

ANNA + HANNAH #ABOUTUS

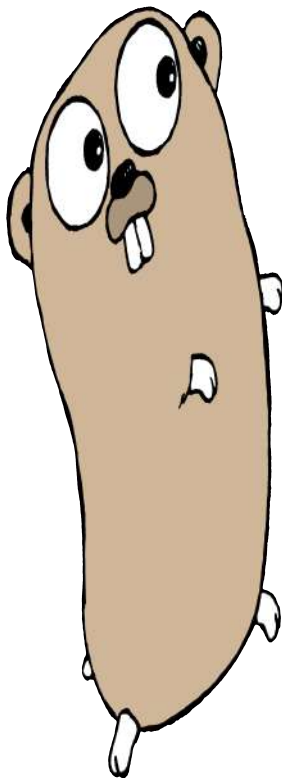


Anna
Neyzberg
@Aneyzb
she/her

Hannah Howard
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she/her

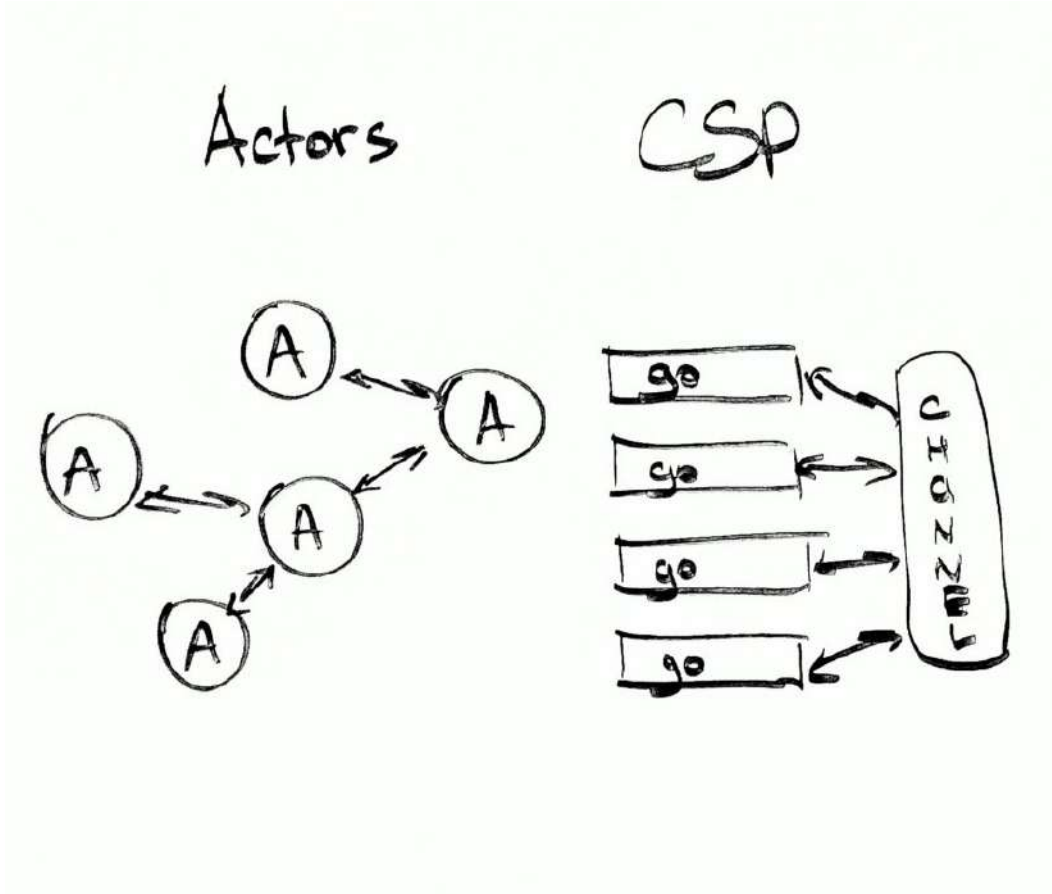
anna@carb
onfive.com
hannah@ca
rbonfive.co
m

