The History of Concurrency Support in Java

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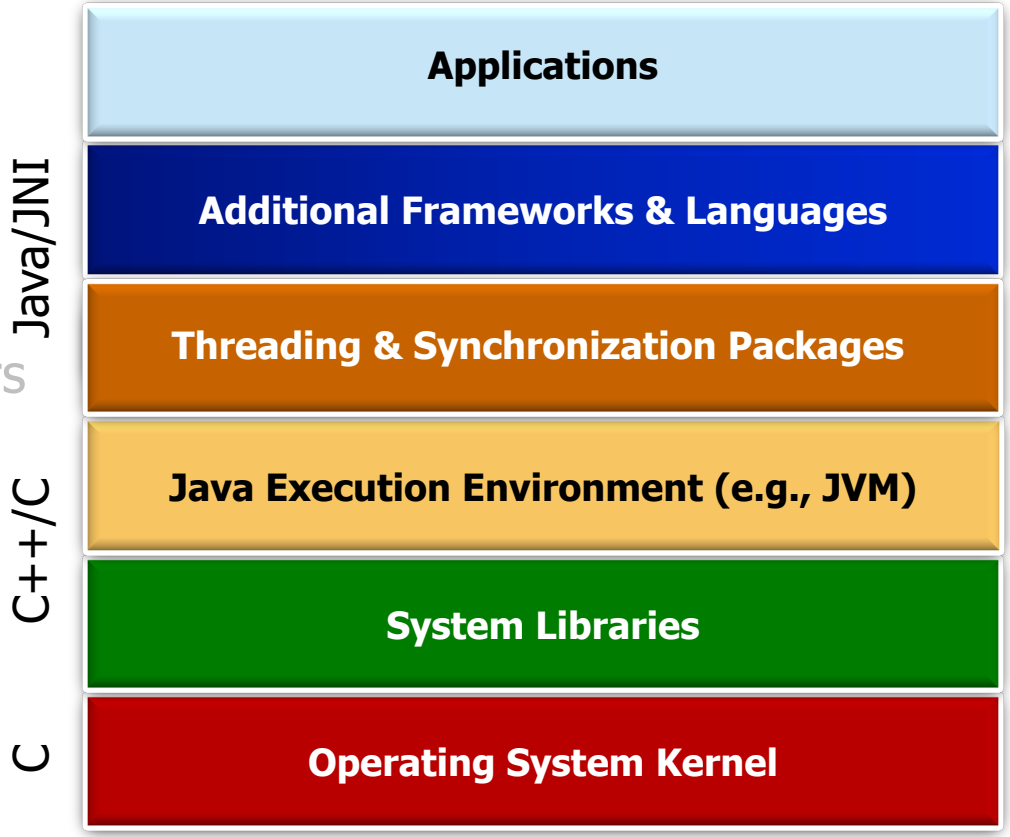
Learning Objectives in this Part of the Lesson

- Understand the meaning of key concurrent programming concepts
- Recognize how Java supports concurrent programming concepts
- Be aware of common concurrency hazards faced by Java programmers
- Learn Java concurrency history

