

# Software Verification (Autumn 2014)

## Lecture 7: Separation Logic for Object-Orientation

Chris Poskitt



*(adapted from material by Stephan van Staden, Matthew Parkinson, and Gavin Bierman)*

# Main sources for these lectures

Parkinson and Bierman: *Separation Logic, Abstraction and Inheritance.*

In: POPL 2008

Parkinson and Bierman: *Separation Logic for Object-Oriented Programming.*

In: Aliasing in Object-Oriented Programming, 2013



# Verifying object-oriented programs

- **object-oriented (O-O) languages** are popular and widely used
  - => *objects combine data with operations*
  - => *clients don't need to know about internal representation*
- **encapsulation** facilitates **modular thinking**
- reasoning about O-O programs is challenging
  - => *shared mutable state*
  - => *inheritance (i.e. subtyping and method overriding)*

# Shared mutable state

```
class CONNECTION_POOL
```

```
get_connection
```

# Shared mutable state

```
class CONNECTION_POOL
```

```
    get_connection
```



*request*

# Shared mutable state

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class CONNECTION_POOL
```

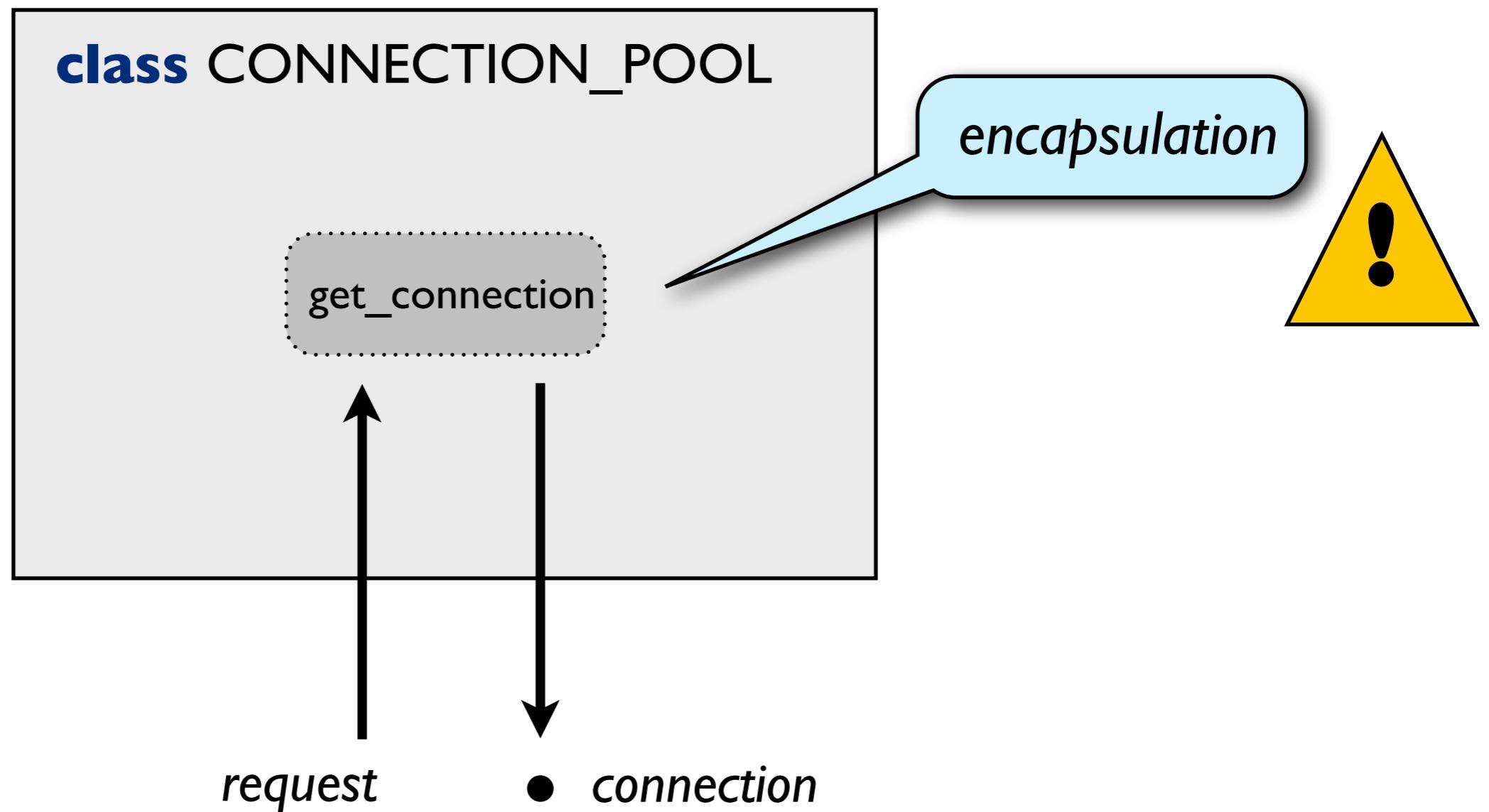
```
get_connection
```



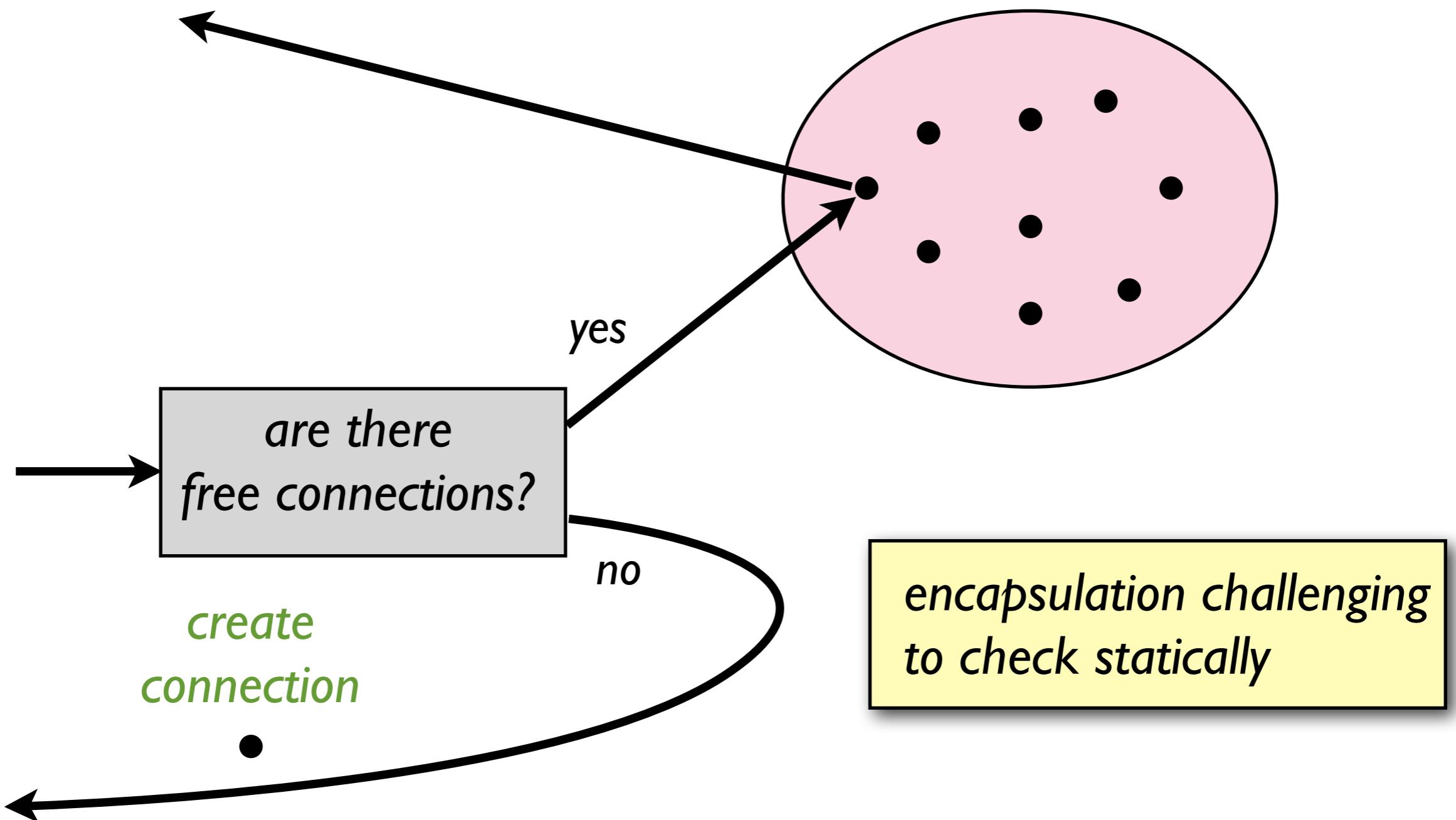
*request*

● *connection*

# Shared mutable state



# Shared mutable state



# Inheritance

- inheritance allows **specialisation** and **overriding**
- determining what a method call actually does is difficult
- lookup scheme relies on **dynamic information**  
*=> but we are interested in static reasoning and verification*

# Inheritance

