Tutorial 03 - Debugging & shared_ptr

Warm up - Spot the bugs (Section 1)

```
void reader(int* foo) {
    std::cout << *foo;</pre>
    delete foo;
void writer(int* foo) {
    (*foo)++;
    delete foo;
void schedule unsafe() {
    int* foo = new int;
    std::thread { reader, foo }.detach();
    std::thread { writer, foo }.detach();
```

1. Double Free (ASan)

void reader(int* foo) {

std::cout << *foo;

```
delete foo;
void writer(int* foo) {
    (*foo)++;
    delete foo;
void schedule unsafe() {
    int* foo = new int;
    std::thread { reader, foo }.detach();
    std::thread { writer, foo }.detach();
```

```
==39903==ERROR: AddressSanitizer: attempting double-free on 0x
    #0 0x5600620a5d0a in operator delete(void*)
    (truncated)

freed by thread T1 here:
    #0 0x5600620a5d0a in operator delete(void*)
    (truncated)

SUMMARY: AddressSanitizer: double-free in operator delete(void (truncated)
```

2. Use After Free (ASan)

```
void reader(int* foo) {
    std::cout << *foo;
    delete foo;
void writer(int* foo) {
    (*foo)++;
    delete foo;
void schedule unsafe() {
    int* foo = new int;
```

std::thread { reader, foo }.detach();
std::thread { writer, foo }.detach();

```
at pc 0x5600620a8209 bp 0x7f69578fdd20 sp 0x7f69578fdd18
READ of size 4 at 0x602000000010 thread T2
   #0 0x5600620a8208 in writer(int*)
   (truncated)
freed by thread T1 here:
   #0 0x5600620a5d0a in operator delete(void*)
   (truncated)
SUMMARY: AddressSanitizer: heap-use-after-free in writer(int*
   (truncated)
```

==39903==ERROR: AddressSanitizer: heap-use-after-free on addre

3. Uninitialized variable (MSan)

```
void reader(int* foo) {
    std::cout << *foo;</pre>
    delete foo;
void writer(int* foo) {
    (*foo)++;
    delete foo;
void schedule unsafe() {
    int* foo = new int;
    std::thread { reader, foo }.detach();
    std::thread { writer, foo }.detach();
                                                     https://i.imgur.com/3wlxtl0.gifv
```

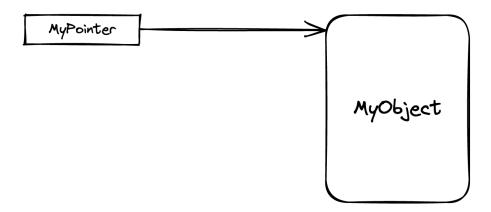
std::shared_ptr

Why use it? How does it solve the previous problems?

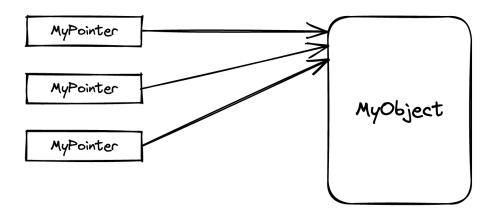
std::shared_ptr

Reference Counting Section 2.1

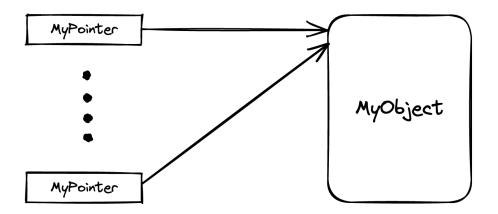
the object is stored somewhere on the heap



multiple pointers can point to the same object



the pointers can get created and destroyed...



when the *last pointer* goes away, the object destructor is called.



