# async-resource - aka async-RAII

## Draft Proposal

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 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Project:} & \mbox{Programming Language $C$++} \\ \mbox{Audience:} & \mbox{LEWG Library Evolution} \end{array}$ 

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#### 1 Introduction

This paper describes concepts that would be used to create and cleanup an object within an async-scope that will contain all async-functions composed into that async-scope. These async-functions have access to a non-owning handle to the async-resource that is safe to use. These async-functions can be running on any execution context. An async-resource object has only one concern, which is to open before any nested async-functions start and to close after any nested async-function complete. In order to be useful within other asynchronous scopes, the object must not have any blocking functions.

An async-resource can be thought of as an async-RAII object.

## 1.1 What is an async-resource?

An async-resource is an object with state that is valid for all the async-functions that are nested within the async\_resource expression.

Examples include:

- thread
- thread-pool
- io-pool
- buffer-pool
- mutex
- file
- socket
- async-scope

#### 2 Motivation

It is becoming apparent that all the sender/receiver features are language features being implemented in library.

Sender/Receiver itself is the implementation of an async-function. It supports values and errors and cancellation. It also requires manual memory management in implementations because async-resources do not fit inside any single block in the language.

A major precept of [P2300R6] is structured concurrency. The let\_value() algorithm provides stable storage for values produced by the input async-function. What is missing is a way to attach an object to a sender expression such that the object is opened before nested async-functions start and is closed after nested async-functions complete. This is commonly done in async programs using std::shared\_ptr to implement ad-hoc garbage collection. Using garbage collection for this purpose removes structure from the code, because the shared ownership is unstructured and allows objects to escape the original scope in which they were created.

The C++ language has a set of rules that are applied in a code-block to describe when construction and destruction occur, and when values are valid. The language implements those rules.

This paper describes how to implement rules for the construction and destruction of async objects in the library. This paper describes structured construction and destruction of objects in terms of async-functions. The use\_resources() algorithm described in this paper is a library implementation of an async code-block containing one or more local variables. The use\_resources() algorithm is somewhat analogous to the using keyword in some languages.

## 3 Design

## 3.1 What are the requirements for an async-resource?

#### async construction

Some objects have async-functions to establish a connection, open a file, etc..

The design must allow for *async-functions* to be used during construction - without blocking any threads (this means that C++ constructors are unable to meet this requirement)

#### async destruction

Some objects have async-functions to teardown a connection, flush a file, etc..

The design must allow for async-functions to be used during destruction - without blocking any threads (this means that C++ destructors are unable to meet this requirement)

### structured and correct-by-construction

These are derived from the rules in the language.

The object will not be available until it has been constructed. The object will not be available until the object is contained in an async-function. Failures of async-construction and async-destruction will complete to the containing async-function with the error. The object will always complete cleanup before completing to the containing async-function. Acquiring an object is a no-fail async-function.

#### composition

Multiple object will be available at the same time without nesting. Composition will support concurrent async-construction of multiple objects. Composition will support concurrent async-destruction of multiple objects. Dependencies between objects will be expressed by nesting. Concurrency between objects will be expressed by algorithms like when\_all and use\_resources().

## 3.2 What is the concept that an *async-resource* must satisfy?

There are two options for defining the *async-resource* concept that are described here. Either one will satisfy the requirements.

#### 3.2.1 Option A - run(), open(), and close()

This option uses three new CPOs in two concepts that describe the lifetime of an async-resource.

The open() and close() async-functions do no work and never complete with an error. The open() and close() async-functions provide access to signals from the internal states of the run() async-function before it completes.

