The Why of Go v2 Brave New World Edition

GOTO Copenhagen 2018

Carmen Andoh

@carmatrocity







How about a conference called "In Retrospect" in which presenters revisit talks they've given years prior -- and describe how their thinking has evolved since?

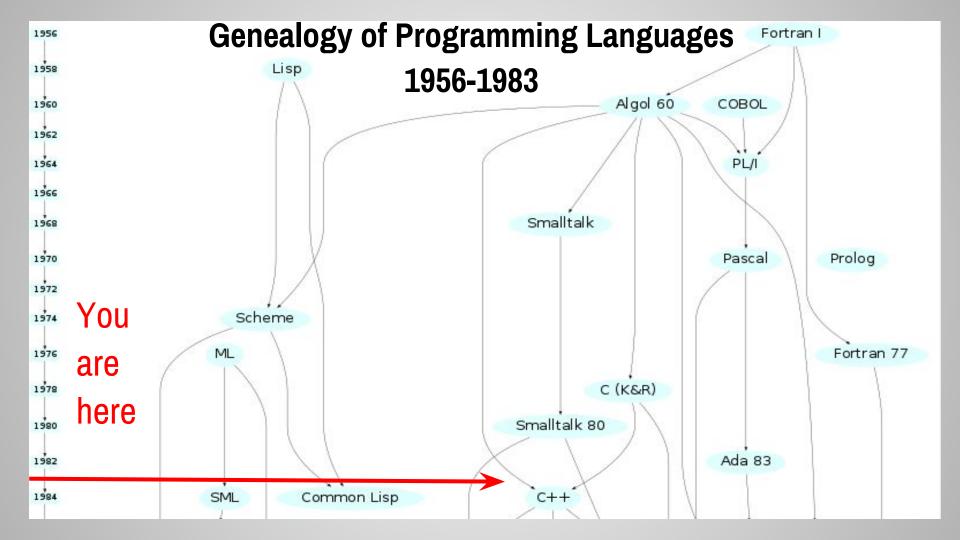
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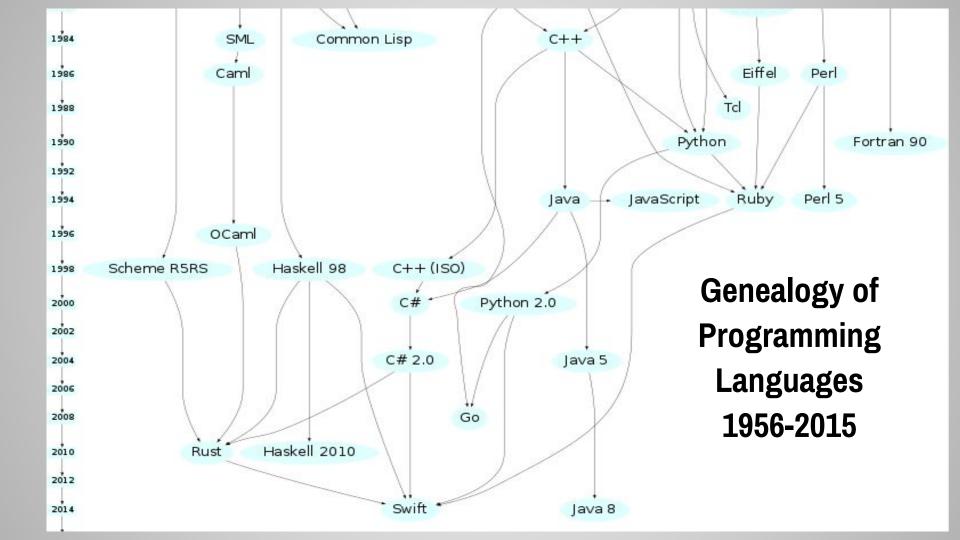


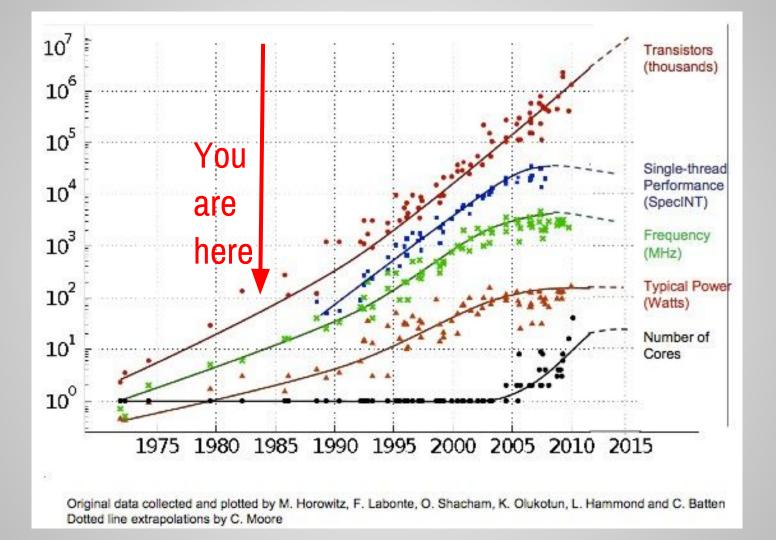


"Imagine you are a software engineer from the year 1983 who happened upon a time machine and traveled to today."

> (80s Dolorian time machines are the raddest time machines)









Operating System



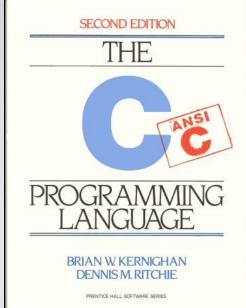
Programming Techniques S. L. Graham, R. L. Rivest Editors

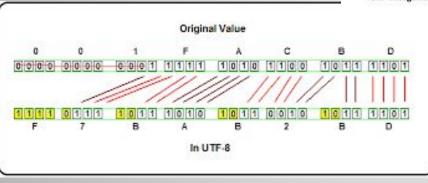
Communicating Sequential Processes

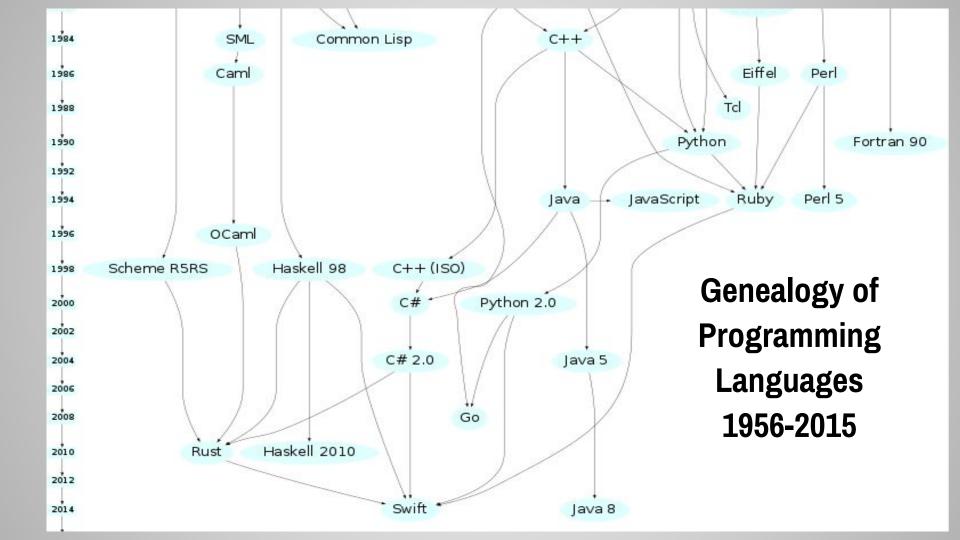
C.A.R. Hoare The Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland

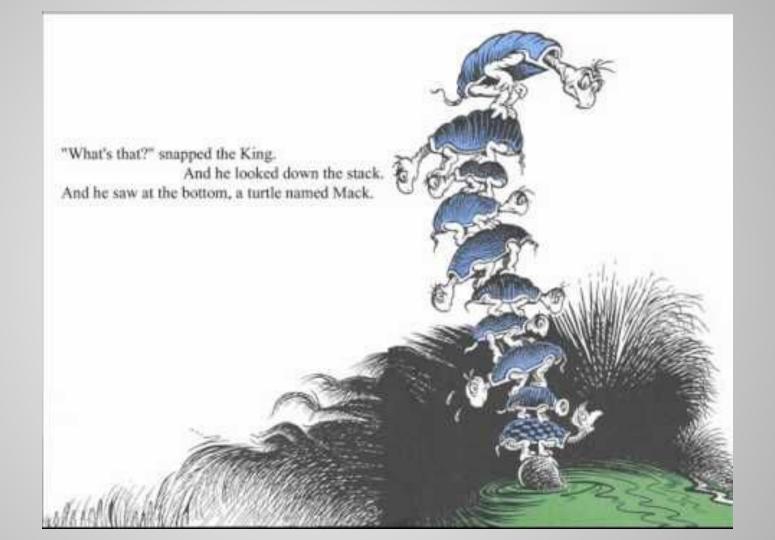
This paper suggests that input and output are basic primitives of programming and that parallel composition of communicating sequential processes is a fundamental program structuring method. When combined with a development of Dijkstra's guarded command, these concepts are surprisingly versatile. Their use is illustrated by sample solutions of a variety of familiar programming exercises.

Key Words and Phrases: programming, programming languages, programming primitives, program structures, parallel programming, concurrency, input, output, guarded commands, nondeterminacy, coroutines, procedures, multiple entries, multiple exits, classes, data representations, recursion, conditional critical regions, monitors, iterative arrays CR Categories: 4.20, 4.22, 4.32













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GNU

GNU's Not Unix Project

Started in 1983







Vague but exciting ...

CERN DD/OC

Tim Berners-Lee, CERN/DD

Information Management: A Proposal

March 1989

Information Management: A Proposal

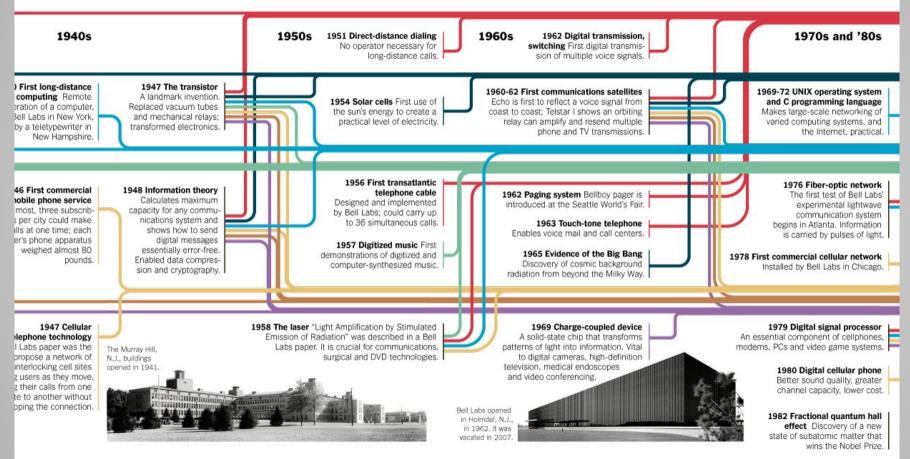
Abstract

This proposal concerns the management of general information about accelerators and experiments at CERN. It discusses the problems of loss of information about complex evolving systems and derives a



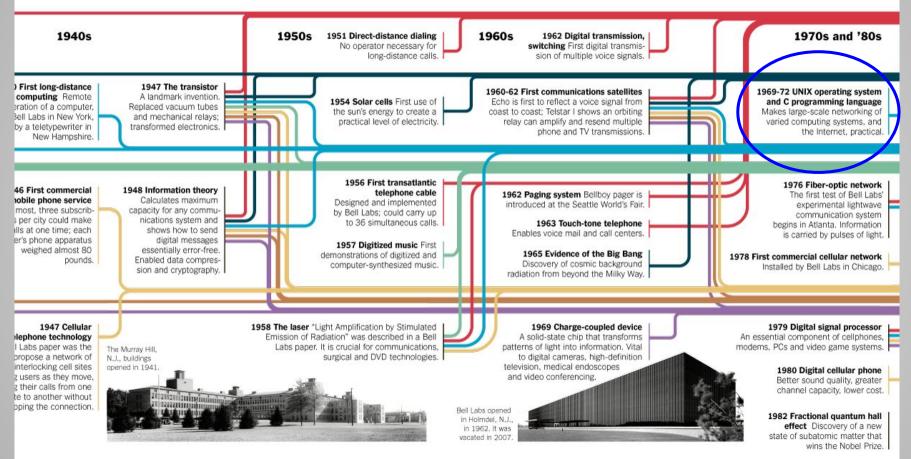
Bell Labs: A Hive of Invention

A selection of its most important innovations in the decades leading up to the breakup of its parent company, AT&T, in 1984, and how they helped lead to some of the latest technologies.

