Concurrent Data Structures

Semantics and Quantitative Relaxations

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Semantics of sequential data structures

e.g. pools, queues, stacks

- Sequential specification - set of legal sequences

Stack - legal sequence

push(a)push(b)pop(b)

Semantics of concurrent data structures

Stack - legal sequence

push(a)push(b)pop(b)

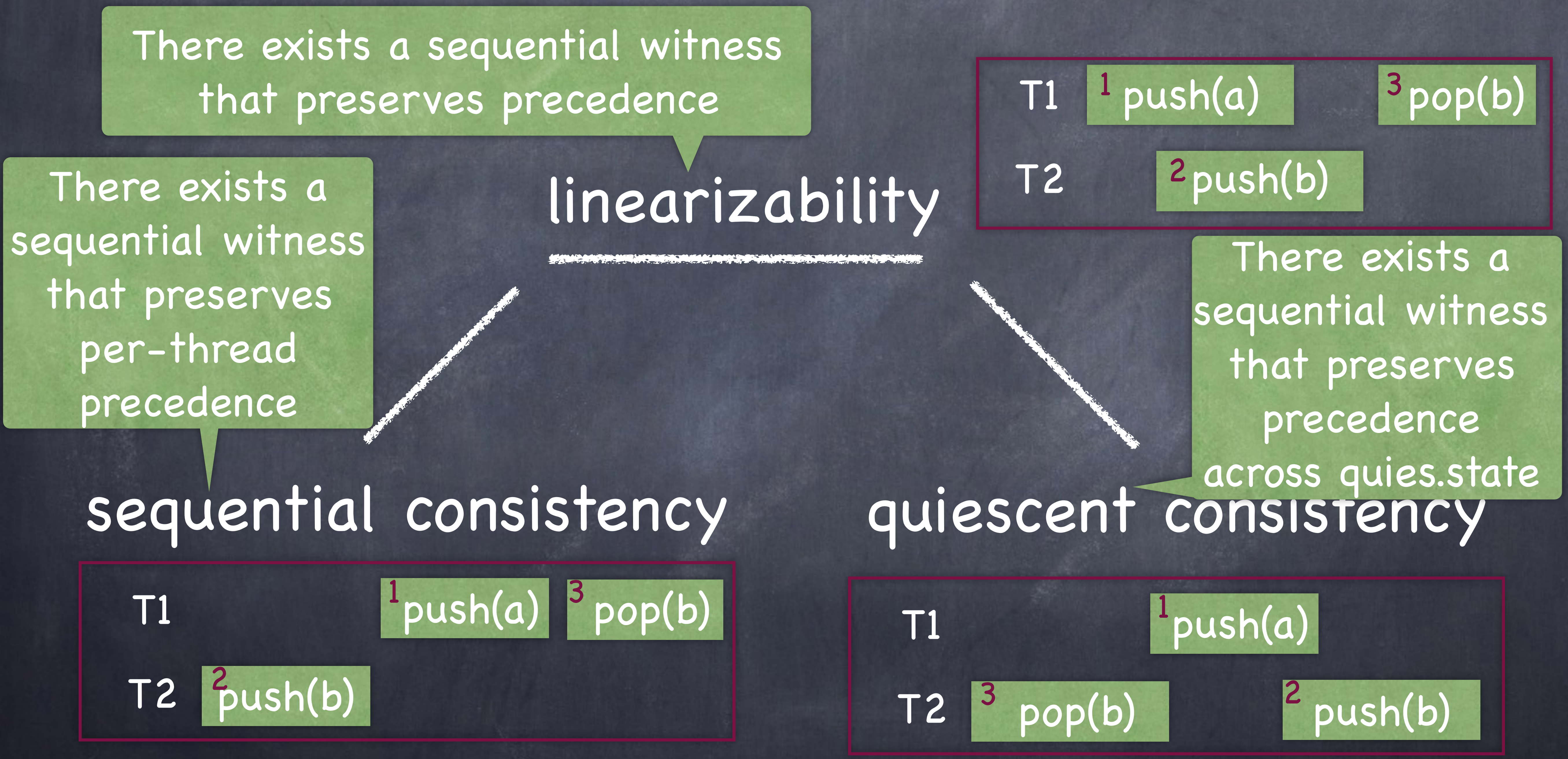
- Sequential specification - set of legal sequences
- Consistency condition - e.g. linearizability

linearizable
wrt seq.spec.

Stack - concurrent history

begin-push(a)begin-push(b) end-push(a) end-push(b)begin-pop(b)end-pop(b)

Consistency conditions



There exists a sequential witness that preserves precedence

linearizability

T1 ^{1}push(a) ^{3}pop(b)

T2 ^{2}push(b)

There exists a sequential witness per-thread that preserves precedence

sequential consistency

T1 ^{1}push(a) ^{3}pop(b)

T2 ^{2}push(b)

