



# Practical Concurrent and Parallel Programming I

## Intro to Concurrency and Mutual Exclusion

Raúl Pardo and Jørgen Staunstrup

# Agenda



- Course General Info
- Introduction to Concurrency
- Java Threads
- Mutual Exclusion
- Java Locks



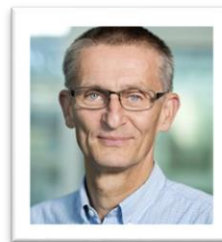
- **Course manager: Raúl Pardo**

- PhD from Chalmers University (Sweden) 2017
- Postdoc at Inria (France) 2017 & ITU (Denmark) 2019
- Assistant Professor at ITU since Feb 2022; Teaching PCPP since 2021 (and concurrency since 2013)
- Research interest: Privacy & Security, Formal Verification, Probabilistic Programming, Concurrency



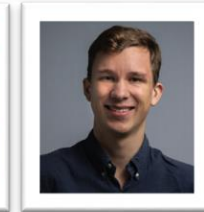
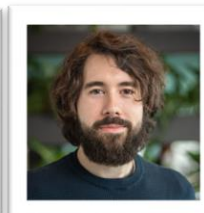
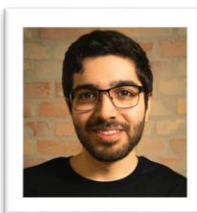
- **Co-teacher: Jørgen Staunstrup**

- PhD from University of Southern California (USA) 1978
- Joined ITU in 2001, retired in 2014
- Teaching MSc course Mobile App Development at ITU since 2016



- **Teaching Assistants**

- Ahmad Sattar Atta
- Eduardo Sfreddo Triandade
- Guan-Ting Lin
- Gustav Henrik Meding
- Philip Kristian Møller Flyvholm
- Tommaso Cammelli





- Lectures
  - Mondays 8-10 (recall academic quarter 8:15)
  - We publish the readings for the lecture a week before the lecture (approx.)
  - Auditorium 1
- Exercise sessions
  - Mondays 10-12 (recall academic quarter 10:15)
  - Every week we publish a set of exercises covering the material of the lecture
  - 2A12-14 (1<sup>st</sup> priority), 2A18 (2<sup>nd</sup> priority), 2A54 (3<sup>rd</sup> priority), 3A54 (if no space in others)



- The learnIT website (<https://learnit.itu.dk/course/view.php?id=3023601>) contains information about the course and submission links for the assignments
- The material of the course is hosted in our github repository (<https://github.itu.dk/jst/PCPP2024-public>)
  - Lecture slides
  - Readings
  - Example code
  - Exercises
  - Accompanying code for the exercises

You may want to “watch” the repository to be notified every time there are updates

# Exercises & Assignments



- You are expected to work on **groups of 2/3 people**
  - Today in the exercise session we will start by forming groups with the help of TAs
- Assignments submission deadlines are **on Mondays before the lecture**
  - We made sure to minimize clashing with other courses in the CS programme
  - In total there are 12 exercise sets, distributed in 6 assignments
- Exercises are divided into *mandatory* and *challenging*
  - Mandatory assignments are required to pass assignments
  - Challenging exercises are meant for students aiming at high grades in the exam
  - Challenging exercises are not required to pass the assignments
- Assignments submission:
  - In LearnIT, you submit link to a repository in `github.itu.dk`
  - Repositories should have only one branch
  - The repository should be public
  - All members of the group should submit the same link

You can find detailed info about assignment submissions and feedback in the [GitHub repo](#)

# Oral feedback & Assessment



- Feedback and assessment of assignments is provided in oral sessions
- You **must book an oral feedback slot with a TA/teacher** using the organizer in learnIT
  - Today in the exercise session you can already book a slot (<https://learnit.itu.dk/mod/organizer/view.php?id=206699>)
- You must **pass 5 assignments** to be entitled **to take the exam**
  - We encourage you to not skip assignments, as they are one of the best activities to prepare for the exam

You can find detailed info about assignment submissions and feedback in the [GitHub repo](#)



- The main channel of communication is the Questions and Answers Forum in LearnIT
  - <https://learnit.itu.dk/mod/hsuforum/view.php?id=206700>
  - **We strongly encourage you to use the forum!**
  - We will check the forum regularly
  - But we also encourage you to answers questions yourself!
    - The forum is meant to be a discussion platform to boost learning and share knowledge
- The only constraint: *do not directly post solutions to exercises*





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  - **We strongly encourage you to use the forum!**
  - We will check the forum regularly
  - But we also encourage you to answers questions yourself!
    - The forum is meant to be a discussion platform to boost learning and share knowledge

**WARNING:** You can post anonymously, but teachers and TAs can internally check your identity. Posts are effectively anonymous only for your classmates.

- The only constraint: *do not directly post solutions to exercises*

# Additional help for exercises



- **CS Study lab** (Fridays, 14-16, room 3A50)

- Oral exam
  - 30 min (including grade deliberation)
  - Questions about any part of the syllabus
  
- Oral feedback sessions aim at preparing you for the exam

- Short questions to discuss on the spot during the lecture
  - Please try to answer them!

What is this blue box?

- May appear in the exam
- Blue questions method: *think-pair-ink-share*:
  - Think about the question for (2-3 min)
  - Write the answer in the answers client (1 min)
    - Download and open the AnswerClient.html and open it with your web browser (in folder BlueQuestions on GitHub repository for PCPP)
  - Then, we pose the question in class, and you may share your answer

# Answering blue box questions



When you access the answers client follow these steps:

## PCPP Answer client

Question no.: 1 What is this blue box?

Answer:

Submit

Next Question

# Answering blue box questions



· 13

When you access the answers client follow these steps:

## PCPP Answer client

Question no.: 1 What is this blue box?

Answer:

Submit

Next Question

Enter a string with the answer to the blue box question and click on the Submit button

The teacher will tell you when to push the Next Question button

# Concurrency



It takes one person 2 hours to dig 2 meters of ditch.  
How long will it take 2 people to dig 4 meters of ditch?

# Concurrency



· 15



It takes one person 2 hours to dig 2 meters of ditch.  
How long will it take 2 people to dig 4 meters of ditch?

What if they only have one shovel?



# Concurrency



· 15



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How long will it take 2 people to dig 4 meters of ditch?

What if they only have one shovel?

What if they must dig a hole (and not a ditch)?

# Concurrency



· 15



It takes one person 2 hours to dig 2 meters of ditch.  
How long will it take 2 people to dig 4 meters of ditch?

What if they only have one shovel?

What if they must dig a hole (and not a ditch)?

How fast can a 100 persons dig 1 meter of ditch?



It takes one person 2 hours to dig 2 meters of ditch.  
How long will it take 2 people to dig 4 meters of ditch?

What if they only have one shovel?

What if they must dig a hole (and not a ditch)?

How fast can a 100 persons dig 1 meter of ditch?

...

# Programming for concurrency



· 21

In PCPP we will study (in detail) the mechanisms/abstractions to program for concurrency in Java and (in less) detail a few other languages.

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It is important to *distinguish* between the *abstract concept concurrency* and the *language/hardware details* used to implement concurrency!

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**Abstract:**

<b>streams:</b>	s1;s2;s3; ....
	z1;z2;z3;z4; ...
	.....

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<b>streams:</b>	s1;s2;s3; ....	+	<b>coordination:</b>	s1;s2;s3; ....	
	z1;z2;z3;z4; ...				z1;z2;z3;z4; ...
	.....				.....

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	.....				.....

## Concrete:

Java threads / callbacks /  
processes / tasks /  
coroutines ...



