Concurrency

Concurrency

Definition: several scripts are executing simultaneously and potentially interacting with each other.

This is how we assign grades! Based on the Birkahni Theorem, we usually get the grades to average to a B+, though due to the size of the class this semester, the average will be a C+ (jk)

1

Race Condition

Concurrency Issue

Race Condition

Definition:

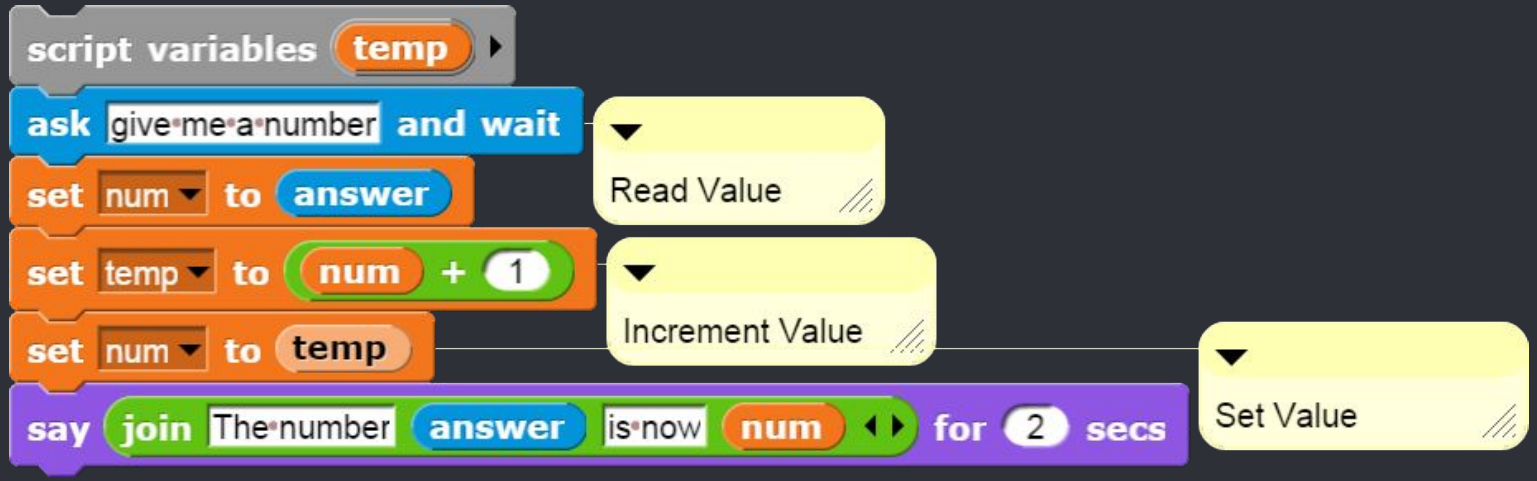
When events of a program don’t happen in the order that the programmer intended.

Function Definition

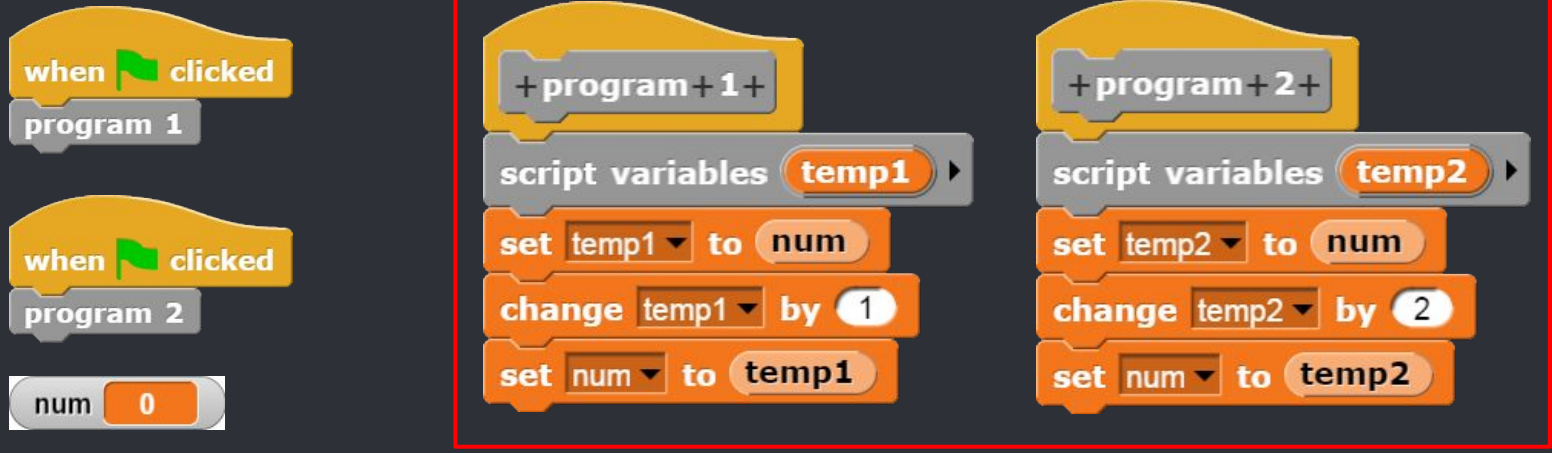
Read Value - reads in a value from user input

