



*jStar: Towards Practical Verification for  
Java (OOPSLA 2008)*

**Paper:** Dino Distefano & Matthew  
Parkinson

**Speaker:** Nels E. Beckman

# Overview

- jStar is an automated tool for verifying separation logic predicates in Java.
- **Interesting Because:**
  - Automated
  - Must handle
    - inheritance,
    - multi-object properties,
    - call-backs
  - Uses cool abstract predicates\*

\*Parkinson & Bierman, POPL 2005.

# Overview: Approach

- jStar works by
  - Requiring method pre/post conditions
    - Static & dynamic
  - Combining a theorem prover & abstract interpretation
    - Requires ‘abstraction rules’ from the users to ensure termination

# Outline

1. Really simple example
2. More interesting example
3. Symbolic Execution: Straight-Line
4. Proving separation logic predicates
5. Symbolic Execution: Fixed Point Computation

# Syntax

$E ::= x \mid \hat{x} \mid \text{nil} \mid \dots$

$P ::= E = F \mid E \neq F \mid p(\bar{E})$

$S ::= s(\bar{E})$

$\sqcap ::= \text{true} \mid P \wedge \sqcap$

$\Sigma ::= \text{emp} \mid S * \Sigma$

$H ::= \sqcap \wedge \Sigma$

# Syntax

$E ::= x \mid \hat{x} \mid \text{nil} \mid \dots$

$P ::= E = F \mid E \neq F \mid p(\bar{E})$

$S ::= s(\bar{E})$

$\sqcap ::= \text{true} \mid P \wedge \sqcap$

$\Sigma ::= \text{emp} \mid S * \Sigma$

$H ::= \sqcap \wedge \Sigma$

$s(\bar{E})?$

Basically always of the form,  
 $x \mapsto E$

$p(\bar{E})?$

Not sure this is used.

# Really Simple Example

```
class Cell {  
    int val;  
  
    void set(int x) {  
        this.val = x;  
    }  
  
    int get() {  
        return this.val;  
    }  
}
```

# Really Simple Example

```
class Cell {  
  int val;  
  
  void set(int x) {  
    this.val = x;  
  }  
  
  int get() {  
    return this.val;  
  }  
}
```

**Property of Interest:**

```
define Val$Cell(c, {content=y}) =  
  true | c.val ↦ y
```



# Really Simple Example

```
class Cell {  
  int val;  
  
  void set(int x) {  
    this.val = x;  
  }  
  
  int get() {  
    return this.val;  
  }  
}
```

**Property of Interest:**

**define** Val\$Cell(*c*, {content=*y*}) =

**true** | *c.val* ↦ *y*

↑  
Pred.  
over  
stack

↑  
Pred.  
over  
heap

# Really Simple Example

```
class Recell extends Cell {  
    int bak;  
  
    void set(int x) {  
        this.bak = super.get();  
        super.set(x);  
    }  
  
    int get() {  
        return super.get();  
    }  
}
```

# Really Simple Example

## Property of Interest:

```
define Val$Recell(c, {content=y; old=z}) =  
  true | Val$Cell(x, {content=y}) *  
    c.bak ↦ z
```

```
class Recell extends Cell {  
  int bak;  
  
  void set(int x) {  
    this.bak = super.get();  
    super.set(x);  
  }  
  
  int get() {  
    return super.get();  
  }  
}
```

Abstracting Val\$XXX to Val

# Abstracting Val\$XXX to Val

$\text{type}(x, \text{Cell}) \implies$

$\text{Val}(x, \{\text{contents}=y\}) \iff \text{Val}\$\text{Cell}(x, \{\text{contents}=y\})$

# Abstracting Val\$XXX to Val

type(x, Cell)  $\implies$

Val(x, {contents=y})  $\iff$  Val\$Cell(x,{contents=y}))

type(x, Recell)  $\implies$

Val(x, {contents=y, old=z})  $\iff$  Val\$Recell(x,{contents=y, old=z})

