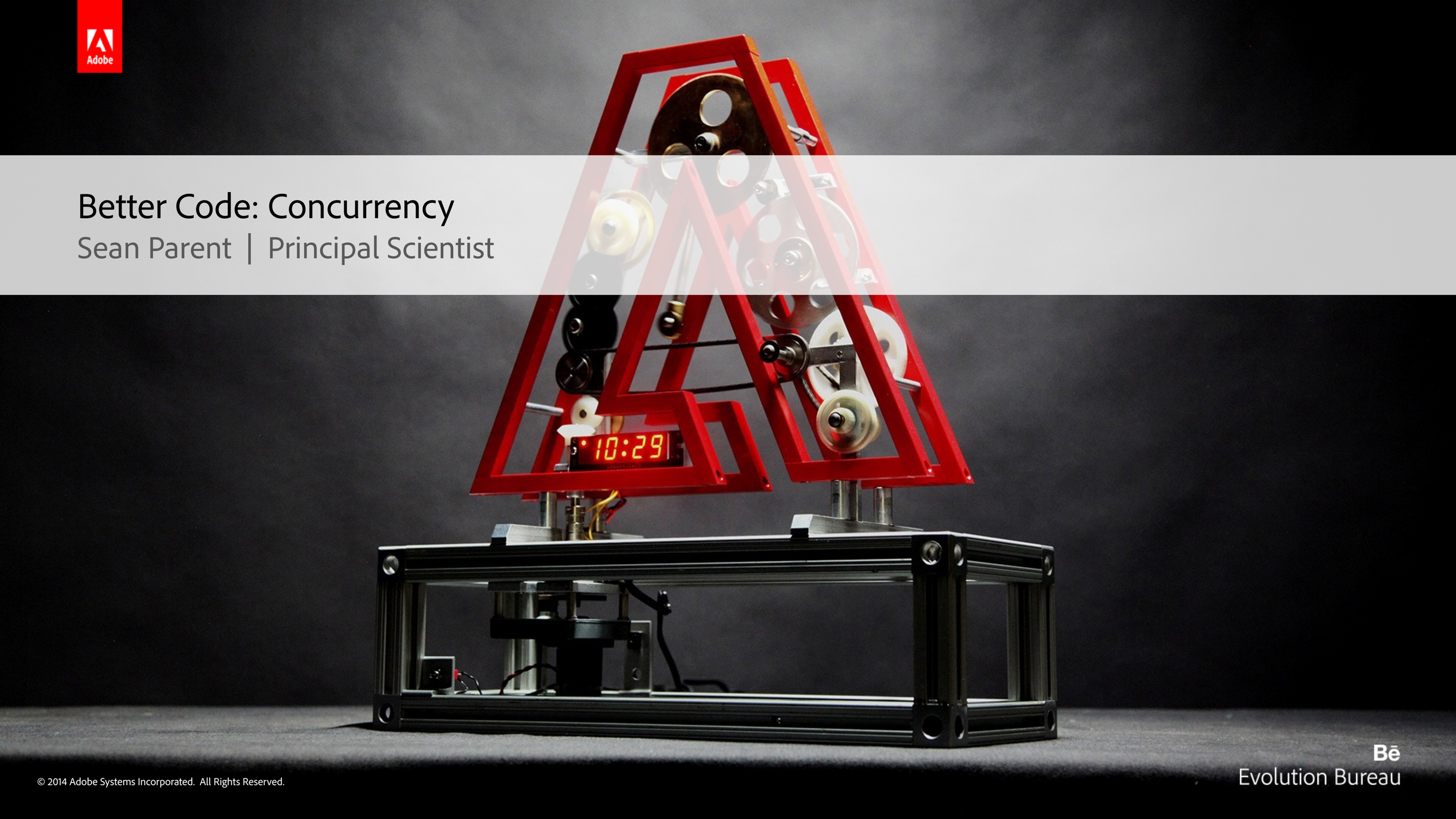
Better Code: Concurrency

Sean Parent | Principal Scientist



Evolution Bureau

Better Code

- Regular Type
  - Goal: Implement Complete and Efficient Types
- Algorithms
  - Goal: No Raw Loops
- Data Structures
  - Goal: No Incidental Data Structures
- Runtime Polymorphism
  - Goal: No Raw Pointers
- Concurrency
  - Goal: No Raw Synchronization Primitives
- …

Common Themes

- Manage Relationships
- Understand the Fundamentals
- Code Simply

Demo

Concurrency

- Concurrency: when tasks start, run, and complete in overlapping time periods
- Parallelism: when two or more tasks execute simultaneously

- Why?
  - Enable performance through parallelism
  - Improve interactivity by handling user actions concurrent with processing and IO

http://docs.oracle.com/cd/E19455-01/806-5257/6je9h032b/index.html

No Raw Synchronization Primitives

What are raw synchronization primitives?

- Synchronization primitives are basic constructs such as:
  - Mutex
  - Atomic
  - Semaphore
  - Memory Fence
  - Condition Variable

Desktop Compute Power (8-core 3.5GHz Sandy Bridge + AMD Radeon 6950)

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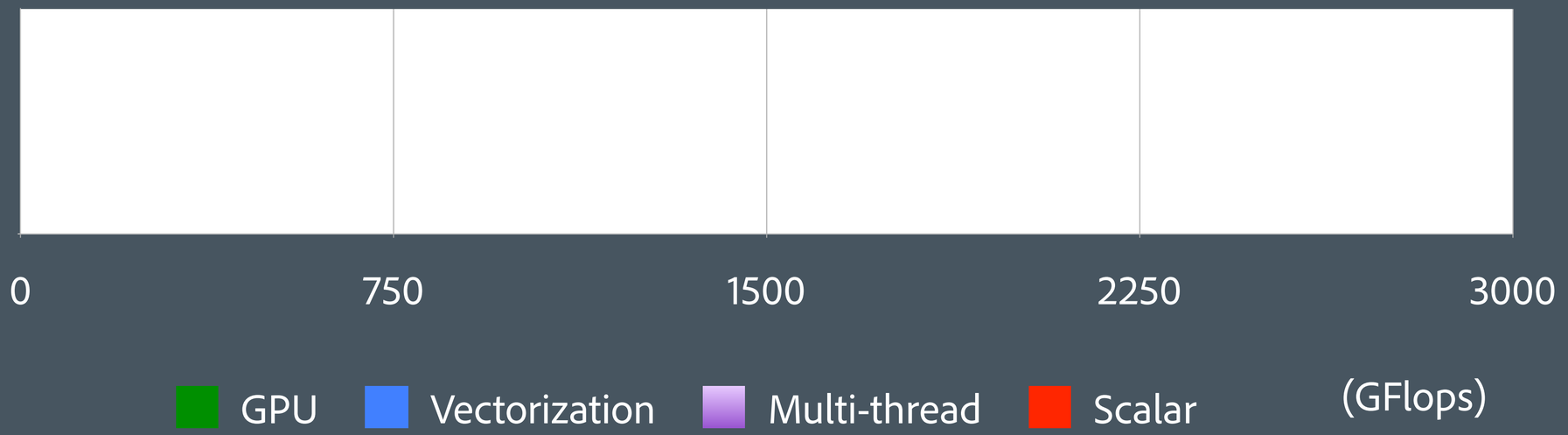

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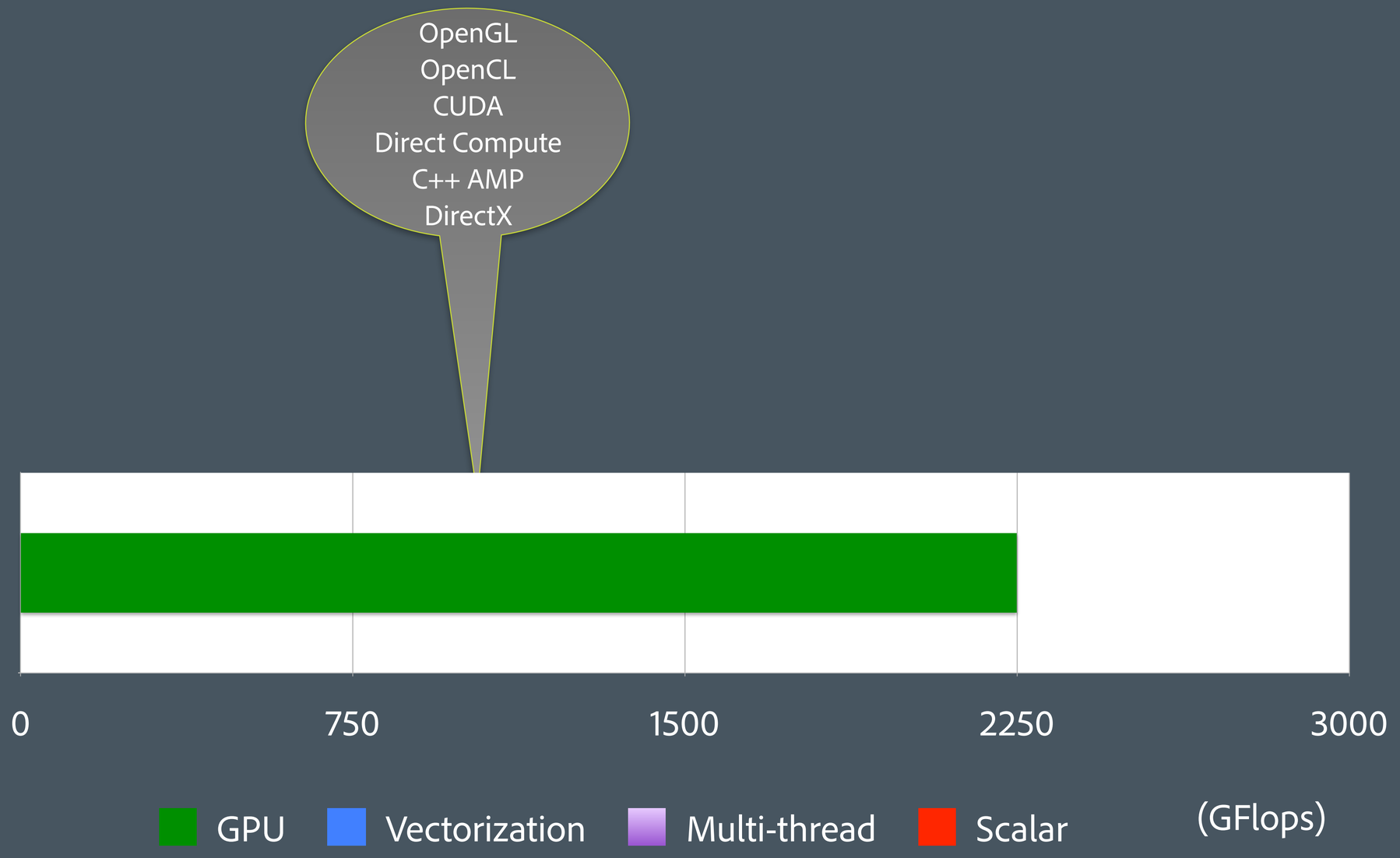

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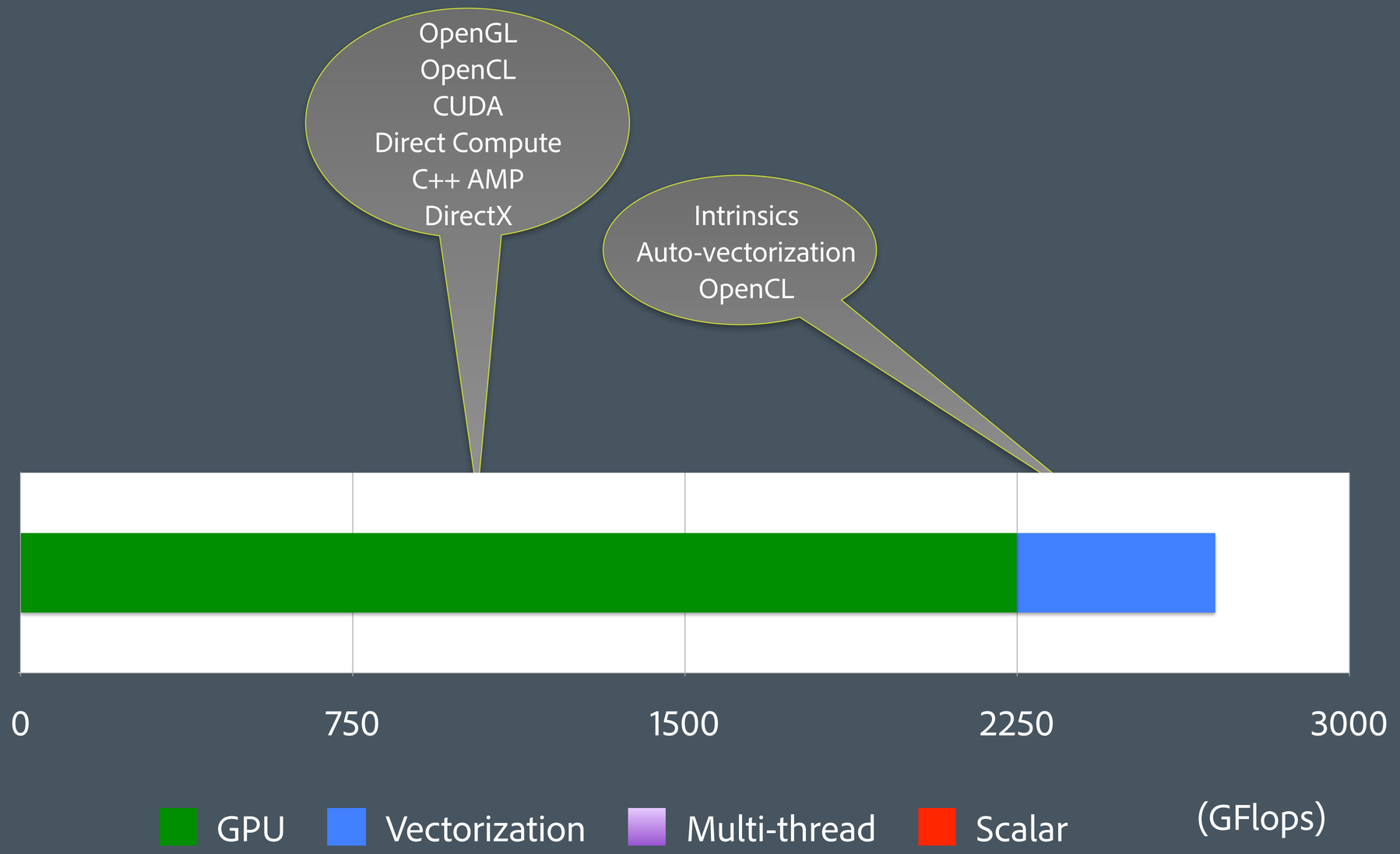

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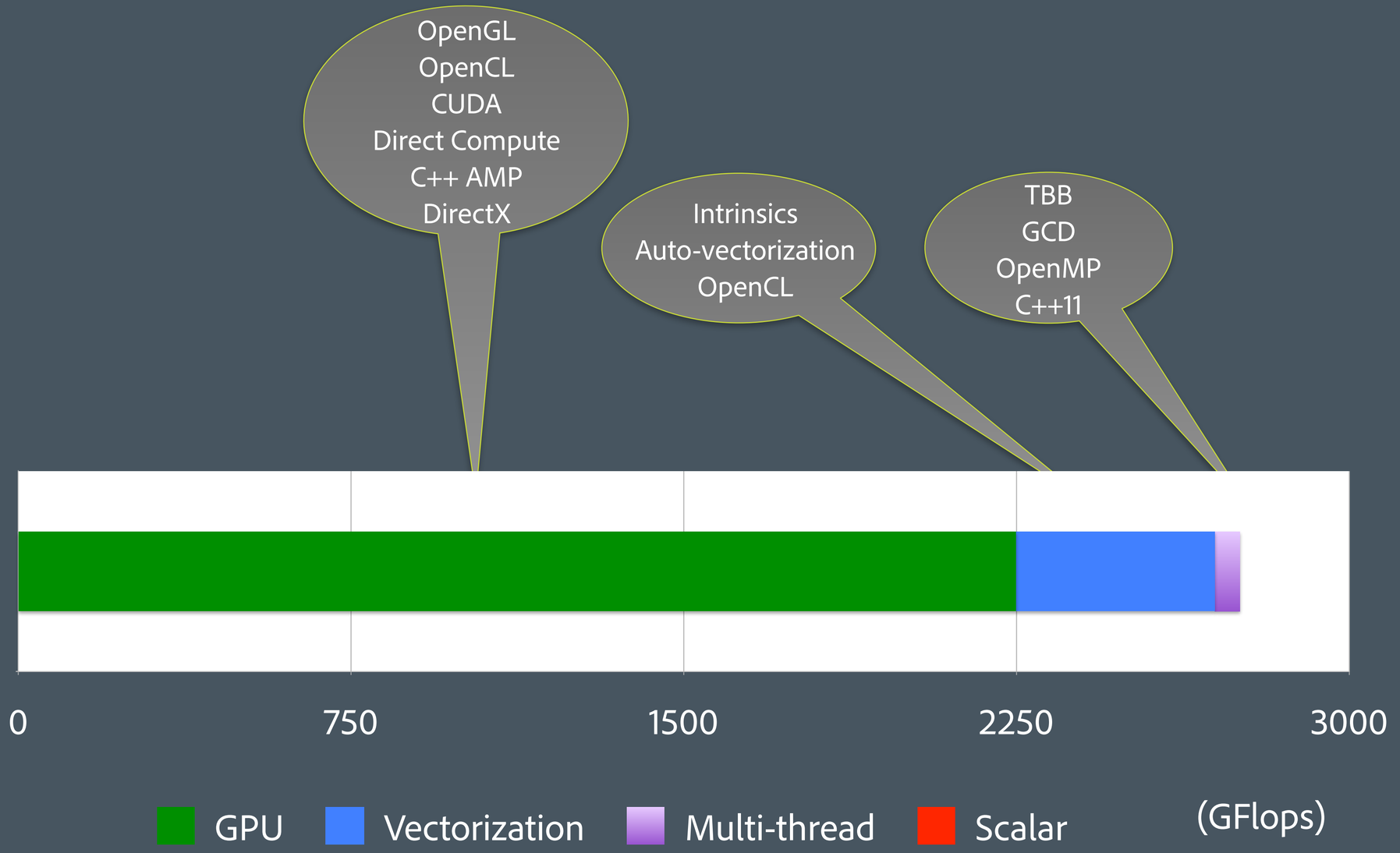

