

Melocoton

A Program Logic for Verified Interoperability Between OCaml and C

Armaël Guéneau, Johannes Hostert, Simon Spies,

Michael Sammler, Lars Birkedal, Derek Dreyer

Journées SCALP

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MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR SOFTWARE SYSTEMS



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Multi-Language Programs Are Everywhere



Python

C

Fortran

C++

Rust

JavaScript

C

Bindings for:

- Rust
- Python
- OCaml
- Go
- ...

Multi-Language Programs Are Everywhere

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for "OCaml-SSL". The README.md file contains the following text:

```
OCaml-SSL - OCaml bindings  
for the libssl
```

Below the README, there is descriptive text:

a mixture of C and OCaml code
connected using the OCaml Foreign Function Interface (FFI)

On the right side of the page, there is a "Languages" section with a horizontal bar chart and the following data:

Language	Percentage
OCaml	53.4%
C	42.4%
Nix	3.0%
Other	1.2%

Go

...

Multi-Language Code is Unsafe

OCaml FFI code is **unsafe** and must follow **subtle FFI rules**

Buggy FFI code can produce **segfaults**, **corrupt memory**, break
type safety and **data abstraction** guarantees of OCaml

The Goal: Verifying Multi-Language Code

How do we

verify functional correctness

of code written in

different languages?

Single-Language Functional Correctness

Hoare Logic for simple imperative languages.
Separation Logic for modularity and aliasing.

Multi-Language Functional Correctness

Multi-Language Functional Correctness

Existing work on Semantics and Logical Relations.

How do we prove functional correctness of
individual, potentially unsafe libraries?

A Multi-Language Program in OCaml and C

A Multi-Language Program in OCaml and C

C business logic

```
void hash_ptr(int * x) {  
    // Implemented in OpenSSL  
    // tedious to port to OCaml  
}
```

A Multi-Language Program in OCaml and C

OCaml business logic

```
let main () =
  let r = ref 42 in
  hash_ref r; (*written in C*)
  print_int !r
```

C business logic

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void hash_ptr(int * x) {
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A Multi-Language Program in OCaml and C

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value caml_hash_ref(value r) {
  int x = Int_val(Field(r, 0));
  hash_ptr(&x);
  Store_field(r, 0, Val_int(x));
  return Val_unit;
}
```

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A multi-language program logic for FFI

Goal: a **program logic** to prove correctness of FFI glue code

OCaml glue code

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external hash_ref: int ref -> unit  
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C glue code

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A multi-language program logic for FFI

Goal: a **program logic** to prove correctness of FFI glue code

OCaml glue code



C glue code

```
{r ↪ML n}  
external hash_ref: int ref -> unit  
  = "caml_hash_ref"  
{r ↪ML m}
```

