Decoupling Lock-Free Data Structures from Memory Reclamation for Static Analysis

[POPL'19]

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Lock-free Queue (Michael&Scott)

```
void dequeue() {
  while (true) {
    head = Head;
    next = head->next;
    // ...
    if(CAS(Head,head,next)){
      // leak head?
      return;
}}}
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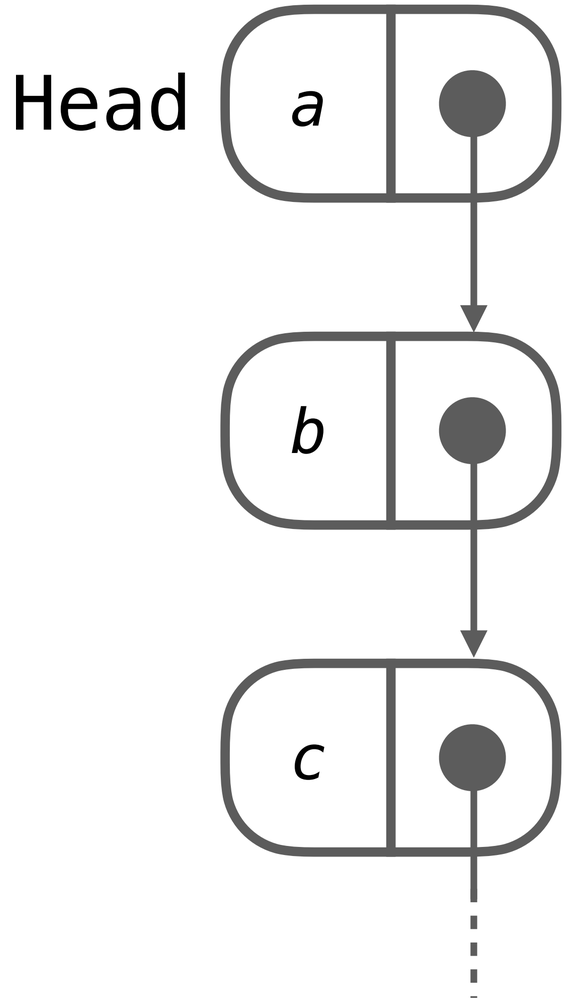

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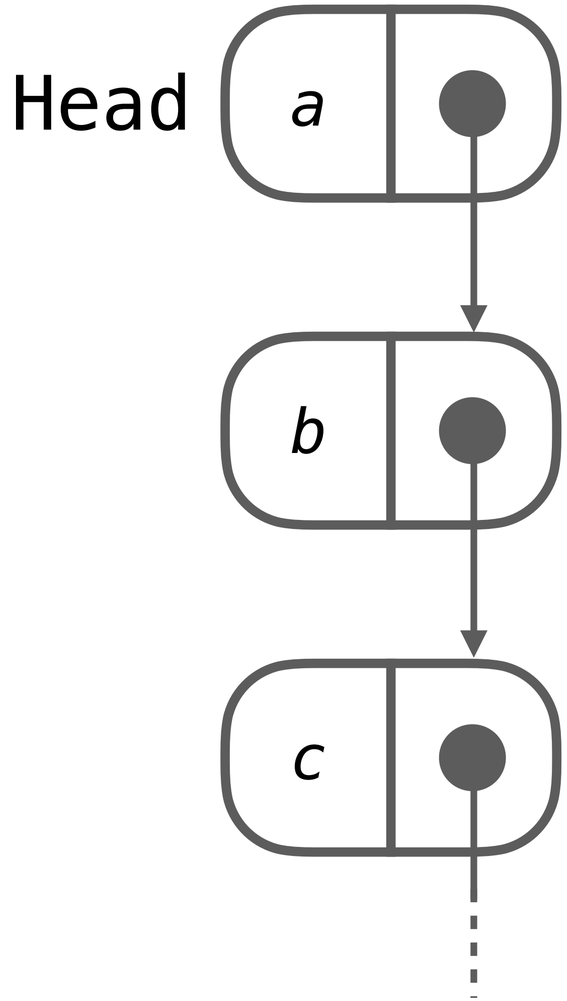

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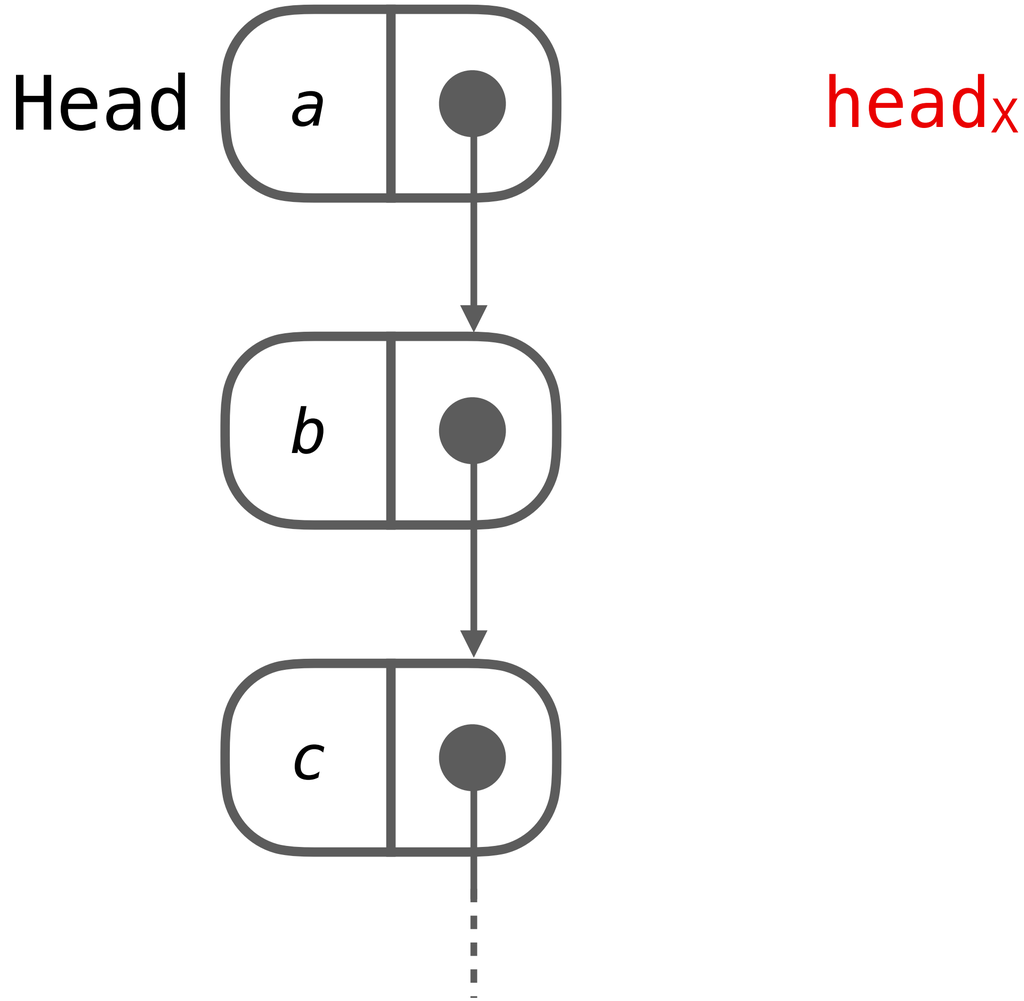

