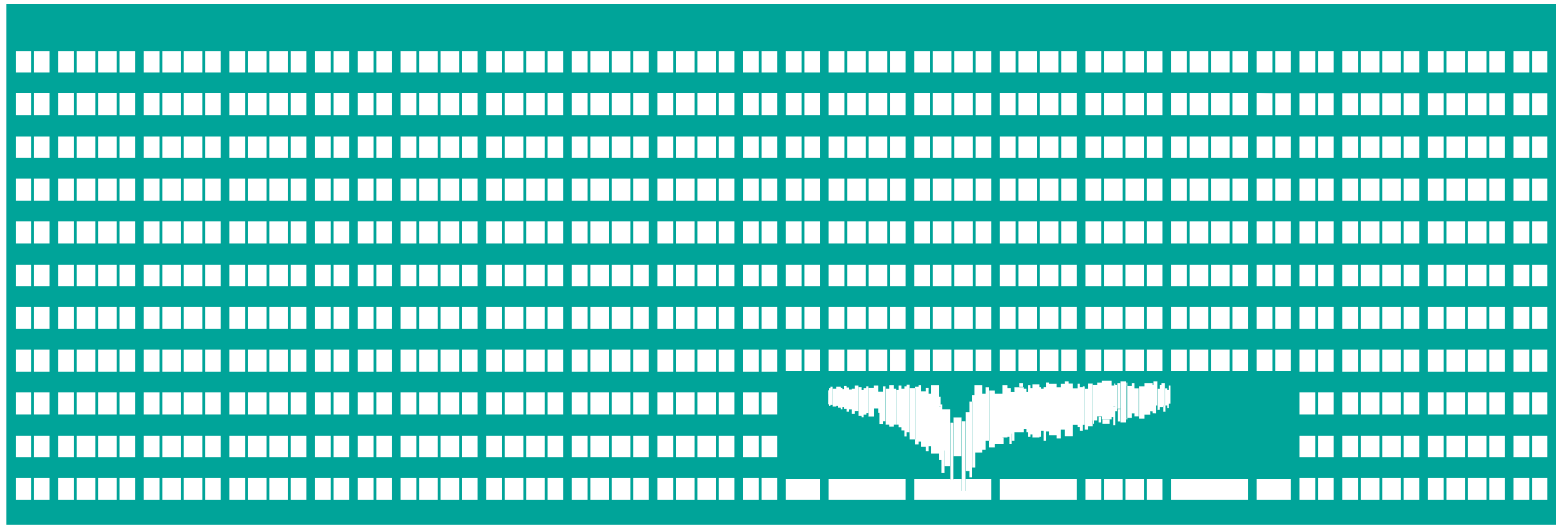
VSB TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA | FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE | DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

VŠB TECHNICKÁ UNIVERZITA OSTRAVA

VSB TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA



www.vsb.cz

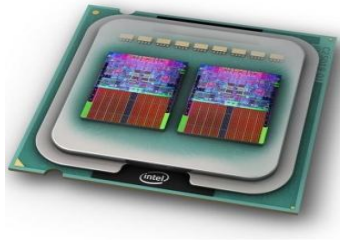
Concurrency Java, Kotlin & Android

Processes and Threads

- **Multitasking** is the capability of the operating system to load many programs into memory simultaneously and share CPU time.
  - **Processes**
    - Self-contained execution environment
    - Private set of resources
    - Private virtual memory address space
    - Communication through IPC
- **Multithreading** is the capability of the operating system to support many independent units of execution in a single process.
  - **Threads**
    - Lightweight processes
    - Exists within a process
    - Share resources, memory, open files

Threading in Android

- Threads share the processes resources but are able to execute independently.
- Applications responsibilities can be separated
  - **Main thread runs UI**
  - **Slow tasks are sent to background threads**



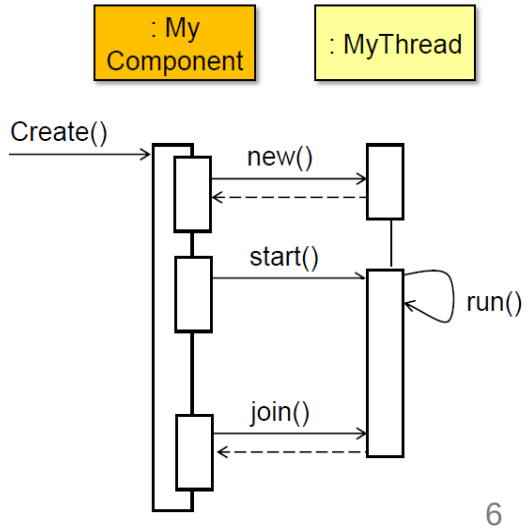
- Particularly useful in the case of a single process that spawns multiple threads on top of a multiprocessor system. In this case real parallelism is achieved.
- Consequently, a multithreaded program operates faster on computer systems that have multiple CPUs.

Threading in Android

- A Thread is a concurrent unit of execution
- Has its **own program counter, call stack** for methods being invoked, **arguments** and **local variables**
- **Heap and static areas are shared across threads.**
- Each virtual machine instance has at least one main Thread running when it is started – typically there are several others for housekeeping
- The application can decide to launch additional Threads for specific tasks

Basic Threading in Java

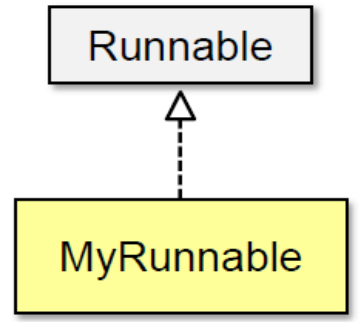
- Threads in the same VM interact and **synchronize** by the use of shared objects and monitors associated with these objects.
- There are basically two main ways of having a Thread execute application code.
  - Provide a new class that **extends Thread** and override its run() method
  - Provide a **new Thread instance** with a Runnable object during creation.
- Thread can be **active as long as the run() method hasn't returned**.
- Android Scheduler can **suspend/resume threads**.
- When **run() returns the thread is no longer active.**



Defining and Starting a Thread in Java

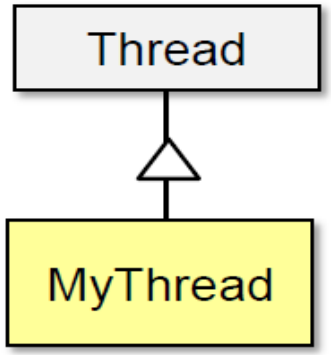
- **Runnable object**

```
public class MyRunnable implements Runnable {
      public void run()
         { System.out.println("Hello from a thread!"); }
        public static void main(String args[])
         { new Thread(new HelloRunnable())).start(); }
}
```



- **Subclass Thread**

```
public class MyThread extends Thread {
        public void run() {
         System.out.println("Hello thread!");
        }
        public static void main(String args[]) {
         (new HelloThread()).start();
        }
}
```



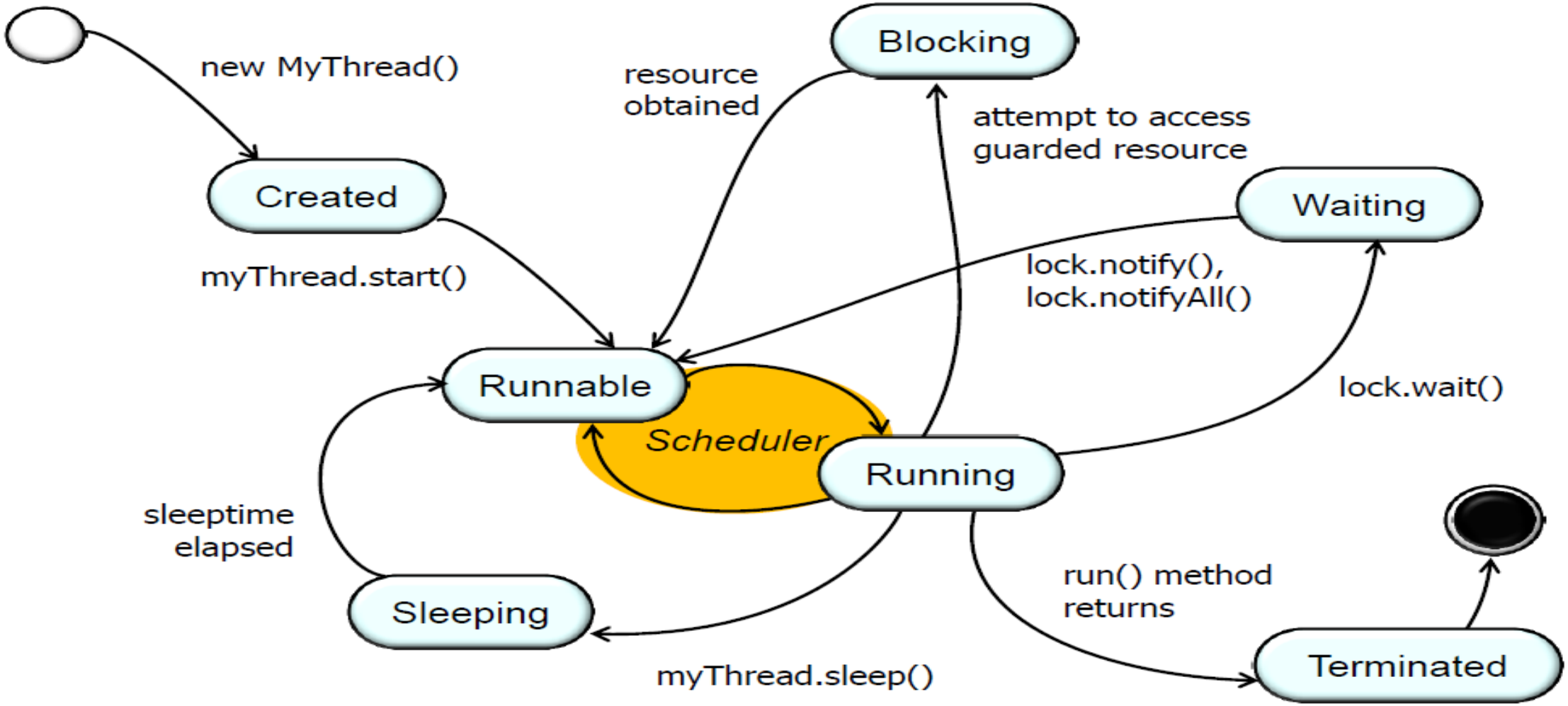
ANR Error

- When the UI thread of an Android app is blocked for too long, an "**Application Not Responding**" (ANR) error is triggered.
- If the app is in the foreground, the system displays a dialog to the user
- There are some common patterns to look for when diagnosing ANRs:
  - The app is doing **slow operations involving I/O** on the main thread.
  - The app is doing **a long calculation** on the main thread.
  - The main thread is doing **a synchronous binder call** to another process, and that other process is taking a long time to return.
  - The main thread is **blocked waiting for a synchronized block** for a long operation that is happening on another thread.
  - The main thread is in a **deadlock with another thread**, either in your process or via a binder call.

Thread Internals in Android

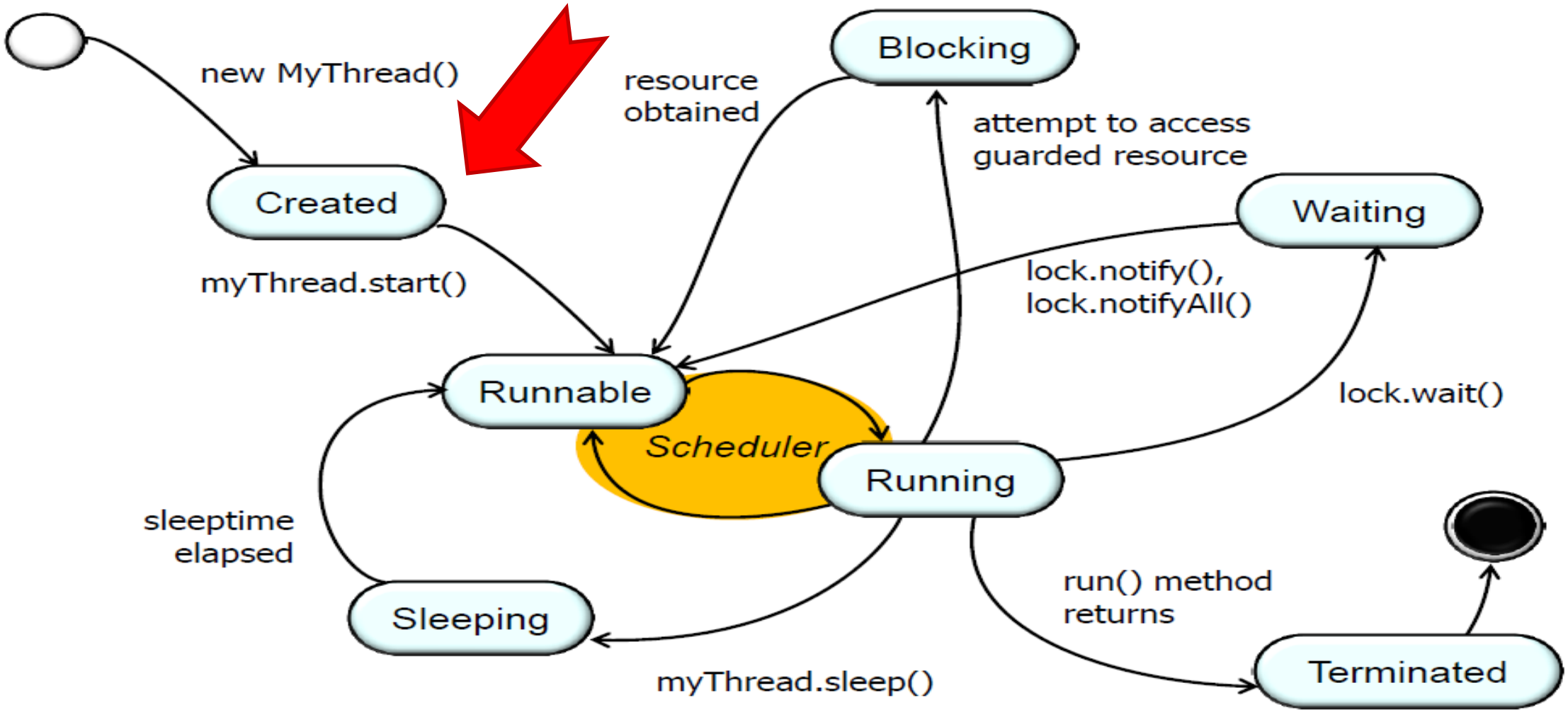
```
1.    MyThread.start()
2.    Thread.start()
      // Java method
3.    VMThread.create()
      // Native method      /src/main/java/java/lang/VMThread.java
4.    Dalvik_java_lang_VMThread_create(const u4* args, JValue* pResult)
      // JNI method         /vm/native/java_lang_VMThread.cpp
5.    dvmCreateInterpThread(Object *threadObj, int reqStackSize)
      // Dalvik method      /vm/native/java_lang_VMThread.cpp
6.    pthread_create(&threadHandle, &threadAttr, interpThreadStart, newThread)
      // pthread method     /libc/bionic/pthread.c
7.    interpThreadStart(void *arg)
      // adapter            /vm/Thread.c
8.    dvmCallMethod(self, run, self->threadObj, &unused)
      // Dalvid method      /vm/interp/Stack.cpp
9.    MyThread.run()
      // User-defined hook
```