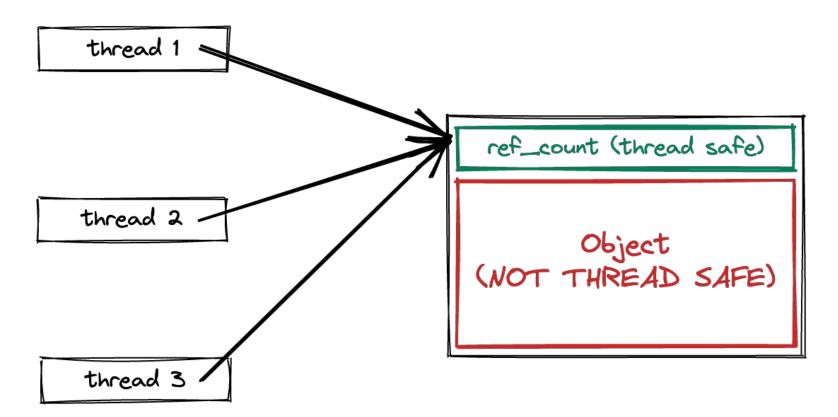
try it yourself

(example 2.1)

4. Is std::shared_ptr thread-safe?

```
void reader2 (std::shared ptr<int> foo) {
    std::cout << *foo;</pre>
} // delete foo
void writer2 (std::shared ptr<int> foo) {
    (*foo)++;
} // delete foo
void schedule safe() {
    std::shared ptr<int> foo { std::make shared<int>(0) };
    std::thread { reader2, foo }.detach();
    std::thread { writer2, foo }.detach();
} // delete foo
```

Is std::shared_ptr thread-safe?



Solution

```
void reader2(std::shared ptr<std::atomic<int>> foo) {
    std::cout << foo->load();
void writer2(std::shared ptr<std::atomic<int>> foo) {
    foo->fetch add(1);
void schedule safe() {
    auto foo { std::make shared<std::atomic<int>>(0) };
    std::thread { reader2, foo }.detach();
    std::thread { writer2, foo }.detach();
```

std::shared_ptr

The antipattern (Section 2.4)

Problem 1. Find the bug

```
int main() {
    std::shared ptr<int> ptr = std::make shared<int>(0);
    auto reader = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int> ptr) {
    for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
        printf("%d\n", *ptr);
    }, ptr);
    auto writer = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int> ptr) {
    for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
        *ptr = i;
   }, ptr);
```

Problem 1. Data Race on Value (TSan)

```
int main() {
   std::shared ptr<int> ptr = std::make shared<int>(0);
   auto reader = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int> ptr) {
    for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
        printf("%d\n", *ptr);
   }, ptr);
   auto writer = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int> ptr) {
    for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
        *ptr = i;
   }, ptr);
```

Recap: What's the fix?

Problem 1. Data Race on Value (TSan)

```
int main() {
   std::shared ptr<int> ptr = std: ===========
   auto reader = std::jthread([](s
    for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
        printf("%d\n", *ptr);
   }, ptr);
   auto writer = std::jthread([](s
    for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
        *ptr = i;
   }, ptr);
```

```
WARNING: ThreadSanitizer: data race (pid=48593)
Write of size 4 at 0x7b0800000030 by thread T2:
    #0 func2()::$_3::operator()(std::shared_ptr<int>) const
    (truncated)

Previous read of size 4 at 0x7b0800000030 by thread T1:
    #0 func2()::$_2::operator()(std::shared_ptr<int>) const
    (truncated)
```

Recap: What's the fix?