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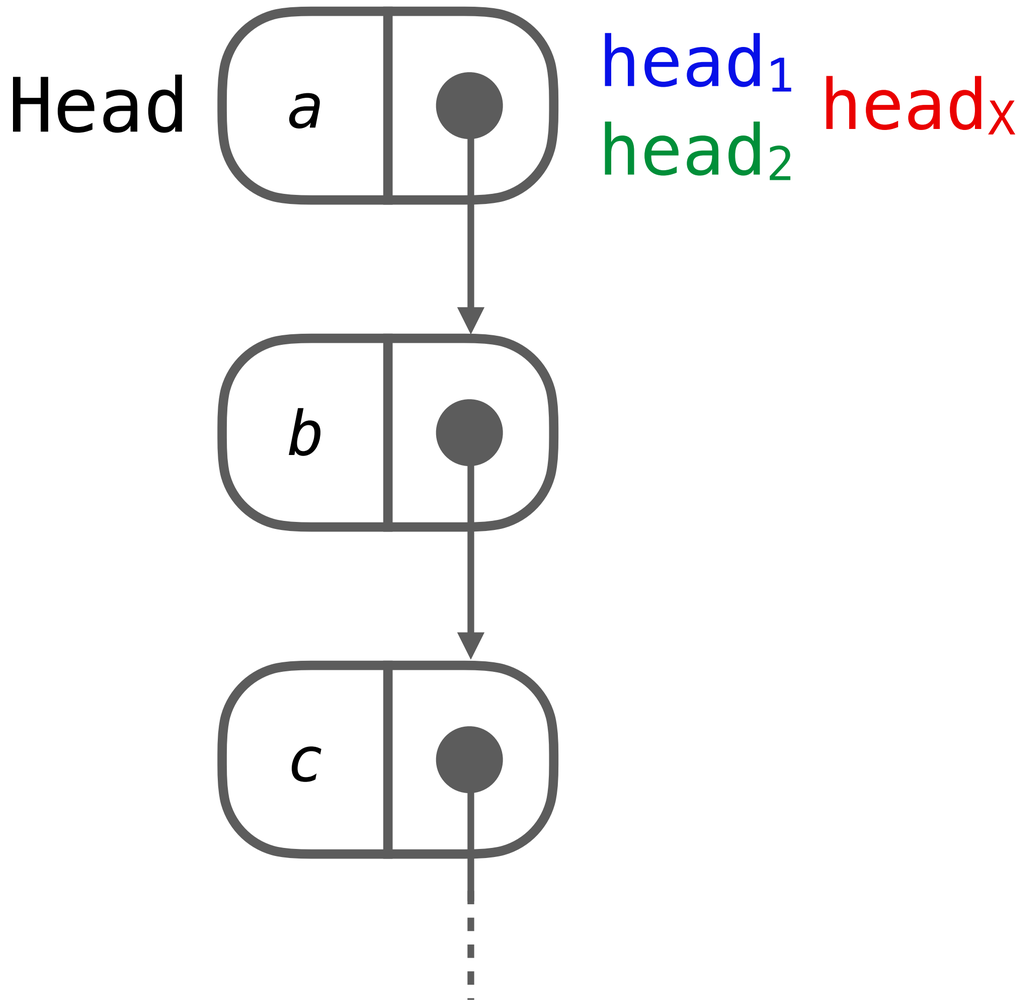

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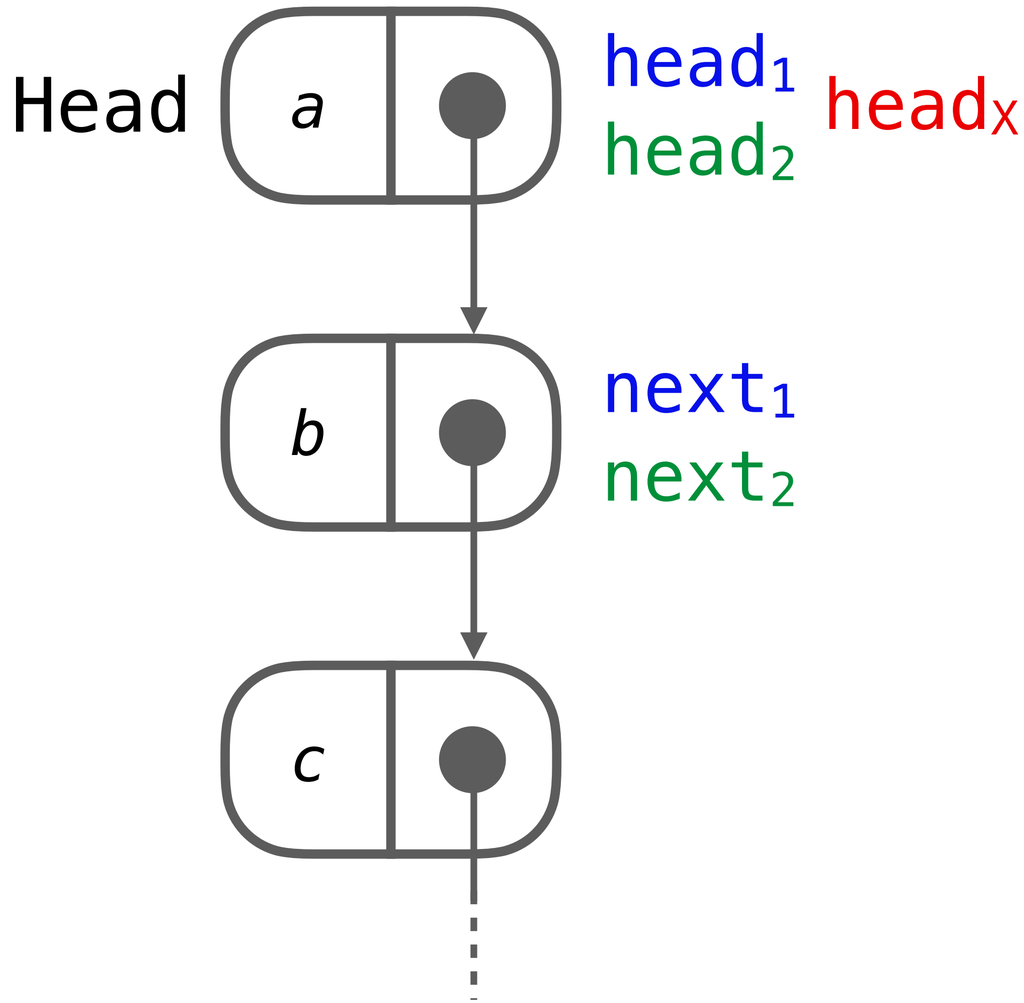

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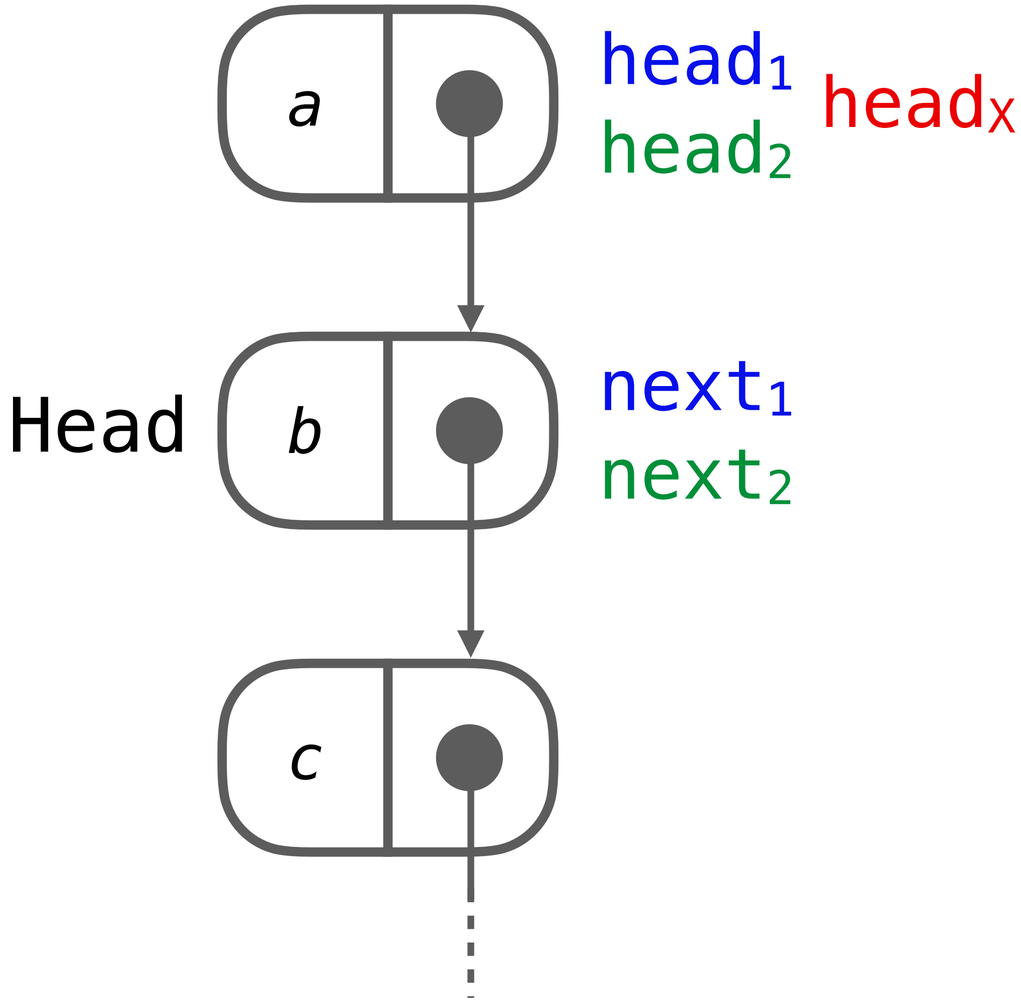

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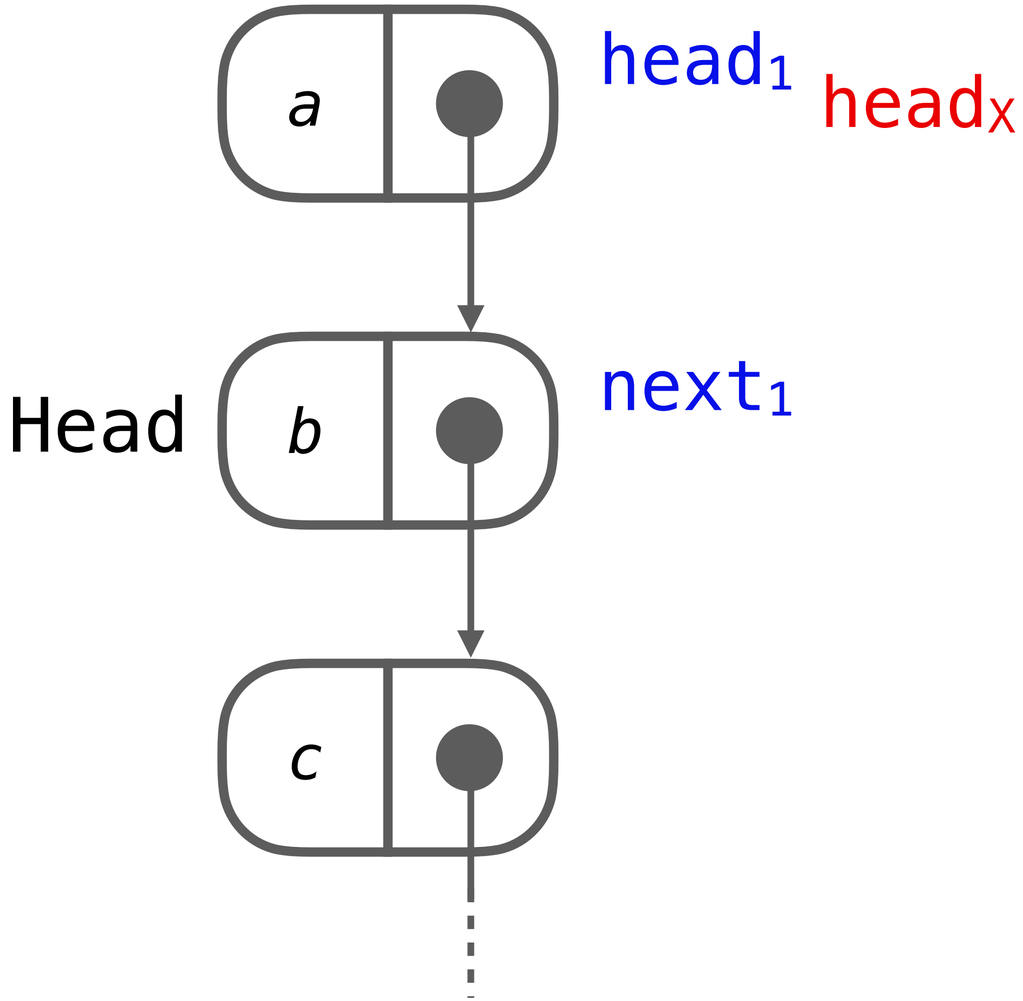

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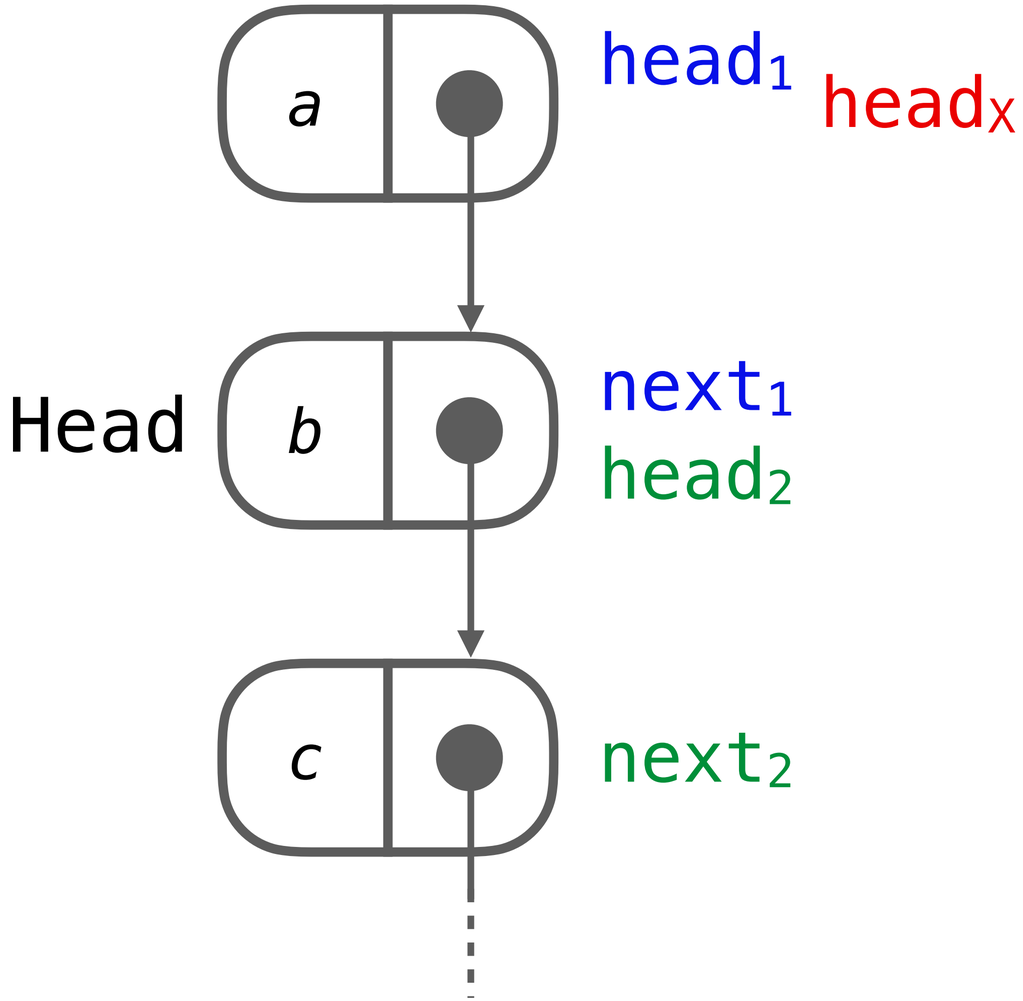

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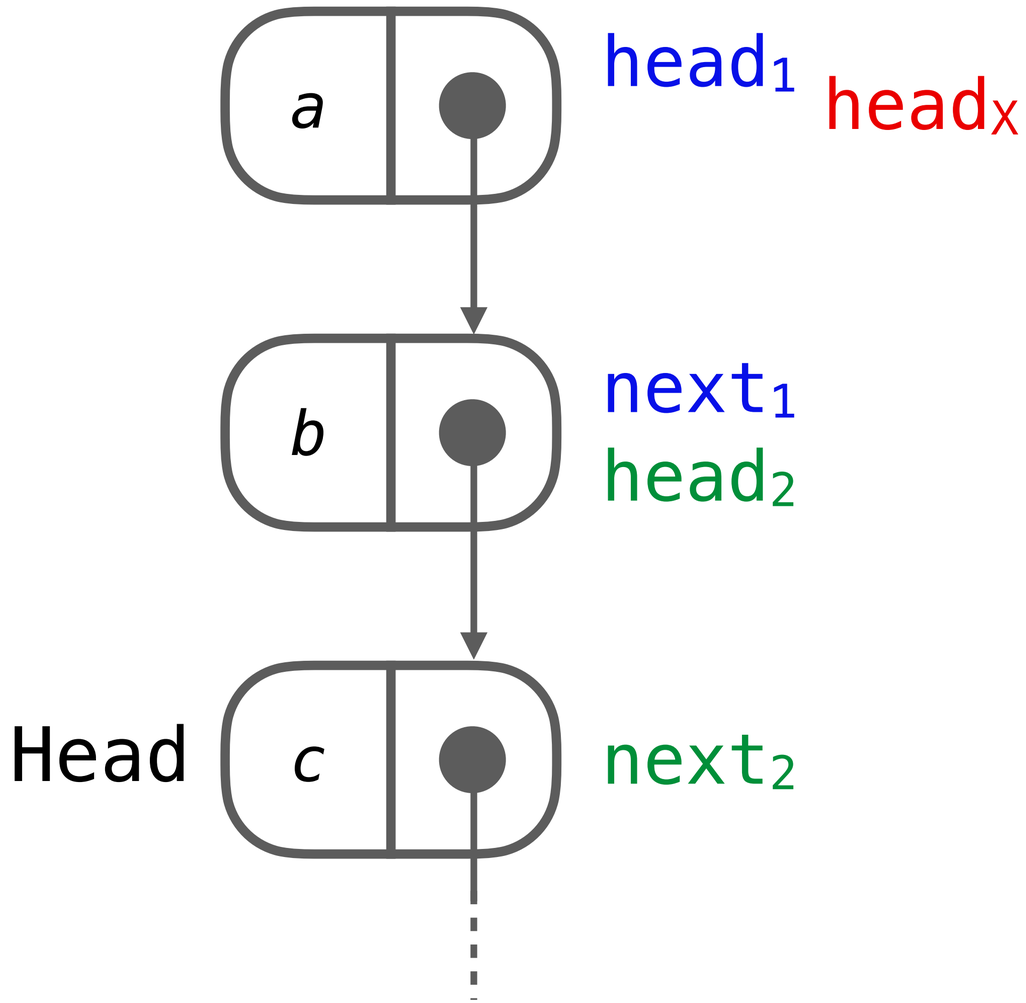

Lock-free Queue (Michael&Scott)

