# What is the basic interface?

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We routinely prove that our programs work. (If we didn't, programs would hardly ever work.)

The proof behind a well-written function is mostly evident in its text. (Because that's part of what we mean by "well-written.")

Sometimes, the intended proof is wrong. (And that's a major source of bugs.)

So why aren't we having computers check our proofs?

We generally aren't clear about what needs to be proved.

We don't often write function interfaces formally.

(And formal mathematical notation is poorly suited to procedural programming.)

We don't write down all the details of function interfaces. (In full, they're pretty complicated. It's easier to let a lot go unsaid.)

We don't even agree about what can go unsaid.

#### Function interface

```
inline void foo()
   ...prologue
   implementation;
   . . .
   ...epilogue
```

#### Function interface

## Function implementation

```
inline void foo()
                                  void implementation foo()
   ...prologue
                                     . . .
   implementation;
                                     ...implementation body
   . . .
                                      . . .
   ...epilogue
```

```
void bar()
   . . .
   ...pre-call region
   foo();
   ...post-call region
   . . .
```

```
inline void foo()
   . . .
                                 void implementation foo()
   ...prologue
   implementation;
                                     ...implementation body
                                     . . .
   ...epilogue
```

## Calling neighborhood

## Implementation neighborhood

```
inline void foo()
void bar()
                                                                      void implementation foo()
                                      ...prologue
   . . .
   ...pre-call region
                                      implementation;
                                                                          ...implementation body
   foo();
                                                                          . . .
   ...post-call region
                                      ...epilogue
   . . .
                                                                      Responsible for behavior

    Not responsible for behavior
```

```
inline void foo()
void bar()
                                      . . .
                                                                      void implementation foo()
                                      ...prologue
   . . .
   ...pre-call region
                                      implementation;
   foo();
                                                                         ...implementation body
                                                                         . . .
   ...post-call region
                                      ...epilogue
   . . .
```

```
inline result_type foo( parameters... )
  implementation;
```

```
    inline result_type foo( parameters... )
{
        // no undefined behavior so far! implementation;
        // no undefined behavior so far!
```

```
inline result_type foo( parameters... )
// no undefined behavior so far!
  try implementation
  // no undefined behavior so far!
  eturn;
  catch (...)
  // no undefined behavior so far!
     throw;
```

```
void bar1()
  int z[2];
                               inline void foo(int& x)
foo( *(z+2) );
void bar2()
                                  implementation;
  int *p = new int();
  delete p;
foo(*p);
void bar3()
  const int y = 2;
foo( const_cast<int&>(y) );
```

```
void
implementation foo( int& x )
  {
    x = 5;
   }
```

```
void bar1()
  int z[2];
                              inline void foo(int&x)
⁴ foo( *(z+2) );
                               claim writable(x);
void bar2()
                                 implementation;
  int *p = new int();
  delete p;
foo(*p);
void bar3()
  const int y = 2;
foo( const_cast<int&>(y) );
```

```
void
implementation foo( int& x )
  {
    x = 5;
}
```

writable(t) // t is an Ivalue of non-const POD type T

Has no effect when assignment of an rvalue of type T to t has defined behavior.

```
inline void foo( int& x )
{
    claim writable( x );
    implementation;
}
```

```
void bar()
{
  int x;
  foo( x );
}
```

```
void bar()
{
  int x;
  foo( x );
}
```

```
inline void foo( int& x )
  {
    claim readable( x );
    claim writable( x );
    implementation;
}
```

```
void
implementation foo( int& x )
    {
    int y = x;
    }
```

