

Parallel design patterns

ARCHER course

Case study: The actor model for ATC



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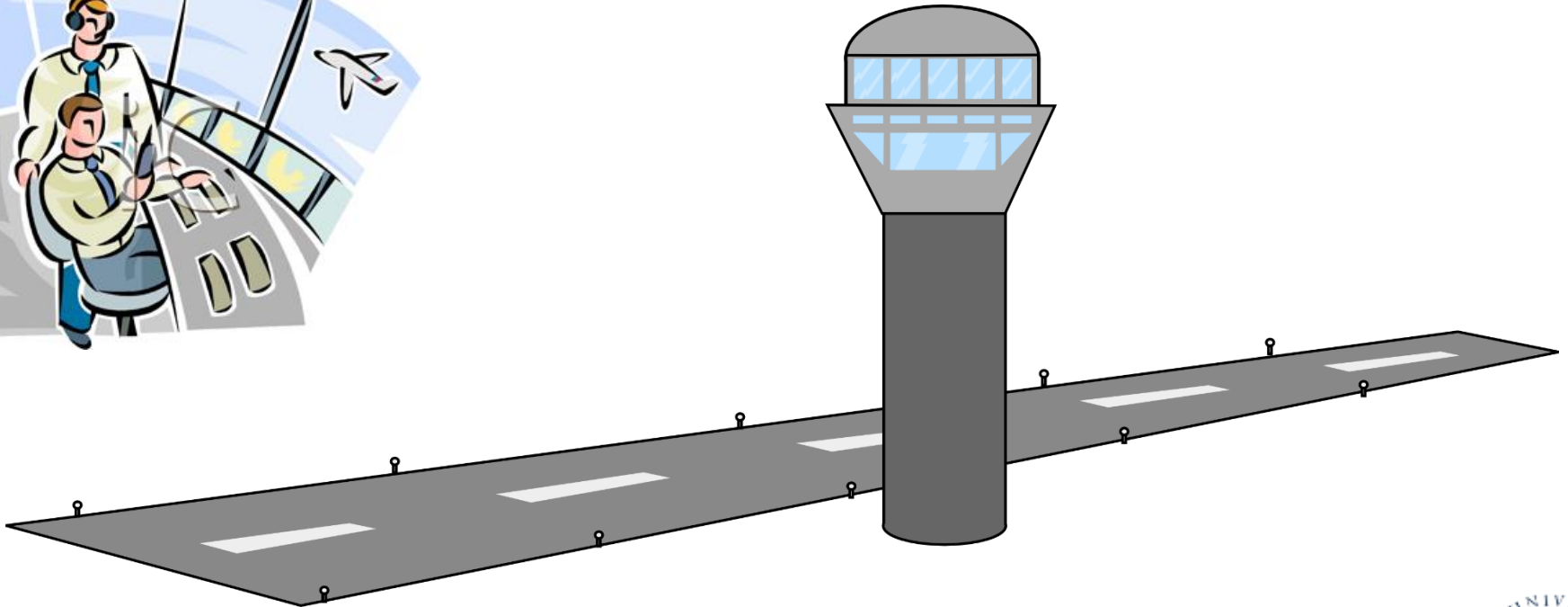
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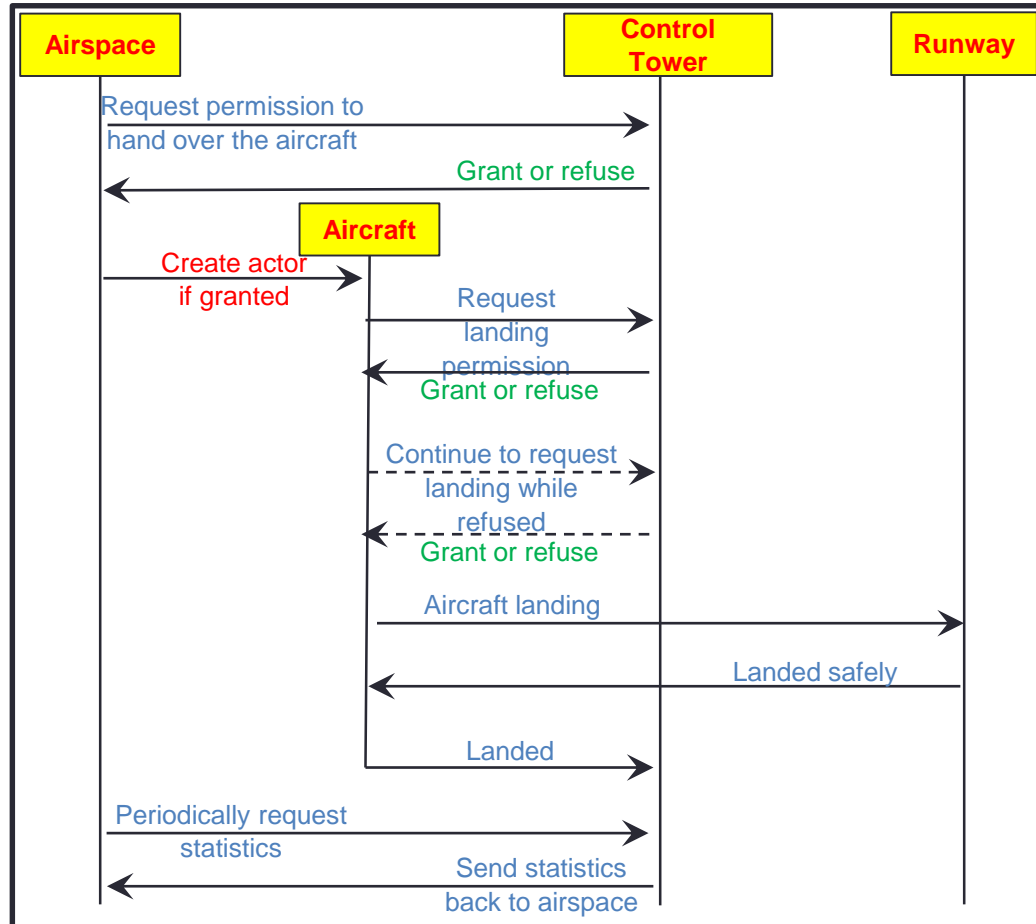
The problem