```
class CELL
{
    private int val;

    public virtual void set(int x)
    {
        this.val = x;
    }

    public virtual int get()
    {
        return this.val;
    }
}
```

# Inheritance

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class RECELL: CELL
{
    private int bak;
    public override void set(int x)
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        base.set(x);
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class DCELL: CELL
{
    public override void set(int x)
    {
        base.set(2*x);
    }
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*inheritance is not  
subtyping!*

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# Motivating separation logic

- let's first see how far we can go with classical Hoare logic
- consider the method `java.awt.Rectangle.translate(int x, int y)`

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- consider the method `java.awt.Rectangle.translate(int x, int y)`

**{this.x = X  $\wedge$  this.y = Y}**

`Rect::translate(x,y)`

**{this.x = X + x  $\wedge$  this.y = Y + y}**

# Motivating separation logic

{**this.x** =  $X \wedge \mathbf{this.y} = Y\}$

Rect::translate( $x, y$ )

{**this.x** =  $X + x \wedge \mathbf{this.y} = Y + y\}$



`this.x += x;`  
`this.y += y;`

# Motivating separation logic

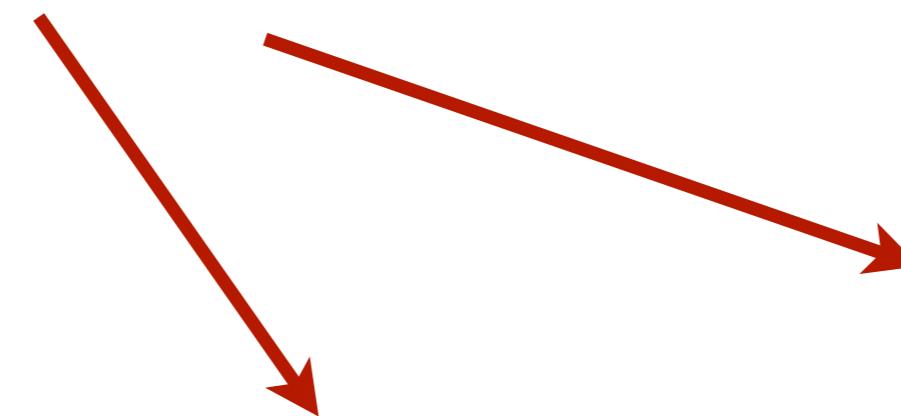
{**this.x** =  $X$   $\wedge$  **this.y** =  $Y$ }

Rect::translate( $x, y$ )

{**this.x** =  $X + x$   $\wedge$  **this.y** =  $Y + y$ }



**this.x** +=  $x$ ;  
**this.y** +=  $y$ ;



**this.x** +=  $x$ ;  
**this.y** +=  $y$ ;  
**this.h** = 0;

**this.x** +=  $x$ ;  
**this.y** +=  $y$ ;  
if (**this.parent** != **this**)  
    **this.parent.x** +=  $x$ ;

# Motivating separation logic

{**this.x** =  $X \wedge$  **this.y** =  $Y\}$

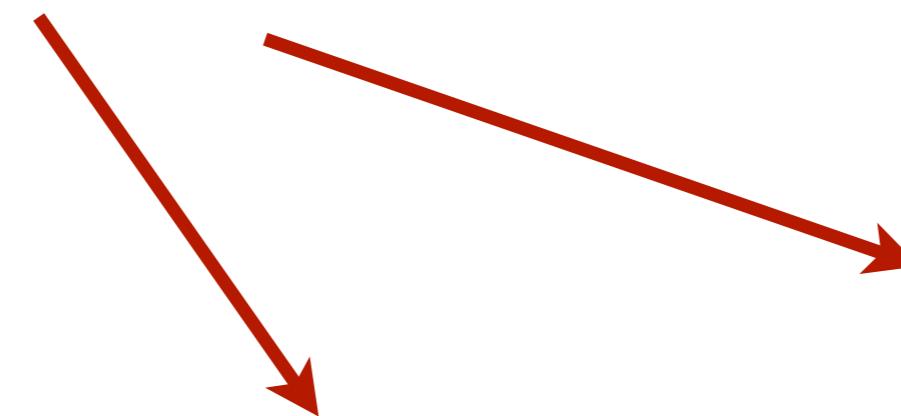
Rect::translate( $x, y$ )

{**this.x** =  $X + x \wedge$  **this.y** =  $Y + y\}$

*framing?*



**this.x** +=  $x;$   
**this.y** +=  $y;$



**this.x** +=  $x;$   
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# Motivating separation logic

- specifying what **isn't modified** is tedious:

$$\{(z \neq \mathbf{this} \vee f \notin \{x,y\}) \wedge z.f = V\}$$

Rect::translate(x,y)

$$\{z.f = V\}$$

- can we just use **modifies clauses**?

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`Rect::translate(x,y)`

$$\{z.f = V\}$$

- can we just use **modifies clauses**?

`Rect::translate(x,y)` modifies **this.x, this.y**

# Motivating separation logic

- not when we have **complex shapes** in memory
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- *not precise*
- *breaks abstraction*
- *doesn't work at all for interfaces*

# Motivating separation logic

- not when we have **complex shapes** in memory
- consider the method **System.Collection.SortedList.Clear()**

**SortedList::Clear() modifies \*.next**



- *not precise*
- *breaks abstraction*
- *doesn't work at all for interfaces*

*if not modifies clauses, then what?  
=> ownership, SL, ...*

# Motivating separation logic

- separation logic makes modifications implicit in the specification  
=> “*anything not mentioned isn’t changed*”
- supports assertions describing only the part of the memory being modified
- “natural” reasoning for O-O programs
  - => *but need a new memory model*
  - => *need to address encapsulation*
  - => *and need to accommodate and control inheritance*

# Next on the agenda

(1) motivation and challenges



(2) extending the memory model

(3) simple statements and proof rules

(4) tackling inheritance: abstract predicate families

(5) method specification and verification

# Recap: the heaplet model

- the store: state of the local variables

Variables → Integers

- the heap: state of dynamically-allocated objects

Locations → Integers

where: Locations  $\subseteq$  Integers

# Recap: separating conjunction

$$s, h \models p * q$$

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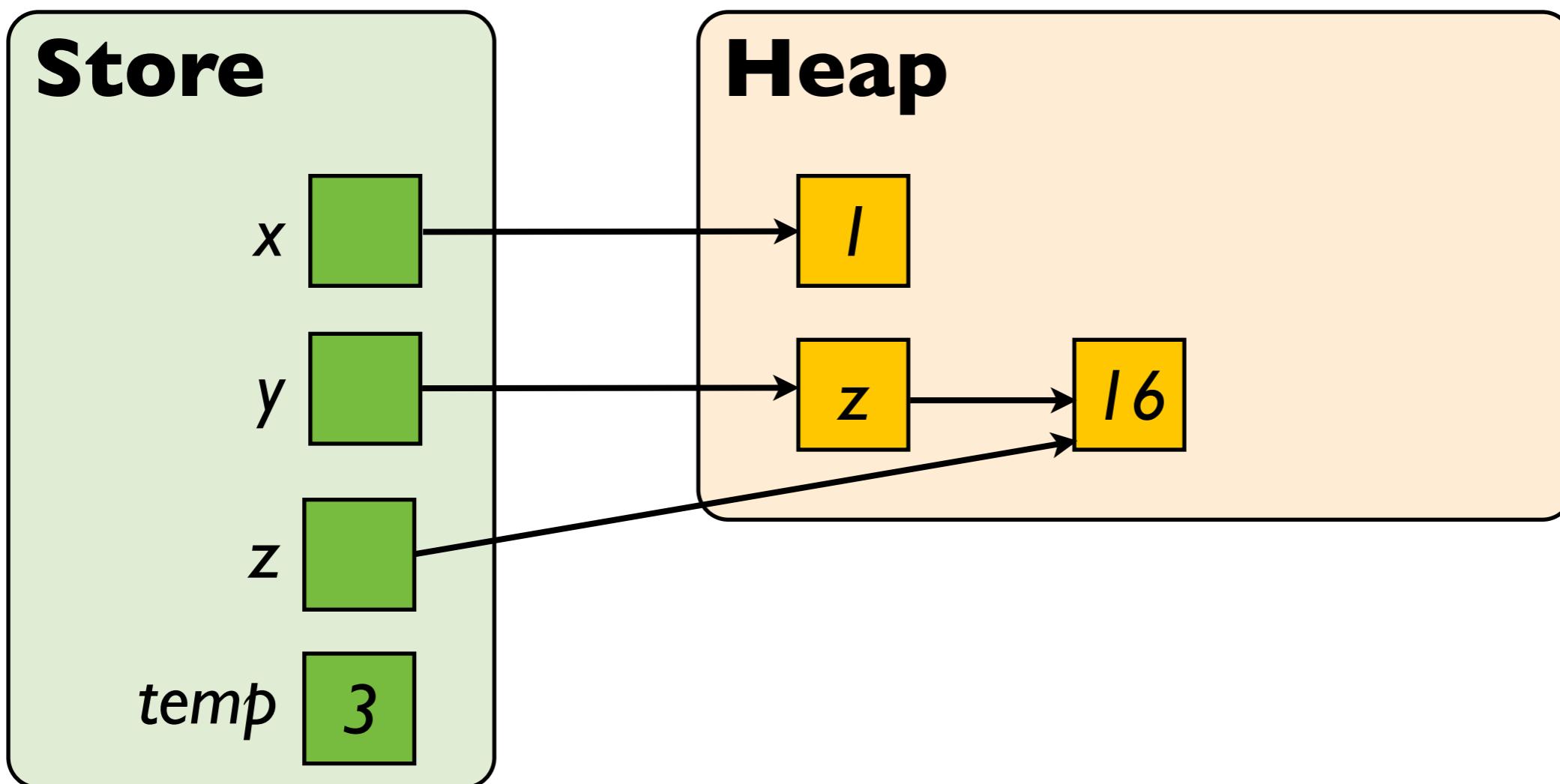
- informally: the heap  $h$  can be **divided** in two so that  $p$  is true of one partition and  $q$  of the other

*disjoint domains  
of definition*

*disjoint function  
composition*

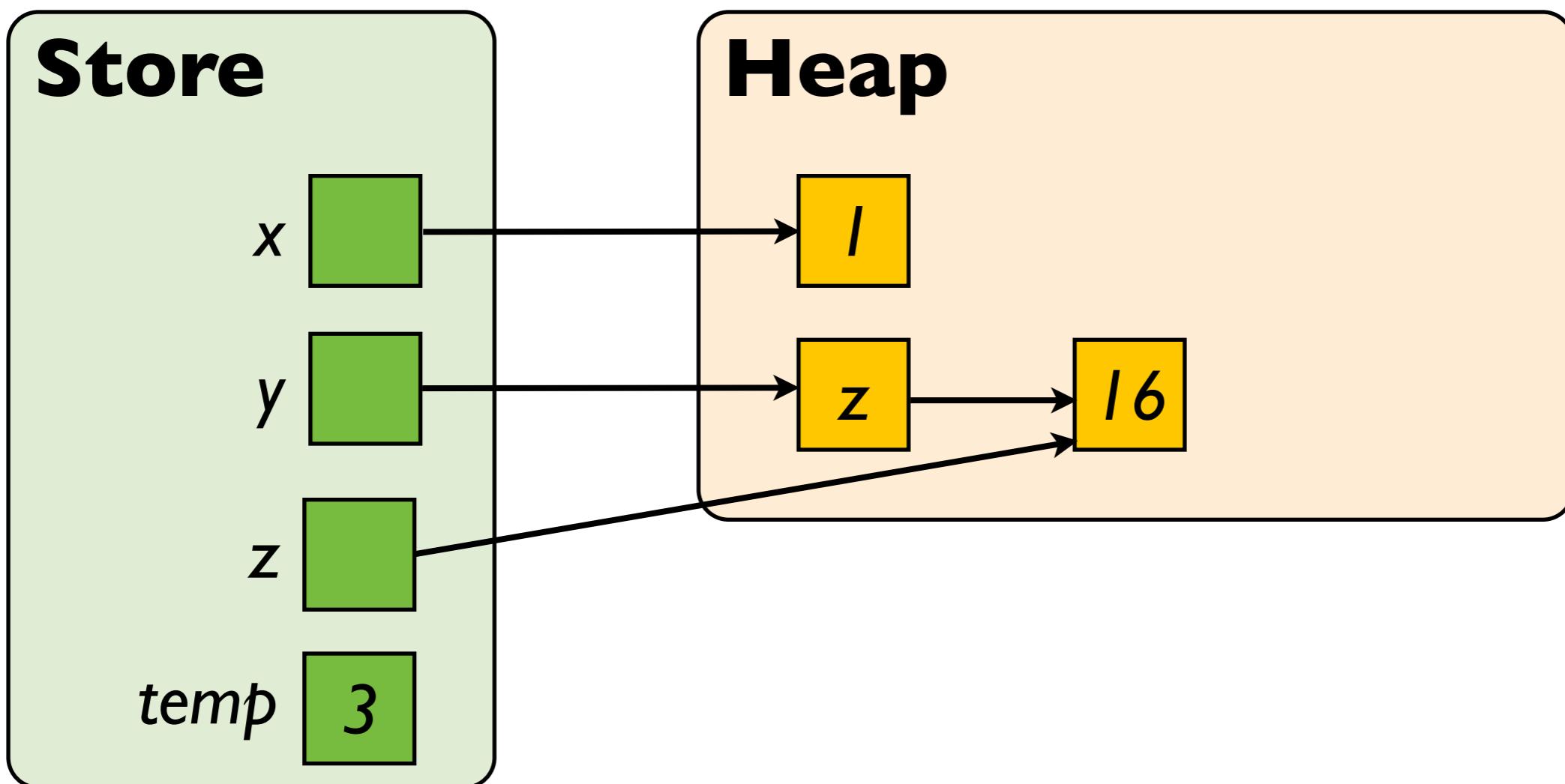
$$s, h \models p * q \quad \text{if} \quad \exists h_1, h_2. (h_1 \perp h_2), (h_1 \circ h_2 = h), \\ s, h_1 \models p \text{ and } s, h_2 \models q$$