State Machine of Threads in Android



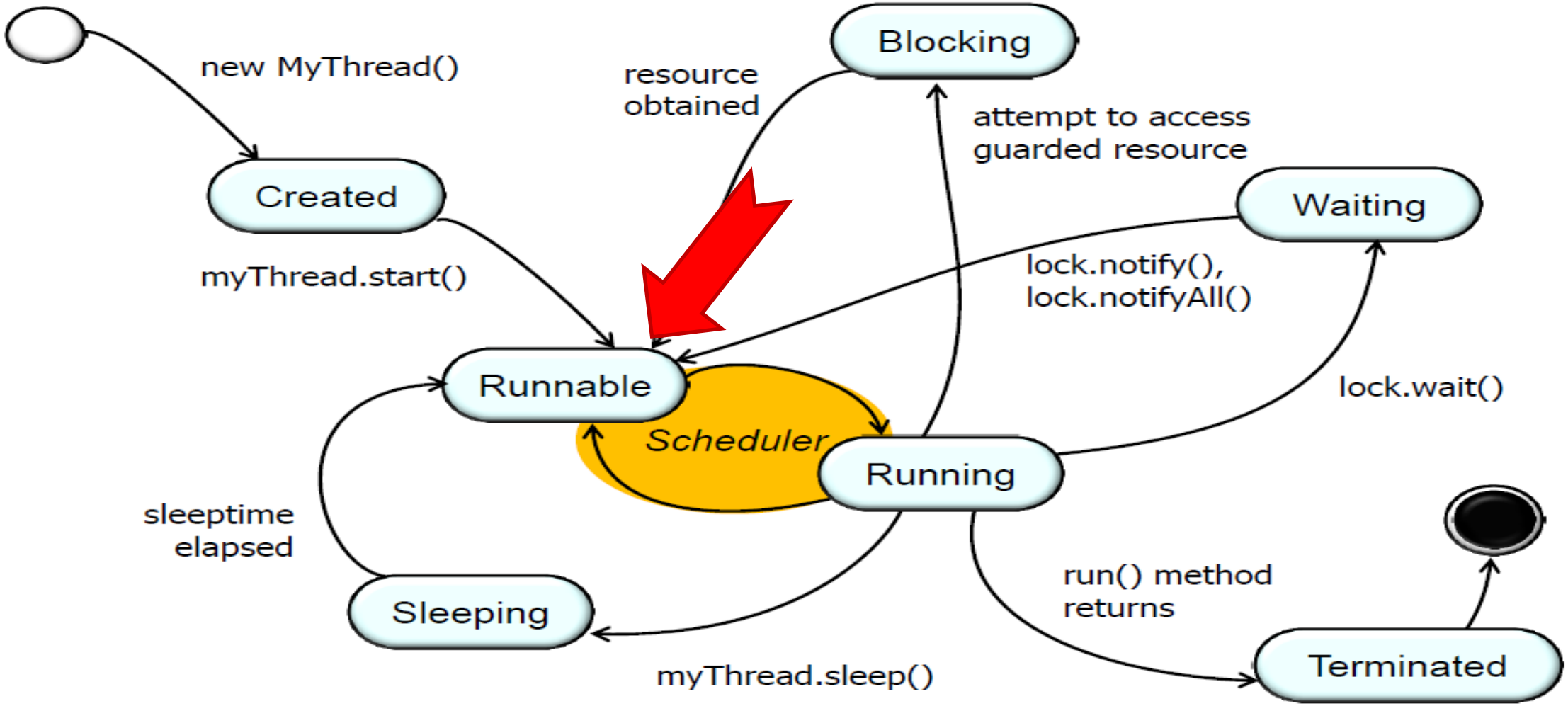
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



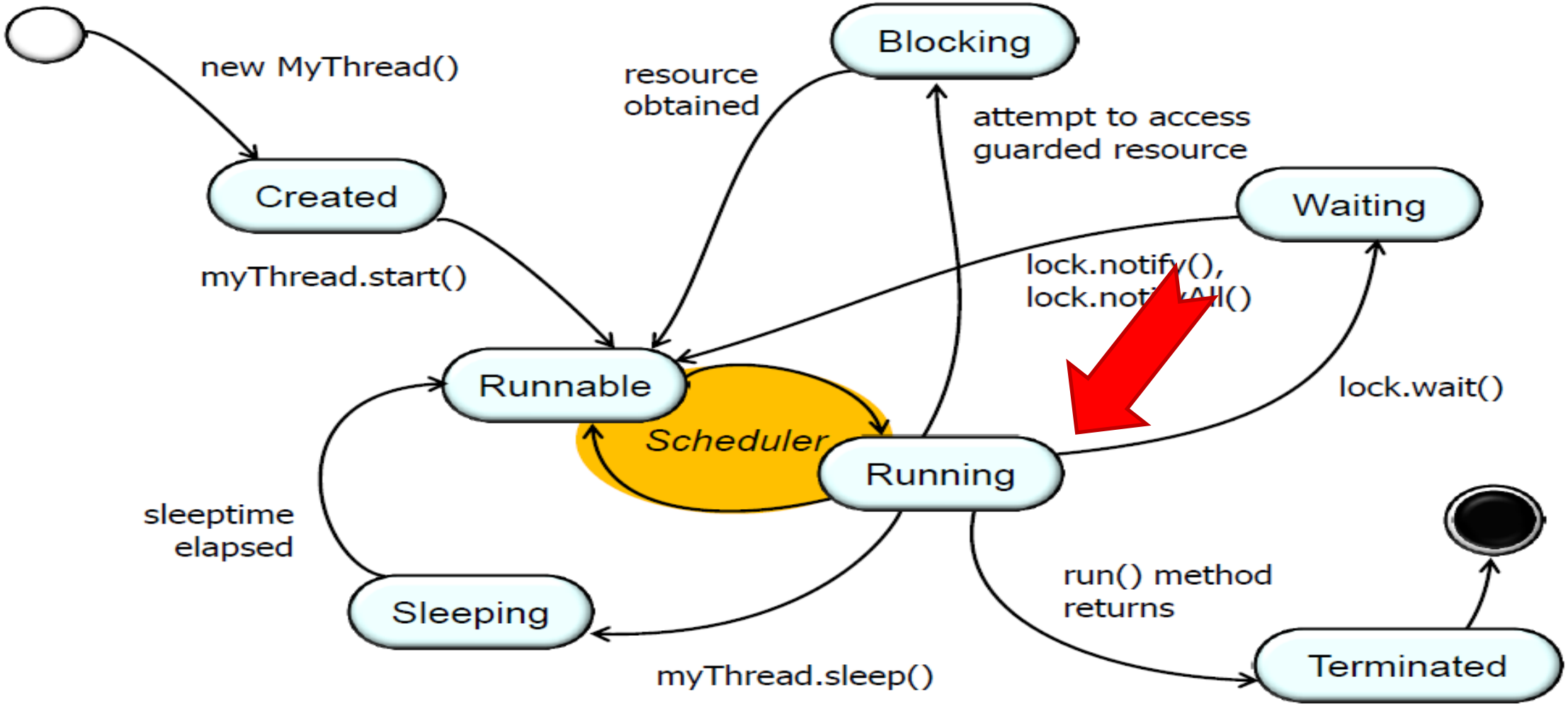
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



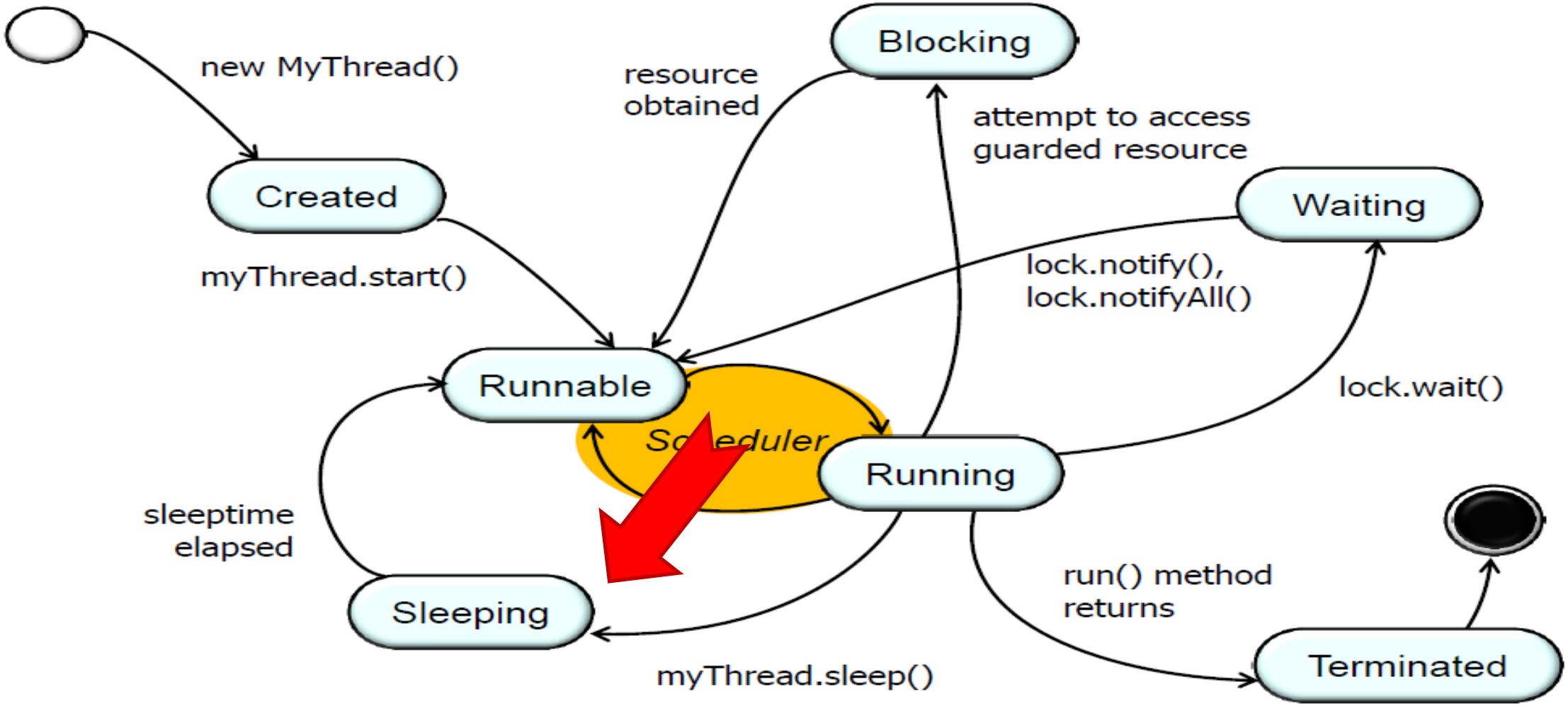
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



