

# Ribbon Proofs for Separation Logic

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Joint work with  
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# An Axiomatic Basis for Computer Programming

C. A. R. HOARE



Line number	Formal proof	Justification
1	$\text{true} \supset x = x + y \times 0$	Lemma 1
2	$x = x + y \times 0 \{r := x\} x = r + y \times 0$	D0
3	$x = r + y \times 0 \{q := 0\} x = r + y \times q$	D0
4	$\text{true} \{r := x\} x = r + y \times 0$	D1 (1, 2)
5	$\text{true} \{r := x; q := 0\} x = r + y \times q$	D2 (4, 3)
6	$x = r + y \times q \wedge y \leq r \supset x =$ $(r - y) + y \times (1 + q)$	Lemma 2
7	$x = (r - y) + y \times (1 + q) \{r := r - y\} x =$ $r + y \times (1 + q)$	D0
8	$x = r + y \times (1 + q) \{q := 1 + q\} x =$ $r + y \times q$	D0
9	$x = (r - y) + y \times (1 + q) \{r := r - y;$ $q := 1 + q\} x = r + y \times q$	D2 (7, 8)
10	$x = r + y \times q \wedge y \leq r \{r := r - y;$ $q := 1 + q\} x = r + y \times q$	D1 (6, 9)
11	$x = r + y \times q \{\text{while } y \leq r \text{ do}$ $(r := r - y; q := 1 + q)\}$ $\neg y \leq r \wedge x = r + y \times q$	D3 (10)
12	$\text{true} \{((r := x; q := 0); \text{while } y \leq r \text{ do}$ $(r := r - y; q := 1 + q))\} \neg y \leq r \wedge x =$ $r + y \times q$	D2 (5, 11)

**begin**

**comment** This program operates on an array  $A[1:N]$ , and a value of  $f$  ( $1 \leq f \leq N$ ). Its effect is to rearrange the elements of  $A$  in such a way that:

$\forall p, q (1 \leq p \leq f \leq q \leq N \supset A[p] \leq A[f] \leq A[q]);$

**integer**  $m, n;$  **comment**

$m \leq f \ \& \ \forall p, q (1 \leq p < m \leq q \leq N \supset A[p] \leq A[q]),$   
 $f \leq n \ \& \ \forall p, q (1 \leq p \leq n < q \leq N \supset A[p] \leq A[q]);$

$m := 1; \ n := N;$

**while**  $m < n$  **do**

**begin** **integer**  $r, i, j, w;$

**comment**

$m \leq i \ \& \ \forall p (1 \leq p < i \supset A[p] \leq r),$   
 $j \leq n \ \& \ \forall q (j < q \leq N \supset r \leq A[q]);$

$r := A[f]; \ i := m; \ j := n;$

**while**  $i \leq j$  **do**

**begin** **while**  $A[i] < r$  **do**  $i := i + 1;$

**while**  $r < A[j]$  **do**  $j := j - 1$

**comment**  $A[j] \leq r \leq A[i];$

**if**  $i \leq j$  **then**

**begin**  $w := A[i]; \ A[i] := A[j]; \ A[j] := w;$

**comment**  $A[i] \leq r \leq A[j];$

$i := i + 1; \ j := j - 1;$

**end**

**end** *increase  $i$  and decrease  $j$ ;*

**if**  $f \leq j$  **then**  $n := j$

**else if**  $i \leq f$  **then**  $m := i$

**else go to**  $L$

**end** *reduce middle part;*

$L:$

**end** *Find*

Communications of the ACM

January, 1971

## Proof of a Program: FIND

C. A. R. HOARE

Queen's University,\* Belfast, Ireland



Acta Informatica 6, 319—340 (1976)

# An Axiomatic Proof Technique for Parallel Programs I\*

Susan Owicki and David Gries



$\{x=0\}$

**S: cobegin**  $\{x=0\}$

$\{x=0 \vee x=2\}$

**S1: await true then**  $x := x + 1$

$\{Q1: x=1 \vee x=3\}$

//

$\{x=0\}$

$\{x=0 \vee x=1\}$

**S2: await true then**  $x := x + 2$

$\{Q2: x=2 \vee x=3\}$

**coend**

$\{(x=1 \vee x=3) \wedge (x=2 \vee x=3)\}$

$\{x=3\}$

## Separation Logic: A Logic for Shared Mutable Data Structures

John C. Reynolds\*

$$\{\exists \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } \alpha (i, \text{nil}) * \text{list } \beta (j, \text{nil}))$$

$$\wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta \wedge i \neq \text{nil}\}$$

$$\{\exists a, \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } a \cdot \alpha (i, \text{nil}) * \text{list } \beta (j, \text{nil}))$$

$$\wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (a \cdot \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\}$$

$$\{\exists a, \alpha, \beta, k. (i \mapsto a, k * \text{list } \alpha (k, \text{nil}) * \text{list } \beta (j, \text{nil}))$$

$$\wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (a \cdot \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\}$$

$$k := [i + 1];$$

$$\{\exists a, \alpha, \beta. (i \mapsto a, k * \text{list } \alpha (k, \text{nil}) * \text{list } \beta (j, \text{nil}))$$

$$\wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (a \cdot \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\}$$

$$[i + 1] := j;$$

$$\{\exists a, \alpha, \beta. (i \mapsto a, j * \text{list } \alpha (k, \text{nil}) * \text{list } \beta (j, \text{nil}))$$

$$\wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (a \cdot \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\}$$

$$\{\exists a, \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } \alpha (k, \text{nil}) * \text{list } a \cdot \beta (i, \text{nil}))$$

$$\wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot a \cdot \beta\}$$

$$\{\exists \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } \alpha (k, \text{nil}) * \text{list } \beta (i, \text{nil})) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\}$$

$$j := i; i := k$$

$$\{\exists \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } \alpha (i, \text{nil}) * \text{list } \beta (j, \text{nil})) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\}.$$


Tiny example

[x] := 1;

[y] := 1;

[z] := 1;

