Allegro5 Tutorial

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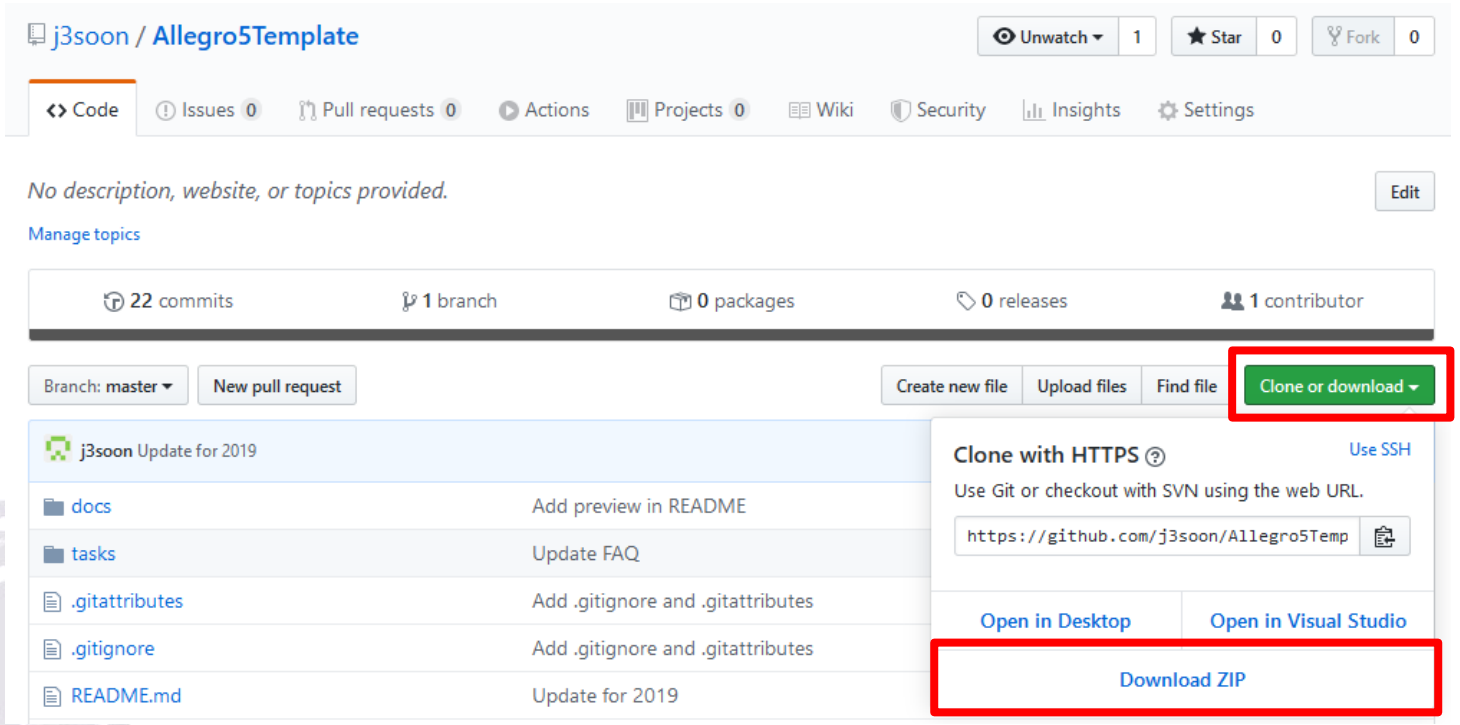
Online row call (for COVID-19)

Announcements

- You should finish installing and setting up Allegro5 on your own computer and practice the exercises before Hackathon.
- Hackathon (grading: 2%)
  - 12/19 (Saturday) 09:00-20:00 (Prof. Yang's class)
  - 12/20 (Sunday) 09:00-20:00 (Prof. Hu's class)
- Final Project Demo (grading: 13%)
  - 01/18 (Monday), details will be announced one week before

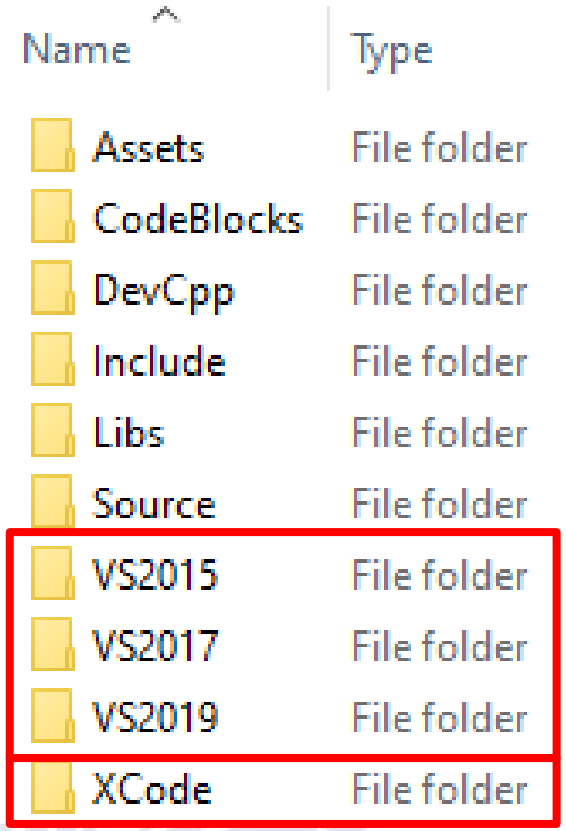
Announcements

- The project setup guide, frequently asked questions, exercises, etc. are located at: https://github.com/j3soon/Allegro5Template



Announcements

- Pre-configured project files (in the Exercises folder)



Visual Studio is recommended

XCode requires installing additional libraries (`brew install allegro`)

Proficient in recursions, pointers, binary representations, etc.

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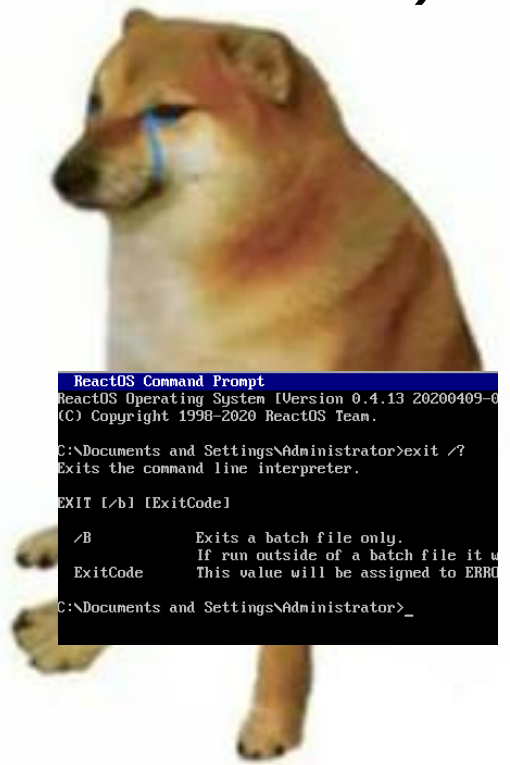

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Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/56/Computer_icon.png
Source: https://pixabay.com/illustrations/keyboard-typing-computer-wireless-1409743/
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exit_(command)

A new data type - bool

- A kind of data type that can only be `true(1)` or `false(0)`.
- Implemented in C++, C#, Java (boolean), Python, …
- Allegro5 has defined its own bool data type.
- No need to include `stdbool.h`.

```
bool is_SR_handsome = true;
if (is_SR_handsome) {
    // will be executed...
}
```

```
bool is_Anita_pretty = true;
if (!is_Anita_pretty) {
    // will not be executed...
}
```

Outline

- Introduction
- Display & draw image
- Events (display, keyboard, mouse)
- The Event Loop
- Tips on debugging
- Exercises
- References & Tutorials

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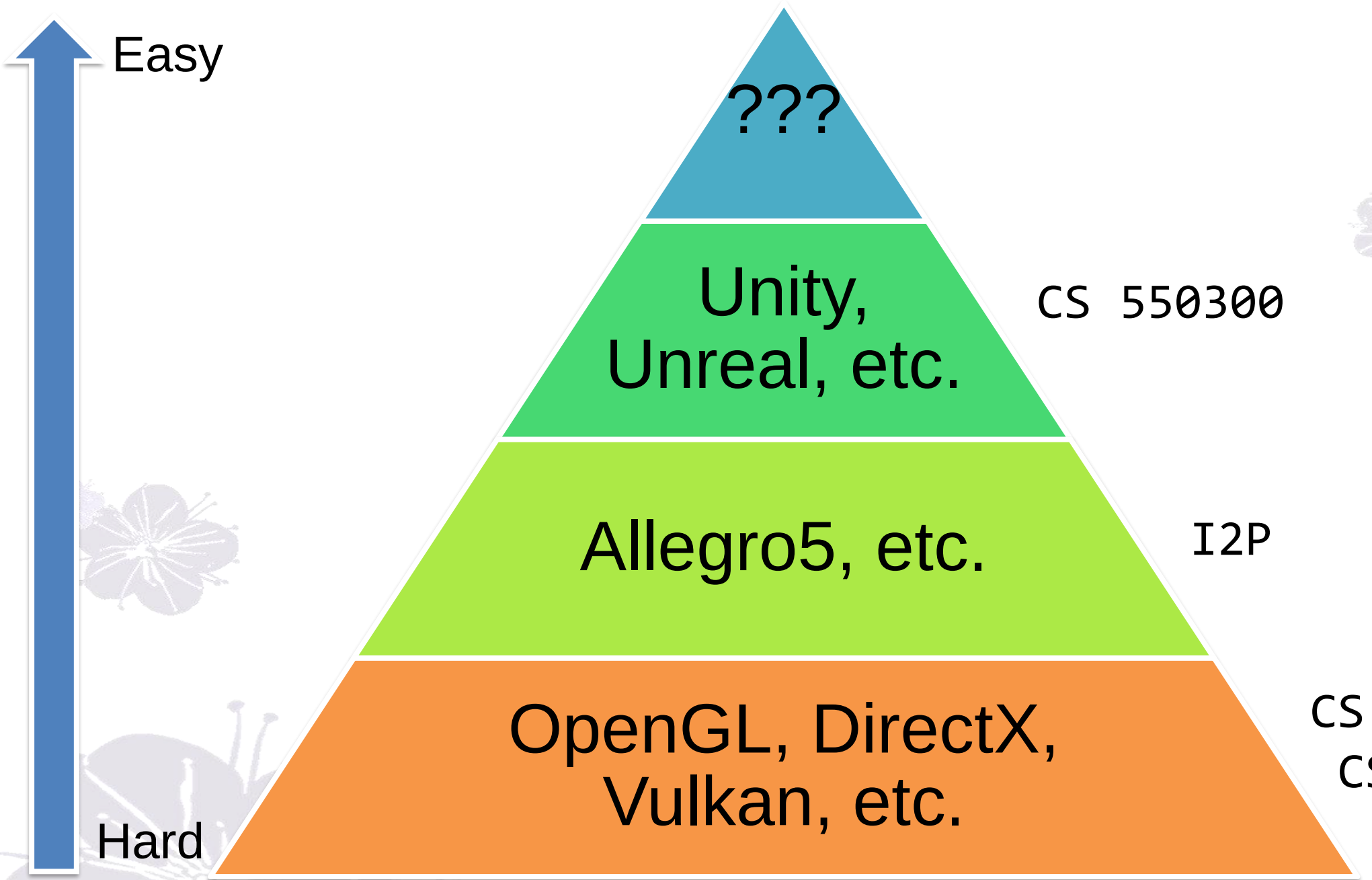
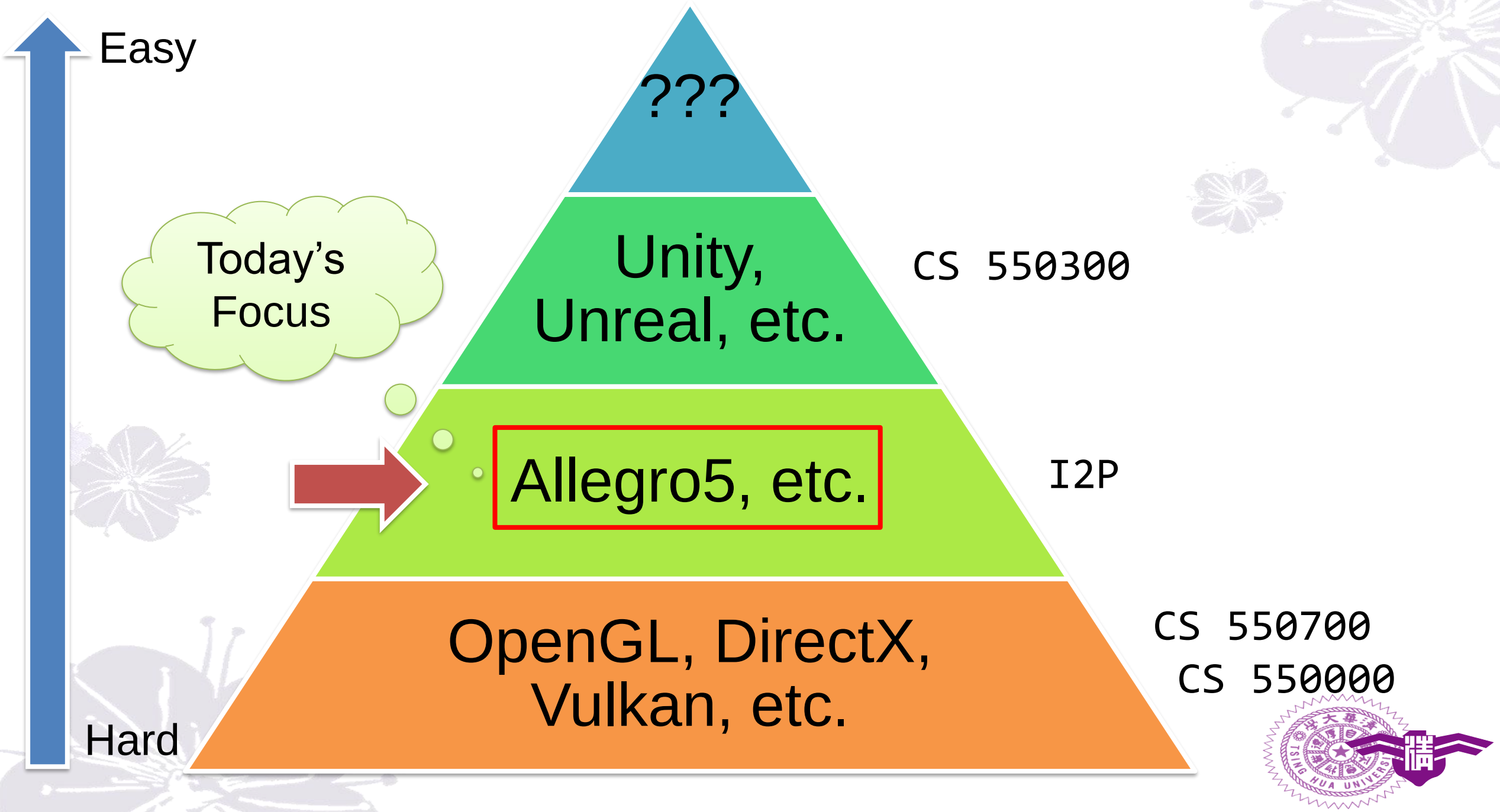

Easy
???
Unity,
Unreal, etc.
CS 550300
Allegro5, etc.
I2P
OpenGL, DirectX,
Vulkan, etc.
CS 550700
CS 550000
Hard


Easy
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OpenGL, DirectX,
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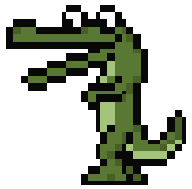
Today's
Focus
CS 550300
I2P
CS 550700
CS 550000

Allegro

- **ALLEGRO**
  Atari **L**ow-**LE**vel **G**ame **RO**utines

- A software library written in C for video game development.
- Initially released in early 1990.

Allegro5 

- A cross-platform library mainly aims at video game and multimedia programming.
- Supported on Windows, Linux, Mac OSX, iPhone and Android.
- User-friendly, intuitive C API usable from C++ and many other languages.
- Hardware accelerated bitmap and graphical primitive drawing support. (via OpenGL or Direct3D)

