#### Leveraging monotonic state in F\*

#### Danel Ahman @ INRIA Paris

joint work with

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(Global state +) 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 POPL'18 paper)
- First steps in mon. reification and reflection (see POPL'18 paper)
- Meta-theory and correctness results (see POPL'18 paper)

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insert v; complex_procedure(); assert (v \in get())
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To prove the assertion (say, in a Floyd-Hoare style logic),
 we could prove that the code maintains a stateful invarian

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• 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

 However, if c\_p never removes, then λs. v ∈ s is stable, and we would like the program logic to give us v ∈ get() "for free"

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- Programming also relies on monotonicity, even if you don't realise it!
- Consider ML-style typed references r: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

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## 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)
- See our POPL 2018 paper for more
  - temporarily violating monotonicity via snapshots
  - two substantial case studies in F\*
    - 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]
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- We make use of 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

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

$$orall$$
 s s $'$  . p s  $\wedge$  rel s s $'$   $\Longrightarrow$  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'
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F\* supports Hoare-style reasoning about state via the comp. type

```
{
m ST}_{
m state} t (requires pre) (ensures post)
```

where

```
pre: state \rightarrow Type_0 \qquad post: state \rightarrow t \rightarrow state \rightarrow Type_0
```

ST is an abstract pre-postcondition refinement of

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

The global state actions have types

```
get: unit \rightarrow ST state (requires (\lambda_-, \top)) (ensures (\lambda s_0 s s_1, s_0 = s = s_1))
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\label{eq:pre:state} \begin{split} \textbf{pre}: \texttt{state} \rightarrow \texttt{Type}_0 & \qquad \textbf{post}: \texttt{state} \rightarrow \texttt{t} \rightarrow \texttt{state} \rightarrow \texttt{Type}_0 \end{split}
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• Refs. and local state are defined in F\* using monotonicity

We capture monotonic state with a new computational type

```
MST_{\text{state}, \text{rel}} t (requires pre) (ensures post)
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• The get action is typed as in ST

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To ensure monotonicity, the put action gets a precondition

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put: s:state \rightarrow MST unit (requires (\lambda s_0.rel s_0s))
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So intuitively, MST is an abstract pre-postcondition refinement of

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To ensure monotonicity, the put action gets a precondition
 put: s:state → MST unit (requires (λ s<sub>0</sub> . rel s<sub>0</sub> s))
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## **New: Recalling a Witness**

We extend F\* with a logical capability

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\mathtt{witnessed}: (\mathtt{state} \to \mathtt{Type_0}) \to \mathtt{Type_0}
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together with a weakening principle (functoriality)

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\label{eq:wk:pq:state} \begin{split} wk:p,q:&(\texttt{state} \to \texttt{Type}_0) \to \texttt{Lemma}\;(\texttt{requires}\;(\forall\, \texttt{s.ps} \implies q\; \texttt{s})) \\ &(\texttt{ensures}\;(\texttt{witnessed}\; p \implies \texttt{witnessed}\; q) \end{split}
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For better intuition, think of it as a necessity modality

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\label{eq:wk:pq:(state of Type_0) of Lemma (requires (frames of s.ps is possible properties))} \\ \text{(ensures (witnessed properties))}
```

• For better intuition, think of it as a necessity modality

```
\llbracket \mathtt{witnessed} \ \mathtt{p} \rrbracket(\mathtt{s}) \stackrel{\mathsf{def}}{=} \ \forall \ \mathtt{s'} \ . \ \mathtt{rel} \ \mathtt{s} \ \mathtt{s'} \implies \llbracket \mathtt{p} \ \mathtt{s'} \rrbracket(\mathtt{s})
```

- As usual, for natural deduction, need world-indexed sequents
- Oh, wait a minute . . .

- ... Hoare-style logics are essentially world/state-indexed, so
- we include a stateful introduction rule for witnessed

and a stateful elimination rule for witnessed

```
\begin{split} \text{recall} &: \text{ p:}(\text{state} \rightarrow \text{Type}_0) \\ &\rightarrow \text{ MST unit (requires } (\lambda_-. \text{witnessed p})) \\ & \qquad \qquad \left(\text{ensures } (\lambda \, \text{s}_0 \, \_ \, \text{s}_1 \, . \, \text{s}_0 = \text{s}_1 \, \land \, \text{p 'stable\_from' s}_1)\right) \end{split}
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\label{eq:state} \begin{split} \text{witness} \; : \; \; & p{:}\big(\text{state} \to \text{Type}_0\big) \\ & \to \; \text{MST unit (requires } \big(\lambda \, s_0 \, . \, p \; \text{`stable\_from'} \; s_0\big)\big) \\ & \qquad \qquad \big(\text{ensures } \big(\lambda \, s_0 \, . \, s_1 \, . \, s_0 = s_1 \; \land \; \text{witnessed p}\big)\big) \end{split}
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#### **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 POPL'18 paper)
- First steps in mon. reification and reflection (see POPL'18 paper)
- Meta-theory and correctness results (see POPL'18 paper)

Recall the program operating on the set-valued state

```
insert v; complex_procedure(); assert (v \in get())
```

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

```
\texttt{insert } v; \texttt{ witness } (\lambda \, \texttt{s} \, . \, \texttt{v} \in \texttt{s}); \texttt{ c\_p()}; \texttt{ recall } (\lambda \, \texttt{s} \, . \, \texttt{v} \in \texttt{s}); \texttt{ assert } (\texttt{v} \in \texttt{get()})
```

