

# Program Verification Using Separation Logic

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Lecture 1



# Goal of the course

Study Separation Logic having  
automatic verification in mind

Learn how some notions of  
mathematical logic can be very helpful  
in reasoning about real world programs



```

void t1394Diag_CancelIrp(PDEVICE_OBJECT DeviceObject, PIRP Irp)
{
    KIRQL          Irql, CancelIrql;
    BUS_RESET_IRP *BusResetIrp, *temp;
    PDEVICE_EXTENSION deviceExtension;

    deviceExtension = DeviceObject->DeviceExtension;

    KeAcquireSpinLock(&deviceExtension->ResetSpinLock, &Irql);

    temp = (PBUS_RESET_IRP)deviceExtension;
    BusResetIrp = (PBUS_RESET_IRP)deviceExtension->Flink2;

    while (BusResetIrp) {

        if (BusResetIrp->Irp == Irp) {
            temp->Flink2 = BusResetIrp->Flink2;
            free(BusResetIrp);
            break;
        }
        else if (BusResetIrp->Flink2 == (PBUS_RESET_IRP)deviceExtension) {
            break;
        }
        else {
            temp = BusResetIrp;
            BusResetIrp = (PBUS_RESET_IRP)BusResetIrp->Flink2;
        }
    }

    KeReleaseSpinLock(&deviceExtension->ResetSpinLock, Irql);

    IoReleaseCancelSpinLock(Irp->CancelIrql);
    Irp->IoStatus.Status = STATUS_CANCELLED;
    IoCompleteRequest(Irp, IO_NO_INCREMENT);
} // t1394Diag_CancelIrp

```

A piece of a windows device driver.

Is this correct?

Or at least: does it have basic properties like it won't crash or leak memory?



# Today's plan

- Motivation for Separation Logic
- Assertion language
- Mathematical model
- Data structures



Motivations...



# Simple Imperative Language

- Safe commands:

- $S ::= \text{skip} \mid x := E \mid x := \text{new}(E_1, \dots, E_n)$

- Heap accessing commands:

- $A(E) ::= \text{dispose}(E) \mid x := [E] \mid [E] := F$

where E is an expression e.g., x, y, nil, etc.

- Command:

- $C ::= S \mid A \mid C_1; C_2 \mid \text{if } B \{ C_1 \} \text{ else } \{ C_2 \} \mid$   
 $\text{while } B \text{ do } \{ C \}$

where B boolean guard  $E=E$ ,  $E \neq E$ , etc.



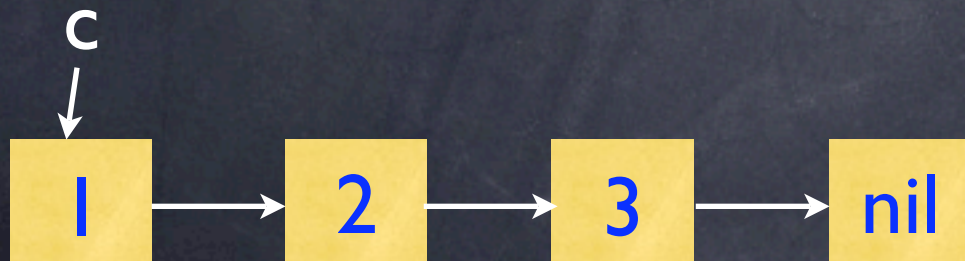
# Example Program: List Reversal

```
p:=nil;  
while (c !=nil) do {  
    t:=p;  
    p:=c;  
    c:=[c];  
    [p]:=t;  
}
```



# Example Program: List Reversal

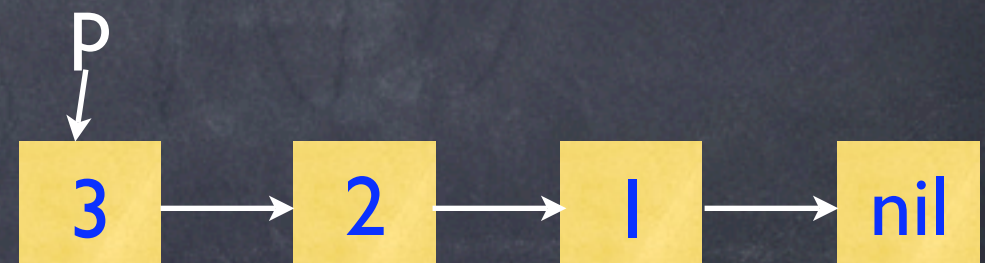
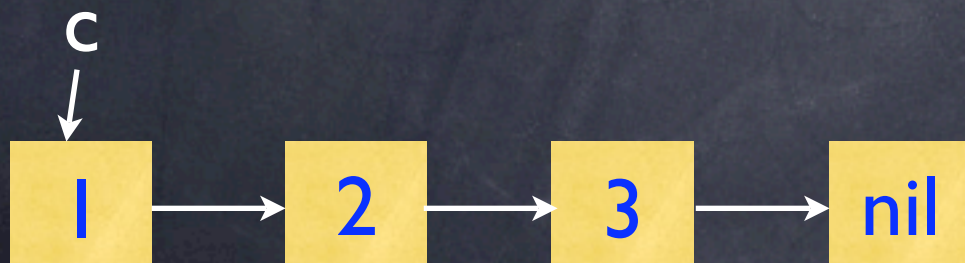
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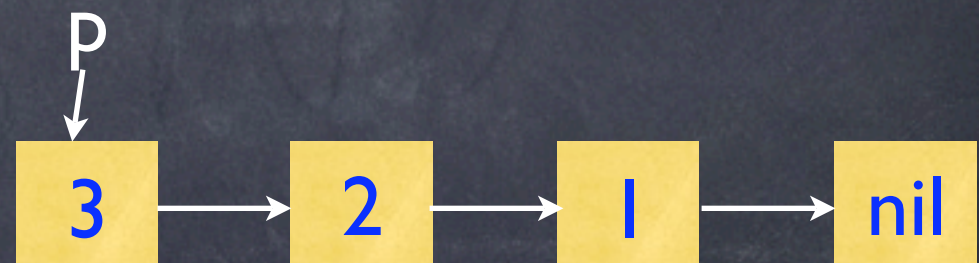
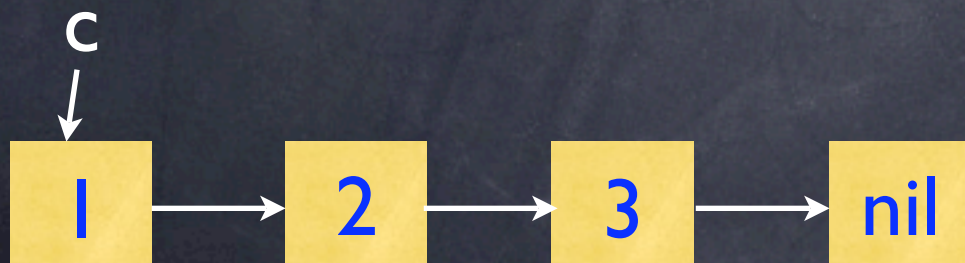
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Some properties  
we would like to prove:

Does the program preserve  
acyclicity/cyclicity?

Does it core-dump?

Does it create garbage?





# Example Program

We are interested in pointer manipulating programs

→ `x = new(3,3);`  
`y = new(4,4);`  
`[x+1] = y;`  
`[y+1] = x;`  
`y = x+1;`  
`dispose x;`  
`y = [y];`