Increments Value - increments the value, but does not set it

Sets Value - sets the value to the incremented version of it

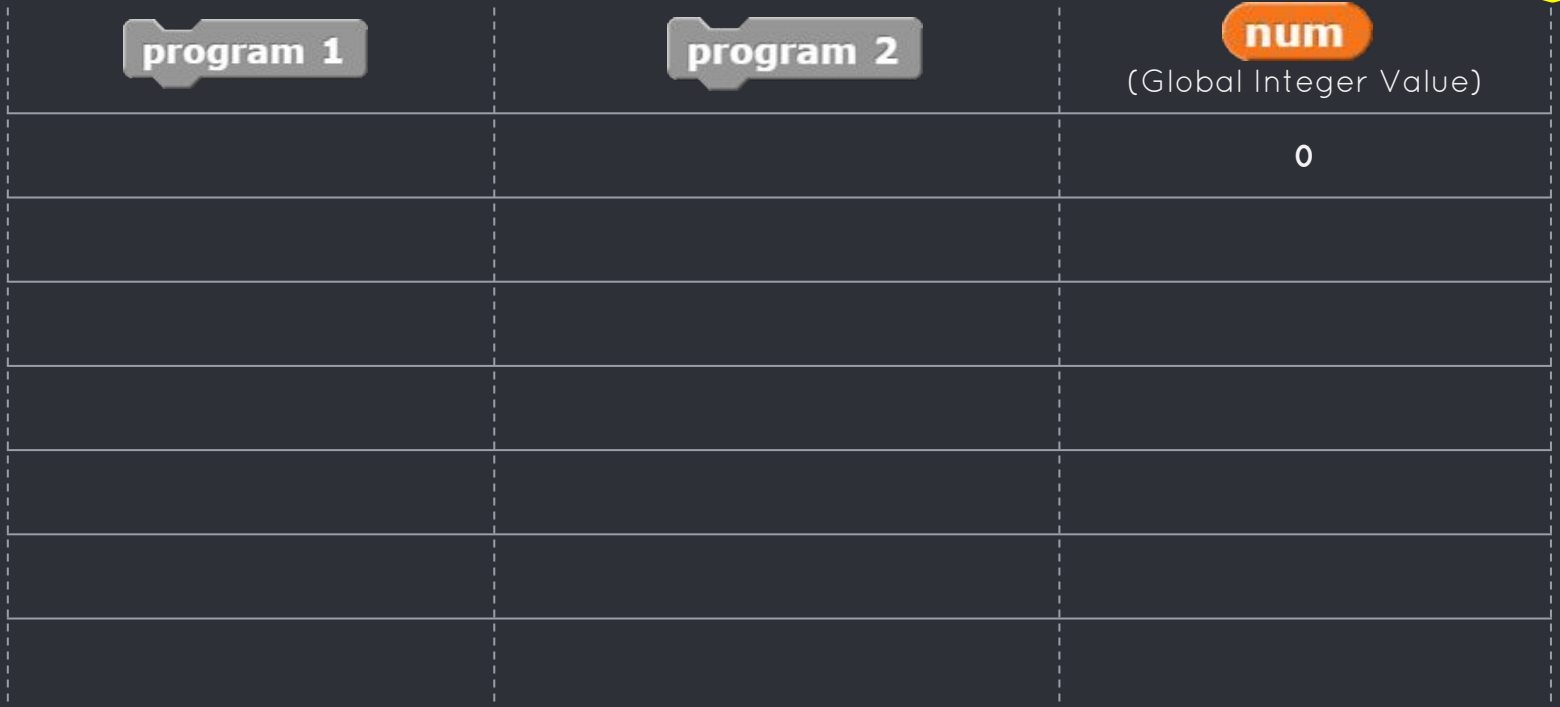


Race Condition Example



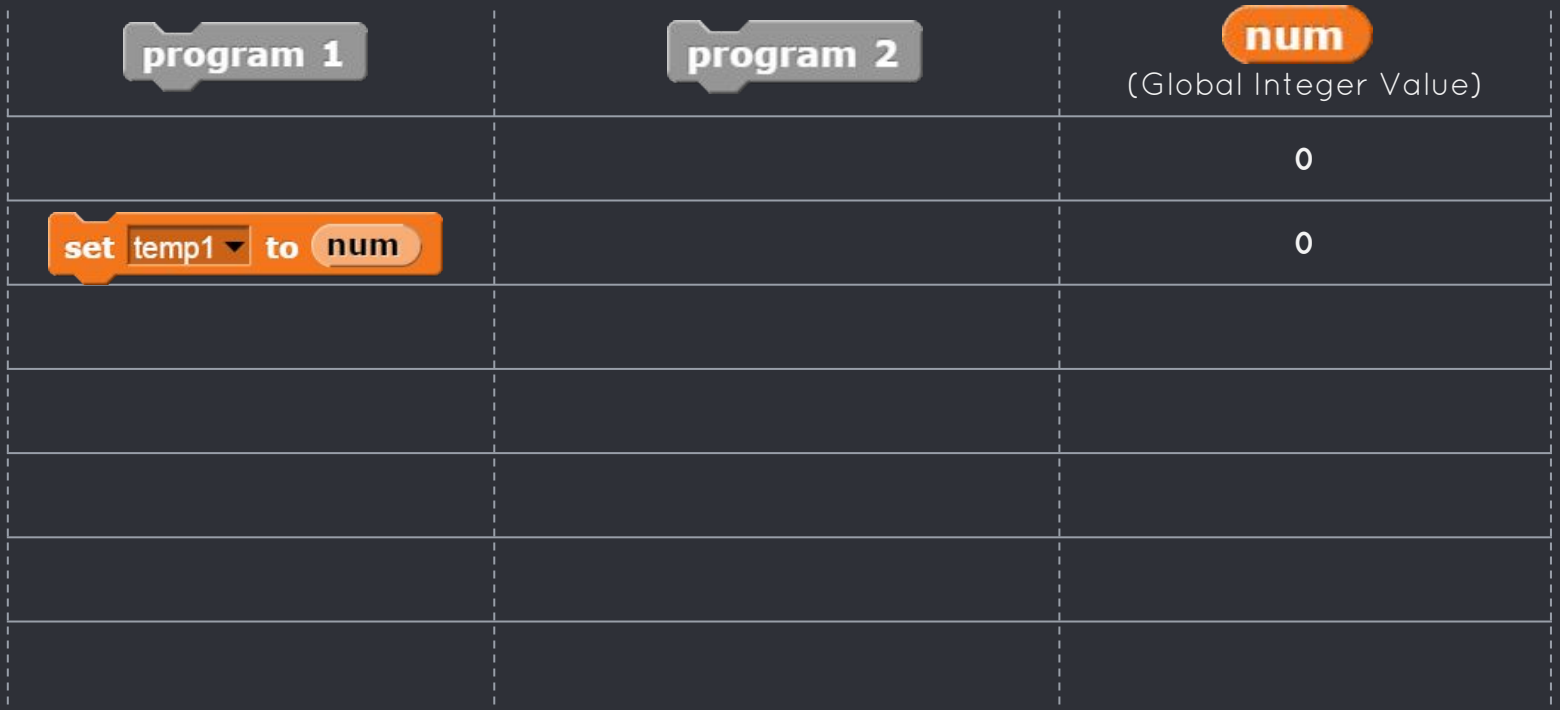
We have two programs, program 1 and program 2, and a global variable ‘num’. Ideally, we want the script in program 1 to run before the script in program 2, but this won’t always be the case. We’ll look at two scenarios, the first where they run in order (serial), and the second where they don’t (race condition).

