

# CSE113: Parallel Programming

April 27, 2021

- **Topic:** Concurrent Objects

- Motivation
- Bank Account Example
- Specification
  - Sequentially consistent
  - Linearizability



# Announcements

- Homework was due
  - we are going to start grading, I will keep you posted about ETA for grades
- New homework posted
  - Benchmarking questions; don't share timing until next week
  - Bonus questions for those looking for extra
- Office hours are as advertised this week

# Announcements

- Midterm assigned on Thursday
  - It will be provided both as a MS word document and PDF
  - Your submission should be a PDF
  - My suggestion:
    - complete using a combination of a word processor and some problems using pencil/paper.
- Make sure to give yourself time to juggle both homework and midterm!

# Announcements

- Poll, mid class break:
  - Do we want a 5 minute break in the middle of class?

# Announcements

- Speaking of polls:
  - There seems to be some cases where students are only logging in for the attendance points.
  - Please don't do this.
  - It is a small portion of your grade. You get 2 excused absences in the quarter
  - If we continue to see inconsistent patterns we will move to a more accurately attendance mechanism.

# Quiz

- If you aren't planning on staying for the whole lecture, don't submit the quiz.
- Don't submit the quiz if you are not listening to the lecture live.

# Quiz

- Discuss answers

# Lecture schedule

- Concurrent object motivation
- Concurrent object example with bank account
- Concurrent object specifications
  - sequential specification
  - concurrent specification - sequential consistency



# Lecture schedule

- **Concurrent object motivation**
- Concurrent object example with bank account
- Concurrent object specifications
  - sequential specification
  - concurrent specification - sequential consistency

# Concurrent object motivation

- Programming basics cover a set of primitives:
  - types: ints, floats, bools
  - functions: call stacks, recursion

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- Programming basics cover a set of primitives:
  - types: ints, floats, bools
  - functions: call stacks, recursion

simple example:  
We can understand this!

```
//Fibonacci Series using Recursion
#include<stdio.h>
int fib(int n)
{
    if (n <= 1)
        return n;
    return fib(n-1) + fib(n-2);
}

int main ()
{
    int n = 9;
    printf("%d", fib(n));
    getchar();
    return 0;
}
```

# Concurrent object motivation

- How does it look moving into a more complicated setting?

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  - Hello world Android app:

```
@Override
protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
    setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
    Log.d("MainActivity", "Hello World");
}
```

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*what the heck is a bundle?*

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}
```

*what is this?*

# Concurrent object motivation

- How does it look moving into a more complicated setting?
  - Hello world Android app:
- These are objects!



# Concurrent object motivation

- Objects are user-specified abstractions:
  - A collection of data (state) and methods (behavior) representing something more complicated than primitive types can express.

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  - Writing a video game? objects for enemies and players
  - Writing an IOS app? objects for buttons

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- Objects allow programmer productivity:
  - Modular
  - Encapsulation
  - Compossible

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- Examples:
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- Objects allow programmer productivity:
  - Modular
  - Encapsulation
  - Compossible
- We would like objects in the concurrent setting!

# Concurrent object motivation

- Note:
  - The foundations in this lecture are general, and can be widely applied to many different types of objects
  - We will focus on "container" objects, lists, sets, queues, stacks.
  - These are:
    - Practical - used in many applications
    - Well-specified - their sequential behavior is agreed on
    - Interesting implementations - great for us to study!

# Conceptual examples

- Shopping list: Going shopping with roommates



**Best case:**

2x as fast (so we can get back to CSE113 homework)

eggs  
carrots  
tortillas



Consider two people splitting the work.

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We end up missing an item

If my roommate decides to go surfing, then I could get stranded!



Consider two people splitting the work.

# Conceptual examples

- Shopping list: Going shopping with roommates

What kind of object is the list?



eggs  
carrots  
tortillas

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2x as fast (so we can get back to CSE113 homework)

**What can go wrong?**

We end up with duplicates

We end up missing an item

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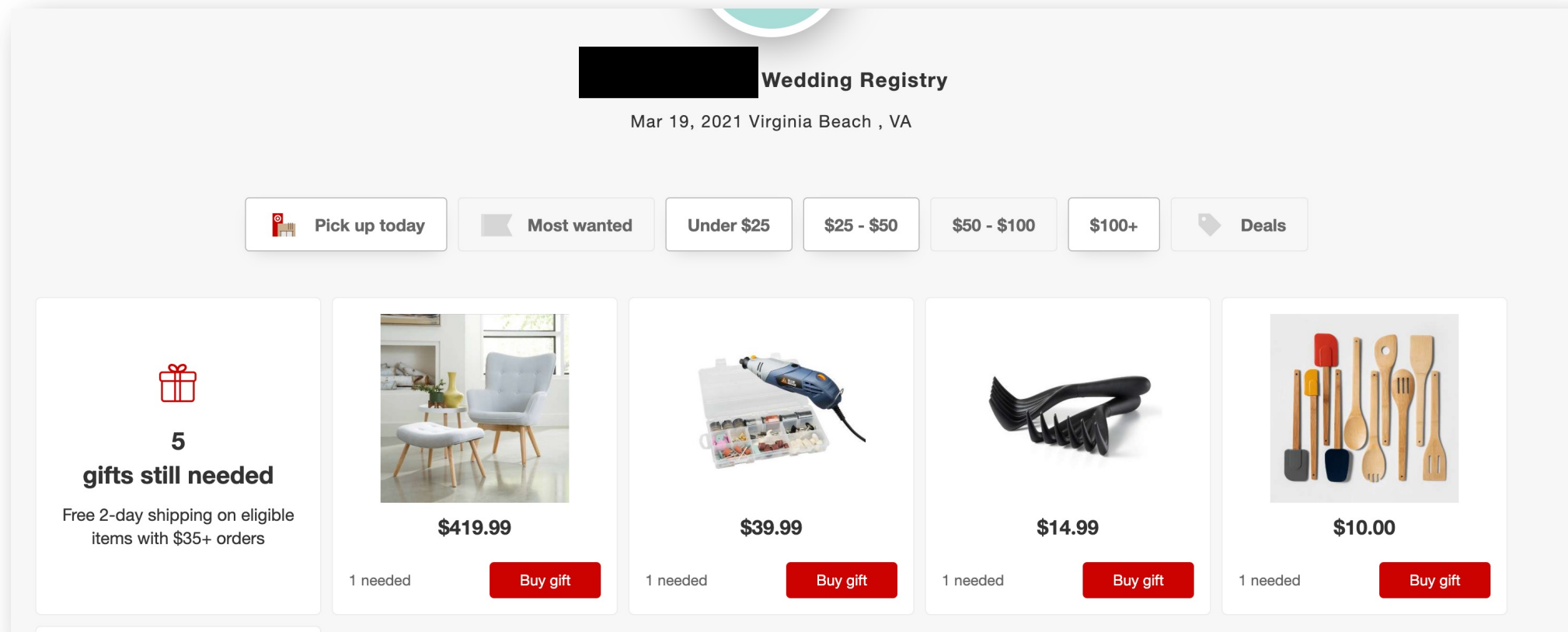
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- Physically shopping with roommates is a nice conceptual example, but the example also occurs in automated systems

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The screenshot displays a Target Wedding Registry page for a couple in Virginia Beach, VA, on March 19, 2021. The page features a navigation bar with filters such as 'Pick up today', 'Most wanted', and price ranges. Below the filters, there are five gift recommendations, each with an image, price, and a 'Buy gift' button. The first recommendation is a summary card indicating that 5 gifts are still needed, with a note about free 2-day shipping on eligible items over \$35.

**Wedding Registry**  
Mar 19, 2021 Virginia Beach , VA

Pick up today Most wanted Under \$25 \$25 - \$50 \$50 - \$100 \$100+ Deals

**5 gifts still needed**  
Free 2-day shipping on eligible items with \$35+ orders

Item	Price	Status	Action
Light blue armchair and ottoman set	\$419.99	1 needed	Buy gift
Blue and white power drill	\$39.99	1 needed	Buy gift
Black hair curler	\$14.99	1 needed	Buy gift
Wooden kitchen utensil set	\$10.00	1 needed	Buy gift

# Shared memory concurrent objects

- Lets ground this even more in a shared memory system.
- Shopping cart examples mostly occur in a distributed system setting where there are many different concerns
  - Consider taking a class from Prof. Kuper or Prof. Alvaro!

# Shared memory concurrent objects

```
printf("hello world\n");
```

*how do we envision printf to work?*

```
printf("h");  
printf("e");  
printf("l");  
printf("l");  
printf("o");
```

```
terminal:  
$ ./a.out
```

# Shared memory concurrent objects

```
printf("hello world\n");
```

*How does it actually work?*

```
printf("h");  
printf("e");  
printf("l");  
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```

concurrent queue



./a.out

terminal display

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*How does it actually work?*

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You can force a flush with: `fflush(stdout)`

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printf("hello world\n");
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Show example

*How does it actually work?*

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printf("h");  
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concurrent queue



./a.out

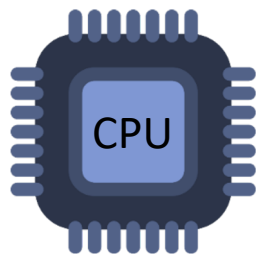
terminal display

```
terminal:  
$ ./a.out
```

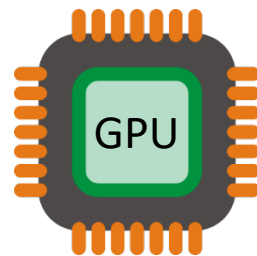
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# Shared memory concurrent objects

- Graphics programming



PCIE



*loop:*

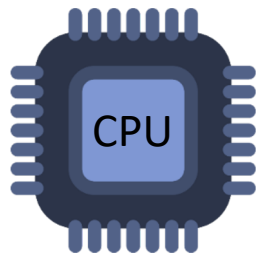
update data (data transfer)

graphics computation (kernel)

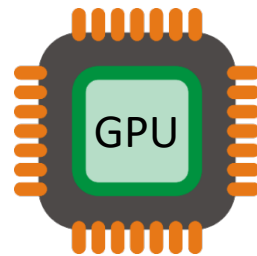
# Shared memory concurrent objects

- Graphics programming

Vulkan/OpenCL CommandQueue



PCIe



*loop:*

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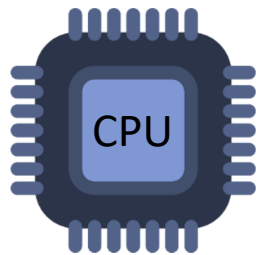
# Shared memory concurrent objects

- Graphics programming

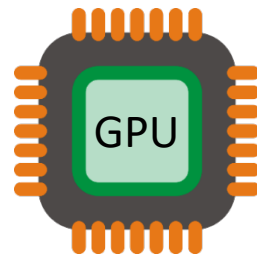
Vulkan/OpenCL CommandQueue



*GPU driver concurrently  
reads from the queue*



PCIe



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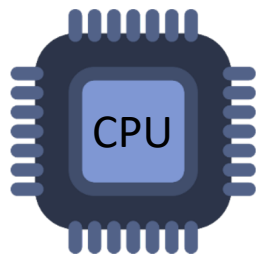
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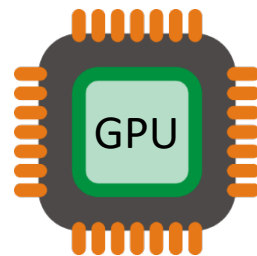


*GPU driver concurrently  
reads from the queue*

this concurrent queue enables an efficient  
graphics pipeline



PCIE  
Transferring  
data for scene 2



Computation  
for scene 1



Scene 0

*loop:*  
update data (data transfer)  
graphics computation (kernel)

# Shared memory concurrent objects

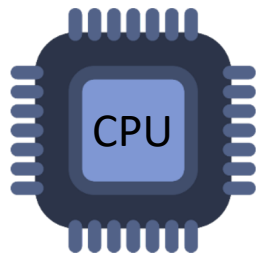
- Graphics programming

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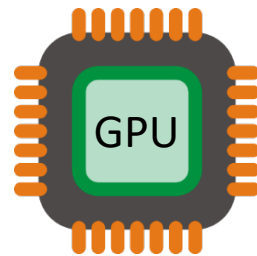
*GPU driver concurrently  
reads from the queue*

