

The Essence of Higher-Order Concurrent Separation Logic

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This talk is about Iris

A language independent higher-order separation logic with a simple foundations for modular reasoning about fine-grained concurrency in Coq.



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- ▶ **Modular:** reusable and composable specifications

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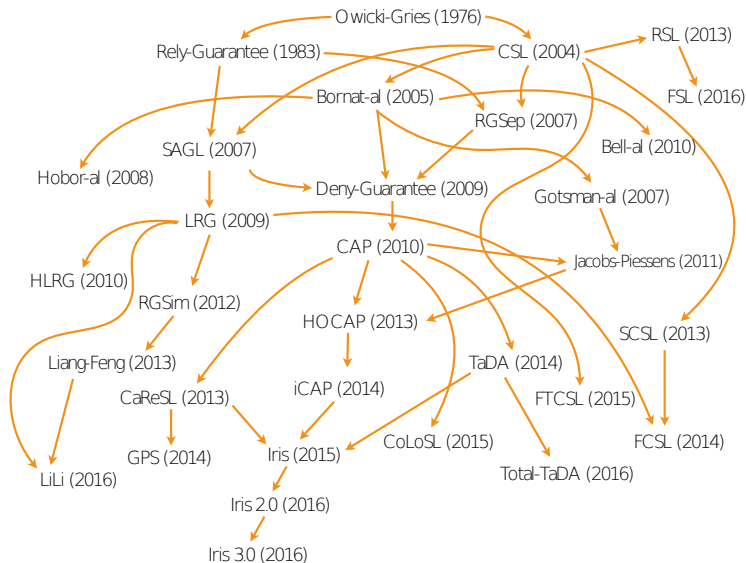
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This talk: simplifying the foundations of Iris

Aren't there enough logics for concurrency yet?



Picture by Ilya Sergey

Problem statement

All of these logics **bake in** complicated protocol mechanisms:

$$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \mid \Phi \vdash \text{stable}(P) \quad \Gamma, \Delta \mid \Phi \vdash \forall y. \text{stable}(Q(y)) \quad \Gamma, \Delta \mid \Phi \vdash n \in C \quad \Gamma, \Delta \mid \Phi \vdash \forall x \in X. (x, f(x)) \in \overline{T(A)} \vee f(x) = x \quad \Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash \forall x \in X. (\Delta). (P * \otimes_{\alpha \in A} [\alpha]_{g(\alpha)}^n * \triangleright I(x)) \quad c \in (Q(x) * \triangleright I(f(x)))^{C \setminus \{n\}}}{\Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash (\Delta). (P * \otimes_{\alpha \in A} [\alpha]_{g(\alpha)}^n * \text{region}(X, T, I, n))} \text{Atomic}$$

$$\frac{c}{(\exists x. Q(x) * \text{region}(\{f(x)\}, T, I, n))^C}$$

$$\frac{C \vdash \forall b \exists_{\pi} b_0. (\pi[b] * P) \text{ i } \mapsto_{\tau} a \ (x. \exists b' \exists_{\pi'} b. \pi[b'] * Q)}{C \vdash \{\overline{b_0}\}_{\pi}^n * \triangleright P\} \text{ i } \mapsto a \ \{x. \exists b'. \overline{b'}\}_{\pi'}^n * Q\} \text{UPDISL}$$