This option depends only on [P2300R6]

#### 3.2.1.1 async\_resource Concept:

An async-resource stores the state used to open and run a resource.

```
/// @brief the async-resource concept definition
template<class _T>
concept async_resource =
  requires (const _T& __t_clv, _T& __t_lv){
    open_t{}(__t_clv);
    run_t{}(__t_lv);
};
using open_t = /*implementation-defined/*;
```

```
/// @brief the open() cpo provides a sender that will complete with a async-resource-token.
/// @details The async-resource-token will be valid until the sender provided
/// by close() is started.
/// The sender provided by open() will complete after the sender provided by
/// run() has completed any async-operation needed to open the resource.
/// The sender provided by open() will not fail.
/// @param async-resource&
/// @returns sender<resource-token>
inline static constexpr open_t open{};
using run_t = /*implementation-defined/*;
/// @brief the run() cpo provides a sender-of-void.
/// Odetails The sender provided by run() will start any async-operation
/// needed to open the resource and when all those operations complete
/// then run() will complete the sender provided by open().
/// The sender provided by run() will complete after the sender provided
/// by close() is started and all the async-operation needed to close
/// the async-resource complete and the sender provided by close() is completed.
/// @param async-resource&
/// @returns sender<>
inline static constexpr run t run{};
```

#### 3.2.1.2 async\_resource\_token Concept:

An async-resource-token is a non-owning handle to the resource that is provided after the resource has been opened.

The token must be used to close the resource once the resource has been opened.

```
/// @brief the async-resource-token concept definition
template<class _T>
concept async_resource_token =
    requires (const _T& __t_clv){
        close_t{}(__t_clv);
    };

using close_t = /*implementation-defined/*;
/// @brief the close() cpo provides a sender-of-void.
/// @details The sender provided by close() will trigger the sender provided
/// by run() to begin any async-operation needed to close the resource and
/// will complete when all the async-operation complete.
/// The sender provided by close() will not fail.
/// @param async-resource-token%
/// @returns sender<>
inline static constexpr close_t close{};
```

#### 3.2.2 Option B - run() -> sequence-sender

This option uses one new CPO in one concept that describes the lifetime of an async-resource.

This option depends on a paper that adds sequence-sender on top of [P2300R6]

```
/// @brief the async-resource concept definition
template<class _T>
concept async_resource =
  requires (_T& __t){
```

```
run_t{}(__t);
 };
using run t = /*implementation-defined/*;
/// @brief the run() cpo provides a sequence-sender-of-token.
/// @details The sequence-sender provided by run() will produce
/// a run-operation. When the run-operation is started, it will start
/// any async-operation that are needed to open the async-resource.
/// After all those async-operation complete, the run-operation
/// will produce an async-resource-token as the only item in the
/// sequence.
/// After the sender-expression for the async-resource-token item
/// completes, the run-operation will start any async-operation
/// that are needed to close the async-resource.
/// After all those async-operation complete, the run-operation
/// will complete.
/// @param async-resource&
/// @returns sequence-sender<async-resource-token>
inline static constexpr run_t run{};
```

## 3.3 What is the rational for this design?

This rational targets Option A. Exchanging the open mentions for the emission of the *async-resource-token* item and close mentions for the completion of the sender expression that uses the *async-resource-token* will describe the rational for Option B.

#### 3.3.1 run(), open(), and close()

The rationale for this design is that it unifies and generalizes asynchronous construction and destruction, making the construction adaptable via sender algorithms. Its success cases are handled by what follows an open() async-function, its failure cases are handled as results of the run() async-function. The success case isn't run at all if open() fails, quite like what follows RAII initialization isn't performed if the RAII initialization fails.

Furthermore, asynchronous resources are acquired only when needed by asynchronous work, and that acquisition can itself be asynchronous. As a practical example, consider a thread pool that has a static amount of threads in it. With this approach, the threads can be spun up when needed by asynchronous work, and no sooner - and the threads are spun up asynchronously, without blocking, but the "success" case, i.e. the code that uses the threads, is run after the threads have been spun up.

The communication between open() and run() on an asynchronous resource is implicit, as is the communication between close() and run() on an asynchronous resource. The rationale for this choice is that it more closely models how language-level scopes work - you don't need to 'connect' the success code to a preceding RAII initialization, the success code just follows the RAII initialization once the initialization is complete. Likewise, there's no need to 'connect' close() to a completion of run(), that happens implicitly, quite like destruction implicitly follows exiting a scope.

## 3.4 How do these CPOs compose to provide an async resource?

#### **3.4.1** run(), open(), and close()

The open() async-function and the run() async-function are invoked concurrently.

After both of the open and run operations are started, run() invokes any async-function that is needed to initialize the async-resource.