# Abstracting Val\$XXX to Val

$\text{type}(x, \text{Cell}) \implies$

$\text{Val}(x, \{\text{contents}=y\}) \iff \text{Val}\$\text{Cell}(x, \{\text{contents}=y\})$

$\text{type}(x, \text{Recell}) \implies$

$\text{Val}(x, \{\text{contents}=y, \text{old}=z\}) \iff \text{Val}\$\text{Recell}(x, \{\text{contents}=y, \text{old}=z\})$

**Q. What if I have:**

$\text{type}(x, \text{Recell}) \quad \& \quad \text{Val}(x, \{\text{contents}=y\}) ?$

# Abstracting Val\$XXX to Val

$\text{type}(x, \text{Cell}) \implies$

$\text{Val}(x, \{\text{contents}=y\}) \iff \text{Val}\$\text{Cell}(x, \{\text{contents}=y\})$

$\text{type}(x, \text{Recell}) \implies$

$\text{Val}(x, \{\text{contents}=y, \text{old}=z\}) \iff \text{Val}\$\text{Recell}(x, \{\text{contents}=y, \text{old}=z\})$

**Q. What if I have:**

$\text{type}(x, \text{Recell}) \quad \& \quad \text{Val}(x, \{\text{contents}=y\}) ?$

**A. Implicit Existential Quantification:**

$\text{Val}(x, \{\text{contents}=y\}) \iff \text{Val}\$\text{Recell}(x, \{\text{contents}=y, \text{old}=\hat{o}\})$



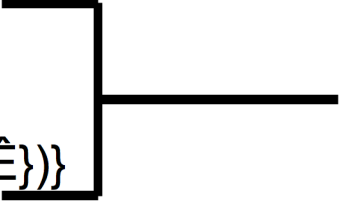


# Now, Let's Specify

```
class Cell {  
  int get() :  
    static  
    pre: {true | Val/$Cell(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
    post: { $\hat{E}$  = return | Val/$Cell(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
    dynamic  
    pre: {true | Val(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
    post: { $\hat{E}$  = return | Val(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
  {  
    return this.val;  
  }  
  ...  
}
```

# Now, Let's Specify

```
class Cell {  
  int get() :  
    static  
    pre: {true | Val($Cell(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
    post: { $\hat{E}$  = return | Val($Cell(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
    dynamic  
    pre: {true | Val(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
    post: { $\hat{E}$  = return | Val(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
  {  
    return this.val;  
  }  
  ...  
}
```



Client knows exact type, **super** or **private**

# Now, Let's Specify

```
class Cell {  
  int get() :  
    static  
    pre: {true | Val($Cell(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
    post: { $\hat{E}$  = return | Val($Cell(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
    dynamic  
    pre: {true | Val(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
    post: { $\hat{E}$  = return | Val(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })}  
  {  
    return this.val;  
  }  
  ...  
}
```

The diagram consists of two vertical brackets on the right side of the code. The top bracket spans the `pre` and `post` conditions of the `static` block. A horizontal line extends from the right side of this bracket to the text "Client knows exact type, **super** or **private**". The bottom bracket spans the `pre` and `post` conditions of the `dynamic` block. A horizontal line extends from the right side of this bracket to the text "Client uses dynamic dispatch".

# Feature: No Class Invariants

```
class Cell {  
  int get() :  
    static  
    pre: {true | Val$Cell(this, {content=Ê})}  
    post: {Ê = return | Val$Cell(this, {content=Ê})}  
    dynamic  
    pre: {true | Val(this,  
    post: {Ê = return | V  
  {  
    return this.val;  
  }  
  ...  
}
```

- In most OO verification systems, Val would be a class invariant.
  - Given at method start. Must be reestablished at method return.
- jStar does not have these.
  - For verifying OO patterns with call-backs

