

# Functional correctness specifications for concurrent data structures

Logical Atomicity in Iris

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Ralf Jung, MIT, USA

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# Functional correctness of a queue

|                   |   |                |   |
|-------------------|---|----------------|---|
| {                 | } | {              | } |
| enqueue( $q, v$ ) |   | dequeue( $q$ ) |   |
| {                 | } | {              | } |

# Functional correctness of a queue

Queue( $q, l$ ):

$q$  points to a queue storing list of values  $l$

{Queue( $q, l$ )}

enqueue( $q, v$ )

{Queue( $q, l \# [v]$ )}

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Binder for return value.

Specifying a sequential queue  
is easy.

What about a **concurrent** queue?

# Reuse the sequential specification?

$\{\text{Queue}(q, l)\}$

enqueue( $q, v$ )

$\{\text{Queue}(q, l \uparrow [v])\}$

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# Reuse the sequential specification?

Precondition consumes queue ownership.  
**Impossible** to call enqueue or dequeue  
**concurrently** with other queue operations.



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# Reuse the sequential specification?

Precondition consumes queue ownership.

Impossible to call enqueue or dequeue.

Even a **non-thread-safe** queue  
would satisfy this specification.

$\{\text{Queue}(q, l \neq [V])\} \sim \{w. w = v * \text{Queue}(q, l)\}$

## Common solution:

- Use **contextual refinement** as spec
- Use **linearizability** to prove it

$\text{enqueue} \simeq \text{seq\_enqueue\_locked}$

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???

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$\{P\} \text{ client}[\text{enqueue}] \{Q\}$

~~enqueue  $\approx$  seq\_enqueue\_locked~~

???

~~{P} client[enqueue] {Q}~~

# What about heap accesses?

These look just as sequential:

$$\{l \mapsto v\} ! l \{w. w = v * l \mapsto v\}$$

$$\{l \mapsto v\} l \leftarrow w \{l \mapsto w\}$$

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Concurrent use is possible thanks to the  
**invariant rule!**

# What about heap accesses?

## Invariant Rule

$$\frac{\{P * I\} \ell \leftarrow w \{Q * I\}}{\boxed{I} \vdash \{P\} \ell \leftarrow w \{Q\}}$$

(consider  $I \triangleq \exists v. \ell \mapsto v$ )

Invariant rule!

# What about heap accesses?

## Invariant Rule

$$\frac{\{P * I\} e \{Q * I\} \quad \text{phy\_atomic}(e)}{\boxed{I} \vdash \{P\} e \{Q\}}$$

Invariant rule!



An operation is **atomic** if we can  
**open invariants** around it.

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## Logical atomicity

lets us open invariants around non-physically-atomic operations.

# Outline

1. How to **specify and use** basic logically atomic operations in Iris
2. **Advanced** logically atomic **patterns**: aborting, helping
3. Summary and **case studies**

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1. How to specify and use basic logically atomic operations in Iris
2. Advanced logically atomic patterns: aborting, helping
3. Summary and case studies

# Logically Atomic Queue

Logically Atomic Hoare triples inspired by TaDA  
(Pinto, Dinsdale-Young, Gardner; 2014)

$$\langle l. \text{Queue}(q, l) \rangle$$
$$\text{enqueue}(q, v)$$
$$\langle \text{Queue}(q, l \uplus [v]) \rangle$$

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$$\langle v. v = \text{head}(l) * \text{Queue}(q, \text{tail}(l)) \rangle$$

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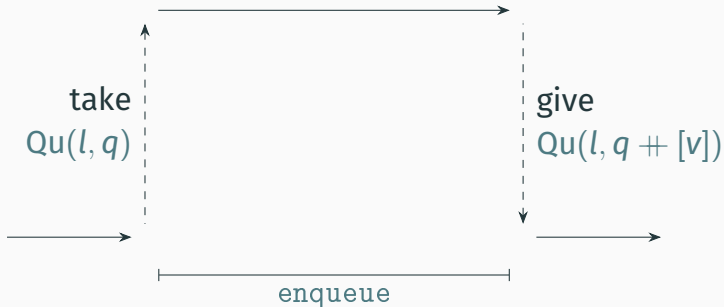
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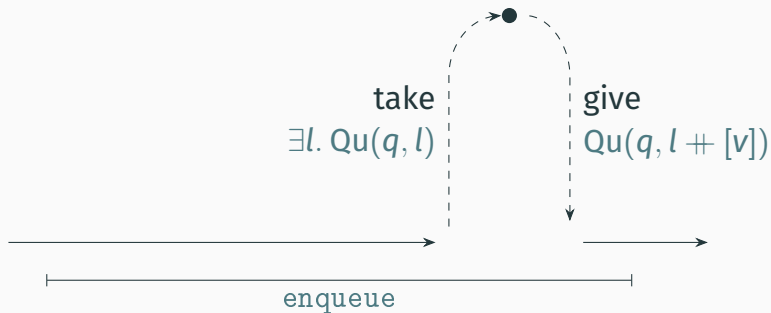
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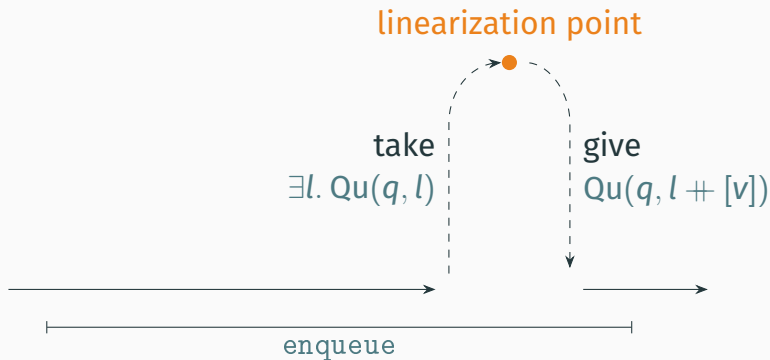
$\forall l. \{Qu(q, l)\} \text{ enqueue}(q, v) \{Qu(q, l + [v])\}$



