phone : +45 22 12 36 31

Email : [jgh@wincubate.net](mailto:jgh@wincubate.net)

WWW : <http://www.wincubate.net>

Ringgårdsvej 4A

8270 Højbjerg

Denmark