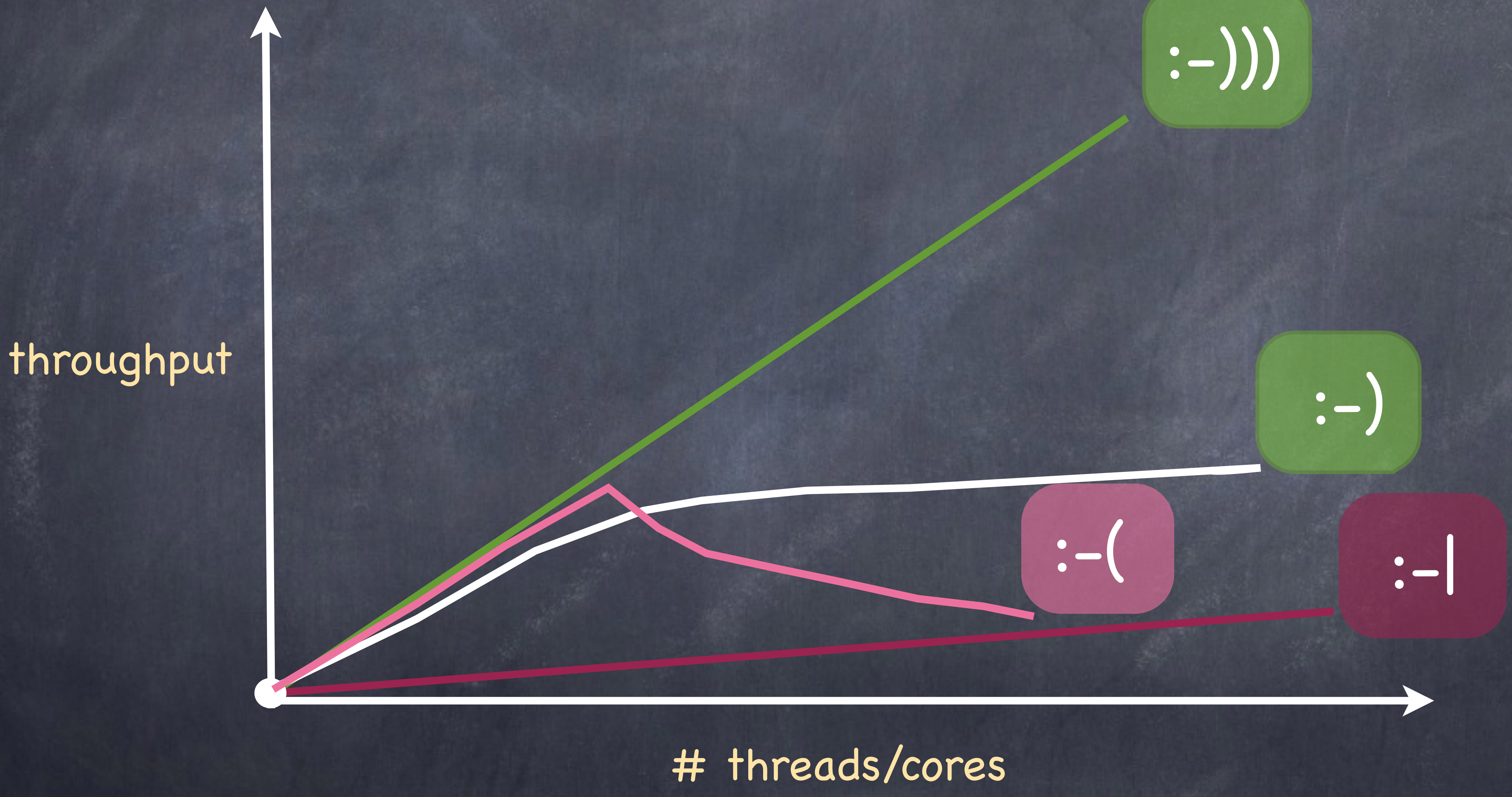
There exists a sequential witness that preserves precedence across quies.state

quiescent consistency

T1 ^{1}push(a)

T2 ^{3} pop(b) ^{2} push(b)

Performance and scalability



Relaxations allow

Stack - incorrect behavior

`push(a)push(b)push(c)pop(a)pop(b)`

- Trading correctness for performance
- In a controlled way with quantitative bounds

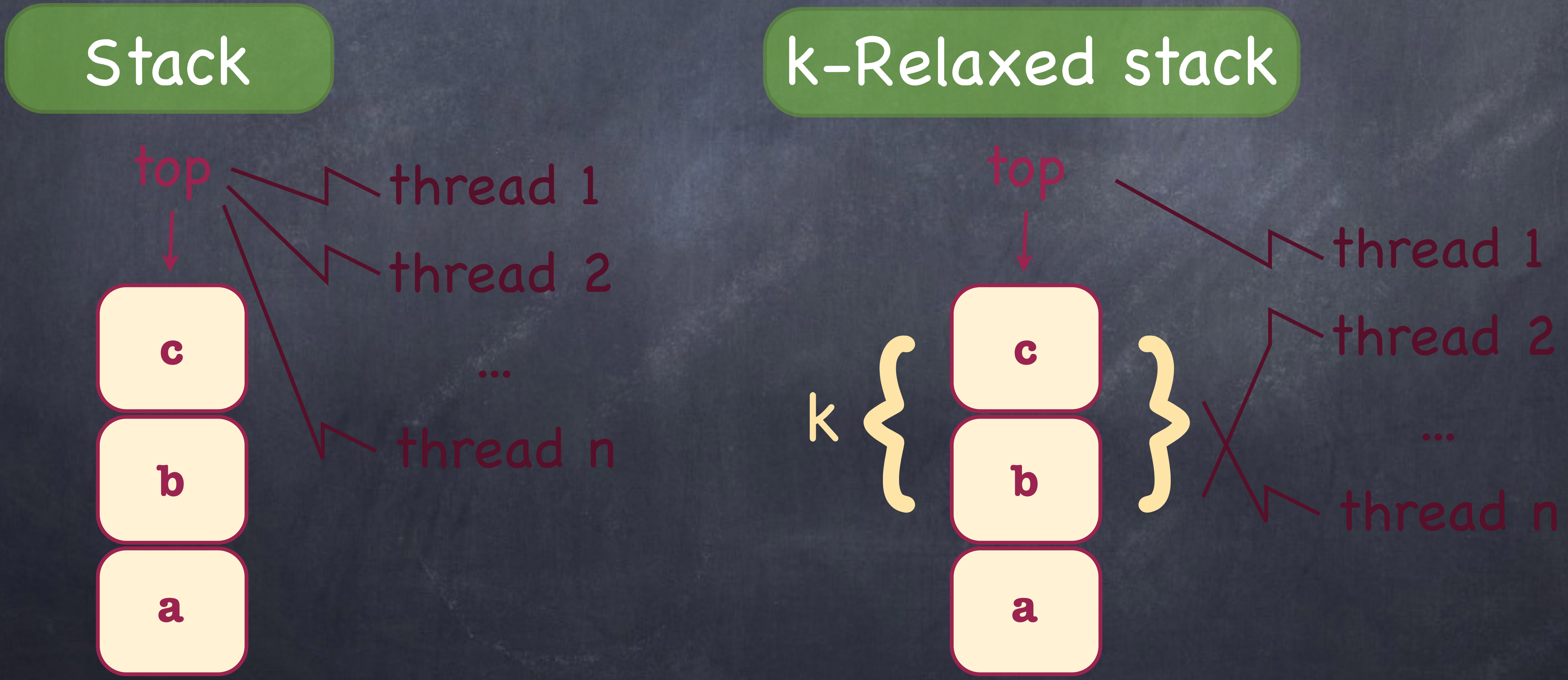
correct in a relaxed stack

... 2-relaxed? 3-relaxed?

measure the error from correct behavior

Why relax?

