

Verifying Functional Correctness of Message-Passing Programs with Separation Logic

Separation Logic meets Session Types

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Why: Formal Verification of Message Passing

Rigid validation needed

- ▶ Critical infrastructure based on concurrency
- ▶ Concurrency notoriously hard

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Message passing is a good (and necessary) abstraction

- ▶ **Good:** Used in shared memory (Go)
- ▶ **Necessary:** Inherent to distributed systems (TCP)

What: Message Passing Concurrency in Shared Memory

Shared-memory message passing concurrency:

- ▶ Structured approach to concurrent programming
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Bi-directional asynchronous session channels:

- new_chan ()** Create channel and return two endpoints *c1* and *c2*
- c*.send(*v*)** Send value *v* over endpoint *c*
- c*.recv()** Receive and return next inbound value on endpoint *c*

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<code>new_chan ()</code>	Create channel and return two endpoints <code>c1</code> and <code>c2</code>
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Example Program:

```
let (c1, c2) = new_chan () in
  ( c1.send(40);
    let y = c1.recv() in
      assert(y = 42)
  |||
  let x = c2.recv() in
    c2.send(x + 2)
)
```

How: Separation Logic Meets Session Types

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$c_1 : \text{chan } (!\mathbb{Z}. ?\mathbb{Z}. \text{end})$???

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- ▶ Verified distributed merge-sort, distributed mapper, map-reduce, remote procedure calls, and more



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- ▶ Verified distributed merge-sort, distributed mapper, map-reduce, remote procedure calls, and more
- ▶ Also applied to distributed systems
- ▶ 6 publications since 2020: <https://iris-project.org/actris/>



Roadmap of This Talk

Separation Logic

- ▶ Safety and functional correctness
- ▶ Modular verification
- ▶ Verification of example program

Actris

- ▶ Reasoning methodology for message passing
- ▶ Demonstration of select Actris features

Beyond this talk

- ▶ Sample Actris features
- ▶ The Actris line of work

Separation Logic

[O'Hearn, Reynolds, Yang 2001]

Language Under Consideration

HeapLang: Untyped OCaml-like language

$v, w \in \text{Val} ::= z \mid \mathbf{true} \mid \mathbf{false} \mid () \mid \ell$ $(z \in \mathbb{Z}, \ell \in \text{Loc})$

$e \in \text{Expr} ::= v \mid x \mid e_1 e_2 \mid$
 $\mathbf{ref} e \mid !e \mid e_1 \leftarrow e_2 \mid$
 $(e_1 \parallel e_2) \mid \mathbf{assert}(e) \dots$

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Example program:

```
let  $\ell_1 = \mathbf{ref} 0$  in  
let  $\ell_2 = \mathbf{ref} 0$  in  
 $(\ell_1 \leftarrow !\ell_1 + 2 \parallel \ell_2 \leftarrow !\ell_2 + 2)$  ;  
assert( $!\ell_1 + !\ell_2 = 4$ )
```