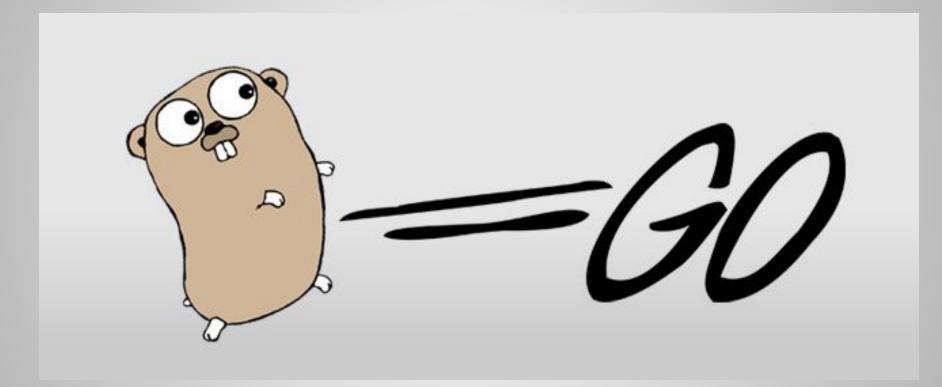


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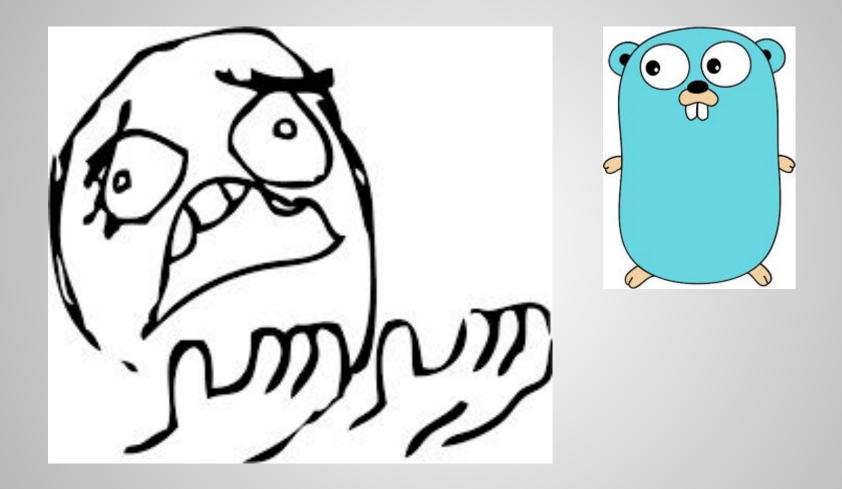




Criticisms of Go

- too simple / lack of syntactic sugar
- no generics
- bad dependency management
- stuck in 70/80's
- error handling

- no unused imports
- too opinionated
- too verbose
- no ternary operator
- no macros or templates





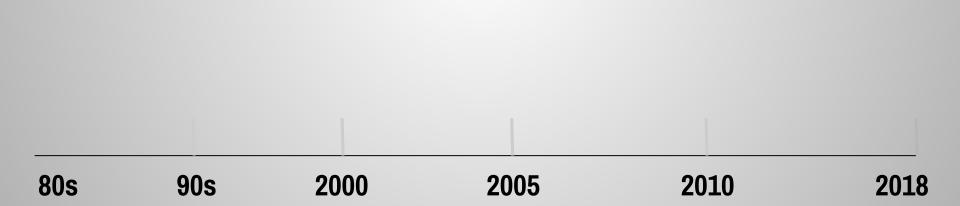
Moreover, the scale has changed: today's server programs comprise tens of millions of lines of code, are worked on by hundreds or even thousands of programmers, and are updated literally every day. To make matters worse, build time have stretched to many minutes, even hours, even languages, on large compilation clusters,"

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- multicore processors
- networked systems
- massive computation clusters
- web programming model

- hundreds or even thousands of programmers
- large compilation clusters



Go

Software Languages			G	0	
So					
	90s	2000	2005	2010	2018

Hardware S Compute Languages		80s	90s	2000	2005	2010	2018
Software Languages • OD	Hardware &	Compute					
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Software	Languages				Go •		
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	80s	90s	2000	2005		2010	2018

Designers



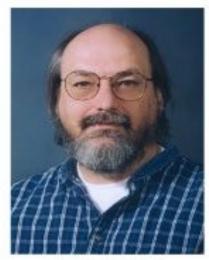
Robert Griesemer

V8 JavaScript engine, Java HotSpot VM



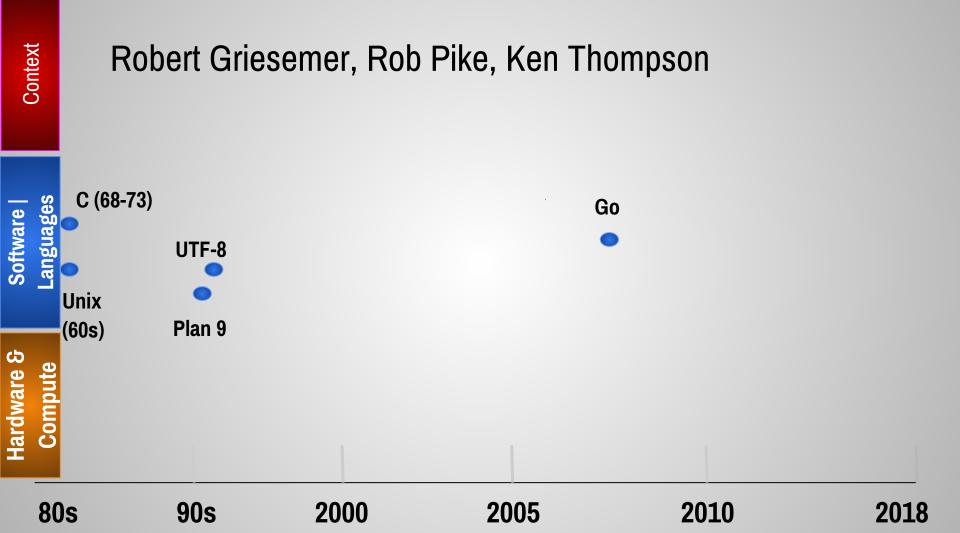
Rob Pike

UNIX, Plan 9, UTF-8



Ken Thompson

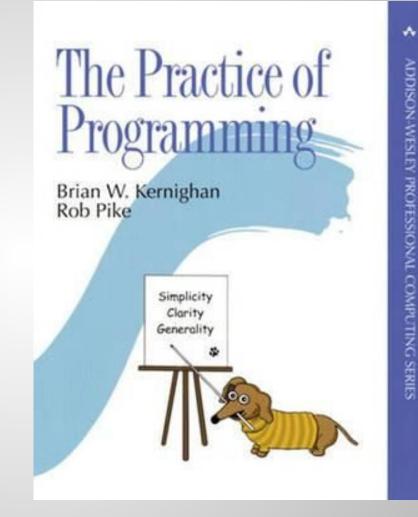
UNIX, Plan 9, B language, UTF-8

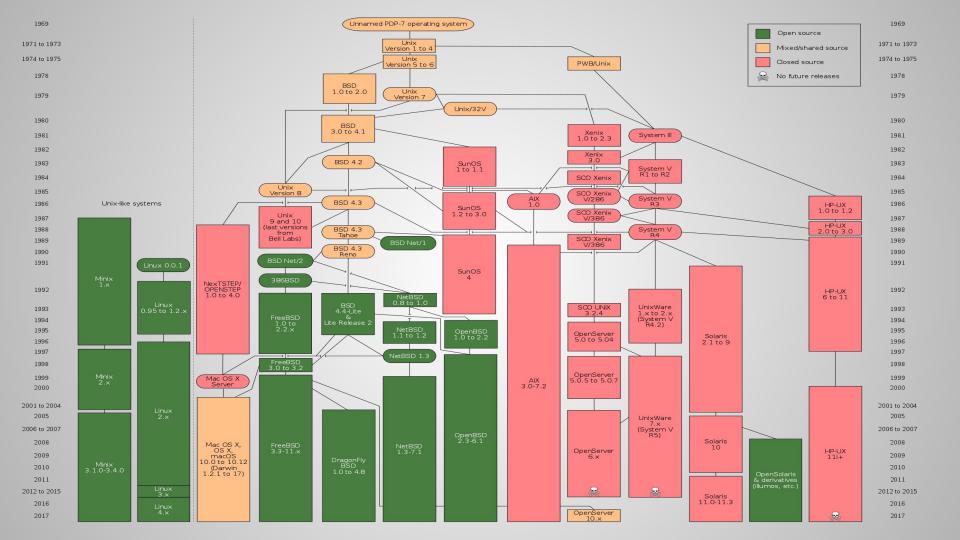


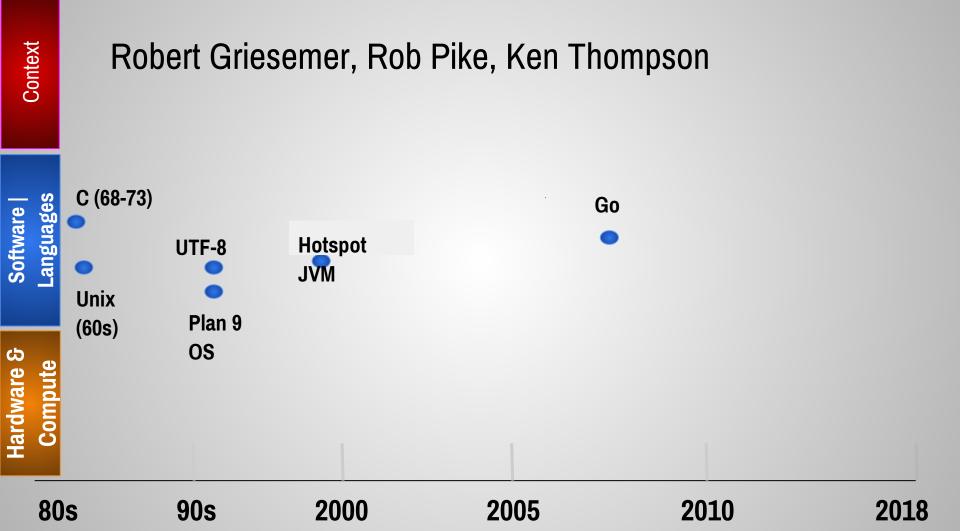
UNIX PROGRAMMING ENVIRONMENT

Brian W. Kernighan Rob Pike

PRENTICE HALL SOFTWARE SERVES









Russ Cox rsc@swtch.com

c/o Google 5 Cambridge Center Cambridge, MA 02142

A C, an E-flat, and a G walk into a bar. The bartender says, "Sorry, but we don't serve minors."

What's grey? A melted penguin.



Go's 21st Century "5th Gen" Characteristics

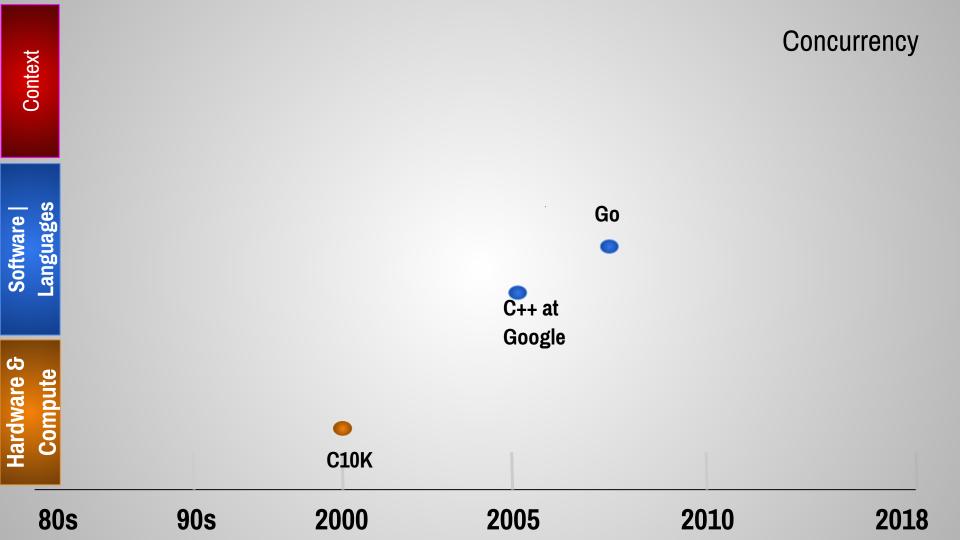
- Concurrency
- Distributed Systems
- Garbage Collection
- Memory and Data Locality
- Readability
- Simplicity

Concurrency

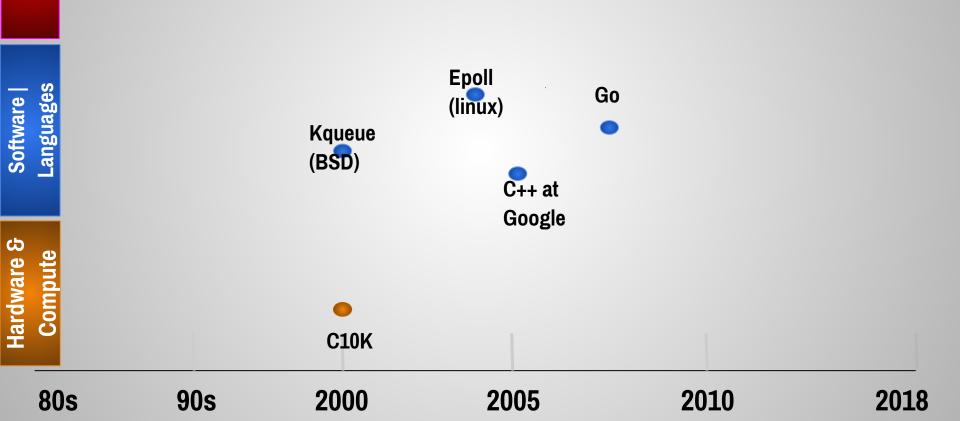
Why Massive Concurrency?

Why goroutines (green threads) ?

