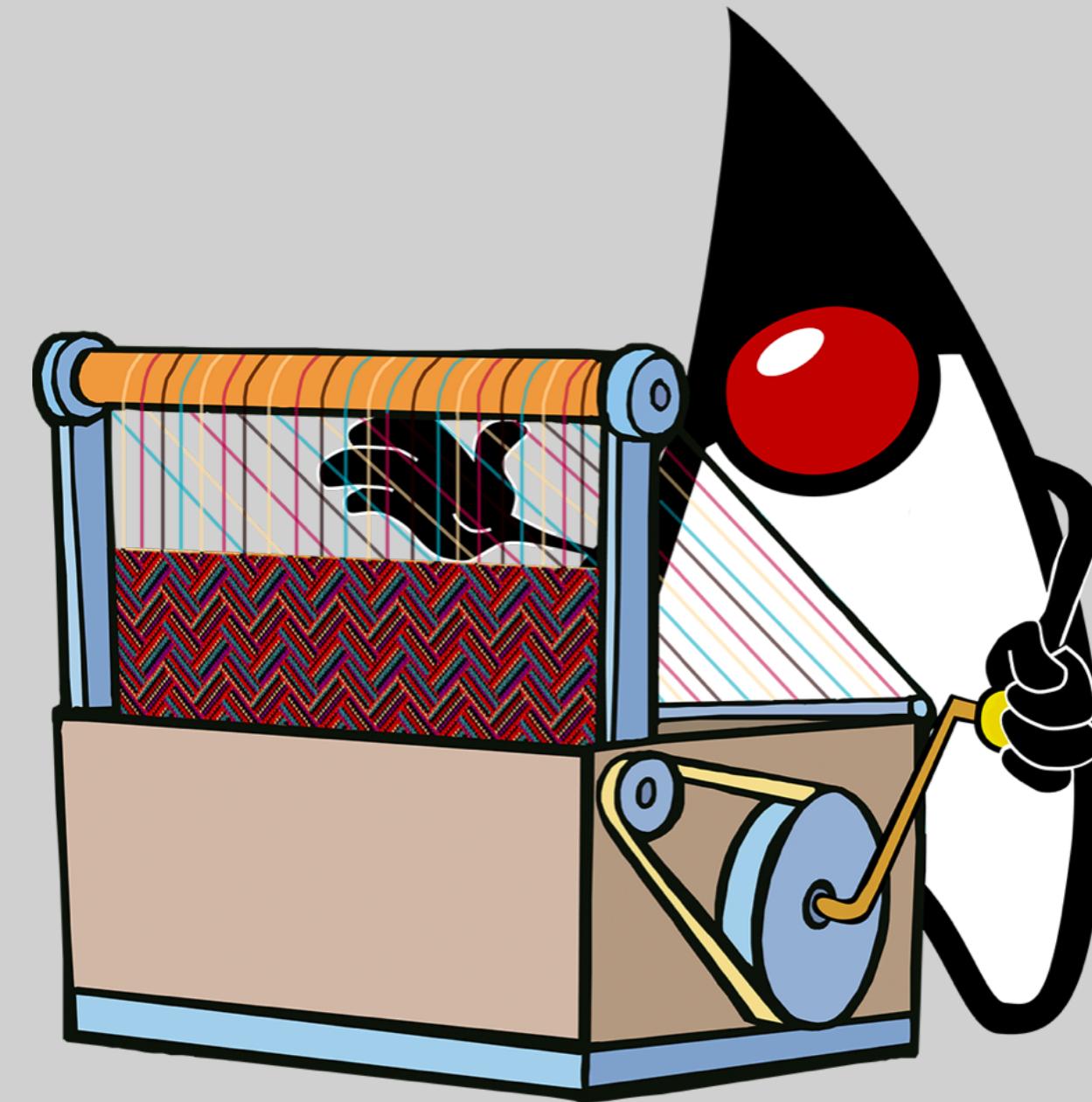




JDK 21  
LTS

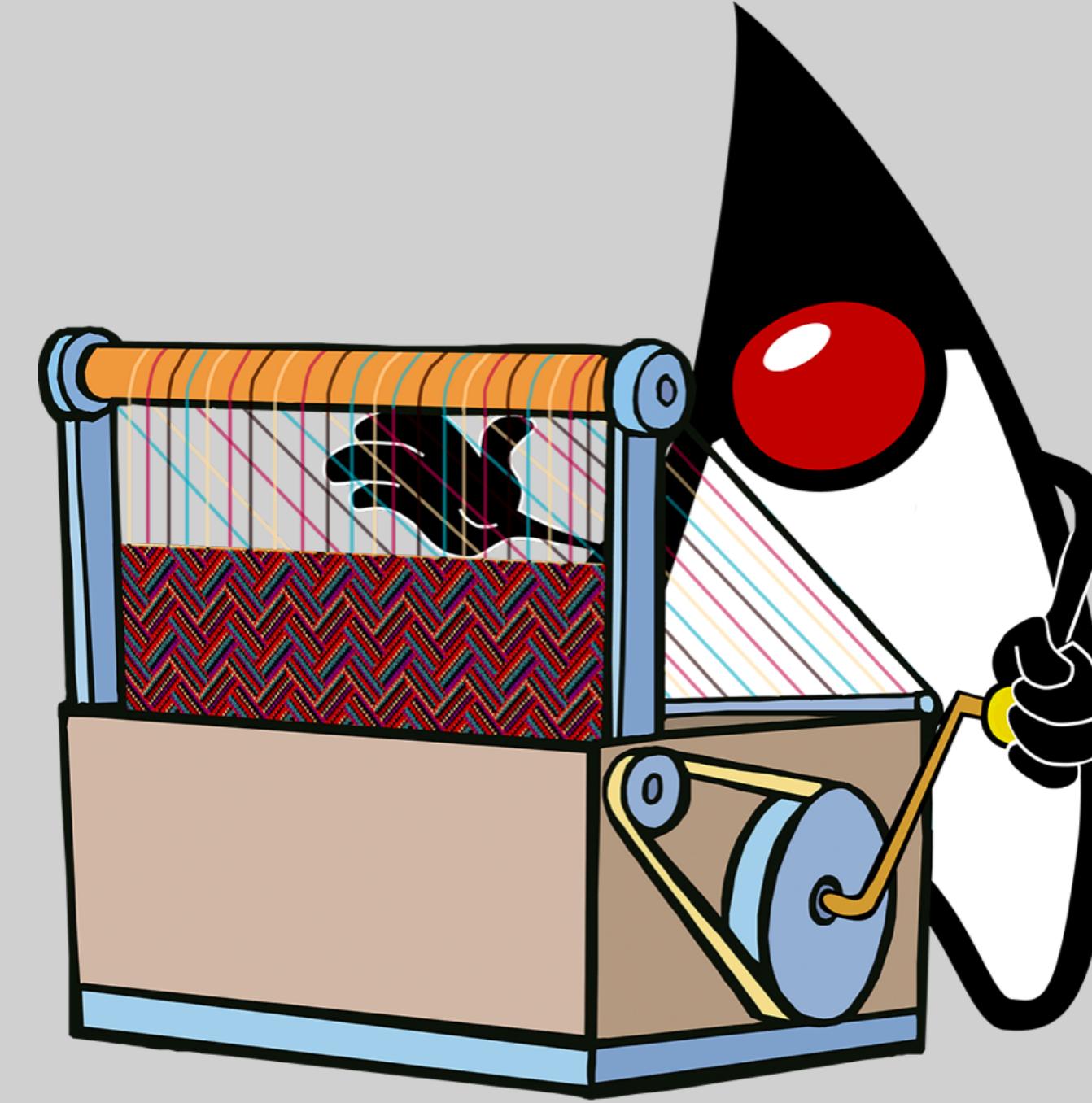
# VIRTUAL THREADS



A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO  
**ASYNC/AWAIT**



# JDK 21 LTS



## Project Loom

AIMS TO BRING  
EASY-TO-USE, HIGH-THROUGHPUT,  
**LIGHTWEIGHT CONCURRENCY**  
AND NEW PROGRAMMING MODELS  
ON THE JAVA PLATFORM.

# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO ASYNCHRONOUS PROGRAMMING



CHOOSE  
CODE COMPATIBILITY

minimizing the impact on existing code  
to benefit from this model

C#, Python, Javascript, C++, Rust

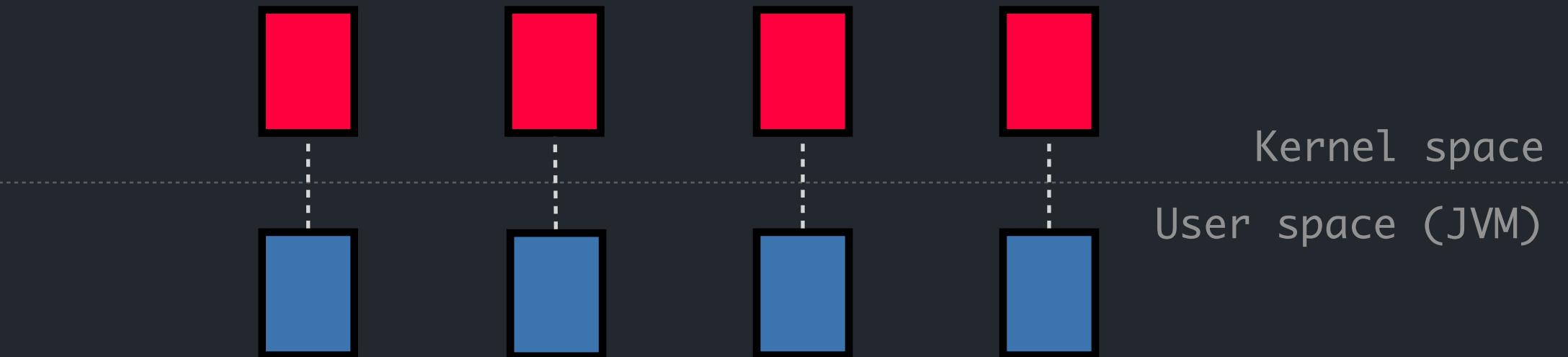
Introduced New Keywords

async/await

requiring a significant rewrite  
to take advantage of this model

### PLATFORM THREADS

Typically mapped 1:1 to kernel threads  
scheduled by the operating system.



```
// create a platform thread, and use .start() to start it.  
Thread thread = new Thread(Runnable, "thread-name")  
thread.start();  
  
// create a platform thread, and use .start() to start it.  
Thread thread = Thread.ofPlatform().name("thread-name").unstarted(Runnable);  
thread.start();  
  
// create a platform thread and start it. No need to call .start()  
Thread thread = Thread.ofPlatform().name("thread-name").start(Runnable);
```

# JDK 21: THREADS

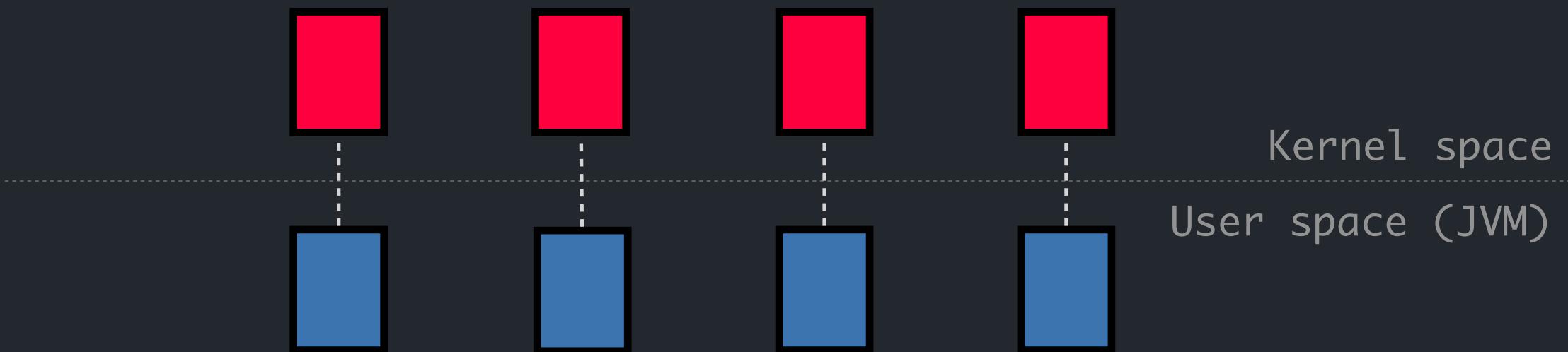
## PLATFORM THREADS & EXECUTOR SERVICES

### PLATFORM THREADS

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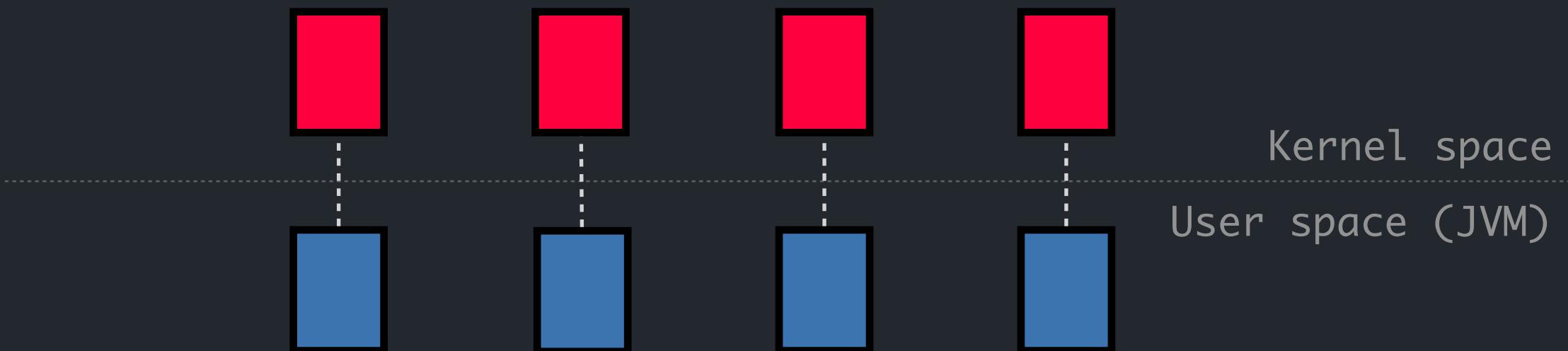
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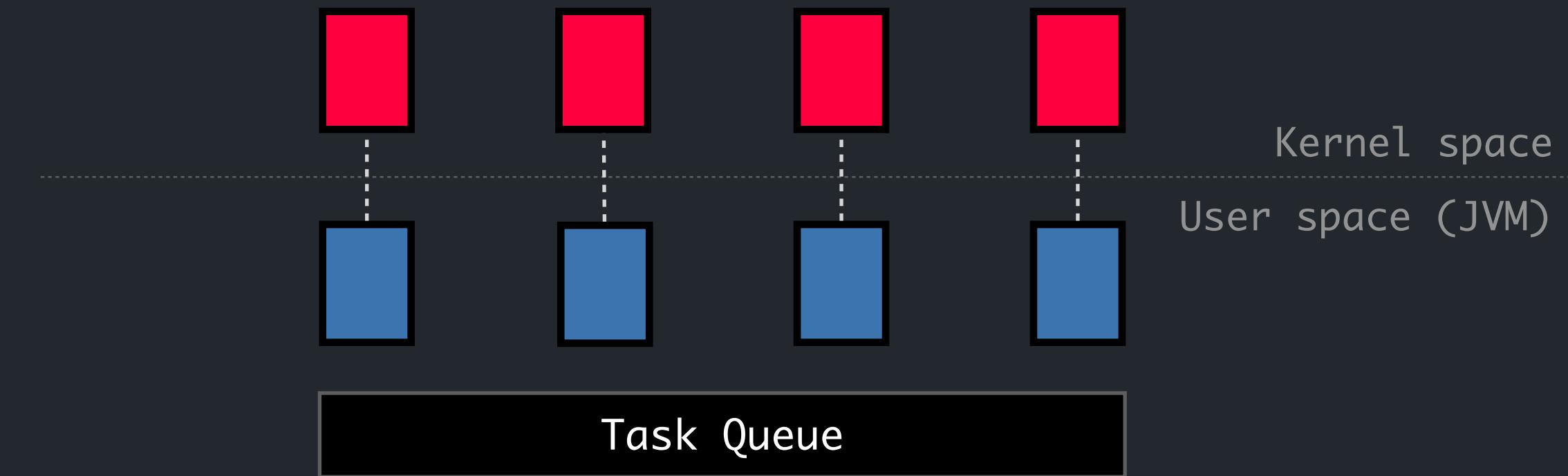
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try (ExecutorService executor = Executors.newFixedThreadPool(4)) {  
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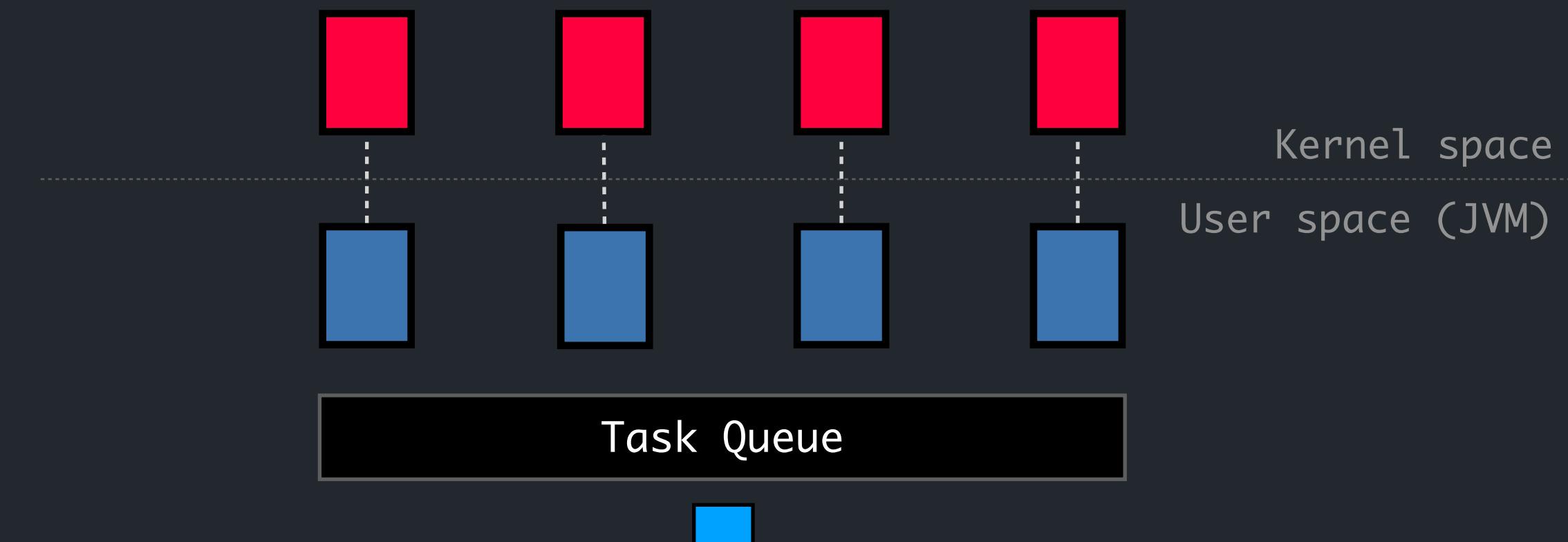
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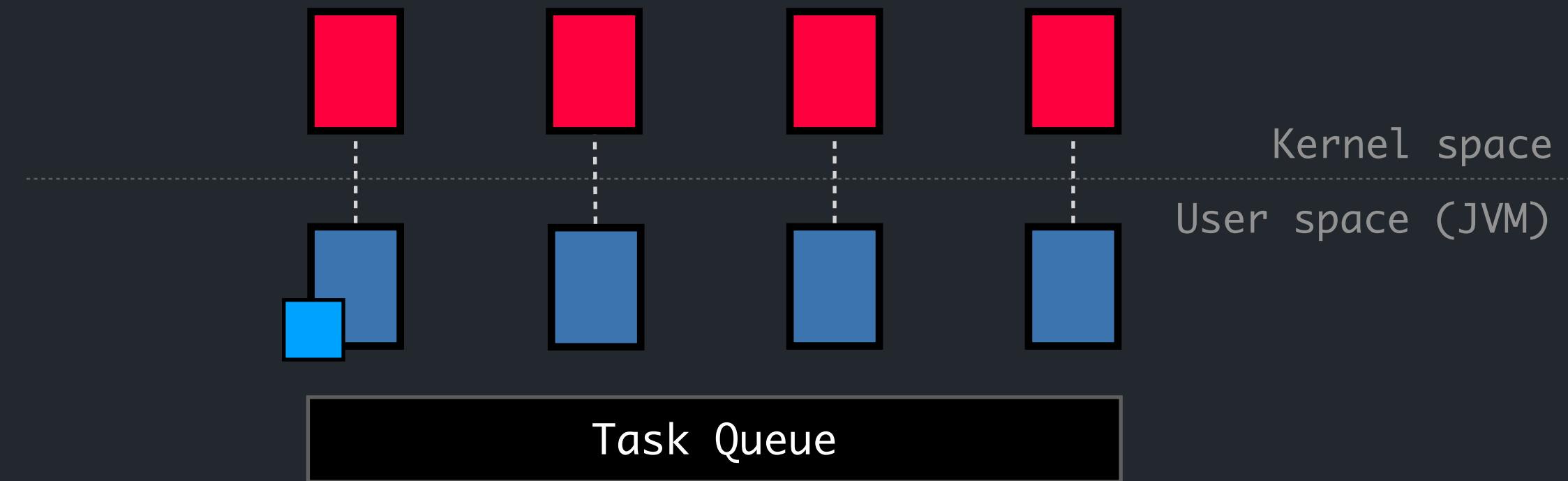
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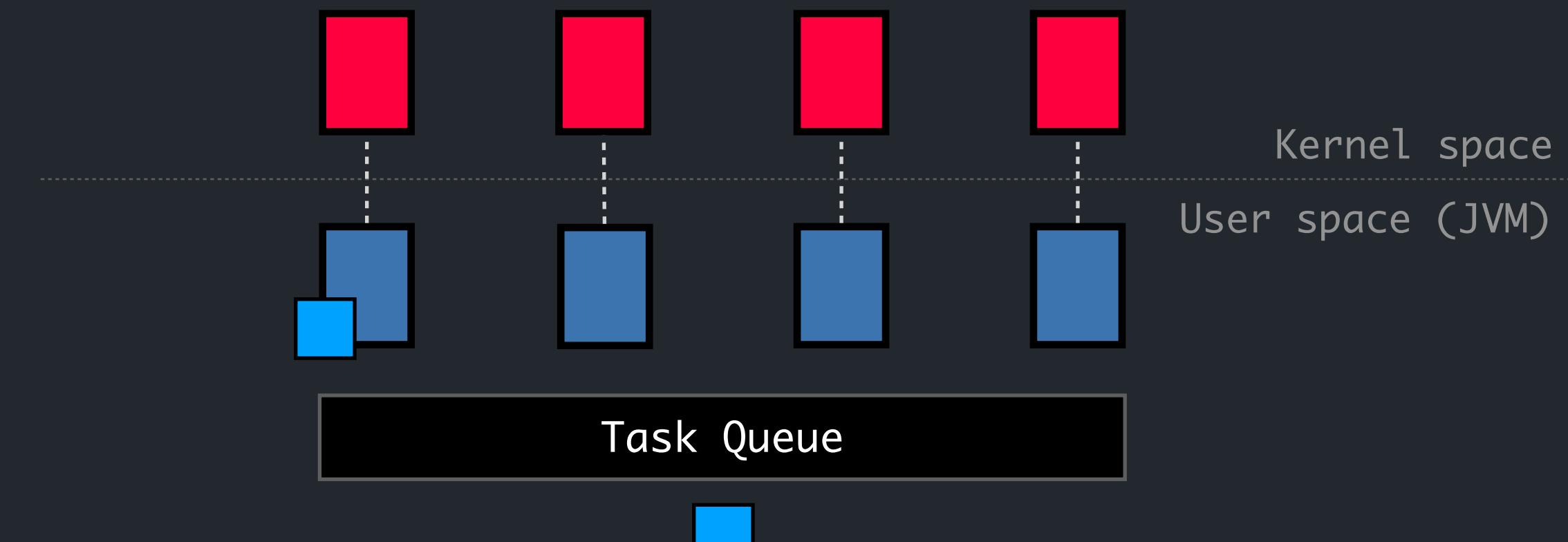
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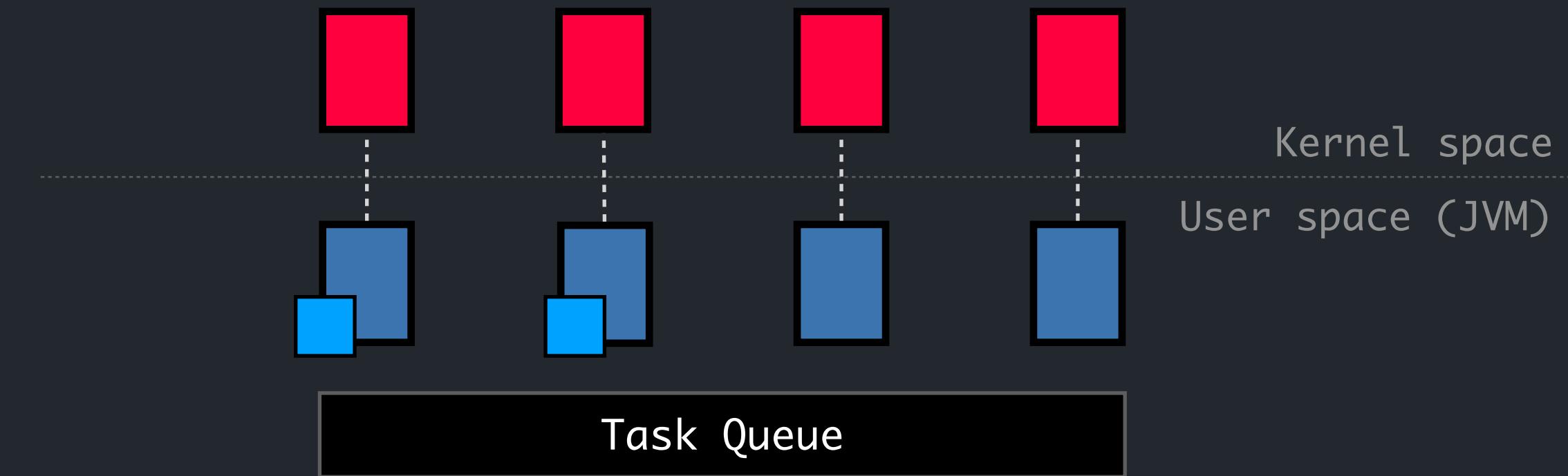
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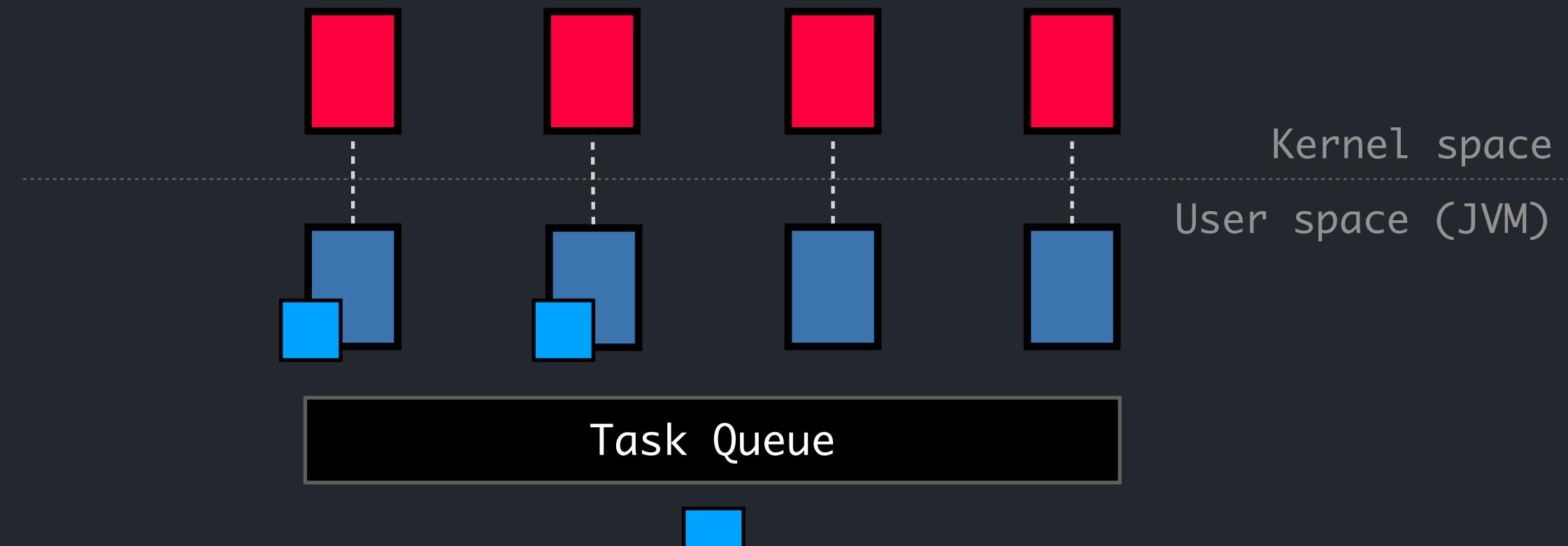
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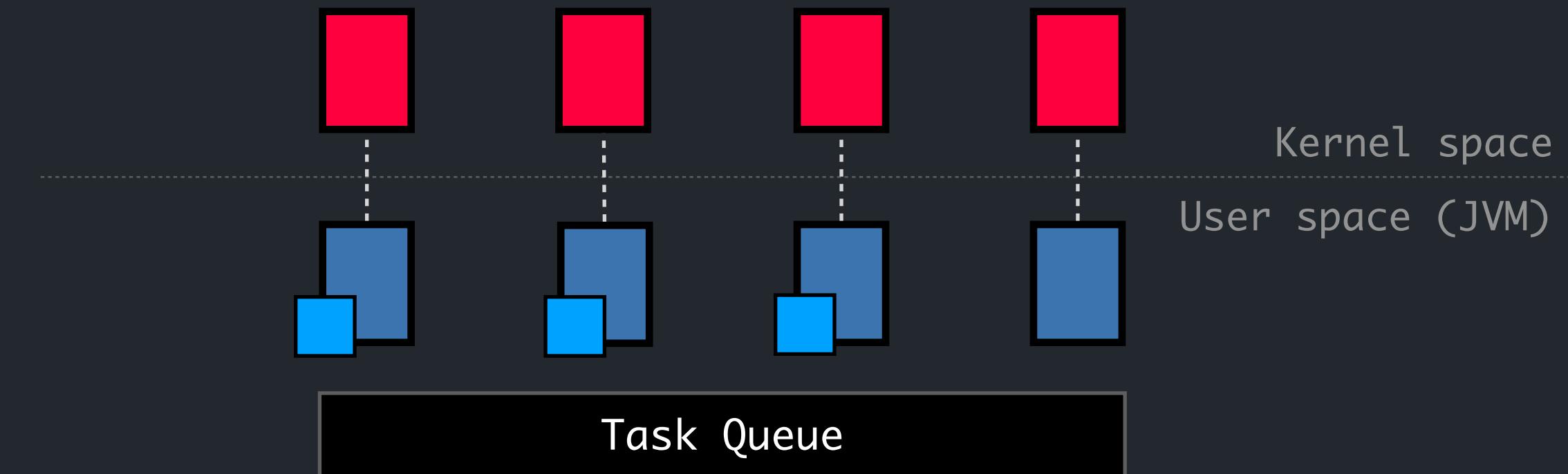
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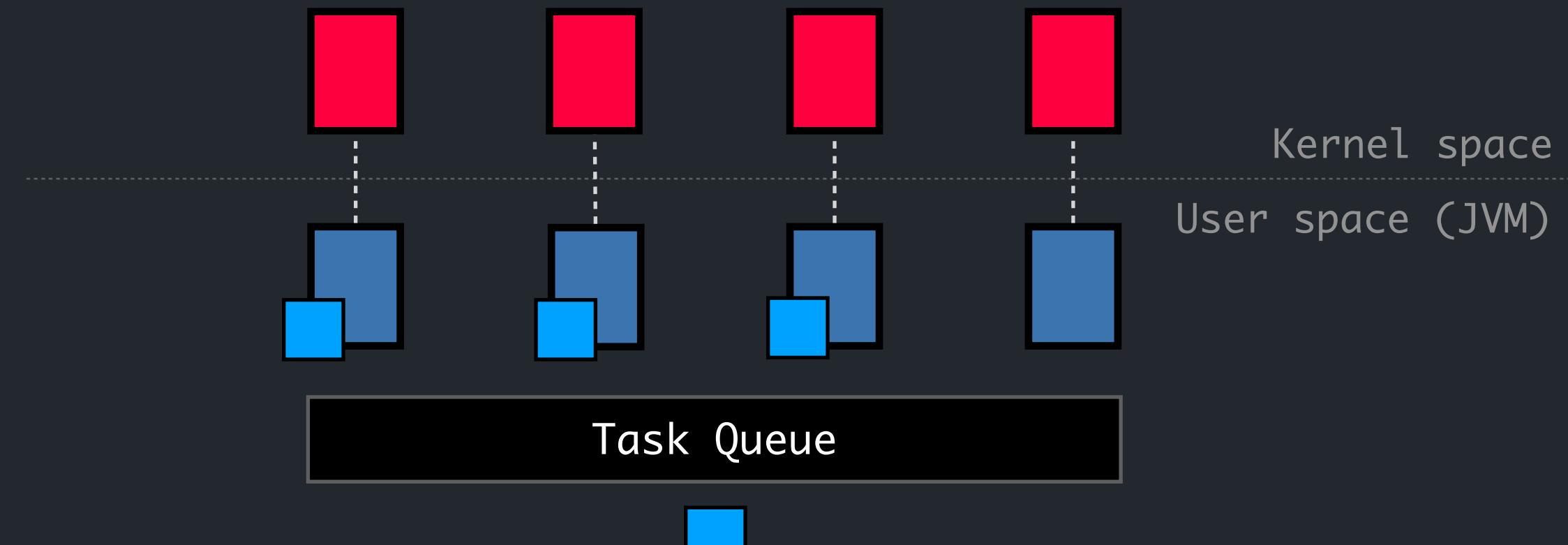
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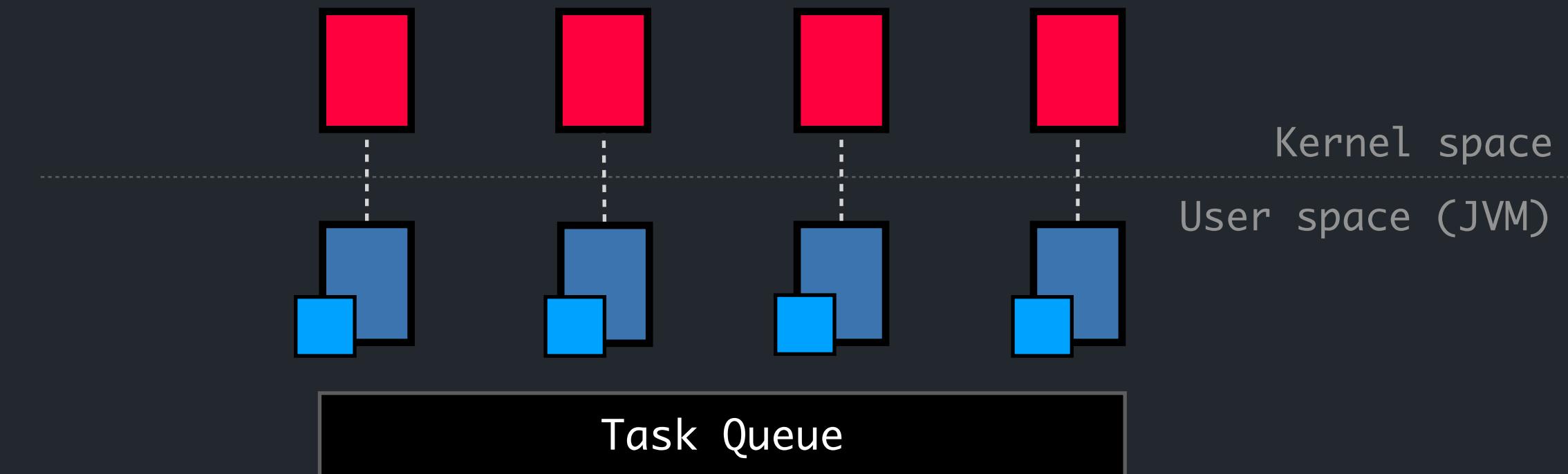
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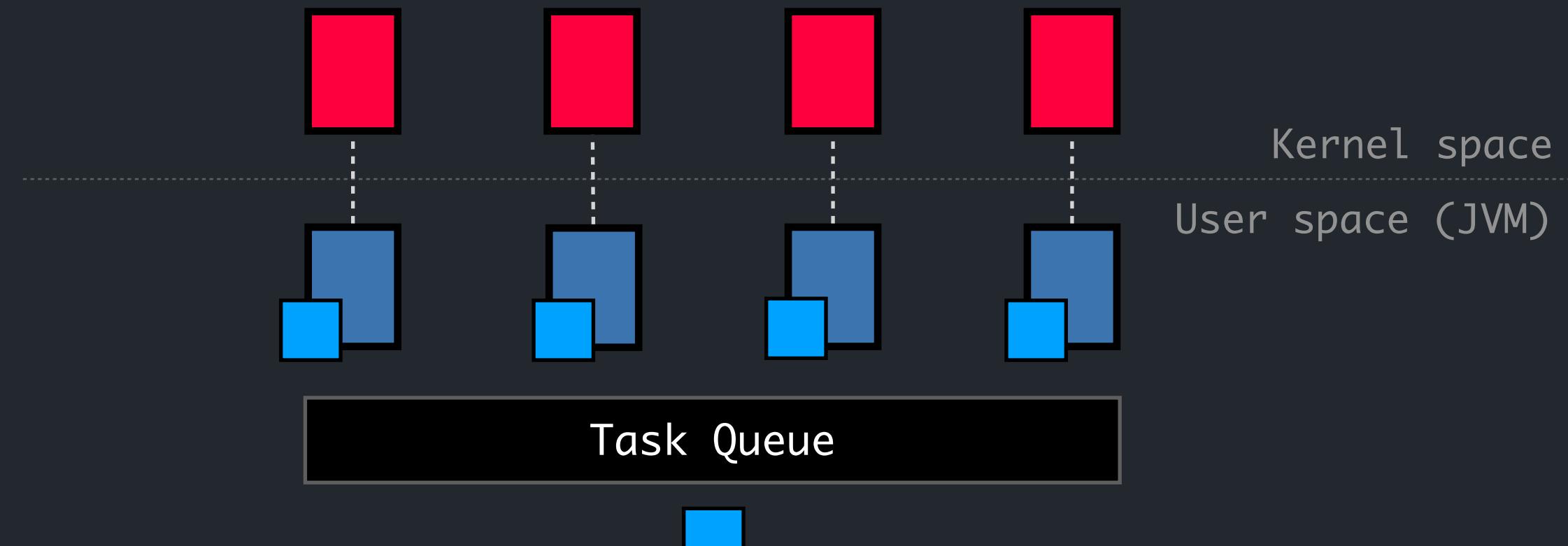
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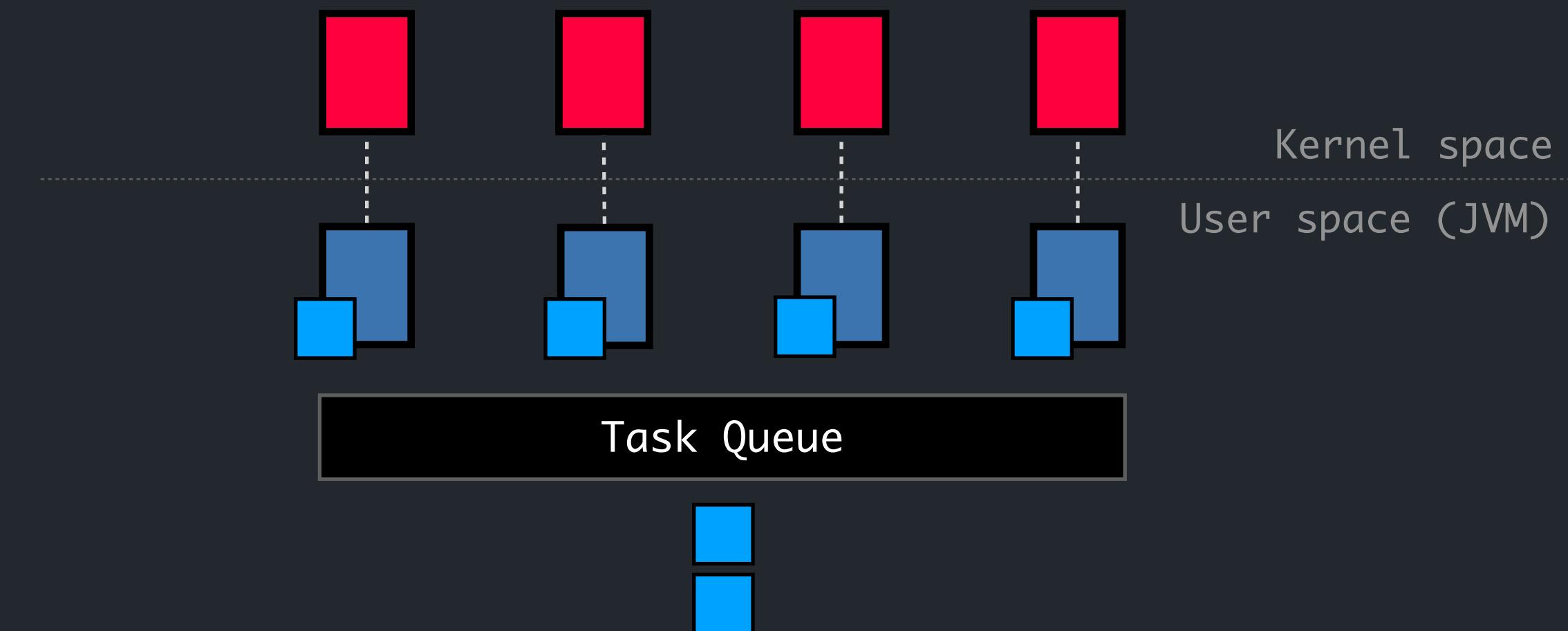
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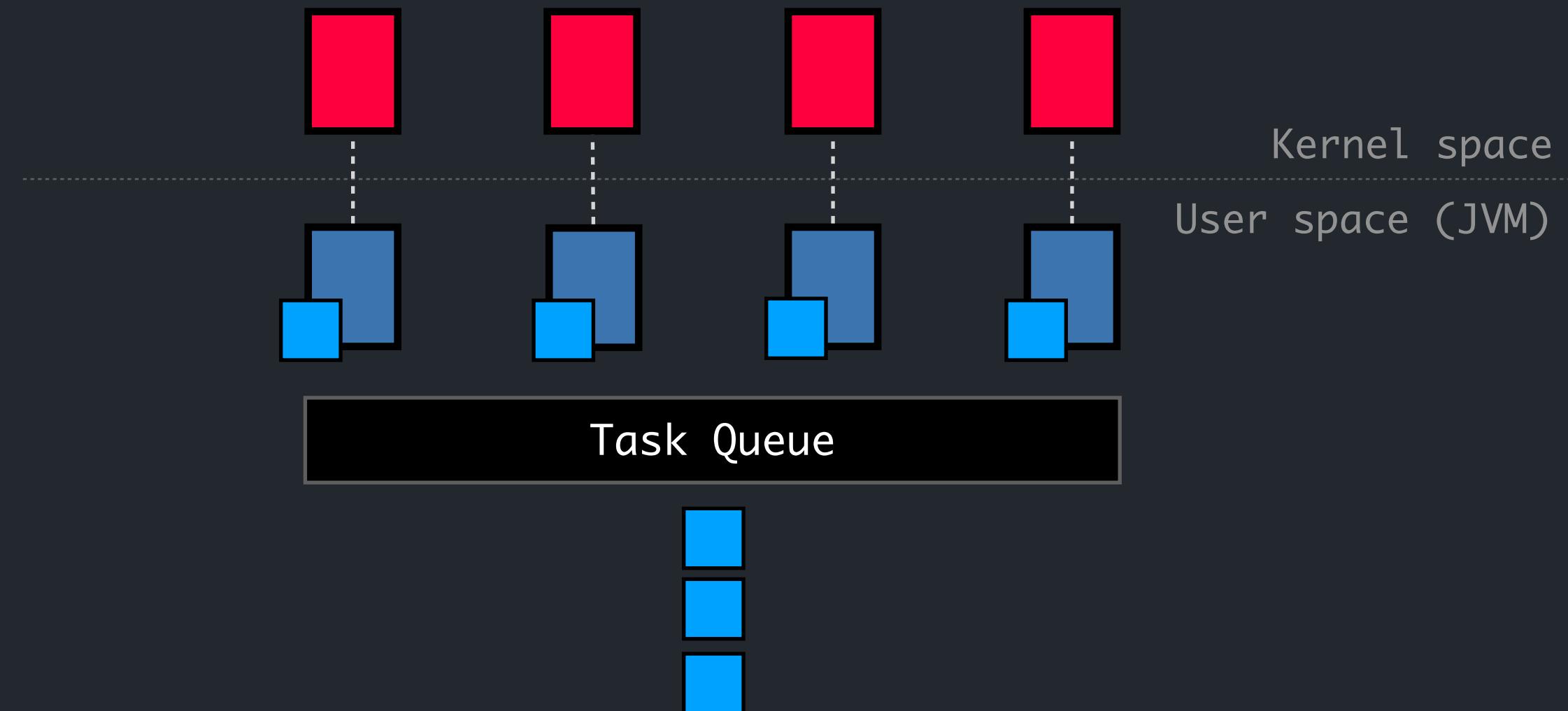
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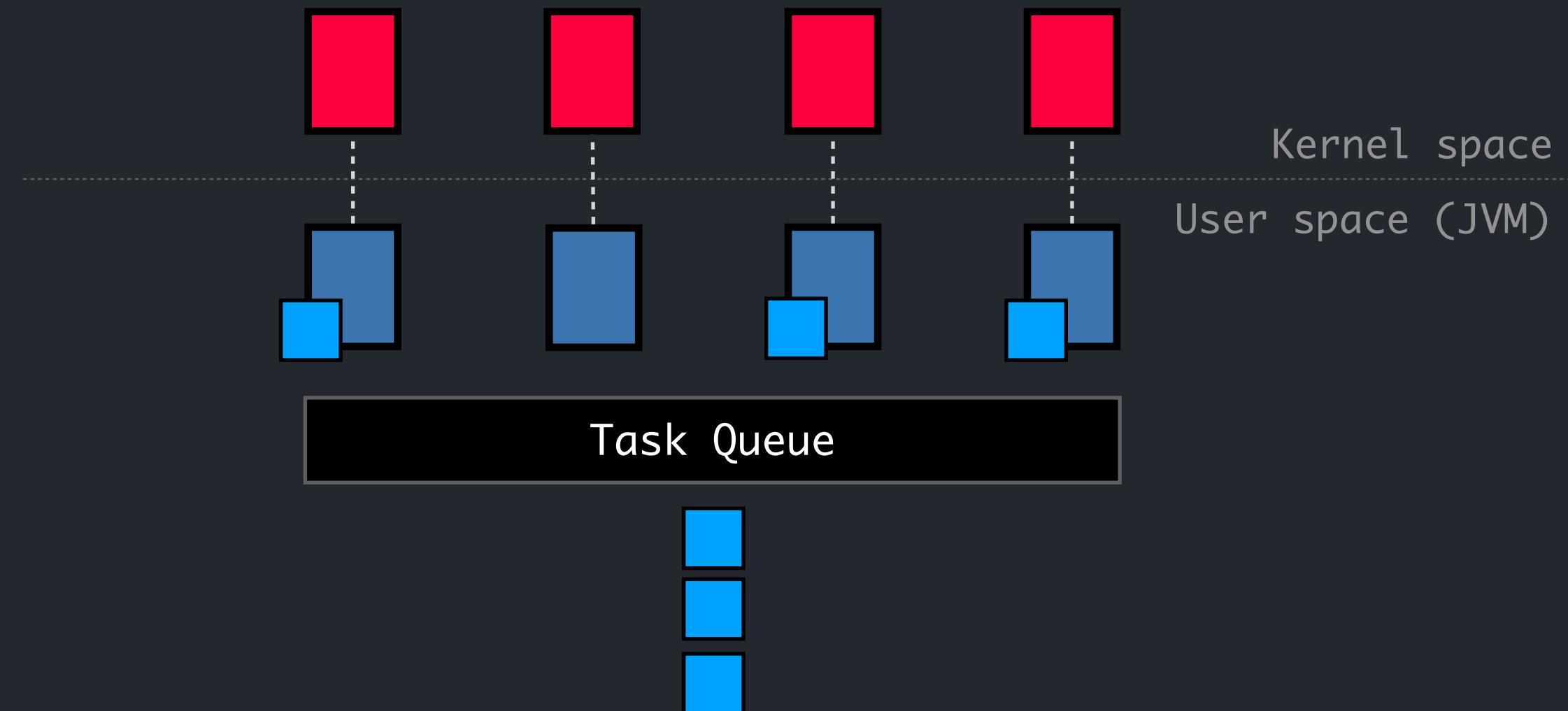
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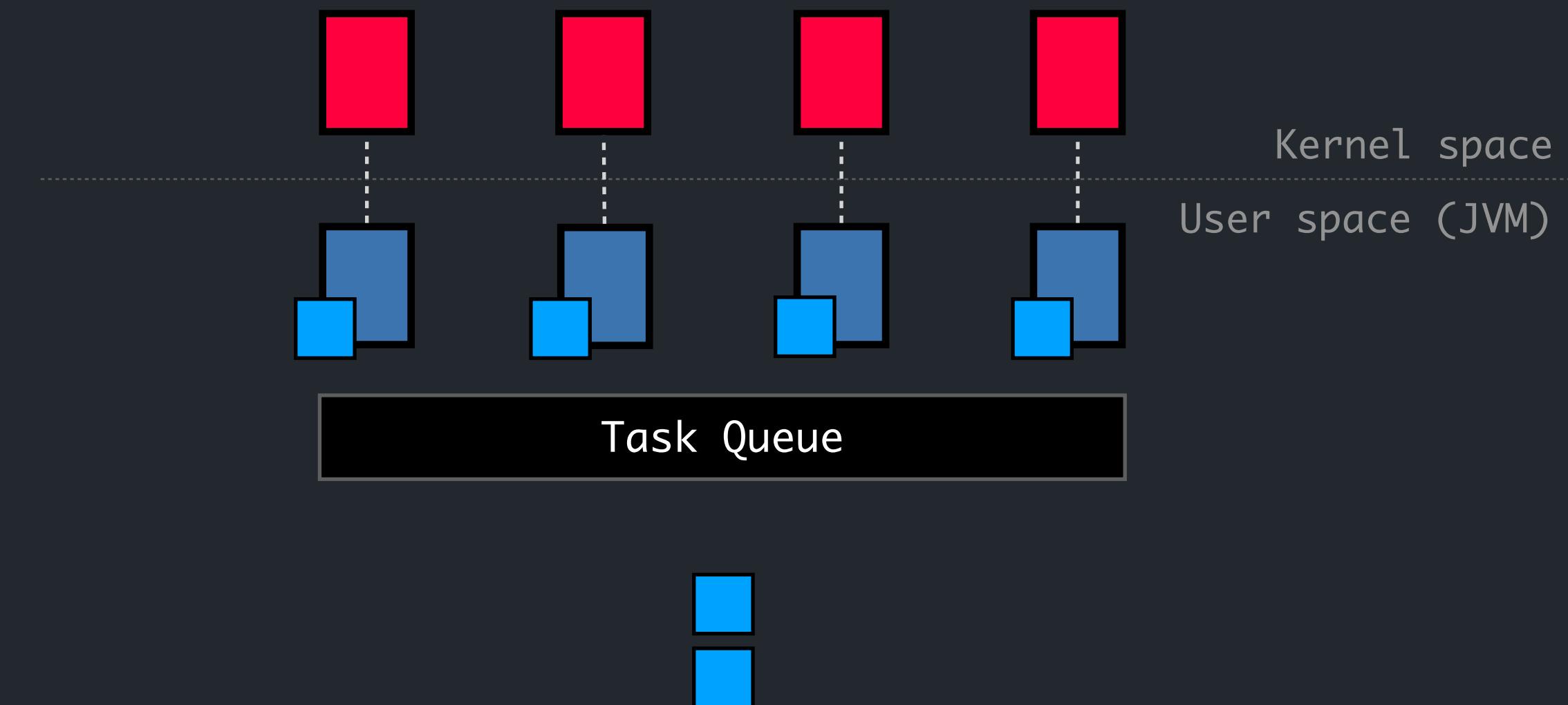
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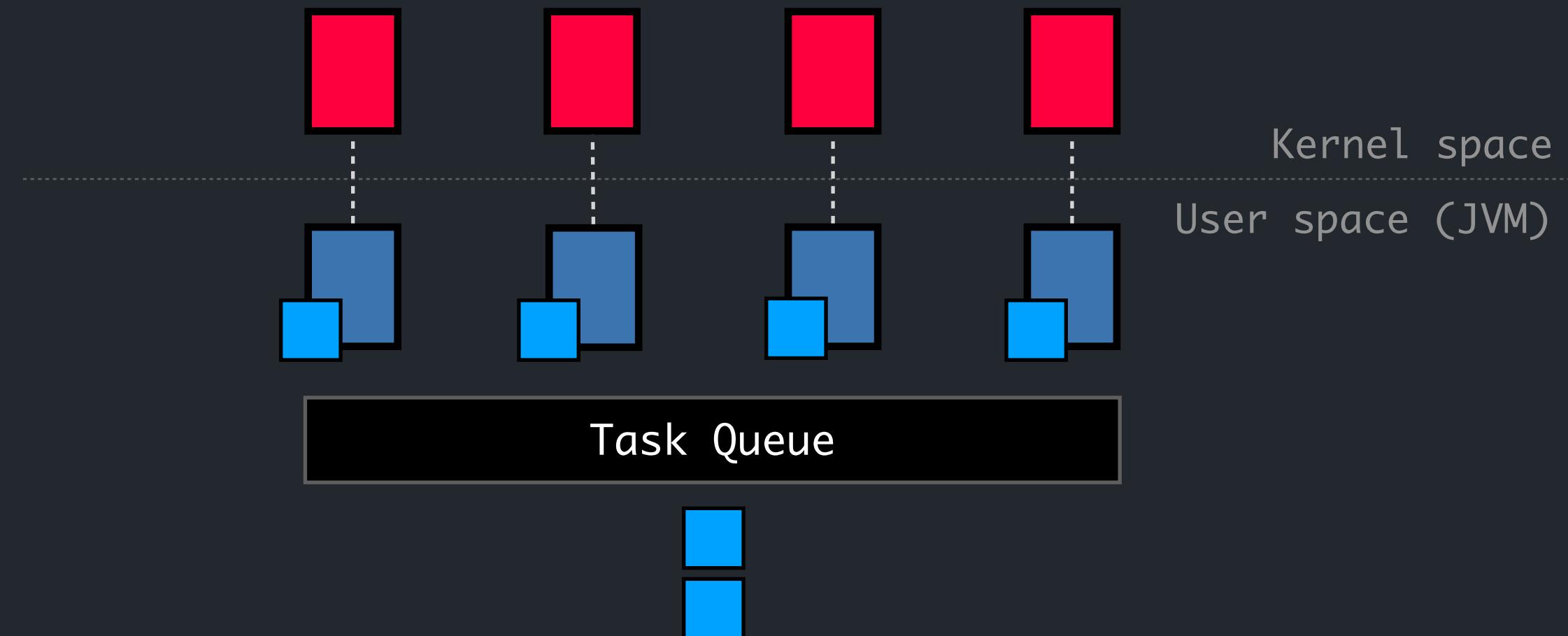
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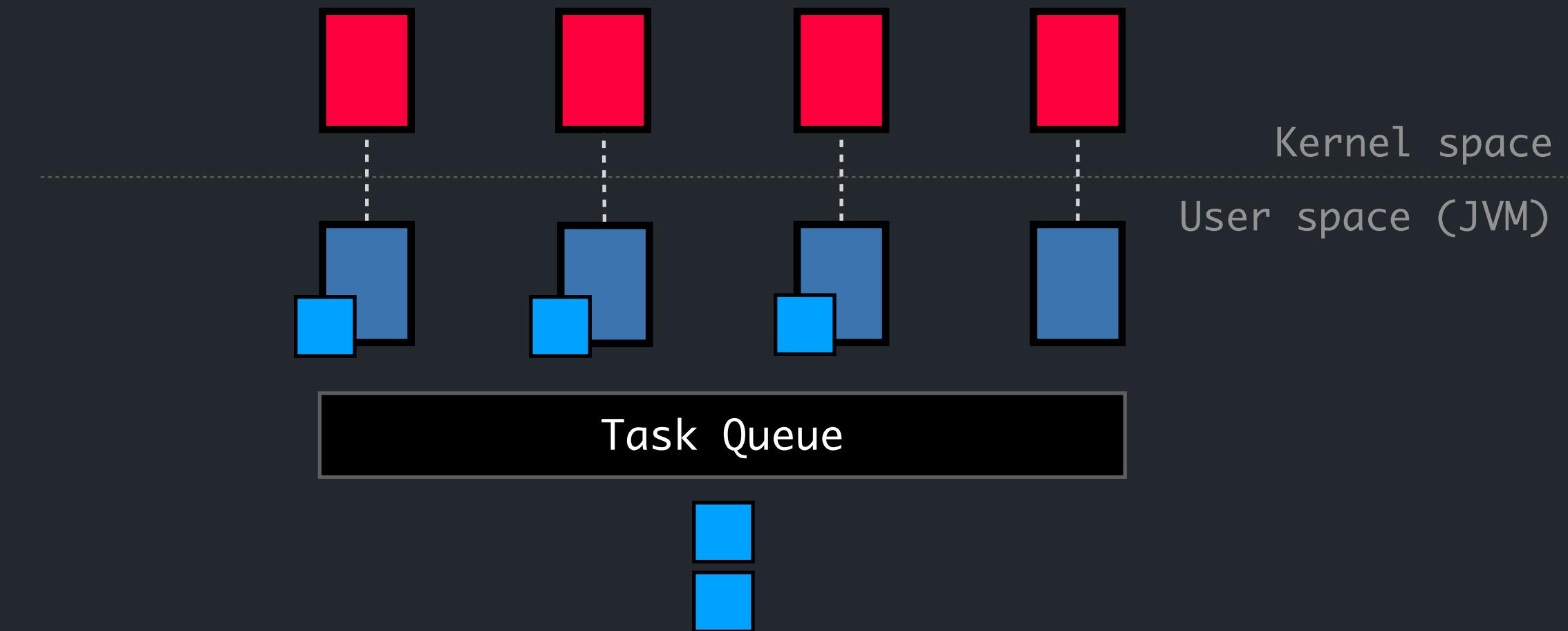
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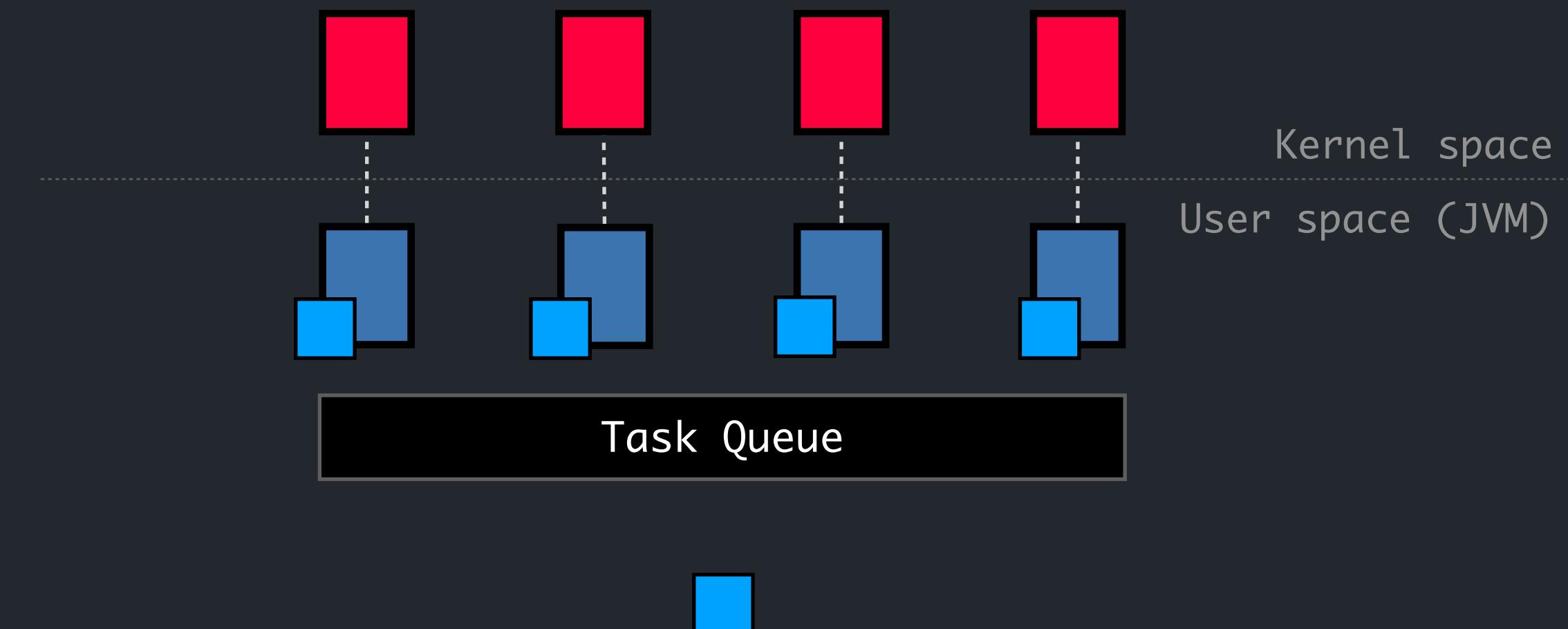
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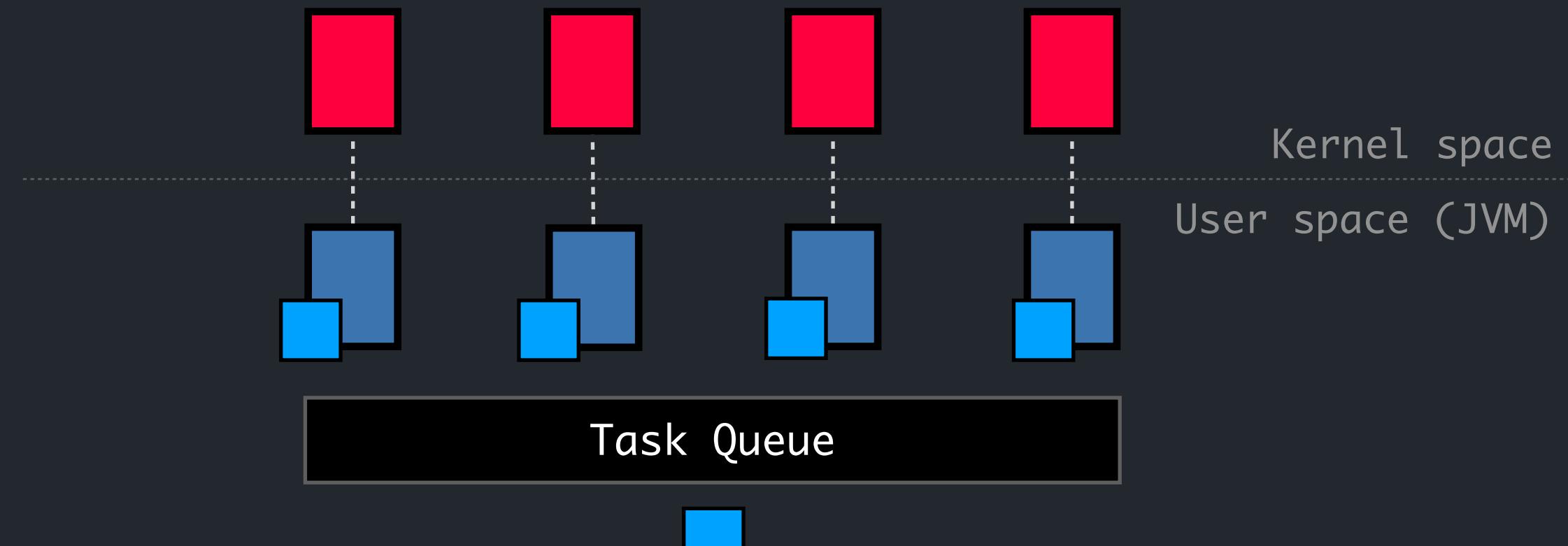
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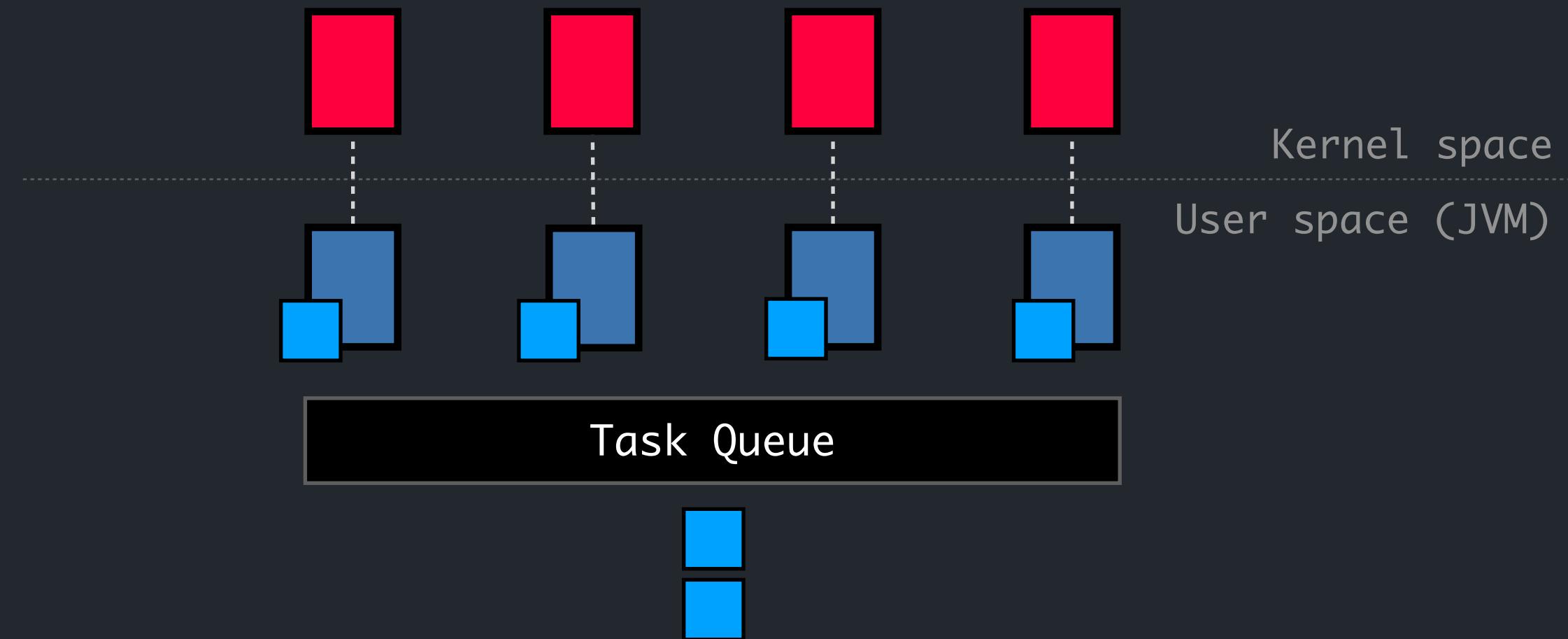
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# JDK 21: EXECUTOR SERVICES

