



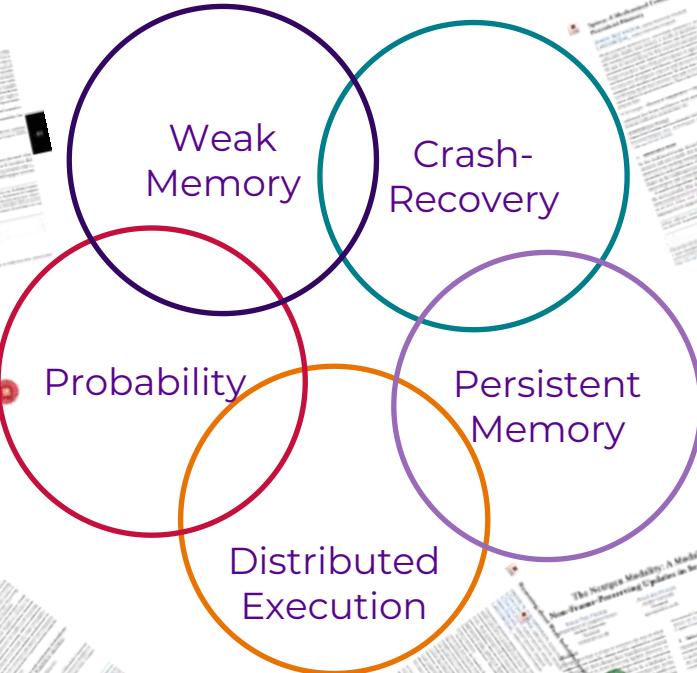
Building Extensible Program Logics with Effect Handlers

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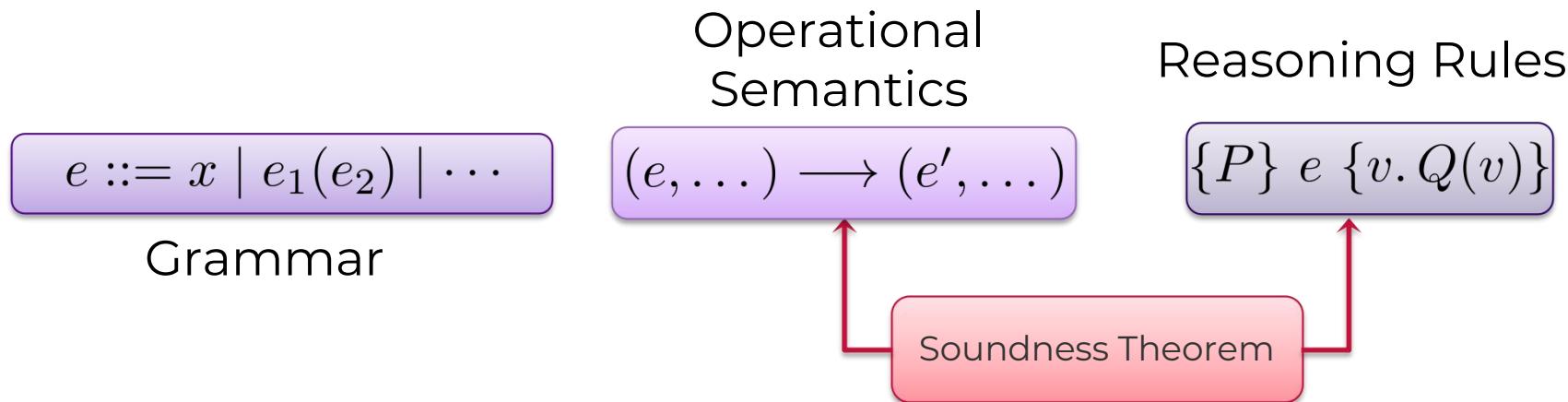
New England System Verification Day
October 3, 2025

Program Logics for New Features

$$\{P\} e \{v. Q(v)\}$$



Traditional Approach



Our approach

(0) A pure calculus + logic for it λ_\emptyset

(1) Write interpreter
using **Effect Handlers**

(2) Prove specs for interpreters

using **Hazel** [de Vilhena & Pottier (2021)]