JAVA HISTORY



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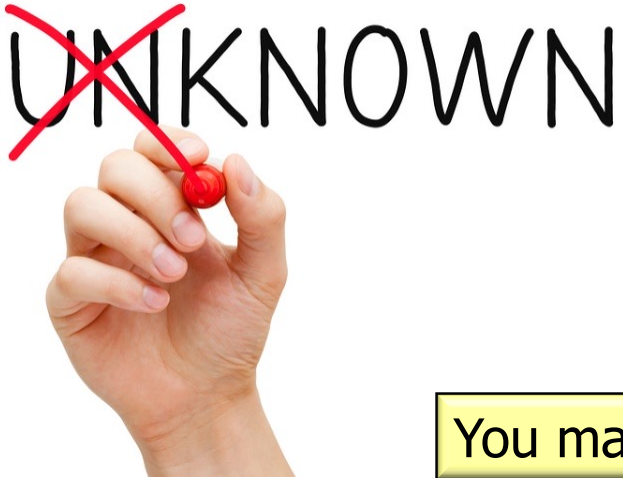
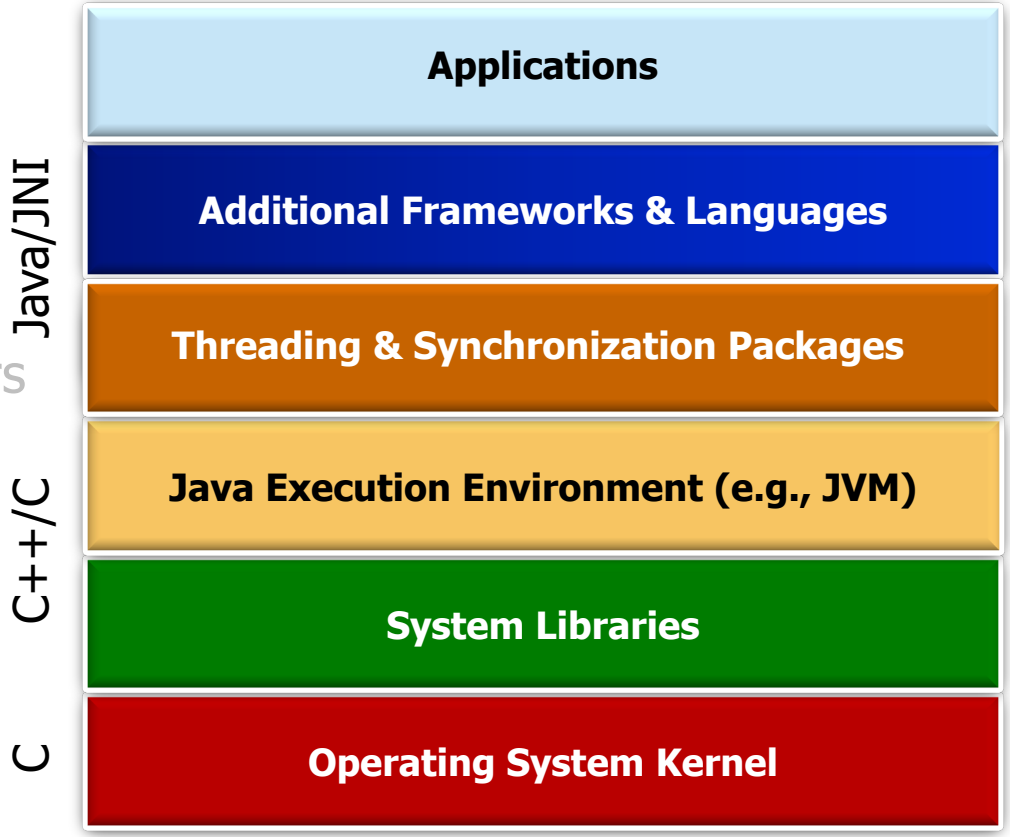




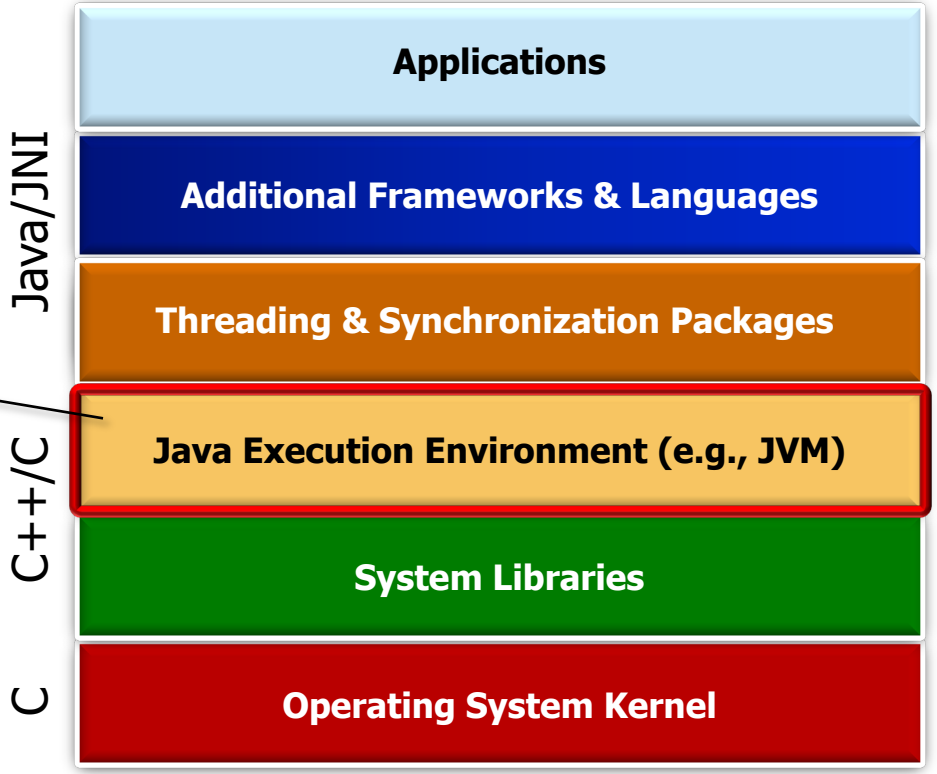
You may already know some of this!!!

