

# Ownership and permissions in Separation logic

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# Outline

## Some Problems

- Trees, DAGs and graphs
- Concurrency and Ownership
- Pipeline processing
- Summary

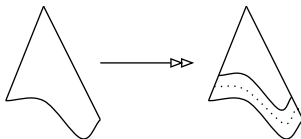
## Possible solutions

- Fractional permissions
- Infinitesimal permissions
- Block permissions
- Permission counting

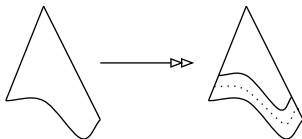
## Confessions

## Summary

## Non-empty binary trees (Bird trees)

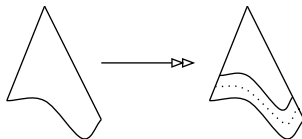


## Non-empty binary trees (Bird trees)



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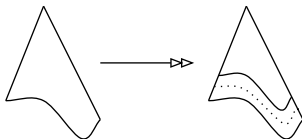


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$$\text{btree } t \ (\text{Tip } v) \hat{=} t \mapsto \text{nil}, v, -$$

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## Fringe-linking a tree – 1

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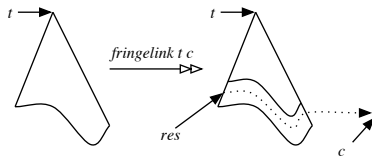
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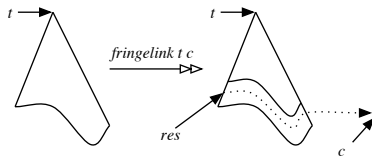
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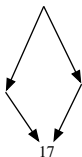
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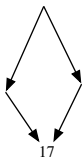
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# Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs) – 1

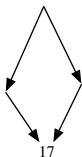


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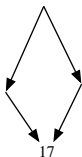
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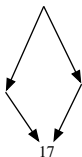


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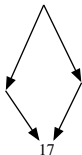


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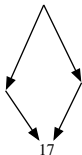
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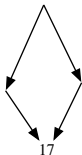
$\text{lidag } d \text{ (Tip } \alpha) U \hat{=} d \mapsto 0, \alpha$

$\text{lidag } d \text{ (Node } \lambda \rho) U \hat{=} \exists l, r \cdot \left( \begin{array}{l} d \mapsto 1, l, r \star \text{lidag } l \lambda U \star \\ \text{lidag } r \rho U \end{array} \right)$

$\text{lidag } d \text{ (Ptr } x) U \hat{=} U x = d \wedge \mathbf{emp}$

$\text{lidag } d \text{ (let } x = \delta \text{ in } \delta') U \hat{=} \exists d' \cdot \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{lidag } d' \delta U \star \\ \text{lidag } d \delta' (U \oplus (x : d')) \end{array} \right)$

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... provided that  $x$  occurs free in  $\delta'$  ...

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Instead it uses a 'forwarding function'.

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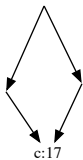
But the algorithm doesn't find the sharing *and then* do the copying!  
 Instead it uses a 'forwarding function'.

```

copydag d f  $\hat{=}$  if d = nil then nil, f
                elif d  $\in$  dom f then f d, f
                elif d.tag = 0 then
                    d' := new(0, d.val); d', f  $\oplus$  (d : d')
                else
                    l, f' := copydag d.left f;
                    r, f'' := copydag d.right f';
                    d' := new(1, l, r);
                    d', f''  $\oplus$  (d : d')
                fi
    
```

## Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs) – 4

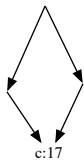
A description readable left-to-right:



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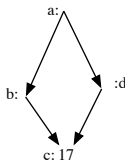
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A description in which *every* element is labelled:

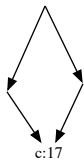


$a$  : Node ( $b$  : Node Empty ( $c$  : Tip 17))  
( $d$  : Node (Ptr  $c$ ) Empty)



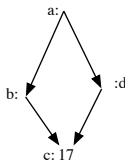
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We need *input* environment  $U$  and *output* environment  $V$   
 ( $= U \oplus$  internals of  $\delta$ ):

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$\text{pdag } d (\text{Ptr } x) U U \hat{=} U x = d \wedge \mathbf{emp}$

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- ▶ This is fine for *closed* examples ( $U$  empty).
- ▶ And examples without errors like multiple declarations.