$$\frac{\text{Use atomic rule} \quad a \notin \mathcal{A} \quad \forall x \in X. (x, f(x)) \in \overline{T_a(G)^*} \quad \lambda. \mathcal{A} \vdash \mathbb{W}x \in X. \langle p_p \mid I(\mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(x)) * p(x) * [G]_a \rangle C \quad \exists y \in Y. \langle q_p(x, y) \mid I(\mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(f(x))) * q(x, y) \rangle}{\lambda + 1; \mathcal{A} \vdash \mathbb{W}x \in X. \langle p_p \mid \mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(x) * p(x) * [G]_a \rangle C \quad \exists y \in Y. \langle q_p(x, y) \mid \mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(f(x)) * q(x, y) \rangle}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash x \in X \quad \Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash \forall \alpha \in \text{Action}. \forall x \in \text{Sld} \times \text{Sld}. \text{up}(T(\alpha)(x)) \quad \Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash A \text{ and } B \text{ are finite} \quad \Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash C \text{ is infinite} \quad \Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash \forall n \in C. P * \otimes_{\alpha \in A} [\alpha]_1^n \Rightarrow \triangleright I(n)(x) \quad \Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash \forall n \in C. \forall s. \text{stable}(I(n)(s)) \quad \Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash A \cap B = \emptyset}{\Gamma \mid \Phi \vdash P \sqsubseteq^C \exists n \in C. \text{region}(X, T, I(n), n) * \otimes_{\alpha \in B} [\alpha]_1^n} \text{VALLOC}$$

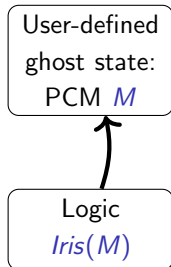
$$\frac{\text{Update region rule} \quad \lambda; \mathcal{A} \vdash \mathbb{W}x \in X. \langle p_p \mid I(\mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(x)) * p(x) \rangle C \quad \exists y \in Y. \langle q_p(x, y) \mid I(\mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(Q(x))) * q_1(x, y) \rangle \vee I(\mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(x)) * q_2(x, y) \rangle}{\mathbb{W}x \in X. \langle p_p \mid \mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(x) * p(x) * a \mapsto \blacklozenge \rangle} \quad \lambda + 1; a : x \in X \rightsquigarrow Q(x). \mathcal{A} \vdash \exists y \in Y. \langle q_p(x, y) \mid \exists z \in Q(x). \mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(z) * q_1(x, y) * a \mapsto (x, z) \vee \mathfrak{t}_a^{\lambda}(x) * q_2(x, y) * a \mapsto \blacklozenge \rangle$$

The Iris approach: derive these protocol mechanisms (+ more) from a small set of primitives

The history of Iris

Iris 1. Many protocol mechanisms can be derived from just 2 primitives:

- ▶ User-defined ghost state
- ▶ Invariants



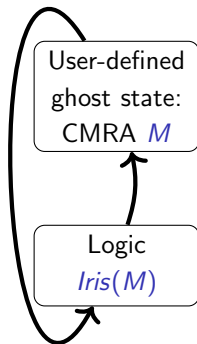
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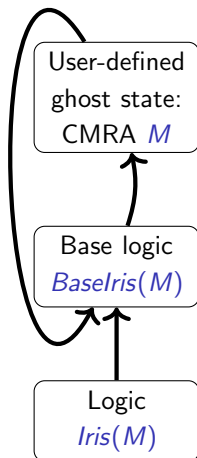
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Iris 2. *Higher-order ghost state:*

- ▶ More powerful protocol mechanisms
- ▶ Unify invariants and ghost state in the model

Iris 3. *Apply the Iris methodology to itself:*

- ▶ Reduce the logic to a bare minimum
- ▶ Define Hoare triples, invariants, view shifts, ... as derived notions



The Iris 3 base logic

Higher-order logic ($\wedge, \vee, \Rightarrow, \forall, \exists, =$) with:

- ▶ The BI connectives $*$ and \multimap
- ▶ A notion of resource ownership $\text{Own}(-)$
- ▶ A handful of modalities \triangleright, \square and \boxRightarrow
- ▶ A guarded fixpoint combinator $\mu x. P$

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Simple enough so that:

- ▶ Each connective has just a single purpose
- ▶ It is easy to model and formalize (in Coq)

Expressive enough so that:

- ▶ Expressive program logics – like the original Iris program logic – can be defined concisely
- ▶ It provides more freedom beyond Hoare logic: logical relations for program refinements, modeling type systems, ...