(3) Verifying using rules derived
from interpreter specs

$\text{heap_run}(e) \triangleq \dots$
 $\text{conc_run}(e) \triangleq \dots$
 $\text{distr_run}(e) \triangleq \dots$

Logic Developer

$\{\dots\} \text{heap_run}(e) \{\dots\}$

$\Rightarrow \{\dots\} \text{ref}(v) \{\dots\}$
 $\Rightarrow \{\dots\} !l \{\dots\}$
 $\Rightarrow \{\dots\} l \leftarrow v \{\dots\}$

Program Verifier

Effect Handlers

```
try
  let  $l = \text{do(ALLOC, 1)}$  in
  let  $x = \text{do(LOAD, } l)$  in
  assert( $x = 1$ )
```

with

$\text{ALLOC}(v, k)$	$\Rightarrow \dots ; k(\dots)$
$\text{LOAD}(l, k)$	$\Rightarrow \dots ; k(\dots)$
$\text{STORE}((l, v), k)$	$\Rightarrow \dots ; k(\dots)$
$\text{return}(v)$	$\Rightarrow v$

end

Exception
+ k (continuation)

Our contribution

- Handler-based logics for
 - Concurrency
 - Crash recovery
 - Distributed execution
- Stronger reasoning rules
- Relational logic for refinement reasoning

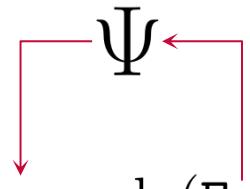


Hazel Logic [de Vilhena & Pottier (2021)]

$$\{P\} \ e \ \langle|\Psi|\rangle \ \{v. Q(v)\}$$

Standard Hoare triple, plus

- Effects raised by e are handled by protocol Ψ .

$e_1;$  Ψ
let $w = \text{do}(E, v)$ in
 e_2

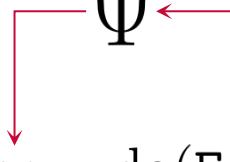
Hazel Protocol

$$\{P\} \ e \ \langle|\Psi|\rangle \ \{v. Q(v)\}$$

$$\Psi ::= [P] \ (\mathbf{E}, v) \ [w. Q(w)] \mid \cdots$$

If raising an effect \mathbf{E} with value v satisfying input condition P , the handler will return a value w satisfying output condition Q .

Output satisfies Q Ψ Input satisfies P

$e_1;$ 
 $\text{let } w = \text{do}(\mathbf{E}, v) \text{ in}$
 e_2

Reasoning in Hazel

- Effect raising rule

$$\frac{P \rightarrow P' \quad \forall w. Q'(w) \rightarrow Q(w)}{\{P\} \text{ do}(\mathbf{E}, v) \langle | \quad \Psi \quad | \rangle \{w. Q(w)\}}$$

where $\Psi = [P'] (\mathbf{E}, v) [w. Q'(w)]$

Reasoning in Hazel

$$\frac{P \rightarrow* P' \quad \forall w. Q'(w) \rightarrow* Q(w)}{\{P\} \text{ do}(\mathbb{E}, v) \langle \mid [P'] (\mathbb{E}, v) [w. Q'(w)] \mid \rangle \{w. Q(w)\}}$$

$$\text{load} \triangleq [l \mapsto x] \text{ (LOAD, } l) [w. w = x * l \mapsto x]$$

$$!l \triangleq \text{do}(\text{LOAD}, l)$$

$$\{l \mapsto x\} !l \langle \mid \text{load} \mid \rangle \{v. v = x * l \mapsto x\}$$

Sum Protocol

$$\{P\} \ e \ \langle |\Psi| \rangle \ \{v. Q(v)\}$$

$$\Psi + ::= \Psi_1 + \Psi_2$$

$$\frac{\{P\} \ \text{do}(\mathbf{E}, v) \ \langle |\Psi_1| \rangle \ \{w. Q(w)\} \vee \{P\} \ \text{do}(\mathbf{E}, v) \ \langle |\Psi_2| \rangle \ \{w. Q(w)\}}{\{P\} \ \text{do}(\mathbf{E}, v) \ \langle |\Psi_1 + \Psi_2| \rangle \ \{w. Q(w)\}}$$