Serial - Example



‘num’ starts out with value 0

Serial - Example



Read Value - read the value of ‘num’ and sets ‘temp1’ to that value

Serial - Example

program 1	program 2	num (Global Integer Value)
		0
set temp1 to num		0
change temp1 by 1		0

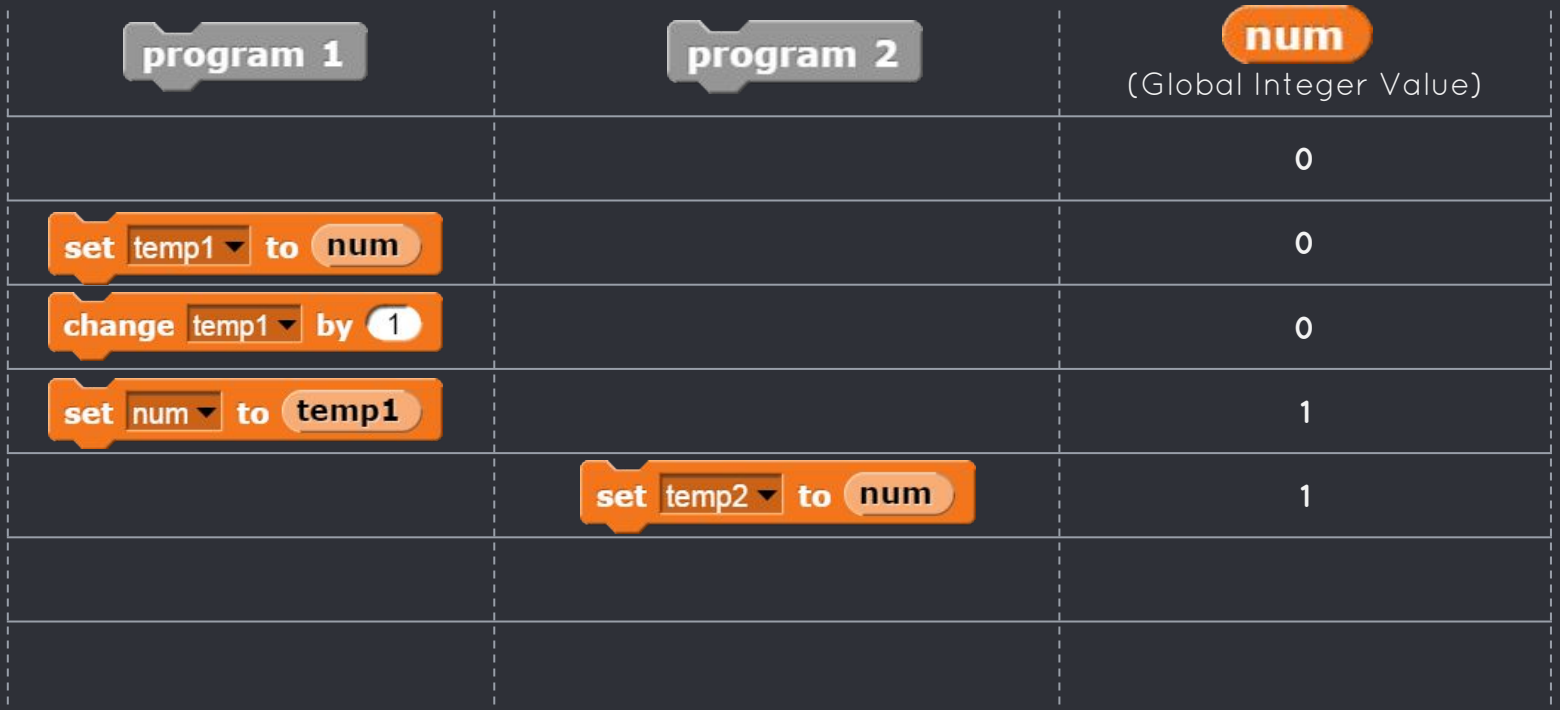
Increments Value - increases the value of ‘temp1’ by 1

Serial - Example

program 1	program 2	num (Global Integer Value)
		0
set temp1 to num		0
change temp1 by 1		0
set num to temp1		1