# Programming for concurrency

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## Abstract:

**streams:** s1;s2;s3; ....  
z1;z2;z3;z4; ...  
.....

+

**coordination:** s1;s2;s3; ....  
                  ↓  
z1;z2;z3;z4; ...  
.....

## Concrete:

Java threads / callbacks /  
processes / tasks /  
coroutines ...

+

lock / monitor / semaphore /  
messages / ...

# The first computers were sequential

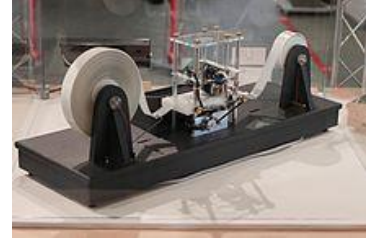


# The first computers were sequential

· 23



The Turing machine (1936) - a mathematical model



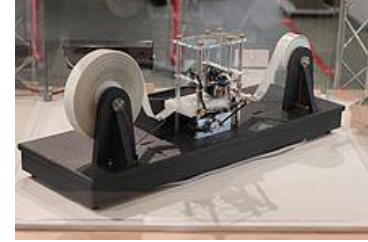
# The first computers were sequential

· 23



The Turing machine (1936) - a mathematical model

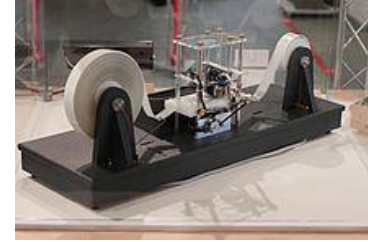
Eniac (1945)



# The first computers were sequential



The Turing machine (1936) - a mathematical model



Eniac (1945)



In my first years at university, we used the Danish Gier (1965)



Transistormaskinen GIER, 1961

# Timesharing

· 24



Via a number of terminals several users shared the computer

# Timesharing



Via a number of terminals several users shared the computer

My first (and best) question:

What happens if two users print simultaneously?

# Single vs multiple streams



· 25





```
public class RemoveDuplicateInArrayExample{
    public static int removeDuplicateElements(int arr[], int n){
        if (n==0 || n==1){ return n; }
        int[] temp = new int[n];
        int j = 0;
        for (int i=0; i<n-1; i++){
            if (arr[i] != arr[i+1]){
                temp[j++] = arr[i];
            }
        }
        temp[j++] = arr[n-1];
        // Changing original array
        for (int i=0; i<j; i++){
            arr[i] = temp[i];
        }
        return j;
    }

    public static void main (String[] args) {
        int arr[] = {10,20,20,30,30,40,50,50};
        int length = arr.length;
        length = removeDuplicateElements(arr, length);
        //printing array elements
        for (int i=0; i<length; i++) System.out.print(arr[i]+" ");
    }
}
```

## Single stream

```
-----
----
-----
-----
---
```

# Single vs multiple streams

· 25



```
public class RemoveDuplicateInArrayExample{
    public static int removeDuplicateElements(int arr[], int n){
        if (n==0 || n==1){ return n; }
        int[] temp = new int[n];
        int j = 0;
        for (int i=0; i<n-1; i++){
            if (arr[i] != arr[i+1]){
                temp[j++] = arr[i];
            }
        }
        temp[j++] = arr[n-1];
        // Changing original array
        for (int i=0; i<j; i++){
            arr[i] = temp[i];
        }
        return j;
    }

    public static void main (String[] args) {
        int arr[] = {10,20,20,30,30,40,50,50};
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        //printing array elements
        for (int i=0; i<length; i++) System.out.print(arr[i]+" ");
    }
}
```

## Single stream

-----  
----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----



## Concurrent (multiple streams)

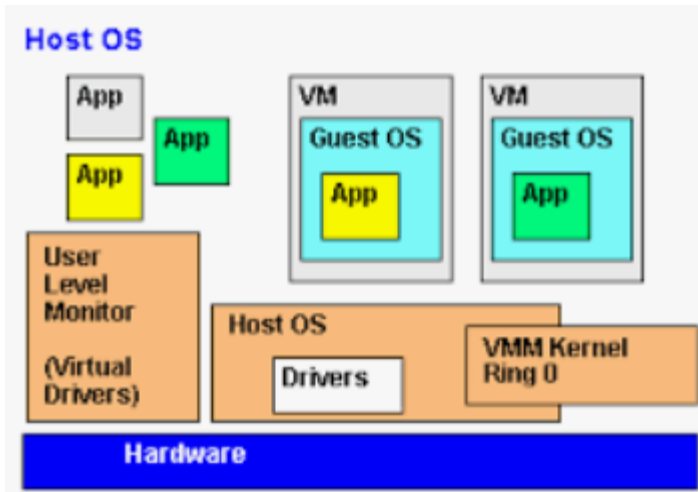
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# Motivations for Concurrency



· 26

Hidden (virtual)

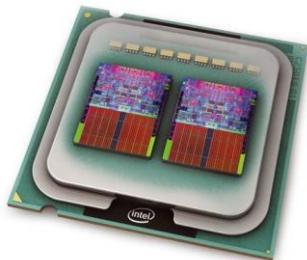


# Motivations for Concurrency

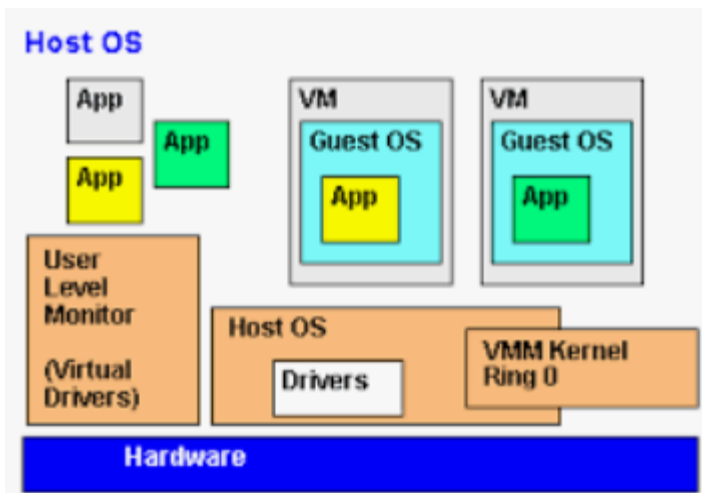
· 26



Exploitation



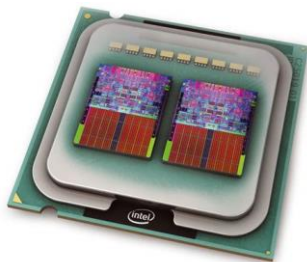
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# Motivations for Concurrency