Preview of the rules of the Iris 3 base logic

Laws of (affine) bunched implications

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{True} * P \dashv\vdash P \\ P * Q \vdash Q * P \\ (P * Q) * R \vdash P * (Q * R) \end{array}$$

$$\frac{P_1 \vdash Q_1 \quad P_2 \vdash Q_2}{P_1 * P_2 \vdash Q_1 * Q_2}$$

$$\frac{P * Q \vdash R}{P \vdash Q \multimap R}$$

$$\frac{P \vdash Q \multimap R}{P * Q \vdash R}$$

Laws for resources and validity

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Own}(a) * \text{Own}(b) \dashv\vdash \text{Own}(a \cdot b) \\ \text{Own}(a) \vdash \mathcal{V}(a) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{True} \vdash \text{Own}(\varepsilon) \\ \mathcal{V}(a \cdot b) \vdash \mathcal{V}(a) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Own}(a) \vdash \Box \text{Own}(|a|) \\ \mathcal{V}(a) \vdash \Box \mathcal{V}(a) \end{array}$$

Laws for the basic update modality

$$\frac{P \vdash Q}{\text{I}\Rightarrow P \vdash \text{I}\Rightarrow Q}$$

$$P \vdash \text{I}\Rightarrow P$$

$$\text{I}\Rightarrow \text{I}\Rightarrow P \vdash \text{I}\Rightarrow P$$

$$Q * \text{I}\Rightarrow P \vdash \text{I}\Rightarrow(Q * P)$$

$$\frac{a \rightsquigarrow B}{\text{Own}(a) \vdash \text{I}\Rightarrow \exists b \in B. \text{Own}(b)}$$

Laws for the always modality

$$\frac{P \vdash Q}{\Box P \vdash \Box Q} \quad \Box P \vdash P$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{True} \vdash \Box \text{True} \\ \Box (P \wedge Q) \vdash \Box (P * Q) \\ \Box P \wedge Q \vdash \Box P * Q \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \Box P \vdash \Box \Box P \\ \forall x. \Box P \vdash \Box \forall x. P \\ \Box \exists x. P \vdash \exists x. \Box P \end{array}$$

Laws for the later modality

$$\frac{P \vdash Q}{\triangleright P \vdash \triangleright Q} \quad (\triangleright P \Rightarrow P) \vdash P$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \forall x. \triangleright P \vdash \triangleright \forall x. P \\ \triangleright \exists x. P \vdash \triangleright \text{False} \vee \exists x. \triangleright P \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \triangleright (P * Q) \dashv\vdash \triangleright P * \triangleright Q \\ \Box \triangleright P \dashv\vdash \triangleright \Box P \end{array}$$

Laws for timeless assertions

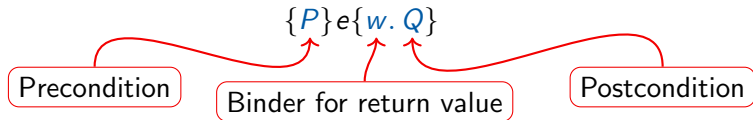
$$\triangleright P \vdash \triangleright \text{False} \vee (\triangleright \text{False} \Rightarrow P)$$

$$\triangleright \text{Own}(a) \vdash \exists b. \text{Own}(b) \wedge \triangleright (a = b)$$

Part #1: brief introduction to
concurrent separation logic (CSL)

Hoare triples and separation logic

Hoare triples for partial program correctness:

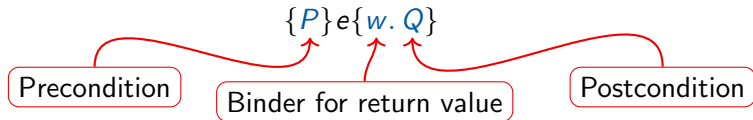


If the initial state satisfies P , then:

- ▶ e does not get stuck/crash
- ▶ if e terminates with value v , the final state satisfies $Q[v/w]$

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Example:

$$\{x \mapsto v_1 * y \mapsto v_2\} \text{swap}(x, y) \{w. w = () \wedge x \mapsto v_2 * y \mapsto v_1\}$$

the $*$ ensures that x and y are different

Concurrent separation logic [O'Hearn]