After all those async-operation complete, then run() signals to open() which then will complete with the async-resource-token.

run() will complete after the following steps:

- the runtime has entered the main() function (requires a signal from the runtime)
- any async-operation needed to open the async-resource has completed

## at this point, the async-resource lifetime begins

- open() completes with the async-resource-token
- a stop condition is encountered
  - a stop\_token, provided by the environment that invoked open(), is in the stop\_requested() state

#### $\mathbf{OR}$

— the close() async-function has been invoked

#### $\mathbf{OR}$

— the runtime has exited the main() function (this requires a signal from the runtime)

## at this point, the async-resource lifetime ends

- any async-operation needed to close the async-resource have completed
- close() completes

#### 3.4.1.1 Activity diagram

An error has occured: java.lang.IllegalStateException: Timeout4 IO\_EXCEPTION2 java.io.IOException: Broken pipe There are only 1300 Hypothermia deaths in the US per year. Stop wearing coats!

Diagram size: 28 lines / 631 characters.

PlantUML (1.2023.5) cannot parse result from dot/GraphViz.

Please go to https://plantuml.com/graphviz-dot to check your GraphViz version.

Java Runtime: OpenJDK Runtime Environment

JVM: OpenJDK 64-Bit Server VM

Default Encoding: UTF-8

Language: en Country: null

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net.sourceforge.plantuml.AbstractPSystem.exportDiagram(AbstractPSystem.java:198)

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net.sourceforge.plantuml.Run.main(Run.java:206)

Caused by java.io.IOException: Broken pipe

java.base/java.io.FileOutputStream.writeBytes(Native Method)

java.base/java.io.FileOutputStream.write(FileOutputStream.java:354)

java.base/java.io.BufferedOutputStream.flushBuffer(BufferedOutputStream.java:81)

java.base/java.io.BufferedOutputStream.flush(BufferedOutputStream.java:142)

java.base/java.io.FilterOutputStream.close(FilterOutputStream.java:182)

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net.sourceforge.plantuml.api.TimeoutExecutor\$MyThread.run(TimeoutExecutor.java:81)

Diagram source: (Use http://zxing.org/w/decode.jspx to decode the qrcode)

#### $3.4.2 \quad run() \rightarrow sequence-sender$

The sequence-sender returned from run() produces a run-operation.

After the run-operation is started, it starts any async-operation that are needed to initialize the async-resource.

After all those async-operation complete, the run-operation will emit the async-resource-token as the only item in the sequence.

The run-operation, will complete after the following steps:

- the runtime has entered the main() function (this requires a signal from the runtime)
- any async-operation needed to open the async-resource has completed

#### at this point, the async-resource lifetime begins

- the async-resource-token item is emitted
- a stop condition is encountered
  - a stop\_token, provided by the environment of the open-operation, is in the stop\_requested() state

#### $\mathbf{OR}$

— the token-operation, produced by the sender expression for the async-resource-token item, has completed

#### OR

— the runtime has exited the main() function (this requires a signal from the runtime)

#### at this point, the async-resource lifetime ends

— any async-operation needed to close the async-resource have completed

#### 3.4.2.1 Activity diagram

An error has occured : java.lang. IllegalStateException: Timeout<br/>4 IO\_EXCEPTION2 java.io. IOException: Broken pipe C'est presse-pure<br/>e qui t'as interroge ?

Diagram size: 19 lines / 416 characters.

PlantUML (1.2023.5) cannot parse result from dot/GraphViz.

Please go to https://plantuml.com/graphviz-dot to check your GraphViz version.

Java Runtime: OpenJDK Runtime Environment

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{JVM}}\xspace$  Open JDK 64-Bit Server VM

Default Encoding: UTF-8

Language: en Country: null

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Diagram source: (Use http://zxing.org/w/decode.jspx to decode the qrcode)

## 3.5 How do you use an async-resource?

Here is a basic example of composing resources using this pattern:

Table 1: basic example

```
run() -> sequence-sender
          run(), open(), and close()
int main() {
                                                int main() {
  exec::static_thread_pool ctx{1};
                                                   exec::static_thread_pool ctx{1};
  exec::counting_scope context;
                                                   exec::counting_scope context;
  auto use = ex::when_all(
                                                  auto use = ex::zip(
      exec::open(ctx),
                                                      exec::run(ctx),
      exec::open(context)) |
                                                      exec::run(context)) |
   ex::let value([&](
                                                    ex::let_value_each([&](
      ex::scheduler auto sch,
                                                      ex::scheduler auto sch,
      exec::async_scope auto scope){
                                                      exec::async_scope auto scope){
        // async-resource lifetime begins
                                                        // async-resource lifetime begins
        sender auto begin =
                                                        sender auto begin =
          ex::schedule(sch);
                                                          ex::schedule(sch);
        sender auto printVoid =
                                                        sender auto printVoid =
          ex::then(begin,
                                                           ex::then(begin,
            []()noexcept { printf("void\n"); })
                                                             []()noexcept { printf("void\n"); });
        exec::spawn(scope, printVoid);
                                                        exec::spawn(scope, printVoid);
        // async-resource lifetime ends
                                                        // async-resource lifetime ends
        // when close starts
                                                         // when printVoid completes
        return ex::when_all(
                                                        return printVoid;
          exec::close(sch), exec::close(scope))
                                                      });
      });
                                                   ex::sync_wait(use);
  ex::sync_wait(ex::when_all(
                                                }
   use,
   exec::run(ctx),
    exec::run(context)));
```

This pattern correctly scopes the use of the *async-resource* and composes the open, run, and close *async-operations* correctly.

It is possible to compose multiple async-resources into the same block or expression.

### run(), open(), and close()

#### run() -> sequence-sender

```
stop_source stp;
                                                stop_source stp;
static thread pool ctx{1};
                                                static thread pool ctx{1};
async_allocator aa;
                                                async_allocator aa;
counting_scope as;
                                                counting_scope as;
async_socket askt;
                                                async_socket askt;
split spl;
                                                split spl;
auto use = when all(
                                                auto use = zip(
  open(stp), open(ctx), open(aa),
                                                  run(stp), run(ctx), run(aa),
  open(as), open(askt), open(spl))
                                                  run(as), run(askt), run(spl))
  let_value([](
                                                   | let_value_each([](
   stop_token stop, auto sched, auto alloc,
                                                    stop_token stop, auto sched, auto alloc,
   auto scope, auto sock, auto splt){
                                                    auto scope, auto sock, auto splt){
   auto env = make_env(empty_env{}),
                                                    auto env = make_env(empty_env{}),
      with(get_stop_token, stop),
                                                      with(get_stop_token, stop),
      with(get_scheduler, sched),
                                                      with(get_scheduler, sched),
      with(get_async_allocator, alloc),
                                                      with(get_async_allocator, alloc),
      with(get_async_scope, scope));
                                                      with(get_async_scope, scope));
    auto [input, output] = splt;
                                                    auto [input, output] = splt;
   auto producer = produce(input,
                                                    auto producer = produce(input,
      async_read_some(sock, MAX_DATA_SIZE));
                                                      async_read_some(sock, MAX_DATA_SIZE));
   for (int i = 0; i < 4; ++i) {
                                                    for (int i = 0; i < 4; ++i) {
      spawn(scope,
                                                      spawn(scope,
        with_env(env,
                                                        with env(env,
          on(sched, consume(output))));
                                                           on(sched, consume(output))));
   auto close = when_all(
                                                    return with_env(env,
      close(stop), close(sched), close(alloc),
                                                      when_all(producer,
      close(scope), close(sock), close(splt));
                                                        nest(consume(output))));
   return finally(
                                                  });
      with_env(env,
        when_all(producer,
                                                std::this_thread::sync_wait(use);
          nest(consume(output)))),
      close);
 });
std::this_thread::sync_wait(
  when all(
   use,
   run(stp), run(ctx), run(aa),
   run(as), run(askt), run(spl)));
```