# More Specification

```
class Recell {  
  void set(int x) :  
    static  
      pre: {true | Val$Recell(this, {content=Ê, old=Ô})}  
      post: {true | Val$Recell(this, {content=x, old=Ê})}  
    dynamic  
      pre: {true | Val(this, {content=Ê, old=Ô})}  
      post: {true | Val(this, {content=x, old=Ê})}  
  {  
    this.bak = super.get();  
    super.set(x);  
  }  
  ...  
}
```

# More Specification

```
class Recell {  
  void set(int x) :  
    {true |  $Va/\$(this, \{content=\hat{E}, old=\hat{O}\})$ }  
    {true |  $Va/\$(this, \{content=x, old=\hat{E}\})$ }  
  {  
    this.bak = super.get();  
    super.set(x);  
  }  
  ...  
}
```

# More Specification

```
class Recell {  
  void set(int x) :  
    {true | Val$(this, {content=Ê, old=Ô})}  
    {true | Val$(this, {content=x, old=Ê})}  
  {  
    this.bak = super.get();  
    super.set(x);  
  }  
}
```

```
Recell(int x) :  
  {true | emp}  
  {true | Val$(this, {content=x, old=-1}) }  
  {  
    super(x);  
    this.bak = -1;  
  }  
}
```

# Verification Preview

**void set(int x) :**

**{true |  $Va/\$(this, \{content=\hat{E}, old=\hat{O}\})$ }**

**{true |  $Va/\$(this, \{content=x, old=\hat{E}\})$ }**

{

...

}

**{true |  $Va/(this, \{content=\hat{E}, old=\hat{O}\}) \wedge$**   
**type(this, Recell)}**

**{true |  $Va/\$Recell(this, \{content=\hat{E}, old=\hat{O}\})$ }**

**{true | this.bak  $\mapsto \hat{O} *$**

**$Va/\$Cell(this, \{content=\hat{E}\})$ }**

**temp = super.get();**

**{temp =  $\hat{E}$  | this.bak  $\mapsto \hat{O} *$**

**$Va/\$Cell(this, \{content=\hat{E}\})$ }**

**this.bak = temp;**

**{temp =  $\hat{E}$  | this.bak  $\mapsto \hat{E} *$**

**$Va/\$Cell(this, \{content=\hat{E}\})$ }**

**super.set(x);**

**{temp =  $\hat{E}$  | this.bak  $\mapsto \hat{E} *$**

**$Va/\$Cell(this, \{content=x\})$ }**



# Observer Example

```
interface Subject {  
    void addObserver(Observer o);  
    void removeObserver(Observer o);  
}
```

```
interface Observer {  
    void update(Subject s);  
}
```

# Observer Example

```
interface Subject {  
    void addObserver(Observer o);  
    void removeObserver(Observer o);  
}
```

```
interface Observer {  
    void update(Subject s);  
}
```

```
class IntegerList implements  
    Subject {  
    List ints = ...;  
    List observers = ...;  
  
    void addObserver(Observer o){  
        this.observers.add(o);  
    }  
}
```

```
void removeObserver(Observer o){  
    this.observers.remove(o);  
}
```

```
void beginModification() {}  
void endModification() {  
    notifyObservers();  
}
```

```
private  
void notifyObservers() {  
    for(o : observers) {  
        o.update(this);  
    }  
}
```

# Observer & Properties

```
class SizeKeeper implements
  Observer {
  IntegerList subj;
  int size;

  SizeKeeper(IntegerList s){
    s.addObsrvr(this);
    this.subj = s;
  }

  void update(Subject o) {
    if(o==subj)
      size=subj.list.size();
  }
}
```

# Observer & Properties

```
class SizeKeeper implements
  Observer {
  IntegerList subj;
  int size;

  SizeKeeper(IntegerList s){
    s.addObsrvr(this);
    this.subj = s;
  }

  void update(Subject o) {
    if(o==subj)
      size=subj.list.size();
  }
}
```

```
define Subject(s,{obs=O;vals=V}) =
  SubjectInternal$IntegerList(s,{obs=O}) *
  SubjectData(s,{vals=V})
```

