

# Clixir

(or: How to abuse Elixir macros for fun and profit)

<http://bit.ly/2019clixirSF>

# Intro: yours truly

Smalltalk  
Uniface PHP  
68k-asm  
DCL Perl  
r4000-asm Scala  
Pascal  
JavaC Ruby Elixir  
Progress C++  
x86-asm Fortran sh  
Prolog  
Python

# Intro: PagerDuty



A word cloud of various technologies and frameworks, including JS, ElasticSearch, Consul, Rails, Terraform, React, Memcached, Ember, Ruby, Scala, Elixir, Kafka, AWS, Phoenix, Nomad, MySQL, and Chef.

JS  
ElasticSearch  
Consul RAILS  
Terraform  
React Memcached  
Ember  
Ruby  
Scala  
Elixir  
Kafka AWS Phoenix  
Nomad MySQL  
Chef

# Background



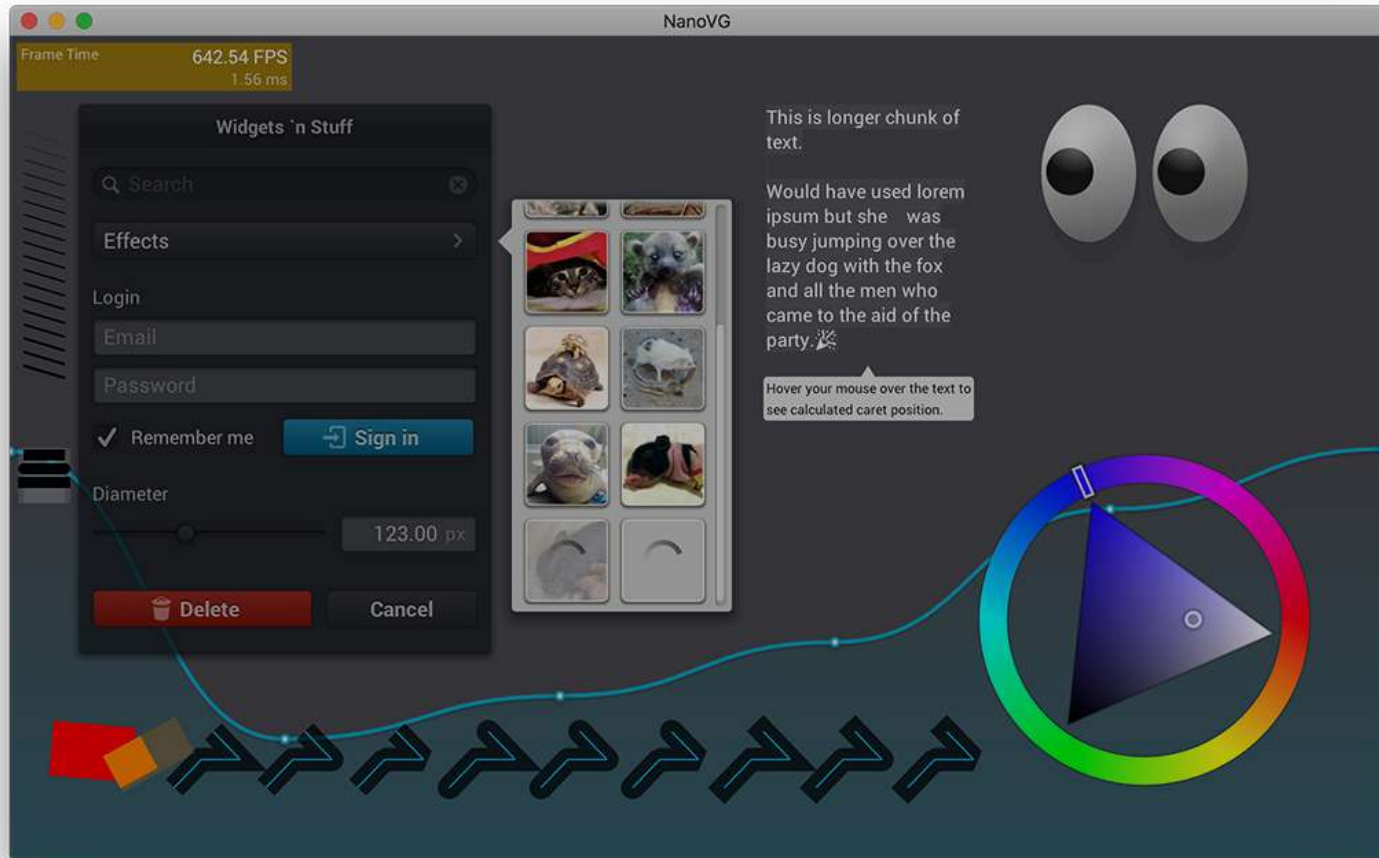