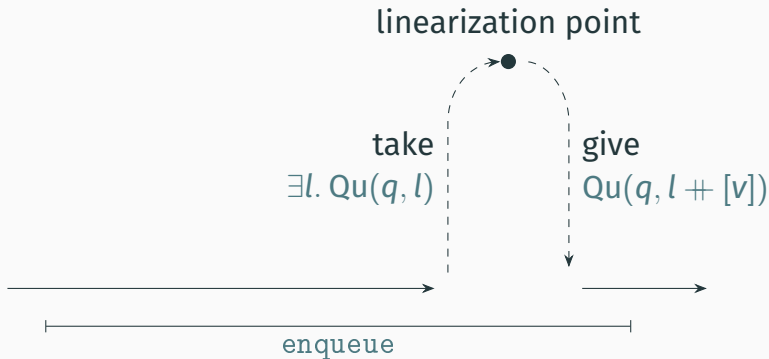
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$$\text{IsQu}(q) \vdash \langle l. \text{Qu}(q, l) \rangle \text{enqueue}(q, v) \langle \text{Qu}(q, l \# [v]) \rangle \triangleq \\ \forall R. \{ \text{AU}_R \} \text{enqueue}(q, v) \{ R \}$$



# Interlude: Masks and view shifts in Iris

$$\frac{\{P * I\} e \{Q * I\}}{\boxed{I} \vdash \{P\} e \{Q\}} \quad \text{phy\_atomic}(e)$$

# Interlude: Masks and view shifts in Iris

$$\frac{\{P * I\} e \{Q * I\}_{\mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{N}} \quad \mathcal{N} \subseteq \mathcal{E} \quad \text{phy\_atomic}(e)}{I^{\mathcal{N}} \vdash \{P\} e \{Q\}_{\mathcal{E}}}$$

**Namespace** of the  
invariant

**Mask** of the Hoare  
triple

# Interlude: Masks and view shifts in Iris

**View shift:** “linear ghost step” (without code)

$$\frac{P * I \equiv_{\varepsilon \setminus \mathcal{N}} Q * I \quad \mathcal{N} \subseteq \varepsilon}{\boxed{I}^{\mathcal{N}} \vdash P \equiv_{\varepsilon} Q}$$

**Namespace** of the  
invariant

**Mask** of the **view shift**

# Interlude: Masks and view shifts in Iris

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$P_1 \equiv_{\mathcal{E}} P_2$ : view shift from  $P_1$  to  $P_2$   
using only invariants  $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \mathcal{E}$



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$P_1 \equiv_{\mathcal{E}_1}^{\mathcal{E}_2} P_2$ : **mask-changing view shift**  
from  $P_1$  to  $P_2$

# Interlude: Mask-changing view shifts

$$\frac{\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{N}}{\boxed{I}^{\mathcal{N}} \vdash P^{\mathcal{E}} \equiv_{*}^{\mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{N}} P * I}$$

# Interlude: Mask-changing view shifts

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$$\frac{\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{N}}{\boxed{I}^{\mathcal{N}} \vdash Q * I^{\mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{N}} \equiv_{*}^{\mathcal{E}} Q}$$

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$$\frac{P^{\mathcal{E}} \equiv_{*}^{\mathcal{E}'} P' \quad \text{phy\_atomic}(e) \quad \{P'\} e \{Q'\}_{\mathcal{E}'} \quad Q'^{\mathcal{E}'} \equiv_{*}^{\mathcal{E}} Q}{\{P\} e \{Q\}_{\mathcal{E}}}$$

# Interlude: Mask-changing view shifts

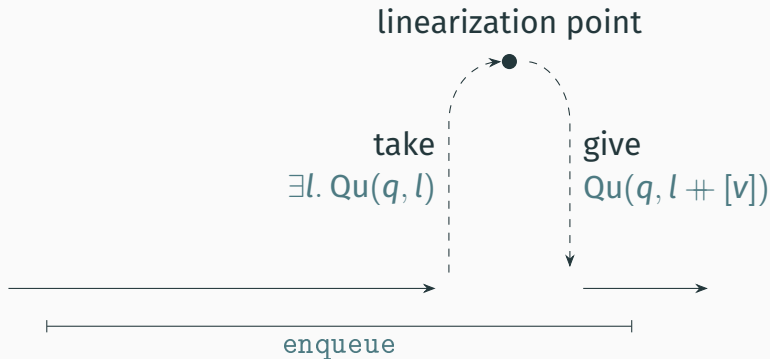
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Together, these three rules  
imply the invariant open rule!

$$\text{IsQu}(q) \vdash \langle l. \text{Qu}(q, l) \rangle \text{enqueue}(q, v) \langle \text{Qu}(q, l \# [v]) \rangle \triangleq \\ \forall R. \{\text{AU}_R\} \text{enqueue}(q, v) \{R\}$$