# Recap: example store and heap



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$$x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto z * z \mapsto 16 \wedge \text{temp} = 3$$



# Extending the memory model

$$s, h, d \models p$$

- must now accommodate **objects** and **dynamic types**

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$h : \text{ObjectIDs} \times \text{FieldNames} \rightarrow \text{ObjectIDs} \cup \text{Integers}$

$d : \text{ObjectIDs} \rightarrow \text{ClassNames}$

# A partial semantics

- let **se** denote a “**simple expression**”, i.e. one that does not access any fields or methods

$$s, h, d \models se_1.f \mapsto se_2$$

$$s, h, d \models se : C$$

$$s, h, d \models se_1 = se_2$$

$$s, h, d \models p * q$$

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$$s, h, d \models se_1 = se_2 \quad \text{if } [|se|]s = [|se2|]s$$

$$\begin{aligned} s, h, d \models p * q \text{ if } \exists \text{hl, h2. hl} \perp \text{h2} \wedge h = \text{hl} \cup \text{h2} \\ \wedge s, \text{hl}, d \models p \wedge s, \text{h2}, d \models q \end{aligned}$$

# Separating conjunction example

- what kind of heap would satisfy the following?

$$s, h, d \models x_1.f \mapsto y * x_2.f \mapsto y$$

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- what kind of heap would satisfy the following?

$$s, h, d \models x_1.f \mapsto y * x_2.f \mapsto y$$

- ...and what about this?

$$s, h, d \models x_1.f \mapsto y \wedge x_2.f \mapsto y$$

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# Simple instructions and proof rules

- we start by building a separation logic for a simple object-oriented language  
=> *field mutation, field lookup, ...*
- postpone method specification and verification  
=> *avoid the complexity of method dispatch until later*
- reminder: **tight interpretation** of triples

$$\models \{pre\} \ P \ \{post\}$$

# Field mutation and field lookup

$$\vdash \{x.f \mapsto \_ \} \; x.f := y \; \{ \quad \}$$
$$\vdash \{x.f \mapsto e\} \; y := x.f \; \{ \quad \}$$

# Field mutation and field lookup

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$$\vdash \{x.f \mapsto e\} \; y := x.f \; \{\text{x.f} \mapsto e \wedge y = e\}$$

*provided  $y \neq x$  and  $y$  not free in  $e$*

# Field mutation and field lookup

$$\vdash \{x.f \mapsto -\} \ x.f := y \ \{\text{x.f} \mapsto y\}$$
$$\vdash \{x.f \mapsto e\} \ y := x.f \ \{\text{x.f} \mapsto e \wedge y = e\}$$


*and if not...?*

*provided  $y \neq x$  and  $y$  not free in  $e$*

# Structural rules

$$\frac{\{p\} \quad C \quad \{q\}}{\{p * r\} \quad C \quad \{q * r\}}$$

*provided  $\text{modifies}(C) \cap \text{fv}(r) = \emptyset$*

$$\frac{\{p\} \quad C \quad \{q\}}{\{\exists v. \ p\} \quad C \quad \{\exists v. \ q\}}$$

*provided  $v$  not free in  $C$*

# Simple proof example

- consider the statement  $x := x.\text{next}$   
=> e.g. *from a linked list class*
- verify the following triple:

$$\{x.\text{next} \mapsto \_ * x = y\} \ x := x.\text{next} \ \{y.\text{next} \mapsto x * \text{true}\}$$

# Simple proof example

{x.next |-> \_ \* x = y}

x := x.next;

# Simple proof example

$\{x.\text{next} \rightarrow \_ * x = y\}$

$\{\exists n, x^{\text{old}}. x.\text{next} \rightarrow n * x = x^{\text{old}} \wedge y = x^{\text{old}}\}$

$x := x.\text{next};$

# Simple proof example

$\{x.\text{next} \rightarrow \_ * x = y\}$

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**x := x.next;**

# Simple proof example

$\{x.\text{next} \rightarrow \_ * x = y\}$

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$\{x.\text{next} \rightarrow n * x = x^{\text{old}} \wedge y = x^{\text{old}}\}$

$x := x.\text{next};$

$\{x^{\text{old}}.\text{next} \rightarrow n * x = n \wedge y = x^{\text{old}}\}$

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$x := x.\text{next};$

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$\{\exists n, x^{\text{old}}. x^{\text{old}}.\text{next} \rightarrow n * x = n \wedge y = x^{\text{old}}\}$

$\{y.\text{next} \rightarrow x * \text{true}\}$

# Next on the agenda

(1) motivation and challenges



(2) extending the memory model



(3) simple statements and proof rules



(4) tackling inheritance: abstract predicate families

(5) method specification and verification

# Recap: Cell, ReCell, and DCell

