

# There Is A New Future

Prepared for ACCU 2018

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Felix Petriconi

2018-04-14

- ▶ Started with C++ 1994
- ▶ Programmer and development manager since 2003 at MeVis Medical Solutions AG, Bremen, Germany
  - ▶ Development of medical devices in the area of mammography and breast cancer therapy (C++, Ruby)
- ▶ Programming activities:
  - ▶ Blog editor of ISO C++ website
  - ▶ Active member of C++ User Group Bremen
  - ▶ Contributor to slab's concurrency library
  - ▶ Member of ACCU conference committee
- ▶ Married with Nicole, having three children, living near Bremen, Germany
- ▶ Other interests: Classic film scores, composition

The [C++] language is too large for *anyone* to master  
So *everyone* lives within a subset

*Sean Parent, C++Now, 2012*

# Why I am here?

I saw how we used different ways to delegate work to different CPU cores

I saw how easy it is to make mistakes

I saw and still see the difficulties in maintaining the code

I listened 2015 to the CppCast with Sean Parent about Concurrency

I was impressed

I wanted to learn more

I started collaborating in his open source project for a new concurrency library

I'm having fun in learning there a lot

I care about sharing my knowledge

Why I am here?

Why are you here?

Why are you here?

Why do we have to talk about concurrency?

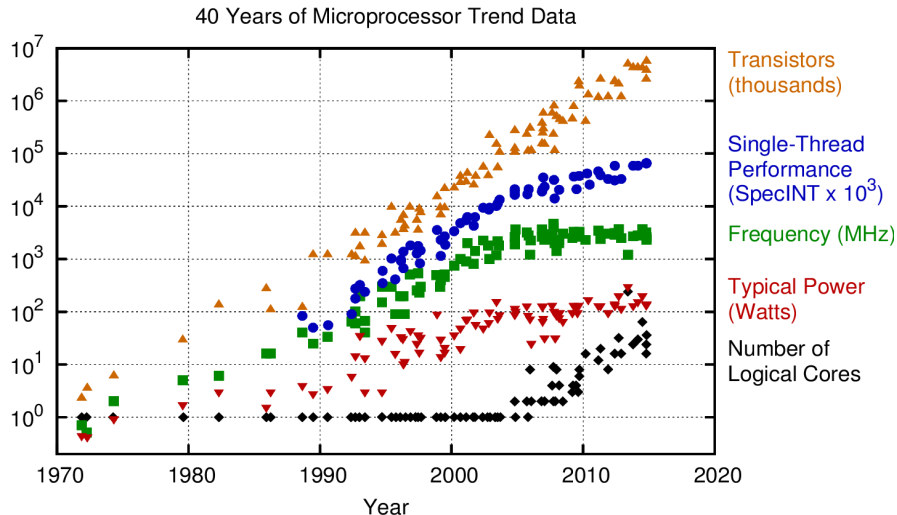
# The free lunch is over!

*Herb Sutter, 2005<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup>The Free Lunch Is Over: A Fundamental Turn Toward Concurrency in Software  
<http://www.gotw.ca/publications/concurrency-ddj.htm>

# The free lunch is over



Original data up to the year 2010 collected and plotted by M. Horowitz, F. Labonte, O. Shacham, K. Olukotun, L. Hammond, and C. Batten  
New plot and data collected for 2010-2015 by K. Rupp



# Amdahl's Law

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The Free Lunch

Amdahl's Law

# Amdahl's Law<sup>2</sup>

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$

$S$  : Speed up

$P$  : Synchronization [0 – 1]

$N$  : Number of Cores

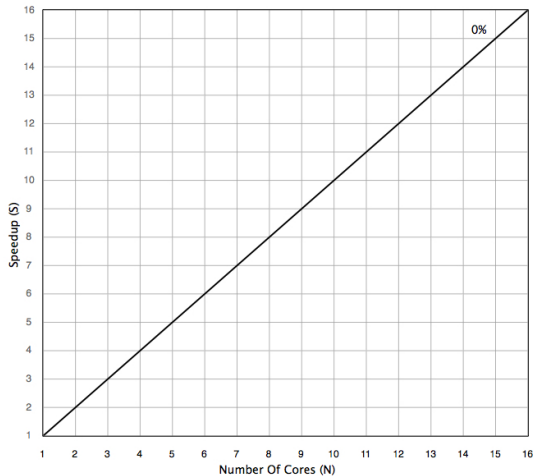
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<sup>2</sup>Presented 1967 by Gene Myron Amdahl (1922-2015)