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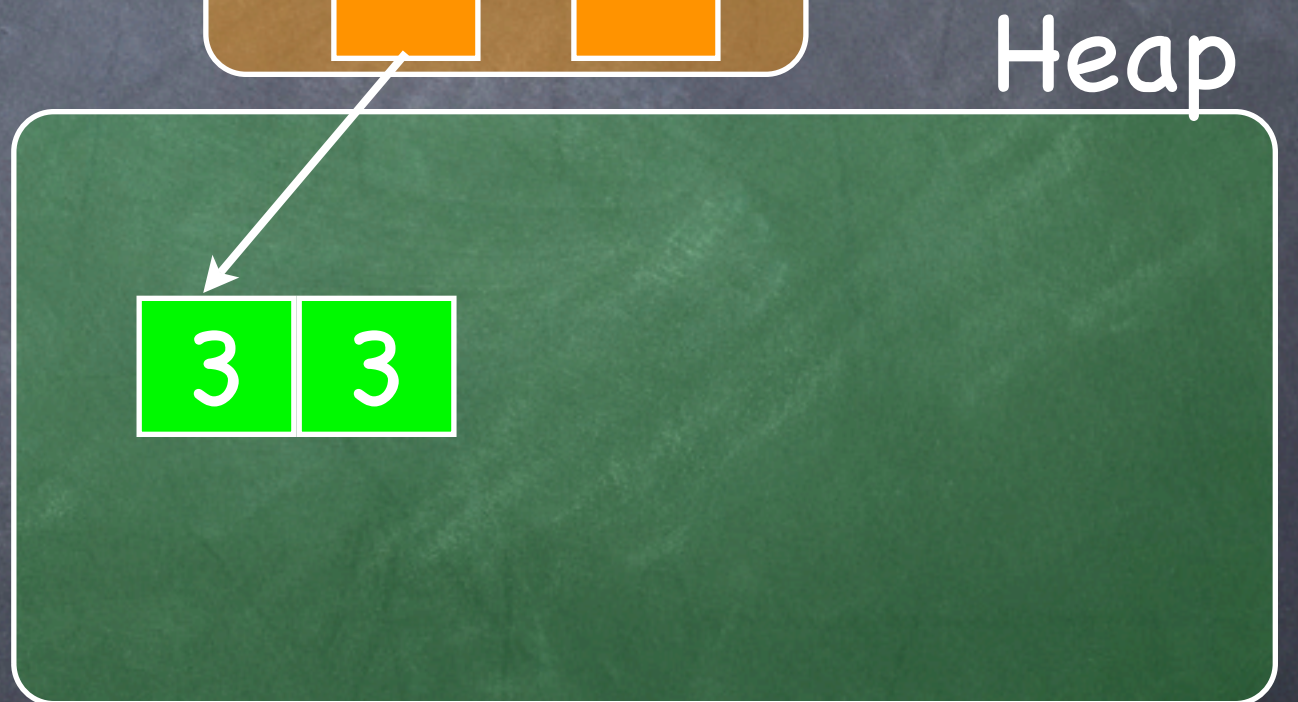
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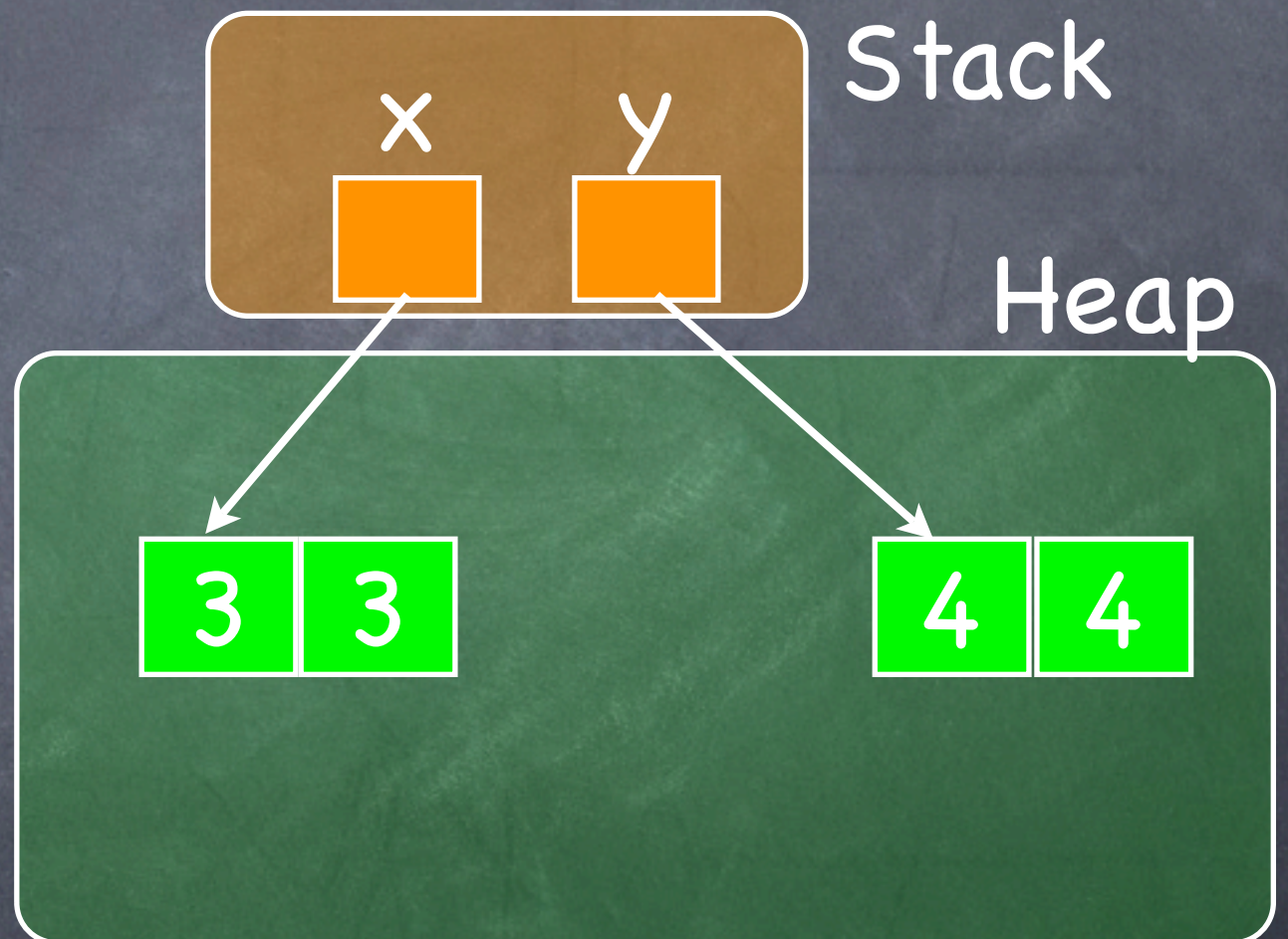
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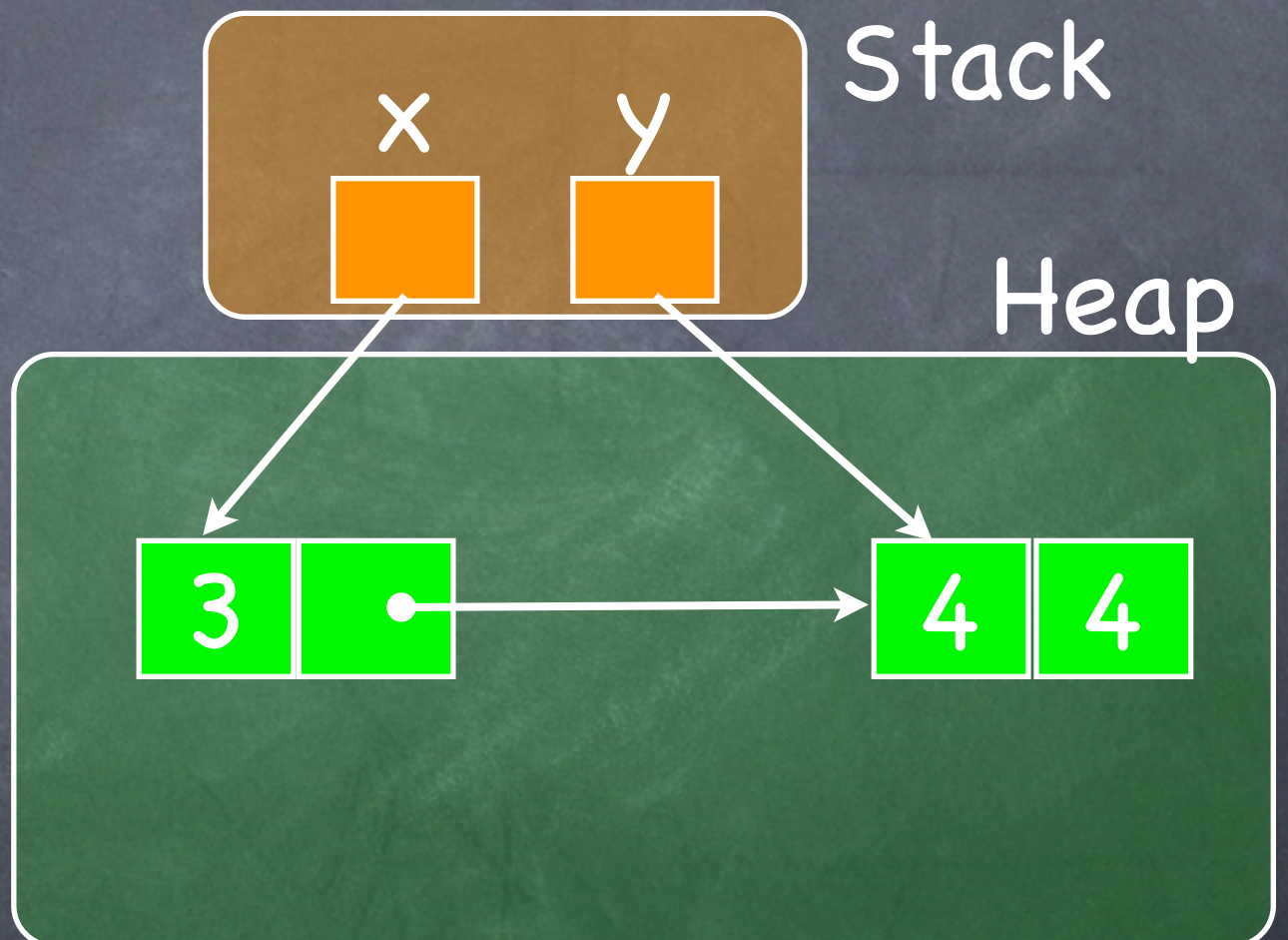
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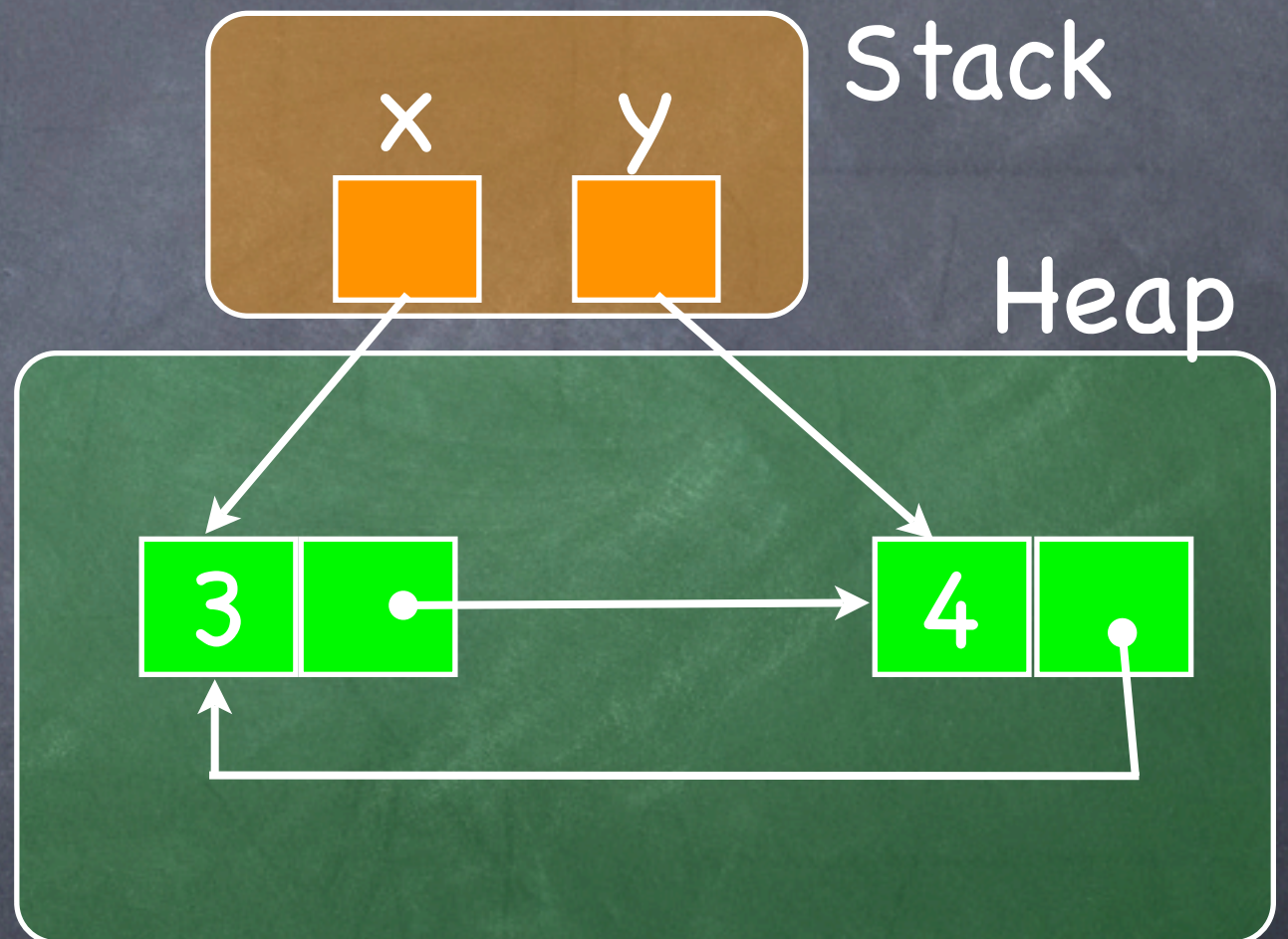
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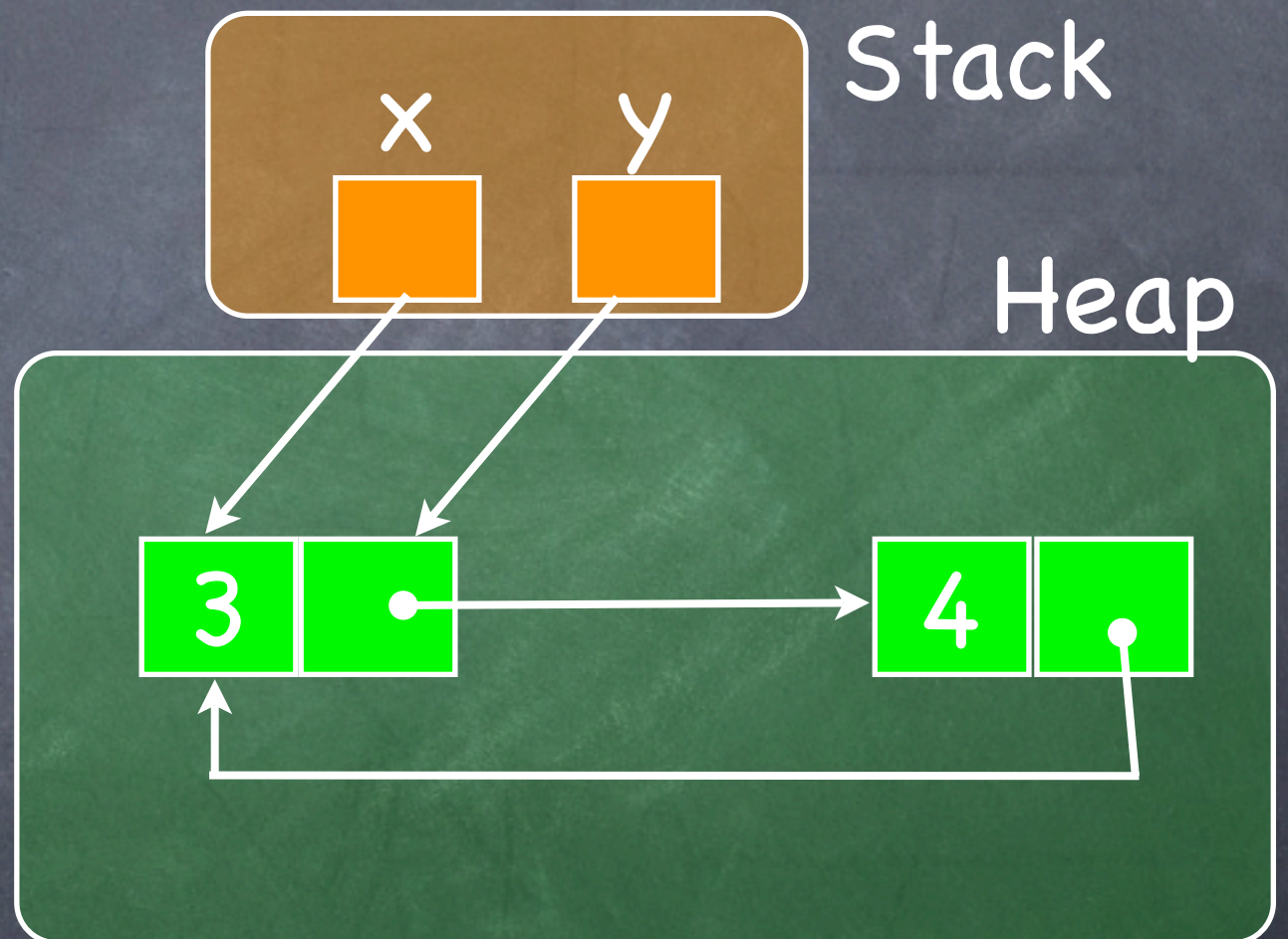
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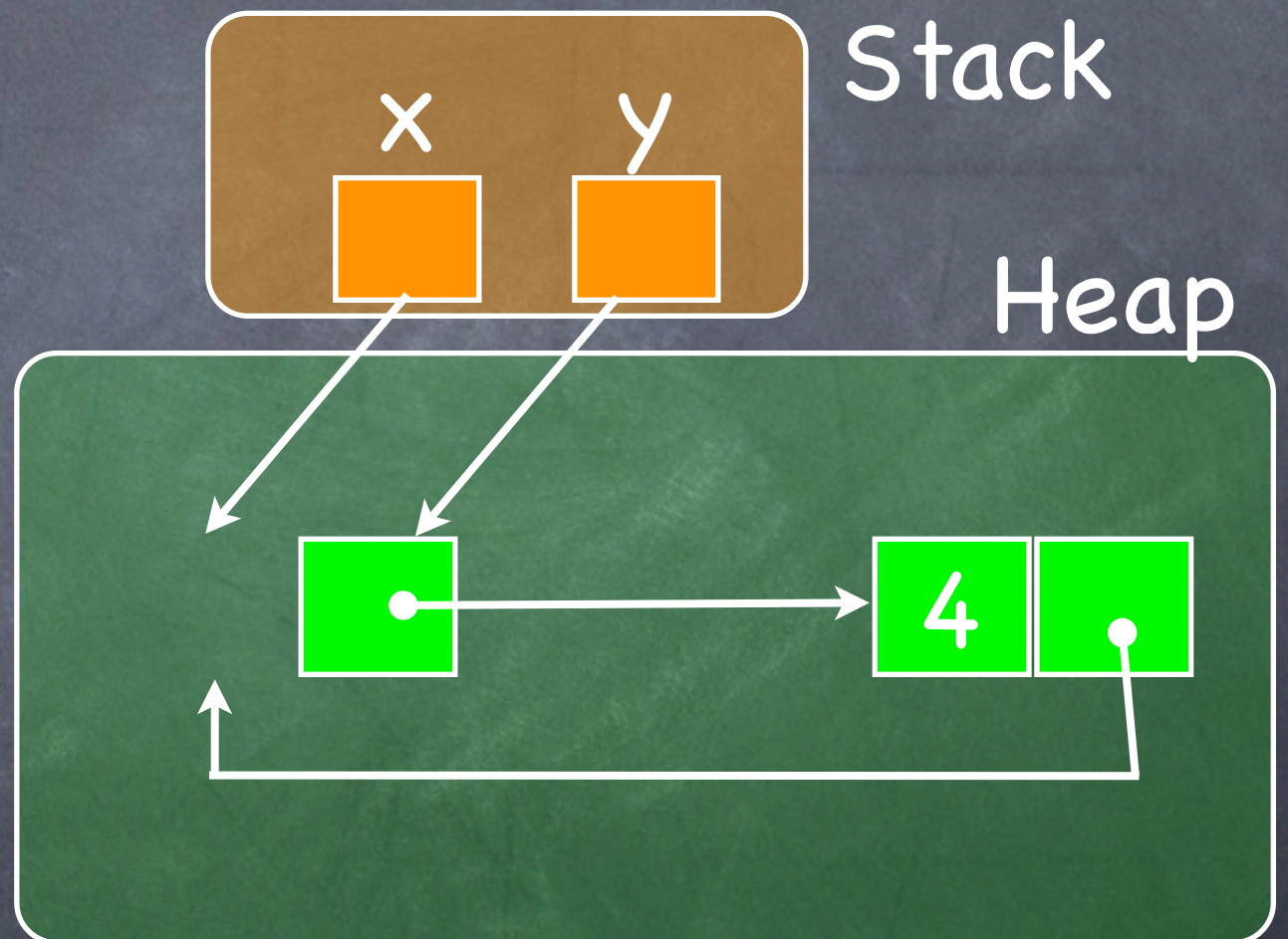
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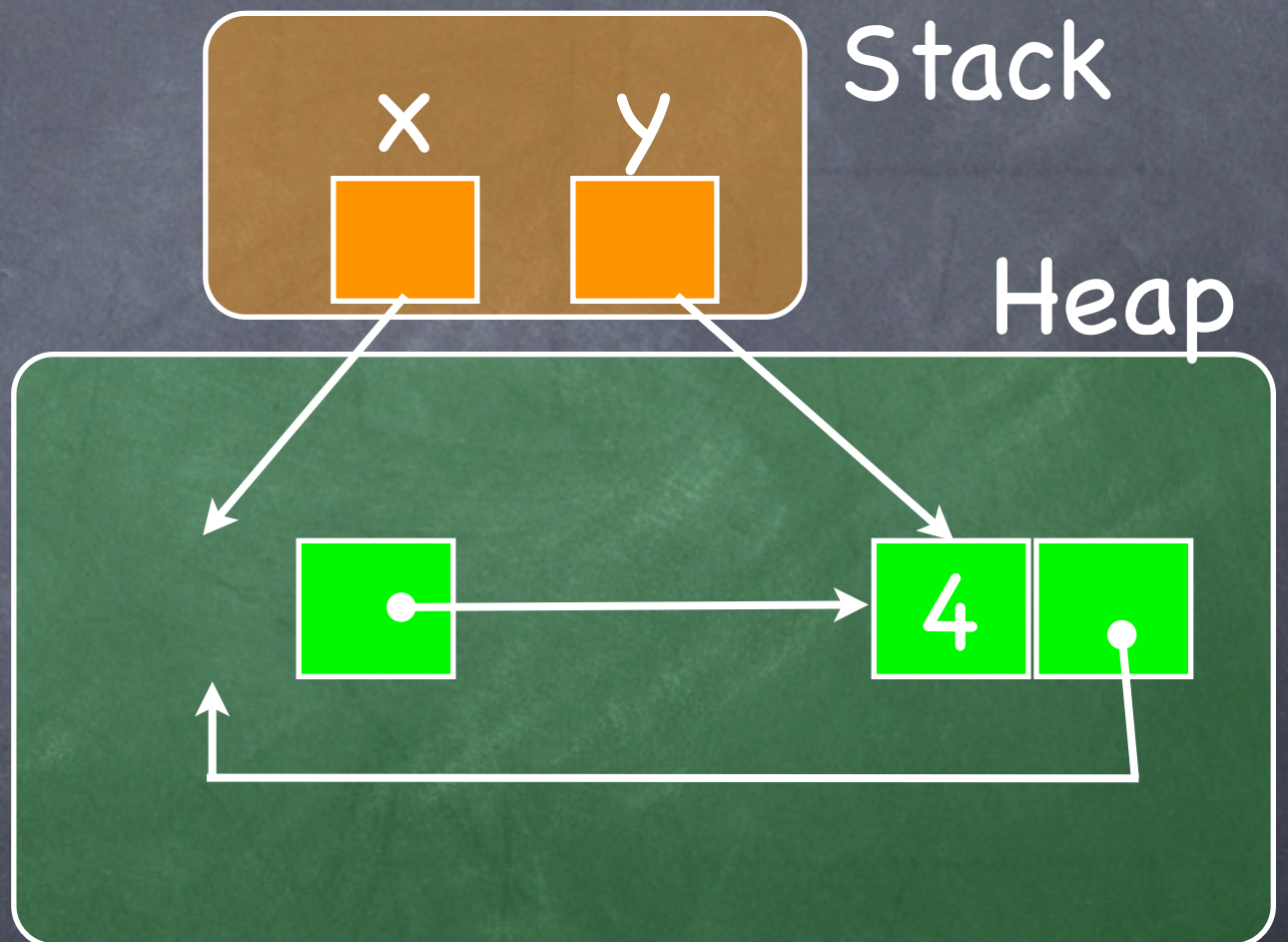