GO VS. ELIXIR



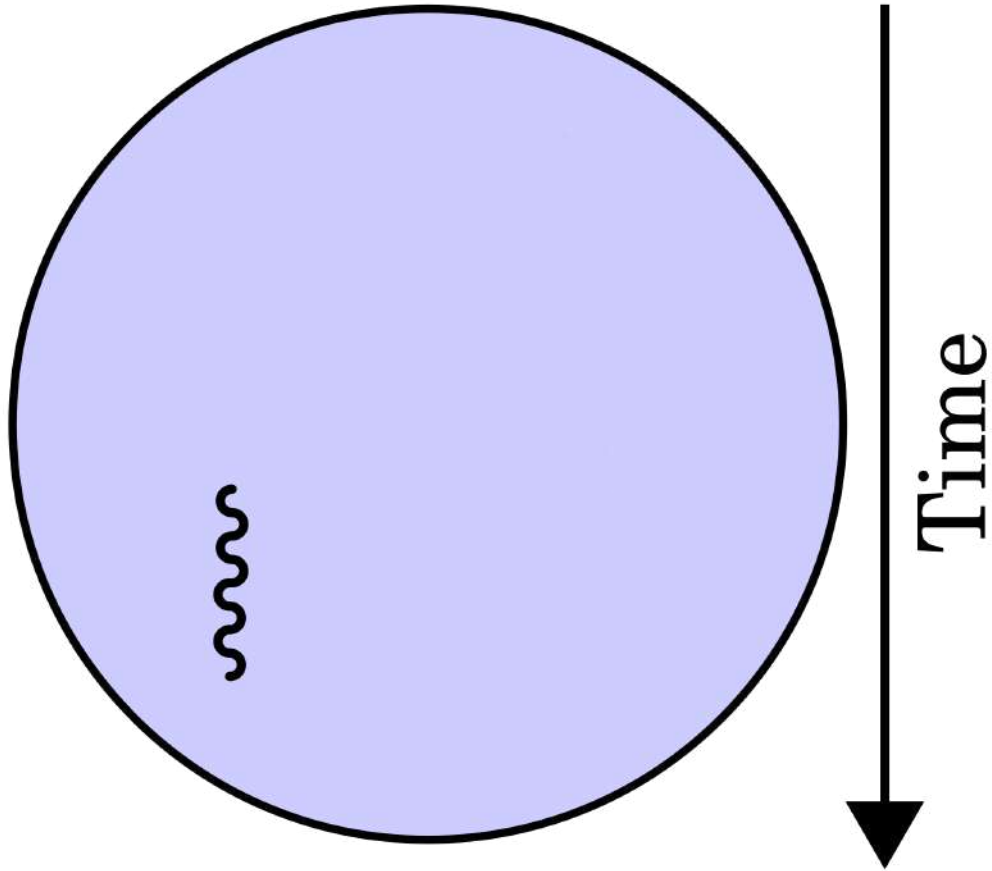
A Concurrency Comparison



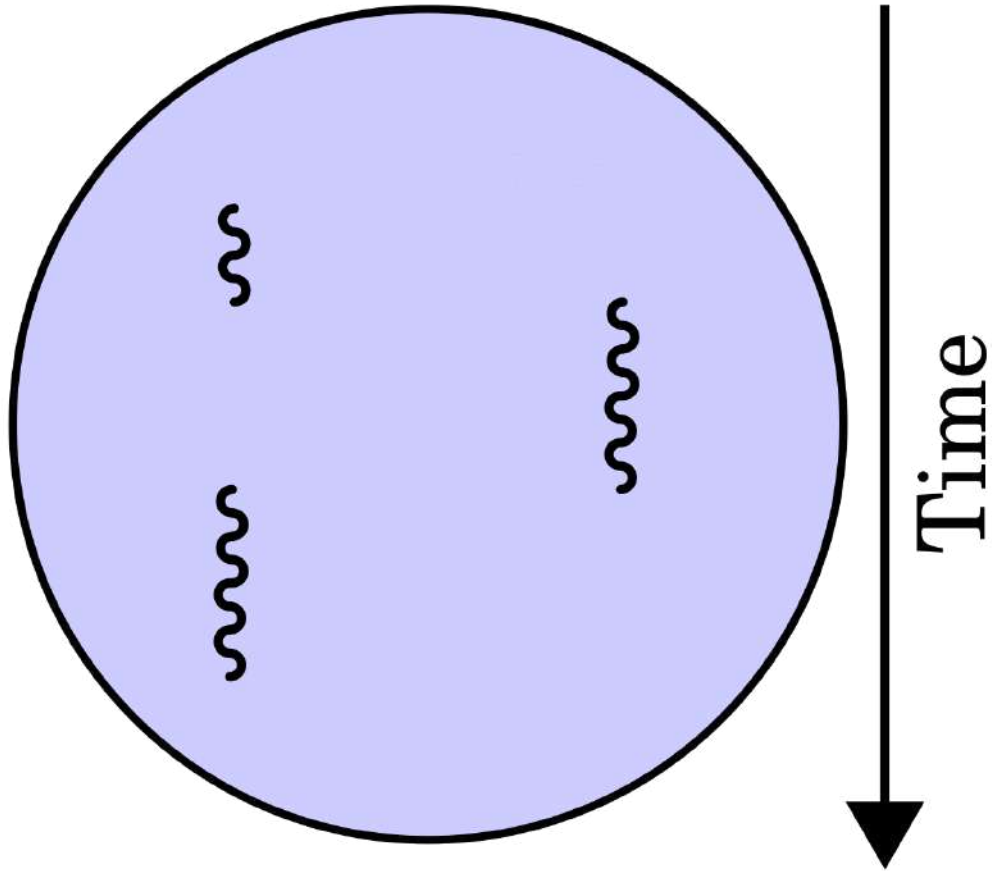


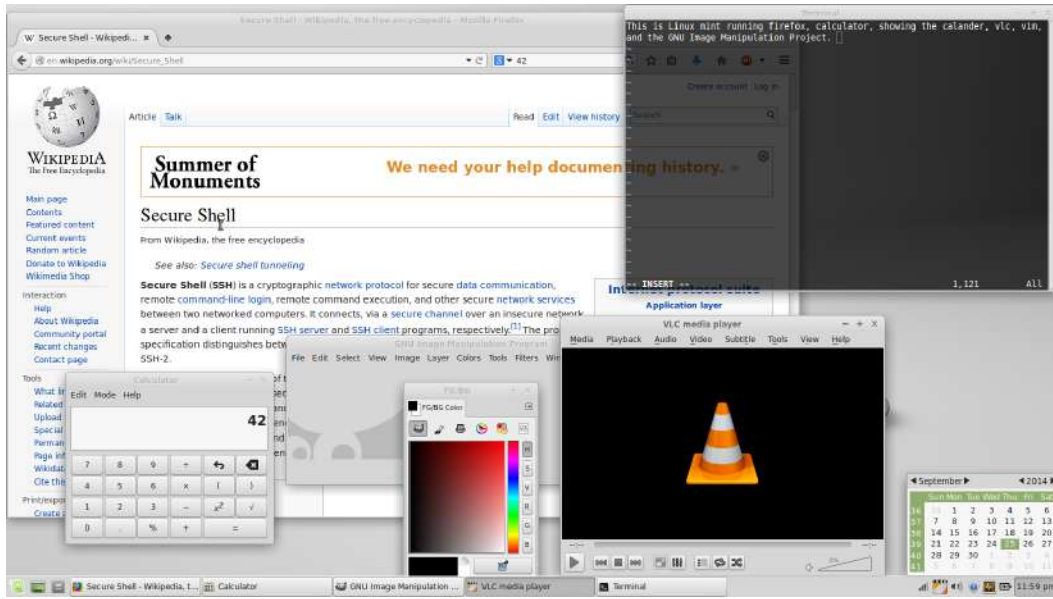


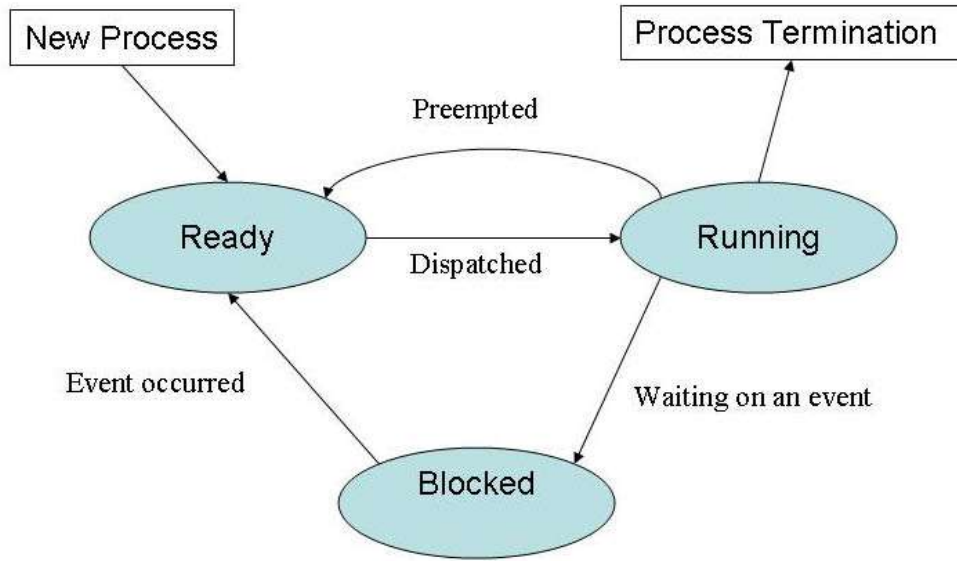
Process



Process

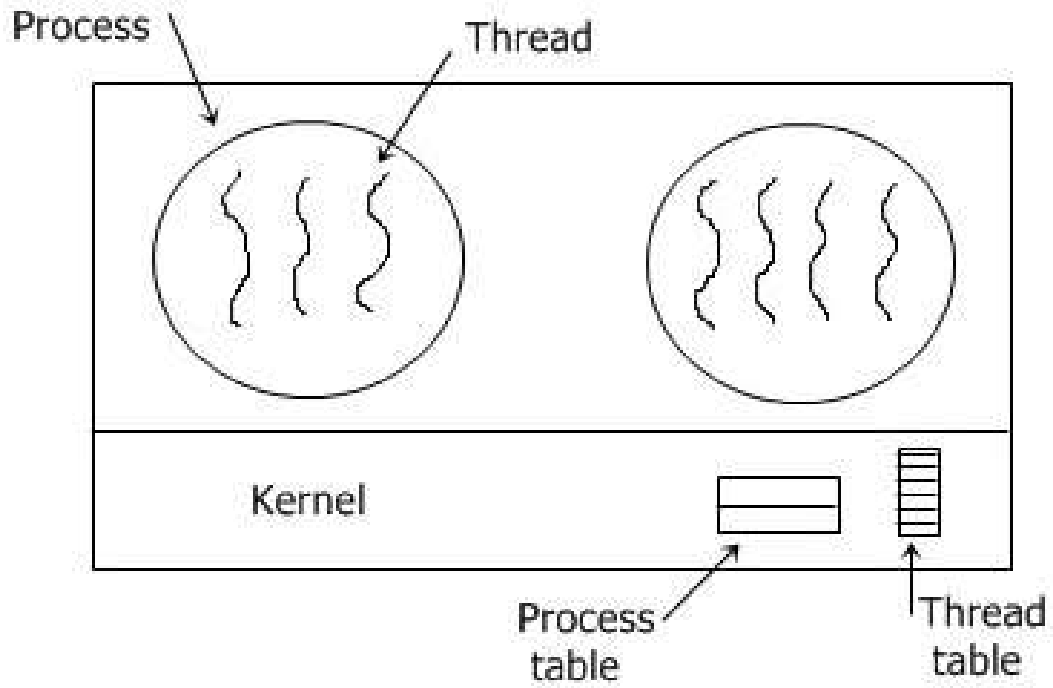






