

Operating Systems

Lecture III

lock and condition variables implementation

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Recap: Atomic Operations

- To understand a concurrent program, we need to know what the underlying indivisible operations are!
- **Atomic Operation (原子操作)**: an operation that always runs to completion or not at all
 - It is *indivisible*: it cannot be stopped in the middle and state cannot be modified by someone else in the middle
 - Fundamental building block – if no atomic operations, then have no way for threads to work together
- On most machines, memory references and assignments (i.e. loads and stores) of words are atomic
 - Consequently – weird example that produces “3” on previous slide can’t happen
- Many instructions are not atomic
 - Double-precision floating point store often not atomic
 - VAX and IBM 360 had an instruction to copy a whole array

Motivation: “Too Much Milk”

- Great thing about OS's – analogy between problems in OS and problems in real life
 - Help you understand real life problems better
 - But, computers are much stupider than people
- Example: People need to coordinate:



Time	Person A	Person B
3:00	Look in Fridge. Out of milk	
3:05	Leave for store	
3:10	Arrive at store	Look in Fridge. Out of milk
3:15	Buy milk	Leave for store
3:20	Arrive home, put milk away	Arrive at store
3:25		Buy milk
3:30		Arrive home, put milk away



Recap: Definitions

- Synchronization (同步): using atomic operations to ensure cooperation between threads
 - For now, only loads and stores are atomic
 - We are going to show that it's hard to build anything useful with only reads and writes
- Mutual Exclusion (互斥): ensuring that only one thread does a particular thing at a time
 - One thread excludes the other while doing its task
- Critical Section (临界区): piece of code that only one thread can execute at once.
 - Critical section is the result of mutual exclusion
 - Critical section and mutual exclusion are two ways of describing the same thing

Recap: Lock

- Suppose we have some sort of implementation of a lock
 - `lock.Acquire()` – wait until lock is free, then grab
 - `lock.Release()` – Unlock, waking up anyone waiting
 - These must be atomic operations – if two threads are waiting for the lock and both see it's free, only one succeeds to grab the lock
- 3 formal properties
 - Mutual exclusion: at most one thread holds the lock
 - Progress: if no thread holds the lock and any thread attempts to acquire the lock, then eventually some thread succeeds in acquiring the lock
 - Bounded waiting: if thread T attempts to acquire a lock, then there exists a bound on the number of times other threads can successfully acquire the lock before T does
 - Yet, it does not promise that waiting threads acquire the lock in FIFO order.

Some Advices

- Always acquire the lock at the beginning of a method and release it right before the return
 - Consistent behavior makes it easier to program
 - Also makes it easier to read and debug
- A case: double-checked locking

```
Singleton* Singleton::instance() {  
    if (pInstance == NULL) {  
        pInstance = new Instance();  
    }  
    return pInstance;  
}
```

An unsafe solution

```
Singleton* Singleton::instance() {  
    lock.acquire();  
    if (pInstance == NULL) {  
        pInstance = new Instance();  
    }  
    lock.release();  
    return pInstance;  
}
```

A safe solution

```
Singleton* Singleton::instance() {  
    if (pInstance == NULL) {  
        lock.acquire();  
        if (pInstance == NULL) {  
            pInstance = new Instance();  
        }  
        lock.release();  
    }  
    Return pInstance;  
}
```

An ``optimized'' solution.
Is it safe?

A Tricky (but Real) Case

```
Singleton* Singleton::instance() {
    if (pInstance == NULL) {
        lock.acquire();
        if (pInstance == NULL) {
            pInstance = new Instance();
        }
        lock.release();
    }
    Return pInstance;
}
```

Reordered by
compiler

Thread A

```
if (pInstance == NULL) { // True
    lock.acquire();
    if (pInstance == NULL) {
        // malloc for pInstance;
        // point pInstance to the memory;
        // run new() function;
    }
    lock.release();
}
return pInstance;
```

Thread B

```
if (pInstance == NULL); // False
return pInstance; // uninitialized!
```

Where are we going with synchronization?

Programs	Shared Programs			
Higher-level API	Locks	Semaphores	Monitors	Send/Receive
Hardware	Load/Store	Disable Ints	Test&Set	Compare&Swap

- We are going to implement various higher-level synchronization primitives using atomic operations
 - Everything is pretty painful if only atomic primitives are load and store
 - Need to provide primitives useful at user-level

How to Implement Locks?

- **Lock**: prevents someone from doing something
 - Lock before entering critical section and before accessing shared data
 - Unlock when leaving, after accessing shared data
 - Wait if locked
 - Important idea: all synchronization involves waiting
 - Should *sleep* if waiting for a long time
- Atomic Load/Store: get solution like Milk #3
 - Pretty complex and error prone
- Hardware Lock instruction
 - Is this a good idea?
 - What about putting a task to sleep?
 - How do you handle the interface between the hardware and scheduler?
 - Complexity?
 - Done in the Intel 432 – each feature makes HW more complex and slow



Naïve use of Interrupt Enable/Disable

How can we build multi-instruction atomic operations?

- Recall: dispatcher gets control in two ways.
 - Internal: Thread does something to relinquish the CPU
 - External: Interrupts cause dispatcher to take CPU
- On a uniprocessor, can avoid context-switching by:
 - Avoiding internal events
 - Preventing external events by disabling interrupts

Consequently, naïve Implementation of locks:

```
LockAcquire { disable Ints; }  
LockRelease { enable Ints; }
```



Naïve use of Interrupt Enable/Disable: Problems

Can't let user do this! Consider following:

```
LockAcquire () ;  
While (TRUE) { ; }
```

Real-Time system—no guarantees on timing!

- Critical Sections might be arbitrarily long

What happens with I/O or other important events?

Better Implementation of Locks

Key idea: maintain a lock variable and impose mutual exclusion only during operations on that variable

```
class Lock {  
    int value = FREE;  
    Queue wait_q;  
}  
  
Lock::Acquire() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait_q;  
        next = readyList.pop();  
        cur_thread->state = WAITING;  
        thread_switch(current, next);  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```



```
Lock::Release() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (anyone on wait_q) {  
        take thread off wait queue  
        place on ready queue;  
    } else {  
        value = FREE;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

Better Implementation of Locks

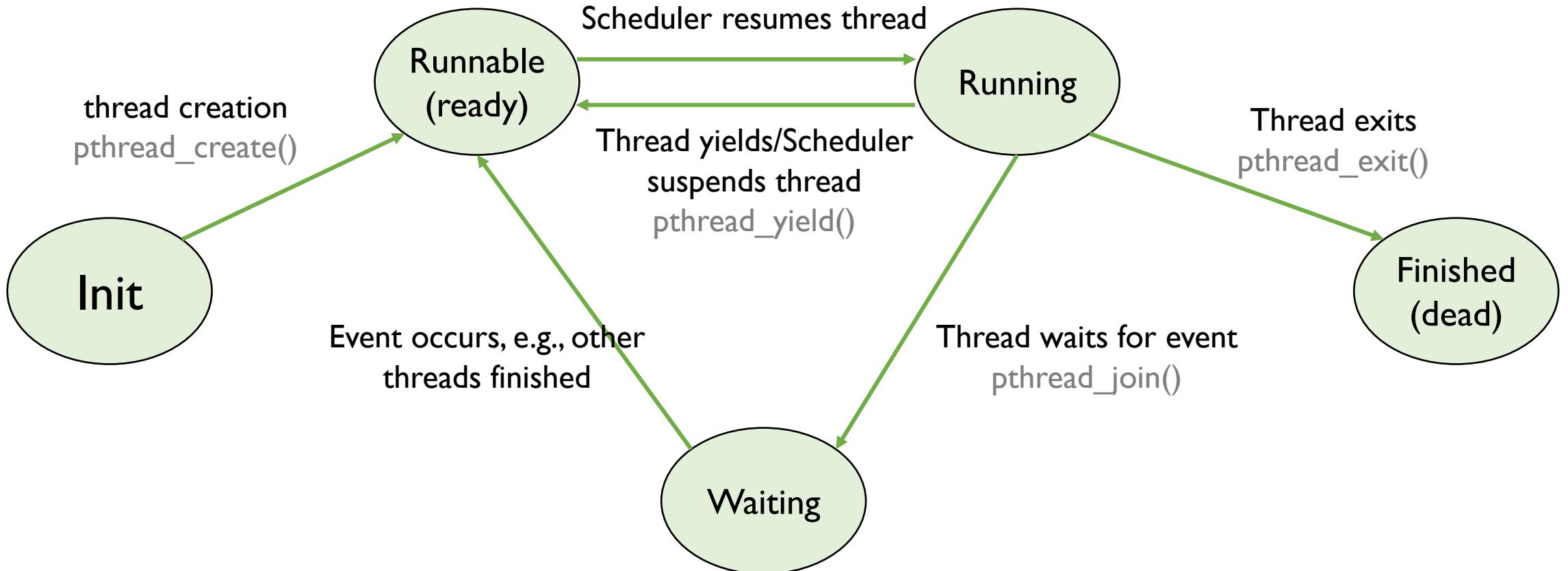
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    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait_q;  
        next = readyList.pop(); WHY??  
        cur_thread->state = WAITING;  
        thread_switch(current, next);  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```

```
Lock::Release() {  
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    if (anyone on wait_q) {  
        take thread off wait queue  
        place on ready queue;  
    } else {  
        value = FREE;  
    }  
    enable interrupts;  
}
```



