
An Introduction to Separation Logic

(2/2)

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First part (Last time) – Introduction

- Motivation
- In the beginning...
- The Logic
- Some examples

Second part (Today) – Harder stuff

- Modularity
- Concurrency
- ~~Decidability~~

Modularity

Frame rule allows modular proofs!

- Frame rule provides modularity in proofs
- Specifications are open to extension of new state.

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Does not reflect the modularity of encapsulation of data-structures.

Two works in separation logic on adding modular procedure/function rules

- Static Modularity: Hypothetical Frame Rule [O'Hearn, Reynold and Yang, POPL 2004]
- Dynamic Modularity: Abstract Predicates [Parkinson and Bierman, POPL 2005]

We will use judgements of the form:

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

where

$$\Gamma ::= \{P\}\kappa\{Q\}, \Gamma \mid \epsilon$$

Procedure call

$$\Gamma, \{P\}\kappa\{Q\} \vdash \{P\}\kappa\{Q\}$$

Procedure definition

$$\frac{\Gamma, \{P_1\}\kappa_1\{Q_1\} \vdash \{P\}C\{Q\} \quad \Gamma \vdash \{P_1\}C_1\{Q_1\}}{\Gamma \vdash \{P\}let \kappa_1 = C_1 in C end\{Q\}}$$

Will sometimes have parameters, or modifies clauses:

$$\Gamma ::= \{P\}\kappa(x)\{Q\}[X], \Gamma \mid \epsilon$$

Procedures with a hidden data-structure, e.g. Memory Manager with a free list.

Procedures with client specifications:

- $\{empty\}alloc\{x \mapsto _, _\}[x]$
- $\{x \mapsto _, _\}dealloc\{empty\}[]$

Expect to implement it using specifications involving free list:

- $\{list(f)\}alloc\{list(f) * x \mapsto _, _\}[x, f]$
- $\{x \mapsto _, _ * list(f)\}dealloc\{list(f)\}[f]$

Key Idea: verify procedures with additional state that client cannot use or depend on.

+ Modular procedure proof rule

We want a rule of the following form

$$\frac{\Gamma, \{P_1\}\kappa_1\{Q_1\}[X_1], \dots \vdash \{P\}C\{Q\} \quad \Gamma \vdash \{P_1 * R\}C_1\{Q_1 * R\} \quad \dots}{\Gamma \vdash \{P * R\} \text{ let } \kappa_1 = C_1, \dots \text{ in } C\{Q * R\}}$$

where

- C does not modify free variables in R except using procedures $\kappa_1, \dots, \kappa_n$.
- C_i only modifies X_i and Y
- Y is disjoint from P , Q and C .

Returning to the motivating example:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \Gamma, \{emp\} \text{malloc} \{x \mapsto _, _ \} [x], \dots \vdash \{P\} C \{Q\} \\
 \Gamma \vdash \{emp * list(f)\} C_1 \{(x \mapsto _, _) * list(f)\} \\
 \Gamma \vdash \{(x \mapsto _, _) * list(f)\} C_2 \{emp * list(f)\} \\
 \hline
 \Gamma \vdash \{P * list(f)\} \text{ let } malloc = C_1, free = C_2 \text{ in } C \{Q * list(f)\}
 \end{array}$$

So far:

- “Ownership transfer”
- Static modularity: single instance of hidden data structure

Cannot instantiate several memory managers, e.g. connection pooling.

$$\{ \textit{empty} \} \text{ consPool } (\textit{db}) \{ \textit{cpool}(\textit{ret}, \textit{db}) \}$$
$$\{ \textit{cpool}(x, \textit{db}) \} \text{ getConn } (\mathbf{x}) \{ \textit{cpool}(x, \textit{db}) * \textit{conn}(\textit{ret}, \textit{db}) \}$$
$$\{ \textit{cpool}(x, \textit{db}) * \textit{conn}(y, \textit{db}) \} \text{ freeConn } (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \{ \textit{cpool}(x, \textit{db}) \}$$

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1. Define judgements

$$\Lambda; \Gamma \vdash \{P\}C\{Q\}$$

where Λ is an abstract predicate environment.

e.g.

$$\Lambda := (\alpha_1(\overline{x_1}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P_1), \dots, (\alpha_n(\overline{x_n}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P_n)$$

A mapping from predicate name, α , to formula, P .

Need to scope predicate definitions to support ADTs

1. Define judgements

$$\Lambda; \Gamma \vdash \{P\}C\{Q\}$$

2. The predicate definitions are used with the rule of consequence

$$\frac{\Lambda \models P \Rightarrow P' \quad \Lambda; \Gamma \vdash \{P'\}C\{Q'\} \quad \Lambda \models Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\Lambda; \Gamma \vdash \{P\}C\{Q\}}$$

with two axioms: **open** and **close**

$$(\alpha(\bar{x}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P), \Lambda \models \alpha(\bar{E}) \Rightarrow P[\bar{E}/\bar{x}]$$

$$(\alpha(\bar{x}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P), \Lambda \models P[\bar{E}/\bar{x}] \Rightarrow \alpha(\bar{E})$$

Intuitively, **open** and **close** can be seen as pack and unpack for abstract data types.

3. Provide rule to allow predicates to be introduced and scoped

$$\frac{\Lambda'; \Gamma, \{P_1\}k_1(\overline{x_1})\{Q_1\}, \dots \vdash \{P\}C\{Q\} \quad \Lambda, \Lambda'; \Gamma \vdash \{P_1\}C_1\{Q_1\} \quad \dots}{\Lambda'; \Gamma \vdash \{P\}\text{let } k_1(\overline{x_1}) = C_1, \dots \text{ in } C\{Q\}}$$

C is verified without knowing the definitions in Λ hence it can not modify things defined in it except through $\{k_1, \dots\}$.

+ Example: Connection Pool

We define two abstract predicates for the connection pool module: $cpool$ and $clist$.

$$cpool(x, db) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \exists i. x \mapsto i, db * clist(i, db)$$

$$clist(x, db) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \doteq null \vee (\exists i. j. x \mapsto i, j * conn(i, db) * clist(j, db))$$

where $E \doteq E'$ is a shorthand for $E = E' \wedge empty$.