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Display (Window)

```
#include <allegro5/allegro.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    al_init();
    ALLEGRO_DISPLAY* display =
        al_create_display(800, 600);
    al_clear_to_color(
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    al_destroy_display(display);
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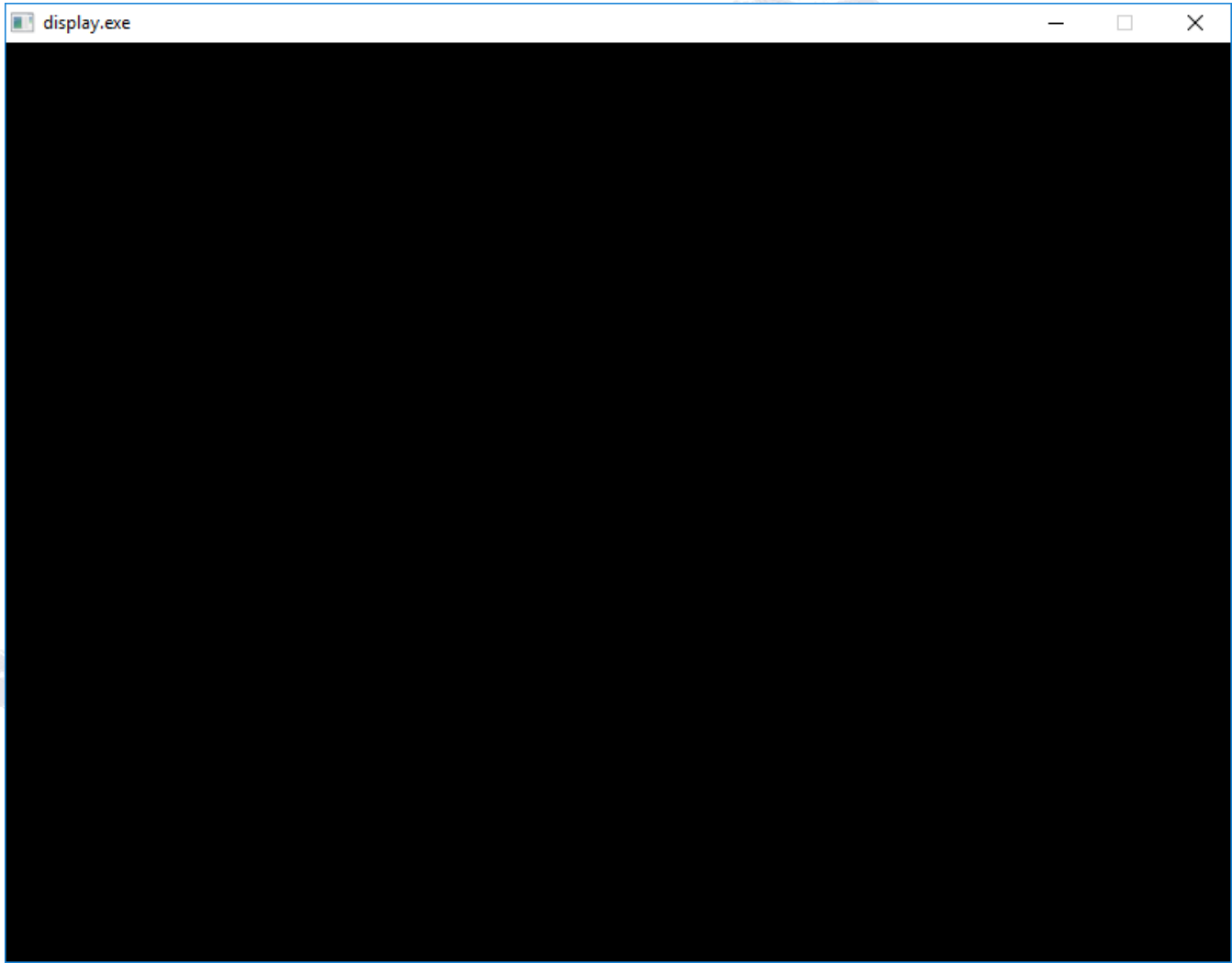

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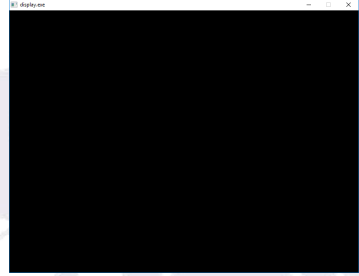
Buffer:



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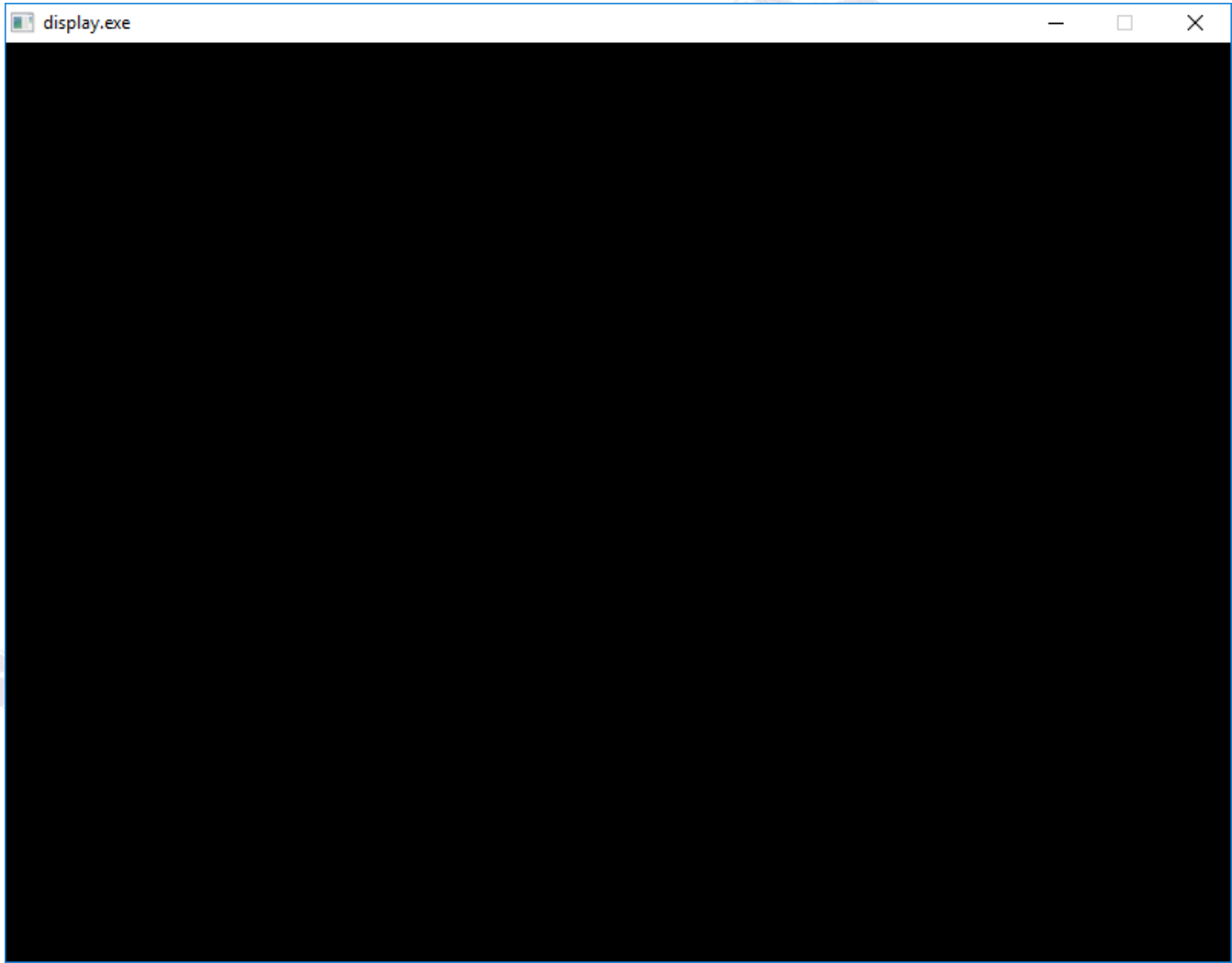

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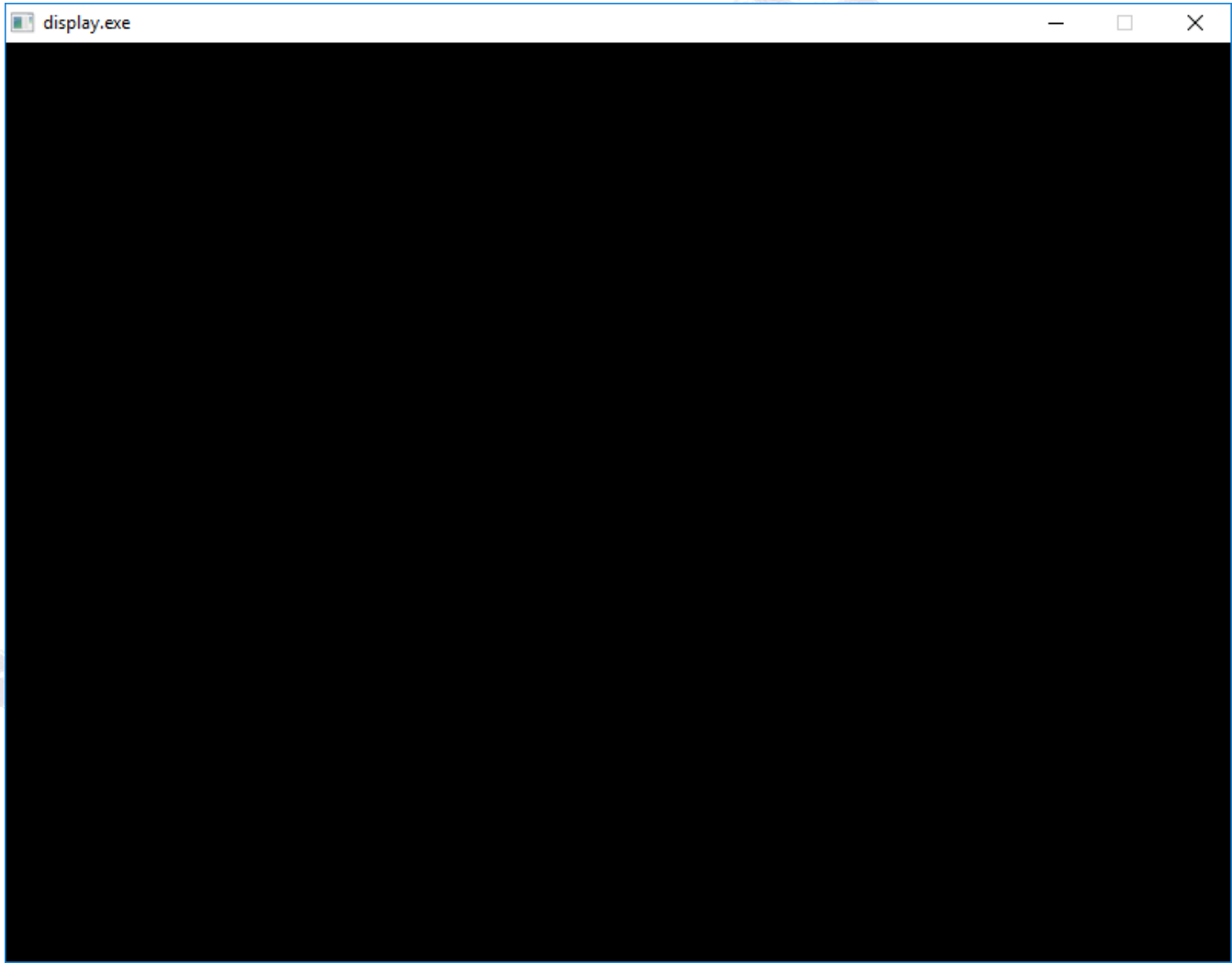

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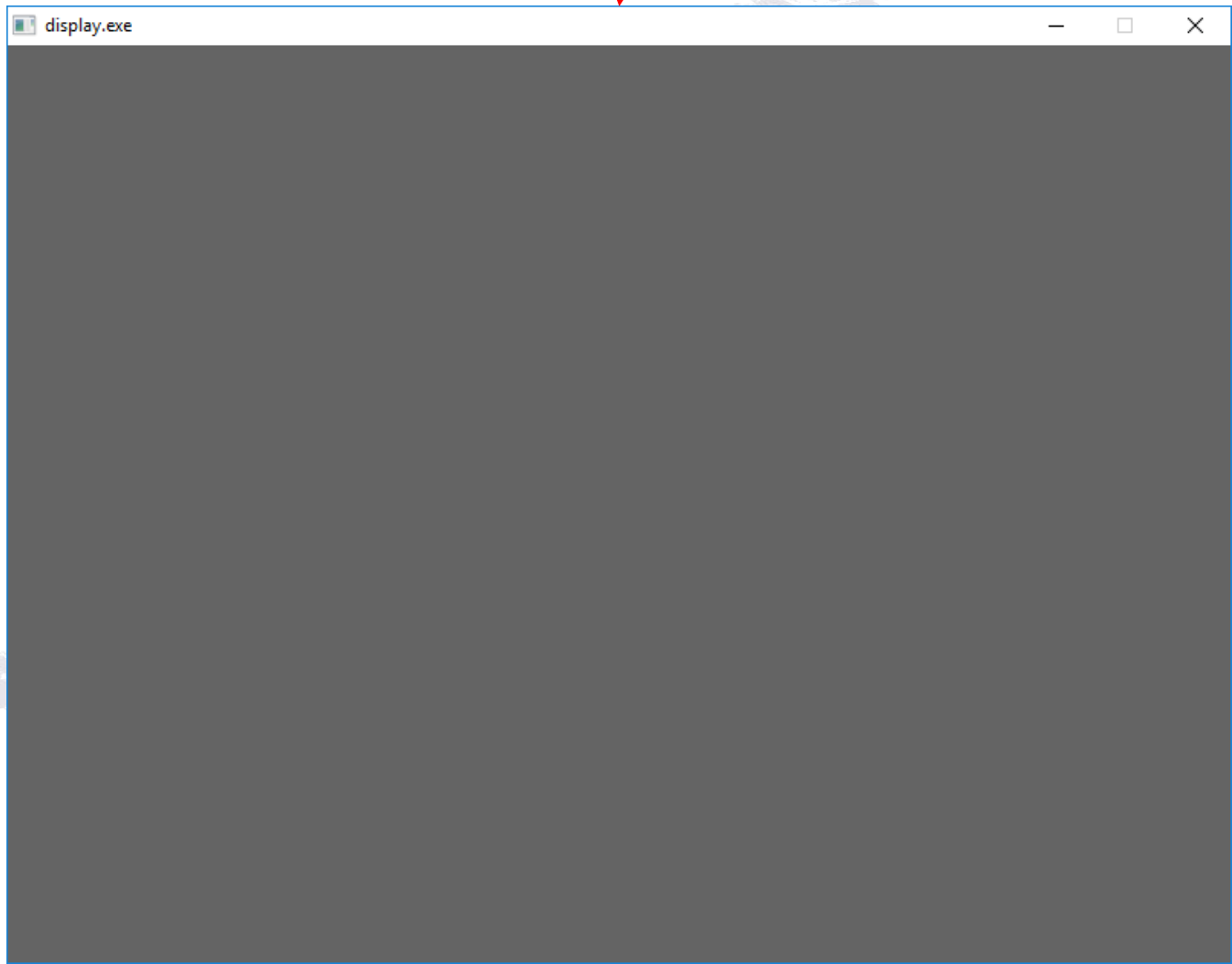


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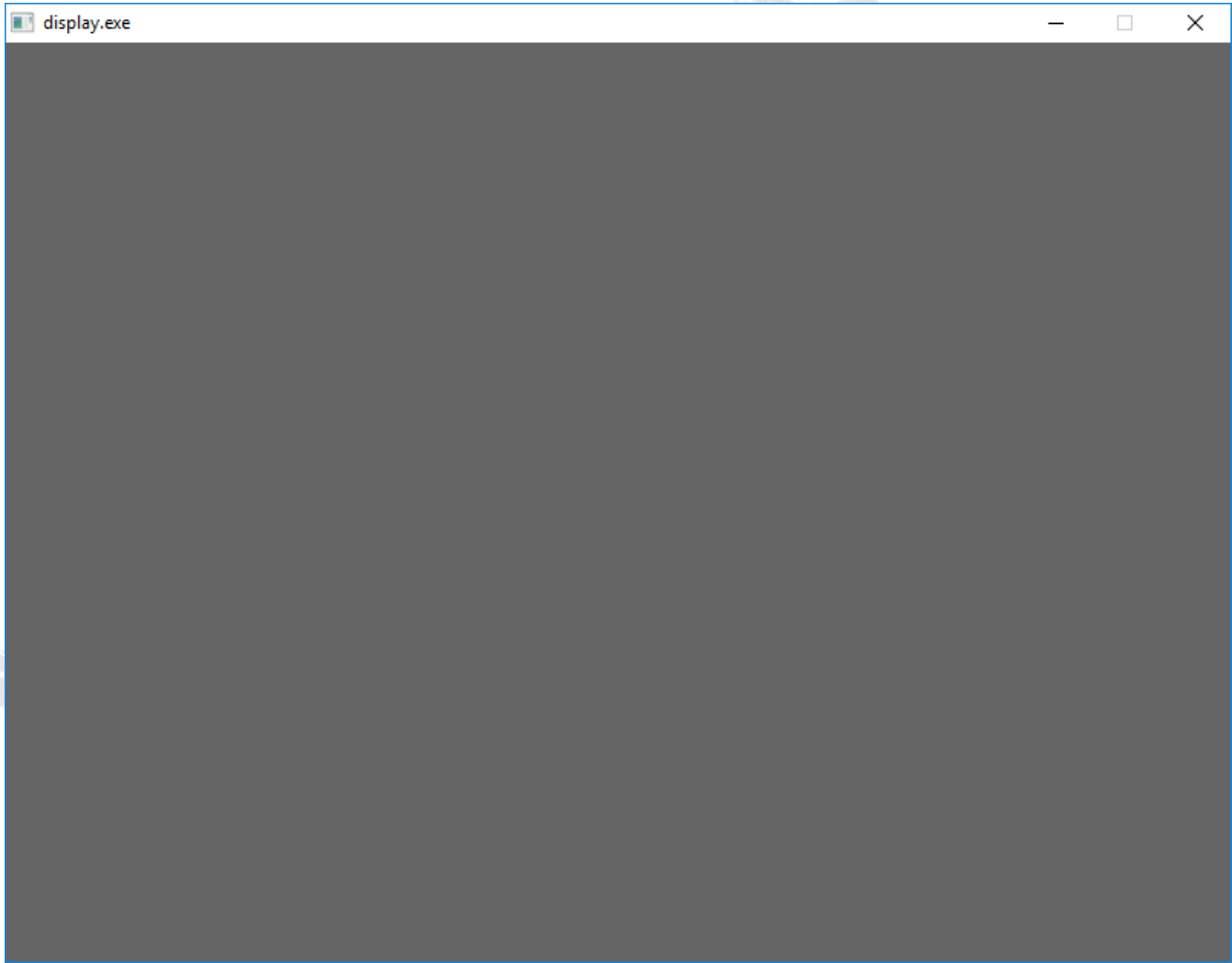

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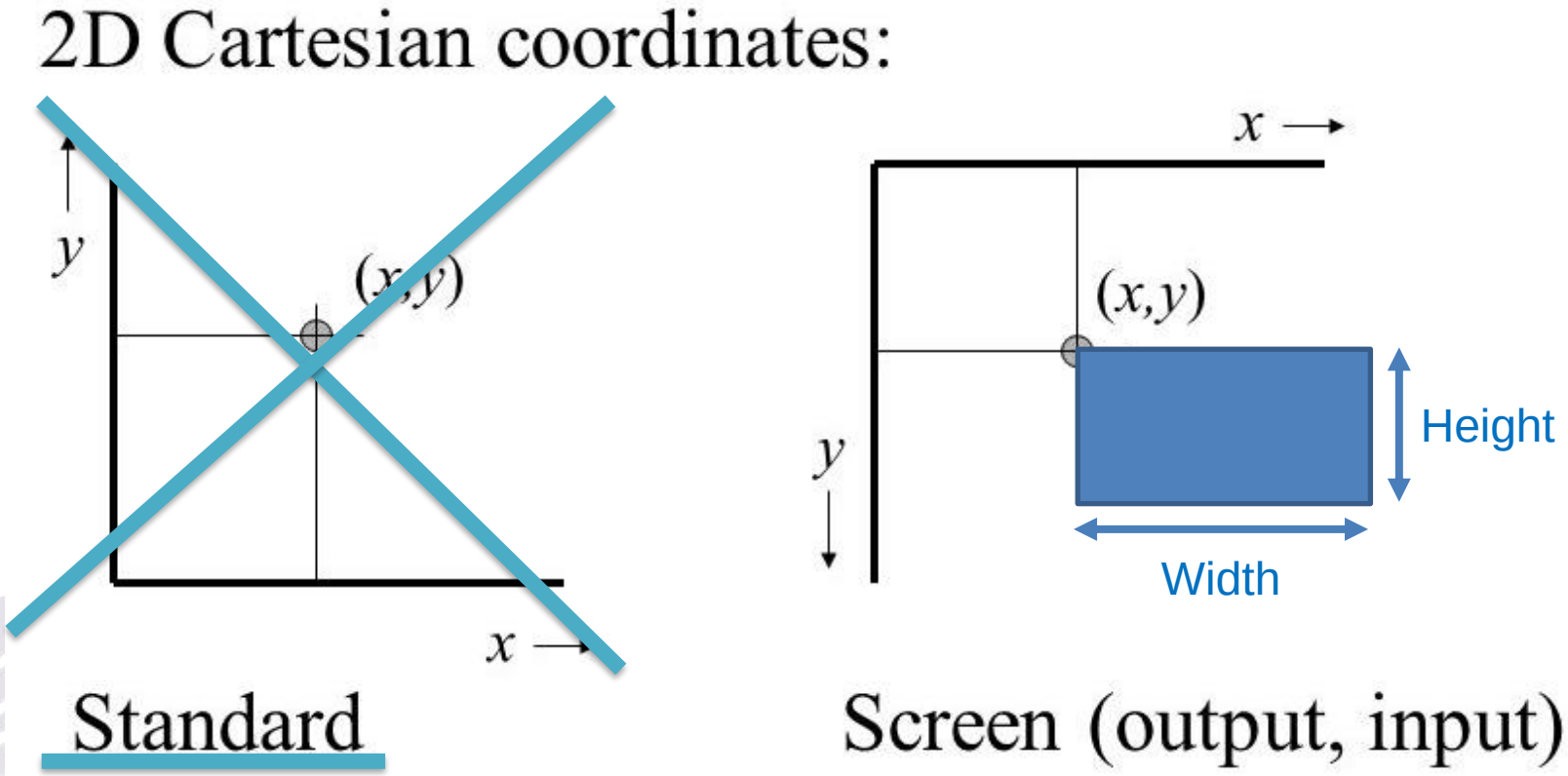
Coordinates on Display

2D computer graphics often have the origin in the top left corner and the y-axis down the screen.



Source: https://slideplayer.com/slide/6064012/

Image (Bitmap / Picture)

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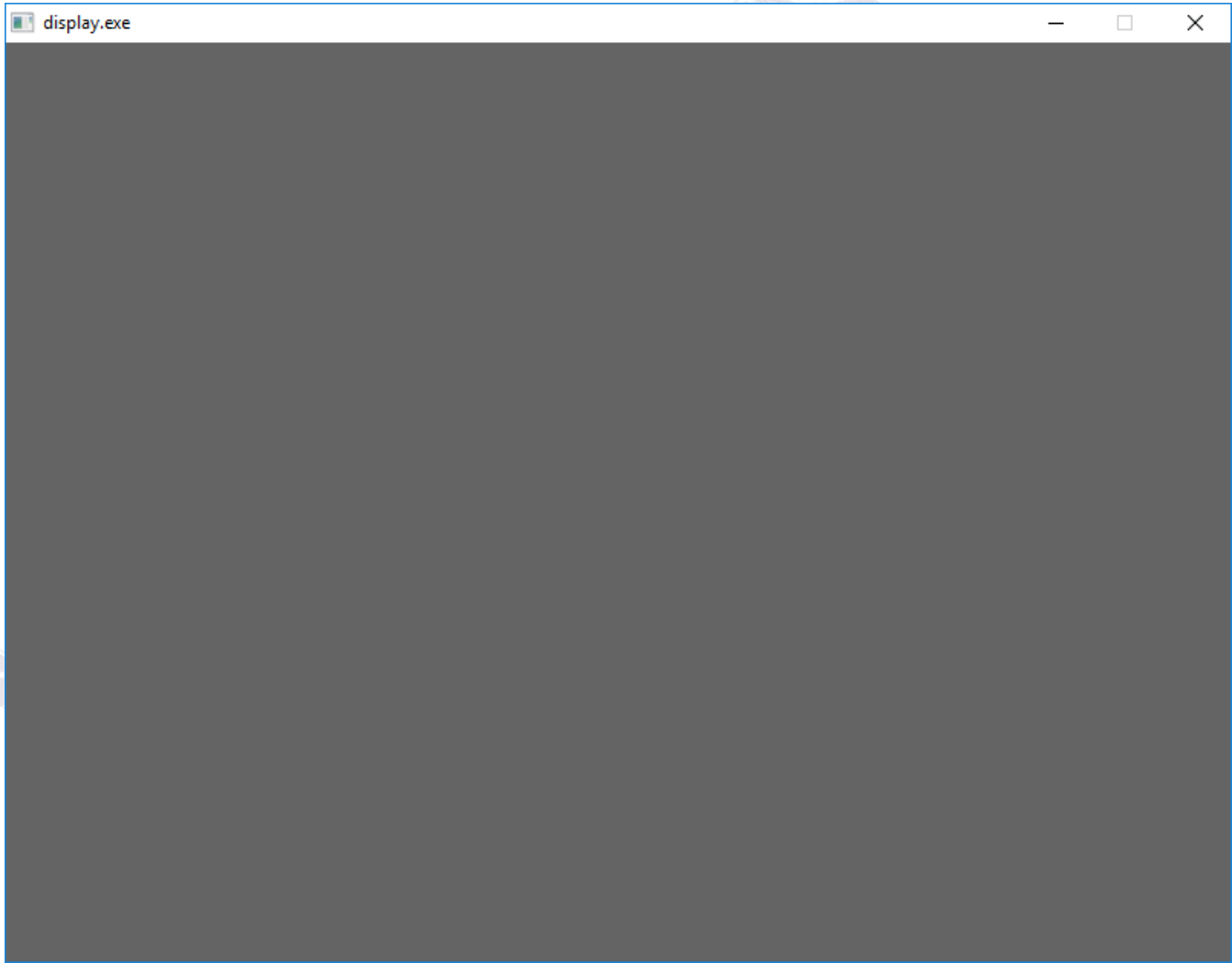
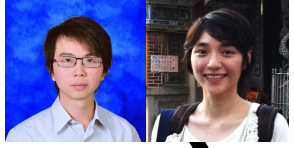


img:  Buffer: 

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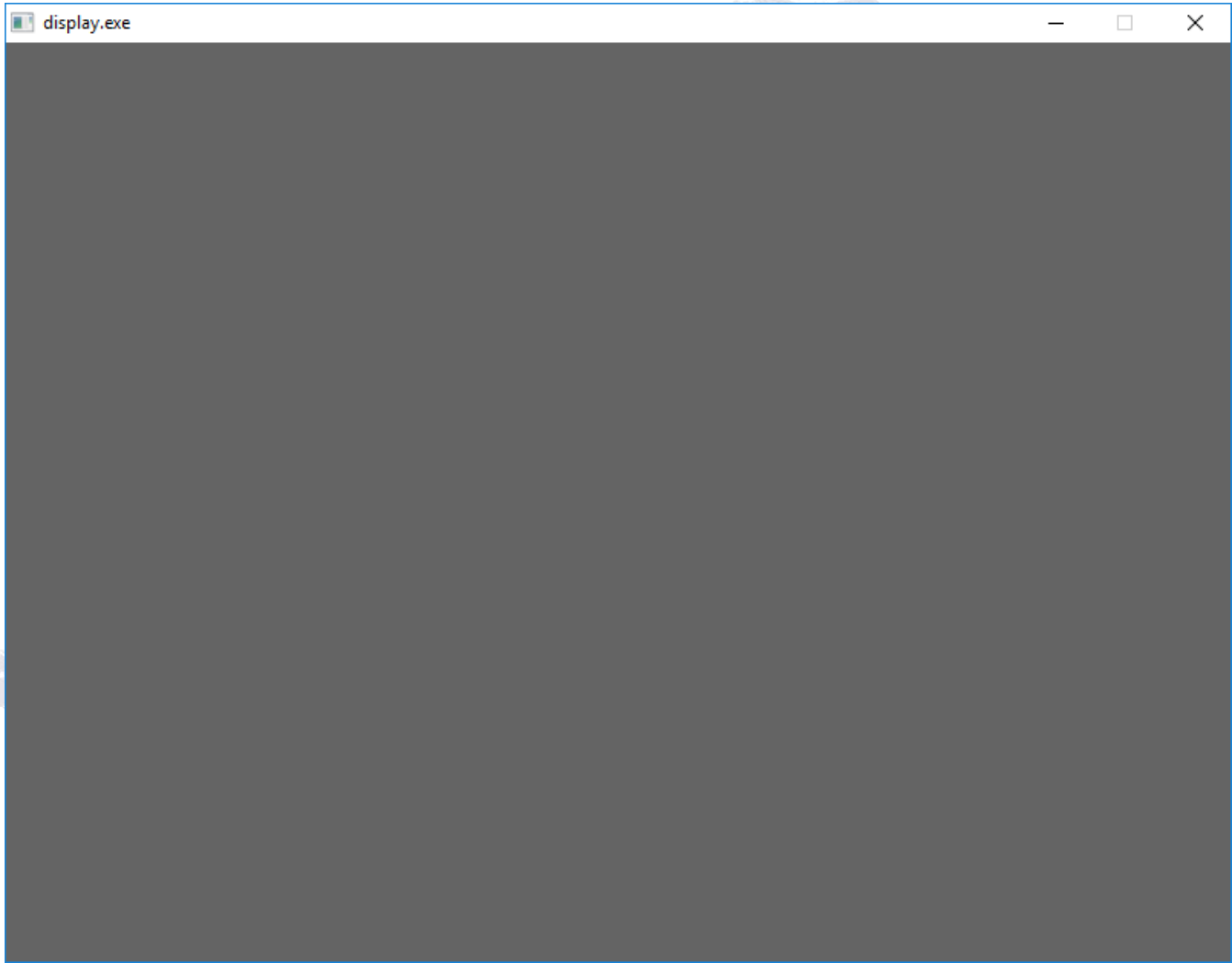

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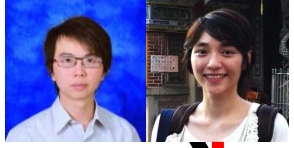

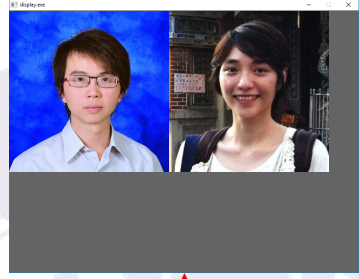


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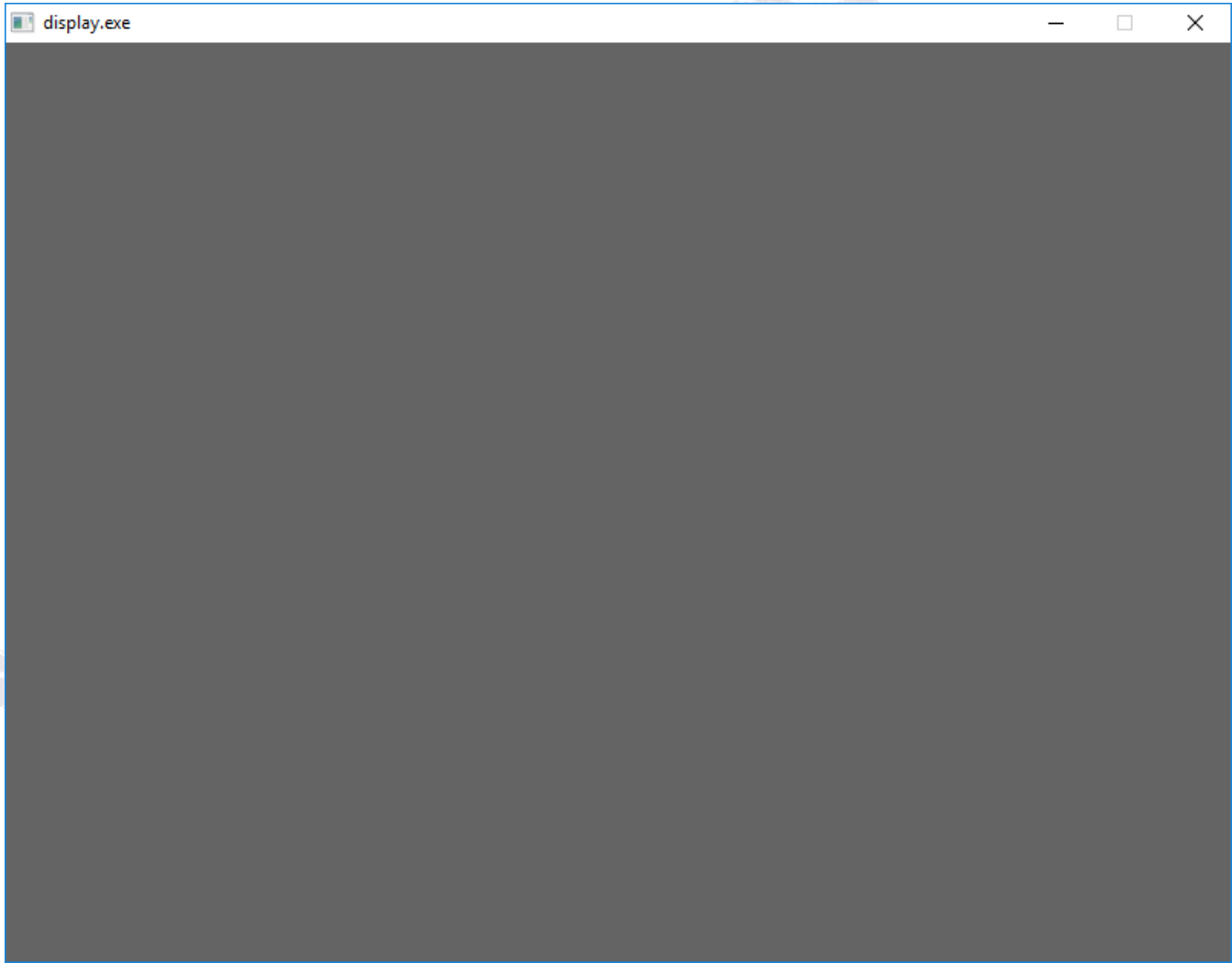

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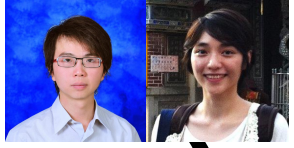

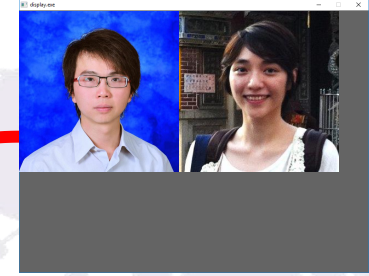

(0, 0)

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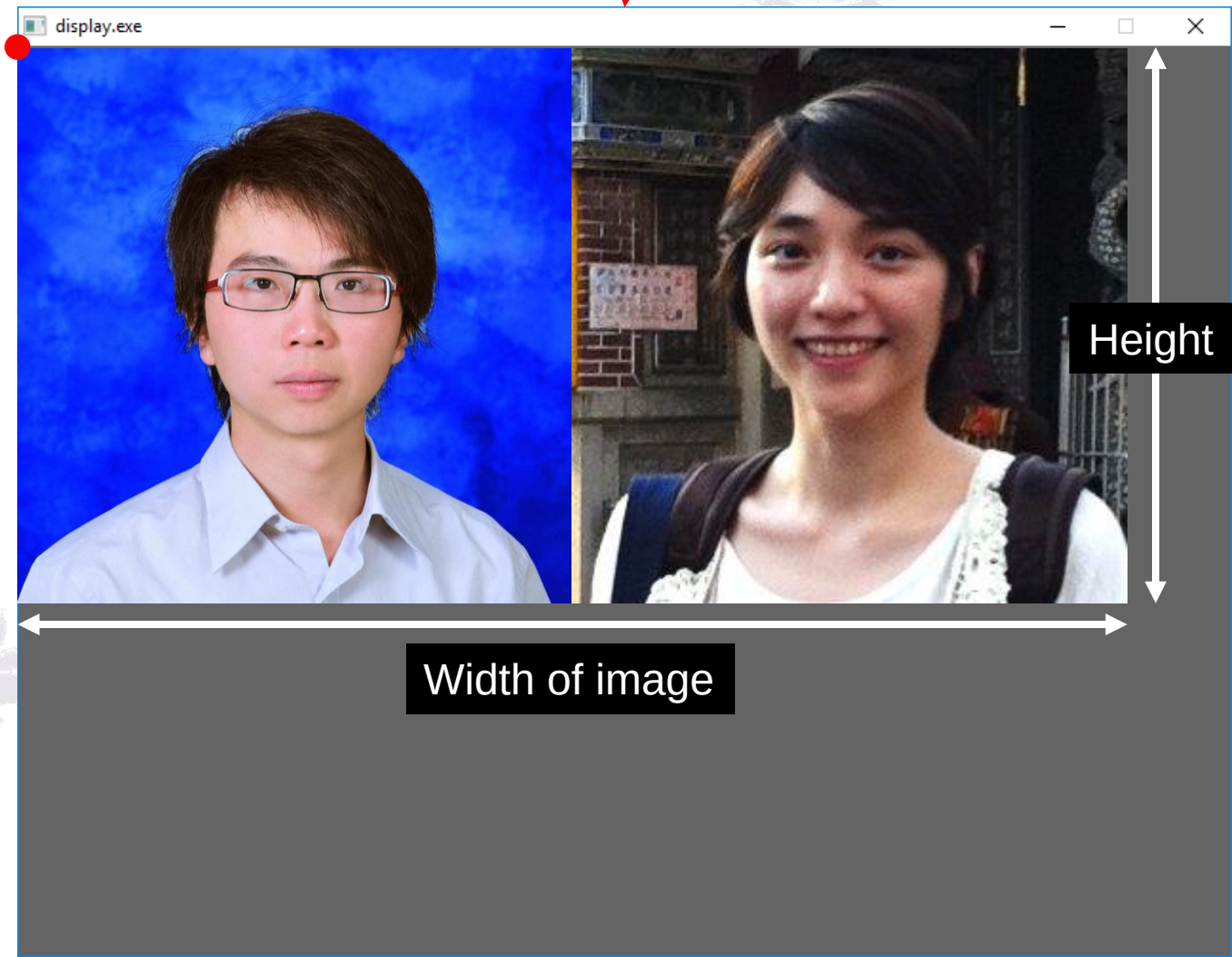

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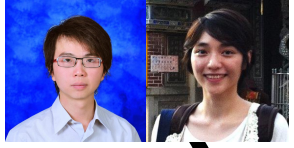