Single writer, single reader  
Like in `Printf`



PCIe

Transferring  
data for scene 2



Computation  
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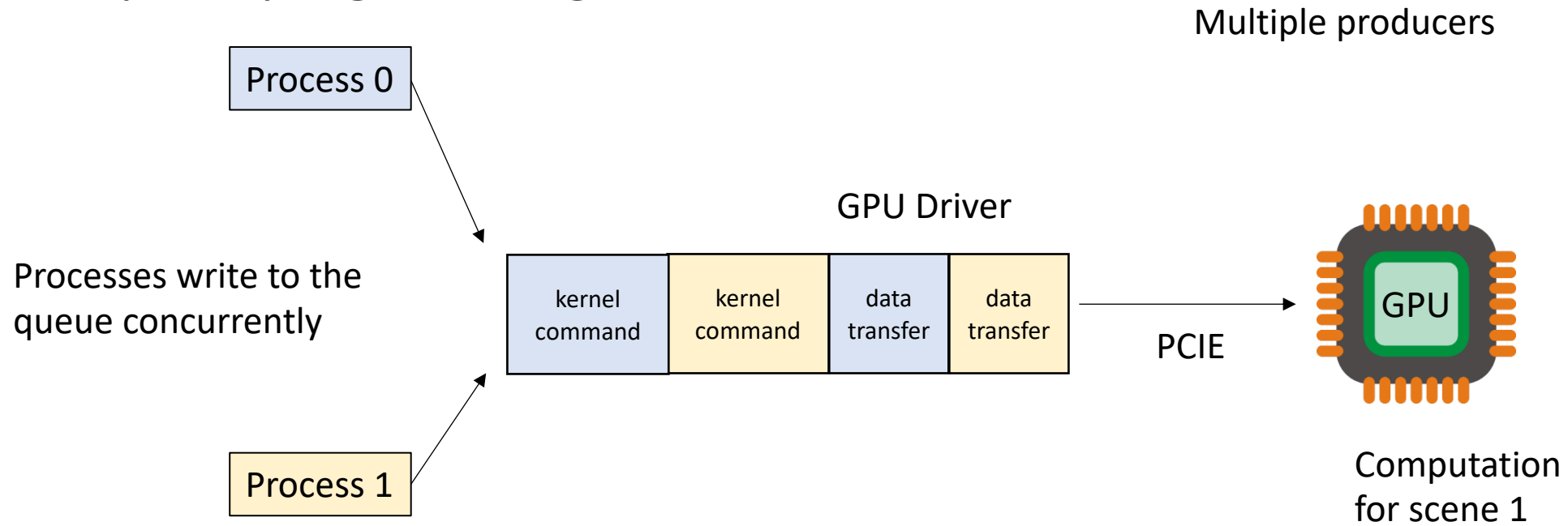
Scene 0

*loop:*

update data (data transfer)  
graphics computation (kernel)

# Shared memory concurrent objects

- Graphics programming



*Each process:*

*loop:*

update data (data transfer)

graphics computation (kernel)

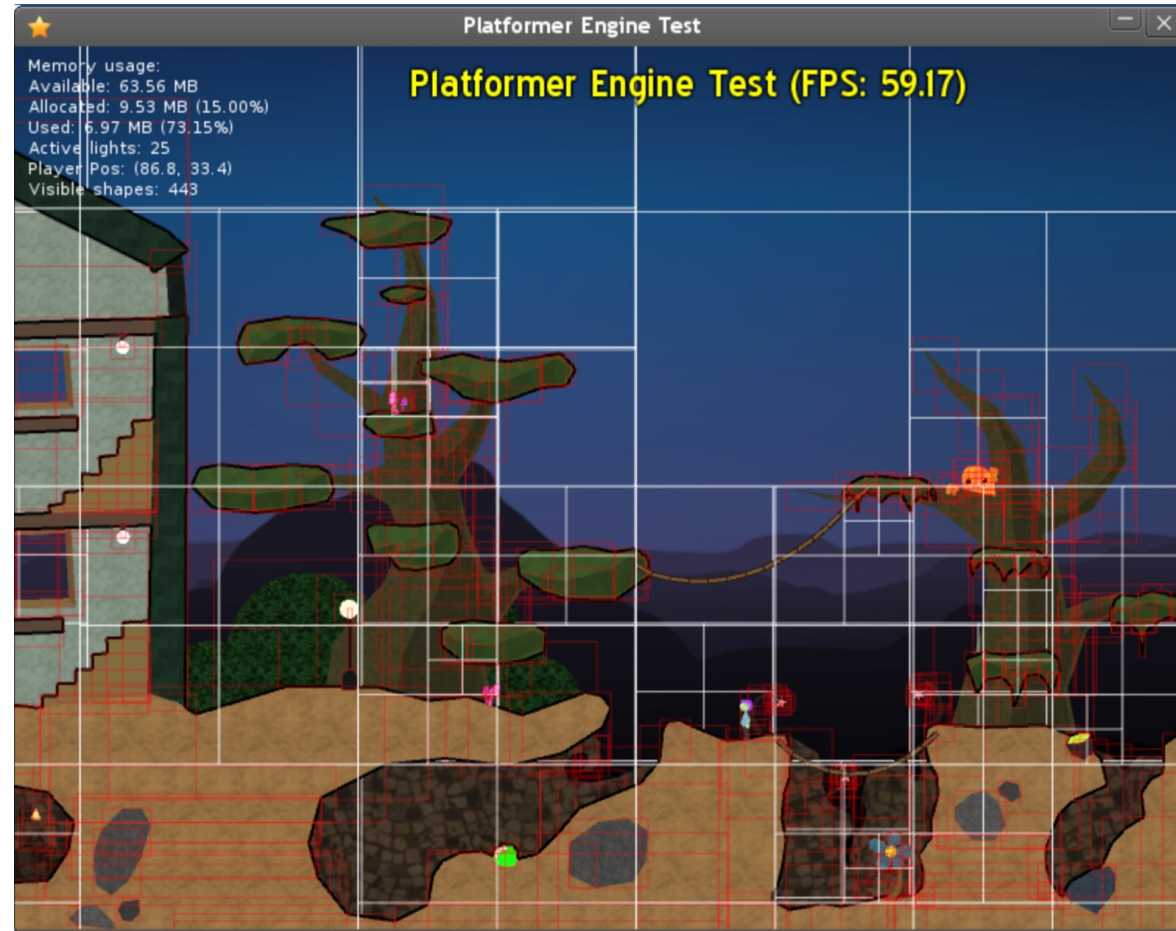


# Intro to concurrent objects

- Prior examples have been infrastructural:
  - things happening behind the scenes, drivers, OS, etc.
- They also exist in standalone applications

# Shared memory concurrent objects

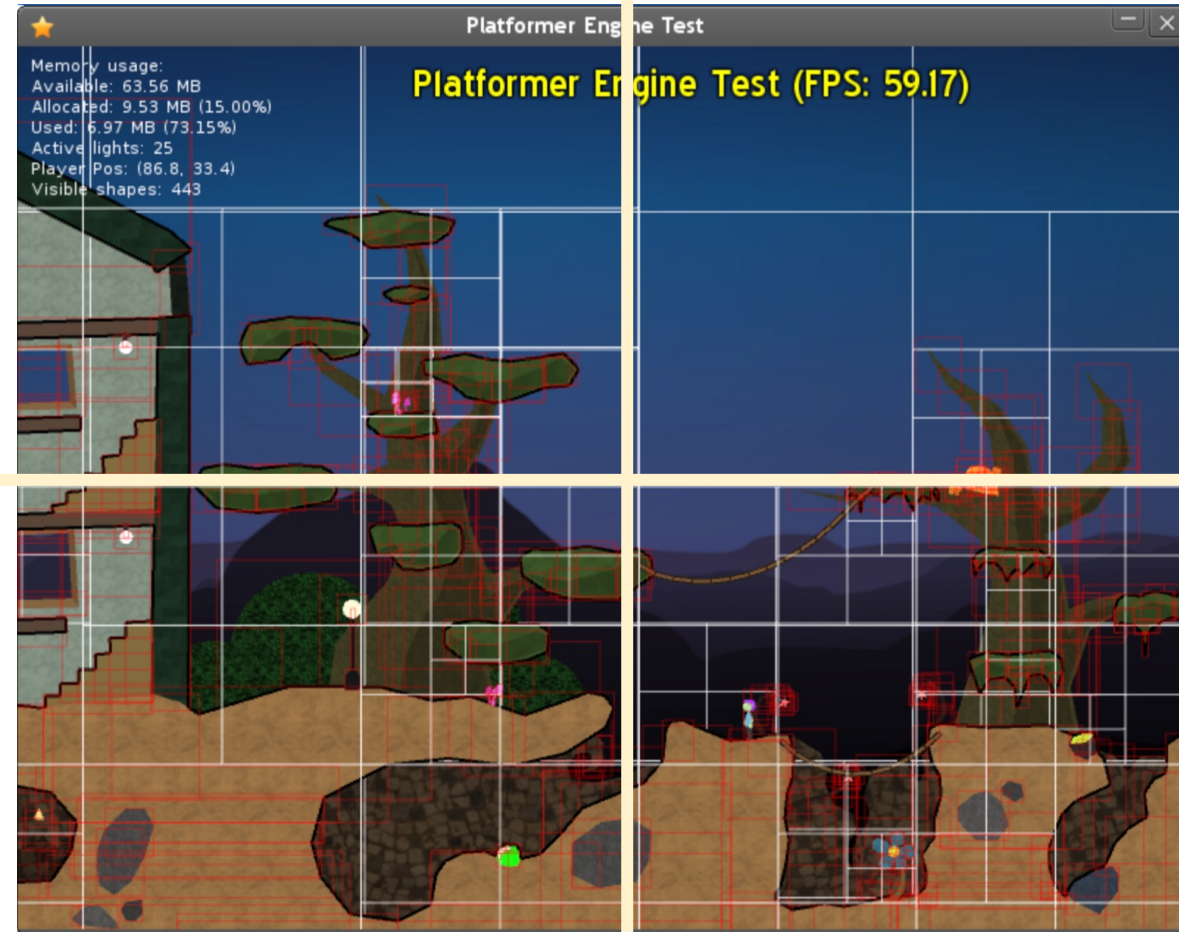
- Quadtree/Octree



# Shared memory concurrent objects

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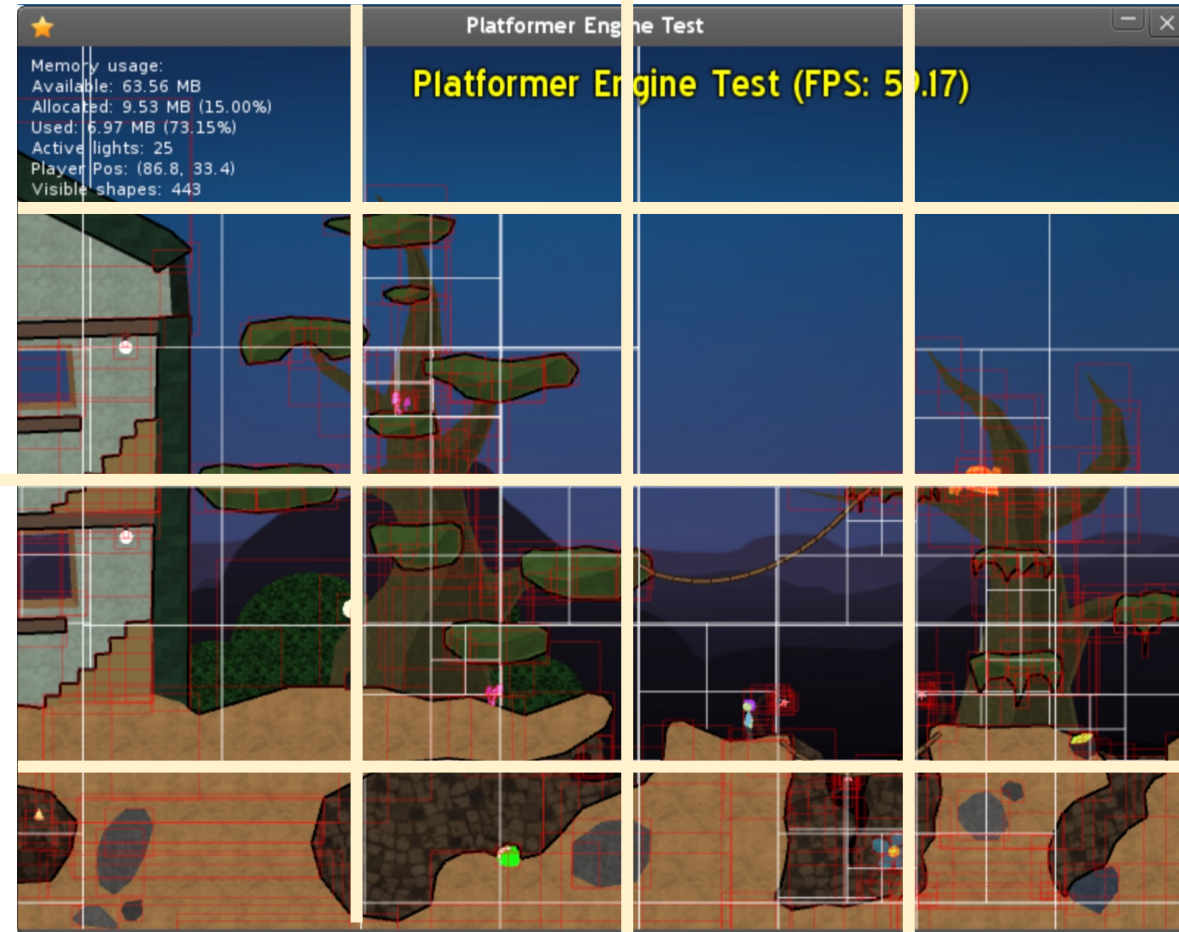
recursively divide  
the scene giving more  
detail to “interesting”  
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# Shared memory concurrent objects