+ Connection pool

```
let
  consPool db :=
    (newvar p; p=cons(null,db); return p)

  getConn x := (newvar n,c,l,p; l=[x];
    if (l == null) then
      p=[x+1]; c=consConn(p)
    else (c=[l]; n=[l+1]; dispose(l);
      dispose(l+1); [x]=n);
    return c)

  freeConn x y :=
    (newvar t,n; t=[x]; n=cons(y,t); [x]=n)
in
  c
```

Let us verify the constructor

$$\begin{array}{l} \{empty\} \\ \{empty\} \\ p = cons(null, db); return p; \\ \{ret \mapsto null, db\} \\ \{Pool(ret, db)\} \end{array}$$

Here we must prove

$$\Lambda \models (ret \mapsto null, db) \Rightarrow Pool(this, db)$$

From the definition of *ConnList* and *Pool* we know

$$\Lambda \models empty \Rightarrow ConnList(null, db)$$

$$\Lambda \models (ret \mapsto null, db) * ConnList(null, db) \Rightarrow Pool(this, db)$$

+ Client Example

{empty}

x = consPool(db);

y = getConn(x);

UseConn(y);

freeConn(x, y);

UseConn(y)

{true}

+ Client Example

{empty}

x = consPool(db);

{Pool(x, db)}

y = getConn(x);

UseConn(y);

freeConn(x, y);

UseConn(y)

{true}

+ Client Example

$\{empty\}$

$x = consPool(db);$

$\{Pool(x, db)\}$

$y = getConn(x);$

$\{Pool(x, db) * Conn(y, db)\}$

$UseConn(y);$

$freeConn(x, y);$

$UseConn(y)$

$\{true\}$

+ Client Example

$\{empty\}$

$x = consPool(db);$

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$y = getConn(x);$

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$freeConn(x, y);$

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$\{true\}$

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$x = consPool(db);$

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$\{Conn(y, db)\}$

$\{Pool(x, db) * Conn(y, db)\}$

$freeConn(x, y);$

$\{Pool(x, db)\}$

$UseConn(y)$

$\{true\}$



Now let us consider specifying C-style **malloc** and **free**

$$\{empty\} \mathbf{malloc}(n) \{(ret \mapsto _) * \dots * (ret + n - 1 \mapsto _)\}$$
$$\{(x \mapsto _) * \dots * (x + n - 1 \mapsto _)\} \mathbf{free}(x) \{empty\}$$

but what is n in **free**'s specification? We don't want to write **free(x,n)** as that isn't how the code is written.

Now let us consider specifying C-style **malloc** and **free**

$$\{empty\} \mathbf{malloc}(n) \{ (ret \mapsto _) * \dots * (ret + n - 1 \mapsto _) \}$$

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but what is n in **free**'s specification? We don't want to write **free(x,n)** as that isn't how the code is written.

Write specifications using APs:

$$\{empty\} \mathbf{malloc}(n) \{ Block(ret, n) * ret \mapsto _ * \dots * ret + n - 1 \mapsto _ \}$$

$$\{ Block(x, n) * x \mapsto _ * \dots * x + n - 1 \mapsto _ \} \mathbf{free}(x) \{empty\}$$

Here *Block* is not known to the client and can be defined as

$$Block(x, n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x - 1 \mapsto n$$

Concurrency

+ Separation Logic: concurrency

- Read sharing

$$E \mapsto_z E' * E \mapsto_{z'} E' \Leftrightarrow E \mapsto_{z+z'} E'$$

- Parallel rule

$$\frac{\{P_1\}C_1\{Q_1\} \quad \{P_2\}C_2\{Q_2\}}{\{P_1 * P_2\}C_1 || C_2\{Q_1 * Q_2\}}$$

- Resource rule

$$\frac{\{P\}C\{Q\}}{\{P * I_r\} \text{resource } r \text{ in } C\{Q * I_r\}}$$

- CCR rule

$$\frac{\{P * I_r \wedge B\}C\{Q * I_r\}}{\{P\} \text{with } r \text{ when } B \text{ in } C\{Q\}}$$

Some side-conditions but we can ignore them in this talk

+ Example: simple lock (1/3)

$\{emp\}$

```
lock() {  
    local status = false;  
    while (!status)  
        status = CAS(LOCK,0,1);  
}
```

$\{P\}$

$\{P\}$

```
unlock() {  
    LOCK=0;  
}  
 $\{emp\}$ 
```

+ Example: simple lock (1/3)

```
{emp}
lock() {
  local status = false;
  while (!status)
    with r do{
      status = CAS(LOCK,0,1);
    }
}
```

{P}

```
{P}
unlock() {
  with r do{ LOCK=0; }
}
```

{emp}

- $I_r \stackrel{def}{=} (\mathbf{LOCK} = 0 \wedge P) \vee (\mathbf{LOCK} = 1 \wedge emp)$
- $P * P \Rightarrow false$

+ Example: simple lock (2/3)

$$\frac{\{I_r\} \text{status} = \text{CAS}(\text{LOCK}, 0, 1); \{I_r * (\text{status} \dot{\Rightarrow} P)\}}{\{emp\} \text{with } r \text{ do } \{ \text{status} = \text{CAS}(\text{LOCK}, 0, 1); \} \{(\text{status} \dot{\Rightarrow} P)\}}$$

$$\frac{\{(\text{LOCK} = 1 \wedge emp) * P\} \text{LOCK} = 0; \{(\text{LOCK} = 0 \wedge P) * emp\}}{\frac{\{I_r * P\} \text{LOCK} = 0; \{I_r\}}{\{P\} \text{with } r \text{ do } \{ \text{LOCK} = 0; \} \{emp\}}}$$

- $I_r \stackrel{def}{=} (\text{LOCK} = 0 \wedge P) \vee (\text{LOCK} = 1 \wedge emp)$
- Proof requires $P * P \Rightarrow false$
- $I_r * P \Rightarrow \text{LOCK} = 1 \wedge P$

+ Example: simple lock (3/3)

$\{emp\}$

lock ();

