

How We Test Concurrent Algorithms in Kotlin Coroutines

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KotlinConf'23
Amsterdam



Speaker: Nikita Koval

- Redesigned synchronization and communication in  **Kotlin
Coroutines**
- Regularly publish at top-tier academic conferences
- Teach concurrent programming for over 5 years



@nkoval_

How to develop concurrent algorithms?



How to develop concurrent algorithms?



OpenAI
ChatGPT 4.0

Bounded Queue

```
class BoundedQueue<T>(capacity: Int) {  
    // Returns `true` on success and  
    // `false` if the queue is full.  
    fun add(item: T): Boolean  
  
    // Returns the first element or  
    // `null` if the queue is empty.  
    fun poll(): T?  
}
```

Bounded Queue by Chat-GPT

PA

Can you implement a concurrent non-blocking bounded queue based on Java's ConcurrentLinkedQueue? Write the code in Kotlin.



Sure, I can help you implement a concurrent non-blocking bounded queue in Kotlin using Java's ConcurrentLinkedQueue. Here's the code:

```
class BoundedQueueGPT<T>(private val capacity: Int) {  
    private val queue = ConcurrentLinkedQueue<T>()  
    private val size = AtomicInteger()
```

```
class BoundedQueueGPT<T>(private val capacity: Int) {  
    private val queue = ConcurrentLinkedQueue<T>()  
    private val size = AtomicInteger()
```

```
fun add(item: T): Boolean {  
    // Check if there is space  
    // available in the queue.  
    if (size.get() == capacity)  
        return false  
    // Add the element.  
    queue.offer(item)  
    // After the element was added  
    // to the queue, increment the size.  
    size.incrementAndGet()  
    return true  
}
```

```
class BoundedQueueGPT<T>(private val capacity: Int) {  
    private val queue = ConcurrentLinkedQueue<T>()  
    private val size = AtomicInteger()
```

```
fun add(item: T): Boolean {  
    // Check if there is space  
    // available in the queue.  
    if (size.get() == capacity)  
        return false  
    // Add the element.  
    queue.offer(item)  
    // After the element was added  
    // to the queue, increment the size.  
    size.incrementAndGet()  
    return true  
}
```

```
fun poll(): T? {  
    // Retrieve and remove  
    // the head of the queue.  
    val item = queue.poll() ?: return null  
    // Decrement the size of the queue.  
    size.decrementAndGet()  
    return item  
}
```

Is BoundedQueueGPT correct?

HMM...



Typical Concurrent Tests

- 智商低下的表情符号 🤡 Cover only easy-to-verify scenarios
- 悲伤的表情符号 😢 Contains hundreds of lines of boilerplate code
- 困惑表情符号 🤯 Hard to analyze errors

Typical Concurrent Tests

- 智商低下的表情符号 🤡 Cover only easy-to-verify scenarios
- 悲伤的表情符号 😢 Contains hundreds of lines of boilerplate code
- 困惑表情符号 🤔 Hard to analyze errors

We need a reliable easy-to-use framework
for writing concurrent tests!

An Ideal Concurrent Test

```
class BoundedQueueGPTTest {  
}  
}
```

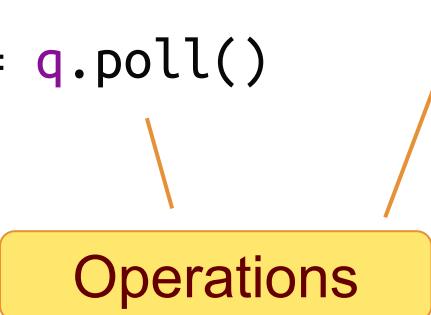


An Ideal Concurrent Test

```
class BoundedQueueGPTTest {  
    val q = BoundedQueueGPT<Int>(capacity = 2)  
}  
Initial state
```



An Ideal Concurrent Test

```
class BoundedQueueGPTTest {  
    val q = BoundedQueueGPT<Int>(capacity = 2)  
  
    @Operation fun add(item: Int) = q.add(item)  
    @Operation fun poll() = q.poll()  
}  
  

```

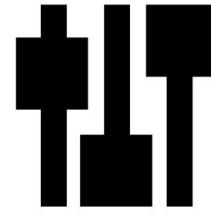
Operations



An Ideal Concurrent Test

```
class BoundedQueueGPTTest {  
    val q = BoundedQueueGPT<Int>(capacity = 2)  
  
    @Operation fun add(item: Int) = q.add(item)  
    @Operation fun poll() = q.poll()  
  
    @Test fun test() = runConcurrentTest(this)  
}
```



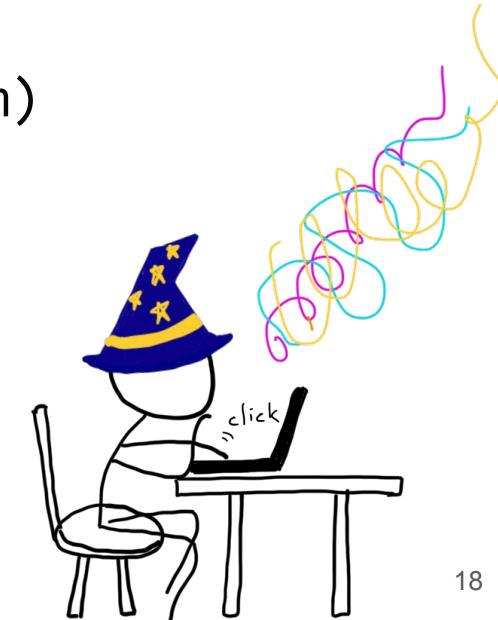


Lincheck

<https://github.com/Kotlin/kotlinx-lincheck>

Lincheck test for BoundedQueueGPT

```
class BoundedQueueGPTTest {  
    val q = BoundedQueueGPT<Int>(capacity = 2)  
  
    @Operation fun add(item: Int) = q.add(item)  
    @Operation fun poll() = q.poll()  
  
    @Test fun test() = ModelCheckingOptions()  
        .check(this::class)  
}
```



Let's run the test!