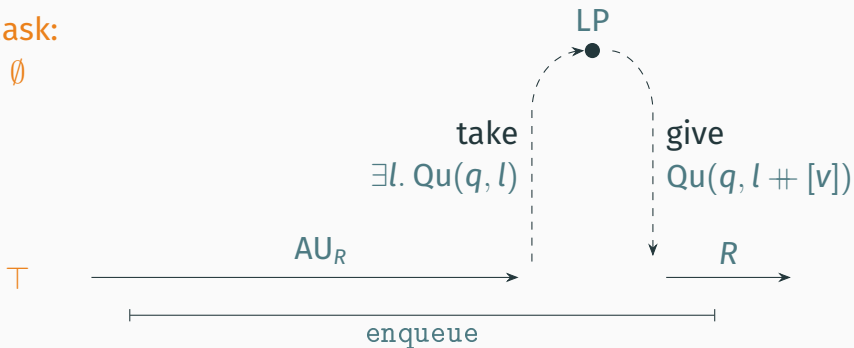


$$\langle l. \text{Qu}(q, l) \rangle \text{enqueue}(q, v) \langle \text{Qu}(q, l + [v]) \rangle \triangleq$$

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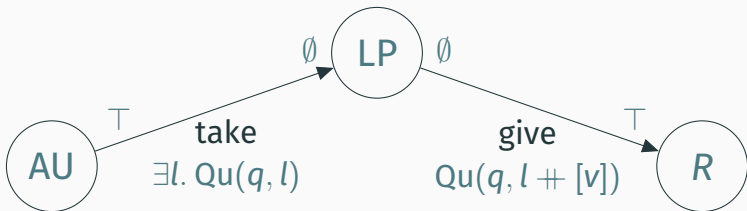
Mask:

$\emptyset$



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Meaning of **atomic update**  $\text{AU}_R$ :

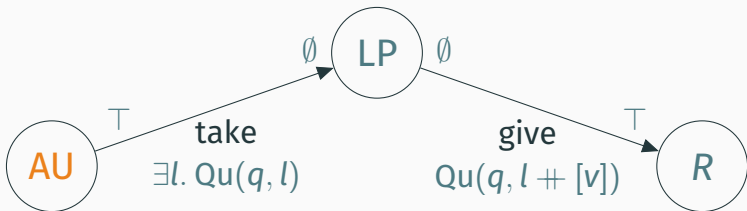




$\forall R. \{AU_R\} \text{ enqueue}(q, v) \{R\}$

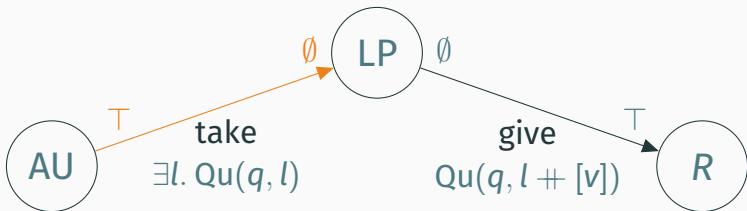
$AU_R \triangleq$

Meaning of **atomic update**  $AU_R$ :



$\forall R. \{AU_R\} \text{ enqueue}(q, v) \{R\}$   
 $AU_R \triangleq \text{True}^T \equiv *^{\emptyset}$

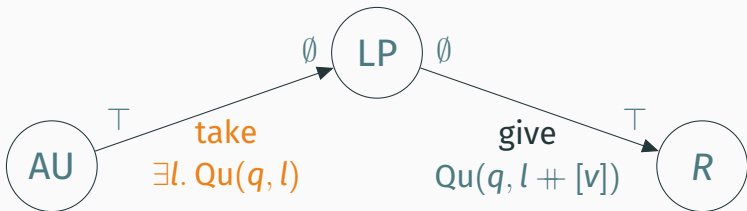
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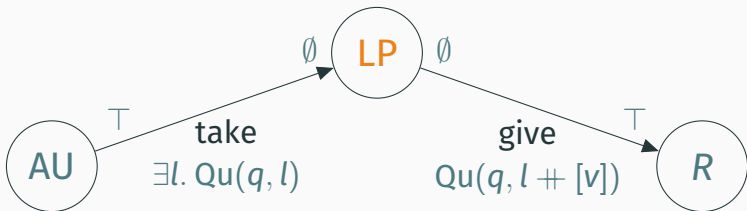
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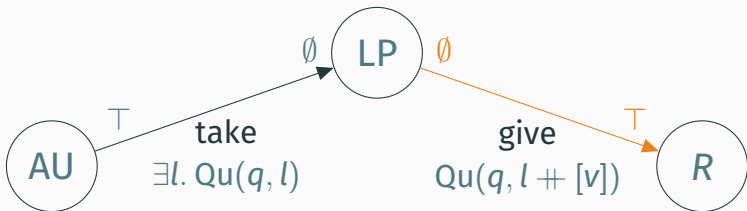


$$\forall R. \{AU_R\} \text{ enqueue}(q, v) \{R\}$$

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$$\text{LP} \triangleq \quad \quad \quad \emptyset \stackrel{\top}{\equiv} *^{\top}$$

Meaning of **atomic update**  $AU_R$ :

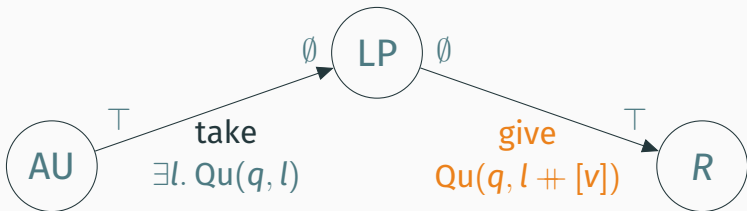


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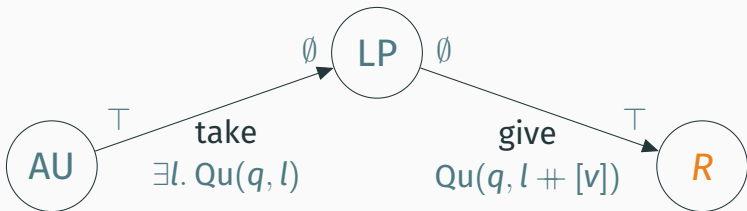