Recall: Thread Lifecycle





Better Implementation of Locks

- Unlike previous solution, the critical section (inside **Acquire()**) is very short
 - User of lock can take as long as they like in their own critical section

```
Lock::Acquire() {  
    disable interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
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        cur_thread->state = WAITING;  
        thread_switch(current, next);  
    } else {  
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    }  
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}
```



Better Implementation of Locks

- Unlike previous solution, the critical section (inside **Acquire()**) is very short
 - User of lock can take as long as they like in their own critical section
- Why do we need to disable interrupts at all?

```
Lock::Acquire() {  
    disable_interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait_q;  
        next = readyList.pop();  
        cur_thread->state = WAITING;  
        thread_switch(current, next);  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable_interrupts;  
}
```



Better Implementation of Locks

- Unlike previous solution, the critical section (inside **Acquire()**) is very short
 - User of lock can take as long as they like in their own critical section
- Why do we need to disable interrupts at all?
 - Avoid interruption between checking and setting lock value
 - Otherwise two threads could think that they both have lock

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- Before putting thread on the wait queue?

Enable Position

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    } else {  
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    }  
    enable_interrupts;  
}
```

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- Before putting thread on the wait queue?
 - Release can check the queue and not wake up thread

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- After putting the thread on the wait queue

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 next = readyList.pop();
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 thread_switch(current, next);
 } else {
 value = BUSY;
 }
 enable interrupts;
}

Enable Position



Better Implementation of Locks

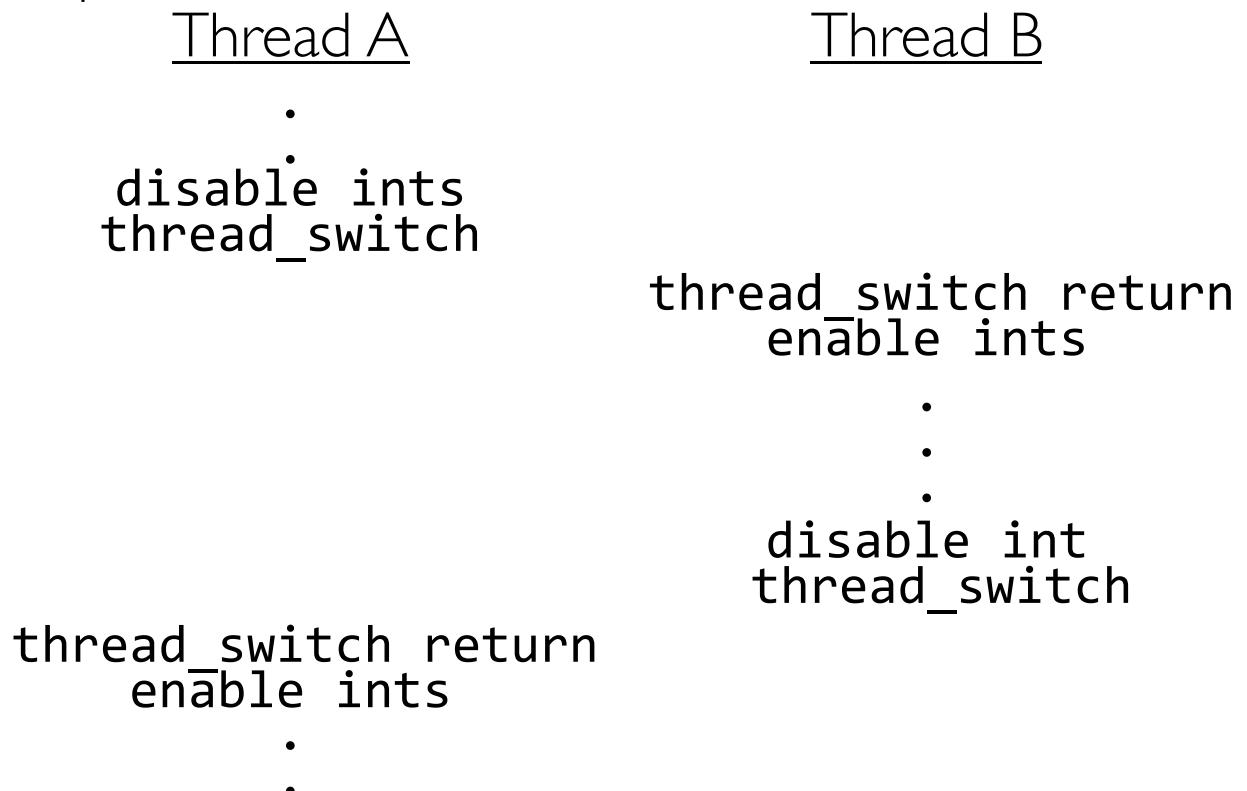
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- Why do we need to disable interrupts at all?
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 - Otherwise two threads could think that they both have lock
- Before putting thread on the wait queue?
 - Release can check the queue and not wake up thread
- After putting the thread on the wait queue
 - Release puts the thread on the ready queue, but the thread still thinks it needs to go to sleep
 - Misses wakeup and still holds lock (deadlock!)
 - Note: the **value** is BUSY now!!!

Enable Position

```
Lock::Acquire() {  
    disable_interrupts;  
    if (value == BUSY) {  
        put thread on wait_q;  
        next = readyList.pop();  
        cur_thread->state = WAITING;  
        thread_switch(current, next);  
    } else {  
        value = BUSY;  
    }  
    enable_interrupts;  
}
```

How to Re-enable After `thread_switch()`?

- In scheduler, since interrupts are disabled when you call `thread_switch()`:
 - Responsibility of the next thread to re-enable ints
 - When the sleeping thread wakes up, returns to acquire and re-enables interrupts



Atomic Read-Modify-Write Instructions

- Can we extend the lock implementation to multi-processors?
 - Not good idea, as disabling interrupts on all processors requires messages and would be very time consuming
- Alternative: [atomic instruction sequences](#)
 - These instructions read a value and write a new value atomically
 - Hardware is responsible for implementing this correctly
 - on both uniprocessors (not too hard)
 - and multiprocessors (requires help from cache coherence protocol)
 - Unlike disabling interrupts, can be used on both uniprocessors and multiprocessors

Examples of Read-Modify-Write

- `test&set (&address) {
 result = M[address];
 M[address] = 1;
 return result;
}`
/* most architectures */
/* return result from “address” and
set value at “address” to 1 */
- `swap (&address, register) {
 temp = M[address];
 M[address] = register;
 register = temp;
}`
/* x86 */
/* swap register’s value to
value at “address” */
- `compare&swap (&address, reg1, reg2) { /* 68000 */
 if (reg1 == M[address]) {
 M[address] = reg2;
 return success;
 } else {
 return failure;
 }
}`
/* 68000 */



Implementing Locks with test&set

- Spinlock (自旋锁): another flawed, but simple solution:

```
int value = 0; // Free  
  
Acquire() {  
    while (test&set(value)); // while busy  
}  
  
Release() {  
    value = 0;  
}
```

- Simple explanation:
 - If lock is free, test&set reads 0 and sets value=1, so lock is now busy
It returns 0 so while exits
 - If lock is busy, test&set reads 1 and sets value=1 (no change)
It returns 1, so while loop continues
 - When we set value = 0, someone else can get lock
- **Busy-Waiting**: thread consumes cycles while waiting

Problem: Busy-Waiting for Lock



- Positives for this solution
 - Machine can receive interrupts
 - User code can use this lock
 - Works on a multiprocessor
- Negatives
 - This is very inefficient as thread will consume cycles waiting
 - Waiting thread may take cycles away from thread holding lock (no one wins!)
 - **Priority Inversion:** If busy-waiting thread has higher priority than thread holding lock \Rightarrow no progress!
- Priority Inversion problem with original Martian rover
- For semaphores, waiting thread may wait for an arbitrary long time!
 - Thus even if busy-waiting was OK for locks, definitely not ok for other primitives

Better Locks using test&set

- Can we build test&set locks without busy-waiting?
 - Can't entirely, but can minimize!
 - Idea: only busy-wait to atomically check lock value