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We would like to prove

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- ▶ Must we fudge this example?

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- ▶ Since Dijkstra, we know that race conditions are avoided by read/write *private* variables, read-only *shared* variables, and communication via shared read/write variables in mutually-exclusive code sections.
- ▶ Can we share *locations* as well as variables?

# Ownership transfer (O'Hearn)

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Resource  $r : \text{Vars } full, b;$

$  \begin{array}{l}  x := \text{new}(); \\  \text{with } r \text{ when } \neg full \text{ do} \\  \quad b := x; \\  \quad full := \text{true} \\  \text{od}  \end{array}  $	$  \begin{array}{l}  \text{with } r \text{ when } full \text{ do} \\  \quad y := b; \\  \quad full := \text{false} \\  \text{od;} \\  \text{dispose } y  \end{array}  $
---	---



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Invariant  $(full \wedge b \mapsto \_) \vee (\neg full \wedge \mathbf{emp})$

$x := \text{new}();$  with $r$ when $\neg full$ do  $b := x;$  $full := \text{true}$  od	with $r$ when $full$ do  $y := b;$  $full := \text{false}$  od;  dispose $y$
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<pre> {emp} x := new(); {x ↦ -} with r when ¬full do   {¬full ∧ emp * x ↦ -}   b := x;   {¬full ∧ emp * x ↦ - ∧ b = x}   full := true   {full ∧ b ↦ - * emp} od {emp} </pre>	<pre> with r when full do   y := b;   full := false od; dispose y </pre>
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<pre> {emp} x := new(); {x ↦ -} with r when ¬full do   {¬full ∧ emp * x ↦ -}   b := x;   {¬full ∧ emp * x ↦ - ∧ b = x}   full := true   {full ∧ b ↦ - * emp} od {emp} </pre>	<pre> {emp} with r when full do   {full ∧ b ↦ - * emp}   y := b;   {full ∧ b ↦ - * emp ∧ y = b}   full := false   {¬full ∧ emp * y ↦ -} od; {y ↦ -} dispose y {emp} </pre>
--	--

## Ownership transfer (O'Hearn) – 2

- ▶ So: can we share locations between threads?

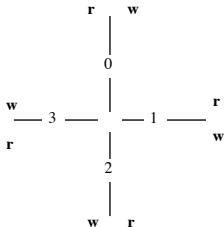
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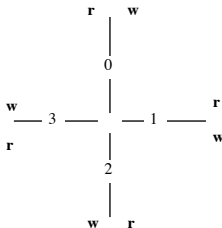
- ▶ So: can we share locations between threads?
- ▶ Brookes's semantics of O'Hearn's proposal suggests we should be able to.
- ▶ But the logic doesn't deal with read-only locations, so far.

## Packet switching (singlecast)



- Imagine a multi-port ethernet switch which has a read and write thread at each port.

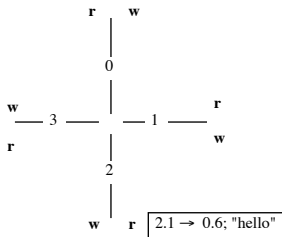
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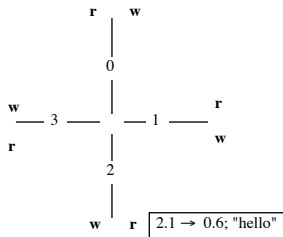