```
void dequeue() {
 while (true) {
   head = Head;
X  next = head->next;
   // ...
   if(CAS(Head,head,next)){
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   return;
}}}
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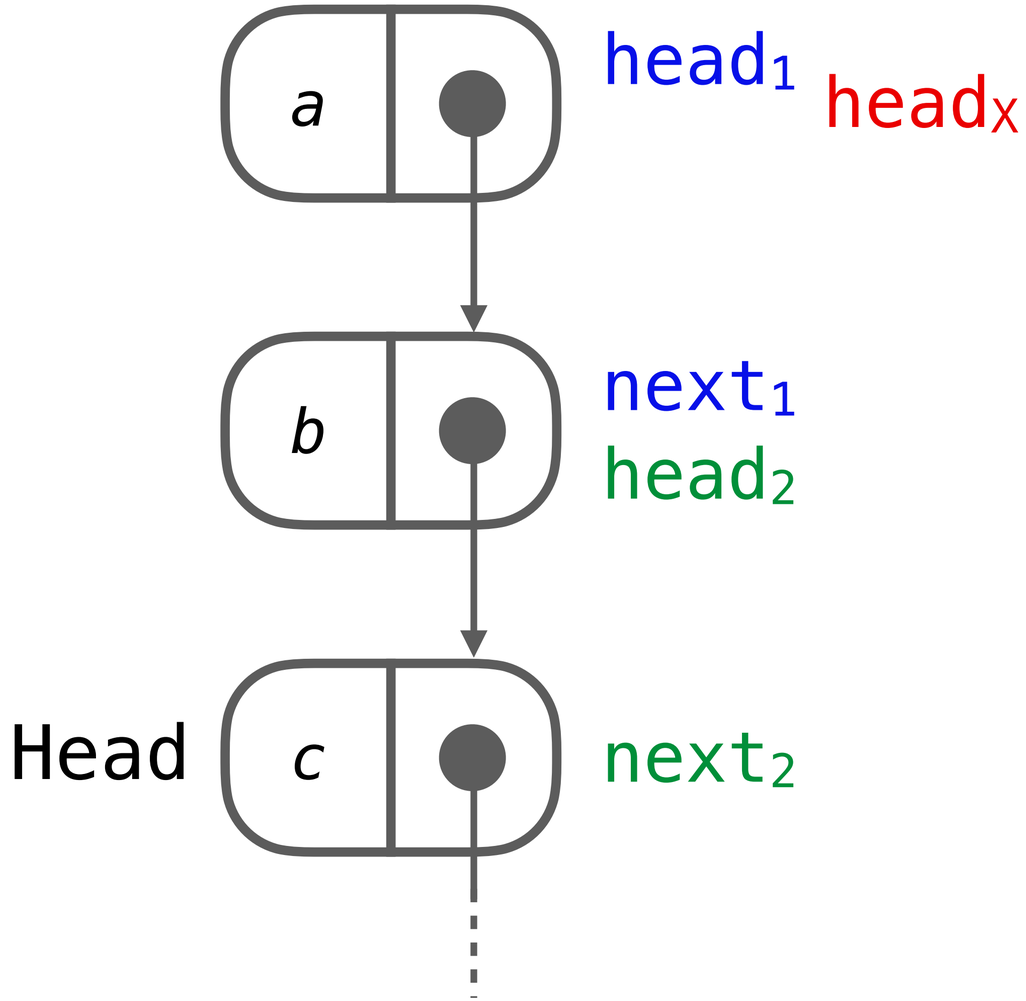

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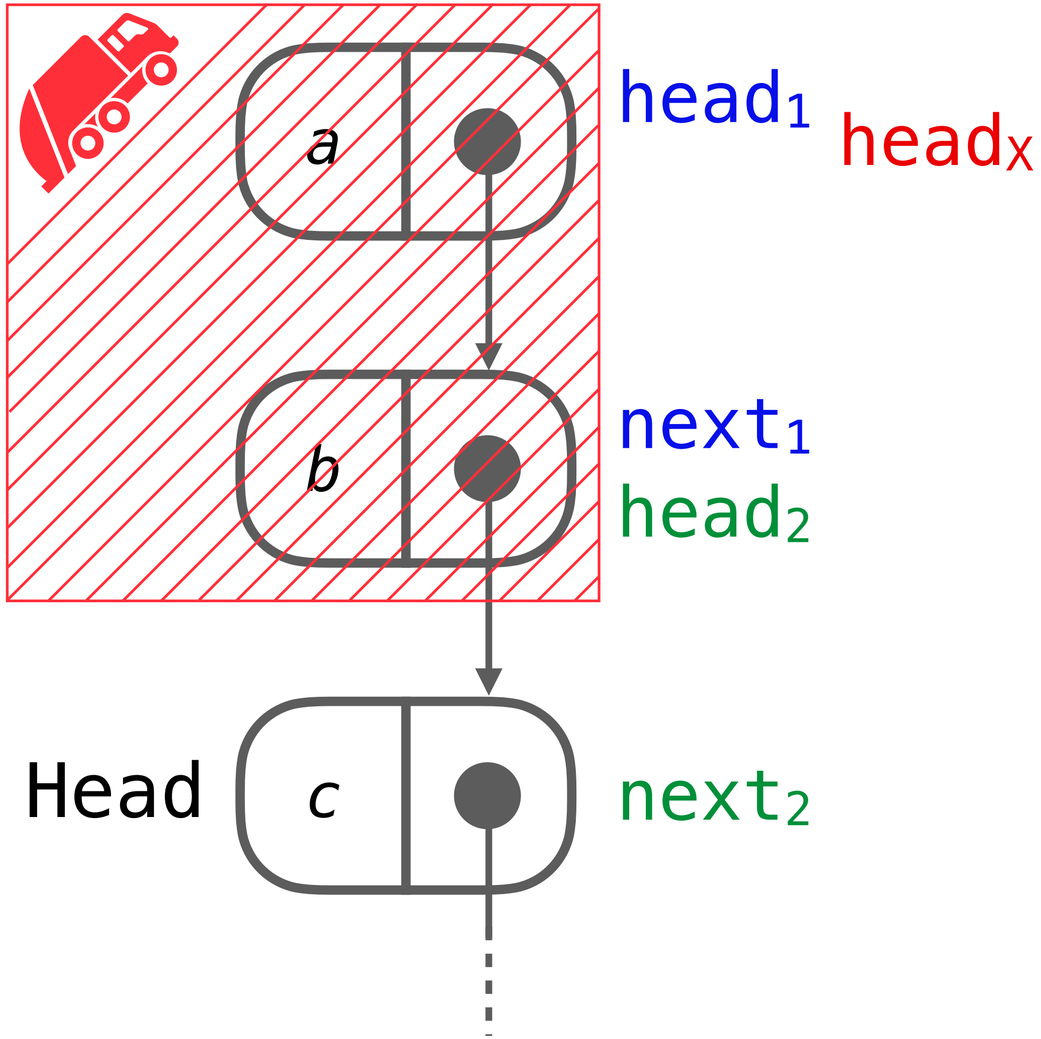
X 1 2



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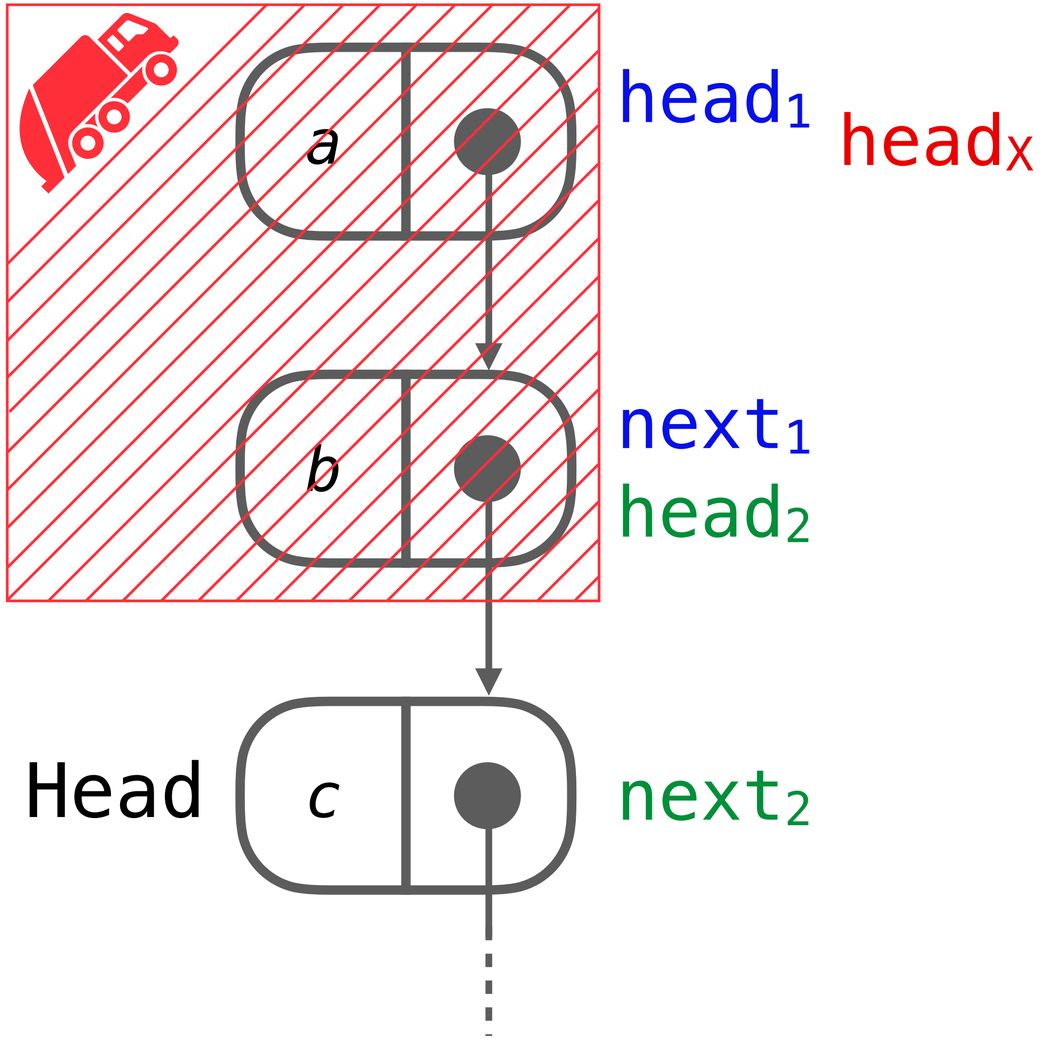

Reclamation

- Lock-free data structures (LFDS)
  - ➡ unsynchronized traversal
  - ➡ threads cannot detect whether a dereference is *safe*
- Safe memory reclamation (SMR)
  - ➡ defers deletion until it is safe
  - ➡ controlled by LFDS
  - ➡ various sophisticated techniques exist

