Reasoning about sequences of memory states

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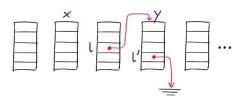
Joint work with Rémi Brochenin and Etienne Lozes

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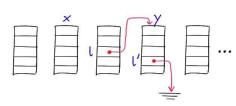
# Pointer programs

- Pointer: reference to a memory cell (non fixed memory address).
- Dynamic memory allocation/deallocation.
- Examples of instructions:
  - x := y: assign the value y to the variable x,
  - $x := y \rightarrow I$ : read the *I*-field of the cell pointed to by y into x,
  - $y \rightarrow I := x$ : write x to the *I*-field of the cell pointed to by y,
  - free x: deallocate the cell pointer to by x,
  - x := malloc(i): allocate i memory cells and assign its address to x.
- Simple safety properties of pointer programs are undecidable ("there is no null dereference").

# Memory states



# Memory states



- Set of variables Var.
- Set of labels Lab.
- Set of values  $Val = \mathbb{N} \uplus \{nil\}.$
- ▶ Set of stores:  $\mathcal{S} \stackrel{\text{\tiny def}}{\equiv} \text{Var} \rightarrow \text{Val}.$
- ► Set of heaps:  $\mathcal{H} \stackrel{\text{def}}{\equiv} \mathbb{N} \rightharpoonup_{fin} (\texttt{Lab} \rightharpoonup_{fin+} \texttt{Val}).$
- ▶ Memory state: (*s*, *h*).

# Disjoint heaps

- h<sub>1</sub> and h<sub>2</sub> are disjoint whenever dom(h<sub>1</sub>) ∩ dom(h<sub>2</sub>) = Ø.
   Notation: h<sub>1</sub> ⊥ h<sub>2</sub>.
- Disjointness does not concern records.
- Disjoint union  $h_1 * h_2$  whenever  $h_1 \perp h_2$ .

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   Notation: h<sub>1</sub> ⊥ h<sub>2</sub>.
- Disjointness does not concern records.
- Disjoint union  $h_1 * h_2$  whenever  $h_1 \perp h_2$ .
- Disjoint heaps (with a unique label):



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# Analysis of pointer programs

- ▶ Memory leak: a memory cell can no longer be reached.
- Null-pointer dereferencing.
- ► Alias analysis: checking whether memory cells are shared.
- Shape analysis: checking the structure of the heap.
- Functional properties: compare input and output heaps, data properties.

 $\Rightarrow$  Verification of program with pointers requires *fine-tuned* specification languages to speak about memory states and their evolution.

# Reasoning about pointer programs

- Separation logic [Reynolds, LICS 02].
- Pointer assertion logic (PAL) [Jensen et al. 97]. Monadic 2nd logic whose the universe of discourse contains records, pointers and booleans (non-elementary complexity)
- TVLA [Lev-Ami & Sagiv, SAS 00]: abstract interpretation technique with Kleene's logic (op. semantics in FOL + TC)
- Alias logic [Bozga & losif & Lakhnech, SAS 04].
- Logic of Reachable Patterns [Yorsh et al., FOSSACS 06].
- Evolution Logic [Yahav et al., ESOP 03]: to specify temporal properties of programs with dynamically evolving heaps.

# Model checking

Navigation Temporal Logic

[Distefano & Katoen & Rensink, FSTTCS 04].

- Bounded model-checking
   [Charatonik & Georgieva & Maier, CSL 05].

   Decidability for a fragment of FOL with Datalog programs.
- Model-checking pointer systems [Bardin & Finkel & Nowak, AVIS 04; Bardin, PhD 05].
- Regular model-checking [Bouajjani et al., TACAS 05].
- Translation into counter automata [Bouajjani et al, CAV 06; Sangnier, PhD 08].

# Our motivations

- To design temporal languages to specify the behaviors of pointer programs.
- To combine an assertion language from separation logic with linear-time/branching-time temporal logics.
- To evaluate the borders for decidability.
- To admit effective procedure with "reasonable" computational complexity for precise analysis.
- Automata-based proof technique with symbolic memory states.