readable(t) // t is an Ivalue of POD type T

Has no effect when Ivalue-to-rvalue conversion of t has defined behavior.

```
inline void foo(int&x)
claim readable(x);
claim writable(x);
  implementation;
                             void
                             implementation foo(int& x)
                                int y = x;
```

```
void bar()
{
  int x = 1;
  foo(x);
  x = 0;
}
```

```
inline void foo( int& x )
  {
    claim readable( x );
    claim writable( x );
    implementation;
}
```

```
void bar()
{
  int x = 1;
  foo(x);
  int y = x;
}
```

```
inline void foo(int&x)
  claim readable(x);
claim writable(x);
  implementation;
```

```
void bar()
{
  int x = 1;
  foo( x );
  int y = x;
}
```

```
inline void foo( int& x )
   {
      claim readable( x );
      claim writable( x );
      implementation;

      claim readable( x );
      claim writable( x );
    }
}
```

```
void bar()
    {
    int x = 1;
    try { foo( x ); }
    catch ( ... ) {}
    int y = x;
    }
```

```
inline void foo(int& x)
  claim readable(x);
claim writable(x);
  try implementation
     claim readable(x);
  claim writable(x);
  catch(...)
claim readable(x);
  claim writable(x);
```

```
inline void foo(int&x)
claim proper(x);
  try implementation
  claim proper(x);
  catch(...)
  claim proper(x);
```

```
inline void proper(int& i)
   readable(i);
  writable( i );
```

```
inline void foo( const int& x )
                              inline void proper(int& i)
claim proper(x);
  try implementation
                                 readable(i);
                                 writable( i );
  claim proper(x);
  catch(...)
                              inline void proper(const int& i)
                                 readable( i );
  claim proper(x);
```

proper(t) //t is an Ivalue of a cv-qualified type cvT

A complex of assertions, specific to cvT, that are

- implicitly claimed
- as applied to parameters, function results, and thrown exceptions (including \*this, except before construction, after constructor failure, or after destruction)
- immediately before responsibility is passed between neighborhoods.

```
void bar()
{
  int x;
  foo( x );
  int y = x;
}
```

```
inline void foo(int&x)
claim proper(x);
    try implementation
    claim proper(x);
    catch (...)
    claim proper(x);
```

```
void
implementation foo( int& x )
    {
      x = 5;
    }
```

```
inline void foo([improper] int& x)
                                 try implementation
void bar()
                                                              void
                                                              implementation foo(int& x)
int x;
  foo(x);
                                                               ? x = 5;
  int y = x;
                                 catch (...)
```

```
void bar()
{
  int x;
  foo( x );
  int y = x;
}
```

```
inline void foo([improper] int& x)
  claim writable(x);
  try implementation
                               void
                               implementation foo(int& x)
                                  x = 5;
  catch (...)
```

```
void bar()
{
  int x;
  foo(x);
  int y = x;
}
```

```
inline void foo([improper] int& x)
  claim writable(x);
  try implementation
                               void
     claim proper(x);
                               implementation foo(int& x)
                                  x = 5;
  catch (...)
```

```
void bar()
{
  int x;
  foo( x );
  int y = x;
}
```

```
inline void foo([improper] int& x)
  claim writable(x);
  try implementation
                               void
     claim proper(x);
                               implementation foo(int&x)
                                 x = 5;
  catch (...)
     claim writable(x);
```

```
writable(t) // t is a non-const Ivalue of type T (local version)
```

Has no effect when writable(t) has previously been asserted (including as a consequence of construction)

- in the responsible neighborhood
- more recently than t appears to have been destroyed.

```
readable(t) // t is an Ivalue of POD type T (local version)
```