For any other w, wrapping

```
insert w; []; assert (w \in get())
```

around the program is handled similarly easily by

```
\texttt{insert w; witness } (\lambda \, \texttt{s.w} \in \texttt{s}); \; [ \; ]; \; \texttt{recall } (\lambda \, \texttt{s.w} \in \texttt{s}); \; \texttt{assert } (\texttt{w} \in \texttt{get}())
```

• Monotonic counters are analogous, by picking  $\mathbb N$  and  $\leq$ , e.g., create 0; incr(); witness  $(\lambda \, \text{c.c} > 0)$ ; c-p(); recall  $(\lambda \, \text{c.c} > 0)$ 

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Monotonic counters are analogous, by picking N and ≤, e.g.,
 create 0; incr(); witness (λc.c > 0); c\_p(); recall (λc.c > 0)

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

```
\label{eq:type-heap} \begin{array}{l} \text{type heap} = \\ & | \ \text{H}: h: (\mathbb{N} \to \text{cell}) \to \text{ctr}: \mathbb{N} \{ \forall \, n \, . \, \text{ctr} \leq n \implies h \, n = \text{Unused} \} \to \text{heap} \\ \text{where} \\ \\ \text{type cell} = \\ & | \ \text{Unused}: \text{cell} \\ & | \ \text{Used}: \text{a:Type}_0 \to \text{v:a} \to \text{cell} \\ \end{array}
```

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

```
let heap_inclusion (H h_0 _) (H h_1 _) = \forall id.match h_0 id, h_1 | Used a _, Used b _ \rightarrow a = b | Unused, Used _ _ \rightarrow \top | Unused, Unused \rightarrow \top
```

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```
type heap =
        \mid \texttt{H} : \textcolor{red}{\textbf{h} : \textbf{h} : (\mathbb{N} \to \texttt{cell}) \to \texttt{ctr} : \mathbb{N} \{ \forall \, \texttt{n} \, . \, \texttt{ctr} \leq \texttt{n} \implies \texttt{h} \, \texttt{n} = \texttt{Unused} \} \to \texttt{heap}}
where
 type cell =
       Unused : cell
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```

• As a result, we can define new local state effect

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

Next, we define the type of **references** using monotonicity abstract type ref  $a = id: \mathbb{N}\{\text{witnessed } (\lambda h . \text{contains } h \ id \ a)$  where

```
let contains (H h \_) id a = match h id with | Used b \_ \rightarrow a = b
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Important: contains is stable wrt. heap\_inclusion

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

```
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Finally, we define MLST's actions using MST's actions

- recall that the given ref. is in the hear
- get the current heap
- update the heap with the given value at the given ref.
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  - let alloc (a:Type<sub>0</sub>) (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

- Untyped references (uref) with strong updates
  - Used heap cells are extended with tags

```
|\mbox{ Used: a:Type}_0 \to v:a \to t:tag \to cell where type \mbox{ tag } = \mbox{ Typed: tag } |\mbox{ Untyped: tag}
```

- actions corresponding to urefs have weaker types than for refs
- Monotonic references (mref a rel)
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```
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- mrefs provide more flexibility with ref.-wise monotonicity
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#### **Conclusion**

- Monotonicity
  - can be distilled into a simple and general framework
  - is useful for programming (refs.) and verification (Prj. Everest)
- See our POPL 2018 paper for
  - further examples and case studies
  - meta-theory and total correctness for MST
    - based on an instrumented operational semantics

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\left(\texttt{witness}\;x.\varphi\,,\,s\,,\,W\right)\;\leadsto\;\left(\texttt{return}\;\left(\right),\,s\,,\,W\cup\{x.\varphi\}\right)
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- 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

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Recall from Kenji's talk that in F\* an abstract ST computation

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e:ST t (requires pre) (ensures post)
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can be reified into its underlying Pure representation

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We cannot simply turn an abstract MST computation

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\begin{split} \mathbf{s}_0 \text{:state} & \rightarrow \text{Pure } (\mathbf{t} * \mathbf{s}_1 \text{:state} \{ \text{rel } \mathbf{s}_0 \ \mathbf{s}_1 \}) \ (\text{req. } (\text{pre } \mathbf{s}_0)) \\ & \left( \text{ens. } \left( \lambda \ (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{s}_1) \text{.post } \mathbf{s}_0 \ \mathbf{x} \ \mathbf{s}_1 \right) \right) \end{split}
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• For example, consider the recalling action

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- In our POPL 2018 paper, we support reification and reflection by
  - indexing MST<sub>state,rel,b</sub> with a **boolean flag** b (reifiable?), and
  - guarding the pre-postconditions of witness and recall with b
     so if b = true then witness and recall are logically no-ops.
- This works but leads to duplication of pre- and postconditions!

• Instead, ongoing work is taking (hybrid) modal logic seriously

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- Instead, ongoing work is taking (hybrid) modal logic seriously

```
\begin{split} \mathbf{s_0} : & \mathsf{state} \to \mathsf{Pure} \ \big( \mathsf{t} * \mathbf{s_1} : \mathsf{state} \{ \mathsf{rel} \ \mathbf{s_0} \ \mathbf{s_1} \} \big) \ \big( \mathsf{req.} \ \big( \mathsf{pre} \ \mathbf{s_0} \ \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{s_0} \big) \big) \\ & \big( \mathsf{ens.} \ \big( \lambda \ \big( \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{s_1} \big) . \ \mathsf{post} \ \mathbf{s_0} \ \mathbf{x} \ \mathbf{s_1} \ \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{s_1} \big) \big) \end{split}
```

where **@** is the **standard translation** of modal logic