# Master's Thesis Exam Verification of the Blocking and Non-Blocking Michael-Scott Queue Algorithms

Mathias Pedersen, 201808137 Advisor: Amin Timany

Aarhus University

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    - Useful for sequential clients
  - Concurrent specification
    - Proves safety of concurrent queues
    - Useful for some concurrent clients
    - Doesn't track queue contents
  - HOCAP-style specification
    - Stronger specification, useful for more complex clients
    - Tracks queue contents
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- All proofs have been mechanised in the Coq proof assistant

#### Outline

- 1 Queue Specifications (HOCAP)
- 2 The Two-Lock Michael-Scott Queue
- Proving that the Two-Lock Michael-Scott Queue Satisfies the HOCAP-style Specification
- 4 The Lock-Free Michael-Scott Queue
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## Queue Specifications (HOCAP)

## Specifications for Queues

#### Assumptions on Queues

- Queues consists of initialize, enqueue, and dequeue
- initialize creates an empty queue: []
- **enqueue** adds a value, v, to the beginning of the queue  $xs_v$ :  $v :: xs_v$
- dequeue depends on whether queue is empty:
  - If non-empty,  $xs_v$  ++ v, remove value v at end of queue and return Some v
  - If empty, [], return None

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#### Nature of Specifications

- Specifications written in Iris, a higher order CSL
- **Expressed** in terms of *Hoare triples*:  $\{P\}$  e  $\{v. \Phi v\}$
- Hoare triples prove partial correctness of programs, e
- In particular: safety

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- Idea: have two "views" of the abstract state of the queue

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Owned by queue	Owned by client

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Authoritative view	Fragmental view
$\gamma \mapsto_{ullet} x s_v$	$\gamma \mapsto_{\circ} xs_{v}$
Owned by queue	Owned by client

- Construction ensures:
  - authoritative and fragmental views always agree on abstract state of queue
  - views can only be updated in unison
- Implemented using the resource algebra:  $Auth((FRAC \times Ag(List \ Val))^?)$
- The desirables are captured by the following lemmas

#### Lemmas on the Abstract State RA

$$\vdash \boxminus \exists \gamma. \ \gamma \bowtie_{\bullet} xs_{v} * \gamma \bowtie_{\circ} xs_{v}$$

$$(Abstract State Alloc)$$

$$\gamma \bowtie_{\bullet} xs'_{v} * \gamma \bowtie_{\circ} xs_{v} \vdash xs_{v} = xs'_{v}$$

$$(Abstract State Agree)$$

$$\gamma \bowtie_{\bullet} xs'_{v} * \gamma \bowtie_{\circ} xs_{v} \Rightarrow \gamma \bowtie_{\bullet} xs''_{v} * \gamma \bowtie_{\circ} xs''_{v}$$

$$(Abstract State Update)$$

- Post-condition of initialize specification gives fragmental view to clients
- Hoare triples for enqueue and dequeue are conditioned on view-shifts
- Clients must show that they can supply the fragmental view, so that the abstract (and concrete) state can be updated
- View-shifts and Hoare-triples parametrised by predicates *P* and *Q* 
  - Client might have resources that need to be updated as a result of enqueue/dequeue
  - $\blacksquare$  P is the clients resources before enqueue/dequeue and Q the resources after

#### Definition (HOCAP Specification)

```
\exists isQueue : Val \rightarrow Qgnames \rightarrow Prop.

\forall v_a, G. isQueue(v_a, G) \implies \Box isQueue(v_a, G)
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 \land \quad \forall v_q, v, G, P, Q. \quad \left( \forall xs_v. G.\gamma_{Abst} \mapsto_{\bullet} xs_v * P \Rrightarrow_{\mathcal{E} \backslash \mathcal{N}, i \uparrow} \triangleright G.\gamma_{Abst} \mapsto_{\bullet} (v :: xs_v) * Q \right) - * 
 \{ \text{isQueue}(v_q, G) * P \} \text{ enqueue } v_q \ v \ \{ w. Q \}
```

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## Definition (HOCAP Specification)