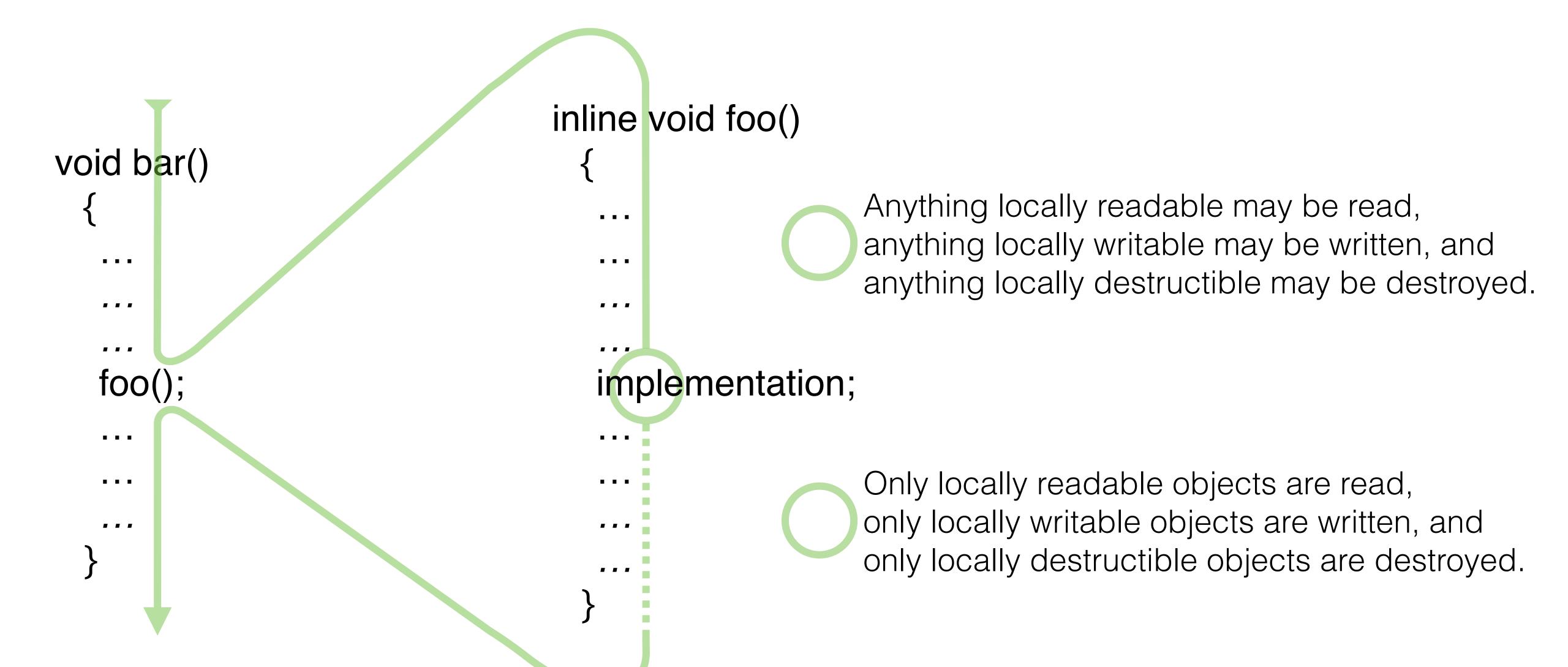
Has no effect when readable(t) has previously been asserted (including as a consequence of initialization or assignment)

- in the responsible neighborhood
- more recently than t appears to have been destroyed.

```
destructible(t) // t is an Ivalue of type T (local version)
```

Has no effect when destructible(t) has previously been asserted (including as a consequence of construction)

- in the responsible neighborhood
- more recently than t appears to have been destroyed.



```
inline void foo(int&x)
                                              claim destructible(x);
                                              try implementation
Should these claims
                                                claim destructible(x);
be part of the basic interface?
                                              catch (...)
(Is destructible part of proper?)
                                                claim destructible(x);
```

Pro: Some functions need to destroy objects passed to them.

Con: Those are unusually dangerous functions.

Interfaces to unusually dangerous functions should spell out the dangers.

```
inline int foo(int&x)
                                  try implementation
                                     claim destructible(result);
Only for object types.
                                  catch (...)
                                  claim destructible(exception);
```

```
inline type::type()
                                               inline type::~type()
                                               claim destructible(*this);
  try implementation
                                                  try implementation
   posit destructible( *this );
                                                  catch (...)
  catch (...)
                                                  claim destructible( exception );
   claim destructible(exception);
```

```
inline type::type()
claim unoccupied_space( *this );
  try implementation
  posit destructible( *this );
  catch (...)
   claim destructible(exception);
   claim unoccupied_space(*this);
```

```
inline type::~type()
claim destructible(*this);
  try implementation
   claim unoccupied_space( *this );
  catch (...)
   claim destructible(exception);
   claim unoccupied_space(*this);
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
  claim destructible(x);
                                      void
  implementation;
                                      implementation foo(int& x,
                                                    const int& y)
                                        x.~int();
                                        new(&x) int(y);
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
  void bar()
                            claim destructible(x);
                                                                void
    int a = 5;
                            implementation;
                                                                implementation foo( int& x,
    int b = 3;
                                                                              const int& y)
    foo(a,b);
                                                                   x.~int();
                                                                   new(&x) int(y);
  b.~int();
a.~int();
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
void bar()
                           claim destructible(x);
                                                               void
  int *a = new int(5);
                           implementation;
                                                               implementation foo( int& x,
  int b = 3;
                                                                              const int& y)
  foo( *a, b );
                                                                  x.~int();
                                                                  new(&x) int(y);
b.~int();
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
                           claim destructible(x);
void bar()
                                                               void
                           implementation;
  int a = 5;
                                                               implementation foo( int& x,
  int b = 3;
                                                                              const int& y)
                      * No leaked destructibility.
  foo(a, b);
                                                                  x.~int();
                                                                  new(&x) int(y);
  b.~int();
  a.~int();
```

```
void bar()
   int a = 5;
   int b = 3;
   foo(a, b);
   b.~int();
   a.~int();
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
  claim destructible(x);
                                      void
  implementation;
                                      implementation foo( int& x,
                                                     const int& y)
  claim destructible(x);
// No leaked destructibility.
                                         x.~int();
                                         new(&x) int(y);
```

```
void bar()
   int a = 5;
   int b = 3;
   foo(a, b);
   b.~int();
   a.~int();
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
  claim destructible(x);
  try implementation
     claim destructible(x);
  // No leaked destructibility.
  catch (...)
   // No leaked destructibility.
```

```
inline void foo( int& x )
                                               try implementation
                                                  -// No leaked readability or writability.
Should these assertions
be part of the basic interface?
                                               catch (...)
(Are other capabilities conserved?)
                                                  -// No leaked readability or writability.
```