Sum Protocol

$$\frac{\{P\} \text{ do}(\mathbf{E}, v) \langle |\Psi_1| \rangle \{w. Q(w)\} \vee \{P\} \text{ do}(\mathbf{E}, v) \langle |\Psi_2| \rangle \{w. Q(w)\}}{\{P\} \text{ do}(\mathbf{E}, v) \langle |\Psi_1 + \Psi_2| \rangle \{w. Q(w)\}}$$

$$\text{alloc} \triangleq [\text{True}] (\text{ALLOC}, x) [l. l \mapsto x]$$

$$\text{load} \triangleq [l \mapsto x] (\text{LOAD}, l) [w. w = x * l \mapsto x]$$

$$\text{store} \triangleq [l \mapsto x] (\text{STORE}, (l, y)) [w. w = () * l \mapsto y]$$

$$!l \triangleq \text{do}(\text{LOAD}, l) \quad \text{heap} \triangleq \text{alloc} + \text{load} + \text{store}$$

$$\{l \mapsto x\} !l \langle |\text{heap}| \rangle \{v. v = x * l \mapsto x\}$$

Installing Handlers

try try try

e

with

| FORK(f, h) $\Rightarrow \dots | \dots$

end

with

| ALLOC(v, h) $\Rightarrow \dots | \dots$

end

with

| READ($_, h$) $\Rightarrow \dots | \dots$

end

$\{P\} e \langle |state + heap + conc| \rangle \{v. Q(v)\}$

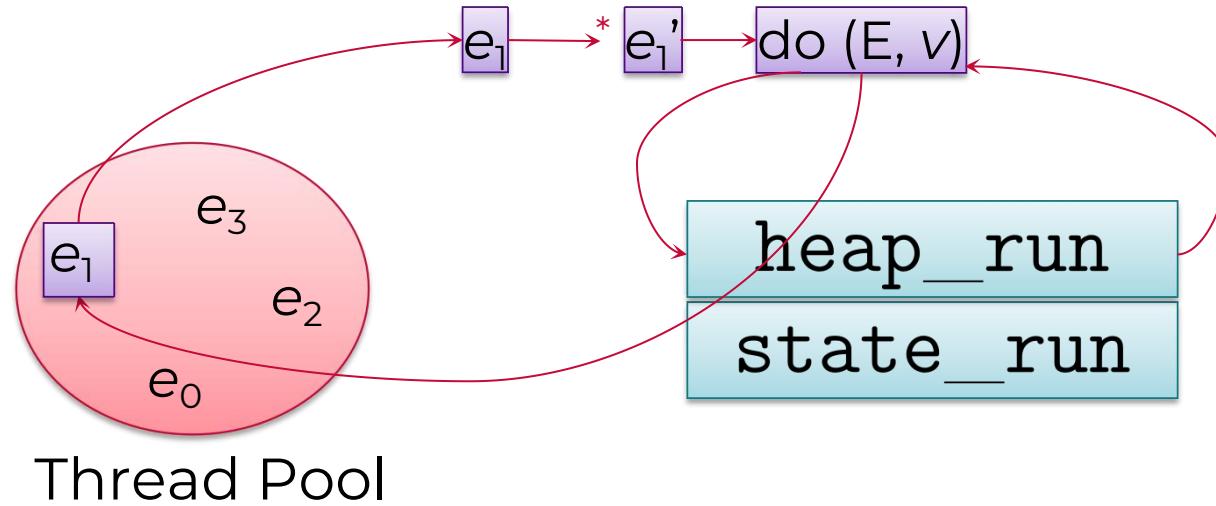
conc_run

heap_run

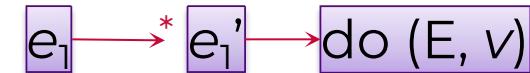
state_run

Concurrency