 $\forall v_a, G. \text{ isQueue}(v_a, G) \implies \Box \text{ isQueue}(v_a, G)$ 

 $\exists$  isQueue :  $Val \rightarrow Qgnames \rightarrow Prop.$ 

$$\wedge \forall v_{q}, G, P, Q.$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \forall xs_{v}. \ G.\gamma_{Abst} \mapsto_{\bullet} xs_{v} * P \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{N}. f} \land \\ \begin{cases} (xs_{v} = [] * G.\gamma_{Abst} \mapsto_{\bullet} xs_{v} * Q(\mathsf{None})) \\ \lor \begin{pmatrix} \exists v, xs'_{v}. xs_{v} = xs'_{v} + [v] * \\ G.\gamma_{Abst} \mapsto_{\bullet} xs'_{v} * Q(\mathsf{Some} v) \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix} -*$$

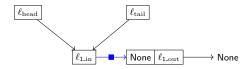
$$\{ \text{isQueue}(v_{\alpha}, G) * P \} \text{ degueue } v_{\alpha} \{ w. Q(w) \}$$

The Two-Lock Michael-Scott Queue

#### Implementation: initialize

■ The queue data structure is a linked list

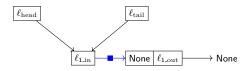
```
initialize \triangleq
let node = ref(None, ref(None)) in
let H\_lock = newLock() in
let T\_lock = newLock() in
ref((ref(node), ref(node)), (H\_lock, T\_lock))
```



#### Implementation: initialize

- The queue data structure is a linked list
- A node x in the linked list is a triple,  $x = (\ell_{\rm in}, w, \ell_{\rm out})$ , with  $\ell_{\rm in} \mapsto (w, \ell_{\rm out})$
- We use the following notation for nodes

$$\mathsf{in}(x) = \ell_{\mathrm{in}}$$
  $\mathsf{val}(x) = w$   $\mathsf{out}(x) = \ell_{\mathrm{out}}$ 

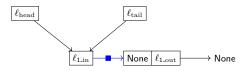


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- The initialize function first creates an initial head node,  $x_{head}$
- Then, a lock protecting the head pointer, and a lock protecting the tail pointer
- Finally, it creates the head and tail pointers,  $\ell_{\rm head}$  and  $\ell_{\rm tail}$ , both pointing to  $x_{\rm head}$