Lock-free Queue (Michael&Scott)

```
data_t dequeue() {
  while (true) {
    head = Head;
    protect(head);
    next = head->next;
    // ...
    if(CAS(Head,head,next)){
      retire(head);
      return;
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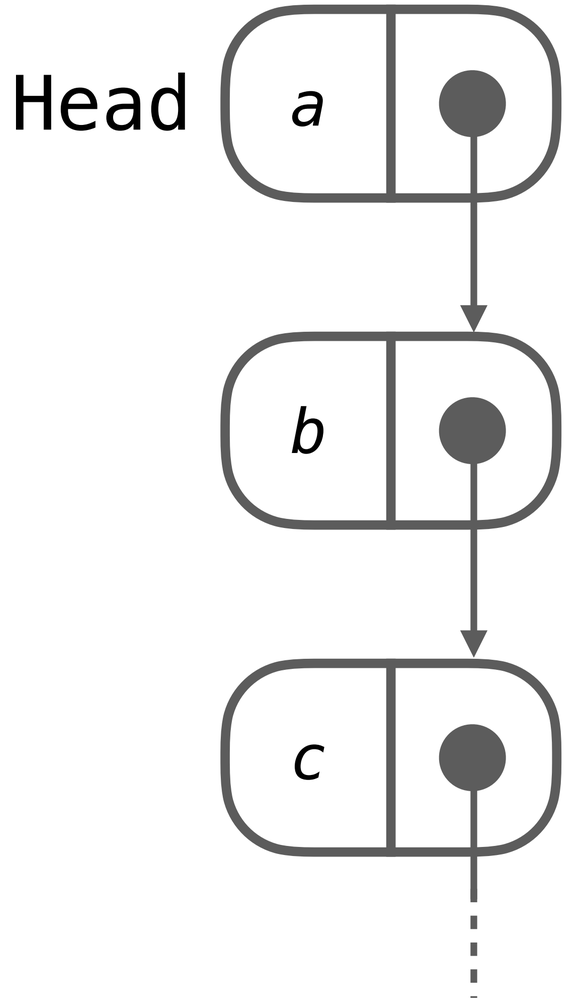

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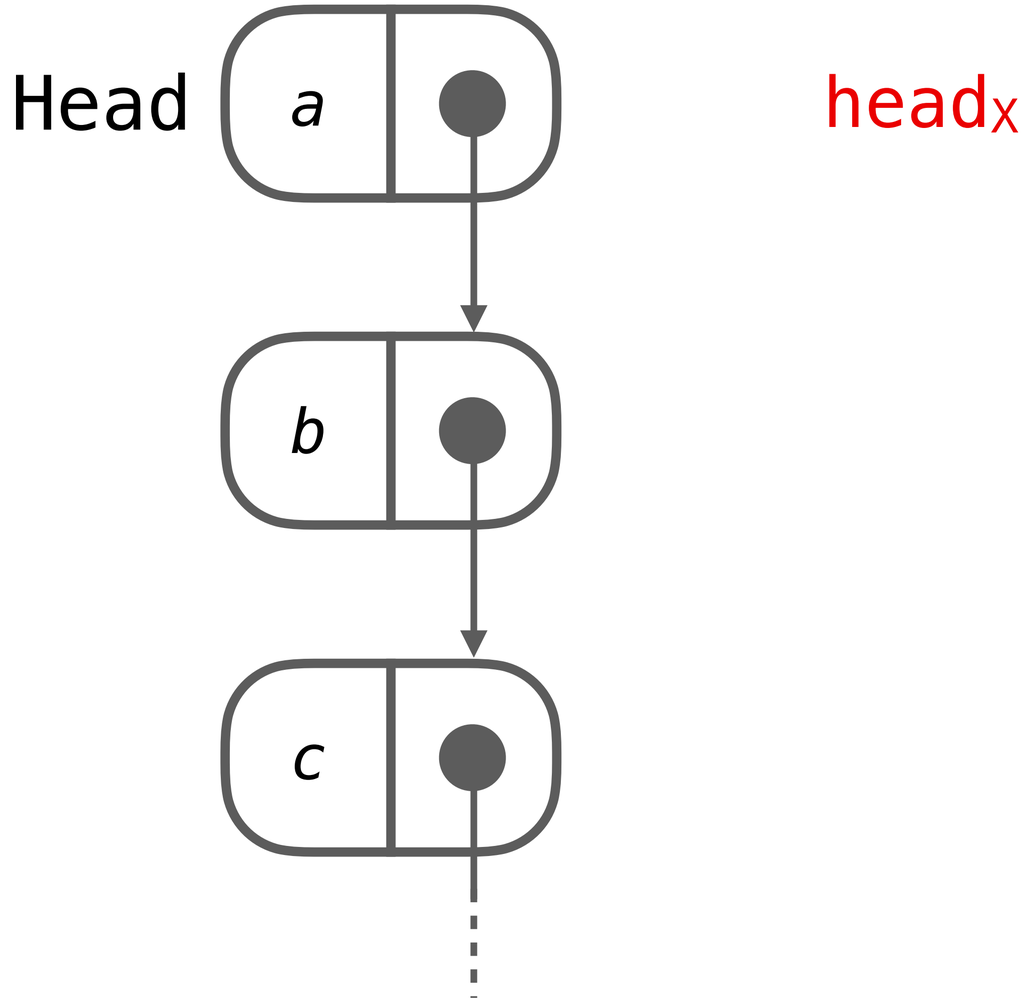

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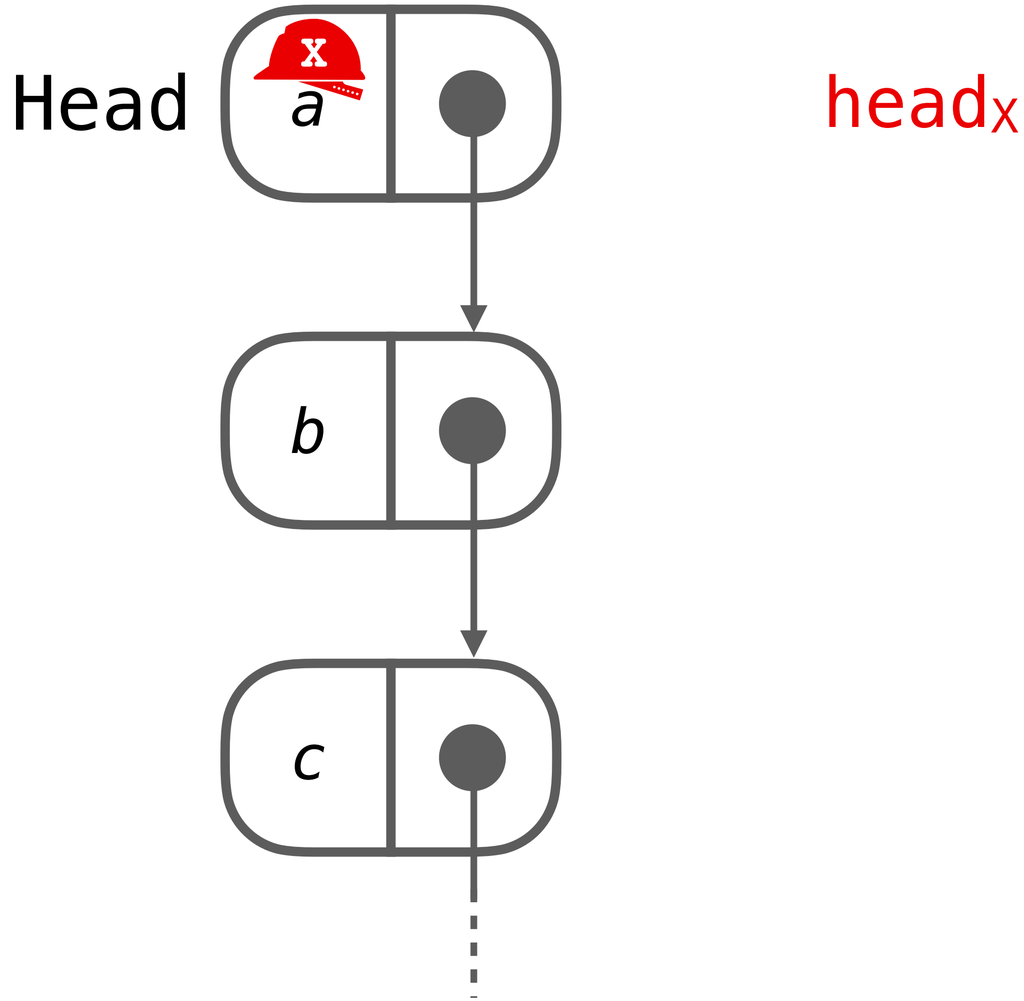

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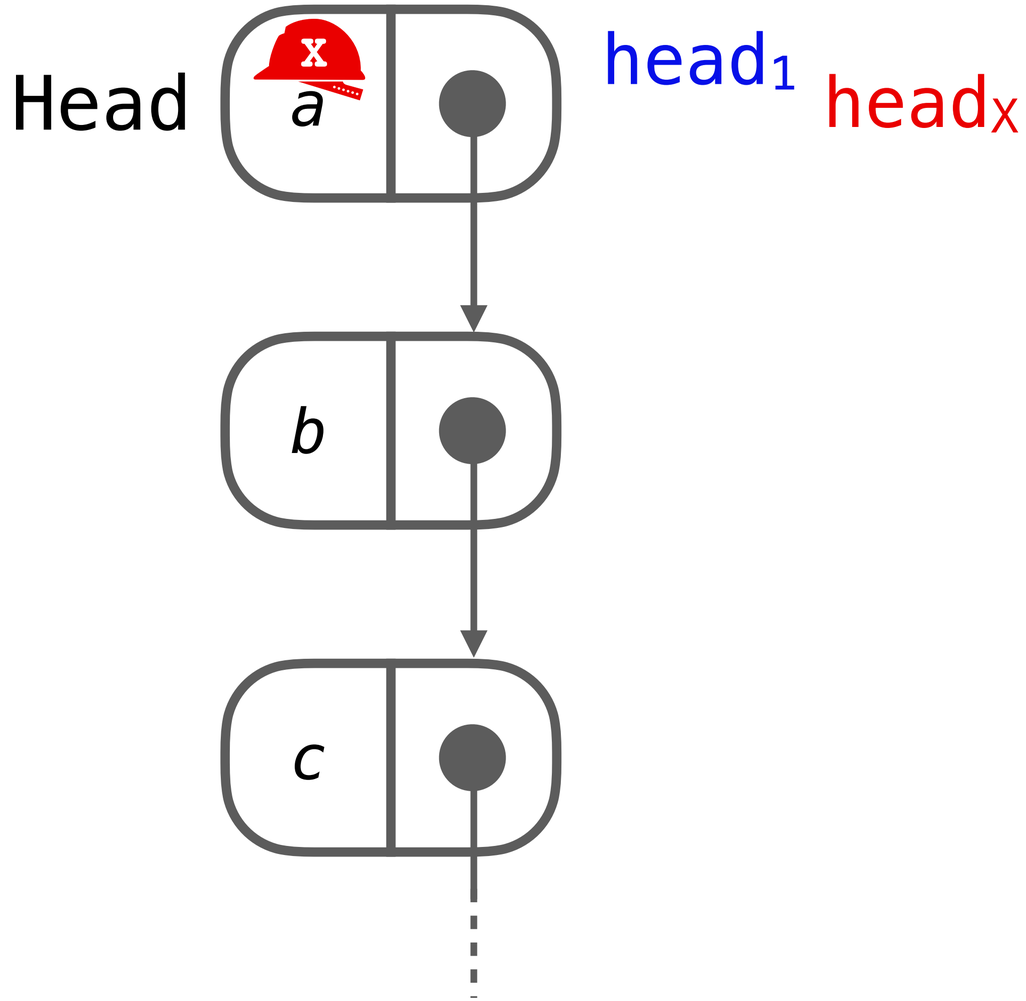
1

X



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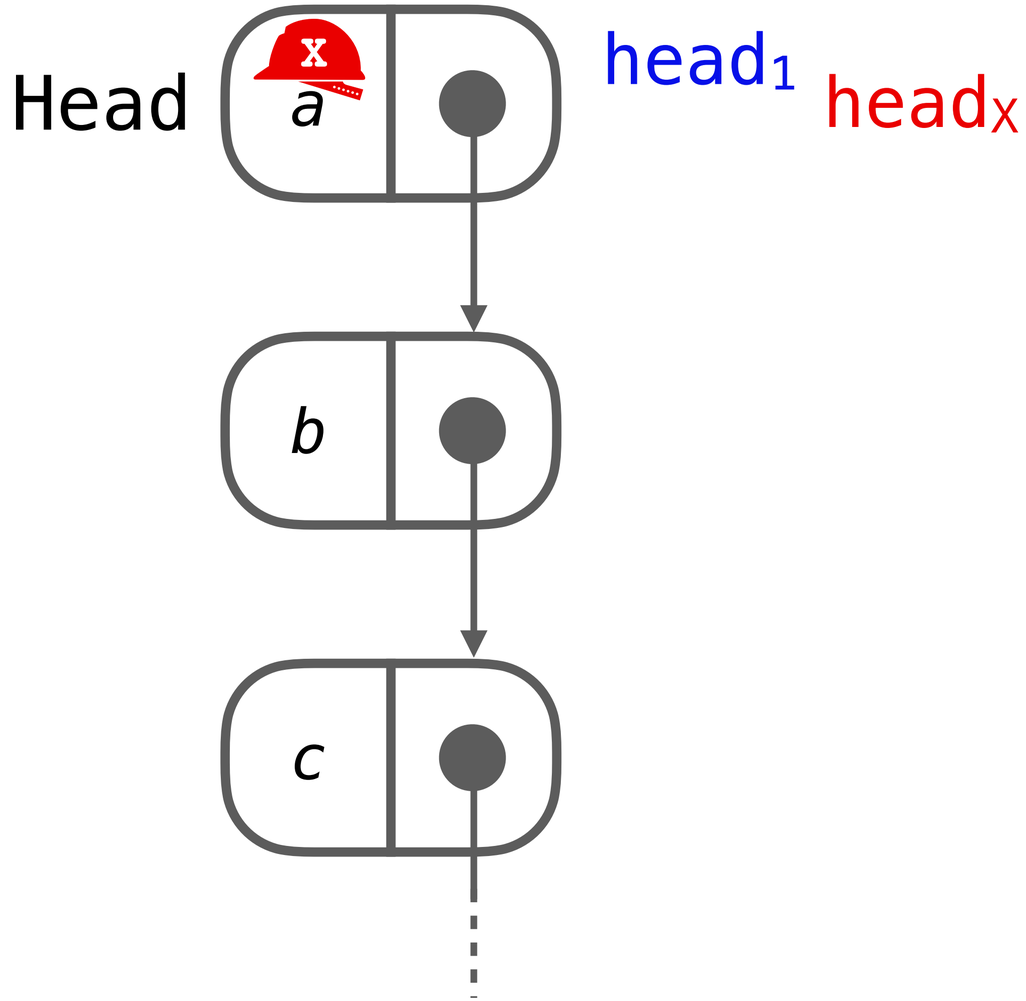

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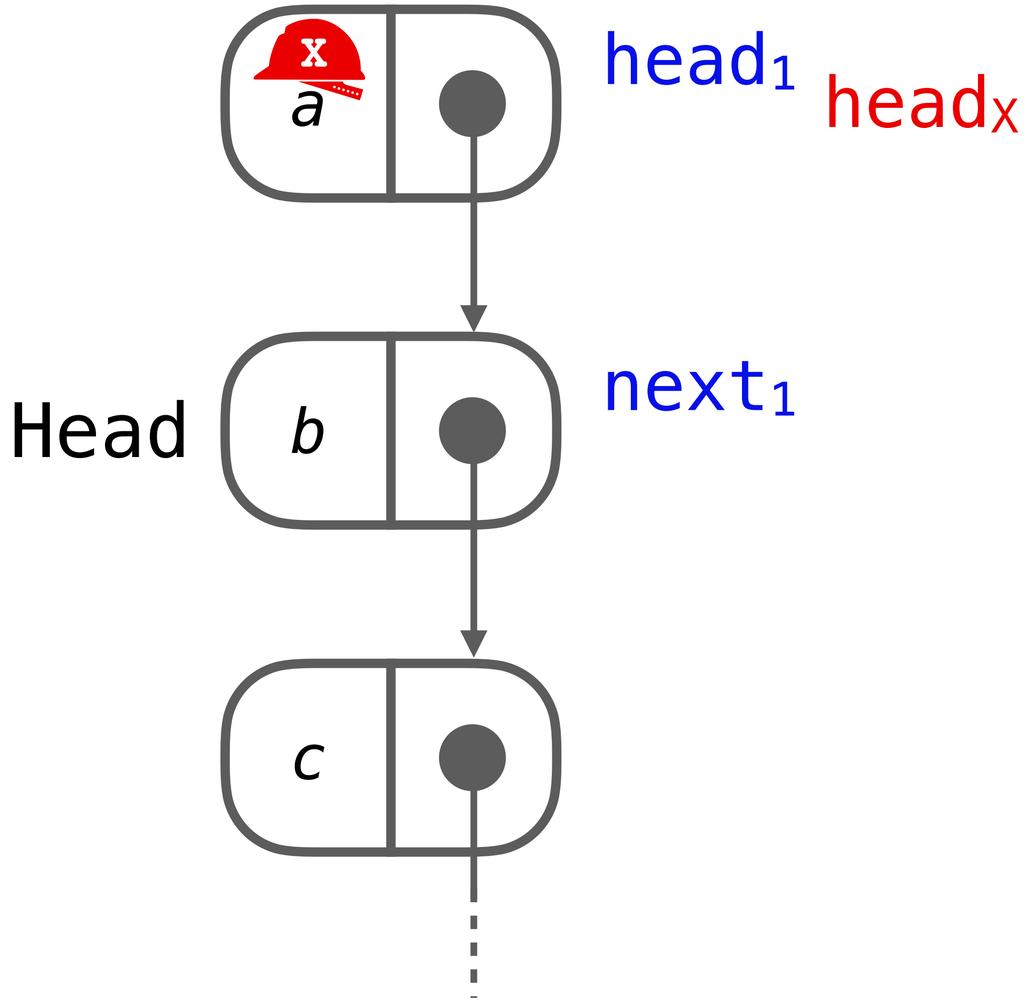