```
{γ ↪blk[0|mut] [n]}  
value caml_hash_ref(value r) {  
    int x = Int_val(Field(r, 0));  
    hash_ptr(&x);  
    Store_field(r, 0, Val_int(x));  
    return Val_unit;  
}  
{γ ↪blk[0|mut] [m]}
```

Design choice: Language-Local Reasoning

Reuse existing program logics for OCaml and C.

Outside of glue code, one can **forget** about other languages

Key Design Choice:
Preserve Language-Local Reasoning

Our Contribution: Melocoton

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Program Logic

Glue Code Verification

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Semantics

Glue Code Semantics

“The Usual Approach”: program logic on top of semantics, **but**

- **Language Interaction:** new semantics and logic for glue code

Our Contribution: Melocoton

OCaml* Program Logic

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Program Logic

Glue Code Verification

C* Program Logic

OCaml* Semantics

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Semantics

Glue Code Semantics

C* Semantics

“The Usual Approach”: program logic on top of semantics, **but**

- **Language Interaction:** new semantics and logic for glue code
- **Language Locality:** embed existing semantics and logics

*simplified/idealized versions of OCaml and C

Our Contribution: Melocoton



“The Usual Approach”: program logic on top of semantics, **but**

- **Language Interaction:** new semantics and logic for glue code
- **Language Locality:** embed existing semantics and logics

*simplified/idealized versions of OCaml and C



The rest of this talk

1. A Crash Course on Building Separation Logics
2. Key Idea: Bridging Separation Logics with View Reconciliation
3. Application: Verifying `hash_ref`

Melocoton is based on **Separation Logic**
...but what is Separation Logic?

A Crash Course on (Building) Separation Logics



Hoare Logic

A logic for *compositional* program verification

Establishes “Hoare triples”: $\vdash \{P\} C \{Q\}$

Compositional proof rules:

$$\frac{\text{SEQ} \quad \{P\} C_1 \{Q\} \quad \{Q\} C_2 \{R\}}{\{P\} C_1; C_2 \{R\}} \quad \dots$$

Hoare Logic

A logic for *compositional* program verification

Establishes “Hoare triples”:

$$\vdash \{P\} C \{Q\}$$

Code we are verifying

Compositional proof rules:

SEQ

$$\frac{\{P\} C_1 \{Q\} \quad \{Q\} C_2 \{R\}}{\{P\} C_1; C_2 \{R\}}$$

...

Hoare Logic

A logic for *compositional* program verification

Establishes “Hoare triples”:

$$\vdash \{P\} C \{Q\}$$


Precondition

Compositional proof rules:

SEQ

$$\frac{\{P\} C_1 \{Q\} \quad \{Q\} C_2 \{R\}}{\{P\} C_1; C_2 \{R\}}$$

...

Hoare Logic

A logic for *compositional* program verification

Establishes “Hoare triples”:

$$\vdash \{P\} C \{Q\}$$

Postcondition

Compositional proof rules:

SEQ

$$\frac{\{P\} C_1 \{Q\} \quad \{Q\} C_2 \{R\}}{\{P\} C_1; C_2 \{R\}}$$

...

Separation Logic

- Extension of Hoare Logic for reasoning about pointer-manipulating programs (C, OCaml, ...)
- Assertions P, Q denote **ownership** of state (=memory)
 - “ $x \mapsto v$ ” = We own x (and it points to v)
- $P * Q$ means P and Q own **disjoint** state
 - e.g. if we can assert $x \mapsto v * y \mapsto w$, it means that $x \neq y$, i.e. **they do not alias**

Separation Logic for OCaml: Example Rules

“ $r \mapsto v$ ” = We own the OCaml reference r (and it points to v)

CREATEREF

$$\frac{}{\{ \text{True} \} \text{ ref } v \{ \lambda r. r \mapsto v \}}$$

READREF

$$\frac{}{\{ r \mapsto v \} !r \{ \lambda v'. v' = v \wedge r \mapsto v \}}$$

WRITEREF

$$\frac{}{\{ r \mapsto v \} r := w \{ r \mapsto w \}}$$

Separation Logic for OCaml: Example Rules

“ $r \mapsto v$ ” = We own the OCaml reference r (and it points to v)

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$$\frac{}{\{ \text{True} \} \text{ ref } v \{ \lambda r. r \mapsto v \}}$$

program creating a new reference

READREF

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Separation Logic for OCaml: Example Rules

“ $r \mapsto v$ ” = We own the OCaml reference r (and it points to v)

CREATEREF

$$\frac{}{\{ \text{True} \} \text{ ref } v \{ \lambda r. r \mapsto v \}}$$

No precondition

READREF

$$\frac{}{\{ r \mapsto v \} !r \{ \lambda v'. v' = v \wedge r \mapsto v \}}$$

WRITEREF

$$\frac{}{\{ r \mapsto v \} r := w \{ r \mapsto w \}}$$

Separation Logic for OCaml: Example Rules

“ $r \mapsto v$ ” = We own the OCaml reference r (and it points to v)

CREATEREF

$$\frac{}{\{ \text{True} \} \text{ ref } v \{ \lambda r. r \mapsto v \}}$$

Ownership over the new reference

READREF

$$\frac{}{\{ r \mapsto v \} !r \{ \lambda v'. v' = v \wedge r \mapsto v \}}$$

WRITEREF

$$\frac{}{\{ r \mapsto v \} r := w \{ r \mapsto w \}}$$

Separation Logic: The Frame Rule

Hoare Logic is compositional wrt. different parts of a program.

Separation Logic is also compositional wrt. **disjoint parts of memory**. SL specifications are “**small footprint**”.

The following holds:

$$\frac{\overline{\{ \text{True} \} \text{ ref } v \{ \lambda r. \, r \mapsto v \}}}{\{ x \mapsto w \} \text{ ref } v \{ \lambda r. \, x \mapsto w * r \mapsto v \}}$$

Separation Logic: The Frame Rule

Hoare Logic is compositional wrt. different parts of a program.

Separation Logic is also compositional wrt. **disjoint parts of memory**. SL specifications are “**small footprint**”.

More generally, the **frame rule** holds:

$$\text{FRAME} \quad \frac{\{P\} e \{Q\}}{\{P * R\} e \{Q * R\}}$$

Fifty Shades of Separation Logics

These core principles are **very versatile**.

Melocoton: a new SL for the **OCaml FFI**, embedding existing SLs for **OCaml** and **C**

Other SLs successfully built for **many programming languages**:

Multicore OCaml

Rust

C11+Weak Memory

WASM

Distributed systems

...



A Separation Logic For Your Language: Checklist

- A **Base Logic** of assertions:
 - generic connectives:
 $\exists/\forall x.P(x), P \vee Q, P \wedge Q, P \Rightarrow Q, P * Q, P \multimap Q, \dots$
 - language-specific assertions: $x \mapsto v$
- Triples $\vdash \{P\} e \{Q\}$ + FRAME + **proof rules** for language constructs

A Separation Logic For Your Language: Checklist

a bunch of definitions

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 - language-specific assertions: $x \mapsto v$
- Triples $\vdash \{P\} e \{Q\}$ + FRAME + **proof rules** for language constructs
- An **Adequacy Theorem**: $\vdash \{\text{True}\} e \{\text{True}\} \Rightarrow e \text{ is safe.}$
“safe”: according to the **language semantics**

Models of Separation Logic

Prove Adequacy by defining a **model** of:

base assertions: $\llbracket P \rrbracket$ validity of triples: $\models \{P\} e \{Q\}$

such that:

$\vdash \{P\} e \{Q\} \implies \models \{P\} e \{Q\}$ (the hard part)

$\models \{\text{True}\} e \{\text{True}\} \implies e \text{ is safe}$ (trivial by def. of \models)

Models of Separation Logic

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$$\models \{\text{True}\} e \{\text{True}\} \implies e \text{ is safe} \quad (\text{trivial by def. of } \models)$$

similar to Hoare logic

Models of Separation Logic

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base assertions: $\llbracket P \rrbracket$

validity of triples: $\models \{P\} e \{Q\}$

$$\models \{P\} e \{Q\} \triangleq \forall \sigma. \llbracket P \rrbracket(\sigma) \Rightarrow \\ e \text{ safe} \wedge \forall v \sigma'. (e, \sigma) \rightsquigarrow^* (v, \sigma') \Rightarrow \llbracket Q(v) \rrbracket(\sigma')$$

similar to Hoare logic

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operational semantics

predicate on memories

similar to Hoare logic

Models of Separation Logics: Base Logic

The **interesting part**: interpretation of base assertions $\llbracket P \rrbracket$

In general: $\llbracket P \rrbracket : R \rightarrow \text{Prop}$

with R **any Partial Commutative Monoid** equipped with \uplus

$$\llbracket \text{True} \rrbracket(r) \triangleq \text{True}$$

$$\llbracket P * Q \rrbracket(r) \triangleq \exists r_1, r_2. r = r_1 \uplus r_2 \wedge \llbracket P \rrbracket(r_1) \wedge \llbracket Q \rrbracket(r_2)$$

For OCaml, pick $R = Loc \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} Val$:

$$\llbracket \ell \mapsto v \rrbracket(\sigma) \triangleq \ell \in \text{dom}(\sigma) \wedge \sigma(\ell) = v$$

Models of Separation Logics: Base Logic

The **interesting part**: interpretation of base assertions $\llbracket P \rrbracket$

In general, $\llbracket D \rrbracket : D \rightarrow \mathbf{Pars}$

with

You are free to pick **any PCM** R that:

- is **customized for your language semantics**
- includes **extra resources** (“ghost state”) not directly tied to program execution

For OCaml, pick $R = Loc \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} Val$:

$$\llbracket \ell \mapsto v \rrbracket(\sigma) \triangleq \ell \in \text{dom}(\sigma) \wedge \sigma(\ell) = v$$

Iris: a Framework for Building Separation Logics

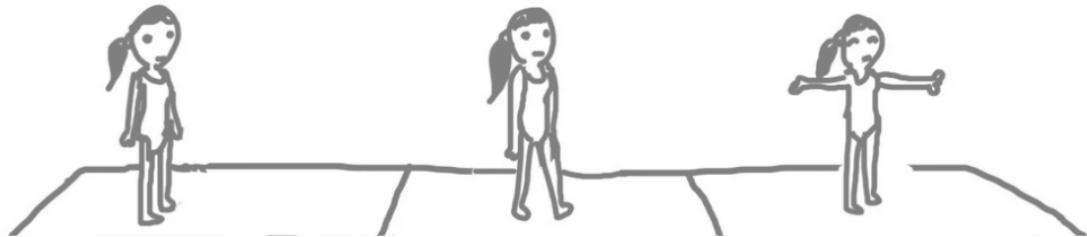


Iris provides SL building blocks as **reusable, language agnostic** Coq libraries:

- **expressive base logic** parameterized by an arbitrary PCM
- modular **pre-built PCMs**
- predefined **triples** and their **adequacy theorem**

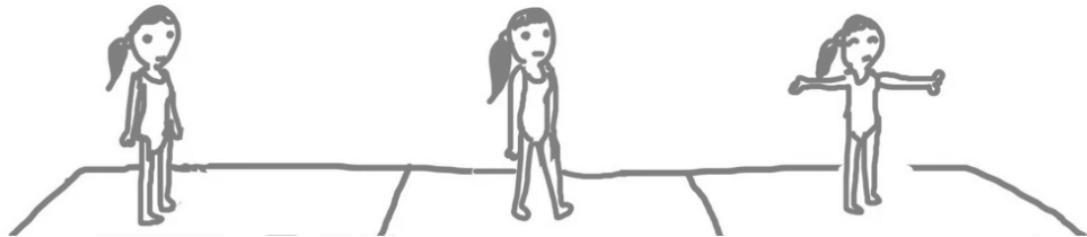
Most steps of the Checklist become Require Import iris!

mono-language separation logic gymnastics



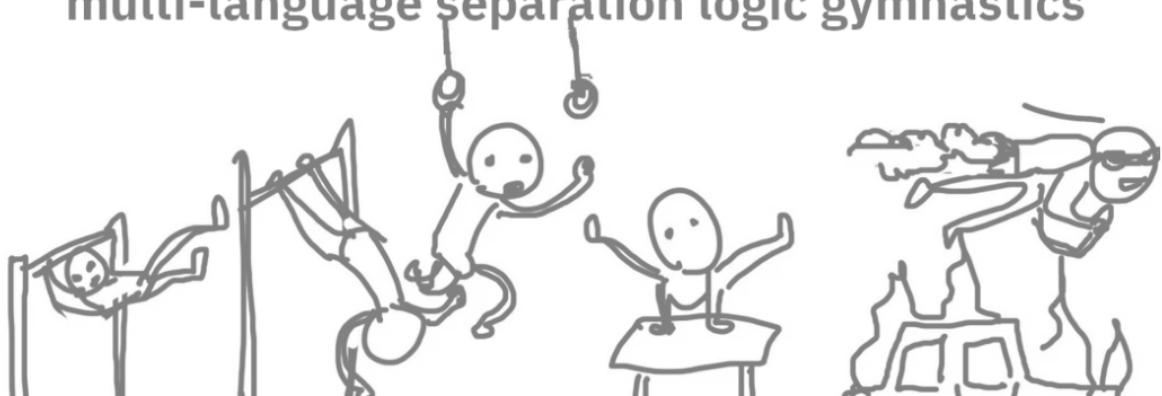
**Bridging Separation Logics with
View Reconciliation**

mono-language separation logic gymnastics



Bridging Separation Logics with View Reconciliation

multi-language separation logic gymnastics



Melocoton brings the Checklist to a multi-language setting

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{OCaml SL} & \text{FFI SL} & \text{C SL} \\ \{P\} e_{\text{ML}} \{Q\} & \{P\} e_{\text{FFI}} \{Q\} & \{P\} e_{\text{C}} \{Q\} \\ r \mapsto_{\text{ML}} v & \gamma \mapsto_{\text{blk}[0|\text{mut}]} blk & a \mapsto_{\text{C}} w \\ + & + & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{OCaml semantics} & \text{FFI semantics} & \text{C semantics} \\ (e_{\text{ML}}, \sigma) \rightsquigarrow (e_{\text{ML}}, \sigma) & (e_{\text{FFI}}, \rho) \rightsquigarrow (e_{\text{FFI}}, \rho) & (e_{\text{C}}, m) \rightsquigarrow (e_{\text{C}}, m) \end{array}$$

Problem: how do we connect the different languages/logics?

Language Interaction: Different Views of the Same Data

OCaml glue code