```
class CELL
{
    private int val;

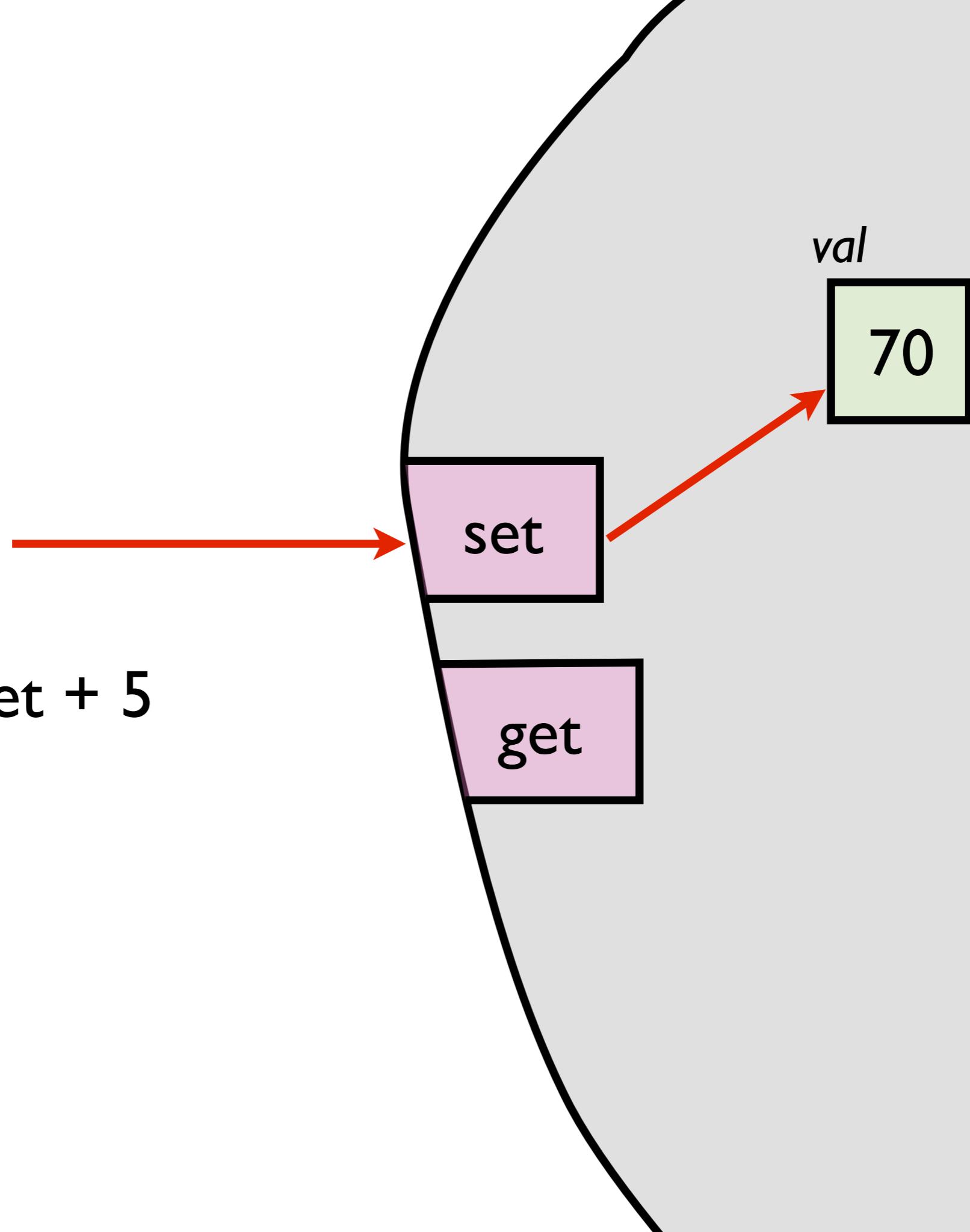
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    {
        this.val = x;
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