

Rely-Guarantee Protocols

Filipe Militão^{1,2} Jonathan Aldrich¹ Luís Caires²

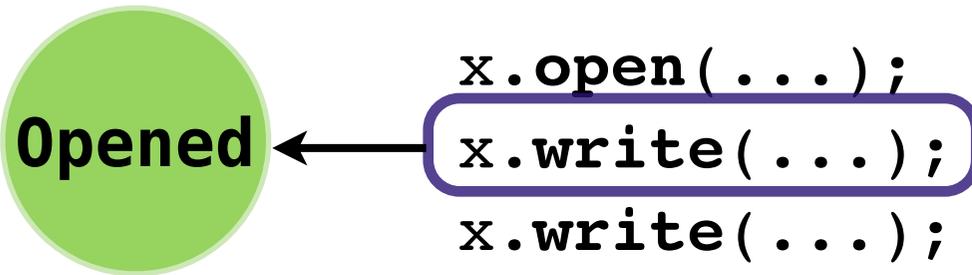
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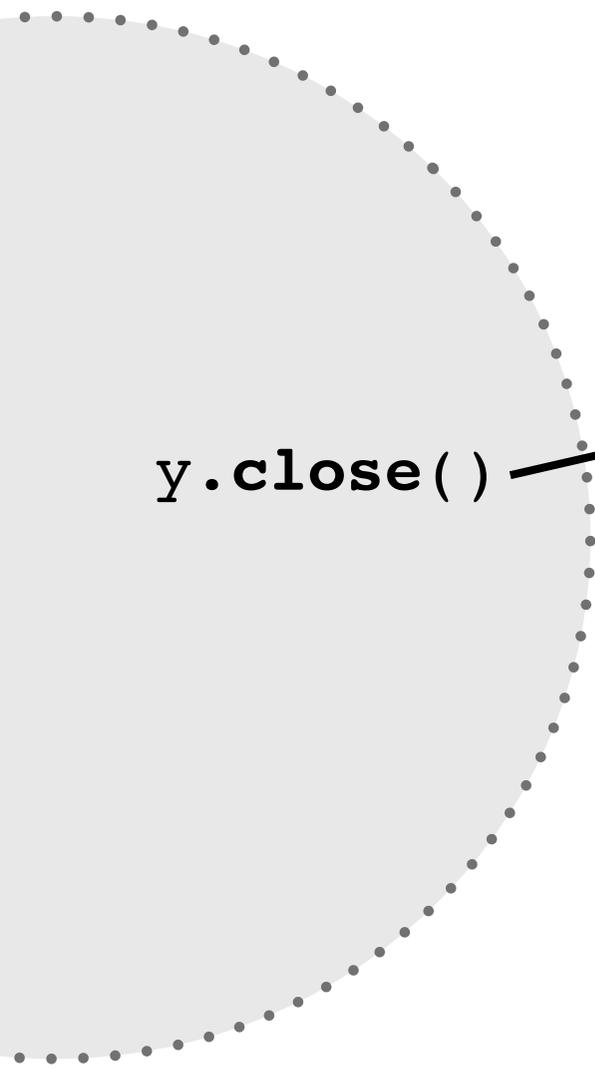
² Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

Motivation

- Mutable state can be useful in certain cases.
- Precisely tracking the properties of mutable state avoids a class of state-related errors.
- However, aliasing makes tracking such properties challenging.

```
x.open(...);  
x.write(...);  
x.write(...);
```





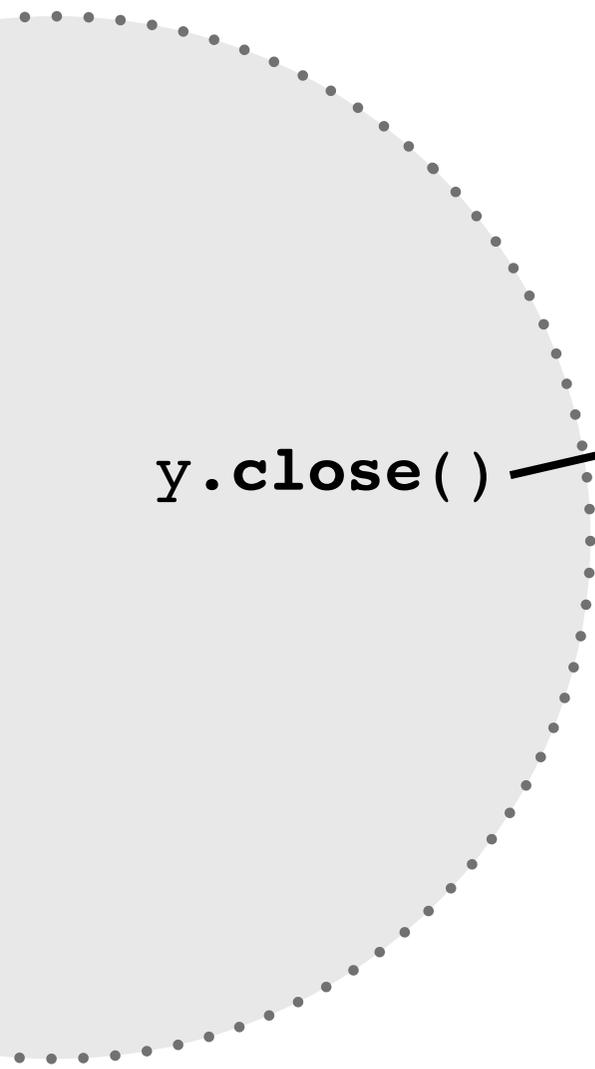
`y.close()`



Opened



```
x.open(...);  
x.write(...);  
x.write(...);
```



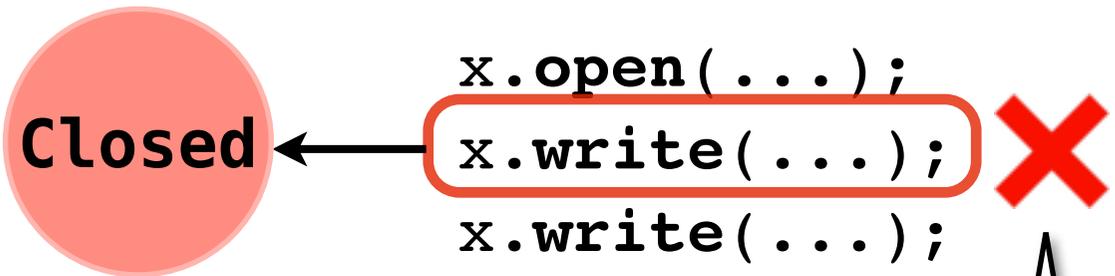
`y.close()`



Closed



```
x.open(...);  
x.write(...);  
x.write(...);
```



The assumption that `x` was pointing to an `Opened` file can be invalidated due to the **interference** caused by `y`.

Contribution

A novel *interference*-control mechanism,
Rely-Guarantee Protocols, to statically
handle interference in the use of mutable state
that is shared by aliases through statically
disconnected variables.

Language

- Polymorphic λ -calculus with mutable references (and immutable records, tagged sums, ...).
- Technically, we use a variant of **L³** adapted for usability and extended with new constructs, and our sharing mechanism.

[Ahmed, Fluet, and Morrisett. **L³: A linear language with locations**. Fundam. Inform. 2007.]

State as a Linear Resource

ref A

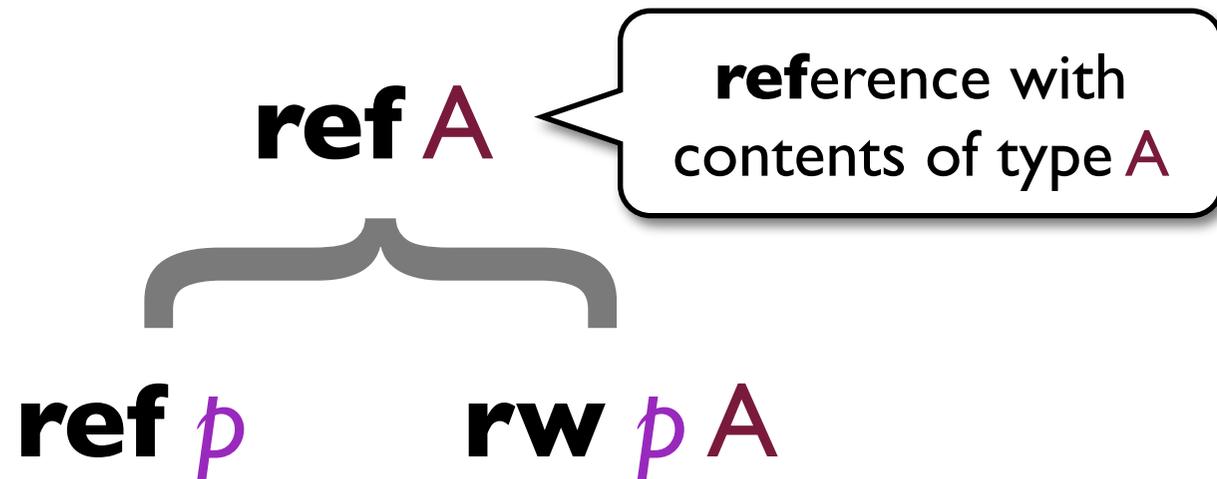
State as a Linear Resource

ref *A*



reference with
contents of type *A*

State as a Linear Resource



State as a Linear Resource

ref A

reference with
contents of type A



ref p

rw $p A$

duplicable
reference to
location p

State as a Linear Resource

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reference with contents of type A

duplicable reference to location p

ref p
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rw p A

State as a Linear Resource

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linear (“unique”) read+write **capability** of location p with contents of type A

State as a Linear Resource

ref A

reference with contents of type A

duplicable reference to location p

ref p
ref p
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ref p
ref p

rw p A

linear (“unique”) read+write **capability** of location p with contents of type A

p links ref to capability

```
x : ref p            rw p string
```

```
let y = x in
```

```
  x := 1;
```

```
  delete y;
```

```
  x := false
```

```
end
```

```
let y = x in
```

```
y : ref p    x : ref p    rw p string
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```
  x := 1;
```

```
  delete y;
```

```
  x := false
```

```
end
```

```
let y = x in  
  x := 1;
```

y : ref **p** **x** : ref **p** rw **p** int

```
  delete y;  
  x := false  
end
```

```
let y = x in  
  x := 1;  
  delete y;
```

y : ref **p** **x** : ref **p**

```
  x := false  
end
```

```
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y : ref **p** **x** : ref **p**