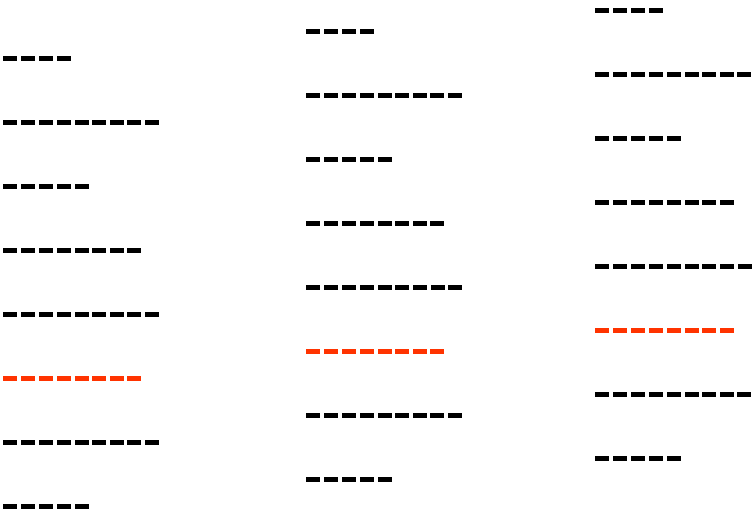
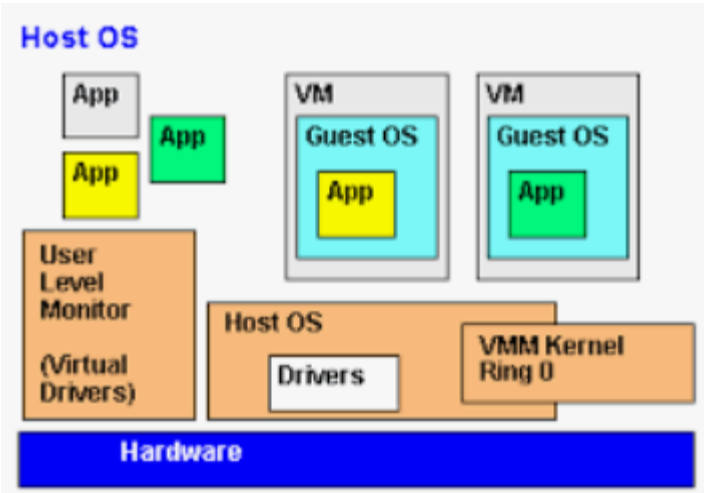
Exploitation



Inherent



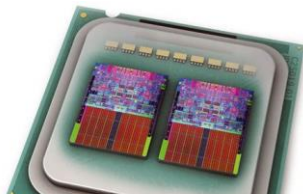
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# Motivations for Concurrency



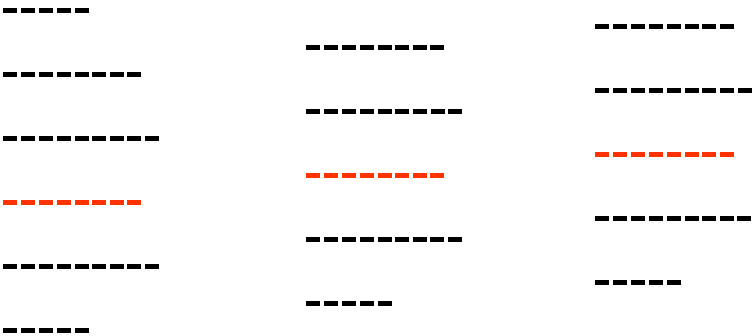
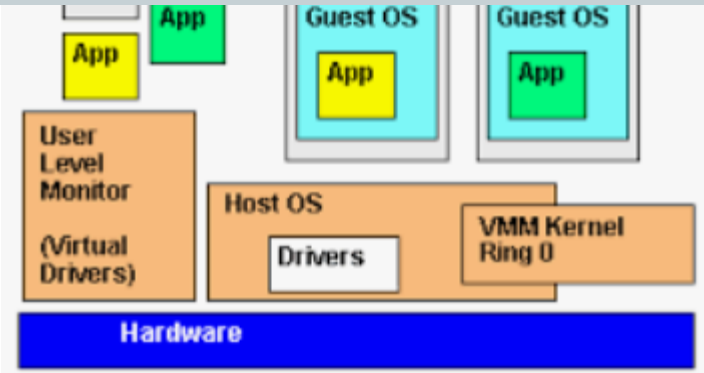
Exploitation



Inherent



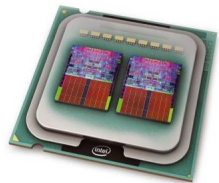
Concurrency is an abstraction for all of these  
(and more)





Concepts, challenges, theories that are common to:

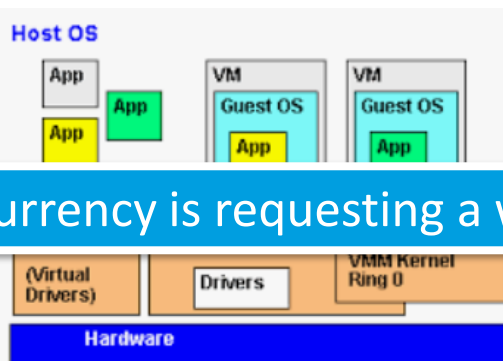
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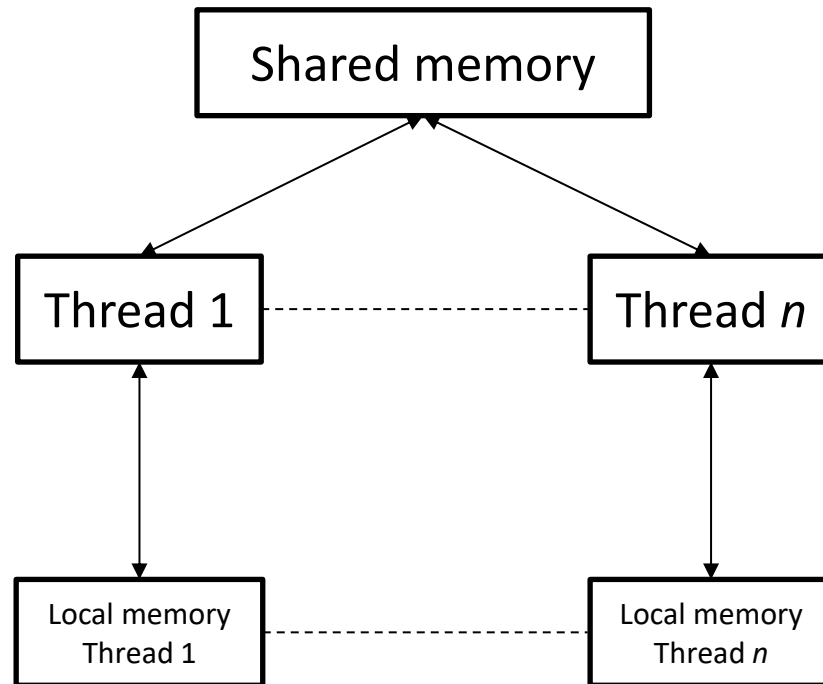
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What kind of concurrency is requesting a web-page from a server?



- A *thread* is a stream of program statements executed sequentially
- Several threads can be executed at the same time, i.e., *concurrently*
- Each threads works at its own speed
- Each thread has its own local memory
- Threads can communicate via shared memory





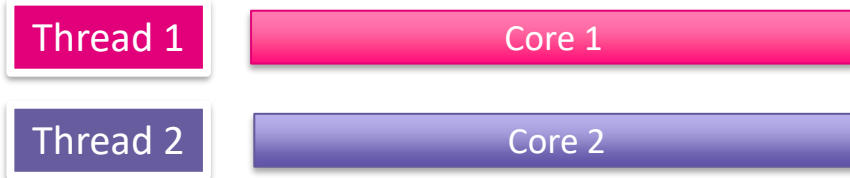
# Sequential vs Parallel vs Concurrent



- **Sequential** execution (in 1 processing core)



- **Parallel** execution (in 2 processing cores)



# Sequential vs Parallel vs Concurrent

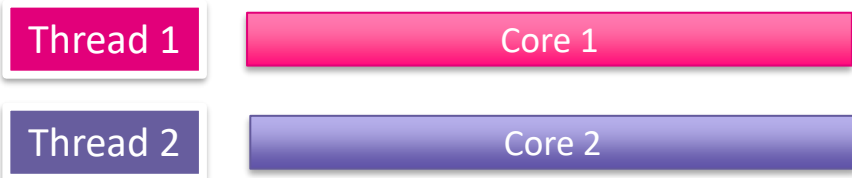


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- **Sequential** execution (in 1 processing core)



- **Parallel** execution (in 2 processing cores)



## Concurrent

- Computation may be split in arbitrary blocks (as opposed to sequential)
- Multiple concurrent streams can be executed in one core (as opposed to parallel)
- When there are more than two cores different threads may run in parallel
- Concurrent computation may be inherent: UIs, message-passing, etc.