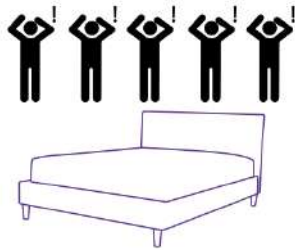
**BUT WE ALSO
HAVE**



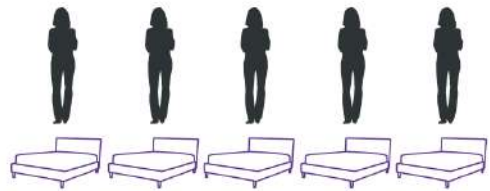


**SO HOW IS
THIS
RELEVANT?**

Concurrency Complex co-ordination



Parallelism Simple co-ordination



**“Concurrency is
the composition of
independently
executing**

**processes, while
parallelism is the
simultaneous
execution of
computations”**

**PARALLELISM
IS ABOUT**

**EXECUTING
MANY THINGS
AT ONCE. IT'S
FOCUS IS
EXECUTION**

**CONCURRENCY
IS ABOUT
DEALING WITH
MANY THINGS
AT ONCE. IT'S
FOCUS IS
STRUCTURE**

**THIS REQUIRES
COORDINATION**

COORDINATION INTRODUCES COMPLEXITY...

