



Without Objection - Touring the uvm_objection implementations - uses and improvements

Rich Edelman
Siemens EDA

SIEMENS



Simple objections

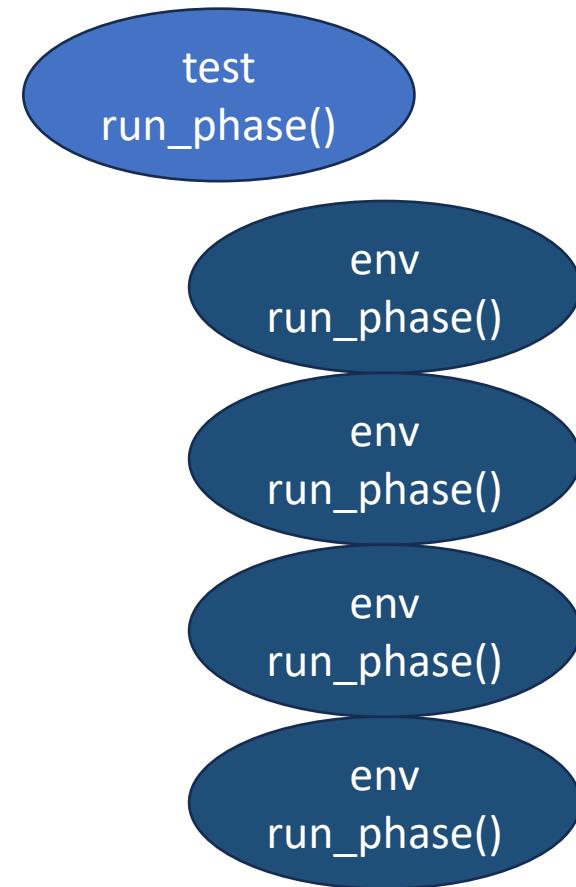
- Every test needs one
- Controls “ending”
- It is hidden in the phase
- It’s synchronization
- It’s a barrier

```
task run_phase(uvm_phase phase);
    phase.raise_objection(this);
    `uvm_info(get_type_name(), "...running", UVM_MEDIUM)
    ...
    phase.drop_objection(this);
endtask
```

You shall not pass until
all are ready to pass

Imagine a test and 4 envs

- They all need to be ready to end before anyone ends
- For some reason they need to be synchronized on end



Simple Test

- `raise_objection()`
- Construct 4 sequences
- Start the sequences in parallel
- The sequences are done
- Print the “**ready to exit**” message
- `drop_objection()`

```
class test extends uvm_test;
  `uvm_component_utils(test)

  env e1, e2, e3, e4;
  seq s1, s2, s3, s4;

  task run_phase(uvm_phase phase);
    phase.raise_objection(this);
    s1 = seq::type_id::create("s1");
    s2 = seq::type_id::create("s2");
    s3 = seq::type_id::create("s3");
    s4 = seq::type_id::create("s4");
    fork
      s1.start(e1.a.sqr);
      s2.start(e2.a.sqr);
      s3.start(e3.a.sqr);
      s4.start(e4.a.sqr);
    join
      `uvm_info(get_type_name(),
        "...Objection Testing - 'test' ready to exit",
        UVM_MEDIUM)

    phase.drop_objection(this);
  endtask
endclass
```

What's That Env Doing?

- Not much
- Wait, then Print the “READY” message

```
class env extends uvm_component;
  `uvm_component_utils(env)
  ...

  task run_phase(uvm_phase phase);
    phase.raise_objection(this);
    #100000;
    `uvm_info(get_type_name(), "...Objection Testing - 'env' ready to exit", UVM_MEDIUM)
    phase.drop_objection(this);
  endtask
endclass
```