# Amdahl's Law

## 0% Synchronization

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$
$$P = 0$$

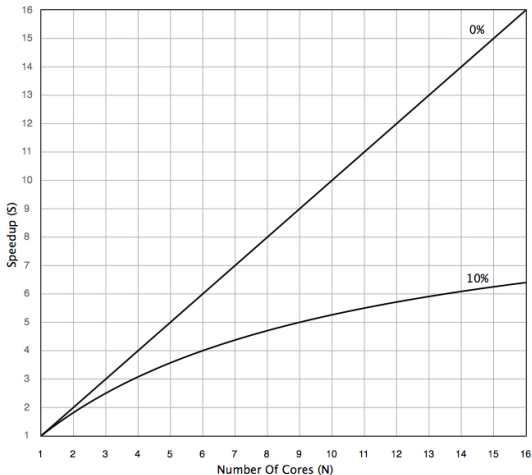


# Amdahl's Law

## 10% Synchronization

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$

$P = 0.1$

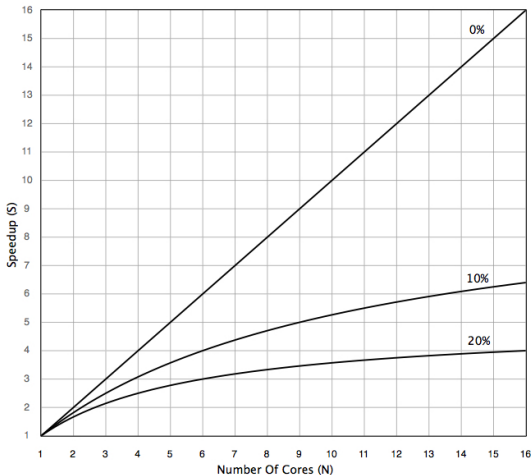


# Amdahl's Law

## 20% Synchronization

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$

$P = 0.2$

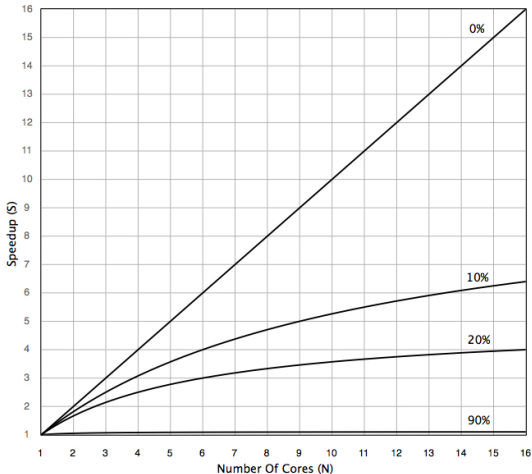


# Amdahl's Law

90% Synchronization

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$

$P = 0.9$



# How to use multiple cores?

- ▶ Individual single threaded processes
  - ▶ Multi threaded process without synchronization
  - ▶ Multi threaded process with synchronization
    - ▶ Mutex
    - ▶ Atomic
    - ▶ Semaphore
    - ▶ Memory Fence
    - ▶ Transactional Memory
- } Low level synchronization primitives
- ▶ Multi threaded process with higher level abstractions
    - ▶ Future
    - ▶ Channel
    - ▶ Actor
    - ▶ ...



- ▶ Futures provide a mechanism to separate a function  $f(\dots)$  from its result  $r$
- ▶ After the function is called the result appears "magically" later in the future
- ▶ Futures, resp. promises were invented 1977/1978 by Daniel P. Friedman, David Wise, Henry Baker and Carl Hewitt

## Futures

### Introduction

Continuation

Join

Split

Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

Futures

packaged\_task

Exceptions

Capabilities

## boost - Futures

Continuations

Join

Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

Capabilities

Futures

Exceptions

Continuation

Reduction

Error Recovery

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Executors

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## Futures

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## C++ Standard - Futures

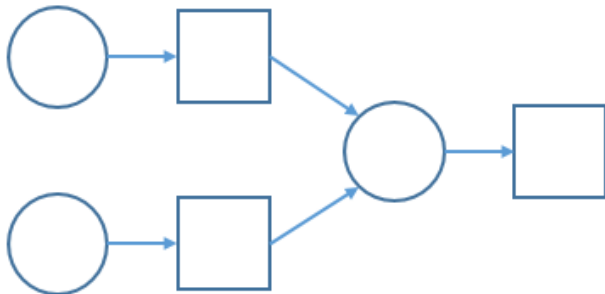
- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

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## stlab - Futures

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## Futures

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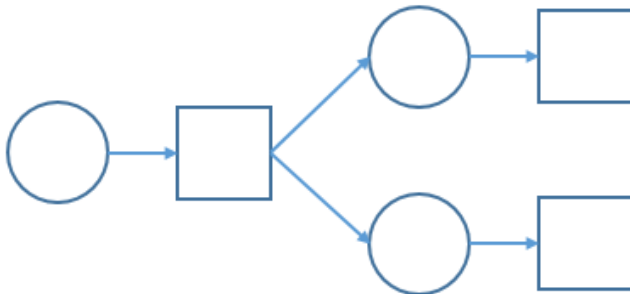
## stlab - Futures

Capabilities  
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# Future Introduction - Split

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## Futures

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Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

Futures  
packaged\_task  
Exceptions  
Capabilities

## boost - Futures

Continuations  
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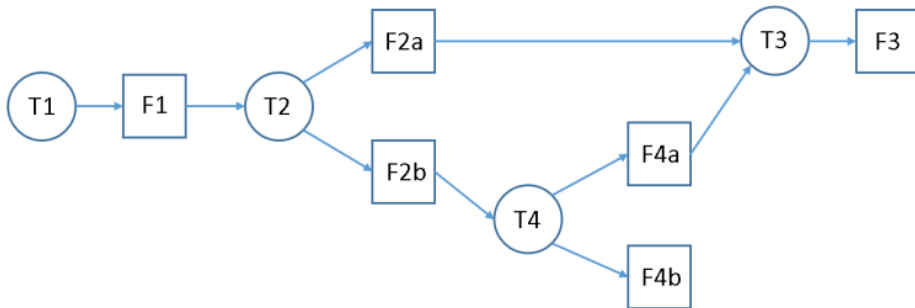
## stlab - Futures

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# Future Introduction - Cancellation

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## C++ Standard - Futures

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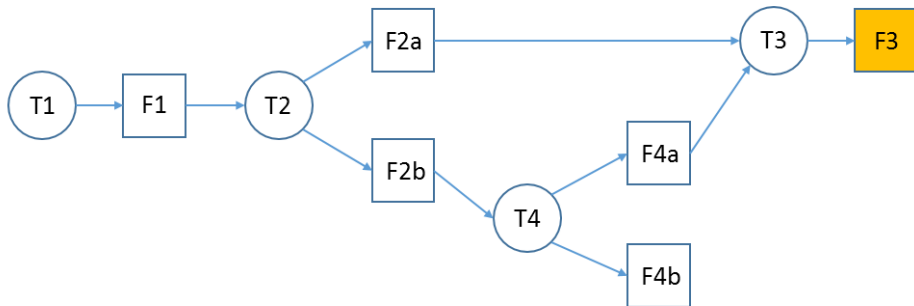
## boost - Futures