- Quadtree/Octree

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# Octree example

- From GTC 2012 (almost 10 years ago)
  - Simulation of 2 galaxies colliding
  - 280K stars





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# Lecture schedule

- Concurrent object motivation
- Concurrent object example with bank account
- Concurrent object specifications
  - sequential specification
  - concurrent specification - sequential consistency

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- **Concurrent object example with bank account**
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# Bank account example

global variables:

```
int tylers_account = 0;
```

Tyler's coffee addiction:

```
for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {  
    tylers_account -= 1;  
}
```

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {  
    tylers_account += 1;  
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We might decide to wrap my bank account in an object

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class bank_account {  
    public:  
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            balance = 0;  
        }  
  
        void buy_coffee() {  
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        void get_paid() {  
            balance += 1;  
        }  
  
    private:  
        int balance;  
};
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what happens if  
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Example

C++ will not  
magically make  
your objects  
concurrent!

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*The object is not "thread safe"*

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First solution:  
The client (user  
of the object) can  
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global variables:

```
bank_account tylers_account;  
mutex m;
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Tyler's coffee addiction:

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for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {  
    m.lock();  
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    m.unlock();  
}
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Tyler's employer

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what if you have  
multiple objects?

First solution:  
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First solution:  
The client (user  
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client has to  
manage locks

*The object is not "thread safe"*



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we can encapsulate  
a mutex in the  
object.

The API stays  
the same!

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        m.unlock();  
    }  
  
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```

# Thread safe objects

- An object is thread-safe if you can call it concurrently
- Otherwise you must provide your own locks!

# Lock free programming

- An object is “lock free” if it does not use a lock in its underlying implementation.
- We can make a lock free bank account

```
atomic_fetch_add(atomic_int * addr, int value) {  
    int tmp = *addr; // read  
    tmp += value;    // modify  
    *addr = tmp;     // write  
}
```

# Recall atomic RMWs cannot interleave

Buying coffee

```
atomic_fetch_add(&account, -1);
```

Getting paid

```
atomic_fetch_add(&account, 1);
```

time



time



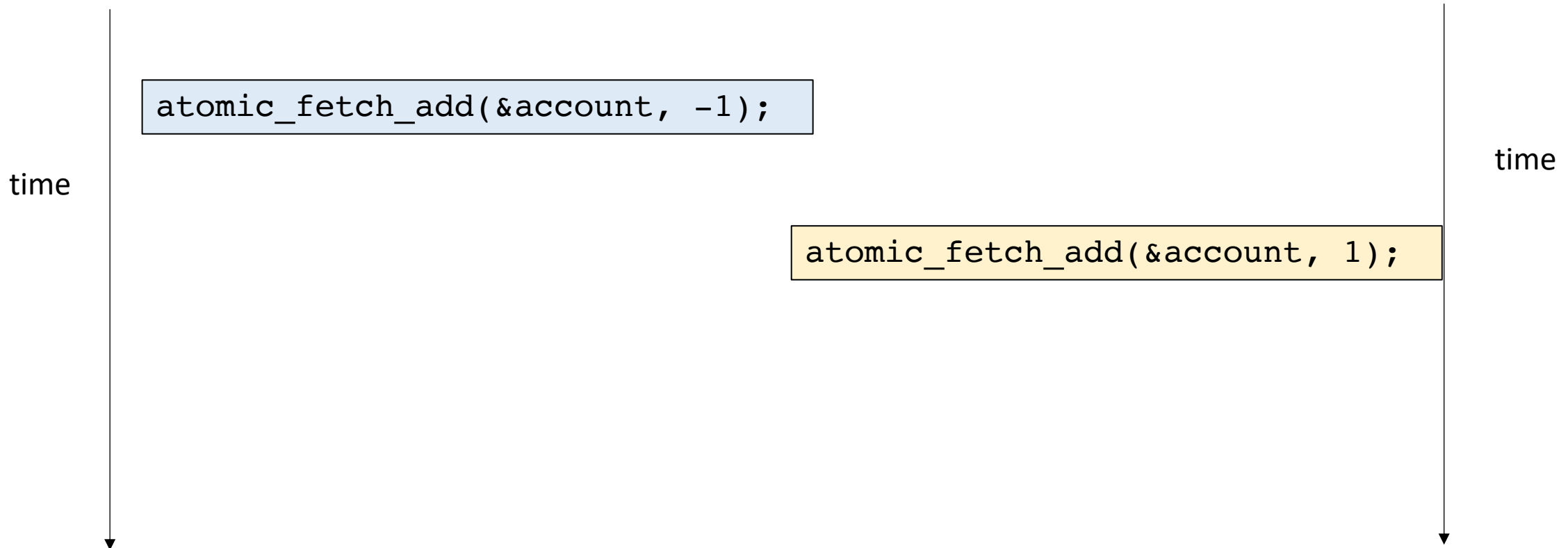
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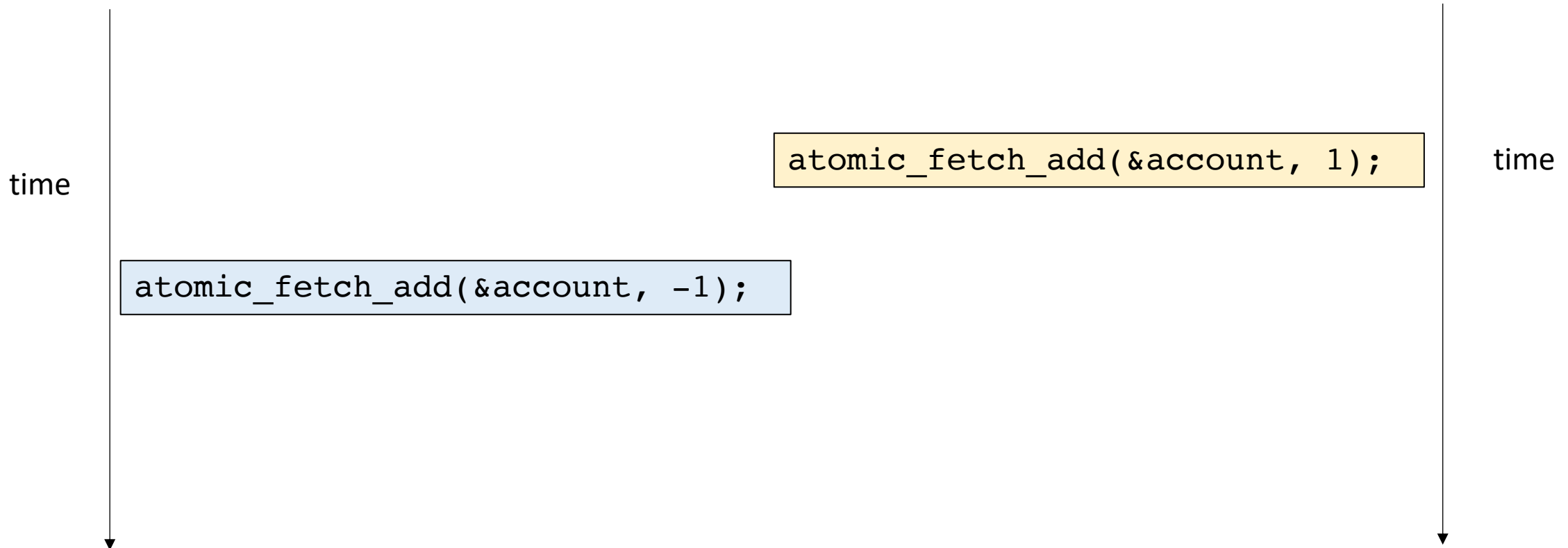
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    void buy_coffee() {  
        m.lock();  
        balance -= 1;  
        m.unlock();  
    }  
  
    void get_paid() {  
        m.lock();  
        balance += 1;  
        m.unlock();  
    }  
  
    private:  
    atomic_int balance;  
    mutex m;  
};
```



# Bank account example

global variables:

```
bank_account tylers_account;
```

Tyler's coffee addiction:

```
for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {  
    tylers_account.buy_coffee();  
}
```

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {  
    tylers_account.get_paid();  
}
```

```
class bank_account {  
    public:  
    bank_account() {  
        balance = 0;  
    }  
  
    void buy_coffee() {  
  
        balance -= 1;  
  
    }  
  
    void get_paid() {  
  
        balance += 1;  
  
    }  
  
    private:  
    atomic_int balance;  
};
```

# Bank account example

global variables:

```
bank_account tylers_account;
```

Tyler's coffee addiction:

```
for (int i = 0; i < HOURS; i++) {  
    tylers_account.buy_coffee();  
}
```

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {  
    tylers_account.get_paid();  
}
```

```
class bank_account {  
    public:  
    bank_account() {  
        balance = 0;  
    }  
  
    void buy_coffee() {  
        atomic_fetch_add(&account, -1);  
    }  
  
    void get_paid() {  
        atomic_fetch_add(&account, 1);  
    }  
  
    private:  
    atomic_int balance;  
};
```

How does it perform

# How does it perform

- Noticeably better!
  - Mutexes reduce parallelism
  - Mutexes require many RMW operations
- Straight forward to do with the bank account, we will apply this to more objects
  - This performance matters in frameworks!

# 3 dimensions for concurrent objects

- **Correctness:**

- How should concurrent objects behave

- **Progress:**

- What do we expect from the OS scheduler?
- Under what conditions can concurrent objects deadlock

- **Performance:**

- How to make things fast fast fast!

# Lecture schedule

- Concurrent object motivation
- Concurrent object example with bank account
- Concurrent object specifications
  - sequential specification
  - concurrent specification - sequential consistency

# Lecture schedule

- **Concurrent object motivation**
- Concurrent object example with bank account
- **Concurrent object specifications**
  - sequential specification
  - concurrent specification - sequential consistency

# Lets think about a Queue

What is a queue?

We consider 2 API functions:

- enq(value v) - enqueues the value v
- deq() - returns the value at the front of the queue

```
Queue<int> q;  
q.enq(6);  
int t = q.deq();
```

```
Queue<int> q;  
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);  
int t = q.deq();
```

```
Queue<int> q;  
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);  
int t = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```



# Lets think about a Queue

What is a queue?

We consider 2 API functions:

- enq(value v) - enqueues the value v
- deq() - returns the value at the front of the queue

```
Queue<int> q;  
int t = q.deq();
```

# Lets think about a Queue

What is a queue?

We consider 2 API functions:

- enq(value v) - enqueues the value v
- deq() - returns the value at the front of the queue

```
Queue<int> q;  
int t = q.deq();
```

Let's say: *None*

# Lets think about a Queue

This is called a sequential specification:

The sequential specification is nice! We want to base our concurrent specification on the sequential specification!

We will have to deal with the non-determinism of concurrency

# Thinking about a concurrent queue

```
Queue<int> q;  
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);  
int t = q.deq();
```

# Thinking about a concurrent queue

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Lets call our concurrent queue "CQueue"

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);
```

```
q.enq(7);
```

```
int t = q.deq();
```

# Thinking about a concurrent queue

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

what can be stored in t after this concurrent program?