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

- Foundational concurrency support

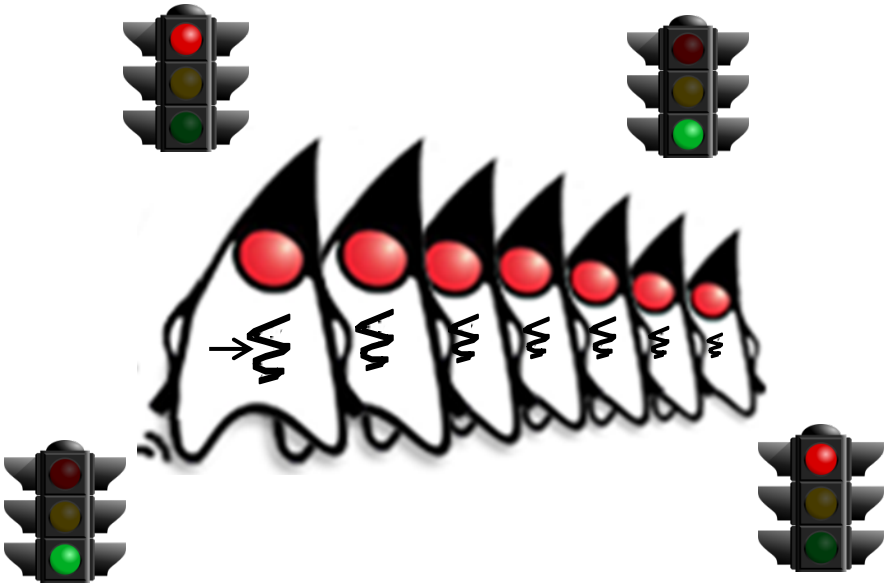
e.g., Java threads & built-in monitor objects were available in Java 1



See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_version_history#JDK_1.0

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

- Foundational concurrency support
  - Focus on basic multi-threading & synchronization primitives



See docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/essential/concurrency

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

- Foundational concurrency support
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Allow multiple threads to communicate & interact via a "bounded buffer"

```
SimpleBlockingBoundedQueue
<Integer> simpleQueue = new
    SimpleBlockingBoundedQueue<>();

Thread[] threads = new Thread[] {
  new Thread(new Producer<>
                 (simpleQueue)),
  new Thread(new Consumer<>
                 (simpleQueue))
};

for (Thread thread : threads)
  thread.start();

for (Thread thread : threads)
  thread.join();
```

See github.com/douglascraigschmidt/LiveLessons/tree/master/SimpleBlockingQueue

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Create two Thread objects that produce & consume messages via the bounded buffer

See docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/lang/Thread.html

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Start the producer & consumer threads

See docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/lang/Thread.html#start

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Wait for the producer & consumer threads to finish running

See docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/lang/Thread.html#join

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- Foundational concurrency support
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```
class
SimpleBlockingBoundedQueue<E> {
  public E take() ...{
    synchronized(this) {
      while (mList.isEmpty())
        wait();

      notifyAll();