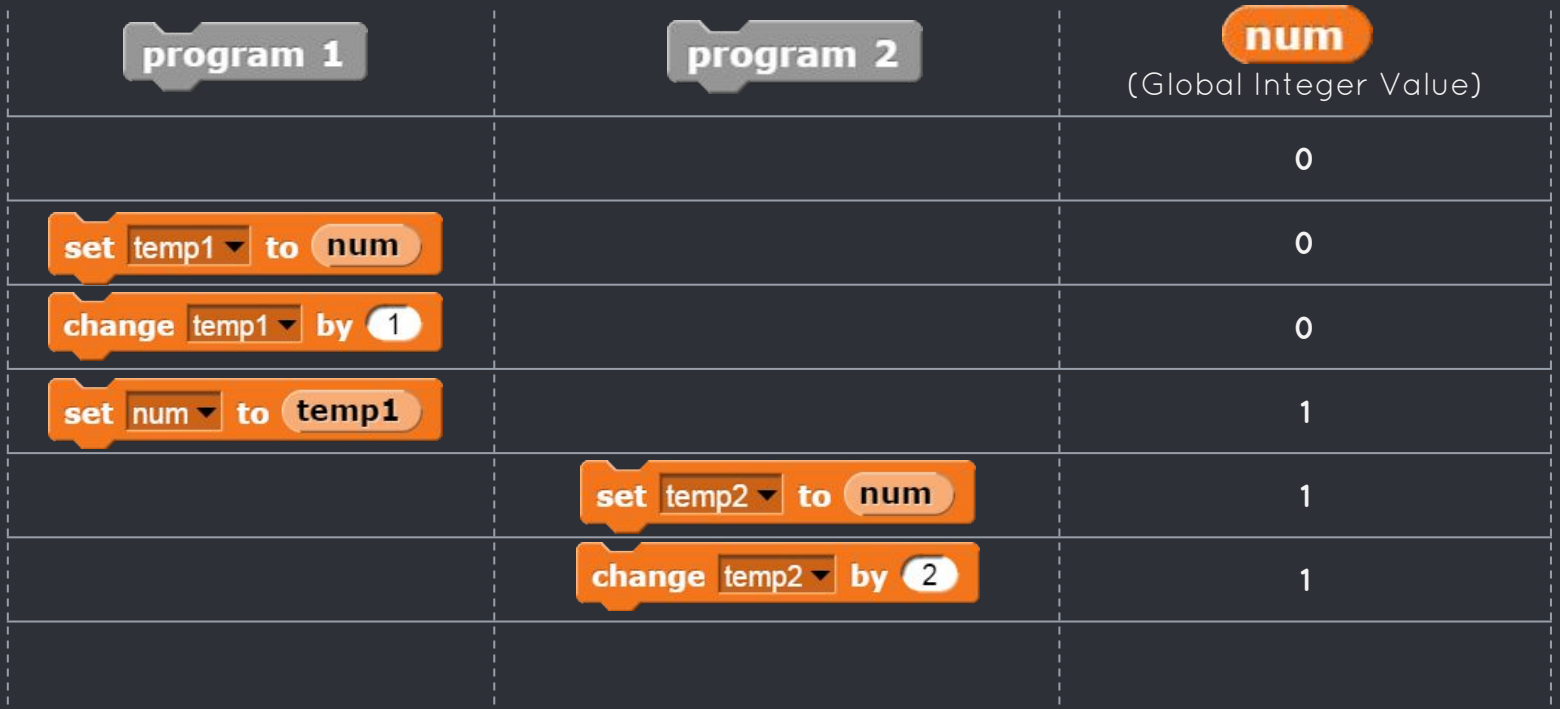
Sets Value - sets ‘num’ to the value of ‘temp1’, which is 1

Serial - Example



Read Value - reads the value of ‘num’ and sets ‘temp2’ to that value

Serial - Example



Increments Value - increases the value of ‘temp2’ by 2

Serial - Example

Sets Value - sets ‘num’ to the value of ‘temp2’, which is 3

Serial - Example

program 1	program 2	num (Global Integer Value)
		0
set temp1 to num		0
change temp1 by 1		0
set num to temp1		1
	set temp2 to num	1
	change temp2 by 2	1
	set num to temp2	3

This is the expected output. We're good here!

What if we interleaved the commands?

Race Condition - Example

program 1	program 2	num (Global Integer Value)
		0

‘num’ starts out with the value 0

Race Condition - Example

program 1	program 2	num (Global Integer Value)
		0
set temp1 to num		0

Read Value - reads the value of ‘num’ and sets ‘temp1’ to that value

Race Condition - Example

Read Value - reads the value of ‘num’ and sets ‘temp2’ to that value

Race Condition - Example

Increments Value - increases the value of ‘temp1’ by 1

Race Condition - Example

Increments Value - increases the value of ‘temp2’ by 2

Race Condition - Example

Sets Value - sets ‘num’ to the value of ‘temp1’, which is 1

Race Condition - Example

Sets Value - sets ‘num’ to the value of ‘temp2’, which is 2

Race Condition - Example

program 1	program 2	num (Global Integer Value)
		0
set temp1 to num		0
	set temp2 to num	0
change temp1 by 1		0
	change temp2 by 2	0
set num to temp1		1
	set num to temp2	2

This is NOT the expected output. ‘num’ is only 2!