Con: Apart from destruction, no operations forget readability or writability.

Pro: We want to require all these capabilities at the point of destruction, so we can be sure they are eliminated there.

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
                              void
                              implementation foo( int& x,
  claim destructible(x);
                                            const int& y)
claim proper(x);
claim proper(y);
                                x.~int();
  implementation;
                                new(&x) int(y);
  claim destructible(x);
claim proper(x);
claim proper(y);
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
                                                            void
void bar()
                                                            implementation foo( int& x,
                                claim destructible(x);
                                                                          const int& y)
                              claim proper(x);
  int a = 5;
                              claim proper(y);
foo( a, a );
                                                               x.~int();
                                implementation;
                                                            new(&x) int(y);
                                claim destructible(x);
                                claim proper(x);
                                claim proper(y);
```

Two Ivalues are *irresponsibly aliased* when aliasing is not communicated across an interface.

Specifically, t and t' are irresponsibly aliased when:

- the execution path through the responsible neighborhood clearly requires t and t' to have the same address, and
- the shared execution path through the interface does not clearly require t and t' to have the same address.

writable(t) // t is an Ivalue of non-const POD type T (local non-aliasing version)

## Has no effect when

- writable(t) has previously been asserted in the responsible neighborhood more recently than t appears to have been destroyed, and
- t is not irresponsibly aliased to any Ivalue that may be readable, writable, or destructible in an irresponsible neighborhood.

Otherwise, the behavior is undefined.

readable(t) // t is an Ivalue of POD type T (local non-aliasing version)

## Has no effect when

- readable(t) has previously been asserted in the responsible neighborhood more recently than t appears to have been destroyed, and
- t is not irresponsibly aliased to any Ivalue that may be writable or destructible in an irresponsible neighborhood.

Otherwise, the behavior is undefined.

destructible(t) // t is an Ivalue of type T (local non-aliasing version)

Has no effect when

- destructible(t) has previously been asserted in the responsible neighborhood more recently than t appears to have been destroyed, and
- t is not irresponsibly aliased to any Ivalue that may be readable, writable, or destructible in an irresponsible neighborhood.

Otherwise, the behavior is undefined.

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
                                                            void
                                                            implementation foo( int& x,
                                claim destructible(x);
                                                                          const int& y)
                              claim proper(x);
  int a = 5;
                           claim proper(y);
foo( a, a );
                                                              x.~int();
                                implementation;
                                                              new(&x) int(y);
                                claim destructible(x);
                              claim proper(x);
                                claim proper(y);
```

void bar()

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
                                                             void
                                                             implementation foo( int& x,
                                 claim destructible(x);
                                                                           const int& y)
                              claim proper(x);
  int a = 5;
                            claim proper(y);
                                                               int t = y;
foo( a, a );
                                                               x.~int();
                                 implementation;
                                                                new(&x) int(t);
                                 claim destructible(x);
                                 claim proper(x);
                                 claim proper(y);
```

void bar()

```
void bar()
{
  int a = 5;

foo( a, a );
}
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
  claim aliased(x, y);
                               void
                               implementation foo( int& x,
  claim destructible(x);
                                             const int& y)
claim proper(x);
claim proper(y);
                                 int t = y;
                                 x.~int();
  implementation;
                                  new(&x) int(t);
  claim destructible(x);
  claim proper(x);
  claim proper(y);
```

