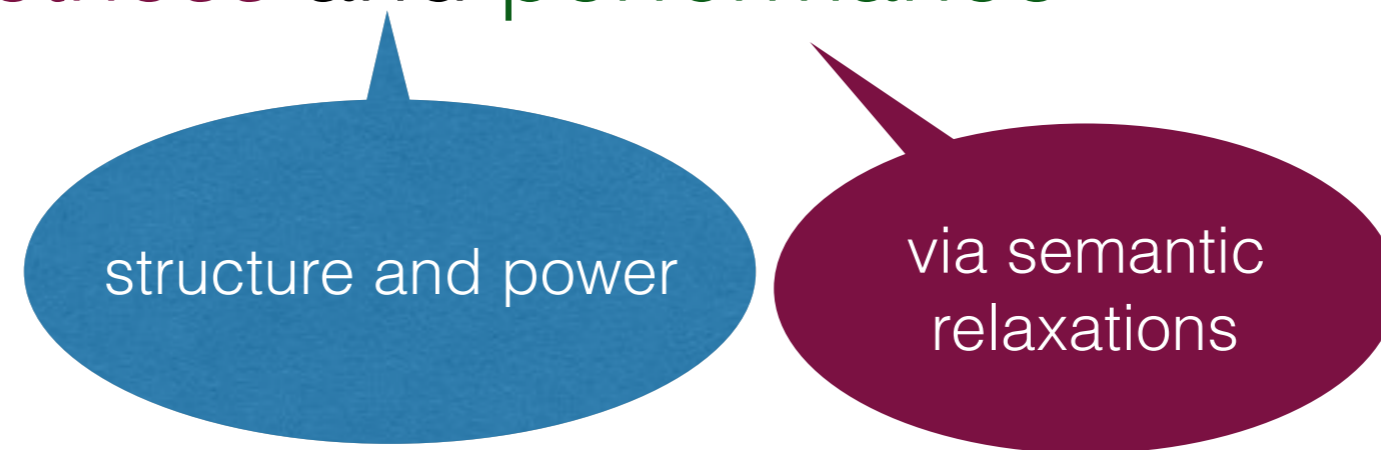


# Semantics for Concurrency

Ana Sokolova  UNIVERSITY  
of SALZBURG

MOVEP, 18.7.2018

- Part I: Concurrent data structures  
correctness and performance



- Part II: Order extension results for  
verifying linearizability

# Concurrent Data Structures

## Correctness and Relaxations



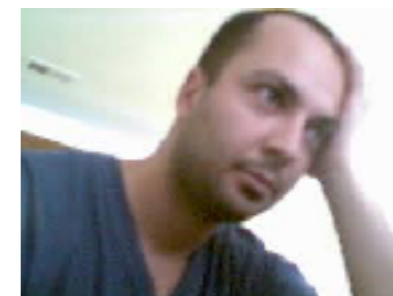
Hannes Payer  
Google



Tom Henzinger  
IST AUSTRIA



Christoph Kirsch  
UNIVERSITY  
of SALZBURG



Ali Sezgin  
UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



Andreas Haas  
Google



Michael Lippautz



Andreas Holzer  
Google

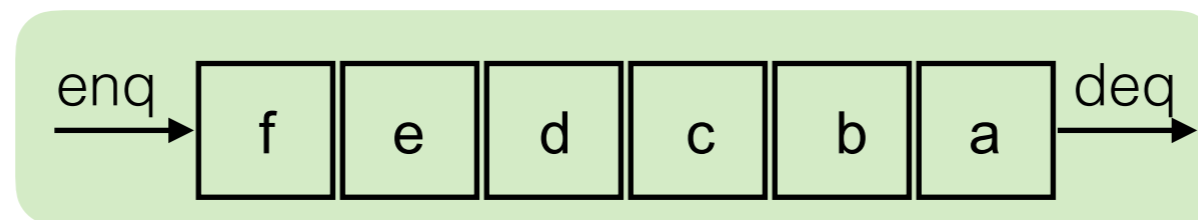


Helmut Veith  
TU  
WIEN

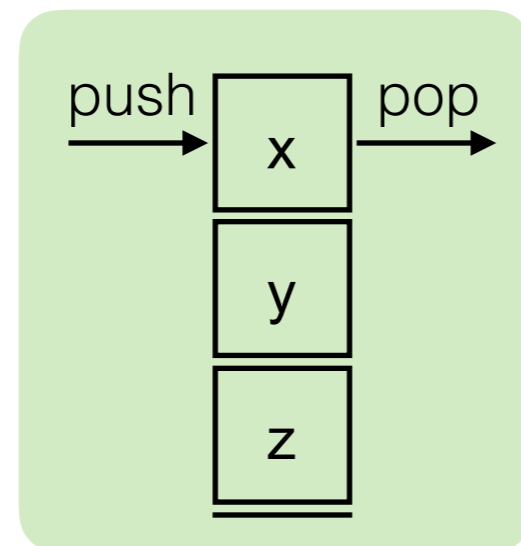


# Data structures

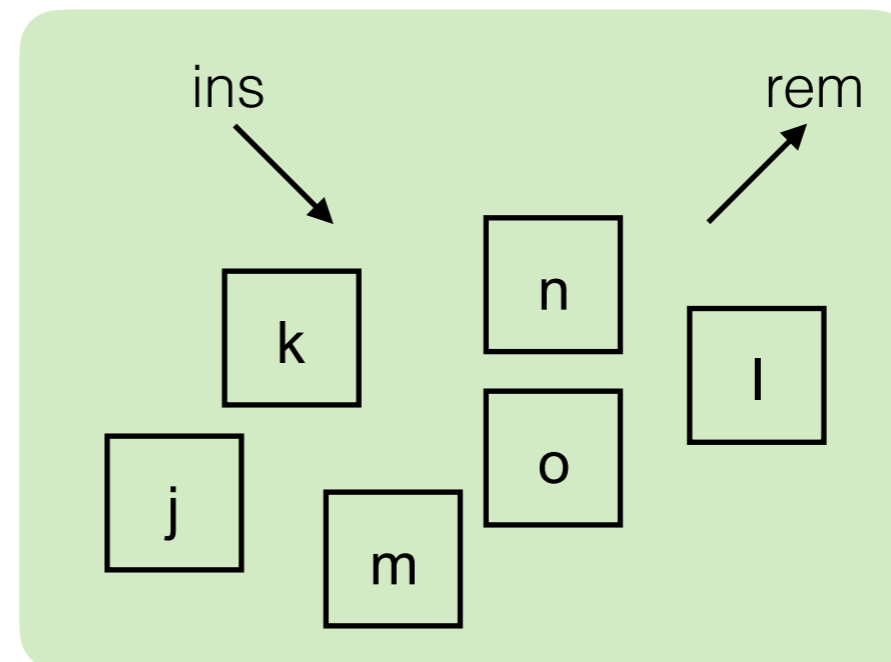
- Queue FIFO



- Stack LIFO

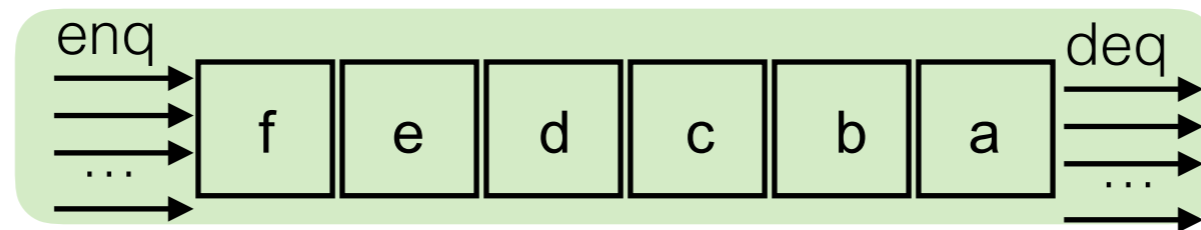


- Pool unordered

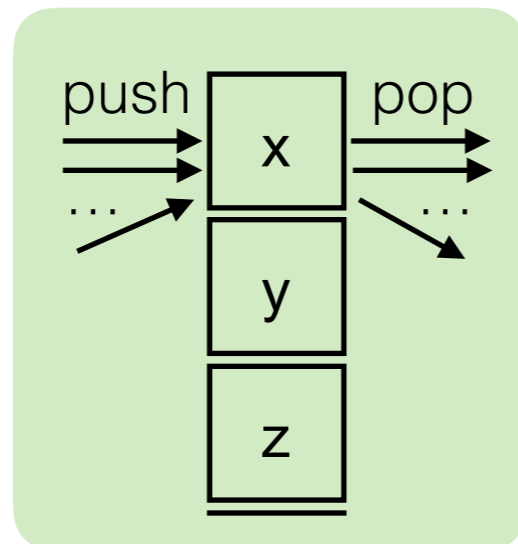


# Concurrent data structures

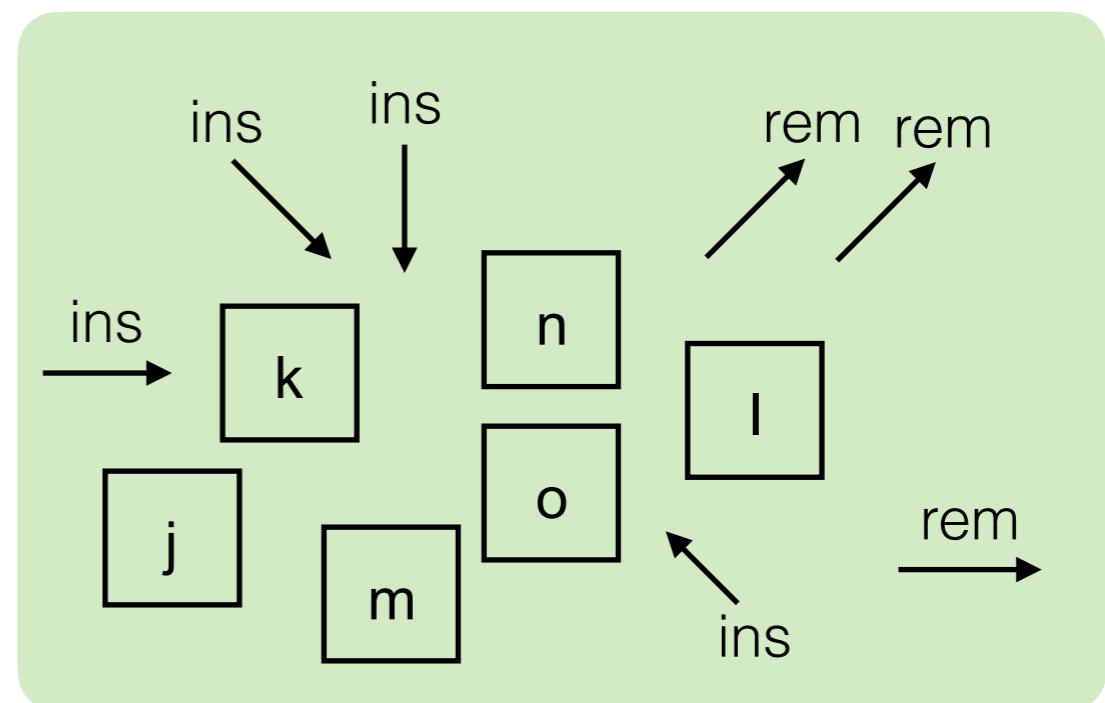
- Queue FIFO



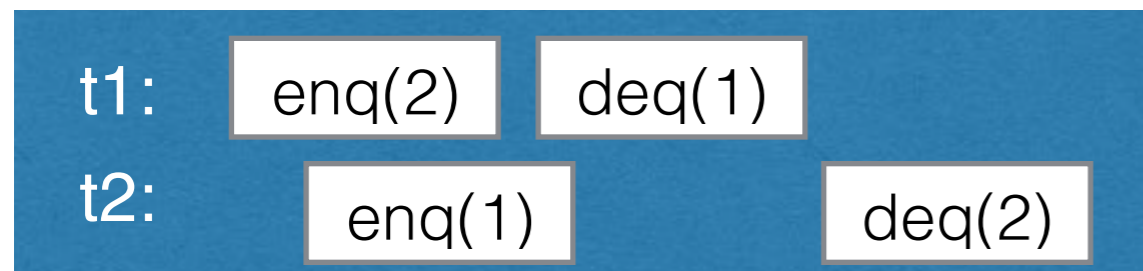
- Stack LIFO



- Pool unordered



# Semantics of concurrent data structures



e.g. queues

- Sequential specification = set of legal sequences

e.g. queue legal sequence  
