

Easy Senders/Receivers

Lucian Radu Teodorescu

A detailed illustration of a fluffy brown cat with bright green eyes, sitting amidst a variety of colorful yarn balls and long, looping strands of yarn in shades of blue, yellow, red, green, and purple. The cat is looking towards the left. The background is a soft, neutral tone.

Easy Senders/Receivers

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GARMIN



teachability problem

poll

using C++?



poll

using C++?

recommend C++ as easy?



easy senders/receivers

lower limit: as easy as using C++

poll

using std::function?



poll

using std::function?
using iterators?



easy senders/receivers

on **average**: using std::function + iterators

easy senders/receivers

upper limit: heavy metaprogramming

std::function

encapsulate work

defer execution

compose work w/o executing it

iterators

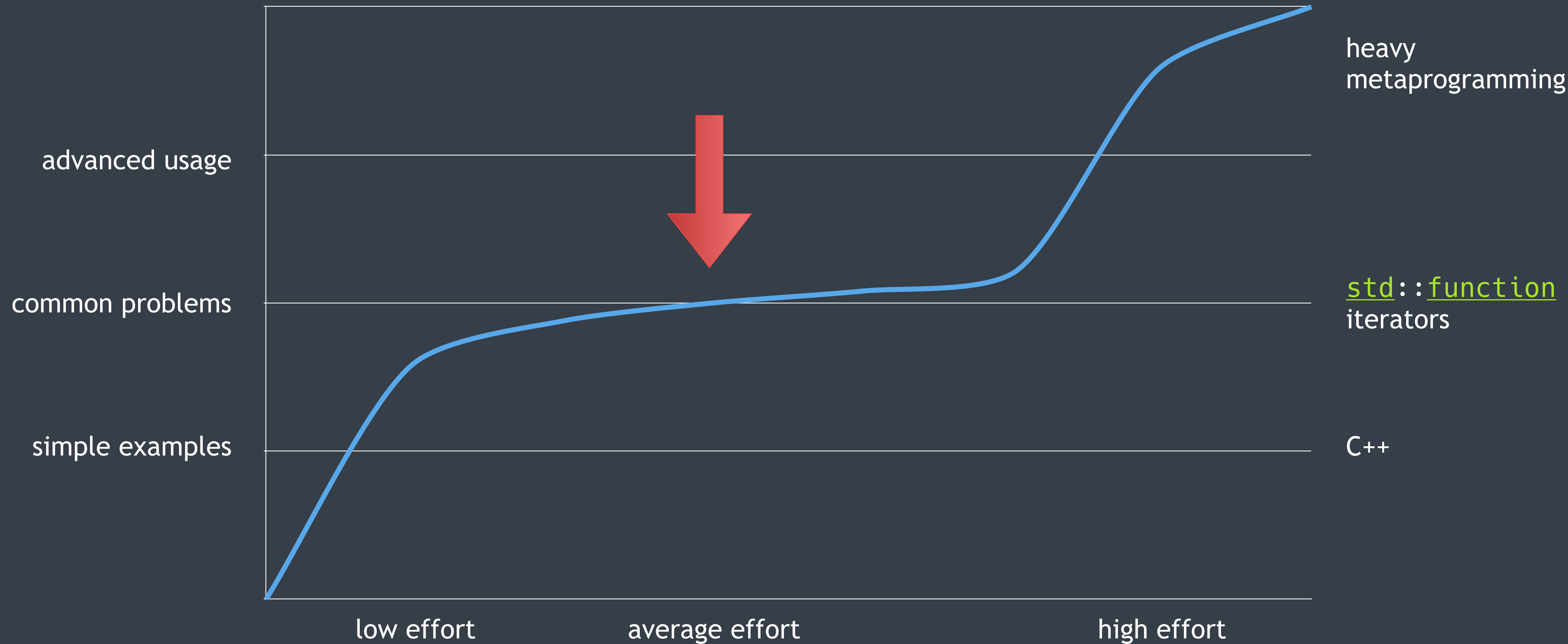
level of indirection

some use of templates

conventions

some complexity

learning senders/receivers



learning **anti-pattern**

become an expert first
then write simple examples

senders

like std::function, but for **async**
complexity: like iterators



1. Sync & async
2. Senders
3. Representing concurrency
4. Standard algorithms
5. Examples
6. Bonus
7. Conclusions



Sync & async



synchronous execution

function calls

happens on the same thread

consumes HW resources before the call is complete

call completes when the work is done

asynchronous execution

more than a function call

start thread != end threads

call completion != work completion

HW resources not bound to a thread

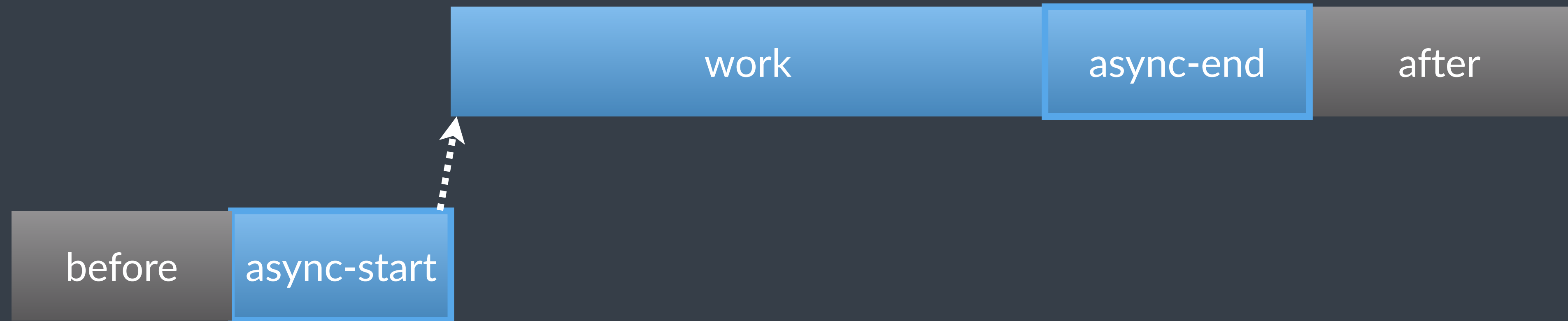
before

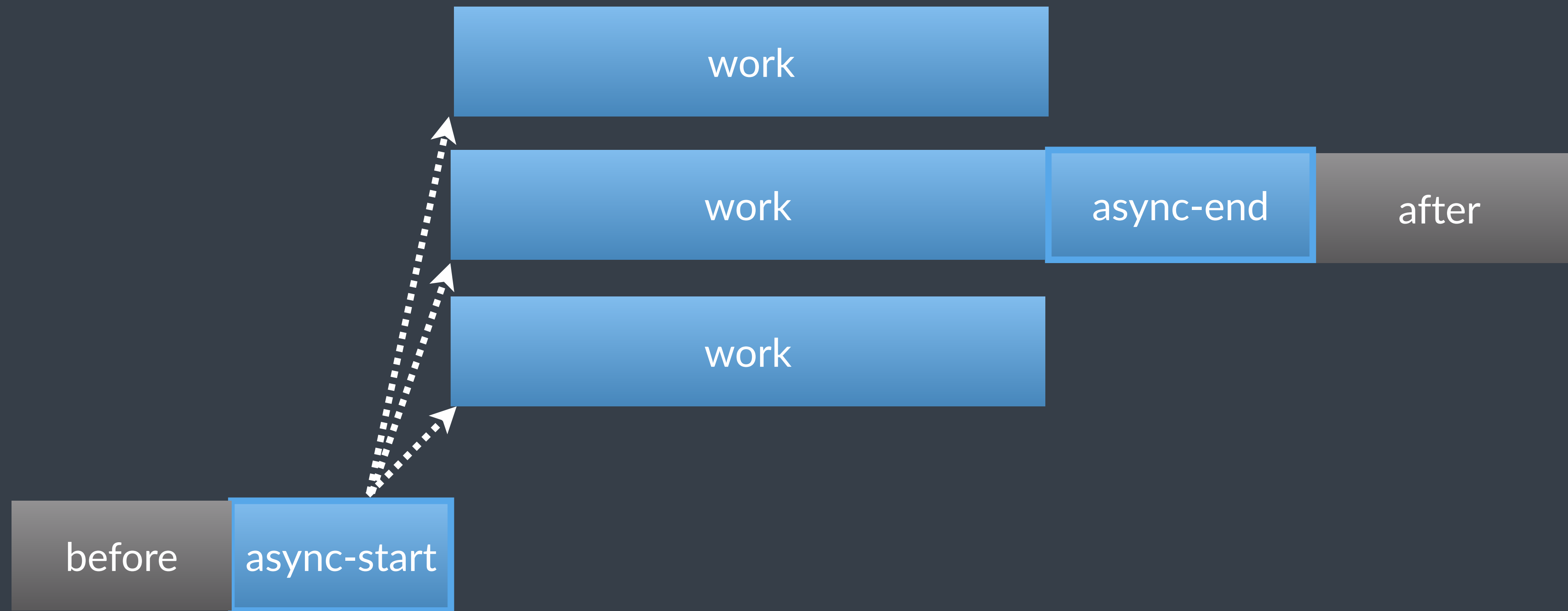
work

after

thread 2

thread 1





	sync	async
completion time	Immediate	deferred
completion place	same thread	different thread