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{x}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{y}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{z}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 1 \}$$



$$\{x \mapsto 0 * y \mapsto 0 * z \mapsto 0\}$$
$$[x] := 1;$$
$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 0 * z \mapsto 0\}$$
$$[y] := 1;$$
$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 1 * z \mapsto 0\}$$
$$[z] := 1;$$
$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 1 * z \mapsto 1\}$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{x}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{y}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{z}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 1 \}$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{x}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{y}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{z}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 1 \}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
\text{frame} \\
\mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0
\end{array}
\left[
\begin{array}{l}
\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \} \\
[\mathbf{x}] := 1; \\
\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \} \\
\{ \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 \} \\
[\mathbf{y}] := 1; \\
\{ \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 \} \\
\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \} \\
[\mathbf{z}] := 1; \\
\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 1 \}
\end{array}
\right]
\begin{array}{l}
\text{small axiom} \\
\text{for heap update}
\end{array}$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{x}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 0 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{y}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 0 \}$$

$$[\mathbf{z}] := 1;$$

$$\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{y} \mapsto 1 * \mathbf{z} \mapsto 1 \}$$

```

mchunkptr b, p;
idx += ~smallbits & 1; /* Uses next bin if idx empty */

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists\{U_i \mid i \in [0, 63)\}, n. arena(A_a \uplus (\biguplus_{i=0}^{64}. U_i)_u) * least\_addr = 5w \\ * nw = \lceil bytes \rceil_w * 8idx \geq (n+1)w * 2 \leq idx < 32 * smallmap_{[idx]} = 1 \\ * *_{i=0}^{32}. smallbin_i(U_i) * *_{i=0}^{32}. treebin_i(U_{i+32}) \end{array} \right\}$$

b = smallbin_at(gm, idx);

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists\{U_i \mid i \in [0, 63)\}, n. arena(A_a \uplus (\biguplus_{i=0}^{64}. U_i)_u) * least\_addr = 5w \\ * nw = \lceil bytes \rceil_w * 8idx \geq (n+1)w * 2 \leq idx < 32 * smallmap_{[idx]} = 1 \\ * b = smallbins + 8idx * bin(|idx|, b, U_{idx}) * U_{idx} \neq \{\} \\ * *_{i \in [0..32)-idx}. smallbin_i(U_i) * *_{i=0}^{32}. treebin_i(U_{i+32}) \end{array} \right\}$$

// rename U_idx to U_idx++[p+2w->8idx-1w]

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists\{U_i \mid i \in [0, 63)\}, p, n. arena(A_a \uplus (\biguplus_{i=0}^{64}. U_i)_u \uplus \{p + 2w \mapsto_u 8idx - 1w\}) \\ * least\_addr = 5w * nw = \lceil bytes \rceil_w * 8idx \geq (n+1)w * 2 \leq idx < 32 \\ * smallmap_{[idx]} = 1 * b = smallbins + 8idx \\ * b \xrightarrow{fd} p * p \xrightarrow{bk} b * (bnode |idx|)^*(p, b, U_{idx} \uplus \{p + 2w \mapsto 8idx - 1w\}) \\ * *_{i \in [0..32)-idx}. smallbin_i(U_i) * *_{i=0}^{32}. treebin_i(U_{i+32}) \end{array} \right\}$$

p = b->fd;

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists\{U_i \mid i \in [0, 63)\}, n, F. arena(A_a \uplus (\biguplus_{i=0}^{64}. U_i)_u \uplus \{p + 2w \mapsto_u 8idx - 1w\}) \\ * least\_addr = 5w * nw = \lceil bytes \rceil_w * 8idx \geq (n+1)w * 2 \leq idx < 32 \\ * smallmap_{[idx]} = 1 * b = smallbins + 8idx \\ * b \xrightarrow{fd} p * p \xrightarrow{bk} b * \frac{1}{2}(p \xrightarrow{size} 8idx) * p \xrightarrow{fd} F * F \xrightarrow{bk} p * (bnode |idx|)^*(F, b, U_{idx}) \\ * *_{i \in [0..32)-idx}. smallbin_i(U_i) * *_{i=0}^{32}. treebin_i(U_{i+32}) \end{array} \right\}$$

//assert(chunksize(p) == small_index2size(idx));
unlink_first_small_chunk(gm, b, p, idx);

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists\{U_i \mid i \in [0, 63)\}, n. arena(A_a \uplus (\biguplus_{i=0}^{64}. U_i)_u \uplus \{p + 2w \mapsto_u 8idx - 1w\}) \\ * least\_addr = 5w * nw = \lceil bytes \rceil_w * 8idx \geq (n+1)w * 2 \leq idx < 32 \\ * \frac{1}{2}(p \xrightarrow{size} 8idx) * p \xrightarrow{fd} \_ * p \xrightarrow{bk} \_ * *_{i=0}^{32}. smallbin_i(U_i) * *_{i=0}^{32}. treebin_i(U_{i+32}) \end{array} \right\}$$


$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists\{U_i \mid i \in [0, 63)\}, B_1, B_2, n. coalesced(A_a \uplus (\biguplus_{i=0}^{64}. U_i)_u \uplus \{p + 2w \mapsto_u 8idx - 1w\}) \\ * start \xrightarrow{prevfoot} \_ * start \xrightarrow{pinuse} 1 * ublock(top, top + topsize, \_) \\ * block^*(start, p, B_1) * ublock(p, p + 8idx, \{p + 2w \mapsto_u 8idx - 1w\}) \\ * block^*(p + 8idx, top, B_2) * B_1 \uplus B_2 = A_a \uplus (\biguplus_{i=0}^{64}. U_i)_u \\ * least\_addr = 5w * nw = \lceil bytes \rceil_w * 8idx \geq (n+1)w * 2 \leq idx < 32 \\ * \frac{1}{2}(p \xrightarrow{size} 8idx) * p \xrightarrow{fd} \_ * p \xrightarrow{bk} \_ * *_{i=0}^{32}. smallbin_i(U_i) * *_{i=0}^{32}. treebin_i(U_{i+32}) \end{array} \right\}$$