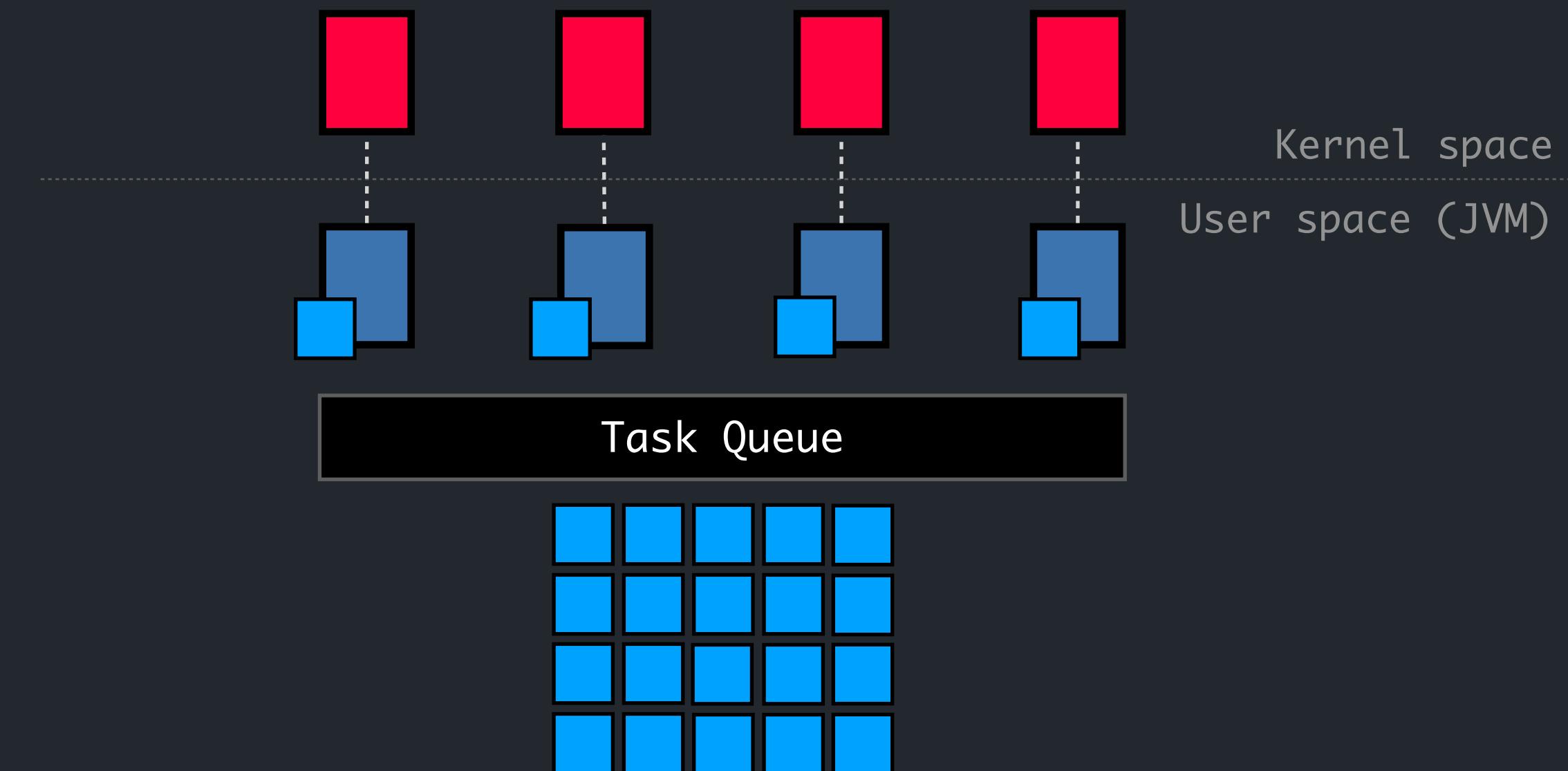
SLOW TASKS & COMPLETABLE FUTURE

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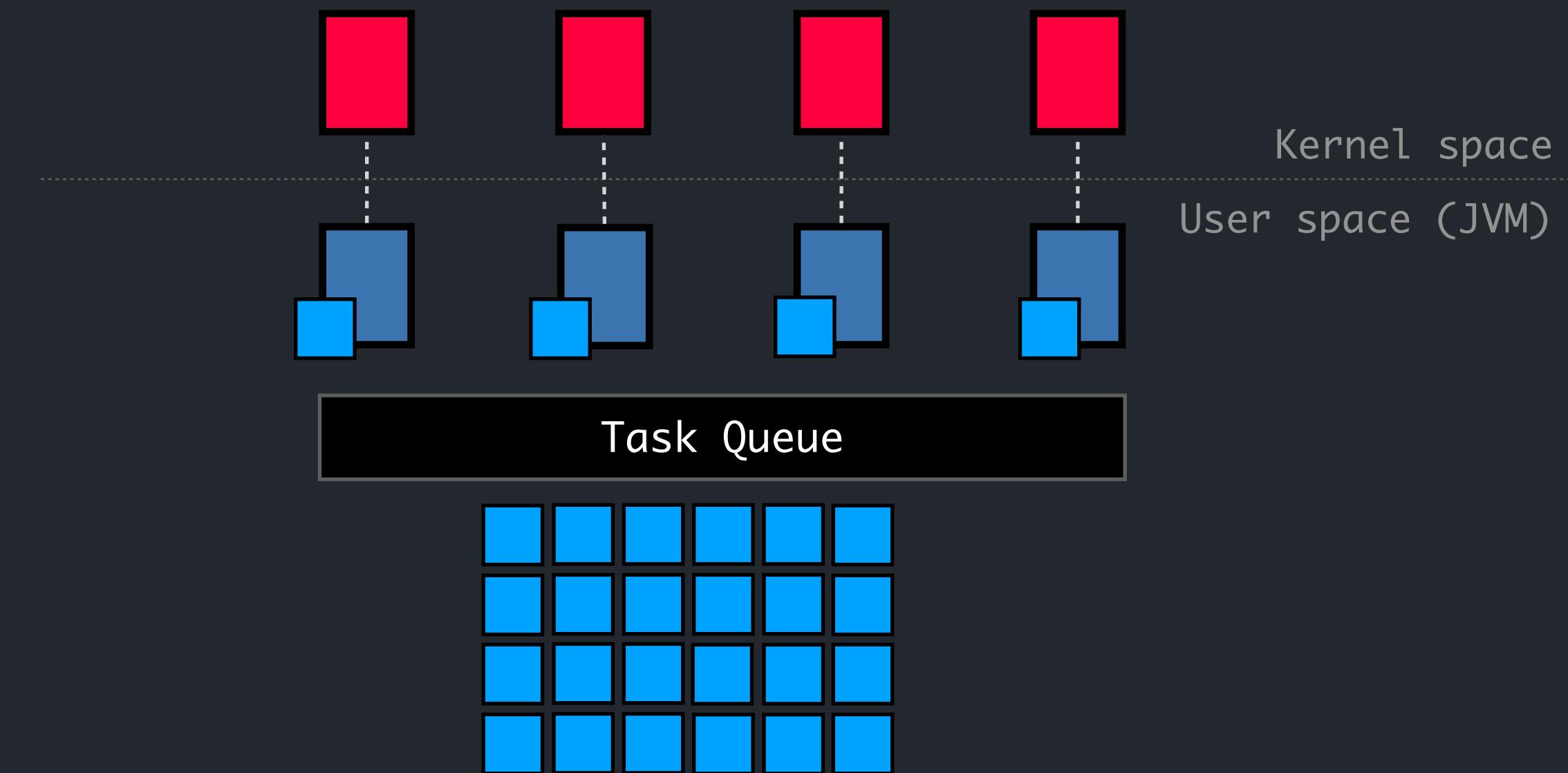
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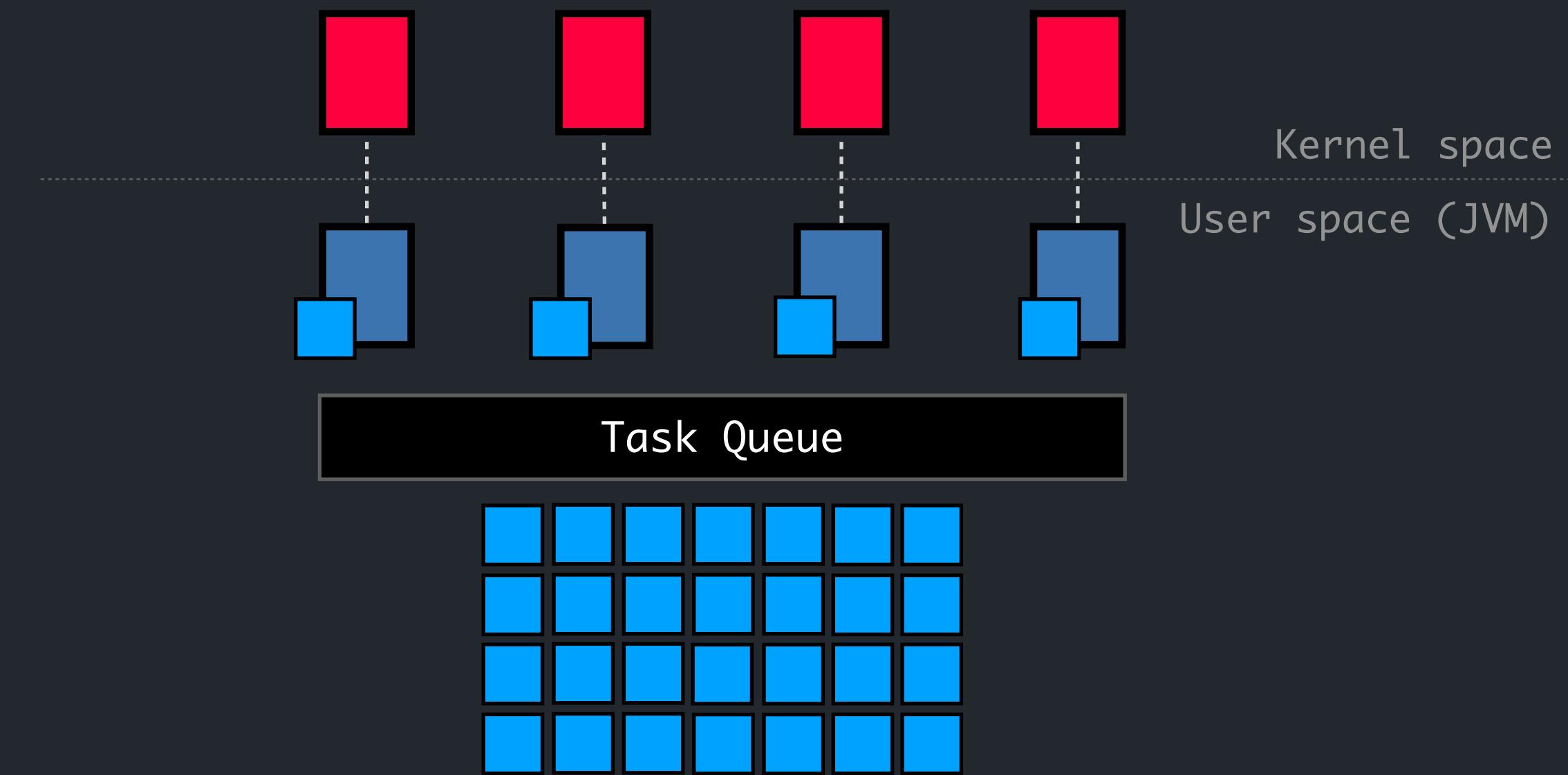
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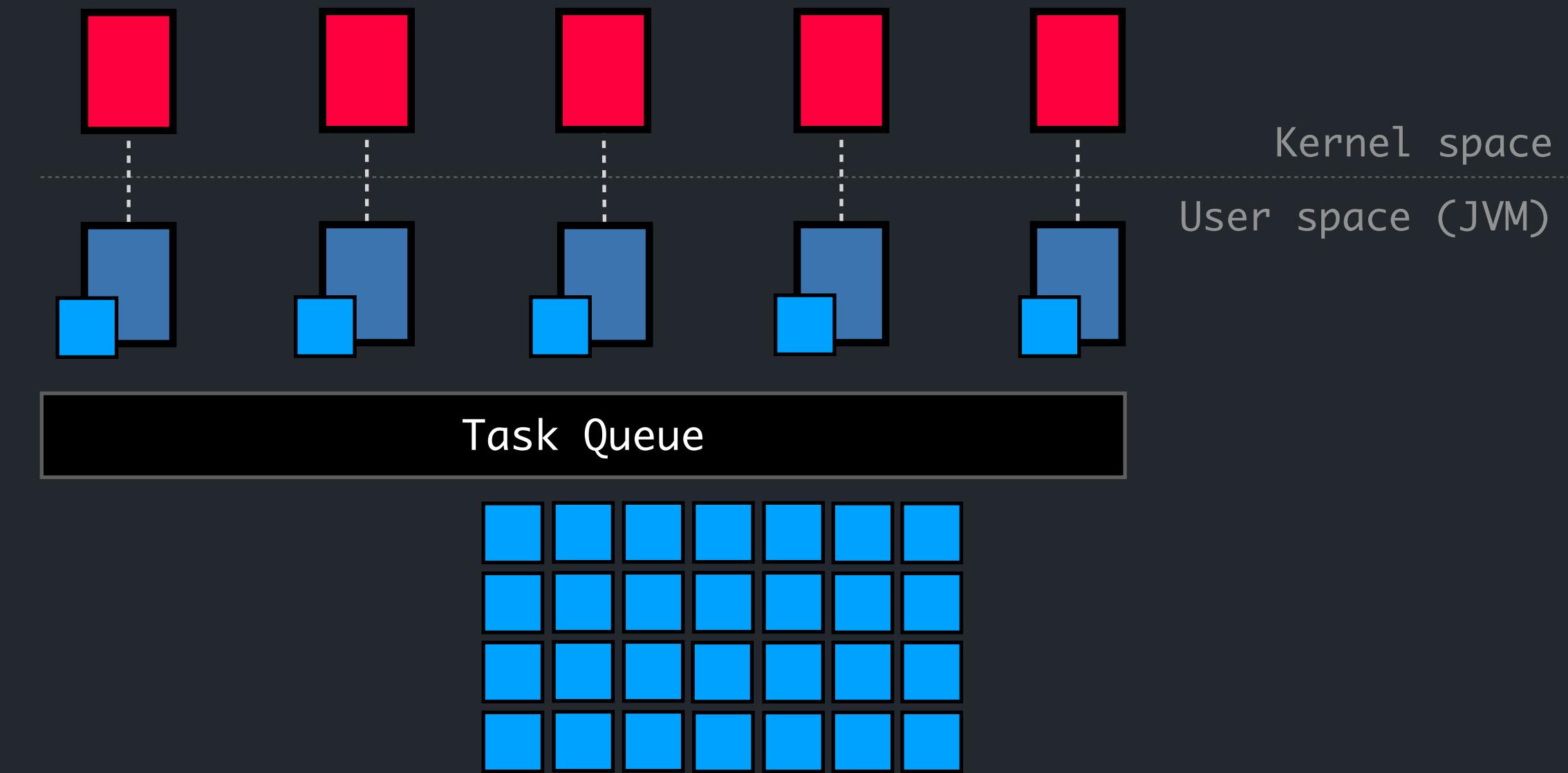
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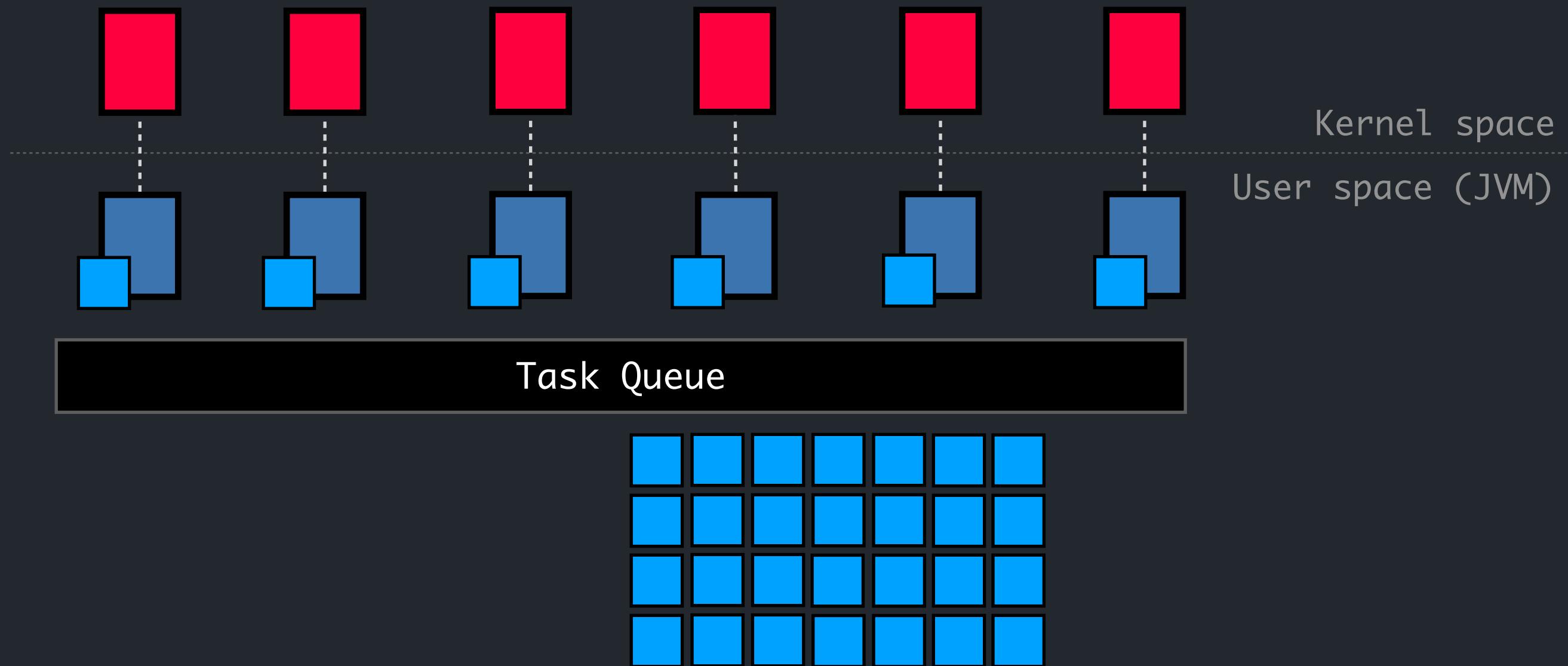
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IN MOST BACKEND SERVICES

SLOW TASKS

ARE I/O BOUND TASKS

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for (int i = 0; i < 128; ++i) {
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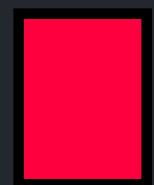
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My Task  
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All the threads created by .sendAsync()  
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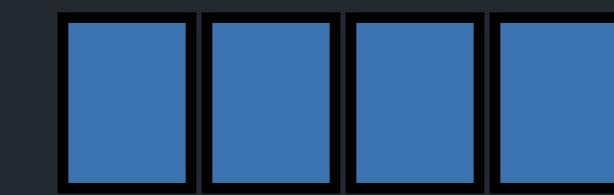
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Platform Threads are not cheap

- startup time: ~1ms
- memory consumption: 2MB of stack
- context switch: ~100µs

## COMPLETABLEFUTURE AND THE ASYNC FEELING

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System.out.println("Active Threads " + Thread.activeCount());
for (int i = 0; i < 128; ++i) {
    httpClient.sendAsync(HttpRequest.newBuilder()
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My Task  
Not being blocked

All the threads created by .sendAsync()  
Waiting for I/O

# JDK 21: EXECUTOR SERVICES

SLOW TASKS & COMPLETABLE FUTURE

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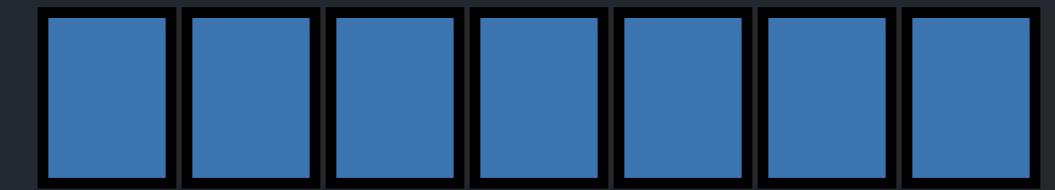
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SLOW TASKS & COMPLETABLE FUTURE

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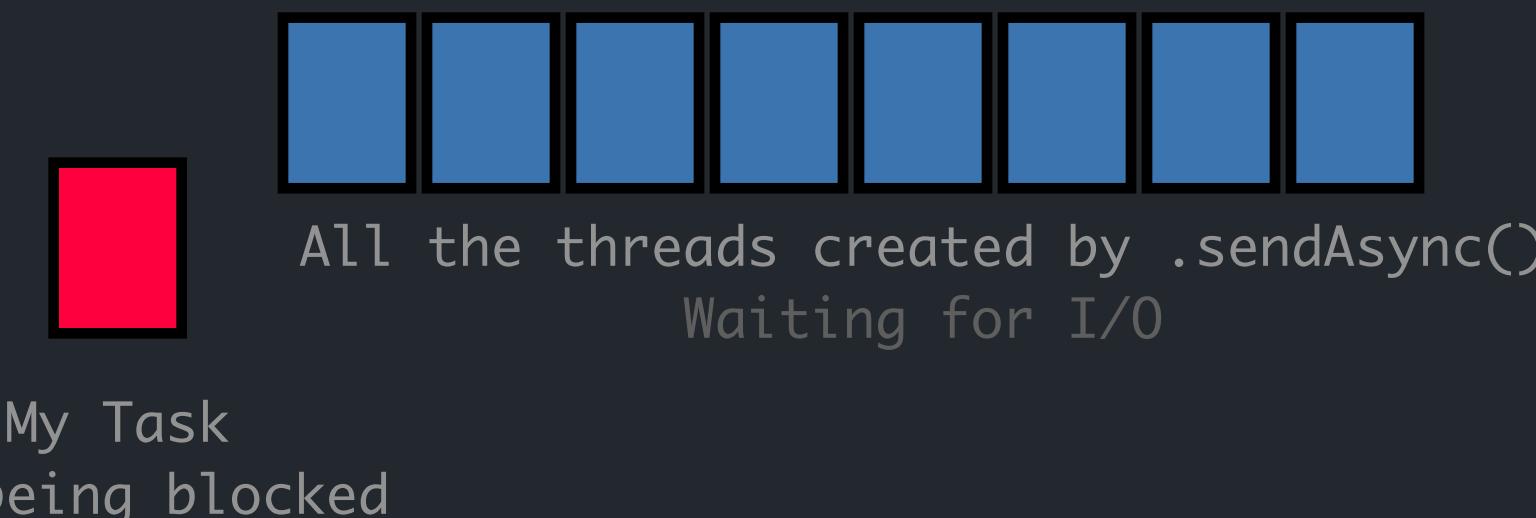
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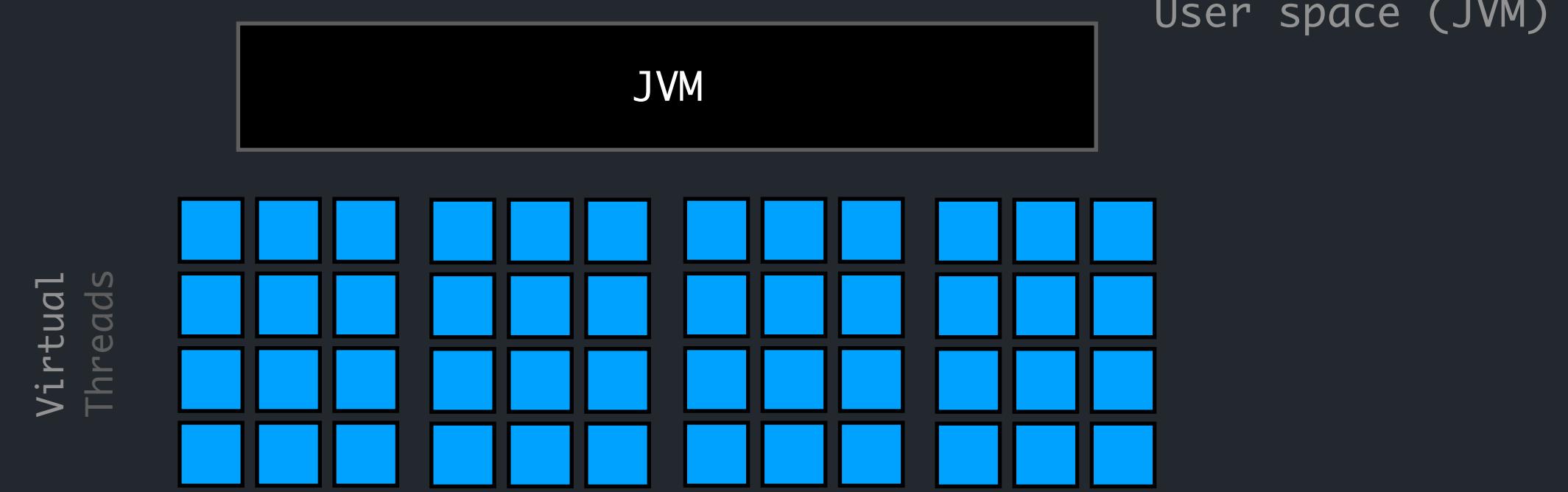