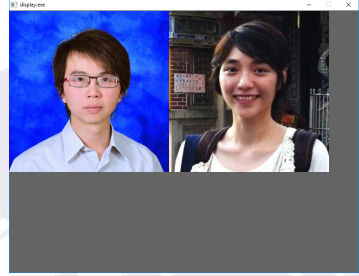


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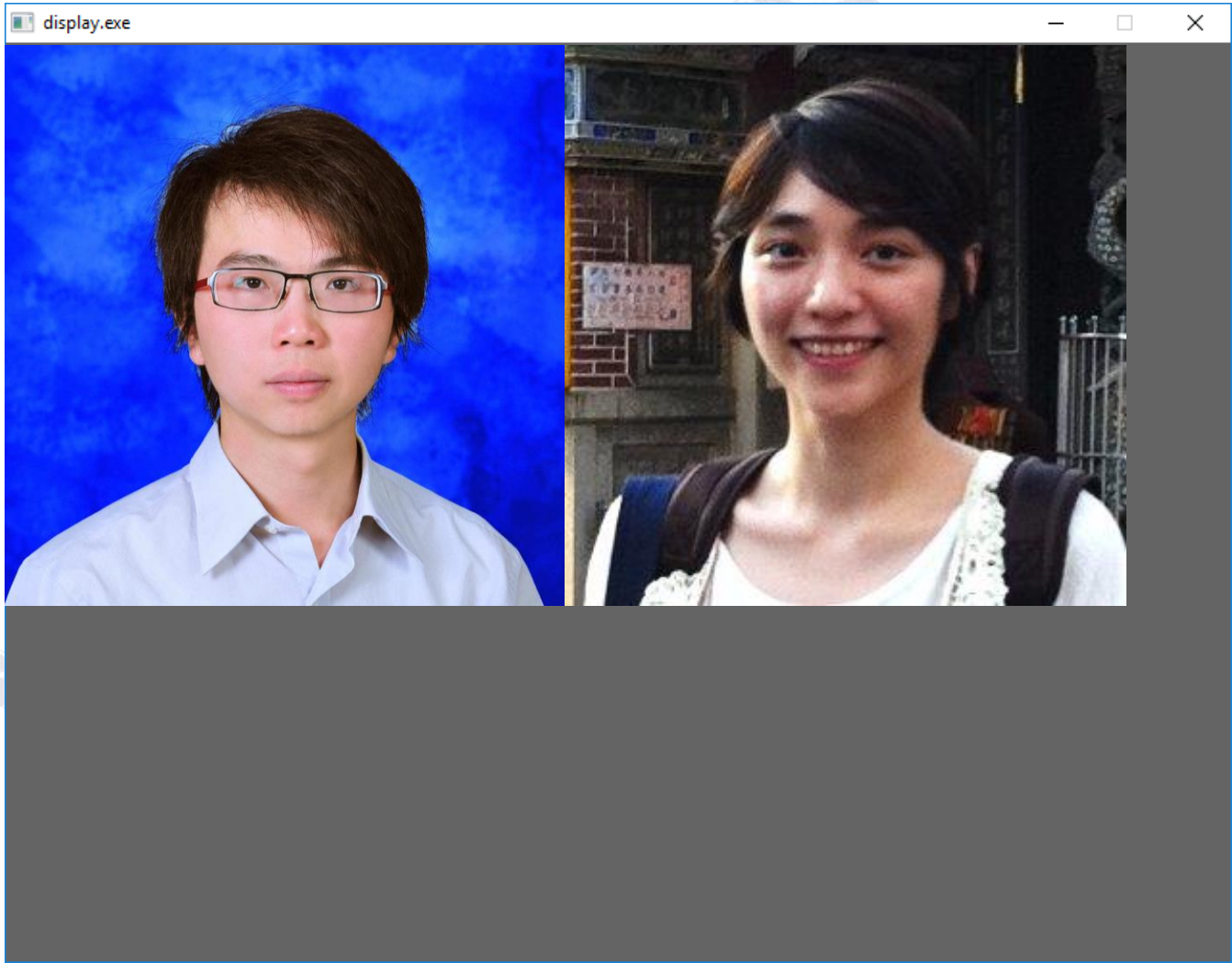

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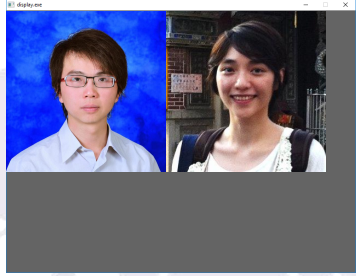
Buffer:



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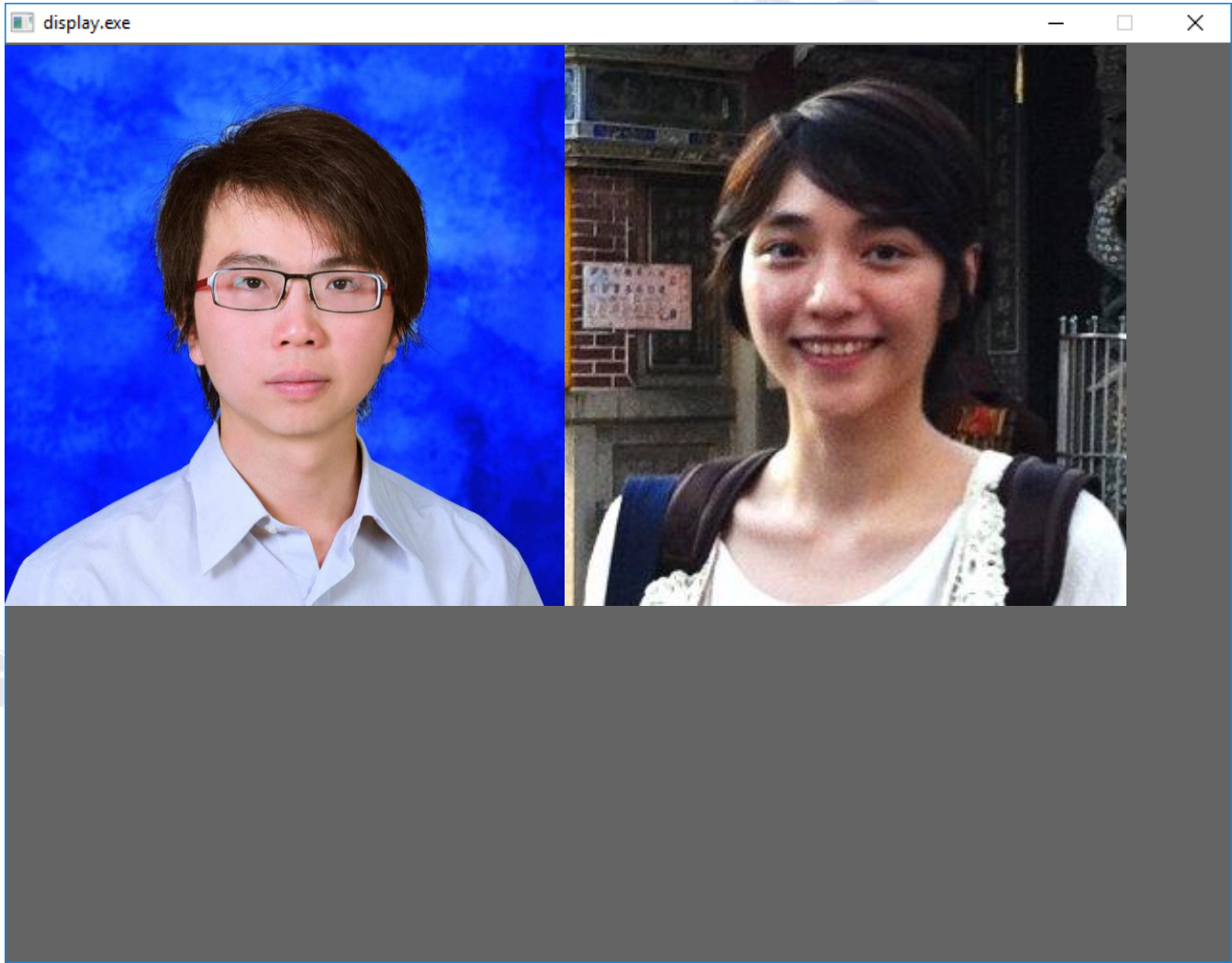

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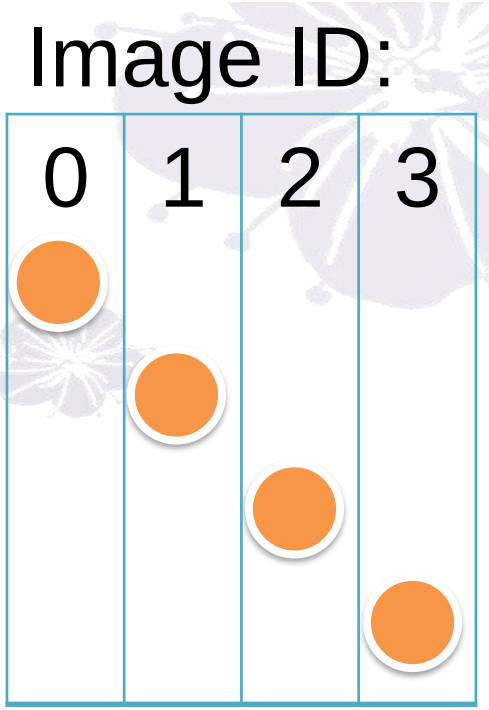
Countdown / Video Player

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#if defined(WIN32) || defined(_WIN32) ||
    defined(__WIN32__) || defined(__NT__)
#include <windows.h>
#else
#include <unistd.h>
#define Sleep(x) usleep((x)*1000)
#endif

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    puts("Count down:");
    for (int i = 3; i >= 0; i--) {
        printf("%d\n", i);
        Sleep(1000);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

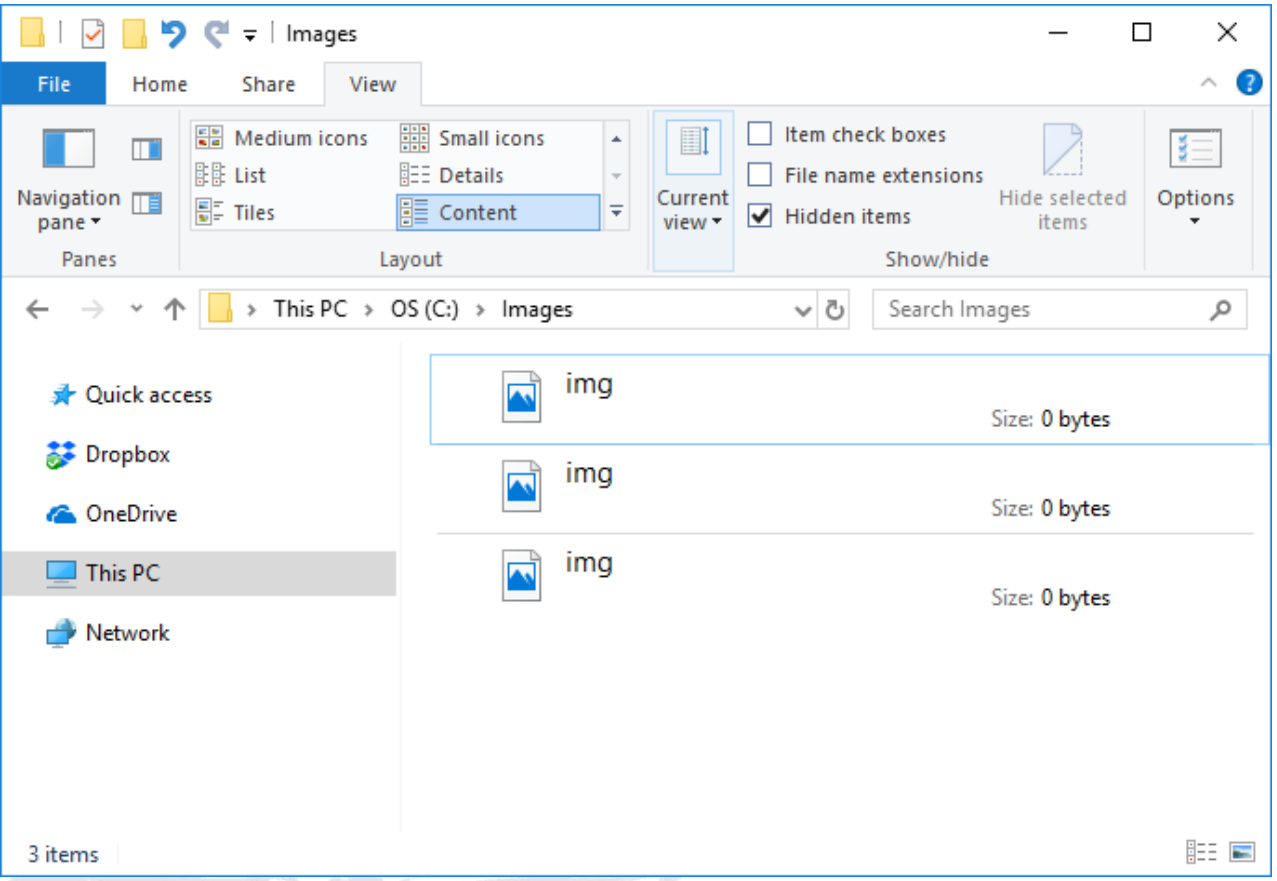


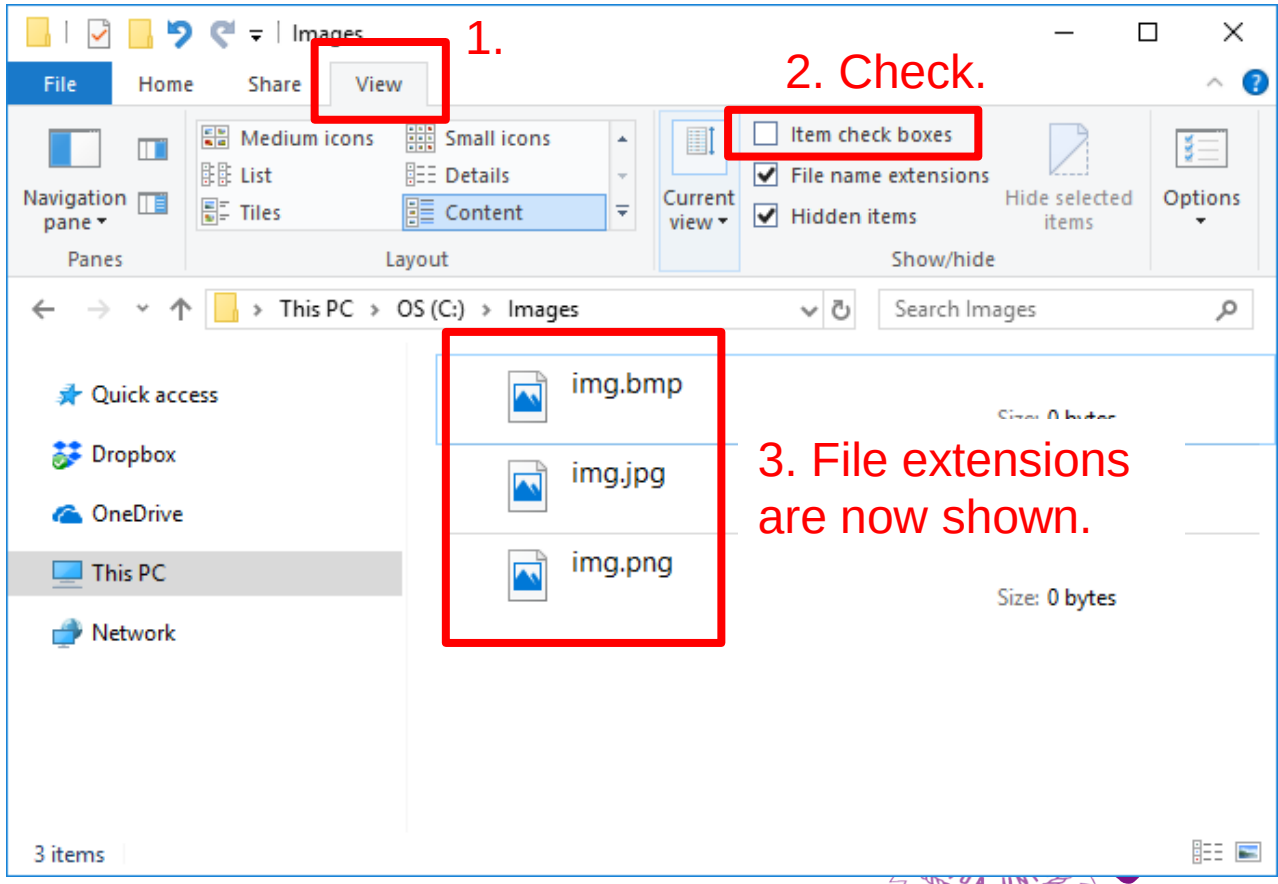
Animations can be played in a similar manner, by swapping:

- `printf → al_draw_bitmap`
- `Sleep(x * 1000) → al_rest(x)`

Image File Extensions

- Take Windows Explorer as example.





Others

- Font (Text / String)
- Audio (BGM / SFX)
- GIF
- Video
- …

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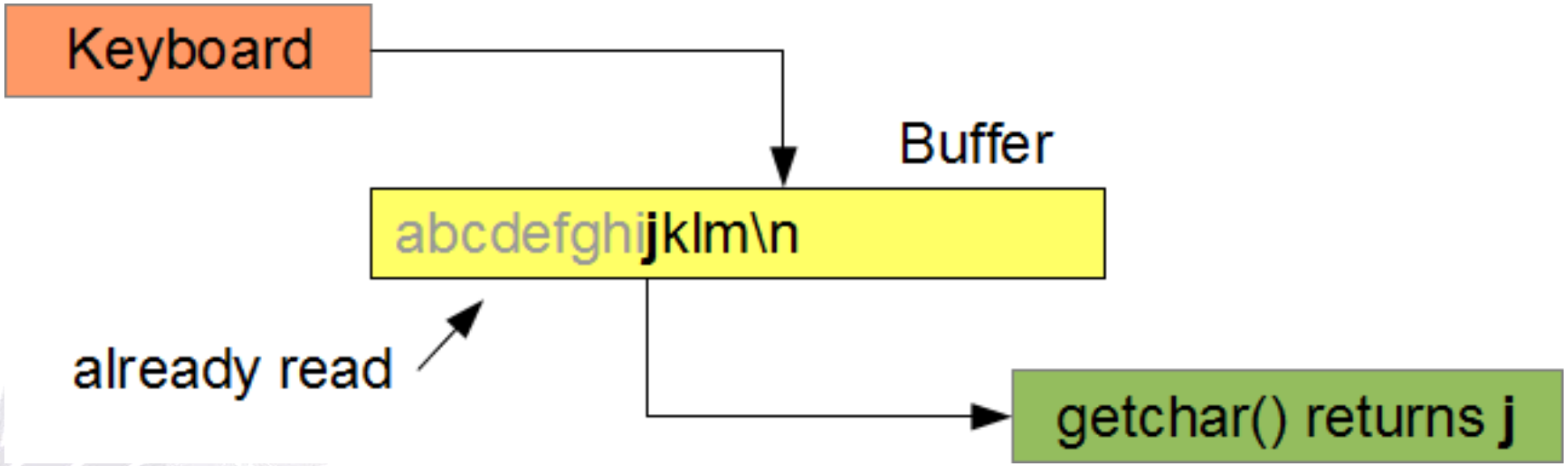
- References & Tutorials

Events / (Input) Signals

- Keyboard (Key down, Key up, …)
- Mouse (Move, Button down, Button up, …)
- Joystick
- The close button  (Alt + F4) or maybe Escape key
- Timer (Refresh display)
- Callbacks (Audio / Video finished)

Buffer used in stdin

- The buffer used in stdin can store the inputs. When the input is read by scanf, getchar, …, the characters are removed and returned.



Source: https://scs.senecac.on.ca/~btp100/pages/content/formi_p.html

Event Queue (Buffer for events)

- In an event-driven application, there is a **Main Loop** that listens for some specific events. When one of those events is detected, a callback is triggered.