$\{10 \mapsto _ \}$

$t = [10] + 1;$

$\{10 \mapsto t - 1\}$

$[10] = t;$

$\{10 \mapsto t\}$

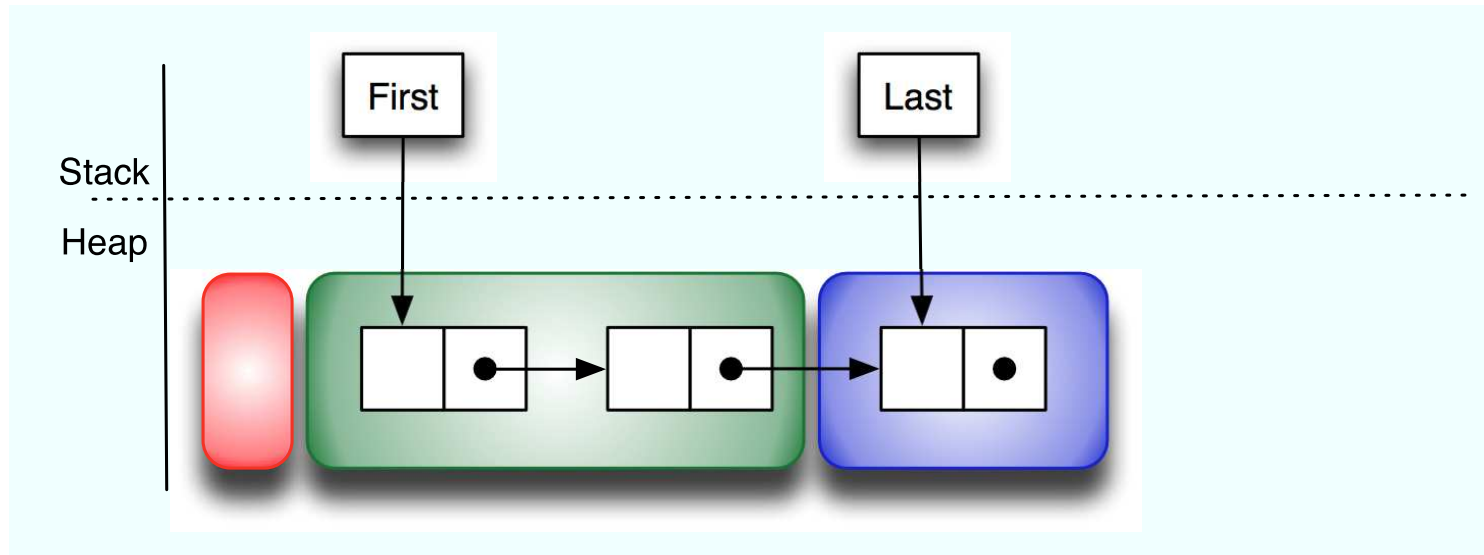
unlock ();

$\{emp\}$

where $P = 10 \mapsto _$

Note: we have not had to worry at all about interference.

+ Example: Queue



semaphore number= 0;

P (number);

t = first

first = [first+1]

dispose(t);

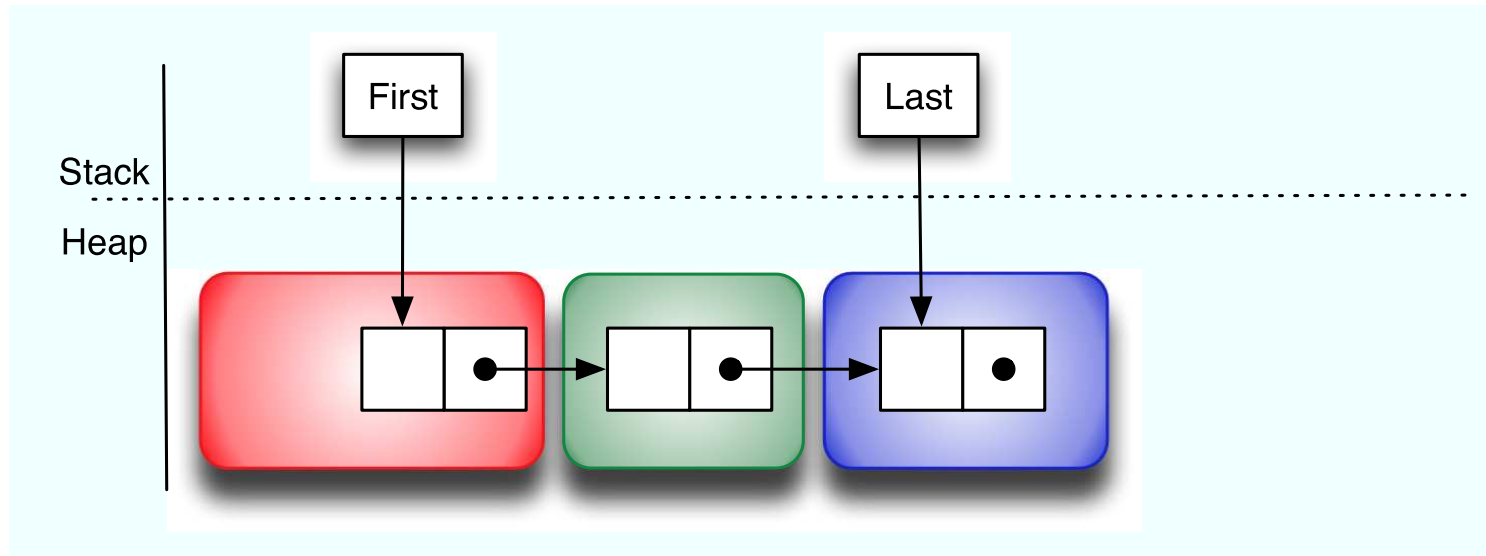
x = cons(*,*)

[last+1] = x;

last = [last+1]

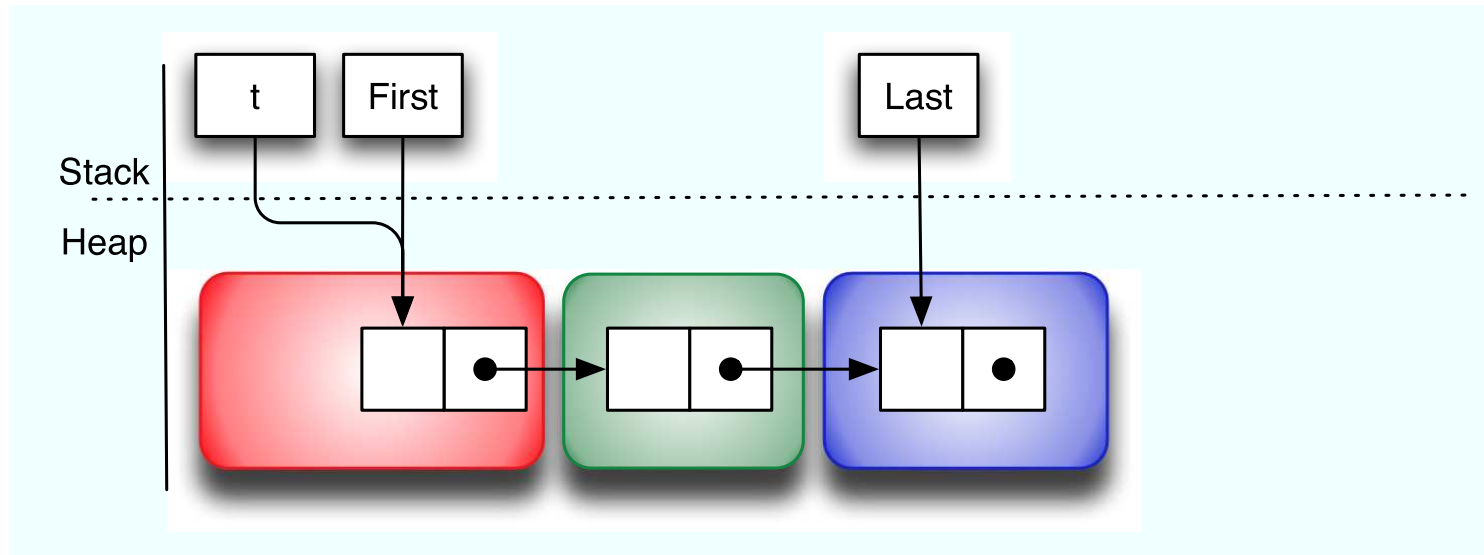
V(number);