```
external hash_ref: int ref -> unit  
= "caml_hash_ref"
```

C glue code

```
value caml_hash_ref(value r) {  
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How is **OCaml data** accessed from **C glue code**?

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How is **OCaml** data accessed from **C** glue code?

High-level **OCaml** values are accessed..
..through a **low-level block representation**.

Language Interaction: Semantics

High-level OCaml value \sim_{ML} Low-level block representation

Language Interaction: Semantics

High-level OCaml value	\sim_{ML}	Low-level block representation
integers	\sim_{ML}	integers
booleans	\sim_{ML}	integers (0 or 1)
		<i>true</i> \sim_{ML} 1

Language Interaction: Semantics

High-level OCaml value	\sim_{ML}	Low-level block representation
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arrays, refs	\sim_{ML}	blocks

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$\ell \sim_{ML} \gamma$

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λ_{ML+C} Semantics

$\sigma : Heap_{ML}$

$\zeta : BlockHeap$

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switch at the language barrier

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λ_{ML+C} Semantics

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switch at the language barrier

Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Semantics

$\sigma : \text{Heap}_{\text{ML}}$



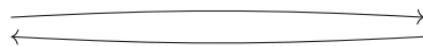
$\zeta : \text{BlockHeap}$

Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Program Logic

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Semantics

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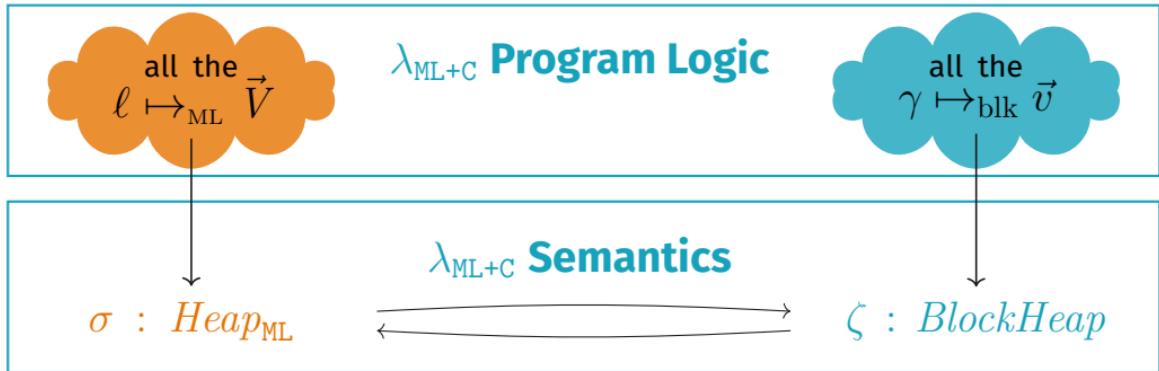


