

# Demo Finalizer

## Issue Description (Data Races)

- Two block instances are created in Test() method but not retained - only assigned to discard variables.
- (Discard variables in C# do not need to be allocated in memory but can be optimized away.)
- The two block instances hence become immediately garbage after creation.
- Their destructor (= finalizer) may run at any time after creation.
- The finalizer runs concurrently with subsequent construction.
- As both the finalizer and the constructor access the same variables involving writes, data races can occur.
- (Finalizer methods themselves run sequentially in the .NET runtime systems.)

```
public class Block
{
    public static int count;

    Block()
    {
        count++;
    }

    ~Block()
    {
        count--;
        Console.WriteLine($"Deconstructed {count}");
    }

    public static void Main()
    {
        _ = new Block();
        _ = new Block();
    }
}
```

## Checker Output (3 Issues, 6 Locations)

(4 combinations, as count++ and count-- are both a read and a write access, besides the read access of the console write-statement.)

Issue: #0 Data race on Test.Block.count  
caused by write at "count--" in Program.cs line 16  
caused by finalizer at "Block" in Program.cs line 14  
caused by read at "count" in Program.cs line 11  
caused by call .ctor at "new Block()" in Program.cs line 23  
caused by call Test.Block.Main()  
caused by initial thread at "Main" in Program.cs line 20

Issue: #1 Data race on Test.Block.count  
caused by write at "count++" in Program.cs line 11  
caused by call .ctor at "new Block()" in Program.cs line 23  
caused by call Test.Block.Main()  
caused by initial thread at "Main" in Program.cs line 20  
caused by write at "count--" in Program.cs line 16  
caused by finalizer at "Block" in Program.cs line 14

Issue: #2 Data race on Test.Block.count

caused by write at "count++" in Program.cs line 11  
caused by call .ctor at "new Block()" in Program.cs line 23  
caused by call Test.Block.Main()  
caused by initial thread at "Main" in Program.cs line 20  
caused by read at "count" in Program.cs line 17  
caused by finalizer at "Block" in Program.cs line 14

Issue: #3 Data race on Test.Block.count  
caused by write at "count++" in Program.cs line 11  
caused by call .ctor at "new Block()" in Program.cs line 23  
caused by call Test.Block.Main()  
caused by initial thread at "Main" in Program.cs line 20  
caused by read at "count" in Program.cs line 16  
caused by finalizer at "Block" in Program.cs line 14

## Problem Fixing

Prevent garbage collection by keeping a reference to the created objects in local variables.

```
var b1 = new Block();  
var b2 = new Block();
```

It is also sufficient to only pin the first object, as then the second may be finalized but without any subsequent constructor calls.

```
var b1 = new Block();  
new Block();
```