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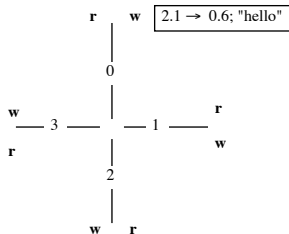
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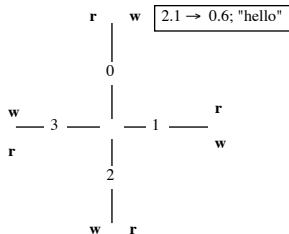
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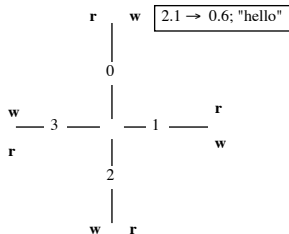
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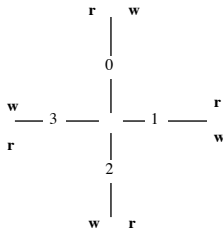
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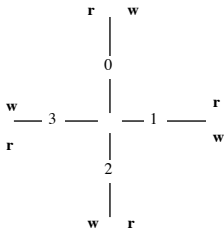
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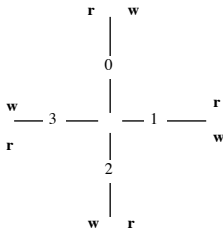
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- ▶ Perfect!

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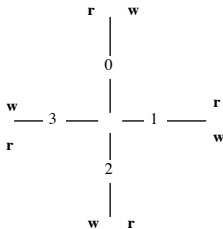
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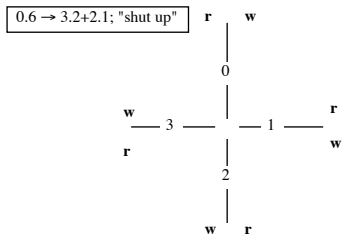
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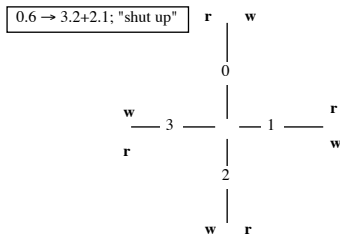
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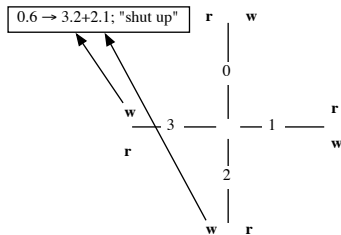
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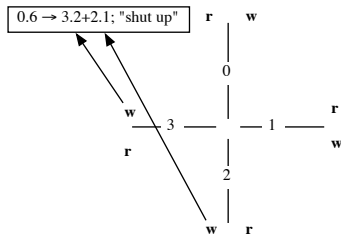
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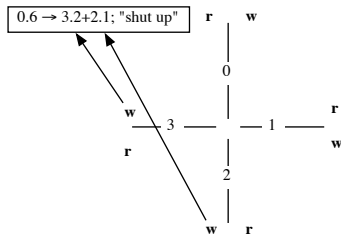
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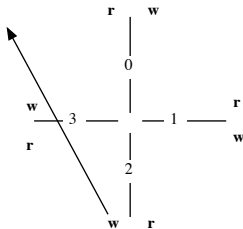
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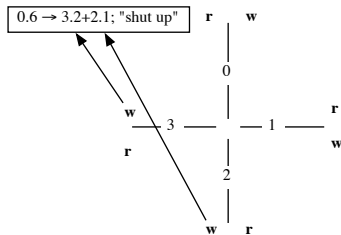
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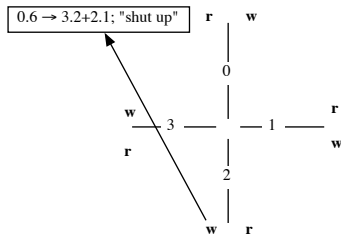


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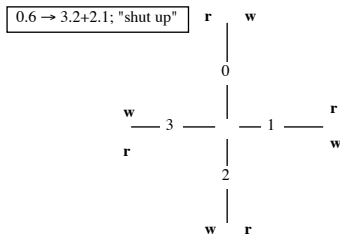
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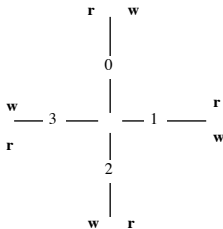
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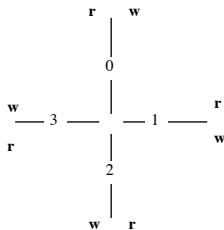
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  - ▶ In practice, programs use *permission counting* to deal with this problem.

## Problems summarised

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- ▶ permission counting;
- ▶ and some realism in new and dispose (malloc and free deal in buffers, not cells).