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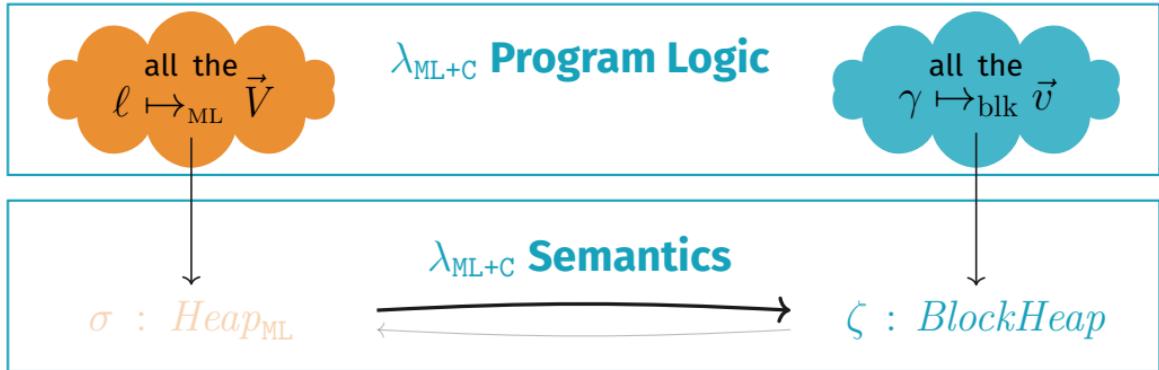
Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1

 $\ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V}$ $\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ **Program Logic** $\gamma \mapsto_{\text{blk}} \vec{v}$ $\sigma : \text{Heap}_{\text{ML}}$ $\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ **Semantics** $\zeta : \text{BlockHeap}$ 

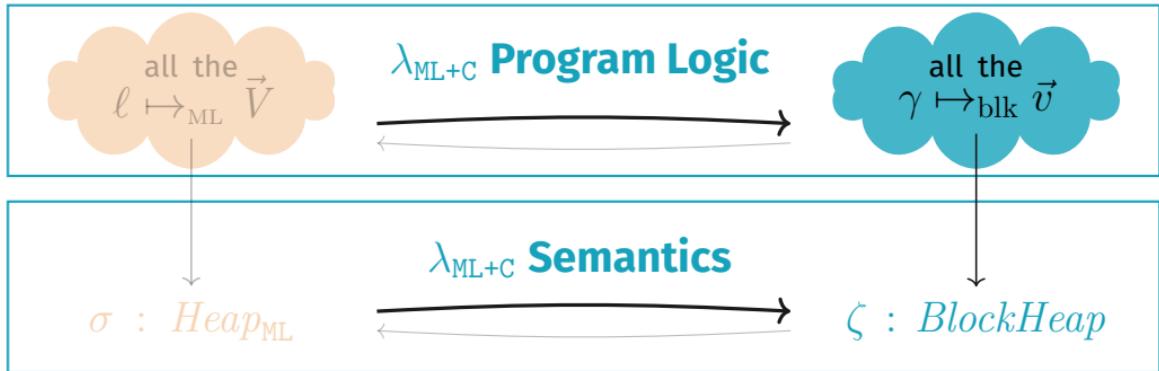
Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1



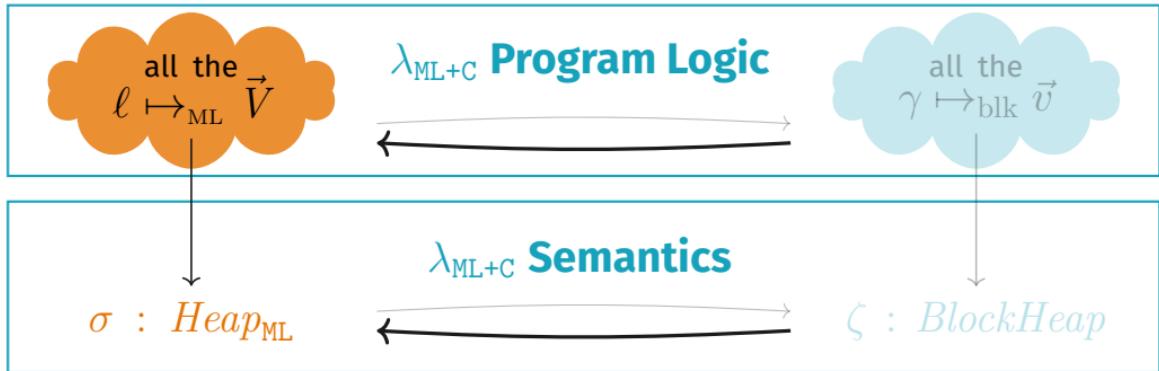
Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1



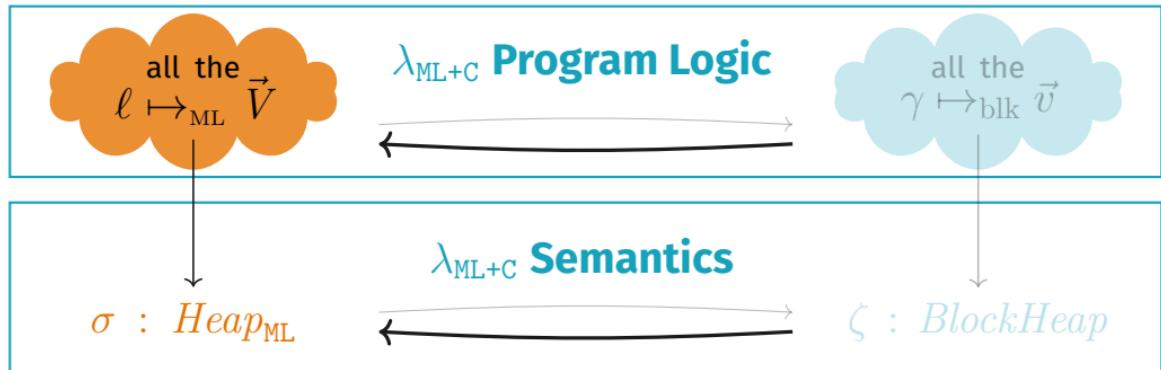
Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1



Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1



Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1

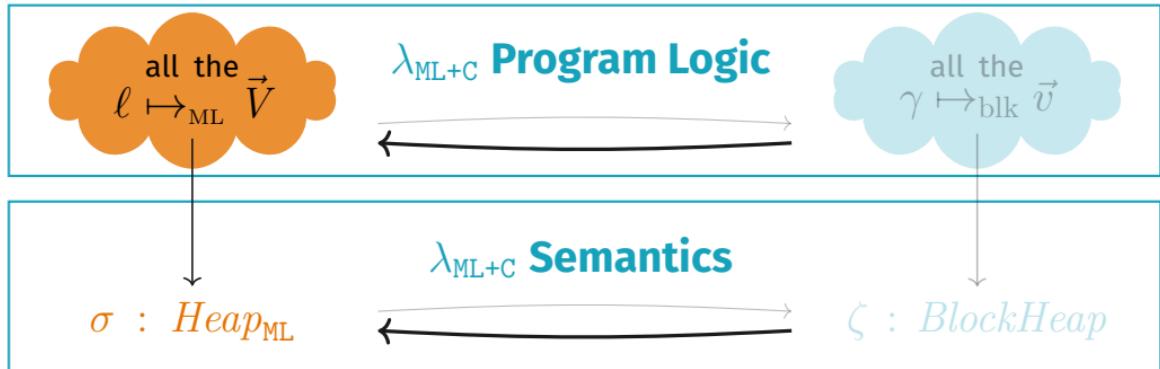


EXTCALL

{
 all
} C function body {
 all
}

{
 all
} call into C {
 all
}

Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1



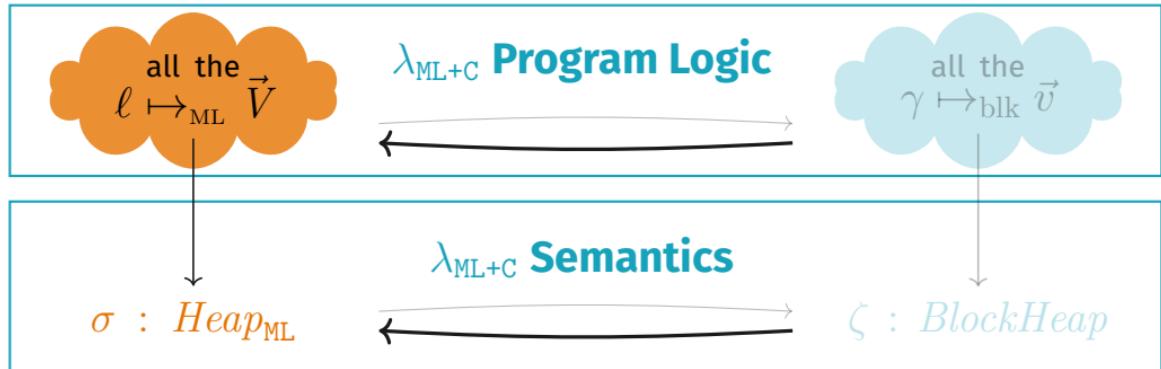
EXTCALL

$$\frac{\{\text{all}\} \text{ C function body } \{\text{all}\}}{\{\text{all}\} \text{ call into C } \{\text{all}\}}$$

FRAME

$$\frac{\{P\} e \{Q\}}{\{R * P\} e \{Q * R\}}$$

Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1



EXTCALL

{ all } C function body { all }

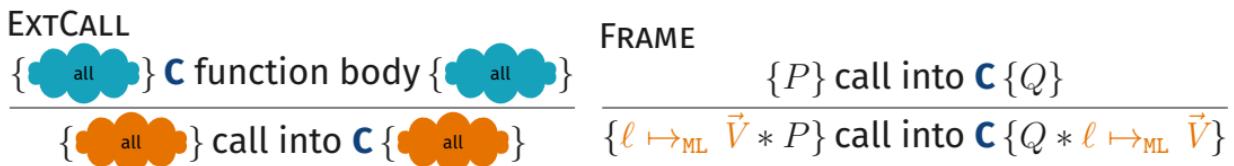
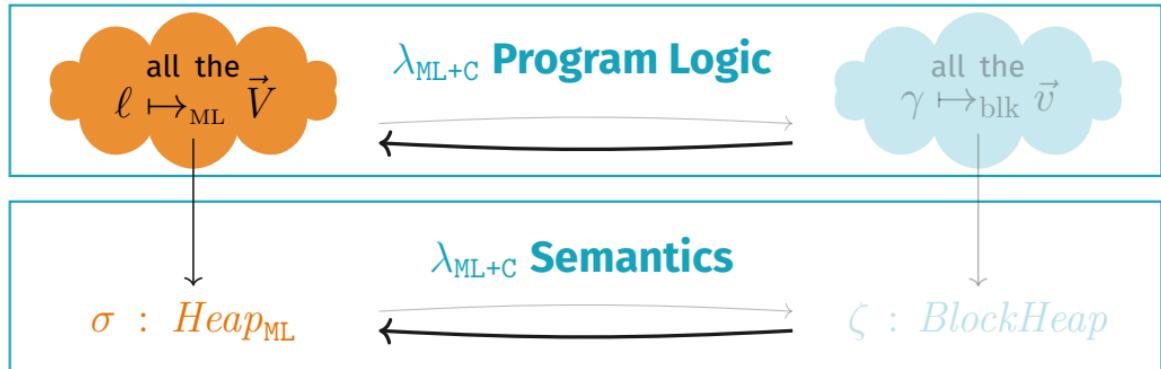
{ all } call into C { all }

FRAME

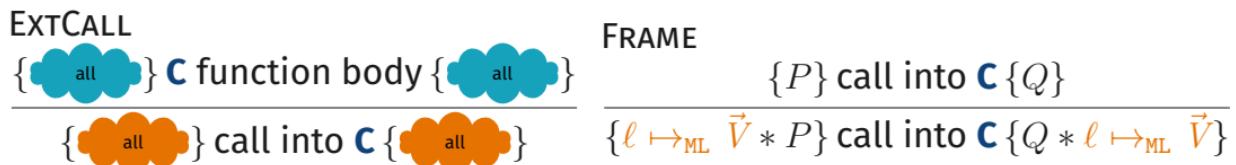
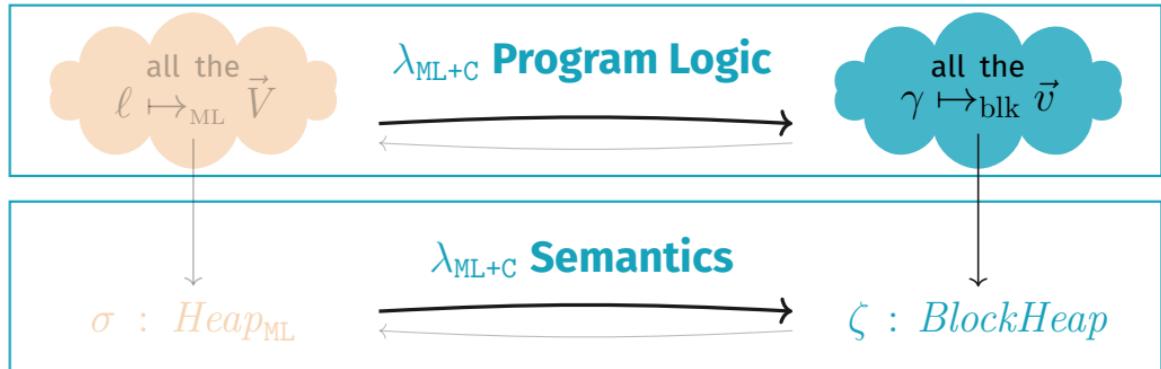
$\{P\}$ call into C $\{Q\}$