synchronous execution

total ordering of work items

concurrent execution

partial ordering of work items

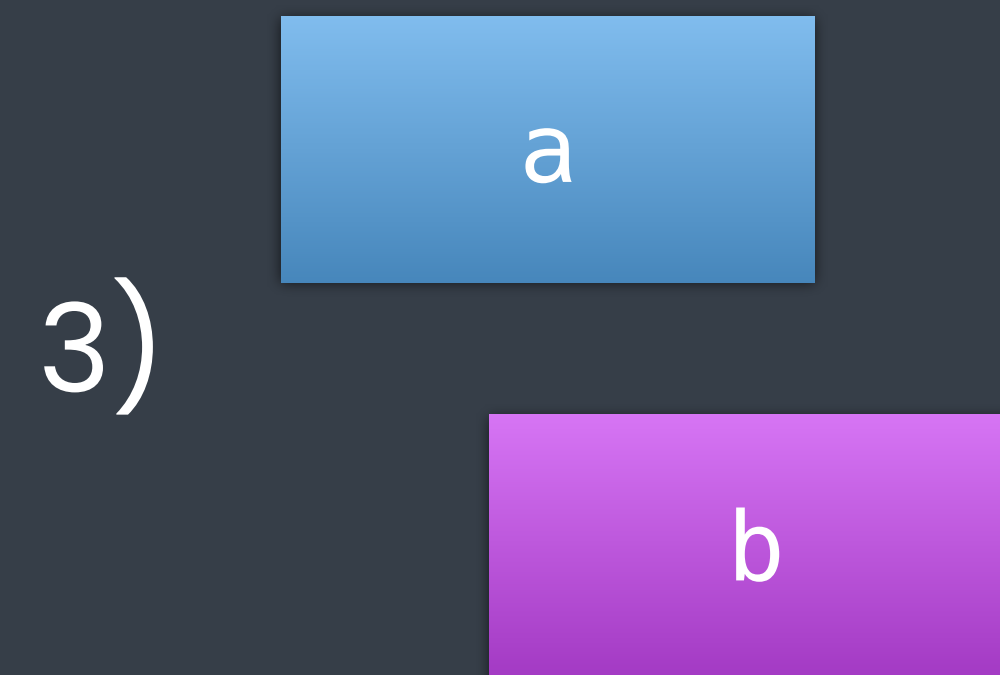
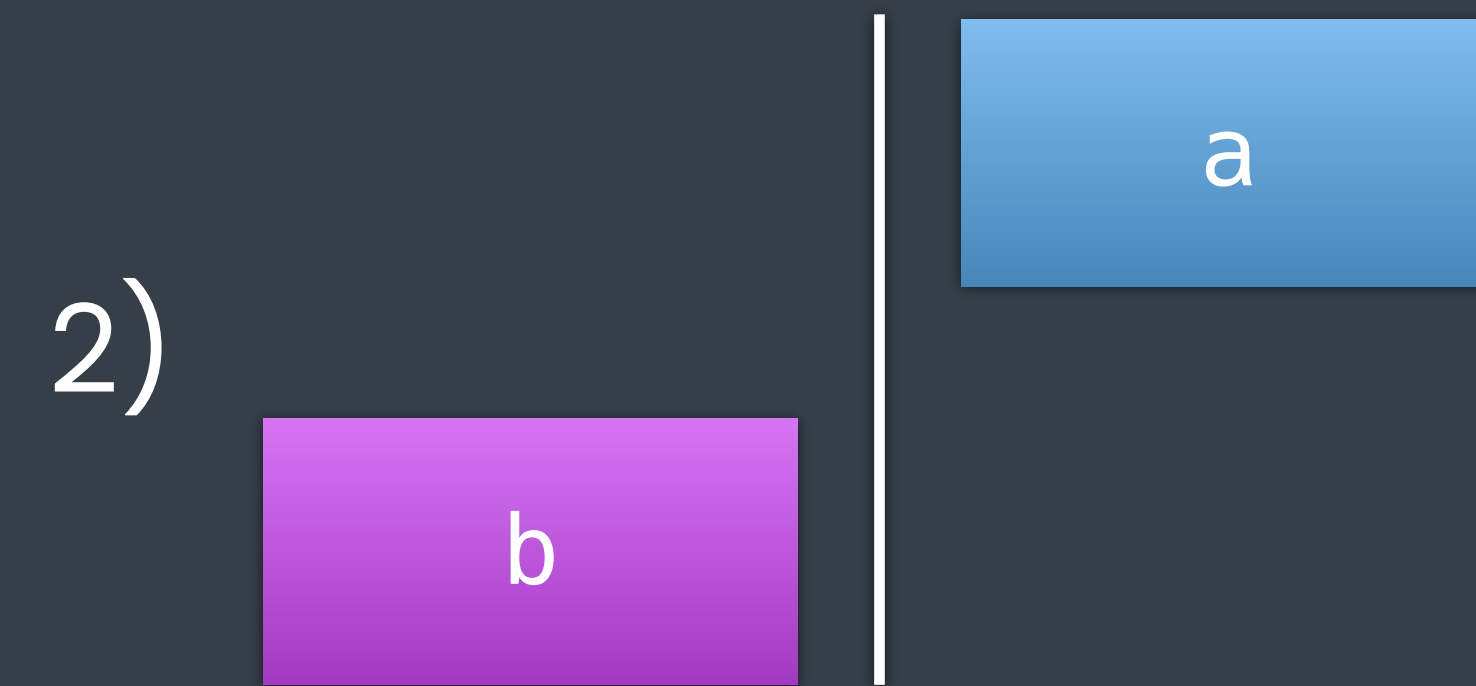
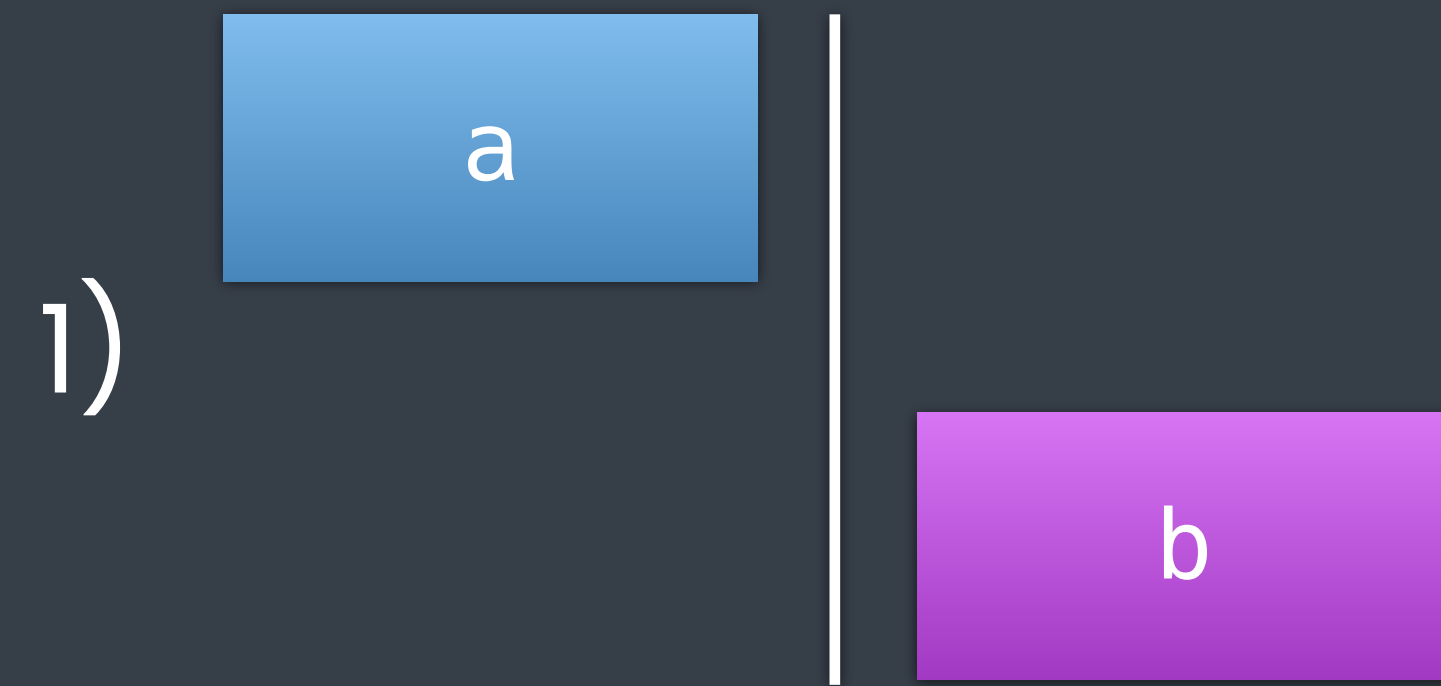
at runtime

3 execution possibilities

$a < b$

$b < a$

$\neg(a < b) \wedge \neg(b < a)$



concurrency (design time)

expressing **constraints on execution**
ignoring actual execution

design time

basic concurrent constraints

$a < b$

$b < a$

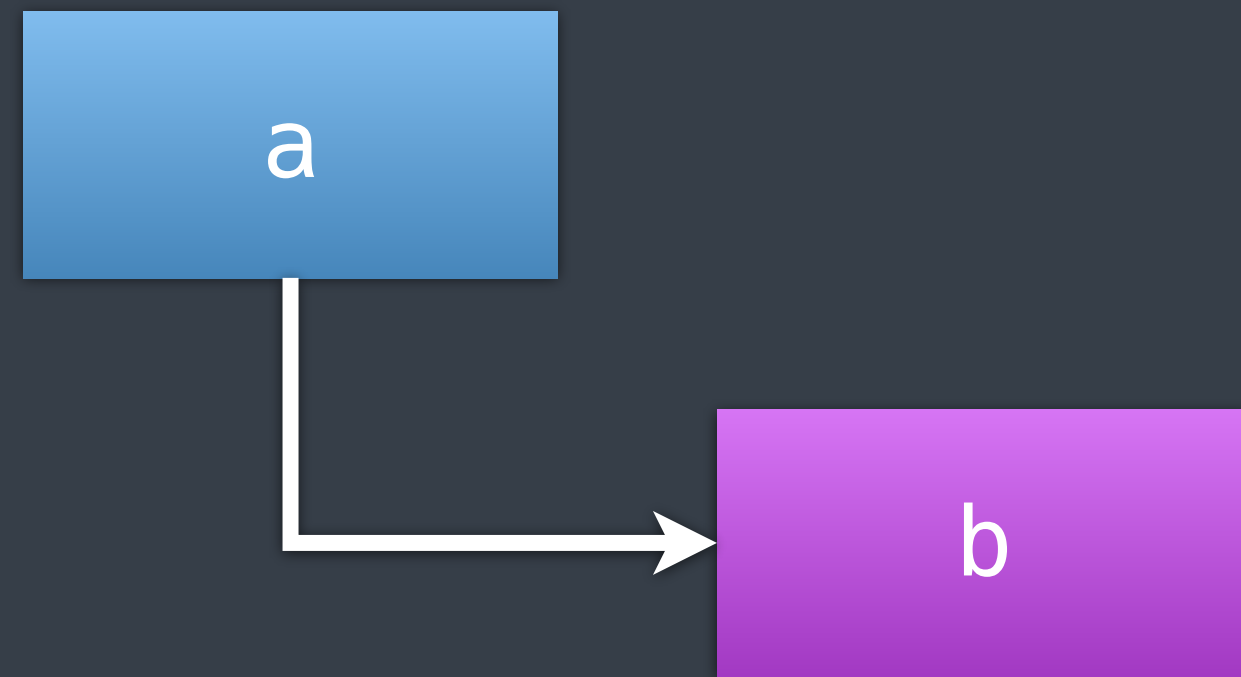
$(a < b) \vee (b < a)$

$\neg(a < b) \wedge \neg(b < a)$

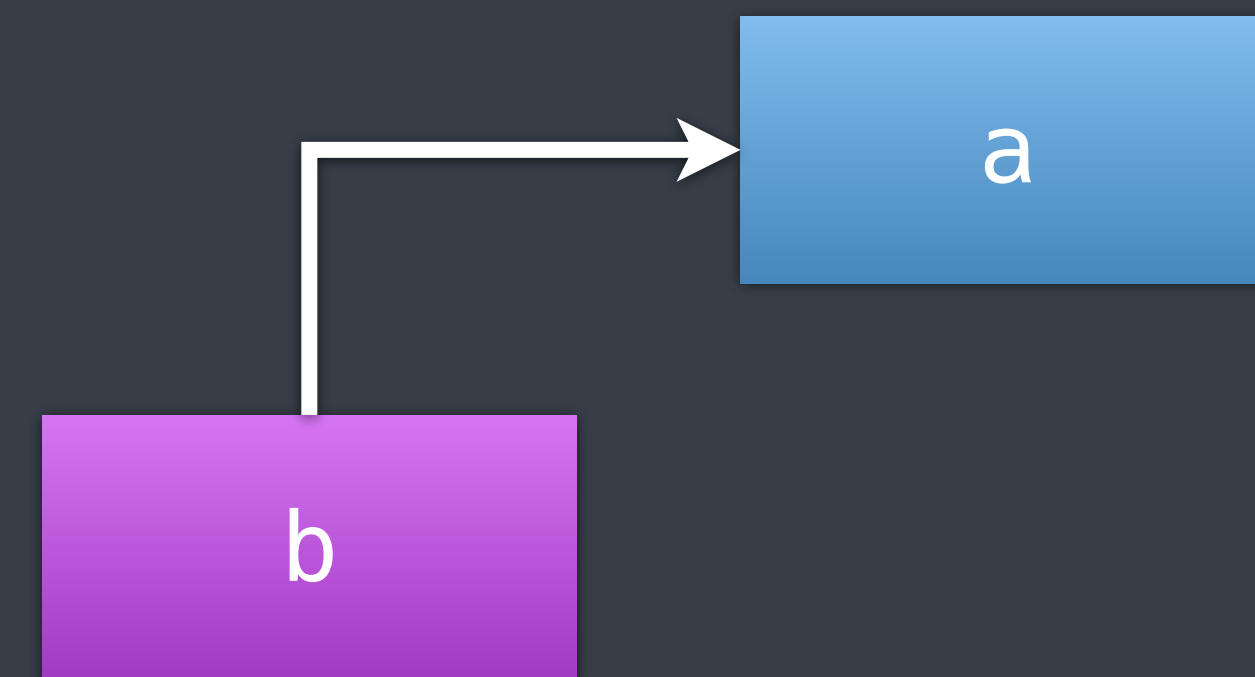
mutual exclusion

concurrent execution

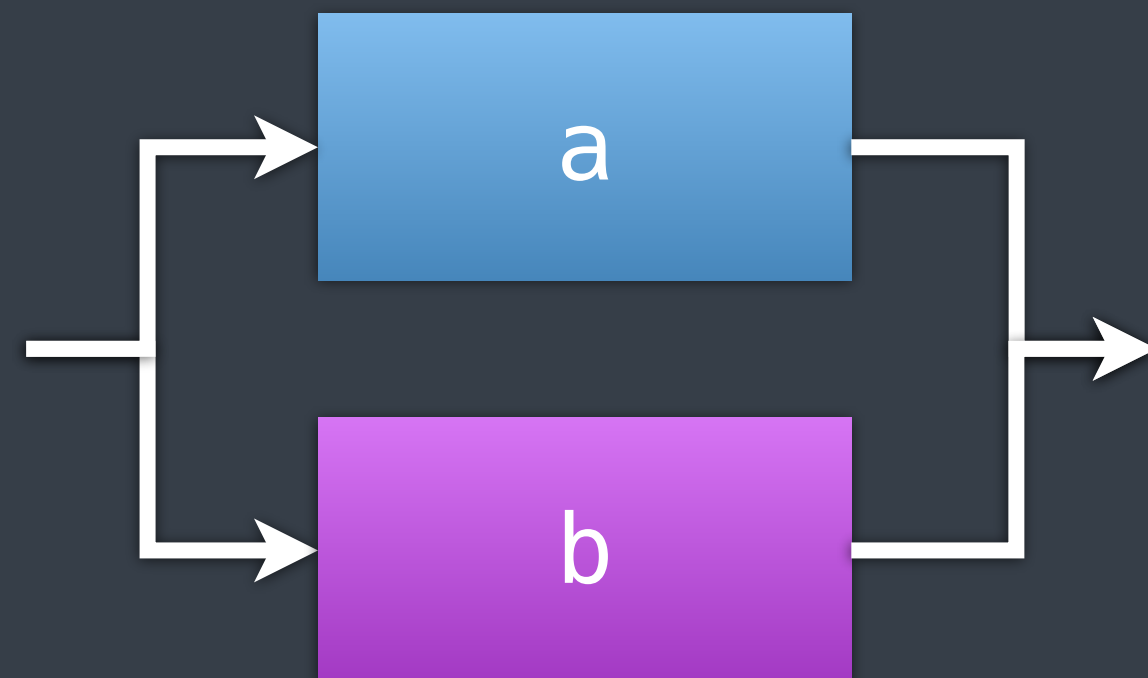
design time



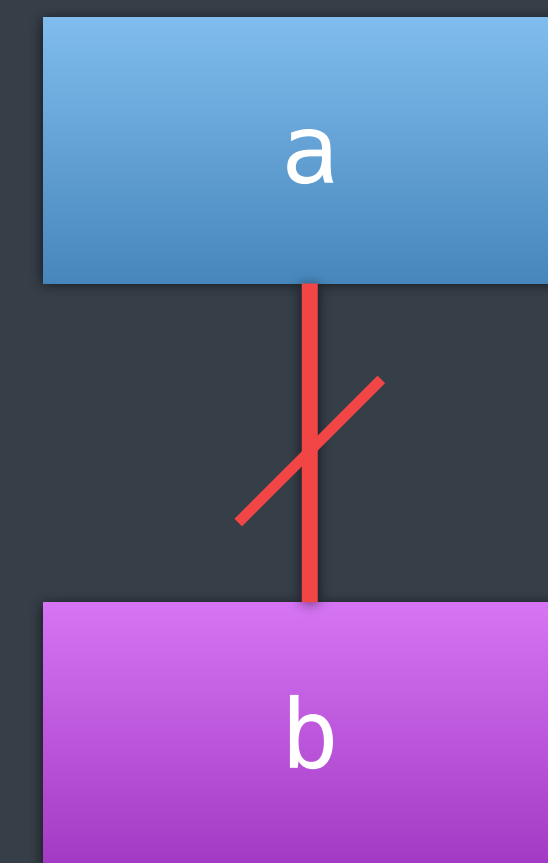
$a < b$



$b < a$



concurrent execution



mutual execution



focus on constraints

structured programming

focus on **control flow**

stop thinking about **gotos**

structured **concurrency**

focus on **relations between work items**

stop thinking about **threads**

structured concurrency

focus on **control flow**

stop thinking about **threads**

thread allocation

low level detail
concern for the framework



concurrency == asynchrony

	sync	async
completion time	Immediate	deferred
completion place	same thread	different thread
work ordering	total	partial
focus	control flow	control flow