- It is interesting
- Provides potential for better performing concurrent implementations



Relaxations of concurrent data structures

Quantitative relaxations
Henzinger, Kirsch, Payer, Sezgin, S.
POPL 2013

- Sequential specification - set of legal sequences
- Consistency condition - e.g. linearizability

(Quantitative) relaxations
Dodds, Sezgin, S.
work in progress

What we have

- Framework

  for semantic relaxations

- Generic examples

  out-of-order / stuttering

- Concrete relaxation examples

  stacks, queues, priority queues,.. / CAS, shared counter

- Efficient concurrent implementations

  of relaxation instances

The big picture

$S \subseteq \Sigma^*$

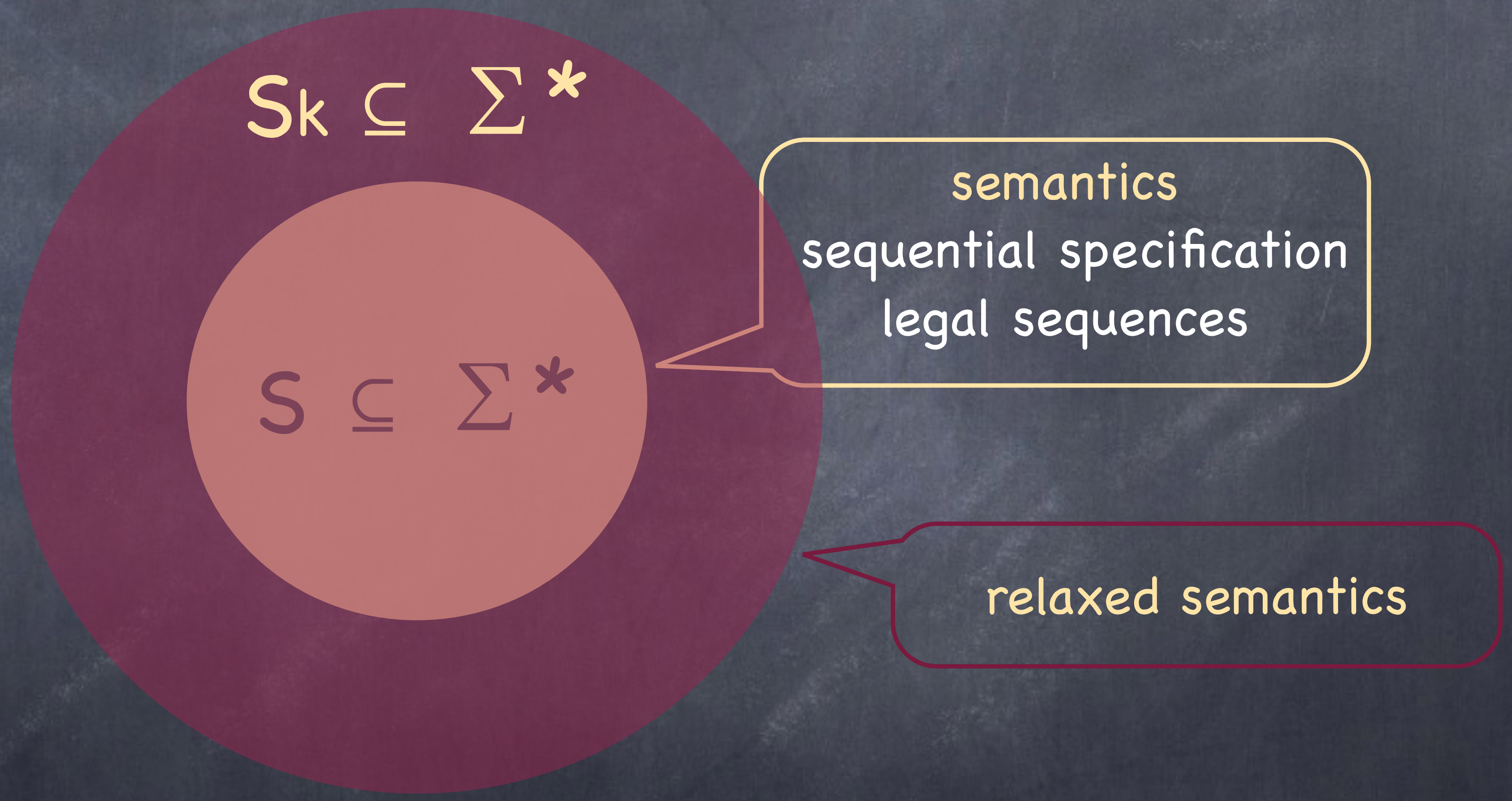
semantics

sequential specification

legal sequences

Σ - methods with arguments

The big picture



$S_k \subseteq \Sigma^*$

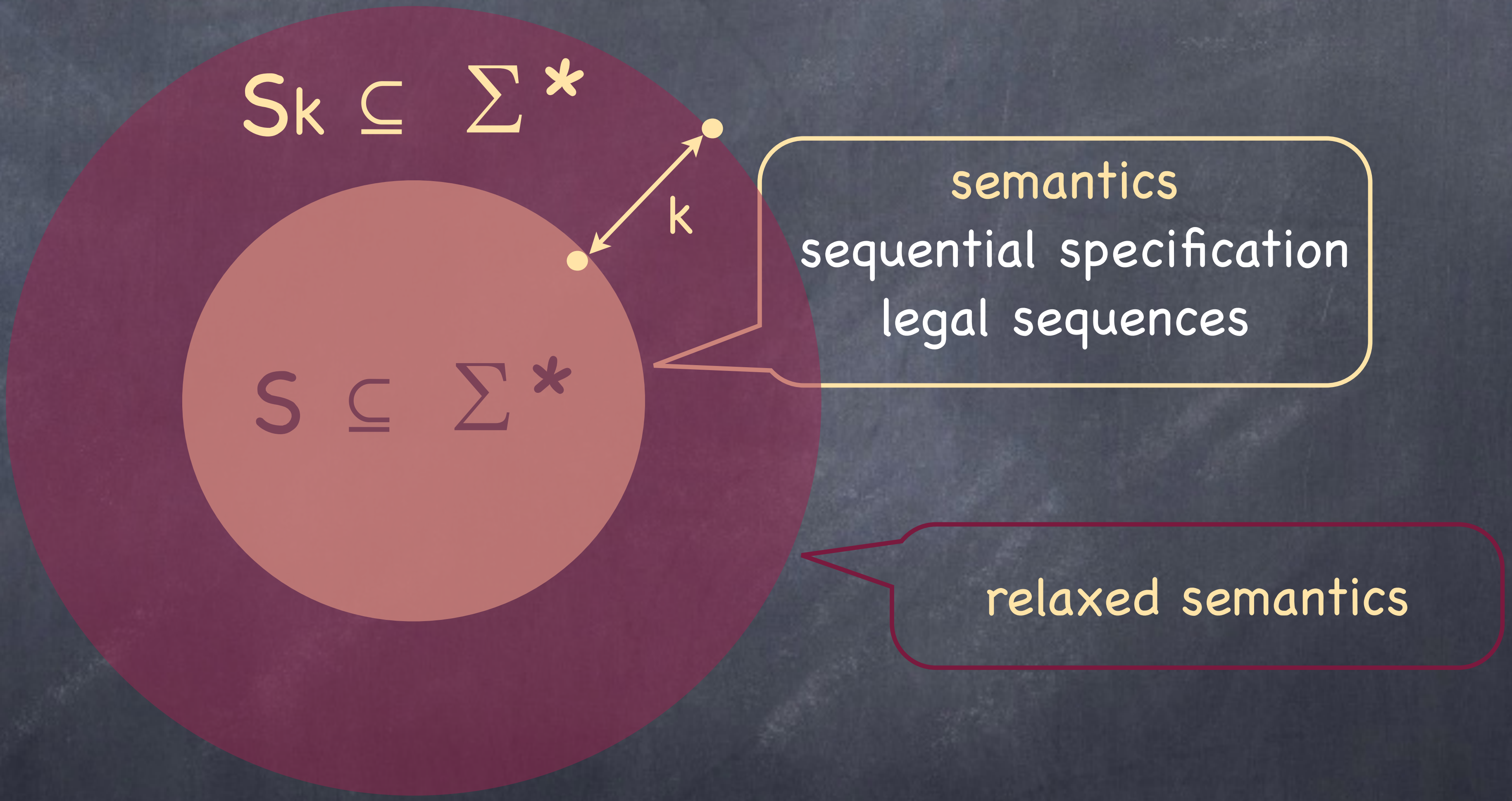
$S \subseteq \Sigma^*$

semantics
sequential specification
legal sequences

relaxed semantics

Σ - methods with arguments

The big picture