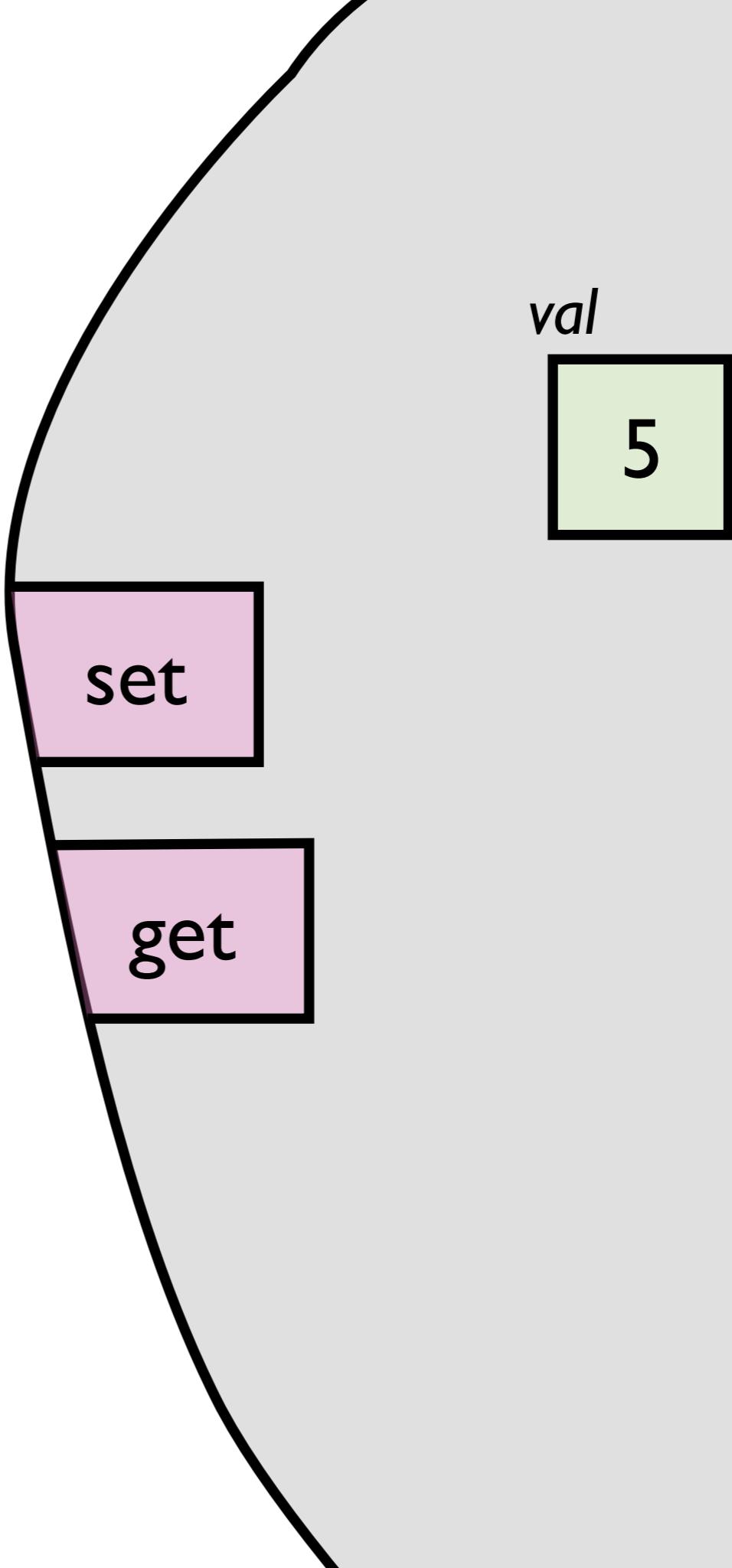
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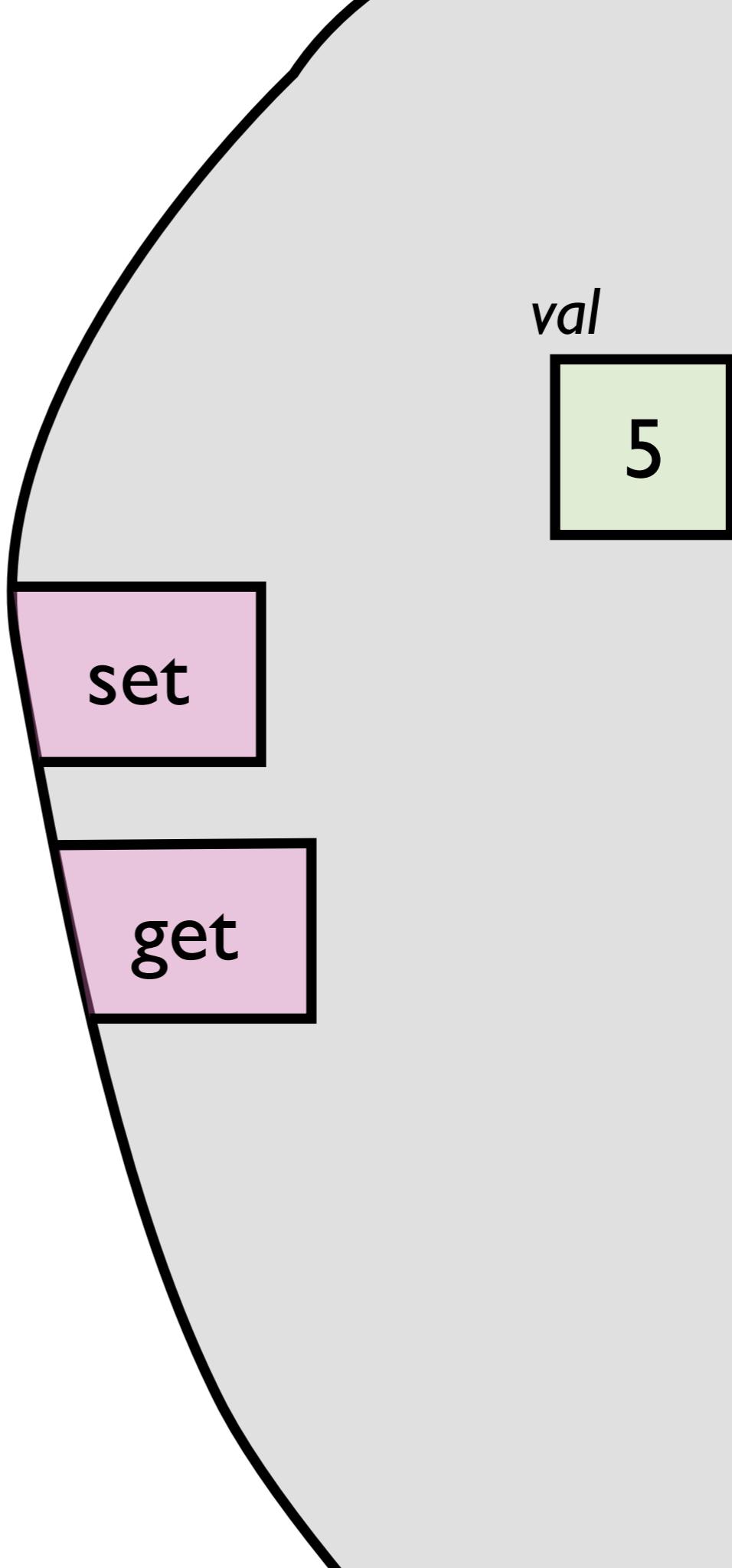
```
{ true }  
x.set(5)  
{ ??? }  
y := x.get + 5  
{ ??? }
```



```