Multiple 'env's – not ready to exit...then ready

- Test is ready to exit at 6484
- The remainder is ready at 100,000

```
UVM_INFO sequence.svh(19) @ 6476: uvm_test_top.e3.a.sqr@@s3 [transaction] ...started
UVM_INFO driver.svh(20) @ 6476: uvm_test_top.e3.a.d [driver] Executing: id: 7 READ(48, 5) #3999
UVM_INFO sequence.svh(23) @ 6484: uvm test top.e3.a.sqr@@s3 [transaction] ...finished
UVM_INFO test.svh(46) @ 6484: uvm_test_top [test] ...Objection Testing - 'test' ready to exit
UVM_INFO env.svh(18) @ 100000: uvm_test_top.e4 [env] ...Objection Testing - 'env' ready to exit
UVM_INFO env.svh(18) @ 100000: uvm_test_top.e3 [env] ...Objection Testing - 'env' ready to exit
UVM_INFO env.svh(18) @ 100000: uvm_test_top.e2 [env] ...Objection Testing - 'env' ready to exit
UVM_INFO env.svh(18) @ 100000: uvm_test_top.e1 [env] ...Objection Testing - 'env' ready to exit
```

What's the scope of the UVM Objections?

- The “objection” code has remained stable across releases
- The Objection code itself is more than 1000 lines

uvm-1.1d	uvm 1.2	uvm-1800	
90	90	94	src/base/uvm_event_callback.svh
361	394	432	src/base/uvm_event.svh
211	209	204	src/base/uvm_barrier.svh
1502	1453	1241	src/base/uvm_objection.svh
338	341	349	src/base/uvm_heartbeat.svh
1192	1198	1212	src/base/uvm_callback.svh
300	300	307	src/macros/uvm_callbackDefines.svh
3994	3985	3839	total

What is it?

- The uvm_objection class has
 - tasks (5)
 - functions (28)
 - data (17)
 - Key entry points
 - raise_objection()
 - drop_objection()

The screenshot shows a UVM Testbench IDE interface. On the left, a tree view displays the class hierarchy under 'Classes'. The 'uvm_objection' class is selected. The right side shows the source code for 'uvm_objection.svh'.

```
uvm_objection.svh - uvm_objection
57 //-----
58 // Objections provide a facility for coordinating status information between
59 // two or more participating components, objects, and even module-based IP.
60 //
61 // Tracing of objection activity can be turned on to follow the activity of
62 // the objection mechanism. It may be turned on for a specific objection
63 // instance with <uvm_objection::trace_mode>, or it can be set for all
64 // objections from the command line using the option +UVM_OBJECTION_TRACE.
65 //
66 //
67 // @uvm-ieee 1800.2-2020 auto 10.5.1
68 // @uvm-ieee 1800.2-2020 auto 10.5.1.i
69 class uvm_objection extends uvm_report_object;
70     uvm_register_cb(uvm_objection, uvm_objection_callback)
71
72     protected bit    m_trace_mode;
73     protected int   m_source_count [uvm_object];
74     protected int   m_total_count [uvm_object];
75     protected time  m_drain_time [uvm_object];
76     protected uvm_objection_events m_events [uvm_object];
77     /*protected*/ bit   m_top_all_dropped;
78
79     protected uvm_root m_top;
80
81     static uvm_objection m_objections[$];
82
83     //// Drain Logic
84
85     // The context pool holds used context objects, so that
86     // they're not constantly being recreated. The maximum
87     // number of contexts in the pool is equal to the maximum
88     // number of simultaneous drains you could have occurring,
89     // both pre and post forks.
90
91     // There's the potential for a programmability within the
92     // library to dictate the largest this pool should be allowed
93     // to grow, but that seems like overkill for the time being.
94     local static uvm_objection_context_object m_context_pool[$];
95
96     // These are the active drain processes, which have been
97     // forked off by the background process. A raise can
98     // use this array to kill a drain.
99     if(!defined UVM_USE_PROCESS_CONTAINER)
100         local process m_drain_proc[uvm_object];
101     else
102         local process_container_c m_drain_proc[uvm_object];
103     endif
104
105     // These are the contexts which have been scheduled for
106     // retrieval by the background process, but which the
107     // background process hasn't seen yet.
108     local static uvm_objection_context_object m_scheduled_list[$];
109
110     // Once a context is seen by the background process, it is
111     // removed from the scheduled list, and placed in the forked
112     // list. At the same time, it is placed in the scheduled
113     // contexts array. A re-raise can use the scheduled contexts
114     // array to detect (and cancel) the drain.
115     local uvm_objection_context_object m_scheduled_contexts[uvm_object];
116     local uvm_objection_context_object m_forked_list[$];
117
118     // Once the forked drain has actually started (this occurs
119     // -1 delta AFTER the background process schedules it),
120     // context is removed from the above array and list, and placed
121     // in the forked_contexts list.
122     local uvm_objection_context_object m_forked_contexts[uvm_object];
123
124     protected bit m_prop_mode = 1;
125     protected bit m_cleared; /* for checking obj count<0 */
126
127
128     // Function -- NODOCs -- new
129     //
130     // Creates a new objection instance. Accesses the command line
131     // argument +UVM_OBJECTION_TRACE to turn tracing on for
132     // all objection objects
```

uvm_phase::raise_objection()