Problem 2. Find the bug

```
int main() {
    std::shared ptr<int> ptr;
    auto reader = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int>& ptr) {
        while(ptr == nullptr)
        printf("%d\n", *ptr);
    }, std::ref(ptr));
    auto writer = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int>& ptr) {
        for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
            ptr = std::make shared<int>(i);
    }, std::ref(ptr));
```

```
int main() {
    std::shared ptr<int> ptr;
    auto reader = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int>& ptr) {
        while (ptr == nullptr)
        printf("%d\n", *ptr);
    }, std::ref(ptr));
    auto writer = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int>& ptr) {
        for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
            ptr = std::make shared<int>(i);
    }, std::ref(ptr));
```

```
int main() {
    std::shared ptr<int> ptr;
    auto reader = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int>& ptr) {
         while (ptr == nullptr)
        printf("%d\n", *ptr);
                                             Stack
                                                                  Heap
    }, std::ref(ptr));
                   Write
                                Read
                                             Main
                                                      <int>&
    auto write
                  Thread
                                Thread
                                             Thread
                                                                   ptr
         for (ir
             b.
    }, std::re
                    ptr
                                 ptr
                                              ptr
```

```
int main() {
    std::shared ptr<int> ptr;
    auto reader = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int>& ptr) {
         while (ptr == nullptr)
         printf("%d\n", *ptr);
                                              Stack
                                                                   Heap
    }, std::ref(ptr));
                   Write
                                Read
                                              Main
                                                       <int>&
    auto write
                   Thread
                                Thread
                                              Thread
                                                                    ptr
         for (ir
              b.
    }, std::re
                    ptr
                                  ptr
                                               ptr
                               printf(int&)
```

```
int main() {
    std::shared ptr<int> ptr;
    auto reader = std::jthread([](std::shared ptr<int>& ptr) {
         while (ptr == nullptr)
         printf("%d\n", *ptr);
                                              Stack
                                                                   Heap
    }, std::ref(ptr));
                   Write
                                 Read
                                              Main
                                                       <int>&
    auto write
                   Thread
                                Thread
                                              Thread
                                                                                 ptr*
                                                                    ptr
         for (ir
    }, std::re
                    ptr
                                  ptr
                                               ptr
                               printf(int&)
```

```
int main() {
     std::shared ptr<int> ptr;
                                         WARNING: ThreadSanitizer: data race (pid=48675)
                                           Write of size 8 at 0x7ffc4917a598 by thread T2:
     auto reader = std::jthread(
                                             (truncated)
          while (ptr == nullptr)
                                            #3 std::shared_ptr<int>::operator=(std::shared_ptr<int>&&)
                                             (truncated)
          printf("%d\n", *ptr);
                                           Previous read of size 8 at 0x7ffc4917a598 by thread T1:
     }, std::ref(ptr));
                                             (truncated)
                                            #1 bool std::operator==<int>(std::shared_ptr<int> const&, std::nullptr_t)
                                             (truncated)
     auto writer = std::jthread(
           for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
                ptr = std::make shared<int>(i);
     }, std::ref(ptr));
```

Problem 3. Find the bug

```
// Doubly Linked List
struct DLLNode {
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> prev;
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> next;
};
struct DLL {
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> head {};
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> tail {};
    void push front(std::shared ptr<DLLNode>);
    void push back(std::shared ptr<DLLNode>);
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> front();
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> back();
```

Problem 3. Circular Reference (ASan)

```
Doubly Linked List
struct DLLNode {
                                          Stack
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> prev;
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> next;
                                          Main
};
                                                            Α
                                                                           В
                                         Thread
struct DLL {
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> head {};
                                           foo
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> tail {};
    void push front(std::shared ptr<DLLNode>);
    void push back(std::shared ptr<DLLNode>);
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> front();
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> back();
```

Problem 3. Circular Reference (ASan)

```
Doubly Linked List
struct DLLNode {
                                          Stack
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> prev;
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> next;
                                          Main
};
                                                                            В
                                         Thread
struct DLL {
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> head {};;
                                           foo
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> tail {};;
    void push front(std::shared ptr<DLLNode>);
    void push back(std::shared ptr<DLLNode>);
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> front();
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> back();
```