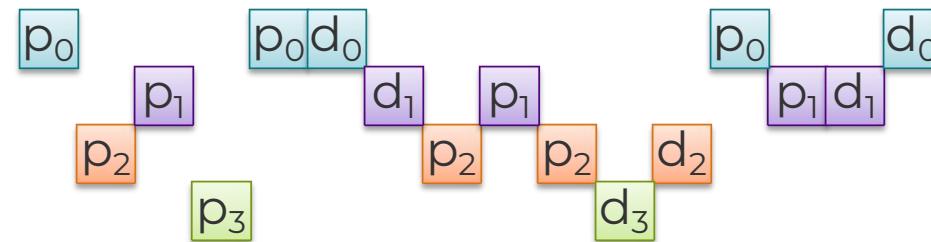
conc_run

$$\{P\} \ e \ \langle \text{state} + \text{heap} + \text{conc} \rangle \ \{v. Q(v)\}$$


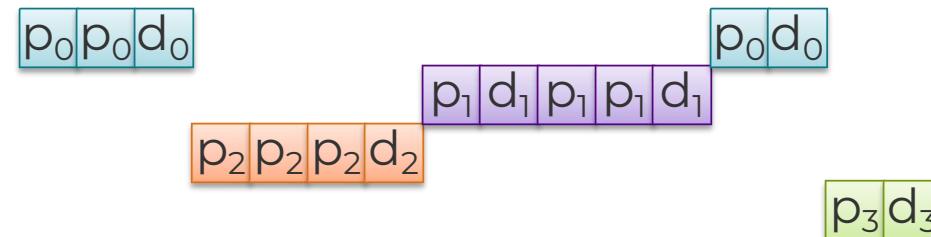
Execution Trace



Standard semantics
(preemptive)



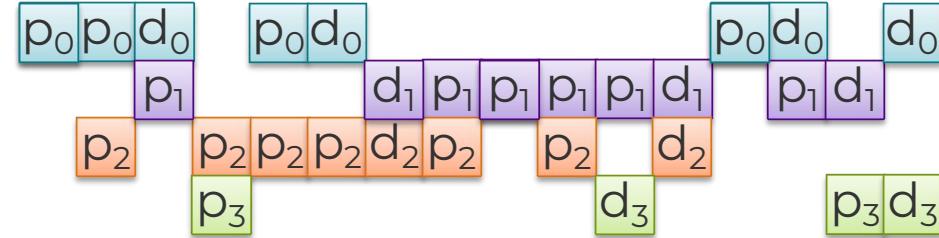
Our semantics



p = pure step d = effect step “ $do(\dots)$ ”

Invariants

Standard semantics



Or this invariant access rule

$e = \text{pure}^*, \text{do}(\dots)$

$$\frac{\{P\} e \langle |\Psi| \rangle \{v. P * Q(v)\} \quad \text{at } \cancel{a \mapsto \langle e \rangle}}{\boxed{P} \vdash \{\text{True}\} e \langle |\Psi| \rangle \{v. Q(v)\}}$$

Relational Logic

Is this rule sound w.r.t.
standard semantics?

$$\{P\} \ e_1 \lesssim e_2 \ \langle |\Psi_1; \Psi_2| \rangle \ \{v. Q(v)\}$$



$$e_1 \lesssim e_2 \quad (\text{contextual refinement})$$

Informally, $\forall e_1 \rightarrow^* v_1. \exists e_2 \rightarrow^* v_2. v_1 \approx v_2$

e under standard semantics $\lesssim e$ under our semantics

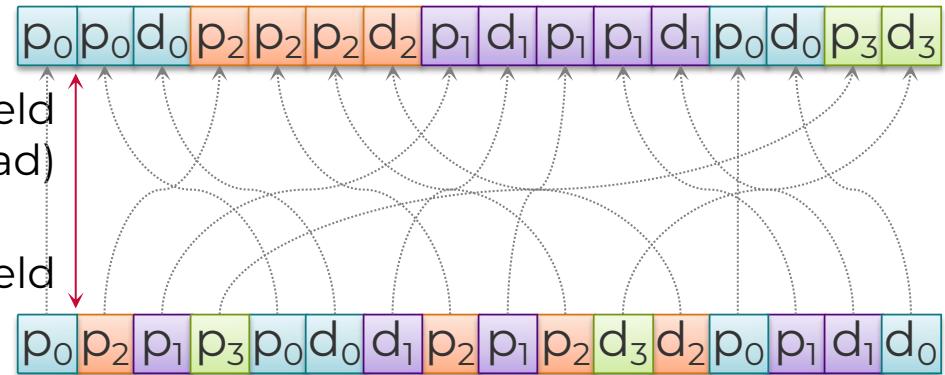
Refinement Proof

our semantics

cannot yield
(switch thread)