+ Example: Queue



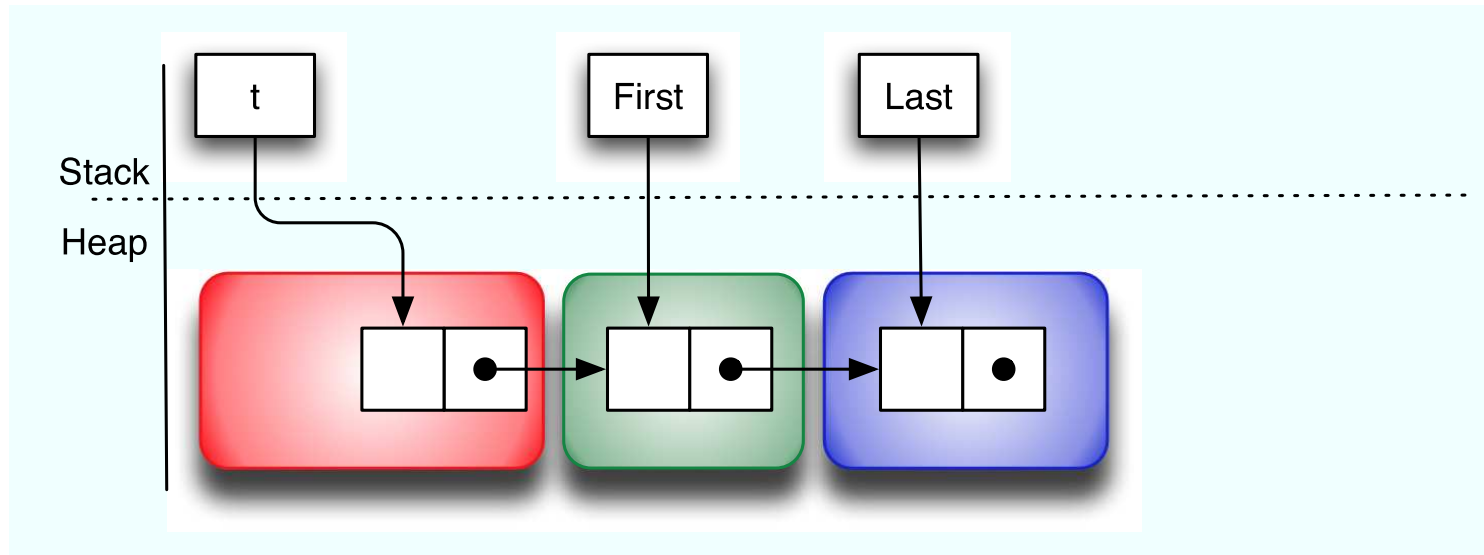
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semaphore number= 0;  
P (number);          | x = cons(*,*)  
t = first           | [last+1] = x;  
first = [first+1]    | last = [last+1]  
dispose(t);          | V(number);