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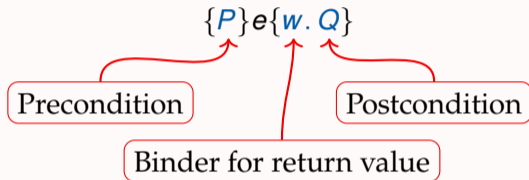
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assert $(!\ell_1 + !\ell_2 = 4)$ 
```

Goal: Program does not crash

Hoare Triples

Hoare triples for partial functional correctness:



If the initial state satisfies P , then:

- ▶ **Safety:** e does not crash
- ▶ **Postcondition validity:** if e terminates with value v , then the final state satisfies $Q[v/w]$

Separation Logic

Separation logic propositions assert ownership of resources

The points-to connective $\ell \mapsto v$

- ▶ Provides the knowledge that location ℓ has value v , and
- ▶ Provides **exclusive ownership** of ℓ

Separating conjunction $P * Q$ captures that the state consists of disjoint parts satisfying P and Q .

Separation Logic

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Separating conjunction $P * Q$ captures that the state consists of disjoint parts satisfying P and Q .

Enables modular reasoning, through disjointness:

$$\frac{\text{HT-FRAME} \quad \{P\} e \{w. Q\}}{\{P * R\} e \{w. Q * R\}}$$

Hoare Triples for Separation Logic

Hoare triples for references:

HT-ALLOC

$\{\text{True}\} \mathbf{ref} v \{l. l \mapsto v\}$

HT-LOAD

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

HT-STORE

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

Hoare Triples for Separation Logic

Hoare triples for references:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{HT-ALLOC} & \text{HT-LOAD} & \text{HT-STORE} \\ \{ \text{True} \} \mathbf{ref} v \{ l. l \mapsto v \} & \{ l \mapsto v \} !l \{ w. w = v * l \mapsto v \} & \{ l \mapsto v \} l \leftarrow w \{ l \mapsto w \} \end{array}$$

Hoare triples for structural expressions:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{HT-LET} & \text{HT-ASSERT} \\ \frac{\{ P \} e_1 \{ w_1. Q \} \quad \forall w_1. \{ Q \} e_2 [w_1/x] \{ w_2. R \}}{\{ P \} \mathbf{let} x = e_1 \mathbf{in} e_2 \{ w_2. R \}} & \frac{\{ P \} e \{ w. w = \mathbf{true} * Q \}}{\{ P \} \mathbf{assert}(e) \{ Q \}} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{HT-SEQ} & \text{HT-PAR} \\ \frac{\{ P \} e_1 \{ w_1. Q \} \quad \forall w_1. \{ Q \} e_2 \{ w_2. R \}}{\{ P \} e_1; e_2 \{ w_2. R \}} & \frac{\{ P_1 \} e_1 \{ Q_1 \} \quad \{ P_2 \} e_2 \{ Q_2 \}}{\{ P_1 * P_2 \} (e_1 \parallel e_2) \{ Q_1 * Q_2 \}} \end{array}$$

Example Program - Verified

```
let  $l_1$  = ref 0 in  
let  $l_2$  = ref 0 in  
( $l_1 \leftarrow !l_1 + 2 \parallel l_2 \leftarrow !l_2 + 2$ );  
assert(! $l_1 + !l_2 = 4$ )
```

Example Program - Verified

```
{True}  
let  $l_1 = \mathbf{ref} 0$  in  
let  $l_2 = \mathbf{ref} 0$  in  
( $l_1 \leftarrow !l_1 + 2 \parallel l_2 \leftarrow !l_2 + 2$ );  
assert( $!l_1 + !l_2 = 4$ )  
{True}
```

Example Program - Verified

```
{True}
let  $l_1 = \text{ref } 0$  in      // HT-LET, HT-ALLOC
{ $l_1 \mapsto 0$ }
let  $l_2 = \text{ref } 0$  in
( $l_1 \leftarrow !l_1 + 2 \parallel l_2 \leftarrow !l_2 + 2$ );
assert( $!l_1 + !l_2 = 4$ )
{True}
```

Example Program - Verified

```
{True}
let  $l_1 = \mathbf{ref} 0$  in      // HT-LET, HT-ALLOC
{ $l_1 \mapsto 0$ }
let  $l_2 = \mathbf{ref} 0$  in      // HT-LET, HT-ALLOC, HT-FRAME
{ $l_1 \mapsto 0 * l_2 \mapsto 0$ }
( $l_1 \leftarrow !l_1 + 2 \parallel l_2 \leftarrow !l_2 + 2$ );
assert( $!l_1 + !l_2 = 4$ )
{True}
```

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( $\left( \begin{array}{c} \{l_1 \mapsto 0\} \\ l_1 \leftarrow !l_1 + 2 \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{c} \{l_2 \mapsto 0\} \\ l_2 \leftarrow !l_2 + 2 \end{array} \right)$ ); // HT-SEQ, HT-PAR
assert( $!l_1 + !l_2 = 4$ )
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assert( $!l_1 + !l_2 = 4$ )
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assert( $!l_1 + !l_2 = 4$ )
{True}
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Example Program - Verified

```
{True}
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But What About Channels?

