Synthesis of Programs with Pointers via Read-Only Specifications

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PLSE

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Yale NUS College

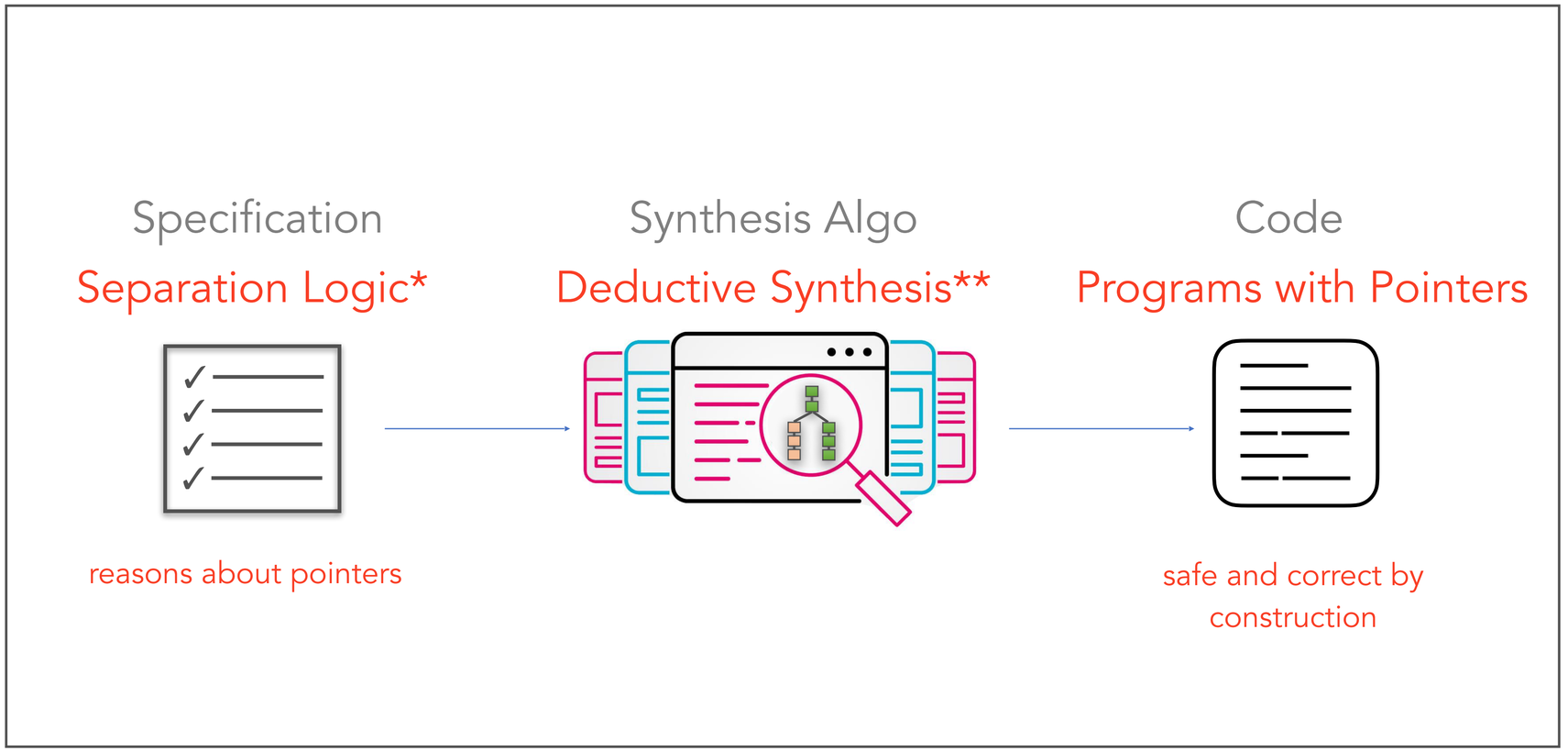
Synthesis of Programs with Pointers
via Read-Only Specifications

Specification

Synthesis Algo

Code

SSL: Synthetic Separation Logic



* *Local Reasoning about Programs that Alter Data Structures*, O'Hearn, Reynolds, Yang:. CSL 2001

** *Structuring the Synthesis of Heap-Manipulating Programs*, Polikarpova & Sergey @POPL'19

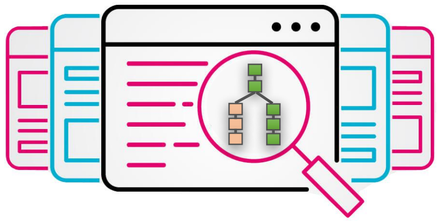
SSL: Synthetic Separation Logic

SuSLik

Specification
Separation Logic*

reasons about pointers

Synthesis Algo
Deductive Synthesis**



Code
Programs with Pointers

safe and correct by construction

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Example: copy a linked list

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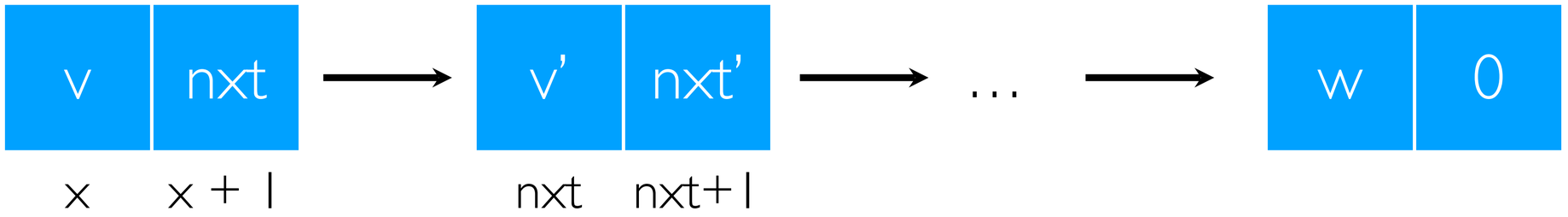

predicate ls (**loc** x, **set** S) {

| x = 0 ∧ { S = ∅ ; emp }

| x ≠ 0 ∧ { S = {v} ∪ S' ; [x, 2] ∗ x ↦ v ∗ (x + 1) ↦ nxt ∗ ls(nxt, S') }

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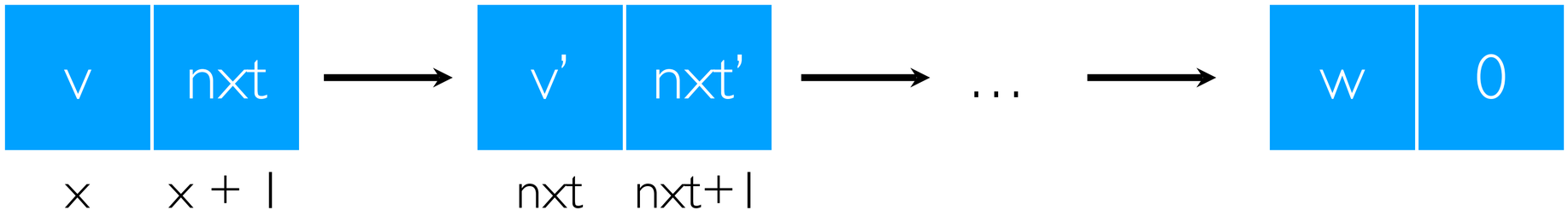

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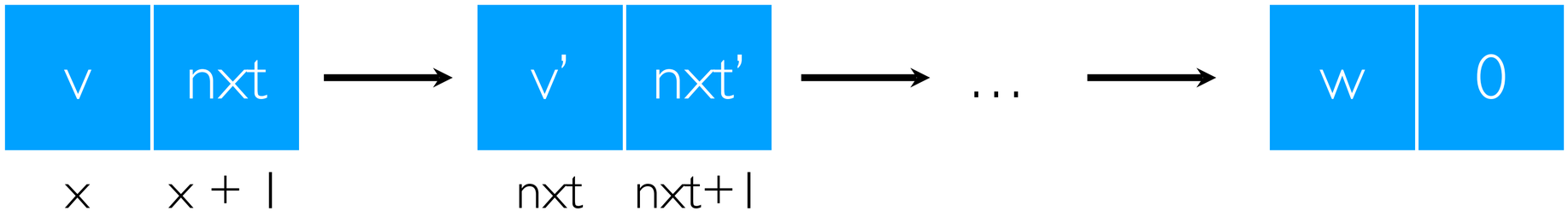

pure constraints

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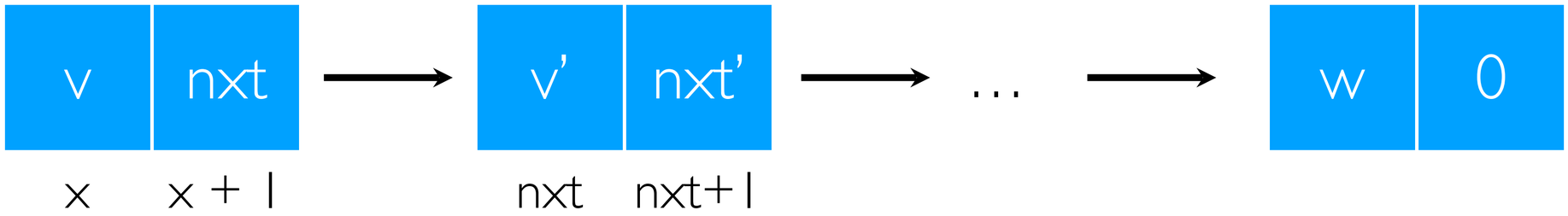

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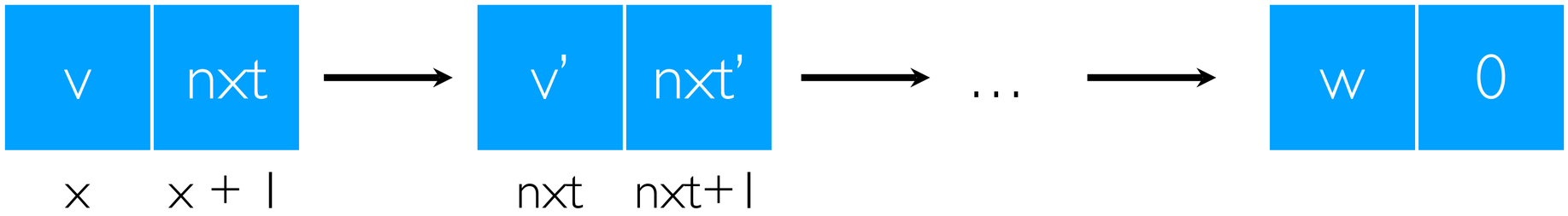

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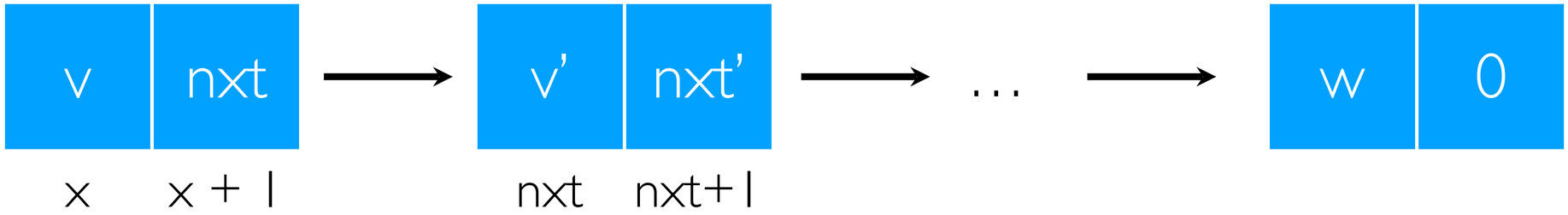

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memory block

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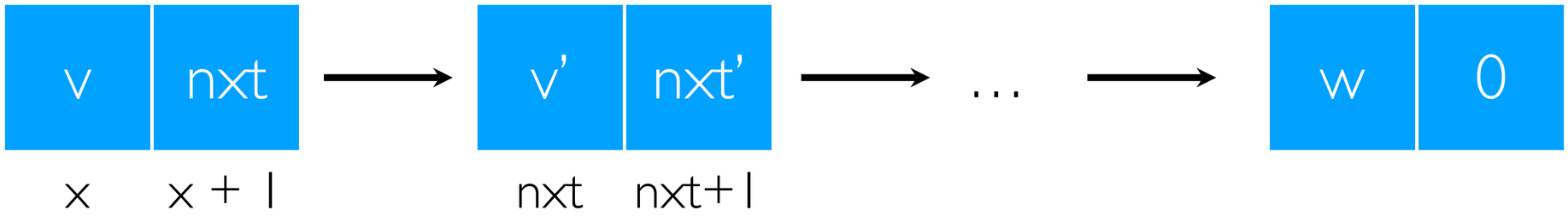

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points-to

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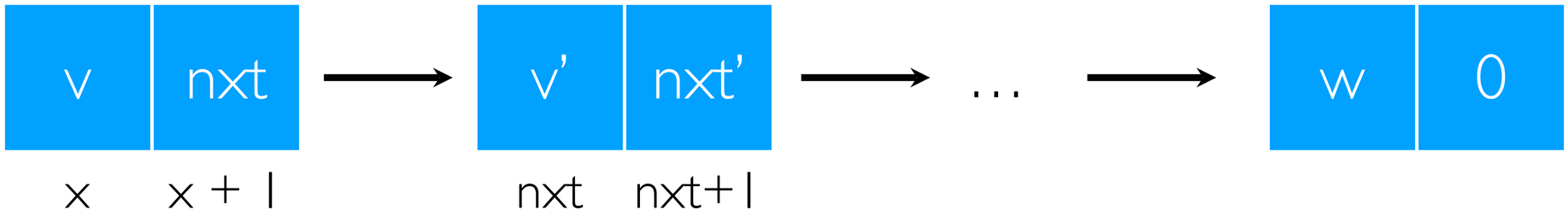