- Used in Windows, Linux, MacOS, …
- Most event-driven programming environments already provide this main loop.

Keyboard

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int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    //...
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    ALLEGRO_EVENT event;
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```


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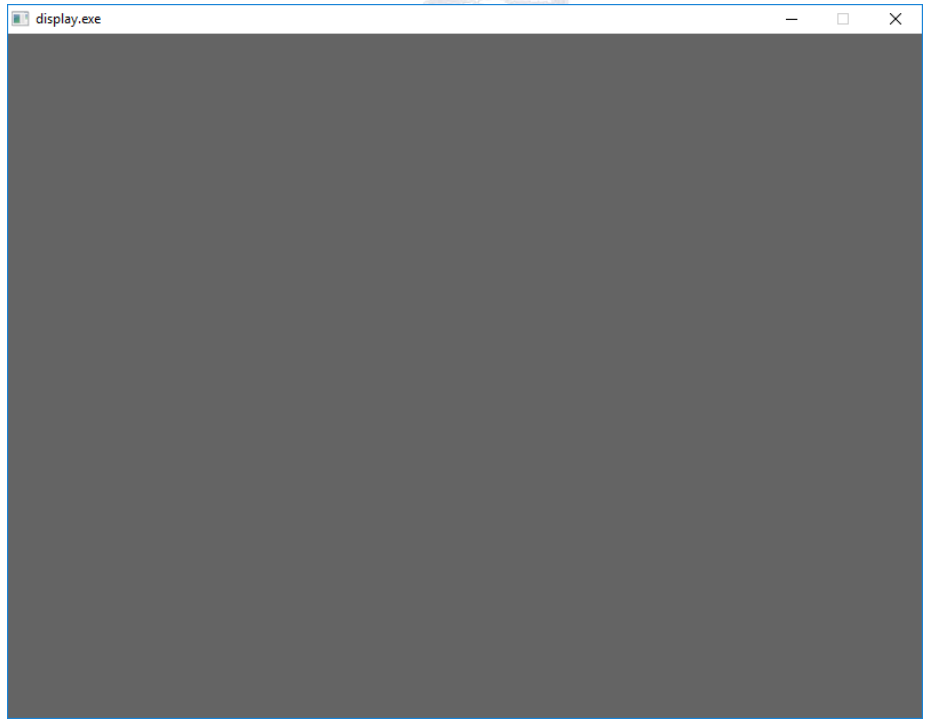

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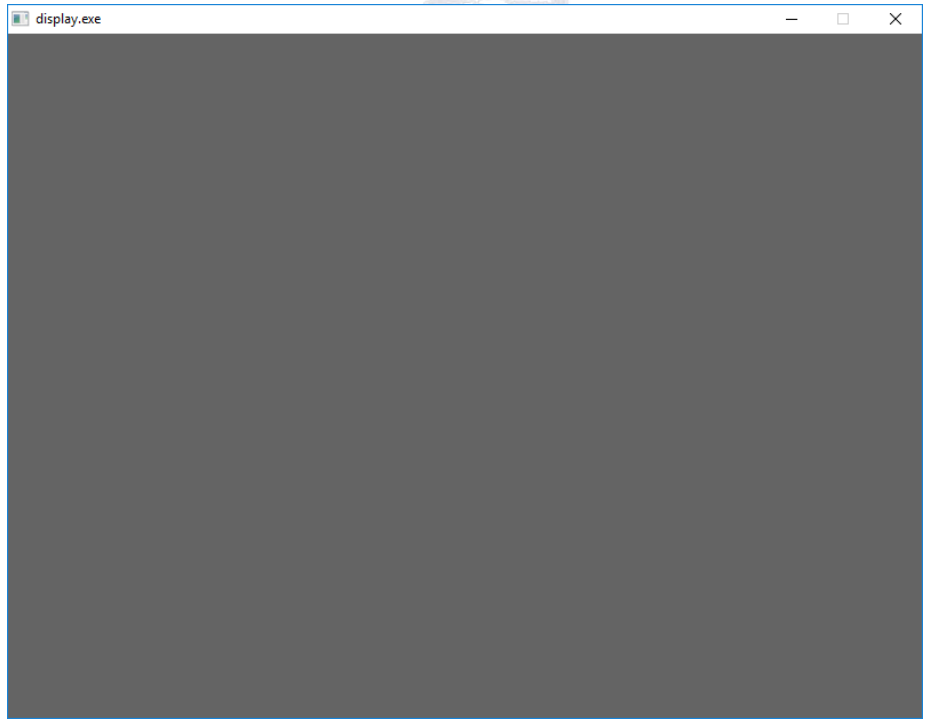

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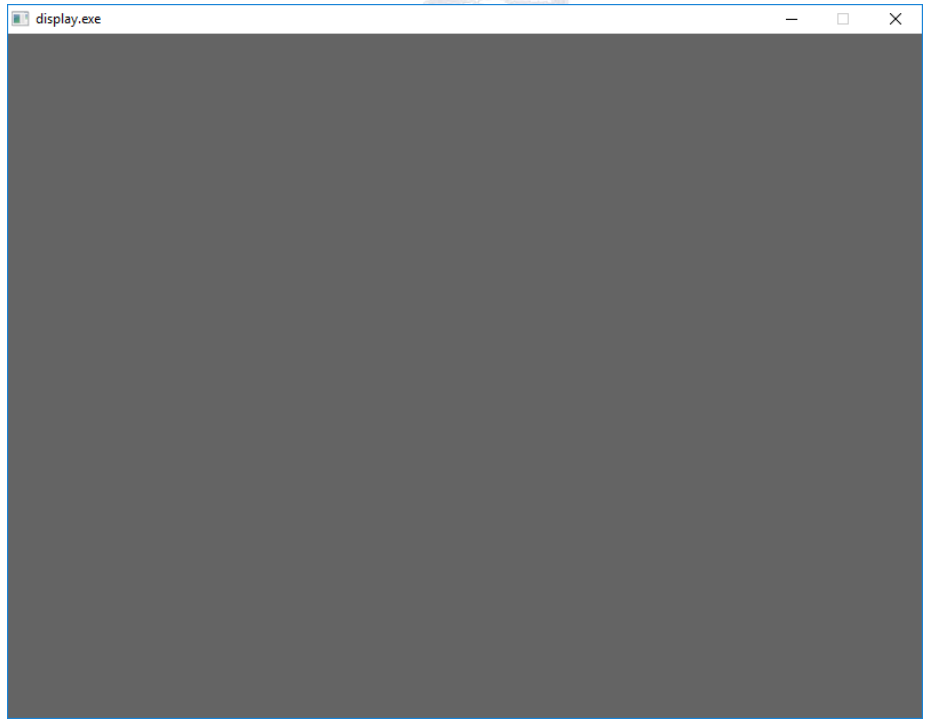

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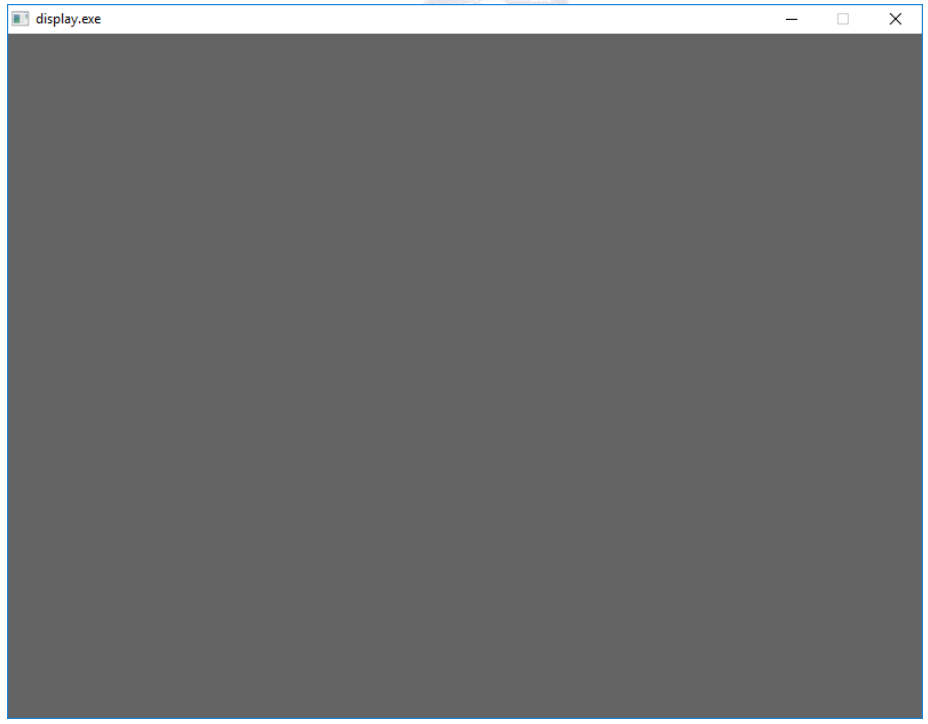

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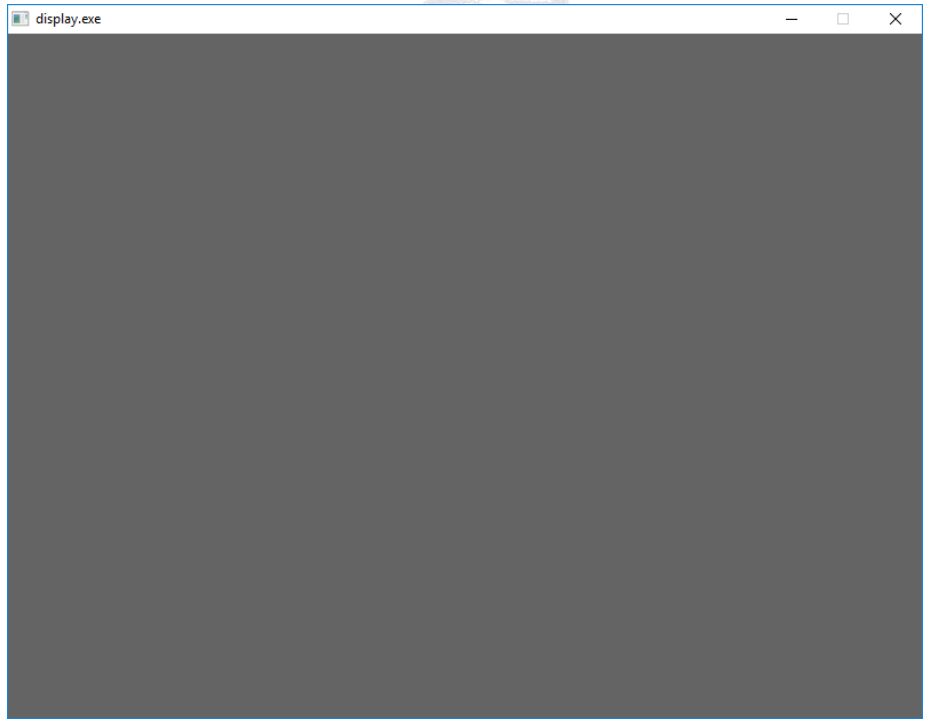

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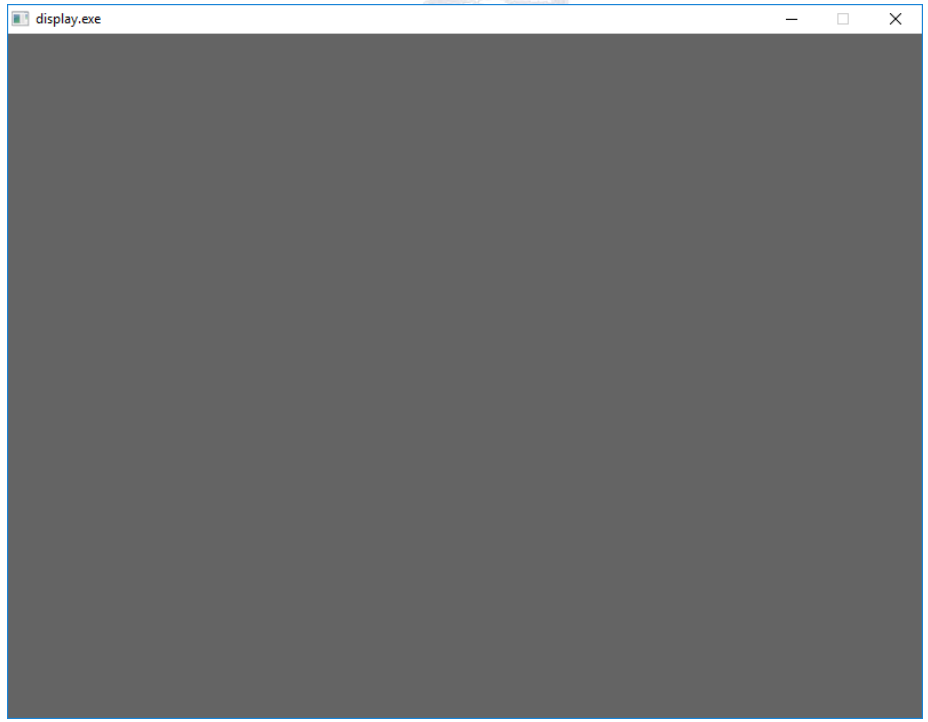

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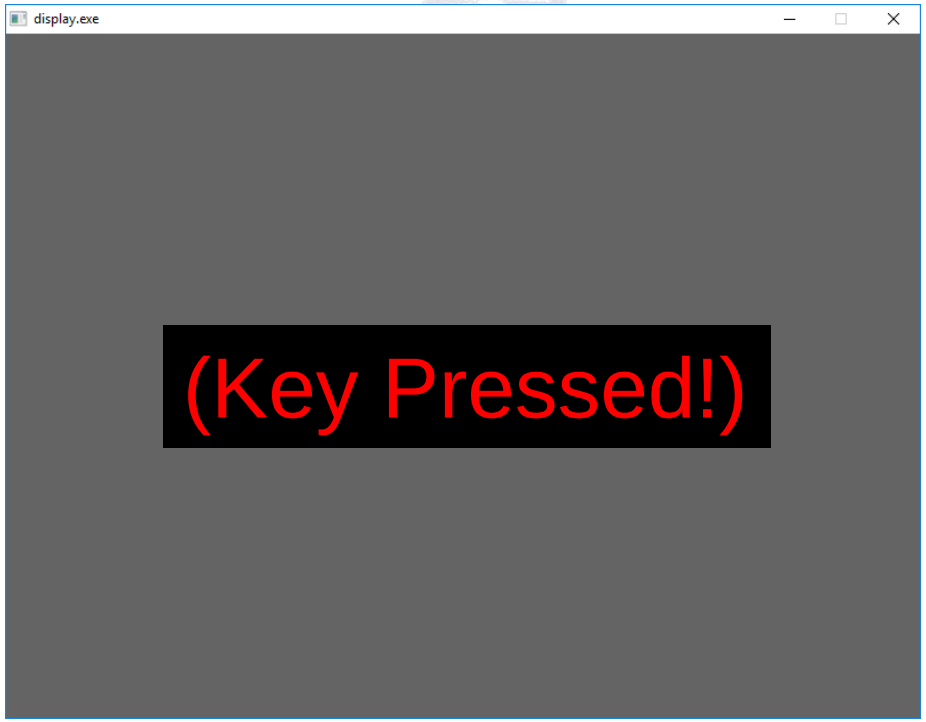

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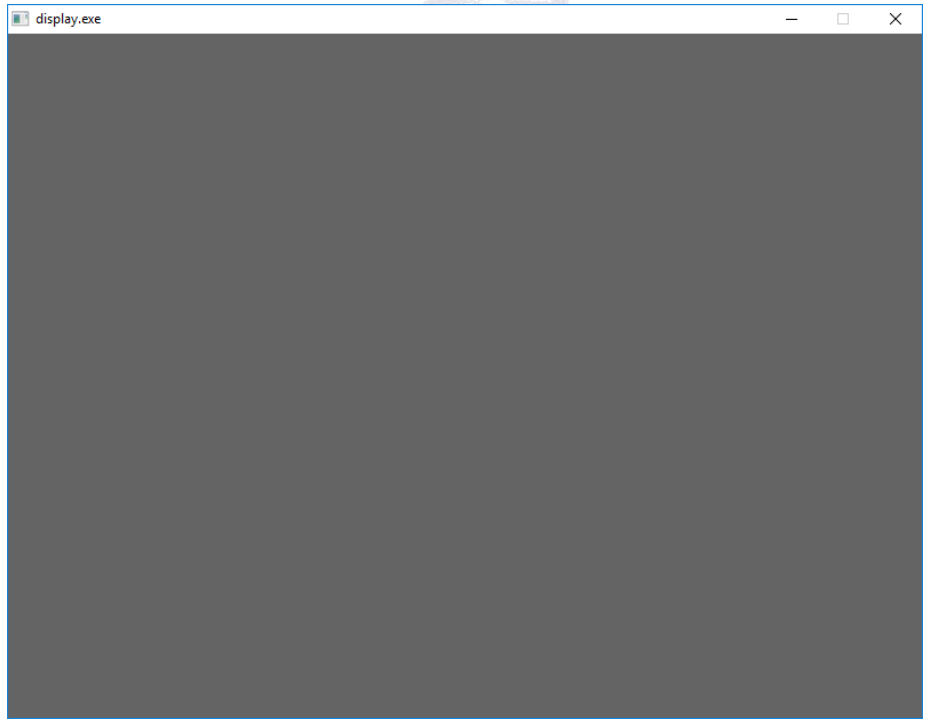

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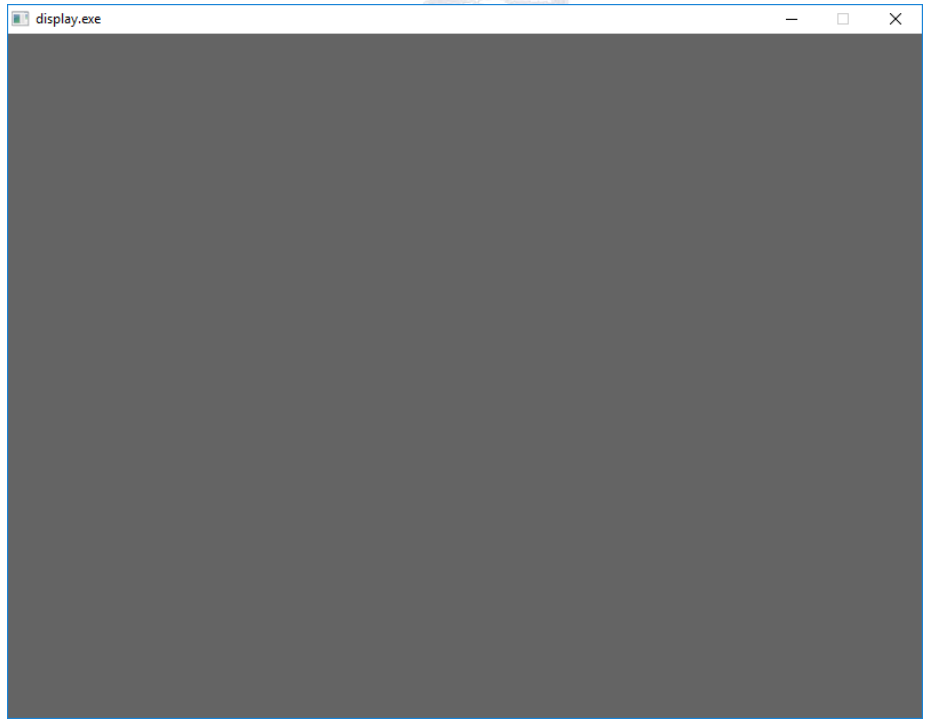

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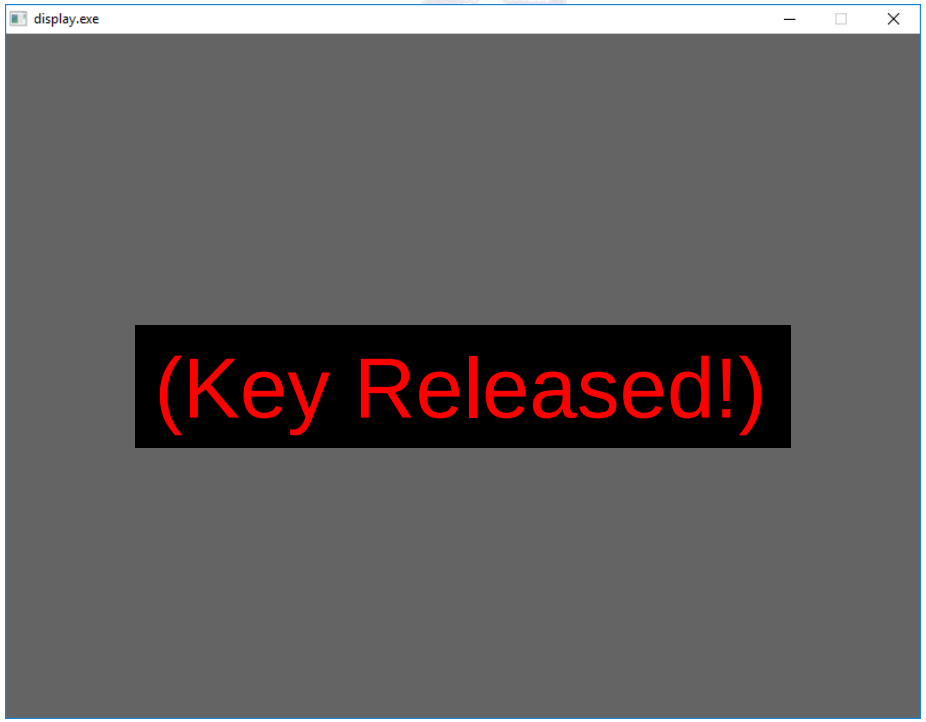

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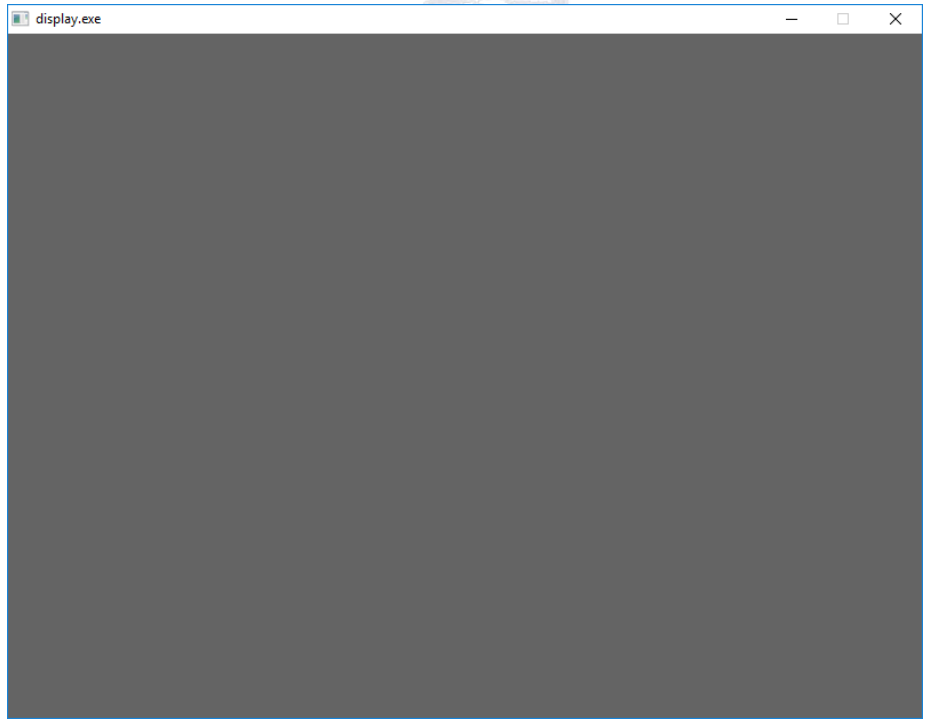

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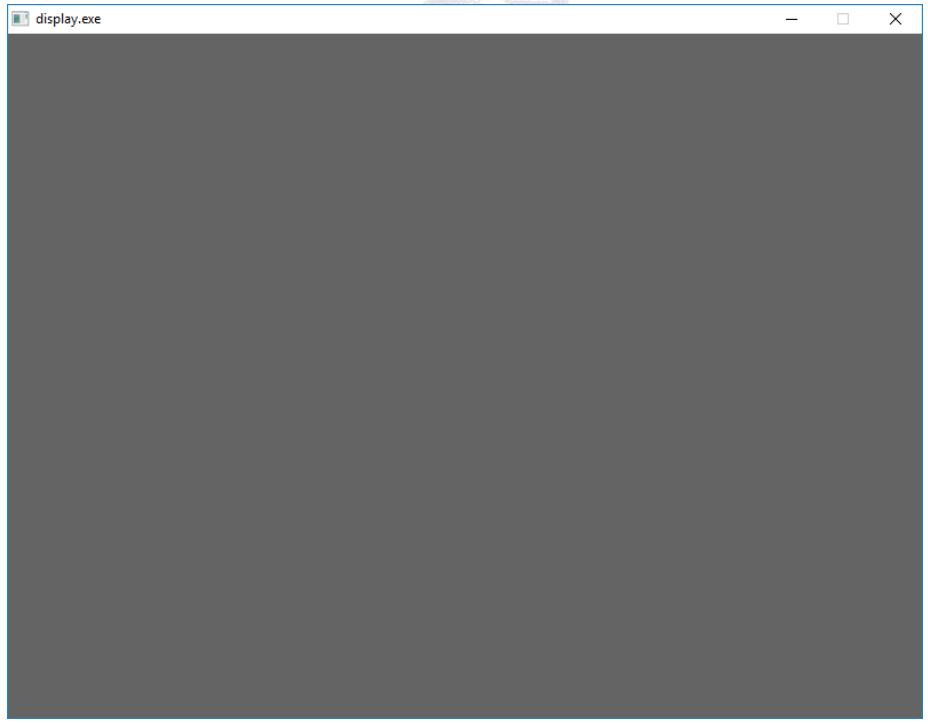

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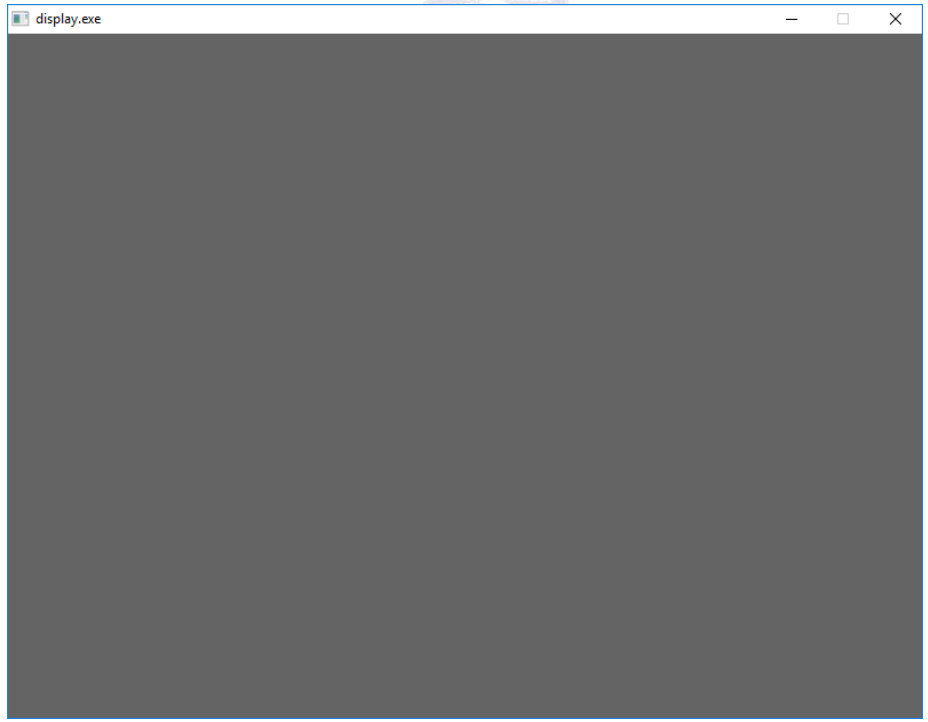

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Outline

- Introduction
- Display & draw image
- Events (display, keyboard, mouse)
- **The Event Loop**
- Tips on debugging
- Exercises
- References & Tutorials

Program Flow on OJ

- Your codes are sequential.
  (can only execute code in a specific order)
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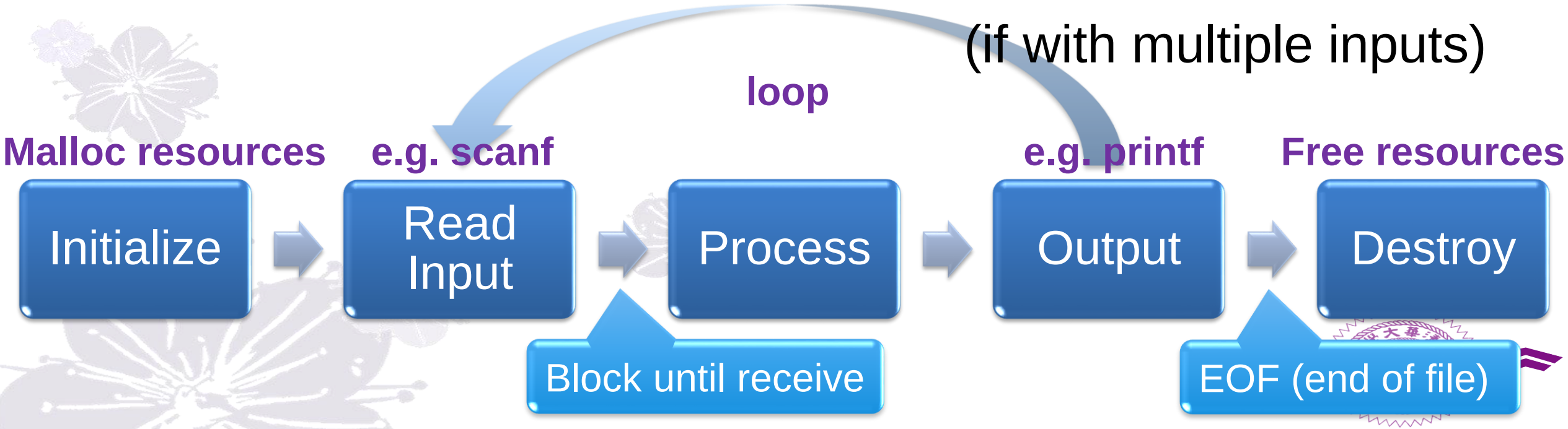