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  (
    c1.send(40);
    let y = c1.recv() in
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Goal: Program does not crash

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Goal: Program does not crash

Sub-Goal: Hoare triples for channel primitives

HT-NEW

$\{\text{???\}\} \text{new_chan}() \{\text{???\}\}$

HT-SEND

$\{\text{???\}\} c.\text{send}(v) \{\text{???\}\}$

HT-RECV

$\{\text{???\}\} c.\text{recv}() \{\text{???\}\}$

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{???} **c.send**(v) {???}

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{???} **c.recv**() {???}

Key Idea: Separate channel endpoint ownership à la Session Types

Actris

Hinrichsen et al.

Channel Endpoint Ownership: $c \succrightarrow p$

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Rules:

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Duality: $\overline{!\langle v \rangle.p} = ?\langle v \rangle.\bar{p}$ $\overline{?\langle v \rangle.p} = !\langle v \rangle.\bar{p}$ $\overline{\mathbf{end}} = \mathbf{end}$

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HT-RECV

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HT-NEW

$\{\mathbf{True}\} \mathbf{new_chan}() \{(c_1, c_2). c_1 \rightsquigarrow p * c_2 \rightsquigarrow \bar{p}\}$

Example Channel Program - Verified

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Protocols:

$c_1 \rightsquigarrow !\langle 40 \rangle . ?\langle 42 \rangle . \mathbf{end}$

$c_2 \rightsquigarrow ?\langle 40 \rangle . !\langle 42 \rangle . \mathbf{end}$

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$c_2 \rightsquigarrow ?\langle 40 \rangle. !\langle 42 \rangle. \mathbf{end}$

Goal complete: Program verified safe to execute for any scheduling

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Protocols:

$c_1 \rightsquigarrow !\langle 40 \rangle. ?\langle 42 \rangle. \mathbf{end}$

$c_2 \rightsquigarrow ?\langle 40 \rangle. !\langle 42 \rangle. \mathbf{end}$

Goal complete: Program verified safe to execute for any scheduling

Problem: Protocols too restrictive; right thread works for any integer

Actris with Quantifiers

Dependent Separation Protocols: $!(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle.p \mid ?(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle.p \mid \mathbf{end}$

Example: $!(x:\mathbb{Z})\langle x \rangle.?\langle x+2 \rangle.\mathbf{end}$

Duality: $\overline{!(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle.p} = ?(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle.\bar{p} \quad \overline{?(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle.p} = !(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle.\bar{p}$

Rules:

HT-SEND

$$\{c \succrightarrow !(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle.p\} c.\mathbf{send}(v[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]) \{c \succrightarrow p[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]\}$$

HT-RECV

$$\{c \succrightarrow ?(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle.p\} c.\mathbf{recv}() \{w. \exists(\vec{t}:\vec{\tau}). w = v[\vec{t}/\vec{x}] * c \succrightarrow p[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]\}$$

Example Channel Program - Quantifiers

Example Program:

```
let (c1, c2) = new_chan() in  
  ( c1.send(40);  
    let y = c1.recv() in  
    assert(y = 42)  |||  let x = c2.recv() in  
                       c2.send(x + 2) )
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Protocols:

```
c1  $\rightsquigarrow$  !(x :  $\mathbb{Z}$ ) <x>. ?<x + 2>. end  
c2  $\rightsquigarrow$  ?(x :  $\mathbb{Z}$ ) <x>. !<x + 2>. end
```

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$$c_2 \rightsquigarrow ?(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle . !\langle x + 2 \rangle . \mathbf{end}$$

Goal complete: Right thread now modularly compose with arbitrary clients

Example Reference Program

Example Program:

```
let (c1, c2) = new_chan() in  
  ( let l = ref 40 in | let l = c2.recv() in  
    c1.send(l);      | l ← !l + 2;  
    c1.recv();      | c2.send()  
    assert(!l = 42)  | )
```

$l \mapsto v$: Ownership of reference l pointing to v

$\{\text{True}\} \text{ref } v \{l. l \mapsto v\} \quad \{l \mapsto v\} !v \{w. w = v * l \mapsto v\} \quad \{l \mapsto v\} l \leftarrow w \{l \mapsto w\}$

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Protocols?

$$c_1 \rightsquigarrow !(l : \text{Loc}, x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle l \rangle. ? \langle () \rangle. \text{end}$$
$$c_2 \rightsquigarrow ?(l : \text{Loc}, x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle l \rangle. ! \langle () \rangle. \text{end}$$

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Problem: Implicit transfer of control not possible to capture

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Key Idea: Resources in protocols

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Actris with Resources

Dependent Separation Protocols: $!(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle\{P\}.p \mid ?(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle\{P\}.p \mid \text{end}$

Example: $!(\ell : \text{Loc}, x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle \ell \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x \}. ?(\langle () \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto (x + 2) \}). \text{end}$

Duality: $\overline{!(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle\{P\}.p} = ?(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle\{P\}.\bar{p} \quad \overline{?(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle\{P\}.p} = !(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle\{P\}.\bar{p}$

Rules:

HT-SEND

$$\{c \multimap !(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle\{P\}.p * P[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]\} c.\text{send}(v[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]) \{c \multimap p[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]\}$$

HT-RECV

$$\{c \multimap ?(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau})\langle v \rangle\{P\}.p\} c.\text{recv}() \{w. \exists(\vec{t}:\vec{\tau}). w = v[\vec{t}/\vec{x}] * c \multimap p[\vec{t}/\vec{x}] * P[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]\}$$

Example Reference Program - Verified

Example Program:

```
let (c1, c2) = new_chan () in
  ( let l = ref 40 in
    c1.send(l);
    c1.recv();
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    l ← !l + 2;
    c2.send()
  )
```

Protocols:

$c_1 \rightsquigarrow !(l : \text{Loc}, x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle l \rangle \{l \mapsto x\}. ? \langle () \rangle \{l \mapsto (x + 2)\}. \text{end}$

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Beyond This Talk

And Much More

Sample of additional Actris features:

Exchanging channels: $!(c : \text{Chan}, p : \text{iProto}) \langle c \rangle \{c \rightsquigarrow ! \langle 42 \rangle . p\} . \mathbf{end}$

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Recursion: $\mu(p : \text{iProto}) . !(c : \text{Chan}) \langle c \rangle \{c \rightsquigarrow !\langle 42 \rangle . p\} . p$

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Verified programs:

- ▶ Distributed merge-sort
- ▶ Distributed load-balancing mapper
- ▶ Shared-memory Map-Reduce
- ▶ Remote procedure calls
- ▶ Distributed locks

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Fully validated and mechanized in Iris in Coq up to operational semantics

The Actris Line of Work

[POPL'20] Actris (This talk)

- ▶ Dependent separation protocols
- ▶ Actris for shared memory message passing

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[CPP'21] Semantic Session Type System [Distinguished Paper Award]

- ▶ Semantic session types: $!A. S \triangleq !(v : \text{Val}) \langle v \rangle \{A v\}. S$

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- ▶ Subprotocols: $!(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle. ?\langle x + 2 \rangle. \mathbf{end} \sqsubseteq !\langle 40 \rangle. ?\langle 42 \rangle. \mathbf{end}$

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[ICFP'23a] Actris in Distributed Systems

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[POPL'24] Deadlock-freedom via Actris

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[Ongoing Work] Multiparty Actris: $![i] (x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle. ?[j] \langle x + 2 \rangle. \mathbf{end}$

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! $\langle \text{"Thank you"} \rangle \{ \text{ActrisKnowledge} \}.$
 $\mu rec. ?(q : \text{Question}) \langle q \rangle \{ \text{AboutActris } q \}.$
 ! $(a : \text{Answer}) \langle a \rangle \{ \text{Insightful } q a \}. rec$