

Exercise 3.40.

Give all the possible values of `x` that can result from executing

```
(define x 10)

(parallel-execute (lambda () (set! x (* x x)))
                  (lambda () (set! x (* x x x)))))
```

Which of these possibilities remain if we instead use serialized procedures:

```
(define x 10)

(define s (make-serializer))

(parallel-execute (s (lambda () (set! x (* x x))))
                  (s (lambda () (set! x (* x x x)))))
```

Answer.

Executing the procedures

```
(define x 10)

(parallel-execute (lambda () (set! x (* x x)))
                  (lambda () (set! x (* x x x)))))
```

creates two concurrent processes— P_1 , which sets `x` to the square of itself, and P_2 , which computes and set `x` to its cube. After the execution, `x` will be left with one of five possible values, due to the interleaving of the events of P_1 and P_2 :

- 1000000: P_1 sets `x` to 100 and then P_2 sets `x` to its cube—1000000 or, P_2 sets `x` to its cube 1000 and then P_1 sets `x` to the square of it, also 1000000.
- 1000: P_2 accesses `x` (three times), then P_1 sets `x` to 100, then P_2 sets `x`.
- 100: P_1 accesses `x` (twice), then P_2 sets `x` to 1000, then P_1 sets `x`.


If we instead execute serialized procedures:

```
(define x 10)

(define s (make-serializer))

(parallel-execute (s (lambda () (set! x (* x x))))
                  (s (lambda () (set! x (* x x x)))))
```

only the value 1000000 remain.

*. Creative Commons  2013, Lawrence X. Amlord (颜世敏, aka 颜序).