## A concurrent example

Here is a simple example of a program without a race condition:

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 $x := \text{new}(); [x] := 1;$   
 $(i := [x] + 1 \parallel j := [x] + 2);$   
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And here is one with two races (one for  $i$ , several for  $[x]$ ):

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## Fractional permissions

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$$\{R_E^x\} x := E \{R\}$$

$$\{x \vdash_1 -\} [x] := E \{x \vdash_1 E\}$$

$$\{E' \vdash_z E\} x := [E'] \{E' \vdash_z E \wedge x = E'\} \text{ (} x \text{ not free in } E, E'\text{)}$$

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- ▶ But they equate dispose and write permission,
- ▶ and they don't solve the problem of existence outside the footprint (see *copydag* and *pdag* ).
- ▶ Suppose we split an entire permission into one which is large enough to do read and write, and another which is too small to do *anything* ...

## Existence indicators – 2

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 x \mapsto_{\iota} \star x \mapsto_{\iota'} &\iff x \mapsto_{\iota+\iota'} \\
 x \mapsto_{\iota} \star x \mapsto_z E &\iff x \mapsto_{z+\iota} E
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- ▶ dispose still needs an entire permission, so if you have an  $\iota$  permission, your partners can’t dispose what they have.



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$$\text{pdag nil Empty } U \ U \hat{=} \mathbf{emp}$$

$$\text{pdag } d \ (\text{Ptr } x) \ U \ U \hat{=} U \ x = d \wedge \mathbf{emp}$$

$$\text{pdag } d \ (x : \text{Tip } \alpha) \ U \ V \hat{=} \left( \begin{array}{l} \{d, d + 1\} \cap \text{ran } U = \emptyset \wedge \\ d \mapsto 0, \alpha \wedge V = U \oplus (x : d) \end{array} \right)$$

$$\text{pdag } d \ (x : \text{Node } \lambda \ \rho) \ U \ V \hat{=} \exists l, r, U', V' .$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \{d, d + 1, d + 2\} \cap \text{ran } U = \emptyset \wedge \\ d \mapsto 1, l, r \star \\ \text{pdag } l \ \lambda \ U \ U' \star \\ \text{pdag } r \ \rho \ U' \ V' \wedge \\ V = V' \oplus (x : d) \end{array} \right)$$

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- ▶ Clearly, new gives out 1-permission for a block,
- ▶ and you can't dispose unless you have 1-permission for the entire block.

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 x \vdash_{\frac{i,n}{z}} E \star x \vdash_{\frac{i',n'}{z'}} E' &\rightarrow i = i' \wedge n = n' \wedge E = E' \wedge x \vdash_{\frac{i,n}{z+z'}} E
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$$x \vdash_{\frac{i,n}{z}} E \star x \vdash_{\frac{i',n'}{z'}} E' \rightarrow i = i' \wedge n = n' \wedge E = E' \wedge x \vdash_{\frac{i,n}{z+z'}} E$$

$$x \vdash_{\frac{i,n}{z}} E \star x' \vdash_{\frac{i',n'}{z'}} E' \wedge x \neq x' \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{l} (x - i = x' - i' \wedge n = n') \vee \\ x - i + n \leq x' - i' \vee \\ x' - i' + n' \leq x - i \end{array} \right)$$



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$$\{\mathbf{emp}\} x := \mathbf{new}(E1, \dots, En) \{x \vdash_{\frac{0,n}{1}} E1, \dots, En\}$$

$$\{E \vdash_{\frac{0,n}{1}} E1, \dots, En\} \quad \mathbf{dispose} E \quad \{\mathbf{emp}\}$$

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- ▶ The axiom for new –  $\{\mathbf{emp}\} x := \mathit{new}() \{x \mapsto \_ \}$  – requires new to be magic: it must never assign a value to  $x$  which will break the frame rule.
- ▶ It's only stage magic: new has a pile of stuff; you have a separate pile; it gives you one from its pile on request; dispose takes one from your pile and gives it back to new.

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- ▶ Can we make a logic for this language?
- ▶ Of course! (We may have to wait for the logicians to agree.)