Problem 3. Circular Referend

```
// Doubly Linked List
struct DLLNode {
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> prev;
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> next;
};
struct DLL {
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> head {};
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> tail {};
    void push front (std::shared ptr<DI</pre>
    void push back(std::shared ptr<DLI</pre>
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> front();
    std::shared ptr<DLLNode> back();
```

```
#8 0x5639046f87c0 in main /app/example.cpp:28:11
#9 0x7fd5fa270082 in __libc_start_main (/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/l

Indirect leak of 48 byte(s) in 1 object(s) allocated from:
#0 0x5639046f60bd in operator new(unsigned long) /root/llvm-pro
#1 0x5639046f8710 in std::__new_allocator<std::_Sp_counted_ptr_
#2 0x5639046f8710 in std::_allocator_traits<std::allocator<std::
#3 0x5639046f8710 in std::_allocated_ptr<std::allocator<std::
#4 0x5639046f8710 in std::_shared_count<(__gnu_cxx::_Lock_poli
#5 0x5639046f8710 in std::_shared_ptr<DLLNode, (__gnu_cxx::_Lock_poli
#6 0x5639046f8710 in std::shared_ptr<DLLNode>::shared_ptr<std::
```

#7 0x5639046f8710 in std::shared_ptr<std::enable_if<!is_array<!

#9 0x7fd5fa270082 in __libc_start_main (/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/

SUMMARY: AddressSanitizer: 96 byte(s) leaked in 2 allocation(s).

#8 0x5639046f8710 in main /app/example.cpp:27:11

==1==ERROR: LeakSanitizer: detected memory leaks

Indirect leak of 48 byte(s) in 1 object(s) allocated from:

#0 0x5639046f60bd in operator new(unsigned long) /root/llvm-pro

#1 0x5639046f87c0 in std::__new_allocator<std::_Sp_counted_ptr_
#2 0x5639046f87c0 in std::allocator_traits<std::allocator<std::
#3 0x5639046f87c0 in std::__allocated_ptr<std::allocator<std::
#4 0x5639046f87c0 in std::__shared_count<(__qnu_cxx::_Lock_pol:</pre>

#5 0x5639046f87c0 in std::_shared_ptr<DLLNode, (__gnu_cxx::_Lo

#6 0x5639046f87c0 in std::shared_ptr<DLLNode>::shared_ptr<std:

#7 0x5639046f87c0 in std::shared_ptr<std::enable_if<!is_array<!

Summary of Pitfalls

- 1. Data race on pointer
- 2. Data race on value
- 3. Memory leak due to circular reference

std::shared_ptr

Implementation

1. Start with sequential impl

```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    size t m count;
    T* m ptr;
    // TODO: add additional fields
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(1), m_ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m count(other.m count), m ptr(other.m ptr) {
          // TODO: synchronise this
          ++m count;
    ~SharedPtr() {
          // TODO: synchronise this
          if((--m count) == 0)
               delete m ptr;
};
```

2. Share the count

```
template <typename T>
                                        res
                                                          res
class SharedPtr {
                                       count*
                                                         count*
    size t* m count;
    T* m ptr;
                                        ptr*
                                                          ptr*
    // TODO: add additional fields
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new int(1)), m ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m count(other.m count), m ptr(other.m ptr) {
          // TODO: synchronise this
          ++(*m count);
    ~SharedPtr() {
          // TODO: synchronise this
          if((--(*m count)) == 0)
               delete m ptr;
};
```

Read

Thread

. . .

Main

Thread

. . .

IOResource

count = 2

```
2. ...vs copy (attempt #1)
```

};

```
. . .
                                                            . . .
                                         res
                                                           res
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
                                      count=2
                                                         count=1
    size t* m count;
    T* m ptr;
                                         ptr*
                                                           ptr*
    // TODO: add additional fields
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new int(1)), m ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m count(other.m count), m ptr(other.m ptr) {
          // TODO: synchronise this
          ++(*m count);
    ~SharedPtr() {
          // TODO: synchronise this
          if((--(*m count)) == 0)
               delete m ptr;
```