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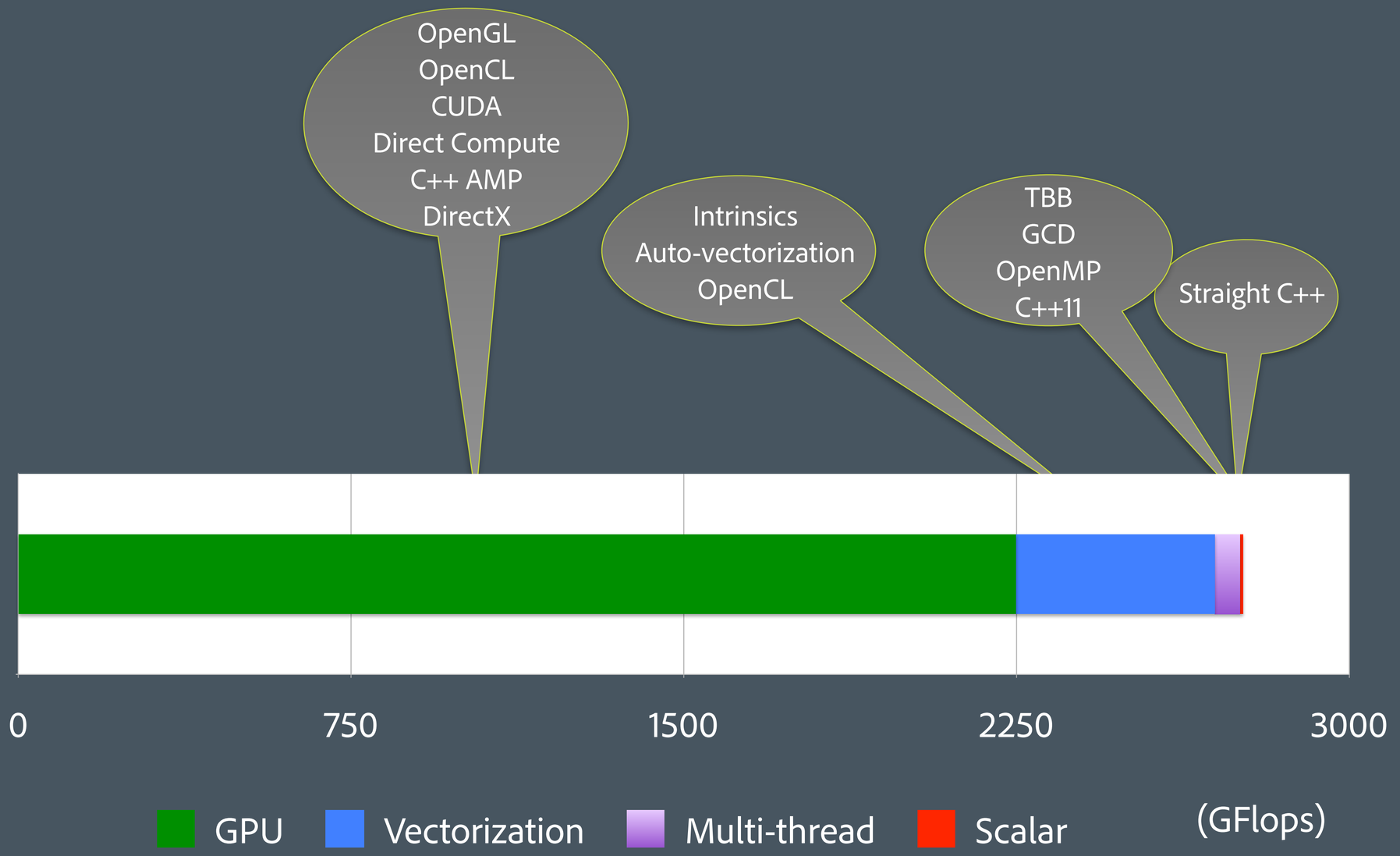

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Threads and Tasks

- Thread: Execution environment consisting of a stack and processor state running in parallel to other threads
- Task: A unit of work, often a function, to be executed on a thread

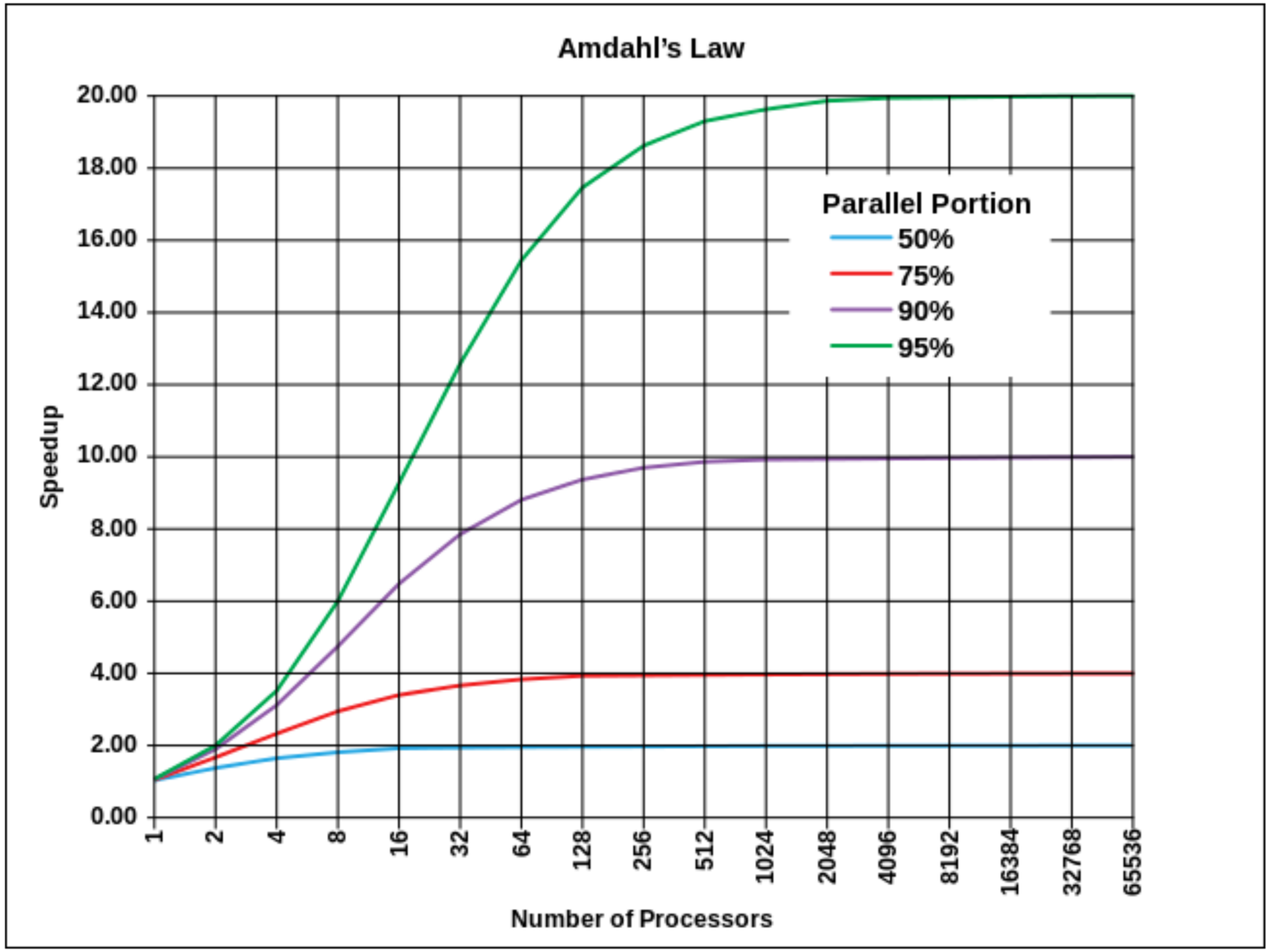
- Tasks are scheduled on a thread pool to optimize machine utilization

C++14 and Tasks

- C++14 does not have a task system
  - Threads
  - Futures (more on this)

Amdahl's Law

$$S(N) = \frac{1}{(1-P) + \frac{P}{N}}$$



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amdahl%27s_law

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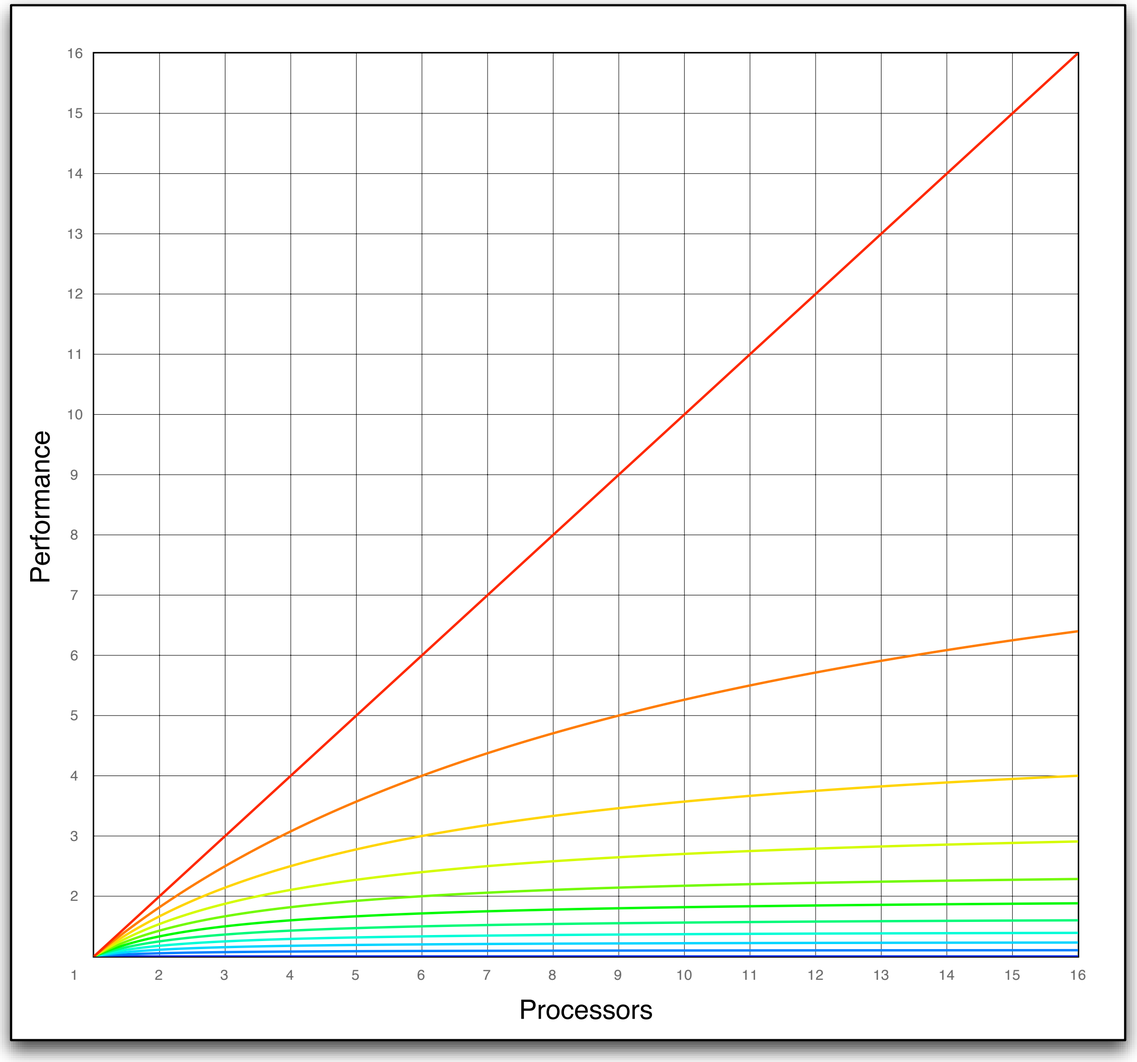
Amdahl's Law



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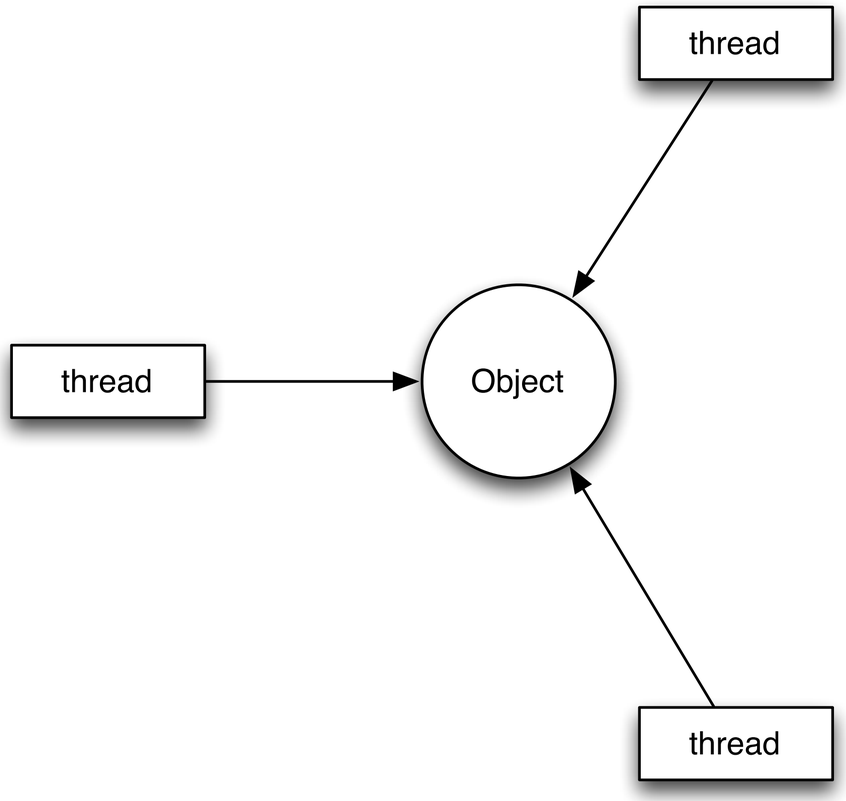
What Makes It Slow

- Starvation
- Latency
- Overhead
- Wait

Why No Raw Synchronization Primitives?



