

# Recalling a Witness

Foundations and Applications of Monotonic State

Danel Ahman @ INRIA Paris

Cătălin Hrițcu and Kenji Maillard @ INRIA Paris

Cédric Fournet, Aseem Rastogi, and Nikhil Swamy @ MSR

POPL 2018

January 12, 2018

**Monotonicity is really useful!**

**Its essence can be captured very neatly!**

# Outline

- Monotonic state by example
- Key ideas behind our general framework
- Accommodating monotonic state in  $F^*$
- Some examples of monotonic state at work
- More examples of monotonic state at work (see the paper)
- Monadic reification and reflection (see the paper)
- Meta-theory and correctness results (see the paper)

# Outline

- Monotonic state by example
- Key ideas behind our general framework
- Accommodating monotonic state in  $F^*$
- Some examples of monotonic state at work
- More examples of monotonic state at work (see the paper)
- Monadic reification and reflection (see the paper)
- Meta-theory and correctness results (see the paper)

# Monotonicity in program verification

- Consider a program operating on **set-valued state**

```
insert v; complex_procedure(); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- To prove the assertion (say, in a Floyd-Hoare style logic), we could prove that the code maintains a **stateful invariant**

$$\{\lambda s.v \in s\} \text{ complex\_procedure() } \{\lambda s.v \in s\}$$

- likely that we have to **carry**  $\lambda s.v \in s$  **through** the proof of `c_p`
  - does not guarantee** that  $\lambda s.v \in s$  holds at every point in `c_p`
  - sensitive** to proving that `c_p` maintains  $\lambda s.w \in s$  for some other `w`
- However, if `c_p` **never removes**, then  $\lambda s.v \in s$  is **stable**, and we would like the program logic to give us `v ∈ get()` “for free”

# Monotonicity in program verification

- Consider a program operating on **set-valued state**

insert v; complex\_procedure(); **assert** ( $v \in \text{get}()$ )

- To prove the assertion (say, in a Floyd-Hoare style logic), we could prove that the code maintains a **stateful invariant**

$\{\lambda s. v \in s\}$  complex\_procedure()  $\{\lambda s. v \in s\}$

- likely that we have to carry  $\lambda s. v \in s$  through the proof of c\_p
  - does not guarantee that  $\lambda s. v \in s$  holds at every point in c\_p
  - sensitive to proving that c\_p maintains  $\lambda s. w \in s$  for some other w
- However, if c\_p **never removes**, then  $\lambda s. v \in s$  is **stable**, and we would like the program logic to give us  $v \in \text{get}()$  “for free”

# Monotonicity in program verification

- Consider a program operating on **set-valued state**

insert v; complex\_procedure(); **assert** ( $v \in \text{get}()$ )

- To prove the assertion (say, in a Floyd-Hoare style logic), we could prove that the code maintains a **stateful invariant**

$\{\lambda s. v \in s\}$  complex\_procedure()  $\{\lambda s. v \in s\}$

- likely that we have to **carry**  $\lambda s. v \in s$  **through** the proof of c\_p
  - does not guarantee** that  $\lambda s. v \in s$  holds at every point in c\_p
  - sensitive** to proving that c\_p maintains  $\lambda s. w \in s$  for some other w
- However, if c\_p **never removes**, then  $\lambda s. v \in s$  is **stable**, and we would like the program logic to give us  $v \in \text{get}()$  “for free”

# Monotonicity in program verification

- Consider a program operating on **set-valued state**

insert v; complex\_procedure(); **assert** ( $v \in \text{get}()$ )

- To prove the assertion (say, in a Floyd-Hoare style logic), we could prove that the code maintains a **stateful invariant**

$\{\lambda s. v \in s\}$  complex\_procedure()  $\{\lambda s. v \in s\}$

- likely that we have to **carry**  $\lambda s. v \in s$  **through** the proof of c\_p
  - does not guarantee** that  $\lambda s. v \in s$  holds at every point in c\_p
  - sensitive** to proving that c\_p maintains  $\lambda s. w \in s$  for some other w
- However, if c\_p **never removes**, then  $\lambda s. v \in s$  is **stable**, and we would like the program logic to give us  $v \in \text{get}()$  “for free”



# Monotonicity in programming

- **Programming** also relies on **monotonicity**, even if you don't realise it!
- Consider ML-style typed references  $r:\text{ref } a$ 
  - $r$  is a **proof of existence** of an  $a$ -typed value in the heap
- Correctness relies on **monotonicity**!
  - 1) Allocation **stores** an  $a$ -typed value in the heap
  - 2) Writes **don't change type** and there is **no deallocation**
  - 3) So, given a ref.  $r$ , it is **guaranteed to point** to an  $a$ -typed value
- Baked into the memory models of most languages
- We derive them from **global state** + **general monotonicity**

# Monotonicity in programming

- **Programming** also relies on **monotonicity**, even if you don't realise it!
- Consider ML-style typed **references**  $r:\text{ref } a$ 
  - $r$  is a **proof of existence** of an  $a$ -typed value in the heap
- Correctness relies on **monotonicity**!
  - 1) Allocation stores an  $a$ -typed value in the heap
  - 2) Writes **don't change type** and there is **no deallocation**
  - 3) So, given a ref.  $r$ , it is **guaranteed to point** to an  $a$ -typed value
- Baked into the memory models of most languages
- We derive them from **global state** + **general monotonicity**

# Monotonicity in programming

- **Programming** also relies on **monotonicity**, even if you don't realise it!
- Consider ML-style typed **references**  $r:\text{ref } a$ 
  - $r$  is a **proof of existence** of an  $a$ -typed value in the heap
- Correctness relies on **monotonicity**!
  - 1) Allocation **stores** an  $a$ -typed value in the heap
  - 2) Writes **don't change type** and there is **no deallocation**
  - 3) So, given a ref.  $r$ , it is **guaranteed to point** to an  $a$ -typed value
- Baked into the memory models of most languages
- We derive them from **global state + general monotonicity**