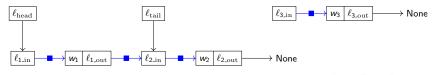


- The enqueue function consists of the following steps
  - I Create a new node,  $x_{new}$ , containing value to be enqueued
  - 2 Acquire the tail lock
  - 3 Add  $x_{new}$  to linked list
  - 4 Swing tail pointer to  $x_{new}$
  - 5 Release the tail lock

```
enqueue Q value \triangleq
let node = ref (Some value, ref (None)) in
acquire(snd(snd(! Q)));
snd(!(!(snd(fst(! Q)))) \leftarrow node;
snd(fst(! Q)) \leftarrow node;
release(snd(snd(! Q)))
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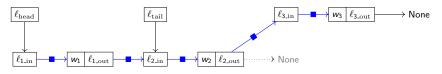
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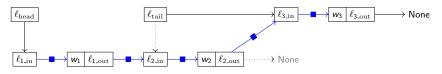
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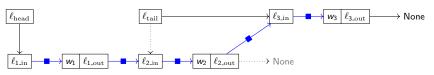
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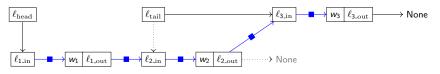
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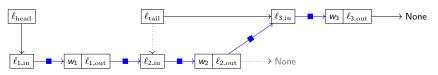
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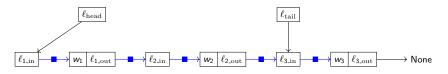
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- Once a node is enqueued, its position in the linked list is fixed
- Adding and swinging not atomic → Tail node is either last or second last
- dequeue ignores tail pointer → Tail node can lag behind head node

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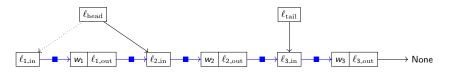
- The dequeue function checks if queue is empty
  - If empty, return None
  - Else, swing head pointer to new head node, and return its value

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dequeue Q \triangleq
acquire(fst(snd(! Q)));
let node = !(fst(fst(! Q))) in
let new_head = !(snd(! node)) in
if new_head = None then
release(fst(snd(! Q)));
None
else
let value = fst(! new_head) in
fst(fst(! Q)) \leftarrow new_head;
release(fst(snd(! Q)));
value
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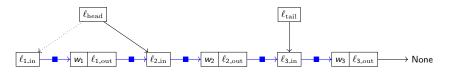
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- The dequeue function checks if queue is empty
  - If empty, return None
  - Else, swing head pointer to new head node, and return its value
- Dequeued node not freed → Linked list only grows

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if new_head = None then
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Proving that the Two-Lock Michael-Scott Queue Satisfies the HOCAP-style Specification

#### The isLL Predicate

- Idea: express the structure of the linked list in terms of points-to predicates
- Also captures persistent and non-persistent parts of the linked list

#### Definition (Linked List Predicate)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{isLL\_chain}([]) \triangleq &\text{True} \\ \text{isLL\_chain}([x]) \triangleq &\text{in}(x) \mapsto^{\square} (\text{val}(x), \text{out}(x)) \\ \text{isLL\_chain}(x :: x' :: xs) \triangleq &\text{in}(x) \mapsto^{\square} (\text{val}(x), \text{out}(x)) * \text{out}(x') \mapsto^{\square} &\text{in}(x) * &\text{isLL\_chain}(x' :: xs) \end{aligned}$$

$$isLL(x :: xs) \triangleq out(x) \mapsto None * isLL\_chain(x :: xs)$$

#### Example

Consider the list: 
$$xs = [(\ell_{3.\mathrm{in}}, w_3, \ell_{3.\mathrm{out}}); (\ell_{2.\mathrm{in}}, w_2, \ell_{2.\mathrm{out}}); (\ell_{1.\mathrm{in}}, w_1, \ell_{1.\mathrm{out}})].$$

$$isLL(xs) = \ell_{3.\mathrm{out}} \mapsto \mathsf{None} * \ell_{3.\mathrm{in}} \mapsto^{\square} (w_3, \ell_{3.\mathrm{out}}) * \ell_{2.\mathrm{out}} \mapsto^{\square} \ell_{3.\mathrm{in}} * \ell_{2.\mathrm{in}} \mapsto^{\square} (w_2, \ell_{2.\mathrm{out}}) * \ell_{1.\mathrm{out}} \mapsto^{\square} \ell_{2.\mathrm{in}} * \ell_{1.\mathrm{in}} \mapsto^{\square} (w_1, \ell_{1.\mathrm{out}})$$

$$\ell_{1.\mathrm{in}} \mapsto^{\square} (w_1, \ell_{1.\mathrm{out}}) \mapsto^{\square} \ell_{2.\mathrm{in}} \mapsto^{\square} \ell_{2.\mathrm{out}} \mapsto^{\square} \ell_{3.\mathrm{in}} \mapsto^{\square} \mathsf{None}$$

$$\mathsf{None} * \mathsf{None} * \mathsf{N$$

#### Invariant

- Queue predicate must be persistent (according to specification)
- Problem: the queue relies on non-persistent resources (e.g.  $\ell_{\text{head}} \mapsto \text{in}(x_{\text{head}})$ )
- Solution: identify an *invariant* (persistent), describing the resources

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- Contains abstract state of queue existentially quantified as it can change

## Definition (Two-Lock M&S Queue HOCAP Invariant)

$$I_{\mathsf{TLH}}(\ell_{\mathrm{head}}, \ell_{\mathrm{tail}}, G) \triangleq \exists x s_{\mathsf{v}}. \ G. \gamma_{\mathrm{Abst}} \Rightarrow_{\bullet} x s_{\mathsf{v}} *$$
 (abstract state)

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#### Definition (Two-Lock M&S Queue HOCAP Invariant)

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\begin{split} \mathsf{I}_{\mathsf{TLH}}(\ell_{\mathrm{head}},\ell_{\mathrm{tail}},G) &\triangleq \exists x s_v. \ G.\gamma_{\mathrm{Abst}} \mapsto_{\bullet} x s_v * \\ &\exists x s, x s_{\mathrm{queue}}, x s_{\mathrm{old}}, x_{\mathrm{head}}, x_{\mathrm{tail}}. \\ &x s = x s_{\mathrm{queue}} + + [x_{\mathrm{head}}] + + x s_{\mathrm{old}} * \\ &\text{isLL}(x s) * \end{split}  (concrete state)
```

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- Problem: the queue relies on non-persistent resources (e.g.  $\ell_{\text{head}} \mapsto \text{in}(x_{\text{head}})$ )
- Solution: identify an invariant (persistent), describing the resources
- Contains abstract state of queue existentially quantified as it can change
- Defines structure of the concrete linked list, xs
- Asserts relation between abstract state and concrete state