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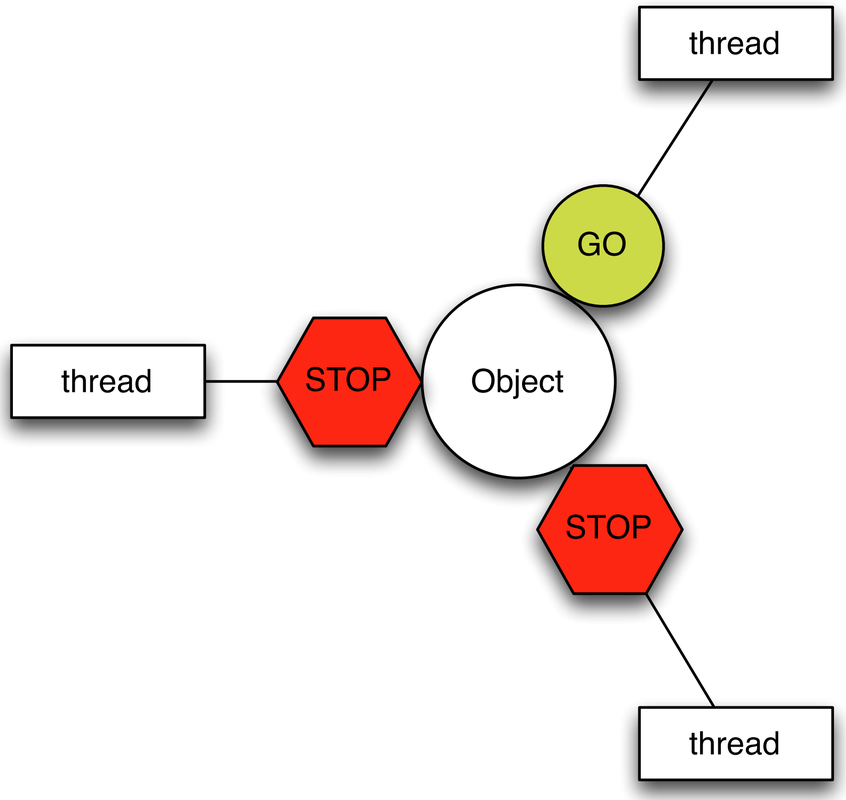

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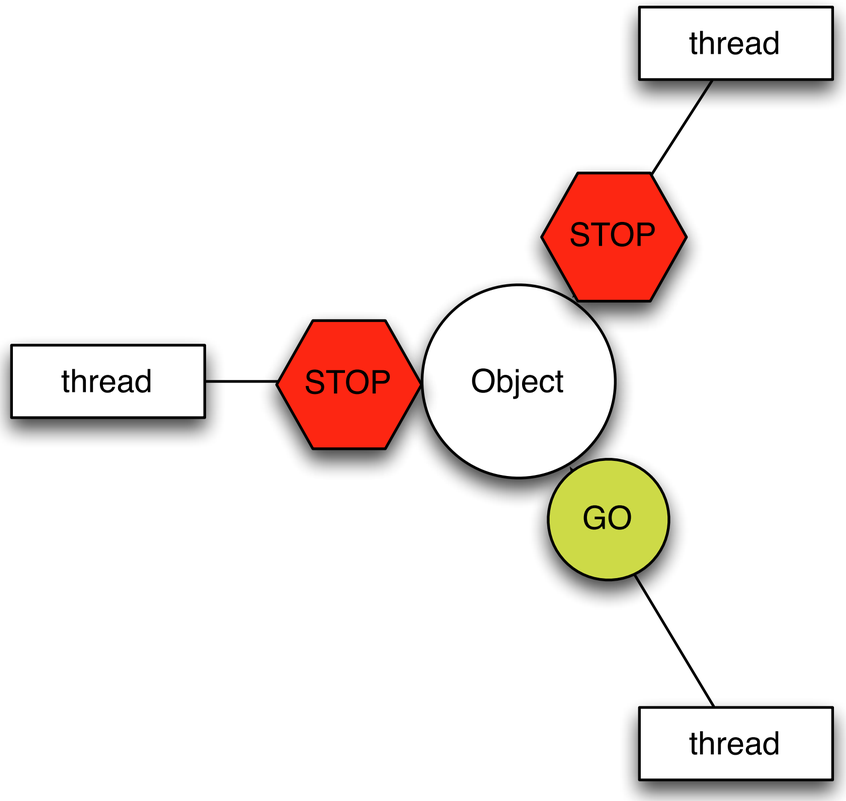

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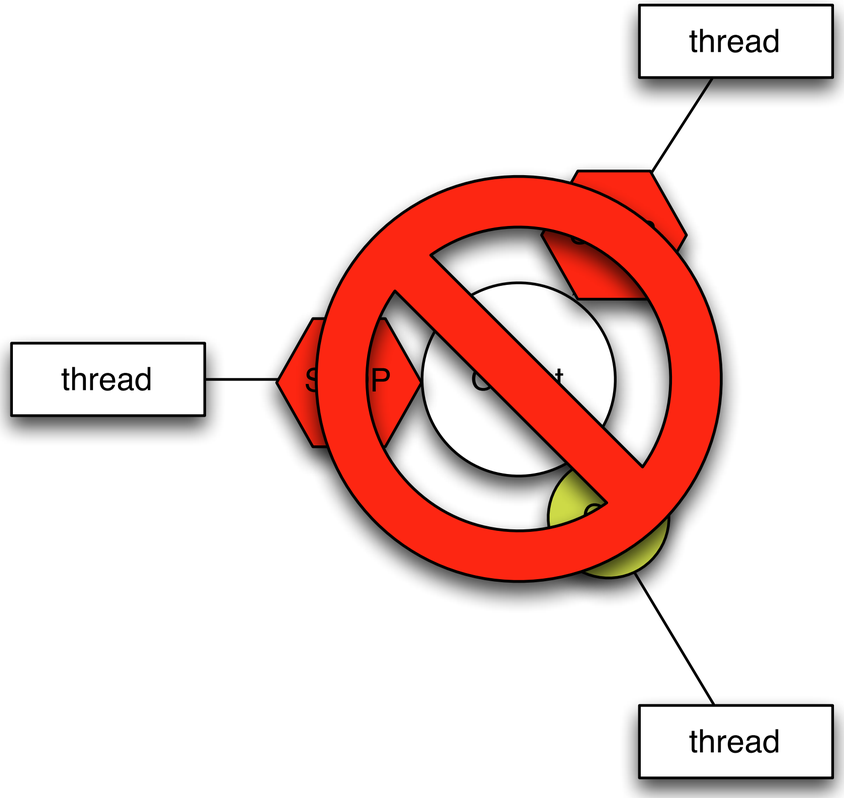


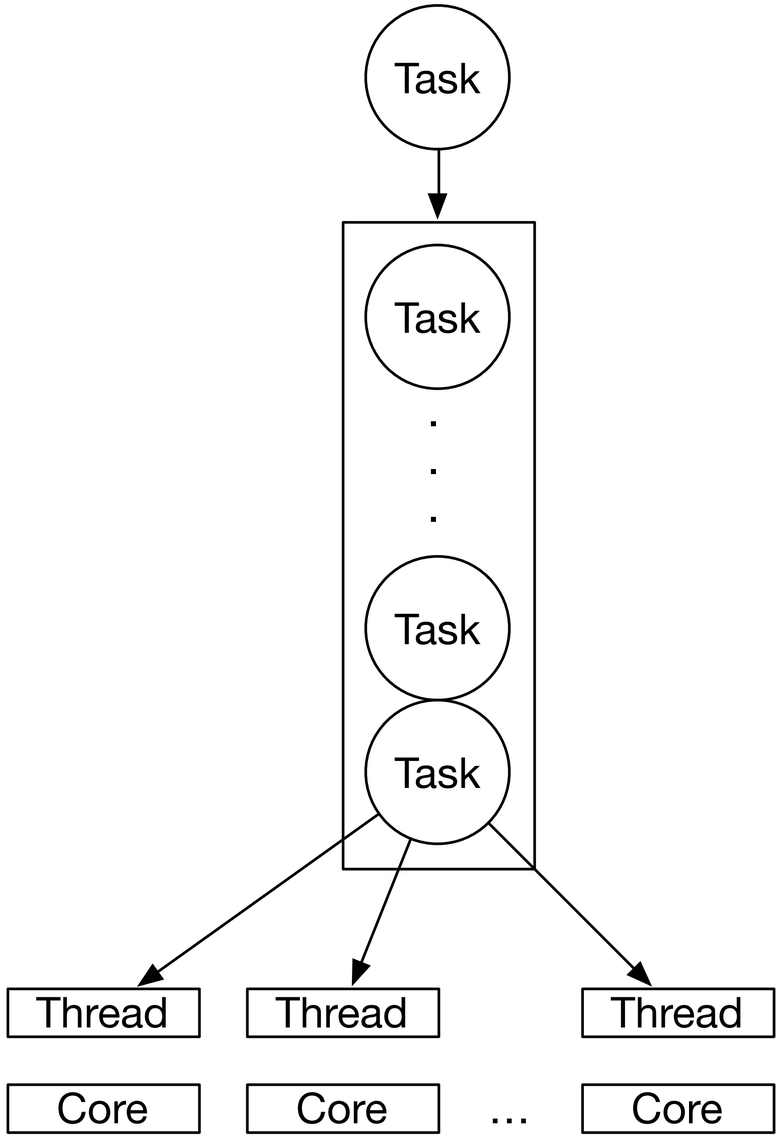
Minimize Locks

Minimize Locks

Building a Task System

- Portable Reference Implementation in C++14
  - Windows - Window Thread Pool and PPL
  - Apple - Grand Central Dispatch (libdispatch)
    - open source, runs on Linux and Android
  - Intel TBB - many platforms
    - open source
  - HPX - many platforms
    - open source