# Monotonicity in programming

- **Programming** also relies on **monotonicity**, even if you don't realise it!
- Consider ML-style typed **references**  $r:\text{ref } a$ 
  - $r$  is a **proof of existence** of an  $a$ -typed value in the heap
- Correctness relies on **monotonicity**!
  - 1) Allocation **stores** an  $a$ -typed value in the heap
  - 2) Writes **don't change type** and there is **no deallocation**
  - 3) So, given a ref.  $r$ , it is **guaranteed to point** to an  $a$ -typed value
- Baked into the memory models of most languages
- We derive them from **global state** + **general monotonicity**

# Monotonicity is really useful!

- In this talk
  - our **motivating example** and **monotonic counters**
  - **typed references** (`ref t`) and **untyped references** (`uref`)
  - more flexibility with **monotonic references** (`mref t rel`)
- More in the paper
  - temporarily **violating monotonicity** via snapshots
  - two substantial case studies
    - a **secure file-transfer** application
    - Ariadne **state continuity** protocol [Strackx, Piessens 2016]
  - pointers to other works in F\* relying on monotonicity for
    - sophisticated **region-based memory models** [fstar-lang.org]
    - **crypto** and **TLS verification** [project-everest.github.io]

# Monotonicity is really useful!

- In this talk
  - our **motivating example** and **monotonic counters**
  - **typed references** (`ref t`) and **untyped references** (`uref`)
  - more flexibility with **monotonic references** (`mref t rel`)
- More in the paper
  - temporarily **violating monotonicity** via snapshots
  - two substantial case studies
    - a **secure file-transfer** application
    - **Ariadne state continuity** protocol [Strackx, Piessens 2016]
  - pointers to other works in F\* relying on monotonicity for
    - sophisticated **region-based memory models** [fstar-lang.org]
    - **crypto** and **TLS verification** [project-everest.github.io]

# Monotonicity is really useful!

- In this talk
  - our **motivating example** and **monotonic counters**
  - **typed references** (`ref t`) and **untyped references** (`uref`)
  - more flexibility with **monotonic references** (`mref t rel`)
- More in the paper
  - temporarily **violating monotonicity** via snapshots
  - two substantial case studies
    - a **secure file-transfer** application
    - Ariadne **state continuity** protocol [Strackx, Piessens 2016]
  - pointers to other works in  $F^*$  relying on monotonicity for
    - sophisticated **region-based memory models** [fstar-lang.org]
    - **crypto** and **TLS verification** [project-everest.github.io]

# Outline

- Monotonic state by example
- Key ideas behind our general framework
- Accommodating monotonic state in  $F^*$
- Some examples of monotonic state at work
- More examples of monotonic state at work (see the paper)
- Monadic reification and reflection (see the paper)
- Meta-theory and correctness results (see the paper)



# Key ideas behind our general framework

- We focus on **monotonic programs** and **stable predicates**
  - per verification task, we **choose a preorder  $\text{rel}$**  on states
    - set inclusion, heap inclusion, increasing counter values, ...
  - a stateful program  $e$  is **monotonic** (wrt.  $\text{rel}$ ) when
$$\forall s e' s'. (e, s) \rightsquigarrow^* (e', s') \implies \text{rel } s s'$$
  - a stateful predicate  $p$  is **stable** (wrt.  $\text{rel}$ ) when
$$\forall s s'. p s \wedge \text{rel } s s' \implies p s'$$
- **Our solution:** extend Hoare-style program logics (e.g.,  $F^*$ ) with
  - $a$  means to **witness** the validity of  $p s$  in some state  $s$
  - $a$  means for turning a  $p$  into a **state-independent proposition**
  - $a$  means to **recall** the validity of  $p s'$  in any future state  $s'$
- Provides a **unifying account** of the existing *ad hoc* uses in  $F^*$

# Key ideas behind our general framework

- We focus on **monotonic programs** and **stable predicates**
  - per verification task, we **choose a preorder  $\text{rel}$**  on states
    - set inclusion, heap inclusion, increasing counter values, ...
  - a stateful program  $e$  is **monotonic** (wrt.  $\text{rel}$ ) when
$$\forall s e' s'. (e, s) \rightsquigarrow^* (e', s') \implies \text{rel } s s'$$
  - a stateful predicate  $p$  is **stable** (wrt.  $\text{rel}$ ) when
$$\forall s s'. p s \wedge \text{rel } s s' \implies p s'$$
- **Our solution:** extend Hoare-style program logics (e.g.,  $F^*$ ) with
  - $a$  means to **witness** the validity of  $p s$  in some state  $s$
  - $a$  means for turning a  $p$  into a **state-independent proposition**
  - $a$  means to **recall** the validity of  $p s'$  in any future state  $s'$
- Provides a **unifying account** of the existing *ad hoc* uses in  $F^*$

# Key ideas behind our general framework

- We focus on **monotonic programs** and **stable predicates**
  - per verification task, we **choose a preorder** **rel** on states
    - set inclusion, heap inclusion, increasing counter values, ...
  - a stateful program  $e$  is **monotonic** (wrt. **rel**) when
$$\forall s e' s'. (e, s) \rightsquigarrow^* (e', s') \implies \text{rel } s s'$$
  - a stateful predicate  $p$  is **stable** (wrt. **rel**) when
$$\forall s s'. p s \wedge \text{rel } s s' \implies p s'$$
- **Our solution:** extend Hoare-style program logics (e.g.,  $F^*$ ) with
  - $a$  means to **witness** the validity of  $p s$  in some state  $s$
  - $a$  means for turning a  $p$  into a **state-independent proposition**
  - $a$  means to **recall** the validity of  $p s'$  in any future state  $s'$
- Provides a **unifying account** of the existing *ad hoc* uses in  $F^*$

# Key ideas behind our general framework

- We focus on **monotonic programs** and **stable predicates**
  - per verification task, we **choose a preorder** **rel** on states
    - set inclusion, heap inclusion, increasing counter values, ...

- a stateful program  $e$  is **monotonic** (wrt. **rel**) when

$$\forall s e' s'. (e, s) \rightsquigarrow^* (e', s') \implies \text{rel } s s'$$