#### Definition (Two-Lock M&S Queue HOCAP Invariant)

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\begin{split} \mathsf{I}_{\mathsf{TLH}}(\ell_{\mathrm{head}},\ell_{\mathrm{tail}},G) &\triangleq \exists xs_v.\ G.\gamma_{\mathrm{Abst}} \mapsto_{\bullet} xs_v * \\ &\exists xs, xs_{\mathrm{queue}}, xs_{\mathrm{old}}, x_{\mathrm{head}}, x_{\mathrm{tail}}. \end{split} \tag{concrete state} \\ &xs = xs_{\mathrm{queue}} + + [x_{\mathrm{head}}] + + xs_{\mathrm{old}} * \\ &\mathrm{isLL}(xs) * \\ &\mathrm{projVal}(xs_{\mathrm{queue}}) = \mathrm{wrapSome}(xs_v) * \end{split}
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- Queue predicate must be persistent (according to specification)
- Problem: the queue relies on non-persistent resources (e.g.  $\ell_{\text{head}} \mapsto \text{in}(x_{\text{head}})$ )
- Solution: identify an *invariant* (persistent), describing the resources
- Contains abstract state of queue existentially quantified as it can change
- Defines structure of the concrete linked list, xs
- Asserts relation between abstract state and concrete state
- Identifies possible queue states: Static, Enqueue, Dequeue, and Both
  - Two locks → Four queue states
  - Invariant describes the queue resources in each state
  - See next slide

#### Definition (Two-Lock M&S Queue HOCAP Invariant)

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```

## Invariant (Queue States)

- Idea: the enqueueing thread keeps half of tail pointer between invariant openings
- Guarantees that the pointer is not updated (full pointer needed for update)
- Similarly for the dequeueing thread
- **Enqueue** and **Both** also captures "gap" between adding  $x_{\mathrm{new}}$  and swinging  $\ell_{\mathrm{tail}}$
- Tokens used to reason about which state queue is in

### Definition (Two-Lock M&S Queue HOCAP Invariant - continued)

### Queue Predicate

■ We now define the queue predicate in terms of our invariant

## Definition (Two-Lock M&S Queue - isQueue Predicate)

$$\begin{split} \text{isQueue}(\textit{v}_q,\textit{G}) \triangleq & \exists \ell_{\text{queue}}, \ell_{\text{head}}, \ell_{\text{tail}} \in \textit{Loc}. \ \exists \textit{h}_{\text{lock}}, \textit{t}_{\text{lock}} \in \textit{Val}. \\ & \textit{v}_q = \ell_{\text{queue}} * \ell_{\text{queue}} \mapsto^{\square} \big( (\ell_{\text{head}}, \ell_{\text{tail}}), (\textit{h}_{\text{lock}}, \textit{t}_{\text{lock}}) \big) * \\ & \boxed{\mathsf{I}_{\mathsf{TLH}}(\ell_{\text{head}}, \ell_{\text{tail}}, \textit{G})}^{\mathcal{N}.\textit{queue}} * \\ & \text{isLock}(\textit{G}.\gamma_{\text{Hlock}}, \textit{h}_{\text{lock}}, \mathsf{TokD} \ \textit{G}) * \\ & \text{isLock}(\textit{G}.\gamma_{\text{Tlock}}, \textit{t}_{\text{lock}}, \mathsf{TokE} \ \textit{G}) \end{split}$$

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- The queue predicate is persistent, as all its constituents are
- Proving that Two-Lock M&S Queue satisfies the HOCAP-style specification then consists of proving the Hoare triples for initialize, enqueue, and dequeue
- We here focus on enqueue

$$\forall v_q, v, G, P, Q. \quad (\forall xs_v. \ G.\gamma_{\mathrm{Abst}} \mapsto_{\bullet} xs_v * P \Rrightarrow_{\mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{N}.i\uparrow} \triangleright G.\gamma_{\mathrm{Abst}} \mapsto_{\bullet} (v :: xs_v) * Q) \twoheadrightarrow \{ \mathrm{isQueue}(v_q, G) * P \} \text{ enqueue } v_q \ v \ \{w.Q\}$$

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  e_t = !(\operatorname{snd}(\operatorname{fst}(! v_a)))
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```

The Lock-Free Michael-Scott Queue

# Implementation (Consistency-Check Free)

- Queue data structure is still a linked list
- The lock-free versions of initialize, enqueue, and dequeue perform the same manipulations of the linked list as two-lock versions
- Difference is how the manipulations take place