Building a Task System



http://docs.oracle.com/cd/E19253-01/816-5137/ggedn/index.html

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Building a Task System

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    void pop(function<void()>& x) {
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         while (_q.empty()) _ready.wait(lock);
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    template<typename F>
    void push(F&& f) {
        {
            lock_t lock{_mutex};
            _q.emplace_back(forward<F>(f));
        }
        _ready.notify_one();
    }
};
```

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    task_system() {
        for (unsigned n = 0; n != _count; ++n) {
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Building a Task System

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class notification_queue {
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    bool                    _done{false};
    mutex                   _mutex;
    condition_variable      _ready;

  public:
    void done() {
        {
            unique_lock<mutex> lock{_mutex};
            _done = true;
        }
        _ready.notify_all();
    }

    bool pop(function<void()>& x) {
        lock_t lock{_mutex};
         while (_q.empty() && !_done) _ready.wait(lock);
         if (_q.empty()) return false;
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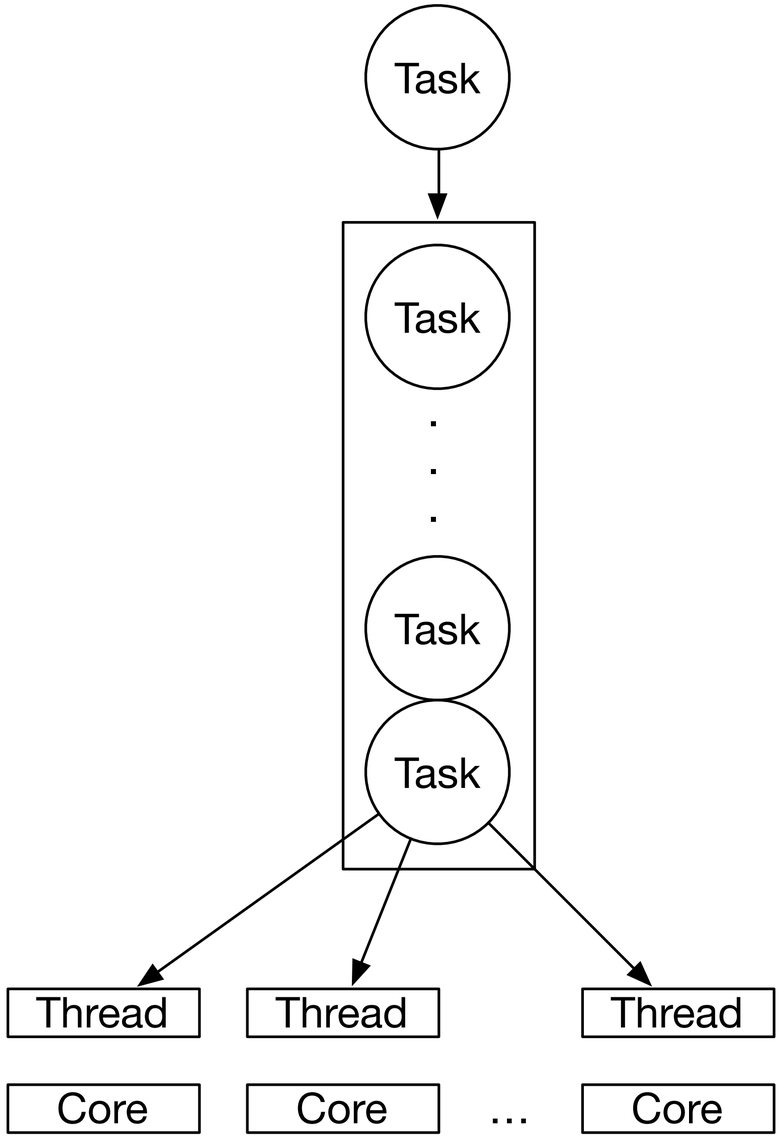

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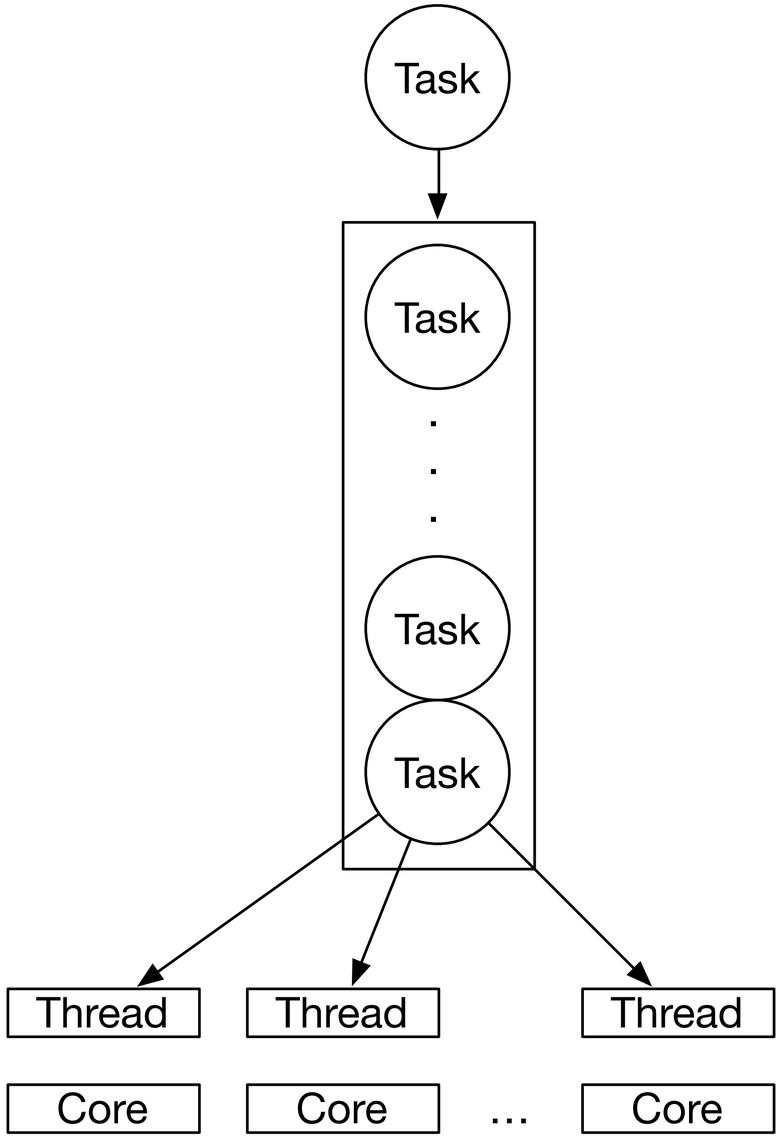

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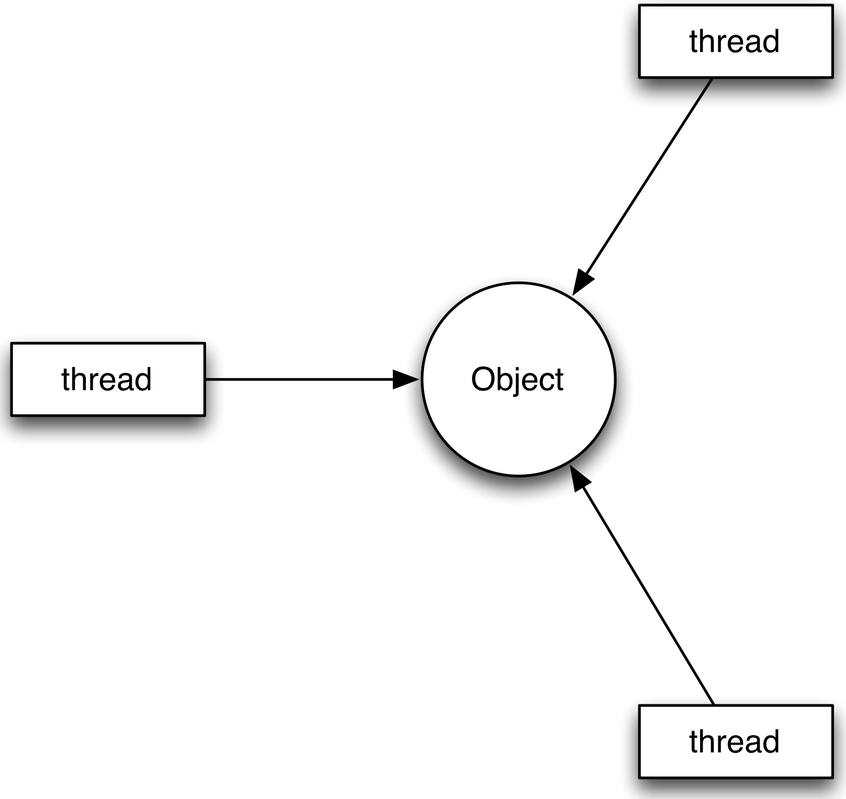

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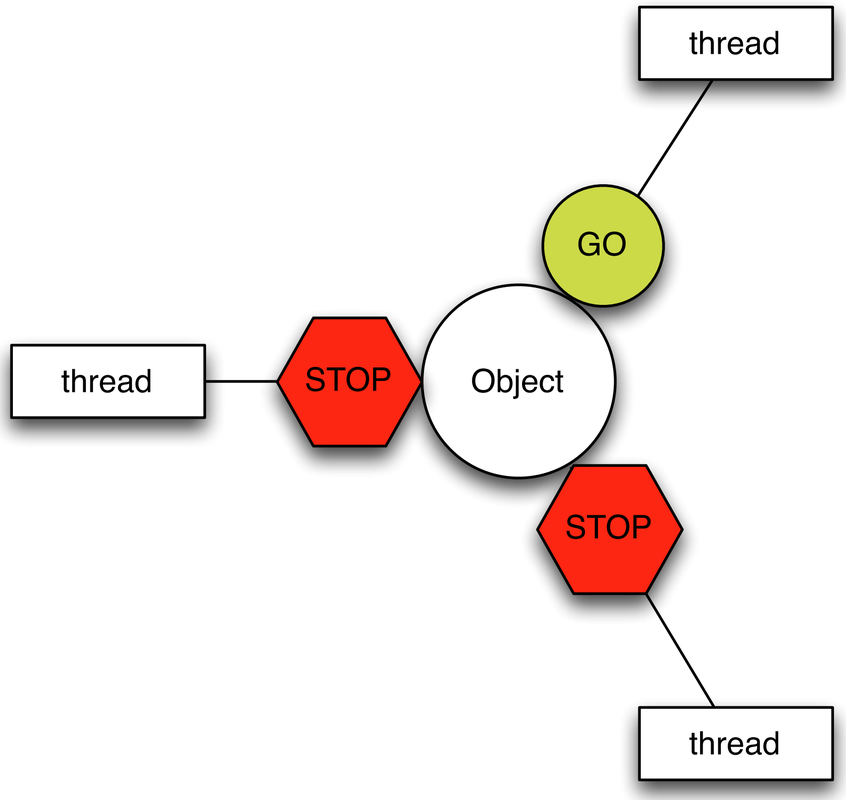

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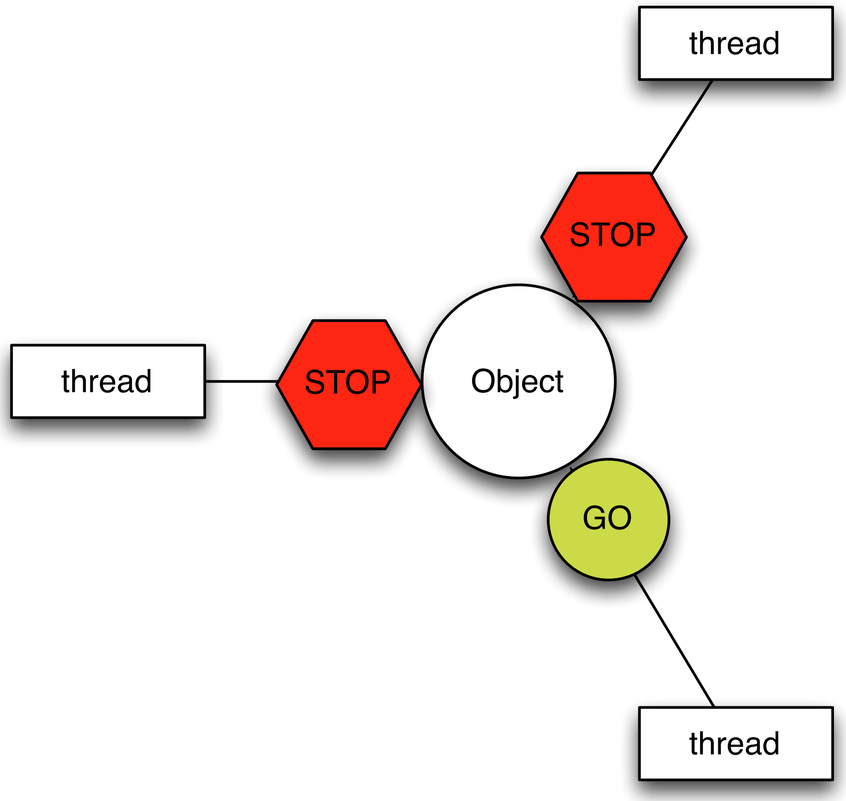

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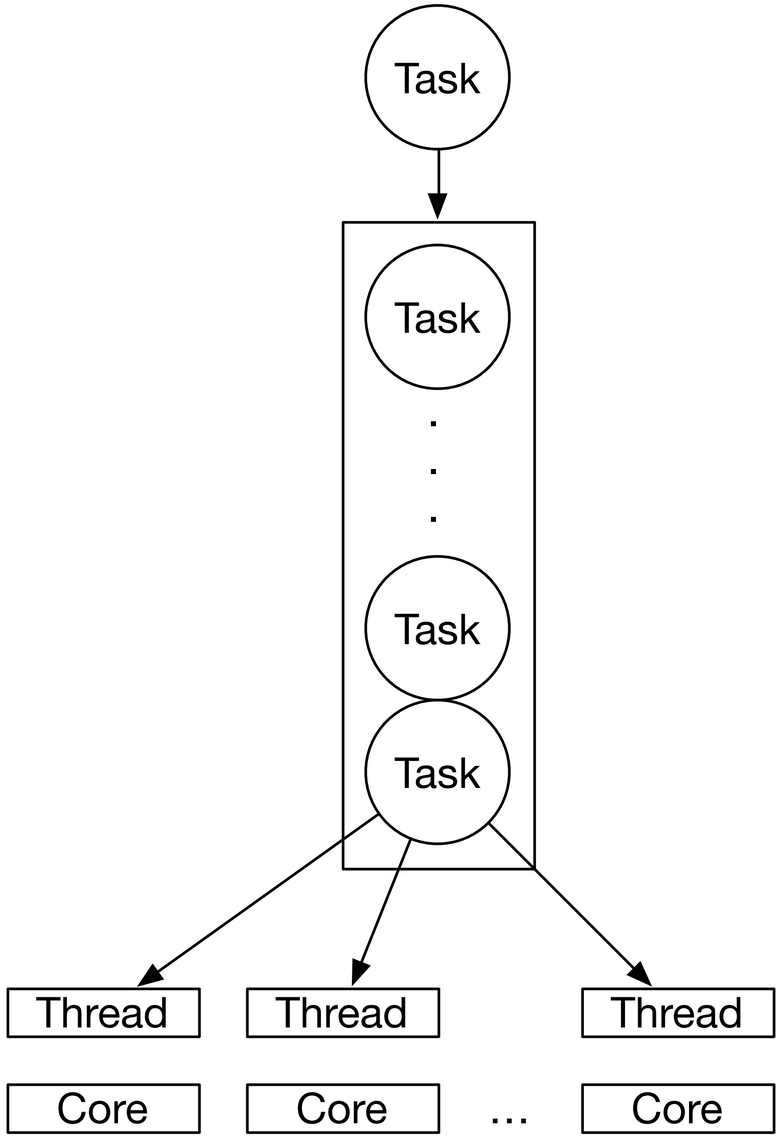

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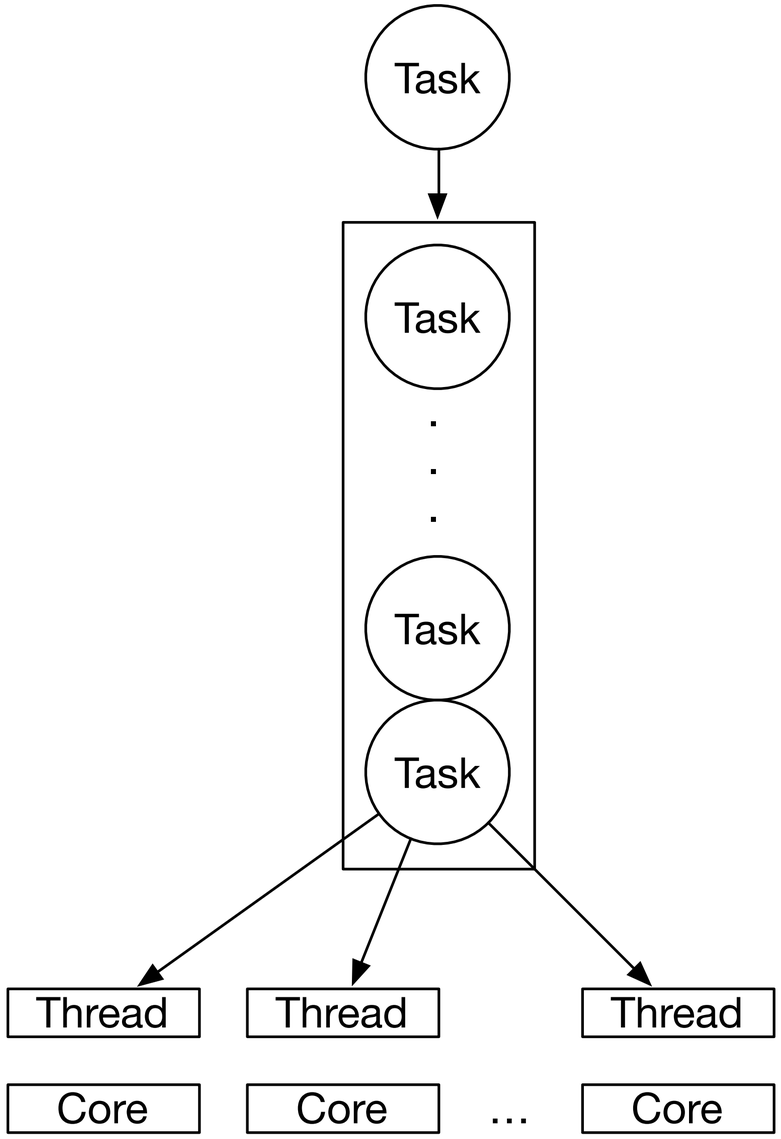

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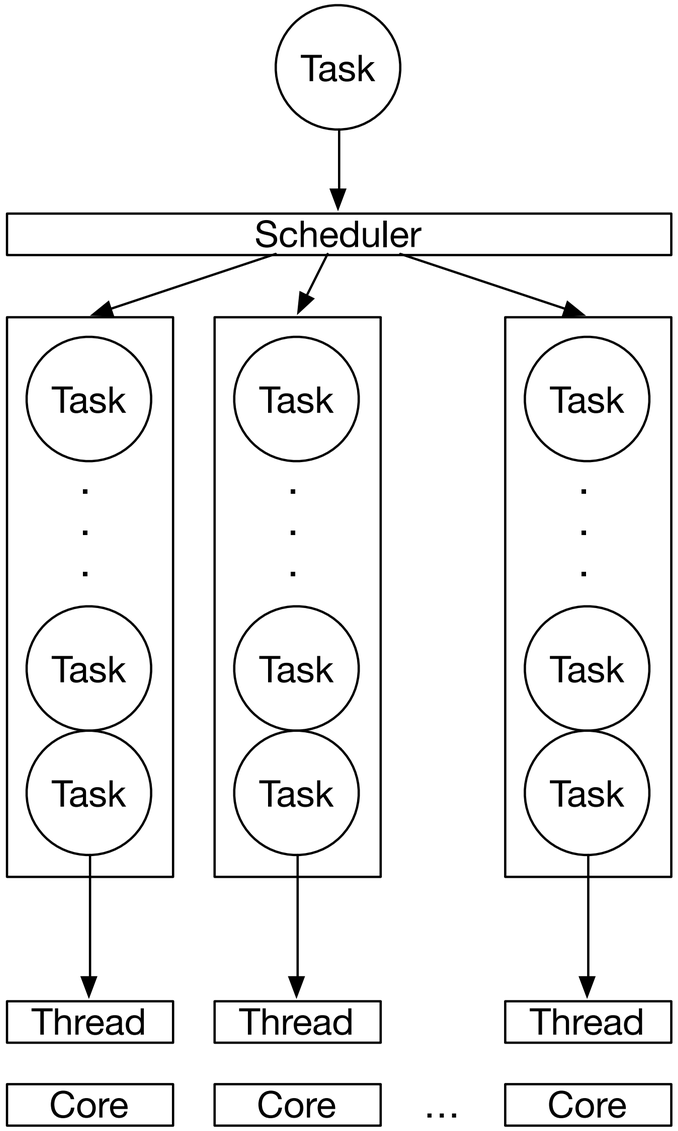

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    atomic<unsigned>            _index{0};

 void run(unsigned i) {
        while (true) {
            function<void()> f;
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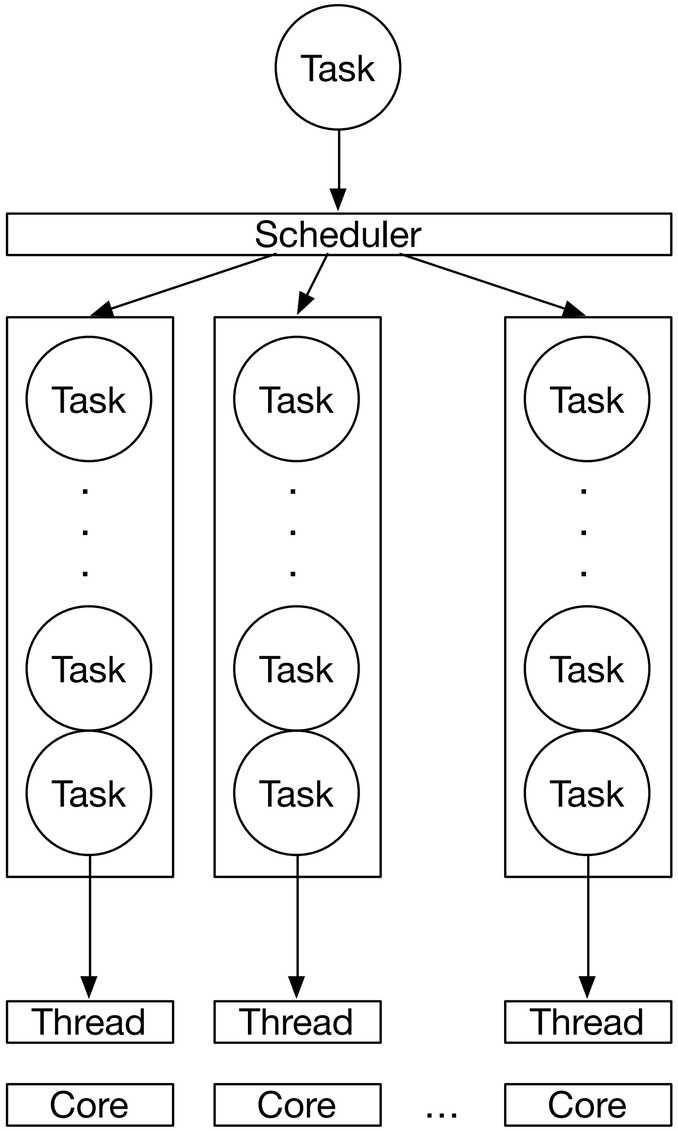

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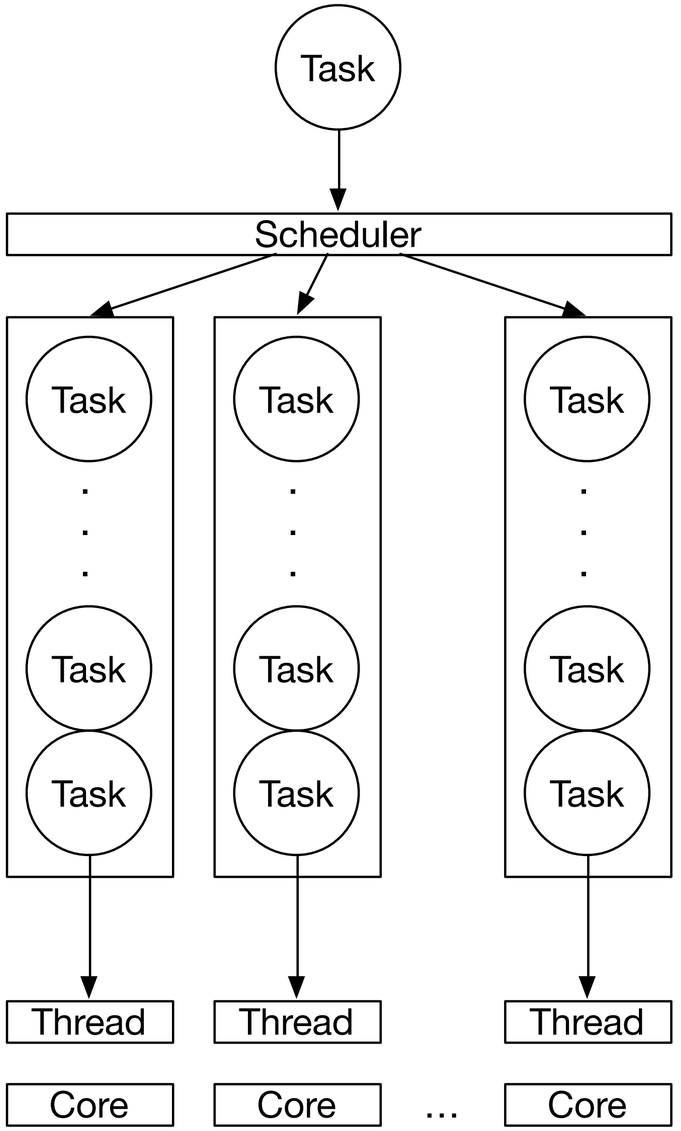

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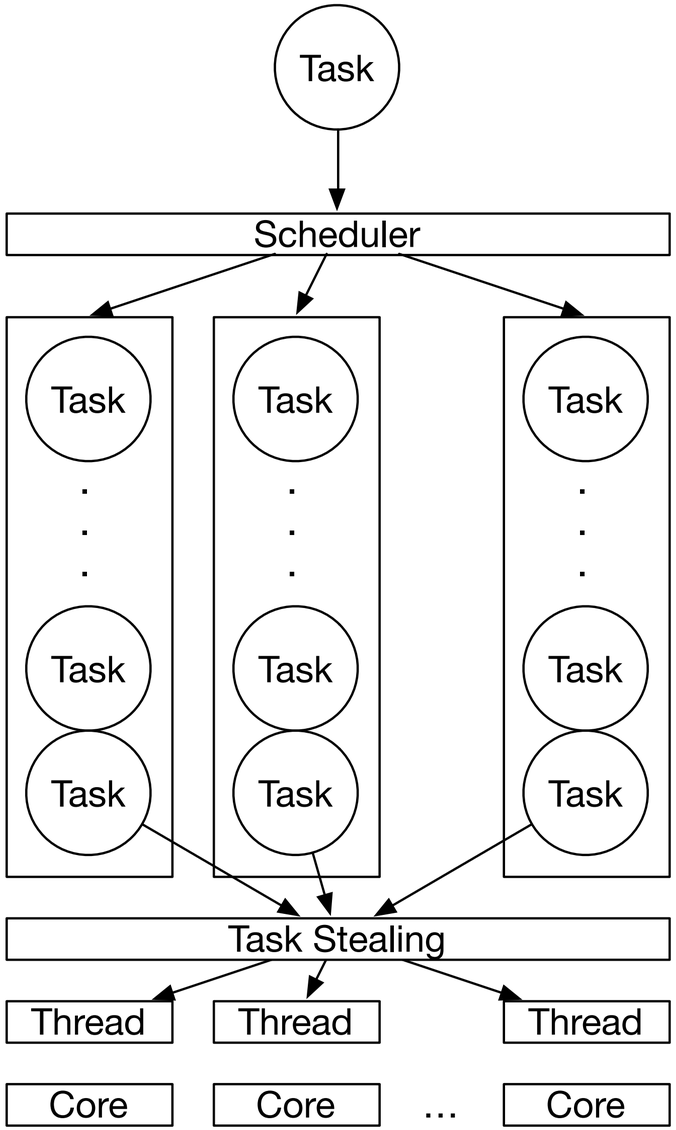

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        lock_t lock{_mutex, try_to_lock};
        if (!lock || _q.empty()) return false;
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    void done() {
        {
            unique lock<mutex> lock{ mutex};
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            if (!lock) return false;
            _q.emplace_back(forward<F>(f));
        }
        _ready.notify_one();
        return true;
    }

    void done() {
        {
            unique lock<mutex> lock{ mutex};
```