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## stlab - Futures

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- ▶ Future F3 is not needed any more (e.g. the user has canceled an operation)

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## C++ Standard - Futures

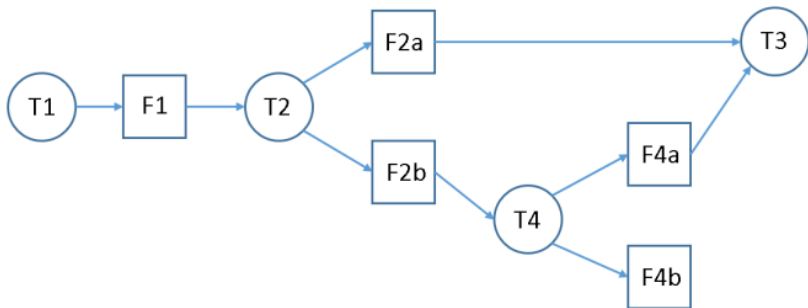
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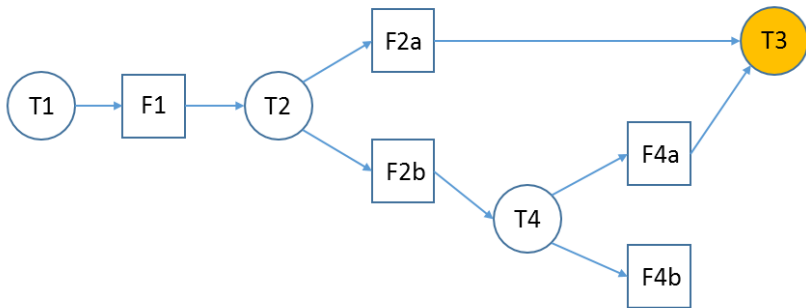
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- ▶ There is no need to execute task T3

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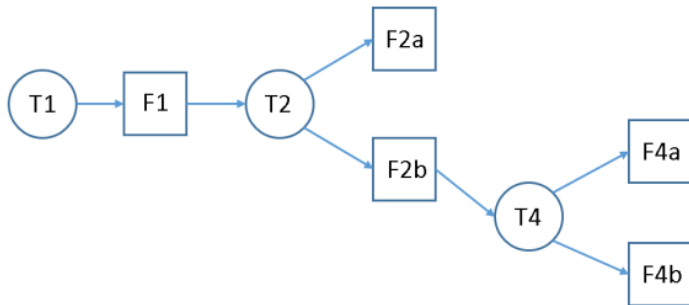
## stlab - Futures

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# Future Introduction - Cancellation

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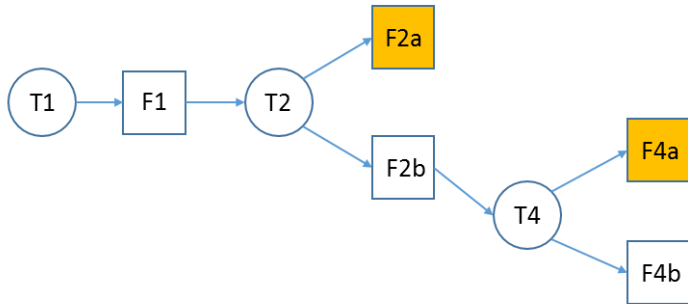
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- ▶ Then the futures F2a and F4a are not needed any more

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## C++ Standard - Futures

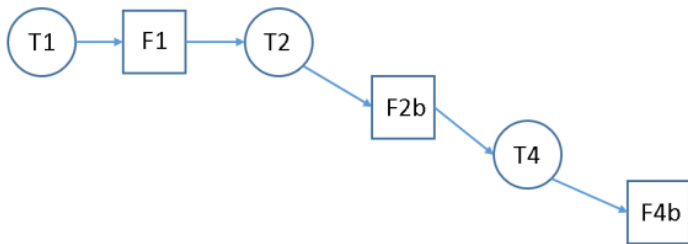
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- ▶ The graph collapses to its minimum

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# C++11 Standard - Futures

- ▶ `boost::futures` were added in boost 1.41, 2009
- ▶ `std::future` are mostly based on `boost::futures`
- ▶ Where added with C++11

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# C++11 Standard - Futures Overview

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```
1 #include <future>
2 #include <iostream>
3
4 using namespace std;
5
6 int main() {
7     auto answer = [] {
8         return 42;
9     };
10
11     future<int> f = async(launch::async, answer);
12
13     // Do other stuff, getting the answer may take longer
14     cout << f.get() << '\n';           // access the value
15 }
```

## Output

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# C++ Standard - Futures - packaged\_task

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```
1 #include <future>
2 #include <iostream>
3 #include <string>
4
5 using namespace std;
6
7 int main() {
8     auto answer = [](string) { return 42; };
9     packaged_task<int(string)> task(answer);
10
11     future<int> f = task.get_future();
12     task("What is the answer ...?");
13
14     // Do other stuff, getting the answer may take longer
15     cout << f.get() << '\n';           // access the value
16 }
```

## Output

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```
1 int main() {
2     auto answer = [] {
3         throw runtime_error("Bad things happened: Vogons appeared!");
4         return 42;
5     };
6
7     future<int> f = async(launch::async, answer);
8
9     // Do other stuff, getting the answer may take longer
10    try {
11        cout << f.get() << '\n'; // try accessing the value
12                                // re-throws the stored exception
13    }
14    catch (const runtime_error& ex) {
15        cout << ex.what() << '\n';
16    }
17 }
```

## Output

Bad things happened: Vogons appeared!

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```
1 #include <future>
2 #include <iostream>
3
4 using namespace std;
5
6 int main() {
7     auto answer = [] {
8         return 42;
9     };
10
11     future<int> f = async(launch::async, answer);
12
13     // Do other stuff, getting the answer may take longer
14     cout << f.get() << '\n'; // access the value
15 }
```

**What is the biggest problem within this code when our goal is best CPU utilization?**

`future<T>.get()` is a blocking call! There is no direct way of checking if the future is ready! Only indirect with `.wait_for()` with zero timeout.