enq(1)enq(2)deq(1)deq(2)

- Consistency condition = e.g. linearizability / sequential consistency

e.g. the concurrent history above is a linearizable queue concurrent history

# Consistency conditions

A history is ... wrt a sequential specification iff

there exists a legal sequence that preserves precedence order

Linearizability [Herlihy, Wing '90]

consistency is about extending partial orders to total orders



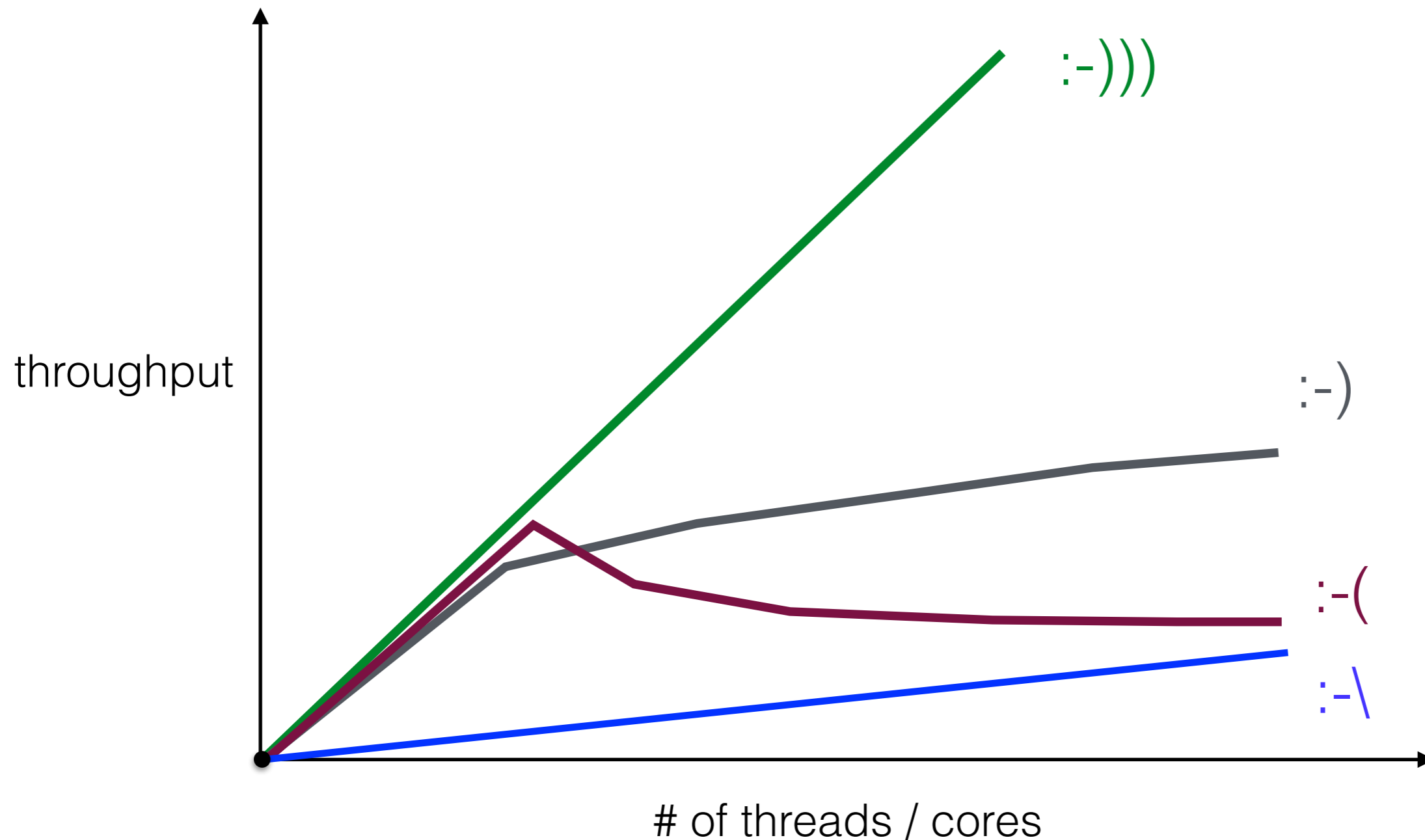
t1: enq(2)<sup>2</sup> — deq(1)<sup>3</sup>  
t2: <sup>1</sup>enq(1) — deq(2)<sup>4</sup>

Sequential Consistency [Lamport'79]

there exists a legal sequence that preserves per-thread precedence (program order)

t1: <sup>1</sup>enq(1) — deq(2)<sup>4</sup>  
t2: deq(1)<sup>2</sup> — enq(2)<sup>3</sup>

# Performance and scalability



# Relaxations allow trading

correctness  
for  
performance

provide the **potential**  
for better-performing  
implementations

# Goal

Stack - incorrect behavior

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

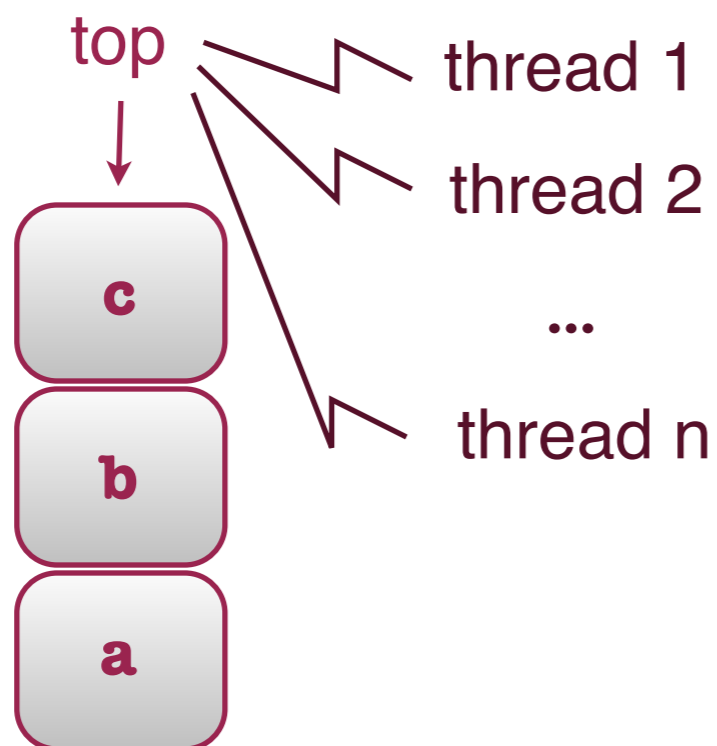
- trade correctness for performance
- in a controlled way with quantitative bounds

correct in a relaxed stack  
... 2-relaxed? 3-relaxed?

