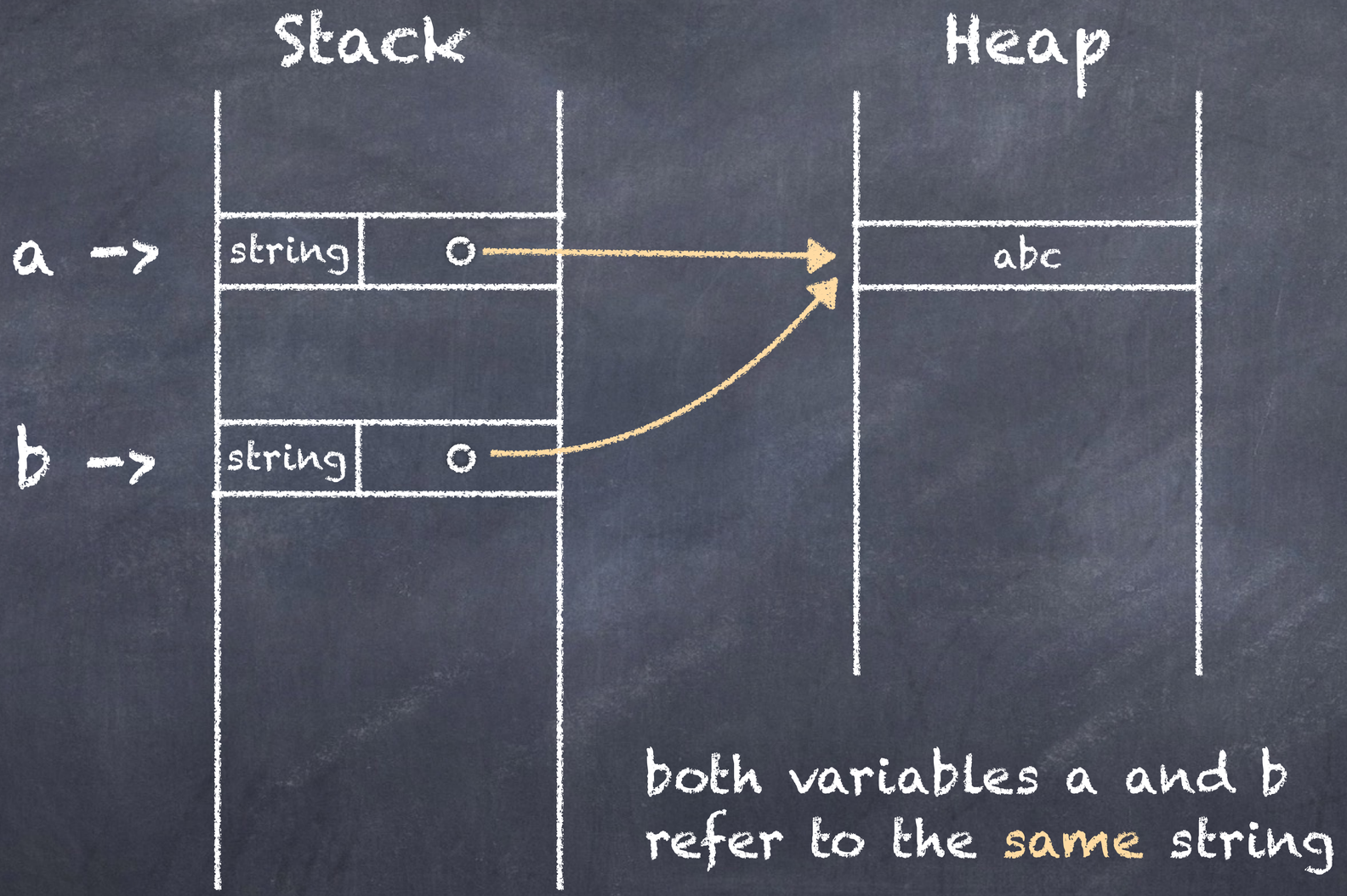
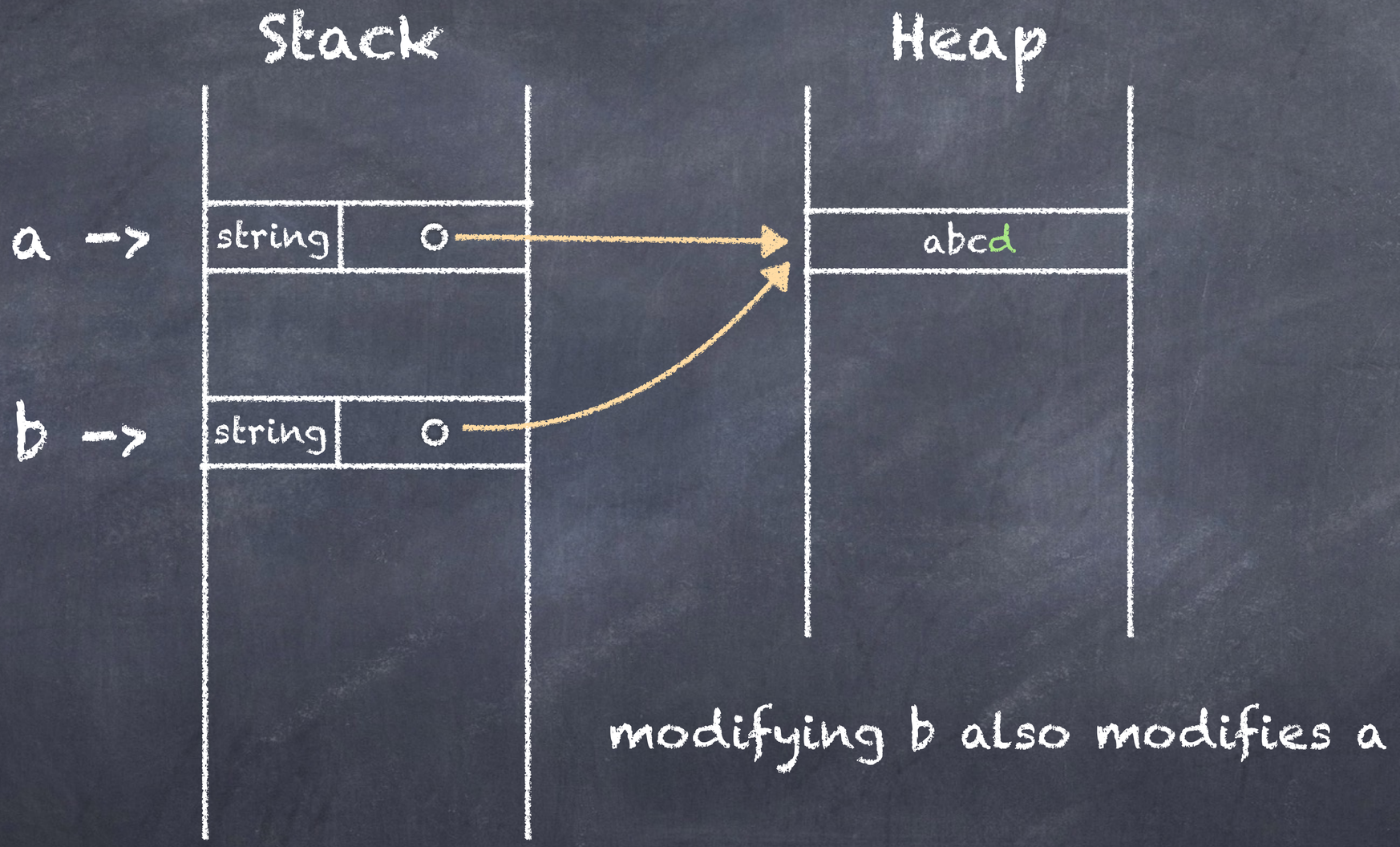