**HOW DO WE
COORDINATE
BETWEEN
TASKS
WORKING
TOGETHER?**

THE PROBLEM



Concurrency Without Coordination

THREADS COORDINATE BY SHARING DATA

- Use same memory space
- Use mutation on shared state to communicate
- Use various locks to prevent overwriting each others work

THREADS



Old School Concurrency

**MOST WIDELY
USED
PROGRAMMING
LANGUAGES
SUPPORT
THREADS.**

MO THREADS



Mo Problems

CHALLENGES WITH THREADS

1. Lots of shared mutable state
2. Dead locks / unpredictability
3. Exponential complexity to manage

THE ACTOR MODEL

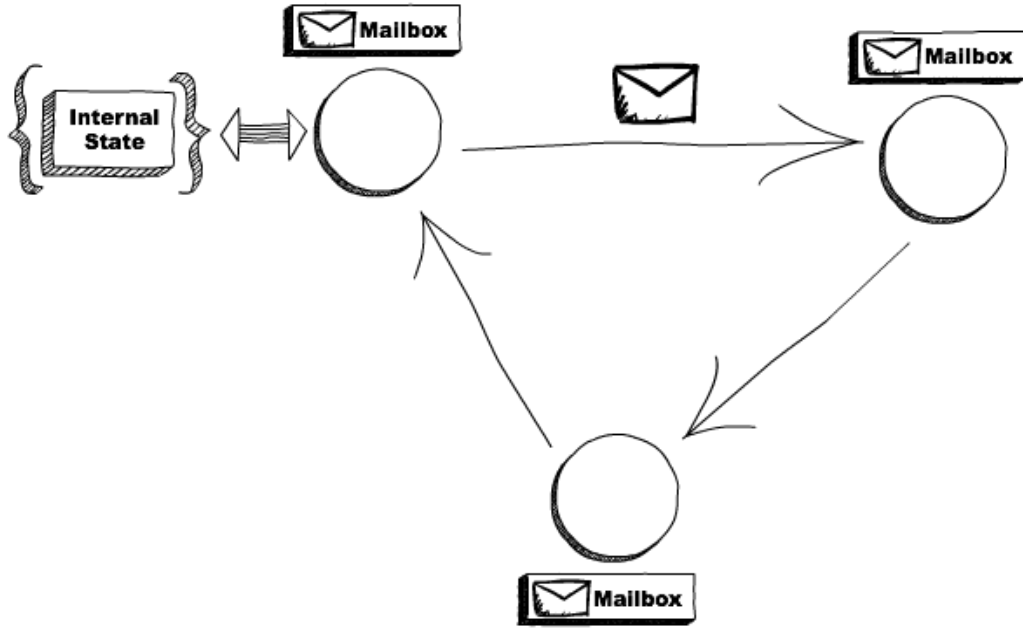
**INVENTED BY
CARL HEWITT
1973**

ERLANG CREATED IN 1986

CONCEPTUAL MODEL TO DEAL WITH CONCURRENT COMPUTATION

**DEFINES
SOME
GENERAL
RULES FOR**

**HOW THE
SYSTEM'S
COMPONENTS
SHOULD
BEHAVE AND
INTERACT
WITH EACH
OTHER**



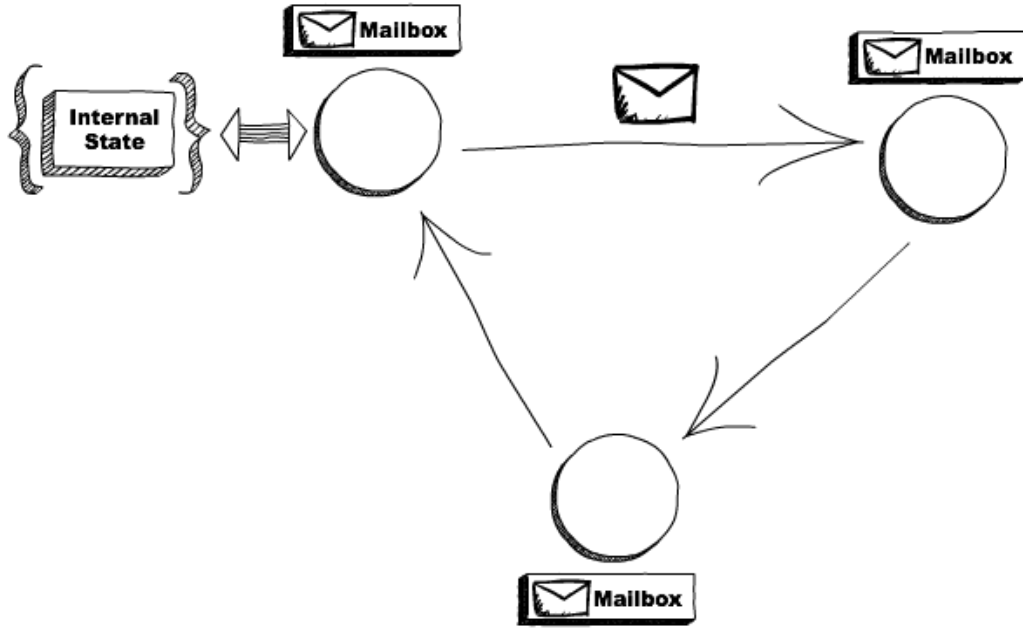
One ant is no ant.