# Thinking about a concurrent queue

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

what can be stored in t after this concurrent program?

Can t be 256?

# Thinking about a concurrent queue

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

what can be stored in t after this concurrent program?

Can t be 256? it should be one of {None, 6, 7}



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);
```

```
q.enq(7);
```

*Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:*

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

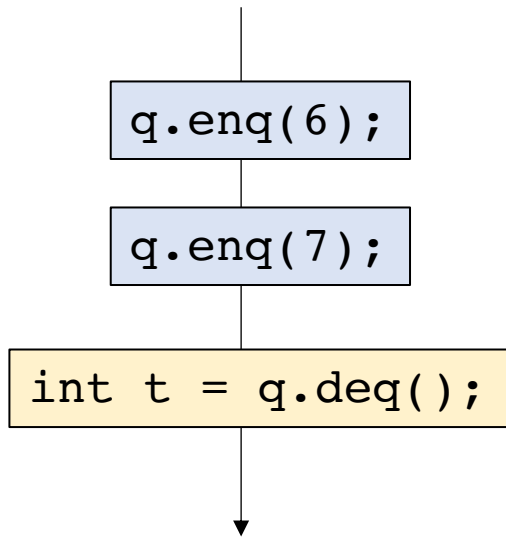
Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

*Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:*

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```



t is 6

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

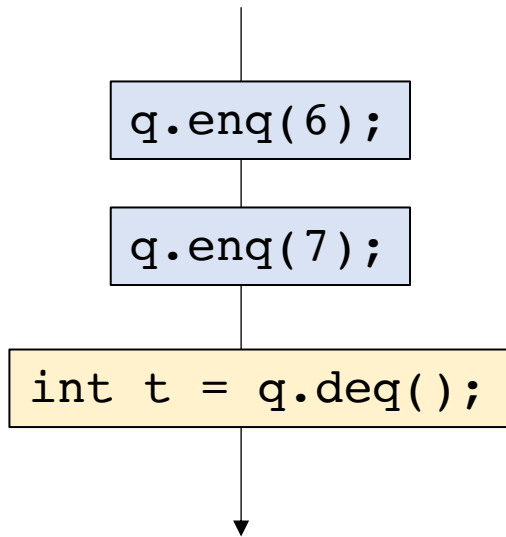
Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

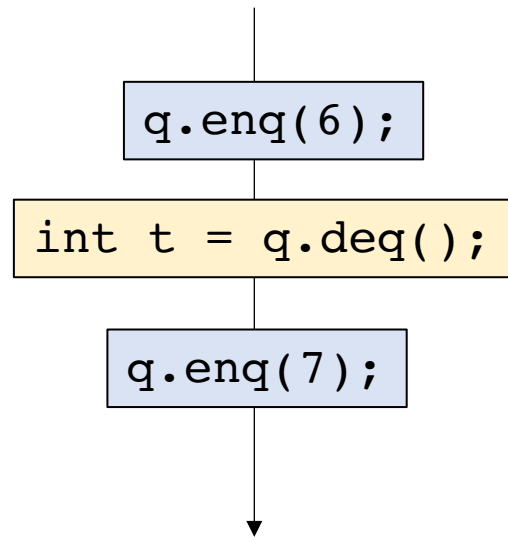
Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

*Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:*



t is 6



t is 6

Global variable:

CQueue<int> q;

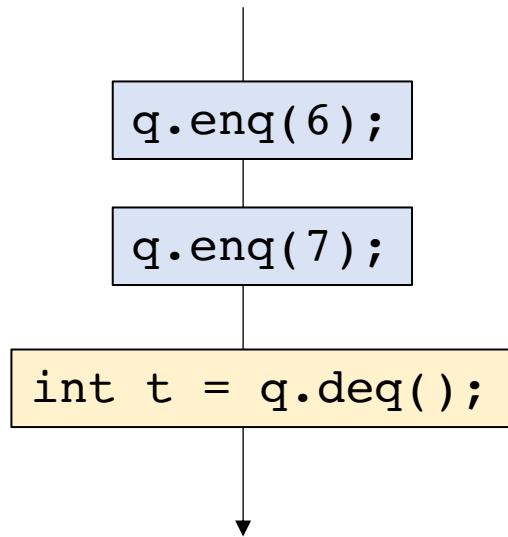
Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

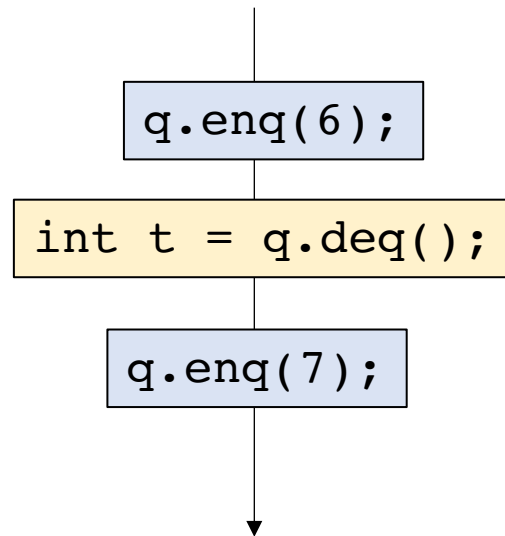
Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

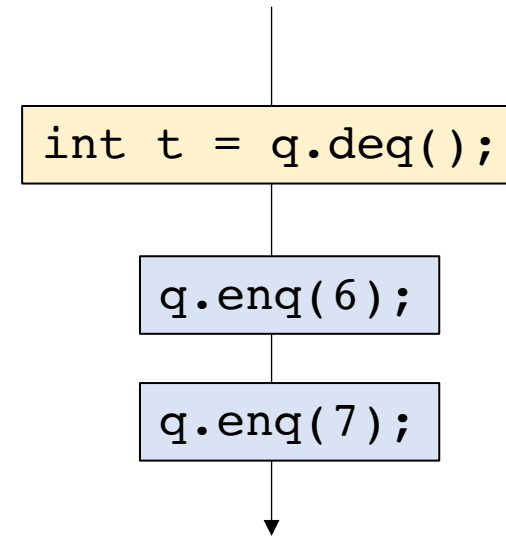
Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:



t is 6



t is 6



t is None

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

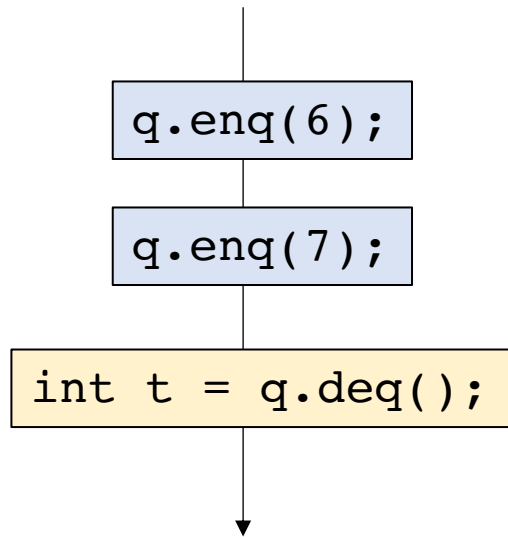
Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

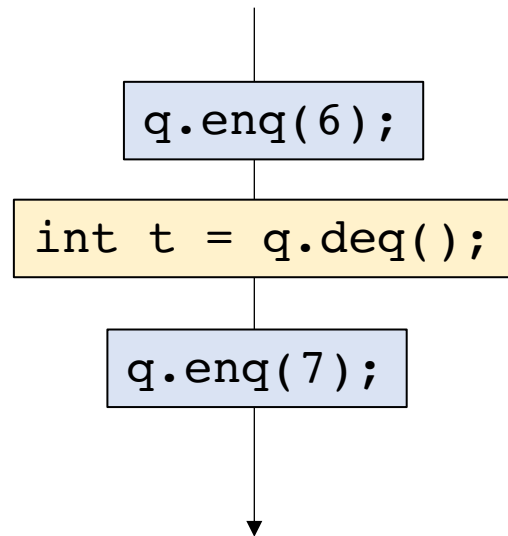
Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

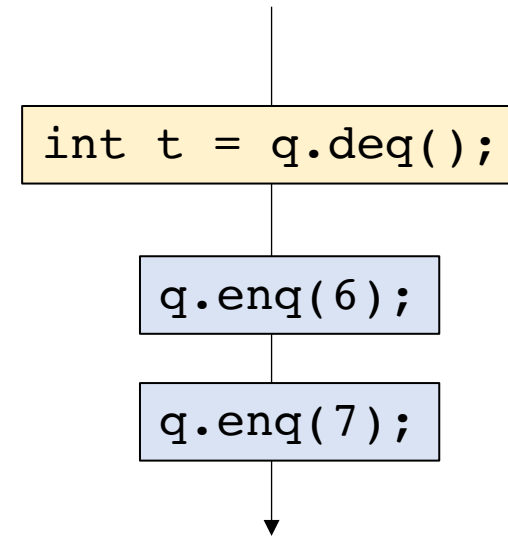
*Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:*



t is 6



t is 6



t is None

*Can t ever  
be 7?*

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

*Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:*



*Can t ever  
be 7?*

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```


Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

*Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:*



```
q.enq(7);
```

*Can t ever  
be 7?*

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

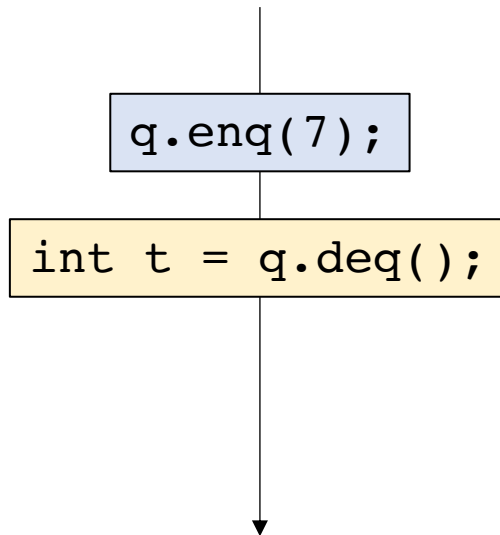
Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

*Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:*



*Can t ever  
be 7?*



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

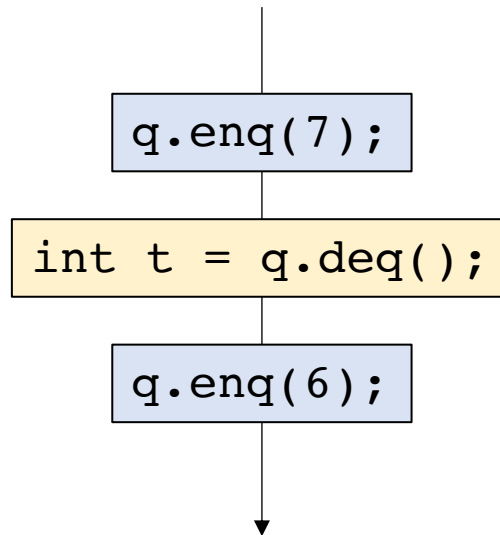
Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

*Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:*



*Can t ever  
be 7?*

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

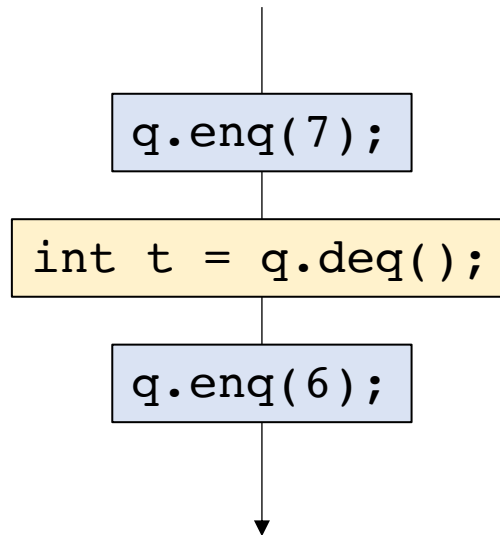
Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t = q.deq();
```

*Construct a sequential timeline of API calls  
Any sequence is valid:*



*The events of Thread 0  
don't appear in the same  
order of the program!*

*This should not be allowed!*

*Can t ever  
be 7?*

# Sequential Consistency

- Valid executions correspond a sequentialization of object method
- The sequentialization must respect per-thread "program order", the order in which the object method calls occur in the thread
- Events across threads can interleave in any way possible