# Separation logic

- ► Introduced by Reynolds, Pym and O'Hearn.
- Reasoning about the heap with a strong form of locality built-in.
- ► A \* B is true whenever the heap can be divided into two disjoint parts, one satisfies A, the other one B.
- ► A→\*B is true whenever A is true for a (fresh) disjoint heap, B is true for the combined heap.
- Hoare-style proof system for local reasoning about pointer programs, e.g. frame rule:

$$\frac{\{\mathcal{A}\} \text{ PROG } \{\mathcal{B}\}}{\{\mathcal{A} * \mathcal{B}'\} \text{ PROG } \{\mathcal{B} * \mathcal{B}'\}}$$
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### Hoare triples

- Hoare triple:  $\{\mathcal{A}\}$  PROG  $\{\mathcal{B}\}$ .
- Total correctness: if we start in a state where A holds true and execute PROG, the program PROG will terminate in a state satisfying B.
- Hoare logic uses Hoare triples to reason about program correctness.
- Rule of constancy:

$$\frac{\{\mathcal{A}\} \text{ PROG } \{\mathcal{B}\}}{\{\mathcal{A} \land \mathcal{B}'\} \text{ PROG } \{\mathcal{B} \land \mathcal{B}'\}}$$

where no variable free in  $\mathcal{B}'$  is modified by PROG.

#### When separation logic enters into the play

Unsoundness of the rule of constancy in separation logic:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\{(\exists z. \ x \mapsto z)\} \ [x] := 4 \ \{x \mapsto 4\}}{\{(\exists z. \ x \mapsto z) \land y \mapsto 3\} \ [x] := 4 \ \{x \mapsto 4 \land y \mapsto 3\}} \end{aligned}$$
 (when  $x = y$ )

Reparation with frame rule:

$$\frac{\{\mathcal{A}\} \text{ PROG } \{\mathcal{B}\}}{\{\mathcal{A} * \mathcal{B}'\} \text{ PROG } \{\mathcal{B} * \mathcal{B}'\}}$$

where no variable free in  $\mathcal{B}'$  is modified by PROG.

# Standard inference rules for mutation

► Local form (MUL)

$$\overline{\{(\exists z. \ x \mapsto z)\} \ [x] := y \ \{x \mapsto y\}}$$

$$\overline{\{(\exists z. \ x \mapsto z) * \phi\} \ [x] := y \ \{x \mapsto y * A\}}$$

Backward-reasoning form (MUBR)

$$\{(\exists z. x \mapsto z) * ((x \mapsto y) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A})\} \ [x] := y \ \{\mathcal{A}\}$$

Separation Logics (SL)

Expressions

 $e ::= x \mid null$ 

Atomic formulae

$$\pi ::= e = e' | \mathbf{x} + i \stackrel{l}{\hookrightarrow} e$$

▶ Standard  $e \hookrightarrow e', e''$  can be encoded with  $e \stackrel{1}{\hookrightarrow} e' \land e \stackrel{2}{\hookrightarrow} e''$ .

- i = 0 for no arithmetics on pointers.
- State formulae

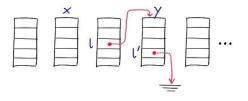
$$\mathcal{A} ::= \texttt{emp} \ \mid \ \pi \mid \ \mathcal{A} \land \mathcal{B} \mid \ \neg \mathcal{A} \mid \ \mathcal{A} \ast \mathcal{B} \mid \ \mathcal{A} {-}\!\!\!\ast \mathcal{B}$$

#### Semantics

• 
$$(s, h) \models_{SL} emp \text{ iff } dom(h) = \emptyset.$$

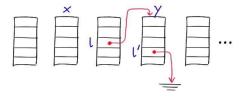
- ▶  $(s,h) \models_{SL} e = e'$  iff  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_s = \llbracket e' \rrbracket_s$ , with  $\llbracket x \rrbracket_s = s(x)$  and  $\llbracket$  null  $\rrbracket_s = nil$ .
- ▶  $(s,h) \models_{\mathrm{SL}} x + i \stackrel{l}{\hookrightarrow} e'$  iff  $\llbracket x \rrbracket_s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\llbracket x \rrbracket + i \in \mathrm{dom}(h)$ and  $h(s(x) + i)(l) = \llbracket e' \rrbracket_s$ .
- ►  $(s,h) \models_{\mathrm{SL}} \mathcal{A}_1 * \mathcal{A}_2$  iff  $\exists h_1, h_2$  such that  $h = h_1 * h_2$ ,  $(s,h_1) \models_{\mathrm{SL}} \mathcal{A}_1$  and  $(s,h_2) \models_{\mathrm{SL}} \mathcal{A}_2$ .
- ►  $(s, h) \models_{SL} A_1 \twoheadrightarrow A_2$  iff for all h', if  $h \perp h'$  and  $(s, h') \models_{SL} A_1$ then  $(s, h \ast h') \models_{SL} A_2$ .
- + clauses for Boolean operators.