Building a Task System

```
    void run(unsigned i) {
        while (true) {
            function<void()> f;

            for (unsigned n = 0; n != _count; ++n) {
                if (_q[(i + n) % _count].try_pop(f)) break;
            }
            if (!f && !_q[i].pop(f)) break;

            f();
        }
    }

  public:
    task_system() { ... }

    ~task_system() { ... }

    template <typename F>
    void async_(F&& f) {
        auto i = _index++;

        for (unsigned n = 0; n != _count; ++n) {
            if (_q[(i + n) % _count].try_push(forward<F>(f))) return;
        }

        _q[i % _count].push(forward<F>(f));
    }
};
```

Building a Task System

```
    void run(unsigned i) {
        while (true) {
            function<void()> f;

            for (unsigned n = 0; n != _count; ++n) {
                if (_q[(i + n) % _count].try_pop(f)) break;
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            f();
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    }

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    task_system() { ... }

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    template <typename F>
    void async_(F&& f) {
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            if (_q[(i + n) % _count].try_push(forward<F>(f))) return;
        }

        _q[i % _count].push(forward<F>(f));
    }
};
```

Building a Task System

```
    void run(unsigned i) {
        while (true) {
            function<void()> f;

            for (unsigned n = 0; n != _count; ++n) {
                if (_q[(i + n) % _count].try_pop(f)) break;
            }
            if (!f && !_q[i].pop(f)) break;

            f();
        }
    }

  public:
    task_system() { ... }

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    template <typename F>
    void async_(F&& f) {
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            if (_q[(i + n) % _count].try_push(forward<F>(f))) return;
        }

        _q[i % _count].push(forward<F>(f));
    }
};
```
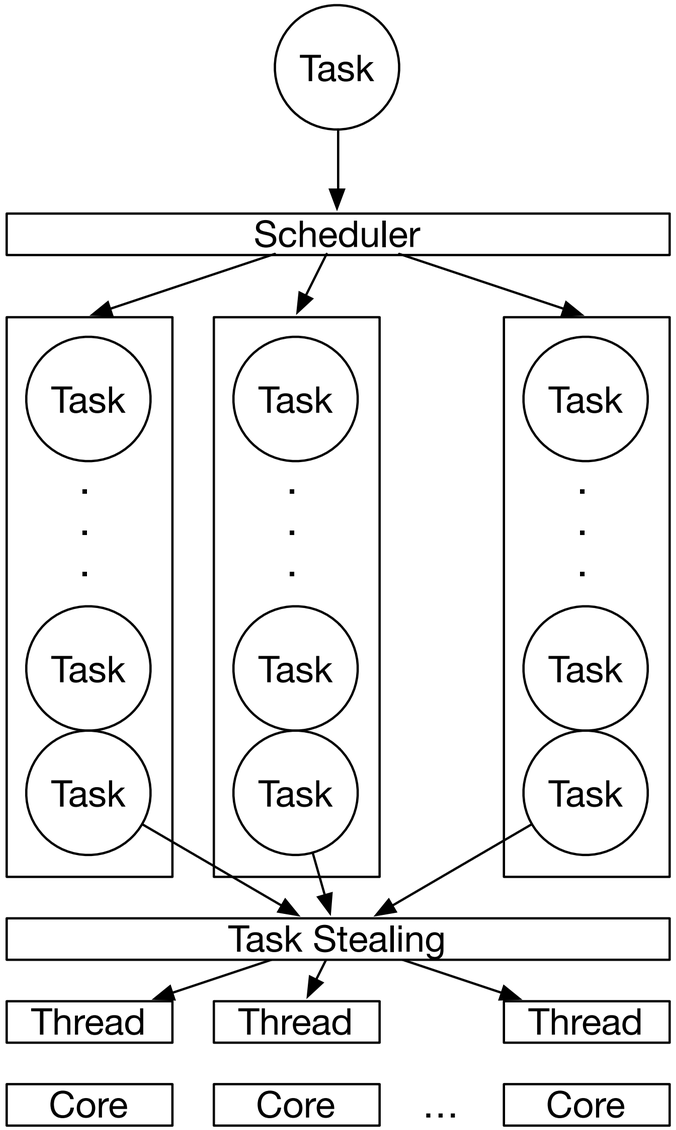
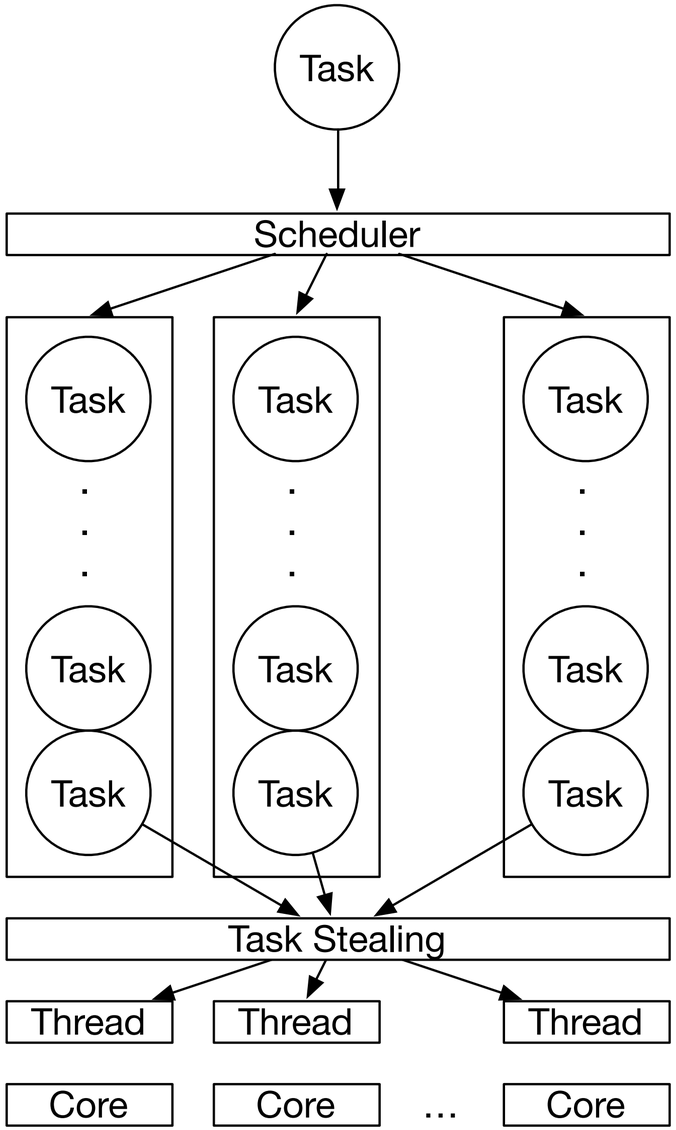

Building a Task System



Adobe

Building a Task System



Adobe

Task System

- Within a few percentage points of Apple's GCD (libdispatch) under load
  - Can be improved by spinning more on try_pop in run

Futures

```
future<cpp_int> x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(1'000'000); });

// Do Something

cout << x.get() << endl;
```

Futures

```
future<cpp_int> x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(1'000'000); });
// Do Something
cout << x.get() << endl;
```

- Fibonacci is often used as an example for parallel algorithms
  - Please stop…

Public Service Announcement - How to Write Fibonacci

```
template <typename T, typename N, typename O>
T power(T x, N n, O op)
{
    if (n == 0) return identity_element(op);

    while ((n & 1) == 0) {
        n >>= 1;
        x = op(x, x);
    }

    T result = x;
    n >>= 1;
    while (n != 0) {
        x = op(x, x);
        if ((n & 1) != 0) result = op(result, x);
        n >>= 1;
    }
    return result;
}
```

Public Service Announcement - How to Write Fibonacci

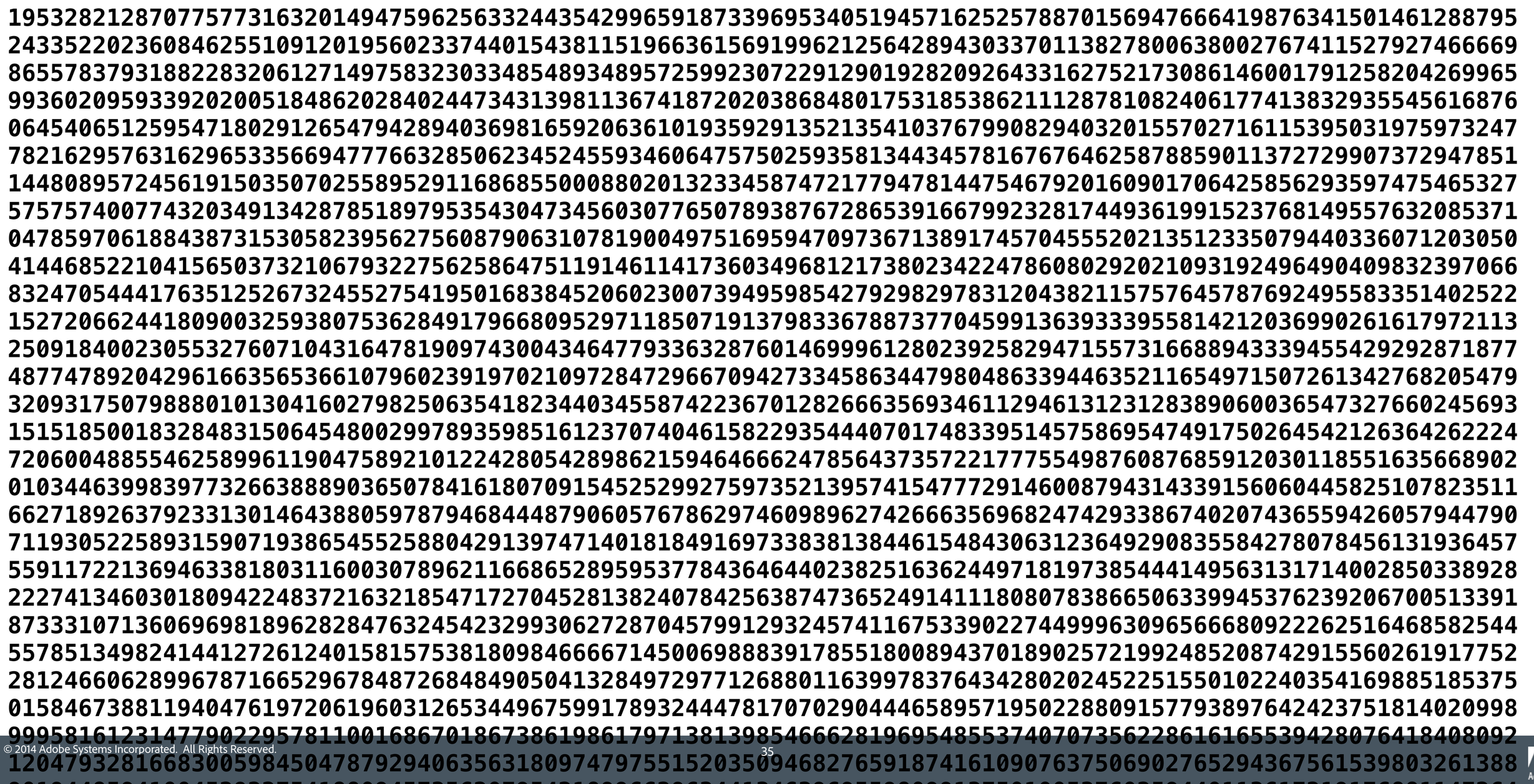
```
template <typename T, typename N, typename O>
T power(T x, N n, O op)
{
    if (n == 0) return identity_element(op);

    while ((n & 1) == 0) {
        n >>= 1;
        x = op(x, x);
    }

    T result = x;
    n >>= 1;
    while (n != 0) {
        x = op(x, x);
        if ((n & 1) != 0) result = op(result, x);
        n >>= 1;
    }
    return result;
}
```

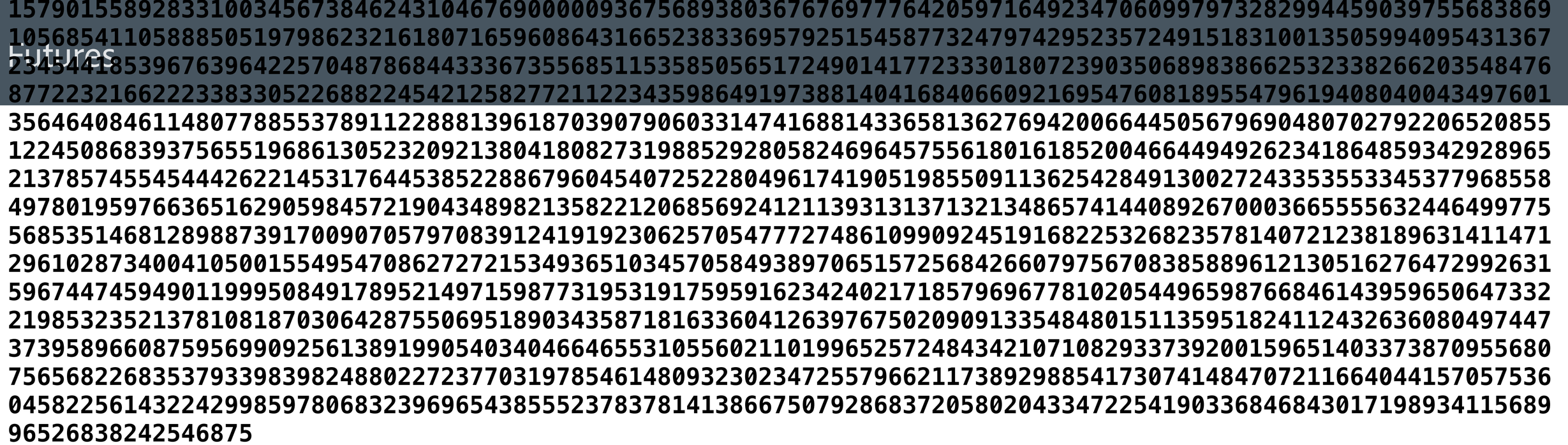
Egyptian Multiplication (Russian Peasant Algorithm)
See “From Mathematics to Generic Programming” - Alex Stepanov and Dan Rose

Public Service Announcement - How to Write Fibonacci

```
template <typename N>
struct multiply_2x2 {
    array<N, 4> operator()(const array<N, 4>& x, const array<N, 4>& y)
    {
        return { x[0] * y[0] + x[1] * y[2], x[0] * y[1] + x[1] * y[3],
                 x[2] * y[0] + x[3] * y[2], x[2] * y[1] + x[3] * y[3] };
    }
};

template <typename N>
array<N, 4> identity_element(const multiply_2x2<N>&) { return { N(1), N(0), N(0), N(1) }; }

template <typename R, typename N>
R fibonacci(N n) {
    if (n == 0) return R(0);
    return power(array<R, 4>{ 1, 1, 1, 0 }, N(n - 1), multiply_2x2<R>())[0];
}
```

Futures





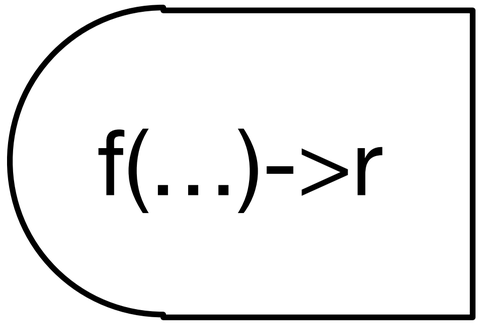
0.72s to calculate
208,988 digits

Adobe

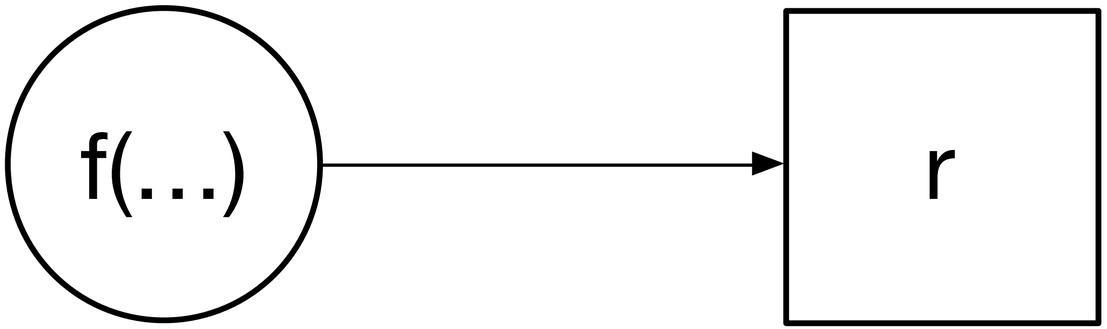
Futures

```
future<cpp_int> x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(1'000'000); });

// Do Something

cout << x.get() << endl;
```

Futures



Futures



Futures

- Futures allow minimal code transformations to express dependencies

Futures: What year is this?