```
int guard = 0;
int value = FREE;
Acquire() {
    // Short busy-wait time
    while (test&set(guard));
    if (value == BUSY) {
        put thread on wait queue;
        cur_thread->state = WAITING;
        thread_switch() & guard = 0;
    } else {
        value = BUSY;
        guard = 0;
    }
}
Release() {
    // Short busy-wait time
    while (test&set(guard));
    if anyone on wait queue {
        take thread off wait queue
        Place on ready queue;
    } else {
        value = FREE;
    }
    guard = 0;
}
```

Better Locks using test&set

- Can we build test&set locks without busy-waiting?
 - Can't entirely, but can minimize!
 - Idea: only busy-wait to atomically check lock value

```

int guard = 0;
int value = FREE;
Acquire() {
    // Short busy-wait time
    while (test&set(guard));
    if (value == BUSY) {
        put thread on wait queue;
        cur_thread->state = WAITING;
        thread_switch() & guard = 0;
    } else {
        value = BUSY;
        guard = 0;
    }
}
Must be atomic! What if setting guard before or
after thread_switch()? How to implement?

```

```

Release() {
    // Short busy-wait time
    while (test&set(guard));
    if anyone on wait queue {
        take thread off wait queue
        Place on ready queue;
    } else {
        value = FREE;
    }
    guard = 0;
}

```

More details in Figure 5.17 (section 5.7 “Implementing Synchronization Objects”) of our textbook

Locks using Interrupts vs. test&set

Compare to “disable interrupt” solution

```
int value = FREE;

Acquire() {
    disable interrupts;
    if (value == BUSY) {
        put thread on wait queue;
        thread_switch();
        // Enable interrupts?
    } else {
        value = BUSY;
    }
    enable interrupts;
}

Release() {
    disable interrupts;
    if (anyone on wait queue) {
        take thread off wait queue
        Place on ready queue;
    } else {
        value = FREE;
    }
    enable interrupts;
}
```

Basically replace

- **disable interrupts** → while (test&set(guard));
- **enable interrupts** → guard = 0;



Implementing Condition Variables

- Recap the operations:
 - **Wait(&lock)**: Atomically release lock and go to sleep. Re-acquire lock later, before returning.
 - **Signal()**: Wake up one waiter, if any
 - **Broadcast()**: Wake up all waiters

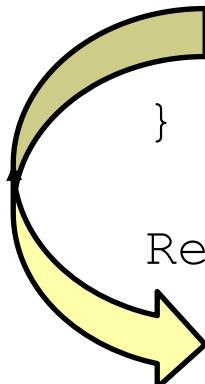
```
while (!testOnSharedState()) {  
    cv.wait(&lock)  
}
```

Synchronized Queue with Condition Variables

```
Lock lock;
Condition dataready;
Queue queue;

AddToQueue(item) {
    lock.Acquire();           // Get Lock
    queue.enqueue(item);      // Add item
    dataready.signal();       // Signal any waiters
    lock.Release();           // Release Lock
}

RemoveFromQueue() {
    lock.Acquire();           // Get Lock
    while (queue.isEmpty()) {
        dataready.wait(&lock); // If nothing, sleep
    }
    item = queue.dequeue();   // Get next item
    lock.Release();           // Release Lock
    return(item);
}
```





Implementing Condition Variables

- Recap the operations:
 - **Wait(&lock)**: Atomically release lock and go to sleep. Re-acquire lock later, before returning.
 - **Signal()**: Wake up one waiter, if any
 - **Broadcast()**: Wake up all waiters

```
Class CV {  
    Queue waiting;  
    void wait(Lock *lock);  
    void signal();  
    void broadcast();  
}  
  
void CV::signal() {  
    if (waiting.notEmpty()) {  
        thread = waiting.remove();  
        scheduler.makeReady(thread);  
    }  
}
```

```
void CV::wait(Lock *lock) {  
    assert(lock.isHeld());  
    waiting.add(currentTCB);  
    // switch to new thread and release lock  
    in atomic manner  
    scheduler.suspend(&lock);  
    lock->acquire();  
}
```



Mesa vs. Hoare monitors

- Need to be careful about precise definition of signal and wait.
Consider a piece of our dequeue code:

```
while (queue.isEmpty()) {  
    dataready.wait(&lock); // If nothing, sleep  
}  
item = queue.dequeue(); // Get next item
```

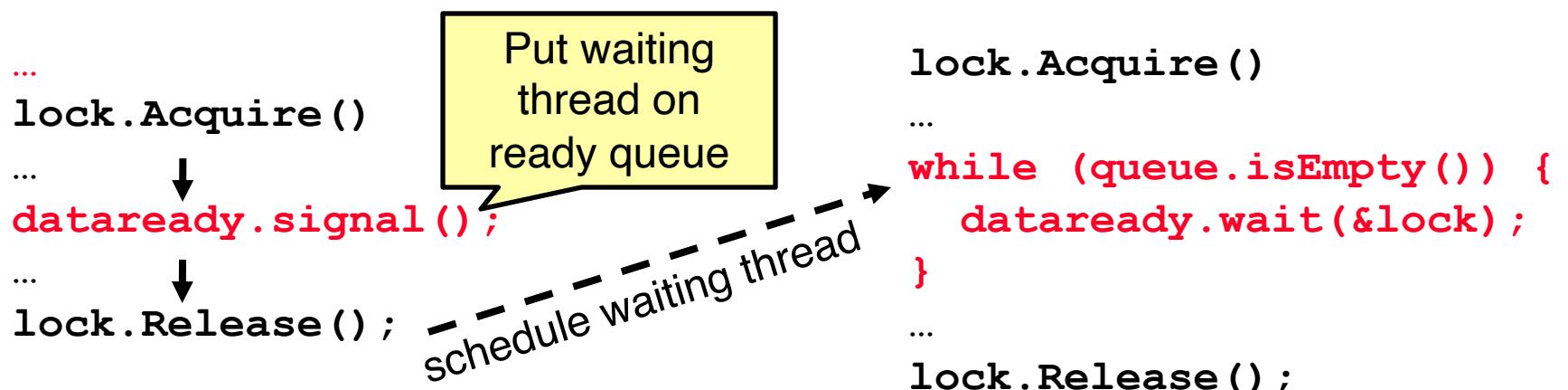
- Why didn't we do this?

```
if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
    dataready.wait(&lock); // If nothing, sleep  
}  
item = queue.dequeue(); // Get next item
```

- Answer: depends on the type of scheduling (编程模型)
 - Hoare-style
 - Mesa-style

Mesa monitors

- Signaler keeps lock and processor
- Waiter placed on ready queue with no special priority
- Practically, need to check condition again after wait
- Most real operating systems



Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?

- Why do we use “while()” instead of “if()” with Mesa monitors?
 - Example illustrating what happens if we use “if()”, e.g.,

```
if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
    dataready.wait(&lock); // If nothing, sleep  
}
```

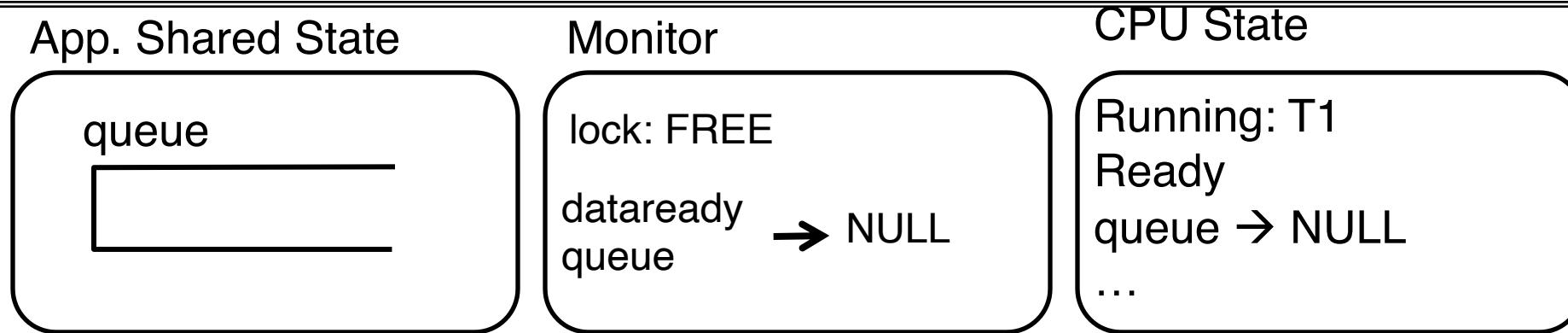
- We'll use the synchronized (infinite) queue example