      return mList.poll();
    }
  }
```

Demonstrates Java's built-in monitor object mutual exclusion & coordination primitives

See github.com/douglascraigschmidt/LiveLessons/tree/master/SimpleBlockingQueue

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```

Ensure mutually exclusive access to take()'s critical section

See docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/essential/concurrency/locksync.html

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Coordinate interactions between multiple producer & consumer threads

See docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/essential/concurrency/guardmeth.html

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

- Foundational concurrency support
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  - Efficient, but low-level & very limited in capabilities

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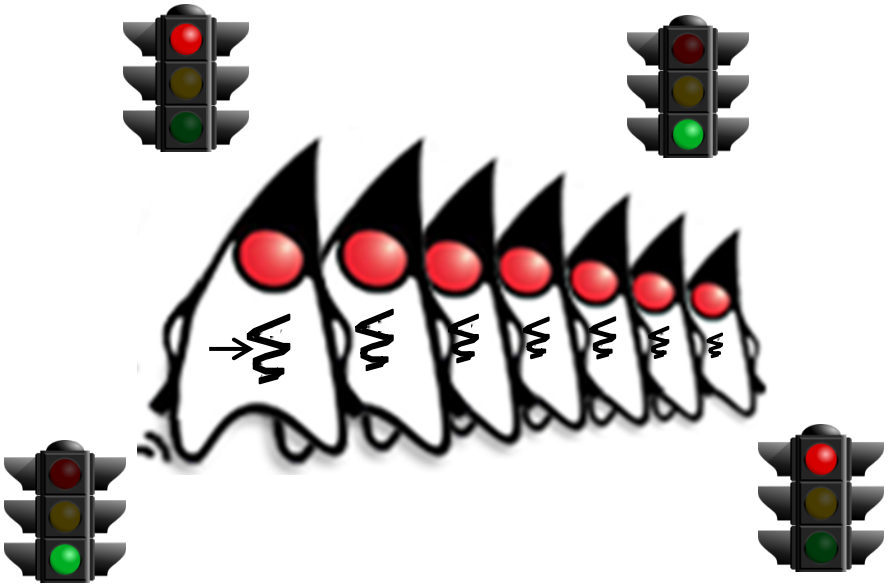
- Foundational concurrency support
  - Focus on basic multi-threading & synchronization primitives
  - Efficient, but low-level & very limited in capabilities
    - Many accidental complexities

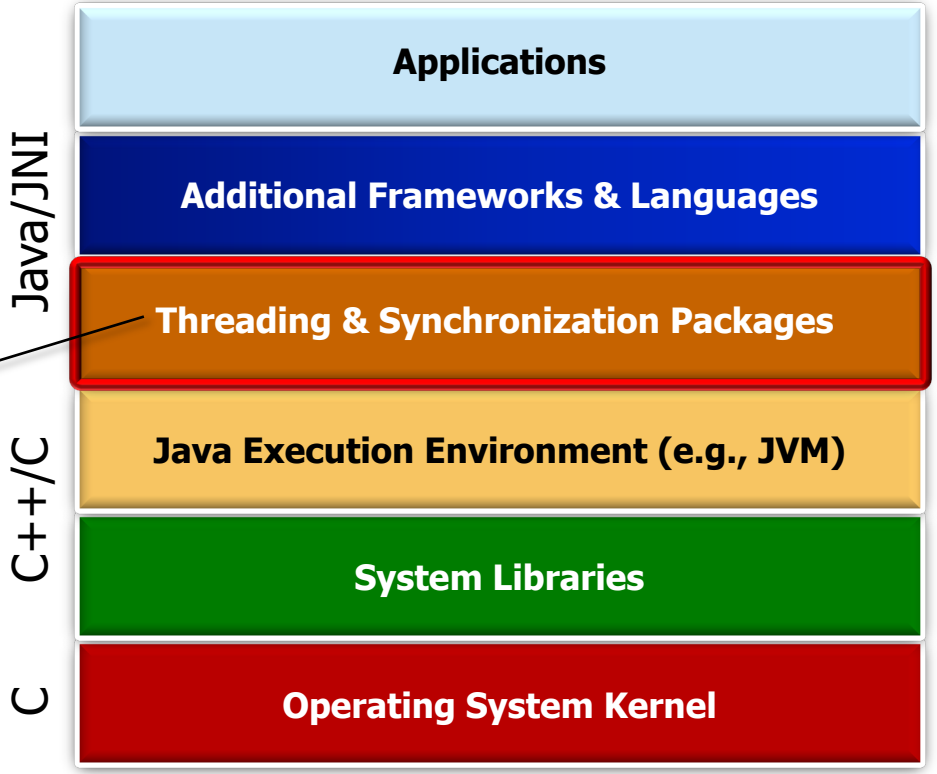


Accidental complexities arise from limitations with software techniques, tools, & methods

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_Silver_Bullet

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

- Advanced concurrency support

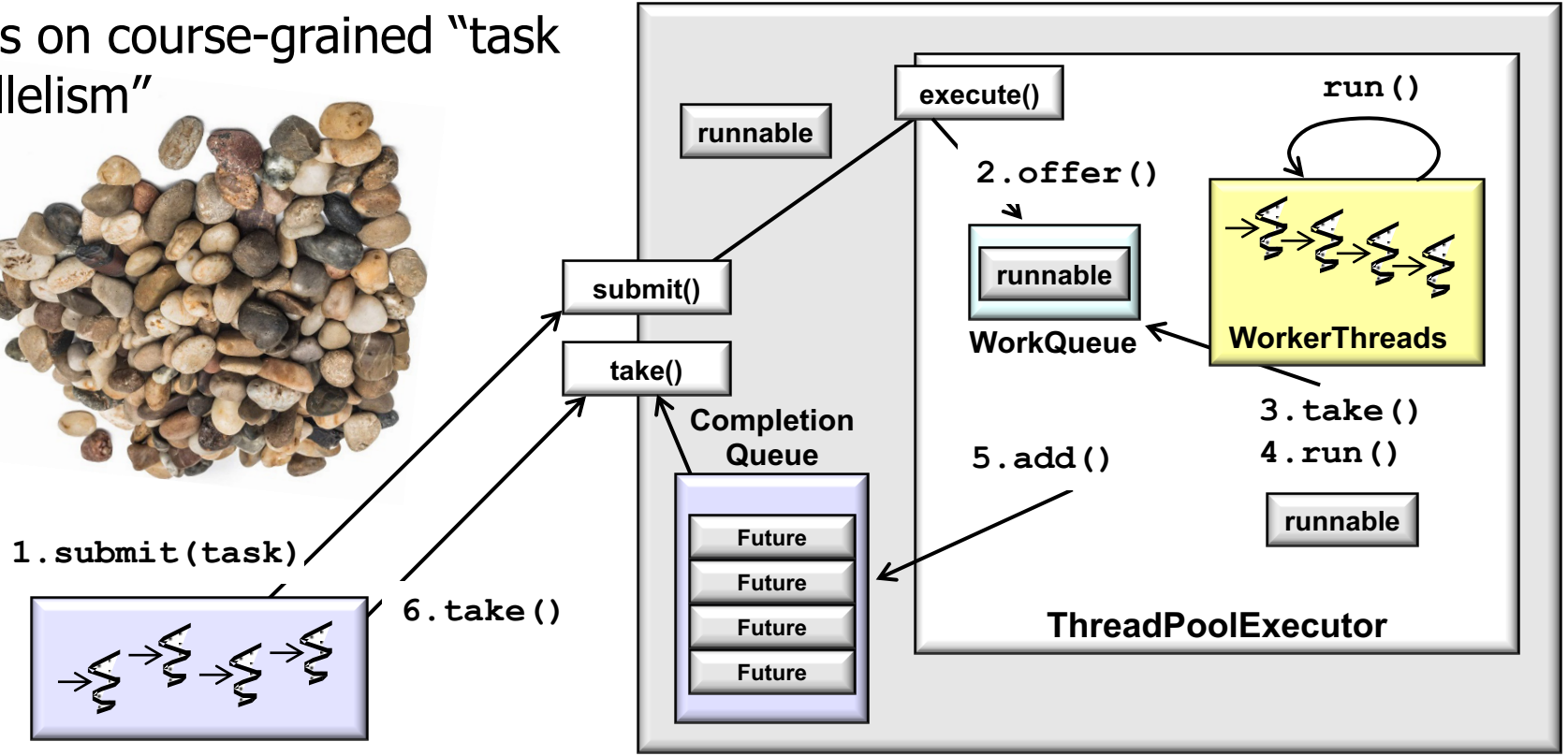


e.g., Java executor framework, synchronizers, blocking queues, atomics, & concurrent collections all became available in Java 5+

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_version_history#J2SE_5.0