# Requirements



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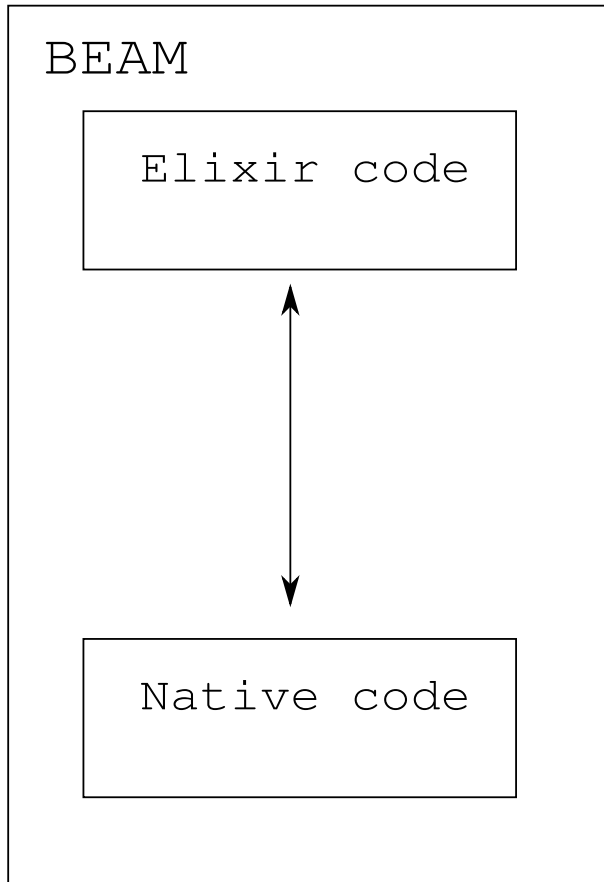


# Requirements

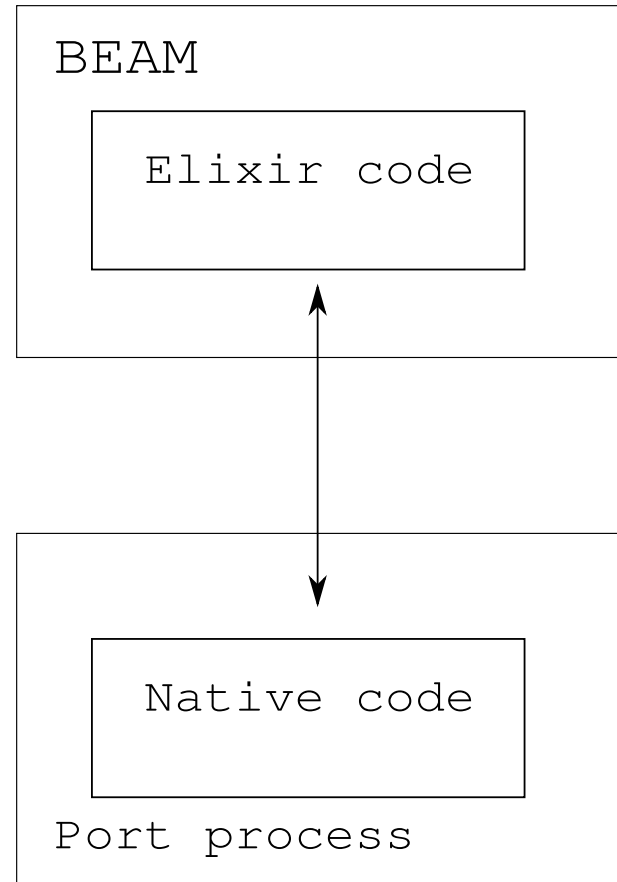


# NIFs and Ports

## NIF



## Port





# Using ports: sending arguments

```
bytes = :erlang.term_to_binary("world")  
Port.command(my_port, bytes)
```

# Using ports: decoding arguments

```
static void hello(const char *buf, unsigned short len) {  
    char message[65536];  
    long message_len;  
    int index = 0;  
    assert(ei_decode_binary(buf, &index, message, &message_len) == 0);  
    message[message_len] = '\\0';  
    fprintf(stderr, "Hello, %s!\\n", message);  
}
```