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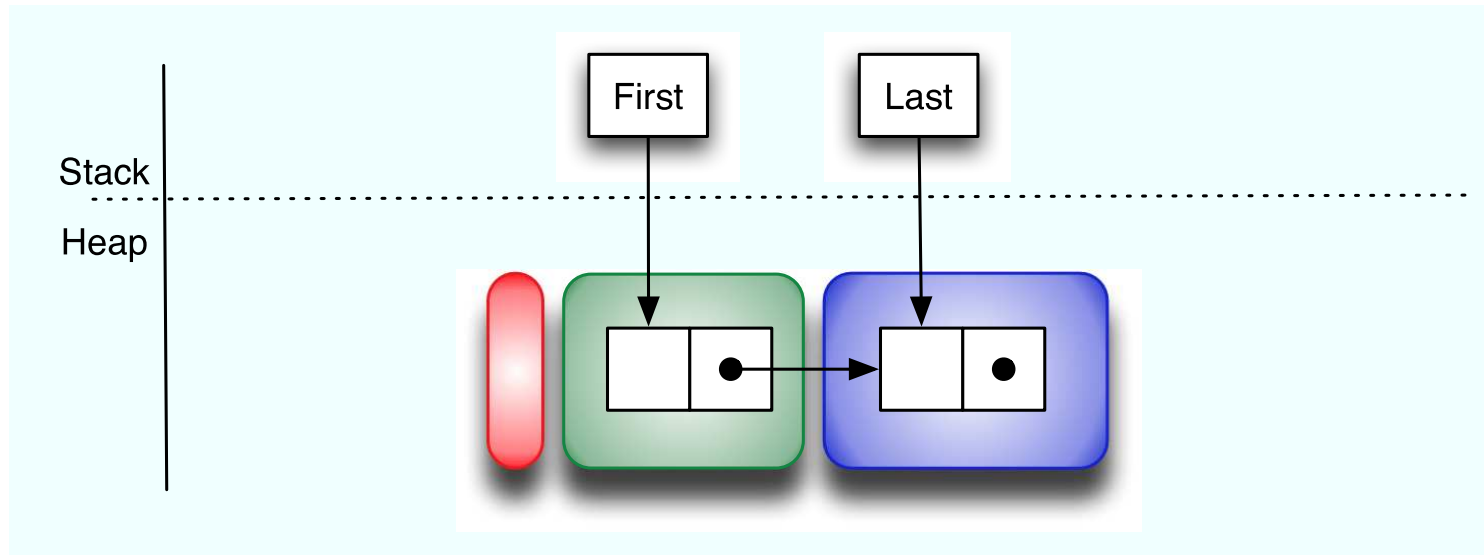
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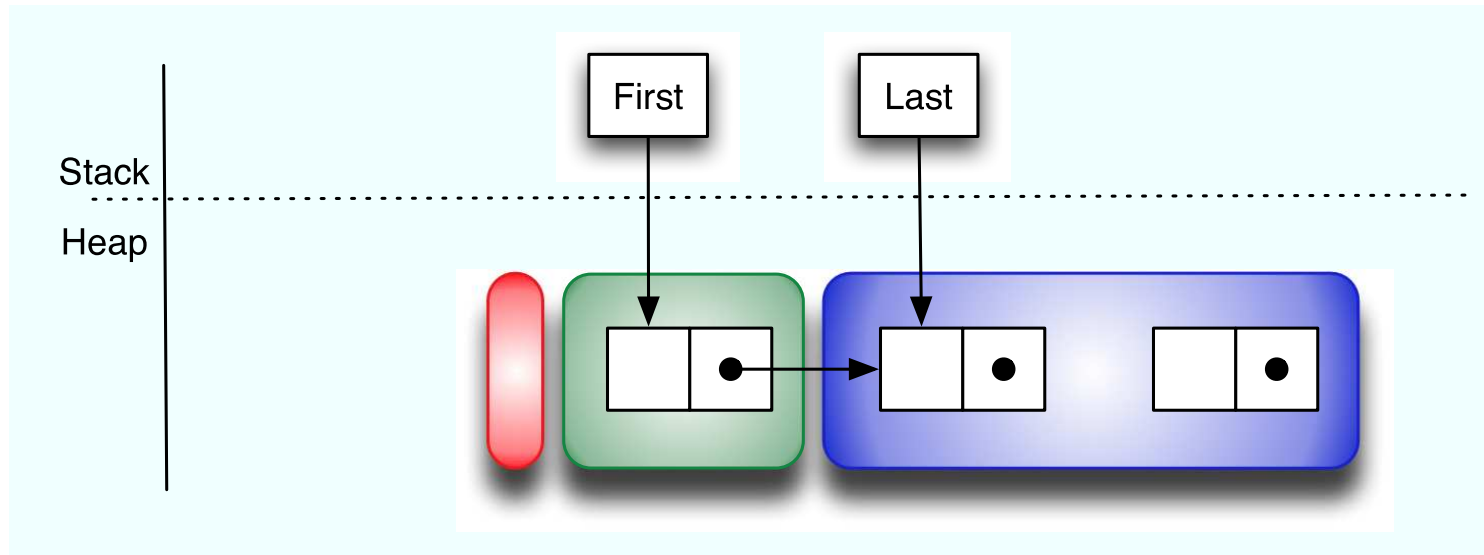
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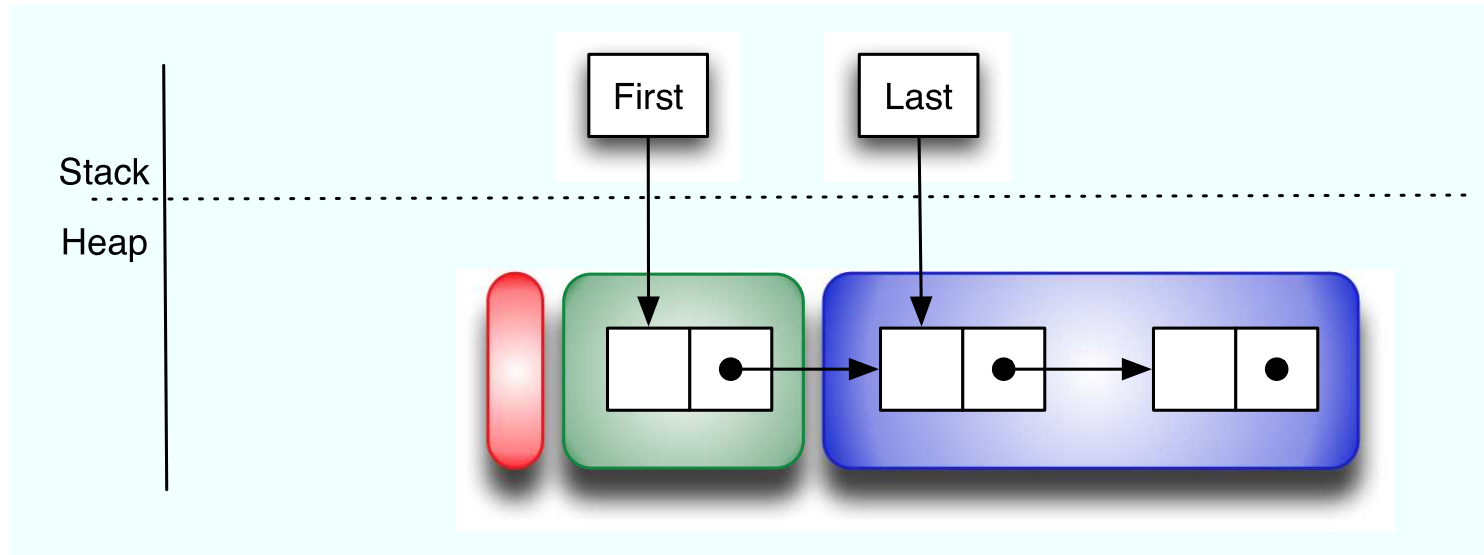
V(number);

