

# Concurrency:

It's harder (and easier)  
than you think



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# Seven Concurrency Models in Seven Weeks

When Threads Unravel



Paul Butcher

Series editor: *Bruce A. Tate*

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CHAMPIONSHIP

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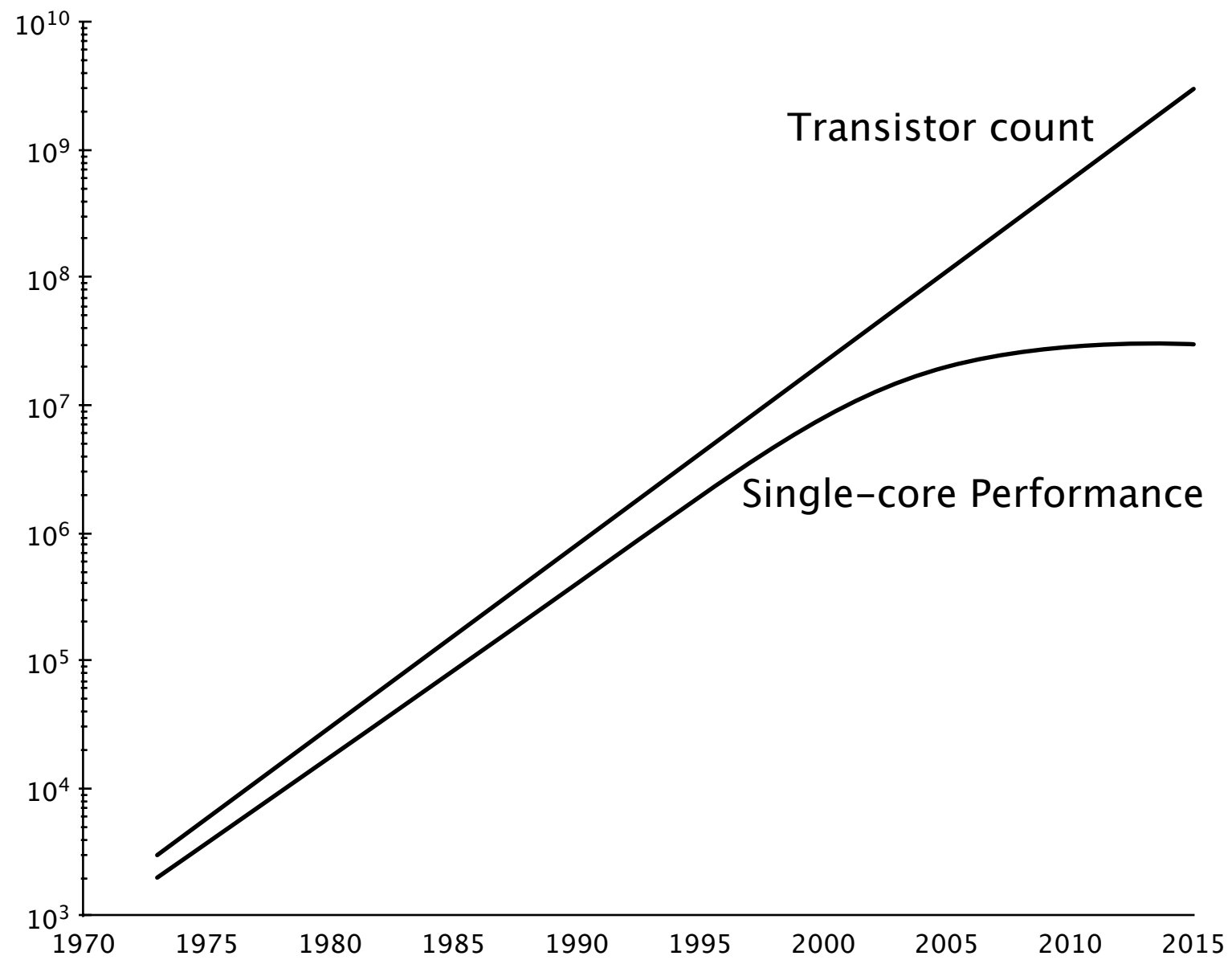