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- ▶ No continuation — `future<T>.then()` ✗
- ▶ No join — `when_all()` and `when_any()` ✗
- ▶ No split — continuation in different directions ✗
- ▶ No cancellation (but can be modelled<sup>3</sup>) ✗
- ▶ No automatic reduction (`future<future<T>>⇒future<T>`) ✗
- ▶ No progress monitoring (except `ready`) ✗
- ▶ No custom executor ✗
- ▶ Blocks on destruction (may even blocks until termination of used thread) ✗
- ▶ Usage of `future<T>.get()` has two problems:
  1. One thread resource is consumed which increases contention and possibly causing a deadlock ✗
  2. Any subsequent non-dependent calculations on the task are also blocked ✗
- ▶ Don't behave as a regular type<sup>4</sup> ✗

<sup>3</sup><https://gist.github.com/sean-parent/24df3eefd51068ba34c482f6e71da2c2>

<sup>4</sup>Elements of Programming; Stepanov, McJones; Addison-Wesley 2009

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- ▶ A Continuation on an existing future is realized through `future<T>.then()` which returns itself a future

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# boost Futures - Continuation

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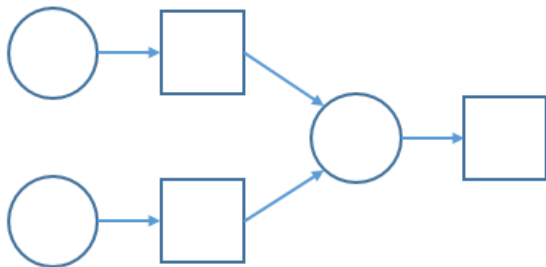
## stlab - Futures

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```
1 #include <iostream>
2 #include <boost/thread/future.hpp>
3
4 using namespace std;
5
6 int main() {
7     auto answer = []{ return 42; };
8     auto report_answer = [](auto a) { cout << a.get() << '\n'; }
9
10    boost::future<int> get_answer = boost::async(answer);
11
12    boost::future<void> done = get_answer.then( report_answer );
13
14    // do something else
15    done.wait(); // waits until future done is fulfilled
16 }
```

## Output

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- ▶ `when_all()` Returns a future that becomes ready when all future arguments are ready
- ▶ `when_any()` Returns a future that becomes ready when the first future argument is ready

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```
1 int main() {
2     auto answer_a = []{ return 40; };
3     auto answer_b = []{ return 2; };
4
5     auto f_a = boost::async(answer_a);
6     auto f_b = boost::async(answer_b);
7
8     auto answer = boost::when_all(std::move(f_a), std::move(f_b))
9         .then([](auto f) {
10             auto t = f.get();
11             return get<0>(t).get() + get<1>(t).get();
12         });
13
14     // do something else
15     cout << answer.get() << '\n';
16 }
```

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```
1 int main() {
2     auto answer_a = []{ return 40; };
3     auto answer_b = []{ return 2; };
4
5     auto f_a = boost::async(answer_a);
6     auto f_b = boost::async(answer_b);
7
8     auto answer = boost::when_all(std::move(f_a), std::move(f_b))
9     .then([](auto f) {
10         auto t = f.get();
11         return get<0>(t).get() + get<1>(t).get();
12     });
13
14     // do something else
15     cout << answer.get() << '\n';
16 }
```

## What is the type of f?

f is a future tuple of futures: `future<tuple<future<int>, future<int>>>`

- ▶ Continuation — `future<T>.then()` ✓
- ▶ Join — `when_all()` and `when_any()` ✓
- ▶ No *real* split — continuations into different directions ✗
- ▶ No cancellation (but can be modelled) ✗
- ▶ No automatic reduction (`future<future<T>> ⇒ future<T>`) ✗
- ▶ No progress monitoring (except `ready`) ✗
- ▶ Custom executor ✓
- ▶ Blocks on destruction (may even blocks until termination of used thread) ✗
- ▶ Using `future<T>.get()` has two problems:
  1. One thread resource is consumed which increases contention and possibly causing a deadlock ✗
  2. Any subsequent non-dependent calculations on the task are also blocked ✗
- ▶ Don't behave as a regular type ✗
- ▶ (C++17 TS is in namespace `experimental` and there is no interoperation between `std::experimental::future` and `std::future`)

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## **stlab::future**

Source: <https://github.com/stlab/libraries>

Documentation: <http://www.stlab.cc/libraries>

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- ▶ Continuation — `future<T>.then()` ✓
- ▶ Join — `when_all()` and `when_any()` ✓
- ▶ Split — continuation in different directions ✓
- ▶ Cancellation ✓
- ▶ Automatic reduction (`future<future<T>> ⇒ future<T>`) ✓
- ▶ No progress monitoring (except `ready`), more planned ✗
- ▶ Custom executor ✓
- ▶ Do not block on destruction ✓
- ▶ Behave as a regular type ✓
- ▶ Additional dependencies:
  - ▶ C++14: `boost.optional`
  - ▶ C++17: none

## Futures

Introduction  
Continuation  
Join  
Split  
Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

Futures  
`packaged_task`  
Exceptions  
Capabilities

## boost - Futures

Continuations  
Join  
Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

### Capabilities

Futures  
Exceptions  
Continuation  
Reduction  
Error Recovery  
Join  
Split  
Executors  
Conclusion

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures**
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
- Error Recovery
- Join
- Split
- Executors
- Conclusion