semantics
sequential specification
legal sequences

relaxed semantics

Σ - methods with arguments

distance?

Challenge

There are natural concrete relaxations...

Stack

Each **pop** pops one of the (k+1)-youngest elements

Each **push** pushes .....

k-out-of-order relaxation

Challenge

There are natural concrete relaxations...

Stack

Each **pop** pops one of the (k+1)-youngest elements

Each **push** pushes .....

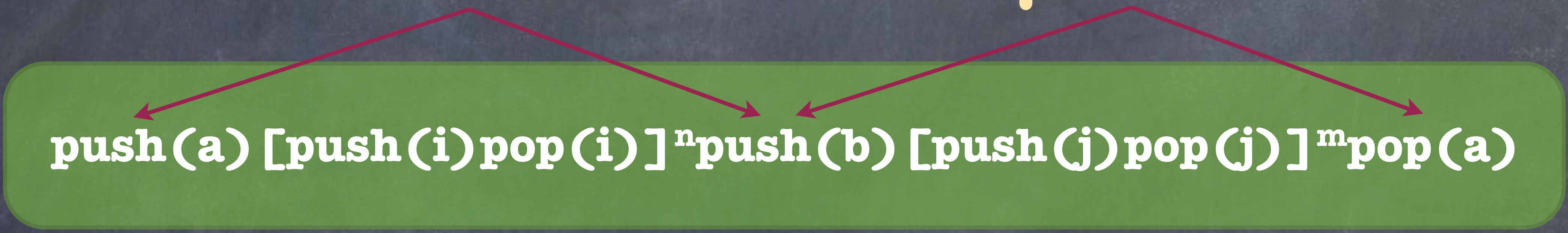
k-out-of-order relaxation

makes sense also for queues, priority queues, ...

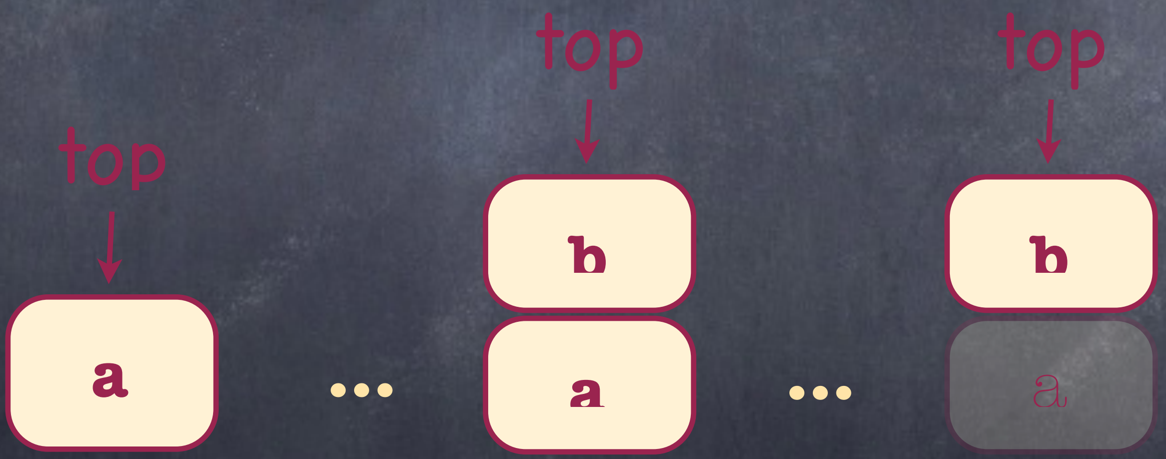
How is it reflected by a distance between sequences?

one distance for all?

Syntactic distances do not help

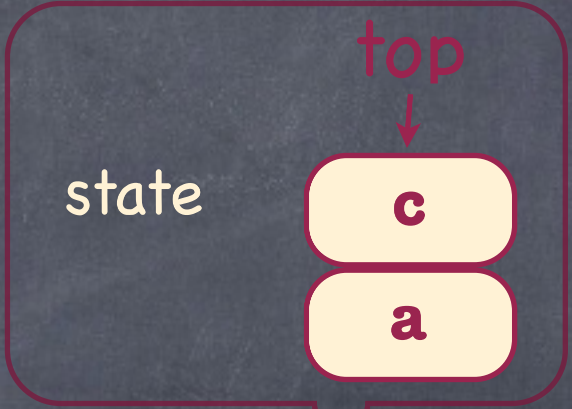

push(a)[push(i)pop(i)]^{n}push(b)[push(j)pop(j)]^{m}pop(a)

is a 1-out-of-order stack sequence



its permutation distance is min(n,m)

Semantic distances need a notion of state



- States are equivalence classes of sequences in S

example: for stack

push(a)push(b)pop(b)push(c) ≡ push(a)push(c)