- a stateful predicate  $p$  is **stable** (wrt. **rel**) when

$$\forall s s'. p s \wedge \text{rel } s s' \implies p s'$$

- **Our solution:** extend Hoare-style program logics (e.g.,  $F^*$ ) with
  - $a$  means to **witness** the validity of  $p s$  in some state  $s$
  - $a$  means for turning a  $p$  into a **state-independent proposition**
  - $a$  means to **recall** the validity of  $p s'$  in any future state  $s'$
- Provides a **unifying account** of the existing *ad hoc* uses in  $F^*$

# Key ideas behind our general framework

- We focus on **monotonic programs** and **stable predicates**
  - per verification task, we **choose a preorder** **rel** on states
    - set inclusion, heap inclusion, increasing counter values, ...

- a stateful program  $e$  is **monotonic** (wrt. **rel**) when

$$\forall s e' s'. (e, s) \rightsquigarrow^* (e', s') \implies \text{rel } s s'$$

- a stateful predicate  $p$  is **stable** (wrt. **rel**) when

$$\forall s s'. p \ s \ \wedge \ \text{rel } s s' \implies p \ s'$$

- **Our solution:** extend Hoare-style program logics (e.g.,  $F^*$ ) with
  - $a$  means to **witness** the validity of  $p \ s$  in some state  $s$
  - $a$  means for turning a  $p$  into a **state-independent proposition**
  - $a$  means to **recall** the validity of  $p \ s'$  in any future state  $s'$
- Provides a **unifying account** of the existing *ad hoc* uses in  $F^*$

# Key ideas behind our general framework

- We focus on **monotonic programs** and **stable predicates**
  - per verification task, we **choose a preorder** **rel** on states
    - set inclusion, heap inclusion, increasing counter values, ...

- a stateful program  $e$  is **monotonic** (wrt. **rel**) when

$$\forall s e' s'. (e, s) \rightsquigarrow^* (e', s') \implies \text{rel } s s'$$

- a stateful predicate  $p$  is **stable** (wrt. **rel**) when

$$\forall s s'. p \ s \ \wedge \ \text{rel } s s' \implies p \ s'$$

- **Our solution:** extend Hoare-style program logics (e.g.,  $F^*$ ) with
  - $a$  means to **witness** the validity of  $p \ s$  in some state  $s$
  - $a$  means for turning a  $p$  into a **state-independent proposition**
  - $a$  means to **recall** the validity of  $p \ s'$  in any future state  $s'$

- Provides a **unifying account** of the existing *ad hoc* uses in  $F^*$

# Key ideas behind our general framework

- We focus on **monotonic programs** and **stable predicates**
  - per verification task, we **choose a preorder** **rel** on states
    - set inclusion, heap inclusion, increasing counter values, ...

- a stateful program  $e$  is **monotonic** (wrt. **rel**) when

$$\forall s e' s'. (e, s) \rightsquigarrow^* (e', s') \implies \text{rel } s s'$$

- a stateful predicate  $p$  is **stable** (wrt. **rel**) when

$$\forall s s'. p \ s \ \wedge \ \text{rel } s s' \implies p \ s'$$

- **Our solution:** extend Hoare-style program logics (e.g.,  $F^*$ ) with
  - $a$  means to **witness** the validity of  $p \ s$  in some state  $s$
  - $a$  means for turning a  $p$  into a **state-independent proposition**
  - $a$  means to **recall** the validity of  $p \ s'$  in any future state  $s'$
- Provides a **unifying account** of the existing *ad hoc* uses in  $F^*$

# Outline

- Monotonic state by example
- Key ideas behind our general framework
- Accommodating monotonic state in  $F^*$
- Some examples of monotonic state at work
- More examples of monotonic state at work (see the paper)
- Monadic reification and reflection (see the paper)
- Meta-theory and correctness results (see the paper)



# Recap: Ordinary global state in F\*

- F\* is an ML-like dependently typed language, aimed at verification
- F\* supports Hoare-style reasoning about state via the **comp. type**

$$ST_{\text{state}}\ t\ (\text{requires}\ \text{pre})\ (\text{ensures}\ \text{post})$$

where

$$\text{pre} : \text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type} \qquad \text{post} : \text{state} \rightarrow t \rightarrow \text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}$$

- ST is an abstract pre-postcondition refinement of

$$st\ t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{state} \rightarrow t * \text{state}$$

- The global state **actions** have types

$$\text{get} : \text{unit} \rightarrow ST\ \text{state}\ (\text{requires}\ (\lambda \_.\top))\ (\text{ensures}\ (\lambda s_0\ s\ s_1.\ s_0 = s = s_1))$$
$$\text{put} : s:\text{state} \rightarrow ST\ \text{unit}\ (\text{requires}\ (\lambda \_.\top))\ (\text{ensures}\ (\lambda \_ \ s_1.\ s_1 = s))$$

- **Refs.** and **local state** will be defined in F\* using **monotonicity**

# Recap: Ordinary global state in F\*

- F\* is an ML-like dependently typed language, aimed at verification
- F\* supports Hoare-style reasoning about state via the **comp. type**

$$ST_{\text{state}}\ t\ (\text{requires}\ \text{pre})\ (\text{ensures}\ \text{post})$$

where

$$\text{pre} : \text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type} \qquad \text{post} : \text{state} \rightarrow t \rightarrow \text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}$$

- ST is an abstract pre-postcondition refinement of

$$\text{st}\ t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{state} \rightarrow t * \text{state}$$

- The global state **actions** have types

$$\text{get} : \text{unit} \rightarrow ST\ \text{state}\ (\text{requires}\ (\lambda \_.\top))\ (\text{ensures}\ (\lambda s_0\ s\ s_1.\ s_0 = s = s_1))$$
$$\text{put} : s:\text{state} \rightarrow ST\ \text{unit}\ (\text{requires}\ (\lambda \_.\top))\ (\text{ensures}\ (\lambda \_ \ s_1.\ s_1 = s))$$

- Refs. and local state will be defined in F\* using **monotonicity**

# Recap: Ordinary global state in F\*

- F\* is an ML-like dependently typed language, aimed at verification
- F\* supports Hoare-style reasoning about state via the **comp. type**

$$\text{ST}_{\text{state}} \, t \, (\text{requires } \text{pre}) \, (\text{ensures } \text{post})$$

where