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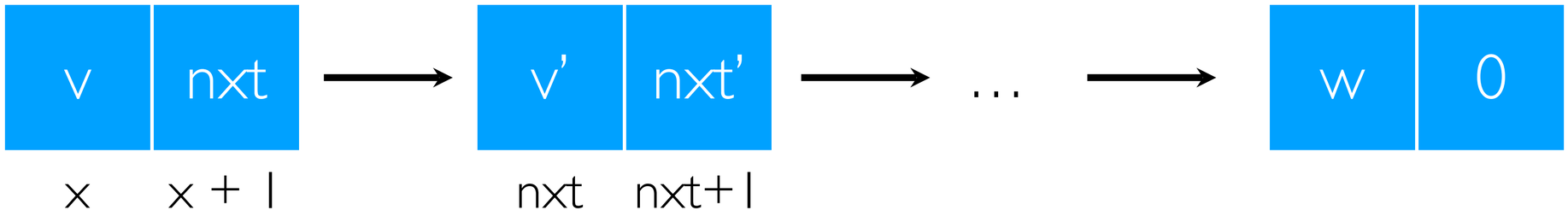

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separating conjunction

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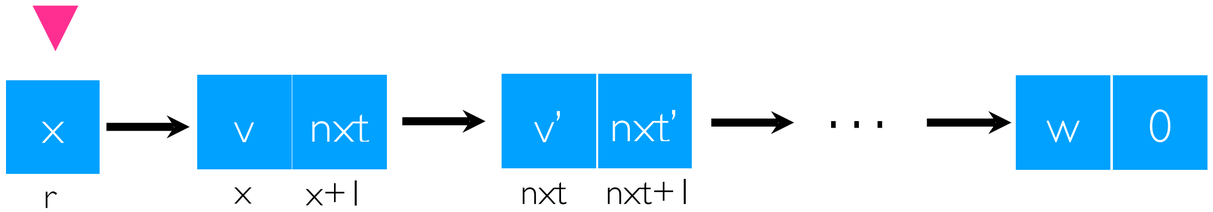