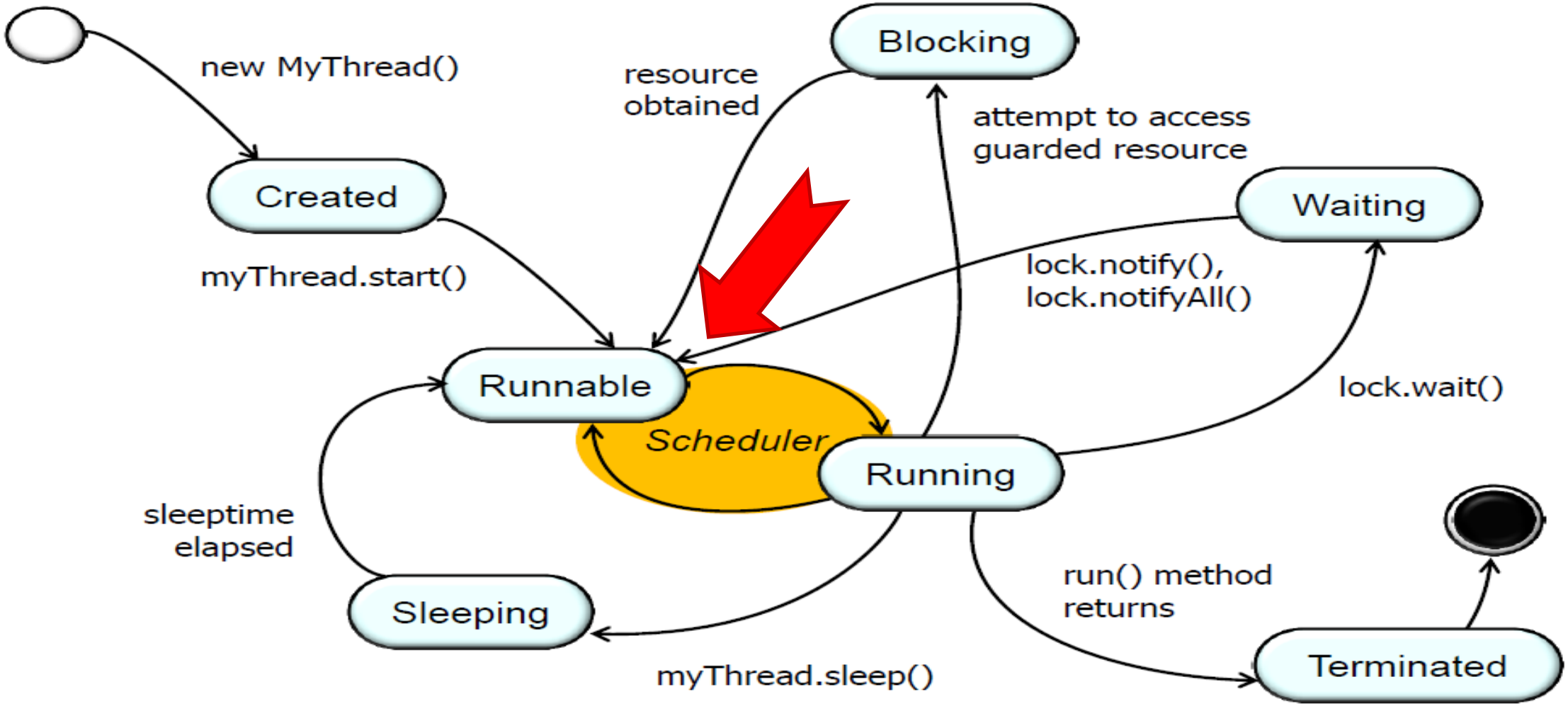
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



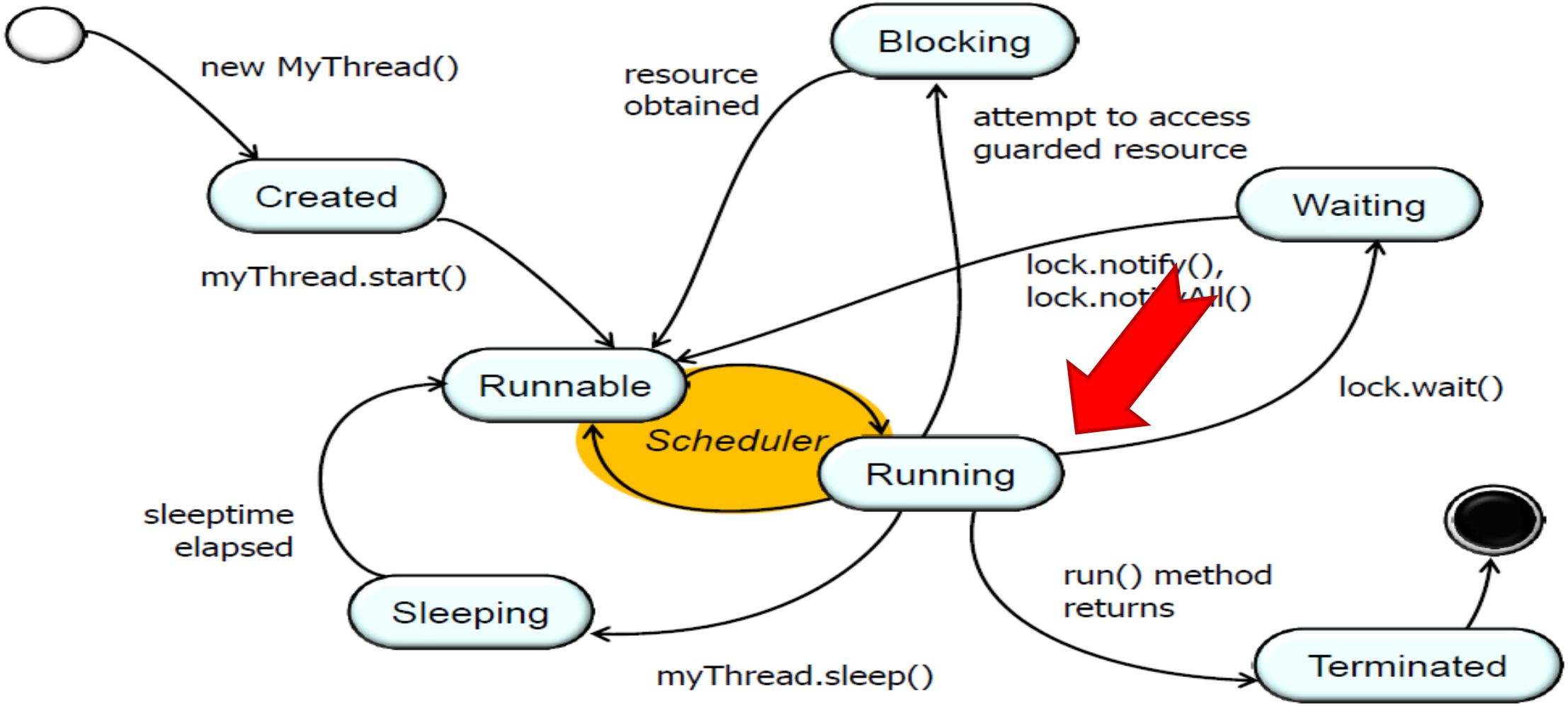
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



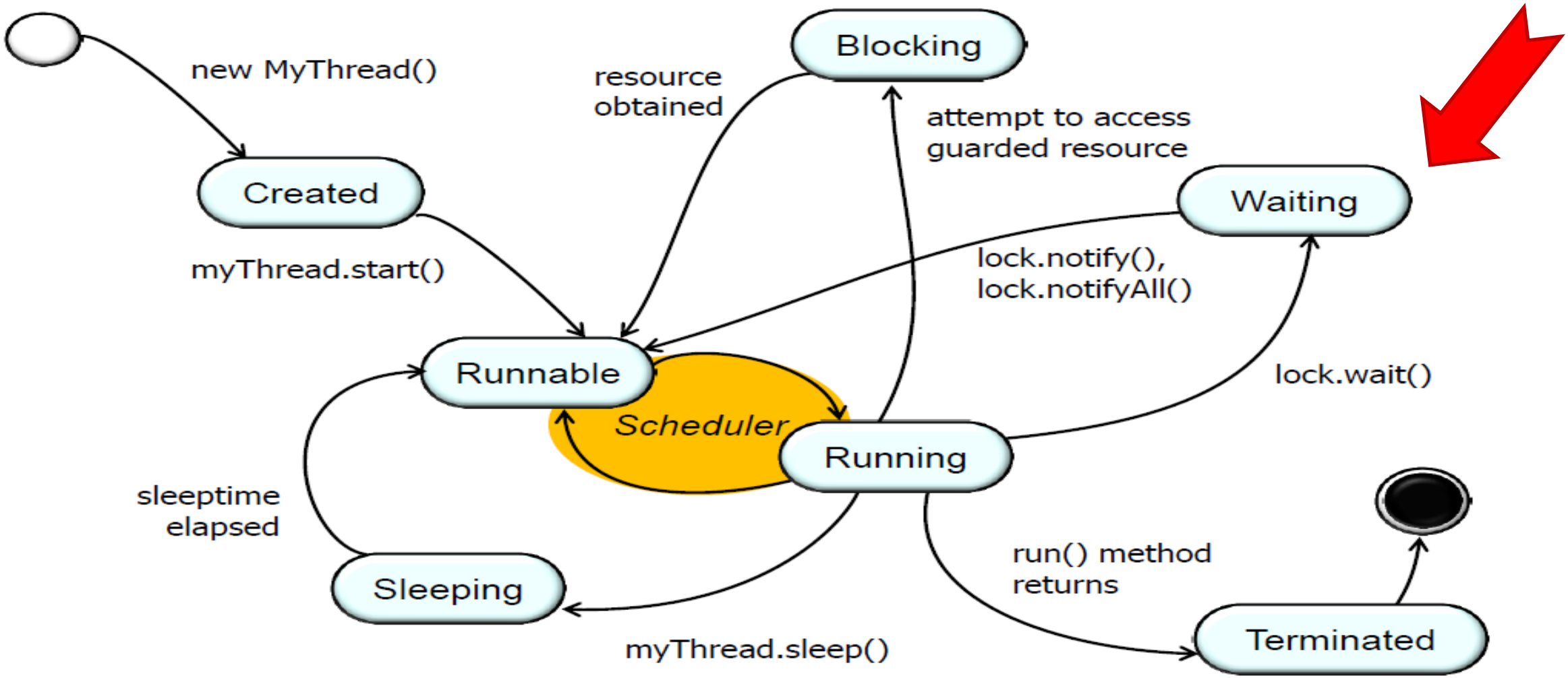
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



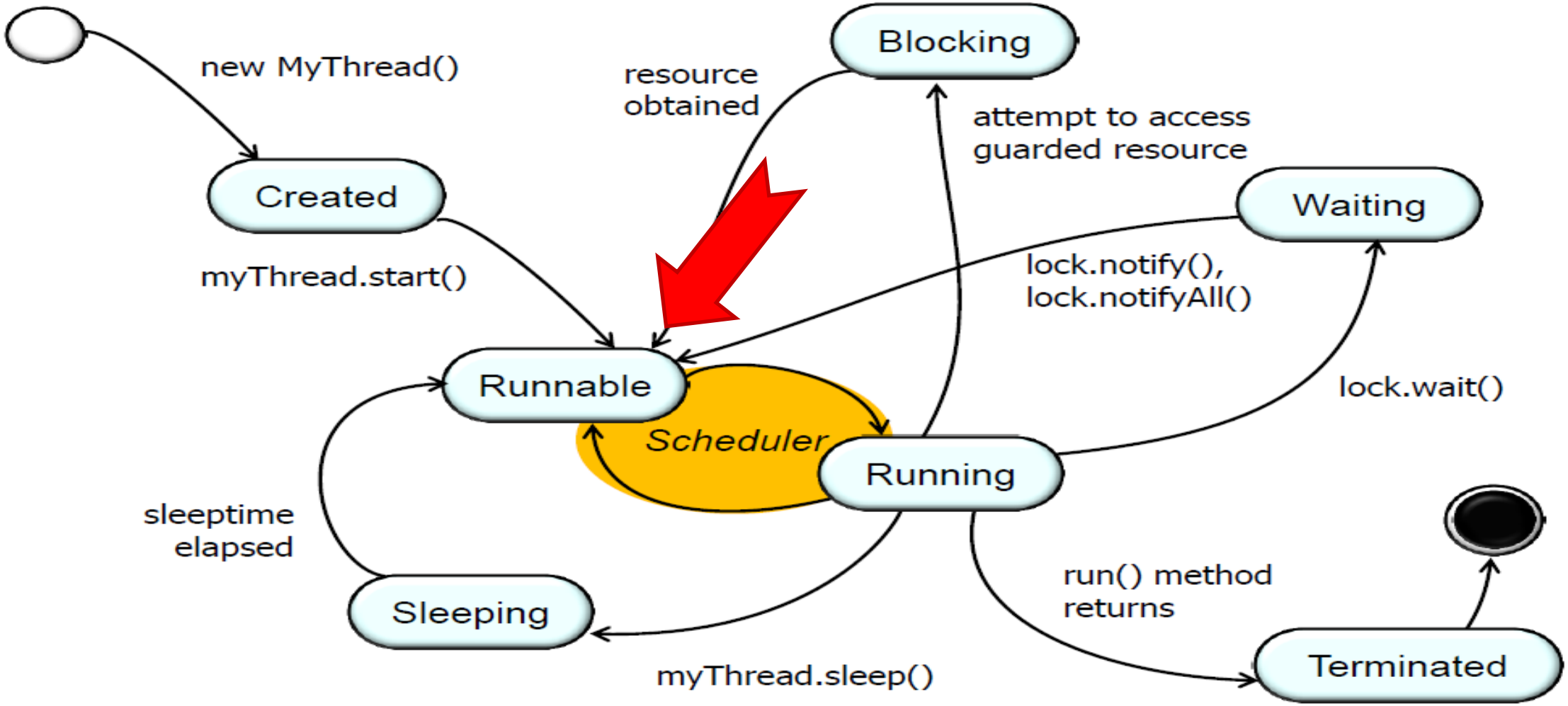
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