```

$$\{x \mapsto 0 * y \mapsto 0 * z \mapsto 0\}$$

$$[x] := 1;$$

$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 0 * z \mapsto 0\}$$

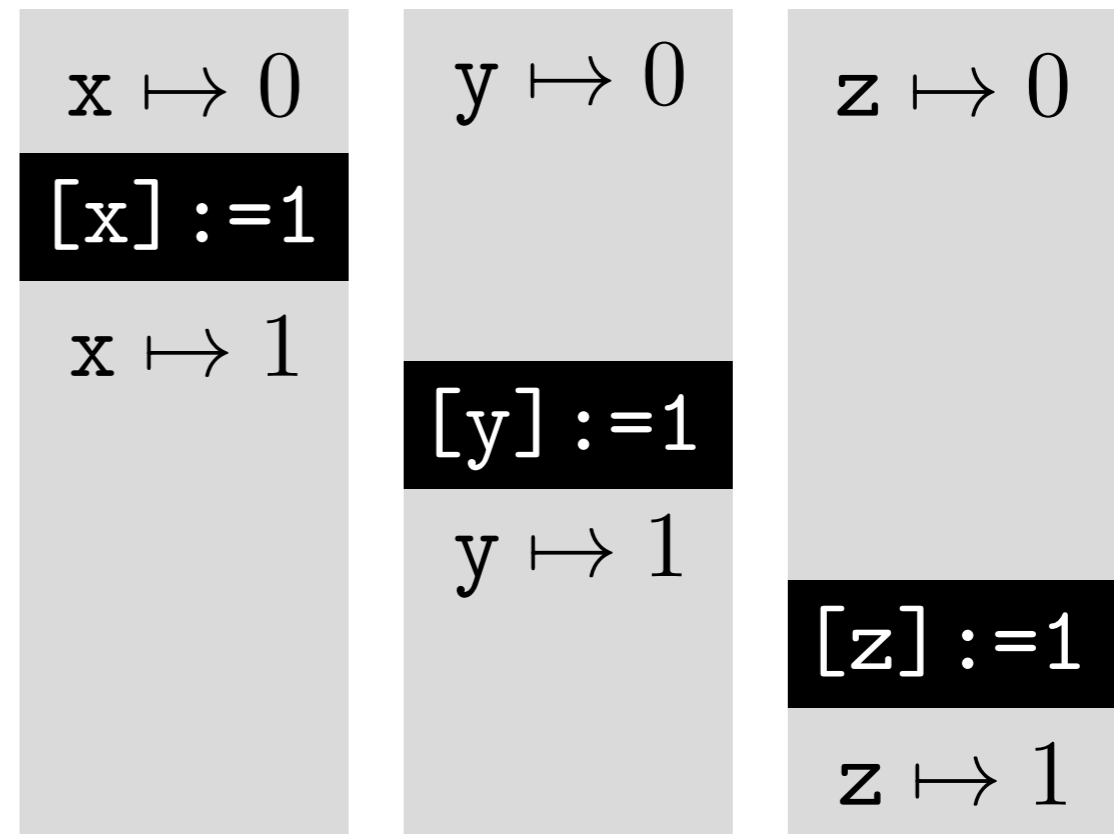
$$[y] := 1;$$

$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 1 * z \mapsto 0\}$$

$$[z] := 1;$$

$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 1 * z \mapsto 1\}$$

A proof outline



A ribbon proof

$$\{x \mapsto 0 * y \mapsto 0 * z \mapsto 0\}$$

$$[x] := 1;$$

$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 0 * z \mapsto 0\}$$

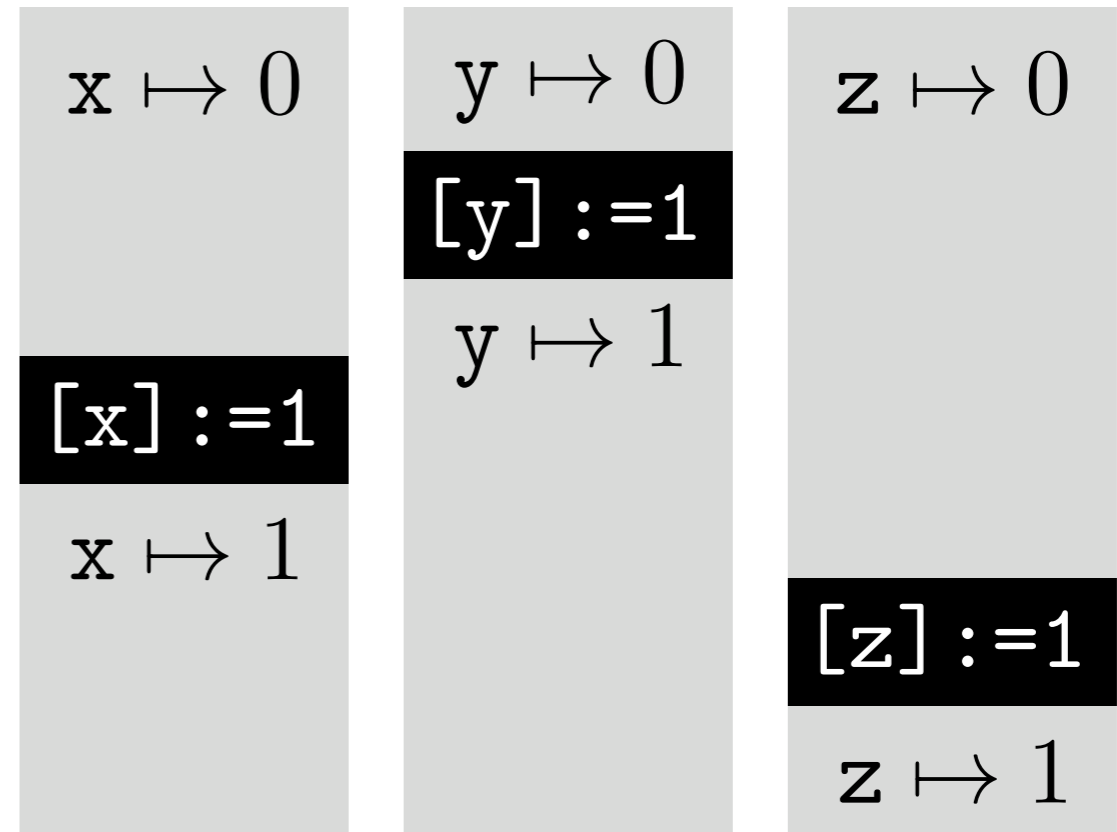
$$[y] := 1;$$

$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 1 * z \mapsto 0\}$$

$$[z] := 1;$$

$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 1 * z \mapsto 1\}$$

A proof outline



A ribbon proof



$$\{x \mapsto 0 * y \mapsto 0 * z \mapsto 0\}$$

$$[x] := 1;$$

$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 0 * z \mapsto 0\}$$

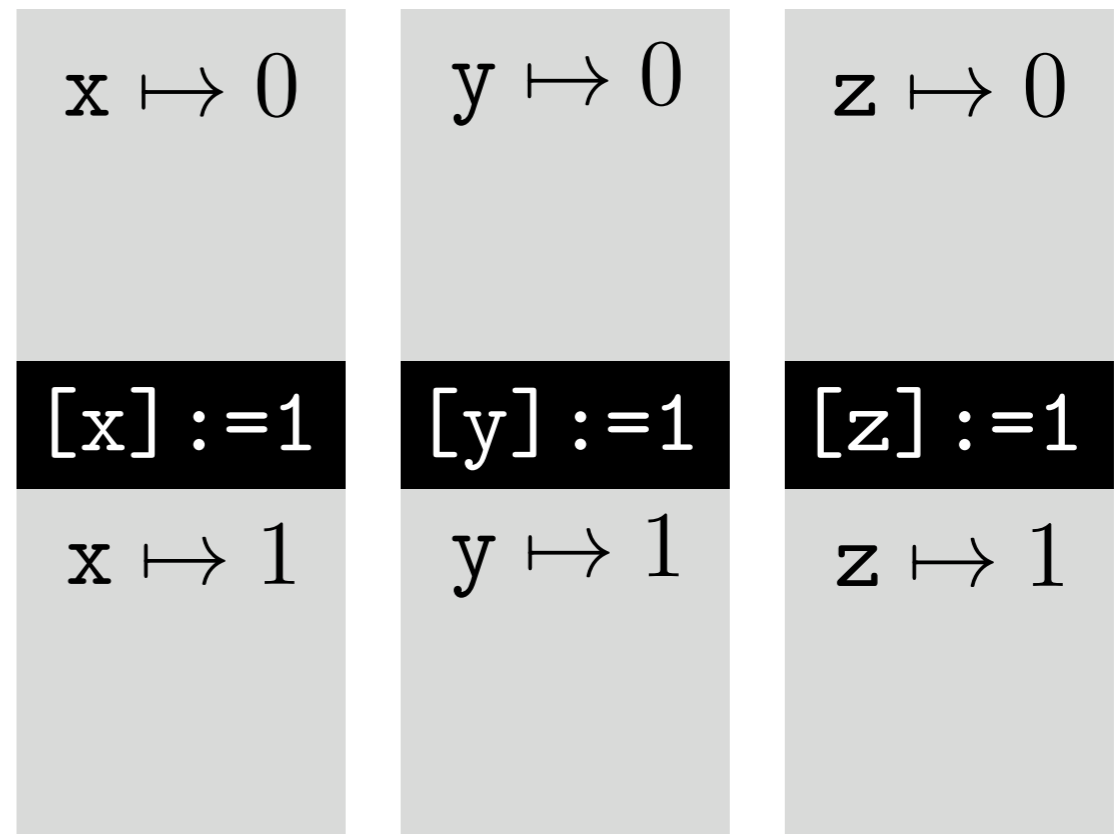
$$[y] := 1;$$

$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 1 * z \mapsto 0\}$$

$$[z] := 1;$$

$$\{x \mapsto 1 * y \mapsto 1 * z \mapsto 1\}$$

A proof outline



A ribbon proof

Example: in-place list reversal

*list x*

$list\ x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x \doteq \text{nil}) \vee$   
 $(\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$

*list x*

```
y := nil;  
while (x != nil) {  
  z := [x+1];  
  [x+1] := y;  
  y := x;  
  x := z;  
}
```

*list y*

*list y*

$list\ x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x \doteq \text{nil}) \vee$   
 $(\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$

*list x*

`y:=nil`

*list y*

*list x*

```
y := nil;  
while (x != nil) {  
  z := [x+1];  
  [x+1] := y;  
  y := x;  
  x := z;  
}
```

*list y*

*list y*

$list\ x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x \doteq \text{nil}) \vee$   
 $(\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$

*list x*

```
y := nil;  
while (x != nil) {  
  z := [x+1];  
  [x+1] := y;  
  y := x;  
  x := z;  
}
```

*list y*

*list x*

*y:=nil*

*list y*

```
while (x!=nil) {
```

```
}
```

*list y*

$$list\ x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x \doteq \text{nil}) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
list y

```



*list y*

$$list\ x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x \doteq \text{nil}) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

      list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
      list y

```

```

      list x
y := nil
      list y
while (x != nil) {
  x ≠ nil
      list x
      list y
}
      list x
      list y
}