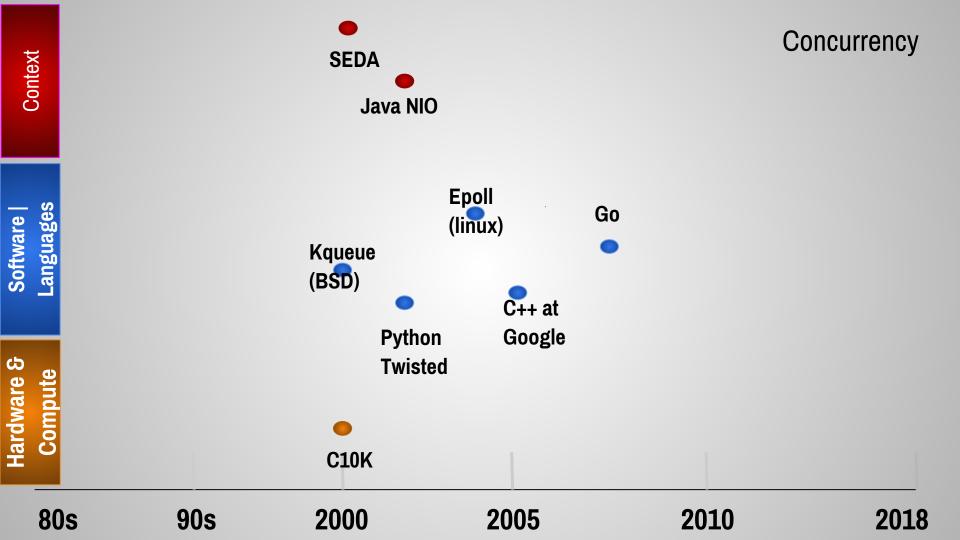
	CONTRACT					Concurrency
Software	Languages			C++ at	Go •	
Hardware &	Compute			Google		
	80s	90s	2000	2005	2010	2018

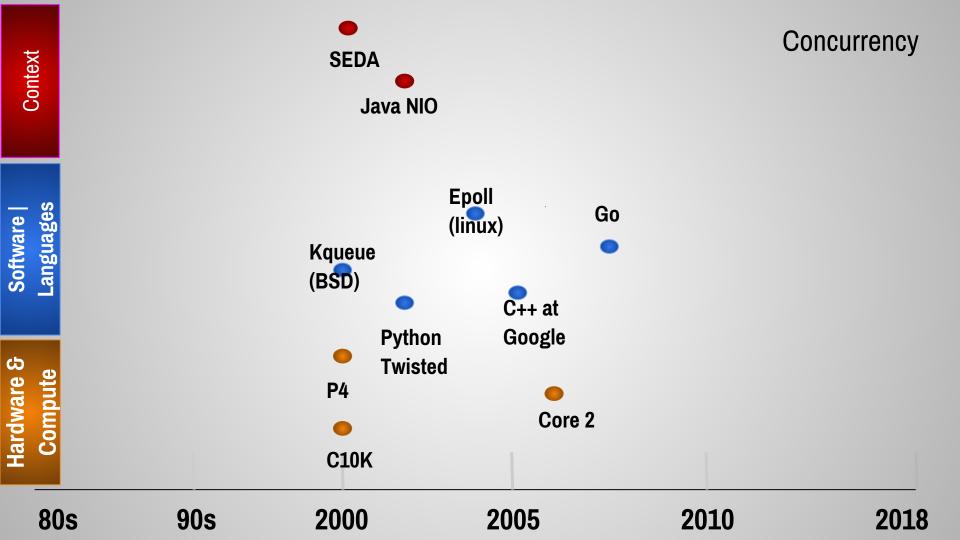


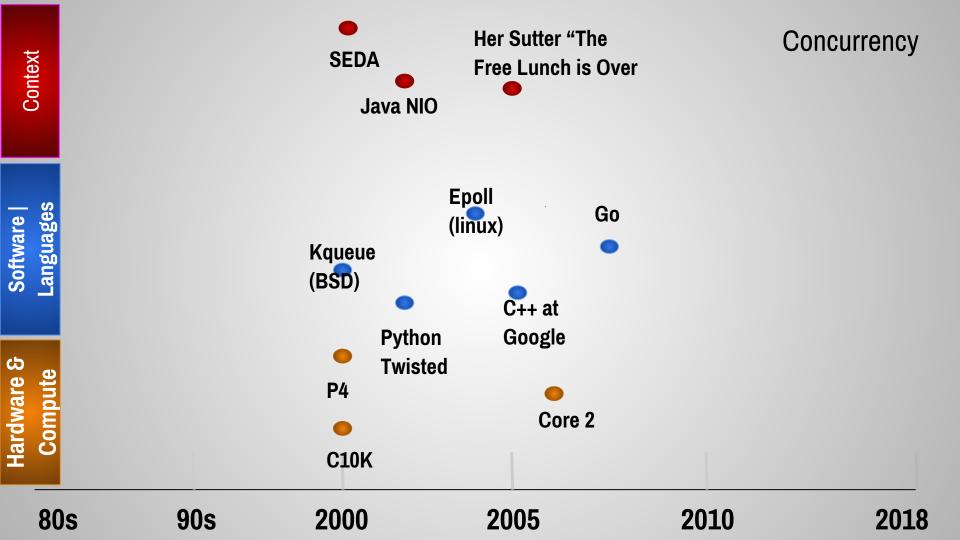
Concurrency



Context







The Concurrency Revolution

By Herb Sutter, February 01, 2005

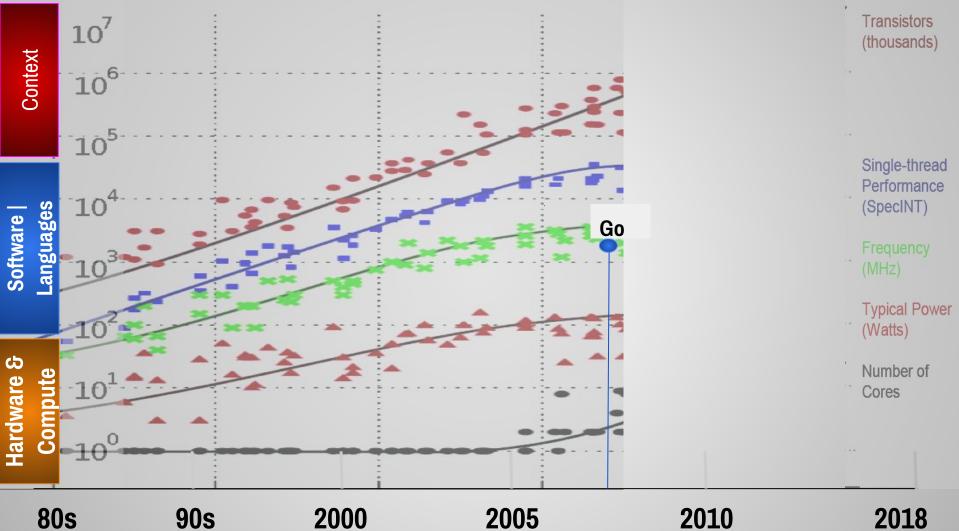
Post a Comment

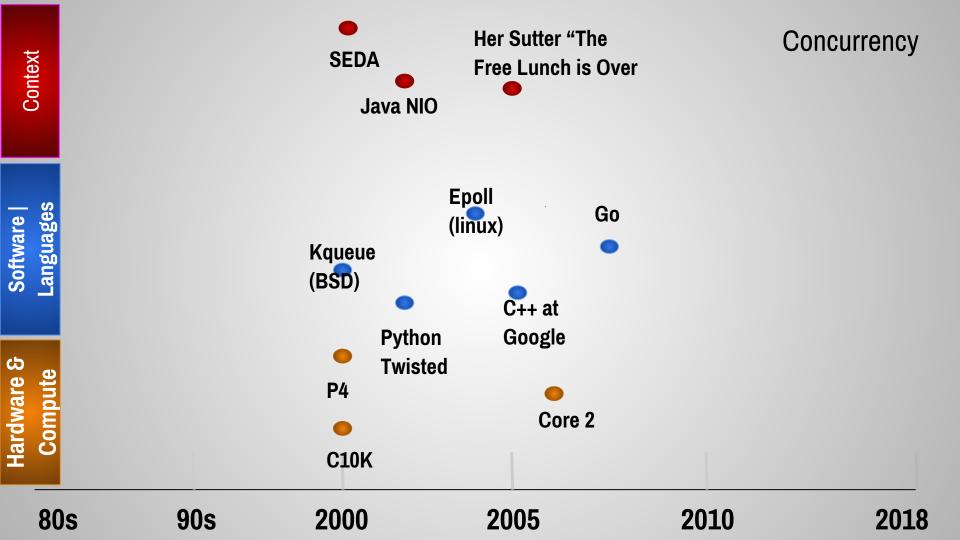
Will concurrency be the next revolution in software development?

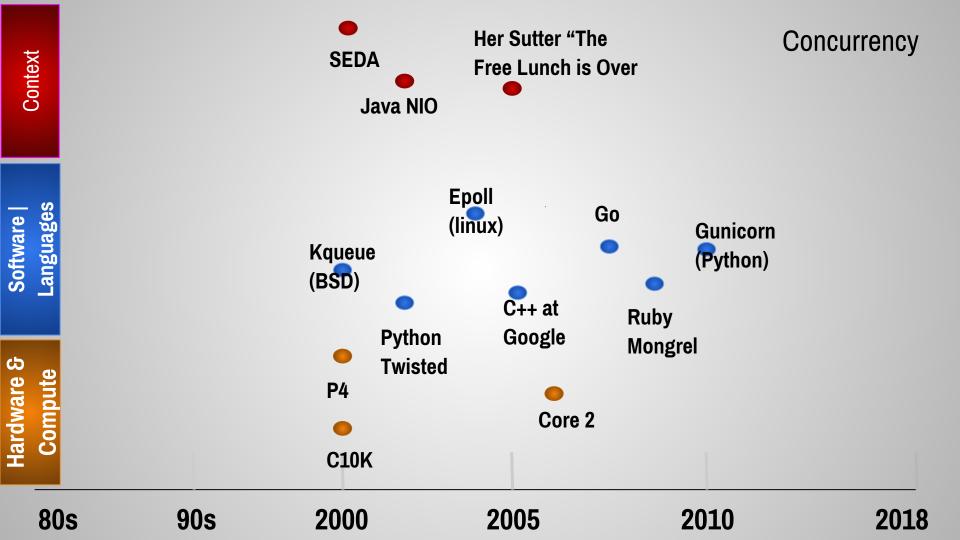
Herb Sutter (<u>http://www.gotw.ca/</u>) chairs the ISO C++ Standards committee and is an architect in Microsoft's Developer Division. His most recent books are Exceptional C++ Style and C++ Coding Standards (Addison-Wesley).

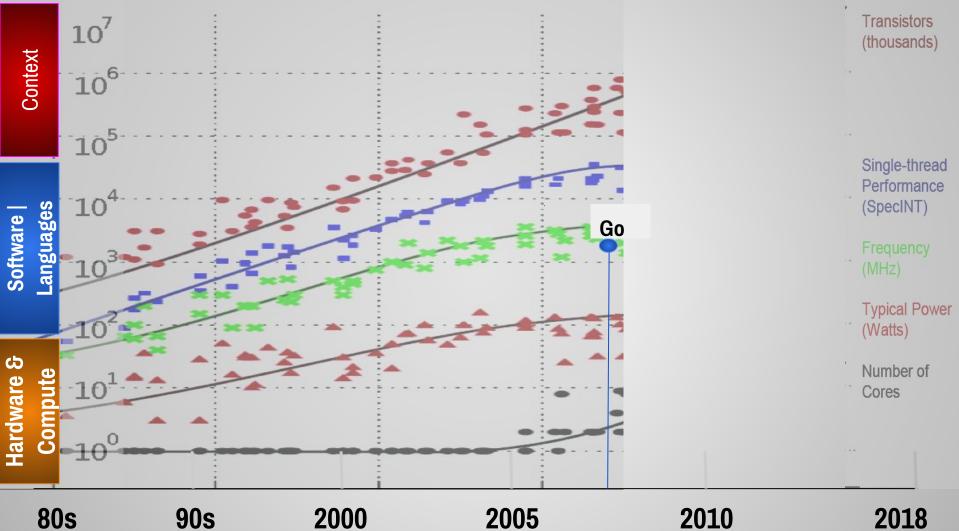
We appear to be at a major turning point in the way we develop software.

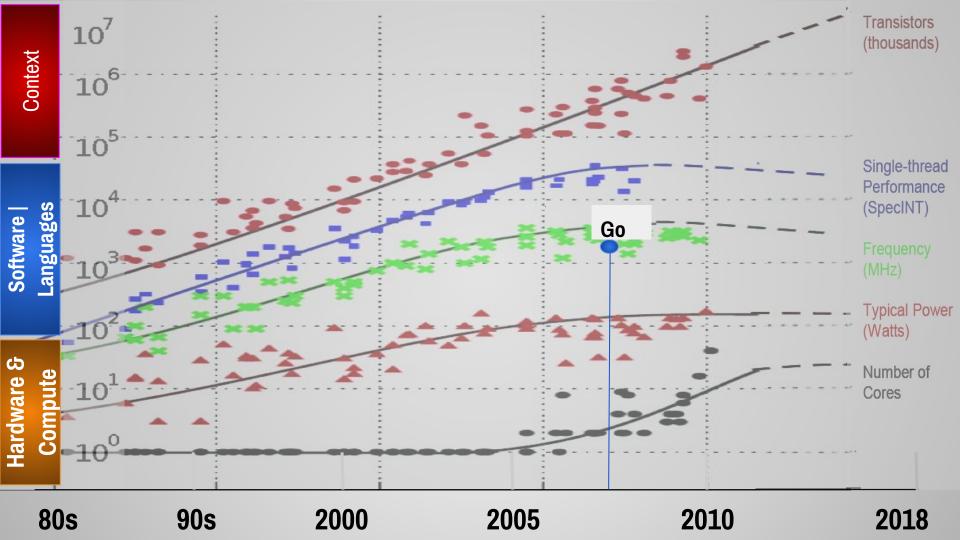
The major processor architectures, from Intel and AMD to Sparc and PowerPC, have run out of room with most of their traditional approaches to boosting CPU performance. Instead of driving clock speeds and straight-line instruction throughput ever higher, they are turning *en masse* to hyperthreading and multicore architectures. That puts us at a fundamental turning point in software development because for years, we've enjoyed a free lunch as faster computers directly made our applications faster too, and that will largely not be true any more. Most of the coming gains won't be picked up directly by the majority of today's applications.