= Invalid execution results =

```
add(2): true || add(6): true  
add(-8): true ||
```

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

```
|| add(6)  
|| size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10  
|| queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12  
|| switch  
add(2): true  
add(-8): true  
|| size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14  
|| result: true
```

Noo...
WHY?!



What is correctness
in the world of concurrency?

Correctness in Sequential World

Is this execution correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<Int>(2)
q.add(1): true
q.add(2): true
q.add(3): false
q.poll(): 1
```

Correctness in Sequential World

Is this execution correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<Int>(2)
q.add(1): true
q.add(2): true
q.add(3): false
q.poll(): 1
```

CORRECT

Correctness in Sequential World

Is this execution correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<Int>(2)
q.add(1): true
q.add(2): true
q.add(3): false // capacity is exceeded
q.poll(): 1
```

CORRECT

Correctness in Sequential World

Is this execution correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<Int>(2)
q.add(1): true
q.add(2): true
q.add(3): false // capacity is exceeded
q.poll(): 1 // extracts the first element
```

CORRECT

Correctness in Sequential World

Is this one also correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<Int>(2)
```

```
q.add(1): true
```

```
q.add(2): true
```

```
q.add(3): true
```

Correctness in Sequential World

Is this one also correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<Int>(2)
q.add(1): true
q.add(2): true
q.add(3): true // capacity is exceeded
```

FORBIDDEN

Correctness in Concurrent World

TOPLAS'90

Linearizability: A Correctness Condition for Concurrent Objects

MAURICE P. HERLIHY and JEANNETTE M. WING
Carnegie Mellon University

A concurrent object is a data object shared by concurrent processes. Linearizability is a correctness condition for concurrent objects that exploits the semantics of abstract data types. It permits a high degree of concurrency, yet it permits programmers to specify and reason about concurrent objects using known techniques from the sequential domain. Linearizability provides the illusion that each operation applied by concurrent processes takes effect instantaneously at some point between its invocation and its response, implying that the meaning of a concurrent object's operations can be given by pre- and post-conditions. This paper defines linearizability, compares it to other correctness conditions, presents and demonstrates a method for proving the correctness of implementations, and shows how to reason about concurrent objects, given they are linearizable.

Categories and Subject Descriptors: D.1.3 [Programming Techniques]: Concurrent Programming; D.2.1 [Software Engineering]: Requirements/Specifications; D.3.3 [Programming Languages]: Language Constructs—*abstract data types, concurrent programming structures, data types and structures*; F.1.2 [Computation by Abstract Devices]: Modes of Computation—*parallelism*; F.3.1 [Logics and Meanings of Programs]: Specifying and Verifying Programs—*pre- and post-conditions*.

Correctness in **Concurrent** World

An execution is *linearizable* if it can be expressed with a sequential execution that:

1. does not violate the original **happens-before** order
(program order + synchronization)
2. shows the same results

* the definition is simplified

Correctness in Concurrent World

Is this execution correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<String>(capacity = 2)
```

q.add("a"): true

q.poll() // "a"

q.add("b"): true

q.poll() // "b"

Correctness in Concurrent World

Is this execution correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<String>(capacity = 2)
```

```
q.add("a"): true
```

```
q.poll() // "a"
```

```
q.add("b"): true
```

```
q.poll() // "b"
```

CORRECT

Correctness in Concurrent World

Is this one also correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<String>(capacity = 2)
```

q.add("a"): true

q.poll() // "b"

q.add("b"): true

q.poll() // "a"

Correctness in Concurrent World

Is this one also correct?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<String>(capacity = 2)
```

```
q.add("a"): true
q.add("b"): true
q.poll() // "a"
q.poll() // "b"
```



CORRECT

Correctness in Concurrent World

What about this one?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<String>(capacity = 2)
```

q.add("a"): true
q.poll() // "b"

q.add("b"): true
q.add("c"): true
q.poll() // "a"

Correctness in Concurrent World

What about this one?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<String>(capacity = 2)
```

<pre>q.add("a"): true q.poll() // "b"</pre>	<pre>q.add("b"): true q.add("c"): true q.poll() // "a"</pre>
---	--

CORRECT

Correctness in Concurrent World

This is also correct, isn't it?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<String>(capacity = 2)
```

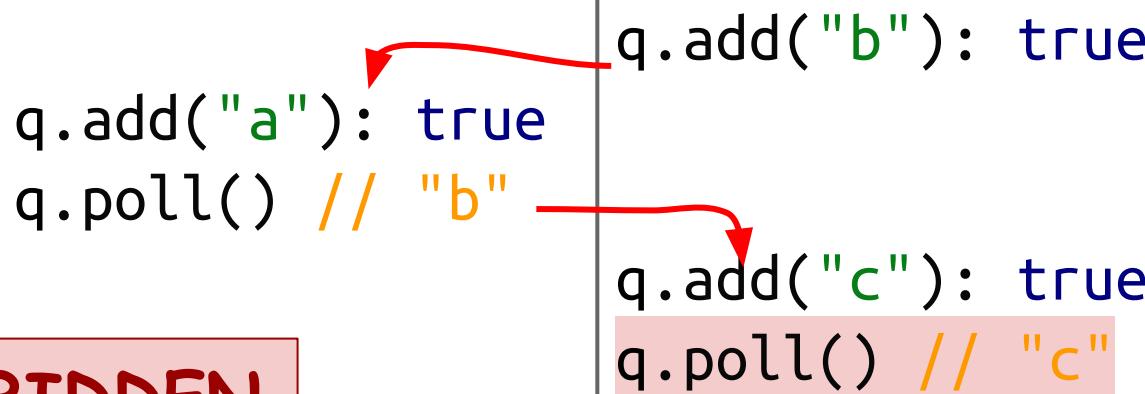
q.add("a"): true
q.poll() // "b"

q.add("b"): true
q.add("c"): true
q.poll() // "c"

Correctness in Concurrent World

This is also correct, isn't it?