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# Why Separation Logic?

Consider this code:

```
[y] = 4;
```

```
[z] = 5;
```

```
Guarantee([y] != [z])
```

We need to know that things are different. **How?**



# Why Separation Logic?

Consider this code:

```
Assume(y != z)
```

Add assertion?

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We need to know that things are different. **How?**

We need to know that things stay the same. **How?**



# Why Separation Logic?

Consider this code:

Assume( $[x] = 3$ )

Assume( $y \neq z$ )

Add assertion?

$[y] = 4;$

$[z] = 5;$

Guarantee( $[y] \neq [z]$ )

Guarantee( $[x] = 3$ )

We need to know that things are different. How?

We need to know that things stay the same. How?



# Why Separation Logic?

Consider this code:

```
Assume([x] = 3 && x!=y && x!=z)
```

Add assertion?

```
Assume(y != z)
```

Add assertion?

```
[y] = 4;
```

```
[z] = 5;
```

```
Guarantee([y] != [z])
```

```
Guarantee([x] = 3)
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We need to know that things are different. How?

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# Framing

We want a general concept of things not being affected.

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

---

$$\{R \ \&\& \ P \} C \{Q \ \&\& \ R \}$$

What are the conditions on C and R?

Hard to define if reasoning about a heap and aliasing



# Framing

We want a general concept of things not being affected.

$$\frac{\{P\} C \{Q\}}{\{R \ \&\& \ P \} C \{Q \ \&\& \ R \}}$$

What are the conditions on C and R?

Hard to define if reasoning about a heap and aliasing

This is where separation logic comes in

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

Introduces new connective  $*$  used to separate state.



# The Logic



# Storage Model

$$\text{Vars} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x, y, z, \dots\}$$
$$\text{Locs} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\} \quad \text{Vals} \supseteq \text{Locs}$$
$$\text{Heaps} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Locs} \rightarrow_{\text{fin}} \text{Vals}$$