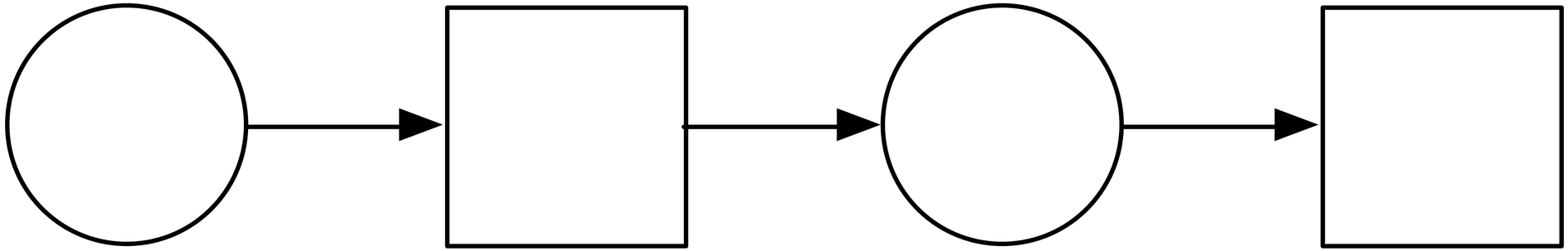
- C++14 futures have:
  - Exception Marshaling
  - Sever Notification (broken promise)

Futures: What year is this?

- C++14 futures lack:
  - Continuations - .then()
  - Joins - when_all()
  - Cancelation
  - Progress Monitoring (Except Ready)
  - …

  - And C++14 futures don't compose (easily) to add these features

Futures: Continuations



Futures: Continuations

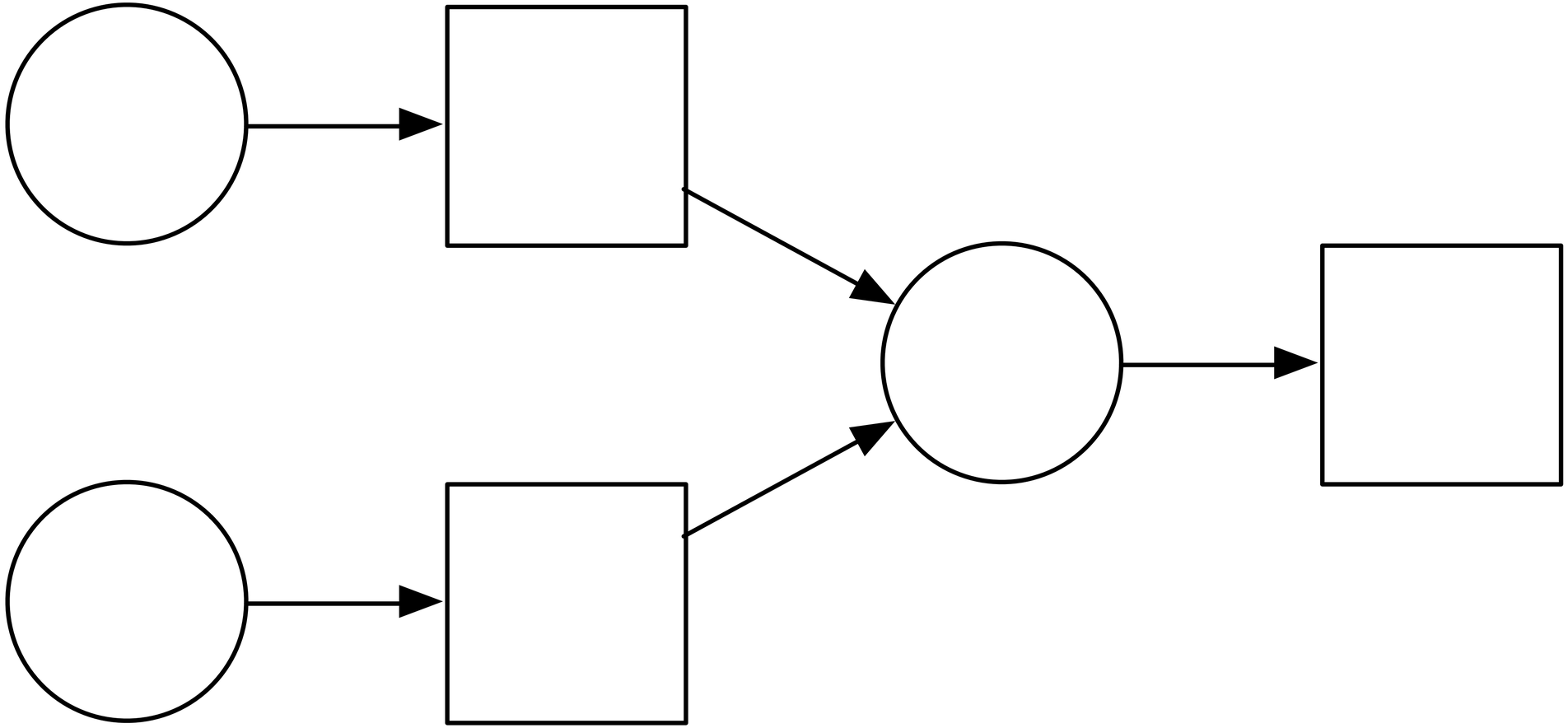
- Blocking on std::future.get() has two problems
  - One thread resource is consumed, increasing contention
  - Any subsequent non-dependent calculations on the task are also blocked

- C++14 doesn't have continuations
  - GCD has serialized queues and groups
  - PPL has chained tasks
  - TBB has flow graphs
  - TS Concurrency will have them
    - Boost futures have them now

Futures: Continuations

```
future<cpp_int> x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(1'000'000); });

future<void> y = x.then([](future<cpp_int> x){ cout << x.get() << endl; });

// Do something

y.wait();
```

Futures



Futures: Continuations

```
auto x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(1'000'000); });
auto y = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(2'000'000); });

auto z = when_all(std::move(x), std::move(y)).then([](auto f){
    auto t = f.get();
    return cpp_int(get<0>(t).get() * get<1>(t).get());
});

cout << z.get() << endl;
```

Futures: Continuations

```
auto x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(1'000'000); });
auto y = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(2'000'000); });

auto z = when_all(std::move(x), std::move(y)).then([](auto f){
    auto t = f.get();
    return cpp_int(get<0>(t).get() * get<1>(t).get());
});

cout << z.get() << endl;
```

f is a future tuple of futures

Futures: Continuations

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auto x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(1'000'000); });
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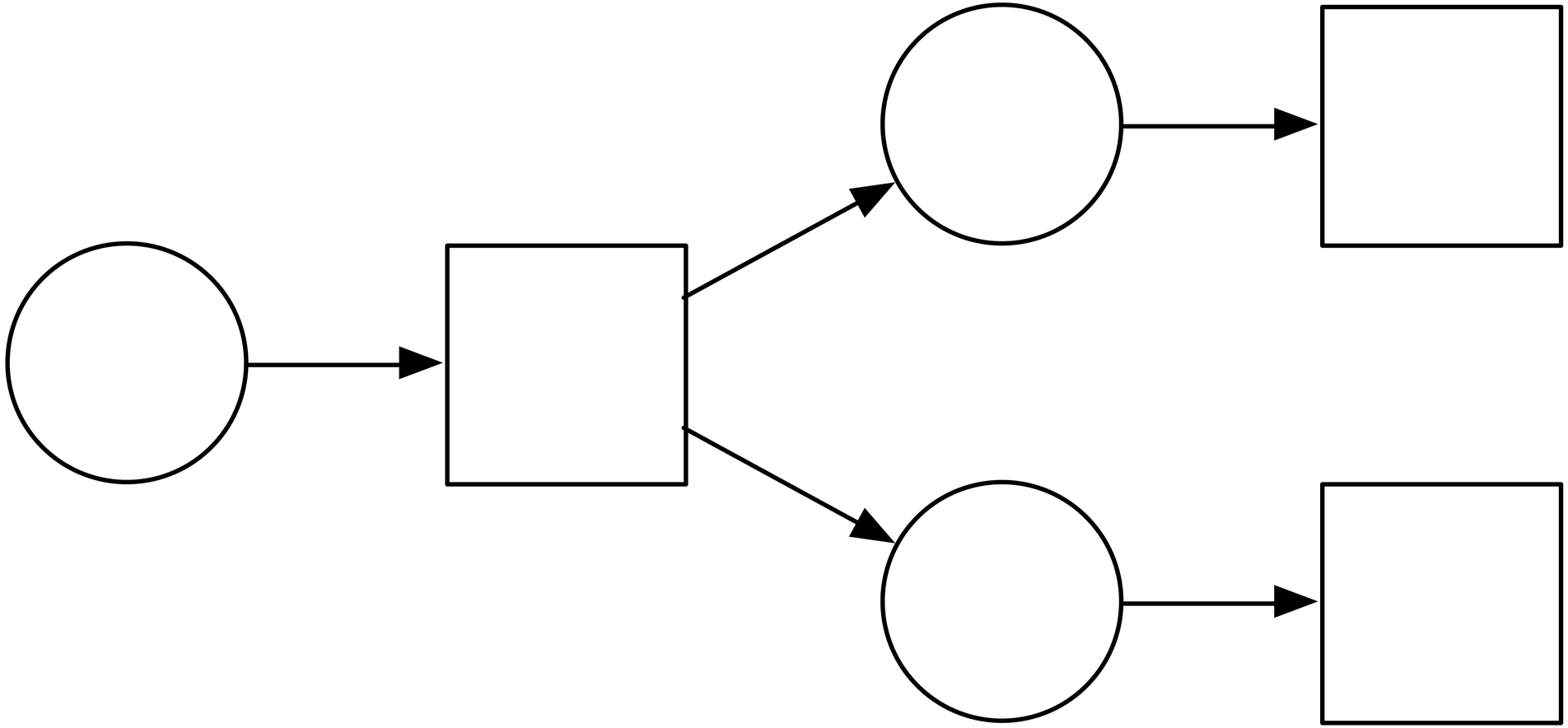
auto z = when_all(std::move(x), std::move(y)).then([](auto f){
    auto t = f.get();
    return cpp_int(get<0>(t).get() * get<1>(t).get());
});

cout << z.get() << endl;
```

f is a future tuple of futures

result is 626,964 digits

Futures



Futures: Continuations

```
future<cpp_int> x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(100); });

future<cpp_int> y = x.then([](future<cpp_int> x){ return cpp_int(x.get() * 2); });
future<cpp_int> z = x.then([](future<cpp_int> x){ return cpp_int(x.get() / 15); });
```

Futures: Continuations

```
future<cpp_int> x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(100); });