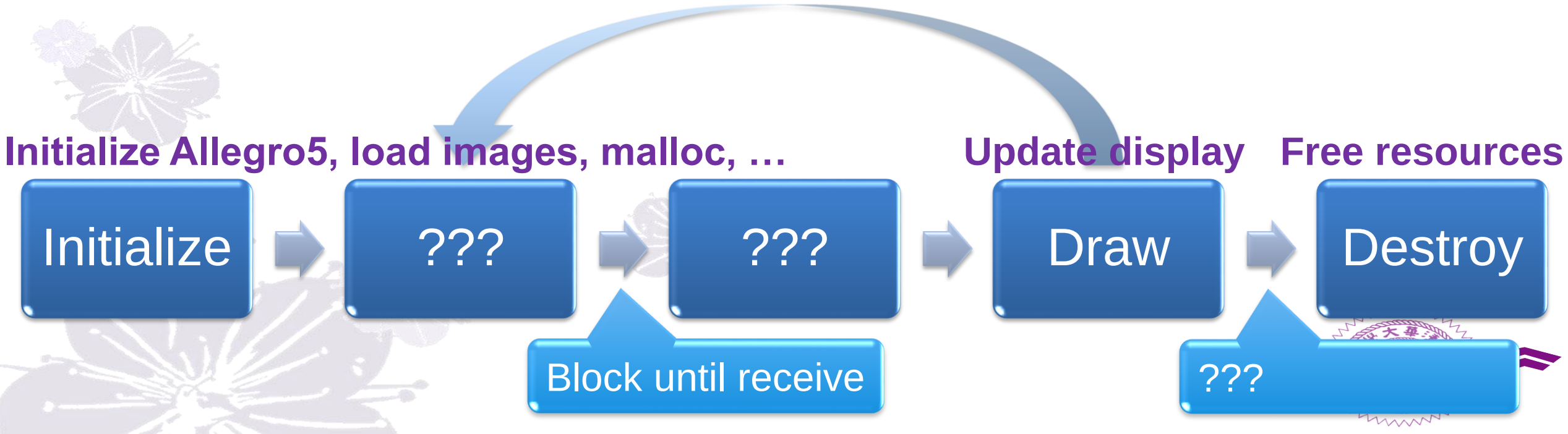


Program Flow on Allegro5

- Your codes are still sequential.
  (can only execute code in a specific order)
- Initialize → ??? → ??? → Draw → Destroy



Program Flow on Allegro5

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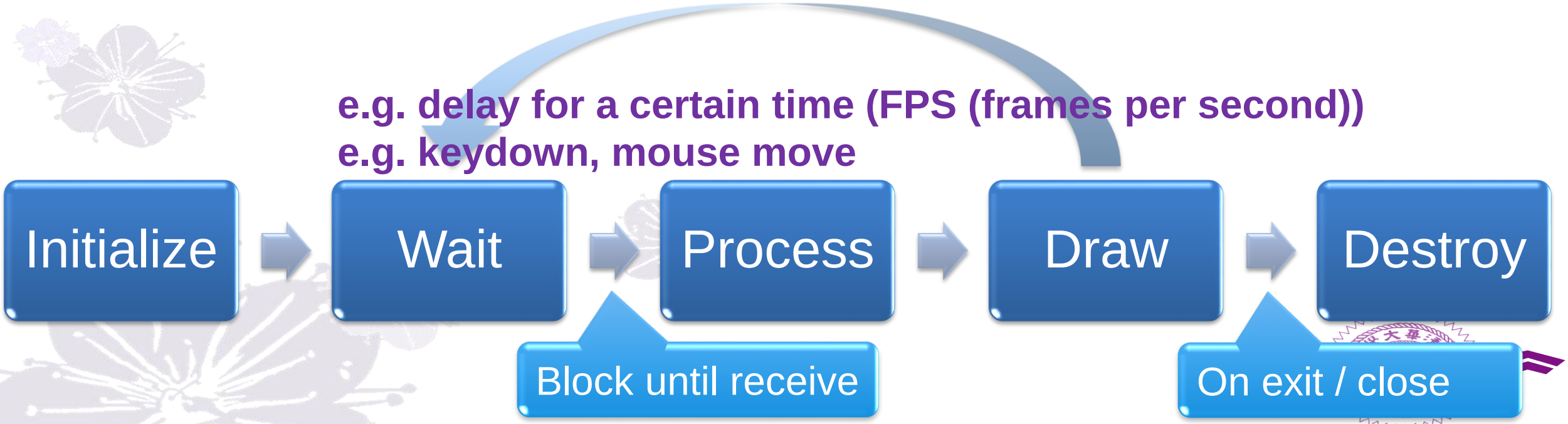

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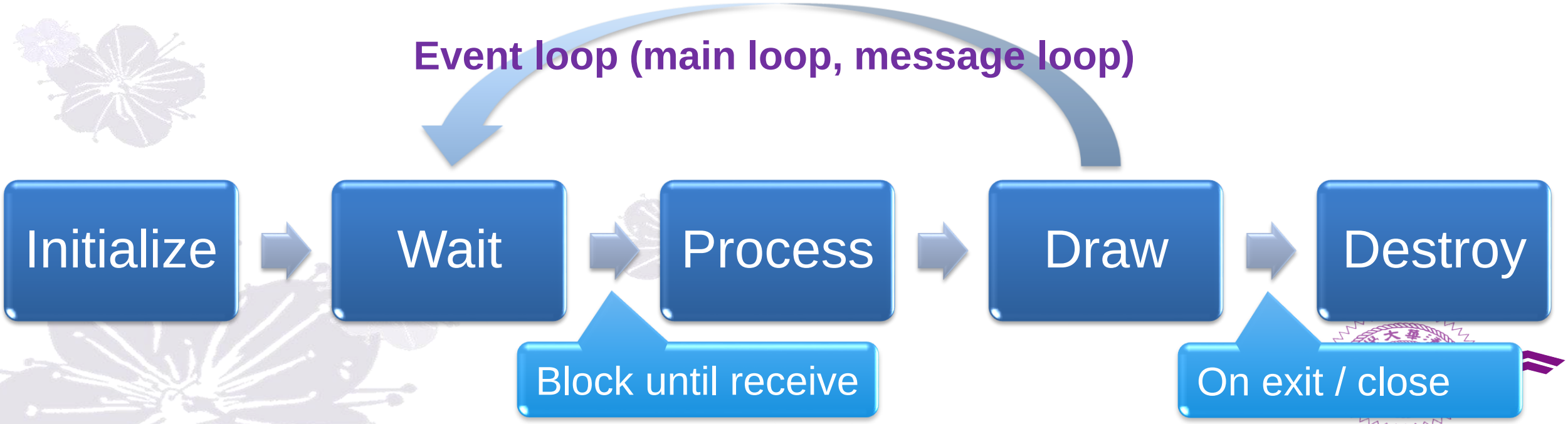


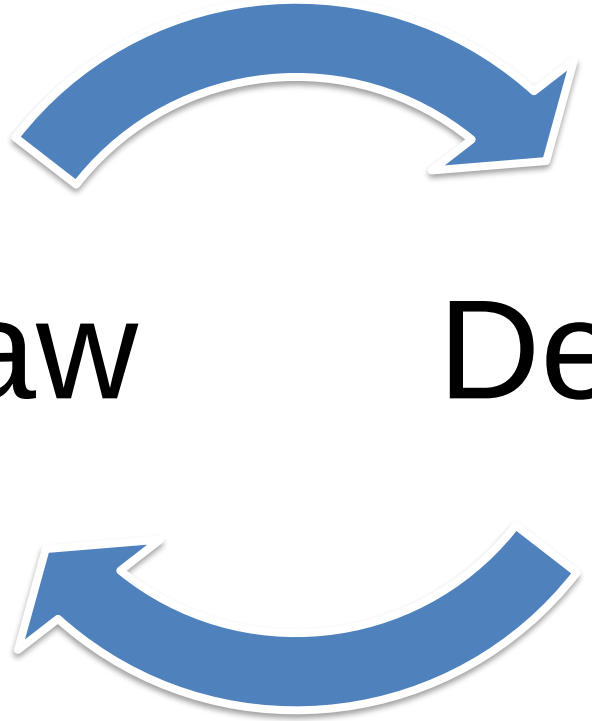
Special Functions (Recap)

- Output
  - `printf(...)`
  - `al_draw_bitmap(...)`
- Delay
  - `Sleep(x * 1000)`
  - `al_rest(x)`
- Input
  - `scanf(...)`
  - `al_wait_for_event(...)`

Applications: Play Movie

Source: https://www.e-muse.com.tw/property/kimetsu_no_yaiba/
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack_on_Titan

Applications: Play Movie



Draw Delay

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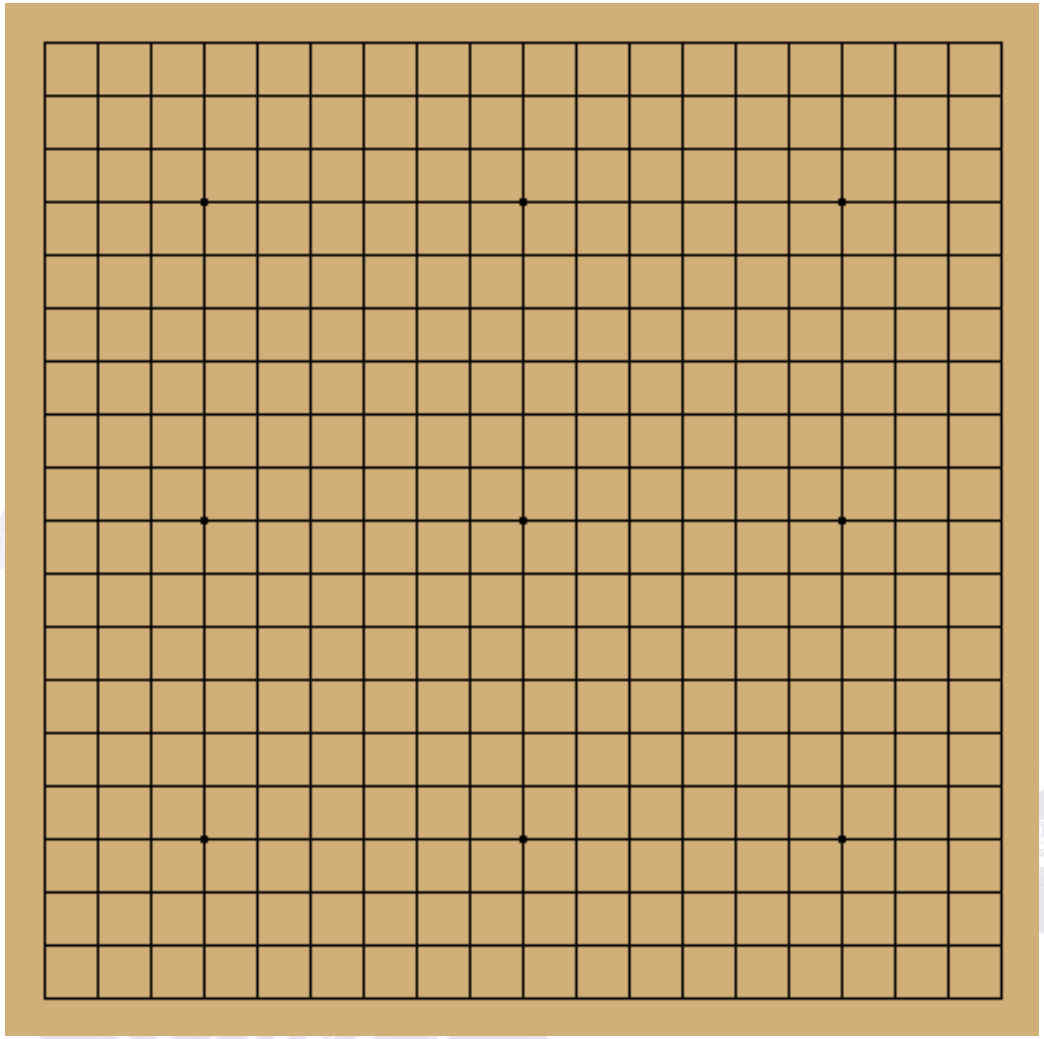
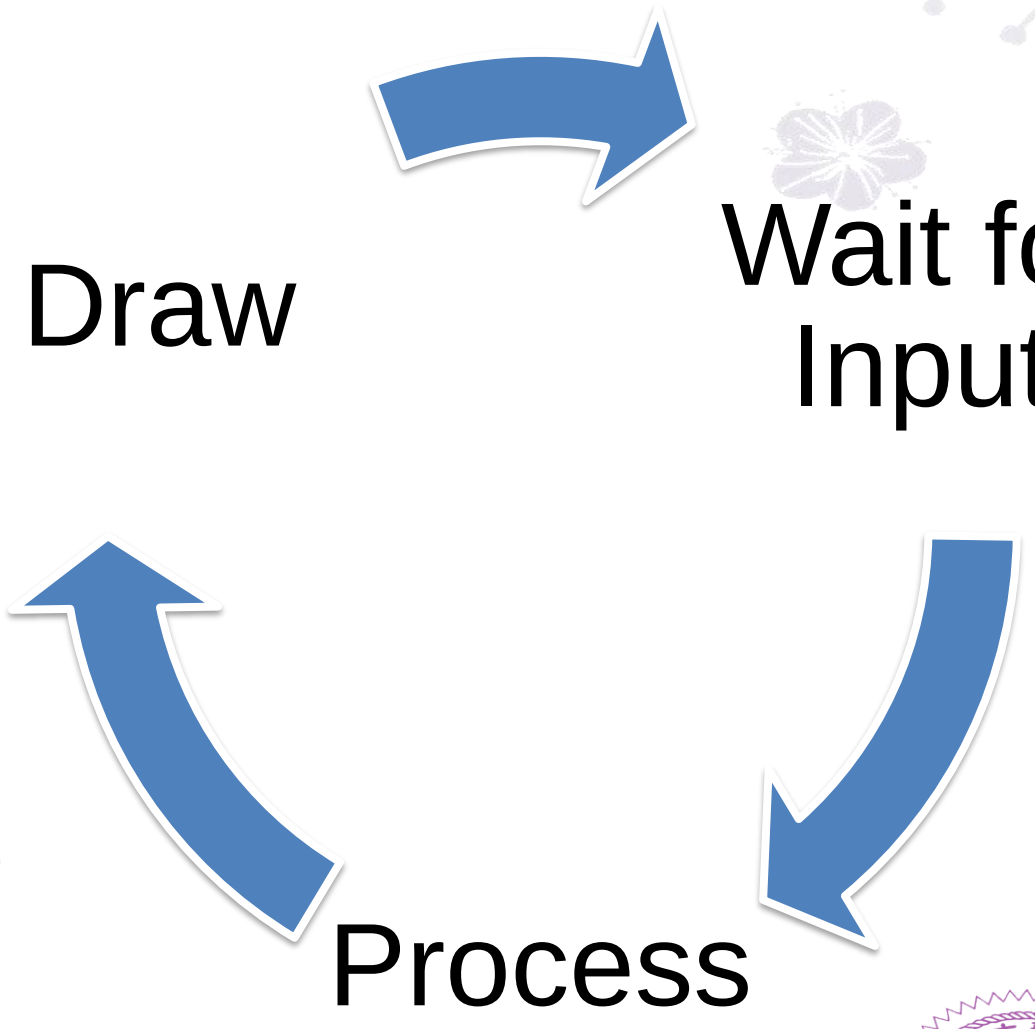
Applications: Turn-based Game





Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Go_(game)

Applications: Real-time Game

Source: https://www.mariowiki.com/images/9/9c/NSMBW_World_1-3_Screenshot.png

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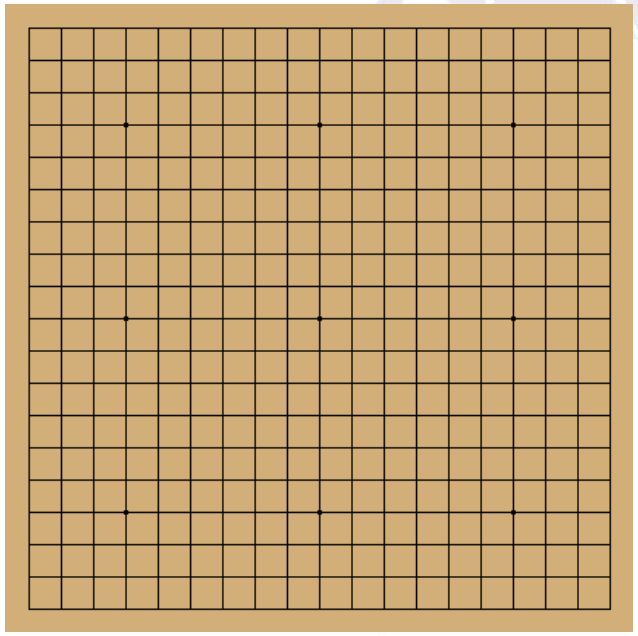
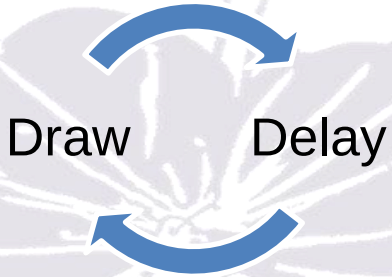
Applications of Special Functions





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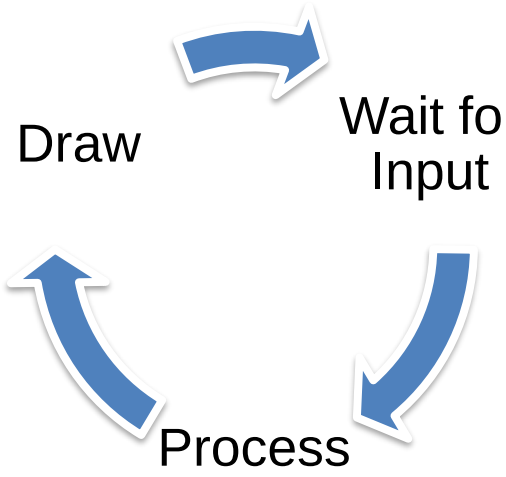

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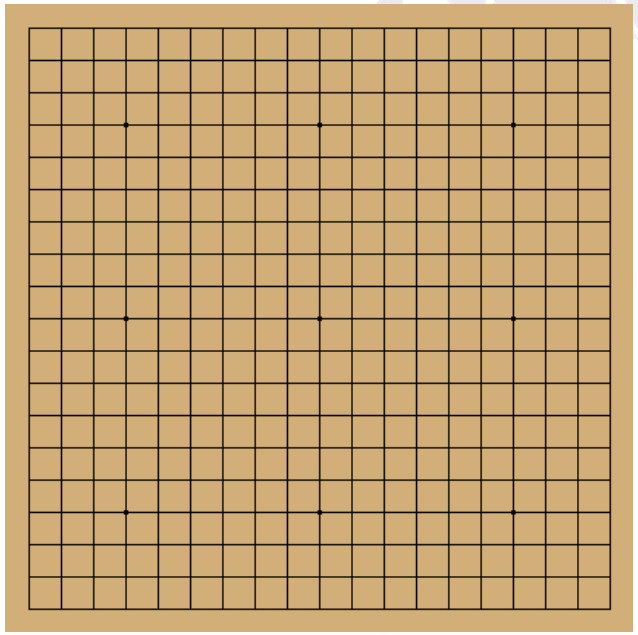

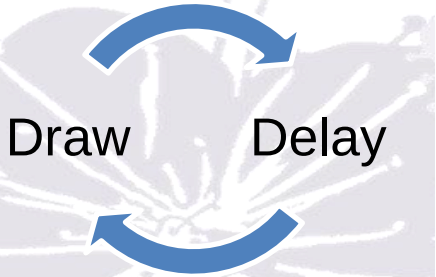

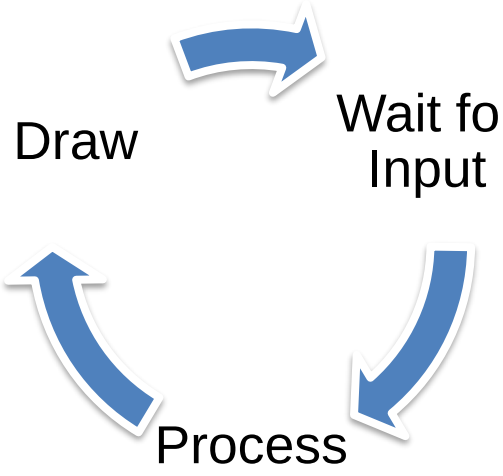

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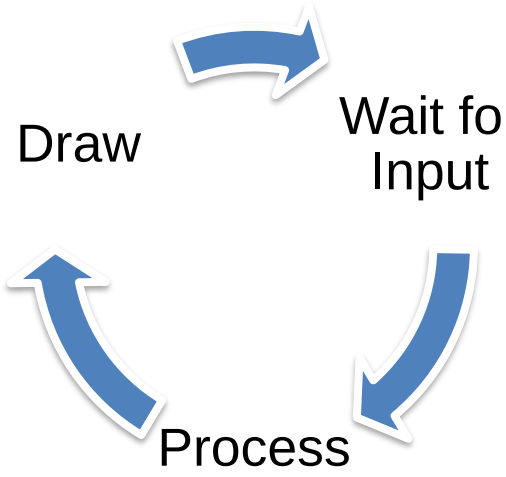

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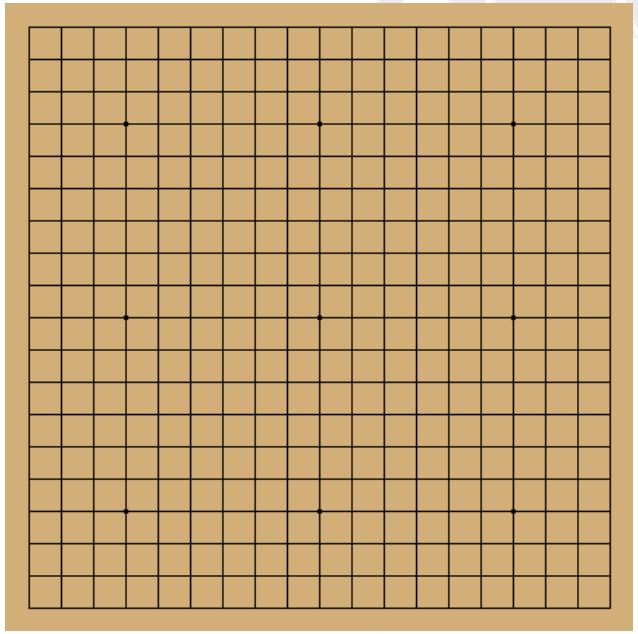
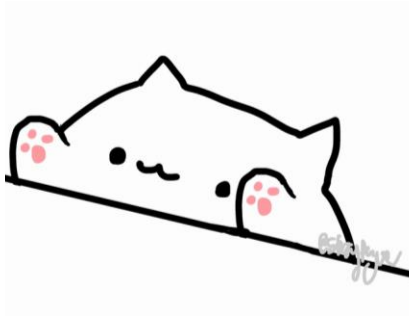


Draw → Wait for Input → Process → Delay → Draw



Draw → Wait for Input → Process → Draw

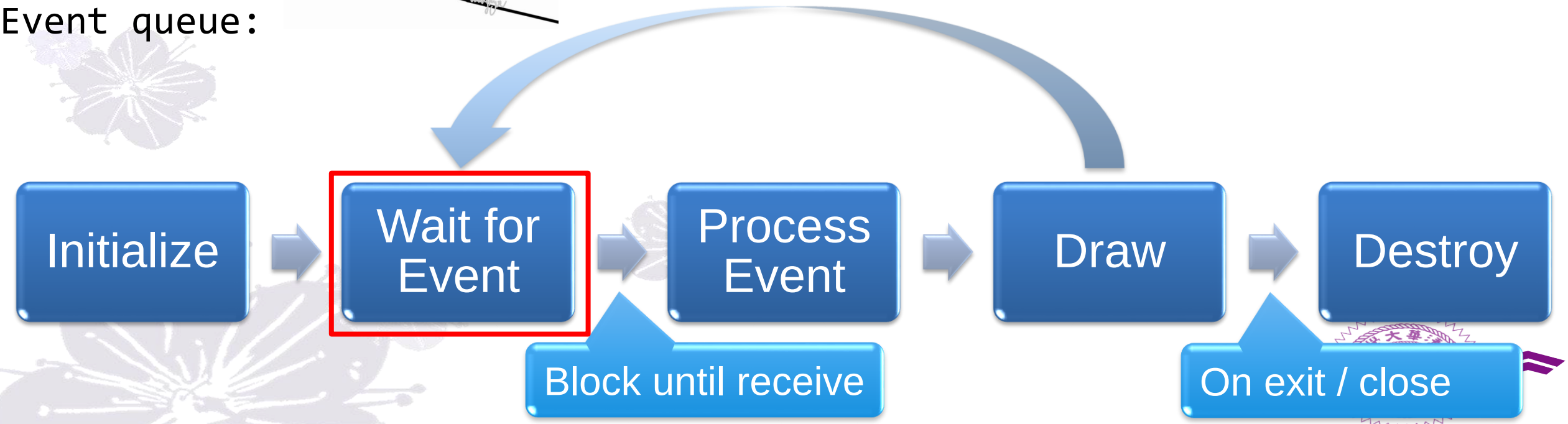
Source: https://gfycat.com/pastelpolishedgemsbuck