```
1 #include <iostream>
2 #include <stlab/concurrency/default_executor.hpp>
3 #include <stlab/concurrency/future.hpp>
4 #include <stlab/concurrency/utility.hpp>
5
6 using namespace std;
7
8 int main() {
9     auto answer = [] { return 42; };
10
11     stlab::future<int> f =
12         stlab::async(
13             stlab::default_executor, // uses platform thread pool on Win/OSX
14                                     // uses stlab task stealing
15                                     // thread pool on other OS, e.g. Linux
16             answer
17         );
```

# stlab Futures

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures**
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
- Error Recovery
- Join
- Split
- Executors
- Conclusion

```
1 int main() {
2     auto answer = [] { return 42; };
3
4     stlab::future<int> f =
5         stlab::async(
6             stlab::default_executor, // uses platform thread pool on Win/OSX
7                                     // uses stlab task stealing
8                                     // thread pool on other OS, e.g. Linux
9             answer
10        );
11
12    while (!f.get_try()) {} // do something meaningful while waiting
13                          // Don't do busy waiting!
14    std::cout << f.get_try().value() << '\n';
15 }
```

## Output

42

# stlab Futures - blocking\_get()

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures**
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
- Error Recovery
- Join
- Split
- Executors
- Conclusion

```
1 int main() {
2     auto answer = [] { return 42; };
3
4     stlab::future<int> f =
5         stlab::async(
6             stlab::default_executor, // uses platform thread pool on Win/OSX
7                                     // uses stlab task stealing
8                                     // thread pool on other OS, e.g. Linux
9             answer
10        );
11
12    // access the value in a blocking way
13    // try to avoid this whenever it is possible!
14    cout << stlab::blocking_get(std::move(f)) << '\n';
15 }
```

# stlab Futures - Exceptions

There Is A New Future

Felix Petriconi

```
1 int main() {
2     auto answer = [] {
3         throw std::runtime_error("Bad thing happened: Vogons appeared!");
4         return 42;
5     };
6     auto f = stlab::async(stlab::default_executor, answer);
7
8     try {
9         std::cout << stlab::blocking_get(std::move(f)) << '\n';
10    }
11    catch (std::runtime_error const& ex) {
12        std::cout << ex.what() << '\n';
13    }
14 }
```

## Output

```
Bad things happened: Vogons appeared!
```

### Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

### C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

### boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

### stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions**
- Continuation
- Reduction
- Error Recovery
- Join
- Split
- Executors
- Conclusion

# stlab Futures - Continuation

There Is A New Future

Felix Petriconi

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions
- Continuation**
- Reduction
- Error Recovery
- Join
- Split
- Executors
- Conclusion

```
1 using namespace stlab;
2
3 int main() {
4     auto answer = []{ return 42; };
5
6     auto report_answer = [](int a) { std::cout << a << '\n'; };
7
8     future<void> done = async(default_executor, answer)
9         .then(report_answer);    // Call by value and not by future
10
11     int quit; std::cin >> quit;
12 }
```

## Output

42



# stlab Futures - Reduction

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction**
- Error Recovery
- Join
- Split
- Executors
- Conclusion

```
1 int main() {
2     future<int> result =
3         async(default_executor, [] { return 42; })
4         .then(
5             [](int x) {
6                 return async(default_executor,
7                             [](int y) { return y + 42; },
8                             x);
9             }
10        );
11
12    future<void> done = result.then(
13        [](int v) { std::cout << v << '\n'; }
14    );
15
16    int quit; std::cin >> quit;
```

## Output

84

# stlab Futures - Error Recovery

There Is A New Future

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## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
- Error Recovery**
- Join
- Split
- Executors
- Conclusion

```
1 int main() {
2     auto answer = [] {
3         throw std::runtime_error("Vogons appeared!");
4         return 42;
5     };
6
7     auto handleTheAnswer = [](int v) {
8         if (v == 0) std::cout << "Oh! We have a problem!\n";
9         else std::cout << "The answer is " << v << '\n';
10    };
```

# stlab Futures - Error Recovery

There Is A New Future

Felix Petriconi

```
1 auto handleTheAnswer = [](int v) {
2     if (v == 0) std::cout << "Oh! We have a problem!\n";
3     else std::cout << "The answer is " << v << '\n';
4 };
5
6 auto f = stlab::async(stlab::default_executor, answer)
7     .recover([](stlab::future<int> result) {
8         if (result.error()) {
9             std::cout << "Listen to Vogon poetry!\n";
10            return 0;
11        }
12        return result.get_try().value();
13    }).then(handleTheAnswer);
14
15 int quit; std::cin >> quit;
16 }
```

## Output

```
Listen to Vogon poetry!
We have a problem!
```

### Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

### C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

### boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

### stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
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- Conclusion

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

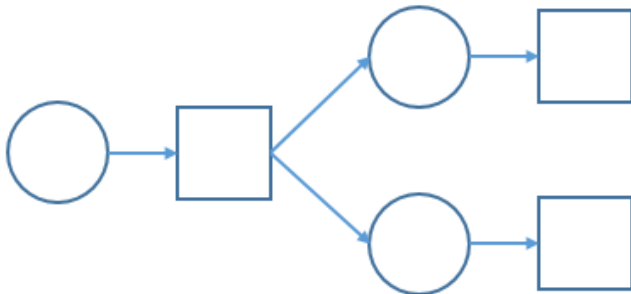
## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
- Error Recovery
- Join**
- Split
- Executors
- Conclusion