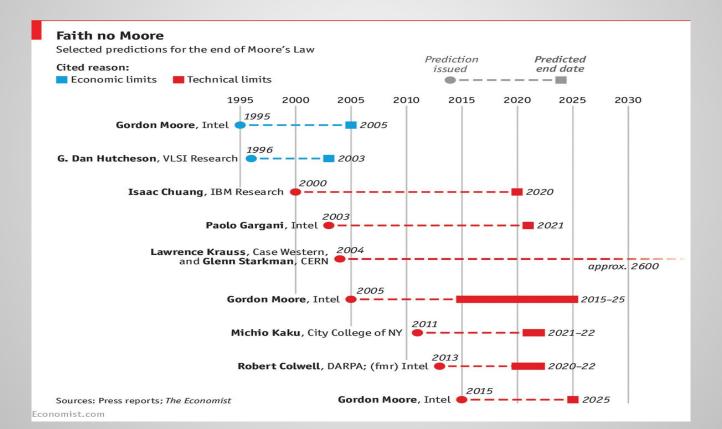


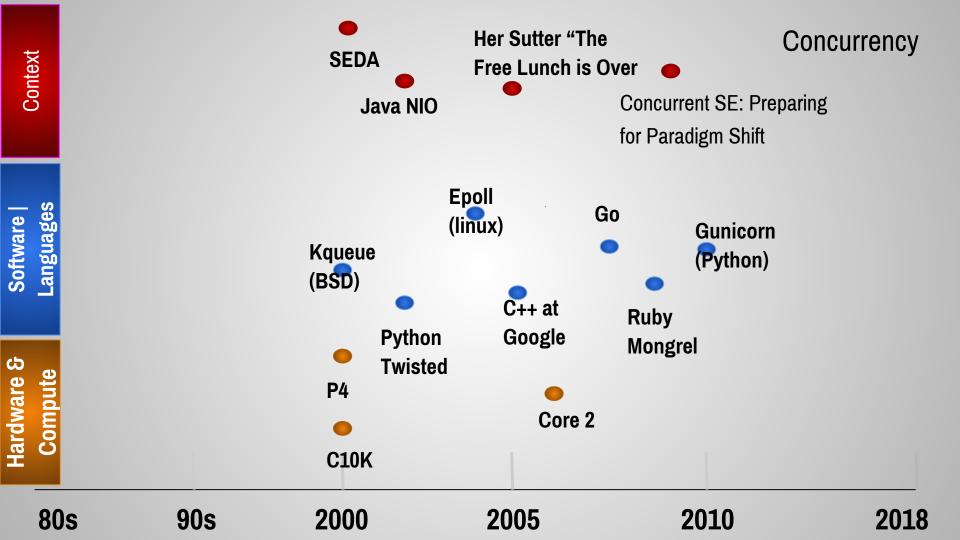


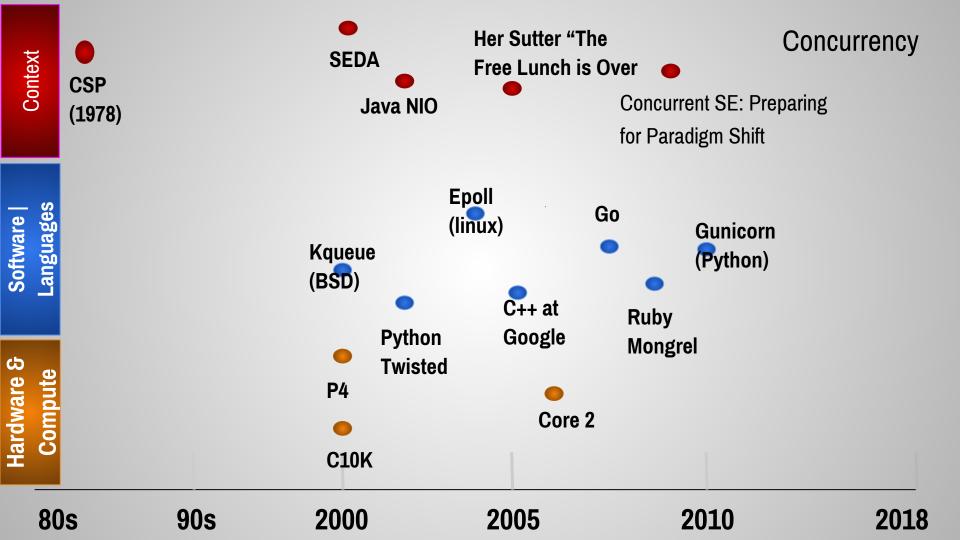




Predictions for the end of Moore's Law







Programming S. L. Graham, R. L. Rivest Techniques Editors

Communicating Sequential Processes

C.A.R. Hoare The Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland

This paper suggests that input and output are basic primitives of programming and that parallel composition of communicating sequential processes is a fundamental program structuring method. When combined with a development of Dijkstra's guarded command, these concepts are surprisingly versatile. Their use is illustrated by sample solutions of a variety of familiar programming exercises.

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1. Introduction

Among the primitive concepts of computer programming, and of the high level languages in which programs are expressed, the action of assignment is familiar and well understood. In fact, any change of the internal state of a machine executing a program can be modeled as an assignment of a new value to some variable part of that machine. However, the operations of input and output, which affect the external environment of a machine, are not nearly so well understood. They are often added to a programming language only as an afferthought.

Among the structuring methods for computer pro-General permission to make fair use in teaching or research of all or part of this material a granted to individual readest and to nonprofit libraries acting for them provided that ACM's copyright notice is given and that reference is made to the publication, to its date of issue, and that reference is made to the publication, to its date of issue, and that reference is made to the publication, to its date of issue, and the comparison of the publication of the compared by permission of the Association for Compute yields and the compared by permission as does republication, or systematic or multiple reprodution.

This research was supported by a Senior Fellowship of the Science Research Council. Author's present address: Programming Research Group, 45, Ban-

bury Road, Oxford, England. © 1978 ACM 0001-0782/78/0800-0666 \$00.75

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recognition and use: A repetitive construct (e.g. the while loop), an alternative construct (e.g. the conditional if. then.else), and normal sequential program composition (often denoted by a semicolon). Less agreement has been reached about the design of other important program structures, and many suggestions have been made: Subroutines (Fortran), procedures (Algol 60 [15]), entries (PL/I), coroutines (UNIX [17]), classes (SMULA 67 [5]), processes and monitors (Concurrent Pascal [2]), clusters (CLU [13]), forms (ALPHARD [19]), actors (Hewitt [1]). The traditional stored program disignal computer has

> been designed primarily for deterministic execution of a single sequential program. Where the desire for greater speed has led to the introduction of parallelism, every attempt has been made to disguise this fact from the programmer, either by hardware islef (as in the multiple function units of the CDC 66000 or by the software (as in an L/O control package, or a multiprogrammed operating system). However, developments of processor technology suggest that a multiprocessor machine, constructed from a number of similar self-contained processors (each with its own store), may become more powerful, capacious, reliable, and economical than a machine which is disguised as a monoprocessor.

grams, three basic constructs have received widespread

In order to use such a machine effectively on a single task, the component processors must be able to communicate and to synchronize with each other. Many methods of achieving this have been proposed. A widely adopted method of communication is by inspection and updating of a common store (as in Algol 68 [18], PL/I, and many machine codes). However, this can create severe problems in the construction of correct programs and it may lead to expense (e.g. crossbar switches) and unreliability (e.g. glitches) in some technologies of hardware implementation. A greater variety of methods has been proposed for synchronization: semaphores [6], events (PL/I), conditional critical regions [10], monitors and queues (Concurrent Pascal [2]), and path expressions [3]. Most of these are demonstrably adequate for their purpose, but there is no widely recognized criterion for choosing between them.

This paper makes an ambitious attempt to find a single simple solution to all these problems. The essential proposals are:

(1) Dijkstra's guarded commands [8] are adopted (with a slight change of notation) as sequential control structures, and as the sole means of introducing and controlling nondeterminism.

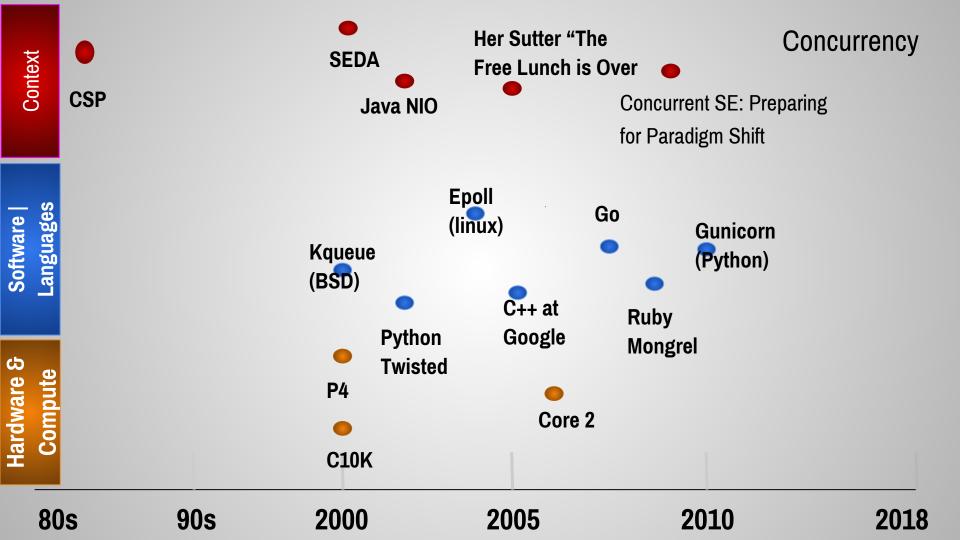
(2) A parallel command, based on Dijkstra's parbegin [6], specifies concurrent execution of its constituent sequential commands (processes). All the processes start simultaneously, and the parallel command ends only when they are all finished. They may not communicate with each other by updating global variables.

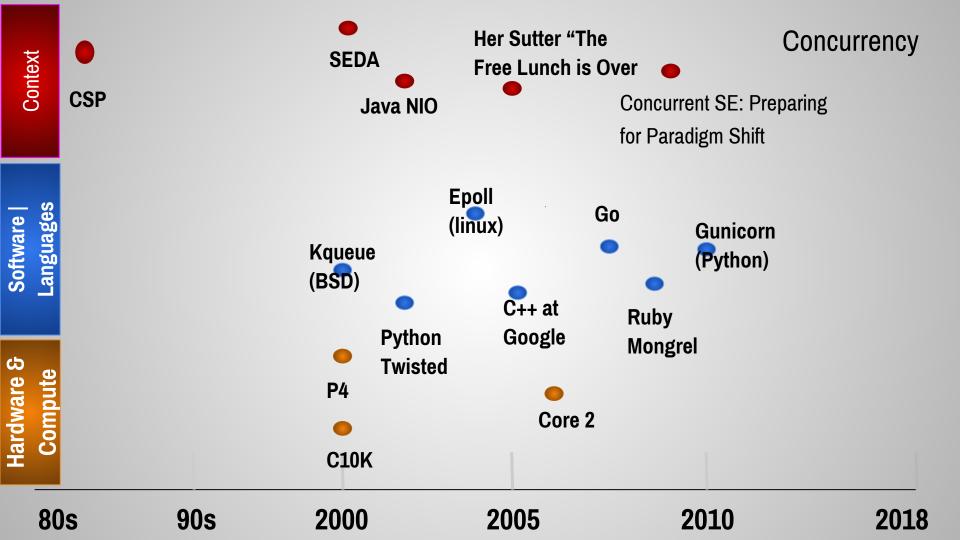
(3) Simple forms of input and output command are introduced. They are used for communication between concurrent processes.

Communications August 1978 of Volume 21 the ACM Number 8

Why build concurrency on the ideas of CSP?

Concurrency and multi-threaded programming have over time developed a reputation for difficulty. [...]One of the most successful models for providing high-level linguistic support for concurrency comes from Hoare's Communicating Sequential Processes, or CSP. *Occam and Erlang are two well known languages that stem from CSP.* Go's concurrency primitives derive from a different part of the family tree whose main contribution is the powerful notion of channels as first class objects. Experience with several earlier languages has shown that the CSP model fits well into a procedural language framework.