```
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```

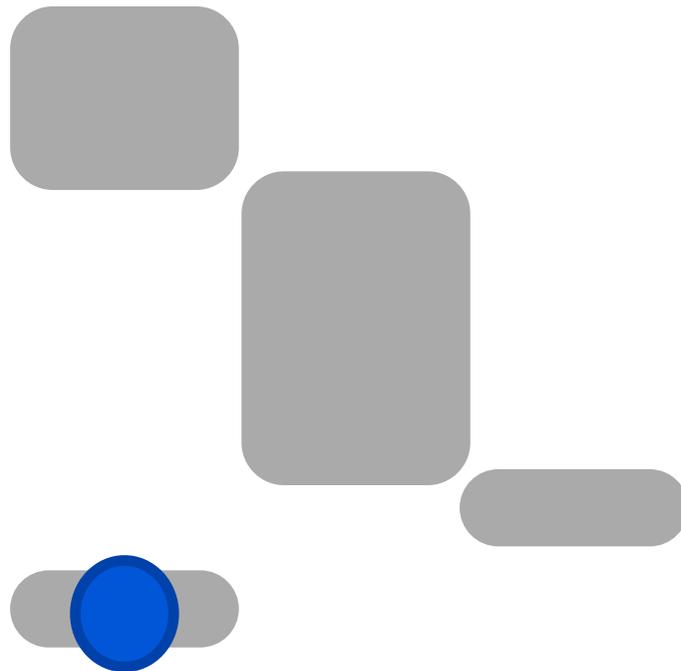
Type Error: Missing capability to location **p**.

Why sharing?

Capabilities are *linear* (a.k.a. “unique”)!

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Sharing

A capability is split into **rely-guarantee protocols** to safely coordinate access to the shared state.



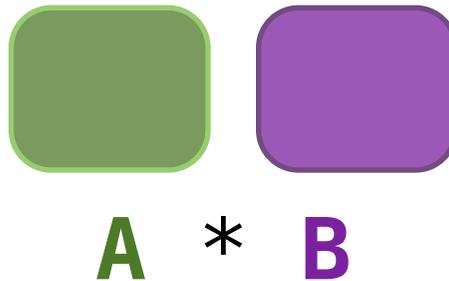
Sharing

A capability is split into **rely-guarantee protocols** to safely coordinate access to the shared state.



Disjoint

- Linearity ensured disjointness.

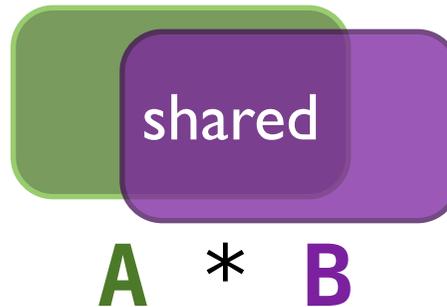


- Sharing causes *fictional* disjointness.

[Dinsdale-Young, *et al.* **Concurrent Abstract Predicates.**
(ECOOP'10), and other works].

Fictionally Disjoint

- Linearity ensured disjointness.



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Problems of Sharing

1. Account for **interference** (*public* changes).

Consider all possible interleaved uses of aliases and how they may change the shared state.

2. Handle **private** changes.

Making sure other aliases do not see any intermediate or inconsistent states of the shared state (which may appear due to type changing assignments like **int** to **string**, etc.).

Alias Interleaving

```
x := 1;  
doSomething();  
!x // what do we get?
```

Alias Interleaving

```
fun().1
```

```
fun().x := false
```

```
fun().delete x
```

```
x := 1;
```

```
doSomething();
```

```
!x // what do we get?
```

doSomething interleave zero or more aliases to the same state as referenced by **x**.

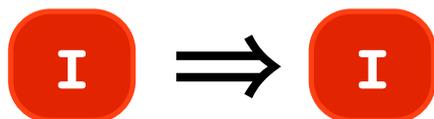
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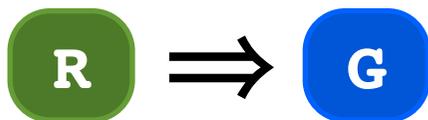
If **doSomething** did change the same state as aliased by **x** (i.e. interfered), what change occurred?

Handling Interference

- One solution is to ensure that each alias obeys an initially held invariant, *invariant-based sharing*.



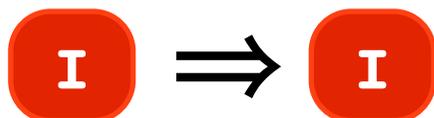
- Instead, we adapt the *spirit* of rely-guarantee reasoning to a state-centric model by generalizing the specification of shared state interactions.



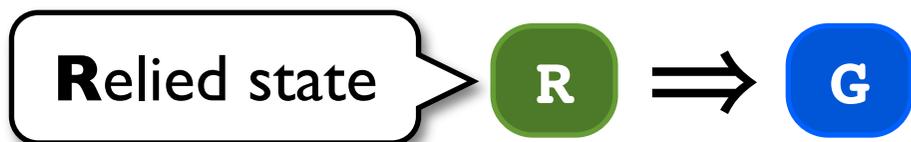
By individually constraining the actions of each alias, we can make stronger (as in more precise) assumptions how interference may change the shared state.

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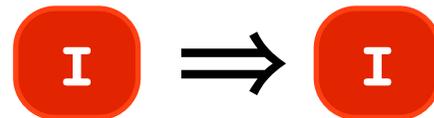
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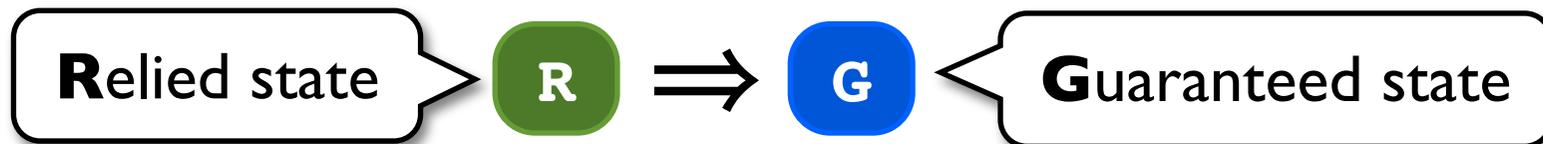
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Modeling Interference

A *Rely-Guarantee Protocol* models the shared state interaction from the alias' own view/perspective:

- The alias' actions are constrained to fit within what the protocol specifies/allows.
- Interference is observed through new state(s) that *may* appear when inspecting the shared state. Thus, the protocol may specify actions over states that can only be produced by other aliases.

Rely-Guarantee Protocols

- An *interference*-control mechanism.
- I will focus on presenting the following:
 1. Protocol Specification (“public changes”)
 2. Protocol Use (“private changes”)
 3. Protocol Conformance (“alias interleaving”)

(see the paper for more technical details)

Types

$A ::= !A$ (pure/persistent)	$\mathbf{ref} \ p$ (reference type)
$A \multimap A$ (linear function)	$\mathbf{rec} \ X.A$ (recursive type)
$A :: A$ (stacking)	$\sum_i \mathbf{1}_i \# A_i$ (tagged sum)
$A * A$ (separation)	$A \oplus A$ (alternative)
$\overline{[f : A]}$ (record)	$A \& A$ (intersection)
X (type variable)	$\mathbf{rw} \ p \ A$ (read-write capability to p)
$\forall X.A$ (universal type quantification)	\mathbf{none} (empty capability)
$\exists X.A$ (existential type quantification)	$A \Rightarrow A$ (rely)
$\forall t.A$ (universal location quantification)	$A ; A$ (guarantee)
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I. Protocol Specification

$$P ::= \mathbf{rec} X.P \mid X \mid P \oplus P \mid P \& P \\ \mid A \Rightarrow P \mid A; P \mid \mathbf{none}$$

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The shared state satisfies **A**, and requires the alias to obey the guarantee **P**.

I. Protocol Specification

$$P ::= \mathbf{rec} X.P \mid X \mid P \oplus P \mid P \& P \\ \mid A \Rightarrow P \mid \boxed{A; P} \mid \mathbf{none}$$

Requires the client to establish (guarantee) that the shared state satisfies **A** before continuing the use of the protocol as **P**.

I. Protocol Specification

$$P ::= \mathbf{rec} X.P \mid X \mid P \oplus P \mid P \& P \\ \mid A \Rightarrow P \mid A; P \mid \mathbf{none}$$

Shared Pipe

Shared by two aliases interacting via a common buffer, here modeled as a *singly linked list*.

1. The **Producer** alias may **put** new elements in or **close** the pipe.
2. The **Consumer** alias may only **tryTake** elements from the buffer.

The result of **tryTake** is one of the following states: either there was some **Result**, or **NoResult**, or the pipe is fully **Depleted**.