$$\text{Stacks} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Vars} \rightarrow \text{Vals}$$
$$\text{States} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Stacks} \times \text{Heaps}$$



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Stack

x 7

y 42



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x 7

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Heap

7  
0

9  
11

42  
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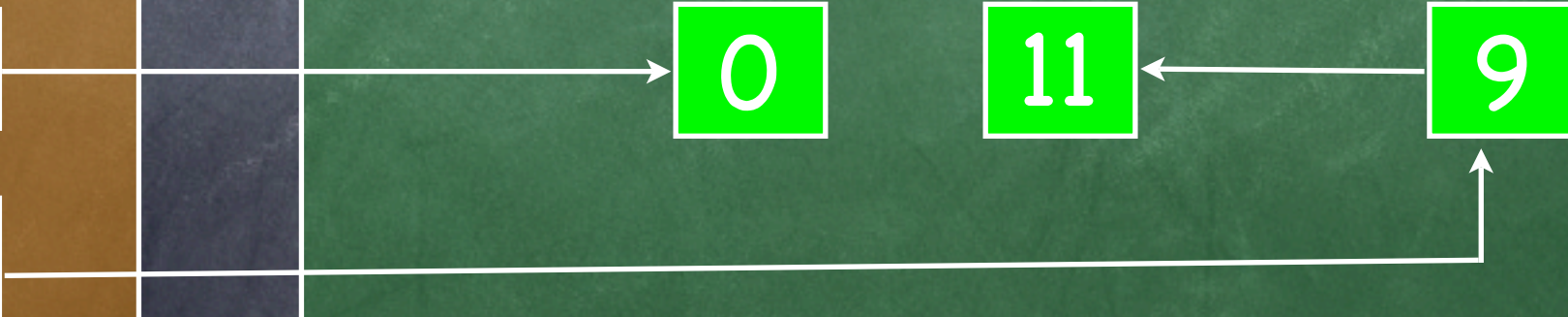
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# Mathematical Structure of Heap

$$\text{Heaps} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Locs} \rightarrow_{\text{fin}} \text{Vals}$$

$$h_1 \# h_2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \text{dom}(h_1) \cap \text{dom}(h_2) = \emptyset$$

$$h_1 * h_2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} h_1 \cup h_2 & \text{if } h_1 \# h_2 \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



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- 1)  $*$  has a unit
- 2)  $*$  is associative and commutative
- 3)  $(\text{Heap}, *, \{\})$  is a partial commutative monoid



# Assertions

$E, F$	$::=$	$x \mid n \mid E+F \mid -E \mid \dots$	Heap-independent Exprs
$P, Q$	$::=$	$E = F \mid E \geq F \mid E \mapsto F$	Atomic Predicates
		$\mid \text{emp} \mid P * Q$	Separating Connectives
		$\mid \text{true} \mid P \wedge Q \mid \neg P \mid \forall x. P$	Classical Logic

Informal Meaning



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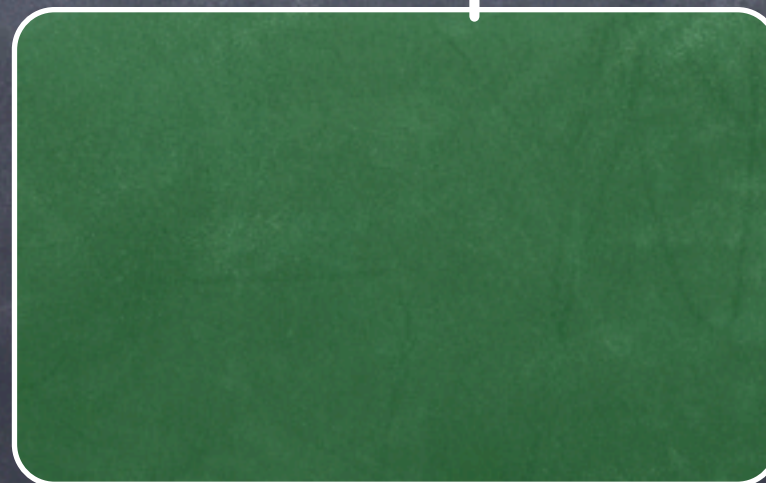


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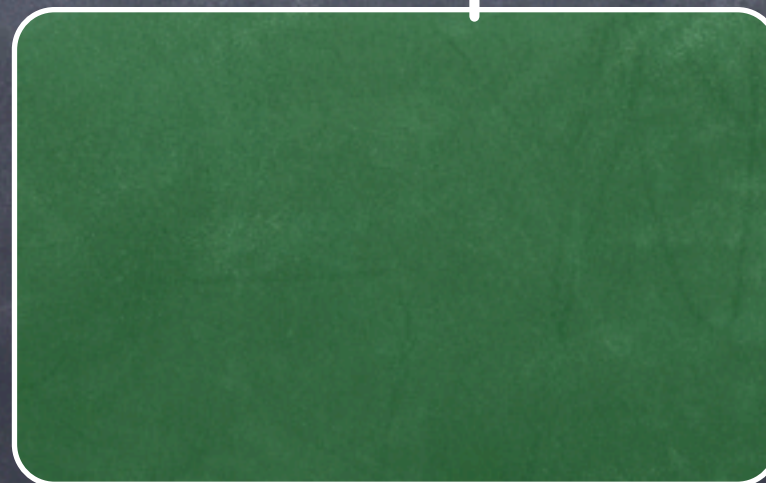


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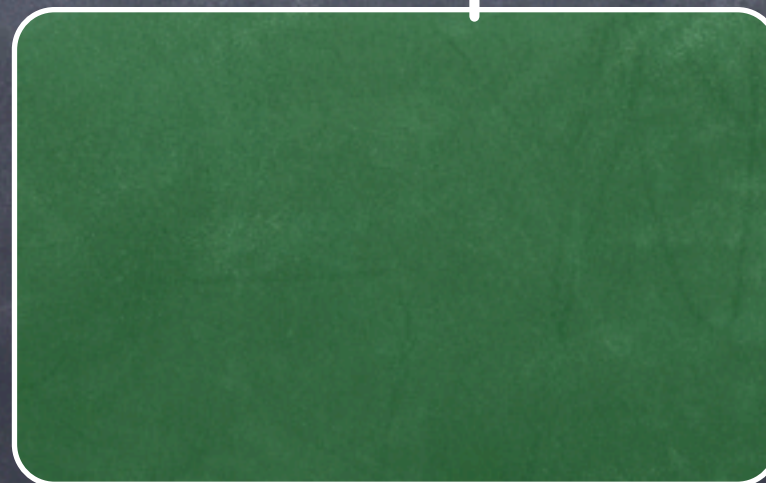


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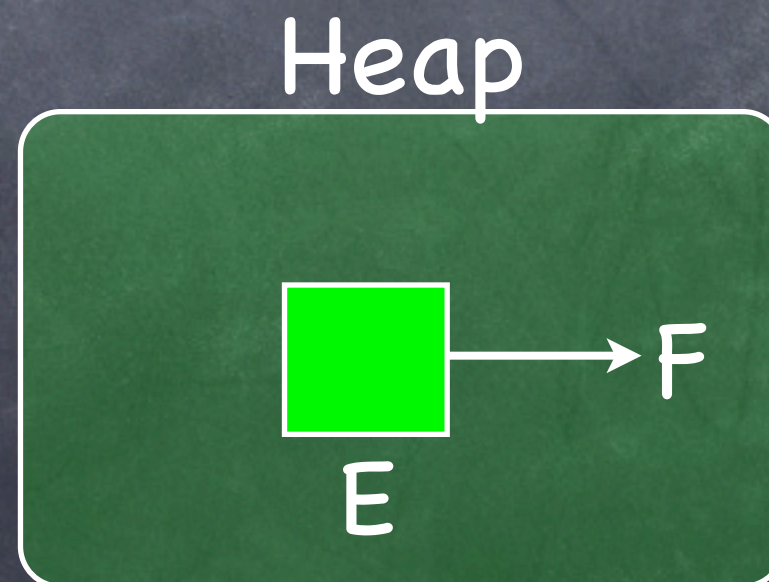




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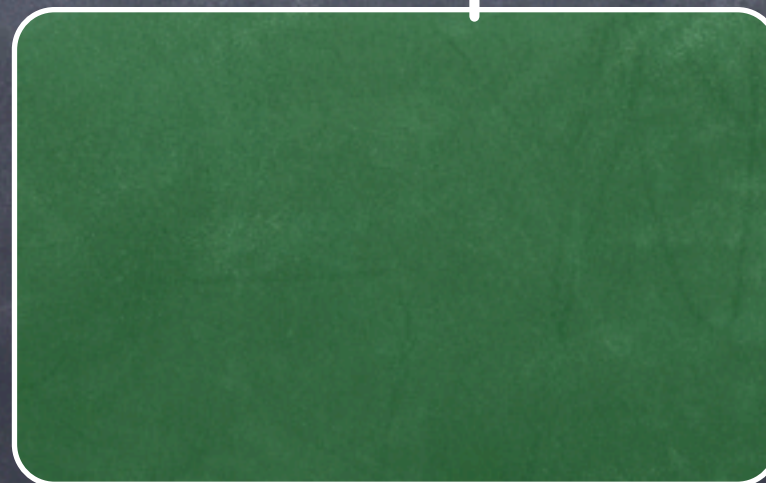


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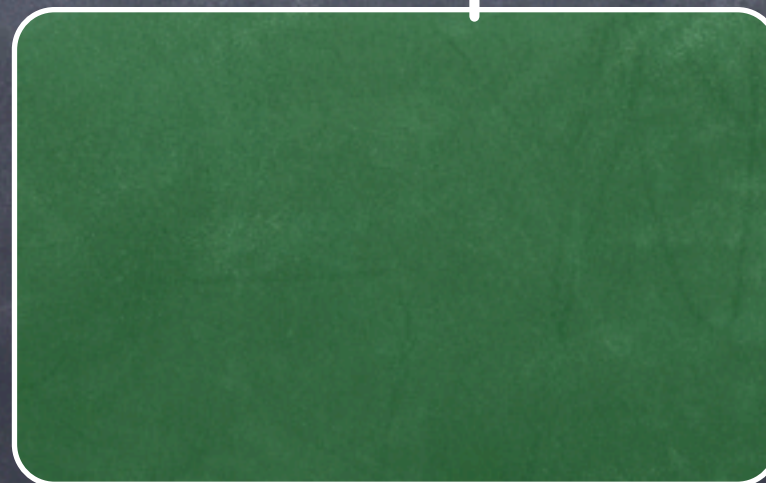


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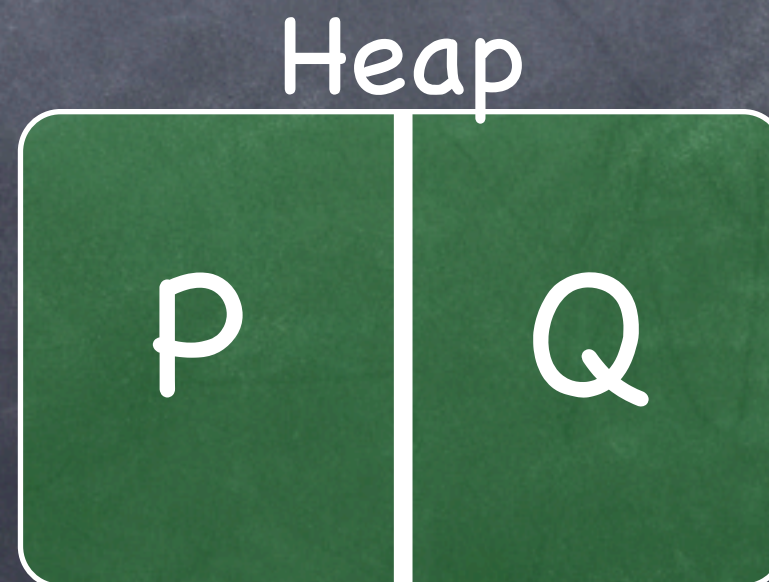