```
void bar()
{
  int a = 5;
  int b = 3;
  foo( a, b );
}
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
claim aliased(x, y);
                               void
                               implementation foo( int& x,
  claim destructible(x);
                                             const int& y)
claim proper(x);
claim proper(y);
                                 int t = y;
                                 x.~int();
  implementation;
                                 new(&x) int(t);
  claim destructible(x);
  claim proper(x);
  claim proper(y);
```

```
void bar()
{
  int a = 5;
  int b = 3;
  foo( a, b );
}
```

```
inline void foo(int& x, const int& y)
  if ( &x == &y )
     claim aliased(x, y);
                               void
                               implementation foo( int& x,
  claim destructible(x);
                                              const int& y)
claim proper(x);
claim proper(y);
                                  int t = y;
                                  x.~int();
  implementation;
                                  new( &x ) int( t );
  claim destructible(x);
  claim proper(x);
  claim proper(y);
```

```
void bar()
{
  int a = 5;
  int b = 3;
  foo( a, b );
}
```

```
inline void foo (int& x, const int& y)
  if (&x == &y)
     claim aliased(x, y);
                                void
                                implementation foo( int& x,
  claim destructible(x);
                                              const int& y)
  claim proper(x);
claim proper(y);
                                  int t = y;
                                  x.~int();
  implementation;
                                  new( &x ) int( t );
  claim destructible(x);
  claim proper(x);
  claim proper(y);
```

```
void bar()
{
  int a = 5;

foo( a, a );
}
```

```
inline void foo( int& x, const int& y )
  if ( &x == &y )
     claim aliased(x, y);
                               void
                               implementation foo( int& x,
  claim destructible(x);
                                              const int& y)
  claim proper(x);
claim proper(y);
                                  int t = y;
                                  x.~int();
  implementation;
                                  new(&x) int(t);
  claim destructible(x);
  claim proper(x);
  claim proper(y);
```

```
void bar()
{
  int a = 5;

foo( a, a ) = 0;
}
```

```
inline int& foo(int& x, const int& y)
    if ( &x == &y )
       claim aliased(x, y);
                                 int&
                                 implementation foo(int& x,
    claim proper(x);
                                               const int& y)
  claim proper(y);
                                   x = y;
     implementation;
                                    return x;
    claim proper(x);
    claim proper(y);
claim proper( result );
```

```
void bar()
{
  int a = 5;

foo( a, a ) = 0;
}
```

```
inline int& foo(int& x, const int& y)
  if ( &x == &y )
     claim aliased(x, y);
                               int&
                               implementation foo( int& x,
  claim proper(x);
                                              const int& y)
claim proper(y);
                                  x = y;
  implementation;
                                  return x;
  claim aliased( result, x );
  claim proper(x);
  claim proper(y);
claim proper( result );
```

Pro: More common functions would fit the basic interface. Including assignment, stream operators, and swap.

Con: Proofs have to consider many more execution paths.

Also, assignment, stream operators, and swap need more specific interfaces anyway.

```
inline const int *
foo( const int *x,
    const int *y)
   implementation;
```

```
inline int
foo(const int& x,
                                 int implementation
    const int& y)
                                 foo(const int& x,
                                     const int& y)
                                    std::less<const int *> less;
                                 \triangle bool q = less(&x, &y);
                                    return q?x:y;
  implementation;
```