$$\text{pre} : \text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type} \qquad \text{post} : \text{state} \rightarrow t \rightarrow \text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}$$

- ST is an abstract pre-postcondition refinement of

$$\text{st } t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{state} \rightarrow t * \text{state}$$

- The global state **actions** have types

$\text{get} : \text{unit} \rightarrow \text{ST } \text{state} \, (\text{requires } (\lambda \_ . \top)) \, (\text{ensures } (\lambda s_0 \, s \, s_1 . s_0 = s = s_1))$

$\text{put} : s : \text{state} \rightarrow \text{ST } \text{unit} \, (\text{requires } (\lambda \_ . \top)) \, (\text{ensures } (\lambda \_ \_ s_1 . s_1 = s))$

- Refs. and local state will be defined in F\* using monotonicity

# Recap: Ordinary global state in F\*

- F\* is an ML-like dependently typed language, aimed at verification
- F\* supports Hoare-style reasoning about state via the **comp. type**

$$\text{ST}_{\text{state}}\ t\ (\text{requires}\ \text{pre})\ (\text{ensures}\ \text{post})$$

where

$$\text{pre} : \text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type} \qquad \text{post} : \text{state} \rightarrow t \rightarrow \text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}$$

- ST is an abstract pre-postcondition refinement of

$$\text{st}\ t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{state} \rightarrow t * \text{state}$$

- The global state **actions** have types

$$\text{get} : \text{unit} \rightarrow \text{ST}\ \text{state}\ (\text{requires}\ (\lambda \_.\top))\ (\text{ensures}\ (\lambda s_0\ s\ s_1.\ s_0 = s = s_1))$$
$$\text{put} : s:\text{state} \rightarrow \text{ST}\ \text{unit}\ (\text{requires}\ (\lambda \_.\top))\ (\text{ensures}\ (\lambda \_ \_ s_1.\ s_1 = s))$$

- **Refs.** and **local state** will be defined in F\* using **monotonicity**

# New: Monotonic global state in F\*

- We capture monotonic state with a new **computational type**

$\text{MST}_{\text{state}, \text{rel}}\ t\ (\text{requires}\ \text{pre})\ (\text{ensures}\ \text{post})$

where  $\text{pre}$  and  $\text{post}$  are typed as in ST

- The **get** action is typed as in ST

$\text{get} : \text{unit} \rightarrow \text{MST state} (\text{requires}\ (\lambda \_.\top))$   
 $(\text{ensures}\ (\lambda s_0\ s\ s_1.\ s_0 = s = s_1))$

- To ensure **monotonicity**, the **put** action gets a precondition

$\text{put} : s:\text{state} \rightarrow \text{MST unit} (\text{requires}\ (\lambda s_0.\text{rel}\ s_0\ s))$   
 $(\text{ensures}\ (\lambda \_ \ s_1.\ s_1 = s))$

- So intuitively, MST is an **abstract** pre-postcondition refinement of

$\text{mst}\ t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s_0:\text{state} \rightarrow t * s_1:\text{state}\{\text{rel}\ s_0\ s_1\}$

# New: Monotonic global state in F\*

- We capture monotonic state with a new **computational type**

$$\text{MST}_{\text{state}, \text{rel}} \, t \, (\text{requires} \, \text{pre}) \, (\text{ensures} \, \text{post})$$

where pre and post are typed as in ST

- The **get** action is typed as in ST

$$\begin{aligned} \text{get} : \text{unit} \rightarrow \text{MST state} & (\text{requires} \, (\lambda \_ . \top)) \\ & (\text{ensures} \, (\lambda s_0 \, s \, s_1 . s_0 = s = s_1)) \end{aligned}$$

- To ensure **monotonicity**, the **put** action gets a precondition

$$\begin{aligned} \text{put} : \text{s} : \text{state} \rightarrow \text{MST unit} & (\text{requires} \, (\lambda s_0 . \text{rel} \, s_0 \, s)) \\ & (\text{ensures} \, (\lambda \_ \, s_1 . s_1 = s)) \end{aligned}$$

- So intuitively, MST is an **abstract** pre-postcondition refinement of

$$\text{mst } t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{s}_0 : \text{state} \rightarrow t * \text{s}_1 : \text{state} \{ \text{rel} \, \text{s}_0 \, \text{s}_1 \}$$

# New: Monotonic global state in F\*

- We capture monotonic state with a new **computational type**

$$\text{MST}_{\text{state}, \text{rel}} \, t \, (\text{requires} \, \text{pre}) \, (\text{ensures} \, \text{post})$$

where pre and post are typed as in ST

- The **get** action is typed as in ST

$$\begin{aligned} \text{get} : \text{unit} \rightarrow \text{MST state } (\text{requires } (\lambda \_ . \top)) \\ (\text{ensures } (\lambda s_0 \, s \, s_1 . s_0 = s = s_1)) \end{aligned}$$

- To ensure **monotonicity**, the **put** action gets a precondition

$$\begin{aligned} \text{put} : s : \text{state} \rightarrow \text{MST unit } (\text{requires } (\lambda s_0 . \text{rel } s_0 \, s)) \\ (\text{ensures } (\lambda \_ \_ s_1 . s_1 = s)) \end{aligned}$$

- So intuitively, MST is an **abstract** pre-postcondition refinement of

$$\text{mst } t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s_0 : \text{state} \rightarrow t * s_1 : \text{state} \{ \text{rel } s_0 \, s_1 \}$$

# New: Monotonic global state in F\*

- We capture monotonic state with a new **computational type**

$$\text{MST}_{\text{state}, \text{rel}} \, t \, (\text{requires} \, \text{pre}) \, (\text{ensures} \, \text{post})$$

where pre and post are typed as in ST

- The **get** action is typed as in ST

$$\begin{aligned} \text{get} : \text{unit} \rightarrow \text{MST state} & \, (\text{requires} \, (\lambda \_ . \top)) \\ & \, (\text{ensures} \, (\lambda s_0 \, s \, s_1 . s_0 = s = s_1)) \end{aligned}$$

- To ensure **monotonicity**, the **put** action gets a precondition

$$\begin{aligned} \text{put} : s : \text{state} \rightarrow \text{MST unit} & \, (\text{requires} \, (\lambda s_0 . \text{rel} \, s_0 \, s)) \\ & \, (\text{ensures} \, (\lambda \_ \, s_1 . s_1 = s)) \end{aligned}$$

- So intuitively, MST is an **abstract** pre-postcondition refinement of

$$\text{mst } t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s_0 : \text{state} \rightarrow t * s_1 : \text{state} \{ \text{rel } s_0 \, s_1 \}$$



# New: Monotonic global state in F\*

- We capture monotonic state with a new **computational type**

$$\text{MST}_{\text{state}, \text{rel}} \, t \, (\text{requires} \, \text{pre}) \, (\text{ensures} \, \text{post})$$