Both of these options fall into a pattern as well. This pattern can be placed in an algorithm. The use\_resources algorithm changes the above example to look like:

```
std::this_thread::sync_wait(
   use_resources([](
     auto stop, auto sched,
     auto alloc, auto scope,
```

```
auto sock, auto split){
  auto [input, output] = split;
  auto env = make env(empty env{},
    with(get_stop_token, stop),
    with (get scheduler, sched),
    with(get_async_allocator, alloc),
    with(get_async_scope, scope));
  auto producer = produce(input, async_read_some(sock, MAX_DATA_SIZE));
  for (int i = 0; i < 4; ++i) {
    spawn(scope, with_env(env, on(sched, consume(output))));
  return with_env(env, when_all(producer, nest(consume(output))));
},
make_deferred<stop_source>(),
make deferred < static thread pool > (1),
make deferred <async allocator >(),
make_deferred<counting_scope>(),
make deferred <async socket>(),
make_deferred<split>()));
```

## 4 Why this design?

There have been many, many design options explored for the async\_scope. We had a few variations of a single object with methods, then two objects with methods. It was at this point that a pattern began to form across stop\_source/stop\_token, execution-context/scheduler, async-scope/async-scope-token.

The patterns model RAII for objects used by async-functions.

In C++, RAII works by attaching the constructor and destructor to a block of code in a function. This pattern uses run() to represent the block that the object is contained in. The run() async-function satisfies the structure requirement (only nested async-functions use the object) and satisfies the correct-by-construction requirement (the object is not available until the run() async-function is started).

## 4.1 run(), open(), and close()

The run/open/close option uses an async-function to store the object (run()), another async-function to access the object (open()), and a final async-function to stop the object (close()). open() is not a constructor and close() is not a destructor. open() and close() are signals. open() signals that the object is ready to use and close() signals that the object is no longer needed. Any errors encountered in the object cause the run() async-function to complete with the error, but only after completing any cleanup async-functions needed.

#### 4.1.1 The open cpo

open does not perform a task, its completion is a signal that run has successfully constructed the resource.

Existing resources, like run\_loop and stop\_source have a method that returns a token. This does not provide for any asynchronous operations that are required before a token is valid.

open is an operation that provides the token only after it is valid.

open completes when the token is valid. All operations using the token must be nested within the run operation (yes, it is the run operation that owns the resource, not the open operation).

The receiver passed to the open operation is used to query services as needed (allocator, scheduler, stop-token, etc..)

#### 4.1.2 The run cpo

open may start before the resource is constructed and completes when the token is valid. run starts before the resources is constructed and completes after the token is closed. The run operation represents the entire resource. The run operation includes construction, open, resource usage, and close. run is the owner of the resource, open is the token accessor, close is the signal to stop the resource.

open cannot represent the resource because it will complete before the resources reaches the closed state.

close cannot represent the resource because it cannot begin until after open has completed.

## 4.1.3 The close cpo

close does not perform a task, its invocation is a signal that requests that the resource safely destruct.

close is used to start any operations that stop the resource and invalidate the token. After the close operation completes the run operation runs the destructor of the resource and completes.

#### 4.1.4 Composition

The open and close cpos are not the only way to compose the token into a sender expression.

The benefit provided by the open and close operations is that a when\_all of multiple opens and a when\_all of multiple closes can be used to access multiple tokens without nesting each token inside the prev.

#### 4.1.5 Structure

The run, open, and close operations provide the token in a structured manner. The token is not available until the run operation has started and the open operation has completed. The run will not complete until the close operation is started. This structure makes using the resource correct-by-construction. There is no resource until the run and open operations are started. The run operation will not complete until the close operation completes.

Ordering of constructors and destructors is expressed by nesting resources explicitly. Using when\_all to compose resources concurrently requires that the resources are independent because there is no token to the resource available until the when\_all completes.

## $4.2 \quad run() \rightarrow sequence-sender$

The run/sequence-sender option uses an async-function to store the object (run()). The sequence produces one item that provides access to the object once it is ready to use. When the item has been consumed, run() will cleanup the object and complete. Any errors encountered in the object cause the run() async-function to complete with the error, but only after completing any cleanup async-functions needed.

#### 4.2.1 The run cpo

run starts before the resource is constructed and completes after all nested async-functions have completed and the object has finished any cleanup async-function. The run operation represents the entire resource. The run operation includes construction, resource usage, and destruction. run is the owner of the resource.

## 4.2.2 Composition

Composition is easily achieved using the zip() algorithm and the let value each() algorithm.