+ Example: Queue



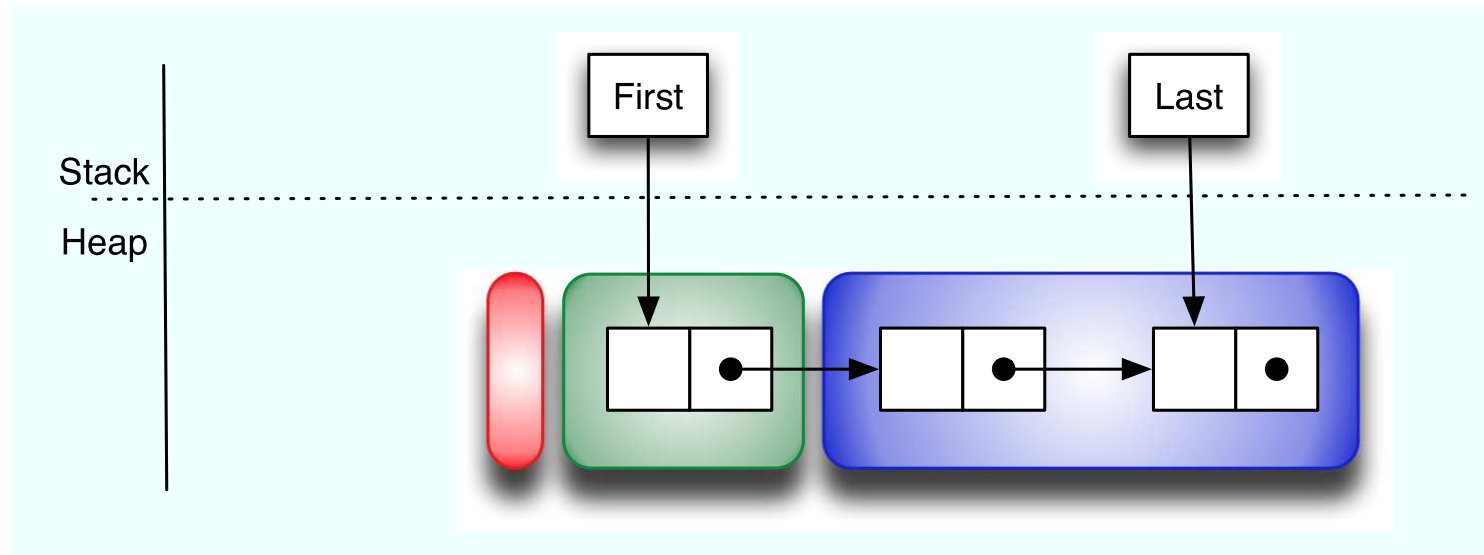
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semaphore number= 0;  
P (number);  
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||  
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V(number);
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+ Example: Queue



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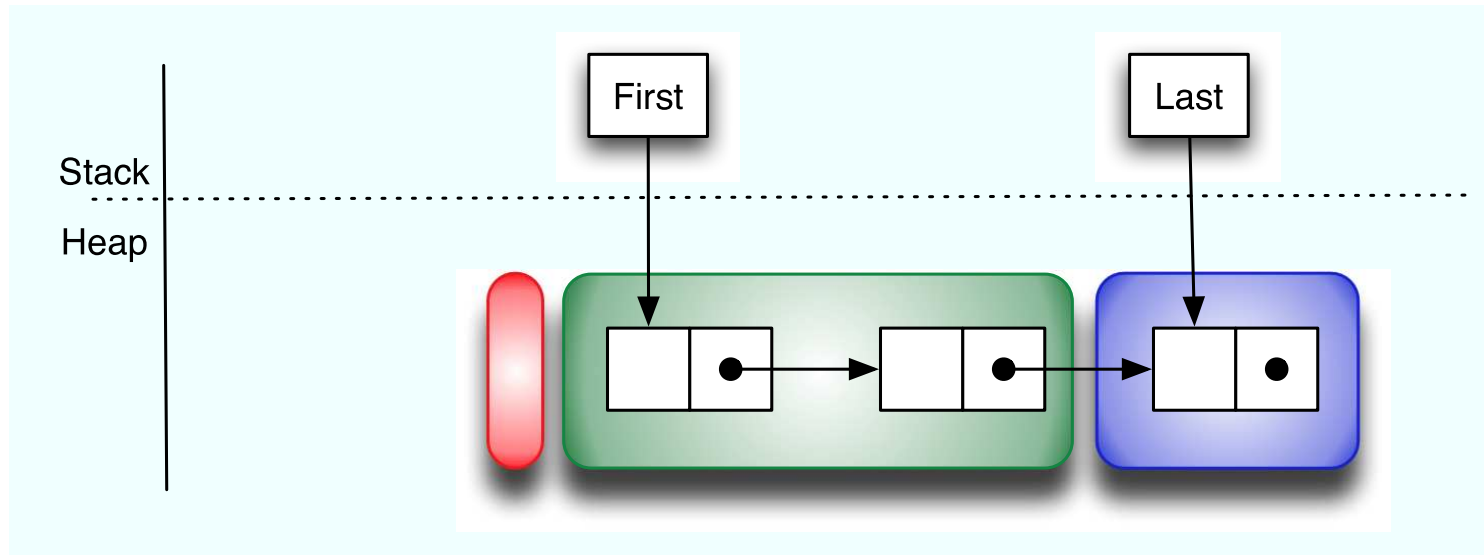
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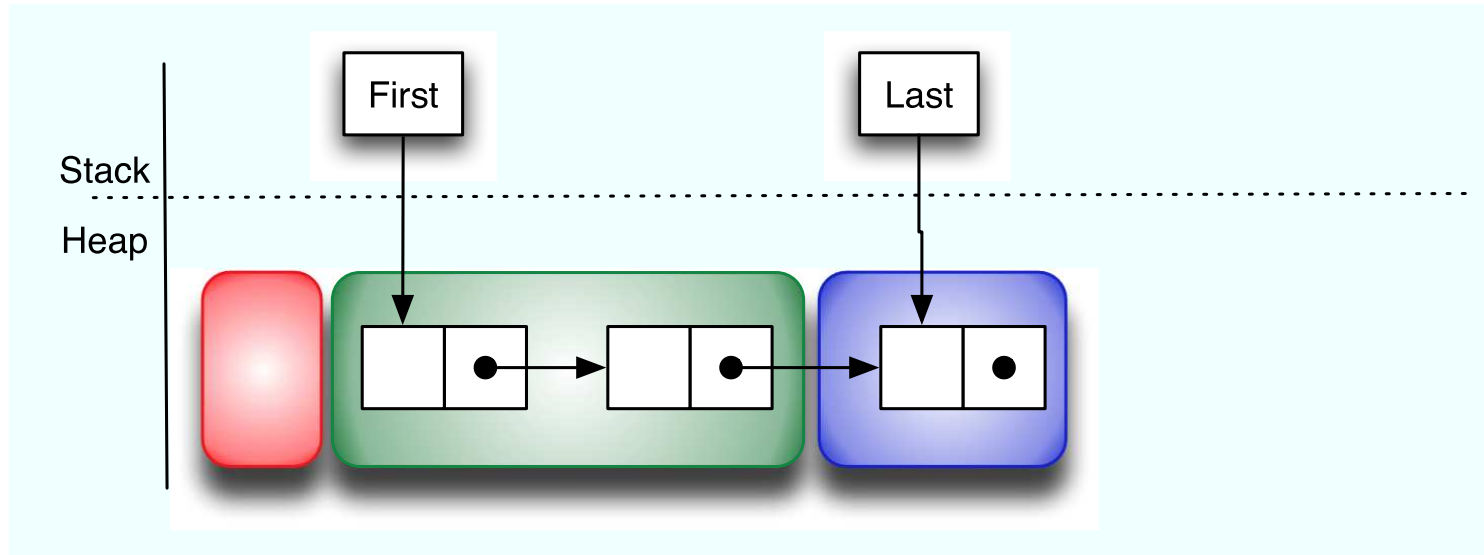
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```

+ Auxiliary variables

What is the green box?