```
AddToQueue(item) {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    queue.enqueue(item);  
    dataready.signal();  
    lock.Release();  
}
```

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

Replace “while” with
“if”

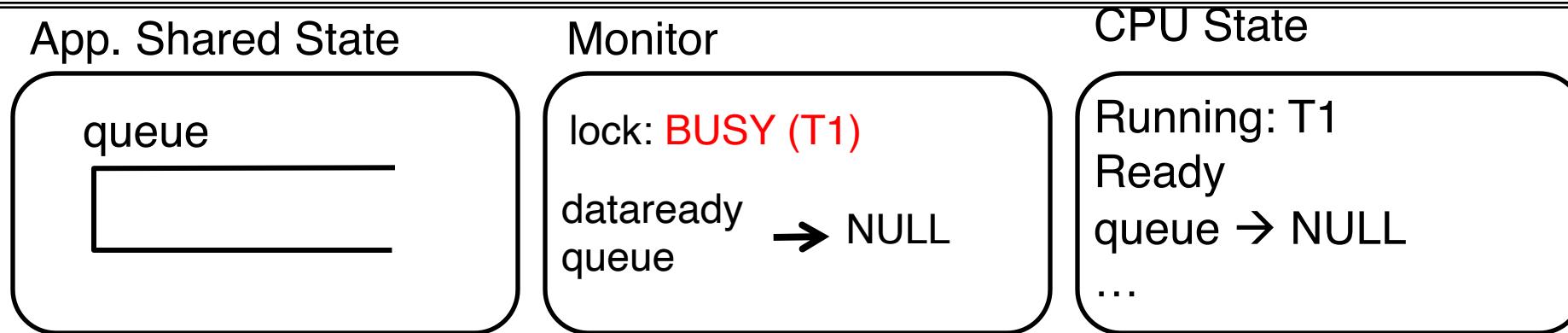
Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?



T1 (Running)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

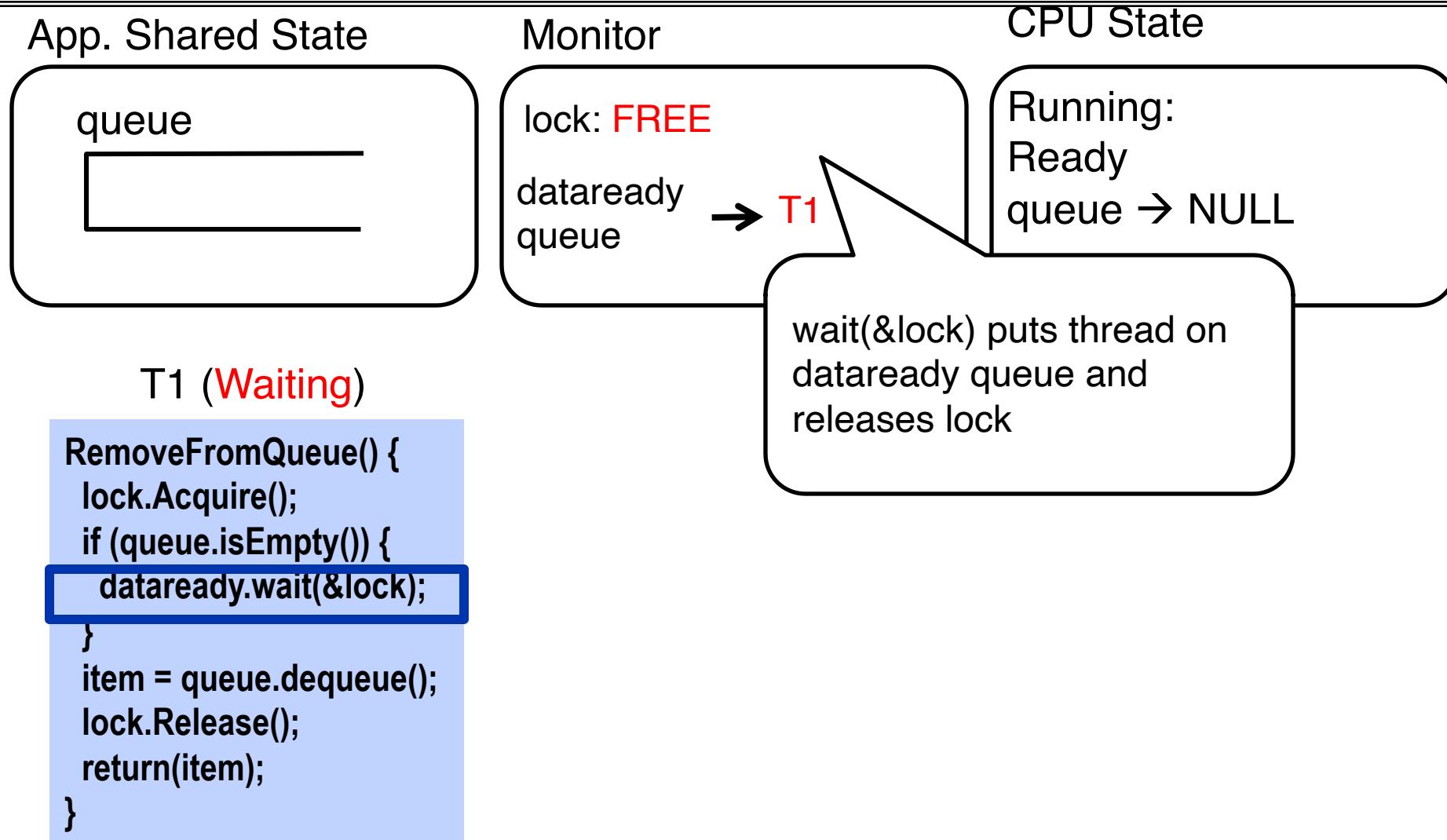
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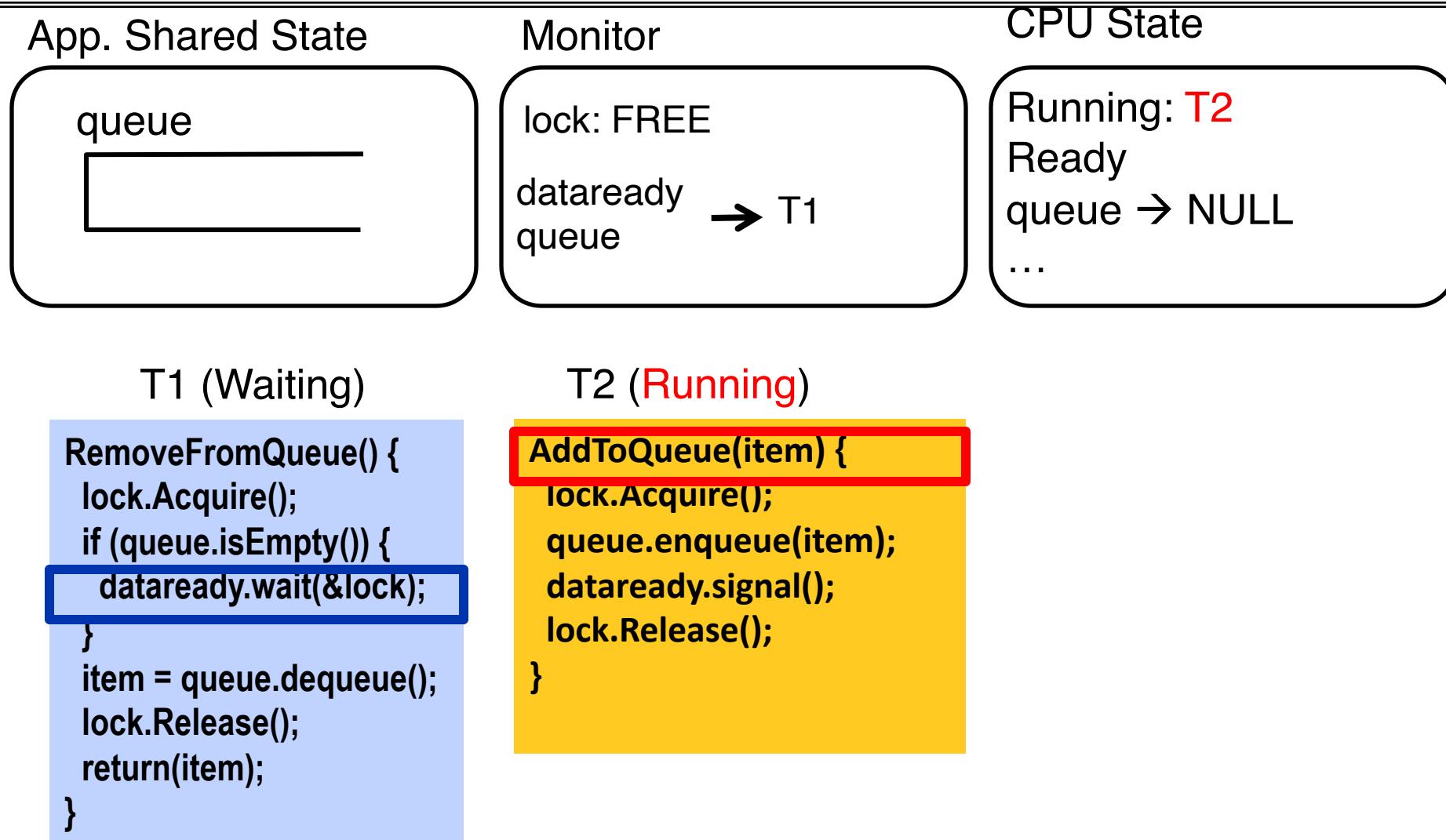
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    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
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    return(item);  
}
```