## Permission counting – 2

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$$x \xrightarrow{z_1} E_1 \star x \xrightarrow{z_2} E_2 \star \dots \star x \xrightarrow{z_n} E_n \rightarrow$$
$$E_1 = E_2 = \dots = E_n \wedge z_1 + z_2 + \dots + z_n \leq 1$$

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$$x \xrightarrow{z1} E1 \star x \xrightarrow{z2} E2 \star \dots \star x \xrightarrow{zn} En \rightarrow \\ E1 = E2 = \dots = En \wedge z1 + z2 + \dots + zn \leq 1$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & \{\mathbf{emp}\} x := \mathbf{new}() \{x \xrightarrow{1} -\} \\ & \{E \xrightarrow{z+z'} E'\} \text{ split } E \quad \{E \xrightarrow{z} E' \star E \xrightarrow{z'} E'\} \\ & \{E \xrightarrow{z} E' \star E \xrightarrow{z'} E'\} \text{ dispose } E \quad \{E \xrightarrow{z+z'} E'\} \\ & \{E \xrightarrow{z} -\} \text{ dispose } E \quad \{\mathbf{emp}\} \\ & \{E \xrightarrow{z} E'\} b := \mathbf{neo} E \quad \{(b \wedge E \xrightarrow{1} E') \vee (\neg b \wedge E \xrightarrow{z} E')\} \end{aligned}$$

## Permission counting – 3

$x := \text{new}();$

$[x] := 1;$

$\text{split } x;$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} i := [x] + 1; \\ \text{dispose } x \end{array} \parallel \begin{array}{l} j := [x] + 2; \\ \text{dispose } x \end{array} \right)$$



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$\{(\mathbf{emp} \wedge i = 2 \star (\mathbf{emp} \wedge j = 3))\} \therefore \{\mathbf{emp} \wedge i = 2 \wedge j = 3\}$

## Permission counting – 4

$x := \text{new}();$

split  $x$ ;

dispose  $x$ ;

$[x] = 0$ ;

dispose  $x$

## Permission counting – 4

{emp}

$x := \text{new}();$

$\{x \mapsto_{\frac{1}{1}} -\}$

split  $x$ ;

$\{x \mapsto_{\frac{0.5}} - \star x \mapsto_{\frac{0.5}} -\}$

dispose  $x$ ;

$\{x \mapsto_{\frac{1}{1}} -\}$

$[x] = 0$ ;

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dispose  $x$

{emp}

## Permission counting – 5

neo needs global reasoning!!

$x := \text{new}();$

split  $x$ ;

$\left( \text{dispose } x \parallel \text{skip} \right);$

if neo  $x$  then  $[x] := 0$  else fault fi



## Permission counting – 5

neo needs global reasoning!!

```

{emp}
x := new();
{x ⊢1 -}
split x;
{x ⊢0.5 -} * {x ⊢0.5 -}
(
  {x ⊢0.5 -} || {x ⊢0.5 -}
  dispose x || skip
  {emp} || {x ⊢0.5 -}
) ;
{emp} * {x ⊢0.5 -} ∴ {x ⊢0.5 -}
if neo x then [x] := 0 else fault fi
{??}
  
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## Permission counting – a confession

- ▶ You probably think that neo is a big departure – but it's no more magic than new.
- ▶ But there is something wrong somewhere. Either 'writing down' of permissions and/or multiple dispose axioms causes an apparent paradox (Hongseok Yang).
- ▶ Write  $z$  instead of  $x \xrightarrow{z} 17$ , write 0 instead of **emp**:

$$\frac{\frac{\{0.5\} \text{ dispose } x \{0\}}{\{0.5 \star 0.5\} \text{ dispose } x \{1\}} \quad \frac{\{0.5\} \text{ dispose } x \{0\}}{\{0.5 \star \neg 1\} \text{ dispose } x \{\neg 1\}}}{\{(0.5 \star 0.5) \wedge (0.5 \star \neg 1)\} \text{ dispose } x \{1 \wedge \neg 1\}}$$

- ▶ Oh dear!

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- ▶ Infinitesimal permissions are interesting, and may be wonderful one day.
- ▶ Block permissions are a bit complicated, and need some work.
- ▶ I *think* the permission counting idea might be made to work.
- ▶ Local reasoning is still hard.
- ▶ We must do variable-permissions.
- ▶ We are nowhere near the edge of this field yet.