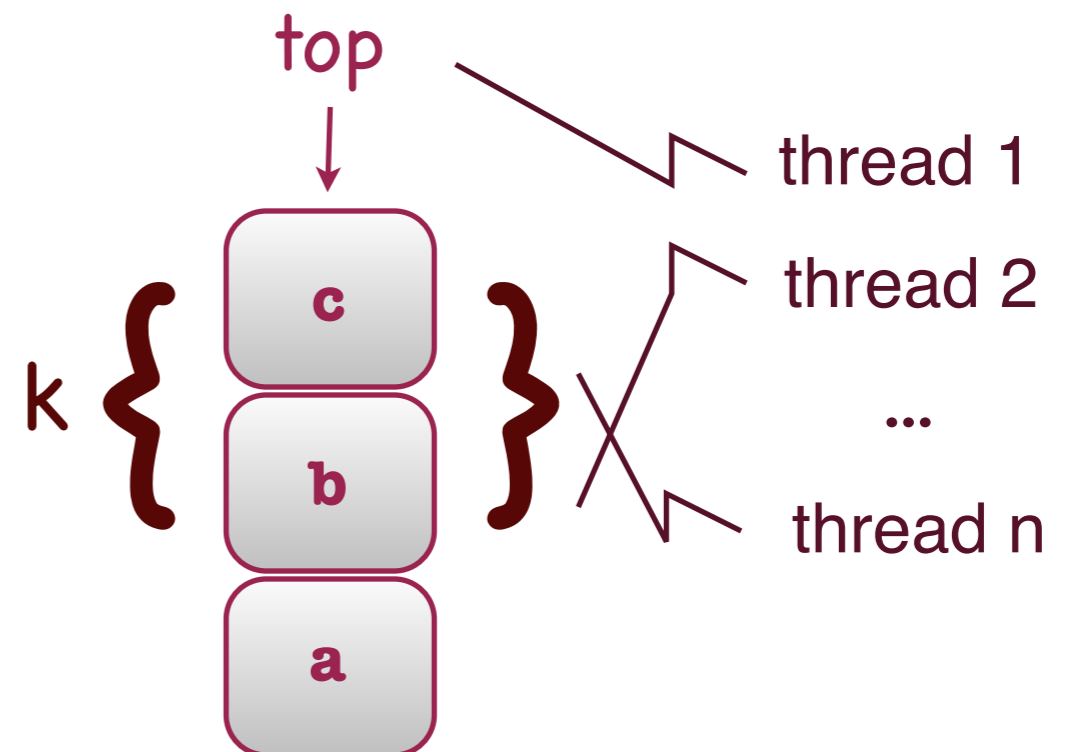
measure the  
error from correct  
behaviour

# How can relaxing help?

Stack



k-Relaxed stack



# 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



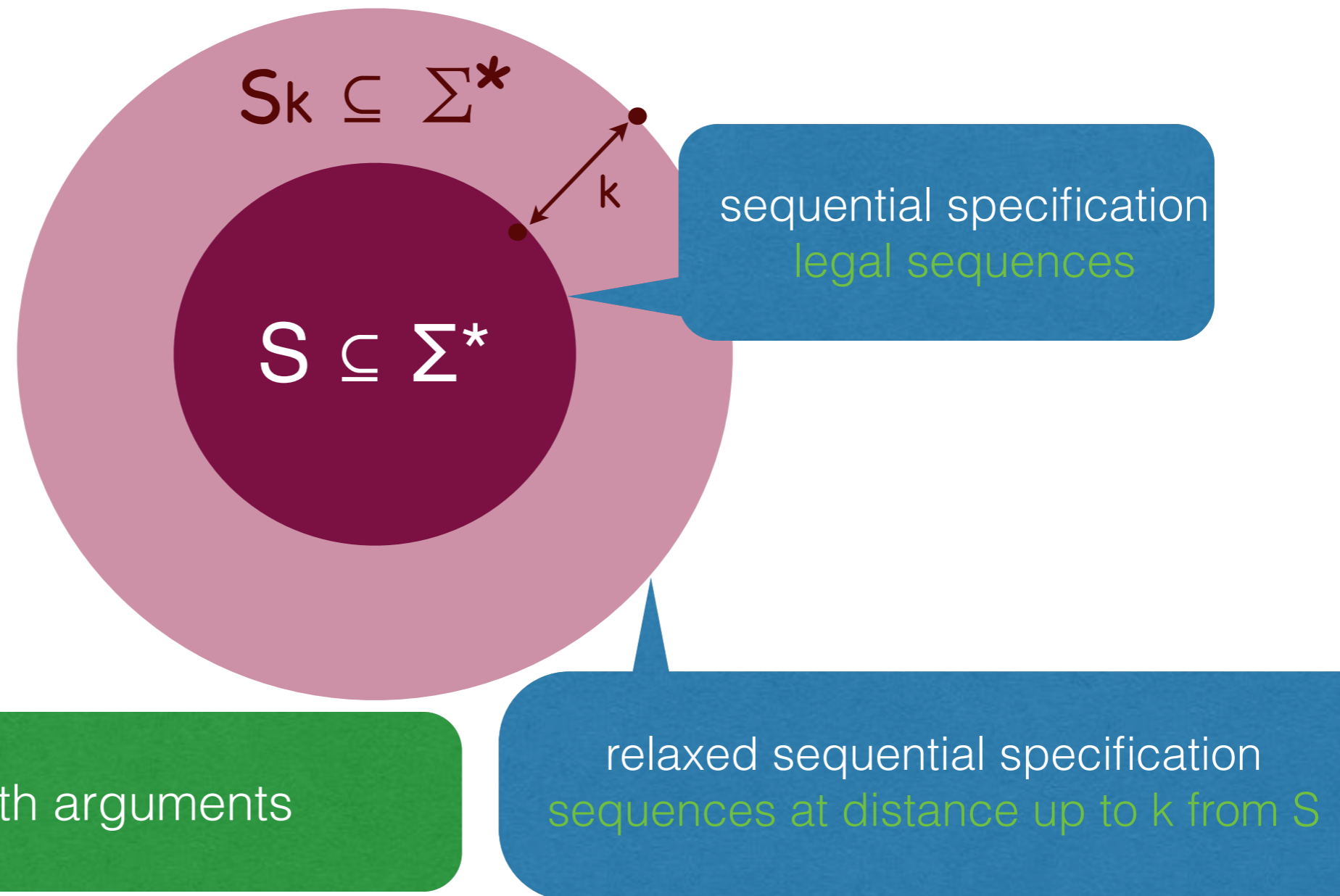
A diagram consisting of a large maroon circle containing the mathematical expression  $S \subseteq \Sigma^*$ . A blue speech bubble points from the right side of the circle to the text "sequential specification" and "legal sequences".

$$S \subseteq \Sigma^*$$

sequential specification  
legal sequences

$\Sigma$  - methods with arguments

# The big picture



$\Sigma$  - methods with arguments

# Relaxing the Semantics

Quantitative relaxations  
Henzinger, Kirsch, Payer, Sezgin, S. POPL13

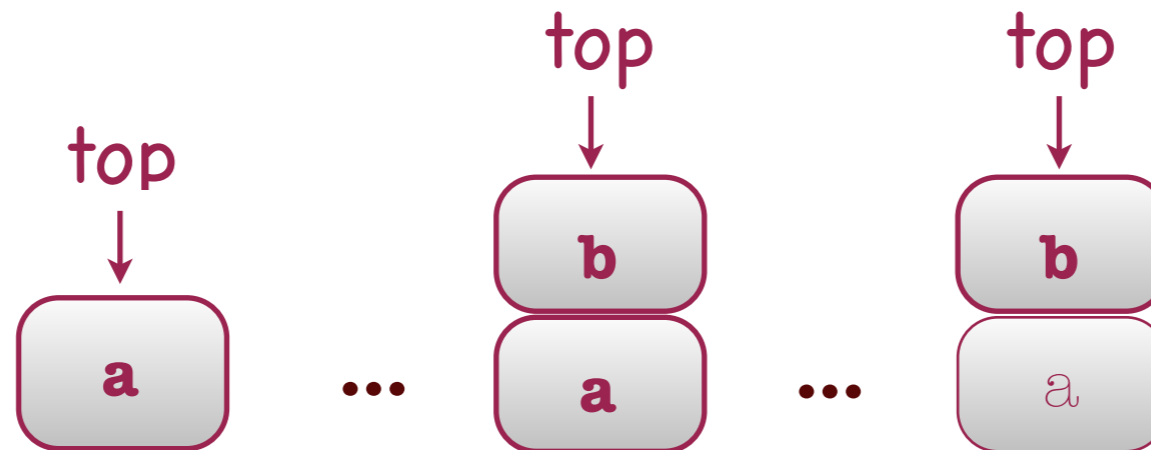
- Sequential specification = set of legal sequences
- Consistency condition = e.g. linearizability / sequential consistency