- phase.raise_objection()
 - objection.raise_objection()
 - objection.raise()
 - objection.raised()
 - component.raised() -> *For you to implement*
 - I mean. It's code... Here's the code
 - And the code and the code...

uvm_phase::raise_objection()

```
function void uvm_phase::raise_objection (uvm_object obj, string description="", int count=1);
    uvm_objection phase_done;
    phase_done = get_objection();
    if (phase done != null)
        phase_done.raise_objection(obj,description,count);
    else
        m_report_null_objection(obj, description, count, "raise");
endfunction
```

uvm_objection::raise_objection()

```
virtual function void raise_objection (uvm_object obj=null, string description="", int count=1);
    if(obj == null)
        obj = m_top;
    m_cleared = 0;
    m_top.all_dropped = 0;
    m_raise (obj, obj, description, count);
endfunction
```

uvm_objection::m_raise() 1

```
function void m_raise (uvm_object obj, uvm_object source_obj, string description="", int count=1);
    int idx;
    uvm_objection_context_object ctxt;

    // Ignore raise if count is 0
    if (count == 0) return;

    if (m_total_count.exists(obj))
        m_total_count[obj] += count;
    else
        m_total_count[obj] = count;

    if (source_obj==obj) begin
        if (m_source_count.exists(obj))
            m_source_count[obj] += count;
        else
            m_source_count[obj] = count;
    end

    if (m_trace_mode)
        m_report(obj,source_obj,description,count,"raised");
        raised(obj, source_obj, description, count);
```

uvm_objection::m_raise() 2

```
// Handle any outstanding drains...

// First go through the scheduled list
idx = 0;
while (idx < m_scheduled_list.size()) begin
    if ((m_scheduled_list[idx].obj == obj) &&
        (m_scheduled_list[idx].objection == this)) begin
        // Caught it before the drain was forked
        ctxt = m_scheduled_list[idx];
        m_scheduled_list.delete(idx);
        break;
    end
    idx++;
end

// If it's not there, go through the forked list
if (ctxt == null) begin
    idx = 0;
    while (idx < m_forked_list.size()) begin
        if (m_forked_list[idx].obj == obj) begin
            // Caught it after the drain was forked,
            // but before the fork started
            ctxt = m_forked_list[idx];
            m_forked_list.delete(idx);
            m_scheduled_contexts.delete(ctxt.obj);
            break;
        end
        idx++;
    end
end

// If it's not there, go through the forked contexts
if (ctxt == null) begin
    if (m_forked_contexts.exists(obj)) begin
        // Caught it with the forked drain running
        ctxt = m_forked_contexts[obj];
        m_forked_contexts.delete(obj);
        // Kill the drain
`ifndef UVM_USE_PROCESS_CONTAINER
        m_drain_proc[obj].kill();
        m_drain_proc.delete(obj);
`else
        m_drain_proc[obj].p.kill();
        m_drain_proc.delete(obj);
`endif
    end
end
```

uvm_objection::m_raise() 3

```
if (ctxt == null) begin
    // If there were no drains, just propagate as usual

    if (!m_prop_mode && obj != m_top)
        m_raise(m_top, source_obj, description, count);
    else if (obj != m_top)
        m_propagate(obj, source_obj, description, count, 1, 0);
end
else begin
    // Otherwise we need to determine what exactly happened
    int diff_count;

    // Determine the diff count, if it's positive, then we're
    // looking at a 'raise' total, if it's negative, then
    // we're looking at a 'drop', but not down to 0. If it's
    // a 0, that means that there is no change in the total.
    diff_count = count - ctxt.count;

    if (diff_count != 0) begin
        // Something changed
        if (diff_count > 0) begin
            // we're looking at an increase in the total
            if (!m_prop_mode && obj != m_top)
                m_raise(m_top, source_obj, description, diff_count);
            else if (obj != m_top)
                m_propagate(obj, source_obj, description, diff_count, 1, 0);
        end
        else begin
            // we're looking at a decrease in the total
            // The count field is always positive...
            diff_count = -diff_count;
            if (!m_prop_mode && obj != m_top)
                m_drop(m_top, source_obj, description, diff_count);
            else if (obj != m_top)
                m_propagate(obj, source_obj, description, diff_count, 0, 0);
        end
    end
    // Cleanup
    ctxt.clear();
    m_context_pool.push_back(ctxt);
end
```