Precondition: `{r ↦ x * lseg(x, S)}`

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void listcopy (loc r)
```

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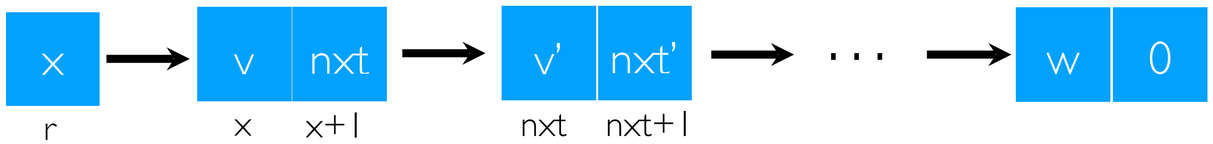

Precondition: `{r ↦ x * lseg(x, S)}`

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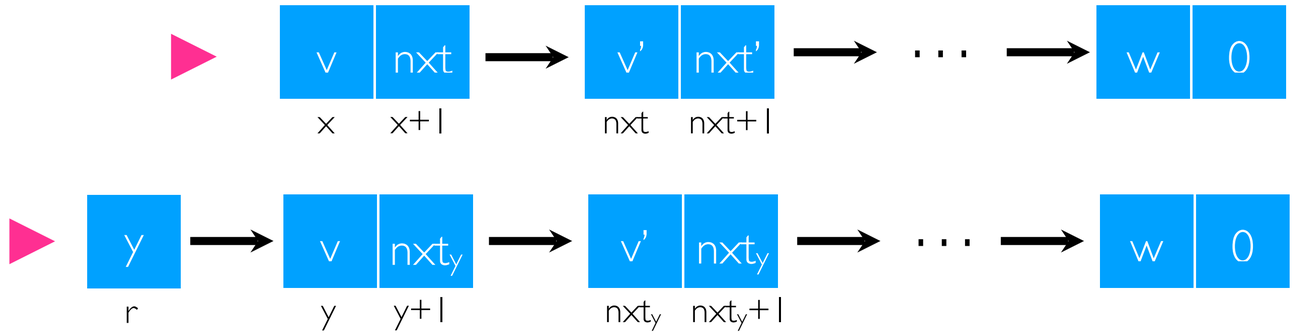
Postcondition: `{r ↦ y * lseg(x, S) * lseg(y, S)}`



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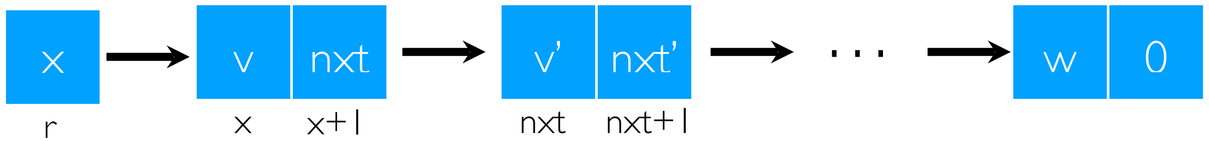


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{r ↦ x * lseg(x, S)}

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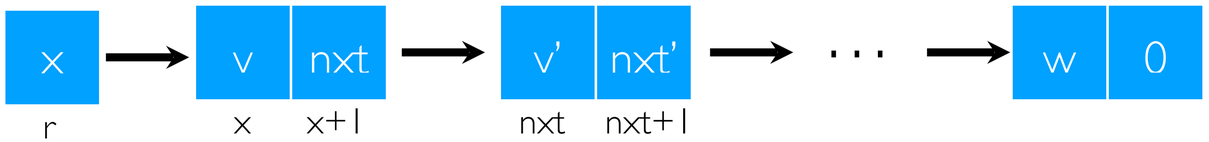


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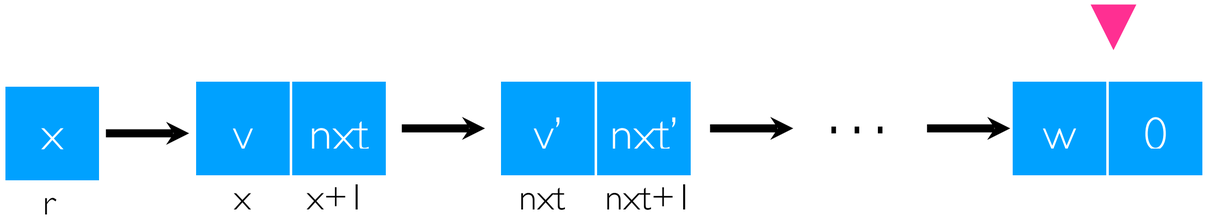


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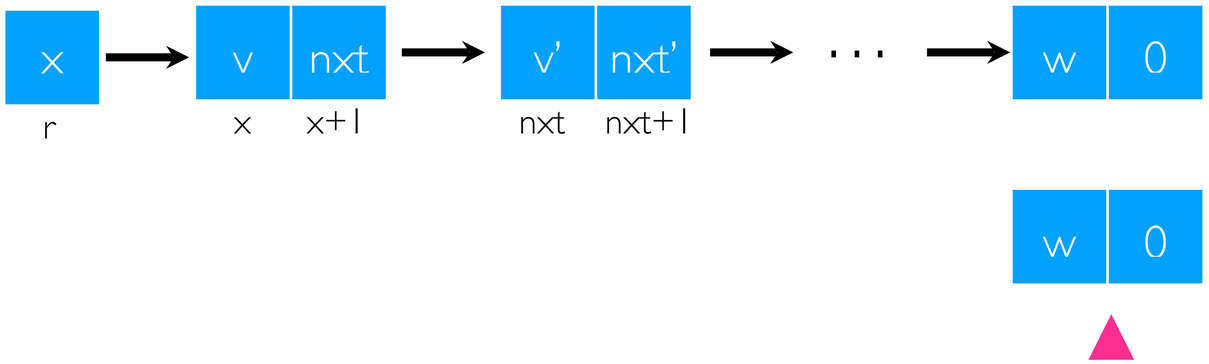


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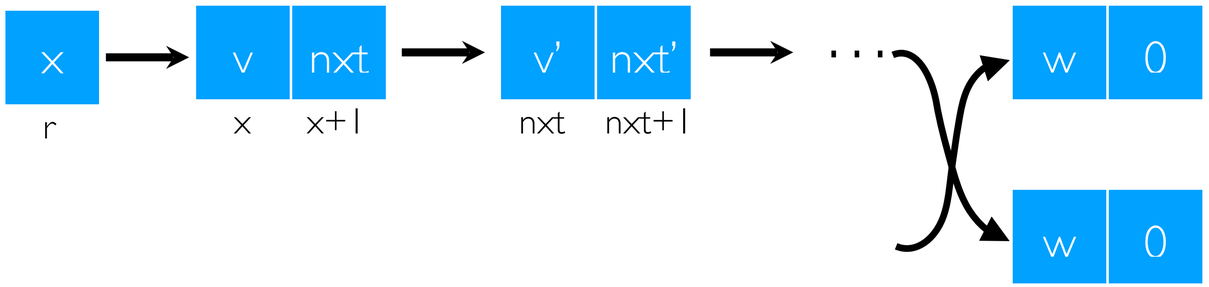


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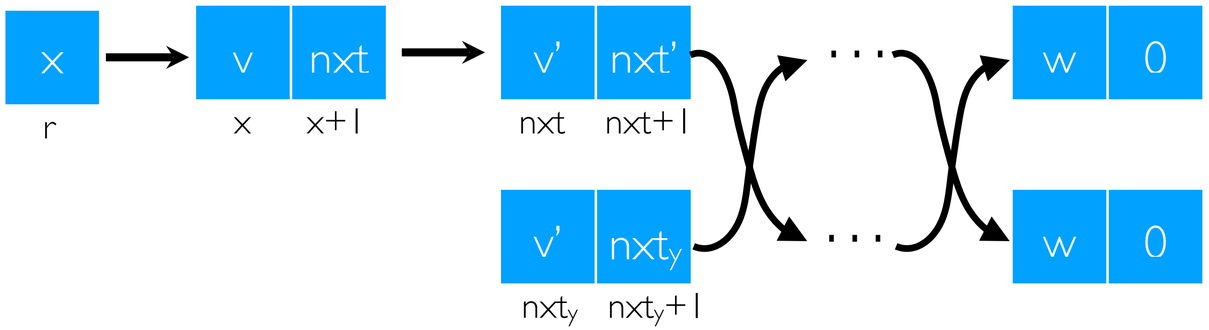

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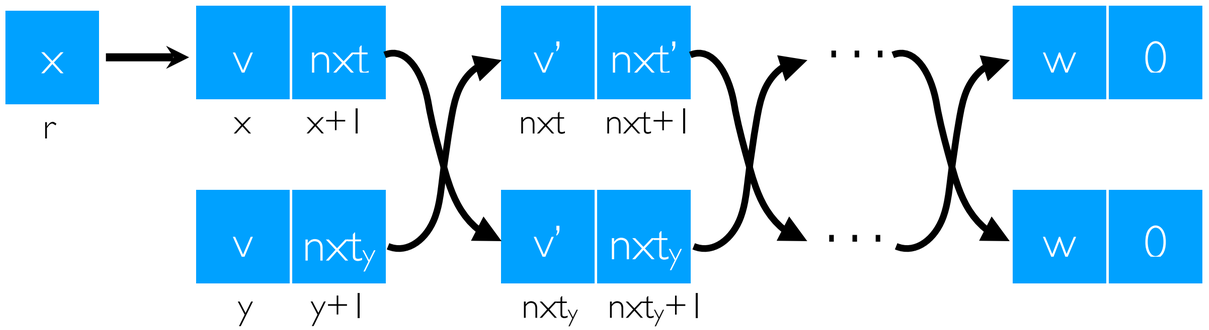


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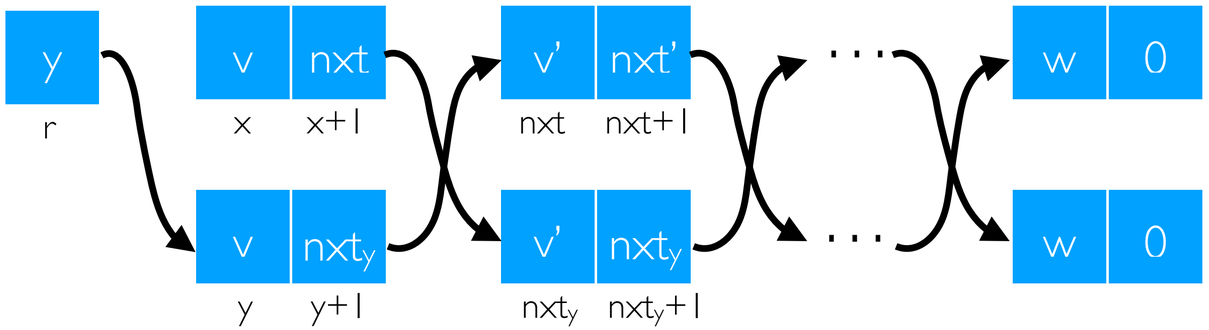


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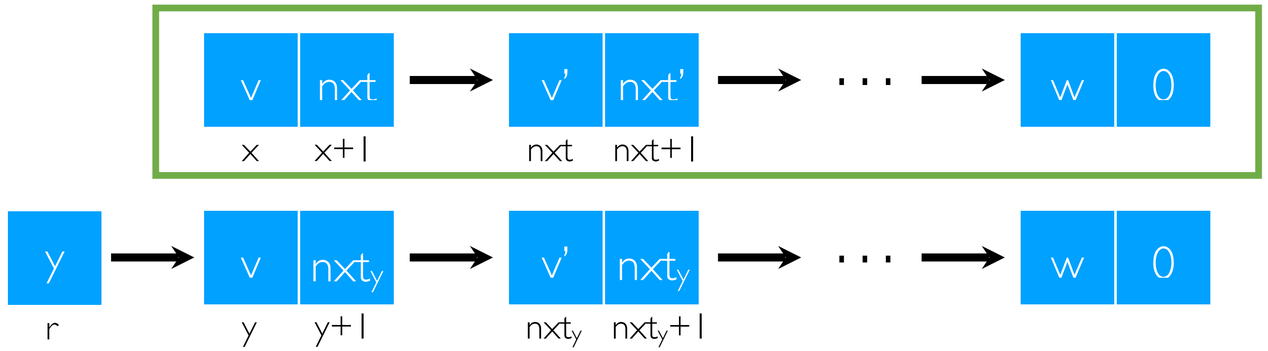
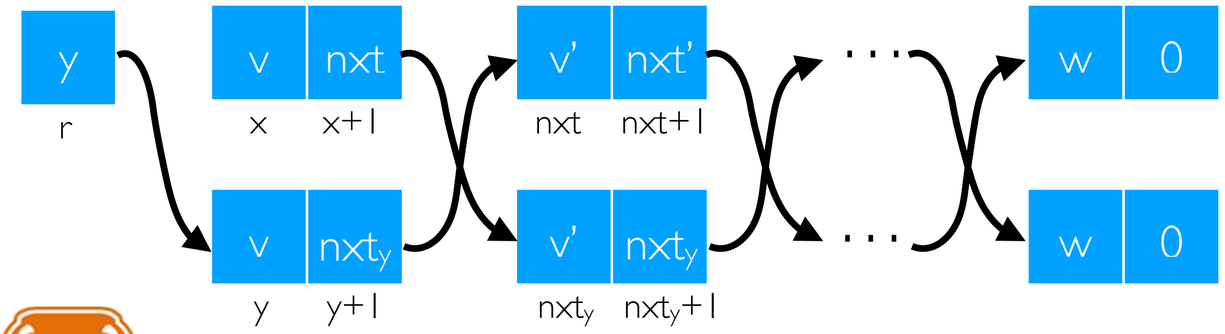


expected

---

result



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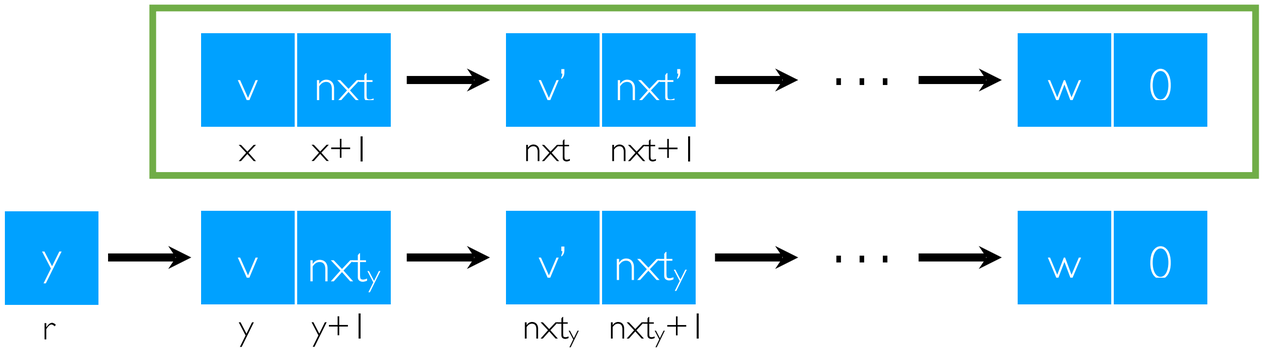

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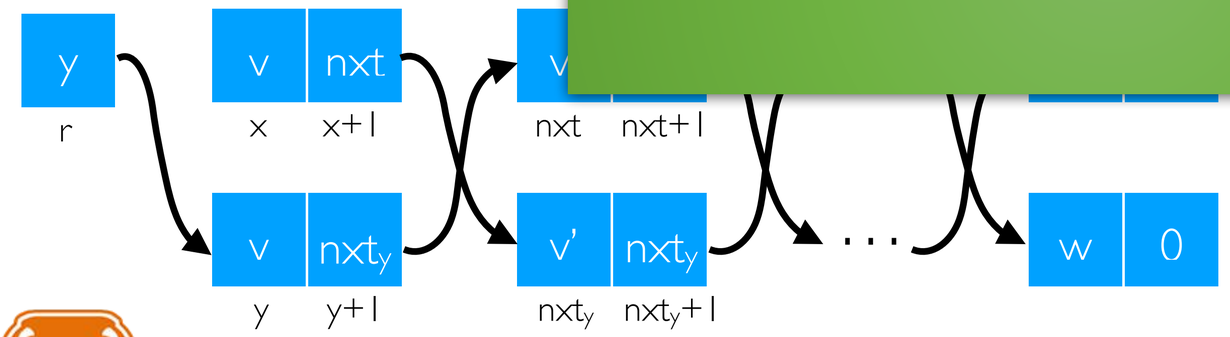