Source: https://www.reddit.com/r/Bongocat/comments/9d3d4o/og_bongo_cat_use_as_template_for_memes_credit/

Timers & Event Buffer

- If we have a timer that ticks for every 10ms, and an update display event is send to the queue when the timer ticks.

Event queue:



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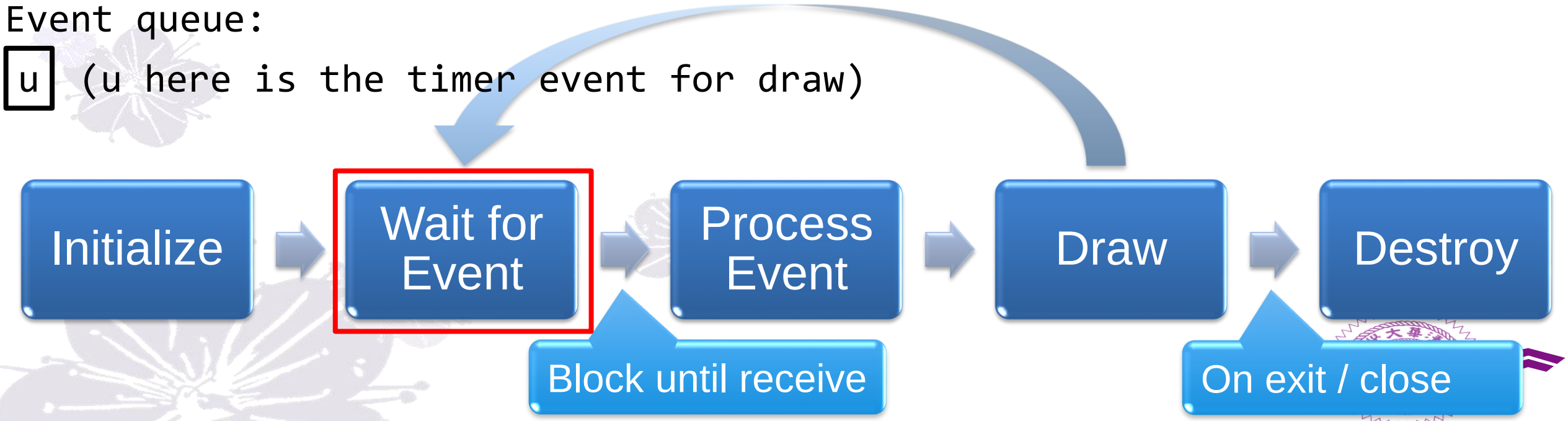
```
Event queue:
[u] (u here is the timer event for draw)
```

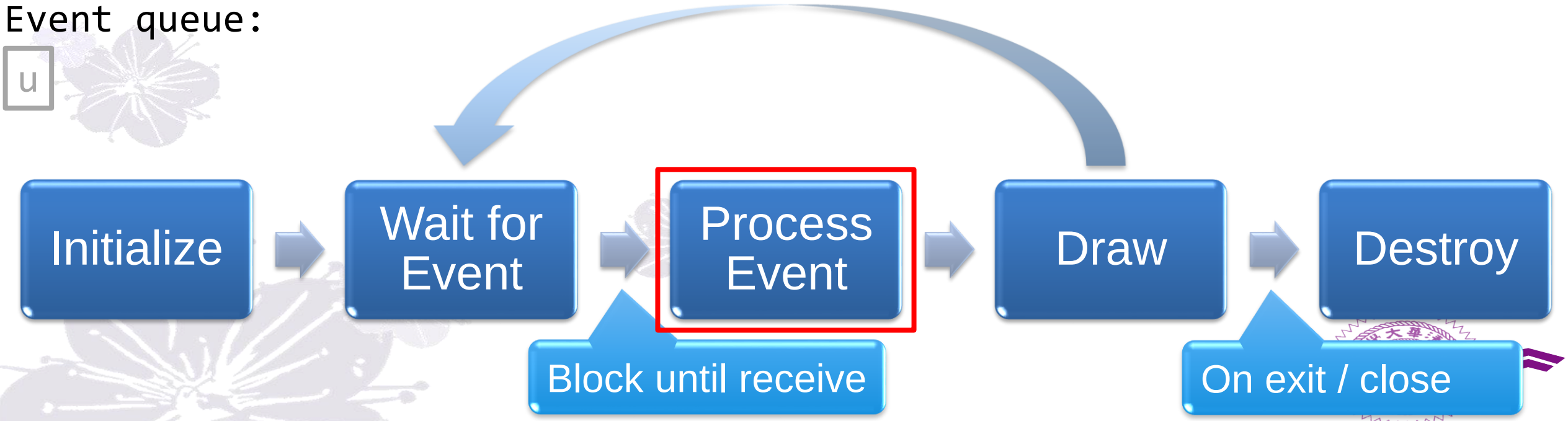


Timers & Event Buffer

- If we have a timer that ticks for every 10ms, and an update display event is send to the queue when the timer ticks.

Event queue:

u



Timers & Event Buffer

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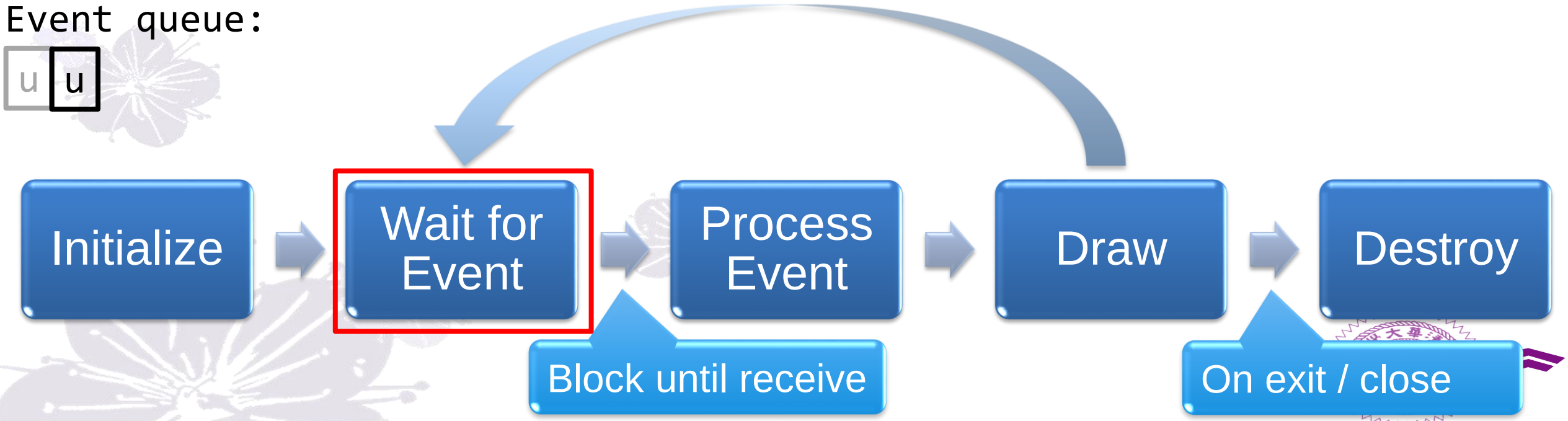

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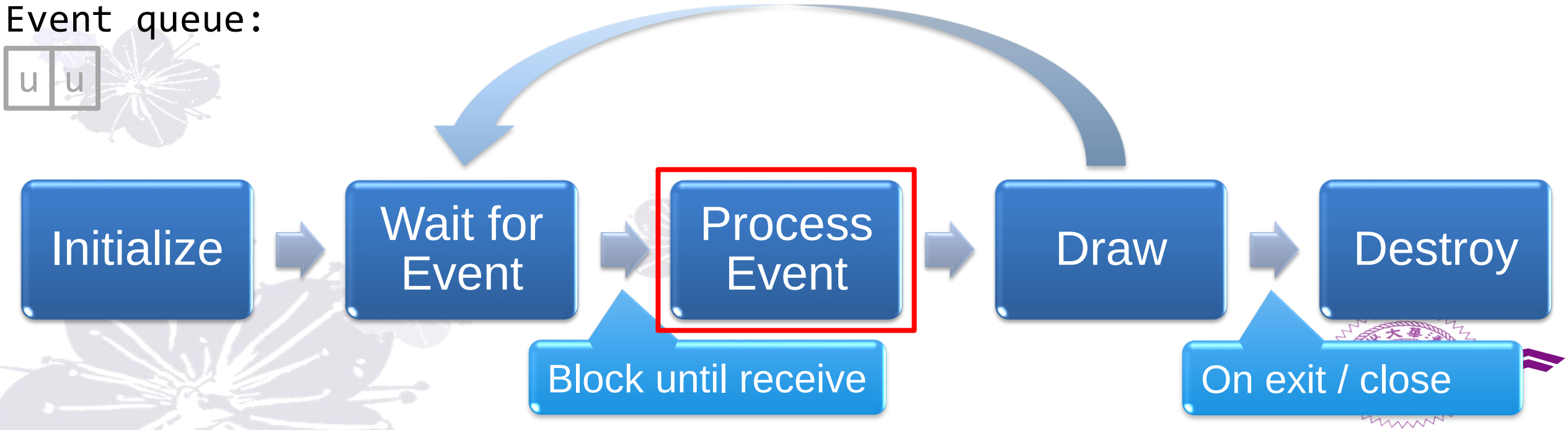

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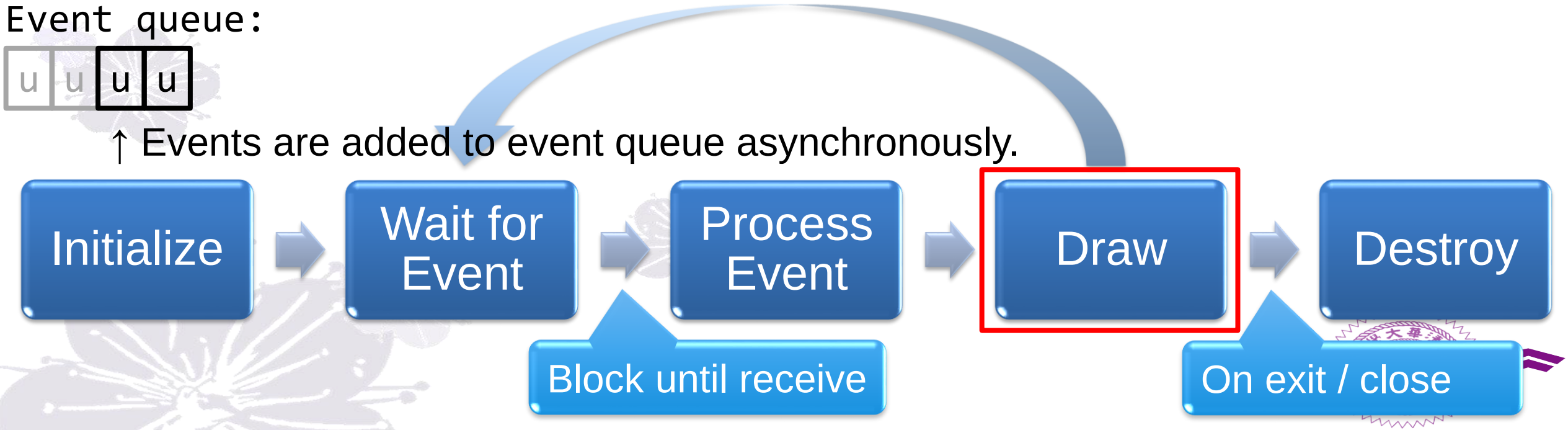

Timers & Event Buffer

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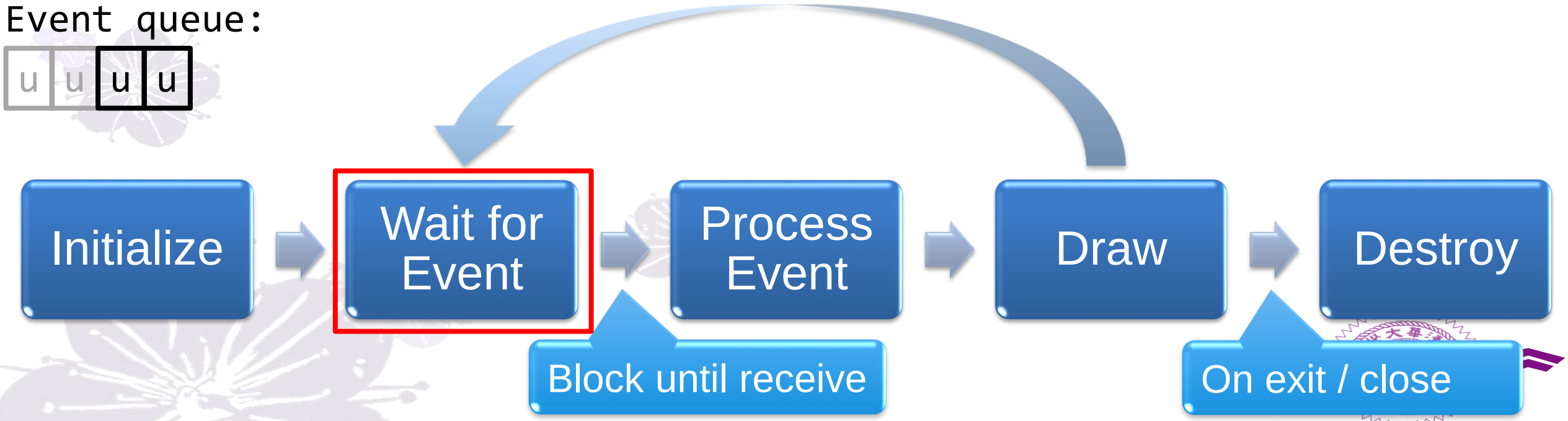

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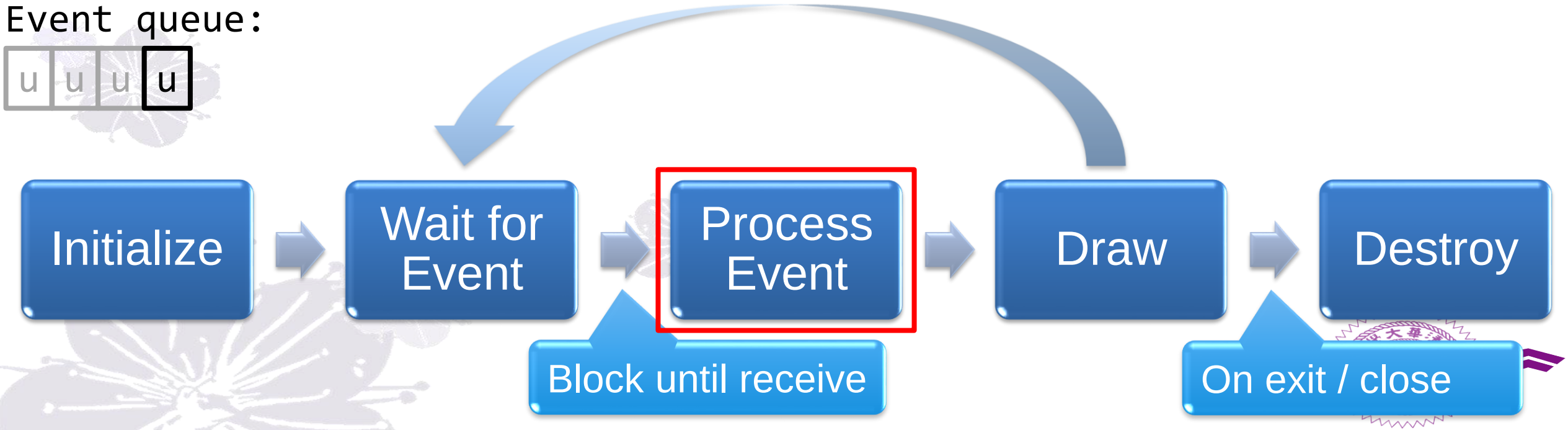

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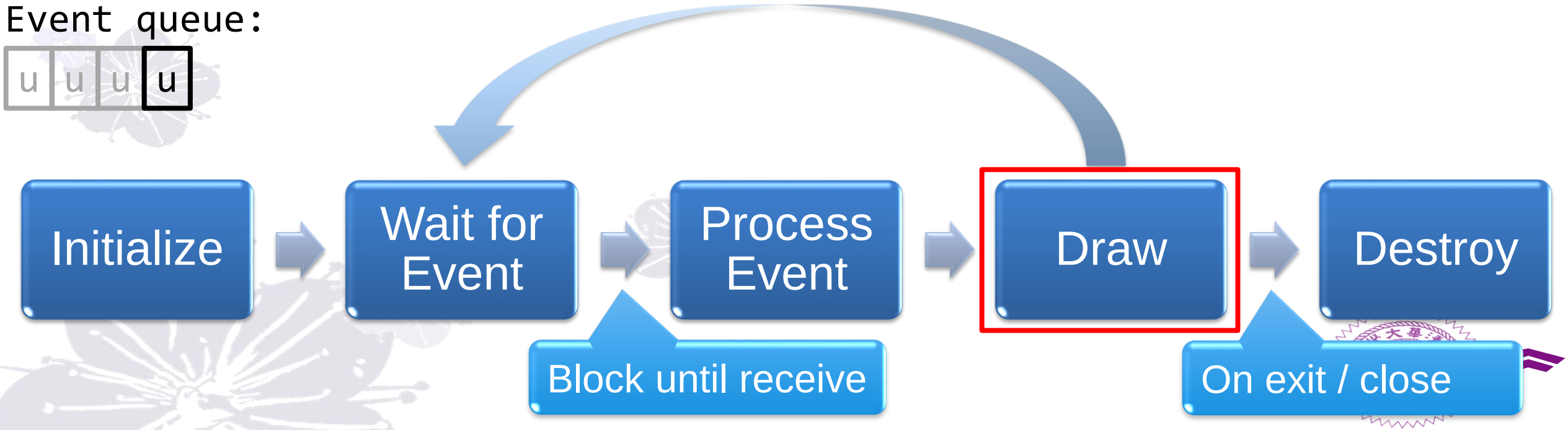

Timers & Event Buffer

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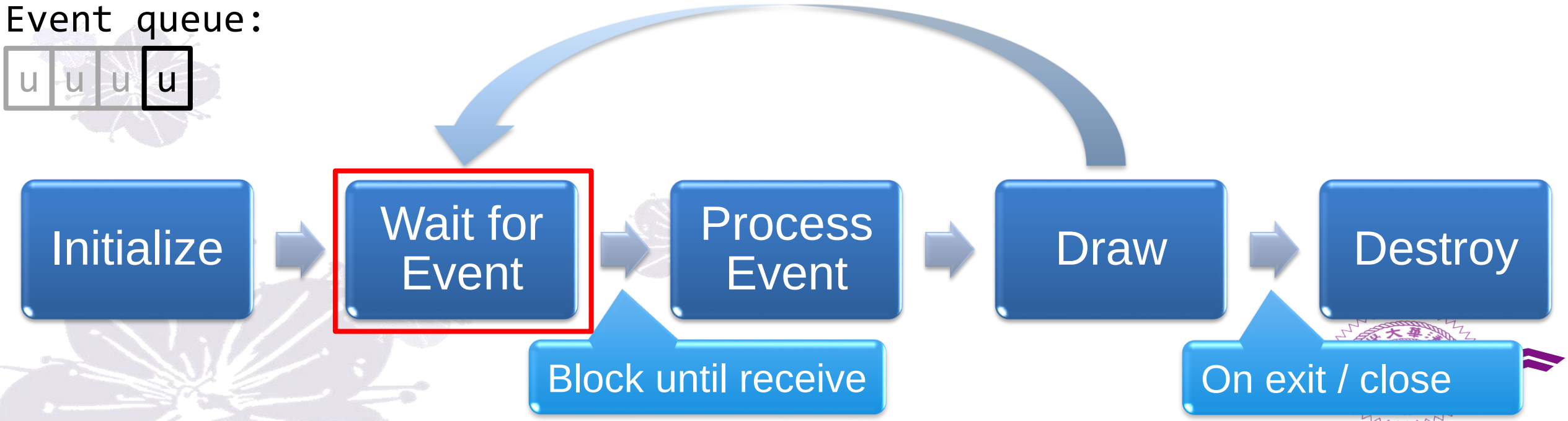
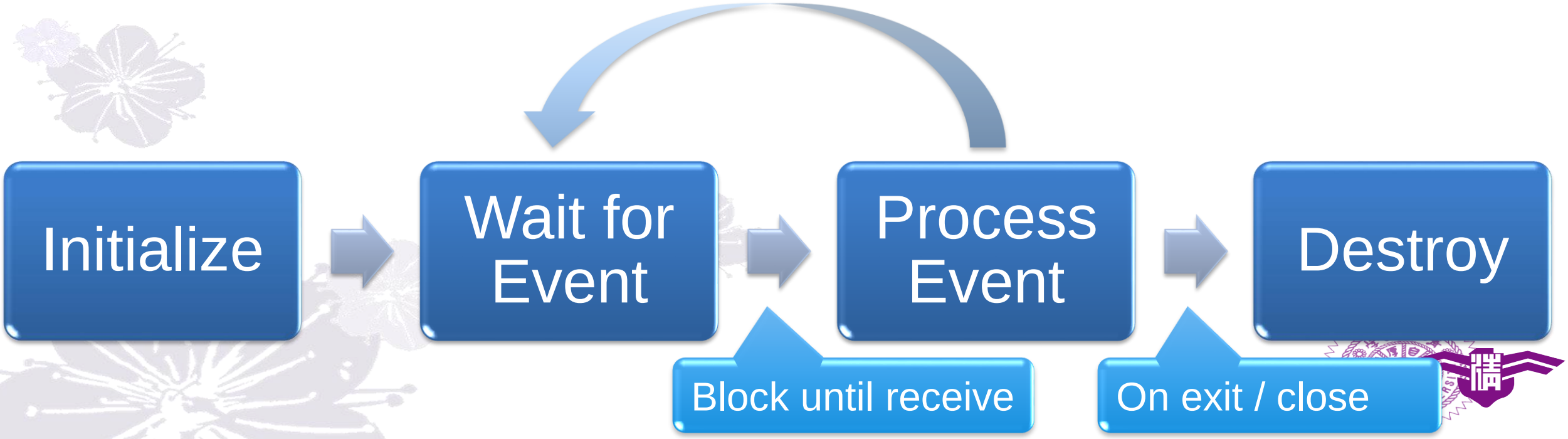


Timers & Event Buffer

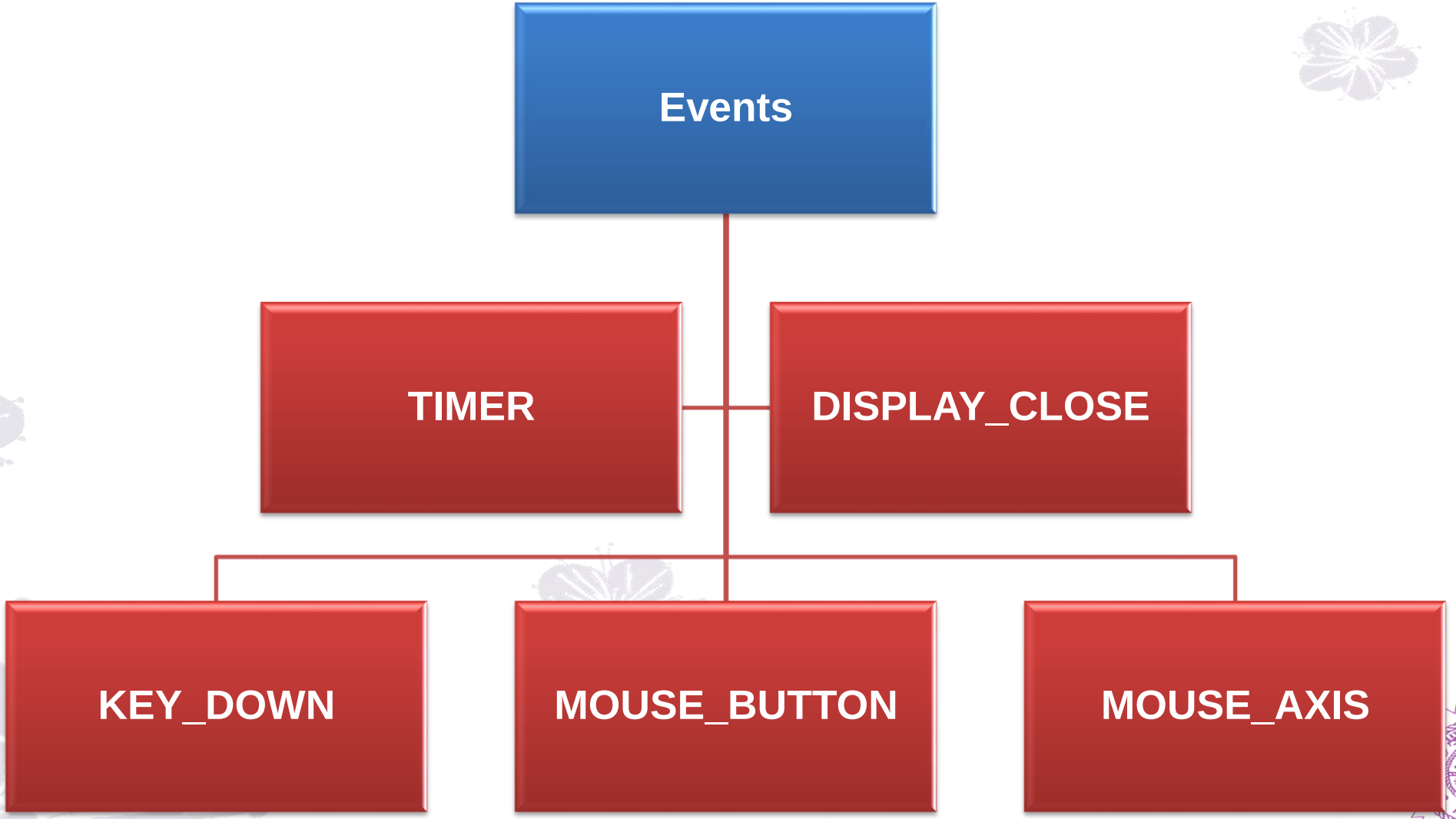
- If we have a timer that ticks for every 10ms, and an update display event is send to the queue when the timer ticks.

The Generalized Program Flow

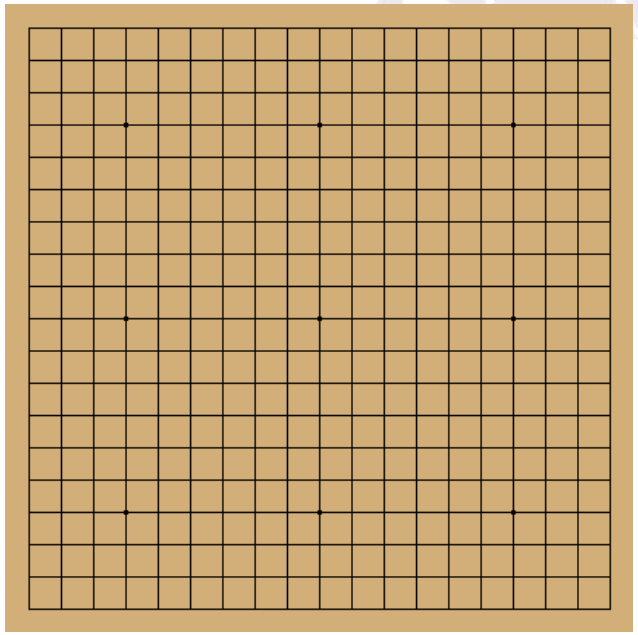
- Process event including draw, keyboard, mouse, …

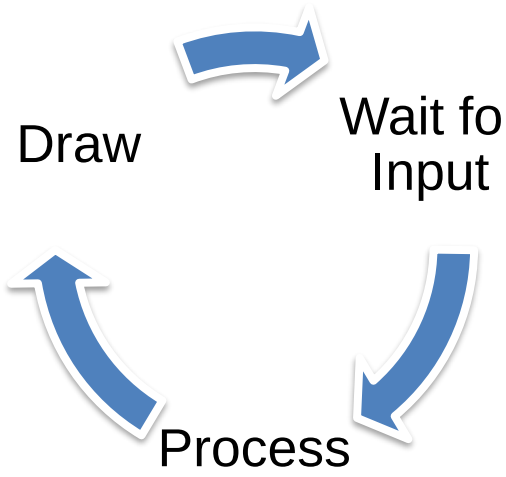


Types of Events



Applications of Special Functions (Recap)



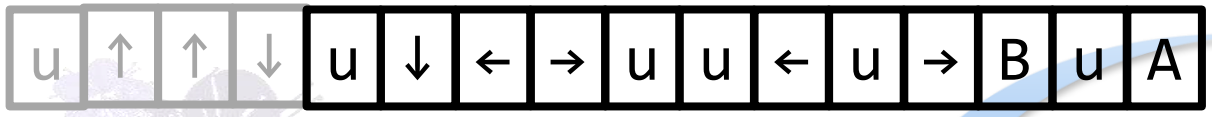


The Generalized Program Flow

- Process event including draw, keyboard, mouse, …

Keys pressed: ↑ ↑ ↓ ↓ ← → ← → B A

Event queue:



Event Queue (Buffer for events)