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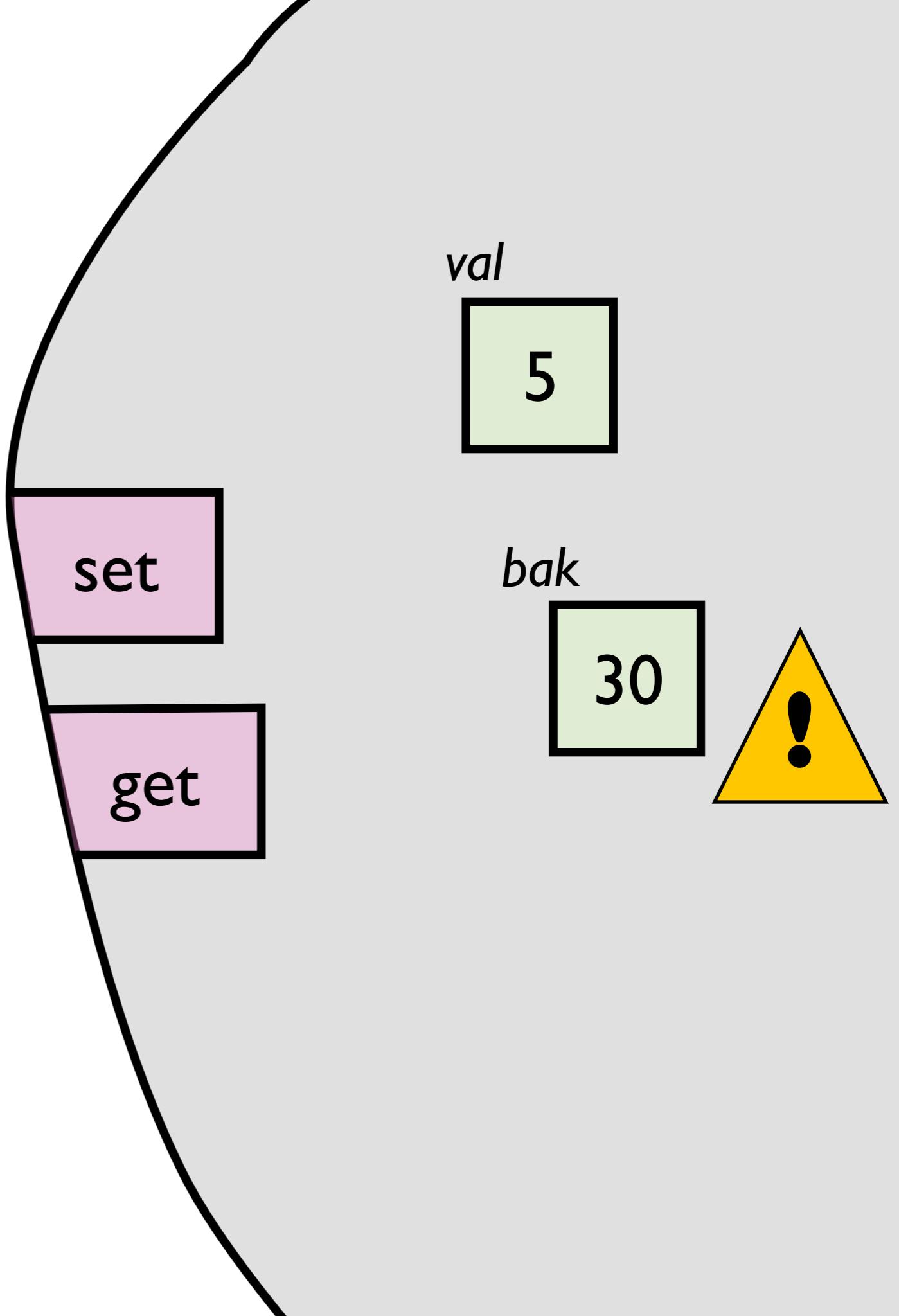


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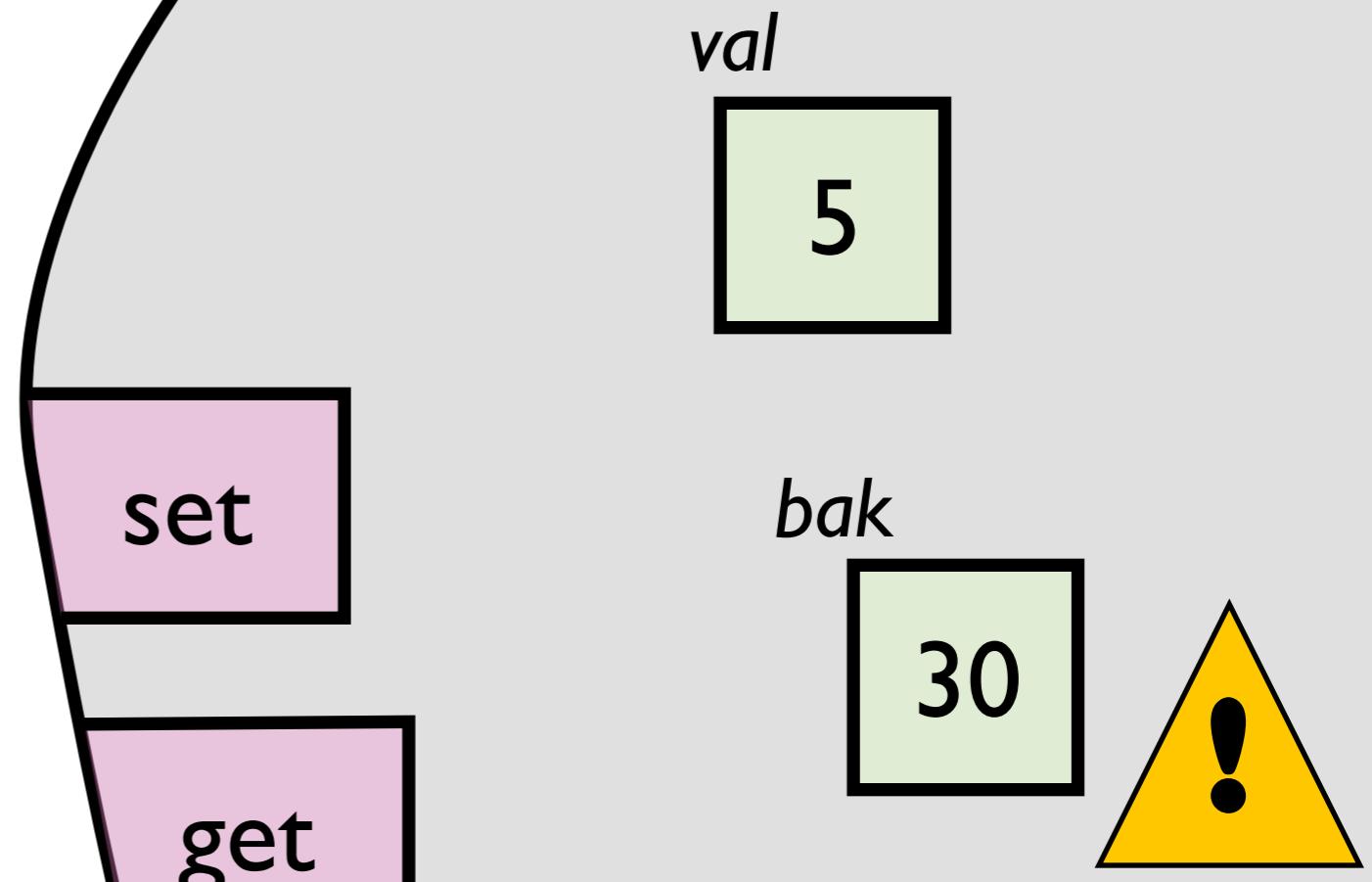
*breaks abstraction!*