Make the initial list *Read-Only*:
it **must not be altered**

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Synthesis of Programs with Pointers
via Read-Only Specifications

(our contribution)

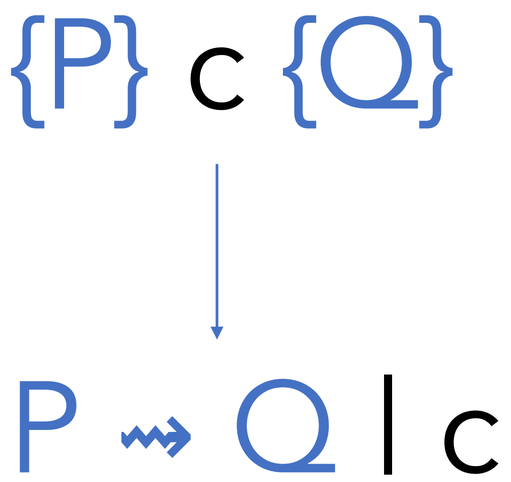
Effective: more natural and shorter programs

Efficient: smaller search space—faster synthesis

Robust: better performance in “worst case scenarios”

A Primer on Synthetic Separation Logic

Syntactic Separation Logic



Syntactic Separation Logic

$$\{P\}\ c\ \{Q\}$$

$$P \vdash Q \quad \text{implies} \quad P \rightsquigarrow Q \mid c$$

Example: **pick** - equalises the values of two distinct memory locations

Precondition:

$$\{\ x \mapsto a * y \mapsto b\ \}$$

Postcondition:

$$\{\ x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z\ \}$$

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$\{ x \mapsto a * y \mapsto b \}$

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void pick(loc x, loc y) {
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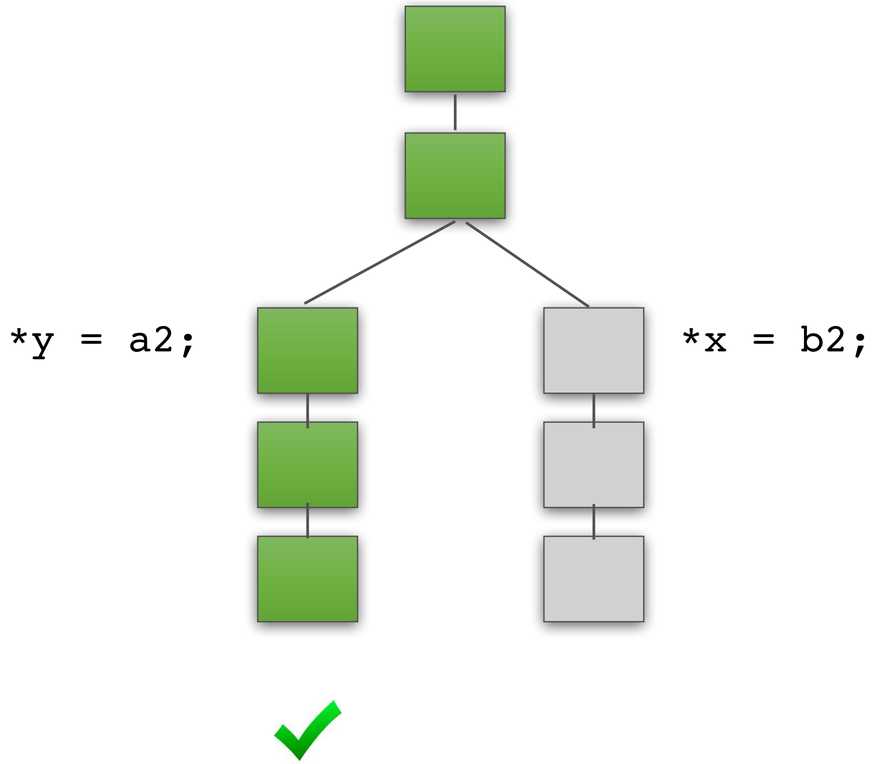

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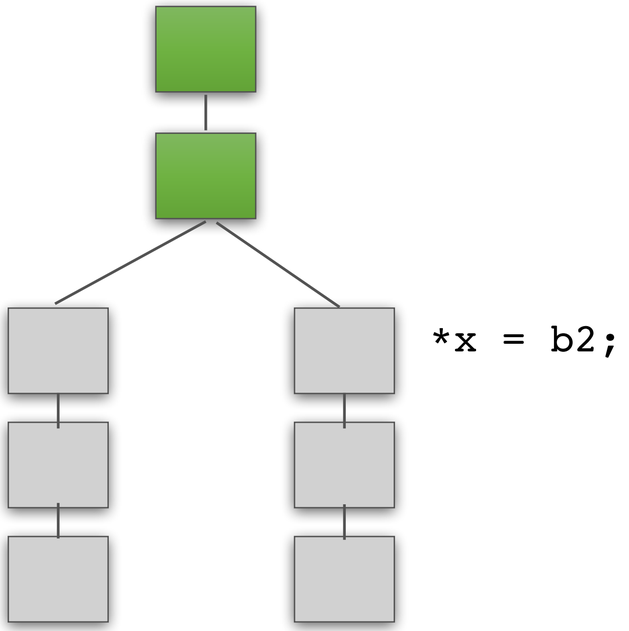

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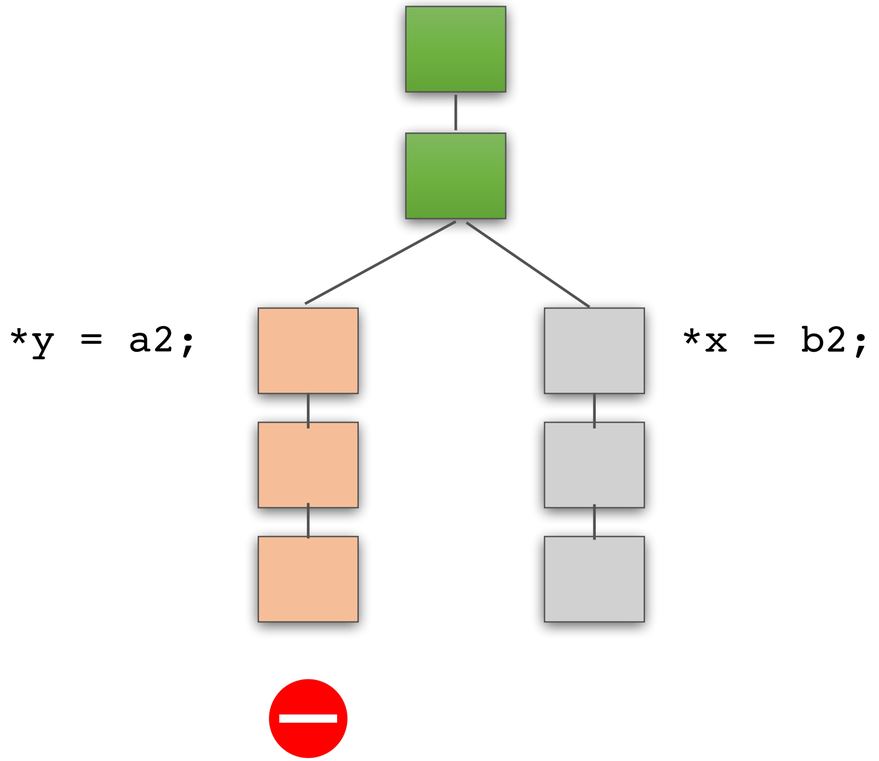

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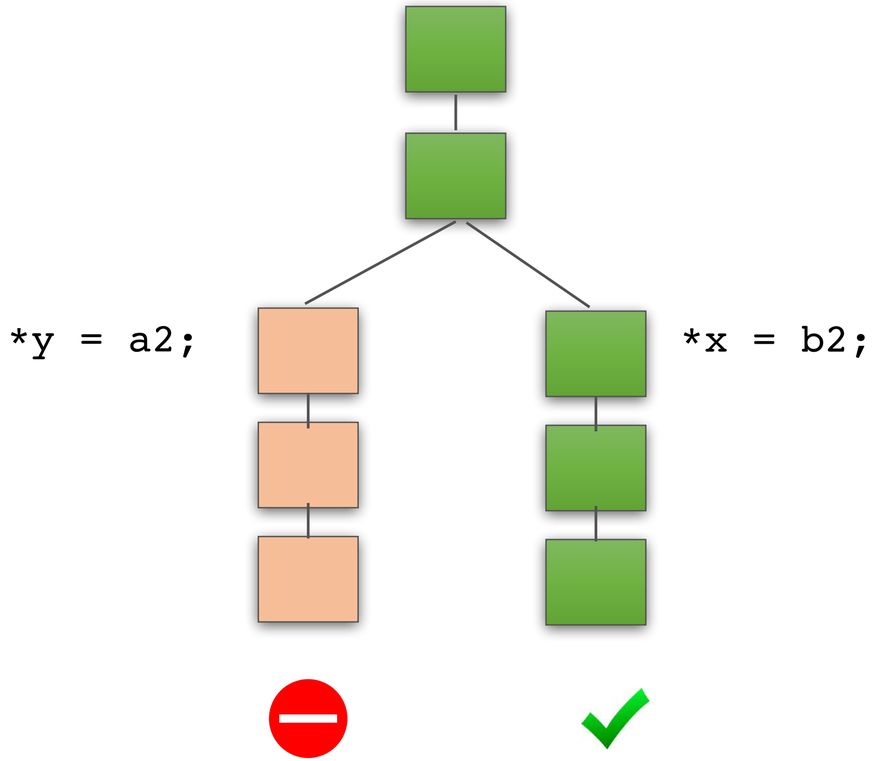

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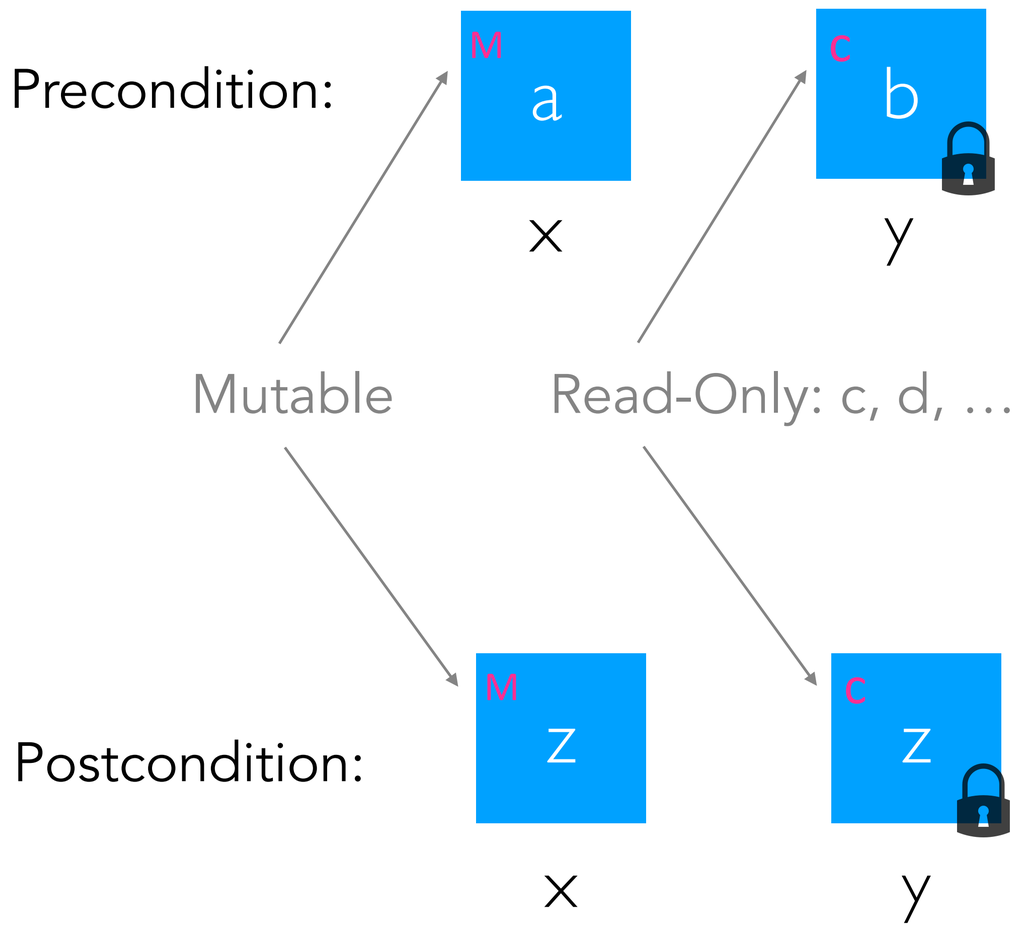
Example: **pick** - equalises the values of two distinct memory locations

Read-Only Specifications

Example: pick with **Read-Only Specifications**



$\{ x \mapsto a * y \mapsto b \}$