```
inline int
                              foo(const int& x,
void bar( const int& a0,
         const int& b0)
                                   const int& y)
  auto r0 = foo(a0, b0);
  auto a1 = a0;
  auto b1 = b0;
  auto r1 = foo(a1, b1);
                                 implementation;
claim r0 == r1;
```

An rvalue expression is *indiscernible* to a function if the function is symmetric with respect to permutations of the possible values of the expression.

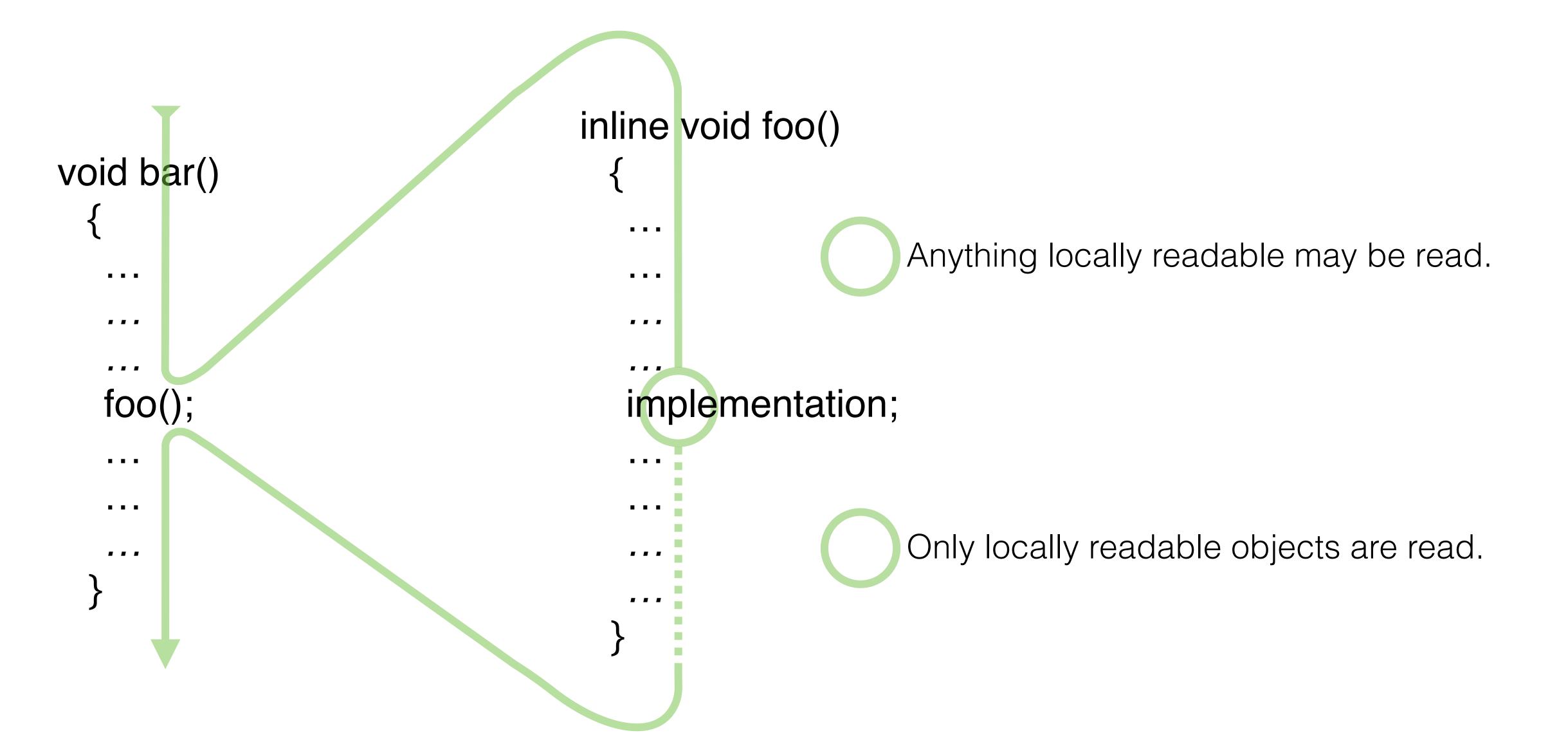
When an expression is indiscernible, all values of the expression are alike to the function.

```
inline int
void bar( const int& a0,
                             foo(const int& x,
         const int& b0)
                                  const int& y)
  auto r0 = foo(a0, b0);
  auto a1 = a0;
  auto b1 = b0;
                              claim proper(x);
                              claim proper(y);
  auto r1 = foo(a1, b1);
                                implementation;
claim r0 == r1;
```