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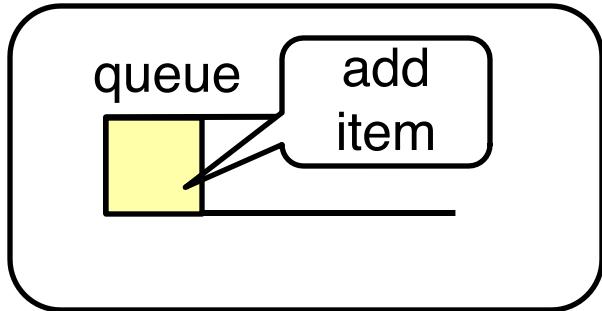


Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?



Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?

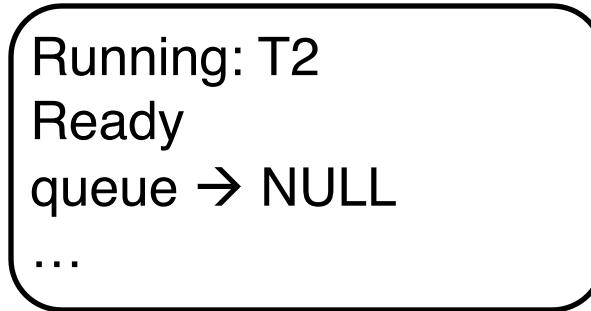
App. Shared State



Monitor



CPU State



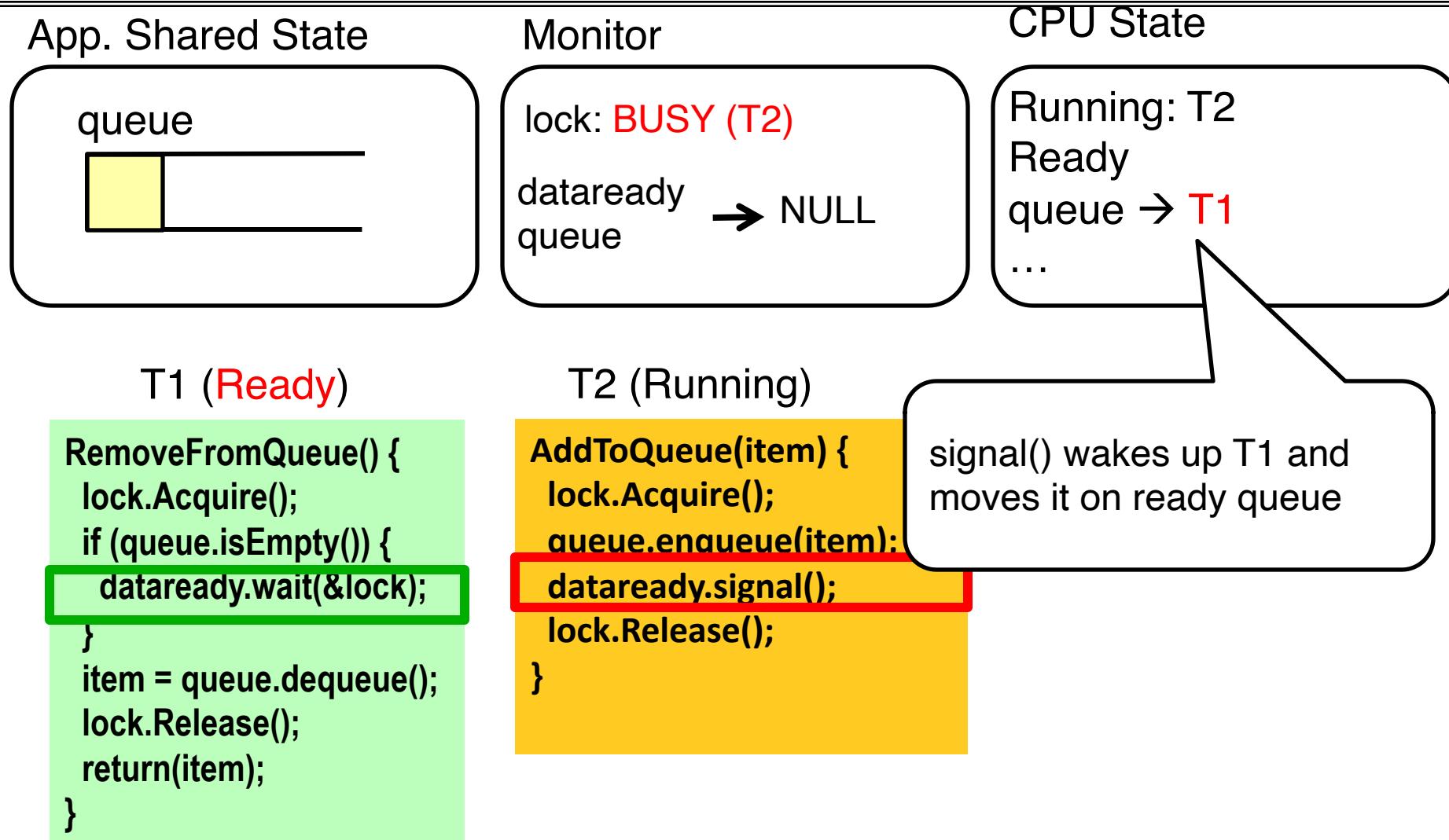
T1 (Waiting)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

T2 (Running)

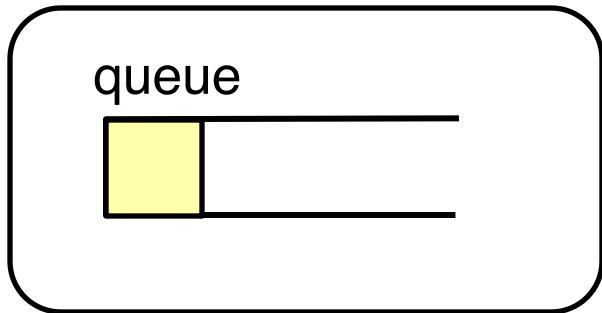
```
AddToQueue(item) {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    queue.enqueue(item);  
    dataready.signal();  
    lock.Release();  
}
```

Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?

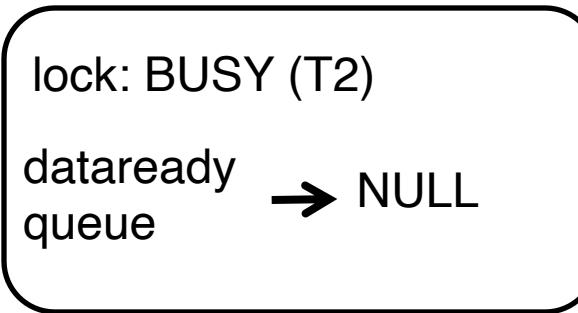


Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?