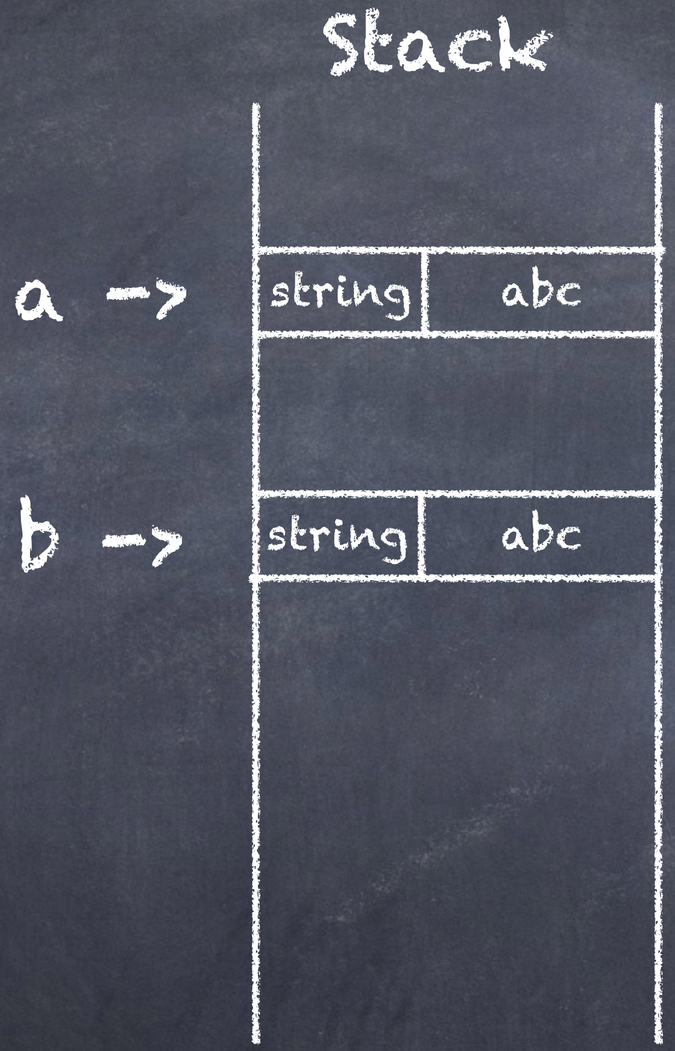
Immutable strings