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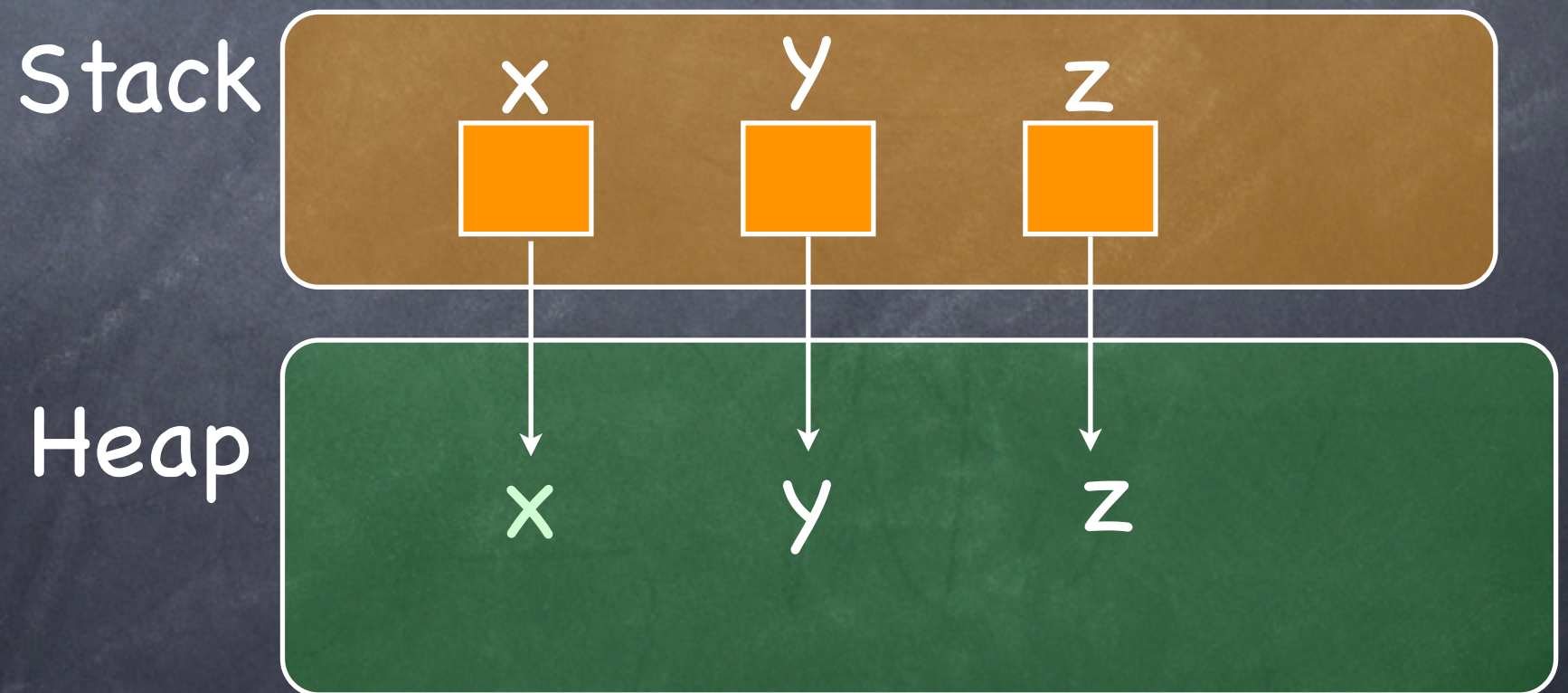
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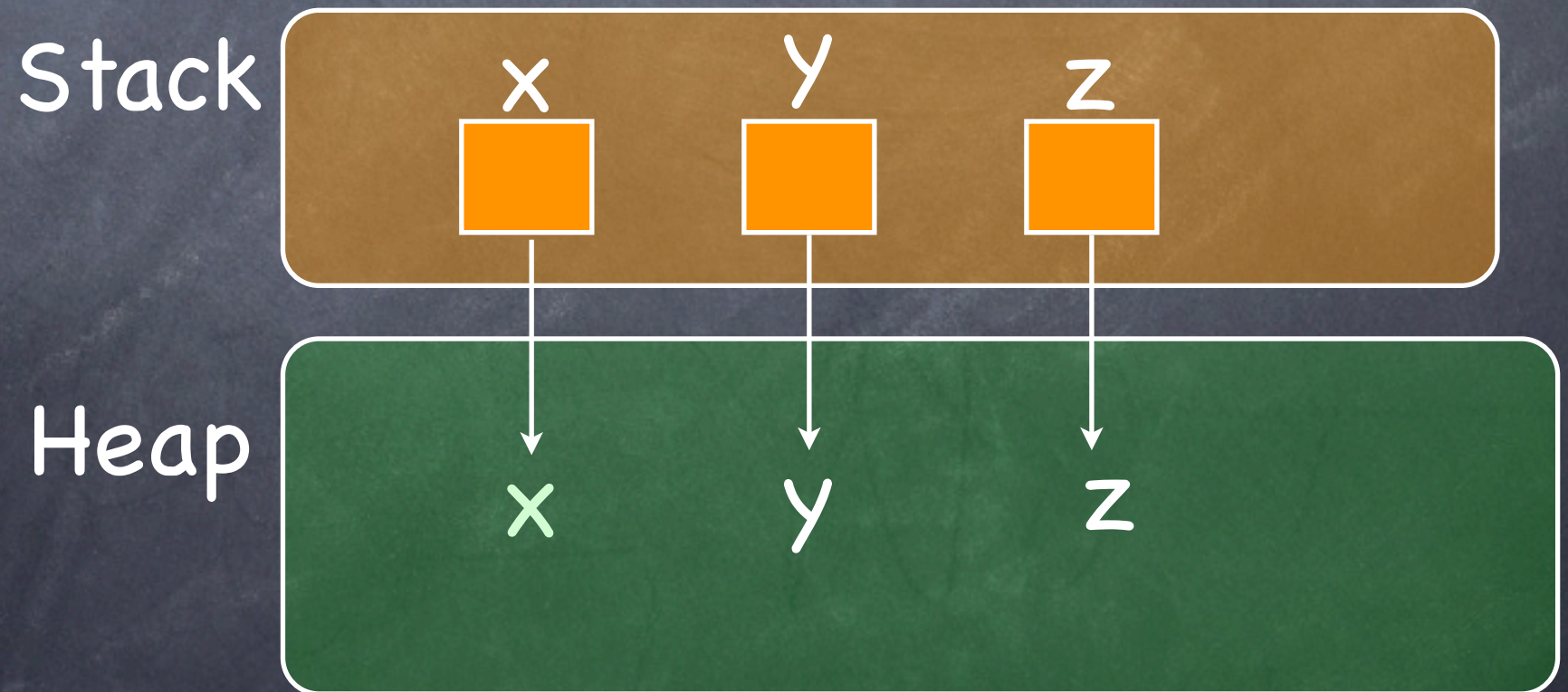
Formula: emp





# Examples

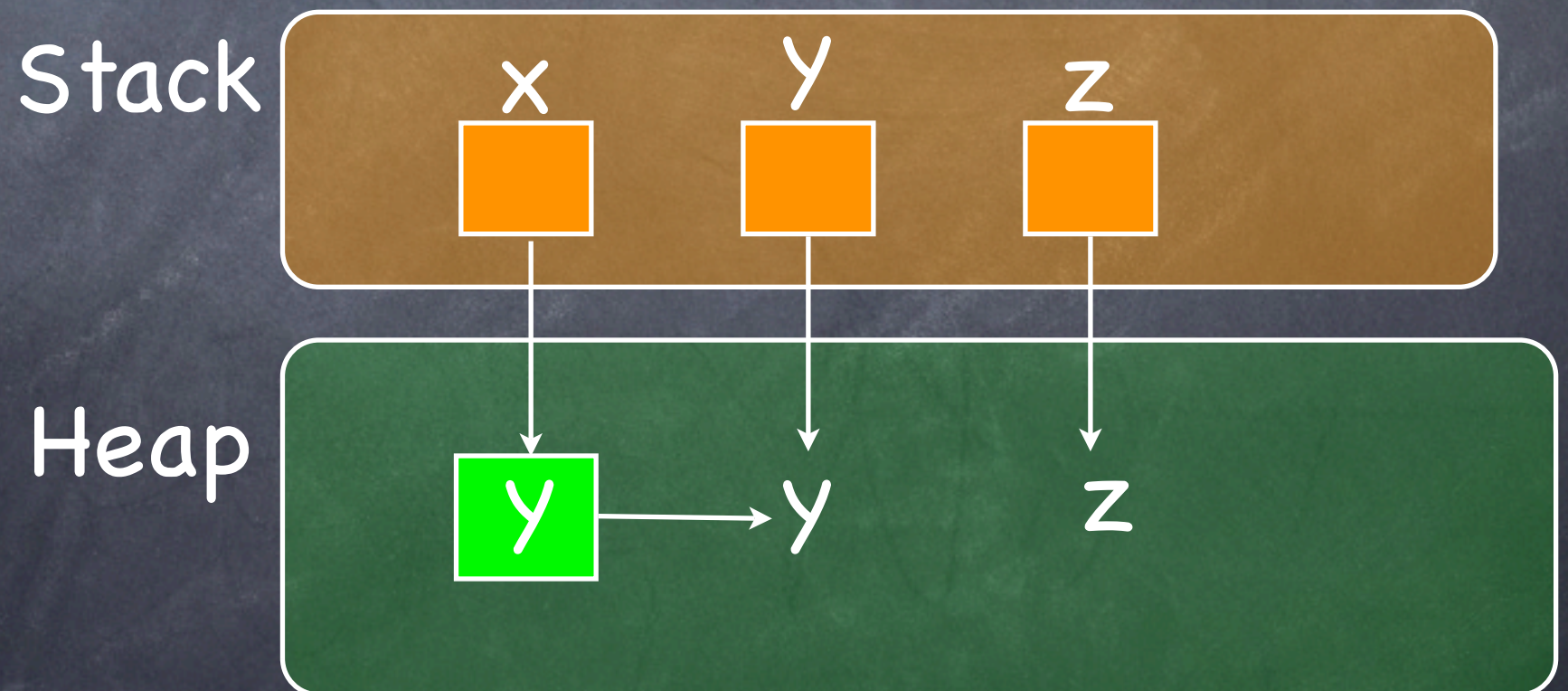
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# Examples

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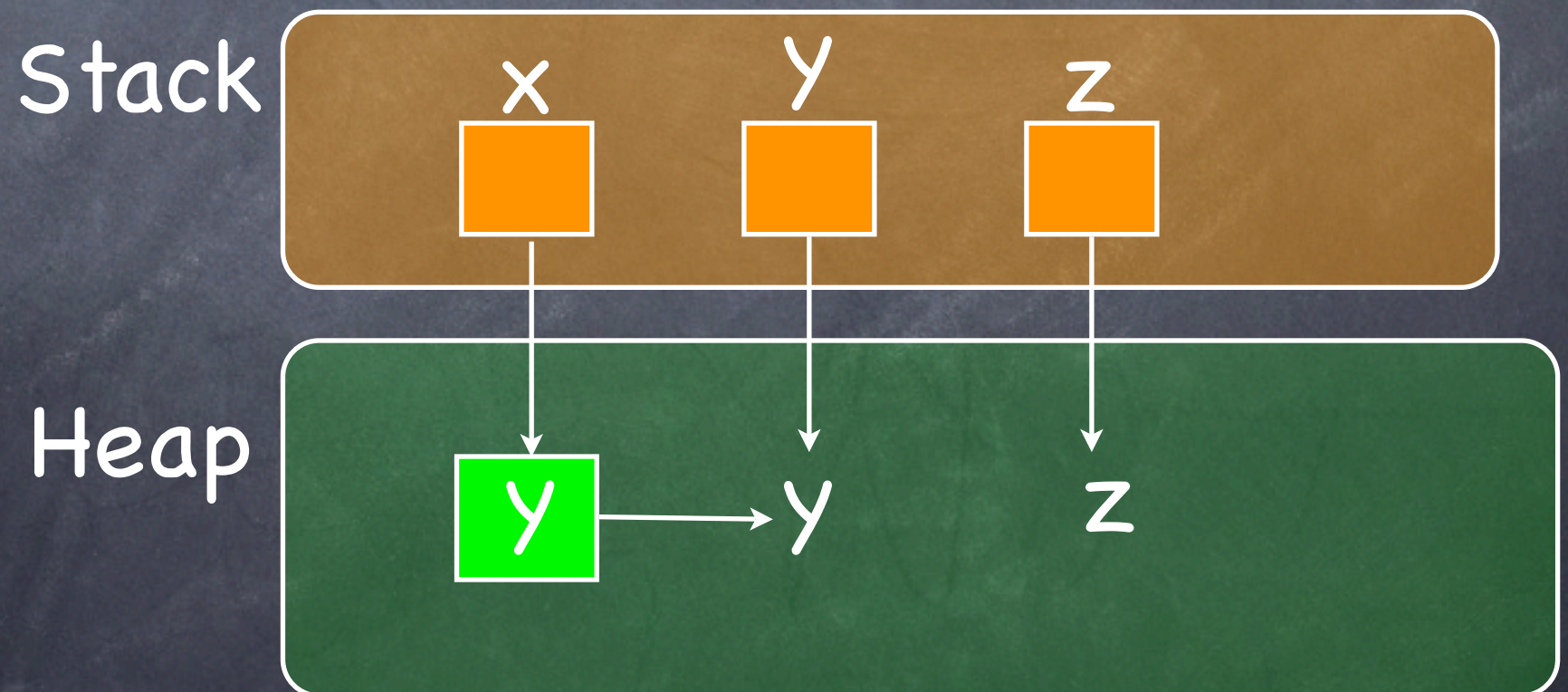




# Examples

Formula:

$x \mid \rightarrow y$

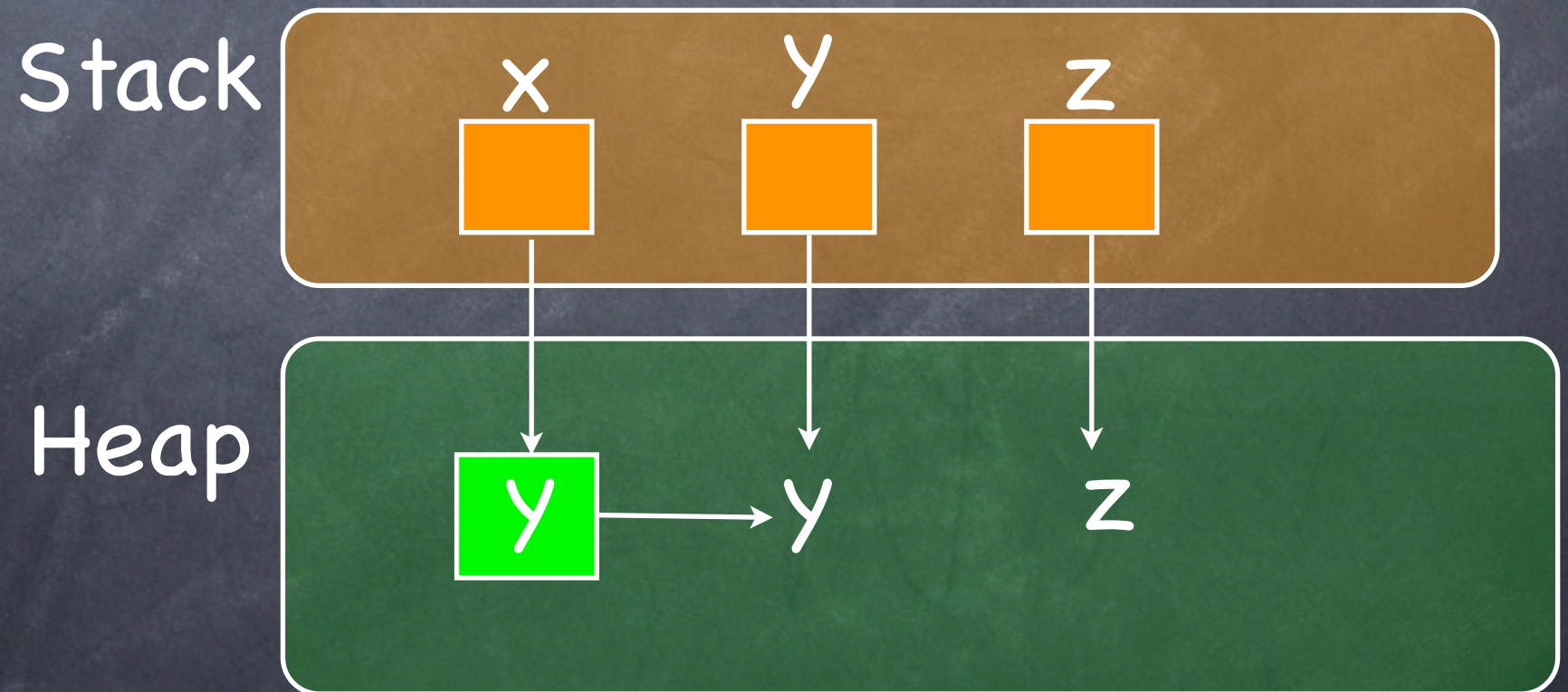




# Examples

Formula:

$x \mapsto y * y \mapsto z$

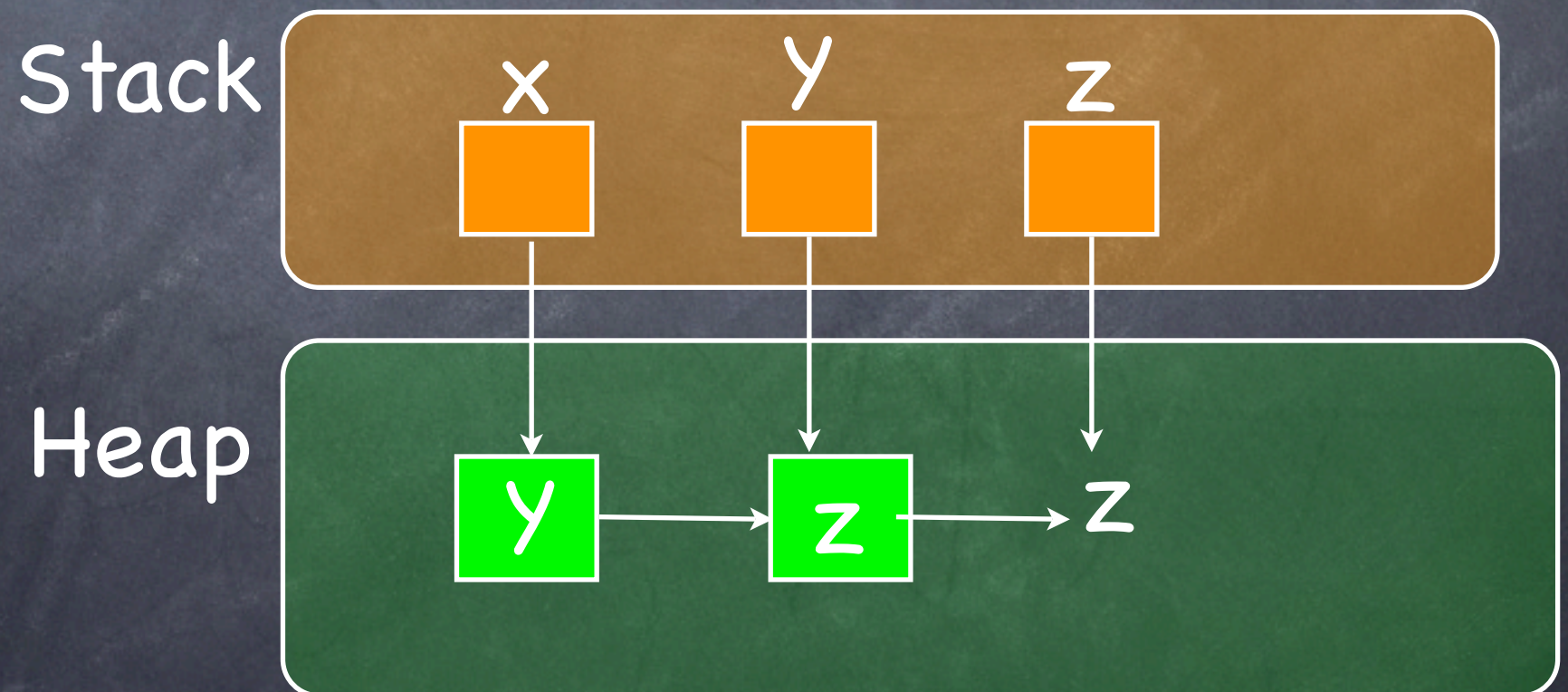




# Examples

Formula:

$x \mapsto y * y \mapsto z$

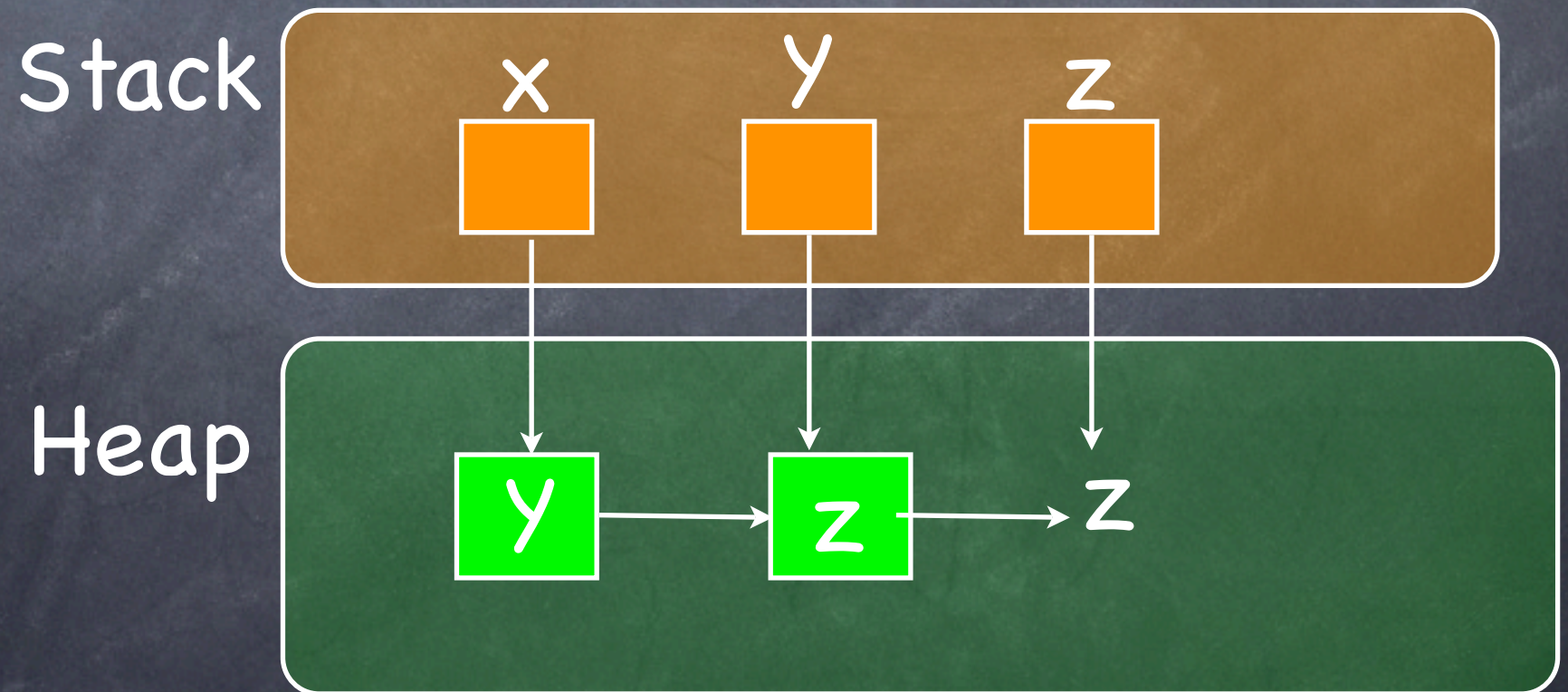




# Examples

Formula:

$x \mapsto y * y \mapsto z * z \mapsto x$

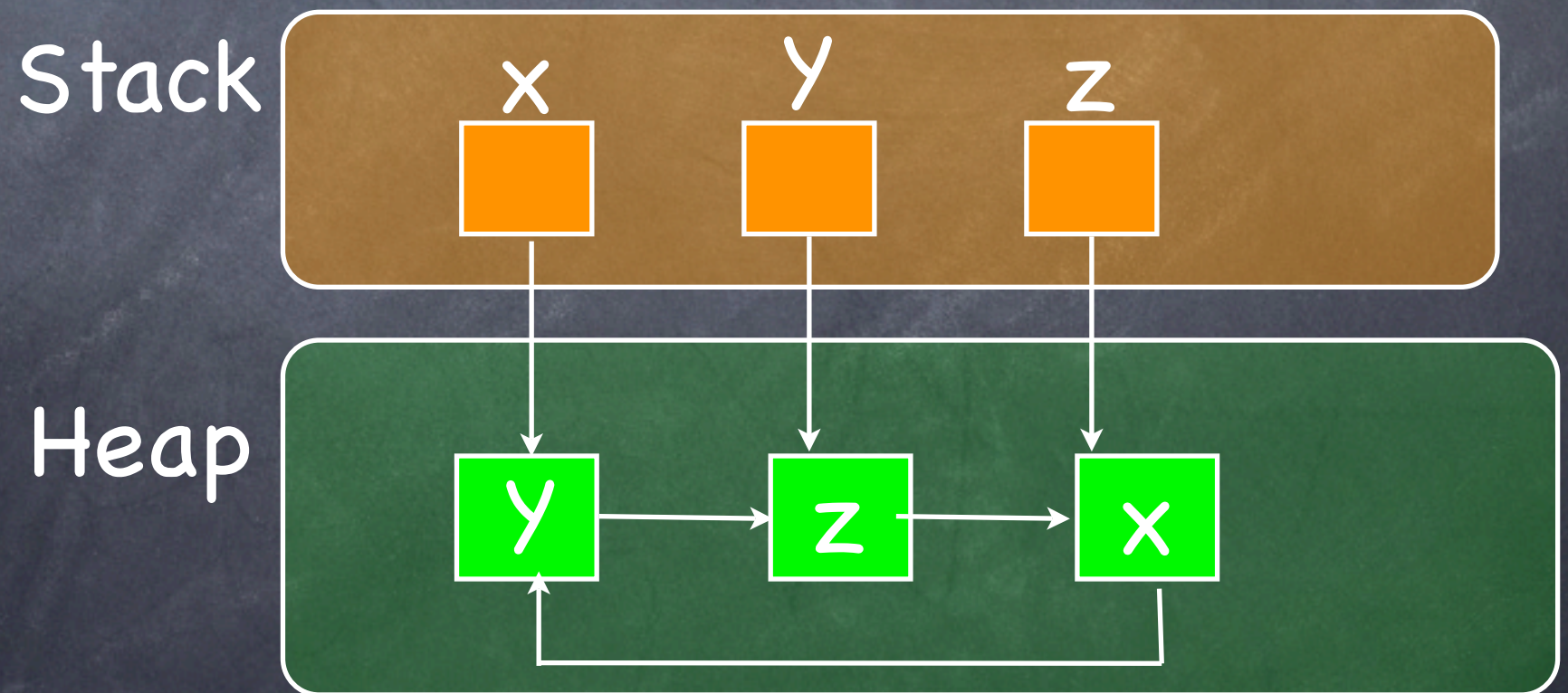




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# Semantics of Assertions

- Expressions mean maps from stacks to integers.

$$[[E]] : \text{Stacks} \rightarrow \text{Vals}$$

- Semantics of assertions given by satisfaction relation between states and assertions.

$$(s, h) \models P$$



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$$(s, h) \models P$$

Stack

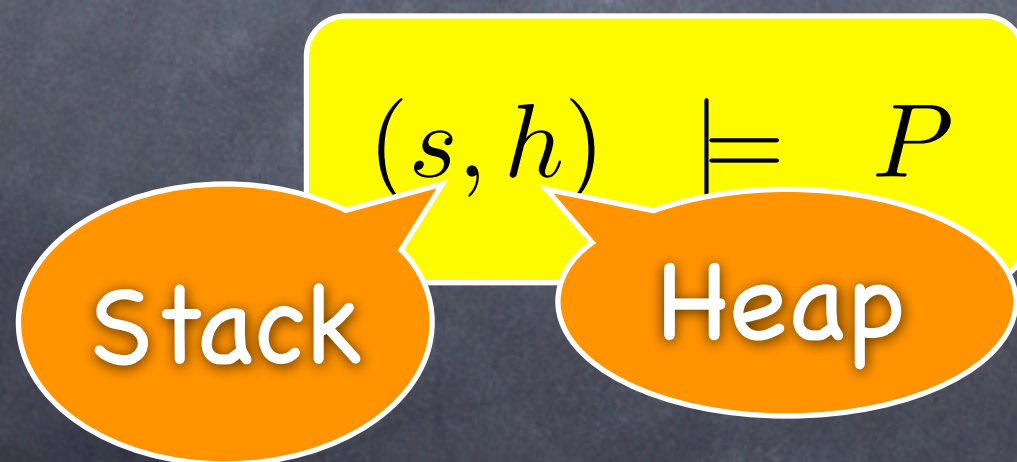


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# Semantics of Assertions

$(s, h) \models E \geq F$	iff	$\llbracket E \rrbracket s, \llbracket F \rrbracket s \in \text{Integers}$ and $\llbracket E \rrbracket s \geq \llbracket F \rrbracket s$
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# Abbreviations

The address  $E$  is active:

$$E \mapsto - \triangleq \exists x'. E \mapsto x'$$

where  $x'$  not free in  $E$

$E$  points to  $F$  somewhere in the heap:

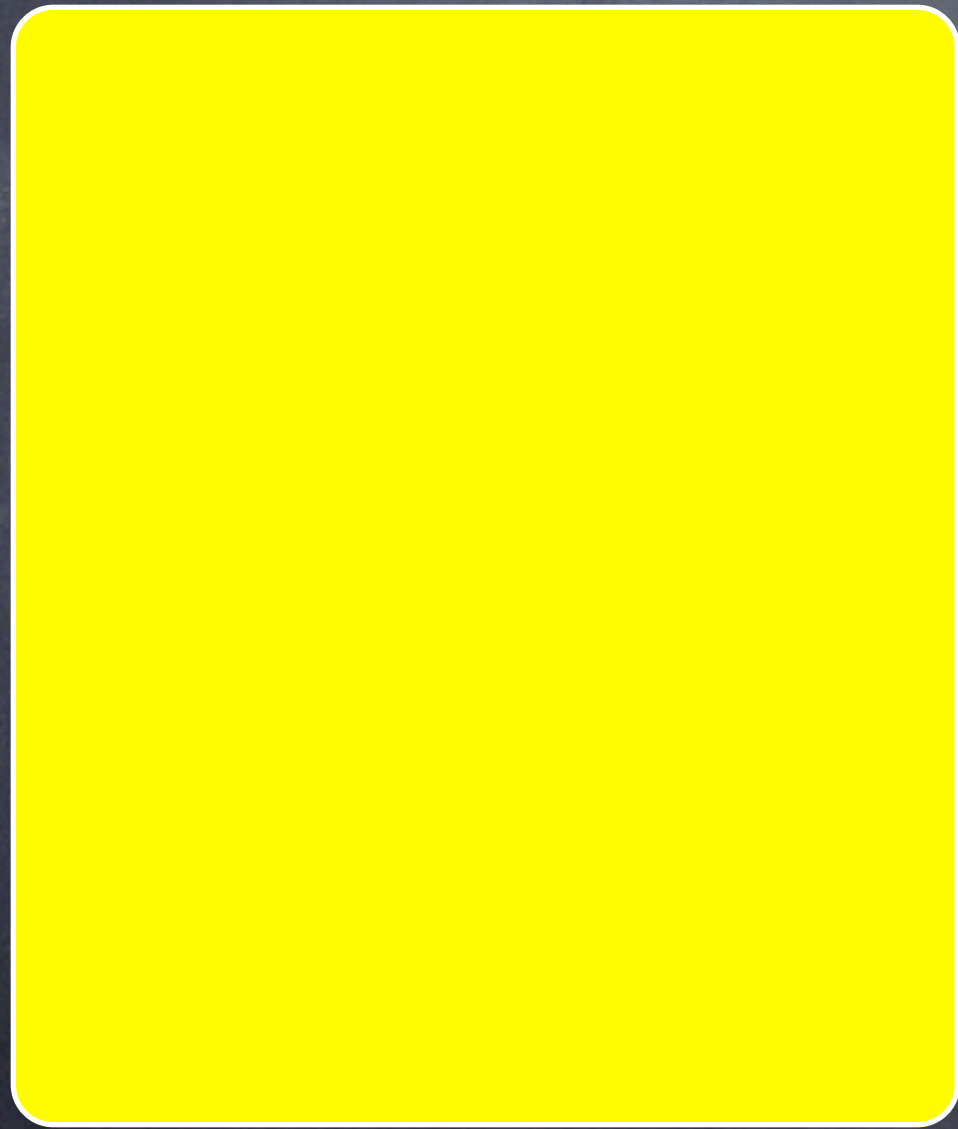
$$E \hookrightarrow F \triangleq E \mapsto F * \text{true}$$

$E$  points to a record of several fields:

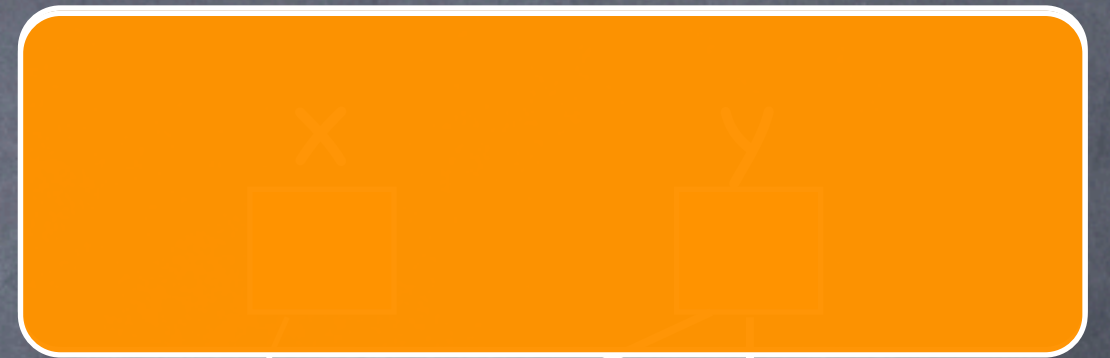
$$E \mapsto E_1, \dots, E_n \triangleq E \mapsto E_1 * \dots * E + n - 1 \mapsto E_n$$



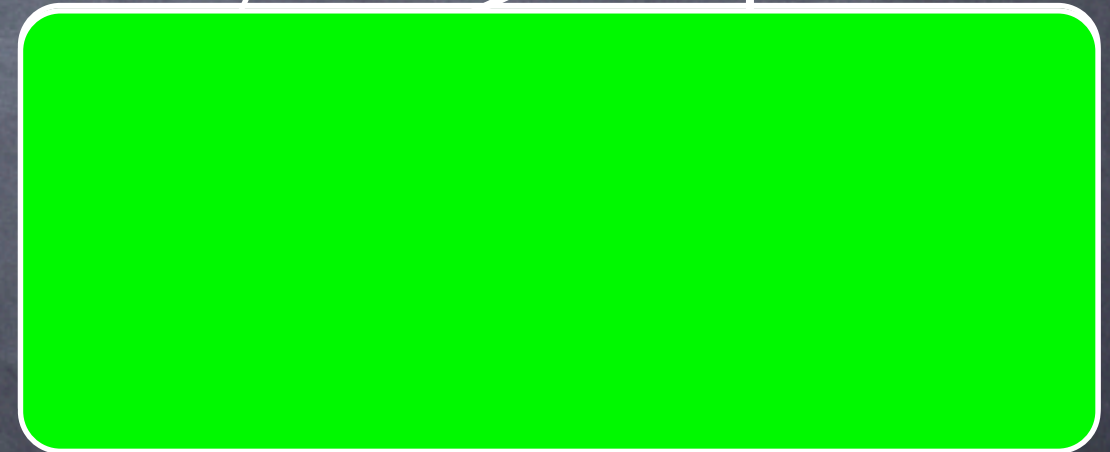
# Example



Stack



Heap

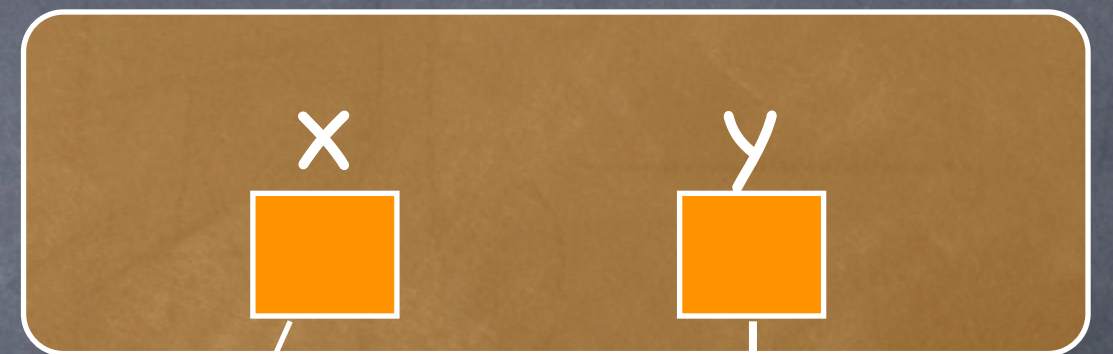




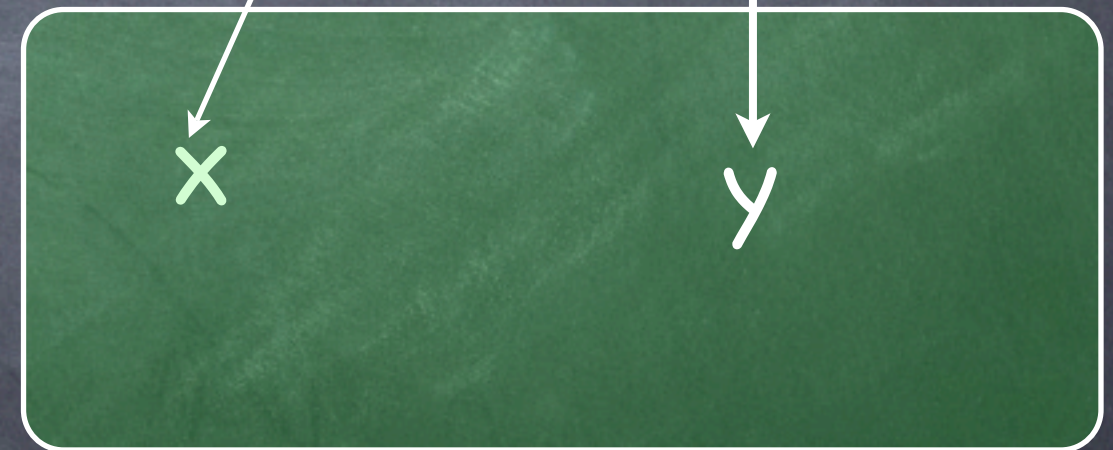