```
val q = BoundedQueue<String>(capacity = 2)
```



FORBIDDEN

Back to BoundedQueueGPT

= Invalid execution results =

add(2): true || add(6): true
add(-8): true ||

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

add(6)
size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10
queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12
switch

add(2): true
add(-8): true

size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14
result: true

Exceeds capacity

Back to BoundedQueueGPT

```
= Invalid execution results =
add(2): true  || add(6): true
add(-8): true
```

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

```
|| add(6)
  ||| size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10
    ||| queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12
      switch
add(2): true  ||| size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14
add(-8): true  ||| result: true
```

Back to BoundedQueueGPT

```
queue = [] empty
```

```
size = 0
```

```
fun add(item: T): Boolean {  
    if (size.get() == capacity)  
        return false  
    queue.offer(item)  
    size.incrementAndGet()  
    return true  
}
```

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

```
add(6)  
size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10  
queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12  
switch  
add(2): true  
add(-8): true  
size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14  
result: true
```

Back to BoundedQueueGPT

```
queue = [] empty
```

```
size = 0
```

```
fun add(item: T): Boolean {  
    if (size.get() == capacity)  
        return false  
    queue.offer(item)  
    size.incrementAndGet()  
    return true  
}
```

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

```
add(2): true  
add(-8): true
```

```
|||  
    add(6)  
        size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10  
        queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12  
        switch  
  
    size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14  
    result: true
```

Back to BoundedQueueGPT

queue = () 6

size = 0

```
fun add(item: T): Boolean {  
    if (size.get() == capacity)  
        return false  
    queue.offer(item)  
    size.incrementAndGet()  
    return true  
}
```

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

add(2): true
add(-8): true

```
||| add(6)  
    size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10  
    queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12  
    switch  
  
    size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14  
    result: true
```

Back to BoundedQueueGPT

queue = () 6, 2

size = 0 1

```
fun add(item: T): Boolean {  
    if (size.get() == capacity)  
        return false  
    queue.offer(item)  
    size.incrementAndGet()  
    return true  
}
```

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

add(2): true
add(-8): true

```
||| add(6)  
    size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10  
    queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12  
    switch  
  
    size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14  
    result: true
```

Back to BoundedQueueGPT

queue = [6, 2, -8]

size = 3

```
fun add(item: T): Boolean {  
    if (size.get() == capacity)  
        return false  
    queue.offer(item)  
    size.incrementAndGet()  
    return true  
}
```

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

add(2): true
add(-8): true

|||
add(6)
size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10
queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12

switch

size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14
result: true

Back to BoundedQueueGPT

queue = [6, 2, -8]

size = 3

```
fun add(item: T): Boolean {  
    if (size.get() == capacity)  
        return false  
    queue.offer(item)  
    size.incrementAndGet()  
    return true  
}
```

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

add(2): true
add(-8): true

add(6)

size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10

queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12

switch

size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14

result: true

Back to BoundedQueueGPT

```
queue = [6, 2, -8]
```

```
size = 3
```

```
fun add(item: T): Boolean {  
    if (size.get() == capacity)  
        return false  
    queue.offer(item)  
    size.incrementAndGet()  
    return true  
}
```

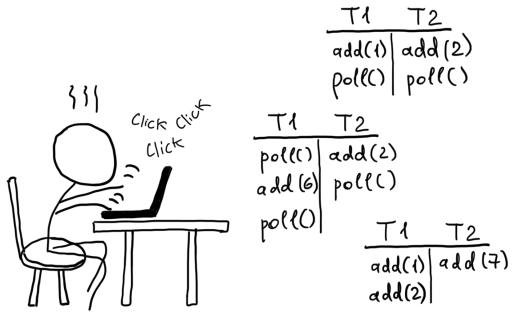
= The following interleaving leads to the error =

```
add(2): true  
add(-8): true
```

```
add(6)  
size.get(): 0 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:10  
queue.offer(6): true at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:12  
switch  
size.incrementAndGet(): 3 at BoundedQueueGPT.kt:14  
result: true
```

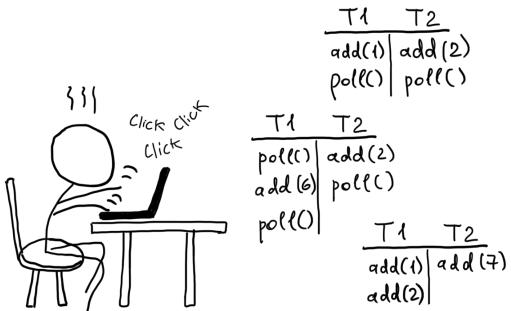
Lincheck Overview

I. Generates concurrent scenarios (à la **fuzzer**)

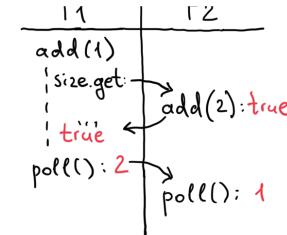


Lincheck Overview

I. Generates concurrent scenarios (à la **fuzzer**)

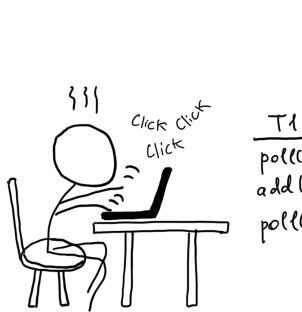


II. Examines them either via **stress testing** or **model checking**



Lincheck Overview

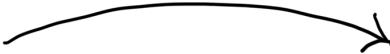
I. Generates concurrent scenarios (à la fuzzer)



T1	T2
add(1)	add(2)
poll()	poll()

T1	T2
poll()	add(2)
add(6)	poll()

T1	T2
add(1)	add(7)
add(2)	



II. Examines them either via **stress testing** or **model checking**



T1	T2
add(1)	
{size.get:	
true	

poll(): 2	
	poll(): 1



WHICH SEQUENCE
EXPLAINS THE RESULTS?



add(1): true poll(): 1 add(2): true poll(): 2
add(1): true add(2): true poll(): 1 poll(): 2
add(1): true add(2): true poll(): 1 poll(): 2
add(2): true add(1): true poll(): 2 poll(): 1
add(2): true poll(): 2 add(1): true poll(): 1

...

III. Automatically **verifies** the outcome results

Bytecode Transformation