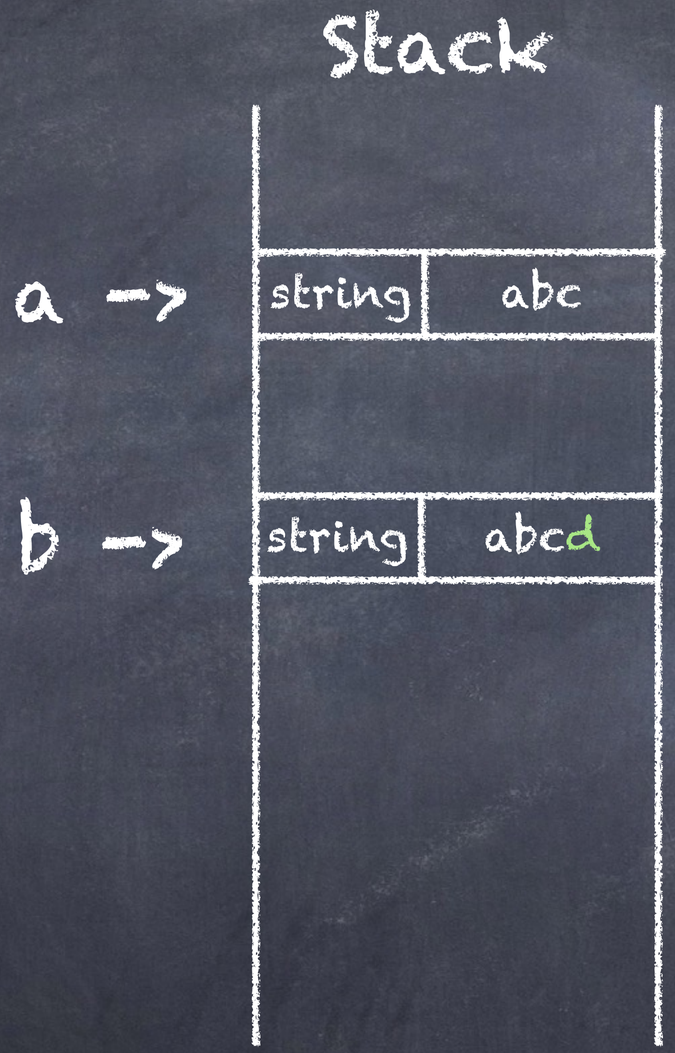
both variables a and b
refer to the same string