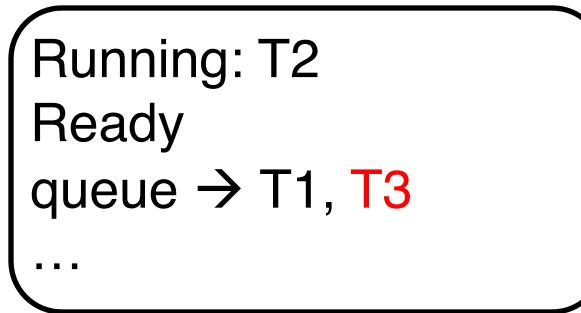
App. Shared State



Monitor



CPU State



T1 (Ready)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

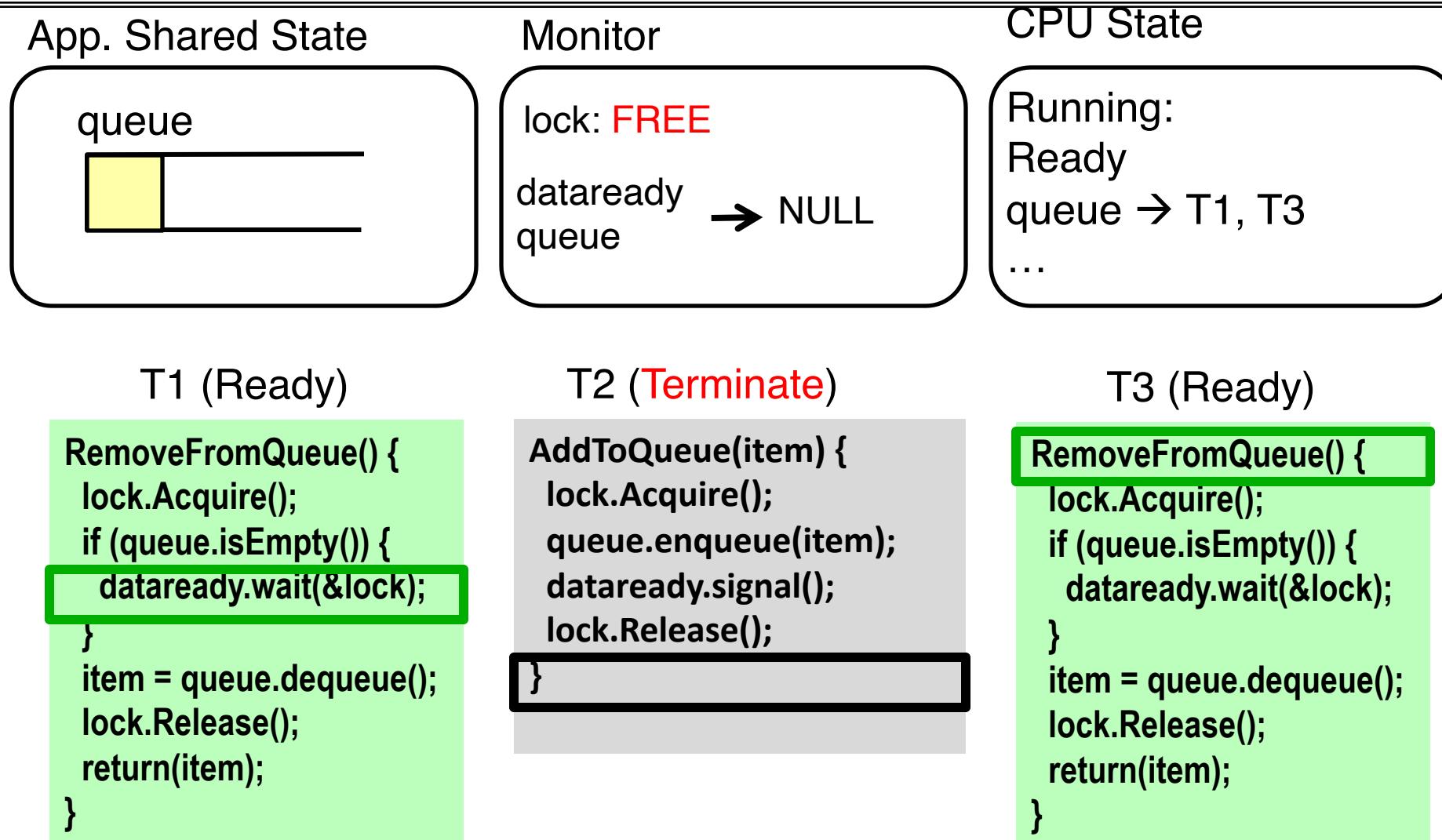
T2 (Running)

```
AddToQueue(item) {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    queue.enqueue(item);  
    dataready.signal();  
    lock.Release();  
}
```

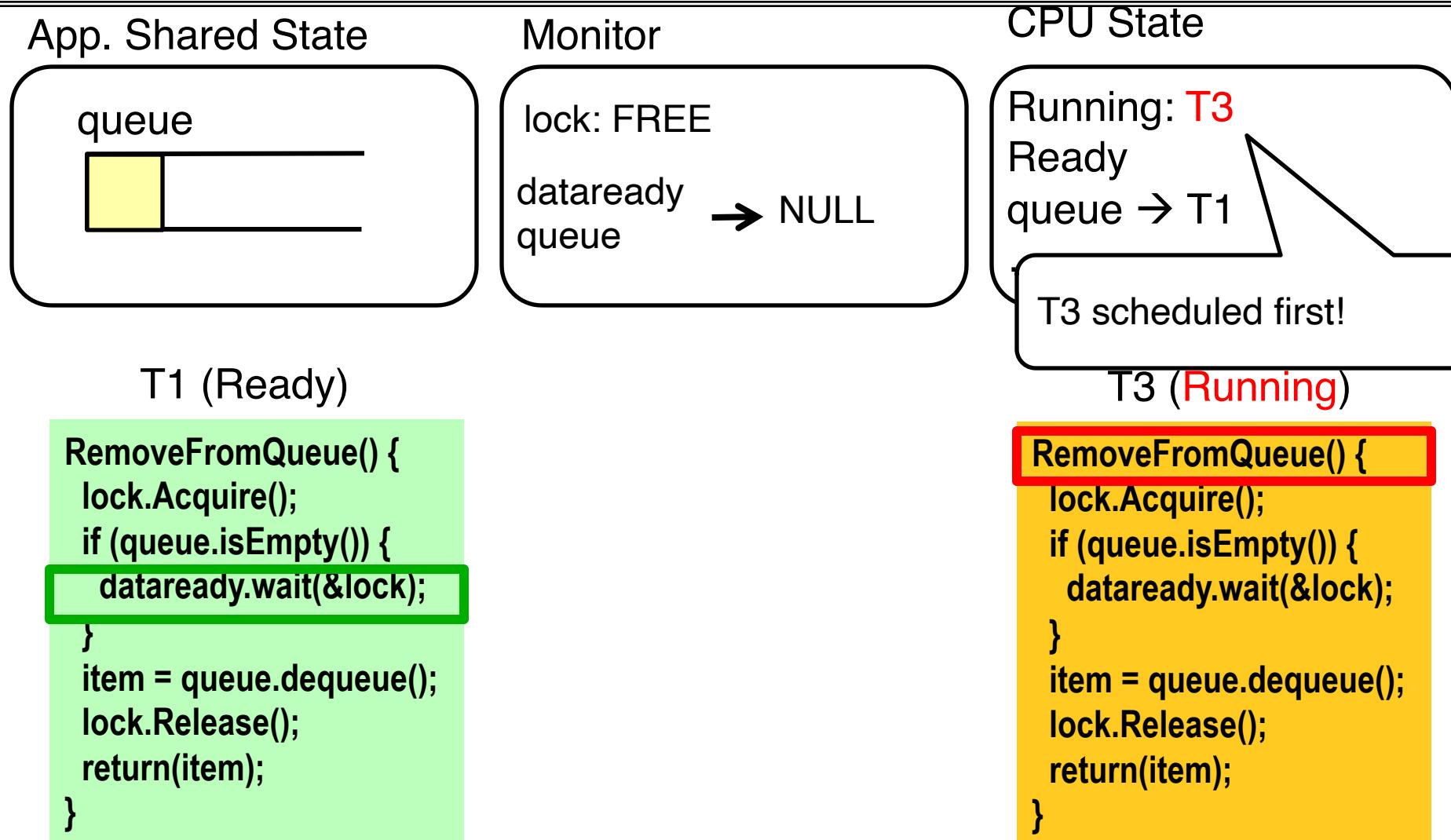
T3 (Ready)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