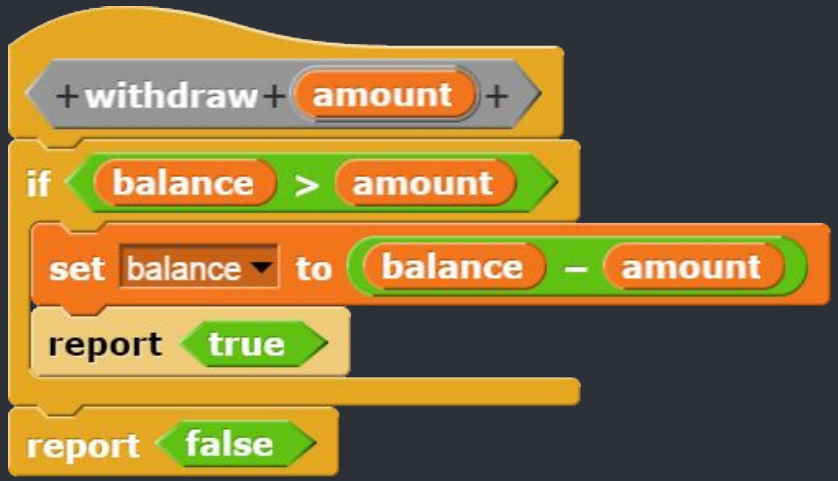
Takeaway

Concurrency is great because it allows for tasks to be broken up and completed almost simultaneously. However, you have to be careful how you break up the tasks so you don’t get erroneous behavior.

Race Condition Example: Withdrawing

What if two people were calling withdraw at the same time?

- e.g., balance = 100 and two withdrew 75 each
- Can anyone see what the problem *could* be?
- This is a *race condition*.

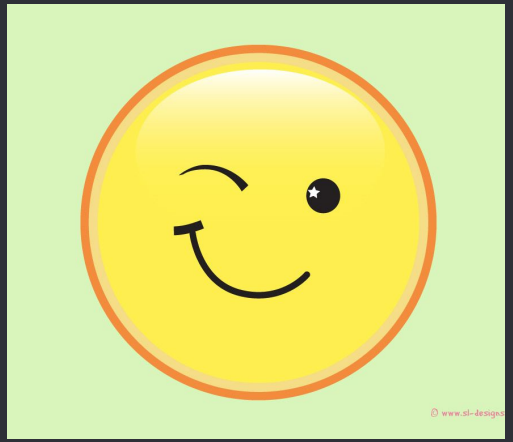


In most languages, this is a problem.

- In Scratch, the system doesn't let two of these run at once.

2

Winky Face Problem



Question 13: Your Faaaaace... (5 pts)

You want to draw a face, so you write this serial script that produces the 'winking' face right beside it:

But then you want to simulate what it would be like to parallelize the code and run it on 3 separate 'cores', so you change the serial script above into the following parallel scripts, which all run at the same time.

Draw all the faces that could result from running this new parallel code.

Question 13: Your Faaaaace... (5 pts)

These result from interlacing 3 LeftEye / RightEye / Mouth Clear (LC, RC, MC), LeftEye (L), RightEye(R) and Mouth(M).