Local linearizability  
Haas, Henzinger, Holzer, ..., S, Veith CONCUR16

# Syntactic distances do not help

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

is a 1-out-of-order stack sequence



its permutation distance is  $\min(2n, 2m)$

# Semantic distances need a notion of state

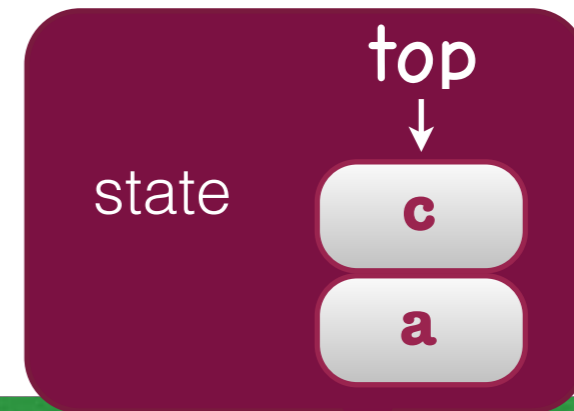
- States are equivalence classes of sequences in  $S$

example: for stack

$\text{push(a)push(b)pop(b)push(c)} \equiv \text{push(a)push(c)}$

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

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



# Semantics goes operational

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

states

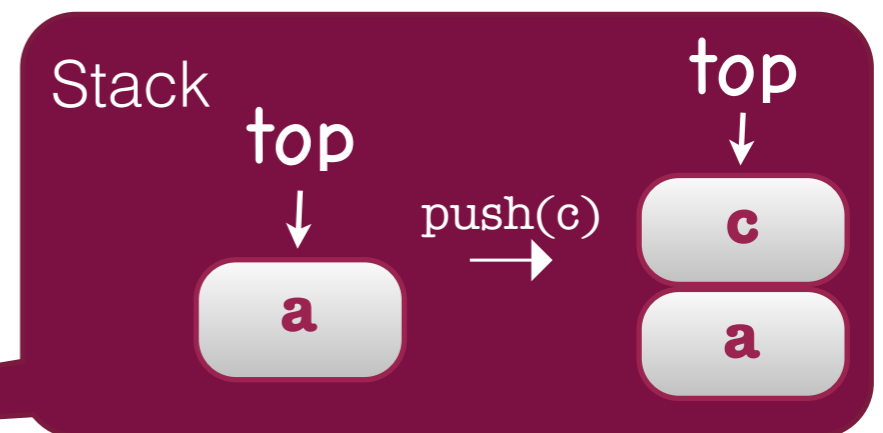
labels

initial state

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

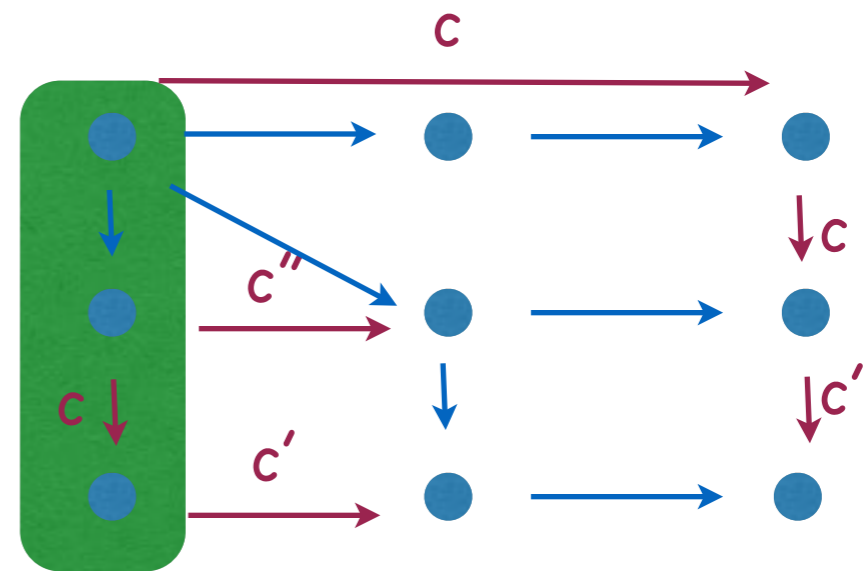
transition relation

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



# The relaxation framework

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



**distance** = minimal cost on all paths labelled by the sequence

# Generic out-of-order

$$\text{segment\_cost}(q \xrightarrow{m} q') = |\mathbf{v}|$$

transition cost

Where  $\mathbf{v}$  is a sequence of minimal length s.t.

removing  $\mathbf{v}$  enables a transition

or

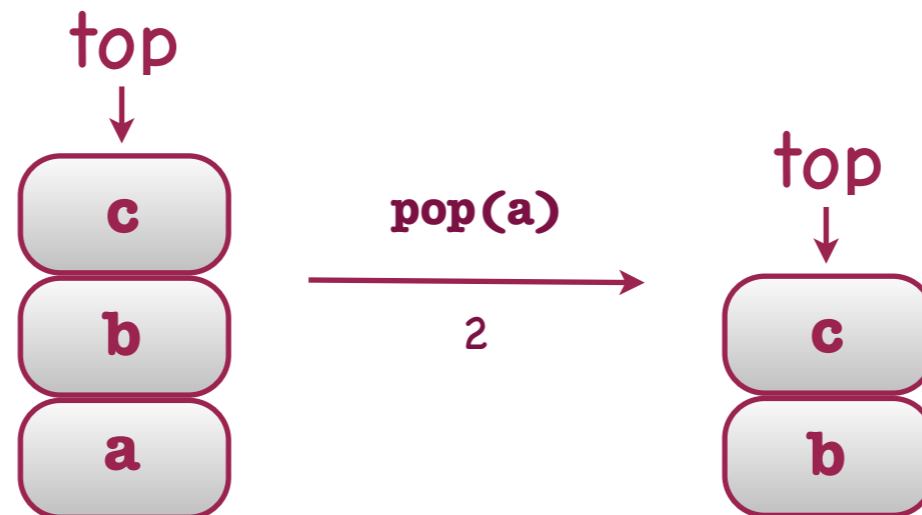
inserting  $\mathbf{v}$  enables a transition

goes with different path costs

# 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

# Relaxing the Consistency Condition

Local Linearizability  
(CONCUR16)

# Local Linearizability

## main idea

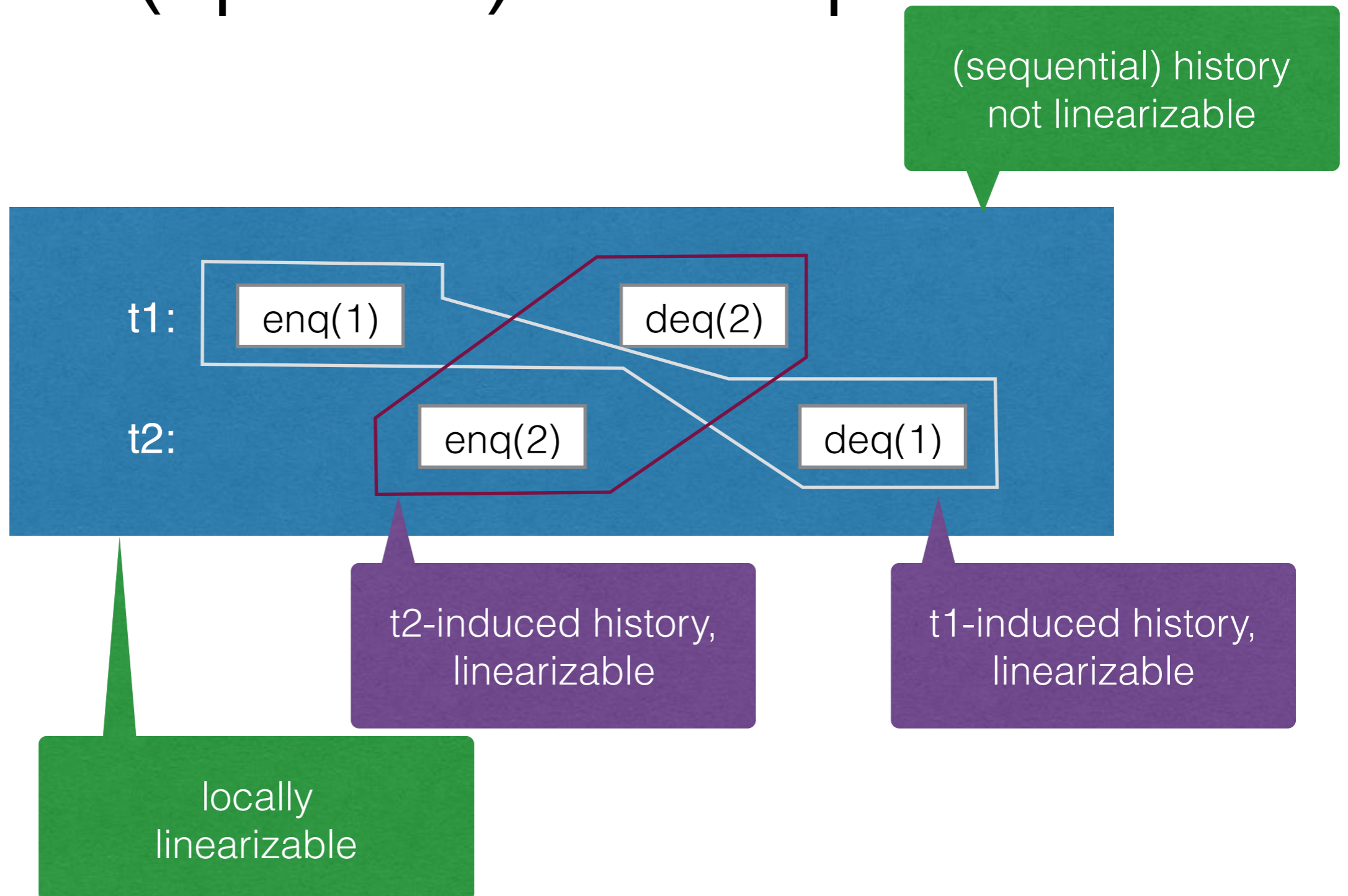
Already present in some shared-memory consistency conditions  
(not in our form of choice)

- Partition a history into a set of local histories
- Require linearizability per local history

Local sequential consistency... is also possible

no global witness

# Local Linearizability (queue) example



# Local Linearizability (queue) definition

Queue signature  $\Sigma = \{\text{enq}(x) \mid x \in V\} \cup \{\text{deq}(x) \mid x \in V\} \cup \{\text{deq}(\text{empty})\}$

For a history **h** with a thread T, we put

$$I_T = \{\text{enq}(x)^T \in \mathbf{h} \mid x \in V\}$$

in-methods of thread T  
are  
enqueuees performed  
by thread T

$$O_T = \{\text{deq}(x)^{T'} \in \mathbf{h} \mid \text{enq}(x)^T \in I_T\} \cup \{\text{deq}(\text{empty})\}$$

out-methods of thread T  
are dequeuees  
(performed by any thread)  
corresponding to enqueuees that  
are in-methods

**h** is locally linearizable iff every thread-induced history  
 $\mathbf{h}_T = \mathbf{h} \mid (I_T \cup O_T)$   
is linearizable.