```
{ true }  
x.set(5)  
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{ ??? }
```

*breaks abstraction!*

*need to be able to reason  
abstractly on this side...*



*...and concretely  
(e.g. x.val |-> 5) on this side*

# The boundary of abstraction

- there is a need for **data-centred abstractions** in our reasoning system
- reason, on the client side, about encapsulated state **abstractly**
- need to cope with **inheritance** and **dynamic dispatch**

# Abstract predicates (Ap)

- annotate classes with abstract predicate (Ap) definitions
- an Ap consists of a name, definition, and scope  
=> for simplicity, scope here is a single class
- within the scope, can freely change between the name and definition
- outside the scope, can only use the name

# Abstract predicate example

```
class CELL
{
    // Ap definitions
    define x.ValCell(n) as x.val |-> n

    // field declarations
    private int val;

    // methods (i.e. set, get)
    ...
}
```

*name?  
definition?  
scope?*

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}
```

*name?*  
*definition?*  
*scope?*

x.Val<sub>Cell</sub>(n)  
x.val |-> n  
CELL

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    ...
}
```

*name?*                     $x.\text{ValCell}(n)$   
*definition?*             $x.\text{val} \dashv\rightarrow n$   
*scope?*                   $\text{CELL}$

{ true }  
x.set(5)  
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*name?*                     $x.\text{ValCell}(n)$   
*definition?*             $x.\text{val} \dashv\rightarrow n$   
*scope?*                   $\text{CELL}$

{ true }  
 $x.\text{set}(5)$   
{  $x.\text{ValCell}(5) * \text{true}$  }  
 $y := x.\text{get} + 5$   
{ ??? }



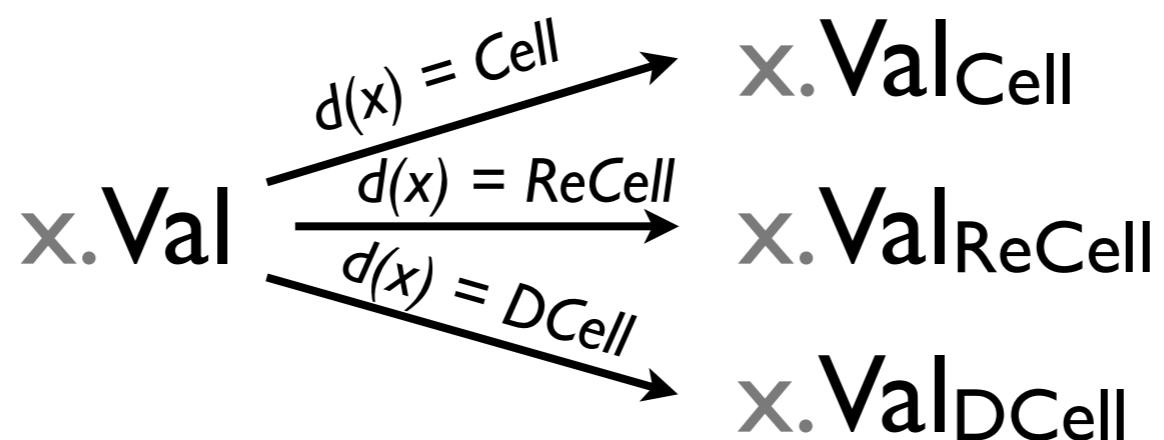
- how do we prove {true}  $x.\text{set}(5)$  { $x.\text{ValCell}(5) * \text{true}$ } ?
- what if  $d(x) = \text{ReCell}$  ?

# Abstract predicate families (Apfs)

- different (sub)classes can have different Ap definitions
- abstract predicate families (Apfs) provide different definitions, or “entries”, based on dynamic type information  
=> “*dynamically dispatched predicates*”
- annotate classes with different Apf entries

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    // methods (i.e. set, get)
    ...
}
```

```
class RECELL: CELL
{
    // Apf definitions
    ???

    // field declarations
    private int bak;

    // methods (i.e. override set)
    ...
}
```

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class RECELL: CELL
{
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    define x.ValRecell(n,b)
        as x.ValCell(n) * x.bak |-> b

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    // Apf definitions
    define x.ValCell(n) as x.val |-> n

    // field declarations
    private int val;

    // methods (i.e. set, get)
    ...
}
```

```
class RECELL: CELL
{
    // Apf definitions
    define x.ValRecell(n,b)
        as x.ValCell(n) * x.bak |-> b

    // field declarations
    private int bak;

    // methods (i.e. override set)
    ...
}
```

*ReCell adds an argument to the Apf Val  
=> in the scope of ReCell,  $\forall x, n: x.Val(n) \Leftrightarrow x.Val(n, \_)$*

# Next on the agenda

(1) motivation and challenges



(2) extending the memory model



(3) simple statements and proof rules



(4) tackling inheritance: abstract predicate families



(5) method specification and verification

# Static vs. dynamic specifications

- two types of method calls in O-O languages
  - => statically dispatched, e.g. base.m(a) / super.m(a)
  - => dynamically dispatched, e.g. x.m(a)
- annotate methods with **static** and **dynamic** specifications

describes in detail what  
the body does



more abstract: “idea” behind that  
method that subclasses must respect

# Example

```
class CELL
{
    define x.ValCell(n) as x.val |-> n

    private int val;

    public virtual void set(int x)
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { this.val = x; }

    public virtual int get()
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { return this.val; }
}
```

# Example

```
class CELL
{
    define x.ValCell(n) as x.val |-> n

    private int val;

    public virtual void set(int x)
    dynamic { this.Val(_) } _ { this.Val(x) }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { this.val = x; }

    public virtual int get()
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { return this.val; }
}
```

# Example

```
class CELL
{
    define x.ValCell(n) as x.val |-> n

    private int val;

    public virtual void set(int x)
    dynamic { this.Val(_) } _ { this.Val(x) }
    static { this.ValCell(_) } _ { this.ValCell(x) }
    { this.val = x; }

    public virtual int get()
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { return this.val; }
}
```

# Example