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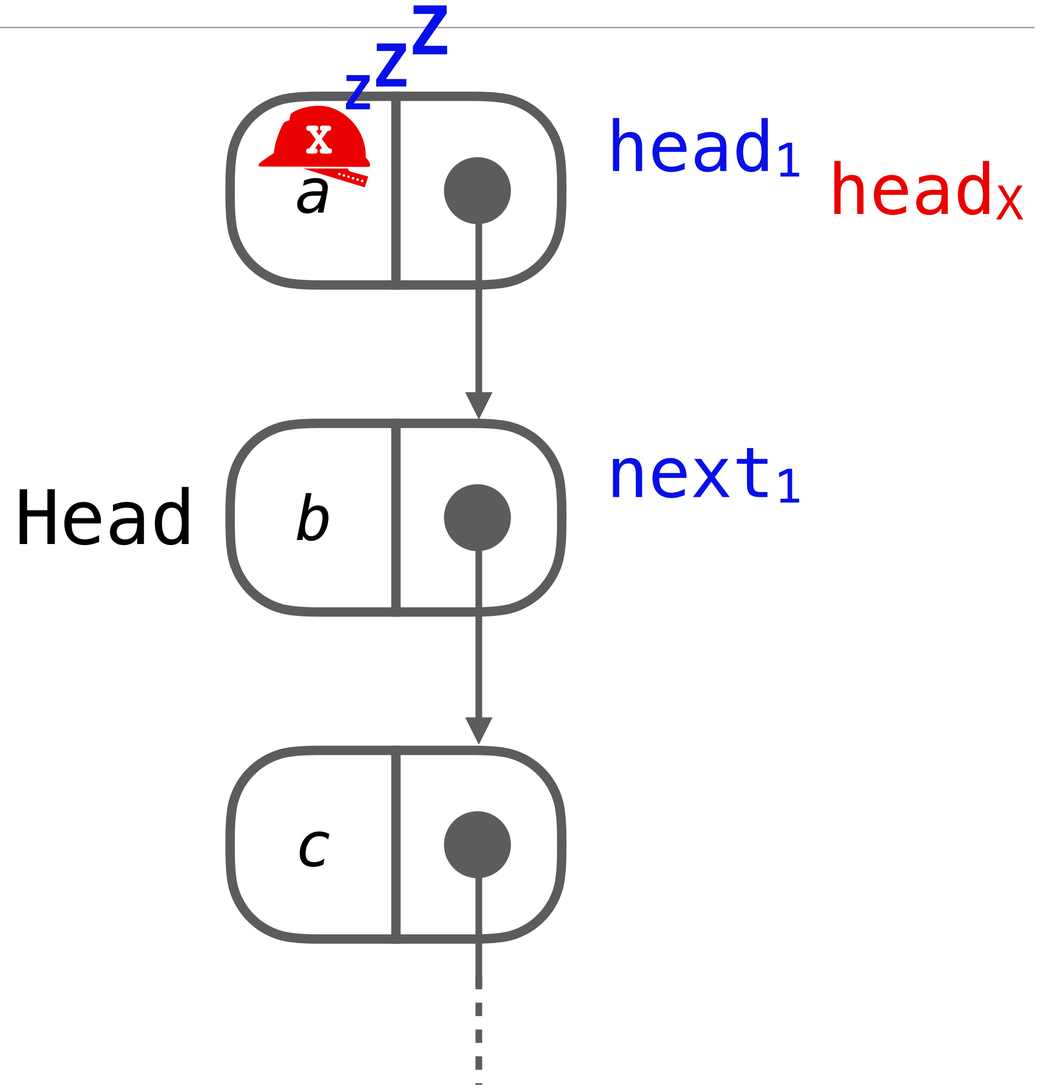

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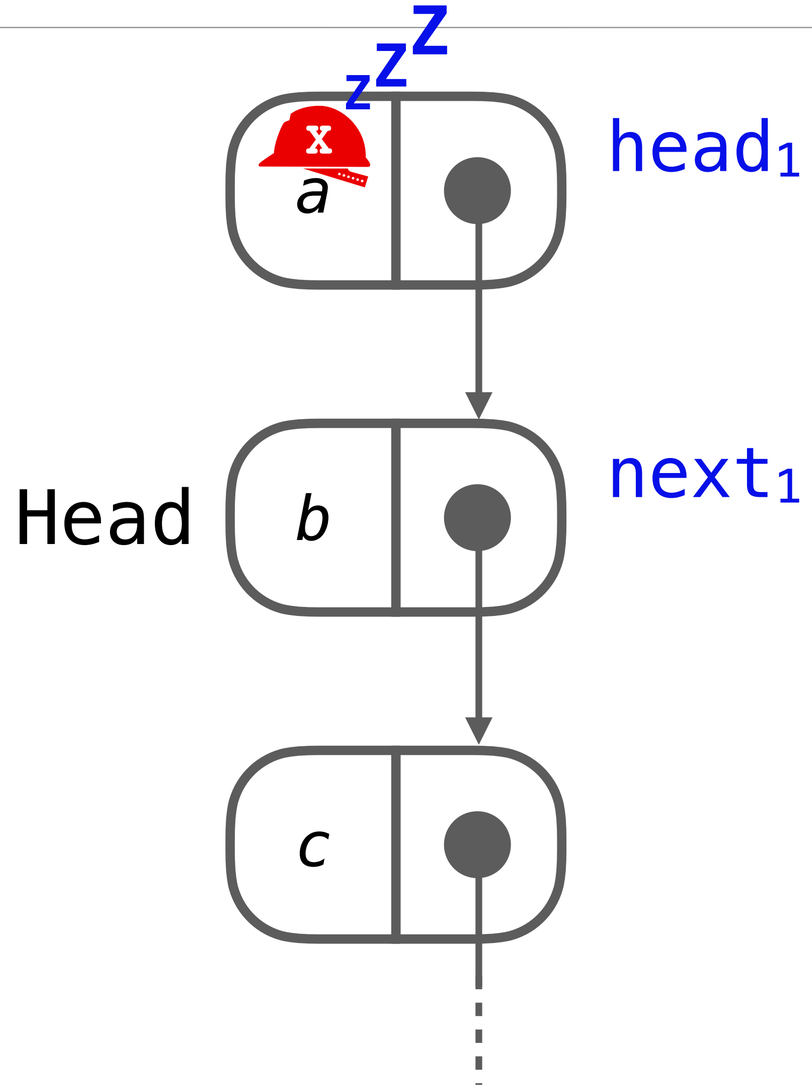

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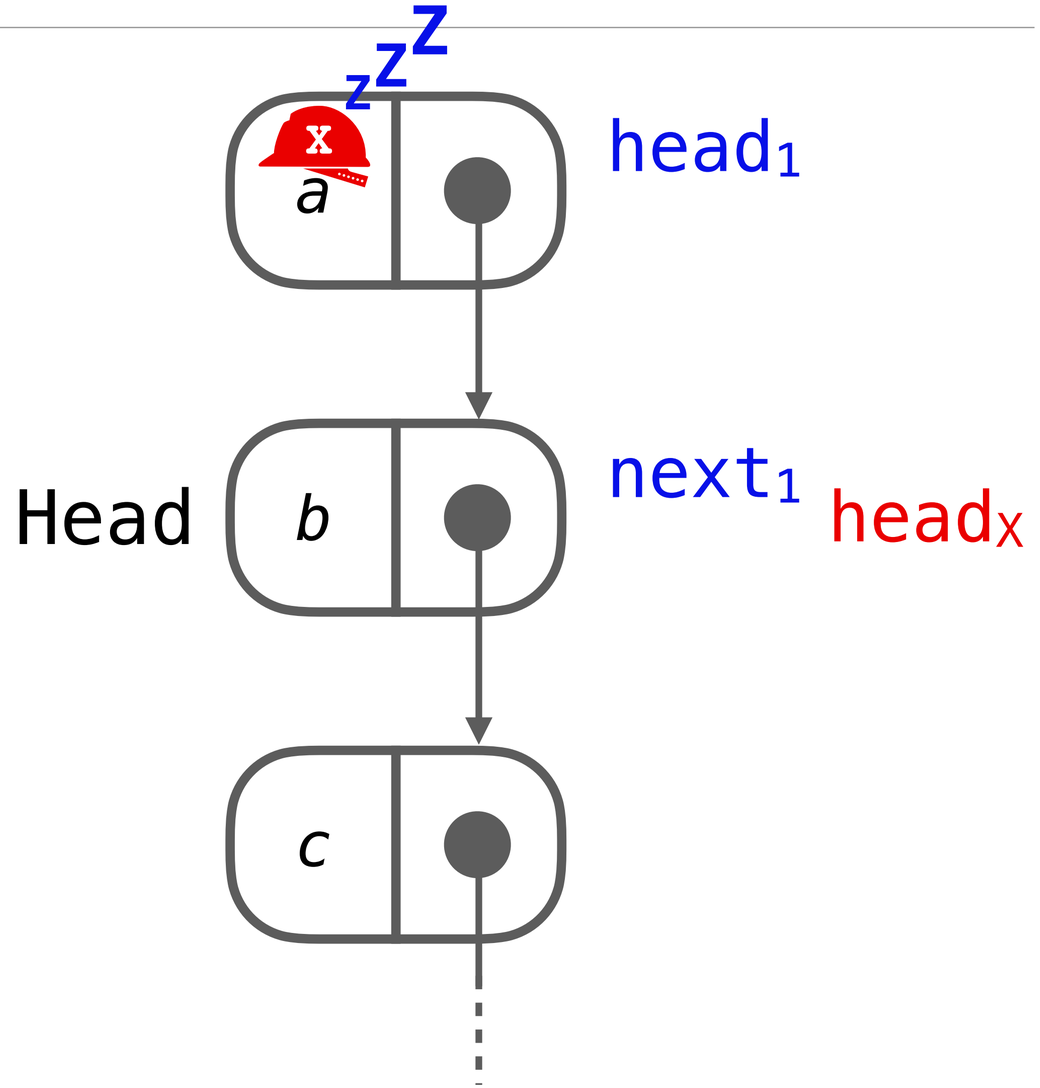

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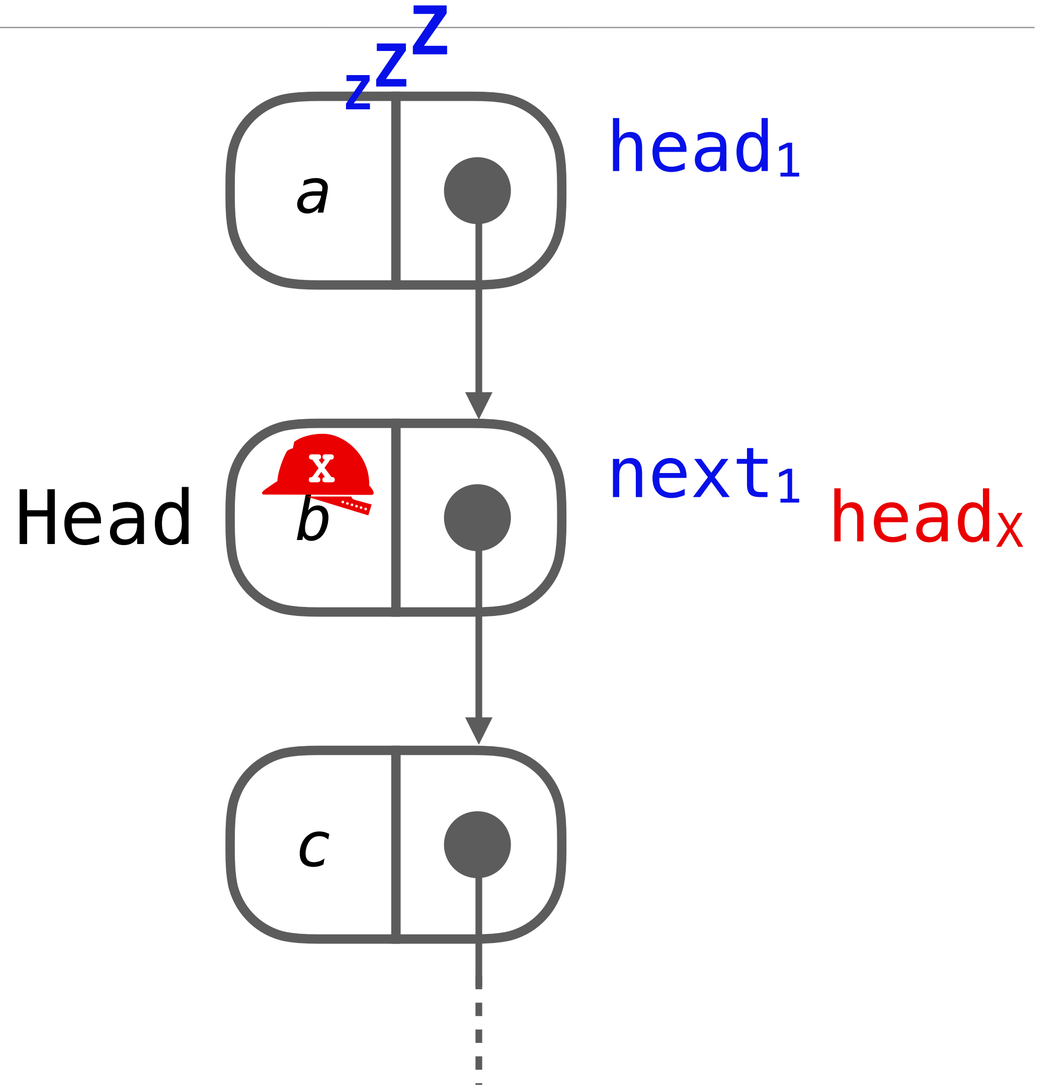

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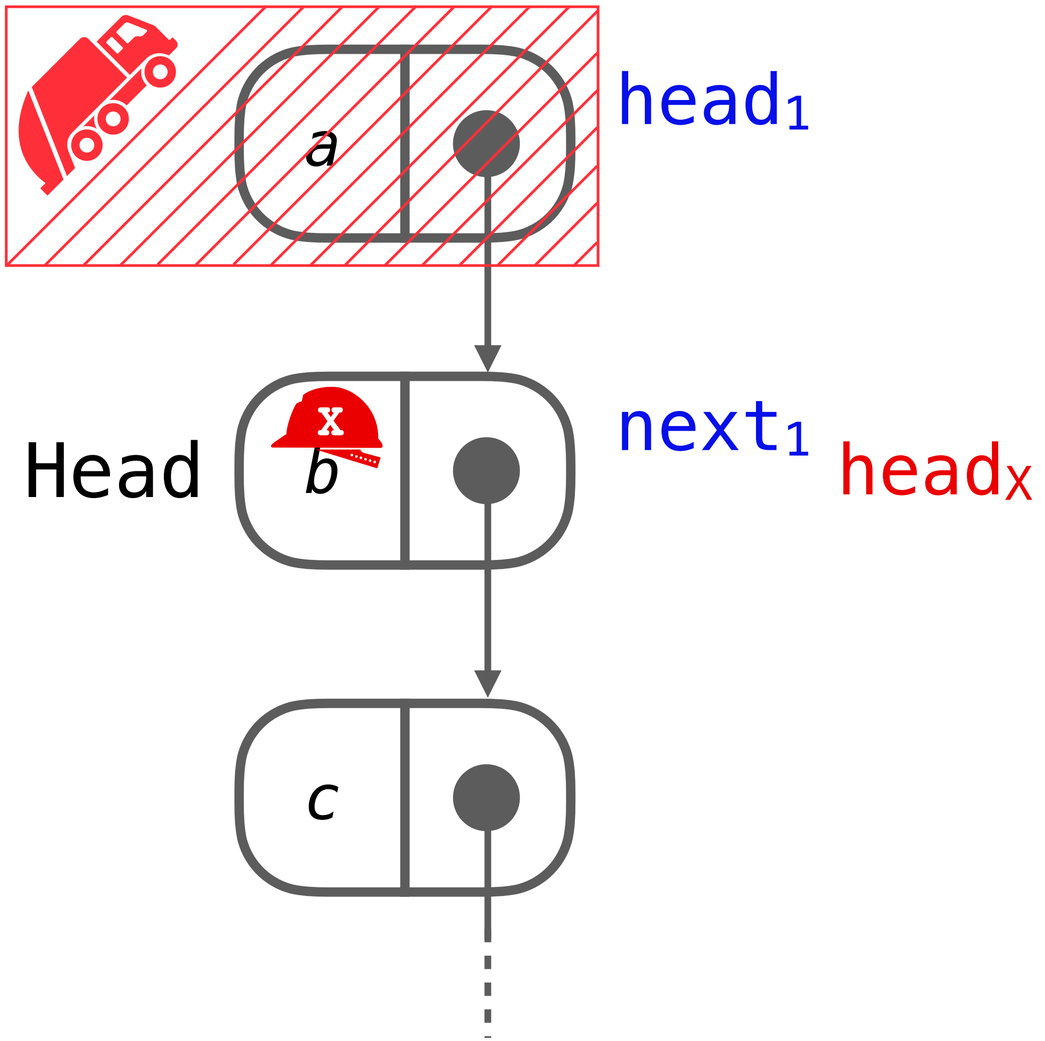

State-of-the-art Verification of Data Structures

- Pen&paper, mechanized/tool-supported
  - ➡ require deep understanding of proof technique, LFDS, and SMR
  - ➡ few works consider reclamation
- **Automated** (model-checking)
  - ➡ only done for GC
  - ➡ or custom semantics (allowing accesses of deleted memory)
  - ➡ **no works consider SMR**

Verification LFDS+SMR