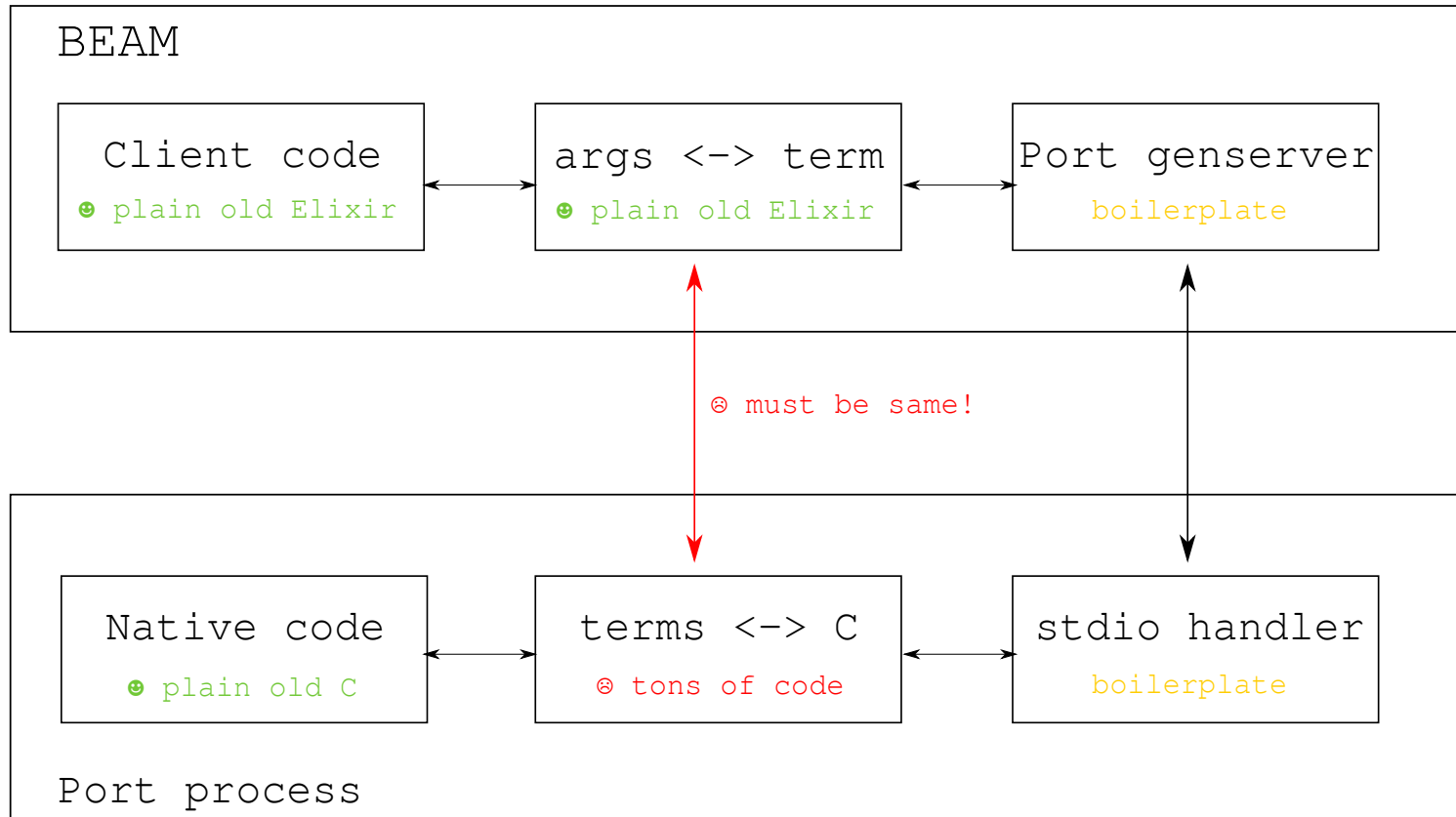
# Using ports: encoding responses

```
static void make_window() {
    char response[65536];
    int response_index = 0;
    GLFWwindow *window = ...; // actually make window
    ei_encode_version(response, &response_index);
    ei_encode_tuple_header(response, &response_index, 2);
    ei_encode_pid(response, &response_index, &pid);
    ei_encode_tuple_header(response, &response_index, 2);
    ei_encode_atom(response, &response_index, "ok");
    ei_encode_longlong(response, &response_index, (long long) window);
    fwrite(response, response_index, 1, stdout);
}
```