Senders



2

senders

describe **asynchronous** work

compose well

are execute lazily

safe concurrency

Hello, world!

```
using namespace std::execution;  
using std::this_thread::sync_wait;
```

```
sender auto computation  
= just("Hello, world!")  
| then([](std::string_view s) {  
    std::print(s);  
});  
sync_wait(std::move(computation));
```

```
std::function<void()> computation = []() {  
    std::string_view s = "Hello, world!";  
  
    std::print(s);  
};  
computation();
```

Hello, world!

```
sender auto computation
= just("Hello, world!")
| then([](std::string_view s) {
    std::print(s);
});
sync_wait( computation );
```

`just(...), then(...)` return senders

```
just(X) | then(f) ==
then(just(X), f)
```


just

`just(X)`

```
std::function<T( )>{[]( ) {  
    return X;  
}}
```

then

snd | then(f)

```
std::function<T( )>{[arg = ...]() {  
    return f(arg);  
}}
```

sync_wait

```
sender auto snd = ...  
sync_wait(snd);
```

```
std::function<void( )> f = ...  
f( );
```


completion signals

how the work completes

completion signals

sender `auto` `snd` `=` ...

`std::function<int(>` `f` `=` ...

success: `set_value(...)`

success: an `int` value

error: `set_error(...)`

error: an exception

stopped: `set_stopped( )`

stopped: terminate?

set_value()

multiple values in one signal

```
just(13, "prime")
```

```
set_value(13, "prime")
```

multiple types of success completion

```
when_any(just(13),  
         just("prime"))
```

```
set_value(13)  
set_value("prime")
```


set_error()

not just exceptions

```
set_error(std::exception_ptr{...})
```

```
set_error(std::error_code{...})
```

```
set_error("error")
```

```
set_error(-1)
```

set_stopped()

(signals cancellation)
only one form

completion signatures

list of possible completion signals

completion signatures

```
completion_signatures<  
    set_value_t(int),  
    set_value_t(double, bool),  
    set_error_t(std::exception_ptr),  
    set_error_t(std::error_code),  
    set_stopped_t()  
>
```

senders

describe asynchronous work
compose well
are execute lazily
safe concurrency

Representing concurrency



concurrent work

```
scheduler auto sched = get_parallel_scheduler()  
sender auto computation  
    = schedule(sched)  
    | then([] {  
        std::print("Hello, from a different thread");  
    });  
sync_wait(computation);
```

scheduler

a handler to a

thread pool

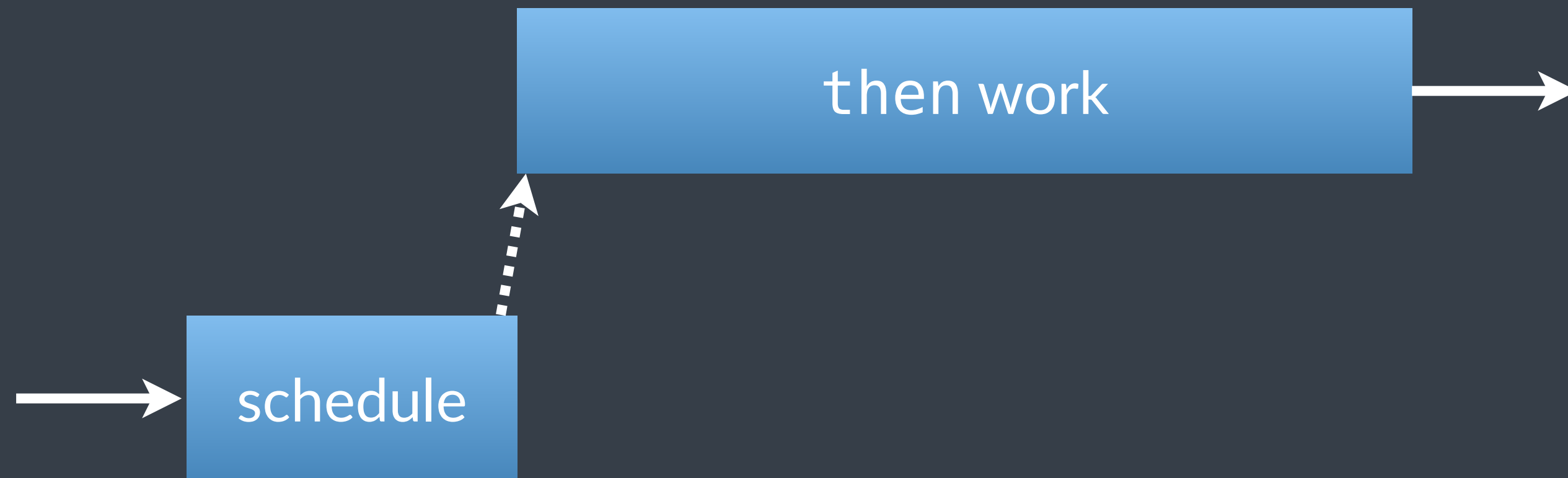
where we can execute work

`schedule(sched)`

sends a success completion signal
from a thread belonging to sched

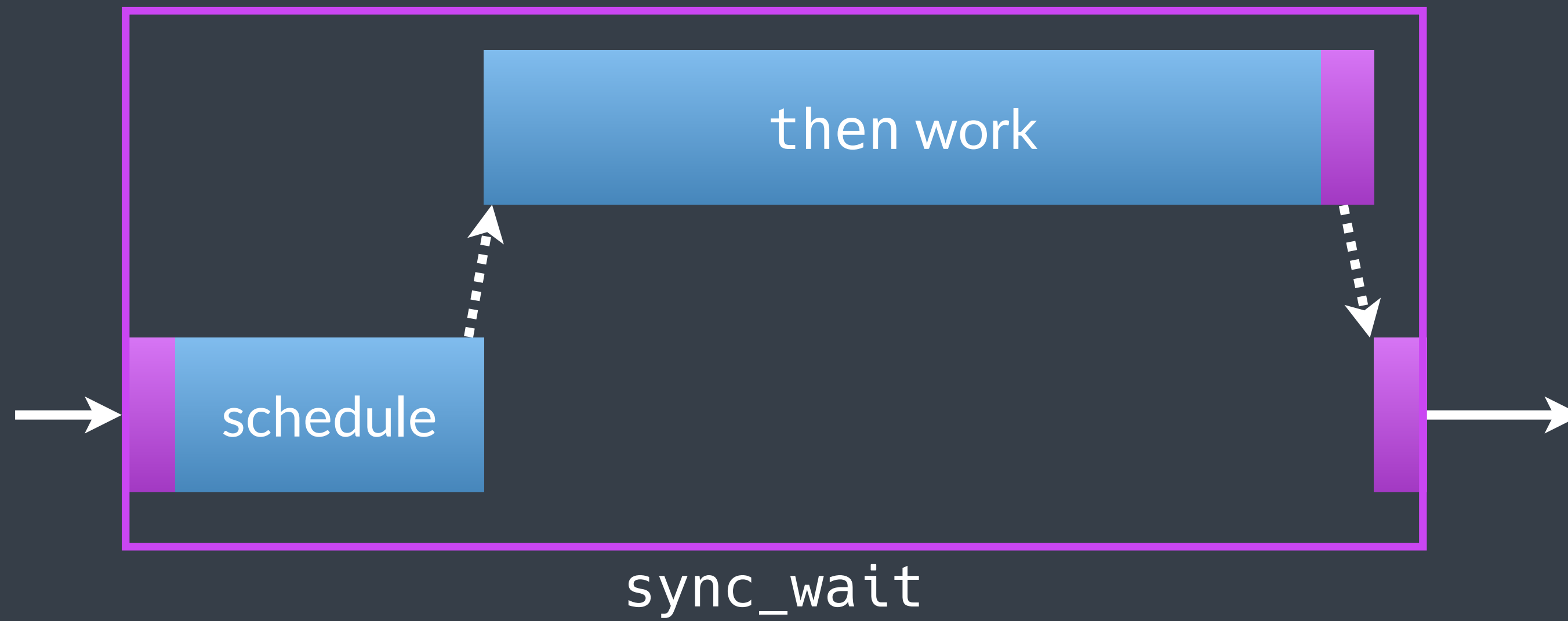
thread 2

thread 1



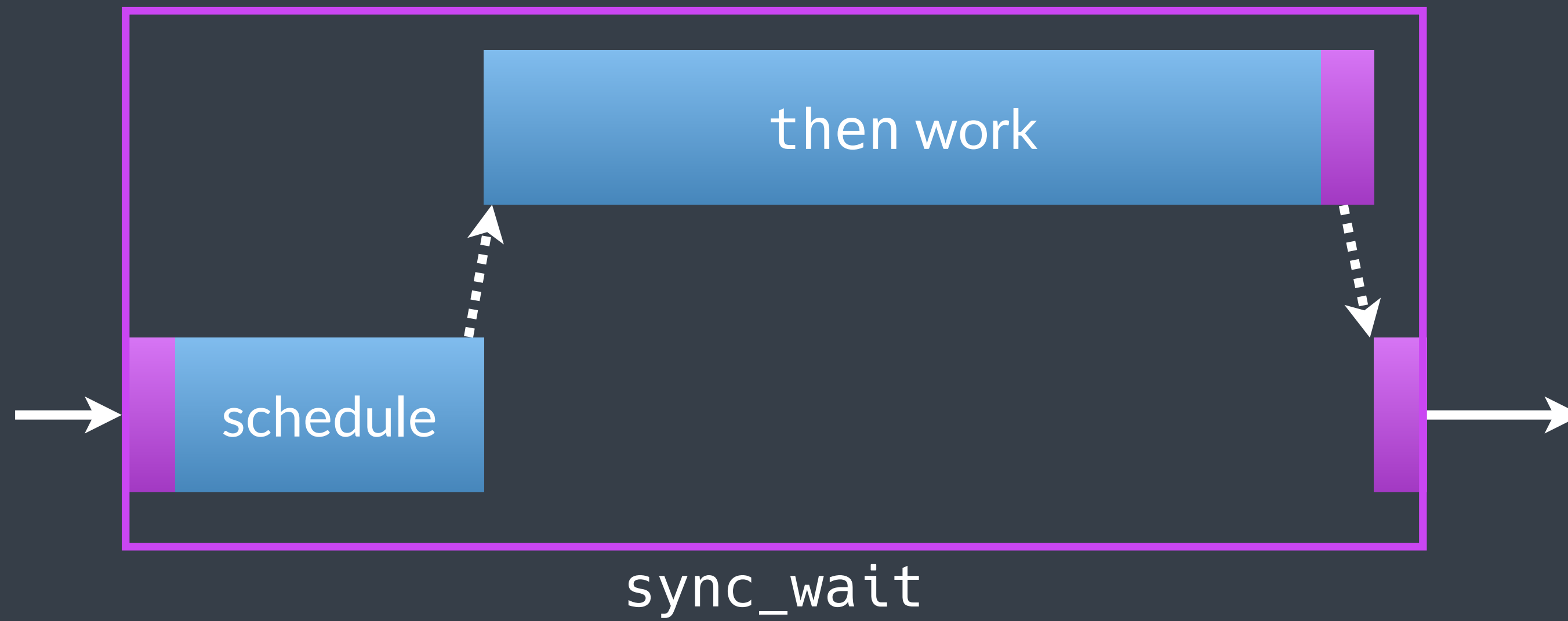
thread 2

thread 1



thread 2

thread 1



`sync_wait( snd )`

start executing the work described by `snd`
synchronously **wait** for the completion
returns the result

starts_on and continues_on

```
sender auto snd =  
just() | then(f) | continues_on(sched) | then(g);  
  
starts_on(sched2, snd)
```

switching between schedulers

```
sender auto read_data_snd          // the work to read the data
  = just(connection, buffer)       //   for a connection and a buffer
  | then(read_data);               //   ... call the function to read the data

sender auto all_work_snd           // all the work
  = starts_on(io_sched, read_data_snd) //   start the reading on I/O scheduler
  | continues_on(work_sched)         //   continue on the work scheduler
  | then(process_data)               //   process the received data
  | continues_on(io_sched)           //   go back to the I/O scheduler
  | then(write_result);              //   write the result back

sync_wait(all_work_snd);           // execute all work
```


bulk execution

```
double some_value;  
std::vector<double> x;  
std::vector<double> y;  
  
sender auto process_elements  
    = just(some_value)  
    | bulk(x.size(), [&](size_t i, double a) {  
        y[i] = a * x[i] + y[i]  
    });
```


senders

describe asynchronous work

compose well

are execute lazily

safe concurrency

Standard algorithms



algorithms in the base proposal

sender **factories**

sender **adaptors**

sender **consumers**

sender **factories**

```
just()  
just_error()  
just_stopped()  
read_env()  
schedule()
```


just*

```
just(vs...)  
just_error(e)  
just_stopped( )
```

```
vs...  
throw e           // imperfect  
std::terminate( ) // ???
```

read_env(tag)