- <https://www.briantorti.com/the-actor-model/>



mail sending





PROCESSES

1. Are not OS processes
2. Light weight
3. Do not share memory
4. Have a unique ID

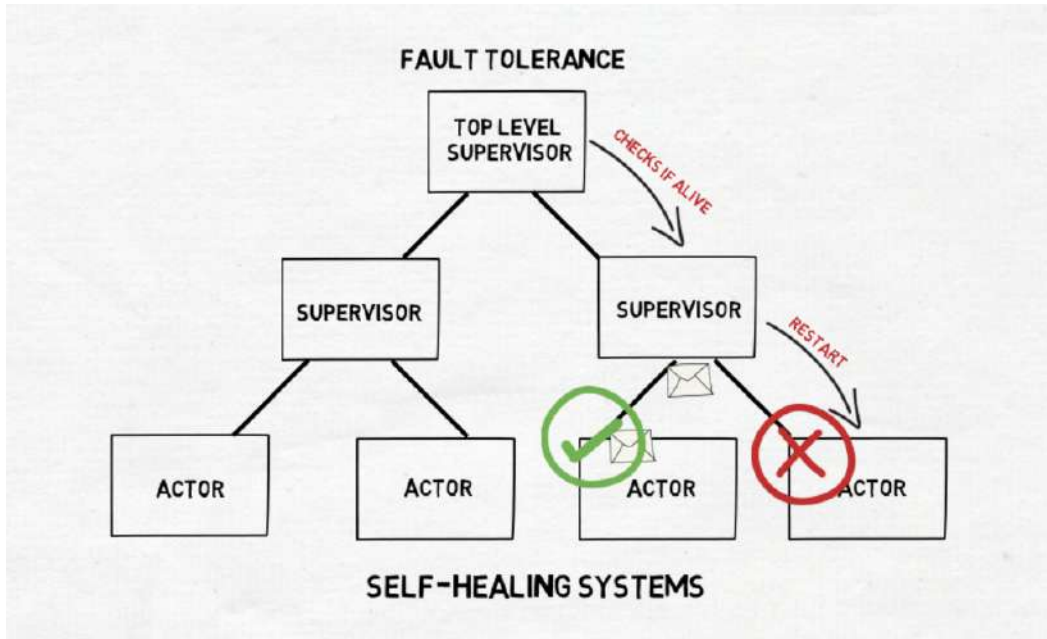
THE ACTOR MODEL IS PHYSICALLY BASED

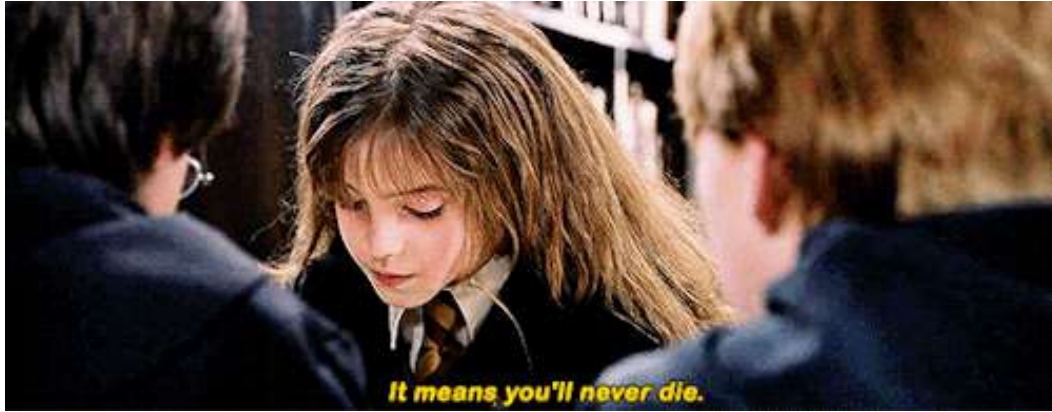




DISTRIBUTED ELIXIR

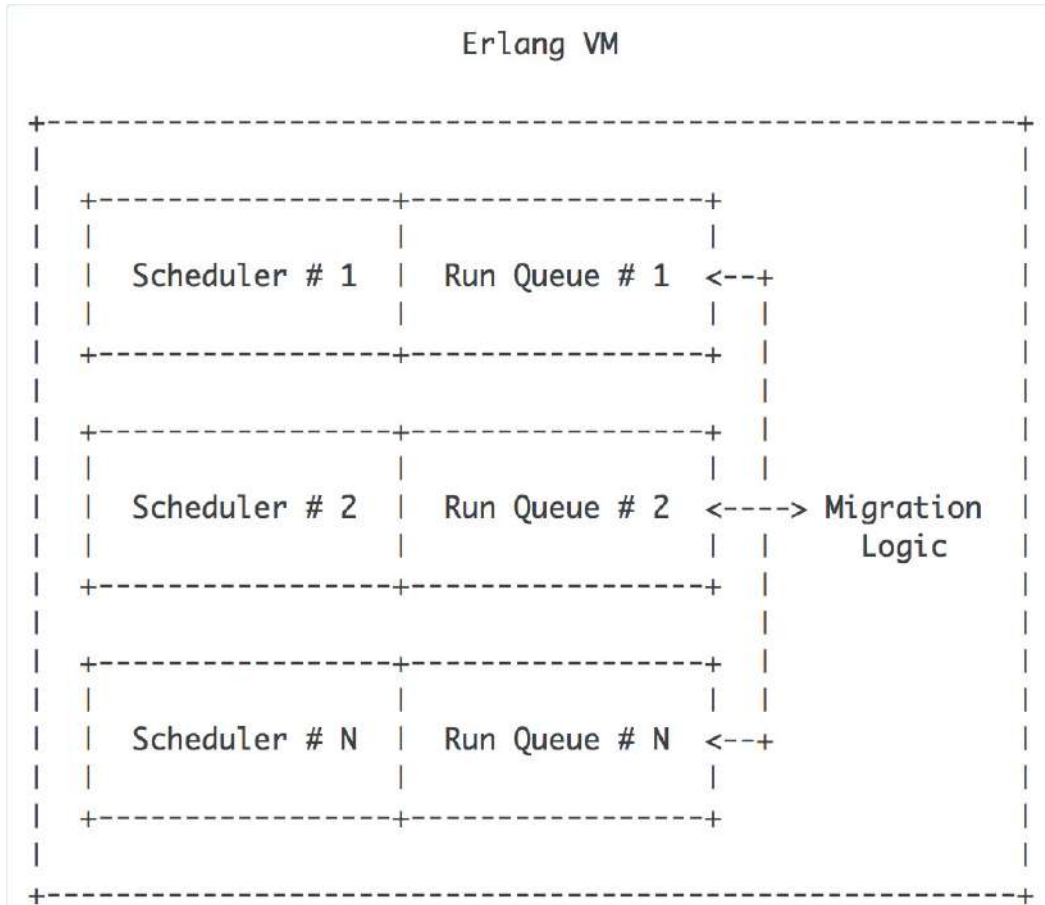
LET IT CRASH





THE BEAM

PREEMPTIVE SCHEDULING



ELIXIR PRIORITIES

1. Scalable
2. Fault Tolerant (Telco Strong)
3. Fast

GO AND CSP

CSP:

Communicating Sequential Processes

PROCESS



CSP PROCESS != OS PROCESS

CHANNELS



**PROCESSES
KNOW
CHANNELS,
NOT OTHER
PROCESSES**

CHOICE:

Processes choose behavior by listening
on multiple channels

LOOKING AT CSP IN GO


```
1. package main
2.
3. import "fmt"
4.
5. func read(incoming chan<- string, done chan<-
struct{}) {
6.     readValue := <-incoming
7.     fmt.Printf("%s\n", readValue)
8.     done <- true
9. }
10.
11. func write(outgoing chan<- string, done chan<-
struct{}) {
12.     outgoing <- "bananas"
```

**SYNCHRONOUS
CHANNELS =
COORDINATION**

Choice in Go with select!

HOW GO IMPLEMENTS CSP

**A goroutine is a
lightweight thread
managed by the Go
runtime.**

- Official Tour Of Go

GOROUTINES SHARE MEMORY



stares Britnely

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE..