may yield

standard semantics



e under standard semantics $\lesssim e$ under our semantics

Refinement Proof

our semantics



emulated
standard semantics



standard semantics



may yield

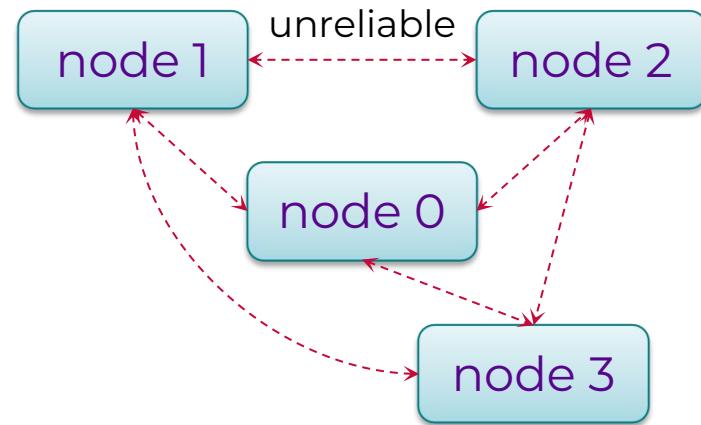
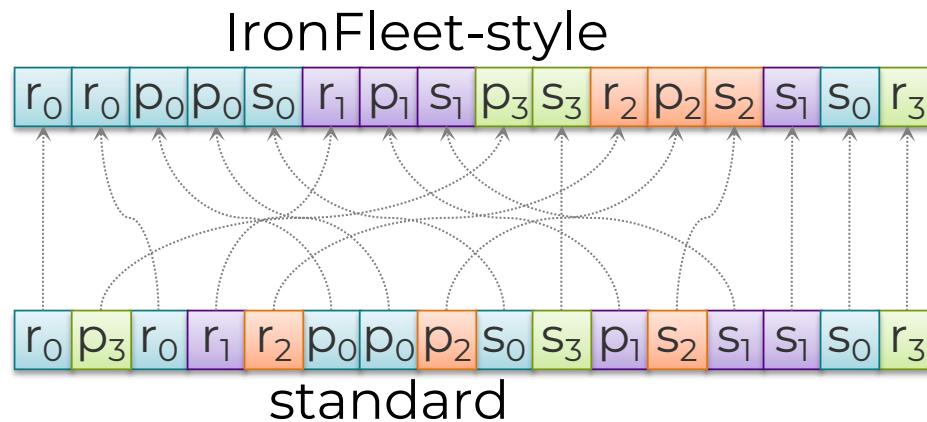
e under standard semantics $\lesssim e$ under our semantics



yield \lesssim nop (evidence accumulation)

Distributed System with IronFleet-style Atomic Block [Hawblitzel et al. (2015)]

r = receive p = pure step s = send



Distributed System with IronFleet-style Atomic Block [Hawblitzel et al. (2015)]

$$\frac{\{P\} \ e \ \langle|\Psi|\rangle \ \{v. P * Q(v)\} \quad e = (\text{recv} \mid \text{pure})^*, \text{send}}{\boxed{P} \vdash \{\text{True}\} \ e \ \langle|\Psi|\rangle \ \{v. Q(v)\}}$$



Summary

- Handler-based logics for $\{P\} e \langle |\Psi| \rangle \{v. Q(v)\}$
 - Concurrency with stronger invariant rule
 - Distributed execution with IronFleet-style atomic blocks
 - *Crash recovery with Perennial-style crash invariants*
 - *Asynchronous disk based on crash-aware prophecy variables*
- Relational logic for refinement reasoning $\{P\} e_1 \precsim e_2 \langle |\Psi_1; \Psi_2| \rangle \{v. Q(v)\}$

Thank you for your attention!