<advanced>

queries the receiver for a property

```
read_env(get_scheduler)  
read_env(get_stop_token)
```



`schedule(sched)`

completes on a thread from `sched`

sender **adaptors**

then(), upon_error(), upon_stopped(),
let_value(), let_error(), let_stopped(),
starts_on(), continues_on(), schedule_from(), on(),
bulk(),
split(), when_all(),
into_variant(),
stopped_as_optional(), stopped_as_error()

then()

prev | then(f)

f(prev())

upon_error()

```
prev | upon_error(f)    try {  
                        return prev();  
                    } catch (...) {  
                        return f(std::current_exception());  
                    }
```

upon_stopped()

```
prev | upon_stopped( f )    try {  
                             return prev();  
                           } catch (was-stopped) {  
                             return f();  
                           }
```


let_value()

monadic bind
value lifetime $\geq$ async operation



let_value()

prev | let_value(f)

```
auto val = prev();  
{  
    std::function<...> work=f(val);  
    work();  
}
```

then() and let_value()

sender_of<T> | then(function<U(T)>) → *sender_of<U>*

sender_of<T> | let_value(function<*sender_of<U>*(T)>) → *sender_of<U>*

parallel to optional

```
sender auto to_int(std::string_view sv);
```

```
sender auto initial_work = ...;  
sender auto work = initial_work  
| let_value(to_int)  
| then([](int n) { return n + 1; })  
| then([](int n) { return  
|                 std::to_string(n); })  
| upon_error([](auto e) { return "NaN"s; });
```

```
std::optional<int> to_int(std::string_view sv);
```

```
std::optional<std::string> initial = ...;  
auto result = initial  
    .and_then(to_int)  
    .transform([](int n) { return n + 1; })  
    .transform([](int n) { return  
    std::to_string(n); })  
    .value_or("NaN"s);
```


let_error() and let_stopped()

similar to upon_error() and upon_stopped()

`starts_on(sched, work)`

starts `work` on the scheduler `sched`

`starts_on(sched, work)`

equivalent to

`schedule(sched) | let_value([] { return work; })`

```
prev | continues_on(sched)
```

`prev` then continue executing on `sched`

`on(sched, snd)`

`starts_on(sched, snd) | continues_on(back)`

schedule_from(sched, snd)

<advanced>
used for customizations



```
when_all(s1, s2, ...)
```

completes when all given senders complete
returns the values from all senders

```
sender auto s1 = schedule(sched) | then(f) | then([]{ std::print("thread 1"); });  
sender auto s2 = schedule(sched) | then(g) | then([]{ std::print("thread 2"); });  
sync_wait(when_all(s1, s2));
```


prev | split()

allows `prev` to be used **more than once**,
while **executing it once**

split()

```
sender auto common = schedule(sch) | then([]{ std::print("once"); }) | split();  
sender auto s1 = common | then([]{ std::print("thread 1"); });  
sender auto s2 = common | then([]{ std::print("thread 2"); });  
sync_wait(when_all(s1, s2));
```

prev | bulk(N, f)

calls $f(i, \text{args...}) \forall i \in [0, N)$

(`args...` are the completion value of `prev`)

prev | into_variant()

multiple value completions → std::variant


```
prev | stopped_as_optional()
```

stopped completion → std::optional

```
prev | stopped_as_error(err)
```

stopped completion → error completion

sender **consumers**

```
sync_wait()  
sync_wait_with_variant()
```

sync_wait(snd)

if possible, avoid

blocks the current thread until `snd` completes

→ std::optional<std::tuple<values-sent-by(snd)>>

`sync_wait_with_variant( snd )`

allows multiple value completions

senders

describe asynchronous work

compose well

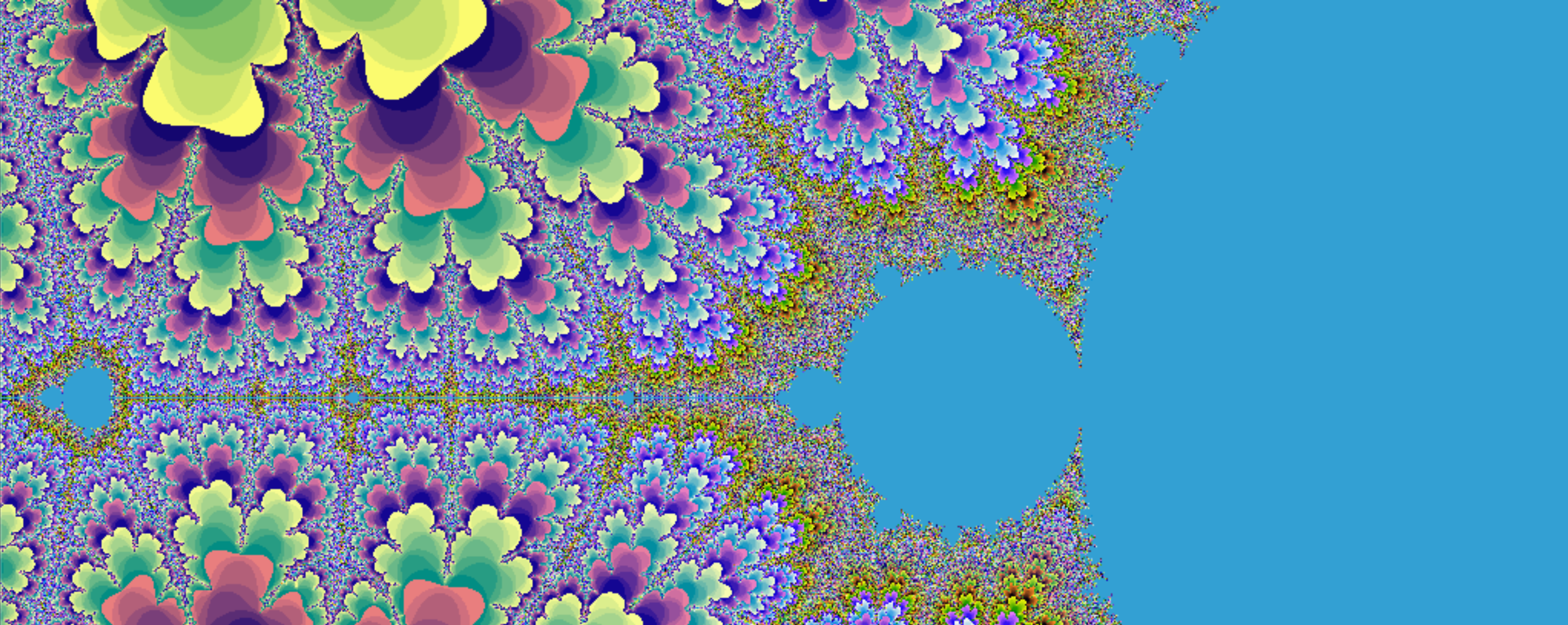
are execute lazily

safe concurrency

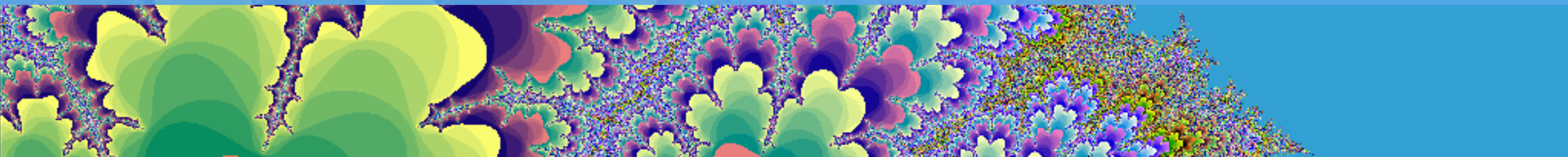
Examples



5



Mandelbrot



serial Mandelbrot

```
int mandelbrot_core(std::complex<double> c, int depth) {
    int count = 0;
    std::complex<double> z = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < depth; i++) {
        if (abs(z) >= 2.0) break;
        z = z * z + c;
        count++;
    }
    return count;
}

template <typename F>
void serial_mandelbrot(int* vals, int max_x, int max_y, int depth, F&& transform) {
    for (int y = 0; y < max_y; y++) {
        for (int x = 0; x < max_x; x++) {
            vals[y * max_x + x] = mandelbrot_core(transform(x, y), depth);
        }
    }
}
```

concurrent Mandelbrot

```
template <typename F>
void mandelbrot_concurrent(int* vals, int max_x, int max_y, int depth, F&& transform) {
    auto sched = get_parallel_scheduler();

    auto snd = schedule(sched)
        | bulk(max_y, [=](int y) {
            for (int x = 0; x < max_x; x++) {
                vals[y * max_x + x] = mandelbrot_core(transform(x, y), depth);
            }
        });

    sync_wait(snd);
}
```

serial Mandelbrot

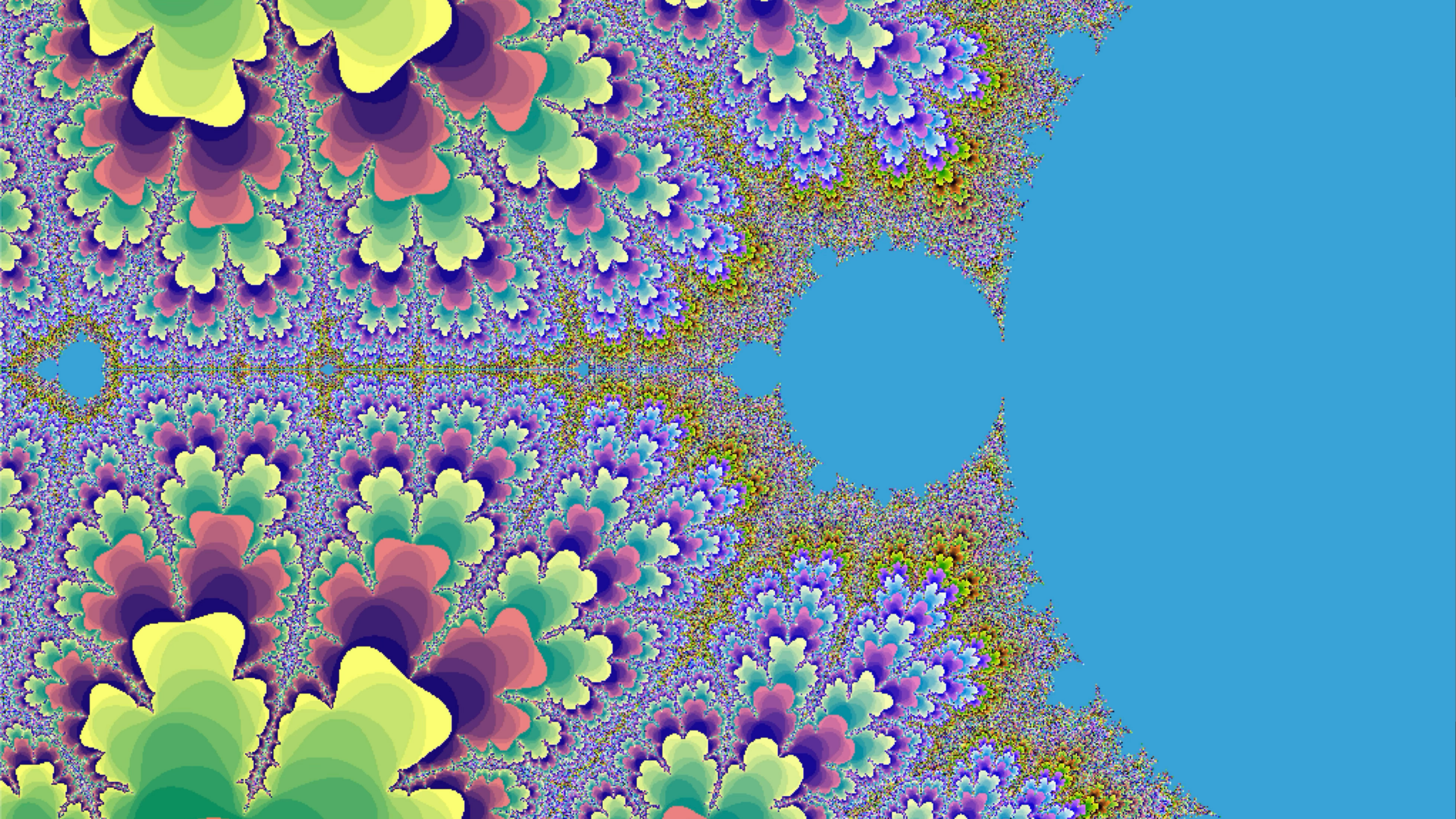
```
template <typename F>
void serial_mandelbrot(int* vals, int max_x, int max_y, int depth, F&& transform) {
    for (int y = 0; y < max_y; y++) {
        for (int x = 0; x < max_x; x++) {
            vals[y * max_x + x] = mandelbrot_core(transform(x, y), depth);
        }
    }
}
```