where pre and post are typed as in ST

- The **get** action is typed as in ST

$$\begin{aligned} \text{get} : \text{unit} \rightarrow \text{MST state} & \, (\text{requires} \, (\lambda \_ . \top)) \\ & \, (\text{ensures} \, (\lambda s_0 \, s \, s_1 . s_0 = s = s_1)) \end{aligned}$$

- To ensure **monotonicity**, the **put** action gets a precondition

$$\begin{aligned} \text{put} : s : \text{state} \rightarrow \text{MST unit} & \, (\text{requires} \, (\lambda s_0 . \text{rel} \, s_0 \, s)) \\ & \, (\text{ensures} \, (\lambda \_ \_ s_1 . s_1 = s)) \end{aligned}$$

- So intuitively, MST is an **abstract** pre-postcondition refinement of

$$\text{mst } t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s_0 : \text{state} \rightarrow t * s_1 : \text{state} \{ \text{rel } s_0 \, s_1 \}$$

# New: Recalling a Witness

- We introduce a **logical capability** (a **modality** in ongoing work)

$\text{witnessed} : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Type}$

together with a **weakening principle** (**functoriality**)

$\text{wk} : p, q : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Lemma} \left( \text{requires } (\forall s. p\ s \implies q\ s) \right)$   
 $\left( \text{ensures } (\text{witnessed } p \implies \text{witnessed } q) \right)$

- We add a **stateful introduction rule** for **witnessed**

$\text{witness} : p : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{MST unit} \left( \text{requires } (\lambda s_0. p\ s_0 \wedge \text{stable } p) \right)$   
 $\left( \text{ensures } (\lambda s_0 - s_1. s_0 = s_1 \wedge \text{witnessed } p) \right)$

- We add a **stateful elimination rule** for **witnessed**

$\text{recall} : p : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{MST unit} \left( \text{requires } (\lambda \_ . \text{witnessed } p) \right)$   
 $\left( \text{ensures } (\lambda s_0 - s_1. s_0 = s_1 \wedge p\ s_1) \right)$

# New: Recalling a Witness

- We introduce a **logical capability** (a **modality** in ongoing work)

$\text{witnessed} : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Type}$

together with a **weakening principle** (**functoriality**)

$\text{wk} : p, q : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Lemma} \left( \text{requires} \left( \forall s. p\ s \implies q\ s \right) \right.$   
 $\left. \left( \text{ensures} \left( \text{witnessed}\ p \implies \text{witnessed}\ q \right) \right) \right)$

- We add a **stateful introduction rule** for **witnessed**

$\text{witness} : p : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{MST unit} \left( \text{requires} \left( \lambda s_0. p\ s_0 \wedge \text{stable}\ p \right) \right.$   
 $\left. \left( \text{ensures} \left( \lambda s_0 - s_1. s_0 = s_1 \wedge \text{witnessed}\ p \right) \right) \right)$

- We add a **stateful elimination rule** for **witnessed**

$\text{recall} : p : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{MST unit} \left( \text{requires} \left( \lambda \_. \text{witnessed}\ p \right) \right.$   
 $\left. \left( \text{ensures} \left( \lambda s_0 - s_1. s_0 = s_1 \wedge p\ s_1 \right) \right) \right)$

# New: Recalling a Witness

- We introduce a **logical capability** (a **modality** in ongoing work)

$\text{witnessed} : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Type}$

together with a **weakening principle** (**functoriality**)

$\text{wk} : p, q : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Lemma} \left( \text{requires} \left( \forall s. p \ s \implies q \ s \right) \right.$   
 $\left. \left( \text{ensures} \left( \text{witnessed } p \implies \text{witnessed } q \right) \right) \right)$

- We add a **stateful introduction rule** for witnessed

$\text{witness} : p : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{MST unit} \left( \text{requires} \left( \lambda s_0. p \ s_0 \wedge \text{stable } p \right) \right.$   
 $\left. \left( \text{ensures} \left( \lambda s_0 - s_1. s_0 = s_1 \wedge \right. \right. \right.$   
 $\left. \left. \text{witnessed } p \right) \right)$

- We add a **stateful elimination rule** for witnessed

$\text{recall} : p : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{MST unit} \left( \text{requires} \left( \lambda \_. \text{witnessed } p \right) \right.$   
 $\left. \left( \text{ensures} \left( \lambda s_0 - s_1. s_0 = s_1 \wedge p \ s_1 \right) \right) \right)$

# New: Recalling a Witness

- We introduce a **logical capability** (a **modality** in ongoing work)

$$\text{witnessed} : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Type}$$

together with a **weakening principle** (**functoriality**)

$$\text{wk} : p, q : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Lemma} \left( \text{requires} \left( \forall s. p \ s \implies q \ s \right) \right. \\ \left. \left( \text{ensures} \left( \text{witnessed } p \implies \text{witnessed } q \right) \right) \right)$$

- We add a **stateful introduction rule** for witnessed

$$\text{witness} : p : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{MST unit} \left( \text{requires} \left( \lambda s_0. p \ s_0 \wedge \text{stable } p \right) \right. \\ \left. \left( \text{ensures} \left( \lambda s_0 - s_1. s_0 = s_1 \wedge \right. \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. \left. \text{witnessed } p \right) \right) \right)$$

- We add a **stateful elimination rule** for witnessed

$$\text{recall} : p : (\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{MST unit} \left( \text{requires} \left( \lambda \_ . \text{witnessed } p \right) \right. \\ \left. \left( \text{ensures} \left( \lambda s_0 - s_1. s_0 = s_1 \wedge p \ s_1 \right) \right) \right)$$

# Outline

- Monotonic state by example
- Key ideas behind our general framework
- Accommodating monotonic state in  $F^*$
- Some examples of monotonic state at work
- More examples of monotonic state at work (see the paper)
- Monadic reification and reflection (see the paper)
- Meta-theory and correctness results (see the paper)

# The motivating example revisited

- Recall the program operating on the **set-valued state**