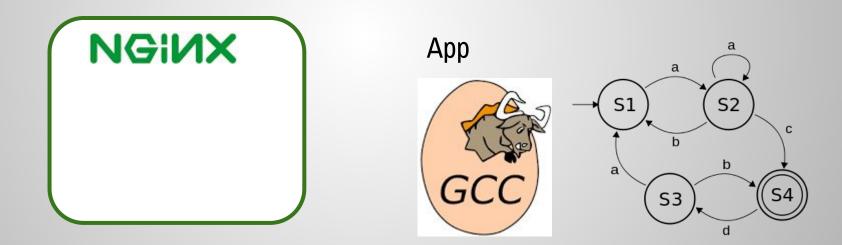


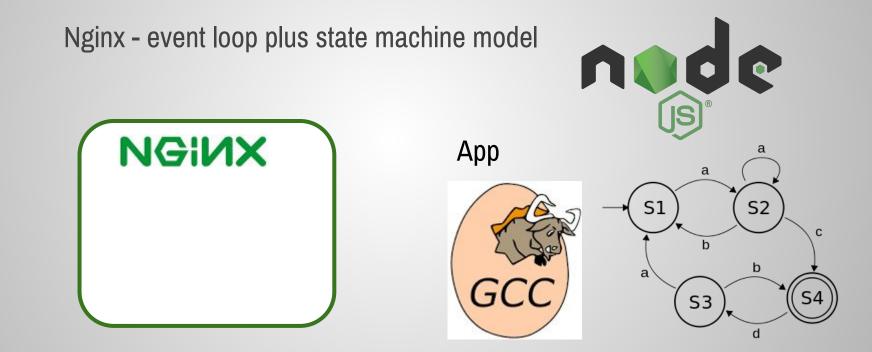
Nginx - event loop plus state machine model

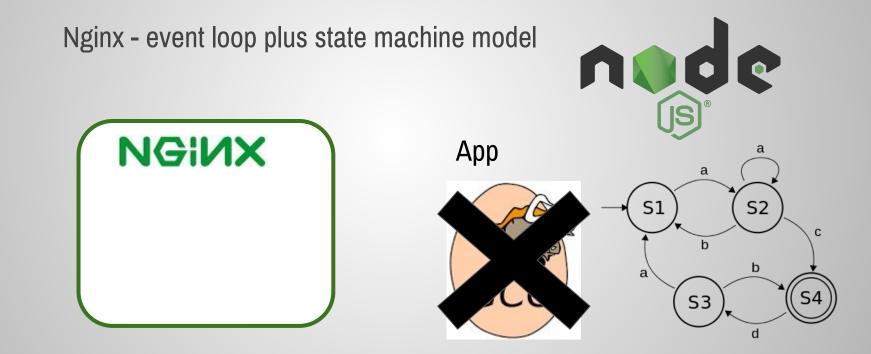


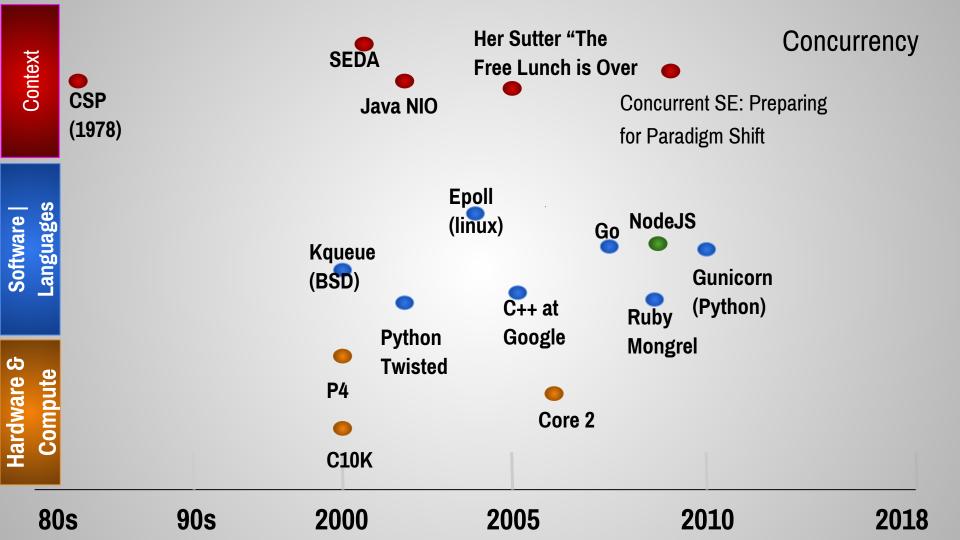
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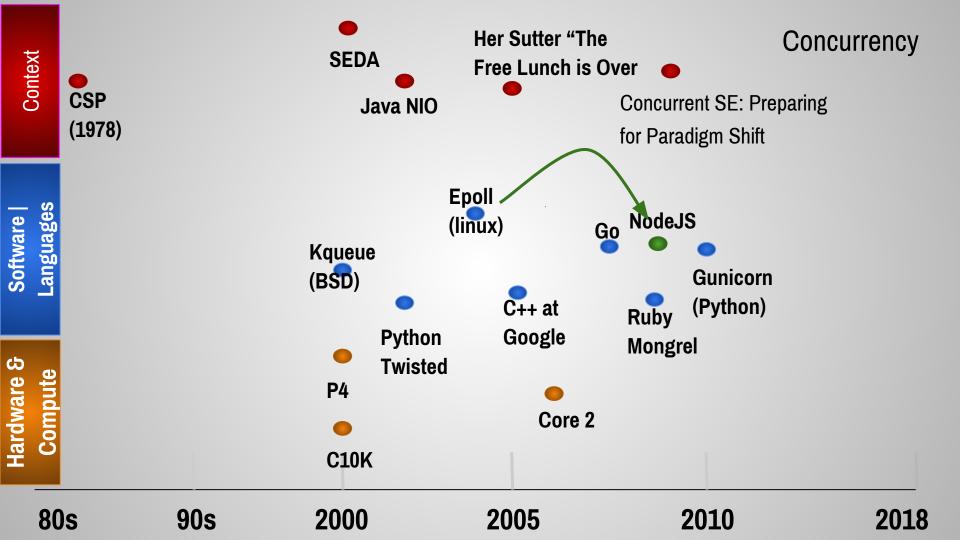


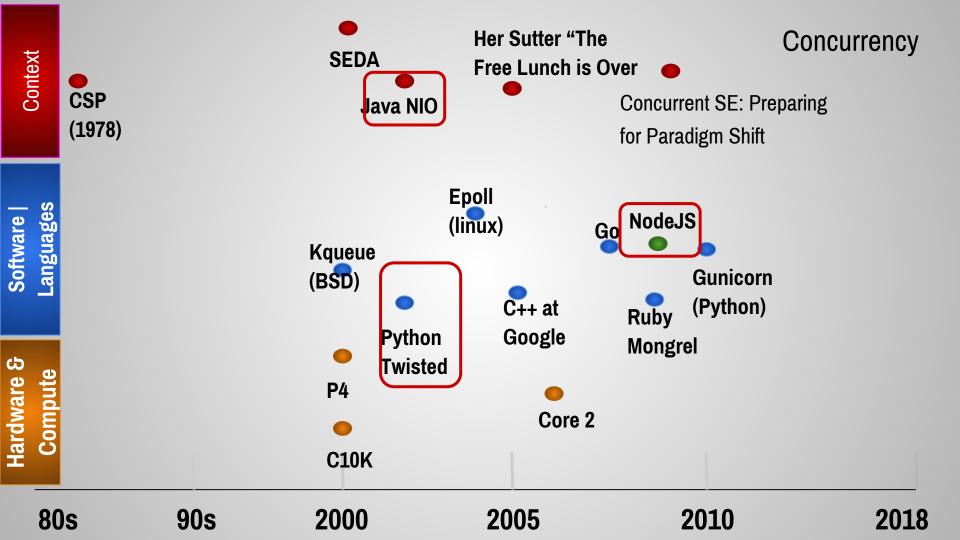


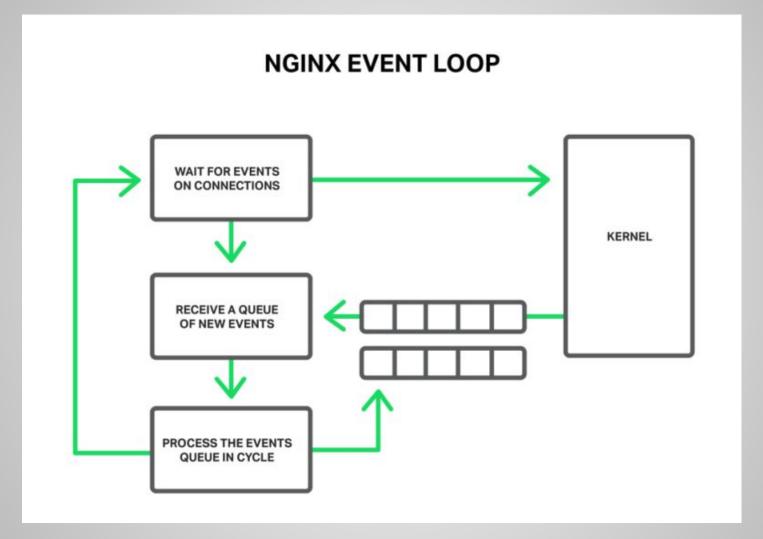


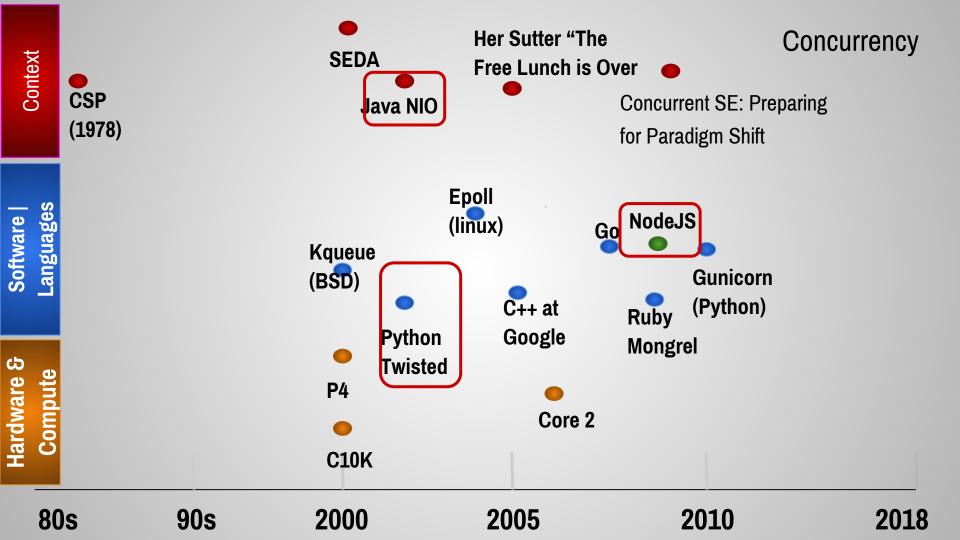


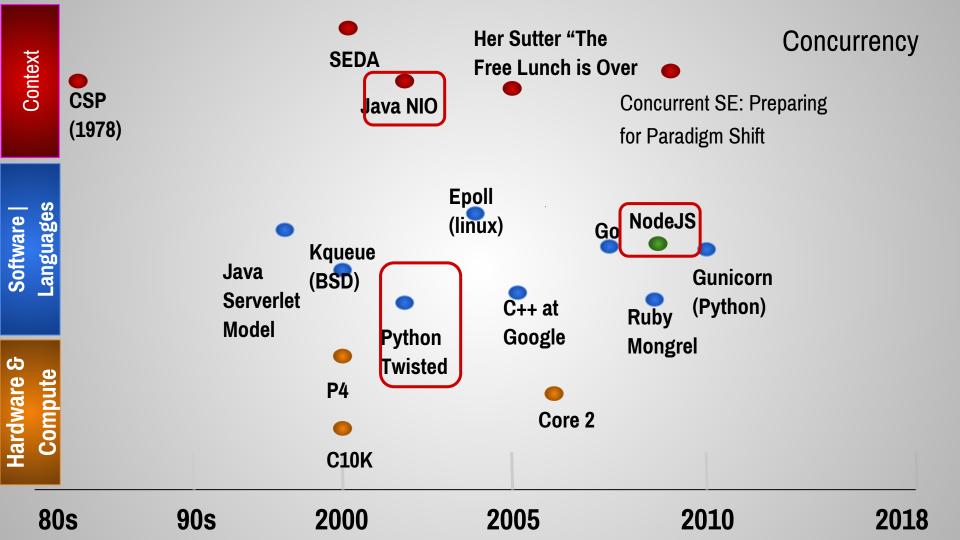


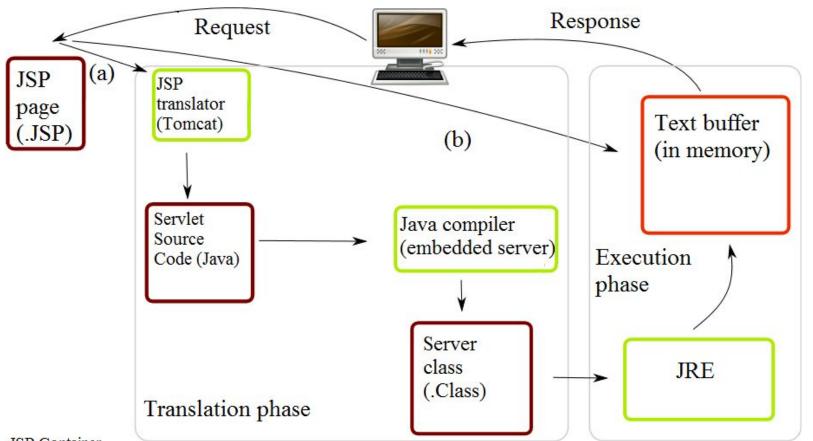








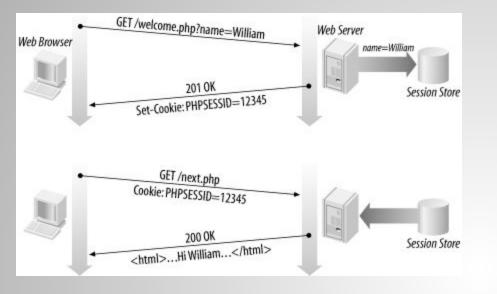


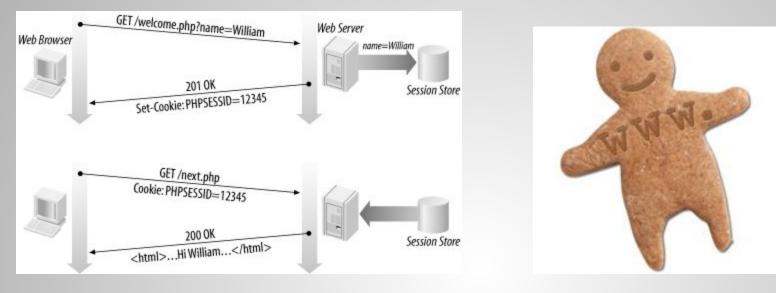


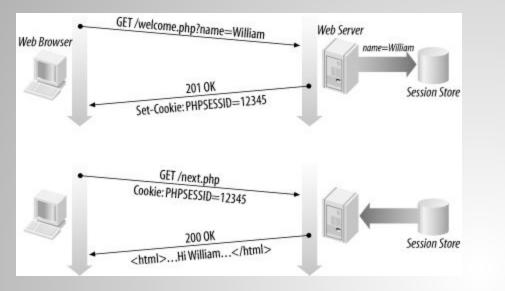
JSP Container

(a) Translation occurs at this point, if JSP has been changed or is new.