```
class Counter {  
    @Volatile var value = 0  
  
    fun incAndGet(): Int {  
        value += 1  
        return value  
    }  
}
```

Bytecode Transformation

```
class Counter {  
    @Volatile var value = 0  
  
    fun incAndGet(): Int {  
        value += 1  
        return value  
    }  
}
```

```
public incAndGet()I()  
    ALOAD 0  
    GETFIELD Counter.value : I // read  
    ISTORE 1  
    ALOAD 0  
    ILOAD 1  
    ICONST 1  
    IADD  
    PUTFIELD Counter.value : I // write  
    ALOAD 0  
    GETFIELD Counter.value : I // read  
    IRETURN
```

Bytecode Transformation

```
class Counter {  
    @Volatile var value = 0  
  
    fun incAndGet(): Int {  
        value += 1  
        return value  
    }  
}
```

```
public incAndGet()I()  
    ALOAD 0  
    INVOKESTATIC Lincheck.beforeRead:()V  
    GETFIELD Counter.value : I // read  
    ISTORE 1  
    ALOAD 0  
    ILOAD 1  
    ICONST 1  
    IADD  
    INVOKESTATIC Lincheck.beforeWrite:()V  
    PUTFIELD Counter.value : I // write  
    ALOAD 0  
    INVOKESTATIC Lincheck.beforeRead:()V  
    GETFIELD Counter.value : I // read  
    IRETURN
```

Counter Test

```
class Counter {  
    @Volatile var value = 0  
  
    fun incAndGet(): Int {  
        value += 1  
        return value  
    }  
}
```

```
class CounterTest {  
    private val c = Counter()  
  
    @Operation  
    fun incAndGet() = c.incAndGet()  
  
    @Test  
    fun test() = ModelCheckingOptions()  
        .check(this::class)  
}
```

Counter Test

= Invalid execution results =

incAndGet(): 1 || incAndGet(): 1

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

```
    incAndGet()
        value.READ: 0 at Counter.incAndGet(Counter.kt:7)
        switch
            value.WRITE(1) at Counter.incAndGet(Counter.kt:7)
            value.READ: 1 at Counter.incAndGet(Counter.kt:8)
        result: 1
    incAndGet(): 1
```

Counter Test

= Invalid execution results =

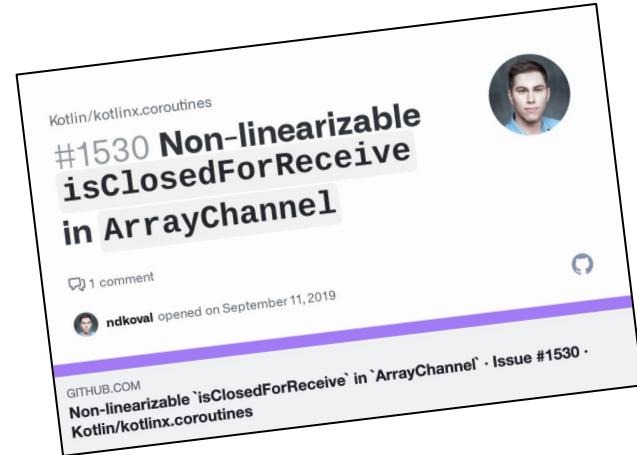
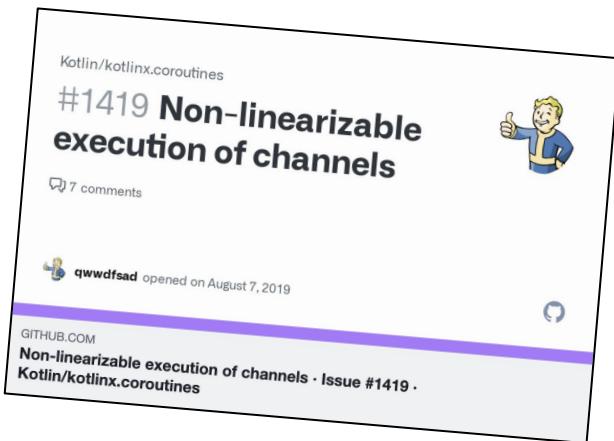
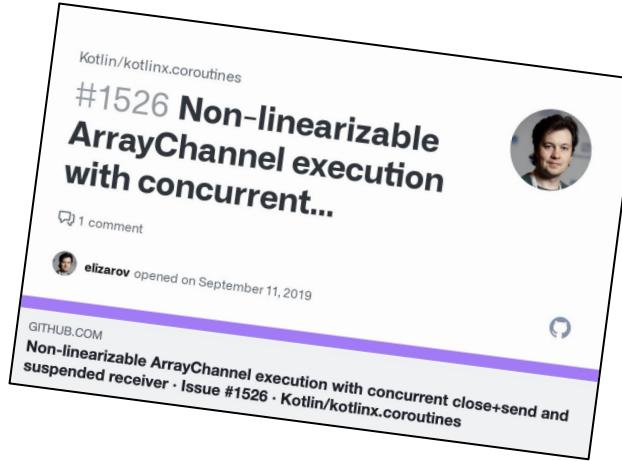
incAndGet(): 1 || incAndGet(): 1

= The following interleaving leads to the error =