# Memory states with arithmetic and records



$$x+1 \xrightarrow{\prime} y$$
  
 $y \xrightarrow{\prime} null$ 

# Memory states with arithmetic and records



$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{1} \stackrel{l}{\hookrightarrow} \mathbf{y} & h(s(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{1})(l) = s(\mathbf{y}) \\ \mathbf{y} \stackrel{l'}{\hookrightarrow} \mathbf{null} & h(s(\mathbf{y}))(l') = nil \end{array}$$

Simple properties on memory states

• The memory heap has at least two cells (size  $\geq$  2):

 $\neg \texttt{emp} * \neg \texttt{emp}$ 

• The memory heap has exactly one cell at address  $x (x \stackrel{l}{\mapsto} e)$ :

$$x \stackrel{\prime}{\hookrightarrow} e \land \neg (\texttt{size} \geq 2)$$

The variable x is allocated in the heap (alloc(x)):

$$(\mathtt{x} \stackrel{/}{\hookrightarrow} \mathtt{null}) \twoheadrightarrow \bot$$

# On the complexity of SL

- Model-checking, satisfiability and validity for SL are PSPACE-complete problems.
- PSPACE-hardness is from
   [Calcagno & Yang & O'Hearn, FSTTCS 01].
  - PSPACE upper bound is obtained thanks to a "small memory state property".
  - PSPACE upper bound of SL without arithmetics can be obtained by translation into a "separation-free" version. [Lozes, SPACE 04].
  - ► SL + ∃ is undecidable [C. & Y. & O'H., FSTTCS 01]. even with a unique label [BDL'08].
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Small store property

- Standard property: A is satisfiable iff there is a store s such that (s, Ø) ⊨<sub>SL</sub> ¬(A→ ⊥).
- Refinement: A is satisfiable iff there is a store s such that
  - $(s, \emptyset) \models_{\mathrm{SL}} \neg (\mathcal{A} \twoheadrightarrow \bot),$
  - ▶ for each variable  $x \in Y$ ,  $s(x) \le (|Y| + 1) \times max \epsilon$ ,

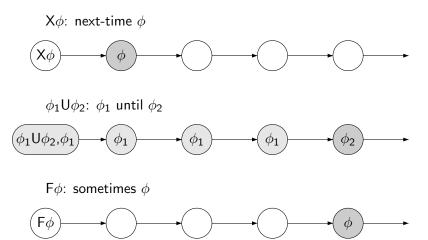
where

- Y is the set of variables occuring in A,

# Temporal Separation Logic

- To combine spatial properties and temporal properties
  - What are the modes of combination?
     See e.g. multidimensional logics in [Gabbay et al., Book 03].
  - Which problems are decidable?
     LTL with zero tests and incrementation is undecidable.
  - How the memory states are updated? constant heap, programs without destructive update, etc.
- ► To add recursion in SL.
- To extend the automata-based approach for model-checking? [Vardi & Wolper, IC 94].
- LTL over concrete domains See e.g., [Esparza, ICALP 94; Demri & D'Souza, IC 07].

# LTL operators in a nutshell



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# About plain LTL

- ► Formulae:  $\phi ::= p \mid \neg \phi \mid \phi \land \psi \mid \phi U \psi \mid X \phi$ .
- Models:  $\sigma: \mathbb{N} \to \mathcal{P}(\text{PROP})$  and  $\sigma, i \models p$  iff  $p \in \sigma(i)$ .