```
1 int main() {
2     auto a = async(default_executor, []{ return 40; });
3     auto b = async(default_executor, []{ return 2; });
4
5     auto answer = when_all(
6         default_executor,
7         [](int x, int y) { return x + y; },
8         a, b); // arguments as lvalues
9
10    std::cout << stlab::blocking_get(std::move(answer)) << '\n';
11 }
```

## Output

42



- ▶ A split is realized by creating multiple continuations on the same future

## Futures

Introduction  
Continuation  
Join  
Split  
Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

Futures  
packaged\_task  
Exceptions  
Capabilities

## boost - Futures

Continuations  
Join  
Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

Capabilities  
Futures  
Exceptions  
Continuation  
Reduction  
Error Recovery  
Join  
**Split**  
Executors  
Conclusion

# stlab Futures - Split

There Is A New Future

Felix Petriconi

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
- Error Recovery
- Join
- Split**
- Executors
- Conclusion

```
1 int main() {
2     auto answer = async(default_executor, []{ return 42; });
3     auto report_to_arthur = [](int a) {
4         printf("Tell the answer %d Arthur Dent\n", a);
5     };
6     auto report_to_marvin = [](int a) {
7         printf("May the answer %d shear up Marvin\n", a);
8     };
9
10    auto dent = answer.then(report_to_arthur);
11    auto marvin = answer.then(report_to_marvin);
12
13    blocking_get(dent);
14    blocking_get(marvin);
15 }
```

## Output

Tell the answer 42 Arthur Dent

May the answer 42 shear up Marvin

# stlab Futures - Split + Join

There Is A New Future

Felix Petriconi

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
- Error Recovery
- Join
- Split**
- Executors
- Conclusion

```
1 int main() {
2     auto answer = async(default_executor, []{ return 42; });
3
4     auto report_to_arthur = [](int a) {
5         printf("Tell the answer %d Arthur Dent\n", a);
6     };
7     auto report_to_marvin = [](int a) {
8         printf("May the answer %d shear up Marvin\n", a);
9     };
10
11    auto dent = answer.then(report_to_arthur);
12    auto marvin = answer.then(report_to_marvin);
13
14    auto done = when_all(default_executor, [] {
15        std::cout << "All know the answer!\n";
16    }, marvin, dent);
17
18    stlab::blocking_get(done);
19 }
```

- ▶ Executors are needed to customize where the task shall be executed
- ▶ Executors can be
  - ▶ thread pools
  - ▶ serial queues
  - ▶ main queues
  - ▶ dedicated task groups
  - ▶ etc.

## Futures

Introduction  
Continuation  
Join  
Split  
Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

Futures  
packaged\_task  
Exceptions  
Capabilities

## boost - Futures

Continuations  
Join  
Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

Capabilities  
Futures  
Exceptions  
Continuation  
Reduction  
Error Recovery  
Join  
Split  
**Executors**  
Conclusion



- ▶ std executors are probably/hopefully coming with C++20
- ▶ In boost, executors derive from a common base class
- ▶ In stlab the executors must only implement the call operator  
`template <typename F> void operator()(F f)`
- ▶ stlab currently has
  - ▶ `default_executor` (thread pool)
  - ▶ `immediate_executor`
  - ▶ `main_executor`
  - ▶ `system_timer`
- ▶ See bonus slides for implementation of an executor for the Qt main-loop

## Futures

Introduction  
Continuation  
Join  
Split  
Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

Futures  
packaged\_task  
Exceptions  
Capabilities

## boost - Futures

Continuations  
Join  
Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

Capabilities  
Futures  
Exceptions  
Continuation  
Reduction  
Error Recovery  
Join  
Split  
**Executors**  
Conclusion

# stlab Futures - Continuation with Custom Executor

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
- Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
- Error Recovery
- Join
- Split
- Executors**
- Conclusion

```
1 #include <iostream>
2 #include <QLineEdit>
3 #include <stlab/concurrency/default_executor.hpp>
4 #include <stlab/concurrency/future.hpp>
5 #include "QtExecutor.h"
6
7 int main() { // Just illustrational example!
8     QLineEdit theAnswerLineEdit;
9
10    auto answer =
11        stlab::async(stlab::default_executor, []{ return 42; } );
12
13    stlab::future<void> done = answer.then(
14        QtExecutor{}, // different scheduler
15        [&](int a) {
16            theAnswerLineEdit.setValue(a); // update in Qt main thread
17        });
18
19    int quit; std::cin >> quit;
20 }
```

- ▶ Coroutine support
- ▶ Performance optimization
- ▶ Progress monitoring
- ▶ Task promotion

## Futures

Introduction  
Continuation  
Join  
Split  
Cancellation

## C++ Standard - Futures

Futures  
packaged\_task  
Exceptions  
Capabilities

## boost - Futures

Continuations  
Join  
Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

Capabilities  
Futures  
Exceptions  
Continuation  
Reduction  
Error Recovery  
Join  
Split

## Executors

Conclusion

Futures are a great tool to structure code in a well readable manner so that it runs in parallel with minimal contention.

But the graph can be used for a single execution only.

Channels are one concept that supports multiple invocations.

## Futures

- Introduction
- Continuation
- Join
- Split
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## C++ Standard - Futures

- Futures
- packaged\_task
- Exceptions
- Capabilities

## boost - Futures

- Continuations
- Join
- Capabilities

## stlab - Futures

- Capabilities
- Futures
- Exceptions
- Continuation
- Reduction
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- Split
- Executors
- Conclusion**

## Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

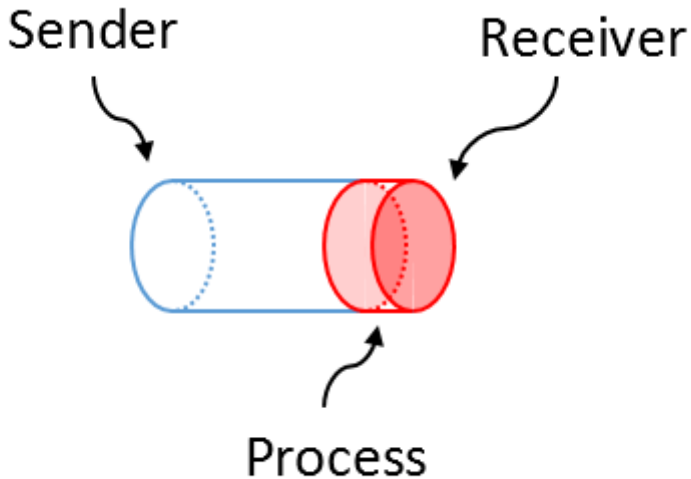
Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion



- ▶ Channels allow the creation of persistent execution graphs
- ▶ First published by Tony Hoare 1978



## Motivation

Channel - Stateless Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful Process

Conclusion

# Channel - Stateless Process