```
void pick(loc x, loc y){
        let a2 = *x;
        let b2 = *y;
        *y = a2;
}
```

$\{ x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \}$

Example: pick with **Read-Only Specifications**

$$\{z \overset{M}{\mapsto} 10 * t \overset{M}{\mapsto} 15 * R\} \twoheadrightarrow Q \mid p$$

$$\{ x \overset{M}{\mapsto} a * y \overset{C}{\mapsto} b \}$$

```
void pick(loc x, loc y){
        let a2 = *x;
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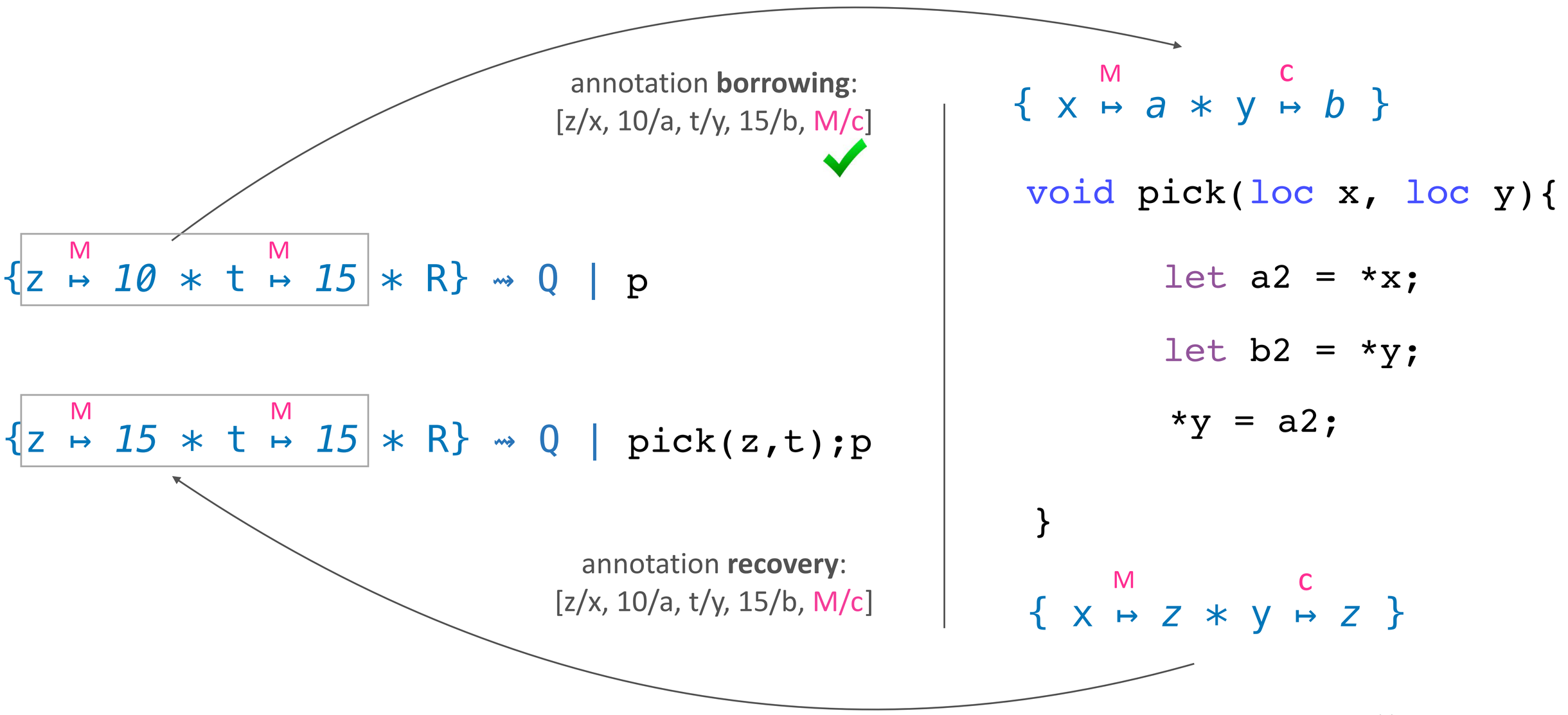
}
```

$$\{ x \overset{M}{\mapsto} z * y \overset{C}{\mapsto} z \}$$

Example: pick with **Read-Only Specifications**



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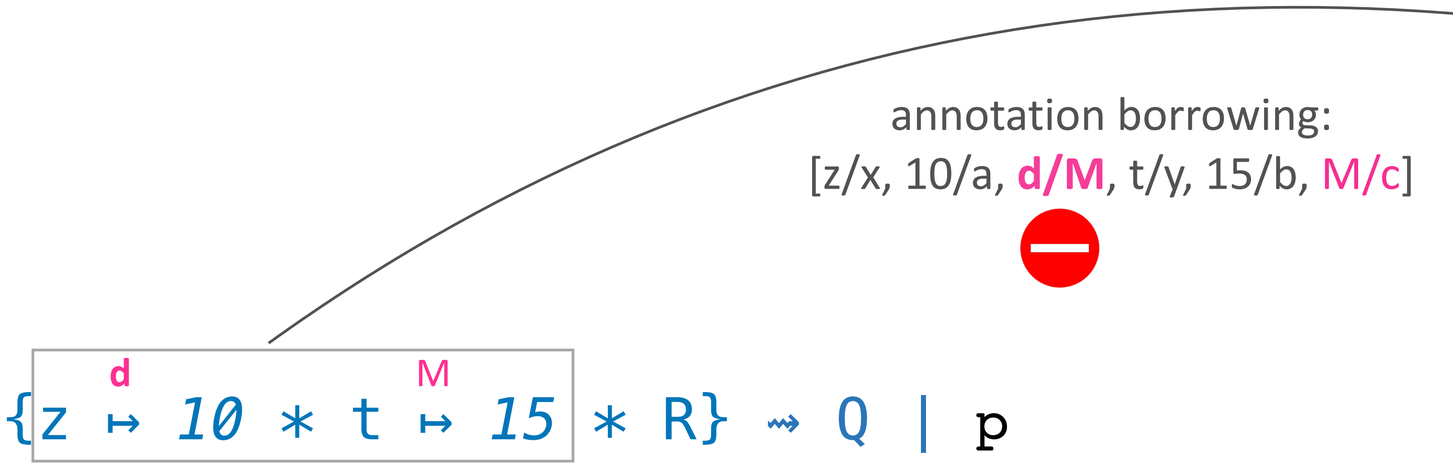

M C

$\{\ x \mapsto a * y \mapsto b\ \}$

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void pick(loc x, loc y){

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```
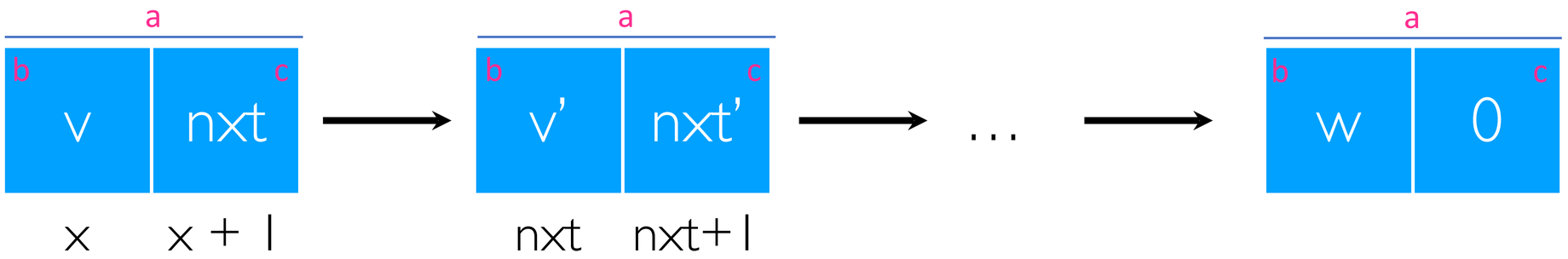
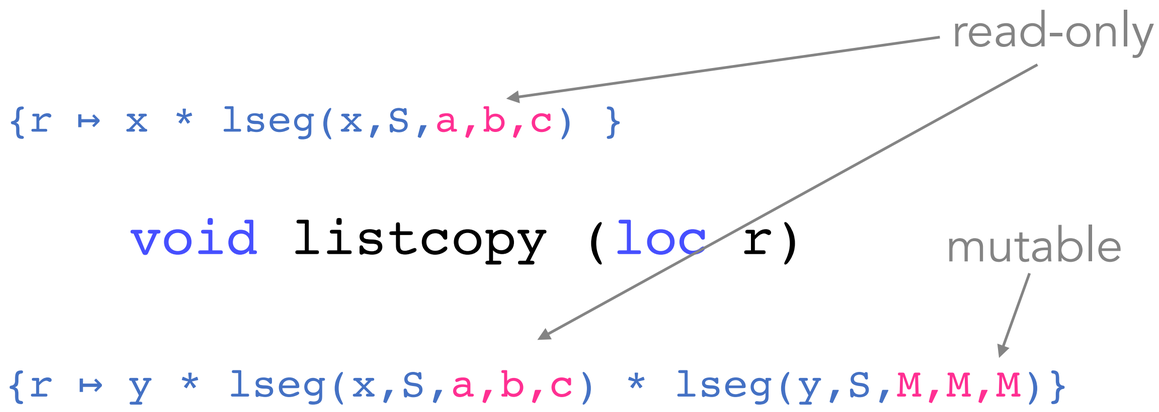

M C

$\{\ x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z\ \}$

Example: copy of a linked list Read-Only Specifications



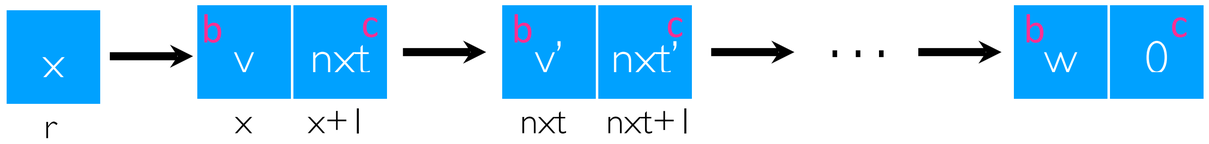
Example: copy of a linked list



Example: copy of a linked list

```
{r ↦ x * lseg(x,S,a,b,c) }

    void listcopy (loc r)

{r ↦ y * lseg(x,S,a,b,c) * lseg(y,S,M,M,M)}
```

Example: copy of a linked list

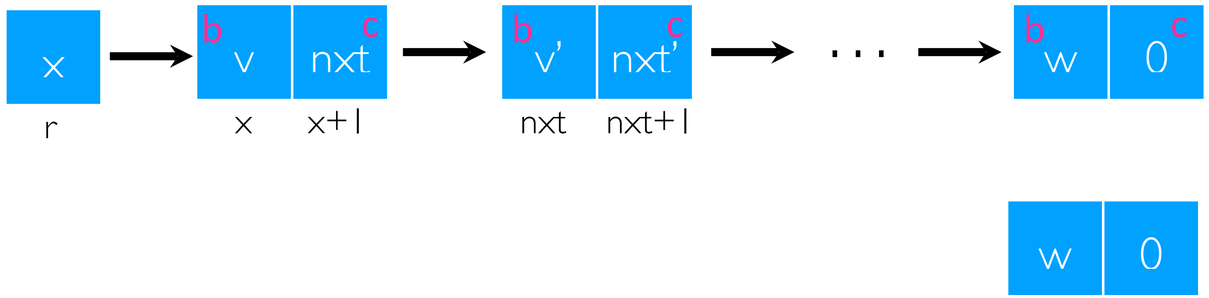


{r ↦ x * lseg(x,S,a,b,c) }