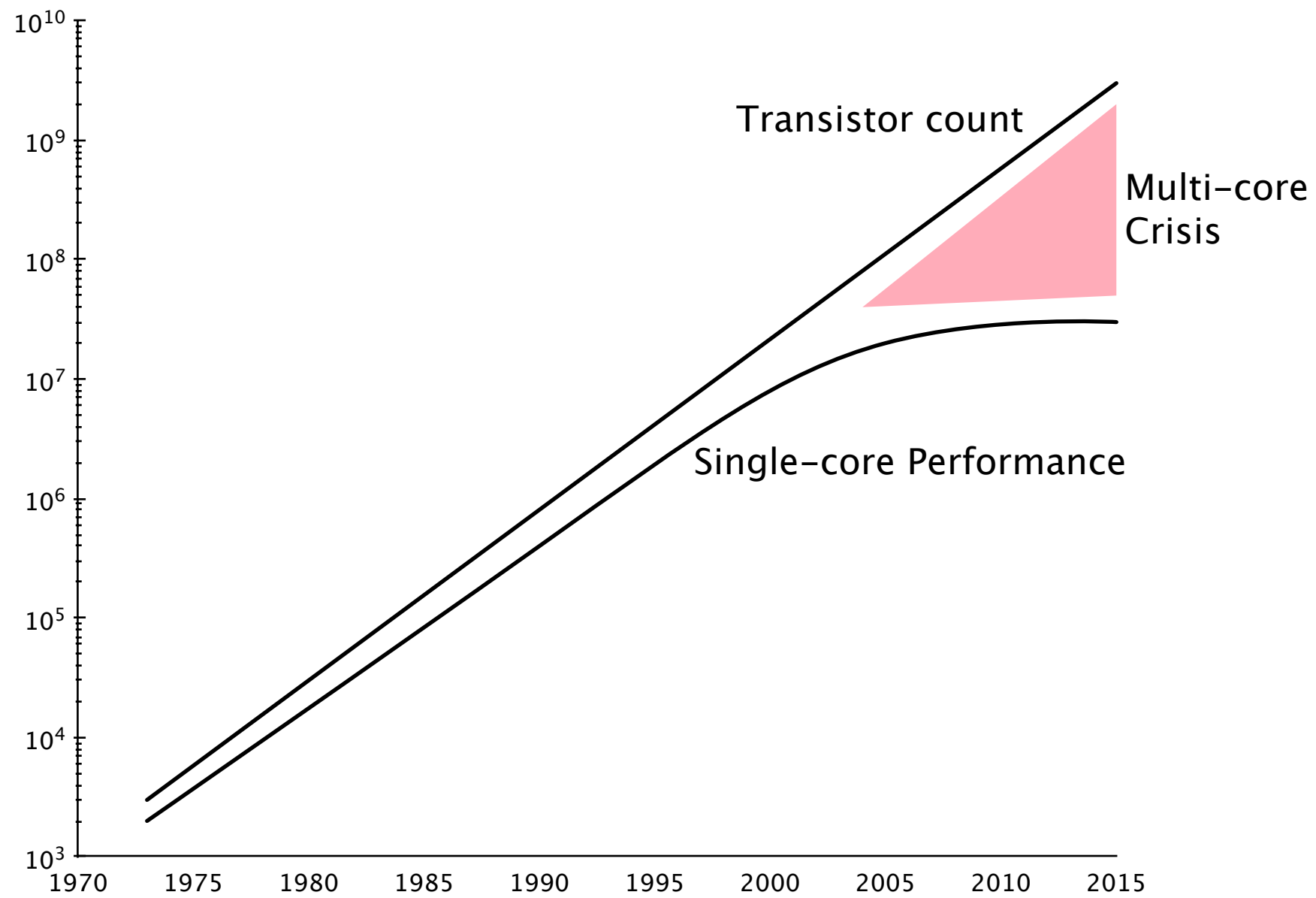
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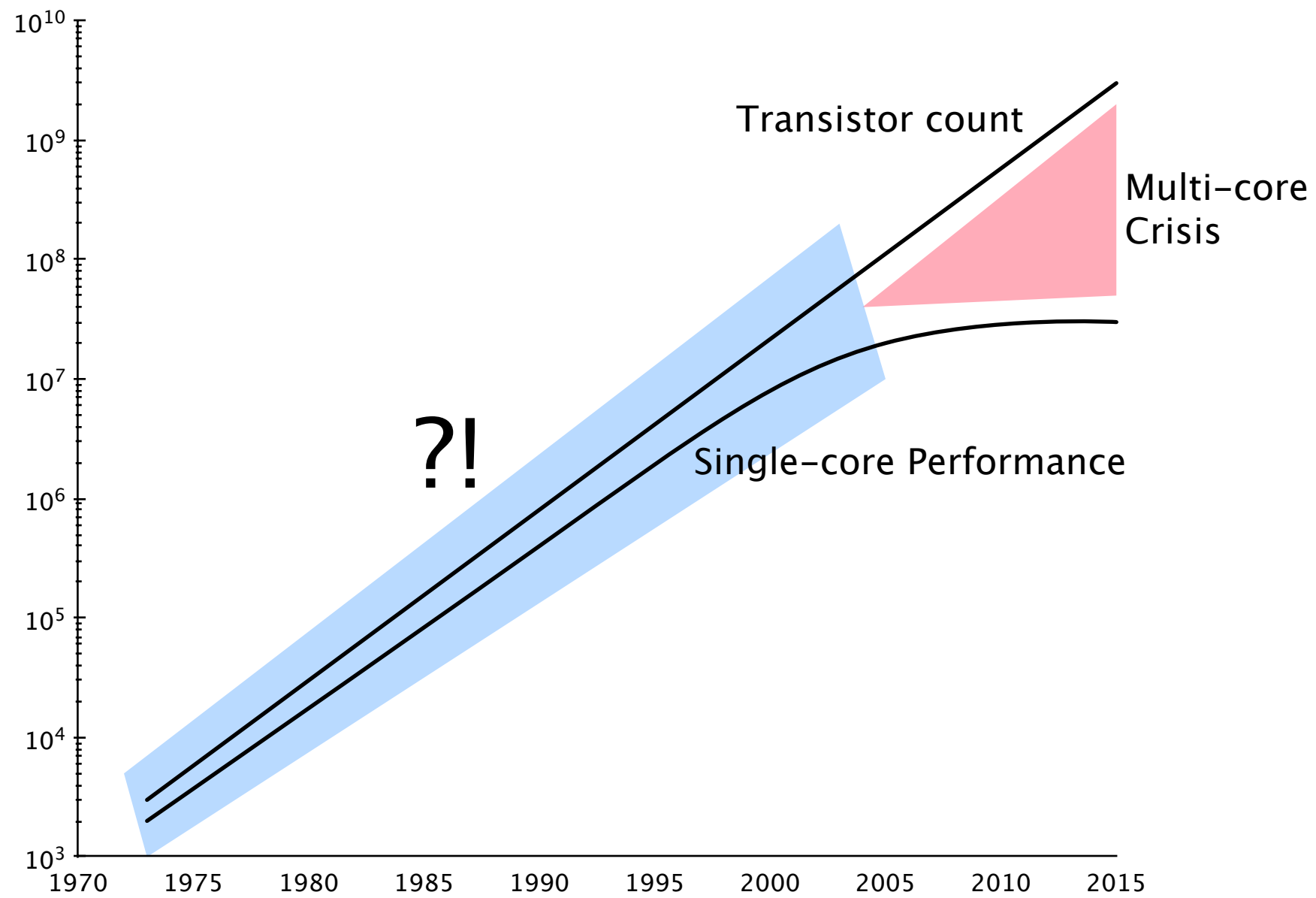
# What Makes Threaded Code Hard to Get Right?