# Example

$x \mapsto 3, y$

Stack



Heap

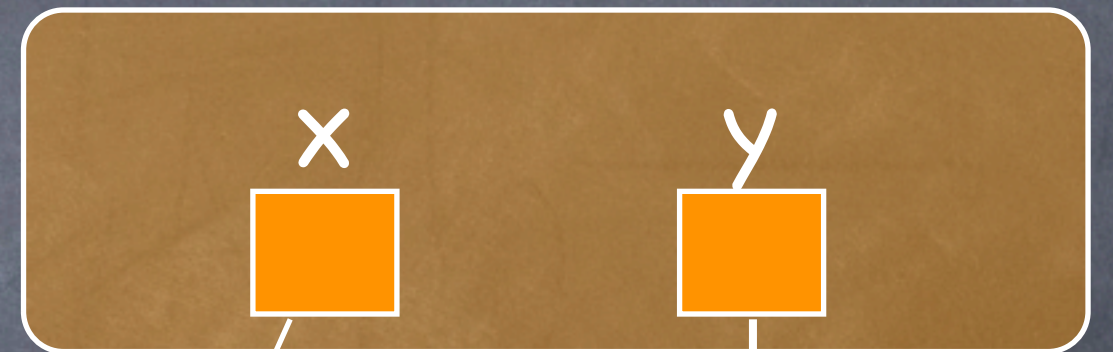




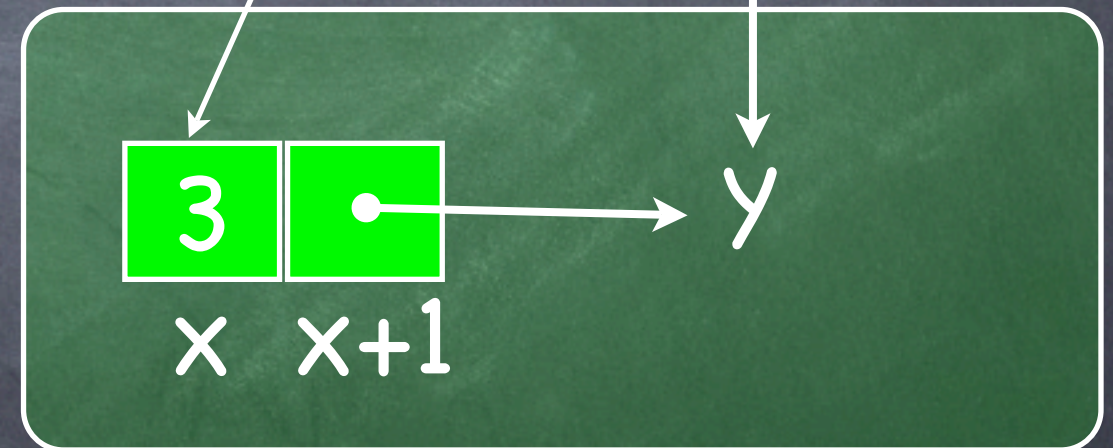
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Stack



Heap



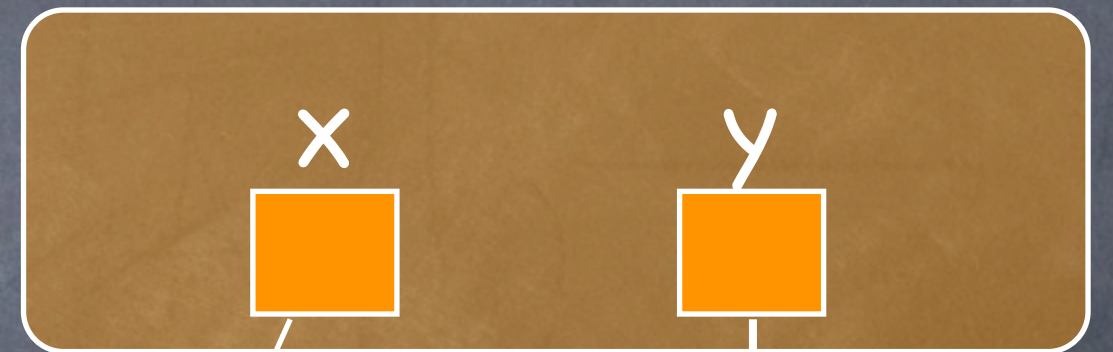


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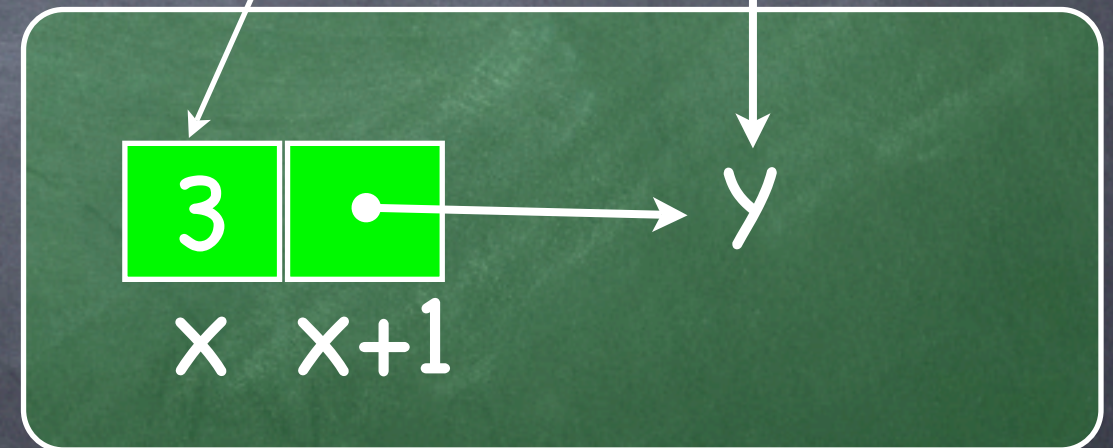
$x \mapsto 3, y$

$y \mapsto 3, x$

Stack



Heap



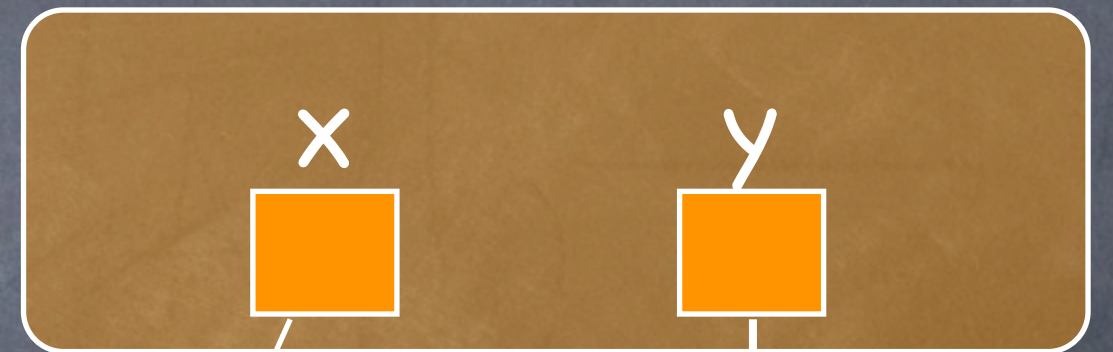


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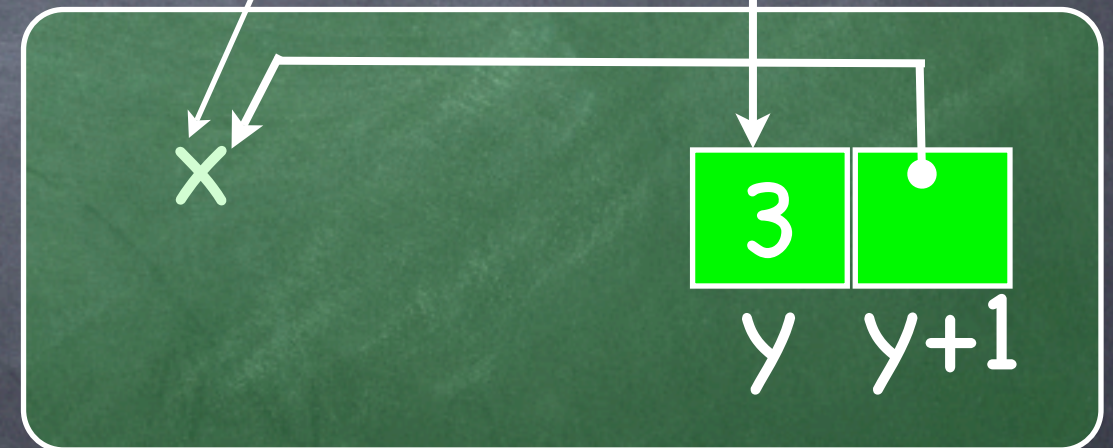
$x \mapsto 3, y$

$y \mapsto 3, x$

Stack



Heap





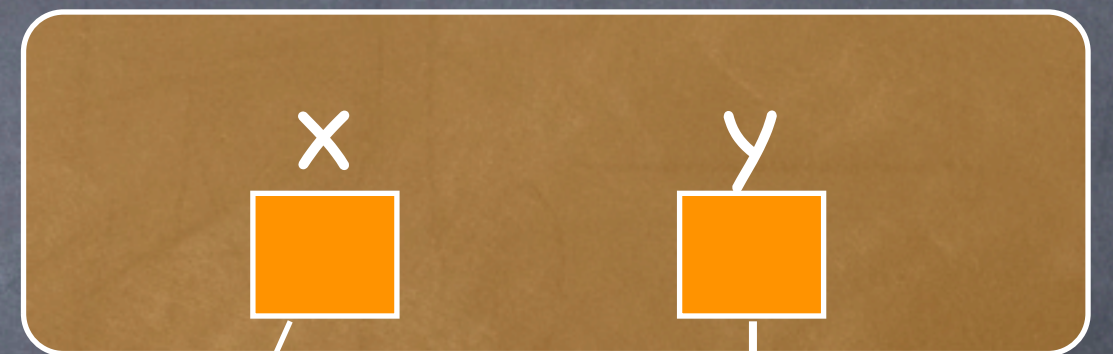
# Example

$x \mapsto 3, y$

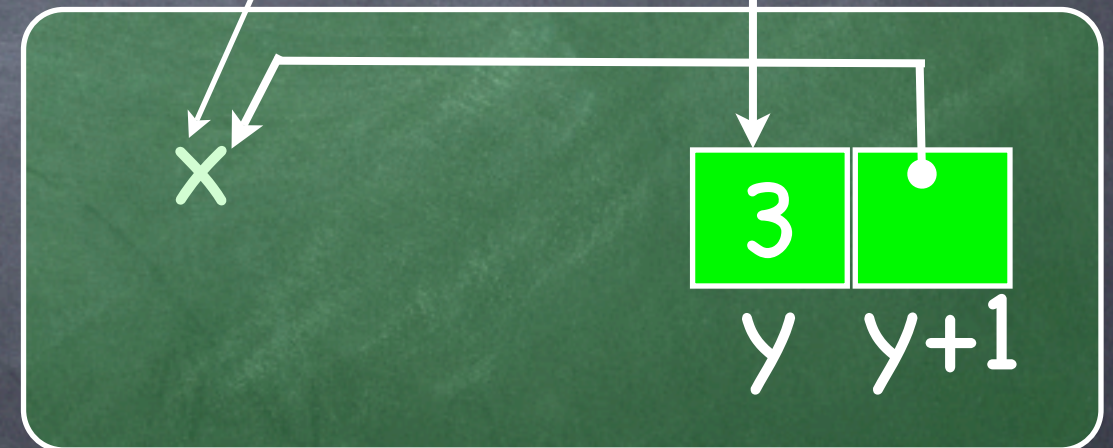
$y \mapsto 3, x$

$x \mapsto 3, y * y \mapsto 3, x$

Stack



Heap





# Example

$x \mapsto 3, y$

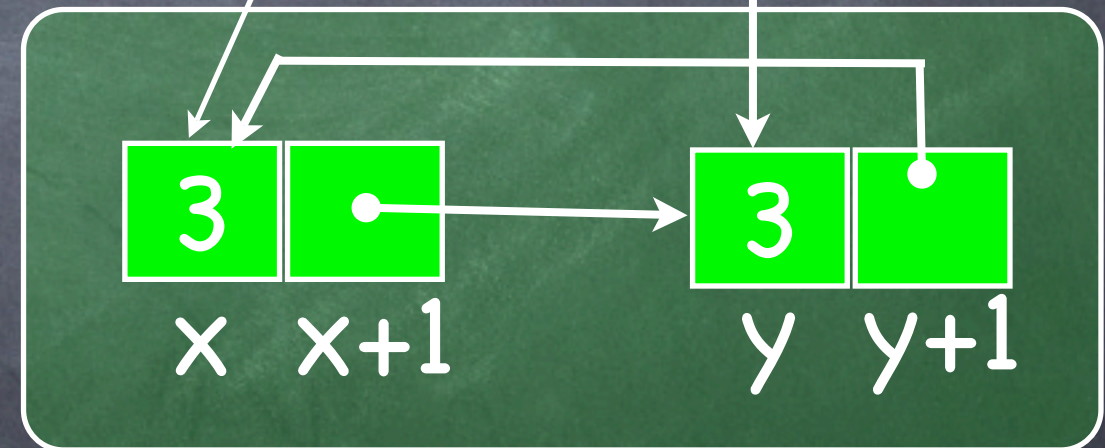
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Stack



Heap





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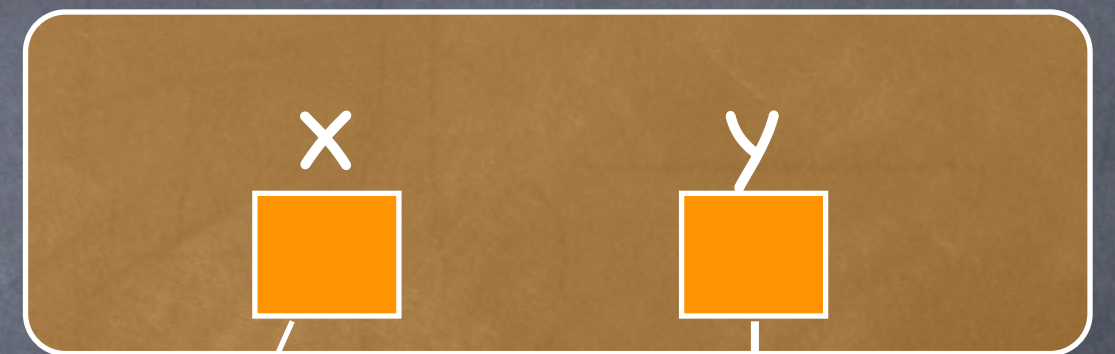
$$x \mapsto 3, y$$

$$y \mapsto 3, x$$

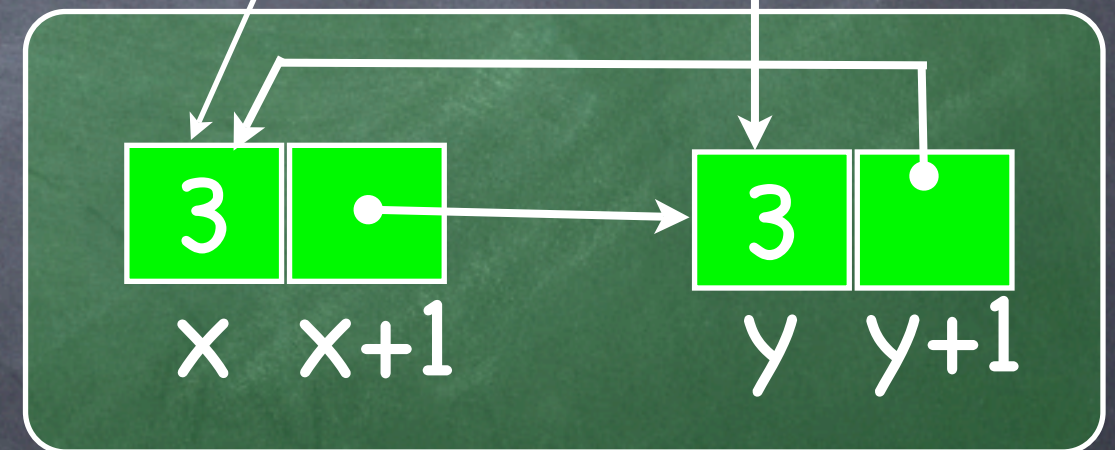
$$x \mapsto 3, y * y \mapsto 3, x$$

$$x \mapsto 3, y \wedge y \mapsto 3, x$$

Stack



Heap





# Example

$x \mapsto 3, y$

$y \mapsto 3, x$

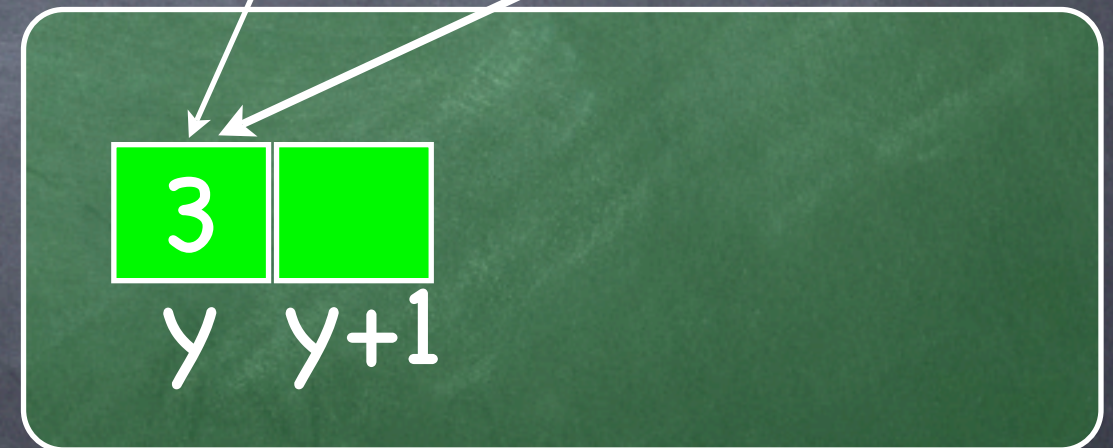
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Stack



Heap





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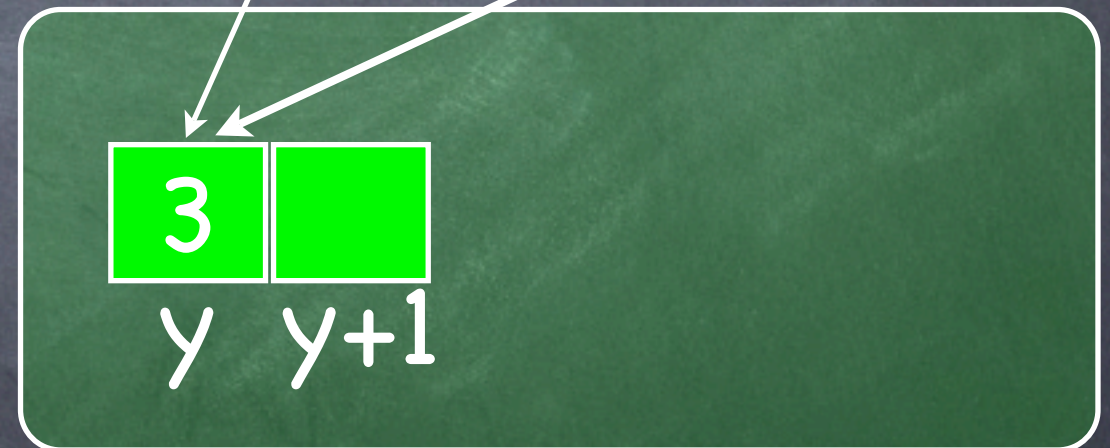
$$x \mapsto 3, y \wedge y \mapsto 3, x$$

$$x \hookrightarrow 3, y \wedge y \hookrightarrow 3, x$$

Stack



Heap



Exercise: what's the last formula asserting?



# An inconsistency

- What's wrong with the following formula?

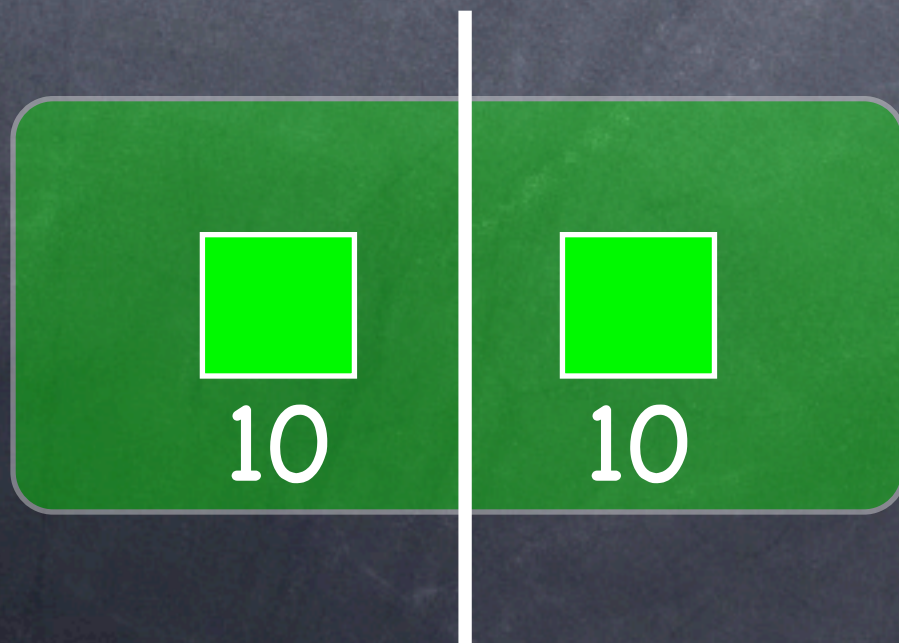
- $10 \mid \rightarrow 3 * 10 \mid \rightarrow 3$



# An inconsistency

• What's wrong with the following formula?

•  $10 \mid \rightarrow 3 * 10 \mid \rightarrow 3$



Try to be in two places  
at the same time



# Exercise

what is  $h$  such that  $s, h \models p$

$$h1 = \{(s(x), 1)\}$$

$$h2 = \{(s(y), 2)\}$$

with  $s(x) \neq s(y)$



# Exercise

what is  $h$  such that  $s, h \models p$

$x \mapsto 1$