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

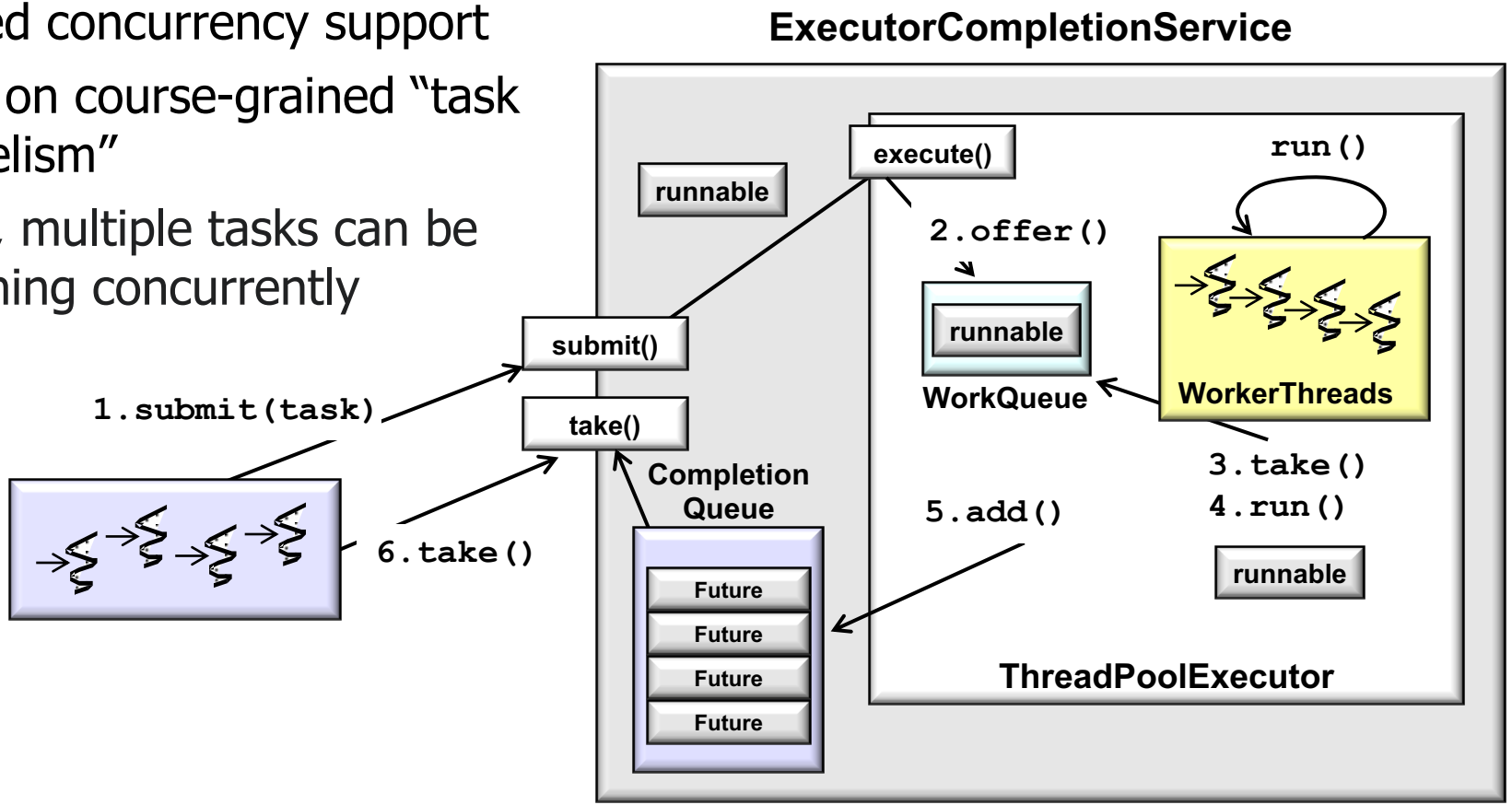
- Advanced concurrency support
  - Focus on course-grained "task parallelism"



See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Task_parallelism

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

- Advanced concurrency support
  - Focus on course-grained "task parallelism"
    - e.g., multiple tasks can be running concurrently



The assumption then was there weren't many processor cores, e.g., 2 to 4

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- Advanced concurrency support
  - Focus on course-grained "task parallelism"
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Create a fixed-sized thread pool & also coordinate the starting & stopping of multiple tasks that acquire/release shared resources