```
struct Node {
    data_t data;
    Node* node;
}

shared:
    Node* Head;
    Node* Tail;

void init() {
    Head = new Node();
    Head->next = null;
    Tail = Head;
}

void enqueue(data_t val) {
    Node* node = new Node();
    node->data = val;
    node->next = null;
    while (true) {
        Node* tail = Tail;

        Node* next = tail->next;
        if (Tail != tail) continue;
        if (next == null) {
            if (CAS(tail->next, null, node)) {
                CAS(Tail, tail, node);
            }
        } else {
            CAS(Tail, tail, next);
        }
    }
}

data_t dequeue() {
    while (true) {
        Node* head = Head;

        Node* tail = Tail;
        Node* next = head->next;

        if (Head != head) continue;
        if (head == tail) {
            if (next == null) return empty_t;
            else CAS(Tail, tail, next);
        } else {
            data = head->data;
            if (CAS(Head, head, next)) {

                return data;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

46 LOC

GC Implementation

(automated verification possible)

Verification LFDS+SMR

```
struct Node {
    data_t data;
    Node* node;
}
```

```
shared:
    Node* Head;
    Node* Tail;
```

```
void init() {
    Head = new Node();
    Head->next = null;
    Tail = Head;
}
```

```
void enqueue(data_t val) {
    Node* node = new Node();
    node->data = val;
    node->next = null;
    while (true) {
        Node* tail = Tail;
        protect(tail, 0);
        if (Tail != tail) continue;
        Node* next = tail->next;
        if (Tail != tail) continue;
        if (next == null) {
            if (CAS(tail->next, null, node)) {
                CAS(Tail, tail, node);
            }
        } else {
            CAS(Tail, tail, next);
        }
    }
}
```

