

Reasoning about Iterators with Separation Logic

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Overview

- ▶ Multiple iterators traversing a collection in parallel
- ▶ Safe changes to the collection (e.g. caching) OK; only *logical* state needs to be immutable
- ▶ Can separately check client and implementation for conformance to abstract interface

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- ▶ Safe changes to the collection (e.g. caching) OK; only *logical* state needs to be immutable
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- ▶ Specification language developed in collaboration with John Reynolds, Jonathan Aldrich, and Lars Birkedal

Conjunction, Regular and Separating

A is true
B is true

$A \wedge B$

Conjunction, Regular and Separating

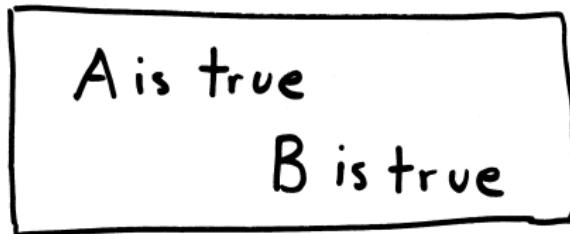
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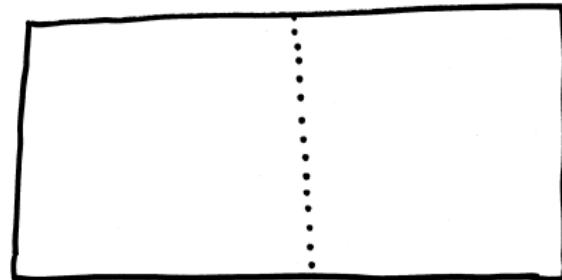
$A \wedge B$

$A * B$

Conjunction, Regular and Separating

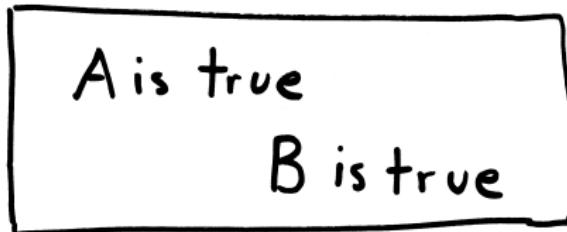


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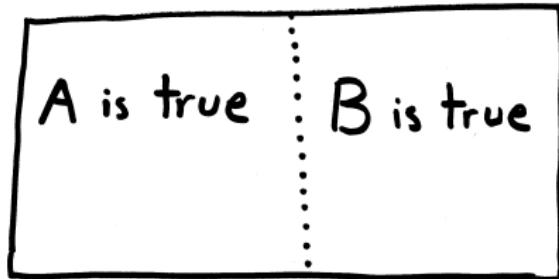


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Conjunction, Regular and Separating



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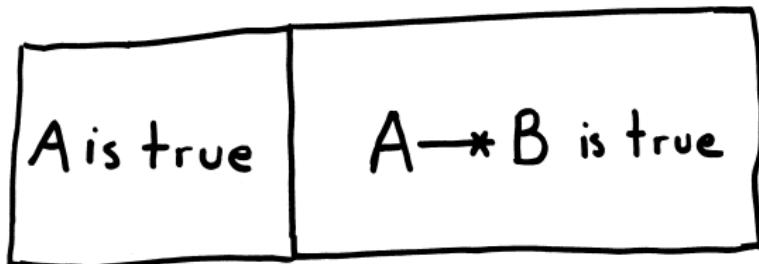


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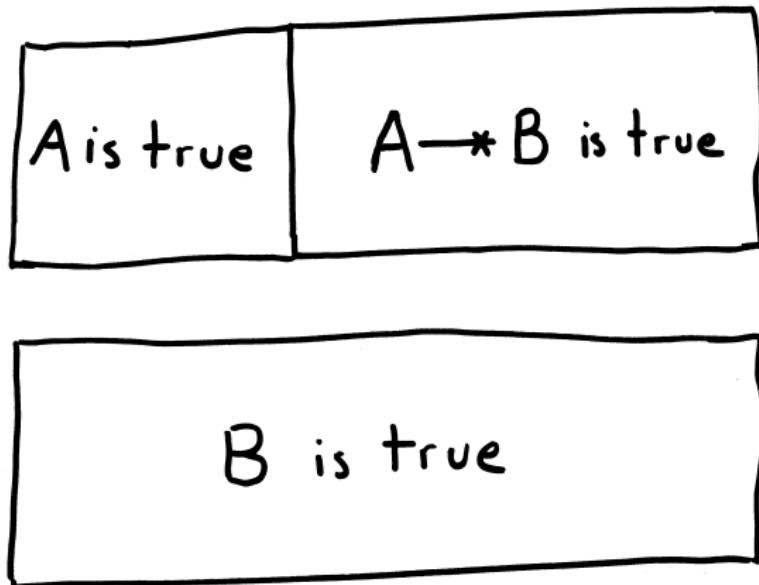
Separating Conjunction