# Sequential Consistency

- Valid executions correspond a sequentialization of object method
- The sequentialization must respect per-thread "program order", the order in which the object method calls occur in the thread
- Events across threads can interleave in any way possible

How many possible interleavings?  
Combinatorics question:

if Thread 0 has N events  
if Thread 1 has M events

$$\frac{(N + M)!}{N! M!}$$

# Sequential Consistency

How many possible interleavings?  
Combinatorics question:

if Thread 0 has  $N$  events  
if Thread 1 has  $M$  events

$$\frac{(N + M)!}{N! M!}$$

Reminder that  $N$  and  $M$  are events, not instructions

# Sequential Consistency

How many possible interleavings?  
Combinatorics question:

if Thread 0 has N events  
if Thread 1 has M events

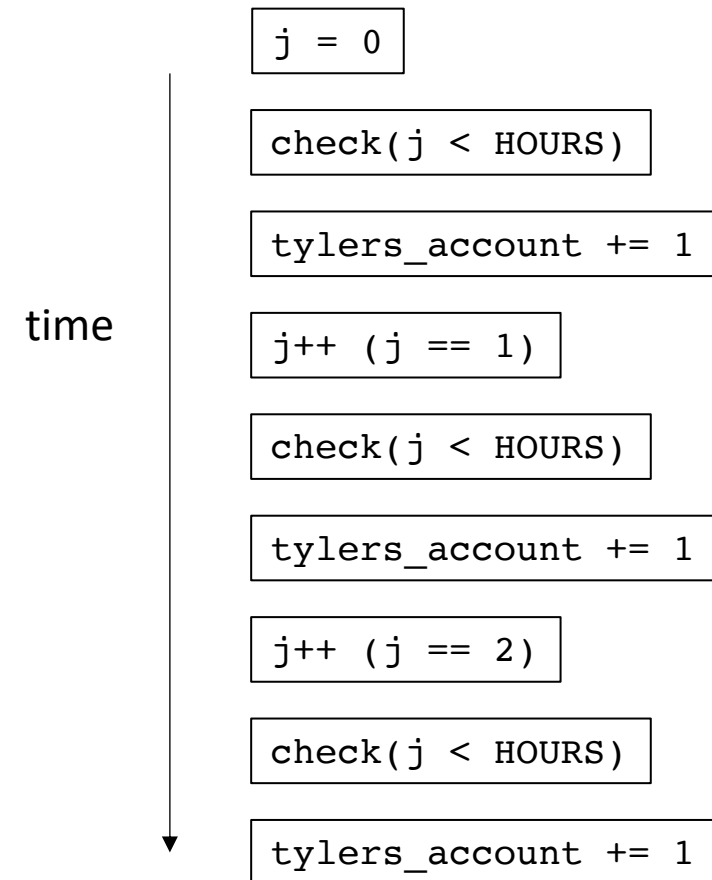
$$\frac{(N + M)!}{N! M!}$$

Reminder that N and M are events, not instructions

If N and M execute 150 events each, there are more possible executions than particles in the observable universe!

Tyler's employer

```
for (int j = 0; j < HOURS; j++) {  
    tylers_account += 1;  
}
```



# Don't think about all possible interleavings!

- Higher-level reasoning:
  - I get paid 100 times and buy 100 coffees, I should break even
  - If you enqueue 100 elements to a queue, you should be able to dequeue 100 elements
- Reason about a specific outcome
  - Find an interleaving that allows the outcome
  - Find a counter example

# Reasoning about concurrent objects

To show that an outcome is possible, simply construct the sequential sequence



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can  $t0 == 0$  and  $t1 == 6$ ?




Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

```
int t0 = q.deq();
```



Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can `t0 == 0` and `t1 == 6`?

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

```
int t0 = q.deq();
```

```
q.enq(6);
```



Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can  $t0 == 0$  and  $t1 == 6$ ?

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

```
int t0 = q.deq();
```

```
q.enq(6);
```

```
int t1 = q.deq();
```



Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can  $t0 == 0$  and  $t1 == 6$ ?

Global variable:

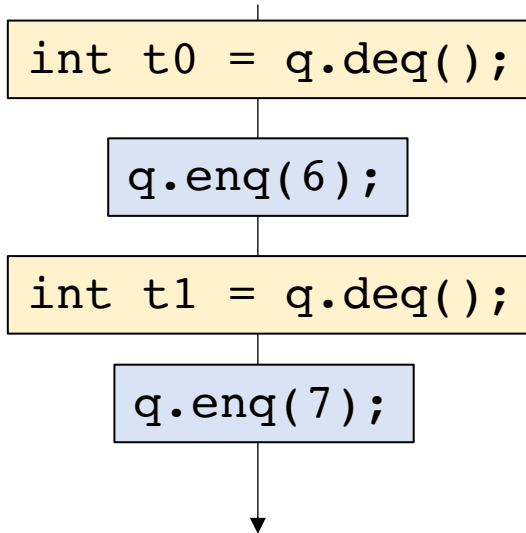
CQueue<int> q;

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```



Can  $t0 == 0$  and  $t1 == 6$ ?

Valid execution!

Are there others?

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Lets do another!

Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can t0 == 6 and t1 == 7?



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can `t0 == 6` and `t1 == 7`?


Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

q.enq(6);



Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can t0 == 6 and t1 == 7?



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

q.enq(6);

int t0 = q.deq();

Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

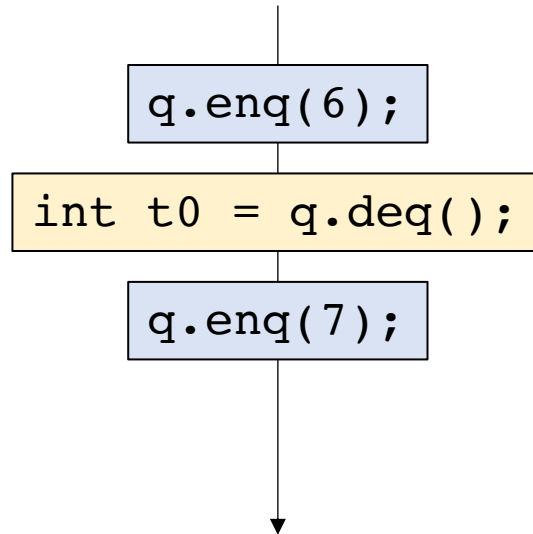
Can t0 == 6 and t1 == 7?

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```



Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

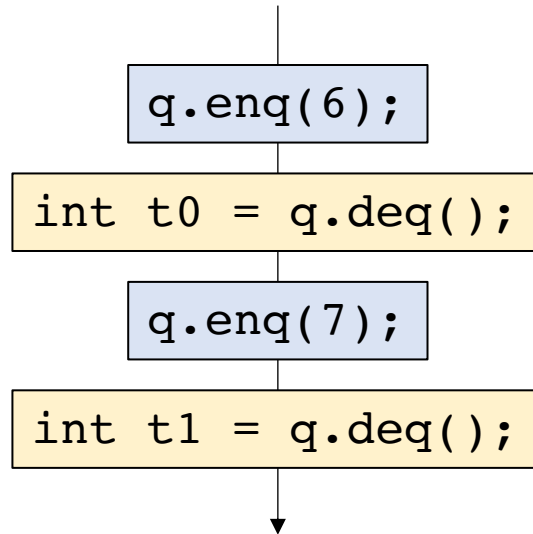
Can  $t0 == 6$  and  $t1 == 7$ ?

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```



Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can  $t0 == 6$  and  $t1 == 7$ ?

Found one! Are there others?

# Reasoning about concurrent objects

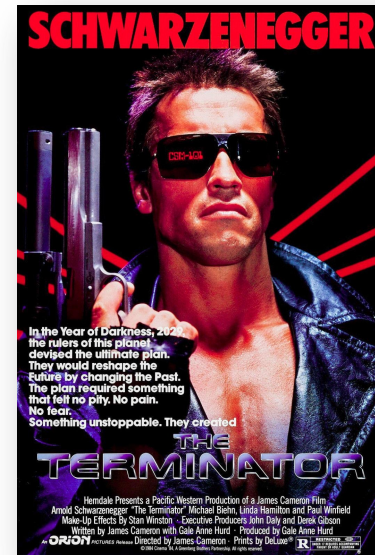
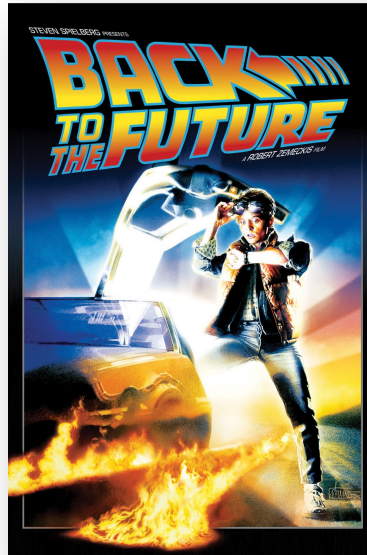
To show that an outcome is possible, simply construct the sequential sequence

To show that an outcome is *impossible* show that the outcome would require time travel!

# Reasoning about concurrent objects

To show that an outcome is possible, simply construct the sequential sequence

To show that an outcome is *impossible* show that the outcome would require time travel!



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can `t0 == 0` and `t1 == 7`?




Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

```
int t0 = q.deq();
```



Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can `t0 == 0` and `t1 == 7`?

Global variable:


```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

```
int t0 = q.deq();
```

```
q.enq(7);
```



Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can t0 == 0 and t1 == 7?



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

```
int t0 = q.deq();
```

```
q.enq(7);
```

```
int t1 = q.deq();
```



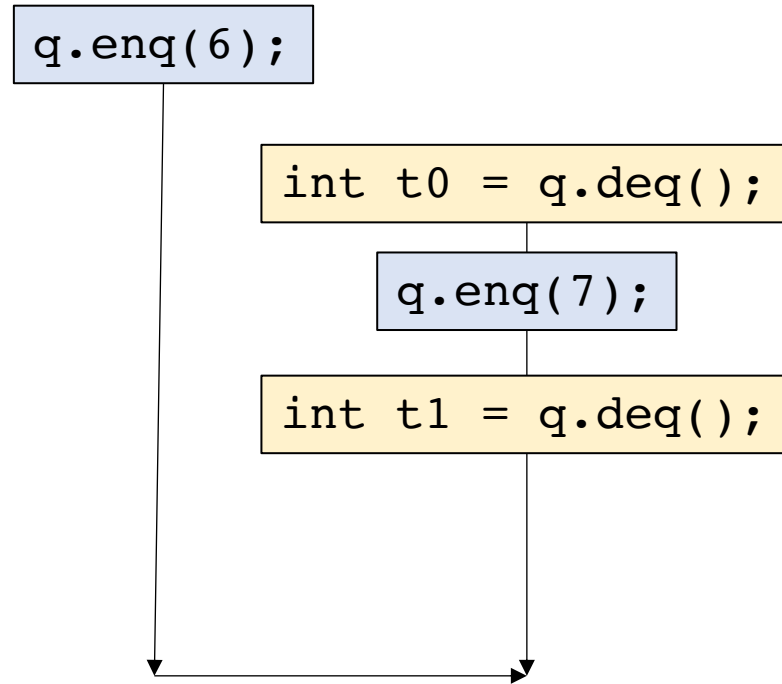
Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Can  $t0 == 0$  and  $t1 == 7$ ?

Global variable:  
`CQueue<int> q;`

Thread 0:  
`q.enq(6);`  
`q.enq(7);`



Thread 1:  
`int t0 = q.deq();`  
`int t1 = q.deq();`

Can `t0 == 0` and `t1 == 7`?

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(6);  
q.enq(7);
```

```
q.enq(6);
```

```
int t0 = q.deq();
```

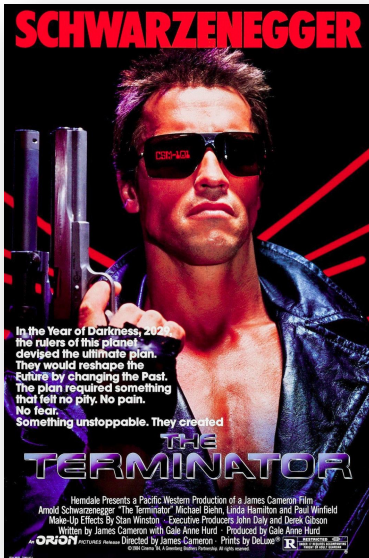
```
q.enq(7);
```

```
int t1 = q.deq();
```

Thread 1:

```
int t0 = q.deq();  
int t1 = q.deq();
```

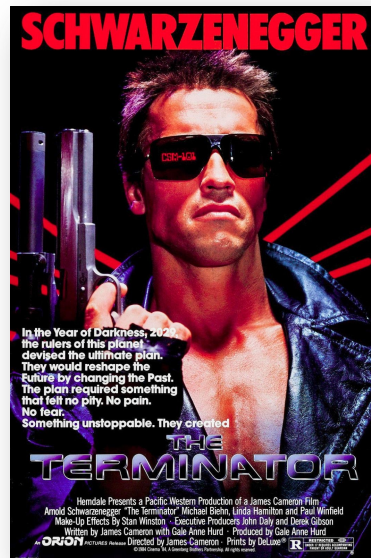
Can  $t0 == 0$  and  $t1 == 7$ ?