uvm_objection::raised()

```
virtual function void raised (uvm_object obj, uvm_object source_obj, string description, int count);  
    uvm_component comp;  
    if ($cast(comp,obj))  
        comp.raised(this, source_obj, description, count);  
    `uvm_do_callbacks(uvm_objection,uvm_objection_callback,raised(this,obj,source_obj,description,count))  
    if (m_events.exists(obj))  
        ->m_events[obj].raised;  
endfunction
```

comp.raised()

```
// Function -- NODOCS -- raised
//
// The ~raised~ callback is called when this or a descendant of this component
// instance raises the specified ~objection~. The ~source_obj~ is the object
// that originally raised the objection.
// The ~description~ is optionally provided by the ~source_obj~ to give a
// reason for raising the objection. The ~count~ indicates the number of
// objections raised by the ~source_obj~.

// @uvm-ieee 1800.2-2020 auto 13.1.6.1
virtual function void raised (uvm_objection objection, uvm_object source_obj, string description, int count);
endfunction
```

- I'm not saying there's a lot of code there, but...
- Not good or bad code
- Just a lot of code
- But that's just 'raise_objection' on to 'drop_objection'

uvm_phase::drop_objection()

```
function void uvm_phase::drop_objection (uvm_object obj, string description="", int count=1);
    uvm_objection phase_done;
    phase_done = get_objection();
    if (phase done != null)
        phase_done.drop_objection(obj,description,count);
    else
        m_report_null_objection(obj, description, count, "drop");
endfunction
```

uvm_objection::drop_objection()

```
virtual function void drop_objection (uvm_object obj=null, string description="", int count=1);
  if(obj == null)
    obj = m_top;
  m_drop (obj, obj, description, count, 0);
endfunction
```

uvm_objection::m_drop() 1

```
function void m_drop (uvm_object obj, uvm_object source_obj, string description="",
                      int count=1, int in_top_thread=0);

    // Ignore drops if the count is 0
    if (count == 0) return;

    if (!m_total_count.exists(obj) || (count > m_total_count[obj])) begin
        if(m_cleared) return;
        uvm_report_fatal(... "count below zero");
        return;
    end

    if (obj == source_obj) begin
        if (!m_source_count.exists(obj) || (count > m_source_count[obj])) begin
            if(m_cleared) return;
            uvm_report_fatal(... "count below zero");
            return;
        end
        m_source_count[obj] -= count;
    end

    m_total_count[obj] -= count;

    if (m_trace_mode)
        m_report(obj,source_obj,description,count,"dropped");

        dropped(obj, source_obj, description, count);
```

uvm_objection::m_drop() 2

```
// if count != 0, no reason to fork
if (m_total_count[obj] != 0) begin
    if (!m_prop_mode && obj != m_top)
        arrow m_drop(m_top,source_obj,description, count, in_top_thread);
    else if (obj != m_top) begin
        this.m_propagate(obj, source_obj, description, count, 0, in_top_thread);
    end
end
else begin
    uvm_objection_context_object ctxt;
    if (m_context_pool.size())
        ctxt = m_context_pool.pop_front();
    else
        ctxt = new;

    ctxt.obj = obj;
    ctxt.source_obj = source_obj;
    ctxt.description = description;
    ctxt.count = count;
    ctxt.objection = this;
```

uvm_objection::m_drop() 3

```
// Need to be thread-safe, let the background
// process handle it.

// Why don't we look at in_top_thread here? Because
// a re-raise will kill the drain at object that it's
// currently occurring at, and we need the leaf-level kills
// to not cause accidental kills at branch-levels in
// the propagation.

// Using the background process just allows us to
// separate the links of the chain.
m_scheduled_list.push_back(ctxt);

end // else: !if(m_total_count[obj] != 0)

endfunction
```