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rather than the operating system



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Thread thread = Thread.ofVirtual().name("thread-name").unstarted(Runnable);  
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# JDK 21: THREADS

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ELIMINATES THE OVERHEAD  
OF  
I/O BOUND TASKS

# JDK 21: THREADS

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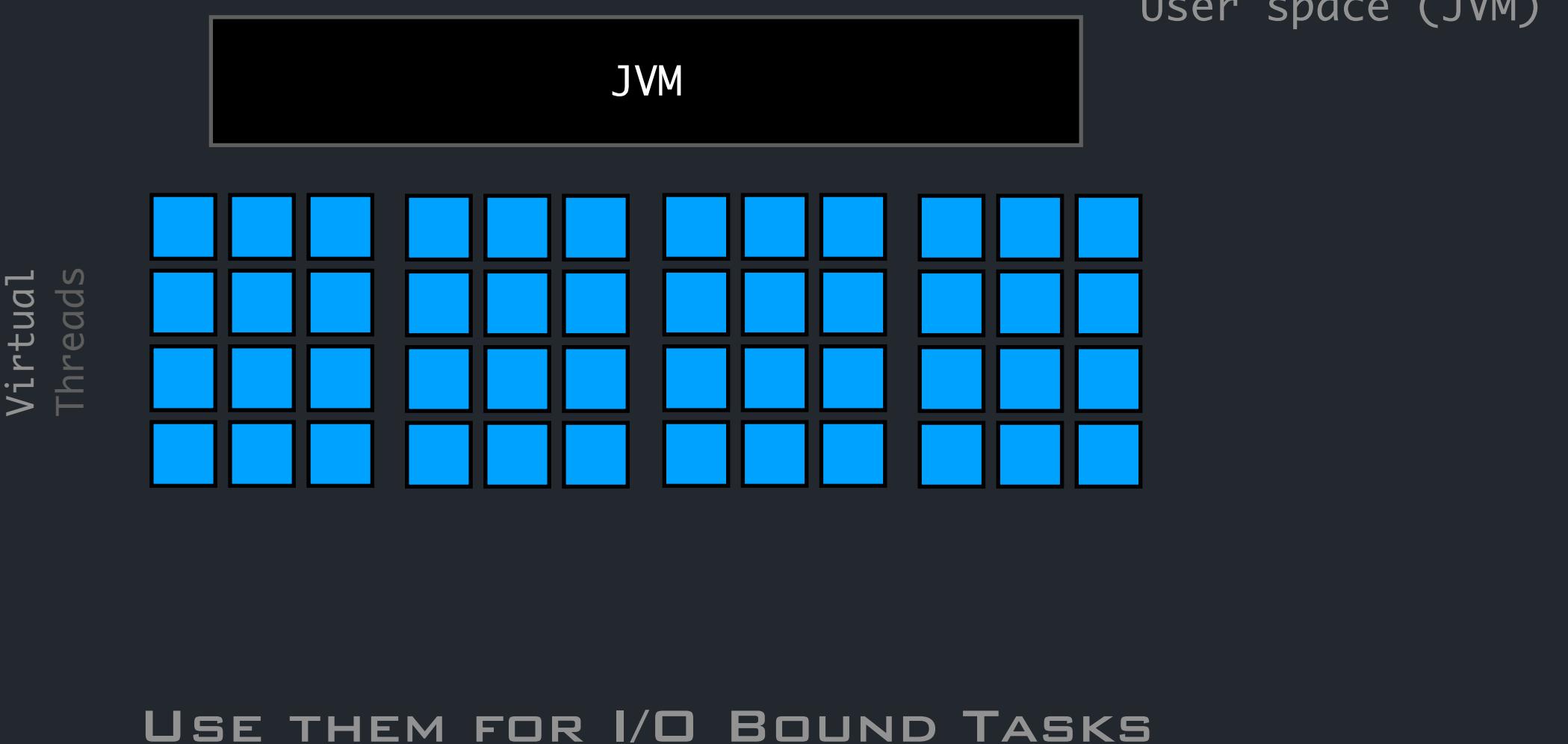
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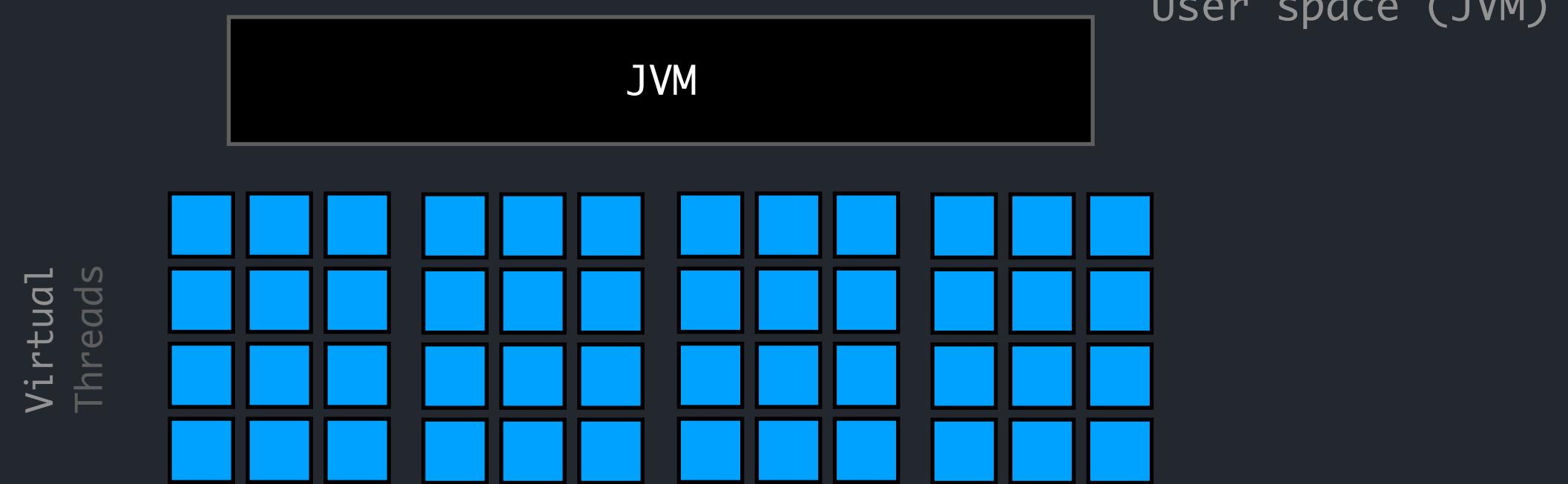
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USE THEM FOR I/O BOUND TASKS

CPU Bound	I/O Bound
Spends most of the time using CPU	Spends most of the time waiting for I/O
Longer CPU bursts	Shorter CPU bursts

# JDK 21: THREADS

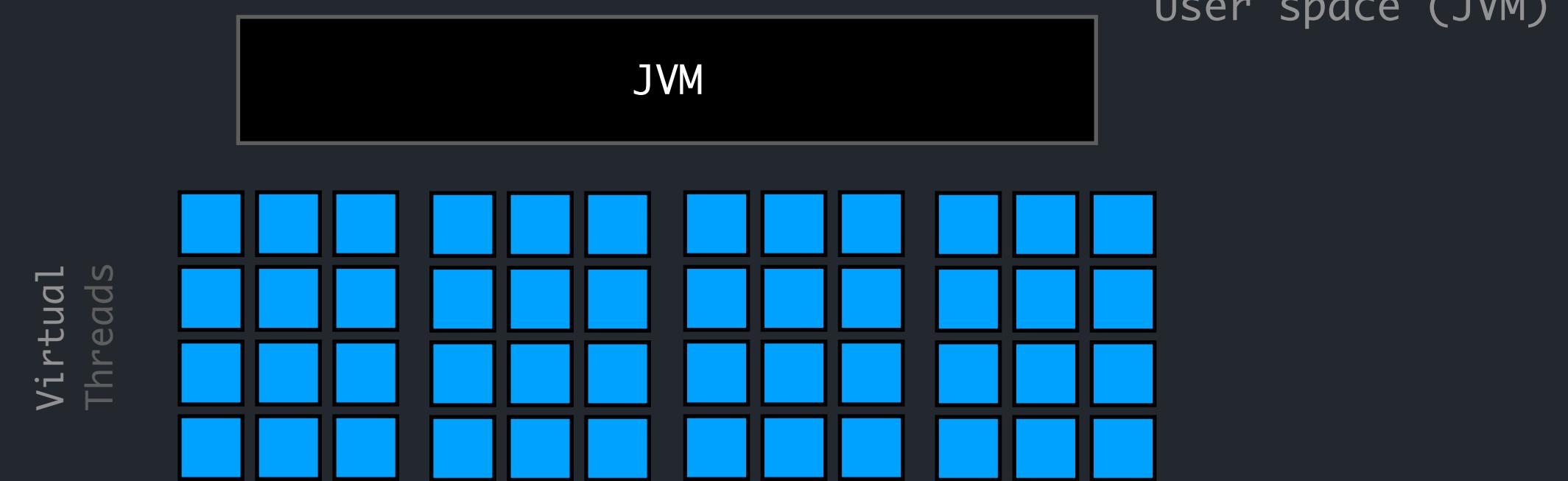
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ALMOST NO CHANGES TO THE CODE REQUIRED!

JAVA DID ALL OF THE WORK UNDERNEATH

REWRITING THE I/O & BLOCKING OPERATIONS

TO COOPERATE WITH THE VIRTUAL THREADS SCHEDULER

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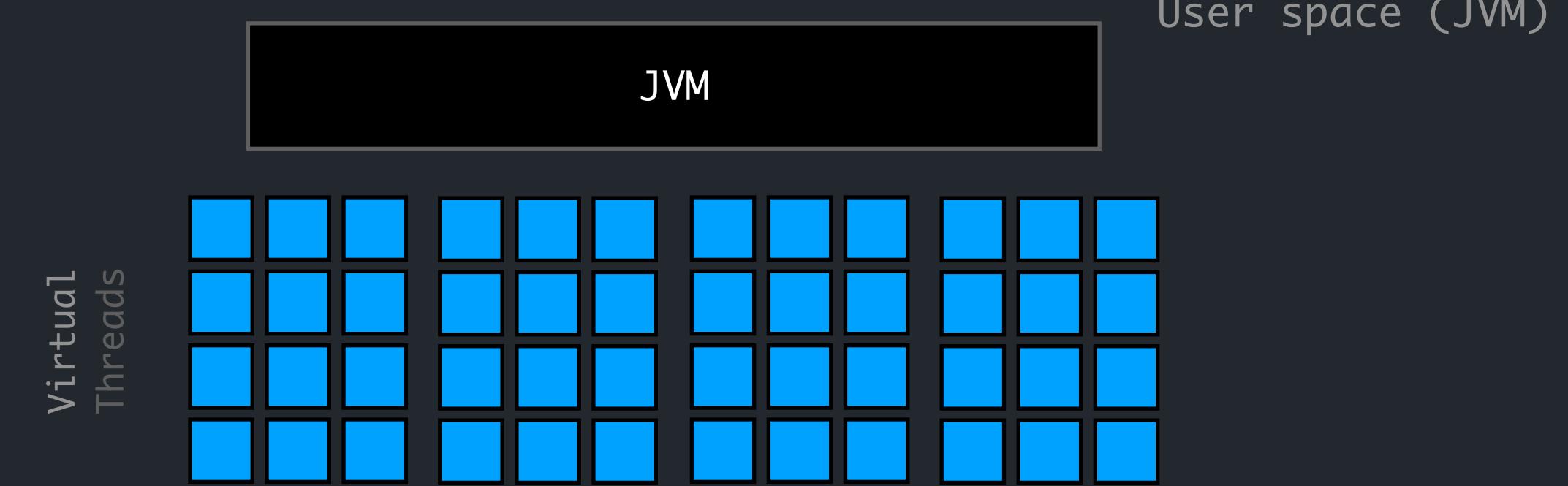
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try (ExecutorService executor = Executors.newVirtualThreadPerTaskExecutor()) {  
    executor.submit(() -> myTask());  
}
```

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JSTACK OR THREAD.CURRENTTHREAD() SHOWS

Thread[#29,my-thread-name,5,main]

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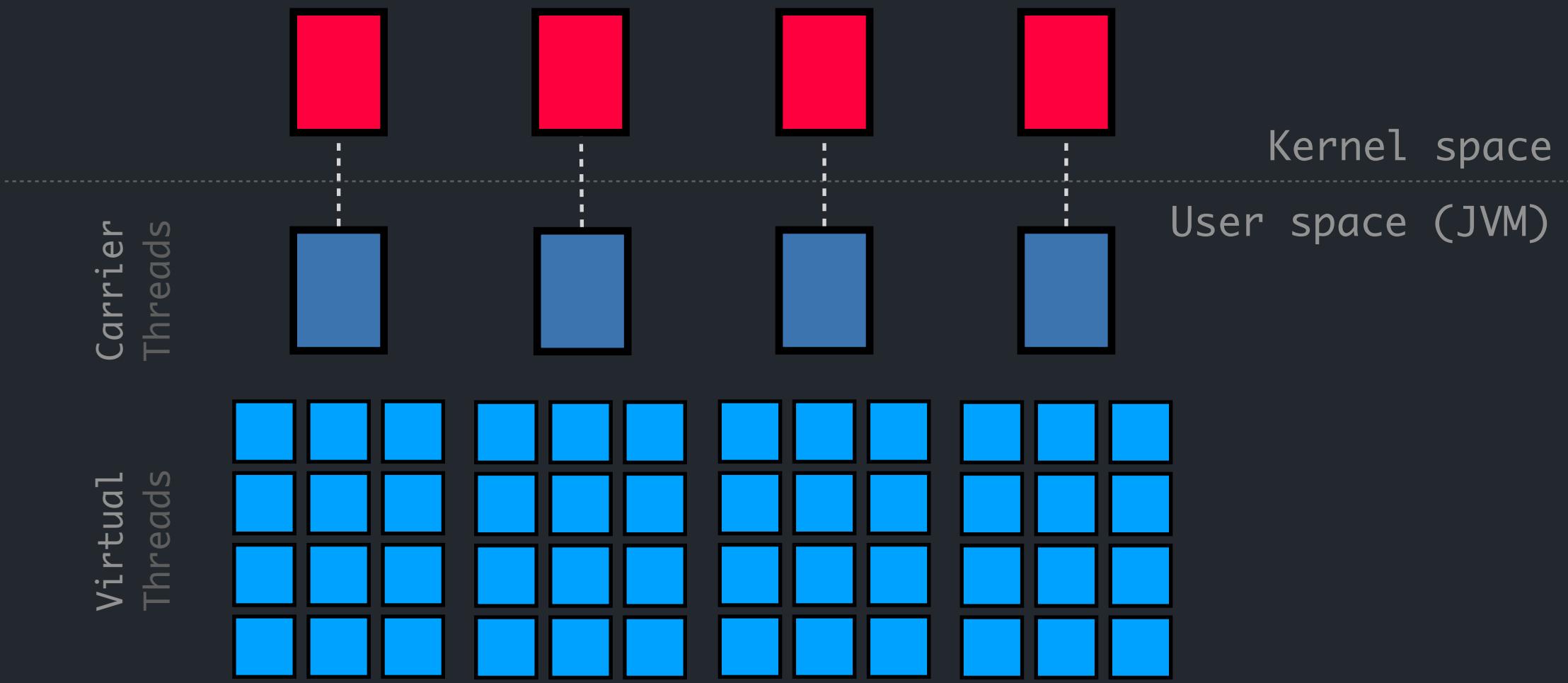
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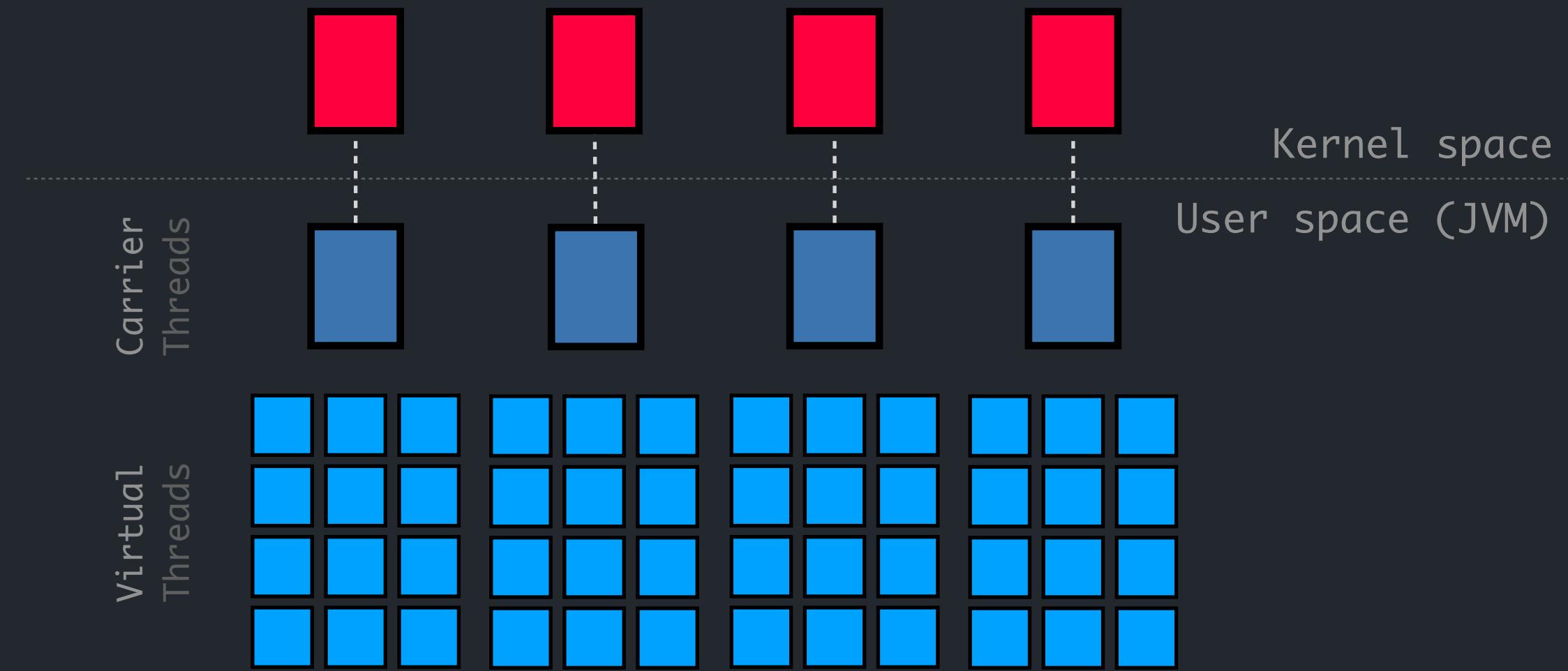
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FORKJOINPOOL WITH FIFO ORDER

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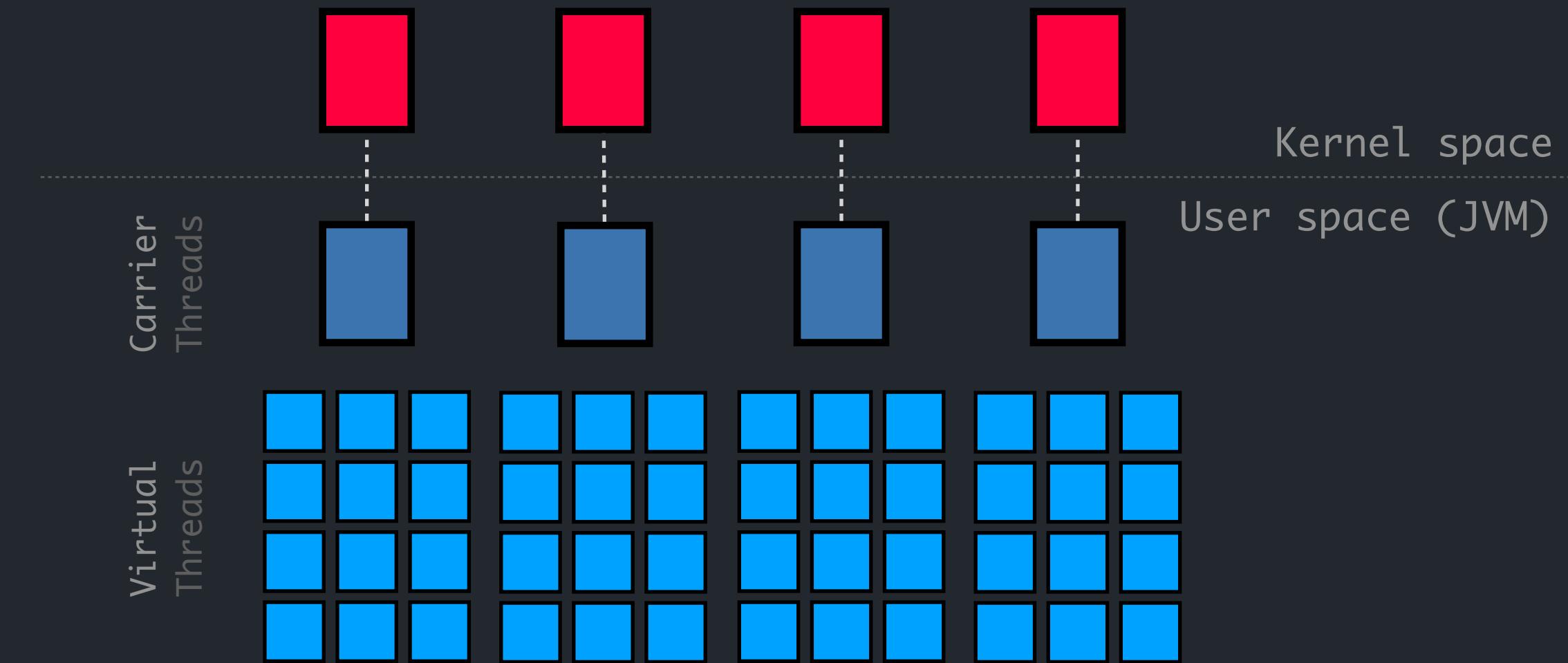
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## FORKJOINPOOL WITH FIFO ORDER

`-Djdk.virtualThreadScheduler.parallelism=16`

The number of platform threads available for scheduling virtual threads.  
It defaults to the number of available processors.

`-Djdk.virtualThreadScheduler.maxPoolSize=256`

The maximum number of platform threads available to the scheduler.  
It defaults to 256.

# JDK 21: THREADS

PLATFORM, VIRTUAL & CARRIER THREADS

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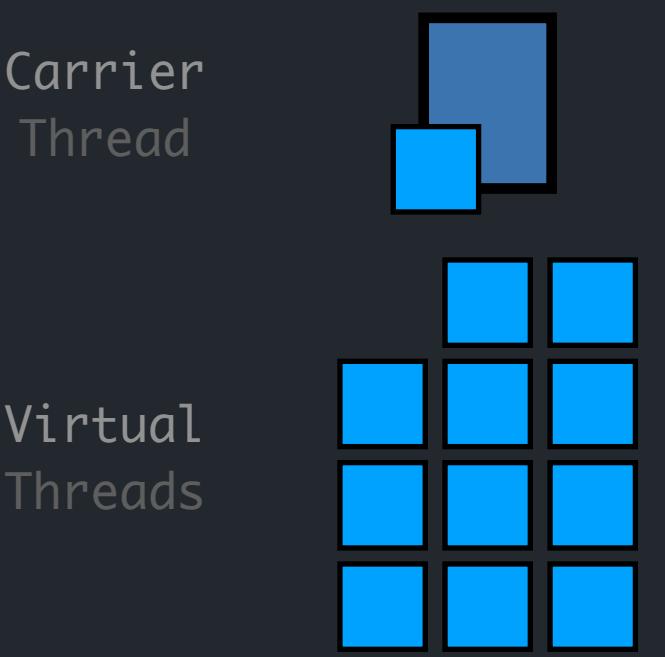
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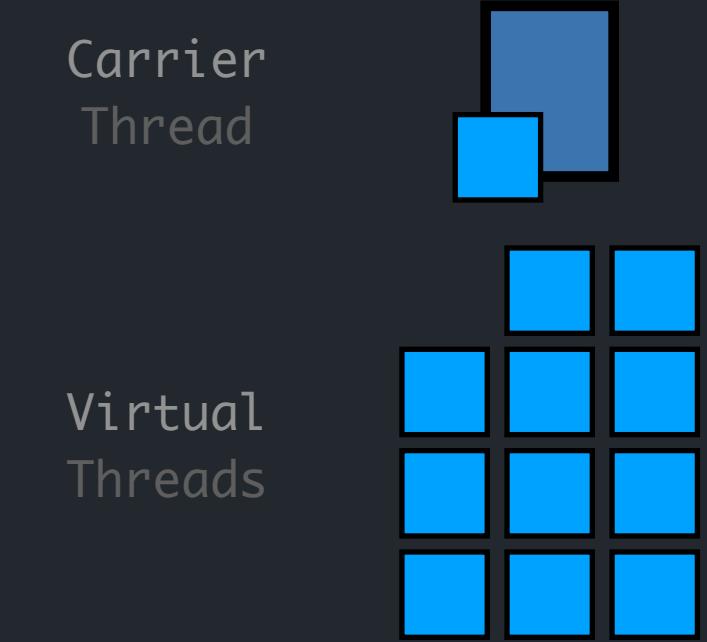
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  long result = 0;
  for (int i = 0; i < 100; ++i) {
    result += i * 3;
  }

  // some blocking (I/O bound) code
  HttpResponse<Void> resp = httpClient.send(HttpRequest.newBuilder()
    .uri(URI.create("https://myservice/test"))
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```

```
// more cpu bound code
if (resp.statusCode() != 200) {
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```

# JDK 21: THREADS

PLATFORM, VIRTUAL & CARRIER THREADS

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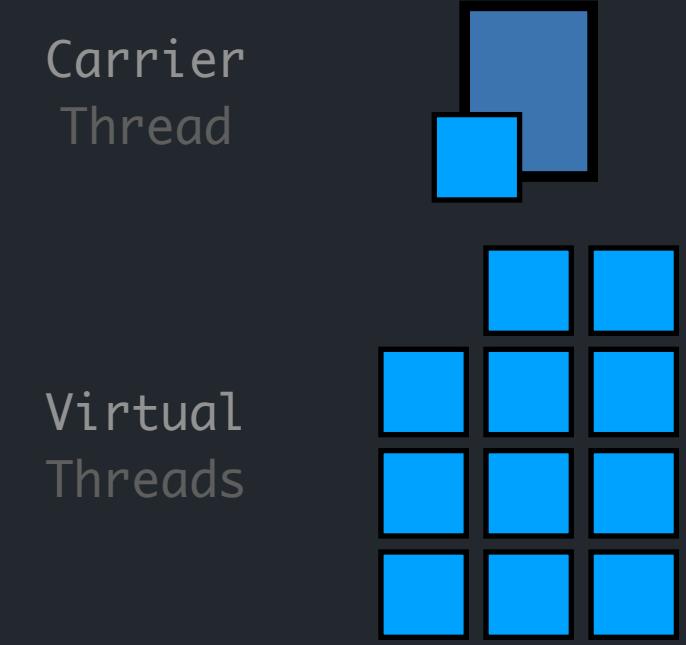
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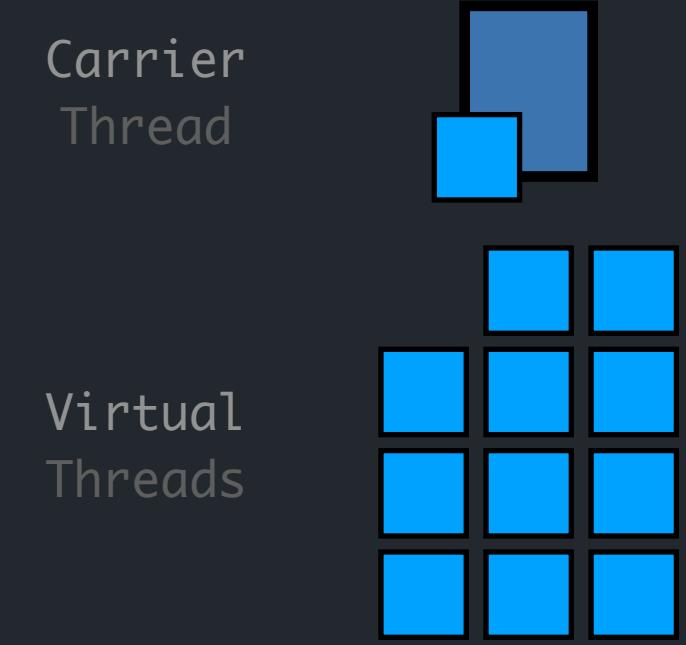
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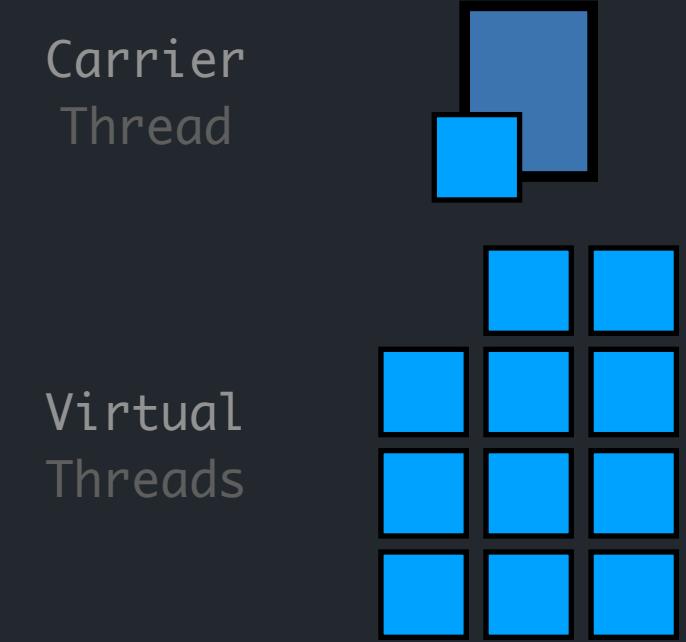
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PLATFORM, VIRTUAL & CARRIER THREADS

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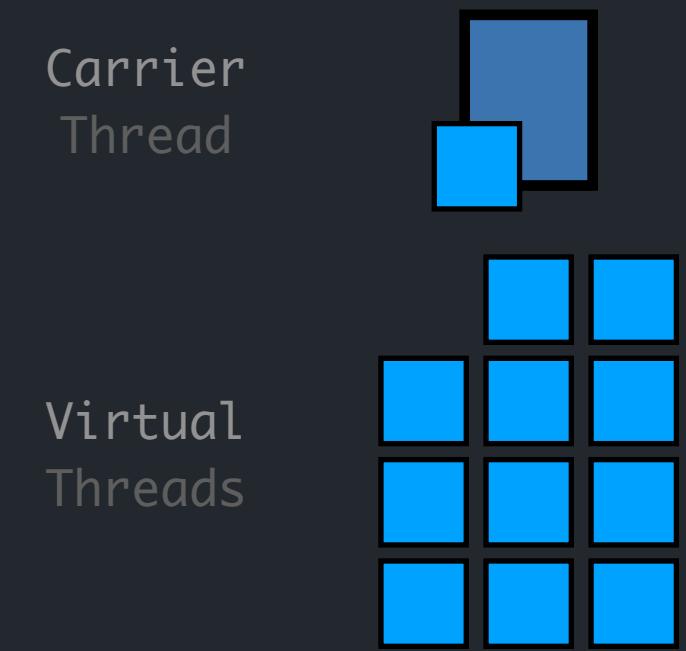
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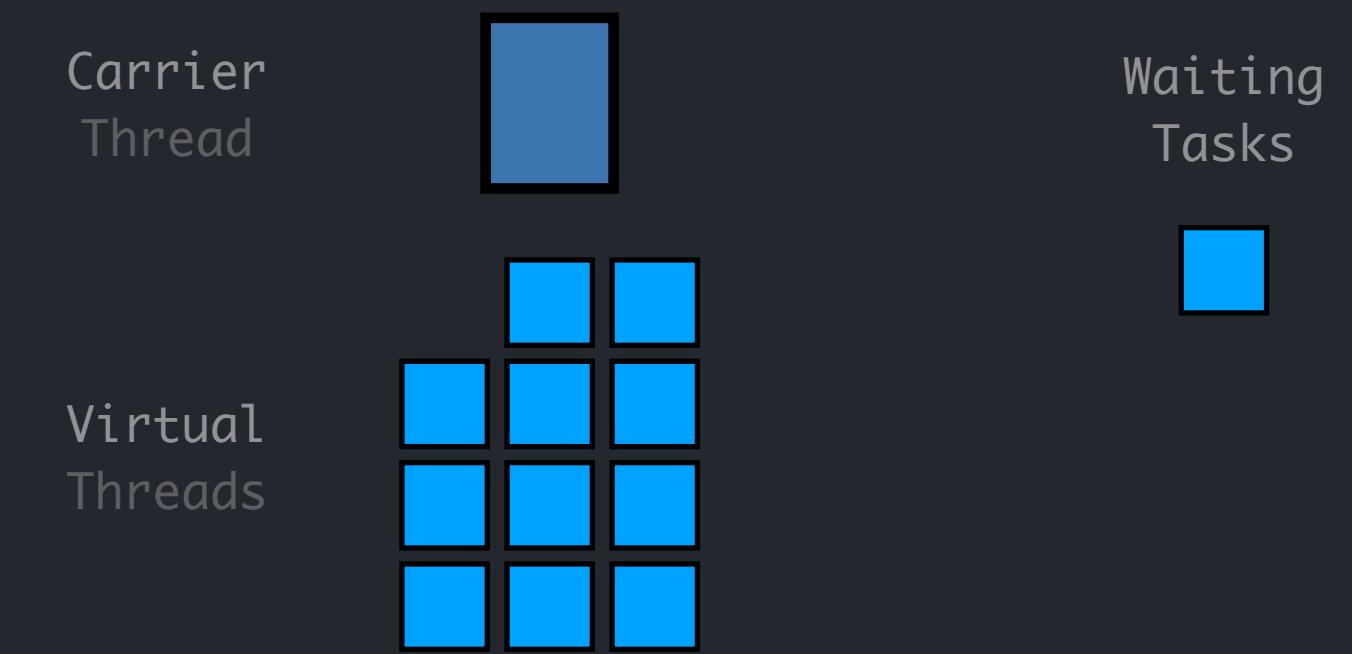
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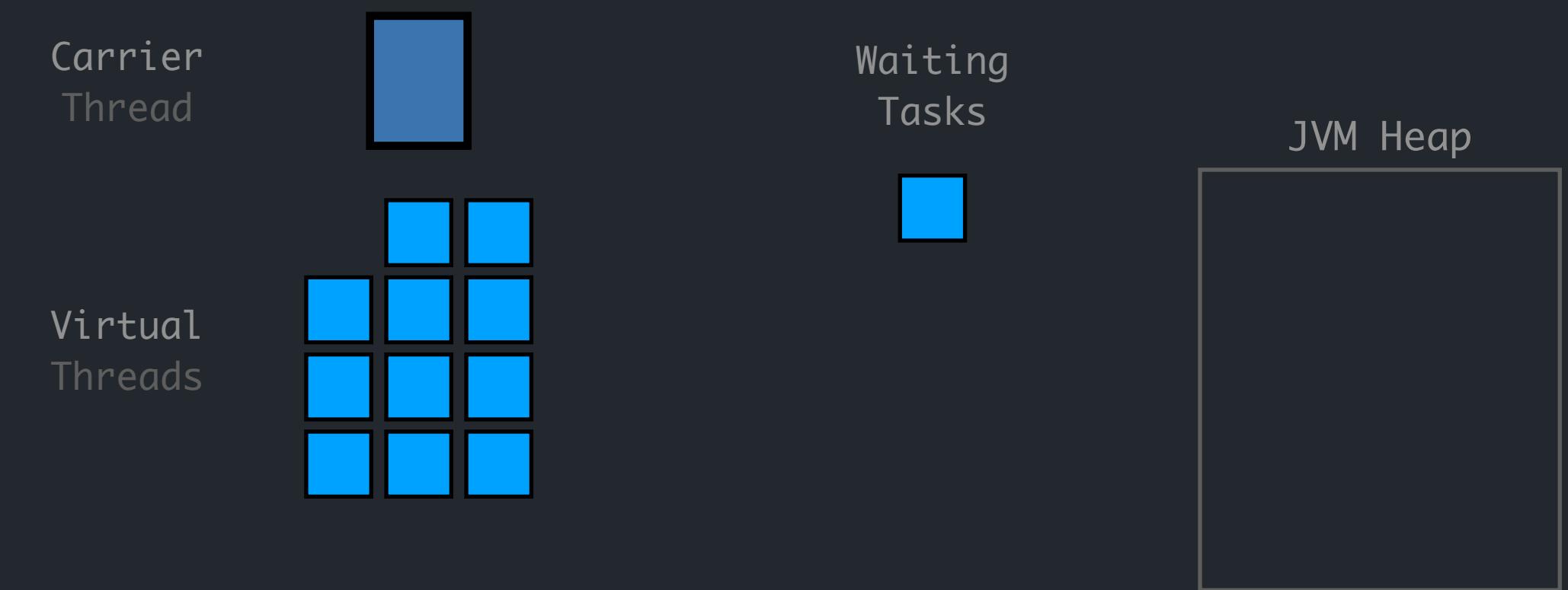
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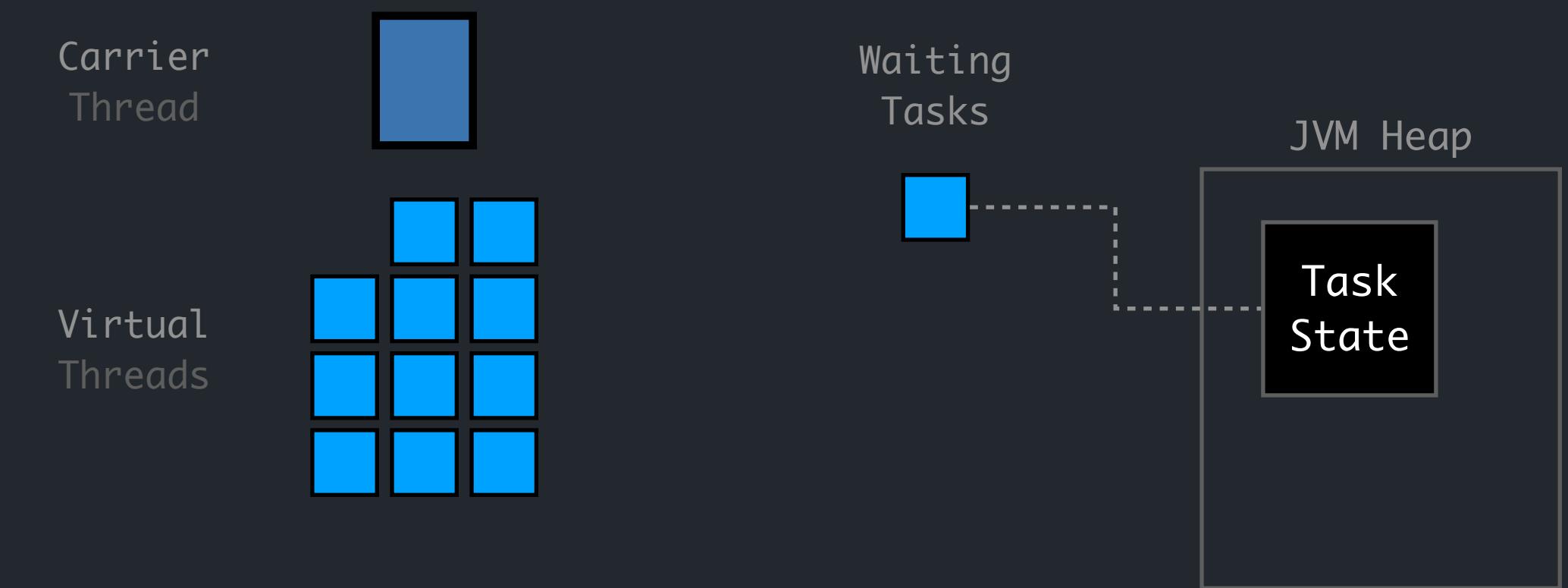
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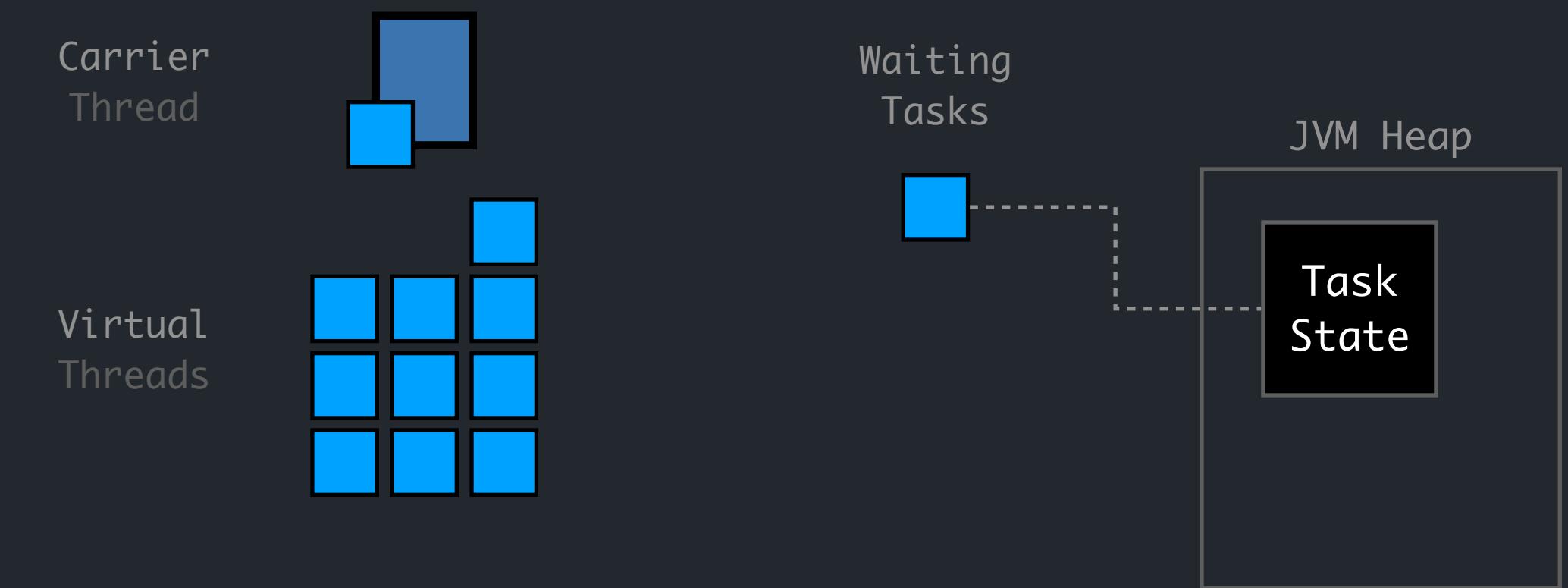
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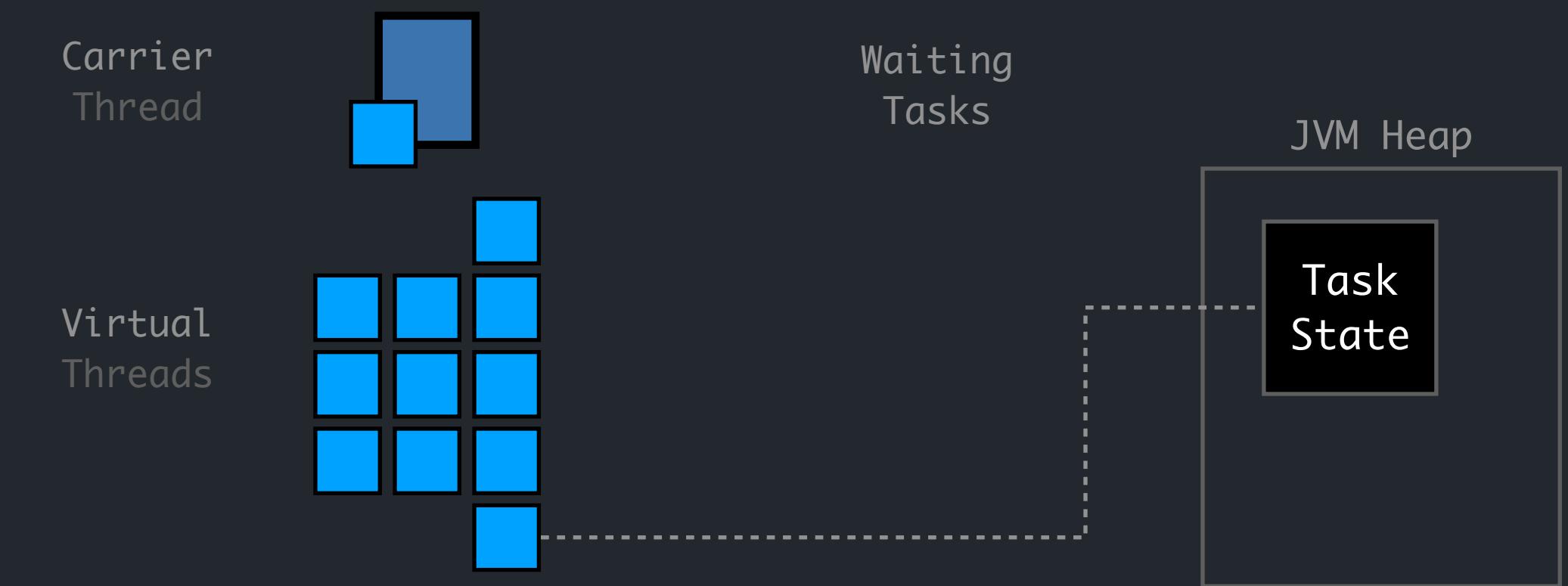
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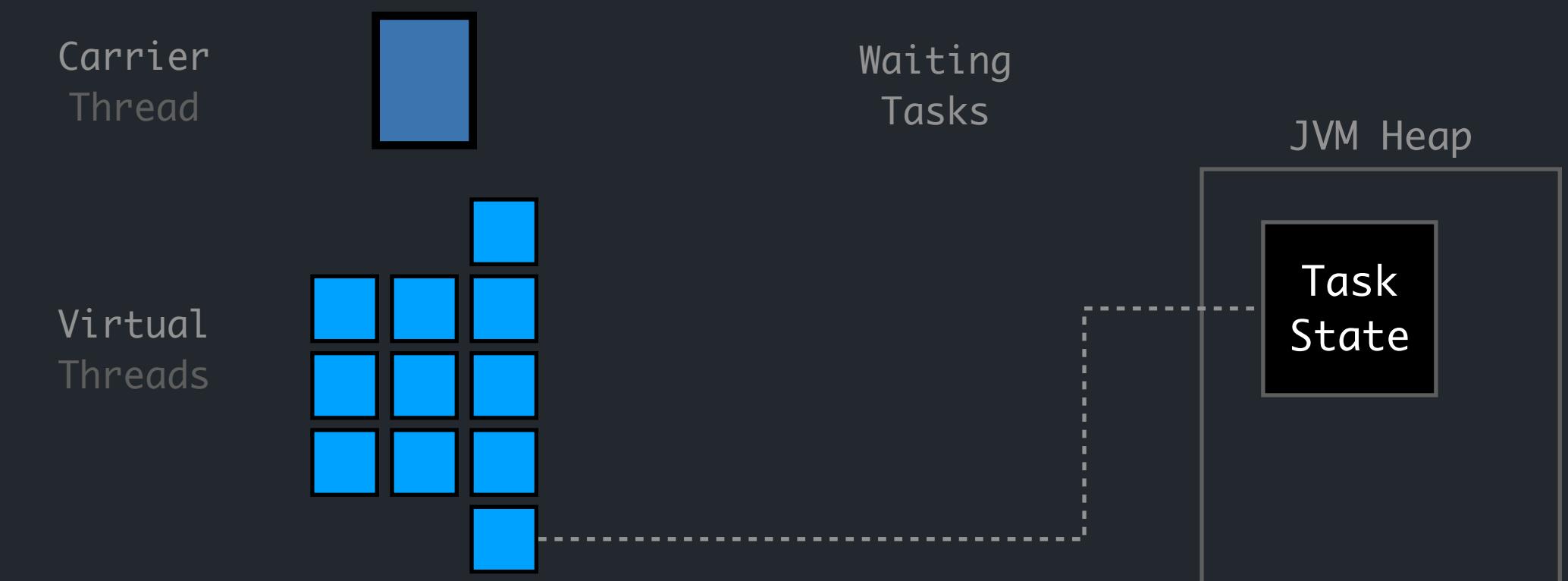
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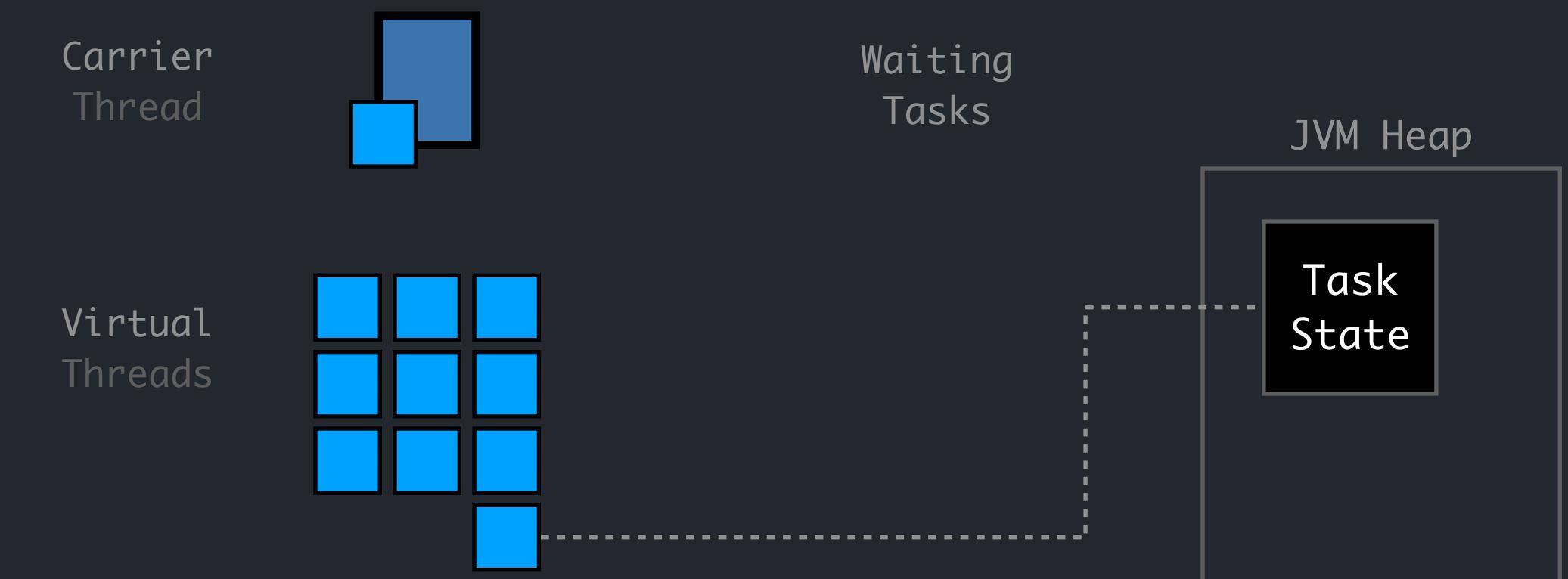
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# JDK 21: THREADS