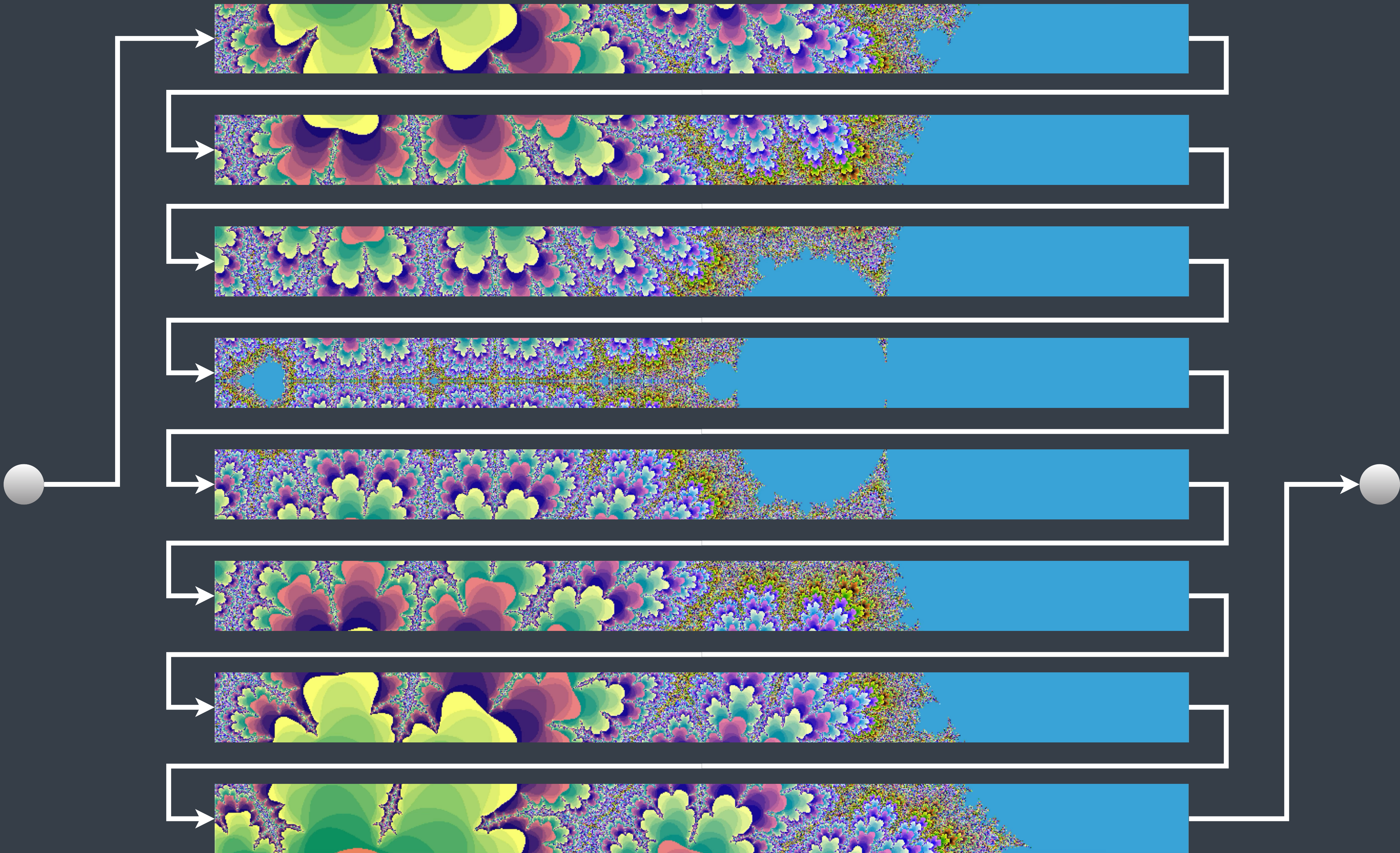

concurrent Mandelbrot

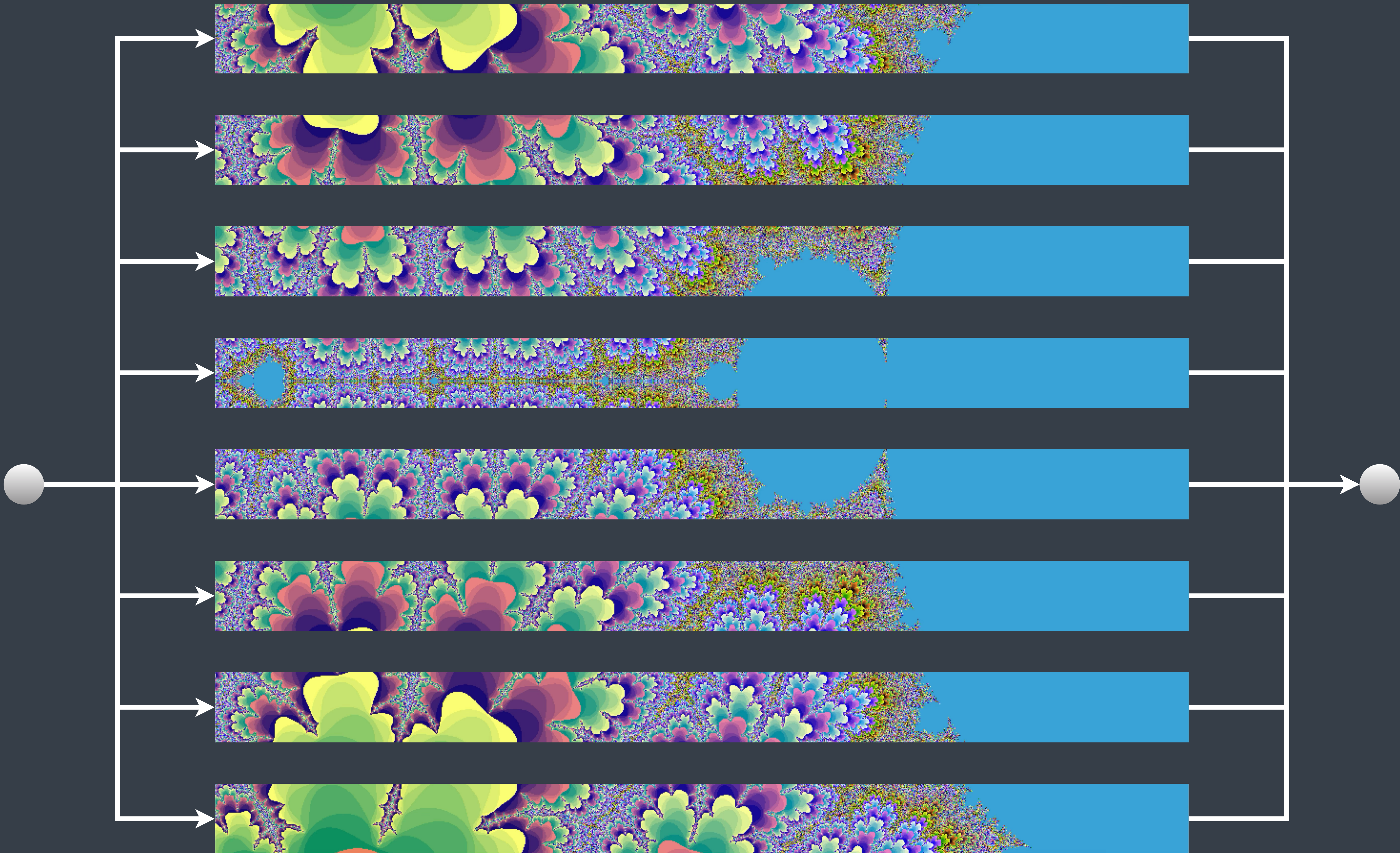
```
template <typename F>
void mandelbrot_concurrent(int* vals, int max_x, int max_y, int depth, F&& transform) {
    auto sched = get_parallel_scheduler();

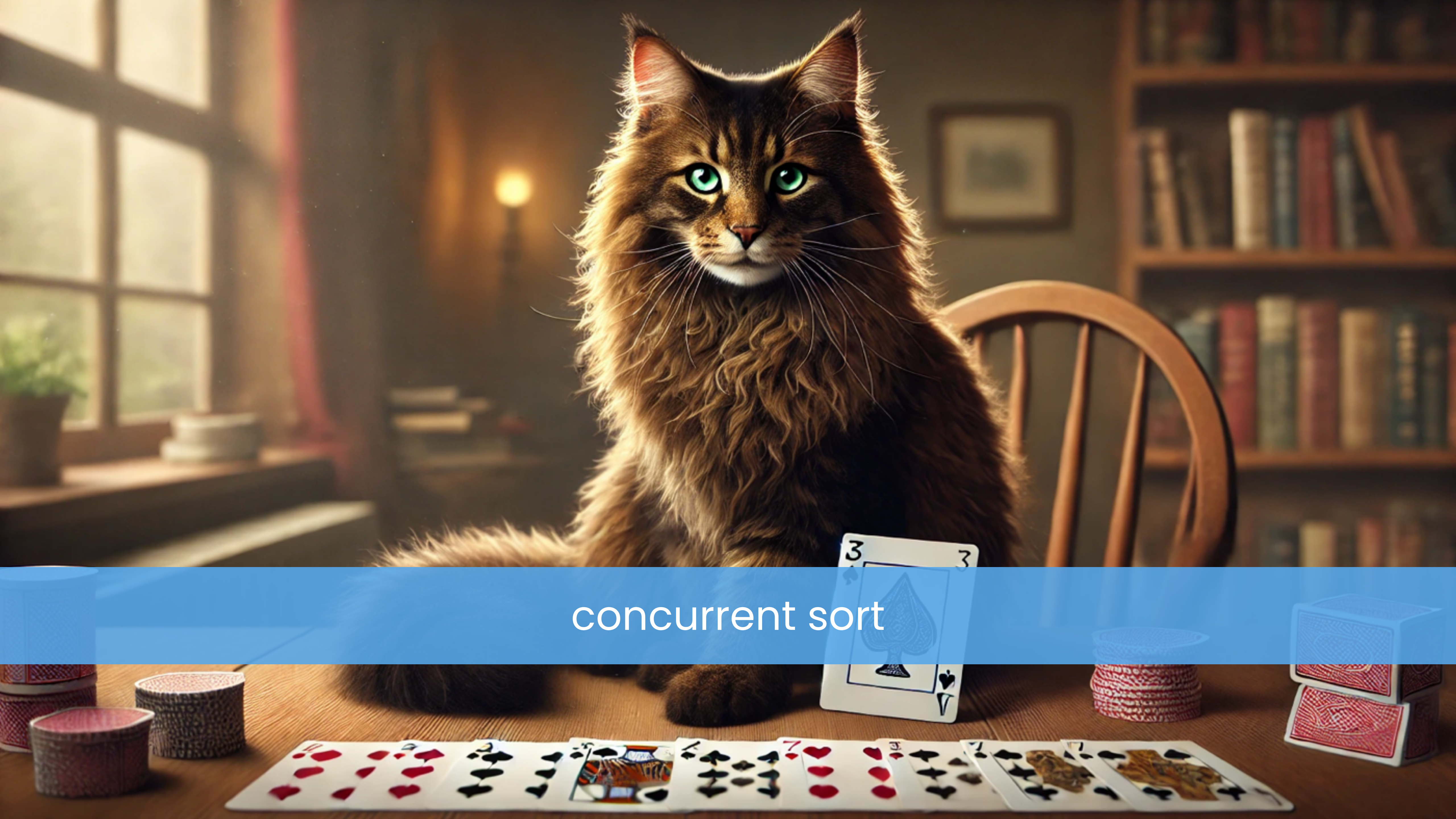
    auto snd = schedule(sched)
        | bulk(max_y, [=](int y) {
            for (int x = 0; x < max_x; x++) {
                vals[y * max_x + x] = mandelbrot_core(transform(x, y), depth);
            }
        });

    sync_wait(snd);
}
```







concurrent sort


```

template <std::random_access_iterator It>
void concurrent_sort(It first, It last) {
    counting_scope scope;
    concurrent_sort_impl(first, last, scope);
    sync_wait(scope.on_empty());
}

```

```

template <std::random_access_iterator It>
void concurrent_sort_impl(It first, It last, async_scope& scope) {
    auto size = std::distance(first, last);
    if (size_t(size) < size_threshold) {
        std::sort(first, last);
    } else {
        auto p = sort_partition(first, last);
        auto mid1 = p.first;
        auto mid2 = p.second;

        sender auto snd = schedule(get_parallel_scheduler())
            | then([=, &scope] { concurrent_sort_impl(mid2, last, scope); });

        scope.spawn(snd);
        concurrent_sort_impl(first, mid1, scope);
    }
}

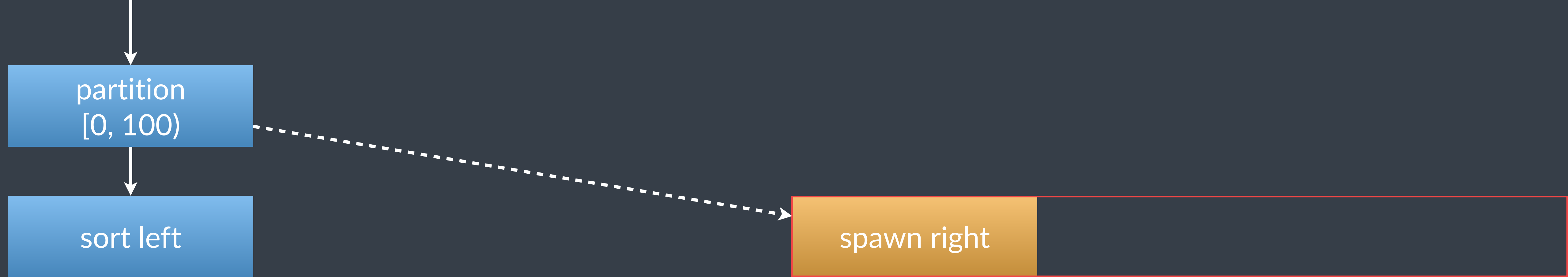
```