# Threads in Java – Example

## Tivoli entrance turnstile



# Threads in Java - Example



- Java threads can be defined as classes that implement **Runnable** or extend from **Thread**
- The behaviour of the thread is in the **run ()** method (override)

```
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;  
long counter = 0;
```

```
...
```

```
public class Turnstile extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
            counter++;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

This thread simulates 10000  
people entering to Tivoli

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```

Shared memory

This thread simulates 10000  
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long counter = 0;  
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Shared memory

This thread simulates 10000  
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```
public class TurnstileThread {  
    public void run()  
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
            counter++;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Local memory

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long counter = 0;  
...  
  
public class TurnstileThread {  
    public void run()  
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
            counter++;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Shared memory

This thread simulates 10000  
people entering to Tivoli

Local memory

Behaviour of  
the thread

# Threads in Java - Example



- The function **start()** starts the execution of the thread
- The function **join()** waits for the thread to terminate

```
Turnstile turnstile = new Turnstile();
```

Create an instance  
of the thread

```
turnstile.start();
```

Start execution of  
the thread

```
turnstile.join();
```

Wait until the  
thread terminates

Print the value of  
**counter**

```
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
```





- Altogether (not executable, see `CounterThreads.java` for the executable program)

```
class CounterThreads {
    long counter = 0;
    final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

    // main thread behaviour
    Turnstile turnstile = new Turnstile();
    turnstile.start();
    turnstile.join();
    System.out.println(counter+" people entered");

    // inner class for accessing shared variables
    public class Turnstile extends Thread {
        public void run() {
            for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
                counter++;
            }
        }
    }
}
```



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    // inner class for accessing shared variables  
    public class Turnstile extends Thread {  
        public void run() {  
            for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
                counter++;  
            }  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Shared memory

Create, start, wait  
till termination  
and print results

Definition of the  
thread's behaviour

# Threads in Java - Example

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What value of **counter** will this program print?  
Executable, see **CounterThreads.java** for (program)

```
class CounterThreads {  
    long counter = 0;  
    final long PEOPLE = 10_000;  
  
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    Turnstile turnstile = new Turnstile();  
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        }  
    }  
}
```

Shared memory

Create, start, wait  
till termination  
and print results

Definition of the  
thread's behaviour



## Other ways to define threads

Runnable object in the thread constructor

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Thread t = new Thread(new Runnable() {
    public void run() {
        for (int i=0; i<PEOPLE; i++){
            counter++;
        }
    }
});
t.start();
t.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
```

Using Java lambda expressions

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Thread t = new Thread(() -> {
    for (int i=0; i<PEOPLE; i++){
        counter++;
    }
});
t.start();
t.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
```



## Other ways to define threads

Runnable object in the thread constructor

```
long counter = 0;
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Thread t = new Thread(new Runnable() {
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    }
});
t.start();
t.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
```

Using Java lambda expressions

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Thread t = new Thread(() -> {
    for (int i=0; i<PEOPLE; i++){
        counter++;
    }
});
t.start();
t.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
```

I would only recommend these when the thread's code is small, e.g., without several methods. And when the local state of the thread is minimal. WARNING: Possibly bias opinion!

# Threads in Java – Example

## Tivoli entrance turnstile



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# Threads in Java – Example II

## Tivoli entrance turnstile





- Altogether (not executable, see **CounterThreads2.java** for the executable program)

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();
turnstile1.start();turnstile2.start();
turnstile1.join();turnstile2.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");

public class Turnstile extends Thread {
    public void run() {
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
            counter++;
        }
    }
}
```

We simply add another  
Turnstile thread



# Threads in Java – Example II



What value of **counter** will this program print? (Executable, see **CounterThreads2.java** for program)

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();
turnstile1.start();turnstile2.start();
turnstile1.join();turnstile2.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");

public class Turnstile extends Thread {
    public void run() {
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
            counter++;
        }
    }
}
```

We simply add another  
Turnstile thread

# Threads in Java – Example II

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What value of **counter** will this program print? (cutable, see **CounterThreads2.java** for program)



```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();
turnstile1.start(); turnstile2.start();
turnstile1.join(); turnstile2.join();
System.out.println(counter + " people entered");

public class Turnstile extends Thread {
    public void run() {
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
            counter++;
        }
    }
}
```

We simply add another  
Turnstile thread

# Threads in Java – Example II

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What value of **counter** will this program print? (cutable, see **CounterThreads2.java** for program)



```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;

Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();
turnstile1.start();turnstile2.start();
turnstile1.join();turnstile2.join();
System.out.println(counter+" people entered");
```

We simply add another Turnstile thread

```
public class Turnstile extends Thread {
    public void run() {
```

```
        i++;) {
```

**HARDer:** What is the minimum value of **counter** that this program can print?

```
}
```

- What was is the problem in the previous program?
- To answer this question we need to understand
  - Atomicity
  - States of a thread
  - Non-determinism
  - Interleavings