```

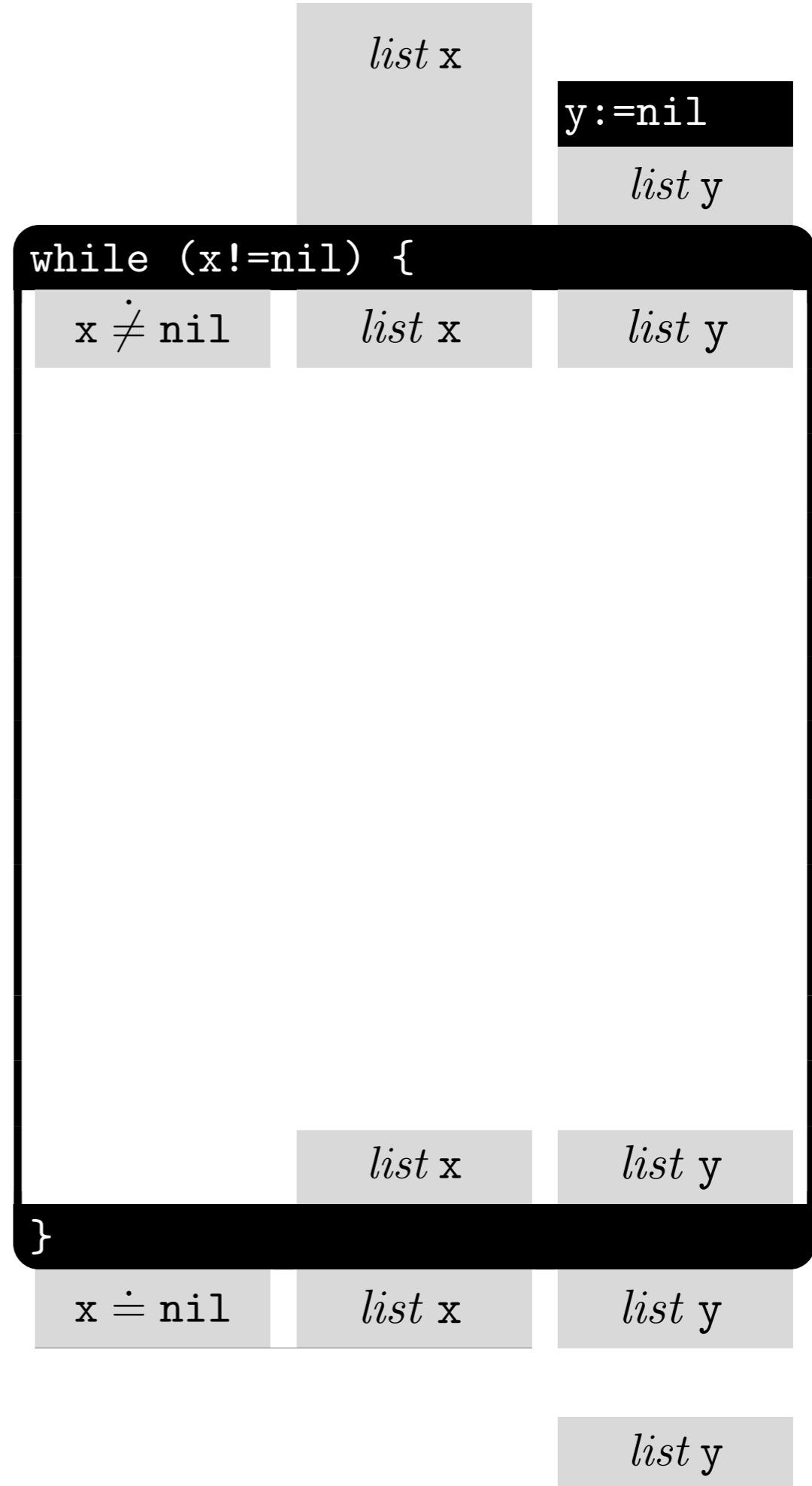
list y

$$list\ x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x \doteq \text{nil}) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
list y

```



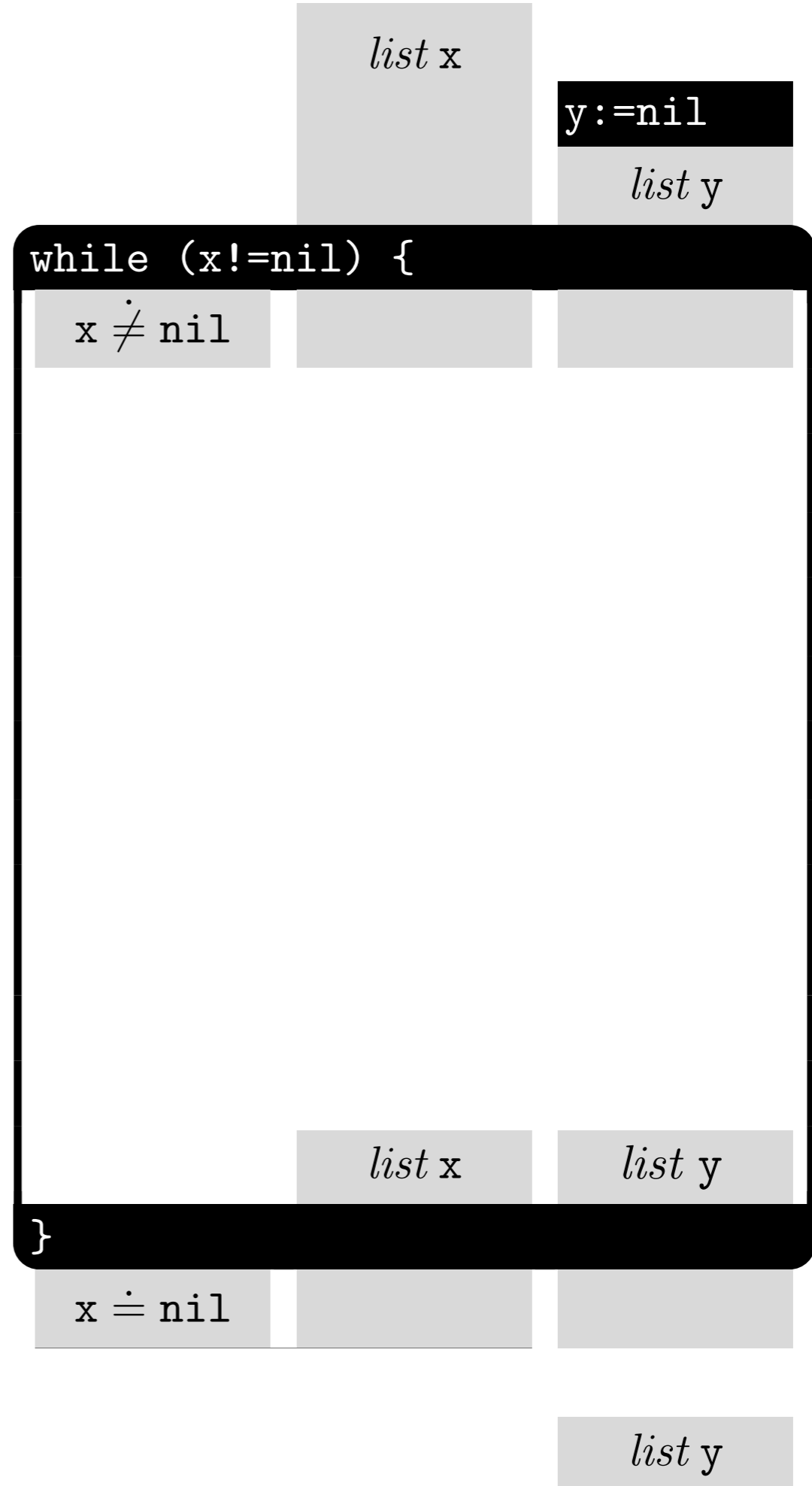


$$list\ x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x \doteq \text{nil}) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
list y

```



$$list\ x \stackrel{def}{=} (x \doteq nil) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
list y

```

```

list x
y := nil
list y
while (x != nil) {
  x ≠ nil
  Unfold list def
  ∃Z. x ↦ _, Z * list Z
  list x
  list y
}

```

```

x ≐ nil
list y

```

$$list\ x \stackrel{def}{=} (x \doteq nil) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

      list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
      list y

```

```

      list x
y := nil
      list y
while (x != nil) {
  x ≠ nil
  Unfold list def
  ∃Z. x ↦ _, Z * list Z
  z := [x+1]
  list z      x ↦ _, z
}
      list x      list y
}