$\{R * P\}$ call into C $\{Q * R\}$

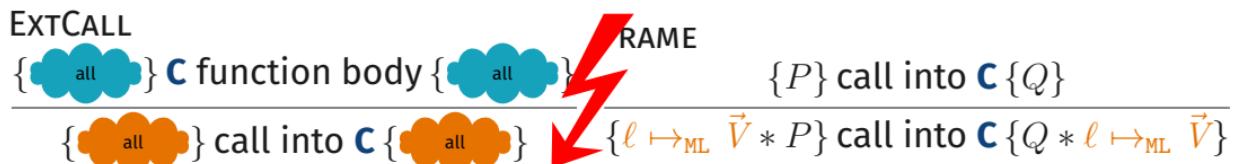
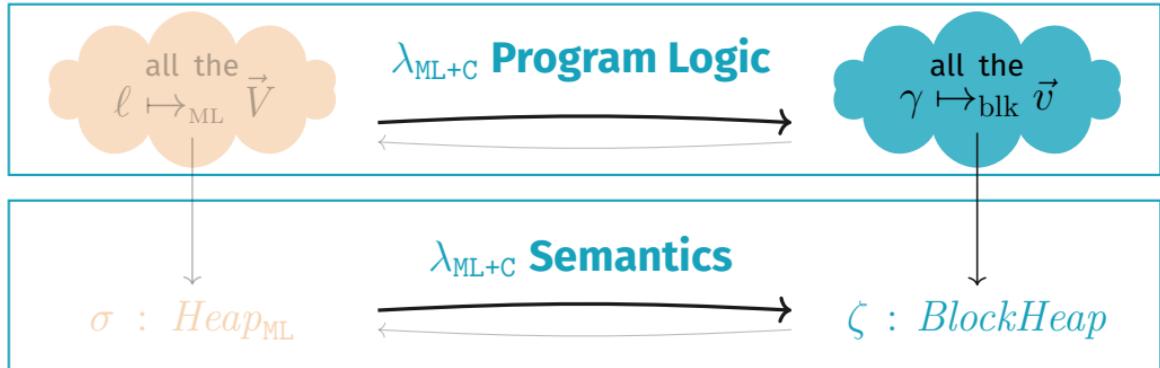
Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1



Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1



Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1



Language Interaction: Program Logic, Take 1

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Program Logic

The $\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Semantics operate **globally** on the state



The $\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Program Logic needs **local** reasoning rules

EXTCALL



Language Interaction: More Gradual Rules

OCaml points-toes remain valid when switching to C!

Language Interaction: More Gradual Rules

OCaml points-toes remain valid when switching to C!

$$\ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V}$$

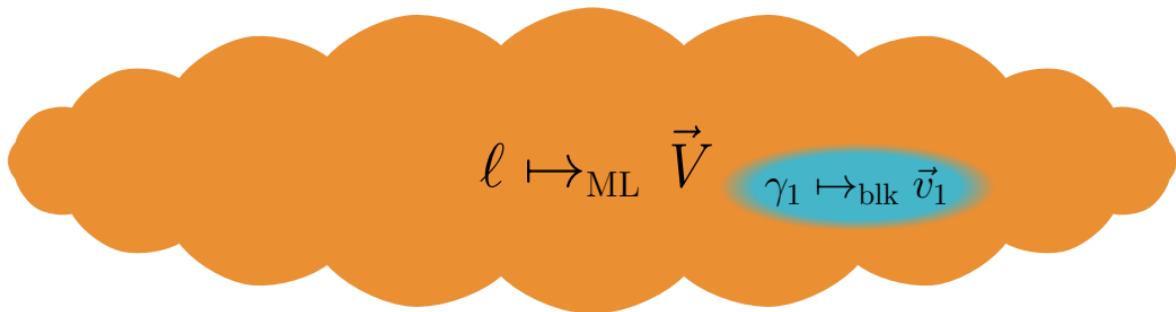
Language Interaction: More Gradual Rules

OCaml points-toes remain valid when switching to C!

$$\ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V} \quad \ell_1 \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V}_1$$

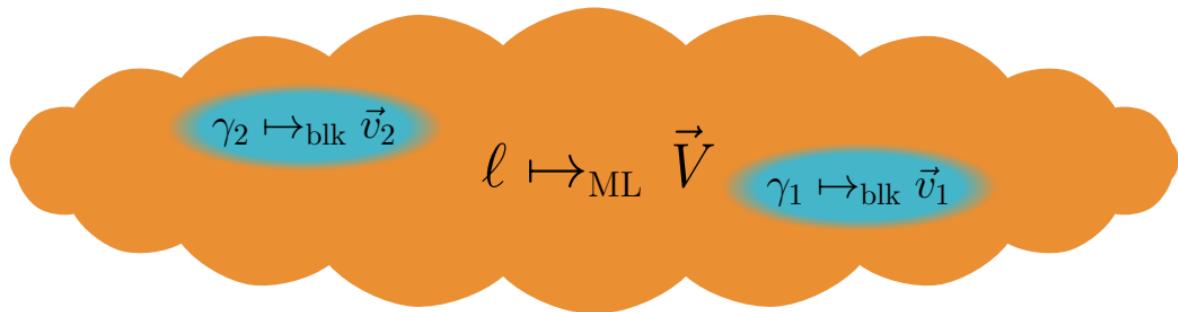
Language Interaction: More Gradual Rules

OCaml points-toes remain valid when switching to C!



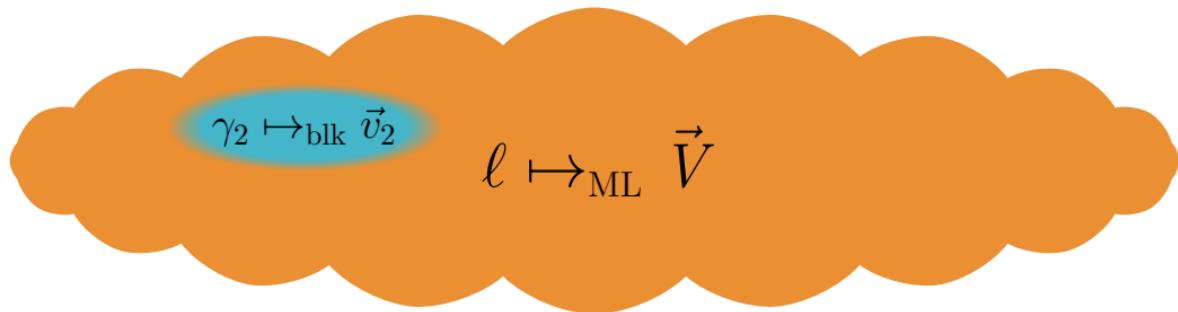
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Language Interaction: More Gradual Rules

OCaml points-toes remain valid when switching to C!