```
incAndGet()
    Lincheck.beforeRead(): CONTINUE
    value.READ: 0 at Counter.incAndGet(Counter.kt:7)
    Lincheck.beforeWrite(): SWITCH
    switch
        value.WRITE(1) at Counter.incAndGet(Counter.kt:7)
        Lincheck.beforeRead(): CONTINUE
        value.READ: 1 at Counter.incAndGet(Counter.kt:8)
    result: 1
```

incAndGet(): 1

How do we use Lincheck in Kotlin Coroutines?



Kotlin/kotlinx.coroutines
#2590 MutexLincheckTest detects non lock-free execution path in Mutex



1 comment

JDK / JDK-8256833 [concurrency-interest] ConcurrentLinkedDeque is non-linearizable

Details

Type: Bug	Priority: P4
Affects Version/s: None	Component/s: core-libs
Labels: None	Subcomponent: java.util.concurrent

Status: OPEN Resolution: Unresolved Fix Version/s: None

Description

Nikita Koval reported a remaining non-linearizability in ConcurrentLinkedDeque

<https://concurrency.markmail.org/thread/pnmit7zyc3txrs6q>

ndkvalo opened on August 7, 2019

GITHUB.COM Non-linearizable execution of channels · Issue #1419 · Kotlin/kotlinx.coroutines

Kotlin/kotlinx.coroutines
#1526 Non-linearizable ArrayChannel execution with concurrent...



1 comment elizarov opened on August 13, 2020

GITHUB.COM Non-linearizable suspended receiver · Issue #1526 · Kotlin/kotlinx.coroutines

JCTools/JCTools
#319 Non-linearizable return value of put operation in...



9 comments alefedor opened on August 13, 2020

GITHUB.COM Non-linearizable return value of put operation in NonBlockingHashMapLong · Issue #319 · JCTools/JCTools

in Array

1 comment ndkvalo opened on September 11, 2019

GITHUB.COM Non-linearizable 'isClosedForReceive' in `ArrayChannel` · Issue #1530 · Kotlin/kotlinx.coroutines

Fast and scalable channels algorithm #3621

[Edit](#)[New issue](#)[Open](#)

qwwdfsad opened this issue 2 weeks ago · 2 comments



qwwdfsad commented 2 weeks ago

Member



...

In [#3103](#) we propose a brand new underlying data structure for channels.

The change is technical and should not affect user-visible invariants, behaviour and API shape.

The full-blown algorithm description and correctness proof can be found here: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.04986>

The rework addresses the following problems:

- Previous implementation is based [on a concurrent double-linked list](#), which has proven to be incorrect, hard to reason about and always impossible to maintain, meaning that linearizability issues and non-trivial data races cannot be fixed and reasoned about in a predictable manner
- The implementation also imposes non-trivial limitations on both bytecode and dex size due to its complex implementation details
- All non-trivial operations are expressed in terms of descriptors (DCAS, N-word CAS) that limit both scalability, correctness and performance characteristic

Additionally, it's well-known that array-based data structures significantly outperform linked structures, while fetch-and-add algorithms outperform CAS-based ones. Both of these facts are acknowledged by the new implementation:

- New channels are 10-25% faster on *sequential* (the most important for Android and slightly loaded systems) scenario
- New channels are by an order of magnitudes faster for workloads that are dominated by communicating channels
- New implementation also unlocks [Optimize CancellableContinuationImpl.invokeOnCancellation\(..\) for Segment s](#) #3084 that will enable fast-path allocation-free channels



9



63



10



3

Assignees



qwwdfsad



ndkova1



Labels

[channels](#) [design](#) [for 1.7](#)

Milestone

No milestone



Development

[Create a branch](#) for this issue or link a pull request.

Notifications

Customize

[Unsubscribe](#)

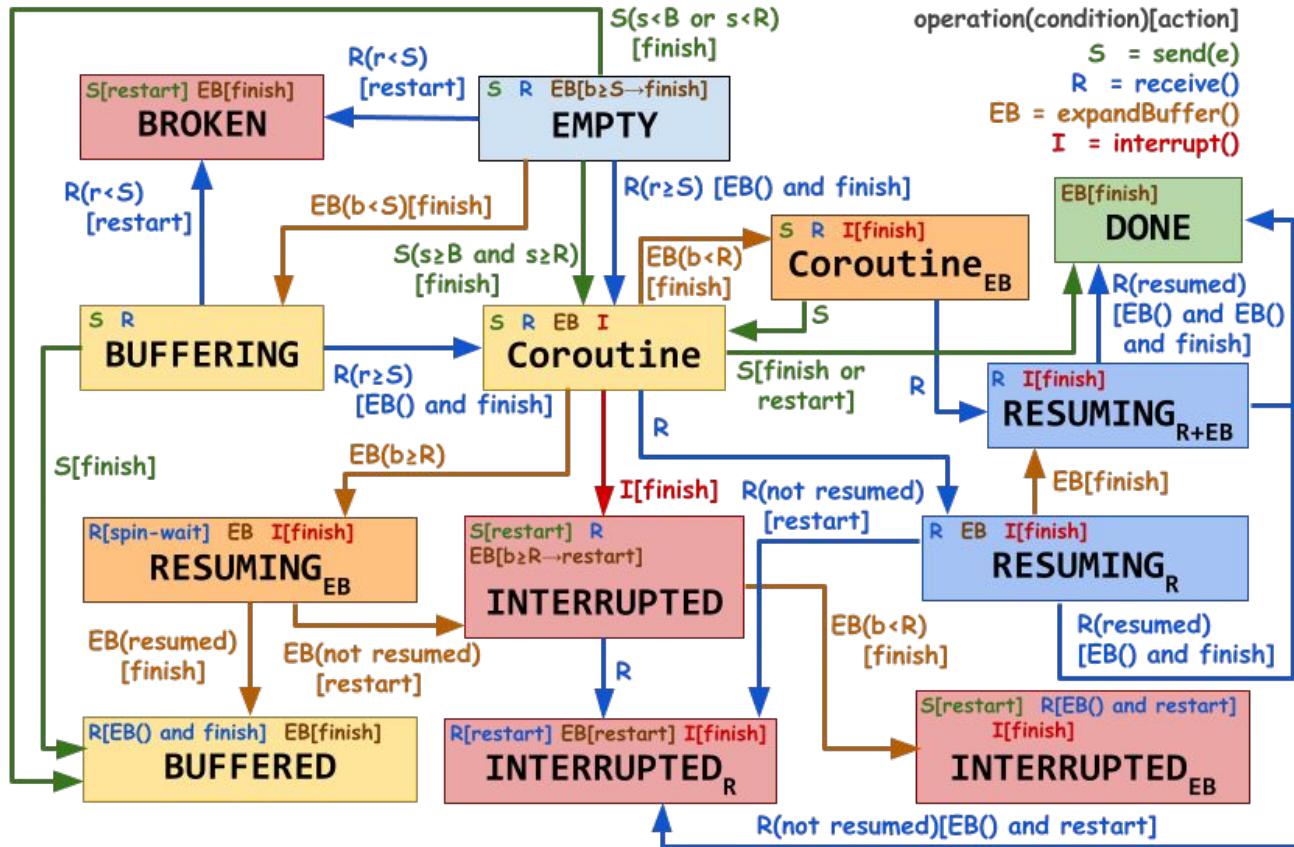
You're receiving notifications because you were assigned.

2 participants



<https://github.com/Kotlin/kotlinx.coroutines/issues/3621>

Impossible to implement without Lincheck



Summary

- Never use ChatGPT to implement concurrent algorithms
- Always use  Lincheck to test them
- Stay tuned for updates 

Thank you,
and don't forget
to vote



KotlinConf'23
Amsterdam

Scenario Generation: Single Consumer/Producer