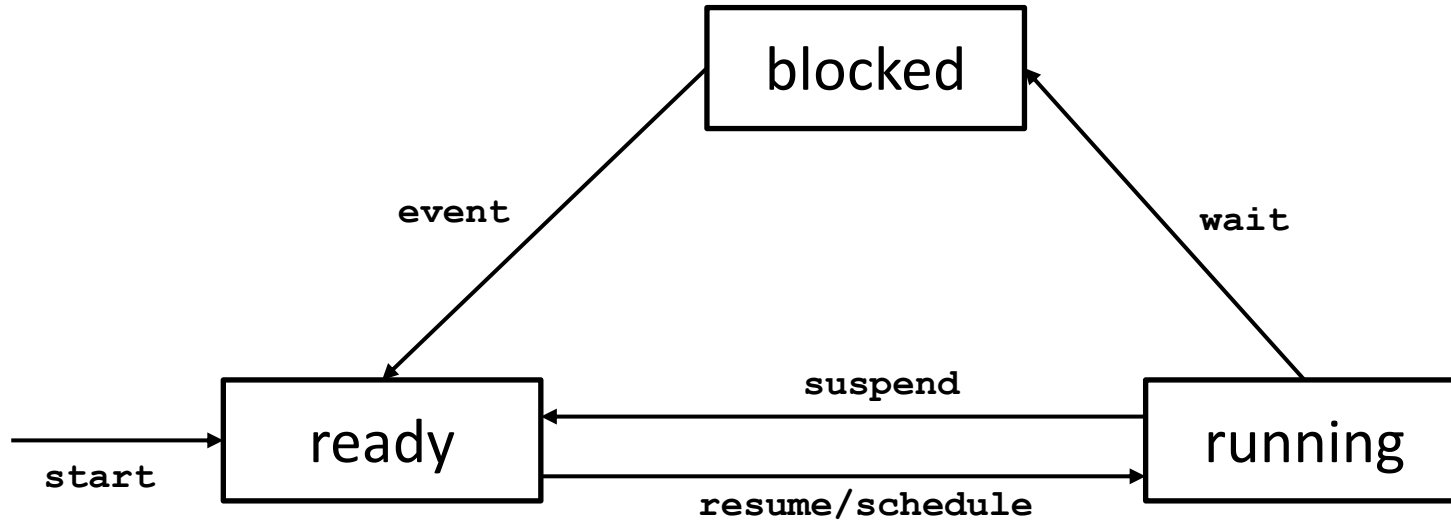
- The program statement **counter++** is not *atomic*
- Atomic statements are executed as a single (indivisible) operation

```
public class Turnstile extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
            counter++;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

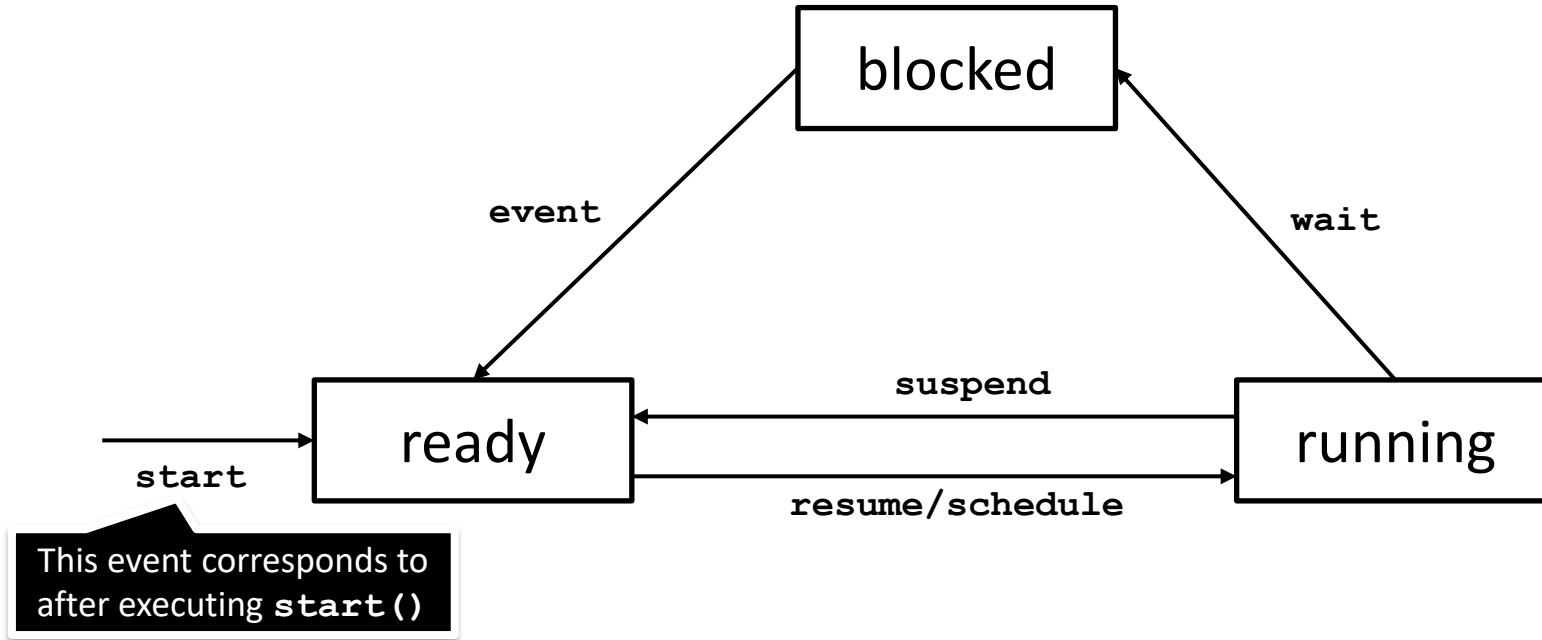
`int temp = counter;  
counter = temp + 1;`

Watchout: Just because a program statement is a one-liner, it doesn't mean that it is atomic

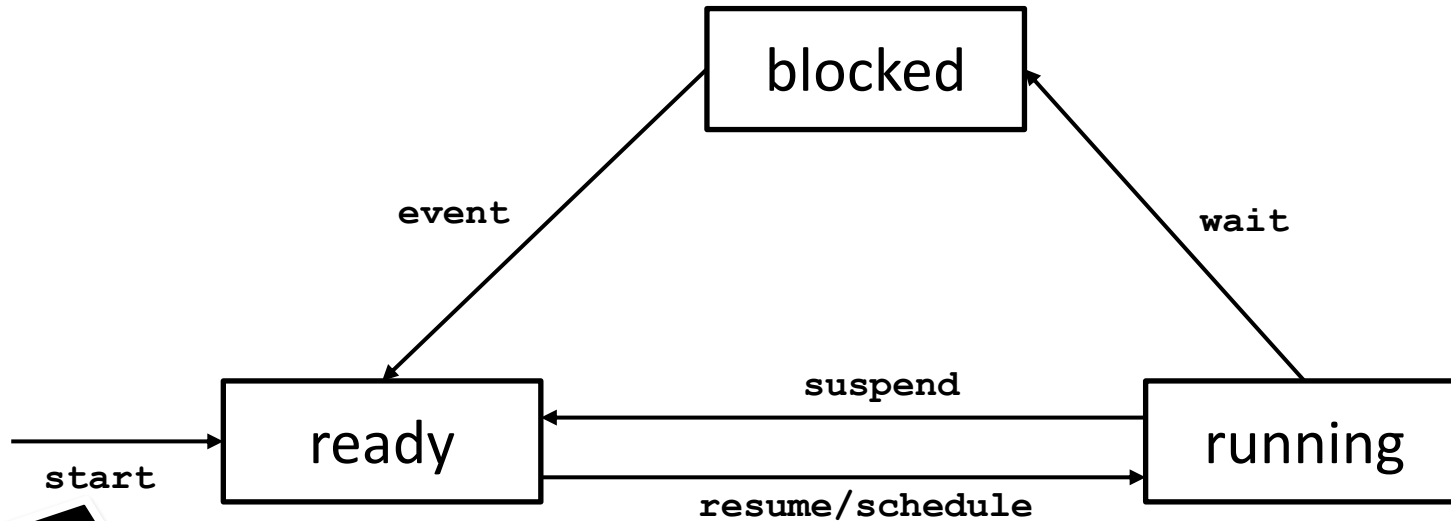
# States of a thread (simplified)



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# States of a thread (simplified)

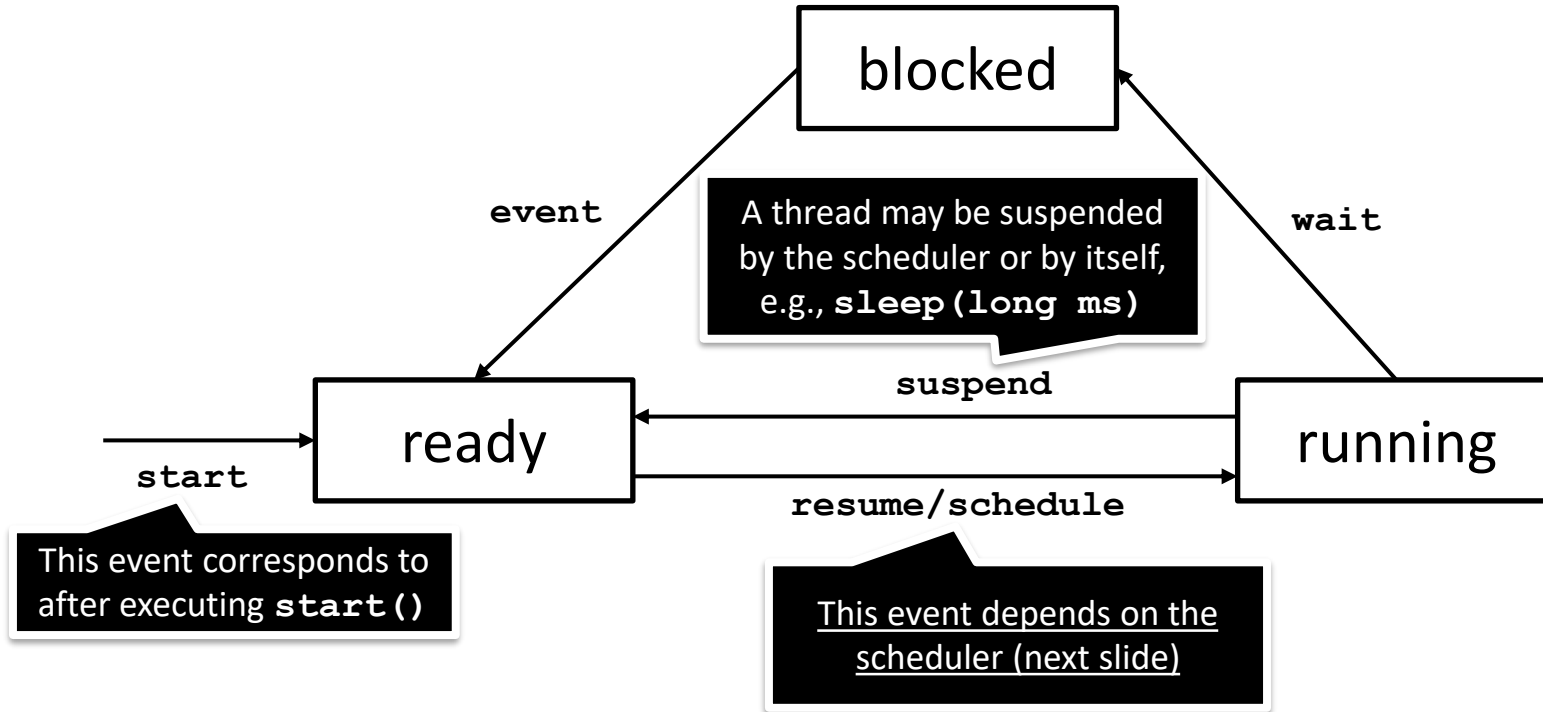


This event corresponds to after executing `start()`

This event depends on the scheduler (next slide)

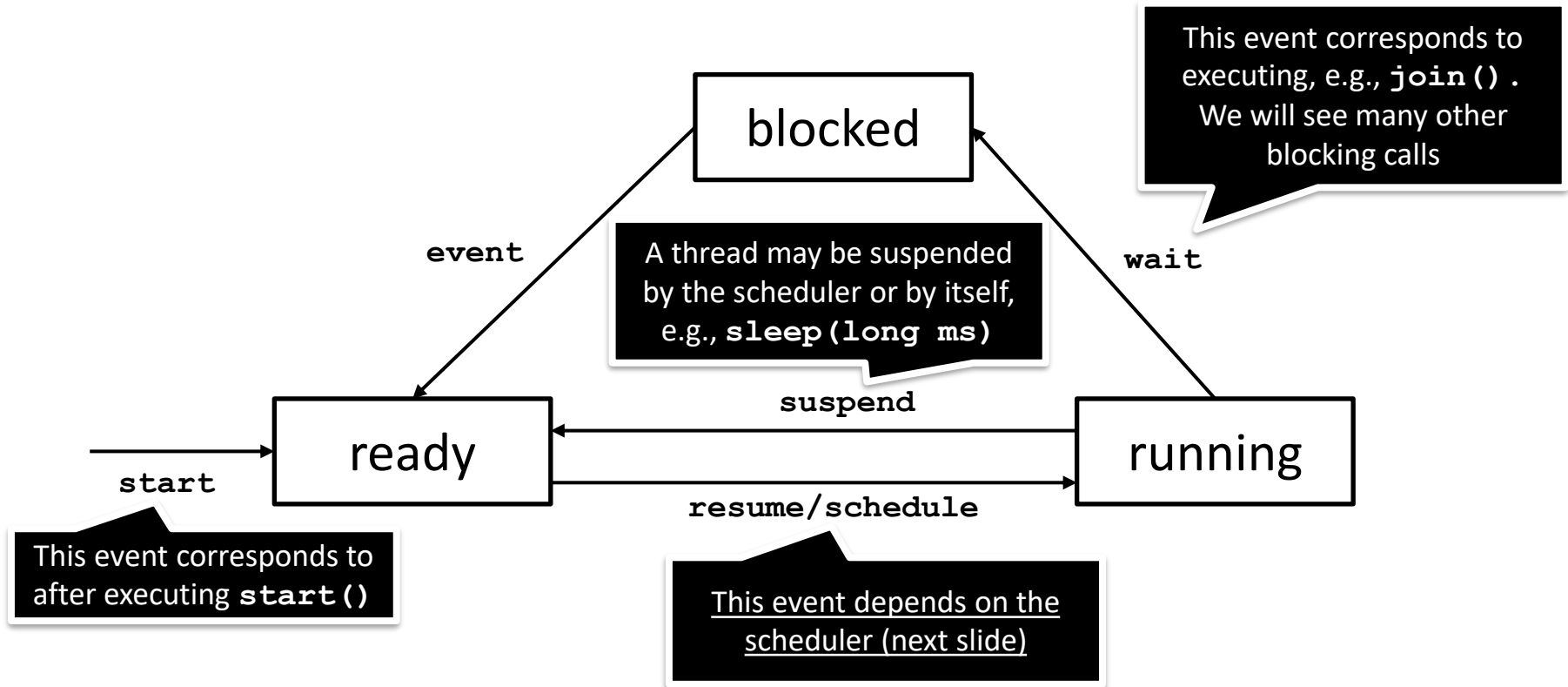


# States of a thread (simplified)



# States of a thread (simplified)

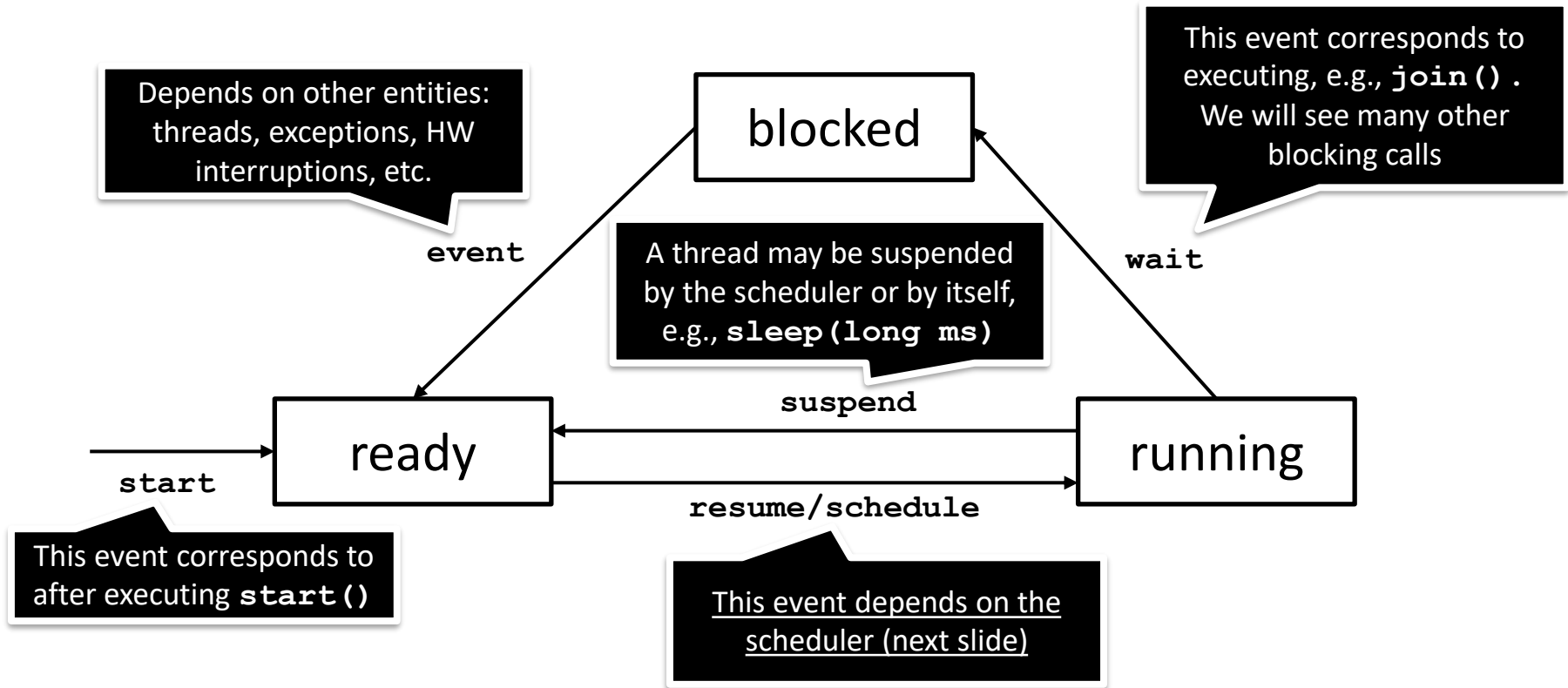
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# States of a thread (simplified)



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- In all operating systems/executing environments a *scheduler* selects the processes/threads under execution
  - Threads are selected *non-deterministically*, i.e., no assumptions can be made about what thread will be executed next
- Consider two threads  $t1$  and  $t2$  in the ready state;  $t1(ready)$  and  $t2(ready)$ 
  1.  $t1(running) \rightarrow t1(ready) \rightarrow t1(running) \rightarrow t1(ready) \rightarrow \dots$
  2.  $t2(running) \rightarrow t2(ready) \rightarrow t2(running) \rightarrow t2(ready) \rightarrow \dots$
  3.  $t1(running) \rightarrow t1(ready) \rightarrow t2(running) \rightarrow t2(ready) \rightarrow \dots$
  4. Infinitely many different executions!

- The statements in a thread are executed when the thread is in its “running” state
- An *interleaving* is a possible sequence of operations for a concurrent program
  - Note this: a sequence of operations for a concurrent program, not for a thread. Concurrent programs are composed by 2 or more threads.

# Interleaving – Example I

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main