- Two sequences in S are equivalent if they have an indistinguishable future

$$x \equiv y \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \forall u \in \Sigma^*. \, (xu \in S \Leftrightarrow yu \in S)$$

Semantics goes operational

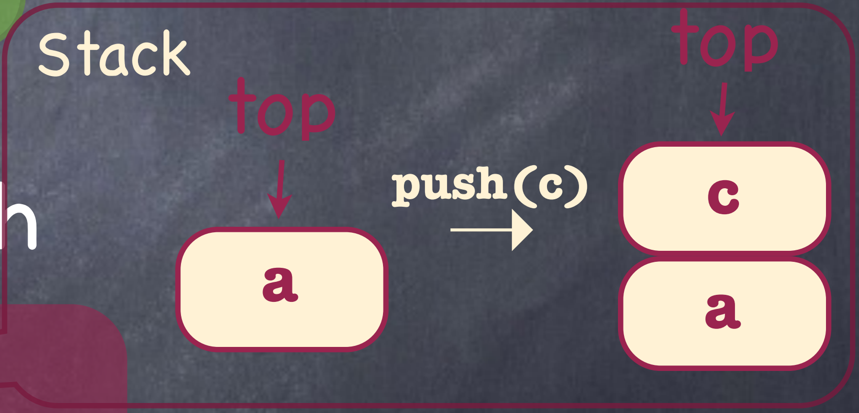
- $S \subseteq \Sigma^*$ is the sequential specification

states

labels

initial state

- LTS(S) = $(S/_\equiv, \Sigma, \rightarrow, [\varepsilon]_\equiv)$ with



transition relation

$$[s]_\equiv \xrightarrow{m} [sm]_\equiv \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad sm \in S$$

The framework

- Start from LTS(S)
- Add transitions with transition costs
- Fix a path cost function

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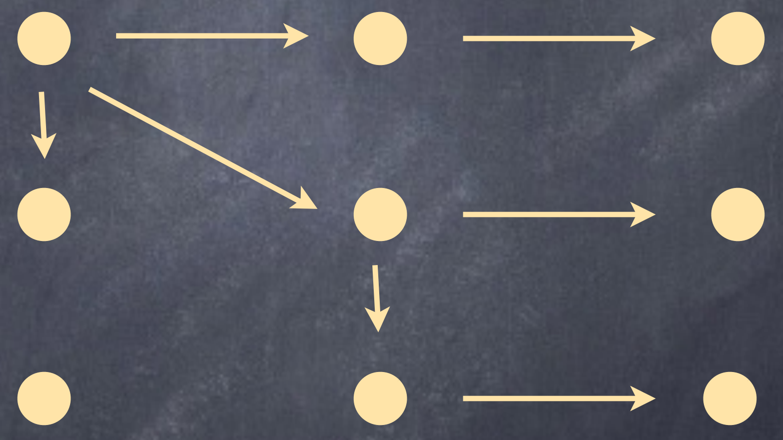
Σ - singleton



The framework

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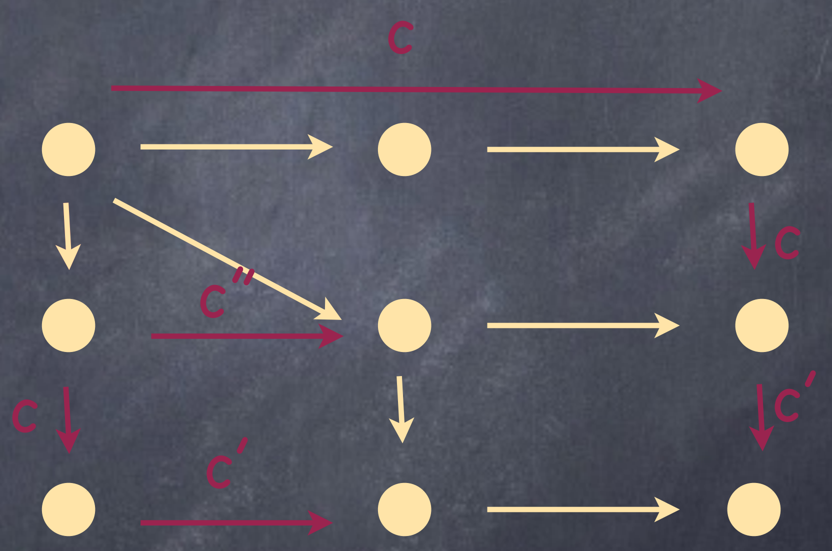

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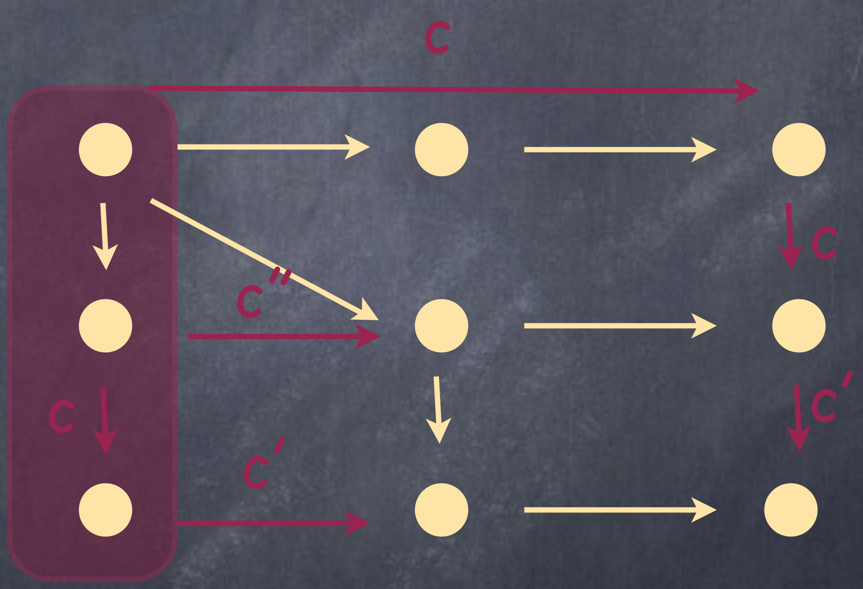