► 
$$L(\phi) = \{ \sigma \in (\mathcal{P}(PROP))^{\omega} : \sigma, \mathbf{0} \models \phi \}.$$

▶  $\phi \rightsquigarrow$  Büchi automaton  $\mathbb{A}_{\phi}$  such that  $L(\phi) = L(\mathbb{A}_{\phi})$ . [Vardi & Wolper, IC 94].

$$\blacktriangleright$$
  $|\mathbb{A}_{\phi}|$  is in  $2^{\mathcal{O}(|\phi|)}$ .

 Model-checking and satisfiability are PSPACE-complete. [Sistla & Clarke, JACM 85].

# The logic $\mathrm{LTL}^{\mathrm{mem}}$

#### Syntax

#### Examples

$$\mathsf{G}\;(\texttt{alloc}(\texttt{x})\;\Rightarrow\;\mathsf{F}\;\texttt{alloc}(\texttt{y}))$$

$$\mathsf{GF}(\mathtt{size}\ \ge\ 2) \quad (\mathsf{Xx}=\mathtt{x})\mathsf{U}(\mathtt{y}\stackrel{l}{\hookrightarrow}\mathtt{z})$$

#### Semantics

Models: elements of  $(S \times H)^{\omega}$  of the form  $\rho = (s_i, h_i)_{i \ge 0}$ .

$$\begin{array}{lll} \rho,t\models e=e' & \text{iff } \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\rho,t} = \llbracket e' \rrbracket_{\rho,t} & \text{with } \llbracket Xe \rrbracket_{\rho,t} = \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\rho,t+1} \\ \rho,t\models e+i\stackrel{l}{\hookrightarrow} e' & \text{iff } h_t(\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\rho,t}+i) = \llbracket e' \rrbracket_{\rho,t} \\ \rho,t\models \mathcal{A}_1 * \mathcal{A}_2 & \text{iff } \exists h_1,h_2 \text{ s.t. } h_t = h_1 * h_2, \\ \rho[h_t \leftarrow h_1],t\models \mathcal{A}_1, \\ \text{and } \rho[h_t \leftarrow h_2],t\models \mathcal{A}_2. \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \rho,t\models \mathcal{A}_1 - \mathcal{A}_2 & \text{iff } \forall h', \text{ if } h_t \perp h' \text{ and } \rho[h_t \leftarrow h'],t\models \mathcal{A}_1 \\ \text{ then } \rho[h_t \leftarrow h * h'],t\models \mathcal{A}_2. \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \rho,t\models X\phi & \text{iff } \rho,t+1\models \phi. \\ \rho,t\models \phi \cup \phi' & \text{iff } \exists t' \geq t \text{ such that } \rho,t'\models \phi', \\ \text{ and } \forall t'', t\leq t'' < t', \rho,t''\models \phi. \end{array}$$

Satisfiability problems

- Satisfiability problem SAT(Frag) with underlying fragment Frag ⊆ SL.
- ► Problem SAT<sup>ct</sup>(Frag) with constant heap → temporal language allows us to explore the heap.
- ▶ Problem SAT<sub>init</sub>(Frag) with a fixed initial heap.

A class of programs manipulating pointers

Set of instructions

- Programs are finite-state automata with transitions labelled by instructions and equality tests.
- A program without destructive update admits runs with constant heap.

Model-checking problems

MC(Frag): given φ in LTL<sup>mem</sup> with state formulae built over Frag and a program PROG of the associated fragment, is there an infinite computation ρ of PROG such that ρ, 0 ⊨ φ?

 MC<sup>ct</sup><sub>init</sub>(Frag): idem with fixed initial memory state and no destructive update.

### Fragments with decidable temporal reasoning

► SL fragments: Classical fragment (CL)  $A ::= e = e' | x + i \stackrel{I}{\hookrightarrow} e | A \land A | \neg A$ 

 Theorem: The satisfiability problems for LTL<sup>mem</sup>(CL) and LTL<sup>mem</sup>(RF) are PSPACE-complete.