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what is  $h$  such that  $s, h \models p$

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$h1$  contained in  $h$



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$h1$  contained in  $h$

$$x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 2 * (x \mapsto 1 \vee y \mapsto 2)$$



# Exercise

what is  $h$  such that  $s, h \models p$

$$h1 = \{(s(x), 1)\}$$

$$h2 = \{(s(y), 2)\}$$

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$$h = h1$$

$$y \mapsto 2$$

$$h = h2$$

$$x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 2$$

$$h = h1 * h2$$

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$h1$  contained in  $h$

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Homework!



# Validity

•  $P$  is valid if, for all  $s, h$ ,  $s, h \models P$

• Examples:

•  $E \mapsto 3 \Rightarrow E > 0$

•  $E \mapsto - * E \mapsto -$

•  $E \mapsto - * F \mapsto - \Rightarrow E \neq F$

•  $E \mapsto 3 \wedge F \mapsto 3 \Rightarrow E = F$

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•  $E \mapsto 3 * F \mapsto 3 \Rightarrow E \mapsto 3 \wedge F \mapsto 3$



# Validity

•  $P$  is valid if, for all  $s, h$ ,  $s, h \models P$

• Examples:

•  $E \mapsto 3 \Rightarrow E > 0$       **Valid!**

•  $E \mapsto - * E \mapsto -$       **Invalid!**

•  $E \mapsto - * F \mapsto - \Rightarrow E \neq F$       **Valid!**

•  $E \mapsto 3 \wedge F \mapsto 3 \Rightarrow E = F$       **Valid!**

•  $E \mapsto 3 * F \mapsto 3 \Rightarrow E \mapsto 3 \wedge F \mapsto 3$       **Invalid!**



# Homework

- Determine/Draw the stack and heap corresponding to the following formulae
  - $x \mapsto 4, 5$
  - $x \mapsto 4, 4 * y \mapsto 4, 4$
  - $x \mapsto 4, 4 /\ \ y \mapsto 4, 4$
- Say if the following are valid or not
  - $x \mapsto 3 * y \mapsto 7 \implies x \mapsto 3 * \text{true}$
  - $\text{true} * x \mapsto 3 \implies x \mapsto 3$



# Some Laws and inference rules

$$p_1 * p_2 \iff p_2 * p_1$$

$$(p_1 * p_2) * p_3 \iff p_1 * (p_2 * p_3)$$

$$p * \text{emp} \iff p$$

$$(p_1 \vee p_2) * q \iff (p_1 * q) \vee (p_2 * q)$$