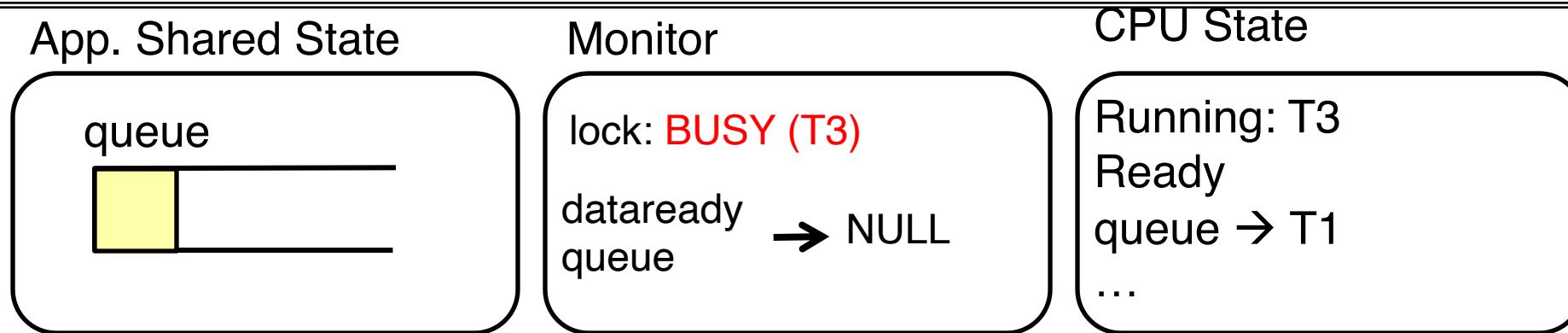
Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?



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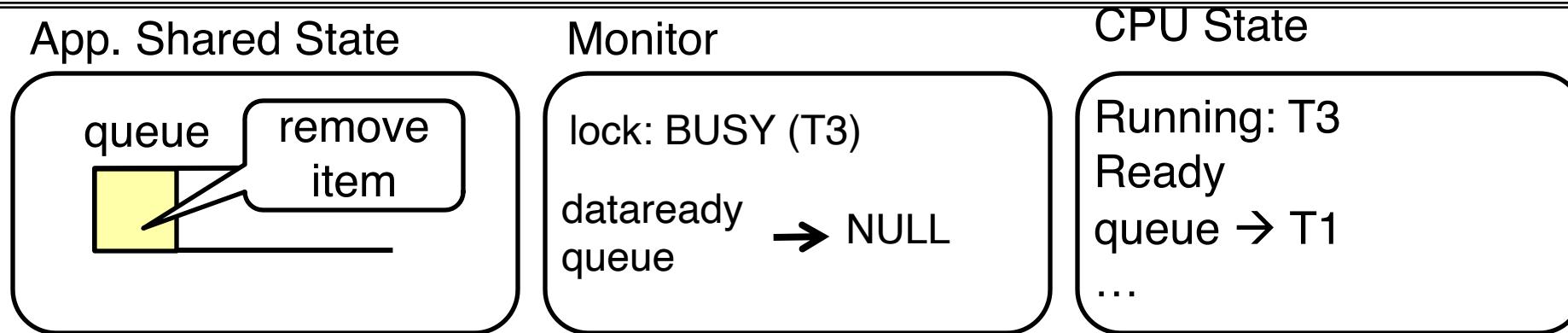
T1 (Ready)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

T3 (Running)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?



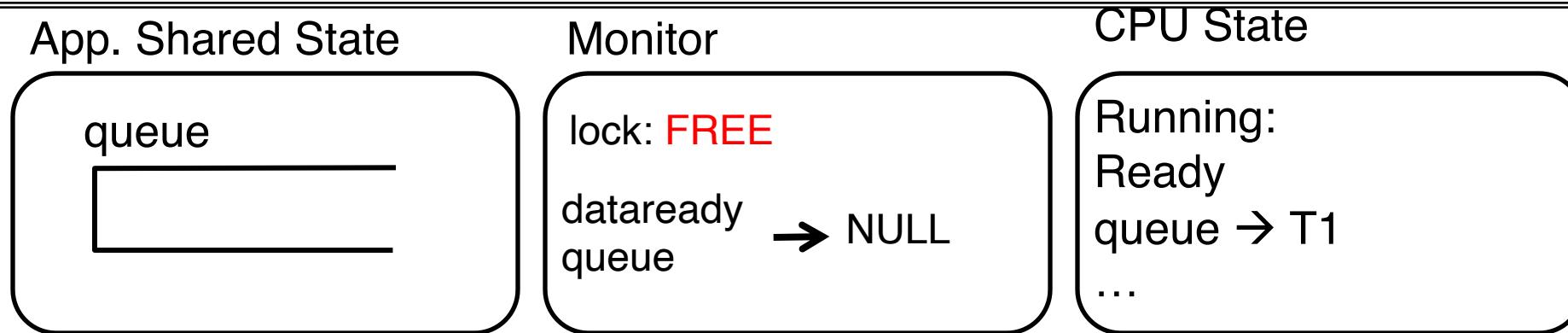
T1 (Ready)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

T3 (Running)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?



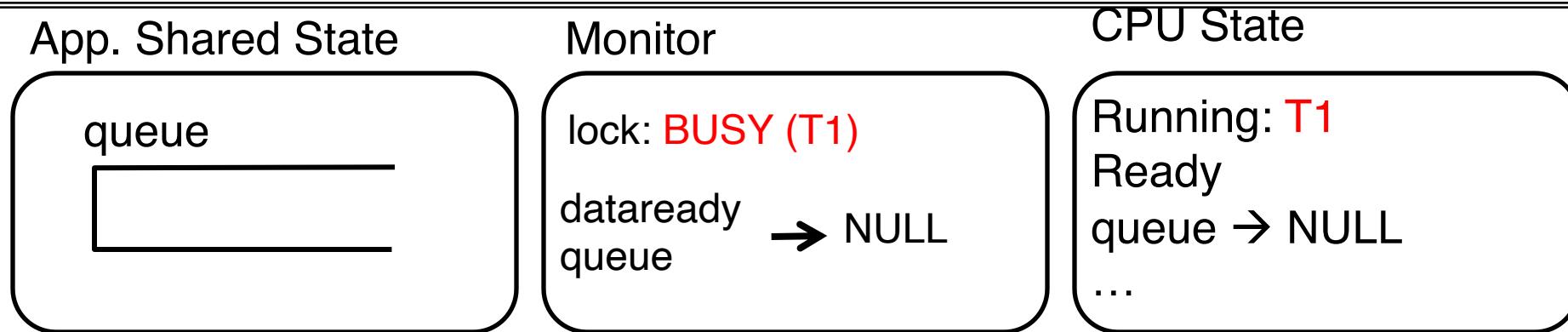
T1 (Ready)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

T3 (Finished)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

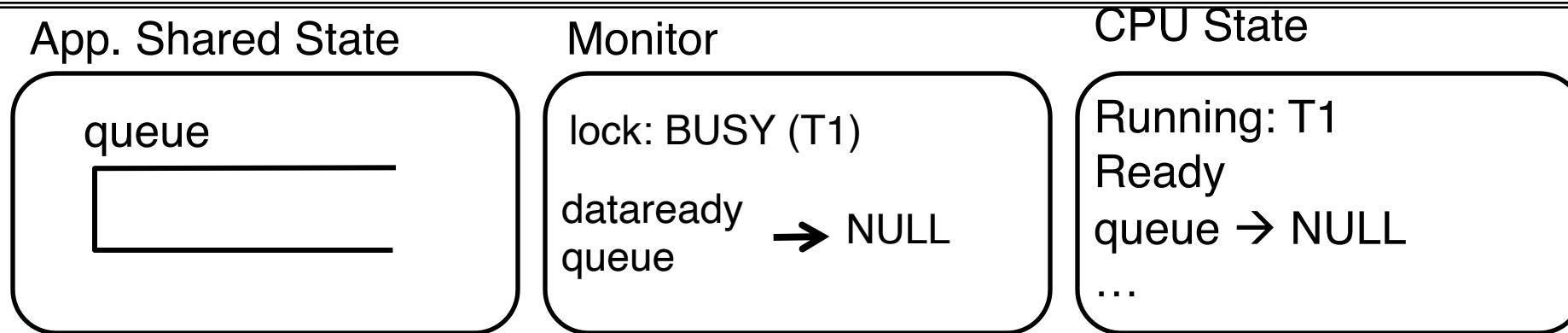
Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?