```

```

x ≐ nil
      list y

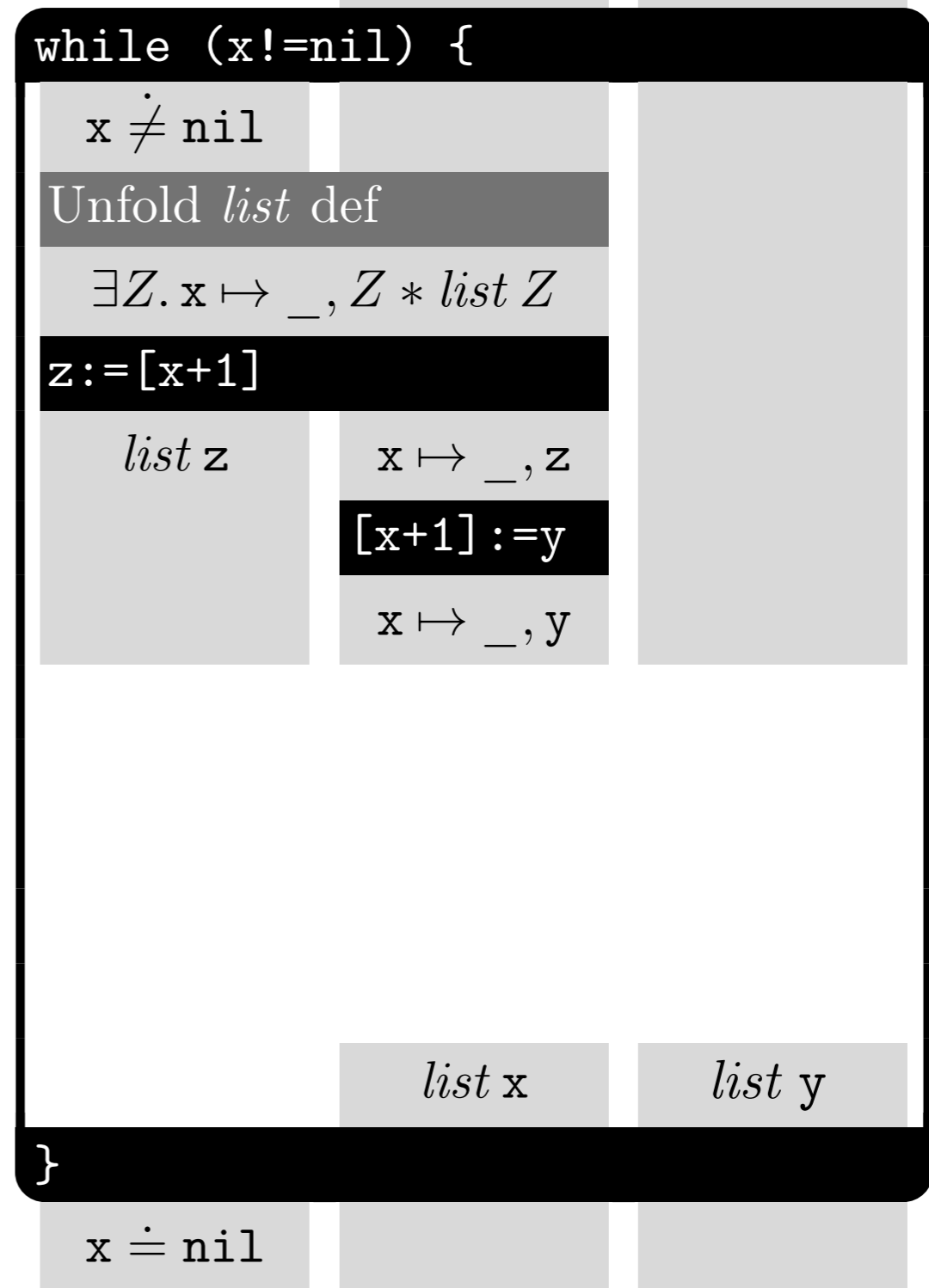
```

$$list\ x \stackrel{def}{=} (x \doteq nil) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
list y

```



$$list\ x \stackrel{def}{=} (x \doteq nil) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

      list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
      list y

```

```

      list x
y := nil
      list y
while (x != nil) {
  x ≠ nil
  Unfold list def
  ∃Z. x ↦ _, Z * list Z
  z := [x+1]
  list z
  x ↦ _, z
  [x+1] := y
  x ↦ _, y
  Fold list def
      list x
}
      list x
      list y