```
int implementation
foo( const int& x,
            const int& y )
      {
        std::less<const int *> less;
        bool q = less( &x, &y );
      return q ? x : y;
      }
}
```

## These values are locally *indiscernible*:

- addresses of readable, writable, destructible, or proper Ivalues (The functions readable, writable, destructible, and proper make them indiscernible.)
- end iterators of readable, writable, destructible, or proper ranges (readable\_range, writable\_range, destructible\_range, and proper\_range make them indiscernible.)
- iterators that have been dereferenced
   (Interfaces to operator\* and operator-> need to make them indiscernible.)
- representation bytes of readable scalar objects (readable makes them indiscernible.)
- padding bytes of readable POD objects (readable makes them indiscernible.)



A function's *gross input* consists of every rvalue mentioned in the prologue:

- (implicitly) the addresses of the parameters and local variables,
- the rvalues calculated in the prologue, and
- the values of Ivalues asserted readable in the prologue.

A function's *gross output* consists of every rvalue mentioned in the epilogue:

- (implicitly) the addresses of the parameters, local variables, and result,
- the rvalues calculated in the epilogue, and
- the values of Ivalues asserted readable in the epilogue.

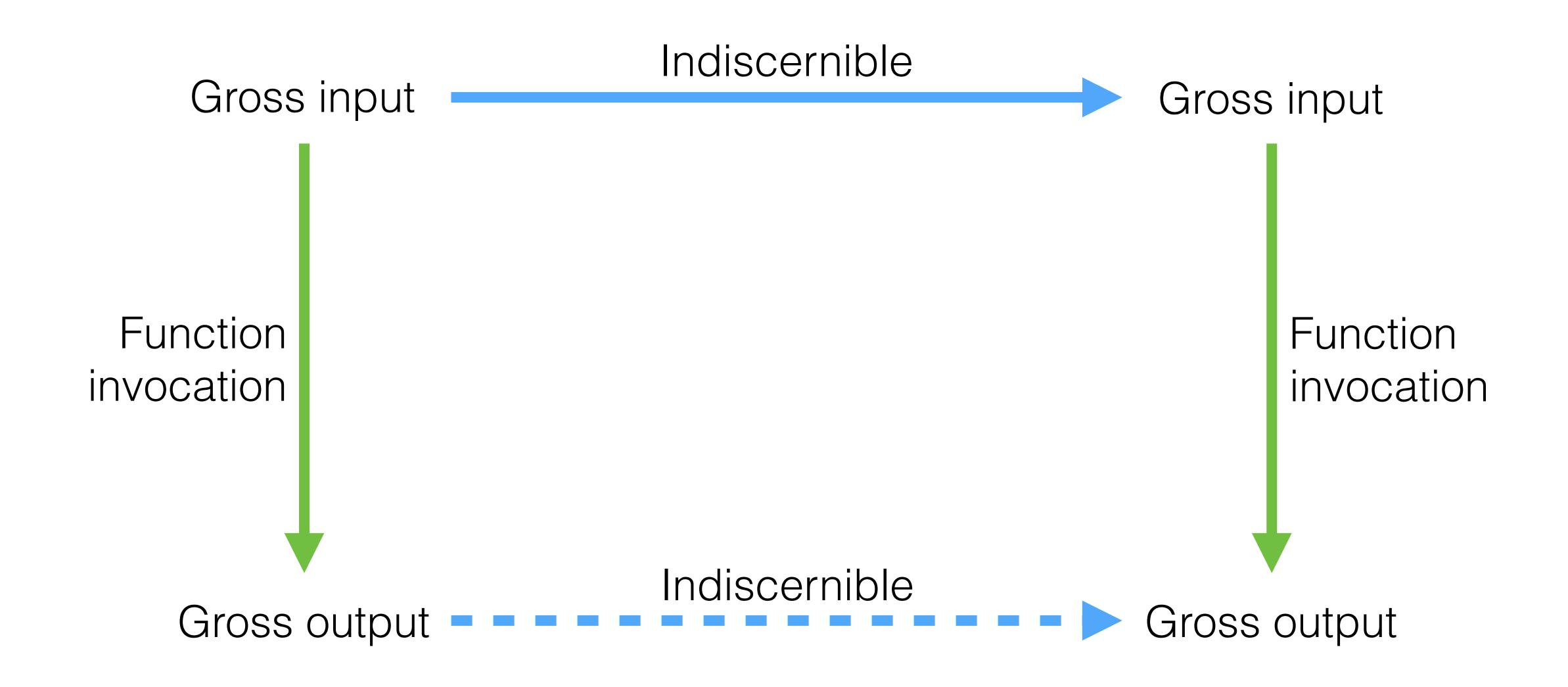
It's tempting to say this, because it's almost right:

A function's *net input* is its gross input modulo indiscernible changes.

A function's *net output* is its gross output modulo indiscernible changes.

Functions should repeatably map their net input to their net output.

But pretending symmetry is a kind of equality never quite works...



An rvalue is *irresponsibly indiscernible* when local indiscernibility is not communicated on return from implementation to caller.

Specifically, v is irresponsibly indiscernible when:

- the execution path through the responsible implementation neighborhood clearly requires v to be locally indiscernible, and
- the shared execution path through the interface does not clearly require **v** to be locally indiscernible.

