

# Sequential Specification

## Definition (Sequential Specification)

$\exists \text{isQueues} : \text{Val} \rightarrow \text{List Val} \rightarrow \text{SeqQgnames} \rightarrow \text{Prop}.$

- The proposition  $\text{isQueues}(v_q, xs_v, G)$ , states that value  $v_q$  represents the queue, which contains elements  $xs_v$
- $G \in \text{SeqQgnames}$  is a collection of ghost names (depends on specific queue)
- Specification consists of three Hoare triples – one for each queue function
- **Important:**  $\text{isQueues}$  *not* required to be persistent!

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$\text{ dequeue } v_q$

$\left\{ w. \begin{array}{l} (xs_v = [] * w = \text{None} * \text{isQueues}(v_q, xs_v, G)) \vee \\ (\exists v, xs'_v. xs_v = xs'_v ++ [v] * w = \text{Some } v * \text{isQueues}(v_q, xs'_v, G)) \end{array} \right\}$

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# Concurrent Specification

- To support **concurrent clients**, we shall require the **queue predicate** be **persistent**
- **Tracking** the contents of queue in the way that the sequential specification did **doesn't work**
- **Threads** will start **disagreeing on contents of queue**, as they have only **local view** of contents
- Give up on tracking contents for now
- Instead, **promise** that all elements **satisfy** client-defined **predicate**,  $\Psi$

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$\exists \text{isQueue}_C : (Val \rightarrow Prop) \rightarrow Val \rightarrow ConcQnames \rightarrow Prop.$

$\forall \Psi : Val \rightarrow Prop.$

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## Queue Client - A PoC Client