```
insert v; complex_procedure(); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- We pick **set inclusion**  $\subseteq$  as our preorder rel on states
- We **prove the assertion** by inserting a witness and recall

```
insert v; witness ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- For any other w, wrapping

```
insert w; [ ]; assert (w ∈ get())
```

around the program is handled **similarly easily** by

```
insert w; witness ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); [ ]; recall ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); assert (w ∈ get())
```

- Monotonic counters** are analogous, by picking  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\leq$ , e.g.,  

```
create 0; incr(); witness ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ )
```

# The motivating example revisited

- Recall the program operating on the **set-valued state**

```
insert v; complex_procedure(); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- We pick **set inclusion**  $\subseteq$  as our preorder `rel` on states
- We **prove the assertion** by inserting a witness and recall

```
insert v; witness ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- For any other `w`, wrapping

```
insert w; [ ]; assert (w ∈ get())
```

around the program is handled **similarly easily** by

```
insert w; witness ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); [ ]; recall ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); assert (w ∈ get())
```

- Monotonic counters** are analogous, by picking  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\leq$ , e.g.,  

```
create 0; incr(); witness ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ )
```



# The motivating example revisited

- Recall the program operating on the **set-valued state**

```
insert v; complex_procedure(); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- We pick **set inclusion**  $\subseteq$  as our preorder rel on states
- We **prove the assertion** by inserting a witness and recall

```
insert v; witness ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- For any other w, wrapping

```
insert w; [ ]; assert (w ∈ get())
```

around the program is handled **similarly easily** by

```
insert w; witness ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); [ ]; recall ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); assert (w ∈ get())
```

- Monotonic counters** are analogous, by picking  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\leq$ , e.g.,  

```
create 0; incr(); witness ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ )
```

# The motivating example revisited

- Recall the program operating on the **set-valued state**

```
insert v; complex_procedure(); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- We pick **set inclusion**  $\subseteq$  as our preorder  $\text{rel}$  on states
- We **prove the assertion** by inserting a witness and recall

```
insert v; witness ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- For **any other**  $w$ , wrapping