Time travel in our specifications should not be allowed!

# What does that cycle mean?

- Justify your current state with something you will do in the future:
  - I have my phone right now because I will give it to myself tomorrow
  - Causality cycles: The past influences the future, the future can't influence the past



Lets do one more examples

Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(7);  
int t0 = q.dec();
```

Is it possible for  $t0 == 6$   
but the queue to contain 7  
after the program?

Thread 1:

```
q.enq(6);
```



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:


```
q.enq(7);  
int t0 = q.dec();
```

Is it possible for  $t0 == 6$   
but the queue to contain 7  
after the program?

Thread 1:

```
q.enq(6);
```

q.enq(6);



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(7);  
int t0 = q.dec();
```

Is it possible for  $t0 == 6$   
but the queue to contain 7  
after the program?

Thread 1:

```
q.enq(6);
```

q.enq(6);

int t0 = q.dec();



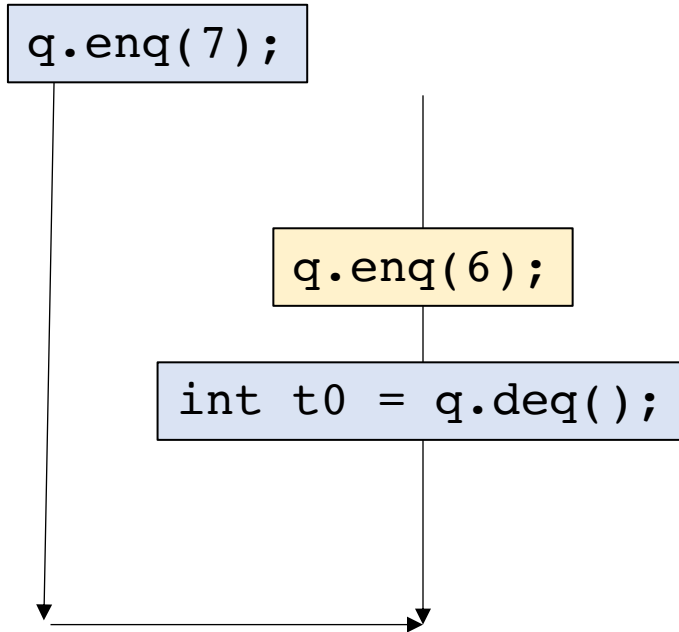
Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

```
q.enq(7);  
int t0 = q.deq();
```

Is it possible for `t0 == 6`  
but the queue to contain 7  
after the program?



Thread 1:

```
q.enq(6);
```



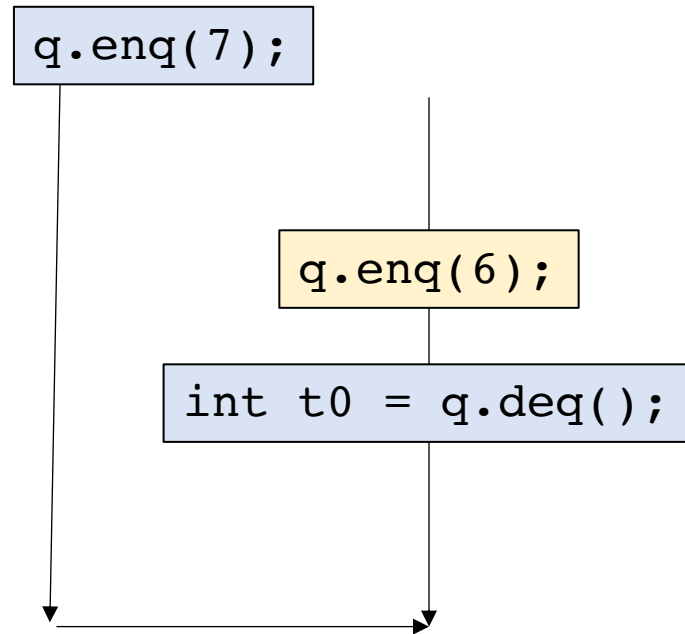
Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> q;
```

Thread 0:

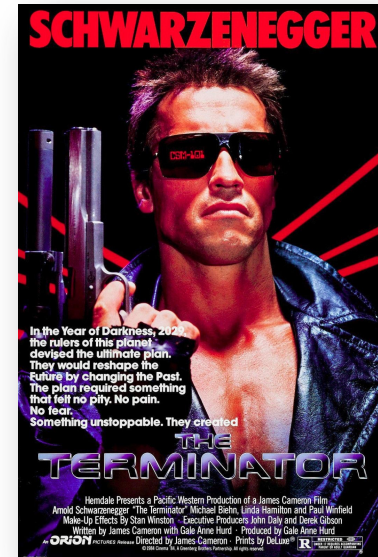
```
q.enq(7);  
int t0 = q.dec();
```

Is it possible for  $t0 == 6$   
but the queue to contain 7  
after the program?



Thread 1:

```
q.enq(6);
```



time travel!  
not allowed!

# Do we have our specification?

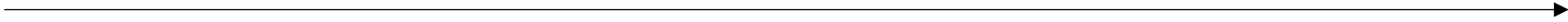
- Is sequential consistency a good enough specification for concurrent objects?
- It's a good first step, but relative timing (happens-before) interacts strangely with concrete time.
- We will need something stronger.

# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

each method as a start, and end time stamp

Thread 0



method is called

Thread 1



`q.enq(7)`

method returns

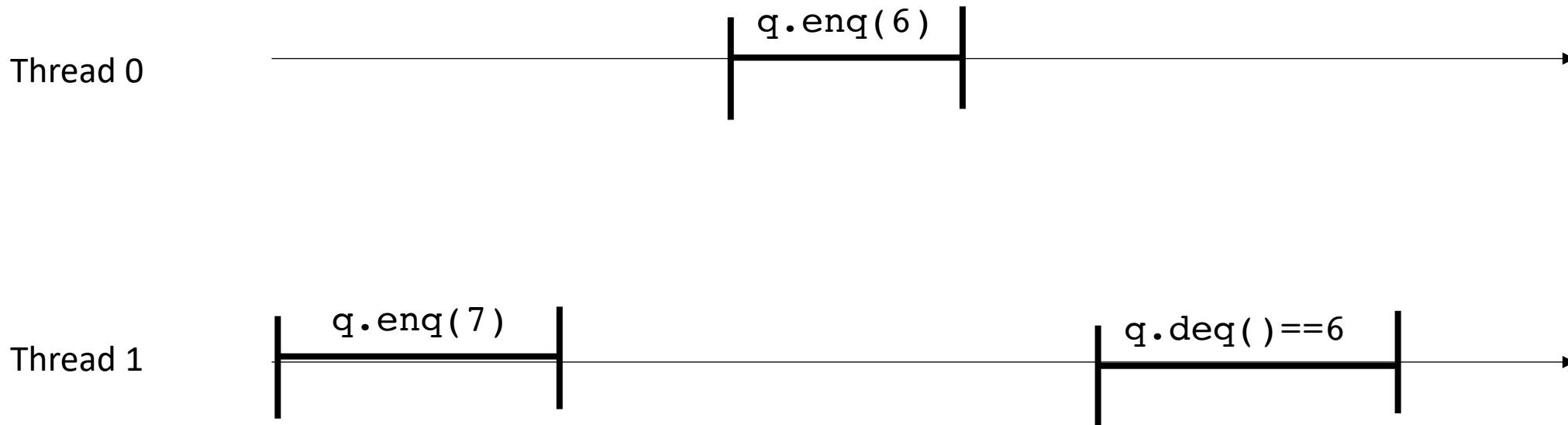
real time line



# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

This timeline seems strange...

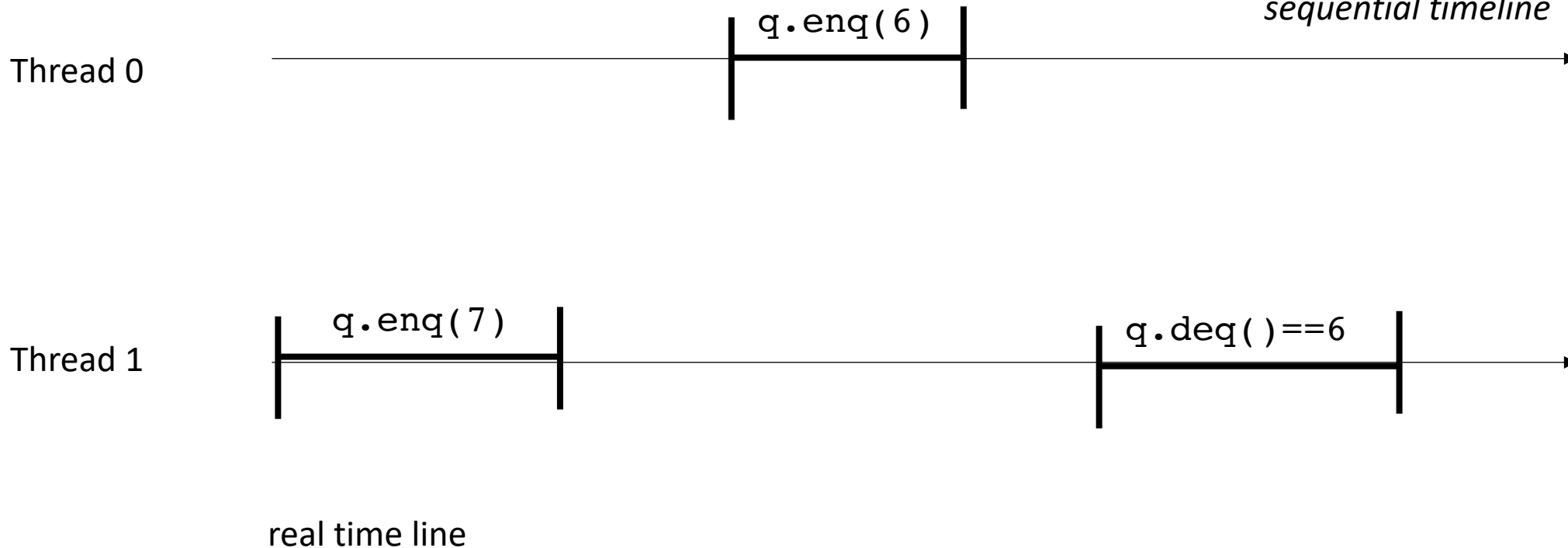


# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

*This execution is allowed in sequential consistency!*

*SC doesn't care about real time, only if it can construct its virtual sequential timeline*

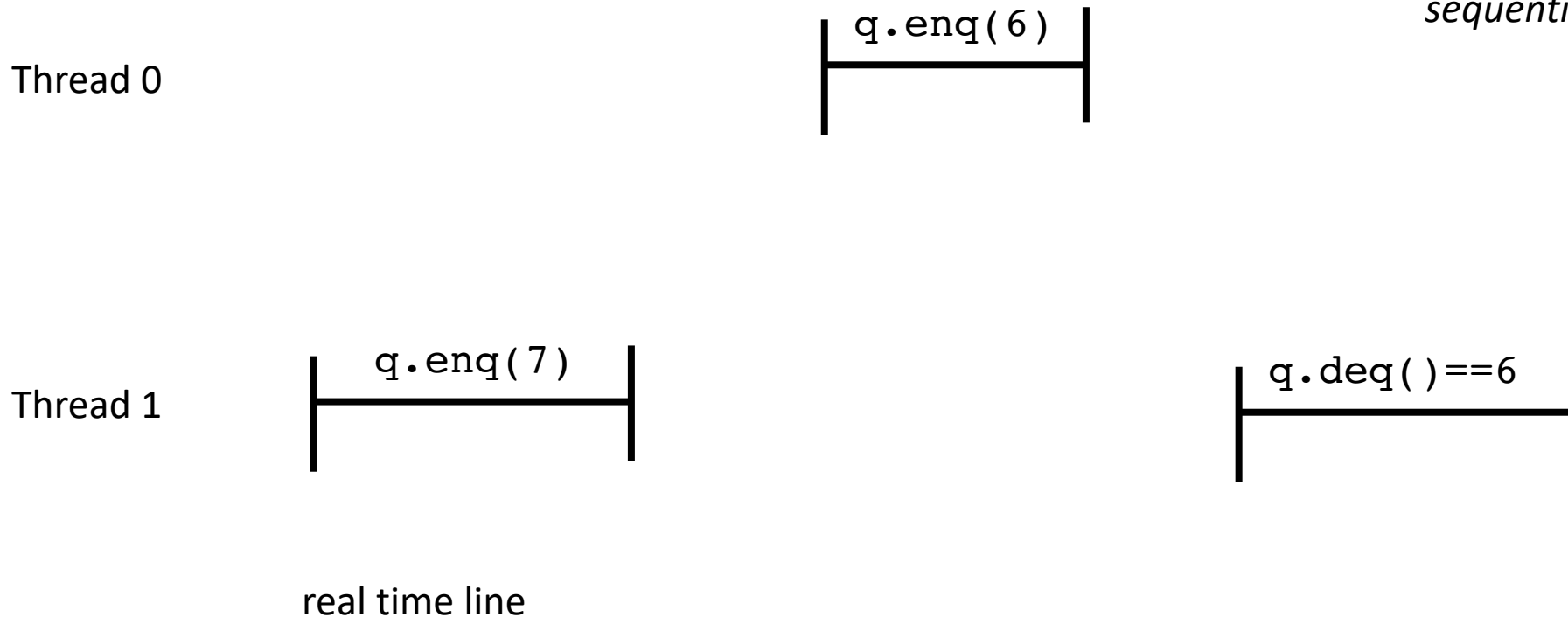


# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

*This execution is allowed in sequential consistency!*

*SC doesn't care about real time, only if it can construct its virtual sequential timeline*



# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

*This execution is allowed in sequential consistency!*

*SC doesn't care about real time, only if it can construct its virtual sequential timeline*

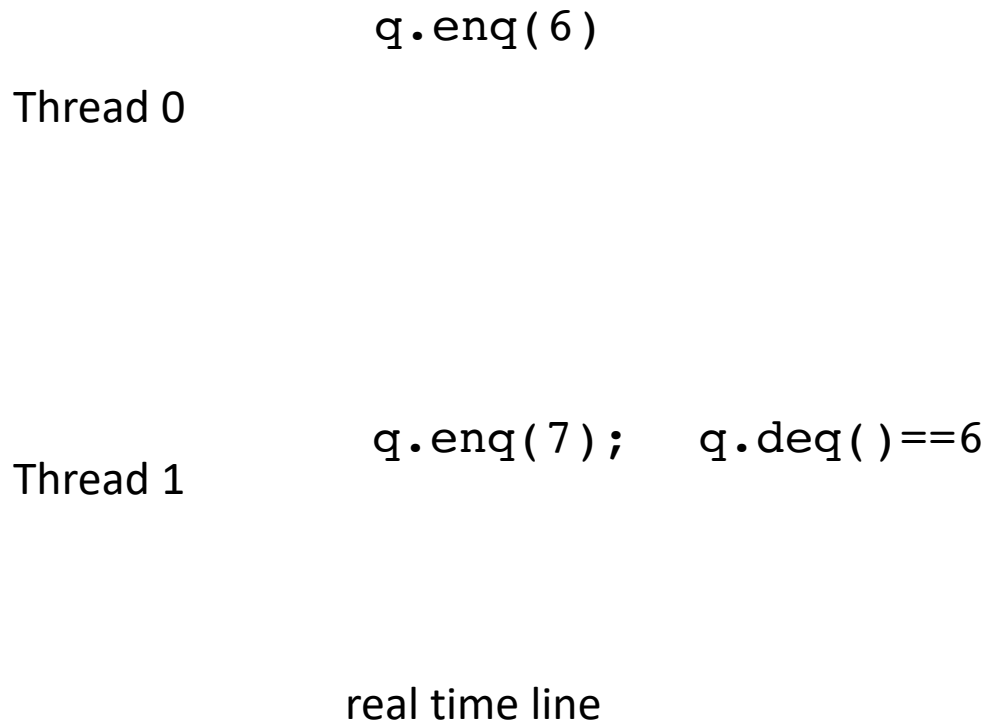
Thread 0            `q.enq(6)`

Thread 1            `q.enq(7); q.deq()==6`

real time line

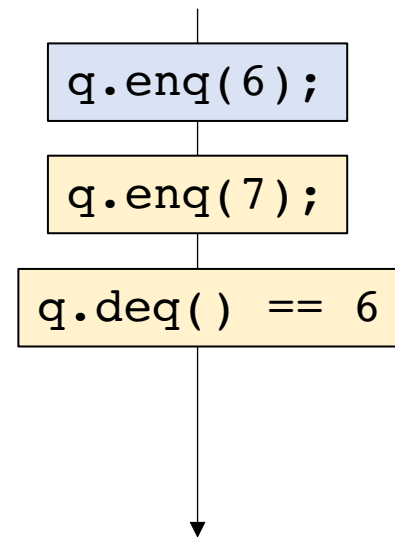
# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:



*This execution is allowed in sequential consistency!*

*SC doesn't care about real time, only if it can construct its virtual sequential timeline*

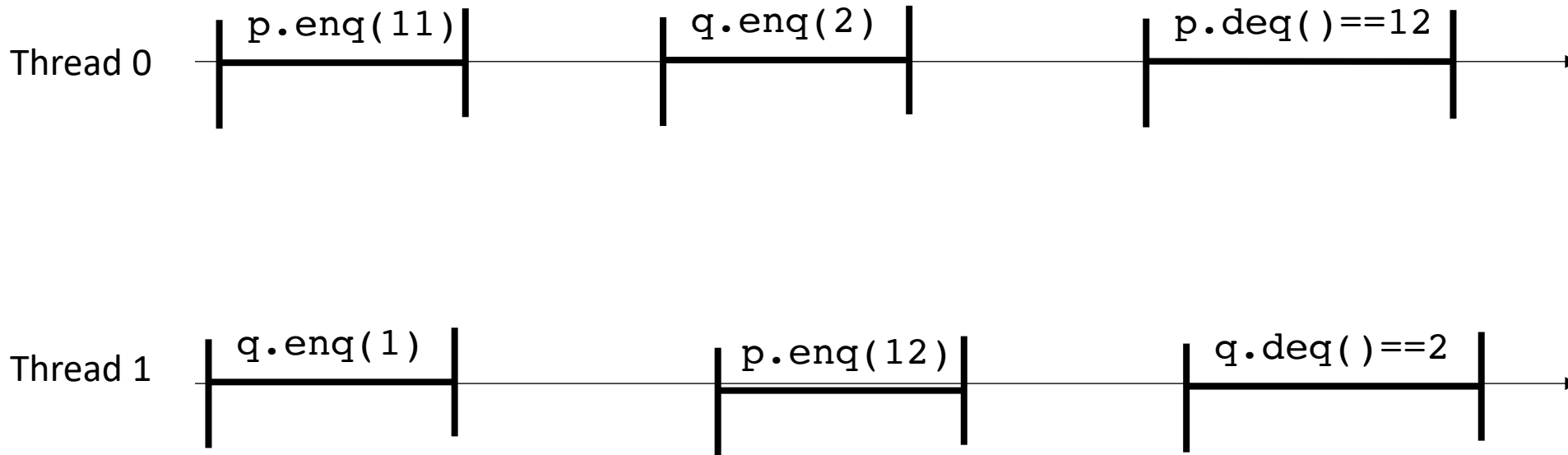




# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

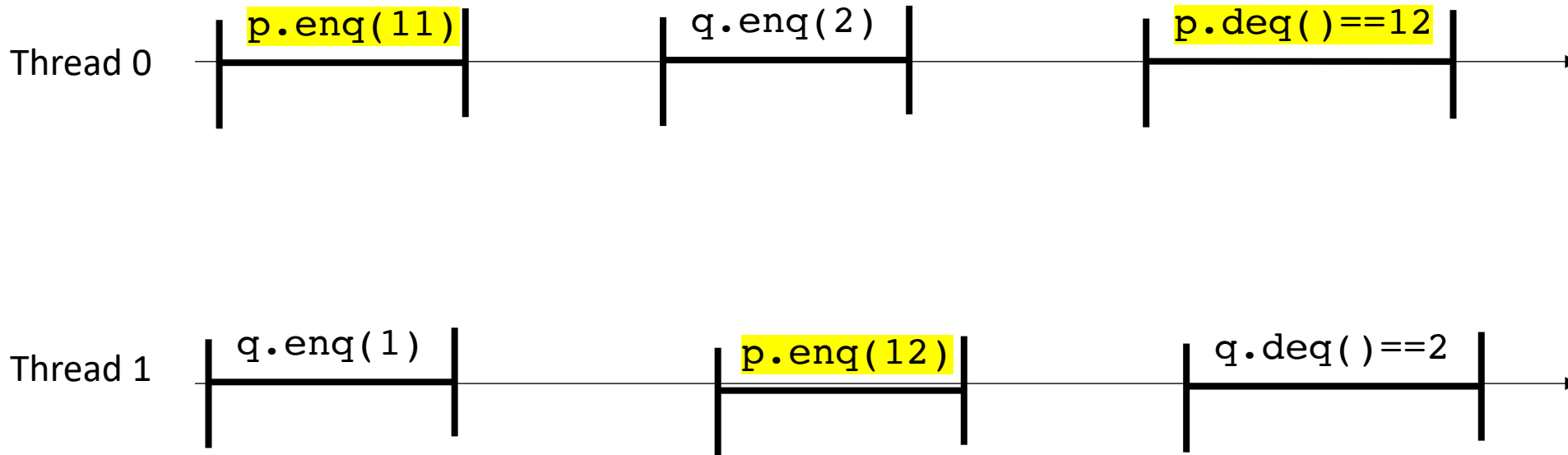
2 objects now: p and q



# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

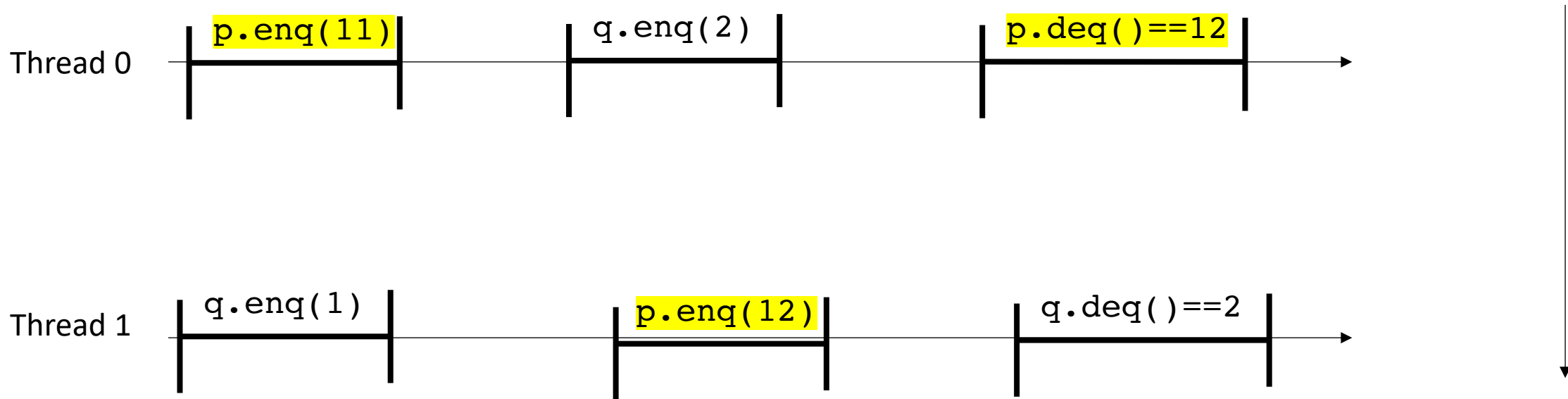
2 objects now: p and q  
Consider each object in isolation



# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

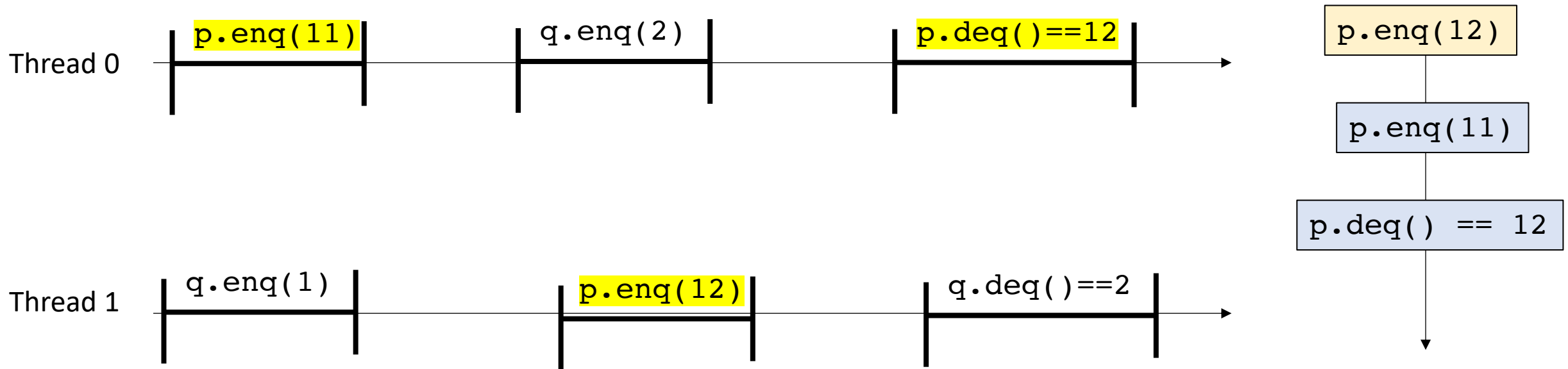
2 objects now: p and q  
Consider each object in isolation



# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

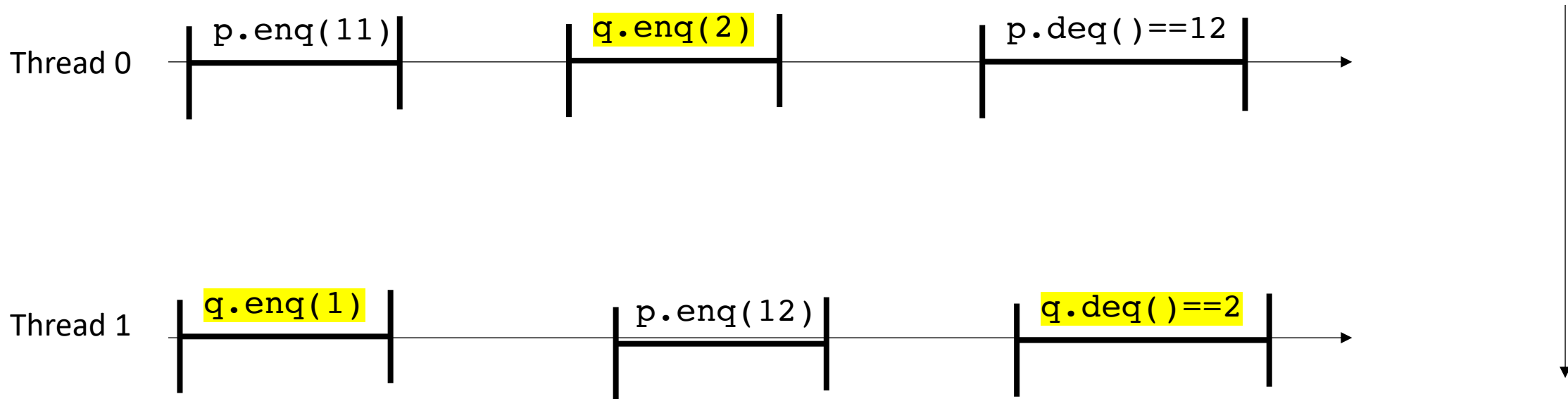
2 objects now: p and q  
Consider each object in isolation



# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

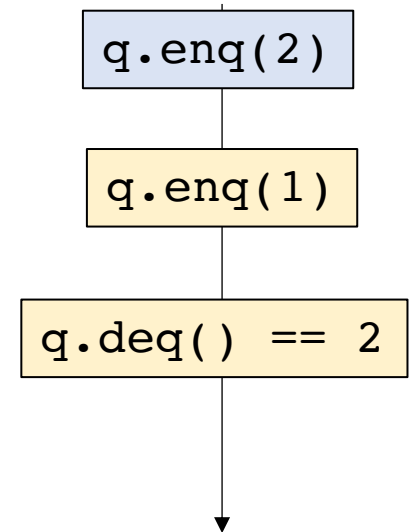
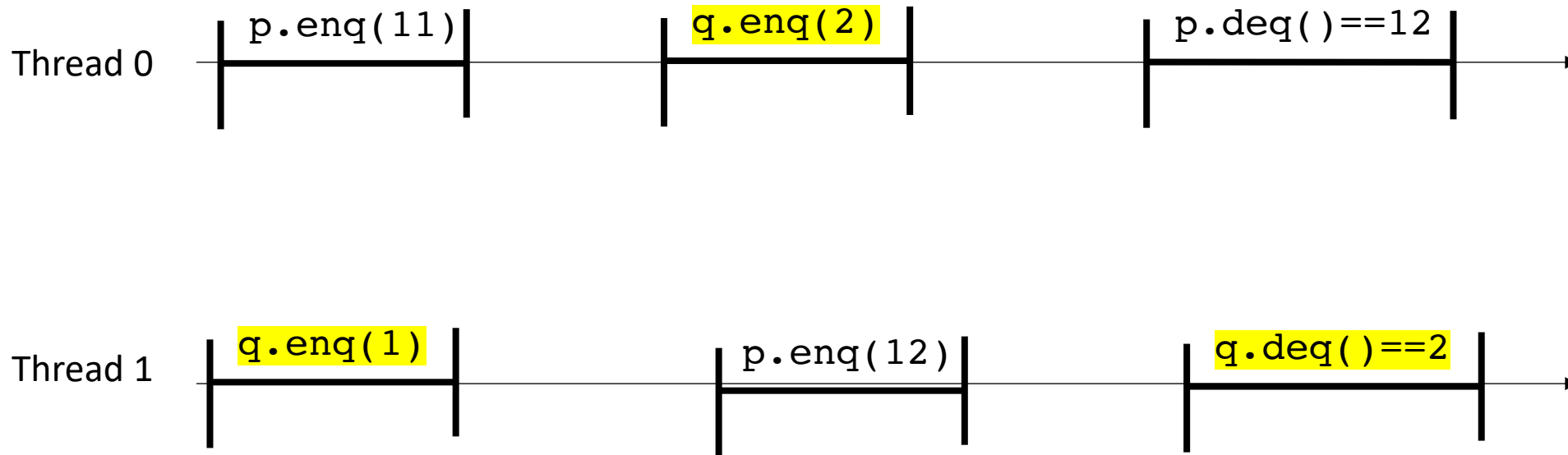
2 objects now: p and q  
Consider each object in isolation



# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

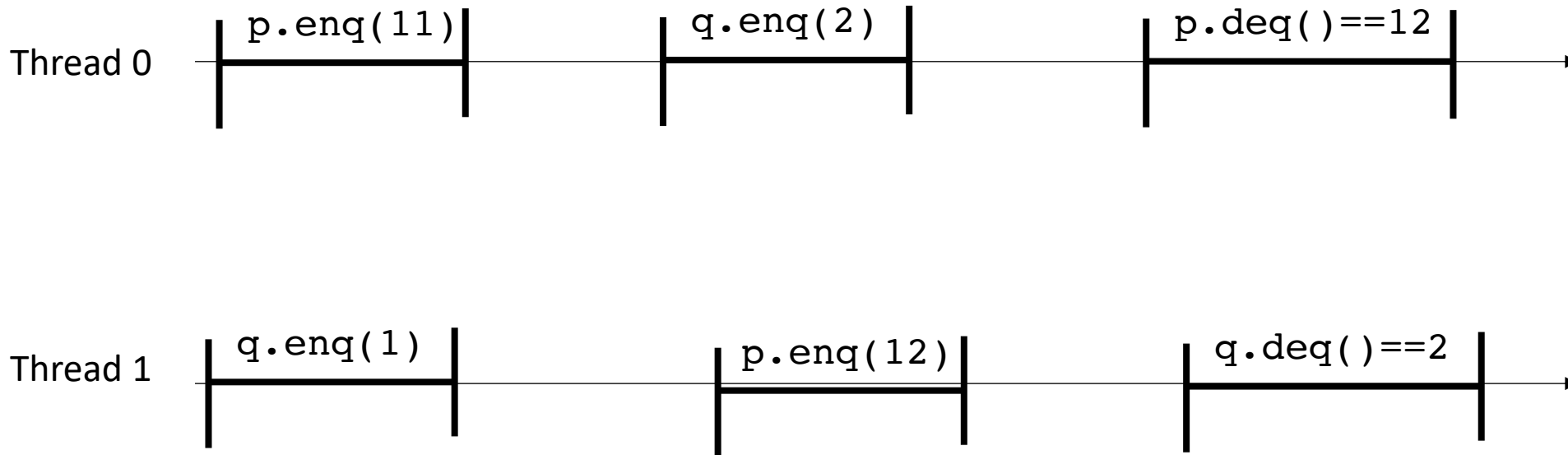
2 objects now: p and q  
Consider each object in isolation



# Sequential consistency and real time

- Add in real time:

Now consider them all together



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> p, q;
```