46+6 LOC

```
data_t dequeue() {
    while (true) {
        Node* head = Head;
        protect(head, 0);
        if (Head != head) continue;
        Node* tail = Tail;
        Node* next = head->next;
        protect(next, 1);
        if (Head != head) continue;
        if (head == tail) {
            if (next == null) return empty_t;
            else CAS(Tail, tail, next);
        } else {
            data = head->data;
            if (CAS(Head, head, next)) {
                retire(head);
                return data;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Verification LFDS+SMR

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struct Node {
    data_t data;
    Node* node;
}
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```
shared:
    Node* Head;
    Node* Tail;
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void init() {
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    Head->next = null;
    Tail = Head;
}
```

```
void enqueue(data_t val) {
    Node* node = new Node();
    node->data = val;
    node->next = null;
    while (true) {
        Node* tail = Tail;
        protect(tail, 0);
        if (Tail != tail) continue;
        Node* next = tail->next;
        if (Tail != tail) continue;
        if (next == null) {
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        Node* next = head->next;
        protect(next, 1);
        if (Head != head) continue;
        if (head == tail) {
            if (next == null) return empty_t;
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            data = head->data;
            if (CAS(Head, head, next)) {
                retire(head);
                return data;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

46+6 LOC

```
struct Rec {
    Rec* next;
    Node* hp0;
    Node* hp1;
}

shared:
    Rec* HPRecs;

thread-local:
    Rec* myRec;
    List<Node*> retiredList;

void join() {
    myRec = new HPRec();
    while (true) {
        Rec* tmp = HPRecs;
        myRec->next = tmp;
        if (CAS(HPRecs, tmp, myRec)) {
            break;
        }
    }
}

void part() {
    unprotect(0);
    unprotect(1);
}
```

```
void protect(Node* ptr, int i) {
    if (i == 0) myRec->hp0 = ptr;
    if (i == 1) myRec->hp1 = ptr;
    assert(false);
}

void unprotect(int i) {
    protect(null, i);
}

void retire(Node* ptr) {
    retiredList.add(ptr);
    if (*) reclaim();
}

void reclaim() {
    List<Node*> protectedList;
    Rec* tmp = HPRecs;
    while (tmp != null) {
        Node* hp0 = cur->hp0;
        Node* hp1 = cur->hp1;
        protectedList.add(hp0);
        protectedList.add(hp1);
        cur = cur->next;
    }
    for (Node* ptr : retiredList) {
        if (!protectedList.contains(ptr)) {
            retiredList.remove(ptr);
            delete ptr;
        }
    }
}
```

+52 LOC

Verification LFDS+SMR

```
struct Node {
    data_t data;
    Node* node;
}
```

```
shared:
    Node* Head;
    Node* Tail;
```

```
void init() {
    Head = new Node();
    Head->next = null;
    Tail = Head;
}
```

```
void enqueue(data_t val) {
    Node* node = new Node();
    node->data = val;
    node->next = null;
    while (true) {
        Node* tail = Tail;
        protect(tail, 0);
        if (Tail != tail) continue;
        Node* next = tail->next;
        if (Tail != tail) continue;
        if (next == null) {
            if (CAS(tail->next, null, node)) {
                CAS(Tail, tail, node);
            }
        } else {
            CAS(Tail, tail, next);
        }
    }
}
```

```
data_t dequeue() {
    while (true) {
        Node* head = Head;
        protect(head, 0);
        if (Head != head) continue;
        Node* tail = Tail;
        Node* next = head->next;
        protect(next, 1);
        if (Head != head) continue;
        if (head == tail) {
            if (next == null) return empty_t;
            else CAS(Tail, tail, next);
        } else {
            data = head->data;
            if (CAS(Head, head, next)) {
                retire(head);
                return data;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

46+6 LOC

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struct Rec {
    Rec* next;
    Node* hp0;
    Node* hp1;
}

shared:
    Rec* HPRecs;

thread-local:
    Rec* myRec;
    List<Node*> retiredList;

void join() {
    myRec = new HP
    while (
    }
}

void part() {
    unprotect(0);
    unprotect(1);
}
```

It is a **second** lock-free data structure!

+52 LOC

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void protect(Node* ptr, int i) {
    if (i == 0) myRec->hp0 = ptr;
    if (i == 1) myRec->hp1 = ptr;
    assert(false);
}

void unprotect(
    protec
}

{
    Node*> protectedList;
    Rec* tmp = HPRecs;
    while (tmp != null) {
        Node* hp0 = cur->hp0;
        Node* hp1 = cur->hp1;
        protectedList.add(hp0);
        protectedList.add(hp1);
        cur = cur->next;
    }
    for (Node* ptr : retiredList) {
        if (!protectedList.contains(ptr)) {
            retiredList.remove(ptr);
            delete ptr;
        }
}
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Verification LFDS+SMR

LFDS

46+6 LOC

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            myRec->next = tmp;
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    }
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}

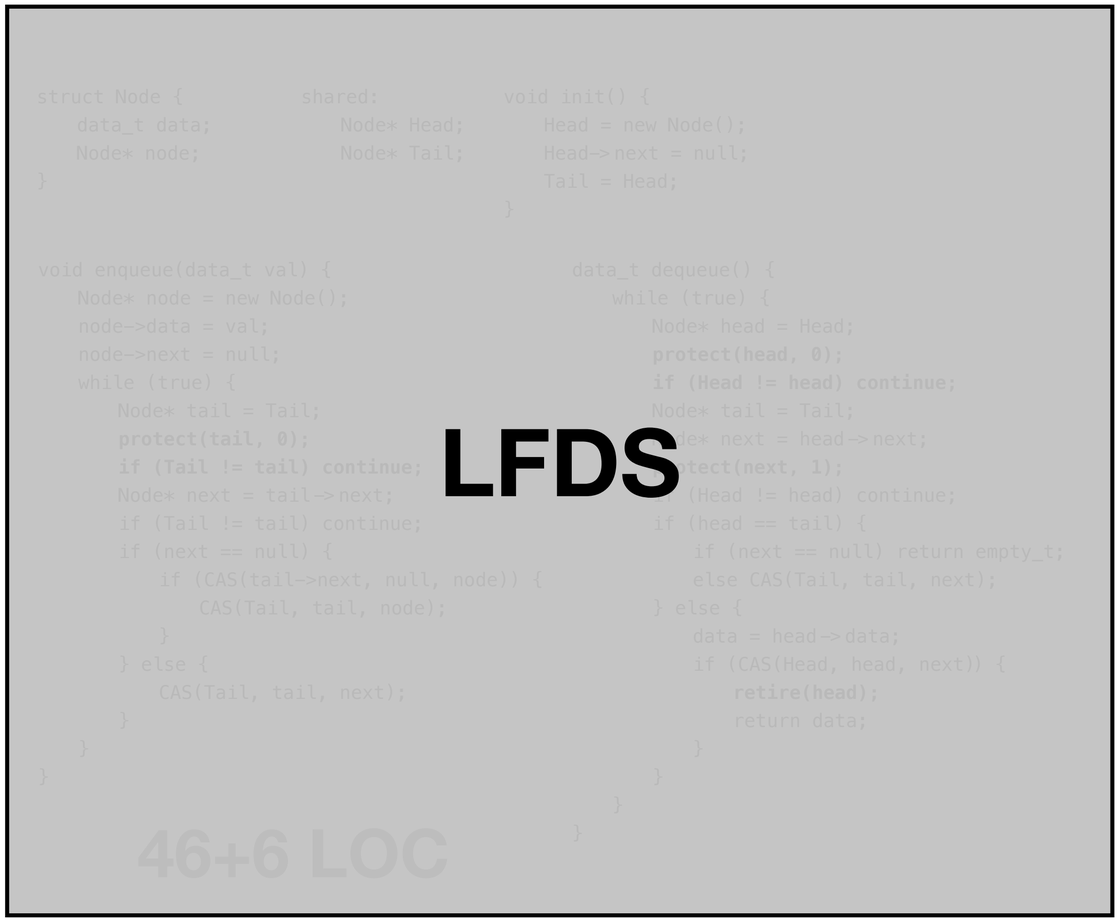
void unprotect(int i) {
    protect(nullptr, i);
}

void reclaim(Node* ptr) {
    retiredList.add(ptr);
    if (retiredList.size() < 2) {
        return;
    }
    List<Node*> protectedList;
    Rec* tmp = HPRecs;
    while (tmp != null) {
        Node* hp0 = cur->hp0;
        Node* hp1 = cur->hp1;
        protectedList.add(hp0);
        protectedList.add(hp1);
        cur = cur->next;
    }
    for (Node* ptr : retiredList) {
        if (!protectedList.contains(ptr)) {
            retiredList.remove(ptr);
            delete ptr;
        }
    }
}
```

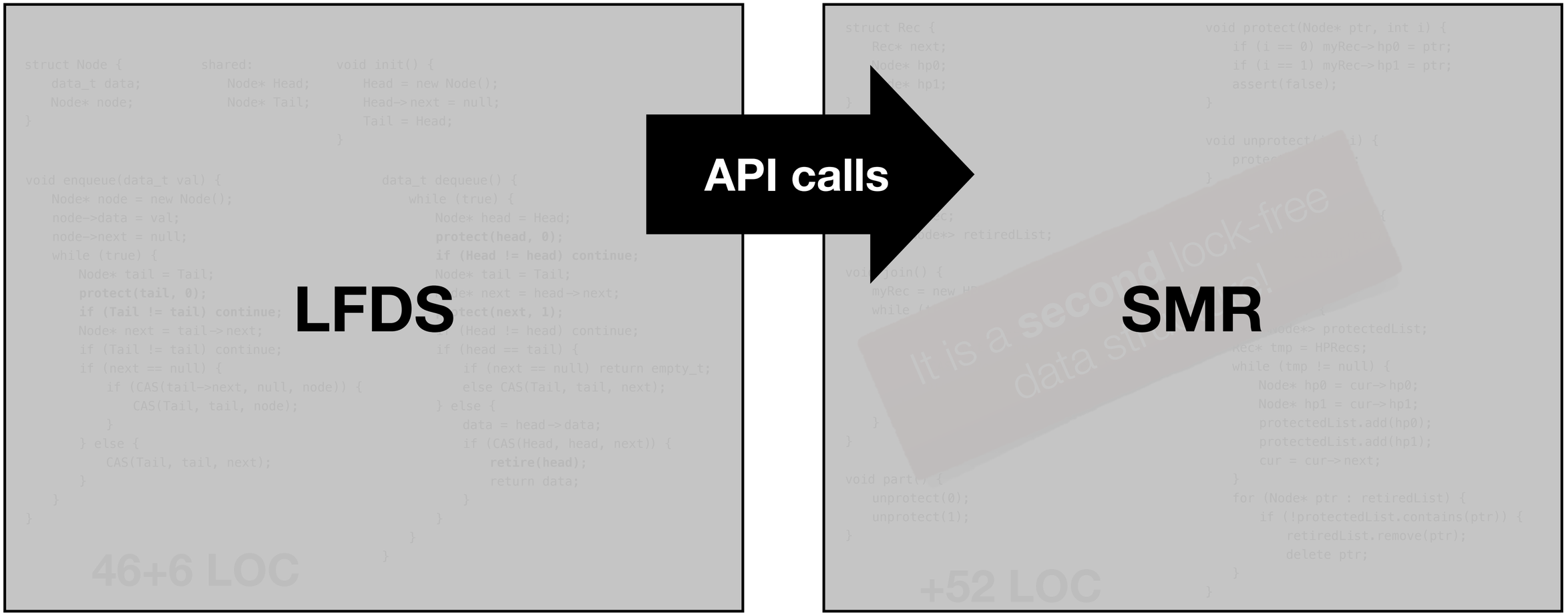
It is a **second** lock-free data structure!