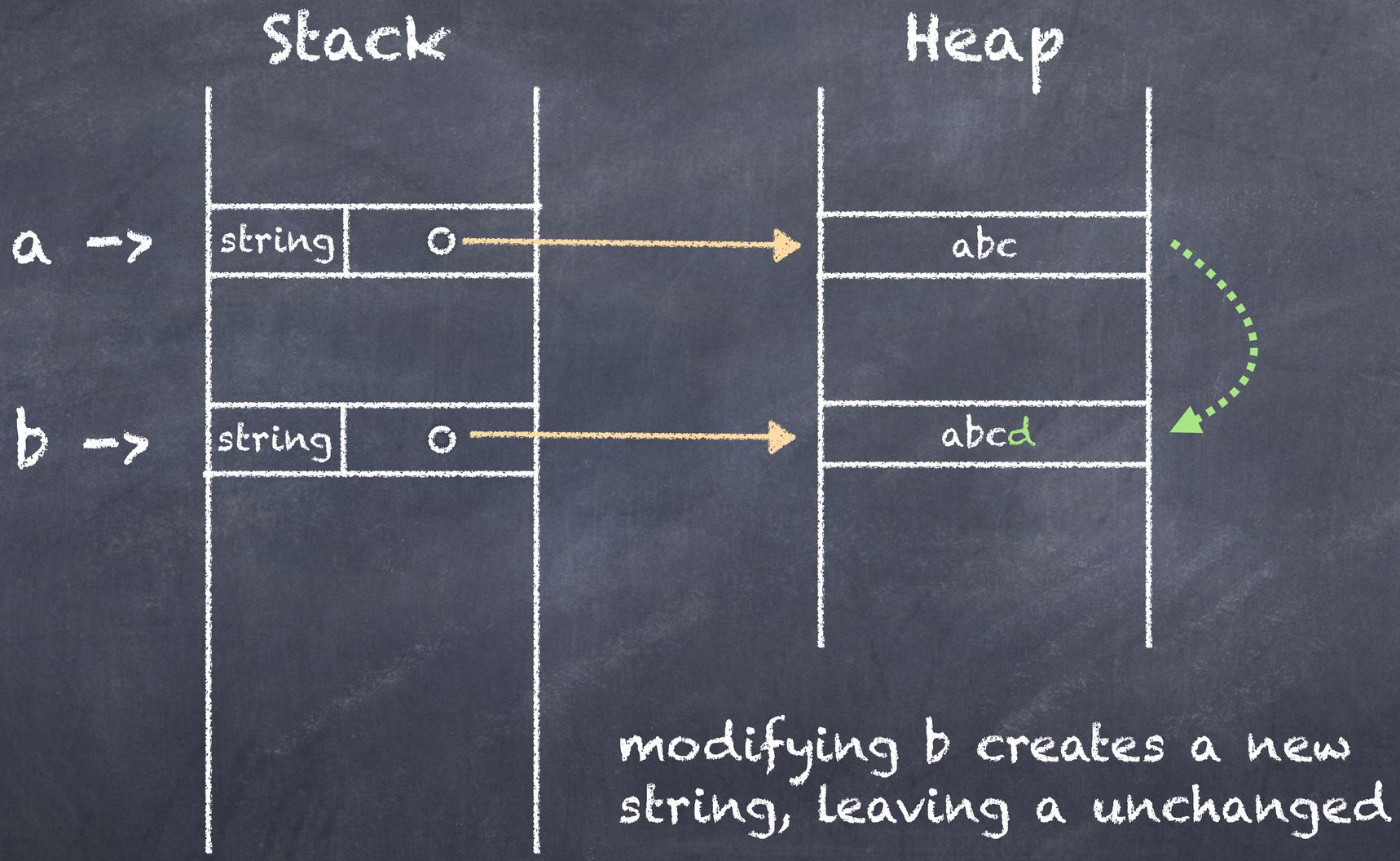
modifying b also modifies a



Variables a and b refer to separate strings



Modifying b has no affect on a



modifying b creates a new string, leaving a unchanged

Benefits

- Thread safety: Immutable strings are thread-safe
- Memory savings: Identical strings can be merged
- Fast assignment: Copy a string by copying the reference
- Fast comparison: Compare two interned strings by comparing the reference

Immutable strings

- Strings are reference types, and immutable
- Strings behave as if they are value types. They are assigned and compared by value
- Strings are thread-safe
- Strings are fast
- Strings conserve memory