(b) If not, translation is skipped.

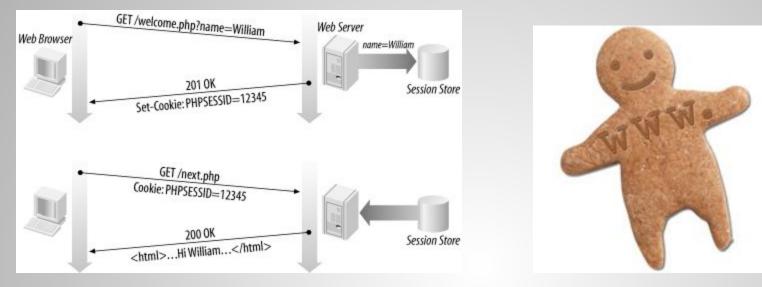






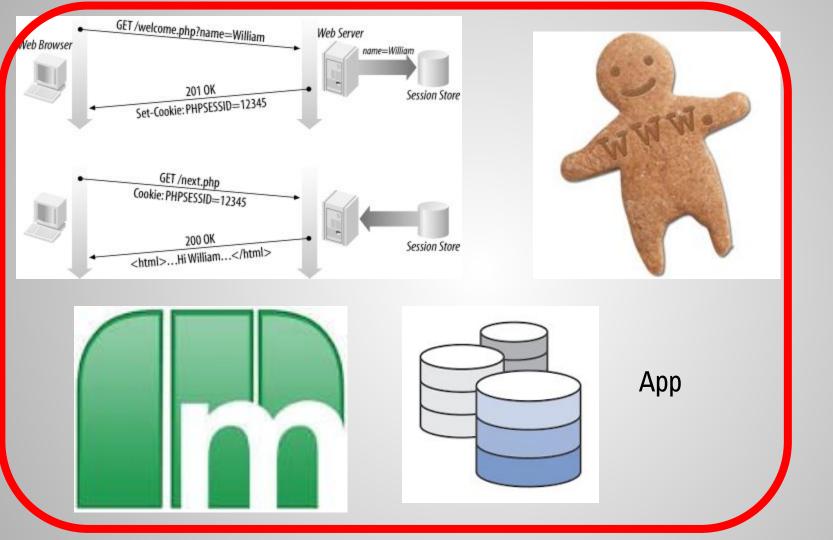


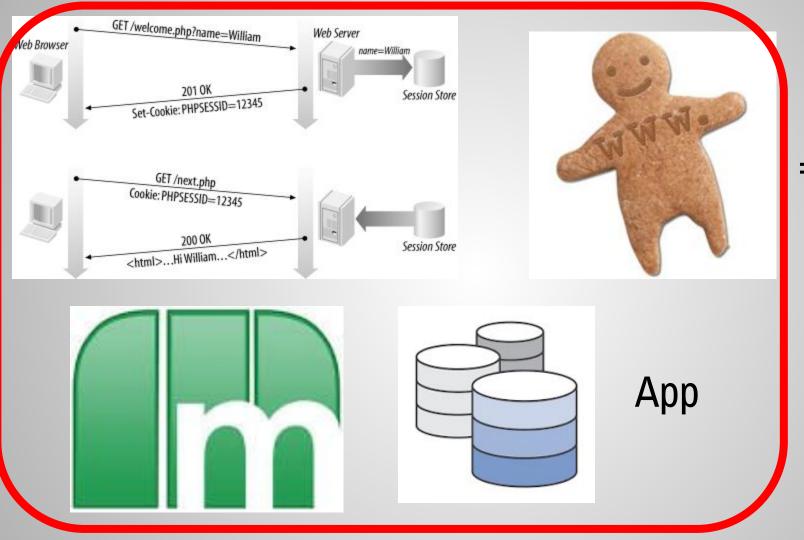




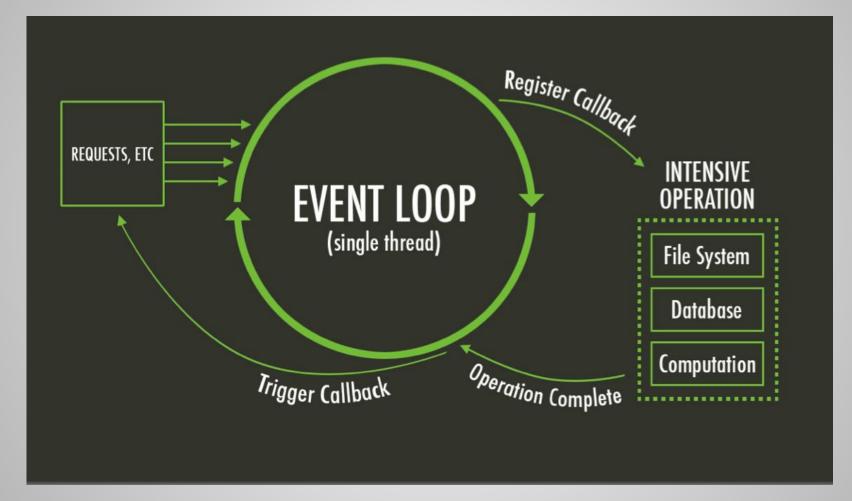


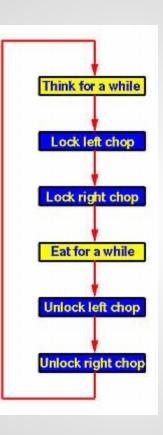


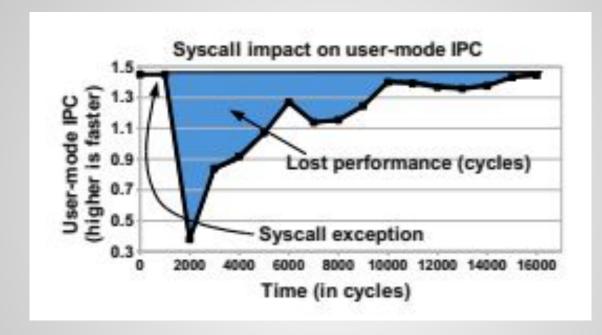




= Threads



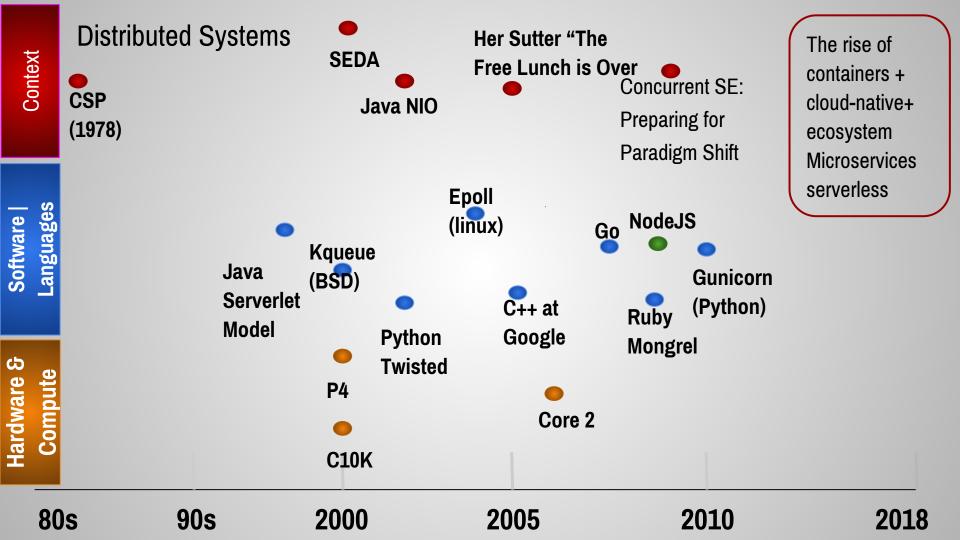


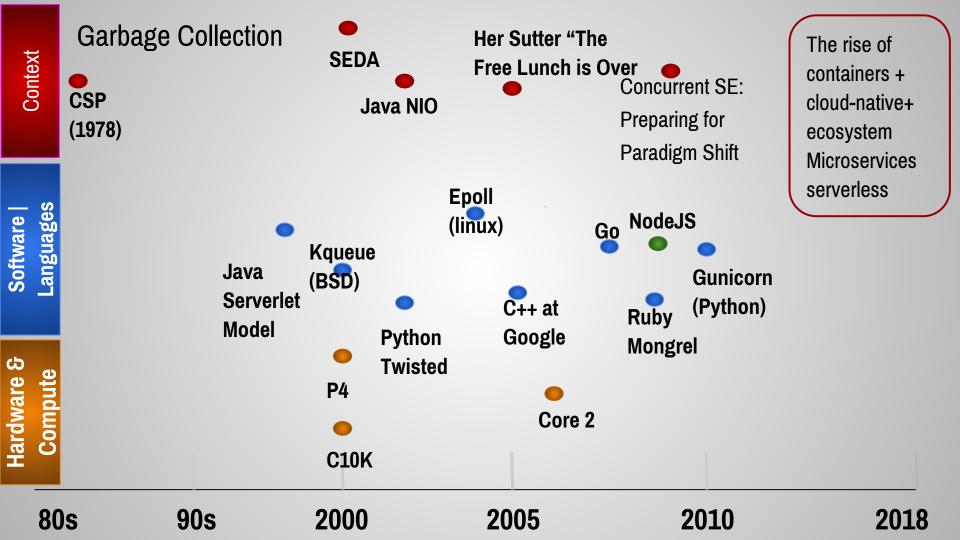


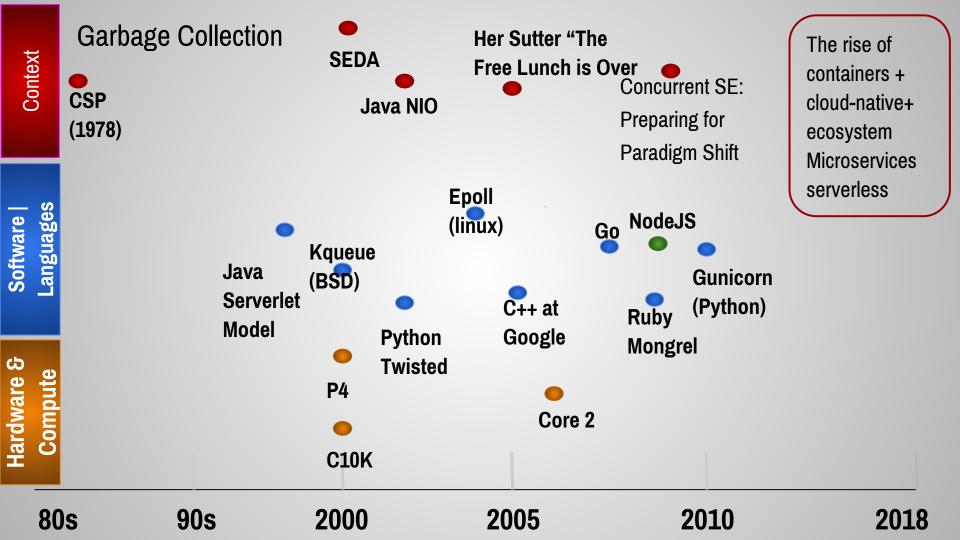
CONCURRENCY - Conclusions

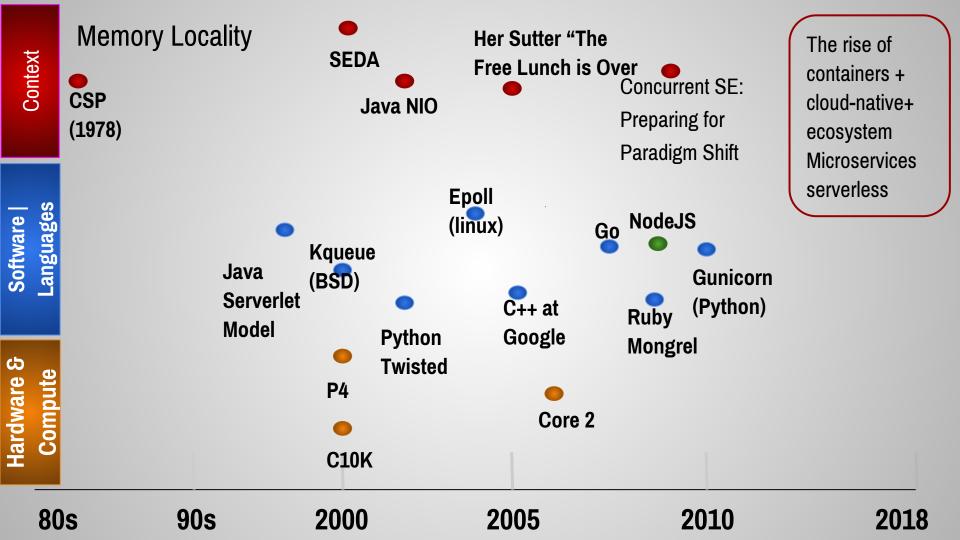
 goroutines are a success: give you the same expressiveness of a traditional imperative programming language while hiding the event driven nature of their interactions with the outside world from the programmer.

 when goroutines do need to coordinate, they do so in user space, rather than being forced to use expensive kernel interactions.