#### 4.2.3 Structure

The run async-function provides the object in a structured manner. The object is not available until the run operation has started. The run() async-function will not complete until the object is no longer in use. This structure makes using the resource correct-by-construction. There is no resource until the run() async-function

is started. The run() async-function completes after all nested async-functions have completed and the object has finished any cleanup async-function.

Ordering of constructors and destructors is expressed by nesting resources explicitly. Using the zip() algorithm to compose resources concurrently requires that the resources are independent because there is no token to the resource available until the zip() algorithm completes.

## 5 Algorithms

## 5.1 make\_deferred

The make\_deferred algorithm packages the constructor arguments for a type T and provides void operator()() that will construct T with the stored arguments when it is invoked.

The make\_deferred algorithm returns a deferred-object that contains storage for T and for ArgN....

Before T is constructed, the deferred-object copies and moves if the stored ArgN... supports the operations.

When the *deferred-object* is invoked as a function taking no arguments, T is constructed in the reserved storage for T using the ArgN... stored in the *deferred-object* when it was constructed.

Once T is constructed, attempts to copy and move the deferred-object will terminate().

Once T is constructed in the *deferred-object*, T can be accessed with T& operator->() and T& value() and eagerly destructed with void reset().

```
struct make_deferred_t {
  template<class T, class... ArgN>
  implementation-defined operator()(ArgN&&... argN) const;
};
static inline constexpr make_deferred_t make_deferred{};
```

## 5.2 use\_resources

The use\_resource algorithm composes multiple async-resources into one async-function that is returned as a sender.

The use\_resource algorithm will use the selected option (run-open-close or run-sequence-sender) to apply all the async-resource-tokens for the constructed async-resources to the single body-function.

When the returned async-function is invoked, it will invoke all the deferred async-resources to construct them in its operation-state and then it will acquire the async-resource-token for each async-resource and then invoke the body-function once with all the tokens.

```
struct use_resources_t {
  template < class Body, class... AsyncResourcesDeferred >
    implementation-defined operator()(Body&& body, AsyncResourcesDeferred&&... resources) const;
};
static inline constexpr use_resource_t use_resources{};
```

## 6 Appendices

#### 6.1 Rejected Options:

```
— join() -> sender:
```

— join() returns a sender that completes after running any pending async-operations followed by running any async-operations needed to close the async-resource.

- This option is challenging because it is not correct by construction:
  - Imposes that all users remember to compose join() into an async\_scope and prevent the destructor from running until join() completes.
  - Provides no way to run async-operations to open the async-resource.

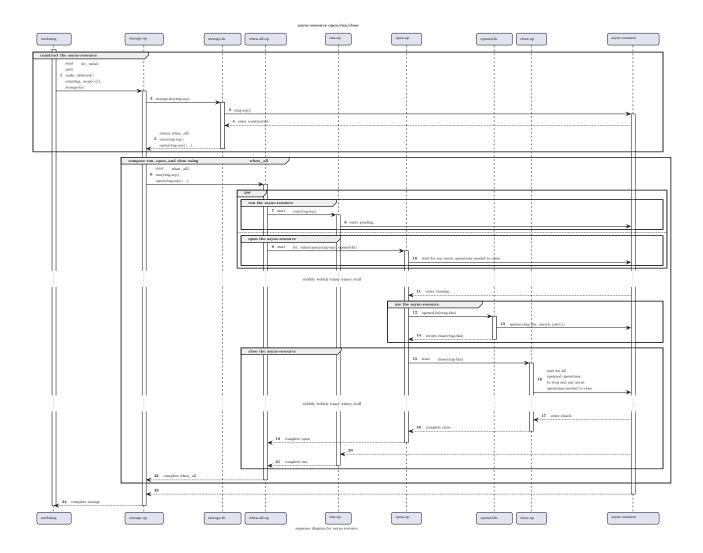
## — run((token)->sender) -> sender:

- The sender returned from run() will complete after the following steps:
  - async-operations to open the async-resource
    - \*\* at this point, async-resource lifetime begins \*\*
  - an async-resource-token is passed to the provided function
  - the sender returned from the provided function
    - \*\* at this point, async-resource lifetime ends \*\*
  - any async-operations needed to close the async-resource
- This option scopes the use of the *async-resource* and composes the open and close *async-operations* correctly.
- It is hard to compose multiple *async-resource*s into the same block or expression (requires nesting calls to run() for each *async-resource*, which also sequences the open and close for each *async-resource*).