# Bounding the syntactic resources

Test formulae

$$e ::= \langle \mathbf{x}, u \rangle \mid \text{null} \qquad f ::= e + i$$
  
 $\psi ::= f \stackrel{I}{\hookrightarrow} e \mid \text{alloc}(f) \mid e = e' \mid \text{size} \geq k$ 

- $u, i, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,
- *u* encoded in unary since  $\langle \mathbf{x}, u \rangle \approx \mathbf{X}^{u} \mathbf{x}$ ,
- x is a variable and I is a label.
- Measure  $\mu$  restricts the test formulae

 $\mu = (m, \epsilon, w, X, Y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathcal{P}_{f}(\mathbb{N}) \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathcal{P}_{f}(\texttt{Lab}) \times \mathcal{P}_{f}(\texttt{Var})$ 

•  $T_{\mu}$  : set of test formulae restricted to the resources from the measure.

#### Symbolic models and abstraction

- Symbolic model:  $\sigma : \mathbb{N} \to \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\mu}).$
- Abstraction:  $\rho \in (\mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{H})^{\omega} \mapsto Abs_{\mu}(\rho) \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\mu})^{\omega}$ .

$$Abs_{\mu}(\rho)(i) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{T}_{\mu} : \rho, i \models \mathcal{A} \}.$$

- See also resource graphs in [Galmiche & Mery, JLC'08].
- Symbolic satisfaction relation: σ, i ⊨<sub>μ</sub> φ defined by induction on φ with the base case: σ, i ⊨<sub>μ</sub> A ⇔

$$\models_{\mathrm{SL}} (\bigwedge_{\mathcal{A}' \in \sigma(i)} \mathcal{A}' \ \land \ \bigwedge_{\mathcal{A}' \in (\mathcal{T}_{\mu} \setminus \sigma(i))} \neg \mathcal{A}') \ \Rightarrow \ \mathcal{A}$$

# Checking satisfiability with symbolic models

- ▶ Lemma:  $\phi$  in LTL<sup>mem</sup>(RF) is satisfiable iff there is a symbolic model  $\sigma$  :  $\mathbb{N} \to \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\mu_{\phi}})$  such that
  - $\sigma$  symbolically satisfies  $\phi$  ( $\sigma$ , 0  $\models_{\mu_{\phi}} \phi$ )
  - there is a model  $\rho$  of LTL<sup>mem</sup> such that  $Abs_{\mu}(\rho) = \sigma$ .
- ▶ For instance,  ${Xx = X^2x, ...}, {x \neq Xx, ...}$  ... has no concrete models.

The generalized Büchi automaton  $\mathbb{A}^{\mu}_{\phi}$ 

- Q is the set of atoms of  $\phi$  (sets of subformulae).
- $I = \{X \in Q : \phi \in X\}.$
- $\blacktriangleright \Sigma = \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\mu}).$
- $\blacktriangleright X \xrightarrow{a} Y \text{ iff}$ 
  - for every atomic formula A of X, ⊨<sub>SL</sub> A<sub>a</sub> ⇒ A[X<sup>u</sup>x ← ⟨x, u⟩].
     for every Xφ' ∈ cl(φ), Xφ' ∈ X iff φ' ∈ Y.
- ► Let  $\{\phi_1 \cup \phi'_1, \dots, \phi_n \cup \phi'_n\}$  be the set of until formulae in  $cl(\phi)$ . We pose  $\mathcal{F} = \{F_1, \dots, F_n\}$  where  $F_i = \{X \in Q : \phi_i \cup \phi'_i \notin X \text{ or } \phi'_i \in X\}$  for  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ .
- Lemma: Let φ in LTL<sup>mem</sup>(RF) and μ ≥ μ<sub>φ</sub>. Then, L(A<sup>μ</sup><sub>φ</sub>) is the set of symbolic models satisfying φ.

The automaton  $\mathbb{A}_{sat}^{\mu}$  for consistency

$$\blacktriangleright \Sigma = \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\mu}), \ Q = I = F = \Sigma,$$

Lemma: Let φ in LTL<sup>mem</sup>(RF) and μ = μφ. Then L(A<sup>μ</sup><sub>sat</sub>) is the set of symbolic models being the abstraction of some concrete model.

# Other decidable satisfiability problems

 SAT<sup>ct</sup><sub>init</sub>(Frag): satisfiability problem of the fragment Frag with fixed initial memory state and constant heap models.