```
1 #include <iostream>
2 #include <stlab/concurrency/channel.hpp>
3 #include <stlab/concurrency/default_executor.hpp>
4
5 int main() {
6     stlab::sender<int> send;           // sending part of the channel
7     stlab::receiver<int> receiver;    // receiving part of the channel
8     std::tie(send, receiver) =       // combining both to a channel
9         stlab::channel<int>(stlab::default_executor);
10
11     auto printer =
12         [](int x){ std::cout << x << '\n'; }; // stateless process
13
14     auto printer_process =
15         receiver | printer;           // attaching process to the receiving
16                                     // part
17     receiver.set_ready();             // no more processes will be attached
18                                     // process starts to work
19     send(1); send(2); send(3);       // start sending into the channel
20
21     int end; std::cin >> end;        // simply wait to end application
22 }
```

# Channel - Stateless Process cont.

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

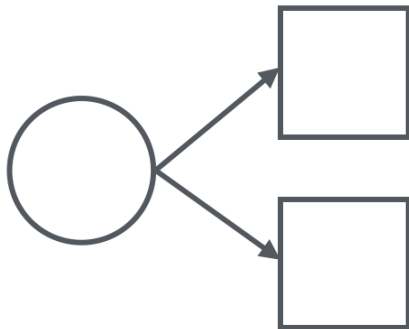
Conclusion

```
1 int main() {
2     auto printer =
3     [](int x){ std::cout << x << '\n'; }; // stateless process
4
5     auto printer_process =
6     receiver | printer;           // attaching process to the receiving
7                                 // part
8     receiver.set_ready();        // no more processes will be attached
9                                 // process starts to work
10    send(1); send(2); send(3);    // start sending into the channel
11
12    int end; std::cin >> end;     // simply wait to end application
13 }
```

## Output

```
1
2
3
```





New edges are concatenated with the **operator** `| ()` on the same receiver

# Channel - Split Process

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion

```
1 int main() {
2     auto [send, receiver] = channel<int>(default_executor); // C++17
3
4     auto printerA = [](int x){ printf("Process A %d\n", x); };
5     auto printerB = [](int x){ printf("Process B %d\n", x); };
6
7     auto printer_processA = receiver | printerA;
8     auto printer_processB = receiver | printerB;
9
10    receiver.set_ready();           // no more processes will be attached
11                                    // process may start to work
12    send(1); send(2); send(3);
13    int end; std::cin >> end;
14 }
```

## Output

```
Process A 1
Process B 1
Process A 2
Process B 2
Process B 3
```

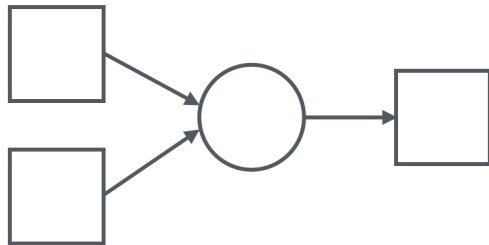
## Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion



- ▶ `join()` The downstream process is invoked when all arguments are ready.
- ▶ `zip()` The downstream process is invoked in round robin manner with the incoming values.
- ▶ `merge()` The downstream process is invoked with the next value that is ready

- ▶ With `buffer_size{n}` within the concatenation it is possible to limit the incoming queue to size `n`
- ▶ With `executor{T}` within the concatenation it is possible to specify a dedicated executor `T`.

- ▶ Some problems need a processor with state
- ▶ Some problems have an  $n : m$  relationship from input to output
- ▶ The picture becomes more complicated with states:
  - ▶ When to proceed?
  - ▶ How to handle situations when less than expected values come from upstream?

# Channel - Stateful Process Signature

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion

```
1 #include <stlab/concurrency/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::steady_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17 };
```

# Stateful Process Signature - await

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Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion

```
1 #include <stlab/concurrency/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::steady_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17 };
```

# Stateful Process Signature - yield

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion

```
1 #include <stlab/concurrency/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::steady_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17 };
```



# Stateful Process Signature - state

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion

```
1 #include <stlab/concurrency/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::steady_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17 };
```

# Stateful Process Signature - close

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion

```
1 #include <stlab/concurrency/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::steady_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17};
```

# Stateful Process Signature - set\_error

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion

```
1 #include <stlab/concurrency/channel.hpp>
2
3 using process_state_scheduled =
4     std::pair<process_state, std::chrono::steady_clock::time_point>;
5
6 struct process_signature
7 {
8     void await(T... val);
9
10    U yield();
11
12    process_state_scheduled state() const;
13
14    void close(); // optional
15
16    void set_error(std::exception_ptr); // optional
17};
```

# Channel - Stateful Process Example

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion

```
1 struct adder
2 {
3 };
4
5 int main() {
6     auto [send, receiver] = channel<int>(default_executor);
7
8     auto calculator = receiver | adder{} |
9         [](int x) { std::cout << x << '\n'; };
10
11     receiver.set_ready();
12
13     while (true) {
14         int x;
15         std::cin >> x;
16         send(x);
17     }
18 }
```

# Channel - Stateful Process Example cont.

There Is A New  
Future

Felix Petriconi

Motivation

Channel - Stateless  
Process

Channel - Split  
Channel - Join

Channel - Stateful  
Process

Conclusion

```
1 struct adder
2 {
3     int _sum = 0;
4     process_state_scheduled _state = await_forever;
5
6     void await(int x) {
7         _sum += x;
8         if (x == 0) {
9             _state = yield_immediate;
10        }
11    }
12
13    int yield() {
14        int result = _sum;
15        _sum = 0;
16        _state = await_forever;
17        return result;
18    }
19
20    auto state() const { return _state; }
21};
```

Channels close the gap of multiple invocations where futures allow just one.

With splits and the different kind of joins it is possible to build graphs of execution.

Use high level abstractions like futures, channels or others (actors, etc.) to distribute work on available CPU cores.

Use thread pools from your operating system! Use highly optimized task stealing custom thread pools in case that the operating system does not provide one!

Design your application with the mindset that it can run dead-lock free on an 1-n core hardware!

Don't let your application code be soaked with threads, mutex' and atomics.

- ▶ My family, who supports me in my work on the concurrency library and this conference.
- ▶ Sean Parent, who taught me over time lots about concurrency and abstraction. He gave me the permission to use whatever I needed from his presentations for my own.
- ▶ My company MeVis Medical Solutions AG, that released me from work during this conference.
- ▶ All contributors to the slab library.



- ▶ Concurrency library <https://github.com/stlab/libraries>
- ▶ Documentation <http://stlab.cc/libraries>
- ▶ Communicating Sequential Processes by C. A. R. Hoare  
<http://usingcsp.com/cspbook.pdf>
- ▶ The Theory and Practice of Concurrency by A.W. Roscoe <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/people/bill.roscoe/publications/68b.pdf>
- ▶ Towards a Good Future, C++ Standard Proposal by Felix Petriconi, David Sankel and Sean Parent <http://open-std.org/JTC1/SC22/WG21/docs/papers/2017/p0676r0.pdf>
- ▶ Back to std2::future, C++ Standard Proposal by Bryce Adelstein Lelbach  
<http://open-std.org/JTC1/SC22/WG21/docs/papers/2017/p0701r0.html>

Take Away

Acknowledgement

Reference

Reference

Further listening and  
viewing

Contact

## Software Principles and Algorithms

- ▶ Elements of Programming by Alexander Stepanov, Paul McJones, Addison Wesley
- ▶ From Mathematics to Generic Programming by Alexander Stepanov, Daniel Rose, Addison Wesley

## Concurrency and Parallelism

- ▶ HPX <http://stellar-group.org/libraries/hpx/>
- ▶ C++CSP <https://www.cs.kent.ac.uk/projects/ofa/c++csp>
- ▶ CAF\_C++ Actor Framework <http://actor-framework.org/>
- ▶ C++ Concurrency In Action by Anthony Williams, Manning

- ▶ Goals for better code by Sean Parent:  
<http://sean-parent.stlab.cc/papers-and-presentations>
- ▶ Goals for better code by Sean Parent: Concurrency:  
<https://youtu.be/au0xX4h8SCI?t=16354>
- ▶ Future Ruminations by Sean Parent <http://sean-parent.stlab.cc/2017/07/10/future-ruminations.html>
- ▶ CppCast with Sean Parent <http://cppcast.com/2015/06/sean-parent/>
- ▶ Thinking Outside the Synchronization Quadrant by Kevlin Henney:  
<https://vimeo.com/205806162>



## **stlab::future**

Source: <https://github.com/stlab/libraries>

Documentation: <http://www.stlab.cc/libraries>

# Thank's for your attention!

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## Q & A

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- ▶ Twitter: @FelixPetriconi

Feedback is always welcome!

```
1 #include <QApplication>
2 #include <Event>
3 #include <stlab/concurrency/task.hpp>
4
5 class QtExecutor
6 {
7     using result_type = void;
8
9     class ExecutorEvent : public QEvent
10
11     class EventReceiver : public QObject
12 public:
13     template <typename F>
14     void operator()(F f) {
15         auto event = std::make_unique<ExecutorEvent>();
16         event->set_task(std::move(f))
17         QApplication::postEvent(event->receiver(), event.release());
18     }
19 };
```



```
1  class ExecutorEvent : public QEvent
2  {
3      stlab::task<void()> _f;
4      std::unique_ptr<EventReceiver> _receiver;
5
6  public:
7      ExecutorEvent()
8          : QEvent(QEvent::User)
9            , _receiver(new EventReceiver()) {
10         _receiver()->moveToThread(QApplication::instance()->thread());
11     }
12
13     template <typename F>
14     void set_task(F&& f) {
15         _f = std::forward<F>(f);
16     }
17
18     void execute() { _f(); }
19
20     QObject *receiver() const { return _receiver.get(); }
21 };
```

```
1  class EventReceiver : public QObject
2  {
3  public:
4      bool event(QEvent *event) override {
5          auto myEvent = dynamic_cast<ExecutorEvent*>(event);
6          if (myEvent) {
7              myEvent->execute();
8              return true;
9          }
10         return false;
11     }
12 };
```