PLATFORM, VIRTUAL & CARRIER THREADS

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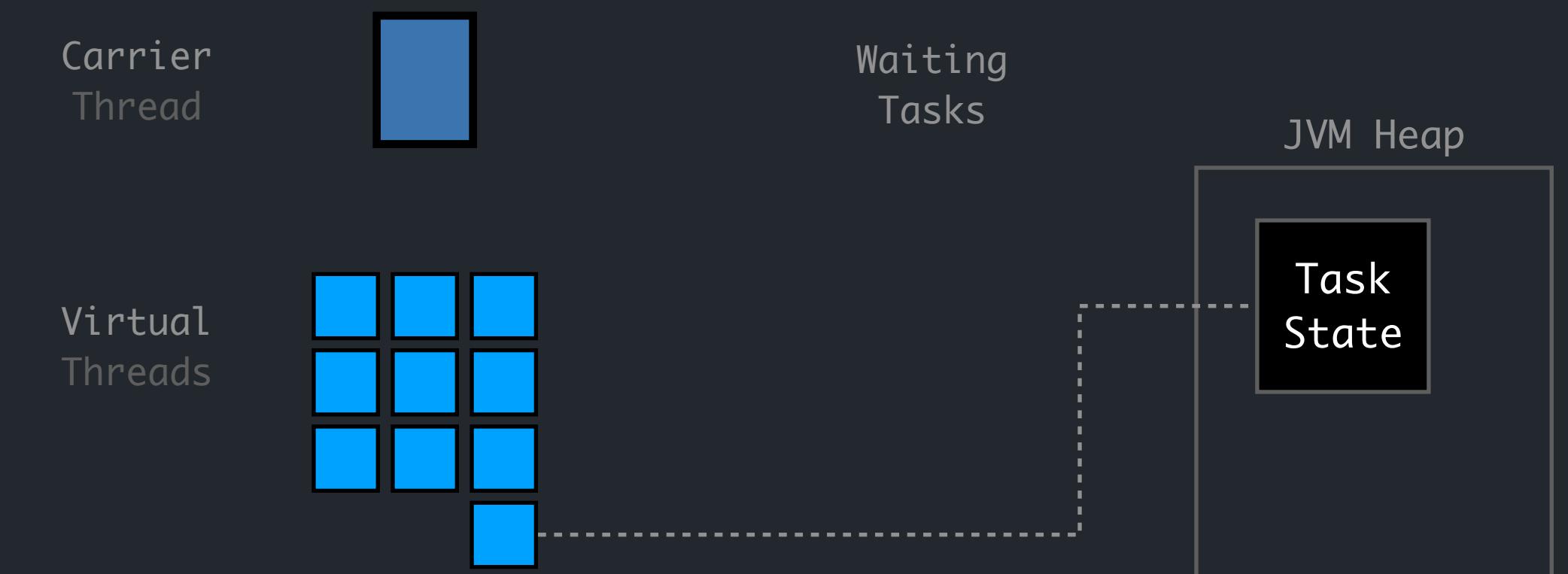
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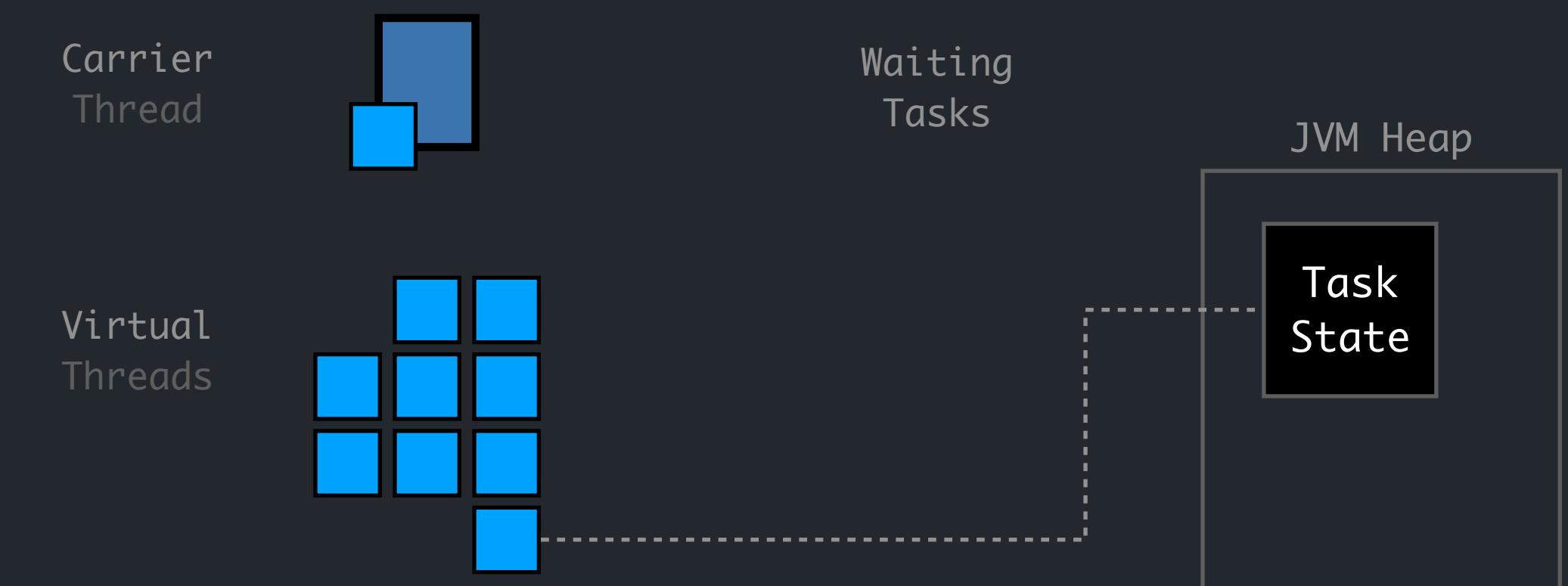
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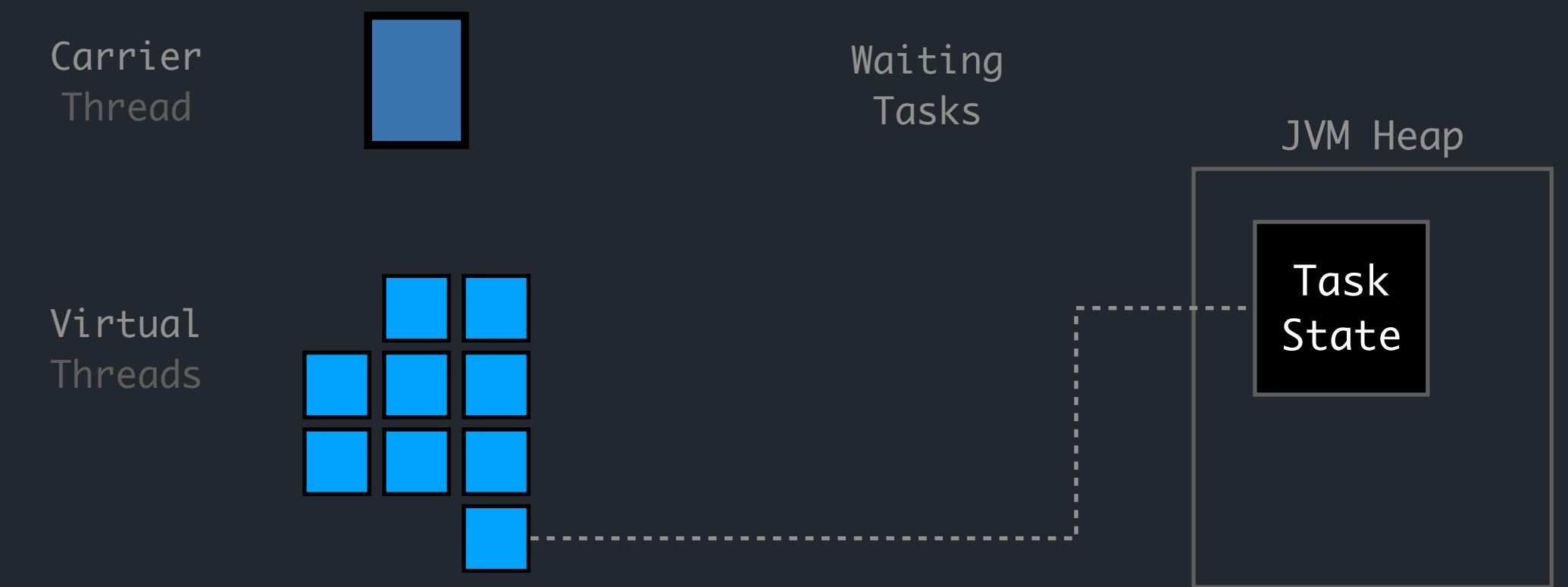
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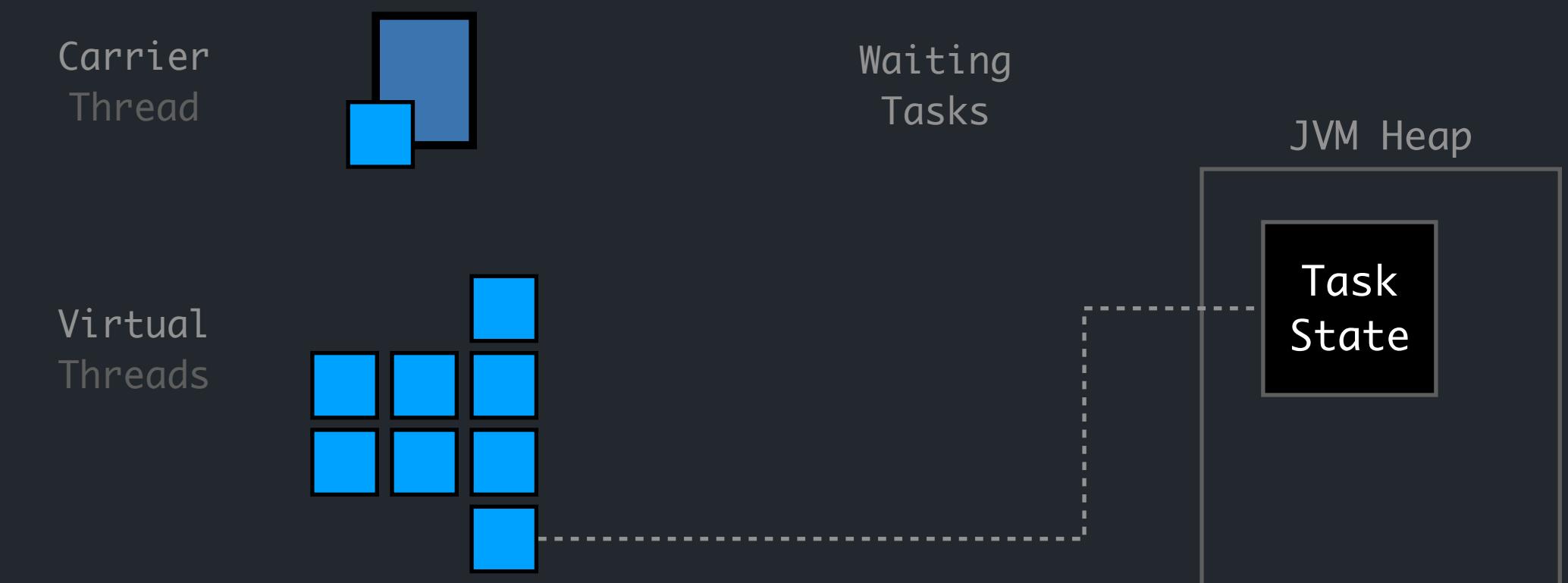
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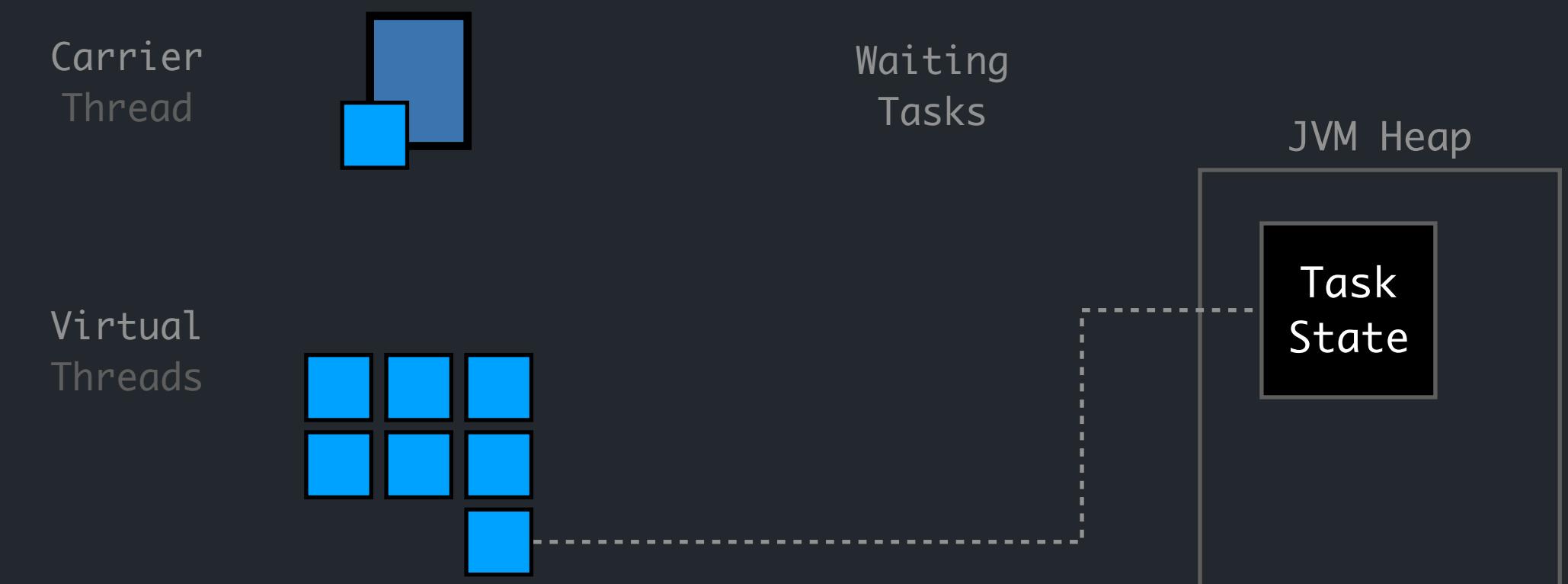
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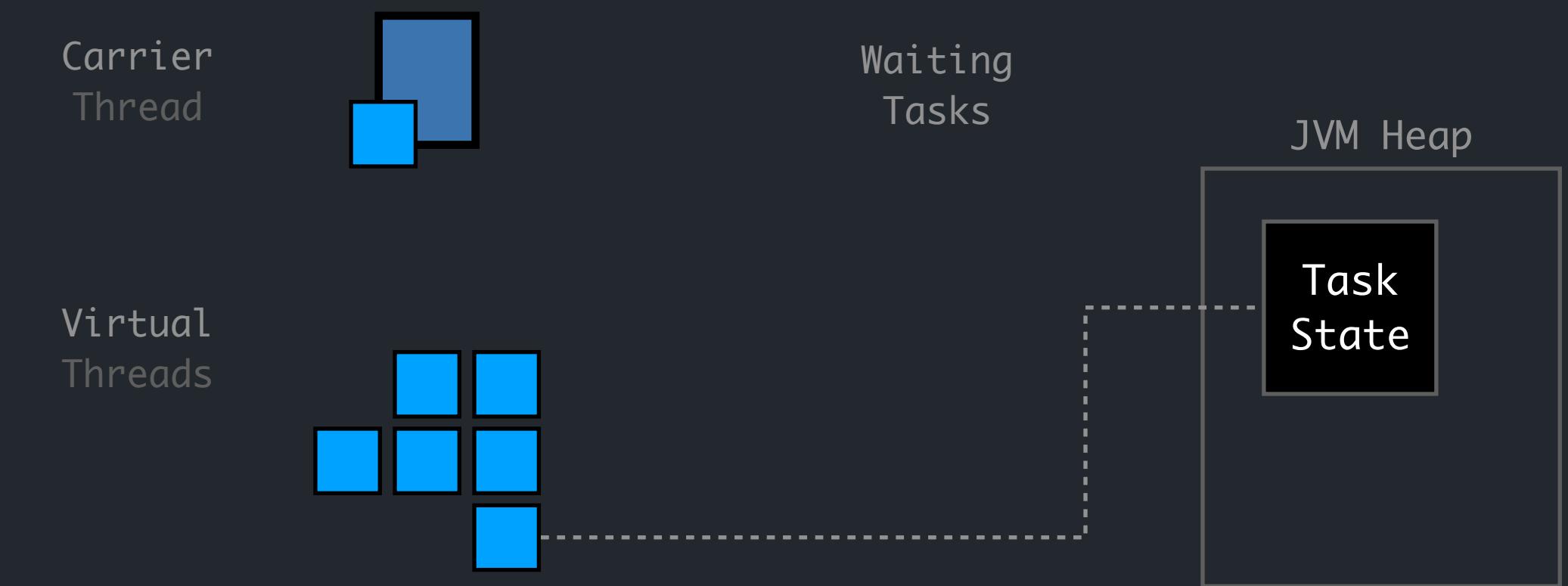
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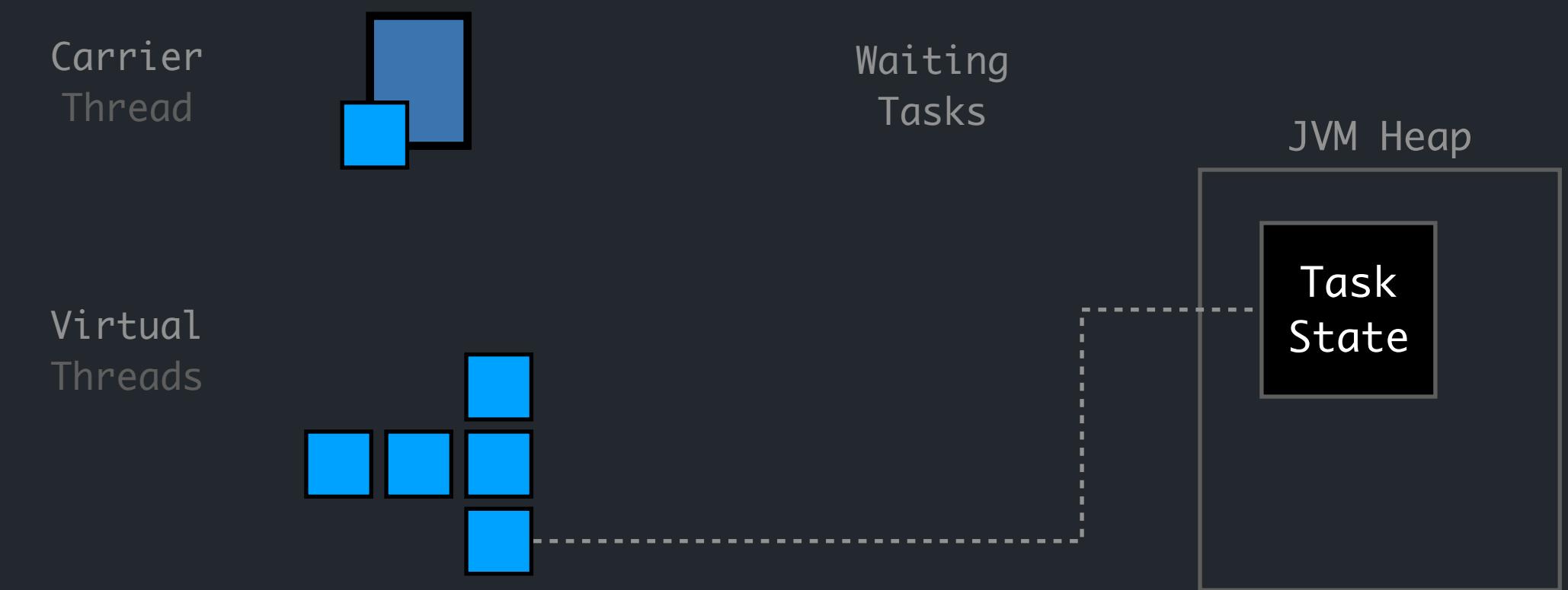
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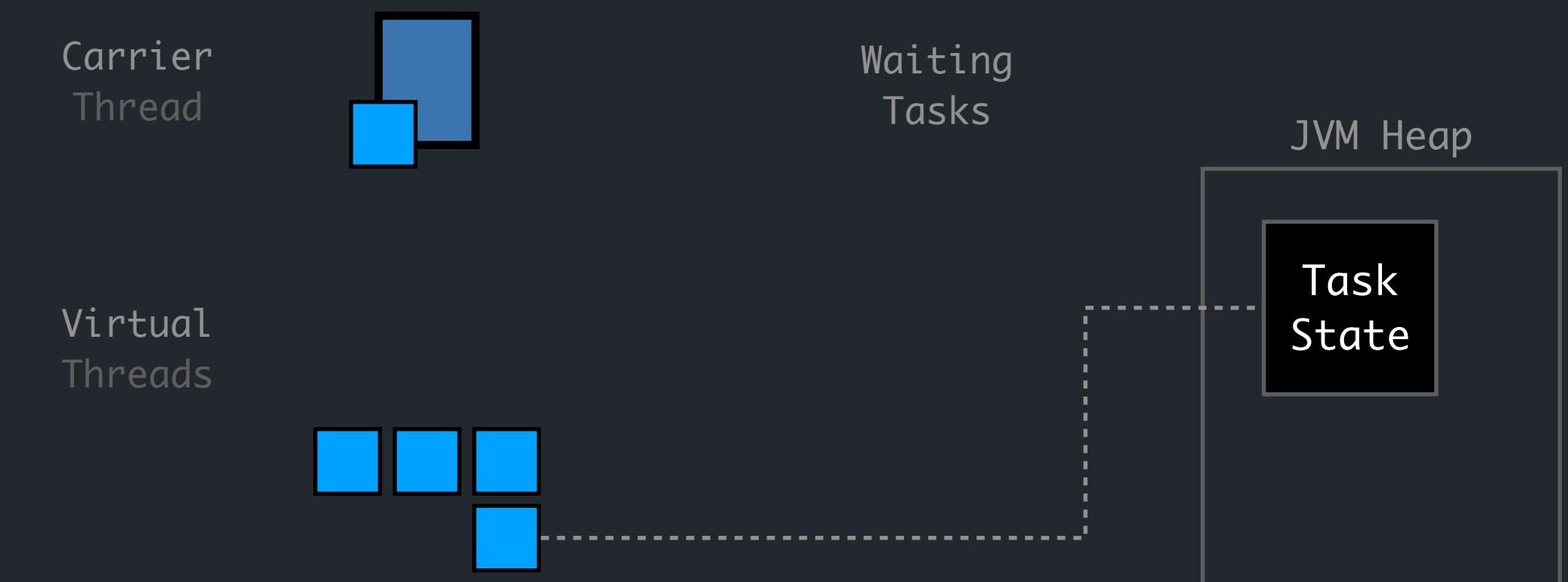
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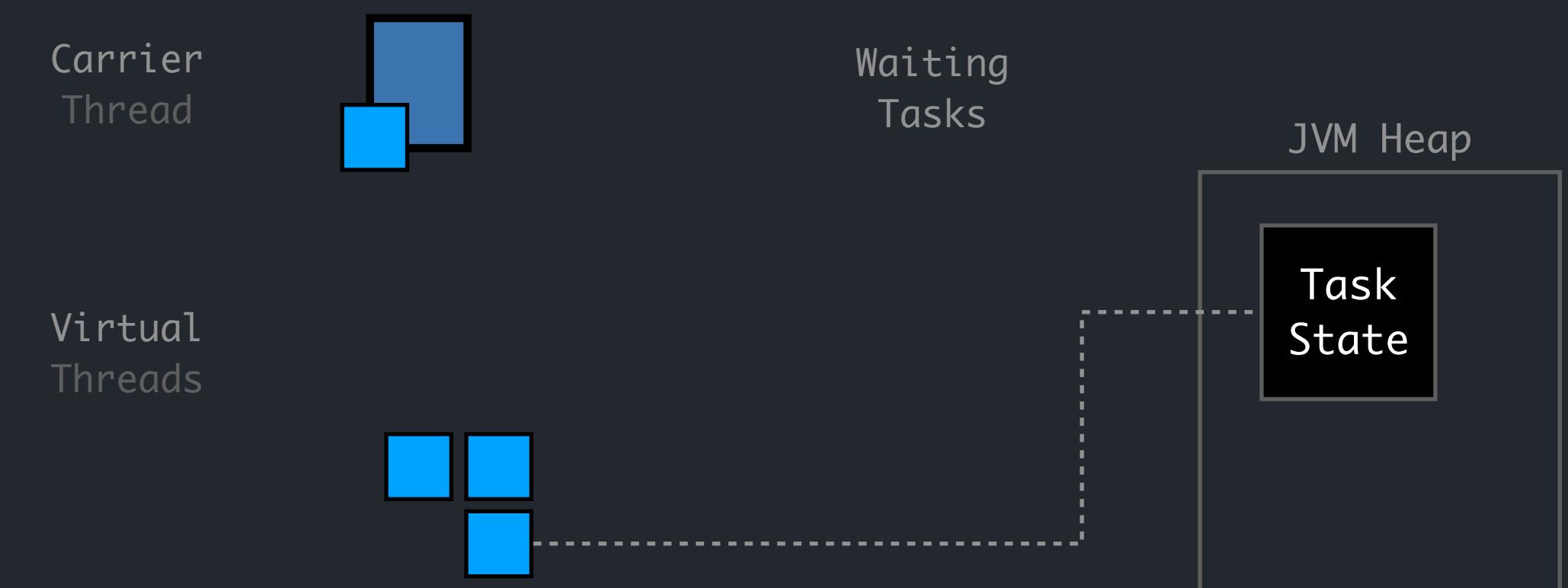
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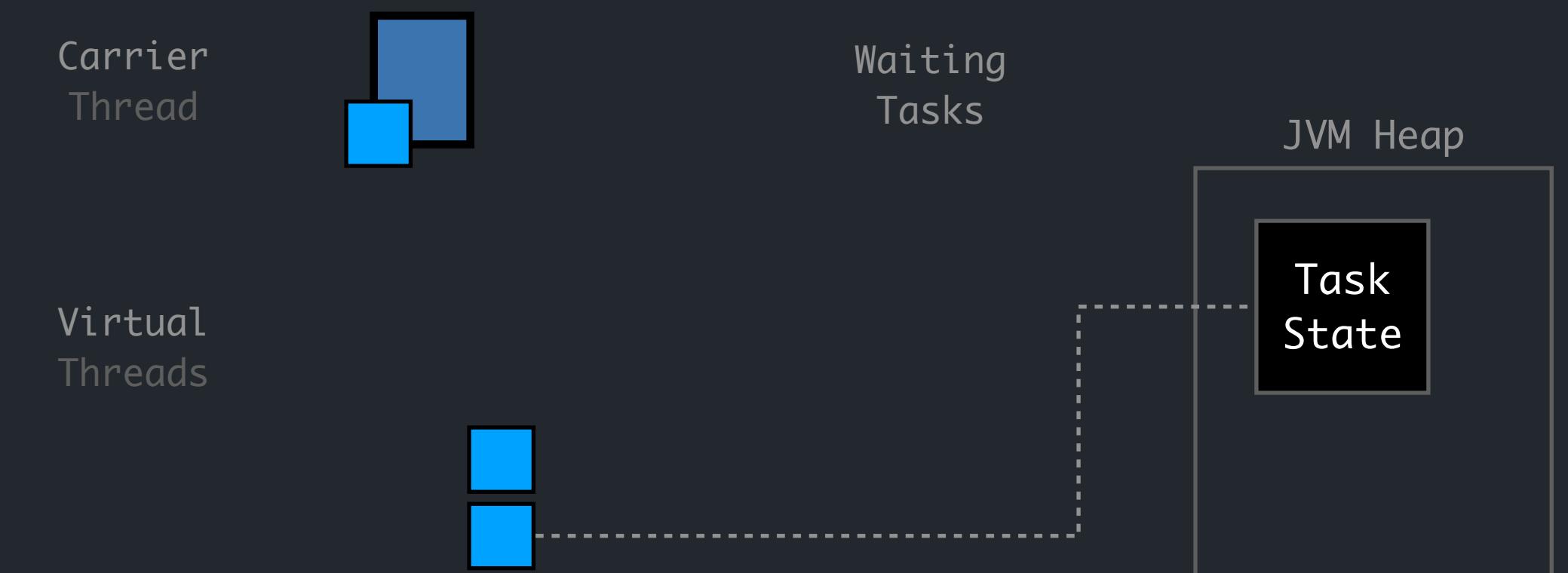
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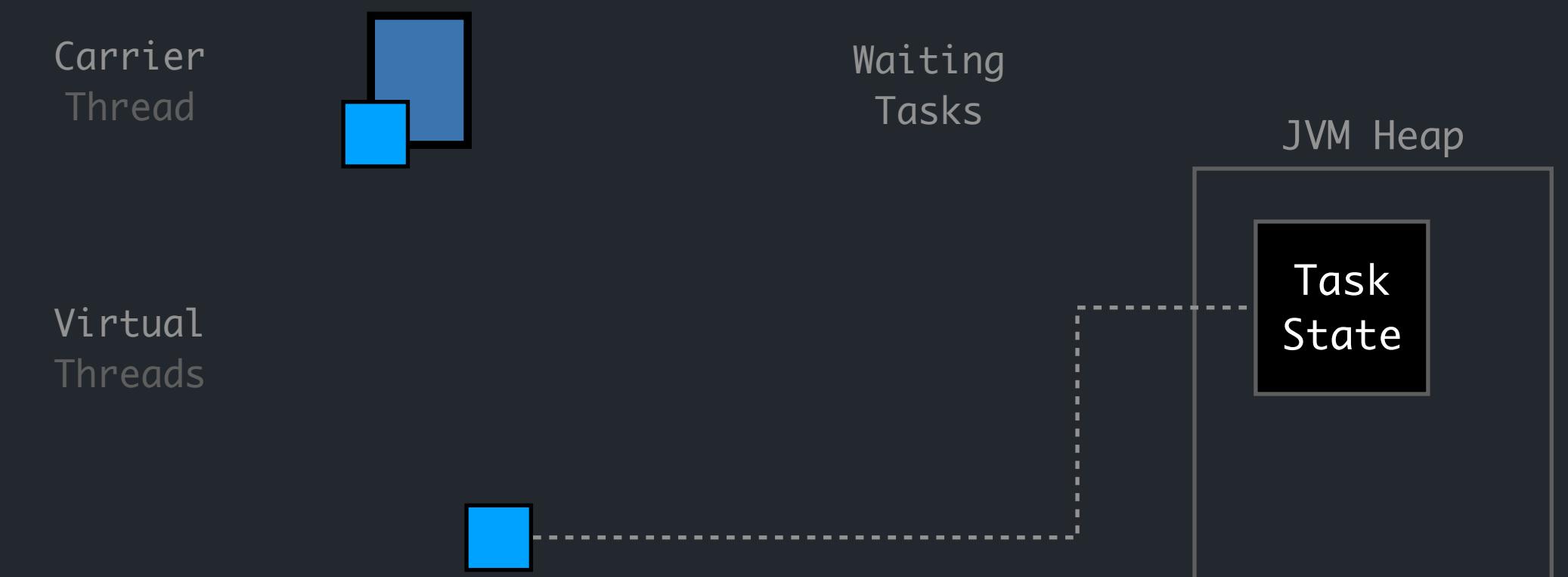
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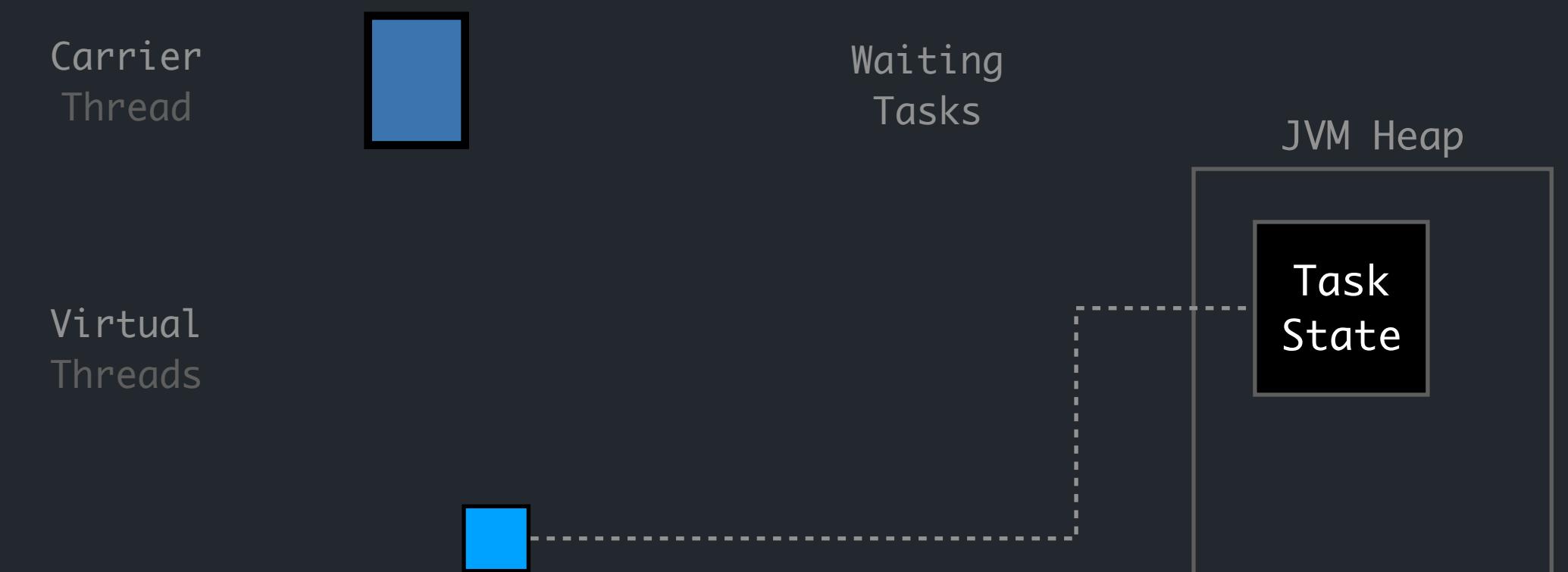
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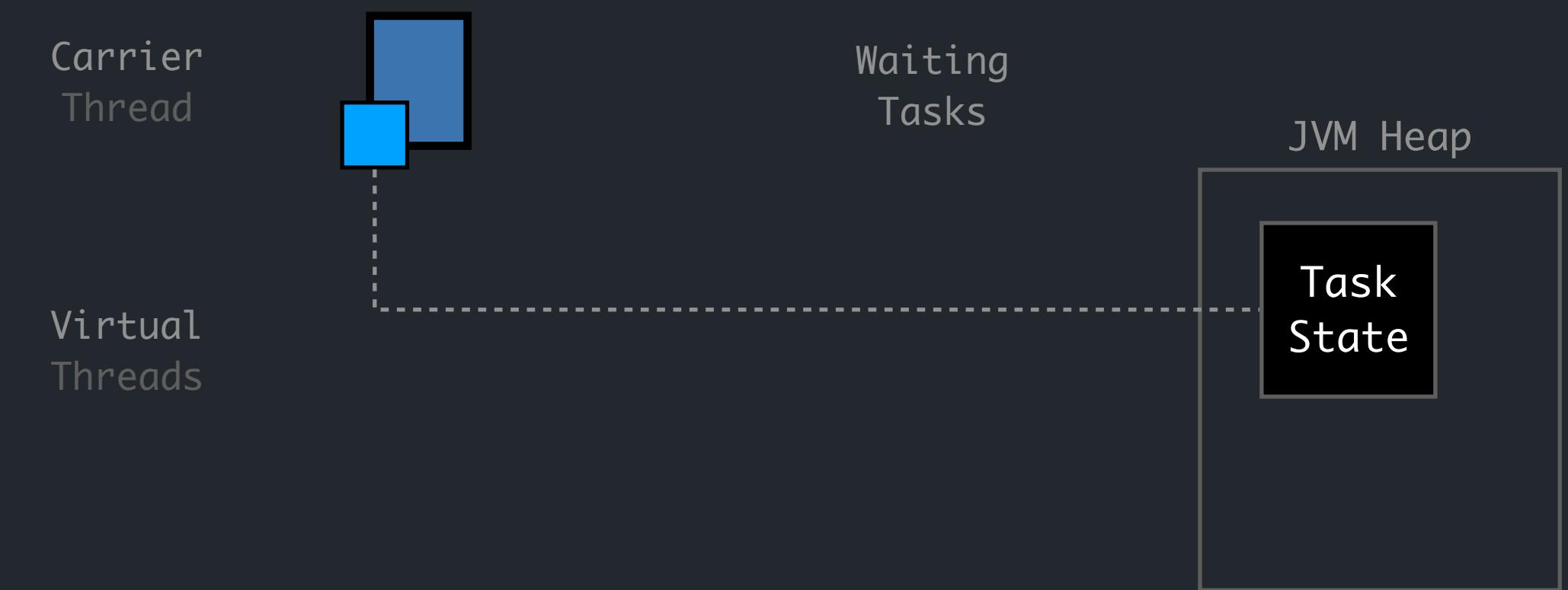
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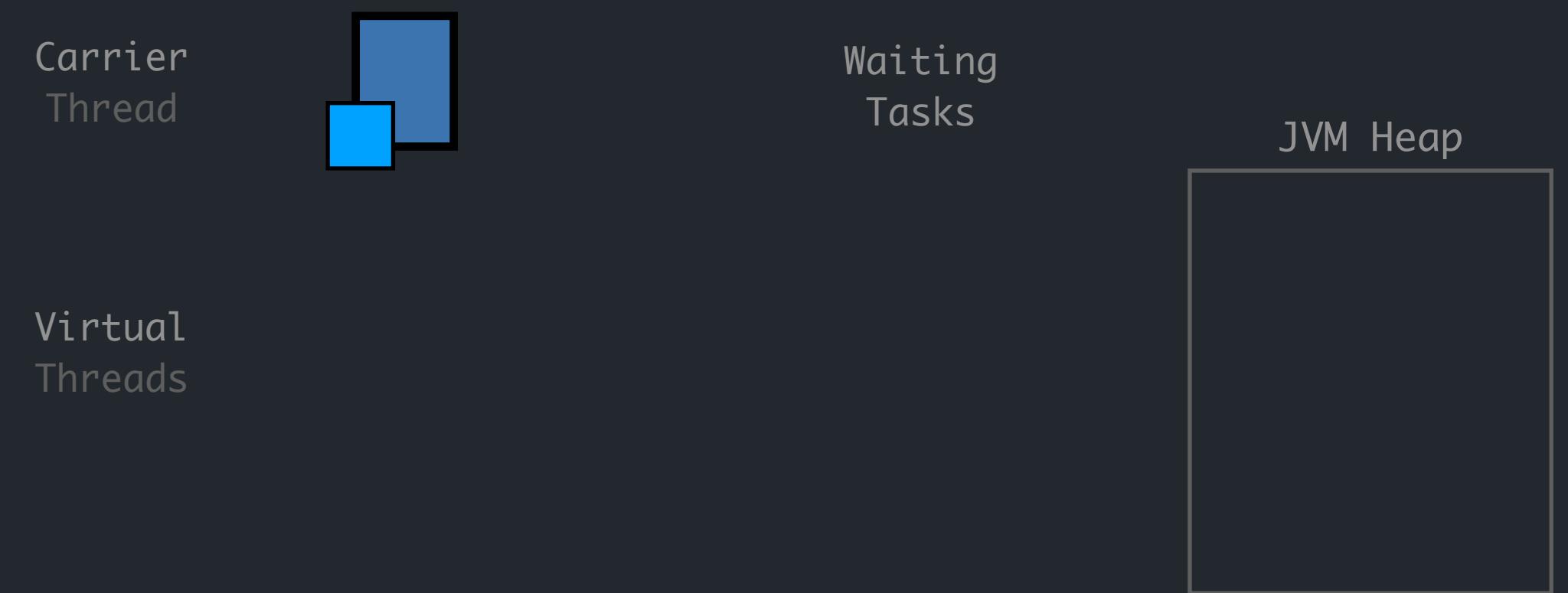
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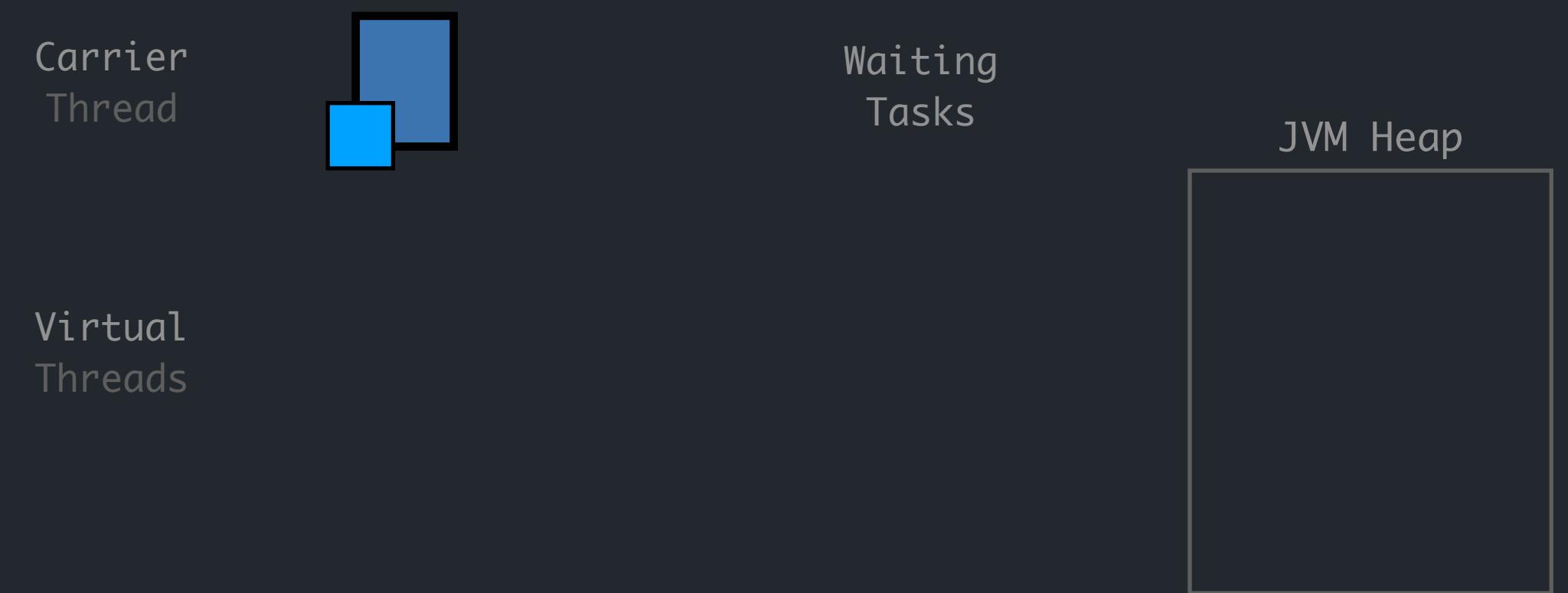
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public void myTask() {  
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    cpuBoundOperations(); // run on CarrierThread-5  
    ioBoundOperations(); // goes to "waiting"  
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ScopedValues, the better alternative to ThreadLocal  
ScopedValue<MyObject> SHARED\_OBJECT = ScopedValue.newInstance();  
are only available as preview (in JDK 21)

