

A question on the correctness of a nonblocking algorithm

The $\text{swap}(m, v)$ atomic operation receives two parameters: m - a shared memory variable, and v - some value. The swap operation atomically sets m 's value to v and returns its previous value to the calling process. The $\text{fetch-and-inc}(c)$ operation receives a single parameter c - a shared memory integer variable. It atomically increments its value and returns the previous value to the calling process.

Consider the following proposed nonblocking implementation of a FIFO queue from fetch-and-inc and swap operations. The algorithm uses a shared counter c , supporting the fetch-and-inc and read operations and initialized to 0, and a shared infinite array vals , each element of which initialized to null and supporting the swap operation.

fetch-and-inc c initially 0, swap $\text{vals}[]$ initially null

Enqueue(val)

$i := \text{fetch-and-inc}(c)$

$\text{vals}[i] := \text{val}$

Dequeue()

$i := c$

for ($k := 0$ to $i - 1$) {

$v := \text{swap}(\text{vals}[k], \text{null})$

 if ($v \neq \text{null}$)

 return v

}

return null

- Is the above algorithm wait-free or does it only provide lock-freedom?
- Is the above algorithm linearizable? Either provide a formal proof that it is, or provide a detailed counter-example showing that it isn't.