uvm_objection::dropped()

```
// Function -- NODOCS -- dropped
//
// Objection callback that is called when a <drop_objection> has reached ~obj~.
// The default implementation calls <uvm_component::dropped>.

// @uvm-ieee 1800.2-2020 auto 10.5.1.4.2
virtual function void dropped (uvm_object obj, uvm_object source_obj, string description, int count);
    uvm_component comp;
    if ($cast(comp,obj))
        comp.dropped(this, source_obj, description, count);
    `uvm_do_callbacks(uvm_objection,uvm_objection_callback,dropped(this,obj,source_obj,description,count))
    if (m_events.exists(obj))
        ->m_events[obj].dropped;
endfunction
```

uvm_component::dropped()

```
// Function -- NODOCS -- dropped
//
// The ~dropped~ callback is called when this or a descendant of this component
// instance drops the specified ~objection~. The ~source_obj~ is the object
// that originally dropped the objection.
// The ~description~ is optionally provided by the ~source_obj~ to give a
// reason for dropping the objection. The ~count~ indicates the number of
// objections dropped by the ~source_obj~.

// @uvm-ieee 1800.2-2020 auto 13.1.6.2
virtual function void dropped (uvm_objection objection, uvm_object source_obj, string description, int count);
endfunction
```

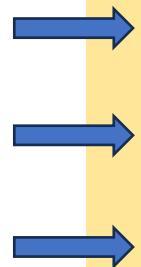
uvm_objection::m_propagate()

```
// Function- m_propagate
//
// Propagate the objection to the objects parent. If the object is a
// component, the parent is just the hierarchical parent. If the object is
// a sequence, the parent is the parent sequence if one exists, or
// it is the attached sequencer if there is no parent sequence.
//
//      obj : the uvm_object on which the objection is being raised or lowered
// source_obj : the root object on which the end user raised/lowered the
//               objection (as opposed to an ancestor of the end user object)
//      count : the number of objections associated with the action.
//      raise : indicator of whether the objection is being raised or lowered. A 1 indicates the objection is being raised
//
function void m_propagate (uvm_object obj, uvm_object source_obj, string description,
                           int count, bit raise, int in_top_thread);
  if (obj != null && obj != m_top) begin
    obj = m_get_parent(obj);
    if(raise)
      → m_raise(obj, source_obj, description, count);
    else
      → m_drop(obj, source_obj, description, count, in_top_thread);
  end
endfunction
```

uvm_objection::m_get_parent()

```
// Function- m_get_parent
//
// Internal method for getting the parent of the given ~object~.
// The ultimate parent is uvm_top, UVM's implicit top-level component.

function uvm_object m_get_parent(uvm_object obj);
    uvm_component comp;
    uvm_sequence_base seq;
    if ($cast(comp, obj)) begin
        obj = comp.get_parent();
    end
    else if ($cast(seq, obj)) begin
        obj = seq.get_sequencer();
    end
    else
        obj = m_top;
    if (obj == null)
        obj = m_top;
    return obj;
endfunction
```



The object is a 'uvm_component'

The object is a 'uvm_sequence_base'

The object is something else

Final Check: If null, use TOP

That's a lot. And we really didn't cover much

- There's still more code - Lots of code
- Does lots of things

Uvm_objection is big and has layers

- What if you just want to “synchronize”?
- What about something SIMPLE?
 - That still acts like a BARRIER?
- Can I just use the UVM_BARRIER?
 - Yes.
 - 204 lines, so much better.
- Can I write something even smaller?

```
class barrier;
    int count;

    task raise();
        //#0;
        count = count + 1;
    endtask

    task drop();
        //#0;
        if (count == 0)
            return;
        count = count - 1;
        wait (count == 0);
    endtask
endclass
```

Design Meeting: We want to use strings to describe our synchronization points

Imagine coordinating...