Read

Thread

Main

Thread

IOResource

3. Synchronize count (attempt #2)

```
. . .
                                                            . . .
template <typename T>
                                         res
                                                           res
class SharedPtr {
    size t* m count;
                                     mu*,count*
    std::mutex* m mutex;
    T* m ptr;
                                         ptr*
                                                           ptr*
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new size t(1)), m mutex(new std::mutex()), m ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m count(other.m count), m mutex(other.m mutex),
m ptr(other.m ptr) {
          auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
          ++(*m count);
    ~SharedPtr() {
          auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
          if(--(*m count) == 0) {
               delete m ptr; delete m mutex; delete m count;
```

```
count=2
Read
                   Main
                                               IOResource
Thread
                  Thread
                                 std::mutex
                mu*,count*
```

4. Safety?

```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    size t* m count;
    std::mutex* m mutex;
    T* m ptr;
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new size t(1)), m mutex(new std::mutex()), m ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m count(other.m count), m mutex(other.m mutex),
m ptr(other.m ptr) {
          auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
          ++(*m count);
    ~SharedPtr() {
          auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
          if(--(*m count) == 0) {
               delete m ptr; delete m mutex; delete m count;
```

4. Safety?

```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    size t* m count;
    std::mutex* m mutex;
    T* m ptr;
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new size t(1)), m mutex(new std::mutex()), m ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m count(other.m count), m mutex(other.m mutex),
m ptr(other.m ptr) {
          auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
          ++(*m count);
    ~SharedPtr() {
          auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
          if(--(*m count) == 0) {
               delete m ptr; delete m_mutex; delete m count;
    } // m mutex.unlock()
                                                                    Use after free!
};
```

4. Safety?

```
#2 <null> <null> (output.s+0xd387e)
                                                           #3 <null> <null> (libstdc++.so.6+0xe0a3b) (BuildId: 563574e8434b929f2596a1
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
                                                          Previous write of size 8 at 0x7b0c00000030 by thread T9 (mutexes: write M0):
     size t* m count;
                                                           #0 <null> <null> (output.s+0xd2b6e)
                                                           #1 <null> (output.s+0xd3ab0)
     std::mutex* m mutex;
                                                           #2 <null> <null> (output.s+0xd387e)
     T* m ptr;
                                                           #3 <null> <null> (libstdc++.so.6+0xe0a3b) (BuildId: 563574e8434b929f2596a1
public:
                                                          Mutex M0 (0x7b0c00000030) created at:
     SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new size t())
                                                           #0 <null> <null> (output.s+0x7085a)
                                                           #1 <null> <null> (output.s+0xd3762)
                                                           #2 <null> <null> (libc.so.6+0x24082) (BuildId: 1878e6b475720c7c51969e69ab2
     SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m c
m ptr(other.m ptr) {
                                                          Thread T9 (tid=11, running) created by thread T8 at:
             auto lk = std::unique lock { *m m
                                                           #0 <null> (output.s+0x52b7d)
             ++(*m count);
                                                           #1 <null> <null> (libstdc++.so.6+0xe0d3b) (BuildId: 563574e8434b929f2596a1
                                                           #2 <null> <null> (output.s+0xd39ae)
                                                           #3 <null> <null> (libstdc++.so.6+0xe0a32) (BuildId: 563574e8434b929f2596a1
     ~SharedPtr() {
                                                        SUMMARY: ThreadSanitizer: heap-use-after-free (/app/output.s+0x709fa)
             auto lk = std::unique lock { *m_m
             if(--(*m count) == 0) {
                   delete m ptr; delete m mutex; delete m count;
     } // m mutex.unlock()
};
                                                                                      Use after free!
```

WARNING: ThreadSanitizer: heap-use-after-free (pid=1)

#0 <null> <null> (output.s+0x709fa)
#1 <null> <null> (output.s+0xd3add)

Atomic read of size 1 at 0x7b0c00000030 by thread T9 (mutexes: write M0):