# Using ports: decoding responses

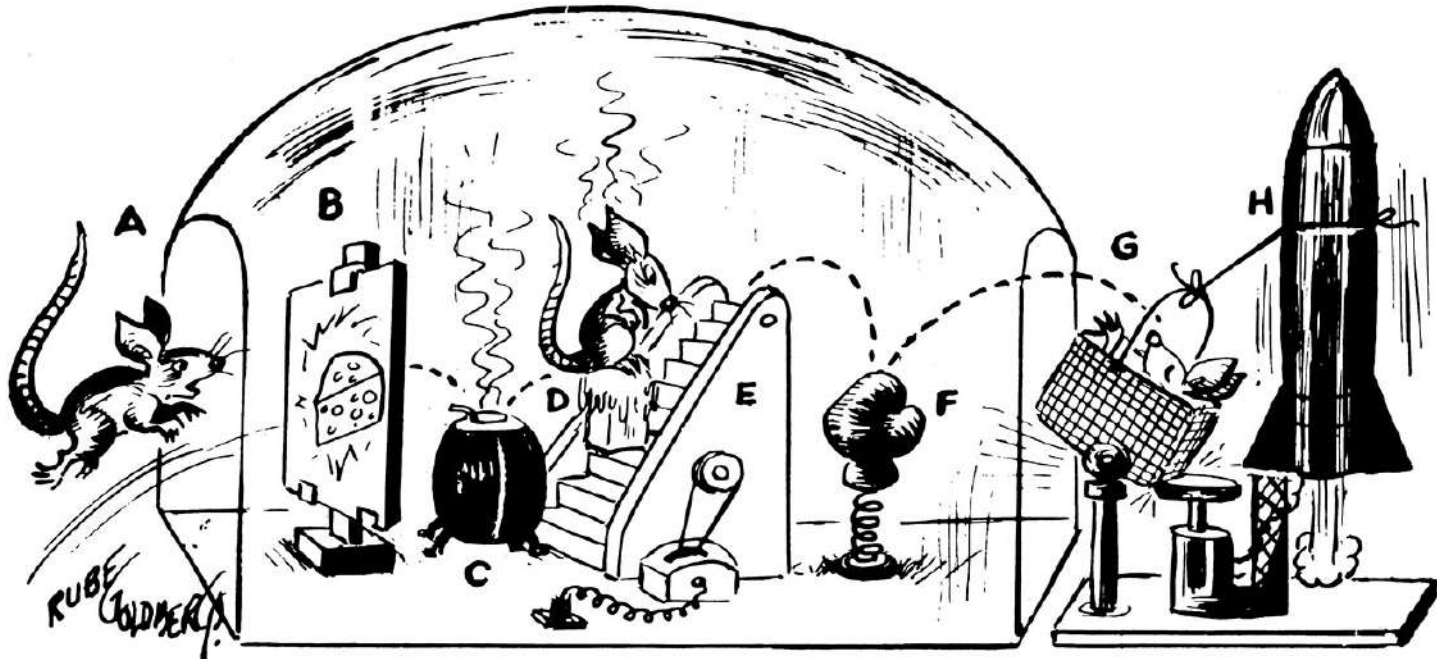
```
{:ok, handle} = :erlang.binary_to_term(bytes)
```