- Add two numbers after having two threads enqueue and subsequently dequeue them

---

```
unwrap w  $\triangleq$  match w with None  $\Rightarrow$  () () | Some v  $\Rightarrow$  v end
```

```
enqdeq vq c  $\triangleq$  enqueue vq c; unwrap(dequeue vq)
```

```
queueAdd a b  $\triangleq$ 
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  let vq = initialize () in
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  let p = (enqdeq vq a) || (enqdeq vq b) in
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  fst p + snd p
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- Uses parallel composition, so sequential specification insufficient
- Relies on dequeues not returning None, so concurrent specification insufficient
- HOCAP-style specification supports consistency and tracks queue contents, allowing us to exclude cases where dequeue returns None

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## Queue Client - A PoC Client (continued)

### Lemma (QueueAdd Specification)

$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}. \{True\} \text{queueAdd } a \ b \{v.v = a + b\}$$

## Queue Client - A PoC Client (continued)

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$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}. \{True\} \text{ queueAdd } a \ b \{v.v = a + b\}$$

- **Proof idea:** create **invariant** capturing possible **states of queue contents**
- **Tokens** are used to reason about which **state** we are in

### Definition (Invariant for QueueAdd)

$$\begin{aligned} I_{QA}(G, Ga, a, b) &\triangleq G.\gamma_{\text{Abst}} \Rightarrow_{\circ} [] * \text{TokD1 } Ga * \text{TokD2 } Ga \vee \\ &G.\gamma_{\text{Abst}} \Rightarrow_{\circ} [a] * \text{TokA } Ga * (\text{TokD1 } Ga \vee \text{TokD2 } Ga) \vee \\ &G.\gamma_{\text{Abst}} \Rightarrow_{\circ} [b] * \text{TokB } Ga * (\text{TokD1 } Ga \vee \text{TokD2 } Ga) \vee \\ &G.\gamma_{\text{Abst}} \Rightarrow_{\circ} [a; b] * \text{TokA } Ga * \text{TokB } Ga \vee \\ &G.\gamma_{\text{Abst}} \Rightarrow_{\circ} [b; a] * \text{TokB } Ga * \text{TokA } Ga \end{aligned}$$

## Implementation: initialize

- 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

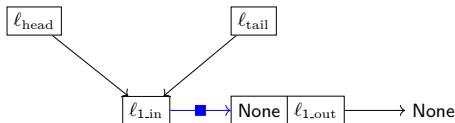


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- **Difference** is how the manipulations take place – now with **CAS** instructions
- No longer need locks

initialize  $\triangleq$

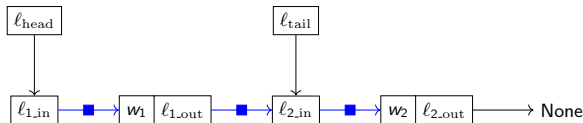
```
let node = ref (None, ref (None)) in  
ref (ref (node), ref (node))
```



## Implementation: enqueue

- **Appending**  $x_{\text{new}}$  to linked list is now done with **CAS**
- **Ensures** that no other thread has **performed an enqueue** during own enqueue
  - Otherwise, we might “**overwrite**” another threads enqueued node
- **Swinging** tail to  $x_{\text{new}}$  **might fail** – another thread has **helped us**

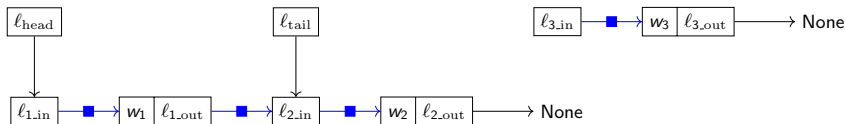
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enqueue Q value  $\triangleq$   
  let node = ref (Some value, ref (None)) in  
  (rec loop_ =  
    let tail = !(snd(! Q)) in  
    let next = !(snd(! tail)) in  
    if tail = !(snd(! Q)) then  
      if next = None then  
        if CAS (snd(! tail)) next node then  
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      else CAS (snd(! Q)) tail next; loop ()  
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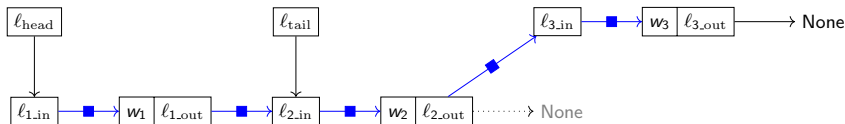
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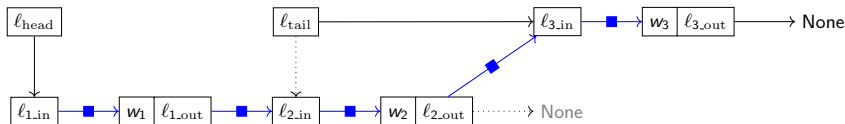
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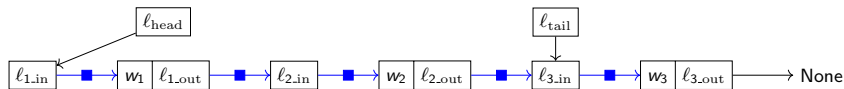
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## Implementation: dequeue

- Head now **swung** with CAS instruction
- **Ensures** that no other thread has **dequeued the element** we are trying to dequeue

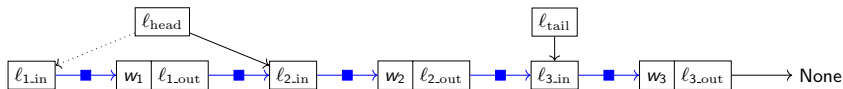
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dequeue Q  $\triangleq$   
(rec loop_ =  
  let head = !(fst(! Q)) in  
  let tail = !(snd(! Q)) in  
  let p = newproph in  
  let next = !(snd(! head)) in  
  if head = Resolve(! (fst(! Q)), p, ()) then  
    if head = tail then  
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        CAS(snd(! Q)) tail next; loop_ ()  
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      let value = fst(! next) in  
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# Prophecies

- Proving adherence to HOCAP-style specification requires applying the view-shift at some point (must update  $P$  to  $Q$ )

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- Linearisation point is when we read *next* if
  - Queue is empty
  - Consistency check on next line succeeds
- Prophecies: reason about future computations (e.g. the consistency check)
  - $!(fst(!Q))$  will evaluate to some  $v_p$  (later proof obligation)
  - Before reading *next*, reason about whether  $head = v_p$

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