```
class CELL
{
    define x.ValCell(n) as x.val |-> n

    private int val;

    public virtual void set(int x)
    dynamic { this.Val(_) } _ { this.Val(x) }
    static { this.ValCell(_) } _ { this.ValCell(x) }
    { this.val = x; }

    public virtual int get()
    dynamic { this.Val(v) } _ { this.Val(v) /\ Res = v }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { return this.val; }
}
```

# Example

```
class CELL
{
    define x.ValCell(n) as x.val |-> n

    private int val;

    public virtual void set(int x)
    dynamic { this.Val(_) } _ { this.Val(x) }
    static { this.ValCell(_) } _ { this.ValCell(x) }
    { this.val = x; }

    public virtual int get()
    dynamic { this.Val(v) } _ { this.Val(v) /\ Res = v }
    static { this.ValCell(v) } _ { this.ValCell(v) /\ Res = v }
    { return this.val; }
}
```

**prove!**

```
{ true }
x := new Cell(3)
y := new Cell(4)
x.set(5)
n := y.get()
{ x.Val(5) * y.Val(4)
  * n=4 }
```

# Verifying a newly introduced method

- two proof obligations
- first, verify the method body against the static specification
  - => e.g.  $\{this.Val_{Cell}(\_) \} \; this.val := x \; \{this.Val_{Cell}(x)\}$
  - => we are now “in scope” and can use the definition of  $Val_{Cell}$
- second, check the consistency of the static and dynamic specifications

# Subclassing

```
class RECELL: CELL
{
    // Apf definitions
    define x.ValRECELL(n,b) as x.ValCell(n) * x.bak |-> b

    private int bak;

    public override void set(int x)
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { this.bak = base.get(); base.set(x); }

    inherit get()
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
}
```

# Subclassing

```
class RECELL: CELL
{
    // Apf definitions
    define x.ValRECELL(n,b) as x.ValCell(n) * x.bak |-> b

    private int bak;

    public override void set(int x)
    dynamic { this.Val(v,_) } _ { this.Val(x,v) }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { this.bak = base.get(); base.set(x); }

    inherit get()
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
}
```

# Subclassing

```
class RECELL: CELL
{
    // Apf definitions
    define x.ValReCell(n,b) as x.ValCell(n) * x.bak |-> b

    private int bak;

    public override void set(int x)
    dynamic { this.Val(v,_) } _ { this.Val(x,v) }
    static { this.ValReCell(v,_) } _ { this.ValReCell(x,v) }
    { this.bak = base.get(); base.set(x); }

    inherit get()
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
}
```

# Subclassing

```
class RECELL: CELL
{
    // Apf definitions
    define x.ValReCell(n,b) as x.ValCell(n) * x.bak |-> b

    private int bak;

    public override void set(int x)
    dynamic { this.Val(v,_) } _ { this.Val(x,v) }
    static { this.ValReCell(v,_) } _ { this.ValReCell(x,v) }
    { this.bak = base.get(); base.set(x); }

    inherit get()
    dynamic { this.Val(v,b) } _ { this.Val(v,b) /\ Res = v }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
}
```

# Subclassing

```
class RECELL: CELL
{
    // Apf definitions
    define x.ValReCell(n,b) as x.ValCell(n) * x.bak |-> b

    private int bak;

    public override void set(int x)
    dynamic { this.Val(v,_) } _ { this.Val(x,v) }
    static { this.ValReCell(v,_) } _ { this.ValReCell(x,v) }
    { this.bak = base.get(); base.set(x); }

    inherit get()
    dynamic { this.Val(v,b) } _ { this.Val(v,b) /\ Res = v }
    static { this.ValReCell(v,b) } _ { this.ValReCell(v,b) /\ Res = v }
}
```

# Verifying an overridden method (e.g. set)

- three proof obligations
- (1) body verification; (2) consistency checking; and
- (3) verify that the dynamic specification is stronger than the one in the **parent** class

# Verifying an inherited method (e.g. get)

- three proof obligations
- (1) body verification; (2) consistency checking; and
- (3) verify that the static specification follows from the one in the parent class

# And what about this?

```
class DCELL: CELL
{
    public override void set(int x)
    {
        base.set(2*x);
    }
}
```

# And what about this?

```
class DCELL: CELL
{
    define ??? as ???

    public override void set(int x)
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { base.set(2*x); }

    public inherit get()
    dynamic { ??? } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
}
```

# And what about this?

```
class DCELL: CELL
{
    define x.ValDCell(n) as false
    define x.DValDCell(n) as x.ValCell(n)

    public override void set(int x)
        dynamic { this.Val(_) } _ { ??? }
        also { this.DVal(_) } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { base.set(2*x); }

    public inherit get()
        dynamic { this.Val(v) } _ { ??? }
        also { this.DVal(v) } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
}
```

*idea: ensure that no client  
will ever have a Val  
predicate for a DCell object*

# And what about this?

```
class DCELL: CELL
{
    define x.ValDCell(n) as false
    define x.DValDCell(n) as x.ValCell(n)

    public override void set(int x)
        dynamic { this.Val(_) } _ { this.Val(x) }
        also { this.DVal(_) } _ { this.DVal(2*x) }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
    { base.set(2*x); }

    public inherit get()
        dynamic { this.Val(v) } _ { ??? }
        also { this.DVal(v) } _ { ??? }
    static { ??? } _ { ??? }
}
```

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{
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    define x.DValDCell(n) as x.ValCell(n)

    public override void set(int x)
        dynamic { this.Val(_) } _ { this.Val(x) }
        also { this.DVal(_) } _ { this.DVal(2*x) }
        static { this.DValDCell(_) } _ { this.DValDCell(2*x) }
    { base.set(2*x); }

    public inherit get()
        dynamic { this.Val(v) } _ { ??? }
        also { this.DVal(v) } _ { ??? }
        static { ??? } _ { ??? }
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        dynamic { this.Val(_) } _ { this.Val(x) }
        also { this.DVal(_) } _ { this.DVal(2*x) }
        static { this.DValDCell(_) } _ { this.DValDCell(2*x) }
    { base.set(2*x); }

    public inherit get()
        dynamic { this.Val(v) } _ { this.Val(v) /\ Res = v }
        also { this.DVal(v) } _ { this.DVal(v) /\ Res = v }
        static { ??? } _ { ??? }
}
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*idea: ensure that no client  
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        dynamic { this.Val(_) } _ { this.Val(x) }
        also { this.DVal(_) } _ { this.DVal(2*x) }
    static { this.DValDCell(_) } _ { this.DValDCell(2*x) }
    { base.set(2*x); }

    public inherit get()
        dynamic { this.Val(v) } _ { this.Val(v) /\ Res = v }
        also { this.DVal(v) } _ { this.DVal(v) /\ Res = v }
    static { this.DValDCell(v) } _ { this.DValDCell(v) /\ Res = v }
}
```

*idea: ensure that no client  
will ever have a Val  
predicate for a DCell object*

# Next on the agenda

(1) motivation and challenges



(2) extending the memory model



(3) simple statements and proof rules



(4) tackling inheritance: abstract predicate families



(5) method specification and verification



# Conclusion

- separation logic, for reasoning about shared mutable state, can be extended to object-oriented programs
- memory model extended to support objects and dynamic type information
- inheritance tackled with Apfs and static/dynamic specs
- implemented (e.g. jStar, VeriFast); can verify common design patterns
- only just the basics! See the papers for the full story

# *Thank you! Questions?*

Next lecture:

- data flow analysis