The framework

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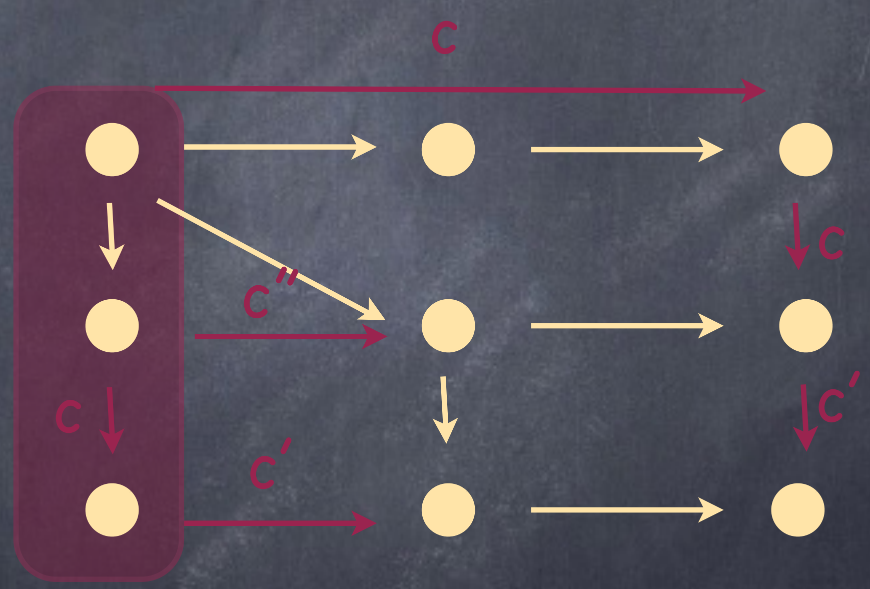
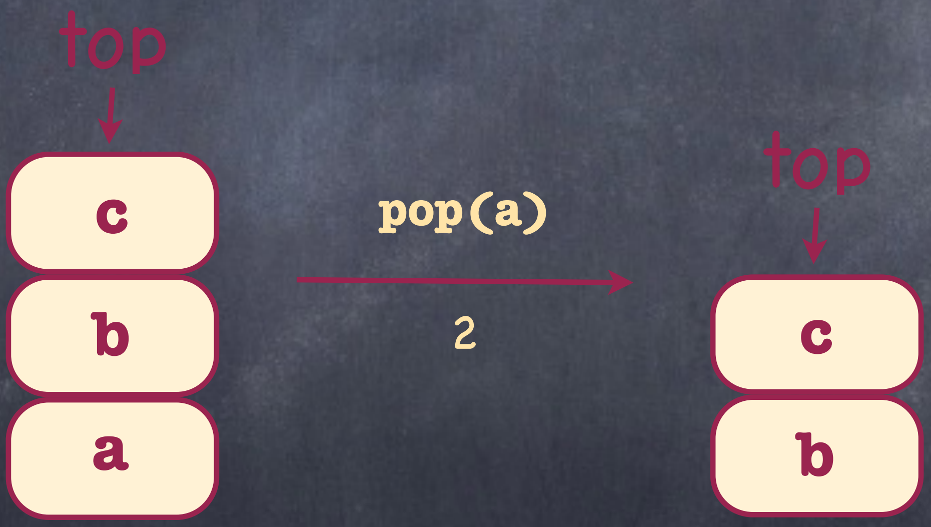


distance - minimal cost on all paths labelled by the sequence

Out-of-order stack

Sequence of **push**’s with no matching **pop**

- Canonical representative of a state
- Add incorrect transitions with segment-costs



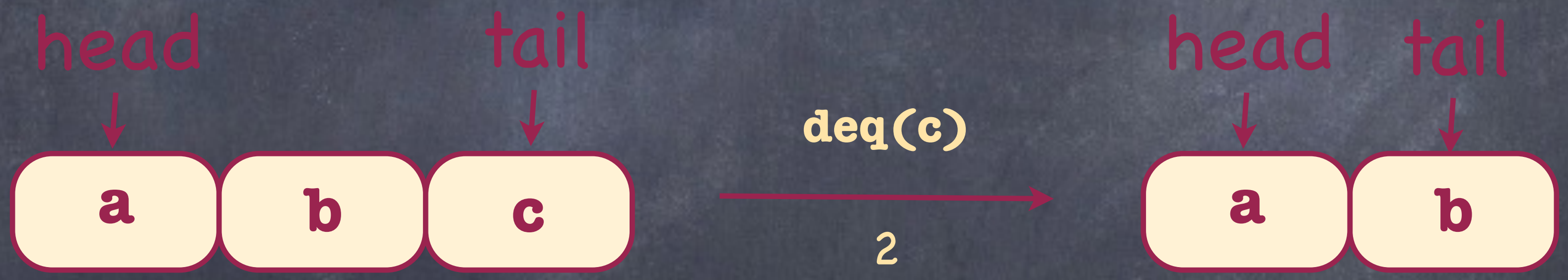
- Possible path cost functions max, sum,...

also more advanced

Out-of-order queue

Sequence of **enq**'s with no matching **deq**

- Canonical representative of a state
- Add incorrect transitions with segment-costs



- Possible path cost functions max, sum,...