# Observer & Properties

```
class SizeKeeper implements
  Observer {
  IntegerList subj;
  int size;

  SizeKeeper(IntegerList s){
    s.addObsrvr(this);
    this.subj = s;
  }

  void update(Subject o) {
    if(o==subj)
      size=subj.list.size();
  }
}
```

```
define Subject(s,{obs=O;vals=V}) =
  SubjectInternal$IntegerList(s,{obs=O}) *
  SubjectData(s,{vals=V})
```

```
define SubjectInternal(s,{obs=O}) =
  s.observers  $\mapsto$   $\hat{O}$  * LinkedList( $\hat{o}$ ,O)
```

# Observer & Properties

```
class SizeKeeper implements
  Observer {
  IntegerList subj;
  int size;

  SizeKeeper(IntegerList s){
    s.addObsrvr(this);
    this.subj = s;
  }

  void update(Subject o) {
    if(o==subj)
      size=subj.list.size();
  }
}
```

```
define Subject(s,{obs=O;vals=V}) =
  SubjectInternal$IntegerList(s,{obs=O}) *
  SubjectData(s,{vals=V})
```

```
define SubjectInternal(s,{obs=O}) =
  s.observers  $\mapsto$   $\hat{O}$  * LinkedList( $\hat{o}$ ,O)
```

```
define SubjectData(s,{vals=V}) =
  s.list  $\mapsto$   $\hat{e}$  * LinkedList( $\hat{i}$ ,V)
```

# Observer & Properties

```
class SizeKeeper implements
  Observer {
  IntegerList subj;
  int size;

  SizeKeeper(IntegerList s){
    s.addObsrvr(this);
    this.subj = s;
  }

  void update(Subject o) {
    if(o==subj)
      size=subj.list.size();
  }
}
```

```
define Subject(s,{obs=O;vals=V}) =
  SubjectInternal$IntegerList(s,{obs=O}) *
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```

```
define SubjectInternal(s,{obs=O}) =
  s.observers  $\mapsto$   $\hat{O}$  * LinkedList( $\hat{o}$ ,O)
```

```
define SubjectData(s,{vals=V}) =
  s.list  $\mapsto$   $\hat{e}$  * LinkedList( $\hat{i}$ ,V)
```