```
insert w; [ ]; assert (w ∈ get())
```

around the program is handled **similarly easily** by

```
insert w; witness ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); [ ]; recall ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); assert (w ∈ get())
```

- Monotonic counters are analogous, by picking  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\leq$ , e.g.,  

```
create 0; incr(); witness ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ )
```

# The motivating example revisited

- Recall the program operating on the **set-valued state**

```
insert v; complex_procedure(); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- We pick **set inclusion**  $\subseteq$  as our preorder rel on states
- We **prove the assertion** by inserting a witness and recall

```
insert v; witness ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda s. v \in s$ ); assert (v ∈ get())
```

- For **any other** w, wrapping

```
insert w; [ ]; assert (w ∈ get())
```

around the program is handled **similarly easily** by

```
insert w; witness ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); [ ]; recall ( $\lambda s. w \in s$ ); assert (w ∈ get())
```

- Monotonic counters** are analogous, by picking  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\leq$ , e.g.,  

```
create 0; incr(); witness ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ ); c_p(); recall ( $\lambda c. c > 0$ )
```

# ML-style typed references (local state)

- First, we define a type of **heaps** as a finite map

```
type heap =
```

```
| H : h : (N → cell) → ctr : N { ∀ n. ctr ≤ n ⇒ h n = Unused } → heap
```

where

```
type cell =
```

```
| Unused : cell
```

```
| Used : a : Type → v : a → cell
```

- Next, we define a **preorder** on heaps (**heap inclusion**)

```
let heap_inclusion (H h0 _) (H h1 _) = ∀ id. match h0 id, h1 id with
```

```
| Used a _, Used b _ → a = b
```

```
| Unused, Used _ _ → ⊤
```

```
| Unused, Unused → ⊤
```

```
| Used _ _, Unused → ⊥
```

# ML-style typed references (local state)

- First, we define a type of **heaps** as a finite map

```
type heap =
```

```
| H : h:( $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{cell}$ )  $\rightarrow$  ctr: $\mathbb{N}\{\forall n. \text{ctr} \leq n \implies h\ n = \text{Unused}\} \rightarrow \text{heap}$ 
```

where

```
type cell =
```

```
| Unused : cell
```

```
| Used : a:Type  $\rightarrow$  v:a  $\rightarrow$  cell
```

- Next, we define a preorder on heaps (**heap inclusion**)

```
let heap_inclusion (H h0 _) (H h1 _) =  $\forall \text{id}. \text{match } h_0\ \text{id}, h_1\ \text{id} \text{ with}$ 
```

```
| Used a _, Used b _  $\rightarrow$  a = b
```

```
| Unused, Used _ _  $\rightarrow$   $\top$ 
```

```
| Unused, Unused  $\rightarrow$   $\top$ 
```

```
| Used _ _, Unused  $\rightarrow$   $\perp$ 
```

# ML-style typed references (local state)

- First, we define a type of **heaps** as a finite map

`type heap =`

`| H : h:( $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{cell}$ )  $\rightarrow$  ctr: $\mathbb{N}\{\forall n. \text{ctr} \leq n \implies h\ n = \text{Unused}\} \rightarrow \text{heap}$`

where

`type cell =`

`| Unused : cell`

`| Used : a:Type  $\rightarrow$  v:a  $\rightarrow$  cell`

- Next, we define a **preorder** on heaps (**heap inclusion**)

`let heap_inclusion (H h0 _) (H h1 _) =  $\forall \text{id}. \text{match } h_0\ \text{id}, h_1\ \text{id} \text{ with}$`

`| Used a _, Used b _  $\rightarrow a = b$`

`| Unused, Used _ _  $\rightarrow \top$`

`| Unused, Unused  $\rightarrow \top$`

`| Used _ _, Unused  $\rightarrow \perp$`

# ML-style typed references (local state)

- As a result, we can define new **local state effect**

$$\text{MLST } t \text{ pre post} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{MST}_{\text{heap, heap\_inclusion}} t \text{ pre post}$$

- Next, we define the type of **references** using monotonicity

```
abstract type ref a = id:N{witnessed ( $\lambda h$ . contains h id a)}
```

where

```
let contains (H h _) id a =  
  match h id with  
  | Used b _  $\rightarrow$  a = b  
  | Unused  $\rightarrow \perp$ 
```

- Important: contains is **stable** wrt. heap\_inclusion

# ML-style typed references (local state)

- As a result, we can define new **local state effect**

$$\text{MLST } t \text{ pre post} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{MST}_{\text{heap, heap\_inclusion}} t \text{ pre post}$$

- Next, we define the type of **references** using monotonicity

abstract type ref a = id:N{witnessed ( $\lambda h$ . contains h id a)}

where

let contains (H h \_) id a =

match h id with

| Used b \_  $\rightarrow$  a = b

| Unused  $\rightarrow \perp$

- Important: contains is **stable** wrt. heap\_inclusion



# ML-style typed references (local state)

- As a result, we can define new **local state effect**

$$\text{MLST } t \text{ pre post} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{MST}_{\text{heap, heap\_inclusion}} t \text{ pre post}$$

- Next, we define the type of **references** using monotonicity

```
abstract type ref a = id:N{witnessed ( $\lambda h$ . contains h id a)}
```

where

```
let contains (H h _) id a =
```

```
  match h id with
```

```
    | Used b _  $\rightarrow$  a = b
```

```
    | Unused  $\rightarrow \perp$ 
```