```
 1  void listcopy (loc r) {
 2    let x = *r;
 3    if (x == 0) {
 4    } else {
 5      let v = *x;
 6      let nxt = *(x + 1);
 7      *r = nxt;
 8      listcopy(r);
 9      let y1 = *r;
10      let y = malloc(2);
11      *(x + 1) = y1;
12      *r = y;
13      *(y + 1) = nxt;
14      *y = v;
15    } }
```

{r ↦ y * lseg(x,S,a,b,c) * lseg(y,S,M,M,M)}

Example: copy of a linked list



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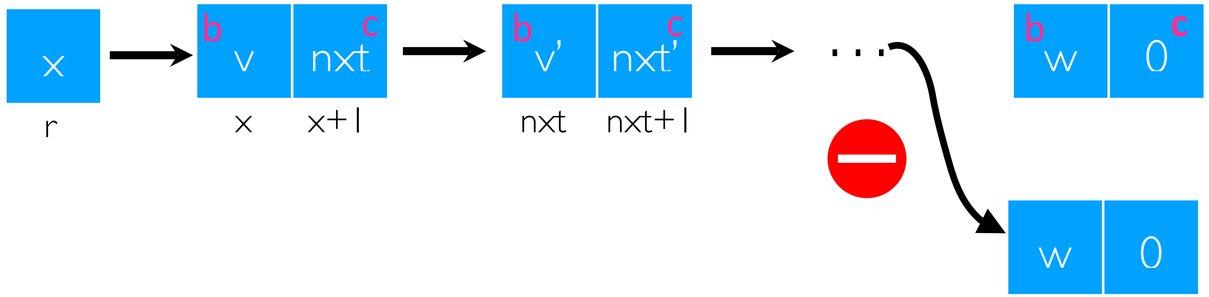
Example: copy of a linked list

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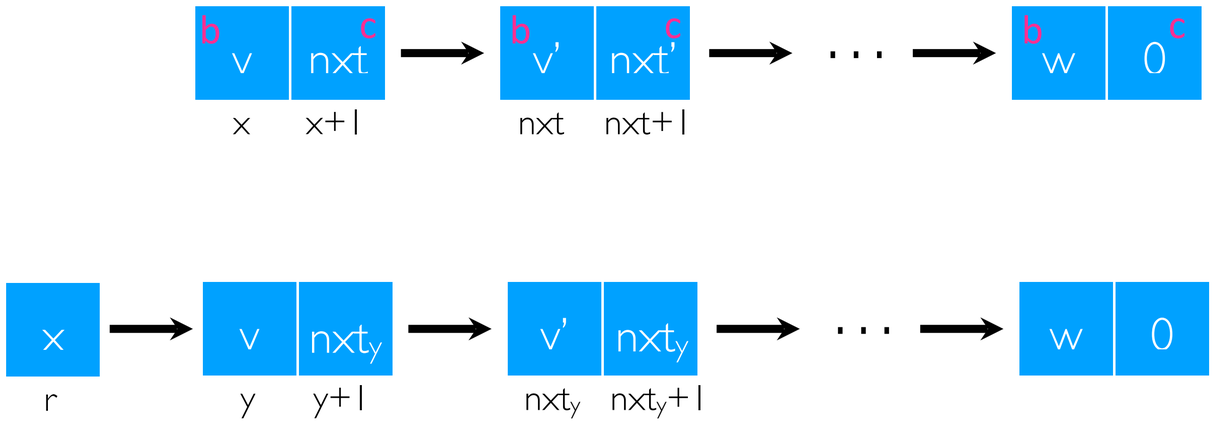

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{r ↦ y * lseg(x,S,a,b,c) * lseg(y,S,M,M,M)}

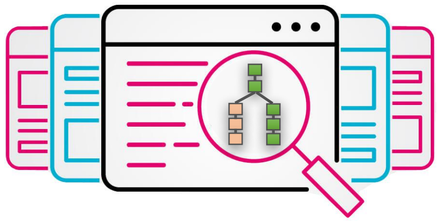
SSL: Synthetic Separation Logic

SuSLik

Specification
Separation Logic*

Reasons about pointers

Synthesis Algo
Deductive Synthesis**



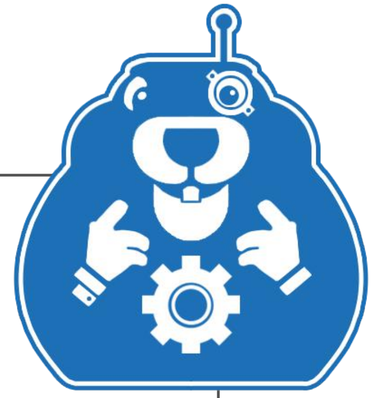
Code

safe and correct by construction

* *Local Reasoning about Programs that Alter Data Structures*, O'Hearn, Reynolds, Yang:. CSL 2001

** *Structuring the Synthesis of Heap-Manipulating Programs*, Polikarpova & Sergey @POPL'19

BoSSL: Borrowing Synthetic Separation Logic



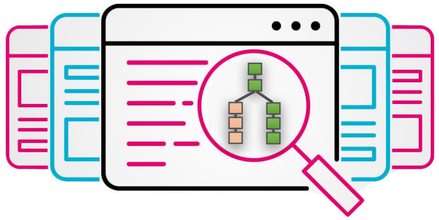
Specification

Separation Logic*

Reasons about pointers

Synthesis Algo

Deductive Synthesis**



Code

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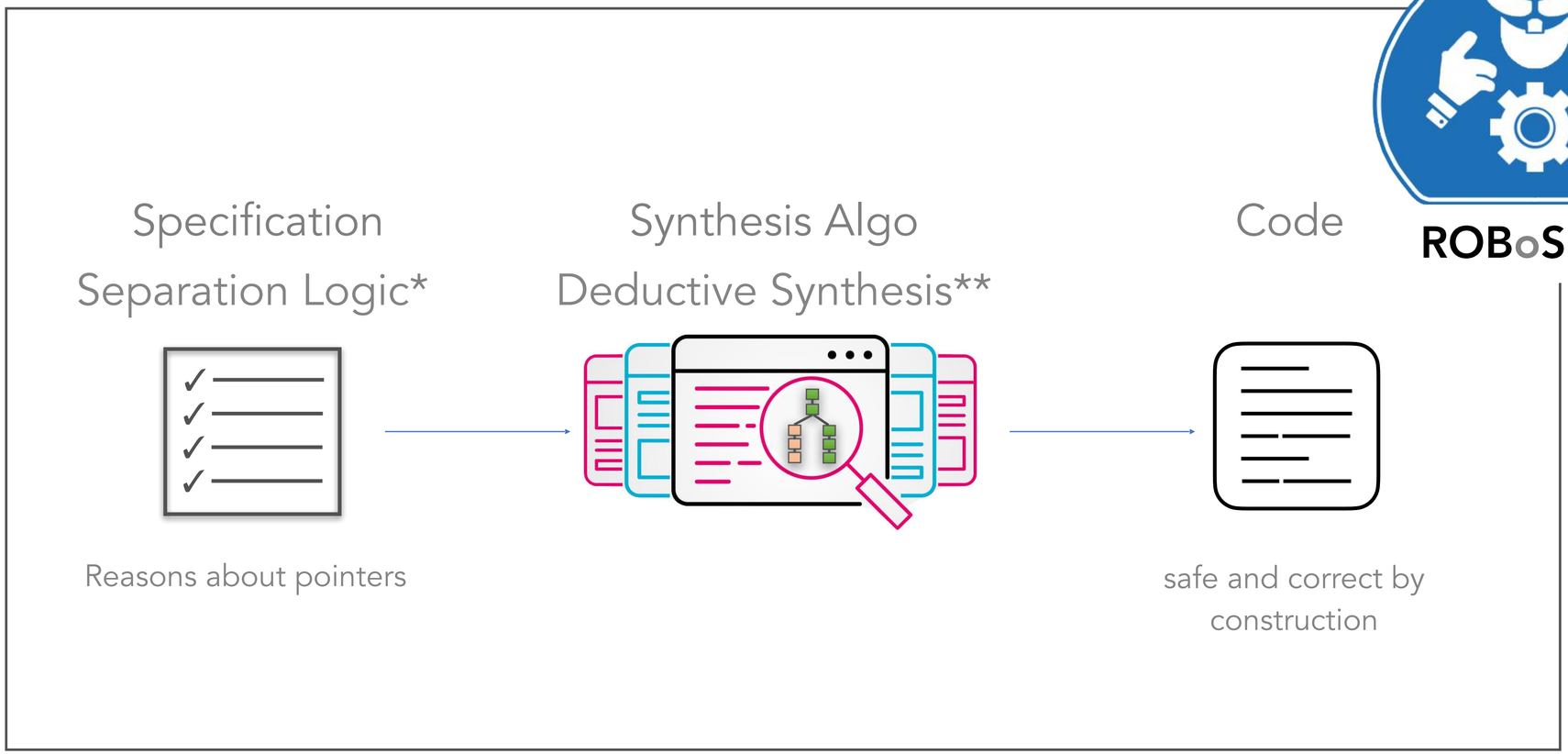
BoSSL: Borrowing Synthetic Separation Logic



ROBoSuSLik

https://github.com/TyGuS/robosuslik

Synthesis of Programs with Pointers
via Read-Only Specifications

(our contribution)

Effective: more natural and shorter programs

Efficient: smaller search space—faster synthesis

Robust: better performance in “worst case scenarios”

Synthesis of Programs with Pointers via Read-Only Specifications

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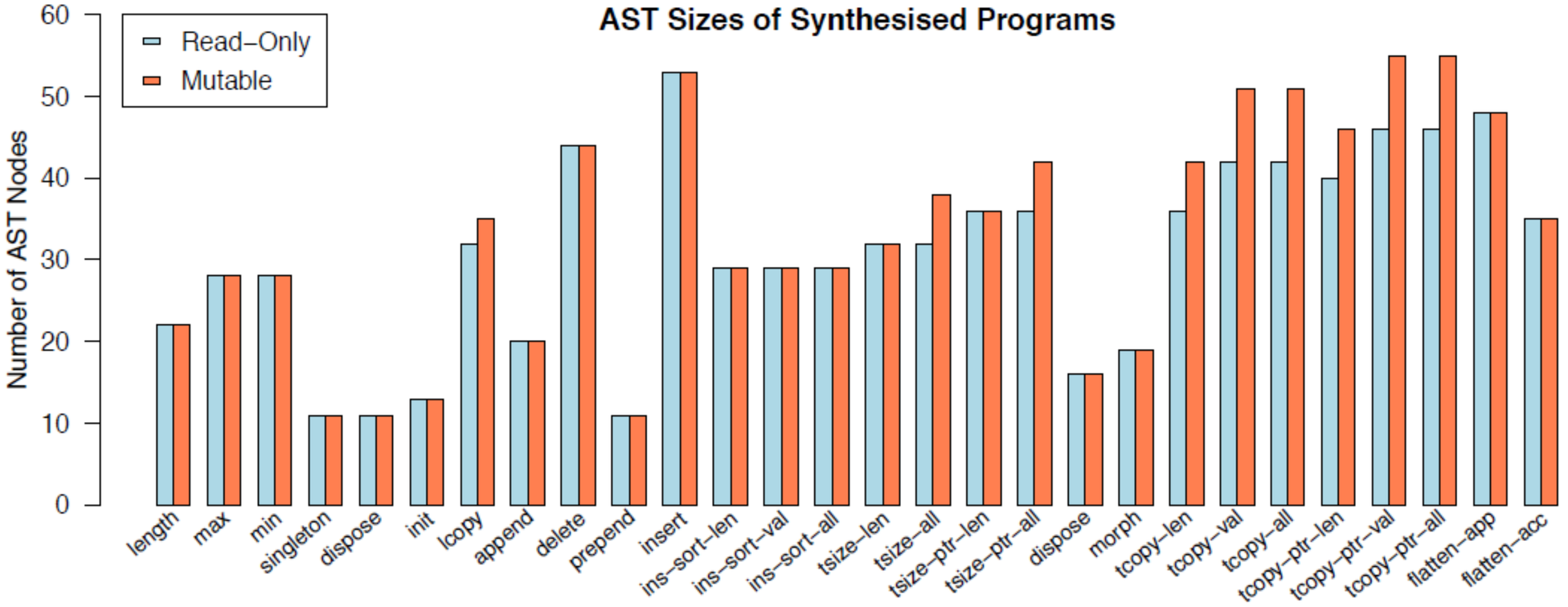
Efficient: smaller search space—faster synthesis

Robust: better performance in “worst case scenarios”

Results 1 – AST size



Synthesis of Programs with Pointers via Read-Only Specifications

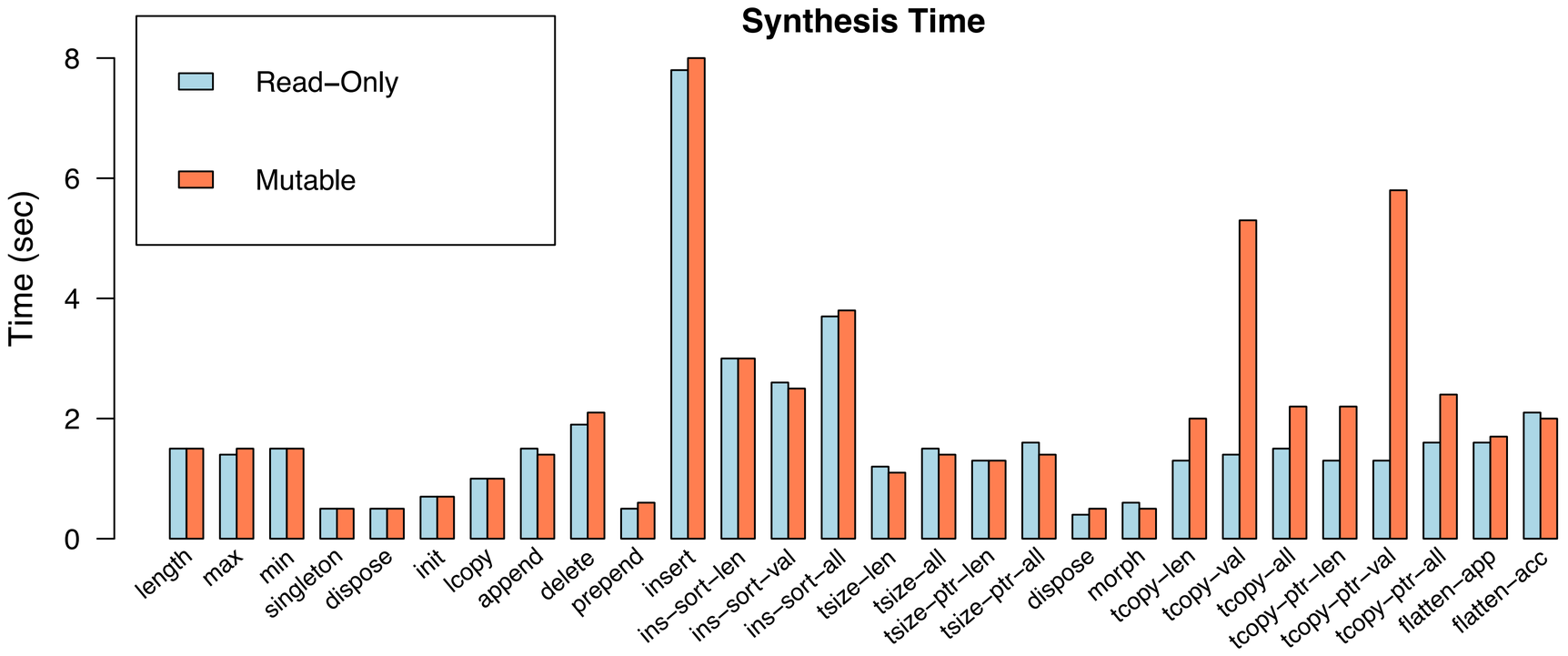
(our contribution)

Effective: more natural and shorter programs

Efficient: smaller search space—faster synthesis

Robust: better performance in “worst case scenarios”

Results 2 – Synthesis time



Synthesis of Programs with Pointers via Read-Only Specifications

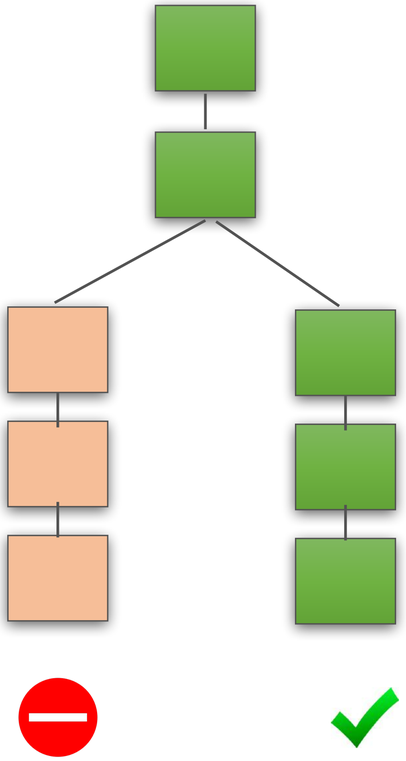
(our contribution)

Effective: more natural and shorter programs

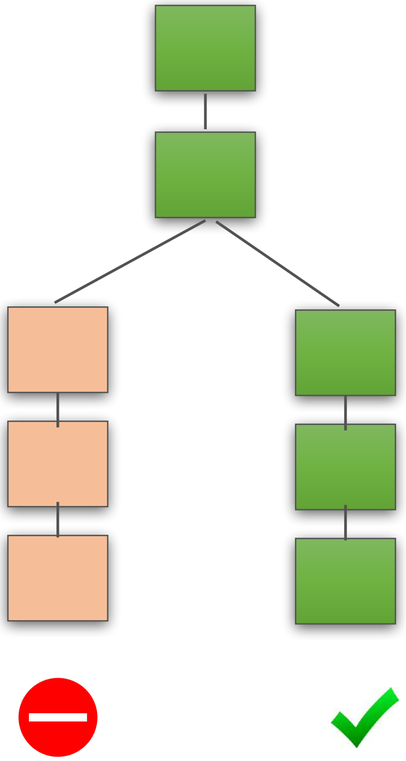
Efficient: smaller search space—faster synthesis

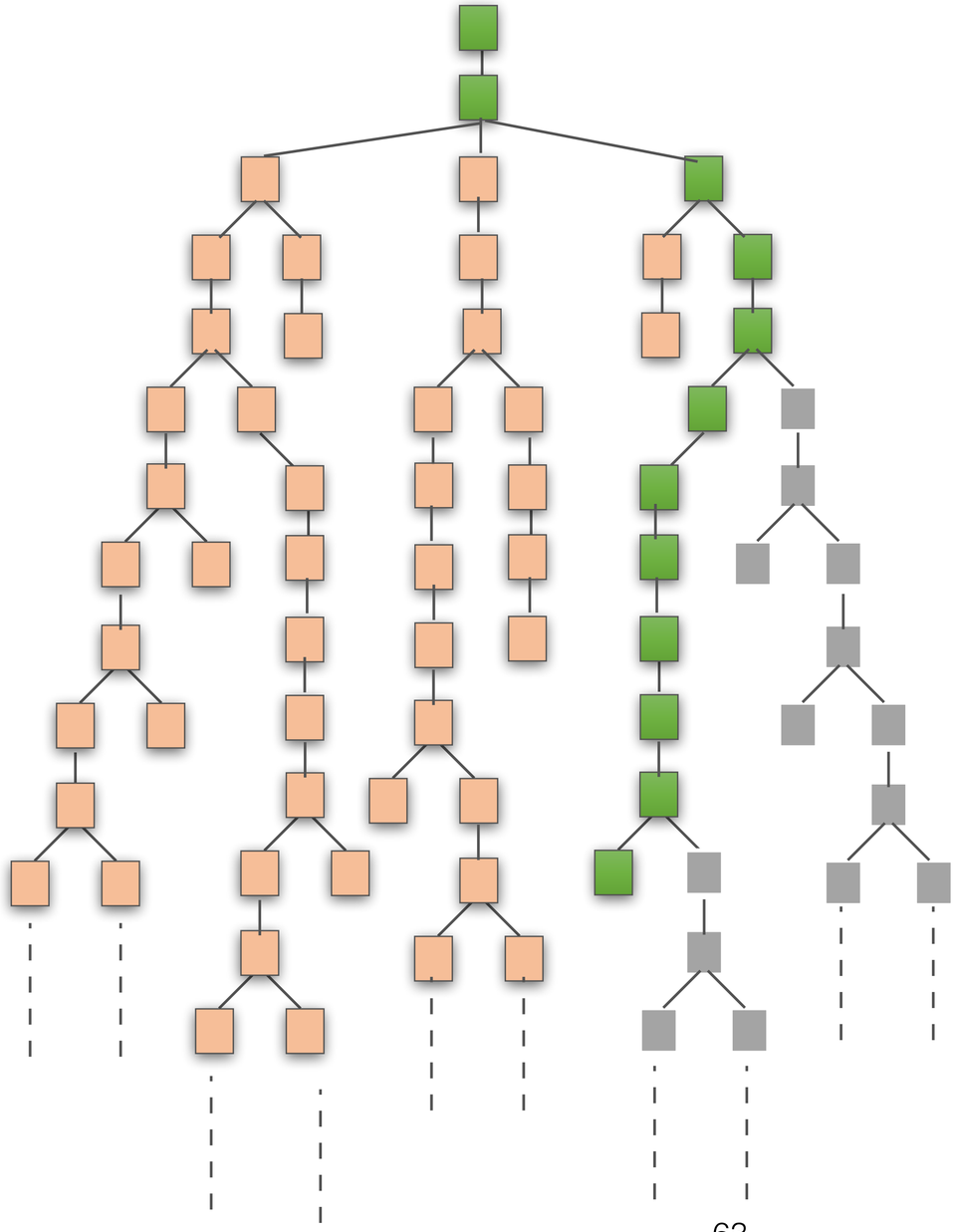
Robust: better performance in “worst case scenarios”

Robustness



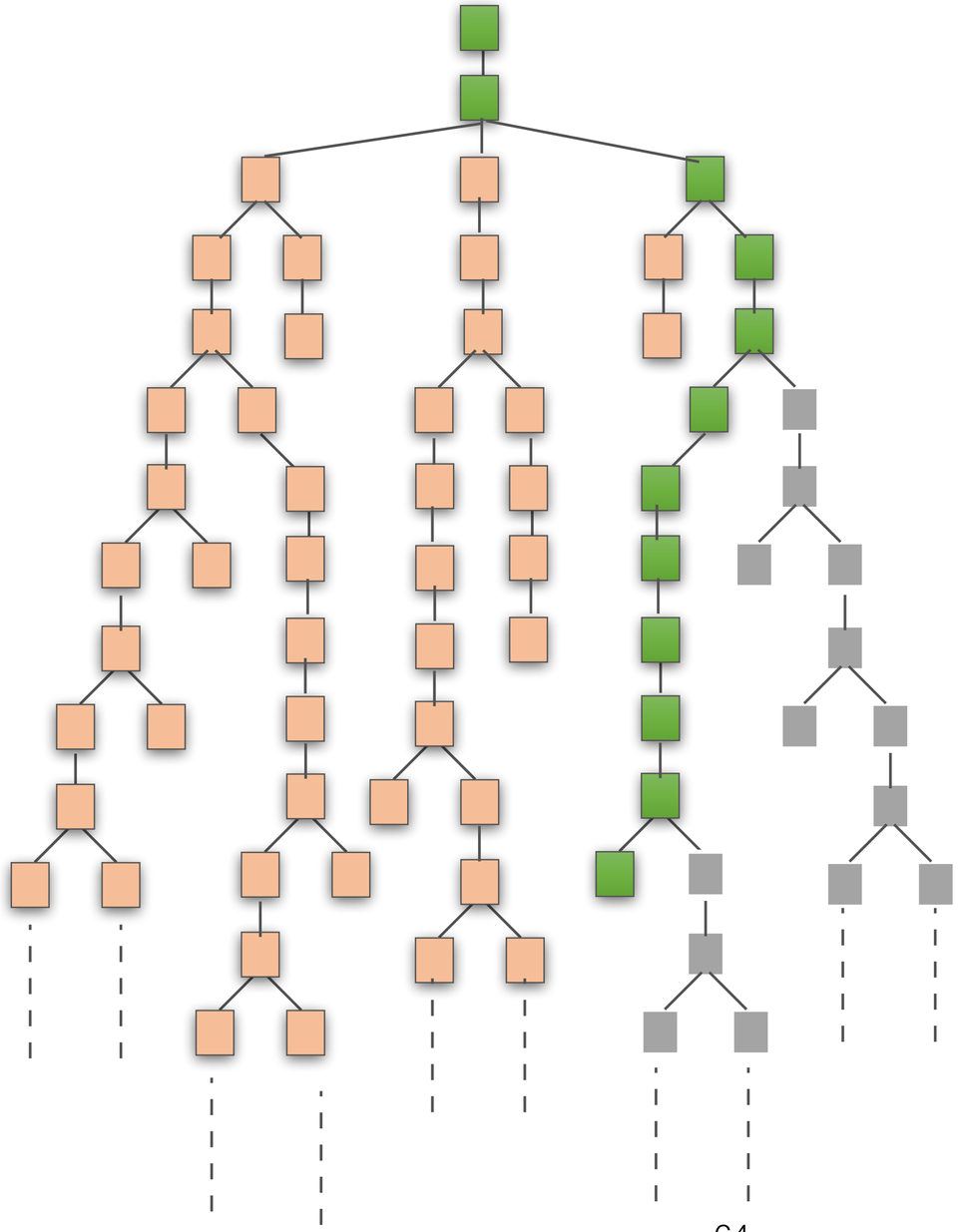
Robustness





Robustness

Is ROBoSuSLik always outperforming SuSLik irrespective of the employed search heuristic?

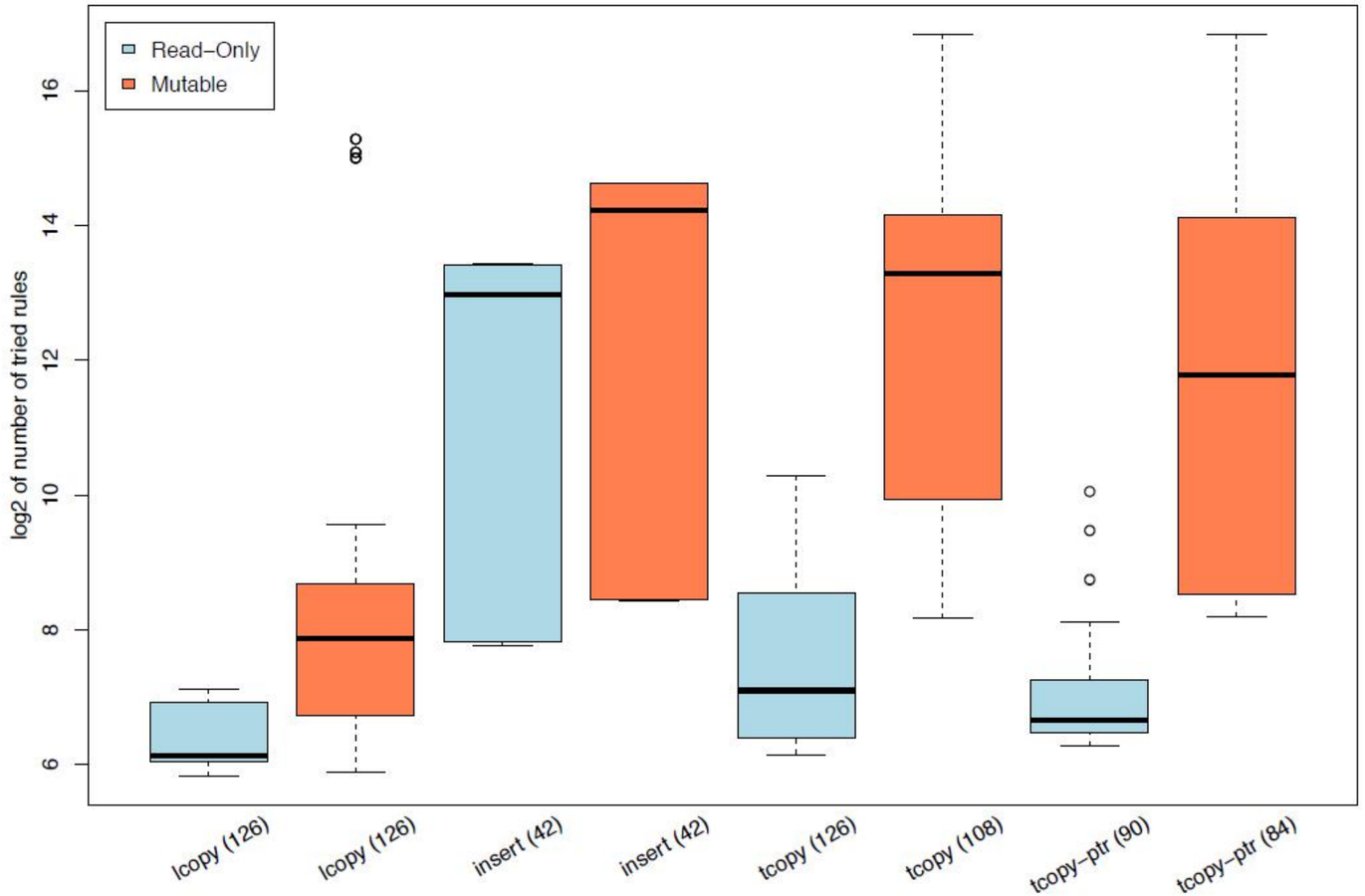


Robustness - serach heuristics variations

We explored:

- 3 variants of specification
- 6 different unification orders strategies
- 7 different search strategies

Results 3 – No of fired rules



the shorter the boxplots the better

Synthesis of Programs with Pointers
via Read-Only Specifications

(our contribution)

Effective: more natural and shorter programs

Efficient: smaller search space—faster synthesis

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Read-Only Specifications: Related Work

Fractional Permissions [Boyland 2003]

Chalice [Leino et al. 2009],
Verifast [Jacobs et al. 2011]

Abstract permissions [Heule et al., 2013]

Viper [Muller et al. 2016]

Immutable Specifications [David et al. 2011]

Read-Only Assertions [Charguéraud et al. 2017]

Disjoint Permissions [Bach et al. 2018]

Tailored for verification,
not for synthesis!

Synthesis of Programs with Pointers
via Read-Only Specifications

(our contribution)

Effective: more natural and shorter programs

Efficient: smaller search space—faster synthesis

Robust: better performance in “worst case scenarios”

Thank You!

To Take-Away

Adding borrows to SSL improves the synthesis efficiency:

- synthesised programs of better quality
- improved synthesis performance
- stronger correctness guarantees
- robust synthesis

Thank You!

References

Karl Naden, Robert Bocchino, Jonathan Aldrich, and Kevin Bierho. A type system for borrowing permissions. In POPL, pages 557 - 570. ACM, 2012.

John Boyland. Checking Interference with Fractional Permissions. In SAS, volume 2694 of LNCS, pages 55 - 72. Springer, 2003.

K. Rustan M. Leino and Peter Muller. A Basis for Verifying Multi-threaded Programs. In ESOP, volume 5502 of LNCS, pages 378-393. Springer, 2009.