```
import org.jctools.queues.atomic.*  
  
class MPSCQueueTest {  
    private val queue = MpscLinkedAtomicQueue<Int>()  
  
    @Operation  
    public fun offer(element: Int) = queue.offer(element)  
  
    @Operation  
    public fun poll(): Int? = queue.poll()  
  
    @Operation  
    public fun peek(): Int? = queue.peek()  
  
    @Test  
    fun test() = LincheckOptions().check(this::class)  
}
```

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```

poll()	offer(3)
peak()	peak()
offer(1)	offer(5)
offer(-7)	poll()
peak()	offer(10)

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    @Operation(nonParallelGroup = "consumers")  
    public fun poll(): Int? = queue.poll()  
  
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poll()	offer(3)
poll()	offer(-4)
peak()	offer(5)
offer(-7)	offer(8)
peak()	offer(10)

Run ConcurrentLinkedDequeTest

Invalid execution results:

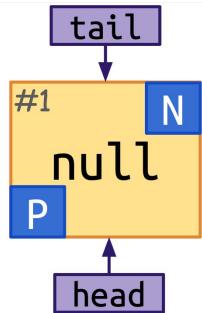
```
addLast(-6)    || addFirst(-8)
peekFirst(): -8 || pollLast(): -8
```

The following interleaving leads to the error:

```
|| addFirst(-8)
  pollLast(): -8
    pollLast(): -8 at DequeTest.pollLast(DequeTest.kt:35)
      last(): Node@1 at CLD.pollLast(CLD.java:936)
        item.READ: null at CLD.pollLast(CLD.java:938)
        prev.READ: Node@2 at CLD.pollLast(CLD.java:946)
        item.READ: -8 at CLD.pollLast(CLD.java:938)
        next.READ: null at CLD.pollLast(CLD.java:940)