- Every “coordinated place” needs a reference to the “coordinator”
 - Objection handle
 - Barrier handle

```
objection start;  
objection middle;  
objection endx;
```

```
start.raise();  
start.drop();
```

```
middle.raise();  
middle.drop();
```

```
endx.raise();  
endx.drop();
```

```
barrier start;  
barrier middle;  
barrier endx;
```

```
start.raise();  
start.drop();
```

```
middle.raise();  
middle.drop();
```

```
endx.raise();  
endx.drop();
```

```
user_objections ua;  
  
ua.raise("start");  
ua.drop("start");  
  
ua.raise("middle");  
ua.drop("middle");  
  
ua.raise("end");  
ua.drop("end");
```

Barrier-by-Name

- Associative array
 - Lookup barrier by name
- barrier get(name)
- raise(name)
- drop(name)

```
class user_objections;  
    barrier barriers[string];  
  
    function barrier get(string barrier_name);  
        barrier b;  
        if (barriers.exists(barrier_name)) begin  
            b = barriers[barrier_name];  
        end  
        else begin  
            b = new();  
            barriers[barrier_name] = b;  
        end  
        return b;  
    endfunction  
  
    task raise(string barrier_name, string thread_name);  
        barrier b;  
        b = get(barrier_name);  
        b.raise();  
    endtask  
  
    task drop(string barrier_name, string thread_name);  
        barrier b;  
        b = get(barrier_name);  
        b.drop();  
    endtask  
endclass
```

Used In A Class

```
user_objections ua = new();

class Class1;
  task body();
    forever begin
      int n;
      n = $urandom range(10, 1);
      ua.raise("start", thread_name);
      for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) begin
        #n;
      end
      ua.drop("start", thread_name);
      $display("@%t: %m done done done with %s", $time, "start");

      n = $urandom range(10, 1);
      ua.raise("middle", thread_name);
      for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) begin
        #n;
      end
      ua.drop("middle", thread name);
      $display("@%t: %m done done done with %s", $time, "middle");

      n = $urandom range(10, 1);
      ua.raise("end", thread_name);
      for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) begin
        #n;
      end
      ua.drop("end", thread_name);
      $display("@%t: %m done done done with %s", $time, "end");
    end
  endtask
endclass
```

In A Module

```
module a();
    initial begin
        forever begin
            int n;
            n = $urandom_range(10, 1);
            ua.raise("start", thread_name);
            for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) begin
                #n;
            end
            ua.drop("start", thread_name);
            $display("@%t: %m done done done with %s", $time, "start");

            ua.raise("middle", thread_name);
            n = $urandom_range(10, 1);
            for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) begin
                #n;
            end
            ua.drop("middle", thread_name);
            $display("@%t: %m done done done with %s", $time, "middle");

            ua.raise("end", thread_name);
            n = $urandom_range(10, 1);
            for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) begin
                #n;
            end
            ua.drop("end", thread_name);
            $display("@%t: %m done done done with %s", $time, "end");
            $display("@%t %m ENDEND", $time);
        end
    end
endmodule
```

The top – the whole thing

- Construct the classes
- Start them running
- Module initial blocks already running

```
module top();
    a A();
    b B();
    c C();
    Class1 c1;
    Class2 c2;

    initial begin
        setup();
        c1 = new();
        c2 = new();
        fork
            c1.body();
            c2.body();
        join_none
        repeat(1000)
            #10;
        $finish(2);
    end
endmodule
```

Running...

“start”

```
81: t_sv_unit.Class1.body done done done with start  
81: t_sv_unit.Class2.body done done done with start  
81: top.A done done done with start  
81: top.B done done done with start  
81: top.C done done done with start
```

“middle”

```
145: top.C done done done with middle  
145: top.B done done done with middle  
145: t_sv_unit.Class1.body done done done with middle  
145: top.A done done done with middle  
145: t_sv_unit.Class2.body done done done with middle
```

“end”

```
209: top.A done done done with end  
209: t_sv_unit.Class2.body done done done with end  
209: top.C done done done with end  
209: top.B done done done with end  
209: t_sv_unit.Class1.body done done done with end
```

“start”

```
290: top.C done done done with start  
290: top.B done done done with start  
290: t_sv_unit.Class2.body done done done with start  
290: top.A done done done with start  
290: t_sv_unit.Class1.body done done done with start
```

```
$display("@%t: %m done done done with %s", $time, "start");
```