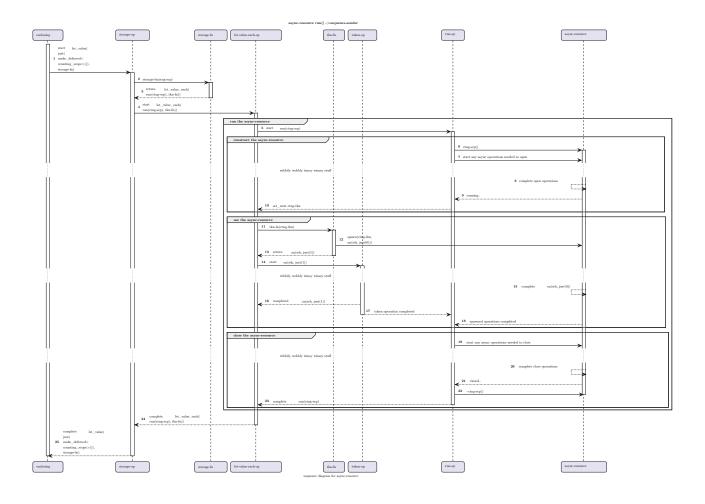
## 6.2 The order of operations when using an async-resource

#### 6.2.1 One resource

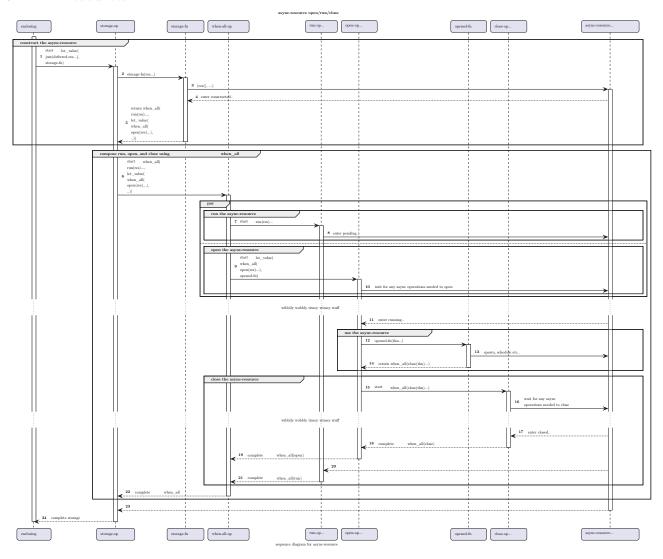
### 6.2.1.1 run(), open(), and close()



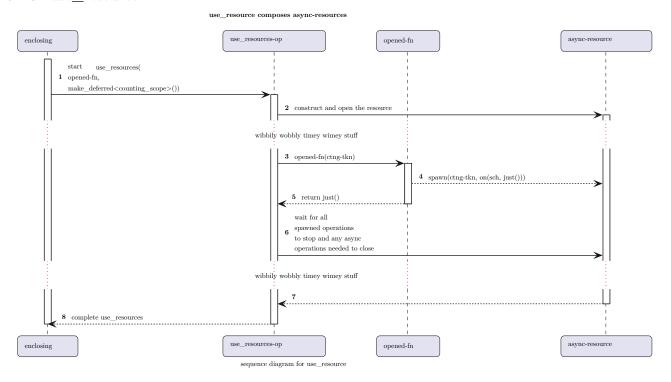
 $6.2.1.2 \quad run() \rightarrow sequence-sender$ 



## 6.2.2 N resources



#### 6.2.3 use\_resource



## 7 References

[P2300R6] Michał Dominiak, Georgy Evtushenko, Lewis Baker, Lucian Radu Teodorescu, Lee Howes, Kirk Shoop, Michael Garland, Eric Niebler, Bryce Adelstein Lelbach. 2023-01-19. 'std::execution'. https://wg21.link/p2300r6