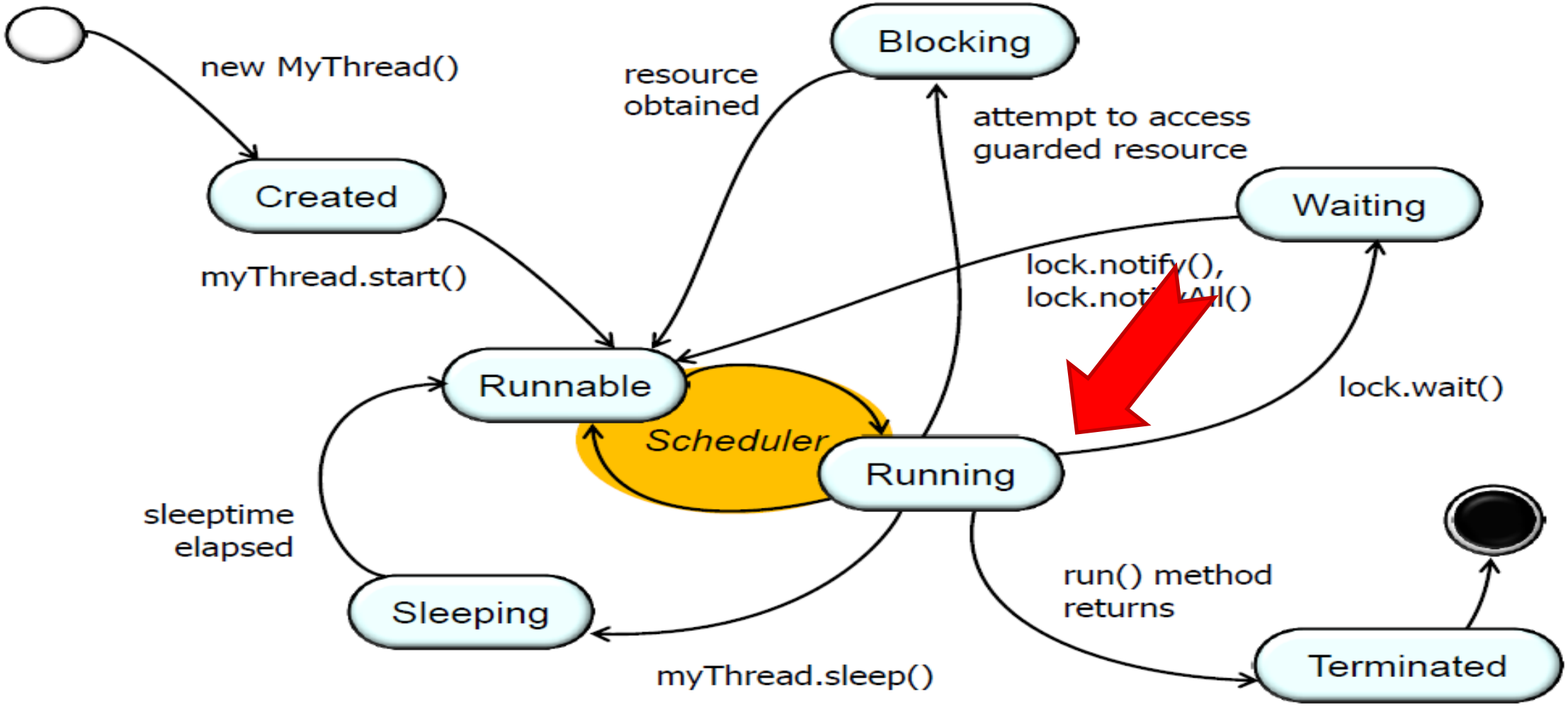
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



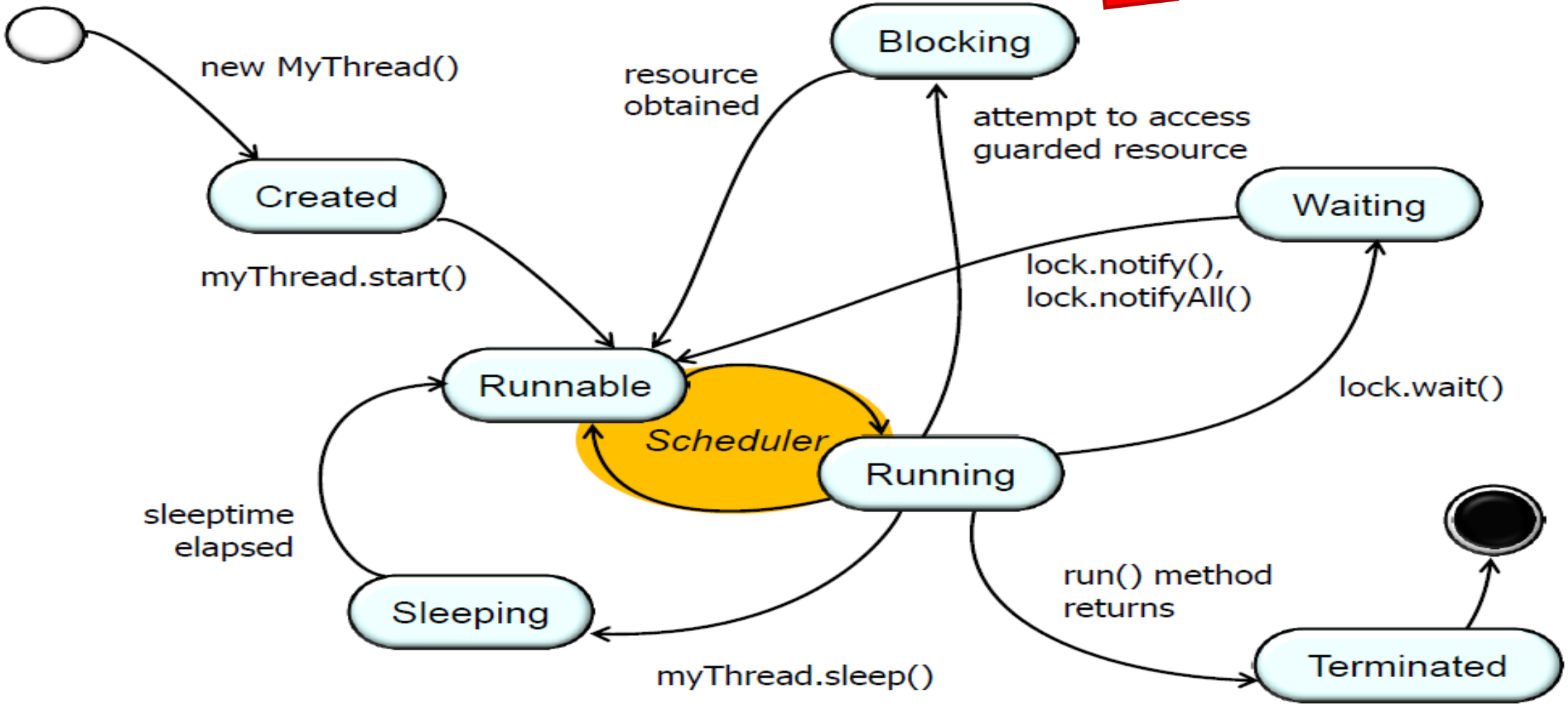
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



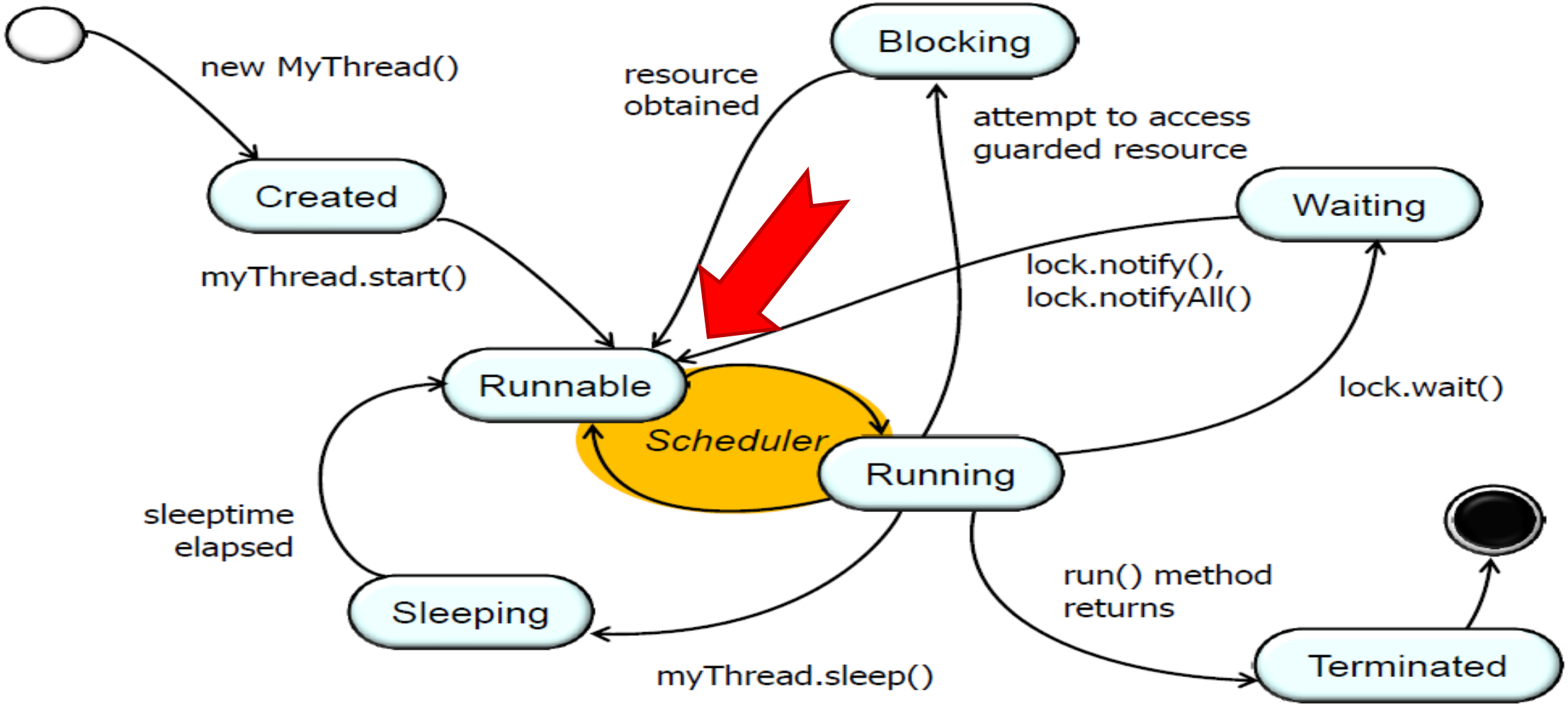
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



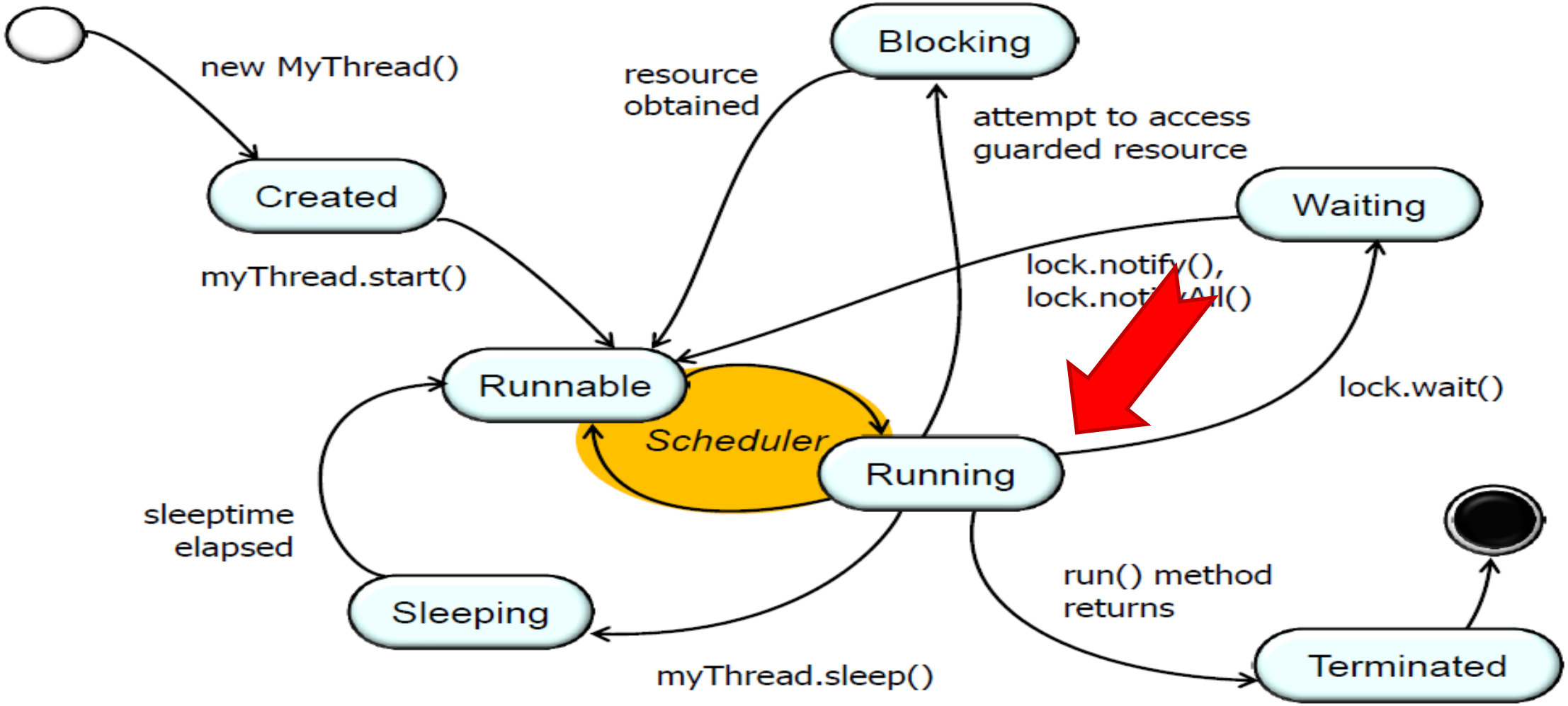
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