Context	Memory Localit CSP (1978)	SEDA	Her Sutter Free Lunc		The rise of containers + cloud-native+ ecosystem Microservices
Software Languages	Se	Hotspot JVM Ava erverlet odel	Epoll (linux) C++ at Python Google	киру 🖓 🦯	serverless
Hardware & Compute			Twisted	ore 2	
8	0s 90s	2000	2005	2010	2018

Python

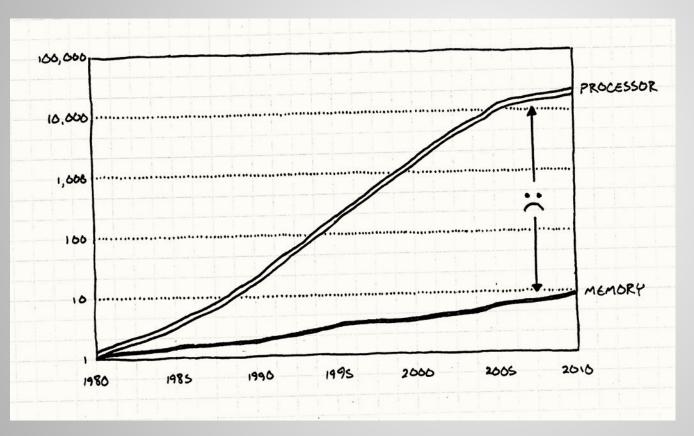
- % python
- >>> from sys import getsizeof
- >>> gocon = 2014
- >>> getsizeof(gocon)
- 24

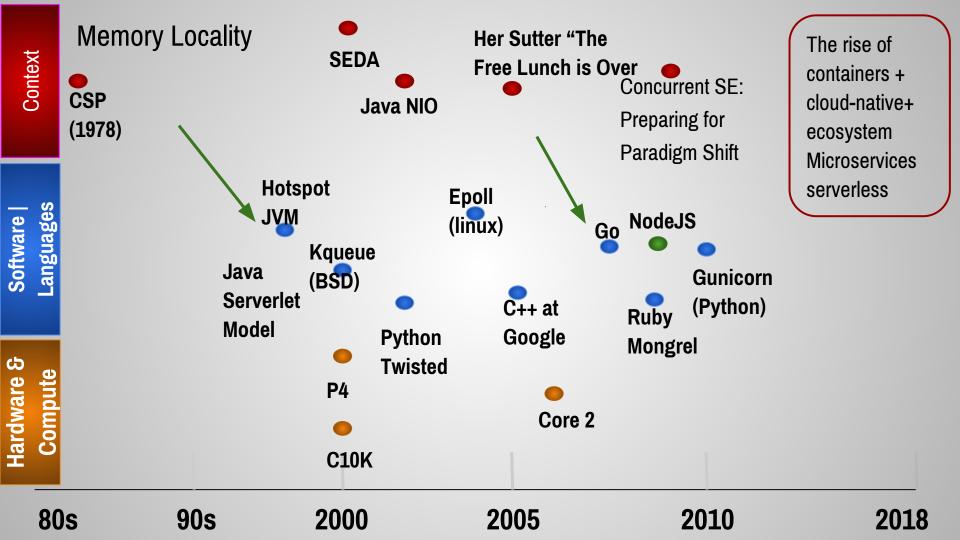
Java

int gocon = 2014;

Java

// 16 bytes on 32 bit JVM
// 24 bytes on 64 bit JVM
Integer gocon = new Integer(2014);



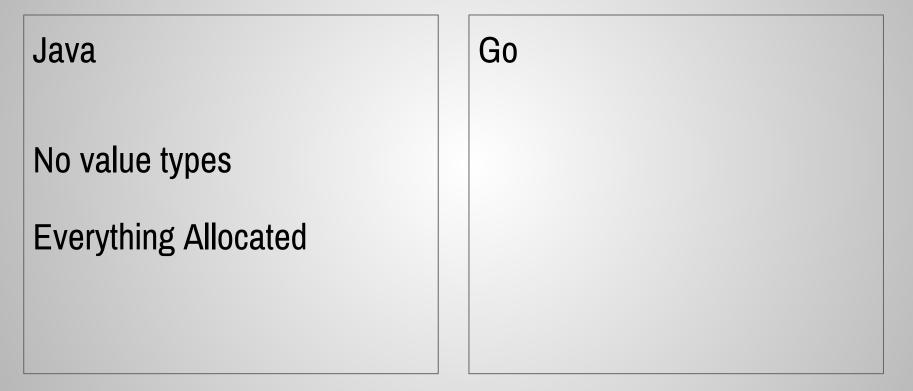




Java

No value types

Everything Allocated



Java

No value types

Everything Allocated

Go

Structs

True Value types

No value types

Java

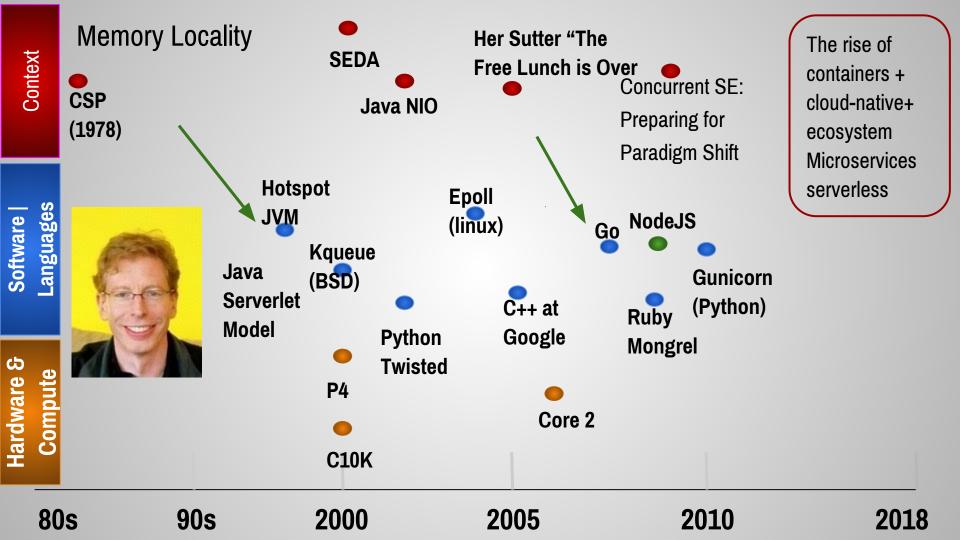
Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values (until 2018)

Go

Structs

True Value types



When the three of us [Ken Thompson, Rob Pike, and Robert <u>Griesemer</u>] got started, it was pure research. The three of us got together and decided that we hated C++. [laughter] ... [Returning to Go,] we started off with the idea that all three of us had to be talked into every feature in the language, so there was no extraneous garbage put into the language for any reason.

No value types

Java

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go

Structs

True Value types

No value types

Java

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go

Structs

True Value types

compact object layout

No object headers

No value types

Java

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go

Structs

True Value types

compact object layout

No object headers

Java

UTF-16

No value types

Everything Allocated

Can't return multiple values

Go UTF-8 **Structs** True Value types **Compact object layout** No object headers Lazy initialization of collections

Memory and Data Locality (conclusion)

Memory Locality (conclusion)

• Go gives programmers the tools to talk about memory efficiently *if they need it.*

Memory Locality (conclusion)

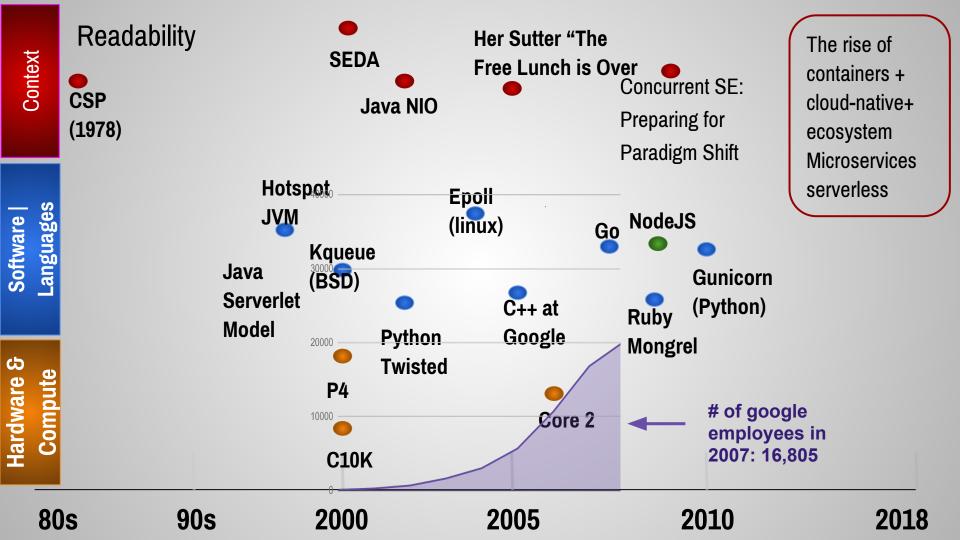
- Go gives programmers the tools to talk about memory efficiently *if they need it.*
- Flexible

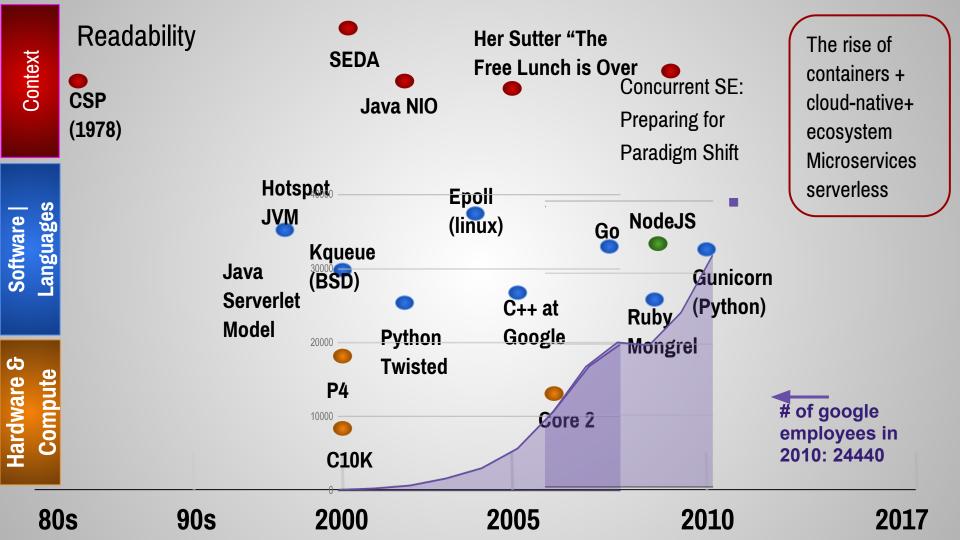
Memory Locality (conclusion)

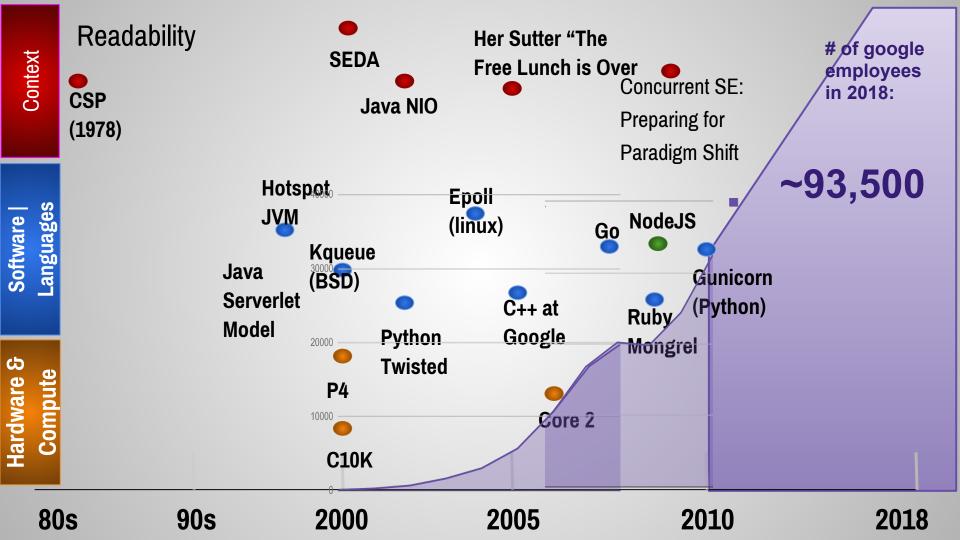
- Go gives programmers the tools to talk about memory efficiently *if they need it.*
- Flexible
- Memory management (not an all-or-nothing like in C++ or Rust)

Readability is paramount—Rob Pike

" Debugging is twice as hard as writing the code in the first place. Therefore, if you write the code as cleverly as possible, you are, by definition, not smart enough to debug it."—Brian Kernighan







simplicity

simplicity

"simple is better"

simplicity

"simple is better"

"this is an insult to intelligent programmers"

simplicity

"simple is better"

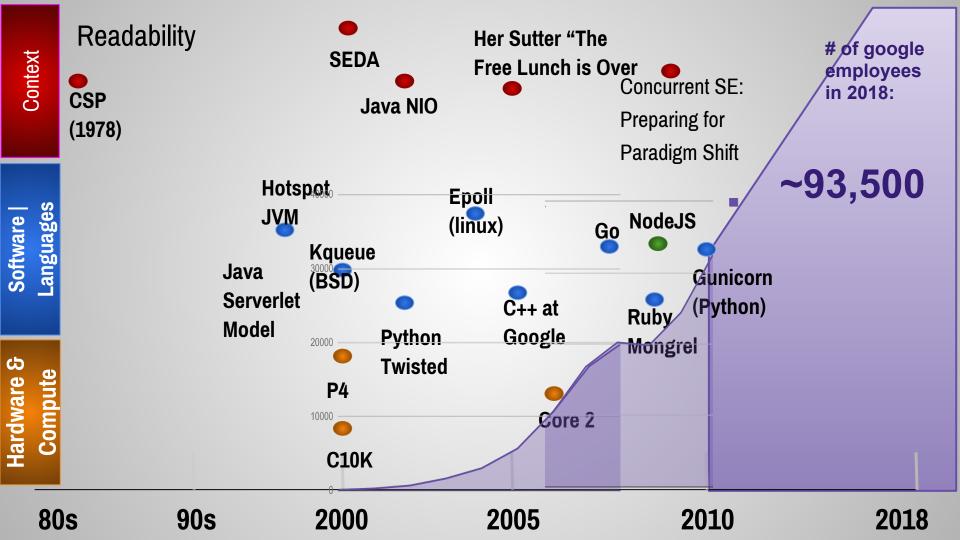
"you're trying to commodify programming and create a situation where our bosses can replace us at will" "You're not paid to program, you're not even paid to maintain someone else's program, you're paid to deliver solutions to the business."