```
define SubjectObs(s, {obs=O;vals=V}) =
  Subject$IntegerList(s, {obs=O;vals=V})
  * ObsSet(O,V,s)
```

# Method Specifications

IntegerList ---

**void** addObsrvr(Observer o) :

{|*SubjectObs*\$(**this**, {obs= $\hat{O}$ ; vals= $\hat{E}$ }) \* *Observer*(o,{vals= $\hat{E}_2$ ;subject=**this**})}

{|*SubjectObs*\$(**this**, {obs=add(o, $\hat{O}$ ); vals= $\hat{E}$ })}



# Method Specifications

IntegerList ---

**void** addObsrvr(Observer o) :

{|*SubjectObs*\$(**this**, {obs= $\hat{O}$ ; vals= $\hat{E}$ }) \* *Observer*(o,{vals= $\hat{E}_2$ ;subject=**this**})}

{|*SubjectObs*\$(**this**, {obs=add(o, $\hat{O}$ ); vals= $\hat{E}$ })}

**void** beginModification() :

{|*SubjectObs*\$(**this**, {obs= $\hat{O}$ ; vals= $\hat{E}$ }) }

{|*SubjectInternal*\$(**this**, {obs= $\hat{O}$ }) \*

*SubjectData*(**this**, {val= $\hat{E}$ }) \* *ObsSet*( $\hat{O}$ , $\hat{E}$ ,**this**) }

# Method Specifications

IntegerList ---

**void** addObsrvr(Observer o) :

{|*SubjectObs*\$(**this**, {obs= $\hat{O}$ ; vals= $\hat{E}$ }) \* *Observer*(o,{vals= $\hat{E}_2$ ;subject=**this**})}

{|*SubjectObs*\$(**this**, {obs=add(o, $\hat{O}$ ); vals= $\hat{E}$ })}

**void** beginModification() :

{|*SubjectObs*\$(**this**, {obs= $\hat{O}$ ; vals= $\hat{E}$ }) }

{|*SubjectInternal*\$(**this**, {obs= $\hat{O}$ }) \* }

*SubjectData*(**this**, {val= $\hat{E}$ }) \* *ObsSet*( $\hat{O}$ , $\hat{E}$ ,**this**) }

**void** notifyObservers() :

{|*Subject*\$(**this**, {obs= $\hat{O}$ ;vals= $\hat{E}$ }) \* *ObsSet*( $\hat{O}$ , $\hat{E}_2$ ,**this**) }

{|*Subject*\$(**this**, {obs= $\hat{O}$ ;vals= $\hat{E}$ }) \* *ObsSet*( $\hat{O}$ , $\hat{E}$ ,**this**) }

# Method Specifications

SizeKeeper ---

**void** update(Subject s) :

{|*Observer*(**this**, {vals= $\hat{E}$ ; subject=s}) \* *SubjectData*(s, {vals= $\hat{E}_2$ }) }

{|*Observer*(**this**, {vals= $\hat{E}_2$ ; subject=s}) \* *SubjectData*(s, {vals= $\hat{E}_2$ }) }

# Method Specifications

SizeKeeper ---

**void** update(Subject s) :

{|*Observer*(**this**,{vals= $\hat{E}_1$ ; subject=s}) \* *SubjectData*(s, {vals= $\hat{E}_2$ }) }

{|*Observer*(**this**,{vals= $\hat{E}_2$ ; subject=s}) \* *SubjectData*(s, {vals= $\hat{E}_2$ }) }

Here's another neat feature! **Aliasing!**

- Each observer has an additional aliased reference to the subject.
- However it can't access it unless it is given the *SubjectData* predicate by the subject.

# Outline

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2. More interesting example
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# Symbolic Execution: Straight Line