# CODE EXAMPLES

LET'S SEE HOW VIRTUAL THREADS BEHAVES

# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

## I/O BOUND TASKS

```
private static long ioBoundTask() {
    try {
        // calls a service that waits 5sec before responding...
        final HttpResponse<Void> resp = httpClient.send(HttpRequest.newBuilder()
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        // ...
        return resp.statusCode();
    } catch (final Exception e) {
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We are using the synchronous `.send()`

No callbacks, futures & co

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```
// Run with -Djdk.virtualThreadScheduler.parallelism=1
final long startTime = System.nanoTime();
try (ExecutorService executor = Executors.newVirtualThreadPerTaskExecutor()) {
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i) {
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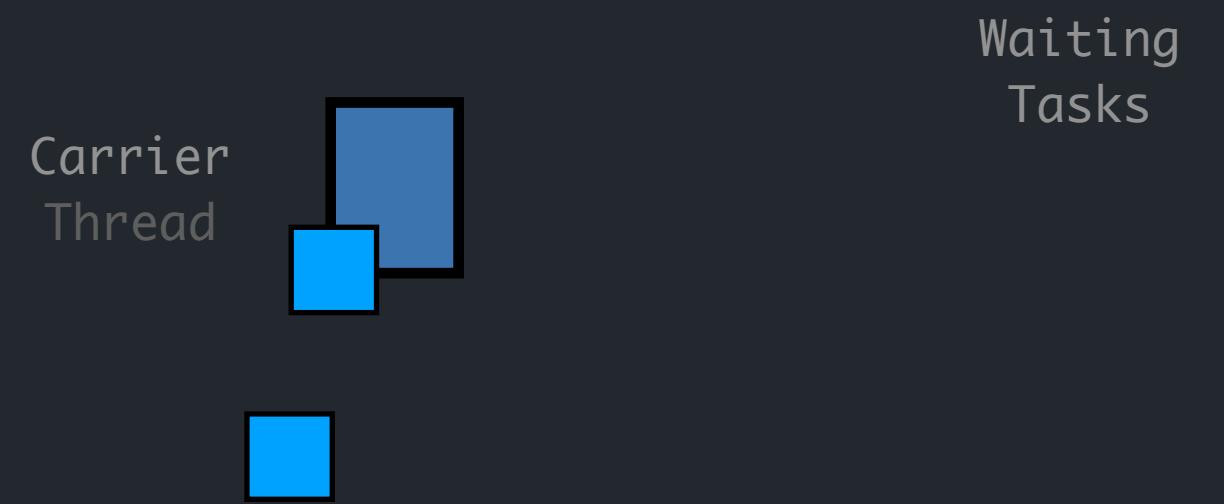


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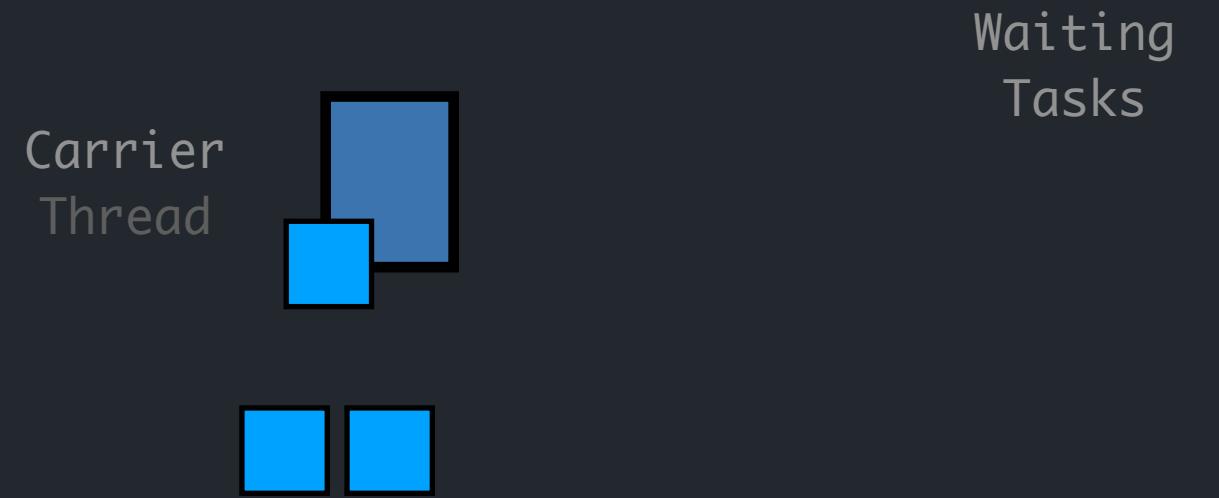


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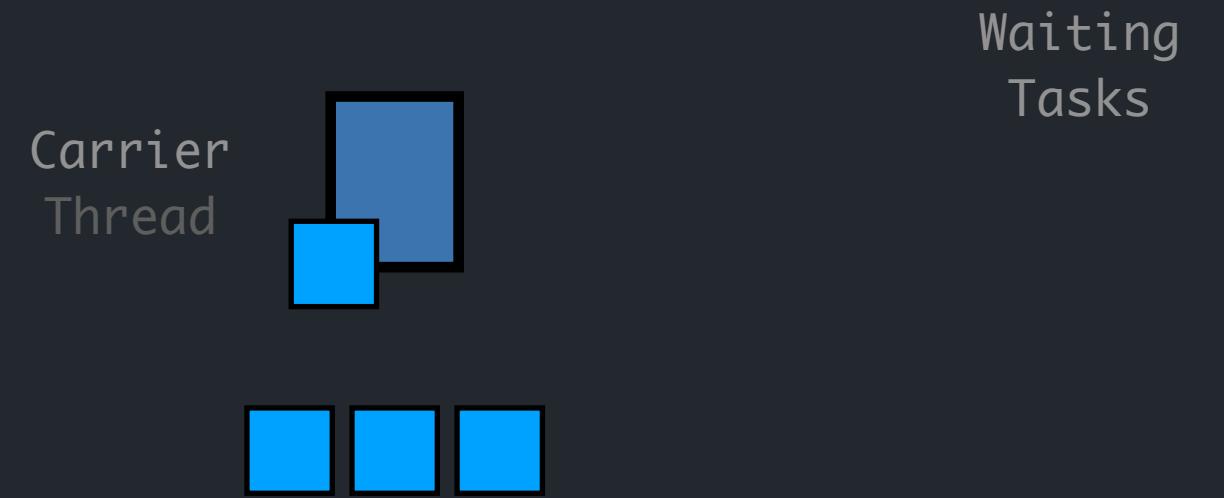


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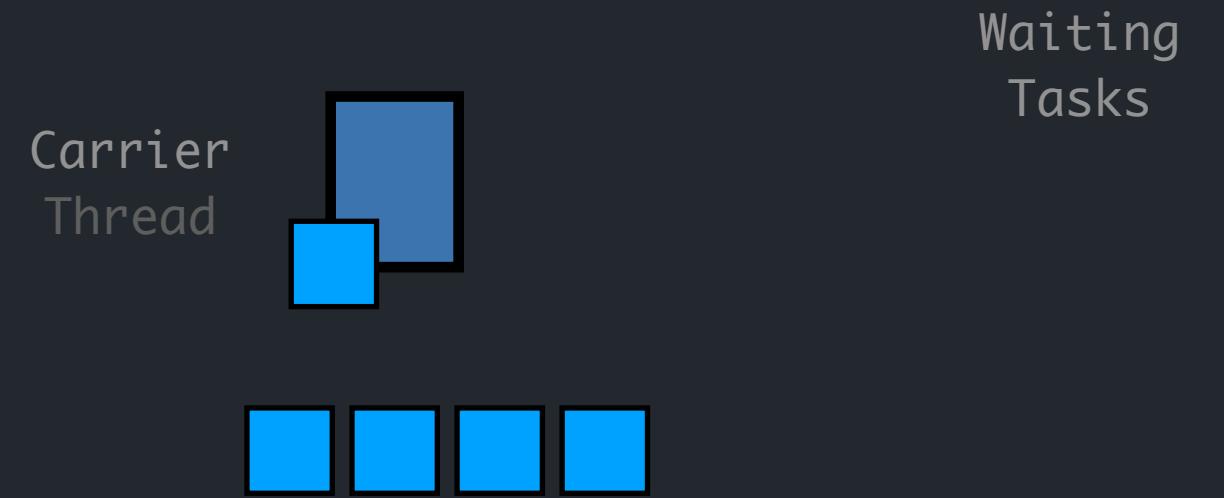


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# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

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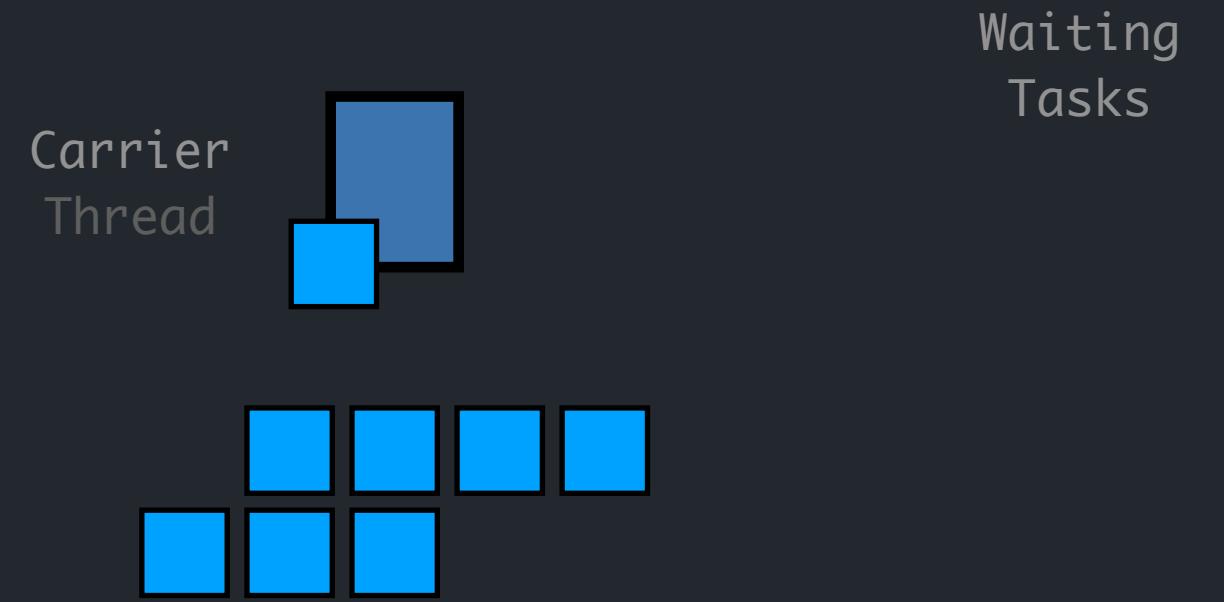


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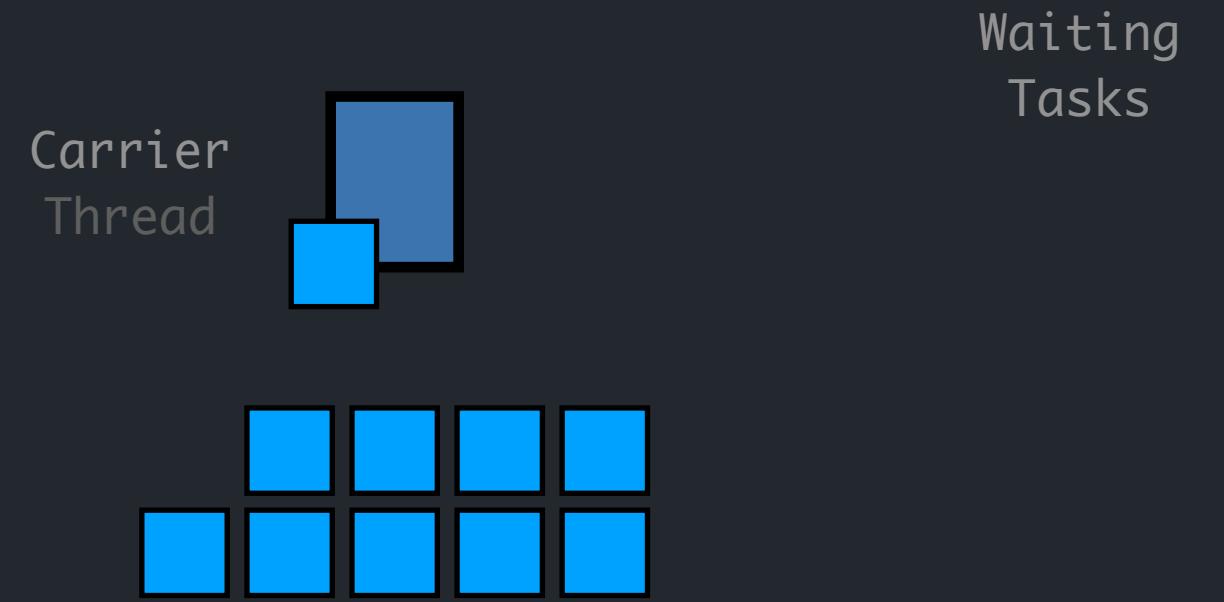


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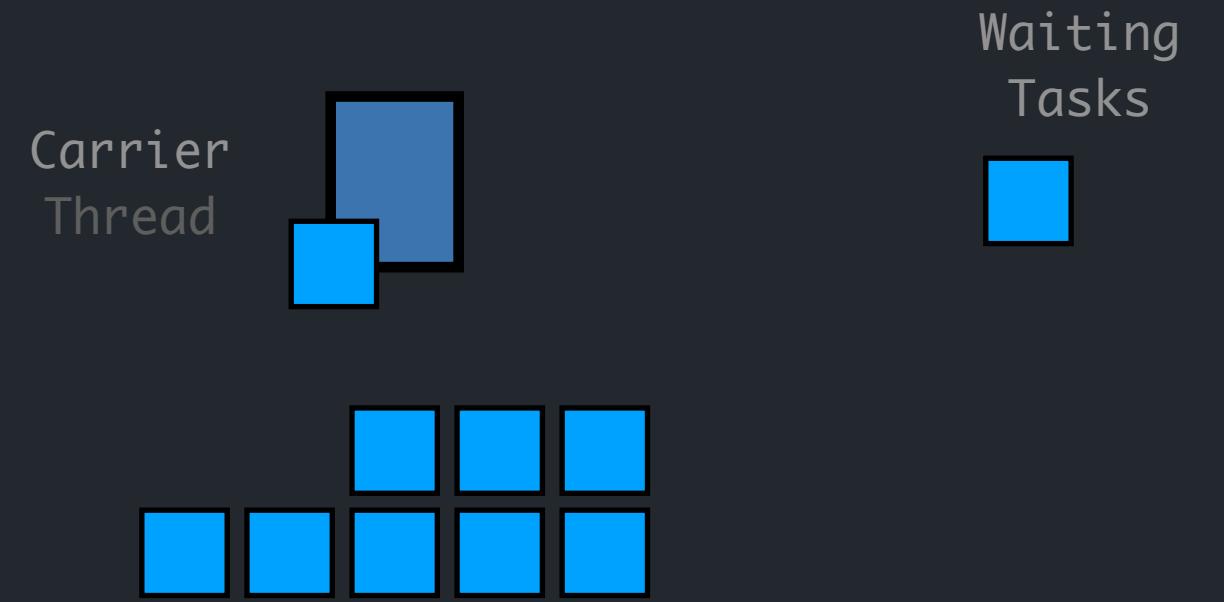


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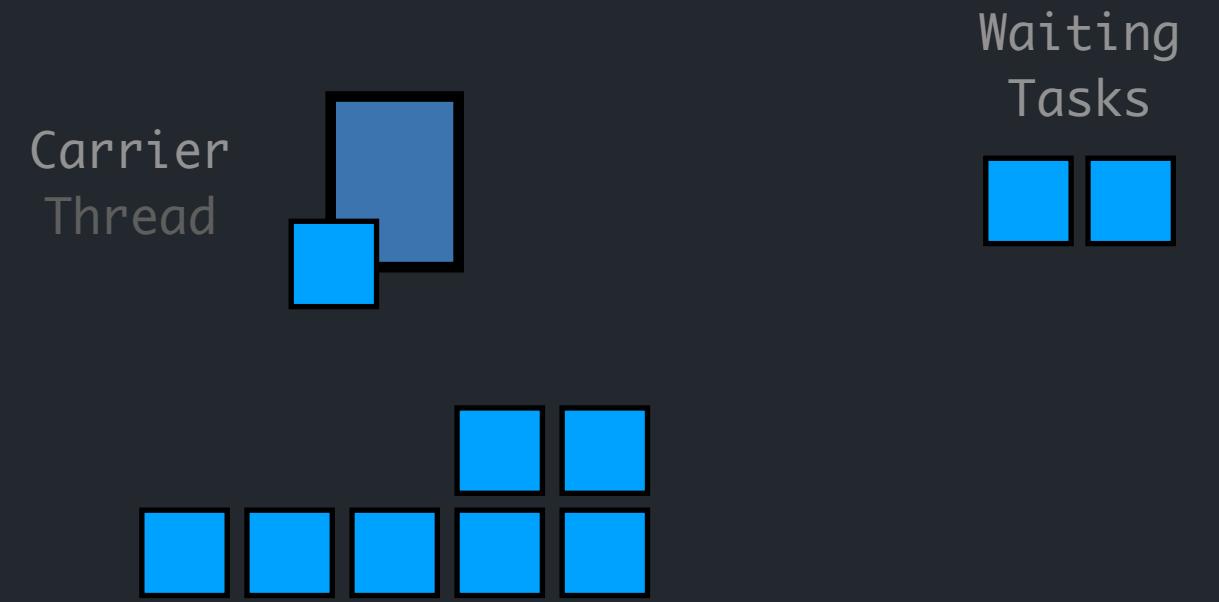


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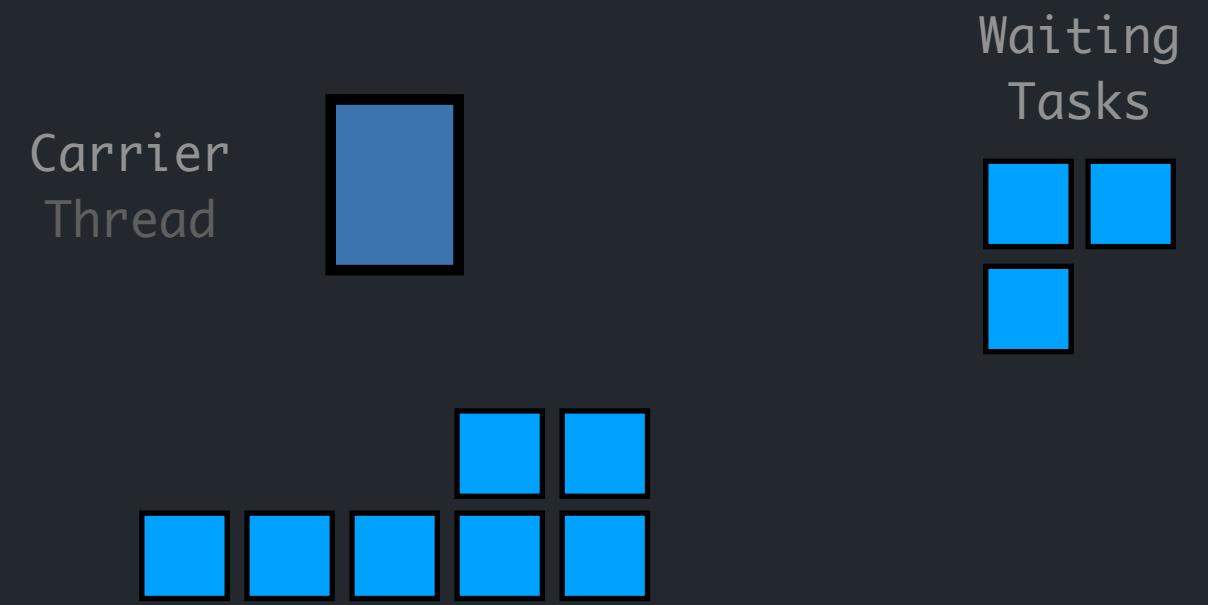


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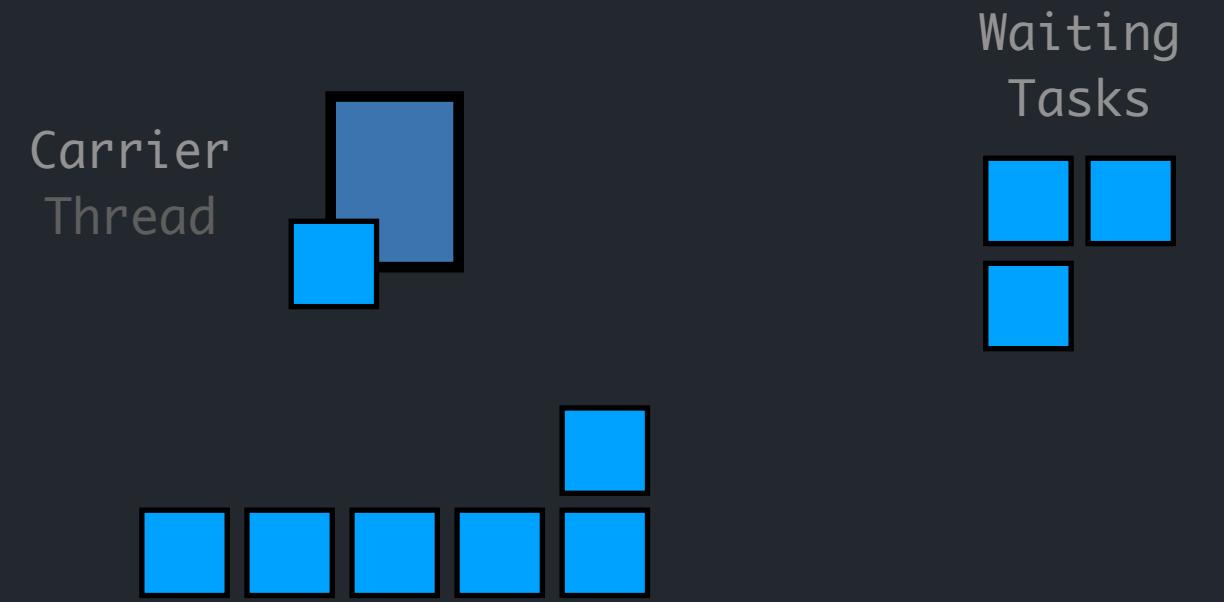


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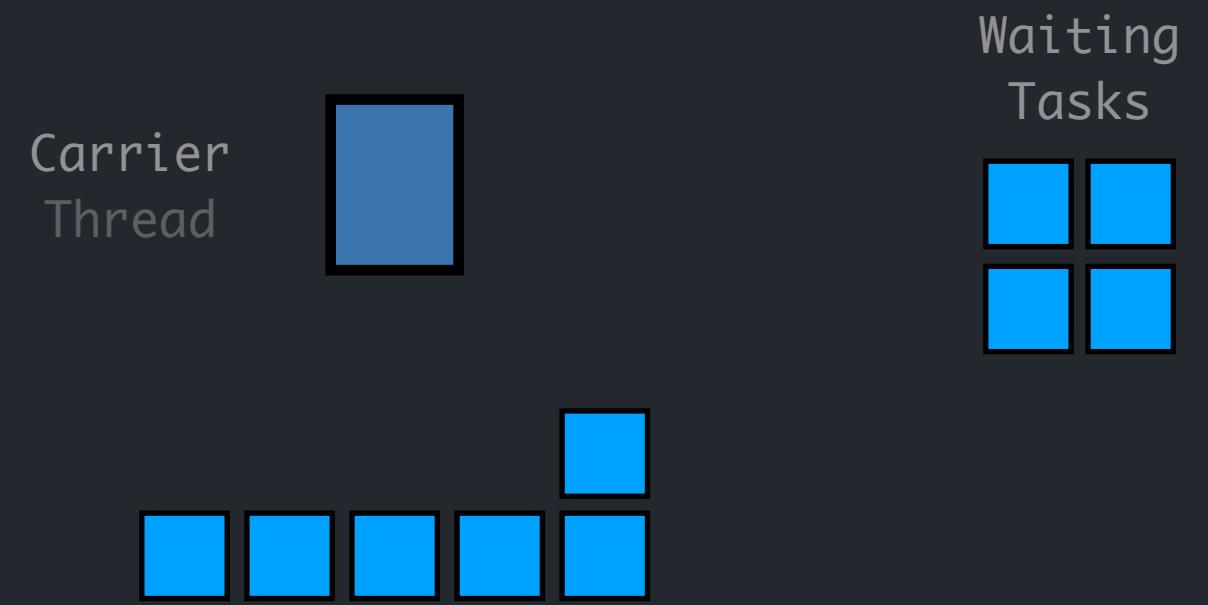


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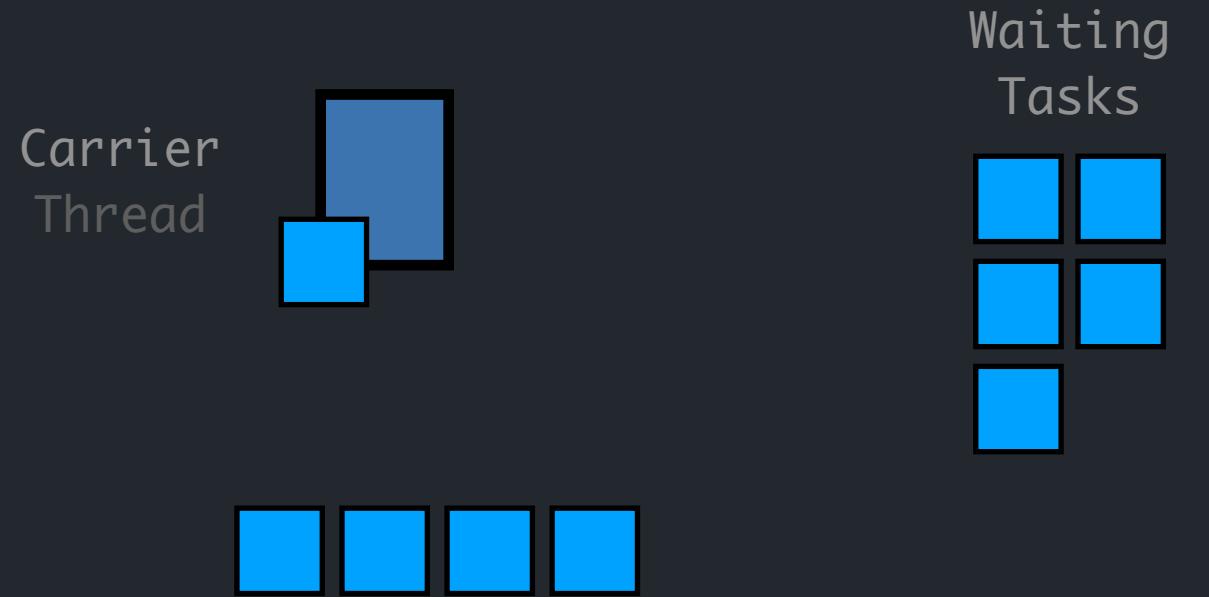


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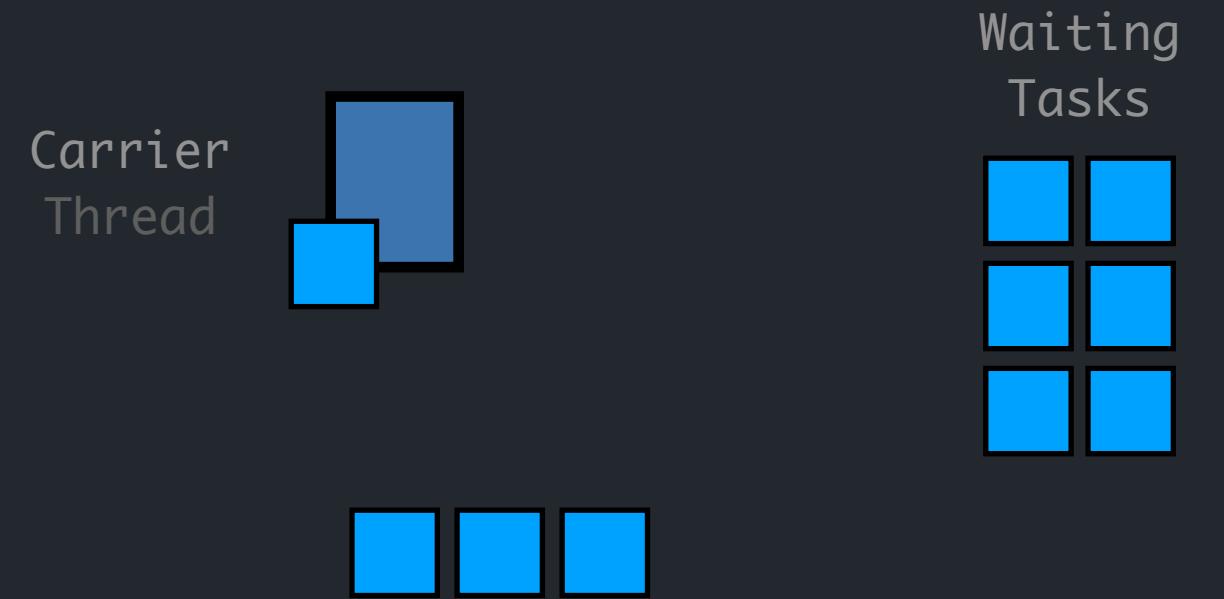


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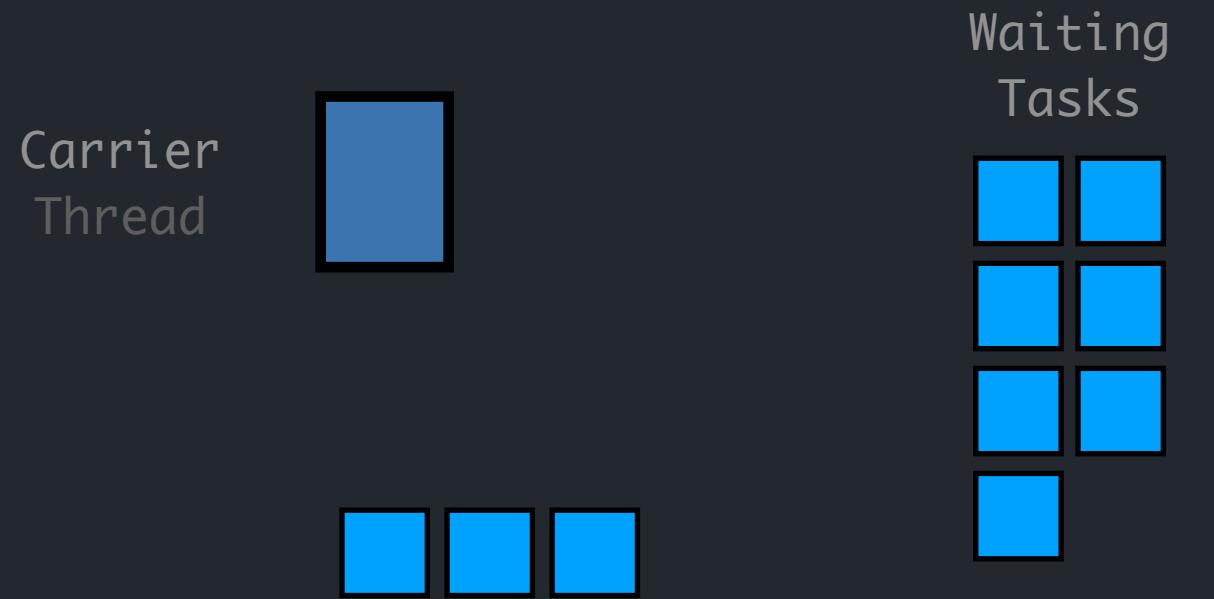


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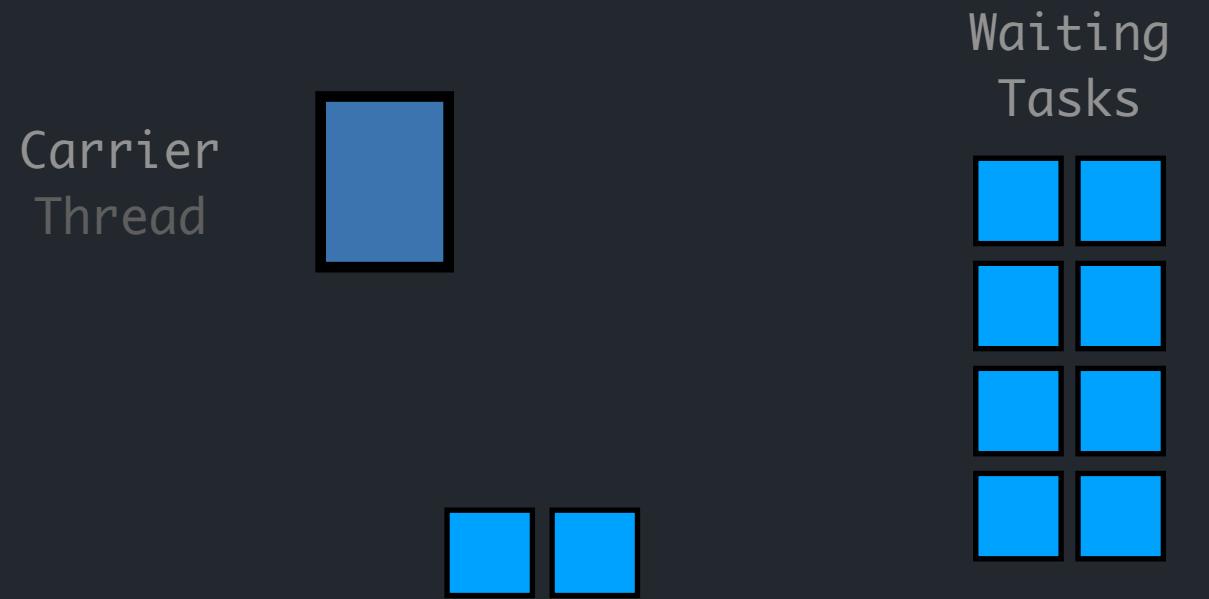


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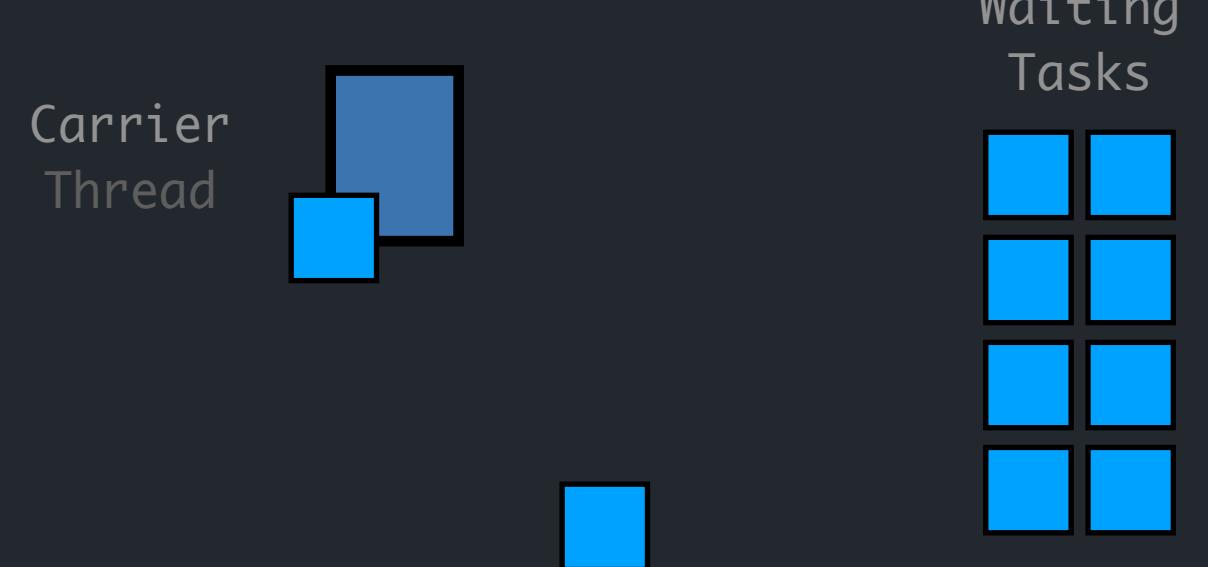


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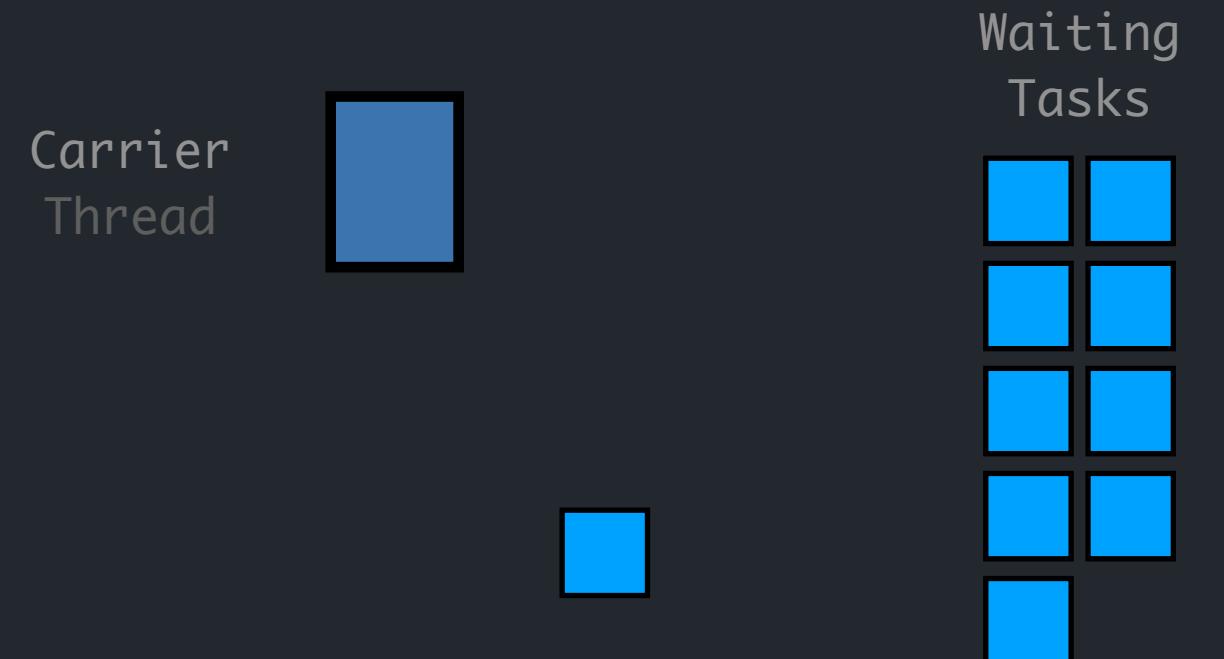


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# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

## I/O BOUND TASKS

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Carrier Thread



Waiting Tasks



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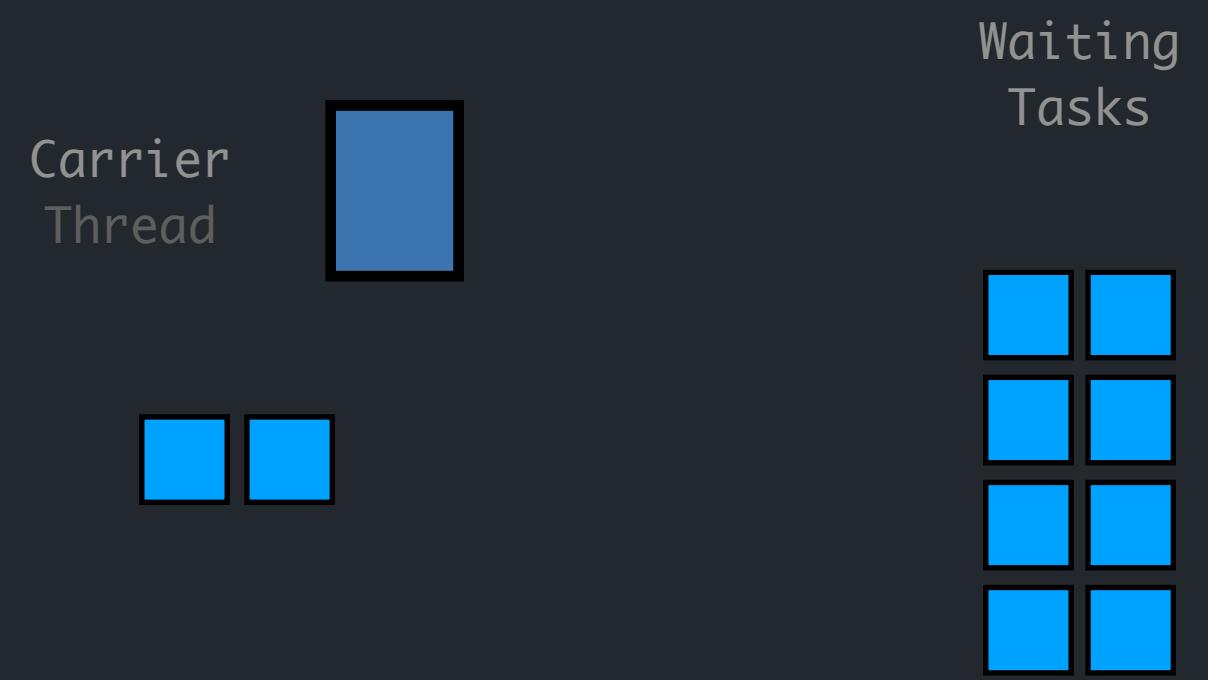


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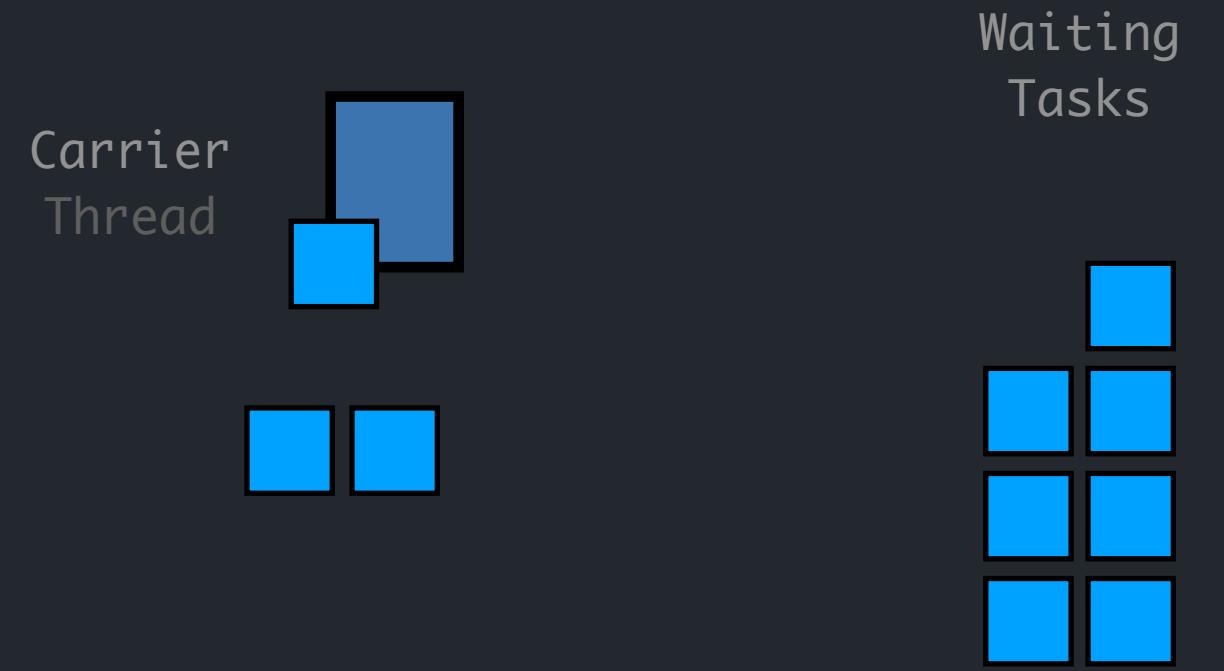


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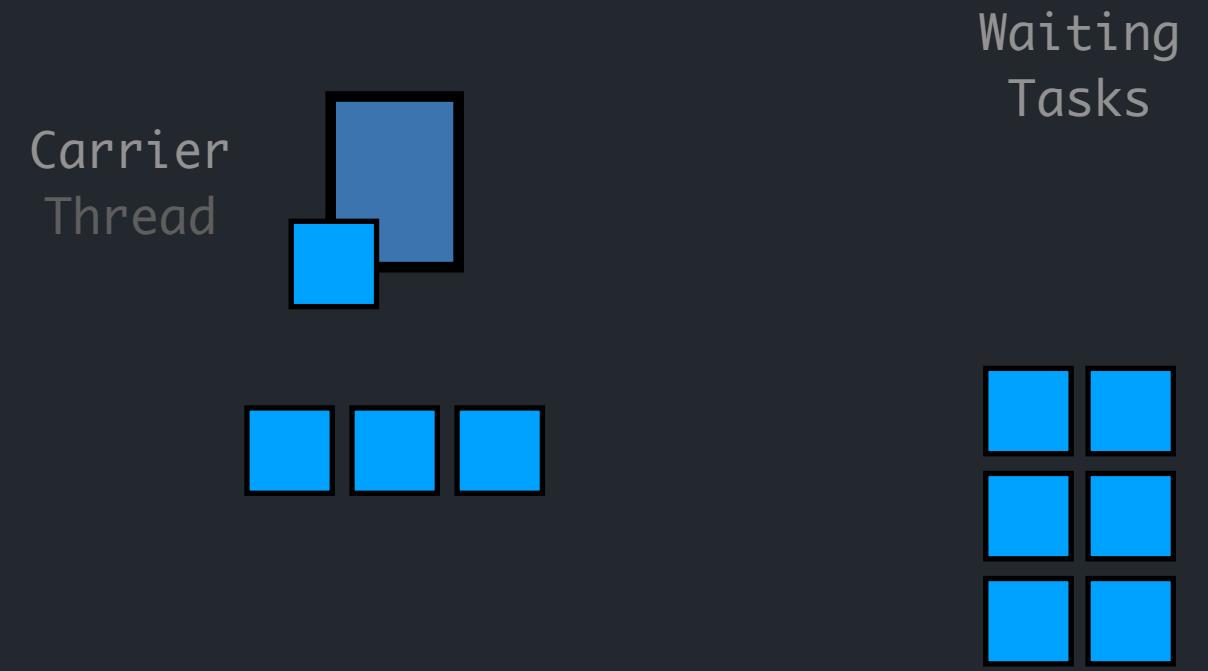


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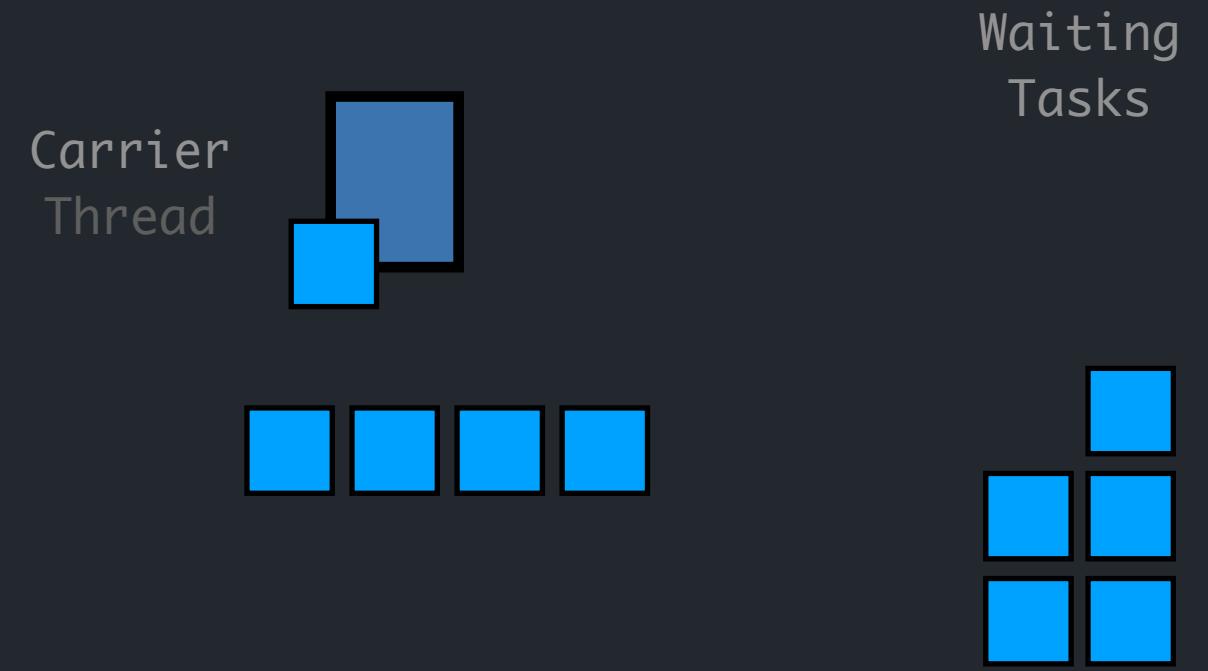


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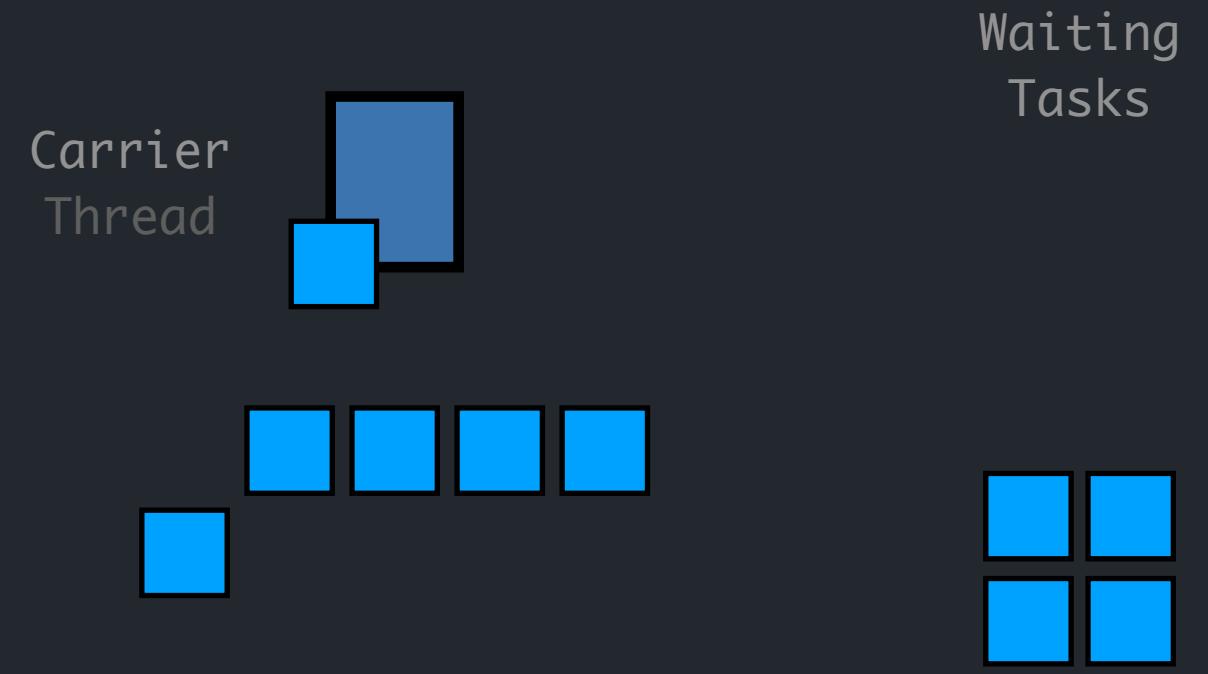


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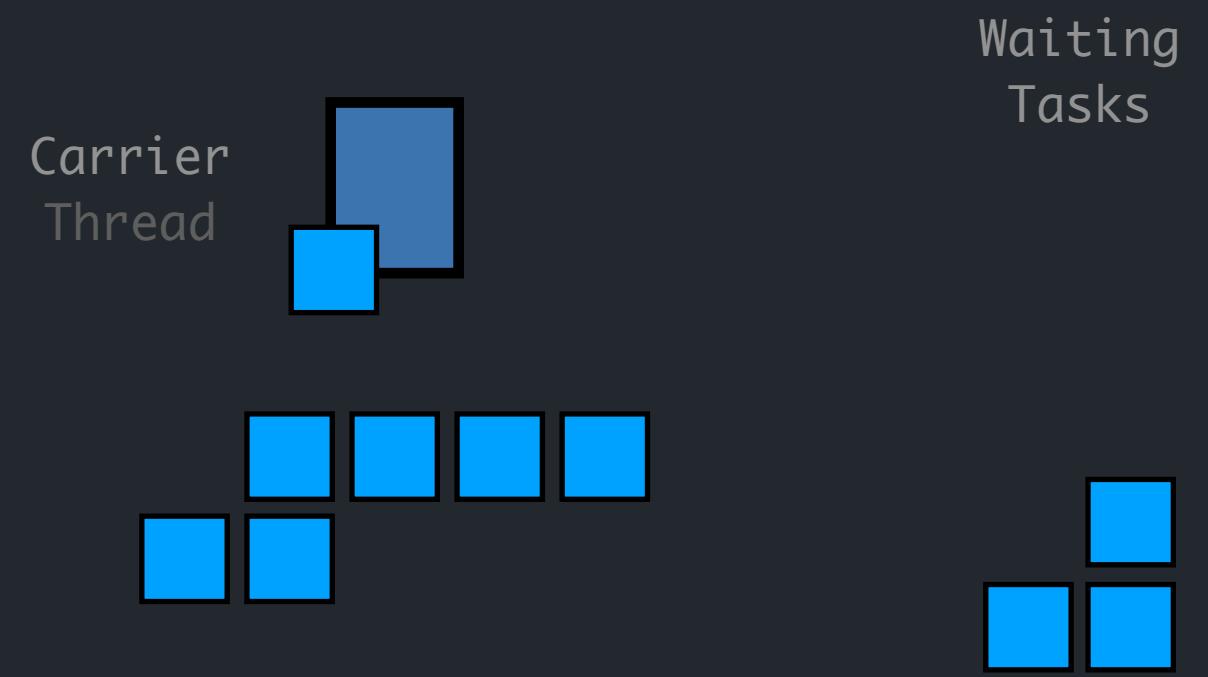


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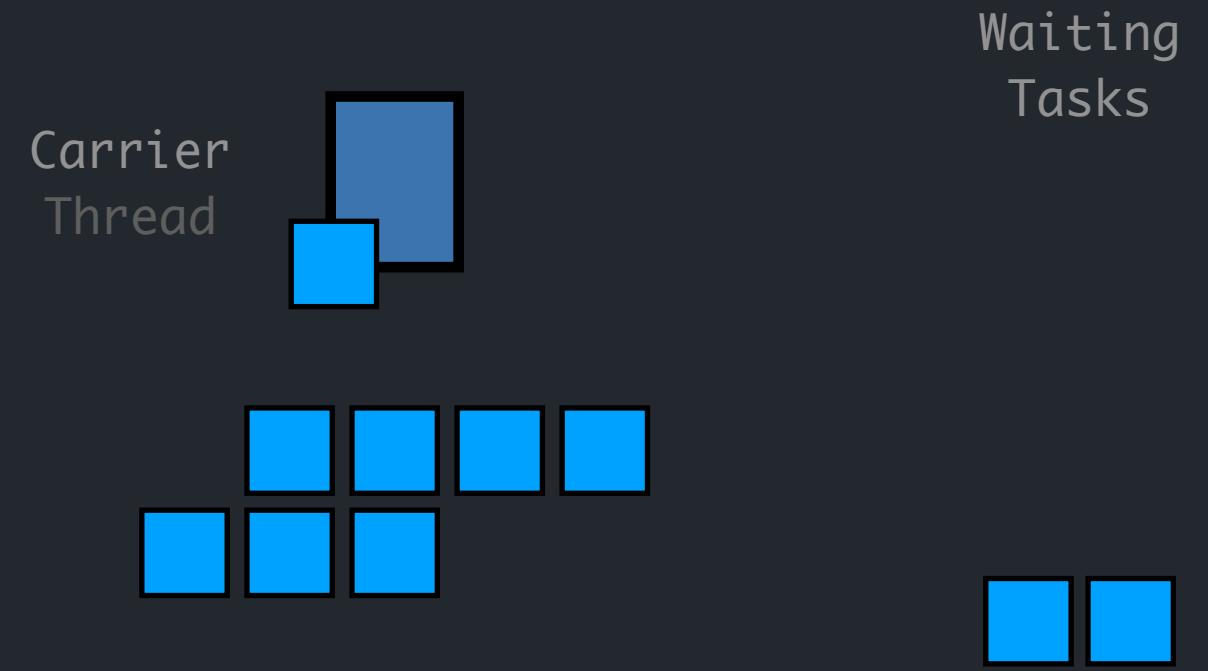


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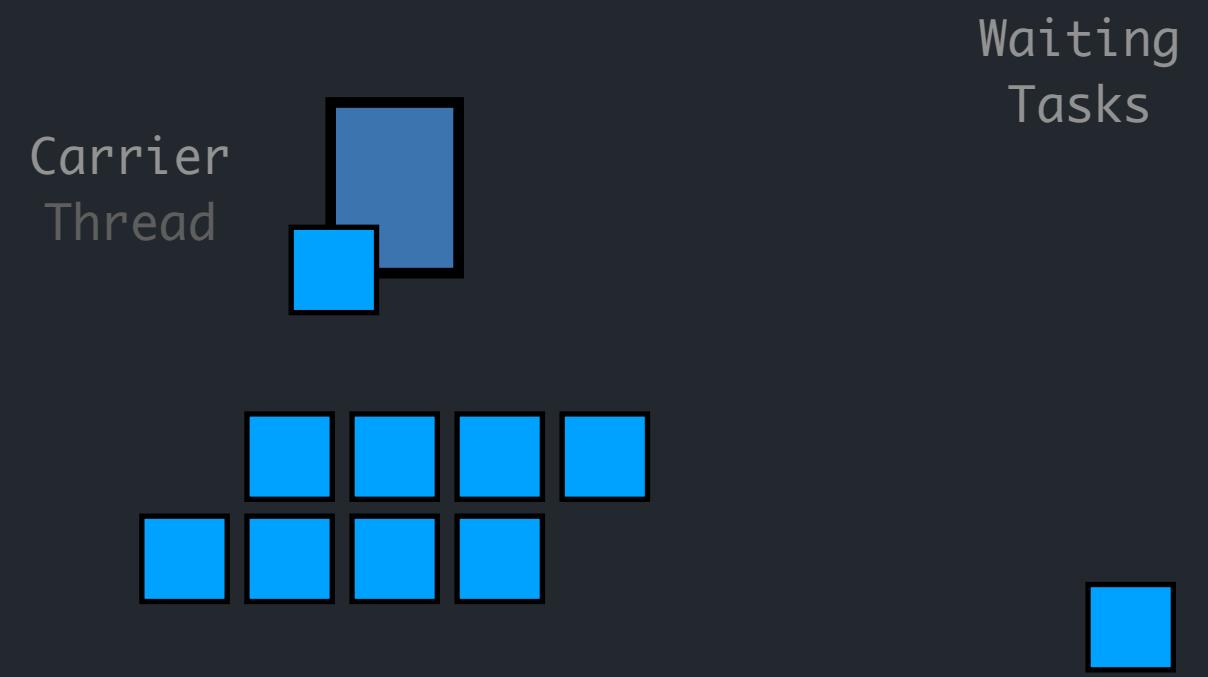


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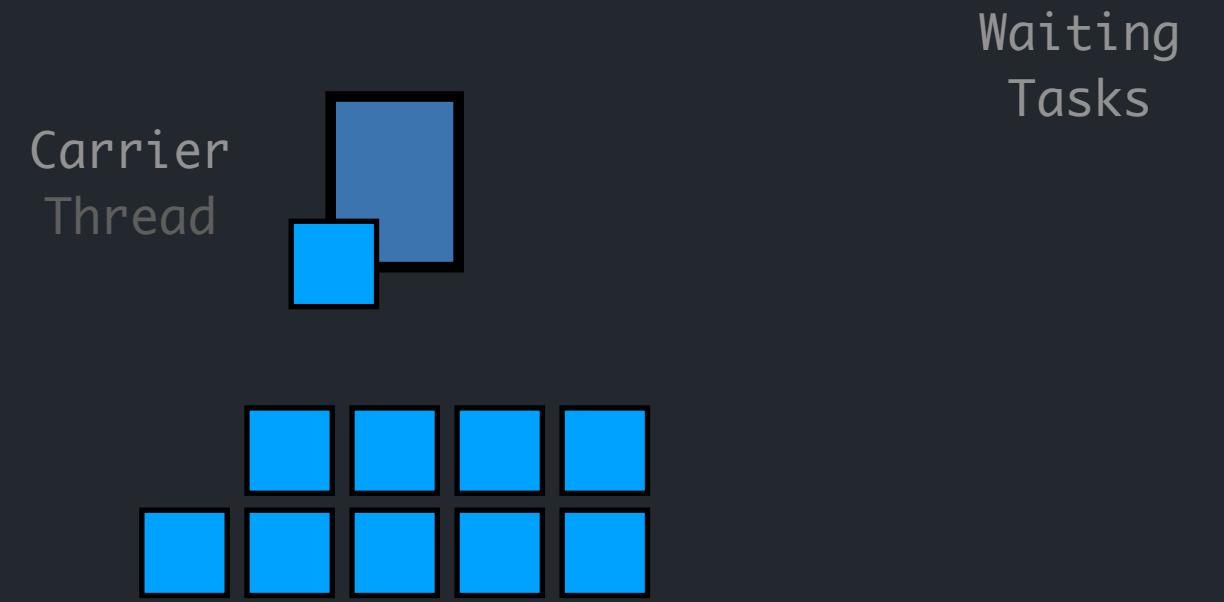


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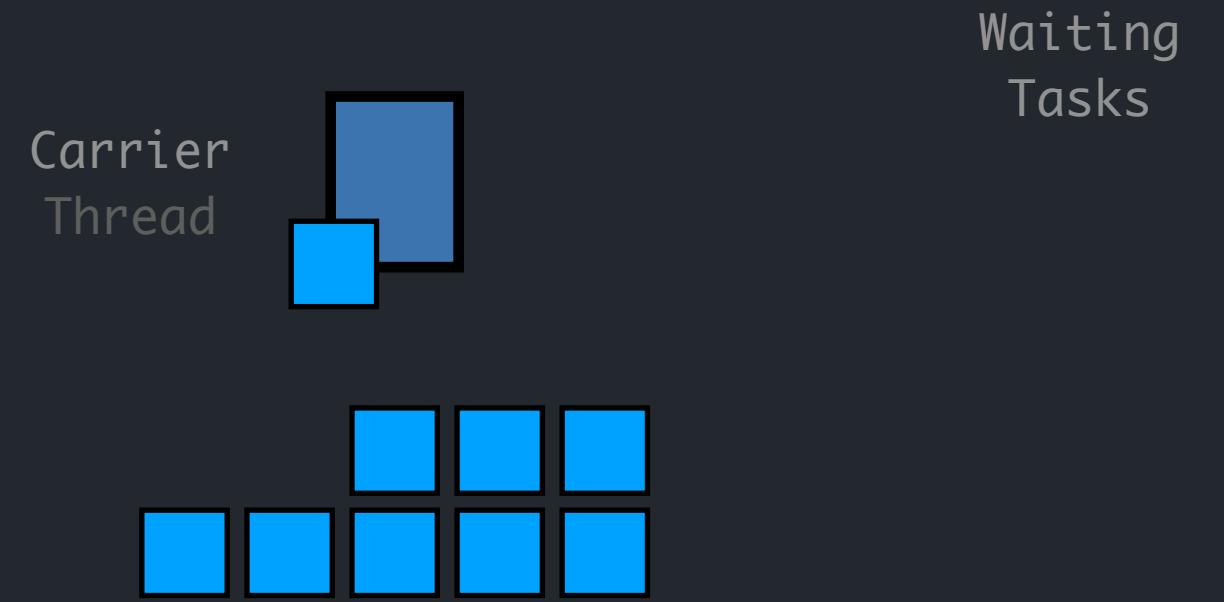


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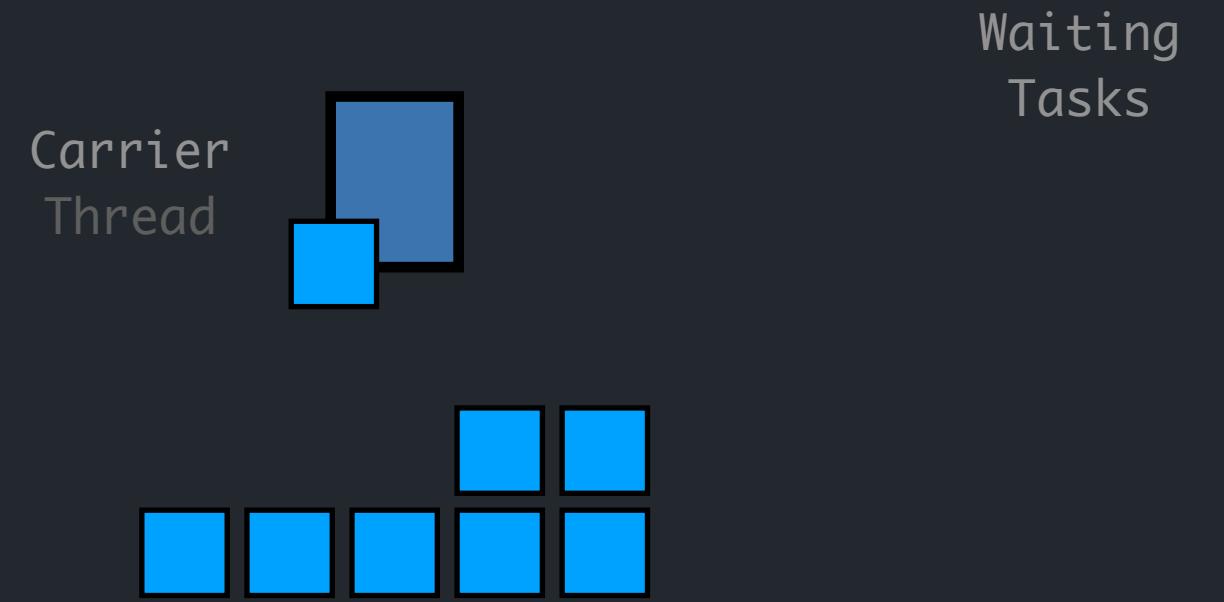


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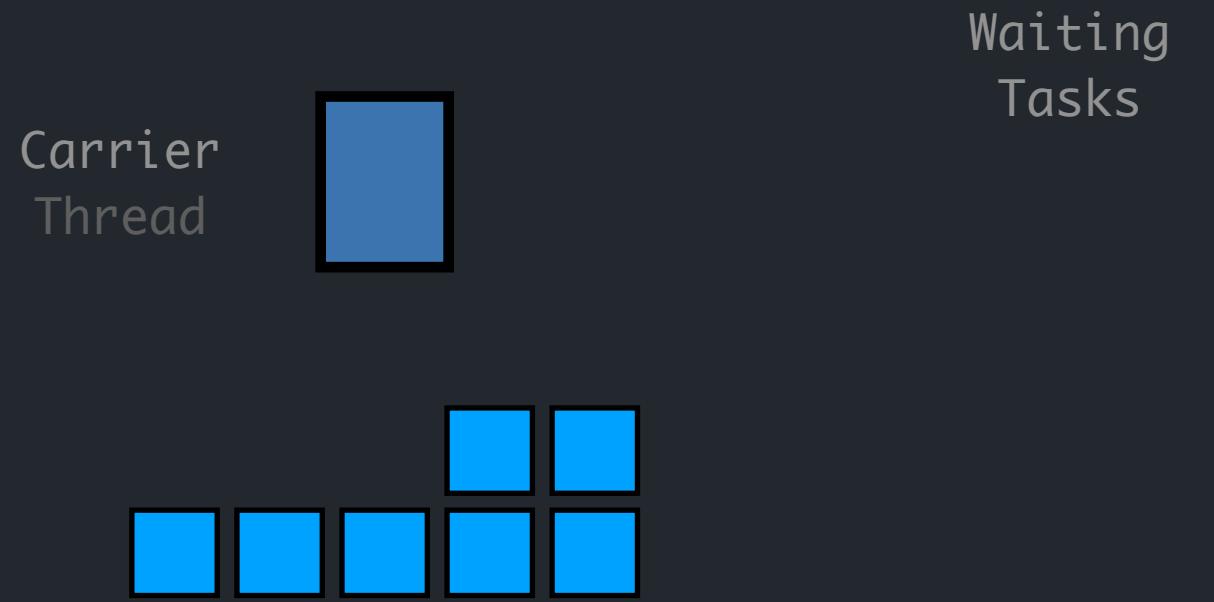


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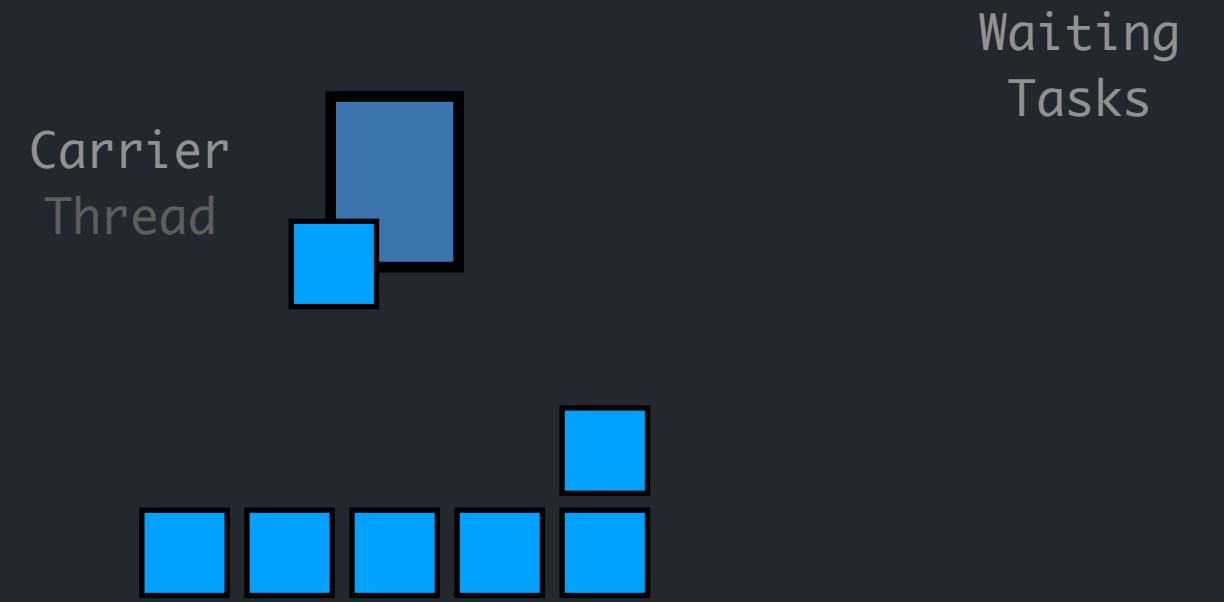


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# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

## I/O BOUND TASKS