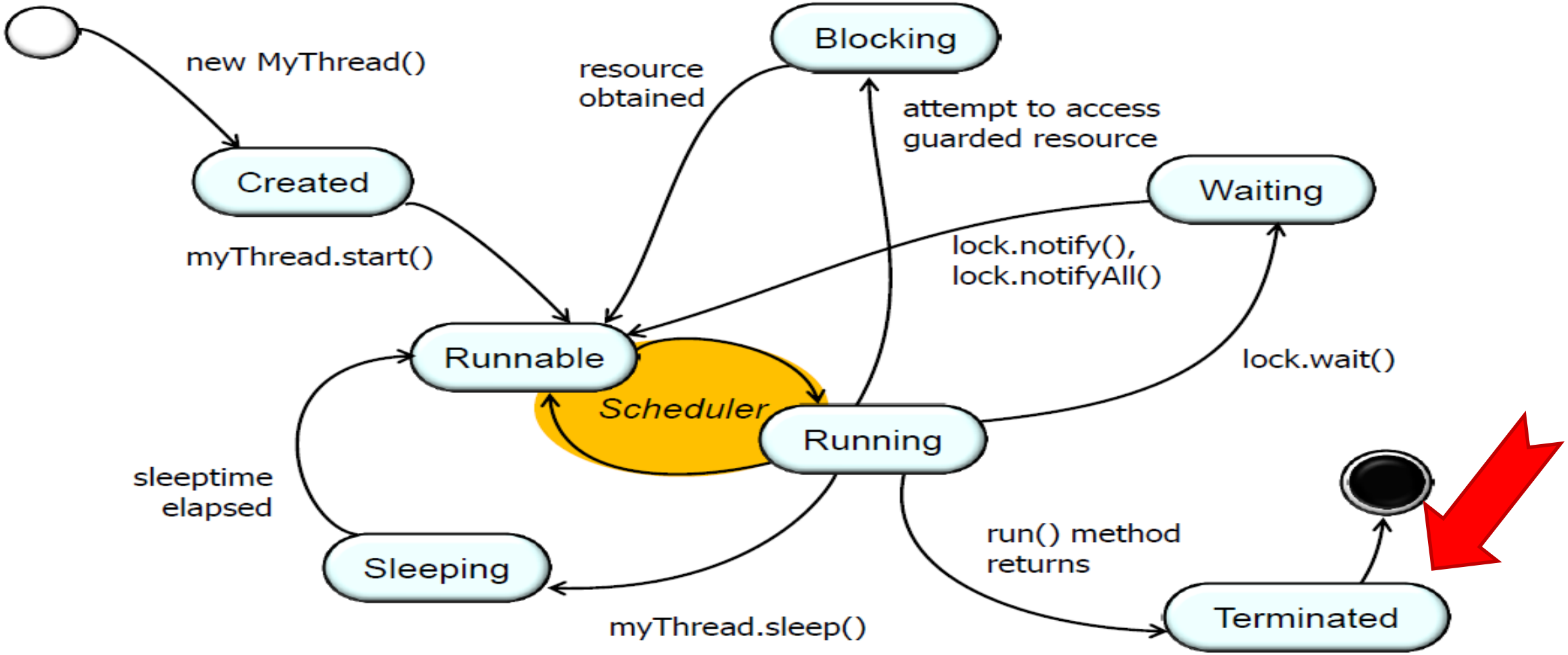
Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

State Machine of Threads in Android



Source: https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

Additional Methods

- **yield()**
  - Causes the calling Thread to yield execution time to another Thread that is ready to run.
- **join()**
  - Blocks the current Thread until the receiver finishes its execution and dies. Threads that have completed are “not alive” as are threads that have not yet been started.
  - Or specific time expires **join(long millis)**
- **sleep(long time)**
  - Causes the thread which sent this message to sleep for the given interval of time (given in milliseconds).

Yield Example

```
class MyThread extends Thread {
    private String name;
    public MyThread(String name) {
        this.name = name;
    }
    public void run() {
        for (;;) {
        System.out.println(name + ": hello world");
        }
    }
}

public class Main2 {
    public static void main(String [] args) {
        MyThread t1 = new MyThread("thread1");
        MyThread t2 = new MyThread("thread2");
        t1.start(); t2.start();
    }
}
```

```
thread2: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread1: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread1: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread1: hello world
```

Yield Example

```
class MyThread extends Thread {
    private String name;
    public MyThread(String name) {
        this.name = name;
    }
    public void run() {
        for (;;) {
        System.out.println(name + ": hello world");
        yield();
        }
    }
}

public class Main2 {
    public static void main(String [] args) {
        MyThread t1 = new MyThread("thread1");
        MyThread t2 = new MyThread("thread2");
        t1.start(); t2.start();
    }
}
```

```
thread1: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread1: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread1: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread1: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread1: hello world
thread2: hello world
thread1: hello world
```

Thread Scheduling

- **Scheduling**
  - Priority inherited from parent, but can be changed
  - Higher priority threads generally run before lower priority threads
  - For equal priority threads, best to call yield() intermittently to handle JVM's with user-level threading (i.e., no time-slicing)
- Modifying the priority
  - **setPriority**(int newPriority)
    - public static final int MAX_PRIORITY
    - public static final int MIN_PRIORITY
  - **getPriority()**

stop() was deprecated, because stopping a thread in this manner is unsafe and can leave your application and the VM in an unpredictable state.
suspend(), resume() may cause deadlocks.

Stopping Threads

- **Interrupt method**
  - Sends an **interrupt** request to the designated thread
  - Check **Thread.interrupted()** if the thread was stopped

```
Thread t = new Thread(new Runnable() {
      public void run() {
          for (int i=0; i < input.length(); i++) {
              processInput(input[i]);
              if (Thread.interrupted()) {
                    throw InterruptedException();
              }
          }
      }
}
```

Stopping Threads

- **Flags**
  - Add a volatile boolean is_running and check its state

```
Thread t = new Thread(new Runnable() {
      private volatile boolean is_running = true;
      public void stop() {
       is_running = false;
      }

      public void run() {
          while (is_running) {
              …
          }
      }
}
```

Synchronization Methods

- **Atomic action happens all at once**
  - **Cannot be interleaved**
  - Some atomic operations
    - Read/Write are atomic for reference variables
    - Read/Write for all variables declared volatile
  - Changes to volatile are **visible to all threads**

If we have multiple threads accessing shared data,
how do we synchronize access to ensure it remains in a consistent state?

- **Synchronized methods, objects**
- **Wait, notify, notifyAll**

Synchronized Methods - Monitors

- **synchronized** keyword used with a method
  - Example

```
public synchronized void SetValue() {
    // Update instance data structure.
    // When the thread executes here,  it exclusively has the monitor lock
}
```

  - Provides *instance-based* mutual exclusion
    - A lock is implicitly provided-- allows at most one thread to be executing the method at one time
  - Used on a per method basis; not all methods in a class have to have this
    - But, you'll need to design it right!!

Synchronized Methods - Wait

- Does a blocking (**not busy) wait**
- Relative to an Object
  - E.g., Used within a synchronized method
- Releases lock on Object and waits until a condition is true
  - Blocks calling process until notify() or notifyAll() is called on same object instance (or exception occurs)
- Typically used within a loop to re-check a condition
  - wait(long millis); // bounded wait

Synchronized Methods - Notify

- Stop a process from waiting– wakes it up
- Relative to an Object
  - E.g., Used within a synchronized method
- Wakes up a blocked thread (**notify**) or all blocked threads (**notifyAll**)
  - One woken thread reacquires lock; The awakened thread will not be able to proceed until the current thread relinquishes the lock on this object.
- For notify, if more than one thread available to be woken, then one is picked

Guarded Blocks

- Block begins by polling a condition that must be true before the block can proceed.
- **Object.wait** is used to suspend current thread. **Object.notifyAll** informing all threads waiting on that lock that something important has happened

```
while (condition not true) {
    try {
        wait(); // this.wait();
    } catch {
        System.out.println("Interrupted!");
    } }
// After loop, condition now true & thread
// has monitor lock for this object instance
```

Lock Objects

- **Lock objects** work very much like the implicit locks used by synchronized code.
- Ability to back out of an attempt to lock
  - tryLock
  - lockInterruptibly

```
try {
     myLock = lock.tryLock();
     yourLock = bower.lock.tryLock();
}
     finally
{
     if (! (myLock && yourLock)) {
          if (myLock) { lock.unlock(); }
        if (yourLock) { bower.lock.unlock(); } }
}
```

Semaphores

- Conceptually, a semaphore maintains a set of permits.
- Each **acquire()** blocks if necessary until a permit is available, and then takes it. Each **release()** adds a permit, potentially releasing a blocking acquirer.
- However, no actual permit objects are used; the Semaphore just keeps a count of the number available and acts accordingly.
- Semaphores are often used to restrict the number of threads than can access some (physical or logical) resource.

Kotlin Concurrency – Coroutines Basics

Atomic Variables

- Kotlin provides atomic variable classes such as **AtomicInt**, **AtomicLong**, **AtomicReference**, etc.,
- Perform operations atomically **without the need for explicit synchronization.**

```
val atomicCounter = AtomicInt(0)

fun incrementCounter() {
    atomicCounter.incrementAndGet()
}
```

Kotlin Concurrency – Coroutines Basics

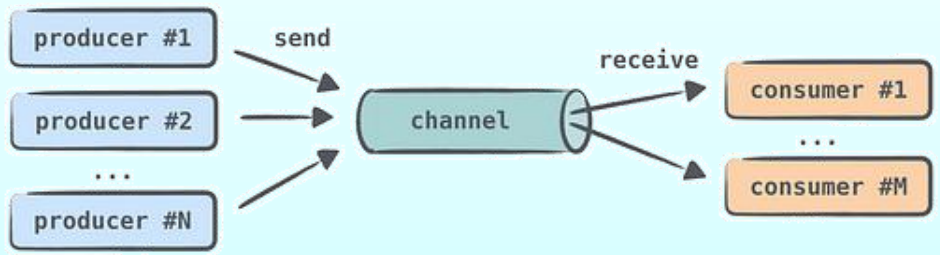
Channels

- Multiple coroutines to **communicate** with each other in a **producer-consumer fashion**
- Channels can be used for both **thread-to-thread** communication and **coroutine-to-coroutine** communication.

```
val channel = Channel<Int>()

GlobalScope.launch {
    val value = channel.receive()
    // Process the received value
}

// Sending a value to the channel
channel.send(42)
```



Kotlin Concurrency – Coroutines Basics

Actor

- Entity that can **receive messages** and **process them sequentially**. Can handle concurrent operations in a structured manner.
- Encapsulate mutable state and ensure that it is **accessed by only one coroutine at a time**.

```
data class Message(val content: String)

val actor = GlobalScope.actor<Message> {
    for (msg in channel) {
        // Process the message
        println(msg.content)
    }
}
// Sending a message to the actor
actor.send(Message("Hello, Actor!"))
```

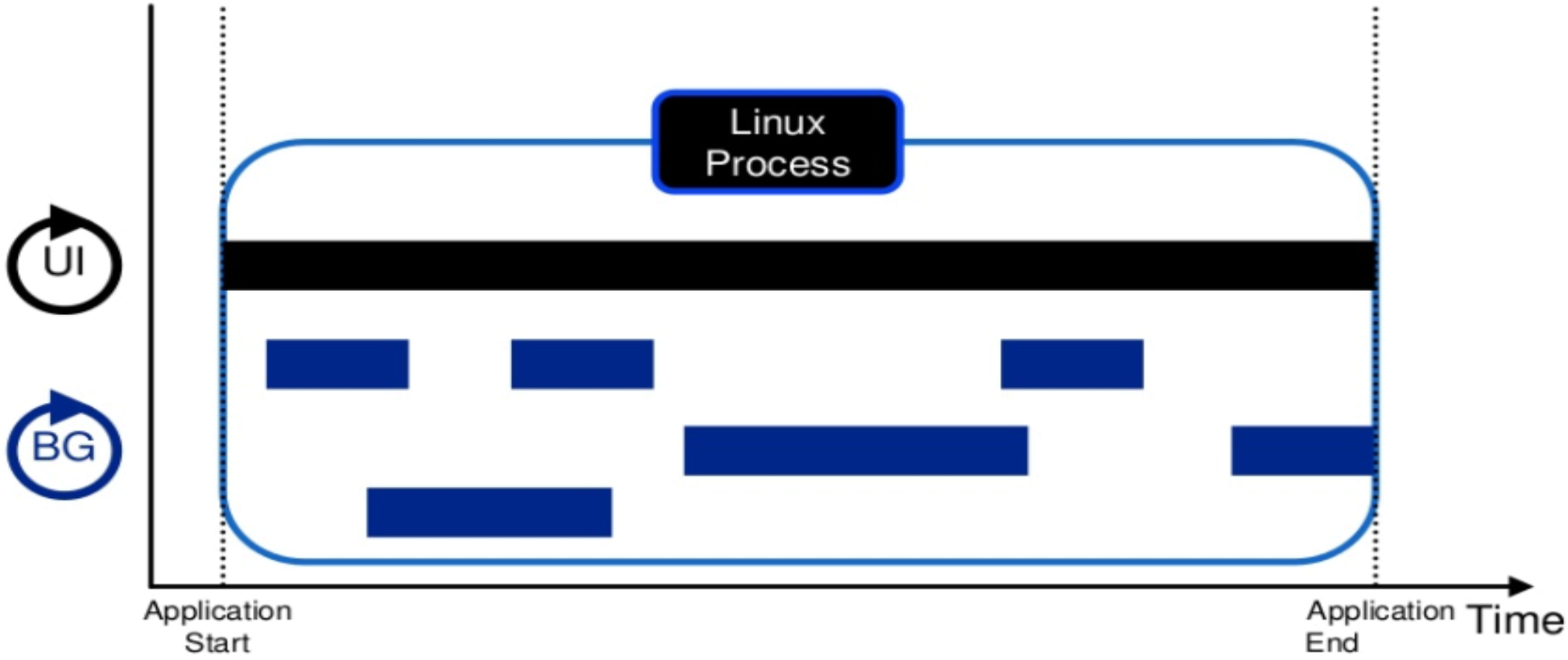
Kotlin Concurrency – Coroutines Basics

Flow

- **Asynchronous data stream** that sequentially **emits values**.
- Designed for handling streams of data asynchronously and reactively. Work with asynchronous data in a structured and declarative manner.