```
long counter = 0;  
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;
```

```
Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();  
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();  
turnstile1.start(); turnstile1.start();
```

time

turnstile1

```
// first iteration loop  
int i = 0  
if (i < PEOPLE)  
int temp = counter // counter == 0  
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 1
```

time

turnstile2

```
// first iteration loop  
int i = 0  
if (i < PEOPLE)  
int temp = counter // counter == 1  
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 2  
...
```

time

# Interleaving – Example II

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main

```
long counter = 0;  
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;
```

```
Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();  
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();  
turnstile1.start(); turnstile1.start();
```

time

turnstile1

```
// first iteration loop  
int i = 0  
if (i < PEOPLE)  
int temp = counter // counter == 0
```

```
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 1
```

time



turnstile2

```
// first iteration loop  
int i = 0  
if (i < PEOPLE)  
int temp = counter // counter==0
```

```
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 1  
...
```

time

# Interleaving – Example II

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main

```
long counter = 0;  
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;
```

```
Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();  
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();  
turnstile1.start(); turnstile1.start();
```

Are there any other interleavings?

time

turnstile1

```
// first iteration loop  
int i = 0  
if (i < PEOPLE)  
int temp = counter // counter == 0
```

```
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 1
```

time



turnstile2

```
// first iteration loop  
int i = 0  
if (i < PEOPLE)  
int temp = counter // counter==0
```

```
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 1  
...
```

time



# Interleaving – Example II

· 47



main

```
long counter = 0;  
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;
```

```
Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();  
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();  
turnstile1.start(); turnstile1.start();
```

Are there any other interleavings?

There are as many interleavings as possible ways to order the operations in the program

turnstile1

```
// first iteration loop  
int i = 0  
if (i < PEOPLE)  
int temp = counter // counter == 0
```

```
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 1
```

time



turnstile2

```
// first iteration loop  
int i = 0  
if (i < PEOPLE)  
int temp = counter // counter==0
```

```
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 1  
...
```

time

- The drawings above are not suitable for thinking about possible interleavings
- When asked to provide an interleaving, use the following syntax

`<thread>(<step>) , <thread>(<step>) , ...`

# Interleaving – Example I (textual)

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*Given the initial memory state on the right, provide an interleaving such that after two threads t1, t2 execute the program on the right the value of counter==2*

## Memory

counter=0

temp=0

temp=0

## Program

```
public void run() {  
    int temp = counter; // (1)  
    counter = temp + 1; // (2)  
}
```

# Interleaving – Example I (textual)



*Given the initial memory state on the right, provide an interleaving such that after two threads t1, t2 execute the program on the right the value of counter==2*

## Memory

counter=0

temp=0

temp=0

## Program

```
public void run() {  
    int temp = counter; // (1)  
    counter = temp + 1; // (2)  
}
```

t1(1),

t1(2),

t2(1),

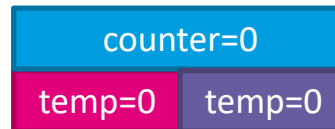
t2(2)

# Interleaving – Example I (textual)



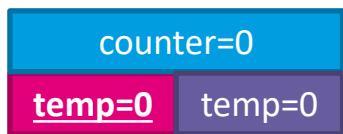
*Given the initial memory state on the right, provide an interleaving such that after two threads t1, t2 execute the program on the right the value of counter==2*

Memory



Program

```
public void run() {  
    int temp = counter; // (1)  
    counter = temp + 1; // (2)  
}
```



t1(1),

t1(2),

t2(1),

t2(2)

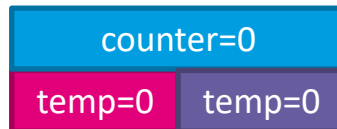
# Interleaving – Example I (textual)

· 49



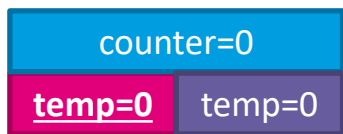
*Given the initial memory state on the right, provide an interleaving such that after two threads t1, t2 execute the program on the right the value of counter==2*

Memory

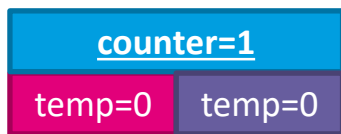


Program

```
public void run() {  
    int temp = counter; // (1)  
    counter = temp + 1; // (2)  
}
```



t1(1),



t1(2),

t2(1),

t2(2)

# Interleaving – Example I (textual)

· 49



*Given the initial memory state on the right, provide an interleaving such that after two threads t1, t2 execute the program on the right the value of counter==2*

## Memory

counter=0	
temp=0	temp=0

## Program

```
public void run() {  
    int temp = counter; // (1)  
    counter = temp + 1; // (2)  
}
```

counter=0	
<u>temp=0</u>	temp=0

t1(1),

<u>counter=1</u>	
temp=0	temp=0

t1(2),

counter=1	
temp=0	<u>temp=1</u>

t2(1),

t2(2)

# Interleaving – Example I (textual)

· 49



*Given the initial memory state on the right, provide an interleaving such that after two threads t1, t2 execute the program on the right the value of counter==2*

## Memory

counter=0	
temp=0	temp=0

## Program

```
public void run() {  
    int temp = counter; // (1)  
    counter = temp + 1; // (2)  
}
```

counter=0	
<u>temp=0</u>	temp=0

t1(1),

<u>counter=1</u>	
temp=0	temp=0

t1(2),

counter=1	
temp=0	<u>temp=1</u>

t2(1),

<u>counter=2</u>	
temp=0	temp=1

t2(2)



# Interleaving – Example II (textual)



*Given the initial memory state on the right, provide an interleaving such that after two threads  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$  execute the program on the right the value of **counter==1***

## Memory

counter=0

temp=0

temp=0

## Program