future<cpp_int> y = x.then([](future<cpp_int> x){ return cpp_int(x.get() * 2); });
future<cpp_int> z = x.then([](future<cpp_int> x){ return cpp_int(x.get() / 15); });
```

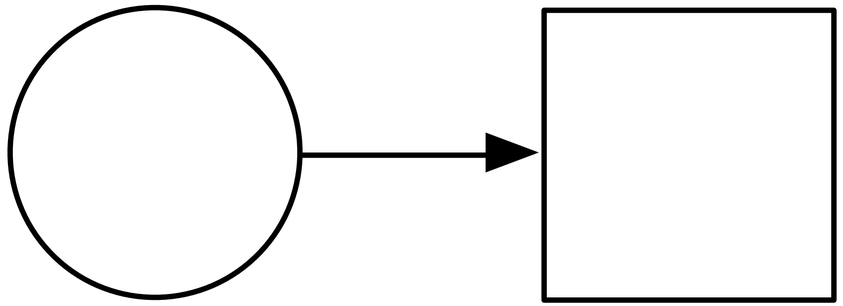
Thread 1: signal SIGABRT

Assertion failed: (px != 0), function operator->, file shared_ptr.hpp, line 648.

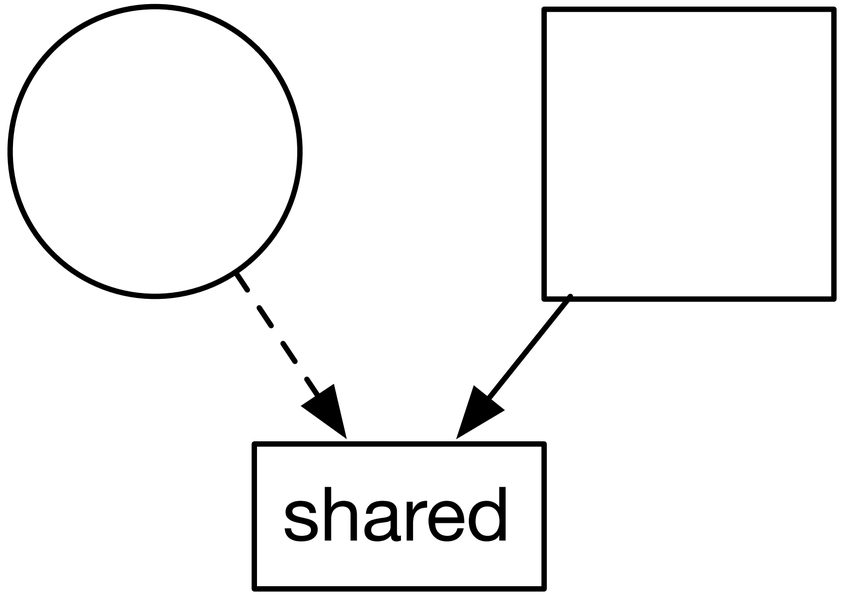
Continuations

- Desired behavior
  - A future should behave as a *regular* type - a token for the actual value
    - shared_futures let me pass them around and do multiple get() operations, but don't fix continuations
      - [at least with boost]
  - Releasing the last instance of a future should cancel (no-op) any unexecuted, contributing, operations

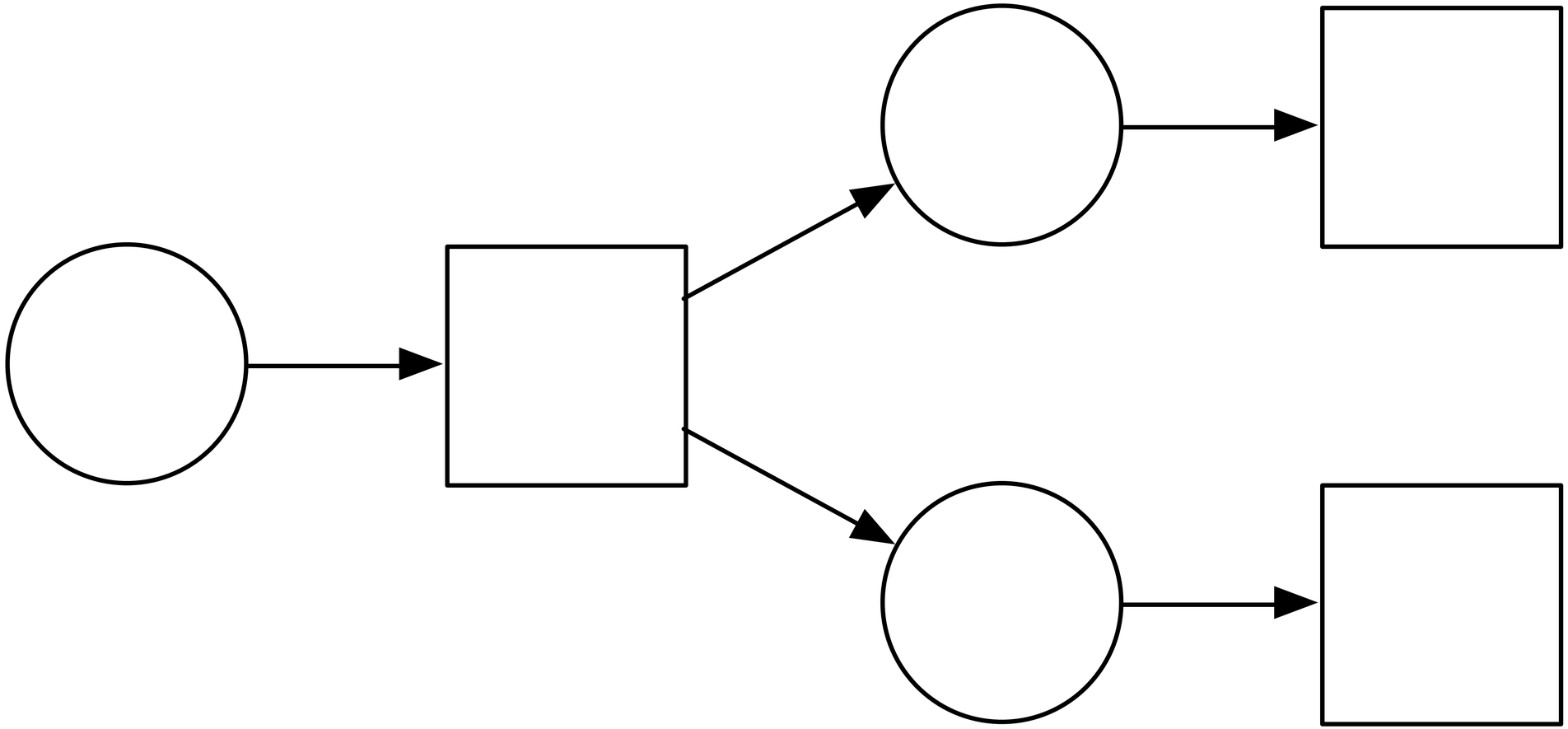
Futures



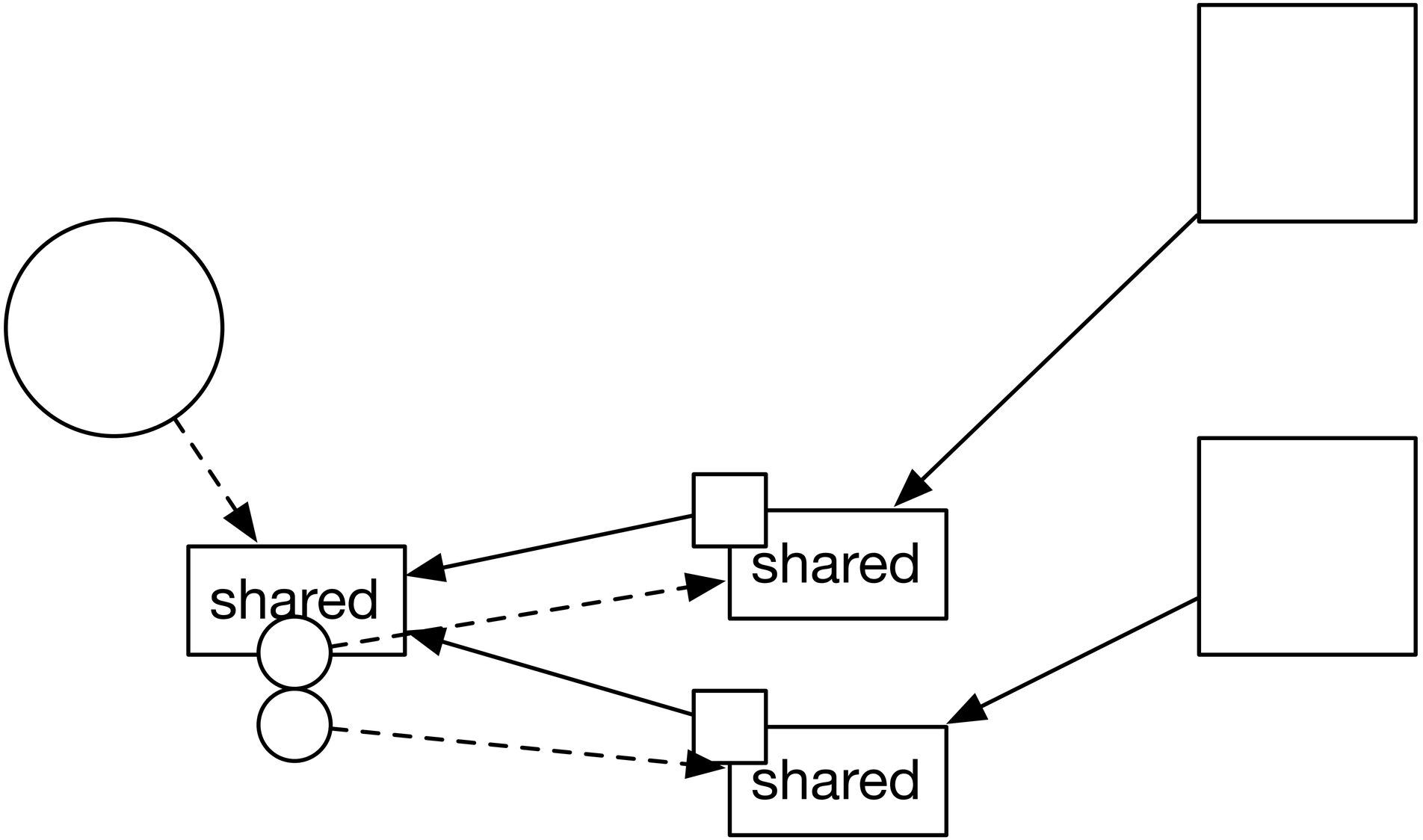
Futures



Futures



Futures



Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename>
struct result_of_; //not defined

template <typename R, typename... Args>
struct result_of_<R(Args...)> { using type = R; };

template <typename F>
using result_of_t_ = typename result_of_<F>::type;
```

Futures: Building, The

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template <typename>
struct result_of_; //not defined

template <typename R, typename... Args>
struct result_of_<R(Args...)> { using type = R; };

template <typename F>
using result_of_t_ = typename result_of_<F>::type;
```

result_of_t_<int(double)> -> int

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename> class packaged_task; //not defined

template <typename R>
class future {
    shared_ptr</* ... */> _p;

 public:
    future() = default;

    template <typename F>
    auto then(F&& f) { }

    const R& get() const { }
};

template<typename R, typename ...Args >
class packaged_task<R (Args...)> {
    weak_ptr</* ... */> _p;

 public:
    packaged_task() = default;

    template <typename... A>
    void operator()(A&&... args) const { }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

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    template <typename F>
    auto then(F&& f) { }

    const R& get() const { }
};

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    template <typename... A>
    void operator()(A&&... args) const { }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename> class packaged_task; //not defined
template <typename> class future;

template <typename S, typename F>
auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>>;

template <typename R>
class future {
    shared_ptr</* ... */> _p;

    template <typename S, typename F>
    friend auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>>;

    explicit future(shared_ptr</* ... */> p) : _p(move(p)) { }
    /* ... */
};

template<typename R, typename ...Args >
class packaged_task<R (Args...)> {
    weak_ptr</* ... */> _p;

    template <typename S, typename F>
    friend auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>>;

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    explicit future(shared_ptr</* ... */> p) : _p(move(p)) { }
    /* ... */
};

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    weak_ptr</* ... */> _p;

    template <typename S, typename F>
    friend auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>>;

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Futures: Building, The

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    /* ... */
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename S, typename F>
auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>> {
    auto p = make_shared<shared<S>>(forward<F>(f));
    return make_pair(packaged_task<S>(p), future<result_of_t_<S>>(p));
}
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename S, typename F>
auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>> {
    auto p = make_shared<shared<S>>(forward<F>(f));
    return make_pair(packaged_task<S>(p), future<result_of_t_<S>>(p));
}
```

```
package<int(double)>(f) -> { void(double), future<int> }
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename R>
struct shared_base {
    vector<R> _r; // optional
    mutex _mutex;
    condition_variable _ready;
    vector<function<void()>> _then;

    virtual ~shared_base() { }

    /* ... */
};

template <typename> struct shared; // not defined

template <typename R, typename... Args>
struct shared<R(Args...)> : shared_base<R> {
    function<R(Args...)> _f;

    template<typename F>
    shared(F&& f) : _f(forward<F>(f)) { }

    /* ... */
};
```

Futures: Building, The

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template <typename R>
struct shared_base {
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    template<typename F>
    shared(F&& f) : _f(forward<F>(f)) { }

    /* ... */
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template<typename R, typename ...Args >
class packaged_task<R (Args...)> {
    weak_ptr<shared<R(Args...)>> _p;

    template <typename S, typename F>
    friend auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>>;

    explicit packaged_task(weak_ptr<shared<R(Args...)>> p) : _p(move(p)) { }

 public:
    packaged_task() = default;

    template <typename... A>
    void operator()(A&&... args) const {
        auto p = _p.lock();
        if (p) (*p)(forward<A>(args)...);
    }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

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class packaged_task<R (Args...)> {
    weak_ptr<shared<R(Args...)>> _p;

    template <typename S, typename F>
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Futures: Building, The

```
template<typename R, typename ...Args >
class packaged_task<R (Args...)> {
    weak_ptr<shared<R(Args...)>> _p;

    template <typename S, typename F>
    friend auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>>;

    explicit packaged_task(weak_ptr<shared<R(Args...)>> p) : _p(move(p)) { }

 public:
    packaged_task() = default;

    template <typename... A>
    void operator()(A&&... args) const {
        auto p = _p.lock();
        if (p) (*p)(forward<A>(args)...);
    }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename R, typename... Args>
struct shared<R(Args...)> : shared_base<R> {
    function<R(Args...)> _f;

    template<typename F>
    shared(F&& f) : _f(forward<F>(f)) { }

    template <typename... A>
    void operator()(A&&... args) {
        this->set(_f(forward<A>(args)...));
        _f = nullptr;
    }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename R, typename... Args>
struct shared<R(Args...)> : shared_base<R> {
    function<R(Args...)> _f;

    template<typename F>
    shared(F&& f) : _f(forward<F>(f)) { }

    template <typename... A>
    void operator()(A&&... args) {
        this->set(_f(forward<A>(args)...));
        _f = nullptr;
    }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename R>
struct shared_base {
    vector<R> _r; // optional
    mutex _mutex;
    condition_variable _ready;
    vector<function<void()>> _then;

    virtual ~shared_base() { }

    void set(R&& r) {
        vector<function<void()>> then;
        {
            lock_t lock{_mutex};
            _r.push_back(move(r));
            swap(_then, then);
        }
        _ready.notify_all();
        for (const auto& f : then) _system.async_(move(f));
    }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

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template <typename R>
struct shared_base {
    vector<R> _r; // optional
    mutex _mutex;
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        }
        _ready.notify_all();
        for (const auto& f : then) _system.async_(move(f));
    }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename R>
class future {
    shared_ptr<shared_base<R>> _p;

    template <typename S, typename F>
    friend auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>>;

    explicit future(shared_ptr<shared_base<R>> p) : _p(move(p)) { }
 public:
    future() = default;

    template <typename F>
    auto then(F&& f) {
        auto pack = package<result_of_t<F(R)>()>([p = _p, f = forward<F>(f)](){
            return f(p->_r.back());
        });
        _p->then(move(pack.first));
        return pack.second;
    }

    const R& get() const { return _p->get(); }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename R>
class future {
    shared_ptr<shared_base<R>> _p;

    template <typename S, typename F>
    friend auto package(F&& f) -> pair<packaged_task<S>, future<result_of_t_<S>>>;

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Futures: Building, The

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Futures: Building, The

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            return f(p->_r.back());
        });
        _p->then(move(pack.first));
        return pack.second;
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    const R& get() const { return _p->get(); }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename R>
struct shared_base {
    vector<R> _r; // optional
    mutex _mutex;
    condition_variable _ready;
    vector<function<void()>> _then;

    virtual ~shared_base() { }

    void set(R&& r) {…}

    template <typename F>
    void then(F&& f) {
        bool resolved{false};
        {
            lock_t lock{_mutex};
            if (_r.empty()) _then.push_back(forward<F>(f));
            else resolved = true;
        }
        if (resolved) _system.async_(move(f));
    }

    const R& get() {
        lock_t lock{_mutex};
        while (_r.empty()) _ready.wait(lock);
        return _r.back();
    }
};
```

Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename R>
struct shared_base {
    vector<R> _r; // optional
    mutex _mutex;
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        return _r.back();
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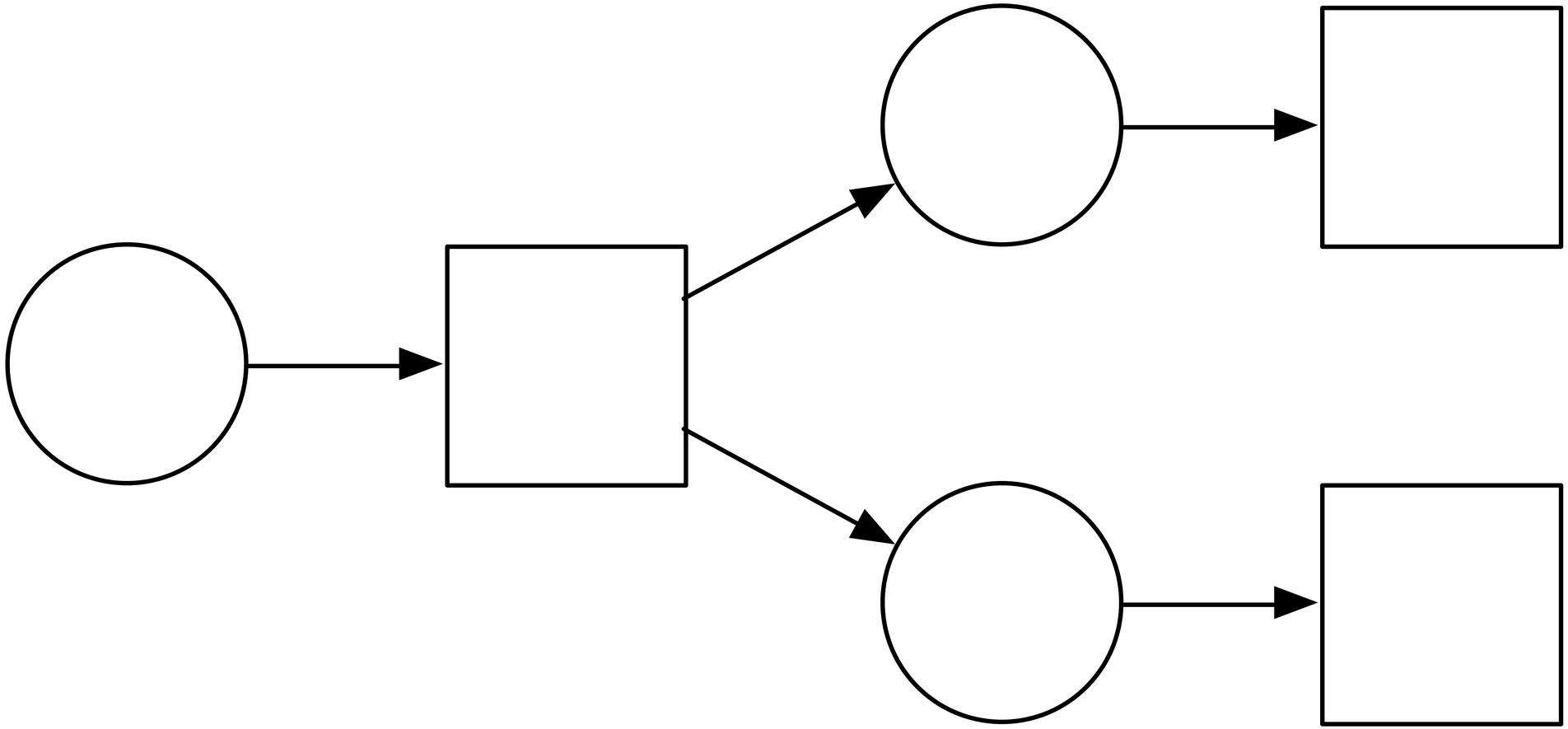
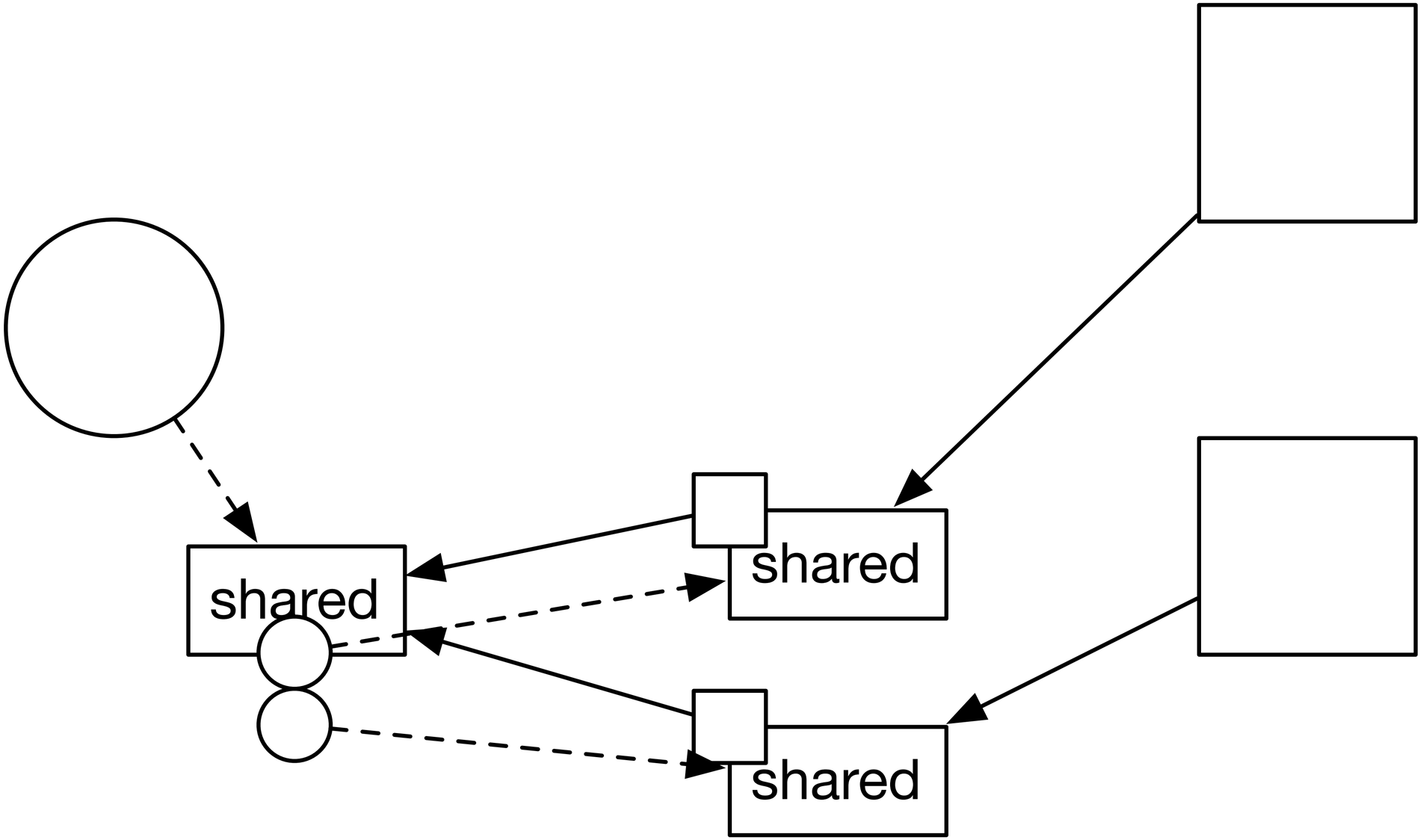
Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename R>
struct shared_base {
    vector<R> _r; // optional
    mutex _mutex;
    condition_variable _ready;
    vector<function<void()>> _then;