Pipe

Producer

Consumer

Producer

Producer Protocol

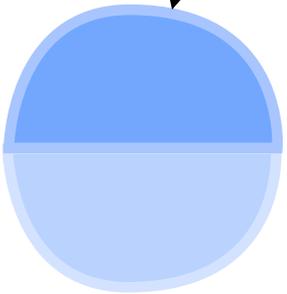
Shared Buffer

Consumer Protocol

Consumer

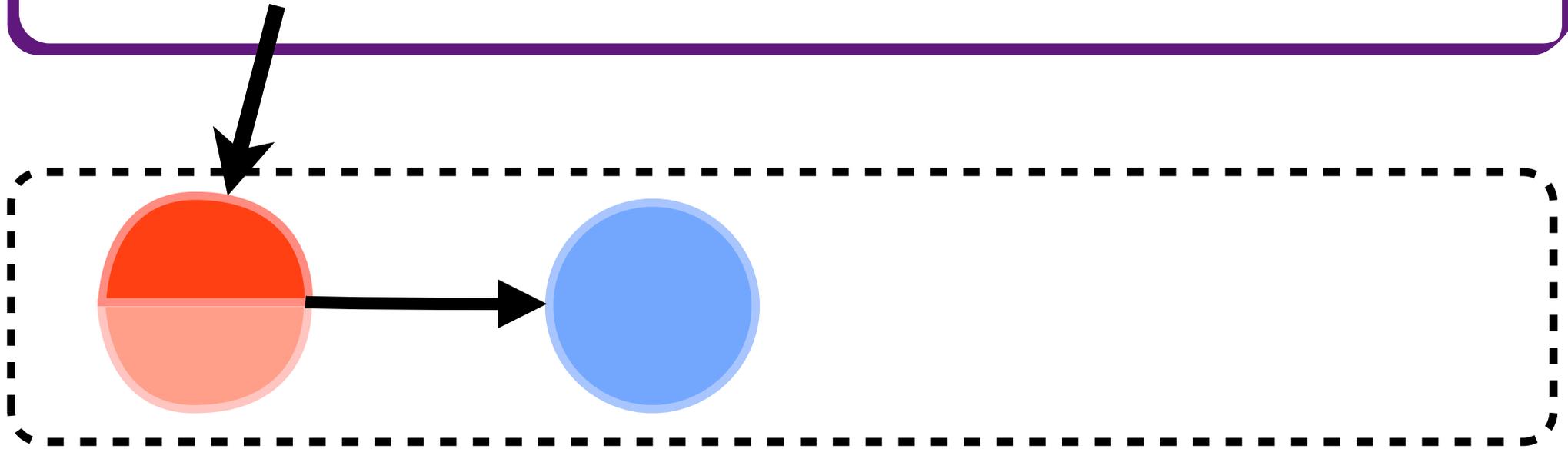
Producer

`tail : Empty ⇒ (Filled ⊕ Closed) ; none`



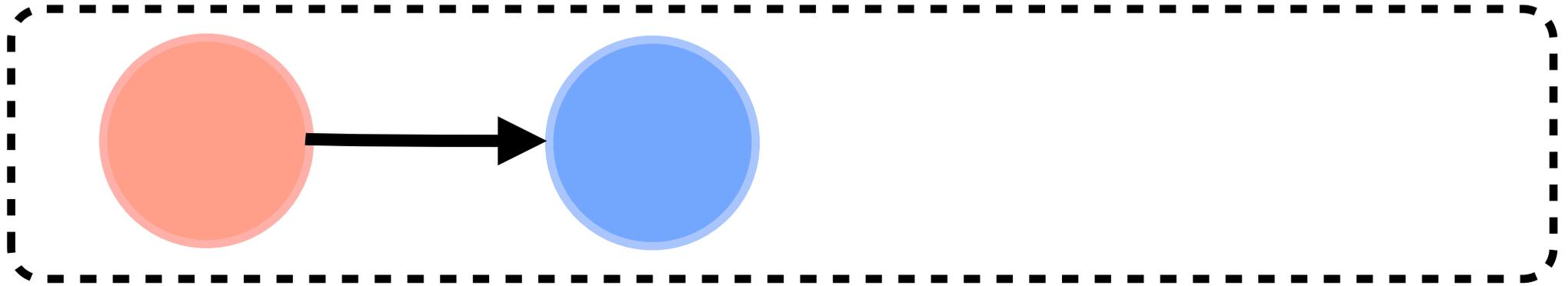
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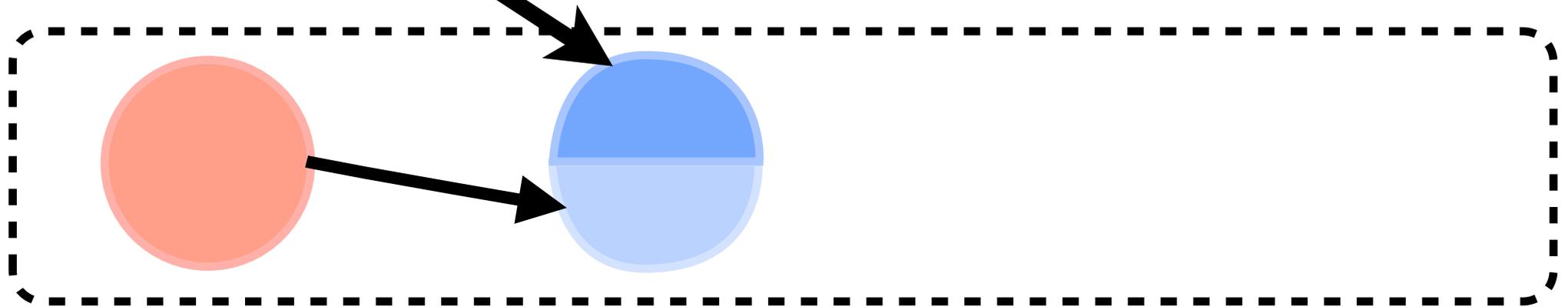
Producer

`tail : none`



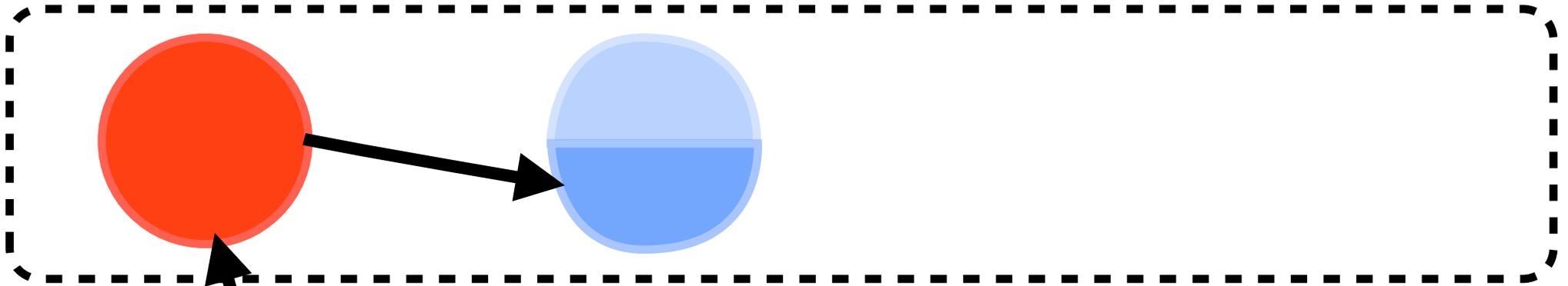
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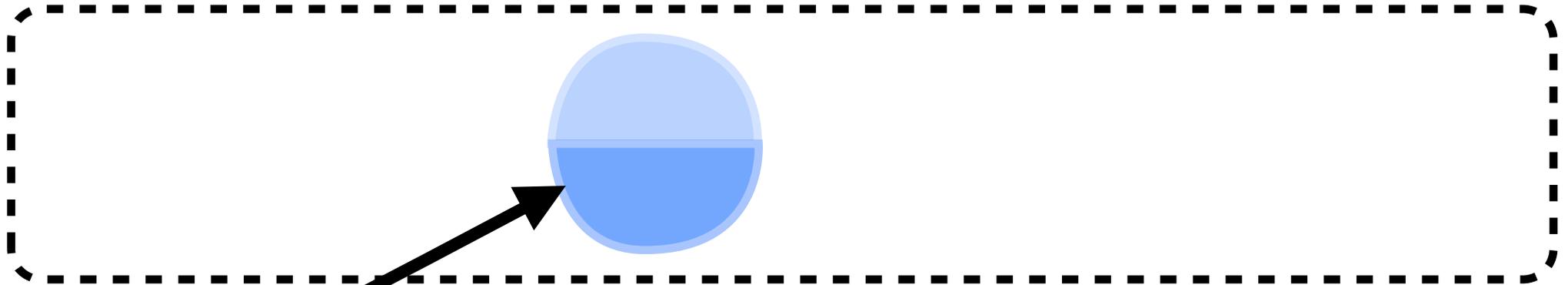


`head : rec X.((Empty ⇒ Empty ; X)
⊕ (Filled ⇒ none ; none)
⊕ (Closed ⇒ none ; none))`

Consumer

Producer

`tail : Empty ⇒ (Filled ⊕ Closed) ; none`

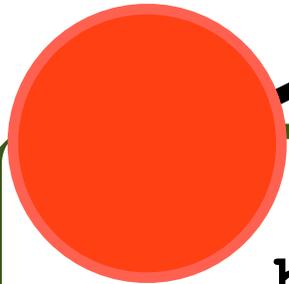
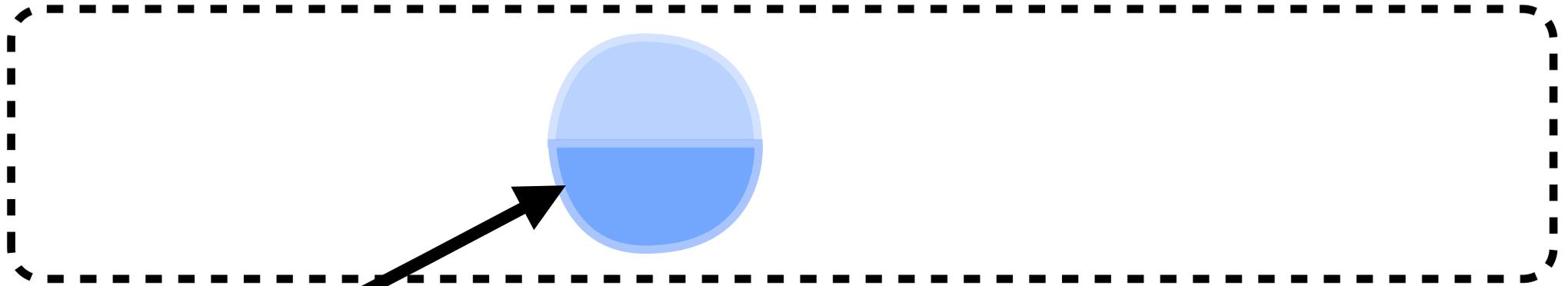