- Important: contains is **stable** wrt. heap\_inclusion

# ML-style typed references (local state)

- As a result, we can define new **local state effect**

$$\text{MLST } t \text{ pre post} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{MST}_{\text{heap, heap\_inclusion}} t \text{ pre post}$$

- Next, we define the type of **references** using monotonicity

```
abstract type ref a = id:N{witnessed ( $\lambda h$ . contains h id a)}
```

where

```
let contains (H h _) id a =  
  match h id with  
  | Used b _  $\rightarrow$  a = b  
  | Unused  $\rightarrow \perp$ 
```

- Important: contains is **stable** wrt. heap\_inclusion

# ML-style typed references (local state)

- Finally, we define **MLST**'s **actions** using **MST**'s actions

- `let alloc (a:Type) (v:a) : MLST (ref a) ... = ...`
  - get the current heap
  - create a fresh ref., and add it to the heap
  - put the updated heap back
  - witness that the created ref. is in the heap
- `let read (r:ref a) : MLST t ... = ...`
  - recall that the given ref. is in the heap
  - get the current heap
  - select the given reference from the heap
- `let write (r:ref a) (v:a) : MLST unit ... = ...`
  - recall that the given ref. is in the heap
  - get the current heap
  - update the heap with the given value at the given ref.
  - put the updated heap back

# ML-style typed references (local state)

- Finally, we define **MLST**'s **actions** using **MST**'s actions
  - **let alloc**  $(a:\text{Type}) (v:a) : \text{MLST } t \dots = \dots$ 
    - **get** the current heap
    - **create** a fresh ref., and **add** it to the heap
    - **put** the updated heap back
    - **witness** that the created ref. is in the heap
  - **let read**  $(r:\text{ref } a) : \text{MLST } t \dots = \dots$ 
    - **recall** that the given ref. is in the heap
    - **get** the current heap
    - **select** the given reference from the heap
  - **let write**  $(r:\text{ref } a) (v:a) : \text{MLST } \text{unit } \dots = \dots$ 
    - **recall** that the given ref. is in the heap
    - **get** the current heap
    - **update** the heap with the given value at the given ref.
    - **put** the updated heap back

# Adding untyped and monotonic references

- **Untyped references** (`uref`) with strong updates

- Used heap cells are extended with **tags**

| `Used : a:Type → v:a → t:tag → cell`

where

`type tag = Typed : tag | Untyped : tag`

- `urefs` can be extended to also support **deallocation**

- **Monotonic references** (`mref a rel`)

- Used heap cells are extended with **typed tags**

| `Used : a:Type → v:a → t:tag a → cell`

where

`type tag a = Typed : rel:preorder a → tag a | Untyped : tag a`

- `mrefs` provide **more flexibility** with ref.-wise monotonicity

# Adding untyped and monotonic references

- **Untyped references** (`uref`) with strong updates

- Used heap cells are extended with **tags**

|  $\text{Used} : a:\text{Type} \rightarrow v:a \rightarrow \text{t:tag} \rightarrow \text{cell}$

where

`type tag` = `Typed : tag` | `Untyped : tag`

- `urefs` can be extended to also support **deallocation**

- **Monotonic references** (`mref a rel`)

- Used heap cells are extended with **typed tags**

|  $\text{Used} : a:\text{Type} \rightarrow v:a \rightarrow \text{t:tag } a \rightarrow \text{cell}$

where

`type tag a` = `Typed : rel:preorder a  $\rightarrow$  tag a` | `Untyped : tag a`

- `mrefs` provide **more flexibility** with ref.-wise monotonicity

# Adding untyped and monotonic references

- **Untyped references** (`uref`) with strong updates

- Used heap cells are extended with **tags**

| `Used : a:Type → v:a → t:tag → cell`

where

`type tag = Typed : tag | Untyped : tag`

- `urefs` can be extended to also support **deallocation**

- **Monotonic references** (`mref a rel`)

- Used heap cells are extended with **typed tags**

| `Used : a:Type → v:a → t:tag a → cell`

where

`type tag a = Typed : rel:preorder a → tag a | Untyped : tag a`

- `mrefs` provide **more flexibility** with ref.-wise monotonicity

# Conclusion

- Monotonicity
  - can be distilled into a **simple** and **general** framework
  - is **useful** for **programming** (refs.) and **verification** (Prj. Everest)
- See the paper for
  - further **examples** and **case studies**
  - **meta-theory** and **correctness results** for MST
    - based on an instrumented operational semantics
$$(\text{witness } x.\varphi, s, W) \rightsquigarrow (\text{return } (), s, W \cup \{x.\varphi\})$$
    - and cut elimination for the witnessed-logic
  - first steps towards **monadic reification** for MST
    - useful for extrinsic reasoning, e.g., for relational properties
    - but have to be careful when breaking abstraction



# Conclusion

- Monotonicity
  - can be distilled into a **simple** and **general** framework
  - is **useful** for **programming** (refs.) and **verification** (Prj. Everest)
- See the paper for
  - further **examples** and **case studies**
  - **meta-theory** and **correctness results** for **MST**
    - based on an instrumented operational semantics
$$(\text{witness } x.\varphi, s, W) \rightsquigarrow (\text{return } (), s, W \cup \{x.\varphi\})$$
    - and cut elimination for the witnessed-logic
  - first steps towards **monadic reification** for **MST**
    - useful for extrinsic reasoning, e.g., for relational properties
    - but have to be careful when breaking abstraction

# Thank you!

Interested in doing an F\* internship?

Get in touch with the F\* team!

[www.fstar-lang.org](http://www.fstar-lang.org)