    virtual ~shared_base() { }

    void set(R&& r) {…}

    template <typename F>
    void then(F&& f) {
        bool resolved{false};
        {
            lock_t lock{_mutex};
            if (_r.empty()) _then.push_back(forward<F>(f));
            else resolved = true;
        }
        if (resolved) _system.async_(move(f));
    }

    const R& get() {
        lock_t lock{_mutex};
        while (_r.empty()) _ready.wait(lock);
        return _r.back();
    }
};
```

Futures



Futures



Futures: Building, The

```
template <typename F, typename ...Args>
auto async(F&& f, Args&&... args)
{
    using result_type = result_of_t<F (Args...)>;
    using packaged_type = packaged_task<result_type()>;

    auto pack = package<result_type()>(bind(forward<F>(f), forward<Args>(args)...));

    _system.async_(move(get<0>(pack)));
    return get<1>(pack);
}
```

Futures: Continuations

```
future<cpp_int> x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(100); });

future<cpp_int> y = x.then([](const cpp_int& x){ return cpp_int(x * 2); });
future<cpp_int> z = x.then([](const cpp_int& x){ return cpp_int(x / 15); });

cout << y.get() << endl;
cout << z.get() << endl;
```

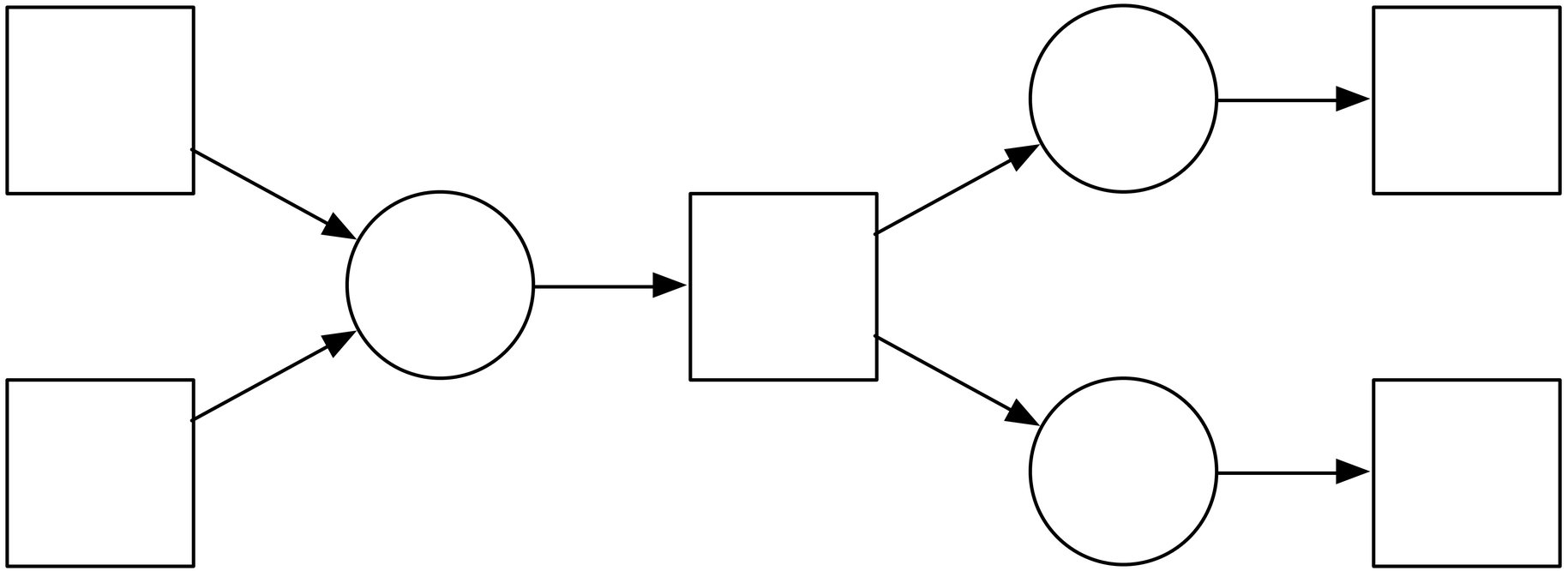
Futures: Continuations

```
future<cpp_int> x = async([]{ return fibonacci<cpp_int>(100); });

future<cpp_int> y = x.then([](const cpp_int& x){ return cpp_int(x * 2); });
future<cpp_int> z = x.then([](const cpp_int& x){ return cpp_int(x / 15); });

cout << y.get() << endl;
cout << z.get() << endl;
```

```
708449696358523830150
236149898786174610005
```

Property Models

What if we persist the graph?

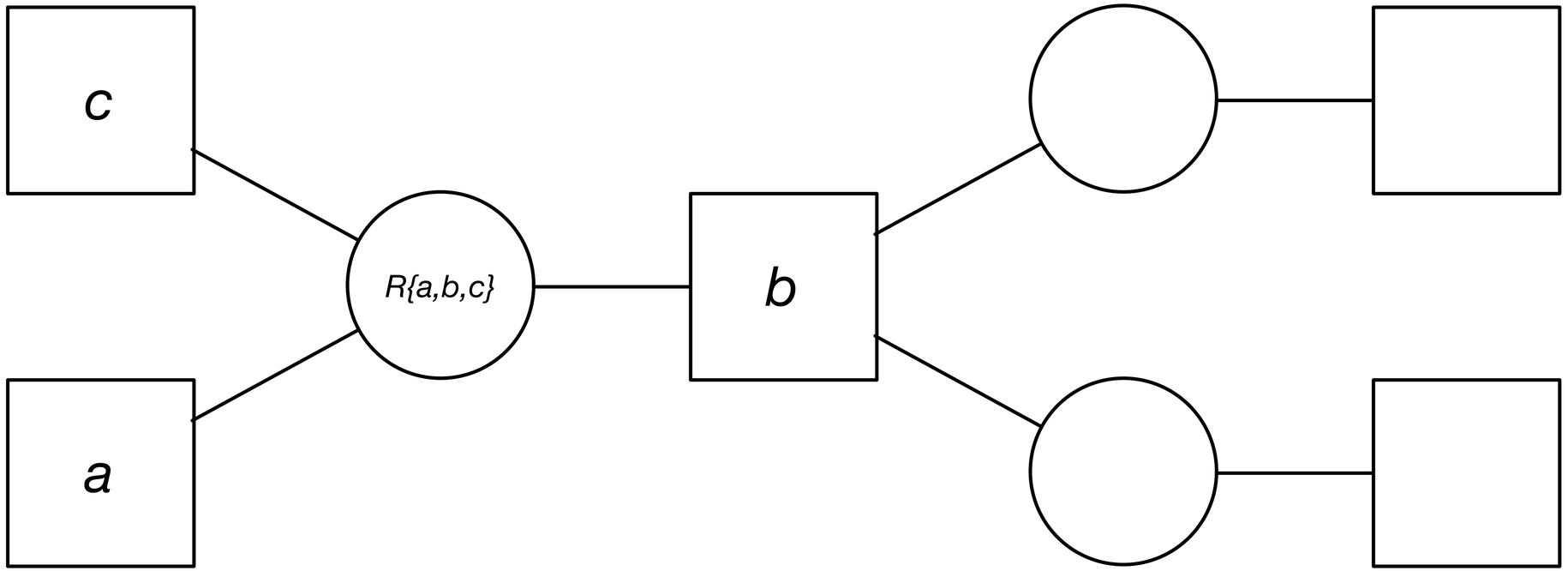


What if we persist the graph?

- Allow multiple invocations of the tasks by setting the source values
- Each change triggers a notification to the sink values
  - This is a reactive programming model and futures are known as *behaviors*

How do the graphs change during execution?

Property Model

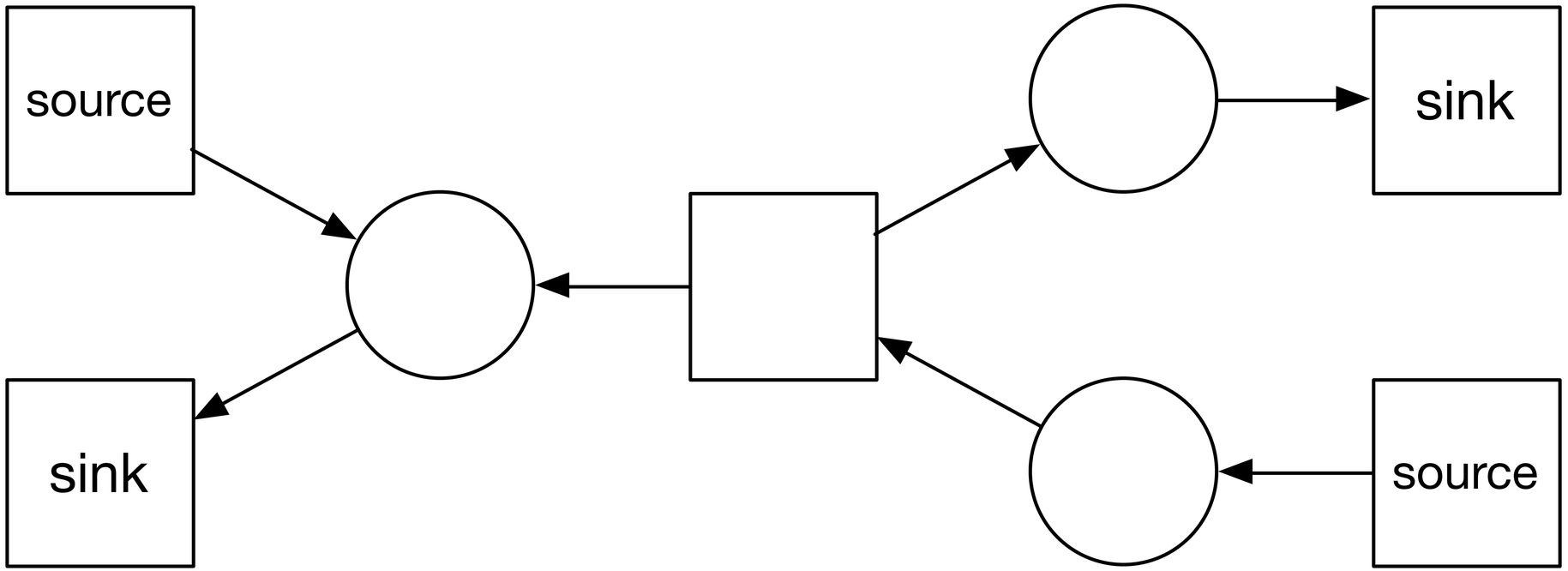


A function is a directed relationship

- We can remove the arrows by providing a package of functions to represent the relationship
  - a = b * c
    b = a / c
    c = a / b
  - This forms a type of constraint system called a *property model*
  - Flow is determined by value, or *cell*, priority

  - Cells can only have one in-edge for a given flow or the system is over constrained

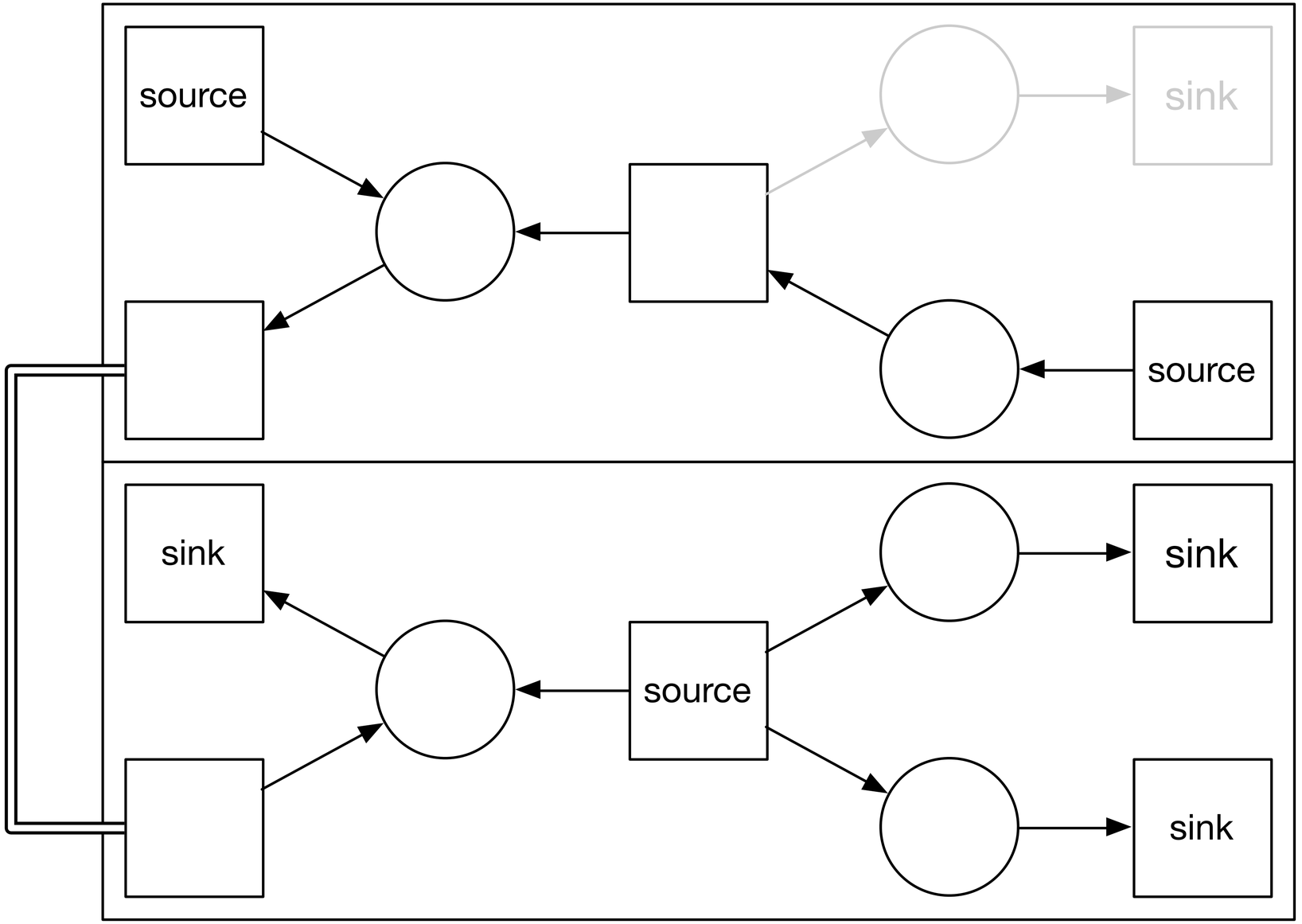
Property Model



Property Models

- Reflowing a property model doesn't require all relationships to be resolved
  - The task representing them can still be executing concurrently
- This creates a single dependency graph that is appended to for each new flow and is pruned and *unravels* as tasks are complete

Property Model



Final Thoughts

- Perhaps representing such systems *as if* it where imperative code is not the correct approach
- Instead the a graph description can be compiled and statically validated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