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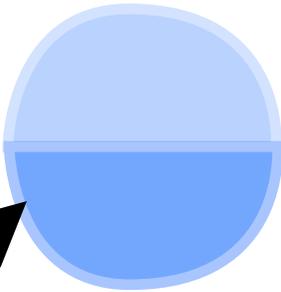


`head : none`

Consumer

Producer

`tail : Empty ⇒ (Filled ⊕ Closed) ; none`



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Consumer

Producer Protocol:

`tail : Empty ⇒ (Filled ⊕ Closed) ; none`

Consumer Protocol:

`head : rec X.((Empty ⇒ Empty ; X)
⊕ (Filled ⇒ none ; none)
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Producer Protocol:

$$\begin{aligned} T[t] = & \text{rw } t \text{ Empty}\#[] \Rightarrow \\ & ((\text{rw } t \text{ Node}\#[...]) \oplus (\text{rw } t \text{ Closed}\#[])) ; \\ & \text{none} \end{aligned}$$

Consumer Protocol:

$$\begin{aligned} H[t] = & \text{rec } X. (\\ & (\text{rw } t \text{ Empty}\#[] \Rightarrow \text{rw } t \text{ Empty}\#[] ; X) \\ & \oplus (\text{rw } t \text{ Node}\#[...] \Rightarrow \text{none} ; \text{none}) \\ & \oplus (\text{rw } t \text{ Closed}\#[] \Rightarrow \text{none} ; \text{none})) \end{aligned}$$

Pipe Typestate

```
∃P.∃C.( ![  
    put : !( ( !int :: P ) -o ( ![ ] :: P ) ) ,  
    close : !( ( ![ ] :: P ) -o ![ ] ) ,  
    tryTake : !( ( ![ ] :: C ) -o Depleted#![ ] +  
        NoResult#( ![ ] :: C ) + Result#( !int :: C ) )  
] :: ( C * P ) )
```

Pipe Typestate

$\exists P. \exists C. (! [$

put : ! ((!int :: P) \multimap (![] :: P)) ,

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rw c $\exists p. (\text{ref } p :: H[p])$

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Consider all possible interleaved uses of aliases and how they may change the shared state.

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Syntax

$v ::= \rho$	(address)	$v.f$	(field)
x	(variable)	$v v$	(application)
$\text{fun}(x : A).e$	(function)	$\text{let } x = e \text{ in } e \text{ end}$	(let)
$\langle t \rangle e$	(location abstraction)	$\text{open } \langle t, x \rangle = v \text{ in } e \text{ end}$	(open location)
$\langle X \rangle e$	(type abstraction)	$\text{open } \langle X, x \rangle = v \text{ in } e \text{ end}$	(open type)
$\langle p, v \rangle$	(pack location)	$\text{new } v$	(cell creation)
$\langle A, v \rangle$	(pack type)	$\text{delete } v$	(cell deletion)
$\overline{\{f = v\}}$	(record)	$!v$	(dereference)
$l\#v$	(tagged value)	$v := v$	(assign)
		$\text{case } v \text{ of } \overline{l\#x} \rightarrow e \text{ end}$	(case)
$e ::= v$	(value)	$\text{share } A_0 \text{ as } A_1 \parallel A_2$	(share)
$v[p]$	(location application)	$\text{focus } \overline{A}$	(focus)
$v[A]$	(type application)	defocus	(defocus)

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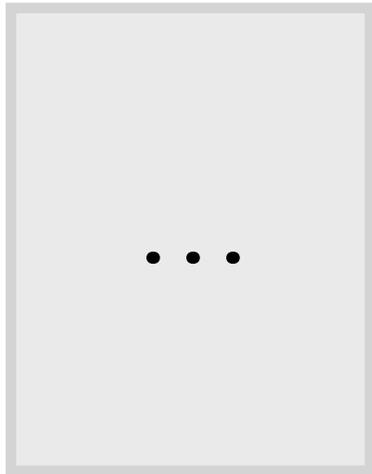
	$v.l$	(field)
e)	$v\ v$	(application)
n)	$\text{let } x = e \text{ in } e \text{ end}$	(let)
n abstraction)	$\text{open } \langle t, x \rangle = v \text{ in } e \text{ end}$	(open location)
straction)	$\text{open } \langle X, x \rangle = v \text{ in } e \text{ end}$	(open type)
ication)	$\text{new } v$	(cell creation)
pe)	$\text{delete } v$	(cell deletion)
	$!v$	(dereferencing)
value)	$v := v$	(assign)
	$\text{case } v \text{ of } \overline{l\#x} \rightarrow e \text{ end}$	(case)
	share A_0 as $A_1 \parallel A_2$	(share)
n application)	focus \overline{A}	(focus)
plication)	defocus	(defocus)

2. Protocol Use

- Protocols are used through **focus** and **defocus** constructs.
- They serve two purposes:
 - a) **Hide *private* changes** from the other aliases of that shared state.
 - b) **Advance the step** of the protocol, by obeying the constraints on *public* changes.

Focus / Defocus

focus **Empty**

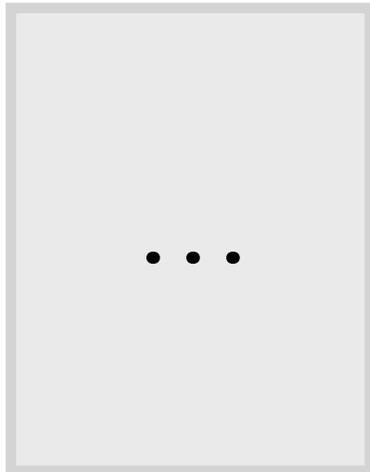


defocus

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow **Filled** ; **Next**

focus **Empty**



defocus

Focus / Defocus

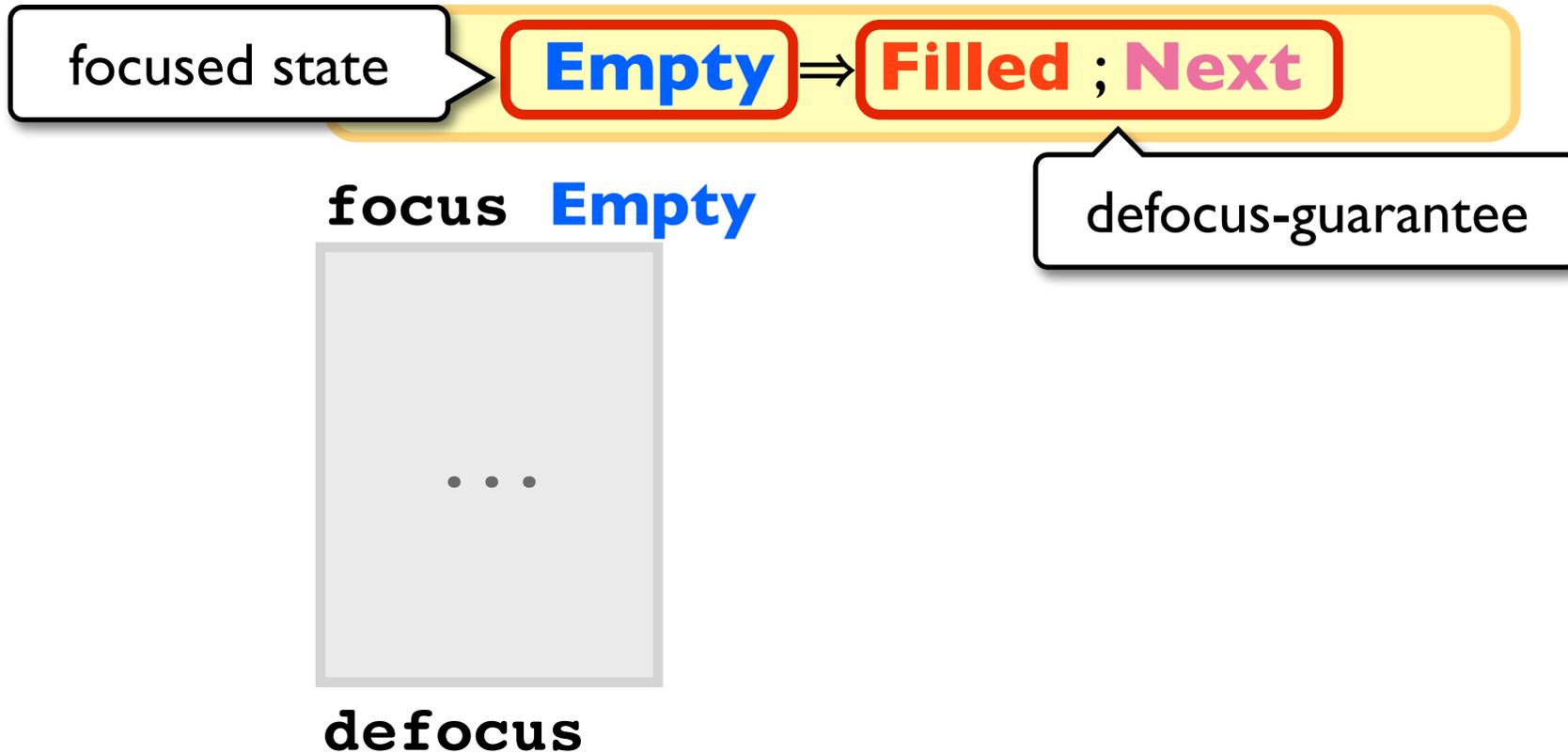
Empty ⇒ **Filled ; Next**

focus **Empty**

...

defocus

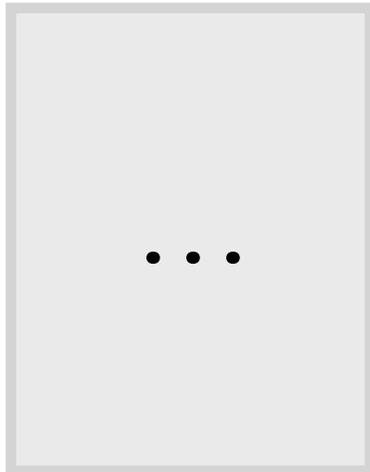
Focus / Defocus



Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow Filled ; Next

focus **Empty**



defocus

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow **Filled** ; **Next**

focus **Empty**

Empty , **Filled** ; **Next**

...

defocus

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow **Filled** ; **Next**

focus **Empty**

Empty , **Filled** ; **Next**

PartiallyFilled , **Filled** ; **Next**

defocus

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow **Filled** ; **Next**

focus **Empty**

Empty , **Filled** ; **Next**

...