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Bart Jacobs, Jan Smans, Pieter Philippaerts, Frederic Vogels, Willem Penninckx, and Frank Piessens. VeriFast: A Powerful, Sound, Predictable, Fast Verifier for C and Java. In NASA Formal Methods, volume 6617 of LNCS, pages 41-55. Springer, 2011.

Peter Muller, Malte Schwerhoff, and Alexander J. Summers. Viper: A Verification Infrastructure for Permission-Based Reasoning. In VMCAI, volume 9583 of LNCS, pages 41-62. Springer, 2016.

Cristina David and Wei-Ngan Chin. Immutable specifications for more concise and precise verification. In OOPSLA, pages 359 - 374. ACM, 2011.

Arthur Charguéraud and Francois Pottier. Temporary Read-Only Permissions for Separation Logic. In ESOP, volume 10201 of LNCS, pages 260 - 286. Springer, 2017.

Xuan Bach Le and Aquinas Hobor. Logical reasoning for disjoint permissions. InESOP, volume 10801 of LNCS, pages 385{414. Springer, 2018.

Proof Search Algorithm

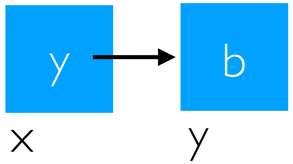
- Goal-driven, with *backtracking* (in CPS), trying a fixed set of rules;
- *Branching*: some rules emit many alternatives;
- Along with the program, emits the ***complete proof tree.***
- ***Optimisations***: Invertible Rules (*cf. Focusing* in Proof Theory),
- phased search, “Early Failure” rules

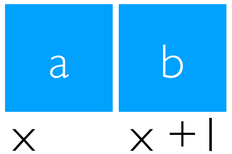
Separation Logic

starting in a state that satisfies **P**,
program **c** will execute *without memory errors*, and
upon its termination the state will satisfy **Q.**

$$\{P\}\ c\ \{Q\}$$

empty heap	{ emp }
singleton heap	{ x ↦ *a* }
separating conjunction	{ x ↦ y * y ↦ *b* }
memory block	{ [x,2] * x ↦ *a* * (x+1) ↦ *b* }
pure constraints	{ a > 0 ; x ↦ *a* }





do nothing	skip
read from heap	let y = *(x + n)
write to heap	*(x + n) = e
allocate block	let y = malloc(n)
free block	free(x)
procedure call	p(e1, …, en)
sequential composition	c1; c2
conditional	if (e) {c1} else {c2}

Read-Only Specifications: Related Work

Fractional Permissions [Boyland 2003]

Chalice [Leino et al. 2009],
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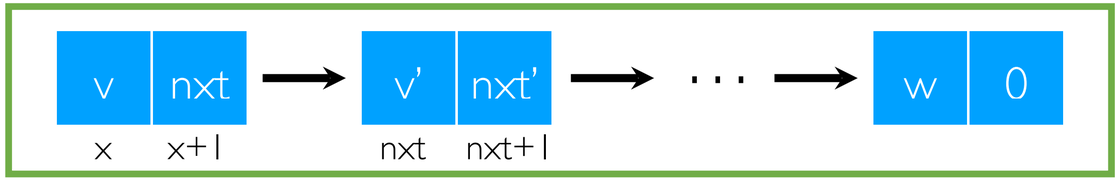


Example

{r ↦ x * ls(x, S) }

void listcopy (loc r)

{r ↦ y * ls(x, S) * ls(y, S) }

R: Add RO permissions.

Example

{r ↦ x * ls(x, S)[RO,RO] }

void listcopy (loc r)

{r ↦ y * ls(x, S)[RO,RO] * ls(y, S)[M,M] }

R: Add RO permissions.

Example

{r ↦ x * ls(x, S)[RO,RO] }

void listcopy (loc r)

{r ↦ y * ls(x, S)[RO,RO] * ls(y, S)[M,M] }

Example

{r ↦ x * ls(x, S)[RO,RO] }

void listcopy (loc r)

{r ↦ y * ls(x, S)[RO,RO] * ls(y, S)[M,M] }

// … <caller>…:

// z ↦ x’ * ls(x’, S’)[M,M]

listcopy(z)

// z ↦ y * ls(x’, S’)[RO,RO] * ls(y, S’)[M,M]

Example

{r ↦ x * ls(x, S)[a,b] }

void listcopy (loc r)

{r ↦ y * ls(x, {0})[a,b] * ls(y, S)[M,M] }

// … <caller>…:

// r ↦ x * ls(x, S)[M,M]

listcopy(z)

// r ↦ x * ls(x, S)[M,M]

Setup

Varied the properties captured in the inductive definitions.

Applied 42 kinds of *perturbations* to stress the proof search strategy.

SuSLik -> ROBoSuSLik

https://github.com/TyGuS/suslik

https://github.com/TyGuS/suslik/tree/borrows

(**S**ynthesis **u**sing **S**eparation **Log**i**k**)[1]

(**R**ead-**O**nly **Bo**rrows for **S**ynthesis **u**sing **S**eparation **Log**i**k**)[2]

1. [Polikarpova & Sergey @POPL'19]

2. [Costea, Zhu, Polikarpova,Sergey @ESOP'20]

SSL: basic rules

(Emp)

$$\{emp\} \rightsquigarrow \{emp\} \mid ??$$

SSL: basic rules

(Emp)

$$\{emp\} \rightsquigarrow \{emp\} \mid skip$$

SSL: basic rules

(Read)

$$\{ x \mapsto A * P \} \rightsquigarrow \{ Q \} \mid$$

SSL: basic rules

(Read)

$$\frac{[\ y/A\ ]\{\ x \mapsto A * P\ \} \rightsquigarrow [\ y/A\ ]\{\ Q\ \} \mid c}{\{\ x \mapsto A * P\ \} \rightsquigarrow \{\ Q\ \} \mid \text{let } y = *x;\ c}$$

SSL: basic rules

(Read)

$$\frac{[\ y/A\ ]\{\ x \mapsto A * P\ \} \rightsquigarrow [\ y/A\ ]\{\ Q\ \} \mid c}{\{\ x \mapsto A * P\ \} \rightsquigarrow \{\ Q\ \} \mid \text{let } y = *x;\ c}$$

(Write)

$$\frac{}{\{\ x \mapsto \_ * P\ \} \rightsquigarrow \{\ x \mapsto e * Q\ \} \mid}$$

SSL: basic rules

(Read)

$$\frac{[\ y/A\ ]\{\ x \mapsto A * P\ \} \rightsquigarrow [\ y/A\ ]\{\ Q\ \} \mid c}{\{\ x \mapsto A * P\ \} \rightsquigarrow \{\ Q\ \} \mid \text{let } y = *x;\ c}$$

(Write)

$$\frac{\{\ x \mapsto e * P\ \} \rightsquigarrow \{\ x \mapsto e * Q\ \} \mid c}{\{\ x \mapsto \_ * P\ \} \rightsquigarrow \{\ x \mapsto e * Q\ \} \mid *x = e;\ c}$$

SSL: basic rules

(Frame)

$$\frac{\{\,P\,\} \rightsquigarrow \{\,Q\,\} \mid c}{\{\,P * R\,\} \rightsquigarrow \{\,Q * R\,\} \mid c}$$

(UnifyHeaps)

$$\frac{[\sigma]R' = R \qquad \{\,P * R\,\} \rightsquigarrow [\sigma]\{\,Q * R'\,\} \mid c}{\{\,P * R\,\} \rightsquigarrow \{\,Q * R'\,\} \mid c}$$