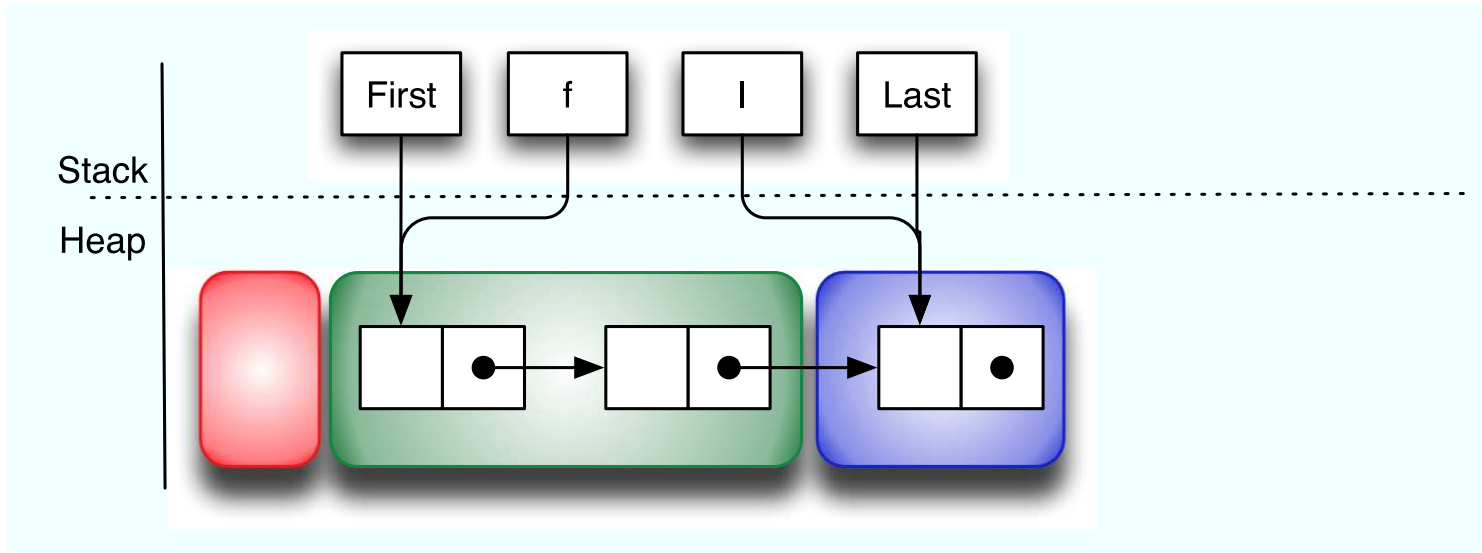


$P(n)$ = with n when $n > 0$ do $f = [first+1]$; $n--$

$V(n)$ = with n when do $l = last$; $n++$

+ Auxiliary variables

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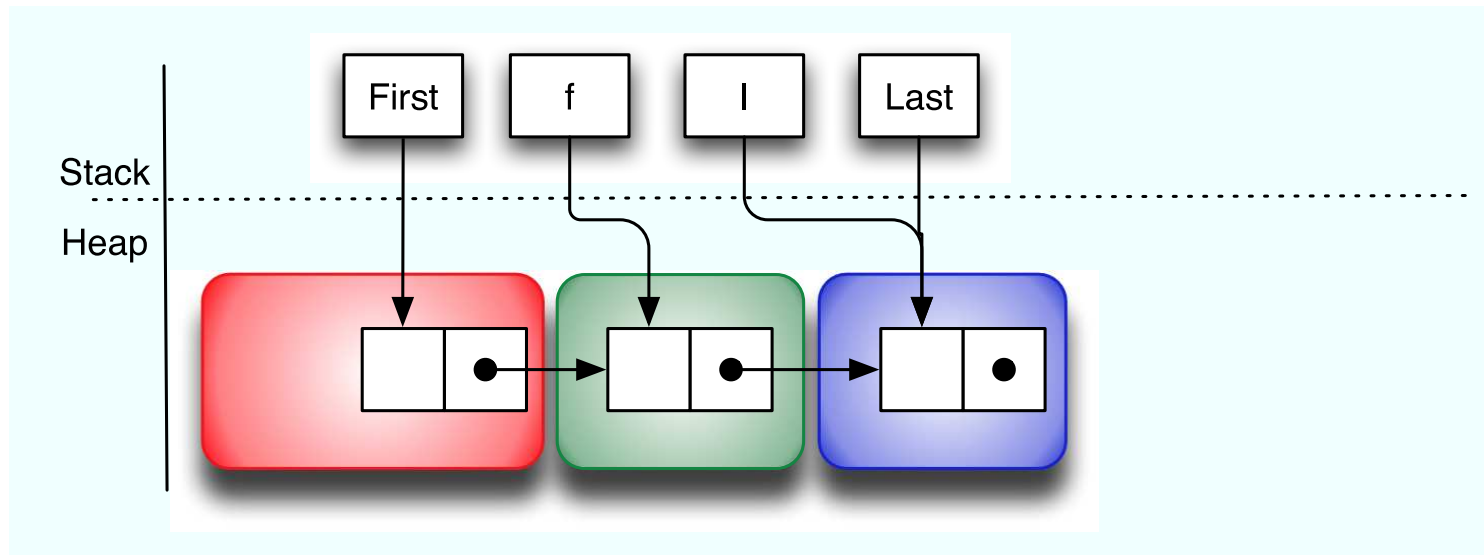