```
private static int sleepBoundTask() {
    try {
        // sleep() acts as an I/O operation, allowing the task unmount
        Thread.sleep(5_000);
        return 0;
    } catch (final InterruptedException e) {
        // ignore...
        return -1;
    }
}
```

```
// Run with -Djdk.virtualThreadScheduler.parallelism=1
final long startTime = System.nanoTime();
final Thread[] threads = new Thread[10];
for (int i = 0; i < threads.length; ++i) {
    final int taskId = i;
    threads[i] = Thread.ofVirtual().start(() -> {
        sleepBoundTask();
        long elapsedNs = System.nanoTime() - startTime;
    });
}
for (final Thread thread : threads) {
    thread.join();
    final boolean isVirtual = thread.isVirtual();
}
```

# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

CPU BOUND TASKS

**VIRTUAL THREADS ARE MADE FOR I/O BOUND TASKS**

LET'S SEE HOW THEY WILL BEHAVE WITH CPU BOUND TASKS

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## CPU BOUND TASKS

```
private static long cpuBoundTask() {  
    final long startTime = System.nanoTime();  
    long count = 0;  
    while ((System.nanoTime() - startTime) < TimeUnit.SECONDS.toNanos(5)) {  
        count++;  
    }  
    return count;  
}
```

THERE ARE NO BLOCKING POINTS IN THE CODE  
TO UNMOUNT THE VIRTUAL THREAD

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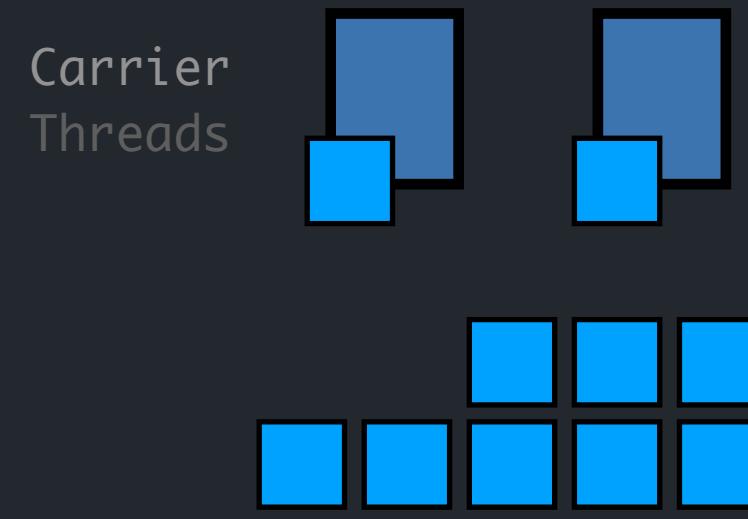


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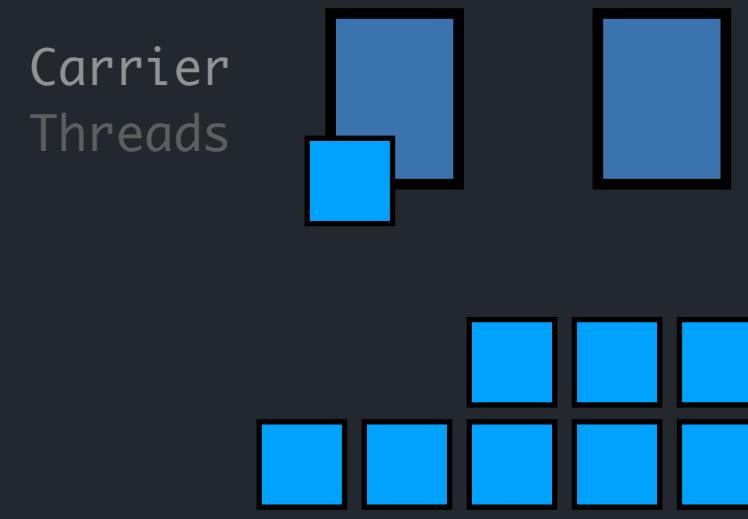


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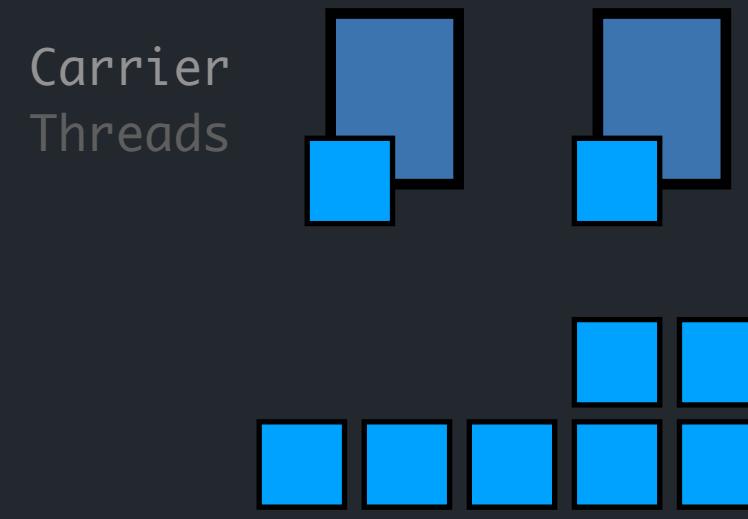
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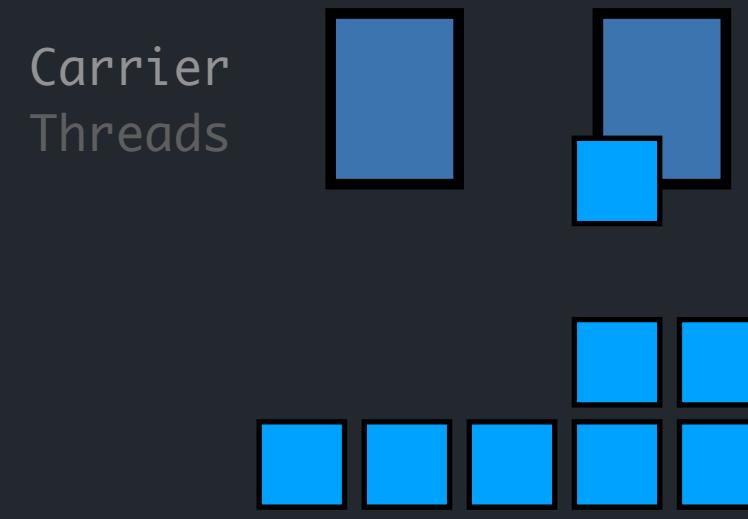
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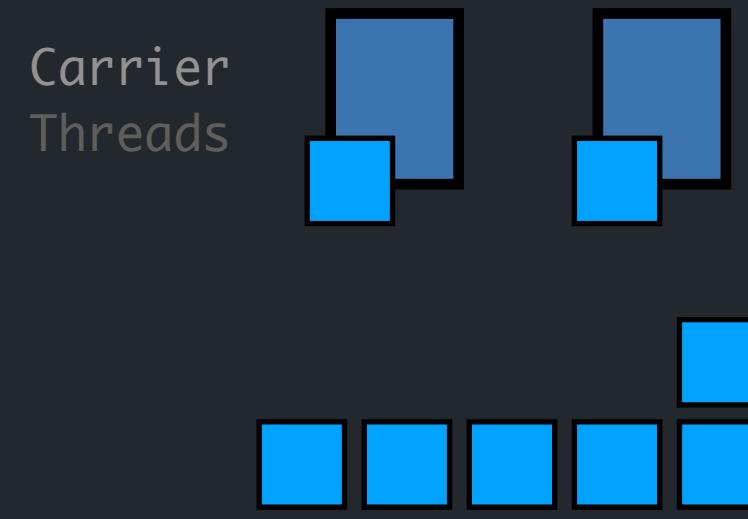
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3. Completed in 10s
4. Completed in 10s
5. Completed in 15s
6. Completed in 15s

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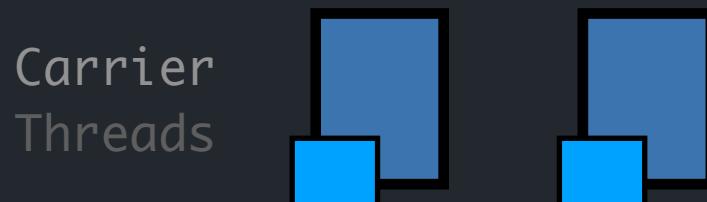
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1. Completed in 5s
2. Completed in 5s
3. Completed in 10s
4. Completed in 10s
5. Completed in 15s
6. Completed in 15s
7. Completed in 20s
8. Completed in 20s

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8. Completed in 20s

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```

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2. Completed in 5s
3. Completed in 10s
4. Completed in 10s
5. Completed in 15s
6. Completed in 15s
7. Completed in 20s
8. Completed in 20s
9. Completed in 25s
10. Completed in 25s

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}
```

FOR CPU BOUND TASKS

VIRTUAL THREADS GIVES NO ADVANTAGE  
OVER TRADITIONAL

(PLATFORM THREAD BASED)  
EXECUTOR SERVICES

AND I/O BOUND TASKS

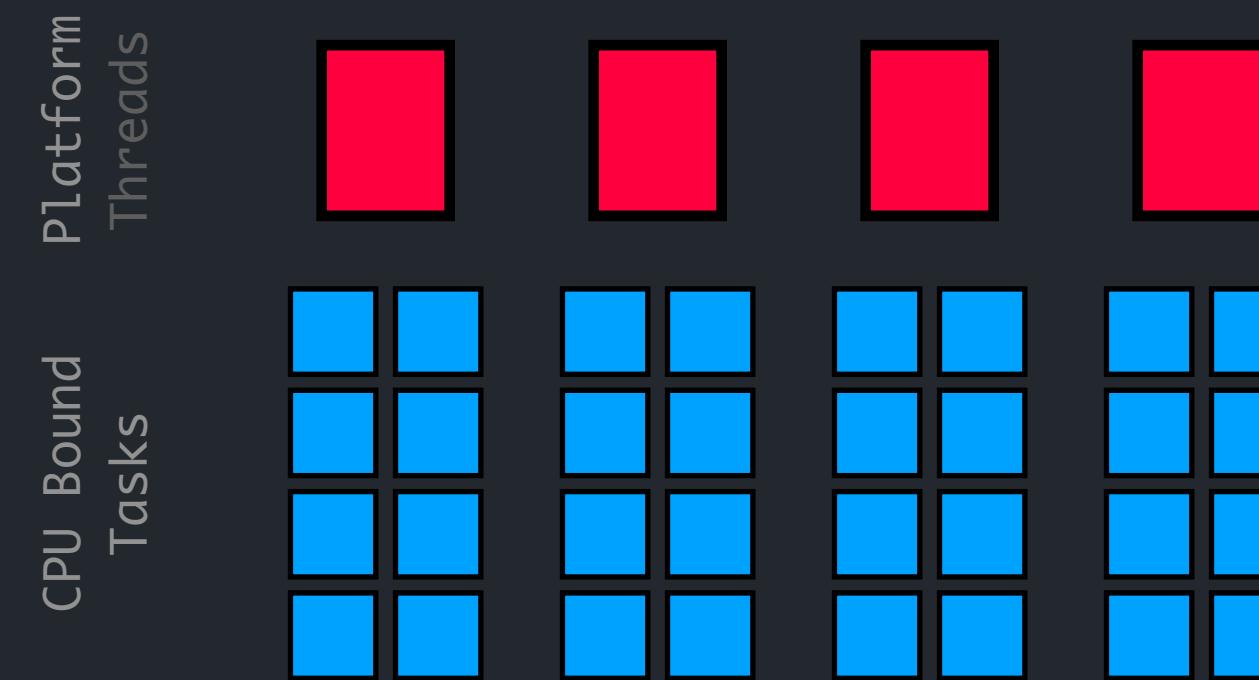
HAVE TO WAIT  
CPU BOUND TASKS TO FINISH