# Putting it all together



# Let's go wild

## *How to Get Rid of a Mouse*

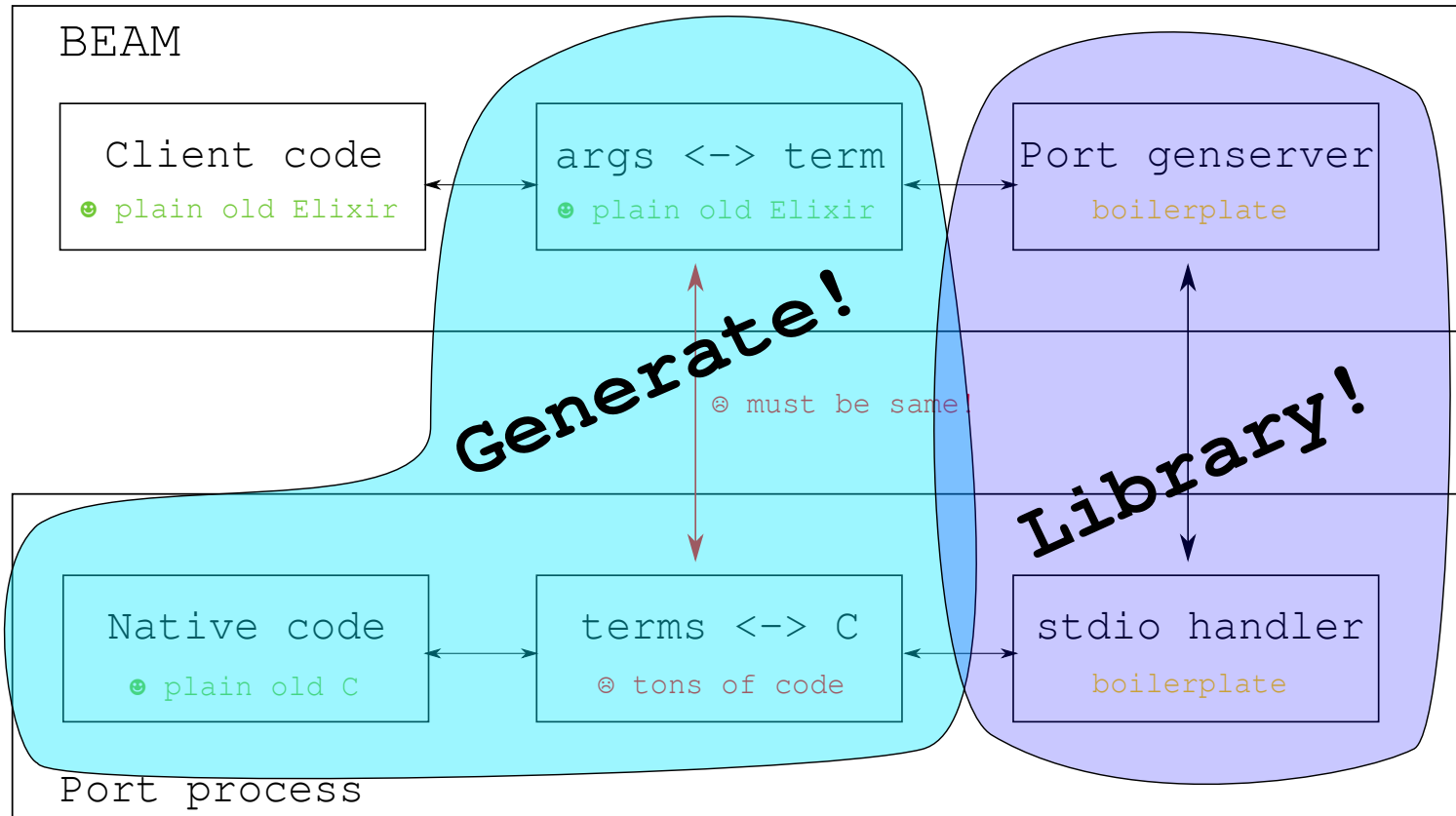


Drawn for *Newsweek* by Rube Goldberg

The best mousetrap by Rube Goldberg: Mouse (A) dives for painting of cheese (B), goes through canvas and lands on hot stove (C). He jumps on cake of ice (D)

to cool off. Moving escalator (E) drops him on boxing glove (F) which knocks him into basket (G) setting off miniature rocket (H) which takes him to the moon.

# Let's go wild



# An Example

```
defmodule Example do
  use Clixir

  @clixir_header "example"

  def_c hello(message) do
    cdecl "char *": message

    # I am C code!
    fprintf(stderr, "Hello, %s!\n", message)
  end
end

...
# Somewhere in your application code
Example.hello("world")
```



# Stepping through: Clixir startup

```
def init([]) do
  app = Application.get_env(:clixir, :application)
  Logger.info("Starting clixir process from application #{app}")
  clixir_bin = Application.app_dir(app, "priv/clixir")
  port = Port.open({:spawn, clixir_bin},
    [{:packet, 2}, :binary, :exit_status])
  {:ok, %State{port: port}}
end
```