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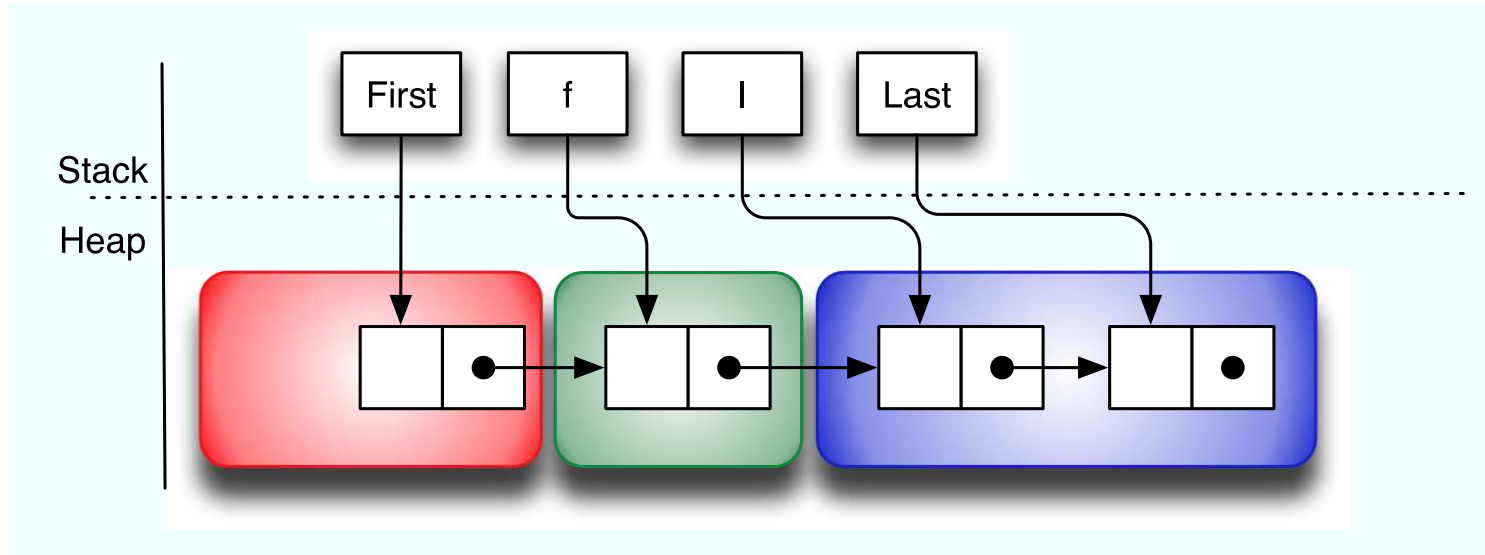


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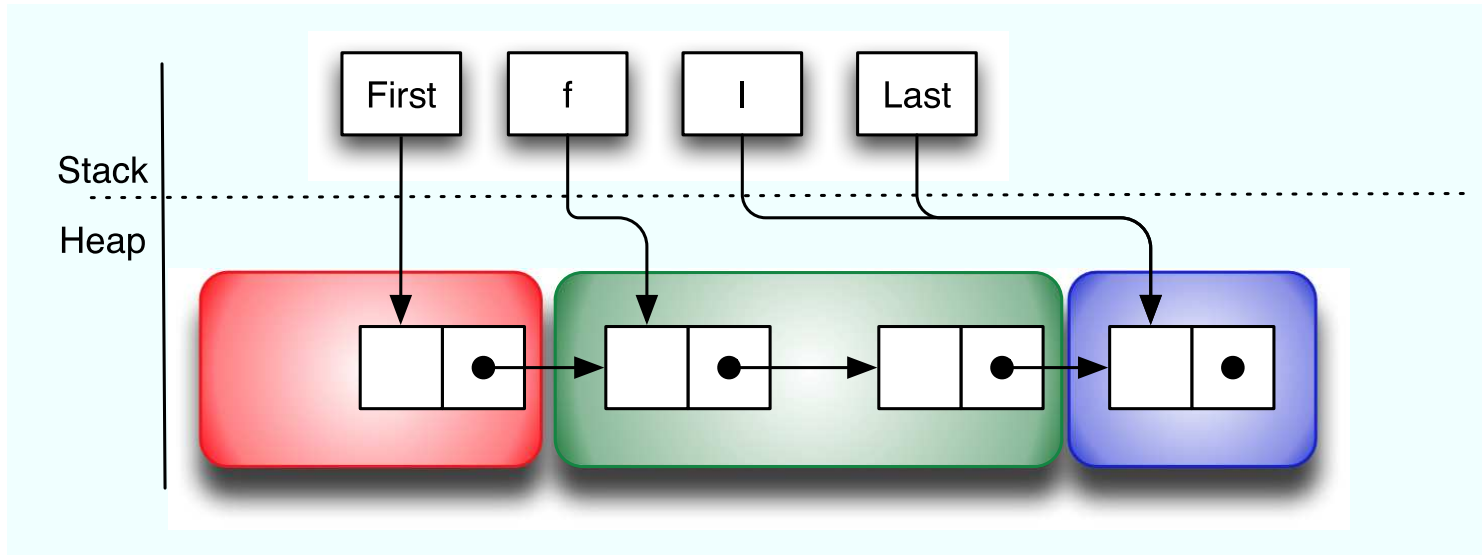


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$P(n)$ = with n when $n > 0$ do $f = [first+1]; n--$

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$\{ f = first \wedge emp \}$	$\{ l = last \wedge last \mapsto _, _ \}$
$P(\text{number});$	$x = \text{cons}(*, *)$
$\{ first \mapsto _, f \}$	$\{ l = last \wedge last \mapsto _, _ * x \mapsto _, _ \}$
$t = first$	$[last+1] = x;$
$\{ first \mapsto _, f \wedge t = first \}$	$\{ l = last \wedge last \mapsto _, x * x \mapsto _, _ \}$
$first = [first+1]$	$last = [last+1]$
$\{ t \mapsto _, f \wedge f = first \}$	$\{ l \mapsto _, last * last \mapsto _, _ \}$
$\text{dispose}(t);$	$V(\text{number});$
$\{ f = first \}$	$\{ last \mapsto _, _ \wedge l = last \}$
$\text{Invariant} = ls(f \text{ number } l)$	
$\text{where } ls \ x \ n \ z = (x = z \wedge n = 0 \wedge emp)$	
	$\vee (x \neq z \wedge n > 0 \wedge \exists y. x \mapsto _, y * ls \ y \ (n - 1) \ z)$

+ Conclusions

- Can handle modularity
 - static: single instance of hidden datastructure
 - dynamic: abstract datatypes and classes
- Can handle concurrency
 - No interference flooding

+ What's next? ————— +

- Tool support – Berdine, Calcagno, O'Hearn
- Inference – Distefano, Berdine, Cook, O'Hearn
- Code Pointers – Thielecke
- Racy Concurrency – Parkinson, Bornat
- Java – Parkinson
- Dynamic Allocation of Semaphores – ?

+ References

The references for this part of the course can all be found on:

<http://www.dcs.qmw.ac.uk/~ohearn/localreasoning.html>