The Real Code

- A synchronization region is a stream
- The barrier raise/drop is a transaction

```

int streams[string];
function void setup();
    streams["start"] = $create_transaction_stream("start");
    streams["middle"] = $create_transaction_stream("middle");
    streams["end"] = $create_transaction_stream("end");
endfunction

class barrier;
    int count;
    int tr[string];
    ...
endclass

class user_objections;
    barrier barriers[string];

    task raise(string barrier_name, string thread_name);
        barrier b;
        b = get(barrier_name);
        b.tr[thread name] = $begin transaction(streams[barrier name], thread name);
        b.raise();
    endtask

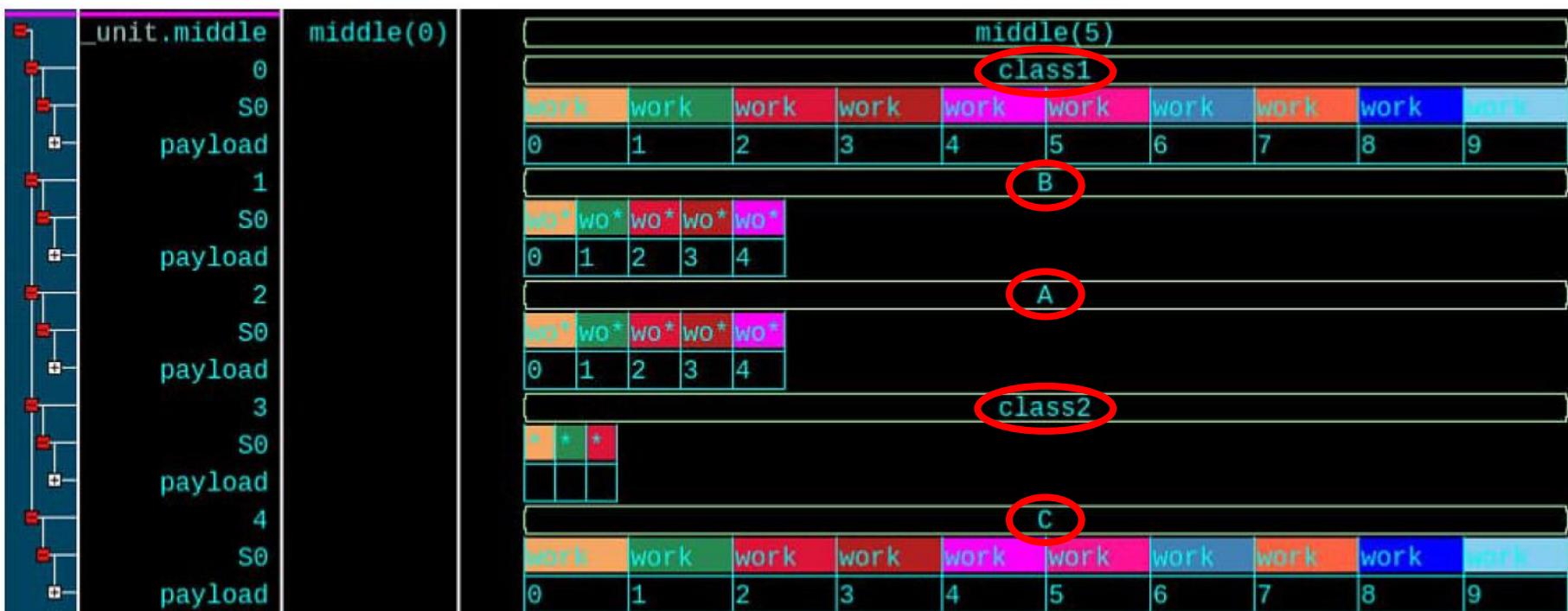
    task drop(string barrier_name, string thread_name);
        barrier b;
        b = get(barrier_name);
        b.drop();
        $end_transaction(b.tr[thread name]);
        $free_transaction(b.tr[thread name]);
    endtask
endclass

```

Seeing it



- “middle” synchronization blown up



Expanding “start”, “middle”, “end”



“start”

“middle”

“end”

Summary

- Use objections.
 - But sparingly. End of Test is a good place to use them
 - Never use them in a high-frequency operation
- Synchronize with something simpler
 - uvm_barrier
 - Write your own code – test it  It's NOT illegal to write your own code – just keep it simple
 - The example barrier code is trivially simple
 - Add debug – “what objects are synchronized?”
 - Add Visualization

Questions?

- Source code available – email rich.edelman@siemens.com