# Local Linearizability for Container-Type DS

Signature  $\Sigma = \text{Ins} \cup \text{Rem} \cup \text{SOB} \cup \text{DOb}$

For a history  $\mathbf{h}$  with a thread  $T$ , we put

$$I_T = \{m^T \in \mathbf{h} \mid m \in \text{Ins}\}$$

in-methods of thread  $T$   
are  
inserts performed by  
thread  $T$

$$O_T = \{m(a) \in \mathbf{h} \cap \text{Rem} \mid i(a)^T \in I_T\} \cup \{m(e) \mid e \in \text{Emp}\} \\ \cup \{m(a) \in \mathbf{h} \cap \text{DOb} \mid i(a)^T \in I_T\}$$

out-methods of thread  $T$   
are removes and data-observations  
(performed by any thread)  
in-methods

$\mathbf{h}$  is locally linearizable iff every thread-induced history  
 $\mathbf{h}_T = \mathbf{h} \mid (I_T \cup O_T)$   
is linearizable.

# Generalizations of Local Linearizability

Signature  $\Sigma$

For a history  $\mathbf{h}$  with  $n$  threads, choose

$\text{In}_{\mathbf{h}}(i)$

in-methods of thread  $i$ ,  
methods that go in  $\mathbf{h}_i$

$\text{Out}_{\mathbf{h}}(i)$

by increasing the  
in-methods,  
LL gradually moves to  
linearizability

out-methods of thread  $i$ ,  
dependent methods  
on the methods in  $\text{In}_{\mathbf{h}}(i)$   
(performed by any thread)

$\mathbf{h}$  is locally linearizable iff every thread-induced history

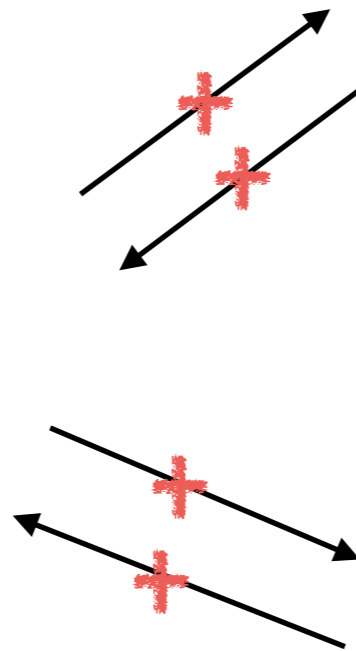
$$\mathbf{h}_i = \mathbf{h} \mid (\text{In}_{\mathbf{h}}(i) \cup \text{Out}_{\mathbf{h}}(i))$$

is linearizable.

# Where do we stand?

In general

Local Linearizability



Linearizability



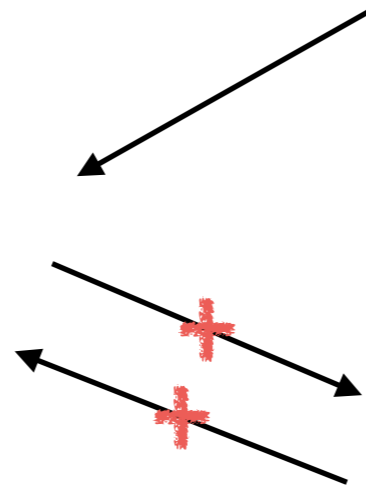
Sequential Consistency

# Where do we stand?

For queues (and most container-type data structures)

Local Linearizability

Linearizability



Sequential Consistency

# Properties

Local linearizability is compositional

like linearizability  
unlike sequential consistency

**h** (over multiple objects) is locally linearizable  
iff

each per-object subhistory of **h** is locally linearizable

Local linearizability is modular /  
“decompositional”

uses decomposition into smaller  
histories, by definition



may allow for modular verification

# Verification (queue)

## Queue sequential specification (axiomatic)

**s** is a legal queue sequence

iff

1. **s** is a legal pool sequence, and

2.  $\text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{enq}(y) \wedge \text{deq}(y) \in \mathbf{s} \Rightarrow \text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \wedge \text{deq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(y)$

## Queue linearizability (axiomatic)

Henzinger, Sezgin, Vafeiadis CONCUR13

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precedence order

# Verification (queue)

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## Queue local linearizability (axiomatic)

**h** is queue locally linearizable

iff

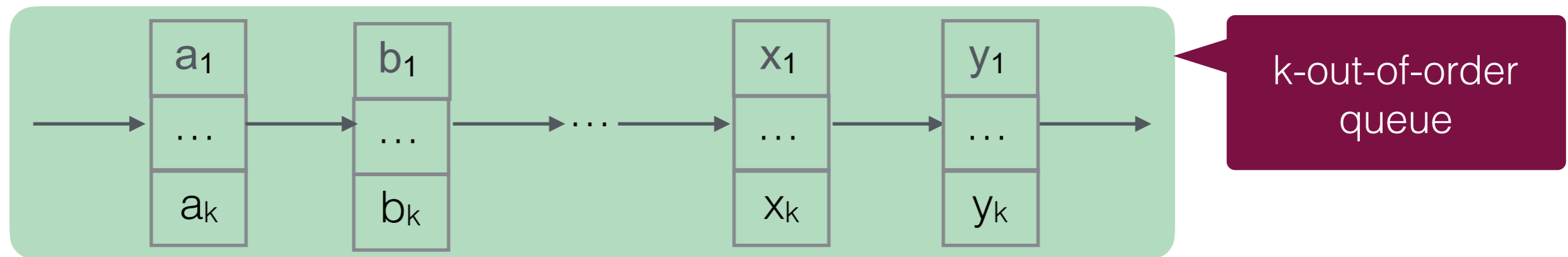
1. **h** is pool locally linearizable, and

2.  $\text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{enq}(y) \wedge \text{deq}(y) \in \mathbf{h} \Rightarrow \text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{deq}(y) \not<_{\mathbf{h}} \text{deq}(x)$

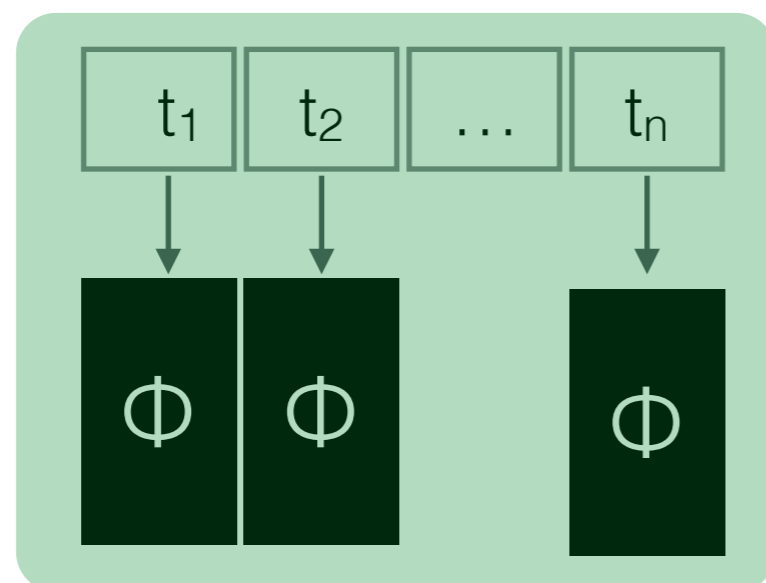
thread-local  
precedence order

# Relaxations lead to scalable implementations

e.g. k-FIFO, k-Stack



locally linearizable distributed implementation

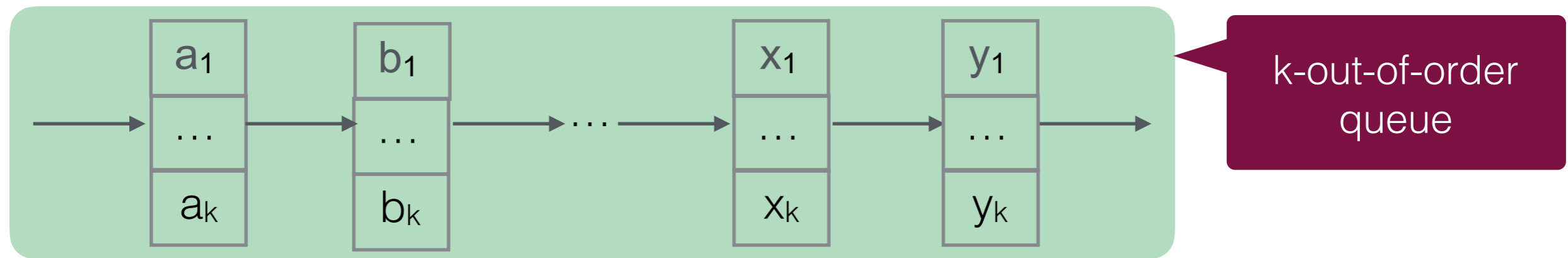


local inserts / global removes

LLD  $\Phi$   
LL+D  $\Phi$

# Relaxations lead to scalable implementations

e.g. k-FIFO, k-Stack



CAS-based algorithm...