- Step through methods, one at a time.
- Update a “symbolic heap” based on evaluation rules.
  - Symbolic heap = separation logic assertion + typing information
  - $exec : Stmts \times Heaps \rightarrow P(Heaps) \cup \{\top\}$
- At method call sites, talk to the theorem prover.

# Exec Rules

$$\frac{}{H, x = E \longrightarrow x = E[\hat{x}/x] \wedge H[\hat{x}/x]} \text{ Assignment 1}$$

$$\frac{}{H * x.\langle C: t f \rangle \mapsto E_1, x.\langle C: t f \rangle = E_2 \longrightarrow H * x.\langle C: t f \rangle \mapsto E_2} \text{ Mutation}$$

$$\frac{}{H * E.\langle C: t f \rangle \mapsto E_1, x = E.\langle C: t f \rangle \longrightarrow x = E_1[\hat{x}/x] \wedge (H * E.\langle C: t f \rangle \mapsto E_1)[\hat{x}/x]} \text{ Look-up}$$

$$\frac{}{H, \text{return } E \longrightarrow \text{ret} = E \wedge H} \text{ Return}$$

$$\frac{S \in \text{spec}_{\text{invoke}}(C, t, m) \quad \text{jsr}(S, H, v) = H'}{H, \text{invoke } x.\langle C: t m \rangle(v) \longrightarrow H'} \text{ Invoke}$$

$$\frac{H, \text{invoke } y.\langle C: t m \rangle(v) \longrightarrow H'}{H, x = \text{invoke } y.\langle C: t m \rangle(v) \longrightarrow H'[x/\text{ret}]} \text{ Assignment 2}$$

$$\frac{H[\hat{x}/x], \text{virtualinvoke } x.\langle C: \text{void init} \rangle(v) \longrightarrow H'}{H, x = \text{new } C(v) \longrightarrow H'} \text{ Allocation}$$

# Method Call Sites

$$\frac{S \in \text{spec}_{\text{invoke}}(C, t, m) \quad \text{jsr}(S, H, v) = H'}{H, \text{ invoke } x.\langle C: t \ m \rangle(v) \longrightarrow H'} \quad \text{Invoke}$$



# Method Call Sites

$$\frac{S \in \text{spec}_{\text{invoke}}(C, t, m) \quad \text{jsr}(S, H, v) = H'}{H, \text{ invoke } x.\langle C: t \ m \rangle(v) \longrightarrow H'} \quad \text{Invoke}$$

$$\text{jsr}(\{P\} \ m(\text{ps}) \ \{Q\}, H, \text{args}) = \begin{cases} H' * Q[\text{args}/\text{ps}] & \text{if } H \vdash P[\text{args}/\text{ps}] * H' \\ \top & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Method Call Sites

$$\frac{S \in \text{spec}_{\text{invoke}}(C, t, m) \quad \text{jsr}(S, H, v) = H'}{H, \text{ invoke } x.\langle C: t \ m \rangle(v) \longrightarrow H'} \quad \text{Invoke}$$

$$\text{jsr}(\{P\} \ m(\text{ps}) \ \{Q\}, H, \text{args}) = \begin{cases} H' * Q[\text{args}/\text{ps}] \text{ if } H \vdash P[\text{args}/\text{ps}] * H' \\ \top \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We pose the following question to the theorem prover:

“Can you find  $H'$  such that...”

$$H \vdash P[\text{args}/\text{ps}] * H'$$

Call:

# Example