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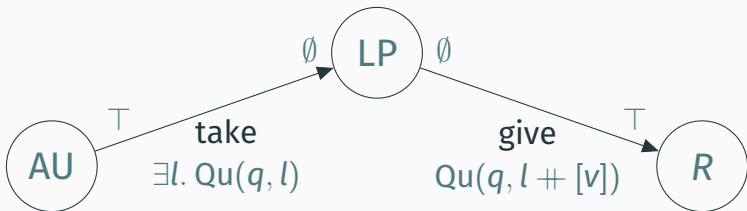


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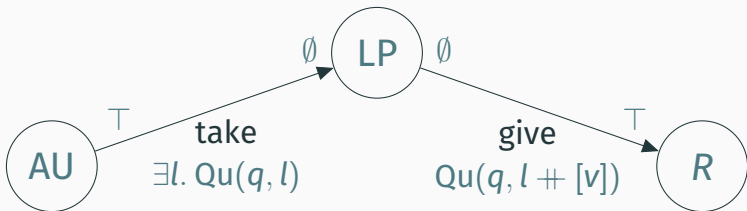
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$$AU_R \triangleq \text{True} \stackrel{\top}{\equiv} *^{\emptyset} \exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * (\text{Qu}(q, l \# [v]) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\equiv} *^{\top} R)$$

Meaning of **atomic update**  $AU_R$ :



$\forall R. \{AU_R\} \text{ enqueue}(q, v) \{R\}$

Specification of logically atomic enqueue:

$IsQu(l) \vdash \langle l. Qu(q, l) \rangle \text{ enqueue}(q, v) \langle Qu(q, l \# [v]) \rangle$

$$\forall R. \{AU_R\} \text{ enqueue}(q, v) \{R\}$$

Specification of logically atomic enqueue:

$$\text{IsQu}(l) \vdash \langle l. \text{Qu}(q, l) \rangle \text{ enqueue}(q, v) \langle \text{Qu}(q, l \# [v]) \rangle$$

which expands to:

$$\text{IsQu}(l) \vdash \forall R. \{AU_R\} \text{ enqueue}(q, v) \{R\}$$

$$AU_R \triangleq \text{True} \stackrel{\top}{\equiv} *^{\emptyset} \exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * (\text{Qu}(q, l \# [v]) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\equiv} *^{\top} R)$$

# How do we **use** a logically atomic triple?

Let's say we have a shared queue that contains only even numbers:

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Let's say we have a **shared** queue that contains only even numbers:

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How can we enqueue and dequeue on it?

# enqueue on a shared queue

Assume:  $\text{IsQu}(q), \boxed{\exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * \forall n \in l. \text{even}(n)}$  <sup>$\mathcal{N}$</sup>

Goal:  $\{\text{True}\} \text{enqueue}(q, 2) \{\text{True}\}$

# enqueue on a shared queue

Assume:  $\text{IsQu}(q), \boxed{\exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * \forall n \in l. \text{even}(n)}^{\mathcal{N}}$

Goal:  $\{\text{True}\} \text{enqueue}(q, 2) \{\text{True}\}$

Remember that we have:

$\text{IsQu}(l) \vdash \forall R. \{\text{AU}_R\} \text{enqueue}(q, 2) \{R\}$

So it suffices to show:

$\boxed{\exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * \forall n \in l. \text{even}(n)}^{\mathcal{N}} \vdash \text{AU}_{\text{True}}$



# enqueue on a shared queue

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Goal:

$AU_{\text{True}}$

# enqueue on a shared queue

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Goal:

$\text{True}^\top \equiv *^\emptyset \exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * (\text{Qu}(q, l \# [2])^\emptyset \equiv *^\top \text{True})$

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$\text{True}^\top \equiv *^\emptyset \exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * (\text{Qu}(q, l \# [2])^\emptyset \equiv *^\top \text{True})$

The invariant rules give us:

$\boxed{I}$  <sup>$\mathcal{N}$</sup>   $\vdash \text{True}^\top \equiv *^\emptyset I * (I^\emptyset \equiv *^\top \text{True})$

for our  $I \triangleq \exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * \forall n \in l. \text{even}(n)$

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$\text{True}^{\top} \equiv *^{\emptyset} \exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * (\text{Qu}(q, l \# [2])^{\emptyset} \equiv *^{\top} \text{True})$

The invariant rules give us:

$\boxed{I}^{\mathcal{N}} \vdash \text{True}^{\top} \equiv *^{\emptyset} I * (I^{\emptyset} \equiv *^{\top} \text{True})$

for our  $I \triangleq \exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * \forall n \in l. \text{even}(n)$

Now all we need is

$I \multimap \exists l. \text{Qu}(q, l) * (\text{Qu}(q, l \# [2]) \multimap I)$

which is trivial.

