

# Research vision

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# Programming Languages

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let r = alloc 0 in r := r + 1; r
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let r = alloc 0 in r := r + 1; r : ref Nat
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lightweight and modular

specification

verification

documentation

correct by construction

In today's world  
software is  
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# Typed Programming Languages

But what about behaviour?

```
let r = alloc 0 in r := r + 1; r : ref Nat
```

r is fresh ?

!r > 0 ?

other  
effects  
like I/O ?

user-  
defined  
effects ?

...

# State of affairs in type-based reasoning

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## Values

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Well-understood, uniform,  
and thoroughly studied! :)

- Refinement types

`Odd  $\sqsubseteq$  Nat`      `Even  $\sqsubseteq$  Nat`

`Vec A n = {l : List A | len l = n}`

- Dependent types

`Vec a h =`

`| nil : Vec a 0`

`| cons : ... -> Vec a (n+1)`

- Agda, Coq, F\*, Idris, L.Haskell, ...



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### ● Refinement types

$\text{Odd} \sqsubseteq \text{Nat}$        $\text{Even} \sqsubseteq \text{Nat}$

$\text{Vec } A \ n = \{l : \text{List } A \mid \text{len } l = n\}$

### ● Dependent types

$\text{Vec } a \ h =$

|  $\text{nil} : \text{Vec } a \ 0$

|  $\text{cons} : \dots \rightarrow \text{Vec } a \ (n+1)$

### ● Agda, Coq, F\*, Idris, L.Haskell, ...

## Effects and behaviour

Scattered landscape, effect-  
specific, little uniformity! :(

### ● Hoare Type Theory (state)

$M : \Psi.X.\{P\}x:A\{Q\}$

### ● F\* (state, exceptions, but no I/O)

$M : \text{ST } A \ \text{wp}_{\text{ST}}$

~~$M : \text{IO } A \ \text{wp}_{\text{IO}}$~~

### ● Session Types (I/O & channels)

$c : ?\text{Nat}.\text{!String}.\text{!Nat}.T$

### ● Graded monads, param. monads

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  - wide range of effects (state, I/O, exceptions, probability, ...)
  - primitive and user-defined effects
  - combinations of effects

# Research vision: let's be uniform!

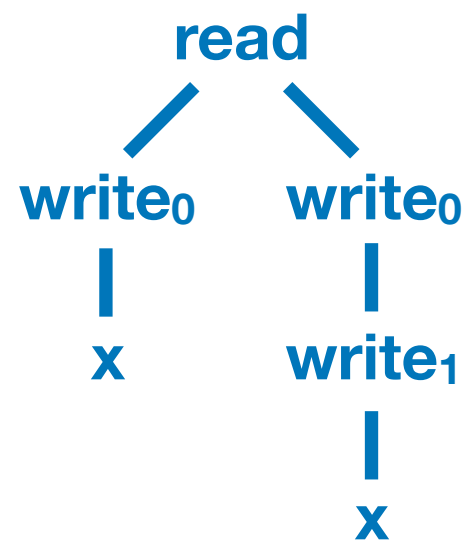
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- ◎ **Answer:** **algebraic effects** and **effect handlers** (rather than just monads)
  - operations and equations
  - reveal the **fundamental underlying tree-like structure** of effects
  - effect handlers are homomorphic tree transformers