```
public void run() {  
    int temp = counter; // (1)  
    counter = temp + 1; // (2)  
}
```

- *A **race condition** occurs when the result of the computation depends on the interleavings of the operations*

- A ***data race*** occurs when two concurrent threads:
  - Access a shared memory location
  - At least one access is a write

# Race Conditions vs Data Races



## Not all race conditions are data races

- Threads may not access shared memory
- Threads may not write on shared memory

## Not all data races result in race conditions

- The result of the program may not change based on the writes of threads

- What was is the problem in the previous program?
  - The statement **counter++** is not atomic
  - Some interleavings result in threads reading stale (outdated) data
  - Consequently, the program has race conditions that result in incorrect outputs
- In what follows, we will see how to tackle this type of problems



- A *critical section* is a part of the program that only one thread can execute at the same time
  - Useful to avoid race conditions in concurrent programs

```
public class Turnstile extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
            // start critical section  
            int temp = counter;  
            counter = temp + 1;  
            // end critical section  
        }  
    }  
}
```



- A *critical section* is a part of the program that only one thread can execute at the same time
  - Useful to avoid race conditions in concurrent programs

```
public class Turnstile extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
            // start critical section  
            int temp = counter;  
            counter = temp + 1;  
            // end critical section  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Critical sections should cover the parts of the code handling shared memory



- A *critical section* is a part of the program that only one thread can execute at the same time

... can cause race conditions in concurrent programs

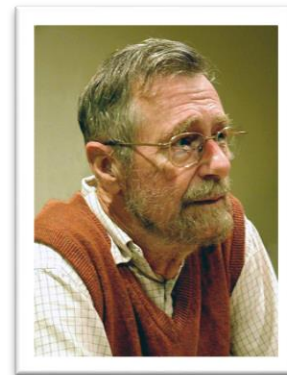
Shouldn't the critical section start before the **for**?

```
...stile extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
            // start critical section  
            int temp = counter;  
            counter = temp + 1;  
            // end critical section  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Critical sections should cover the parts of the code handling shared memory



- The *mutual exclusion* property states that
  - *Two or more threads cannot be executing their critical section at the same time*
- Mutual exclusion was first formulated by EW Dijkstra (see optional readings)
  - He devised a protocol to ensure mutual exclusion (*solving the mutual exclusion problem*)
  - He laid down the properties for a satisfactory solution to ensuring mutual exclusion





- An ideal solution to the mutual exclusion problem must ensure the following properties:
  - Mutual exclusion: at most one thread executing the critical section at the same time
  - Absence of *deadlock*: threads eventually exit the critical section allowing other threads to enter
  - Absence of *starvation*: if a thread is ready to enter the critical section, it must eventually do so



- An ideal solution to the mutual exclusion problem must ensure the following properties:
  - Mutual exclusion: at most one thread executing the critical section at the same time
  - Absence of *deadlock*: threads eventually exit the critical section allowing other threads to enter
  - Absence of *starvation*: if a thread is ready to enter the critical section, it must eventually do so

In practice, we will see that it is not always possible to achieve absence of starvation



- In Java, mutual exclusion can be achieved using the **Lock** interface in the `java.util.concurrent.locks` package
  - **lock()**
    - Acquires the lock if available, otherwise it blocks
    - It is blocking
  - **unlock()**
    - Releases the lock, if there are other threads waiting for the lock it signals one of them
    - It is not blocking
- These are *synchronization operations*
  - They established an execution order among the operations of different threads



- Simple protocol: call `lock()` before entering the critical section, and `unlock()` after exiting
- Each critical section must have a lock associated to it, but many critical sections may use the same lock.
- Simplified, see `CounterThreadsLock.java`

```
Lock l = new Lock();

public class Turnstile extends Thread {
    public void run() {
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
            l.lock()           // start critical section
            int temp = counter;
            counter = temp + 1;
            l.unlock()         // end critical section
        }
    }
}
```



- Simple protocol: call `lock()` before entering the critical section, and `unlock()` after exiting
- Each critical section must have a lock associated to it. However, different critical sections may use the same lock.
- Simplified, see `CounterThreadsLock.java`

```
Lock l = new Lock();

public class Turnstile extends Thread {
    public void run() {
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
            l.lock()           // start critical section
            int temp = counter;
            counter = temp + 1;
            l.unlock()         // end critical section
        }
    }
}
```

- For now, we do not focus on the implementation of `lock()/unlock()`, but in their use to solve concurrency problems.
- See Sections 2.3, 2.5, 2.7 and Section 7.3 onwards in Herlihy for implementation details of `lock()/unlock()`

# Java Locks | Interleavings

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main

```
long counter = 0;
final long PEOPLE = 10_000;
Lock l = new Lock()

Turnstile turnstile1 = new Turnstile();
Turnstile turnstile2 = new Turnstile();
turnstile1.start(); turnstile1.start();
```

turnstile1

```
// first iteration loop
int i = 0
```

```
if (i < PEOPLE)
```

```
l.lock() // begin critical section
int temp = counter // counter == 0
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 1
l.unlock() // end critical section
```

Operations in the critical section  
are always executed sequentially  
by the same thread

turnstile2

```
// first iteration loop
int i = 0
```

```
if (i < PEOPLE)
```

```
l.lock() // begin critical section
int temp = counter // counter == 1
counter = temp + 1 // counter == 2
l.unlock() // end critical section
```



- The solution to the turnstile problem ensures mutual exclusion **but does it ensure absence of deadlock?**

```
Lock l = new Lock();

public class Turnstile extends Thread {
    public void run() {
        for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
            l.lock()           // start critical section
            int temp = counter;
            counter = temp + 1;
            l.unlock()         // end critical section
        }
    }
}
```

Absence of *deadlock*: threads eventually exit the critical section allowing other threads to enter



# (Naïve) examples of deadlocks



- Locking twice within the thread

```
for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
    l.lock()  
    int temp = counter;  
    counter = temp + 1;  
    l.lock() // blocks forever  
}
```

Thread 1

This is not unrealistic. For instance, see these bug reports in the Linux kernel

[1] <https://github.com/torvalds/linux/commit/e1db4ce>

[2] <https://github.com/torvalds/linux/commit/16da4b17>

[3] <https://github.com/torvalds/linux/commit/cdc9718d5e590d6905361800b938b93f2b66818e>

- Exception during execution

```
for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
    l2.lock()  
    int temp = counter;  
    throw new Exception();  
    // If exception handling doesn't  
    // unlock, blocks forever  
}
```

Thread 1

```
for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {  
    l2.lock() // blocks forever  
    ...  
}
```

Thread 2

- When using Java locks, it is recommended to use the idiom on the right
- This prevents deadlocks problems if the thread finishes unexpectedly due to exception
  - Solutions not following this idiom cannot be deemed as free from deadlocks (note for assignments)
- We use this idiom in **CounterThreadLocks.java**

```
Lock l = new Lock();  
  
l.lock()  
try {  
    // critical section code  
} finally {  
    l.unlock()  
}
```

- Java **Lock** is an interface, so it cannot be used as we showed in the examples today
- We use an implementation of the **Lock** interface, namely **ReentrantLock**
  - Reentrant locks act like a regular lock, except that they allow locks to be locked more than once by the same thread

```
Lock l = new ReentrantLock();

for (int i = 0; i < PEOPLE; i++) {
    l.lock()
    int temp = counter;
    counter = temp + 1;
    l.lock();    // it doesn't block
    l.unlock();  // still holds the lock
    l.unlock();  // now the lock is free
}
```