## Implementation (Consistency-Check Free)

- Queue data structure is still a linked list
- The lock-free versions of initialize, enqueue, and dequeue perform the same manipulations of the linked list as two-lock versions
- Difference is how the manipulations take place now with CAS instructions
- Ensures no overwrites of enqueued nodes, and no node dequeued twice

```
initialize \triangleq
let node = ref (None, ref (None)) in ref (ref (node), ref (node))
enqueue Q value \triangleq
let node = ref (Some value, ref (None)) in (rec loop\_=
let tail = !(snd(! Q)) in let next = !(snd(! tail)) in if next = None then if CAS (snd(! tail)) next node then CAS (snd(! Q)) tail node else loop () else CAS (snd(! Q)) tail next; loop ()
```

```
dequeue Q \triangleq
  (rec loop_ =
     let head = !(fst(! Q)) in
     let tail = !(snd(!Q)) in
     let next = !(snd(! head)) in
     if head = tail then
       if next = None then
          None
        else
          CAS(snd(! Q)) tail next; loop ()
     else
       let value = fst(! next) in
       if CAS (fst(! Q)) head next then
          value
        else loop ()
     )()
```

### Consistency Checks and Prophecies

- Original implementation has consistency checks to deal with ABA problem
- Creates complications when proving adherence to HOCAP-style specification
- In dequeue, the point at which to apply the view-shift (to update P to Q) depends on whether queue is empty and result of future consistency check
- Prophecies allow us to reason about future computations (e.g. consistency check)

```
initialize ≜
  let node = ref(None, ref(None)) in
  ref (ref (node), ref (node))
enqueue Q value \triangleq
  let node = ref (Some value, ref (None)) in
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    let tail = !(snd(! Q)) in
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          else loop ()
       else CAS (snd(! Q)) tail next; loop ()
     else loop ()
  )()
```

```
dequeue Q \triangleq
  (rec loop_{-} =
     let head = !(fst(! Q)) in
     let tail = !(snd(!Q)) in
     let p = \text{newproph in}
     let next = !(snd(! head)) in
     if head = Resolve(!(fst(!Q)), p, ()) then
       if head = tail then
          if next = None then
            None
           else
            CAS(snd(! Q)) tail next; loop ()
        else
          let value = fst(! next) in
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```

Proving that the Lock-Free Michael-Scott Queue Satisfies the HOCAP-style Specification

- The queue relies on some important properties to function correctly:
  - The set of nodes reachable from a particular node only grows
  - The head and tail are only moved forward in the linked list
  - The tail cannot lag behind the head (unlike in the two-lock version)

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- Consists of a concrete and abstract version of reachability

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- The proposition  $x_n \rightsquigarrow x_m$  asserts that  $x_n$  can reach  $x_m$  through the linked list

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- Defined inductively as follows

$$x_n \rightsquigarrow x_m \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \mathsf{in}(x_n) \mapsto^{\square} (\mathsf{val}(x_n), \mathsf{out}(x_n)) * (x_n = x_m \vee \exists x_p. \mathsf{out}(x_n) \mapsto^{\square} \mathsf{in}(x_p) * x_p \rightsquigarrow x_m)$$

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$$x_n \rightsquigarrow x_m \triangleq \mathsf{in}(x_n) \mapsto^{\square} (\mathsf{val}(x_n), \mathsf{out}(x_n)) * (x_n = x_m \lor \exists x_p. \mathsf{out}(x_n) \mapsto^{\square} \mathsf{in}(x_p) * x_p \rightsquigarrow x_m)$$

Concrete reachability is reflexive and transitive

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Abstract reachability is concerned with tracking specific types of nodes, such as the head node, the tail node, and the last node

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- And  $x_m \dashrightarrow \gamma_{\mathrm{Tail}}$  means that node  $x_m$  can always reach the tail node

#### Lemmas for Reachability (simplified)

$$x \rightsquigarrow x \Rrightarrow \exists \gamma. \ \gamma \rightarrowtail x$$
 (Abs Reach Alloc)  
 $x_n \dashrightarrow \gamma_m * \gamma_m \rightarrowtail x_m \twoheadrightarrow x_n \leadsto x_m$  (Abs Reach Concr)  
 $x_n \leadsto x_m * \gamma_m \rightarrowtail x_m \Rrightarrow x_n \dashrightarrow \gamma_m$  (Abs Reach Abs)  
 $\gamma_m \rightarrowtail x_m * x_m \leadsto x_o \Rrightarrow \gamma_m \rightarrowtail x_o$  (Abs Reach Advance)