$$\ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V}$$

View Reconciliation Rules for Converting On-Demand:

$$\ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V} \Rightarrow \exists \gamma \vec{v}. \gamma \mapsto_{\text{blk}} \vec{v} * \ell \sim_{\text{ML}} \gamma * \vec{V} \sim_{\text{ML}} \vec{v}$$

$$\vec{V} \sim_{\text{ML}} \vec{v} * \gamma \mapsto_{\text{blk}} \vec{v} \Rightarrow \exists \ell. \ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V} * \ell \sim_{\text{ML}} \gamma$$

Language Interaction: View Reconciliation

View Reconciliation Rules

$$\ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V} \Rightarrow \exists \gamma \vec{v}. \gamma \mapsto_{\text{blk}} \vec{v} * \ell \sim_{\text{ML}} \gamma * \vec{V} \sim_{\text{ML}} \vec{v}$$

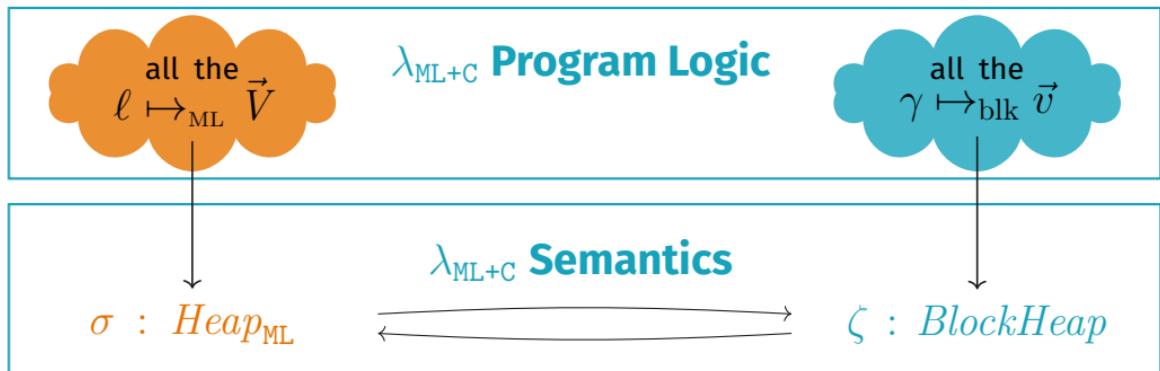
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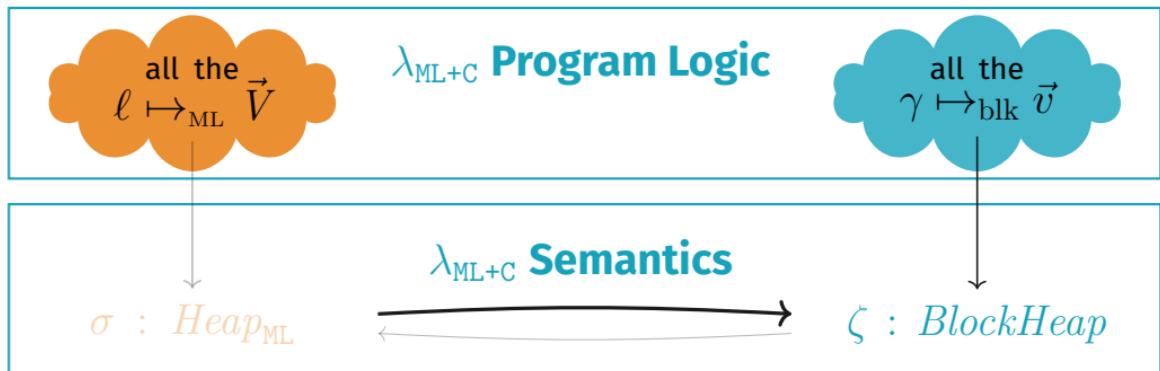


Language Interaction: View Reconciliation

View Reconciliation Rules

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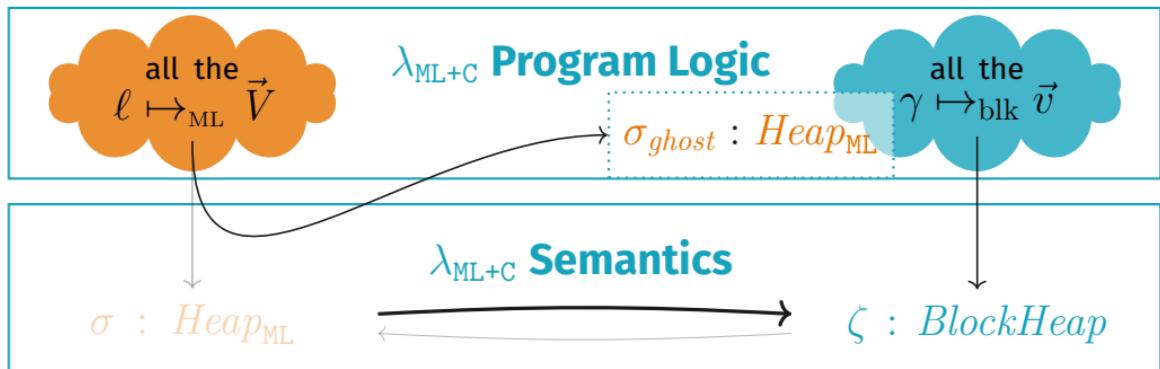


Language Interaction: View Reconciliation

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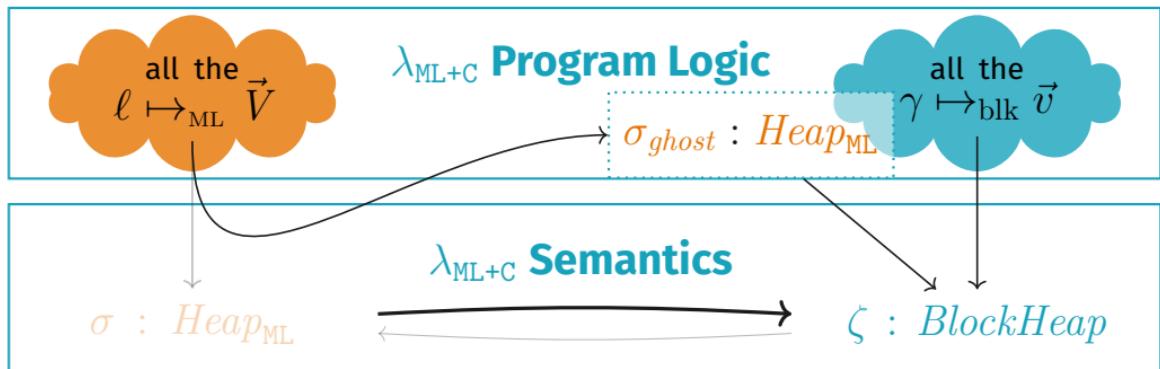