RC,R,MC,M,LC,L

LC,L,MC,M,RC,R

LC,L,RC,R,MC,M

RC,R,MC,LC,M,L

LC,L,MC,RC,M,R

MC,M,LC,RC,L,R

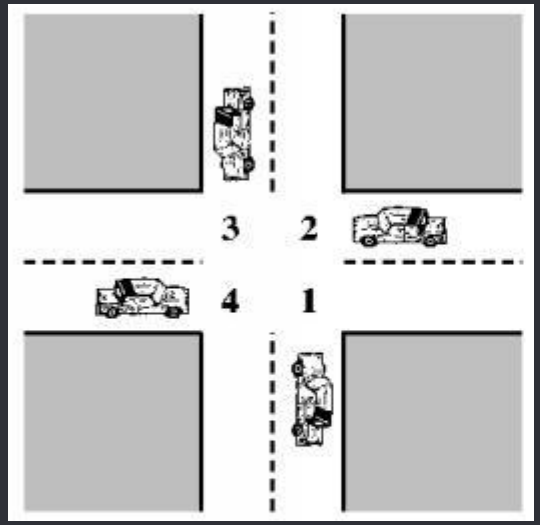
RC,LC,MC,R,L,M

3 Deadlock

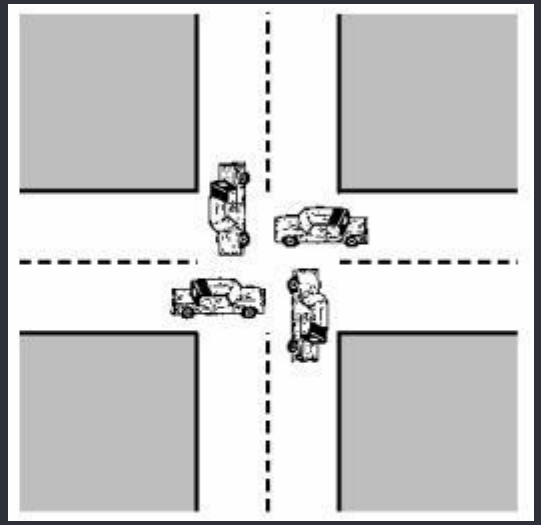
Deadlock

Definition:

A situation in which two or more competing actions are each waiting for the other(s) to finish, and thus no one ever finishes.