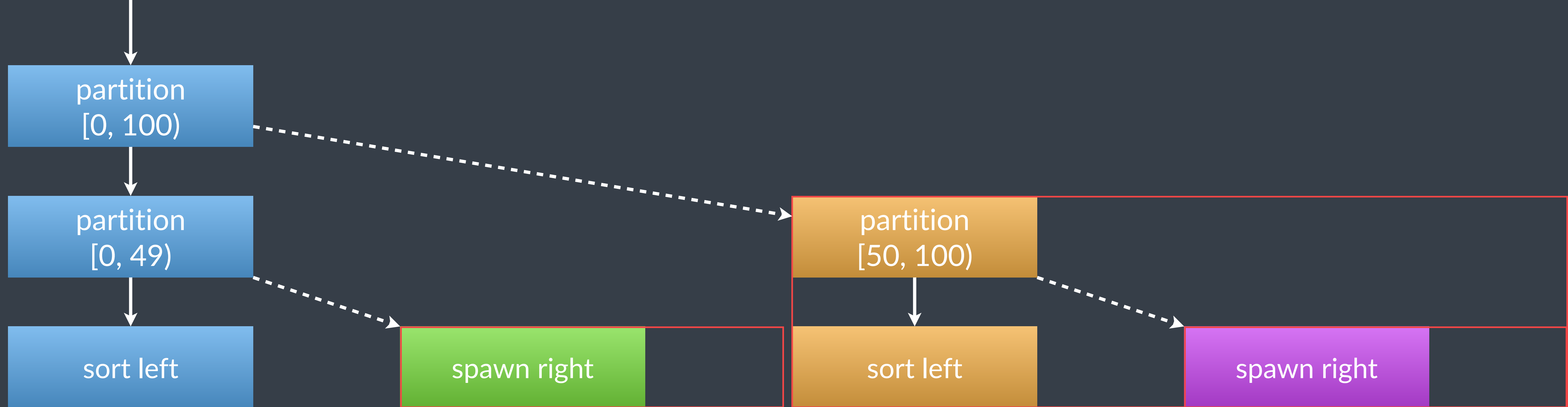
```
template <std::random_access_iterator It>
void concurrent_sort(It first, It last) {
    counting_scope scope;
    concurrent_sort_impl(first, last, scope);
    sync_wait(scope.on_empty());
}
```

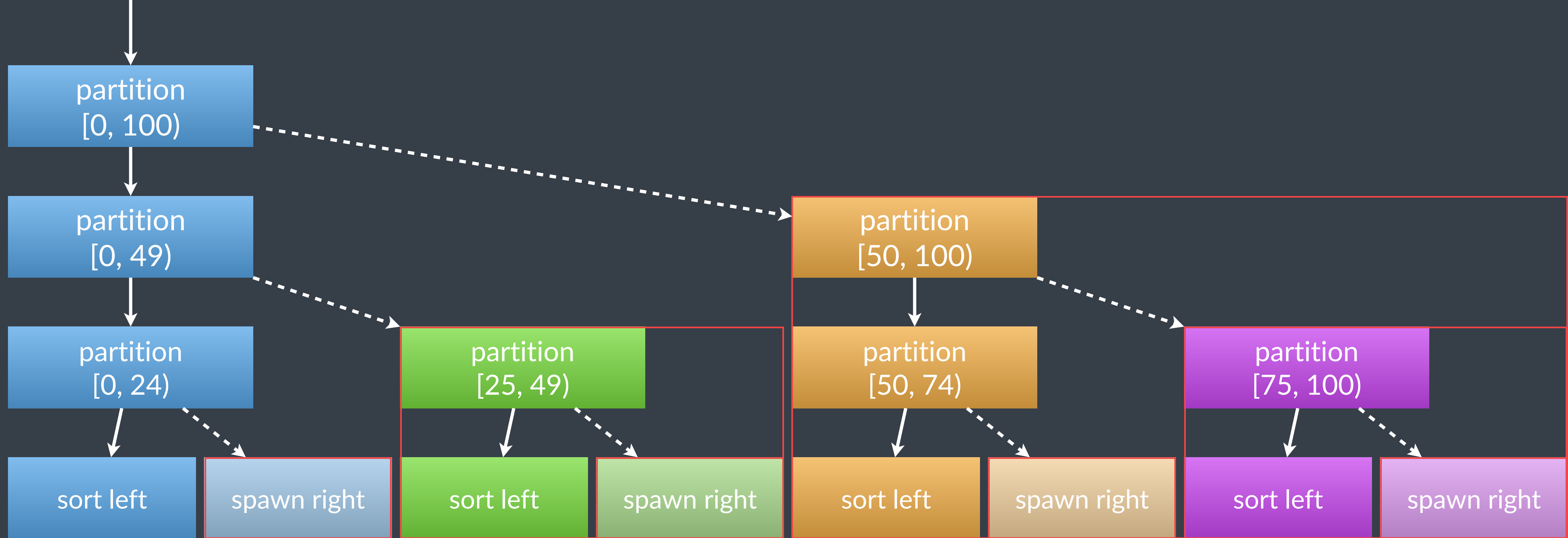
```
template <std::random_access_iterator It>
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    auto size = std::distance(first, last);
    if (size_t(size) < size_threshold) {
        std::sort(first, last);
    } else {
        auto p = sort_partition(first, last);
        auto mid1 = p.first;
        auto mid2 = p.second;

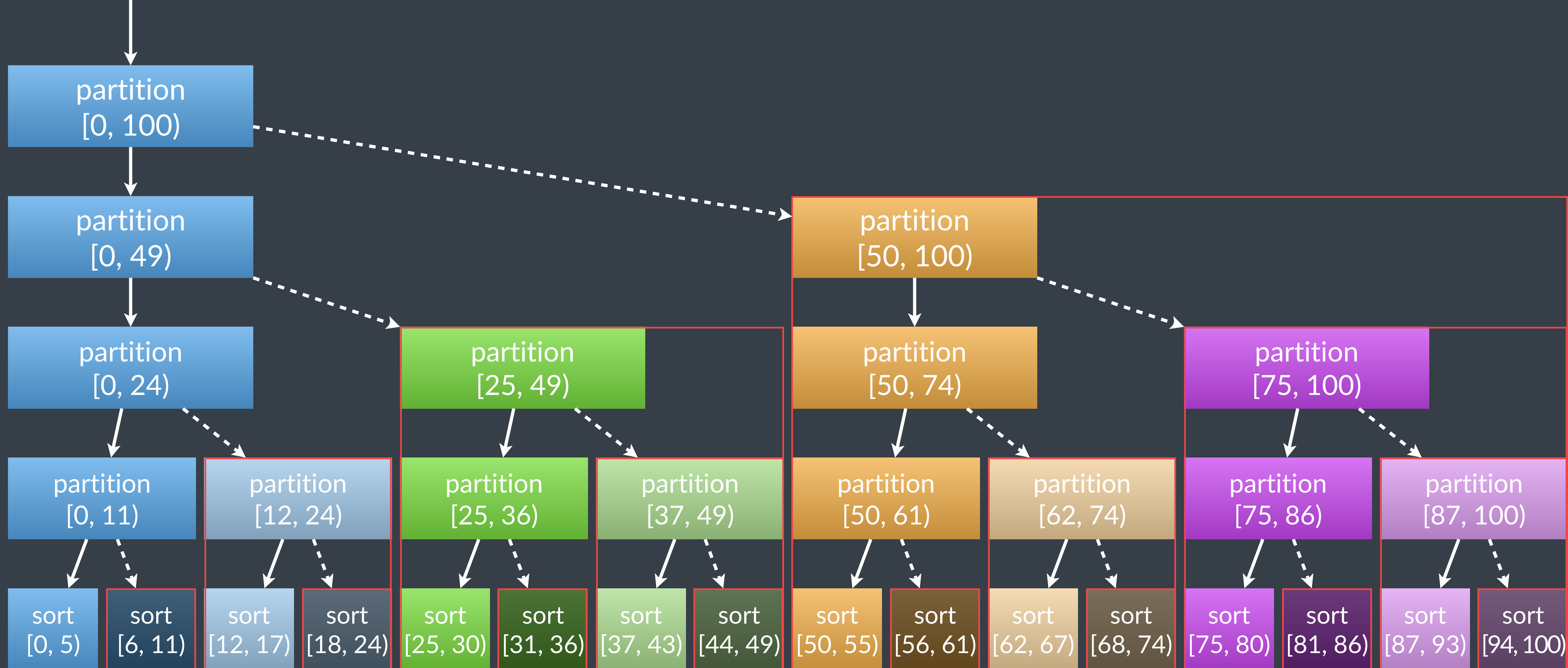
        sender auto snd = schedule(get_parallel_scheduler())
            | then([=, &scope] { concurrent_sort_impl(mid2, last, scope); });

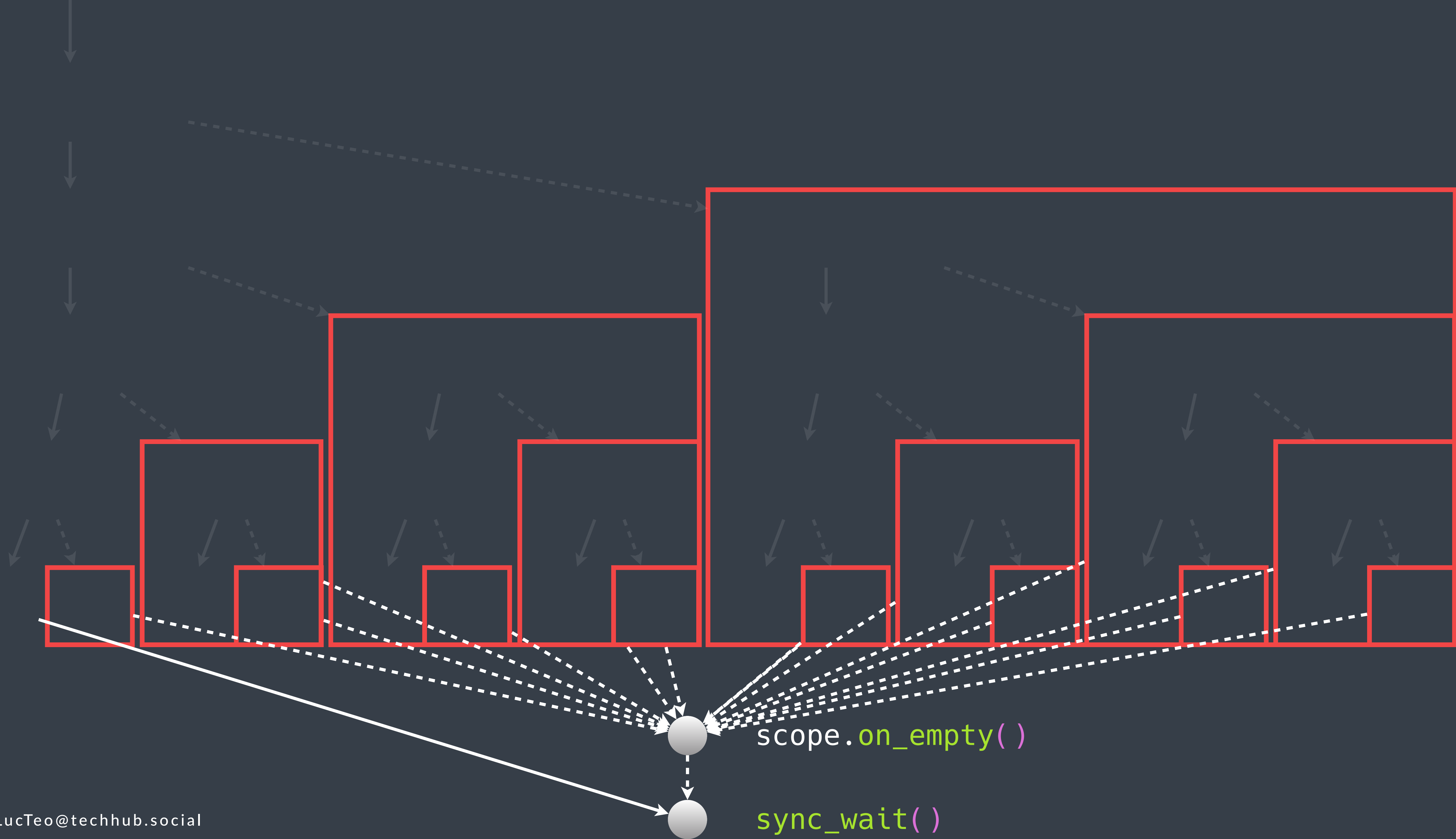
        scope.spawn(snd);
        concurrent_sort_impl(first, mid1, scope);
    }
}
```