# Stepping through: Elixir code

```
def hello(message) do
  Clixir.Server.send_command(Clixir.Server, {:Elixir_Example_hello, message})
end
```

# Stepping through: Clixir server

```
def send_command(pid, command) do
  :ok = GenServer.cast(pid, {:send, command})
end

def handle_cast({:send, command}, state) do
  Logger.debug("sending message #{inspect command}")
  bytes = :erlang.term_to_binary(command)
  Port.command(state.port, bytes)
  {:noreply, state}
end
```

# Stepping through: Clixir dispatch

```
void clixir_read_loop() {  
    char buffer[65536];  
    while (1) {  
        // simplified...  
        unsigned short size = read_packet_size();  
        read(STDIN_FILENO, buffer, size);  
        handle_command(buffer, size);  
    }  
}
```

# Stepping through: Clixir dispatch

```
void handle_command(command, length) {  
    // simplified ...  
    ei_term term = decode_term(command);  
    dispatch_command(term);  
}
```

# Sidebar: gperf

A perfect hash function is a hash function that has no collisions.

- `gperf` generates a perfect hash function from input

```
"Elixir_Example_hello", _dispatch_Elixir_Example_hello
```

- maps the name into a pointer to the generated dispatch code in 2 memory lookups

# Stepping through: Generated C

```
static void _dispatch_Elixir_Example_hello(const char *buf, unsigned short len,
                                           int *index) {
    char message[BUF_SIZE];
    long message_len;
    assert(ei_decode_binary(buf, index, message, &message_len) == 0);
    message[message_len] = '\0';

    // recognize this bit??
    fprintf(stderr, "Hello, %s!\n", message);
}
```

# Returning values

```
def_c abs(value, pid) do
  cdecl long: [value, result]
  cdecl erlang_pid: pid

  if value < 0 do
    result = value * -1
  else
    result = value
  end
  {pid, {:ok, result}}
end
```



# Returning values

```
static void _dispatch_Elixir_Example_abs(const char *buf,
                                         unsigned short len, int *index) {
    erlang_pid pid; long result; long value;
    assert(ei_decode_long(buf, index, &value) == 0);
    assert(ei_decode_pid(buf, index, &pid) == 0);
    if (value < 0) {
        result = value * -(1);
    } else {
        result = value;    }
    char response[BUF_SIZE];
    int response_index = 0;
    ei_encode_version(response, &response_index);
    ei_encode_tuple_header(response, &response_index, 2);
    ei_encode_pid(response, &response_index, &pid);
    ei_encode_tuple_header(response, &response_index, 2);
    ei_encode_atom(response, &response_index, "ok");
    ei_encode_long(response, &response_index, result);
    write_response_bytes(response, response_index);
}
```