The *par* rule:

$$\frac{\{P_1\} e_1 \{Q_1\} \quad \{P_2\} e_2 \{Q_2\}}{\{P_1 * P_2\} e_1 || e_2 \{Q_1 * Q_2\}}$$

Concurrent separation logic [O'Hearn]

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For example:

$$\begin{array}{c} \{x \mapsto 4 * y \mapsto 6\} \\ x := !x + 2 \quad \parallel \quad y := !y + 2 \\ \{x \mapsto 6 * y \mapsto 8\} \end{array}$$

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Works great for concurrent programs without shared memory:
concurrent quick sort, concurrent merge sort, ...

What about shared state/racy programs?

A classic problem:

```
let x = ref(0) in
```

```
fetch_and_add(x, 2) || fetch_and_add(x, 2)
```

```
!x
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Where `fetch_and_add(x, y)` is the atomic version of `x := !x + y`.

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{??}                || {??}
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Where `fetch_and_add(x, y)` is the atomic version of `x := !x + y`.

Problem: can only give ownership of `x` to one thread

Sharing resources using invariants

The invariant assertion \boxed{R} expresses that R is maintained as an invariant on the state

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Invariant opening:

$$\frac{\boxed{R} \vdash \{R * P\} e \{R * Q\} \quad e \text{ atomic}}{\boxed{R} \vdash \{P\} e \{Q\}}$$

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Invariant allocation:

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Sharing resources using invariants

The invariant assertion $\boxed{R}^{\mathcal{N}}$ expresses that R is maintained as an invariant on the state

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Technical detail: **names** are needed to avoid *reentrancy*, i.e., opening the same invariant twice

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Technical detail: **names** are needed to avoid *reentrancy*, i.e., opening the same invariant twice

Other technical detail: the **later** \triangleright is needed to support

impredicative invariants, i.e., $\dots \boxed{R}^{\mathcal{N}_2} \dots^{\mathcal{N}_1}$

Invariants in action

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Let us consider a simpler problem first:

{True}

let $x = \text{ref}(0)$ in

{ $x \mapsto 0$ }

allocate $\boxed{\exists n. x \mapsto n \wedge \text{even}(n)}$

fetch_and_add($x, 2$)

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{True}

{ $x \mapsto n \wedge \text{even}(n)$ }

`fetch_and_add(x, 2)`

{ $x \mapsto n + 2 \wedge \text{even}(n + 2)$ }

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| {x ↦ n ∧ even(n)}
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| {n. x ↦ n ∧ even(n)}
| {n. even(n)}
||
|| {True}
|| {x ↦ n ∧ even(n)}
|| fetch_and_add(x, 2)
|| {x ↦ n + 2 ∧ even(n + 2)}
||
|| {True}
```

Problem: still cannot prove it returns 4

Ghost variables

Consider the invariant:

$$\boxed{\exists n. x \mapsto n * \dots}$$

How to relate the quantified value to the state of the threads?

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Solution: ghost variables



Ghost variables are allocated in pairs:

$$\text{True} \Rightarrow \Leftrightarrow \exists \gamma. \underbrace{\gamma \hookrightarrow \bullet n}_{\text{in the invariant}} * \underbrace{\gamma \hookrightarrow \circ n}_{\text{in the Hoare triple}}$$

Ghost variables

Consider the invariant:

$$\boxed{\exists n_1, n_2. x \mapsto (n_1 + n_2) * \gamma_1 \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} n_1 * \gamma_2 \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} n_2}$$

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Solution: ghost variables



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When you own both parts you obtain that the values are equal and can update both parts:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} n * \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\circ} m &\Rightarrow n = m \\ \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} n * \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\circ} m &\Rightarrow \text{True} \Rightarrow (\gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} n' * \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\circ} n') \end{aligned}$$

Mechanisms for concurrent reasoning in Iris

The Iris approach:

- ▶ Ghost variables are generalized to range over any user-provided RA
- ▶ RAs provide uniform treatment of fractional permissions, state transition systems, ...