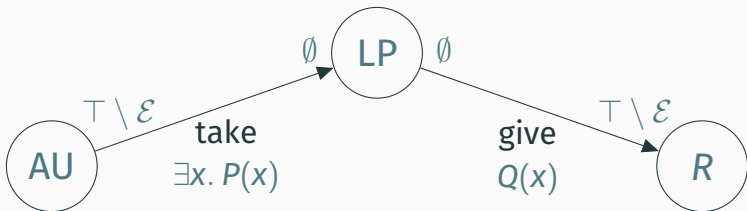
We have seen logical atomicity  
for `enqueue`.

This can be **generalized!**

$$\langle x. P(x) \rangle e \langle Q(x) \rangle_{\varepsilon} \triangleq \forall R. \{AU_R\} e \{R\}$$

$$AU_R \triangleq \text{True} \stackrel{\top \setminus \varepsilon}{\Rightarrow} *^{\emptyset} \exists x. P(x) * (Q(x) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\Rightarrow} *^{\top \setminus \varepsilon} R)$$

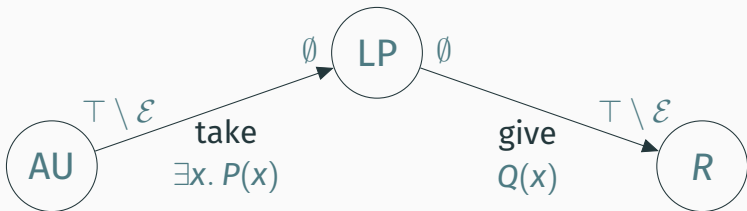
Meaning of atomic update  $AU_R$ :



$$\langle x. P(x) \rangle e \langle Q(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{E}} \triangleq \forall R. \{AU_R\} e \{R\}$$

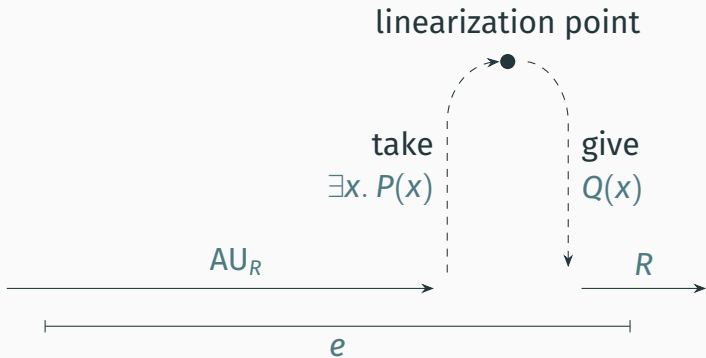
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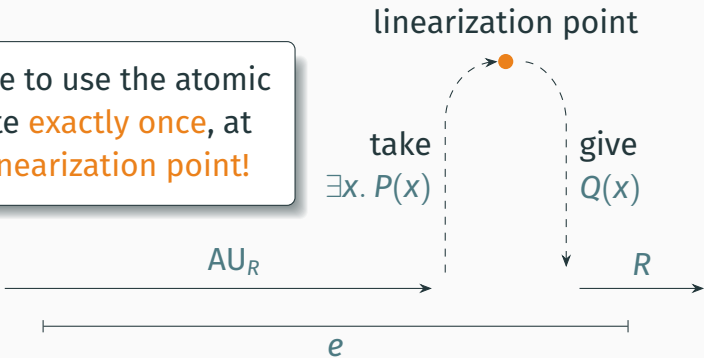




$$\langle x. P(x) \rangle e \langle Q(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{E}} \triangleq \forall R. \{AU_R\} e \{R\}$$

$$AU_R \triangleq \text{True}^{\top \setminus \mathcal{E}} \equiv *^{\emptyset} \exists x. P(x) * (Q(x))^{\emptyset} \equiv *^{\top \setminus \mathcal{E}} R$$

We have to use the atomic update **exactly once**, at the **linearization point**!



# Logically atomic triples enjoy the Invariant Rule:

$$\frac{\langle x. P * I \rangle e \langle Q * I \rangle_{\mathcal{E} \setminus \mathcal{N}} \quad \mathcal{N} \subseteq \mathcal{E}}{\boxed{I}^{\mathcal{N}} \vdash \langle x. P \rangle e \langle Q \rangle_{\mathcal{E}}}$$

“An operation is atomic  
if we can open invariants around it.”

# Outline

1. How to specify and use basic logically atomic operations in Iris
2. **Advanced logically atomic patterns: aborting, helping**
3. Summary and case studies

Can we specify and prove a  
**blocking** dequeue?

## Implementation:

```
blocking_dequeue( $q$ )  $\triangleq$   
  match dequeue( $q$ ) with  
  | Some( $x$ )  $\Rightarrow x$   
  | None     $\Rightarrow$  blocking_dequeue( $q$ )  
end
```

## Implementation:

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end
```

## Specification:

```
 $\langle l. \text{Queue}(q, l) \rangle$   
  blocking_dequeue( $q$ )  
 $\langle v. \exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l') \rangle$ 
```

## Specification:

$$\langle l. \text{Queue}(q, l) \rangle$$
$$\text{blocking\_dequeue}(q)$$
$$\langle v. \exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l') \rangle$$

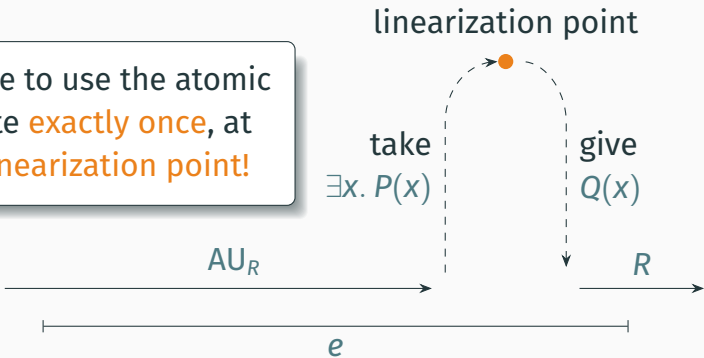
expands to

$$\forall R. \{ \mathbf{AU}_R \} \text{blocking\_dequeue}(q) \{ v. R(v) \} \quad \text{where}$$
$$\mathbf{AU}_R \triangleq \text{True} \stackrel{\top}{\equiv} *^{\emptyset} \exists l. \text{Queue}(q, l) *$$
$$(\forall v. (\exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l')) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\equiv} *^{\top} R(v))$$

$$\langle x. P(x) \rangle e \langle Q(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{E}} \triangleq \forall R. \{AU_R\} e \{R\}$$

$$AU_R \triangleq \text{True}^{\top \setminus \mathcal{E}} \equiv *^{\emptyset} \exists x. P(x) * (Q(x))^{\emptyset} \equiv *^{\top \setminus \mathcal{E}} R$$

We have to use the atomic update **exactly once**, at the **linearization point**!





## Implementation:

```
blocking_dequeue(q)  $\triangleq$   
  match dequeue(q) with  
  | Some(x)  $\Rightarrow$  x  
  | None     $\Rightarrow$  blocking_dequeue(q)  
end
```

The first call to dequeue will  
**consume AU!**

## Implementation:

```
blocking_dequeue(q)  $\triangleq$   
  match dequeue(q) with
```

To be able to **derive** `blocking_dequeue` (without breaking the abstraction), we have to adjust our definition of logical atomicity.

consume AU!

## Implementation:

```
blocking_dequeue( $q$ )  $\triangleq$   
  match dequeue( $q$ ) with  
  | Some( $x$ )  $\Rightarrow x$   
  | None     $\Rightarrow$  blocking_dequeue( $q$ )  
end
```

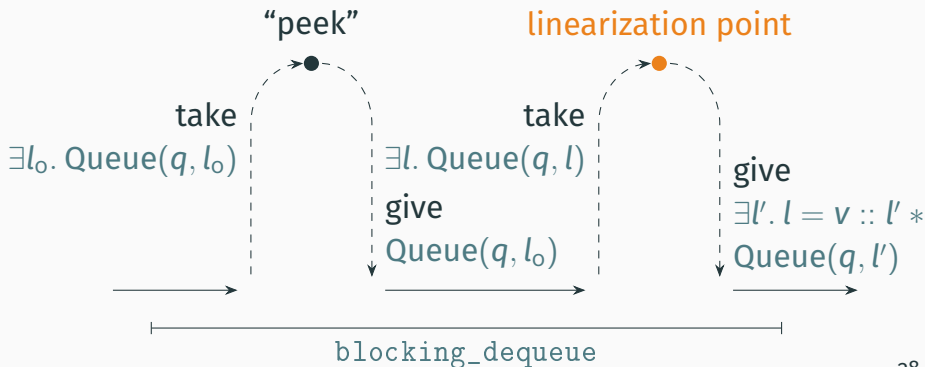
## Specification:

```
 $\langle l. \text{Queue}(q, l) \rangle$   
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 $\langle v. \exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l') \rangle$ 
```

$\langle l. \text{Queue}(q, l) \rangle$

`blocking_dequeue(q)`

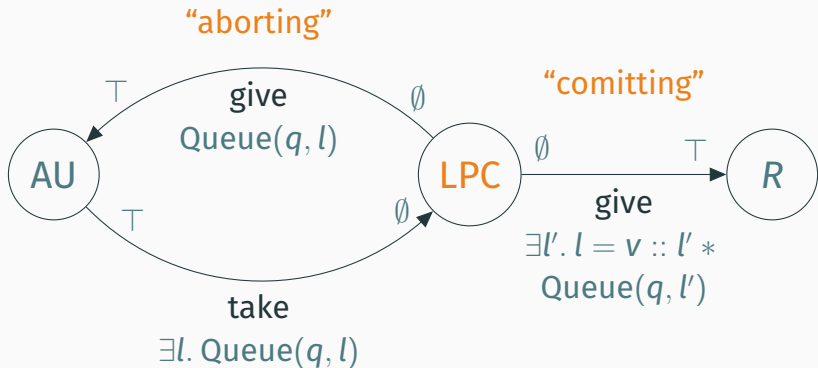
$\langle v. \exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l') \rangle$



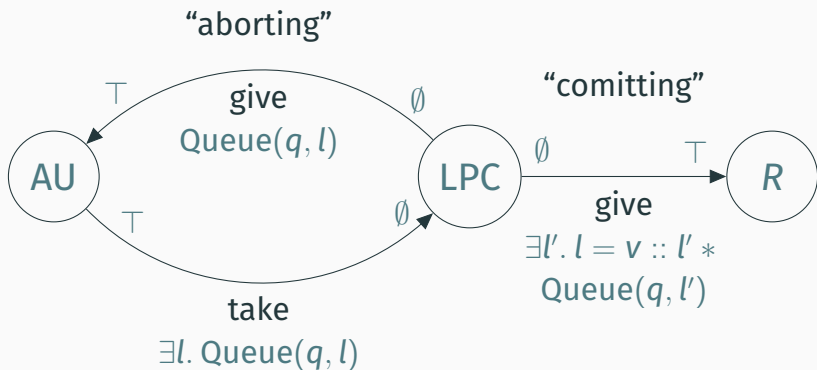
$\langle l. \text{Queue}(q, l) \rangle$

`blocking_dequeue(q)`

$\langle v. \exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l') \rangle$



$$\begin{aligned}
 AU_R &\triangleq \text{True} \stackrel{\top}{\Rightarrow} *^{\emptyset} \exists l. \text{Queue}(q, l) * \text{LPC}_{R,l} \\
 \text{LPC}_{R,l} &\triangleq \\
 &\left( \forall v. (\exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l')) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\Rightarrow} *^{\top} R(v) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

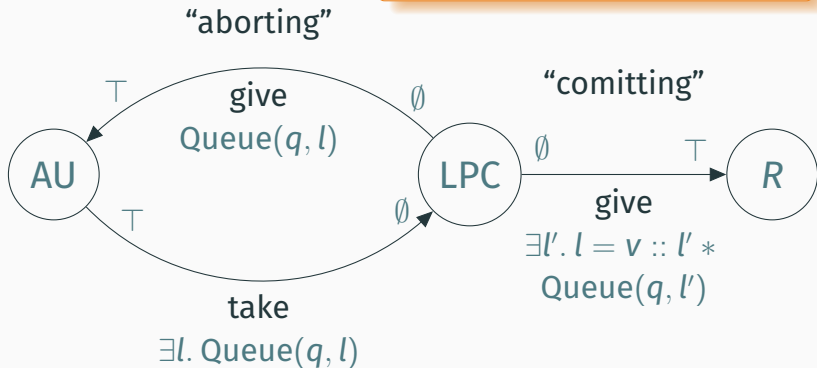


$$AU_R \triangleq \text{True} \stackrel{\top}{\Rightarrow} *^{\emptyset} \exists l. \text{Queue}(q, l) * \text{LPC}_{R,l}$$

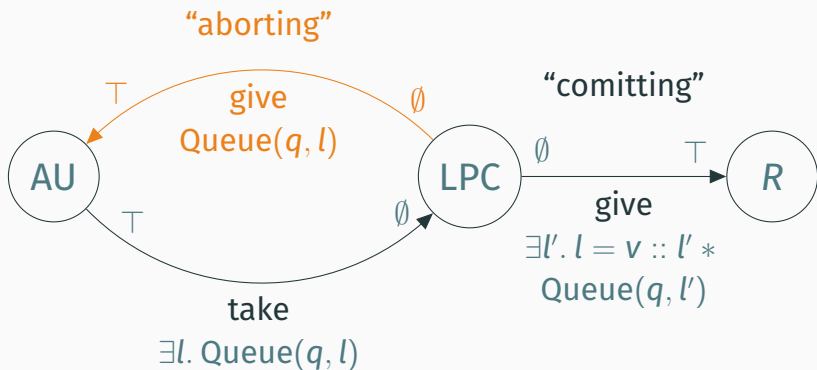
$$\text{LPC}_{R,l} \triangleq$$

$$\left( \forall v. (\exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l')) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\Rightarrow} *^{\top} R(v) \right)$$

Conjunction  $\cong$  “choice”

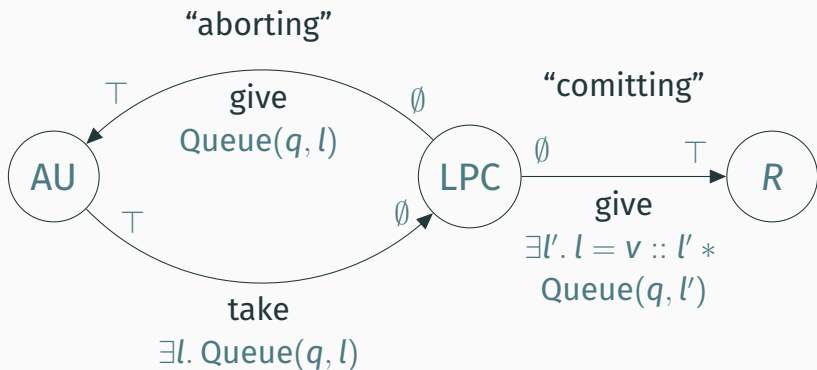


$$\begin{aligned}
 AU_R &\triangleq \text{True} \stackrel{\top}{\Rightarrow} *^{\emptyset} \exists l. \text{Queue}(q, l) * \text{LPC}_{R,l} \\
 \text{LPC}_{R,l} &\triangleq (\text{Queue}(q, l) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\Rightarrow} *^{\top} AU_R) \wedge \\
 &\quad \left( \forall v. (\exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l')) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\Rightarrow} *^{\top} R(v) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$





$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{AU}_R &\triangleq \text{True} \stackrel{\top}{\Rightarrow} *^{\emptyset} \exists l. \text{Queue}(q, l) * \text{LPC}_{R,l} \\
 \text{LPC}_{R,l} &\triangleq (\text{Queue}(q, l) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\Rightarrow} *^{\top} \text{AU}_R) \wedge \\
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 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 AU_R &\triangleq \text{True} \stackrel{\top}{\Rightarrow} *^{\emptyset} \exists l. \text{Queue}(q, l) * LPC_{R,l} \\
 LPC_{R,l} &\triangleq (\text{Queue}(q, l) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\Rightarrow} *^{\top} AU_R) \wedge \\
 &\quad \left( \forall v. (\exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l')) \stackrel{\emptyset}{\Rightarrow} *^{\top} R(v) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

We can tie the recursive knot  
using a (greatest) **fixed point**.

By “aborting” when `dequeue` fails, we can **prove the desired specification** for `blocking_dequeue`.

$\langle l. \text{Queue}(q, l) \rangle$