#### ► Theorem:

- SAT<sup>ct</sup><sub>init</sub>(RF) is PSPACE-complete.
   Proof by reduction to SAT(RF) by internalizing the initial memory state and the fact that the heap is constant.
- SAT<sup>ct</sup><sub>init</sub>(CL) is PSPACE-complete.
   Similar internalization.
- SAT<sup>ct</sup><sub>init</sub>(SL \ →\*) is PSPACE-complete.
   Proof by reduction to SAT<sup>ct</sup><sub>init</sub>(RF) in order to eliminate the arithmetic expressions.

Other decidable problems

- MC<sup>ct</sup><sub>init</sub>(RF) is PSPACE-complete.
   Proof by reduction into SAT<sup>ct</sup><sub>init</sub>(RF).
- MC<sup>ct</sup><sub>init</sub>(SL) is PSPACE-complete.
   Proof by reduction into LTL model-checking.
- Replacing X and U by a finite set of MSO definable preserves the PSPACE upper bound.

Satisfiability problems

- ▶ Theorem:  $SAT^{?}_{?}(SL)$  and  $SAT(SL \setminus -*)$  are  $\Sigma^{1}_{1}$ -complete.
- Proof by reducing the recurrence problem for ND Minsky machines [Alur & Henzinger, JACM 94].
- Incrementation is encoded thanks to

$$(\mathsf{X} \mathtt{x} \hookrightarrow \mathtt{y} \ \land \ \mathtt{x} + \mathtt{1} \hookrightarrow \mathtt{y}) \ \land \ \neg \ (\mathsf{X} \mathtt{x} \hookrightarrow \mathtt{y} \ \ast \ \mathtt{x} + \mathtt{1} \hookrightarrow \mathtt{y})$$

# An undecidable model-checking problem

- ► List fragment LF: RF with a unique label.
- Theorem:  $MC^{ct}(LF)$  is  $\Sigma_1^0$ -complete.
- Reduction from the halting problem for Minsky machines.

$${}_{\mathbf{z}}\Box \xrightarrow{next} \Box \xrightarrow{next} \cdots \Box \xrightarrow{next} \Box \xrightarrow{next} nil$$

- The length of the list starting at x<sub>i</sub> encodes the value of the counter C<sub>i</sub>.
- Preliminary verification to check that z points to a list.
- Decrementing  $C_i$  is simulated by  $x_i := x_i \rightarrow next$ .

# Summary of main complexity results

|                       | MC                              | MC <sup>ct</sup> | $MC_{init}^{ct}$ | SAT              | SAT <sup>ct</sup>               | SAT <sup>ct</sup> <sub>init</sub> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| LF                    | $\Sigma_1^1$ -c.                | $\Sigma_1^0$ -c. | PSPACE-C.        | PSPACE-C.        | $\Sigma_1^0$ -c.                | PSPACE-C.                         |
| CL and RF             | Σ <sub>1</sub> <sup>1</sup> -c. | $\Sigma_1^0$ -c. | PSPACE-C.        | PSPACE-C.        | Σ <sub>1</sub> <sup>0</sup> -c. | PSPACE-C.                         |
| $SL \setminus \{-*\}$ | Σ <sub>1</sub> <sup>1</sup> -c. | $\Sigma_1^0$ -c. | PSPACE-C         | $\Sigma_1^1$ -c. | Σ <sub>1</sub> <sup>0</sup> -c. | PSPACE-C                          |
| SL                    | Σ <sub>1</sub> <sup>1</sup> -c. | $\Sigma_1^0$ -c. | PSPACE-C         | $\Sigma_1^1$ -c. | $\Sigma_1^1$ -c.                | $\Sigma_1^1$ -c.                  |

Conclusion and perspectives

- Introduction of a logic mixing temporal operators and assertions from separation logic.
- Characterization of the complexity of model-checking and satisfiability problems for fragments and under different hypotheses.
- Some open problems:
  - Which classes of constraints on successive heaps restore decidability?
  - How to add recursion to separation logic while preserving decidability?

# Some bibliographical references

- Separation logic and verification [Reynolds, LICS 02]
- Complexity results on separation logic [Calcagno & O'Hearn & Yang, FSTTCS 01]
- Propositional separation logic expressiveness [Lozes, SPACE 04]
- Tableaux and resource graphs for separation logic [Galmiche & Mery, JLC 08]
- LTL over concrete domains
   [Demri & D'Souza, IC 07; Gascon, PhD 07]