```
ExecutorService executor =
  Executors.newFixedThreadPool
    (numOfBeings,
     mThreadFactory);
...
CyclicBarrier entryBarrier =
  new CyclicBarrier(numOfBeings+1);

CountDownLatch exitBarrier =
  new CountDownLatch(numOfBeings);

for (int i=0; i < beingCount; ++i)
  executor.execute
    (makeBeingRunnable(i,
                       entryBarrier,
                       exitBarrier));
```

See github.com/douglascraigschmidt/LiveLessons/tree/master/PalantiriManagerApplication

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

- Advanced concurrency support
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Creates a thread pool that reuses a fixed # of threads operating off of a shared unbounded queue

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See docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/util/concurrent/Executors.html#newFixedThreadPool

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- Advanced concurrency support
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A synchronizer that allows a set of threads to all wait for each other to reach a common barrier point

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A synchronizer that allows one or more threads to wait until a set of operations being performed in other threads completes

See docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/util/concurrent/CountDownLatch.html

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```
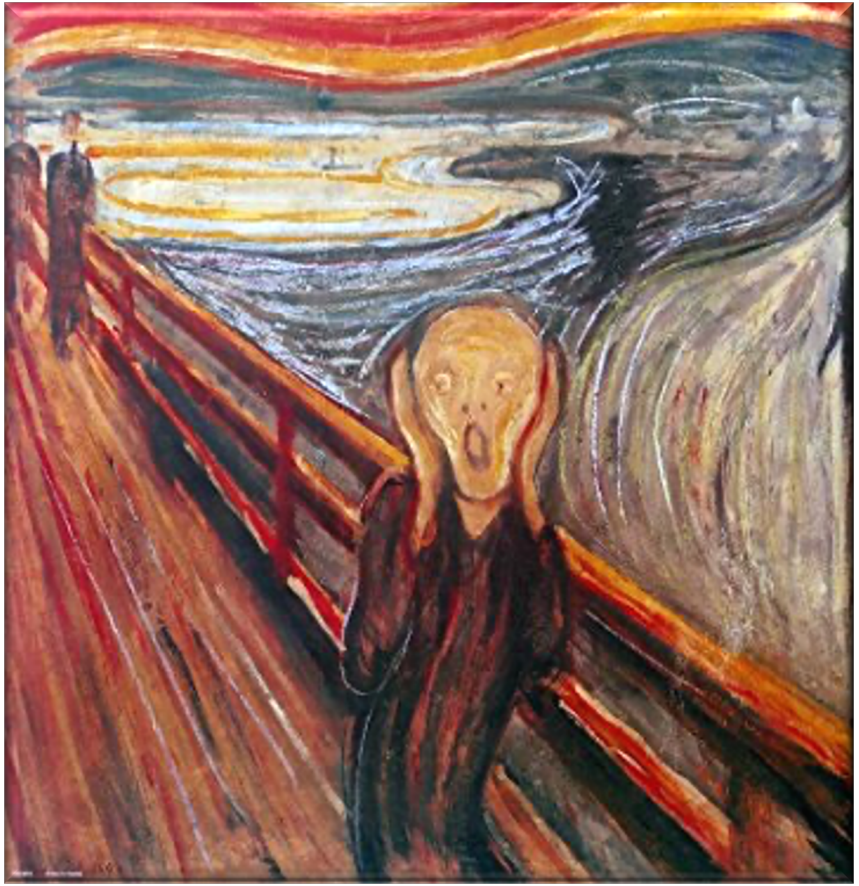

Executes the given command at some time in the future in the fixed-size pool of threads

See docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/util/concurrent/Executor.html#execute

A Brief History of Concurrency in Java

- Advanced concurrency support
  - Focus on course-grained "task parallelism"
  - Feature-rich & optimized, but also tedious & error-prone to program



See flylib.com/books/en/2.558.1/risks_of_threads.html

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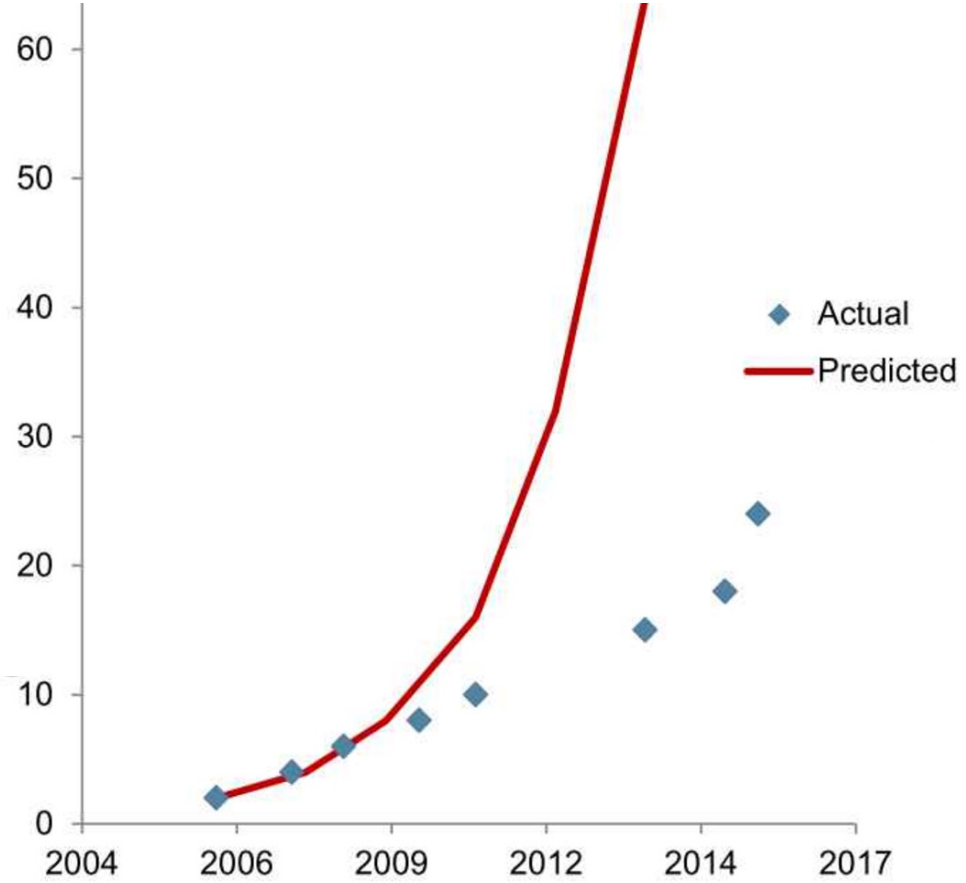
    - & scales poorly for modern multi-core processors



See www.infoq.com/presentations/parallel-java-se-8

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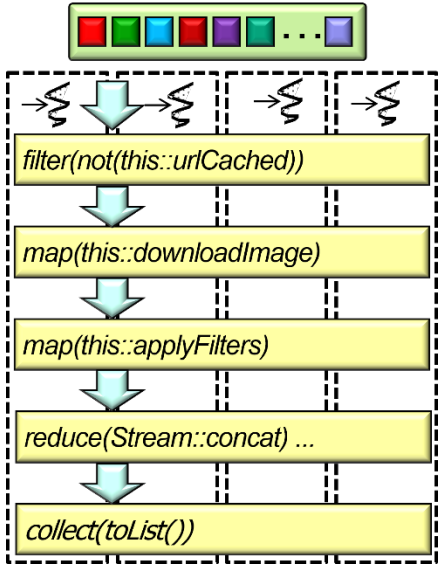
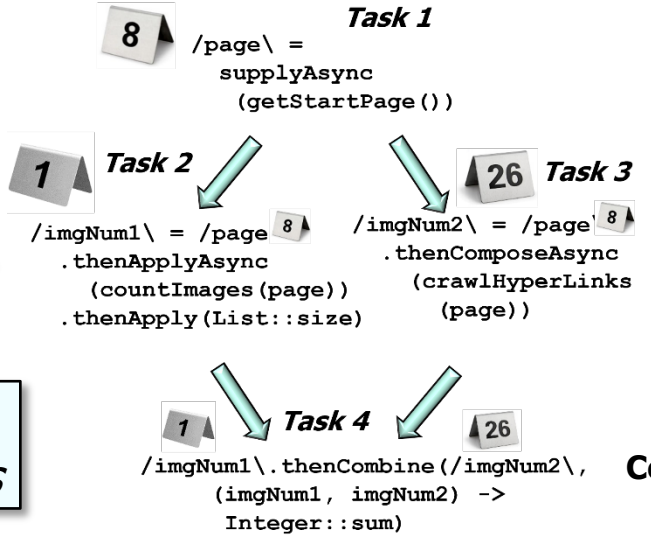
ForkJoinPool

Parallel Streams





Completable Futures

Motivates the need for Java's parallel programming frameworks

See upcoming lesson on "*How Parallel Programs Are Developed in Java*"

End of the History of Concurrency Support in Java