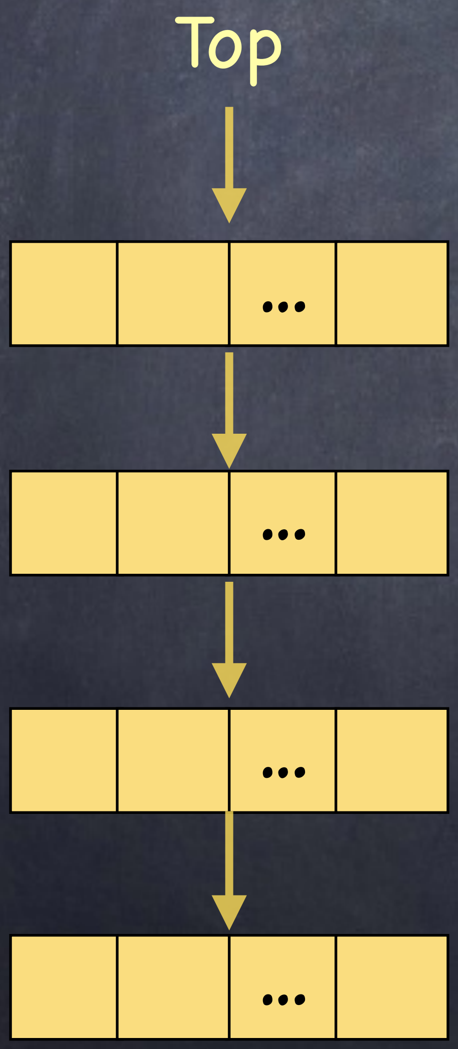
also more advanced

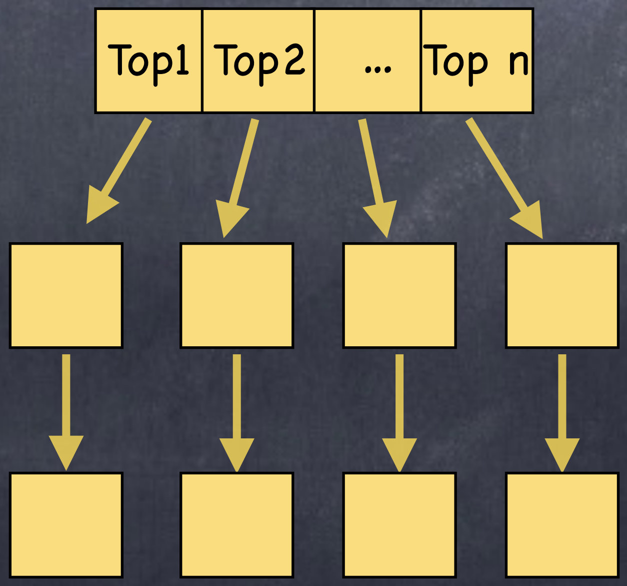
Implementations and Performance

Relaxed implementations

k-Stack
Henzinger, Kirsch, Payer, Sezgin, S.
POPL 2013

Distributed queues / stacks
Haas, Henzinger, Kirsch, Lippautz, Payer, Sezgin, S.
CF 2013