T1 (Running)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?

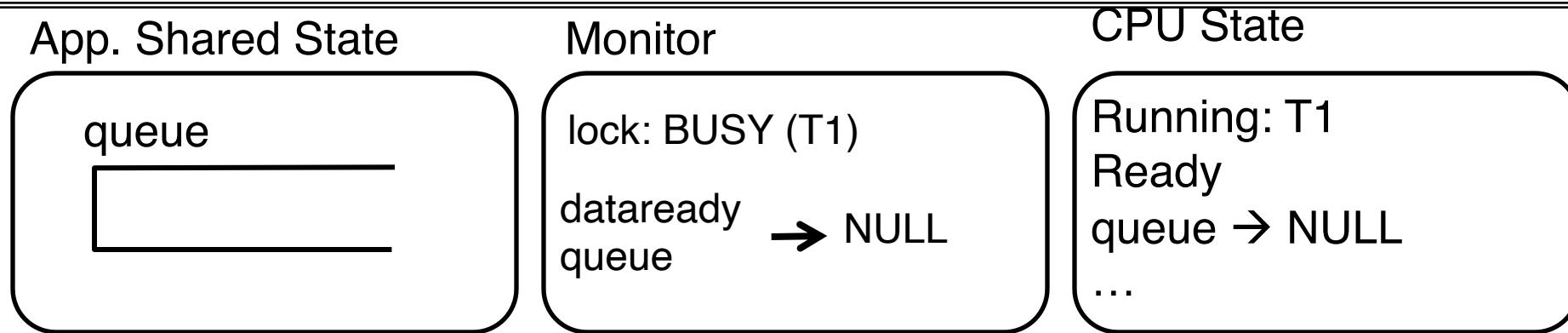


T1 (Running)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    if (queue.isEmpty()) {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

ERROR:
Nothing in the
queue!

Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?

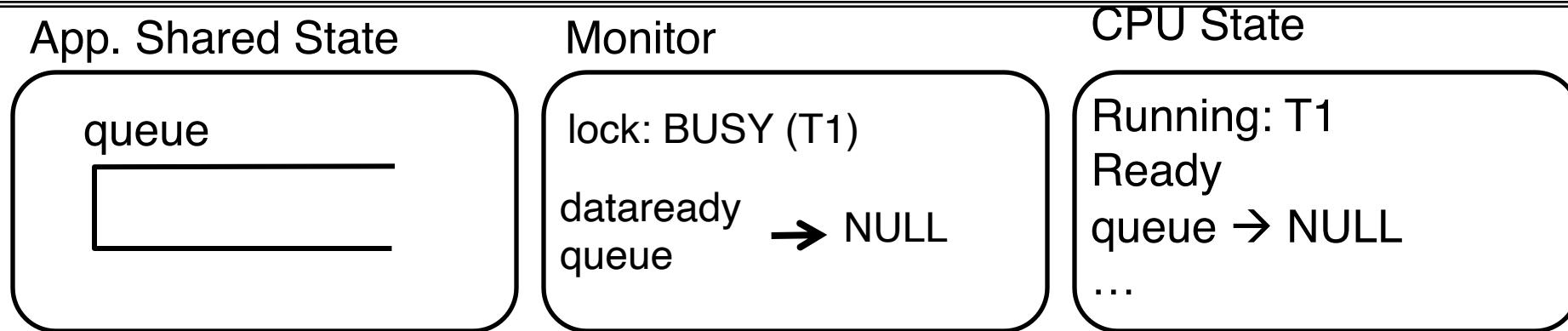


T1 (Running)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    while (queue.isEmpty())  
    {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.pop();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

Replace
“if” with
“while”

Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?

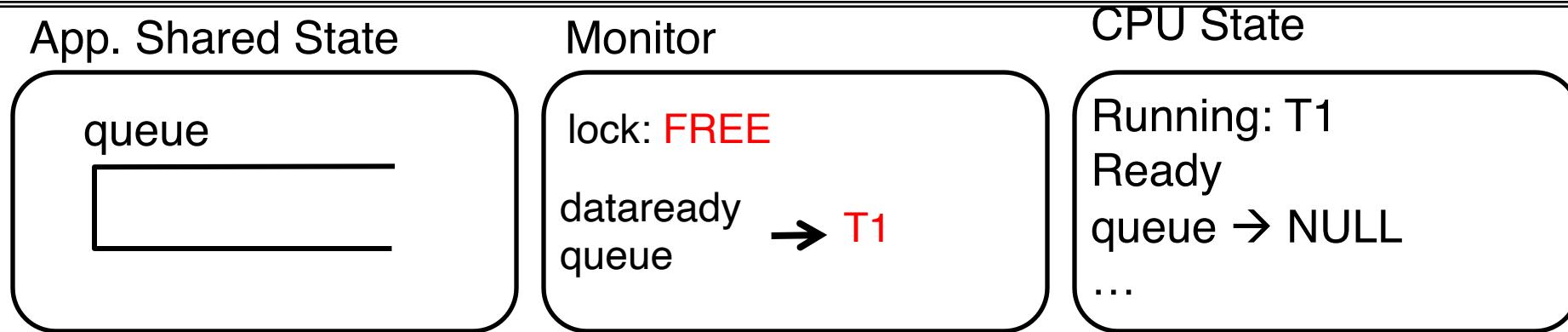


T1 (Ready)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    while (queue.isEmpty())  
    {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

Check
again if
empty!

Mesa Monitor: Why “while()”?

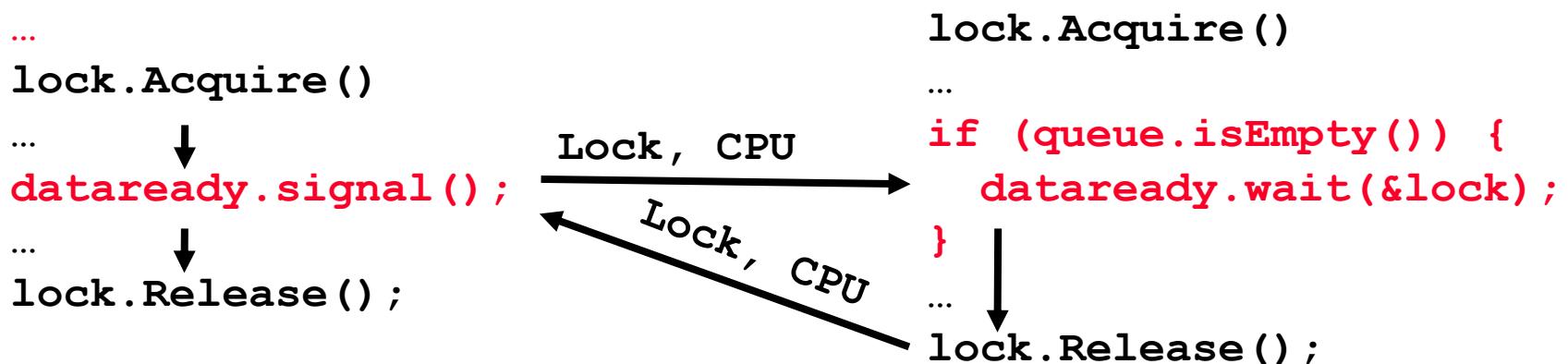


T1 (Waiting)

```
RemoveFromQueue() {  
    lock.Acquire();  
    while (queue.isEmpty())  
    {  
        dataready.wait(&lock);  
    }  
    item = queue.dequeue();  
    lock.Release();  
    return(item);  
}
```

Hoare monitors

- Signaler gives up lock, CPU to waiter; waiter runs immediately
- Waiter gives up lock, processor back to signaler when it exits critical section or if it waits again
- Most textbooks



Quick Questions

- Do lock.Acquire() and lock.Release() always trap into kernel?
- Interrupt handlers must use spinlocks instead of queueing locks. Why?
 - Note: interrupt handlers are not supposed to sleep



Homework

- Search for how Java synchronization works.
 - Key words: “synchronized”, “wait”, “notify”, “notifyAll”.
 - Is it based on Hoare or Mesa model?
- Implement semaphores with test&set in pseudo code.