```
inline int
void bar( const int& a0,
                              foo(const int& x,
                                                              int implementation
         const int& b0)
                                   const int& y)
                                                              foo(const int& x,
                                                                  const int& y)
  auto r0 = foo(a0, b0);
                                                                std::less<const int *> less;
                                                              bool q = less( &x, &y );
  auto a1 = a0;
  auto b1 = b0;
                               claim proper(x);
                                                                return q?x:y;
                              claim proper(y);
  auto r1 = foo(a1, b1);
                                 implementation;
  claim r0 == r1;
                               claim proper( result );
                            * O // No irresponsible indiscernibility.
```

```
inline int
                               int implementation
foo(const int& x,
    const int& y)
                               foo(const int& x,
                                    const int& y)
  std::less<const int *> less;
  bool q = less(&x, &y);
                                  std::less<const int *> less;
  // q is locally discernible!
                                  bool q = less(&x, &y);
claim proper(x);
                                  return q?x:y;
claim proper(y);
  implementation;
claim proper( result );
// No irresponsible indiscernibility.
```

```
inline result_type foo( parameters... )
 • claim proper( parameters...); ———— When not declared improper.
                                                  Only locally { readable writable } objects are { read written doctroy
  try implementation (
    •claim proper( parameters... );
                                                  When not declared improper.
    claim proper( result );
    •claim destructible( result ); ————— When result_type is an object type.
  catch (...)

    claim proper( parameters... );
    When not declared improper.

    claim proper( exception );
    •claim destructible( exception );
                                                → No irresponsible indiscernibility.
                                                * No leaked capabilities.
                                                ** No undefined behavior so far!
```

```
inline result_type type::foo( parameters... )
        claim proper(*this);
                                                          When not declared improper.
        • claim proper( parameters... );
                                                          Only locally { readable writable objects are { read written destructible }
         try implementation (
           claim proper(*this);
           claim proper( parameters... );
                                                          When not declared improper.
           claim proper( result );
           •claim destructible( result ); ————— When result_type is an object type.
         catch (...)
           claim proper(*this);
                                                          When not declared improper.
           •claim proper( parameters... );
           •claim proper( exception );
                                                        ♣ No irresponsible indiscernibility.
           claim destructible(exception);
                                                        * No leaked capabilities.
**
                                                        ** No undefined behavior so far!
```

```
inline type::type( parameters... )
        • claim unoccupied_space( *this );
                                                          When not declared improper.
        • claim proper( parameters... );
                                                          Only locally { readable writable } objects are { read written destroy
         try implementation (-)
           claim proper(*this);
                                                          When not declared improper.
           •claim proper( parameters... );
           posit destructible(*this);
         catch (...)
           •claim proper( parameters... ); ———— When not declared improper.
           •claim proper( exception );
           •claim destructible(exception);
                                                       → No irresponsible indiscernibility.
           •claim unoccupied_space(*this);
                                                       * No leaked capabilities.
**
                                                        ** No undefined behavior so far!
```

```
inline type::~type()
  claim destructible(*this);
                                                   When not declared improper.
  claim proper(*this);
                                                  Only locally { writable | objects are { written
   try implementation (-
    •claim unoccupied_space(*this);
  catch (...)
    claim proper( exception );
    •claim destructible(exception);
                                                → No irresponsible indiscernibility.
    oclaim unoccupied_space( *this );
                                                * No leaked capabilities.
                                                * No undefined behavior so far!
```

What does propriety mean for compound types? How does bytewise copying work? And what's the deal with padding bytes?

How does propriety work for incomplete types? Or polymorphic types? How do virtual functions share interfaces?

What are the interfaces for new and delete expressions? More generally, what are the interfaces for all the built-in operations?

When is a function call repeatable? Or eliminable? What does repeating or eliminating a function call even mean?

## Questions?

Also: there's a paper!
Look for "Procedural Function Interfaces"
on the ISO C++ future proposals forum.