Filled , **Filled** ; **Next**

defocus

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow Filled ; Next

focus Empty

Empty , Filled ; Next

...

Filled , Filled ; Next

defocus

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow Filled ; Next

focus Empty

Empty , Filled ; Next

...

Filled , Filled ; Next

defocus

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow **Filled** ; **Next**

focus **Empty**

Empty , **Filled** ; **Next**

...

Filled , **Filled** ; **Next**

defocus

Next

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow **Filled** ; **Next** , Δ

focus **Empty**

Empty , **Filled** ; **Next** \triangleright Δ

...

Filled , **Filled** ; **Next** \triangleright Δ

defocus

Next , Δ

private
changes

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow Filled ; Next , Δ

focus Empty

Empty, Filled ; Next \triangleright Δ

...

Filled, Filled ; Next \triangleright Δ

defocus

Next , Δ

private changes

Focus / Defocus

Empty \Rightarrow Filled ; Next , Δ

focus Empty

Empty, Filled ; Next $\triangleright \Delta$

...

hides any state that may allow reentrant accesses to focused state

Filled, Filled ; Next $\triangleright \Delta$

defocus

Next , Δ

private changes

Problems of Sharing

1. Account for **interference** (*public* changes).

Consider all possible interleaved uses of aliases and how they may change the shared state.

2. Handle **private** changes.

Making sure other aliases do not see any intermediate or inconsistent states of the shared state (which may appear due to type changing assignments like **int** to **string**, etc.).

3. Protocol Conformance

- Protocols are introduced explicitly, in pairs, through the **share** construct:

share A as B || C

“type **A** (either a capability or an existing protocol) can be safely *split* in types **B** and **C** (two protocols)”

- Arbitrary aliasing is possible by continuing to split an existing protocol.

Checking share

- We must check that a protocol is aware of all possible states that may appear due to the “interleaving” of other aliases of that shared state.
- Checking a split is built from two components:
 - a) a *stepping relation*, that “simulates” a single use of **focus-defocus** (i.e. a step of the protocol).
 - b) a *protocol conformance definition* that ensures the protocol considers all possible alias interleaving.

Protocol Conformance Example

share **E** as

rec X. (**E** \Rightarrow **E**; **X** \oplus **N** \Rightarrow **none** \oplus **C** \Rightarrow **none**)

|| E \Rightarrow (**N** \oplus **C**)

Protocol Conformance Example

share **E** as

Consumer

```
rec X. ( E ⇒ E; X ⊕ N ⇒ none ⊕ C ⇒ none )
```

```
|| E ⇒ ( N ⊕ C )
```

Producer

Initial state.

E

C

P

C

P

C

P

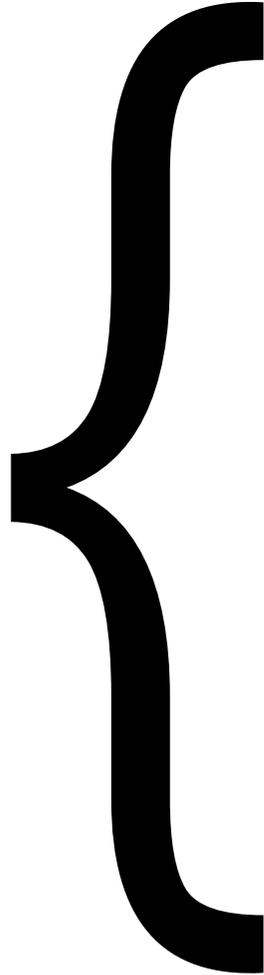
C

P

C

P

possible
interleaving



Initial state.

E

C

P

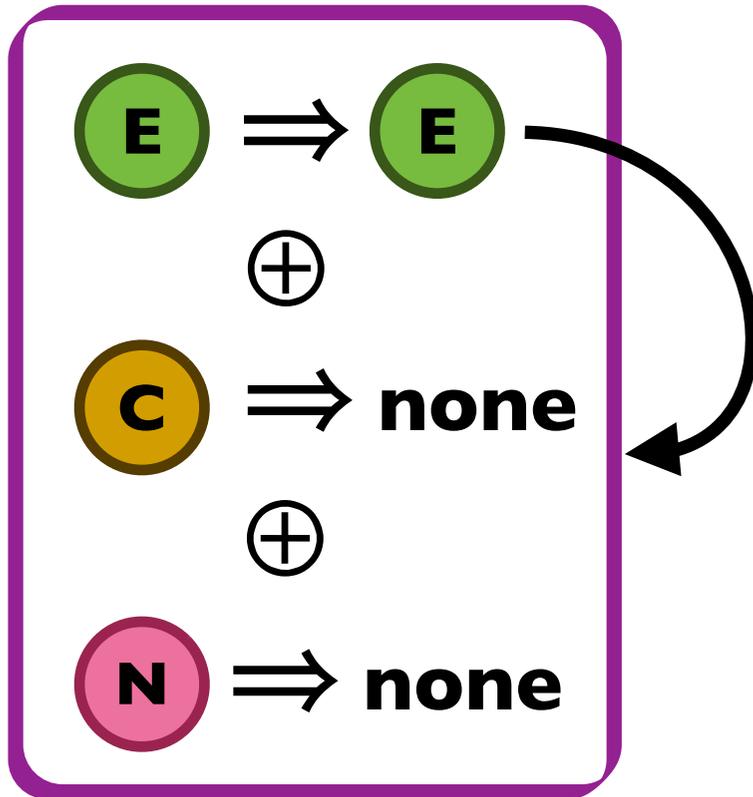
possible
interleaving

However, our protocols can only list a **finite number of distinct states**, and each protocol lists a **finite number of distinct protocol steps**.

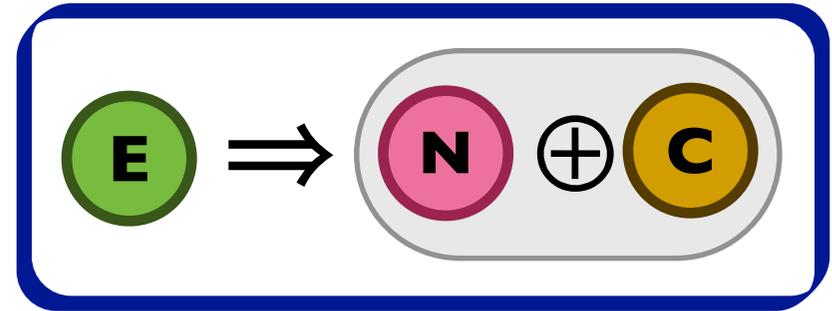
This will ensure that there is finite number of distinct *configurations*, each representing one possible alias interleaving in the use of the state that is being shared by the protocols.

State: 

Consumer



Producer

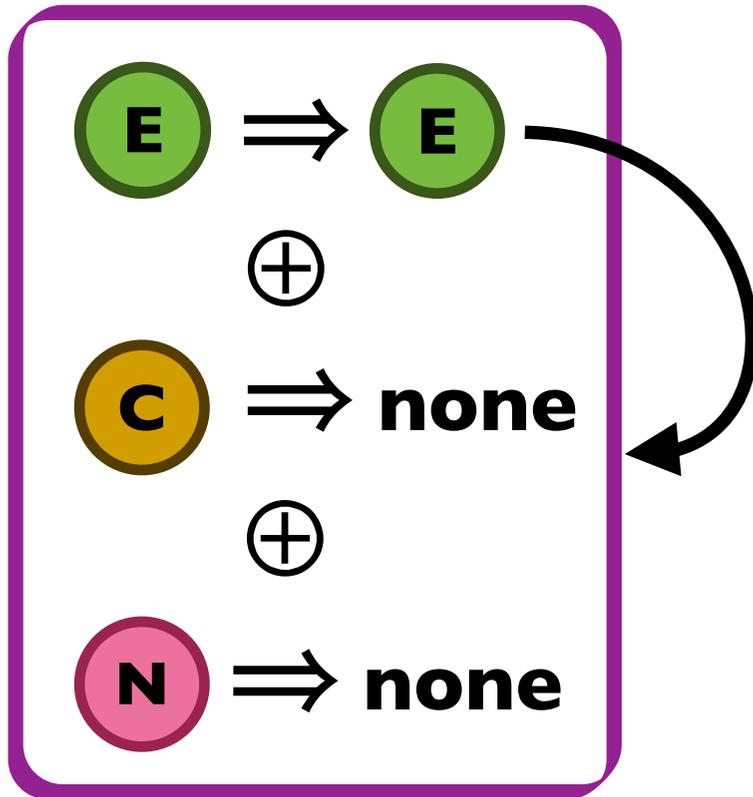


Configurations:

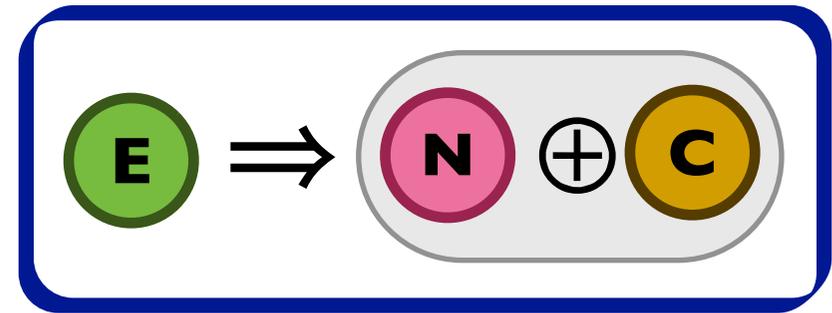
$\langle E \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel E \Rightarrow (N \oplus C) \rangle$
 $\langle N \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel \text{none} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State:

Consumer



Producer

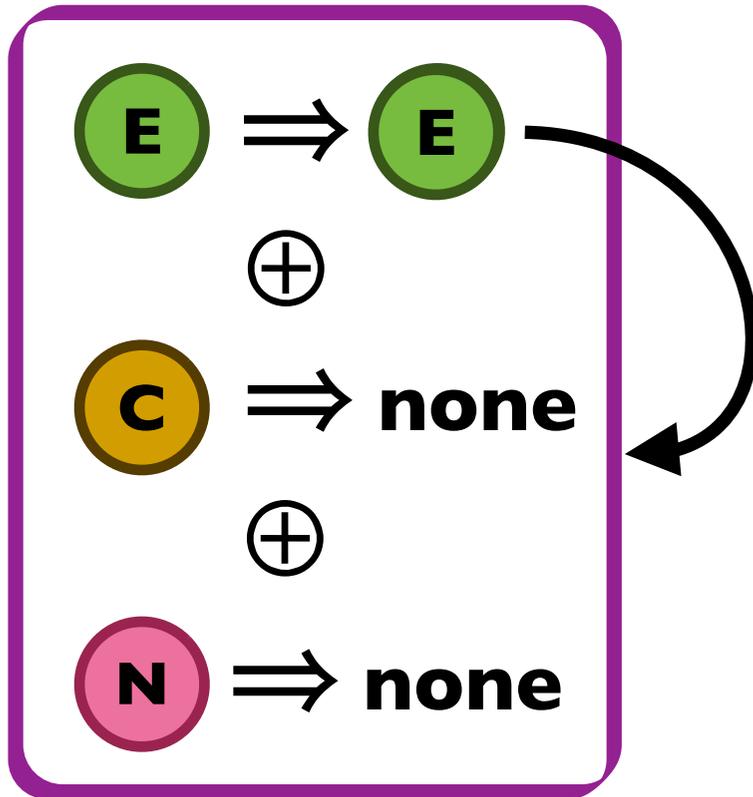


Configurations:

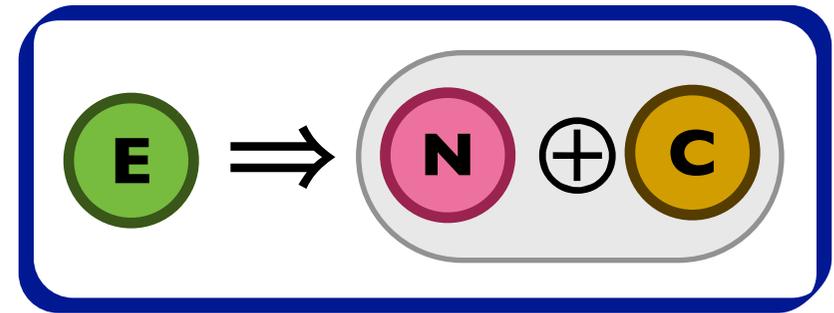
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 $\langle N \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel \text{none} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State:

Consumer



Producer

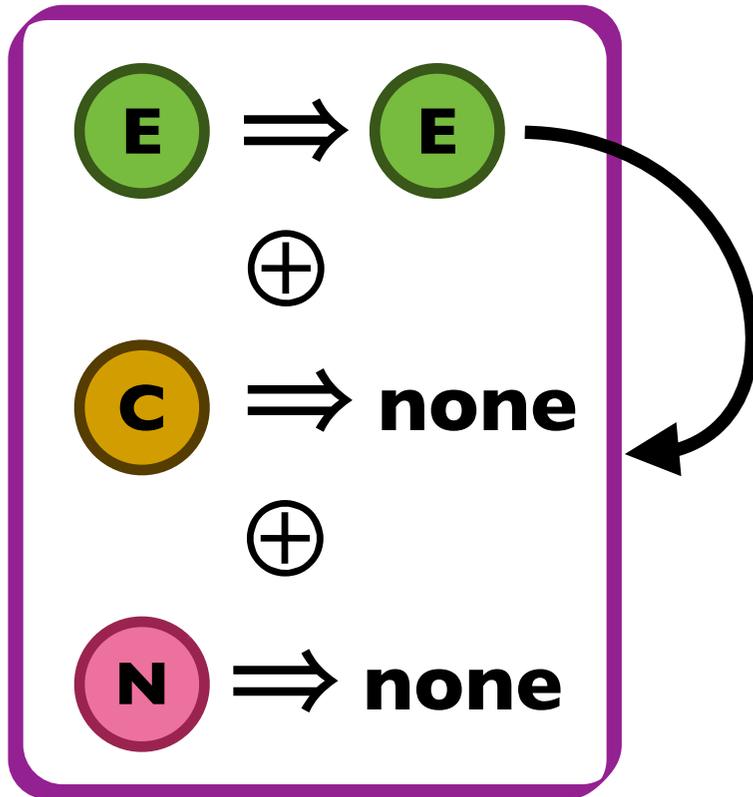


Configurations:

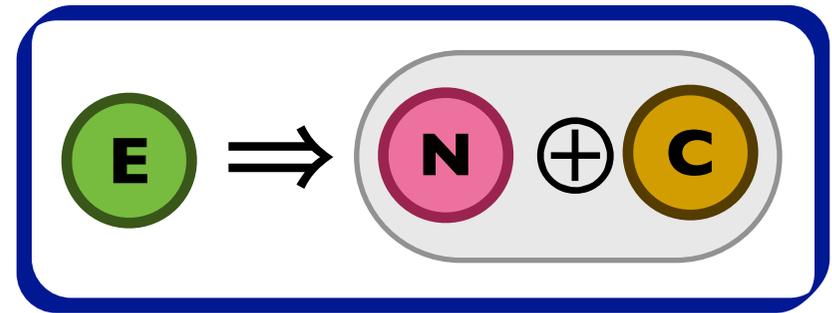
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 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State: 

Consumer



Producer

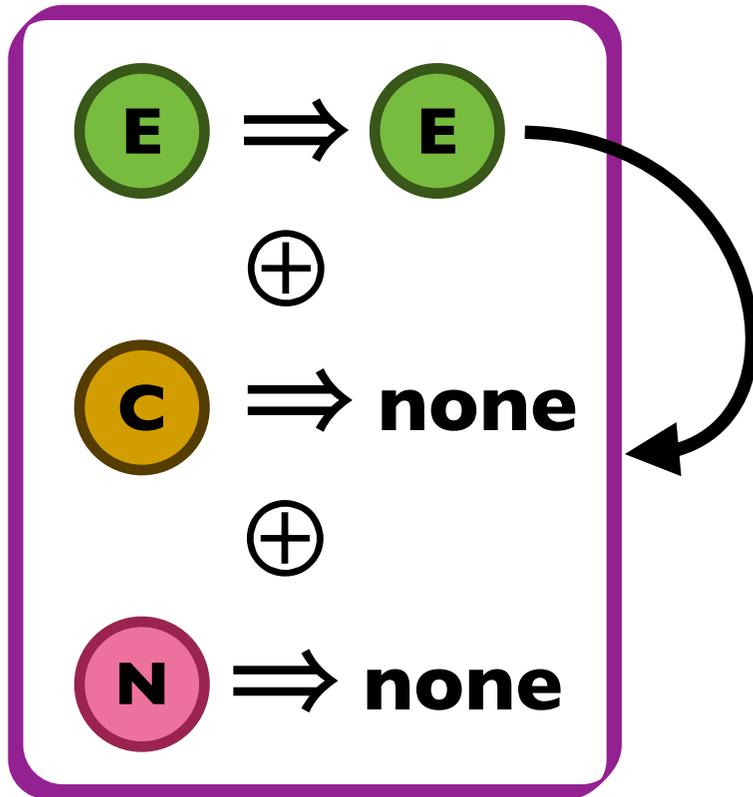


Configurations:

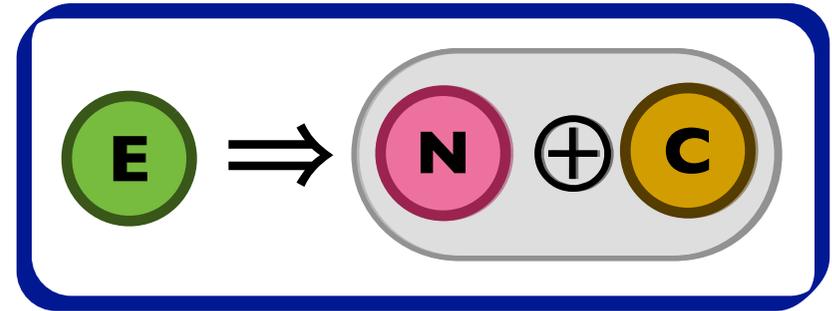
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 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State: 

Consumer



Producer

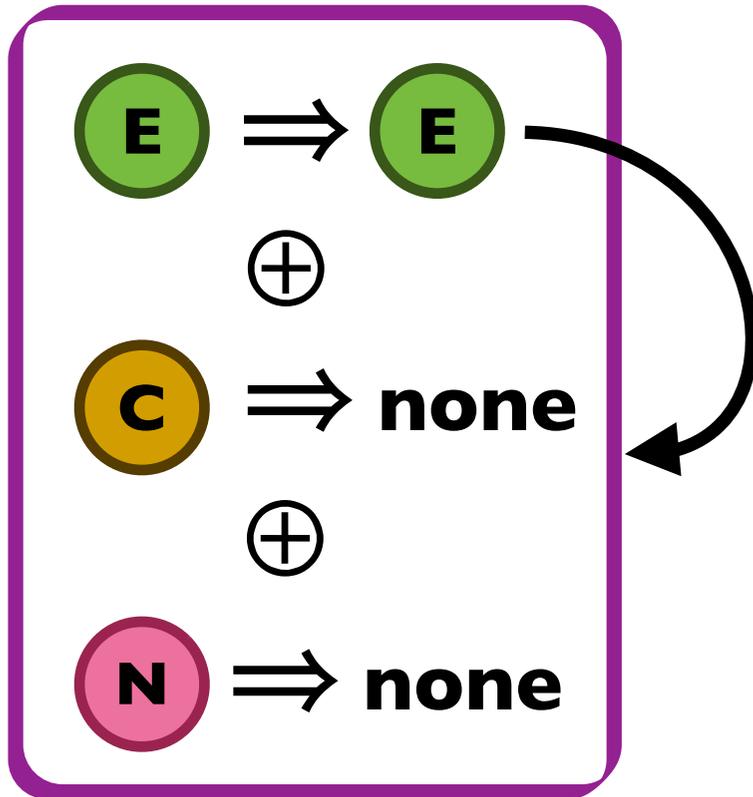


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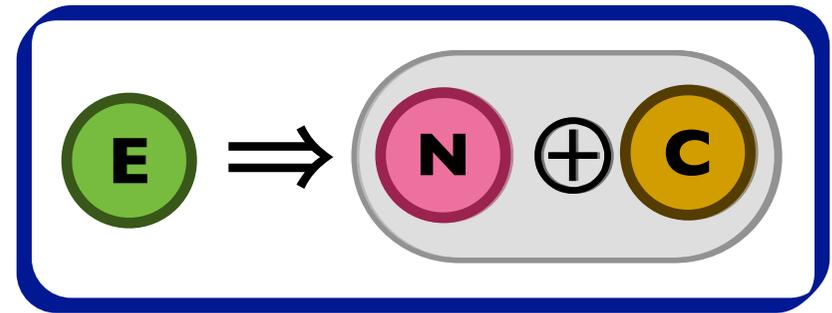
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 $\langle N \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel \text{none} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State: **E**