Use the actor pattern to model this via MPI

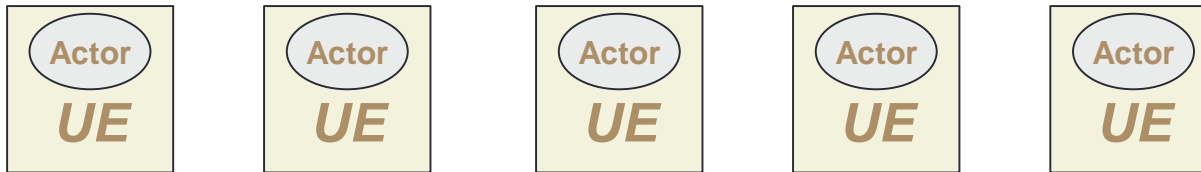
- Four types of actor
 - Air traffic control tower
 - Runway
 - Airspace (the operator introducing/handing aircraft to the ATC tower)
 - Aircraft
- Control tower, runway and airspace are created once at model start up and exist till the end
- Aircraft are much more dynamic, created as the model runs and many actors can be created (and can die)

Interaction pattern



Some hints

- A skeleton implementation is included
 - Use it if you want, entirely up to you
 - Worked solutions are also available too
- I strongly suggest one actor per UE as much simpler to do



- I also provide the process pool implementation where workers are actors
- Lots of details in the hand out

ProcessPool: Important Considerations

- Your code must call `MPI_Init` before any of the following calls
- Every process must call `processPoolInit`
- The master process keeps track of which processes are active, but any process can call `startWorkerProcess` to request that a new worker is created/awoken. An ID is returned by this call which can be used to send a message to the new process.
 - The communications between the master and worker required to make this happen occur “behind the scenes”

ProcessPool: Important Considerations

- The master process will probably do the job of creating the initial actors in the simulation
- All actors should be implemented using workers

```
while (workerStatus) {  
    int parentId = getCommandData();  
    // insert code here which implements being an actor  
  
    workerStatus=workerSleep();    // This MPI process will  
    sleep, further workers may be run on this process now  
}
```


ProcessPool: Important Considerations

- All actors **must** call `shouldWorkerStop` at regular intervals to allow the master to terminate the program if required. If `shouldWorkerStop` returns true, then it is **your** responsibility to ensure that the flow of control returns to the line after the call to `workerCode`
- The process pool uses MPI tags 16384 & 16383
 - So avoid using these tags in your code