+52 LOC

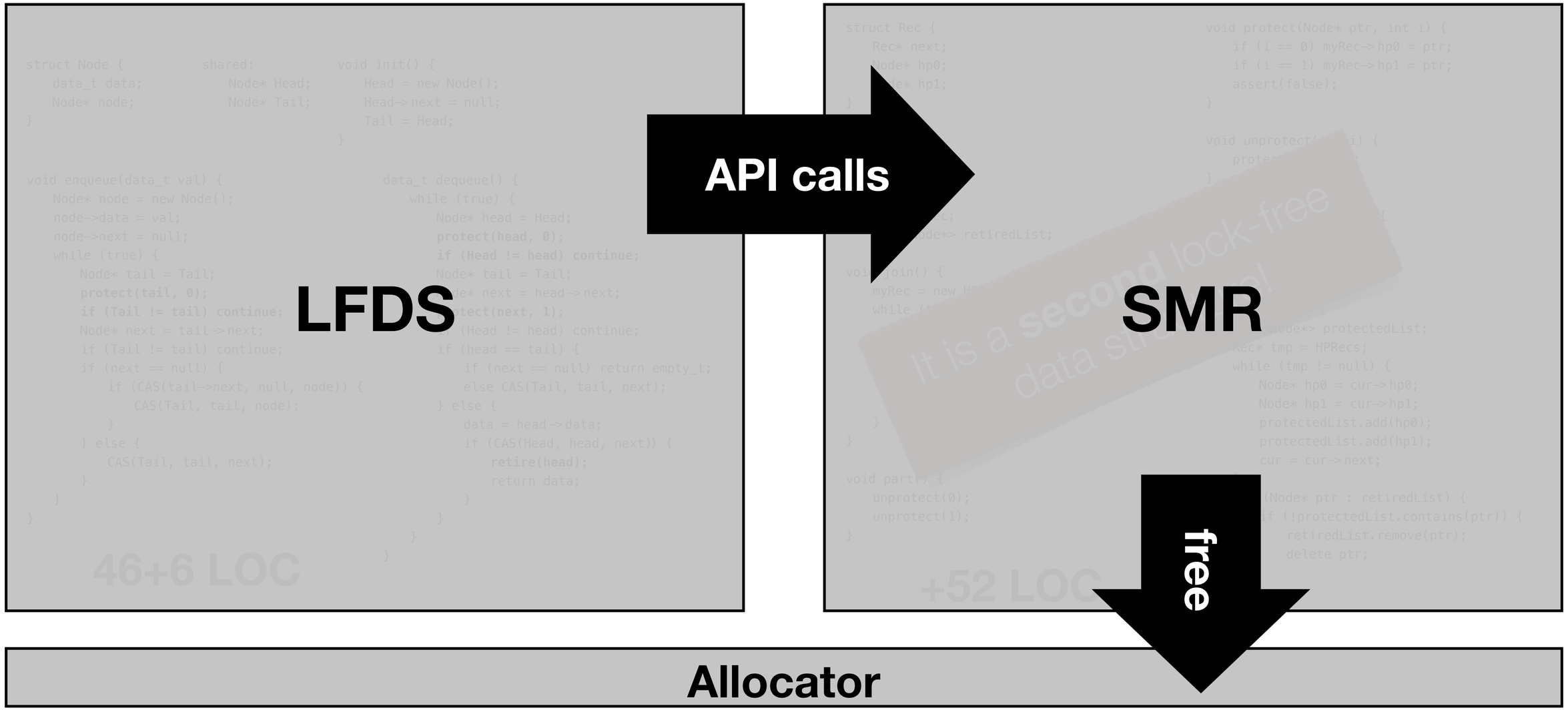
Verification LFDS+SMR



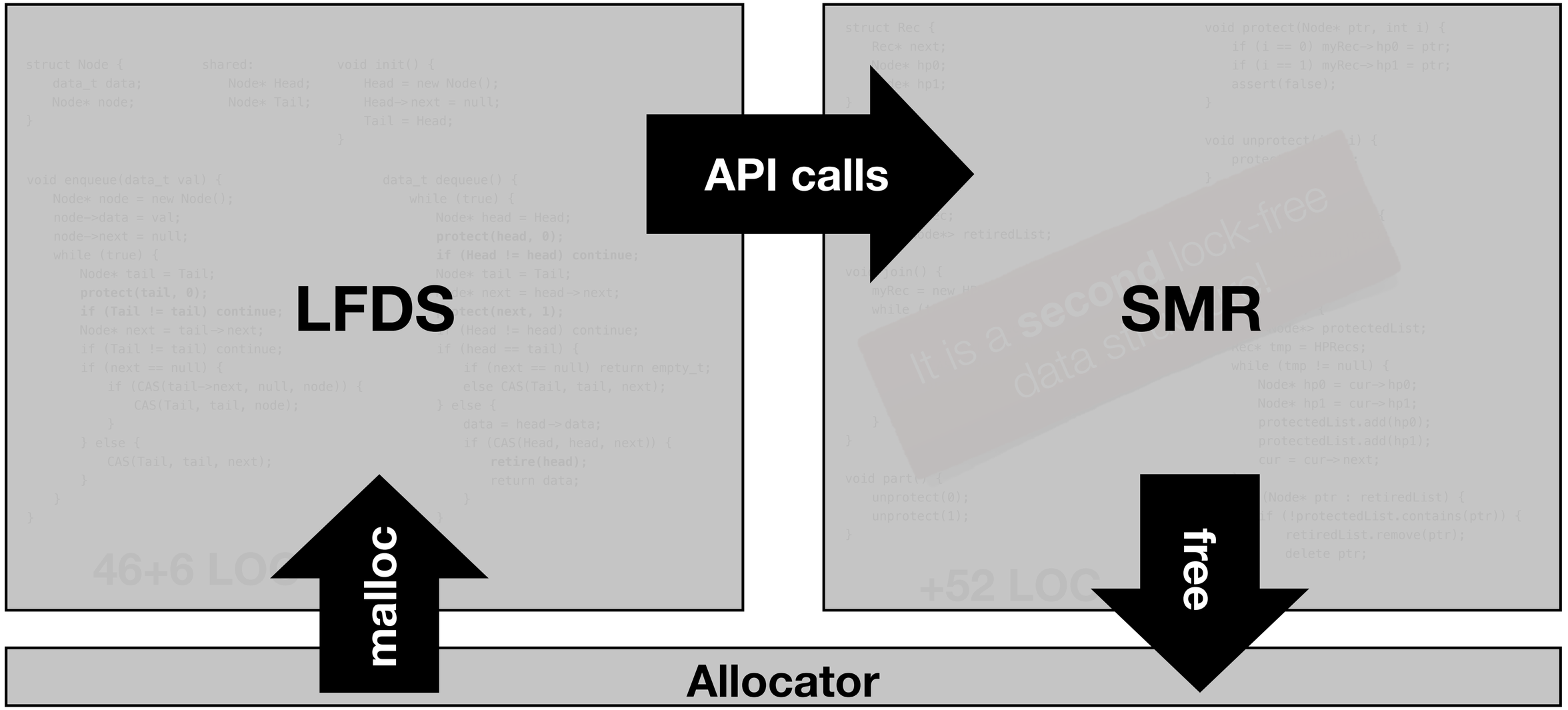
Verification LFDS+SMR



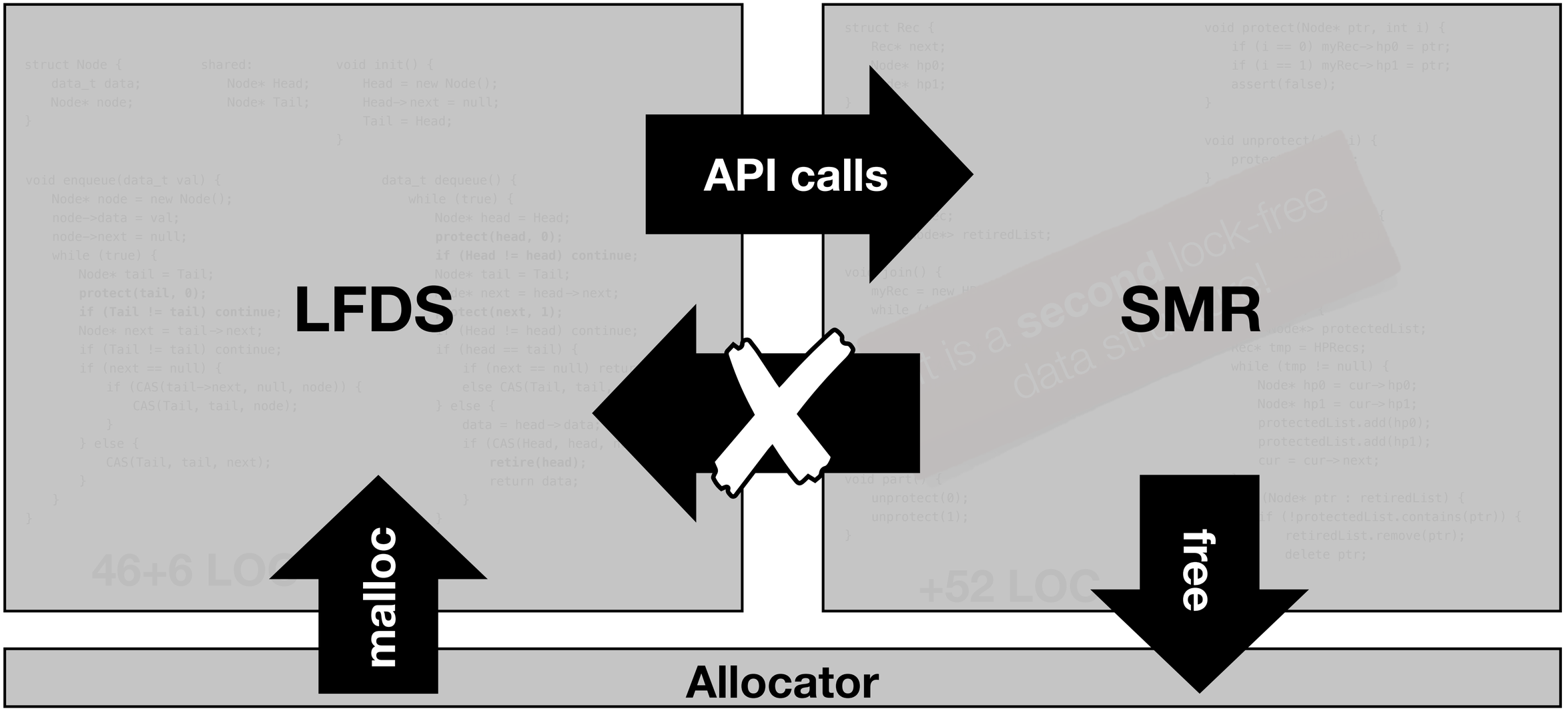
Verification LFDS+SMR



Verification LFDS+SMR



Verification LFDS+SMR



Contribution 1: Compositional Verification for LFDS + SMR

Compositional Verification

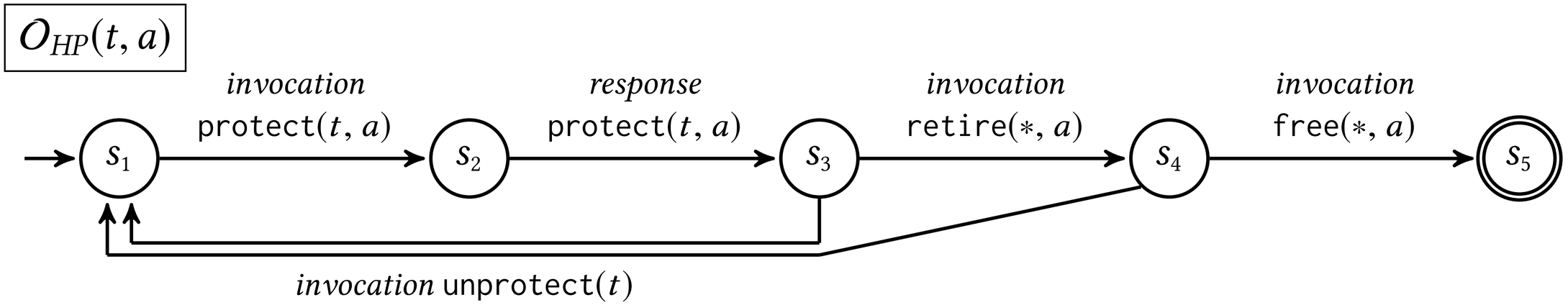
- API between LFDS and SMR
  - ➡ give a formal specification SPEC
  - ➡ SPEC states *which&when* addresses are freed
- **Compositional Verification**
  1) verify SMR against SPEC
  2) verify LFDS, using SPEC to over-approximate SMR

SPEC Example

- Hazard pointers:

a retired node is not reclaimed if it has been protected continuously since before the retire

- Programmers rely on this guarantee, not on the actual implementation
- Formalized:



Experiments

- SMR against SPEC:

SMR implementation	SPEC size	Time	Correct?
Hazard Pointers (HP)	3x5x5	**1.5s**	yes
Epoch-based Reclamation (EBR)	3x5	**11.2s**	yes

Experiments

- SMR against SPEC:

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- Linearizability of LFDS+SPEC

Infeasible: severe state space explosion due to re-allocations!

Contribution 2: State Space Reduction

State Space Reduction

- Theorem:

For verification, it is sound to restrict re-allocations to a single address

- Two requirements:

1) SPEC invariant to re-allocations
2) LFDS free from ABAs

State Space Reduction

- Theorem:

For verification, it is sound to restrict re-allocations to a single address

- Two requirements:

1) SPEC invariant to re-allocations ➡ check on SPEC automaton
2) LFDS free from ABAs ➡ check on reduced (!) LFDS state space

Experiments cont.

LFDS	SPEC	Time	Linearizable?
Michael&Scott's queue	NoReclaim	**7m**	yes
Michael&Scott's queue	EBR	**44m**	yes
Michael&Scott's queue	HP	**120m**	yes
Treiber's stack	EBR	**16s**	yes
Treiber's stack	HP	**19s**	yes
DGLM queue	EBR	**63m**	yes*
DGLM queue	HP	**117m**	yes*

* with hint for heap abstraction

Fin.

Questions?