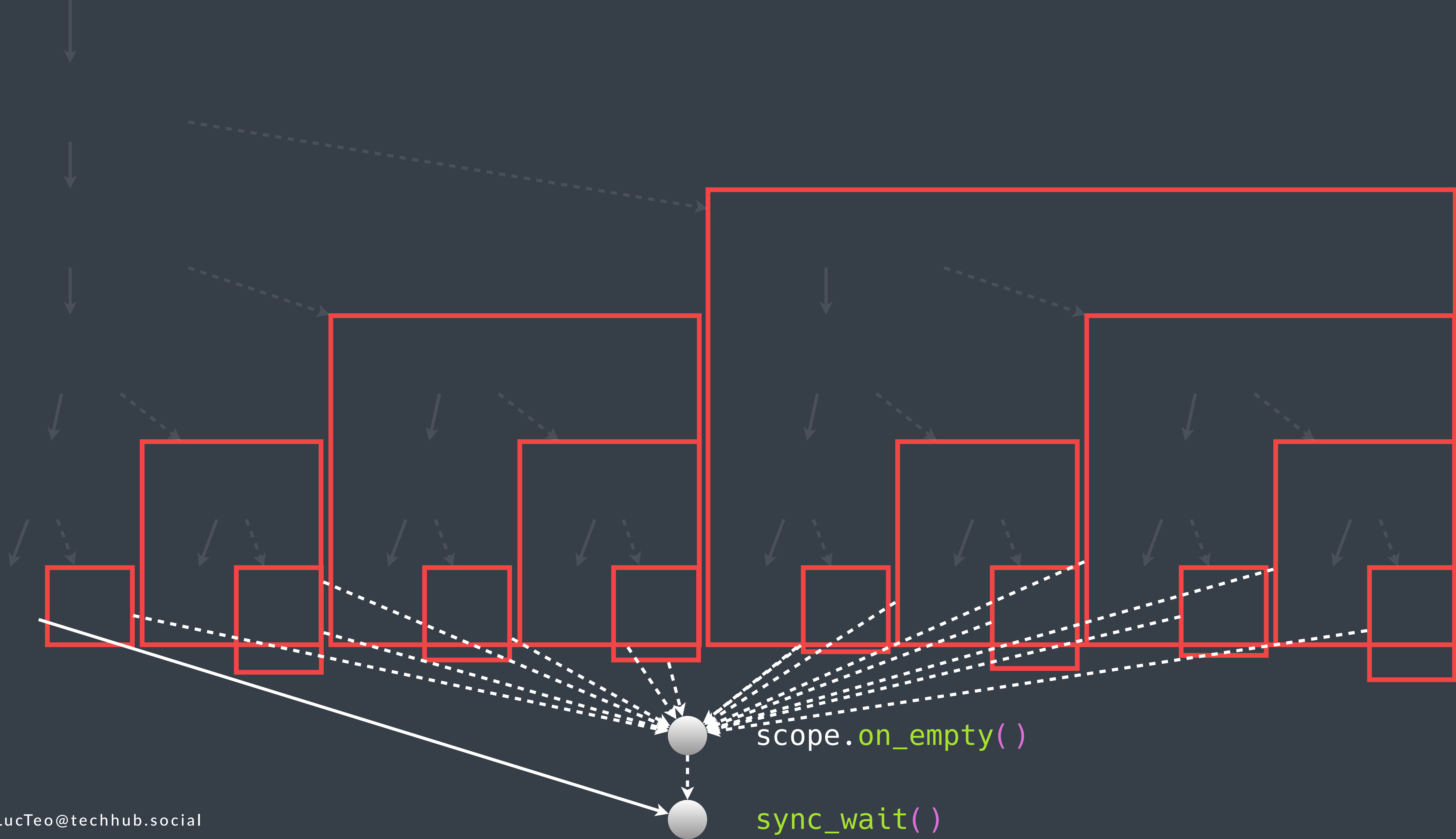












```

template <std::random_access_iterator It>
void concurrent_sort(It first, It last) {
    counting_scope scope;
    concurrent_sort_impl(first, last, scope);
    sync_wait(scope.on_empty());
}

```

```

template <std::random_access_iterator It>
void concurrent_sort_impl(It first, It last, async_scope& scope) {
    auto size = std::distance(first, last);
    if (size_t(size) < size_threshold) {
        std::sort(first, last);
    } else {
        auto p = sort_partition(first, last);
        auto mid1 = p.first;
        auto mid2 = p.second;

        sender auto snd = schedule(get_parallel_scheduler())
            | then([=, &scope] { concurrent_sort_impl(mid2, last, scope); });

        scope.spawn(snd);
        concurrent_sort_impl(first, mid1, scope);
    }
}

```




image processing

application

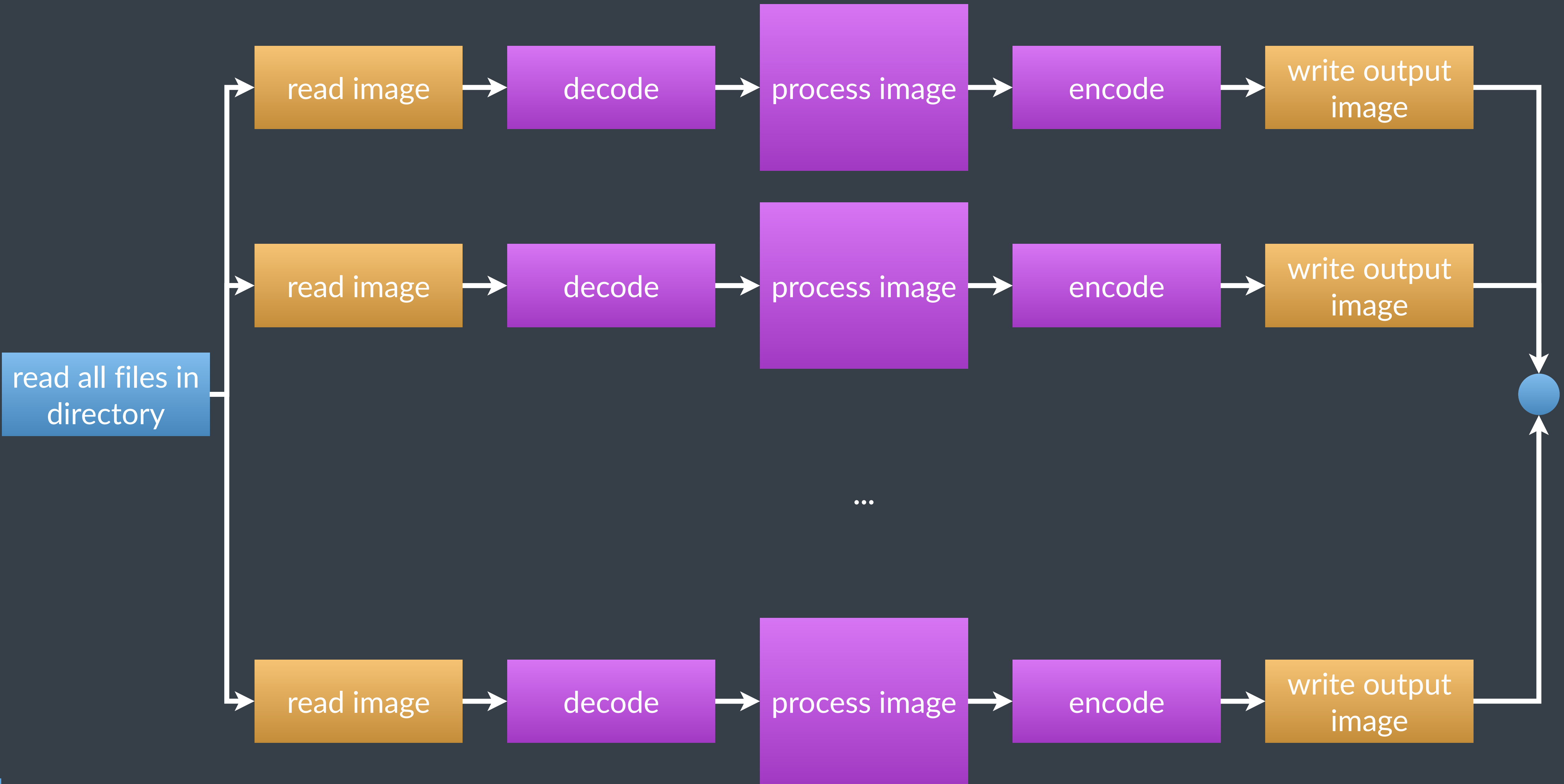
reads all the images in an input folder

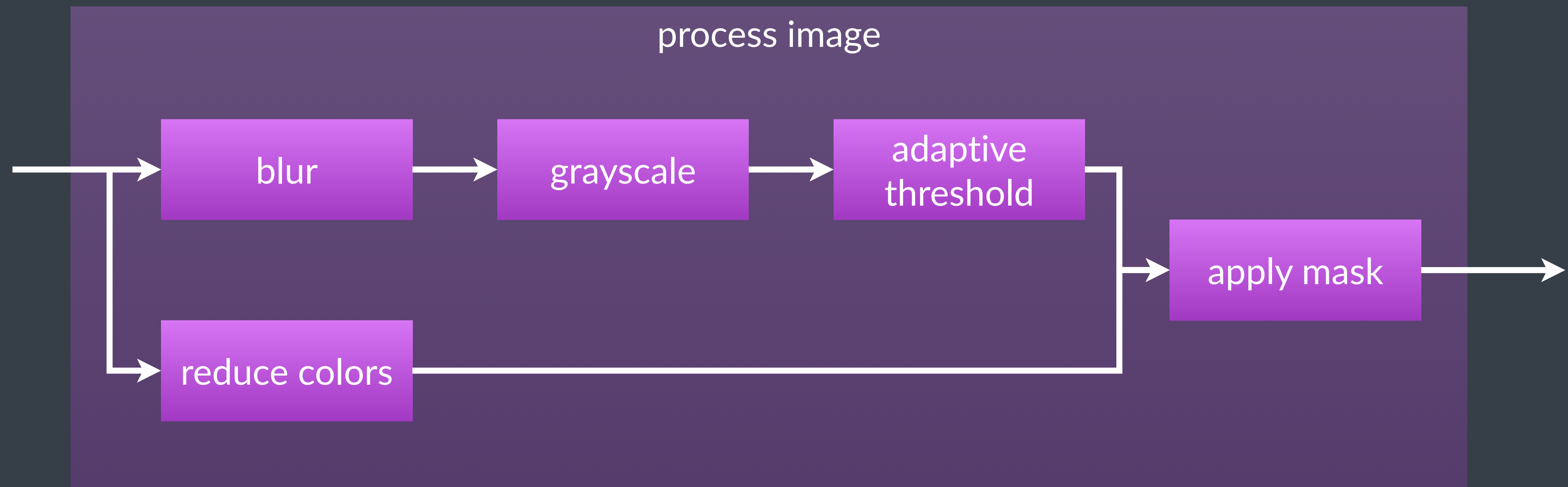
apply a filter

write them to an output folder

concurrency

I/O happens on a dedicated thread
different images can be processed concurrently
one image, more than 1 thread





```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {  
    sender auto everything = process_files("data", "out", blur_size, num_colors, block_size, diff);  
    auto [processed] = sync_wait(everything).value();  
    printf("Processed images: %d\n", processed);  
    return 0;  
}
```



```

task<int> process_files(const char* in_folder_name, const char* out_folder_name,
                      int blur_size, int num_colors, int block_size, int diff) {
    counting_scope scope;
    static_thread_pool io_pool(1);
    auto io_sched = io_pool.get_scheduler();
    auto cpu_sched = get_parallel_scheduler();

    int processed = 0;
    for (const auto& entry : fs::directory_iterator(in_folder_name)) {
        auto extension = entry.path().extension();
        if (!entry.is_regular_file() || (extension != ".jpg") && (extension != ".jpeg"))
            continue;
        auto in_filename = entry.path().string();
        auto out_filename = (fs::path(out_folder_name) / entry.path().filename()).string();
        printf("Processing %s\n", in_filename.c_str());

        sender auto work = ...

        scope.spawn(work);
    }
    co_await scope.on_empty();
    co_return processed;
}

```

senders & coroutines

coroutines can **behave as senders**

coroutines can **co_await** senders

*) with small changes to coroutine type

std:::task

in the process of standardization
coroutine designed for asynchronous work
integrates well with senders
~ a type-erased sender


```

task<int> process_files(const char* in_folder_name, const char* out_folder_name,
                      int blur_size, int num_colors, int block_size, int diff) {
    counting_scope scope;
    static_thread_pool io_pool(1);
    auto io_sched = io_pool.get_scheduler();
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    int processed = 0;
    for (const auto& entry : fs::directory_iterator(in_folder_name)) {
        auto extension = entry.path().extension();
        if (!entry.is_regular_file() || (extension != ".jpg") && (extension != ".jpeg"))
            continue;
        auto in_filename = entry.path().string();
        auto out_filename = (fs::path(out_folder_name) / entry.path().filename()).string();
        printf("Processing %s\n", in_filename.c_str());

        sender auto work = ...

        scope.spawn(work);
    }
    co_await scope.on_empty();
    co_return processed;
}

```

use std::task when

needing a type-erased sender
logic is complex

```

sender auto file_content = // read file on I/O scheduler
    co_await (schedule(io_sched) | then([=] { return read_file(entry); }));

sender auto work =
    transfer_just(cpu_sched, cv::_InputArray::rawIn(file_content)) // -> CPU sched
    | then([=](cv::_InputArray file_content) -> cv::Mat {           // decode the image
        return cv::imdecode(file_content, cv::IMREAD_COLOR);
    })
    | let_value([=](const cv::Mat& img) {                             // apply the filter
        return tr_cartoonify(img, blur_size, num_colors, block_size, diff);
    })
    | then([=](const cv::Mat& img) {                                   // encode back the image
        std::vector<unsigned char> out_image_content;
        if (!cv::imencode(extension, img, out_image_content)) {
            throw std::runtime_error("cannot encode image");
        }
        return out_image_content;
    })
    | continues_on(io_sched)                                         // -> I/O sched
    | then([=](const std::vector<unsigned char>& bytes) {           // write file
        write_file(out_filename.c_str(), bytes);
    })
    | then([=] { printf("Written %s\n", out_filename.c_str()); })
    | then([&] { processed++; });