Resource algebra (RA):

- ▶ Carrier M
- ▶ Composition $(\cdot) : M \rightarrow M \rightarrow M$
- ▶ Validity predicate $\mathcal{V} \subseteq M$

Satisfying certain laws

Rules for ghost state in Iris:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}(a) &\Rightarrow \text{I} \exists \gamma. \gamma \hookrightarrow a \\ \gamma \hookrightarrow a * \gamma \hookrightarrow b &\Leftrightarrow \gamma \hookrightarrow (a \cdot b) \\ \gamma \hookrightarrow a &\Rightarrow \mathcal{V}(a) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\forall a_f. \mathcal{V}(a \cdot a_f) \Rightarrow \mathcal{V}(b \cdot a_f)}{\gamma \hookrightarrow a \Rightarrow \text{I} \gamma \hookrightarrow b}$$

Mechanisms for concurrent reasoning in Iris

The Iris approach:

- ▶ Ghost variables are generalized to range over any user-provided RA
- ▶ RAs provide uniform treatment of fractional permissions, state transition systems, ...

New in Iris 3, use ghost state to:

- ▶ Define invariants $\boxed{P}^{\mathcal{N}}$
- ▶ Define Hoare triples $\{P\} e \{Q\}$

Resource algebra (RA):

- ▶ Carrier M
- ▶ Composition $(\cdot) : M \rightarrow M \rightarrow M$
- ▶ Validity predicate $\mathcal{V} \subseteq M$

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Part #2: encoding Hoare triples and invariants

Encoding Hoare triples

Step 1: define Hoare triple in terms of weakest preconditions:

$$\{P\} e \{w. Q\} \triangleq \Box(P \text{ -* wp } e \{w. Q\})$$

where $\text{wp } e \{w. Q\}$ gives the *weakest precondition* under which:

- ▶ all executions of e are safe
- ▶ all return values v of e satisfy the postcondition $Q[v/w]$

Encoding Hoare triples

Step 1: define Hoare triple in terms of weakest preconditions:

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where $\text{wp } e \{w. Q\}$ gives the *weakest precondition* under which:

- ▶ all executions of e are safe
- ▶ all return values v of e satisfy the postcondition $Q[v/w]$

Step 2: define weakest precondition:

$$\text{wp } e \{w. Q\} \triangleq \begin{cases} Q[e/w] & \text{if } e \in \text{Val} \\ \forall \sigma. \text{red}(e, \sigma) \wedge \\ \quad \triangleright (\forall e_2, \sigma_2. (e, \sigma) \rightarrow_t (e_2, \sigma_2) \ast \\ \quad \quad \quad \text{wp } e_2 \{w. Q\}) & \text{if } e \notin \text{Val} \end{cases}$$

Recursive occurrence guarded by a *later* \triangleright

Adding the points-to connective

How to connect the states σ to $\ell \mapsto v$?

$$\text{wp } e \{w. Q\} \triangleq \begin{cases} Q[e/w] & \text{if } e \in \text{Val} \\ \forall \sigma. \text{red}(e, \sigma) \wedge \\ \quad \triangleright (\forall e_2, \sigma_2. (e, \sigma) \rightarrow_t (e_2, \sigma_2) \rightarrow^* \\ \quad \quad \text{wp } e_2 \{w. Q\}) \end{cases}$$

$\ell \mapsto v \triangleq ???$

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$\ell \mapsto v \triangleq ???$



Solution: ghost variables



Adding the points-to connective

How to connect the states σ to $l \mapsto v$?