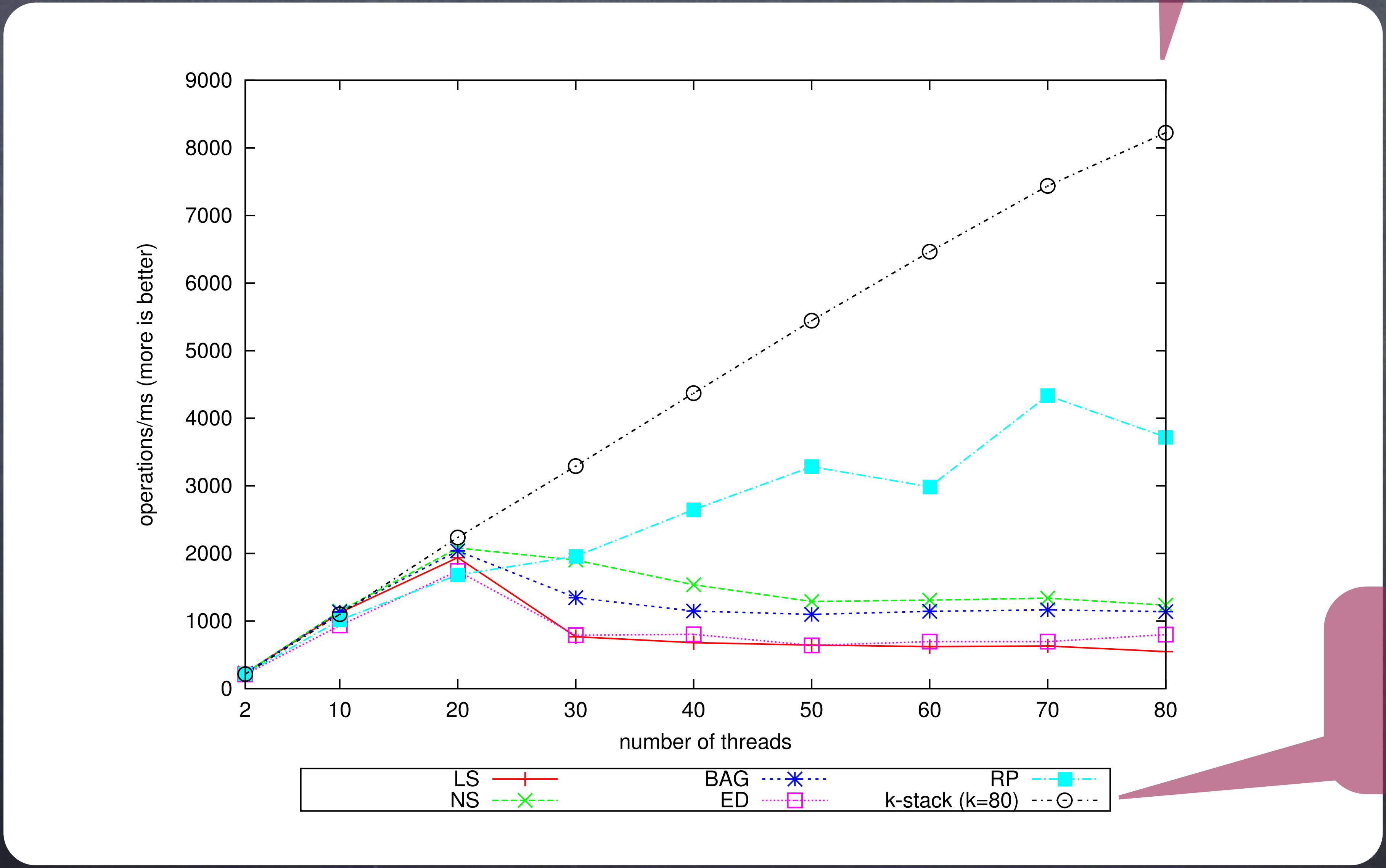




k-Stack

Performance and Scalability comparison

"80"-core machine

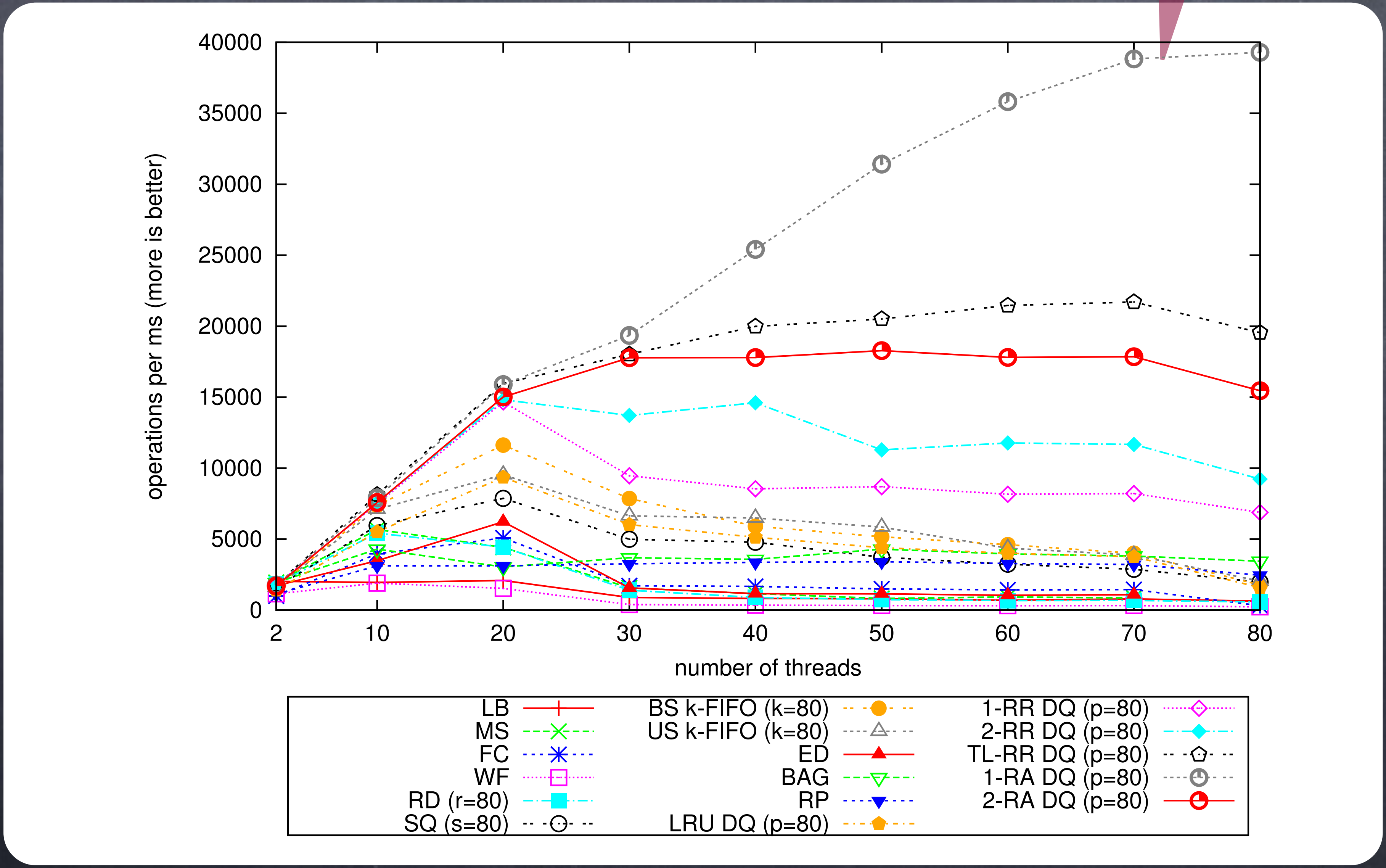


lock-free segment stack

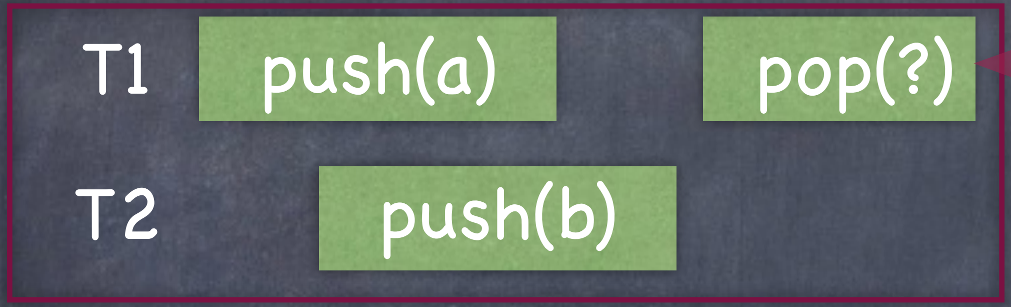
Distributed queues

Performance and Scalability comparison

“80”-core machine

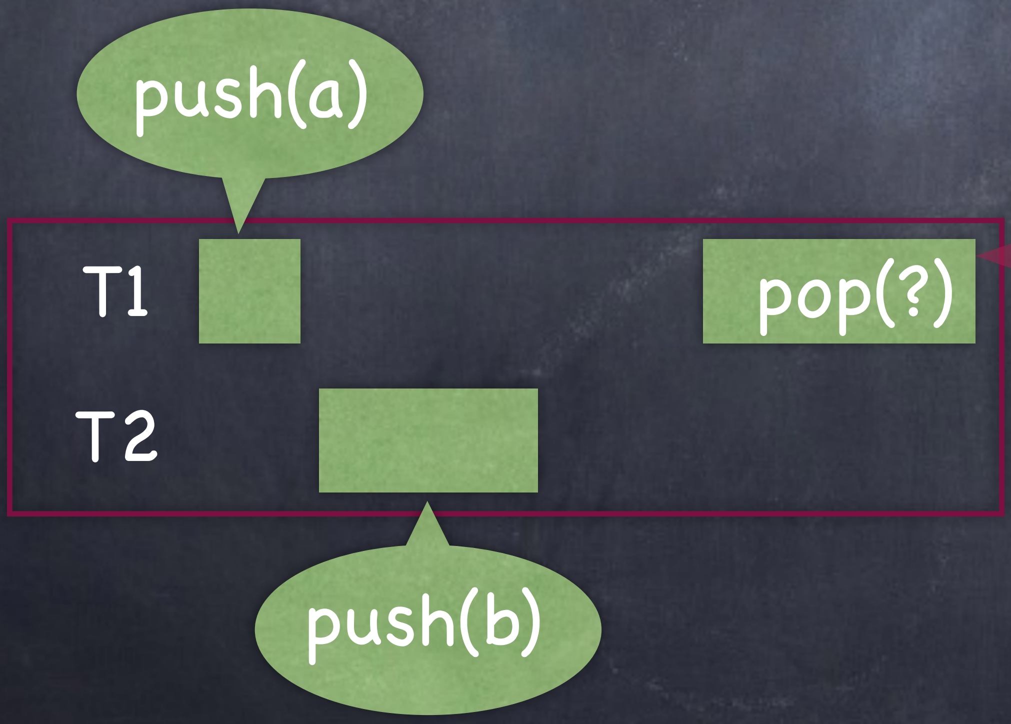


Bad performance also relaxes semantics



may return a or b

The slower the implementation, the more nondeterminism



must return a

Semantics vs. performace comparison (Con^{2}Colic testing)
Haas, Henzinger, Holzer, Kirsch, ... S.
work in progress