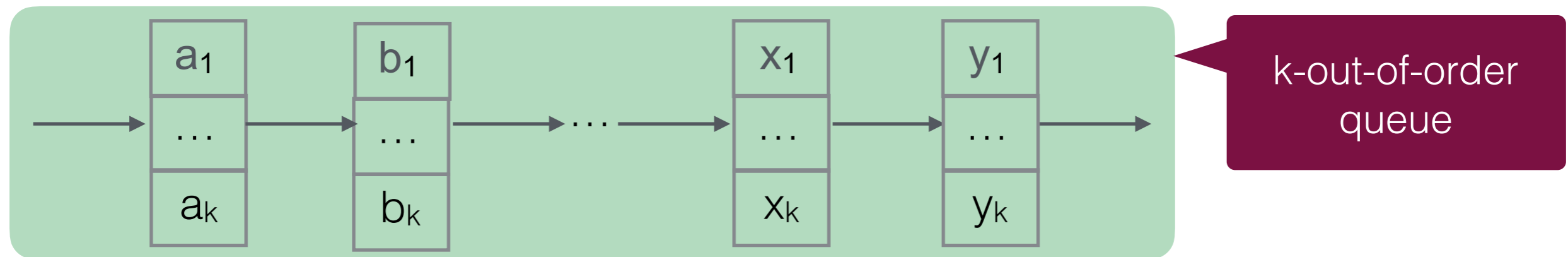
CAS - based

add/remove  
segment

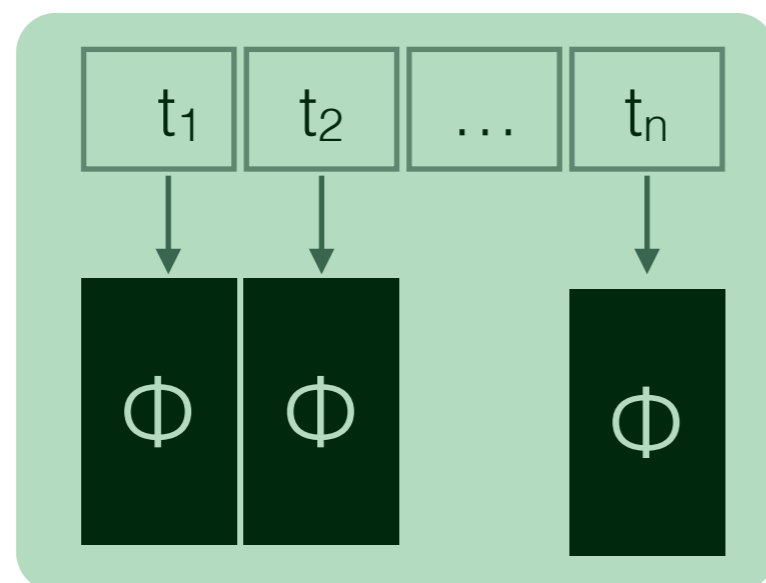
```
1: loop:
2:   read consistent state
3:   try to add/remove an item (*)
4:   if successful:
5:     return
6:   else:
7:     try to repair the stack
8:     goto loop (retry)
```

# Relaxations lead to scalable implementations

e.g. k-FIFO, k-Stack



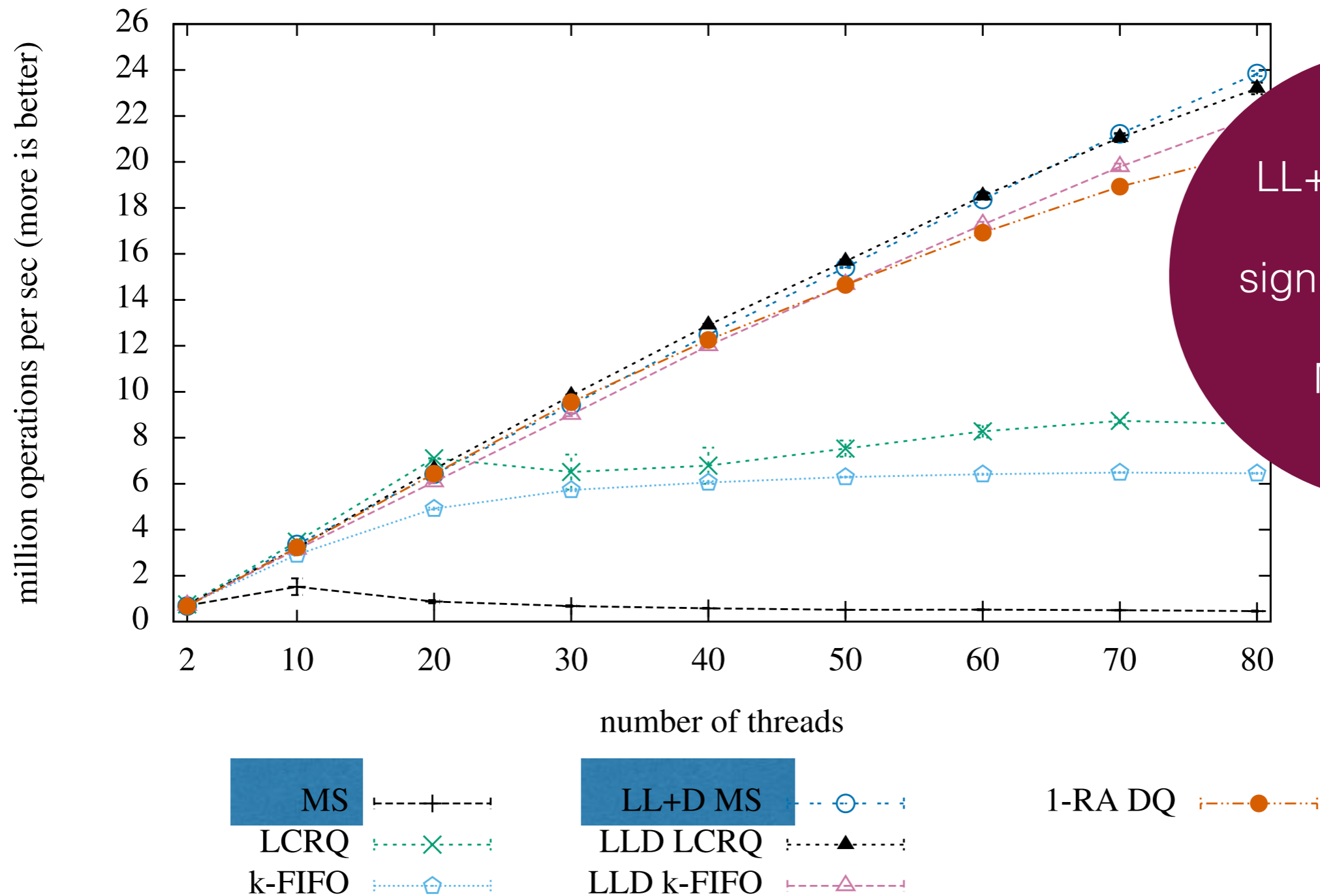
locally linearizable distributed implementation