```
const int FPS = 30;
ALLEGRO_TIMER* game_update_timer = al_create_timer(1.0f / FPS);
ALLEGRO_EVENT_QUEUE* game_event_queue = al_create_event_queue();
bool done = false;
ALLEGRO_EVENT event;
al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_timer_event_source(game_update_timer)
al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_keyboard_event_source());
while (!done) {
    al_wait_for_event(game_event_queue, &event);
    if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_TIMER && event.timer.source == game_update_timer) {
        // Draw to display.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_DOWN) {
        // Key pressed.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_UP) {
        // Key released.
    } //...
}
```

Event Queue (Buffer for events)

```
const int FPS = 30;
ALLEGRO_TIMER* game_update_timer = al_create_timer(1.0f / FPS);
ALLEGRO_EVENT_QUEUE* game_event_queue = al_create_event_queue();
bool done = false;
ALLEGRO_EVENT event;
```

Initialize variables

```
al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_timer_event_source(game_update_timer)
al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_keyboard_event_source());
while (!done) {
    al_wait_for_event(game_event_queue, &event);
    if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_TIMER && event.timer.source == game_update_timer) {
        // Draw to display.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_DOWN) {
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    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_UP) {
        // Key released.
    } //...
}
```

Event Queue (Buffer for events)

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const int FPS = 30;
ALLEGRO_TIMER* game_update_timer = al_create_timer(1.0f / FPS);
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bool done = false;
ALLEGRO_EVENT event;
al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_timer_event_source(game_update_timer));
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while (!done) {
    al_wait_for_event(game_event_queue, &event);
    if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_TIMER && event.timer.source == game_update_timer) {
        // Draw to display.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_DOWN) {
        // Key pressed.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_UP) {
        // Key released.
    } //...
}
```