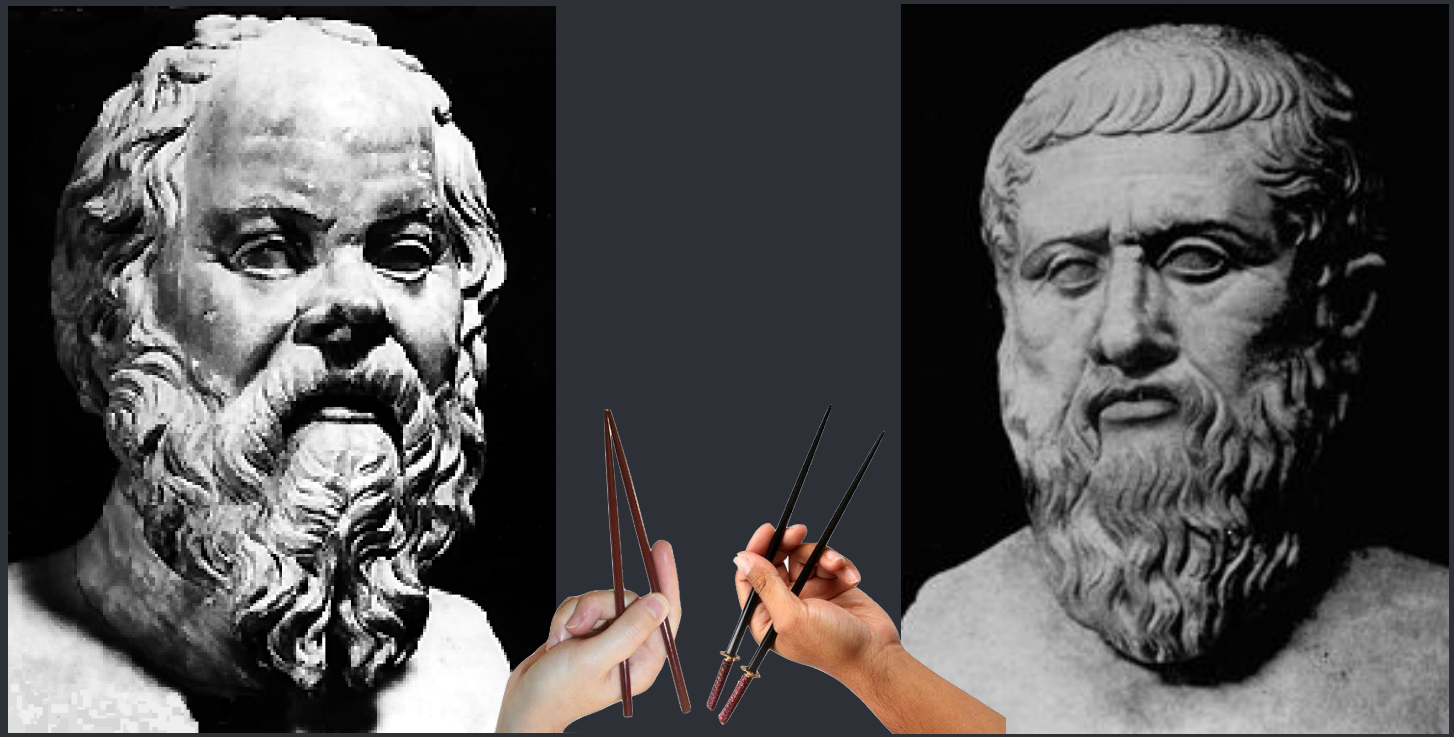
Deadlock Possible



Deadlock

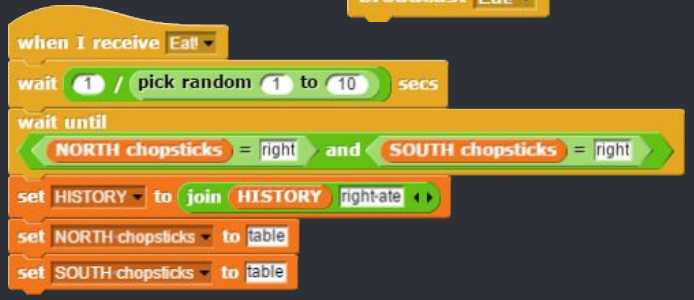
Deadlock Example

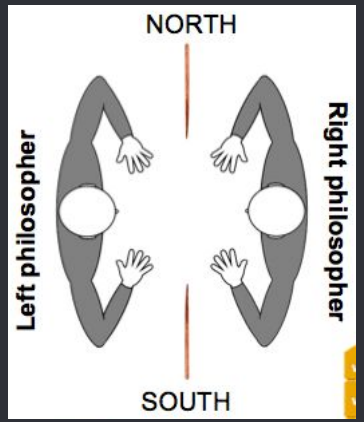
Dining Philosopher Problem

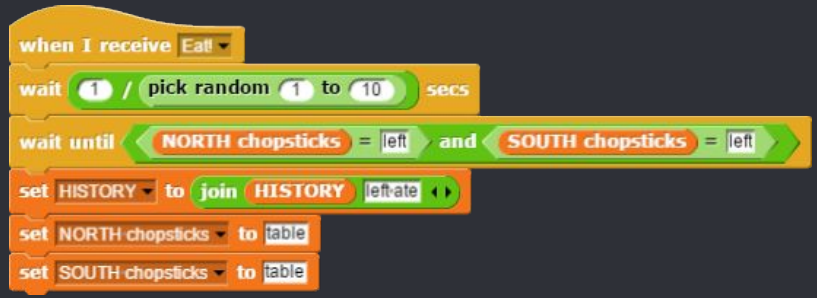


Question 12: Dining Philosophers (5 pts)

Two philosophers (left and right) are having dinner, sitting across from each other. There is a NORTH and a SOUTH chopstick on the table. Each philosopher continually looks down to see if a chopstick is on the table, and tries to grab it; if both are ever grabbed by one person, that person eats, updates HISTORY (a record of what happened) and puts the chopsticks down. Ten seconds after the green flag is clicked, what should HISTORY be?