addLast(-6)
peekFirst(): -8
  item.CAS(-8,null): true at CLD.pollLast(CLD.java:941)
  unlink(Node@2) at CLD.pollLast(CLD.java:942)
  result: -8
```

Bug in ConcurrentLinkedDeque

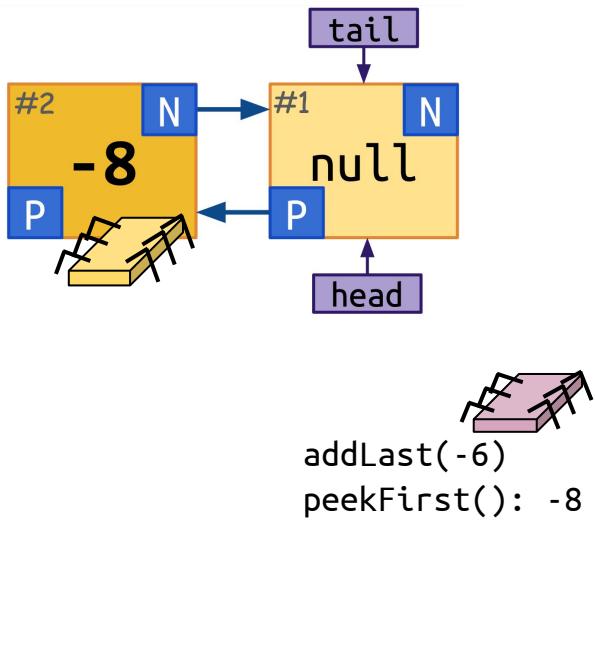


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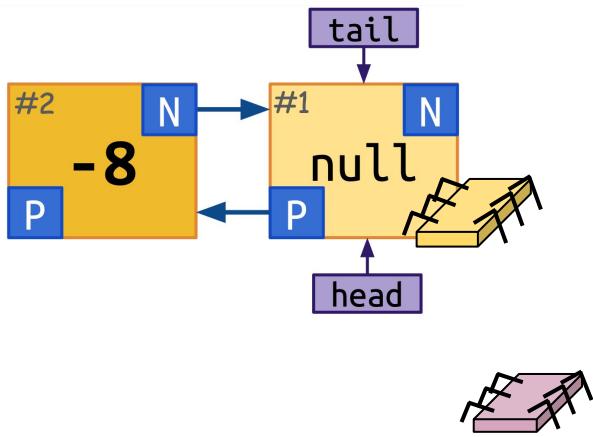
Bug in ConcurrentLinkedDeque



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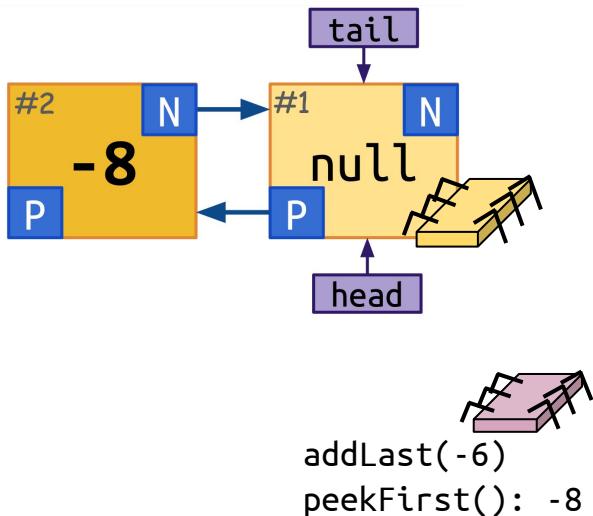
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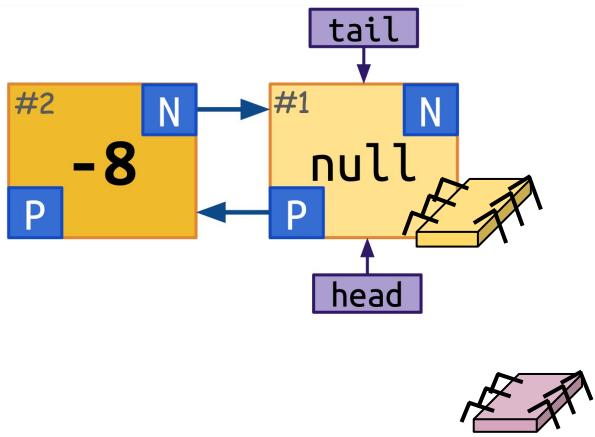
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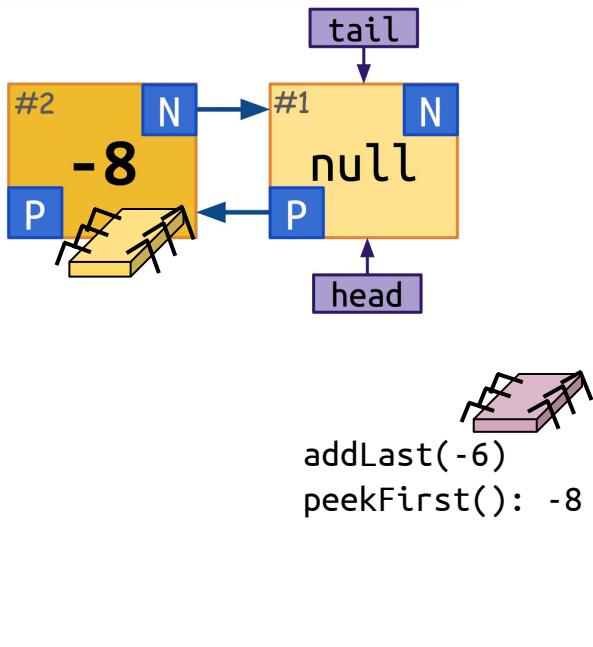
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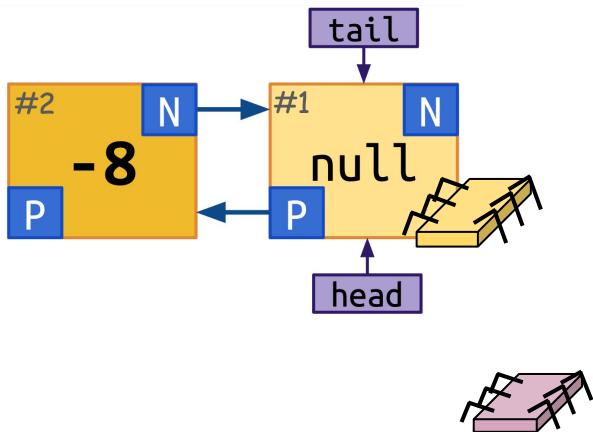