Register event sources

Event Queue (Buffer for events)

```
const int FPS = 30;
ALLEGRO_TIMER* game_update_timer = al_create_timer(1.0f / FPS);
ALLEGRO_EVENT_QUEUE* game_event_queue = al_create_event_queue();
bool done = false;
ALLEGRO_EVENT event;
al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_timer_event_source(game_update_timer)
al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_keyboard_event_source());
```

Main event loop

```
while (!done) {
    al_wait_for_event(game_event_queue, &event);
    if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_TIMER && event.timer.source == game_update_timer) {
        // Draw to display.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_DOWN) {
        // Key pressed.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_UP) {
        // Key released.
    } //...
}
```

Event Queue (Buffer for events)

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ALLEGRO_TIMER* game_update_timer = al_create_timer(1.0f / FPS);
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al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_keyboard_event_source());
while (!done) {
    al_wait_for_event(game_event_queue, &event);
    if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_TIMER && event.timer.source == game_update_timer) {
        // Draw to display.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_DOWN) {
        // Key pressed.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_UP) {
        // Key released.
    } //...
}
```

Wait for new event

Event Queue (Buffer for events)

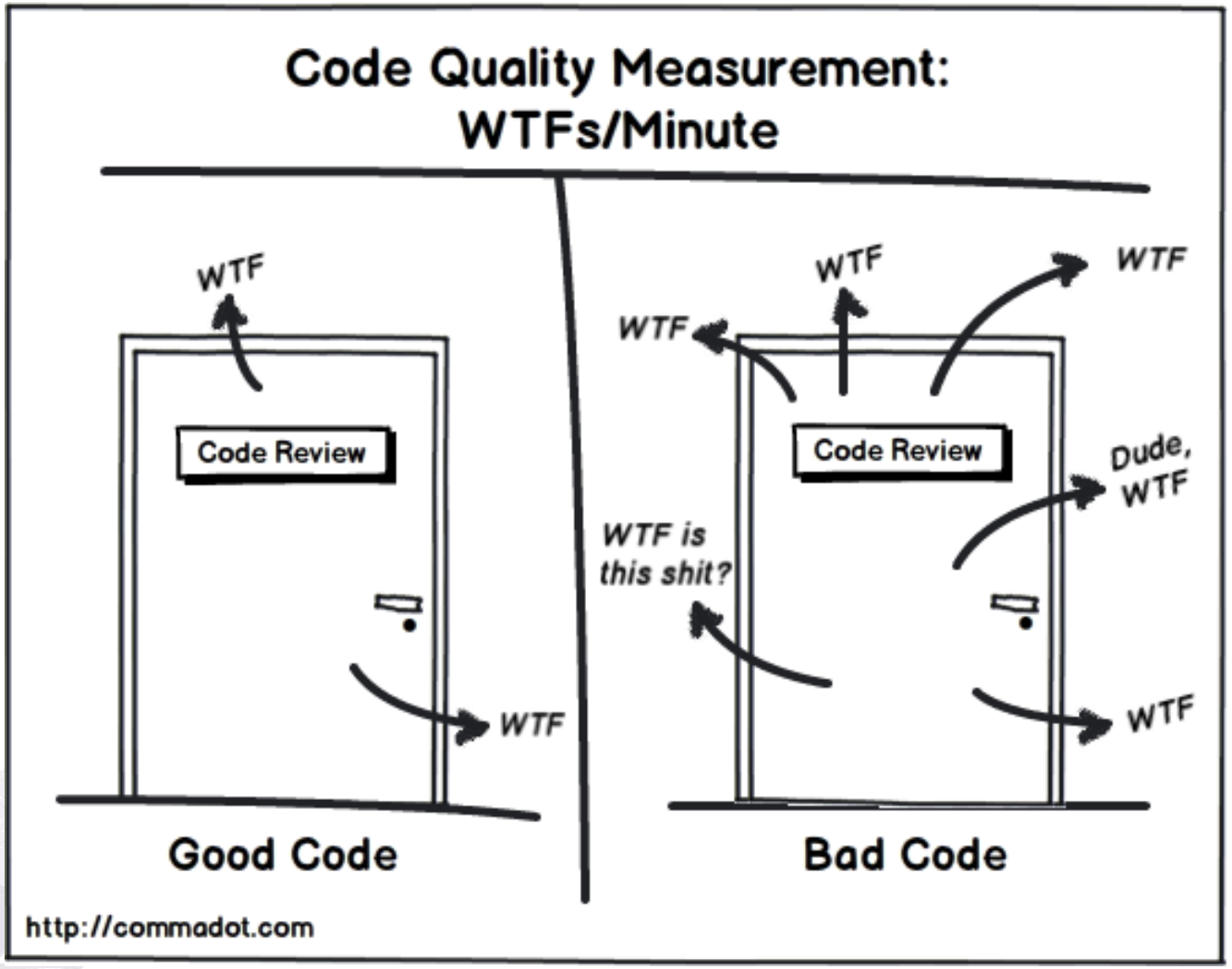
```
const int FPS = 30;
ALLEGRO_TIMER* game_update_timer = al_create_timer(1.0f / FPS);
ALLEGRO_EVENT_QUEUE* game_event_queue = al_create_event_queue();
bool done = false;
ALLEGRO_EVENT event;
al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_timer_event_source(game_update_timer)
al_register_event_source(game_event_queue, al_get_keyboard_event_source());
while (!done) {
    al_wait_for_event(game_event_queue, &event);
    if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_TIMER && event.timer.source == game_update_timer) {
        // Draw to display.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_DOWN) {
        // Key pressed.
    } else if (event.type == ALLEGRO_EVENT_KEY_UP) {
        // Key released.
    } //...
}
```

Process Event

Outline

- Introduction
- Display & draw image
- Events (display, keyboard, mouse)
- The Event Loop
- **Tips on debugging**
- Exercises
- References & Tutorials

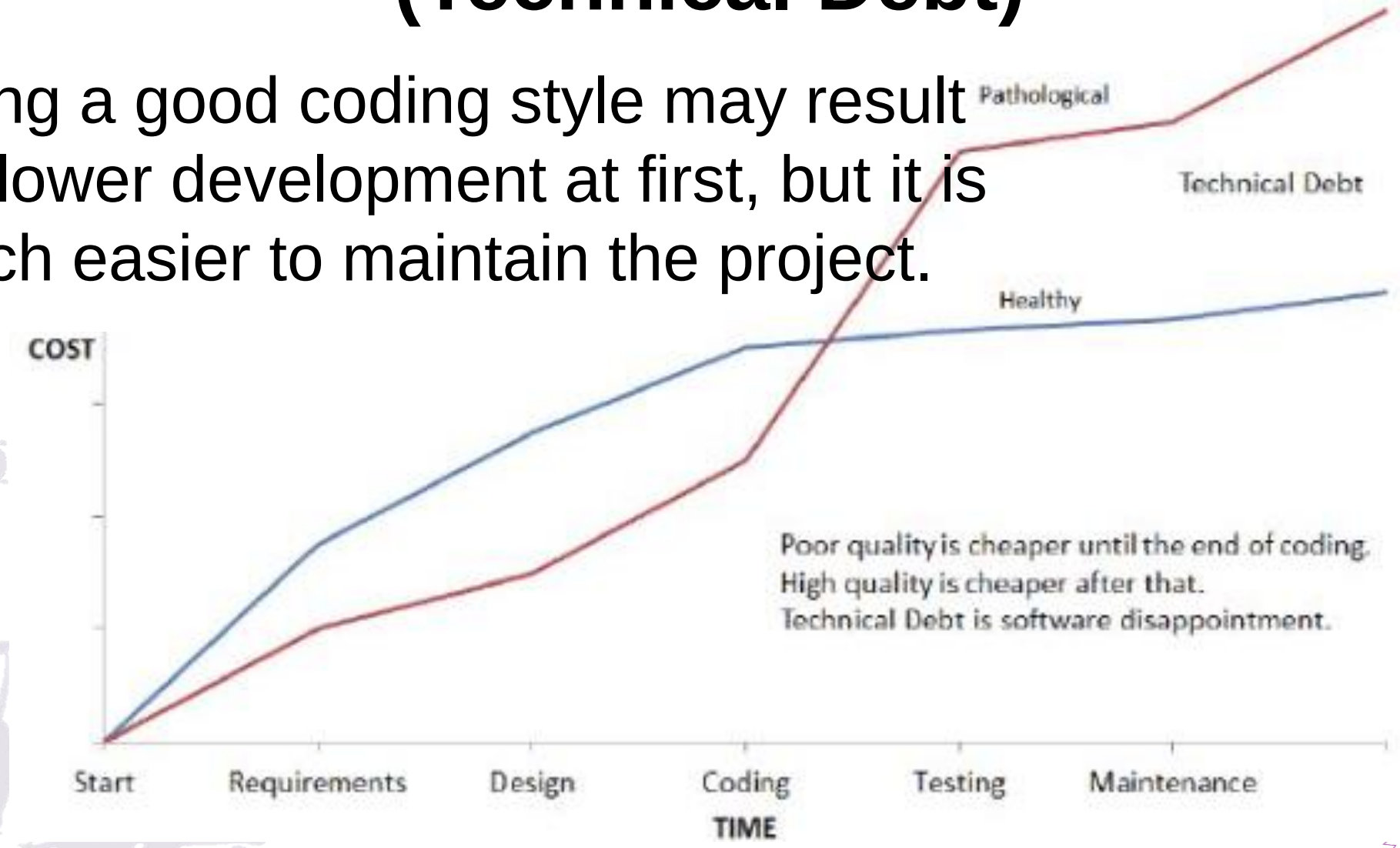
Clean Code = Minimize WTFs/Minute



Source: https://commadot.com/wtf-per-minute/

Tips on debugging (Technical Debt)

- Using a good coding style may result in slower development at first, but it is much easier to maintain the project.



Source: http://www.critical-logic.com/services/qa-project-management/

Tips on debugging (Use helper functions to log to files)

- Can be used just like printf. Both functions will automatically add a newline character at the end and save the logs to file for debugging information if the program crashes.
  - game_abort – print error message and exit program after 2 secs.
  - game_log – print logs.
  - LOG_ENABLED – If not defined, game_abort and game_log won't do anything.

```
#define LOG_ENABLED
void game_abort(const char* format, ...)
void game_log(const char* format, ...)
```

Tips on debugging (Log important events or states)

- Use game_log every once a while. (kind of like a checkpoint)

```
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    allegro5_init();
    game_log("Allegro5 initialized");
    game_log("Game begin");
    game_init();
    game_log("Game initialized");
    game_draw(); // Draw the first frame.
    game_log("Game start event processing loop");
    game_process_event_loop(); // This call blocks until the game is finished.
    game_log("Game end");
    game_destroy();
    return 0;
}
```

Tips on debugging (Always check the return value)

- Check return value of functions and log if they failed. e.g.
  - malloc returns NULL if failed.
  - al_init, al_init_image_addon, … returns false if failed.
  - al_load_bitmap returns NULL if failed.
    - maybe file doesn’t exist, image addon is not initialized, …
- See the API references for all function calls

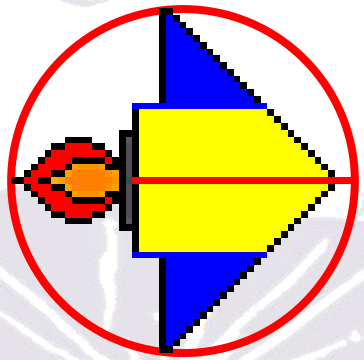
```
if (!al_init())
    game_abort("failed to initialize allegro");
```

Tips on debugging (Freeing the resources)

- Free resources that will not be used to avoid memory leaks.
  - `malloc` vs. `free`
  - `al_load_bitmap` vs. `al_destroy_bitmap`
- Free the resources when
  - the resources will never be used again, or
  - the program enters another state and the resource will only be used again after some time.
  - the program ends.
- Not necessary on most cases but highly recommended. letting the OS being able to allocate the block of memory to some other processes.

Tips on debugging (Mark areas by primitive shapes)

- For character hitbox or mouse interaction, we will use collision detection frequently. Draw some primitive shapes above the character’s image to indicate the region.
- When releasing the game, just comment out the definition of LOG_ENABLED, then the primitives will not be drawn.



```
#define LOG_ENABLED
#ifdef LOG_ENABLED
// Draw primitive shapes to indicate the
// hitbox or collision area of the objects.
#endif
```

Tips on debugging (Declare constant variables)

- If some constant number is kept begin used, declare it as a constant variable for better maintenance.

```
const int FPS = 30;
const int SCREEN_W = 800;
const int SCREEN_H = 600;
const int BULLET_MAX = 100;
```

Tips on debugging (Make duplicate codes into functions)

- e.g., when loading bitmap, there are many duplicated codes.
  - If failed to load bitmap, output failed message and abort.
  - If success, log the success action.

```
// Load bitmap and check if failed.
ALLEGRO_BITMAP* load_bitmap(const char* filename) {
    ALLEGRO_BITMAP* bmp = al_load_bitmap(filename);
    if (bmp == NULL)
        game_abort("failed to load image: %s", filename);
    else
        game_log("loaded image: %s", filename);
    return bmp;
}
```

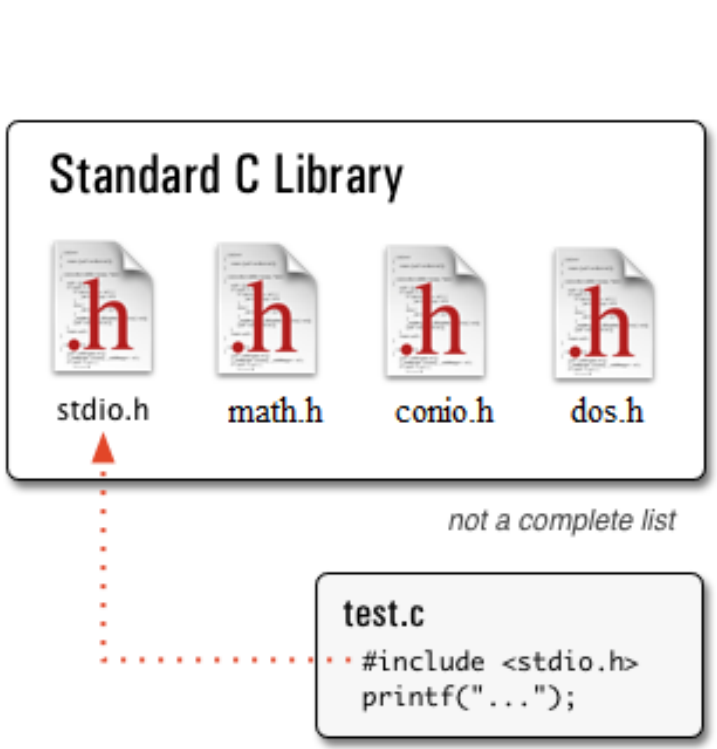
Tips on debugging (Make repeat variable groups into struct)

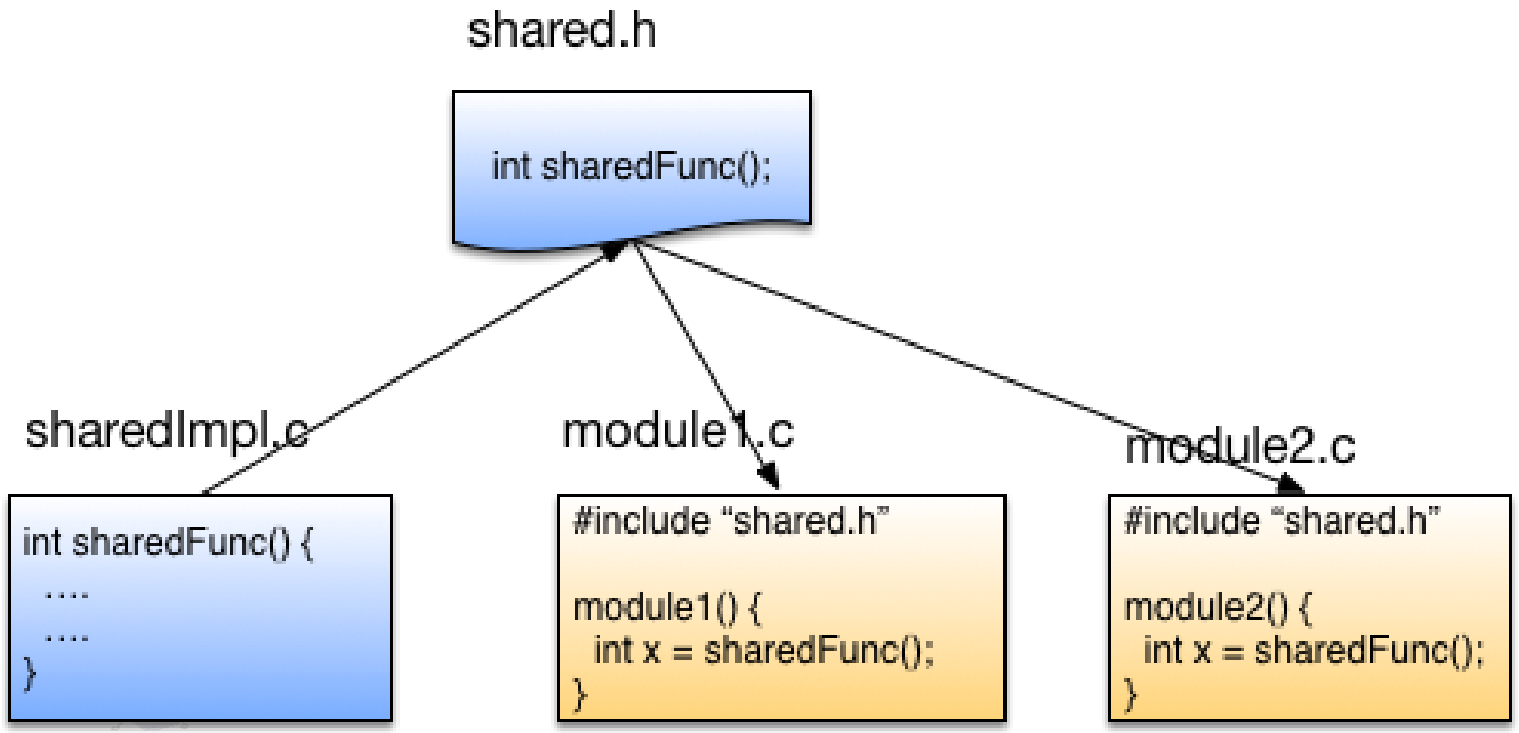
- e.g., objects (both self & enemy & bullets) will usually have the same variable groups.
  - The x, y coordinates on the display.
  - The velocity vx, vy for updating x, y coordinates.
  - Width and height of the object. (AABB box collision)
  - Image for drawing the object.
  - More…

```
typedef struct {
    float x, y;
    float vx, vy;
    float w, h;
    ALLEGRO_BITMAP* img;
} Object;
Object hero, enemy, bullets[BULLET_MAX];
```

Tips on debugging (Store source codes in different files)

- Header (*.h), Source code (*.c)



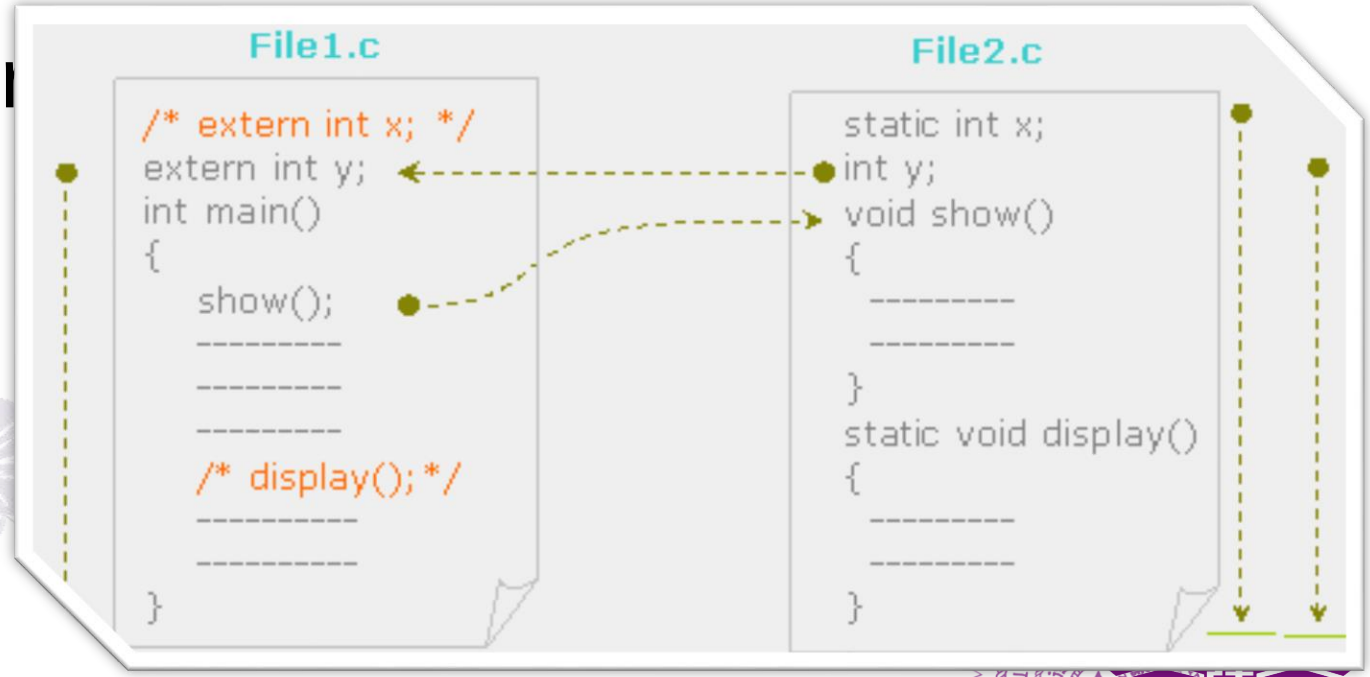


Source: https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-header-file-and-its-use-in-C-program-Also-tell-me-what-does-function-mean-in-c-programming

Source: http://hanxue-it.blogspot.com/2014/04/why-include-cc-implementation-code-in.html

Tips on debugging
(Store source codes in different files)

- Extern in (*.h), make variables exposed to other files that includes the (*.h) file.
- Static in (*.c), only visible within the file. Variables or functions with the same name but in different files are considered different.



Source: https://codingfox.com/12-14-internal-linkage-in-c-language/

Tips on debugging (Recap)

- Maintain logs
- Check return values
- Free resources
- Mark areas by primitive shapes
- Constant variables
- Functions
- Structs
- Files

Outline

- Introduction
- Display & draw image
- Events (display, keyboard, mouse)
- The Event Loop
- Tips on debugging
- **Exercises**
- References & Tutorials

Exercises

Practice only

- Exercise 1 – Blank window.
- Exercise 2 – Draw images and texts.
- Exercise 3 – Implement event loop and quit when the close button is clicked.
- Exercise 4 – Using keyboard.
- Exercise 5 – Using mouse.

Outline

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References

- Allegro 5 Wiki
  https://www.allegro.cc/manual/5/
  https://wiki.allegro.cc/index.php?title=Allegro_5_API_Tutorials
- Allegro 5 reference manual
  https://liballeg.org/a5docs/trunk/
- Allegro5 examples on GitHub
  https://github.com/liballeg/allegro5/tree/master/examples

Tutorials

- C++ Allegro 5 Made Easy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ2krJ8Ls2A&list=PL6B459AAE1642C8B4
- 2D Game Development Course http://fixbyproximity.com/2d-game-development-course/
- Allegro Game Library Tutorial Series https://www.gamefromscratch.com/page/Allegro-Tutorial-Series.aspx

Recap

- Introduction
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- The Event Loop
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Questions?

- If you have any question about Allegro5/Final Project

1. You can refer to Frequently Asked Questions: https://github.com/j3soon/Allegro5Template
2. Ask TAs by commenting at: https://introduction-to-programming.github.io/allegro5/