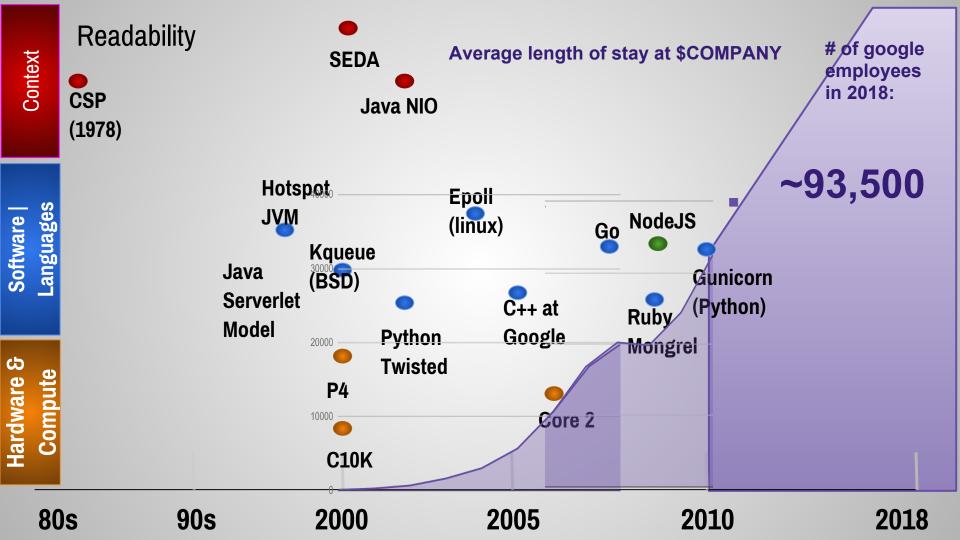
- Dave Cheney

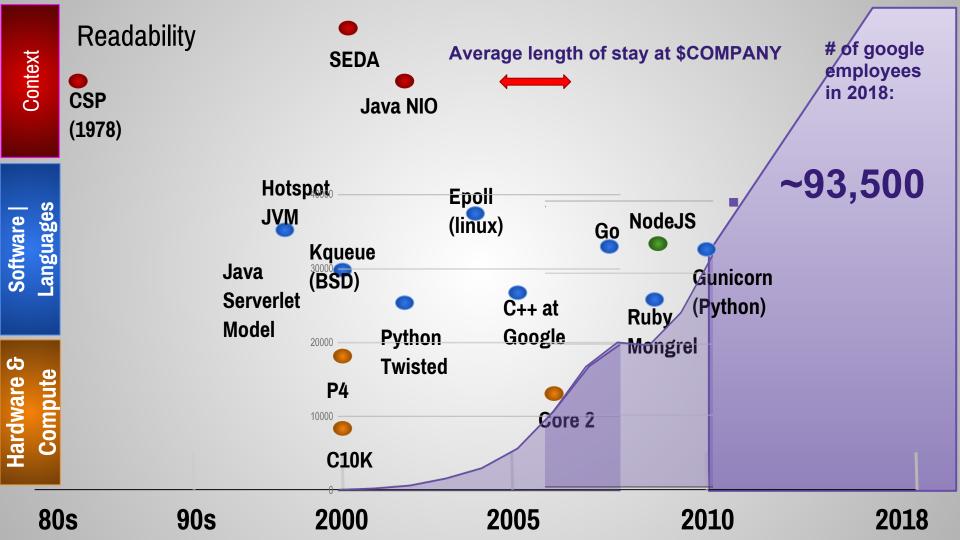
Programs which cannot be maintained will be rewritten

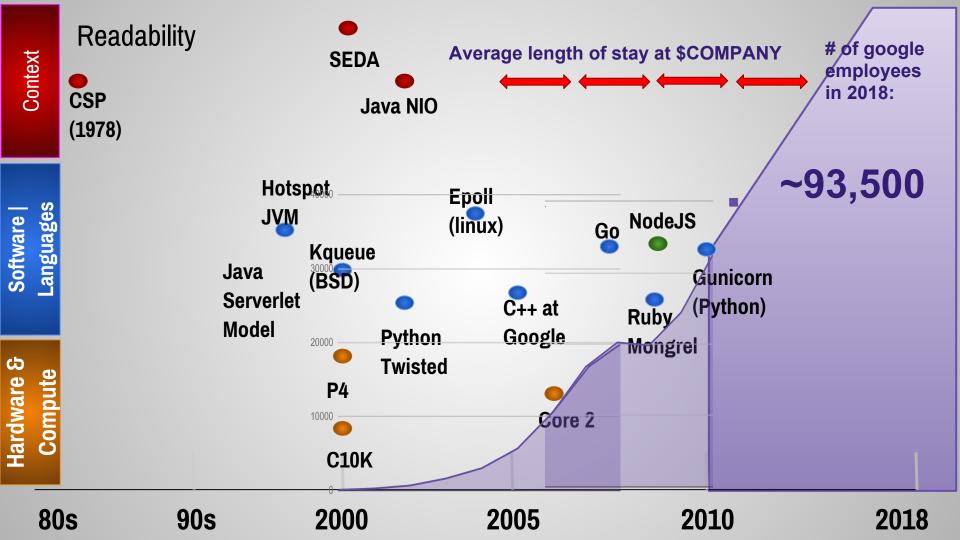
Programs which cannot be maintained will be rewritten

"If you can't be replaced, you cannot be promoted"









51:05 / 1:18:20

1970-1995

Number of programmers doubles every five years,

Tens of millions of programmers.

Half of whom have less than five years experience.

Scroll for details

V

(L)

51:05 / 1:18:20



Number of programmers doubles every five years,

Tens of millions of programmers.

Half of whom have less than five years experience.

Scroll for details

V

(L)

N+1 different opinions on what makes readability.

Familiarity - Go's small language footprint (25 keywords)

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Ingroup knowledge

Familiarity - Go's small language footprint (25 keywords)

Ingroup knowledge

Learners perspectives - First time seeing code

No "magic" - easy vs. Simple

Familiarity - Go's small language footprint (25 keywords)

Ingroup knowledge

Learners perspectives - First time seeing code

No "magic" - easy vs. Simple

HTML w3org: 3.2. Priority of Constituencies: User > Author > Implementor

Personal Convenience.

Convention over Configuration

Personal Convenience.

Convention over Configuration



Personal Convenience.

Convention over Configuration



Simplicity

Software Engineering vs Programming

Software Engineering vs Programming

Software Engineering = Programming integrated over time.

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Engineering is what happens when things need to live longer and influence of time starts creeping in. -Titus Winters

Software Engineering vs Programming

Software Engineering = Programming integrated over time.

Engineering is what happens when things need to live longer and influence of time starts creeping in. -Titus Winters

All this complexity is fundamentally a different flavor than programming.

focus on sustaining engineering (readability)

TIME TRAVELING EVERYWHERE

CI

Unit Tests

Refactoring

Design Patterns

Dependency Management



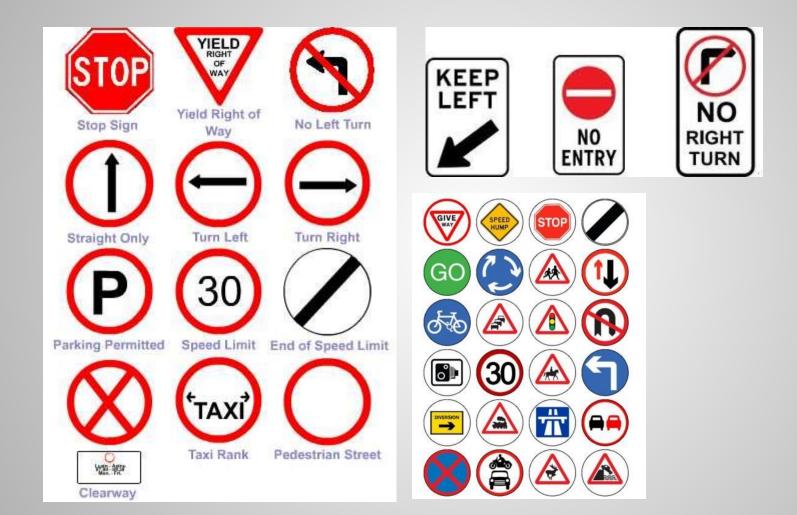
focus on sustaining engineering (readability)

continuance of many different engineers over a long period of time

clear module boundaries

keeping import dependencies between packages linear, thus keeping compile times down.

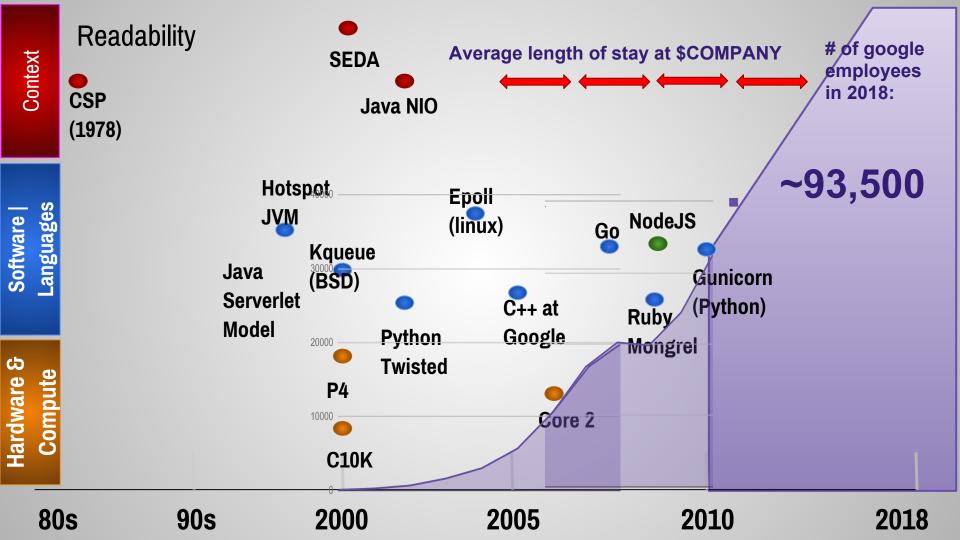
Simplicity and the Greater Good



"Simplicity is a great virtue but it requires hard work to achieve it and education to appreciate it. And to make matters worse: complexity sells better."

– Edsger W. Dijkstra

The Future



The Future?

Hardware &

Compute

The problems we have today were not there 20 years ago, nor will be problems we face 20 years from now.

2017

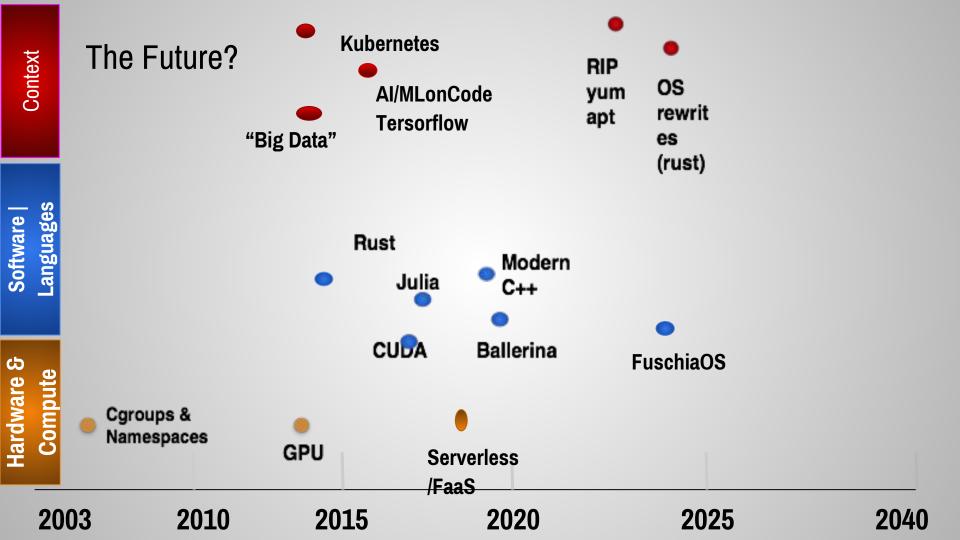
2025

2020

2030



2040



Software | Languages

ω

2017

The Future?



2040

2035

...hang on for the ride

2030

lardware Comput		
Ĩ		

2025

2020

Thank you!

Carmen Andoh @carmatrocity GOTO Copenhagen

November 2018