```

```

x ≐ nil
      list y

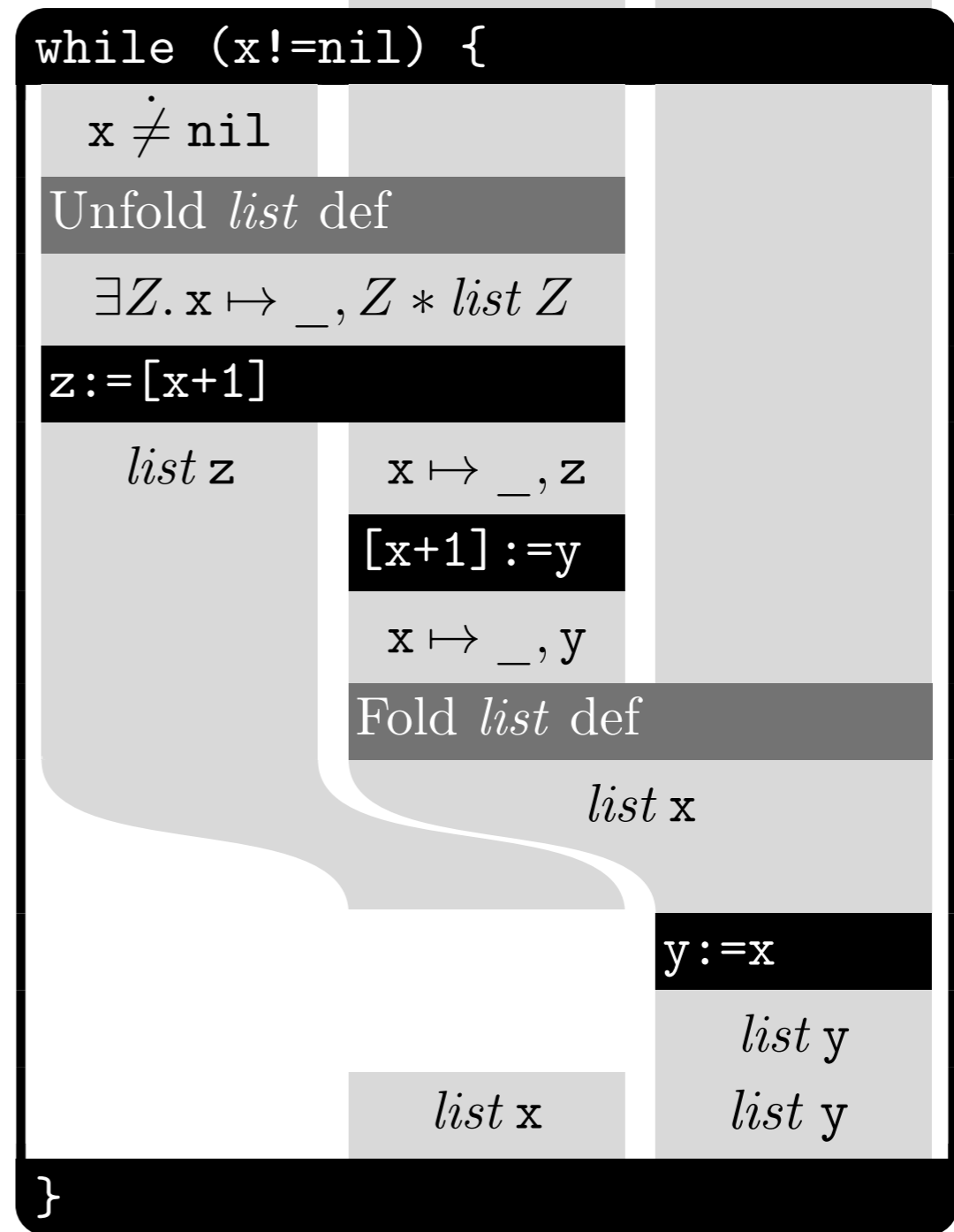
```

$$list\ x \stackrel{def}{=} (x \doteq nil) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
list y

```

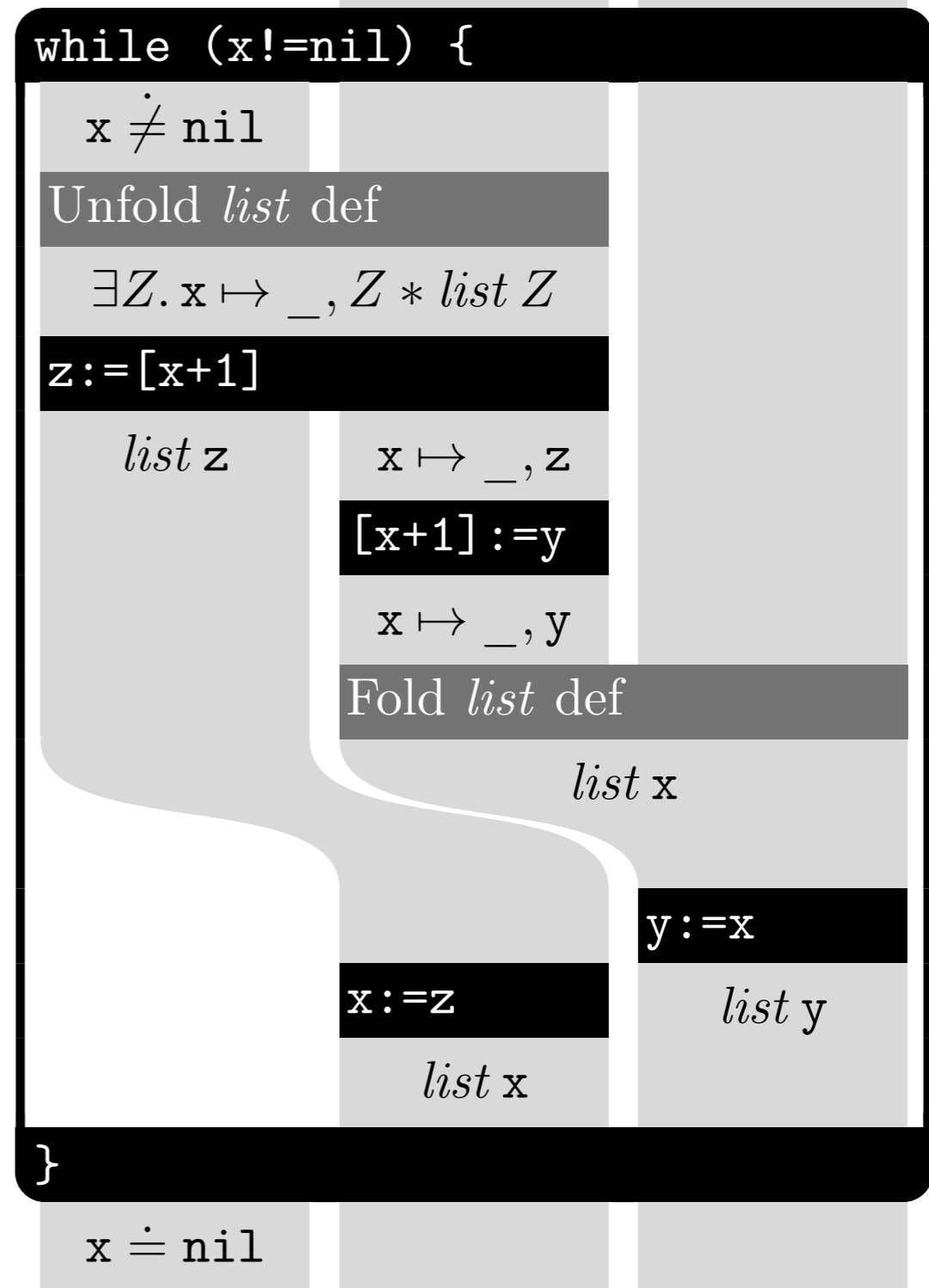


$$list\ x \stackrel{def}{=} (x \doteq nil) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
list y