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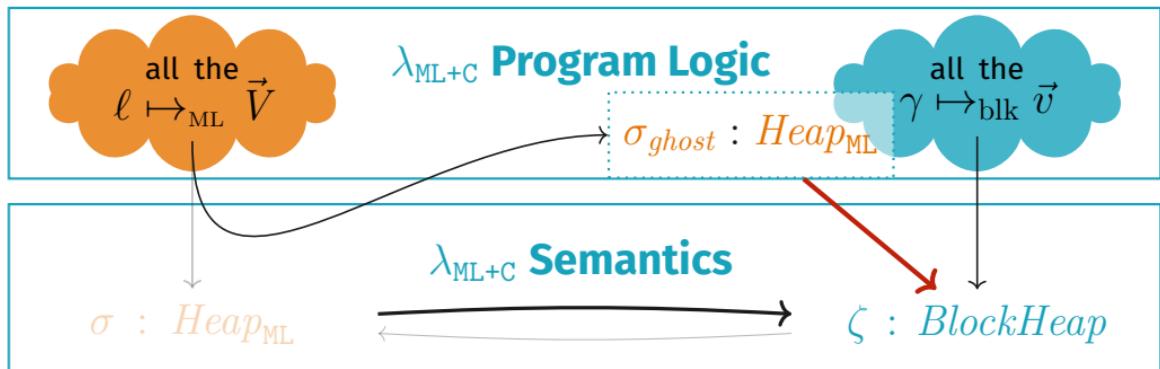


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Application: Verifying hash_ref with Melocoton

Verifying hash_ref with Melocoton

OCaml glue code

```
external hash_ref: int ref -> unit  
= "caml_hash_ref"
```

C glue code

```
value caml_hash_ref(value v) {  
    int x = Int_val(Field(v, 0));  
    hash_ptr(&x);  
    Store_field(v, 0, Val_int(x));  
    return Val_unit;  
}
```

Verifying hash_ref with Melocoton

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{r ↪ML n}
hash_ref(r)
{∃m. r ↪ML m}
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```

EXTCALL

$$\{P * x \sim_{\text{ML}} v\} f(v) \{\lambda v'. \exists y. y \sim_{\text{ML}} v' * Q(y)\}$$
$$\{P\} \text{ external } "f"(x) \{\lambda y. Q(y)\}$$

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{∃m. r ↪ML m}
```

C glue code

```
value caml_hash_ref(value v) {
{r ↪ML n * r ~ML v}
int x = Int_val(Field(v, 0));
hash_ptr(&x);
Store_field(v, 0, Val_int(x));
return Val_unit;
{∃m. r ↪ML m * ∃y. y ~ML Val_unit}
}
```

EXTCALL

$$\{P * x \sim_{\text{ML}} v\} f(v) \{\lambda v'. \exists y. y \sim_{\text{ML}} v' * Q(y)\}$$
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return Val_unit;
{∃m. r ↪ML m * () ~ML Val_unit}
}
```

EXTCALL

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```
value caml_hash_ref(value v) {
    {r ↪ML n * r ~ML v}
    {v ↪blk [n] * r ~ML v}

    int x = Int_val(Field(v, 0));
    hash_ptr(&x);
    Store_field(v, 0, Val_int(x));
    return Val_unit;

    {∃m. r ↪ML m * () ~ML Val_unit}
}
```

VIEW RECONCILIATION (1)

$$\ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V} \iff \exists \gamma \vec{v}. \gamma \mapsto_{\text{blk}} \vec{v} * \ell \sim_{\text{ML}} \gamma * \vec{V} \sim_{\text{ML}} \vec{v}$$

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    return Val_unit;

    {∃m. v ↪blk [m] * r ~ML v}
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}
```

VIEW RECONCILIATION (2)

$$\vec{V} \sim_{\text{ML}} \vec{v} * \gamma \mapsto_{\text{blk}} \vec{v} \not\equiv_{\star} \exists \ell . \ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V} * \ell \sim_{\text{ML}} \gamma$$

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    {∃m. v ↪blk [m] * r ~ML v}
    {∃m. r ↪ML m * () ~ML Val_unit}
}
```

Field SPECIFICATION

$$\{\gamma \mapsto_{blk} [\dots v_i \dots]\} \text{Field}(\gamma, i) \{\lambda v'. v' = v_i \wedge \gamma \mapsto_{blk} [\dots v_i \dots]\}$$

Verifying hash_ref with Melocoton

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external hash_ref: int ref -> unit
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    hash_ptr(&x);
    Store_field(v, 0, Val_int(x));
    return Val_unit;

    {∃m. v ↪blk [m] * r ~ML v}
    {∃m. r ↪ML m * () ~ML Val_unit}
}
```

Store_field SPECIFICATION

```
{γ ↪blk [...]} Store_field(γ, i, v') {γ ↪blk [...]}
```

But wait, there is more!

- Language-local reasoning for **external calls**.
- Additional **OCaml FFI features**: garbage collection, registering roots, custom blocks, callbacks, etc.
- **Case studies** utilising all of these features.
- **Semantic model of OCaml types** (a logical relation) to verify type safety and encapsulation of FFI code.

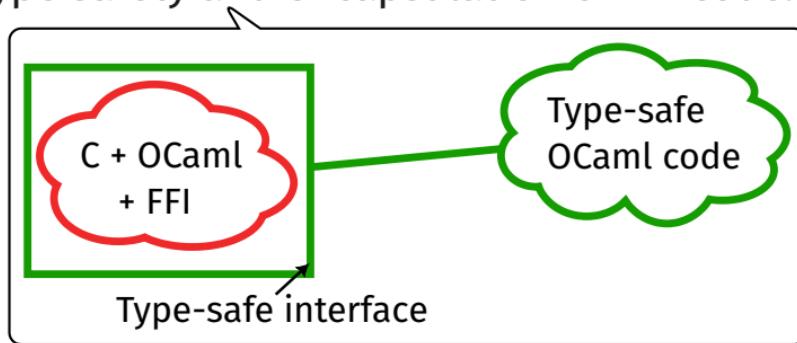


Transfinite



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- **Case studies** utilising all of these features.
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Future work

Extend Melocoton to model all of the OCaml FFI

exceptions, multithreading, “zero-copy” operations on byte arrays, ...

Build code-analysis tools based on Melocoton

Allow OCaml programmers to check correctness of their FFI glue code

Ideally, both verification and bug finding tools

Language Locality: Embed Existing Languages

OCaml Program Logic

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Program Logic

C Program Logic

Glue Code Verification

OCaml Semantics

$\lambda_{\text{ML+C}}$ Semantics

C Semantics

Glue Code Semantics

Language Interaction: View Reconciliation Rules

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$$\vec{V} \sim_{\text{ML}} \vec{v} * \gamma \mapsto_{\text{blk}} \vec{v} \not\equiv \exists \ell. \ell \mapsto_{\text{ML}} \vec{V} * \ell \sim_{\text{ML}} \gamma$$

<https://melocoton-project.github.io>