Sync Package:

**ALL THE
THREAD SYNC
PRIMITIVES, IN
GO!**

**Do not
communicate by
sharing memory;
instead, share
memory by
communicating.**

- Go Docs

This approach can be taken too far. Reference counts may be best done by putting a mutex around an integer variable, for instance. But as a high-level approach, using channels to control access makes it easier to write clear, correct programs.

- Also Go Docs

Other Go Fun Fact:
GO ROUTINES ARE SCHEDULED COOPERATIVELY!

WTF GO?



GO COMPILES TO NATIVE CODE

GO RUN-TIME IS SMALL (2MB)

GO IS (ALMOST) A SYSTEMS PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

GO PRIORITIES

1. Ease of adoption
2. Speed
3. Flexibility

CSP VS ACTOR MODEL

CSP AND ACTOR MODEL SIMILARITIES

1. Abstract 'processes' managed by runtime
2. Share data by communicating/message passing

**Erlang's syntax
derived from
Prolog and was
heavily influenced
by smalltalk, CSP
and the functional
programming.**

- Joe Armstrong, Erlang Creator

Difference #1:

PROCESS IDENTITY

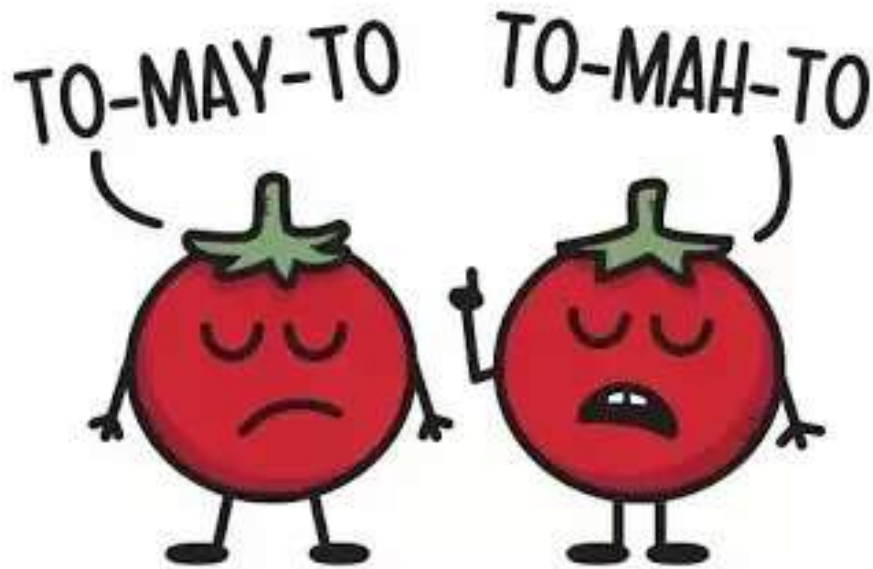
Difference #2:

DIRECT COMMUNICATION VS CHANNELS

Difference #3:

ASYNCHRONOUS VS SYNCHRONOUS MESSAGE PASSING

NO SO DIFFERENT AFTER ALL?



HOW TO GIVE CSP PROCESS AN IDENTITY

- 1 CSP channel
- + 1 CSP Process Reading From Channel
- = Channel Becomes De-facto Identity

HOW TO PASS CSP MESSAGES ASYNCHRONOUSLY

- Message Queue Process
- + Channel For Sending
- + Channel For Receiving
- = Asynchronous Message Passing

BUILDING AN UNBOUNDED CHANNEL IN GO:

<https://medium.com/capital-one-tech/building-an-unbounded-channel-in-go-789e175cd2cd>

A GenServer in Go!

```
1. package counter
2.
3. type counterMessage interface {
4.     handle(c * Counter)
5. }
6.
7. type Counter struct {
8.     counterMessages chan counterMessage
9.
10.    // do not touch outside run loop
11.    value int
```

HOW DO WE IMPLEMENT CHANNELS IN ELIXIR?:

```
1. defmodule ElixirConcurrency.Queue do
2.   def new(max_size) do
3.     { :queue.new, 0, max_size }
4.   end
5.
6.   def new(:unbuffered) do
7.     { :queue.new, 0, :unbuffered }
8.   end
9.
10.  def put(bounded_queue, item ) do
11.    case bounded_queue do
12.      { queue, len, :unbuffered } ->
if queue unbuffered
15.      { queue, len, max_size } ->
16.        if len == max_size do
17.          { :buffered, queue }
```

CONCLUSIONS

THANK YOU!



<http://concurrency.techgirlwonder.com>