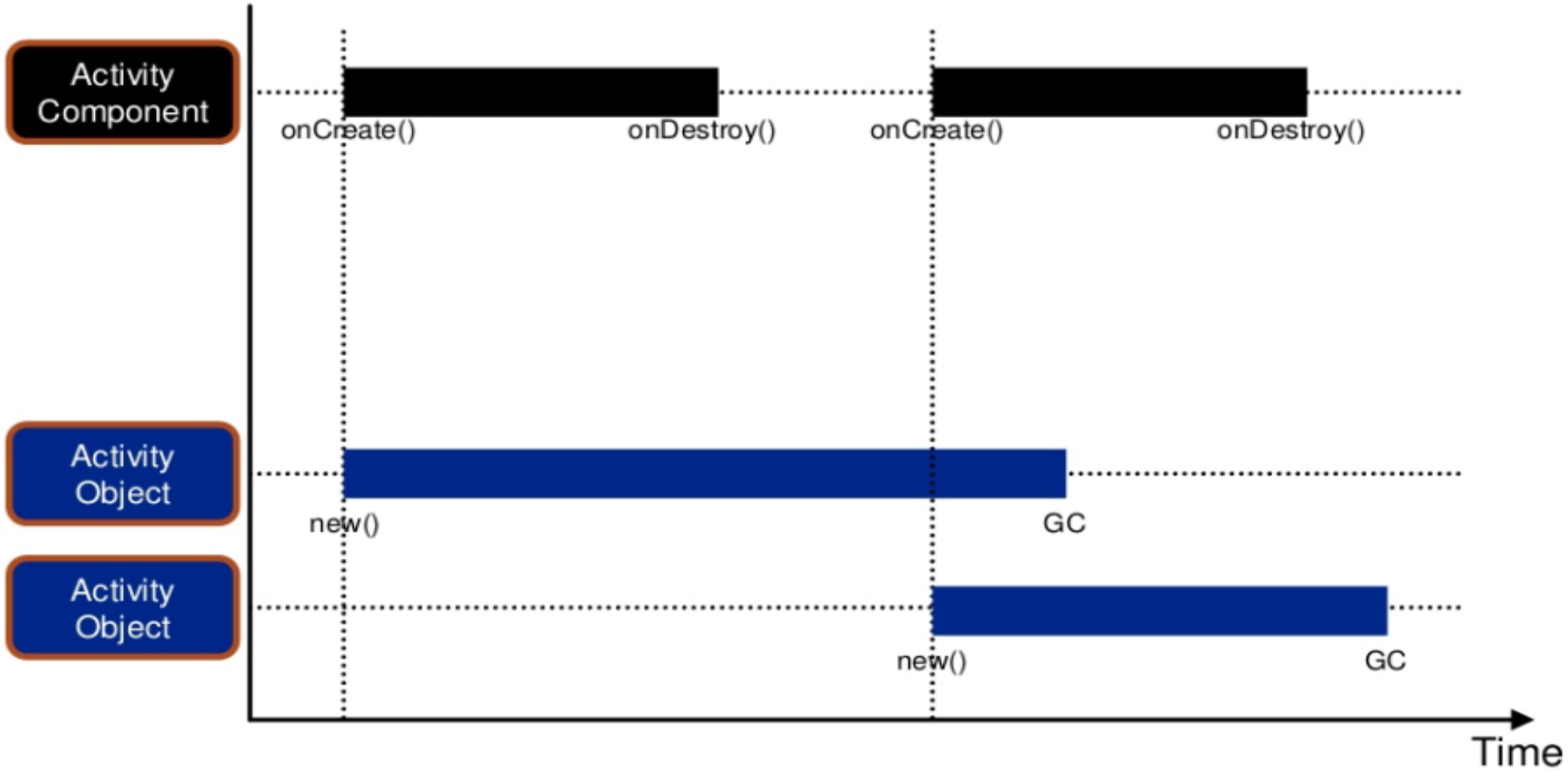
```
fun simpleFlow(): Flow<Int> = flow {
    for (i in 1..3) {
        delay(100)          // Simulating a long-running operation
        emit(i)             // Emitting values from the flow
    }
}
GlobalScope.launch {        // Collecting values from the flow
    simpleFlow().collect { value ->
        println(value)
    }
}
```

Threading in Android - Memory



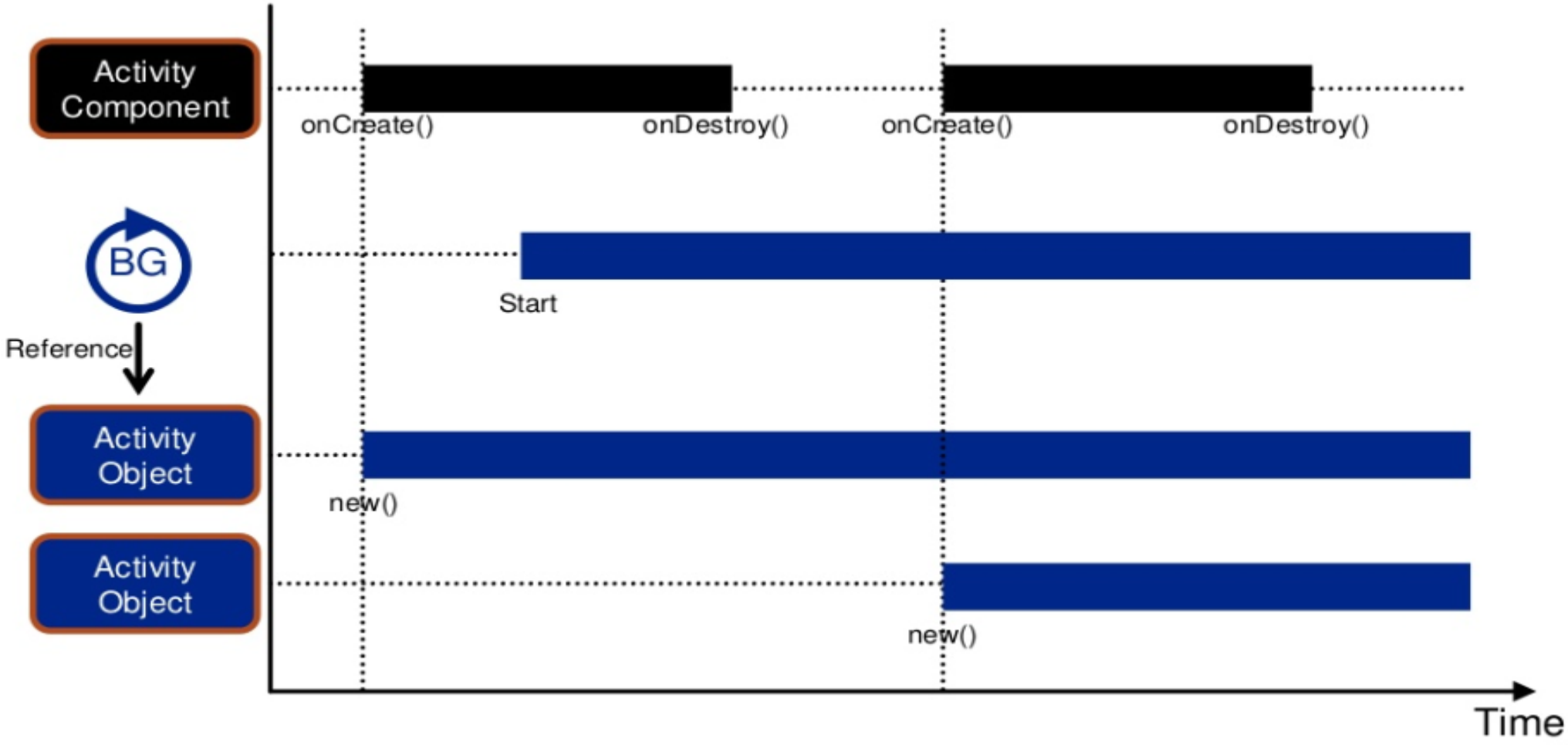
Source: http://www.slideshare.net/andersgoransson/efficient-android-threading#btnNext

Threading in Android - Memory



Source: http://www.slideshare.net/andersgoransson/efficient-android-threading#btnNext

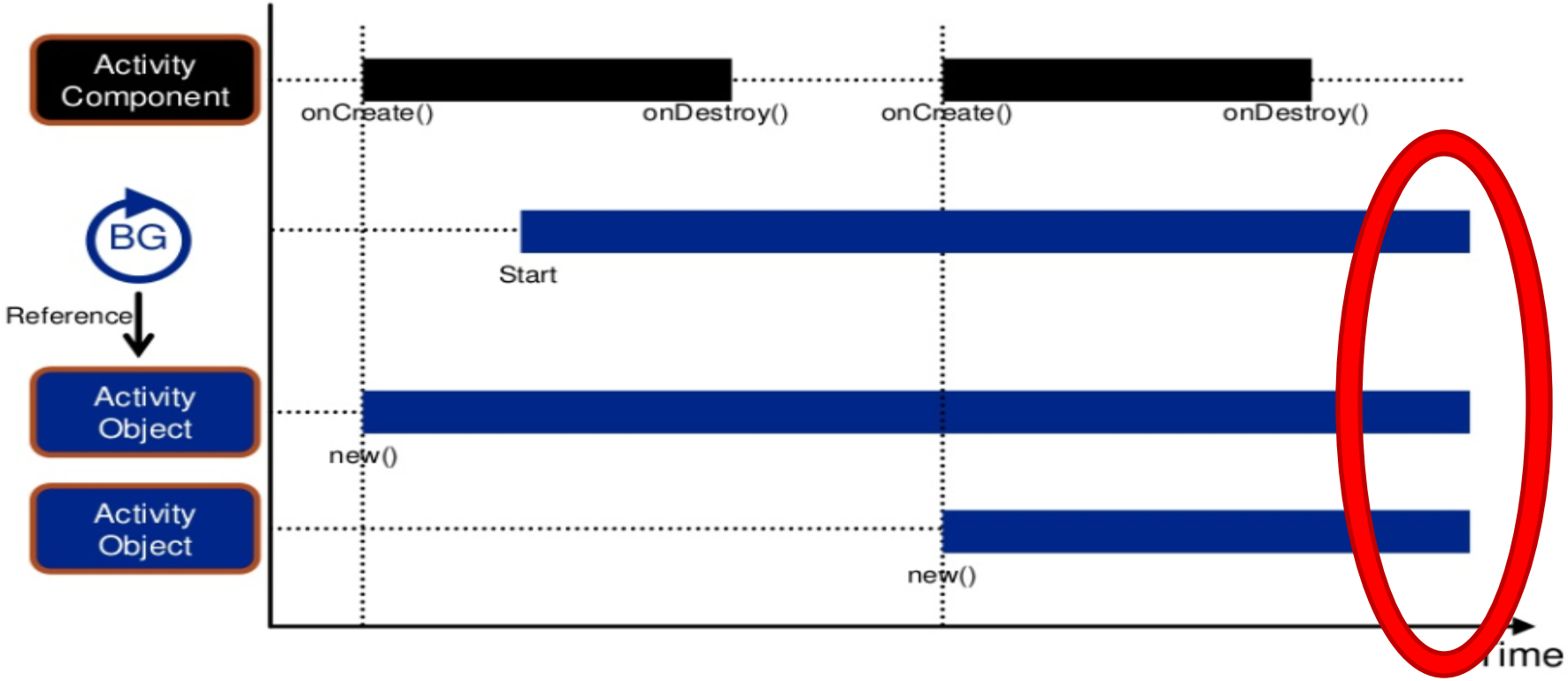
Threading in Android - Memory



Source: http://www.slideshare.net/andersgoransson/efficient-android-threading#btnNext

Threading in Android - Memory

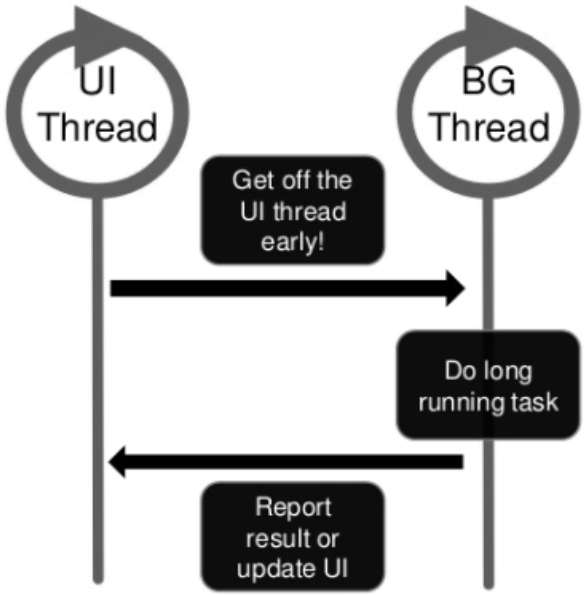
- **A thread is a Garbage Collector root**
  - Implement cancellation policy for your background threads



Source: http://www.slideshare.net/andersgoransson/efficient-android-threading#btnNext

Android Threading Techniques (Java)

- **Thread**
- **Executor**
- **HandlerThread**
- **AsyncTask**
- Service
- IntentService
- AsyncQueryHandler
- Loader



AsyncTask

- Enable proper and **easy use of the UI thread**.
- Allows to perform background operations and publish results on the UI thread without having to manipulate threads or handlers.
- Defined by a computation that runs on a background thread and whose result is published on the UI thread.
- Async task is defined by
  - 3 generic types – **Params, Progress, Result**
  - 4 main states – **onPreExecute, doInBackground, onProgressUpdate, onPostExecute**
  - 1 auxiliary method – **publishProgress**

AsyncTask States

- onPreExecute()
  - invoked on the **UI thread** before the task is executed. This step is normally used to setup the task, for instance by showing a progress bar in the user interface.
- doInBackground(Params...)
  - invoked on the **background thread** immediately after onPreExecute() finishes executing. This step is used to perform background computation that can take a long.
- onProgressUpdate(Progress...)
  - invoked on the **UI thread**.This method is used to display any form of progress in the user interface while the background computation is still executing.
- onPostExecute(Result),
  - invoked on the **UI thread** after the background computation finishes. The result of the background computation is passed to this step as a parameter.