- Deadlock
  - Livelock
  - Lock Contention
  - Scalability
  - Priority Inversion
  - ...
- **Memory Model**









- Increasing clock speed
- Bit-level **parallelism**
- Instruction-level **parallelism**

# The Elephant in the Room

## Testing!



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# Bottom Line

Multi-threaded programming is  
**hard.**



# Bottom Line

Multi-threaded programming is  
**really, really hard.**



The problem is **shared, mutable** data





# Functional Programming



The problem is **shared**, ~~mutable~~ data



# Message Passing:

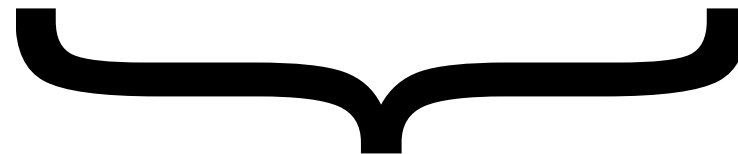
Actors

Communicating Sequential Processes



The problem is ~~shared~~, **mutable** data

The problem is **shared, mutable** data



Software Transactional Memory  
Clojure's "Unified Succession Model"





I'm sorry that I long ago coined the term  
“objects” for this topic, because it gets many  
people to focus on the lesser idea.

The big idea is “messaging”.

–Alan Key

Concurrency is hard



~~Concurrency is hard~~



Threads and Locks are hard



Concurrency

Good Tools

Fast  
Scalable  
Resilient

...

**Simple**  
**Correct**



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