Thread 0:

```
p.enq(11)
```

```
q.enq(2)
```

```
p.deq() == 12
```



Thread 1:

```
q.enq(1)
```

```
p.enq(12)
```

```
q.deq() == 2
```



Global variable:

```
CQueue<int> p, q;
```

Thread 0:

```
p.enq(11)
```

```
q.enq(2)
```


```
p.deq() == 12
```

Thread 1:

```
q.enq(1)
```

```
p.enq(12)
```

```
q.deq() == 2
```



```
p.deq() == 12;
```

Global variable:

CQueue<int> p,q;

Thread 0:

p.enq(11)

q.enq(2)

p.deq() == 12

p.enq(12);

p.enq(11);

p.deq() == 12;

Thread 1:

q.enq(1)

p.enq(12)

q.deq() == 2



Global variable:

CQueue<int> p,q;

Thread 0:

p.enq(11)

q.enq(2)

p.deq() == 12

p.enq(12);

p.enq(11);

p.deq() == 12;

q.deq() == 2;

Thread 1:

q.enq(1)

p.enq(12)

q.deq() == 2

Global variable:

CQueue<int> p, q;

Thread 0:

p.enq(11)

q.enq(2)

p.deq() == 12

p.enq(12);

p.enq(11);

q.enq(2)

p.deq() == 12;

q.deq() == 2;

Thread 1:

q.enq(1)

p.enq(12)

q.deq() == 2

Global variable:

CQueue<int> p, q;

Thread 0:

```
p.enq(11)
q.enq(2)
p.deq() == 12
```

```
p.enq(12);
```

```
p.enq(11);
```

```
q.enq(2)
```

```
p.deq() == 12;
```

```
q.deq() == 2;
```

```
q.enq(1);
```

where to put this?

Thread 1:

```
q.enq(1)
p.enq(12)
q.deq() == 2
```

Global variable:

CQueue<int> p, q;

Thread 0:

```
p.enq(11)
q.enq(2)
p.deq() == 12
```

before p.enq(12)

```
p.enq(12);
```

```
p.enq(11);
```

```
q.enq(2)
```

```
p.deq() == 12;
```

```
q.deq() == 2;
```

```
q.enq(1);
```

where to put this?

Thread 1:

```
q.enq(1)
p.enq(12)
q.deq() == 2
```

after q.enq(2)

# What does this mean?

- Even if objects in isolation are sequentially consistent
- Programs composed of multiple objects might not be!
- We would like to be able to use more than 1 object in our programs!

# Next week

- A strong specification: Linearizability
  - Strictly stronger than sequential consistency
  - Reasoning about sequential consistency is still incredibly valuable
- Progress properties of concurrent objects
- Start looking at how to implement a linked list