`blocking_dequeue(q)`

$\langle v. \exists l'. l = v :: l' * \text{Queue}(q, l') \rangle$

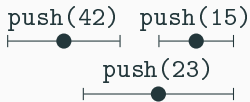
# Helping

One thread can **complete the action of another.**

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For example:

Stack content:



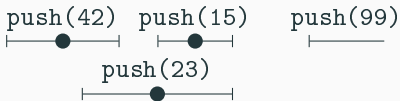
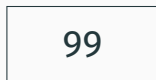
# Helping

One thread can **complete the action of another**.  
For example:

Stack content:



“Bypass offer”:  
(ongoing push)



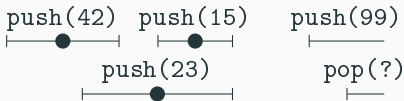
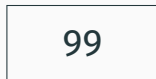
# Helping

One thread can **complete the action of another**.  
For example:

Stack content:



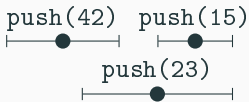
“Bypass offer”:  
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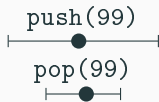
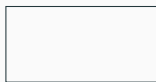
# Helping

One thread can **complete the action of another**.  
For example:

Stack content:



“Bypass offer”:  
(ongoing push)





# Helping

One thread can complete the action of another

$AU_R$  is just a (separation logic) resource!  
We can send it from one thread to another.

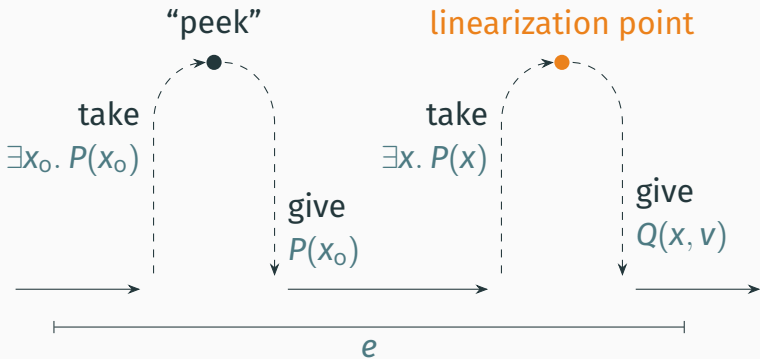
1. Thread A puts their  $AU_R$  into invariant
2. Thread B receives  $AU_R$
3. Thread B completes both runs  $AU_R$  and its own  $AU_{R'}$
4. Thread B puts results  $R$  back into invariant
5. Thread A obtains result  $R$  and completes



# Outline

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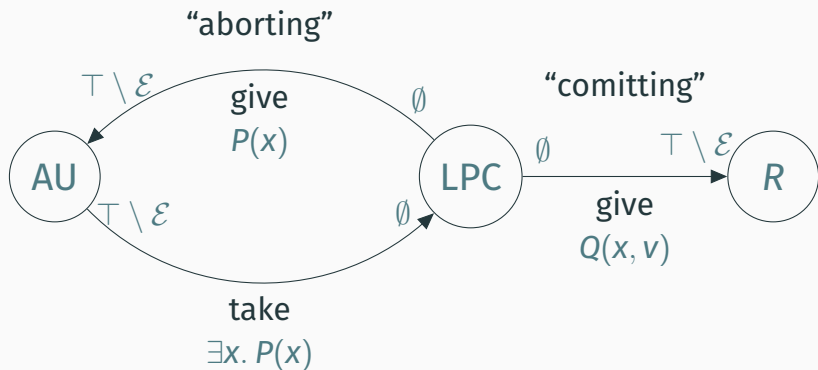
$$\langle x. P(x) \rangle e \langle v. Q(x, v) \rangle \varepsilon$$



$$\langle x. P(x) \rangle e \langle v. Q(x, v) \rangle_{\mathcal{E}} \triangleq \forall R. \{AU_R\} e \{v. R(v)\}$$

$$AU_R \triangleq \text{True} \top \Rightarrow *^{\emptyset} \exists x. P(x) * LPC_{R,x}$$

$$LPC_{R,x} \triangleq (P(x) \emptyset \Rightarrow *^{\top} AU_R) \wedge (\forall v. Q(x, v) \emptyset \Rightarrow *^{\top} R(v))$$



# Logically Atomic Case Studies

- **Elimination Stack** on abstract heap



<https://iris-project.org>

# Logically Atomic Case Studies

- Elimination Stack on abstract heap
- **Flat Combiner** (by Zhen)



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- **RDCSS** (by Marianna, Rodolphe and Gaurav)



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# Logically Atomic Case Studies

- Elimination Stack on abstract heap
- Flat Combiner (by Zhen)
- Atomic snapshot (by Marianna)
- RDCSS (by Marianna, Rodolphe and Gaurav)
- **Herlihy-Wing-Queue**  
(by Rodolphe, Derek, Gaurav)



<https://iris-project.org>



# Logically Atomic Case Studies

- Elimination Stack on abstract heap

Logical atomicity **implies linearizability:**

“Theorems for Free from Separation  
Logic Specifications”

Birkedal, Dinsdale-Young, Guéneau, Jaber,  
Svendsen, Tzevelekos; ICFP 2021



<https://iris-project.org>

## Logical Atomicity lets us give

- concise and powerful
- Hoare-style specifications
- to concurrent data structures
- that make use of helping.



<https://iris-project.org>