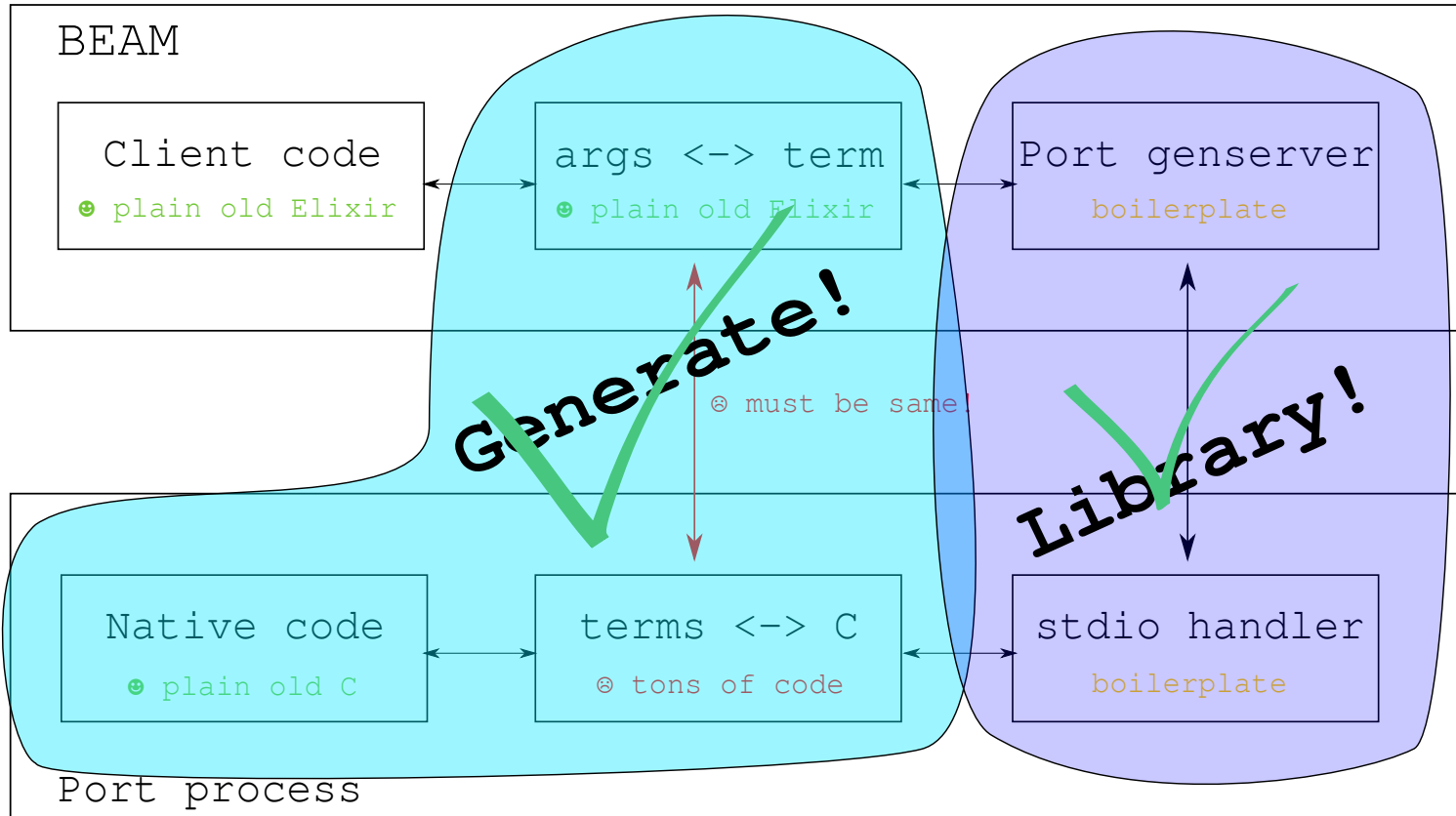
# Returning values

```
def handle_info({_port, {:data, data}}, state) do
  stuff = :erlang.binary_to_term(data)
  Logger.debug("Received response #{inspect stuff}")
  dispatch_message(stuff)
  {:noreply, state}
end

defp dispatch_message({pid, response}) when is_pid(pid) do
  send(pid, response)
end
...
```

Sync = async request + async response, very Erlang!

# Recap



# Uderzo: GenRenderer

```
defmodule Demo do
  @fps 100
  use Uderzo.GenRenderer
  def run do
    {:ok, boids} = Boids.start_link()
    Uderzo.GenRenderer.start_link(__MODULE__, "Uderzo Boids", 800, 600, @fps, boids)
    Process.sleep(:infinity)
  end
  def init_renderer(boids) do
    {:ok, boids}
  end
  def render_frame(win_width, win_height, _mx, _my, boids) do
    BoidsUi.paint_background(win_width, win_height)
    Enum.each(Boids.get_all(boids), fn {x, y, v} ->
      BoidsUi.render(win_width, win_height, x, y, v)
    end)
    {:ok, boids}
  end
end
```