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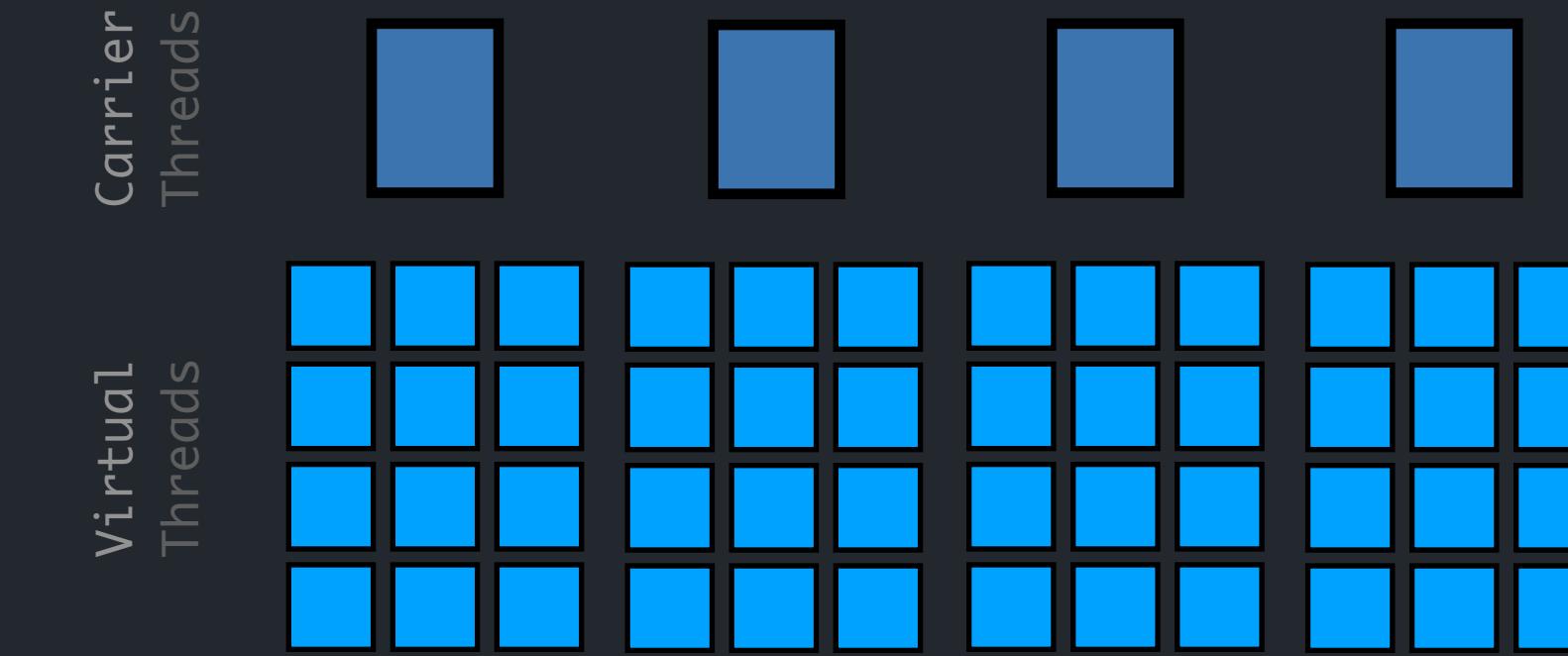
# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

SEND CPU AND I/O BOUND TASKS TO DEDICATED EXECUTORS

ThreadPoolExecutor



VirtualThreadPerTaskExecutor



# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

## COOPERATIVE CPU BOUND TASKS

```
private static long cpuBoundTaskWithYield() {  
    final long startTime = System.nanoTime();  
    long count = 0;  
    while ((System.nanoTime() - startTime) < TimeUnit.SECONDS.toNanos(5)) {  
        if (count++ % 100 == 0) {  
            Thread.yield();  
        }  
    }  
    return count;  
}
```

CPU BOUND TASKS  
CAN COOPERATE  
USING THE YIELD() METHOD

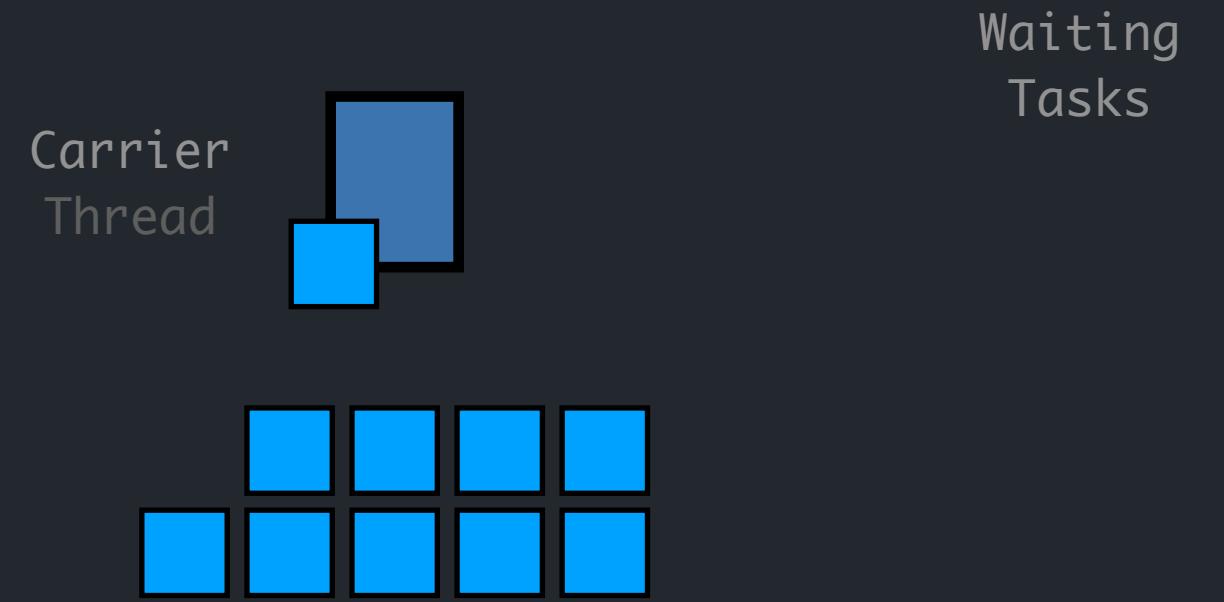
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// Run with -Djdk.virtualThreadScheduler.parallelism=1  
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try (ExecutorService executor = Executors.newVirtualThreadPerTaskExecutor()) {  
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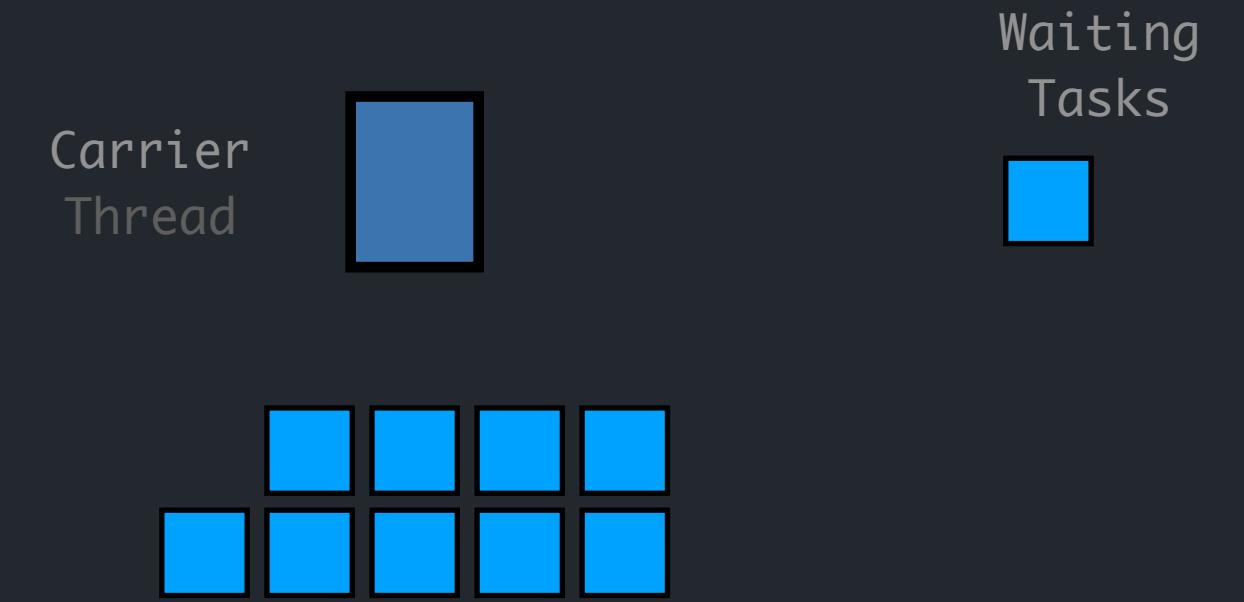
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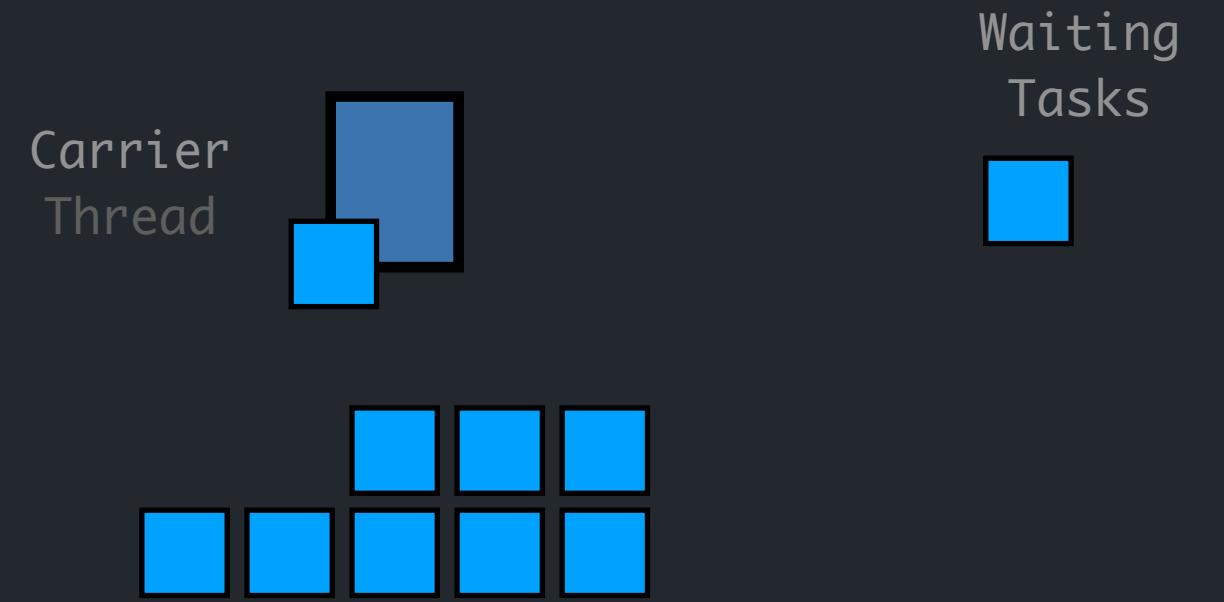
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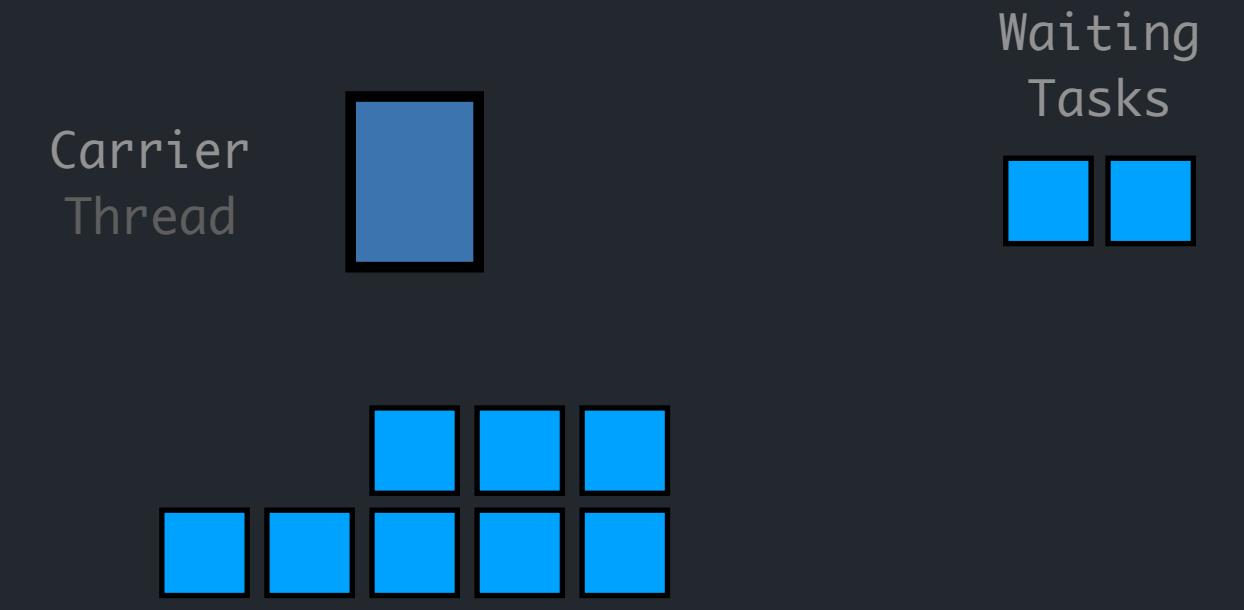
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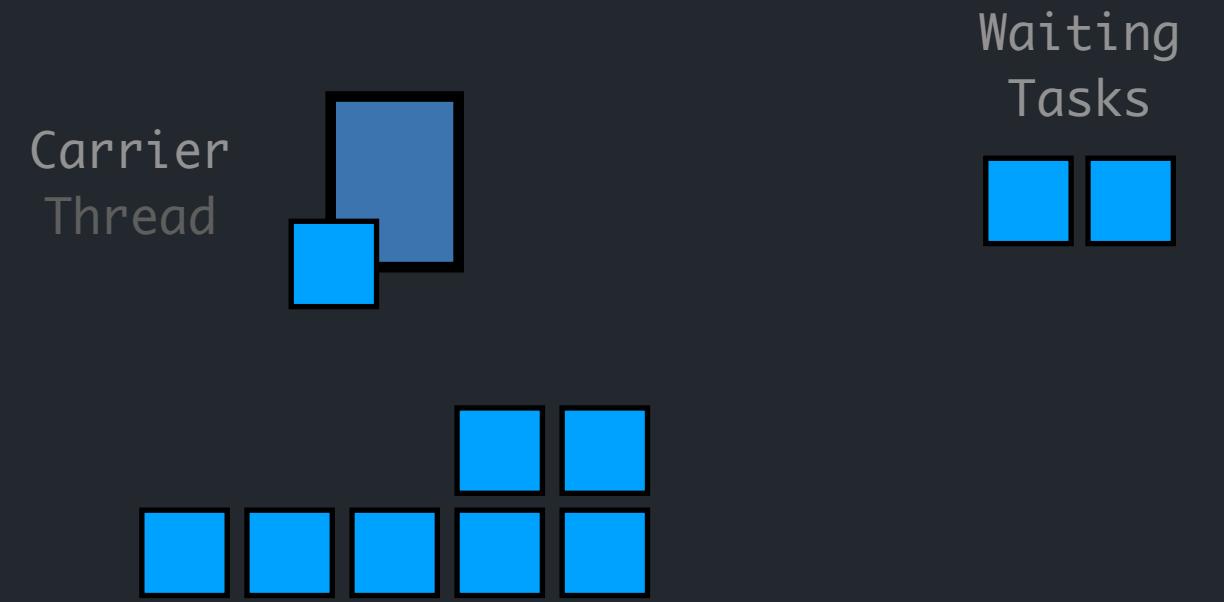
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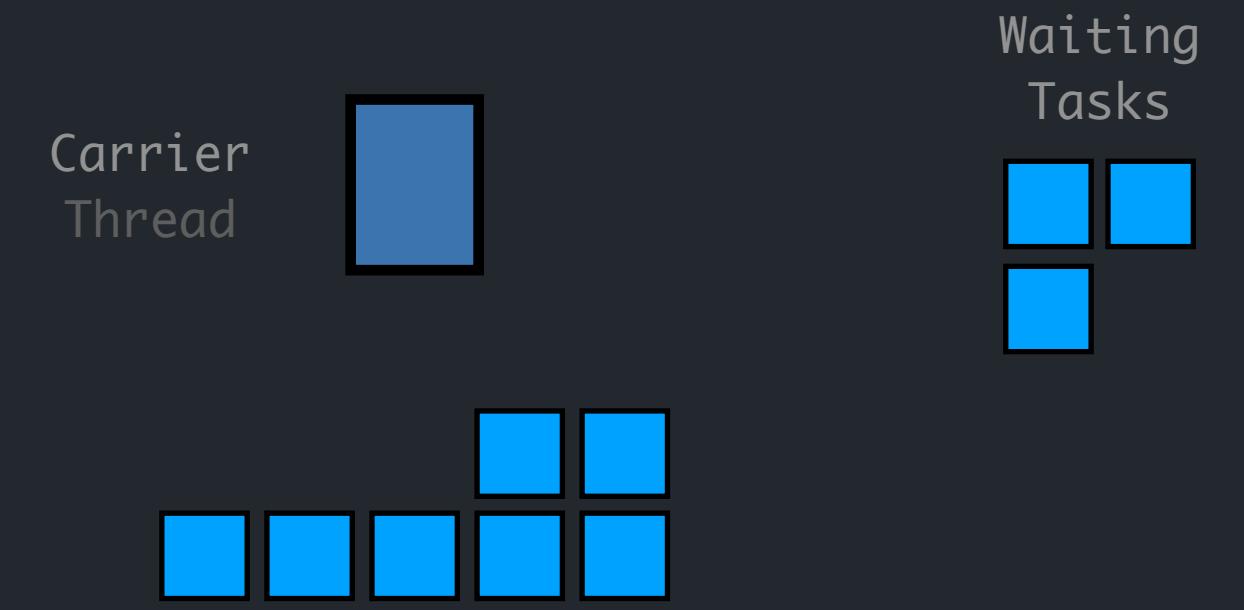
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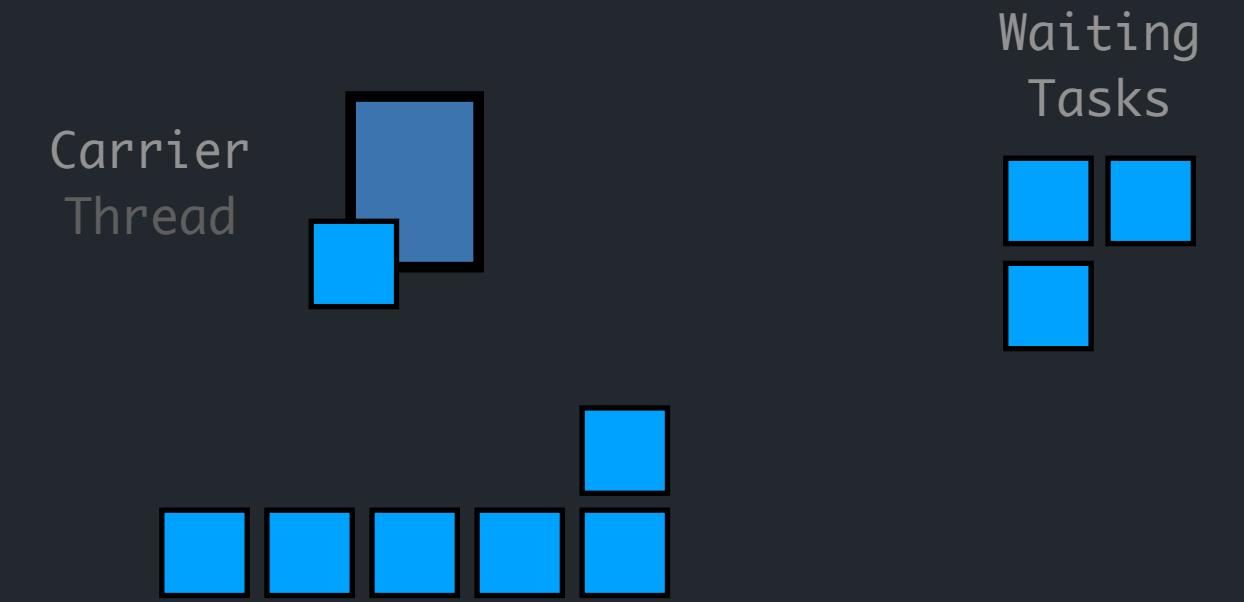
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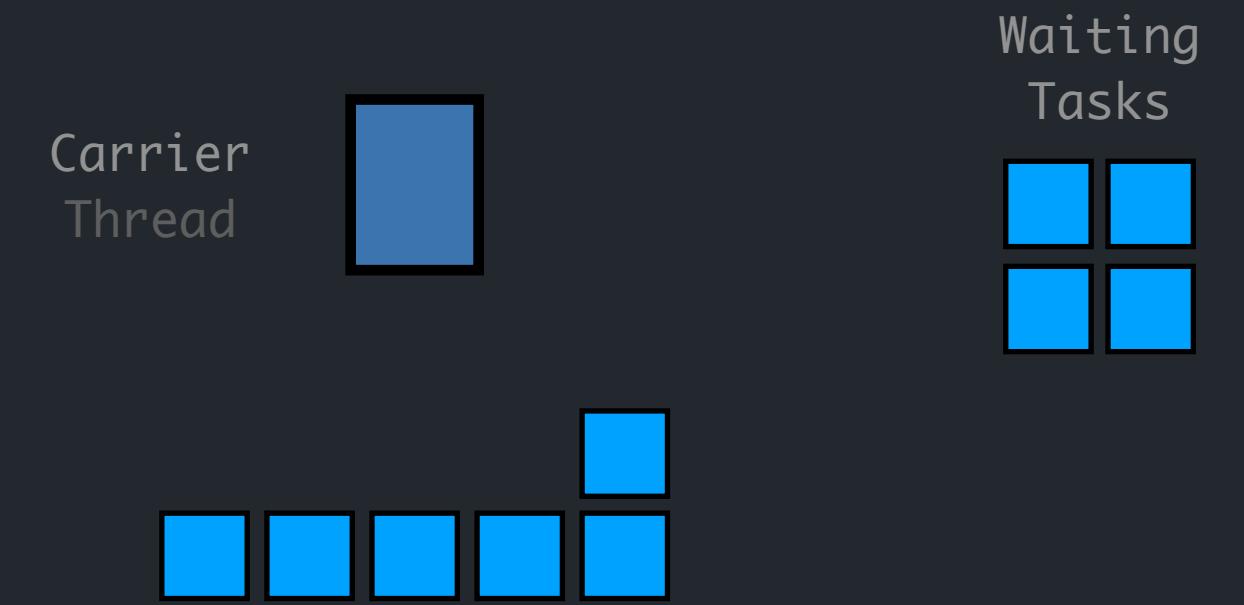
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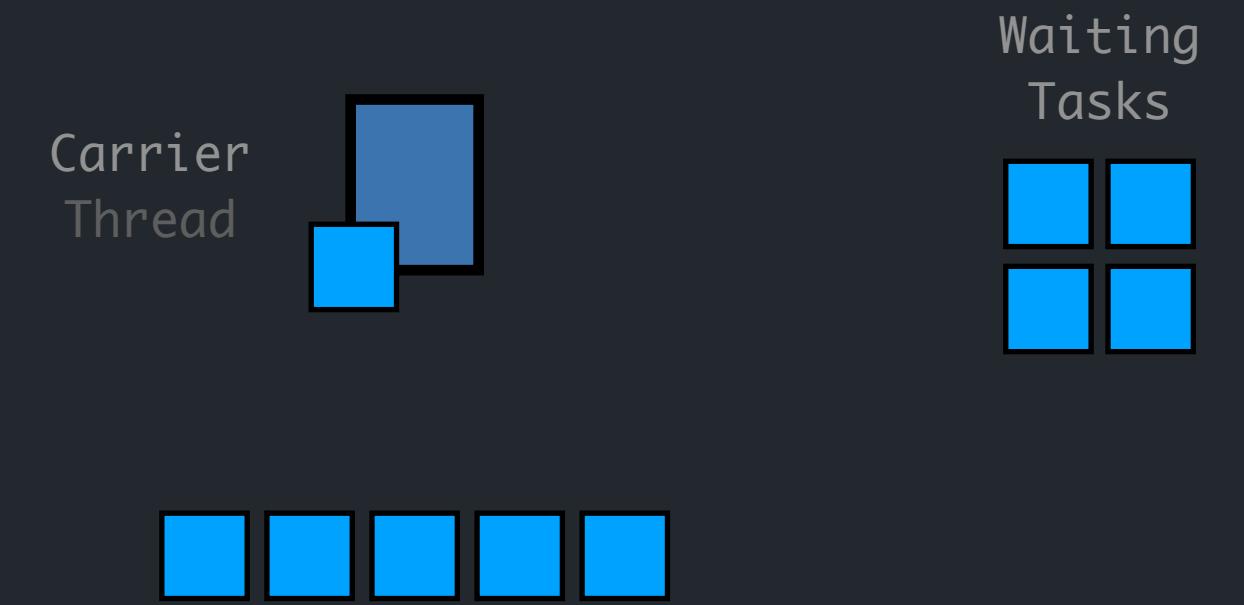


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# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

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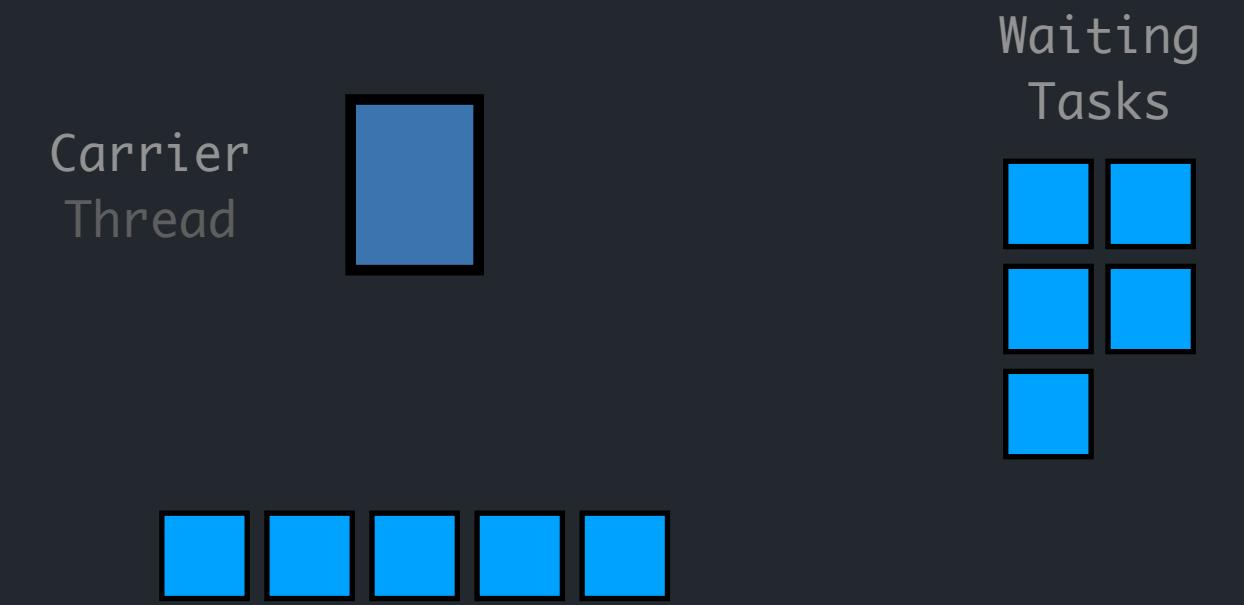


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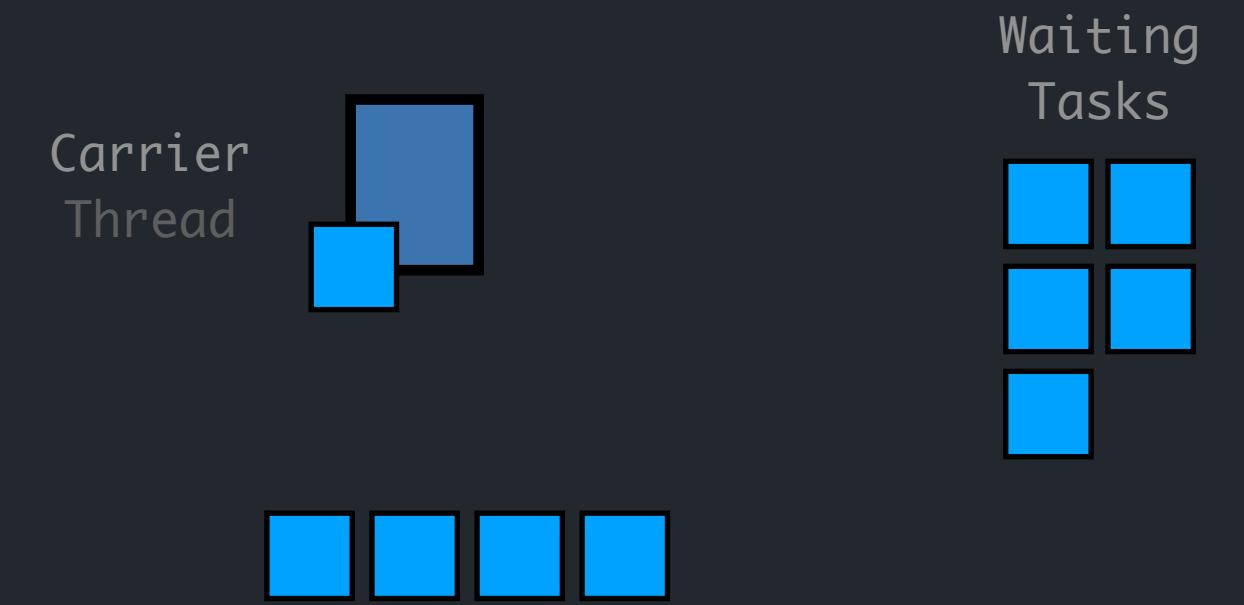


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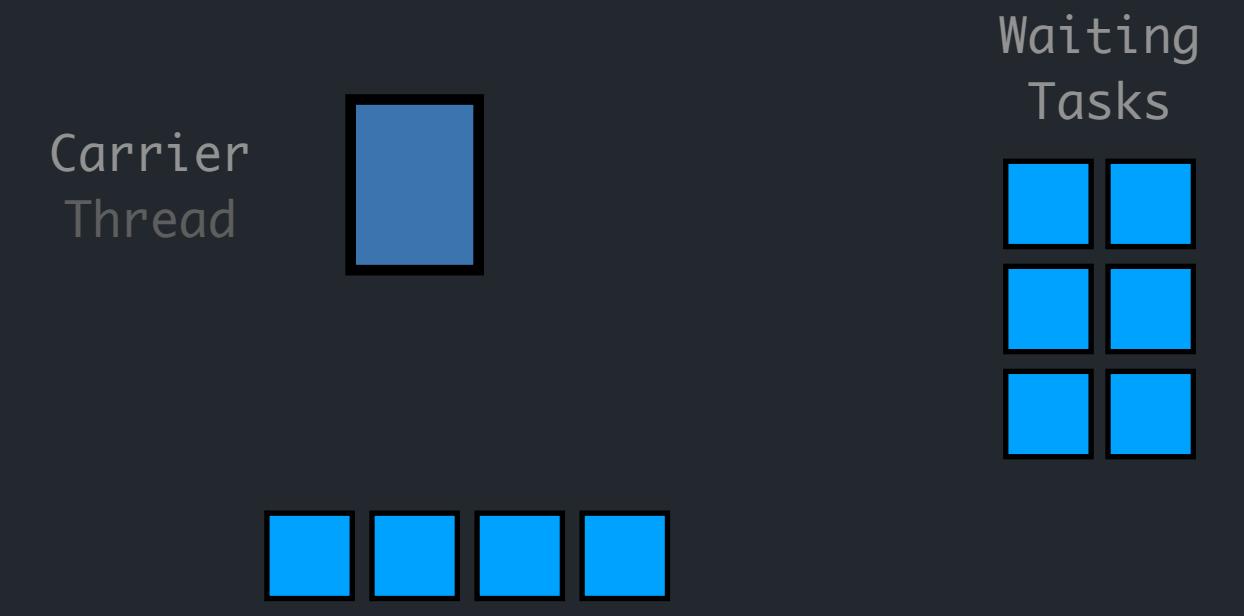


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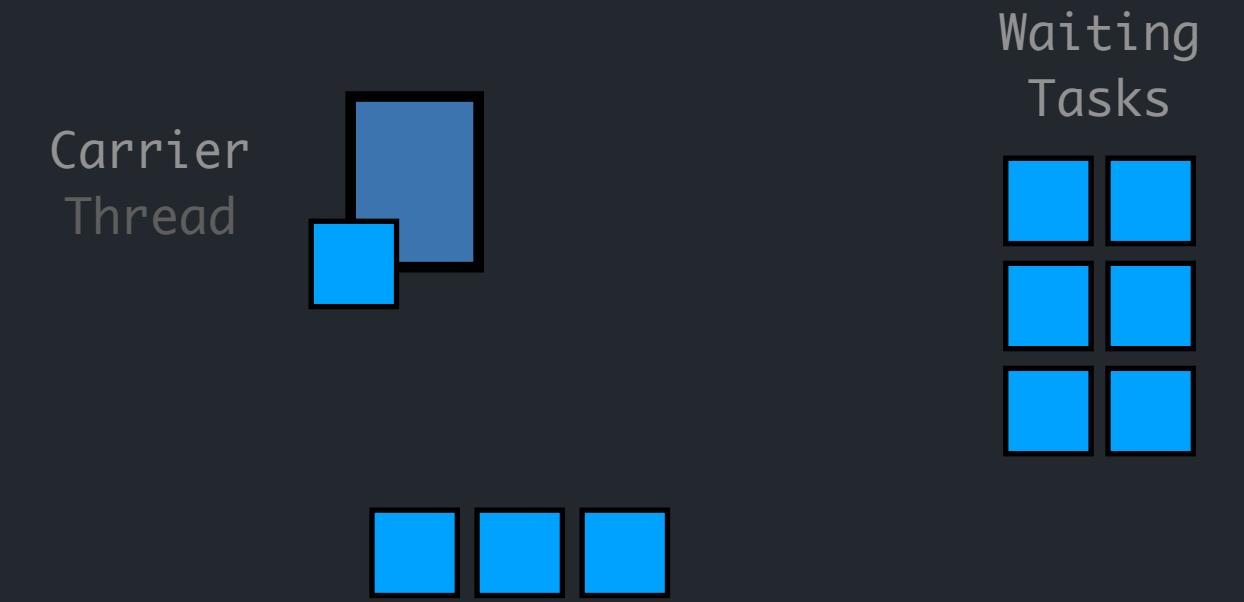
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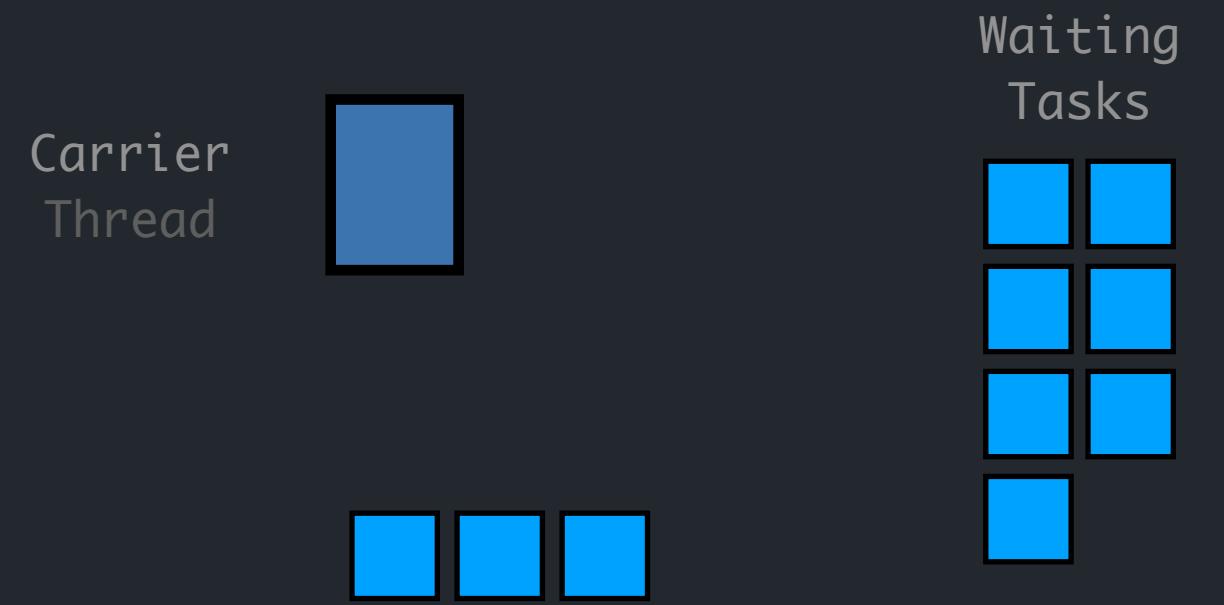
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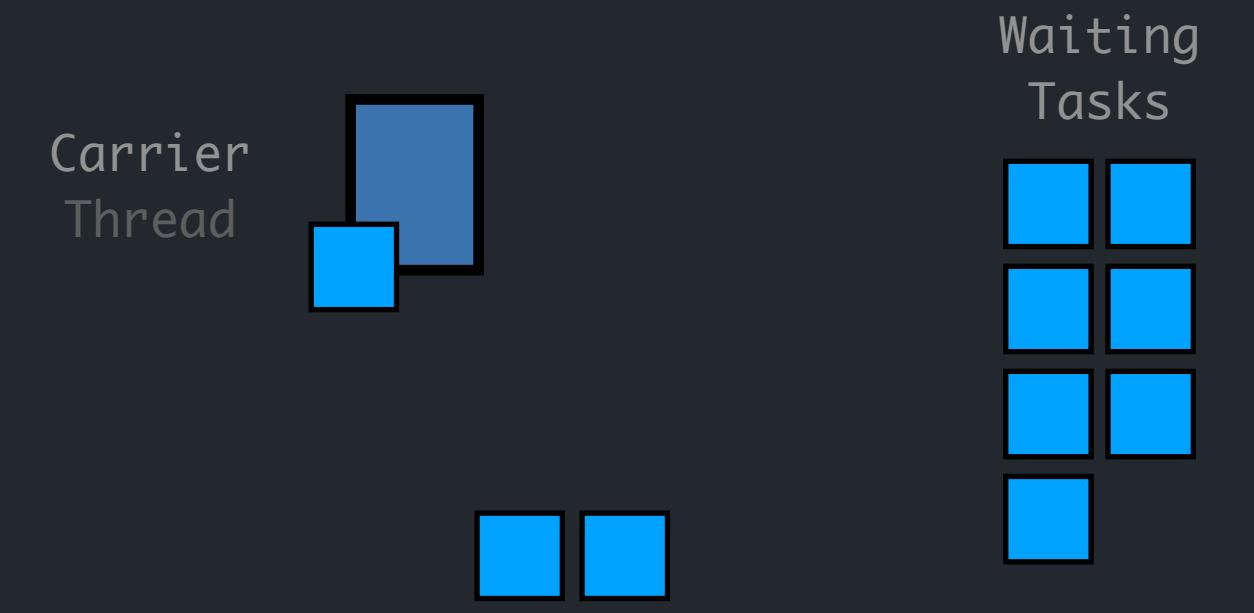


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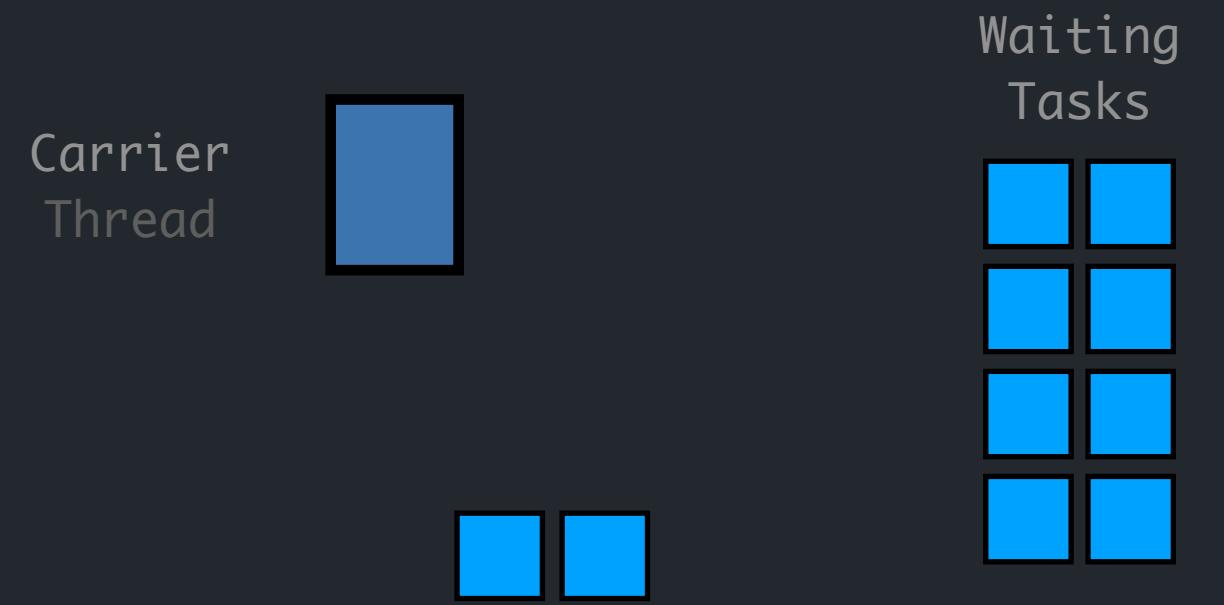


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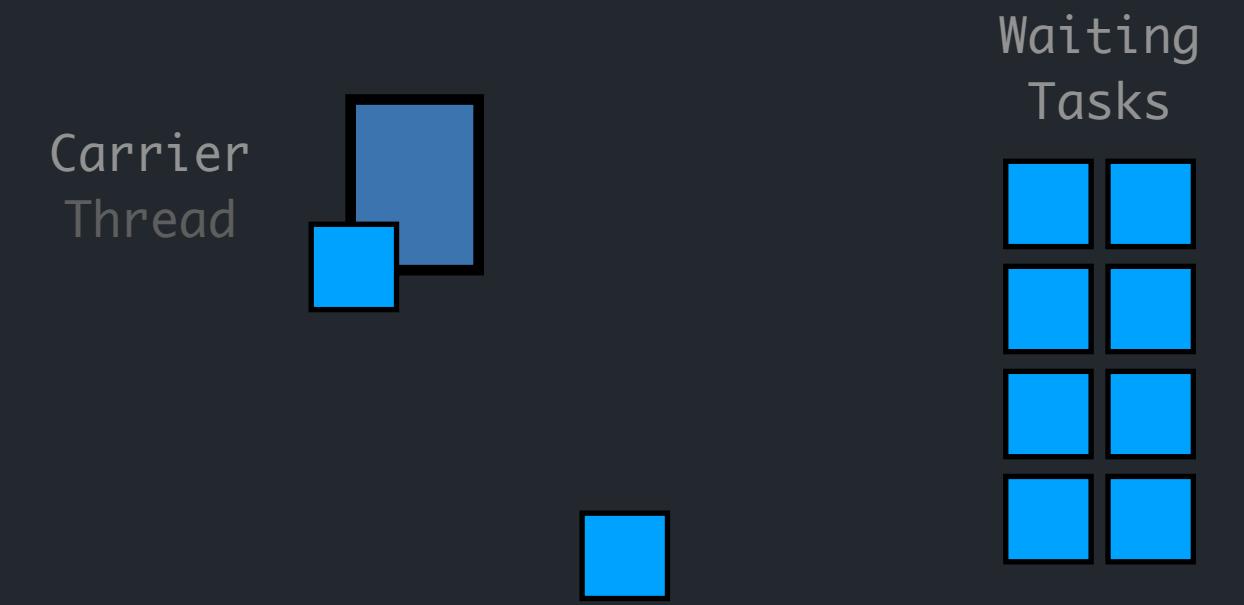


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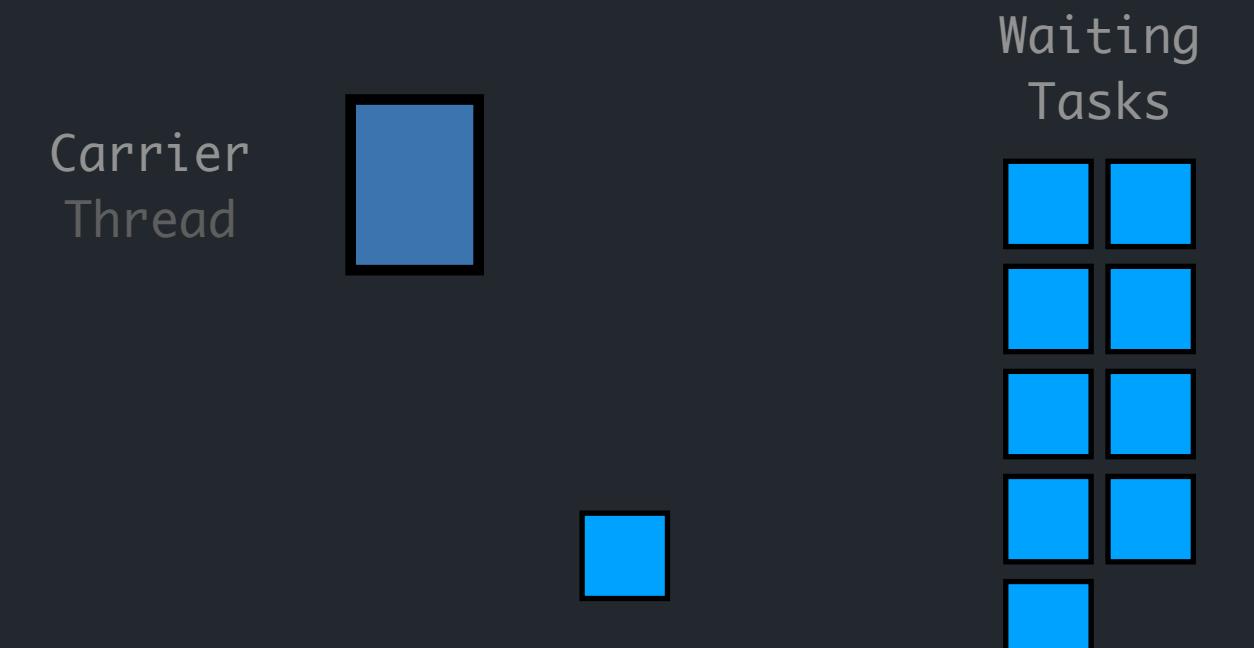