Consumer



Producer

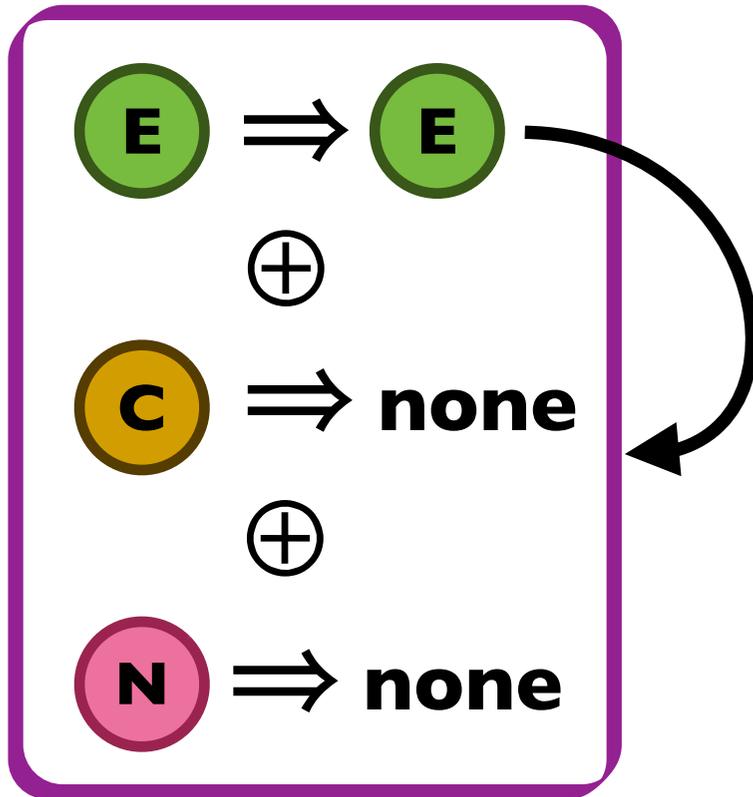


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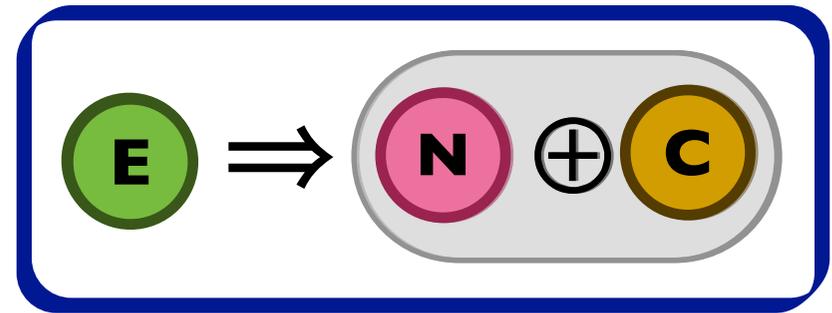
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 $\langle N \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel \text{none} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State:

Consumer



Producer

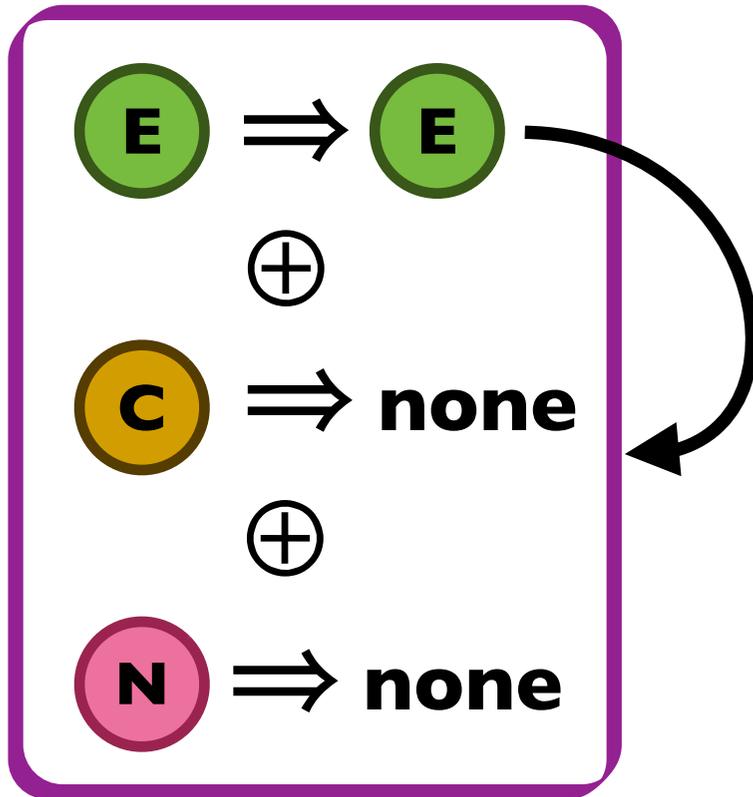


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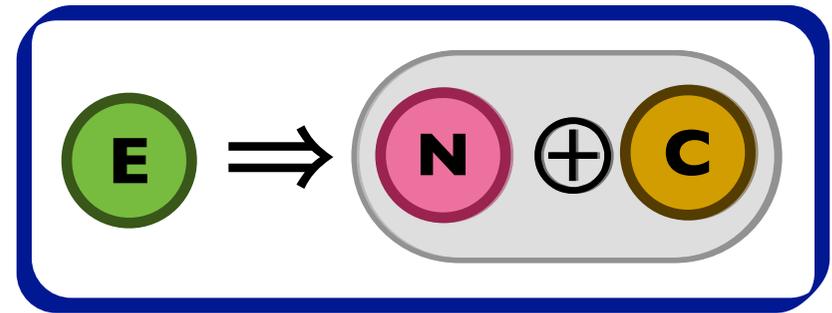
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 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State:

Consumer



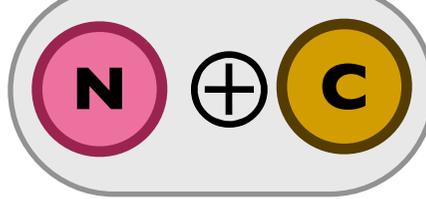
Producer



Configurations:

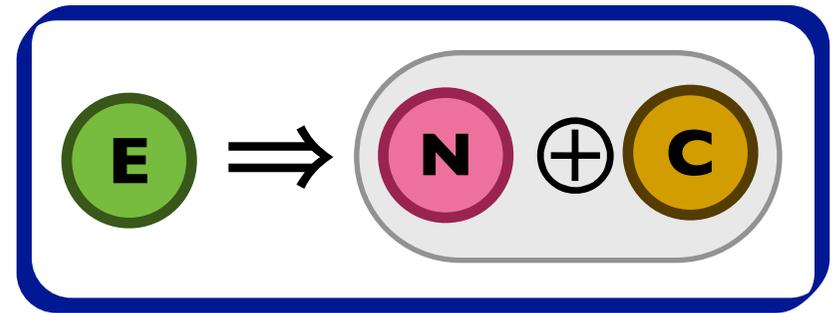
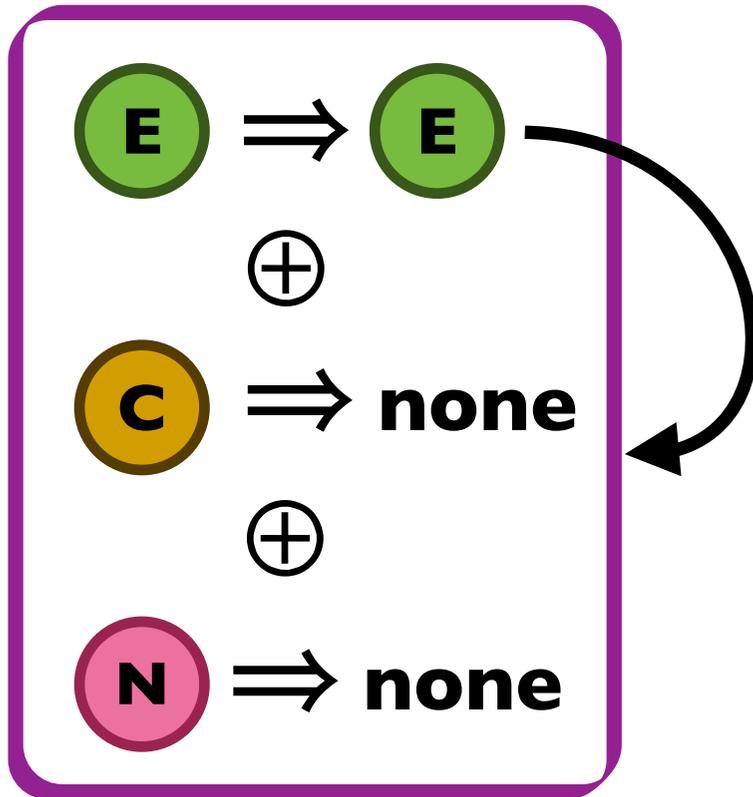
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 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State:



Consumer

Producer



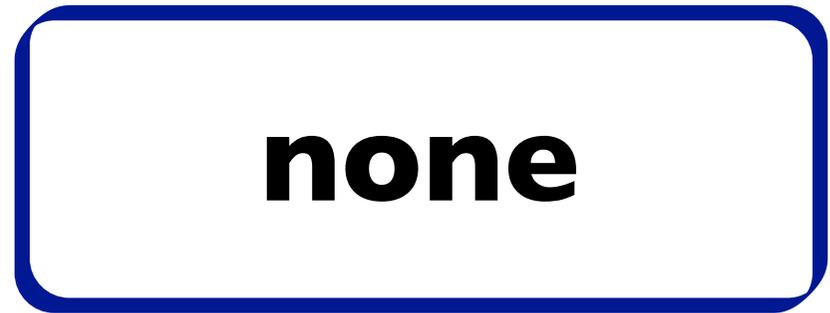
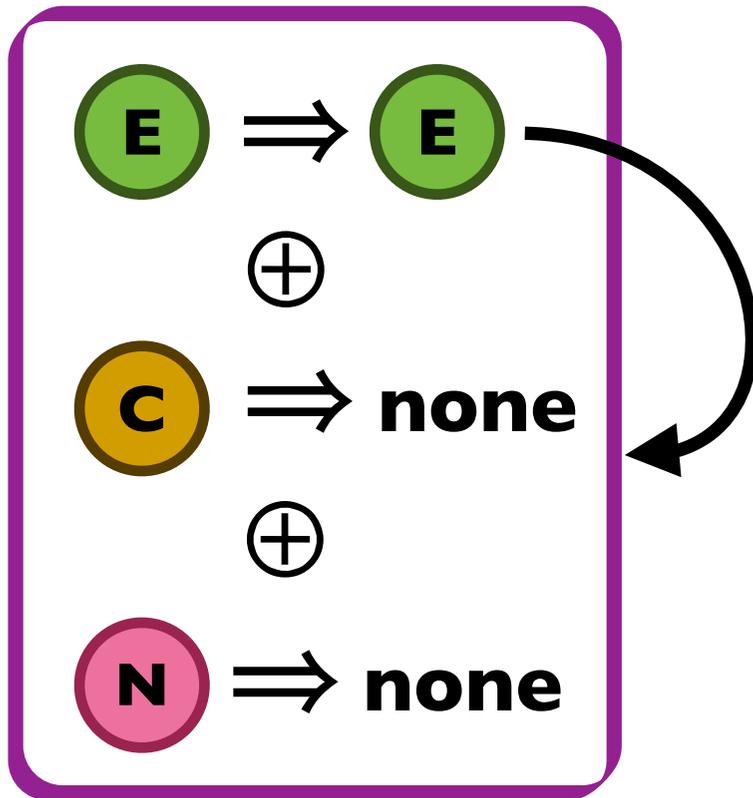
Configurations:

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 $\langle N \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel \text{none} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State: $(N \oplus C)$

Consumer

Producer



Configurations:

$\langle E \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel E \Rightarrow (N \oplus C) \rangle$
 $\langle N \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel \text{none} \rangle$
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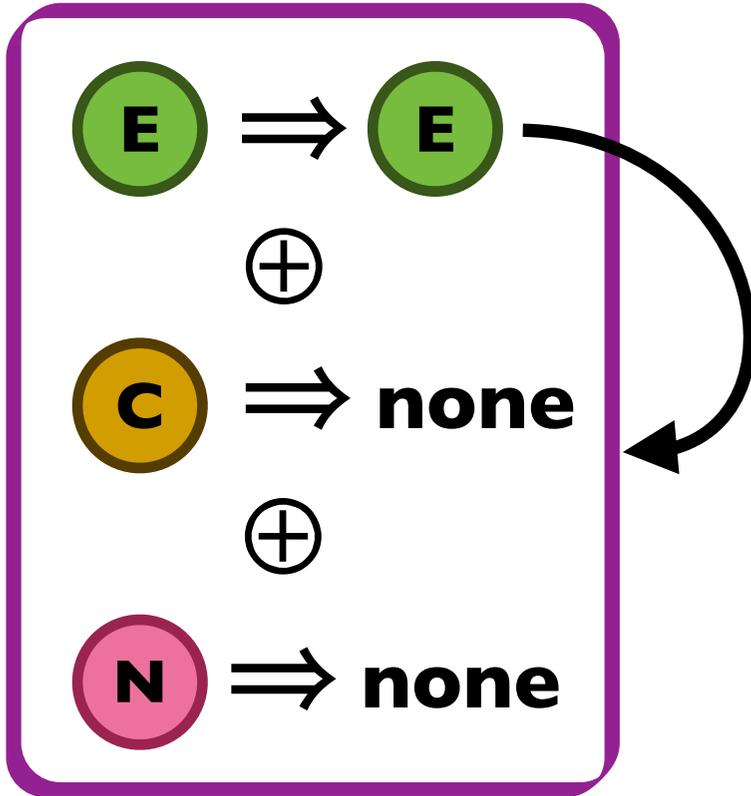
State: **N**



C

Consumer

Producer



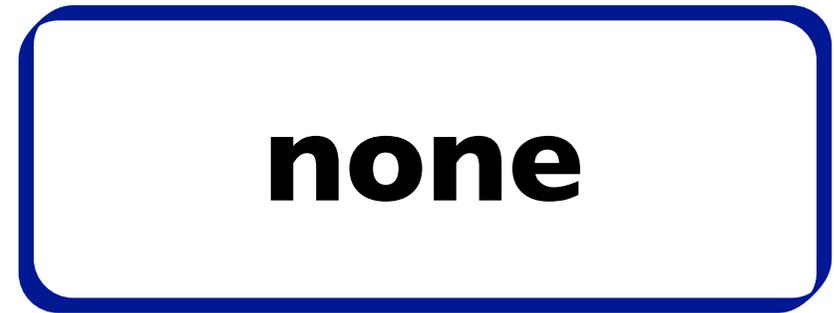
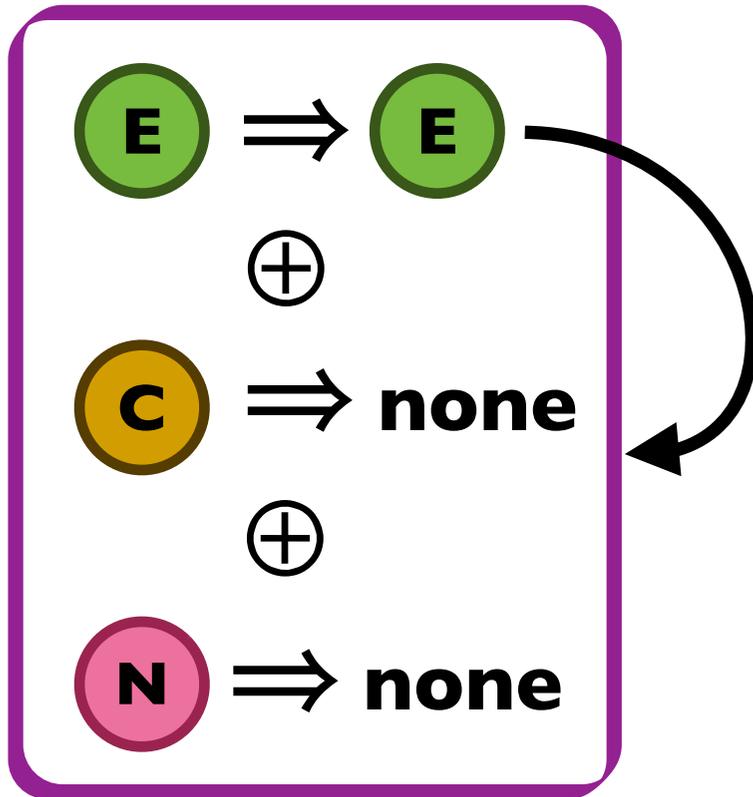
Configurations:

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 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State: none

Consumer

Producer



Configurations:

$\langle E \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel E \Rightarrow (N \oplus C) \rangle$
 $\langle N \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel \text{none} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

State: none

Consumer

Producer

none

none

Configurations:

$\langle E \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel E \Rightarrow (N \oplus C) \rangle$
 $\langle N \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{rec } X.(N \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus C \Rightarrow \text{none} \oplus E \Rightarrow E; X) \parallel \text{none} \rangle$
 $\langle \text{none} \Rightarrow \text{none} \parallel \text{none} \rangle$

Related Work

Krishnaswami, Turon, Dreyer, Garg. **Superficially Substructural Types**. ICFP 2012.

Dinsdale-Young, Birkedal, Gardner, Parkinson, Yang. **Views: compositional reasoning for concurrent programs**. POPL 2013.

- Powerful generalization of *split* and *merge* operations (using commutative monoids) that enables expressive and precise descriptions of sharing.

Gordon, Ernst, Grossman. **Rely-Guarantee References for Refinement Types over Aliased Mutable Data**. PLDI 2013.

- References extended with predicate (for expressing local knowledge), rely and guarantee relations to handle sharing of state.

(Paper includes additional Related Work.)

Related Work

Krishnaswami, Turon, Dreyer, Garg. **Superficially Substructural Types**. ICFP 2012.

Dinsdale-Young, Birkedal, Gardner, Parkinson, Yang. **Views: compositional reasoning for concurrent programs**. POPL 2013.

- Po
me
 - We are limited to finite state representations, i.e. *typestates*.
 - + Protocols can express *changes over time* (“temporal sharing”), without requiring the use of auxiliary variables to distinguish steps.
- Re
gu
 - + Sharing is a typing artifact and is not tied to a module.
 - + Can be type checked without manual intervention.

Gord
Type

Summary

- **Contribution:** novel interference-control mechanism, *Rely-Guarantee Protocols*, to control sharing of state mutable by statically disconnected variables.
- **Topics Covered:** (more details in the paper)
 1. Protocol Specification (“public changes”)
 2. Protocol Use (“private changes”)
 3. Protocol Conformance (“alias interleaving”)

Experimental Prototype Implementation:



<http://deaf-parrot.googlecode.com>