local inserts / global removes

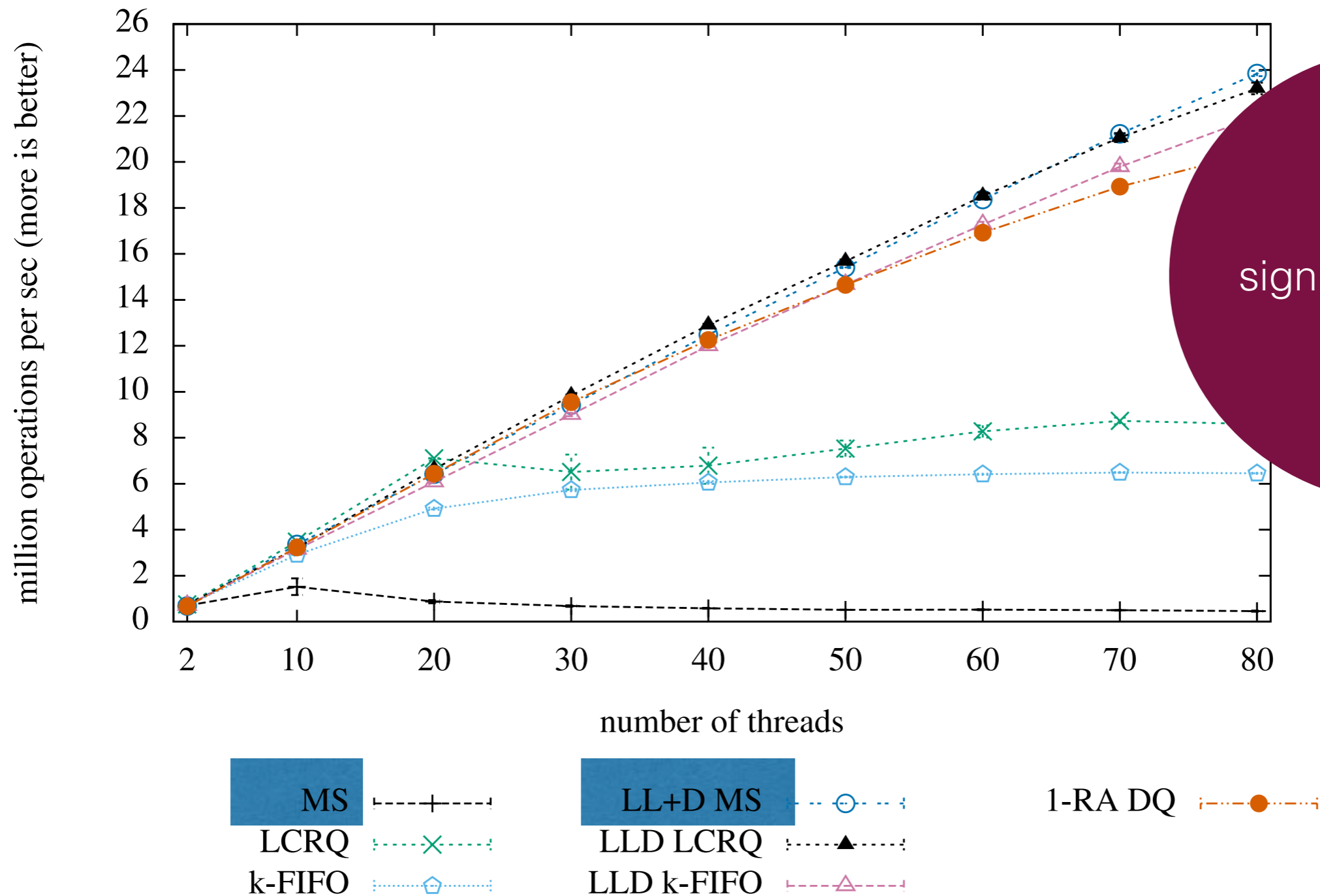
LLD  $\Phi$   
LL+D  $\Phi$

# Performance



(a) Queues, LL queues, and “queue-like” pools

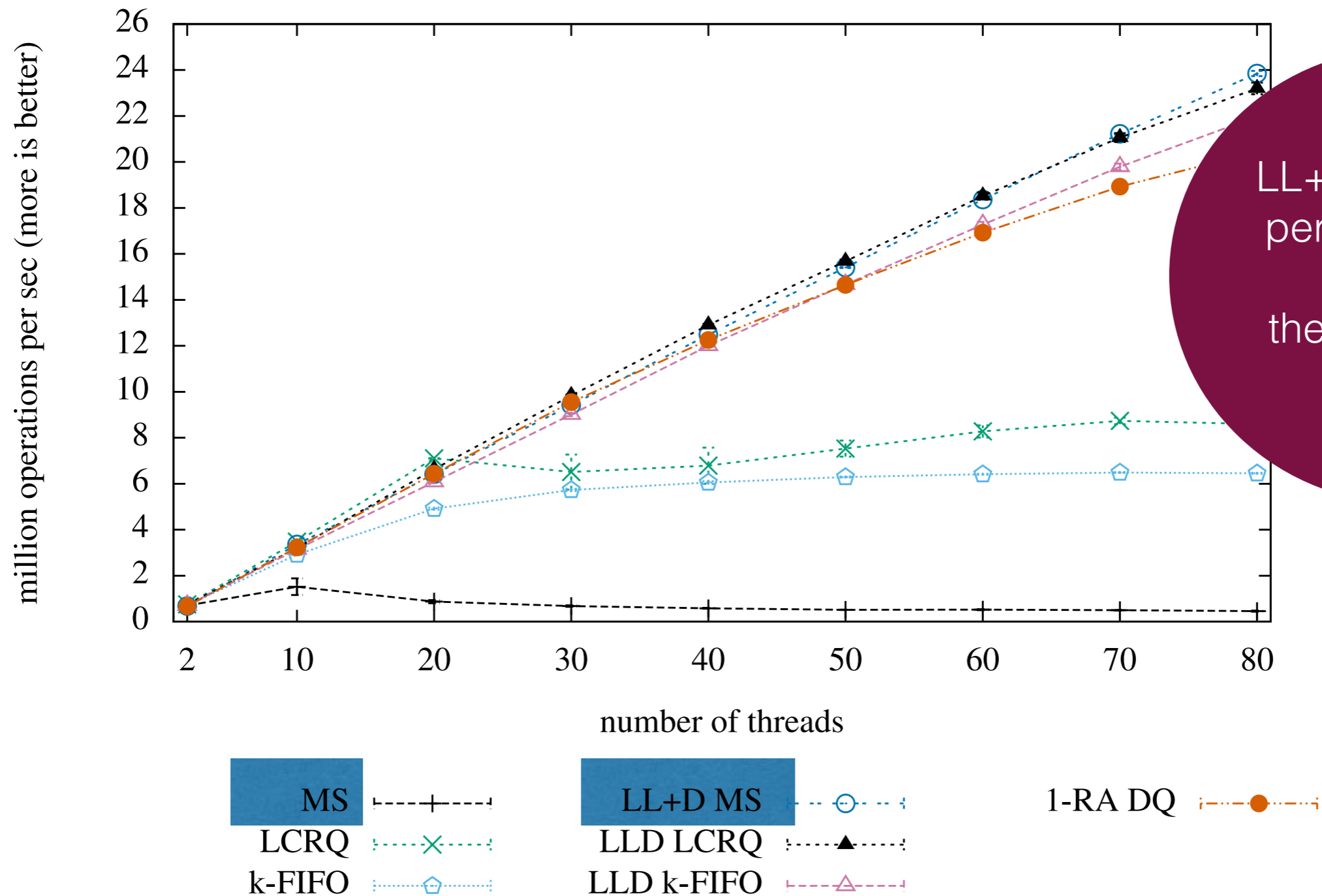
# Performance



LLD  $\Phi$   
performs  
significantly better  
than  
 $\Phi$

(a) Queues, LL queues, and “queue-like” pools

# Performance



(a) Queues, LL queues, and “queue-like” pools

# Linearizability via Order Extension Theorems

joint work with



Harald Woracek



foundational results  
for  
verifying linearizability

# Inspiration

As well as  
Reducing Linearizability to  
State Reachability  
[Bouajjani, Emmi, Enea, Hamza]  
ICALP15 + ...

## Queue sequential specification (axiomatic)

**s** is a legal queue sequence  
iff

1. **s** is a legal pool sequence, and
2.  $\text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{enq}(y) \wedge \text{deq}(y) \in \mathbf{s} \Rightarrow \text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \wedge \text{deq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(y)$

## Queue linearizability (axiomatic)

Henzinger, Sezgin, Vafeiadis CONCUR13

**h** is queue linearizable  
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precedence order

# Problems (stack)

## Stack sequential specification (axiomatic)

**s** is a legal stack sequence

iff

1. **s** is a legal pool sequence, and
2.  $\text{push}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{push}(y) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{pop}(x) \Rightarrow \text{pop}(y) \in \mathbf{s} \wedge \text{pop}(y) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{pop}(x)$

## Stack linearizability (axiomatic)

**h** is stack linearizable

iff

???

1. **h** is pool linearizable, and
2.  $\text{push}(x) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{push}(y) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{pop}(x) \Rightarrow \text{pop}(y) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{pop}(x) \not<_{\mathbf{h}} \text{pop}(y)$

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## Stack linearizability (axiomatic)

**h** is stack linearizable

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1. **h** is pool linearizable, and
2.  $\text{push}(x) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{push}(y) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{pop}(x) \Rightarrow \text{pop}(y) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{pop}(x) \not<_{\mathbf{h}} \text{pop}(y)$

# Problems (stack)

t1: push(1) pop(1)  
t2: push(2) pop(2)  
t3: push(3) pop(3)

**not** stack  
linearizable

## Stack linearizability (axiomatic)

**h** is stack linearizable

iff

1. **h** is pool linearizable, and

2.  $\text{push}(x) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{push}(y) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{pop}(x) \Rightarrow \text{pop}(y) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{pop}(x) \not<_{\mathbf{h}} \text{pop}(y)$

# Linearizability verification

## Data structure

- signature  $\Sigma$  - set of method calls including data values
- sequential specification  $S \subseteq \Sigma^*$ , prefix closed

identify sequences with total orders

## Sequential specification via violations

Extract a set of violations  $V$ , relations on  $\Sigma$ , such that  $\mathbf{s} \in S$  iff  $\mathbf{s}$  has no violations

it is easy to find a large CV,  
but difficult to find a small representative

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{s}) \cap V = \emptyset$$

## Linearizability verification

Find a set of violations  $CV$  such that: every interval order with no  $CV$  violations extends to a total order with no  $V$  violations.

we build  
CV iteratively  
from  $V$

legal sequence

concurrent history

# Pool without empty removals

## Pool sequential specification (axiomatic)

**s** is a legal pool (without empty removals) sequence

iff  
1.  $\text{rem}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \Rightarrow \text{ins}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \wedge \text{ins}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{rem}(x)$

V violations  
 $\text{rem}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{ins}(x)$

## Pool linearizability (axiomatic)

**h** is pool (without empty removals) linearizable

iff  
1.  $\text{rem}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \Rightarrow \text{ins}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{rem}(x) \not\prec_{\mathbf{h}} \text{ins}(x)$

CV violations  
= V violations

# Queue without empty removals

## Queue sequential specification (axiomatic)

**s** is a legal queue (without empty removals) sequence  
iff

1.  $\text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \Rightarrow \text{enq}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \wedge \text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(x)$
2.  $\text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{enq}(y) \wedge \text{deq}(y) \in \mathbf{s} \Rightarrow \text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \wedge \text{deq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(y)$

V violations  
 $\text{deq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{enq}(x)$   
and  
 $\text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{enq}(y) \wedge$   
 $\text{deq}(y) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(x)$

## Queue linearizability (axiomatic)

**h** is queue (without empty removals) linearizable  
iff

1.  $\text{rem}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \Rightarrow \text{ins}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{rem}(x) \not<_{\mathbf{h}} \text{ins}(x)$
2.  $\text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{enq}(y) \wedge \text{deq}(y) \in \mathbf{h} \Rightarrow \text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{deq}(y) \not<_{\mathbf{h}} \text{deq}(x)$

CV violations  
= V violations

# Pool

infinite  
inductive  
violations

## Pool sequential specification (axiomatic)

**s** is a legal pool (with empty removals) sequence  
iff

1.  $\text{rem}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \Rightarrow \text{ins}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \wedge \text{ins}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{rem}(x)$
2.  $\text{rem}(\perp) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{rem}(x) \Rightarrow \text{rem}(\perp) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{ins}(x) \wedge \text{ins}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{rem}(\perp) \Rightarrow \text{rem}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{rem}(\perp)$

$\forall$  violations  
 $\text{rem}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{ins}(x)$   
and  
 $\text{ins}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{rem}(\perp) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{rem}(x)$

## Pool linearizability (axiomatic)

**h** is pool (with empty removals) linearizable  
iff

1.  $\text{rem}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \Rightarrow \text{ins}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{rem}(x) \not<_{\mathbf{h}} \text{ins}(x)$
2. ....