4. Unlock before Delete

```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    size t* m count;
    std::mutex* m mutex;
    T* m ptr;
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new size t(1)), m mutex(new std::mutex()), m ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m count(other.m count), m mutex(other.m mutex), m ptr(other.m ptr) {
            auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
            ++(*m count);
    ~SharedPtr()
            size t new count = [this]() {
                  auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
                  return --(*m count);
            }(); // m mutex.unlock()
            if(new count == 0) {
                delete m ptr; delete m mutex; delete m count;
```

Can we do better?

```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    size t* m count;
    std::mutex* m mutex;
   T* m ptr;
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new size t(1)), m mutex(new std::mutex()), m ptr(ptr) {} // 2 alloc
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m count(other.m count), m mutex(other.m mutex), m ptr(other.m ptr) {
            auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex }; // 1st cache miss + syscall
                                                      // 2nd cache miss
            ++(*m count);
                                                      // 2nd syscall
    ~SharedPtr()
            size t new count = [this]() {
                  auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex }; // 1st cache miss + syscall
                  return --(*m count);
                                                            // 2nd cache miss
            }();
                                                             // 2nd syscall
            if(new count == 0) {
                delete m ptr; delete m mutex; delete m count; // whee!
```

Can we do better?

```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    size t* m count;
    std::mutex* m mutex;
    T* m ptr;
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new size t(1)), m mutex(new std::mutex()), m ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m count(other.m count), m mutex(other.m mutex), m ptr(other.m ptr) {
            auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
            ++(*m count);
    ~SharedPtr()
            size t new count = [this]() {
                   auto lk = std::unique lock { *m mutex };
                   return --(*m count);
            }();
            if(new count == 0) {
                delete m ptr; delete m mutex; delete m count;
```

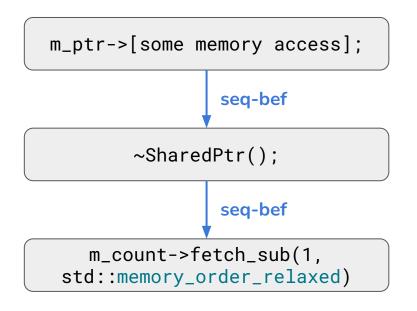
When $m_{count} = 1$, only 1 shared ptr exists, no concurrency i.e. no copy constructor run concurrently in the middle of destructor. Hence it is safe to delete