```

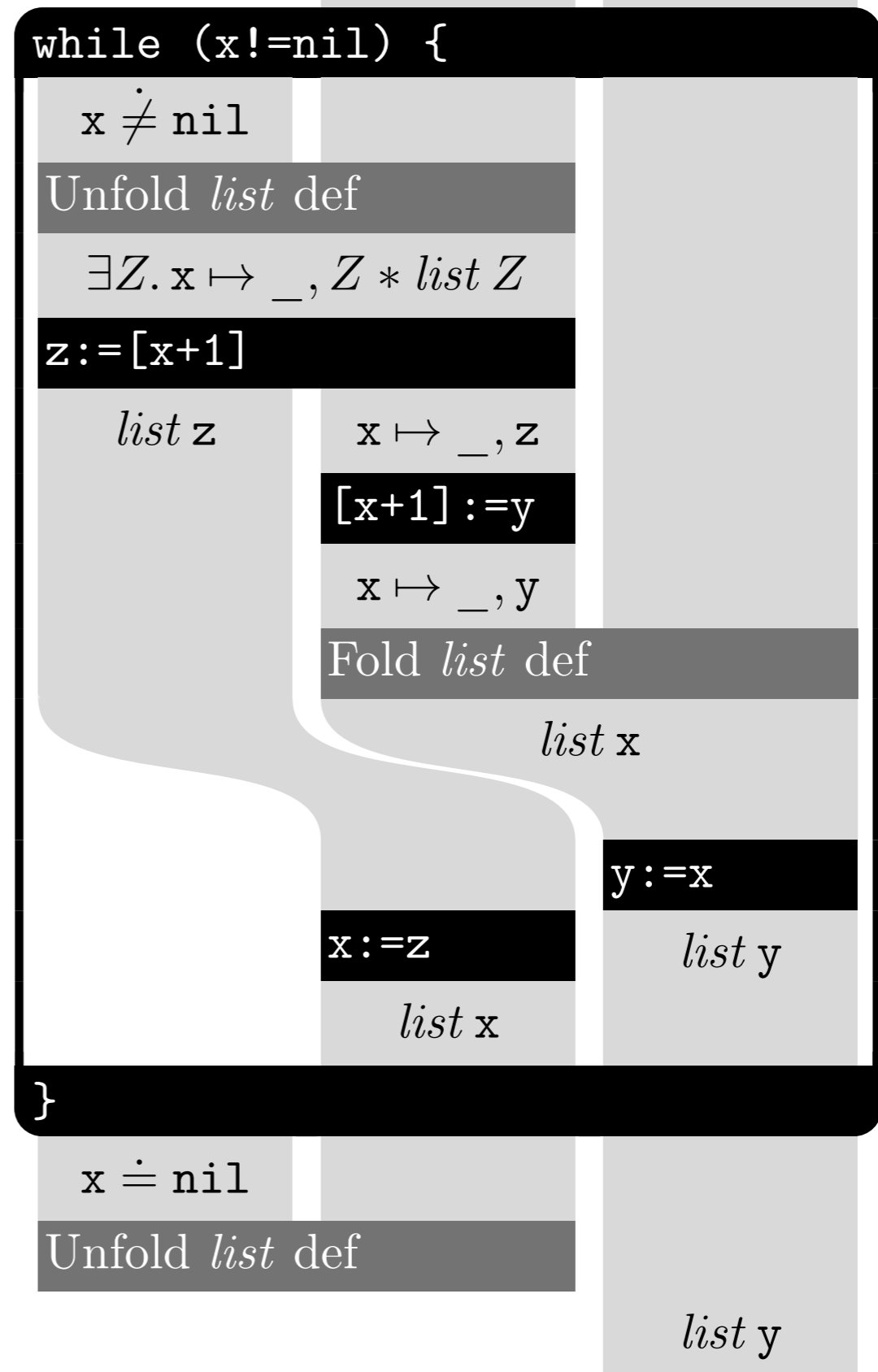


$$list\ x \stackrel{def}{=} (x \doteq nil) \vee (\exists x'. x \mapsto \_, x' * list\ x')$$

```

list x
y := nil;
while (x != nil) {
  z := [x+1];
  [x+1] := y;
  y := x;
  x := z;
}
list y

```





# Dealing with program variables

$x \mapsto 0$

**$[x] := 1$**

$x \mapsto 1$

$y \mapsto 0$

**$[y] := 1$**

$y \mapsto 1$

$z \mapsto 0$

**$[z] := 1$**

$z \mapsto 1$

$x \mapsto 0$

$y \mapsto 0$

$z \mapsto 0$

**$[x] := 1$**

**$[y] := 1$**

**$[z] := 1$**

$x \mapsto 1$

$y \mapsto 1$

$z \mapsto 1$

$b = 1$

**$a := b$**

$a = 1$

$c = 2$

**$b := c$**

$b = 2$

b = 1

**a := b**

a = 1

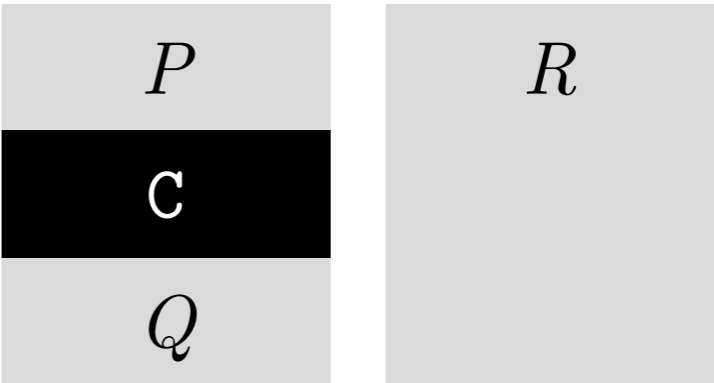
c = 2

**b := c**

b = 2

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

providing  $fv(R) \cap modified(\mathbf{C}) = \{\}$



$b = 1$

**$a := b$**

$a = 1$

$c = 2$

**$b := c$**

$b = 2$

b = 1

**a := b**

a = 1

c = 2

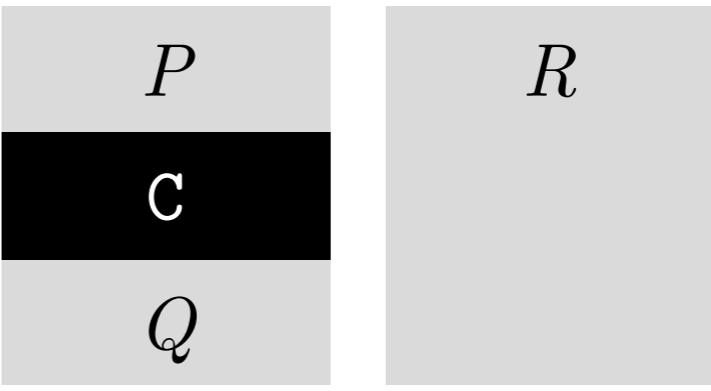
**b := c**

b = 2



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

~~providing  $f_{\text{C}}(P)$  and  $f_{\text{C}}(Q) \equiv \{\}$~~



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## Variables as Resource in Separation Logic

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$b = 1$

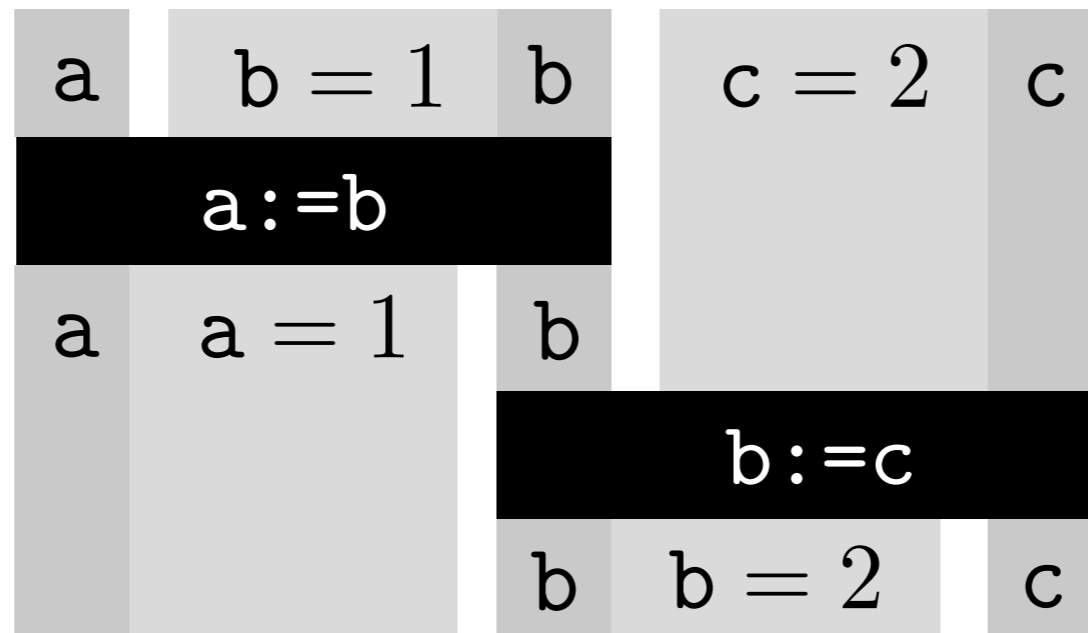
**$a := b$**

$a = 1$

$c = 2$

**$b := c$**

$b = 2$



# Conclusion

- Scalable and readable separation logic proofs
- Possible application to parallelisation, providing side-conditions on the Frame rule are dealt with (e.g. by variables-as-resource)