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Waiting Tasks  
Carrier Thread

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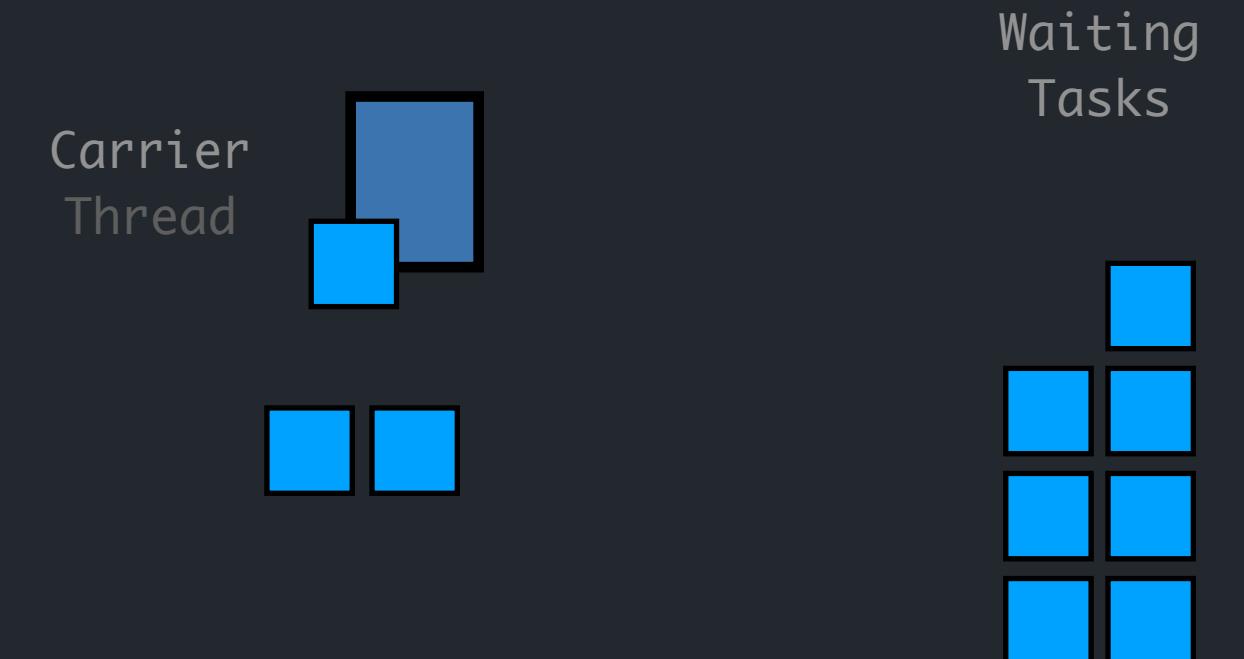


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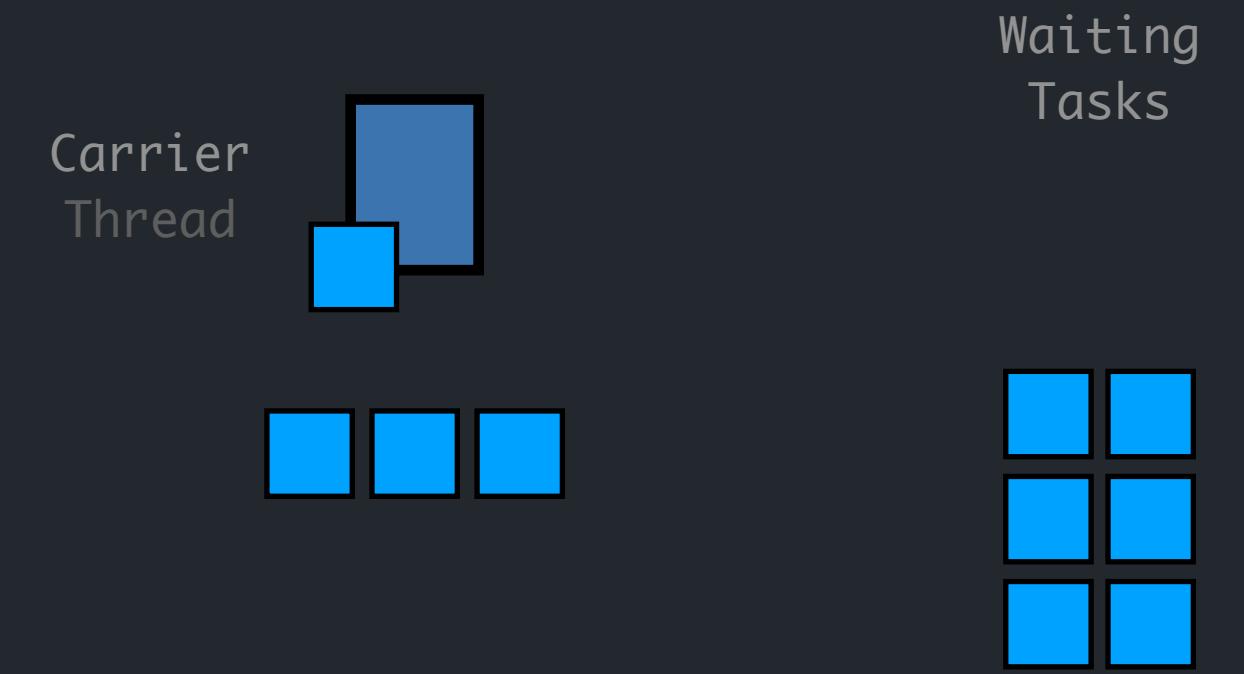
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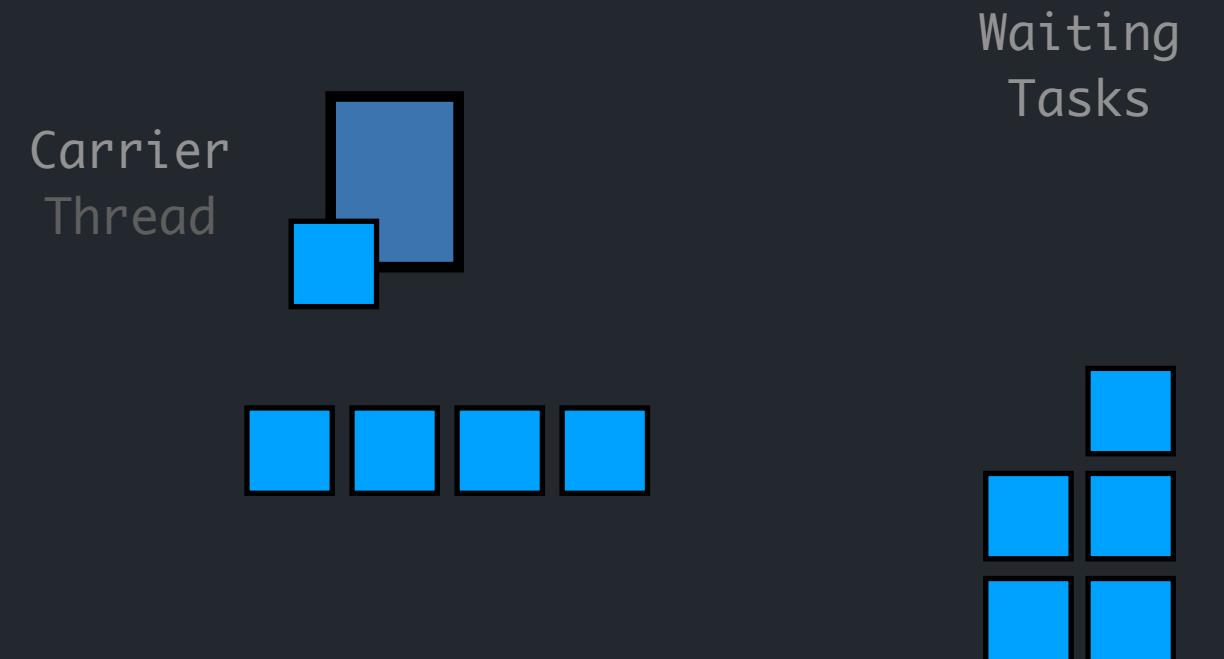
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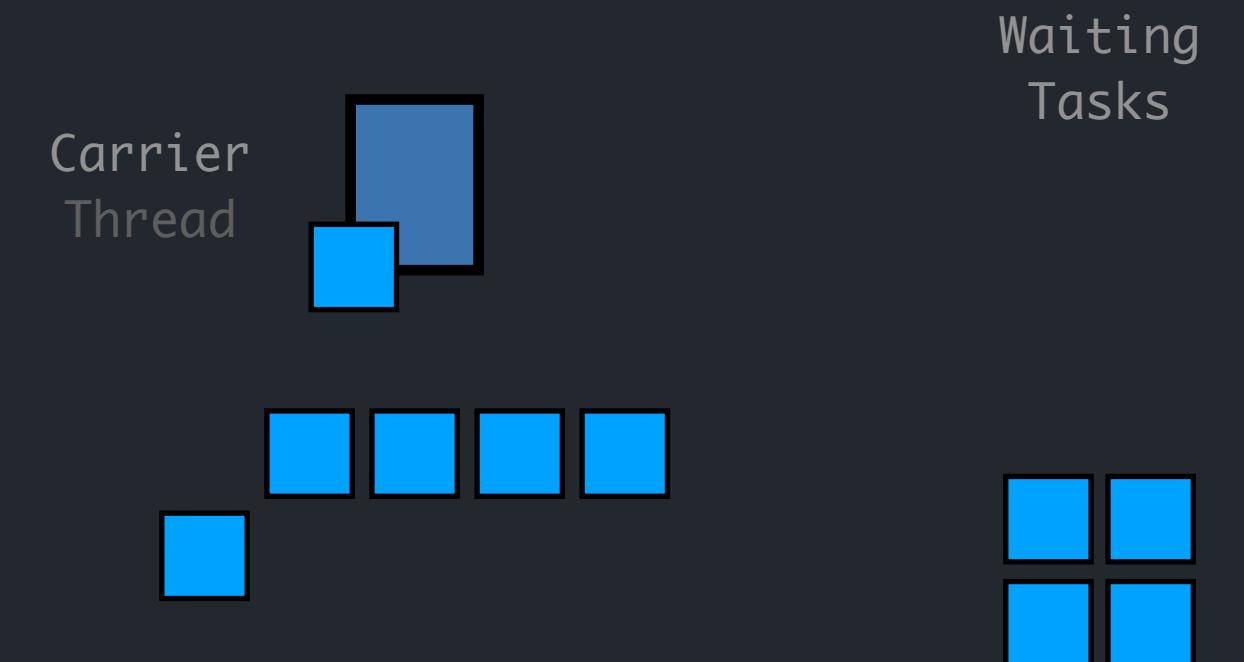


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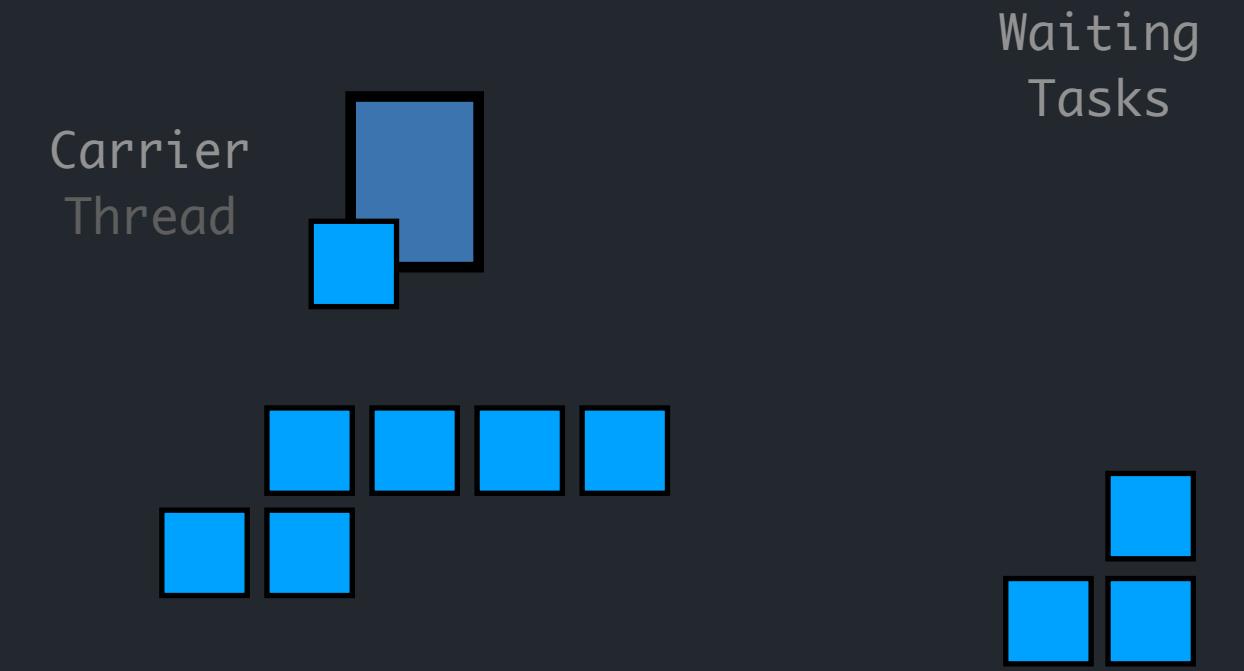


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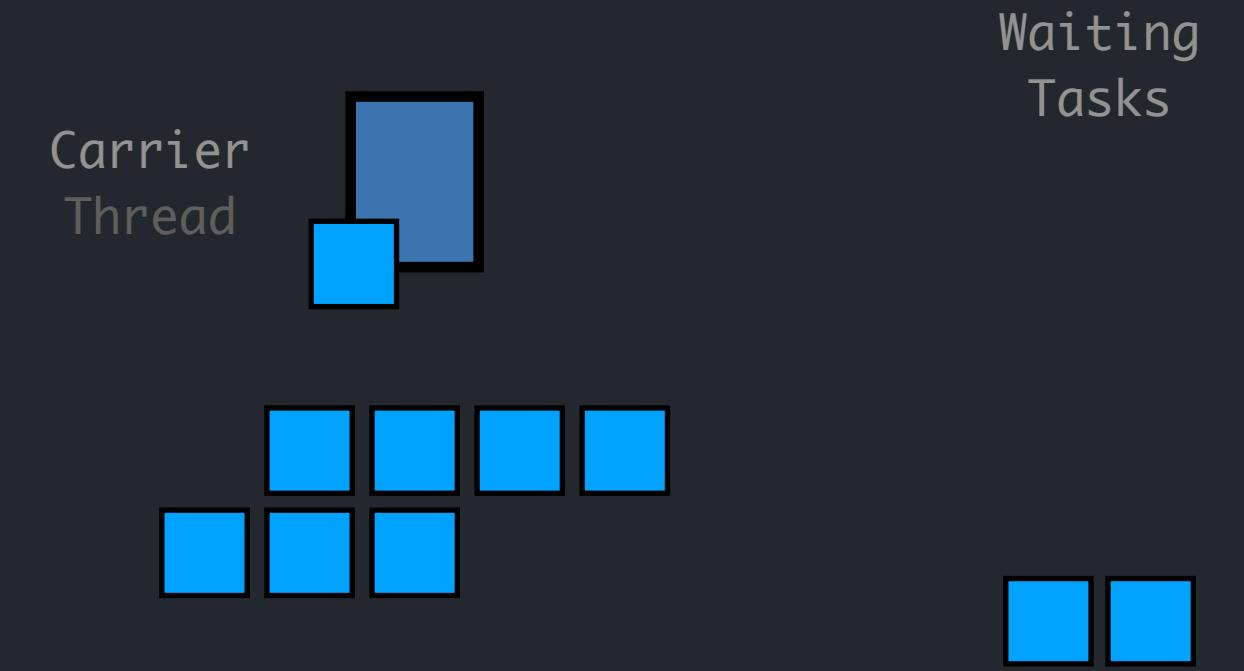


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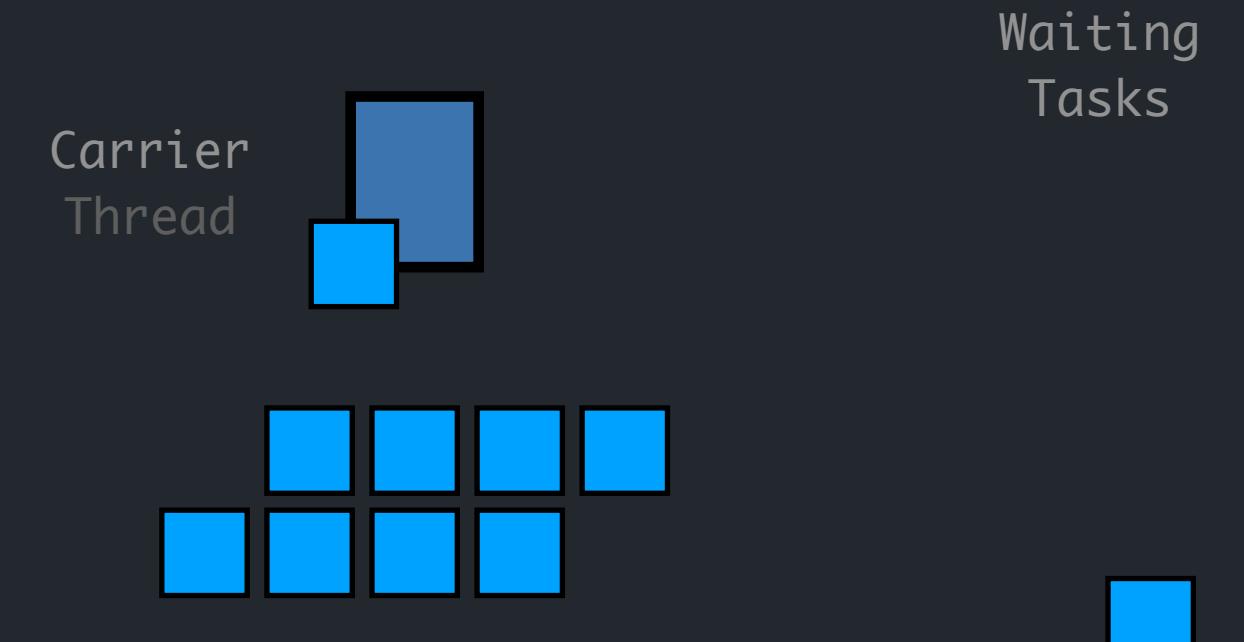


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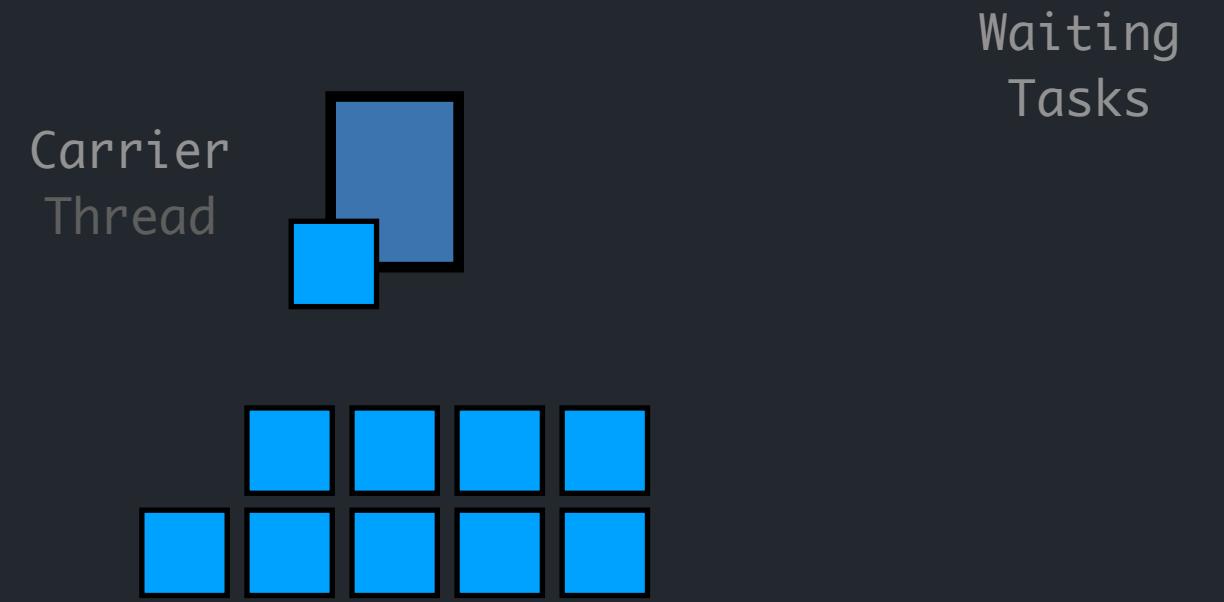


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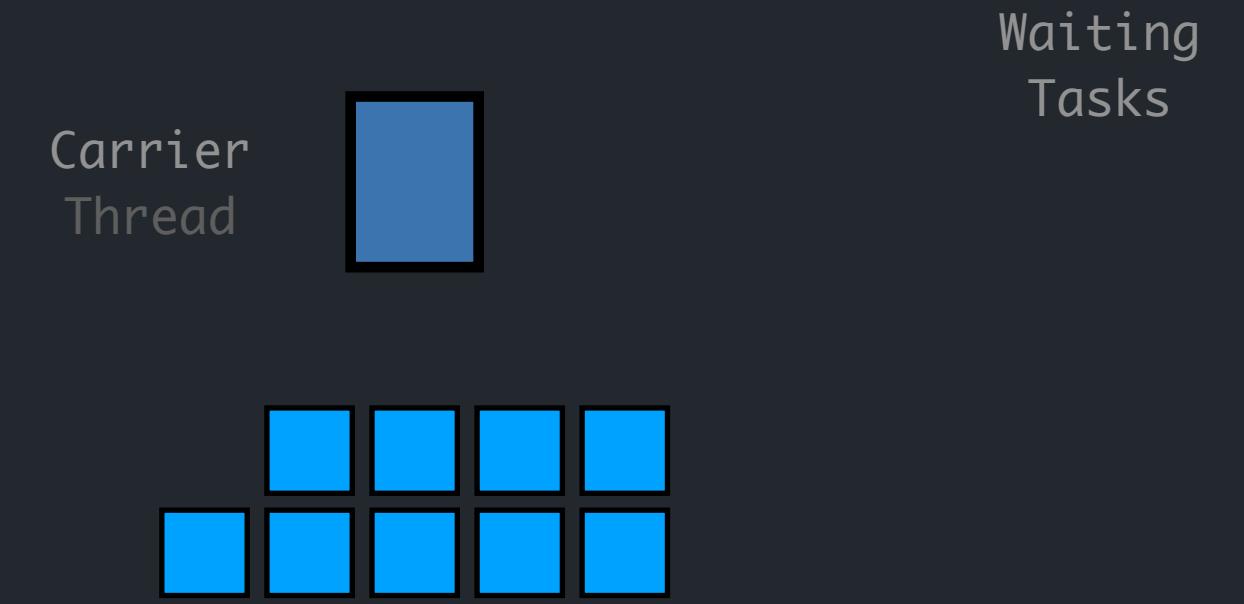
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// Run with -Djdk.virtualThreadScheduler.parallelism=1  
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try (ExecutorService executor = Executors.newVirtualThreadPerTaskExecutor()) {  
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i) {  
        final int taskId = i;  
        executor.submit(() -> {  
            cpuBoundTaskWithYield();  
            long elapsedNs = System.nanoTime() - startTime;  
        });  
    }  
}
```



# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

## COOPERATIVE CPU BOUND TASKS

```
private static long cpuBoundTaskWithYield() {  
    final long startTime = System.nanoTime();  
    long count = 0;  
    while ((System.nanoTime() - startTime) < TimeUnit.SECONDS.toNanos(5)) {  
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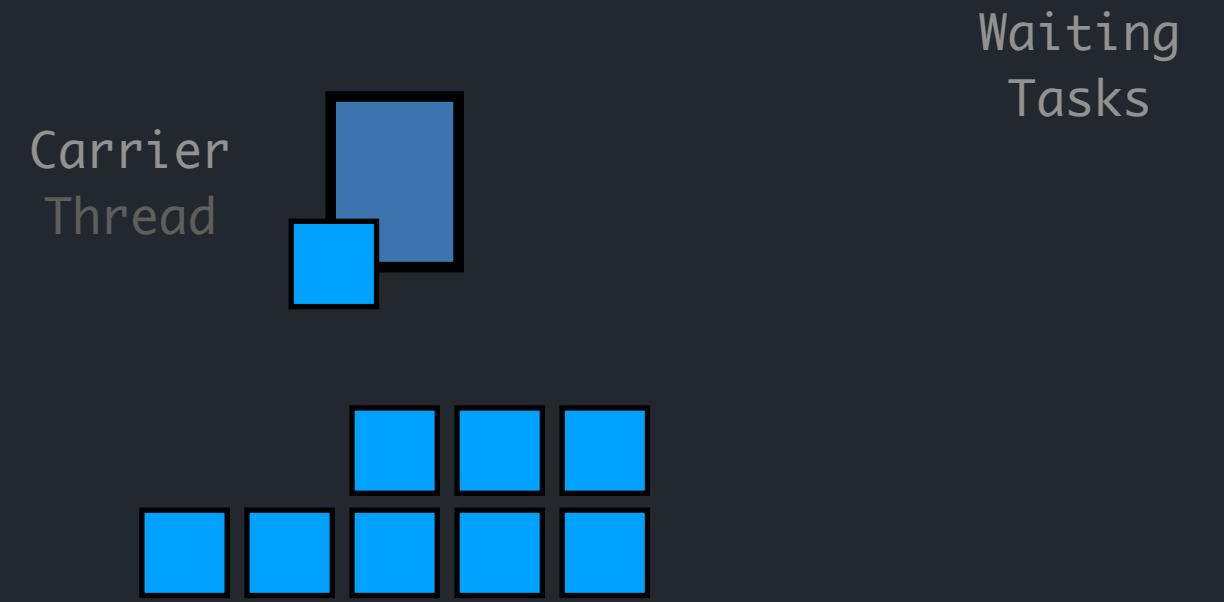
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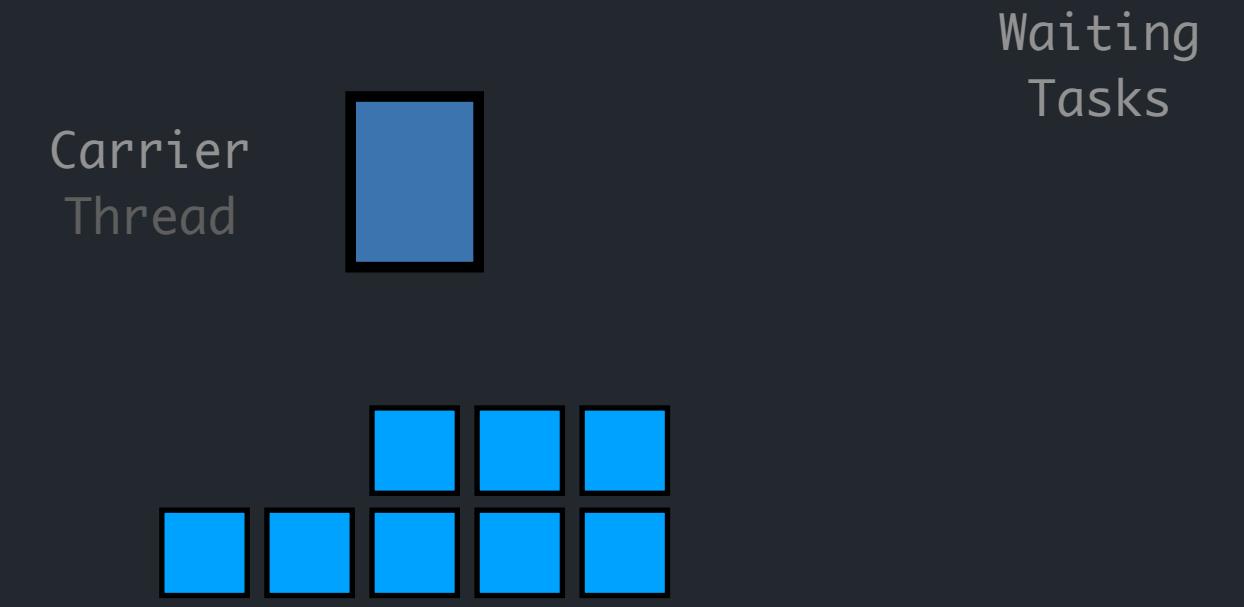
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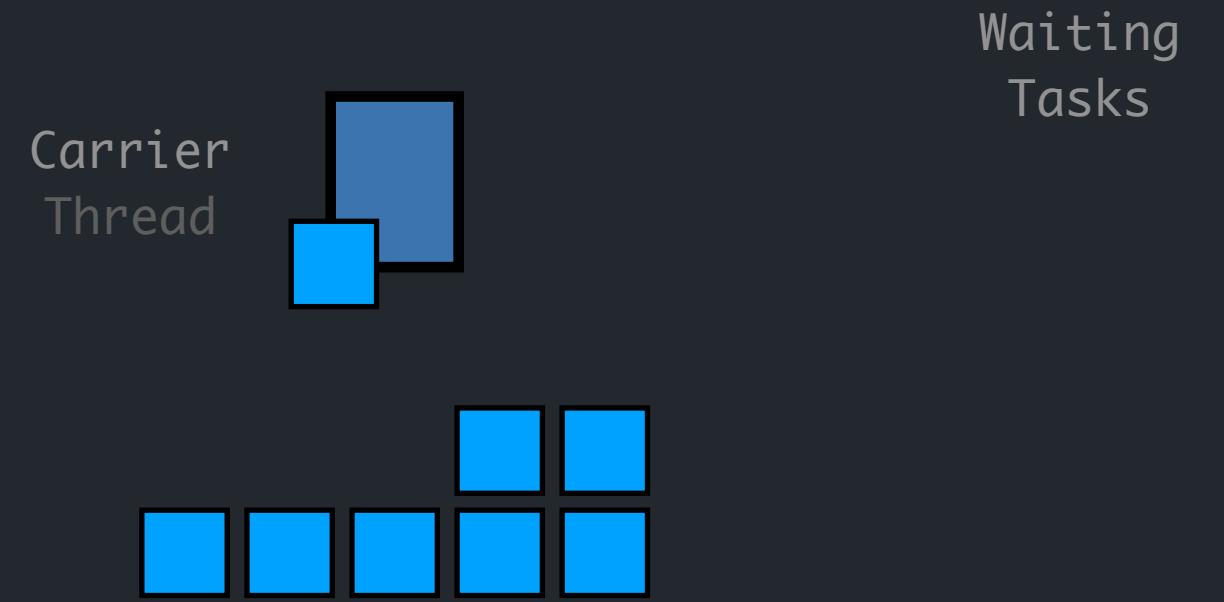
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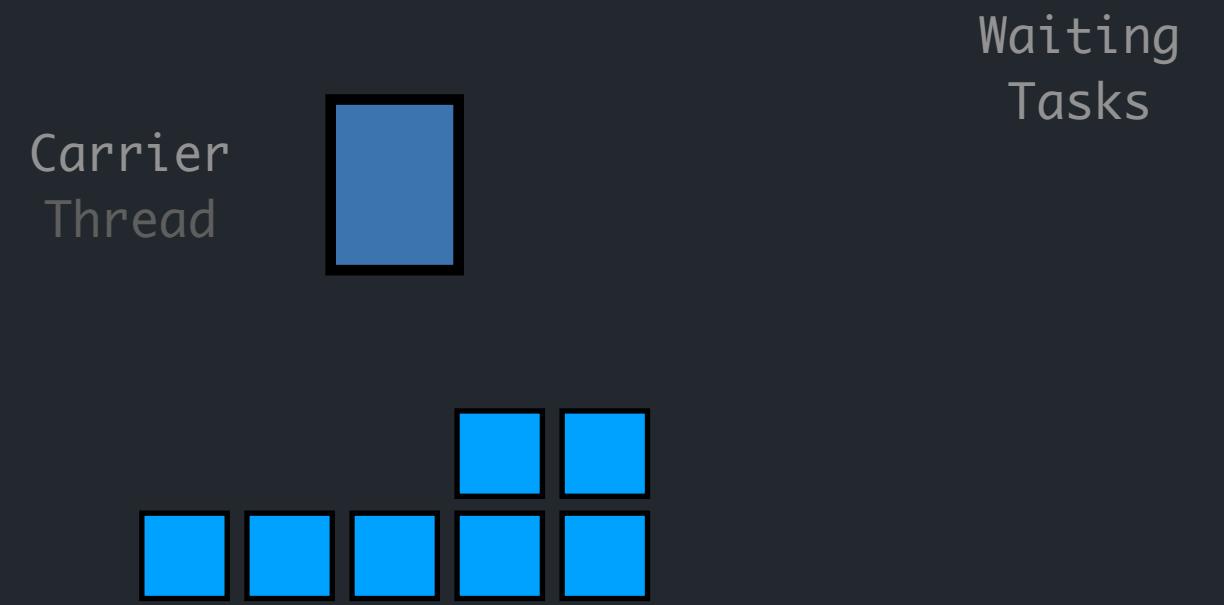
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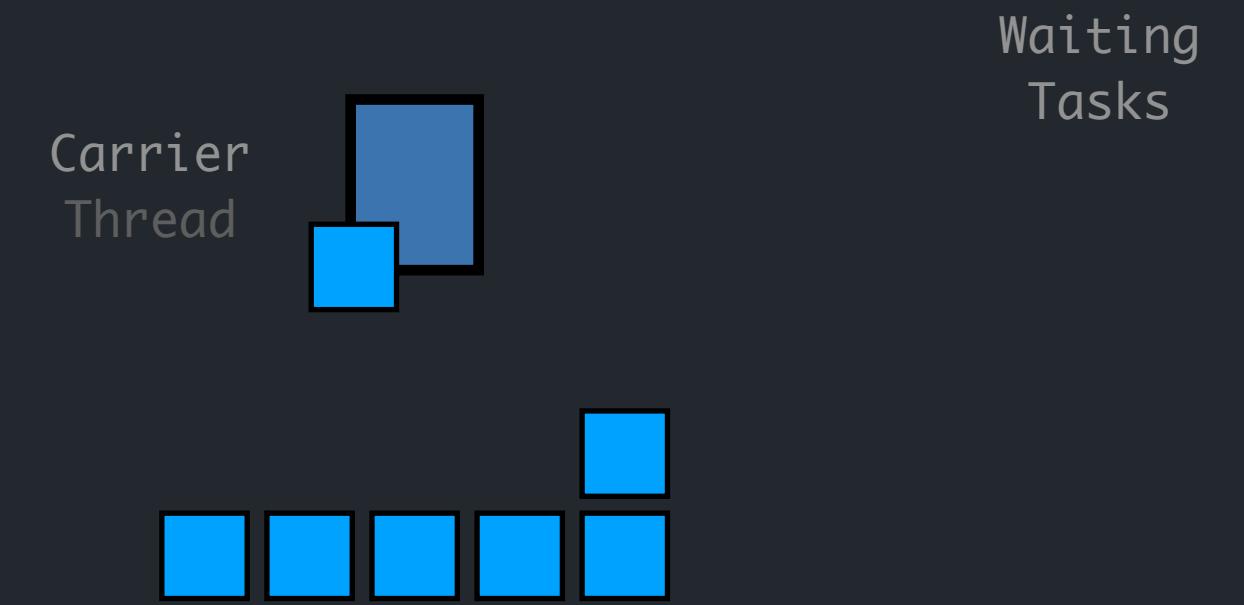


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        if (count++ % 100 == 0) {  
            Thread.yield();  
        }  
    }  
    return count;  
}
```

Slower than running the task alone  
(Since the CPU is shared)

But it's the same behaviour  
of running multiple platform Threads

```
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try (ExecutorService executor = Executors.newVirtualThreadPerTaskExecutor()) {  
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        });  
    }  
}
```

# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

## THE SYNCHRONIZED KEYWORD

```
private final static Object[] lock = new Object[4];
static {
    for (int i = 0; i < lock.length; ++i) {
        lock[i] = new Object();
    }
}

private static long ioSynchronizedTask(final int taskId) {
    synchronized (lock[taskId % lock.length]) {
        return ioBoundTask();
    }
}
```

SYNCHRONIZED  
WILL BLOCK  
THE CARRIER THREAD

# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

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}
```

MULTIPLE SYNCHRONIZED OBJECT  
WILL NOT HELP

IF YOU ARE LUCKY  
YOU'LL GET THE  
CPU BOUND TASK BEHAVIOUR  
EVEN ON I/O OPERATIONS

# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

## THE SYNCHRONIZED KEYWORD

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    }
}

private static long ioSynchronizedTask(final int taskId) {
    synchronized (lock[taskId % lock.length]) {
        return ioBoundTask();
    }
}
```

REMOVE THE USE OF  
SYNCHRONIZED

# JDK 21: VIRTUAL THREADS

LOCKS: REENTRANT LOCK, SEMAPHORES, ...

```
private static final ReentrantLock[] rlock = new ReentrantLock[4];
static {
    for (int i = 0; i < rlock.length; ++i) {
        rlock[i] = new ReentrantLock();
    }
}

private static long ioLockedTask(final int taskId) {
    final ReentrantLock lock = rlock[taskId % rlock.length];
    lock.lock();
    try {
        return ioBoundTask(); // http.send(), sleep(), ...
    } finally {
        lock.unlock();
    }
}
```

4 Tasks will run concurrently

Locks are a blocking operation  
Releasing the Virtual Thread from the Carrier

```
// Run with -Djdk.virtualThreadScheduler.parallelism=1
final long startTime = System.nanoTime();
try (ExecutorService executor = Executors.newVirtualThreadPerTaskExecutor()) {
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i) {
        final int taskId = i;
        executor.submit(() -> {
            ioLockedTask();
            long elapsedNs = System.nanoTime() - startTime;
        });
    }
}
```

# JDK 21

## VIRTUAL THREADS

Do not go and replace all your ExecutorServices with Virtual Threads!

CPU Bound Tasks will not benefit from it

Virtual Threads are made for I/O bound Tasks

CPU Bound	I/O Bound
Spends most of the time using CPU	Spends most of the time waiting for I/O
Longer CPU bursts	Shorter CPU bursts

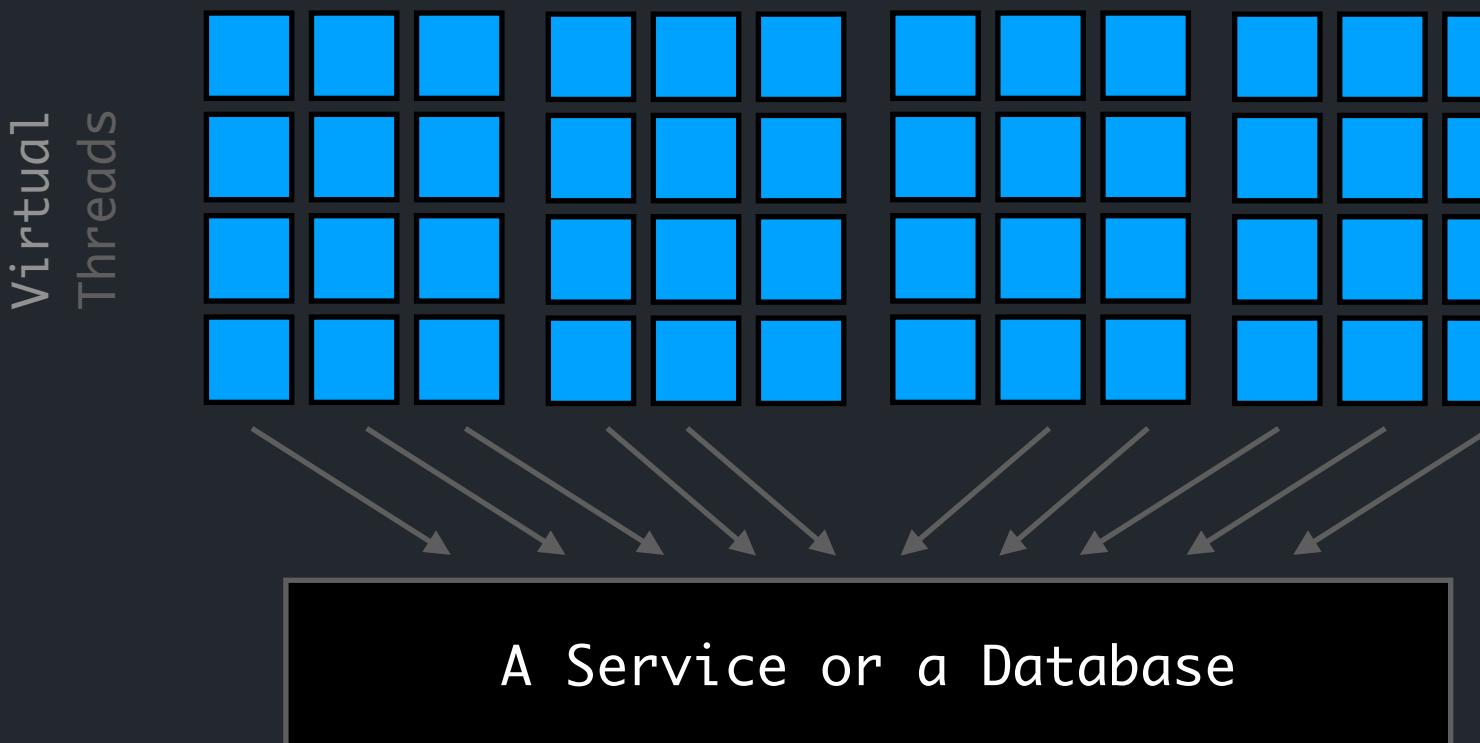
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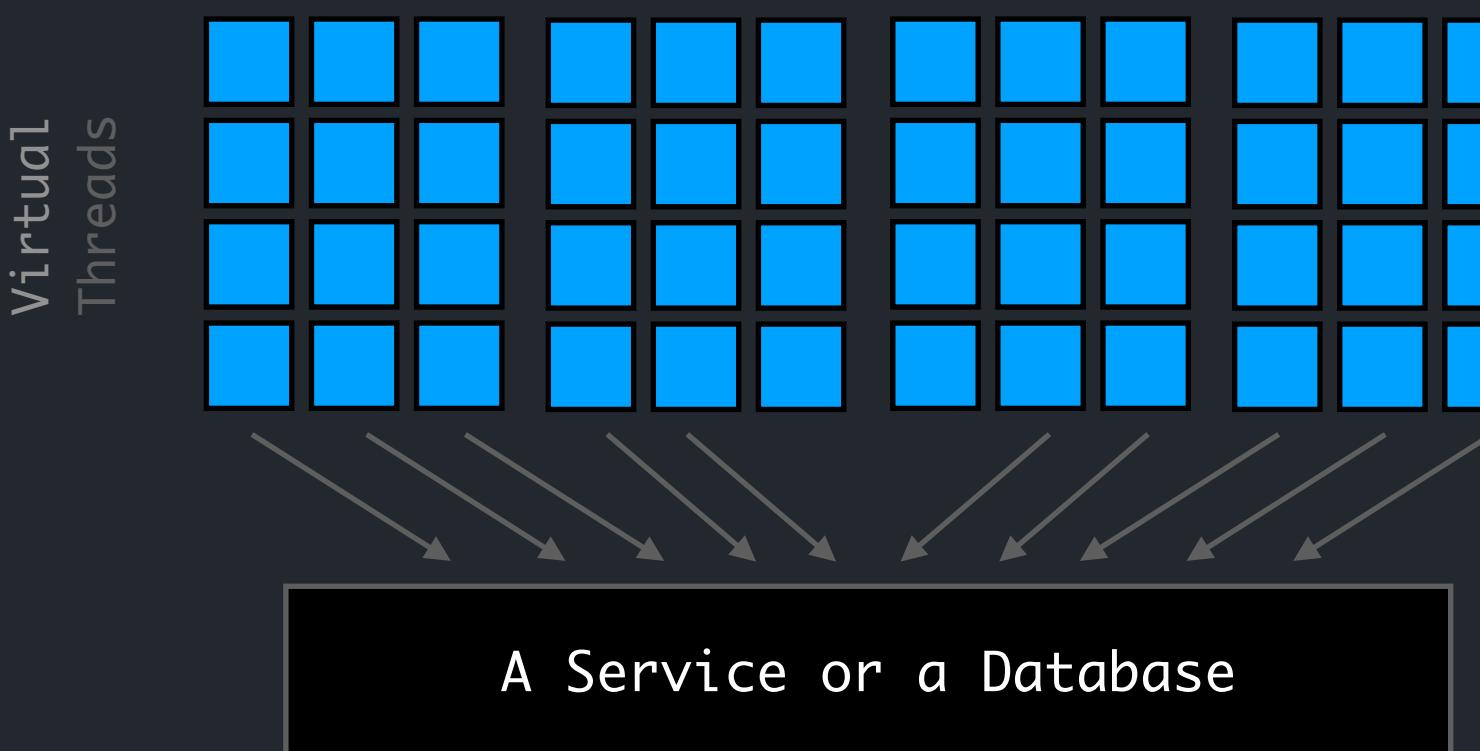
# JDK 21

## VIRTUAL THREADS

Do not go and replace all your ExecutorServices with Virtual Threads!

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Can your Database, Service, Disk, ...  
handle the extra concurrency?  
(Probably not)

CPU Bound	I/O Bound
Spends most of the time using CPU	Spends most of the time waiting for I/O
Longer CPU bursts	Shorter CPU bursts

If you are using Virtual Threads  
You should limit the access  
To a Resource  
Using a Semaphore (or similar)