$$(\exists x.p_1) * p_2 \iff \exists x.(p_1 * p_2) \quad \text{when } x \text{ not in } p_2$$

$$(\forall x.p_1) * p_2 \iff \forall x.(p_1 * p_2) \quad \text{when } x \text{ not in } p_2$$

$$\frac{p_1 \implies p_2 \quad q_1 \implies q_2}{p_1 * q_1 \implies p_2 * q_2} \quad \text{Monotonicity}$$



# Some Laws and inference rules

...but

$$(p_1 \wedge p_2) * q \implies (p_1 * q) \wedge (p_2 * q)$$

**Exercise:** prove that the other direction does not hold

$$(\forall x.p_1) * p_2 \iff \forall x.(p_1 * p_2) \quad \text{when } x \text{ not in } p_2$$

$$\frac{p_1 \implies p_2 \quad q_1 \implies q_2}{p_1 * q_1 \implies p_2 * q_2} \quad \text{Monotonicity}$$



# Substructural logic

- Separation logic is a substructural logic:

No Contraction  $A \not\vdash A * A$

No Weakening  $A * B \not\vdash A$

Examples:

$$10 \mapsto 3 \not\vdash 10 \mapsto 3 * 10 \mapsto 3$$

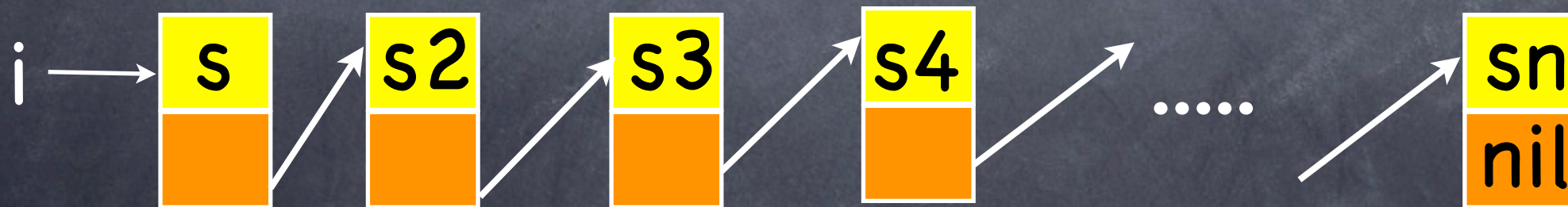
$$10 \mapsto 3 * 42 \mapsto 7 \not\vdash 42 \mapsto 7$$



# Lists

A non circular list can be defined with the following inductive predicate:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{list } [] \ i &= \text{emp} \wedge i = \text{nil} \\ \text{list } (s :: S) \ i &= \text{exists } j. i \rightarrow s, j * \text{list } S \ j \end{aligned}$$





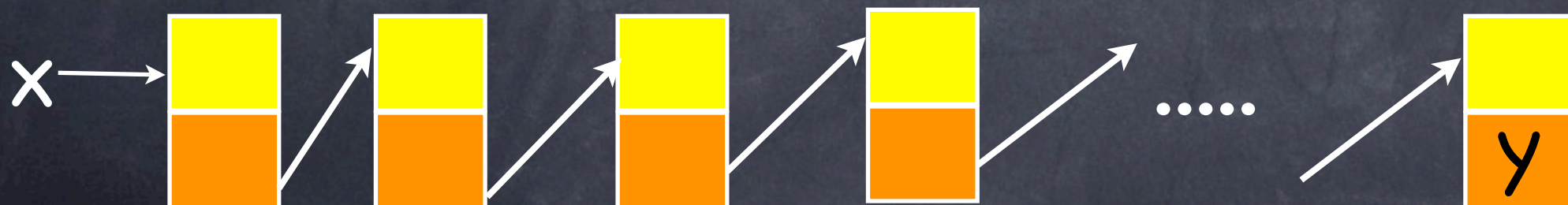
# List segment

Possibly empty list segment

$$\text{lseg}(x,y) = (\text{emp} \wedge x=y) \text{ OR} \\ \text{exists } j. x \rightarrow j * \text{lseg}(j,y)$$

Non-empty non-circular list segment

$$\text{lseg}(x,y) = x \neq y \wedge \\ ((x \rightarrow y) \text{ OR exists } j. x \rightarrow j * \text{lseg}(j,y))$$





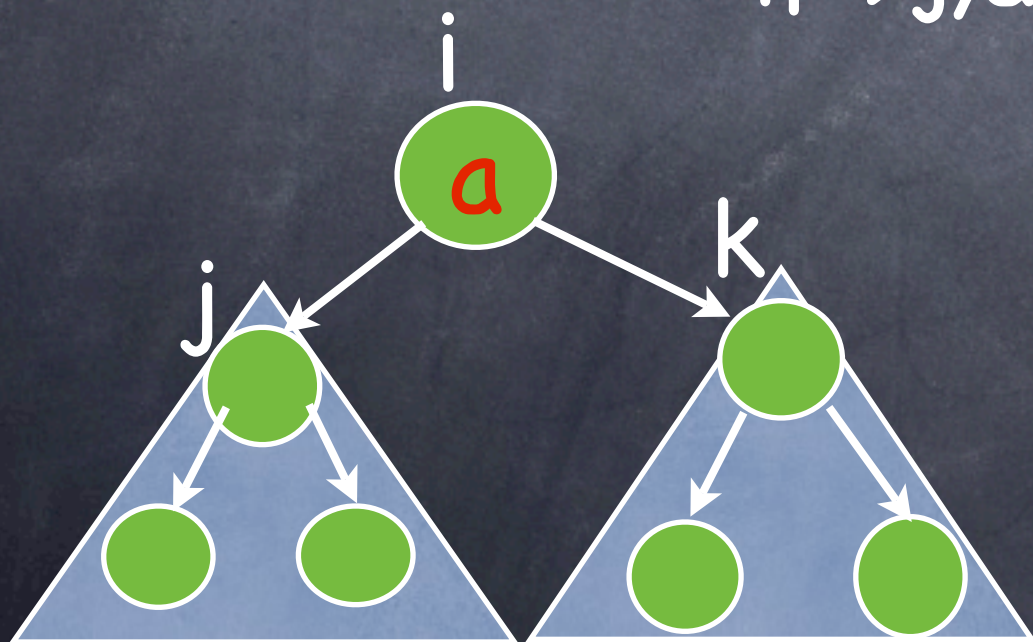
# Trees

A tree can be defined with this inductive definition:

$\text{tree } [] \text{ } i = \text{emp} \wedge i = \text{nil}$

$\text{tree } (t1, a, t2) \text{ } i = \text{exists } j, k.$

$i \rightarrow j, a, k * (\text{tree } t1 \text{ } j) * (\text{tree } t2 \text{ } k)$





# References

- J.C. Reynolds. *Separation Logic: A logic for shared mutable data structures*. LICS 2002
- S. Ishtiaq and P.W. O'Hearn. *BI as an assertion language for mutable data structures*. POPL 2001.