AsyncTask Example

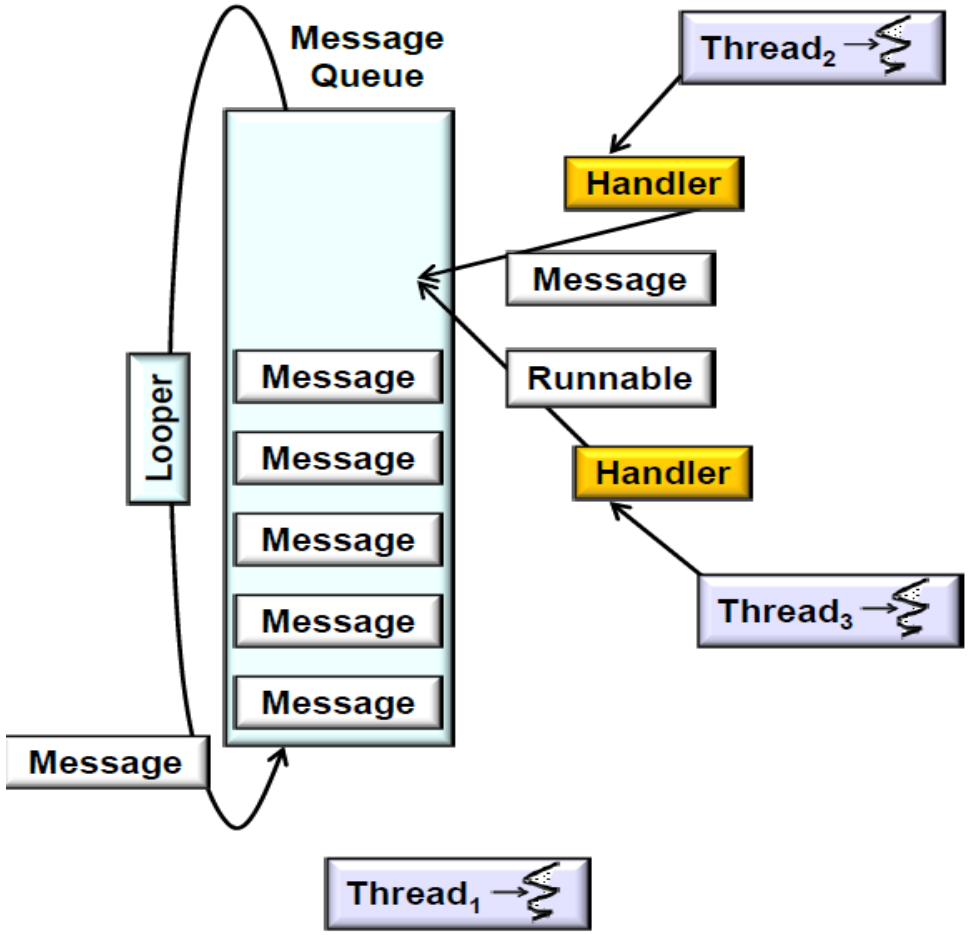
```
private class DownloadFilesTask extends AsyncTask<URL, Integer, Long> {
    protected Long doInBackground(URL... urls) {
        int count = urls.length; long totalSize = 0;
        for (int i = 0; i < count; i++) {
            totalSize += Downloader.downloadFile(urls[i]);
            publishProgress((int) ((i / (float) count) * 100));
            if (isCancelled()) break; // Escape early if cancel() is called
        }
        return totalSize;
    }

    protected void onProgressUpdate(Integer... progress) {
        setProgressPercent(progress[0]);
    }

    protected void onPostExecute(Long result) {
        showDialog("Downloaded " + result + " bytes");
    }
}
```

Handlers and Messages

- Allows an app to spawn threads that perform background operations and publish results on the UI thread
- A **Looper** provides a message queue to a thread
- Only **one Looper is allowed per Thread**
- **UI Thread has a Looper**



Handlers and Messages

- **Handler** allows receiving **messages** from **other thread**.

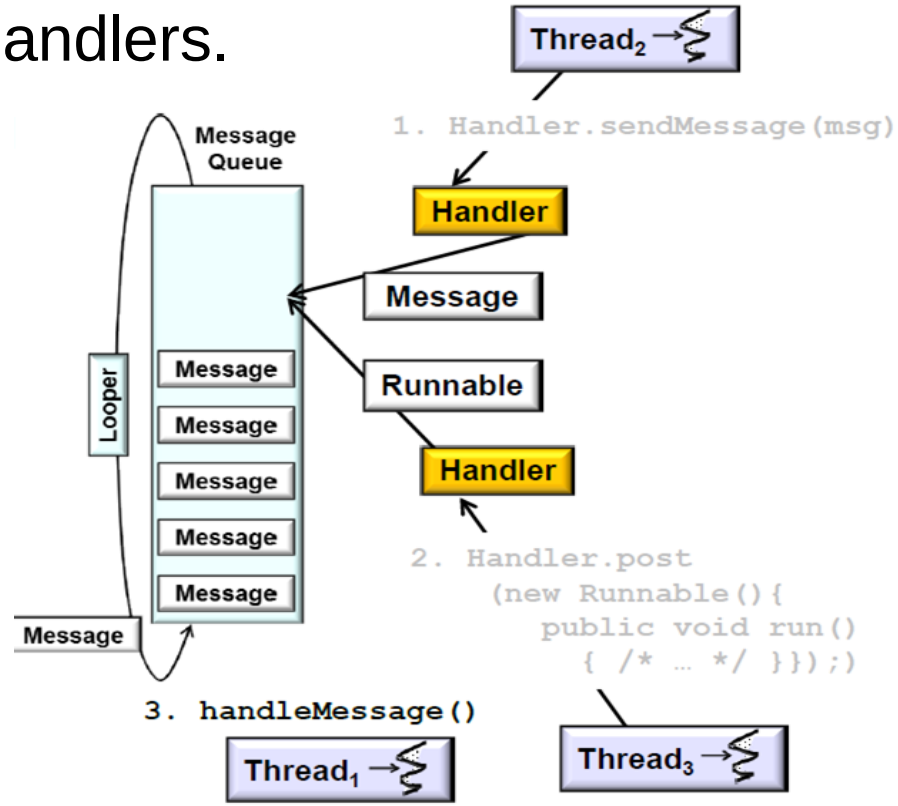
```
Private Handler mHandler = new Handler() {
  public void handleMessage(Message msg) {
    Bundle bundle= msg.getData();
    myTextView.setText(bundle.getString("data"));
  };
};
```

```
new Thread() {
  public void run() {
    Message msg = mHandler.obtainMessage();
    Bundle b = new Bundle();
    b.putString("data", "some text");
    msg.setData(b);
    mHandler.sendMessage(msg);
  }
}.start();
```

Handlers and Messages

- A Looper provides a message queue to a thread
- The **Looper.loop()** methods runs a Thread's main event loop.
- Waits for **Messages** and dispatches them to their Handlers.

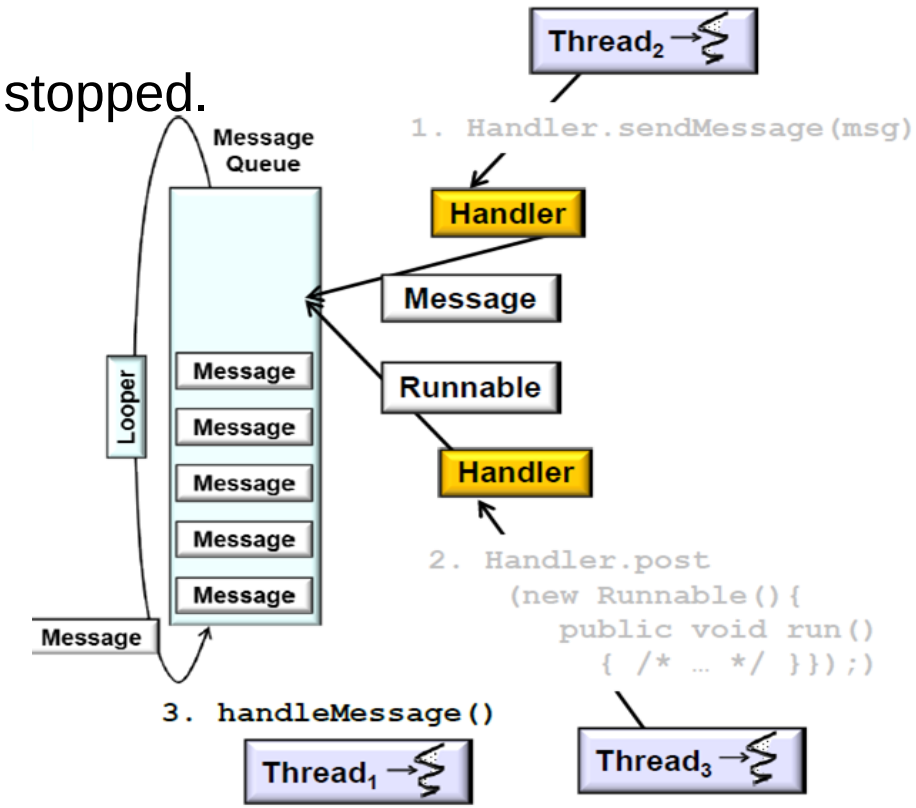
```
public class Looper {
    …
    final MessageQueue mQueue;
    public static void loop() {
    …
    while(true) {
        Message msg = queue.next();
        …
        msg.target.dispatchMessage(msg);
        …
    }
```



Handlers and Messages

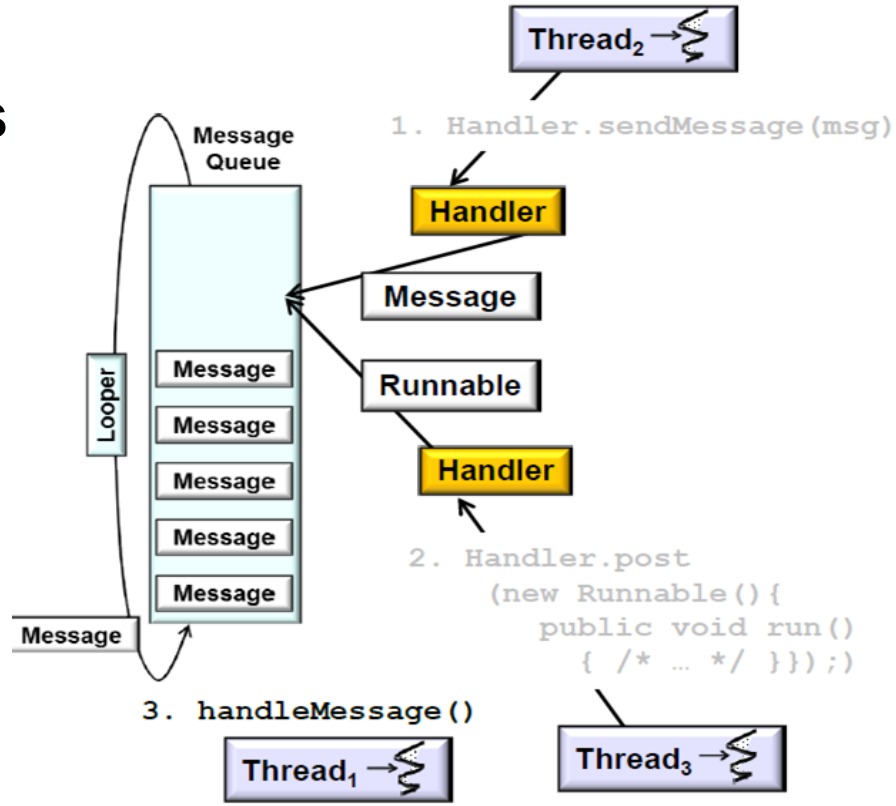
- By default Threads don't have a message loop associated with them.
  - To create one, call prepare() in the thread that is to run loop
  - Create Handlers to process incoming messages
  - Call loop() to have it process messages until the loop is stopped.

```
public class myThread extends Thread {
    …
    public Handler mHandler;
    public void run() {
        Looper.prepare();
        mHandler = new Handler() {
                public void handleMessage(Message msg) {
                        // do something with msg
                }
        }
        Looper.loop();
}
```



Handlers and Messages

- Handler sends Messages and posts Runnables to a Thread
- Thread's MessageQueue enqueues and schedules them for future execution
- Implements **thread-safe processing of Messages**
  - In current Thread or different Thread



Service

- Component that can perform long-running operations in the background, and it doesn't provide a user interface.
- **Foreground**
  - Operation is noticeable to the user. Foreground services must display a Notification. Foreground services continue running even when the user isn't interacting with the app.
- **Background**
  - Operation that isn't directly noticed by the user.
    - API level 26 and higher imposes restrictions on running background services when the app itself isn't in the foreground.
- **Bound**
  - Client-server interface that allows components to interact with the service, send requests, receive results