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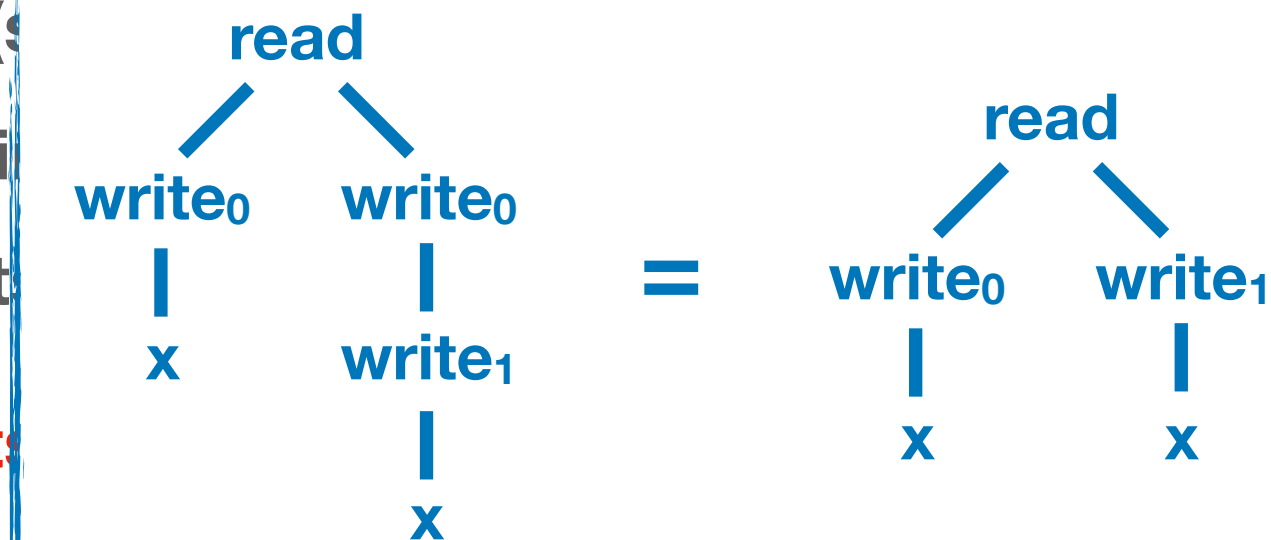
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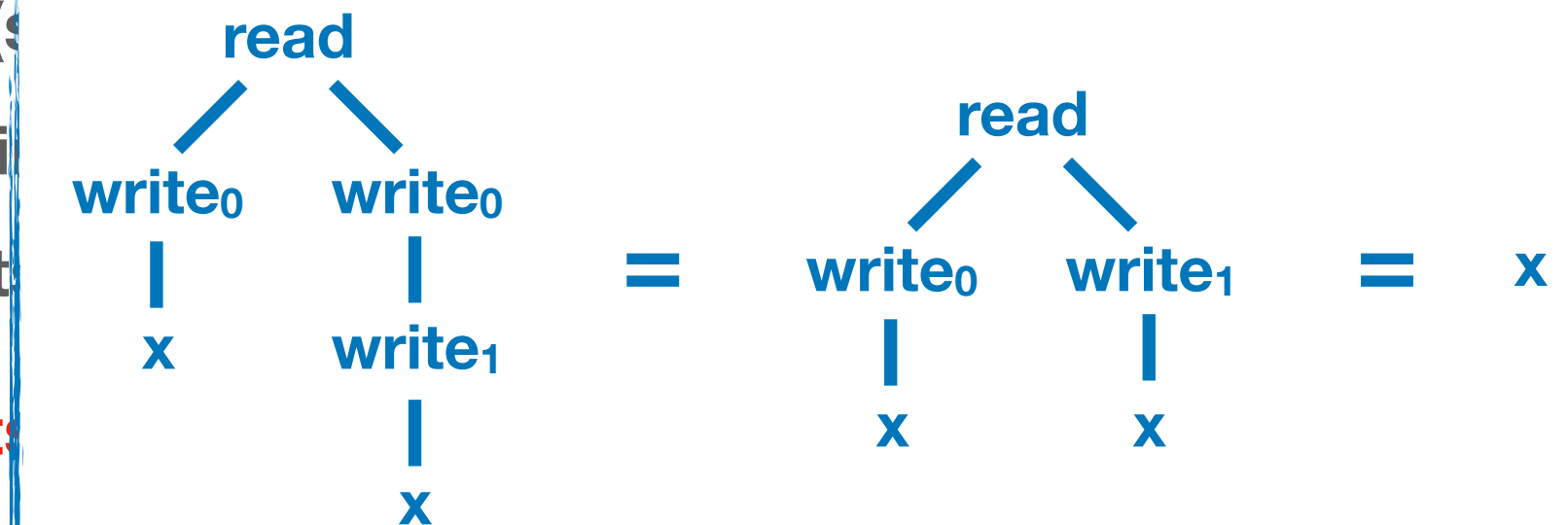
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- **State of the art:** very popular (!) but **effect systems** too coarse grained (!)
  - concurrency, delimited control, monadic reflection, ...
  - Multicore OCaml, Uber's Pyro tool, Eff, Koka, Frank, ...
  - $M : A ! \{ \text{read}, \text{write}, \text{throw} \}$

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- ◎ **Simple idea:** exploit the **underlying tree-like structure** of **effects**!
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$$\langle \text{op} \rangle(\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n) = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{op} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ t_1 \quad \dots \quad t_n \end{array} \mid t_1 \in \psi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge t_n \in \psi_n \right\}$$

$$M : A ! \psi$$

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  - uniform across **all algebraic effects**
  - can already encode Hoare Logic, Session Types,  $\text{HL} \otimes \text{ST}$ , ...

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- ◎ **Challenges:**

- operations with value params. and variable binding
- lifting non-linear effect equations
- effect instances, generativity, and locality (my current focus in LJ)
- dynamic nature of handlers

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- ◎ **Probabilistic programming**
  - algebraic effects and handlers as in Uber's Pyro tool

# Temporal planning

## ◎ Year 1

- modal logic (design, model and proof theory)
- instances, generativity, locality

## ◎ Year 2

- declarative PL design (type-and-effect system)
- meta-theory (denotational and operational)
- encodings of existing specification styles

## ◎ Year 3

- algorithmic PL design (type-and-effect inference)
- implementation
- case studies and applications

# Conclusions

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- **Software is everywhere!**
- **We had better know what it does!**
- **General and uniform frameworks already exist for values!**
- **But only scattered, effect-specific frameworks for behaviour!**
- **My research will seek to rectify this situation**
  - inspired by algebraic effects and effect handlers
  - exploiting modalities in computational refinement types
  - with a wide range of potential application areas