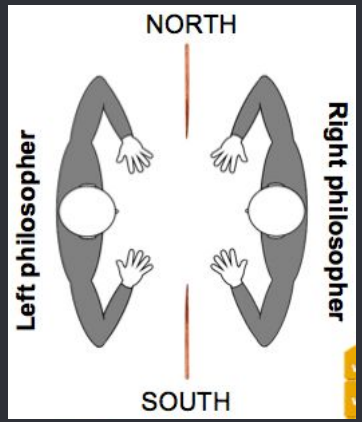


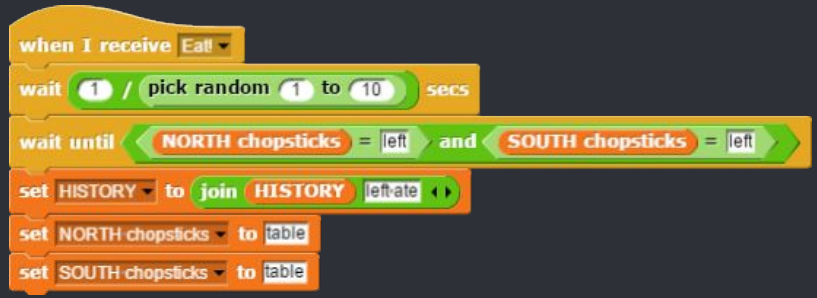
Question 12: Dining Philosophers (5 pts)

Started…, Left ate…, Right ate…

Started…, Right ate…, Left ate…

Started…





Some More Recursion!

Length of List (Recursively!)

Report the length of a list WITHOUT using the length of list block!

Solution


Recursive Length of List list
if empty? list
report 0
else
report 1 + Recursive Length of List all but first of list

Reverse Text (Recursively!)

- Write a block that takes in some text, and reports the same text, only reversed!

Solution


+ Recursive + Reverse + text + text +
if 1 = length of text
report text
else
report
join
letter length of text of text
Recursive Reverse text all but last letter of text

4

See You Next Week!