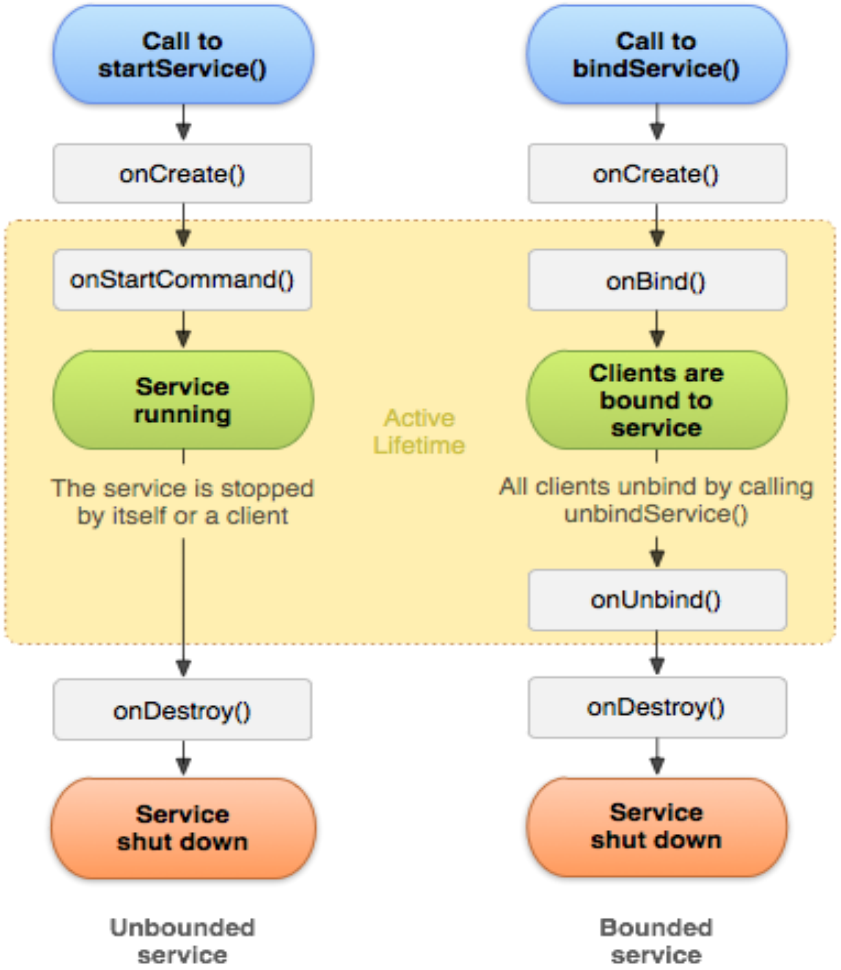
Service Life Cycle

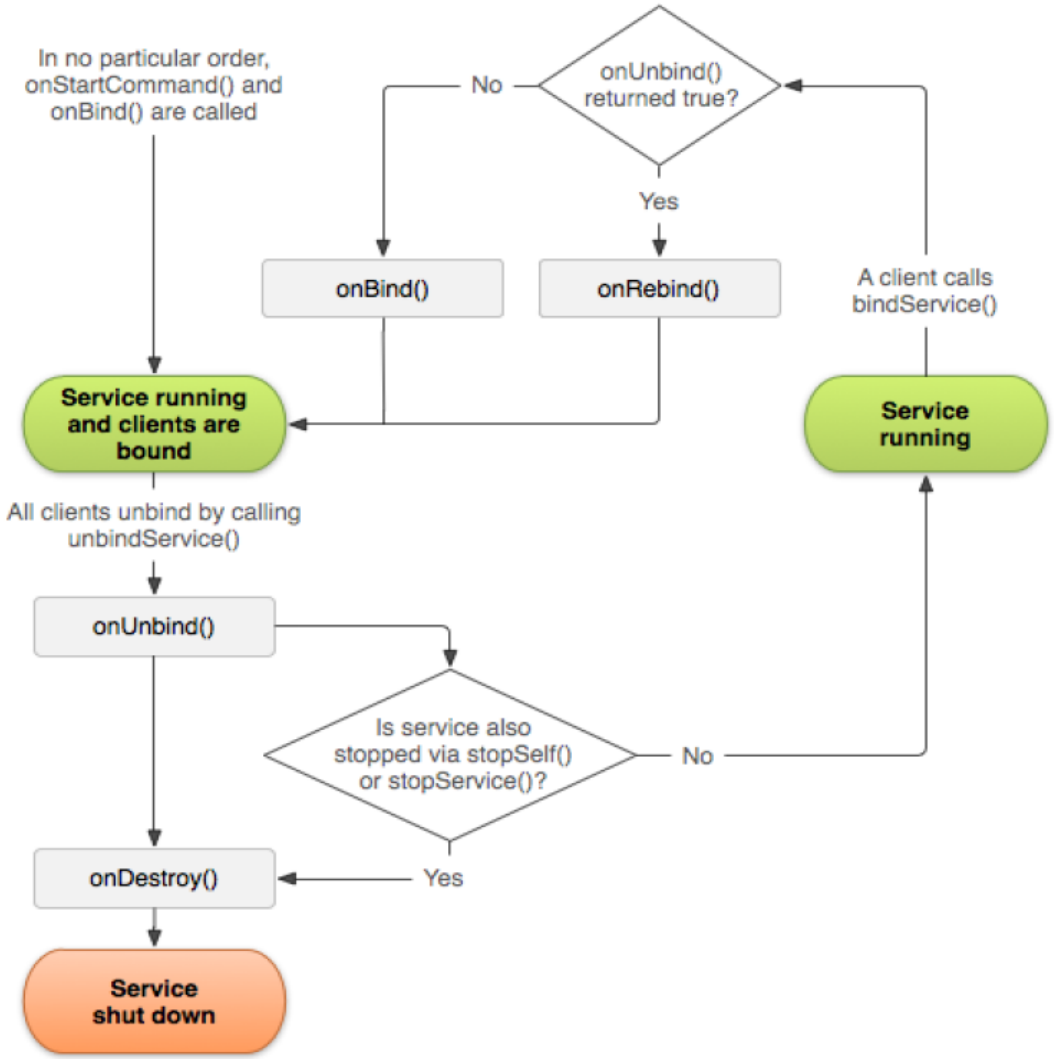
- The service is created when another component calls startService().

```
Intent intent = new Intent(this, HelloService.class);
startService(intent);
```

- The **service then runs indefinitely** and must stop itself by calling stopSelf().
  - Another component can also stop the service by calling stopService().
- Callbacks
  - **onCreate()** – called when Service is created (anyhow)
  - **onStartCommand()** – called after startService()
  - **onBind()** – after client calls bindService()
  - **onDestroy()** – Service will be removed

Service Life Cycle





Start Service

```
public class MyService extends Service{
  @Override
  public int onStartCommand(Intent intent, int flags, int startId) {
  //do something
  return START_STICKY;
}
```

- **START_STICKY**
  - If the system kills the service after onStartCommand() returns, recreate the service and call onStartCommand(), but do not redeliver the last intent.
- **START_NOT_STICKY**
  - If the system kills the service after onStartCommand() returns, do not recreate the service unless there are pending intents to deliver.
- **START_REDELIVER_INTENT**
  - If the system kills the service after onStartCommand() returns, recreate the service and call onStartCommand() with the last intent that was delivered to the service.

Binding Service to Activity

```
private final IBinder binder = new MyBinder();
Public class MyBinder extends Binder {
   MyService getService() {
      return MyService.this;
   }
}

@Override
public IBinder onBind(Intent intent) {
  return binder;
}
```

- **IBinder** defines the interface for communication with the service.
- **bindService()** retrieves the interface and begin calling methods on the service.

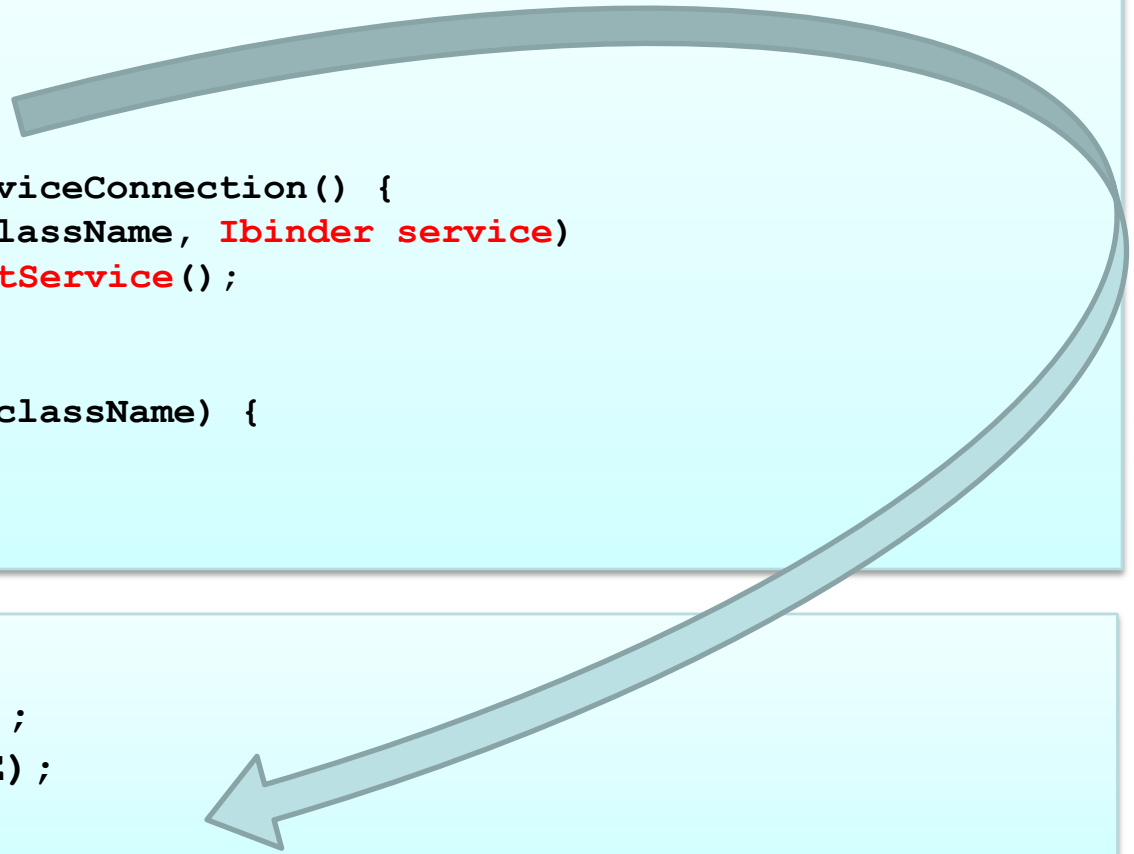
Binding Service to Activity

```
public class myActivity extends Activity {

  private MyService service;

  private Service Connection mConnection = new ServiceConnection() {
    public void onServiceConnected(ComponentName className, Ibinder service)
       service = ((MyService.MyBinder) service).getService();
  }

  public void onServiceDisconnected(ComponentName className) {
     service = null;
  }
};
```



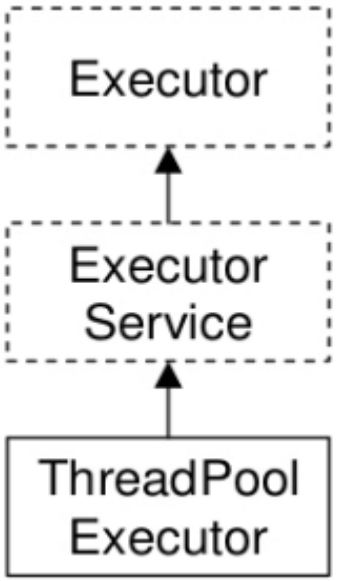
```
Intent i = new Intent(this, MyService.class);
bindService(i, mConnection, BIND_AUTO_CREATE);
```

Binding Service to Activity

- Interactions between Service and Activity
  - **Callback object or Listener interface**
  - **Broadcast Intents**
  - **Pending Intents**
    - `Context.startActivity(Intent)`
      `getActivity(context, requestCode, intent, flags)`
    - `Context.startService(Intent)`
      `getService(context, requestCode, intent, flags)`
    - `Context.sendBroadcast()`
      `getBroadcast(context, requestCode, intent, flags)`

Executor

- An **Executor** that provides methods to manage termination and methods that can produce a **Future** for tracking progress of one or more asynchronous tasks.
- A **Future** represents the **result of an asynchronous computation**. Methods are provided to check if the computation is complete, to wait for its completion, and to retrieve the result of the computation.



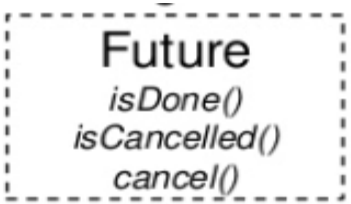
ExecutorService

- **Task submission**
  - executorService.submit(MyTask);
  - executorService.invokeAll(Collection<Tasks>);
  - executorService.invokeAny(Collection<Tasks>);
- **Lifecycle management**
  - executorService.shutdown();
  - executorService.shutdownNow();
- **Lifecycle observation**
  - executorService.isShutdown();
  - executorService.isTerminated();
  - executorService.awaitTermination();

Task / Execution Environment

- **Task**
  - Independent unit of work executed anywhere

- **Task manager/observer**



- **Execution Environment**
  - Technique used to execute the task

Thread Pools

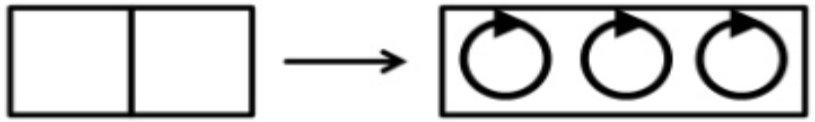
- **Execute tasks concurrently**
  - Multiple HTTP requests
  - Concurrent image processing
  - Use cases gaining performance from concurrent execution.
- **Lifecycle management** and observation of task execution.
- Maximum platform utilization

- Cons
  - Lost thread safety when switching from sequential to concurrent execution

Thread Pools

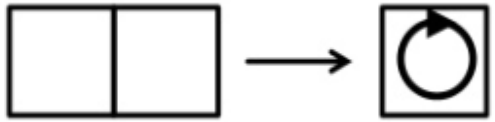
- Executor managing a pool of threads and a work queue.
- Reduces overhead of thread creation.

- **Fixed Thread Pool**



- **Cached Thread Pool**

- **Single Thread Pool**



- **Custom Thread Pool**

Thread Pools

- **Execute tasks concurrently**
  - Multiple HTTP requests
  - Concurrent image processing
  - Use cases gaining performance from concurrent execution.
- **Lifecycle management** and observation of task execution.
- Maximum platform utilization

- Cons
  - Lost thread safety when switching from sequential to concurrent execution

Resources

- https://kotlinlang.org/docs/coroutines-basics.html
- http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/essential/concurrency/
- http://www.slideshare.net/andersgoransson/efficient-android-threading#btnNext
- http://www.vogella.com/articles/AndroidPerformance/article.html
- http://www.d.umn.edu/~cprince/courses/cs5631spring07/lectures/JavaThreads.ppt
- Douglas C. Schmidt, Android Concurrency & Synchronization, https://www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt/cs282/PDFs/Concurrency-and-Synchronization-parts1-2-and-3.pdf

Thank you for your attention

Mgr. Ing. Michal Krumnikl, Ph.D.

+420 597 325 867

michal.krumnikl@vsb.cz

www.vsb.cz