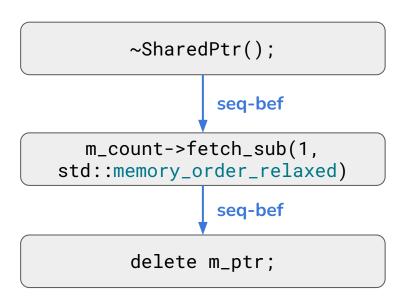
Rewrite It In Atomic 🤪

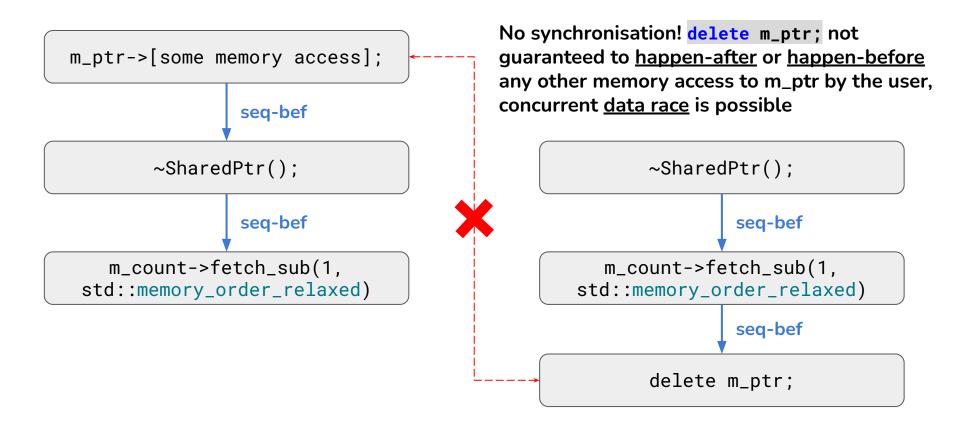
```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    std::atomic<size t>* m count;
    T* m ptr;
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m count(new std::atomic<size t>(1)), m ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr4& other) : m count(other.m count), m ptr(other.m ptr) {
          m count->fetch add(1);
                                            What is the weakest memory order we can use
                                           for fetch add and fetch sub?
    ~SharedPtr4() {
          size t old count = m count->fetch sub(1);
          if(old count == 1) {
              delete m ptr; delete m count;
```

```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    std::atomic<size_t>* m_count;
    T* m_ptr;
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m_count(new std::atomic<size_t>(1)), m_ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m_count(other.m_count), m_ptr(other.m_ptr) {
         m_count->fetch_add(1, std::memory_order_relaxed);
                                                                relaxed?
    ~SharedPtr() {
         size_t old_count = m_count->fetch_sub(1, std::memory_order_relaxed);
         if(old_count == 1) {
             delete m_ptr; delete m_count;
                                               All threads will agree on the modification
                                               order of each individual variable
```

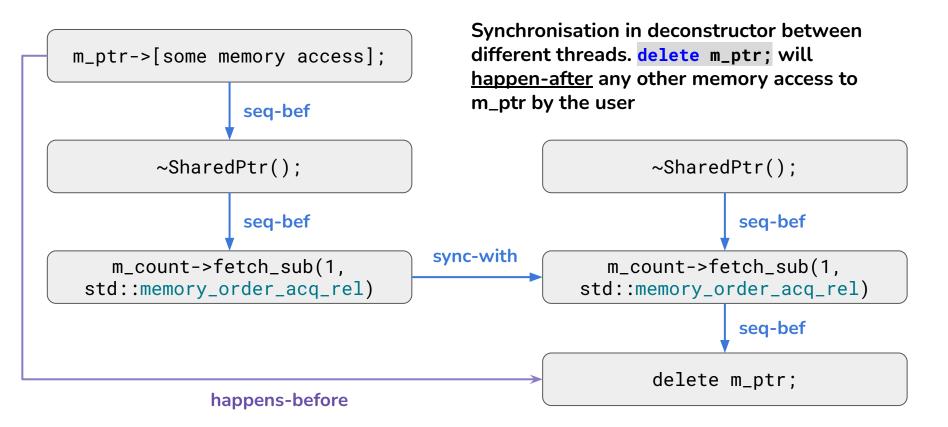
```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    std::atomic<size_t>* m_count;
    T* m_ptr;
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m_count(new std::atomic<size_t>(1)), m_ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m_count(other.m_count), m_ptr(other.m_ptr) {
         m_count->fetch_add(1, std::memory_order_relaxed);
                                                               relaxed?
    ~SharedPtr() {
         size_t old_count = m_count->fetch_sub(1, std::memory_order_relaxed);
         if(old_count == 1) {
             delete m_ptr; delete m_count;
                                              But what about m_count and m_ptr
                                              between threads?
```







```
template <typename T>
class SharedPtr {
    std::atomic<size_t>* m_count;
    T* m_ptr;
public:
    SharedPtr(T* ptr) : m_count(new std::atomic<size_t>(1)), m_ptr(ptr) {}
    SharedPtr(const SharedPtr& other) : m_count(other.m_count), m_ptr(other.m_ptr) {
         m_count->fetch_add(1, std::memory_order_relaxed);
    ~SharedPtr() {
         size_t old_count = m_count->fetch_sub(1, std::memory_order_acq_rel);
         if(old_count == 1) {
                                                       Combined acquire release
             delete m_ptr; delete m_count;
```



Have a great weekend ahead!