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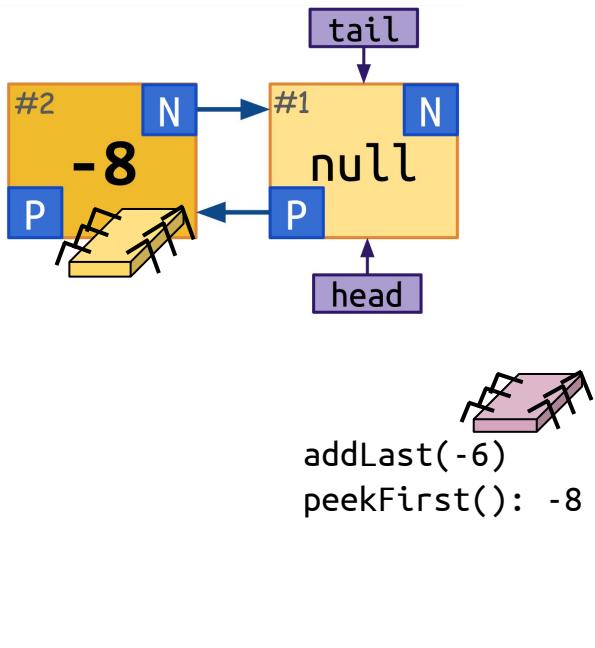
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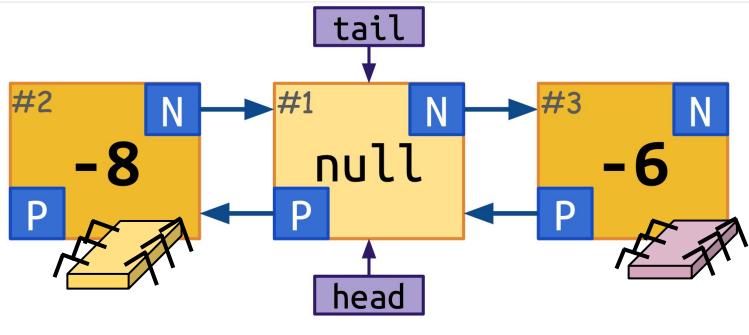
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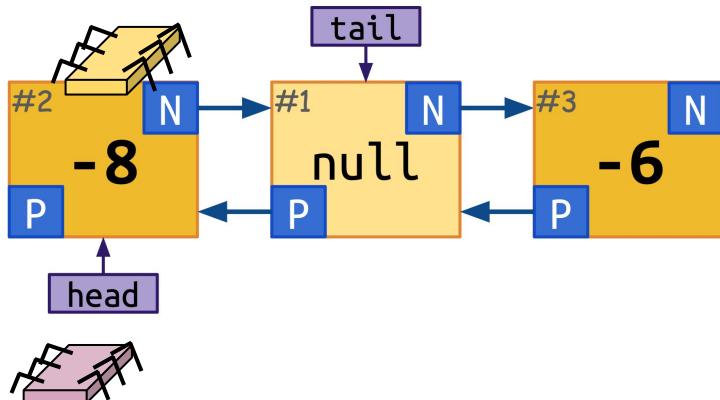
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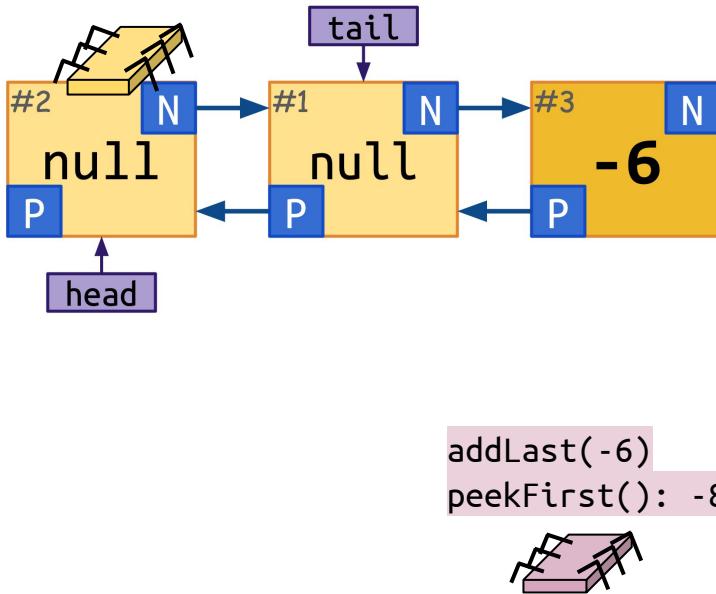


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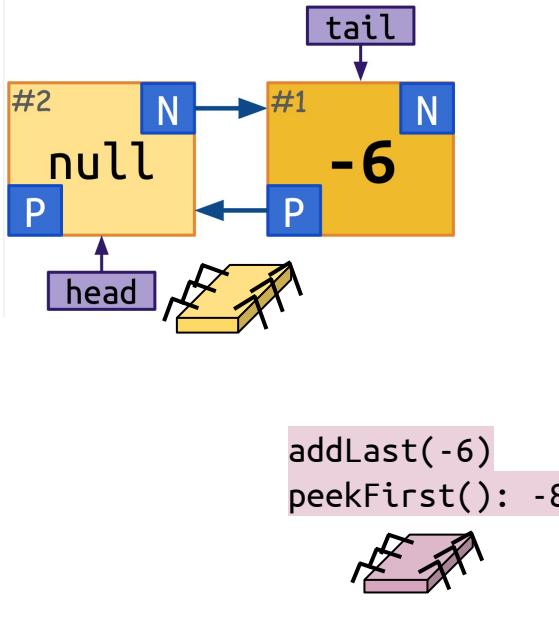


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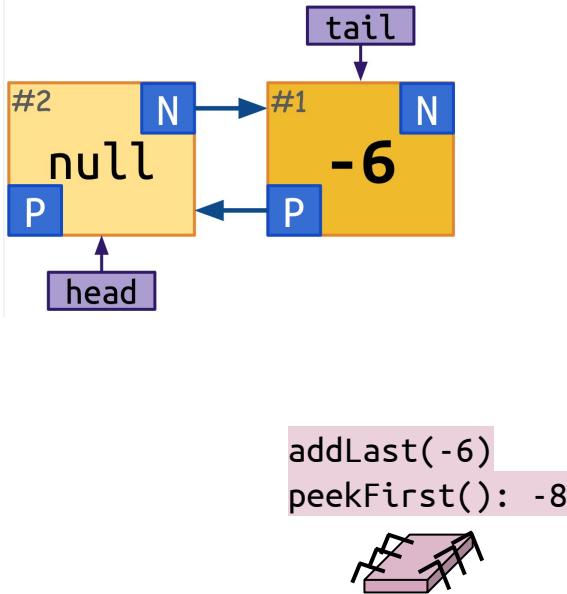
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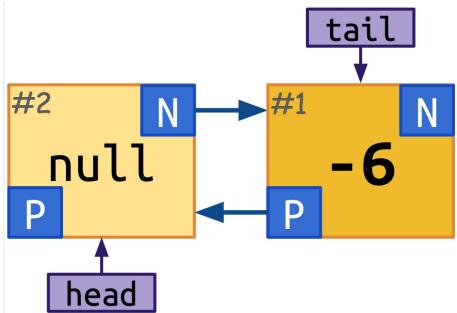
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Cannot synchronize via this CAS

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