# Uderzo: Clixir rendering code

```
def_c paint_background(win_width, win_height) do
  cdecl double: [win_width, win_height]
  cdecl "NVGpaint": air
  cdecl "NVGpaint": sun

  air = nvgLinearGradient(vg, win_width / 2, 0, win_width / 2, win_height, nvgRGBA(
  nvgBeginPath(vg)
  nvgRect(vg, 0, 0, win_width, win_height)
  nvgFillPaint(vg, air)
  nvgFill(vg)

  sun = nvgRadialGradient(vg, win_width * 0.8, win_height * 0.2, 0.04 * win_width,
  , 0, 0))

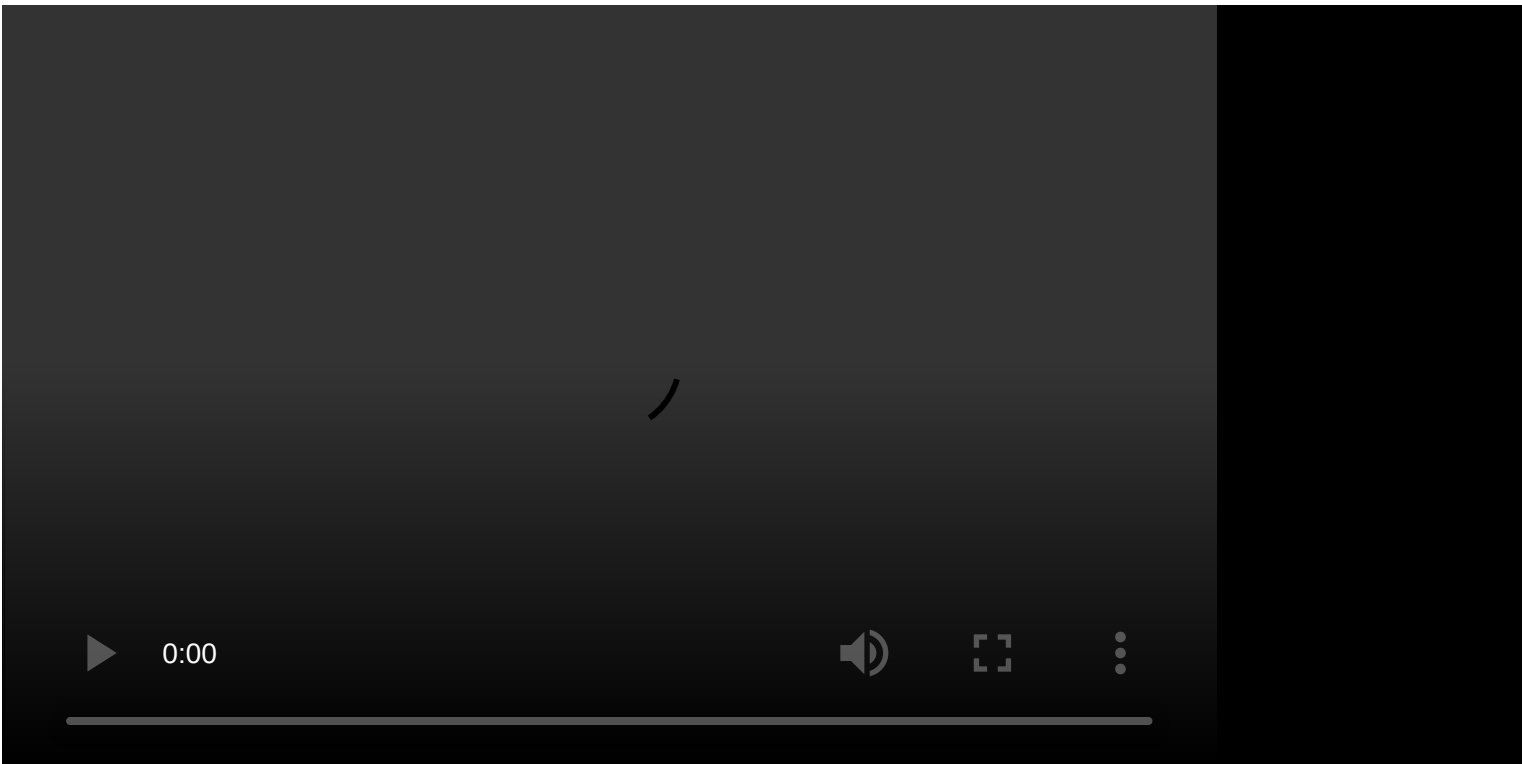
  nvgBeginPath(vg)
  nvgCircle(vg, win_width * 0.8, win_height * 0.2, 0.1 * win_width)
  nvgFillPaint(vg, sun)
  nvgFill(vg)
end
```

# Demo time!

```
cd ~/mine/palapa/boids_ui  
mix run -e Demo.run
```

# So what about...







# That's all! Questions?

Presentation: <http://bit.ly/2019clixirSF>

Code: [https://github.com/cdegroot/uderzo\\_poncho](https://github.com/cdegroot/uderzo_poncho)

Boids Demo:

[https://github.com/cdegroot/palapa/tree/master/boids\\_ui](https://github.com/cdegroot/palapa/tree/master/boids_ui)

cdegroot @