infinitely many CV violations

$\text{ins}(x_1) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{rem}(\perp) \wedge \text{ins}(x_2) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{rem}(x_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \text{ins}(x_{n+1}) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{rem}(x_n) \wedge \text{rem}(\perp) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{rem}(x_{n+1})$

infinite  
inductive  
violations

# Queue

$\forall$  violations  
 $\text{rem}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{ins}(x)$   
and  
 $\text{ins}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{rem}(\perp) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{rem}(x)$   
and  
 $\text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{enq}(y) \wedge$   
 $\text{deq}(y) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(x)$

## Queue sequential specification (axiomatic)

**s** is a legal queue (with empty removals) sequence  
iff

1.  $\text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \Rightarrow \text{enq}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \wedge \text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(x)$
2.  $\text{deq}(\perp) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(x) \Rightarrow \text{deq}(\perp) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{enq}(x) \wedge \text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(\perp) \Rightarrow \text{deq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(\perp)$
3.  $\text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{enq}(y) \wedge \text{deq}(y) \in \mathbf{s} \Rightarrow \text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{s} \wedge \text{deq}(x) <_{\mathbf{s}} \text{deq}(y)$

## Queue linearizability (axiomatic)

**h** is queue (with empty removals) linearizable  
iff

1.  $\text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \Rightarrow \text{enq}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{deq}(x) \not<_{\mathbf{h}} \text{enq}(x)$
2.  $\text{enq}(x_1) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{deq}(\perp) \wedge \text{enq}(x_2) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{deq}(x_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \text{enq}(x_{n+1}) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{deq}(x_n) \wedge \text{deq}(\perp) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{deq}(x_{n+1})$   
infinitely many CV violations
3.  $\text{enq}(x) <_{\mathbf{h}} \text{enq}(y) \wedge \text{deq}(y) \in \mathbf{h} \Rightarrow \text{deq}(x) \in \mathbf{h} \wedge \text{deq}(y) \not<_{\mathbf{h}} \text{deq}(x)$

# Concurrent Queues

**Data independence**  $\Rightarrow$  verifying executions where each value is enqueued at most once is sound

Reduction to **assertion checking** = exclusion of "bad patterns"

Value  $v$  dequeued without being enqueued

$\text{deq} \Rightarrow v$



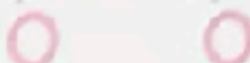
Value  $v$  dequeued before being enqueued

$\text{deq} \Rightarrow v$     $\text{enq}(v)$



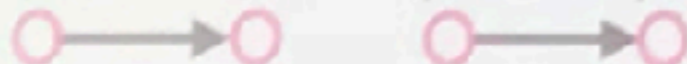
Value  $v$  dequeued twice

$\text{deq} \Rightarrow v$     $\text{deq} \Rightarrow v$



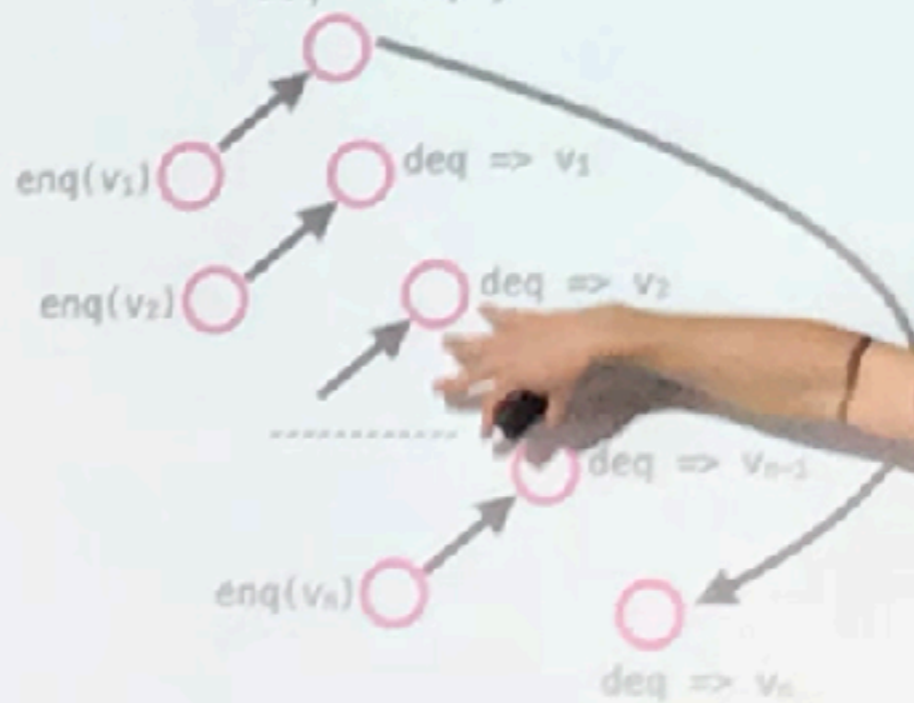
Value  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  dequeued in the wrong order

$\text{enq}(v_1)$     $\text{enq}(v_2)$     $\text{deq} \Rightarrow v_2$     $\text{deq} \Rightarrow v_1$



Dequeuing wrongfully returns empty

$\text{deq} \Rightarrow \text{empty}$



# It works for

- Pool without empty removals
- Queue without empty removals
- Priority queue without empty removals
- Pool
- Queue
- Priority queue

infinite  
inductive  
violations

But not yet for Stack:  
infinite CV violations  
without clear  
inductive structure

Exploring the space of  
data structures  
as well as new ideas  
for problematic cases

# How does it work?

# The basics

$$\text{PO}[\mathcal{V}] = \{R \in \text{PO} \mid \mathcal{P}(R) \cap \mathcal{V} = \emptyset\}$$

$$\text{IO}[\mathcal{V}] = \{R \in \text{IO} \mid \mathcal{P}(R) \cap \mathcal{V} = \emptyset\}$$

$$\text{TO}[\mathcal{V}] = \{R \in \text{TO} \mid \mathcal{P}(R) \cap \mathcal{V} = \emptyset\}$$

partial orders

interval orders

total orders

$$\forall (a, b), (c, d) \in R. (a, d) \in R \vee (c, b) \in R$$

# The problem

Given a set of violations  $\mathcal{V}$ , find a “small” set of violations  $\mathcal{V}'$  such that

$$\forall R \in \text{IO}[\mathcal{V}']. \exists \bar{R} \in \text{TO}[\mathcal{V}]. \bar{R} \supseteq R$$

Theorem (singleton violations)

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  consist only of singletons, and let  $V = \bigcup \mathcal{V}$ .

If  $V$  is transitive and not a cycle, then the problem is solved with  $\mathcal{V}' = \mathcal{V}$ .

this solves the case of  
pool without empty removals

# The closures

$$\text{Clos}_O(\mathcal{V}) = \bigcap_{S \in O[\mathcal{V}]} \mathcal{P}(S)^c$$

O-closure of a set  
of violations

monotone, extensive, idempotent

## Proposition

$$\forall R \in \text{IO}[\mathcal{V}']. \exists \bar{R} \in \text{TO}[\mathcal{V}]. \bar{R} \supseteq R$$

iff

$$\text{Clos}_{\text{TO}}(\mathcal{V}) = \text{Clos}_{\text{IO}}(\mathcal{V}')$$

# The axioms

## Proposition PO

$\mathcal{V}$  is PO-closed iff

$$(C1) \quad \mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$$

$$(C2) \quad \forall N \in \mathcal{V}. \forall M. (N \subseteq \text{tr}(M) \Rightarrow M \in \mathcal{V})$$

## Proposition IO

$\mathcal{V}$  is IO-closed iff (C1) and (C2) and

$$(C3) \quad \forall M \in \mathbb{X} \setminus \mathcal{C}. \forall a, b, c, d \in X. a \neq d \wedge c \neq b \Rightarrow \\ [(a, b) \in M \wedge (c, d) \in M \wedge M \cup \{(a, d)\} \in \mathcal{V} \wedge M \cup \{(c, b)\} \in \mathcal{V} \Rightarrow M \in \mathcal{V}]$$

## Proposition TO

$\mathcal{V}$  is TO-closed iff (C1) and (C2) and

$$(C4) \quad \forall N \in \mathcal{V}, N \cap \Delta \neq \emptyset. \forall M \in \mathbb{X}. \forall a \in N \setminus M. \exists a_1, a_2 \in X. \\ a = (a_1, a_2) \wedge M \cup \{(a_2, a_1)\} \in \mathcal{V} \Rightarrow M \in \mathcal{V}$$

# How does it work ?

## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  consist only of finite sets and assume

(1) ★

(2)  $\forall N, M \in \mathcal{V}. \forall (a_1, a_2) \in N. |\{(b_1, b_2) \in M \mid a_2 = b_1\}| \leq 1$

then the problem is solved

we provide an algorithm that produces a set of violations such that ★ holds

if we are lucky, (2) holds too

if we manage to construct such a set of violations, we are done

# The algorithm

Take two violations  $N_1, N_2 \in \mathcal{V}$  and an element  $x \in X$  and produce a new violation

$$\begin{aligned} & \{(a, b) \mid (a, x) \in N_1, (x, b) \in N_2\} \\ & \cup \{(a, b) \in N_1 \mid b \neq x\} \\ & \cup \{(a, b) \in N_2 \mid a \neq x\} \end{aligned}$$

Take two violations  $N_1, N_2 \in \mathcal{V}$  and a pair  $(x, y) \in X \times X$  and produce a new violation

$$\begin{aligned} & \{(a, y) \mid (a, x) \in N_2\} \\ & \cup \{(x, b) \mid (y, b) \in N_2\} \\ & \cup \{(a, b) \in N_2 \mid b \neq x \wedge a \neq y\} \\ & \cup N_1 \setminus \{(x, y)\} \end{aligned}$$

until no new  
violations are  
produced

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# It works for

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Thank You !

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