$A \multimap B$ is true

Separating Conjunction



Separating Conjunction



The Iterator Protocol, In Separation Logic

$\exists coll : (\tau_c \times \text{seq} \times \text{prop}) \Rightarrow \text{prop.}$

$\{\top\} \text{ new_coll}() \{a : \tau_c. \exists P. coll(a, [], P)\}$ and

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$\forall P, c, xs. \{coll(c, xs, P)\}$
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$\forall P, c, x, xs. \{\text{coll}(c, xs, P)\}$
 $\quad \text{add}(c, x)$
 $\quad \{a : 1. \exists P'. \text{coll}(c, x :: xs, P')\} \text{ and}$

The Iterator Protocol, In Separation Logic

$\exists \text{iter} : (\tau_i \times \tau_c \times \text{seq} \times \text{prop}) \Rightarrow \text{prop.}$

$\forall c, xs, P. \{ \text{coll}(c, xs, P) \}$
 $\quad \text{new_iter}(c)$
 $\quad \{ a : \tau_i. \text{iter}(a, c, xs, P) \} \text{ and}$

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$\forall i, c, xs, P. \{ \text{iter}(i, c, xs, P) \supset \text{coll}(c, xs, P)^*$
 $\quad \text{coll}(c, xs, P) -* \text{iter}(i, c, xs, P) \}$

A Client Program

1 $\{coll(c, xs, P)\}$

A Client Program

```
1 {coll(c, xs, P)}  
2 let b = empty(c);
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3  {coll(c, xs)}
4  let i1 = new_iter(c);
5  {iter(i1, c, xs, P)}
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3  {coll(c, xs)}
4  let i1 = new_iter(c);
5  {iter(i1, c, xs, P)}
6  {(coll(c, xs, P) * (coll(c, xs, P) --> iter(i1, c, xs, P)))}
7  let i2 = new_iter(c);
8  {iter(i2, c, xs, P) * (coll(c, xs, P) --> iter(i1, c, xs, P))} 
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   (coll(c, xs, P) --> iter(i1, c, xs, P))**
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A Client Program, Continued

```
11 {coll(c, xs, P)*  
  (coll(c, xs, P) -* iter(i1, c, xs, P))*  
  (coll(c, xs, P) -* iter(i2, c, xs, P))}
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A Client Program, Continued

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11 {coll(c, xs, P)*  
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20 add(c, x)
```

A Client Program, Continued Again

- 18 $\{iter(i_2, c, xs, P)\} * (coll(c, xs, P) \rightarrow iter(i_1, c, xs, P))\}$
- 19 $\{coll(c, xs, P)\} * (coll(c, xs, P) \rightarrow iter(i_1, c, xs, P)) * (coll(c, xs, P) \rightarrow iter(i_2, c, xs, P))\}$
- 20 **add(c, x)**
- 21 $\{\exists Q. coll(c, xs, Q)\} * (coll(c, xs, P) \rightarrow iter(i_1, c, xs, P)) * (coll(c, xs, P) \rightarrow iter(i_2, c, xs, P))\}$

Questions?

Any questions?

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$\text{linked_list}(c, x :: xs) \equiv \exists c'. c \hookrightarrow \text{cons}(x, c') * \text{linked_list}(c', xs)$

$\text{linked_list}(c, []) \equiv c \hookrightarrow \text{nil}$

Iterator Invariants

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$$(P \wedge (\text{seg}(\text{fst } c, l, xs_1) * \text{coll}(l, xs_2))) * \\ i \hookrightarrow l * \text{snd } c \hookrightarrow n \wedge \\ xs = xs_1 \cdot xs_2$$

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 $i \hookrightarrow l * \text{snd } c \hookrightarrow n \wedge$
 $xs = xs_1 \cdot xs_2$

$\text{seg}(l, l', x :: xs) \equiv \exists l''. l \hookrightarrow \text{cons}(x, l'') * \text{seg}(l'', xs)$

$\text{seg}(l, l', []) \equiv l = l'$