$$\text{wp } e \{w. Q\} \triangleq \begin{cases} \Rightarrow Q[e/w] & \text{if } e \in \text{Val} \\ \forall \sigma. \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} \sigma * \Rightarrow \\ \quad \text{red}(e, \sigma) \wedge \\ \quad \triangleright (\forall e_2, \sigma_2. (e, \sigma) \rightarrow_t (e_2, \sigma_2) * \Rightarrow \\ \quad \quad \quad \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} \sigma_2 * \text{wp } e_2 \{w. Q\}) \end{cases}$$
$$l \mapsto v \triangleq \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\circ} [l := v]$$



Solution: ghost variables



Using an appropriate resource algebra (RA) we can obtain:

$$\gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} \sigma * \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\circ} [l := w] \Rightarrow \sigma(l) = w$$

$$\gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} \sigma * \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\circ} [l := v] \Rightarrow \Rightarrow (\gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} \sigma[l := w] * \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\circ} [l := w])$$

$$\gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} \sigma \Rightarrow \Rightarrow (\gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} \sigma[l := w] * \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\circ} [l := w]) \quad \text{if } l \notin \text{dom}(\sigma)$$

Adding fork

$$\text{wp } e \{w. Q\} \triangleq \begin{cases} \models Q[e/w] & \text{if } e \in \text{Val} \\ \forall \sigma. \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} \sigma \ast \models \\ \quad \text{red}(e, \sigma) \wedge \\ \quad \triangleright (\forall e_2, \sigma_2, \vec{e}_f. (e, \sigma) \rightarrow_t (e_2, \sigma_2, \vec{e}_f) \ast \models \\ \quad \quad \gamma \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} \sigma_2 \ast \text{wp } e_2 \{w. Q\} \ast \\ \quad \quad \ast_{e' \in \vec{e}_f} \text{wp } e' \{w. \text{True}\}) \end{cases}$$
$$\ell \mapsto v \triangleq \gamma \hookrightarrow_0 [\ell := v]$$

Key point: separating conjunction ensures that the resources of the new threads \vec{e}_f are disjointly subdivided between threads

Defining invariants

Key idea: thread the *global invariant* W through weakest preconditions:

$$W \triangleq \exists I : \text{InvName} \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} \text{iProp}. \gamma_{\text{INV}} \hookrightarrow \bullet I * \\ *_{\iota \in \text{dom}(I) \text{ and } \iota \text{ is not opened}} \triangleright I(\iota)$$

The invariant assertion can be defined as:

$$\boxed{P}^{\mathcal{N}} \triangleq \exists \iota \in \mathcal{N}. \gamma_{\text{INV}} \hookrightarrow \circ [\iota := P]$$

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The invariant assertion can be defined as:

$$\boxed{P}^{\mathcal{N}} \triangleq \exists \iota \in \mathcal{N}. \gamma_{\text{INV}} \hookrightarrow_{\circ} [\iota := P]$$

Interesting points:

- ▶ Need to define a small protocol mechanism to keep track of whether invariants have been opened or not
- ▶ Ghost state $\gamma_{\text{INV}} \hookrightarrow_{\bullet} I$ and $\gamma_{\text{INV}} \hookrightarrow_{\circ} [\iota := P]$ involve ownership of Iris propositions, **need higher-order ghost state**

In the paper and the Coq formalization

- ▶ Full definition of invariants $\boxed{P}^{\mathcal{N}}$
- ▶ All about the modalities \Box , \triangleright and \equiv
- ▶ Adequacy of weakest preconditions
- ▶ Paradox showing that \triangleright is ‘needed’ for impredicative invariants

The Essence of Higher-Order Concurrent Separation Logic

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Abstract. Concurrent separation logics (CSLs) have come of age, and with age they have accumulated a great deal of complexity. Previous work on the Iris logic attempted to reduce the complex logical mechanisms of modern CSLs to two orthogonal concepts: partial commutative

Thank you!

Take home messages:

- ▶ Hoare triples and invariants can be *defined* in the assertion logic of separation logic (+ some modalities)
- ▶ Iris is no longer just a program logic, but also a framework to define concurrent program logics
- ▶ Iris is implemented in Coq and used for many purposes (modeling type systems, logical relations, program logics)

Download Iris at <http://iris-project.org/>