```
void pick(loc x, loc y)
```

$$\{ x \mapsto a * y \mapsto b \} \rightsquigarrow \{ x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \} \mid \texttt{??}$$

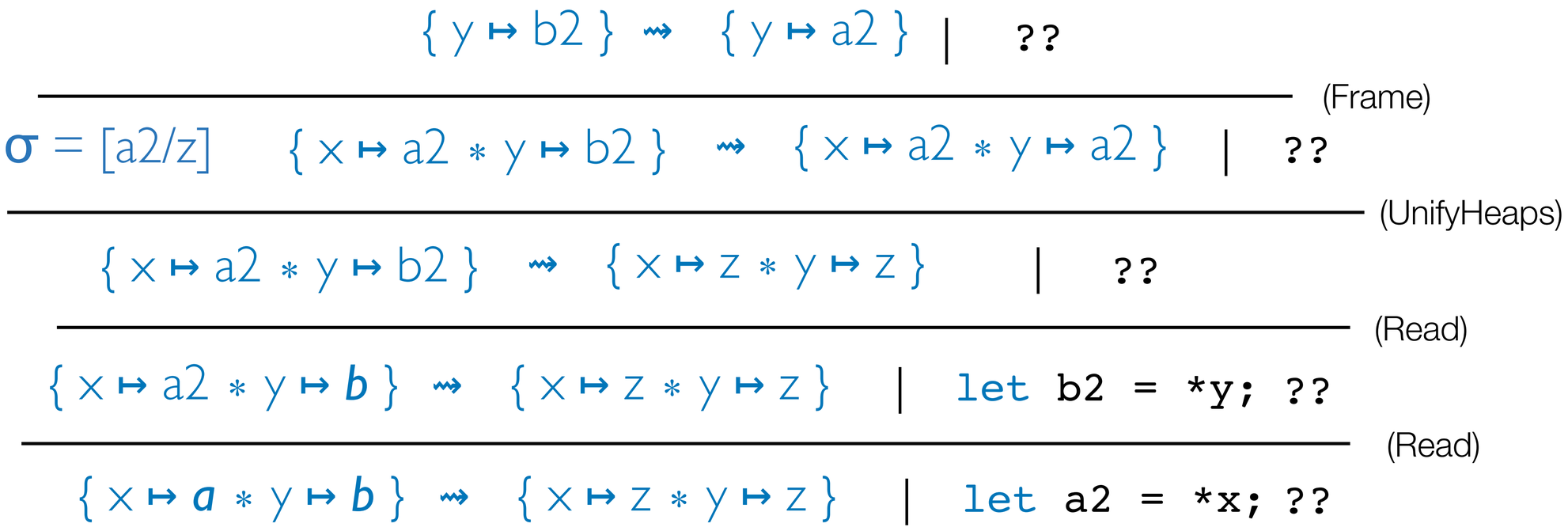
$$\frac{\{\, x \mapsto a2 * y \mapsto b2 \,\} \rightsquigarrow \{\, x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \,\} \mid \texttt{??}}{\{\, x \mapsto a2 * y \mapsto b \,\} \rightsquigarrow \{\, x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \,\} \mid \texttt{let b2 = *y; ??}}\ \text{(Read)}$$

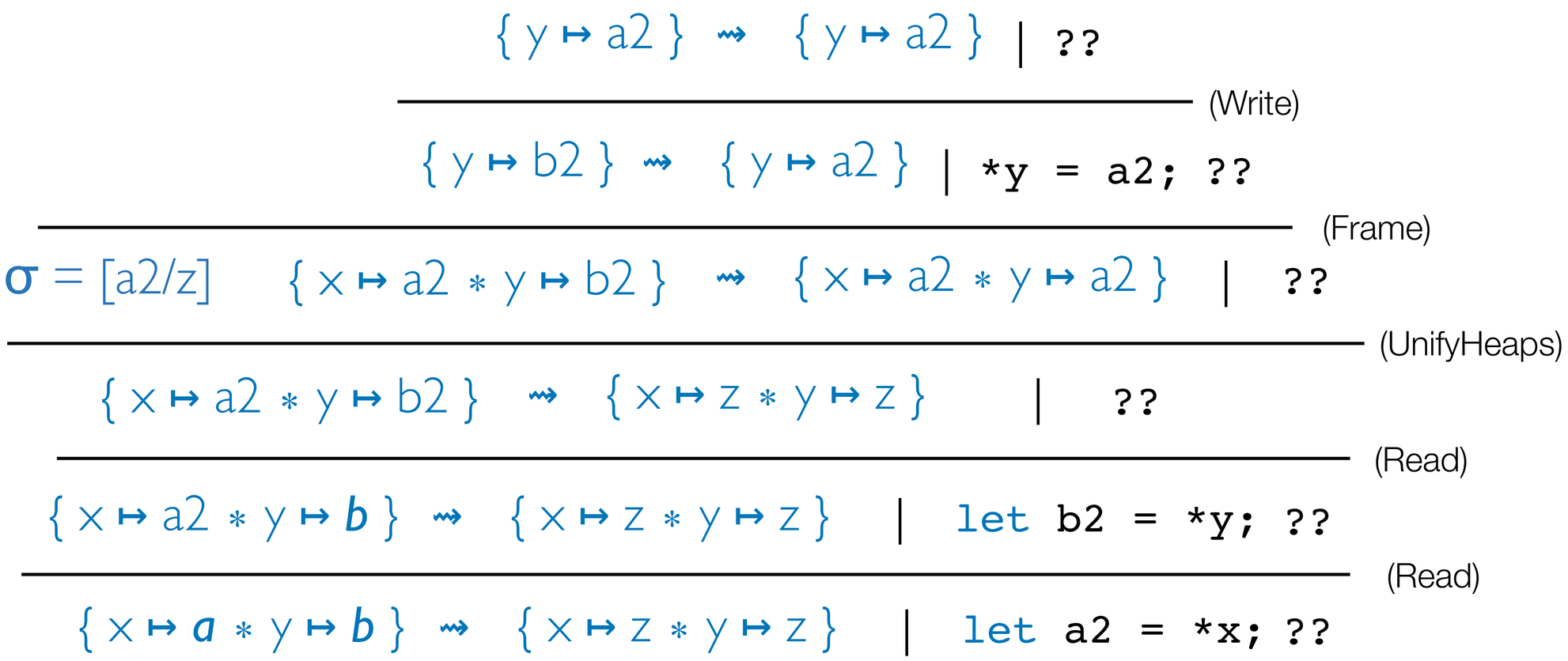
$$\frac{\{\, x \mapsto a2 * y \mapsto b \,\} \rightsquigarrow \{\, x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \,\} \mid \texttt{let b2 = *y; ??}}{\{\, x \mapsto a * y \mapsto b \,\} \rightsquigarrow \{\, x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \,\} \mid \texttt{let a2 = *x; ??}}\ \text{(Read)}$$

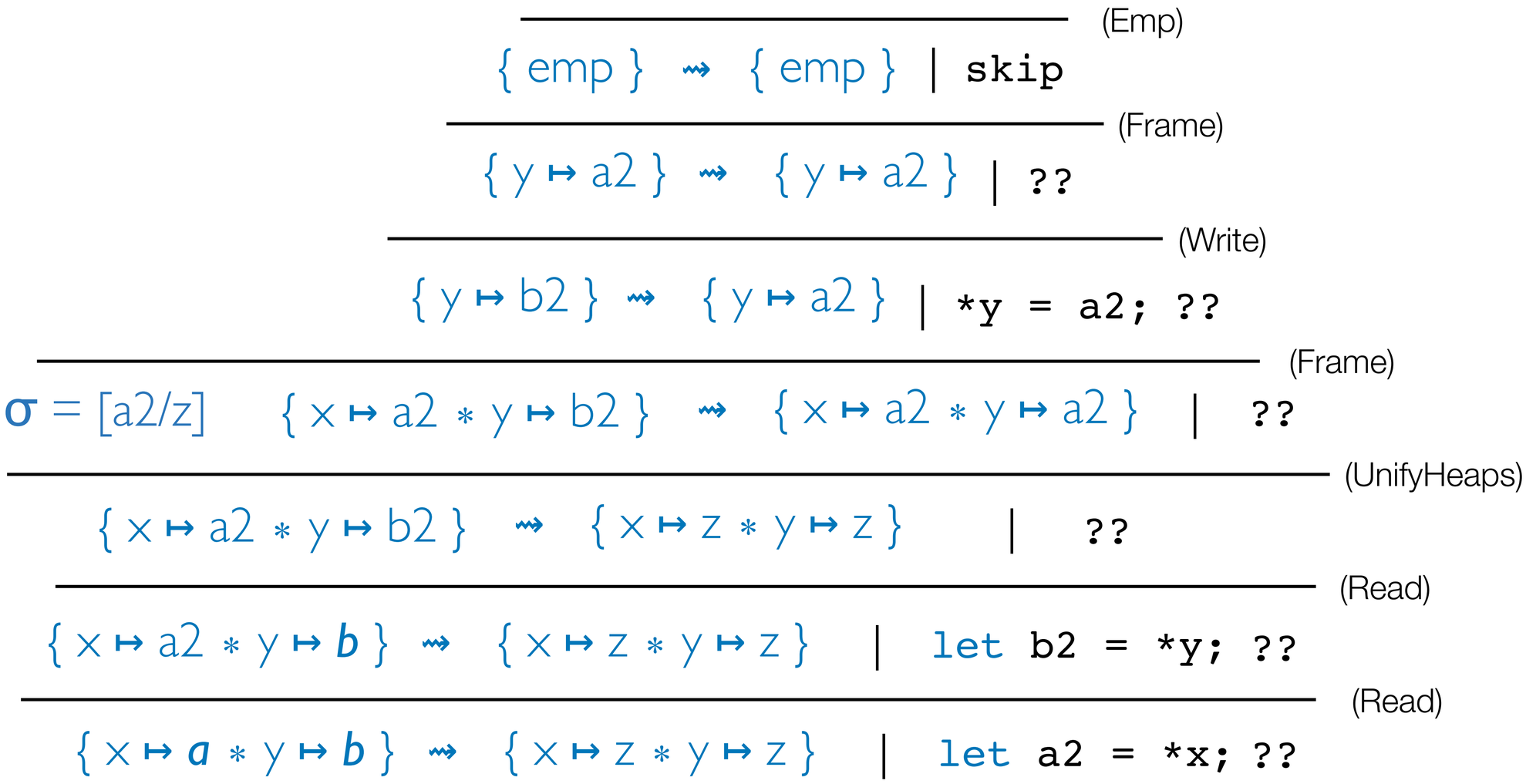
$$\frac{\sigma = [a2/z] \quad \{ x \mapsto a2 * y \mapsto b2 \} \rightsquigarrow \{ x \mapsto a2 * y \mapsto a2 \} \mid \texttt{??}}{\{ x \mapsto a2 * y \mapsto b2 \} \rightsquigarrow \{ x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \} \mid \texttt{??}}\ \text{(UnifyHeaps)}$$

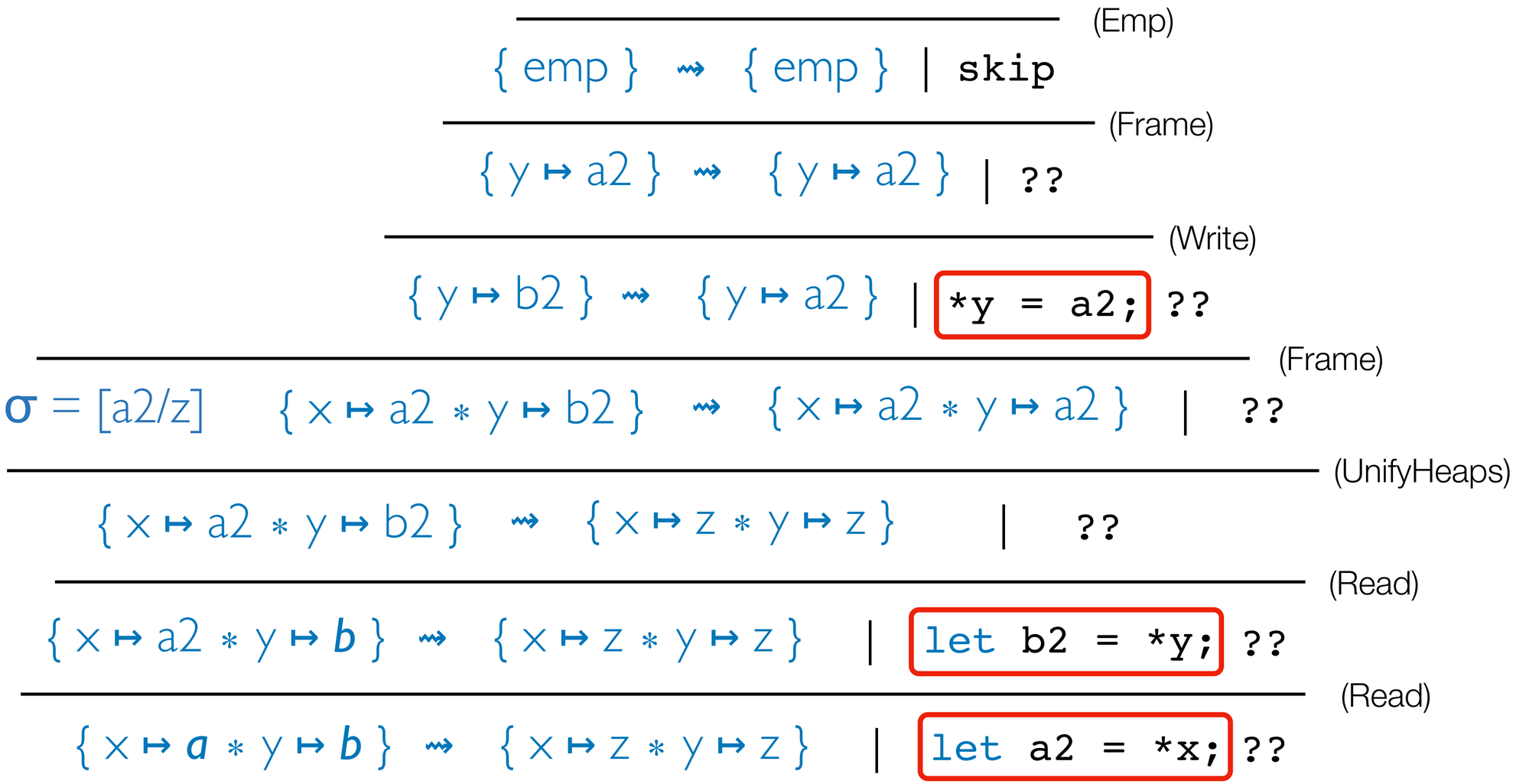
$$\frac{\{ x \mapsto a2 * y \mapsto b \} \rightsquigarrow \{ x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \} \mid \texttt{let b2 = *y; ??}}{\{ x \mapsto a * y \mapsto b \} \rightsquigarrow \{ x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \} \mid \texttt{let a2 = *x; ??}}\ \text{(Read)}$$

$$\{ x \mapsto a2 * y \mapsto b \} \rightsquigarrow \{ x \mapsto z * y \mapsto z \} \mid \texttt{let b2 = *y; ??}\ \text{(Read)}$$


{ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { y ↦ a2 } | ??
(Frame)
σ = [a2/z] { x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ a2 } | ??
(UnifyHeaps)
{ x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { x ↦ z ∗ y ↦ z } | ??
(Read)
{ x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ b } ⇝ { x ↦ z ∗ y ↦ z } | let b2 = *y; ??
(Read)
{ x ↦ a ∗ y ↦ b } ⇝ { x ↦ z ∗ y ↦ z } | let a2 = *x; ??


{ y ↦ a2 } ⇝ { y ↦ a2 } | ??
(Write)
{ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { y ↦ a2 } | *y = a2; ??
(Frame)
σ = [a2/z] { x ↦ a2 * y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { x ↦ a2 * y ↦ a2 } | ??
(UnifyHeaps)
{ x ↦ a2 * y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { x ↦ z * y ↦ z } | ??
(Read)
{ x ↦ a2 * y ↦ b } ⇝ { x ↦ z * y ↦ z } | let b2 = *y; ??
(Read)
{ x ↦ a * y ↦ b } ⇝ { x ↦ z * y ↦ z } | let a2 = *x; ??


(Emp)
{ emp } ⇝ { emp } | skip
(Frame)
{ y ↦ a2 } ⇝ { y ↦ a2 } | ??
(Write)
{ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { y ↦ a2 } | *y = a2; ??
(Frame)
σ = [a2/z] { x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ a2 } | ??
(UnifyHeaps)
{ x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { x ↦ z ∗ y ↦ z } | ??
(Read)
{ x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ b } ⇝ { x ↦ z ∗ y ↦ z } | let b2 = *y; ??
(Read)
{ x ↦ a ∗ y ↦ b } ⇝ { x ↦ z ∗ y ↦ z } | let a2 = *x; ??


(Emp)
{ emp } ⇝ { emp } | skip
(Frame)
{ y ↦ a2 } ⇝ { y ↦ a2 } | ??
(Write)
{ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { y ↦ a2 } | *y = a2; ??
(Frame)
σ = [a2/z] { x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ a2 } | ??
(UnifyHeaps)
{ x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ b2 } ⇝ { x ↦ z ∗ y ↦ z } | ??
(Read)
{ x ↦ a2 ∗ y ↦ b } ⇝ { x ↦ z ∗ y ↦ z } | let b2 = *y; ??
(Read)
{ x ↦ a ∗ y ↦ b } ⇝ { x ↦ z ∗ y ↦ z } | let a2 = *x; ??