```



```

auto tr_cartoonify(const cv::Mat& src, int blur_size, int num_colors, int block_size, int diff)
{
    auto sched = get_parallel_scheduler();
    sender auto snd =
        when_all(
            just(src)
                | continues_on(sched)
                | then(=[](const cv::Mat& src) {
                    auto blurred = tr_blur(src, blur_size);
                    auto gray = tr_to_grayscale(blurred);
                    auto edges = tr_adaptthresh(gray, block_size, diff);
                    return edges;
                }),
            just(src)
                | continues_on(sched)
                | then(=[](const cv::Mat& src) {
                    return tr_reducecolors(src, num_colors);
                })
        )
        | then(=[](const cv::Mat& edges, const cv::Mat& reduced_colors) {
            return tr_apply_mask(reduced_colors, edges);
        });
    return snd;
}

```

Beyond senders



receivers

```
struct my_receiver {  
    // This is a receiver type.  
    using receiver_concept = receiver_t;  
  
    void set_value(int value) noexcept {  
        printf("Received value: %d\n", value);  
    }  
    void set_error(std::exception_ptr e) noexcept {  
        printf("Received error\n");  
    }  
    void set_stopped() noexcept {  
        printf("Received stopped signal\n");  
    }  
};
```

```
sender auto snd = just(13);  
auto op = connect(snd, my_receiver{});  
start(op);
```


receivers

receives completion signals
part of sender adaptors & consumers
implementation detail

operation states

the actual **async operation**

writing a simple sender

```
auto just_int(int x) { return just_int_sender{x}; }
```


writing a simple sender

```
struct just_int_sender {  
    // The data of the sender.  
    int value_to_send_  
  
    // This is a sender type.  
    using sender_concept = sender_t;  
  
    // This sender always complete with an `int` value.  
    using completion_signatures = completion_signatures<set_value_t(int)>;  
  
    // No environment to provide.  
    empty_env get_env() const noexcept { return {}; }  
  
    // Connect to the given receiver, and produce an operation state.  
    template <receiver Receiver>  
    auto connect(Receiver receiver) noexcept {  
        return detail::just_int_op{value_to_send_, receiver};  
    }  
};
```

writing a simple sender

```
namespace detail {  
  
template <receiver Receiver>  
struct just_int_op {  
    int value_to_send_;  
    Receiver receiver_;  
  
    // This is an operation-state type.  
    using operation_state_concept = operation_state_t;  
  
    // The actual work of the operation state.  
    void start() noexcept {  
        // No real work, just send the value to the receiver.  
        set_value(std::move(receiver_), value_to_send_);  
    }  
};  
  
} // namespace detail
```

a **then** sender

```
template <ex::sender Previous, std::invocable<int> Fun>  
then_sender<Previous, Fun> then(Previous prev, Fun f) {  
    return {prev, f};  
}
```


a **then** sender

```
template <sender Previous, std::invocable<int> Fun>
struct then_sender {
    Previous previous_;
    Fun f_;

    // This is a sender type.
    using sender_concept = sender_t;

    // This sender always complete with an `int` value.
    using completion_signatures = completion_signatures<
        set_value_t(int),
        set_error_t(std::exception_ptr),
        set_stopped_t(>);

    // No environment to provide.
    empty_env get_env() const noexcept { return {}; }

    // Connect to the given receiver, and produce an operation state.
    template <receiver Receiver>
    auto connect(Receiver receiver) noexcept {
        return connect(previous_, detail::then_receiver{f_, receiver});
    }
};
```

a then sender

```
namespace detail {  
  
template <receiver Receiver, typename Fun>  
struct then_receiver {  
    Fun f_;  
    Receiver receiver_;  
  
    // This is a receiver type.  
    using receiver_concept = receiver_t;  
  
    // Called when the previous sender completes with a value.  
    void set_value(int value) noexcept {  
        try {  
            ex::set_value(std::move(receiver_), f_(value));  
        } catch (...) {  
            ex::set_error(std::move(receiver_), std::current_exception());  
        }  
    }  
    void set_error(std::exception_ptr e) noexcept { ex::set_error(std::move(receiver_), e); }  
    void set_stopped() noexcept { ex::set_stopped(std::move(receiver_)); }  
};  
  
}
```

environments

store **properties** for receivers, senders

read_env(tag)

<advanced>

queries the receiver for a property

```
read_env(get_scheduler)  
read_env(get_stop_token)
```



properties

allocator

stop token

scheduler

delegation scheduler

completion scheduler

forward progress guarantee

receiver environments

allows information flow from **right to left**

cancellation

left to right: `set_stopped(recv)`

right to left: `get_stopped_token(recv)`

left to right cancellation

our predecessor has been canceled

we received `set_stopped( )`

=> we call `set_stopped( )` too

right to left cancellation

caller (receiver) tells us that it doesn't need our results
its stopped token is signaled
we check that stop token

=> we call don't do work and call `set_stopped( )`

all algorithms can be **customised**

e.g., **more efficient** implementations for certain schedulers

advanced concerns

writing generic sender algorithms

metaprogramming required for completion signatures

provide good diagnosis

Conclusions



covered

sync vs async

elements of thinking concurrently

senders & completion signals

standard algorithms

examples

S/R add-ons: parallel scheduler, counting_scope, task

	sync	async
completion time	Immediate	deferred
completion place	same thread	different thread
work ordering	total	partial
focus	control flow	control flow

structured concurrency

focus on **control flow**

stop thinking about **threads**

senders

describe asynchronous work
compose well
are execute lazily
safe concurrency

algorithms in the base proposal

sender **factories**

sender **adaptors**

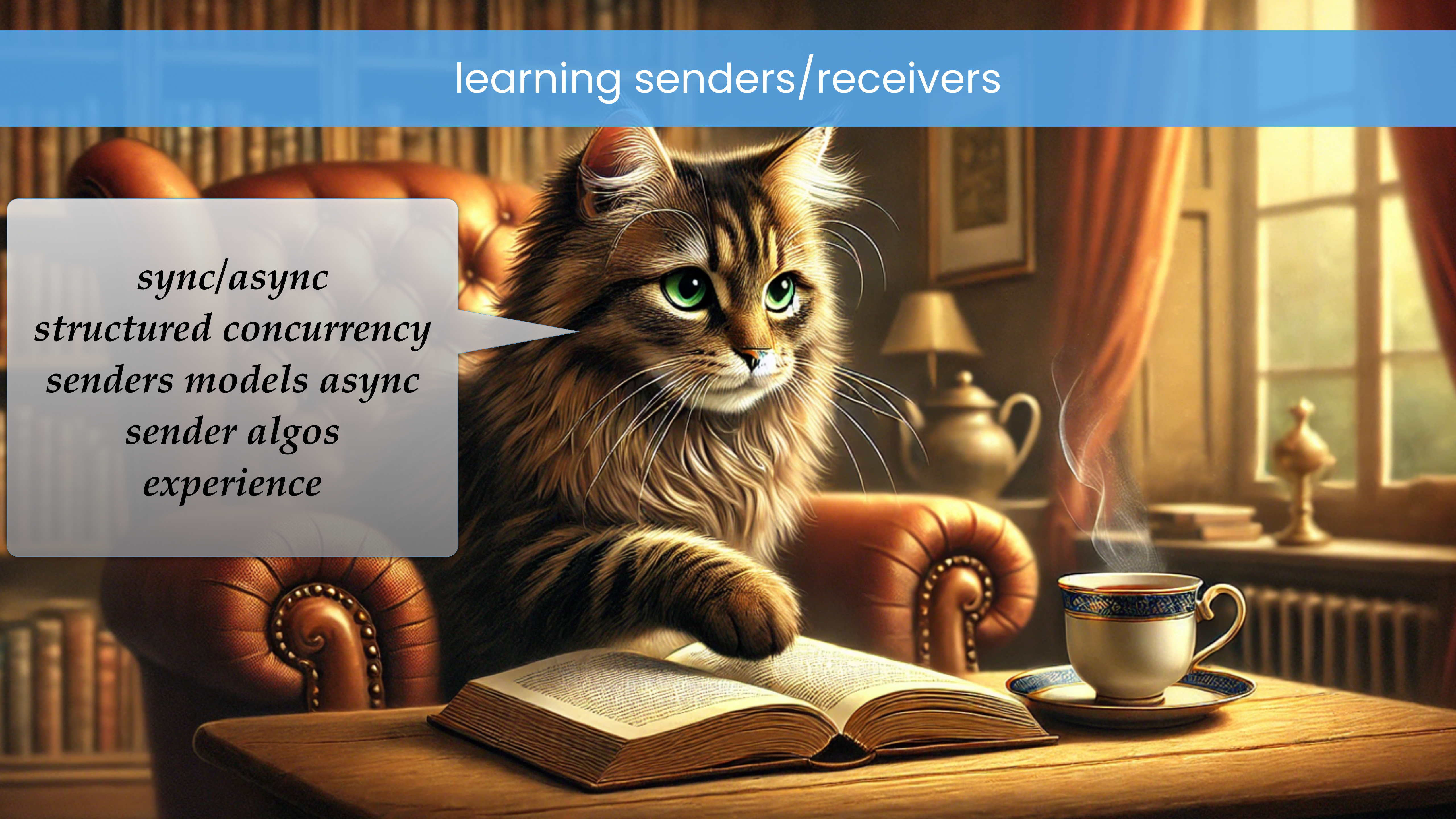
sender **consumers**



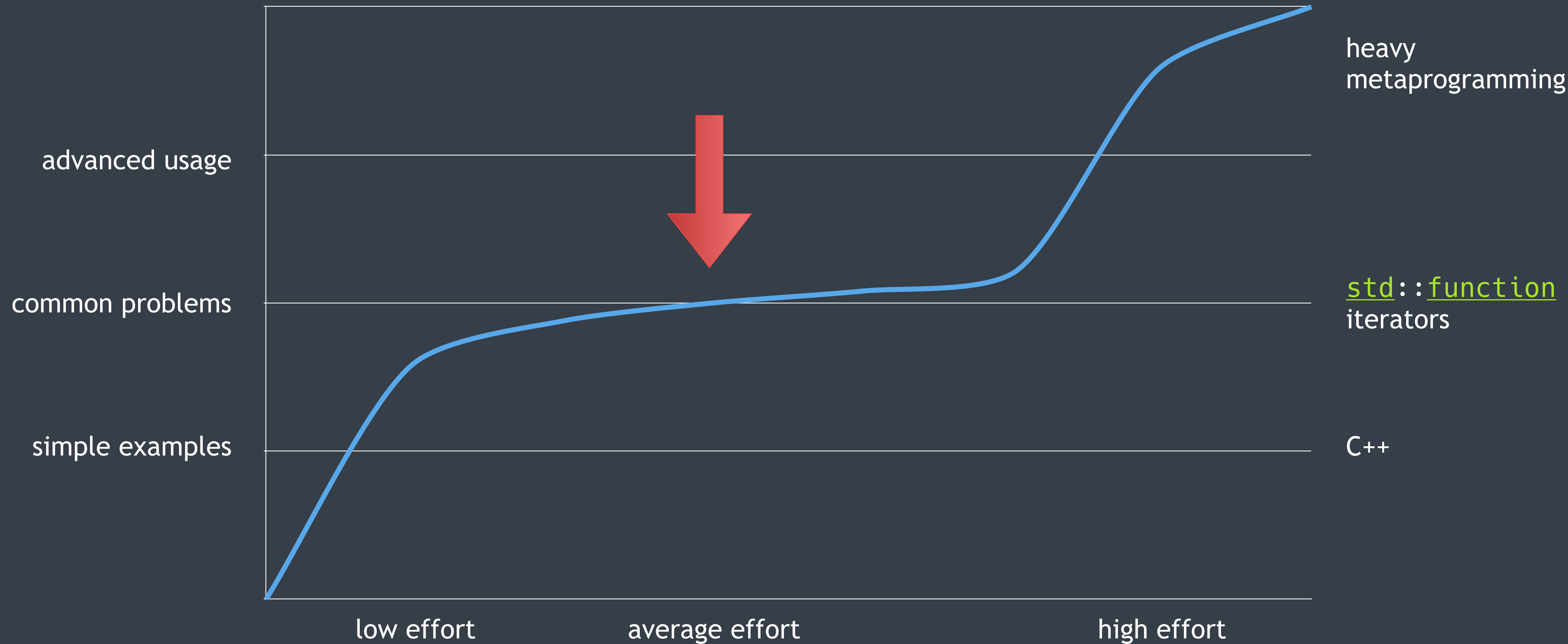
using senders/algos
adding concurrency
get_parallel_scheduler()
counting_scope
task

learning senders/receivers

sync/async
structured concurrency
senders models async
sender algos
experience



learning senders/receivers





senders/receivers **are** easy

A close-up photograph of a man with dark, curly hair and a beard, looking directly at the camera. He is holding a long-haired tabby cat against his chest. The cat has dark fur with light-colored stripes and is looking slightly away from the camera. The man is wearing a blue shirt with a small white polka-dot pattern. The background is slightly out of focus, showing a bookshelf with various items and a lamp.

Thank You



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lucteo.ro