```
x.set(7)
```

Symbolic Heap:

```
Val(x, {content=3}) *
```

```
Val(y, {content=9})
```

Cell: **void set(int x):**

```
{|Val(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })|}
```

```
{|Val(this, {content=x})|}
```

# Example

Call:

```
x.set(7)
```

Symbolic Heap:

```
Val(x, {content=3}) *  
Val(y, {content=9})
```

Cell: **void set(int x):**

```
{|Val(this, {content= $\hat{E}$ })|}  
{|Val(this, {content=x})|}
```

“Theorem prover, find H’ such that:”

$\text{Val}(x, \{\text{content}=3\}) *$

$\text{Val}(y, \{\text{content}=9\}) \vdash$

$\text{Val}(x, \{\text{content}=\hat{E}\}) * H'$

Response:

$H' = \hat{E}=3 \wedge \text{Val}(y, \{\text{content}=9\})$

# Proving Predicates

- Theorem Prover
  - Called by symbolic execution
  - Decides implications (entailment checking)
  - Performs frame inference
  - Based on Smallfoot\*

\*Berdine, Calcagno, O'Hearn. FMCO 2005.

# Entailment Checking

- Solves sequents of the form
$$\Sigma_f \mid \Pi_1 \mid \Sigma_1 \vdash \Pi_2 \mid \Sigma_2$$
- Whose “semantics” are
$$\Pi_1 \wedge (\Sigma_f * \Sigma_1) \implies \Pi_2 \wedge (\Sigma_f * \Sigma_2)$$
- Unfortunately, details are a little light in this section...
  - Unification and basic axioms of separation logic built into prover (e.g., comm. over  $*$ )
  - Otherwise, programmers add simplification rules

# Entailment Checking

- Solves sequents of the form

$$\Sigma_f \mid \Pi_1 \mid \Sigma_1 \vdash \Pi_2 \mid \Sigma_2$$

$$\frac{}{\Sigma_f \mid \Pi_1 \mid \text{emp} \vdash \text{true} \mid \text{emp}}$$

- Whose “semantics” are

$$\Pi_1 \wedge (\Sigma_f * \Sigma_1) \implies \Pi_2 \wedge (\Sigma_f * \Sigma_2)$$

- Unfortunately, details are a little light in this section...
  - Unification and basic axioms of separation logic built into prover (e.g., comm. over  $*$ )
  - Otherwise, programmers add simplification rules

# Simplification Rules

- The user can (must?) provide jStar with rules for simplifying proof rules.
- E.g,

$$\frac{\Sigma_f * S \mid \Pi_1 \mid \Sigma_1 \vdash \Pi_2 \mid \Sigma_2}{\Sigma_f \mid \Pi_1 \mid \Sigma_1 * S \vdash \Pi_2 \mid \Sigma_2 * S}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma_f[E/x] \mid \Pi_1[E/x] \mid \Sigma_1[E/x] \vdash \Pi_2[E/x] \mid \Sigma_2[E/x]}{\Sigma_f \mid \Pi_1 \wedge x = E \mid \Sigma_1 \vdash \Pi_2 \mid \Sigma_2}$$



# Frame Inference

- A key part of the theorem prover's job is frame inference:
  - Given  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  find  $H_3$  s.t.
  - $H_1 \implies H_2 * H_3$
- Finding the heap:
  1. Prove the formula with the whole heap
  2. Collect all the left over predicates from each proof tree
  3. Their disjunction is the frame

# Frame Inference

- A key part of the theorem prover's job is frame inference:
  - Given  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  find  $H_3$  s.t.
  - $H_1 \implies H_2 * H_3$
- Finding the heap:
  1. Prove the formula with the whole heap
  2. Collect all the left over predicates from each proof tree
  3. Their disjunction is the frame

$$\frac{\text{addToFrame}(\Pi_1, \Sigma_1)}{\Sigma_f \mid \Pi_1 \mid \Sigma_1 \vdash \text{true} \mid \text{emp}}$$

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3. Symbolic Execution: Straight-Line
4. Proving separation logic predicates
5. **Symbolic Execution: Fixed Point Computation**

# Fixed Point Computation & Abstraction

- As expected in symbolic execution the **heap** predicate will explode around **loops** unless we **abstract**.

```
void create() {  
    head = null;  
    while( /* cond */ ) {  
        Node n = new Node();  
        n.next = head;  
        head = n;  
    }  
}
```

$H_1 = \text{head} = n \wedge \text{Node}(n, \text{nil}, v)$

$H_2 = \text{head} = n \wedge \text{Node}(n, \hat{e}, v_1) * \text{Node}(\hat{e}, \text{nil}, v_2)$

$H_3 = \text{head} = n \wedge \text{Node}(n, \hat{e}, v_1) * \dots$

# Abstraction Rules

- In jStar, programmers provide abstraction rules
  - On a per program basis!
  - Tells theorem prover it can collapse a heap
  - Tried after every step

$$\frac{\text{condition}}{H * H' \rightsquigarrow H' * H''}$$

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$$\frac{\hat{e} \notin \text{Var}(H, x)}{H * \text{Node}(x, \hat{e}, \hat{i}) * \text{lseg}(\hat{e}, \text{nil}, \hat{i}_2) \rightsquigarrow H' * \text{lseg}(x, \text{nil}, \hat{i}_3)}$$

# Abstraction Rules Used in Observer

Rule LS\_OBS:

```
| | ls(?x, ?z, cons(?w, ?r)) * Observer(?w, {val=?v; subject=?s}) ⊢ |  
if  
| | lspe( f, ?z, ?r) * lsObs(?x, f, cons(?w, empty()), ?v, ?s) ⊢ |
```

Rule LS\_OBS\_APP1:

```
| | lsObs(?x, f, ?l, ?v, ?s) * lsObs( f, nil(), ?l2, ?v, ?s) ⊢ |  
where  
_f notincontext;  
_f notin ?x, ?l, ?v, ?s, ?l2;  
if  
| | lsObs(?x, nil(), app(?l, ?l2), ?v, ?s) ⊢ |
```